

Machine Gun

Those hazy and perfunctory things known as "Introductions" are entirely superfluous when presenting a body of men like the Machine Gunners of the 196th W.U. Battalion. Being, as we are, a number of men selected from the ranks of a picked battalion for our "toughness" and "longevity," the public at large is liable to expect much of us, not only on the field of honor, but in the journalistic sphere as well.

Since our reader is a perfectly serious minded fellow and wishes to know something about machine gunnery in general and machine gunners in particular I will attempt to describe an ordinary day's work.

After the usual preliminaries of reveille, breakfast parade, polishing up, etc., etc., the day begins with "Fall in, machine gun section," and Wilson (C. H.) The first spasm of our day's work is physical training through which we are urged by the beseeching looks and threatening gestures of Corporal Pattison.

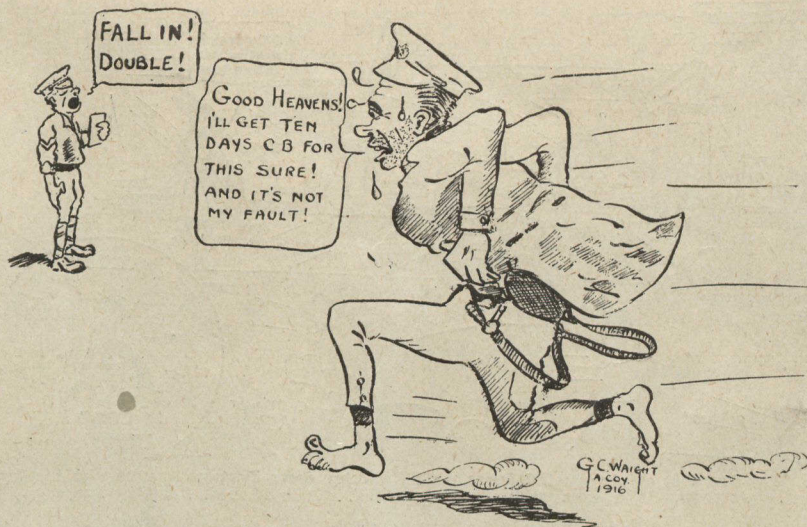
The study of the gun itself is the most interesting and important part of the routine of our chequered lives. We are all perfectly familiar with the gun's operation and mechanism, many of us are so expert as to put our instructors entirely in the shade. We are often told by the boys of the battalion that it is because of the backwardness of the machine gun section that the battalion is delayed in going overseas, but this we put down as malign or envy. The fact is, we are doing our share to uphold the good name of the battalion, for we have almost, if not quite, won the Canadian Club, of Winnipeg, shield, given for the most efficient section in camp.

At no time, probably, has the section distinguished themselves as on the night the battalion occupied the trenches. It is admitted by all that the trenches would have been irretrievably lost if it had not been for the machine gunners' promptitude and gallantry in repelling the enemy attacks. However, perhaps, the most momentous incident of the night of brave deeds and hair-breadth escapes was the predicament of Senior Private King and his party who set out about midnight to relieve the party on the front line trench. Owing to the winding nature of the trenches and other causes which we will not mention, he reached them with his party much depleted and in a very agitated condition in time to effect the relief about day-break. The remainder of his party was found, fortunately for the machine gun section, cosily "pounding his ear" in the engineer's dugout.

But frankly we have quite a number of celebrated personages, among whom may be mentioned Corporal Strickland, who requests to be excused from the "full-knees-bend" exercise until he has a re-issue of Little Grey Devils.

Harassed captain — "For heaven's sake, sergeant, get these trenches tidied up. There's a staff officer coming."

Cheery sergeant—"Shall I polish up the barbed wire, sir?"



"Highly commendable" effort of Pte. W. U. B. Rawrecroot to get on parade, having tried to get into his "Little Grey Devils" for the first time.

History of the 196th Battalion

(Continued from Page Two)

Adjutant—To be selected by the Officer Commanding, and, like the O.C., to be an officer who has seen service at the front.

Chaplain—Principal Oliver, Saskatoon.

Quartermaster—Professor C. S. Burgess, Alberta.

Upon the committee reporting its action to the Department of Militia and Defence at Ottawa, authorization was granted to the universities to recruit and organize their companies independently in their respective military districts.

The organization committee met again in Winnipeg on April 17th and 18th. The following additional headquarters officers were approved, together with the officers that had been selected for the companies by the universities concerned:

Paymaster—Professor MacEachran, Alberta.

Medical Officer—Dr. T. W. Walker, Saskatoon.

Machine Gun Officer—Professor Hopper, Manitoba Agricultural College.

