

The Seaforth Highlanders



A foreword

The Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's) Ross-shire's own Highland regiment has had a long and colourful history. It was raised by the MacKenzie of Seaforth family in 1788 and was originally numbered the 72nd and the 78th Highlanders which were amalgamated to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Seaforth Highlanders, in 1881.

The main recruiting area for the regiments was in Ross-shire with three-quarters of the men coming from the Ross-shire estates of the Mackenzie families.

Since then the regiment's recruiting area has been expanded to include Caithness, Sutherland, Moray and Nairn. Throughout their history Lowlanders, Englishmen, Welsh and Irish have also served in the regiment.

Those regiments have served in every part of the globe. Nine battalions of the regiment fought in the great war of 1914-18 with the Northern Battalions very prominent on the battle field i.e. 4th Battalion (Ross-shire), 5th Battalion (Caithness and Sutherland), and the 6th Battalion (Morayshire)

In the second world war the 4th Battalion was captured at St. Valerey-en-Caux (France) in 1940 and was never formed again. At that time they were part of 152 (Highland Brigade) 51st (Highland Division). On the 15th May 1954 the Seaforth Highlanders received the Freedom of the Royal Burgh of Dingwall.

In January 1961 the 1st Seaforths left Munster (Germany) for Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, where on 7th Feb. 1961 the Seaforth Highlanders were amalgamated with the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders to form The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons). On 11th March 1961 the new regiment received the Freedom of the Royal Burgh Of Dingwall. On the 17th Sep. 1994 at Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh, the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) were amalgamated with the Gordon Highlanders to form "The Highlanders" (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons).

Queen Victoria had personal ties with the Seaforth Highlanders, notably one of her sons had his initial 'L' (Leopold), used in the officers' badge.

During the first World War, the only 4th Battalion Seaforth Highlander to win a Victoria Cross, was 200854 Sgt. John Meikle VC. MM. It is now on display in the Military Room of Dingwall Museum, where a large collection of medals and artifacts can be seen.

(Contributed by **Ian MacLeod**)

Table of Contents

A foreword.....	2
The Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association.....	6
CHAPTER II.....	12
MOBILIZATION AND TRAINING.....	12
Chapter XIV - IN THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION.....	43
CHAPTER XV.....	47
1915.....	47
8th April - C.M.G.....	47
3rd June - D.C.M.....	47
25th August - ORDER OF ST GEORGE (Russia), 3rd class.....	47
29th November - D.C.M.....	47
1916.....	48
14th January - D.C.M.....	48
24th February - CROIX DE GUERRE.....	48
3rd June - M.C.....	48
3rd June - D.C.M.....	48
21st September - M.M.....	48
16th November - M.M.....	48
1917.....	49
1st January - M.C.....	49
22nd January - M.M.....	49
18th June - M.M.....	49
8th Ju1y - M.C.....	49
9th July - BAR TO M.M.....	49
9th July - M.M.....	49
13th July - MEDAILLE MILITAIRE (France).....	50
17th Ju1y - M.C.....	50
17th Ju1y - D.C.M.....	50
17th Ju1y - M.M.....	50
18th July - D.C.M.....	50
20th September - PROMOTED SERGEANT ON THE FIELD.....	50
26th September - M.C.....	50
6th October - M.M.....	50
18th October - M.M.....	50
19th November - M.C.....	50
19th November - D.C.M.....	51
12th December - BAR TO D.C.M.....	51
12th December - M.M.....	51
20th December - M.C.....	51
1918.....	52
1st January – D.S.O.....	52
1st January – D.C.M.....	52
28th. January - M.M.....	52
4th February - M.C.....	52
6th February - D.C.M.....	52
22nd February - BAR TO D.C.M.....	52
22nd February - SECOND BAR TO M.M.....	52
22nd February - BAR TO M.M.....	52

23rd February - M.M.....	53
13th March - M.M.....	53
22nd March - D.S.O.....	53
22nd February - M.C.....	53
28th March - D.C.M.....	53
1st April - LONG SERVICE MEDAL.....	53
22nd April - D.S.O.....	53
3rd June - M.C.....	53
17th June - M.S.M.....	54
12th July - CROIX DE GUERRE (Belgium).....	54
16th July - M.M.....	54
26th July - D.S.O.....	54
26th July - M.C.....	54
26th July - M.M.....	54
6th August - M.M.....	54
22nd August - BAR TO M.M.....	54
28th August - M.C.....	54
28th August - D.C.M.....	54
3rd September - D.C.M.....	55
3rd September - M.M.....	55
16th September - BAR TO D.S.O.....	55
16th September - M.C.....	55
16th September - VICTORIA CROSS.....	55
7th October - M.M.....	55
11th October - CROIX DE GUERRE.....	55
15th October - BAR TO M.C.....	55
30th October - D.C.M.....	57
2nd December - M.C.....	57
11th December - BAR TO M.M.....	57
11th December - M.M.....	57
1919.....	58
1st January - M.S.M.....	58
18th February - D.C.M.....	58
18th February - BAR TO M.M.....	58
22nd February - M.S.M.....	58
8th March - BAR TO M.C.....	58
12th March - D.C.M.....	58
2nd April - M.C.....	58
5th April - DECORATION MILITAIRE.....	58
12th May - D.C.M.....	58
14th May - BAR TO M.M.....	59
3rd June - M.S.M.....	59
13th June - M.M.....	59
23rd July - BAR TO M.M.....	59
23rd July - M.M.....	59
20th September - MEDAILLE BARBATTE DI CREDUITA (Rumania), 2nd class.....	60
7th October - CROIX DE GUERRE (France).....	60
1920.....	61
30th January - D.S.O.....	61
OTHER DATES.....	61

C.M.G.....	61
C.B.E.....	61
O.B.E.....	61
D.S.O.....	61
M.C.....	61
D.C.M.....	61
BAR TO M.M.....	62
M.M.....	62
M.S.M.....	62
R.H.S. MEDAL.....	62
R.H.S. CERTIFICATE.....	62

The Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association

The Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association was established in 1889. Their prime motive in forming the Association was to help the ex-servicemen of the regiment and their families to keep in contact with their comrades, and to help with any hardships which might occur after their service had expired.

The Seaforth Highlanders Association is still active, despite the many amalgamations of the various regiments, with branches in London, Nottingham, The Midlands of England, Ross-shire and Morayshire. Unfortunately the Glasgow and Edinburgh branches are now defunct.

The Ross-shire branch was formed in January 1945 and is still going strong. Time will tell how long it will continue into the future with many of the veterans of World War II passing away. The relaxing of some of the rules allowing Associated Members of The Seaforths to join has helped to swell the membership of the branch.

At the present moment Mr. Duncan Mackenzie (Chairman) is the longest serving member of the branch with over 50 years involvement. Mr. H. Chisholm, a Maryburgh man is Vice-Chairman, with two other Dingwall people, Mr. I. Macleod and Mr. P. Angus, acting as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. There are approximately 150 members of the branch. The Association hold their Annual Reunion Dinners in March each year on the nearest Friday to the 11th, to commemorate the 4th. Battalion Seaforth Highlanders first battle on 11th. March 1915 at Neuve-Chapelle in France.

Contributed by **Ian Macleod** - July 2000



70th anniversary dinner in Tulloch Castle Hotel, Dingwall. [Photo courtesy of the Ross-shire Journal.]

On 8 March 2019 the Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association held their 70th Reunion Dinner in Tulloch Castle, Dingwall. Prior to the Dinner the Colours were paraded, led by Pipe Major Calum Mackenzie (former Pipe Major, Queen's Own Highlanders), with Colour Party members Morris Colven (ex-Royal Highland Fusiliers) bearing the Queen's Colour, and Kevin Macleod (Seaforths Association member) bearing the Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association Colour.



Alexander III King of Scotland, rescued from the fury of a stag - by the intrepidity of Colin Fitzgerald, the ancestor of the present Mackenzie family

The stag's head badge with the motto Cuidich 'n Righ (saviour of the King) is the crest of the Mackenzies of Seaforth. The crest and motto were granted to Colin Fitzgerald, founder of the family, in 1255, by Alexander III, whose life he saved from a stag. Tulloch Ard on officers' sword belts is a war-cry of the clan.



The stag's head badge with the motto Cuidich 'n Righ



Monday 10th August, 1914 - The 4th Seaforths at Dingwall Station setting off for Inverness.

The following is an extract from 'A History of the 4th Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders' Compiled by Lieut-Colonel M M Haldane, illustrations by Captain Finlay Mackinnon, published by H F and G. Witherby (1928)

CHAPTER II

MOBILIZATION AND TRAINING

Towards the end of July 1914 it was evident that war was imminent, and all possible preparations for mobilization were made by the Battalion Headquarters.

At 6.30 pm. on 4th August the order to mobilize was received. Drum-Major Hugh Fraser, 4th Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders, was at once sent to proclaim the news by sounding the "Assemble" followed by the "Fall In" at three places in the Burgh of Dingwall: first at the Mercat Cross, in front of the Municipal Buildings; then at the eastern end, in front of the National Hotel; and lastly, at the western end.

Few of those who saw what followed will forget it. At once the streets became crowded with people. Young men belonging to His Majesty's Forces were to be seen leaving shops and offices to answer the call. One man going his rounds with a horse and milk-cart left them to take care of themselves while he hurried away to report for duty. There was a striking absence of all outward excitement; everyone seemed to realize that Britain had entered on a conflict that must for ever leave its mark on her destiny, and that the men who were already making their way to Headquarters in kilt and khaki were among those responsible for the fate of their native land.

Meanwhile the Battalion staff were hard at work dispatching telegrams to the outlying companies, while motor-cyclists were sent off to warn those beyond the reach of the telegraph. Not for over two hundred years had the fiery cross been sent throughout the county of Ross, and never had it awakened a more notable response.

The late Lady Fowler has left a vivid description of the arrival of the news at Loch Broom:

"About half-past nine on the evening of 4th August (when we were gathered in the drawing-room at Inverbroom, with windows open and blinds up, watching the last glow fading in the western sky, and the shadows of night were beginning to fall around us), my daughter sprang to her feet, exclaiming that she had caught a glimpse in the garden of a man in motor-cyclist's dress. A few minutes later he was delivering to her the expected message from her brother, and quickly were the necessary papers filled in, acknowledging receipt of the order to 'mobilize' and entries in mobilization forms were rapidly completed in accordance with instructions previously given by my son.

"The motor-cyclist dispatch rider" (the late Councillor John MacKay) "at once continued his forty-seven miles' ride from Dingwall to Ullapool (not pausing to accept proffered hospitality), and our young relative, Daniel Bayley (later a gallant officer of the Royal Artillery), mounted his bicycle and vanished into the darkness, to deliver the necessary intimations of mobilization to the various lads of the Territorial Force resident on the estate of Braemore. " Thus did the Fiery Cross come to Loch Broom." *

* Records of the Men of Loch Broom, by Mrs Fraser of Leckmelm.

Owing to the necessity of protecting the naval base at Invergordon, with its huge oil stores, the Seaforth and Cameron Infantry Brigade was ordered to garrison the North and South Sutors, the two headlands that guard the entrance to Cromarty Firth. By the afternoon of 5th August over five hundred men of the 4th Seaforths were digging entrenchments at Nigg, where they had their first experience of billets. Meanwhile the Battalion Headquarters remained in Dingwall to collect stores, horses and equipment. On the 8th the companies returned from Nigg to complete mobilization, and were billeted in Dingwall. On Sunday, 9th August, they attended an impressive service in the Parish Church. That evening orders arrived for the 4th Seaforths to join the Brigade at Inverness on the following day. Just as the Battalion was parading to march to the station on the Monday morning a telephone message was received asking how many, by ranks and companies, would volunteer for service overseas. The Commanding Officer addressed the Battalion, and ordered any officer, non-commissioned officer or man who was unable to fight overseas to fall out on the flank. Although two officers, doubtless for excellent reasons, and three aged men fell out, the Commanding Officer had the satisfaction of telephoning to Brigadier-General D. A. MacFarlane, D.S.O., that the Battalion had volunteered as a complete unit.

Training continued at Inverness until 15th August, when the Seaforth and Cameron Brigade entrained for Bedford to join the Highland (later known as the 51st) Division. At least 25 per cent of the men of the Battalion spoke Gaelic as their mother-tongue, and it has been claimed that it was the passage of the troop-trains bearing these big fellows, who spoke an unknown tongue and were understood to say they came from "Rossha" that gave rise to the assiduously spread rumour that Russian armies were being transported from Archangel to fight on the Western Front.

Intensive training began in grim earnest at Bedford, where Battalion Headquarters were at the Grammar School. Here the Battalion was brought up to its war establishment of 1020 of all ranks, partly by recruits from Ross-shire, but chiefly by a vigorous recruiting campaign in London. These recruits were mainly men of Scottish parentage or extraction for whom there were no vacancies in the London Scottish.

The help given to the 4th Seaforths by the London Scottish has always been held in grateful remembrance by the officers of the former. Especially does this apply to the Commanding Officer, Colonel James Greig, C.B., V.D., M.P., and the Adjutant, Captain R. Whyte, as well as to Mr Willie Smith and Recruiting-Sergeant W. Martin. To this day there is a very close comradeship between the two battalions, while the present Second-in-Command of the London Scottish is Major L. D. Henderson, M.C., for long one of the best-known officers of the 4th Seaforths.

One of these London Scots has left most vivid sketches of the life at Bedford, too long unfortunately to be quoted at length, but interesting as being the first impressions of a University graduate and Civil servant suddenly enlisted into the ranks of a purely Highland battalion.

