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# The Campbellton Graphic

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CAMPBELLTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1915.

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**FERGUSON'S**

## ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Mrs. W. P. Gray Receives Langthy Epistle From Her Son Charlie

Belgium, October 7, 1915.  
Dear Mother,  
Back again where we can write just what we want to. Am going to start where I left off at Longmoor.  
August 25th we left camp for Southampton, got on board a steamer, arrived on Calais 26th. Arriving, got the train there for Alveingham, changing to narrow gauge track at Furnes, marched to a farm near Hoogstade, arrived about 10 p. m. The course we were that night nobody thought of asking where the trenches were. Next day we found out that we were only four miles from the German lines. Went to the village of Leo, about two miles from the lines and saw the way they had battered the town up. Monday, Aug. 30, we went up to the trenches to start laying a narrow gauge line for supplies, we were about 800 yards from the Germans. Did not know that they were so close till I heard a shell coming, it was a shrapnel at that, but it burst at the back of us so we did not do any damage. When the shell burst, the way that I got into a dugout was no way slow of course. After it burst it was harmless. Right after that the Belgian batteries replied, so we got a great baptism of fire that night.

Working between the batteries is a great place to be, especially if you are fairly close and in line. I think not. Have gotten quite used to it now and don't mind it so much, as I can tell when a shell is coming close, you can hear them long before they break.

Have never been in the trenches unless we have had to quit work for a while. One Saturday afternoon we got caught in an open field. The Germans saw us from an observation balloon and shot fifteen or twenty shells at us, but did not get the trench, that is about the only time that I would not have given much for my chances. The last two weeks that we were there we were putting in machine gun bases in the first line of trenches. They used to hear us working, when they did, if they got near at all we would get covered, stay where we were, and then go back to work again. Sometimes they would not get near the trenches for shell fire, other times you would never know that there was a war on. Have been up to within thirty yards of the Germans and could hear them talking quite plainly.

Along the front where we were there is not much heavy fighting, the Belgians are just holding the Germans where they are. The line follows the Yser Canal pretty much all the way along, the Germans are on one side and the Belgians on another, with the water in between, except in Dismund, which is no man's town, anybody that goes there is a dead man. Neither side has the town itself. About every three or four days the Germans try to drive the Belgians back from the town, but they have not succeeded so far. About the only scrap that I saw was one night when the Germans sent a party of 150 across to see what they could find. When they got within about fifty yards, the Belgians turned three machine guns on them. You could hear them yelling about a mile away. Right when we were the Germans lost about one hundred and twenty thousand men; the Belgians let them come into the low country, then opened the dyke gates and drowned them, ever so often the Belgians let the Germans across the Canal, but none of them have ever gone back. They let them build a bridge and when so many get across they blow the bridges up with the artillery, from Westend to Ypres the fighting is chiefly artillery.

Was up to Nunport for a few days putting in track for the big naval guns. Two weeks ago Saturday they dropped two shells into the hotel at Middlekerk, where the German officers had their headquarters. Would like to have been there to see them go, they were just at breakfast. You can imagine what a small connection that it caused. The shells will kill everything within four hundred yards of where they explode. Could write about shell fire for a month, and then not tell anything, as you would have to see for yourself just what damage they will do. Nobody realizes what shell fire is till they are under it. Have had a wonderful six weeks in Belgium. We were within range of the German guns all the time. Have been shelled coming and going and in the trenches and had machine guns shooting at us in the fields back of the trenches, but nobody got a scratch. The Belgians called us the armored corps. Somebody was certainly looking after us.

Must ring off for this trip, will write to-morrow night. We are under orders, don't know where, either Russia or Persian Gulf, either places we will not be under fire as we are going to build and operate. Have not finished, will tell you about my trip coming back.

Love to all, CHARLIE.

## LOCAL MEMBERS OF 26TH BATT IN THE LATE CASUALTY LISTS

Privates Savident, Thompson, G. Hant, Belanger and Winchester Reported Killed in Action—Other Local Men Wounded.

### LETTER FROM PRIVATE SAVIDANT

The war is now coming very close to us here in Campbellton. Reports are flooding through that the 26th, our own New Brunswick Battalion has been heavily engaged and the casualty reports are being eagerly scanned. The first battalion which suffered heavily at Ypres has again been shattered, there being reported fourteen killed and many wounded. Up to yesterday the local casualties include the following:  
**Killed in Action:**  
Pte. James Thompson, Richardsonville.  
Joseph Sylva Gallant, Athol.  
Jerome Belanger, Val Brilliant.  
Dawson Winchester, Dalhousie.  
George Almon Savident, Campbellton.  
**The Wounded are:**  
Pte. D. E. Delaney, Dalhousie.  
James McDavid, Matapedia.  
Watson Baird, Port Daniel.  
Jas. Earl Robertson, New Richmond.  
Harry S. Murray, St. Charles de Caplin.  
No doubt this list will be largely augmented before many days, but until official word is given of the casualties, it is wise to keep silent.

