

The necessity of training rapidly the large number of volunteers and the recruits called under the N.R.M. Act and the high standard of training required of the modern soldier has necessitated the creation of some 70 training centres and establishments with a capacity for training 180,000 men a year.

The Canadian Women's Army Corps was formed in September, 1941, with the purpose of relieving physically fit men employed in administrative and non-combatant duties. By summer, 1942, the strength of the Corps had increased to over 3,000.

In addition to voluntary enlistments and recruits called for compulsory training, special emphasis has been placed upon the organization of a Reserve Army, membership in which does not preclude a man's continuing in his civil avocation. The class of citizen specially desired is the man of 30 to 50 years of age, although boys of 17 to 19 may be enlisted and given preparatory training before they are called up under the N.R.M. Act; certain persons exempted under the Act may also be enrolled in the Reserve Army.

The improvement in facilities for recruiting and training the Active Army, and the calling up of men for compulsory training, lessened the usefulness of the Reserve in its former function of a feeder to the Active Army. It has now been reorganized upon a purely home-defence basis and many of the units have been organized into Brigade Groups, with a longer period and higher standard of training than the remainder of the Reserve. It is planned to equip these Brigade Groups in a similar manner to the Active Army so that they will constitute a comparatively mobile force, ready to reinforce the troops of either of the coastal commands in the event of attack. These Brigade Groups, when fully organized, will provide an auxiliary force roughly equivalent to three Divisions.

The Air Force.—In the 1940 and 1941 editions of the Year Book the organization of Canada's air strength during the early period of the War has been outlined.

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.—This Plan has come rapidly into full production far in advance of its original schedule and Canada has well earned the description, applied by President Roosevelt, "the aerodrome of democracy". Many thousands of well-trained fighting airmen have been poured into the battle-fronts of the world from Canada and of these the great majority have been members of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Canadian airmen are fighting, not only with the distinctive R.C.A.F. squadrons in Britain, the Middle East and the Far East but they are serving with virtually every R.A.F. squadron.

The success of the B.C.A.T.P. was a considerable factor in bringing to Ottawa the United Nations Air Training Conference of May, 1941, when plans were made for close co-ordination of the air-training systems of all the United Nations. At a later conference the partners to the B.C.A.T.P.—The United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada—met to renew the agreement on terms that provide for greatly increased production of trained aircrew. The new agreement—effective July 1, 1942—is operative until Mar. 31, 1945, during which time the estimated cost will be \$1,500,000,000. The Dominion's share of the cost will be 50 p.c. Under the original agreement signed in December, 1939, the cost was estimated at some \$824,000,000 of which Canada's share was \$600,000,000. Canada, through the agency of the Royal Canadian Air Force, remains the administrator of the Plan.

So far as the schedule of the original agreement was concerned, the Plan came into full operation with the opening of the last of nearly 100 training schools in December, 1941. Under the new agreement, however, there will be considerable