

KEPT DAY BY DAY

Diary of a Private of the First Canadian Contingent.

Who Entered Faithfully the Details and Incidents of Travel, Camp and Field. From the Day of Leaving London Till He Died a Soldier's Death—Interesting and Pathetic Relics.

When Pte. George Floyd, of the first Canadian contingent, left London for South Africa, he began keeping a diary, in which he faithfully set down the happenings of each day, from the time of leaving London and the embarkation at Quebec to the very day before the fatal bullet found him, and robbed him of life in the fight at Zand River on May 10. Pte. Floyd's diary and his blood-stained Bible were sent home to his relatives here, and it is from his diary that the following interesting extracts are made. About three-fourths of the contents of the diary are here reproduced:

Wednesday, Nov. 1.—Man fell through hatchway, but was not seriously hurt. Friday, Nov. 3.—Committed one man to the deep.

Saturday, Nov. 4.—Struck the Gulf stream at 3 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 12.—Passing Cape Verde. Commanded to go in our bare feet till further orders.

Tuesday, Nov. 14.—Oh, for a good square meal.

Friday, Nov. 16.—Ship crossed the equator 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 23.—Sighted land 8:30 a.m., anchored at Cape Town 4 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 30.—Marched off boat at 8:30 through city to Green Point camp. Went down town at night. Had a good meal, fathings and expences driving us crazy.

Friday, Dec. 1.—Packed up, left camp at 12 noon. Marched through streets. Reached depot at 2:30. A grand send-off. . . . At every station big crowds to see the Canadians.

Saturday, Dec. 2.—Out in the desert. No trees, all sand and mountains. Water is scarce. Landed at De Aar at 12 midnight. Every bridge was guarded.

Sunday, Dec. 3.—Put in tents at 11 a.m. Terrible sand storm; cannot face it. Camped on the border of Transvaal. A scrub within fifteen miles.

Monday, Dec. 4.—Hot day. A sentry shot.

Wednesday, Dec. 6.—Ordered to proceed to the front.

Thursday, Dec. 7.—Up at 3 a.m. Marched to train; got into flat cars without breakfast. Camped at Orange River, where first English officers were shot. Pulled feathers out of ostriches. Lots of wounded soldiers in camp. Heavy rain, blew down tents. Two sentries shot.

Friday, Dec. 8.—One man buried in field. Working at station. Ordered to be in readiness.

Saturday, Dec. 9.—On patrol all night looking for Boer spies. Started for Belmont at 5:30 a.m.; arrived at 11:30. All the way in coal cars. Hot-test day I ever saw. One thousand dead Boers over the hill. Marched 8 miles to camp.

Monday, Dec. 11.—Up at 3 a.m. Stood to arms till 6 a.m. Expected Boers to come. Laid in the trenches. Went over in the field and milked goats. Had goat's milk for supper.

Tuesday, Dec. 12.—Up at 3 a.m. Alarm. Boers very near. Building trenches to lie in. Took message up on Scott's Hill. Swarms of locusts came over the camp.

Wednesday, Dec. 13.—Very hot. A man died in morning; buried in afternoon. He was from Halifax, and his name was Chaplin. One ostrich killed, had ostrich broth.

Saturday, Dec. 16.—Mail from Canada. . . . Total eclipse of moon.

Monday, Dec. 18.—Moved across the railroad, digging graves for dead Boers and horses that were killed when the British drove the Boers from Belmont.

Thursday, Dec. 21.—Red Cross train passed through with wounded soldiers.

Friday, Dec. 22.—Mail arrived. Disappointed; none from home.

Sunday, Dec. 24.—Went on guard on Scott's Ridge, where the British fought. Many dead Boers lying around. Heat and flies something terrible.

Monday, Dec. 25.—Xmas day. Does not seem so. Arrived from the hill 6 a.m. Dinner at 4 p.m.—English plum pudding and chicken stew. 7 o'clock, tea—plum pudding and roast chicken. Races and sports in the evening.

