

The Western Scot

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WILLOWS CAMP, VICTORIA, B. C., NOVEMBER 27th, 1915

No. 8

NEWS OF THE CAMP

The entire garrison of the Willows Camp paraded Tuesday afternoon, under command of Lieut.-Col. Lorne Ross, and marched to the C.P.R. dock, Belleville Street, to take part in the civic welcome to the boys invalided home from the front. Including the 5th Regiment Band, there were no less than six bands present on parade, and the march out was one of the largest that has ever taken place in Victoria. The units parading were the 11th C.M.R., the B.C. Horse (103rd Battalion), the 67th Battalion, and the 88th Battalion. Sufficient notice to parade was not given the 5th Artillery, but Lieut.-Col. Angus sent the band of his regiment to take part in the ceremonies. The roll of the small company of war-scarred soldiers, some suffering from the effects of German gas, others maimed with shrapnel and others rendered unfit because of the excessive tax on their physical and nervous system, but all of them delightfully cheerful, is as follows:

Sergt. J. Taylor, Sergt. Basil Prior, Cpl. Leighton, Cpl. Trigg, Lce.-Cpl. Anderson, Pte. J. Porter, Pte. J. Wilson, Pte. C. Carver, Pte. J. Grassick, Pte. Williamson, Pte. W. McLeod, Pte. G. Payne, Pte. G. F. Roberts, Pte. R. D. Jones, Pte. W. L. Veige, Pte. C. Hamilton, Pte. G. R. Withey, Pte. E. V. Robley, Pte. R. Simpson, Pte. J. Cowen, Pte. S. L. Rickets, Pte. H. V. Risdorf, Pte. V. Knowles, Pte. V. C. Richards, Pte. J. Brisco, Pte. J. D. Wilson, Pte. J. Kirk, Pte. G. Herman, Pte. J. Robinson, Pte. R. Knight, Pte. A. Anderson, Pte. J. J. Haydon, Pte. W. C. Aynsley, Pte. A. Tait, Pte. V. Dawson, Pte. J. Wright.

Owing to the unprecedented rainfall during the past week or so it has been deemed inadvisable to carry out the night work in the trenches as originally planned by Lieut.-Col. Ross; but with the advent of drier weather the battalion will shortly be given a taste of real trench work. This will include occupation of trenches, bringing up and cooking rations, and the regular routine of trench work at night under service conditions.

NO. 1 COMPANY

Owing to Monday being a wet day, the daily photograph was not taken.

Pte. Halcomb reported that he had lost his "Hungarian." It was only when he gave it the alternative appellation of a "sky-piece" that we understood that he had lost his glengarry.

The Company marched to the ranges on Monday, but owing to the strong gale blowing and rain, not much shooting was done.

The ideas of a certain officer of this Company as to keeping good time are about on a par with those of the camp clock.

We look back with longing to the comparative quiet of the barrack-room while Corporal Higgins and his drums were here, now that someone has erected a punch-ball in the room. The Nanaimo cubicle on pay-night has to take a back seat now.

Pte. Smith (No. 102008) has returned from the brass band to duty with his company. We miss him on route marches, as it added variety to watch him trying to fool the big drum by threatening to strike it, then stopping short.

While we must all congratulate Bandmaster Fink on the excellent showing the brass band is making in the short time it has been organized, the star performance on Sunday's parade was certainly the band changing step to get into time with its own music when it struck up just outside the gate.

The Company got its second inoculation on Tuesday.

Sergt. W. T. Johnston has returned to duty with the Company. The problem that confronted us was whether the other five sergeants of the Company should remain in their quarters or whether they should be handed over to Sergt. Johnston. The problem was happily solved by doubling the size of the quarters.

Lance-Corpl. Morden's present view of the continued financial stringency is such that he considers it expedient and im-

perative for everyone to forthwith save as fast as they spend, and also to remember that a bank account is a true friend in the hour of adversity.

NO. 2 COMPANY

It is very gratifying to No. 2 Company to know that we have been successful in a few things this week. The main feature was the winning of the Company shoot last Saturday. We congratulate the "Staff" on being a good second. Another feature was the winning of the football match between No. 1 and No. 2 Companies with a score of 6 to 0. We thank the Pipe Band for their compliment on our marching, re last week's "Western Scot." Efficient in musketry, drill and athletics, what more do we want?

Some of us most certainly welcome the change of bands in the big building. Instead of the horrible screeches and groans we were accustomed to hearing during a Pipe Band practice, isn't it better to listen to the Brass Band playing "Down On the Farm," the "Table Waiters' Two-Step," or the "Defaulters' Rag."

What's the use of trying to be good? It's this way—last Sunday, as we were being marched back to barracks, after going to the English Cathedral, it was raining hard and we were a rather soggy-looking bunch, but remembering the sermon and a few other things, our hearts were filled with patience, repentance and resignation, in fact we were feeling very pious, but suddenly all our hopes of a better life, our good resolutions and our aforesaid patience were shot to pieces on catching sight of "Tubby" Barr speeding by in a jitney down-townwards, yelling, "Yah! Yah! Who wouldn't be a Presbyterian!" We don't believe "Tubby" knew what a Presbyterian was before he joined the 67th, but leave it to "Tubby" to pick a plum.

Sergt. Lister the other evening was detected in the act of trying to break open a money box, with the aid of a saw, hammer, file and beer-bottle opener. He told us that, that morning the Hospital Corporal had given him two kinds of tablets for his cold. One kind to take internally and the other kind (which was poison) to dissolve and gargle his throat, and he had just found out that he had mistaken the tablets and had reversed them, thereby poisoning himself, and as he knew there was a dime in his money-box (having put it there some years ago, when he had as much as \$1.72 all at one time), he was trying to get it out so that he could purchase some stuff to kill the poison with. We treated!

Some class to No. 2 Company sergeants' hotel that has recently been built. We understand now why we were awakened in the middle of the night sometimes by the noise of a fatigue party carrying lumber. Funny time to carry lumber.

Come on, No. 4, with that concert. The rest of us have done our turn.

Don't forget the old proverb, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

We wish to thank Sgt. McMasters for the excellent meals we get at the range and at other times when we go out and take our rations with us.

Boost for the "Western Scot" and for the Western Scots.

NO. 3 COMPANY

If the Battalion does many more marches such as it experienced on Sunday and Tuesday of this week, the men will be more qualified as sailors than as soldiers. While everybody would cheerfully face bad weather to welcome the return of the boys from the front, it is open to question if it is worth it simply to go to church.

How is this for smart work? He met her at a church social on Friday, called at her home on Sunday, proposed on Wednesday, got a week-end pass and was married on Saturday. All he forgot was permission to get married. This is true, but it is no good trying to find out who it is.