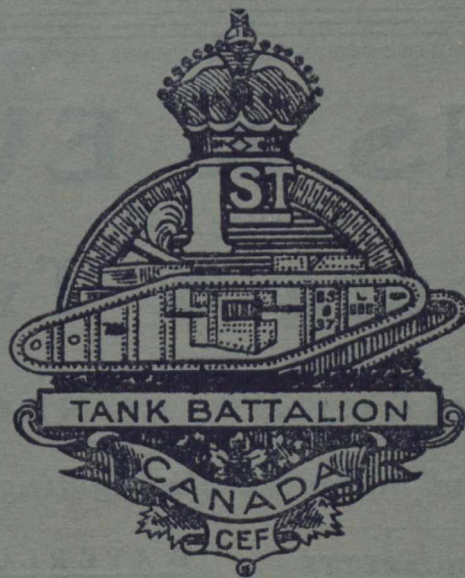


THE
TANK TATLER

The Newspaper of
The First Canadian Tank Battalion.



OCTOBER, 1918.



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MAJOR LESLIE E. HAINES.
Second in Command of the First Canadian Tank Battalion.

THE TANK TATLER

OCTOBER, 1918

THE TANK TATLER.

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HERE WE ARE AGAIN.

"THE TANK TATLER" has not been dead. Neither has it been sleeping. It has not appeared recently, first, because the staff has been too busy forming fours, and greasing tanks, and misfiring 6 pdrs. to report the continued existence of the First Canadian Tank Battalion, and secondly, because of the exigencies of the printing trade in England during the war.

But at last this little difficulty has been solved and "The Tank Tatler" is back in action again—to record your joys and sorrows and at the same time to provide whatever amusement it can for its readers.

Many changes have come over the First Canadian Tank Battalion since the last issue of this paper was brought out. There have been changes in the personnel of the officers; we have passed through segregation, landing leave and tank training, and one would hardly recognise the unit as the same one that crossed over on the "Cassandra," were it not for the fact that the "esprit de corps" is the same, the determination of the boys to see it through is just as strong, and the name we have made for ourselves all along for "pep" and "snap" is being kept up.

NICE WORDS FOR TANKS.

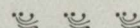
Col. Marshall and Mr. Dunstan Praise the Battalion.

ON their return to Canada, Col. Noel Marshall and Mr. Kenneth Dunstan, of the Canadian Red Cross Society, who were fellow passengers with us on the "Cassandra," were interviewed by the Toronto press about their impressions overseas.

It was significant that each of these gentlemen spoke of their trip across with the Tanks.

"Overseas, I saw nothing more wonderful than the spirit of 'camaraderie' in the Tank Battalion," said Col. Marshall to a reporter for the "Toronto World." "In their songs and yells, the Laval boys, the McGill boys, the Toronto University boys and the other university students in the Tank Battalion showed something of the spirit of fellowship that is being knit between the different sections of Canada."

Mr. Dunstan added further complimentary words to this tribute, and he also mentioned particularly the Tank songs.



MAY BE A TANK BRIGADE.

Minister of Militia says Second Tank Battalion is Ready.

Speaking at a Rotary Club luncheon in Ottawa, Major-General Sidney G. Mewburn, Minister of Militia for Canada, announced that in the near future there would likely be a Canadian Tank Brigade. "The first Tank Battalion was raised and equipped in less than two months," said the general.

The second Canadian Tank Battalion, recruited from the ranks of artillery units at Petawawa Camp, was nearly ready to proceed overseas, the Minister announced.

A MAN'S MAN.

NEW PADRE WAS IN THE YUKON MANY YEARS.

Captain George C. F. Pringle, the newly attached chaplain of the First Canadian Tank Battalion, is a man who has served mankind in the coldest wilds of Canada. He was a "sky pilot" on the frozen creeks and rivers of Yukon territory for eleven years, and has an unique distinction in that he was ordained further north than any other minister. He was made a minister of the gospel in Dawson City.

Captain Pringle calls himself "an improved Scotchman," for though he is Scotch by descent,



MAJOR ATHOL H. MACFARLANE, M.C.
Officer Commanding "C" Company.

he was born and raised in Canada, in the city of Galt. Educated in the schools of Galt, at University College, Toronto, and later at Queen's, he went to Minnesota as a young man, and did missionary work in that State.

Then he heard the call of the North, and he answered it. He fought to save men's souls in the land that was made famous by Robert W. Service. After his years of service in the Yukon

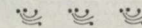
our "Padre" went to Vernon, B.C. He held a pulpit there, and another later in Vancouver.

In July, 1916, Capt. Pringle came to England to enter the chaplain service. He has since been attached to many stations and units, among them being the 6th Training Brigade at Otterpool, the military hospital at Shorncliffe, No. 2 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Poperinghe, and the 43rd Battalion, the Cameron Highlanders of Canada, from Winnipeg and the West. After fourteen months with this unit, rated as second to none in the Canadian Corps, Captain Pringle came to the Tanks on August 24, 1918, and in the six weeks he has been with us he has made himself very popular.

His Sunday morning sermons have been more in the nature of talks between a man and men than mere theological discourses. The battalion library, reading room, and writing room, organised by the chaplain, and provided with books, stationery, etc., through his efforts, is appreciated by all the boys, and from 4 to 9.30 every day, except on Sundays, when the hut opens after church parade, it is a popular place.

Captain Pringle is a brother of that now-famous chaplain, Lt.-Col. John Pringle, who came overseas with the First Contingent, and is on his way back to Canada in connection with propaganda work.

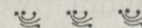
How does the "Padre" like the boys? "I think this is the classiest battalion in the Canadian Corps" he told the Tank Tatler. "I am hoping to go to France with the unit."



WHERE HE'S EATEN.