Tuesday, Dec. 26.—Cornwall soldiers arrived at Belmont.

Wednesday, Dec. 27.—Alarm sounded in camp. Up before the captain for turning out without our coats. Served out rum; our section refused it.

Friday, Dec. 29.—Received mail. Australians arrived and camped by our side.

Saturday, Dec. 30.—Capt. Stuart insisted us to see if we had our hair cut short. Capt. Stuart got orders to go to the Cape to take charge of stores.

Sunday, Dec. 31.—Dyeing our helmets. On work building a fort. O.C. started for front.

Monday, Jan. 1, 1900.—New Year's Day. Up at 3 a.m. A fine dinner—pudding and chicken pie. Captain left.

Thursday, Jan. 4.—Refugees come in, two loads. Canadians return, no one hurt, were in the fight.

Friday, Jan. 5.—Called out at 10:30 p.m.; alarm; walked three miles, but Boers fled.

Monday, Jan. 8.—Had football match between H. Co. and B. Co., won by B. Co., 3 to 0. Tug-of-war between Australians and Canadians, won by Canadians. Warned to be ready to go to meet the Boers.

Tuesday, Jan. 9.—Up at 3 a.m. Marched 10 miles, found the Boers were not near, so we turned around and came back; arrived at 6 p.m., very tired.

Wednesday, Jan. 10.—Siege train went through.

Friday, Jan. 12.—Lots of trains and troops going through. Boys came from Cape Town, those that were left.

Monday, Jan. 15.—Maj. Denison took command.

Tuesday, Jan. 16.—One man shot himself through the foot.

Wednesday, Jan. 17.—Holiday in camp; just like a picnic. Had races and tug-of-war. Everything won by Queenslanders; B Co came in second on the tug-of-war. Thirteen Kaffir deserters from the Boer army went through.

Thursday, Jan. 18.—Red Cross train went up country, 8 cars; came back at night full.

Friday, Jan. 19.—Moved our camp across river.

Wednesday, Jan. 31.—Got paid in gold and new silver.

Thursday, Feb. 1.—Two Canadian companies leave camp. Meet one of my cousins, Henry Allen; lives in London, been out in India.

Saturday, Feb. 3.—Ordered to go to Modder River. Cornwallis came and relieve us. . . . Got to Gras Pan at 7:30. Just rested twice. Met by a Gordon Highlander, who played us to camp with his bagpipes.

Sunday, Feb. 4.—Wakened by playing of bagpipes. Lots of Gordon Highlanders here. Buy tune from nigger in 5 bars. Got hard tack and bread. Had for breakfast. Moved next to Gordon Highlanders. Nice music of bagpipes.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.—Up at 4 a.m. Lay in the trenches till daybreak. Gordons moved down to Modder River camp. Struck camp at 4 p.m., started on the march at 6 p.m., reached Belmont at 9:30, laid out all night.

Thursday, Feb. 8.—Roberts went through.

Monday, Feb. 12.—Struck tents at 3 p.m., entrained at 7 p.m., arrived at Gras Pan at 8 p.m. Slept out all night. No more tents.

Tuesday, Feb. 13.—On the march at 6 a.m., reached Ram Dam (distance 15 miles) at 1 p.m., just one day after the fight. Can hear the cannon firing. We are the first column to enter the Orange Free State.

Wednesday, Feb. 14.—Left Ram Dam at 8:30 a.m., arrived at Reed River (distance of 14 miles) at 11 a.m., after a very hard and trying march. Many had to drop out owing to the heat.

Thursday, Feb. 15.—Up at 2:30 a.m., at 5 a.m., reached Cliff's Drift (10 miles distant) at 8:30 a.m. Can hear and see firing very close.

Friday, Feb. 16.—Left at 5 a.m., marched to Jacobsdal (4 miles). Killed a calf for dinner. Started for Stony Ridge at 9 p.m., marched all night, arrived at 5 a.m. (distance 15 miles).

Saturday, Feb. 17.—Lots of Boers. Can see and hear firing on hills. Boers prisoners in town. Leave at 5 p.m. on the march.

