



Watering Horses, Artillery Camp, England.

Laddie Abroad—Zeppelins Above the Camp

By Bonnycastle Dale

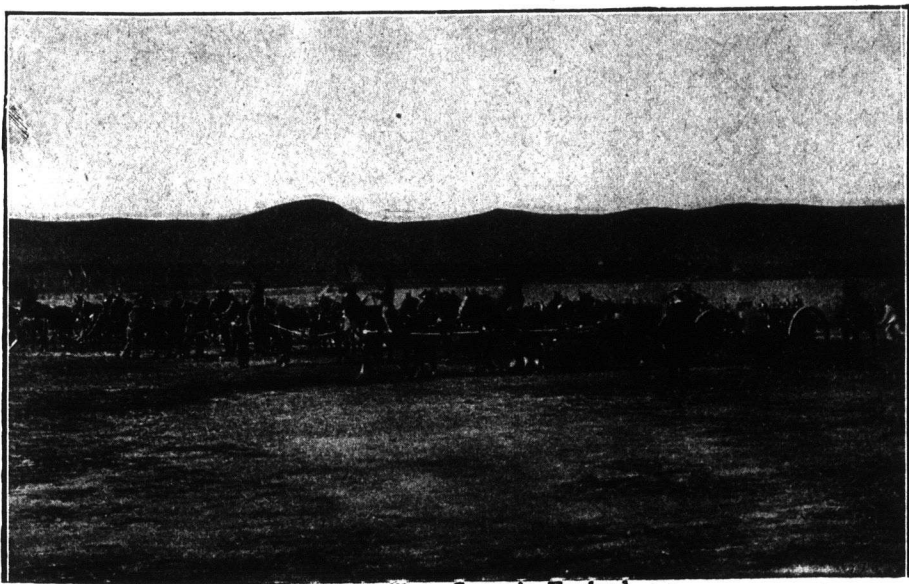
(Foreword by the Author—I hope my kind readers in Western Home Monthly will agree with "Fritz" and I that it is time to drop that familiar old name, everything abroad called "Fritz" is hostile, so we will use his camp name of "Laddie.")

"SOMETHING has happened to the mail here, I usually get a dozen in a week. One can always tell when the Canadian mail comes in, three great wagons loaded to the roof, and maybe there isn't a rush just about then of our boys, there is such a crowd of us here, we are the "feeding camp" for the C. F. A. at the "front in France," so there are several thousands, and a bit along the scenery—will that please you, Mr. Censor?—are the Infantry Camps, thousands upon thousands of Canadian boys, they do not stay as long there as we do here. It takes a full year at least to make an artillery man, while some of the infantry are across much sooner than that.

I have just returned from "Physical Jerks," and then from footbath parade,

picture it—5.30 on a raw early fall day as the bugler nearly bursts his pipes getting us awake, we rush into any old thing, no puttees in this, and silently and shiveringly "fall in" at 5.45. Half a dozen lucky chaps draw the various camp duties and then—Oh! then, off we go down hill and throw off those duds that are hardly comfortably warmed yet and plunge into the unappreciative sea—I know they specially chill the place they reserve for me. Why not funk it, you ask? Oh, yes, likely, and have the N. C. call out "Doctor's parade for you at 10." This morning it took me some time to get the actual nerve ready before I could jump in; it was 44 degrees. Pretty cold, eh! I caught up some jelly fish; luckily they were harmless ones, as most of them are, but some of the boys have had painful stinging cuts from something on the beach. I am sending you four postcard views of our camp. I want the publishers to cut out the words giving the location, just call it the C. F. A. (Canadian Field Artillery) camp in England.

I have been working hard to get that



Canadian Artillery Camp in England.

the last was all right; we marched clear down to the sea and off came our "boxes," we always call these lumbering English boots boxes, and we splashed our tootsies in the clean salt sea, the former is our physical drill, "Jerks" is a good name for it. Our sergeant has no idea of the delight that fills our hearts when he spruces up and calls out "Fall in, Physical Drill." There is a bit of a yarn about this—one of our boys got his stripes the other day, and I guess he forgot about it for a bit, or perhaps he was so used to the word he just had to use it; anyhow he came forward, with head well up in the air, calling out, "Physical Jerks—fall in." We are under good obedience, but we roared that time and so did he. (No! It wasn't me, guess again, although I take this opportunity to inform you that I have got a stripe. I am now a bombardier.)

Say! This swimming before breakfast is not all it's cracked up to be. Just

London leave—six days of it. I will give you a full letter of it next time—perhaps, as it's not so easy to get leave here as it is in Canada.

I wish you could see the dear old timbered houses in the villages we march through here, some with tall gables and chimney pots and such odd thatching on the roofs, but we kick up such a dust one can hardly see them. I slept out last night, the tent is so crowded some nights. When I awoke under the trees this morning there was a thick fog all around me. Luckily I had my great coat over my blankets. I had a "fatigue" this morning, so missed the dearly loved "physical jerks." My job was to keep the tent lines clean.

The last draft chosen for France has been waiting a couple of weeks now, you can never tell when you go, even after you are drafted.

I wish you could sit where I am sitting. In the distance is "The Channel."



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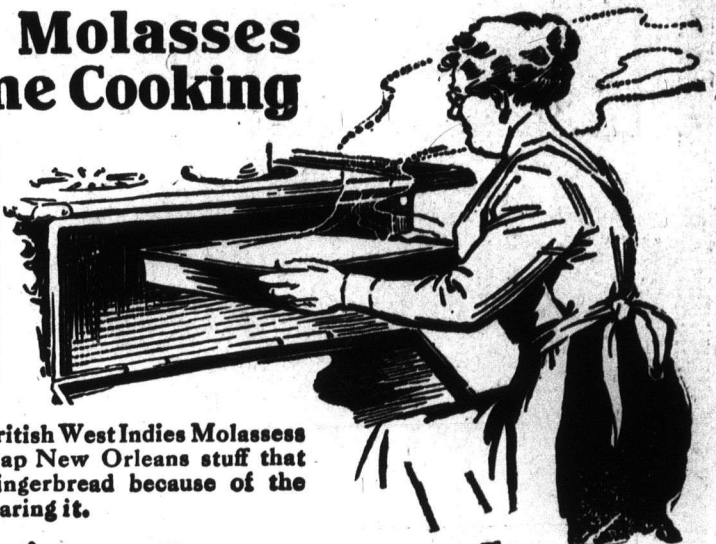
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