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ALBERNI ADVOCATE

Vol. 7 | Alberni, B.C., Friday, May 28, 1915 | No. 14

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When They Ask Questions——Send Them The Advocate

A "FROM THE FRONT" EDITION

ALBERNI BOYS WRITE HOME

LETTERS TELL OF BIG FIGHT

The Advocate is pleased to be able this week to present an edition which is devoted almost entirely to news from the front. From the section of Vancouver Island, in the immediate vicinity of Alberni, some 60 men have volunteered for service at the front. Naturally any news that touches the fortunes of any of these is of intense interest to every person in the neighborhood, and will be read with eagerness by all. Such news will be given from time to time as it reaches the Advocate, and we specially request that we be given a chance to publish any such letters. Remember these boys may be your boys, but they are ours also, and we want to hear every last word that deals with their fortunes at the front.

From Colin Campbell.

The first letter which we present is from Pte. Colin Campbell, of the 16th Bat., of the 50th Gordons, Victoria. This was written to his brother Mr. M. Campbell, of Alberni. Part of the letter dates before the big battle, and part is written after the man had been wounded and sent to a hospital after the fight. The letter reads:

Belgium, April 22.

Dear Brother:—

Your welcome letter to hand a few days ago just as I was going into the trenches, and glad to learn by it that you were well, as this leaves me in the best of health. In the first place I may let you know that we are in a different part of the line now. When we came out of the trenches that we had occupied before we marched 10 miles to our billets, and then we rested for a few days, the we marched another 10 miles and rested for a night, next morning we got up at 4:15 a. m. and we got busses for 9 miles and then marched about 14 miles to the trenches. We got there about 12 midnight. We relieved a French regiment and stayed on the firing line steadily for four days and had a most exciting time. The German trenches were only about 85 yards from ours, so you can understand how dangerous a position it is. We had lots of work to do when we went in. We had to build the parpets about 3 feet in our fort, they are all built of sand bags. We are always kept very busy at night. A party has to go out for rations every night also for a supply of water. From this position we have to go about two miles for our supplies. In this part of the line it is mostly forts and communication trenches between them. There are so many men in each fort, according to the size. In our fort there were twenty men and a sergeant. There are dugouts in them for the men to sleep in. Mr. Hayhurst and I had one to ourselves and it was very comfortable. We sleep mostly in the day time as we are busy at night. Sometimes we get two hours in bed at night. We have revelle at 3:45 a. m. and we stand to for about an hour, and the same at night. If they make an attack at all it is either at dawn or at dusk, so we have to keep a good lookout. We had a very exciting time in this trench. It is about the worst part of the British lines. The Germans kept shelling the place every day.

HEAVY CASUALTIES.

We had more casualties this time than at any previous time. You can hear nothing except the roar of the guns day and night. When we hear the shells coming we dont know where they are going to burst. It is no good trying to miss the as we might run right into them. Between the trenches is strewn with dead bodies, as neither will chance going out to bury their dead. I suppose there are two hundred dead behind our lines, they are getting very strong now with the heat. We found one buried in our fort when we were digging, we pulled up his boot on the pick.

BROUGHT DOWN.

Last Sunday afternoon we saw a fight between a German and a British aeroplane. I was looking at the German machine through a telescope. Just as he crossed our lines, and all of a sudden the British machine came down from above the clouds and attacked the German. He opened fire on him with a machine gun and brought him to earth inless than a minute. It was very exciting for a few seconds and we gave our man a great cheer. We see great displays here with aeroplanes sometimes over a dozen at one time in the air. Whenever the Germans see an Allied aeroplane coming they scoot away to their own lines. Last Thursday one passed very low across our head so we opened fire with our rifles, rapid fire, and I hear today that we damaged it.

I was on leave yesterday for a few hours in the city of —— and I saw a hole made by a German shell. It was 17 feet deep and 25 feet wide. I also saw a piece of a shell that was fired a few days before. It was fired out of a 13.5 inch gun and weighed 65 lbs. They are shelling this city now, all the civilians were told to leave. I think that the Germans realize that they are beaten, so they are going to destroy as much as they can. There were some magnificent buildings destroyed in this city.

We get a great display of fire works at night. Both sides keep putting them up all night. It makes it very hard to get in and out of the trenches even at night.

(Here comes a break in the letter, and the next news is from the hospital. The letter continues:)

FALL IN.

Cardiff, May 3.

Dear Brother:—

As I was writing your letter we got orders to fall in and get ready for an attack. We saw the French soldiers come running from the trenches, so we wondered what was wrong. They told us that the Germans were using poisonous gasses and that it was choking them in the trenches. The result was that they retired and left that part of the line open for the enemy to come through.

