

HISTORICAL RECORD.

OF THE

109th. OVERSEAS BATTALION, CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

PREFACE

In accordance with the demand made in King's Regulations and Orders, that each Unit in His Majesty's Forces should keep a Historical Record: it has been my endeavour to set forth in the following pages, as clearly and accurately as possible, a short record of the one hundred and ninth Overseas Battalion, of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

As it was not my privilege to be attached to the Battalion until after its arrival in England, I have not a first hand knowledge of the early days of its career, and I would wish therefor to tender my thanks to those Officers who have materially helped me in compiling the facts as herein set forth.

It is to be borne in mind that this is merely a record, concerned chiefly with the "Training Period" of the Battalion—the real history is now in the making—, not only that of the Battalion but also that of the Empire, and we know and believe that the men of the 109th. Battalion who formed part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which has nobly responded to the call of the Motherland to assist in the great struggle now in progress, will in no wise fall below the standard of devotion and self sacrifice already set by their comrades in the Batt<sup>s</sup>. which have preceded them.

Witley Camp, Surrey,  
December 1916.

(Signed) P. Colthurst.

## HISTORICAL RECORDS.

R. R. & O. (Imperial) Para 1931

1931

This record should contain the following particulars relating to the Corps, Unit or Department.

- (1) The circumstances of its original formation.
- (2) Any unusual means by which it has been recruited.
- (3) The stations at which it has been employed, and the date of its arrival and departure from each station.
- (4) The military operations in which it has been engaged, and its achievements.
- (5) The names of all Officers who have been either killed or wounded, and the name of any Officer, or soldier who has especially distinguished himself in action.
- (6) The badges and devices which it has been permitted to wear, and the reason for which such badges or devices, or other marks of distinction were granted, together with the date and authority for same.
- (7) Alterations in clothing, arms, accoutrements, colours, or horse furniture, with the date and authority for same.
- (8) Any other important matter relating to its regimental administration, such as changes in peace establishment and terms of service.
- (9) Drafts received and despatched, their strength, dates of their arrival or departure, and names of Officers who accompanied them. Drafts numerically weaker than Officer's party should not be separately specified.
- (10) Any other matter which may be considered of historical importance.

R. R. & O. (Canada) Numbers 1516, 1517, & 1518.

1516

A historical record is to be kept for every Corps stating the circumstances of the original formation of the Corps, the means by which it has been recruited, and the alterations in the establishment.

1517

This account is to specify the military operations in which the Corps has been engaged, and to record its achievements. It is to contain the names of all Officers killed and the name of any Officer or soldier who has especially distinguished himself in action. The badges and devices which the Corps has been permitted to wear, the reason for which such badges and devices, or other marks of distinction were granted together with the date of the authority for the same are to be stated.

1518

Any orders directing particular alterations in the clothing, arms, accoutrements, colours, or horse furniture, are to be recorded under their proper dates.

"WHERE DUTY LEADS"

Since the outbreak of hostilities between England and Germany in August 1914, there has been no doubt as to the attitude of Canada with regard to her determination to bear her share of responsibility in the Empire's war.

Before the formal declaration of war the Prime Minister, (Sir Robert Borden) had sent a secret telegram to the British Government announcing the desire of Canada to help if need be, by the sending over of an Expeditionary Force. When one looks back over the past months, one can clearly see how truly he was voicing the sentiments of Canada's sons. Nobly did they respond to the call, and nobly have they done their duty, as time has shown. "Men and more men" has been the call of the Motherland and never since the despatch of the first Canadian Contingent of thirty-five thousand men, early in October 1914, has there been a steady flow of troops across the ocean. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the call has been heard and the summons obeyed. From our villages, our towns and our cities have men come forward and offered themselves as willing to serve in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Battalion after Battalion has been mobilized, trained and despatched, crossing first to England and after the final training there, to the battlefields of Flanders and France, there to do their share of the work and to win the undying fame and glory which is already theirs.

Among the Battalions thus raised was the 109th. Overseas Battalion, C.E.F. On November 15th., 1915 Lieut. Colonel John James Havelock Fee, late Officer Commanding the 45th. Victoria Regiment received a telegram from Militia Headquarters, Ottawa, authorizing the recruiting of the 109th. Overseas Battalion, and placing him in command of the Unit. The Headquarters of the Battalion were in Lindsay, Ontario, and the recruiting was to take place in the counties of Victoria and Haliburton.

