

Second Anniversary of No. 3 in France.

MEMBERS of No. 3 celebrated their second anniversary in France by a Smoking Concert, and as the programme was a long one and the space in this paper is limited, I shall endeavour to give a brief description.

D.I. was the scene of the session, and at eight o'clock Lt.-Col. Biggar, the officer commanding and chairman, proposed the toast to the King. Capt. Ward was then called upon to sing "Alouette." This popular song was taken up in chorus by the boys, and needless to say, was sung with much gusto, and assured us that we were in for a jolly time. Pte. Grimston came next, with "My Soul Shall Find Rest," and he was in fine form. He got the usual appreciation. Pte. Young was suffering from a cold, so we were unable to hear from him much to our regret. Driver Hopwood was also missed, he being away with his "bus" for repairs. Lance-Corporal Robinson gave us a piano selection. His wonderful skill entranced us, and we simply had to have an encore, which he obligingly gave.

The Chairman then called upon Major Scrimger, V.C., to propose the toast to Canada. The Major gave us a short history of the early days in Canada, touching upon the landing at the "Heights," Quebec, mentioning also that the Hotel Dieu (well known to anyone visiting Montreal) was the first Army medical station in the Dominion. He was glad to say there never had been a time when sense of honour and the proud name of Canadians stood out as it did at the present time. (Cheers.) We were pleased to hear the warm tribute paid by him to the French Canadians, and to know we Canadians, a nation within the Empire, were able to appreciate the proud and full success of Canada. Pte. Turner responded suitably in a few words.

Corporal Whittle (who was in charge of the "Chinks" working around the hospital) gave a parody on "Ye're aw richt ye ken," which was well received, and the boys insisted on an encore. Corporal Whittle responded with "Return." Private Stillman sang, with a clear, powerful voice, the well-known favourite, "Trumpeter," and received a full measure of applause. Sergeant Clark is so well known that I need only say his recitations, "Johnnie Courteau" and "The St. Boniface Fire Brigade," evoked a perfect storm of hand-clapping. Private Morton, of No. 2, held our attention with a Cornet Solo, the piece being "My Rosary," which was rendered so efficiently that he had to encore.

The Chairman called on Captain Ward for the toast to the Mother Country. Captain Ward dwelt upon the political and social career of the British Isles, and said that it was to the British Isles that the Colonies looked for protection, men, money, etc., when they were in their infancy. He had pleasure in saying that the Colonies stood hand in hand, and stuck to the old land, and he drew attention to the freedom and honour enjoyed by all of us under the good old Union Jack. Hatched in the Old Country, he was proud to be a naturalised Canuck. Replied to by Sergeant-Major Heywood, who informed us that the first Parliament was formed in the Old Country, and that she stood for Freedom and Liberty, was first among the nations of the world in shipping, etc., with over 5,000,000 men in the field. It was his proud privilege to second the toast.

Private Drew gave us a recitation entitled "My Mate," by Robert Service, which he rendered in fine style. Private Forster sang a comic song, entitled "Shall us? Let's." By the deafening applause you can gather he is a favourite. Private Lord gave us "The Song that Reached My Heart." His pronunciation, clear, resonant tone, and depth of feeling brought the beautiful words out to perfection. Private Wilson gave us a monologue entitled "Spotty," and he is the only one who could have brought it out in such a fine, forceful way.

Then came the toast to the ladies. The chairman called on Corporal Reid, who is just the man in our unit to do this to perfection, and gallantly he did it. In a clear and distinct manner he touched on the sterling qualities of our womenfolk—their forbearance, patience, and sacrifices, amidst all the worry, care, sadness, and sorrow that has been their lot since the outbreak of war; the direct services rendered, and the wonderful part they played; how nobly it was endured and without complaint. Sergeant Rodd responded in a style that places him in the front rank of finished speakers. Earnestly did he impress upon us, by mental picture, the patient watching, and noble endurance of the women, who were "fed up" just as much as we are, and who were standing the ordeal unflinchingly. Their names would be found on the Scroll of History.

Lance-Corporal Robinson gave us another selection, rendered as he only can do. Private Parkinson comically presented an adventure in the street, where he came off second best. "Ah've Coom an' Oil" creates bursts of uncontrolled laughter, and his part was only too short. We hope he will be able to respond with a second edition the next time, as the applause and demands for an encore certainly merited it. Private Grimston's song, "Some Night," was a popular favourite, and the timbre of his voice never sounded to better advantage. Corporal Whittle, with his humorous song, "How I Won the Battle of Loos," set the boys off again, and he realised that peace could only be secured by singing again, so we had the pleasure of hearing "If I Had a Thousand Lives to Live."