He speaks with real appreciation of the Ross-shire men, whom he describes as "great fellows - quiet, jolly, simple and companionable - real country men, shepherds, fishermen and so on." They were "a happy, reckless crowd of chaps and very good tempered." He says, "It will take about ten years to get us all licked into proper fighting form; good enough for garrison duty, but nothing better.... But if the Highlanders aren't quite au fait as regards drill they can march and no mistake." Four miles an hour seems indeed to have been kept up on more than one route march. He notes that the old Regular permanent staff were rapidly taken away to train the New Army Units, but considers that on the whole the men were better handled by the officers and non-commissioned

officers from their own country. The fatherly attitude of the officers towards their men seems particularly to have struck him. It is evident that in spite of the many changes in the last hundred and fifty years the old Highland spirit still lives in this relation between officers and their men.

The Battalion was still a very raw unit by the middle of September, and the accession of drafts from London must have done something to retard the progress of its training. Yet a month later one is struck with the difference in the outlook of those whose letters and diaries one had been privileged to read. No longer is it the individual trying to fit himself into a changed world, but the member of a body corporate recording - often quite unconsciously - the steady gain in efficiency of his unit. These records strikingly reveal from the inside what was so very noticeable to the observer from the outside, that the raw material from the universities, the business offices, the workshops and the countryside was being worked up into the type so familiar to all nowadays - the British soldier. Utterly diverse they came into that mill, to be turned out in the space of only a few weeks in that mould of cheerful detachment from all personal feelings in the performance of the work that has to be done, in that wonderful tolerance of men and circumstances that has ever been the most striking mark, and one of the most valuable qualities, of the British soldier. And yet, with all this wonderful uniformity of spirit, this Battalion, like every other unit in the army, had its own character and individuality, that marked it off from every other.

Owing to the generosity of friends in the county of Ross the 4th Seaforths became possessed of thirty-two sets of bayonet fighting equipment, and the only remaining Regular non-commissioned officer (besides the Regimental Sergeant-Major) spent the whole of each day training successive squads. It was very unfortunate that three machine guns of the latest pattern, that were being kept by Messrs Vickers for the Battalion, in the use of which the machine gun officer and his sergeant had been trained at Erith, were commandeered by the War Office for the New Armies before the Battalion went abroad. They had been made available by the initiative of the late Mr Duncan Davidson of Tulloch and the kindness of his shooting tenant, Mr Douglas Vickers. The training at this time was most strenuous, and, owing both to the rivalry between the different companies and to the high standard of intelligence and education of the men, the improvement not only in technical efficiency but in discipline became rapidly more and more marked. Lieutenant-Colonel Mason-MacFarlane was attaining to the fulfilment of his ideals; for everyone worked with such real interest that when, on 22nd October, the Division was inspected by His Majesty the King, the 4th Seaforths were reported as the best Battalion in their brigade, and as being equalled by only one other in the Division.

Like all other units at this time, the Battalion was hard put to it for clothing and equipment. The regimental tailors could not turn out kilts quickly enough to clothe the new drafts. One man who enlisted on 9th September did not get his kilt till the beginning of October, and had to wait even longer for his spats and glengarry. Spats and glengarries were indeed at a premium, for everyone wanted to be photographed in full service dress uniform. One reads of squads parading of their own accord at the quartermaster's stores on the mere rumour that a new consignment had arrived. Many of the men had to get their first training with damaged rifles. Indeed the unit when paraded at full strength must have been a curious-looking collection of men in every stage of clothing and equipment. In spite of these drawbacks, officers and other ranks were working in grim earnest, forging a weapon which was to sustain some of the fiercest fighting in history.

Bedford was not all hard work, however, for the whole Battalion managed to make themselves very popular, and the Bedford people spared themselves neither trouble nor expense to make the men comfortable. Some bought camp beds for those who were billeted in empty houses, while others gave them coal and wood to make fires with. The life was a great change for some of the men. One

of them wrote that it was all holidays! Others record their increased physical fitness and improved health.

About this period a man on leave telegraphed for an extension, but got the reply "Extension not granted". As he nevertheless took the extension he was duly brought before the Commanding Officer, who asked him what he had to say. His reply was that he had an extension, and he put the telegraph form on the table. "But", said the Commanding Officer, "this says 'Extension not granted'". The absentee looked at the form with an expression of well-feigned surprise. "My thumb must have been on the 'not' when I read it," said he. Another incipient warrior disappeared for several days. On his return he accounted for his absence by producing a photograph of himself with a new-born infant on each arm, explaining that he had been detailed for infantry training!

Rumours flew round the Battalion and as suddenly died away: now they were destined for Malta, now for Ipswich, South Africa, Egypt, Cromarty, Hong-Kong, Marseilles, each had its vogue. Finally one wag spread the rumour that they were going to garrison the South Pole till relieved by Shackleton! At last all doubts were resolved.

On the night of Sunday, 1st November 1914, Brigadier General MacFarlane was discussing with the Battalion commanders the scheme for a divisional field day on the Monday. The telephone bell rang, and after a short conversation in monosyllables the General turned to Lieutenant-Colonel Mason-MacFarlane and said: "What is the first moment you can be ready for France?" "To-morrow, if we get our rifles, transport and clothes for the men," was the reply." "Get ready at once," said the Brigadier, "and everything you require will be given to you." The news spread like wildfire among the men, who could be heard cheering far into the small hours.

By Wednesday, 4th November, most of the requirements had been met. It was certainly a lack of foresight that new rifles were issued to the Battalion only the day before it embarked for France, and but for the outbreak of scarlet fever at Ecques each man might have gone into action knowing nothing of the peculiarities of his own weapon. The transport was overhauled and completed, but it was found that the new service dress jackets sent down from Pimlico were far too small, most of the men requiring a 38-40, or even a 42-inch size. The Royal Army Clothing Department was at once informed, and fresh jackets were found waiting at Southampton and fitted on the voyage.

On Thursday, 5th November 1914, the Battalion entrained in two special trains for Southampton. The half Battalions moved off at 11.40 and 12.25 respectively. One of the latest joined recruits records the event thus: "The great day arrives. All is excitement and hurry. We fell in at the Grammar School and received heartening words from the Brigadier. Benediction is pronounced, and with bands playing we marched to the station. It was a scene I will never forget - the cheering hundreds on the march, the waving of handkerchiefs, and the bidding of farewells."

The Battalion embarked at 8.30 pm on the City of Dunkirk for Havre, the entraining, detraining and embarkation being carried out with perfect discipline and precision. About midnight the steamer cast off, with all lights out, under an almost perfect moonlight sky, and escorted by a French destroyer. The Ross-shire men had set forth like those valiant Ross-shire men of old, Munro of Obisdell and his more famous cousin "Bully" Munro, to fight alongside the Ancient Allies - but this time not against "our auld enemies of England".

The convoy arrived at Havre about midday on the 6th, but the City of Dunkirk could not berth till 11 pm. This involved the consumption of the emergency ration for men and beasts, because the Battalion had been rationed on the assumption that it would disembark immediately on arrival. A

cipher radiogram from the Commanding Officer to the Officer in Charge of Reinforcements received no reply; it transpired later that there had been an omission of one letter in the code word handed by the Staff Officer at Southampton to the Commanding Officer, and the message could not be read. While no one in the 4th Seaforths was to blame for the error, it was a good lesson in the vital necessity of making sure that in dealing with cipher there is no possibility of mistake or misunderstanding.

The 4th Seaforth Highlanders landed in France about 8.30 am on 7th November 1914. As they paraded on the quay an ambulance train drew up alongside. Among the wounded were some of the London Scottish, the first of the Territorial battalions to distinguish itself on active service. It was a dramatic introduction to the Theatre of War! Then to the tunes of Dornoch Links and The Black Bear (ever favourites of the 4th Seaforths) the Battalion swung along through the streets of Havre, past the cheering crowds, up the hill that dominates the historic town, to Bleville Rest Camp, four miles away.

The Battalion was not forgotten by this its first place of sojourn in France; for after the Armistice the Mayor of Havre sent a most cordial letter of thanks for its timely aid, and in reply the Battalion sent the three photographs taken just before it left Bedford - namely, those of the officers, the non-commissioned officers and the Battalion on parade, which appear in this book. These now hang in the Hotel de Ville at Havre.

The Battalion reached Bleville at about 1 o'clock, but it was not till 8 o'clock that its transport arrived. The men were well-nigh worn out, for the excitement of the last four or five days and the lack of all sleeping accommodation on the City of Dunkirk had left them little time or chance for sleep. The ground on which the tents were pitched was, however, a sea of mud, quite unfit for them to lie on. Lieutenant-Colonel Mason-MacFarlane therefore ordered a large stack of straw to be pulled down; this, covered with the men's waterproof sheets, made a dry, if cold, bed.

Instructions had been received that the Battalion was to remain at Havre for three or four days; but at 8.30 pm a motorcyclist arrived with orders to leave Havre the next morning for the Front. Reveille was therefore ordered for 5 am, so that the Battalion might march at 7, and maps of the Franco-Belgian frontier were issued.

About 11 o'clock the Commanding Officer was walking up and down outside his tent when one of the men came up and asked if he might speak to him. It was pitch dark, and the Commanding Officer had no idea who the man was. He therefore explained that he could hear any complaints only in the presence of the man's Company Commander, but the youngster insisted that he could only say what he wanted to say to the Commanding Officer privately. He then said: "I thought we were going to be here for four days; now I hear we're going into a fight tomorrow. I don't want to disgrace the Regiment, so just send me back to Ross-shire, as I'm sure to run away." The Commanding Officer told him that he was the bravest man in the Battalion and that when the time came he would find that out. Lieutenant-Colonel Mason-MacFarlane never knew who the man was.

He has since said that the only sign of fear he ever saw among his men was the fear lest they might be thought afraid.



4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, Bedford, November 1914

After an all too brief sleep the men were roused at 5 o'clock and soon after marched back through Havre to entrain for St-Omer. It was the first time the transport had been entrained on French railway wagons, and as these were limited in number and had to be loaded from ramps it was no easy matter for F Company, who acted as baggage guard, to get it properly stowed. But all was done in a much shorter space of time than the Railway Transport Officer had thought possible for a Territorial battalion. Indeed when the 4th Seaforths were ready to entrain in the normal time they found that they had generously been given an extra two hours to allow for their inexperience! Fortunately the Commandant of the French Infantry Barracks came to the rescue, and the men were marched into the barrack square, where they were given coffee. The Commandant was most complimentary on their military bearing, refusing at first to believe that they were a Territorial and not a Regular battalion.

The men did not appreciate the French trains. "In the evening a 'train '(?) does come, and we depart for the 'GREAT UNKNOWN' " says one of the men in his diary. So abruptly, indeed, did the engine start and pull up that two men were stunned by rifles being jerked off the rack !

Havre was left at 1.19 pm on 8th November and St-Omer reached at 11.30 am on the 9th. The crowded carriages, the creeping train and the scanty meals had made the men tired, and they were glad to detrain. "Weary but keen" is the phrase of one of our diarists. During the daylight, at each of the many halts, the French populace crowded round to get a souvenir, regimental buttons or badges being the favourites, until it was explained to the men that by giving these away they were disposing of His Majesty's property. An incident that well illustrates the French craze for souvenirs at that time and the efficient co-operation between the British military authorities and the French was the loss of his false teeth by one of the non-commissioned officers. He had had the ill luck to break the plate, and accidentally dropped them out of the window at one of the wayside stops. A French boy pounced on them and rushed off, crying: " Souvenir ecosse!" The train was already on the move, and although the non-commissioned officer reported the matter to the stationmaster at the next stop he forgot to give the name of his unit. On 20th November a motor-cyclist arrived early at Battalion Headquarters. There was great excitement, everyone thought this must be the order to move into the line; amid tense silence the Commanding Officer read out the message: "Has any officer or man in the 4th Seaforth Highlanders lost some false teeth?" They apparently had travelled round most of the units of the First Army: their owner was glad enough to get them back.

From St-Omer the Battalion at once marched to Ecques, some six miles away.

Wearing what used to be known as the "Christmas Tree" - Sam Browne belt, sword, revolver, field-glasses, haversack, water-bottle, etc., with all their several cross straps-most of the officers felt well-nigh cut in two by the weight of their gear at the end of the march, and all took an early opportunity of providing themselves with the more comfortable web equipment. It was, indeed, as much the question of utility and comfort as of inconspicuousness that led to its general adoption by the officers of the army.

One of the first things some of the officers did on arrival at Ecques was to have their swords sharpened by the village blacksmith. Very shortly after all these weapons were packed off home. Here, too, the sound of the guns was heard for the first time.

At Ecques the 4th Seaforths were billeted in most insanitary quarters. To quote one of the men: "Our first billet. This is a little village of about 300 inhabitants and we wonder where our Battalion of 1050 men is likely to get billets. All corners of the place are commandeered, barns, pigstys, lofts, etc., and the Battalion receives its first dose of French billets. Our Company was billeted in a barn, a very airy barn too, and I am safe to say I never felt so cold in my life."

During the fortnight that the Battalion remained at Ecque it was training hard all day and every day. The recently issued rifles were the long mark with new barrels, and as no man knew anything about his weapon the first thing to be done was to put the whole Battalion through a course of musketry. Targets were improvised out of anything that could be picked up at Ecques by the Company Commanders. Besides musketry there were route marches, for the Commanding Officer set the greatest store on keeping his men fit, rightly holding that physical fitness is the basis of all efficiency.

