

Canada & World War I



Canada in 1914: Overview

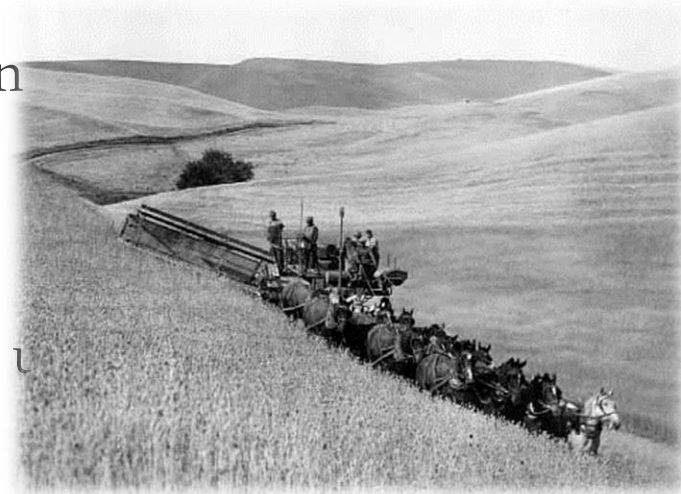
A very young nation at the outbreak of war (only 47 years old)

Our total population was approx 8 million

‘A Nation of Immigrants’....as we discovered in Unit 1

Mainly agricultural country with increased urban industry

We were in the midst of a two-year economic downturn with many young men unemployed in 1914 following the end of the western real estate boom



Canada 1914: Military

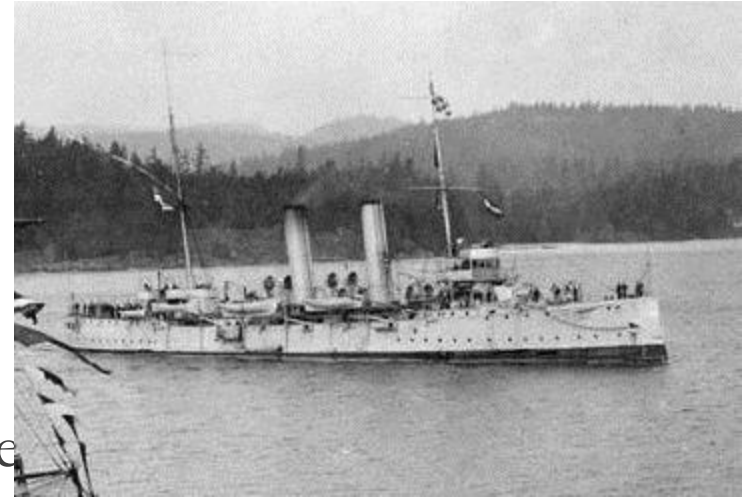
Limited military experience (1885 NW Rebellion, 1899-1903 South African War)



Limited military forces (Approx 3000 soldiers & little military equipment)

Lack of trained officers

2 ships with 350 men...(Britain assumed responsibility for defended the sea approaches to Canada)



Canada: The Outbro

Canada was a self-governing dominion within the British Empire (Britain controlled our foreign affairs / defense including our decision to go to war)

Britain's entry into the First World War against Germany legally brought Canada into the conflict as well

In addition to Canada, other dominions of the British Empire immediately entered the war to support Britain



Canada's Response to War

#1 The announcement of war brought great excitement & celebration across our country

It was to be a great adventure & for many an escape from the daily routines & unemployment

Thousands of young men rushed to the recruiting offices

Unlike the professional armies of Europe, our army would be a volunteer citizen-soldier army initially comprised of over 70% British born recruits

They eagerly volunteered hoping for a free trip to visit relatives or areas they lived in prior to their arrival in Canada

Sam Hughes

#2 Canadian minister of militia in 1914 responsible
Canada's new army in 1914

Nationalistic / patriotic, very controversial

He scrapped the training grounds at Petawawa, Ontario &
moved it to Valcartier, Quebec

Gave military contracts to political supporters



Sam Hughes

He infuriated French Canada

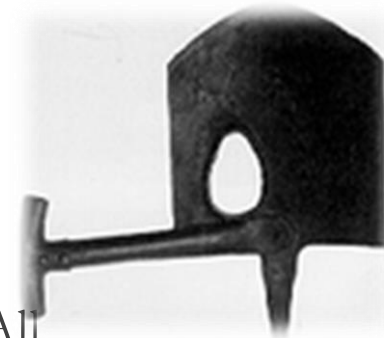
- **Placed a Baptist minister in charge of recruiting in Quebec**
- **All instructions were provided in English**
- **Placed all French recruits into English speaking regiments**



