Heroism of New Brunswick Boys in Gailant Charge Not Surpassed Anywhere

FAMOUS CRATER FIGHT

MAJOR BROWN OF 26TH

IN CITY; TELLS OF THE

High Tribute to Men Who' Gave Up Their Lives in Just Cause-Bravery of Sergt. Ryer Praised-The Dea h of Cotter and Peacock -Lieut. Colonel McAvity Well and Doing Fine Work.

Monday, Dec 27. Major W. R. Brown of the 26th New Brunswick batfalion, was one of the test known officers to return by the Metegama yesterday. In speaking of the crater light, which the 26th so gallantly carried out, and in which he led the

"Before we started out I told my men that it was not likely that any of us rould come back alive, and if there was any man who was not keen on going hat he had an opportunity to drop out. Not a single man dropped out," con-nued the officer with gleaming eye. "They all wanted to have a share in the

"I think perhaps there is a bit of a mistaken idea about this fight, so I will give you the particulars of it. The fight took place on October 13. Previous to our going into the trenches the Germans had made this crater by a huge mine explosion. They had been working in this crater for several days. It was in fact a part of their trenches. They worked there steadily and at last the general commanding the division and other officers became anxious as to hat was going on there. It was only about seventy yards from our trenches to they thought they might be making this crater a base for the storing and scharging of liquid fire.

AS MYSTERIOUS.

The night before the fight there had been a reconnaisance, and the report brought back that the place was bomb proof and heavily guarded; this ed to make it more mysterious than ever. The General Headquarters was worrying about this place, and the battalion decided that they would ng by daylight and find out what it contained. The day w cked to do it was perhaps the worst day we could have chosen. The reason ing that previous to this there had been a very severe artillery bombardtend, and, of course, the enemy always expects a general charge after a severe rtillery bombardment. Well, as you may guess, when this little party of the oth came out of the trenches and charged, there were thousands and thousands the energy waiting and watching for them. We were motivated and thousands to bombs, and cross rifle fire. It was murderous, and it is indeed a miracle hat any of us returned to tell the tale. REALLY A PART OF GERMAN LINES.

"But we went onward, fought our way into the crater and bombed it un-til we made it untenantable and drove the Germans out. Then we reconnoit-ered it. We of course could not hold it, for as I have said, it would be madered it. We of course could not hold it, for as I have said, it would be mad-ness to attempt to hold such a spot which was in reality a part of the Ger-man lines. It would have taken a whole brigade to successfully defend such a

lost a good many men, and if I remember correctly we had fifteen d only about seven regained our own trenches without being hit, out killed, and only about of the whole crowd,

WONDERFUL FIGHTERS.

"The boys of the 26th have done wonders; they are the talk of that section of the front and have a splendid name. Colonel McAvity is well and as active as usual, inspiring his men all the time. "The lines which the 26th hold were known as the most quiet on the whole front. In those trenches the enemy would not light whilst the men opposite would not bother them. However, it was different when the 26th got into the trenches. They did not believe in sleeping on the job; they wanted to be lighting, and get a run for their money. They were no sooner there than they began throwing bombs and assaulting the Germans opposite, until now it is known as the holtest part of that front. "The Germans are good lighters, there is no mistaking it. They are always

CANADIANS AT THE WEATHER ONLY FRONT SEND XMAS SENDS GREETINGS

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1915

ANG GERRE

TO ARMY AND NAVA

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Inga and all your undertain the first of the data and solution of the last as a member of the fact and the same security secure of the same security security security of the same security security

anton, both of the solution of John A. Sinclair, 161 Water-

James Cain.



COMPLAINT OF

55TH BATTALION



of Upper Loch Lomond, to Miss Gilbride, of Montreal, which event

took place in Winnipeg Dec. 7. The new-ly wedded pair will make their home at Graham (Ont.), where Mr. Johnston is ed as engineer on the Transcon

Alexander-Cumming.

A quiet home wedding took place ednesday morning, Dec. 15, at the me of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cum-ng. Fredericton Junction, when their d friends. Mrs. Tho rn, besides her husba Elmore Loweriston, two sisters, Mrs. Herb Amherst, and Mrs. Hor Aughter of the late John Cummin Argyleshire, Scotland, was unite narriage to Arthur Robertson Ale ler, son of Col Thos, L. Alexa

The following letters were received yesterday, acknowledging the receipt of oxes sent in the fall: France, Dec. 10, 1915. Dear Miss Hamilton,-Just have a chance now to write and let you know that the boxes arrived O. K. Dec. 9.

BY PAMDENEC BOXES

Gunner Hunt and I opened them and Camp Aroused Over Ozanne Murder found everything in good order. As it is nearly Christmas I suggested

he has given to New Brunswickers and the valuable service he has rendered to all ranks. Recently when the men vis-ited London his office became a kind of clearing house where he directed the men to suitable lodgings. He has left no stone unturned in rendering valuable

NEW BRUNSWICK UNITS

IN FRANCE MADE HAPPY

we have a Santa parade on Christmas morning and give each man a pair of thority-War Won, But Germans socks and divide the other things at the

I have arranged for puts, fruit and also 150 pounds of the ey for Christ-mas dinner, and with the extras from the boxes we should spend a good day. I want to thank your circle for their very useful gifts and assure them that their kindness will never be forgotten by the officers, N. C. O.'s and men of the 2nd D. A. C. Would like to tell your members a

terfered largely with carrying out the "regulation syllabus. It was natural this in the sea just at a time when the English winter was beginning that the change in climate should be feit and this has been done to a great degree. Many of the men have had coughs and recolds and quite a number of cases of bonchitis and pneumonia have developed.
The battalion has had opportunity to turn aside from the rigor of routine drill, and all ranks have had six davs' leave of absence given. This was taken first by "A" and "B" companies, and there speat centre of attraction, but many of the English born hastened away to their old homes; here and there and every- the where.
Many of the officers have area to take the speat the set of attraction and there and every- the where.

