

MILITIA REPORT

NO AEROPLANES

Detachments Sent Out Fail to Find Trace of Such Machines

INVESTIGATION GOES ON

Heavy Battery Depot Now Complete Will Soon Mobilize at Halifax—Joint Church Parade Yesterday

No further information has been secured by the military authorities regarding the supposed visits of aircraft of various kinds to the Montreal district during the past few days. While rumors and reports have been flying around faster than any airships could, the military investigators have found them harder to bring to earth than the regulation anti-aircraft guns have found the real article. All reports have been carefully looked into, not only by the Intelligence Department of the Divisional Headquarters here, but by the officers of the Enemy Alien Registration Bureau, and by special officers under Col. A. P. Sherwood, of Ottawa. The net result has been nil, so far as getting direct track of the aerial visitors is concerned, although a number of persons have been encountered who declared they had seen aeroplanes.

"Our men have been working steadily on the matter," said Col. E. W. Wilson yesterday, "but so far I have been unable to secure any information that tends to solve the mystery.

"This is also being looked into by special officers under Col. A. P. Sherwood, of Ottawa," said Col. Wilson. "They have very complete data to go on. They know the site of every field where aviation is being taught on either side of the line; they know the name of every person who has a license to fly a machine, and they have a list of every owner of a flying machine in Canada and the United States within any reasonable distance of the boundary. With this information they have a good groundwork for investigation, and nothing is neglected in any way to run down the continual reports that such flying machines have been seen.

"What I am waiting for," said Col. Wilson, "is an explanation why these machines are almost invariably seen flying at night, which is the most extraordinary time to send them up, and the time when any hostile aeroplane, if such exist here, could do the least good. Further, I would like to know why these machines are reported as carrying lights, which would naturally betray their presence, and make them much more visible from the ground than anything on the earth at night could be to them."

Although the whole series of reports appeared decidedly improbable, Col. Wilson said that every possible effort was being made to discover what there could be in the stories, not only from a military point of view, but also to allay public anxiety. As soon as anything could be definitely found, he declared that it would be made public, but in the meantime the most careful and expert investigation had failed to secure any definite evidence.

HEAVY BATTERY COMPLETE.

Lieut.-Col. F. Minden Cole, commanding the new Heavy Brigade Depot for overseas service, returned to Montreal on Saturday from a tour, during which he inspected sections of his future battery at Cobourg, Ont., and St. John, N.B. The Heavy Battery Depot is to be made up of 180 officers and men, two-fifths from Montreal, two-fifths from St. John and one-fifth from Cobourg. These sections, he stated, were now all complete, and it was expected that they would be mobilized at Halifax for training within a short time, after he had sent in his report to headquarters at Ottawa.

"Good progress has been made getting this Heavy Artillery Corps together," said Lieut.-Col. Cole, and I have a splendid lot of men. My own section in Montreal is up to strength, although a few good men could still be taken on, and the Cobourg section is also complete. I found the section at St. John a particularly good lot of men, well up in their work. Most of these men have been recruited from the Heavy Brigade which has been doing duty at Partridge Island since the war commenced, so that they were all well trained."

The whole Heavy Artillery Depot will be commanded by Lieut.-Col. Cole. The Montreal section is in command of Lieut. W. S. Trenholme, the Cobourg section under Lieut. Burn, and the St. John section under Lieuts. Dobbin and Compton.

A joint church parade was held yesterday morning by the men of the Heavy Brigade under Lieut.-Col. Cole, and the 3rd Overseas Universities Company, C.O.T.C., under Capt. Eve, to Crescent Street Presbyterian Church, when a strongly patriotic sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Gordon. The Heavy Brigade turned out at their headquarters, 444 St. James street, sixty strong, while the Universities Company, eighty strong,

met them on the way to the church,
and both joined in a route march on
the way back.