

The Thistle

"Siol Na Fear Fearail"

VOL. I. PUBLISHED WEEKLY

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 25, 1916

PRICE TWO CENTS.

No. 12



The Thistle

Published every Friday in the interest of the 85th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F., "NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS".

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1916

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Editorial

THE fact that we were able to publish in last week's issue of THE THISTLE a number of cuts of great interest was due to the generosity of the Chronicle Publishing Company of this city.

We extend our thanks to this firm and also to MacNab's Printing Company for their most generous action in supplying us with cuts for this week's issue.

The recruiting campaign is now fully under way. From every quarter the signs are most encouraging. In all the turmoil and excitement don't forget THE THISTLE. Possibly if used to advantage it might be of service in promoting the good work.

What about a Brigade newspaper? We will soon need a daily. What do you think about it? Let us know.



LT.-COL. N. H. PARSONS
2nd in Command 85th Overseas Batt. C.E.F.



LT.-COL. A. H. BORDEN
Commanding 85th Overseas Battalion C.E.F.



LT.-COL. F. P. DAY
Commanding 185th Overseas Battalion C.E.F.



FOLLOW THE BAND!—ENLIST TODAY



LT.-COL. JOS. HAYES
Medical Officer 85th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.



MAJOR E. C. PHINNEY
Whose promotion has recently been announced



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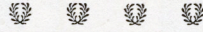
Friday and Saturday, Feb. 4th & 5th.

A splendid Portrait of Charming Ruth Roland, the star in this Serial will be presented to everyone attending.

Two thousand extra copies of THE THISTLE are published this week for the purpose of distribution among prospective recruits!

Recruiting officers can have THE THISTLE to distribute among recruits by notifying Major E. C. Phinney, Armouries, Halifax, N. S.

Perhaps we will be pardoned if we take this opportunity of reminding our advertisers of this increase in our circulation. Incidentally, we might add that sufficient new advertising is expected to warrant an increase in size of THE THISTLE in the very near future. A word to the wise is sufficient!



MAJOR JOHNSTONE
2nd in Command 185th Overseas Batt. C.E.F.

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Regimental News

Lieut. Col. Day, who left for Yarmouth the latter part of last week on business connected with the 185th, returned Tuesday.

The win of the 85th over the Composite Tuesday evening by a score of 8-2, again puts them in the lead in the league race.

Lieut. J. W. Maddin and a number of other Cape Breton officers left the early part of the week to carry on the recruiting campaign for the 185th Cape Breton Highlanders. Although the campaign (at the time of writing) has not really started yet, reports from recruiting centres state that a large number of men are daily coming in for the new unit.

Col. Borden has been away some days visiting various points in the Province making arrangements for the opening of the "big drive."

Major G. S. Harrington, formerly O. C. of D Co., 85th Batt., has received word of his appointment as junior Major, in charge of training, of the 185th. Major Harrington left for Sydney on Wednesday night.

Another 85th officer who is leaving

for the 185th is Major J. G. Johnstone, O. C. of B Co., who has been appointed senior Major, 2nd in command of the Cape Breton unit. Capt. J. McIsaac, second in command of B Co., is also going with the 185th, while Lieut. R. C. Jackson, of A Co., has been appointed captain and is acting Adjutant of Col. Day's new unit.

The examinations for the N. C. O.'s and men of the 85th who were taking the subalterns' class at the R. S. I. were concluded on Wednesday, and it is learned that the results are very favorable.

On Monday evening last upon the conclusion of the class, the N. C. O.'s and men of the 85th, who were taking the subalterns' course at the R. S. I., presented to B. S. M. Hawkins a purse of \$50 as a token of the esteem in which they held him. Sergeant Major Hawkins has been acting as instructor to the 85th class at the school.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week the final exams in the N. C. O.'s class were held. The paper written Monday included map reading, patrols and scouting; on Tuesday, protection; and, Wednesday, interior economy, musketry and duties. The practical examination for the lance cor-

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CAPTAIN RALSTON
Adjutant

porals' class was held Saturday afternoon and Tuesday evening, and for the sergeants, Wednesday evening; the corporals' exams. to be held later in the week.

Pte. A. Hamm of No. 9 has returned to duty from hospital.

