

Military

Few of you have the blood of kings,
And few are of courtly birth;
But none are vagabonds or rogues
Of doubtful name and worth;
And each has one credential
Which entitles him to brag:
You fought for Right, and Canada,
And upheld the British Flag.

—E. Pauline Johnson

Brantford's greatest source of pride is her gallant soldiers overseas fighting for the liberty and freedom of the Empire. Since August 24, 1914, when Col. F. A. Howard led forth the first intrepid band of 176 gallant men, to Valcartier Camp, who endured the mud of Salisbury Plains and played their glorious part against the flower of the German Army, well over 4,000 men have voluntarily marched out to their country's call.

The 125th (Brant Battalion) was recruited largely from Brant County. The battalion colors safe in the keeping of the Motherland, are being glorified by deeds of sacrifice and devotion.

The 38th Dufferin Rifles of Canada, the 25th Brant Dragoons and 32nd Battery have each sent their splendid quota of men. In every part of the Empire's service you will find them—military, aerial and naval. The names of those decorated with military honors and distinguished for conspicuous bravery are legion. Not only have Brantford's soldiers won commendation from the Motherland, but commanded the admiration and decorations of the countries of our Allies.

Brantford's Mother Battalion, the Dufferin Rifles which maintained high standards in the time of peace, proved its efficiency by valorous deeds on the distant battlefields of France and has established a glorious record for all time. Not only have her men been promoted high in the Service, but their innate capacity for leadership is eloquently testified to in the following list of which all but two officers belong to the Dufferin Rifles:—Major Gen. E. C. Ashton; Lt.-Col. C. M. Nelles, Royal Canadian Dragoons; Lt.-Col. F. A. Howard, late O. C. 3rd Infantry Brigade; Lt.-Col. H. A. Genet, D.S.O., A. A. G. Kingston; Lt.-Col. M. A. Colquhoun, D.S.O., O. C. Can. Reserve Battalion; Lt.-Col. M. E. B. Cutcliffe, O. C. 125th Battalion; Lt.-Col. W. G. Brooks, late O. C. Depot Battalion C. M. R.; Lt.-Col. F. W. Miller, M. C., D. A. A. and Q. M. G. 5th Canadian Division; Lt.-Col. W. Towers, O. C. 8th Reserve Battalion; Lt.-Col. Ashton Cutcliffe, D. S. O., (veterinary services.)

The shining armour of Faith has been donned by the women at home, to do their bit through the channels of the Red Cross and C. W. C. A., thereby reaching wounded men and those in the trenches. Their gratitude to their men, who have returned is evidenced by a well and comfortably equipped head quarters for the Great War Veterans, which was officially opened by His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, October 24th, 1917.

Courageous hearts beat not only beneath the blue and khaki of a uniform, but within the gentle breasts of our noble army of women who have lighted their service tapers at the immortal lamp of Florence Nightingale. The devotion to duty, of Brantford's fair nurses has rivalled the bravery of her sons, and of the many, who like them, might be named, (space permits but two) Matron Annie Hartley and Miss Helen Sheppard who, in recognition of services faithfully rendered, have been decorated with the coveted Royal Red Cross.

Many of our gallant men whose names are written in imperishable glory have discarded Life's armour on the battle ground of France and sleep beneath the poppy strewn fields of Flanders.

"These are the patriotic brave, who side by side,
Stood to their arms and dashed the foe's pride,
Firm in their Valor, prodigal of life."