

THE SECOND DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN

THE SECOND DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN HOME

Went Overseas on Same Ship as 26th Battalion on June 13, 1915—Lieut.-Col. W. H. Harrison, D. S. O., Has Been Officer Commanding Since it was Mobilized—A Unit That Canada Has Right to be Proud of.

It is estimated that fully one hundred New Brunswick boys will arrive home Saturday morning as members of the second divisional ammunition column, under Col. W. H. Harrison, D. S. O., who has commanded the unit since its organization in the city.

The complete column of four sections, will probably muster one thousand men and fully 1,400 horses, having almost doubled since its formation in the fall of 1914.

It is composed of:
No. 1 Section, recruited at St. John, under command of Lieut. Col. Harrison, D. S. O.
No. 2 Section, recruited at Toronto, under command of Capt. E. J. Lovelace, M. C.
No. 3 Section, recruited at Montreal, under command of Capt. A. E. Koutler, M. C.
No. 4 Section, recruited at Winnipeg, under command of Capt. W. A. Harty.

Mobilized earlier, the latter three sections sailed for England before the headquarters section from St. John left, and were at Otterpool Camp to greet the New Brunswick boys when they arrived.

Colonel Harrison's section was recruited mainly from members of the Composite 3rd Garrison Artillery, which was stationed at Partridge Island on the outbreak of war.

Full strength of the section was attained in November, 1914, and it left for Fredericton, where it remained in training until June, 1915, when it sailed for overseas with the Fighting 26th Battalion on the S. E. Caledonia, which was afterwards torpedoed.

At the time of embarkation the officers commanding the First Section, Second Divisional Ammunition Column were as follows:
LIEUT. COL. W. H. HARRISON, D. S. O., Officer Commanding.
Major W. A. Harrison, M. C., Adjutant.
Capt. D. B. Pidgeon, (now Lieut. Colonel), Paymaster.
Capt. W. H. Eagar, (now Major), Medical Officer.

The second ammunition column, with the rest of the second Canadian division, crossed the Rhine into Germany early in December last.

Original Officers First Section 2nd Div. Ammunition Column



TOP ROW—Major William Vassie, M. C., Major N. P. McLeod, M. C., Lieut.-Col. S. K. L. Macdonald (killed), Major T. E. Ryder, M. C.
MIDDLE ROW—Capt. V. C. Johnson (did not cross with the unit), Major W. O. Harrison, M. C., Adjutant; Lieut.-Col. W. H. Harrison, D. S. O., officer commanding; Capt. G. A. Gamblin, M. C.; Lieut.-Col. D. B. Pidgeon, paymaster.
FOREGROUND—Capt. W. G. Church, veterinary officer; Major W. H. Eagar, medical officer.
Capt. G. A. Gamblin, M. C.
Lieut. Colonel S. K. L. Macdonald, who held the rank of captain when the unit sailed, was the first casualty among the ranks of the original officers. He was killed in action at the Somme fighting, 1917.

STRETCHER BEARERS WITH 26TH BATTALION



The above picture is that of the stretcher bearers with the original 26th Battalion, C. E. F., and was taken in Folkestone, England, a few weeks after the unit arrived in June, 1915. Those in the group are:
Back row, from left to right: James Gaulton, W. Brown, H. D. Miller, W. Grant.
Bottom row—A. Canty, F. Connell.
Stretcher Bearer James Gaulton was a member of The Standard composing room staff when he enlisted with the battalion and was also a sergeant in the St. Stephen's Church Cadets.

ROY EDWARDS, THE ORIGINAL R. M. S.



Regimental Sergeant Major Roy Edwards will be remembered leading the good old 26th during their route marches through this city in 1914-15. He went overseas with the battalion and after spending a couple of years on the front he was returned to Canada, and promoted to the rank of lieutenant and attached to the Nova Scotia regiment with which he returned to France to resume his fighting against the enemy. Lieut. Edwards was one of the first to enlist with the 26th and at that time was a private. He was soon made a sergeant and then a Sergeant Major.

Major (Rev.) E. B. Hooper ORIGINAL QUINTETTE



Chaplain of Original 26th Battalion, who went overseas with the unit on June 13, 1915.
RETURNED FROM ENGLAND.
Ernest H. Turnbull and his son, Kenneth, arrived in the city yesterday from London, Eng., via New York on a visit to relatives. Mr. Turnbull was a former resident of this city but went to England to reside about ten years ago.

