

## THREE DECORATED MEN AMONG RETURNED HEROES

Lieut. W. R. Elliott of Peterborough Rose From the Ranks and Won the Military Cross in Famous Raid on the Somme—Captain Gibbon, M.C., Here—Military Medal for Sergeant Hynes—Other Returned Men

"Could you tell me where I could buy a package of cigarettes?" asked a bright-looking youth who reached the city yesterday on one of the steamers arriving at Sand Point.

The speaker was Lieut. W. R. Elliott, M.C., travelling in multi, who won the coveted cross in connection with a gallant raid on the German trenches. The reporter was able to oblige Lieut. Elliott as he happened to have a spare package on his person. The gallant officer in return gave the reporter an idea of life at the front, and while he refused to talk of his own experiences, Lieut. A. F. MacDonald of the 50th Battalion very kindly gave an account of his friend's daring feat.

"It was during the heavy fighting on the Somme, one of those famous raids which have served to establish an enviable reputation for the Canadians. Lieut. Elliott was one of twelve officers to participate in a most daring raid on the German trenches on November 18. Four divisions with twelve officers went into the attack, which was a most successful one. Elliott with three other officers commanded his company which was almost entirely wiped out. The company on his immediate right and left were practically obliterated, and of the twelve officers only five came back.

Elliott Saved the Day.

"It was Mr. Elliott's great work that saved the day. He covered himself with glory. Jumping off from the Regina trench the boys made a most effective raid on Fritz. Things, however, for a while looked bad, but the boys kept on going for the Guards' trench in the front line. When the other officers had been killed or wounded, Lieut. Elliott took command and carried on with the company. He did gallant work. He was officially credited to receive the military cross for having assumed command of his company in a heavy attack. He showed marked courage and ability, reorganizing his men and consolidated the position. A number of his N.C.O.'s were already decorated for their gallant work in this attack. Lieut. Elliott was invested with his military cross by the King on February 21st last."

Enlisted as Private.

Lieut. Elliott enlisted as a private with a battalion from Belleville. Later he transferred to a battalion of Lindsey, Ont., and on arrival at Bramshott Camp transferred to a battalion from Calgary. He crossed to France with the fourth division in August last and went through all the heavy fighting on the Somme.

"The fourth division on arrival in France received immediate operative orders. We carried on daily and expected to go over the top at any moment," said Lieut. Elliott. "The weather conditions were most disagreeable. Day after day the rain fell in torrents and a sea of mud developed. Our brigadier had the weight taken of one Tommy's kit, and while the average weight of the complete apparel is about sixty-two pounds, the clothes weighed no less than 105 pounds, the

duration of the war, but the boys are there to see it through to a clean and honorable finish," said Lieut. Elliott. Lieut. Elliott, M.C., is home to recuperate after an operation for appendicitis. He says he is feeling fairly well but he feels that the rest will do him good.

Calgary Man in Party.

Lieut. MacDonald of Calgary was hit in the Somme fighting on November 18. He is permanently disabled and will be unable to return to resume his duties at the front. The young officer has been in hospital since that date until the day of sailing.

Another decorated man who reached the city yesterday was Captain Gibbon, a medical officer with the 5th Royal Berks. He received the military cross for gallantry in action. Captain Gibbon hails from Bracebridge, Ont., but he was glad of the opportunity to get to the front with this imperial force.

The third decorated man to arrive here yesterday was Sergeant Major Hynes of the 87th Battalion from Vancouver. He received the military medal for daring work in connection with a raid on the German trenches. The sergeant major looks well and is glad of the opportunity to return to Canada for a short visit.

Expected July to End It.

The majority of officers who reached the city yesterday look for an early termination of the war. While there were many who did not desire to express an opinion, Lieut. J. Downey of the 21st Regiment, who has been through several severe engagements, told The Standard that the first of July in his opinion would see the finish of the Germans. Lieut. Downey is a Belleville man and is loud in his praise of the work of the men of his regiment. He returns to Canada to accept a command with the 25th Battalion now being recruited at Belleville.

Other who Arrived.

Capt. F. Hancock, of Toronto, who was in charge of the Y.M.C.A. work with the 21st Battalion, returned yesterday to Canada on three months leave of absence.

Rev. Canon Daw, of Hamilton, who has served fifteen months with various Canadian battalions, also reached the city yesterday. He is home on a short leave.

Lieut. R. Malcolm, a son of the late Thomas Malcolm of Campbellton, arrived here yesterday for special duty. Lieut. Malcolm is now with the Canadian Forestry Corps. He was on duty for several months with the C.P.R. Engineers. He has practically recovered from the effects of the wounds he received at the front.

Lieut. James Walker, a member of the famous Black Watch Regiment from Scotland, also arrived in the city yesterday. He was through the heavy fighting with this brilliant regiment. He proceeded to his home in Montreal last evening.

Captain (Dr.) O'Connor, an American citizen, who has been serving with the Canadian forces in France, was another passenger on yesterday's steamer. The doctor will be remembered as the star full-back on the all-American football team of a few years ago.

## BURNED ARCHIVES OF THE RUSSIAN POLICE

London, Mar. 16.—Practically the entire archives of the Russian secret police were burned by the revolutionists, according to a Times' despatch from Petrograd. When the building in which the notorious third-section had its headquarters was captured, eager crowds sacked the offices, blasted open safes, wrecked strong boxes and rushed into the streets carrying masses of documents which were quickly converted into blazing bonfires. Not all of the documents, however, were destroyed. The new government has obtained possession of lists of spies and informers who are being fast run to earth.

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OTTAWA, March 12th, 1917.

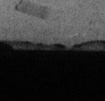
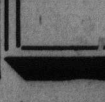
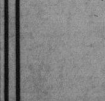
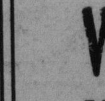
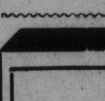
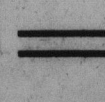
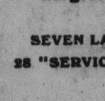
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