

"We had an inter-company cricket match yesterday afternoon, but unfortunately our company lost. The game was interrupted for over a half an hour owing to the presence of a German aeroplane overhead. Later on we had a football match against another regiment, but this time the Germans put a stop to it altogether by landing about a half a dozen shells round about us. After that, however, we had a concert, which we were able to finish without any interruption."

The following are some diary notes of PTE. F. N. HARDYMAN of the First Contingent and formerly attached to the Sault Ste. Marie staff. Pte. Hardyman was only 17 years of age at the time of his enlistment in August last. He is at present in this country on leave and is doing excellent work in securing recruits. His wounds were of a grave character, and we are told that he was obliged to crawl about a mile to the dressing station. He will only be called on in future to do the less onerous military work as his full health will not be restored for a year or two.

- Feb'y. 8th. We arrived at Avonmouth at 7 a.m. Embarked and set sail at noon on a cattle boat, no beds.
- " 11th. We arrived in France at St. Nazaire. We were supplied with fur coats. In the evening we were put in box cars and travelled through France. We received a great welcome by the French.
- " 13th. We passed through Calais and Boulogne. We arrived at our destination and had to march three miles to our billets. The name of the village was Mierris. We were billeted there in a farmer's barn, and were allowed no lights for the first night.
- " 16th. I went to see Jack Bailey in the hospital. We received orders that we were to move to the firing line.
- " 17th. We started at 8 a.m. for Armentieres, about 15 miles march, mostly on cobble stones, and our feet were in pretty bad shape when we arrived at our destination at 2 p.m. We were billeted in a big glass warehouse.
- " 18th. We prepared all day for the trenches.
- " 19th. At 2 p.m. we marched to the trenches. All got in safely, no casualties. Here we received our first baptism of fire. At 10 a.m. Sergeant Hamilton was wounded, which was our first casualty.
- " 20th. After twenty-four hours in the trenches we were relieved and another battalion took our place.
- " 21st. At 2 p.m. we went into the trenches again for twenty-four hours, not quite so nervous. Two were killed from an English regiment, who were with us, and a few more wounded.
- " 22nd. We came out of the trenches in the early part of the morning. No casualties.
- " 23rd. We left Armentieres at 6 a.m. and marched back to our old billets.
- " 27th. We received our first pay of \$5. We went into the village and had a good feed.
- " 28th. We left Mierris and had to march about 15 miles to our new billets at "Sally-on-the-Lye." On our march we passed through two or three towns which were once occupied by the Germans and which were destroyed.