

# THE SPLINT RECORD

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## THE FIRST BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES

*Of the —nd Canadian Field Ambulance.*

As it is written by William, the son of Hisdad, surnamed the Fox, and a Captain and a Master in the Great Army.

### CHAPTER V.

1. On the 15th day of the month we did leave the ship, and at the eleventh hour the tribe, the horses and chariots were on the train.

2. And for three nights and three days we did travel through the foreign land of France.

3. The men of the tribe were herded together to the number of forty in each wagon, that in times of peace were used for swine and other beasts of the fields.

4. And great was the discomfort thereof; but they murmured not for they were true soldiers, and knew the paths of pain was theirs, and they would go forth with healing and with hope.

5. And it came to pass on the 18th day of the month we did arrive at a place called Strazelle, which was a village not far from the city of Hazebrooke.

6. The night was dark and the rain did fall in abundance, and the horses, after their long journey, could not draw the chariots with their heavy loads.

7. And many were left on the roadside and some in the ditch. The drivers knew not the road and the sharp turns thereof, and great was the fall; and the tempers all were sorely tried.

8. The night was far spent when we arrived at the billet assigned to us, it being a farmhouse of many years standing. The men did huddle together in the straw in the barns, and did sleep soundly, which the noise of the guns in the distance did not disturb.

9. The officers, to the number of eleven, did go into the house and did make up their beds on the floor, which was of stone, and as did Jacob of old, who used a stone as a pillow, and did dream dreams.

10. On the morrow we did arise early and did go into the school-house in the village and did make it into a hospital, and did minister to the sick.

11. On the 20th day of the month the great General and Commander-in-Chief, whose surname was French, did inspect us and our hospital.

12. And did say unto our Commander: "On the morrow you will send your section leaders, each with four men and one ambulance, to a place called Armentieres, that they may learn the ways of the tribe of the Red Cross in battle.

13. And the Commander of the tribe did call unto him the Section leaders, whose surnames were Bently, Hardy, and Snell, and did give unto them the message he had received, and they did go to the place appointed.

14. And the remainder of the tribe did tarry in the village and did care for those that were sick.

15. And on the 21st day of the month the General sent a message to the

Commander, saying: "Send me three more of your officers that they may also gain knowledge."

16. And the Commander called unto him one Brown, Burgess, and McKillup, and said: "Get ye your horses and go to your brethren," and they straightway did as they were told.

17. And it came to pass that we did tarry in this village for thirteen days, and when those who had been sent away returned, we did journey to a place called Bac. St. Maur.

18. Here we did again make a Hospital in a school-house, and did send a portion of the men and officers to a place called Fleurbaix, in order that they might be close to the trenches to minister to the wounded.

19. For we were now on the fields of battle, and by night and by day the noise of the guns did not cease, and in the night-time the heavens were alight with the star shells sent up from the trenches.

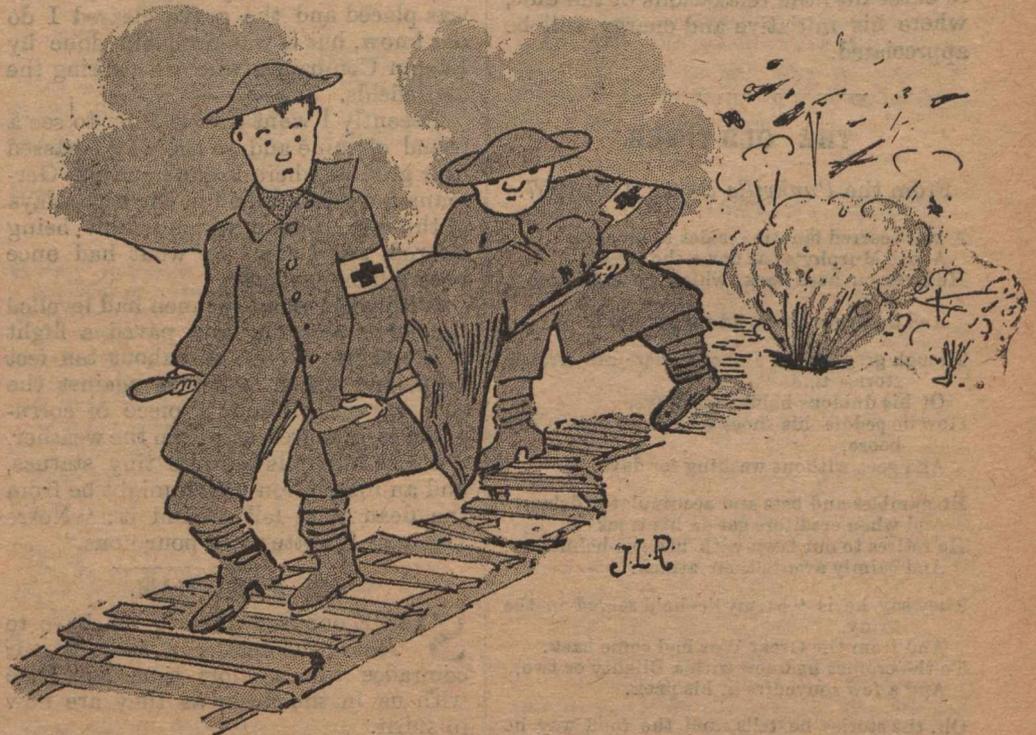
command. On the morrow you will journey to a place called Ypres in Belgium.

24. Here you will come close to the enemy, who is very truculent and you must always be on your guard by night and day." Thus spake General Smith-Dorrien.

25. And on the day appointed we did journey to Ypres, and did make our hospital in a large chateau in the city and did make great preparations for the care of the wounded.

27. And when all was in order as had been commanded, and the advance stations had been opened at a place called Wieltge, and another at a place called St. Julien, the officers and men did go into the city of Ypres, and did behold the ruins of the Cathedral and of the Cloth Hall.

28. And their hearts were filled with grief when they did behold these works of centuries laid waste by the guns of the enemy; and said one to the other



"Where are they throwing them — things, Bill?"  
"Oh, they're just firing at random."  
"Well, I hope to 'ell they don't take me for him."

20. For twenty-six days we did dwell in Bac. St. Maur; and on the twenty-seventh day of the month did again journey to a place called Neuf. Ber. Quin, and did again prepare a hospital.

21. For ten days did we tarry here, and on the sixth day of the month did again journey to a place called Steenvorde, and did again make a hospital in a school-house.

22. And it came to pass that on the eleventh day of the fourth month we were well gathered together in a field, it being the Sabbath Day, and the General of the Army with which we were to fight in the trenches did speak unto us saying:

23. "Comrades from across the seas, I am greatly pleased to have the honour of having such gallant troops under my

"Surely this is the work of the devil, and the Lord will give us the strength to smite these doers of wanton destruction."

29. And it came to pass that in the evening of the sixth day of the week, and the seventh day of the fourth month, whilst the soldiers were yet at their evening meal, lo and behold there was a great noise of guns; yea, greater than even the noise of a great thunderstorm, and the flash of the guns was like unto the lightning thereof.

30. The earth trembled, and the heavens were as a fiery furnace and the people of the city did gather together with fear and trembling, and the children did cry and cling to their mothers, and the soldiers did hasten each to his post of duty.