

"NOT BEST FIGHTING BATTALION IN DIVISION"

Sergt. Graham, Who Carried Up High Explosives When Crater Fight Was Hottest, Writes of Experiences

"Nothing Too Hard to Say Against Germans" —Cut Throats of Women Captives in Trenches When British Break Lines—"A Per- ambulator Corps" for the Slackers.

Some stirring letters from the front including one from Sergeant W. B. Graham, of the 26th Battalion, describing the crater fight of October 13, appear in this week's St. John's Courier. Sergeant Graham writes that the 26th has already achieved the reputation of the best fighting battalion in the Second Canadian Division, and gives some stories of revolting German conduct sufficient to stir the heart of any man.

Sergeant A. O. Budd, now with the 10th Battalion, writes that every bullet fired by a British soldier is in the name of Miss Edith Cavell and he appeals to the boys at home to continue to enlist.

These letters follow:
Sergeant Graham, in writing to his wife, said in regard to the fight the 26th Battalion took part in "I suppose that long before you get this letter, you will have read about the fight with the cursed Germans."

"For my part, I was never in such a terrible position in my life, as I was last Wednesday afternoon, October 13. I had an order from Colonel McAvity to take high explosive bombs to A Company, where the fight was hottest. We were caught between our own artillery fire and the Germans. The German shells were exploding all around, with rifle fire, machine guns, and everything a human being can invent. I was never so relieved in my life as when we landed our load at the proper place, and I thank God that I was able to carry out the order and my part in supporting the attacking party still coming through all night and being able to write to you. I got there just in the nick of time."

"I saw a great many brave acts done by our men of the 26th Battalion and I think you should be proud of the battalion. No one can call us 'moving picture soldiers' any longer. For all the St. John people gave us a bad name last winter, (all had to suffer for a few weeks here, and are called the 'lightning' battalion by the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 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996th, 997th, 998th, 999th, 1000th.

Stuart, Ray Stuart, Lance Corporal Walter Hanson, McDonald, Guy Jones, Wendell Young, Lance Corporal William Murray, Sergeant Busby, Sergeant Barnaby, Private Parcell of Milltown, and by their talk they have not regretted their move in enlisting.

In my first attempt at letter writing I struck a sore spot somewhere, as a certain young man hasn't spoken to some friends of mine since he read it. Well, Sergeant Ryder and I are going to recruit a perambulator corps of the slackers when we get back, as perhaps its more in their line. We don't need anybody to meet us at the station, if that's what they're waiting for.

The only thing that worries us is how to tie the "Last Post" and the "Listening Post" with a piece of the "Front Line." Can anybody in St. Stephen do it?

Well as it is near "Tea up" I will have to close, hoping that everybody is well.

Yours sincerely,
SERGEANT BUDD.
A Warlike Family.

Mrs. Robert M. Turner, Millidge avenue, received a letter from her husband, Corp. Robert M. Turner, who left her in the Army Service Corps, and while in England, received a fractured skull. He has been in five different hospitals, but he writes that he is improving wonderfully and expects to go to France in a few weeks. Mrs. Turner is proud to say that she has, besides her husband, two brothers, twelve cousins and nephews who have enlisted and are now in England either serving or ready to serve their king and country when called.

From Pte. Hartin.
Mrs. Wallace Fisher, of 181 Brussels street, has received a letter from her brother, Pte. Cecil Hartin, of the 96th, written on Oct. 17, a few days after the crater fight. In it Private Hartin says: "If you had seen the 26th Battalion that day you never would have thought they were the same that used to parade the streets of St. John. Some of them had five days' beard, and had not washed for the same length of time. We all thought there was to be a bayonet charge, and some of the boys were lying on the parapet waiting for the word to charge. I saw Mr. Hooper (chaplain) said today, if the people of St. John could have seen them they would not have called them the 'Moving Picture Boys.'"

"He has been transferred from us and he almost cried today while giving his sermon. He said that every man of the 26th was like a lion to him and he would rather be with us than with any battalion in the British army."

Besides her brother, Mrs. Fisher's husband is also at the front. He went with the Ammunition Column, in the first contingent.

"A Bit of a Scrap."
The part he played in the attack on the crater is told by William D. Ramsay of the 26th Battalion in a letter to his wife, who resides at 23 Brook street. He says:

"We had a bit of a scrap to let the Germans know that we are alive and you can bet they felt it. We came out pretty well, there were a few wounded and killed, but that was what we expected. I came out pretty fair, as I only got hit on the leg with a piece of shrapnel. I went to the dressing station and had it done up and then went back to the trenches."

"One fellow was laid out on the parapet for thirty-six hours, wounded in the back. Sergeant Wilson and I went out for him. We crawled over a lot of dead bodies to him and dragged him back to our trenches. He is in the hospital now and will recover."

