

Witley Camp from Thorsley Hill

By Capt. C. W. Simpson, A.R.C.A.

Situated in one of the most charming spots in Surrey, Witley Camp, the largest Canadian training Camp in England, is to be found nestled away in the heart of the County, close to the picturesque village of Godalming.

Witley was first constituted as a separate Canadian Command on December 16th, 1916, under Brigadier-General R. G. E. Leckie, C.M.G., who was followed by Brig-Gen. W. O. H. Dodds, C.M.G., and later by Maj-Gen. G. B. Hughes, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who commanded from February 13th, 1917, until succeeded by Brig-Gen. F. W. Hill, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., July 27th, 1918.

It was at Witley that the 5th Canadian Division was formed, the battalions of which were later broken up to serve as reinforcements of the four Canadian Divisions on the Western Front. Witley has, since December 1916, been a most important Canadian Training Centre, and has at times been the temporary home of as many as 20,000 Canadian troops, and altogether not less than 120,000 have undergone at least some part of their training there.