About this time buses and lorries began to be used for the transport of troops. They were, naturally, allotted to units that had far to go or were being hurried up into the line, neither of which conditions applied to the Battalion until much later. To the sight of these troops in motor-transport is, however, probably due the tradition - absolutely unfounded on fact-that Lieutenant-Colonel Mason-MacFarlane always sternly refused the proffer of buses to move the men, with the remark: "The laddies can walk." Hence the tale of how, when the Battalion was passing another that was being taken up in lorries, someone called out: "Who are you?" "West Riding. Who are you?" was the reply. "Seaforths walking," shouted the Battalion!

Entrenching and practice in various fighting formations completed the round of a training that knew nothing of trade union rules. The various diarists have little to record beyond such entries as the following: "Advanced in diamond formation over plough, etc., and through a wood a quarter of a mile in width at least, with dense undergrowth of thorns and brambles, very detrimental to the knees. The whole advance through the wood was excellent, the lines being beautifully preserved in the right half battalion."

"It was," writes Colonel Mason-MacFarlane, "a real pleasure to train the Battalion in the attack over ground two miles in depth and six hundred yards in breadth, and to feel that the men could go anywhere, instead of the experience we had training at home, where every hundred yards some portion of the ground was out of bounds. One saw at once that a week or ten days of this would do the Battalion untold good, and it did."

Snow, intense cold, heavy rain, long hours of training and wretched billets seemed only to raise the moral of the men, and it was a great source of pride to all the officers to see how they improved.

Their pride was justified when the General Officer Commanding the Reinforcement Area told the Colonel that no Regular battalion could do better work than his men were doing.

Although twenty-five miles from the firing line the 4th Seaforths always had one company on outpost duty. This was, of course, mainly for instruction, but the men lived in hopes of catching some German motor-car or patrol that might have got through the front lines, for many were the tales of spies dressed as British officers walking or driving unchallenged into St-Omer.

At one time there was a belief that German spies were going about the country on motor-cycles, and it was announced - or at any rate it was believed that it was announced, which is not quite the same thing - that anyone who caught one of these spies would be given leave home. One of the men spent most of his spare time in trying to catch one of these "flying Dutchmen" although he had no clear idea as to how he would do it. He used to watch the dispatch riders rushing along the roads, and even penetrated as far as the motor-cycle depot to examine the machines. His reception was not over-friendly, and he never caught his leave home.

One of the chief things that struck the Royal Engineers and other officers who had to do with training the men in special duties was their extraordinary keenness to learn and the thoroughness with which they learned. Long after the war was over a distinguished Irish General expressed the hope that if ever he had troops under him again they might be Scots. A Scotsman present expressed surprise at his preference for foreigners, to which the General replied that he held that hope because of the high standard of Scottish education, which ensured that the youngest lance-corporal would intelligently try to carry out his Commander's intentions even after all his officers were killed.

It was at Ecques that scarlet fever broke out, which not only kept the Battalion for a long time out of the front line, but also formed grounds for the refusal to award to its members the bar to the 1914 Star, despite the Battalion's being shown in the Order of Battle of the first seven divisions for November 1914.

While at Ecques some of the men began to grow beards. This was soon forbidden, but one of them went to Captain Brodie and said that, since he had grown a beard, he had never had catarrh, from which he had suffered much. The doctor therefore got leave for him to keep his beard. His beard, however, once got him into trouble; for, being in Lillers on one occasion, he was arrested as a spy. This same man later on became a great sufferer from rheumatism, so he was made corporal and put in permanent charge of the bridge guard at La Gorgue. He had a goat from which he got his milk, and generally he managed to make himself very comfortable.

On 15th November Lord Roberts died at St-Omer. It was a worthy end to a long life spent in the service of his country in peace and war, for he died within sound of the guns, at the ripe age of eighty-four. But for the scarlet fever epidemic the 4th Seaforths would have provided the pipers for the first stage of the funeral at St-Omer, an honour which thus fell to the Liverpool Scottish. The Battalion was, however, represented by the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant.

Some excellently carried-out night marches and a night attack through a wood showed that the men had been brought to a very high pitch of training. Trenches were at this time dug under the supervision of an officer of the Royal Engineers. Part of a general scheme of preparation for a further possible retirement, they were of the same type as those used by the Boers in the South African War, and were over a mile in length. The severity of the weather was, however, very trying to all, and the Commanding Officer was exceedingly dissatisfied with the billets allotted by the Mayor of Ecques, for it was almost impossible to dry the men's clothing in them. It was in vain that

he represented that as the men were there to defend France, it was reasonable that the inhabitants should house them comfortably. The Mayor merely replied that as we were fighting in France to defend Britain as much as France we must take what the French chose to give us. This was characteristic of the inhabitants of Ecques, who were by no means friendly; some, in fact, openly declared that they would rather have the Boches!

Things, however, got so bad that after a fortnight the Commanding Officer insisted that the Battalion must be moved. As he was an Honours Doctor of Medicine of Edinburgh University he was able to speak with authority, and, on 22nd November, the Battalion moved to Arques, a much more satisfactory spot in every respect. The billets there consisted mainly of schoolrooms; they were often bitterly cold, but compensated for a lot of drawbacks by being dry. "Though we had no straw to lie on we felt quite warm and comfortable," says one of the diarists. Here, too, the officers, who up to this period had been wearing spats and shoes, began to discard them in favour of boots and puttees, a more suitable footwear for heavy plough and muddy trenches.

It was about this time that the Battalion was reorganized for field work into four companies instead of eight, in conformity with the formation in Regular battalions.

The grouping was as follows:

A and B formed No. 1 Company.

C and G formed No. 2 Company.

D and E formed No. 3 Company.

F and H formed No. 4 Company.

The days at Arques were spent very much as were those at Ecques. Four times did the orders for a move into the line arrive, and as surely did a fresh case of scarlet fever, so that the order had to be cancelled. More time was now spent on entrenching, the work being, as before, the preparation of a defensive position to be taken up by the Allies in case they were forced to retire. These were days of work in snow and rain, when fuel was scarce and men had to walk themselves dry. The brusque and cheery Major Brodie had big sick parades every day, but he was - and still is - a student of psychology, and had effective, if unorthodox, ways of dealing with the malingerer.

Battalion Headquarters at Arques were opposite those of the French 1st Cavalry Corps commanded by General Conneau, who was most kind, and did everything in his power to assist the Seaforths. The French gave a concert on the 25th November, some of the items being provided by the 4th Battalion. As will be seen from the programme, many of the performers were professionals of high standing in Paris. A few days later General Conneau invited the officers of the Battalion to a cake-and-wine banquet. He received them in a long salon, down the centre of which ran a table covered with cakes and sweets, and going round with a number of his staff who carried glasses, he filled one with champagne for each officer in turn before drinking his health. All that the officers could do to return this hospitality was to ask the General and his staff, as well as the Mayor of Arques (who, unlike his colleague of Ecques, was a great friend of the Battalion), to dinner on St Andrew's Night. The General himself was, unfortunately, unable to come, but his staff and the Mayor spent a very cheery evening. There was nothing to drink but whisky, which at first rather took their breath away, but when mixed with water they thoroughly enjoyed it.

International courtesies were not, however, the only relief to the hard work at Arques. First the blood of the old cattle lifting clansmen began to stir, and if hens and eggs took for the most part the place of cattle, dexterity in their acquisition was soon acquired. It is said that one of the men

became so expert that he could, with one movement, take from its perch and kill a fowl without the bird making a sound. The taste for poultry seems to have been started one day at field-firing, when a number of hens wandered across the line of targets. A company proved their skill in marksmanship in a remarkably short time. While discipline demanded that they should get extra duty for their pains, the Commanding Officer records in his diary, with evident amusement: "I do not think one hen escaped! The men's dinners that night were more savoury than usual " For long the favourite marching song was Who Killed Cock Robin? In a farm in another village the cow began to yield a very small supply of milk, and Madame could not understand why she should be going dry. One of "the boys" always had plenty of milk for his tea, and later on explained that he had always milked the cow at night. The peasants were, of course, compensated for such losses; but while every man in the Battalion was liable to be put under stoppages for the purpose, it by no means followed that all those who paid benefited by each raid. The poor old peasant women had a rather trying time. One, whom the men called "Maggie Bash," began to scream one morning. It turned out that the weight of some of the stalwart Ross-shire men who were billeted in her loft had made the floor to sag, and the old cow's back was nearly broken by the effort to support both floor and men. The incident that is probably most vividly remembered by those who were in Arques was that of the rum boats. While No.1 Company was loading up some boats on the canal one of the cases was accidentally dropped, and broke open, displaying a number of rum jars. After its return to billets the company was carefree and happy. No. 2 Company was detailed for the fatigue the next day, and, curiously enough, there was another accident, and No. 2 also spent a happy evening. When No. 3 Company was detailed for the duty on the third day there were those who expected the men of Wester Ross to prove more careful than their eastern neighbours. The few unprejudiced observers left say that the only noticeable difference was that, "whereas Nos. 1 and 2 got happy after their return to billets, No. 3 was quite happy enough on its arrival.

Rum, in fact, and rum of the strength issued, was something new to nearly all the men. When they first arrived in France the people on whom they were billeted used to give them a mixture of coffee and rum; until they got used to it its effect, even in small quantities, was often quite surprising.

Nor was the training allowed entirely to eclipse higher things! On a 27th November one diarist records: "An easy day for washing. Had a hot bath in St-Omer; first since Bedford"; and on 6th December: "Church parade conducted by the Colonel; first since Bedford."

On 1st December the Battalion was held up at a level crossing while on a route march, when three motor-cars came up. The King was in the second with Lord Kitchener and Sir John French, and the Prince of Wales, now Colonel-in-Chief of the Seaforth Highlanders, was driving the third. The Battalion gave the Royal Salute. It was noticed that His Majesty looked much more cheerful than when he inspected the Battalion at Bedford six weeks before, while the Prince looked very happy.

About noon on 15th December the welcome order came to march next day to join the Dehra Dun Brigade in the Meerut Division of the Indian Corps. The Brigade then consisted of the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, 2 /2nd Gurkhas, 1/nth Gurkhas and 6th Jat Light Infantry. At 9 o'clock the next morning accordingly the Battalion marched to Lambres, a small village about one and a half miles south of Aire, covering the twelve miles' march in the good time of three hours forty five minutes. After a comfortable night the march was resumed at 9 a.m. via Lillers and Choques to Labeuvriere, which was reached at 2 P.M. A good many of the men were recent convalescents from scarlet fever, and, in addition to this, the boots issued were of such bad leather that they soon wore out on the abominable paves. This meant that numbers of the men were marching in new boots, and it speaks volumes for their spirit that practically every one completed these twelve- and thirteen-mile marches on his own feet. On 18th December the Battalion again moved off at 9 a.m. through

Locon, arriving at Vieille Chapelle, a distance of ten miles, at 1 pm. Though rain fell earlier in the day the Battalion got in with dry jackets. This stage of the march was the most interesting that the Battalion had done as yet, for everything spoke of its approach to the front, especially the passing of British and French units that had been in the line. One batch of soldiers was the tattered remnant of a battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles, under the command of the Transport Officer, himself wounded and the last survivor of the officers of the battalion. This brought the war very close. To quote from one of the diaries: "We are now in the zone of war and the village shows the marks of war. Here is a church with the roof blown off, there a cottage razed to the ground, and away in the distance the cannons boom with a muffled roar. Thus the 4th Seaforths sleep their first night under the sound of guns."

Here the Battalion made its first acquaintance with Brigadier General C. E. Johnson, commanding the Dehra Dun Brigade, under whom it was to serve, who came over that evening to have a chat with the officers of his new unit.

Before closing this chapter, it is of interest to record what Brigadier-General D. A. MacFarlane says of the Battalion: "As an old commander of the Seaforth and Cameron Infantry Brigade for more than three years preceding the Great War, and at the time of mobilization and early training at Bedford, my vivid recollection of the 4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders is that of a battalion in which there was always an excellent tone and a high feeling of esprit de corps. With an enthusiastic and keen Commanding Officer, a Second-in-Command - afterwards to command - of unbounded energy and unfailing good humour, and an Adjutant belonging to the county who thoroughly understood and appreciated every man in the Battalion, it was no wonder, perhaps, that they were one of the very first Territorial battalions to be considered fit to take their place in the front line in France. On the afternoon of the first day of mobilization I was astonished to find the numbers that had already arrived from far and near, and this in a country which is wild and mountainous, with but few roads, and very little available rail communication. At Bedford, with the same zeal and energy they set to work to get themselves ready for war in the shortest possible time, and to my pride and regret they passed from under my command, a splendid lot of officers and men."