Sunday, Feb. 18.—Arrived at Trooper Ridge, 22 miles; went through river. Rested one hour, then went to our first battle. Laid in the sun all day. A terrible fight. Nineteen of B Co. killed, many wounded. Helping carry up the wounded all night.

Monday, Feb. 19.—Laid in the camp till 3 p.m., then went to the field, where we stayed till Tuesday morning. Still fighting all the time.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.—Came into camp for a rest. Very hot.

Friday, Feb. 24.—The war balloon is up getting the Boers' position.

Saturday, Feb. 25.—Relieved by the Shrops. Then went to the trench for two or three days' rest. Wet night, wake up to find ourselves in a mud hole.

Sunday, Feb. 26.—Rover very high. Hundreds of dead Boer horses going down the river.

Monday, Feb. 27.—Went on work making a road from the Modder River. At 4:30 p.m. went to the trenches, 200 yards from enemy. Under fire all night. A hard fight. Retreat under a heavy fire. Loss, 3 killed, 23 wounded, in the R. C. R.

Tuesday, Feb. 28.—Ordered nearer the enemy to another row of trenches, where the enemy snipe at us every chance they get. Carrying out the wounded. Crore marched in with his wife. Boers surrender. Prisoners marched in, 3,000 in all.

Wednesday, Feb. 29.—A rest in camp, making Kaffir buns.

Thursday, March 1.—A move up about one mile. All the brigade here.

Friday, March 2.—Nothing doing. Firing a few miles out.

Tuesday, March 6.—Moved at 7:30 to five miles up the river. Boers on a kopje nearby.

Wednesday, March 7.—Up at 2 a.m. Go to take up a position in the general advance against the Boers; we are in reserve, the Shrops in the firing line. Am very hungry and nothing to eat. Over 20,000 in the advance. Walked 20 miles, where we rested all night, at Poplar Grove Cliff.

Thursday, March 8.—A great number of Boers across the river.

Friday, March 9.—Move at 3 p.m. across the river, where we stay all night.

Saturday, March 10.—Move at 4 a.m. with four brigades. Lord Roberts in command. March 9 miles, where we had for water one hour, then march till 6 p.m., distance 20 miles. A column is advancing, composed of the Highland brigade, 19th brigade and Guards brigade, composed of Black Watch, Seaforth, A. S. H. Canadians, Gordons, Cornwallis, Shropshires, Grenadiers, Scots Guards, 2nd battalion Coldstream Guards. Lord Henry Colville in command of column; Brigadier General Smith-Dorrien in command of 19th brigade and General Macdonald in command of Highland brigade.

Sunday, March 11.—Started on the march at 5:30 a.m., marched through the country, looks much better. Reached our point at 12:30, distance of 12 miles.

Monday, March 12.—Up at 2:45 a.m.; on the march at 5:30. Very cold; nothing to eat. Marched steadily till 1 o'clock, distance 18 miles.

Tuesday, March 13.—On the road at 5 a.m., reached the Cape at 11 a.m. Very hot, very tired, and hungry.

Wednesday, March 14.—We rested all day.

Thursday, March 15.—Up at 4 a.m., on the march at 6:30, marched 5 miles. Reached Bloemfontein at 11 a.m. A very pretty place. Camped just outside of the city. A great number of troops here.

Friday, March 16.—Some of the boys went to town and bought something to eat, bread, Croydon.

Saturday, March 17.—I went to town, baked some bread in a bake-shop—some good bread. A lot of nice stores.

Sunday, March 18.—Went to church at 7 a.m. with Gordon Highlanders.

Wednesday, March 21.—Pay day; got 42.

Thursday, March 22.—Got five days for eating emergency ration.

Friday, March 23.—To Thursday, March 28.—Drilling.

Friday, March 30.—Got goods from London for boys. Went to town to patrol streets as policeman. Got word to move at 8 p.m. Just relieved by the Yorks. Got word we are to go up to help get at Boers.

