

NOW AND THEN

BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF

No. 3 CANADIAN FIELD AMBULANCE,

1st Canadian Division, B.E.F.

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EDITOR ...

... Staff-Sergt. A. J. B. Milborne.

No. 2.

10th MAY, 1916.

EN PASSANT.

By the time this issue is in the hands of our readers we shall have been in Flanders 15 months. It hardly seems possible that that period has elapsed since we embarked on that luxurious vessel, the *City of Benares*, or since our landing in the quaint little seaport of St. Nazaire, or since that chilly, apparently endless railway journey and the brisk march through the slush and snow at its end. This period has seen many changes in the Unit; we have passed through stirring and strenuous times, have had our times of stress and times of slackness, our pleasures, sorrows, difficulties and dangers. Having entered our second year of active service in Flanders we are dominated with the same thoughts and purpose that bestirred us in Canada at the outbreak of war, and until that purpose is accomplished we shall "carry on."

We were very sorry to hear that the 2nd King Edward's Horse had left the Canadian Corps. We, as a Unit, have been closely associated with them both in our military duties and in our pleasures. We played football with them and found them excellent sportsmen, and the little entertainments we were able to arrange in the months of September and October would not have been complete had they not included turns from the K.E.H. To them all we wish "God speed" and the best of luck wherever they may be, whether on foot or on their horses, for which they have waited so long.

The thanks of the Unit are tendered to Mrs. Young, of Winnipeg, for her kindness in sending us cake at Christmas time. We can assure her that the cake was much enjoyed by everybody, and her thoughtfulness greatly appreciated.

Our thanks are due to the Divisional Supply Column Band for coming round on Christmas Day and giving us a few selections. Bandmaster Russell is an old member of the F'l'ambulance, and is to be congratulated on the excellence of his band.

Now that the K.E.H.'s have left us, we shall sadly miss our friends, "Skinny Lizzie" and his diminutive chum, J. A. Moss, from our entertainments. They were always willing to help us out, and their laughable sketches were greatly appreciated. We are indebted to these two for many fine points in the game of Crown and Anchor, and we shall not be surprised to hear that they have retired on their profits from this scientific pastime.

Mr. C. N. Bell, of Winnipeg, despite the fact that both his sons have left us, continues to take a kindly interest in our welfare. This is evidenced in a letter recently received by the O.C., from which it appears that Mr. Bell promoted a subscription list. With the proceeds, cigarettes and tobacco have been sent to us and greatly appreciated by all. We are deeply grateful to Mr. Bell and the other subscribers to the gift.

Our best thanks are extended to the women of Canada for their welcome gift of stationery wallets, which we received on Christmas Day.

We are glad to hear that Ptes. Walsh and Carr, who were orderlies on the ambulance captured by the enemy at St. Julien, have been exchanged and returned to England. It is hoped they are well and none the worse for their experiences.

B Section will be interested to hear that Micky Hunt has an operation every two or three weeks for the removal of shrapnel fragments. From all accounts he is very well.

Gifts were received during the Christmas season from the Red Cross Society, the Canadian War Contingent Association, the *Daily News* Christmas Fund, and from the Nurses of the Brandon General Hospital (through the kindness of Miss Birtles, the Secretary). The thanks of the officers and men of the Unit, and patients in the Hospital Section, are tendered to all the above for their kindly thoughts and generous gifts.

TABLOIDS.

Report has it that His Honour, Mayor Mike, of Prince Rupert, "mated" while on leave. We now understand why Mike liked to capture Queens in chess.

There are numerous small stores where inexpensive flash lamps may be purchased. May we suggest to Sergeant Ferguson that the possession of one of these useful articles might prevent the recurrence of the unfortunate mishap that befell him recently.

Hundreds are said to have bathed in the waters of the Jordan. We wonder if that river ever looked like the water in the Asylum when our turn comes. Poor lunatics!

It is stated that a Forestry Commission is being established at Divisional Headquarters, and that their efforts are to be directed towards endeavouring to produce more leaves during the coming summer than was done last year.

We recommend the Minstrel Choir at Church Service to look less like out-of-place officers than natural-like out-of-place soldiers.

There was a young man named Wemyss,
Whose name's not pronounced semys,
He thought it remiss
When they called him Wemiss,
Yet no one knows what he menyss.

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW.

If "B" Section has lost its tonsorial implements? The appearance of some of their sergeants on returning from the A.D.S. certainly gave that impression.

If it is not time the football team found a new referee?

If the present official knows that the goalkeeper only is permitted to handle the ball?

If Pte. Frankenstein went on pass for the purpose of getting the Government stamp on his Primus?

If there are any kidneys received with the meat rations, and are they a cook's perquisite?

If we have an N.C.O. who has a brother-in-law on pretty nearly every man-o'-war, and is this why we get so much naval news first hand?

If it is a fact that the charges of the local barbers are receiving the attention of G.H.Q., since Sergeant Bye got soaked ninepence for a shave?

If you would have paid that much?

How are our officers getting along with the natives since their Interpreter was transferred to England?

If Staff Sergt. Crowe will supply us with the real facts concerning the sinking of H.M.S. *King Edward VII.*?

How the Q.M. Staff get their souvenirs?

Was the jar of rum responsible for a certain N.C.O. falling into a ditch at the A.D.S.?

What Ladner, B.C., is doing with its criminals now that we have that City's entire police force on our strength?

Who is the Staff Sergeant who has started up business on the side as a rag, bone and bottle merchant?

How much did he make on the last sale of Vichy bottles?

If the N.C.O. of this Unit recently reported missing was not found buried beneath piles of undelivered mail at the Brigade Post Office?

If it is true that the most unfriendly words used in the Transport lines when the men wish to express themselves strongly is "Now you shut up, or I'll send you a Note"?

If the old straw at the Bearers' billets is to be taken to the Transport lines so that the Transport personnel can employ their spare time in making bricks?