Lorbeer — Rose — Zypresse.

Ich bin der Lorbeer, wie fühl' ich mich reich,
Denn meines Stammes schönsten Zweig,
Den bringt man dem Sieger, dem Kämpfer der Schlacht,
Wie manches Herz hab' ich schon glücklich gemacht!

Ich bin die Rose, die Wohlgeruch sendet,
Man hat mich beim Abschied dem Krieger gespendet,
Der hat mich ganz innig ans Herze gedrückt
Und lang' auf der Reise am Duft sich erquickt.

Was prahlt ihr? Ihr tragt nur vergängliches Kleid,
Doch ich halte Treue in bitterstem Leid.
Ihr beide, ihr haltet nicht lange stand,
Ich geh' mit dem Menschen ins dunkelste Land:

Du, Lorbeer, machst heute den Krieger so reich
Und morgen die Stirne ruht blutig und bleich.
Du, Rose, die heute die Liebe gesandt,
Nicht konnt' umfassen dich lange die Hand.
Im Kampf hieß es fechten, ohne Rast, ohne Ruh',
Längst deckt ihn der Rasen, die Erde schon zu.
Doch mich, die Zypresse, die pflanzt man aufs Grab,
Ich wurzle tief unten zum Menschen hinab,
Ich halt' ihn umschlungen im letzten Schrein,
Mit ewigem Grün schmück' ich noch sein Heim.
Das Leben ist ein vergänglicher Traum;
Ich bin die Zypresse, ein düsterer Baum.

CATHOLIC ARMY HUTS

OVERSEAS DIRECTORS' REPORT.

July 15, 1918.

Since the last report of the Overseas Directors was issued on April 6th, the work of the Catholic Army Huts overseas has continued to develop.

The present report aims not at advertising or puffing our work, but at giving an accurate picture of the present condition of our work overseas, with some indications as to what developments the future will require.

A. Clubs, Huts, Tents, Chapels.

The Catholic Army Huts was instituted with one of its main objects the providing of places which would serve the soldier for religious and recreational purposes. The type of "hut" provided depends entirely upon the needs and circumstances of time and place. Thus in London, it pays better to rent a house; in a permanent camp in England, it is usually more advisable to build a hut; while with the Canadian Corps, owing to the all-important problem of transport, a tent or marquee must serve the purpose. In one unit it is chiefly a chapel which is required; in another it is an recreation room. The interests of the soldiers, military regulations, and the Defence of the Realm Act with its restrictions concerning the erection of new buildings have to be harmonized in each case. The following shows the development since April 6th.

I. LONDON.

The first Catholic Army Club at 24 Grosvenor Place was formally opened with great eclat by the highest representatives of Church and of Canada, on May 21st. Cardinal Bourne blessed the building, and Sir George Perley, Sir Edward Kemp, Sir Richard Turner, Brig.-Gen. Bishop Keatinge, Bishop Bidwell, Bishop Butt, Bishop Fenton and Father Workman were present and spoke. Bishop Fallon was absent visiting the Canadian Corps in France. A second Club, which serves as an annex to the first, was opened a fortnight later at No. 30 Grosvenor Place. These clubs supply over 1,200 meals weekly and provide sleeping accommodation for 120 men. They are patronized largely by Canadians, but also by British Tommies and sailors, Americans, Australians, New Zealanders, and Newfoundlanders, irrespective of creed. They have proved a great success. Capt. Rev. I. Daniel, O.M.I., is Chaplain.

Meanwhile London south of the Thames with the important Waterloo Station has not been neglected. St. George's Hall, which was built some years ago, as a parish hall and clubhouse, has been rented from the Bishop of Southwark, and is being fitted up as a soldiers' club. St. George's Catholic Army Club will be one of the best south of the Thames. As in the clubs in Grosvenor Place, the Catholic Women's League supplies us with the household staff.