Sam Hughes

He promoted inferior Canadian made equipment produced by political cronies who were more interested in profit than quality

- Boots turned to mush in heavy rains
- MacAdam Spade (Army bought 25, 000 @ \$1.25 each. All were sold for scrap)
- **#4 Ross Rifle (Canadian replacement for the British Lee Enfield, it was a great target weapon used by snipers but it jammed easily when fired rapidly)**



Recruitment

In the days before the information age & mass media, recruitment posters were prominent in stimulating military enlistment

These posters would be found in newspapers & posted at various locations within cities

They highlighted symbols of patriotism & nationalism

#5 What do you see in these?



**"WHY DON'T
THEY COME?"**

**WHY BE
A MERE SPECTATOR HERE
WHEN YOU SHOULD PLAY A MANS PART
IN THE REAL GAME OVERSEAS?**



AFFILIATED WITH
M'GILL UNIVERSITY CONTINGENT
CANADIAN OFFICERS TRAINING
CORPS.

**JOIN
THE
148TH Battalion.**

A.A. MAGEE.

Headquarters **LT COL.**

**197, PEEL ST
MONTREAL.**

**"Let his heart a thousandfold
Take the field again!"**



**ARE YOU
ONE OF
KITCHENER'S
OWN?**



**NOW RECRUITING
UNDER**

**Lt. Col. F. M. McROBIE.
HIGH SCHOOL BARRACKS,
197 PEEL STREET, MONTREAL.**



No. 1 OVERSEAS

CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

O. C. LIEUT. COL. B. RIPLEY C. E.

(Late Construction Engineer with C.P.R.)

Commanded entirely by Engineers and Construction Superintendents.

WANTED

Bridge and Building Men
Railway Construction Men
General Construction Men
Skilled and unskilled workmen

To rebuild and repair works being destroyed by the enemy.

WE NEED **YOU** Your place in this battalion is vacant. Better come and fill it

NOW

HEADQUARTERS: 149 PEEL St.
MONTREAL

JOIN THE CANADIAN GRENADIER GUARDS

FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE
UNDER GENERAL MEIGHEN



A SPECIAL
REGIMENT OF PICKED MEN
FROM ONTARIO & QUEBEC

HEADQUARTERS -
GRENADIER GUARDS ARMOURY -
MONTREAL

148th "OVERSEAS" BATTALION

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Headquarters:

425 SHERBROOKE ST. WEST, MONTREAL

Will You and Your Friends
— Come Overseas? —

IF SO SEND US ONE OF YOUR BEST MEN NOW TO
BE TRAINED AS A N.C.O., BAYONET FIGHTER OR
PHYSICAL INSTRUCTOR.

Come and be Together and Make
Your Home Town Proud of You.