Recruiting commenced immediately, being carried on in no less than twenty-three centres, among them being Omenee, Fenelon Falls, Babqaygeon, Woodville, Kinmount and Haliburton. The Battalion was not brought together as a whole until May 24th., 1916, therefore each Company had its own Headquarters as follows :-

"A" Company - at Lindsay  
"B" " - at Omenee  
"C" " - at Fenelon Falls  
"D" " - at Haliburton

Owing to this fact the Headquarters, Staff and Company Officers were not completely organized until June 7th., 1916.

Prior to that time the following Officers reported for duty with the Battalion, or were attached for duty and instruction.

Officer Commanding - Lieut. Colonel Fee, J.J.H.  
Senior Major - Lieut. Colonel Anderson, R.H. O.C.  
45th. Regt. transferred from 93rd.  
Battalion 25-11-15.

Captain McCulloch, J reported for duty as Medical Officer  
22-11-15.

Captain Godson, F.H. transferred from 59th. Battn. 23-11-15  
Lieut. Fluery, F.J. " " " 22-11-15  
Captain Gray, A.W. " " " 23-11-15  
Captain Hutchins, H. " " " 23-11-15  
Lieut. Barclay, F.L. " " 30th. " 22-11-15

Lieut. Fairbairn, A.H.	Transferred from 80th. Battn.	23-11-15
Lieut. Cross, R.S.	" " " "	23-11-15
" Faithful, G.C.	" " " "	23-11-15
" Campbell, W.H.	" " " "	23-11-15
" Aseltine, A.W.	" " " "	23-11-15
" Gerald, G.A.	Reported for duty	23-11-15
" Moore, R.I.	Transferred from 93rd. Battn.	22-11-15
" Mark, W.A.R.	" " 59th. "	24-11-15
" Bissonette, D.F.	Attached for duty & instruction	25-11-15
" O'Regan, A.R.	Reported for duty & appointed Captain & Adjutant	26-11-15
" Hall, G.W.	Reported for duty	29-11-15
" Fairbairn, H.A.	" " " "	29-11-15
Captain Thorn, W.J.	" " " "	24-11-15
" Warren, W.	" " " "	20-11-15
Lieut. Leckey, Jas.	" " " "	30-11-15
" Potts, G.H.	Attached for duty & instruction	20-11-15
Capt. Carew, F.J.	Transferred from 80th. Battn.	21-11-15
Lieut. Elliot, W.R.	Reported for duty	1-12-16
" Reynolds, J.S.	Attached for duty & instruction	1-12-16
" Tilly, Geo.	" " " "	6-12-15
Capt. Lancaster, V.W.	Reported for duty	11-12-15
" McCrea, J. McN.	" " " "	6-12-15
Lieut. Elliot, W.H.	Attached for duty & instruction	7-12-15
" Webster, F.	" " " "	1-12-15
" Jordan, G.A.	" " " "	1-12-15
" Brokenshire, M.C.	" " " "	15-12-15
" Mulligan, C.V.	" " " "	15-12-15
" Lee, F. D.	Reported for duty	24-12-15
" Downey, G.J.	" " " "	5-12-15
Capt. (Hon) Williams, C.G.	Attached as Chaplain	24-12-15
Capt. Weeks, G.A.	Reported for duty	20-11-15
Lieut. Ingledev, F.J.	" " " "	16-11-15
" Scott, A.H.	Attached for duty & instruction	27-12-15
" Roenigh, W.A.	" " " "	15-12-15
" Wilson, R.	" " " "	6-12-15
" Jordan, W.H.	" " " "	6-12-15
" Daniel, J.D.	" " " "	6-12-15
" Landry, E.F.	" " " "	6-12-15
" McCrea, C.H.	" " " "	8-1-16
" Watson, W.H.	" " " "	8-1-16
" Stewart, A.G.	" " " "	8-1-16
Capt. LeCraw, B.F.	Reported for duty	12-1-16
Lieut. Diver, F.G.	" " " "	13-1-16
" Bredin, W.T.	Attached for duty & instruction	17-1-16
" Glass, J.J?	Reported for duty & appointed Paymaster with rank of Hon. Capt.	19-1-16
" Henry, C.A.	Reported for duty	9-1-16
" White, P.J.	" " " "	4-12-16
" McPherson, P.G.	Attached for duty & instruction	3-2-16
" McLean, N.	" " " "	8-1-16
" Raynor, W.J.	" " " "	11-2-16
" Lowery, T.J.	" " " "	1-1-16
" Lyon, R.E.	Transferred from 77th. Battn.	2-12-15
" Woods, A.	Attached for duty & instruction	22-12-16
" Findlay, J.B.	" " " "	"
Capt. MacConnell, B.H.	Reported for duty	29-2-16
Lieut. Anderson, T.K.	" " " "	29-11-15
" MacQuarrie, J.	Attached for duty & instruction	6-3-16
" Stinson, A.R.	" " " "	29-2-16
" Scott, H.R.	" " " "	24-3-16
" McEachern, A.	" " " "	24-2-16

