

BREATH O' THE HEATHER



A Regimental Journal printed and published on active service by the 236th O. S. Batt., New Brunswick Kilts.

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The "Breath O' The Heather" makes its first appearance without any cause for apologies, aside, perhaps, from the fact that the first issue is coming out at a much later date than originally intended. There is, we believe, in the life of a battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force need for a publication such as we aim to make this one, and if we are able to reach our ideals the "Breath O' The Heather" will find its way not only to all the men of this unit, but into the homes of friends and relatives of all ranks. It is proposed to continue its publication as regularly as possible wherever the battalion happens to be—Canada, England or "Somewhere in France"—but to make this possible the management needs the wholehearted support of the battalion.

For the first time since 1745, fighting men are wearing the tartan of the Macleans of Duart. It is but fitting that in the initial number of the "Breath O' The Heather" we should tell the story and relate the deeds of the clan whose name we bear and of whose tartan we are so justly proud.

Two traditions account for the origin of the Macleans. One that they were descended from a Fitzgerald, a brother of the traditionary progenitor of Clan Mackenzie. The other, and more reasonable explanation, is that they were one of the tribes transplanted from the province of Moray. The earliest Maclean of whom we have any record is Gilleain-na-Tuaigh, (Gillean of the Battle Axe) who lived during the reign of Alexander III. and fought at the battle of Largs. His son, Gillimore Maclean, settled in Lorn and is numbered among the subscribers to the Ragman's Roll in

296. The two grandsons of Gillimore Maclean, Lachlan Lubanach and Eachin Reganach, were the founders respectively of the two main branches of the clan, the Macleans of Duart and the Macclaines of Lochbuie.

At first the Macleans were followers of Mac-Dhugaill Lathurna but afterwards, owing to a dispute with the latter, they gave allegiance to Mac-Dhomhnuill-nan-Eilan, Lord of the Isles, who rewarded them with large tracts of land in the island of Mull. These grants caused a long and bloody feud between the Macleans and the Mackinnons—the original inhabitants of the island. In 1366 Lachlan married Margaret, daughter of the Lord of the Isles.

A dispute regarding the chieftainship of the clan arose between the Macclaines of Lochbuie and the Macleans of Duart, the former alleging



An Easter Egg for the Kaiser
FROM "TRENCH ECHO"
27th Batt.

that their founder, Eachin Reganach, was the elder of the two grandsons of Gillimore Maclean. This incident marks the beginning of the ascendancy of Duart over the other branches which becomes more and more evident during their subsequent history.

At the time of the forfeiture of the last Lord of the Isles, the Macleans of Duart had gained great power and numerous possessions. They were completely independent of the other three branches of the Clan, and held a charter from the Lord of the Isles and it was afterwards confirmed by the Crown.

In 1632 Lachlan Maclean of Duart was created a baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I, whom the Clan supported in the Civil War. The Macleans were always zealous supporters of the Stewarts for whom they

turned out both in 1715 and 1745, mustering five hundred claymores at the battle of Culloden. This was the last battle in which the Maclean tartan was worn.

The Macleans have two tartans, the "Dress," worn by the 236th Battalion and the "Hunting" tartan. The Duart badge is the Crowberry, their battle cries are "Beatha no Bas" (Life or Death) and "Fear eil' airson Eachainn" (Another for Hector), used alternately. They have a great deal of their own pipe music. The mottoes of the Clan are "Virtue mine honour" and "Altera merces" (Reward is secondary).

The present chief of the Macleans of Duart is Colonel Sir Fitzroy Donald Maclean K. C. B., Bart., of Duart, Morvern and Brolass. He is the last of his line.

The Editor invites members of the Battalion to contribute comic sketches, cartoons, drawings or jokes with a view to making the "Breath O' The Heather" brighter and breezier. The "Breath O' The Heather" is the battalion paper and the measure of its success depends entirely on the amount of support it receives from the N. C. O's. and men. The profits derived from its publication will be turned over to the Canteen fund. Remember it is *your* paper, so dig in and help.

The financial success of the first issue is largely due to the generous assistance accorded by our advertisers. It is to the interest of the battalion, whenever possible, to deal with those whose advertisements appear in this issue and thus show our appreciation of this help in supporting our initial newspaper effort.

Suggestions with a view to the establishment of new departments will be thankfully received. Next issue we purpose devoting considerable space to featuring sports and athletics.

All of us know what a letter from home means, and we also know that even a letter from home does not take the place of a newspaper from one's home. To the people at home the "Breath O' The Heather" will, we hope, become as welcome as the newspaper from home is to the boys on active service.

Kilties, remember your comrades who have done their bit and patronize this European War Veterans concert the week.