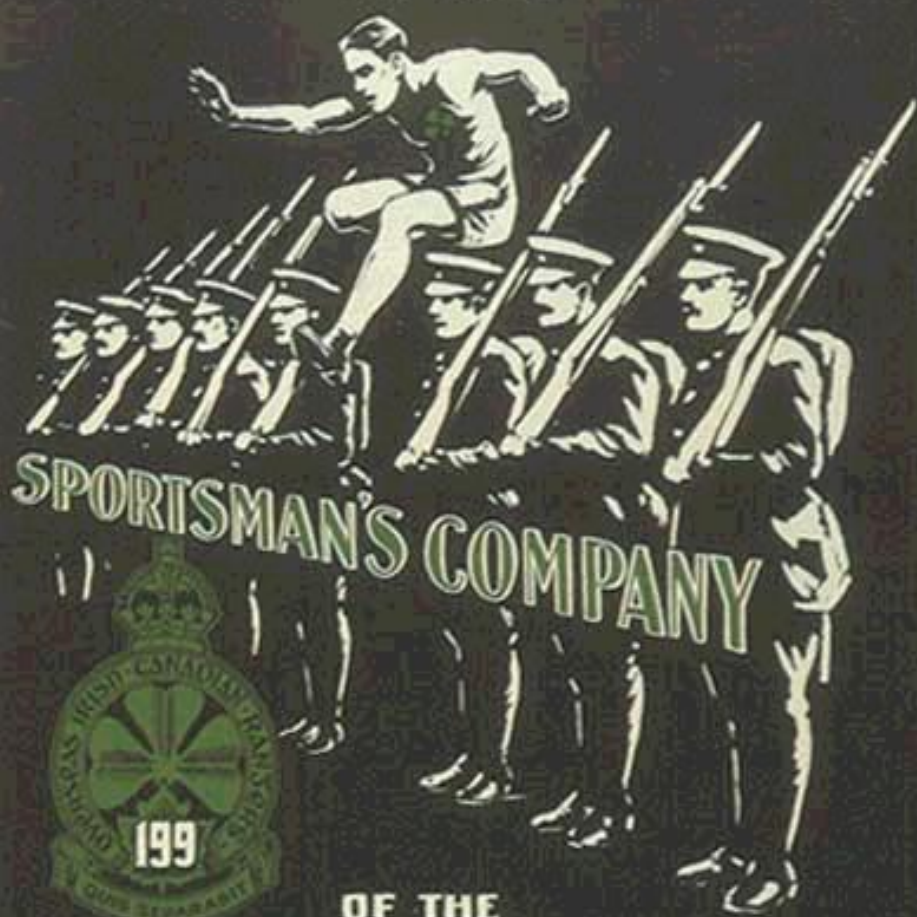
Rates of Pay

RANK	PER MONTH	FIELD ALLOWANCE	SEPARATION ALLOWANCE
Sergeants	\$1.35	\$0.15	\$25.00
Corporals	1.10	.10	20.00
Lance Corporals	1.05	.10	20.00
Privates	1.00	.10	20.00

PAY, FIELD AND SEPARATION ALLOWANCES START
FROM DAY OF ENLISTMENT.

A. A. MAGEE, Lt.-Col.
Commanding Officer.

JUMP INTO YOUR PLACE
IN THE



OF THE

**IRISH CANADIAN
OVERSEAS BATTALION RANGERS**

Headquarters :
91 STANLEY ST.
MONTREAL.

Under
Lt. Col. H. J. TRIHEY.

Be the next man
to put the "I" in

FIGHT

*and join
the*



AFFILIATED WITH
MCGILL UNIVERSITY CONTINGENT
CANADIAN OFFICERS'
TRAINING CORPS

.....Headquarters.....

