

it very brief, the serving together status is more properly adaptable and applicable to the situation where visiting troops are training in the United Kingdom; the status of acting in combination is more adaptable and applicable to the situation where a visiting force may be called upon to engage in operations along with the United Kingdom forces. The difference in status is this, so far as command is concerned, that when troops are serving together, that is to say more or less on a training basis, they are under separate commands—that is, the home forces are under one command, the Canadian forces are under another command, and there is no common command over them; each is, if I may put it that way, autonomous in connection with its own particular organization and command. When troops are acting in combination, then, as the statute provides, his majesty may provide one officer to act in command of the combined forces.

That is the background of the relationship which exists in the United Kingdom with respect to the Canadian forces. We now come to what has been done in that respect.

The statute provides that the government by order in council may declare that the Canadian forces—I use that term interchangeably with “visiting forces”—shall be deemed to be serving together with the home forces, or the governor in council may declare that the visiting forces shall be acting in combination with the home forces. We have done both. We have passed an order in council, dated April 3, 1940—as a matter of fact it bears the significant and rather intriguing number, 1066—under the War Measures Act. It will be found in volume 2, page 47, of the volume of proclamations and orders in council passed under the War Measures Act. This order in council provides three things: first, that Canadian forces, military and air, in the United Kingdom or the continent of Europe or proceeding from one to the other, serve together with the United Kingdom forces; second, that Canadian forces serving on the continent act in combination upon their embarkation in the United Kingdom for the purpose of proceeding to the continent of Europe.

Third—and this is the important point before us now because we have no forces on the continent of Europe—the order in council provides that those parts of the Canadian forces, military and air, serving in the United Kingdom—those are our forces which are there at the present time—as may from time to time be detailed for that purpose by the appropriate service authorities as may from time to time be designated by the Minister of National Defence shall act in combination with the United Kingdom forces.