

GRAPHIC WORD-PICTURE BY STEWART LYON ON TRIP ACROSS ATLANTIC WITH TROOPS

Togo, Great Figure of Empire of The Seas, One of Passengers—Blond Russian Fighter Also Aboard Transport—Purser on Steamer Predicts Expulsion of the Turk From the Holy Land—"Tommy's" Reception Day—Men of Pacific Slope Cheerful.

By Stewart Lyon.
(Special Canadian Press Correspondence.)

On shipboard—From the barren lands to the boundary, and beyond it down the Pacific Coast, have come the men who crowd this transport. A group came out from Dawson. The Peace River sent a company. Among the old-timers are prospectors who packed their supplies over the White Horse Pass in the first Klondike rush twenty years ago. To them this is but another adventure in a life that has been one long series of journeys into the unknown. Many of the enlisted men are recent immigrants to the Pacific coast and the plains, who have heard the mother's call to her sons and have felt that they would be shamed forever in the old home if they failed to return and take their places with the friends for whom there was no option of service.

There are miners from the interior of British Columbia and business men from the cities of the coast. The railway builders who have been extending the frontiers of civilization in northern Alberta are well represented. Few among them have been content to tread the beaten path. There are a hundred romances of real life aboard if one could but dig them out.

Doers are not usually very good talkers and shipboard snapshots that follow are of the more obvious types. In face of the great adventure that beckons them on, the men of the new lands are disposed to make light of many lesser woes.

Togo.

Togo is on his way to Europe to win the Victoria Cross. When he came on board with the Prince Rupert, Togo looked so business-like that he was greeted with "Banzai." His admirers did not at that time know of his mission. That became known later when the officer whose servant he is, told of Togo's hopes. The Jap went in after promising his master's delicate wife that only through the door of Togo's body would the enemy come at him. Togo's master had been out with the Japanese army in 1905 as the correspondent of an English paper and with a Japanese decoration he had won also the admiration of the devotion of Togo and his kind. The Jap was eager enough to reach the front before the end of the war. Togo took the picture of his friend, Sato by name, who had failed, and had gone to France in another unit. There, he had won the coveted honor. Togo took the picture to his master, pointed to the picture of his friend and announced with an air of finality it was useless to dispute—"Sato"—the Victoria Cross. He snatched his chest next.

That is why Togo looked supremely happy hugging his kit aboard transport. He was on his way to emulate the so noble exploits of his friend Sato.

Fortune of War.

One was in "civvies" and sat at an inconspicuous side table in the dining saloon. He was noticeably lame and his face gave evidence that he had suffered much pain. The other was the captain's table and wore the uniform of a major.

"We joined together," said the wounded officer, nodding toward the major's place. "He transferred after a bit. I went to the front as a Lieutenant and was hit in the leg in the Ypres fighting of June, 1916. I'm going back as a Lieutenant to the trenches when I am fit for duty. My friend across the way, who has never been out of Canada, goes across as a major. It is the fortune of war, I do not envy him. To me it has been a very great privilege to take part in the 'big show,' and to come out at all when so many of my comrades of the June Ypres fighting went under."

The wounded officer was a bit of a philosopher. There are many who do not take the promotion problem so calmly or pass by the home service senior with the words "fortune of war."

The Middy.

Amid the khaki-clad figures that crowd the deck, a lad in the blue of the navy catches and holds the eye. Still in his teens, he has learned thoroughly the first lesson of the naval officer—the art of listening carefully and saying little. A judicious word in praise of Edinburgh helps to break the ice for what Edinburgh man or boy can remain indifferent when the castle and Arthur's seat and the distant Forth come up before his eyes in memory. It is four years since the midday saw his mother and promenade Princess Street. He started out as a boy in the merchant service, sailing in steamers that trade along the coast of South and Central America. When the war came, the boy of less than seventeen volunteered as a midshipman and for over two and a half years, with but a few days ashore, he has been on duty on a famous fast cruiser. Now with a group of companions, he is on his way back home. He hopes for an opening on a destroyer where he would have a good deal to do with the work of navigation. The expansion of the navy has made it necessary to call home every qualified man and boy who can be obtained from the foreign stations. And so the midday, after four years of the sea, is going to get a week or so at

home with his mother, who still thinks of him as her wandering little boy, forgetting that he is qualified to send a destroyer through the water at thirty knots an hour and loose the leashed torpedo that may mean death to a great ship's company. The midday was not devoted all his spare time to navigation. He has been wrestling with Spanish. The company in the service of which he was before war broke out, pays two pounds more a month to an officer who knows Spanish than to one who does not. And the midday has good Scot's blood in him, to which the extra two pounds a month makes appeal when the Spanish declarations prove confusing. For him Drake's drum is throbbing just now, and he is keen to get a chance in the North Sea, but thirty years from now I can fancy him—cool, cautious captain of a merchantman plying along the Spanish Main, talking the language of Castile with a Scotch accent.

Tommy's Reception Day.

Tired out with a week's journey across the continent in cars that had to be kept overheated because of the weather conditions, the men of the Pacific slope came up the gangway in single file encumbered with their kits and the little extra something that almost everyone carries—a favorite pair of boots, some fruit, a book or two, or an extra supply of smokes. As the long line disappeared in the direction of the way headed for quarters, a bright-eyed, ruddy-cheeked young fellow in sergeant's uniform watched the proceedings with the satisfied air of a man who had been aboard long enough to get his bearings.

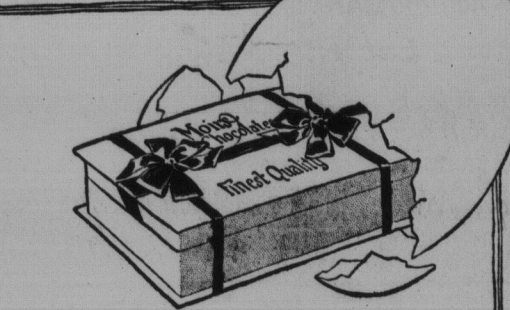
"Hello, Tommy," cried one of the newcomers as he caught sight of the sergeant. The trim young fellow thrust out his hand and smiled the smile of the man who makes and

keeps friends. And till the last of that camp had passed out of sight below, Tommy had a smile and a handshake for almost every one of them. That made plain to the affectionate oaths the man in the ranks reserves for his friends. Tommy's reception was a great success. If the command of that company were a matter of selection, Tommy would have been a great success. What he had done to get so close to men recruited seven or eight hundred miles from the battalion labor organizer or a politician in civil life. He assuredly had the trick of making friends. Perhaps he may prove of special value in dealing with the temper. They were all very eager to fight the Germans on racial grounds, but though able for the most part to read and write, know little of the immediate causes of the war. They have been railway building in the north, and when the battalion was leaving to entrench were in their element. Perhaps Tommy has established a Sunshine Circle by this time among the Slavs who form part of Alberta's contribution to the ship's company.

The Slav Comes Again.

One of these blond Russians is probably the keenest fighting man aboard. His papers show that in the fall of 1914 he took part in the invasion of East Prussia. He was wounded in an

(Continued on page 5)



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