

The Western Scot.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
IN THE INTERESTS OF

THE 67th PIONEER BATTALION

"WESTERN SCOTS," OF CANADA,

4th Canadian Division, B.E.F.

(By kind permission of Lt.-Col. Lorne Ross, C.O.)

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A "DON'T" FOR FRIENDS AT HOME.

On more than one occasion since the 67th Battalion reached England, letters containing expressions of personal opinion respecting military affairs, and also information concerning military movements, have been published in Canadian newspapers, evidently with the consent of the recipients.

Such infractions of standing orders are regarded seriously by the military authorities, and in some instances the authors of the letters have been dealt with.

Soldiers of all ranks in the Canadian forces are forbidden to discuss with friends or relatives even what seem the most trivial subjects relative to military matters. Should they disobey this order they lay themselves open to severe censure. Naturally, then, when a soldier steps aside to convey what appears to be harmless news of his corps to close friends or relatives at home, you may imagine his discomfiture upon seeing excerpts from his letter published in a daily newspaper. Of course, he did not intend his news for publication; but those under whom he serves hold him responsible personally for its publication.

Thus it is very easy for well-meaning friends at home to involve their khaki correspondents in serious trouble—quite innocently, of course; but it is to be hoped that non-military friends of ours who chance to read this note will be guided by it, for the sake of those of their friends who are on active service.

REGIMENTAL PAPERS WITH "GRIP."

From Sergt. Condry we have just received this week's issue of the WESTERN SCOT, the regimental journal of the 67th Pioneer Battalion, Western Scots of Canada. It is a fine little paper, full of items which have a live interest, and we wish it the best of luck. We believe there is a big future for these regimental journals, and we have just heard that they are encouraged in the German Army, for our enemy well realises that to encourage comradeship and regimental pride is a great thing.—From "Fall In."

In case "Fall In" and ourselves are mistaken for a mutual admiration society, we will refrain from saying all the nice things we think about our sister journal. Its flourishing appearance shows what can be done by the members of a battalion whole-heartedly supporting their regimental paper.

Our own modest paper holds quite a record, and it is surely worth supporting. We have published every week without a break for thirty-six weeks, and that, too, though we were en route to England for over two weeks. Certainly

no other Canadian regimental journal has such a record, and our edition published on the train is certainly unique, in that it is the first paper to be so published so far as we can find out. We have promised not to "howl" any more about lack of support, but please help us to keep up the good work.

ONE OF THREE GONE.

All who know Charlie and Peter Stronach, of the 67th Battalion, will sympathise with them in the loss of their brother Archie, who gave his life for the Empire between the 2nd and the 5th inst., "somewhere in France." Like both his brothers, Archie Stronach was well known on the Coast, though a native of Aberdeen. At one time he played for the Thistle Soccer team in Victoria. He came overseas in the ranks of the 62nd Batt., C.E.F., arriving only a few days ahead of us, and was sent to France with a draft for the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was apparently sent into the firing line at once, for he was only in France a few days when he was called upon to make the supreme sacrifice.

A FEW POINTS ABOUT THE INDIAN ARMY.

(Kindly contributed by Major K. D. Murray, of the General Staff, 4th Canadian Division.)

When we consider that the population of India is over 320,000,000 and that the Indian Army is recruited over the whole, it becomes evident that the subject cannot be dealt with in a limited space.

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Dealing generally with the composition of the regiments; with the exception of Gurkhas and a few other units, regiments are formed of mixed classes differing widely in characteristics and religion, and usually there are two companies of Mohammedans and two companies of Hindus or Sikhs.

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Each battalion is given a recruiting area for each of its classes, and the result is that the men of families residing in this area have been connected for generations with a certain battalion, and long before they reach the military age look upon it as their future home.

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Among the independent tribes on the north-west frontier, to whom recruiting is also open, the natural tendency of the man is to fight someone. If not up against the British Government there is always the next-door neighbour, who is probably richer in cattle and worthy of attention. No one leaves home unarmed even if only going to plough. The meeting of the elders (the tribal girgah) may be relied on to produce a few casualties, and the man with unpopular views may count on being perforated on his way home by an opposition member carefully hidden behind a rock.

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A frontier expedition is always followed by an influx of recruits from the tribe to whom punishment has been meted out, and it often occurs that enlisted men fight quite willingly against their own tribe, though it is naturally not done if it can be avoided.

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During this war Indian troops have been or are employed in Gallipoli, Salonica, Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Aden Hinterland, and East Africa, and sufficient have, of course, to be left to police and guard the frontiers of India itself, a duty which entails a state of constant readiness, and a certain amount of desultory fighting.

FRY'S

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