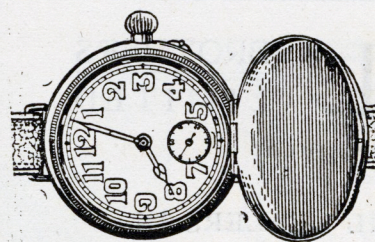
A large number of the men left for their homes throughout the Province during the week.

Recruits, to fill the vacancies in the 85th caused by a number of the N. C. O.'s and men being transferred to higher posts in the other units of the new Brigade, continue to come in. Among the recent "rookies" are four bank clerks and a bank manager, who have been put on the roll of No. 9.

Capt. F. W. Miller and Mrs. Miller have returned from a trip through the Province, and Capt. Miller has returned to duty. He is acting O.C. B Co.

The 85th played the 64th for the net ball league championship on Thursday evening. At the time of writing the result is yet unavailable. The 85th play the Niobe Saturday night.

The Halifax Herald says:—"The formal opening of the campaign for recruiting for the Highland Brigade will take the form of a mass meeting of citizens at the Academy of Music on Sunday afternoon at 3.15. There will not be very much speech making but Col. Borden will say a few words and there will be vocal as well as instru-



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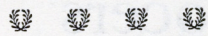
"BEST KNOWN"

"KNOWN AS THE BEST"

mental music by the men of the 85th. There are some very fine singers in the Highland battalion and they will be heard to advantage on the Academy stage on Sunday afternoon. There were rumors on the street yesterday that perhaps Sir Sam Hughes would be at the meeting to give the Highland laddies a rousing send off for their campaign."

Corp. Battis has been placed in charge of the 85th canteen.

Capt. E. C. Phinney, Adjutant of the 85th, has been promoted to the rank of Major. He will hold the position of Junior Major, in charge of training.



A Night in the Armouries

IN the last epistle we discussed our uniforms, feathers and the prospect of kilts. We are now fully equipped and when I lay in my bed at nights I look up and wonder if I have strayed and gone to sleep in a harness shop. All sorts and shapes of harness hang over me. At times I start to count up the different articles I would need to carry with me when I leave for the front, and never yet have I had the nerve to finish. As for figuring up the weight, that would be a criminal error. "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," and so I carry what I am bidden to carry and say nothing. A ray of hope gleamed through the darkness a short time ago. In the course of one of our lectures on "Infantry in Attack" the lecturer stated that packs as a rule were not worn in an attack. Would that I could get in an attack soon. But, never-

theless, when I think of the many things to carry I am thankful to stuff the pack and shoulder it. Otherwise we would have to stuff our pockets until we resembled a tree with the "black knot." It would be fine carrying the pack if we were going on a fishing trip and the pack contained our kit and grub, but when we are compelled to tote it along it changes the aspect altogether. But, nevertheless, we march (and a good 120 pace, too) and we sing, I should say, they sing. I started to once and the boys threatened all sorts of things—now I sing to awaken them in the morning. Speaking of singing reminds me of a very funny incident that happened while we were under canvas. The tent next to the one I was in covered a crowd of boys who were certainly blessed with good voices and were very entertaining, especially after "lights out," much to the annoyance of the police. Well, one night I was being soothed to sleep by sweet strains of music coming from the next tent. In the midst of this, we heard loud raps with a cane on the sides of the tent, followed by deep-voiced tones of our night protectors shouting "stop that noise." Well, of all the cold cracks I ever heard anyone get that was the worst. Keeping along with the singing, I must not forget that this is a singing battalion and you know as they say that a singing battalion is a fighting one, we surely must be scrapper. They can march us in the hot weather, cold, raining, snowing, thawing, freezing, blowing or any kind and someone starts to hum some old melody or one of our own songs, and in about a minute the whole battalion is singing, that is, all that can, and the remainder are

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Almond Bar	Butter Crisp
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making the noise that comes nearest to the correct music, and we keep at it too—once started we are hard to stop, with the result that after a long march, instead of being tired, we are feeling as fit as can be. And for marching music our songs can't be beat. They make a person keep step whether he wants to or not, and when our band starts you can't hold us. Why! When I march along behind our band I can't help straightening up and the civilians look so small and I feel sorry for some of them, to think they are not with us when I know and they know that they should be. Probably a great many want to be and they will soon have a chance. Perhaps someone will pick up this epistle and say, "Well those 85th fellows think an awful lot of themselves." You bet your life we do and the best part of it is we have good reason to, and if any one will please tell me any reason why we should not do so, I wish he would come along, but if he takes my advice he will keep many miles away from the Armouries when he does. I had no intention when I started of writing a long epistle blowing ourselves up, but the trouble with me is that I let my pen follow my thoughts and perhaps one of those days the editor will refuse to publish my letter and then I will have to go to work for a living.

