

in his particular Brigade and in the Corps as a whole. At the same time it should be a matter of deep gratification to all Canadians that, for practical reasons, it was possible to avert what, from a sentimental point of view, would have almost amounted to a national calamity, namely, the breaking up of a Corps, which as such had gained a unique position among the armies of the Western Front."

For six Divisions meant two weak Corps instead of one strong one. It must have meant loss of that corps spirit that made the Canadian Corps a thing apart. More valuable even than its material strength was the fact that it was perhaps the only corps in the British Army to maintain its identity throughout all its units—its Divisions, its Brigades, its Battalions, its leaders, its staff and the whole body of officers and rank and file. Other Corps had little about them permanent but their name and their staff. They became the clearing-house for Divisions brought from all quarters, used for a special purpose, and then removed elsewhere. This resulted inevitably in lack of corps spirit, so conspicuously present throughout the Canadian Corps.

The average Canadian citizen thinks in terms of the "Canadian Forces," or the "Canadian Army"; he does not appreciate just how every Canadian soldier cherishes the idea of the "Canadian Corps." It may serve to make the point clear by quoting from the report of Sir Edward Kemp referred to above. "The word 'Corps' is an abbreviation of the term 'Army Corps,' and at present is a very uncertain and indefinite military term. In the military sense to-day it means a formation consisting of a Headquarters, from two to six Divisions, and a varying number of Corps Troops composed of all arms, and is ordinarily commanded by a Lieutenant-General. Army Corps in the British Army during this war have never been stable units, varying month by month (and often day by day) as to their composition, Division and Corps Troops being very frequently transferred from corps to corps.

"The Units composing the Canadian Corps have, however,