~~Captain Wilkinson, H.J. reported for duty 19-5-16~~  
 On March 27th., 1916 Lieut. Colonel J.J.H. Fee appointed  
 his Staff. ( Part 11 Daily Order # 109).

Officer Commanding	Lieut. Col. Fee, J.J.H.
Senior Major	Major Anderson, R.H.
Junior Major	Major Carew, F.J.
Captain & Adjutant	Captain MacConnell, H.B.
Assistant Adjutant	Lieutenant Aseltine, A.W.
Quartmaster	Captain Elliott, D.C.
Paymaster	Hon. Capt. Glass, J.J.
Medical Officer	Captain McCulloch, J
Transport Officer	Hon. Capt. Jordan, G.A.
Chaplain	Hon. Capt. Williams, C.G.
Signalling Officer	Captain Lee, F.D.
Machine Gun Officer	Lieutenant Ingledew, F.J.

It was not until June 7th., 1916 that the Companies were completely organized, the following Officers in charge :-

"A" Company

Officer Commanding	Captain	Lancaster, V.W. - 45th. Regt.
Second in Command	Captain	LeCraw, E.F. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Fairbairn, A.R. - 41st. "
	Lieutenant	Bredin, W.T. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Campbell, W.H. - 15th. "
	Lieutenant	Gerald, G.A. - 56th. "

"B" Company

Officer Commanding	Major,	McCrea, J.McH. -, 45th. Regt.
Second in Command	Captain	Warren, W. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Anderson, W.K. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Diver, F.G. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Barclay, F.L. - 41st. "
	Lieutenant	Mulligan, C.V. - 45th. "

"C" Company

Officer Commanding	Major	Hutchins, H. - 56th. Regt.
Second in Command	Captain	Thorn, W.J. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Cross, R.S. - 47th. "
	Lieutenant	Henry, C.A. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Downey, G.J. - G.G.F.G.
	Lieutenant	Hall, G.V. " 45th. Regt.

"D" Company

Officer Commanding	Major	Gray, A.W. - 47th. Regt.
Second in Command	Captain	Weeks, G.A. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Mark, W.A.R. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Leckey, J. - 15th. "
	Lieutenant	Elliott, W.R. - 45th. "
	Lieutenant	Faithful, G.C. -

Supernumary Officers

Lieutenant	Potts, G.A. attached to	"A" Company
Lieutenant	Watson, V.H. " "	"B" "
Lieutenant	Fairbairn, H.A. " "	"C" "
Lieutenant	Moore, R.L. " "	"D" "

Attached and detailed for duty with Companies.

Lieutenant	Bissonnette, D.F.	-	"A"	Company
Lieutenant	Daniel, J.D.	-	"A"	"
Lieutenant	Findlay, J.E.	-	"A"	"
Lieutenant	Tilly, G.	-	"A"	"
Lieutenant	Wilson, R.	-	"A"	"
Lieutenant	Scott, H.R.	-	"B"	"
Lieutenant	McLean, N.	-	"B"	"
Lieutenant	McPherson, P.G.	-	"B"	"
Lieutenant	Lyon, R.E.	-	"B"	"
Lieutenant	Stinson, A.R.	-	"B"	"
Lieutenant	Wood, A.	-	"C"	"
Lieutenant	McEachern, A.	-	"C"	"
Lieutenant	Webster, F.	-	"C"	"
Lieutenant	McQuarrie, J.A.	-	"C"	"
Lieutenant	Jordan, V.H.	-	"C"	"
Lieutenant	Lowery, T.J.	-	"D"	"
Lieutenant	Landry, E.F.	-	"D"	"
Lieutenant	Stewart, A.G.	-	"D"	"
Lieutenant	Raynor, W.J.	-	"D"	"
Lieutenant	Scott, A.M.	-	"D"	"
Lieutenant	Elliott, W.H.	-	In charge of canteen	
Hon. Capt.	Jordan, G.A.	-	Chief Recruiting Officer	for 109th. Battalion.

