

THE FIRST BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES

Of the 2nd Canadian Field Ambulance.

AS IT IS WRITTEN BY WILLIAM, SON OF HISDAD, SURNAMED THE FOX, AND A CAPTAIN AND A MASTER IN THE GREAT ARMY.

CHAPTER I.

1. Now it came to pass in the eighth month of the year 1914 A.D. in a far off land the clouds of war were gathering, and the cry went through the land for the soldiers to prepare for battle.

2. Now there dwelled in a City called Toronto a great Chief, great of mind and stature, who's surname was FOSTER.

3. He, being a Prophet of great wisdom, said this will be a long and bloody war, therefore I will call together the tribes of the Cross of Geneva.

4. And straightway he did send messengers unto the leaders of the tribes known throughout the land as the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 19th.

5. Saying, on or about the sixth day of the eighth month, you and your disciples will gather together with one accord at a place called Long Branch and there dwell in tents in the wilderness.

6. Here they did gather, and for four-and-twenty days improved their knowledge of the great task before them.

7. Now on the thirtieth day of the month the Great Chief said on the morrow you will journey unto a place in the mountains called VALCARTIER.

8. And it came to pass that on the day appointed the tribes did arise early in the morning and rolled up their beds and walked to a station on a street called CHERRY.

CHAPTER II.

1. At the tenth hour all the tribes with their leaders, their horses, and their chariots were within the train.

2. The Great Chief in all his glory being within also.

3. Now on the first day of the ninth month at the fifteenth hour the train with the tribes did arrive at the camp in the mountains.

4. And as they marched into the camp their eyes were opened wide with wonder, for there lie before them the tents of thousands of the soldiers of battle.

5. Who had gathered together to wax strong in mind and body so that they might smite the "Boche" in the days to come.

6. Now, when all had been put straight in the new camp, the Great Chief sent a message unto the tribes, saying:

7. We are all gathered together with one accord, and you shall no longer be known as the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 19th, but shall be known to all the world as the 2nd Canadian Field Ambulance.

8. And I have chosen from among you one who is to be your commander, he being a Scotchman who's surname is McPHERSON.

9. He being a physician and of great learning in the ways of the Cross, a man slow to anger and possessed of great forethought, and he will work for good among you.

10. From the tribe of the 14th I have chosen to command B Section one David, who's surname is BENTLEY, he being a physician and a tribe leader of great fame, a man Sans Hair and gifted of song, who's favourite was that of the hen that had a wooden leg.

11. And from the tribe of the 11th I have chosen one Ethelbert, whose surname is HARDY, a physician of great fame, a man of wit and wisdom and of great daring, and having great control of the language of the dumb and well learned in the art of signalling.

12. And from the tribe of the P.A.M.C. I have chosen one Arthur, whose surname is SNELL; he will bring with him his grand and noble steed who is called Peter.

13. And also from the 14th tribe I have chosen one George, who's surname is MUSSON, being a physician from a place called Chatham; he is slow of action but sure of purpose, much learned in all the arts but that of mind reading.

14. And again from the tribe of the 14th I have chosen one James, who is also a Scotchman, who's surname is FRASER, he being a physician from a place called Walkerton, he being a great lover of the pipes, and their music does so soothe him that a little child could play with him.

15. And now again from the 14th I have chosen one William, who's surname is BURGESS, he being a physician of some repute from a place called Leamington, a man who in his youth did travel on the great waters, and even like Jonah was cast into the waters, stirring tales of which he will import to you in the days to come.

16. From the tribe of the 11th I have chosen one Percy, who's surname is BROWN, he being a physician of great renown from a city called Toronto; he is a man careful of his sheekles, and should one falleth on the floor will search diligently till he doth find it, and woe be unto him that trampeth on his toes.

17. And from the 10th I have chosen one Thomas, who's surname is McKILLIP, he being a physician in the making, given much to detail, and who, when he doth come forth, doth bedeck himself with all his implements of war.

18. Also from the 10th I have chosen one Howard, who's surname is JEFFS, he being short in stature and likewise in temper, and being possessed of the strength of an ox, which it will behove you all to mark well. He will bring with him one who will share his tent and bed, and her name is FLOSSIE.

19. From the 11th I have seen fit to choose one who is known to you all as FOX, he being not a physician, but has much learning in the ways of the Cross; he will be the Quartermaster, being a man of long memory and short conscience, taking ways, and some diplomat. Verily I say unto you, the sufferings of Job will be as nought to the discomforts of those that provoke his wrath by rending their garments or wasting their substance.

20. And now that I have chosen those who shall henceforth be known as officers, I will give unto the Commander the power to choose those that shall be known as the N.C.O.'s.

21. And it came to pass that the Commander did choose each according to his knowledge.

22. To be Sergeant-Major he chose an Irishman who's surname was CLIFTON; to be Q.M.S., one of the same race, who's name is ROGERS.

