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SOLDIERS' LETTERS

A NARROW ESCAPE. OF FAIRLIE SOLDIER.

Word has just come from Trooper A. McGregor, of Fairlie, that he had a very narrow escape in the battle of Messines. He was at the quick-firing guns and got knocked over with a shell, four pieces of shrapnel penetrating his body. His mate was killed at the same time, and fell right on top of him. He thought this was a fatality, but it was just the thing that saved him. The shrapnel was flying about everywhere, his dead mate being hit several times, and it was over three hours before the stretcher bearers found him. He would not have been able to get up had they not come to his assistance. He has been in hospital near London, where he had all the shrapnel taken out of his body, and is now doing well. He expects to go back to his regiment. He was offered the chance of coming home the previous time he was wounded, but declined to leave his mates fighting. Now none are left who went from Wellington in the same regiment with him. The last three were killed at Messines.