

LIEUT. CARTER LEFT 26TH IN FINE FETTLE AND BUILT TO WIN; DESCRIBES CRATER BATTLE

Wounded Officer, Arriving Home on Furlough, Tells of Gallantry of Officers and Men Under Murderous Fire

Unofficially Reported in London that Lieut. C. E. Fairweather Has Been Recommended for Victoria Cross—Mine Explosion Caused Most of Casualties in Fight of October 13—German Prisoners, Captured by 26th, Admit Things Could Be Better at Home and Enemy Shows Signs of Caving In.

Monday, Dec. 13.

The boys of the 26th are in perfect fettle; their morale is good and they are out to win. Colonel McAvity has proved a dandy commander and our officers have certainly distinguished themselves. In that crater charge on October 13 Major Brown and Lieut. Fairweather did splendid work. Since then, too, Fairweather has been mentioned several times in despatches, and I have heard, unofficially, of course, that he had been recommended for the V. C. When I left he was in command of "C" Company.

This, briefly, is how the record of the gallant 26th Battalion is told in the words of Lieut. A. Des Brisay Carter, the first wounded officer of the regiment to return home. He returned on the Missanab yesterday with five other Canadian officers. His furlough lasts until the middle of January. He has completely recovered from the shrapnel wound in his thigh received during the crater charge and is anxious to take again his place in the trenches. The piece of shell that "did the job" he has preserved as a souvenir.

That Crater Charge.

Since the 26th entered the trenches about the first of September, the outstanding feature of the heroic capture of the crater which Lieut. Carter referred to above. Immediately after his opening remarks the interviewer directed his attention to the crater attack.

"Well," began the Lieutenant. "In my mind that attack the great credit goes to Major Brown and Lieut. Fairweather. Say, they did great work. And the boys were good natured and witty."

Lieutenant Carter did not mention his own wound until his attention was drawn to the fact. Then he gave details. "It was near the end of the attack, about 11 o'clock. A piece of shrapnel shell pierced the kidney and lodged in the thigh. He fell; the lower body was paralyzed. There was very little pain, he said, probably because of the fact that the shrapnel was red hot and as it entered it cauterized the wound it made. When the enemy fire had died down he was brought in by stretcher bearers and conveyed to hospital. Later he was dispatched to England."

A short while before the crater attack—a few days previous—a German aeroplane that was manoeuvring over the line occupied by the 26th, was brought down. The aviator was not killed, but a strange coincidence was that as soon as the subaltern was admitted to hospital he recognized in the bed beside him the German officer who "fell from the clouds." He conversed with him in English, but the Teuton was rather reserved. He would not talk about his progress of the war nor his belief as to the outcome. He would say little regarding conditions at home. He admitted, though, that "things could be better."

The lieutenant was already convinced of this from his experiences in the trenches. The Canadians are always well fed, he said, but the Germans in the other line were constantly shouting across the contested space between that they were hungry, that they were starving. "Send across some food," they would often shout in chorus.

"And swear—the oaths that were exchanged—between lines was something terrible. I'll bet there were oaths made in every language under the sun."

Little pranks, he said, are often executed. Sometimes they prove to be merely pranks but then again they sometimes result seriously. The soldiers in the 26th, he said, would often stick their heads above the trench on the point of a bayonet. A sniper would "snipe" and then a general "ha-ha" would ring all along the line, deriding the sniper.

