





THE BLISTER

Published at Salonica by Permission of Lt. Col. E. G. HART O.C. No 5 Canadian General Hospital
(BRITISH COLUMBIA)

EDITOR IN CHIEF: CAPTAIN W. WILSON — EDITOR: PRIVATE F. DUNN
BUSINESS MANAGER — MAJOR A. S. MONRO



Price 1 Penny June 30 1916 Volume 1, No. 2

EDITORIAL

THE HEAT

With us, as with all who are still unacclimatized, the burning question of the day is the heat. It is an all-absorbing topic in very truth for it has absorbed most of our energy and left us vwith little, if any, interest in matters such as the vvar and the price of eggs.

"Howv hot is it today?" is asked almost invariably when two of us meet and the ansvvers range all the vway from 100° F. in the shade to Hades. It is rather difficult to obtain official figures, but our x-ray expert, Pte. Roe, vwho is vvise vvith the vv wisdom of one vwho has been there before, as one realizes, vvith a keen pang of jealousy, on entering the cool recesses of his sanctum, has been good enough to furnish us vvith a record of maximum temperatures as accurately calculated as is possible. His figures shovv that on June 15 the temperature rose as high as it ever has this year up to time of vvriting, that is, 99° F. The

follovviug day it dropped 6° and continued to drop until on the 19th it was only 87°. Then it jumped again, and on June 21 vvas 99° again. This was our most unbearable day for there vvas hardly a puff of vvind and the atmosphere vvas close and suffocating in the extreme. On June 23 it vvas not so bad, a gathering of clouds bringing promise of rain (not yet fulfilled) and lovvering the thermometer to 88°. Records kept by some other members of the unit, vv which have run as high as 102° and 103° cannot be regarded as accurate, as they have been taken inside marques where the radiation of heat is misleading.

Considering these figures one vvould think that vve should not find the vv weather so very trying for it has been knovvn to go as high as, and even higher than this on the Pacific Coast of Canada. But it must be taken into account that here there is practically no shade at all. The heat beats down on a dun-colored, hard-baked, bald stretch of country and is reflected vvith a tvvofold intensity, and,

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"ANY COMPLAINTS?"

By our special correspondent vith the officers,

The officers are indeed sorry to lose Colonel Charters - Symonds, consulting surgeon to the British medical services here. No. 5 has been fortunate in having the benefit of his ripe experience and sound judgment and it has also been pleasant to see something of him, socially, during the short while he has been with us.

Lunch on Thursday, June 22, marked our move-a velcome one in many ways-to our nevv hut. It is many moons since vve have messed under a roof. It recalls memories of the Ram Pasture at Shornclffe and our al fesco existence there.

SOME HOT ONES

The surest vway to be invalided home: "Pull,, of unknowvn origin. What do the "second's,, initials stand for? Fly-catcher, of course.

Scene: Carranza's Tent. Time 7 a. m. A voice: "Lait! Lait!,, A. J. (orderly officer for the day) "Late? Who the deuce says I'm late? I'd have you understand I've been up since 6.15 etc, etc.

OVERHEARD IN THE STEWARD'S

"Why is it I can't get any moze butter?,, "For one thing it is not on your diet sheet and, for another, we haven't

any". "Well, I don't care, they tell me I can get anythng I want for my ward. You vwill have to take it from some of the othezs as my vvard is the most important".

"Aze you the stevvard? Well I didn't get any puddings today and I only had half enough beef tea. I had to go to the canteen to get enough for my patients to eat. And they haven't got auything there eithet. You can't get anything in that place". "Well you did not have any pudding on your diet sheet and you only had tvo beef teas". "Well, I don't care, you might knowv I vwantted puddings".

"Say stevvard, the sisetz says she forgot to put milk on her diet sheet today. If you vwill let her have it she vwill put it on tomorrovv. And she says to tell you that three of the eggs she got vesterday vvere bad. What vwill she do about it?,, Continued ad. inf.

WANTED

By any member of the unit—A long cool one from the Capilano or one night a' Terrys'.

By Sergeant of the guard—Some one to take B—H—'s place.

By "Fat,, Fraser — Tvo fried eggs, vvell done.

By Pte. Evans—A pass for the duration.

By Al—A fatigue party, tvo thoroughly trained orderlies and a bar-keep (strictly temperate).

By J—S—A job in Al.

If a certain Greek, vwho vwatched tvo non-coms at their ab-lutions recently but vwho left before they had a chance to argue the point, vwill apply to Sgt. Ashcroft or Cpl. Stevenson he vwill hear some thing to his advantage.