The Chairman called upon Captain Straight, of No. 2, to propose a toast to No. 3. This officer, who first came in contact with us at Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, was the right man for the occasion. He mentioned the work we did side by side

with them over there, and of the great comradeship existing between the units; of how the good work done by us was well known along the whole British front—(cheers)—and he hoped our future would be a brilliant one. If we moved our location we wished us a fine situation. This was responded to by Lt.-Col. Biggar, who, in a genial vein, emphasised the numerous pleasures of Flanders, and how we have to grin and bear it. Speaking seriously, he said it was the willingness to try, determination to carry on, with a spirit to succeed, that kept the Army up to the high standard; and if a vote were taken he ventured to say that every man would be willing to carry on for two years more, if necessary, in spite of the hardships we should have to face in order to subdue the overbearing Hun, who knows in his own heart that he is already beaten. Speaking about the movement rumour, he had even heard that the date had been fixed by that well-known, up-to-the-minute periodical, "The L— G—." (Loud laughter.) If we did move (here he paid the unit a fine compliment) he had no hesitation in saying that we should be ready to "take in" ten days after arrival. Before sitting down there was another toast he would like to propose—The U.S.A. (Cheers.)

Captain Keating, U.S.A., spoke a few words in reply to Lt.-Col. Biggar's toast, and stated that it was the ambition of every American to equal the work of the Allies. He also spoke of the friendly relations existing, the complete understanding of one another, and that we were kin, as most of them were descendants of people from the Old Country.

Private Stillman rendered "Go to Sea" in a breezy manner, which made one think of the glorious men doing their duty on the sea. Private Lord sang "When You Come Home," and tried to get away without giving an encore, but the boys demanded one, so he gave "My Canada," which should be sung more often. It's worth it. Private Drew, with "The Acquittal," by Robert Service, made a deep impression.

Then came the toast to "Our Guests." Private J. Parkinson said, as he looked around, we would agree with him, that they seemed to be enjoying themselves, but before pledging the toast he would like to include Captain Hood, R.A.M.C., who, as all knew, took a great part with us, the latter part of the Messines push; also, notwithstanding the Chairman's remarks, re carrying on for two more years, he hoped when we celebrate again we shall be in "God's Country," Canada. Drink heartily to our guests. Major Young, one of the "Originals," replying to Private Parkinson, remarked on the excellence of the programme, and was pleased to see back amongst us Captains Bagshaw and Carruthers. He was glad to say the "esprit de corps" with the other units was of the closest, and co-operation in the good work done all that could be desired. (Applause.)

Private Fell felt it was his duty to reply on behalf of the "Immatures," and told us of the good time they had. He hoped that their stay with the Canadians would last until the end of the war; and even after the war there would always be a warm corner in their hearts for us. (Boisterous cheers from "The Boys.")

Captain Hood, in a few words, said how glad he was to be amongst us again, and the experience he had gained, coupled with a pleasant stay during the summer, would always remain as one of the most cherished memories of the war.

Private Forster, with great effect, sang "Nancy Lee," and Private Grimston joined him in that catching refrain, "Shop." Private Barker was at the piano. These few words speak volumes. With the singing of the National Anthem the concert came to a happy ending.

The arrangements for the concert were in the capable hands of Corporal Couch, Private J. Coulter, and Private H. J. Graham, who handled everything satisfactorily. Assisting with the refreshments, which kept them busy, were Corporal Couch, Private J. Kelly, and Private Cowley. The unit's thanks to everybody concerned for the complete arrangements made.

MAJOR F. A. YOUNG.

HERE'S good health to Major Young, who has left No. 3, en route for God's Country. May a safe and speedy return attend him. He was one of the Originals of this Unit and being second in command, often acted in the capacity of Temporary O.C. He had charge of the Medical Section, for which work he showed exceptional ability. Patients under his care always had a good word for him and the treatment he had given them. But the "Lead-swingers"! Well, that's another question.

As an inventor he also excelled. He was "right on the job" when any new contrivance was to be thought out for the improvement of medical appliances, which the emergencies of C.C.S. work so often call for.

In Major Young, the boys of No. 3 had what might be called a "Foster Father," as it was invariably he who saw to the welfare of their ailments. He was our Gas Instructor, and when midnight alarms were given, he always came to the men's sleeping quarters and personally saw that each had his box respirator handy for any emergency that might arise.

Regarding recreation, no one will question the interest he took in anything along this line. In our Dramatic Society, he played an active part, and was one of the star actors in "Even a Worm." His critical mind was also sought in the final rehearsals of "Jane," which, at the time of writing, is being most successfully staged and is considered a "SCREAM."

Every one is sorry to lose Major Young and we all join in wishing him every success and happiness in his future career.