

ONE YEAR OF GLOOM WHICH FOR SOME BOYS IS NOW ETERNAL

ONE YEAR IN TRENCHES; 26TH NOW HAS CHANCE TO STRIKE HARD BLOWS IN OFFENSIVE

Officers and Men Through Trying Experiences at Last Have Chance to "Take It Out" on Germans

Honors Have Been Won by Several Officers and There Have Been Many Changes and Promotions—Spirit of New Brunswick Women With Loved Ones in This Battalion—Equal to the Test.

Six days leave and a year between. "But what would you have—in six days clean, "Heaven was made," said Francine.

The joy of the French girl wife as she leaves with her infant to meet her man Michel on "holiday fighting for France" is pictured in a beautiful little poem by Charlotte Holmes Crawford, in the last Scribner's.

Coming through a full year's service in the arduous, dangerous but unsatisfying trench warfare with the highest honors the 26th were on the memorable 15th day of September given their chance in the hand-to-hand blows on the retiring German front and nobly they did their duty.

Their Record. Just a year ago the Fighting 26th took over the front line trenches.

On the 21st of September a company took over the front line trenches with the 22nd French-Canadian battalion and on the 27th the battalion as a unit took over the trenches from the 22nd.

When they were holding a section of line that 10,000 men might be given to hold, that we would be attacked. In those days the line was indeed thin and we knew that if the trenching looked as though we were expected, that we would be wiped out or driven from the trenches and that no man intended to do.

LIBUT. F. B. WINTER, bombing officer of the 26th. The morning of the 26th the first casualty occurred, Private Moses Gallant being killed instantly by a bullet from the enemy trenches.

Threatening Two Officers. "At this same headquarters building I got in something of a pickle myself.

On the date when the New Brunswick's famous fighting battalion left St. John it has made wonderful history and has been through some of the most bloody fighting on the western front, holding what was probably the hardest portion of the Ypres salient.

Recent additions to the staff: Majors F. J. Bull and M. E. Williams, Captains E. G. Anglin, C. E. Williams and G. H. Woodbridge, Lieutenants B. H. Murray, J. C. Stuart, R. B. Clarke and M. W. Marsh.

VERY FIRST NIGHT IN TRENCHES 26TH HAD BAPTISM OF FIRE

Going in Over Brow of Hill Germans Opened Up and Men Were Obligated to Lay Down

OFFICER SPEAKS OF "SWISHING SENSATION"

Machine Guns Likely to Open at Unexpected Moments—Lieut. H. M. Ferguson Died Without Knowing—Bullet Accidentally Pierced His Head.

It was the first night in the trenches of the 26th New Brunswick Battalion. A party was sent up to discover the peculiarities of the line which they were to take over.

When they left St. John was as follows: Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. McAvity, O. C.

Captain J. A. McKensie, F. F. May and George Keefe. Lieutenants A. McMillan, A. O. Dawson, C. E. Fairweather, F. D. McAvity, H. W. Ferguson, G. M. Johnson, C. D. Knowlton, J. A. Legere, C. P. Leonard, C. G. Porter, E. A. Sturde, H. G. Wood, C. M. Lawson, F. E. Lockhart, J. E. March, W. C. Lawson and F. B. Winter.

It is presumed that Lieutenant F. E. Lockhart is dead. It was before the big battle of St. Eloi and the Sixth Division, which launched the attack, early in the afternoon.

CAPT. F. F. MAY, seriously wounded and invalided home. The morning of the 26th the first casualty occurred, Private Moses Gallant being killed instantly by a bullet from the enemy trenches.

Stories were circulated that he had been taken prisoner by the enemy, but nothing to substantiate this claim was ever discovered.

Of the present staff of officers of the 26th the following were members of the original staff: Lieutenant-Colonel McKensie, Major W. R. Brown, mentioned in despatches for gallantry; Major D. McArthur, on the staff of the Fifth Brigade; Major J. A. McKensie, divisional transport officer of the Second Division; Major Hon. A. Pringle, Major C. E. Fairweather, Major P. D. McAvity, Captain H. H. Argue, Captain W. C. Birrell, Captain G. P. Leonard, Captain H. G. Wood, Lieutenant W. C. Lawson, Lieutenant R. H. Arnold, Lieutenant C. G. Porter, Lieutenant F. B. Winter and Lieutenant Jenkins.

