

# GARRISON WORK HERE

## Service Performed by Montreal Composite Battalion

When war broke out in Europe twelve months ago the permanent military force of Canada was a small body scattered throughout the Dominion. Today that force has grown steadily and while men sufficient for two divisions have gone overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and as many more are now being enrolled for further service, approximately 140,000 in all, there yet remains a force performing garrison duty from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This force is considerably larger than the permanent units formerly serving and is performing a necessary duty. In Montreal the garrison work is being undertaken by the Montreal Composite Battalion. This regiment is made up of drafts secured from the 1st Grenadier Guards, the 3rd Victoria Rifles, the 5th Royal Highlanders, the 55th Irish Canadian Rangers, the 58th Westmount Rifles, the 64th Chateauguay and Beauharnois the 65th Carbiniers Mont Royal, the 6th and 17th Hussars and the 13th Scottish Light Dragoons, the cavalrymen taking their places as infantrymen, although in some instances mounted patrols are used. From the same sources as the men officers have been secured.

The regiment is divided into four companies formed under the new system at war strength so that 1,100 officers and men are serving in this district. One company guards the Soulanges Canal, another watches the Lachine Canal, a third has the care of various bridges and stores, while the fourth is in charge of the internment camp and alien detention quarters. The organization is carried out under active service conditions and the discipline is in accordance with the changed aspect of this country owing to the war.

Officers and men are attired in khaki, the original drafts having surrendered the more or less uncomfortable rifle, infantry and cavalry uniforms, retaining only their regimental badges on tunics and service caps.

These men are on duty at various posts and have to perform a service lacking romance and glamor. The work is really that of guarding the lines of communication and while somewhat prosaic is similar to that performed by many thousands of men in the South African campaign. The Montreal regiment requires men to perform four hours duty with eight hours off. Of course there are compensations on some fortunate picquets but the men performing this duty have no easy time of it, while doing their necessary "bit."