II. ENGLAND.

At Bramshott Camp a large Catholic Army Hut Cinema Tent, fully equipped with cinema and dynamo has been established in the lines of the 10th French-Can. Reserve Battalion at the cost of $3,600. At its formal opening on June 15th, Lt.-Col. Des Rosiers expressed his thanks to the Cath. Army Huts for all they had done for his battalion. The C.A.H. has already fitted up this unit with a French library and with a temporary chapel. Major Rev. J. N. Desjardins is in charge of the work of this unit.

Witley Camp. — An Army Hut was placed at our disposal in the Artillery Lines, and Capt. Rev. E. Laws had it fitted up as a chapel. The several hundred dollars spent in this way have been amply repaid by the attendance at Mass, which has almost doubled.

After a tantalizing amount of red tape, work has now begun on the large combination C.A.H. Chapel-Recreation Hut in the main part of the camp. This will be in brick (wooden constructions are no longer allowed) and will cost, without furnishings, $15,000. Capt. Rev. L. P. Lowry is Senior Catholic Chaplain of this area.

Frensham Pond. — The new Canadian Segregation Camp was no sooner opened in May than the Catholic Army Huts established a small chapel tent and a large recreation marquee. Capt. Rev. C. Doyon, O.P., is in charge of the work here.

Canadian Convalescent Camp, Cooden. — Early in June a large Cinema tent, 100 feet by 30 feet, with a couple of smaller tents adjoining, was erected by the Cath. Army Huts in the Princess Patricia Canadian Convalescent Hospital at Cooden. These tents, which cost about $3,500, are staffed by ladies of the Catholic Women's League. The C.A.H. has also taken over a recreation room in Bexhill-on-Sea that was being conducted by local workers. This serves the Canadian cadets.

The above is a list of new "huts" established in England in the past three months.

III. FRANCE.

The Sixth Canadian General Hospital (Laval University unit) has accepted the offer of a Recreation Hut from the C.A.H. Capt. Rev. G. Gauvreau, O.M.I., is in charge of this undertaking.

The Second Canadian Stationary Hospital has accepted the offer of a small chapel tent and a large recreation tent from the C.A.H. Application has been received for authority to transport these, and they should arrive shortly.

The Eighth Canadian Stationary Hospital has been provided with a small chapel tent.

A hut with the 39th Company (Acadian) Canad. Forestry Corps has been equipped by the C.A.H.

Canadian Corps. — Two additional small chapel-tents have been supplied to the Corps. The 12th Brigade (Capt. Rev. A. McDonnell, M.C.) is being supplied with a Recreation Tent, and likewise the Fifth Reinforcement Brigade (Capt. Rev. P. A. McDonald.) The size of the tent supplied this latter unit is the standard size employed, 60 feet by 30 feet. It cost $700.

More ambitious propositions cannot be untertaken in France, owing to the fact that the C.A.H. is not like the Protestant YMCA a service or department of the army, with its establishment of officers and men, its motor lorries and cars, and its quasi-ubiquity. Wherever we see an opening, however, we utilize it to the full. Bishop Fallon and the Overseas Secretary of the C.A.H. spent three weeks in France visiting the units and studying the needs and opportunities there. His Lordship has also visited all the Canadian units in England, and has thus a first-hand knowledge of the position of the C.A.H. in both countries. In this report no description is given of the C.A.H. Chapel-Recreation Hut at le Treport, of which Capt. Rev. T. O' Sullivan is in charge, or of the chapel at Etaples, which was somewhat injured during the bombing raids on the hospitals there, nor of the chapel tents in the Canadian Corps, with the Railway troops and casualty clearing stations, of which mention was made in previous reports. Nor is it necessary to refer to the catholic church and Catholic Women's League Hut at Bramshott, the catholic Recreation Room and C.A.H. Chapel-Recreation Room at the North and South Camp at Seaford, nor to the Chapel-Recreation Rooms at the 8th Reserve Battalion, Witley, at St. Martin's Plain and at Purfleet. Two C.A.H. Chapel-Recreation Rooms at Sandling were closed when the Canadians left that area.

