

Hon. Capt. M. J. O'Gorman replaced his brother as Chaplain during November. Capt. R. M. Adams, Lieut. J. A. Brennan and Lieut. H. A. Doheny were granted leave to Canada. Lieut. J. P. Gillies, promoted Captain, replaced Capt. Adams as R.T.O. Capt. J. A. Crowe became Major and O.C. of "D" Company. Capt. G. W. Jewett and Lieut. J. W. Judge for several months were acting Major and Capt. in "B" Company in the absence, due to illness, of Major McAllister. Headquarters remained at Conchil until October 15th. Through the kindness of Baron de Torey, the camp was located in the grove beside his chateau and a memorable acquaintance was formed with him and his charming family.

The river Authie was a few rods away, pouring its waters into the Channel between the two picturesque seaside resorts of Fort Mahon and Berck Plage. The proximity of the splendid bathing beach at Fort Mahon provided a healthful recreation for the troops in the limited leisure time it had. Other forms of amusement were not lacking. A baseball schedule was drawn up among the 4th, 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th and 13th battalions, C.R.T., and games were played when time permitted. The 7th team did well but had to be content with second place. The winners, the 6th, also defeated the other C.R.T. champions.

The absence of enemy activity made this period a decided contrast to the months spent in Belgium. Only a few air raids disturbed the quiet and these did no material damage. On the night of May 19th, an enemy bombing plane was forced to descend, through engine trouble, near "C" company lines. Three officers were captured by a party of "C" Company men, but not before the aviators had succeeded in destroying their machine. A bomb fell in Conchil yard the night of August 10th and broke a stained glass window in the village church. This has been replaced by another, of which St. Lawrence is the central figure, with an inscription recalling the stay of the 7th C.R.T. at Conchil. It thus happily commemorates the dates of the raid and of the discovery of Canada by men from this very district of France, August 10, 1534-1918, as well as the name of the O.C. of the battalion.

The chief work done at Conchil was ballasting. Three steam shovels, a Ruston, a Bucyrus and a Marion were installed. These removed 276,283 cubic yards of ballast and train fill for the line and various other works. By means of the slip and wheeled scrapers 100,000 cubic yards of earth were moved a certain distance. The total yardage moved up to October 15th was 421,117 cubic yards. In the ballasting of the line, 52 miles of track were given a first lift; 37 miles a second lift, and 13 miles a third lift. Culvert pipe to the extent of 1,730 feet was laid in place. Two complete water systems were installed with lifting engines, which involved the laying of several miles of water pipe, the erection of tanks, etc. Incidental work was undertaken in connection with the establishment of No. 2 Aircraft Depot at Vron, where ground had to be levelled, runways excavated and ramps constructed. In the construction of the double track and R.O.D. yard near Villers-sur-