

senior people travelling to England. At present, as you know, the situation is that members of our staff, if killed or disabled in an aeroplane crash going across the Atlantic or by bombs or gun-fire in England, would have the same pension protection as a lieutenant in the Army. This, of course, is all right for our junior men, but for the senior people with wives and small families it is most inadequate and most unjust. But apparently nothing can be done about it.

On the whole, however, I think the National Research Council is used very well, and I was most amazed on New Year's Day at a conversation I had at the club after the Governor General's Levee. I was sitting with two senior cabinet ministers, one of whom is on the Treasury Board, and the other the minister of National Defence, and was most surprised to hear them say they not only thought that the Research Council was doing an excellent job in the war, but, due to the nature of our work and the character of our organization, we should have a special type of set-up which would relieve us from many of the annoying and troublesome regulations which cover the ordinary public service. That, I think you will agree, would be a most desirable end, and I hope that after the war the government can be made to see the necessity for amending the Research Council Act.

As you have perhaps heard, we have had in Ottawa one of the worst storms for thirty years. The street railway has been dislocated and for three days there have been no cars running anywhere in the system. Outside of delays and loss of time in getting about, however, there has been no real hardship.

I have just received a report of the field trials of the CRDF equipment which is being made for the Navy. As this is really your scientific child, I am sending a full copy of the report which I think should give you some satisfaction.

I was down to Washington a few days ago and had lunch with Dr Bush and dinner with President Conant of Harvard, both of whom are good friends of ours and give us excellent co-operation. Dr Bush particularly asked me to give you his regards when I wrote and I would like to tell you how kind they have been. The three key men in the scientific hierarchy in Washington seem to be Dr Bush, President Conant of Harvard, and Dr Compton, president of MIT. Of course there are many other active and able scientists, but these three men are in key positions and they are all most kind and generous to us in all our contacts.

My wife joins me in sending to Mrs McNaughton and yourself the compliments of the season and our very best wishes that our hopes for the New Year will be fulfilled.

2 January, 28 September 1943

Sincerely yours

C.J. MACKENZIE

Ottawa

28 September 1943

Dear General McNaughton:

I must apologize for not having written you since coming back to Canada,* but I was very busy immediately after getting back and the days slip by so quickly that one does not realize that weeks are turning into months. However, with the many visitors who pass to and fro these days, you have no doubt followed roughly the work the council is doing.

I think the most important general observation is that our programs have become adjusted to the course of the war. While in the early days of '39 and '40 we were perhaps in the best position to anticipate needs and initiate projects while the services were becoming organized, gaining experience and equipping thoroughly with technical staff, we feel that that period is over and now we are working chiefly on direct demands from the various service staffs, which in turn are indicated by the users in the field. For the same reason we have extended our actual contact with the services and are working closely with their technical officers and organizations, such as the Army Technical Development Board, and operational-research groups. We have given personnel to the services and industry wherever it seemed helpful, and have allowed our staff to go wherever their abilities could be most effectively used in the main object of winning the war.

As you know, the Air Force and Navy both have well-organized operational-research groups, who are functioning with the operational forces on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Many of our staff have joined these groups and all of the civilians are on our pay-roll and seconded to the services, so that our tie-in is very good.

As you also know, there is a proposal now that Dr Rose should be appointed scientific adviser to Army Headquarters in Ottawa. If that proposal works out it seems to me much benefit should be forthcoming. I have always felt that the type of Army operational unit that is effective overseas would not necessarily be effective in Canada; but I do feel that if

*Mackenzie was in England during May and June of 1943.