

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 heavyweight champion of the army) 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 armor 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 with 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 the Germans can see the signal of work, the Germans can see the signal of work, 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 had 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 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 country. 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."

The "British Tommy" of those days, according to William J., was "a great sam-bler" 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 this: 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 eaten.

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 smoke 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 flew 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 one of the men was riding was found 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 into Ypres. The driver escaped, but was severely injured 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 being destroyed by shell fire and the houses were burning.

Mr. Fred Hayward, one of Hartland'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, 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. Williams of Pilsbury.

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

Mrs. Archibald Downing and children are to hold an ice cream supper at the home of Mrs. Burrell Hatties 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.

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MINISTER DISAPPROVES SENDING CIGARETTES TO BOYS AT THE FRONT

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

Hartland, 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—wrestling with a large audience on the lawn of J. T. G. 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. Helps introduced the speaker. Rev. N. Franchette made a short address at the close.

In the Reformed Baptist Church on Sunday evening, Rev. F. J. Trenton, 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., Novem-ber 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. After a pleasant visit with friends 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 Dr. Arthur Shaw and bride of Dorchester, Mass., are paying a visit to Mrs. W. W. Hamond and family. 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 the home of Mr. W. Hamond and family, are removing to Presque Isle, Mrs. Hatfield's home town.

Mrs. J. Sterling King, who has been with her mother, Mrs. D. E. Morgan, during her recent severe illness, has returned to her home in King's County, accompanied by her nephew, Master Walter Morgan.

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

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

Mrs. H. E. Foster and Mrs. Fred Hart of Bangor, are visiting at the home of their sister, Mrs. L. Baird.

Wednesday, Mr. N. Constantine left for a week's vacation at his former home in Pettitcodiac, where his family are being visited for some weeks.

At Lower Brighton 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 supper at the home of Mrs. Burrell Hatties on Friday, August 11th, to raise money to help in their good work.

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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.

Colquhoun, Aug. 5.—Wednesday evening a number of Chatham, Longsight 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 McCulloch, V. G.; George Ite, R. Sec'y; Geo. Delano, F. Sec'y; W. G. Thurber, Treas.; Rev. Alex. Retco, Warden; Weldon Rollins, Con. G. Cassels, Chap.; Abram Vanderbeck, R. S.; Cliff Crocker, L. S. S.; Wm. Bell, R. S.; 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 St. Paul's church, morning and evening.

A little son of Pilot Nowlan had one of his legs broken in two places on Sunday while trying to get on a moving log 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, the 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 Orpah Russell entertained her school class on Thursday evening. Those present included the Misses Gertrude McDonald, Beale Wright, Nina Steeves, Ella Rogers, also the Misses Ada and Annie Calbert, and Bessie 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.

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

FIVE MEN ON HONOR ROLL YESTERDAY

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

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.

Military Notes.

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.

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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 guard 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.

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.

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 leaves 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 get 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.

PROMOTION FOR SON OF F. A. DYKEMAN

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

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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 and drive till three in the morning and then had about an hour's sleep and started back here. 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