The following is an extract from 'A History of the 4th Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders ' Compiled by Lieut-Colonel M M Haldane, illustrations by Captain Finlay Mackinnon, published by H F and G. Witherby (1928)

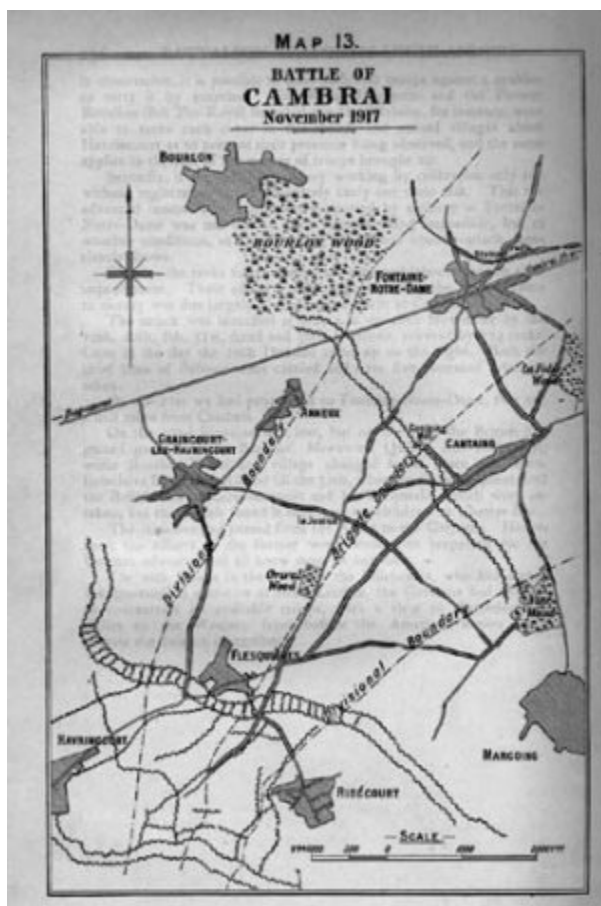


On the night of 21 st September 1917 the 4th Seaforths were relieved by the 5th Seaforths and went back to Siege Camp. On the 24th it went into billets at Poperinghe, when Lieutenant-Colonel Unthank went on leave and Major Jobson assumed command. The following day a draft of one hundred and sixty-two other ranks arrived, followed on the 26th by a further one hundred and thirty from the 2/4th Battalion. Two days later the Battalion marched at 9.30 pm, entrained at 10.30 pm, and reached Bapaume at 10.30 a.m. on the morning of the 29th. Thence it went to huts at Courcelles-le-Comte for training.

On the march through Bapaume, No. 4 Company's cooker was upset, and the dinners were strewn all over the road. Nothing deterred, the cook - always known as "John" - collected and returned the bulk of it. When remonstrated with, his sole reply was that it was "good enough for the likes of them."

At Courcelles, Second Lieutenants E. A. Mackintosh, L. S. Gander, H. Paterson and E. J. Martin joined. On 4th October the officers drew with the sergeants at football, with a score of 1 goal all.

On 5th October the Battalion embused on the Courcelles - Hamelin court road and relieved the 5th Yorkshire Regiment in the front line between Guemappe and Vis-en-Artois, astride the Arras-Cambrai road. Nos. 1 and 2 Companies were in front line, No. 4 in support and No. 3 in reserve at Marliere Caves. The 9th The Royal Scots were on the right and the 12th Division on the left. The weather was wet and cold, but the line here had been for long a quiet one.



Battle of Cambrai - November 1917

This state of affairs was not to go on for long. There is a story of a "Jock" who had arrived with the 51st Division in a new area. Meeting a "padre" he, with suitable apologies, asked for a match. The chaplain willingly complied, and when the soldier had lit his cigarette he turned to his benefactor and said: "I've something to tell ye, sir. We've arrived, an' ye're for hell noo."

It was feared that the enemy might fall back on the Drocourt - Queant line, and that first night the Battalion patrols were out looking for the enemy position. They soon found it, with the result that the suspicions of the Germans were aroused. Enemy aeroplanes came over, flying down the line of the trenches to observe what might be going on. On 7th October a raid by the division on the left brought retaliation from the German side, and Second Lieutenant G. B. Simpson and two other ranks were killed in Southern Avenue by shell fire. On the 9th Nos. 3 and 4 Companies relieved Nos. 1 and 2 in the front line. The enemy shelled Cavalry Trench just after the relief, killing one and wounding four men. On 12th October there was a trench-mortar bombardment of one of the forward posts. It was succeeded by an enemy raid at 4.30 am and, although no prisoners were taken by them, seven men were wounded. Some Germans were killed, and they left one wounded prisoner. The 9th The Royal Scots were less fortunate, for they had several casualties.

On the 13th the Battalion was relieved by the 7th Argyll and Sutherland. The right half Battalion went into shelters near Marliere Caves and the left to Carlisle Huts, near the Arras-Bapaume road.

These Nissen huts were constructed of standardized sections of corrugated iron, with wooden floors, which were put up in large numbers over the wide area desolated by the Germans in their retreat after the Somme offensive.

In spite of the desolation of the countryside it was a pleasant change from Flanders. The nights were clear and starry and the days were bright with the tints and sweet with the scents of a fine autumn. Training was again in full swing and football had displaced cricket. In the League games the 4th Seaforth were beaten by the 7th Black Watch.

On 21st October the Battalion relieved the 7th Argyll and Sutherland in the line, Nos. 1 and 2 Companies in front line and Nos. 3 and 4 in support and reserve respectively. One man was killed and one wounded by shell fire after the relief but otherwise everything was very quiet. The 2nd Royal Lancasters came up in relief on the 28th.

The Battalion were taken in buses to Izel-les-Hameaux the details going by train and the transport by road. This proved to be one of the pleasantest rest billets that the Battalion had occupied.

Several old officers had by now rejoined and new-comers had arrived. These were Captains H. P. T. Gray, A. K. Fraser and G. W. K. Macpherson, Lieutenants Macaulay and MacGregor, and Second Lieutenants Roberts, McMonnies, J. Christie and H. C. Bessent. There was also a draft of fifteen other ranks.

The Battalion trained hard in the mornings and kept mind and body fit in the afternoons with games. There were football leagues and inter-company cross-country runs and boxing. No. 2 Company won the cross - country races. On 12th November the XVII Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Fergusson, at a Brigade Parade presented medal ribbons for the operations round Ypres. The Brigade held sports on the anniversary of the taking of Beaumont Hamel, which was observed as a holiday. The men had special dinners, and there was an entertainment at the Divisional Theatre.

On 16th November the officers gave what proved to be the final performance of the Officers' Concert Party; for few, alas, of the performers were left when the Battalion next came out to rest. It was a most amusing performance, for the Party was a good one.

That day the transport left at 10 pm by road for Boisleuxau-Mont. The following day the Battalion, less its surplus personnel, proceeded to Bapaume by rail and went into tents. On the 18th it moved on again to Railway Camp at Lechelle Next day the transport was sent to a field between Neuville and Metz-en-Couture, while the Battalion went into cellars in the ruined village of Metz.

For a considerable time there had been a feeling that some big operation was impending There were vague rumours about tanks, and speculation ran high, but nothing was known, for the secret was well kept. By now, however, it was known that the British army was going to make a surprise attack on the famous Hindenburg Line. Large numbers of tanks (an arm with which the 4th Seaforths had never yet co-operated) were to be employed to plough lanes for the infantry through the enemy's defences. The 51st Division was given the most important task of pushing right through to Cantaing and Fontaine-Notre-Dame, to open a way for the cavalry, who were to exploit the break-through. To the 154th Infantry Brigade was allotted the completion of this task, and the 4th Seaforths were to be in Brigade reserve.

All movements were made at night, with the greatest care that nothing should betray to the Germans that any unusual massing of troops was being made against this part of their line, and by day everything was hidden away in woods and villages.

On 20th November, at 6.20 am, the 152nd Brigade on the right and the 153rd on the left opened the assault of the 51st Division, advancing behind the tanks, which crushed the wire and cleared the trenches with small-calibre shell and machinegun fire. By 9.30 am the whole of the front-line system of enemy trenches was reported captured, so that the 154th Brigade, which had moved out of its billets at Metz-en-Couture, was not called on that day, and returned to its cellars in Metz. The Division had established itself on a line south of Flesquieres, where it was held up by uncut wire, and was unable to advance against the second line. The delay before this village was in great part due to the heroism of a German officer, who continued single-handed to serve one of the field guns posted there until he was shot. All honour to him for his gallant stand! But, as was expected, the enemy evacuated Flesquieres during the night.

The morning of 21st November was dark, wet and cold. At 4 am the 4th Seaforths took up a position in the old British front-line system. At 6.30 am the 7th Argyll and Sutherland could be seen advancing in front, so Brigadier-General K. G. Buchanan gave instructions for the Battalion to move in support of them.

By 7.15 am the Battalion had passed La Justice, through which ran the front line of the 152nd Infantry Brigade. Beyond this the advance of the 7th Argyll and Sutherland and of the 4th Gordons on their right was stopped by the heavily wired trench of the Cantaing line and by machine-gun fire from Anneux; because the 62nd Division on the left had failed to advance beyond Graincourt. No. 4 Company therefore was moved up into a gap between the Argyll and Sutherland and Gordons, with No. 2 Company in support to the right of La Justice, while the remaining companies halted on the road behind La Justice.

Captain Gray led his company forward until it was held up by the trench line, and especially by Cantaing Mill, which sheltered two field guns, besides machine guns. Rifle fire also was directed on the Battalion from the village of Cantaing on the right, as well as indirect fire from Anneux, which still was held by the Germans, on the left.

Sergeant A. Ross, No. 1 Company, was sent up with a few men to silence three machine guns that were causing casualties from the direction of Cantaing. These he successfully drove back into the village, putting one out of action; but rifle fire prevented him from crossing the heavy belts of wire round the village.

A squadron of the Queen's Bays had come up and were awaiting developments, but the advance had come to a standstill. Enemy aeroplanes flew low over the ranks lying extended in the open, and poured machine-gun fire on them.

This part of the chalk region of Artois, which resembles the down country in the south of England, had gone out of cultivation. The ground rises slightly for about 200 yards in front of La Justice, and then a long spur runs in the direction of Fontaine, which itself lies on slightly rising ground beyond a shallow valley. The valley marks the line of the main Bapaume-Cambrai road, which at this point crossed the front diagonally. On the left towers Bourlon Wood; on the right, beyond Cantaing, and facing Bourlon Wood, lies La Folie Wood, also in German occupation. The distance to Fontaine-Notre-Dame is 4000 yards over ground exposed to fire from the front and from both flanks.

After Sergeant Ross had returned wounded from driving the Germans machine guns into Cantaing, enfilade fire from that direction ceased. Later in the morning the 62nd Division took Anneux. Meanwhile Captain Gray was hotly engaged with the Germans holding the Cantaing line, and the

rifle fire was intense. He himself was wounded at about 1 pm, while Lieutenant E. A. Mackintosh was killed and Lieutenant MacGregor wounded.

At about noon tanks appeared, advancing on the right, and, under orders from Corps Headquarters, the Officers Commanding the 4th Seaforths and 7th Argyll and Sutherland, who had established joint headquarters in La Justice Farm, sent up orders for the advance to be resumed, but whether or not they reached the front line before the tanks is doubtful.

No. 1 Company, under Captain "Ray" Macdonald, which was lying in the road close to Battalion Headquarters, was directed to advance with the leftmost of the tanks straight on Fontaine. No. 2 was directed to join in the advance as the tanks passed them.

The tanks soon came under fire from the two field guns in Cantaing Mill, and two were put out of action by direct hits when crossing the sunken road running from La Justice to Cantaing. The rest, however, went on.

No. 1 Company advanced straight up past La Justice in company with the left tank and the attack was launched. Shortly afterwards the first prisoners came in from the Mill, where Nos. 2 and 4 Companies were engaged. The two field guns and the strong body of machine gunners there had been captured, and the advance swept on.

Two platoons of No. 4 Company, however, bore off towards the right in pursuit of some Germans, and became involved in the fighting in Cantaing, where they joined hands with the 4th Gordons, who also were attacking the village. They did not rejoin the Battalion till the following day. The 7th Argyll and Sutherland captured their portion of the Cantaing line and also rounded up Germans from dug-outs in two sunken roads beyond.

Meanwhile Captain Macdonald led forward No. 1 Company with the tanks, which now were advancing on Fontaine under a heavy fire from rifles and machine guns. The village was covered by a line of machine guns, posted along its outer edge.

The tanks advanced straight for the village and then wheeled along it, firing into it and silencing the machine guns. But an advance of 4000 yards under concentrated rifle fire from all sides had sadly depleted No. 1 Company. Captain "Ray" Macdonald himself fell, mortally wounded, forty yards ahead of his company, whilst still three or four hundred yards from the village; but, fired by his splendid example, the gallant remnant pressed on until the village was reached. Here there was no opposition, for the tanks had done their work. Led by the Company Sergeant-Major the company advanced up the main street and formed up at the farther end, facing Cambrai. All the officers and most of the noncommissioned officers were killed or wounded, and of the one hundred and twenty-five men who passed La Justice to the attack only forty were left.

The 7th Argyll and Sutherland, who had reached the north end of the village, had suffered almost equally heavily. They had captured the trench system and fought along the sunken roads and among the dug-outs, and had taken many prisoners. They now pushed through the village.

No. 2 Company and the two remaining platoons of No. 4 Company moved on together after the capture of Cantaing Mill and the trench line to right and left and joined No.1 on the Cambrai road. All had suffered heavy casualties: 375 men in the ranks had passed La Justice to the attack; now they numbered 120. The total strength of the three companies was less than the nominal strength of one.

Darkness was coming on now, and Captain C. H. Harris, commanding No. 2 Company, as senior officer in Fontaine, was placed in command of the combined force in the village. He at once set about the consolidation of the position. A few prisoners had been taken, but they were all non-combatants, engaged on sanitation or supply services. Except for the machine gunners who had been defending the village, no fighting troops were encountered and the exits of the village were open.

The inhabitants of Fontaine were delighted to see the British troops, for they had not had a happy time under German rule. The proprietor of the cafe opened up a hidden store of wine in his garden and gave some to the troops. Captain Harris issued it as if it had been a rum ration.

One man wrote thus: "Our reception in the village was a very cordial one. Men, women and children came out of the houses, and recognizing us, they made a great fuss. They called us 'Scotchias' and many of the men were kissed by the womenfolk. The men were well treated, receiving beer, wine, coffee and various kinds of food. The people could not do enough for us."

The night passed quietly. Rations were sent up by the Battalion, but no ammunition could be obtained, though urgent demands for it were made on Brigade Headquarters. Unfortunately all the regimental ammunition wagons had been collected into a Brigade Ammunition Column, and through some misunderstanding this, the only means of replenishing supplies, was not available.

