Mention in Dispatches—Ratings—Con.


Virtue, Reid Howard, A/Able Seaman, V-65076, Bowmanville, Ont., 20 March, 1945.

Vodden, Edward George, A/Petty Officer, V-71600, Chilliwack, B.C., 1 January, 1945.


Ward, Dennis Harry, Able Seaman, R.C.N.V.R., V-10264, Regina, Sask., 14 November, 1944.

Warnock, Raymond Russell, A/P.O., R.C.N., 4580, Vancouver, B.C., 26 December, 1944.


Westbrook, George Arnold, Petty Officer, R.C.N., 3074, 82 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, B.C., 20 March, 1945.

Williams, Owen Glendower, Supply Petty Officer, R.C.N.V.R., V-11263, Saskatoon, Sask., 1 January, 1945.

Wilson, Cyril Herbert Gordon, Chief Yeo. of Sigs., R.C.N., X-60922, Victoria, B.C., 14 November, 1944.

Wilson, William Joseph Henry, P.O. Tel., R.C.N., 387, Windsor, Ont., 29 August, 1944.


Yetman, Arnold Charles, Petty Officer, R.C.N.V.R., V-5868, Montreal, Que., 26 December, 1944.

Zelinsky, Fred, Cook (S), R.C.N.V.R., V-35076, Reserve Mines, Cape Breton, N.S., 1 January, 1945.

Bronze Star Medal (U.S.A.)

Dolmage, Wilfred Gordon, Lieut. Cdr., R.C.N. V.R., 2530 York St., Vancouver, B.C., 18 September, 1944.

Grant, Harold Taylor Wood, D.S.O., Captain, R.C.N., 148 Cooper St., Ottawa, Ont., 14 September, 1944.


Legion of Merit (U.S.A.)


Bronze Medal—Order Orange Nassau Netherlands

Hardy, Arthur John, L/Signalman, R.C.N. V.R., V-8319, 62 Bay St., S., Hamilton, Ont., 31 August, 1944. 32283—27

Non-Operational Honours and Awards

Non-operational awards granted to personnel of the Naval Service, from March 7, 1944, up to and including March 20, 1945.

Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.................... 1

Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire............. 2

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire................. 14

Royal Red Cross....................... 1

Associate Royal Red Cross.............. 1

British Empire Medal................. 15

Albert Medal......................... 2

Royal Humane Society Medal............ 2

Total.................................. 61

Pacific war. I have said many times, as I have said to-night that the role which we assumed at the beginning of the war, namely, that of convoying merchant ships over the Atlantic still remains our chief and our primary task. Last autumn many people felt that the war in Europe was about to end and we were urged by some to detach some of our Atlantic forces and send them into the Pacific, with a view to their acquiring experience of naval conditions in that theatre of war. We did not respond to this suggestion, and I think we were right not to do so. Until the great Atlantic campaign is over, that vast undertaking which ranges over an area extending from the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the west to the northern Russian ports on the east, and from the Arctic circle to south of the cape of Good Hope—until that great campaign has been successfully terminated we cannot divert our escort ships to other areas and other waters.

This is not to say that we have given no thought to the war in the Pacific. We have not forgotten that we were one of the first countries, if indeed not the first, to declare war against Japan. I may tell the committee that many communications have passed and many conversations have been held between representatives of our service on the one hand and officials of the British admiralty and of the United States navy on the other with regard to the Pacific war.

Already a fine cruiser, His Majesty’s Canadian ship Uganda, acquired from the British government, has been made ready for the Pacific war and she is at this very moment in Pacific waters under the command of Captain E. R. Mainguy, O.B.E., of the Royal Canadian Navy. Within a short time we shall commission another Canadian cruiser. It was our wish that Canadian cruisers should bear the names of our provinces just as our destroyers bear the names of Canadian rivers and our frigates and corvettes bear the names of Canadian cities and towns. But the Uganda had
already seen gallant service with the British navy, although she was practically a new cruiser when we acquired her, and for this reason, as well as at the earnest request of the Protectorate of Uganda and of the British Admiralty we did not choose to change her name.

