

SHORT HISTORY.

"The Infantry Man remains the backbone of defence, and the spearhead of the attack."—Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch, December 21st, 1918.

WHILE it is not yet possible nor desirable to attempt a complete history of any unit in the Canadian Corps, there are many facts to be recorded which are of immediate personal interest to those who have taken their share in the work. It is in such spirit that this brief outline has been prepared. The 4th Brigade has had a wide experience and an unbroken record of success. It has had the post of honour on many occasions when the 2nd Canadian Division went into action, and it has never failed to live up to the Corps' record of reaching its objective successfully and on time. At the SOMME in 1916 and at VIMY RIDGE, HILL 70 and PASSCHENDAELE in 1917, it did its part in maintaining the reputation which Canadians had won in the Second Battle of YPRES. At AMIENS, ARRAS and CAMBRAI in 1918 the Brigade upheld its unsullied record. The closing days of the war found it again leading the Division, and when the "Cease Fire" bugle sounded, its battalions occupied the ground, and the headquarters which had been held by the heroic "Contemptibles" when they first met the German columns in 1914. The "farthest forward" military cemetery in Belgium, on the Eastern outskirts of MONS, is sacred to the dead of the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

Origin.

After the First Contingent left Canada in October, 1914, and was organised as the 1st Canadian Division, a second Division was decided upon. This was to be raised in Canada by Units, taken as such to England, and there concentrated and trained. It was to consist of the 4th, 5th, and 6th Brigades. Each Unit was to go to England complete with horses, waggons, and other equipment.

The 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade was raised by Units in Ontario and was nominally under the Command there of Colonel Septimus Denison. It was never concentrated as a Brigade in Canada however.