

Armed Violence Threat Holds Unit in Camp

Terrace, B.C., Nov. 28 (CP).—A regiment of NRMA infantry from Saskatchewan, on draft for service overseas and due to leave Terrace, remained in camp late today under a threat of armed violence by striking Home Defense troops.

The striking troops were classed as mutineers, it was understood, since they interfered with other troops in the performance of their duty. However, a Pacific Command spokesman said they could not be called mutineers since none had been charged with mutiny.

A waiting troop train stood idle on a siding and the drafted soldiers remained at their camps.

Threats Used

Threats and intimidation are being used by leaders of the recalcitrant Home Defense troops here to keep less fervent members in line, enquiries among the men disclosed today.

The anti-conscription group of soldiers were picketing members of the Saskatchewan Regiment and members of the latter unit said the demonstrating home defense men had ammunition and gave the impression of being prepared to use it.

"We have ammunition, too," said a member of the regiment from Saskatchewan. "But I wish we didn't. The way things are now it would be too easy to start bloodshed."

Members of the regiment from Saskatchewan said they were willing to obey the order moving them out of Terrace. Some soldiers expressed the opinion that the disobedience movement was being kept alive by a group in the French-Canadian unit from Quebec.

Beer Parlors Closed

Beer parlors and the liquor store in Terrace Village were closed today by order of the British Columbia Liquor Commission.

Personnel of the Royal Canadian Air Force detachment at Terrace have been confined to barracks.

(At Vancouver a spokesman for Pacific Command said tonight no instructions or orders have been sent to the brigade commander at Terrace, and Pacific Command is working on the basis that the situation should be dealt with locally.)

(The spokesman said there definitely has not been any stoppage of pay and allowances to any soldiers at Terrace, as this cannot be done until a man has been charged and convicted, and the penalty order goes through the pay office. No pay stoppage orders had been received at Pacific Command.)

(In addition Pacific Command has not received any indication that any soldier has been charged, he added.)

(If any soldiers at Terrace were classed as "mutineers" it must have been done unofficially by some one giving his own personal opinion, and the term was not used on the basis of any charges, the spokesman emphasized. "Mutineers" might have been a nickname used by a man to describe the demonstrating home defense troops just as previously they were called "Zombies" by some.)

One soldier told a reporter that although he was taking part in the demonstration he was not quite sure what the root of the trouble was. "Our regiment arrived here the

day before yesterday," he said. "Men of a regiment that was due to leave Terrace on draft today have been told by other Home Defense men that if they prepare to leave they will be shot at. They mean it, too, and they have plenty of ammunition. I think that there is going to be serious trouble here."

Wouldn't Listen to Officer

Another soldier, carrying a rifle over his shoulder, said that he had just attended a meeting attended by most of the Home Defense troops. He said that an officer had tried to address the meeting, but the men refused to listen to him and had broken up into small groups and returned to their various camps.

This soldier said that the men were demanding "total conscription," but did not elaborate on the point.

The attitude of the men as they marched from camp to camp was described as one of "apparent good nature." Some of the men carried rifles and others had Bren guns.

This afternoon 300 soldiers of a French-Canadian unit left their camp on Terrace's north side, and walked to the camp of an English-speaking unit at the other end of town. Most of the marchers carried rifles and wore steel helmets.

An hour later approximately 1,500 men carrying rifles and a few Bren guns left the second camp, and marched in ragged formation to a third camp at the east end of town. They were accompanied by one truck, which was believed to have been commandeered.

Men of the only French-Canadian unit involved in the "sit-down" strike which started Saturday, today continued their refusal to perform other than ordinary camp duties.

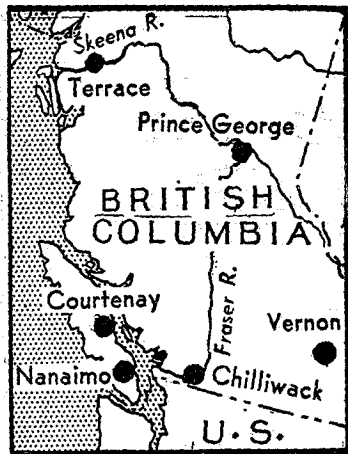
They said they were awaiting a reply to their request to be returned to their Quebec homes.

Bombs Too Dangerous

At one time Monday marchers at Terrace took bangalore torpedoes and mortar bombs from camp stores, but soon returned them as being "too dangerous to handle."

A Terrace headquarters spokesman said demonstrations would be allowed to continue if there was no

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Military Camps

In British Columbia, where investigations of disorders are being conducted by camp staffs are shown on map.

injury to civilians or damage to property.

The military investigations which opened today are being conducted by camp staffs at Vernon, Chilliwack, Courtenay, Nanaimo, Prince George and Terrace. Their findings will be studied by 6th Division headquarters at Prince George and by Pacific Command in Vancouver. They will then go to Major Oscar Orr, Assistant Judge Advocate, and his decision as to disciplinary action will be sent back to camp officials through headquarters and Pacific Command.

Among matters to be probed are flag mutilation at Prince George; injury of two N.C.O.'s in Chilliwack during a street scuffle; interference with recruiting signs at Chilliwack and Terrace, and striking down of an officer at Vernon.

Section 7, King's Regulations and Orders, dealing with punishment for mutiny and insubordination, has been read to all home defense soldiers in the camps.

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