When the word of the deaths was received here on Tuesday, a wave of sympathy swept over the community, and while there were many anxious hearts awaiting news, they did not withhold their kindness to those whose loved ones fell in the cause of freedom and righteousness. While in all cases the official news of the casualty brings a heavy care, in the case of Mrs. Savident it was particularly touching. She had only shortly before had a letter from her son, when the Adjutant General's telegram was received, "Deeply regret to inform you that Pte. George Almon Savident, 26th Batt., officially reported killed in action." This was a great shock to her and Mrs. Savident has been prostrated by the sad news. The letter from her son was as follows:  
France, Oct. 8th.

Dear Mother,

### RESTIGOUCHE BOY ON WAY TO THE FRONT

Pte. Daniel Delaney Passes Through Here Last Thursday With 44th Batt.

Private Daniel L. Delaney, formerly of Flat Lands, but for the last sixteen years a resident of the West, passed through Campbellton, Thursday the 21st on the first section of troop trains conveying the 44th Battalion. He was for a number of years employed in the lumbering business of Ontario, but reading and hearing of the glorious acts of the Canadian boys, Dan said he could not resist the temptation of coming to Sewell, Manitoba, to enlist in April just to get an Irish stroke at the Germans.

No one in this troop were allowed to visit after enlisting. He wired to his mother, Mrs. William Delaney and



PRIVATE DELANEY

brothers Thomas, James, Charles, Richard and George, all of Flat Lands, and Matapedia, and also his sister Mrs. Richard Murray to meet him at

## LIEUT. O. MOWAT WINS DISTINCTION

Letter Received From Lieut. T. O'Brien Gives Interesting News of Campbellton Boy

Mr. Max M. Mowat has received a most interesting letter from Lieut. T. O'Brien, in which he gives some information regarding the work of his son Lieut. Ollie Mowat. At the request of a number of friends the letter is herewith published.

19th Battery,  
Otterpool Camp,  
Co. Kent Eng.  
c/o Army P. O., London.

Dear Mr. Mowat:

I must tell you a bit of most excellent news that I heard last night. As an introduction to this news let me tell you that from our Brigade we have sent four of our superannuated to the firing line. They went a week ago in order to relieve four other fellows, who were to be transferred back to us for a rest. These new men turned up yesterday direct from the firing line. One of them, Darling, by name, was in my tent last night having a cup of cocoa with a few of us, and we asked him if he had seen any of the late big scrap. He said yes, it had begun before he left. In the day time, there is hardly any shooting except a little from the big guns. The accommodations in the trenches are hardly as good as we have outside, because the water and food has to be carried such a distance and all done after dark. Don't forget to send something to smoke and a heavy pair of mittens. Love to all

Your son,

ALMON.  
The sorrow which has entered many homes is shared by all the citizens and the grief is tempered in no small degree by the thought that the boys who have fallen saw their duty ahead to their King and Country, and fell sacrificing heroes in the cause of freedom. Their memories will be ever cherished.

Halifax, Oct. 26.—Howard McPhee, 134 North Street, this city, this morning received notification from Ottawa that his brother Morris McPhee, had died of wounds at the front. Morris McPhee was employed in St. John when the 26th was organized. He was among the first to enlist, and was a member of the machine gun section of that corps. He was about twenty-one years of age. According to the notification, McPhee died on Oct. 3.

Pte. McPhee enlisted in the 26th Batt. in Campbellton, at the time when Major A. E. C. McKenzie was signing on recruits here.

I am writing you this because I know you will be glad to hear it and possibly Ollie will not get a chance to write you for several days, for the big scrap is still going on.

We ourselves were given to understand that we would be "at it" in the middle of November. I hope so. In the meantime we're freezing to death here in our tents, with eight hundred horses in the open to look after.

I trust, everyone at your house is well. Please remember me to Mrs. Mowat and the other boys, and also to any other of my friends you may see.

Sincerely yours,

T. H. O'BRIEN.

I wish you would remember me to Judge McLatchy and also Judge Matheson. "Bernie" McLatchy is fine and his Brigade is now on barracks at Westenhanger, a mile from us.

## FRENCH RESERVIST WINS PROMOTION

News Received Here That George LaCaroze is Promoted For Valour on Field

Word has been received by relatives here that George LaCaroze of the 10th Regiment Colonials, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Sergeant LaCaroze originally hailed from St. Pierre Micelon, where he served his time in the French Navy. He removed to Campbellton where he worked for some time as a carpenter, and was called up at the beginning of the war and transferred to the 10th Infantry Regiment, in which he has seen much service. He took part in the great drive in the Champagne district and a few weeks ago was detailed for special duty, which he accomplished successfully and as a reward was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

His relatives here have been well informed by him of the progress of the war, and in one of his letters he speaks of the last fight his detachment was engaged in, where they attacked the enemy 217 strong and came out with only 86, the rest being killed and wounded.

So far he has received no injury and looks forward to the time when the Germans will be driven clear out of France.

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