

strength for men who could be spared from their units to help on their own farms or on those of immediate relatives. In July a special order was issued by the Department of National Defence extending the maximum period of farm leave from six weeks to six months. The Department of Labour paid for railway fares up to 500 miles and for a suit of work overalls for each man obtaining farm leave under the July order.

The number of these leaves in effect during the late summer and fall of 1943 was as follows: August 31, 6,185; September 30, 8,145; October 31, 6,987; November 30, 4,834, and February 29, 1944, 4,058. The maximum number of these men were out in September at the peak of the harvesting season. Their distribution by military districts was as follows:

M.D. No. 1	821
2 & Borden.....	828
3 & Petawawa.....	395
4.....	481
5.....	1,343
6.....	348
7.....	445
10.....	756
Pacific Command.....	122
M.D. No.12.....	1,638
13.....	803
NDHQ units.....	8
Div. No. 7.....	<u>155</u>
Total.....	8,145

(iii) Farm duty - In July an agreement was made between the Departments of Labour and National Defence for detailing soldiers on farm duty. According to the agreement the Department of Labour paid the transportation costs for soldiers detailed when such transportation was inter-provincial and shared the costs with the province concerned for moving the soldiers within the province. Each soldier on farm duty was provided with a suit of work overalls at the joint expense of the Department of Labour and the province in which he was detailed to work.

Soldiers detailed were allocated to farms under the supervision of the provincial directors of farm labour. The responsibility for collecting the wages owed by farmers for the services of the soldiers was placed with these directors. The Dominion and the province concerned agreed to share equally any losses incurred through failure to collect. Almost 100% collection was achieved in all provinces.

Definite wage rates were established which farmers were required to pay for the services of soldiers for each day they actually worked. These rates were as follows: \$3.00 a day in the Maritime and Quebec, \$3.50 in Ontario and \$4.00 in the western provinces. These rates included the regular army pay, and for days not worked the soldier continued to receive his army pay. The payment was not made to the soldier by the farmer, but the soldiers received what they earned from the paymaster of their units, and later the Department of National Defence collected from the Department of Labour the amount involved. Meanwhile the Department of Labour received the wages paid by the farmers through the provincial directors of farm labour and their field organizations.

About 2,500 soldiers were detailed under this plan. The totals indicated by provinces is somewhat higher than 2,500 because in some instances soldiers worked in more than one province. Soldiers were detailed for farm duty in all provinces, particularly for harvesting in the Prairies and for apple and potato picking in the Maritime Provinces.

The following table shows the total employed on farms in each of the provinces: