

there would be no conscription for service in the Pacific, that Naval and Air Force units to be despatched to that theatre would be constituted on a voluntary basis, and that the Army contingent would be made up of volunteers, plus short service G.S. personnel; no difficulty was anticipated in obtaining the numbers of personnel required for any of the three Services.

The Prime Minister had also mentioned the matter of prior consultation with U.K. and U.S. authorities regarding certain features of the announcement.

A draft of the proposed statement was submitted for consideration.

(Memorandum, Military Secretary, March 21, 1945).

22. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that the Ministers of National Defence consider the draft statement submitted and communicate their suggestions for any revisions therein to the Secretary, with a view to the preparation of a final version to be made by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons in the near future.

Army; employment in Northwest Europe;
announcement of current movements

23. The Secretary said that the Prime Minister was anxious to announce, as soon as possible, in the House of Commons, the transfer of the 1st Corps and attached troops from Italy to the Northwest European theatre of operations.

24. The Minister of National Defence said that, because of interruptions in mail and other causes, the movement of these troops had now become a matter of common knowledge, not only to the press but throughout the country. So far, however, there had been no breach of censorship.

A message had been sent to London pressing, through military channels, for authorization of an early release in Canada. In the circumstances, and in view of the apparent demoralization of the German Army on the Western front, it was hard to see how there could be any valid objection on the grounds of security.

A personal telegram from the Prime Minister to Mr. Churchill might hasten the agreement of Supreme Headquarters.

25. The War Committee, after discussion, agreed that it was desirable that the announcement be made at the earliest possible date, and that to this end a message should be sent to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; also that the matter be further pressed through Army channels.

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