

The Western Scot

Vol. I.

WILLOWS CAMP, VICTORIA, B. C., JANUARY 12th, 1916

No. 14

NO. 2 COMPANY

Major Meredith-Jones is holding a series of lectures for the N.C.O.'s of No. 2 Company twice a week, on various subjects, chosen with a view of giving a knowledge of military matters that will be useful on active service, outside of the general routine of instruction with the Battalion. The lectures are well attended, and great interest is taken in them in the same spirit that they are given. After the lecture the N.C.O.'s are required to write a resume of the subject given, which are gone over by Major Jones and mistakes or omissions corrected.

Another sentry joke, but true this time. Happened on the West Gate last Friday. Sentry: "Halt! Who goes there?" "Visiting rounds." "Advance, visiting rounds, and recognize yourself." "Do you recognize yourself?" "Yes." "All's well."

For the benefit of any reader who has not visited the notice boards, we would like to mention that last shooting averages were led by No. 3 Company. Full particulars can be seen on the notice boards.

In the big defensive at Xmas Hill we had only one casualty, namely Private Gemmel, who was badly wounded in the head, being hit by a large "shell" from Sergt. Dorais, while a game of duck stone was in progress. Private Gemmel is greatly improving since the doctor performed the "sewing machine stunt," and stitched it up. He will soon leave the convalescent home.

Who made that big mistake, when our captain sat down on the floor of the aisle in the old Victoria Theatre, and stroked him on the head, saying, "Hullo, Paddy, old boy?"

For the first time, we saw Captain Nicholson "forced to



OUR LATEST PROMOTIONS
Lieut. C. L. Armstrong



OUR LATEST PROMOTIONS
Lieut. A. A. Gray



OUR LATEST PROMOTIONS
Lieut. J. Falkner

We are sure now that we are leaving for the front very shortly, as we are getting up on our equipment. We have been issued with water-bottle slings and gloves for half the Company. No. 5 and 6 Platoons can wear the gloves on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. No. 7 and 8 Platoons on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, or if that won't do, Nos. 5 and 6 can wear the left hand glove and 7 and 8 the right hand, and change around every other week.

The Israelites of old had nothing on us when it comes to rustling. They had to get their straw for bricks from the stubble in the fields. We have to rustle firewood from nothing at all.

That was some swim we had the other day at the Drill Hall swimming tank. Not.

What has become of the Pipe-Major's kilts this cold weather?

Some sham battle. Casualties: Two umpires killed and one captured.

NO. 3 COMPANY

With Xmas and New Year celebrations over, we look forward to a good, steady period of training, and will endeavor to keep up our reputation, of which we are very proud.

retire." It happened at the New Year's entertainment. While he was announcing the next part of the programme the curtain came down, and refused to go up again in spite of the lusty knocks and kicks bestowed upon it by our captain, who had to retire to the entrance of the theatre.

Pte. "Paddy" was heard to express his opinion only once throughout the whole programme on New Year's Night. Maybe the end of the programme brought him something that suited him better.

At the entertainment and supper given by the Misses Spencer on New Year's Night Pte. Gillfillan was faced by a perplexing situation. The orchestra started playing the song "Auld Lang Syne," and a friend asked him to sing with the boys. The response was a glare from Gillfillan, who afterwards asked how on earth could he sing with a sandwich crushed in one side of his mouth, a piece of cake in the other, and the rest of that organ holding a quantity of hot tea? How indeed?

With regard to painless dentistry, Sergt.-Major Watson contends that there is no such a thing. If the work is painless, the bill certainly is not.

At a social in the Metropolitan Church, Pte. Dinsdale, of No. 9 Platoon, determined to show the young ladies his effi-

ciency as a waiter. He piled just under two dozen cups of coffee on top of each other and proceeded to pass them around. He waited till most of the fair maidens were looking at him and then he started to move. So did the cups. He took two paces and then, to the accompaniment of piercing screams, came the crash of breaking crockeryware, while Pte. Dinsdale disappeared into a cloud of steam. He was next seen standing up to his knees in pieces of cups and saucers, looking as if he had taken a shower bath in full dress.

Lie.-Cpl. Gillies has such a clear, shining complexion that on New Year's Eve, after he had taken a look at the rainbow in the skies his face showed every color of the rainbow, as well as a good many others, till very late the next morning.

What caused Pte. Teddie Hughes, on New Year's Eve, to run from the corner of Government and Pandora Streets to the Causeway, with a huge club, chasing a snake that never existed.

"Any complaints?" Well, I guess there is one coming from Pte. Hardy, who told the field officer, while on guard at the main gate, that his beat extended from the gate to the North Pole. Too much for one sentry.

