

DESPATCH RIDER WHO WON THE V.C.

Thrilling Stories From the Front—The "Mad Major."

William J. Robinson was born, and lived the first six years of his life, at sea. You will have realized that he is an American. He landed in England on September 10, 1914. He had been here before. He was still a young man.

A week after he landed he found himself without a job. A few days later he was a trooper in the 5th Dragoon Guards. He had done no soldiering before. He could not ride a horse. He spent a few days in the riding school at Aldershot, and by way of stopping chaff at his expense in barracks went up to a "big chap" (who, he found out afterwards, had been heavy-weight champion of the world) and began to fight by hitting him in the face. That made them friends.

On October 8 he landed at Ostend, and on the afternoon of the third day came under fire at Roulers. He had been in the army just over a month. He spent fourteen months at the front as motor car driver, motor cycle despatch rider, and motor machine gun driver, and has written the story of his adventures and escapes in a very readable volume, "My Fourteen Months at the Front," by William J. Robinson. Hodder and Stoughton, 3s. 6d. net.

Soon after he reached the front, Private Robinson became temporary driver to Lieut. General Sir Julian Byng, and he was in Ypres when the first shelling began. From that he was switched off to armored cars, and then to motor machine guns, with which he fought in ditches at "Hell-fire Corner" on the Menin road. It was while he was on this job that he saw a motor cyclist win the Victoria Cross. He describes the incident thus:

"Volunteer despatch riders for dangerous work" were called for. About eighteen of our chaps offered themselves, and, of course, all were accepted. A despatch had to be carried about two miles along the road which follows the bank of the Yser Canal. This road was constantly being swept by German machine gun and rifle fire. The despatch was to be handed to a French commander who was waiting for it.

The first man started, and was soon out of sight. They waited in vain a certain length of time for a signal that he had arrived, and then called "Number Two." These signals are made by heliograph, but while they are good for this kind of work, the Germans can see the signal as well as we can. "Number Two" started out, but we saw him go down before he had gone a hundred yards. Then "Number Three" started. It was pitiful to watch those poor chaps. When a man knew it was his turn next, I could see the poor fellow nervously working on his machine. He'd prime the engine, then he'd open and close the throttle quickly several times—anything, in fact, to keep himself busy.

Six of these fellows went down in less than half an hour. "Number Seven" was a young fellow whose name I don't know. I wish I did, for he was certainly the nerviest man I ever saw. "Number Seven" was hardly out of the officer's hands before he had his despatch and was on his way. About five minutes later the signal came that the despatch had been delivered.

My officer told me afterwards that the French general to whom he'd handed the despatch had taken the Medaille Militaire from his own breast and pinned it on that of this young despatch rider. He was also later awarded the Victoria Cross and given a commission. It is things like this that make one proud to belong to such an army.

After spending Christmas 1914 in the Ypres trenches, Robinson helped a second lieutenant in the Royal Engineers to snipe a German sniper on the Dickebusch-Hollebeke road. As they rode over a wooden bridge a bullet whistled. Neither spoke, but on the way back three hours later the officer said, "That blasted sniper has potted at me once too often. We'll leave the road here and sneak down opposite the hedge under cover of the trees."

Tethering their horses, they crept near the bridge, waited until a wagon

EVEN A GRIT PAPER LOOKS GOOD TO MEN IN ENGLISH HOSPITALS

G. Fred Dunlop, Former Resident of St. John, Asks for any Canadian Paper, "Even a Liberal One"

The Standard has received a very interesting note from G. Fred Dunlop, formerly a resident of St. John, and now a member of the 25th Nova Scotia Battalion. Mr. Dunlop, who does not mention his present rank, is now stationed in No. 4 General Hospital, Lincoln, England. Among other things, Mr. Dunlop mentions having seen a notice in The Standard to the effect that papers would be sent to any hospital in which New Brunswick soldiers may be located. Immediately on reading this he writes requesting that occasional copies be sent to the hospital in which he is now undergoing treatment. This however had already been arranged. He says: "I have been away from St. John so long that my friends who live there may think that by this time I have not got a feeling left for the old town, but you bet I have, although I make my home now—when I am at home—in Cape Breton, God's county. I have met a lot of the 25th boys at the front who were in the same brigade as I was, and among them were quite a number with whom I had gone to school. Any newspaper from Canada looks good to the boys now even if it is a Liberal paper."

passed and heard the sniper's shot—from behind. They crawled a hundred yards and waited. Soon they heard the rifle crack again, not far away. Creeping a little further, they waited again, watching the trees. They came so close to the sniper, without seeing him, that next time he fired they heard the ejector fly back and the bolt snap. Then they spotted him. He was well up a tree, with his rifle fitted on a tripod, so that whenever he heard any one on the wooden bridge he had only to pull the trigger. But he had ended his sniping. The lieutenant and Private Robinson fired together, and "Mr. Sniper" came down like a thousand of bricks.

