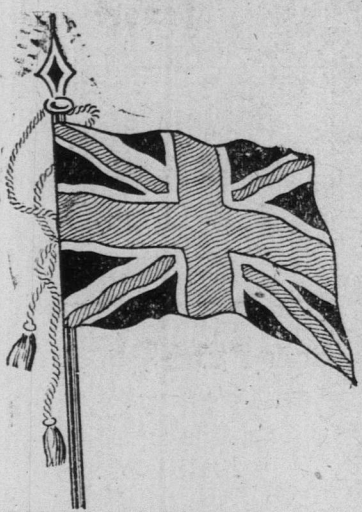


Royal Welcome to Wounded Soldiers.

A Veritable Triumphal Progress Through the Country—Saint John's Acclaims Those Who Have Done Their "Bit."



PROGRESS OF Nfld. VOLUNTEERS ACROSS COUNTRY.

The wounded and invalided heroes of the Nfld. Regiment, nineteen in number, reached town at 1.30 o'clock this morning and are as follows: Nos. 167, Belbin; 168, Pike; 1325, Stroud; 240, Hilditch; 1370, Carey; 447, Lillie; 1297, Tait; 676, Bass; 1484, Gillingham; 1424, Brown; 910, Nosworthy; 1478, Bishop; 1058, Pihley; 732, Tibbs; 1015, Adey; 1558, Cleary; 1456, Flynn; 1817, Shears; 1715, Hynes. Surgeon Captain Paterson, who was ordered from here, met the men at St. John's, N.B., and saw to their comfort en route to the city. The Kyle on her arrival at Port aux Basques at 12.15 a.m. Saturday was illuminated on entering port and a royal salute was given. Our returned warriors who were addressed by Magistrate Fitzgibbon, Mr. C. T. James on behalf of the people extended a hearty welcome. Rev. H. J. Read and Rev. Mr. Mercer delivered recruiting speeches. A large number of ladies were present including representatives of the Daughters of Empire, and presented chocolates and cigarettes to each soldier. From Port aux Basques to St. John's, the men were given a hearty welcome by the people of every settlement, being escorted to the breeze, volleys of musketry sounded through the hills, the crowds gathering at the stations cheered as the train entered and departed.

Crabtree's.—A large display of bunting, but only a short delay was made. St. George's.—A reception and address by Magistrate McDonald. Replied to by Hon. J. C. Crobie and Dr. Paterson on behalf of the soldiers.

Millerton Junction.—A special train came out from Millerton with a large number of people, who presented each man with cigarettes, candy, fruit, etc.

Badger.—A similar reception was given, the whole town turned out to welcome the boys.

Grand Falls.—Mr. Cooper spoke on behalf of the W.P.A. Capt. Paterson replied. A goodly number from the paper town were at the station and presented candy, cigarettes, etc.

Bishop's Falls.—The express pulled up at the station at 2 a.m. yesterday, amid thunderous cheering, and the blowing of whistles. The boys were in the yards and in the round rooms; fire works, stage powder and bonfires lit up the heavens, and most of the private residences were illuminated. The soldiers lined the platform. Magistrate Fitzgerald, on behalf of the W.P.A. and recruiting committee, welcomed the boys, and on behalf of the men made a suitable reply. The boys were again treated to candy, cigarettes, fruit, etc.

Gambou.—The station was gaily decorated, and as the train passed through the boys were cheered to the echo.

Port Blandford.—A similar reception as at Gambou.

Shoal Hr.—The full brass band of the L.O.A., at Trinity was in attendance and played patriotic airs. Rev. Mr. Winsor made an address, which was replied to by Capt. Paterson. The ladies made a presentation to each soldier.

Clareville.—The band with a large number of people from Sheet Harbor accompanied the boys to Clareville. The ladies provided a splendid lunch which was greatly enjoyed by the soldiers. Rev. Mr. Winsor, on behalf of the people of Clareville, again addressed them. The address was replied to by Hon. J. C. Crobie.

Whitbourne.—A brass band was at the station to meet the boys and presents were given them by the ladies.