Promotions and Appointments (Canada)

Captain A. W. Gray to be Major with effect from 1-1-16.

Captain H. Hutchins to be Major with effect from 1-2-16.

Lieut. A. R. Fairbairn to be Captain Second in Command of "C" Company with effect from 20-7-16, vice Captain W.J. Thorn struck off strength.

Lieutenant A. V. Aseltine to be Adjutant with the rank of Captain with effect from 20-7-16, vice Captain H.B. MacConnell transferred

Captain F. J. Carew to be Major and Third in Command of the 109th. Battalion with effect from 30-12-15.

Captain J. McN. McCrea to be Major with effect from 1-1-16.

Lieutenant C. V. Mulligan (Attached) to be provisionally Lieutenant with the 109th. Battalion with effect from 21-4-16 and attached to "B" Company.

Lieutenant F. D. Lee to be Captain with effect from 6-1-16

Lieutenant G. J. Downey appointed Assistant Adjutant with effect from 3-1-16

Hon. Captain and Chaplain C. G. Williams to be Major with effect from 29-4-16.

Lieutenant W. T. Bredin (Attached) provisionally appointed Lieutenant with the 109th. Battalion with effect from 4-4-16 and posted to "A" Company.

Hon. Captain. H. J. Williamson to be Paymaster with effect from 19-5-16, vice Hon. Captain J. J. Glass detailed for recruiting duties.

Captain H. B. Boyd C.M.M.S. to be Medical Officer with effect from 7-7-16, vice Captain J. McCulloch transferred for overseas duty in France.

Transfers and Resignations

Captain F. H. Godson resigned his appointment 16-12-16

Lieutenant T. J. Fluery transferred to 3rd Division Instructional Cadre 15-4-16.

Captain F. D. Lee transferred to the 11th. Military District with rank of Major as Divisional Signalling Officer 18-4-16.

Lieutenant C. H. McCrea transferred to Signalling Depot, Ottawa, 16-5-16.

Lieutenant J. J. Glass (Hon. Captain) detailed for

Transfers and Resignations (Continued).

Lieutenant P. J. White resigned his commission 27-3-16.  
Captain H. B. MacConnell transferred to Military District No. 1  
20-7-16.

Struck off strength.

The following Officers were struck off the strength of the Battalion from dates as shown.

Lieutenant	Bissonnette, D.F.	- 20-7-16
"	O'Regan, A.R.	- 6-3-16
Captain	Thorne, W.J.	- 20-7-16
Lieutenant	Potts, G.H.	- 20-7-16
"	Reynolds, J.S.	- 19-1-16
"	Elliot, H.V.	- 20-7-16
"	Webster, F.	- 20-7-16
"	Jordan, G.A.	- 6-7-16
"	Brokenshire, M.C.	- 20-7-16
"	Scott, A.H.	- 20-7-16
"	Roenigh, W.H.	- 20-7-16
"	Wilson, R.	- 20-7-16
"	Jordan, J.H.	- 20-7-16
"	Daniel, J.D.	- 20-7-16
"	Landry, E.F.	- 20-7-16
"	Watson, W.H.	- 20-7-16
"	Stewart, A.G.	- 20-7-16
"	McPherson, P.G.	- 20-7-16
"	McLean, H.	- 20-7-16
"	Raynor, W.J.	- 20-7-16
"	Lowery, E.J.	- 20-7-16
"	Lyon, R.E.	- 20-7-16
"	Pindlay, J.D.	- 20-7-16
"	MacQuarrie, J.	- 20-7-16
"	McEachern, A.	- 20-7-16

Since arriving in England other changes have occurred in the personnel of the Battalion, which are shown below. Further additions with regard to attached Officers will be found under "Drafts despatched and received".

November 6th., 1916. Lieut. Colonel James Ballantine, D.S.O., late of the 76th. Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., assumed command of the 109th. Overseas Battalion Canadian Infantry.  
September 13th., 1916. Hon. Captain and Chaplain Percy Colthurst attached for duty.

