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SECOND REPORT

On War Graves and Battle Exploit Memorials. Newfoundland Contingent.

To:—
The Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.
Sir.—Having been advised by the War Office that exhumation was about to begin in the Gueudecourt area I went to France on Sept. 15th, and was afforded every facility by General Fabian Ware and General Mervin, Directors of Graves Registration and Enquiry and by their deputies in the areas concerned. I was accompanied by Sergt. Snow, M.M., and by Sergt. Murphy of the Pay and Record Office. We began work immediately east of Gueudecourt and the result was fairly satisfactory. When one of our graves was found it was identified, a cross erected and if possible photographed, copies of these photographs will be sent you for distribution to the next-of-kin. When the bodies have been interred in the military cemeteries and the Commission headstones erected they will be photographed again. At present am indexing and retyping all pages, but when the task is completed they will be sent to you so that relatives if they wish, may obtain as many prints as they desire.

You are aware that it was in Oct. 16, the Battalion was in action in this area, which was fought over again, from October 16 to March 17, March 18 and again in July 16, it is no wonder that many identifications have been lost.

Our men were also very careless about their identity discs, and to add to the difficulty, the disc supplied by W. O. has not proved durable. My next task was to identify as many of the registered graves as possible as there is no point in my waiting months in this sector while the bodies are being exhumed. But to give the hour Company employed on this result and uncooperative task a great interest in our graves, I have offered a small reward for every proven identification, so that when the work is over we may add to the number of identifications already made. The following graves have been found in the Gueudecourt sector:—

Capt. J. J. Donnelly, M.C.
2150—Lt. Col. R. Coodeyear.
1730—Pte. H. Tibbo.
2054—Cpl. D. Nicholls.

2034—Pte. W. Lehoussier.
2136—Pte. J. Langer.
3390—Pte. S. E. Rodgers.
750—Pte. W. Snow.

This whole area is a forest of little wooden crosses, bearing the inscription, "Unknown British Soldier." I am sure that when exhuming takes place many of those men posted as missing on the 12th October will be found.

Having gone over this area thoroughly, we next went a few miles further south to the Leboeuf area. There we found, to our surprise, that the bodies had already been exhumed and concentrated into military cemeteries. No identifications were obtained of our Battalion in that area, with the exception of:—

2637—Lt. Col. R. Paddy,
whose body had been exhumed from Fiers line and reinterred in the "Guards Cemetery," Lesboeufs.

Further South we found the resting places of:

Comblies.
Lt. C. Edgar.
702—Pte. F. Sweeney.
2663—Cpl. W. H. Norman.

Comblies-Bailley-Sailloel.
2nd Lt. J. E. Thompson.
2695—Pte. J. March.
575—Sergt. A. Ash.
78—Pte. W. Roost.

Gullemond.
2873—Pte. S. Mitchellmore.
Bray-Mesnil Road.
2nd Lt. S. Manuel.
2866—Pte. J. Bennett.
2890—Cpl. N. Conlan.
2887—Pte. D. Clarke.
2767—Pte. Perry.
2891—Pte. M. A. Ingram.
1433—Pte. J. Wheeler.
3808—Pte. F. W. Lucas.
2130—Sergt. J. E. Moore.

Longueval.
1626—Pte. J. Galpin.

To give you an idea of how the landscape has been battered, it took me one whole day to find a quarry 85 feet deep from which I could find my way to Sergt. Ash's grave.

I expect to be going to France again in a fortnight's time, when work will begin on another area in which we are interested.

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A Remedy for Chest Colds, Head Colds, Spasmodic Croup, Sore Throat, Stiff Neck, Earache and kindred ailments. Apply freely to the skin just over the affected parts and rub it in.

Final Verification.

I have been asked by the Imperial War Graves' Commission to expedite in whatever manner I thought fit the collecting of particulars for the Cemetery registers and headstones. These particulars will be collected in this office and will be supplied as required by the Final Verifications Dept. With the approval of the Director General I have adopted the following procedure:—

Forms will be sent you in bulk for distribution to next-of-kin. These forms shall be completed as far as possible from the Regimental Records, in the Record Office, London. The forms should be distributed as soon as possible and instruction published in the press. If any person is unable to understand the form they should apply to their clergyman, doctor or the nearest Magistrate, for assistance.

The form having been filled in should be folded and returned to you, where it will be examined, and if necessary, corrected by your Department, before being sent back to me. In some cases it may take two or three months to obtain the required information by post, in such cases I ask you to obtain the information by telegraph, as the contract for headstones is given by cemeteries and lack of information for one headstone may hold up a whole cemetery.

The information I am seeking is for cemetery registers, headstones or mural tablets. Bodies may not yet be recovered, or may never be recovered at the same time particulars of all who fell will be kept in the register of the nearest cemetery.

