

# 1916

## Oxford's Own 168th Battalion

On December 21st, 1915, authorization came from Ottawa of the 168th battalion under command of Lieut. Col. W. T. McMullen of Woodstock.

It very soon became known as "Oxford's Own," and the young men of the historic old county were not slow in responding to the call to arms. From their offices, from behind the counter, from farm and factory they came, and unhesitatingly placed their lives at the disposal of Country and Empire, at that time in the very midst of a grim struggle for their existence. By the time the battalion went into camp at London on June 1st, 1916, the fullest strength had about been reached, namely nine hundred and forty-three officers and other ranks.

Then followed four months of strenuous preparation for the great conflict, and on October 27th seven hundred and thirteen men — entrained at Camp Borden and reaching Liverpool on November 11th. The men of Oxford lived and fought and died upholding the best traditions of the county and covering with imperishable glory the name of the battalion. Their record speaks more eloquently for itself than could the pen of the most ardent admirer and historian. Of the seven hundred and thirteen men who stood on the decks of H.M.S. "Lapland" to watch the lengthening shadows of Canada's eastern coast melt into the twilight of that autumn evening of November 1st, 1916, one hundred and fifty eight did not return ; with hearts still unafraid they climbed to the mountain peaks of human service and spent their life's blood in a righteous cause.



**168th Battalion C.E.F.**

"OXFORD'S OWN"