

TRAIN TRIP OF THE 26TH TO THE PORT OF HAVRE

Traveled by Freight But it Was
on the Way to Home,
Sweet Home

THE FAREWELL AT TAMINES

Belgian Folk Gave Hearty Send-off
to New Brunswick Boys Who
Had Helped Restore Them to
Their Owns

The following is from an officer of the
26th—a joyous letter written on the way
home from France on April 7.

Le Havre, France, 7-4-19
We're on our way home at last. We ar-
rived here about three o'clock this morn-
ing, but slept about the train until
six when we detrained. It was a good
thing we did, for it is not likely many of
us would have had any sleep at all for
sleep was quite impossible when the
train was in motion. It was entirely a
goods train, or, as we used to call it at
home, a freight train. The men had the
floors of their cars covered with straw
on which they put their blankets and
were quite comfortable. We had bunks
in our cars. I was unfortunate enough
to have an upper "berth" and I am still
dizzy in consequence.

"We were two nights on the train,
having left Amiens about noon on Sat-
urday and the only time it was possible
to sleep was when the train was halted.
The driver on that train seemed to have
a grudge against all on board, judging
by the way he stopped and started. The
sensation was like being slammed against
a stone-crafter, then back against a brick
wall, then a few horrible moments of
dire suspense, then back to earth again.

The first night aboard when we were
coming once again through the war swept
regions we had left behind last Septem-
ber and October—the waste of shell holes,
craters and trenches—the chaps were bet-
ting two francs to one that the driver
was "taking a short cut overland instead
of sticking to the trench-mats."

However, we're here and in a couple
of days we shall be once again in Bligny.
We expect to reach Southampton on the
10th and go from there to Willey, not
far from London, as at first supposed.

Farewell at Taminis.
We had quite a farewell on leaving
Taminis. We had hardly believed there
were so many people in the town, but
they answered the last muster in great
numbers and were out in such force to
bid us goodbye that it was with difficulty
we pushed our way through their ranks.
Many eyes were damp (among the cir-
cles) there was a lump in many a manly
throat, as for the last time our band
played "Le Brabant" and saluted our
colors with "O Canada." Loud and
hearty were the cheers of these good Bel-
gian people as we moved off from in
front of the Hotel de Ville—good, honest
cheers, regret and good luck interming-
ling in their meaning. "Au revoir,"
"bon chance," vive le vin-sixieme—these
and other cries were heard as down the
cobble street we marched on our way to
the station, leaving behind us a village
in which for more than two months we
have been well at home, hospitably
treated, feeling rather citizens thereof
than guests therein.

In almost every haversack was a lunch
of some sort made up by some kindly-
faced madame for her "enfants" as our
chaps were fondly called in the various
households, a parcel of bread and cheese,
eggs, Belgian cakes, or all combined, for,
said Madame, "You may be hungry on
the train."

And again, as we passed in the train
through the village nearly two hours
later the crowds still lingered for a part-
ing glimpse of their Canadian friends, a
hand clasp and a last loving wish
of "bon voyage." We shall always carry
with us kindest memories of our stay in
Taminis. Quiet and slow it seemed, old-
fashioned in its ways, and every often
were we "fed up" with the deadness of
the place, but its people were the essence
of kindness and did their best to make



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pleasant stay. They have greatly
suffered in the last four years and per-
haps the tranquility of their village is
but the continuing sorrow of the mas-
sacre by the Huns in August, 1914.

On the Train.

Our staff organization so far as the
welfare and comfort of the troops in
transit are concerned seems to have
greatly improved. We were two days
and nights in the train, but everyone was
happy, well fed and comfortable (so far
as is possible in box cars.) There were
frequent stops for food, rest and cleaning
up, and with song, games and the joyous
thoughts of our home-coming the trip
passed very smoothly. So well were our
chaps looked after that one of them, an
old-timer who had known reverse condi-
tions remarked to his pal, "Say, Bill,
they're givin' us a good wind-up—they
must want to put us in good trim so
we'll join up again in the next war."

Here are a couple of choruses which
were among the many the boys sang as
we came along. The first is to the tune
of "Goodbye-ee."

"Cheerio-ee; here we go-oo,
To our home, o'er the foam.
Tho' it's far away, we know,
We're just tickled to death to go,
To part-ee, toute de suit-ee,
We're the 26th Battalion from N. B.-ee.
Bon soir to France, toodleoo Belgique,
Napoo, Germany, Goodbye-ee."

The second is to the tune of "Keep the
Home Fires Burning":

"Clean your belts and rifles,
Pack your duds and trifes,
Say au revoir to Mad'moselle,
You're tout-fine,
No more dodging bullets,
No more pinching pullets,
The 26th it's bit's done well,
We'll now part-ee."

IN INTEREST OF THE CHRISTIAN MEN'S FEDERATION OF CANADA

Members of all the city church broth-
erhoods were present at a meeting held
last evening in St. Luke's church under
the auspices of the Christian Men's Fed-
eration of Canada. It was explained that
the work of the federation was an effort
to bring all the men of the world to
see the ideals of Jesus Christ which alone
would make secure the league of the na-
tions proposed by the statesmen. Mr.
Ward told of the efforts now being made
to hold an international brotherhood con-

ference in London during the coming
fall.

The visiting speakers were William
Ward, honorary secretary of the inter-
national brotherhood movement; William
Heal, a member of the national executive
committee of England; and Thomas
Howell, general secretary of the Chris-
tian Men's Federation of Canada.

The local clergymen assisting were

Rev. I. W. Williamson, Rev. G. F. Daw-
son and Rev. J. C. B. Appel. George
Knight sang.

E. Roy Fenwick, manager of the St.
John branch of the Dunlop Tire & Rub-
ber Company, has been appointed to the
management of the Montreal branch. He
will leave for Montreal in two weeks' time,
his family following in the autumn.



For Active Children

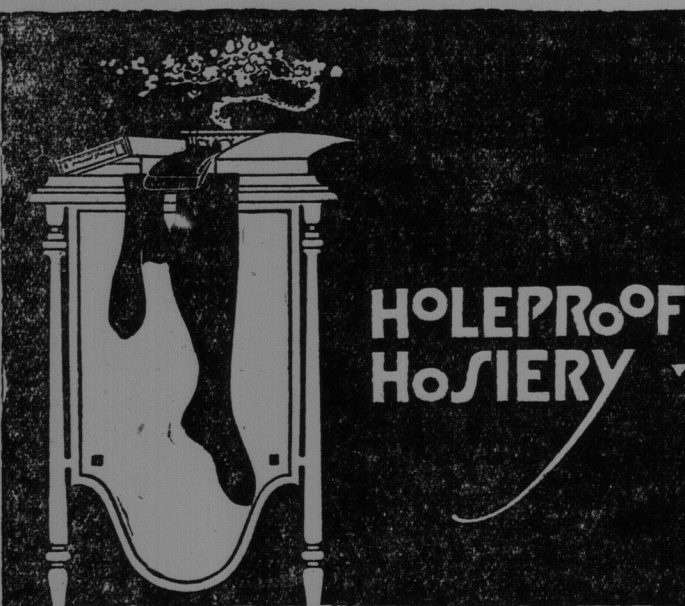
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