197 PEEL ST.
MONTREAL.

A. A. MAGEE LT. COL.

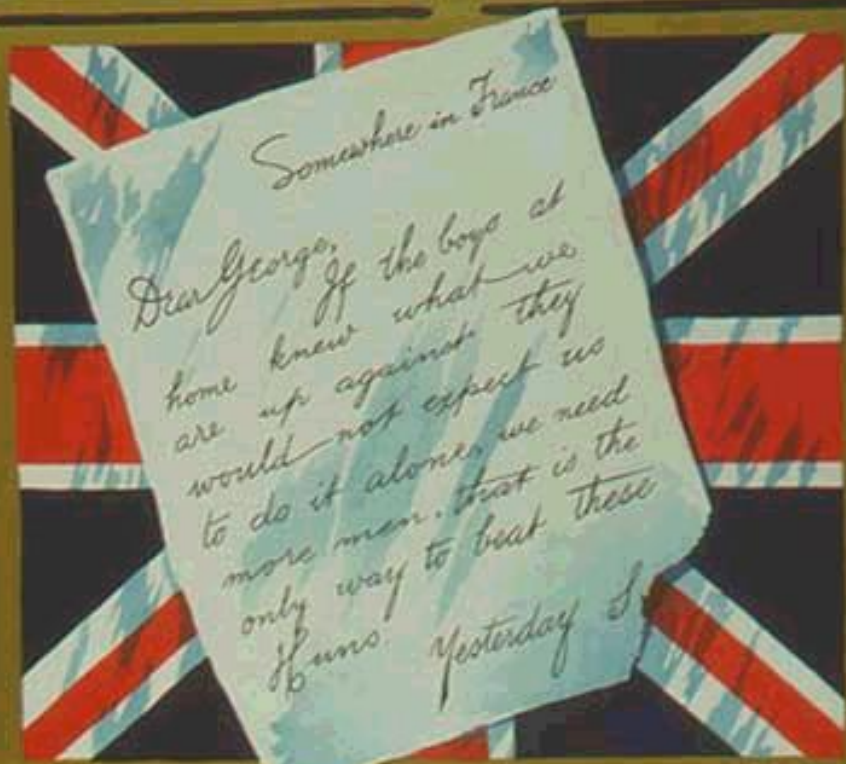
148TH OVERSEAS BATTALION

NOW RECRUITING MEN
TO BE TRAINED AS
N.C.Os., BAYONET FIGHTERS
and PHYSICAL INSTRUCTORS

Lt.-Col. A. A. MAGEE,
Commanding Officer

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS:
Old High School, 197 Peel St.

READ THIS



JOIN NOW
THE 244TH OVERSEAS BATTALION
F.M.M^c ROBIE,
Lt. Col.
197 PEEL STREET.



THE 244TH OVERSEAS BATTALION

C.E.F.

Lt. Col. F.M. M^c Robie
COMMANDING OFFICER

WILL GIVE YOU

THIS



FOR



THIS



FOR

AND EVERYTHING ELSE YOU NEED TO BE A SOLDIER AT HIGH SCHOOL BARRACKS 197 PEEL STREET.

Canada 1914: Patriotic Response

Within weeks approx. 30,000 men had joined & were assembled at Valcartier Camp near Quebec City for organization & military training

Within two months the First Contingent, Canadian Expeditionary Force was going to Europe

#6 Before front line duty, they were sent to train for a few months on the Salisbury Plain in England, WHY?????



Outbreak of War

On August 4, 1914 the British Empire declared war on Germany



With Britain at war, so too was her vast empire including us here in Newfoundland

Newfoundland's Response to War

Much like in Canada, the response here was immediate

#7 Newfoundland Patriotic Association (NPA) was formed to deal with organizing the war effort & raising troops for overseas fighting

#8 The government at the time promised the British an initial force of 500 men...these would become known to history as the 'First Five Hundred'

The volunteers were immediately assembled at Pleasantville (St. John's / Quidi Vidi Lake) for training

Primary

Document

ON THE FOLLOWING SLIDES WE FIND A NOTICE FOR ENLISTMENT AT THE OUTBREAK OF WAR AS PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY NEWS, AUGUST 22, 1914.

Analysis

AS WE READ, WHAT ELEMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN DO YOU THINK WOULD HAVE ENCOURAGED/ENTICED—OUR YOUNG MEN TO SIGN UP FOR THE FIGHT.

Use the following for #1!!!!



PROCLAMATION !

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor,
[L. S.]

By His Excellency Sir **WALTER EDWARD DAVIDSON**, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies.

YOUR KING AND COUNTRY NEED YOU !
Will You Answer Your Country's Call ?

At this very moment the Empire is engaged in the greatest War in the history of the World.

In this crisis your country calls on her young men to rally round Her Flag and enlist in the ranks of Her Army.

If every Patriotic young man answers Her Call, Great Britain and the Empire will emerge stronger and more united than ever.

Newfoundland responds to the -Homeland's Call and promises to enlist, equip and despatch to England the First Newfoundland Regiment of 500 strong. We want to send our best, and we believe that Britain's Oldest Colony will gain greater honour and glory for Her Name.

If you are between 19 and 35 years old, will you answer your Country's Call? If you will, then go to the nearest Magistrate and enrol your name for service in the fighting line: If you live in St. John's go to the C. L. B. Armoury and enter your name at the Central Recruiting Office, or any evening between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Tickets to St. John's will be provided by the Magistrate free of cost.

The terms of enlistment are: To serve abroad for the duration of the war, but not exceeding one year. It is intended the men shall leave within one month of their enrollment, and that in the meantime they shall receive a course of instruction and training in St. John's.

A complete outfit will be provided.

Each private will receive pay at the rate of \$1.00 per day and free rations, from the date of enrollment to the date of return, a portion of which will be paid to dependents left behind, or it will be allowed to accumulate for their personal benefit until termination of service.

Volunteers from outports will be given free passage to St. John's.

