

35,000 Men Scheduled For Occupation Force; Discharge 65,000 Fliers

OTTAWA, May 29 (CP).—News of how about 365,000 Canadian fighting men will get home, how some will go to the Pacific and some will be demobilized, and how 35,000 will go into the occupation army was disclosed here today in separate official

announcements. Prime Minister Mackenzie King, in announcing plans by which it is hoped to have all four-year overseas veterans home in six months, disclosed tonight for the first time the total strength of Canada's contribution to the security force in Europe as 35,000 men.

From this it was possible to conclude the RCAF contingent will be 10,000 men, for it was previously announced the army contingent would be 25,000. The navy is not participating.

Go as Volunteers

Earlier in the day Air Minister Gibson announced a program calling for demobilization of about 65,000 RCAF men, with some of the remaining 100,000 going to the Pacific as volunteers, and the rest making up the occupation force in Europe, a replacement group in Britain and an administration and training staff in Canada.

He also announced a Pacific war plan, which he said would work out to about the same thing as the campaign bonuses for army privates, who get about \$10 extra month to make their total \$54.

New Regulations

Meanwhile, Defense Headquarters, who had previously announced a point-scoring priority program for bringing home men on the basis of long and hard service, released details of new discharge regulations under which operational service, wounds, age, first Great War service, and high point scores will be considered. Applicants who qualify for discharge under these new regulations will be released, subject to the exigencies of the service.

Mr. King said provisional arrangements have been made for the return to Canada during the next six months of all Canadian service personnel who have been overseas more than four years, except those who will serve with the army of occupation and certain key personnel.

Move Casualties by July 31

Mr. King also announced that all casualties who could be moved would be home by July 31.

Mr. King spoke of demands on shipping and said the possibilities of wider use of air transport were being investigated.

Canada's big repatriation problem also included plans for the movement to the Dominion of about 30,000 dependents of Canadian servicemen overseas.

He said Canadian naval ships would be exclusively used for the repatriation of their own overseas personnel.

The two hospital ships — Lady Nelson and Letitia—are shuttling the Atlantic in returning the casualties, and first-class accommodation on other ships is also being used for this purpose.

However, priority on the available shipping space went in order to operational forces heading for the

Pacific, casualties who could be moved and liberated prisoners of war. Mr. King's statement added: ". . . and it is expected that all personnel in these categories will be in Canada by autumn."

The air force demobilization and reallocation program was outlined in general terms, as the "exact number and character of RCAF squadrons to be sent to the Pacific have not been finally determined."

It was learned that the big problem is provision of sufficient bases to accommodate the great concentration of Allied might being shifted from the European theatre.

It was understood that as soon as the force's specific Far East commitment is known a complete demobilization and reallocation booklet will be issued along the lines of one distributed to the army.

Priority System

Like the navy and army program, the air force will discharge its surplus of manpower on a priority point scoring system, with one point for each month service at home and two points for each month service abroad. The air force also will provide special pay in the form of allowances. The exact amount of the allowance was not given, but a statement said it would be equal to the allowance paid to RAF crewmen with whom the air force will co-operate. However, RAF basic pay is considerably lower than RCAF.

An RAF airman receives a shilling (about 25 cents) a day extra, compared with the 30-cents-a-day rate already announced for Canadian ratings and privates. The rate is on an upward graduated scale to the rank of squadron leader, who gets five shillings (about \$1.25) a day extra.

Col. Gibson said the allowances will be governed by conditions under which men serve, "but in general they will compare favorably with the campaign bonuses being paid to Canadian Army personnel."

Lower Than U.S. Rates

Canadian Navy ratings and Army privates receive about \$10 monthly in bonuses, bringing their pay to about \$54, which compares to the United States Navy, Army and Marine rate of \$60, with a \$70 rate for combat infantrymen.

Air volunteers for the war against Japan will be brought home to Canada for 30 clear days' leave before continuing to their Pacific bases. It has previously been reported that in the case of bomber squadrons destined for Pacific service they will retain the names they already made famous in the sky battles of Europe. The aircrews will fly their big Lancasters back to Canada and enjoy their leave before flying on to Pacific bases.

Any surplus of Pacific volunteers will be given preference in selection of the occupation force or for continuing duty in Canada.

Voluntary Basis

"In the unlikely event of there not being sufficient volunteers for the Pacific," said Col. Gibson, "members of the RCAF aircrew reserve may be drawn upon, but members of this reserve will not be called until they have indicated their willingness to serve in the Far East."

The air force squadrons will be delegated for Far East duty as units, but squadron members will go only if they volunteer. Non-volunteers with high discharge priority scores will be demobilized. Non-volunteers with low priority scores may be detailed for service in Britain, Europe or the Western Hemisphere.

As a general rule, men with the highest priority ratings will be released first, but this principle "for obvious reasons" will depend on the exigencies of the service.

The program includes the RCAF personnel in the RAF, but no mention is made of the possible role of the women's division. The army is sending its CWAC members to the Pacific, and the navy is sending its Wrens. The CWAC also will be used in the army of occupation in Germany.