

BY THE COLONEL.



SINCE the last issue of THE FORTY-NINER several big things have happened.

On March 25 we went up against a fairly stiff proposition: a bombardment which lasted from 2 to 5 p.m. on that day. Most of the heavy stuff fell in and around battalion headquarters, much to the disgust of the staff. Like the drum-major in the song, this sort of thing is not expected by the staff.

On May 1 we had another little show, the bombardment beginning at 5.30 p.m., and lasting till 8.15 p.m., and then the enemy attacked. By 8.15 every man was as mad as a hornet, and I fear that we "didn't do a thing" to the unfortunate Huns who set out to come across.

In conversation with a German officer scragged by "A" Company, he made the statement that they were under the impression that after the bombardment which they had given us there would be no one left alive in our front line. Of course, we had some casualties, but there were sufficient Forty-Niners left alive to put the tin hat on the German attack.

For the action on this day we received the congratulations and thanks of the corps, division, and brigade commanders in the orders published the following day.

I omitted to say that on April 28 the battalion was inspected by the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig. He complimented the battalion on its physique, high standard of the men in the matter of intelligence, and was particularly pleased with the manner in which the men handled their arms. I need scarcely say that our band contributed largely to the success of the inspection.

During the month of May the Commander-in-Chief, in a despatch to the Secretary of State for War, brought to notice certain regiments which, in his opinion, were worthy of commendation. In the Canadian Army Corps four regiments were mentioned that were specially worthy of notice. Among these four regiments was the 49th Canadian Battalion (Edmonton Regiment).

On June 19 the battalion was inspected by the G.O.C. 2nd Army Corps, Lieutenant General Plumer. After the inspection the battalion formed a hollow square, and the General addressed the battalion in a very

vigorous and soldierly speech, in which he complimented the battalion highly upon its general conduct since coming to France, and in particular upon the work done on June 2, 3, and 4. He particularly addressed the new men who had just joined the battalion, and urged upon them the importance of maintaining the traditions and high standard established by the regiment.

All ranks were particularly gratified by the observations of this distinguished soldier, and felt that praise from him was praise very well earned.

The following is a list of officers, N.C.O.'s, and men who have received decorations for services rendered during the last three months:—

Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Griesbach, Distinguished Service Order.

Major A. K. Hobbins, Distinguished Service Order.

Captain G. Z. Pinder (wounded), Military Cross.

Lieutenant W. R. Herbert, Military Cross.

Lieutenant Henry Hobbs, Military Cross.

Company-Sergeant-Major Miles (wounded), Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Company-Sergeant Major M. G. Ellis (wounded), Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Lance-Corporal R. Cruickshank, Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Private E. Le F. Cogswell (wounded), Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Company-Sergeant-Major J. Wallis, Military Medal.

Sergeant A. Macdonald (wounded), Military Medal.

Sergeant J. G. Downton, Military Medal.

Corporal F. Bennett (killed subsequently), Military Medal.

Corporal T. Eaves, Military Medal.

Private T. Heaps, Military Medal.

Private F. A. Trout (wounded), Military Medal.

Private T. J. A. Walkeden, Military Medal.

Private G. W. Tomkinson, Military Medal.

Private A. J. McKinnon, Military Medal.

Private S. Gillespie (wounded), Military Medal.

On July 17 Major A. J. Hobbins, who has been adjutant since the organisation of the regiment in January, 1915, was transferred to the 3rd Entrenching Battalion, to command the same, with, it is understood, the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

This officer has rendered valuable service to this regiment. He was always "on the job," and his lengthy service in the British Army prior to his connection with the 49th was of the greatest assistance. While his departure is much regretted by all ranks, it is felt that his promotion, and the grant to him of the D.S.O., was well deserved, and all ranks will join doubtless in wishing him success and good luck in his new command.

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