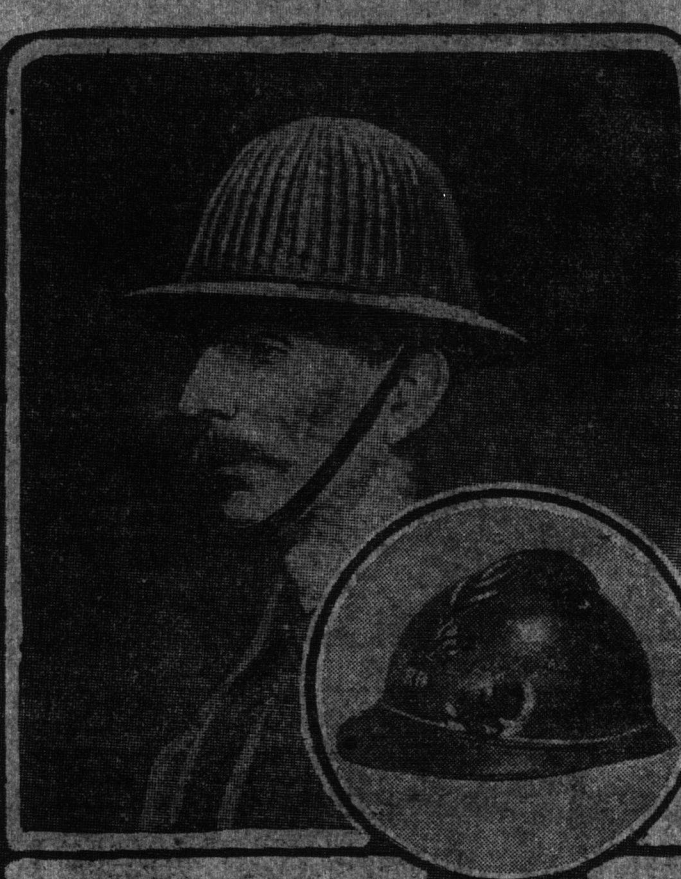
Lieut. Carter spoke of the position of the 26th and the general scheme of trench warfare. The 26th is located now and has been since it went to the front south of St. Eloi in Belgium. A strip of territory about five miles in depth and running the entire width of the country is still in the hands of the British line.

The frontage occupied by the 26th extended about 800 yards. At first the plan was to keep three companies in the front trench and one company in support. Now, he said, he understood that instead of two companies were in the front, one in support and another in reserve.

When an entire battalion is relieved it takes place at night but when only a small section is moving it can be done any time. In most cases the communication trenches are used. These consist of miles of trenches laid out all over the country from the base at the rear. One makes his way through at he would about the streets of the city. At junctions signs are posted directing to certain sections. The 26th walked through a mile of such trenches when it made its dash in front of the Germans. On occasions during wet weather the trenches are flooded and bold expedients have to be adopted in making shifts.

A few miles at the rear of the line is the cemetery. Just back of headquarters it starts and as far as the eye can reach the lines of little white crosses. Each cross means a buried hero. From headquarters you may read the name of the hero on the first row of crosses. Then they fade in perspective until there is only a white spot.

THE NEW BRITISH STEEL HELMET



Unlike the French helmet, the new British headpiece is not ornamental. It looks more like a jelly mould than anything else. But it is light and strong and the soldiers like it. Inset is a photo of a French helmet, illustrating its utility. It resisted five shrapnel bullets and fragments and protected its wearer against serious injury.

are carried to the rear and each is buried in a separate grave. A bottle containing the name and rank of the soldier is placed in the earth with him and above is erected a cross to distinguish his grave. If any number are killed in action they must be buried in a common grave where nothing but a huge white cross can be erected. This, of course, has not been necessary with the 26th.

Aeroplane Duels.

About the trenches, Lieut. Carter said, aeroplane duels are constantly going on. Sometimes several of the Germans will concentrate at a point and drop bombs but as soon as one flyer comes up they turn to their own lines.

"I saw a Zeppelin raid on Dover. There was a good deal of damage done but the military damage was nothing of importance."

Speaking of the possible duration of the war, Lieut. Carter said, "The general opinion is that it cannot last a year longer."

"It seems the general opinion at the front that the Germans are about exhausted. The soldiers are hungry; prisoners say that affairs at home are unsatisfactory. We understand, too, that Germany and Austria have no more trained men to draw on. All their fighting strength has been in service. The feeling is that they will now concentrate on the Balkans, but the Russians are depended upon to check the drive toward Constantinople. With Germany now, it is believed, it is a matter of months. Russia is being supplied with all the ammunition she wants now; she has millions of soldiers; yes, millions, in training, so that the one result is inevitable."

British Have 18-Inch Gun.

"In the western front the British were throwing ten shells to one of the Germans. The artillery on the British side is superior. That seventy-five metre gun of the French is a dandy. The British have just got an 18-inch gun on the job, but it had not been tried out a few months ago."