Kelligrews.—The L.O.A. band and almost the whole population were at the station. Trinity Tibbs, of Trinity, a wounded hero, thanked the people of Kelligrews for the loyal reception given. The National Anthem closed this demonstration and loud cheering for Kelligrews.

Topsail.—A splendid brass band was at the station, and as the train pulled in, the strains of Home Sweet Home, floated through the midnight breeze. Capt. Paterson and Private Tibbs thanked the people for this splendid reception. Officers and old Topsail and the band were given as the train pulled out for the city. The men speak highly of the manner in which the train bands attended to their comfort, the Reid Company doing everything that was possible for them.

ARRIVAL AT ST. JOHN'S.

This was a red-letter day in St. John's, it being the occasion of the reception to the soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment who were invalided home on account of wounds received in action, or who through illness were unfit for active service. The entire populace turned out in right royal fashion to bid warm welcome and extended heartiest greetings to Terra Nova's heroic sons who have done their duty so nobly and well for Empire and Homeland. Perhaps never before was there witnessed such tangible expressions of whole-hearted patriotism, deep-seated loyalty and sincere devotion to the Empire. It was a memorable event which will be indelibly written in our history as long as Newfoundland is Newfoundland.

THE OFFICIAL LANDING.

Through the efforts of the energetic Women's Patriotic Association, co-operated with by the Red Nfld. Co., elaborate preparation were made for the official landing, which was set down for ten o'clock this morning. Support was also given by citizens and the town generally and every business house and private residence vied with each other in providing patriotic displays, all having the one object of doing honor to our brave lads in the best way possible. Long before the appointed hour this morning thousands of people, young and old, rich and poor, filled the approaches to the railway station, as they were eager to view and cheer the home-coming heroes on arrival.

The station was suitably decorated for the occasion. Lined up there was a contingent of volunteers of "T. Co., Legion of Frontiersmen and the hands of the C.L.B., C.C.C., Highlanders and Salvation Army. Punctually at ten o'clock, the train pulled into the station amid tremendous cheering from the immense concourse of people. The two special cars containing the invalided soldiers were draped with flags of the Allied nations. The soldiers were met on landing at the station platform by the Premier, Mayor, Ladies of the W.P.A., officers of the City Brigades and clergymen and other prominent people. The C.L.B. band rendered in fine style "Keep the Home Fires Burning" followed by appropriate selections from the C.C.C. and Highlanders. Warm handshakes were exchanged with the wounded men who did not show the least signs of down-heartedness, despite their ailments, but on the contrary were a cheery smile. As they were approached by wives, sweet hearts, mothers and fathers, some happy and touching reunions were witnessed. Thus the soldiers formed up in front of the railway station and were again cheered vociferously by the multitude assembled. The continual call being "Three Cheers for our Newfoundland Heroes." Addresses were made by the Premier, Sir Edward Morris, and Chairman of the City Commission, W. G. Gossling, who on behalf of the people of Newfoundland and of the citizens of St. John's, extended a hearty and cordial welcome to the wounded soldiers on their return to their native land. Congratulatory tributes were made to the lads for their work at Gallipoli and other historic places during their absence and pathetic reference made to those who had made the supreme sacrifice. Both speeches closed with rousing and enthusiastic cheers for the subjects of the demonstration. The procession then formed up as follows:

In front were a number of automobiles containing the wounded men; those who previously returned from active service on land and sea, and received honorable discharges; parents of those who have been killed in action and of others who have received battle scars; also by members of the W.P.A. and recruiting committee. Following these were the bands, the Volunteers now in training and scores of carriages. The W.P.A. band was down Water Street, thence via Ordnance Street and King's Bridge Road to Government House Grounds by the eastern gate. Along the entire way there was splendid manifestations of loyalty and patriotism on all sides. Copious displays of bunting were evident at every stop, with together with the volleys of musketry that belched forth and the tooting of whistles and horns amid incessant outbursts of cheering, made a magnificent demonstration that will long be remembered.

