



# REFERENCE PAPERS

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## CANADA'S ARMED FORCES

A forecast of the future organization and activities of the Canadian Armed Forces was given to press and radio representatives by the Honorable Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence in the Parliamentary Press Gallery of Ottawa on January 16, 1947. A summary of his remarks and of information contained in previous official statements follows:

The year 1947 is one of reorganization for the Canadian Armed Forces during which practicable peacetime establishments will be set up and the machinery for technical development placed on a sound operating basis.

### SERVICE PERSONNEL

In the period since the three services, Navy, Army and Air Force, were at their peak strength, there has been a rapid reduction in personnel. Repatriation and demobilization of Canadian forces has been completed much more rapidly than was anticipated.

The reduction in the personnel of the Armed Forces is given in the following summary:

	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Air Force</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Strength at peak -	92,880	481,500	206,350	780,730
Reduction since -	84,399	460,027	193,401	737,827
Strength as of Dec. 31, 1946. -	<u>8,481</u>	<u>21,475</u>	<u>12,949</u>	<u>42,905</u>

There are less than 9,000 men still to be released, and of this number the majority will be out of the forces by March 31 and all by September 30 of this year. The "Aquitania" is en route from the United Kingdom to Halifax with the last 1,000 troops and some 650 dependent wives and children. Less than 100 Canadian servicemen remain in the U.K.

### CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Civilian personnel employed by the Armed Forces totalled 33,426 on December 1, 1946. Of these 3,880 were at Ottawa headquarters.

Since the end of the war there had been an increase in civilians employed by the Armed Forces because of the work involved in demobilization of more than 750,000 personnel with accounts to be



made out etc., as well as in disposing of equipment, some to be stored, and great amounts to be disposed of by destruction or by transfer to War Assets Corporation for civilian sale. Future reductions in civilian personnel will be rapid with the completion of demobilization and progressive disposal of war material. It was not generally recognized that 70% of what we had prepared in war went to our allies and a corresponding surplus remained to be dealt with.

#### EXPENDITURES

A reduction of over a billion dollars in estimated expenditures for the three Services in 1946-47 compared with expenditures of 1945-46 is anticipated:- The following table illustrates the nature of this saving.

	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Air Force</u>	<u>Totals</u>
1945-46 -	\$241,000,000	\$848,000,000	\$524,000,000	\$1,613,000,000
1946-47 -	67,000,000	283,000,000	90,000,000	440,000,000
Approximate Reduction	174,000,000	565,000,000	434,000,000	1,173,000,000

The estimates for 1947-48 are still in course of preparation and when approved by the government will be put before parliament with the other estimates. They will show a substantial reduction.

#### COORDINATION OF THREE SERVICES

Canada's Department of National Defence was recently consolidated under a single Minister, and the work of the Navy, Army and Air Force is to be coordinated at all possible levels. The object is to achieve the greatest possible economy and efficiency in the services, so that Canada will have Armed Forces which will meet the defence needs of the country and maintain the high standards of the forces set in the war.

The Department now has one Minister and one Deputy Minister instead of three, and two associate Deputy Ministers whose responsibilities are based on functional rather than service requirements. Headquarters of the three services are already being moved to a single site in Ottawa. As the move to Cartier Square progresses, it is intended to effect an amalgamation of the Civil Service personnel presently employed for the three Services. Administrative duties common to all three will be performed by one staff rather than by three as at present. The civilian services affected will include those in connection with estimates, accounts, treasury, audit, pensions, canteen and mess funds, printing & stationery, fire fighting, records, reports, returns, answers to questions, stenography, translation, mail, central registry, etc. Amalgamation of various directorates of the three services, including medical, legal, dental, hospital, medical stores, welfare, education, communications and public relations, is under way.

Administrative duties common to all three will be performed by one staff rather than by three and there will be consolidation of the Civil Service personnel presently employed. There will also be a high degree of consolidation in activities concerned with supply, food, transportation, clothing, accommodation, depots, etc. In the remaining fields coordination will be achieved by cooperation at every service level. Pay for equivalent rank in Navy, Army and Air Force is now the same, and plans are under way to provide for similar treatment with regard to food, clothing, etc. The traditional uniforms of the three services will be retained.



At the staff colleges it is planned to place great emphasis on combined operations so that personnel of the three services will be accustomed to working with one another in peace as they did in war.

#### COMPOSITION OF ARMED FORCES

The international situation, the proposals made at the recent session of the United Nations, and the rapid changes in types of weapons, are among the considerations which make it undesirable at this time to settle finally the composition or character of the future armed forces of Canada. The year 1947 is regarded as a period during which the defence forces will be established on a sound administrative basis, capable of being adapted or developed to meet all possible changing circumstances. The defence organization will be kept on a flexible basis to fit in with any plan of general security or general disarmament as called for by the United Nations and the defence needs of Canada.

Changing circumstances in the world make this a difficult year in which to plan what should be done. The whole situation is under continuous review so as to insure the greatest possible security for the Canadian people at the lowest possible cost. Our armed forces would not be large but they would be good. We wanted no frills but the same kind of tough efficiency as had won for our forces a reputation second to none.

For these reasons it is not intended to recruit personnel to an extent greater than 75% of the numbers set for planning purposes a year ago. The Navy and the Air Force have approximately reached 75% of these figures and consequently they are not taking on additional personnel except those with special qualifications. The Army, not having reached its figure, is accepting recruits for the time being.

During the war it was necessary to acquire a large number of Defence establishments of various kinds, including the organization required for the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Only some of these establishments are needed for the post-war forces. The rest are being disposed of rapidly.

In Europe today there is practically speaking not a single piece of Canadian material of war. The remaining establishments and stores in Canada are being constantly reviewed and all surplus turned over to War Assets Corporation. This procedure is already well advanced and is being accelerated.

The Armed Forces are postponing all new construction not absolutely essential.

The Reserve Forces are an important element in the post-war defence forces. Many ex-servicemen joined the Reserves and Auxiliaries and will make their training and experience available to the younger recruits.

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(B.K./n.p.)



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