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## WAR RECORDS OF ENGINEERS.

From the time of the formation of the Corps of Engineers as a military force in 1787 until the present day, no campaign has ever been undertaken without its quota of Engineers.

Records are extant of their work in the Netherlands and the Peninsular war, where the design and construction of the celebrated lines at Torres Vedras were entirely the work of the Royal Engineers, as also were the siege works of Ciudad Rodrigo.

In the second American war 1812-15 and at Waterloo, officers and men both played an important part, although Sir John Burgoyne, one of the most distinguished engineers that ever lived, candidly stated that at Waterloo the Sappers might have been made much more use of by preparing La Haye Sainte and Hougomont for defence and for throwing up traverses for the guns.

It was in the Russian war 1854-5, and particularly in the Crimea, that both officers and men were called upon to exhibit their highest attainments. Early in the war the name of Sapper James Cray, who was later specially promoted to Corporal stands out for gallantry under fire and for saving a large Turkish powder magazine at Varna that was threatened with destruction. The works of the sapper at Sebastopol shine out clearly to this day as a bright spot on the shield of honour. Colour Sergeants Henry McDonald, Peter Leitch, Corporals John Ross, William Ledrun, and Sapper John Perie won the Victoria Cross in that war.

In the Indian Mutiny the 4th, 24th and 23rd Field Companies saw much service.

In the China War 1856-60 the 10th, 23rd and 8th Companies served with distinction, and later in Abyssinia 1867-8 where the command of the expedition was given to an R. E. officer, Lord Napier of Magdala, the 10th Company saw service.

The 28th Company took part in the Ashantee War 1873-4 and it was here that the steam sapper was used for the first time. The 2nd, 5th, 7th, and 30th Companies served in the Zulu War of 1879 and the defence of Rorke's Drift by Lieut. Chard, V.C., R.E., will live for ever in the annals of the British Army.

In the Egyptian war 1882-5 the 8th, 17th, 18th, 24th and 26th Companies were engaged.

In the South African war and the present war the Royal Engineers have proved their mettle time and again. It is a corps which has earned its right to the highest place of honour on the field of battle.

## THE 'FLU'.

The epidemic of Influenza which has struck the Depot and has proved fatal in more cases than we like to mention, has taxed the medical services to the utmost. The C. A. M. C. however under the

able guidance of our M.O., Capt. Campbell has proved itself equal to the emergency, and has discharged its obligations with great credit.

The percentage of fatalities is extremely low considering the virulence of the disease; and it is

due entirely to the untiring and skilful efforts of the medical staff in the early stages of the epidemic that such excellent results have been obtained.

Early in the crisis several of the wives of sappers, cadets and officers came forward and were engaged as nurses; but it is remarkable that such organisations as the 'ladies aid' or 'ladies guild' of the churches were not heard from in any tangible way. These organisations who profess their anxiety to 'do something for the soldiers', it would appear, draw a line beyond which they fear to tread. In the matter of whist drives and concerts they are great we must admit, but when it comes to real help, it would appear that their sphere of utility is limited.

On behalf of the soldiers, "Knots and Lashings" wishes to thank those ladies that have come forward with help and refreshments and to say that both are very much appreciated.

## OUR NEIGHBOURS.

One effect of the war upon which the Kaiser did not count, is the revival of the kinship between the people of the United States and the people of Great Britain and the overseas dominions. That the co-operation between the two people is not merely official, and assumed, (as a means of winning the war) is shown by the way in which the United States newspapers have given all possible credit to Great Britain and Canada for the part they have been playing in the war. It may be said that they have been more willing to bestow praise upon Britain and Canada and the armies of Britain and Canada than the newspapers of these countries have been to claim credit.

The significance of this is that we are Allies with the United States, not simply in a formal way, but are united in a common cause as never before.

The American army is now starting operations on its own and the opportunity is thus given us to help strengthen the ties of good feeling between the two people, by giving full measure of credit for the splendid achievements the forces of our Ally and neighbour are making.

Let there be no thought of jealousy to discount our appreciation of the splendid part that is being played by General Pershing's army in this our common cause. The war is big enough and the Cause is big enough, for all to get the full measure of credit that is due to them.

## THE BULGARIAN COLLAPSE.

By the treaty of Bucharest, Bulgaria was cheated out of what is considered its share of the spoils of Roumania. The Dobrudja, the province of Roumania lying between the Danube and the Black Sea, was claimed by Bulgaria as its share of the plunder. The Kaiser thought otherwise, and the province was declared to be held in trust by Germany and Austria. But Bulgaria suspected her supposed friends. Anyway from that moment Bulgaria's interest in the war seemed to flag, and the traditional hostility of the Bulgarians for the Turks, began to replace their desire to help Germany to conquer the world.

To the disappointment aroused among the Bulgarians by the Roumanian treaty, may be credited the fact that the Allies did not find resistance on the Balkan front as strong as it once was. The Kaiser is finding that being chief of a band of Pirates is a job that has its drabb moments. The lesser thieves want to share the spoils, and sometimes take peculiar ways of getting even with the Boss when he grabs too much for himself. Hence Bulgaria's readiness to accept the terms of the Allies.

## DELILAH AGAIN!

Oh fickle maid, thy charms enslaving are  
The victim of your wiles this time a captain too.  
Hast lost thy love for Samson now afar,  
And Knight-on horseback came to woo?

In chains of love poor Samson fettered was  
And down the tow path stroll'd on moonlit night  
Dreaming of future under love's own laws  
Alas he went away out of your life and sight.

Familiar to our eyes became the lovely sight  
'Neath starry skies, two lovers heart to heart  
But duty called the Knight-on hurried flight  
Delilah wept for grief to see her love depart.

Not long to grieve. 'Twas ever thus with thee.  
Off with the old, the new love on the wing  
The Captain's chances might be good, but we  
Will wait until we hear the church bells ring.