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Stouffville, Ont.

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Bert Coulson Writes from Hospital

Mr. R. P. Coulson received the following letter from his son Bert, which will be read with great interest by his friends in town.

Wilson War Hospital,
Reading, Ward 17
June 23, 1916.

Dear Father—
No doubt, before this letter reaches you, you will have heard that the huns got me. I got mine on that memorable morning of June 13th between 3 and 2 a. m. when the Canadians won back their lost trenches. I will tell you of my wounds first as well as I can lying on my back, and then of the great attack. I got a shrapnel bullet through my left leg just above the knee, entering from the left and coming out just opposite. It nipped a bone, but no fracture. Had X-ray on it this morning to see if there is any little splinter in the knee as it is rather a bad one being badly swollen. A shrapnel bullet went through the calf of my right leg coming in from the left and passing clean through. It is doing very nicely. But my other one is sure a miracle and nothing else. A shrapnel bullet (you know they are round and about the size of a marble) struck me in the left side, travelled clean across the small of my back and remained about one-sixth of an inch beneath the surface on my right side. It missed every vital spot—spine, kidneys, stomach. Besides that I got nipped with a piece of shrapnel in the calf of my left leg, but it doesn't amount to much. I got enough to keep me out of it for three or four months anyway and believe me, I am not sorry.

You see this business started over Fritz getting these trenches from the Canadians, on the second, then a counter attack was made a couple of days later but failed not having enough good artillery preparation and support. Well, everything was fixed for the thirteenth and believe me, some artillery support this time. You see, we weren't in the first of it, that is, when the trenches were lost. We were in the divisional rest H. Q. for ten days but that business cut our rest short as our division and the second supporting, were picked on to win them back. The day of the twelfth was wet and cold and we were all wet through, no shelter but ditches etc. half full of mud and water. The day passed however, and night set in the rain coming down ten times harder than before and the guns bombarding the lines we were to take, incessantly. Just imagine thousands of shells screaming overhead and Fritz's replying. I'll tell you father it was surely hell on earth. We moved off to take up our positions for the attack about 10.45 P. M. After we arrived there our artillery opened up every gun on the salient going about 2 of an hour. Then the 16th Scottish moved off on the charge. We went about 25 feet when I got mine. I thought I surely was killed. It just felt as if I were hit in a dozen places and by pieces as large as my fist. I lay groaning with three or four others around that got it from the same shell. Major Peck, our second in command, came up and said "Is this some of the 16th?" We said "Yes." "Well, cheer up, boys, help will be coming soon," and took each of us by the hand by way of encouragement. I lay there for 4 of an hour, shells dropping all around and expecting each minute that one would finish me. Another bunch of men came along and dragged us into a ditch nearby. As I learned afterwards nearly all our stretcher bearers were either killed or



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W. R. Adams, Manager

wounded at the commencement. I lay in that ditch of mud and water for over fifteen hours before I was eventually taken in. All the time mind you, Fritz's whizz bangs, high explosive shells were dropping all around. I certainly never expected a chance to get in a hospital. I was taken from 1st field dressing station about eight miles back of the firing line. From there to number 14 hospital, just outside Boulogne, France, where I stayed four days. It surely was a fine place, a big castle-like affair. It had been used I believe, as a big gambling establishment something after the style of Monte Carlo, but since the war it has been converted into a hospital. I then took the boat from Boulogne to Dover and from there a rather weary journey to my present abode. I am very glad I am settled now as so much moving around, although it had to be done, was rather hard on me.

I am feeling pretty good today and will be glad when I can get out and hobble around, although I'll have to possess with patience for a few weeks yet. It will be my left leg which will give me the most trouble as the wounds in my back only need dressing every other day now as they are healing so nicely, and my right leg won't take long being a nice, clean cut wound. However, I'm in no hurry to be back. I don't want any of you to worry about me because all the boys lucky enough to get wounded bad enough to be sent to England are envied by the other fellows. Give my best regards to the friends around town.
B. K. Coulson.

Thanks to W. I.

Mrs. W. J. Thompson
Pres. Women's Inst.
June 3, 1916.
Somewhere in Belgium
Dear Mrs. Thompson—

It is with much pleasure that we acknowledge the receipt of your letter and the three parcels which you sent so kind as to send us. Out here, enduring the inconveniences and hardships we are called upon to endure, we believe that we are only doing our duty, and we hope and trust that this terrible conflict will soon be over and that we shall be spared to return, when we will be able to thank the members of the Institute personally. We enjoyed the contents of the parcels very much indeed and they certainly brightened up what would otherwise have been a very dull trip in the trenches. You have no idea how much parcels from home are enjoyed by the boys at the front, and we feel that we can hardly thank you properly, by letter for your

kindness. We trust however, that we will be able to thank you all personally in the near future. With every good wish for the further success of the Institute, we remain,
Yours Sincerely,
S. V. Hutchinson
W. F. Hutchinson

NOTICE—The office of Dr. D. C. Smith will be closed every evening at five o'clock and on Friday afternoons during July and August.

