

consequently being quick to learn, and requiring less instruction than the normal Kitchener unit required. They took kindly to discipline, crime was practically non-existent, and the physique was exceptionally high. As a result, a large number of commissions were obtained from the ranks of the 11th Welch. Colonel Parkinson's experience, charming personality and interest in the men were to prove invaluable assets. A last picture on the night when we embarked for France. These thousand civilians who a brief twelve months earlier had been so many individuals incapable of obeying a common order or direction were now a Battalion—a Battalion that could drill, dig, march, and shoot; that could obey orders cheerfully and quickly; a Battalion with a strong esprit de corps and a keen sense of duty, a fine and tempered instrument in the hands of anyone who had the skill to use it."

The 11th Welch was brigaded with the 11th R.W.F., 6th S.W.B., and 7th S.W.B. in the 67th Brigade (Brigadier-General R. B. Williams, C.B.) in the 22nd Division (Major-General R. A. Montgomery, C.V.O., C.B.). After a winter in billets at Hastings and in hutments at Seaford, the Battalion moved to Aldershot in April, 1915, where it remained until September. Then after inspection by Lord Kitchener, the 11th Welch were trained to Southampton, and embarked for France, landing at Havre on 6th September, 1915.

13TH BATTALION.

Like the 10th Welch, the 13th Battalion was recruited by Lieutenant-Colonel D. Watts Morgan and Lieutenant A. Pearson, R.E., in the Rhondda Valley, and was known as the 2nd Rhonddas.

The first C.O. was Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Watts, K.C.B., who was succeeded in June, 1915, by Lieutenant-Colonel W. Giffard, late Welch Regiment, who had distinguished himself in the South African War, where he had gained two Brevets.

14TH BATTALION.

On 5th August, 1914, a public meeting was convened by the Mayor of Swansea (Alderman T. T. Corker), who suggested the raising of a local corps to replace the 6th Battalion (Territorials) when they should be ordered away. Sanction was sought from the War Office for

this project, but not given, as units were required for service overseas.

Concurrently with this the Members of the Swansea Football and Cricket Club formed a Training Corps, made a miniature range under the grand stand, and turned the grounds into training grounds, inviting non-members to join the corps. On 9th September, the War Office approved of a Battalion being raised locally, on the condition that the Corporation undertook the expense of administration until the Battalion was completed. The Corporation not only raised the necessary amount, but £3,000 beyond this were subscribed, which sum was used to provide comforts for the troops and also to help hard cases after the war. The Battalion was speedily raised on the nucleus of the Swansea Football and Cricket Club, and became the 14th Welch (Swansea) Battalion. The Battalion was fortunate in securing as C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Benson, D.S.O., late E. Surrey Regiment, a member of a well-known Swansea family. When the Regiment went abroad, Lieutenant-Colonel L. R. King took over command from Colonel Benson, who was past the age limit for service overseas. Captain D. Brock Williams, well-known in Swansea, became Adjutant.

15TH BATTALION.

The 15th Welch was raised by the Carmarthenshire County Committee, and was the only Battalion to be so raised. It was largely composed of men from Lancashire to commence with, but lately assumed an all-Welsh character. Known as the 15th Welch (Carmarthenshire) Battalion, it was first commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Scobie, C.B., who handed over in November, 1915, to Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Parkinson, Y. and L. Regiment.

16TH BATTALION.

The 16th Battalion owes its origin, as far as is known, to a suggestion made to the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman J. T. Richards) in November, 1914, by General Sir Francis Lloyd, commanding 53rd Division, that "Cardiff should find one Battalion that would bear the name of Cardiff."

The suggestion was eagerly taken up and was approved by the military authorities, and on 19th November at a meeting in the Lord Mayor's Parlour it was decided to take steps to raise a "City" Battalion, the men of which should wear on their collars and caps the Arms of the City