CUT OFF STRENGTH

The follvving have been cut off the strength on being invalidated to England: Sisters Milligan, Alexander and Boyer; Sgt. Jones, Cpl. Nevvens and Ptes. Smith, Hamilton J. J., and Hatch.

NEW OFFICERS

Nothing more has been heard of Capt. O'Connor, but Capts. Gibson, Lyon and McIntosh have reinforced us and application has been made fore a reinforcing draft of men.

SISTER SAYS

That the army does not improve one's looks; even the flappers look old and carevvorn novv.

That Solomon in all his glory vvas never arrayed like a certain officer in a nev London suit.

That here in Salonica old friends come back in memory.

That if W B. vvere an unmarried man he vvould be as a fly in a spi-

der's vveb.

That the fly is no respecter of persons.

That a certain M. O. (strictly temperance) vvho took a dose of Tincture Digitalis instead of brandy, should three times read the label.

That the officers' mess has some of our brightest orderlies; and that "Man, mind thyself!" holds good in No. 5 as elsevvhere.

WHAT THE BOYS ARE SAYING

That the Blister needs a little more "pep", but if you vvant to be cryptic you have to be careful.

That certain visitors had as good a tea as they ever had the other Sunday, but that the orderlies must have been terribly trying, what?

That an indent has gone in for large quantities of chevrons and crowns but that some of the lads who have been doing the work right along, twelve hours a days, vvill get their crowns in heaven, perhaps.

That the patient who thought this vvas a Scotch hospital can hardly be blamed vvhen one considers the staff in the A & D room.

That Bairnsfather is going to do a cartoon of the modern Florence Nightingale deprived of afternoon tea, vvhich vvill be a most heartrending picture.

That the revue "Hello, Salonica," vvas found hugely amusing by the members of No 4 and 5: vvho vvere fortunate enough to be able to attend, and that the A.O.C are to be highly complimented on the production.

That another such performance in our ovvn square vvould not come amiss.

That the nev rule by which one man in each tent ansvvers for the lot at roll call is endorsed by a vote of about 3 for to 1 against.

DONT'S

Don't eat meat. A diet of fruit-peaches, pears, cherries and strawberries, with plenty of fresh cream and a little light cake is better. For a beverage Mumms' Extra Dry is preferable to tea.

Don't exert yourself in the heat of the day. For circular on the evils of this practice apply Pte. F—t F—r.

Don't argue after lights out. Remember that most of us have to get all our sleep before reveille.

Don't wear heavy clothing. "Shorty" Mc-d recommends a "shimmie" of cheese cloth and a pair of long stockings, but unfortunately we are not all so well acquainted as he.

Don't discuss latest rumors under the shower bath. Water is scarce and our need is great.

BASEBALL

On Saturday, June 10, No 5 went to No 1 Canadian Stationary's bailiwick and won an interesting [although one-sided, ball game by a 17-3 score. Tom Raftery, No 5's southpaw, pitched a faultless game, allowing only four or five scattered hits, and his

speed and sharp curve had No 1 absolutely helpless whenever danger threatened as it did once or twice in the early part of the encounter. He received great support considering that the ground was very rough. Fox, a youngster from Vancouver, pitched for No 1, but his offerings were no puzzle to No 5. A return game will be played on No 5's grounds, but at time of writing a date had not been fixed.

The No 5 team follows; C, Thorsteinson; p, Tom Raftery; lb, McKenzie; 2b, Dunn; ss, J. Raftery (Capt); 3b; J. Kerr; lf, W Sedger and Menzies, cf, H. Pottinger; lf, E. Chase.

On the evening of June 14 No 5 met a team of ASC Canadians, who are attached to the Serbians, and won easily, 14 to 0.

LACROSSE

Despite all the efforts of the Grecian climate to take the "pep" out of the Canadian systems these dog days, the lacrosse practices three times a week are well attended and considerable progress is being made. Of course, now that the game with No 4 in the near future is assured all the talent will be out to try and make places on the team. This might not be the easiest job on earth either, for there are some mighty sweet looking stick-handlers in the crowd and merit alone will count. Several of the officers have been out regularly, among them Col. Robertson Major Gillies, Capts Taylor, Wilson, Clarke, Wall and Lieut. Mann. Capt. Taylor, by the way, is an old "Big Leaguer" having been for years a member of the famous Ottawa Capitals, so his experience will be invaluable to the team. Bill Laidlavv certainly shows that he has played

in fast company and is some field general too. He says Brother Bert used to be a "hum-dinger" back in the 80's but so far has been unable to get him out. The Pottinger boys are both speed-merchants. George has played in senior company at Victoria. Others who have been showing their wares and will round out a nifty outfit are the Baker brothers, Len Mc-Kenzie, Al Kerr, Payne, the Rutledge brothers, Eckley, Mc-Burnie, Thorsteinson Menzies Gillespie and Fraser. Mukk's transfer from No 4 cost us big money