Dominion Day a Big Success

A large number were present at Stouffville's Dominion Day celebration.
At 10 a. m. the detachment of the 220th York Rangers led by their brass band and bugle band and Stouffville band headed the big parade. There followed a number of handsomely decorated automobiles, the prize for the best decorated car went to Mr. J. A. Brillin.
In the afternoon a big program of sports was provided. Baseball was the leading feature. In the first game for the twenty-five dollar cup, Uxbridge "put it over" Stouffville by a score of 11-2. The second game, between the winners and the 220th Battalion team was hotly contested from start to finish. At one time the score stood 0-3 in favor of Uxbridge but the soldiers rallied in the fourth innings losing however by one run in the final score standing 9-8. The Tur-O-War was won by Len Harris' team. His stalwarts easily pulled the 820th over the mark, but found more difficulty in handling W. R. Adams' team. The latter was not satisfied with the result but were finally convinced that their opponents were the best men with the rope.
The model military camp attracted many. There, everything necessary for the soldier's life could be seen.
In the evening's splendid recruiting meeting was held, at which Col. Brown, Major Pink, Capt. Davis and Capt. Mills issued a call for recruits. Five came forward in response to the appeal. There was a musical program in which the bands participated and at which Lieut. Johnstone rendered several solos. The program concluded with moving pictures and fireworks.
On Sunday afternoon at 3.00 o'clock a drum-head service was held on the camp ground. Captain Pickup, Chaplain of the Battalion, had charge of the service, which was very pleasing to the rain. On Monday morning the Battalion left Stouffville for Verdun, and from there the trek continued to Newmarket for the big Military parade and Field Day on Wednesday.
The rumour, which was absolutely without foundation, and which has since been disproved by Brigadier-General Logie, that the Battalion was to be amalgamated with another unit, has served to increase the enthusiasm of the Officers and the men for their efforts to bring it up to full strength.

STOUFFVILLE HONOR ROLL

OUR DEAD
Pte. Bert Trull, Died in England 1915, Stretcher bearer.
Thos. Perkins killed in action
Allan Perkins killed in action

MISSING
Pte. Ross Pipher, Langemark France, 48th. Highlanders.

On Active Service
A. Widdifield on active service for second time,
Freel Yake,
Will Macklen,
Frank Underhill,
Nelson Nendick,
Clarence Fortier,
Robert Dales,
Earl Meek,
Lloyd Hill,
Art. Mertens,
John Evans,
Harry Stiver,
George Hadden,
Will Bingham,
Roy Gohn,
Bert Coulson,
W. E. Mertens.

In Training
Percy Jourdan,
Roy Mantle,
Gordon Pipher,
Harry Hill,
Will Shackel,
Frank Sievenpiper,
Alex. Harris,
Jas. Mainland,
Stephen Noble,
Walter Wilkinson,
Bert Smith,
C. Cooper,
E. Miller,
Floyd R. Fisker,
Arthur Davis,
Harvey McConochie,
Alfred McConochie,
Joe Widdifield,
Alf. Bothwright,
Willie Woods,
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Stanley Law,
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The business men of Stouffville have decided to close their places of business on Fridays at 12.30 during June, July and August. The three Blacksmith shops will be closed on Friday afternoons during July and August. The Stouffville Banks will be closed also on Friday afternoons during June, July and August.

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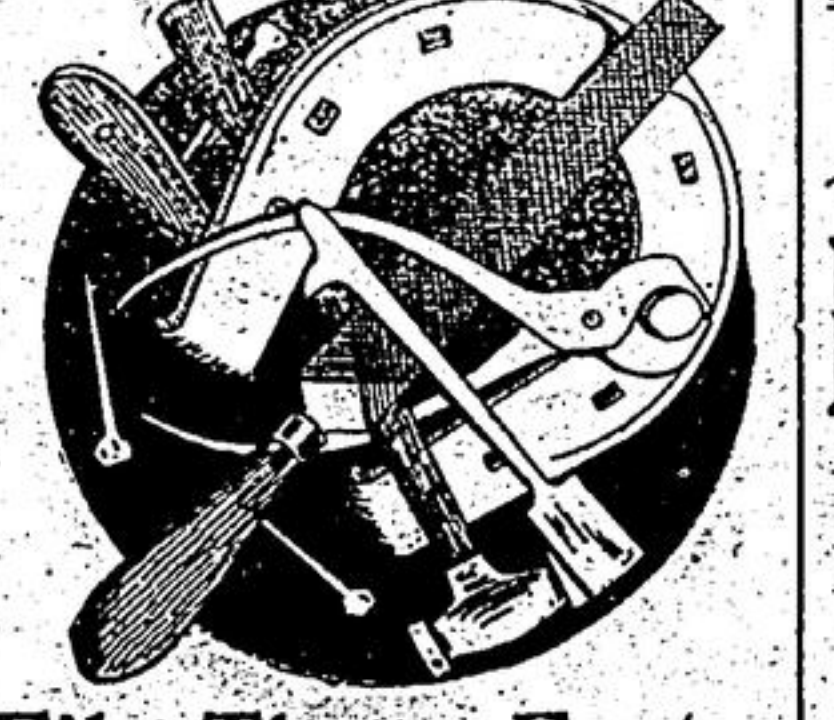
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