But for the new cruiser we have selected the name of the senior Canadian province, and within a few weeks His Majesty's Canadian ship Ontario, carrying painted on her funnel, as all Canadian warships now do, a large maple leaf, will be placed in commission. A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of inspecting the Ontario in the great Belfast yard where she is being built. She is thoroughly modern in every respect. Her command will be entrusted to a proved veteran of the sea, Captain Harold Grant, D.S.O., of the Royal Canadian Navy.

With these two cruisers we intend to send into the Pacific two aircraft carriers if the necessary arrangements for their acquisition can be made, and I believe they can be made. So far as naval personnel are concerned, these carriers will be manned entirely by Canadians. The flying personnel will come from the British fleet air arm, but many of them I hope will be Canadians who have enlisted in that fine service.

Along with these two cruisers and two aircraft carriers we plan to send a number of destroyers and frigates. I am not able to state publicly the exact number of ships we shall send, or the exact number of men involved; but I can say that the Canadian naval unit in the Pacific, while it will not at all compare in size or strength with the British naval force or with the magnificent United States Pacific fleet, will nevertheless be a good deal more than a mere token force. It will, I believe, worthily represent Canada in the Pacific war.

The Naval Service. Ninety per cent of our navy men belong to the Naval Volunteer Reserve. They are civilians who have turned to the sea. They are men who left their farms and their factories, their offices and their books; but they have learned quickly and well. Many of them are now in command of ships. I pay my tribute to these men, but I do not forget those officers and ratings of the permanent naval force of Canada who have done so much to train and to teach the navy of to-day.

The lot of these permanent force men in our three services was not a happy one between the wars. Reductions that were made year by year in the estimates for defence services were followed by corresponding reductions in personnel, and the life of the permanent force officer was one of uncertainty and unhappiness. I have always held the view that if we are to have defence services at all we should attract able young men into these services. To do this it is necessary that they be guaranteed some continuity and certainty of employment, and we should also give them in peace some of the tributes we are glad to pay to them in war.

The marvel is not that our defence services have made some mistakes; the wonder is that they have done as well as they have done in this war, when one considers the difficulties and hardships that these services have had to endure.

I pay tribute also to those civilian members of the naval service—clerical staffs, supervisors, officials of various kinds, labourers in our docks and elsewhere who have played so important and valued a part in the development of our naval effort.

I should also like to thank once more the great host of people in Canada who are not members of the naval service, whether on the civilian or on the uniformed side, who have done so much to encourage and sustain the naval effort. I include in this group members of the Navy League in all parts of Canada, officers of Sea Cadet corps, members of women's auxiliaries, civic officials and others in hundreds of Canadian cities and towns who have been active in the adoption of ships and in the provision of comforts for them, and thousands of other persons whom time does not permit me to mention by name but who have in numberless ways cheered and encouraged the naval service in its work.

In 1941 when we had to decide whether certain buildings to be erected in Canada should be of permanent or temporary construction, it became important to come to some decision as to the size of our post-war navy. In that year the government took the view that the post-war navy should be, in round figures, 9,000 officers and men. That is not a large figure, I admit. It may be that it should be regarded only as a minimum, but at all events it is a figure five times greater than the figure of September, 1939.

The permanent naval force after the war will be supported, of course, by the Naval Reserve and the Naval Volunteer Reserve, and a committee of naval officers has prepared a carefully worked out and comprehensive report for the future organization of these reserves.

As I present, for the fifth time, the estimates of the Department of Naval Service, I look back with pride on what the officers and men of the department, supported by the Canadian people, have accomplished in five and a half years. The six ships of war have been multiplied sixtyfold and the 1,700 men on active service have been increased more than fiftyfold.

