

*Canadian Forces Act*

personally. Sometimes records were incorrectly kept and at no time is the private soldier permitted access to the military records in order to check his own record. After a war the soldier is generally very anxious to leave the army and he does not bother to check his record.

I suggest that each soldier be issued a medical record book which would be considered legal in proving future claims or in connection with any contact he may have with the government. Every time a man went to hospital he would have to take his book along and have the proper entry made. That would be the basis of establishing future claim. If a man came to me with such a book I would consider it most valuable. I have known of men who were trying to establish claims who had served in units where all the documents have been lost. I have also known of cases where the records have been kept in a most sloppy manner by the orderly rooms with the result that a man might get treatment—I know of one case in particular—and no record be made. Then twenty years later when he suffers from a disability his record does not show he had had treatment. In this particular case we were fortunate in being able to produce satisfactory proof that the damage had taken place at that time.

I do not know what form the book could take, but it should be of substantial material so that it could be carried in the man's pocket on active service. On leaving the army the man could look at his record and if he was not satisfied he could go to the military authority and have it corrected. That book would be the basis of all claims that he might make against the authorities.

**Mr. Adamson:** I should like to indicate my agreement with what has been said, particularly by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. The hon. member suggested that civilian organizations could keep the public in Canada aware of what was going on in Korea. We are all too prone to forget that one of the most hideous combats the world has yet known is going on at the present time in Korea. The shocking figures that appeared in the press yesterday—and I have no reason to doubt their accuracy—of the wanton massacre of prisoners of war show to what depths of degradation human beings can sink. Therefore I wish to record, with other members who have spoken, my deep and sincere belief that everything possible should be done to make the life of our troops in Korea, when not immediately facing the enemy, as pleasant and as bearable as possible.

There is one other thing I wish to say and it has to do with the troops of the 27th

brigade who are going to Europe. We are sending troops from Canada at this time to do a job that troops from Canada have never done before. Up to the present time any expeditionary force leaving Canada has proceeded to an active zone of war for purposes of combat. No actual combat is going on in Europe today. Our troops are going there for two or three reasons, the chief one being to build up the resources and the striking force of the free world against aggression. In other words, for the first time in our history we are taking steps to lock the stable door before the horse gets out. I think that is a most admirable thing, and I think the government are perfectly justified in so doing. In fact any other course would be a negation of our obligations as a free world power.

Having said that, I was in Germany this year and I saw the mistakes that were being made occasionally—I will not say generally—by forces doing the same duty as our troops will be called upon to do. I want to compliment the government on getting out the booklet, which I believe is given to all service personnel leaving Canada, on being a Canadian soldier overseas, and having particular reference to the psychological job they are called on to do. We are sending troops to the continent to protect it from ever having to go through liberation again. In other words, we are sending troops there so that aggression can be stopped before it overruns friendly countries, but whether we like it or not we must remember that there is an obvious resentment on the part of certain European countries toward the occupation forces. I think that is obvious, and the booklet in question sets it out.

I believe nothing that Canada can do is more important than to impress on Europe the job that our troops are going to do there at the present time. I think the good will that Canada has in Europe today is higher than that of any other country, and it is the result of what the Europeans saw of our troops before. With the natural resentment against more troops actively fomented by the communist party with which we are at war, or at least fighting, nothing could do us more harm than any let-down of the high standard of behaviour of Canadian troops. I think the pamphlet put out is excellent and I am sure that the department is doing all it can in this regard.

The troops of the 27th brigade have a dual job. They have the job of fighting physical aggression should it occur, and they also have the job of almost being ambassadors of good will, I would say, to a war-torn, severely damaged and morally depressed continent. I saw that condition when I was