Our left flank was in a dangerous position. I mean the Canadian division. Half of our brigade was in the trenches and the rest were billited behind the line. The first thing we did was to dig ourselves in along the canal in case the Germans should come along the bank. Then we got orders to march up toward the firing line. By this time the the Germans had taken up a good position in a wood. When we got about 600 yards from the wood, we were told that the Germans were somewhere in the wood and that we were to drive them out. We left our packs all in a heap and then we moved forward, our battalion and the 10th battalion leading the charge. We did not get far when they heard us, and they opened a most

MURDEROUS FIRE

on us with artillery, machine guns and

(Continued on page 2.)

The Maple Leaf Forever.

Be lifted up, O Canada,
The Nations proud among;
Nor mourn the men who, stricken—struck
Where shot and shell were flung.

No drooping crest should veil your brow,
Nor tear bedim the eye;
They are not dead, those Deathless Sons,
For Death has passed them by.

Death rode along the shrieking blast,
Death struck with bloody glaive;
But could not strike their Hero Souls,
Nor find for them a grave.

What men have done, what men may do,
They matched with dauntless breast;
"The Maple Leaf" their battle cry,
As on the Hun they pressed.

Be lifted up, O Canada,
Your Sons, across the wave,
Have won their spurs of ruddy gold,
The Brave, among the Brave.

THE ALBERNI ADVOCATE

The Alberni Advocate Publishing and Printing Co., Ltd., Proprietors.

J. F. BLEDSOE - Editor and Manager

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for publication must be accompanied with the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. No remuneration will be paid for poetic contributions except by special arrangement.

Alberni, B. C., Canada - May 28, 1915

OUR LETTERS

IT is with great satisfaction that we are able to this week present to our readers a number of letters from the boys at the front. These letters tell the tale of fighting and suffering "For King and Country" in a way that no despatches from the war zone could do. We know these boys, and are proud of them, every one. We know that they are doing their "little bit" for all that is in them, and the glimpses of just how this work is being carried on are of the greatest interest.

It so happened that we were in receipt of a number of these letters which came in just in time to cover the big fighting in which the Canadians took their place amongst the fighting clans of the British Empire. We feel sure that every word from them will be read with deep interest, and hope to have more of such from time to time.

KILLED IN ACTION

WIDESPREAD regret will be felt at the news which came in this week to the effect that our old friend Peter Johnstone has fallen in action, the first of the boys from the Alberni district to be recorded as killed in action.

When the war broke out, Pete Johnstone was one of the first to head direct for the recruiting office, and it was not long until we heard that he was at the front.

He gave up a good position as Fire Warden to go where his country called, and all who knew him felt sure that he would give a good account of himself. A splendid man in every way, he had the making of a perfect soldier. Powerful, athletic and determined, he was the very picture of the ideal British "Tommy," and we all felt that the German who faced Pete's bayonet was a "gone coon."

It was not long until we heard that Pete had caught the eye of his commanding officer, and his first stripe followed. Now comes the news that he is numbered with the dead. He died as he would have wished to die, his face to the foe, and not a man will doubt that more than one German went to clear the path before him.

Good-bye Pete. God rest your gallant soul. Your friends will mourn you as a brother, and long remember the man who was as "white" as they make them.

CLOSING IN

SLOWLY, but none the less surely, the ring of iron is closing around the German Nation. It is only a question of time when the ends will meet, and one smashing blow will complete the weld. The coming of Italy into the war game will no doubt hasten the end, but it was sure from the beginning. It is, and has been, only a question of the price. With two millions more men in the field, and these men prepared to the utmost, there should be some smashing blows struck at the very foundations of "Kultur" in the next few weeks, and there are not lacking those, who should know whereof they write, who predict a speedy end to the entire war.

This should of course, be taken with due consideration of the great difficulties that await the final struggle which must take place on German soil, for there is little doubt but the Powers will not rest until the Germans have been given a taste of what it means to have the war carried to their own doors. The conclusion of the war without this would only mean that the work would all have to be done over again in a few years. This the world will not agree to.

A glance at the reports from the various leaders in the countries of the Allies makes it clear that there is a firm and abiding determination to make a clean job of the present undertaking, and put for all time the dark face of German "Kultur" under the feet of Civilization.