"I have eaten at more queer places since I left Canada than I ever did before," one Tank remarked the other day. This was a list of eating places he furnished:—

1. The "glory hole" of the Cassandra, where for a shilling tip almost anything could be purchased.
2. A "grotto" underneath the station in Edinburgh, where sailors were the only other diners.
3. The free soldiers' buffet in Glasgow.
4. Monico's in London.
5. A monk's cell in Bindon Abbey.
6. A wee whitewashed room in a cottage at Lulworth.



BOXING CLASSES DROPPED.

Somebody started a series of lessons in boxing among the "A" Company men, but after a few successful nights of training the class was discontinued. Nobody seems to know why.

THE TANK READING ROOM.**Magazines Galore For The Boys To Read**

The "padre's" new reading and writing room and library, located in Hut G26, is the most comfortable place in the men's lines. Magazines a-plenty from Canada, the United States, and Great Britain, the daily newspapers, and a large library of about 600 volumes have been provided, and are available for the use of the men from 4 to 9.30 every evening. On Sundays the hut is opened immediately following church parade. Free stationery is also furnished to men who wish to write.

Capt. Pringle's efforts in connection with this new enterprise are appreciated, and from the first night the little room has been well patronised.

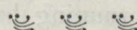
**IS YOUR NAME READY?**

Most of the boys have already chosen the name which they say will be painted on their tank. Feminine names, it seems, are in the majority. It is obviously impossible, however, for about 702 names to be distributed among forty or fifty tanks, and some sort of system will probably be adopted of naming the tanks.

In the Imperial army the tanks are named according to battalions. For instance, the first battalion has such names as Archimedes, Anzac; the second battalion, Bluenose, Beeswax, etc. The famous Fourth Battalion, which helped the Canadians through the Hindenburg line, has such names as Desdemonda, Double Dragoon, Dragon Fly, Dare-devil Dick, etc., painted on their tanks.

**IT'S AN ACTUAL FACT.**

There's a man who has 23 rings;
He lives on the dear little things;
MacCreary, R.B.,
Of "C" Company,
Is the man of whom this poem sings.

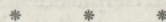
**MILITARY VOCABULARY.**

Some of the boys took a special course in Visual Training. On the examination one of the questions was "Give some examples of military vocabulary," and this is what Corporal Pringle put down:

"Shun."
"Asyuwhere!"
"Your other right."
"Come on me lucky lads."
"Drive on to the next pile."
"Stand steady that man. You're standing at ease."
"If you don't lay 'em down you can't pick 'em up."
"Recock gun."

OPPOSITE THE ORDERLY ROOM.**Stray Items of Fact and Fancy from the Officer's Quarters.**

Lieut Hargreaves, the well known card manipulator, is now the champion rummy of the battalion.



Cycling has developed into a very popular sport among the Tank officers as well as providing an easy means of travel to such ideal week end points of interest as Bournemouth and Weymouth.



We hope there is no foundation for the rumour that Lieut. Lods is about to leave us to become instructor in Agriculture at the Lulworth Gunnery School.



Anundson, at the table, to a W.A.A.C.: "Has Mr. Brownlie been in yet?"

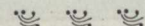
W.A.A.C.: "Do you mean the Giraffe?"



After all the nice things we said about our new "padre" on another page it hardly seems fair to speak scandal of him. But this is a newspaper, and we cannot conceal anything. Capt. Pringle was seen late one Sunday afternoon trying to force his way into the Black Bear tavern at Wool.

**THEY WERE INTERRUPTED.**

The last class on the 6-pounders at Lulworth Camp had a rather thrilling adventure. One noon hour they were sitting in the hut waiting for parade to be called, when Sam A. Grylls, Esq., the champion story-teller of the battalion, told the latest story he had heard. Gibson, of "B" Company, and Favreau, of "A," followed, and soon the conversational pot was boiling merrily. Everybody forgot there was such a thing as a parade until Lieut. Goad burst in and wanted to know what the trouble was. "Parade was called half-an-hour ago," he said. One of Favreau's good ones was spoiled that trip.

**WIZARD'S SON IN CAMP.**

How many of the Tanks know that a son of Thomas A. Edison, the famous inventor, is in this camp. He is Sergeant William Edison, the third son of Thomas A. Edison. He enlisted as a private in the American Tank Corps, but having inherited some of his father's mechanical and inventive genius he was soon promoted to be a chief mechanical sergeant in the American Tank Salvage Corps.

MANŒUVRES AT SHERFORD BRIDGE.

GAVE THE MEN AN IDEA OF ACTUAL FIGHTING.

The manœuvres at Sherford Bridge, in which each company participated successively, were planned on such lines that actual warfare was imitated wherever possible.

"A" Company was the first company to go to Sherford. To them fell the task of transporting the twelve tanks across hill and dale, brook and fence to their destination. Every tank arrived safely and in record time, which speaks well for the newly-trained drivers of that company. The



MAJOR WILFRID MAVOR, M.C.

Officer Commanding "A" Co. (Toronto University Company).

boys found that they would have to wash and shave in the creek, and put up with a few other little inconveniences, but they were so enthusiastic over the opportunity of driving a tank without an instructor passing remarks they didn't worry about such trifling matters.

Col. Denison gave the men a talk on tank fighting as he had seen it in France, and described a "show" he had witnessed there. Then the tanks

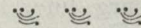
went out and performed the very same stunts on the grounds around Sherford.

It meant getting up at 1 o'clock in the morning, for the zero hour was set at 5.30. As quietly as possible for tanks, the big 'buses pulled out of the "tankodrome" in the dead of night, and just as the sun rose they started the attack, keeping right under the advancing "barrage," indicated by flags, carried by the extra crews. By 7.35 the objective, the Bere Regis road, had been reached. The big tanks had put out of action dozens of German machine-gun emplacements, etc., also represented by flags.

In the meantime every door had been shut tight, and every porthole was closed. It was terribly hot inside the tanks, and the boys were glad to get out and breathe a little fresh air, not to mention partaking of the good meal provided by the commissariat. Hot tea, hot stew, and hot porridge, tasted good after a hot fight.

