



WUUB



WESTERN UNIVERSITIES BATTALION—196th

PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION OF CAMP COMMANDANT, CAMP HUGHES

No. 1

CAMP HUGHES, CANADA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1916

Vol. 1

Be Regimental!

In a battalion such as ours, the development of what is described in military handbooks as "esprit de corps" is not a matter of much thought and worry, for we have it as the foundation of the battalion. "Esprit de corps" is a much misunderstood institution, but the Universities' battalion has its share, and more.

Here in Canada, where our traditions, both of country and of family, are comparatively modern, we cannot look to our militia regiments to supply the age long battle histories which make our British brethren in arms so proud. At first we could not, previous to this war, where history begins anew. Yet it is tradition which does so much to establish in any regiment the regimental spirit which we know as "esprit de corps."

To be "regimental," both in peace and war, is the religion of the British soldier who belongs to any of the famous fighting units. This matter of being "regimental" may involve apparently the smallest details. It carries with it a new code of honor, impossible of understanding to the civilian, and it made General French's "contemptible little army" the best body of troops ever gathered together.

While many of us in the 196th Battalion belong to militia units whose records since their establishment have been of the best, we have long since

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Recently Lloyd-George remarked: "Thank God, I hear more Canadians are coming." The censorship can't be so strict in England as it used to be, but after all, he may have been listening to some of these rumor things.

We can't answer the gentleman who wants to know why Bovril and Oxo are so popular in the army. At least not here.

With Apologies to Walt Mason

I cannot bear those folks who say that we're about to go away; Tarbolton says, and he sure knows, that we must winter midst the snows; The C.M.S. has quite a notion we shall never cross the ocean; and Eason has it not so bad that we shall go to Trinidad; then Parker thinks to pull one's leg and says we go to Winnipeg; and lots of others know by chance that we shall never get to France; if I believed the stories hazy I am sure I should go crazy; but if one would wish to learn all, Gaynor'll get it from the colonel.



OFFICER COMMANDING, LIEUT.-COL. D. S. MACKAY
Second in Command, 27th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.

History of the 196th Battalion

(By MAJOR R. W. BROCK)

On February 14th, 1916, there came into existence in Canada a battalion to be known as the 196th Western Universities, the first and up to the present the only university battalion raised in this country.

It owes its inception to a student movement. Many students had enlisted individually, but were scattered amongst various units, and their identity as western university men lost. Many other students felt that they, too, must offer their services to their country, and that it would be better in every sense if they were in an organization of their own. To the University of Manitoba belongs the honor of launching the movement which resulted in the formation of the battalion. In December, 1915, the Manitoba C.O.T.C. sent Capt. N. R. Wilson and Capt. R. F. Argue to visit the other western universities to submit the proposition that they should unite in furnishing some complete unit or units for overseas service. The proposal was so heartily received by the various student bodies that a conference of the representatives of the Universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia and of Brandon College was held in Edmonton on January 15th, 1916. The meeting was of the opinion that by recruiting among men of the university type a battalion could be raised and the necessary reinforcements for it furnished as required.

Consequently it was unanimously decided to apply to the Minister of Militia for authority to raise a western universities battalion and also a field ambulance. A committee of organization, consisting of President Tory, of the

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Yes, Yes, Go On!

It is customary, when a newspaper is given birth, to publish a large quantity of vapors which may be headed "Our Purpose." As everyone knows, every newspaper has a purpose. Some describe it as design, but the idea is the same.

Not to be outdone by the daily, weekly or fireside press of the country, we also claim a purpose. It is to get out a newspaper without losing money, and this, one might whisper, is the main purpose of all newspapers that survive more than three issues.

Therefore, now that our purpose has been revealed, we crave your help. This is the first issue of the battalion organ, and we can assure our readers that it is no pipe. To make it a success, there must be hearty co-operation among all members of the battalion. If the paper is to survive, it should not be a burden upon the regiment.

Unfortunately the 196th has a reputation. We have been told that with so many university men in the one battalion it should be extremely easy to publish a newspaper bulging out with talent. That remains to be seen, but it remains for the members of the battalion to burrow into the crevasses

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Speaking of war babies, may we introduce our friend Wub.

Summing up the various "certainties" as to the battalion's movements this winter the battalion statistician has discovered that for the next two years we will be travelling steadily, touching at Brandon, Winnipeg, Bermuda, the South of France, Suez, Salonika, Siam, Petrograd and Iceland. It should be a nice trip.

When the battalion first assembled at Camp Hughes, there were four companies, to wit: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Now they are A, B, C and D. Who said "the four best companies of the best battalion —"? Oh yes, we admit it.

Certainly this is a free press. We can say anything the censor likes.

No, there is no truth in the rumor that the battalion is to be held at Camp Hughes for the winter to shovel away the sand that collected during the summer.

Who is responsible for that stuff about "not feeling the cold in Manitoba when the wind doesn't blow"? Probably the same man who invented the story about Indian summer.