

Editorial

The Commissioner's Christmas Message

The Commissioner wishes all ranks A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He also desires to convey to all members of the Force his appreciation for their devotion to duty, realizing that during the past year the work undertaken by the Force has been particularly heavy, especially during the Royal Visit and since the outbreak of hostilities.

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The Force is indebted to the Department of National Defence for authorizing it to send a representative unit Overseas. This is the first occasion such a singular honor has been conferred on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. And we are proud of it too. The fact will go down as a new milestone in our story. Shortly after the announcement was made offers of service flowed into Headquarters; volunteers from all Divisions signified their wish to "join up."

Those chosen, were of course, one hundred percent. medically fit. Their names, ranks, regimental numbers, etc. are set forth elsewhere in this edition.

The men must know first aid. They must be skilled motor-cyclists. Although our Company received advanced motor-cycle and traffic training at Rockcliffe, they will get further instructions along those lines in England. Anti-gas, decontamination and kindred work will probably be studied. There are some two thousand motor vehicles to a Division. The traffic control of such a large mechanized unit, on both point and area systems, the keeping of transport columns expeditiously on the move, will devolve upon the Provost Company. That is their main function. And from a realization of what it means, some appreciation of the importance and extent of the duties to be performed by No. 1 Provost Company (R.C.M.P.) will be gleaned. We are, of course, in no position to give a detailed preview.

Each member was carefully selected. Only those capable of coolness under stress, of established responsibility, were chosen. Age, stature, and concomitant factors were also considered. Many volunteers were rejected not because they were unfit or lacked the necessary qualifications, but because they were needed here in Canada. The departure of those chosen will cause vacancies hard to fill. But this too has been provided for.

No. 1 Provost Company, R.C.M. Police, we feel sure will conduct itself commendably. Whatever the nature of their duties, we are certain each soldier will carry on efficiently. That he will not forget the traditions of the Force. These men, mostly six footers or over, should inspire confidence.

A few weeks ago the Provost Company was feted at a giant Smoker by the combined Divisions of Ottawa: "N", "A" and Headquarters Sub-Division. Prior to their arrival here individual Smokers and presentations were held at their respective Divisions. The Ottawa Smoker was a splendid