The appointment of Mr. Francis Stevenson, of Saskatoon, as bandmaster was approved, and it was decided that the universities should contribute pro rata the cost of band instruments. The disposal of the instruments after the war was left for later decision. The second in command, who attended this meeting as representative of British Columbia, inspected the companies at Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Edmonton, and the platoon at Brandon.

"A" Company (Manitoba) was organized at Winnipeg (M.D. 10). Capt. N. R. Wilson was appointed company commander, with Capt. H. P. Armes second in command, and C. G. Lee and R. A. Cunningham lieutenants. These appointments were made on February 22nd, and recruiting commenced immediately. A few days later Lieutenant G. H. Dyson was appointed, and early in May Lieutenants Martin and R. F. Argue. The latter was active in recruiting, but was unable to join the battalion for overseas service.

The company was quartered in the Agricultural College, and trained there until moved to Camp Hughes, June 4th. It arrived in camp with a strength of 206 (all ranks), Lieutenant Argue remaining in Winnipeg in charge of recruiting. To date "A" Company has supplied 236 recruits.

The organization of "B" Company (Saskatchewan) (M.D. No. 10), was under Capt. J. P. Oliver, second in command, with Lieutenants A. M. Boyd, F. J. Freer, and C. J. McKenzie to assist him. Major R. J. G. Bateman was recalled from France, where he was serving in the 28th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., to take command of the company, but was not available for duty until the company was transferred to Camp Hughes.

The company at Saskatoon was housed in the University Buildings, and trained on the campus. It arrived in Camp Hughes on June 5th, when it was joined by the Brandon platoon under Lieutenant McKee. This platoon had been recruited at Brandon College under Lieutenant Evans, whom, however, circumstance prevented from going overseas with the unit. The strength of "B" Company on arriving in Camp Hughes was 219 all ranks. It has thus far supplied 264 recruits.

"C" Company (Alberta) was organized at Edmonton (M.D. 10), with headquarters in Assiniboia Hall, University of Alberta, where the men were billeted until their departure for Camp Hughes. Recruiting commenced February 14th, on the appointment of Lieutenant A. D. Cowper as acting captain, and Lieutenant W. M. Fife as senior lieutenant. Lieutenant Cowper under the supervision of President Tory had charge of the organization. Circulars giving information were sent to prominent business and professional men throughout the province, followed by officers who carried out a personal recruiting campaign, so that men were secured from all parts of the province. By April 17th the company was up to strength. On this date Captain H. J. MacLeod was appointed to command the company, and a few days later L. V. Miller, W. J. MacKenzie and S. Wood, who had been N.C.O.'s in the company, were appointed lieutenants. The company joined the battalion at Camp Hughes on June 24th with a strength of 237, all ranks. To the present "C" Company has supplied 264 recruits.

(Continued on Page Four)

Be Regimental!

(Continued from Page One)

forgotten our regiments and have been merged into the Western Universities' Battalion, to which all our loyalty belongs. It is to this battalion that we look for our rules as to what is regimental and what is not, and surely our code of honor should be of the highest nature.

Among men of education, accustomed to self-discipline, there should be small excuse for any breach of the code.

It is needless to go into the causes for the entry of Canada into the war. They are too well known to require discussion here. It is fully realized by all civilized peoples that a nation which sends forth its troops to emulate and outstrip the wanton cruelties of Attila must be checked, and, if need be, blotted out. And so we have started out, actuated by the knowledge that we are a part of the gigantic army which is to save the world from Prussian domination.

To accomplish this purpose, we need more than the willingness to fight. We need thorough and scientific training. We must be prepared to withstand the most severe physical ordeals and we need "esprit de corps." The latter involves a full realization of the fact that the honor of the regiment lies in the hands of each individual. We wear a distinctive dress, and the representatives of the battalion can be seen at a glance in any crowd. In England, among the millions of troops, there will be one battalion always in the public eye. "What sort of men do the universities of Western Canada turn out?" will be the question which the men of this battalion will be unconsciously answering at all times. Does one man slouch along the street, we become, to those who see him, a regiment of slouchers. Does another make himself objectionable in theatre or train, we are a regiment of drunkards and ruffians, in the eyes of those with whom he came in contact. And so it goes.

Be regimental! Remember that you are no longer an individual, but a part of a good battalion, which trusts you to keep its honor bright. More than that, you represent Canada and in particular the four western provinces. Courage in battle is not all that is required of you. Be regimental!

Shakespeare in Camp

Roberts (stacking bread at the hospital):

"Tell me where is fancy bred,"

C.M.S. (walking Briscoe-ly through the trenches):

"Out, out, brief candle,
Life's but a walking shadow."

W. L. McDougal (after sanitary fatigue):

"Not all the perfumes of Arabia will sweeten this little hand."

McKela (at the ranges):

"But me no buts."

Private Jones, at the end of a twenty-mile march, with full kit—"Good night. I wonder if anybody else is carrying anything at all!"