

FOR RELEASE

This material, the record of a monthly release, is prepared as notes for speakers; as general information for those who write asking for up to the minute information on the Canadian war effort. It will be reviewed monthly as the figures will be brought up to date.

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A BRIEF REVIEW OF CANADA'S WAR EFFORT

GENERAL

Canada entered the war on September 10th, 1939. Although at that time she was a relatively weak military power, she has in the ensuing twenty months built up a war machine the actual and potential strength of which is very considerable.

During the years 1936 - 39 action was taken to modernize and expand the Canadian armed forces and to prepare reserves for the defence of Canadian territory. The 1939 estimates provided about \$41,000,000 for the three services, by far the largest sum ever allocated in Canada for defence in time of peace. Nevertheless the steps which were taken during this pre-war period were limited by a peace-time budget. Canada entered the war with armed forces whose size was insignificant in comparison with those of European nations, and her industrial plant was operating almost entirely on a peace-time basis.

Since the outbreak of war Canada has steadily diverted more and more of her resources, both human and material, into her war effort. The 1941 - 42 budget provides between 33% and 40% of the national income for war. A quarter million Canadians are serving in the active armed forces abroad and at home. These men have been enlisted on a voluntary basis for the duration of the war and will serve wherever required. In terms of the population of the United States, the number of men in the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force would be equivalent to an armed strength in the forces of the United States of over two and three quarter million men, and this without taking account of a reserve army for home defence. Moreover, Canada's industrial capacity has been turned over to war production to an unprecedented extent in the months since the outbreak of war.

Canada's war plans for the defence of this year represent precisely the aid which Britain desires from Canada. These plans have been made on the basis of consultations held early this year with the heads of Britain's Army and Air Force, with Prime Minister Churchill and with other high officials in Great Britain. Canadian ministers told these officials that Canada's object is a full and complete contribution with everything Canada has and as fast as she can give it.