

Employment of R.C.A.F. in South-East Asia

20. The Secretary referred to the enquiry made by the Prime Minister at a meeting of the Cabinet on December 27 regarding a report that an R.C.A.F. Squadron had been constituted and was serving in the South-East Asiatic theatre.

21. The Minister of National Defence for Naval Services (as Acting Minister of National Defence for Air) said that he had ascertained that one of the squadrons in question had been based in Ceylon for a matter of two years. Two other transport squadrons were flying a route between England and India, with Wing Headquarters in that latter country. These squadrons had only been in operation for a short time.

In view of the government's decision with regard to the limitation of Canada's participation in the Japanese war to the Central and North Pacific zones, action had been taken to withdraw these squadrons.

(Letter, Minister of National Defence for Naval Services, to the Prime Minister, Dec. 28, 1944).

22. The War Committee noted the Minister's report.

Air; provision of additional aircraft;  
Home War Establishment; overseas mail flights

23. The Secretary reported that Treasury Board had referred to the War Committee, for decision in principle, a recommendation from the Department of National Defence for Air for the procurement of additional aircraft as a result of a revision in the Air Defence of Canada Plan.

(Letter, Treasury Board to the Secretary, Dec. 22, 1944).

24. The War Committee, after discussion, referred the matter to the Acting Minister of National Defence for Air for discussion with the Chief of the Air Staff, and subsequent report.

Army overseas; reinforcement position

25. The Minister of National Defence reported that the programme for the despatch of army reinforcements in November and December, as stated in Parliament, had more than been met. The present overseas position could be said to be satisfactory. It had been noticeably helped by the fact that the casualties actually incurred in November and December had been less than those provided for in advance estimates.

There was, however, a disturbing factor in the situation in Canada, namely, that of the N.R.M.A. battalions either despatched overseas or warned for