[Mr. A. L. Macdonald.]
I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that there is equal justice for all in this house, and that we are at least allowed to make an incidental mention of the San Francisco conference, without being told by hon. members who support the government that it is against the rules of the house.

Mr. ABBOTT (Translation): Mr. Chairman, the San Francisco conference has nothing to do with the resolution now before the committee.

The CHAIRMAN (Translation): Order. We are now considering the war appropriations of the Department of National Defence (Army). Knowing that the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains (Mr. Lacombe) would be the last among the hon. members to proceed when he is out of order, I would ask him to confine himself, as much as possible, to the matter now before the chair.

Mr. LACOMBE (Translation): I am surprised that the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence should have interrupted me. Indeed, I heard in this house last Friday the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank), as well as the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), reviewing at length the programme of the Progressive Conservative party. Nevertheless, we shall confine ourselves to the debate.

Compulsory military service will remain in Canada even after the war. I am opposed to this disastrous policy, as I have always been opposed to participation in the war, mobilization and conscription. The resolution now under consideration provides for the enforcement of conscription in Canada in its participation in the war against Japan.

I shall quote sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1:

(b) the conduct of naval, military and air operations in or beyond Canada.

Therefore, the estimates we are requested to vote will be used to conscript our men for all war theatres, including Japan, unless the mobilization act and the order in council P.C. 8891 are immediately repealed, since the mobilization act and conscription are still in force. Order in council P.C. 8891 will be enforced.

At the start of my remarks, I call the attention of the committee to excerpts from Hansard of March 30 and 31, 1939. The members will, once again, note in what way the government have kept their solemn pledges. The paragraphs I shall read in a moment have been published and reproduced by the Canadian National Liberal Association, with headquarters in Ottawa. Here are the sacred pledges that the government have taken on conscription. The right hon. the Prime Minister said:

The present government believes that conscription of men for overseas service would not be a necessary or an effective step. Let me say that so long as this government may be in power, no such measure will be enacted. (Page 2468, House of Commons Debates, March 30, 1939.)

The former Minister of Justice, the late the Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe added:

I think I am true to my concept of Canadian unity when I say that I shall always fight against this policy; I would not be a member of a government that would enact it; and not only that, but I say with all my responsibility members to the people of Canada that I would oppose any government that would enforce it. (Page 2468.)

Here is what the hon. the Prime Minister had to say about participation:

One strategic fact is clear: the days of great expeditionary forces of infantry crossing the oceans are not likely to recur. Two years ago, I expressed in this house the view that it was extremely doubtful if any of the British dominions would ever send another expeditionary force to Europe.

We have tremendous tasks to do at home, in housing the people, in caring for the aged and helpless, in relieving drought and unemployment, in building roads, in meeting our heavy burden of debt, in making provision for Canada's defence, and in bringing our standards of living and civilization to the levels our knowledge now makes possible. There is no great margin of realizable wealth for this purpose; we must, to a greater or less extent, choose between keeping our own house in order, and trying to save Europe and Asia. (Pages 2426 and 2419 of Hansard for March 30, 1939, re participation.)

On March 31, 1939, the Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe, former Minister of Justice, said, as reported in Hansard, page 2469:

I agree with what was said yesterday by the leader of the opposition and the Prime Minister, and what was said by Mr. Bruce of Australia, that the time for expeditionary forces overseas is certainly past, and it would not be the most effective way to help our allies. The men would be needed here; and in any event it is parliament which will decide about it.

Please note, Mr. Chairman, that these words were uttered by the Prime Minister and the former minister of justice barely five months before Canada entered the war by the express will of the government. At this stage of my remarks, I should like to have some literature issued by the National Liberal Association, with headquarters in Ottawa, distributed to my former Liberal colleagues. I shall hand this document to the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Dorion) who will see to it that it is passed on to the page boys so that everyone may be kept posted.
And it is this same government, through the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Bertrand), which dares to charge us with isolationism. It is the same party which, for twenty-five years, has advocated isolationism in Canada, and which dares to give us a lesson in patriotism.

