

# Letters From Our Boys Overseas

## More News of How Miramichi Soldiers Enjoy Training in England and Campaigning in France.

From Pte. W. A. Ryan, of Nordin.  
My Dear Mother and Father:—  
Just a few lines to let you know how I am getting on. George is on guard tonight. The Queen was looking at the troops today. We presented arms with fixed bayonets, with our caps on the points of our bayonets. The band was playing all around us. The soldiers were lined from our huts to the station along the road.

Well, how are all of the children? I got a box of tobacco from Aunt Milly. Tobacco is awful hard to get over here.

When the 55th goes into action I tell you there will be something doing. I thank Aunt Milly ever so much for the tobacco.

How are father and Jimmy getting along? I wish you all a Happy New Year. I write every week so that you will get a letter every time the transport ship goes across.

When I go to the front you will not get so many letters. We are only allowed to write once a week, and only a few lines then.

Well mother, I have passed the range. I made lots of bull-eyes. All of my hut crew are down town. There are 40 men in a hut. We have fine huts; there are oil stoves in them. Jules Malley is writing along side of me. We just came from the Salvation Army. They are making all the cold feet go to the front.

The Germans are flying over us all the time. We got word to darken all of our windows. Everything is dark here now.

George is the Colonel's bugler. Give my love to all the family, especially to the "Kilnbridge" crew. Well, I think I will call my letter to a close, so good by from your soldier boys.

interfering with any man in the ranks for they have it hard enough some times. I have made up my mind to go to the trenches as a private. I can serve my country just as well that way, and I care for nothing else. If I can keep right with God and do my duty to my country that is all I care for. If I get any stripes in the trenches I will accept them, they will be for something worth while. We have some very fine sermons in the Y.M.C.A. tent and a great many fine concerts and plays. They are a great help to the soldiers for in place of going to town in the evenings we can go there and have a real good time. It is nice warm weather here now and not so much rain but a lot of mud which is nearly as bad. We had a fine time at Xmas I received the boxes sent by the ladies of the Miramichi. They were very nice. I treated the other boys with the cigarettes and had the candy myself. It all came in very good and we are very thankful for any little parcel that we get from Canada. I suppose you have lots of snow and good sleighing in Canada now. I would like very well to have a sleigh drive myself now, but I don't think I shall this winter. We all think there will be a big change in the war before next Xmas, but of course there will be a large sacrifice of men, but we have got to win at any cost and the sooner the better. We are all in the best of spirits, and I don't think there is a man who is sorry he ever joined to do his bit. I know for one I am glad, for I have done my duty. Well, I must close for tonight. With best wishes to all the family, and hoping to hear from you soon again, I remain,  
MORRISON JORDAN,  
A. Co., 55th Battalion

**ALBERT and GEORGE**  
Pte. William A. Ryan,  
44710 B. Camp, 55th Batt.  
Bramshott Camp,  
Liphook,  
Hants, England  
Hants, England  
Jan. 12th, 1916

Dear Mr. McCurdy,—  
I received your most kind and ever welcome letter the other day, and was awfully glad to hear from you, and also to know you are well, and have not forgotten us, even if we are so far away. I like to know that you think of us some times, and your prayers will do us no harm either. You were saying that there may be some who will come over and fight by our side from Redbank and around there, with the next contingent. It is bad indeed, the way they are hanging back, and other little places sending so many. In our brigade we have the 60th 54th and 55th. The 54th and 55th are from the West, and the 60th, you know, are from Montreal. They are all fine battalions and Lord Brooks said the other day we were equal to any he ever inspected; so I think we shall do our share alright. In the 54th Battalion there are two boys, one 12 and the other 13, and they have two brothers at the front now, so they are doing their share alright, and fine little fellows they are, and we have lots of men over 40 years old, too, so it is a pity that more of those able young fellows in Redbank don't come and do their share. Mimmie McCole, and Walter Mullin and Garvie Rae and I, have made a little start from our part, (Whitney). I think that was pretty good, for we haven't many single men down there. I cannot say when we shall move from here or where we are going. We are nearly all done training now, and having a very good time, only it is very wet and muddy most of the time. I would like to go to France any time now and do my share, for I think we could help more there than we can here wading through the mud. You said you would like to hear of us as sergeants. Well, I had a good chance to be sergeant, but let it go, for a sergeant has to do lots of things I would not like to do. He has to punish lots of privates for very little things and I wouldn't have anything to do with