Saturday, March 31.—Reveille at 3:45 a.m., breakfast at 4:30, on the march

at 6 a.m., marched 14 miles, when we camped on the top of a kopje. On the lookout till daybreak.

Sunday, April 1.—Feeling very tough. Lots of fresh horses sent out of the sun. Four companies go on, four stay here.

Monday, April 2.—Mail came. Got orders to move 6 miles.

Tuesday, April 3.—Go 12 miles. Get to Bloemfontein at 3.

Wednesday, April 4.—Some men arrive from Cape Town. March at 2 p.m., go 10 miles.

Thursday, April 5.—Go five miles. Get in a position to catch Boers. Do not see them. Got back to bivouac.

Friday, April 6.—Go to Bloemfontein, 10 miles. Get there at 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 7.—A medical inspection this morning. Left Bloemfontein at our bare feet. Go to town in the afternoon. Get four meals. The town very bare. Got our tents after being eight weeks without them.

Tuesday, April 10.—Went down town to see about some bread. Went back at night to get prisoners.

Thursday, April 12.—Took over cooking for company for a few days.

Friday, April 13.—Parcels arrive from home. Got lots of nice things.

Sunday, April 15.—Opening presents.

Monday, April 16.—Getting new clothes, shirts and socks. Private, Adams died.

Tuesday, April 17.—Been raining four days and nights. Private Adams buried; on firing party.

Wednesday, April 18.—Up to our knees in mud.

Thursday, April 19.—Put on a clean shirt, the first since I left Belmont.

Friday, April 20.—Got mail. Got orders to move at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

Saturday, April 21.—Fell in ready to move, but orders came not to go till 1 p.m. Marched to Springfield, 7 miles, arrived at 4 p.m. Laid out all night; very cold and wet.

Sunday, April 22.—Go on outpost at 8 p.m. on some kopjes. Lots of niggers' huts. Can hear firing.

Monday, April 23.—Marched at 11 a.m., go six miles. Some very heavy fighting.

Tuesday, April 24.—Up at 5 a.m., move on the Boers at Waterworks, 7 miles. Chasing the Boers till 12 noon, when we get to a kopje. Do sentry duty on kopje.

Wednesday, April 25.—Up at 4 a.m., go to strengthen outposts. Ordered to move in pursuit of some Boers. March till 12 noon, when we come up to them.

Thursday, April 26.—Up at 3 a.m., march to Thabetchu, 8 miles. Hold a pass four miles from town. A number of Boers on hills.

Friday, April 27.—On outpost all night. Ordered to move to town at 3 p.m. Our sentry heavy cannon fire. Just got tea when we get orders to go out to relieve some horse who were hard pressed on a kopje. March all night—B and D companies and Gordon Highlanders. Arrived at kopje at daylight.

Saturday, April 28.—Very cold, almost froze walking. Wet with dew in morning.

Sunday, April 29.—No sleep for two nights. Played out. Ordered to go back to camp. Got there at 1:30. Walked 16 miles.

Monday, April 30.—Up at 4 a.m. Advance on some hills at 7 a.m., 10 miles. Under fire at 11 a.m. Cannon fire while going across a plain. Take a very big kopje. Stay on it all night. Very cold. Nothing to eat. Tobak Nek.

Tuesday, May 1.—Go under fire at daylight. Pouch shots in bushes all morning. Very hungry. Shooting till noon. We then advance on another kopje. See the Boers flying over the plains. We take hill after hill. Boers retreat. Heavy cannon fire. Stay on captured kopje till sundown, then go to transports. Orders to move at 5 a.m. Still at Tobak Nek.

Wednesday, May 2.—Up at 5. Orders to move cancelled.

Thursday, May 3.—Left Tobak Nek at 6 a.m., walked 18 miles to Isabellafontein. No opposition. Very hot.

Friday, May 4.—Up at 4, go four miles. Met a number of Boers; shell them with our artillery. Four hundred killed; a number of our men killed. Got to Hemspruit at dark. Picket all night. Fourteen miles.