23. To be Commanders of Sections, one McINTOSH, a Scotchman; also one KEITH of the same race; and one WATTS, a Saxon.

24. To be compounders of medicine, one JEFFREY, one WHITE, and one PATERSON.

25. And the remainder were chosen, every man according to his knowledge in the ways of the Cross.

26. And it came to pass that he divided them up into divisions, one Tent Division and one Bearer Division, and the remainder drivers of the chariots, making in all 250 souls.

27. Now from those that were left they will be carriers of water.

28. Now for four-and-twenty days did they tarry in the camp in the mountains, gathering together raiment and supplies of war, and marching in review order before Dukes and others high and mighty in the land, in order that we might be proven as to our fitness for battle.

29. Now it came to pass on the 25th day of the 9th month they did again strike their tents, roll up their beds, and did journey to a city called Quebec, and did there enter into a great ship that was called Laurentic.

30. Who's dimensions were 565 cubits long, 67½ cubits wide, and 15,740 tons burdens, and a speed of 18½ knots.

CHAPTER III.

1. Now at the eleventh hour the great ship cast off and dropped anchor in the mighty river St. Lawrence.

2. There she rested for four and twenty hours, and again at the eleventh hour the anchor was weighed and the great journey had begun.

3. And on the second day we came to a place called Gaspie Bay, and here we did tarry for four days, for it was written that all the great ships to the number of thirty-two.

4. Should gather together at this place, together with the ships of war.

5. And on the day appointed, which was the third day of the ninth month of year nineteen hundred and fourteen.

6. And at the third hour the Great Chief of the ships of war did speak unto the Commanders of the ships of burden by means of signals, saying:

7. Hearken unto what I say unto you. Ye shall form yourselves into three columns which shall be known as X., Y., Z.

8. In the X Column shall be the ship of war H.M.S. CHARYBDIS, and in their order shall be the SCOTIAN, BURMUDIAN, ZEELAND, CORINTHIAN, VIRGINIAN, ANDANIA, SAXONIA, GRAMPIAN, LACONIA, MONTREAL, ROYAL GEORGE.

9. In the Y Column H.M.S. DIANA, The CARRIBBEAN, ATHENIA, ROYAL EDWARD, FRANCONIA, CANADA, MONMOUTH, MANITOU, TYROLIA, TUNISIAN, LAURENTIC.

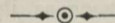
10. In the Z Column H.M.S. ECLIPSE, The MEGANTIC, RUTHENIA, ARCADIAN, ALAUNIA, IVERNIA, SCANDINAVIAN, SICILIAN, MONTEZUMA, LAPLAND, CASSANDRA, FLORIZEL.

11. And on the right hand side will be the H.M.S. GLORY, and on the left hand side will be the H.M.S. PRINCESS ROYAL, and in the rear will be H.M.S. TALBOT.

12. Now it came to pass when these signals had been understood and all was in readiness for the great journey, behold from the distant shores of the bay a small boat was pushed off, and as it drew near

13. There could be seen standing in the bow the Great and Mighty Chief and Commander, SAMUEL, and as his boat drew nigh unto the great ships a mighty cheer went forth from the thirty thousand of his soldiers who were leaving the homes and dear ones

14. To fight for their King and country in the lands across the seas.



**TUESDAY!
C.O.'s INSPECTION.**

A PATIENT'S LAMENT.

(BY P. A. SHUNT.)

I.

Sister came in with a serious face—
That wasn't like Sister!
And stalked up the ward at a furious pace—
Quite unlike Sister.

She said "Hurry up, now, and clear this away,"

This was our breakfast I am sorry to say.
"It's Tuesday, you know." Someone said
"Yes, all day,"

And that annoyed Sister.

II.

She then made us finish without saying grace—

How wicked of Sister!
And started re-making each bed in the place—

A new stunt for Sister.
I felt sorry for those with bad legs or trench feet.

For she dusted their eyebrows to make them look neat,
And promised each "Castor Oil" if he ruffled his sheet—

Nice ways has our Sister.

III.

She omitted to come and ask after my health—

How thoughtless of Sister!
And she didn't see Pat smoking Woodbines with stealth—

That wasn't like Sister.
But she "skeeried" us round as we cleaned up the ward,

Made us polish gas burners and dust each blind cord,
And kept "blessing" the day till I thought

"Thank the Lord—
She is only my Sister."

IV.

Then she looked at the lockers and started to rave—

That wasn't like Sister!
She actually noticed my face, and said "Shave"—

Might have been my own Sister.
Dressed the beds by the right with stern words of command,

Passed rude remarks on my tie, though I've only one hand,
Said we looked like a wretched interned German band—

That was unkind of Sister.

V.

Then in came a Sister with rings on her arm,

And said to our Sister:
"The Colonel's not coming"—just like that, quite calm—

But it did rile our Sister.
The patients went round finding doors they could slam,

Nurse quite lost her temper, she's as mild as a lamb,
And as I turned away I heard someone say

D—!

Could it have been Sister?