We cannot commend the action of a certain private who did so much grumbling at the New Year's dinner in camp, which certainly exceeded all expectations, and who got up and left the table, after having three liberal helpings of turkey, etc., because he was "disgusted" with the "bunch."

"Oh you West Gate Guard," (multiplied by a few more words which we cannot print), says Pte. R. W. Price. "Two on and only four off, ten below zero, no gloves, stars for a roof, no time for a snooze, but plenty of wind and dust; wind blew so much dust on my dinner that I couldn't find my butter; bread b'ew away, and then, 'Next man on.'"

Society dancers were certainly put in the shade on New Year's Eve when Pte. Thomas, of No. 9 Platoon, danced the sailor's hornpipe in the middle of the car track on the corner of Yates and Government Streets. He gave a fine exhibition alright, and was so interested that he did not study a mere trifle like holding up seven street cars, and finally, getting exhausted, he sat on the fender of the leading street car to cool off. No collection was taken.

Pte. Mynott says: "Never hit a man when he is down unless you are mighty sure he is down to stay." He also adds that he has no respect for old age unless it is bottled, and that he always rejoices to see a friend "lickered up" unless the friend is "lickered up" more than he is. Wise and otherwise.

No. 3 Company boys wish to congratulate Pipe-Major Wishart and the members of the pipe band on their smart appearance on New Year's Night. In spite of the fact that several young ladies wanted to know if the Drum-Major was the regimental shoemaker, he looked very fine in his full "war paint."

We think that Sergt. Dorais would be a great help to us if he got in the enemy's trenches and started fighting against us, judging by the showing he made recently. In two skirmishes he has been responsible for two casualties in his own lines. He put Pte. Thomas out of action a short time ago with a bomb, and he almost put Pte. Gemmel to sleep with a rock weighing (as Gemmel says) a little under fifty pounds. What would he do in the German trenches in a week?

The barbers can see where they lose business when accidents occur. At the time of Pte. Gemmel's accident Gemmel got a free hair cut from the Poultry Wallpapers, and he says that if he got hurt in the face he thinks he would get a free shave. The barbers may be seen anxiously scanning the daily casualty list.

No. 10 and 12 Platoons were quite indignant because someone remarked that they were "all in" after their double from Lake Hill on Monday. It was explained, however, that the remarks were complimentary, and that they were all in because none had fallen out! Now they are asking why no more Marathon races are being held, just when some real Marathon runners have been discovered.

NO. 4 COMPANY

If the present cold weather continues and pay day does not soon arrive, several members of No. 13 Platoon will again be reiterating "ce que le gouverneur de North Carolina disait au gouverneur de South Carolina."

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We admire Pte. Denby's sympathetic attitude shown to a certain private of No. 4 Company who had received seven days C.B. for what he thought was a very minor offence. (He had, I believe, asked a certain official to proceed to a more salubrious climate.) Denby told him he ought to get a D.C.M. The poor fellow is trying to pluck up courage to ask for a District Court-Martial. Make it D.S.O. next time, Denby.

We sympathize also with the three Chinamen who somehow got mixed up in Monday's battle. "Evlybody klazly"; and they certainly thought it by the way they were beating it down the road.

The lance-Jack in No. 14 Platoon who was asked to give his number (so that the sergeant might know the number of men on parade) and who started—ten, twenty, etc., should be promoted to the ranks again.

We are certainly extracting leaves from Germany's notebook.

The fifty cent piece we accidentally dropped into Macmasters coffee (?) will still only pass for a penny in spite of a bottle of metal polish.

If the miserable and cowardly correspondent of a local paper who talked about citizens of Victoria discriminating against restaurants, etc., used by men in the King's uniform would do a little less in the way of recrimination and himself don the khaki it would be very much more to the point. Recruiting Sergeants! Look in the office next time you are passing.

Another very successful field day took place on Monday. This kind of work appeals, much more so than squad drill, to every rank. And also, unlike squad and company drill, the more one gets the more interested one becomes. One of the chief troubles of platoon leaders on Monday seemed to be that their men did not hang together better. A terrific toll would have been extracted from the stragglers of the attacking forces if the affair had been in actual warfare and the defenders had any sharpshooters amongst them. We hope we shall be able to get details of the whole affair as some of us could not possibly see why, for instance, Mr. Terry's platoon was placed out of action. When this took place Capt. Nicholson, with his company, had wiped out quite a number of Major Jones' outfit, including two majors, two lieutenants and numerous N.C.O.'s. Mr. Terry arrived just in time to be told he was "out of action." Capt. Nicholson then discreetly withdrew. Nous voudrions bien savoir "le pourquoi."

