

Lt.-Col. Mills is Artillery Expert

Many Cantanks will be surprised to know that our O. C., Lt.-Col. J. E. Mills, D.S.O., has seen action on both the Eastern and Western fronts in the great war that has just come to a close. He was with the Royal Field Artillery at Gallipoli right up to the final evacuation of that peninsula by the British in January, 1916. While there he was awarded the D.S.O. for brilliant service in connection with a combined naval and artillery action against the Turk. He was also twice mentioned in dispatches.

From Gallipoli Lt.-Col. Mills went to the hot sands of Egypt, but in March, 1916, he was recalled by the Canadian command in England to reorganize all the Canadian artillery depots and schools of gunnery.

It was while on this reorganization work that our O. C. conceived the idea of the Canadian Tank Corps. He is the father of the First Canadian Tank Battalion, and had it not been for the sudden cessation of hostilities, his claim that Canada could distinguish itself in the tank-field would have been justified.

Before proceeding to Gallipoli Lt.-Col. Mills was stationed in France as a member of the Canadian general staff. He came over with the first contingent as chief instructor in gunnery to the 1st Artillery Division, which he had been detailed by the Minister of Militia to organize in 1914. At Salisbury he continued as chief instructor until ordered to France as landing officer of the division. He remained at the front with the division until it was fully settled.

Lt.-Col. Mills then let his adventurous spirit draw him to the Royal Air Force, where he qualified as an observer, but before he had an opportunity to show his skill he was recalled to the Canadian artillery service.

Lt.-Col. Mills is a soldier by profession, having stepped into the army at the age of twenty-one, and ever since has been intimately connected with the artillery branch, in which he is an expert. He was born in Brantford in Nov., 1878, and was educated in Guelph, where his father, Dr. James Mills, founded the Ontario Agricultural College. From Guelph, Lt.-Col. Mills went to Toronto University, but before he graduated from the School of Practical Science he joined up with the 16th Battery of Guelph. In 1903 he took his commission with the permanent force and in 1909 he was sent to Esquimaux, where he remained in charge of the artillery until 1913. He spent another year at Kingston, and when the war broke out took the post of Chief Gunnery Instructor at Petawawa Camp.

Our Colonel is a most amiable officer, and a man right through. The frankness he showed in his talk

to the men was appreciated by every man in the battalion.

It may be of interest to the Cantanks to know that not only was Lt.-Col. Mills' father president of the O. A. C. for twenty-five years, but the present holder of that office, Dr. George Creelman, is his brother-in-law. Another brother-in-law, Dr. F. C. Harrison, is



Lt.-Col. J. E. Mills, D.S.O.

president of that other great agricultural institution, Macdonald College at St. Anne de Bellevue.

Literary Note

Cpl. R. E. Lee-Davis is rapidly completing his latest authoritative work on Higher Love. It is rumored that the title will be "When Relatives Are Loving Why Seek a Wife?"