Promotions

Sergeant Ronald A. McEachern "C" Company appointed temporary Lieutenant with effect from 22-8-16 and attached to "D" Company. (Auth. H.K. D. Canada. J.V.C. 6 M.O. 454-16-8-16).

Sergeant Albert T. Porter appointed temporary Lieutenant, General List. (Auth. B.D.O. # 946 dated 24-11-16).

Decreases

Major E. J. Carey Transferred to General List and attached to the Canadian Forestry Corps 4-12-16. (Auth. B.D.O. # 1086).

Captain A. R. Fairbairn Attached to the Royal Flying Corps, Reading, 29-10-16

Lieutenant W. H. Campbell Attached to the Royal Flying Corps, Reading, 29-10-16.

Lieutenant F. L. Barclay Attached to the Royal Flying Corps, Reading, 29-10-16.

Attached Officers

Major	Bird, H.I.	126th. Battalion	4-11-16.
Major	Stirritt, J.T.	do	13-11-16
Captain	Kertland, D.E.	do	4-11-16
Lieut.	Thompson, H.H.	do	23-11-16

(B.D.O. # 948 dated 24-11-16).

Training

Winter Quarters and Barriegfield Camp.

The 109th. Battalion was the 8th. Infantry Battalion to be raised in the 3rd. Military District. It is well worthy of mention that this District alone has sent at least forty thousand men overseas; and more than that, it is the only District in Canada which has accomplished the task of raising the quota of troops allotted to it, as part of Canada's contribution to the Empire.

The fact that the 109th. Battalion was not mobilized as a unit, until six months after its authorization, in no way impeded recruiting. As recruits came forward, the training was carried on in the different centres, under the supervision of capable Officers.

The syllabus of training set forth by Divisional Headquarters was adhered to, hence uniformity in the training was maintained, despite the fact that the various centres were at some distance apart. Recruiting was carried on vigorously all the time, and gradually the Battalion took shape. One must not omit to mention that twice during the winter months, the Battalion as a whole did meet together. Once at Fenelon Falls, and again at Lindsay, a visit was paid to the winter carnival. Military sports of all kinds were indulged in, and undoubtedly the showing of the Battalion then made, materially aided the recruiting. Frequent inspections, by Major General Sir Sam Hughes, when he came to visit his own, kept the men up to concert pitch.

A Company inspection was also held by General Herring, Officer Commanding the 3rd. Military District, when each Company was highly complimented upon the appearance made. Thus for six months the training continued.

The 24th. of May was indeed a gala day for the Battalion. Not only was it really the first gathering together of the Battalion as a whole, but other incidents contributed to make the day stand out as a red letter day in the history of the 109th. Battalion. Lindsay was an fete. Even the clerk of the weather, at times a most fickle individual, seemed to enter into the spirit of the occasion, for the day was brilliantly fine, and all that could be desired.

The Battalion mustered twelve hundred and fifty-four strong, including all ranks, and a pardonable thrill of pride was felt by Officers and men, as they formed up on the parade.

One of the greatest crowds ever seen in Lindsay had gathered together to do honour to the boys of Victoria and Haliburton, and to witness also the presentation of the Battalion Colours and the march past. The consecration of the Colours was performed by the Chaplain (Hon. Captain C. G. Williams) after which the presentation was made by Lady Eaton, whose gift to the Battalion, they were. Following this the march past took place. To say that the Battalion did well is but small praise, for in fact it excelled. Hitches have been known to occur but on this occasion there was not the slightest hint of such a thing. To give adequate praise, one can but quote the words of Sir Sam Hughes, who in complimenting the Battalion afterwards, said, "It was the finest march past I have ever witnessed". Among those present on this occasion were Colonel Sir John Eaton, Premier Hearst, Lady Hughes, Mrs. (Lt. Col) Fee, Mrs (Major) Anderson, and Mrs John McCrea, Sr.