To come back to the kilts, they are not only to wear. Oh! to think of the many hours I have slaved to get those into shape fit to appear on parade. I have worked and slaved and still tremble when the inspecting officer comes around.

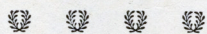
These inspections were at first a bugbear to me, but I have come to the conclusion that after all its the inspections that do a great deal towards making

good soldiers out of us.

Well! I must stop for this time. Will see you later.

ONE OF THE BOYS OF THE 85TH and proud of it.

When the Highlanders (in kilts) first went to the front the natives couldn't make out what they were. One said to another: "It isn't a man—it has petticoats!" Another said: "It isn't a woman—it has whiskers!" Finally one exclaimed: "The Engilsh have a regiment called the Middlesex and no doubt this is it."



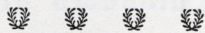
The 64th Entertainment.

LAST Thursday evening we were entertained by the officers and men of the 64th Battalion. At 6.20 in the evening their band arrived at the Armouries playing our regimental march and it sure made our hearts jump to hear that from our sister battalion, and when we marched into the Pier they played it again and it was great. They also played us all the way down and it was a great privilege to march behind our pal's band.

But the band was only a "foretaste of glory divine" when I think of what followed. Why! I never felt as welcome in any place in my life in such a short time. The friends you meet are better than those you find. Well, to go on with the dance, we were first welcomed and honored by the 64th giving our yell and then their own. Then came some of their songs which sounded good to me. I can't begin to tell you about all the programme. I only remember it until the word came out that the canteen was open and from

then on the boys of the 64th stuffed and stuffed me until I could neither hear nor see. But there was one thing I do remember and that was the two Russians boxing. I forget their names but not their actions and believe me, if they land the Germans (which they sure will do) the way they swatted each other, there will be a few less Germans in a short time. I would like to tell all about the good time, but I can't really express myself well enough. Suffice it to say, that I spent the best evening I have spent for some time. So here's hoping that we may yet spend some time near the 64th and when we get in the trenches may we have the good fortune to be near them and enjoy their company once again. So here's health and luck to our pals of the 64th.

ONE OF THE BOYS OF THE 85TH and a good friend of the 64th.



Who is this Drill Instructor?

The Instructor is a graceful bird
He hops from squad to squad
He sings, right, left; right, left all day
He's as stiff as a ramrod.

His language is sometimes flowery
But him you cannot blame,
If you were an instructor
You would use the very same.

At the command "left turn,"
The "Rookie" turns to his right;
The look on the sergeant's face—
It surely is a fright.

Then here's to you drill instructor,
They may say what e're they please
We think you're almost human
When you say—SQUAD, STAND AT EASE!

Machine Gun Ballad.

Tune—Donald From Bras d'Or.

When our Colonel had the 85th
All mobilized for war,
He says I want a bunch of men
That I can trust for sure;
So he says to Mr. Campbell,
"Do you think that you can find
The same variety of men
That I have got in mind?"

Then, Campbell said, "Why, sure!"
Campbell said, "Why sure!"
"I've got my eye right on the men
That ain't afraid of war."

So he got them all together,
And he told them every one
The proper way to sling steel
From a Maxim Machine Gun;
Then he brought along the Colt Gun
And he says, "You got to know
The way to keep her going when
She says she will not go."

Then, the men all said, "Why sure!"
The men all said, "Why sure!
We'll keep the ammunition man
A running back for more."

So we're drilling hard from morn
till night
To learn what e're we can;
You sure have got to know a lot
For a good Machine Gun man.
We're just the boys can learn it,
If we only get the chance;
And when we're trained and at the
front
Well! someone's going to dance.

Sure, we're working every one
We're working every one;
We're just a-dying now to meet
The Baby Killing Hun.