About 10 pm a German wagon drove down the main road into Fontaine; the captured horses replaced two that had belonged to the Battalion and drew a cooker for the remainder of the war. They were in wretched condition, for the Germans were already short of fodder, but when well fed and cared for they turned out to be a useful pair. This wagon was one of a convoy that came up the road to Fontaine. The escort only discovered that something was wrong when they found across the road four large trees that had been cut down by the retreating Germans. While they were debating what this might portend the 4th Seaforths tried to envelop them right and left. Unfortunately one of the scouts fired too soon, on which the convoy turned about and made for Cambrai. Rapid fire was opened and one wagon taken. The rest disappeared in the darkness; but the last wagon had taken fire and lit up the retreat of the remainder.

When darkness fell the two battalions were disposed, roughly, as follows:

Joint Headquarters . . . La Justice
3 Companies, 4th Seaforth Highlanders Fontaine
2 Companies, 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Fontaine
2 Companies, 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders . . . South-west of Fontaine
1 Company, 4th Seaforth Highlanders La Justice

This last company was moved under cover of dusk into a position astride the captured Cantaing-Anneux Trench line to guard the exposed left flank.

Late in the evening orders were received from the Division for one of these two battalions to hold Fontaine and for the other to be withdrawn. It was therefore eventually decided that the two companies of the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders then in Fontaine should be relieved by the company.

Of the 4th Seaforths which had moved from La Justice into the Cantaing-Anneux line, the 4th Seaforths would then be solely responsible for Fontaine and their Headquarters would move there.

Those who were watching in the front line heard signs of great activity at Cambrai, which was only four kilometres away. Trains arrived in rapid succession, and a great deal of shunting seemed to be going on. These signs were read to mean that a counter-attack was coming and troops being rushed up.



From Hill 60 Looking Towards Kemmel

By about 6.15 on the morning of 22nd November No. 3 Company, with Headquarters, were settled in Fontaine. Light was just breaking as they arrived. At the same time a fleet of enemy aeroplanes appeared, and swooped and circled over the village for three hours, like gulls waiting for the nets to be emptied. This delayed the relief and made it more difficult.

No. 3 Company got into position, however, and the greater part of the two Argyll and Sutherland companies got back to the sunken road already mentioned, although it was found impossible to relieve two platoons who were holding an osierbed almost adjoining the south-west end of the village.

Patrols during the night had failed to get into contact with the enemy, and Lieutenant Campbell, who took out the Battalion scouts on an extended patrol in the morning, had no better success. At about 8 am, however, three German deserters came in. They said they belonged to a German division on the march from Douai, which had moved off at 10 pm the night before on receipt of sudden orders. They added that the division was just arriving and was preparing to attack.

Even as this disquieting information arrived, a messenger came in from Brigade Headquarters to say that a conference of Brigade Commanders was to be held at 10 am at a neighbouring Brigade Headquarters to discuss further operations. The message continued that the 22nd was to be a day of rest, especially for the Air Force. It was destined to be anything but a day of rest!

The position now was a precarious one. The village of Fontaine was not so large as it looked on the map. Houses lined each side of the long main street, and there were some more up a side street leading to the railway station. The church lay at the eastern end of the village towards Cambrai. There was, roughly, a parallelogram 3500 yards in perimeter to defend. Unfortunately, lack of men prevented the garrison extending far enough to the north to get a proper field of fire.

It was obvious that no help was forthcoming to meet the enemy attacks, and the remnant of the Battalion was practically isolated. The division on the left not having succeeded in carrying Bourlon Wood, and La Folie Wood being still in the enemy's hands, Fontaine lay "like a nut gripped between two crackers". The ground was broken by quarries and sunken roads, which made much dead ground.

The village was thus defended:

Four machine guns (154th Brigade Company) were posted in a German trench facing Bourlon Wood.

No. 3 Company occupied a quarry north of the village.

No. 1 Company was posted just north of the main road at the eastern end of the village.

No. 2 and the remnant of No. 4 Company held south of the main road facing east, with a flank refused towards La Folie Wood.

A machine gun was posted on the Cambrai road at the western end of the village. One machine gun was posted south of the village in a position to fire across the main road to Cambrai and to La Folie Wood.

There was a considerable gap between Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, of which the centre was the railway station. Into this the two platoons of No. 4 Company that had joined the 4th Gordons in the attack on Cantaing were sent when they arrived at 9 am. They consisted of only one officer, one sergeant and about fifteen men!

Battalion Headquarters in the centre of the village was the only reserve.

At 9.30 am, scouts confirmed the information of the German deserters. Half an hour earlier the enemy had begun to shell the end of the village nearest to Cambrai, and now lengthened out and covered the whole village. A party of the inhabitants who had collected in the street were hustled back to the rear, but the majority preferred to hide in their cellars.

The Germans were massing, and the 4th Seaforths sent up an S.O.S., to which, owing to the thick mist, the artillery made no response. One of the artillery liaison officers took a horse and rode back to direct the guns on the area where the scouts had reported that the enemy were moving, and he was just in time to break up the first attack from the north of the village. It was, indeed, a stroke of good luck, for this was the last effective artillery support that the Battalion was to have. Fortunately the enemy artillery fire was equally ineffective, being directed on the village, where only the Aid Post remained. The Adjutant, Captain Peverell, with part of the Headquarter personnel, had gone to the position on the Cambrai road, and the Commanding Officer, with the rest, had taken up a position at the station. Almost immediately afterwards what had been Battalion Headquarters was completely demolished.

The Germans renewed the attack along the whole line, from Bourlon Wood on the left to La Folie Wood on the right, enveloping both flanks. The four machine guns on the left were put out of action as soon as they showed themselves, and the enemy, advancing up a sunken road, penetrated the position. A short fight ensued, but the handful of men there were soon overpowered. The left had gone and the Germans were in the empty village. No. 3 Company were in the quarry, whence a good view could be had. After the artillery broke up the first attack No. 3 had repelled two more before they themselves were driven out, but, by a bayonet charge, recaptured the quarry. Captain

"Andy" Fraser could see the Germans advancing into both ends of the village. Accompanied by his Acting Sergeant-Major, he tried to get touch with the troops on his right, and at once met the Commanding Officer, who was looking for him. Neither was in a position to help the other and they parted, never to meet again. The situation was hopeless. Ammunition and bombs were nearly exhausted. At noon Captain Fraser withdrew through the village, under a heavy fire from both flanks, and ordered a further retirement to the sunken road, a few hundred yards in rear, which, as already mentioned, was held by the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Lieutenant Macauley, who was laying a telephone wire, was there, and collected and reorganized the Company. Captain Fraser was seen going back with four or five men to the house where his company headquarters were. The house was surrounded; but not till Captain Fraser fell, mortally wounded, and then, only after bitter fighting, was it captured.

At the east end of the village Captain Peverell had made a desperate stand on the Cambrai road. Here, assisted by Sergeant Robb of the Brigade Machine Gun Company, who formerly had been in the Battalion, he held on till hardly an unwounded man remained. The Germans were fast gaining ground, and when further resistance became a matter only of minutes Captain Peverell ordered those who could to save themselves. He himself was badly wounded in the leg and refused to be moved. None the less he continued the fight until the Germans were on him, thus covering the retirement of the survivors. Captain Peverell gives the following graphic account of what befell him after he had been taken prisoner:

"It was later in the day that a small party of several Germans - I had numerous visitors during the fifteen hours I lay out - debated whether or not to 'give me another'. Opinions seemed equally divided. I hoped that it would not be a bayonet, but something quick. Fortunately some others arrived and gave a casting vote against the proposal. Another one later on amused himself by walking up and down about ten yards away from me for about ten minutes with a stick bomb in his hand. His amusement was at least equalled by my lack thereof. Others helped themselves to my field-glass, etc. One sportsman divided what money I had into two parts, kept one for himself, and gave me back the other; an officer saluted, had a chat, and, quite unsolicited, said he would write to Cox's and tell them I was a prisoner.

"Once the whole thing was over the situation was not without interest, if it had not been for the intense cold and the depressing thought of having to sojourn in durance vile 'for the duration'. It was interesting to watch for once, on the wrong side, the progress of the battle and the relief at night of the enemy troops who had carried out the counter-attack. A particularly distressing thought was the uncertainty as to what had happened to one's friends."

Meanwhile the party from Headquarters were still at the railway station when Lieutenant-Colonel Unthank went to see Captain Fraser. They numbered only some six or seven under Sergeant Grierson, and were occupying some houses near the station. On his return Lieutenant-Colonel Unthank found that the houses had been attacked. The little party had beaten off the enemy, but Sergeant Grierson had been killed. It was evident that the party must either be surrounded or fall back. Step by step it withdrew across the main road where Headquarters had been, then past the church, till finally it emerged on the southern edge of the village. The Commanding Officer had been hitherto conspicuous for his cool indifference to danger, walking about without a helmet, stick in hand, encouraging his men. Now some Germans called on him to surrender, but he shot down two or three and got away. His party were only just in time, for across the open country, stretching from the edge of the village to La Folie Wood, could be seen wave after wave of Germans steadily advancing, the nearest not a hundred yards away. The party hurriedly collected, poured in one

minute's rapid fire and doubled for cover. They had to cross the shallow valley and gain the sunken road leading to Cantaing, 200 yards away on the farther slope.

No sooner, however, did they reach the open clear of the a village than they came under rifle and machine-gun fire from the Germans on the other side also; for, except at the point where they had come through, the Germans were in complete possession of the village.

The remnant of the Battalion from the right half of the village had fallen back to the sunken road leading to Cantaing, and from there checked any further advance of the enemy. It was 2.30 in the afternoon when the last man from the village reached this road.

Lieutenant A. Macdonnell, R.F.A., who was Artillery Liaison Officer with the Battalion at Cambrai, gives a vivid account of it in three letters:

"What a battle! I've seen and done so much in the last three days that I haven't time to do more than give you an outline now, which I will try and fill up with details later on. All the old 'shock troops' were out on the warpath, and I was liaison to an infantry battalion [the 4th Seaforths] as it went up to attack, and thus I advanced with five different lots.

"The old Division have done, as ever, marvellously. We advanced seven and a half miles in depth into the enemy's lines, took 30 guns and about 2000 prisoners, and finished up on the evening of the 21st with a surprise attack and an impromptu show that took a village no one ever thought we would. Quite apart from that there have been the most astonishing sights - tanks advancing in lines and waves, cavalry galloping across fields with drawn swords and jumping trenches, etc. The last village we captured was intact and without a damaged roof even, and we rescued about sixty civilians. The latter were superb - fell on our necks, rushed off for secret supplies of food for us, and shouted 'Vive l'angleterre!' Finally yesterday [22nd] as a climax, the most exciting and hectic day I've ever spent, not even excepting the Somme and Ypres, when the Huns counter-attacked the village from three sides in great strength and drove us out.

"Curiously enough I wasn't a bit afraid, and found myself in command of 50 or 60 Jocks and armed with a rifle. I led a most spectacular rush up the main street, only to find that our right flank was in the air, and then constituted myself O.C. right defence of our village. We held up the Huns for about half an hour, till the centre ran out of ammunition and fell back, whereupon the Huns got up as one man and attacked. We fired off all our ammunition retreating, and eventually ran like blazes! We had a most exciting run across country, and finally tumbled into a sunken road and lined up to hold it. I was then asked to go back for help and had another run across country to the nearest headquarters. After that I found that I had been relieved, but the relieving officer hadn't liked to come up so far, and stayed two miles back overnight!"

He then goes on to a more detailed story:

"On the evening of the 20th the attack started off, preceded by an 'unregistered' barrage, which was wonderfully good, lines of tanks and low-flying aeroplanes firing machine guns. There was a tremendous barrage of smoke shell on the left, with wonderful sparks and phosphorous effects, and it made altogether a splendid sight. About two hours after, Major Thom Davidson appeared on horseback to reconnoitre battery positions, and everyone thought the cavalry was coming, which caused great excitement.

"An hour later the second wave battalion went through, and I went up with their Colonel about two miles forward to a very good dug-out. Then I tried to get into touch with the liaison man on my right, but found he had been killed by a stray shell. I then took on liaison with his battalion as well, and so had to work pretty hard between the two. I got a good sleep that night, and everyone was very hospitable with food and drink.

"The objective for that day was a village on a crest, and all was going well, with tanks well in front, when two anti-tank guns started to fire from the village [Flesquieres], and did wonderful work, knocking out every tank with direct hits. So the village couldn't be got that night, but was almost surrounded, and early on the 21st the Huns retired, and the third battalion [7th Argyll and Sutherland] went through and again I went on.

"This time was extraordinary, as we were over the ridge and could see the whole valley and the attack coming down. Battalion Headquarters was a flag stuck in the middle of a field with a row of officers watching through field-glasses; the infantry was advancing in lines and columns and parties everywhere. Battalions in reserve were streaming up behind, and cavalry patrols were going along the ridges. We had a good deal of machine-gun fire as we went forward, but we fetched up at a farmhouse [La Justice], where we established ourselves.

"Reports came in very soon which made it clear that no more could be done owing to three villages in front, so the Colonel of the infantry and I went forward to see the situation. After going about 500 yards they got machine guns and rifle fire on to us, and we lay in ruts on the road and tried to camouflage ourselves as pancakes for about twenty minutes, and then, being fed up, got up and ran like hares back again - and we were quite glad to be back again! After that we were less ambitious and stayed at Battalion Headquarters at the farm. At about half-past three we happened to glance back and saw rows of tanks advancing, so it was decided to have an impromptu attack, which was a roaring success, and captured all the villages in half an hour, the third being the ultimate objective of the Division-eight miles from the start.

