

207TH BATTALION HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO GO TO ENGLAND

Just When, of Course, the Censorship Forbids Us Stating—Men Hear News With Satisfaction.

THE BANTAMS AT CAMP FORM QUITE A CONTRAST

Final Medical Test Taking Place
And Men Are on Alert For
Move When Time Comes.

Special to The Journal.

AMHERST, N. S., Feb. 28.—Resounding cheers of gladness broke the stillness of last Sabbath morn when, after church service in the large mess room of the Prince Arthur street barracks, Major H. J. Coghill announced that the 207th Battalion at a certain time not so very far distant, is to leave for England. Censorship regulations prevent the writer stating when, but this time it is a go, sure.

The entire battalion was confined to barracks to make ready for the Great Adventure for which each has been preparing for so many months. Kits are in readiness, and eager smiles of satisfaction at the prospect of sailing before long are everywhere in evidence.

The Bantams Arrive.

Forty members of the 216th Bantam Battalion of Toronto, arrived here some days ago and are attached to the 207th temporarily. They

are about five feet, one inch in height on the average and present a striking contrast when lined up with the husky Ontarians on the battalion parade ground. The consensus of opinion here is that the Bantams are to replace the 207th in the Prince Arthur street barracks when we depart, as the remainder of the Bantam outfit is reported to be en route to Amherst at this writing.

The Final Training.

Daily route marches and physical training comprise the syllabus of training of the 207th, while each day for several hours boxing is indulged in, and a tournament is being conducted with substantial money prizes hung up as inducements in the various classes. Many clever mitt artists are being discovered, and the finals are being anxiously looked forward to by officers and men.

While there are very few doubting "Thomases" who cynically regard the generally accepted word that a certain day is the day of the 207th leaving this town many are inclined to believe that a short stay at one of the ocean ports awaits us. The boys from the Capital have made many friends in Amherst and their excellent deportment during their stay has compared very favorably with that of battalions temporarily quartered here previously.

Where Huns Can See.

Two special trains are at the station for the use of the battalion, and the sight of MacLean's Athletes cheerfully passing en route to the battle front will doubtless serve to cheer (?) the hundreds of Huns in Amherst's big detention camp. Rumor, which I have been so far unable to verify, has it that eight of our officers are to be left behind, and that "D" company is to be absorbed by "B" company. There is also considerable speculation as to reversion of rank of some of the officers, in order that they may cross to France with the unit the more readily.

Goes as a Unit.

The assurance of Major Coghill, to the effect that the 207th is to go as a unit is about the one best piece of news the boys have received since coming here. Mail for members of the 207th should be still addressed to Amherst, N. S., care of the Y. M. C. A., as it will then be promptly forwarded to wheresoever the Athletes may be stationed, and in all cases the company and platoon to which the man belongs should be stipulated as this facilitates delivery.

The Final Test.

On a certain day comes the supreme Canadian test of physical fitness, when the Ontario boys go up for final medical board on this side of the water. It is not, however, anticipated that many of MacLean's Athletes will fail to pass the test.