

April 29th 1917.

FAREWELL ADDRESS
to
Officers, N.C.O.s., and Men,
of the
60th Canadian Battalion W. R. C.
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"We have assembled here together, for the last time as a unit, for the expected has at last happened, and orders have been received that we are to be withdrawn from the field as a unit, and be absorbed by the 5th C.M.Bs., and the 87th Battalion, one-third of the Battalion going to the former, and two-thirds to the latter. This will go into effect, tomorrow, April 30th.

You will remember the various rumours that we have heard from time to time, in regard to the disbanding of the Battalion, but, I thought that our fight against this had been successful, and that, having gone through the attack on VIMY RIDGE, we would be left together until the end of the War, and it was, therefore, a shock when instructions were received that the original intention to break up the Battalion, was to be carried out.

It is unnecessary for me to discuss the why's and wherefores of the situation, but, as you know, the provinces of Quebec and British Columbia were too ambitious, and put into the field, a greater proportion of Battalions than they were entitled to, and more than they could support with reinforcements. The provinces then demanded representation in the field, on the basis of recruiting, and the Canadian Authorities selected the 60th and 73rd Battalion, as the two Provinces of Quebec Battalions to be withdrawn, to make room for one Ontario Battalion and one from Nova Scotia. There is no reason why the 60th., should have been selected, except that it was junior of the four purely Montreal Battalions to be sent to France, and Montreal was not providing its quota of reinforcements. The Authorities here, did everything possible to prevent the withdrawal of a trained Battalion like ours, and the substitution by a "green" one, but the Authorities in Canada, with their knowledge of ^{the} recruiting situation before them, decided that it was in the interest of recruiting and the War in general, that the Battalions named, should be withdrawn, and we must, therefore, bow to the inevitable and accept their decision as being for the best, and resolve to do our best for the Empire wherever we may be placed.

I hope that a way will be found to have Major Ralston placed in command of the 87th., as its Commanding Officer, or, failing this, Lieut. Colonel O'Donahoe; and Colonel Draper, an old Montreal military man is, as you know, the Officer Commanding the 5th C.M.Bs. Those who go to these Battalions, will have extended to them, the hand of good fellowship, and you will be given a hearty welcome, and, after a short ~~xxxxxx~~ time, when you have made new friends and formed new associations, you will no doubt, be just as happy as you were in this Battalion.