The "British Tommy" of those days, according to William J., was "a great samurai" as well as a great fighter. One of his forms of gambling was a kind of tontine, known as a "trench pool."

About ten fellows got together, and each put ten francs in a pool just before they went into action. They left this money with some one behind the lines, for they would be in action anywhere from six days to three weeks. The idea of the pool was that those who lived to get back would take the money and split it evenly among themselves. If only one lived, he would have the whole lot. The Tommies kept canaries, rats, mice, dogs, cats, goats and even pigs, as pets, and would be hungry before the pet was hungry.

The "biggest daredevil" that Robinson heard of was known as the "Mad Major"—an artillery officer who kept his own aeroplane for range-finding purposes. When he wanted to correct a range, he just few over and dropped some bombs on the particular spot he wanted his guns to hit. Then he went back and set the guns to work. One day, being annoyed with a German 17-inch howitzer, he few over with a 100 lb. bomb, nose-dived to within 400 feet, dropped the bomb, and blew the howitzer to atoms. He returned with his planes riddled with bullets.

Mr. Robinson indicates in a few words what happened to two men, a woman and two children when a Taube dropped a bomb in the square at Popperinghe. It is enough here to say that they were killed, and that the bicycle twisted and bent on a lamp-post about fifty yards away. He also describes briefly the killing of two officers in a motor-car by a German 15-inch shell on the road going to Ypres. The driver escaped, but was sent nearly mad by the shock. His nerve was gone, and he had to be discharged.

This was during the second battle of Ypres, when the city was burnt destroyed by shell fire and the houses were burning.

MINISTER DISAPPROVES SENDING CIGARETTES TO BOYS AT THE FRONT

Donors' Intentions Alright, but Doing Men an Injury, Harland Pastor Says.

Harland, N. B., August 6.—On Friday evening last, Lieut. Harvey Reid, who is home to recuperate from wounds received at the front, delivered a most interesting lecture on his experiences in the war—swamp zone to a large audience on the lawn of J. T. Carr. Without touching on forbidden matters, Lieut. Reid told of many incidents of the war as he saw them, describing how he came by his wounds, the flights of airplanes and other incidents of a very interesting nature. Mrs. Carr, president of the Red Cross Society, presided and Rev. H. S. Harland introduced the speaker. Rev. N. Franchette made a short address at the close.

In the Reformed Baptist Church on Sunday evening, Rev. F. J. Traill, in the course of his sermon, deplored the action of those who were sending cigarettes to the soldiers at the front, claiming that, while they meant well, they were doing an injury to the boys at the front.

At Good Corner on July 11th, there passed away one of the oldest men in Carleton County, in the person of Solomon Good, at the age of 92. He was born at Kingsclear, York Co., Nov. 25, 1824. He was one of a party of brothers who laid low the virgin forest established what is now a thriving village bearing their name. He leaves a family of five children. The Knights of Pythias, with the assistance of the Pythian Sisters, are planning a monster all day picnic for August 25, and it is expected there will be a large influx of people from the surrounding country, and that the merchants will also reap a harvest from the visitors.

Police Magistrate Cameron is receiving congratulations on the arrival of a young son, July 27th.

At Lower Haines, the death occurred of Mrs. M. E. Constantine, who was in Nova Scotia. Mrs. Gordon Lasky has returned home.

Last week Rev. George Kincaid and family went to Houlton for a short vacation.

Miss Helen Aiton has returned from a visit with her brother, D. A. Aiton, at Riley Brook.

Dr. Arthur Shaw and bride of Dorchester, Mass., are paying a visit to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Haines.

Miss Lillian Currie and her nephew, Douglas, of Boston, are visiting with Miss Sadie Currie and her mother.