"I am sending you Colonel McAvity's order, for you to keep for me, so that when I come back I will have a memento of the first real excitement of my life." Sergeant Budd's letter.

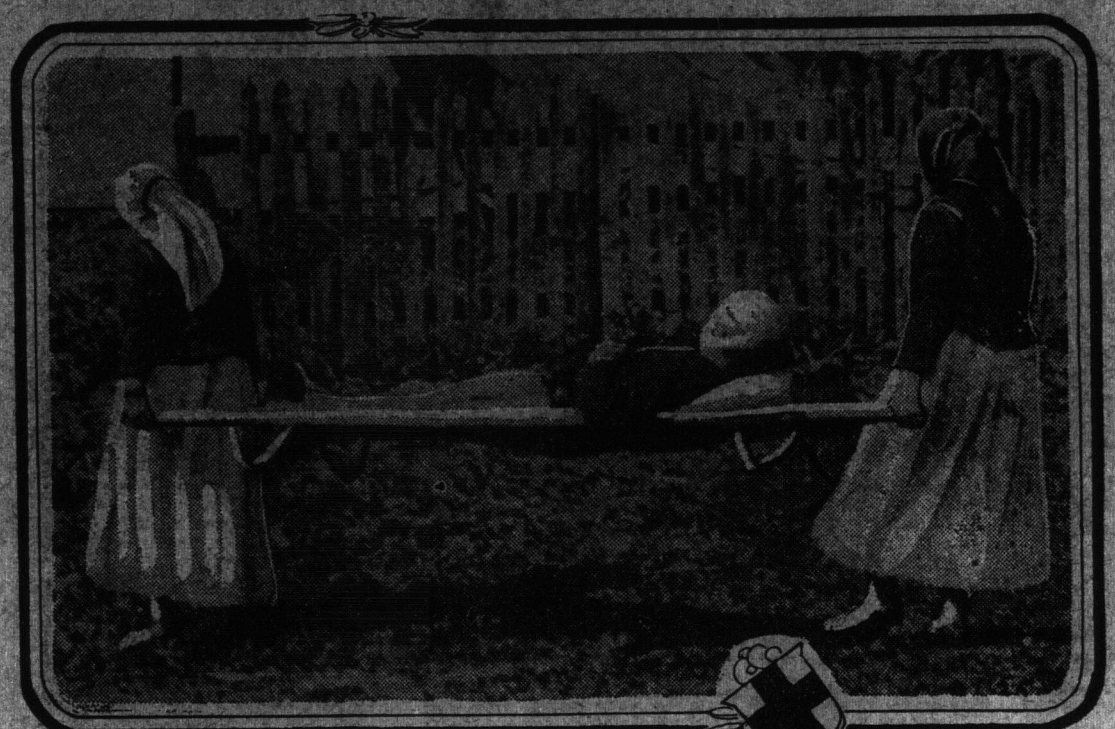
Sergeant A. O. Budd, 14th Battalion, 10th Battalion, writes:

Dear Sir—I received your installment of papers dated September 30 a few days ago, and have been receiving them regularly every week. I distribute them among the boys of St. Stephen, who are in the 10th and other battalions when we are in touch with them, and I wish to thank you in behalf of all the St. Stephen boys and to let you know that we appreciate your kindness.

"We came out of the trenches last night and of course it had to rain today and make it very muddy."
The Huns are straffing (shelling) us more than usual, and I don't wonder if it must as we have given them a few bad scares lately.

Well, we are very pleased to see that a few more of the boys are getting into line, but I don't see St. Stephen labelled on many of them. Is it because their mothers won't let them go? Or is it because brass bands to parade them into khaki?
All I can say is that all the First Contingent needed was the little white posters in the shop windows or stuck on the telegraph poles. If the recent outrage in Brussels wasn't enough to make the Huns want to get into the line, I think you military boys want to enlist and stamp out that crime then he has my sympathy.

We who are constantly in contact with the Red Cross nurses know what it means. What does it mean to the soldier? Well, it means that the wounded man's friend has been foully murdered, and every bayonet thrust, every shell fired by the British soldier, is in Miss Cavell's name.



It has been reported that Serbian women and children are taking part with the regular troops in assisting the Austro-German and Bulgarian invaders. Photo shows Serbian women stretcher-bearers bringing in a wounded soldier.

