

TORONTO SCHOOL TRAINING INFANTRYMEN IN 16 WEEKS

Long Lines of Anxious Recruits Wait to Sign Up for Service

TO BE WITH PALS

By GEORGE LAWRENCE

Toronto has become the school for infantrymen and their officers in Military District No. 2, which extends from Oshawa and Niagara Falls north to Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay.

The school is still in the early stages of organization, but by Jan. 15 it will be functioning smoothly. On that day 28 new officers and 600 other ranks will move in to be trained as first reserve reinforcements for Toronto units now in England.

Long lines of anxious recruits for the training centre headquarters staff—reminiscent of the first days of the war—waited today on Adjutant J. H. W. T. Pope at the new unit headquarters in the automotive building at the Exhibition grounds. It is a bustle of activity there these days, with skilled permanent force instructors being assigned for duty and new equipment coming in to make complete training here possible . . . for the 16 to 20-week course at the infantry training centre will fit every recruit for front line duty.

It's a very efficient and technical set-up from beginning to end, but actually it is designed to eliminate the lonesomeness and heart-break that many a soldier knew in the last war. It means that in this war Toronto men will enlist with Toronto men, train with them, live with them, go overseas and when they reach France fight side by side with the boys from the home town.

Will Train Jointly

Working with the infantry training centre are the regimental depots of the units which have gone overseas. If a Toronto man decides he wants to join up, and he's always had a soft spot in his heart for some home town unit, he looks their depot up in the automotive building and enlists there.

When he goes to train with the I.T.C. he's still with the men who will be his buddies in the trenches . . . nothing less than a platoon will be taken from a regimental depot, so that men of the same regiment will train jointly.

Let's follow the men from the day they walk into the automotive building and enlist. First they go through the routine of medical examination, get their army uniforms and go through the detail

of documentation. Then they are handed over to the I.T.C.

In the I.T.C. they go into one of two recruit companies. These companies are double the size of ordinary companies so that more men can be accommodated for training—there are six platoons, instead of three. The officers are permanent force instructors.

They get an eight-week course here, and they start work right away. They learn elementary drill, get weapon training, handle light machine-guns, take bayonet practice, use the anti-tank rifle, march and learn infantry tactics. They are given anti-gas training and visual training, which means they are taught to recognize targets and objects in the field against different backgrounds and against camouflage.

Pick Out Specialists

This is the course every infantryman should know. While they've been studying, the instructors have been watching the men, looking over their background of knowledge and training in civil life and picking out the specialists.

There are two sets of specialists, one which stays with the infantrymen in the next training course and the other which goes on to a "specialists' company." Both of these are the specialists which every regiment has to have in its own ranks, in addition to the highly skilled supplementary units which look after such things as communications and transport.

For instance, every infantry battalion has one platoon which is equipped with an armored caterpillar "carrier" which mounts a Bren gun. It is used for quick tactical jobs which may arise out of 101 situations, and it is now considered a necessary part of infantry equipment in modern warfare.

Men with a special aptitude for mechanical work and usually with some specialized previous training get jobs like this. They go to the specialists' company, where besides the "carrier platoon" men are trained for drivers, mechanics, battalion signallers. Their course is eight to twelve weeks, like the secondary training companies.

Col. Holloway In Command

In the secondary training company the men who have graduated from the recruit companies study all their previous subjects and in addition the two-inch mortar, grenades, advance gas training, advance marching, and map reading. From the ranks a few men are picked out for special subjects such as the sniper's course and range-taking, which is the art of determining the range for rifle and machine-gun fire for the regiment.

At the end of 16 weeks the men are ready to go to France and look for Mr. Hitler. They go back to their depots to await calls for reserves.

Looking after all these men is a big job—one that will become bigger when more regiments go overseas and action warms up along the Maginot line. There are 22 officers and 269 other ranks on the present set-up of the I.T.C. There are cooks, clerks, batmen, instructors—N.C.O.'s and officers—orderlies . . . enough for a sort of complete and self-sufficient boarding school for infantrymen.

In command of the I.T.C. at Exhibition camp is Lieut.-Col. K. M. Holloway of the Royal Canadian Regiment. Lieut.-Col. Holloway, a permanent force officer, was in command of the R.C.R.'s in London until the outbreak of the war, and prior to this was in charge of B company of the R.C.R.'s in Toronto.

Major Sinclair Second

Second in command is Major I. N. R. Sinclair of the 48th, who also commands headquarters company of the training centre. He has the decorations D.S.O., M.C. and V.D. Major J. E. Willis of the 48th is

quartermaster; Major R. K. Slater is paymaster; Major R. Y. Cory of the 48th, in charge of No. 1 recruit company; Major M. P. A. Hare of the Canadian Fusiliers, in charge of No. 2 recruit company; Major R. H. L. Dinsmore, M.C., M.M., in charge of No. 3 training company; Major T. Weir, M.C., of Kent regiment, in charge of No. 4 training company, and Capt. A. F. Follitt of the R.C.A.S.C. (corps reserve) is in charge of No. 5 specialist company. Capt. J. H. W. T. Pope of the R.C.R.'s is adjutant, and Capt. E. G. Pullen of the Lorne Scots assistant adjutant.

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