

strengthen it as I have explained. We have since had no reason to regret having adopted that course.

Another thing we always aimed at was to keep the Canadian corps together. It required a good deal of negotiating at times to prevent one or more divisions from being taken out of the corps and placed in some other part of the line. I frequently approached the War Office and the Secretary of State for War on this subject; on more than one occasion I spoke to Sir Douglas Haig about it. I had the pleasure and the honour of speaking to Marshal Foch with regard to it, at a time when he was anxious for reinforcements. I told him that if he wanted reinforcements from Canada he should not break up the Canadian corps and in a case of emergency place a division twenty, forty, fifty or a hundred miles away from the corps. I assured him that the best results would be obtained if the Canadian corps was kept intact. Through the representations of General Currie and his officers to general headquarters, supplemented by anything we could do in England, we managed to keep the corps pretty well together, except on that occasion when the Second Division had to go down the line and was kept away longer than we desired.

Mr. GRIESBACH: The action of the British authorities in moving a division about arose out of their policy of regarding the division as the unit of manoeuvre; it was not through any desire to move the Canadians about improperly. In the Canadian corps, however, it was desired to keep the four divisions together under the corps.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Whatever the reasons may have been; whatever the conditions were from their standpoint, we always took the ground that it was desirable to keep the Canadian corps intact, not to move one division after the other away from time to time.

The Canadian Cavalry Brigade, which brought such credit to Canada, did not come under General Currie or the corps; it was a separate organization and operated with the British cavalry in France. General J. E. B. Seely, a very distinguished officer, a member of the British Parliament, and formerly Secretary of State for War was the first commander of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade. But the time came when we embarked upon the same policy with regard to the Cavalry Brigade as we had adopted with regard to all other establishments and units—that of placing a Cana-

dian officer in charge as soon as a competent one was available. In this case the command was given to Brigadier General R. W. Paterson, D.S.O., of the Fort Garry Horse. The Canadian Cavalry Brigade was composed of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Lord Strathcona's Horse, Fort Garry Horse, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, Machine-gun Squadron, Cavalry Field Ambulance and Mobile Veterinary Section.

I would like to say this with regard to General Seely. His services were greatly appreciated; his record was one of great credit to him in connection with the Canadian Cavalry Brigade. The reason why General Paterson was made commander of the brigade was because it was our policy to place Canadian officers in charge of such units in all cases where they were available.

I should like to say a word with regard to the air force. More than eight thousand Canadians have held commissions in the Imperial Air Force. As the burden of the fighting and the danger falls almost entirely on officers, this is a record of which Canada may well be proud.

Mr. McMASTER: How many were in the Imperial Air Force altogether, and what proportion were Canadians?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I have not the figures at hand, but we could secure them. The question of what the proportion was has always interested me. At one time I was under the impression from figures which I received that about thirty per cent of the officers in the Imperial Air Service were Canadians. I am still under the impression that the percentage was at least quite twenty-five per cent; it may have been fully thirty per cent. As soon as it was possible for me to take the question up I discovered that it was desirable that we should have some better control of the record of these Canadians in the Royal Air Force and in the Royal Naval Air Service. I negotiated with Lord Weir, Minister of the Air Service, and we succeeded in obtaining important concessions with regard to records. The Canadian officers in the Royal Air Service are classified as follows:

1. Officers seconded or attached to the R.F.C., R.N.A.S., and R.A.F. up to December 31, 1918	1,239
2. Other ranks of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada transferred to the above from June 1, 1916 to December 31, 1918	2,721
3. Cadets enlisted in Canada by the Imperial Authorities and despatched to the above Services	4,280
Total	8,240