

THE KING GREET'S CANADIAN V.C.'S

Halts Fifty Times to
Chat at Aldershot'

WISHES 'GOOD LUCK'

Aldershot, England, Jan. 24 (CP).

—The King displayed a keen eye for decorations and long service ribbons as he walked along the khaki ranks today, inspecting the first division of the Canadian Active Service Force. He halted fifty or more times to chat informally with officers and men of the ranks.

He wanted to know of the welfare of the men who have flocked to the Mother Country's side in this hour of stress. He wanted to know how decorations for bravery were won and of previous war service. He asked if England's marrow-chilling winter dampness was worse than Canada's drier cold and the answer always was, "Yes, sir."

Two V.C.'s Greeted.

Two of those whom he singled out for a chat were men of the division who won the Victoria Cross in the last "show" against Germany. They are Brigadier G. R. Pearkes, Calgary, and Major M. F. Gregg of Ottawa, whose peacetime duty has been as Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Commons.

His Majesty halted in front of Bugle-Sergeant Seymour Tyler of Fredericton and asked that negro member of the Carleton and York Regiment about the history of the silver bugle slung from his shoulder. Tyler explained that the instrument was a presentation from the regiment. The King was doubly interested to hear that the sergeant had been with the Carleton-Yorks twenty-one years.

When Major L. M. Jones of Moose Jaw and the Royal Canadian Artillery told the King, "I'm proud to be here," it was easy to see that this also made the King proud.

A flashback to the Royal visit to Canada last summer came when His Majesty stopped for a few words with Major R. L. Mitchell of the Princess Pats. Major Mitchell remarked he commanded the motorcycle escort when the King and Queen visited his home town, Victoria, B.C. The King said he remembered meeting him.

Gunner Wilfrid Boivin of Eastview, Ont., was one of those asked about the English winter, and he replied: "I find it much colder here than in Canada, sir."

The years ride lightly on Gunner W. Griffith of Rossland, B.C., and the King was surprised to see first Great War service ribbons on his battle blouse. He was even more surprised to learn that Griffith is old enough to have a son now serving with him in the R.C.A.

Chats With American.

The King discovered an American—Sergeant F. E. Woodard of San Francisco—serving with the Seaforths. With understandable pride Woodard remarked he had been with the Princess Pats in the last war.

Major W. G. Kear of Winnipeg told the Sovereign of his thirty-five years' service—all with the artillery—and Gunner A. R. Jones, Sherbrooke, Que., won a Royal smile when he said that "I'm over for a second barrage at the Fritzie's."

Scottish burrs in the tongues of Captain W. C. Gemmell, Halifax, and Sergeant-Major K. T. P. Ferguson caught His Majesty's ear. Both told him they have been "doin' right weel" in Canada.

Each little chat ended with a warm handshake and a Royal wish of "good luck."

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