

Plan to attend
the November 15th Meeting
of the
Hastings County Historical Society

Bill Kennedy
will introduce
the amazingly frank letters of
GARN DOBBS
of Belleville
written as he served in the
Canadian Forces
in Europe from 1917 to 1919

7:30 p.m.
Quinte Living Centre Auditorium
370 Front Street

Everyone welcome



"Letters
from the Front"

Left:
Sgt. Garn Dobbs
of Belleville

Right:
Letter from
Garn Dobbs
to his brother
Walt and
sister-in-law
Lottie in
Winnipeg
telling them
about his
departure
from England
for France,
September,
1917

Somewhere in France.

Sept. 14, 1917

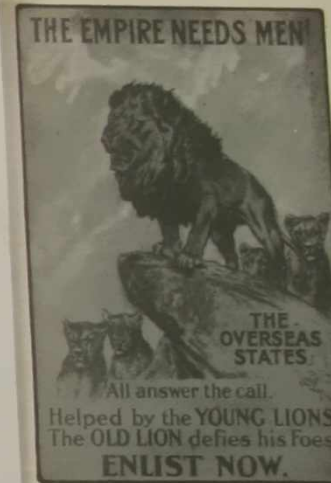
Mr. W. B. Dobbs,
Belleville Court,
Worwood, N. Y.
Canada.

Dear Lottie & Walt:-

I've been trying for what came
like two months to write you but never can see
enough spare time to complete a letter to any one
if I have to write in ciphers.

I think the last time I wrote was just after we
had been ordered for France so will continue from
there. We hung around the camp there for nearly
a week after that, waiting to go any more but were
detained on account of a strong gale blowing and
making the channel too dangerous. We finally
got orders to leave and marched out of camp about
4.30 P.M. in a pouring rain. We had been out in it
all day and were soaking wet anyway, so we didn't
mind it and everybody was in high spirits.

We entrained in the town and after travelling all
night reached the port where we were to embark.
(I can't mention any names from memory) We had
breakfast and were prepared to go aboard the transport
but the gale was still blowing and they wouldn't



Garn Dobbs

3.01



Left

Care Dobbs letter to his sister
Millie.

"We have had a
taste of real soldiering
since I wrote you last,
or in other words have
done a turn in the trenches."

Sgt. Garn Dobbs

- World War One Letters
- Courtesy of his daughter Dorothy Bowes of Belleville
- Display arranged by Bill Kennedy

Hand Pump Used To Get Water Out Of The Trenches



King George V
&
Queen Mary



Walter Dobbs, Edwin Dobbs, Lottie Dobbs, Garn Dobbs, Edward Dobbs, Harry Dobbs, Milla Broadbridge, Dorothy Dobbs, Ted Dobbs, Dorothy Dobbs, Bob Dobbs

St. Albans, Nov. 25, 1918.

Dear Walter & Lottie,

I certainly believe I have about five minutes without any work to do, so I'll write you a few lines at least to let you know I'm still alive, though possibly you are beginning to think otherwise by this time. I thought I'd had only 12 spells before but nothing to compare with what we've had since the armistice has been signed. Of course, you know all about that long before this so there's no need for me to dwell on it excepting to say that "I was darned welcome now when it came. I was that time. (Now) we have been on an almost constant move toward Germany which accounts for our lack of time. after averaging 15 miles or so each day. you don't feel like doing much else but go to bed when you get there but you get to your destination."

Left

Garn Dobbs letter to his brother Walter and his wife Lottie following the signing of the armistice.

"We have been on almost constant move toward Germany... after marching 15 miles or so each day you don't feel like doing much else but go to bed when you get to your destination."



3-03



The Dobbs Family
1953

Bruce
Edna Garn
Dorothy

Miss Millie Dobbs
25 Howland Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.
Canada.

Seaford Camp, June 13th
1917.

Dear Sister,

Well, here we are at our destination at last and some trip we have had. I intended writing you some but thought I would wait until we reached our camp wherever it was to be. We didn't know which camp we were heading for until we were almost ready to board the train here in England and there is a couple of dozen different camps here you know. But to start from the beginning, we left Belleville on Sat. May 24 about 1 P.M. and had a very nice send-off at the station. Mill and the Folks were up at the station with the crowd in spite of my persuasion to try and keep them away. Dad had to go back to work and couldn't wait until the train left. Well, we cut down through Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and we could almost tell what province we were in by the reception we got from the people. Through Quebec, the population were very quiet and took no more notice of the troop trains than if they hadn't been in the other provinces, we got the glad hand all the way through. There were six or seven trains ahead of ours and some of them had windows broken by stones thrown by the people from stations in Quebec. There had been rioting in Montreal that night over the conscription bill and we were hoping they would let us get off and have some fun but nothing doing. We weren't allowed off the



CARS PRESENTED TO THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY BY THE CANADIAN RED CROSS

CANADA'S WORK FOR THE WOUNDED

Left

Garn Dobbs letter to his sister Millie after his arrival in England, telling her about his send-off from Belleville May 26, 1917 and the train trip to Halifax.

"There were six or seven trains ahead of ours and some of them had windows broken by stones thrown by people from the stations in Quebec. There had been rioting in Montreal that night over the conscription bill..."

THE VETERAN'S FAREWELL.



"Good-bye, my lad. I only wish I were young enough to go with you."

ENLIST NOW!

Military Panels prepared by members of the Renaissance Society of St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School, Belleville, under the guidance of teacher Joe Stafford



H-0029

Royal Air Force Flying School at Deseronto.



Women served in the first war, especially as nurses.



Pilots came from Britain to be trained - Some spent time training in Texas.

3.05

Sgt. Major Angus Duffy



From the Mika Collection of the Hastings County Historical Society, featuring Sgt. Major Angus Duffy of W.W.II.

Military Panels prepared by members of the Renaissance Society of St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School, Belleville, under the guidance of teacher Joe Stafford



3.07