This was the first and last showing of the Battalion in Lindsay, for on the 23rd. of May, 1916, orders were received to make immediate preparations for moving into Camp at Barrie Gird. On that day at seven a.m. Captain Elliot and the advance party set out. The Battalion followed a few days later and on the 29th. of May, 1916, they were taken on the strength of the Camp. It is needless to say that here, as elsewhere, the Battalion maintained the high state of efficiency already attained, and the discipline was of the highest - the "esprit de corps" among the men being one of the distinctive features of the Battalion. Despite the fact that the training was undergone during "the rainy season" as it appeared to be, the hardships were endured with a most cheerful countenance by all concerned. The next few weeks were spent in training according to the syllabus, the usual field training, musketry, and trench work, being carried out with a will. One must not forget the weekly route march. The Battalion, as always, made a fine showing, on those occasions but let us mention it with bated breath - the Medical Officer invariably seemed to have an unusually large sick parade at such times. Perhaps some gentle reader may question why, well it does not always pay to tell all one knows. Apart from the routine work frequent inspection of the troops took place, all of which passed off to the credit of the Battalions taking part therein.

It must not be thought that it was period of all work and no play, for the inter-battalion sports were promoted quite frequently - and the keen and healthy rivalry was thus brought about among the troops.

One special Trip must not forego mention. On July the 5th., 1916 by special invitation of Sir John and Lady Eaton, the Officers of the Battalion, together with the Brass and Bugle Bands, proceeded to Toronto by special train, and were most hospitably entertained at Ardwall.

Speaking of Bands. Perhaps it may not be out of place here, to state that the 109th. Band had the distinction of being the best band in the division. During the winter months, a splendid set of instruments, had been purchased and presented to the Battalion, by Lady Eaton. The fact that the instruments are the best obtainable and also that the players themselves were highly trained in the art of making music, contributed to this high state of efficiency, an efficiency maintained where so ever the Band has been.

So the weeks passed; and at last the welcome news came, on July the 15th. 1916, that the Battalion was ordered overseas. The next few days, were busy indeed, and on the 20th., of July the Battalion moved out of Camp. Entraining at Kingston the journey was made to Halifax, Nova Scotia, the latter place being reached on Sunday morning 23rd. of July. Within a short time H.M. Transport 2810, alias S.S. Olympic was boarded - the following Battalions coming on board during the day :- 103rd. from Victoria, B.C., the 112th. from Nova Scotia, the 115th. from New Brunswick, the 116th. from Ontario, together with certain details. Under weigh at last, the troops moved out of the harbour on Monday morning, leaving behind the shores of Canada. The time on board passed pleasantly, and there were very few casualties of any description. The passage could not have been improved for at no time was rough weather experienced. The only thing that in any way marred the trip was the fact that a blanket of fog enveloped the ship soon after she left Halifax, and this did not lift to any extent until the morning of the last day out, when the sun appeared, and afforded all a beautiful view of the south coast of Ireland. One feels however that the fog may have been a blessing in disguise. Although nothing was seen - ugly rumors were heard now and again, but perhaps that was no less than might have been expected. Six a.m. July 31st. saw the transport safely berthed at the Liverpool wharf, and some three hours later, the Battalion set foot on England's shores.

and.

The journey was an ~~afforded ample opportunity to become acquainted with~~ the various types of scenery, and even the most biased could not but admit that it was some picture. Although strangers in a strange land, the warm welcome evinced en route to the Camp, certainly made one feel that the coming of the ~~Excellence~~ Canadians was more than appreciated by the Motherland. Vague rumors as to the ultimate destination of the Battalion were current, but all conjectures were set at rest when the order came to detrain at Borden. Solid earth under foot once more forming up, and a final march through the dust and sand, brought the Battalion to rest at last. Oxney Farm Camp will always be remembered. It must be left to the individual to put his own construction upon those words.

Here the Battalion remained until August the 16th., 1916. During that period there was no strenuous drill as the Camp was merely a temporary resting place. On one occasion Major General Sir Sam Hughes paid a visit to the troops, when the review and march past took place all acquitting themselves creditably.

For the most part fine weather was experienced, and opportunity was presented after drill hours of getting acquainted with the surrounding country. While here the six days landing leave was granted and for the most part the sights of the metropolis were taken in. Naturally those who had friends and relatives in this Country, made tracks for the various places where they dwelt. Mention should be made here that on August the 8th. the various Battalions in Camp were requested to furnish drafts for France, and thirty men having been passed as fit for service went to join the 44th. Battalion Canadian Infantry. Elsewhere will be found mentioned the names of six Officers who also were drafted at this time.