There were other manœuvres later, but the first attack will be remembered the longest.

Major Macfaulane visited "A" Company during their manœuvres, and Brigadier-General E. A. Matthew-Lannowe, camp commandant, was also an interested spectator.



WILL GO ANYWHERE.

Two of the instructors at Lulworth were with the tanks that helped the Canadians in the Quéant-Drocourt push.

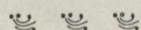
"The Canadians are the scrappiest fighters in the world," one of them told the Tank Tatler. "They will go anywhere. Half the time they were so enthusiastic they were ahead of the tanks. They couldn't wait for us to clear out the Hun machine gunners before they got up on the heels of those of the Jerries who were running back to their second and third lines."



ORFULLY PESSIMISTIC.

First Bright Tank: "Who's the saddest man in the battalion?"

Second B.T.: "The dental officer, because he's always looking down in the mouth."



THE C.E.F.

Instructor on Machine Guns: "By how many forces is the Hotchkiss gun operated?"

Sergt.-Major Moore: "Three."

I. on M.G.: "Three!! What are they?"

Sergt.-Major M.: "Gas, the recoil spring and the expeditionary force."

TANK OFFICERS GO INTO ACTION.

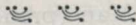
Witnessed a Show from the Inside in France.

The trip to France of Colonel Denison, the three Company Majors, and Capt. Kerr, gave our senior officers a fine opportunity of seeing how the Tanks are helping the Allies through the Hindenburg line.

In France, they visited the immense Tank Corps headquarters at Bermicourt, and also made the rounds of the central workshops and central equipment stores.

In addition, each officer was detailed to one of the Imperial tank battalions, and went through a "show."

"We learned a great deal about the operations of the tanks that will be useful in the future," said Capt. Kerr.



R.N.W.M.P.'S TURN TANKS.

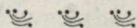
Over Two Hundred Westerners Will Learn To Drive Big 'Buses.

That the Canadian Government is in earnest in its project to organise a Tank Brigade for the Canadian Corps is evidenced by the arrival in Bovington Camp of 220 men from the Royal North-west Mounted Police, who are going to train here as Tankers.

The men came over from Canada in the same convoy that brought this battalion, and have been training as a cavalry unit at Folkestone. When the call came for more Canadian tanks these men volunteered.

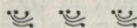
Three of their officers accompanied them, and will be attached as Tank Officers.

The new tank men are housed in "F" lines, next to our battalion.



HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.

Pte. Harris, of Company "A,"
Was steering a "tadpole" one day ;
His driving was rank,
He ditched the big tank,
And frightened to death, ran away.



DISAPPOINTED WAAC.

Sergt. McCutcheon, of "A" Company, is very much in wrong with a certain "Waac." He met the fair damsel at the sergeant's dance, and made a date with her for the following Sunday. Sunday came, but the sergeant's wife had come to Wareham to see him, and as he had only been married about three weeks he could not start things off wrong by disappointing his wife, so the poor "Waac" was left out in the cold.

If any other Tank would like the pleasure of taking the young lady for a Sunday afternoon walk to in some measure atone for the sergeant's mistake, let him apply to Sergt. McCutcheon.

HAS SEEN MUCH SOLDIERING.

Major L. E. Haines Appointed Second-in-Command of Tank Battalion.

It was natural that when Major E. A. Seely-Smith, formerly second in command of the First Canadian Tank Battalion, left to take a post with the Halifax regiment at Bramshott, Major Leslie E. Haines, who had been attached to this unit to help us in our training, should succeed him.

Major Haines is a soldier by profession. Before this war broke out he had already seen service in the South African war. He went to South Africa with the East Surrey Regiment, but in 1906 he joined a Canadian regiment, the 6th, of Vancouver, with whom he spent seven years. In 1913 he became adjutant of the 104th Regiment, also a



"FIGHTING MAC" INSPECTS THE TANKS.

Brig.-Gen. H. F. Macdonald, C.M.G., D.S.O., B.G.G.S. of the O.M.F.C., in the British Isles, visited us twice at Frensham.

western unit, and he served with them until the present war broke.

Major Haines wears a red chevron. He came overseas in 1914 as a captain and company commander in the 7th Battalion (British Columbia Regiment). He was wounded at Festubert in the spring of 1915, but returned the following July, and was second in command of the 7th until June, 1916, when he was seconded to the Imperial Army. He was with the Imperial Forces (2nd Army) until his present appointment, and saw the Canadians in action at Passchendaele.

Very unassuming at all times, Major Haines is sure to be respected by all ranks in the battalion. He wears the Distinguished Service Order awarded to him in June, 1916. In addition, the major was twice mentioned in despatches.

Like many of our officers, Major Haines is an Englishman. He was born in Kent.

HOSPITAL.

By Pte. Syckwith Floo.

I decided that I would like to go to hospital as soon as I saw the Central American revolutionist's camp at Sherford Bridge. But, of course, I didn't know the hospital—then.

I didn't know the hospital until the second morning when the nurse said:

"You've never been in hospital before, have you?"

"Oh, is this a hospital?" I parried. I'd thought it was a portable garage.

My expectancies of the dainties of the sick may

something to eat. But, lest we should grow fat thinking about it, the sergeant said we couldn't get the change until Monday.

That's why it took none of us long to get rid of the "flu."

TANK TATLINGS.

Sergt. Waite, of "B" Company, Sergt. Dixon, of "A" Company, "Jim" MacQuarrie, and a few others of the Tank heavyweights have been confined to the main roads of the camp. Signs are stuck up all around the others, reading "For Light Traffic only."

"A" Company Man (proudly): "I've finished one course already."

"B" Company Man: "What's that?"

"A" Man: "Whitewashing."

There is some kick about our being on Imperial rations, but a course that lasts four weeks ought to satisfy anyone. Unfortunately for the Epicurean connoisseurs of tasty fowl, the pigeon course is very, very short.

