

FORMING ARMY FROM MILITIA FOUND BENEFIT

Keeping Unit's Identity
Psychological Factor,
Say Military Experts

PRIDE GIVEN EDGE

Ottawa, Nov. 28 (CP).—The decision of the Government to build the Canadian Active Service Force within the framework of existing permanent and non-permanent militia units has proved of considerable psychological advantage in formation of Canada's new army, military experts in the capital agree.

When Canada sent a force overseas in the first Great War, organization of the force cut sharply through the existing units. Entirely new battalions were formed and sent overseas for training. Officers and non-commissioned officers of both permanent and non-permanent militia units flocked to the new overseas battalions and left their own units denuded of officers.

When the Canadian Expeditionary Force reached Great Britain, more than 200 battalions were split apart, reformed into reinforcements for other units before they reached the firing line.

This time a different plan has been adopted. Canadian soldiers, with a natural pride in the "outfit" they enlisted with, know their unit will retain its identity. Furthermore, it will be trained in Canada, led by fellow-Canadians, and will fight overseas as a Canadian unit in a Canadian division.

To Remain Entities.

Permanent and non-permanent units throughout the two divisions of the C.A.S.F. will remain separate entities, though working side by side, whether fighting overseas, manning Canada's coastal defenses or guarding vital points against possible sabotage.

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Men of the permanent force, professional soldiers long used to army discipline and experience in the art of warfare, will go into the war led by officers of their own type, men who, like them, have long since graduated from the ABC's of soldiering and are hardened campaigners. Thus both officers and men speak a common language and share the philosophy and temperament of the professional soldier.

Similarly, the amateur soldiers of peacetime non-permanent militia units, and likewise the men who have enlisted since the outbreak of war, will learn the fighting business side by side and with the understanding of fellow-students. Their officers will be amateurs, too.

Senator Backed Plan.

Senator W. A. Griesbach, himself a Brigadier-General, declared at the special war session of Parliament:

"The non-professional soldier is best led and directed by the non-professional officer. That is easy enough to understand. The non-professional soldier is taken from civilian life. He is taught as much as you can teach him, but he has to be handled in a certain fashion, and the knowledge of how to handle him is possessed in larger measure by the officer of his own type than by the professional soldier."

A similar system is followed in Great Britain, as in the last war. There are famous regiments belonging to the standing army, and the equivalent to the Canadian non-permanent militia is the Territorial Regiment, which maintains its own traditions, of which it is equally as proud as the standing army unit.