Whether there is a real difference between Canadian and English rain remains to be proved- but the latter is certainly persistent- I feel opportunity was given to learn that fact during the last two days under canvas. Salisbury Plain has been the byword for mud, but one began to wonder if even Oxney Farm might not come up to that standard, providing the chance had been given to test it. However that was spared to the Battalion for on the 16th. of August the welcome news was heard that a move to Bramshott was imminent. It still rained as the Battalion moved out but what mattered that- was there not a vision of dry huts ahead- and thus it proved. Soon the settling in began, and one and all appreciated the change from the somewhat leaky canvas habitations recently vacated.

For administrative purposes the Battalions in Camp were Brigaded, and the 109th. Battalion was brigaded with the 103rd., the 112th., the 116th., the 123rd., and the 124th., with Lieut. Colonel McKimery as Brigadier and O.C. of the 7th. Canadian Training Brigade.

The hard work of further training now commenced, and day by day as the syllabus was carried out the marked improvement was easily discernable, and step by step progress was made towards the attainment of the A1 standard which was necessary to perfection. Increased knowledge and greater efficiency was the aim of both Officers and men, and the result of the various courses attended at Aldershot and elsewhere. prove how that aim was held ever before them.

Apart from the regular routine, training in all the branches of modern warfare was carried on. Parties for musketry, trench warfare, Bombing, bayonet fighting etc. were constantly had at it- not forgetting also the experiences with gas masks. A further joy, were the route marches and night marches which took place from time to time, one week at least, being on the programme. It may seem strange but it is nevertheless true that there were periods of relaxation. Whilst perfecting the physical, and the moral side was never lost sight of, and one feels that Church Parades were not altogether mechanical, neither the uplifting gained by attendance at the various Church Huts or the Y.M.C.A. without effect in the making of the complete man.

There is always the great problem to face when dealing with masses of men, of how to arouse them in their leisure hours. Battalion concerts were held weekly, as far as possible, when the band did yeoman work, and the talent of the Battalion was brought out. There were always concerts and lectures provided by the Y.M.C.A. and other organizations, and these were certainly appreciated and enjoyed to the utmost. In favourable weather visits were paid to the surrounding villages and further insight gained into the "ways of the English".

Week-end leave was frequently obtainable and many took advantage of the opportunity thus afforded to visit friends or renew their acquaintance with London.

Athletics were carried out to some extent and the Battalion was affiliated with the Aldershot Athletic Association, as forming part of the Aldershot Command, but participation in the scheduled events was not often possible owing to the fact that fixed teams could not be kept together owing to the movements of the men, necessitated by carrying out the syllabus of training.

The Battalion, had up to this time remained intact, except for the loss of the small draft which was sent from Osnecy. Early in October however an urgent call came from France for reinforcements and the Units in Camp were required to furnish drafts in order to meet the need. The most highly trained men were immediately chosen, and on October 5th., 1916, two hundred men were called for from the 109th. Battalion. One had only to see the men, when they were paraded prior to their departure, to know that the Brigadier spoke truly when he said that "They are the finest draft in the Brigade". This first real break in the Battalion was keenly felt, but then, as later, one had to console oneself with the thought that local sentiments must give place to national needs. One hundred of these men were to act as reinforcements to the 20th. Battalion Canadian Infantry, the others being allotted to the 21st. Battalion Canadian Infantry.

Though depleted in numbers that Battalion carried on as before, and on the 16th. of October eight Officers and four hundred and fifty other ranks of the 126th. Battalion were drafted in, which brought the 109th. Battalion up to strength again, and hopes were then entertained that the Battalion as then composed might remain as a Unit, and eventually proceed to France as such.

For some time it had been rumored that the Fifth Canadian Division would be formed, with Headquarters at Witley Camp, and when the Battalion received orders to proceed thither on November 5th., the move was cheerfully carried out. The march over was accomplished in two or three hours, and soon the Battalion was settled down in its new quarters, where they were attached to the 11th. Training Brigade. The accommodation was much the same as at Bramshott, and similar training was carried on, special attention being paid to completing the musketry course, both Borden and Hychette Ranges being utilized.

Later it was learned that the Fifth Division would not be authorized, but it was still felt that the Units might proceed to France as such especially when on November 2nd. a further draft was received, comprising one Officer and one hundred and twenty-five other ranks, from the 156th. Battalion Canadian Infantry. A further fact that kept the hopes running high was that the command of the Battalion was taken over on November 5th. by Lieut. Colonel James Ballantine, D.S.O. This Officer had already taken over the 76th. Battalion to France, and had there gained distinction, and it was felt that a Battalion singled out for command by one with his experience, might certainly, if only for that reason, feel tolerably sure of remaining intact - but it was to turn out otherwise.

