

Thursday, October 24th, 1918



SERGEANT ARTHUR YOEUELL, M.M., IS THOUGHT TO BE IMPROVING

Sends Cable Himself to His Parents Here.

The expression "The ruling passion strong in death" was well illustrated by a cable received from Eng. and on Tuesday. On the 23rd of August the hospital authorities at Letreport, France, cabled that Sgt. Youell was dangerously ill and then letters which followed said he was suffering greatly from his wounds and from pneumonia abscesses, or blood poisoning, and that he would be sent to England in a hospital ship when fit to travel.

On October 6th the hospital authorities at the University hospital, Southampton, cabled he was dangerously ill. Then on October 14th, Col. Murray McLaren, inspector of hospitals, who had interested himself in the case at the request of his Toronto sister, whose son was one of Sgt. Youell's signallers at Passchendaele, called "condition most serious," and on the 16th the hospital authorities cabled "condition critical." Then on Tuesday came the cable signed by Arthur Youell himself, "Am at University Hospital, Southampton. Had comfortable trip across," he of course being quite unaware of previous cables, or probably how long he had been in England. He has never complained since he enlisted, of any dangers or discomforts, and simply mentioned the pleasant features of the soldiers' life, of which there are many, and of his wounds he only said it was a good "Blighty" and that his arm was sore so he would not write as he wished. It is felt now that he has taken a turn for the better and that his good constitution and cheery optimism will win out in his fight for life. Arthur was a school chum of the writer and his present bravery and cheerfulness is very characteristic.

An officer of his battery, writing in August, telling of his wounding in the early morning of the 8th, before Amiens, said that after he had received first aid he made light of his wounds, and wished to "carry on" but the Major who had assisted in the dressing ordered him back to the dressing station, where his wound received further attention and he was then hurried to the base hospital in a motor ambulance. The metal was not removed until the 28th, three operations previously having proved ineffective.

Had Sgt. Youell been less con-

scientious or more ambitious for military honors, he would have escaped this wound. Officers had repeatedly asked him to take out a commission, but he would not consider it for a moment until early in February, when the Major sent for him and convinced him he could be of greater service as a lieutenant than as a sergeant, asking him to think it over carefully. The result was that at an interview he consented to have his name forwarded to England, but stipulated that one of his men take a special course so that he might keep up the efficiency of his party. The man went out, but finding the class complete had to return, and Sgt. Youell was asked to accept the promotion without further instruction, but as his total military experience before reaching France was less than four months, he felt the responsibility too great and declined. Later his candidature finished his course, and Sgt. Youell was ordered to be ready to go to England for his course, on the 15th of July, but the great allied offensive which began two days later, prevented.

He never hinted that he had won the Military Medal, nor for that matter, that he had ever taken part in a battle, but it has been learned since from his associates that he was the first member of his Battery to be recommended for a decoration, and that it was for valuable services at Passchendaele Ridge. Seven others were later mentioned, five of them being his own men. He was in this fight for twenty-three days and lost several men, four of them by one shell, which grieved him greatly. The total Canadian casualties numbered 24,500, or about every third man, as not all of the four Canadian divisions took part. Privates Scriver and Walker, who returned last week, were among the casualties. Lieut. L. Youell was acting-Captain of his battery in this action.

Prince Rupert of Bavaria, whose forces held the ridge, had ninety-one divisions, or over a million men, and was protected by cement pill boxes filled with machine gun batteries, while the British had to advance up the muddy hill practically without cover.

The glorious part the Canadians took in the final day, Nov. 6, 1917, was described by the leading English war correspondent, Philip Gibbs, in the following words:

"It is with thankfulness that one can record to-day the capture of Passchendaele, the crown and crest of the ridge which made a great barrier round the salient of Ypres and hemmed us in the flats and swamps. After an heroic attack by the Canadians this morning they fought their way over the ruins of Passchendaele and into ground beyond it. If their gains be held the seal is set upon the most terrific achievement of war ever attempted and carried through by British arms."

MR. AND MRS. T. W. BENNER LEARN PARTICULARS OF SON'S DEATH

Letter from Major Cook Tells How Gunner Murray Benner fell in Action.

Mrs. T. W. Benner, Aylmer, Ont.,

Dear Mrs. Benner:

May I send you my deep sympathy for the loss of your son, Murray, who was one of my best soldiers and one of the most likeable boys I have had in 4 years of war. I don't mind saying to his memory that I not only of my officers never saw anything about him that wasn't manly, honorable, and altogether fine. He would have had a fine future in my battery. He was killed instantly about 6 p.m. on the 4th of September, near a village called Villers-Le-Cagnicourt, which is about 12 miles east of Arras on the Arras-Cambrai road. A shell exploded at his feet. Owing to his ability I had made him one of my machine gunners who keep enemy airplanes off, and it was while serving his gun that he died. He was buried that night with military honors in a British cemetery by our Padre, on the famous battlefield of Telegraph Hill, 4 miles east of Arras. His personal trinkets have been sent and will reach you through the Canadian Militia Department.

With sincere sympathy of my officers and myself,

Yours faithfully,

Geo. H. Cook, Major
O. C. 9th Battery, C. F. A.

J. M. FARTHING'S VICE-CHAIRMAN VICTORY LOAN CAMPAIGN

Following are the officers for Elgin County for the Victory Loan organization:

R. M. Anderson, Chairman; Alex. McCall, Vice-Chairman; John M. Farthing, Vice-Chairman; H. M. Grills, Organizer; Rev. N. H. McGillivray, Secretary.

CARD OF THANKS

To all those friends and neighbors who so kindly offered their services and sympathy in the hour of our bereavement, in the sickness and death of our wife and mother, we wish to extend our most sincere thanks with the assurance that the kindness bestowed will always be carried in our memories.

W. Fansher and Family

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