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AN APPRECIATION

In another column of this issue you will find some interesting statistics that indicate the amount of work that has been done in training and equipping men for active service overseas at the Engineer Training Depot at St. Johns since its inception here. This has entailed an enormous amount of work and its success has been largely due to the organising ability of its Officer Commanding, Lt.-Col. W. W. Melville. We cannot let the occasion pass without paying a tribute to the work he has done and the manner in which it has been performed. Col. Melville went overseas with the First Division in 1914, in command of one of the field companies of Engineers, and did highly successful work over there. He returned early in 1916 to assume command of the Engineer Training Depot in Canada, and the experience he had gained in Flanders was utilised to its full extent in training the embryo Sappers here. The officers and men who passed through the Depot were trained in the actual conditions as were in operation in Flanders, and it speaks volumes for his ability when we realize how difficult the task must have been, because of the difficulty of getting a sufficient number of returned officers and non-commissioned officers to assist in the instructional training. He gathered around him a band of willing workers and was able to infuse into them some of his own untiring energy. At times he had many diverse branches of the engineering services under his direction, Signal, Tunneling, Railway and Engineering companies, also Forestry, each and every branch requiring special instruction and distinct training. This entailed hard and involved work, and, as the figures show, a large number of men were on hand at once. Needless to add they could not all be accommodated at the Main Barracks, consequently the Vinegar Factory and the old College were taken over and fitted up as Barracks. This naturally increased the responsibility of the Officer Commanding and although the men were quartered in three different parts of the town, a high state of discipline was maintained throughout. This all redounds to the careful organising ability of Col. Melville and to those who have had the pleasure of serving under him. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to observe the tactful manner in which he has handled all sorts and conditions of men who passed under his care. He can be firm and conciliatory at the same time, and he always, to express it in the men's own language, "gave them a square deal". Now that the Depot is almost a thing of the past and the Barrack room no longer resounds with the cheerful quip and merry jest of the irrepressible Sapper, we trust that the organising ability and indomitable energy of its Officer Commanding will not be lost to the country, but that he will be utilised by the powers that be in the upbuilding of the

country, wherever he goes or whatever he does. He will have the hearty good will and best wishes of every one who has served under him. May his shadow never grow less.

E. T. D. 1915 TO 1919

The following is an interesting record of the number of all ranks that have passed through the Engineer Training Depot since its inception in 1915 until January 10th of this year. The enormous amount of work that has been performed in training and equipping all that has passed through is hardly appreciated, until one is confronted with the cold figures. Lt.-Col. Melville is to be congratulated upon the result.

REPORT FROM RECORDS OFFICE

STRENGTH OF DEPOT FROM FORMATION TO JANUARY 10th 1919.

Increase (Other Ranks)

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	Total
Recruits	5411	1464	6403	Nil	Nil	13278
Transfers	330	183	4475	Nil	Nil	4988
Total	5741	1647	10878	Nil	Nil	18266

Decrease (Other Ranks)

Transfers	477	218	1453	57	Nil	2205
Medically Unfit	109	79	443	Nil	Nil	631
Deserters	146	123	702	Nil	Nil	971
Overseas	3475	1122	6975	Nil	Nil	11392
American Citizen	5	6	73	Nil	Nil	84
Deaths	9	7	51	Nil	Nil	67
Other Reasons	237	126	1998	198	Nil	2559
Total	4458	1681	11515	255	Nil	17909

Total strength (other ranks) ending January 10th, 1919 357

Increase (Officers)

Taken on strength	419	42	292	Nil	Nil	753
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Decrease (Officers)

Transfers	75	35	101	Nil	Nil	211
Medically Unfit	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	2
Overseas	246	44	155	Nil	Nil	445
Deaths	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	2
Other Reasons	21	17	25	Nil	Nil	63
Total	344	96	283	Nil	Nil	723

Total strength (Officers) ending January 10th, 1919 30

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Owing to the Demobilization of the Depot having now been almost completed we are suspending publication for a short time until new arrangements can be made.

You will be notified as soon as this has been done.

The Editors.

A. D. GIRARD, KC.

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