

had not done as well as it might have and he paraded next day, asking for permission to revert to the rank of private because he felt that he might not be able to discharge his responsibilities as sergeant. Col. Phinney, who was then in command of the battalion, quite realized his capabilities, and pointed out to him that he had the ability to be senior N.C.O., and a good one, and that he would not be doing his utmost for the cause in which he enlisted if he went back to the ranks, and we were glad to see that after consideration this appealed to his high sense of duty, and he carried on as sergeant.

For fear that you might not know exactly the circumstances surrounding the award of his decoration at Vimy Ridge, I give you below the details of the official recommendation as sent forward, and while nothing I can say can help very much at a time like this, I feel sure that this record of your boy's splendid work must be some consolation. The recommendation was as follows:

"Showed wonderful steadiness and coolness under fire during the attack. Rendered valuable assistance in organizing the company on the new line of consolidation, and in handling a flank position which was then in the air."

When he came back to us as an officer, the company commander realized from the very first that he could be depended upon under all circumstances. The circumstances of his death were that his company was going in the line to relieve another battalion, and they found that the enemy were just at that moment putting on an attack which was driving in our line considerably. Captain McKenzie, who was in charge of our company, immediately offered to go in and assist the other battalion in driving the enemy back and restoring the line. Together they drove the Bosche through a wood and up a hill and re-established the line. It was in this bitter fight that your son was hit and killed, and, as you probably know by this time, Captain McKenzie was also fatally wounded.

We feel that it is due to the splendid example and inspiration of these and other officers, who fell on this occasion, that the company was so successful in inflicting this defeat on the enemy. Two days after that the company took part in the brilliant attack in front of Passchendaele and carried through under intense fire to their final objective.

Your son honored you and the battalion, as well as his native Province, both as a man and a soldier, and his courage and devotion to duty is an inspiration to those who are left to see to it that he has not given his life in vain.

We join with you in deploring his death, and, at the same time, we are proud to have been associated with him in the battalion.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. RALSTON, Major,
35th Can. Inf. Bat., N. S. Regiment.

In the Field, 12, 12, 1917.

FIRST NATIVE OF ANTIGONISH COUNTY TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY.

(From The Casket, Oct. 14th, 1915.)

Antigonish County has sons scattered everywhere. It is well known that Antigonish youth has sensibly swelled the ranks of recruits from the Canadian West. It will be news, however, to learn that our County has also contributed to the gallant contingents from New Zealand who are fighting so desperately in the Dardanelles. This news, however, is sad for it brings to us tidings of the death of one of our soldier boys. It is the first time, so far as we have knowledge, that any of our young men have figured in the casualty lists. Mrs. Sarah McNeil, widow, Malignant Cove, Antigonish, has received a letter from the High Commissioner for New Zealand, at London, England, dated Sept. 7th, stating that her son John Angus McNeil, died of wounds on the 2nd of Sept., in the Gallipoli Peninsula. Two of Mrs. McNeil's sons went to British Columbia some years ago. The above mentioned went from there to New Zealand, where he enlisted. The second son enlisted with the First Contingent from British Columbia, and has been in the heavy fighting with our Canadian troops at Neuve Chapelle, France, and at other points.

PRAYER FOR JUST AND LASTING PEACE RECITED DAILY IN EVERY CATHOLIC CHURCH DURING THE WAR.

"O God, from Whom are holy desires, right counsels and just works, give to Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts being devoted to the keeping of Thy commandments, and the fear of enemies being removed, our times, by Thy protection, may be peaceful."