

COL. DUNCAN DONALD'S SERVICE HAS BEEN LONG

Joined 48th Highlanders at its
Formation as a Lieu-
tenant.

REORGANIZED REG'T.

Had Hoped to Go Overseas,
But Health Will Not
Permit.

Col. Duncan Donald, who has been compelled by ill-health to resign his position as brigadier in this Military District, has been connected with the 48th Highlanders since 1891, when he joined as a lieutenant at its formation, and obtained his long service medal for 20 years' service in 1912. During his 25 years' connection he served as adjutant for two five-year periods, succeeding Col. J. A. Currie to the command of the 48th in October, 1914.

When war broke out he was in Halifax carrying out his duties as supervisor of bank premises for the Canadian Bank of Commerce. His duties, covering as they did the erection of buildings from coast to coast, did not permit him going overseas with his regiment, the 15th Overseas Battalion. In December, 1916, the construction work he had charge of was sufficiently advanced to permit him to take up military work entirely.

Reorganized the 48th.

The 48th Highlanders which had been depleted of some twenty-eight officers and all its fit men and equipment by its absorption almost completely into the 15th Battalion, was reorganized, built up and equipped for the drafts and duties subsequently to be required of it. During this period the regiment supplied in drafts required by headquarters for overseas battalions 3,596 men and 101 officers, in addition to hundreds who enlisted with battalions and units to which it was not required to send details. One hundred and nineteen officers were selected and trained in the regiment, the guards supplied by it at the Government wireless stations, ~~Stanley Barracks~~, and Kapuskasing ~~Internment Camp~~ being made use of for this purpose. Men and officers of the Regiment were drafted in the 17th, 19th, 20th, 35th, 58th, 74th, 92nd, 95th and 134th Battalions, and will be found in almost every unit that has left the Toronto command. The outstanding feature of the work of the regiment during this time was the raising and outfitting of the 92nd and 134th Highland Battalions, both officially designated 48th Highlanders. The former was recruited in August, 1915, and the command given to Lieut.-Col. Chisholm. It trained at Niagara and Toronto and left for overseas in May, 1916. Colonel Donald took command of the 134th himself and started recruiting on January, 12, 1916. Notwithstanding the care exercised in the selection of the men, the Battalion was raised to a strength of over twelve hundred men within four weeks and commenced active training at once.

The advantage of careful selection is shown from the fact that when it left for England on August 5, 1916, it was still over strength, having suffered little from the results of its strenuous training. This was carried on in Toronto, Niagara and Borden, and was thorough.

Health Gave Way Entirely.

The 134th left for overseas in less than seven months from the time recruiting commenced. Unfortunately Colonel Donald was not allowed to accompany what he considered his final effort in the service of the regiment he loved. While at the Armouries he had a severe attack of la grippe, and at Niagara contracted bronchitis, and on moving to Borden in July the extreme heat brought on a collapse, and he was ordered away for three months. This was later extended to five months, without, however, complete recovery, as at its conclusion he was declared unfit for service overseas. While still a casualty, however, he took over the command of the 2nd Infantry Brigade early in December, and has been active on it ever since, but he has now been advised to give up the strenuous military life. Whether he will return to his command in the 48th Highlanders is uncertain, as he has been given six months sick leave.