

A FLYING OFFICER

a fresh water sailor from boyhood the voyage was full of interest, although he described it as a very rough passage. "There was frequent lifeboat drill. When we were within a day or two of England greater precautions were taken. I was chased back to my room by the guard several times, because I had started without my belt. They were carried everywhere, to the dining room, to the lavatories and on deck. It made me think of the Ancient Mariner and the Albatross, to see all the passengers going round with white life preservers slung round their necks.—On the ninth day we began steering a zigzag course. On March 12th the "Mosquito fleet" came out to meet us. Away on the horizon to starboard I saw three small black specks, gradually growing larger, racing towards us like mad. Others rushed towards us from the port side, and presently we had seven wicked looking torpedo boats escorting us. Flashes from their signal lamps ordered alterations in our course. Presently H.M.S. Drake speeded up and disappeared over the horizon ahead.—As we lay in Plymouth harbour I was impressed by the hills, green and brown in the sun, and after snowbound Canada the sight of green herbage was most welcome."

The next day he reached Shorncliffe, and as Queen's Hospital was then on its way from Egypt to France, the reinforcements were detained in England, and the various members were detailed for duty in several places. MacLennan was soon taken on the orderly room staff of the Canadian Army Medical Corps Training School then stationed at Dibgate, a clearing depot for the Canadian Medical Service. He was given a new number 535405, and remained at this work for three months. In June, 1916, he with others from the school was transferred to the Shorncliffe Military Hospital to organize a new staff. He was again in the Orderly Room, and in a short time was advanced to the rank of a Staff Sergeant. He remained at this work until February, 1917. During this period he several times had leave and visited Dover, Canterbury, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Edinburgh, Melrose, Abbotsford, Stratford-on-Avon, Exeter, Bath, Land's End, and London many times.