After a residence of nearly a year at Lower Haines, the death occurred of Mrs. E. Sterling King, who has been with her mother, Mrs. D. E. Morgan, during her recent severe illness, has returned to her home in the County, accompanied by her nephew, Master Walter Morgan.

Rev. P. J. Napton has had as a guest for some days, his sister, Miss Lillian M. Napton of Minneapolis.

Mrs. T. G. Simms is entertaining Mrs. Earle and Miss Marion Sauson of Fredericton.

Mrs. E. E. Foster and Mrs. Fred Hart of Bangor, are visiting at the home of her son, Mr. L. Baird.

Wednesday, Mr. N. E. Constantine left for a week's vacation at his farm-house in Pettitodiac, where his family have been visiting for some weeks. A lengthy illness on Sunday, after a lengthy illness, the death occurred of Miss Mildred Dow in the 17th year of her age. Funeral ceremonies were held on Tuesday.

The Middle Simonds Red Cross Society are to hold an ice cream Klipper at the home of Mrs. Burrell Hatfield, on Friday, August 11th, to raise money to help in their good work.

Mrs. A. A. Nacy arrived on Tuesday from San Diego, Cal., for a visit with her sister, Mrs. S. H. Shaw, and brother, H. N. Boyer.

On Monday Mr. G. L. Stickney of St. Louis, who has been visiting his sister, Mrs. D. H. Nixon, left for his home, hence going on a business trip to India. Miss Anna Jackson of Fredericton, who was here with him, also returned home Monday.

Mr. Fred Hayward, one of Harland's popular young men, was on July 26th united in marriage to Josephine Estabrooks of Bristol. The ceremony was performed at the Methodist parsonage in Woodstock, by Rev. S. Howard.

HOPEWELL HILL

Hopewell Hill, August 5.—George Jones of Boston, is visiting his father, Warren W. Jones of Albert.

Walker Perry who has been in the West for the past two years is home on a visit to his mother, Mrs. J. Willard Pilon.

Mrs. McMurtry of Margaretsville, is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. H. E. DeWolfe.

Mrs. Archibald Downing and children of Moncton, came Wednesday to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eliza Stiles.

Vernon Crawford who has been in the west for a few years, came home on Wednesday to remain for a short time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Crawford. He is another Albert County boy to don the khaki.

Miss May Stiles of Albert, returned Wednesday from a two week's visit in Moncton.

Mrs. Iva Calhoun of St. John, and daughter, Ruth, came Thursday to remain until the close of the school holidays. The Misses Ada and Annie Calhoun have been here for the past few weeks.

Seymour McInnes of West Newton

SECOND MEMBER OF NORTH SHORE FAMILY TO WIN COMMISSION

Caleb McCulley, Son of Col. McCulley, Coming Home from Front to Become Officer in the 145th.

Chatham, Aug. 5.—Wednesday evening a number of Chatham, Longville and Douglastown Oddfellows paid a fraternal visit to Millerton and assisted in the installation of their Derby Lodge brethren for the year, as follows:

James Carter, N. G.; Grey McEachern, V. G.; George Ite, R. Sec'y; Geo. Delano, F. Sec'y; W. G. Thurber, Treas.; Rev. Alex. Retzke, Warden; Weldon Brown, Com.; Geo. Vanderbeck, Chap.; Abram Vanderbeck, R. S.; Cliff Crocker, L. S. S.; Wm. Bell, R. S. N. G.; David Manderville, L. S. N. G.; William Simpson, I. G.; John McKay, O. G.; R. Vanderbeck, I. P. G.

The visiting brethren were entertained by the ladies of Rebekah Lodge at supper.

The 132nd Battalion is one of the best at Valcartier, according to letters received and reports of returned officers and soldiers. The boys came in for a great ovation the other day in the battalion march out. The men report they are being well treated and well fed and think they could take their places in the trenches with those of the overseas service now.

Cabel McCulley, son of Col. McCulley, is coming home to take a commission in the 145th. He was wounded in the arm several months ago. This makes two sons of Col. McCulley who have won honor on the battlefield and in turn been rewarded by commissions.

The rain Friday evening prevented the citizens from assembling in Elm Park to pass the resolutions for the prosecution of the war as suggested by Governor Wood. An auto ride for the wives and children of volunteers took place, however, about twenty-five automobiles participating. Intercessory prayers were offered at the Cathedral and in St. Mary's and St. Paul's church, morning and evening.

A little son of Pilot Nowlan had one of his legs broken in two places on Friday while trying to get on a morning sleigh from between the wheels.

