

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Khaki University Classes Proving Popular with the Canadian Tank Battalion

About 350 Cantanks are studying in the battalion's Khaki University School. About a dozen subjects are taught, all by teachers found among the officers and men of the unit. Lieut. A. F. Coventry, who is in charge of the school, has written for the Tank Tatler the following account of its work:

The armistice being only a suspension of hostilities and not a state of peace, the Cantanks found themselves after Nov. 11th "standing by" as the next battalion to move from camp should need arise. The period which began on this date saw the hours of training confined to the mornings, and athletics were in great demand. The strongest, however, can only play games for a limited part of the day and time was apt to hang heavy. Under these circumstances a plan was informally rough-hewn for giving lectures on various subjects in the battalion; a draft scheme was placed before the Colonel and he at once became keenly active, with the immediate result that Colonel Tory, O.C. Khaki University of Canada, visited camp, explained the objects and methods of this organization and authorized the formation of a college in the Canadian Tank Corps, with the Colonel as president.

A census taken a short time after the signing of the armistice had shown that the number of subjects desired was far higher than could be successfully handled in the unit—in fact, thirty-four classes would have been needed to meet the demand—and the first necessity was to reduce the number of subjects in such a way as to give the classes the greatest possible scope, consistent with available teaching power and the limitations of material and teaching space. The subjects finally chosen were: Matriculation, French, Mathematics, Law, Electricity, Agriculture, Commercial Subjects, Motor Mechanics and Biology, to which was added later Draughting. These were made as comprehensive as possible.

Khaki University Headquarters undertook to provide books to the limit of their ability, and while they have not been able to send everything we have asked for, there is no doubt that they have given us all books essential to our "carrying on;" no inconsiderable feat, since a great number have been of necessity imported from Canada in spite of the difficulty of transport.

Lecture rooms were a serious difficulty, but were gradually arranged, even if one class on arriving found that of the three small rooms allotted to it one had been seized by the barber, another was occupied by the tailor, while the third had become a cobbler's shop. Finally, however, each class had at least a roof overhead and was fairly free from interruption.

The staff was naturally found within the unit, and the source was abundant. An expert was put in charge

of each class and organized it, according to the diversity of subjects as effectively as circumstances allowed. It is impossible in the space of this note to give a complete list of those who helped to get the enterprise under way, and to give a partial list would be merely invidious where all worked hard, but an interesting feature has been the discovery of a largely unsuspected reserve of teaching power, which only came to light when several members of the staff had to leave to take up more important duties elsewhere for the Khaki University.

Classes were started about the end of November, as accommodation and books became available, and continued until well into the period of Christmas leave, when they were stopped until January 9th.

The numbers attending from both the First Battalion and the Depot are, in all, some 350. The largest classes are motor mechanics and commercial subjects.

While the Khaki College does not profess to meet the exact needs of everyone, for this is manifestly impossible, it is trying to give series of lectures of fairly general interest while giving those who wish an opportunity to make headway in definite subjects.

In this way it is trying to do its share in making not wholly unprofitable the inevitable period of waiting while the fruits of the war are made good.

As we go to press we learn that a central college is being established at Bramshott for the purpose of running more completely equipped classes than are possible in a unit, and it is hoped that a number of men may go from the First Canadian Tanks.

An attempt is also being made to allow men with the necessary qualifications to work at British Universities.

FAMOUS ALIBIS

Successful and Unsuccessful Gags that have been Tried on the Colonel

NAME.	CHARGE.	ALIBI.
Sgt. Curry ...	A. W. L. 2 days ...	Train wreck.
Sgt. Glover ...	Sleeping at 10 a.m. ...	Couldn't wake up.
Sgt. Grathwohl ...	" " ...	Thought he was on leave.
Sgt. Laver ...	Neglecting duty ...	Never thought of that.
Sgt. McLeod ...	A. W. L. 2 days ...	Seriously ill.
*Sgt. Rolph ...	A. W. L. & S. O. L. 3 days ...	Waiting for a cable.
Cpl. Tom Brown ...	A. W. L. 2 days ...	Mine-sweeper sunk; had to swim ashore.
*Pte. Ben Fox...	A. W. L. 3 days ...	Met old friend; ex-Hun prisoner of war.

* Indicates that the colonel didn't fall.