Fifty-Second Is Brigaded Goes To The Front Shortly



In February 1916, the 52nd New Ontario Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force left the unit's quarters in Bramshott, England and mobilized to a military base in France. The 52nd would be attached to the 9th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division. While they were not destined for the trenches in February, it was speculated that it would only be a matter of time.

Also mobilizing to France during the month of February was the 44th Battalion, which included soldiers from both Fort William and Port Arthur. However, much to the dismay of the soldiers of the 44th, only half the battalion was actually sent over to France while the remainder stayed behind. Meanwhile, Lakehead men attached to the 28th Battalion received a much needed eight days leave, their first in four months.

Photograph: TBPL Courtesy of the Scott/Fryer Family; Article: Port Arthur News Chronicle Feb.14, 1916