When a complete register has been made of Royal Naval Reservists and members of our Regiment I intend to have copies printed, one to be retained by the Imperial War Graves' Commission, one to be placed for reference in the office of the High Commissioner, London, another copy to be sent to your office for the purpose of regional records and reference, and another copy should be put in a deposit vault for safe keeping. It may be possible that the Brigades, Colleges, Schools, Training Ship, various Churches and some private individuals, may desire copies of this register. If 200 copies are ordered the maximum price will be about 30/-, if more, it may be reduced to 21/-.

This is only a rough estimate. If copies are desired, application should be made to you at once. The Imperial War Graves' Commission are issuing a register of all British armies in France. It will be about twice the size of the Encyclopedia Britannica. I have been asked if our Government desires a copy.

Personal Inscription.

Space has been provided on each headstone for a personal inscription. This space is limited. The inscription must therefore be curtailed to sixty-six letters, the space between two words counting as one letter.

The Commission has also decided that owing to the desire expressed by a great number of people, that they should have some claim on the headstone, this inscription be put on at the person's own expense. The cost varies from time to time, the present rate is 7 cents per letter. Space is also provided on the forms which I am sending for this inscription, and particulars as to how it should be filled in. When the headstone is erected the amount due, etc., carving inscription, will be rendered to you for collection.

I have been asked by the Imperial War Graves' Commission to publish all facts in connection with final verification and personal inscription in the local press. I will therefore, mail you extra copies of this report for publication.

Cemeteries in U. K.

Our graves in the U. K. are about to be taken in hand. There has been a slight misunderstanding with regard to Wandsworth. According to code message 649 (Confidential) sent by the Secretary of State to the Governor of Newfoundland, the Imperial Government undertook to purchase land in perpetuity, to bury our men in single graves, and take care of those graves for evermore. This offer was accepted by Governor Davidson, on behalf of the Government and the Newfoundland Patriotic Association. The N. W. C. A., however, on what authority I know not, bought the plot at Wandsworth, in which they buried those of our men who died in Wandsworth Hospital, four in a grave. This has now been altered, each soldier lies in a separate plot. I do not wish to hurt the feelings of these good people who have been so good to us in France, and to our wounded in hospital, but it must be clearly understood that unless a body is claimed by the next-of-kin, it is buried under Military authority, and remains under Military authority until handed over to the Imperial War Graves' Commission.

Now arises the question of central monuments in our larger plots in the U. K. The N. W. C. A. propose to erect a monument costing four to five hundred pounds over those fifteen men in Wandsworth Cemetery, while some of our men's graves are as yet unpaid for. The Government cannot be expected to spend more than about £150 on each of our larger cemeteries. It would therefore, be very unlikely that the N. W. C. A. should be

Saved His Life, Says Popular Marine Captain.

Indian Point Man Tells of His Experience With Tanlac—Is Remarkable, He Says.

"My friends all know what a bad fit I was in before I took Tanlac, and will tell you that I am now just like a new man," said Captain Alfred H. Eisenhaur, of Indian Point, Nova Scotia, while discussing the merits of the medicine, recently.

Captain Eisenhaur is one of the most popular and influential citizens of Lunenburg county. He is at present engaged in general merchandising in Indian Point, but was for many years a sea captain, and is well known all along the East coast of Nova Scotia.

"For three or four years," he continued, "my stomach and intestines had been troubling me, but outside of taking a few pills now and then I never paid much attention to it, not thinking it anything serious. Last January, however, I took a sudden turn for the worse and found out I was suffering from a very bad case of catarrh of the stomach. Well, sir, I was in such a bad shape, from January until after I began taking Tanlac, in fact, that I could not do a day's work. It is simply impossible for me to describe just how badly I did suffer. There was a constant gripping pain in my stomach and intestines that would not draw my desire and at times I thought I would go distracted this pain was so intense. I was forced to live on the very lightest of foods for if I ventured to eat anything the least bit heavy I would almost die with indigestion. I was constantly coughing up mucus from my stomach and would bloat very badly with sour gas. My food was doing me no good, for I lost fifteen pounds in weight and was so weak that I could hardly get about the house, much less work.

"Realizing that I could not hold out much longer in such a condition I went for an examination. I was given an operation and went home a badly discouraged man. Just about this time I noticed Tanlac being recommended very highly in the Halifax papers and, as a last resort, I decided to try a bottle. So the next time my wife went to Halifax I had her bring me some Tanlac, and before I had finished my second bottle I could see quite an improvement in my condition. I have taken several bottles of Tanlac since I found it was what I needed, and I firmly believe I was not long in getting my condition back to normal. I have been relieved entirely of all the pain and other symptoms of catarrh and my food is digesting fine for I am gaining weight right along. With my appetite back and my stomach in good condition I am now eating just anything I want and never have a pain or an uncomfortable feeling afterwards. The way Tanlac has helped me is nothing less than remarkable. I cannot praise it too highly and would advise anyone to try it."

