

April 3rd, 1918

"It would take books to tell you what I have gone through since the 21st, but I will just give you an outline.

"The day before I was appointed Acting Adjutant of the Brigade during absence of our Captain. After a perfectly hellish concentration of gas, the Hun broke through our first line and defences, and in scarcely a few hours he was upon us.

"We got all our batteries clear excepting one, which was captured, and at 1 o'clock, after all our men had left, the Colonel, an Infantry Brigade and myself, after destroying our 'phone, cleared from our dug-outs and made for safety, just as the Huns came over the crest. We came under heavy rifle fire, and many infantry men were hit.

"From then on we fought a rear guard action, firing at the Huns with open sights, coming into action three and four, and once seven times in one day. Fighting after the Infantry had come back through our lines, and with the Huns but a few hundred yards away, we would fire our last rounds point blank, hitch up and get off at a gallop. It was all wonderful. Many of our brave men and many of my chums have fallen at their guns, and each day brings its sacrifice; but our Brigade has done a glorious work. And it will be for ever a great pride to me that it was my privilege to be its Adjutant during the most trying two weeks of the war.

"We are now holding the Hun. We got direct orders from our General, which I sent out personally to all Battery Commanders, and which I hope some day to be able to show you, to the effect that on the 29th we were to hold the line at all costs, not a step further were we to retreat. If the Hun broke our line, we were to fight our guns to the last man. Each day the Hun had pushed us back, and that morning when those orders came through, each officer of our Brigade knew that he would be called upon, if the Infantry didn't hold the line, to make the supreme sacrifice. But we held him; he attacked three times that day and each time we beat him off. I never saw such acts of courage: officers with three and four wounds commanding their men, and men fighting on under most indescribable circumstances.

"I have been and am still very busy, working about 19 hours a day. And I have not had my coat or boots off since the 21st. Nor has my horse been rid of his saddle."

## Finances

At the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of Massey-Harris Co., Ltd., held at the Head Office in Toronto on the 16th day of April, 1918, a brief report of the operations at Kingswood for the year 1917 was read, as follows:

"The operations at Kingswood have been carried on very successfully throughout the year 1917, and you have been advised of many of the details in the Bulletins which have been issued from time to time. It is more and more apparent that Kingswood is proving to be all that we intended and hoped that it should be. From reports that have reached us from many visitors, and especially reports from patients who were in the Home and have now returned to Canada, it is certain that the work being carried on at Kingswood is second to none of its kind in the United Kingdom. It is very evident that we were peculiarly fortunate in securing the site, and also in the personnel of the Nurses that we have sent over to take care of the patients in the Home.

"During the year there have been a number of distinguished visitors, among whom we might specially mention Their Majesties the King and Queen of England; the Duke and Duchess of Connaught; Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia; Lady Haig, wife of Commander-in-Chief Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig; Lady Byng, wife of General Sir Julian Byng, Commander of the Canadian Forces.

"During the year the neighbors and other friends of Kingswood have been very kind and have provided many entertainments for the men, and besides have supplied the Home with many delicacies in season.

"Up to December 31st last, 2,082 patients had passed in and out of the Home, making a total of 52,163 patient days, which works out at an average stay per patient of a little over 25 days. The Patient Register at December 31st showed 2,277, the difference being made up of 110 patients still in the Home at that date, and 85 duplicates or orderlies, these two items accounting for 6,805 days, or a total number of patient days of 58,968. The average daily number of patients during the 21 months that the Home has been in operation was slightly over 93. During the summer months the capacity is increased by the use of Kenyon Canvas Tents, which give accommodation to from 15 to 20 patients.

"The current running expenses, including the amount spent for provisions, were \$56,750, or an average of 96½ cents per man per day. Foodstuffs alone cost 43½ cents per man per day. The annual charges such as rent, taxes, upkeep, etc., are equal to 18½ cents per man per day. The total cost of operating Kingswood for the twenty-one months up to the end of December