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a.m. and came off as scheduled, on a beautiful, bright sunny morning. All the British troops who cared to do so were given liberty to see the big blow up, and from safe vantage point nearby, three miles distant thousands saw the "big blow". Pte. Shea with most of our boys being with the number. Tons of all kinds of the most powerful explosives had been placed under the village and the feet of the unsuspecting Huns, and when the explosion came it was as if hell had burst its bounds, and a deafening roar the whole went hundreds of feet in the air, houses, churches, buildings, great and small, with a mass of human beings going skyward. It gave the spectators an idea, as they gazed grimly on, of the horror of a sudden volcanic eruption, and so fierce was the confusion that Pte. Shea says the hills rocked and the ground on which the military spectators stood, almost three miles away, shot from under their feet, while glass in the houses of villages at long distances were shattered, and when the smoke, after a lengthy period, cleared away there was practically nothing to be seen of the fortified village of a few moments before, or any of its occupants. Thousands of Germans were killed.

In the big offensive of July 1st, our lads went over the parapets at 9.30 a.m., moving out in divisional formation and advancing at the rate of four miles per hour, then swinging out in extended order, with fixed bayonets and in command of Lieut.-Col. Hadow, who supervised operations from the Newfoundland front firing trench. The Company Commanders led the Companies, and the Lieutenants the platoons. The lads going as steady as if crossing a parade ground and facing a terrific rifle and machine gun fire went over the first line German trenches, 520 yards distant, with the slogan "Go out to it" heard above the din. All the other British regiments had failed in this particular line; and this Newfoundland action was termed afterwards a "sacrifice attack" in order to let the British divisions on their right and left break through the German lines. This was gallant and did, driving a wedge through the enemy's lines. Our boys were subject to an appalling fire of terrific intensity, they fell in hundreds and they paid the price for the success of their gallant brothers-in-arms of England, Ireland and Scotland.

Mr. Shea was wounded severely in the hand and arm by German bullets and the whole regiment, with the exception of 60 or 70, were either killed or wounded and very few answered roll call when the fighting

ceased. The action lasted from daylight until 8.30 a.m. and the dangerously wounded lay for several hours on the battlefield, while many who were able, crawled back through dead and wounded British and Germans to the firing line, which was held by the 4th Division in case of counter attack. It is estimated that the British forces engaged amounted to 250,000 men operating on a 15 mile front. As quickly as possible all the wounded were collected, sent to camps behind the firing line and after treatment were transferred to England, the first of the wounded reaching London on July the 7th. Young Shea was amongst them and the populace of the world's metropolis gave them a never-to-be-forgotten reception. The people were delighted in their enthusiasm and the heroic Terra Novas who had borne themselves so bravely came in for a special ovation. Mr. Shea with many others went to St. Thomas' Hospital. He says the British bombardment began on the 24th June and concluded on July 1st in preparation for the greatest advance, which was immediately preceded by an artillery fire of 3 1/2 hours of such intensity from the big-est naval and siege guns that the German morale was completely broken, and the enemy suffered immense losses. Over 1,500,000 shells were hurled against the German works in that period and the German artillery countered as feebly as did their infantry when the British swept fiercely down on them with the bayonet. Private Shea observed that the British, like the French, are irresistible with the bayonet, and the Huns have no relish for the cold steel. His opinion is that the German, as an individual, is a heavier man than either of the two nationalities mentioned, has not their dash and alertness, and thus falls frequently in counter attacks and advances. No rum rations were served before the "push," but the victorious survivors on their return had their canteens well supplied with this gratifying stimulant. Before the advance General Delisle addressed the boys in stirring and encouraging language and Divine Service was held by the Chaplains for the Church of England, Methodist and Catholic soldiers, all the lads of the latter denomination in our regiment going to Confession and receiving Holy Communion. In the same battle the "gentle" Huns used their gas and some few of "Ours" had a taste of it. The British as a matter of just reprisal used it also for the first time in the history of the war. Pte. Shea wears on his left arm 3 perpendicular golden stripes indicative of the number of times he was wounded, a feature adopted at the suggestion of

the London Daily Mail. While in London the boys were given trips on the Thames when able to leave Hospital. They were addressed by the celebrated Will Crooks, M.P., and attended concerts given by the London Co-operative Society. He was in Flinsbury Hospital close to the Bank of England when two Zeppelin raids occurred. All the patients were removed from the basement, including "Ours" and from the windows they could see flashes light up the sky and could hear the exploding bombs when they fell. One of the big airships came right over the institution and when one of them was brought down he and others saw it from the windows of the Hospital as it flamed to earth. Next day they motored out to see its remains and those of its crew who were terribly burned. All received souvenirs of the event. They were visited in Hospital by ex-Queen Amelia of Portugal, now a nurse and she had a kind word for all. For two days the Kaiser and his staff could be seen on the Somme front at a point opposite the Newfoundlanders' position and he must have been not a little enigmatised at the splendid work hours of such intensity from the big-est naval and siege guns that the German morale was completely broken, and the enemy suffered immense losses. Over 1,500,000 shells were hurled against the German works in that period and the German artillery countered as feebly as did their infantry when the British swept fiercely down on them with the bayonet. Private Shea observed that the British, like the French, are irresistible with the bayonet, and the Huns have no relish for the cold steel. His opinion is that the German, as an individual, is a heavier man than either of the two nationalities mentioned, has not their dash and alertness, and thus falls frequently in counter attacks and advances. No rum rations were served before the "push," but the victorious survivors on their return had their canteens well supplied with this gratifying stimulant. Before the advance General Delisle addressed the boys in stirring and encouraging language and Divine Service was held by the Chaplains for the Church of England, Methodist and Catholic soldiers, all the lads of the latter denomination in our regiment going to Confession and receiving Holy Communion. In the same battle the "gentle" Huns used their gas and some few of "Ours" had a taste of it. The British as a matter of just reprisal used it also for the first time in the history of the war. Pte. Shea wears on his left arm 3 perpendicular golden stripes indicative of the number of times he was wounded, a feature adopted at the suggestion of

Pte. Shea pays a great tribute to the English, Irish, Scotch and Colonial troops, all of whom are brave to rashness. Of the Irish he says their recklessness and courage carries all before it, their fierceness in battle before it, their humour and their kindness to friend and foe alike when a cessation of hostilities allows of the commingling of members of the various regiments.

