

Volunteers for active service from the Queen's Own, numbering about 1,000, were formed into a service battalion and paraded daily in Toronto. Representation was again made to the Government to allow this service battalion of the Regiment, already formed and up to war strength, to continue under its own name, but this was refused, and it was only after a hard struggle that permission was granted to the Regiment to exceed its authorized quota of 500 all ranks.

On August 22nd, 1914, the service battalion consisting of 33 officers and 768 other ranks under the command of Colonel Mercer, left for Valcartier, P.Q., to be joined one week later by 3 officers and 252 other ranks, bringing the strength of the service battalion at Valcartier to 36 officers and 1020 other ranks. To this service battalion were added the contingents from the Governor General's Body Guard and the Royal Grenadiers and together they became the 3rd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Colonel Mercer was promoted to command the 1st Infantry Brigade, C.E.F., and Lt.-Col. Robt. Rennie\* of the Queen's Own Rifles, became the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, C.E.F. During the War this battalion was always commanded by an officer of the Queen's Own Rifles and 63 officers and 1708 other ranks of the Queen's Own served with it in the Field, of these 23 officers and 309 other ranks paid the supreme sacrifice.

As other battalions and units were raised for the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the Queen's Own Rifles continued to supply officers and men until the Military Service Act came into force, by which time the Queen's Own had sent overseas a total of 210 regimental officers and 7352 other ranks. Among the units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force to which the Queen's Own contributed largely were the 19th, 35th, 58th, 74th, 81st, 83rd Q.O.R., 95th, 123rd, 166th Q.O.R., 198th Canadian Buffs, and the 255th Q.O.R.

The Casualty List of the Regiment was heavy, there being 47 regimental officers and 1207 other ranks killed in action, died of wounds, or died from other causes.

Commissions were granted overseas to 276 non-commissioned officers and riflemen of the Queen's Own Rifles, 81 being in the Imperial Army and 195 in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

For some time after the War very little interest was manifest in the Militia. No authority having been issued for training, no pay nor allowances were available. No definite instructions having been received from the Department of National Defence regarding the reorganization of the Militia, the officers of the Regiment held a meeting in September, 1919, and decided to commence quietly to reorganize.

At this time the available strength was practically nil because of the thousands who had been seconded from the Regiment for service in units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and the period of service of the majority of those still on the strength at the end of the War having expired, it was necessary to build up practically a new organization. Officers and non-commissioned officers were posted, company armouries and the orderly room were open two nights a week for the purpose of taking on the strength and issuing uniforms to those who wished to re-engage or join the regiment. About two hundred all ranks were taken on the strength up to the beginning of November, 1919.

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\*Afterwards Major-General R. Rennie, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.V.O.