The following letter was received by Mrs. James T. Crocker, of Millerton from her son, Alward C. Crocker, who enlisted with a British regiment in England, the 6th of Feb. 1915. Mr. Crocker spent seven years in the United States, but has shown that he is a loyal Canadian.

France, Dec. 20th, 1915.

Dear Mother:  
Was awfully glad to hear from you all this morning, and as I am afraid that some of my letters have gone astray, I am going to write home oftener.

The weather here has been wet for the past month, and the mud is getting very deep. The men and horses are the color of the mud, but in fine condition. It has been mild during the last fortnight, but the two previous weeks were pretty cold, and made extra work for us, as cold weather does not agree with gasoline engines and radiators.

We are well supplied with warm clothes and waterproofs, so we won't suffer much from the cold. A lot of our clothes and estates come from Canada, so I think we are getting our share of the war profits, besides doing our duty. We had an issue of sleep-skin coats, which came from Toronto. They are nice and warm and much better for sleeping in, than the regular army great-coats. The majority sleep in the lorries, but a few of us have been lucky enough to get houses to sleep in.

Your cakes and underwear arrived O. K. and in good shape. It is a pleasure to get a taste of the kind that "Mother used to make." The French don't eat much cake, but charge plenty for what they do make, and in fact everything else. They say "English plenty money," and of course we do get much more than the French soldiers, who get six cents a day. They used to get ten cents.

My friends in England have been very kind to me, I get smokes and eats regularly. Our company has started drawing for leave, and I may get mine soon if I am lucky. But since I can't go home, I'm not very particular when I get it, but will go to Newbury when I do.

There has been heavy bombardment along our section of the line during the last few days, and both sides are doing lots of mining, the Germans blew up three mines last

night, and got quite a few of our lads, but we got our own back and then some. The other day three German aeroplanes came over accompanied by a battle plane, and tried to blow up our railhead, where our supplies come in, and from which we deliver them to the troops. They dropped bombs all around it, though none hit, but they nearly got a bunch of cavalry on a road nearby. They tried lowering a few to us, and had better luck, one dropped right among us, killing six and wounding eleven, and but for an armored car, would have got more. I happened to be out of my car at the time, also the second and third drivers, so the car only suffered. Those aerial torpedoes make a worse noise than a Jack Johnson and sort of hypnotize you until they strike the ground, and if you are at all near them, they are sure to. But don't worry, they won't get us again. Our airmen are more active now, and we have located all the cellars around, so if one gets too near, we have a foot race to see who gets there first. One tried to get over this morning, but soon turned, when he saw our airman coming.

I get the newspapers regularly and sorry to hear that some of our boys from home have been killed. Things are looking more favorable now than a week or two ago, especially in the Balkans, and although we were too slow to save poor Serbia, we will stop their drive towards Egypt. The Canadians are doing fine work here, and although we don't hear so much about them lately, they are still on the job as much as ever. The Germans hate the Canadians worse than the English, for we kept them from getting to Calais, but we can stand a lot of that. I am the only Canadian in this company, and they call me "Yank" for Yankee. They like reading our papers. There is a lad here from New York whom I knew there. He was very anxious to get them while the baseball season was on.

Well, Mother it is time to go to bed. Hope you keep well this winter, and when the war is over, I think about next October—I'll take the shortest route home.