The "tomahawks" have at last reached the Quartermaster's store and "Nous allons partir au Zululand," pretty soon.

Would advise all men in our Company to buy a French phrase book and do a little swotting, remembering (I think it was our old Irish bard Thomas Hood who wrote them), the lines:

"Never go to France, unless you know the lingo,
If you do, you will repent, by Jingo!"

By the way, French is quite common in Egypt.

BASE COMPANY

It is really interesting to hear the different remarks concerning this Base Company. There is one thing sure, we are all born fighters. We plainly proved this the other week, in conveying victuals into and through the firing line for the hard-headed and horny-handed Western Scots, and undoubtedly we will do it again if we abide by the council we receive from our leaders, although we have lost a lot of Biddington Terrors. But we have still some warriors left. In our recent battle had it not been for No. 3 section in the Base Company entrenching themselves into an impregnable position, and by doing so prevented No. 1 Company from being annihilated. We are not very strong in numbers, so our casualties were not so great as the others, although we did suffer, but not seriously. Sergeant Tait and a few of his men were so injured they had to be brought back to camp in an automobile; but all are recovering and will be able to take part in the next battle. Private Higgenbottom and Conneau put up such a good fight that when they came back to camp the O.C. of Base Company made them both lance-corporals, so instead of deteriorating, we are progressing.

So, boys, do not the Base despise,

We'll do our best to help you through;

You'll find we are white, so treat us wise,

For every one of us are true.

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The Western Scot

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12th, 1916

"GENTLEMEN ALL"

An event of more than usual interest in the local amusement line will be the re-opening, under new management, of the well known Majestic Theatre, on Yates Street, below Government. It is the intention of those in charge that the theatre will be run in a strictly first-class manner, and the programme from day to day will be of the very best in the photo-play line, and what is equally important, will be entirely modern and up-to-date. As is well known to residents of this city, the Majestic Theatre has had the reputation in the past of having provided some of the very best runs of films ever shown in Victoria, and the new management guarantee that this high standard of productions will now become a permanent feature of this old established and so favorably known photo-play house.

Under the same management will be opened shortly the Rex Theatre at Esquimalt. The exact date and further particulars will be announced later.

AFTER LONGFELLOW—(But Catching Up)

On a January morning
At the farm that is called Tolmie,
There assembled many warriors
Of the tribe that was called Blue Force.
They were there to fight a battle
With their enemies, the Red Force:
And while waiting for the signal
Which should close the tribes in battle
Stirringly the chief addressed them,
While the wintry winds blew keenly,
Spoke to them high words of courage
Stirring up their martial ardour:
Telling them to seize the ridges
And deny them to the former,
That should be the work of Dun-can
Allied with them in the battle:
Telling them to hold the passes
While the Ten tribe and Twelve tribe—
Fleetest of fleet-footed warriors—
Passing round the flank of Red Force
Should with swiftness seize the wigwams,
Seize the wigwams of the Red Force;
Carry off their prized possessions,
All their highly prized possessions,
Then apply the flaming torches
To the wigwams of the Red Force.
Stirringly he thus addressed them—
Spoke in words of martial ardor—
Standing there upon his hind legs!
When the bugle-call was sounded
Started off the Ten and Twelve tribes—
Mostly men from out the Northland
Of the tribe called Caribooers.
For their chief was like a pine-tree—
Like a very lofty pine-tree—
With a step of ninety inches.
And he said they had to double
From the farm that is called Tolmie,
Double till they reached the Willows,
Swifter than the winds of Heaven.
Through the vast primeval forest
Doubling still, they came to Lake Hill,
Where their chief took great precautions:
Sent he runners to the left flank,
Sent he runners to precede them,
Lest the Red Force should surprise them.
All down Quadra Street they doubled,
Doubled till their tongues were hanging;
On to Cook Street still they doubled,
For the chief still urged them forward
'Midst the muttered objurgations
Of some warriors who disliked it,
Said their issue-boots were heavy
And their throats were dry as hades.
Still they doubled on to Lansdowne.
When the sun was at its zenith,
Doubling still, they reached the Willows.

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MINOR NOTES

Overheard outside the Pantages on Monday night:
 "'Arry, come on in the Westholme and 'ave a drink."
 "Right ho, Bill."
 The listener followed to the bar,
 "What yer goin' 'ave, 'Arry?"
 "Oh; whiskey, I guess."
 "Guess again, 'Arry, an' 'ave a beer; I've only a dime."

