



1st C.E.R.B. Dinner and Smoking Concert.

A never-to-be-forgotten dinner and smoking concert was given by the 1st C.E.R.B. on November 21st, 1918. R.S.M. Knight presided.

The occasion answered three purposes. The first of these was the celebration of the great armistice, or, in other words, the surrender of the Hun Army and Navy; secondly, as a farewell to the boys who were leaving the Battalion to return to Canada for discharge; and, last, but not least, the presentation of a wedding present, in the form of a purse, to Sergeant North.

The one regret of the Mess Committee was the impossibility of giving an open invitation to the other Messes, owing to the limited amount of room, and the food restrictions. Invitations were sent to the R.S.M.s of the C.E.T.C. and officers of the 1st C.E.R.B. Lieut. McVean was present, representing the latter.

The room was well decorated with flags of the Allies and bunting, not forgetting the good taste of the caterer, who had an ample supply of sprays of chrysanthemums on the table.

At 6.00 o'clock sharp the orchestra struck up a lively march, when everybody took their seats, as happy as a bunch of schoolboys, all eager for the big dinner.

There is only one way of expressing the splendid qualities and quantity of the dinner, and that is to say:—"It was some dinner." Tomato bouillon headed the menu, followed by roast turkey and sausages, potatoes, cauliflower, and sweets, everybody having as much as he could possibly eat.

Sergt. MacIntyre was responsible for the catering, and was well compensated for his hard work by the splendid results which he achieved.

During the dinner the orchestra, which was organized by Sergeant Reading, played lively selections, which did not let us forget that we were there for a good time.

Sergt. Wilson not only assisted the orchestra, but also sang between each selection.

After dinner, the Mess rose to the toast of "The King," the orchestra playing "God save the King."

R.S.M. Knight, in making his speech, said he did not want to take up the time speech-making, but hoped everybody was having a good time; now was the time to let it rip. He said he had one pleasant duty to perform, and that was the presentation of a purse to Sergt. North. Sergt. North was a man well-known by everybody in the C.E.T.C., and was a very popular N.C.O., especially as he was the Pay-Sergeant. The Mess rose and drank the health of Sergt. and Mrs. North, with three hearty cheers and a "tiger," lifting the roof with "He's a jolly good fellow."

Sergt. North thanked the boys for their splendid gift, and said that he was very pleased to receive it on such an occasion as this.

R.S.M. Knight called for a toast to the guests, and R.S.M. Carpenter replied.

The talent for the concert was supplied from the C.E.T.C. Pierrot Troupe. Sapper Bently broke the ice by singing "March on, O Canada." Bently, with his splendid voice and excellent delivery, very soon started the boys to sing. He was not allowed to retire before he had sung "An Old-fashioned House."

Sergt. Doncaster was called next, with lots of applause, and got well away, as usual, with "Norman, the Mormon." I don't think his patter is quite the same as used in the Pierrot concerts. With his monocle at the slope, and telling a yarn about his lady-love, who was dressed in flames, he caused an uproar.

Sapper Deneau was next with all the latest rags. He certainly knows how to put them over, his songs being "Back to Indianapolis" and "Alexander's back from Dixie," which were very appropriate, and the boys did not want any asking to sing the choruses.

Sapper Mayo, who accompanied all the songs, pleased the crowd very much indeed with his wonderful manipulation of the ivories, when tearing off all the latest choruses.

Space will not admit the full programme. Suffice to say that the various turns covered themselves with more glory than ever in the second part of the programme.

There was one noticeable feature in the trap-drummer—Sapper Chappell—who seemed to have every device right at his elbow, for the most weird noises for the accompaniment of various songs.

The following sayings were heard during the evening:—

Sergt. Leitch: "I don't want to spoil a good evening by making a rotten speech."

R.Q.M.S. Chapman: "I put on my best glasses for the occasion, so that I could see the jokes Harvey Bonner is making."

Telegram for Sergt. North arrives.

R.S.M. Howell: "Come at once, twins."

Sergt. Goates: "The R.S.M. is drinking a lot of whisky."

Everybody: "After you with the light."

Chairman: "Order (what you like)."

Sergt. Killarney: "Whisky talks, but I haven't got enough, so I can't make a speech."

Corpl. Laing: "Let's have a solo from that 15-quid trombone."

R.S.M. Howell: "Sergt. Killarney will tell you what he does with the barrack damages."

R.S.M. Carpenter: "Some 'do.'"

ONE OF THE OLD BOYS.

Overheard in N.A.C.B.

(Canteen Staff at Dinner).

First Girl: Will you have some custard?

Second Girl: Is it the same as we serve in the Canteen?

First Girl: Yes.

Second Girl: No.