

AUTHOR'S PREFACE



IN THE following pages no attempt has been made to deal with the strategy or tactics involved in the many actions in which the 102nd Battalion took part. I have endeavoured throughout to keep within the limits of my title and to write a Narrative History only, tracing the course of the Battalion from its earliest stages in British Columbia to its last action at Baisieux, and affording, as it were, sign-posts on the route, marking by-paths of reminiscence down which each man, according to his length of service, can wander at his will.

I have written this book from the point of view of my own rank; in Canada and for seven months in Flanders I was a Private; after that period I attained the dignity of a Sergeant. The opinions freely expressed in the subsequent pages are, in consequence, those of an Other Rank, and, though entirely personal, reflect, I confidently believe, the opinions of the large majority of Other Ranks. I have tried to avoid casting personal reflections, but I have not hesitated to indulge in criticism of the system where such criticism seems well founded. Above all, I have studiously refrained from that fulsome adulation of men in authority which so often detracts from the value of an otherwise admirable publication.

As Regimental Diarist during the whole of the period from August 12th, 1916, to the day of Demobilization, I am in a position to guarantee the accuracy of all dates and places mentioned, and trust that the correctness of the record will compensate my readers for all that they will find lacking in interest and literary style.

I fear that the Nominal Roll at the end of this volume will be found to contain many errors and some omissions, but it represents an honest endeavour to supply a complete Roll containing all the essential information at my disposal. I shall at all times be pleased to furnish any information in my power to those making enquiries of a detailed and personal nature. As I am in possession of duplicates of most of the Battalion Records I am probably better equipped than any other person to answer questions of such a character. I shall also be very glad to receive any corrections with respect to casualties or addresses which may lead to subsequent editions being more perfect.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of the Editors of The Vancouver Daily Province and The Vancouver Daily World in according me permission to reproduce in part articles which appeared in their columns during the progress of the war, and to all those members of the Battalion who, by their sympathy and advice, have contributed largely towards the production of this volume, I extend my sincere thanks.

L. McLEOD GOULD.

P.O. Box 721, Victoria, B.C., October 1st, 1919.