

MIKE'S FIRST LETTER HOME.

In Me Mud Hole, France.

Dear Maggie,

I am now going to write you a letter about my trip to the warr. We come across the inglish chanel in a boat that had to mil wheels on the sides to keep it from going too fast and to make the engines go. The forse of the bote goin threw the waters made the mil wheels go round and they turned the ingines and made the boat go.

When we got on land we wuz marched up to jine the army we wuz fastened to and i got the surprise of me loife. There wuz over too miles of sewers wid walks along the bottom and we twisted and twisted till we got to what they sed wuz the front line. All of the time they wuz letting off fireworks and som of the big ones made the ground shake somethin turrible. I seen Denny Coltoer, the parsons son. You mind the young devil wid all his fancy close and his lady killin ways. Well, I met him in wan of them long sewers, and, glory be, he wuz workin wid a pic an shovel and cursin to bate the best of them.

Last nite I wuz out in one of them sewers carryin wire to put out in front. Begobs, they make sure that none av the boys get over and swap stories wid them dirty germans. Every fut is fensed in as if we wuz chickens and didnt no any better than to go out their. Av course they aint all hed a good educashun like me and sum av them might not no any better.

The sargint is kolektn the male so will klose wid love an kisses,

Your darlint,

MIKE.

P.S.—Tell Pat I kin get him a pic here cheep.

Brazier.

YE OLD TYME BANQUET.

YE Olde Tyme Banquet to be given by the Y.M.C.A. at Folkestone on January 5th, is now assured and former Canadian members of that organisation are promised the treat of their lives. Plates will be set for more than 100 members, and it is now evident that the patronage will be ample to fill all places. The banquet will cost half a crown per man, which will barely cover the caterer's estimate. In addition to the menu the "Y" officers will provide many delicacies, and it is a certainty that no man will lack the material for filling the largest voids. An elaborate programme has been prepared, the feature of which will be one of Captain Best's talks on the experiences of eighteen months in the trenches.

Rally round the banquet, fellows, and make the evening one to remember.

WHAT THEY WERE DOING.

The sergeant had set a fatigue party to work pumping water out of the trench. Returning some time later, he was annoyed to find the whole party indulging in the mild pastime of sailing little paper boats.

"What in the blazes are you fellows doing?" he inquired.

"Waiting for the tide to come in, sergeant," was the reply.

NEWS NOTES IN GENERAL.

A Glee Club has been formed in the Cameron brass band, and it is said that some exceptional talent is being developed.

Rumours say that one of our recent drafts has met with serious injury at the front. We are now making inquiries and hope to have a complete casualty list in the next issue.

Sergt. Major Thorpe has returned to camp after having spent several days of complete rest at home. He is all smiles so we take it for granted his time was used to the best advantage.

Col. Pryce-Jones has been sent to France on an educational trip. He is one of a party of Commanding Officers who will visit all parts of the firing line before being returned to duty.

The signallers seem to be having the time of their lives these days. A visit to their quarters finds them working from early to late, but they go at their training with smiles and jolly good will. Go to it, lads.

It is hinted that Christmas Day proved disastrous to the Ashford fatigue party.

We were surprised last week to receive a copy of the *Kia-Ora*, official monthly magazine of H.M.S. *New Zealand*. The little paper is a bright and snappy one, and reflects credit, not only on the editorial staff, but on the ship's crew as well. It is attractive in size and make-up, and the cover design leaves nothing to be desired. Thank you, brothers of the navy, for your kind remembrance. Your request to exchange shall be gladly complied with.

Our fame seems to be spreading to the corners of the Empire and further. The latest evidence of this is a request for a complete file of *The Clansman* to be included in a library at Paris. While several copies are being filed in British offices and institutions this is the first evidence of interest on the part of our allied nations and is greatly appreciated.

HAPPY HOUR PARTY.

The Clansman extends thanks to the Happy Hour Party held at the "Y" on Christmas night for the many good things said in its behalf. The party was a success from the word go and was certainly an event to be long remembered. Pte. Campbell, ventriloquist, was the star feature of the bill and more than made good with his audience. He and his doll never forgot the brigade paper and instilled into the minds of all present the need of their continued support. Let us add that Pte. Campbell has now been added to the local concert party and is furnishing amusement to many of the battalions of the district.

**B. NINNES,
HYTHE.**

(Opposite Swan Hotel).

Military Jewellers.

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and Wristlet Watches
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WITH THE CHESS PLAYERS.

THE players in the first section have completed their engagements in the first round. The winners were:—

Major Lamontagne.
Pte. Midhurst.
Captain Bruce.
Captain Smith.
Lieut. Playfair.
Pte. Vickers.
Sergt. Major Thorpe (by default).
Pte. Tombes.
Corporal Davison.
Corporal Adams.

All these gentlemen will take part in the second round, the drawing for which was made by the Committee on Saturday and resulted as follows:

Lieut. Playfair v. Corpl. Davison.
Pte. Vickers v. Captain Adams.
Pte. Tombes v. Major Lamontagne.
Pte. Medhurst v. Captain Bruce.

These games promise to be of a very interesting character and some well contested finishes are confidently expected.

The handicap committee have carefully performed the duty entrusted to them, with the result that each player will have an equal chance, meeting his opponent on even terms.

There are several games still unplayed in section two. This no doubt, was caused by the absence from Camp of several of the players during Christmas week. Now that they have nearly all returned, it is confidently expected that they will soon get busy, and that the second round will soon be engaging the attention of all, as will also the first round of the section two consolation contest.

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