

Jackson, Lieut. J. P. Gillies and Lieut. A. L. Price; in Quebec by Major H. J. Lyons, Major A. L. Thompson and Lieut. P. Baribeau, and in New Brunswick by Major C. F. Hannington and Lieut. A. L. Morton. The first recruit was sworn in in Toronto on January 10, 1917, and a month later the strength of the battalion was 960.

The orders to proceed overseas were received by the Battalion on February 10, 1917, and stated that embarkation was to be made on *H.M.T.S. Missanabie*, at St. John, N.B., six days later. One half the battalion was in Ottawa and the other half in Toronto. Each half entrained on February 12th and was aboard the troopship on the prescribed date at St. John, N.B.

The voyage to Liverpool was made in tolerably good weather and without any unusual incident until the night of February 24th, when the news was received that an enemy submarine was in the immediate neighborhood of the *Missanabie*. The danger was evidently imminent, for later the same night it was learned the troopship *Laconia*, a substantial vessel of the Cunard line, had been sunk by a German submarine not far from the *Missanabie*. However, due to the vigilance of the torpedo boats and destroyers of the British Navy, the battalion arrived safely at Liverpool on February 26th.

Immediately on arrival at Liverpool the battalion was ordered to proceed to Purfleet, Essex, which had been selected as the location for the depot of the Canadian Railway Troops. Soon after reaching there the reorganization of the 257th Railway Construction Battalion was undertaken and while the details of this were being arranged, the rank and file were given several days' leave of absence from camp. During the month of March, the organization was completed and the unit was brought up to regulation strength not only in personnel, but in transport and technical equipment. The 257th Canadian Railway Construction Battalion left Purfleet for France on March 27th as the 7th Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops, with a total strength of 35 officers and 1,005 other ranks.

The officers were: Officer Commanding, Lieut.-Colonel L. T. Martin; Second in Command, Major E. Meredith; Chief Engineer, Major A. D. Watts; Adjutant, Capt. J. A. Crowe; Medical Officer, Capt. V. K. O'Gorman; Paymaster, Capt. E. L. Miller; Quarter Master, Hon. Capt. W. Charles; Technical Stores Officer, Lieut. V. G. Davis; Transport Officer, Lieut. R. M. Adams; Asst. Adjutant, Lieut. A. C. Blackmore; "A" Company, Capt. A. M. Jackson, Lieuts. Healy, Pittam, Wilson, Milne and McDougall; "B" Company, Capt. A. L. McAllister, Capt. W. J. Egan, Lieuts. F. C. Jackson, Jewett, Quinlan and Biggar; "C" Company, Lieut. H. Gall and Lieuts. Brennan, Dohenny, Hall, Jones and White; "D" Company, Major C. F. Hannington, Capt. R. J. Shore and Lieuts. Boys, Brown, Gillies, Morton and Palmer. When the battalion left Purfleet the recommendations for promotions to complete the establishment in Majors and Captains had not been gazetted, hence the omissions in the foregoing list. The official notice appeared soon afterwards.