

RECALLED DARDANELLES LEADER ON HIS WAY HOME



Admiral de Roebuck and General Sir Ian Hamilton on board H.M.S. Triton on the afternoon of the general's departure for England. (Official photograph circulated on behalf of the Press Bureau.)

PLUCK IN HOSPITAL

Stories of Soldiers Who Have Been
Wounded in the Great War

Some people think that a military hospital must be a depressing and dismal place, says a chaplain of the Forces. Not at all, it is one of the cheeriest in the world. Every ward has at least one gramophone. I ought to be able by this time to sing Harry Lauder's songs, if I could sing at all. I feel that Caruso is an old friend, and I almost think that I have been attending music halls since I was a baby. Quite the gayest of my boys has only one leg; he left the other in France. But he hops all over the place always with a laugh and a joke. He rags his mates a good deal and gets clear away every time.

I never seen anything cheer up a quiet ward like a thunderstorm. The whole ward seemed to be asleep when the thunder began. Suddenly everyone became alive. Some who were dressed got out of their beds and some in pyjamas got out of their beds. At each peal arrived there was a shout of "another Jack Johnson" and a pretence of dodging a shell. "Jack Johnson" did not seem to have much of a depressing effect on them.

All Gentlemen
Their types and experiences are the same in number—infants. The professional "Ommy" and the man who joined for the war lie side by side—but they are all gentlemen at any rate in hospital, where the surroundings are calculated to bring out the best that is in a man. I have in my mind's eye a young fellow who seemed one of the gentlest kind. In civil life he was accustomed to every comfort and followed an indoor employment, just the sort of thing which might be least expected to produce the soldierly feeling. When I saw him first he was pale, thin and wasted. But his eyes were full of life and intellect and he talked well. He had lost a leg; but he said to me, "If I had to think it over again, I would do the same again. I am not sorry. And he need not be sorry. I know a family of six stalwart sons, four unmarried. The four are eating the bread of ease, earning large wages, because better men have "gone to the front" and they have left it to a married brother, who already has two South African medals, to uphold the honor of the family in the trenches in Flanders. These four and their like will have the finger of scorn pointed at them in the days to come, while my one-legged friend will have the approbation of his own conscience and the admiration of his neighbors for having given his leg for his country. It is a heavy tax which the man who prides himself on his patriotism in paying his income tax would do well to ponder for the days that are to come.

Peculiar Wounds
Another lad lies quietly with a stump for his left leg and another for his right arm. It has been a severe test of his system, but he will survive to be more lively than he is at present.

Two of my friends were shot right through the head, just behind the cheek bone, in another year there will be little mark, if any, and possibly when they tell about it they will be thought to be drawing the long-bow. One of them was in a party which was told off to drive some snipers from a house. The quarry was unearthed by shell-fire, after which the British soldiers rushed them with the bayonet. One of my two friends made for a German who aimed at him and fired. My friend thought the German had missed as he did not feel any hurt and he went for his opponent with the bayonet. It was only after finishing his job that he discovered his wound. But, as he remarked to me, "I got my own out of that chap anyhow."

Another of my friends did not know how many wounds he had—his nose is legion. He was peppered with shrapnel all over, and picked a lot of the bits out himself with his fingers. None of them was serious, so he had a lucky escape.

How a Souvenir Was Secured
A friend at home wanted a "souvenir"

of the war, so a soldier friend of mine decided to gratify him. The particular souvenir desired was a German saw-edged bayonet, but the chance of that which he saw, involved the "bagging" of a sniper who was troubling the trench nightly. So he stole out one night and stalked the sniper. He got really interested when I drew him on to describe the stalking, and it must have been a delicate job as the sniper was aware of his presence and wanted to "bag" him. "But, at last," in his own words, "I got within four yards of him without his seeing me, and I brought him down and got the bayonet." It was not for this that he got the D. C. M. but for earlier work, especially in getting two wounded men out of an exposed position, bandaging them, and bringing them in afterwards at night. He maintained that instead of sending him from a French hospital to one in Scotland the author-



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ties ought to have sent him back to the trenches and he grumbled at the distance he would have to travel back. He passed on soon to a convalescent home and perhaps he is now back stalking snipers.

A True Prophet
One of the attractions of the church fete was a fortune teller's tent. A lady took her ten-year-old, red-haired, freckled son inside. The woman of wisdom bent over the crystal ball. "Your son will be a very distinguished man if he lives long enough," she murmured in deep mysterious tones. "Oh how nice," gasped the proud mother. "And what will he be distinguished for?" "For old age," replied the fortune teller, slowly.

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