Saturday, May 5.—Left Hemspruit at 8 a.m., marched to Wynburg at 4 p.m. (18 miles), marched through the city at 4:30. A big crowd; great cheering when the flag was hoisted on the flagpole. A lovely sight at night to see the lights. Got some bread and jam—a rare treat. A march of 10 miles. Got orders for an 80-mile march. Draft came in. A happy time.

Sunday, May 6.—A very large number of troops here. Go on march at 4 o'clock, 8 miles. Camp all night.

Monday, May 7.—My birthday. On guard all night. Divided up the draft. Our company gets two.

Tuesday, May 8.—Start to work for Captain Carpenter. Stay here all day.

Wednesday, May 9.—Up at 5 a.m., on the march at 7. A nice orange grove here.

HANNA'S POLITICAL PLANT.

New York, July 21.—The 22 rooms in the Metropolitan life building will be used by the Republican national committee. One room is set apart for Hanna. A complete telegraphic and telephone equipment will connect with every city in the United States.

ELECTION IN CUBA.

Washington, July 21.—The president and Gen. Wood have agreed on Sept. 15 as the time for holding the election in Cuba for delegates to the constitutional convention, to be called for formulating a constitution for an independent government for Cuba.

A sample room of German wares is about to be opened in Constantinople.

The Old Reliable Remedy for Diarrhoea and Dysentery.

DEFOWLER'S EXTRACT OF WILD STRAWBERRY

Grandma Mrs. Thos. Sherlock, Arundel, prior, Oct. 1, recently wrote: "My little girl, three years of age, was taken very bad with diarrhoea, and we thought we were going to lose her, when I remembered that my grandmother always used Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, and often said that it saved her life. I got a bottle and gave it to my child, and after the third dose she began to get better and slept well that night. She improved right along and was soon completely cured."

Friday, March 30.—Got goods from London for boys. Went to town to patrol streets as policeman. Got word to move at 8 p.m. Just relieved by the Yorks. Got word we are to go up to help get at Boers.

Saturday, March 31.—Reveille at 3:45 a.m., breakfast at 4:30, on the march

BOTHWELL BOY SHOT

Pistol Discharged Accidentally—In Juries May Prove Fatal—Three Youths Drowned.

Bothwell, Ont., July 21.—Fred Poynter, the eighteen-year-old son of the proprietor of the Poynter House, this town, lies at his home in a precarious condition, with a bullet wound through his neck, just where the shooting occurred. It is difficult to say, though the theory advanced is that this is another case of "didn't know it was loaded." The revolver was discharged while in the victim's hands. The weapon, from which the bullet was fired is of the cheap variety, and was left at the hotel last week by some traveling fakir.

Between 6 and 7 o'clock young Poynter went to his bedroom, and shortly afterwards the household were startled by the loud report of a pistol and the piercing cries of the victim. His father was the first to arrive on the scene, and to his horror he found his only son lying on the floor with blood oozing from a hole in his neck, under his chin, where the bullet entered, and also at a point of exit at the back of the head. The bullet went dangerously near the jugular vein, and may prove fatal.

THREE YOUTHS DROWNED.

Detroit, July 21.—Frank H. Jerome, Jun., aged 22, son of Frank H. Jerome, of the firm of Jerome & Daly, surveyors, Washington avenue, was drowned about 11 o'clock Thursday night while crossing the river in a boat with a young man named Harry Schutte, of Cincinnati, from Algona, Harpers Island, where the Jeromes have a summer cottage.

Oscar Kelsey, aged 15 years, son of Oscar D. Kelsey, an engineer, was drowned this morning in the River Rouge, opposite the Detroit salt block, where with some companions he had gone for a swim.

Harrisville, Mich., July 20.—Claudius Hale was drowned here yesterday. He was the carrier for the Evening News and a bright lad.

STARVED TO DEATH.