Write soon again. Love to all.  
Loving son  
ALWARD C. CROCKER

P. S.—Received the box of candy from the girls of Millerton, and wish you would thank them for me.—A. C.

# Parish Officers for 1916

**NEWCASTLE**  
Parish Clerk—Thomas Barnett.  
District Clerks—Alexander Jessamine, E. Meehan.  
Constables—Timothy McInnis, Wm. Irving, Robert Beckwith, Samuel Mills, John Ashford, Frank Johnston, John Creamer, Daniel Creamer, John Fallon, John Russell, John Hay Jr., Wm. J. Black, John J. Gallah, Cameron Smallwood, David Dalgle, Adam Dickison, Frank Driscoll, Patrick Lloyd, Henry Grey, John Wallace (Thos' son); Harry Brobecker, H. B. Cassidy, John Jardine, Arthur E. Pettie, George Johnstone, Thomas Fallon, Clifford McDonald, Edward Hickey, George Johnston.  
Weighers of Hay and Straw—Gilmour Stothart, Wm. Stothart.  
Revisors of Votes—Lawrence Doyle, H. H. Lamont.  
Survivors of Dams—John Jones, Peter Swanson.  
Hogreeves—Martin Marpy, Chas. Hill, Morrison, James Howe, Isaac Crighton, David Dalgle, Michael McMahon.  
Field Drivers—George Bayle, Jas. Cassie.  
Timber Drivers—Thomas Herbert, Charles Willerton, William Condron, Miles Carroll.  
Boom Masters—John Robinson, Eubulus McCullam.  
Surveyors of Lumber—Thomas Hickey, Patrick Kane, James Craig, Jeremiah Craig, John Dalton, James B. Russell, Robertson Lingley, Gregory Layton, Benjamin Reid, Wm. F. Ryan; Thomas Hollaran, James Falconer, John Matheson, John Robinson James Ryan, Wm. F. Watters, John E. T. Lindon, Hugh Lamont, James Lamont, Allan Russell, John Campbell, Thomas Barnett, James Simpson, Albert Sickness, Daniel Sullivan, Doyle, Timothy Connolly, Patrick Sullivan, Geo. Dolan, Stafford Russell, James Craig (John's son) Michael Craig, Harry A. Gray, Stafford Lindon, John M. Wallace, Charles E. Fish, Albert F. Smith, Charles Cassidy, Allison Grey, James H. Gulliver, Thomas Daughney.  
Assessors of Rates—Charles E. Fish, William Innes, Allan McLean.  
Inspectors of Fish—Timothy W. Crocker, Edward Crocker and John Innes.  
Collectors of Rates—Neil McKinnon, No. 1 and 2; Myles Fox No. 3.  
Measurers of Wood—Gregory Layton, James Craig, Jeremiah Craig, Wm. F. Ryan, Hugh Lamont, Thomas Hickey, Stafford Lindon, John Russell, James Falconer, John E. T. Lindon, Allan Russell, James Lamont, L. Doyle, Thomas Barnett, Daniel Sullivan, Michael Craig, Harry A. Gray, Charles Cassidy.  
Ferryman—John Kirkpatrick, Andrew Gordon, John Creamer at Lower Newcastle.  
Pence Viewers—Wm. Reid, Andrew Morrell, Frank Johnstone.  
Pound Keepers—David Dalgle.  
Sealers of Leather—Edward O'Donnell, John Troy.  
Measurers of Stone—C. E. Fish.

**DERBY**  
Parish Clerk—George R. Vanderbeck.  
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Collectors of Rates—Everitt Allison Overseers of the Poor—P. M. Henderson, William O'Brien, Edgar Vye.  
Timber Drivers—David Manderville Richard O'Brien, Alexander Davidson Jr., Daniel O'Brien.  
Revisors of Votes—E. J. Parker, John W. Vanderbeck.  
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Pence Viewers—Richard Clouston, Albert Bryenton, Daniel O'Brien, David Bryenton.  
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(Continued on page 8)

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