"Germans Retreating Rapidly," and "German Soldiers Unshod" are two adjacent headlines.

If the Huns were wearing Kitcheners our fellows would have a better chance of catching them.

We have proof positive that the King is very much interested in this battalion. On the day the "Cassandra" docked, Sir John Capper, Director-General of the Tank Corps, held an audience with the King.

Most of the Tanks when they were on leave said naughty, naughty things about the tunnels all along the English railways. But Pte. Cummiford, the corpulent section two man, found them, or at least one of them, all right. "What could I do when she was sitting right beside me?" he said apologetically when Corp. Evans asked him to explain a resounding whack heard in the darkness. And the fair Waac between them only smiled.

Sergt. Edy (taking charge of pigeons class): "Pigeons, Quick Mar-rch!"

The "A" Company orchestra, which by the way has developed into a battalion orchestra, has played at the officers' mess on several occasions since we came to this camp.

Instructor on the 6-pounders at Lulworth: "Gentlemen, this gun is just like your best girl. The tighter you hold 'er, the better she likes it.

Lieut. Phemister (enthusiastically): "This is where I make a perfect score."



MAJOR GEORGE H. WELD.

Officer Commanding McGill University Company.

have occasioned this remark of the nurse. She pitied my convalescent ignorance of the much-vaunted milk diet.

Know what a milk diet is? It is rice for meat and potatoes in a porridge bowl, and rice on a dinner plate for dessert. On Sunday we had a little variation from the milk diet. We had corn starch for the meal, and a corn starch pudding. On Saturday the M.O. decided that we could have

THE BATTALION ALPHABET.

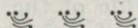
A stands for Aspden, old soldier by now,
 B for Bradera, the boy who knows how ;
 C is for Caisse, an orderly clerk ;
 Dixon's the sergeant who makes " A " men work.
 E is for Evans, big CummiFord's guide,
 Fife's the battalion's poetical pride ;
 G stands for Gibson, of Company " B,"
 Hewat's the sergeant of Hut 33.
 Irwin's the only I in the bunch,
 Jewill's worst crime is eating his lunch.
 K is for Kelly, good Sergeant Kelly,
 L'Heureux's the bugler who blows the reveille,
 Mountain's the boss of the orderly room,
 Nisbet's as slick as a new bride and groom.
 Outhaite, our rugby artist so fleet,
 Perkins, another battalion athlete.
 Q claims no name on the nominal roll,
 Richardson's humor is always quite droll.
 Smylie's a runner in Company " A,"
 Trevelyan sews tunics and trousers all day.
 U is for Unwin, an M.M. is he,
 Vezina fills in this hard letter V.
 Whiteley sings songs by the yard and the mile,
 X has no name—it's another blank file.
 Y is for Young, of whom there are four,
 Z is for Zoellin—I'm glad there're no more.



TWO CLOSE GAMES.

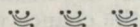
Tank Soccer Team Meets With Stiff Competition.

The soccer team has run up against some stiff competition in the games it has played with English teams since coming to Bovington Camp. On October 5th they played the 23rd Tank Battalion's team. The score was 3—3. The week before the team went to Lulworth, but neither side was able to score a goal.



THE 6-POUNDER'S MARK.

Ask any man in the battalion who has just completed his six-pounder course to show the back of his left hand. In 99 cases out of 100 you will find a scar immediately behind the knuckle of the middle finger. That is the mark of the 6-pounder gunner.



"A" COMPANY LED THE WAY.

Due to the energetic efforts of George Howson, "A" Company led the way with its battalion dance. The affair, which was staged in the Church of England hut, was largely attended, and helped to cement better relations between the "Waacs" and the Canadians. "B" Company followed with a dance in the N.A.C.B. canteen, and when this was written "C" Company was bringing up the rear by appointing a committee to arrange for its dance.

CAMP RUGBY TEAM WINS.

There are two Canadian Tanks on the camp Rugby team. Sergt. Hewat and Sergt. Outhwaite, of "A" Company, played on the team that went to Weymouth on the last Saturday in September. They downed the 3rd Dorset Regiment by a score of 35—0. The following week, with Sergt. Outhwaite representing the Canadians, the team beat a team from Swanage by a score of 6—0.

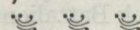


"FREDDIE" ZOELLIN.

The Tanks' Champion Sprinter is our Star Athlete.

HEADQUARTERS CHAMPIONS.

Headquarters Soft-ball team (not soft ball-team) are the undisputed champions of the battalion. Due to the air-tight pill-throwing of Sergt.-Major Mountain, the team from the battalion orderly room was able to beat Section 2 by a 6—5 score, and Section 3 by a 15—7 score.



WHAT ABOUT THE JEWISH LEGION?

More than one of the Tanks has wondered if any members of the Jewish Legion who came across the Atlantic with us took part in General Allenby's glorious operations in the Holy Land. It would be interesting to know if they had completed their training in Egypt in time to get in on this big drive against the Turks.

THE STORY OF THE CANADIAN TANKS.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE ORIGIN, FORMATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FIRST CANADIAN TANK BATTALION.

By Lieut. R. M. LAW, M.C.

In this war, apart from its vastness, one of the main features which distinguish it from all previous wars is the enormous extent to which mechanical warfare has been developed and employed by all the belligerents. It would be almost true to say that in every operation one side or another produces some new weapon or some scientific invention calculated to find some vital spot of the enemy by a way hitherto left unguarded.

Among these many surprises which have been sprung on the world, perhaps the greatest of all was the sudden and undreamed of appearance of the Tanks in September, 1916, during the campaign on the Somme, and among the first to wonder at them were our own Canadian troops.

Their achievements on that day, limited as they were, in the light of later performances, and their effect on the enemy morale, satisfied enterprising and scientific soldiers that enormous possibilities for the future conduct of the war lay in their development and wholesale employment, and a vast extension was at once decided upon.

