

and outposts around Halifax. He was nineteen years old, and he volunteered for overseas service in the first week of the war—one of the first in Canada to do this. The military authorities, however, directed him to remain with the 63rd regiment, but his insistent requests to be allowed to go on overseas service were at last rewarded by an appointment to the second of the battalions, (the 40th), recruited in Nova Scotia, and he went into training at Aldershot and later at the great Valcartier camp. He was promoted captain before going overseas in the autumn of 1915. The winter was spent in training at Bramshott and during part of the time at that camp he was adjutant of the 40th Nova Scotia battalion.

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It was his desire, of course, to get across the channel and into France, but this was a matter of great difficulty. During that winter Captain Dennis made several applications for orders to go to France, but was met with the reply that the army had an oversupply of officers ranking above lieutenant. To overcome this he, with a Halifax friend, also in England, Captain William E. Doane, offered to resign his commission and both expressed their anxiety to be allowed to go in any capacity. Eventually Captain Dennis received orders to join a battalion on the firing line as lieutenant, and he and Doane, who also went as a lieutenant, were the first two Canadian officers to thus obtain a chance for service in France.