M. Hanotaux, for many years the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the father of the Franco-Russian alliance, has voiced the opinion of France. This was given weeks ago, and shows the close attention to details as they have since developed. When asked how long the war would last, M. Hanotaux replied:

"A fortnight ago, I thought the war would last a year, perhaps a year and a half. To-day I think it will not last so long. When Constantinople falls, and that will come soon, the circle of iron will have closed about Germany. The Balkan States and Italy will join the Allies. That will hasten the inevitable end."

The German dream of world power is soon to end in a rude awakening.

ALBERNI BOYS WRITE HOME

(Continued from Page 1.)

rifle fire. It was just like a hail storm I never heard the like. You can hardly imagine what it was like when you were not there. We made a great charge with the bayonet. We could not shoot as we would have killed our own men. Our men were falling thick as we went along but still they went ahead, and drove the Germans back with the bayonet. We cleared the first line and then went forward and took another line of trenches.

I got wounded before that and could not get further. I got a bullet through the leg, a very lucky wound as it missed the bone. I am getting along fine. I am in the hospital at Cardiff, Wales.

The first day we came to St. Omer and we stayed there one night, and then we came to the Canadian hospital at the coast, at a place called Le Lanquit. We stayed there two days and they treated us great. We were the first big lot of Canadians that came down wounded. The next move was across here. I expect to be better in a short time.

ROSS RIFLE.

I will tell you all about the Ross rifle later on. We still use them at the front, and they work alright. It is all lies about them being taken away from us. I could not wish for a better rifle. I may tell you that all this fighting took place at Ypres and they are making ruins of the town. I will write you a little later and tell you all the news as space will not allow this time. As soon as I hear about the fellows I will let you know. Write to the same adress.

Your affectionate brother
28,600, Pte. C. Campbell.

Alive And Kicking.

The next batch is from our friend Keith Gill, and is made up of the substance of three letters received from him this week.

Keith appears to be right in the thick of things, and to be doing well. He begins by stating:

"I suppose you will be watching the newspapers pretty close these days to see what happened to the Canadian Contingent. Well, we had quite a time alright, but I guess the Germans found that we are not as slow as we

(Continued on page 4.)

PRACTICAL POINTERS ABOUT ALBERNI

Alberni is reached by train from Victoria. Connections are made with Victoria, running through to Alberni on every other day. Passengers from Vancouver City can connect with this train at Nanaimo.

Alberni is also reached by steamer from Victoria, and in the summer months there is no more delightful trip than this up the west coast of Vancouver Island and along the picturesque Alberni canal.

The Island trunk line of the C.N.R. is now building from Victoria to Alberni.

Land prices as to acreage varies from $20 to $100 per acre for bush land and from $100 to $400 for land that has been cleared and brought under cultivation. Prices are governed by quality and location, and land can be had in any quantity.

It has been found that mixed farming pays best. On plots of from ten to twenty acres fruit growing, dairying, poultry raising, hogs and cattle will all pay well.

In Alberni will be found the usual advantages of a progressive Western Community that has faith, and the courage of its convictions. There are a number of good stores carrying a wide range of goods, schools, churches, the Alberni Advocate, newspaper, and a number of athletic and social clubs.

The climate is as fine as can be found on the Pacific Coast, taken the year round. The rainfall is less than that of the City of Vancouver, the frosts are light. There is seldom frost enough for skating or snow enough for sleighing, and when either of these comes it only lasts a few days. For the summer and autumn months there is nothing in the world to excel the Alberni weather.

Alberni is the outlet of one of the largest and most fertile valleys on Vancouver Island. In the District will be found a vast wealth of timber of the finest kind, coal, iron, copper, marble and other commercial stones, brick clays and other materials.

There are numerous attractive opportunities for the manufacturer and investor. The Editor of the Alberni Advocate, Alberni, B. C., will be glad to take these matters up with you. Write to him for particulars.

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Holding On.

A well known bishop one day went went down to his old 'Varsity, and saw at the church an elderly verger whom he remembered as occupying the same position in his own undergraduate days.

The bishop told the man he was pleased to see him looking so well.

"Oh, yes, my lord," replied the old verger, "I have much to be thankful for. I have heard every sermon preached in this church for the last fifty years, and, thank God, I am a Christian still!"

Greene's Home-Bake Bread at The Alberni Trading Stores and Thomson's General Store.

CLASSIFIED ADS.

WORK AND WORKERS.

Until further notice any person desiring employment, and those who wish to hire help of any kind, will find the columns of the Alberni Advocate open to make known their wants to the public without charge.

The service is free. Make use of it.

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Wanted.—Experienced, middle aged English widow, wants position as housekeeper. Good references. Address Mrs. E. Bryant, Alberni, B. C.