When they were first employed the tanks consisted merely of four companies of the Machine Gun Corps, and were known as the "Heavy Branch." By the following spring these companies had grown into four battalions, and ever since one battalion has followed another as fast as they could be trained and equipped, until to-day the tanks are a self-contained corps. Not only has the number increased but the weapon itself has been in a constant state of development; its efficiency increases every day. There are now several types, not only weapons of assault, but for transporting guns, ammunition and men over ground impassable to any other means of transport and right in the face of fire. The employment of tanks has become so general that one rarely reads of an action nowadays in which tanks have not played a telling part. The mere fact that our Allies, not to mention the enemy, have seriously and actively taken up the tanks is justification enough, and now Canada has shown her faith in the latest arm of the service by taking up an active part in the work.

A Battalion is Suggested.

In January of the present year of 1918, the seeds of the 1st Canadian Tank Battalion may have been said to have been sown in a conversation between Major-General Elles, C.B., G.O.C., Tank Corps, France, and Lt.-Col. Mills, D.S.O., Can. Art., when Col. Mills by reason of his great interest in the tanks, expressed the wish that Canada had an active part in the work of the corps. "The seed fell on good ground and bore fruit," for the G.O.C. took hold of the idea with enthusiasm, so much so that he at once communicated the suggestion, and his desire for a Canadian battalion, to the Tank H.Q.

in London. There the idea was approved and pushed forward, and in March the War Office officially asked the Minister of the Overseas Forces of Canada, Sir Edward Kemp, if Canada would furnish the personnel for a tank battalion.

The request was forwarded to Ottawa and the authorities agreed without hesitation and immediately took steps towards the formation of the battalion, while at the same time preparations were at once set in motion in England for the training of this battalion when it arrived on this side. Lt.-Col. Mills, with Major L. E. Haines, D.S.O., as 2nd in command, were detailed to proceed to Bovington Camp, the training centre of the Tank Corps in England, with a party of 20 officers and 50 other ranks to qualify as instructors.

On March 28th, two days after the request from England had been received, the authorities at Ottawa appointed L.-Col. R. L. Denison to the command of the battalion when formed. At the time of the appointment, Col. Denison was in command of the Canadian Machine Gun Depot, at Toronto. He reported at Ottawa on April 2nd, and set about the formation of the unit. By April 10th, plans were complete and active organisation commenced, and by May 15th an incredibly short period, the 1st Canadian Tank Battalion, with a full establishment of personnel, was on record.

Raised by Universities.

The large number of applications from officers and men to serve in the new unit demonstrated the popular place which the tanks occupy in the minds of the country and made a start of good promise for the Canadian Tanks. However the officers and men who ultimately formed the rank and file of the battalion were carefully selected, for having in mind the fact that to learn quickly and well the multiple and highly technical duties involved in the operation of tanks, and in addition the high standard of physique necessary for their manipulation, Col. Denison asked the University Companies of the C.O.T.C. to give the men under their control, whom they should recommend, the opportunity of serving overseas with the tanks.

This was done, and the chance was so eagerly sought after that the supply was greater than the demand, and the C.O. was thus in the enviable position in these late days of the war to pick and choose.

The Universities of Toronto and McGill each supplied one company, while the third company was composed of recruits from the other universities of Canada, and here it may be mentioned that the battalion is thus unique in that every province of Canada has representatives on its roll. Col. Denison, himself wounded early in the war at Festubert, while serving with the 8th Battalion, appointed to command the companies and

sections, officers who had fought with success and gained first-hand experience at the front. So the battalion is fortunate in having the more important posts held by old and tried officers.

Major E. A. Seely-Smith was appointed second-in-command, but has since been succeeded by Major L. E. Haines, D.S.O., "A," "B" and "C" Companies respectively are commanded by Majors Wilfrid Mavor, M.C., George H. Weld and A. H. Macfarlane, M.C. The adjutant is Captain Robert Kerr, whose name is known to all the athletic world.

The battalion was mobilised in Ottawa and the short time that elapsed between the date of mobilisation and that of departure was confined to preliminary training and physical culture. The keenness and enthusiasm evinced by the battalion had rapid and satisfactory results; their smartness in appearance and in movement was warmly congratulated by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire when he inspected the battalion prior to departure.

At Frensham Pond.

On the morning of the 3rd of June, the unit left Ottawa for Montreal and on the evening of the same date it had sailed from that port on board the Troopship "Cassandra," bound for England. After a voyage without incident, the battalion disembarked at Tilbury Docks and entrained immediately for the Segregation Camp at Frensham Pond. This camp, lying in a beautiful district of Surrey, was much appreciated by all after the dull monotony of the Atlantic passage, and the life under canvas spent in fine weather, following the somewhat cramped existence on board a troopship was especially welcome. Stiff limbs and kindred ills of a long voyage soon disappeared with the resumption of work and the hearty participation in game and sports, to which a liberal portion of time was allowed.

It has been mentioned above that good physique was a primary consideration in the selection of personnel, and it was soon clearly demonstrated that the selection in this regard at least was successful, for, during this period of segregation several afternoons were devoted to athletic meets in which all the units in camp contested for honours, and the success which attended the efforts of the Tank Battalion was so great that they all but made a clean sweep of the prize list.

At the same time the work as begun at Ottawa was carried on. This time the training had the additional advantage of being in the hands of drill specialists, who were well up in the latest ideas as taught in the army schools of England and France. These specialists consisted of some fifty officers detailed for this work by the Canadian School of Infantry training at Bexhill and great credit is due to these officers for their thorough and efficient instruction, and for the high pitch to which they brought the battalion in drill and soldierly bearing.

Bovington Camp Invaded.

