

night. The good old negro nurse tried to sooth her charge as best she could. Harold and I felt a lump in our throats as we thought of our homes a long way off in distant Canada and, carefully replacing the branches, we stole softly away, and started on our return.

When we were near the camp I took off my tunic and wrapped it around the fowls we were carrying and thus brought them to our tent. Harold was the first to enter and as he did so a chorus of voices shouted to him 'You are for it!' meaning that he would be made a prisoner and be brought up before the commanding officer. A feeling of apprehension crossed me as I followed him into the tent and the nervousness caused thereby made me trip over a foot rope as I entered thus pitching me forward and throwing my coat and the four nice fat ducks among the boys. No sooner did they see this promise of a merry Christmas than they seized Harold and myself by the hands and told us we were the champion raiders of the Royal Canadians and that they were only joking when they said that we were "for it."

Everyone was then in good humor and as the fourteen occupants of the tent squatted around the tent pole we had to relate the story of our adventure. After we had finished Albert Fraser, one of the most popular boys in our crowd, suggested that we make some little Christmas presents for the little Boer girl and take them out to her that night. This suggestion was seized with boisterous approval which only subsided when a practical Scotchman asked us where we would get presents that would suit a little girl and even if we had them, how could we get to the farm house through the pickets and patrols who would be on guard during the night.

Nevertheless Malony suggested that we make some candy out of our sugar rations and our little Frenchman, who had been a tailor, said that if we gave him the material he would make a doll. Another volunteered to make jumping-jack with his army knife and a piece of biscuit box; these suggestions were unanimously acceded to and the boys overhauled their knapsacks and brought forth bits of cloth, handkerchiefs and other material from which, to