Pte. Shea, like all the soldiers in arms, firmly believes that the Allies will win hands down.

**IT WAS MEASLES**

Saturday we had information to the effect that a member of the crew of the Home had been stricken with typhus fever and had been landed the previous day at Pilleys Island, but as we discovered the case was later diagnosed as measles we thought the matter of too trivial a character to publish. When the patient was landed the Home continued her trip but was ordered back to Lewisporte. Dr. Abraham of Pilleys Island pronounced the disease typhus fever but the diagnosis of Drs. Smith and McKay was measles. The ship, however, will be thoroughly disinfected and will resume her trip to-day with the passengers who were on board when the outbreak occurred.

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**Private Edmund Shea Tells of Fighting he Saw in Dardanelles and in France**

Was wounded Three Times

Private Edmund Shea, who left here with "D" Company of the Nfld. Regiment, arrived here by the Kyle's express Saturday afternoon. He left here on March 20th with the other brave boys and was thus 18 months on active service, minus the time spent in hospital. Private Shea had an experience which he can never forget, being wounded on three separate occasions and Saturday gave the Mail and Advocate representative, who interviewed him, some intensely interesting details of his life in the trenches in the terrible Gallipoli Campaign and on the Western front in France, especially in the advance in the region of the river Somme. Private Shea, who is a son of Mr. John P. Shea and brother of Mr. Michael Shea of Monroe & Co.'s office, despite the vicissitudes and accident of his arduous campaigning and the looks well, though of course his wounds still affect him. He was with the boys when the first shot was fired on Gallipoli. It was on a Sunday night in September that they landed in Suvla in the midst of a blinding sand storm, and at daylight Monday night got their baptism of fire. There is quite a large beach at Suvla and the Nfld. Regiment, 1010 strong, made an independent landing under Lieut.-Col. Deburton, with Major Drew Second-in-Command, and Captains Cartz, Nunns, O'Brien and others heading in the various details. Shortly after landing they took the trenches prepared for them by British troops, who had preceded them. Brushes with the Turks were of frequent occurrence, both sides using their rifles with some effect and artillery duels being frequent. A few weeks after arrival Pte. Shea received a severe shrapnel wound in the buttock, which was dressed on the field by the R. A. M. C. and he later was sent with several Gurkhas, English, Scotch, Irish and Colonial troops by the Red Cross ship "Asturias" to Alexandria. She had on board 5,000 wounded men of all ranks and showed red lights at night, these being used by the Red Cross ships as a protection against enemy ships, submarine and otherwise, and such ships, he says, are always respected by all the navies of the belligerent powers, and they arrived safely. He remained there two months and after getting the best of treatment was despatched to London, entering Wandsworth, where possibly the most clever physicians and surgeons in the world look to the wounded. Here three large shrapnel bullets were extracted from his wounds. He, after fully recovering from the operation, was sent to a private residence in the south of England owned by an ex-manager of one of the British banks, Mr. Cole, about 60 miles outside of London, and he never can forget the kind treatment received from the generous people. He spent some

time there and then being "good and fit" reported at the base in Scotland in charge of Major Whittaker. Here he worked for a while on the medical records, but when the first draft of our brave lads were preparing to leave for the scene of hostilities in France the call to duty was too insistent, and Edmund sailed with the Terra Novas and was soon on the River Somme, the country near which is one of the most fertile sections of sunny France. Continuous "scrapping" between the British and Boches, sometimes very violent, was the feature of this section of the front, and the British on more than one occasion gave the Huns a severe mauling. On Easter Monday night, in retaliation for a fierce artillery bombardment of the British, the Germans resorted to the use of gas, and the earth shook with the explosion of shells of all sizes. Some 8,000 shells were hurled in an hour against the English position. While this was on Pte. Shea was hit in the calf of the left leg, when a high explosive shell burst in the trench which he occupied. A piece of the shell embedded itself in the flesh but he hung on for six hours and got away next morning for treatment. The Newfoundlanders came out of this with extra good luck, their casualties being few and none of the wounds received by the few hurt being mortal. Many men of the British regiments, to the right of Ours, that night were either killed or mortally wounded. Pte. Shea was fixed up at the base and a few weeks afterwards, thanks to excellent treatment in hospital and a good constitution, he was about again and soon regained his old comrades on the firing line. For several months they occupied the trenches continually, reinforced by drafts from "Ours" in Scotland, and these came to Rouen, where the active service is located. Before each advance, Edmund says, 10 per cent of the Regiment's is held back as a reserve to consolidate captured positions and fill gaps in the ranks caused by casualties. In the "Big Push" of July 1st the objective of the Nfld. Regiment was the German third line of trenches, 2 1/2 miles distant and immediately in front of the village of Beaumont Hamel, which the Boches held in force. Thousands of them were there and had they known the awful surprise the British held in store for them they would have evacuated the place, and that quickly. For a long period the British sappers and miners were at work tunnelling, all unknown to the gentle Germans, under whose feet an inferno was ready to burst forth at any moment. As an evidence of the ignorance of the Huns as to the mining activities of the British at Beaumont Hamel they did no counter-mining. The grand coup was sent for 7.30



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