Wise and Otherwise

Vaccination is not such a favorite as inoculation as far as passes are concerned.

An old soldier remarks that he intends buying his discharge and joining the army.

It was a Scotch mist when Pte. Hughes arrived at the Windsor one minute after closing time.

Quite a few moustaches in No. 3 Company seem to have no initiative.

Who is it that uses the term "Quick Maw," and what does it mean? We hear it frequently close to No. 8 Platoon's line.

Among the things you should not do, except probably in the Militia before the war broke out, is to explain the mechanism of the Ross rifle to your favorite "chicken" while you are on sentry go.

Tell the Boys

Who called them Western Scots?

What the paymaster's heart is made of?

What is the minimum measurement round the calf for officers?

If the pipers really think they make music?

If every member of the band has only one lung?

If the band is on furlough or only just resting?

"As you were." Since the showing on Monday, we are convinced that the brass band members are entirely without lungs.

Pte. McGrath, of No. 12 Platoon, apparently wants to be in a "class separate." When giving the order "Secure arms" he slowly and solemnly tucked away the rifle under his right arm. Sergt.-Major Watson came up on the double and told him to "secure" under the left arm, but was quietly assured that that was all right for the others, but he (McGrath) always shot from the left shoulder.

With reference to society entertaining, and impersonating, our captain can certainly show them a few things, judging by the way he "rendered" the "sick man at the sick parade." Get wise you concert committee men.

Pte. Mynott said at the Willows beach: "I knew it was a corporal's, because it had two stripes and it was a big one at that." What did he mean?

The sayings of Pte. Mynott this week includes:

Tho' a kiss be amiss,
 She who misses the kisses
 As Miss without kiss,
 May miss being a Mrs.
 And he who will miss
 The kisses of Misses,
 Will miss having the bliss
 Of being Mr. to Mrs.

The boys of No. 11 Platoon wish to thank Mrs. MacIntosh for her kindness in sending that beautiful candy, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

There was a profound sensation in No. 9 Platoon on the morning of the 11th. Pte. Clarke took on a strange appearance and actually pranced about. Pte. Witmer paled; the other members of the Platoon stood aghast, but Clarke's spell was brief—40 seconds. It was due to the cold. We thought it was the "great awakening."

Stolen from a well known hotel largely patronized by the men of the 67th Western Scots, four pieces of lemon pie.

Pte. Edward Hughes is strongly suspected, as he was noticed prowling around the premises with a hungry (not thirsty) look.

Reward for return of same: One bottle of Lemon.

Why is it? We supplied the Battalion duties on Xmas Day and New Year's Day, viz.: B.O.S., Xmas Day; B.O.C., Xmas Day; B.O.S., New Year's Day; B.O.C., New Year's Day; also guard and fatigues on both these days. Why is it?

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S.B. SECTION

Now that the excitement of the festive season has died down, we find a little spare time, between doling out No. 9's, to resume our corner in the "Scot."

We gladly welcome the "Major" back to our Section. His flight to the brass band showed him no place of rest there. So, like the weary dove, he returned home.

Speaking of birds, we notice that he (Piccolo Pete, alias Major, alias Hick) shows an excessive fondness for them—especially turkey. But the cook refused to give him the third one. Rather mean of him, we think.

Our Section is almost up to strength again, with the addition of Privates Dick and Wilson. Private Dick, being wise (as befits a Scotty) transferred from the C.A.M.C. to us. We previously lost two members to the C.A.M.C.—but they were not Scots, so we are about evened up now.

"Marmaduke" reports that he sleeps warmer now. But it is rather rough on Norman. Oh, you cold feet!

Yes, we went to Sidney, and had some time. Johnny says he likes "actual war conditions" far better than conditions at the Willows. We also went to Elk Lake, and gave an account of ourselves at the battle of Christmas Hill. We gave medical assistance to the lone wounded man, but what troubles us more is to know what kind of dope to give the machine gun section to help them to keep in step. Say, when will you fellows learn to march? You sure can sing, and maybe shoot, but oh my!

Piper Brown is in hospital suffering from a severe cold, or is it "kilititis"?

One S.B. man, a Scotchman, of course, spent New Year's in bed. Nuf sed!

There is no better place to spend New Year's leave than the Hospital. So it seems, at any rate, to Corporal Sargent. Perhaps he may take a rest soon.

Our unconsciously humorous comrade, Tony, is back with us, after a visit to Vancouver. He says he did not sing "O Sole Mio" once, but —!

Oh, but our Corporal can make short-cake! By the way, Bob, isn't the next batch due?

You never miss the cough dope until there's none to get.