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

A large draft of Naval Reservists, under Commander McDermott, and a platoon of volunteers awaited the incoming parade from the depot. Here to were assembled the Premier, members of the Executive, members of the Legislative, the clergy, leading business men, and the members of the W.P.A. After the cheering volunteers had taken up their places, the soldiers and sailors formed a semi-circle and the wounded and invalided soldiers were received by His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Capt. Abraham. A section of the semi-circle was then out, and three sides of a hollow square was formed, and then His Excellency accompanied by the Prime Minister and the Bishop of Newfoundland inspected the soldiers and sailors, closing it by inspecting the returned heroes who were in the centre of the hollow square. His Excellency then delivered the speech appended, after which there was a general salute, the National Anthem and cheers were given for the King.

the Governor, and the wounded soldiers. Afterwards the returned men were entertained at Government House, being waited on by the ladies of the W.P.A.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH OF WELCOME.

Commander MacDermott and Men of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve.

Captain Montgomerie, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the First Newfoundland Regiment: We are assembled here to welcome to their return to their Homeland men of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve who have been disabled by wounds received in action or by illness contracted while on active service; the first to return among us who bear proof of their constancy and loyalty to the Crown which we have long claimed to be a special heritage of this most Ancient Colony.

As Governor, I accord them the hearty thanks due to them for valiantly answ'ring the right of Newfoundland to this glorious task of our British Empire. This is a very special occasion. Others will return scarred by wounds received in battle or weakened by loss of health through the hardship of war; some lie buried beneath the sod in foreign soil. To-day our welcome to you shows what our hearts feel not only toward you but also towards them. Those who lay down their lives will be heroes for all time and their names accorded the proudest place in the island's monuments. This day we mean to show that we honor and reverence those who fallen, and that we honor and shall cherish those who, like yourselves, may have suffered in the fight and that we honour, just as heartily, those who still fight for the battle to the end, whether they return unscathed or bear on them honourable scars.

Our daily prayer—our hourly hopes—the one matter which counts in our lives above all others—is that the principles on which our British Race has risen to its present proud position, the principles on which our British Empire is founded and governed, the principles for which our Allies and our sister British nations fight may be vindicated by a victorious conclusion of the struggle. The war is not of our seeking; never in our history have we striven more earnestly for peace. But we have our quarrel just; and we can show to the marvel of the World that all portions of the British Race and all Races and Creeds marshalled under the protection of the Union Jack have come forward as one man to defend our Rights.

This is the spirit in which you see us assembled here to-day. This is not a "dry call" at Government House. You have been welcomed by a mighty concourse of your fellow citizens. You see me surrounded by the leaders of the people, the representatives of the Legislature, the Members of the City Council, the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Municipal Commissioners of this fine old city; those who hold the King's Commission; all these are here. More by my side are the leaders of the Christian Churches to which you belong and to which you owe the God-fearing rectitude which is marked a feature of Newfoundland life and to whose guidance we owe the respect and the cool courage and patient endurance, but for the priceless quality of gentleness and consideration for others.

Here are present the Officers of the Volunteer Corps who at Gallipoli and by dogged resolution laid the foundation of military training against the hour when we should need men to be prepared. And here too are the Boy Scouts being trained, in due course, to take your places as our first line of defence. Here too are the men who have shouldered the responsible burden of guiding public opinion to the press.

All these are here, and there are others, members of the Patriotic Association to whom has been assigned the organization of our Armed Forces and their well being. And still more, there are women who represent the home and industry and devotion of all the Women of Newfoundland, working members of that marvellous organization which has welded them all together under the one Association of the Women of Newfoundland, whose bond of union is their love for you.

To you who have returned this day from the War and to those who have arrived before you, by ones and twos and threes, and who are now ranged by your side, having performed their duty like brave men, like Christian men, like Newfoundlanders, proudly we accord our welcome.

And to you who stand marshalled in array around the Veterans, who have volunteered to fight our battles in the King's Forces and who will, with other Britons and our gallant Allies, fight your way to Victory, we accord—just as heartily, the thanks of all our people from every town and from every hamlet, from every harbor in every Bay. Of a surety I can testify to the world that, when the Call came, the sons of Newfoundland have responded gallantly, and there is none to dispute that you are the worthy scions of your grand old stock.

Reids' Boats.

The Home left Sound Island at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, inward.