Historic Sword Presented To The 104th Battalion Went Through War of 1812 With Old 104th N. B. Regiment

Enthusiasm of Great Audience Raised to Highest Pitch as New Battalion Receives Gift Which Will Prove Inspiration in Great War—Ovation For Major Guthrie

These were the words with which Major Guthrie presented to Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler, M. P., officer commanding the 104th Battalion, a sword that had been worn by an officer of the 104th Regiment in the famous march from Fredericton to Quebec in 1812. The presentation took place before 4,000 people at St. Andrew's Rink, by a son of the province, a hero of St. Julien and Festubert, behind the old colors of the first Canadian regiment to become a line battalion on which were inscribed the names that which none stand higher in the history of early Canada—"Fredericton, Quebec, Sackett's Harbor, Lundy's Lane and Fort Erie."

It was an inspiring moment when Major Guthrie, lame still from the wounds he bears in the empire's cause, handed to the commanding officer the old token of loyalty and there was a lot more implied than a recognition of a fine speech in the way the vast gathering rose as one man to the enthusiasm of it.

The meeting was one of the regular series of recruiting rallies that are being held but the occasion was taken to present the sword which had been subscribed for by some friends. On the platform were Colonel E. T. Sturdee, chairman, Mayor Frink and Mrs. Frink, Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler, Major Guthrie and Mrs. Guthrie, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Armstrong, Major Wilcox and nineteen officers of the 22nd Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Gunning, second in command, and other officers of the 104th. E. A. Schofield, R. E. Hayes, H. W. Woods, M. P., Commissioner Russell and many of the citizens' recruiting committee. The band of the 22nd Battalion played the National Anthem at the commencement, and Colonel Sturdee, in a few words of appreciation of the Port Arthur Battalion and the fate of the women and children of Belgium would be that that man a coward, but it was a mighty call that came into the province, not merely the suffering of Belgium but of our own home in Flanders. Whatever man did in this war the greatest help he was giving after all was to his own people. If the Hun were victorious the British Isles would still be British. But if the Hun were victorious, Canada would become a German colony and they had only to read of German colonization plans to know how hateful that would be. All their freedom would be gone. That was the reason why every fit man in New Brunswick should be fighting Canadians were now defending Canadian homes on the fields of Flanders. (Applause.)

One division had gone at first from Canada and had fought in Flanders and in France, painting the name of Canada big in history, so that it would go down to posterity. (Applause.) Another division was now fighting as bravely at the front, but still the call was for more and more men. That was the reason they were there to support the 104th under Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler. The colonel was deserving of the greatest honor that could be handed out, leaving as he did, a happy home and a large legal practice and a political future that grew brighter every year.

Having told of the formation of the old 104th Major Guthrie said that Major Drummond led the regiment right up to the walls of Fort Erie when it was captured and the traditions of the regiment made all New Brunswickers proud. There was something of magic in the number that might not appear to any other part of the dominion. It was more than a coincidence that 104 men enlisted at the big meeting at St. John; it spoke of the power of tradition. And it, almost 104 years since the exploits of

the regiment on that long and arduous march to Quebec.
Presentation of Sword.
"The sword is handed to you, sir," said the gallant major handing it to the officer commanding the battalion at Sussex, "as commanding officer of the 104th and because you are taking with you so many of the sons of the province who are among the noblest, the best and the most courageous of our sons. Mothers are giving you their sons, wives their husbands all recognizing that there is now but one duty—the duty to flag, to country, to king and to home. (Loud applause.)

"Take it, sir, and uphold its traditions so near and dear to us. You have a regiment of young men of whom you may be proud—a regiment the like of which may never again go forth from our shores to fight for the mother land. I look for a great record at your hands for all the officers that have gone over from Canada none will be more deserving of glory than your own good self. I hope that the records of Lundy's Lane and Sackett's Harbor and the capture of York, Erie, shall be before the banner on their march to the walls of Berlin. Bring it back so that it may stand unsullied before the records of a hundred years ago that the name of the 104th may become even more and more the emblem of the loyalty and the love we Canadians hold towards the king and the empire which we are a part. (Loud applause.)

Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler was plainly moved when he rose to make the reply to the words of Major Guthrie. He said he was going into the war as a citizen of New Brunswick had before him, simply because he thought it was his duty to do. He claimed no credit; he deserved no thanks. He went because it was easier than to stay at home with a duty unfulfilled. He did not grudge with the man who was able to take part in the great struggle and did not; it was a matter for their own consciences. He was not one to call that man a coward, but it was a mighty call that came into the province, not merely the suffering of Belgium but of our own home in Flanders. Whatever man did in this war the greatest help he was giving after all was to his own people. If the Hun were victorious the British Isles would still be British. But if the Hun were victorious, Canada would become a German colony and they had only to read of German colonization plans to know how hateful that would be. All their freedom would be gone. That was the reason why every fit man in New Brunswick should be fighting Canadians were now defending Canadian homes on the fields of Flanders. (Applause.)

