The "Highway for Peace"

In 1915, the military formed a battalion of Bruce County residents, called the 160th Battalion. The battalion brought the community together through local events before serving on the front lines of the First World War.

Forming the 160th Battalion

At the end of 1915, the military told Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Weir to form a battalion of Bruce County men. Recruitment started right away for a unit based in Walkerton. The battalion activated four companies recruiting from communities across the county. Men who joined worked as farmers, carpenters, merchants, tradesmen, teachers, and students. In "C" Company, 108 volunteers came from the Saugeen First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

No. 2 Platoon, A Company, 160th Battalion.

The Battalion marching through Chesley, 1916.

"Teddy" the bear, 160th Battalion mascot.

Building local community pride

On June 3, 1916, the battalion marched down this road to Chesley. There, a crowd gathered to show their support as they received their Battalion Colours. Soon after, the battalion left for England for training. They joined the 13th Brigade of the 5th Canadian Division. When the 5th Canadian Division split to send reinforcements to France, the battalion was disbanded.

After disbanding, most of the soldiers served in The Hundred Days Campaign in 1918 in other battalions. At the front lines, over 100 soldiers died. Some died later from war injuries or illness.

Today, this road is called the "Highway for Peace," to mark where the battalion once marched. Remember the courage of these soldiers and reflect on the importance of their service.

Learn more about the 160th Bruce Battalion at www.brucemuseum.ca

BRUCE county
45.0°N | 81.3°W