

NEW YEAR'S DAY AT LOCAL ARMORIES

Various Regimental Functions

Yesterday Had a Distinctly
War-Time Flavor

GREETINGS TO GEN. WILSON

Five O.C.'s and ex-O.C.'s of
Highlanders Present at Re-
ception at 5th R.H.O.
Headquarters

Five commanding officers and ex-commanding officers of the 5th Royal Highlanders of Canada and its war regiments joined at a luncheon at the regimental armory on Bleury street yesterday afternoon after the New Year's receptions. They included three who had seen overseas service, one brigadier-general, two officers who had won the D.S.O., and five officers who had tried to serve overseas. Those at the luncheon were: Brig.-General F. O. W. Loomis, D.S.O., commanding the 2nd Division, C.E.F., in France, home on leave; Lt.-Col. Peers Davidson, who organized and took overseas the 42nd Battalion, R.H.C.; Lt.-Col. G. Eric McCuaig, D.S.O., commanding the 13th R.H.C. in France, home on leave; Lt.-Col. C. N. Monsarrat, O.C., 5th R.H.C.; and Lt.-Col. W. D. Birchall, of the 5th R.H.C. It was a regimental function unique in the annals of the Montreal Garrison, and the officers spent much time discussing old times and the war activities of those who had been overseas, as well as the memory of Lt.-Col. G. S. Cantlie and other officers of the 5th now on war service.

While the customary hospitality was in order at the Highlanders' Armory, it was evident that the war had laid a heavy hand on the regiment, although the absence of many familiar faces was recompensed by the visits of a number of officers who had won their spurs in face of the foe and were now back, either on leave or permanently. Amongst these were Lieut. Magor, D.S.C., of the Royal Naval Air Service, who went overseas with a Highland battalion and transferred to the air service, winning his decoration for gallantry in bringing down an enemy craft; Capt. J. W. Yuile, who went overseas with the 42nd; Lieut. W. M. Birks, who went overseas with the 42nd; Capt. Chat. Stevens and Capt. K. G. Strachan, of the 42nd, now with the British recruiting mission in the United States, and Capt. J. W. Ross, of the 13th.

The same evidence of war service was apparent in the Sergeants' Mess, where the customary New Year's reception was held, while a number of officers and men wore the gold stripes and breast ribbons that indicated wounds received in action and honors won for gallant service.

PRIDE OF SERVICE.

The whole reception was a notable and serious one, full of the pride of service, coupled with the pleasure of reunions of many old friends. An especially warm welcome was accorded Brig.-Gen. Loomis and Lt.-Col. McCuaig, both of whom have recently returned from the front, and will soon go back to France. They were given generous honors at the Officers' Mess, and greeted with cheers when, in company with Lt.-Col. Monsarrat and other officers, they paid the traditional call on the Sergeants' Mess.

Earlier in the day the sergeants had sent a delegation, headed by Regimental Sergt-Major Hiller, to convey the greetings of the N.C.O.'s and men to the officers, when the visiting delegates gave a rousing cheer for General Loomis, Lt.-Col. McCuaig and the other Highland officers from the front. Both pipe and brass bands were on duty during the morning.

There was the same air of serious hospitality and evidence of years of war service at all the armories. Most of the regiments had their officers and men who had seen service at the front, many with marks of their wounds still in evidence and on all sides particular honor was paid these officers and men.

The celebration of New Year's at the armories was a more exclusively military affair than almost at any time in the past. Men in civilian clothes were very few, and most of these were old soldiers now on the Reserve of Officers. Although a few civilians paid calls at various regiments, most of these wore mourning badges for sons who had paid the last sacrifice of duty. There was less interchange of visits amongst the regiments than in past years, most of the calls being of an official nature, with deputations of officers and N.C.O.'s sent to convey good wishes to their comrades of other units.

As usual the series of New Year's receptions and calls began at the Military Headquarters on Bishop street, where Major-General E. W. Wilson, C.M.G., G.O.C., assisted by Lt.-Col. Hill, G.S.O., Col. W. J. Stewart and other officers of the headquarters staff, received at his offices from 10 until noon. During the two hours General Wilson was kept busy greeting an incessant stream of call-

ers, including the commanding and other officers of every unit in the district, together with the officers of the Military Hospitals Commission Command, and the majority of the overseas officers now in the city. Among the early callers were Bishop Fairing and Dean Evans, while shortly afterwards Major the Rev. C. A. Williams, Chief Recruiting Officer, arrived.

Others of the hundreds of callers included a number of representatives of Veterans' Association, the Reserve battalions and other officers on the Reserve, while a well-known officer from the north was Lt.-Col. W. E. Dale, who was for some time Provost Marshal here, but has for a year or more past been at Kapuskasing, in charge of a series of internment camps for Germans. Lt.-Col. Dale remarked that the prisoners had been getting a good insight into what a Canadian winter might mean during the past month, with temperatures running far below zero. Although he had a number of exceedingly dangerous Prussians amongst his prisoners, there had been no difficulty during the winter.

Lieut.-Col. McIntyre and a delegation of officers from St. John's also came into town for the day, and called on the G.O.C., and other regimental headquarters.

STREAM OF CALLERS.

A constant stream of callers also visited the headquarters of the 1st Depot Battalion, and the 79th Battery, C.E.F., at Guy Street Barracks, where Lieut.-Col. M. A. Piche and Major McConkey, with the other officers, greeted their guests. Similar hospitality was in evidence at the Peel Street Barracks, where Lieut.-Col. Daly-Gingras, D.S.O., and the officers of the 2nd Depot Battalion, received an especially large number of returned officers.

At the Grenadier Guards the band was also out, and for several hours in the morning played selections on the drill floor, while the officers and N.C.O.'s received their guests. Lieut.-Col. W. I. Gear, with Lieut.-Col. John Cooper and Lieut.-Col. I. P. Rexford, and a number of other officers, including several who had seen overseas service, received their guests with the usual Grenadiers' hospitality.

Lieut.-Col. de Tonnancour, with Lieut.-Col. T. J. Ostell and other officers, extended "bonne et heureuse annee," to all comers at the 65th Armory, honored guests being Lieut.-Col. Edouard Leprohon and other officers who had war records with the 22nd, and other regiments.