

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS DAY SPENT IN TRENCHES OF LENS

One Who Has Been There Writes of Cold, Clammy, Cheerless Underground Habitations and of Draughty, Uncomfortable Barns—Men of Fighting Twenty-Six—Former Fraternizing With Enemy Was Curtailed.

At this season of the year, the memories of many officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force will hark back to the Christmas days spent in the cold cheerless trenches, or the sheltered, uncomfortable barns, and houses which served as billets during the years of the Great War.

On December 21, 1917, the 2nd Canadian Division, which was on the Mercurville front in the Lens area, moved back to rest billets, some twenty-five kilometers behind the lines. The men were in fine spirits, and looking forward to a real Christmas treat. They were heartily sick of the trenches, which in this area consisted of mere gutters with trench-mats on which to stand. The coldest weather, which the troops had experienced up to this point in the war, had set in and the mercury hovered around the zero mark, with three or four inches of snow on the ground.

On the way back from the front line, the transport officer of the famous 26th Battalion, somehow lost his direction, and the men instead of reaching their billets at one o'clock as per schedule, did not arrive at the little French town of Flechen, their future home for the ensuing days, until five o'clock. This delay dampened, but little, the spirits of the troops, and they lost little time in getting settled in their homes. Some of the houses and barns composing the billets were without a roof and another would have but two of the walls standing. To meet this situation, the men who were long accustomed to this condition of affairs, set to work shutting out the cold wintry winds by laying tarpaulins over what remained of the sides and roofs of the buildings.

On Christmas Day the feast was prepared in a large Y.M.C.A. marquee which could accommodate half the battalion at one sitting. Beside the dinner which consisted of pork and ham, vegetables, oranges, nuts, etc., two of the men divided the contents of

boxes sent from home. The day was declared a grand success for all but one company which was unfortunate in having its keg of beer stolen. The day while causing keen regret, did not mar the joyousness of the day. Part of the funds, which provided the extra rations, came from the province, and the remainder was made up from sales at the battalion canteen.

Major Cecil Porter, D.S.O., was in command, as the battalion commander, the late Col. McKenzie, D.S.O., was on sick leave in England. Capt. Harold Wood, M.C., was the adjutant. The four company commanders were: Major Dawson, Capt. Shand, M.C., Lieut. Simmonds and Lieut. Campbell. Quartermaster Jas. Pringle, M.C., of Fredericton, was also with the battalion.

After nineteen days of arduous training in the back areas, the troops again moved up to the same front, leaving their billets which they had fixed up in many small ways, for the trying days ahead in the grim struggle.

For the troops who remained in the line during Christmas, strict orders had been issued against any fraternizing with the Germans. An unofficial armistice at different points of the line on preceding years, but this H.Q. had decided must not continue. Shortly before the Vimy engagement the 4th Division had attempted to attack several times, and had failed. After one attempt, as many wounded on both sides were lying in the open, a local armistice was agreed on. A German major with a white flag appeared and called for an officer of the two met and planted the flag in the centre of "no man's land." Germans and Canadians then leaped over their parapets and collected their arms and munitions. Each officer held his men from going beyond the flag, and the lull in fighting at this particular section of the line continued for two or three days, when it was brought to a sudden close by a shot from the Canadian trenches.

LUDLOW STREET GIVES CANTATA

"The Messiah" Beautifully Presented by 30 Scholars.

Ludlow street Baptist Sunday school very fittingly celebrated Christmas with the presentation of a beautifully dramatized cantata, "The Messiah," on Sunday afternoon. About thirty scholars took part and impressed all present. All the participants were costumed to represent Eastern life, there being several beautiful scenes, especially that of the angels, the manger and the "three kings" of the east. The cantata was under the direction of the Sunday school superintendent, R. H. Parsons and E. Clyde Parsons the choir leader. Following the coming of the wise men, the twenty-five classes of the school presented their "white gifts," which amounted to \$75 worth of gifts and \$27 in cash.

The largest attendance in the history of the Sunday school was recorded, there being 434 present. A feature of the afternoon service was the presentation to the pastor of a beautiful silver pencil suitably engraved, a gift from the Sunday school. Mr. Robbins expressed his appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the school members in a brief address. Deacon Ring took occasion to express his appreciation of the able manner in which the school presented the cantata, which will be repeated at the evening service next Sunday.

STATEMENT FROM JOHNNY DUNDEE

Declares Cricqui Must Fight Him for the World Title Instead of Kilbane.

Johnny Dundee, holder of the 130 pound title by right of conquest, and of the American featherweight championship through the forfeiture by Kilbane, is much exercised over the reported matching of Kilbane and Cricqui, featherweight champion of Europe, world's title bout at the Polo Grounds, New York next summer. He declares that such a match would be an injustice to him.

