

MEMORANDUM ON INFANTRY REINFORCEMENTS

The Reinforcement Situation

1. The estimates show a surplus of 700 infantry at the end of December after providing for 14,000 casualties in November and December. This provision should be more than adequate as the infantry casualties for October were 6,030.
2. Assuming that (a) these 14,000 casualties occurred, and (b) that 6,000 occur in January, and (c) that there is no improvement in the flow of reinforcements from conversions or otherwise, we may expect infantry units to go below their establishments some time about the middle of February.
3. Apart from providing a pool of reserves, the maximum need we can reasonably anticipate is 4,000 about the middle of February. If we have less than 20,000 casualties in November, December and January, the need will be by so much less.
4. Since it takes two months to board, give leave to, outfit, ship and give a month's training to reinforcements proceeding from Canada, 4,000 trained and fit men should be ready on 15th December so as to make them available for reinforcements not later than 15th February.
5. We need a minimum of 4,000 men by 15th December. That is the "necessity".

Political Situation

6. If the Government splits now and does not introduce conscription, it may have no substantial representation or support from English-speaking Canada.
7. If the Government introduces conscription, it will have no substantial support from Quebec or French-speaking Canada.