

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1915

BEFORE AND AFTER



Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to the United States, has evidently had some worries. On the left is his photo taken over a year ago. On the right is his picture today.

Royal Canadians Safe In England; Sailed From Halifax

(Halifax Chronicle, Tuesday)

The Royal Canadian Regiment, 1100 strong, aboard the troopship Caledonia, which sailed from Halifax at ten minutes to eight o'clock, Thursday evening August 28, arrived at Plymouth, England, at ten o'clock yesterday morning, according to private advice given to the Morning Chronicle last evening. The regiment was immediately sent forward to Shoreham where it will go into training with the other Canadian forces now there. The regiment embarked at the terminals, Halifax, on the morning of August 24th and the ship drew out to the stream remaining there until she sailed on the following Thursday evening.

The Caledonia was thus approximately nine days on her trip over, which suggests that she made a good passage as the time is short considering the Caledonia was not a fast ship.

First Permanent Corps

The going forth to war of the Royal Canadian Regiment meant something new in Canada's military history—it was the first permanent regular troops to leave Canada for the active service abroad. The regiment, as its name conveys is thoroughly Canadian. Other battalions to go overseas have been provincial, with the exception perhaps of the Princess Pals, going as units representing their provinces, but in the case of the Royal Canadians it stands for just what its name conveys, Canada, royal in its greatest of domains and people. To Halifax, however, it means more perhaps than to any other city of Canada, for since 1909 it constituted the only infantry regiment garrisoning the seaboard capital, the "Warrior of the North."

Organization of Regiment

The Royal Canadian Regiment had its inception several years before the dominion government took over the garrisoning of Canada from the Imperial authorities. It was organized for the special purpose of training militia officers and men. There were five companies in the original regiment, each company stationed at different parts of Canada. Fredericton, Quebec, Toronto, London and Vancouver were the various points at which these companies were stationed as training depots. In 1908 the year the Imperial government withdrew their forces and the protection of the dominion was put into Canadian hands for keeping these various depots were brought together, welded into one regiment and stationed at Halifax for garrison of the eastern capital.

Many Changes in Corps

From that date to the outbreak of the war they were the only infantry battalion in the Halifax garrison. Nine years saw many changes. The original companies contained mostly Canadians, but the re-formation of the battalion brought in a number of ex-Imperial men and several ex-Imperial officers. Nine years were also long enough to weld together the people of Halifax with kindest associations with the Royal Canadians. Not a few of the officers and a number of the men married in the Nova Scotian capital. Not a few of both had their homes in this city and were living here as permanent residents.

During this time through the wonderful ability for musical leadership displayed by Bandmaster Ryan (afterwards

raised to the rank of lieutenant as a reward for his marked talent and his loyal efforts) the regiment became famous for its band. The arts of peace, instead of those of war, had made the Royal Canadian Regiment one of the best known military aggregations not alone in Canada, but in America. Canadian cities bid for an opportunity to entertain it, the one or two American cities which had the distinction of having the band as its guests, remember the event as an epoch in their musical history.

Best in Canada

Then came the war. Canada took stock of her military resources, and the Royal Canadian Regiment stood first. It was probably the best regular permanent body of troops in the dominion—but more, it garrisoned the most strategic place in all the empire outside of the British Isles. After the first weeks of the war had passed, confidence in the situation in Canada became stronger, and the need of relieving imperial troops for service at the front, the dominion government offered to the Imperial government the use of the Royal Canadian Garrison Regiment for garrisoning Bermuda, one of the important outposts of the empire. Accordingly to Bermuda they went, relieving active service, the Lincolns, who passed through Halifax en route to the front. This was in September of 1914, the second month of the war.

The Commanding Officers

The first commanding officer of the Royal Canadian Regiment was Colonel Otter, now Major-General Sir W. D. Otter, directing the internment work throughout Canada. The next in command was Colonel Septimus Denison, now Quarter-Master-General. Succeeding him was Colonel Fagan, who is now on the 8th Divisional Staff, as A. A. G. at Quebec. The fourth, and present com-

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