Capt. James Moor is out of the hospital, where he spent five months, as a result of injuries received at the shell factory fire. Wm. Dickens, the other injured workman, is still in the hospital.

Mass. and Isaac McRae of Lincoln, Mass., have been here to see their mother, who is critically ill at the home of her son, Josiah McRae.

Mr. and Mrs. James Bishop of St. Paul, Minn., spent Sunday with their niece, Mrs. Josiah McRae. Mr. Bishop is a native of Albert Co. and has been for over thirty years residing in the West.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Chester Peck and family returned Thursday from a three week's motor trip through Nova Scotia.

Miss Orpha Russell entertained her school class on Thursday evening. Those present included the Misses Gertrude McDonald, Beale Wright, Nina Steeves, Ella Rogers, also the Misses Rob and Annie Calhoun, and Beale Corbett of St. John, who are visitors here. Miss Russell and three classmates will attend the Provincial Normal School in the fall.

Pte. George B. Peck who is in training at Aldershot, is spending a few days in Hillsboro with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Peck.

FIVE MEN ON HONOR ROLL YESTERDAY

One Other Applicant for Enlistment had Passed 62 and was Medically Unfit, but Showed Fine Spirit.

ROLL OF HONOR.

Morrison Jollymore, St. Margaret's Bay.
James W. White, 237th Battalion, Digby.
Simons Parsons, Newfound-land, 237th American Legion.
Arthur Howe, St. John, N. B.
Charles E. Maston, Young's Cove, N. B., 62nd Battalion.

Five more men were found fit and willing to lay aside their civilian clothes and attire themselves in the "suit of freedom" for Britain and her cause in the city of St. John yesterday.

An incident worthy of special mention occurred at the recruiting office last evening while the reporter was getting the recruits for the day. An aged man who gave his name as Frank Gallagher, living in St. John, applied for enlistment. The man was found to be medically unfit. After having been rejected the examining physician asked the man how old he was. "Well," answered the brave old gent, "I was born the year of the cholera." This epidemic ravaged St. John in the year 1854, making the rejected recruit sixty-two years of age. He was supplied with an A. and R. button which was proudly pinned on his coat by the recruiting officer.

The 5th Field Ambulance Train, about fifty in the party, held a short march out yesterday as far as Rockwood Park. Staff Sgt. Moffatt had charge of the party. After a twenty minute rest at the park the boys returned to the city. This unit still requires about eighty men to complete its establishment.

Col. Guthrie is expected in the city today.

The members of the 145th Band will leave for Valcartier on Saturday evening at 6 o'clock.

There is a rumor persistently circulated in the city that a stationary hospital is to be organized with Major Bishop in charge. There has been no confirmation concerning this report from military headquarters.

Lieutenants P. J. Travers and J. Willard W. Dickson of the 62nd Regiment left for Aldershot to take a machine gun course.

Plans are now on foot for holding another patriotic fair at Hampton a week from the coming Saturday. Particulars will be given later.

The rear end of the 145th, which has been doing guard work at West St. John, will probably leave Saturday night for Valcartier. The guard duty will be taken over by the 62nd Regiment.

A new Chalmers Six automobile has been placed at the disposal of Lieut. Col. Guthrie, O. C. of the N. B. command for use by him in carrying on his military work. The car has been shipped from Ottawa.

PROMOTION FOR SON OF F. A. DYKEMAN

Formerly a Motor Driver He Now is Despatch Rider and Writes Interesting Letter.

Mrs. F. A. Dykeman received the following letter from her son, who is now driving a motor car at the front. Since this letter was received Mr. Dykeman has been notified that his son has been promoted to be a despatch rider.

France, July 1, 1916.

Dear Mother, Just a line to let you know I received the coat O. K. It is great; it was exactly what I had in mind and wanted. I only got it last night and it has not rained today, for a wonder, and I have not had a chance to try it yet. I also received a bundle of papers dated around June 1st, just about four weeks to come. We have been on duty today and I have just come in from a run. You say you send papers twice a week. I don't think I get them all. I have a chance to get a pair of top boots with larrigan tops for 50 francs; they will be good in the winter time. They are new ones so I think I will take advantage of the opportunity.

I have been on parade and had tea since writing the foregoing and I got Mrs. Christie's parcel in the mail, a nice big piece of fruit cake in it.

