

INFANTRY IN NINE WEEKS.

Once it took at least a year to turn out a soldier fit for the fighting front. Then by forced methods the time of training was brought down to four months, and even less. But the Canadians have cut all records by a course which turns out efficient men in nine weeks.

The new Canadian method—it has only been in force a short time—is of special importance to the Allies just now, particularly for American troops. The Canadians found that there are many drawbacks in having soldiers trained near home. So it was resolved to establish big camps in England and to send the men straight over immediately after calling up.

A camp for ten thousand recruits has been established under Colonel Colquhoun in one of the most beautiful and healthy spots in England. Here, amid pine woods and on sandy soil, the Canadian recruits remain for 28 days. Most of them arrive absolutely green, raw material, barely knowing their right hand from their left.

They are not allowed to leave camp during this first month of training. They are housed in tents in groups of a thousand. They do no ordinary "fatigues". These are done for them by "B 2" men, old soldiers. It is their business to learn, not to clean up. They are worked hard and treated fairly. There is no bullying.

The mainstay of the system is the very careful selection of instructors, N.C.O.s who have seen active service and are skilled in handling men. Each of these is given charge of a platoon. He marches at the head of it on ceremonial parades. He is responsible for its well-being just as a company commander is responsible for the men under him.

The work is hard. The men are at it from 9 in the morning till 5.30 at night, with intervals at mid-day and for rest.

By the end of the first month the young soldier, living in the open, eating well, working hard, knows his drill, understands discipline, and has learned something of bombing and of musketry.

After the first month he moves on and mixes with older troops. Musketry, anti-gas work, open warfare now absorb his time. His work is supervised, inspected, and controlled at every turn. The officers over him are as much controlled as he is. There is a system to follow and they have to follow it. At the end of nine weeks the man is fit to take his place in the fighting line.

FORSAKEN

By Joseph J. Martin

(Note.—The above is a contribution from Mr. Joseph J. Martin, formerly a Sapper in this Depot, and honorably discharged from the C. E. F. early in May. In writing, he expresses his continued interest in this Depot and in our own "Knots and Lashings".)

Do you think of the heart you have broken?

When another came into your life?
How you have deceived and neglected,

A true and loving wife.

How could she look attractive?

When in plain common clothes she is dressed?

But still her heart that lies beneath,—

Is one of the very best.

What grief has been born in silence,

For these unhappy years.

While you gaily laughed with another,—

Her head was bowed in tears!

For one who should be her companion,

At any time or place,

Has only caused her a broken heart,

Misery and disgrace.

Have you forgotten the long, weary nights

As you lay so near death's dark door?

How she faithfully watched by your bedside,

Although she was weary and sore.

She willingly forgave you,—

For all you had caused her to bear.
Her only thought was to plead with God

That He your life might spare.

But with health and strength restored to you,

With another start in life,

How soon you return to another

And forget a devoted wife.

Do you think the one you have chosen,

Will ever be honest or true?

In the hour of sickness and trouble,

Will she remain by you?

While the one you have forsaken,

Goes in prayer to God above,
Asking Him for strength and courage,

To bear the loss of a husband's love.

But in a little while 'twill all be o'er,

And perhaps sometime you may feel sad,

When you have lost forever,

The best friend you ever had.



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