"I issued a formal challenge to Kilbane about ten months ago," Dundee says, "and Kilbane declined it. He refused to come out of his shell and defend his title. Consequently the boxing commission suspended him and recognized me as champion."

"So far as the Cricqui match is concerned, I do not think the boxing commission will permit Kilbane to be one of the participants, inasmuch as he is not licensed as a boxer here."

"I do not wish to convey the impression that I'm a 'squaker.' What I want is fair play, and that is what I'm going to get, regardless of the cost."

"I have every reason to believe Kilbane is afraid to meet me. He turned down no less than twenty-five offers for no reason other than he is not ready yet. As for the Cricqui match, I should get it, not Kilbane."

BIG THREE AGREE TO BAR SPITBALL

Harvard, Yale and Princeton May Use Damp Delivery Against Outside Teams.

The poor old spitter is having its last fling. It is being driven not only from professional baseball but from intercollegiate circles as well. There is an agreement among Harvard, Yale and Princeton not to use the damp delivery in their annual series. The Big Three have gone further than the major leagues in their crusade against the spitter.

While the National and American agreement prohibits the use of the spitball by newcomers it permits its being thrown by pitchers who used it in the past before the rule was passed. The Big Three, however, have barred the spitter entirely from their series. This, we believe, particularly affects Yale, which in Hickey has quite an able hurler of the spitter.

Harvard, Yale and Princeton further have agreed that should they desire to use a spitball pitcher against a team outside of the Big Three, written permission must be obtained from that college. This makes it look as if the intention is to wipe out the damp delivery altogether in time. Of course, the shine ball and other freak deliveries prohibited by the major leagues are also illegal in the Big Three series.

The spitball never has been very popular among the colleges and has been used by only a few hurlers since the majors acted against it. Perhaps the most adept of the college spitball throwers was Cuddy Murphy, who pitched for Dartmouth a few years ago. Cuddy got a trial with the Red Sox, and with his spitter barred, proved a dismal failure. Carroll, the Jersey City lad who as a freshman was a sensation with Holy Cross last season, is said to have a great spitter.

COMMANDER EDWARDS RECEIVES WELCOME

Among the passengers arriving on the Minnedosa last Saturday was Commander C. P. Edwards, O. B. E., of Ottawa, who is the director of the Radio Telegraph branch of the Marine and Fisheries. He is returning from England where he represented Canada at the Imperial Conference on the Imperial chain of wireless telegraph stations.

Commander and Mrs. Edwards while coming up the Bay of Fundy were welcomed by wireless telephone by P. F. Vaughan, M. Sc., of the Vaughan Electric Co., Ltd., from his radio phone station 9 B. I., located in his laboratory at this city. After extending a hearty welcome on their safe return to Canada, a musical programme was given for their benefit. The numbers on the programme were also much enjoyed by a number of radio amateurs in the city listening in.

Funerals

The funeral of Mrs. Mary J. Stephens was held Sunday afternoon from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Walter Knox, St. John street, West Side, to Cedar Hill. Service was conducted by Rev. C. R. Freeman.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children In Use For Over 30 Years

Always bears the Signature of *Dr. H. H. Plummer*

PROMINENT ATTORNEY HERE

Among other notables arriving on the Minnedosa last Saturday was A. Germaine, a prominent criminal lawyer of Montreal.

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY

Today is the feast of St. Stephen the martyr and a holy day in the Anglican church. The day in England is celebrated as Boxing Day and is a public holiday.

FIREMEN'S RELIEF

The secretary of the Firemen's Relief Association reports having received ten dollars from the estate of William McLaughlin, and twenty-five dollars from H. Usher Miller in recognition of valuable work performed by the firemen at recent fires.

EACH RECEIVED SOUVENIR

Every seat in the spacious dining room of the Victoria was filled yesterday at the Christmas dinner. Each diner received a souvenir menu card gotten up in most excellent taste, which no doubt will be treasured by them.

A DISTURBANCE IN MAIN ST.

The police were called on Saturday night to quell a disturbance on Main street. It was only between some men who were feeling the Christmas cheer, and when the officers arrived on the scene the disturbers had departed and peace reigned.

LOCAL GIRL DOES WELL

The many friends of Miss Dorothy Christie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Christie, 188 Victoria street, who is taking a nursing course at the Mount Allison Training School, New York, will be glad to learn that she has successfully passed her first examination and is now in the junior class.

THE BRITISH MAILED

The British mails here will close at 9 A. M. tomorrow for the steamship Minnedosa, from St. John. A direct parcels post to France will close here at the same time for the Minnedosa. A British letter mail will close at 4 P. M. on December 28 for the President Roosevelt, via New York.

