

FOREWORD



As a venture entirely new for the Fifth Canadians this little book requires some explanation. It is not intended as a record or review of the doings of the year, but is rather an effort to answer a demand for something distinctive of the Battalion which at this particular season of the year would be suitable for all ranks to send from the trenches to friends and relatives in the British Isles and Canada. The "Fifth" is a most representative Western Canadian Battalion. It is known as "Western Cavalry" because it was made up originally from Cavalry Units of the West. The 12th Manitoba Dragoons, 16th, 27th and 29th Light Horse—Saskatchewan Mounted Rifles; 30th and 31st British Columbia Horse; 35 Central Alberta Horse and a round dozen of civil engineers from the Corps of Guides. Prior to leaving England for the front a draft from the 11th Canadian Battalion, all Regina and Moose Jaw men were sent to the "Fifth" and though these were "gravel crushers," they were gladly welcomed by their old friends from the home towns. The first reinforcements in the field were from the 32nd Battalion, which unit was made up entirely of Saskatchewan men and since then from time to time drafts have been sent forward, the 32nd with Headquarters in England, having been made Reserve Battalion for the Fifth. Saskatchewan boys are the preponderant element, but many Manitobans and a remnant of Albertans and British Columbians go to make up the present day strength.

The Battalion to date has won a fair percentage of Honors and Distinctions: ~~Three~~ ⁴ D.S.O.'s; ~~One~~ ² Military Cross; ~~Seven~~ ¹⁰ D.C.M.'s, and Two Russian Decorations have been awarded to Officers and other Ranks for deeds of valour. The coveted V.C. has not yet been awarded, but it is still a long way to Tipperary, and the Fifth is bound to get there.

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*J.B. Bayshaw Lt. + Paymaster.
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