

OCT 5 - 1945

115-008-001

12 of 16 Rioters Freed After VE-Day Review

Ottawa, Oct. 4 (CP).—Twelve of 16 men given jail sentences for participation in the Halifax VE-Day riots have been released as a result of a Justice Department review of the sentences. Justice Minister St. Laurent said today in the Commons.

Three of the men released were naval ratings, two were members of the merchant navy, four were army personnel and three were civilians. Clemency had not yet

been recommended for the remaining four, among whom were one rating, one merchant navy man and two civilians.

The Justice Department had not received the necessary reports yet to make a study of the individual cases of 10 army men and seven civilians sentenced to penitentiary terms for participation in the riots. The reports would be studied and clemency recommended if warranted.

Mr. St. Laurent said that offenses arising out of the VE-Day riots had been considered to be on a special basis.

He was replying to John G. Diefenbaker (P.C., Lake Centre) who asked if the Government had recommended clemency in the cases of the men convicted for participation in the riots.

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
V
DAY
HALIFAX