"The next excitement was the arrival of civilians from the village, boys and women, tremendously bucked about it, and we had a long chatter with them. They were wonderfully plucky and cheery, but they almost went off their heads with excitement when, at my suggestion, their kit and baggage was carried to the rear by half a dozen Boche prisoners, of which we had hundreds. It seemed a fitting way of turning the tables on the Huns.

"Further thrills were in store when a Boche ammunition wagon drove peacefully down into the village without seeing our men. They opened fire, killed a driver, set the wagon on fire and captured seven horses, while the blazing wagon went on at full gallop, drawn by the two surviving beasts.

"Next morning another battalion [the remainder of the 4th Seaforths] came up, and on I went again up the village itself [Fontaine-Notre-Dame]. The C.O. of the infantry [Lieutenant Colonel Unthank] was a splendid man whom I had been with before, and he actually rode forward at the head of the men - another unique sight. We got up about 7 am, and I found another gunner officer, with whom I established an R.F.A Mess ! The village was quite intact, and we swanked in armchairs and used cups and plates for breakfast.

"The Hun aeroplanes came over and flew round and round the village and fired machine guns at us when we showed our noses. So we didn't show them. At about half-past ten he started shelling the village, and at 11 am reports came in that he was attacking from the left. I enclose a diagram."

[Note.-The diagram is not published, but the following references to map 13 will enable the reader to follow the account:

Point A is about the letter C in the words Cambrai - 1.5 mile.

Point B is at the railway station.

Point C is at the end of the village that points like a finger at La Folie Wood.

Point D is between points A and C]

"The first attack from the left drove the line across the road at point A, so the Adjutant went up and got back to the north side, whilst the C.O. went off to point B with some more men. The day was so misty that the S.O.S. was put up and not seen, so the other gunner got on to the C.O.'s horse, which we saddled up most feverishly, and galloped off under machinegun fire back to the batteries - most spectacular. I got a rifle and ammunition and dashed out into the main street, feeling horribly frightened for a moment, for as I reached the street a shell went through the 'R.F.A. Mess'. In the street I found about fifty odd, with no officer, at a loose end. It occurred to me to give some orders, and to my surprise the men obeyed me!

"After that I began to recall O.T.C. days, and started establishing posts in the side streets, and took the rest in a wild dash up the road to A, to help the Adjutant [Captain Peverell], who was in a tight corner. We got there and had a most hectic time in a furious barrage, with the Hun machine guns chipping bricks all round us. The barrage got too bad and was impossible, so we retired in the direction of C. to find another converging attack in the direction of the arrows. [From the S.E.] So we lined the road and held him up for about half an hour, when our ammunition began to give out.



Fontaine Notre Dame

"Our right flank was in the air and I went off to get help and brought another twenty men to prolong our line, but suddenly the centre, D, caved in and the whole Boche line got up and broke into the village.

"We loosed off the remainder of our stuff at them, and then, hotly pursued, we bunked off across the fields with hundreds of shots at us! How we ran for about 1000 yards! but we had not many casualties. We stopped and reorganized in a sunk road, and after posting the men I went to try to secure assistance. I ran like mad over the open, with a machine gun spurting shot round me. I got through and got help. Eventually we were relieved, and I had a huge drink and went to bed. Quite a brisk day's work. I was so pleased that I didn't lose my head at all from the moment that the men did what I told them.

"Altogether it was a wonderful show, but it was an awful pity that we ran out of ammunition. The C.O., on the left, fought to the last gasp, and was surrounded by half a dozen Huns, who told him to surrender. He seized a rifle and went for them club fashion, bald-headed, laid some out and got away. The Adjutant fought to the end, but was wounded in the leg and was taken prisoner. I understand the doctor was also taken but got away and rejoined another division. It is our first really big attack on the West Front, and I think everyone is feeling quite bucked about it."

A third letter says: "That morning in Fontaine, Peverell and I had a very cheery breakfast together. P. was suffering from rheumatism, but was most lively and cheery trying to interrogate Boche prisoners. He raised a good laugh against himself when he asked one man in German, 'What division are you?' The prisoner replied in English, 'Five days ago.'

"When the situation grew acute he went to readjust the position, and later I joined him there. Later it grew quite untenable with shell fire and so we hopped it. He was roaring with laughter, as though it were the greatest joke in the world. Afterwards we separated and he took the centre position, and I understand he went on fighting until all his ammunition was used up and nearly all the men were out. He was wounded in the legs and very few of his men got away."

As soon as darkness came on, the Battalion moved back to Flesquieres on relief by the 7th Black Watch, and on the 23rd went back to its old billets in Metz. While it was marching to Metz the Division again attacked Fontaine, this time employing a whole brigade, which got into the village, but was driven out in two hours. On the 24th the Guards also made an unsuccessful attempt. The men then coined the adage "What the 4th Seaforths can't hold, no one can hold!"

The casualties were very heavy:

OFFICERS

Killed: Captains A. K. Fraser and A. M. Macdonald, Lieutenants E. A. Mackintosh and N. Sutherland, Second Lieutenant S. M. McMonnies.

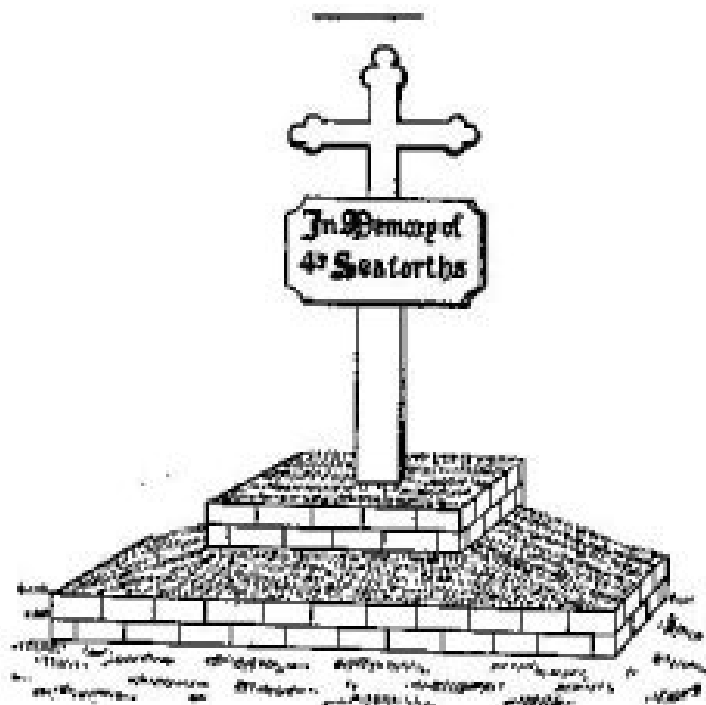
Wounded: Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Unthank, Captain H. P. T. Gray, Lieutenant D. E. F. MacGregor, Second Lieutenants N. F. Swan and H. Paterson.

Wounded and Missing: Captain T. H. Peverell.

OTHER RANKS

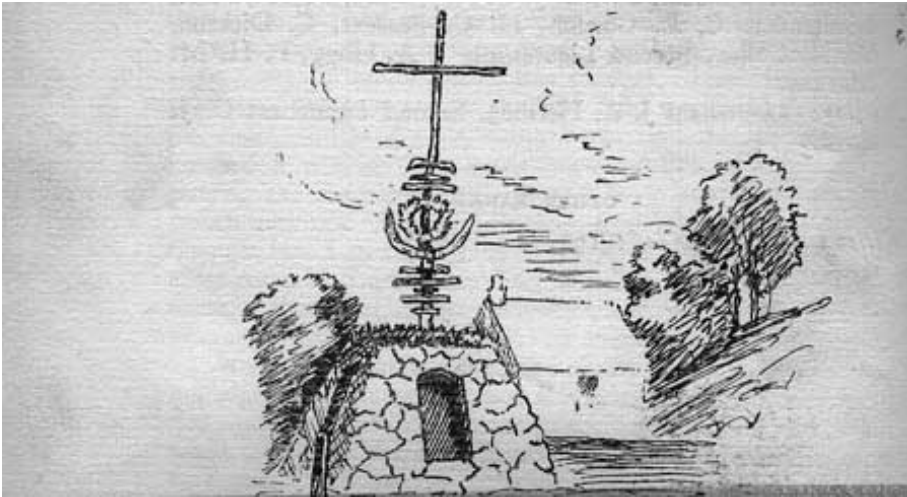
Killed: 30. Wounded: 92. Missing: 86.

That the number of the missing was not greater was due to the work of the Medical Officer, Captain Green, and his assistants. Not only did they have an abnormally large number of cases to deal with, but the distances over which the wounded had to be carried were greater than usual, and, what was still more serious, they were under heavy fire all the time. Yet, unaided, they cleared the field on the first day, and on the second worked to the last minute. Fortunately on that day Captain Green had established his Aid Post in Fontaine, where he and his medical staff, helped by Captain Potter, the Roman Catholic chaplain, were dressing wounds and dispatching men to the rear till the enemy were in the village. So successful were they in their exertions that only those whom it was impossible to move were left. Finally when departure was imperative, if Captain Green was to comply with his orders and avoid capture, he reluctantly gave the order to go. Sergeant Robertson of the Aid Post could not, however, endure the idea of abandoning the wounded; with Pioneer-Sergeant "Sandy" Macdonald, Orderly Room Corporal Mott and Corporal Learmonth (R.A.M.C., water duties) he returned to the Aid Post, and while tending the wounded, all were taken prisoners.



Cairn At Neuvechep

Captain "Ray" Macdonald and some of the fallen were buried in Orival Wood, between La Justice and Flesquieres but the majority could not be buried, and lie in unknown graves. On the anniversary of the battle the following year the Battalion marched to Fontaine and erected a cross at the western end, on which were recorded the names of all who were known to have fallen in the battle. Some of those who were reported missing were not included, because there still was reason to hope that they might yet be found among the returned prisoners of war. Owing to the enormous price demanded for the site, and the high cost of maintaining this monument on the spot, it was decided after the war to bring it to Dingwall, where it now stands, just outside the station. As the original wooden cross had perished, a new one had to be put in its place.



Cambrai Cross

Who shall say which of the acts herein recorded was the finest - Captain "Ray" Macdonald's advance, Captain "Andy" Fraser's defence of the quarry and his fight through the village, Captain Peverell's stand on the Cambrai road, or Colonel Unthank's coolness in an impossible situation? Two of these were killed, one was wounded and taken prisoner, and one, though wounded, brought away his little party at the last moment. Captain Peverell was recommended for the V.C. As he was wounded and a prisoner of war it was difficult to get him the recognition his gallant action had deserved, but, later, he was awarded the D.S.O. Captain Macdonald, who was the son of the Rector of Dingwall Academy, had been awarded the D.S.O. for his services at Ypres - had he lived he was surely destined for further honours.

It was hoped against hope that Captain Fraser might have survived, and it was not definitely known that he was killed till after the Armistice. His reward is in the memory of his gallant deeds, worthy of the old race and of the father from whom he sprang. Many acts of heroism must be for ever unrecorded. Many a life was lost in the endeavour to bring in wounded comrades; and the Germans of today - like their ancestors in the days of Gustavus Adolphus - learned at what a cost the Scots might be driven from their ground.

After a night spent in billets at Metz the Battalion marched on the 24th to the rail-head at Ytres and entrained at 8 pm. It detrained at Treux and reached its billets at Ribemont at 3 am. on 26th November. Here it settled down to a round of recuperation and training.

This was not to last for long. On St Andrew's Day the Germans made their great counter-attack and broke the British line. The Battalion entrained at 8 pm at Edge Hill and reached Bapaume at 1.00 am, whence it marched to huts at Rocquigny, which it reached at 5.30 am. At 10 am it went on to shelters at Bertincourt. .

At 1.30 pm on 2nd December the Battalion went into the old British front line, the transport being sent to Lebucquiere. On the 3rd it relieved a brigade of the 2nd Division on the extreme left of the battle area, facing Morchies. The position taken over was astride the Hindenburg Line, with the canal on the right. Though the relief was quiet, Captain Green, the Medical Officer, and several others were wounded. Fierce fighting had been going on here since 30th November, and a German attack had been beaten off immediately before the relief.

On the 4th the enemy tried to rush the position between Nos. 3 and 4 Companies at 3.30 pm. Thanks to Major Jobson, who was commanding the front line, this attack was badly broken up. Battalion Headquarters was in direct communication with an artillery group, and, with Major Jobson acting as observation officer, they were enabled to direct a mass of artillery on to the Germans. The Group Commander had unlimited ammunition and controlled a large number of guns, including heavies, howitzers and field guns. He put down a sudden terrific bombardment and, later, started a rolling barrage, and so thoroughly did he deceive the Germans that they turned their guns on to their own trenches! After this there was no further trouble; and when, late at night, orders came to withdraw, the movement was carried out without any interference. The 152nd Brigade were holding a position in rear, through which the 154th retired to Fremicourt, where it went into huts.

On 8th December a draft of fifty-two other ranks arrived ; next day Lieutenant-Colonel Unthank went on leave.

A private who joined the Battalion at Fremicourt has left an interesting story of his journey from home and his first impressions of the front.

"We left Folkestone," he says, "and crossed the Channel to Boulogne, whence we motored to the Headquarter Depot at Etaples. After two days there we entrained for Albert, where we saw the church which has been destroyed, and from which is still suspended the Madonna and Child. From Albert we marched to Bouzencourt, where we were billeted for a week.

"At Bouzencourt we had a regular course of training physical training, bayonet fighting, musketry and squad drill. The weather was frosty, with sunshine through the day, which made conditions very pleasant. For the first time in my life I was under fire, being a marker at the range! And yet it was none too safe. Some erratic shots would persist in hitting the roof of the trench and you had to lie low to be safe.

