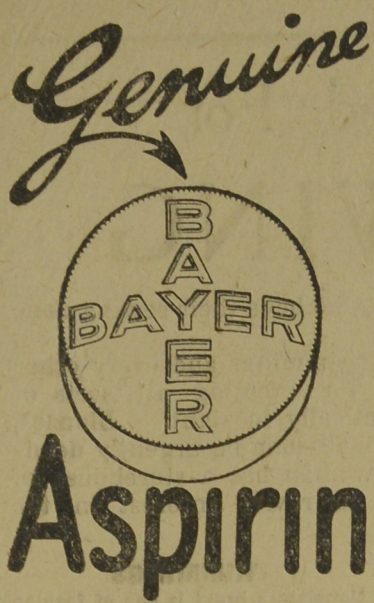




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HISTORY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT

Canada's Regular Infantry Corps was Organized in December, 1993—One Company was Located in Fredericton Under Command of the Late Col. Maunsell—Good Service Rendered in the War.

(By Joseph Freeman Tupper)

Several days ago the writer referred to the fact that the Royal Canadian Regiment is at present in Toronto with headquarters at Rosedale Barracks, and got the astonishing answer: "So there are English troops here." Having had the honor of being with the R. C. R. in France, I know enough of its history to be able to assure citizens of this country that we have a Canadian regiment with a background of which all may justly feel proud. This may be a good time to give a brief account of its doings.

According to official records the regiment was raised on the 21st of December, 1883, as a unit of the new Canadian permanent force for the instruction of the Canadian Militia by establishing schools of instruction for officers and non-commissioned officers

instructors to assist at the various militia camps.

At first it was known as the Infantry School Corps. At that time it wore as a badge a beaver on a scroll inscribed "Pro Patria" within a circle of "Infantry School Corps". This was mounted on a silver star. The beaver and motto, now worn as a collar badge signify "Work for One's Own Country". The regiment was raised by companies.

The first company, known as "A" Company, was raised at Fredericton, New Brunswick, under the command of Lieut. Colonel George J. Maunsell. Other companies were raised at St. John's, Quebec, known as "B" Company, and at Toronto, known as "C" Company. "D" Company was raised shortly afterwards at London, Ontario. These companies were something like depôts and were later known by numbers instead of letters. Some time afterwards, when a new company was raised at Quebec, it was known as No. 5 Company.

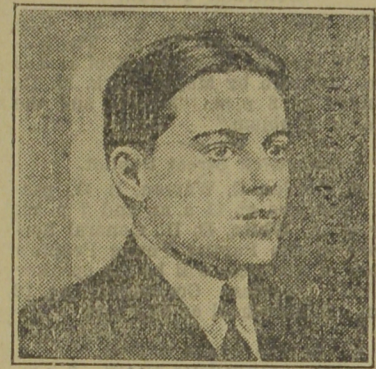
When trouble arose between the half-breeds and the Government surveys of Saskatchewan, which came to a head in March, 1885, by the half-breeds breaking out into rebellion against a party of police at Duck Lake, "C" Company at Toronto joined a force of militia, which marched along the ice on the north shore of Lake Superior, to the North-West, under the command of Lieut. Colonel W. D. Otter, Infantry School Corps. They had a number of casualties and returned to Toronto after the rebellion was completely suppressed. The city of Toronto presented a magnificent centre-piece to the officer's mess to commemorate the regiment's service in the North-West. This was the first occasion on which Canadian troops had conducted active operations and brought them to a successful conclusion without the aid of Imperial troops.

In 1892 the name of the regiment was changed to the Canadian Regiment of Infantry. The following year on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday, Queen Victoria approved of the regiment becoming a Royal regiment, known as the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry, and granted permission for Her Imperial cypher V. R. I. with the Imperial Crown, to be worn as a badge.

In 1898, part of the regiment joined a mixed force and went to the Yukon to police the new gold fields. Embarking at Vancouver, they sailed for Glenora, from when they marched over four hundred miles to Selkirk over mountainous and comparatively unknown country. Much difficulty and

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hardship was encountered crossing swamps, lakes and dangerous rivers. This journey from Glenora to Selkirk took about four months. Later a part of this force was sent to Dawson City to assist the R.N.W.M.P. It was withdrawn in 1900.

In 1899 on the outbreak of the South African war, a second (Special Service) battalion was raised under the command of Colonel Otter, and sailed on the 30th of October and arrived in Cape Town on November 30th. The battalion took part in important engagements, the best remembered one being the surrender of General Cronje's force. The casualties were heavier than those suffered by any Canadian contingent during the South African war. It was during the South African war that the name of the Regiment was changed to the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry. His Majesty King George, then Duke of York, presented colors to the regiment at Toronto on October, 1901.

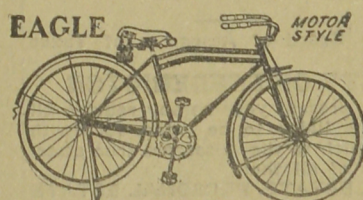
A 3rd (Garrison) Battalion of the regiment was raised at Halifax to replace 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment for service elsewhere. It was disbanded shortly afterwards, being relieved by an Imperial regiment.

In 1902 the name of the regiment was once again changed, becoming known by its present distinctive title of The Royal Canadian Regiment.

In 1904 a special banner was given by King Edward to commemorate the services of the regiment in South Africa.

Imperial troops having been withdrawn and the defence of Canada taken over by local troops, the regiment moved to Halifax, N. S., the establishment being raised to ten companies. About this time the regimental march, usually known as "The R.C.R. March," was first used. It was composed by a sergeant of the band. It is entirely original, and the R. C. R. is the only regiment entitled to march past to this tune.

On the outbreak of the Great War the regiment was mobilized, and being trained and ready for duty, was sent to relieve an Imperial regiment at Bermuda. In August of the following year the regiment was relieved and proceeded to France via England. The following distinctions and awards were gained by the regiment in the war of 1914-1919: V.C., 1; G.B.E., 1; D.S.O., 11; O.B.E., 5; M.C., 37; bar to M.C., 5; D.F.C., 1; D.C.M., 24; bar to D.C.M., 1; M.M., 128; M.S.M., 10; bar to M.M., 10; foreign decorations, 15; mentions, 35; commissions from the ranks, Lieut. Colonel, 1; Major, 5; Captain, 14; Lieutenant, 28; 2nd Lieutenant, 4.



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