

The new 58th Battery.

When the old 58th Battery was recruited at Fredericton, N.B., and the 62nd Battery at Victoria, B.C., there were none who realised that these two units, organized as four gun batteries, one on the Atlantic coast and the other on the Pacific, would be joined together to form a six gun battery before either had celebrated its first anniversary. There were few also, who realized that this union would take place so smoothly and the new organization adjust itself so quickly.

In the military reorganization which took place early in the year the establishment of a field artillery battery was increased and the 62nd Battery was divided, one half transferring to the new 58th Battery. The Officer commanding the 58th Battery was given a new command which he has since taken to France and Major W.M. J. Martin, O.C., of the 62nd Battery took command of the new 58th Battery.

At first, there was a general feeling of disappointment, as the 58th had lost their commander whose ability and personality had created universal respect, and the 62nd had been divided. This feeling however did not keep any of the new battery from realizing that aside from sentiment, there was no reason for any regrets and everyone settled down conscientiously to work with a view to making the new battery efficient. The result of this policy has been highly pleasing, not only because of the efficiency thus obtained but on account of the congenial feeling and co-operation which exists between all ranks.

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The old 58th Howitzer Battery was authorized on March 20th 1916, with headquarters at Fredericton. Recruiting was commenced on March 31st and by the end of May the battery was practically up to strength. On June 1st the battery left for Petawawa where it arrived on June 3rd. During the summer the training was carried out on the old 12 pounders. On September 8th the battery left Petawawa en route to England, embarking at Halifax on the S.S. Metagama. Liverpool was reached on September 22nd, and the next day the unit arrived at Witley Camp, Surrey.

On April 8th, 1915, authority was received in Victoria to recruit the 62nd Battery. Recruiting was commenced immediately and until leaving for Petawawa on May 28th the battery was under canvas on Macaulay Plains. After a long tedious journey the battery reached the artillery training camp on June 2nd and commenced training on the 12 pounders. On September 8th the battery left for England via Halifax, where the "good" ship "Cameronia" was awaiting it. In the wee hours of the morning of September 23rd the leg-weary battery reached its new training ground. On October 15th the 62nd battery was made the howitzer battery of the 15th Brigade. Orders were received on January 21st of this year for the breaking up of the battery the right section transferring to the 58th Battery and the left section to the 51st Battery.