THE FIGHTING TWENTY-SIXTH IS PRIDE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Brief History of Unit That Performed Wonders—Organized November 3, 1914, With Lieut.-Col. J. L. McAvity as Commanding Officer—Went Overseas June 13, 1915—One of Best Infantry Units in the Great War.

(Continued from page 2.)
The First Officer Killed.
In November, 1915, Lieutenant Charles M. Lawson and Sergeant Bentley volunteered for a particularly dangerous bit of work. The two men were absent for some time when a sentry heard someone groaning. He called out and was answered by Lieut. Lawson. They went out and brought Lieut. Lawson in, he was brought to the clearing station. Sergeant Bentley, his companion, was killed instantly. Lieut. Lawson who was a teacher in the St. John High School at the time of enlisting, was the first officer in the 26th Battalion to pay the supreme sacrifice. Sergeant Bentley, who accompanied him on the dangerous work was killed instantly that November night.

The Grater Fight.
The famous crater fight was one that will linger long in the memory of the New Brunswickers, as it was the first engagement which caused the loss of men and showed the real bravery that existed in the ranks of our own 26th. On the afternoon of October 13th, 1915, Major W. H. Harrison was placed in charge of thirty men and accompanied by Lieut. C. E. Fairweather of the 26th, and Lieut. McPhee of the Engineers, was detailed to examine a crater close to the German trench, and only about seventy-five yards away from the trench that the 26th occupied. Before starting Major Brown told his men that it was not likely that any of the party would return alive, and if there was any man who was not keen on going he might have the opportunity of dropping out. But there was not one single man who flinched for every one of them was anxious and ready to make the trip. When the little party of brave men left the 26th trenches and made the charge on the crater, it was to find thousands of Germans waiting for them. The gallant band was met with a furious fire of machine guns, bombs and cross rifle fire, they staggered on, reaching the crater when they found it untenable for the Germans. There was a full mile of German and the small band of New Brunswickers could not hold the crater; their orders had been carried out and the next thing was to get back to their own trench. The loss in killed and wounded was heavy.

Those Who Were Killed.
Frank L. Cotter, a militia officer before enlisting with the 26th led the charge as platoon officer and was one of those to fall. Others killed in this engagement were: Robert E. Gabriel, St. John; James Thompson, Campbellton; Joseph Sylvia, Gallant; Shives, Albert, N. B.; Jerome Belanger, Val Brillian, Que.; Charles J. McPhee, Intervale, N. B.; Dawson, Winchester, Dalhousie; Alexander McKinnon, Golden Grove, N. B.; Robert Keenan, Fairville, N. B.; John McLean, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Clifford W. Ritchie, Grandville, N. B.; George A. Savidant, Campbellton, N. B.; R. F. Pincock, West St. John; James Steven, Blissville, N. B.; Clarence J. Buckley, St. John; George South, St. John; M. E. McPhee, Halifax; Allan Harrison, Newtown, N. B.; Stephen Howes, Sussex. In all thirty of the party nineteen were recovered with the exception of Sergeant Cotter, which is supposed to have been taken by German patrols for identification purposes. Robert Knowles one of the gallant thirty died shortly after in hospital as the result of wounds. Nearly every one of the band who reached the trenches safely was wounded.

On March 10, 1919, General Sir Richard Turner, V. C., bestowed the military medal on 445641 L. Cpl. W. A. McInnis—At Wally, on May 20, 1918, while on protective flank, he, with four others, rushed an enemy listening post. He took charge of the party which secured its objective.

Other medals were:
7912 Pte. X. Boudreau.
7922 Pte. L. Chase.
74276 Pte. J. B. Cobolan.
11199 Pte. J. Coles.
69140 Sergt. E. Comeau, D. C. M.
817946—Pte. S. A. Foster.
51078 Sergt. Pipe Major R. G. Lacher.
49454 Pte. C. Hawke.
69292 Pte. A. Henderson.
79998 Sergt. B. G. Lacey.
69528 Spl. A. Sergt. R. G. Long.
715681 Pte. N. McDonald.
79975 Pte. G. O. Maggs.
7230 Pte. L. G. L. Miller.
79225 Pte. P. M. Staple.
715071 Cpl. L. Set. J. J. Staple.
2460345 Pte. A. White.
742506 Sergt. M. D. Williams.
74298 Pte. H. Birge.
79676 Pte. A. L. Cpl. C. E. Chapman.
79923 Pte. E. Dempsey.
79623 Cpl. W. Downing.
71978 Pte. E. Gallant.
715028 Pte. C. F. Gaud.
716128 Pte. D. V. McDonald.
715578 Pte. J. J. McKenzie.
69528 Pte. A. G. Lockie.
742960 Pte. A. Le. Cpl. A. H. Thorne.
69151 Sergt. H. Cooper.
69528 Cpl. A. G. Lockie.

