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College Heights, Toronto

Classes begin Wednesday, the 18th September at 10 a.m. Boarders return Tuesday afternoon, the 17th. New girls admitted Monday afternoon, the 16th.



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"Daddy!"

A True Incident in the Great War

HE came to us from Heaven-alone-knows-where. I caught sight of him one morning in the centre of a squad of "rookies." I mentally ticked him off as the "odd man out" and a "Majesty's misfit." Towards evening he was thrust into our billet. In less than an hour the whole bunch of us were in possession of the one overwhelming fact in his family history which made the Great Push and the Final Toppling-Over shrivel into minute proportions by contrast. "I've got a little boy at home, mates." That is why we christened him "Daddy!"

"Daddy" came into prominence at a lightning dress parade brought into being for the delectation of a minor Princess with a Hunnish pedigree and a Cockney accent. "Blimey!" ejaculated the Captain's batman, who related the story with gusto, "when I clapped eyes on him I says to myself: 'Murphy, me lad, it ain't real; it's camel-flage.'" The "Old 'Un" had turned out for inspection in trousers which fitted where they touched, and a tunic that bulged out in parts like the rounded ends of a jigsaw puzzle. As a matter of fact, the garments in question were padded by numerous pieces of wood which "Daddy" had commenced to carve into the shape of animals, and which he had kept on his person for safety. "Fall out, man!" roared the irate Inspection Officer; "d'ye hear—fall out. Take him away, Corporal. The man's a walking Ark with a wooden Zoo." "Beg pardon, sir," grinned "Daddy." "I made 'em myself, sir, for him—my little boy, sir, at home."

A month or two later we crossed over to Flanders, and here the Padre took up the story. "Rum sort of cove, old 'Daddy,'" he says to me one night. "Yes, sir," says I, scenting a bit of a yarn in the air. "Aye," says the Parson, "I saw him to-day standing on a heap of ruins where once a church had stood. He held a piece of stained glass in his hand, and on it was the face of a cherub. When I came up, he handed it to me with a rare smile. 'Just like my little boy, sir,' he said—'my little boy, sir, at home.' Seems to think something about that nipper of his, eh?"

It happened one sunny morning last June, when the birds were piping their hardest and the scent of the flowers round our old dugout brought a whiff of Blighty's banks and hedges to the lads gathering for the "push," that I caught sight of "Daddy" coming up the trench with a piece of crumpled paper in his clenched fist. What a look of pain there was in the man's eyes! He never spoke as he passed us, but Corporal G—, who has the knack of sensing things the rest of us often miss, muttered softly, "Something's up with that 'kid' of his, mates. You an' me, we've just got to stand by."

We were up and over the parapet at daybreak. "Daddy" was amongst the first away, and the Boches gave him no chance. An hour later, the stretcher-bearers picked him up and brought him into the dressing-station. The doctor gave him one look, that's all. "Your patient, Padre, not mine," he whispered to the young Chaplain who stood at his side. But "Daddy" heard him.

"Is it as bad as that, sir?" he gasped. "I'm sorry, old man; I'm afraid it is—but there, you will soon be Home," whispered the young Padre, gently. At the sound of that last word the tired, broken soldier opened his eyes slowly, and murmured, very softly: "Home, sir, did you say 'Home'?" Thank God! I've got a little boy—a little boy—at Home.—W. H. N. (B.E.F.), in the Westminster Gazette.

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