The infantry men in the trenches are supported by the field artillery about 1,000 yards behind the line. The 4.7 inch gun is supposed to be a half mile or more behind. Then come the big howitzers about two miles in a half to the rear. The 15-inch fire, six, seven, or eight miles from the trenches and back of these the big 18-inch guns have been set up. So it will be seen that the trenches do not establish the whole resistance. The support extends for ten miles nearly back of the trenches. And almost constantly shells are passing overhead. From all distances, varying from 1,000 yards to ten miles, they are whizzing one way and the other overhead, making a perpetual buzzing, mounding and burring.

"At first," says the lieutenant, "this makes one nervous, but after a few days everything becomes ordinary. The men sleep under heavy shell fire and even when they burst in the trenches only a casual remark—usually humorous—is occasioned. Of course, if someone alongside you gets killed or badly wounded it is disagreeable."

The Army and The Navy.

"What's the feeling of the lads for the navy?" the reporter asked as he was about to withdraw.

"The world," he cut in sharply. "They have the very highest regard for the navy. They don't wonder. The North Sea is clear and there is nothing to worry about on the ocean highways. The submarines are all gone. They've been caught in nets, most of them. At Dover I saw four or five of the captured submarines. They were in perfect condition—netted, everyone of them—and they were being remodeled for further use—but not in the German navy. I heard that many of the underwater craft were captured in the nets. Old sea dogs enjoyed the sport. The nets were stretched and as soon as the floaters were seen to close in, then they knew they had a catch. In a few days, when all means of resistance had withered out the net was cut and the craft brought to the service, and towed to port."

Speaking of other matters personal to other Canadians well known here, the lieutenant referred to Lieutenant-Colonel Ryan, formerly in command of the 6th Canadian Mounted Rifles, but recently dismissed from the service. He is now in France, he said, and it is understood that he is very soon to receive a commission in the French army.

Good Officers in England.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. F. McLeod is at Shorncliffe, holding an important post. "I have heard stories that some of the officers who were left behind were no good. The inference is drawn that because they are not taken to the trenches they are not good soldiers. I know that is absolutely wrong. Many of the officers were left behind are in very responsible posts. Some must necessarily be left in England as reserves."

Lieutenant Fairweather, who took such a prominent part in the crater attack, is now in command of "C" company. He was slightly wounded in the charge of the 16th, but the bullet only glanced along his cheek. The wound was dressed in the trench and he continued on duty.

The crater charge has been referred to by many English papers, Lieutenant Carter said, and the work has been very highly commended. Lieutenant Fairweather has received praise in more than one place.

Others on Missanab.

Several others returned on the Missanab yesterday with Lieutenant Carter. Among them were three chaplains, who are returning to Canada. They have completed their term and are resigning to continue their work at home. They were Major T. J. Thompson, of Ottawa, who was at Cairo for a long period; Captain A. B. Payne, of Moosejaw, and Dr. R. B. Taylor, of the 42nd Highland.

Several others were Captain McCausland, of Regina, whose eyesight was impaired by a bursting bomb; Captain R. Girouard, of Perth (Ont.), who went away with the 22nd battalion, and Lieutenant Smith, of the 12th artillery, Montreal. Captain Girouard was blown into the air twice by exploding mines, from which a physical breakdown resulted. The other officer was shot twice in the arm. All, excepting the chaplains, are home on leave.

YOUNG OFFICERS MUST HAVE WIDE MILITARY TRAINING

In view of the large number of young men applying for commissions the following war office circular is promulgated for general information for the purpose of giving some idea of the subjects which a young officer must know, or have some knowledge of, before he can be selected for service in the field.

It is noted no officer should be selected as fit for service in the field unless he is physically fit and of an age to make it likely that he will be able to bear the strain of war.

Discipline.

Must have attained a high standard of discipline.

Must have attained sufficient self-confidence to command his platoon.

Drill.

Must know squad drill, extended order drill, platoon commander's duties in company drill, bayonet fighting drill.

Must have attained sufficient self-confidence to drill a squad, drill a platoon, explain on parade simple movements to a squad.

Musketry.

Must know and be able to explain to a platoon the service rifle, the musketty exercises, the care of arms, the reporting of messages, and the judging of distance.

Should have a knowledge of the theory of rifle fire, the supply of ammunition in the field and range duties.

Must pass a severe test in the control and direction of fire, the indication of targets, the instruction of a recruit.

Must be able to carry out tests laid down in musketty regulations.

Tactics and Field Warfare.