While the battalion was in the hands of the Bexhill officers, leave was granted to the officers of the battalion for one week, namely the second week of July. A day or two after their return to camp, the officers, with the exception of the second-in-command, the M.O. and the paymaster, left Frensham Pond for Bovington

Camp in the county of Dorset. A little over a year ago, Bovington Camp was the centre of training in England for the entire corps, but owing to the great extension of the latter the camp is now solely devoted to the training of battalions as such, while the large camp at Wareham, some six miles distant, was taken over and converted into quarters and schools for the training of reinforcements.

The camp has accommodation for several battalions and the training is carried out under the auspices of the brigade and the battalions themselves. The schools of instruction under the direct administration of the brigade are very extensive, splendidly equipped, and staffed by instructors specially chosen not only for their experience but skill in teaching. The plant at their disposal consists of a mechanical school in which, by means of models, diagrams and stripped tanks and parts, classes gain a clear understanding of the mechanical arrangements in all its intricacies. For the instruction in manoeuvring and driving, tracks where obstacles have been prepared, consisting of barricades, trenches, craters, etc., give the pupil an opportunity of learning to drive under ground conditions as found on active service. The repair shops have an installation of plant complete to carry out all repairs and are full of interest.

Gunnery, revolver, reconnaissance, compass, gas, signalling in suitable forms, including pigeon service, are all included in the curriculum of the brigade school. All courses under brigade instructors are of an advanced nature and have in view turning out men who will be expert in the subjects taught there, while those under the battalion are framed to give a practical working knowledge of these subjects. The scheme works as follows — The combatant men of the battalion are divided into two groups, drivers and gunners. These receive the courses in their respective main duties from the brigade, but so as to provide the necessary all-round training, the battalion gives a practical course in gunnery to the drivers and a practical tank course to gunners. The instruction by the battalion is mainly carried out by Col. Mills and his party, who reported to Bovington early in May for this purpose.

High Marks Recorded.

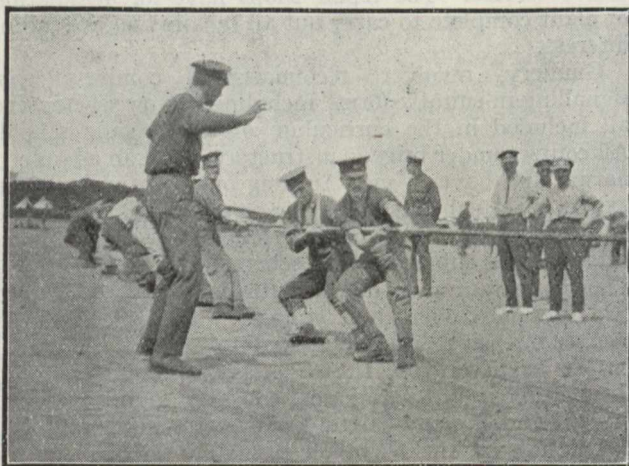
The day following their arrival at Bovington, the officers, clad in overalls, were all busy at work on the various courses under the brigade. The results of these first courses have now come in and are satisfactory to a high degree. Not one failure to succeed has been recorded. The men having completed their segregation period arrived in camp on August 6th, and at once were sorted into classes and commenced to learn their new trade in soldiering. As yet we have no examination or test results on which to base an opinion of their work, but it is sufficiently assuring to say, that the instructors, some of whom have had practically the whole corps pass through their hands, state that they have never had better material out of which to make a tank unit.

The camp which is well built and comfortable, lies on a high healthy heather-covered moor and is somewhat remote from any place of size. The situation indeed was chosen for its isolation, as it was necessary to keep

curious persons off. However, it is in the heart of the country which Thomas Hardy loved and describes so well and abounds in features of ancient historical interest and there is no feeling of "ennui" or boredom in the battalion. Owing to its remoteness evening entertainments have always been a special feature at Bovington Camp. In the Garrison Theatre there is a cinema show and variety entertainments by professional artists and its rival "The Bovington Cinema," also does a thriving business. The Y.M.C.A. is particularly well-conducted and it gives weekly concerts of a very high standard. In addition there are several church huts, and each battalion has a canteen under the management of the N.A.C.B.

Work and Play Well Mixed.

Work ceases for those under instruction at 4.30 and during the long summer evenings baseball is in full swing. The Canadians are not the pioneers of this game in the country as our friends from the U.S.A. were here before us, but the Canadians had the pleasure



THE TANKS' TUG-OF-WAR TEAM.
Major Macfarlane doing the Coaching.

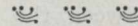
of beating them in the first encounter. Even the Imperial troops at Wareham, hitherto devoted to cricket, have been converted and are taking up the game with enthusiasm.

If everything is taken into consideration, work and play, rations and quarters, our relationships with the home troops and those of the States, the battalion has no cause for complaint but on the contrary all ranks carry on as if thoroughly at home and express their full satisfaction.

The battalion is the newest and latest of our overseas forces and has yet to prove its worth and win its spurs, but the promise it shows is great; it has got off to a fine start, and is making strong and steady progress. It has only to carry on as it has begun to prove itself worthy of that faith and confidence which all arms have come to place in the Tank Corps.

"MARKERS, STEADY!"
An Ode to Frensham Pond.

As the moonbeams floated through the clear night air,
Came the musical voice of Corp. Bellair;
And the pots and pans in unison rang
To the shrill command of the marmalade gang;
"MARKERS, STEADY!"



MEMORIES OF FRENSHAM POND.

"'Arry," the Sergeant Major and Others Recalled.

We can hardly let this issue of "The Tank Tatler" go to press without at least a passing reference in a more or less reminiscent style to some of the celebrities who relieved the monotony of our segregated experience at Frensham Pond.

'Arry—you remember 'Arry? He occasionally condescended to sell one a biscuit or a cigarette in the canteen which was nominally controlled by the N.A.C.B. 'Arry did his best—to get the food dirty. On one or two occasions he was said to have made slight mistakes in handing out change, but of course you recall that a man who never made a mistake never made anything.

