

# The Western Scot

Vol. I.

BRAMSHOTT, HANTS, JULY 5, 1916.

No. 38.

## ROYAL REVIEW OF FOURTH DIVISION.

### His Majesty Inspects Canada's Newest Division Before Big Crowd at Hankley—Western Scots on Right of Line.

In ideal weather and in the presence of many distinguished spectators, His Majesty the King reviewed the troops comprising the Fourth Canadian Division, Major-General Watson, C.B., commanding, at Hankley Common on Dominion Day, July 1.

\* \* \* \*

To the thousands of Canadians in khaki who made up the wide-flung ranks it was a Dominion Day that will live in memory, one that to many of them never has been and never will be equalled. And to all who considered the matter it was a Dominion Day full of Imperial significance.

\* \* \* \*

The many spectators, mostly ladies, who formed a long, deep line behind the rope and lent a pleasing dash of colour to the monotonous buff of troops and common, were well repaid for their presence. Such a spectacle in Canada would have attracted unusual attention. On the hills surrounding the tremendous plain mounted sentries were posted, standing out against the skyline like ebony statues; drawn up in close column of half-companies along a line that intersected the common were battalion after battalion of Canadian infantry, a seemingly endless array stretching into distance beyond eye-range. On the right of the infantry line, the position of honour, were the Western Scots Pioneers, and to the right of them the divisional artillery extended, battery on battery, out of sight beyond the farther range of hills.

\* \* \* \*

On the Western Scots' left was a smart prairie battalion; beyond them again, another British Columbia unit, and so on to the end—lads from the Maritimes, from Quebec, from old Ontario, from the vast Canadian West, the Pacific Slope, and the far-away Yukon.

\* \* \* \*

His Majesty, as usual, was very punctual, and at the hour announced came the command for officers to take post in review order. Along the infantry front, then, there was formed a single rank of officers of all ranks, those of the 67th in kilts or tartan breeches. In the distance a group of mounted figures moved out into the open space opposite the reviewing stand, and a bugle sounded one clear note. The long ranks of khaki were rigid. Then the Royal Standard was broken out from the mast-head; sharp commands snapped all along the line, followed by the rattle and slap of rifles, and the sun glinted and flashed from a forest of bare steel. Again silence, and then, with every man and N.C.O. at the "present" and every officer at the "salute," the Fourth Division Canadians stood steady before their King while the strains of the National Anthem rang out over Hankley Common. As the last bar died away the rifles flashed up, caps on bayonets, and three wonderful, full-throated cheers broke the tension.

\* \* \* \*

The Royal inspection followed. Led by the King, attended by Major-General Watson, the cavalcade of Staff and Bodyguards moved up towards the head of the artillery column. His Majesty evinced a deep interest in every unit of the division. Field-Marshal Lord French also displayed a lively regard for the newly-trained

Canadians, keeping up a rapid fire of questions directed to Colonel Ironsides, D.S.O., G.S.O.I., who rode with him. As the King approached the head of the artillery, the 67th Battn. 4th Divisional Band, under Bandmaster Louis Turner, began a charming selection, and rendered it in superb style. Passing the artillery, His Majesty rode along the front of the Western Scots, his keen glance apparently taking in every detail and feature, from Lieut.-Colonel Ross, O.C., to the men in the rearmost rank. Lord French, too, showed a very evident interest in the battalion.

\* \* \* \*

The inspection completed, the King moved over to the reviewing stand, and the artillery began the "March Past." The military band of the 67th Battn. as divisional band moved up to the saluting point, and played the artillery and details past. Despite the fact that the artillery took over half an hour to pass, the band played continuously and well. The Western Scots followed and marched past in column of half-companies. As they came up the battalion pipers, under Pipe-Major W. J. Wishart, picked up the step from the brass band without a hitch or break. The Scots as they approached the saluting base received a great ovation from the spectators, and went past in magnificent style, their lines being straight and true and the step excellent.

\* \* \* \*

After passing the saluting base the 67th formed close column at the double, moved to the left in fours, turned into line and retired to the original ground, where they formed up again.

\* \* \* \*

When the other troops had marched past, Colonel Ross had the honour of being presented to His Majesty, who was graciously pleased to converse for some time about the battalion. His Majesty informed Colonel Ross that he considered the Western Scots a magnificent body of men, and asked him to convey to the men of the battalion His Majesty's deep appreciation of their loyalty in having travelled over 7,000 miles to fight for the Empire, and to assure them that their King would watch their future progress with great interest and the utmost confidence.

\* \* \* \*

There was no tedious wait after the review. The 67th, having left camp early in the morning, were marched back along the seven-mile route at once. Before dismissing the battalion Colonel Ross informed the men of the King's message to them, and pointed out the ideals the battalion had to live up to. On being dismissed, the men, usually an undemonstrative lot, cheered the Colonel loudly.

## SWAGGER STICKS.

One company commander in an address to his men brought up the matter of walking-out dress recently, and while deploring the fact that the delay in the re-issue of clothing had left our boys in poor case, he laid emphasis on the importance of smartness during off-hours as well as on parade. The casual observer forms an opinion of a battalion by the appearance of its individuals and he judges them when off duty even more carefully than when on duty. A swagger stick adds immensely to the smart appearance of a soldier when walking out. It is traditional and customary, and it keeps a man's hands employed otherwise than in wearing out his pockets. Swagger sticks do not cost much either!