

on leave, in lectures arranged by Headquarters' Staff on Trench Warfare, given to Infantry battalions in training, said:

"I have not yet found anyone in Canada, not a returned soldier, who knows the status of the Engineer in France. It is a mistaken idea that the sapper in France does the actual work involved in construction of trenches, roads, etc. The sapper in France has no time for that. All he can do is to guide and instruct working parties from Infantry and other units. One sapper will have the handling of from fifty to one hundred men nearly every day of his life. A field company may be handling in working parties drawn from other units up to 1500 men in a night at two or three assembly points. The sappers are there as consulting engineers, to lay out the work, to set the task and report on the amount of work done by the working parties under their direction, and to report whether this work is satisfactory. If the sapper's report shows that working parties have not done what they should have done, then Division Headquarters brings pressure to bear so that the unit that supplied that working party will not have such a thing occur again."

Sappers in France supervise and report on work of "working parties" drawn from the Infantry and other units. They do not do actual work, but have the responsibility of seeing that work is done, and done properly. Read this article for details.