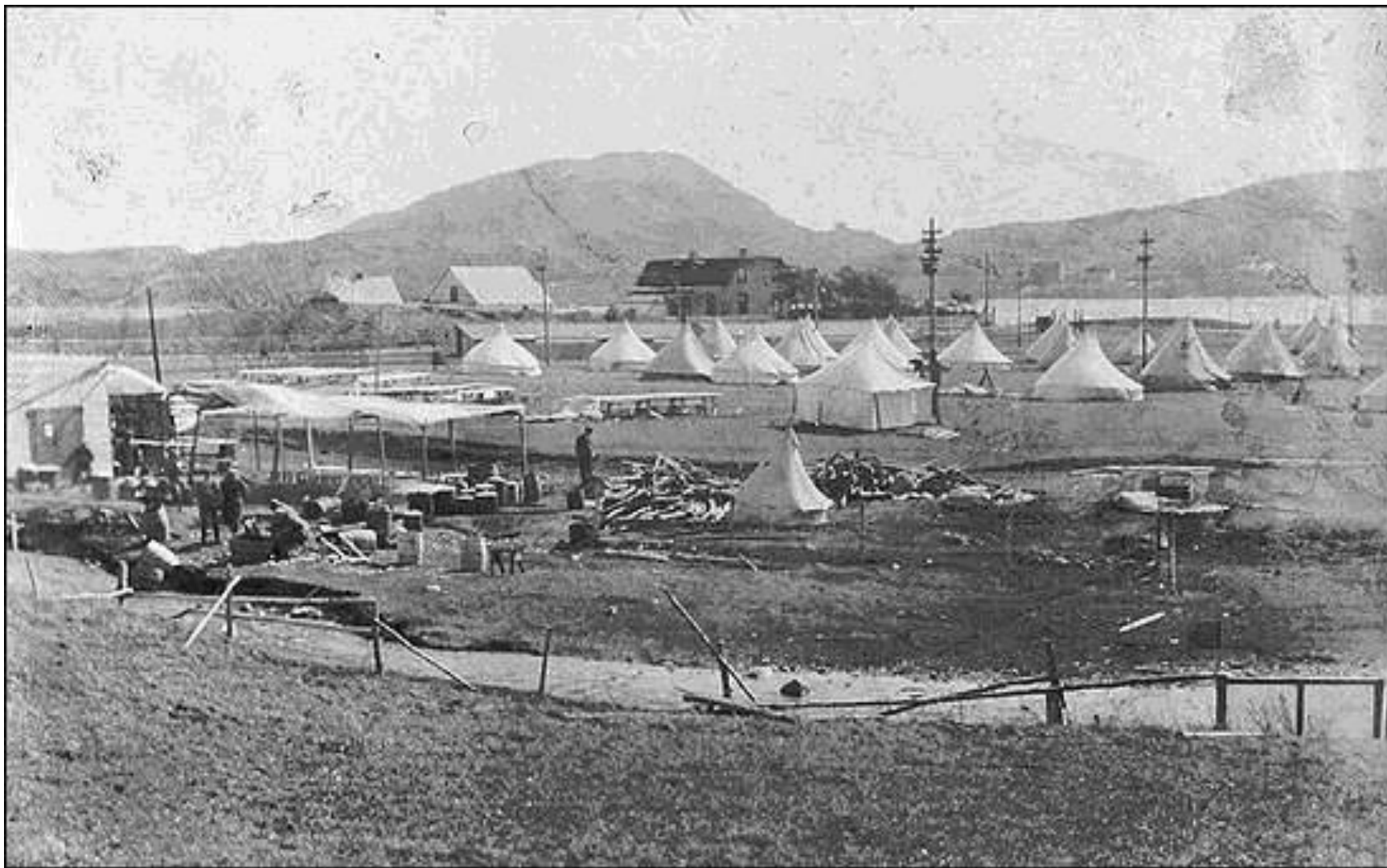
Any applicant for service, forwarded by the proper authorities and not accepted after arrival at Headquarters, will be provided with a free passage and maintenance back to his home.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Given under my Hand and Seal at the Government House, St. John's, this 21st day of August, A. D. 1914.

