

LIEUT.-COLONEL GRIESBACH'S MESSAGE TO THE MEN OF HIS REGIMENT.

Once again the Editor of the FORTY-NINER has insisted that I shall write something for the Magazine. I confess that I find it difficult; there is so much that I might say and so little of it that the Censor would pass, that to write anything of interest is a large task.

Since the last issue of the Magazine we have participated in the greatest battle recorded in history. How well we have performed the tasks from time to time allotted us is evidenced, at least in part, by the Honours and Awards which have been conferred upon members of the regiment. Particularly are we very proud of the Victoria Cross conferred upon Private J. C. Kerr.

I classify Honours and Awards into two sub-divisions; firstly, cases in which men render succour to wounded comrades, carry water, ammunition, etc., under fire; and secondly, cases where men perform acts of courage and gallantry which are, strictly speaking, offensive and bring about decisive results. Private Kerr's case is in the latter class. Quite off his own bat he did the proper thing at the right time, and it produced splendid results—sixty-two prisoners and a captured trench.

On September 15, 1916, we took one 5.9 howitzer and three trench mortars. The latter were turned against the enemy. We took two hundred prisoners and some thousands of yards of enemy trenches. I have a letter from Major Justus Willson, in which he says we have gained a place in history. I would say that at least we have gained a great place in the history of Northern Alberta, and that in years to come it will be a very proud thing for any man to say that he served in this battalion.

Once again we are confronted with the task of assimilating a large number of new men. We have to make them "Forty-Niners," with all that that means, with the least possible delay. You will remember that before we left Shorncliffe I urged upon you the importance of maintaining our discipline. Discipline means regularity, promptitude, justice, fairness, and efficiency in all manner of movements, operations, supplies of rations, clothing, etc. Indiscipline means injustice, unfairness, lack of efficiency, insufficient supplies of rations, clothing, etc., lack of promptitude, and every evil from which troops can suffer. Every officer and man in this battalion has an interest in the maintenance of discipline. There must, in the first place, be brains in the management, but discipline is gained by Drill and Training founded upon the willingness of all ranks to co-ordinate their efforts. The outward and visible sign of that inward and spiritual grace is our old friend the "Salute." In military organisations where juniors do not salute their seniors and where seniors do not promptly acknowledge such salute there is no discipline, and I can assure you that such organisations suffer all the evils outlined above, and that when the testing time comes that organisation will crack. New men coming out to us will conform to the situation which they find existing, and it is up to the old hands to give the new men a lead and an example.

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