Every officer should be able to handle a platoon in the field.

Must be able to tell off and post sentries and arrange posts and reliefs.

Must know the duties of a commander of an outpost company, a platoon commander, a sentry and sentry groups and a patrol.

Should have knowledge of a company in attack and defence, protection at rest and on the move, telling off an advance guard, telling off a flank guard, telling off an outpost company, composition of a brigade, battery, squadron and battalion.

Must have a thorough knowledge of march discipline, use of cover, control of men in extended order and in night operations.

Must be able to write a field message.

Should have thorough training in writing clear and concise reports of happenings in his vicinity.

Topography.

Must have a good knowledge of map reading, drawing plan of his and adjoining trench, the construction of a range card and use of compass.

Trench Warfare.

Must have knowledge of handling of common trench and explosives, telling off a working party and allotting a task, looping and revetting, common types of trenches and dugouts, entanglements, obstacles, the relief and handing over of a platoon in the trenches by day and night, construction, repair, holding and capture of trenches.

Must have a knowledge of duties of a leader of a grenade party, formation of a grenade party, methods of training and employment of grenadiers.

Billeting.

Must have a general knowledge of arrangements for billeting, how a platoon is fed in billets, sanitary arrangements, orders for sentries in billets and alarm posts.

Machine Guns.

If possible, have a knowledge of how to use a machine gun in case of emergency, and how to disable a gun without explosives.

Interior Economy and Military Law.

1. Powers of an officer commanding company.

2. Forfeiture of pay.

3. Fines for drunkenness.

4. How to make a summary of evidence.

5. Definitions and differences between various crimes that may come before an officer commanding company, before taken to C. O.

6. Powers of an officer when on detachment.

7. Procedure when a man reports sick, asks for an advance of pay, asks for extension of leave, asks for pass at unauthorized times (in which the officer commanding company is away).

8. Duties of the orderly officer, orderly sergeant, non-commissioned officers of his platoon.

9. How a soldier is paid—at home and on active service. How and to whom to make a requisition for cash. Quittance rolls.

10. Regimental orders, Part I, and Part II, as far as affects the pay of the men of the company.

11. Procedure when a man requires a new kit, (a) a free issue, (b) on payment; where the payments appear in the company pay list.

12. What to do in case of a military disturbance outside barracks.

13. When he is on leave, how to deal with men asking for passes and advance of pay.

14. Compliments to be paid to senior officers, (a) when in command of men, (b) when off duty.

15. Restrictions of an officer on the sick list and how to report sick and how to write an official letter and the proper channels for it to pass through.

16. What to do when sick on leave.

17. How to keep a trench store book and the procedure on handing out any stores or handling over completely.

18. How to take over a platoon from another officer.

20. Procedure when a soldier is brought up on a crime.

Physical Drill.

Must have sufficient knowledge to take his platoon for physical drill parades in billets, and take his platoon for bayonet exercises.

Signalling.

Should have slight knowledge of field telephones, and how to mend a broken line, the form of telephone message used in the service, how to read, take and write down a verbal message.

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—The next session of the present parliament will convene on January 12, it was announced today. It is also officially announced that Albert Seivigny, M.P., the deputy speaker, will succeed Speaker Sproule, who has been appointed senator.

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CASUALTIES ARE HEAVIER IN EASTERN UNITS; THREE IN 26TH

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—The lists follow:

THIRD BATTALION.

Suffering from Shock—Roy Curtis Toronto; Charles Greck, Chatham (Ont.) Wounded—Howard Flanagan, Toronto.

NINTH BATTALION.

Seriously Ill—Geo. Moore, England.

THIRTEENTH BATTALION.

Previously Reported Wounded and Missing, Believed Dead, Now Unofficially Reported Killed in Action—Captain Lionel Ward Whitehead, Montreal.

FOURTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Wm. H. Moffatt, Montreal.

SIXTEENTH BATTALION.

Killed in Action—Lance Corporal Francis John Ward, Winnipeg. Severely Wounded—Sergeant David S. Robertson, Winnipeg.

NINETEENTH BATTALION.

Suffering from Insomnia—Capt. F. J. Buchanan, Ingersoll (Ont.).

TWENTY-FOURTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Harry Johnston, Chicago.

TWENTY-SIXTH BATTALION.