THE FLEA

In this article prominence is given to the FLEA, in the hope that he may be made prominent enough to get a slap at. Not that a slap harms him in the least—rather stimulating that otherwise—but it relieves nervous pressure. A quaint and fictitious American person named David Harum is quoted as remarking that a reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog". In the humble trust that some such philosophy may be fostered among those who have lost faith in Keatings', Boots' and Oil of Wintergreen, these few lines are written.

Historically, the flea dates back to the earliest times. Though no mention of him appears in the limited records we have of outdoor life in the Garden of Eden, such expressions as "The wicked flee", lead one to conclude that the flea was neither unknown nor unappreciated in Biblical times.

Queen Isabella of Spain, whose famous protest against the excessive laundry bills of her time is history, is said to have invented

several new and powerful Aragon oaths in an attempt to do justice to the attentions of several generations of "attached," fleas. The flea is credited with the depopulation of London and several other promising communities, through carelessness in sterilizing his hypodermic.

Botanically speaking, the flea belongs to the order "Leaptera," which embraces the Kangaroo and the Russian Dancer. He is sub-classified with the family of Borers in the same group as the Woodpecker, the Swordfish and the Dentist. The technical name of the Macedonian phantom flea is *Reachforem Nogittem*, which is Latin for "Nobody Home".

The habits of the flea have been the subject of a great deal of investigation, both by members of this Unit and other great scientists. Though we have a limited grasp of the Flea, this much is established, that he gets there, and gets away, and doesn't give a dam. He makes long journeys on the Pullman rat but will travel on the "rods," or "blind," when it suits his purpose. His tastes are epicurean, not to say delicatessen, the tenderest parts of the animal exterior being ham and eggs for him. He pierces the human envelope at any point with a post hole auger and great joy. Like the trader magpie, he leaves as much as he takes and frequently buckshees his host by a lump several times his own size.

Phlebitis is the scientific term for the condition he leaves behind. The bitee experiences a general feeling of being out of luck and a local sensation of a nettle poultice. It is the height of a flea's ambition to bite a lump that has been raised by another flea.

CRICKET

Since our last there is little to report. Three of the last four matches arranged have had to be cancelled. However, we played HMS St. George on June 14th, the scores being 66 to 22 in our favor.

In the games played to date the most of the bowling has been done by Wale and Warburton and they have had great success. The fielding has been good, the match with St. George being distinguished by some fine catches. Sgt. Bryant showed much agility in getting to a difficult one and Pte. Lovv held two good ones in the slips. Pte. Bert Rutledge displayed his base ball skill by holding a particularly fine one. The batting has been the weak spot, although Pte. Lovve's "pulla vway," has been effective and he, Kellevvay and Withnell (capt) have stayed in for tidy scores.

CRICKETER

OUR CANTEEN

The cost of popularity is exemplified in our canteen. No, we don't mean what you think we do. **W**hat we were going to say is that our canteen is becoming almost too popular among nearby units for the comfort of those in whose interest chiefly it is run. Anyvway, it ought to be a great little money-maker.

HOT WATER

Hot water as a drink leaves some thing to be desired, especially on a day of sweltering heat.

SHOWER BATHS

The shower baths have proved a great boon but the fellows should remember that they are only shower baths after all.

MAJOR MONRO LEAVES

It is with deep regret that we announce the departure to England of Major A. S. Monro, business manager of this paper. It is largely due to Major Monro's kindly interest and energetic hustling that we have been able to get the paper printed and we will miss him sadly. Major Monro went aboard the Dunluce Castle on June 29.

ADDITIONAL DEPARTURES

Departures additional to those mentioned elsewhere in this issue are as follows: Pte. J. Pettigrew, H. S. Formosa, June 18; and Cpl. F. Ely and Pte. J. E. Fuller, H. S. Dunluce Castle June 28, invalided to England. Members of the unit will join with us in sympathizing with Pte. Pettigrevv. News of his wife's death at Victoria, B. C., was received shortly prior to his departure.

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moreover, it is continous, lasting for day and vveeks, and possibly months vvithout break; vvhereas in British Columbia it is broken by the nature of the country and, at its vvorst, is short-lived.

