

**News from the Front**  
(Taken from Milton Time Capsules)

December, 1915 – Letters were being received and printed from Sgt. Leslie Bradley who complained that the regimental goat nearly got his package from home from Gunner Emery Bradley, at the Grange Hospital, Kent who reported that his foot was healing.

Sgt. Leslie (written day before he was wounded). "I was just figuring up today. Thirteen men were in my section when we landed in France, Two are dead, ten have been wounded, two of these have returned to duty and I alone have escaped with a whole hide. Sometimes I wonder how long it will last. I have seen men die in all manner of deaths. I am still here. I have scouted over "no man's land", erected wire entanglements not a hundred yards from Fritz's machine guns, have been buried alive and have felt the breeze of bullets as they whizzed by my head. Still I am plodding along.

On Tuesday, John Bradley was notified that Sergeant Leslie Bradley, 4<sup>th</sup> Batt. was in hospital suffering from a gunshot wound. Sgt. Bradley had been the most fortunate of all the men of the First contingent. Up until the 12<sup>th</sup> he was the only one who had been regularly in the firing line who had escaped being hit.

Since the wounding of Pte Duncan Patterson, Sgt. Leslie Bradley is now the only man except Jas, Fennemore, now of the R.C.D. Of the Milton contingent to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion who had been in the firing line who had escaped death, wounding or sickness. He went to France on Feb, 15, 1915 and has been at the front ever since, except nine days spent on leave in England.

December, 1916  
Sgt, Leslie Bradley, son of John Bradley of Hornby has recovered fast from the wound received last spring and is again in France duty in the trenches.  
Sgt, Emery Bradley, R.C.A, is on duty as a signalling instructor at Shornecliffe. Though discharged from the hospital there, the bones broken in one of his feet, still trouble him.

March, 1918  
John Bradley of Hornby heard from his son C.S.M. Leslie Bradley, "I have been given the Military Medal and the Belgium Croix de Guerre (Cross of the War) I am having the medals sent home. Please take good care of them and let me know if they arrive safely. Am Co. Sgt. Major now, but the rank is not yet confirmed."

News from the Front. In the letters home, wasn't always grim. A letter from Leslie Bradley reported, "We were in the trenches on the bank of a fair sized river. The banks were about as high as the Sixteen Mile Creek hills.

We were short of eatables and grouchy. One night the enemy gave us a heavier cannonade than usual. A lot of their shells dropped in the river and heaved bucketfuls of water upon us and we were grouchier than ever. There is a good side to everything however, and the fish accompanied the water. We fried them for breakfast in the morning .....

