

OKS. 11th

PERCY L. CLIMO
 6 Simmons St.
 P. O. Box 299
 Colborne, Ontario
 K9K 1S9

October 9th 1989.

Dear Gordon:

My brother, Cecil, has sent to me, on my request, a cover story to go with the gun picture. It arrived here on Friday last.

I am enclosing a copy for you to keep. Let me know if you see anything that should be corrected. Cecil asked me to edit it if I wish. After all these years, one can not get all the facts perfect. I did correct it in a couple of places.

I am so pleased to have this story direct from one who was there and written in 1989!!

Percy

copy

BOOK.

" LET US REMEMBER " " Lively Letters from World War One. "

Picture on Cover - ~~the~~ 9.2 Howitzer ~~and~~ and Crew at Bulley Grenaz ^a France, in Mid²-summer of 1917.

(Italics)- Gunner Cecil Climo left his studies at the Cobourg Collegiate institute in April, 1916. He joined the Fourth Draft of the Cobourg Heavy Battery, departed Cobourg for overseas, June 16, 1916, moved direct to England for further training, then on to France and the firing line by late August 1916. On August 9th, 1917, Cecil was severely shell burned in a big explosion. After nine months in hospitals and convalescent camps, he returned to Kingston and Cobourg for further hospitalization.

Cecil received his honorable discharge in August of 1918. He finished his studies at C.C.I. , then entered Queen's University, graduating in Mechanical Engineering in 1923. He spent a lifetime in industry. On retirement, he returned to Kingston. On October 3, 1989, at the age of 91, he wrote the following story :

THE COBOURG HEAVY BATTERY.

"The Cobourg Heavy Battery is probably the most famous of the Canadian Artillery units. Formed on March 17, 1866, at the time of the Fenian Raids scare, it saw guard duty in Toronto. It was active in the Boer War with Cobourg representatives taking part. When war was declared on August 4th. 1914, within hours, the Cobourg Heavy Battery was mobilized and on its way to Eastern points. It was equipped with 60 pounder guns or "long Toms" as the soldiers called them. After a short set-up below Quebec City, the Battery was sent to the west coast for defence purposes. Later it went to England with the First Contingent where it was named No.2 Battery. As the war progressed, other groups were recruited and sent to England, to Horsham, in Kent. The fourth group under Lieut. J.E. (Dutchy) Lein, of Camborne, formed the nucleus for No. One Canadian Siege Battery. This Battery performed its shooting training in Lydd, and outshot all other batteries in camp. As a reward they were given the first new 9.2 Howitzers issued to any battery, English or Canadian, as illustrated in the accompanying picture.

Long Toms were 4.7 naval guns on field mountings

Lein

No. One Canadian Siege ^{if} Battery ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ landed in France in June of 1916, and was sent to the Somme. The Battery distinguished itself by having confirmed, destruction of 75 German guns. From there it moved to ^{the} Arras and the Vimy Ridge fronts.

These 9.2 Howitzers consisted of a base cradle and barrel. Each piece moved on wheels pulled by a tractor. The shells weigh 300 ^{pounds} plus the charge of 15 pounds of cordite. The gun, in the picture, is ready to fire. The men shown in the picture were all killed on August 9th, 1917, in the explosion. This gun and others were in front of Hill 70, near Lens. We had just received a lot of shells and cordite, charges ready for the attack. We were behind cross-roads which the Germans were shelling at 7.00 A.M. A stray shell landed on our fused shells, exploding about 20 tons of shells and cordite. We were changing gun crews which accounts for the high number of casualties. The hot burning shells set the cordite bags on fire, the two guns were destroyed, and 24 of the 28 men were killed. I WAS ONE OF THE LUCKY FOUR.

"The Battery was recruited and served the rest of the war with honours. The gun in the picture was one of the 9.2 Howitzers destroyed. --- Kingston Ontario, October 3, 1989.