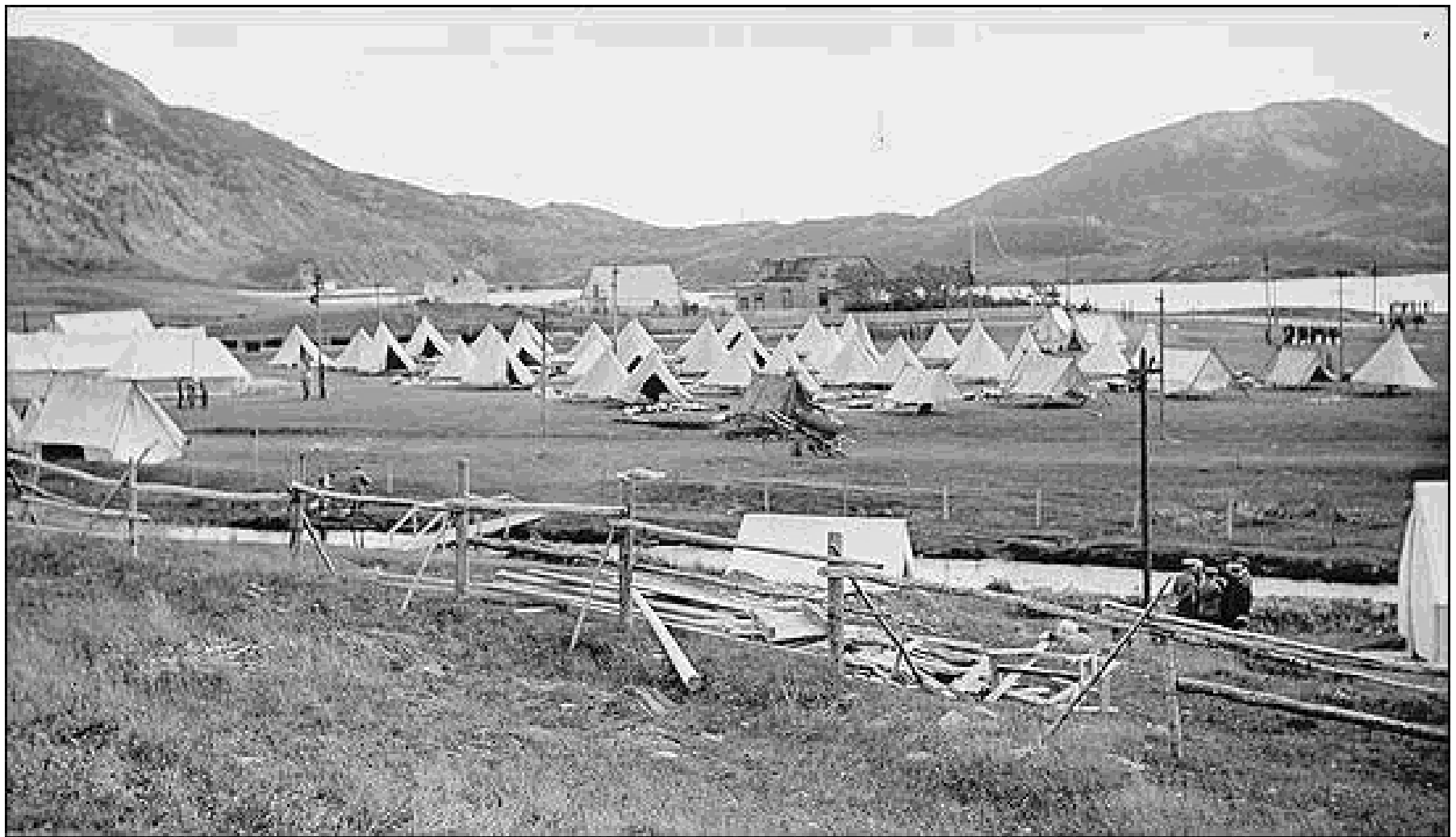
By His Excellency's Command, _____

JOHN R. BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary.