B. Supplies.

In addition to furnishing its own clubs, huts, chapels and tents with everything that the needs or comfort of the men require, the C.A.H. sends supplies to the catholic chaplains for distribution to the men. The articles supplied in greatest number are: Rosaries, scapular medals, writing paper, and reading matter. During the past fortnight, 151,000 sheets of writing paper and a corresponding number of envelopes have been sent out. Up to the present 10,000 rosaries and 8,000 scapular medals have been distributed, and forty gross of rosaries were bought by the C.A.H. this week. 30,000 Catholic Truth Society pamphlets and over 5,000 other pamphlets have been sent to France and distributed. Several libraries have been established. In addition to the 25,000 pamphlets of the Holy Name Society for Canadian soldiers mentioned in last report, the C.A.H. has had 80,000 copies printed of a new pamphlet, which bears a magnificent letter by Lieut.-General Sir Arthur Currie, and forewords by three Divisional commanders. It is the intention to put one in the hands of every Canadian soldier in France. The entire cost of this work is borne by the C.A.H. The Association continues to supply chaplains with any religious supplies or articles they need and with means of transportation when necessary, and has also supplied a small number of gramophones and a limited amount of athletic supplies. No request has ever been refused for anything which is obtainable and which comes under our charter. As we are becoming better known, requests will multiply.

C. Finance.

The Overseas Directors beg to call attention to the fact that up to the present the C.A.H. has received nothing from the Province of Quebec. Yet a large proportion of the funds of the Society are expended on religious and social work in the four French-Canadian units overseas. The 10th French-Canadian Reserve has been supplied, as mentioned above, with cinema tent fully equipped, with a French library and chapel accessories; the 22nd Battalion has received a chapel-tent; a hut is being constructed for the Laval Hospital; and the Eighth General Hospital and other units which have a number of French troops, have been supplied with French libraries. A large proportion of the soldiers who frequent the Catholic Army Clubs in London, and its variaus huts and tents, are French-Canadians. Surely here is a case for catholicity of support in Canada, as we have catholicity of action overseas. We confidentially commend our cause to the Bishops and the Knights of Columbus of the Province of Quebec.

The big campaigns being launched in the Maritime Provinces, Ontario, and the West are matters which will be reported on by the Canadian Directors. Two contributions, however, sent direct overseas, merit a special mention. These are a contribution of £478 5s. 4d., collected through Rt. Rev. Abbot Bruno Doerfler through St. Peter's Bote from the German-Canadian colony in the country about Muenster, Sask., and a contribution of £13 4s. 8d. from the poor Indians of Tobique, N.B. What a wonderful tribute of the unifying power of the catholic church, which thus brings together in loyal Catholic Canadian effort, Canada's oldest and youngest Canadians.

The total receipts overseas to date (July 11, 1918) amount to £14,823 14s. The total expenditure to date, that is, for a period of thirteen months, amounts to £7,567 19s 4d. Office expenses, as the office is supplied by the Overseas Military Forces of Canada, have not been one-tenth of one per cent. of the total expenses.

In the April report it was estimated that $100,000 would be required to continue the work overseas into 1919. In a cable sent by the overseas Directors a month later, it was stated that a minimum of $150,000 would be required to continue the work overseas till the end of 1919. With the knowledge at present at our disposal of the work yet unpaid, now in hand, and about to be undertaken, these estimates appear to us to be quite justified.

The Overseas Directors also wish to repeat what they stated in their cable, that it is necessary for the C. A. H. in conjunction with a war committee of the Knights of Columbus, to establish huts in all the permanent camps in Canada. The last report received from our energetic Canadian Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. J. L. Murray, Ontario K. C. State Deputy, shows that adequate preparations are now being made for this work.

At a meeting of the Overseas Directors held in London on July 11th, this report was adopted, and orders were given for an additional auditing of all the accounts of the C.A.H. to date, and for the publishing of the auditors' report.

The Directors wish to express their deepest gratitude to all, and they number tens of thousand, who have helped the C.A.H. Association.

Signed:

W. T. WORKMAN, Lt.-Col., Pres., C.A.H.

F. FRENCH, Lt.-Col., Vice-Pres., C.A.H.

JOHN J. O'GORMAN, Major, O.S. Sec.-Treas., C.A.H.

P. H. M. CASGRAIN, Major.

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