

explosive shell in the mouth of a dug-out in Scottish Woods. This one shell was responsible for the killing outright of eight men and for the wounding of nine more, two of whom succumbed on the following day. On Sept. 12th C. S. M. Paton, one of our finest N.C.O.'s, was shot dead. With casualties occurring in this manner from day to day we were glad to receive a draft of men from the 66th and 82nd Bns., numbering nearly a hundred, and hailing for the most part from Calgary, who reported at Micmac Camp on Sept. 8th.

On all the occasions when the battalion was in the line Advanced Headquarters were established in Shelley Lane, a semi-natural trench built up on the banks of a somewhat foul little stream; the whole appearance of the trench was more that of a woodland path, shaded with trees and pitted with caves, and during the summer months it was quite a pretty spot; but it was none the less an easy target for the Hun artillerymen and on several occasions it was necessary for its temporary inhabitants to take shelter in a large tunnel opening out of the extreme end.

We were now rapidly approaching the end of our stay in this sector but before we left we were to have some experience, though not an active share, in a raid. The 54th Bn. on our right was detailed to raid the opposing trenches for the purpose of obtaining indentifications and the hour was set for midnight of Sept. 16th. Our share was merely to "stand to" and be prepared for any eventualities and to learn what we could for our own future use. The raid was entirely successful and resulted in the capture of six prisoners from amongst the Wurtemburgers.

And so we came to the 17th when we were relieved on this front by the 15th Bn., 4th Bde., 4th Div., Australians, and made ourselves ready to go out and understand the real meaning of a Divisional Rest. Now in case this book should ever fall into the hands of a layman, one who has not been to France and therefore imagines that English words as used by the Army have the same meaning as when used by civilians, it may be well to explain that the word "rest" merely means "safety." A battalion at rest is a battalion which is not actually under shell fire and in direct ratio to the importance of the unit adjective prefixed to the word the measure of safety is computed. The higher you go, the fewer—shells; thus Divisional Rest is safer than Brigade Rest. In the same way "bath" must not be confounded with the civilian idea of a bath; sometimes it happens that if bath-house attendants are in a good temper enough water will be supplied from the showers to wash the soap off the lathered body, but it frequently happens that the water supply is stopped before the soap disappears, and then a few handfuls of dirty water have to suffice. Again the use of the word "clean" when applied to underwear which has been treated by the Divisional baths, has little connection with the same word when applied to clothing which has passed through a civilian laundry. The Army word "clean" means that the clothing has been treated according to Army regulations; it has been steamed, which