

During June the Battalions were mainly employed in musketry. On July 5th they began battalion training, and then came the gradual sequence of brigade and divisional manœuvres. On July 17th occurred the first review of the Division as a whole, in the presence of Sir Robert Borden and Lieut.-General Sir Sam Hughes. On August 4th they were again reviewed by General Hughes, the guest of honour on this occasion being the Rt. Hon. Bonar Law. Twelve days later the Division held a route march and was reviewed by Prince Alexander of Teck. From this date on there was intensive training designed to give divisional and brigade staffs the necessary experience. There were marches and bivouacs and night operations. Towards the end of the month the Division began its final preparations for active service by experience in the making and occupation of trenches and in trench warfare.

September,
1915.

ARRIVAL IN FRANCE.

Before any division went to France it was customary that it should be reviewed by His Majesty. On September 2nd this great event in the history of the 2nd Canadian Division occurred under favourable auspices, and the shadow of the coming event was strong. Afterwards the following message from His Majesty appeared in Orders :—

“ Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of the 2nd Canadian Division,—Six months ago I inspected the 1st Canadian Division before their departure for the front. The heroism they have since shown upon the field of battle has won them undying fame. You are now leaving to join them, and I am glad to have an opportunity of seeing you to-day, for it has convinced me that the same spirit that animates them inspires you also. The past weeks at Shorncliffe have been for you a period of severe and rigorous training; and your appearance at this inspection testifies to the thoroughness and devotion to duty with which your work has been performed. You are going to meet hardships and dangers, but the steadiness and discipline which have marked your bearing on parade to-day will carry you through all difficulties. History will never forget the loyalty and readiness with which you rallied to the aid of your Mother Country in the hour of danger. My thoughts will always be with you. May God bless you and bring you victory.”

A few days later the Battalions discarded their Oliver equipment and the men donned web instead of leather, much to their general