

effort is concerned in relation to the troops overseas. This is General McNaughton's message:

This is the fourth Christmas which the vanguard of the Canadian army has spent in England, for it was on December 17, 1939, that the leading elements of the first division arrived at a northern port after an uneventful voyage across the Atlantic under the sure escort of the Royal Navy. At that time our numbers of trained soldiers and experienced officers were very few indeed and our equipment consisted of little more than the rifles we carried and the clothing we wore. But this caused little anxiety, for during our period of organization we were to rest under the shield of the British expeditionary force, and of the armies of our allies in France and all the facilities of the British army in the United Kingdom were available to help us in our training and development. Moreover, we had behind us Canada's magnificent young manhood and our great peace-time industry, both potentially very formidable and, we were confident, readily adaptable to the preparation and making of war. Our cause was just, our participation necessary, and there was certainty that the government and people of Canada would see the struggle through to a victorious conclusion.

In the months which followed, this confidence was amply justified, for in Canada preparations were pressed forward with energy and decision and soon there was a steady flow of men to us, limited only by the capacity of the ships we could obtain. And gradually at first, and then in rapidly rising tide, now approaching the flood, came our arms and vehicles and equipment of every sort and kind.

So to-day, our first few have become many tens of thousands and they now are firmly based on the vast arsenal which our country has become, we count ourselves most fortunate both in the quantity and, best of all, in the high quality of the supplies which Canada has sent to us.

In the three long years we have stood guard within the British isles there have been many periods of intense activity when battle against the enemy seemed imminent, the anxious time of Dunkerque when we were witness of the miracle of the salvation of the British expeditionary force, our expedition to Brest as a forlorn hope to support the last stand of our ally France, the Battle of Britain when we watched the air force in their glorious defence, ourselves half-armed and ill-equipped but ready to meet invasion should it come, Spitzbergen in the Arctic and Dieppe across the channel and other far-flung designs most carefully prepared at the behest of those who rule these matters with all the repeated meticulous precision and all the vast expenditure of time and energy that is required, only to end in nothing through some proper change of strategy as circumstances arose which called others, with alternative roles equally prepared, to carry their allotted task forward in satisfaction to fulfilment.

And always throughout, by day and night, in fair weather and in foul, unending training in all the varied aspects of modern war, continuous development to a settled plan, and as each day passed, the units and formations growing stronger and our men and officers more fit in body and in mind, and more adept with their weapons and skilled in leadership for the hard tasks which lay ahead.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Meanwhile, and over and beyond the ordinary duties of life in the field army itself, there have been many things to do. Camps and roads and airfields to build; depots for stores and workshops to erect and operate; waste to be eliminated and salvage to be collected; help to give in the quest for key minerals needed for war production and tunnels to drive for power to aid in manufacture; forestry operations in Scotland to supply great quantities of timber when its import would have needed the use of precious shipping otherwise required; military schools and courses to organize and conduct; the central administration patiently evolved, by those entrusted with this task, to regulate our dealings with the civil power and with the great departments of state with whom our daily business has been adjusted in harmony. Likewise, and of very great importance, the widespread detailed systems, some army, some civilian, built up to secure the complicated task of caring for the individual in all his many wants and needs. To transport and house, to feed and clothe, to issue out the arms, to promote and pay, to minister to our spiritual requirements, medical and nursing services and hospitals and the Canadian Red Cross to look after the sick and other casualties, dental services, postal services, education in which we gratefully acknowledge the help so well given by our comrades of past wars, hospitality so generously given by the people of these isles, canteens and sports and recreation and welfare provided to us by the legion, the Salvation Army, the Y.M.C.A., the Knights of Columbus and all our many friends who have worked with them.

In all of these, devoted service has been given, not only to our own troops but also and on occasion to the civil population as well.

Those years in England have not been easy, nor do we seek their long continuance. The men and women with the Canadian army overseas are far from home and kith and kin to whom they would return, but there has been no wavering in the steady purpose which brought them here and they watch and wait for the proper time to strike with that quiet patience which bespeaks a high morale. When that time comes, be it soon or late, the army of Canada will go forward with reasoned confidence to discharge its duty to the cause we serve.

There is the answer to the challenge, if challenge there be, as to whether Canada's war effort in these past years has been worthy of our country. There is one clause in that statement of General McNaughton's which I wish to emphasize and draw attention to. General McNaughton points out that from the beginning they have been able to get all the troops that they could find ships to bring them in. May I say to this House of Commons that the only limiting factor to-day with respect either to troops or supplies for overseas is the limit of the ships available to transport them. There is the answer as to Canada's war effort. Does anyone dispute that?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What about the man-power question?