

As far as possible, the lorries available have been placed at the disposal of the Mobile Columns.

(viii) *Accommodation:*

The accommodation of troops has been arranged by the following methods:–

- (a) Increasing the capacity of each permanent Barrack.
- (b) The acquisition of civilian premises by agreement.
- (c) The erection of huts as additional accommodation at some of the Barracks and buildings taken over.
- (d) The erection of huts on hired lands where no suitable government property is available.

The arrangements at (a) necessarily lead to a certain amount of congestion, but this is steadily being decreased by the acquisition of hired premises. In the latter case, however, we are restricted in so far as we must endeavour to obtain accommodation with the minimum inconvenience to the civilian population.

Up to date, 12 vacant military barracks have been re-occupied, 16 civilian properties have been taken over, 287 huts constructed and in course of erection and sanction for an additional 50 huts has been sought. In addition, a large number of married quarters (Officers and Other Ranks) were taken over for the use of troops generally.

The problem of finding adequate storage and garage accommodation is a serious one and will be tackled as soon as the more important one of dealing with accommodation for troops has been solved.

The accommodation for internal recreation in many areas is limited, owing to the difficulty of obtaining adequate facilities. The position is, however, constantly under review, and according as suitable premises become available every effort is made to take them over.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining sufficient supplies of bedding and essential items of furniture. Articles are being purchased wherever they can be obtained and the position is gradually becoming satisfactory. A serious shortage of pillow-cases and sheets still exists, but as financial sanction, which was withheld until recently, has now been obtained, the matter should rectify itself in the near future.

The position as regards Hospital Accommodation is explained in Appendix D7.⁵⁰

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MAJOR GENERAL.⁵¹

(Domhnall MacCionnaith)

CHIEF OF STAFF.

24th October, 1940.

⁵⁰ See p. 30.

⁵¹ This document is unsigned.