FINDING OPEN DOORS.

The police officers doing their nightly rounds frequently find doors of business houses open. In the old days it was the case of the officer placing ring bolts and lock on the door, but for the past few years it has been necessary that the officer get into communication with the owner or some employee in charge and have him get out of a good warm bed and secure the premises. A few such cases were reported by the police on Christmas Eve.

REMEMBERED THE POOR

The St. Elizabeth Society of St. Peter's parish were especially busy this season looking after the poor of the parish and over forty boxes containing everything for the Christmas dinner, including a pair of chickens in each box, were sent out. They also assisted in the distribution of the Journal "Stockings" and last evening expressed their appreciation of a movement which meant so much for the "kiddies" who would otherwise have been forced to the street that Santa Claus had forgotten them.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST I HAVE A PRESENT FOR MAJOR HOOPLE—SOMETHING YOU HAVE NEEDED FOR TH' LAST TWENTY YEARS!

SANTA HAS BEEN SO GOOD TO US ALL THIS YEAR!

MY I WONDER WHAT IT CAN BE?

BY JOVE KRIS KINGLE, YOU JOLLY OLD CODGER, THIS IS INDEED A SURPRISE—PERMIT ME TO EXTEND THE THANKS OF THIS HAPPY HEARTSIDE FOR YOUR LAVISH DISTRIBUTION OF YULETIDE GIFTS!

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TOAST BREAD ON HIS EARS—IT'S A PAIR OF OVERALLS!

WHA-HA-DOESN'T BUS MAKE A DIZZY SANTA CLAUS?—WAT TILL TH' MAJOR OPENS HIS PRESENT!

SANTA VISITS THE HOUSE OF HOOPLE.

BY AHERN

RED ROSE TEA has a multitude of them—often three generations in one family.

"Old friends are best"—RED ROSE TEA has a multitude of them—often three generations in one family.

RED ROSE COFFEE is always packed fresh in doubly sealed cans.

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MANY SERVICES CHRISTMAS DAY

Throngs Attend Midnight Masses—Anglican Observance—Others Unite.

Trinity church was attended by a large congregation yesterday morning, when the Christmas celebration was held with all the joyousness that comes from the pulpit and the choral service of the old church brings. The Holy Communion was celebrated at 8 A. M. and the full choral service was held at 11 A. M., which rule was also followed in St. John's Stone church, where Rev. A. L. Fleming preached, Rev. Canon Armstrong preaching at Trinity.

The Mission church, St. John Baptist, Paradise Row, held its Christmas celebration with a Solemn High Mass in the morning at 11 A. M., low celebrations of the Holy Eucharist being held at 7 and 8 A. M., with matins at 10.15 A. M. and Evensong at 4 P. M. Rev. Father John V. Young was the preacher at the high church of the city proper, combined in a service at Knox church at 11 A. M. yesterday morning with the pastor of St. David's officiating. The offering was for the Synod Sick Ministers Fund.

The Methodist churches of the city and West Side united in Centenary Christmas morning when the pastor, Rev. R. G. Fulton preached and was assisted in the service by the Rev. Neil MacLachlan of Queen Square church. Miss Blenda Thomson sang with expression and sweetness, "He shall feed His flock like a Shepherd," from the "Messiah." The offering taken was a special one for the poor.

Two Midnight Masses

At midnight Sunday, the bells of the Roman Catholic Cathedral pealed out the glad refrain that Christmas was dawning and the assembled congregation which overflooded the church, bowed in adoration to worship the Babe of Bethlehem. Solemn High Mass was sung and a choral service of wonderful music was furnished. His Lordship, the Bishop was present. Frequent services were held throughout Christmas morning.

St. Peter's midnight Mass was attended by large numbers. Choral selections were given indicative of the fact that Christ was born and the solemn feast of the previous days was changed into devotional rejoicing over the truth that has come down through the ages, but is ever new.

At St. Peter's. Solemn High Mass was celebrated in St. Peter's church at midnight Sunday. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens and potted plants. The Rev. Father Hogan was the celebrant, assisted by Rev. Father Cloran as deacon and Rev. Father Coffey as sub-deacon. A full male choir rendered Concone's Mass in four parts. Harry McQuaid sang "O Holy Night" before the Mass. Robt. Butler rendered "Qui Tollis" at the Gloria. John McCarron, Frank How-

ard, Robt. McManus sang "Et Incarnatus est" at the Credo. The crib was at the side of the altar on the St. Joseph's side of the church. Frank Howard sang "Adesti Fideles at the Communion and the choir sang "Veni Creator."

At the 9 A. M. Mass the children went in a body to the Sunday school room of the church where Christmas packages were opened and distributed. The jubilation of St. Peter's Y.M.C.A. was brought to the attention of the children and will be blessed by the Rev. Jos. Borgmann next fall.

