

(F) WAR ORGANIZATION AND REGULATIONS

1. APPOINTMENT OF BRIGADIER-GENERAL V. W. ODLUM TO COMMAND SECOND DIVISION, C.A.S.F.

It was announced on the 4th of April that Brigadier-General V. W. Odlum of Vancouver, British Columbia, had been appointed to command the Second Division of the Canadian Active Service Force.

2. REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, OFFICIAL STATEMENT, 11th OF APRIL

The War Committee of the Cabinet have recently given considerable study to the organization of the Defence Department, in the light of present developments, both in Canada and abroad. In the opinion of the Committee, the steady expansion of Canada's war effort, the additional requirements of Canada's defence forces, and the intensification of war in Europe, have made some reorganization necessary. As a result of the study, the War Committee has decided that each branch of the defence forces, the army, the navy, and the air force, shall be represented by its own Associate Acting Deputy Minister. Up to date, two Associate Acting Deputy Ministers have been responsible for the administration of the three arms of the defence forces. On September 9, 1939, Lt.-Col. Henri DesRosiers and Lt.-Col. K. S. Maclachlan were each appointed Associate Acting Deputy Minister of National Defence. By direction of the Minister of National Defence, Lt.-Col. DesRosiers has been responsible to his Minister for the militia service, and Lt.-Col. Maclachlan for the naval and air services. The development of the war and the requirements of Canada and the allied powers have given to the naval service and the air service, added importance.

Since the appointment of Lt.-Col. Maclachlan the great development of the Royal Canadian Naval Service has rendered it not only desirable but imperative that the Associate Acting Deputy Minister charged with responsibility for the naval forces should be free to devote his time exclusively to the naval service. Lt.-Col. Maclachlan's excellent work and experience have eminently fitted him for the continued supervision of this branch of Canada's defence forces.

The development of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and especially the present needs and future growth of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, have made advisable the appointment of an Associate Acting Deputy Minister of National Defence whose time and energies will be exclusively directed to the affairs of the air service. This view has been shared by the Honourable N. M. Rogers, and by Lt.-Col. Maclachlan, the latter of whom particularly has felt that the proposed change should take place.