

be discontinued. What gratuitous hardship this deprivation under conditions obtaining on the Somme entailed on the men no pen can describe; in wet and cold and mud rum is no longer "The Demon Rum; it is "The Life Saver," the one thing which restores the frozen circulation and combats the deadening chill. But the decree went forth and for four months spent in the raw and bitter Somme area and later on the wild and freezing slopes of Vimy Ridge the 11th Brigade struggled to its duties unsustained by the one drop of comfort which is laid down in K., R. & O. as a permissible issue. To add insult to injury hot soup was substituted which always came up the line over salt, increasing the thirst which even before was a recognized torture of a front line where water had to be hauled up on men's backs, and earning for the 11th Brigade the unenviable cognomen of "The Pea-Soup Brigade." May the Moral Reformer and the Teetotal Crank gain comfort to their souls by the reflection that for four months some 4,000 men had their hardships increased by the cruel enforcement of their bigoted doctrines. And these men were all volunteers.

For 96 hours the battalion remained in the trenches, working by night at the construction of a long communication trench running north-west from Regina to a trench known as Desire which had been captured on the 18th by units of the 4th Division, and withstanding by day very heavy shelling and persistent sniping. It was originally intended that this digging was to be but the prelude to another offensive which the 102nd would undertake, but it was found that the total length of the trench would have to be much greater than at first contemplated and that it would be impossible to get the work finished within the scheduled time. So the offensive was abandoned, but the battalion found that the work of digging was to tax its strength severely. For two nights work was maintained under heavy fire by the companies assisted by parties from the 67th Bn. and the Engineers, the men digging towards each other from either end and covered from surprise attacks by a screen of Scouts who on the first night with the co-operation of a carrying-party of the 67th succeeded in enclosing an enemy patrol which had wandered through their outposts and was successfully accounted for. Before dawn on the 22nd the trench was completed and on the evening of the 23rd the last tour on the Somme came to an end, the 102nd being relieved by the 47th Bn. and returning to billets in Albert with another fine piece of work to its credit. Our casualties numbered Major K. G. Mackenzie, O.C. "D" Co., and four O. R. killed; Major A. B. Carey, who had recently joined us from the 67th, and 40 O. R. wounded.

The tour on the Somme was now completed; at length the Division was to move and take up its position with the other three Divisions of the Canadian Corps on the slopes of Vimy and on Nov. 26th the battalion paraded for the last time in Albert and set out on a long six days' march to the new area, completely outfitted with Web equipment which had been issued in Albert to replace the old Oliver equipment which we had brought with us from Canada. The morning