We deeply esteem the visit of the commanding officer and Major Christie on New Year's day.

It is amusing to watch the sentry change step as the strains from our gramophone vary from rag-time to "La Paloma."

Now, we must duplicate the medical history sheets.

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Under anonymous, in last week's "Scot," some one stated we would take chances of "fifty-fifty" when we get to the front. Unless the boys get out of the habit of trying to form platoons while out skirmishing, we shall all stand a good chance of helping to grow daisies "somewhere in France."

Going by the large attendance at the sick parade the day the Battalion should have gone to the swimming bath, a lot of the boys are not taking any chances after getting used to the cold shower always obtainable in the Camp.

No, they don't furnish any hot water in the bath house now, not while the cold snap is with us.

We are pleased to say that Private Baurle has been promoted to sergeant. The last night or two he has stayed in the "Abode of Love" with the rest of the boys who are financially embarrassed.

In regards to the eats; we must grant that the Corporal has it all over "Mac," both in quantity and quality. We appreciate the change.

These field days are the stuff, for one can fancy one is learning something. While we were forming fours day after day, most of us were guessing how the dickens we were going to learn to fight Germans by forming sections, and then walking a mile, and forming fours again, ditto, ditto.

The rest of "Duffers' Drift" would go well while the cold weather was here, and we were not out skirmishing. We trust the gentleman will not fail to deliver the goods.

Pte. Flynn is sure having a hard time. The small dirty shirt left in place of his new one at the rink, he has given up hopes of trying to get into, and is now wearing it for a bib.

If the boot laces are not returned which were taken out of Private Crozier's boots, we are sorry to say the said brave soldier will have to report sick, as pay day is still far distant.

Private Wright, who had the honor of being the colonel's orderly, now has visions of getting three stripes, as all orderly room men are sergeants, promotion being very quick in some departments.

The soldier of the opposing force could not convince Private Nicholl that he was dead. He found him very much alive after a few minutes' talk.

Privates promoted to be orderly sergeants only go on for one day, and should then be seen and not heard.

If the dress we were supposed to wear was put in with the orders, it would save the Chaplain a lot of trouble when preparing us for our future abodes.

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ATHLETICS

(By Corpl. J. HEWITT)

Christmas holidays, inoculation and the "weather man" have played havoc with the sports of the Battalion for the past few weeks; however, field days and long route marches are keeping the men fit, so that when the weather improves they will be able to carry on with their outdoor games at once. It must not be taken from the above that we have been idle altogether, for this is not the case, as our hockey team has been playing regularly, besides which our relay teams made splendid showings in the New Year's race held under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. for the military units of the city. Each relay team consisted of eight men, and the race started at the Willows, terminating at the Y.M.C.A., Blanshard Street. Our first team, consisting of Privates Levy, Howse, Arbutnot, Kenny, Duggan, Sgt. Johnstone, Lieuts. Meredith and Wilmot were the winners, while our second team came in third. On Tuesday evening last the victors were presented with gold medals, when a social evening was spent at the "Y" in honor of the occasion. Certainly they are to be congratulated on their fine showing.

Our hockey team under the able management of Lieut. McDiarmid, has been playing regular games with the Victoria amateur team, but has suffered a great deal of hard luck in all its games. The team was rounding up nicely when casualties began to come thick and fast. The following are a few of the more serious accidents:

- Sgt. Young—Broken collar-bone.
- Lieut. Marsden—Broken finger.
- Lieut. Falkner—Broken nose.

Well, we suppose accidents will happen, but we do hope that "Dame Fortune" will look upon us more kindly in the future.

As stated above, the weather has been strictly against outdoor games, as the ground has been frozen and covered with snow, so that our soccer and rugby teams have been idle during the past two weeks. Many games, are, however, in sight, so that when the conditions improve followers of these games will be given plenty of opportunity of watching their favorites in action. It is the intention to renew the Battalion soccer league as soon as possible, while the senior team has entered in the new city league competition for the Peden cup. Their prospects for victory look bright, as with the addition of Privates Nichol and Nixen the team is considerably strengthened. Their first game is slated to be played on Saturday, January 15, against the 103rd Battalion.

Return games with the 72nd Battalion of Vancouver were arranged to be played in the Terminal City on the 8th, but owing to adverse weather conditions had to be postponed indefinitely. It was the intention to take over soccer, rugby, basketball, tug-of-war, and relay teams, also bayonet fighters. Splendid teams had been chosen and no doubt would have given a good account of themselves. It was a great disappointment that the trip had to be postponed, but all look forward with keen anticipation to the coming event.

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