



The Western Scot

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26th, 1916

THE INSPECTION ON WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday last the Battalion organization was inspected thoroughly by Brigadier-General John Hughes, Inspector-General of the Forces in Western Canada. It was gratifying to the Commanding Officer and the officers under him to note how smartly all ranks entered into the work, and the sentiment is that the Inspecting Officer could not fail to have been favorably impressed with the appearance of the Battalion.

Brigadier-General Hughes conducted a most comprehensive investigation not only of the human equation in the Battalion but also of everything connected with it. He was at pains to meet individually every officer of the commissioned rank, and he made note of all salient facts relative to the career, military experience, place of nativity and qualification of each. He also secured a list of all qualified non-commissioned officers in the Battalion, of whom the 67th can boast a considerable number.

In the person of Brigadier-General Hughes the forces of Western Canada have an inspector of outstanding ability. A man of great native courtesy and kindness, he brings to his task the ripe experience of many years of service.

GENERAL CURRIE WRITES

Brigadier-General Currie, writing from "1st Canadian Division," under date January 3rd, acknowledging New Year greetings from friends in Victoria, has the following to say:

"They will be interested in hearing that the health, spirits and discipline of the Division are excellent, although we have now been continuously in the line longer than any other Division in France.

"Although winter conditions have been very trying, 'trench feet,' which accounted for so many casualties last winter, is practically an unknown complaint. Front line trenches are not the safest nor the most comfortable quarters in the world, yet the greatest optimists in the Empire are to be found there.

"The 7th Battalion, or 1st British Columbia Regiment, has recently added greatly to its already splendid reputation. We were very anxious to ascertain the identity of the units opposite us, also to find out if the Germans were making preparations to use gas against us. Col. Odum suggested a plan which was approved. About six weeks ago he carried it out, and so successfully that it has been generally regarded as one of the most successful minor operations of the war. His party crossed over, cut the wire, entered the German trenches, killed and wounded between fifty and seventy-five Germans, brought back twelve unwounded prisoners, and all at the loss of one wounded and one who was accidentally killed. After our chaps had returned the Germans counter-attacked with bombs their own trenches, where we had been. They also lined their parapets and opened a heavy rifle fire. Our guns then opened a terrific fire on their trenches and in that way we must have accounted for a lot more. Every officer concerned was decorated, Odum, Costigan, McIlree and Holmes getting D.S.O.'s, while Wrightson got a military cross. McIlree and Holmes are from Victoria. Half the men engaged got the D.C.M.'s, eleven being given. Meyerstein, Victoria, was one. The greatest compliment, to my mind, lies in the fact that a precis of Odum's Operation Orders, Narrative of Events, etc., has been printed in French and 4,000 copies circulated in the French Army, to serve as a model for similar operations. Many divisions have taken it up and have been successful, yet none more so than the 7th Battalion, who made the first attempt."

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