

# The Western Scot

Vol. I.

WILLOWS CAMP, VICTORIA, B. C., OCTOBER 16th, 1915

No. 2

## THE LEWIS MACHINE GUN

The present war may be described as a war of mechanics rather than of men, and amongst the mechanical contrivances, the prolific use of which justifies this definition, the machine gun takes a leading part. While the capacity of this weapon as a man-killing device has never been in doubt, the weight and consequent immobility of the existing models materially reduces their value when used by an attacking force of infantry. The extraordinary efficiency of the best machine guns, when suitably mounted, has encouraged inventors to investigate the possibilities of a lighter form, to be easily carried and operated, when necessary, by one man.

construction are as follows: A detachable magazine (A), loaded with forty-seven cartridges, is attached to a suitable fixing on the barrel near its after end, the first cartridge being fed from the magazine into the firing chamber (B) by the first forward movement of the firing pin, which is, however, arrested before the striker (D) reaches the cartridge unless the trigger (C) is held back. When the trigger (C) is pressed, the striker (D), carried forward by the mainspring (K), explodes the cartridge in the position in the firing chamber (B). Before the bullet leaves the barrel, under the influence of gas pressure, it uncovers a hole (E) connecting the barrel with a cylinder (G) below, lying parallel with it,



SERGEANTS AND STAFF-SERGEANTS OF 67TH BATTALION

PHOTO BY SHAW BROS., VICTORIA

LEFT TO RIGHT—BACK ROW—Provost Sergt. Howard, Sergts. Mirams, Burton, Fernie, Haines, Redgrave, McNeill, Johnstone, Williams  
 SECOND ROW—Sergts. Hyslop, Young, Watson, Armourer-Sergt. Hughes, Sergt. Brasier, Pioneer Sergt. Smith, Sergts. Crossthwaite, Pugh, McKay  
 THIRD ROW—Sergt. Tailor Moffat, Sergt. Tait, Paymaster Sergt. Best, Sergts. Steele, Farmer, Cartwright, Sergt. Shoemaker Hobbs, Sergt. Eddie  
 FOURTH ROW—Bat. Sergt. Cook MacMaster, C.Q.M.S. Gray, C.Q.M.S. Stewart, C.S.M. Johnstone, C.S.M. Henderson, C.S.M. Ware, C.S.M. Duke, C.Q.M.S. Dawson  
 SITTING—O.R.Q.M.S. Nicholls, R.Q.M.S. Macnicol, B.S.M. Boys, Band Sergt. Wishart

Among the best weapons of this type now in use may be placed the Lewis Automatic Machine-Gun, which is largely used in the British and Belgian trenches and with which the "Western Scots" will be armed. This gun may be termed an automatic rifle, and is light enough to be moved by one man, and, weighing slightly less than thirty pounds, can be fired from the shoulder of a powerful man without the support of a tripod or other barrel-rest. The mechanism of this gun is operated by a portion of the propelling gas, and not by the recoil, as in some other makes. The broad principles of its

and a portion of the gas passes into the lower cylinder (G), driving back the piston (H) and, with it, the rod (J) against the pressure of the mainspring (K). The movement of the rod (J) recocks the gun, throws out the exploded cartridge-case and, during the early stage of its return journey, under the mainspring's influence, transfers a live cartridge from the magazine to the chamber.

If the gunner lets go the trigger the firing ceases and the gun remains cocked until the trigger is again pressed. If, however, he keeps a continuous pressure on the trigger the