Military Cross.
Lieut. Melvin Goldbrook Buchanan, military cross, gazetted March 23rd, bar added April 2nd, 1919.

Military Cross.
Rev. Ronald C. MacGillivray, Chaplain of the 26th Battalion, was one of the original officers of the unit when it was organized on November 3, 1914. He was with the unit when it sailed for overseas on June 13, 1915. He was with the unit when it landed in England and was with the unit when it crossed the Rhine into Germany. He was with the unit when it fought the famous crater fight on October 13, 1915. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Somme fighting in 1917. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Arras fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Cambrai fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Valenciennes fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Mons fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Ypres fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Passchendaele fighting in 1917. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Amiens fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Arras fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Cambrai fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Valenciennes fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Mons fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Ypres fighting in 1918. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Passchendaele fighting in 1917. He was with the unit when it fought the famous Amiens fighting in 1918.

Honors for Heroes.
In addition to the many honors which have been won by the officers and men of the Fighting 26th Battalion and which have been duly noted in The Standard, the following are the latest citations in the official records:
Bar to Military Cross.
Lieut. Melvin Goldbrook Buchanan, military cross, gazetted March 23rd, bar added April 2nd, 1919.

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OFFICERS OF 2nd DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN WHO HAVE COMMANDED BATTERIES

MAJOR NORMAN P. MCLEOD, M. C., St. John, commanding officer of the 5th Siege Battery.
MAJOR T. ESCOTT RYDER, M. C., commanding officer of the 7th Siege Battery.
MAJOR WILLIAM VASSIE, M. C., St. John, commanding officer of the 4th Battery, heavy artillery.

THE ORIGINAL OFFICERS:
The D. A. C. in Germany.

At Janepes the ammunition column was quartered in a monster Zeppelin shed and the story has it that several of the former occupants of the shed were among the murderous raiders over the peaceful towns of England. It was stated on good authority that three of the baby-killing machines which started the trip across the channel never returned.

While stationed here the officers had many opportunities of enjoying a trip into the azure and on one occasion Colonel Hamilton made an interesting flight over the famous Cologne Cathedral.

Among the other interesting experiences enjoyed by some of the officers of the column was that of having audience with His Holiness Pope Benedict XV; many of the officers receiving leave to Italy, while they were stationed in Germany; and also of being in the historic town of Brussels when Albert, the heroic king of the Belgians, made his first entry since the memorable evacuation of the town by his troops in 1914.

There are about four hundred men, all ranks in the first N. B. section returning and of that number, as stated above, one hundred are natives of this province.
Of the original officers who sailed in June, four years ago, with the column, only two are returning:
Lieut. Colonel Harrison, D. S. O., C.



Lieut.-Col. W. H. Harrison, D. S. O.

Capt. W. G. Church, Veterinary Officer.
Major William Vassie, M. C.
Capt. N. P. McLeod, M. C., (now Major).
Capt. S. K. L. Macdonald, (promoted to rank of Lieut. Colonel before his death).
Capt. T. E. Ryder, M. C., (now Major).
Capt. G. A. Gamblin, M. C.

Arriving in England, the section took up its quarters with the rest of the column at Otterpool camp and remained in training there until September, when it crossed to France and went into action at once with the second Canadian Artillery Division, in the Northern Sector of Belgium.

Battles in Which it Served.
The first noteworthy engagement in which the column engaged was the Battle of Kimmel Hill; then followed the St. Eloi show, and the Somme engagements of 1916, when the first continuously heavy fighting was experienced.

Vimy was the next theatre, followed by Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras, Cambrai, Valenciennes and the historic Mons engagements, when the town was captured the day the armistice was signed.

Following a brief rest in France, the column proceeded to Germany, with the rest of the second division.

On Saturday the C. P. R. suburban, due to leave the city at 6.10 p.m. (daylight) will be cancelled. In its place suburban will be operated leaving city at 10.15 p.m. (daylight). This change in order to comply with wishes of suburbanites.