 by "C" and "D." Of course in the great majority of cases London became the great centre of attraction, but many of the English born hastened away to their old homes, here and there and everywhere.
 Many of the officers have gone to take instructional courses at Shornectiffe and clsewhere. Among these are Majors Jones, Osborne, Weyman, Captains Campbell and Williams, Lieutenants Hamilton, Major and B. Smith, An unber of the N. C. O's are also taking special courses.
 Transfers and Promotions, Transfers have been made as follows: Transfers have been made as follows:

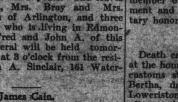
spirits. With greetings to all the circle.

Sincerely, D. D. McARTHUR, Major B Company, 26th.

These boxes, ten in number, were hipped by the Soliders' Comfort Asso-iation last October and arrived at the



Mrs. S. S. Thorne, me suddenly Sunday the of Stephen S. Thorne, of the taffy when his wife, Alice sughter of the late Richard n, of Amherst, passed away hort filness. Her death came dly, and as a great shock to y and friends. Mrs. Thorne



of Newport (R. I.), De

of Sackville. William John Keeley.

Transfers have been inade as follows: Lieut. O. J. Larzen from "A" company to "D" as platoon commander; Lieut. F. D. Foley, from "A" company to "B" as supernumerary; Lieut. H. D. War-ren, from "B" to "C" company as pla-toon commander; Lieut. S. McDonald, from "A" company to "C" company as supernumerary. Cumming. was united in

ready to retaliate. Of course, there is very little doing now. There will be a big offensive soon, but that will not come until the opportune time arrives. There has been no change in the positions in the past twelve months, which shows that the Germans are still seady to resist any attempt at an offensive.

ALLIES' MUNITIONS BETTER.

ALLIES' MUNITIONS BETTER. "One thing that is very noticeable now is the superiority of our supplies of munitions over those of the Germans. When we first got to the front the Germans gave us three or lour shells for every one we sent over. Now the thing is reversed and we have plenty of munitions." In speaking of his stay in Ganada Major Brown said that he did not know how long it would be. He had come across more for the sea voyage than sny-thing else, and to see some of the relatives of those of the 26th that had been killed and bring them messages. It was in the crater light that Major Brown was wounded. Shrapnel Injured his foot severely. "One thing that struck me when I first got to London was the great num-ber of slackers, but under Lord Derby's scheme this thing has died out and there are not many slackers to be seen now. Another thing that strikes a Ganadian immediately upon his landing is the superiority of the Canadians in physique to the territorials.

THE BRAVE RYER.

THE BRAVE RYER. In speaking of Sergt, Ryer, the 26th man who got the D. C. M., Major Brown said: "After I got back to the trenches after the crater light we start-ed in at once to discover our casualities. The fellow Ryer was missing. About an hour later I heard that Ryer had turned up. So I sent for him and asked him where he had been. He repited: I found a nice little spot where I could do a bit of potting; I found that as the Germans left the trenches to throw him where he had been and get a shot at them. So I just stayed there and shot at them. I managed to bowl over eleven of them." "But man were you not fired upon?" I asked Ryer. 'Oh, yes,' replied Ryet, I was fired upon some but they did not hit me' He talked as he would of a moose hunting trip, as if it were the most ordinary thing in the would to kill eleven Germans. 'After I had fought a bit', Ryer coultinged, T found that I was alone and that the rest had gone back, so I thought I would low around a little first and see if there was anybody I could take back. I found one man on the ground but he said that it was no use, that he was done for. I stayed there a few moments till he died and then I found another fel-low who was not mortally wounded. "Ryer then in some manner managed to the tenches. "Ryer is a most peculiar fellow," continued Major Brown. "He seems to

"Ryer is a most peculiar fellow," continued Major Brown. "He seems to have no fear in the world. The very first day we were in the trenches he came to me and asked me if that night he might go across and have a look into the German trenches. I told him that it would be foolhardy, that he did not know how much wire entanglements they had in front of their trenches and that it would be certain death. He replied that neverthies he would like to go. "Told the brizadier-general the next morning about it and he laughed and thought it was a great loke. In passing down through the trenches later in the day with the general I came upon Rwer and Laidt "General, this is the man who wanted to go over last night and look into the German trenches," Did you want to do that? asked the general laughing. "Oh, wes, replied Rver, in a matter of fact way. I thought I would like to go." It was not long after that Ryer won the D.C.M.

TRIBUTE TO SERGT. COTTER.

"Sergt. Cotter, who was killed, was one of the finest soldiers alive. In the crater fight he was wounded three times before he finally was shot down. He was wounded getting into the crater, wounded whilst in there, wounded coming out, and whilst getting back to his own trenches he was mortally wounded.

PEACOCK'S SAD DEATH

"Corporal Peacock was another man of the 26th Battalion whose death was very sad. It was just after the crater tight. He had been one of the jucky ones to come through without a scratch. I was lying in my dug-out, after having my wound bandaged. Peacock came and stood in the door of the dug-out and said: T am so thinking that I got through that charge without being wounded. I think I am very lucky. I am very sorry that you have been wounded, Major Brown. Hardly had the words issued forth from his mouth when a shell came along and cut both his legs off as he stood in the door. He died in a few moments. Had it not been for the fact that he was standing there the shell would most certainly have killed me." Major Brown stated that the boys were in the best of spirits and were doing wonderful work whenever they were called upon to light, and were always spolling for a scrap.