Tanlac is sold in St. John's by M. Connors, under the personal direction of a special Tanlac representative; in Harbor Street, by Thomas Wakely & Sons; in Pictou, by James Murphy & Son, and in Topsail by J. K. Burrell—adv.

allowed to erect such a monument at Wandsworth, yet they claim the authority of the Colonial Secretary's Office for doing so. What the Colonial Secretary's Office has to do with it I do not know. I understand that all matters appertaining to the Regiment belong to your department.

In the meantime I have won Mr. E. B. Morris, O. B. E., the most energetic member of the Association, to my way of thinking, and he is endeavouring to have the money at the disposal of the N. W. C. A. spread over the erection of monuments in four of our larger cemeteries. If he can arrange this the title to the plot at Wandsworth will then be handed over to me as your representative. I will have the plot arranged as I think best, before handing over to the I. W. G. A. I hope Mr. Morris will win the Association to my side, but if he does not, I want your support in the matter. Please cable.

Graves in Newfoundland.

During the week I have sent for particulars requested by the Imperial War Graves' Commission, regarding graves of soldiers in Newfoundland. I have seen the Director General on this matter, and he has come to the decision that either the graves should be administered by the Imperial War Graves' Commission direct, or if it would suit the Government better, that they should do so under the Imperial War Graves' Commission. The latter is, I think, the better course and General Ware has asked me to recommend it. It simply means some responsible organization taking over our War graves, seeing to the erection of the Commission headstones and making arrangements for the continued care of those graves.

However, this is not an urgent matter, and can be dealt with when the present rush is over.

Part 2.

BATTLE EXPLOIT MEMORIALS.
With regard to Battle Exploit Memorials rapid progress has been made since last reporting. On 30th September a meeting was held at the Adjutant General's office, and among other things, our claims to memorials were discussed, these will be found in paper 31 of that meeting, which I am forwarding. The Historical Section, to which claims were submitted for examination, reported as follows:—

Kloberg Ridge—A monument in

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memory of fighting in Belgium '16, '17 and '18. "Recommends acceptance."

"The attack of the 9th Division (to which the Newfoundland Battalion was transferred) on the ridge in September, 1918, was very highly praised by Sir D. Haig."

"Acceptance recommended."—Beaumont Hamel, Gueudecourt, Monchy le Preux, Maroing.

Caribou Hill—"This would not in itself seem to reach the required level, but it recommends the fact that the Royal Newfoundland Regiment had their first experience of active service on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and the operation, though in itself a minor affair, was one of the few active operations carried out during the last few months at Salonica and was quite successful."

It may be noted that the 12th Division also lays claim to a Memorial at Monchy, but its site near Le Fosse Farm is nowhere near ours, which I propose to place either in the village or on "Infantry Hill," preferably the latter.

I am also enclosing you a letter I have written to the Secretary of the

Committee in connection with the debated claim of the 20th Division to a monument at Masnières, see page 8 of paper 21, B. E. M. Committee. The sites proposed to the Committee, although on different maps, are very near together. I do not think the claims of the 20th Division stand any chance against ours.

I am going to France shortly with representatives of the U. K. and the Dominions, to interview the French and Belgian Governments, with regard to obtaining those sites free of charge. We shall also be able to get them surveyed free, having received that promise from some surveyors still in France.

I suggest to the Government that they allocate the money for these monuments as soon as possible, for by so doing, I may be able to obtain free use of Army railways and Prisoners of War as labourers, thus saving quite a lot of money.

I am sending you sixteen designs I have received for memorials and monuments, some good, some bad, but I have got in touch with Capt. Gotto, the gentleman who designed "The Bombing Newfoundland," which won a place in this Year's Academy. Capt. Gotto is very enthusiastic in everything concerning Newfoundland, having come in contact with our men while Staff Officer at Winchester. He has been well-known in British art for the past thirty years.

His proposition is much cheaper than any of the others; it will be artistic, and, from what I have seen of those already erected in France, will be most distinctive. His idea being a giant soldier, somewhat like the "Monarch of the Dugies" carved in

bronze, on a rough cairn of Newfoundland granite, about ten to fifteen feet high. This will be distinctive of the Regiment and of Newfoundland. It will be artistic and cheap, all five being cast from the same mould. I am afraid, however, it will not be suitable for Gallipoli, owing to weather conditions, or possibility of disfigurement or theft by the natives. I urge you to get the Government to adopt this idea, as it will be one of the best monuments in France, and worthy of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
T. NANGLE, C.F.
Major.

O. C. Graves & Monuments,
Newfoundland Contingent.

CALENDERS.—We thank Messrs. R. Templeton and the I. C. Morris, Sell Works, for useful wall calendars.

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