The solemn benediction at the evening service was celebrated by Rev. Father Woods, assisted by Father Coll as deacon and Father Cloran as sub-deacon. Musical numbers were rendered by the choir.

Ludlow Street Baptist. Large congregations attended the services in the Ludlow street Baptist church Sunday and were delighted with the special music arranged for the choir leader, E. Clyde Parsons.

WEDDINGS

Ritchie-Deaborn

A quiet wedding took place in Boston on December 24th, when Miss Elizabeth B. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Ritchie of 13 Wentworth street, became the bride of Mr. G. Sherman Deaborn, youngest son of Mrs. and the late F. R. E. Deaborn, of St. John, the Rev. Father Hartigan officiating.

The bride was attired in a travelling costume of navy blue with hat to match and sealskin furs. Luncheon was served at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Morris, cousin of the bride, after which the happy couple left on a honeymoon trip to New York. The bride was handsomely remembered by the Board of Commissioners and staff of the St. John Free Public Library, of which she was assistant librarian.

Mr. and Mrs. Deaborn have hosts of friends in the city who join in extending to them the wish for many years of happiness.

REV. DR. CUNNINGHAM, WHO PREACHED IN ST. DAVIDS' GIVEN CALL

Former Amherst Pastor, Well Known Here, Goes to a Union Church.

Those who heard with pleasure, the Rev. W. A. Cunningham, D. D., who preached in St. David's church last summer, for several weeks, will be pleased to hear that he has been invited to the Union church at Shool Lake, Manitoba. He with Mrs. Cunningham, will very shortly go from his present pastorate at Swan River, Manitoba, where he has conducted a successful work for several years. Rev. Dr. Cunningham is an Amherst man and has connections in New Brunswick and belongs to a family that has distinguished itself in the professional world.

Oregon politicians were not surprised when K. K. Kuppel was elected on a Ku Klux Klan ticket.

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HOCKEY TEAM TOURS QUEBEC

Composed of Members Who Have Played for Mount Allison.

Moncton, Dec. 25—A hockey team composed of members who have at one time or another played for Mount Allison University left Sackville Friday on a tour of Quebec and New England towns where several games have been scheduled. The line-up includes several players who have starred for the garnet and gold in past years as well as three or four men who will line up for Mount Allison in the inter-collegiate series this season.

McGill University has been negotiating for two games with the Mt. A. men at New York, but when the team left Sackville yesterday definite arrangements for games with the Montreal university had not been completed.

STARTED LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Batling Siki Served Summons on French Boxing Federation.

Paris, Dec. 25—Batling Siki, former European heavyweight champion, has started legal proceedings against the French Boxing Federation, which recently deprived him of the title he won from Georges Carpentier and suspended him for nine months upon charges of various escapades brought against him by a number of French sportsmen.

A summons has been served on Paul Rousseau, president of the federation, directing him to produce within three days the records upon which Siki was disqualified. The document maintains that the federation is without jurisdiction in any exact purely boxing matters and that the disqualification was based upon alleged conduct not related to boxing.

The federation's decree was illegal in any case, Siki contends because he was not allowed to give his testimony and the decision was never legally served upon him.

CAROL SINGING IN WEST SAINT JOHN

Ludlow St. Laughing, Loving Lifters Greet Pastor and Others.

The Laughing Loving Lifters clam of the Ludlow Street Baptist Church, West St. John, after preparing several Christmas boxes and trimming many trees late Christmas Eve, proceeded through the West End streets singing Christmas Carols. The beautiful Carol "Silent Night" reminded many of the great event just celebrated. Among those who were caroled were Rev. W. A. Cunningham, pastor of the church, Choir Leader, R. J. Rupert and Supt. of Sunday School, R. H. Parsons. The young ladies were accompanied by their teacher, Miss Marjorie Robbins.

Married

RITCHIE-DEARBORN—In Boston, Mass., on the 24th inst., by the Rev. Father Hartigan, G. Sherman Dearborn of St. John and Elizabeth B. Ritchie, of this city.

DIED

MILLICAN—Suddenly on the 24th instant, Melissa B. Millican, widow of James Millican.

Funeral Tuesday at 2.30 o'clock from the residence of her son-in-law, H. G. Thompson, Wright street, WETMORE—At Bloomfield Station, N. B., on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 1 o'clock, Mrs. W. E. S. Wetmore.

Funeral tomorrow at 2 o'clock. LOGAN—At Hampton on the 23rd inst., James Logan, aged 78 years, leaving his wife and four children to mourn.

Funeral from St. Alphonsus' Church, Hampton, this (Tuesday) morning at ten o'clock.

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