The Sagona arrived at Louisbourg at 4.30 p.m. yesterday and will leave for Port aux Basques this morning.

The Kyle arrived at Port aux Basques at 10.45 a.m. yesterday and will wait for the arrival of Sunday's express.

The Glenoe left Port aux Basques at 12.30 p.m. to-day coming east.

Train Notes.

The incoming express having on board the Kyle's passengers, is due to arrive at 11 a.m. to-morrow.

The outgoing express left Norris Arm at noon to-day.

The train from Trepassay arrived shortly after noon to-day.

The local from Carbonear reached town at 1.30 p.m. to-day.

No Breaks in French Lines

AFTER GERMAN GRAND ASSAULT.

The Onslaught on Verdun is the Most Tremendous Ever Witnessed in History, But the French Line, Still Holds, Though the German Losses Are 10,000 Men.

By Arthur S. Draper. (Special Cablegram to The Halifax Herald and The Evening Mail.)

London, April 16.—For more than forty hours the French have withstood the German grand assault on Verdun. The battle which began about Bethincourt on Sunday, now rages on the entire line about the fortress from Avocourt to Chumieres, west of the Meuse to Champeauville and Donauumont and Vaux, east of the river.

Against the most tremendous assault ever delivered in history, the French line holds. The first days of the battle at Donauumont the French offensive in Champagne last spring, the Teuton drive through the Russians on the Dunaia, are blotted out in the rain of death loss by the Germans to-day.

It holds like the British line, at Ypres by the sheer strength of flesh and bone against shell and steel. The French trenches have been shattered, their parapets swept away, their shelters literally blasted out of existence, and still there is no appreciable dent in the front.

The net result for this staggering expenditure of German shells and German blood is just 200 yards of trenches. Early in the assault these were captured on the slope of Hill 295, north of LeMort Homme. Since then the tide of battle has shifted back and forth, but never has its crest threatened so much as the French line.

Abandoning all the territory that has marked the last three weeks of the operations about Verdun, the Germans are throwing the last ounce of their strength into the assault. By sheer weight of numbers and shell they hope to overwhelm the French as they sought to overwhelm Donauumont, as they did overwhelm the Russians time and again in the great retreat.

In to-day's assault Paris estimates that no less than three army corps with one or two extra divisions, took part. The greatest force was concentrated in the sector between Avocourt and Bethincourt, where Hill 364 is the objective. By outflanking this position, the whole French salient would be jeopardized. The second heavy attack was at LeMort Homme, against which once before the Germans had vainly hurled themselves, while a third drive was launched nearer the Meuse at Chumieres. This spread the river to Champeauville and Donauumont, but Paris reports indicate that it is largely a secondary operation.

No longer weakened by the necessity of defending the Bethincourt salient, extending into the lowlands beyond LeMort Homme, the French followed their usual tactics by seeking to inflict the greatest possible loss on the Germans. For this nothing was ever more cunningly devised than the trenches arranged by General Petain taking advantage of all hills, ridges and edges of woods so that the attackers would always be forced to advance across open ground or through ravines swept by French fire.

Following the actions of the night, the first German attack to-day was launched between Hancourt and Bethincourt on the French positions south of the Forges brook. It was by troops massed in close columns. Three times during the day the Germans attempted to reach the opposing trenches, but were unsuccessful. The same results attended the assault between LeMort Homme and Chumieres.

Paris estimates that half of the troops engaged in these charges were swept away. In some quarters the German losses in to-day's battle alone are put at between 40,000 and 50,000 men. The cost of a single day's fighting exceeds that of the whole battle of Getysburg or Waterloo. Practically the whole of the German reserves are believed to have been wiped out in the series of actions culminating to-day. And the end is not yet in sight.

Thus despite the great strain endured, while the battle rages in the balance, Paris is more confident of the result to-night than it has been for days. The withdrawal from Bethincourt is freely called a victory. The absence of French counter attacks is taken as an indication that General Petain has the situation well in hand and that it is in no sense critical.

A distinguished American who returned to London, to-night, from France, where he had exceptional opportunities for gaining inside information, told me to-day that optimism was never greater in Paris.

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