For Rent.—Two room building next to Alberni Hotel. Apply to G. A. Smith, Alberni, B. C.

For Sale—8 five acre blocks, 40 acres, away below the Government Agent's assessment in lot 111. Apply to James Beck, P. O. Box 438, Victoria.

Repairing.—Repairs on Autos, Marine Engines, and all kinds of machinery by an expert who has served his time at the trade. Leave orders at the shoe shop next to Huff's Garage, Alberni, B. C.—F. Mosure.

Plants For Sale—Tomato plants, cabbage plants, red cabbage plants, cauliflower plants, Brussels sprouts plants. All now ready for setting out. W. B. Griffin, Alberni, B.C.

Wanted—Work by the day by an expert dressmaker and tailoress, late of Spokane.—Mrs. M. E. Beach Beaver Creek Road near The Maples.

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—City—

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1. All contributions to campaign funds to be open for public inspection at any time, and the use to which they are put to be clearly indicated.

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9. The improvement of the conditions of the working classes by doing all possible to assure a reasonable wage, fair working conditions and decent surroundings for all classes of labor, providing for compensation for the injury or death of the worker and taking such steps as shall eliminate the suffering now falling upon the workers in times of financial depression.

10. Local option for the control of the liquor traffic.

11. Equal suffrage for men and women.

12. The fair and impartial enforcement of the law.

13. The protection of innocent investors by rigid inspection of all companies.

14. A rigid and impartial enquiry into the financial position of the P.G.E. and C.N.P. railways and the disposition of the moneys already provided, and if necessary the government to take over the roads and complete them in the interests of the people rather than to continue the present policy.

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R. L. FRASER

Phone R49 — **Alberni, B. C.**

ALBERNI BOYS WRITE HOME

(Continued from Page 2.)

look.

"I can hardly believe that I am alive and kicking. The Germans got every-thing I had in the big fight, and I am writing this letter in a trench, using my cap as a writing desk."

To his father Keith writes before the big battle though the letter is not posted until after the fight. In his letter he gives his impressions of the country, and the way they manage things in France. Keith does not approve of many things over there, but let him tell it.

"The old farmers here are busy putting in their crops, and they appear quite happy, though the firing line is not far away. It would make you laugh to see the way they do things in this country. They have some fine horses here but the way they drive them is some thing awful. They hitch them up about twenty feet away from the load, and the driver has to steer by hauling on the tongue. I tell you he earns his money alright."

After telling of buying eggs at 60 cents per dozen, and speculating on the chances of a chicken ranch, Keith continues:

"We run across some rolled oats in a little town over here, and we lived high while they lasted.

"The trenches are a whole lot better now than they were when we first came over here, as they are getting nice and dry. We do not have such a bad time in these trenches unless our German friends get to shelling, and then you have to duck, believe me, because those big shells mean business when they come over. We are getting quite used to the rifle fire and don't mind it at all, but it will take a long time to get used to those big shells.

The only advantage is that you can hear them coming a long time before they get you!"

Keith speaks of finding a bunch of Germans buried where they had to dig a trench. The remainder of the letter is taken up with the delight of handling a peculiar insect that is a cross between the B. C. variety and the French stock. He says they are full of both fight and bite. His struggle with a budding mustache is described, and the whole correspondence is in an amusing vein.

We certainly congratulate Keith on coming through the fight in such a lucky manner.

Napier Barracks.

The next letter is from Napier Barracks, and is from Sgt. W. C. Clarke, of the R. A. M. C., and is given because it deals with several of the local boys who are now on the firing line.

Napier Barracks,
Shorncliffe
May 2, 1915.

Editor Advocate,
Dear Sir:-

I write to tell you that I personally bid good by to the Redford boys, W. Heaslip, J. Clarke, D. Ferrier and J. Darby this afternoon, the 30th. Battalion having left Shorncliffe on its way to the front.

I may say that they are all well and fit and left with as brave a face as the next one. That they have become soldiers goes without saying. The misfortune is that the whole battalion does not go together, but as reinforcements for those who fought so well at St. Julien—the Canadians.

It is my lot to remain behind for the present, the A.M.C. going forward in drafts as wanted.

There will be 9,000 Canadians going forward this week and 70,000 of Kitchener's army. It is a sight to see these men get ready and march off, mostly at night, with orders for quietude and no smoking.

Well, I asked the boys if any had messages to send, and the answer was in each case, "tell them that we are alright," so I ask you, Sir, to convey the same message to Mrs. Rochester and to Mr. Clarke, and say that I asked Major Bruce Powley, the officer of their company to look after them and he answered "Why sure, Clarke, they are all good lads."

