

W.L.M.
NAR/SR
20.6.41

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

> Canadian Firemen for Britain

C242148

(Reference paragraphs 5 and 6 of National War Service memorandum).

Before the war, the professional fire fighting services in the United Kingdom numbered between 5,000 and 6,000 men. They were supported and controlled by the local authorities. The Auxiliary Fire Service, which has come into being since the outbreak of the war, has 80,000 whole time members and a part time membership of 150,000.

In introducing the Government Bill to nationalize fire fighting services, the Home Secretary, Mr. Herbert Morrison, said that fire fighting had become a military operation which required a complete re-organization of existing services. Local control will be brushed aside and the country's 1,400 fire brigades will be reorganized into less than 50 "regiments" under the control of a Chief Staff Officer. Under the new national scheme, fire fighting services will be grouped on a regional basis and there will be maintained large mobile reserves which can be thrown into action wherever concentrated efforts were needed.

*Considered by War
Committee
21-6-41
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W.L.M.