Of the new officers, Lieutenant A. G. S. Fleming, a proud possessor of the D.C.M., "is a wild Irishman who came with us from the Princess Patricia's." Lieutenant-Colonel McAvity, when speaking of this particular officer, "He won the D. C. M. with the Princess Patricia's, and also won his Military Cross on the field of battle. He is of the Michael O'Leary type and a splendid officer."

A Clean Page. Portly Woman (pushing her way into a police station)—I see you have arrested a man whose mind is blank. Officer—We have, indeed. Portly Woman—Then please bring him out so I may have a look at him. My Henry didn't come home last night, and that's a fairly good description of him—Blank.

IN MEMORIAM



NEW BRUNSWICK'S HEROIC DEAD AS THEY ARE LYING IN THE 26TH CREMERY AT LATIERIE, BELGIUM WITHIN THE SOUND OF THE GUNS. THE FIRST GRAVE TO THE LEFT IS THAT OF PTE. MOSES GALLANT, THE FIRST CASUALTY OF THE BATTALION.

In a little cemetery at Latierie between Kamel and Ypres stand the remains of a New Brunswick soldier. Behind it is another cemetery with a similar board bearing the inscription "22nd Battalion, 2nd C.E.F., Canada."

70059, Sergt. Wootton G. S., Joseph Wootton, Jersey, Channel Islands. 69006, Pte. Buckley C. J., Mrs. Maggie Buckley, 8 Sheffield street, St. John. 69946, South G., Mrs. Elizabeth South, 42 Clarence street, St. John.

69817, Pte. Ritchie C. W., Alex Ritchie, Granville (N. S.). 69484, Pte. Keenan R., Mrs. Margaret Reed, Main street, Fairville (N. B.). 69896, Pte. Howes S., Mrs. William Howes, Sussex (N. B.).

69909, Pte. Belanger Jerome, Mrs. Jerome Belanger, Val Brilliant (P. Q.). 69961, Pte. Jno. McLean, Esta McLean, Charlottetown (P. E. I.). 69916, Pte. W. H. Glass, James Glass, 201 Spar Cove Road, St. John (N. B.).

69818, L. C. Peacock R. F. E. S. Peacock, Montreal. 69897, Pte. Steven James, Maurice Steven, Central Billville (N. B.). 69917, Pte. Gabriel R. 69900, Pte. Seccis G., Mrs. Annie Seccis, 15 Rimadipata, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"JUST AN ORDINARY FLAG; ORDINARY AS FLAGS ARE ORDINARY"

But, Taken From King Street Store When 26th Sailed, It Lived in Shroud Hero's.

"STAINED WITH BLOOD AND DYED IN GLORY"

As Men of 26th Fell, They Were Carried to Graves in Union Jack—And the Flag Lives, Still in Action, Tattered, Torn and Moody But Typifying Immortal Spirit of New Brunswick Battalion.

It was just an ordinary flag. Ordinary as flags are ordinary, but extraordinary in the eyes of the Canadian in that it was a Union Jack.

On the 18th day of June, 1916, it fluttered happily in the spring breeze as it hung suspended over the entrance of a store in King street.

Thousands crowded the street. Why The 26th New Brunswick Battalion, yet untired, but having the faith of a city and province behind it, was about to embark for English shores and the populus was out to bid the boys Godspeed.

Soon the glare of brass bands is heard as the boys appear. The bands march through the crowd, the commanding officer and half of the first company get through, then all semblance of order is gone for the moment and the crowd rushes in and soldiers and civilians mingle, throwing the military discipline to the winds as the good-byes are said.

Two young lads of that battalion happened to spy the Union Jack and one said to his comrade: "How about taking that there flag, Joe, for a souvenir of our last day in the city?"

The flag went to England with the "Fighting 26th." It followed the battalion to France. On the morning of September 23 the New Brunswick Battalion had its first casualty. A comrade was killed in action only a few hours after he had reached the trenches. It was then that the flag was used for the first time as a shroud for the gallant dead.

Yes, it was stained—stained in blood and dyed in glory. It is not today the proud looking flag that it was when it hung in King street and fluttered in the breeze that bright June afternoon—but its value is now above that of gold or fine jewels.

The flag is still in action. It is still on the firing line. Still it travels back of the line with its gallant dead. It is a veteran and if it survives the great tumult of war it will surely find a place in the history of the Province of New Brunswick.

MAJOR W. R. BROWN, who went over as a Company commander in the 26th and is now second in command.