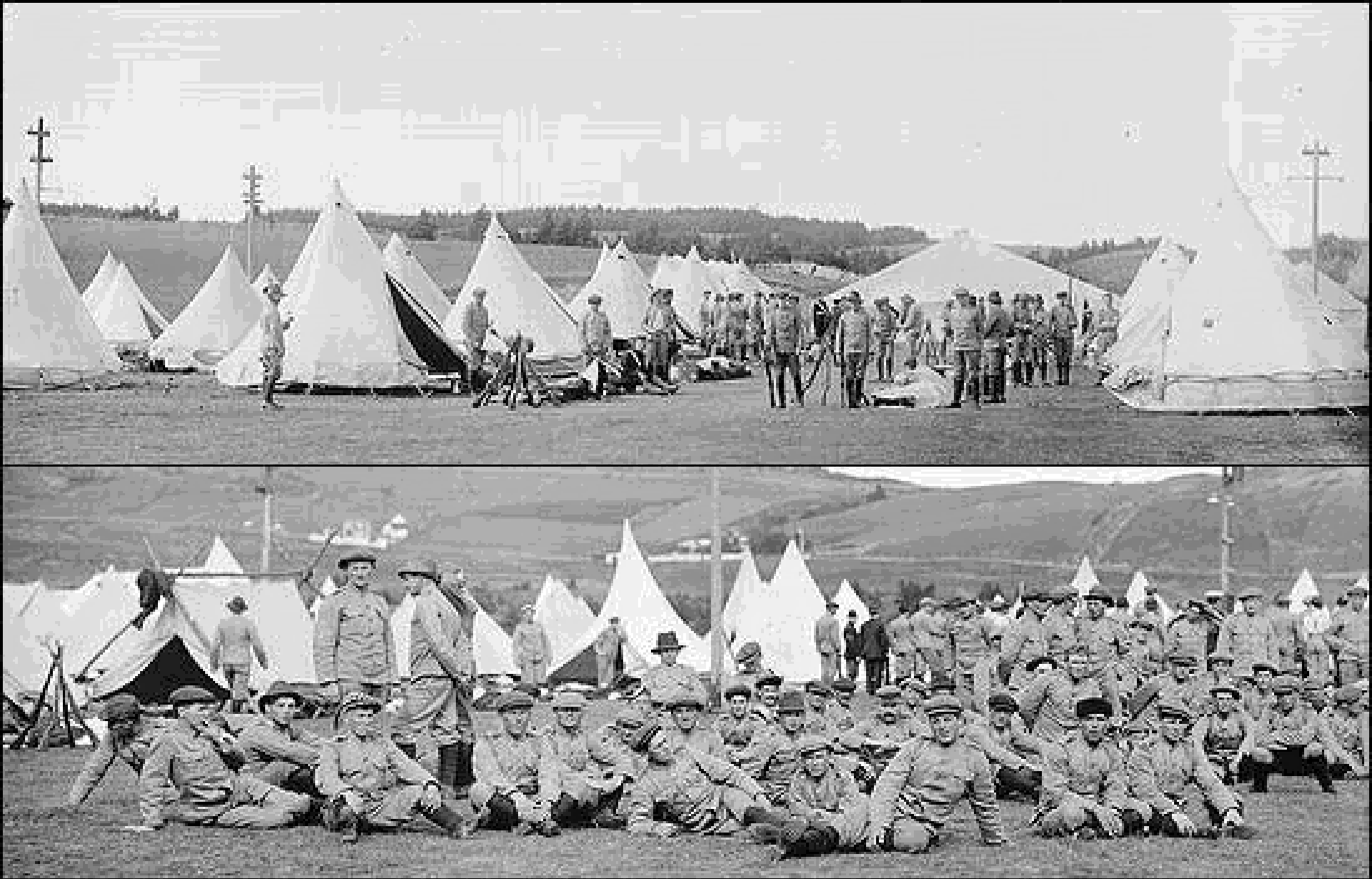
• **Pleasantville camp, St. John's, ca. 1914.**

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL VA-40-135), St. John's, Newfoundland.