Reinforcements were still urgently needed, and on November 28th. a further draft of one hundred and fifty men was furnished by the Battalion to reinforce the 20th. Battalion, and at the same time word was received to have others in readiness. Slowly but surely the disintegration took place, but even to the last after another draft of three hundred and forty-seven other ranks had been dispatched on December 4th. as a reinforcing draft to the 30th. Battalion, it was felt that the Battalion might be refilled. This however was not to be, and on December 8th. the remainder of the Battalion, with the exception of the Officers, was absorbed by the 124th. Battalion

One must ~~of necessity write~~ ~~finish~~ ~~to the record~~ of the 109th. Battalion as far as its existence as a Unit is concerned, ~~but in so~~ doing one can but feel that each individual, wherever he may be placed, will live up to the traditions of his original Unit, and moreover one knows that he will keep the motto of the Battalion ever before him, and will always be found ~~ready~~ cheerfully and willingly carrying out his appointed task, and following the path - hard though it may be - "Where Duty Leads". Already have losses been experienced among those who have taken their place in the firing line, and while mourning them, there is a feeling of pride that having been tried they have not been found wanting.

Though the members of the 109th. Battalion may be widely separated, the spirit of the Battalion still lives, and will be found widely diffused, scattered abroad among the individual members wherever they may be.

When the history of this war shall be written, not least among the exploits of the Empire's sons will stand the glorious achievements of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, of which the 109th. Battalion formed a part.

Drafts Received and Despatched.

Despatched

To the 224th. O/S. Battalion C.E.F.	36	Other Ranks	5-4-16
To the 4th. Pioneer Battalion	20	" "	5-6-16
To the 50th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	Lieut.	R.S. Cross	7-8-16
To the 50th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	"	W.R. Elliot	7-8-16
To the 87th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	"	G.A. Gerald	7-8-16
To the 87th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	2	I.G. Diver	7-8-16
To the 38th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	"	W.A.R. Mark	7-8-16
To the 38th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	"	R.I. Moore	7-8-16
To the 44th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	30	Other Ranks	8-8-16
To the 20th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	100	" "	5-10-16
To the 21st. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	100	" "	5-10-16
To the 20th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	150	" "	28-11-16
To the 38th. O/S. Battalion, C.E.F.	347	" "	4-12-16

Received

Eight Officers (as below) and 450 Other Ranks from the 126th. Battalion.

Lieutenant B.H. Cronyn  
 " A.V. Masnure  
 " M.D. Drew-Brook  
 " J. Thomson  
 " C.F. J. Duff  
 " R.R. Parker  
 " L.V. Sutton  
 " J.C.A.M. Schiller.

One Officer (as below) and 125 Other Ranks from the 156th. Battalion.

Lieutenant V.H. Mackey

Badges and Devices.

The Cap Badge is of bronze, two inches in diameter. The ground is the Maple Leaf surrounded by a laurel wreath, the whole being surmounted by the Royal Crown. Underneath the Crown is the number "109" and the words Overseas Canada, and across the center of the badge the words "Victoria and Haliburton". Near the bottom of the badge is stamped the Regimental Motto "WHERE DUTY LEADS"

The Collar Badge is the same as above, but only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter

The distinctive Shoulder Badge is of bronze, some two inches long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch high. The number "109" is placed prominently in the center; the words "Victoria and Haliburton" and "Canada" being inscribed thereon.

Regimental Motto

The motto of the Battalion is "WHERE DUTY LEADS".

Killed, Wounded, and Distinguished

Of the six Officers who went to France from the 109th Battalion with the 4th. Canadian Division, only one made the supreme sacrifice. Lieutenant F. G. Diver being killed in action on the Somme on November 21st., 1916. Lieutenants Cross, Mark, Moore, and Gerald were all wounded at different times, and sent back to England, the most serious being Lieutenants Mark and Moore.

Lieutenant W. R. Elliot being the only Officer to remain unwounded. This Officer distinguished himself on the Somme, in that he after all the Officers in his Company had been killed or wounded, successfully rallied the balance of his Company and consolidated his position. For this act which showed exceptional coolness and bravery Lieutenant Elliot received the Military Cross.