

Foreword.

As I explained in my various talks to units, I am anxious that the man in the ranks shall not feel that our fighting is a "blur" to him. As a great tapestry is woven of many threads, so a great battle is built up by the fight of the individual—by his section or his platoon. In the desire that each might trace his own work through the larger pattern designed by brigade or division or corps, arose the idea of publishing the following sketchy account of the work of the 1st Canadian Division, which aims at merely giving, in most general terms, descriptions of the recent battles.

To condense three great battles within the small compass of a volume such as this, means that only the barest narrative of the actual fighting can be given. As an inevitable result, no mention whatever has been made of the gigantic efforts of the administrative services—no credit given to the vital work of the supply trains, of the medical services, of the railway and labour troops, of the Chaplain Services, of the Y.M.C.A.—of all those many branches of the service "behind the line" whose harmonious and efficient work is necessary to ensure the success of the man with the rifle. Nor has any attempt been made to detail the many instances of individual and collective gallantry on the part of the fighting troops—artillery, engineers, infantry, machine gunners and tanks—nor of those whose aid was so powerfully felt, but whose work was controlled by others than the division—such as the airmen and cavalry.

While emphasis is laid on the great battles, the hard work broken by dashing raids during the winter months of 1917 to 1918