

Enlistments will continue in order to maintain a steady flow of reinforcements to replace normal as well as battle casualties and to provide for rotation of personnel if the campaign should become extended. In Canada there will also be security forces and troops required for the maintenance of coast defence installations, coastal garrisons and anti-sabotage guards, and ordnance services to handle the output of Canadian plants of war materials destined for Canadian and allied fighting forces in the Pacific.

Commander of the Canadian Army Pacific Force is Major-General Bertram Mervyl Hoffmeister, C.B.E., D.S.O. He is 38, General Hoffmeister commanded the Canadian Fifth Armored Division in Italy and northwest Europe.

Strength of Canada's Pacific force was discussed by allied chiefs of staff at the Quebec conference. In his welcoming address to General Hoffmeister, Prime Minister King said of the Canadian force:

"It is the most substantial force which, having regard to all circumstances, our United States allies felt could be effectively integrated with their forces in the time at our disposal."

For shipping reasons alone the Canadian force could not be large in numbers. As time was of prime importance in providing such a contingent, only a force largely composed of men with battle experience could receive specialized training quickly enough to be used for campaigns against the Japanese.

VOLUNTEERS

Bulk of the force will be made up of volunteers from the European battlefield. General Hoffmeister said on June 14 that between 27,000 and 28,000 had already volunteered - 20,000 from Europe and the balance from Canadian forces stationed in the United Kingdom. General Hoffmeister at that time said he thought that there was a possibility that all the necessary volunteers might come from experienced Canadian troops overseas in Europe and the United Kingdom at the close of the European war.

Prime Minister King made it clear, however, that the steady stream of reinforcements which will support the front-line combat troops will provide opportunities for younger men and men without battle experience who wish to do their part in the war against Japan. In order to give overseas personnel a chance to change their minds about volunteering for the Pacific, an extension of the deadline for volunteering was granted. While no recruiting campaign has been conducted among civilians in Canada, recruiting depots are still open and a fair number of men have enlisted for the war against Japan. Among these were some of the men called up for compulsory military service in Canada under the National Resources Mobilization Act.

ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

Canadian soldiers overseas who volunteer for Pacific duty have top shipping priority for return to Canada. After their 30 days' leave, they will receive initial retraining at Shilo, Manitoba, Barriefield, Ontario, or Debert, Nova Scotia. By late summer they will be ready to proceed to Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, for advanced and specialized Pacific training.

In order to maintain the distinctive regimental badges and flashes which have been recognized by Canadian fighting men throughout the war, the Sixth Canadian Division will adopt the titles of the following regiments: the West Nova Scotia Regiment; the Carleton and York Regiment; Royal 22e Regiment; the Canadian Grenadier Guards; the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment; 48th Highlanders of Canada; the Royal Canadian Regiment; Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry; the Loyal Edmonton Regiment; the Saskatoon Light Infantry; the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. The Royal Montreal Regiment will provide the reconnaissance element of the division.