

170TH BATTALION C.E.F.

THE 170th Battalion was organized in December, 1915, under Lieut.-Col. Le Grand Reed, and commenced recruiting in February, 1916.

This officer was formerly a machine gun officer of the 9th Mississauga Horse, and had not only been instrumental in organizing the machine gun section, but had raised funds to purchase machine guns. Needless to say, the machine gun section under his command was very efficient.

Lieut.-Col. Le Grand Reed was appointed O. C. for the Toronto Recruiting Depot, which appointment he relinquished in order to take command of this battalion. This organization did not by any means recruit under such easy conditions as former overseas units of the Mississauga Horse, as there were no less than five other battalions recruiting in Toronto at the same time; consequently recruiting was slow, and at times discouraging, but eventually Col. Le Grand Reed had the satisfaction of seeing his corps developed into a state of splendid efficiency, composed of men of fine physique and full of enthusiasm for their duties.

He selected competent officers, who not only displayed great interest in their work, but encouraged football and outdoor sports to such an extent that they were a team to be taken seriously by their opponents.

During the month of June they were stationed at Davenport Barracks, and had little opportunity to attempt any preliminary instruction before leaving for Camp Borden, which they reached early in July. They were with the 1st Brigade, under Acting Brigadier W. C. Macdonald.

They did not have an ideal location at camp, not only did it lack trees to shelter them from the intense heat, but their exposed position subjected them to all winds, with accompanying dust.



LIEUT.-COL. LE GRAND REED, O.C.

tania," one of the biggest Cunard liners, which was converted into a troopship. The 170th provided much amusement in the way of concerts and entertainment to those on board during the journey. The trip was uneventful as far as attacks from submarines were concerned. All reached Bramshott in good health and without accident. They were quartered in comfortable wooden huts, electric lighting, etc. Splendid recreation rooms are provided for the men. They are now undergoing a more advanced course of training, preparatory to taking their places in the trenches.

About ten days after the arrival of this battalion in England a draft of 250 men was sent over to France, which shows the high state of efficiency to which this battalion had been brought before leaving Canada.

CEDAR VALE.

On May 23rd, 1916, the 9th M. H. paraded at 9 a.m. at the Armouries for the purpose of engaging in a day of field work, and were entertained to luncheon by R. J. Fleming, Esq., at his residence, where an excellent repast was served and thoroughly appreciated by all who participated. On the previous evening enemy scouts were reported in the neighborhood of Richmond Hill, and word was received at Cedar Vale at 12 o'clock noon that a small hostile force were in the neighborhood of Eglinton Avenue and Bathurst Street. Orders were issued for the 9th M. H. to move north and capture this force. "I" Squadron moved north via St. Clair, Vaughan Road and Oakwood; "C" Squadron via Connaught Avenue; "A" Squadron via Bathurst Street, and "I" Squadron via Spadina Avenue.

Instructions in advanced guard work was advantageously given and patrols came in contact with opposition about 2 p.m. Information was received that the enemy occupied a sand-pit 1,200 yards north of Eglinton Avenue and 300 yards west of Bathurst Street. Orders were issued to attack. "B" Squadron moved north rapidly and occupied woods east of sand-pit, but

while cutting off retreat via Bathurst, could not make any further progress. Retreat to the northwest was cut off by the occupation of woods west of position by "D" Squadron, who advanced in extended formation to within 400 yards of the objective. "A" Squadron occupied the ridge overlooking Belt Line bridge, within easy range and under good cover. "C" Squadron was held in reserve. Further advance was held up until "C" Squadron assisted "B" in moving along Belt Line and north, forcing the retirement of advanced posts held by the enemy in an orchard on the eastern and southeastern slope of main position. Additional assistance of two troops from "A" Squadron increased the pressure from this direction, and finally the assault was delivered.

The position held by the enemy was unusually suitable for defence and as the strength of force was about fifty men, they were ample to hold off the force attacking.

The regiment marched home, arriving at the Armouries at 5.15 p.m., all ranks feeling that the day's work was as profitable as it was enjoyable.

The Battalion quickly settled down to training, the ranks taking interest in their work, every facility was offered for the training in the art of war, trench-making, bomb-throwing with live bombs and bayonet fighting, up-to-date, not the old-fashioned methods, but the "bite and scratch idea" in order to get the man. Much time was given to physical drill, which they made one of the most important features in training. The results were soon shown in the general health, fitness and physical development of the men.

Such a course in this line of military training would certainly stand the men in good stead, when confronted by the foe, and in hand-to-hand encounters, as well as fitting them to meet and overcome the many trying conditions of modern warfare.

The battalion received as reinforcements some 200 men from the 201st Battalion. This brought the 170th nearly up to strength and placed them in line for overseas. They proceeded in October to Eastern Canada, sailing on the "Maure-