And what of the sudden about-face of the present government which, in June, 1940, imposed compulsory military service in Canada? I quote the following from "Canada at War", issue of February-March, 1945, page 74:

The military call-up was instituted in 1940. In that summer, parliament passed the National Resources Mobilization Act, which is usually referred to as N.R.M.A. This is the statute which has provided the authority to the government in council for the calling up of men for compulsory military training.

In a speech delivered recently in this house, the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. LaCroix) warned the government against our participation in the Pacific war. However, the Minister of National Defence (navy) (Mr. Macdonald) has intimated that this participation was already an accomplished fact. Such a decision had been taken prior to the minister's announcement, and without parliament's authorization. Once more, the representatives of the people have been ignored in regard to events of the utmost gravity which again involve all our resources, as evidenced by the following excerpt from the February-March, 1945 issue of "Canada at War", page 86:

First official indication of the composition of the Canadian naval force in the Pacific was given by navy minister Macdonald in February. It will include ships ranging from frigates to aircaft carriers and will operate in close cooperation with the Royal Navy. Corvettes will likely be used sparingly, if at all.

The cruiser, H.M.C.S. Uganda, commissioned in October in a U.S. navy yard, will soon be at its battle station in the southwest Pacific. It will be joined by H.M.C.S. Ontario, a cruiser now being built in Belfast. Two light fleet aircraft carriers under construction in the U.K. are expected to join the Canadian navy for Pacific duty. Each will carry complement of 1,250 and be Canadian-manned except for air crew.

Canadian Tribal class destroyers, including the four now being built in Canada, will also serve in the Pacific. Probably not more than 250 Canadian ships and approximately 39,000 seamen may see action in the Pacific. With the exception of key men, these will be enlisted for service in that theatre on a voluntary basis.

The prime minister has, in the first place, claimed that Canada's participation in the Pacific war would this time, be on a voluntary basis. The government leader has broken so many promises and pledges and he has done so little to keep his word that I find it impossible to give credence to his statements. Total conscription, which already exists, will be enforced in the Pacific war as it has been on all other war theatres in the world. Such statements are mere propaganda on the eve of a general election. If the government guilelessly believes that the people will let themselves forever be deceived, they are mistaken, but if the government are sincere and loyal in that statement, let them repeal at once the mobilization act and order in council 8891 passed in November last. The government leader has, on the other hand, asserted that the draftees being trained in Canada will participate in the war against Japan. It cannot be said that they are volunteers—they are conscripts—the name "draftees" has been changed for that of "men conscripted for the defence of Canada". Therefore, I was right in my constant opposition to the government's foreign policy.

Mr. LEDUC (Translation): It was in order to save the country.

Mr. LACOMBE (Translation): On March 23 last, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Lalonde) made the following remarks in this house, as reported in Hansard:

To refuse such cooperation would, in my opinion, mean a betrayal of mankind's interests. Let those who advocate such a policy assume the responsibility for their action before the young Canadians who made the supreme sacrifice, before those who have suffered and who hope that their martyrdom will inspire to those who have not yet wept other humanitarian motives than paltry political advantages.

A little further on, in the same speech, he said: "We are neither cowards nor traitors".

The hon. member should be extremely cautious, because he lives in a glass-house. I shall show him in a few moments that we do not need any lessons from him in courage and loyalty.

At the time when the only member of the Quebec legislature who fought in Europe, was under fire on the beaches of Normandy, the Liberal party, for which the hon. member for Labelle takes up the cudgels, was treacherously stabbing him in the back. Lieut.-Col. Sauvé—

Mr. LALONDE (Translation): He had more courage than you.

Mr. LACOMBE (Translation): But you had not enough courage to defend him in his constituency, while I was contributing to his victory. The hon. member can answer me later. While Lieut.-Col. Sauvé, a member of the Quebec Legislature, was up against merciless opposition in that same constituency, through the action, the fault and the fanatism of the party of the hon. member for Labelle—