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CLOTHES CLEANED AT

THE HALIFAX STEAM LAUNDRY

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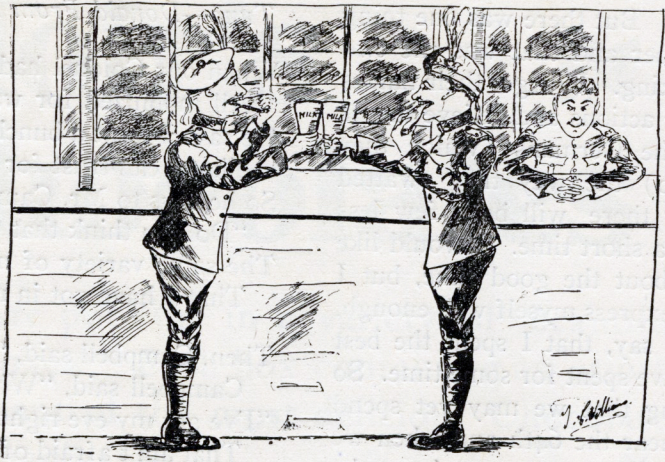
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The Call.

Hark! do you hear him calling?
Listen, you'll hear it again
As it echoes from hill top to hill top,
And deep down into the glen.
'Tis the roar of the British Lion
Calling his whelps to the fray
To share with him the victory
That is sure to be his some day.

To stand with him, shoulder to
shoulder
And batter the bloody Hun
Till his child-murdering hosts are
scattered
To the four winds under the sun
And fight till the last scheming Prus-
sian,
Be he Kaizer, noble or boor,
Is driven to hell and damnation,
His reward for ever more.

That's why the old Lion is roaring
Calling his whelps to the fray;
Come now! what is your answer?
Do your bit? Well, do it today.
Up then, and shoulder your rifle;
At them with might and main.
Don't keep the old Lion waiting;
Don't let him call you in vain.

DILEAS DO'N BHRATAICH.

A Soldier's Prayer.

Captain Fred C. Curray, son of F. R. Curry, who accompanied the First Contingent to England, has written the following verses at the front. Lieut. Curry was one of the first to enlist at Brockville, Ont. When he wrote these lines he signed himself lieutenant, his promotion followed later on:

Oh God of Wars, whose only Son
A sacrifice for peace did make,
Look down from heaven, bless our
arms,
And grant us vict'ry for His sake.

To those whose sufferings end in sleep,
To those who toss on beds of pain,
To hearts that ache, to eyes that weep,
Grant that they suffer not in vain.

Grant that the Comforter, the Friend,
Support us, when with waning
breath

We wait with courage to the end,
That last relief we know as death.

And unto those we leave behind,
We pray thy grace and comfort give,
So that they somehow solace find
That we have died that they may live.

LIFUT. F. C. CURRAY,
C. E. F., Belgium.

The Highlanders are Coming

In the vacant ranks at Halifax, there
were places open still
There were rifles lying idle, there were
uniforms to fill;
So we thought we'd leave Home Duty
and enlist for overseas,
Now we wear the Highland costume
and we're happy as can be.

Though at home we've left them weep-
ing—praying for us to come
home,
Could we sit there idly talking—could
we let them fight alone?
No, the 85th is coming, and the march
will soon begin,
On the road to Tipperary with the
army to Berlin.

Then amid the roar of conflict, in the
trenches we will stand,
Side by side we'll fight the Germans,
till we drive them from the land.
Through the frozen hell of winter,
midst the shapnel's raking din,
We will fill the air with singing, "How
we're going to take Berlin."

Boys, come on and join the army, wear
the khaki with a will,
There are more battalions waiting if
the 85th is filled.
For you know, in Little Belgium,
there's a crimson debt to pay
There's a land of awful darkness—
patient faces tired and grey.

Don't you hear the voices calling to
complete the work begun?
Can't you hear the call for vengeance,
won't you join us in Berlin;
Come and sport the Highland feather,
come and show old Kaiser Bill
That the Tommies can't be played with,
that you're here to slay and kill.

Then when the battle's over and the
boys come home at last,
We'll be glad that we had listened, 'ere
old England's call had passed.
Some of us will stay there, maybe, if
our work on earth is done,
But how noble to die fighting for our
country and our King.

We have read of lonely crosses, boys
who'll never more come home;
We have read of tales of suffering, but
there's victories yet to win,
And we're coming, coming, coming—
cheer up brothers, you will win
When the 85th Battalion marches
through Berlin.



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