There is a football game just starting between our boys and the boys from the horse transport in the next field. Two of the officers of the H. T. are playing. Our new officer has put in for leave for us and he told us this morning that the ones who had the cleanest cars and used the least petrol and had the fewest repairs would be the choice of first leave, so there will likely be some pretty clean cars around here. This won't go till tomorrow anyway so I guess I will wait and see if I can think of something more to say.

July 6th—Well I guess I did wait till tomorrow to finish this. It has been just six days since I started this and have not had a chance to finish it. Well, I will start at the beginning. Sunday morning I was put on sanitary fatigue and about twelve o'clock they came and told me to pack up my kit, as we were moving at one o'clock. Well, I hustled around and got ready and we left about one. We drove till about five o'clock and then loaded up and drove till three in the morning and then had about an hour's sleep and started back here. We no more than got back than we had to go out again and I did not get back till half past three Tuesday morning, so you see I had about forty hours steady driving and I believe it was the hardest work trying to keep awake I have ever had. Everybody was sleeping while they were driving. You would dose off for a second and wake up with a start and see your car heading for a tree or a ditch and just save her in time. One car rammed another and a friend of mine ran his into a big tree and smashed her up a bit. However, they did not blame him because the officer knew how it was. They have his car in the workshop now all pulled apart. Nearly the whole convoy went on the trip and we checked nothing but dust from the time we left till we got back. It was some job getting the dust out of ourselves and off the cars.

Well, I guess I will have to close

now. I am in the best of health and hope this will find you the same.

From your loving son.

Private Charles Chase.

Private Charles Chase writing from Somewhere in Belgium to his mother, Mrs. E. W. Chase, 123 Hawthorne avenue, states that he is in the best of health, and sends his thanks for parcels received. He says Jack McLean sends his regards to all friends. Billy Stears is in one of the batteries now. The writer says he was talking to Dave Russell of Wright street, and also to another fellow from St. John named Ted Connell, and they wished to be remembered.

Private Chase says that he is sure that his brother Montie doesn't like Valcartier very much, "but when the comes as far as France I will claim him and he will have to be with me in the army as the oldest boy can claim his brother, and I will do that."

This is funny weather here for July, as there is quite a lot of rain and it is cold. The war situation looks a lot better for us at the present time, but I think it will take a lot yet to put the Germans on their knees, but we are giving it to them as best we can and we will surely win in the end.

With best regards to all.

CHARLES.

LETTERS FROM ST. JOHN BOYS AT THE FRONT

Jim Gaulton and Charles Chase Sending Interesting Messages Home.

Letters from the home boys at the front are always welcome; even if they don't say a great deal about the fighting, their relatives and friends are always waiting for some word, and the mere fact that the sender of the letter is well and continuing to do his bit for king and country is the best of news.

James Gaulton.

A letter from "Little Jim" Gaulton of The Standard staff was received yesterday, and he states that he is doing well and wishes to be remembered to all of his friends. In part he says:

"Gee, but the time is sure flying, here it is the last of July and the old war still goes on, but the Allies have no cause to complain as they certainly have the old Kaiser pretty well worried, and he is receiving more than he bargained for. The other day our airmen brought down no less than eleven of Fritz's observation balloons. It must have given the Germans some scare, for now when our airmen fly towards or over his lines they have their balloons down, and well they might, for the mere fact of losing eleven in two days is going some."

"If I were only home I could tell you a great many stories on the war and the sights I have seen, but I will have to wait, and I hope it won't be long before we have the enemy well beaten and put out of business. I have been away from St. John a good many months now, and I am longing for the time when with victory we will all return home. I suppose things are good and quiet about St. John at the present time, as the boys have all come into camp, and no doubt you miss them marching through the streets."

Sending you all my very best regards.

I remain, your old friend.

Private Charles Chase.

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With best regards to all.

CHARLES.

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IT'S AUSTRIAN LOST GR ON

Italians Capture of Hill 85, E Stronghold

IMPORTANT G IN OTHER

Over 3,500 Prisoners of Three Guns Large Amounts of Booty Taken from

Rome, via London, Italian troops have captured positions commanding the Tiber and the Sarno river, Valley, in the Tofana range, the Italian army has captured the Lower Isonzo the Italian army has captured the Lower Isonzo the Italian army has captured the Lower Isonzo the Italian army has captured the Lower Isonzo the Italian army has