

seriously wounded at Ypres on April 24th, 1915. He was invalided to England and on his discharge from hospital, during convalescence, came back to Canada on furlough. It was whilst he was in Canada on this furlough that he was granted the commission of Lieutenant-Colonel and given the authority to raise the new battalion.

Having due regard to the type of men from amongst whom the new recruits were to be sought, no better choice of a Commanding Officer could have been made. There was plenty of material available, but it lay underneath the hard exterior of the average British Columbia fisherman, miner and logger. A polished officer of the old school would have made no headway in his recruiting campaigns, but "Honest John" Warden appealed immensely to these men; he had done plenty of "roughing it" himself in his life; he had served as a private; he had been to the front and been wounded, and, above all, there was absolutely no "swank" about him. To the very end of his career with the 102nd Battalion the original members of the battalion always referred to him in terms of genuine affection.

Immediately on receipt of his commission Colonel Warden set out on the first of many recruiting journeys throughout the length and breadth of the Province and opened up recruiting stations at central points. The most important of these was in Vancouver where Lieut. R. G. H. Brydon was placed in charge; Lieut. J. F. Brandt undertook similar duties at Prince Rupert, Lieut. J. C. Halsey at Prince George, Lieut. F. Lister at Cranbrook, Lieut. J. H. Grant at Nelson, and Sergt. A. A. F. Calland at Vernon.

As soon as this preliminary work had been accomplished whereby recruiting could be commenced without loss of time, it became necessary to decide on a suitable location for Battalion Headquarters and for a mobilization camp. In view of the fact that the Battalion to be raised was to be known as the Comox-Atlin Battalion it was felt that mobilization and training should be carried out within the precincts of that constituency, and after much deliberation it was decided to form the camp on Goose Spit, Comox. As this was the first home of the 102nd it is but fitting here to give a somewhat detailed description of this camp.

Comox is a small sea-port lying some 150 miles North from Victoria on the East coast of Vancouver Island. It is a port of considerable importance, lying as it does close to the coal fields of Cumberland and possessing an excellent harbour. It is a regular port of call for steamers plying from Vancouver and Nanaimo; moreover, it is but three miles distant from Courtenay, the northern railhead of the E. & N. Railway. On the east the harbour is protected by a mushroom-shaped tongue of land connected with the coast by a narrow neck of sand; this is Goose Spit. In the days when the Imperial Navy used Esquimalt as a