He then made a fine tribute to the "Honorable sergeant in a noble warfare" that Major Guthrie bore and passed on to say that the 104th had been raised in record time owing, no doubt, to the magic of the numbers for New Brunswickers in its ranks were many whose ancestors fought in the old regiment and they were all going to try to imitate the examples set them by the old unit. Colonel Fowler closed by saying that he hoped to keep the record of the sword clean and to return it to the province with the untarnished beauty of a sword of one hundred years ago. (Applause.)

As he finished three cheers were given for Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler.
Rev. F. S. Porter.
A splendid speech was made by Rev. F. S. Porter in which he pictured the exploits of the old warriors of the 104th regiment looking on that scene that night and doing homage to the gallant officers, headed by Major Guthrie, who were carrying on the traditions of a glorious race to which they belonged.

The event of 1812 was scarcely known in its full glory to those who took part in it yet.

"How far that little candle throws its light; So shines a good deed in a naughty world."

The exploits of the old 104th constituted an unexampled record in history. He then told how the Duke of Wellington, thirty years after the march from Fredericton to Quebec, spoke of the similar march, but in summer time, of the 47th regiment, as the one thing he envied. Yet the 104th performed its work under far harder conditions of which the duke was unaware. He told of an incident recalled by Col. Playfair in the London Standard in 1872 of the negro drummer of the regiment who had tobogganed down a hill on the march to be thrown through a snow drift several feet away from where he went in—a white man from head to foot.

Rev. Mr. Porter went on to show that the men of the province had lived too long in the loyalist reputation of their forefathers and that they were now called upon to justify their own descent. He put forth as one of the strongest arguments that of posterity. There were, he said, two places on the St. John river only a few miles apart, where in one 98 recruits had been obtained already, while in the other not one had gone. That was the fact that the former boasted its loyalist descent. His three chief reasons for recruits were that the best demonstration a man could give of the love he had for his sister, mother or wife, was the adoption of the king's uniform; it enabled a man to take part in the great reconstruction of the world on a better base; and that no able bodied man had a right to be a parasite on the blood of another man. (Applause.)

"Mrs. Guthrie told me this evening," said Mr. Porter, "that her only regret is that her two sons are not yet of age to go forth as their father had done." (Loud applause.)

Rev. Mr. Porter closed by saying there were three great perils. An inconclusive peace; a shallow optimism that trusted to the traditional muddling through of Britain; and the peril of inadequate and insufficient sacrifice.

Sergt. Knight.
Sergt. Knight then spoke, saying that he had read that A. Lavergne had said that there was no need for Canadians to go beyond the boundaries of Canada, and he declared, amid loud applause, that the sooner they got rid of such men the better. Canadians were not an appendage of the empire, but were intertwined and bound up in all that concerned that empire.

Dealing with those who were "hanging back" he said in a characteristic phrase, "There are men in the city who are fighting their consciences day after day, and then blaming me for the discomfort. How much longer are you going to decide to do the wrong thing?" And he added: "There is a roll of dishonor on which a man can get. The man who refuses to accept the standards of the empire should be branded and marked, he declared.

The band of the 104th played the national anthem to close.
Another Outrage.
Paris, Nov. 13.—Captain Cattinchi, of the French steamer Calvados, sunk by a German submarine on November 4, near Gibraltar, was killed on the bridge of his ship, according to an Algiers despatch to the Foreign Agency.

Survivors say that eighty persons aboard the Calvados sought refuge on a raft, but were engulfed when the raft was overturned in an eddy caused by the submarine circling about it.
Six sailors and the second mate, who wore life belts, were saved after being in the water twenty-four hours.

Ancona Was Riddled with Shots.
Paris, Nov. 13.—Passengers aboard the Italian liner Ancona were compelled to seek safety in the boat, while the steamer was subjected to a cannonade from an Austrian submarine, according to a graphic story of the sea tragedy, told by Dr. Cecile L. Grell, of New York, to the Havas correspondent at Fiume. The American woman escaped only through her ability as a gymnast. She tried vainly to find a place in two boats, but there was no room for her. She saved herself by dropping from the deck into a launch, which already was in the sea. Her maid was killed in her cabin by a gun shot.

Dr. Grell's story indicates that the torpedo which sent the Ancona to the bottom was not fired until the steamer had been riddled by shots from the guns of the submarine.
Sensitive.
"Evidently that young man I met at your party does not know who I am," remarked Mr. Cumrox to his wife.

"What makes you think so?"
"If he appreciated the extent of my financial influence he would have laughed at my jokes instead of my grammar."—Washington Star.

A Fast Goer.
"How's the new servant getting along?"
"Rapidly. Next Tuesday she'll have been gone a week."

5,000,000 K.
Basel, Switzerland, Nov. 13.—Neussler, a Swiss statesman, killed the total losses in killed war at 5,000,000.