"One day we marched to Albert for a bath and a change of underwear. There was a room for undressing, and we went in, fifty at a time, and stripped. These fifty figures in the nude with soap and towel marched into a second room. Towels were left at the door and we proceeded into the centre of the room, where twelve spiral columns of lukewarm water flowed from the roof. Everyone started rubbing himself with soap, and when possible trying to get a place under a thin column of water. It was a novel method, not altogether satisfactory, but, I suppose, effective for the purpose. We were next paraded for drying, and then marched upstairs to a room where clean clothing was distributed. I condescended to take a clean towel, but I stuck to my own shirt. Of course the absence of a flannel was discovered, but naturally that was in my pack. However, a quick walk home and a good tea made us all feel fit, and, to a certain extent, clean. The food, generally speaking, was good; and, with a genius of a cook, called Collins, our billet was specially well served.

"We left Albert by train to go to the 4th. We changed at Achiet-le-Grand, and from there re-entrained for Bapaume, which was a journey of only ten minutes. We then marched four kilometres to Fremicourt, where we now lie with the Battalion.

"We had a very warm reception from the boys, among whom I met many old faces. We found the billets very comfortable, and if the floor is hard to lie upon, at least one does get used to it through time. The Battalion had just come down the line and we knew we should have a few days' rest.

"While on rest the work is very easy. Reveille about 7 or 8 am and breakfast follows immediately. We then parade about 9 am. Some do fatigues and others light training, while there are special

classes in bombing, Lewis gun, wiring and signalling. The afternoon you have to yourself. The evenings are very long and, with candles difficult to get, one goes to bed about 8 pm.

"We are out of range here, but Bapaume station gets shelled nightly. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the Germans attacked incessantly, and it was fearful to a new hand to hear our reply barrage. The ground shook under us and the huts rattled as if there was a terrific storm of wind blowing. We also have visits from Jerry's aeroplanes, and then you have every kind of guns firing from places where you never thought there was a gun. I got a bit of a start when a shell rose exactly six yards from me. I never saw the gun and have not seen it yet.

"This morning at 7 we were wakened by terrific firing, and word was passed round that we must keep to our huts. We knew why almost at once. Jerry was dropping bombs on us and the shrapnel of the anti-aircraft guns was falling thick on the huts. I had a look at it from a window, but returned to bed again quite uninspired and unperturbed. It is practically a daily occurrence and nobody worries.

"To-morrow we go up the line for six days, and we are hoping to get out in time for Christmas, which we are looking forward to spending somewhere near Albert, where it is expected we are to rest for six weeks. That remains to be seen!

"The Pipe Band, under Pipe-Major Mackenzie, is playing just now. It gives us a tune every afternoon, and the men take a great interest in the programme submitted.

"Were it not for the mud, which is six inches deep on the average, the life here would be very tolerable."

The Battle of Cambrai was over, and the usual work of making dug-outs, shelters and the like commenced. The Corps front was held with two divisions in the line and one in reserve. On 6th December the Battalion relieved the 6th Black Watch in the front line. On the 20th one of the patrols ran into an enemy post about 400 yards from the British wire and Second Lieutenant E. J. Martin was wounded by machine-gun fire and died of his wounds.

On the 22nd the Battalion was relieved by two companies of the 5th Gordon Highlanders and two of the 7th Black Watch. It went back to tents outside Bancourt, where it spent Christmas, with six inches of snow on the ground and enemy aeroplanes bombarding the lines almost every night. On the 27th it moved to Lebuquiere, where it spent the New Year in Nissen huts.

The following is an extract from 'A History of the 4th Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders ' Compiled by Lieut-Colonel M M Haldane, illustrations by Captain Finlay Mackinnon, published by H F and G. Witherby (1928)

Chapter XIV - IN THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION

The signing of the Armistice was followed by a period of clearing up and salvaging - a monotonous anticlimax to the stirring history of the last three months. Every effort was made to relieve the day's work by the encouragement of games, cross-country runs and evening entertainments. The Battalion did well in the Divisional cross-country runs, taking second place on one occasion and fourth on another. At this time, too, the Army Educational Scheme, intended to fit the soldier for civil employment, came into force.

On 11th January 1919 the Battalion moved in buses to Houdeng-Aimeries, in Belgium, where the civil population, on whom they were billeted, could not do enough for them. On the 28th the Prince of Wales visited the place.

Volunteers and men liable for service in the Army of Occupation were mustered on 8th February, and on the 28th the Battalion entrained to join the 62nd Division. It detrained at Meckernich on the 28th and marched to billets in Embken and Ginnick, where it became part of the 187th Brigade. On 6th March it went partly by route march, partly by train to Golzheim, where there was a muster parade of men transferred from the 5th and 6th Seaforths to the 4th.

On 17th March the 62nd was renamed the Highland Division.

During April, Colonel Sandilands took over command of the Battalion from Lieutenant-Colonel Unthank, who thus severed his long and honourable connexion with the 4th Seaforth Highlanders.

It fell to Lieutenant-Colonel Unthank's lot to command the Battalion throughout its two most glorious years, and his record is written in the distinguished part played by it at Cambrai and although he himself had just left it in the dour stand of the Battalion on the Beaumetz-Morchies line. His wonderful courage and coolness in time of stress, together with his marked ability as a soldier, undoubtedly would have carried him to far higher command than that of a battalion had he studied the art of getting on. A reticent and self-effacing soldier, fearless alike of Germans and "brass hats", he preferred to remain with the Battalion whose interests he had made his own rather than seek self-advancement.

Later on, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Forbes Sharp took over from Colonel Sandilands.

The companies were reorganized at the beginning of May, and on the 12th the Battalion took over a new area at Nideggen, where a ceremonial parade was held in celebration of the King's Birthday.

On 17th June the Battalion moved by rail to Ohligs, to take over perimeter posts in the Lowland Division area, whence they returned to Nideggen on 1st July. Here the signature of peace was celebrated on the 8th, and on the 15th and 16th the Battalion held very successful sports, at which the band of the 3rd King's Own Hussars played.

On the 19th the Battalion, less two companies, went by rail to Lendersdorf, to take over Brigade duties from the 6th Black Watch. No. 1 Company was sent to Herbesthal for duty on train guards, and No. 4 to Bogheim to make a rifle range.

On the 20th the Cadre Party departed with the colours, and on 11th August the Battalion started on its homeward journey via Calais and Folkestone, reaching Brocton Camp, in Staffordshire, on the 13th.



The 4th Battalion remained at Brocton, undergoing the process of gradual demobilization, leave being freely granted to enable men to find employment. Finally, on Wednesday, 1st October 1919, all that was left of the Battalion as a unit arrived in Dingwall at 12.35 pm. This cadre was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel S. Forbes Sharp, M.C., and comprised the Adjutant, Captain R. M. Bessent, Captain D. E. F. MacGregor, M.C., Lieutenant and Quartermaster Murdoch, Second Lieutenant H. C. Miller and Second Lieutenant M. Mackenzie, M.C. - the last two carrying the colours - together with fifty-two other ranks.

Headed by the pipes and drums, and followed by a large gathering of people, the cadre marched through the High Street to the Municipal Buildings, where they were welcomed by Bailie Crawford, in the name of the Burgh.

After Lieutenant-Colonel Forbes Sharp had returned thanks for the speech of welcome he committed the colours of the Battalion to the temporary care of the town.

The party was thereafter entertained at luncheon by the Burgh at the National Hotel. Bailie Crawford presided, and among those present were Brigadier-General Sir Walter Ross of Cromarty, Seaforth and Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie, Colonels Mason-MacFarlane, Cuthbert and A. F. Mackenzie of Ord. After the usual loyal toasts and speeches the meeting broke up, and the 4th Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders, after five years of war service, was demobilized.

The Rev. J. Macleod, late Chaplain to the Forces, writes:

"It is a privilege to 'lay a small stone on the cairn' of men who were true and heroes all. We are proud of them and we want to live up to them and to be worthy of them all. The story which is narrated in this volume can only partially unfold the noble part that they played in the great struggle for right and truth; but it will distinctly establish that the fair fame of the Seaforth Highlanders has

received fresh lustre by their exploits. It was in the memorable days of the winter of 1914 that I joined them as their Chaplain, and it was my good fortune to serve with them in the fire zone for over two years. During that time, as I witnessed the cruel and ghastly work, which now appears as a grim nightmare, I was oftentimes moved beyond words to wonder and admiration at the most sublime obedience to duty and service they manifested. They were never embittered by their experiences: on the contrary the sunshine of their mind was invariably in evidence, even when exhausted, dirty, famishing. Their enthusiasm kept them fresh, hopeful, joyful, and even at the darkest they anticipated a good time coming. Under the most trying circumstances they manifested the real heroism and congeniality which safeguarded the best traditions and honour of the British soldier."

Thus ends a magnificent record. A very distinguished man of science once said to the writer that the two most terrible engines of destruction ever made by man were the 51st and the 15th Divisions, both Scottish and both distinguished by the same figures: it is a record that the people of Ross may be proud of, that their Battalion served in both of these divisions, so feared by the enemy and so famous for all time.

And so, as the sagamen would say, "they are out of the story". From the days of that first call to arms on 4th August 1914 to that of handing over their colours to the custody of the County Town on 15th October 1919 they had been through a time of strain such as has probably never before been known in the history of the world. In the retrospect it is hard to say whether those five years were the longest or the shortest in our lives. Yet for most of us, when all is said, despite grief at the loss of many that we loved, despite the strain that for ever separated us from our youth, despite the horrors that we saw and heard of, they were the happiest in our lives.

It is by no means impossible that the nation may again be called to take up arms in defence of things vital to existence. Neither Leagues of Nations nor the most genuine wish for peace can guarantee us against that need. Only the strong man armed can keep his house; and it is the duty of the men of Ross to remember of what blood they are, what proud record they have to sustain, to be ready when the time comes to bear their part as worthily as the men of Neuve Chapelle, of Arras, of Cambrai, of the Beaumetz trenches and the lowlands by the Lawe.

Summary
- of -
Casualties sustained & Honours won
- by -
Officers & other Ranks.

Total who served with the Battalions overseas 1914-1918.

4056.

Officers - - - - - 273.
Other Ranks - - 3783.

Casualties.

Officers

Killed.	Died of Wounds.	Died.	Missing.	Total.
44.	11.	1.	4.	60.

Other Ranks.

Killed.	Died of Wounds.	Died.	Missing.	Total.
718.	235.	56.	101.	1110.

Honours.

Officers

C.M.G.	C.B.E.	O.B.E.	D.S.O.	Bar.	M.C.	Bar.	D.C.M.	M.M.	L.S.M.	Despatches.	R.H.S.M.	C.de G.
4.	1.	4.	13.	1.	32.	6.	2.	3.	1.	27.	1.	2.

Other Ranks.

V.C.	M.C.	D.C.M.	Bar.	M.M.	Bar.	M.S.M.	Despatches.	C.de G.	Med St.G.
1.	1.	25.	3.	101.	6.	7.	11.	2.	1.

See immediately below for the details of what appears in this panel.

Casualties - Officers

Killed - 44 Died of Wounds - 11 Died - 1 Missing - 4 Total - 60

Other Ranks

Killed - 718 Died of Wounds - 235 Died - 56 Missing - 101 Total - 1110

Honours - Officers

C.M.G. - 4 C.B.E. - 1 O.B.E. - 4 D.S.O. - 13 Bar - 1 MC - 32 Bar 6 D.C.M. - 2
M.M. - 3 L.S.M. - 1 Despatches - 27 R.H.S.M. - 1 C.de G. - 2

Other Ranks

V.C. - 1 M.C. - 1 D.C.M. - 25 Bar - 3 M.M. - 101 Bar - 6 M.S.M. - 7 Despatches - 11
C. de G. - 2 Med St.G. - 1

CHAPTER XV

LIST OF HONOURS AND AWARDS GAINED BY OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS WHO SERVED IN THE 1/4TH BATTALION THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS

NOTE-This list is arranged in order of the date of notification of honours and awards in the London Gazette. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, it is impossible to claim that the list is wholly correct or complete. In many cases, especially in those of honours gained when the recipient was not serving with the 1/4th Battalion, it has been difficult to get the correct dates. Honours gained while serving with other units have, for the most part, been shown separately under the heading "OTHER DATES" whether the actual date happened to be known or not, and whether the recipient originally belonged to the Battalion or not. The rank given is, when possible, that held at the time of notification. Within the dates name of officers and other ranks are arranged alphabetically, under the honour awarded, each within their own list, without regard to rank.

1915

8th April - C.M.G.

Mason-MacFarlane, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J., D.S.O.,
Cuthbert, Major T. W.

3rd June - D.C.M.

657, Maclennan, Sergeant J.
1272, Macleod, Lance-Corporal A.
2110, Minchin, Private W.
2399, Thomson, Private A.

25th August - ORDER OF ST GEORGE (Russia), 3rd class

2281 Macrae, Lance-Corporal G. W.

29th November - D.C.M.

2251, Robertson, Sergeant H. J.

1916

14th January - D.C.M.

1652, Mackenzie, Sergeant A.
2303, Rogers Lance-Sergeant A.

24th February - CROIX DE GUERRE

1652, Mackenzie, Sergeant A.
C.M.G. - Cuthbert, Lieutenant-Colonel T. W.

3rd June - M.C.

Henderson, Captain L. D.

3rd June - D.C.M.

333, Cumming, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant T.

21st September - M.M.

1201, Hendry, Sergeant W.
3045, Hendry Private W.
1015 Munro, Sergeant D.

