



# The Western Scot

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 1915

## AS TO SALUTING

The following letter appears in the current number of the London Daily Mail Overseas Edition:  
To the Editor of The Over-Seas Daily Mail.

Dear Sir,—Replying to "The Question of Salutes" by N.C.O. in your issue of July 31, I would suggest the option of salute to be left to the officer—i.e., if he desires the salute to which he is entitled, let him first give the salute. Then, and then only, shall it be returned.

It would thus be left to the discretion of such officer, who should know when to use it. This would simplify matters for "non-coms." and privates without showing disrespect.

Yours faithfully,

H. W. MARTIN.

"Maymyo," Del Mar Ave. Ocean Beach,  
San Diego, California.

There is, and can be, but one answer to this: The King's commission is entitled to the salute at all times, its bearer can be recognized as such, and it is the bounden duty of all concerned to salute that commission. Nor is it within the option of any officer to waive this duty. But the bearer of the King's commission who does not recognize his duty as an officer and a gentleman to acknowledge the compliment paid to His Majesty's commission has no right to be an officer.

## SCOUTS, AND SCOUTING

(By Lieut. M. M. Marsden)

During the last week the Scout Section has been given the opportunity of demonstrating that the preliminary training they have received has proved of great advantage to them.

The manoeuvres the Battalion was engaged in: the Scouts did remarkably well, showing a thorough grasp of the situation and ability to carry out their instructions, namely, supplying the required information to their O.C., who thus was enabled to keep the O.C.'s of companies and the Commanding Officer informed of the enemy's position, and tactics.

The work done when the troops were in bivouac was excellent. The Scouts, having selected a suitable bivouac, placed guards over the available water supply, watched all approaches, selected a defensive position, and threw out a screen well ahead to guard against a surprise, remaining there until relieved by the advance guard, after which they pushed



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ahead and endeavored to locate the enemy's main body, whose patrols had retired before the steady advance of the Scouts, who were strong enough to engage the patrols if necessary. But before long the enemy advanced, having reinforced their patrols, and the Scouts slowly retired on their main body, after having sent back information of the enemy's movements.

The enemy continued to advance, and the Scouts, having done all required of them, retired behind the main body, who drove the enemy back by a well-delivered bayonet charge which ended the day's manoeuvres.

Another engagement which was interesting was that which took place near Cedar Hill.

On this occasion the Scouts sent back a message to Capt. Armour, of No. 1 Co., that the enemy had been seen approaching through the woods on the left of \_\_\_\_\_ Road. The Scouts kept in touch with the enemy until Capt. Armour had deployed his company to resist the attack. This operation was successfully carried out, and, although the Scouts had heavy casualties, yet they had given Capt. Armour sufficient time to not only deploy, but eventually ambush the enemy and destroy them. In this instance had the Scouts not given Capt. Armour the necessary information in time, his command might have been wiped out, as they were marching along the road in column of fours, not expecting an enemy.

This last week has demonstrated what enormous value a trained Scout Section is to a battalion.  
Some very interesting field days are in order for the coming week.