Victoria, B. C., July 21.—A letter received from Canada, tells of the death from starvation of Francis Lake of a prospector named W. Yack, of Los Angeles, Cal. His partner, Al Dimick, lived on the flesh of martens until he reached Fort Frances.

KILLED BY A BROKEN BELT.

Ludington, Mich., July 20.—Charles Olson, aged 17, was struck by a broken belt at the mill of Butters & Peters, and thrown against an iron bolt with such force that his skull was crushed and telescoped. He lived 12 hours before death relieved him of his sufferings.

KNOCKED OVERBOARD.

Hamilton, July 21.—Jerry O'Connor, 46 Greig street, was in Montreal, Thursday, on his way to the old country. In the evening he was accidentally knocked overboard in the harbor and was drowned.

SHOT BY HIS SON.

A. Engle, a storekeeper of Fort Francis, B. C., was accidentally shot by his 14-year-old son. He is the man who saved the lives of so many men who were stranded on the Edmonton trail during the Klondike rush.

BURNED OUT

Society People Have to Hustle for Their Lives—Forest Fires.

San Francisco, July 21.—The hotel at Castle Gaid, Shasta county, was burned to the ground at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. It was crowded with San Francisco society people, but all escaped with their belongings. The hotel was owned by the Pacific Improvement Company.

Ayr, Ont., July 21.—A fire occurred one mile south of Ayr yesterday on the farm occupied by William Patterson, and owned by Simon Patterson. The barn and contents were totally destroyed. The greater portion of this year's crops were in the barn. All the implements were saved. Insured in the Ayr Mutual for \$1,200.

Toronto, July 21.—William Margath, crown timber agent at Rat Portage, is here making a personal report to the crown lands commissioner on the recent forest fires in the Rainy River district. The fires, he says, were widespread, and a good deal of pine timber owned by lumbermen was burned, but not so badly injured as to prevent it being used if cut at once. Little or no damage has been done to timber on crown lands, the fire being confined almost wholly to lands owned by lumbermen. Some settlers on the Rainy River were burned out, a few losing their all. One or two families were obliged to take refuge in the river until the fire passed over their holdings.

Owing to the fire on the Sault Rapids the Rainy River is not navigable for any but small steamers, and all freight has to be transferred at this point. This is keeping sawlogs from coming in, and has also prevented mine owners from getting in stamping and other machinery.

Placerville, Cal., July 21.—A great forest fire is raging on the lands of the American River, Land and Lumber company, twelve miles northwest of this city. The big city of Yuba City, the company at the terminus of its railroad to run logs into the south fork of the American River is destroyed. The chute was 3,500 feet in length; it was built of large logs, and cost about \$60,000. Should the fire continue it will entail a loss running into the millions. In addition to many houses and twelve miles of railroad, 12,000,000 feet of logs are lying cut and barked in the woods, awaiting a drive.

THE FALL FAIRS.

WESTERN FAIR, London, Sept. 6-15. Industrial, Toronto, Aug. 27 to Sept. 8. Kingston, Kingston, Sept. 10-14.

Owen Sound, Owen Sound, Sept. 11-13. Central Ottawa, Ottawa, Sept. 14-22. Southern, Brantford, Sept. 15-20.

W. Middlesex, Stratford, Sept. 17-19. Northwestern, Goderich, Sept. 18-19. Northern, Walkerton, Sept. 18-19.

Elsin, Elsinore, Sept. 18-20. Central, Guelph, Sept. 18-20.

Great Northern, Collingwood, Sept. 18-21.

N. Brant, Paris, Sept. 25-28.

N. Oxford, Woodstock, Sept. 26-28.

Perth, Perth, Oct. 2-4.

W. Kent, Chatham, Oct. 9-11.

Norfolk Union, Simcoe, Oct. 16-18.

Secretaries of Western Ontario Fair Associations are invited to send the dates of their local fairs to The Advertiser.

THE HORSE—no nobler of the brute creation—when suffering from a cut, abrasion, or sore, derives as much benefit as its master in a like predicament, from the healing, soothing action of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. Lameness, swelling of the neck, stiffness of the joints