

### THE STORY OF THE UNIT.

WHEN the German invasion of Belgium loosed upon the world the full flood of war there were no divided counsels in Canada on the imperative duty of the Dominion to stand beside the Motherland in the attempt to hurl back the invaders. While Canada's citizen soldiers and small permanent force were assembling at Valcartier, offers from every province and university to raise units poured in to Ottawa. Among these offers was one from the University of Manitoba, at Winnipeg, to raise and equip a general hospital unit. Owing to there being no need at the time, this offer was not accepted. In the autumn of 1915, however, the Faculty of Manitoba Medical College, which is the Medical School of the University of Manitoba, offered to raise and equip a medical unit of whatever kind deemed necessary by the Military Authorities. The proposal laid dormant throughout the winter, but in the early spring of 1916 the Militia Department at Ottawa accepted the offer of a casualty clearing station, and requested that the name of the proposed officers be sent in. The Faculty proposed as Officer Commanding the Professor of Laryngology and Otology (who was also Treasurer of the Faculty), while the medical officers selected by him were either members of the Faculty or graduates of the University. On May 20th, 1916, came the telegram authorising the mobilisation of No. 4 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. Thereafter events moved quickly.

The task was no light one. A score at least of other units were appealing for recruits, which were becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. Winnipeg had already sent overseas in medical units alone four field ambulances and one casualty clearing station, and a fifth field ambulance was being raised at the same time. Yet the task was accomplished and speedily. On May 24th the Assistant Director of Medical Services of Military District No. 10 asked how soon the unit could be ready. Ottawa had wired that it was urgently required. The reply was: "Fourteen days." Within that time the ranks were filled, though a careful selection of recruits was made, and each applicant had to pass a rigid medical examination.

During these days the Medical College hummed with activity. There was a good sprinkling of men who had seen active service, and under their tuition the awkward squads on the campus learned to step off on the left foot; to form fours; and to perform such fearsome evolutions as "At the halt—on the left—form squad," without tying themselves into collective knots. Within the building an Orderly Room was established, lectures given, khaki clothing and equipment issued, first inoculations administered, and, in a word, the thousand and one details observed which go to transform the erstwhile student, carpenter, or farmer into "every inch a soldier and a man."

At last, for those whose eyes were turned to the far-off fields of Flanders where brothers and friends were fighting (all too soon for many who were leaving behind their dear ones), came the order to leave Winnipeg, and in the early morning of June 15th the unit, headed by the band of the 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers, marched through the city to the C.P.R. Station. Then, amidst a chorus of good-byes, tender farewells and last messages, the train pulled out, and the unit started on "The Great Adventure."

The trip to the Atlantic was rapid. The distance from Winnipeg to Montreal was covered on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and from Montreal to the seaboard on the Inter-Colonial, a Canadian Government Railway. Within three-days-and-a-half the unit completed the land journey, and the following day embarked on the transport. The next morning we were moving Eastward ho! through a fog to meet the sweep of the Atlantic surge.

On shipboard the days passed quickly. All parts of the Dominion were represented by units of various branches of military service. The largest units were a battalion from Ottawa and a stationary hospital from Nova Scotia. Drills, sports, strolls about the decks, the writing of letters, and a concert helped to make time melt away until the green hills of Ireland rose before us. A few more hours brought our ship to port in old England. Then came the entraining, and a trip through England, looking at its best on a bright June day, to Bramshott Camp.

The camp being occupied almost wholly by Canadians, July 1st, Dominion Day, 1916, was worthily observed. The — Canadian Division, soon to go overseas, was reviewed by His Majesty the King. In the afternoon representatives of the Canadian Government, Sir George E. Foster, Sir George Perley, and the late Earl Grey, the former Governor-General, and others inspected the camp and made brief addresses to the assembled troops. On the following day a long and interesting programme of sports was carried out in the natural amphitheatre formed by a valley in the camp.

On July 7th orders were received for No. 4 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station to proceed to Shorncliffe. The change was fated to mean much to the unit. From this date until the end of the following January it was never wholly together. Arriving at Shorncliffe Station we marched to the camp of the C.A.M.C. Depôt in Peraker Wood, near Upper Dibgate. Next day many of the staff were given six days' leave. On July 12th thirty-one of our men were sent to Ontario Military Hospital at Orpington, Kent, and on the 17th the greater number of the Officers were detailed for duty in hospitals or on Medical Boards in the Shorncliffe Area. On the 19th the C.A.M.C. Depôt moved to a camp at Cheriton, and with it