

The Western Scot

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THE BATTALION

One hundred additional men added to the establishment, and to be known as the Base Company, now brings our total to 1,153 authorized Officers, N.C.O.'s and others. With the absorption of the Draft, and a number of transfers to other units, we now exceed our establishment by 30. This means that recruiting for the Battalion is ended and we may look for an early order to depart.

The first hockey match of the year, "Western Scots" vs. H.M.C.S. "Rainbow," resulted in a victory for the Scots, 10 to 3.

The Battalion Orderly Room space has been cut down to one-third the original size in order to make room for our friends of the 88th, who have been greatly handicapped for want of space to handle recruits applying for enlistment. Our system will allow for much less space if necessary.

It was a well-earned victory on Saturday last, when the 67th soccer team defeated the 88th on the Oval at Willows Park. Both teams felt that they were engaged in a game of water polo instead of soccer. Here and there a dry spot could be noticed in the field, but not enough to warrant more than a half dozen strides at any one time. Major Meredith-Jones made his debut between the goal posts, but it was noticed that the ball reached his stalwart form on only one occasion. He has complained of a severe cold ever since and hopes to be kept more on the move in future games.

The brass band will continue the Monday evening concerts in No. 1 Building until further orders. All members of the Battalion are invited to be present on these occasions.

In addition to the twelve men already brought from White Horse, Yukon, another ten are on their way south to enlist with us, and are due to arrive about the 7th inst. This will make a total of twenty-two recruits brought at Government expense from the far north in order that they may have the opportunity of doing their share in the firing line. We are proud of the Yukon and Cariboo men, who now number well over 200, and feel that we are fortunate in securing this fine body of men to take along with us.

Everything indicates our early departure for the front. It is the unanimous wish of all ranks that the order to leave comes soon. We know that we are needed and feel that we are ready to "dig in."

NO. 1 COMPANY

The Company was at the ranges on Wednesday, shooting at the 300 yard range. The outing was, as usual, voted a huge success. Pte. Lauchie Macmillan is improving steadily. Consult the Musketry Department for his record.

We rejoice to hear that there is a prospect of the men who left us to go to No. 5 Company coming back to us.

Had the fire which broke out in the sergeants' mess been a night later, the piano might have been saved. The sergeants were on the point of suggesting to the officers' mess which borrowed the piano stool and failed to return it, that they might as well come and have the piano also. Still, the sergeants are willing to chance another fire destroying the stool also, if the borrowers will return it.

The sergeants of the 67th are playing the battalion team on Saturday. Now is the time for the men playing to get their own back.

In the hope that the men read the "Scot" more carefully than they read battalion orders, might we venture the suggestion that everybody in the possession of sweaters and trousers belonging to the Sports Committee return them to Q.M. stores forthwith?

It was a shame to chalk the sign of the three balls on the door of No. 2 Co., Q.M. stores. From our own observation there is only one man in the battalion less inclined to Jewish tricks than C.Q.M.S. Stewart, and that one man is the Q.M.S. of No. 1 Company.

Out of the replies received to date in answer to Sergt. Burton's question box, we have failed to receive a correct answer. As Sergt. Burton wants to get rid of that \$10, he will give it to anyone complying with the following simple conditions. Sergt. Burton has 30 cigars. To any one who can smoke them in seven days, smoking an odd number each day, he will give the \$10. Don't think this is an easy way of getting 30 cigars, for the person who complies with the conditions receives the price of 30 cigars in addition to the \$10 prize. Competitors to apply before Wednesday next.

NO. 2 COMPANY

Some time ago there appeared in the "Western Scot" an article on the "Qualifications of a Company Q.M.S.," and we have just learned of a rather painful and sorrowful incident connected with this same article. A young lady in Victoria who is very much interested in Q.M. Sergeants, especially in No. 2 Co. Q.M.S., read the article, and taking it for the literal truth, promptly gave Q.M.S. Stewart his walking papers, the cold shoulder and the sack all at the same time. We are very sorry, but it can't be helped now. We were going to put in another article about Q.M.S. Stewart trying to sell a dog to the Regimental Taylor, but we won't do so now. By-the-way, the dog turned out to be the Regimental Taylor's own dog, but we won't tell it on the Q.M.S. as we know he has his eye on another dame. Give him a chance!

We would like to know where "Tubby" Barr stole the big drum. Tuesday evening he walked home from town carrying a drum as big as himself; in fact, if it had not been for having an overcoat on, we would not have been able to distinguish between "Tubby" and the drum.

We were sorry that Lieut. McDermot was enabled to play for the "Western Scots" last Saturday. We hope he is over his inoculation now and can play in the next game.

We have all fully recovered from our second "shot."

As today (Saturday) is so near to last pay day, every man should do his duty and buy a copy of the "Western Scot," also another one to send to his friends.

Our congratulations to the "Fire Piquet" for the quick and excellent work at the fire the other night.

By-the-way, we wonder whether it will be a fight or a fire tonight.

We are coming along fine in our Musketry course. We are fortunate in having in our Company such an able instructor as Lieut. Wilmot.

Just to settle a bet, would someone tell us the exact measurement of the distance Lieut. Sturgess raises out of the saddle when he is a-horseback. "A" bets it is 27 inches and "B" says it is 32. Maybe it is more than that, but we would like to know for sure.

That reminds us. Hasn't someone a joke about a black horse?

We got a real taste of the horrors of war the other night at the fire, according to excellent authority.

NO. 3 COMPANY

After several weeks of practical inactivity, good weather has again made its appearance and the Company has had an opportunity of doing a little drill, but though every man was glad to be at work again it could easily be seen how seriously rain retards the progress of soldiers in training.

The Bible makes a reference to the far-reaching effect of a small fire. On Tuesday morning a small fire was the indirect means of considerable damage being done to a very handsome pair of pyjamas, worked with a delicate floral design of forget-me-nots, in which Mr. Gillingham made a hurried appearance.

By-the-way, No. 3 Company set an excellent record for itself in both the speed with which it paraded and its behaviour