

Regiment, Strathcona's Horse, who is still at the front unscratched after seven months, lucky man!

"You ask me for my experiences. Well I am afraid that they are disappointingly brief. When the 1st Contingent Infantry went out in February, we of the Cavalry Brigade were held back in Sussex occupying the mansion and grounds of a German Count (according to a local report a most charming man—they all are) who for the good of his health had retired for a season. Then when the infantry got cut up so badly in April, at Hill 60, General Seely (our Brigadier) took us out dismounted. The web equipment and short rifles were flung at us at three days' notice but we soon got accustomed to the cobblestones and footslogging, and after being held in reserve at Ypres for a few days, were marched down to Bethune and straight into the front line trenches in the middle of the Battle of Festubert from 17th to 26th May, I think it lasted. Anyhow, we were then at the extreme right of the British Line, and except for one British regiment, were in touch with the French. Well that was the line the British were so short of ammunition on and we fairly got peppered with shrapnel. The third day (25th May) I went across a communication trench to a German trench the 5th Battalion had taken in the morning. There were fifteen of our "B" Squadron carrying cases of bombs and it was an awful job getting across as the trench was choked with dead and wounded and we were being shelled all the time. It took about half an hour to do 100 yards. We got our bomb cases across all right but the shrapnel got so thick we couldn't get back, so all one could do was to lie along flat with your face and body against the parapets at the rear of the captured trench. I started to crawl around on my hands and knees and found Johnson of our Vegreville branch with his arm and leg shockingly cut up. I wanted him to get inside the trench but as he couldn't move I crept on and saw Golden (Wetaskiwin, the place seemed full of bank men). He was all right and is so still; seems to have had wonderful escapes. A little later I got hit on the head and shoulder, so my day's work was completed for some months. Fernie from Stony Plain and W. L. Donald also got hit the same day. The Bank of Commerce representatives in Strathcona Horse were sheer out of luck on 25th May. When I was returned from hospital to the Casualty troop in the Cavalry Barracks at Shorncliffe I met dozens of our men, particularly from the West and Pacific Coast branches. I was at the dinner on 19th October, in Folkestone and many men who couldn't get there I saw, notably Olive, Mahon and Harris from the 72nd Seaforts at Vancouver and a number of men in the 49th. They appeared to be sending wounded men back to Canada whether fit for duty or not, so I made haste to get a commission in the Sussex, as I want to see the job through. I expect to be out again in January; we are under orders now. Johnson and Fernie are now in the Pay and Record Office in London, and from what I understand from them the C. B. C. hours and work are infinitely preferable."

The following is a letter from LIEUT. W. H. HOPKINSON, formerly of the London, Eng., branch, dated Chakdara Camp, India, 17th November, 1915: