

## THE VICS PATROL.

*The Official Organ of the 24th Battalion (Victoria Rifles of Canada) Canadian Expeditionary Force.*

A Monthly Newspaper devoted to mental, physical, and moral culture, and to the suppression of militarism in all its forms.

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## THE VICS PATROL.

IN presenting THE VICS PATROL to an unsuspecting world the Editorial Staff is responding to a sentiment long felt—and voiced—by practically everybody in the Battalion, from the Colonel down; that is, the 24th must have a newspaper of its own. For a time we had some doubt as to whether there was room in the field for another religious paper, but the success achieved by various other regimental papers—notably *The Listening Post*, *The Brazier*, *The Growler*, and *The Gazette*—encouraged us to allow our friends the benefit of the wit and wisdom long concealed in the bosoms and brains of our *personnel*.

In the eight months during which we have been engaged in the not-so-simple-as-it-looked task of rescuing poor Belgium from the horrible Hun, we have undoubtedly accumulated a stock of experiences out of which much interesting material could be produced. All ranks, therefore, are invited to submit copy, and anything passed by the Editors and Censors as being fit for publication in a family journal will receive full space at our regular rates, *i.e.*, gracefully expressed thanks. We cannot, however, accept any contribution referring to the Commissary, Transport, Financial, or Labour Departments of regimental administration. We are obliged to make this restriction because we do not wish to come into conflict with the Postal laws of any country, belligerent or neutral.

Seriously, THE VIC's true *apologia pro sua vita* will be found, we hope, in its ability to portray for our friends at home the conditions under which we live, and to show them that it takes rather more than Flemish mud and German shells to quench the spirit of the 24th. We also hope that it will serve to bring the different units within the Battalion into a more intimate relationship. To this end we ask the cordial co-operation of every member of the Battalion. Send us your jokes, your ideas, your stories, and we will do our best to make THE VIC truly representative of its namesake, the Victoria Rifles.

## MEMORIES!

MY DEAR COLONEL GUNN,—

I am much moved by your wish that I should write a few lines for the initial number of THE VICS PATROL. It is sweet to know that my old Regiment has not forgotten me, though hard circumstances have denied me the privilege of a continued ministry among you. As I sit here and dream of the old days memories crowd upon me, and out of them I gather strength and cheer for the coming days. And I am sure that the tender recollections of the past will furnish for the 24th Battalion increased power for the tragic days that are still before you.

How rich in suggestion is the memory of the days at home when we laboured together in the formation and training of the Battalion! We recall with pride the history of the mother Regiment out of whose loins we sprang, and we take firm resolve that we shall maintain the high standard set for us by our predecessors. And how our hearts thrill as in imagination we live over again the scenes which marked our departure from Montreal! It strengthens our arms and gives courage to our hearts when we remember the immense throng and the splendid acclaim! Shall we not strain every nerve to prove worthy of the confidence which these dear ones have reposed in us?

Then too, the incidents of our sojourn in England, where, amid historic scenes of military splendour and high heroism, we strove to fit ourselves for the urgent duty of the battle-field. Never, surely, did a body of men set forth with more eager souls than did the 24th when the orders for France came to hand! The long months in barracks and camp, with memories of varying inspiration, filled us with intense longing to come to grips with the enemy.

And now the months have slipped by with their tale of "battle and sudden death," and still the memories come crowding in upon us. We can never forget the sad hours when we stood with bared heads under the tall poplars of Belgium and committed to a foreign soil the broken, scarred bodies of our fallen comrades. But from the spot made holy by their heroic sacrifice we went forth with renewed determination that the cause for which they gave themselves shall be carried boldly forward to victory. And I am sure that there is much of sweet comfort in the services of worship and praise which we were privileged to hold together! Out on the sweeping seas, when we eagerly watched for the protecting destroyers; on Christmas Day, "when it was yet dark," we knelt around the rude altar and did homage to the Child, very close to the trenches, when we sang our hymn to the accompaniment of roaring guns and screaming shells—these were memorable occasions, and still have power to cheer us onward to our task.

Thus my heart is warm with good wishes for your new venture. I am confident that the little paper will be marked by that high zeal and splendid ability which have characterised the whole effort of the 24th Battalion Victoria Rifles. And it will carry hope, courage, comfort to the countless friends who anxiously watch and pray for us.—Very faithfully yours,

ALLAN P. SHATFORD,  
Chaplain Victoria Rifles.

Westcliffe Hospital,  
Folkestone, May, 1916.