Clelland also went.

Expressing my regret that I have not gone with them,

I am, Sir,
Yours Truly,
W. C. Clarke.

Other Letters.

Letters were received from Sgt. Frank Stevens, who says "We are off for the front." This was written from Napier Barracks, and appears to have been sent the day before the 30th left for the firing line. Sgt. Stevens will remembered as a former employee of the Alberni branch of the Royal Bank. He sends his regards to all the boys.

Our old friend "Happy" sent a few lines, just to say that he expects to get his breath back in about a month, but in the meantime he is mixing in the best society.

Happy's idea of "mixing" is too well known in Alberni to need any explanation. He appears to have been there or thereabouts, in several of the little squabbles that have been going on along the western battle front, so far he is still wearing the smile that went come off.

COOMBS FORMS LIBERAL ASSN.

Last Saturday evening the district around Coombs formed a Liberal Association. Capt. G. A. Huff, President of the Alberni District Liberal Assn., made a special trip to Coombs for the purpose of assisting the good work, and his report of the proceedings is very interesting.

It appears that some two dozen Liberals were on hand, and the meeting was a great success. Capt. Huff delivered a short address on the history of Liberalism, and proceeded to give an outline of the method of forming such an association as that for which the meeting was called.

Having passed the necessary resolution as to the formation of an association, the following officers were elected: Pres. James Lowery, Parksville; Vice-Pres., Capt. R. W. Johnson Coombs; Sec-Treas., Allan W. Ford, Coombs.

The Executive Committee consists of Messrs. R. H. Loyd, Errington; G. W Bernard, Parksville; John West, Coombs; Thos. Kincaid, Qualicum; W. Ford, Coombs; Thos. Hillier, Hillier.

After the election of officers and a general discussion of the situation, a vote of thanks was passed to the President of the District Association for his kindness in attending the meeting, and it was resolved to meet again in two weeks. The gathering was a very enthusiastic one, and there is no doubt that much good will result from the formation of the new association.

Dental Work.

Dr. J. C. Morrison will be in Alberni to attend to the wants of those in need of work in the dental line. He will be at the Hotel Arlington on Monday, where appointments can be made.

Greene's Home-Bake Bread at The Alberni Trading Stores and Thomson's General Store.

Spring Showers.

Even the most enthusiastic admirer of Alberni weather will admit that we have had about enough "showers" during the past few weeks to do for quite awhile, but even this weather cannot damp the enthusiasm of the wise ones who insist on fortifying their systems against changes in weather by a judicious selection of the many tempting offerings of Mr. Rochester, the family butcher. With a few of these taken in season, even the most confirmed "weather grouch" takes on a smile.

Funeral Service.

Practically the entire town of Alberni, as well as many citizens of the Port, turned out to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of Mrs. Wm. Frank Gibson, who lost her life in an unsuccessful attempt to save the life of her little daughter Mae.

The Mayor and Council of Alberni acted as pall bearers, and the floral offerings were both numerous and beautiful.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. James Carruthers.

CASH vs. CREDIT

To Encourage Cash Buying We Offer

Royal Houshold flour; cash $2.20, credit $2.30
Glenora " " $2.10, " $2.15

The Cash Prices are very close and mean strictly cash with Order.

Pioneer Feed & Coal Co.

Office Phone 125 — A. PAUL, Manager — Res., R25

The Alberni Trading Stores

For the Good Old Summer Time---

Grape Fruit, Bitter Oranges for Marmalade, Lime Juice, Lemon Squash and a fine assortment of soft drinks.

The Busy Store — On the Busy Corner

C.F. Bishop & Son

The Well-known and Old Established Grocers, Bakers and Produce Merchants

The Supply of Fresh Fruit is now Limited. Evaporated Fruit is a good Substitute

EVAPORATED APPLES	2 lbs.	FOR	25c.
EVAPORATED PEACHES	2 lbs.	FOR	25c.
EVAPORATED APRICOTS	2 lbs.	FOR	35c.
DRIED PRUNES	2 lbs.	FOR	25c.

Canned Fruits of all kinds in stock.

Victoria Quay Store, Phone 36 - - - Argyle Street Store, Phone 148

English Indigo dyed Prints and Chambrays - - 12 1-2c. a yd.

Mens' Balbriggan Under Vests and Drawers - 40c. a garment

Ladies' Black Lisle Thread Hose - - - - - 35c. a pair

THOMSON'S GENERAL STORES