Wounded—W. F. STERLING, 225 SYDNEY STREET, ST. JOHN (N.B.).

THIRTY-FIRST BATTALION.

Killed in Action—Arthur Robert Adams, Chicago.

THIRTY-NINTH BATTALION.

Seriously Ill—Oscar Henderson, Hamilton (Ont.).

SECOND CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

Wounded—Wm. J. Wilkinson, Victoria (B.C.); Ernest W. Melcombe Vancouver.

FOURTH CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

Died of Wounds—Robert S. Hodge, Winnipeg.

DEPOT COMPANY ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Died—Arthur W. Holmes, Toronto.

AFTERNOON LIST.

FIRST BATTALION.

Wounded—ALBERT McLENNAN LUKE, CHATHAM (N.B.).

SECOND BATTALION.

Previously Reported Missing, Now Unofficially Reported Prisoners of War at Dulmen—Geo. W. Fairbanks, Scotland.

THIRD BATTALION.

Died of Wounds, Dec. 7—Lieutenant Alfred James Lawrence Evans, Quebec.

THIRTEENTH BATTALION.

Suffering from Contusion Shock—John Ross Cook (formerly 8th battalion), Hamilton (Ont.).

Suffering from Contusion—Charles Ingram, England.

FIFTEENTH BATTALION.

Died of Wounds—Geo. William Pines, England.

Killed in Action—Herbert Hopley, 87th battalion, Montreal.

SIXTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Malcolm Cameron, Winnipeg; Dan S. McKinnon, Franboise (C.B.).

Suffering from Shock—Frederick William Digby, Vancouver.

Wounded—Charles H. Leslie, Scotland.

TWENTIETH BATTALION.

Wounded—Corporal John Reynolds, Milwaukee (Wis.).

TWENTY-FIFTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Edward Heneberry, Ireland; FREDERICK E. GRANT, SYDNEY (N.S.).

Slightly Wounded—HUGH A. McPHEE, SYDNEY MINES (C.B.).

TWENTY-SIXTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Sydney L. Kilminster, Wales; MYLES J. SULLIVAN, MONCTON (N.B.).

TWENTY-EIGHTH BATTALION.

Seriously Ill—Arthur Broomfield, England.

THIRTY-FIRST BATTALION.

Killed in Action—John Buchanan, Scotland; Wm. Jones, Wales; Robert Jones, Wales; Frederick George Eagle, England.

Forty-EIGHTH BATTALION.

Seriously Ill—Leslie Wilksby, Victoria (B.C.).

Forty-NINTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Beverly Glen Haddock, Salford (Ont.).

FIFTY-FIFTH BATTALION.

Died Dec. 10—George Alfred Breed, England.

FIFTY-EIGHTH BATTALION.

Seriously Ill—Clifford Griffith, Bowsman River (Man.).

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DEATH

MILES—At Upper cowlry, on Nov. 11, Mr. widow of George F. Miles leaving one daughter, four grandchildren to most papers please copy.

VENNING—At his Pleasant, Dec. 8, 1915, in the 80th year of two brothers and two sons.

ROBINSON—At her Wright street, on the 8th wife of John B. Robinson husband and one son to crieron papers please copy.

ALLAN—Entered 11th inst, after a length W. Allen, aged 70 years, wife and four daughters HAMM—In this city inst, Samuel D. Hamm, his wife, two sons and to mourn. (Boston paper)

CARD OF TH

Mr. and Mrs. David thank their many friends and sympathy in the death of their son, Joseph David.

IN MEMOR

In tender and ever ch of Ellen Lockwood, nee T. Ward, who departed 1899.

HUSBAND AND

And somewhat regret on the Of the country that he She will watch in her bed To bid us welcome again

RETURNED SOLDIER

HAVE FEW

Winnipeg, Dec. 10.—Soldiers of the 26th Battalion board of officers, to propagate complaints as to the The soldiers declared an had been offset by their ment in other respects.

And they had good on board ship train, they said, but they were unable to get un leaving England.

They believed morning decks of the troopships shortened with advances claimed they were given Quebec.

Lieut.-Col. Rowley, on explained the Canadian is not discharge the soldiers unless it was certain the come a charge on the

Rub a little vinegar on hands get very cold, w hanging clothes out to makes the hands sauc