And that Simon Legree of the cookhouse—"Smoky Joe." No one who ever donned his fatigue clothes for a sixteen hour stretch in the cookhouse will ever forget "Smoky."

But of them all, "Kitty Gordon," otherwise known as "Lil," "Liz," "Bonnie Prince Charlie," etc., was the one who made his presence most felt.

"P-r-r-ade! as yuh wer-r-r-r-re!!! Nothing like it."

That was the way he announced his arrival on the training ground twice a day.

In the use of cosmetics that self-same R.S.M. was a past master—or mistress.

But despite his peculiarities he was the snappiest soldier who ever right dressed the Tank Boys at Frensham.

There are other memories of Frensham Pond that will not be forgotten. The snappy Bexhill officers who injected a great deal of their "pep" into the Tanks, left an impression that is undying. They have just the right spirit to train such a battalion as this one, recruited as it was from the Canadian universities.

Some of these officers have since died a soldier's death in France.

The Tanks honour the memory of those who have died, and respect the bravery of those who are still fighting.

THE LAND AROUND US.

DORSET COUNTY IS FULL OF HISTORY AND ROMANCE.

Dorset—home of sheep and oak trees. That's the interesting country in which the First Canadian Tank Battalion is getting its training. It is a beautiful shire, as every Tank with eyes will admit.

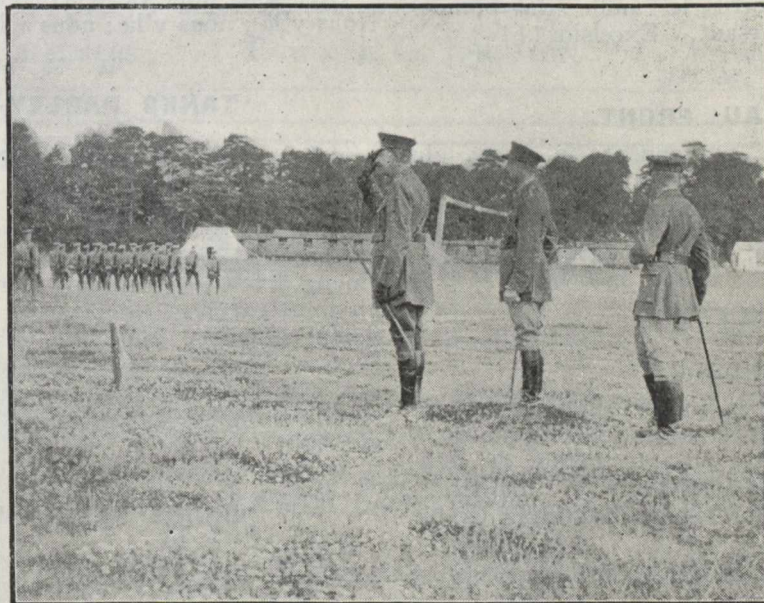
In the immediate vicinity are a number of places that date back to the Romans, while other spots have later histories. There is Bindon Abbey, just the other side of Wool. The moat and the rectangle that once was the cloister garth are almost the only parts of the place which have not disappeared with the years. The abbey dates back to the 13th century, when it was built by the Cistercian monks. It was destroyed by order of Henry VIII.

Every Sunday evening has found a dozen or so of the Tanks attending the evensong service in the

little church at Bere Regis, where kings and peasants have worshipped for 798 years. The church, with its funny gargoyles, the old Roman font, the crypts, stripped of their brass plates by Oliver Cromwell, and the beautifully carved altar, is a most interesting spot.

Near Wool the Frome river runs, and where it crosses the main road is Woolbridge Manor House, the Wellbridge Manor of Thomas Hardy's "Tess, of the D'Urbervilles." The Turbervilles have left their marks all over this countryside, at Bere Regis, where their tombs are, at Wareham, and elsewhere.

The Roman amphitheatre at Dorchester, the Roman trenches on the hillside at Lulworth, and the tall obelisk at Moreton are other points of interest. The obelisk, by the way, was erected in memory of a famous race horse.



BRIG.-GEN. E. A. MATTHEW-LANOWE, D.S.O.
Commandant of Tank Corps Training Centre, Bovington.
Inspecting the Tank Battalion.

BATTALION CELEBRITIES.

Mineau, an "A" Company Tank,
Who once was a clerk in a bank,
With a six pounder shell
Blew a target to hell,
And now you should see his swank.

The "top-kick" of Company "B,"
A fine sergeant-major is he;
His last name is Wade,
When he hollers "Par-r-a-de!"
It sounds mighty snappy to me.

THE NEW GARRISON.

**Sprightly comedies, pretty revues and good
"movies."**

The Tanks certainly appreciate the New Garrison Theatre, operated in camp by the N.A.C.B. The theatre has been putting on some breezy comediettas, interesting dramas, and some real American film plays.

"Broadway Jones" was by far the most popular production, but the "Moonshine" company ran them close for honours.

LA SECTION DES CANADIENS-FRANÇAIS DU TANK TATLER.

RÉDACTEUR: - - CAPORAL J. A. L'HEUREUX.

VISITE D'UN AMI.

Monsieur le Lieutenant Jean Ducharme, qui était venu en Europe avec le bataillon des chars d'assaut comme sergent, nous revient de Bexhill, où il a obtenu son grade de lieutenant. Ce fut un vrai plaisir de le revoir et lui dire bonjour avant son départ pour le front; car il avait, parmi nous, laissé le meilleur souvenir. Bonne chance.



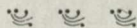
"IL A CAGNE SES EPAULETTES."

Pte. R. Coté est promu au grade de caporal. Le gouvernement de sa Majesté lui devait bien cette distinction. Pauvre Coté s'est-il assez étiré les côtes à transporter et à assortir la malle du premier bataillon des chars d'assaut. Excelsior!!!



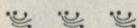
MORT AU FRONT.

