

24th BATTALION (VICTORIA RIFLES) C.E.F.



Captain R. O. ALEXANDER, seconded from the Royal Canadian Regiment serving in Bermuda, and appointed Adjutant.

The Assistant Adjutant is Lieut. C. F. RITCHIE, from the 1st V.R.C.

The Sergeant-Major is Sergeant-Major E. G. LIDSTONE, also from the 1st V.R.C.

The Rev. A. P. SHATFORD, Rector of St. James the Apostolic Church, Montreal, is Chaplain, with rank of Captain.

Eight other Officers are Graduates of the Royal Military College, Kingston, an institution which has done excellent work for Canada, but in the past, for lack of opportunity to follow a military career, many of its Graduates have been allowed to drift into civil occupations. The value of the Course is now manifested as never before, by the fact that as each Contingent is raised these men are being sought after and offered Senior positions.

Non-Commissioned Officers

The Non-Commissioned Officers are all Ex-Non-Commissioned Officers of the British Army or the Canadian Militia. They are duly qualified for their positions, and the majority are men of very high standing.

Organisation of the Battalion

The Victoria Rifles, with all the necessary component parts of a Battalion, according to the British War Establishment for the Expeditionary Force in 1914, is one of the first to be organized on the four company basis—each company being composed of four platoons and each platoon containing 60 Officers, N.C.O.'s and men.

Composition of the Battalion

The men are recruited from almost every walk of life. Amongst them are Veterans of previous Campaigns in many parts of the world—South Africa, Chitral and the North-West Frontier of India. Some of these old soldiers carry both the Queen's and King's Medals, of the Anglo-Boer war, with from 3 to 7 Bars—each Bar denoting an engagement of importance—

and such men are verily the Backbone of the new Battalion and help to mould it into a state of efficiency for active service conditions. There are also to be found professional, financial and business men, bankers, stock brokers, accountants, business managers, engineers, musicians, &c. interested with artisans from every trade and every branch of manufacturing.

Nationalities

Besides native-born Canadians, British subjects from the Motherland and all the Colonies, naturalized subjects of many countries are to be found in the ranks of the Battalion. The countries from which the men of the Battalion are drawn are shown in the following list, in order of number:—

England	Trinidad	Bulgaria
Canada	Jamaica	New Zealand
Scotland	India	Australia
Ireland	Egypt	Bahamas
Wales	British Guiana	Grenada
Newfoundland	S. Africa	

Physique

From their manly erect, sturdily bearing one can see that almost perfect physical condition which will stand them in good stead in the trying times that lie ahead of them. The average height too, is very satisfactory. Being 5 feet 7½ inches, while the average chest measurement indicates a husky type, being 37 inches, as compared with the regulation 5 feet 11½ inches and 34 inches.

The Battalion boasts of three men 6 feet 4 inches and over.

Athletics

The foregoing interesting facts are more readily understood when among these fine men are to be found Members of leading Athletic Clubs and holders of Championships for Boxing, Swimming, Cricket, Baseball, Lacrosse, Wrestling, &c., while many are "Crack Shot" representatives of the Victoria Rifles at Bisley.

Shortly after the formation of the Battalion, a Boxing Club was organized, and ten Members of the Club entered a Garrison Tournament kindly arranged by the President and Directors of