16th November - M.M.

1461, Mackenzie, Private R

1917

1st January - M.C.

Peverell, Captain T. H.

22nd January - M.M.

2039, Private C. E.
200821, Gardiner, Lance-Corporal G.
201608, Hancock, Private D.
201379, Ireland, Private W.
4038, McPherson, Lance-Corporal W.
2222, Milton, Private T.
3798, Moore, Private M. A.

18th June - M.M.

202727, Grubb, Private J.
3730, MacLennan, Private G.
1366, Macleod, Corporal W.
201561, Moir, Lance-Corporal A.
3851, Rankin, Private R.
1418, Ross, Sergeant J.
1664, Sutherland, Lance-Corporal D.

8th July - M.C.

MacGregor, Lieutenant D. E. F.

9th July - BAR TO M.M.

200821, Gardiner, Lance-Corporal G.
2533, Lane, Sergeant C. S.

9th July - M.M.

201471, Baker, Private A. W.
200794, Beattie, Corporal W.
3160, Brown, Private W.
3963, Carmichael, Private W.
3474 Cawtheray, Sergeant G.
200146, Fraser, Private W.
261215 Greenwood, Lance-Corporal H.
201292, Mackenzie, Corporal J.
1750, Mackenzie, Sergeant M.
1758, MacLennan, Private A.
1814, Macpherson, Private K.

1321, Murdoch, Corporal W.

13th July - MEDAILLE MILITAIRE (France)

200785, Campbell, Sergeant J.

17th July - M.C.

Hay-Will, Captain R. H.
Wells, Second Lieutenant T.

17th July - D.C.M.

200785, Campbell, Sergeant J.

17th July - M.M.

4551, Seaton, Private H.

18th July - D.C.M.

201290, Gray, Sergeant D.

20th September - PROMOTED SERGEANT ON THE FIELD

12515, Macdonald, Private H.

26th September - M.C.

Addison, Captain D.
Bain, Second Lieutenant J.

6th October - M.M.

200099, Ross, Sergeant J.

18th October - M.M.

4600, Dawson, Sergeant A.
201446, Hamilton, Private J.
5108, Mackay, Private A.
201363, Malone, Private J.
6175, Parkin, Private J.
201757, Philben, Private J.
201307, Stewart, Private P.

19th November - M.C.

Brown, Lieutenant F. W.

Fraser, Captain A.K.
Macdonald, Captain A. M. (See 22. 4.18.)

19th November - D.C.M.

202196, Ross, Sergeant A.
265769, Stewart, Private J.

12th December - BAR TO D.C.M.

200785, Campbell, Sergeant J.
201290, Gray, Sergeant D.

12th December - M.M.

243396, Bannerman, Private D.
200602, Bolton, Corporal A. J.
200208, Fraser, Sergeant W.
202664, Gardner, Sergeant J. G.
240752, Gunn, Private G.;
Lawton, Private D. J.
202649, Louttit, Private W.
1772, Macdonald, Private F.
24171, McIver, Private C. M.
3479, Mackenzie, Private D. P.
20880, Mackenzie, Corporal E.
1650, Macleod, Corporal R.
200854, Meikle, Private J.
203263, Mitchell, Private D.
201832, Morrison, Private A.
240065, Murray, Private D. W.
10865, Ross, Private A. A.
200439, Ross, Sergeant J.
757, Smith, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant W.
200021, Sutherland, Sergeant T.
6229, Toothill, Sergeant J.
3790, Veighey, Private A.
201886, Ward, Private T.

20th December - M.C.

Coutts, Lieutenant D. G.

1918

1st January – D.S.O.

Unthank, Lieutenant-Colonel J.S.

1st January – D.C.M.

1016, Macdonald, Sergeant A.

28th. January - M.M.

266030, Main, Lance-Corporal J.A.

517212, Macdonald, Private C.

4th February - M.C.

Campbell, Lieutenant D.

6th February - D.C.M.

43210, Pierce, Acting Regimental Sergeant-Major

22nd February - BAR TO D.C.M.

2110, Minchin, Lance-Sergeant W.

22nd February - SECOND BAR TO M.M.

200821, Gardiner, Lance Corporal G.

22nd February - BAR TO M.M.

200602, Bolton, Corporal A. J.

26215, Greenwood, Lance-Corporal H.

2222, Milton, Private T.

23rd February - M.M.

201795, Donaldson, Lance-Corporal H.
204310, Forbes, Sergeant A. M.
202934, Foster, Private T.
200975, MacCormick, Sergeant W.
1729, Mackenzie, Private A.
202205, Mackenzie, Private S.
200602, Macpherson, Sergeant J.
200547, Morrison, Lance-Sergeant A.
6650, Munro, Lance Corporal C.
200372, Munro, Corporal W.
2895, Oldham, Private F.
201390, Overend, Corporal W.
201160, Scurrah, Corporal G.
201425, Telfer, Lance-Corporal A. C.
200869, Thompson, Lance-Sergeant A. B.
204146, Wells, Private W. P.

13th March - M.M.

1753, Macdonald, Private D. .

22nd March - D.S.O.

Jackson, Captain D. B. M.
Munro, Second Lieutenant A.

22nd February - M.C.

Davidson, Second Lieutenant J.

28th March - D.C.M.

200050, McGregor, Company Sergeant-Major S.
201337, Ross, Lance-Sergeant A.

1st April - LONG SERVICE MEDAL

Glass, Captain and Quartermaster J.

22nd April - D.S.O.

Macdonald, Captain A. M. (in substitution of Gazette of 19th November 1917)

3rd June - M.C.

Macaulay, Lieutenant A. D. C. M.
201174, Ward, Company Sergeant-Major J. E.

17th June - M.S.M.

1784, Davidson, Sergeant D. D.
20020, Duff, Sergeant D.
200381, Keyes, Acting Company Sergeant-Major D.

12th July - CROIX DE GUERRE (Belgium)

200219, Fletcher, Sergeant T.

16th July - M.M.

2011I35, Smyth, Private D.

26th July - D.S.O.

Gray, Captain H. P. T.

26th July - M.C.

Campbell, Lieutenant A. G.
Davie, Captain W. S.
Mackenzie, Second Lieutenant G. L.
Surrey Dane, Captain W.

26th July - M.M.

41513, Priest, Private A.

6th August - M.M.

21055, Simpson, Private G.

22nd August - BAR TO M.M.

202664, Gardner, Sergeant J. G.

28th August - M.C.

Finigan, Lieutenant A. A.

28th August - D.C.M.

3850, Greenhill, Private C.

3rd September - D.C.M.

1681, Grant, Private A. D.

3rd September – M.M.

41043, Burton, Private D.

16th September - BAR TO D.S.O.

Hopkinson, Lieutenant-Colonel J. O.

16th September - M.C.

Ferguson, Second Lieutenant J. S.

Harris, Captain C. H.

16th September - VICTORIA CROSS

200854, Meikle, Sergeant J.

7th October - M.M.

40112, Barron, Private J.

201733, Bottomley, Lance-Corporal A.

201196, Carmichael, Corporal V.

204347, Coulter, Corporal J.

21807, Couris, Private J.

22837, Gellatly, Private P.

200567, Hearne, Corporal A.

201417, Ibbetson, Private G.

200581, McAuley, Corporal J.

200533, Macdonald, Sergeant G.

201190, Macdonald, Sergeant J.

201830, Macdonald, Corporal J.

200232, MacLennan, Lance-Corporal R.

200169, Macleod, Corporal J.

202156, Sheard, Private L.

241033, Truesdale, Private W.

11th October - CROIX DE GUERRE

Clark, Second Lieutenant F. S.

15th October - BAR TO M.C.

Campbell, Captain D.
Coutts, Second Lieutenant D. G.
Dundas, Second Lieutenant G.
Henderson, Major L. D.

30th October - D.C.M.

201286, Gilchrist, Sergeant A.
200022, Mackenzie, Company Sergeant-Major A.
200114, Mitchell, Sergeant J.
242351, Tytler, Sergeant A.

2nd December - M.C.

Staub, Second Lieutenant T. V.

11th December - BAR TO M.M.

202649, Louttit, Private W.
200533, Macdonald, Sergeant A.

11th December - M.M.

11466, Bain, Private D. A.
201431, Bilton, Private S.
241989, Calder, Private J.
200643, Coleman, Corporal P.
201781, Cuthwaite, Private A.
200219, Fraser, Corporal H. S.
202655, Hall, Private A. E.
201751, Kellett, Corporal J.
201517, Kennedy, Lance-Sergeant C.
203748, McBain, Private W.
201938, McMillan, Private N.
22272, Mitchard, Private S.
200688, Mitchell, Lance-Corporal E.
201872, Munro, Corporal J.
266586, Murdoch, Private N. T.;
240312, Murray, Lance-Sergeant C.
9298, Newby, Private E.
202763, Rankin, Private R.
4650, Shiells, Private J.
41583, Steele, Private C. B.
200960, Stewart, Corporal J.
22273, Swansbury, Private T.
205742, Walker, Corporal G.

1919

1st January - M.S.M.

333, Cumming, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant T.

200134, Gunn, Sergeant J. D. C. M.

1552, Macdonald, Company Sergeant-Major M.

18th February - D.C.M.

200786, Mackenzie, Company Sergeant Major D.

18th February - BAR TO M.M.

1552, Macdonald, Company Sergeant Major M.

22nd February - M.S.M.

20599, Ellis, Sergeant G.

202813, Greig, Acting Company Quartermaster-Sergeant J.

8th March - BAR TO M.C.

Bain, Second Lieutenant J.

MacGregor, Lieutenant D. E. F.

Brown, Second Lieutenant A. B.

Cullen, Lieutenant W. R.

Hay, Second Lieutenant J. W.

12th March - D.C.M.

Adams, Sergeant G. S.

2nd April - M.C.

Miller, Second Lieutenant A. M. J.

Willis, Second Lieutenant B. F. W.

5th April - DECORATION MILITAIRE

202850, Archibald, Sergeant

12th May - D.C.M.

202664, Gardner, Sergeant J. G.

14th May - BAR TO M.M.

200097, Ross, Lance-Corporal N.

3rd June - M.S.M.

202788, Green, Sergeant T. W.

200499, Mandy, Private A.

9606, Mason, Temporary Regimental Sergeant-Major J.

13th June - M.M.

200159, Forbes, Company Quartermaster Sergeant J.

23rd July - BAR TO M.M.

3928, Scurrah, Corporal G.

23rd July - M.M.

238089, Baker, Corporal J.

235364, Fairbairn, Private D.

200306, Finlayson, Sergeant H.

17062, Forbes, Corporal W.

41060, Harvie, Private J.

200345, Hendry, Sergeant J.

203755 Hills, Private W.

203837, Howie, Corporal H.

1188, McBain, Private A.

201917, Macdougall Acting Sergeant J.

200060, Mackenzie, Private D.

200194, Mackenzie, Acting Corporal D.

20035, Mackenzie, Private J.

200173, Mackenzie, Sergeant J.

41671, Mackinnon, Corporal D. N.

200267, MacLean, Company Sergeant-Major K.

200140, Macpherson, Private J.

200105, Martin, Company Quartermaster - Sergeant D.

265355 Morrison, Private J.

23855, Paterson, Private W.

24649, Reid, Private J. S.

201193, Ritchie Private T.

202644, Shiach, Corporal J.

203084 Strachan, Private R.

267368, Watson, Corporal C. P.

25903, Williamson, Private D.

267069 Wilson, Private J.

20th September - MEDAILLE BARBATTE DI CREDUITA (Rumania), 2nd class

03478, Hamilton, Corporal A. J. S.
200101, Macrae, Sergeant R.

7th October - CROIX DE GUERRE (France)

Campbell, Captain D.
203439, Cranston, Private J.
333, Cumming, Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant T.
202749 McBain, Private W.
22164, McIntosh, Private

1920

30th January - D.S.O.

Peverell, Captain T. H.

OTHER DATES

C.M.G.

Fraser, Major J. W.

Sandilands, Colonel J. W.

C.B.E.

Mason-MacFarlane, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J.

O.B.E.

Brodie, Captain R., Royal Army Medical Corps

Ferguson, Captain D.

Fraser, Major J. W.

Macleod, Captain J., C.F.

D.S.O.

Campbell, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H.

Hopkinson Lieutenant-Colonel J. O.

Notman, Lieutenant J. P.

Sandilands, Colonel J. W.

Stewart, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. A.,

M.C.

Head, Lieutenant V. H.;

Hogg, Captain C. G.

Hopkinson, Lieutenant-Colonel J. O.

Hulls, Major C. A. P.

McAllion, Lieutenant F. M.

Mackenzie Lieutenant M.

Morrison, Second Lieutenant J.

D.C.M.

Boardman, Second Lieutenant W.
Fuller Second Lieutenant W. A.
Vickery Corporal J.A.

BAR TO M.M.

1391, Munro, Lance-Corporal K. J.

M.M.

Mackenzie, Captain and Quartermaster R. W.
Macrae, Second Lieutenant J. D.
20050, Bain, Sergeant H.
4388, Dawson, Private S.
2058, Hendry, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant T.
4531, Hinchcliffe, Private T.
4983, Macdougall, Private J.
1325, Mackenzie, Private D.
1725, Mackenzie, Private F.
12632, Malcolm, Private J.
1391, Munro, Lance-Corporal K..J.
1523, Munro, Private M.
201172, Murray, Corporal A.
624, Ross, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant H. A.

M.S.M.

92, Bain, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant H.
2168, Urquhart, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant J.

R.H.S. MEDAL

Lorgues, M., Interpreter.

R.H.S. CERTIFICATE

Harrop, Corporal F.A.