

**FROM VALCARTIER WITH THE FIRST CANADIAN CONTINGENT.**

About three o'clock in the afternoon of October 14th the fleet stopped outside Plymouth and began to file slowly into the harbour. The port is situated in a bay whose shores at the mouth are high and steep. Our transport did not enter the harbour but anchored just outside the entrance. While we were lying outside numerous Torpedo Boats and Destroyers were manoeuvring around the fleet. These little boats are even smaller than I imagined and cut through the water at an amazing speed, most of them going over thirty knots.

Away off to the south west we saw a large battleship at target practice. We could see the flash and the smoke of the gun, and, a moment later, the splash as the shell hit the water. Closer in there was a fishing fleet with all sails set. On our way in we passed close to a large battleship. We were able to get a good view of its two large guns, probably twelve inch, at bow and stern, and its smaller guns looking out of the embrasures along the sides. The harbour proper lies inside a break-water, which cannot be seen very distinctly to-night. Numerous searchlights are placed at different points along the shore. They are continually playing on the entrance to the harbour and the open sea. Up on the cliffs signal lights are flashing and we can see the answer returned from ships away off in the distance. All these lights with the different colored lights on the ships presented a very picturesque appearance. It was a sight that alone was worth the trip across.

Naval Barracks, Devonport, October 21st, 1914.

We have been quartered here since Monday with a party detailed to help unload a ship with some of our supplies on board. The boat has been in harbor for two days but as it has not docked yet we have been here longer than we expected.

Thursday, the 15th, there was a slight fog when we came on deck in the morning but we could see the forts along the shore and numerous tents on the hills. Two submarines passed out to sea, only the coming towers and periscopes showing. About nine o'clock we were towed up from the entrance to the harbor and tied up beside the "Manitou" at one of the docks. On our way up we passed a training ship, where boys are

trained for the Navy. This one has, I believe, 1500 boys on board. They were hanging all over the ship, the rigging was filled with them, jumping around like so many monkeys, each one trying to be at the highest point. They came rushing out from between-decks, those that could not get out waving through the port-holes. It certainly did our hearts good to see the youngsters. They seemed to be from fourteen to sixteen years old. In the afternoon about one hundred and fifty of them passed on a ferryboat. They had their band with them, and as they passed it played the National Anthem, everybody standing at "Attention". Looking from the boat everything reminded one of Spring in Canada. There was that same

balmy feel in the air, while the grass and trees were quite green. Most of the transports had already been brought up to the inner harbor. Tugs were towing them to their anchorages. Launches were darting to and fro between the different ships, and ferryboats, their sirens going full-blast, crowded with people cheering and waving flags and handkerchiefs circled the harbor. Occasionally a launch carrying some high Naval Officer would pass, those on board seeming to take no notice of the noise and excitement.

Nobody allowed ashore from the ship.

H. M. S. "Birmingham", a cruiser, which "drew first blood" in a naval engagement in the war, when she sank a German sub-

marine, was lying in dry-dock near where we tied up. Several of her plates were strained.

Friday we remained at the dock all day. The ferryboats, every one crowded, were busy again all day.

Saturday afternoon we were moved up to the Government dockyards and tied up close to H. M. S. "Tiger", a battle cruiser, about the largest battleship afloat. Although a floating fortress with her four 13.5 in. guns each fore and aft, she has developed in a trial run a speed of 28 knots. She was not quite ready for action but was being rushed forward to completion with all possible speed. There was also a super-dreadnought nearing completion, H. M. S. "Benbow". She was more powerful but not as fast as the "Tiger".

