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PART IV

SIZE AND TYPE OF FORCES REQUIRED

23. Obviously the type of Canadian forces eventually required will depend on advice from the British and United States General Staffs respectively, but an analysis can be made of the suitability of the component parts of the Canadian Army for its new role.

24. It is possible that the British may have built up in advance sufficient jungle-trained troops to proceed with the initial stages of the war in Burma without waiting for the arrival of reinforcements from the European Theatre.

25. Under such circumstances, Canadian troops from the German theatre, because of their lack of training in Jungle warfare, would be of considerably more value during the later stages when setting up bases on the China Coast, or Formosa, and in the actual assault on Japan itself.

26. In the same way the Western Pacific arm of the general pincers movement will start with a series of combined operations, possibly using American "combat team" units (similar to Brigade Groups). This type of "island hopping" warfare, interspersed with Jungle warfare on the larger islands, also requires specialized training.

27. Again recognizing the need for speed, the troops in Canada will be of little immediate use unless trained for Jungle Warfare and combined operations at the time of Germany's defeat. It seems axiomatic, therefore, that if it is decided to use these troops in the Pacific Theatre, their training should be intensified now along the lines to fit them for their specific task. If it is not possible to train troops now for this role, because of the strategic requirements of the German war, preparation by increasing the number of officers and men attached to the Australian, British and U.S. forces in the area, could be intensified as a means of providing a ready nucleus for training the forces eventually allotted to this role.

28. The size and type of Canadian troops that could be of most use in rounding out the strategic requirements, will result from deliberation of the British and American General Staffs. While it is not possible in this paper to make any dogmatic suggestions in this regard, the following consideration will have a direct bearing on the subject.

29. Forces overseas - At the close of the German war all of the Canadian fighting units will probably be deployed on the ground in Germany and, possibly in Italy. These units are likely to have an operational role for some time after the Armistice probably until the end of the first Stage of Occupation (The immediate aftermath of hostilities). Thus, it is quite possible that there will not be any Canadian units immediately available for the far eastern war from the European Theatre.

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