

### THE MACHINE GUN SECTION

Last week the Machine Gun Section of the Battalion was organized under command of Lieut. S. H. Okell, who has recently returned from Ottawa, where he took a special course in machine gun work at the Royal Canadian School of Musketry.

As is well known, the machine gun is playing a great part in the present war, and the personnel (which is thirty-five men) of the 67th section has been carefully picked, each man being of especially good physique, of mechanical aptitude and good self reliance.

At the present time drill is being done with a dummy, but the early arrival of a gun is looked forward to with keen anticipation.

The machine guns used by the Canadian forces at the front have been for the most part the Colt Automatic Guns, which have given good satisfaction. But these are being superceded to a certain extent by the new "Lewis" gun, and as the Canadian Government has placed a large contract for these latter, which are supposed to be delivered on November first, it is likely the Battalion will be supplied with these at an early date.

While the Colt gun is one of the best quick-firers made, still the Lewis has an advantage in its greater lightness, weighing, as it does, only about thirty pounds, including the mount; while the Colt gun alone is thirty-five pounds and tripod sixty pounds. It will thus be seen that the ease and simplicity of portability of the Lewis is a matter that counts very greatly in its favor. Moreover, if necessary, it can be fired without a mount at all, even from a man's shoulder, just as would be a rifle. The rate of fire of a machine gun may be said to be equal to about fifty riflemen using rapid fire, and when it is considered that such a gun takes but a yard of frontage, as compared with fifty yards for riflemen, and the gun, if necessary, can be run by one man, the great advantage and importance of machine gun fire can be fully realized. In many cases at the front machine guns have done deadly work from the second story of houses, where they have been well concealed, allowing the enemy to come within very close range. In fact, one very authentic report instances the wiping out of a whole German battalion in a little over five minutes by one British machine gun.

Col. Ross, having been to the front, knows the necessity of more machine guns and the careful training of their crews, and it is his intention that the "Western Scots" will not be behind in this particular and will demand a very high standard of proficiency in the machine gun section ere he allows them to go into action.

### A CRIMEAN VETERAN

On Wednesday was laid to rest the mortal remains of one who has fought the battles of Britain the names of which are written large on the page of history. To have fought at the Alma, Inkerman, Balaclava and Sebastopol, as well as in the Indian Mutiny, was ample warrant for the military funeral that was accorded the memory of Peter Fernie, and the spectacle of the very many medals and ribbons on the breasts of so great a number of those in the cortege was a fitting tribute to the sturdy old warrior who has passed away full of years and honor.

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