

Mr. RALSTON: The 16,000 will be N.R.M.A. personnel?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: No, I would not say that entirely. The real requirement is 16,000, eventually destined for the infantry. But there must be complete flexibility. Some of the personnel might be gunners converted to infantry; they might be existing G.S. infantry, people shifting from one place to another, but the net total increase which we wish to place in the pools on the other side of the Atlantic is 16,000 infantry.

Mr. RALSTON: Up to what date?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: We plan, subject to adjustments to fit shipping, to send the first 5,000 in the month of December.

Mr. RALSTON: Pardon me. You said 16,000 would be the total. The total up to what date? That will last you up to what time?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Those figures carry us forward, so far as dispatch is concerned, to the month of May, up into the month of May. The movement will be complete in May.

Mr. RALSTON: The movement will be complete in May? And that is in addition—

Mr. McNAUGHTON: In addition to what had previously been planned, for which we made the personnel available by withdrawals from home defence establishments and so on in this country, by cutting down the progressive programme which had been instituted in the department before I took over, and which I have carried on as the chiefs-of-staff committee have told us of the possibilities under a lessened scale of attacks. It is a systematic programme of reduction which was in effect and which we have carried forward. We have saved some personnel in so doing.

Mr. RALSTON: When you first came into the department you found a certain plan ready of dispatching reinforcements from November until May; that is, so many each month, in varying numbers. Is that right?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: That is right.

Mr. RALSTON: Then you found also that an additional 5,000 men had been found—that was prior to your coming into the department—and had been found by way of (a) accelerating the dispatch of 1,500 infantry; (b) sending directly overseas 1,500 other arms to be remustered over there; (c) demoting N.C.O.'s to the number of 750 and paying them the pay of their former rank for a certain period although reducing them to the

rank of private; and (d) using infantry tradesmen and paying them trades pay although using them as general duty men—that accounted for another 750. That makes 4,500. And then 500 more were obtained I think by taking reduced physical standards. Is that right?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: That is correct. That is the programme I found for those dispatches. The point I wish to make is that when I saw the proposal for reduction of physical categories of 500 for the infantry, I could not bring myself to accept that.

Mr. RALSTON: You did not find any approval of that proposal by me, I can assure you.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: That is right. There was a proposal for it, which I did not accept.

Mr. RALSTON: Therefore that 500 was out, so that there were only 4,500?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: There were only 4,500.

Mr. RALSTON: In addition to these regularly planned dispatches and the 4,500 found in this way, you propose now to send 16,000 more in the manner which you have, generally speaking, indicated. Is that right?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: And you think that will last up until May with the regular dispatch of general service personnel?

Mr. McNAUGHTON: As we all know, these are estimates based on the best experience that we can get and the best judgment that our technical and general staff officers can use. They are only estimates.

Mr. RALSTON: That is right.

Mr. McNAUGHTON: And they are subject to the chances of battle, the changed circumstances as they come on day by day. The figures might be absolutely valid and translatable into terms of individual men at this moment. A week hence they might be invalidated by circumstances on the field of battle. All we can do in planning is to try to keep the average rate running on correctly so that using our best knowledge and cool judgment we shall not face particular shortages at particular times. Just as dangerous to the conduct of operations as a shortage itself might well be the time at which the shortage occurs.

Mr. RALSTON: You are telling me!

Mr. McNAUGHTON: You know; so do I.