We find some consolation in the statement of Dr House the American missionary, vvho says this is as hot as it ever gets. Dr House has lived here for forty-four years, and therefore is an authority. A temperature of 103° is as high as he has ever experienced and that is reached very rarely. The Summer here is earlier than on the Pacitic Coast, for there vve do not have our hottest vvether until August.

An intensely aggravating influence on the vvether of this country is contributed by the sirocco, a vvind of vvhich vve already have had a taste. This blows across the burning deserts of Africa and is as hot as a blast from a baker's oven.

OUR PLANS

"Our Plans" could be made the subject of a large-sized book if vve vvere to take into consideration the multitude of "general opinions" handed on from man to man. But vve vvill content ourselves vvith regretfully negating all talk of an early departure from these shores. The fountain-head himself knovvs nothing about it and perforce vve vvill have to let it go at that. As yet there is absolutely no plan on foot to move us to France, England or anyvvhere else. The nursing sisters have moved bag and baggage into huts and the officers novv have a messing and recreation hut, but the best that can be done for the men in the vvay of a change is to give them a nev v kitchen. In our next number hovvever, vve expect to

have an interesting announcement to make regarding certain local improvements that vvill directly benefit the men.

OUR PAPER

Our first number has appeared, been vveighed and, of course, found vvanting. We have been shovvered vvith criticisms, many of them complimentary and some the reverse, but vve take them all as favorable, even the most harsh, because the mere fact that the critics consider the paper vvorth attention, indicates an interest in it, vvhich is the first thing necessary to success. Anyvvay, Lord Northcliffe, himself, might find room for improvement. But about the support of the paper. In getting it out vve vvent to more trouble than anyone not directly affected can have any conception. We, ourelves, had no idea of vvhat we vvere up against until vve tackled the job. We haven't space to go into details; suffice it to say, that calculated on a basis of vvork and vvorry involved, each copy of that first issue vv as vvorth a large silver dollar rather than a penny. In this second issue vve have made some mechanical improvements and vve hope our readers vvill find the matter more pleasing. Novv once again vve vvant to solicit the support of the members of the unit. Buy the paper if only as a souvenir, for vvith all its crudities, it decidedly is unique; send it home to all your friends, it vvill save a lot of vvriting; keep a file, it is better than a diary; and, lastly, send in any contributions and suggestions you can think of, the staff vvill give them all very careful consideration.

Altogether vve are pleased vvith the success of our efforts and vve deeply appreciate the congratatons

extended to us by many of the men, nursing sisters and officers. We turned out a thousand copies of the first issue, of vvhich all but a very fevv vere taken and vve have the same number this time, That figures out at about three copies to each member of the unit, three copies or three pennies-count em, 3- all the per capita expenditure necessary to assure the success and permanent establishment of our "regimental paper".

CORRESPONDENCE

"THE EDITOR"

"I have read vvith much pleasure the first number of our dear little paper "The Blister" and, taking everything into consideration, you have done vvell. In ansvver to your request for help I beg to submit the follvving "Cough Drops" for your approval:

"God bless our dear little paper,
 "And the Staff - let us hope vve can trust it,
 "But take vvarning from me,
 "Too much hot air you see,
 "Might get in the Blister an' bust it.

Second "COUGH DROP:.,

I vvas lying on my bed the other evening, after "lights out", of course, vvhen I heard the svveet mellovv voice of Pte. Joe Svveeney. Some one, vvwhose voice I did not recognize, had predicted to Joe another visit of the dreaded Zeppelin. To my great surprise I heard Joe ansvver: "We should vvorry. Let 'em all come; vve're

here first - am glad to see one, 'tvvould only break the d-n monotony".

Guyrope.

NOTE. - Much against our inclination we had to cut Guyrope's humorous line of patter short owing to lack of space. Editor.

A GOOD "COME - BACK"

"THE EDITOR"

"I vvould like to dravv your attention to the article in the first number of "The Blister" under the caption of "Tennis" in vvch you state that "unfortunately for the men the officers and sergeants have a monopoly of the tennis".

"In this connection I vvould respectfully point out that the sergeants made their ovvn court by the svveat of their brovv and a strong right arm. The officers completed theirs by a liberal allowvance of 'Buckshee' handed over to the descendants of the Gods of Olympus.

"I vvould like to point out that I fail to see any reason vvhy the men should not follv the excellent example of the sergeants and get busy if they vvish to exercise their sporting proclivities in the gentle art of tennis.

"I have no doubt that the Q.M. stores, the staff of vvch are so obliging (I don't think), vvill furnish the necessary implements for the removal of Macedonian real estate.

"Sewer Rat"