



## CHAPTER V.

Trench Tours on Vimy Ridge—Capture of Vimy Ridge—Road Building After the Victory—Arrival of the 67th Bn.—Two Tours in "The Triangle"—Concerning Moving Pictures.

**F**ROM the beginning of 1917 throughout the series of operations which culminated in the capture of Vimy Ridge on April 9th the history of the 102nd Bn. is a story of preparation, progress and achievement. When the battalion entered the Vimy Sector the latter had a reputation for quietness and peace unequalled in any other sector; casualties were few; the awful slaughters of 1915 when French blood had flowed like water to gain the Ridge were a memory of the past. The later struggle when the British, to whom the Ridge had been handed over, failed through insufficient artillery to hold it against overwhelming odds backed by guns of every calibre, was almost forgotten. The Germans were now firmly and as they believed impregnable established on the crest of Vimy Ridge, whence they had complete observation of all the country lying to the south, whilst the British were entrenched on the southern slope leading down to Zouave Valley, every approach to which was in full view of the Hun. Supply trains had nightly to run the gauntlet of the enemy's fire and the situation had gradually settled down to the trench life of regular monotony which had featured the years of warfare since the Battle of the Aisne.

The operations of the 102nd Bn. which now entered the area are clearly divided into three distinct sections:—the first, a series of five tours in the trenches with six days' interval between each, lasting from Dec. 21st, 1916, to the end of March, 1917; the second, the ten-day tour which included the Battle of Vimy Ridge; the third, a series of three tours in the area lying between the crest of the Ridge and the suburbs of Lens, comprising the actions known in the battalion as the First and Second Triangle operations. When it is realised that the casualties for the first section only totalled 14 Other Ranks killed, and 1 Officer and 24 O. R. wounded, whilst the second was responsible for 6 Officers and 121 O. R. killed, 9 Officers and 185 O. R. wounded and 27 O. R. then reported missing, and the third for 5