

Brigadier General R Pinney in welcoming a draft of 5 officers
502 N.C.Os and men reinforcements to the 2nd Battn Scottish Rifles
said to them on parade on the 21st March 1915.

" You will know you are coming to a fine fighting regiment
I also wish you to know what that Regiment has been doing in the
battle of Neuve Chapelle.

Our friends the gunners bombarded the German trenches with heavy
shells for half an hour and bombarded their wire with field guns for
15 minutes.

The Scottish Rifles and Middlesex Regiments were side by side
to lead the assault. Before the Artillery fire had ceased the
Germans opened a very heavy ~~XXX~~ rifle and machine-gun fire on
our ranks which were distant about 100 yards from the German
wire.

In the face of this heavy fire your regiment gallantly led
by Colonel Bliss and his Officers charged right through the
German wire over their first trench and into the second trench.
Colonel Bliss over 20 Officers and over 30 Sergeants were
casualties at a very early moment.

Our loss in Colonel Bliss is a very severe one I say "Our loss"
because we all loved him. He is also a very heavy loss to the
whole Army.

In spite of these very heavy losses in Officers and Sergeants and
numbers of men fell too the remains of the Battalion went on
fighting and getting forward just as they had done when their
Officers were with them.

They continued to fight well right in front of the battle till
at its close on the 5th day when they were brought out of action
by a 2nd Lt (2nd Lieut Somerville Special Reserve Scottish Rifles)
and by the Sergt Major (Sgt Major Chalmers 2nd Bn Scottish Rifles)
Your regiments fighting in this action was a glorious feat
of arms.

I congratulate you and envy you on joining such a fine fighting
regiment."