Les dépêches nous apprennent la mort du Lieutenant Rodolphe Lemieux, fils de l'Honorable Rodolphe Lemieux. Les étudiants du Laval avec le bataillon des chars d'assaut sont vivement touchés de l'épreuve qui frappe leur professeur de la faculté de Droit.



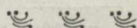
"C.R.C.H.C."

Pte P. L. Vézina de la Cie "C" nous dit que le plus difficile de tout le cours de "gunnery," c'est la prononciation du nom technique de cette petite chose qu'on trouve à la droite du "mortise" du 6-pdrs., et qui a nom "Catch Retaining Crank Handles Closed."



V.C.

Les dépêches mentionnent les noms de deux Canadiens Français ayant obtenu la "Victoria Cross" dernièrement. Trois Canadiens Français ont jusqu'ici été gratifiés de cet honneur.



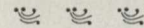
CARTES DE-NOEL.

Noël s'en vient, quoi que loin encore. Et naturellement les pensées se tournent du côté du pays. Et, en vue d'envoyer un souvenir particulier aux chères et chéries de là bas, les Canadiens Français font imprimer une carte souvenir. On dit que ce sera tout a fait chic. Mais ce sera surtout un gentil souvenir à envoyer au Canada.

V'LA LES CHARS D'ASSAUT.

Nous sommes les soldats à la mode
Qui allons se battre, qui allons se battre,
Aux allemands pour expliquer le code.
Très, très adroits; très, très adroits.
La France et l'Angleterre par nous bien vite
S'ront défendues, s'ront défendues.
Nous les écraserons ces maudits boches;
C'est entendu; c'est entendu.

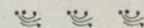
Holà. Voilà, v'la les chars d'assaut.
Des bons soldats gais et très bruyants,
Nous marchons gravement, hurlant, vociférant,
gesticulant.
Otez-vous donc de d'là;
Nous v'la; nous v'la; nous v'la.



TANKS PARLEY-VOOING.

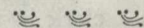
Monsieur Jean Favreau Teaching French.

Monsieur Très Private Jean Favreau, de la Compagnie "A" late chief cook of the officers' mess, has organised une petite classe in la langue française among a few of the "A" Company boys. Under his most excellent tutelage the class has made wonderful progress, and Pte. Philip E. Terry, of Section Three, has attained to the stage where he can say "Je dirai au monde; c'est justement l'étoffe a donner aux troupes" without blinking an eyelash.



JACK'S FATAL MISTAKE.

"Jack" McKenty, of "C" Company, was writing to one of his many young lady friends last week, and this is how he started the letter: "The 'letter from Lousy Lou' call blew for me last night, and I was very glad to hear from you," etc. "Jack" doesn't expect an answer to his letter, for after he mailed it he happened to think that the girl he was writing to is named "Louise."

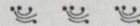


THE "FLU" FLEW IN.

Two or three of the "A" Company boys who went to Sherford Bridge for the tank manoeuvres were sent back on the first day suffering from Spanish influenza in a very mild form. Pte. J. G. Johnston, of the Tatler staff, Pte. Runions, and Pte. Duncan Kilgour were among the number.

VERS LIBRE.

Some folks say that life in the army isn't humorous
 But I don't know.
 They asked for an interior decorator
 To do some whitewashing ;
 If that isn't humorous
 Then I don't know.
 They asked for a qualified surveyor,
 And handed him a shovel
 To level the tennis court.
 If that isn't humorous
 I don't know.

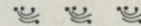


SOME PEOPLE ARE LUCKY.

In one week three "A" Company boys got thirteen boxes between them. We know three people who between them have received one box since coming to camp. They are the three humble servants whose names appear on the front page of this magazine.

TANK ATHLETES BUSY.

Nearly every Saturday afternoon the Tank athletes have competed in various athletic meetings throughout different parts of Dorset county. Ptes. Marten, Zoellin, and Smylie have cleaned up dozens of prizes at these meets. The tug-of-war team have also been busy, and have two or three victories to its credit.



INSTRUCTING IN GAS.

Pte. E. D. Girardot, of "A" Company, has been a busy man since coming to Bovington. In addition to taking a Tank course he has been singing at various churches in the neighbourhood, instructing in defence against gas, and doing dozens of other things to exhibit his versatile nature.

EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE "TANK TATLER."

Private F. S. CHALMERS.

Private J. G. JOHNSTON.

Private BEN FOX.



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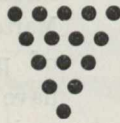
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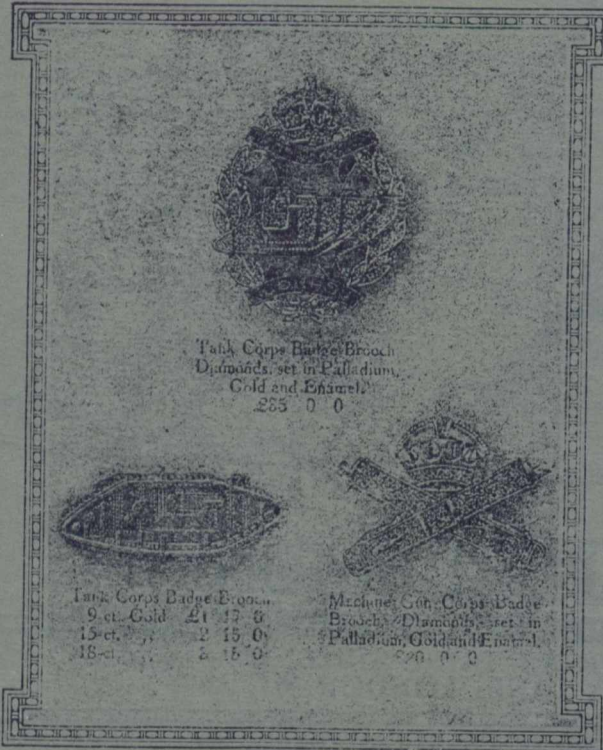
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