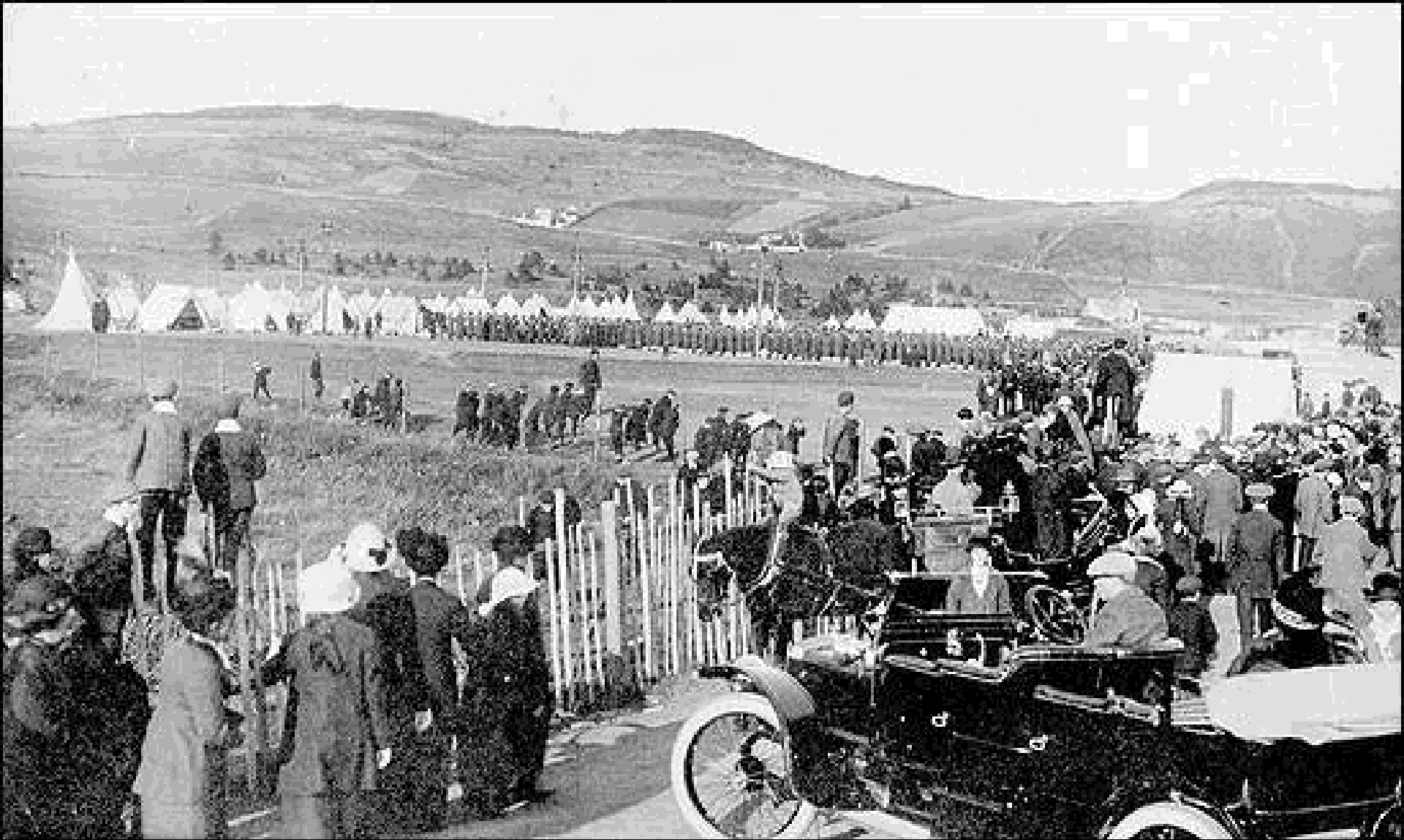


• **Volunteer Camp, Pleasantville, St. John's, September 1914.**

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL E-48-11), St. John's, Newfoundland.



•Training grounds at Pleasantville, St. John's, ca. 1914.



•A Crowd gathered to watch the first contingent of the Newfoundland Regiment break camp at Pleasantville, St. John's, October 3, 1914



•Newfoundland Regiment marching in St. John's, n.d.

Newfoundland's Response to War

Our colony was unprepared for war & lacked both military materiel & supplies for the new recruits

Newfoundland Patriotic Association (NPA) was formed to deal with organizing the war effort & raising troops for overseas fighting

The government at the time promised the British a initial force of 500 men...these would become known to history as the 'First Five Hundred'

The volunteers were immediately assembly at Pleasantville (St. John's / Quidi Vidi Lake) for training

Newfoun

Our colony was unprepared for the new recruits

Donations of all types (tents, un

Because there was a shortage of wrappings (puttees), our soldiers

This is origin of the 'Blue Puttee' in the Great War



War

materiel & supplies for

to supply the recruits

used by soldiers as leg blue material.

hundred to head overseas

Overseas... Training

These “First 500” left St. John’s in October 1914

Like many other recruits from the Empire, they headed to Britain & Scotland for training before entering front-line service

The following slides will provide some insight into the activities of our soldiers during this time