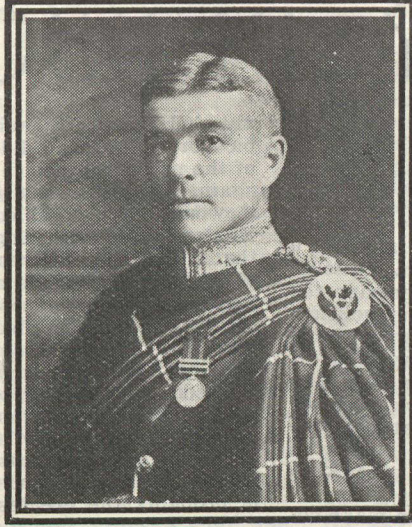




Major G. Godson-Godson, of the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders, of Vancouver, was wounded in the heavy fighting near Ypres, while serving with the 16th Highland battalion.



Major J. E. Leckie, a brother of Lieut.-Col. Leckie, serving with the 16th Battalion, Highland brigade, 1st C. E. F. Was with the 72nd Seaforths of Vancouver.



Lieut.-Col. R. G. Edwards Leckie, of Vancouver, B.C. Commander of the 16th Highland Battalion, 1st Canadian Expeditionary Force. Was officer commanding 72nd Seaforths.



Major M. Moore, officer commanding the first contingent of the Army Service Corps sent from Vancouver, B.C. Formerly in command of No. 19 Company A. M. C.

Vancouver's Part in the Great War

Showing the Magnificent Response of Western Canada

By WALTER A. HILLAM

NO part of Canada, or of the British Empire, has responded to the call to arms more spontaneously and loyally, than Vancouver. When one speaks of Vancouver in this connection the districts around the Terminal City, New Westminster and the territory generally known as the "lower mainland" are also included. Vancouver as befitting its geographical and strategical importance, covers a great deal larger field than the area merely embraced in its civic boundaries.

The claim has been made, and furthermore has never been disputed, that Vancouver, or Greater Vancouver, to use the wider term, has furnished a larger proportion of men to the number of total inhabitants than any other part of the Dominion. This, however, is not the time to make comparisons. Moderate estimates, supplementing the figures shown on the official records, place the total number of men already furnished, or in course of training for active service, at close on 6,000. This estimate includes soldiers in the Canadian overseas contingents, British Army reservists recalled to the colours, sailors who rejoined the Royal Navy, and Vancouverites who went to England and enlisted in their old Territorial or Volunteer regiments or had their first experience with the new armies that were formed after the war commenced.

On the basis of a population of 250,000 for the Lower Mainland, the ratio of men now fighting for King and Country or preparing to do so is slightly over one in forty of the total number of residents. When one takes into consideration the fact that only a comparatively small proportion of the total population is available for military duty, and that a large number of women and children and old men are included in the general total of population, the significance of the percentage can be better appreciated. Orientals, of whom there are about 10,000 in Greater Vancouver, are not, of course, eligible for service, and consequently the ratio is made even higher than the computation indicates.

Nearly 2,000 men left with the First Contingent. Quotas were provided by all the Greater Vancouver regiments and branches of the Canadian military services. The 72nd Seaforth Highlanders furnished



Major V. W. Odium, of the 11th Irish Fusiliers, Vancouver, B.C. He succeeded to the command of the 7th Battalion after Lieut.-Col. W. Hart McHarg was killed in the fierce fighting during the latter part of April.

541 men, 41 in excess of the total peace establishment of the regiment. The 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Regiment contributed 346; the 11th Irish Fusiliers, 364; "B" Squadron of the 31st Regiment B. C. Horse, 170 men; the 104th New Westminster Fusiliers, 166 men; the 19th Field Co. of the Army Service Corps, 104 men; the 6th Field Engineers of North Vancouver, 121 men; the 18th Field Co. of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, 51 men; and the Corps of Guides, seven men.

Since the first drafts were despatched a steady

stream of reinforcements have been going forward for all the branches represented. Each of the units has been furnishing detachments as requisitioned. There has never been any difficulty experienced in filling out the quotas called for; there have invariably been more men offering themselves for service than there were places available.

This condition applied also to the regular battalions and special sections that were formed and sent on after the First Contingent left. There has never been any occasion to drum up recruits. No patriotic meetings have ever been held in Vancouver to stimulate enlistment.

WHEN the orders came to organize more forces for a second contingent there were already hundreds of names inscribed on waiting lists. Men besieged the recruiting depots weeks before enlistment was started again. Many of them came from remote parts of the province, from the north, from the far hinterland, where the news of the outbreak of war did not reach them for weeks after the titanic struggle had started. One man, to mention one of the numerous instances recorded from time to time by the writer, tramped for nearly 400 miles on the grade of the new Pacific Great Eastern Railway. Another man "beat his way" from San Francisco and walked in the last fifteen miles.

Vancouver has a regiment distinctively its own, the 29th Battalion, which left the Coast on foreign service on May 14th. It is a composite corps, comprising units of the 72nd Seaforths, 6th D. C. O. R., 11th Irish Fusiliers, and 104th New Westminster Fusiliers. The soldiers of this force wear the badge "29th (Vancouver) Battalion" on their shoulder straps, and thus carry directly on their uniforms their association with the Terminal City.

The forces from the Coast were embodied in the 16th Highland Battalion, 7th and 5th Battalions. Lieut.-Col. R. G. Edwards Leckie, commander of the 72nd Seaforths, of Vancouver, leads the 16th. The late Lieut.-Col. W. H. Hart McHarg, of Vancouver, commanded the 7th. He was killed in the heavy fighting near Ypres in which the Canadian troops

(Concluded on page 19.)



Major J. S. Tait, of the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion, 2nd C. E. F.



Lieut.-Col. H. S. Tobin, officer commanding the 29th, "Tobin's Tigers."



Major J. M. Ross, of the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion, 2nd C. E. F.



Major J. Sclater, of the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion, 2nd C. E. F.