

Pages Missing

PATRIOTIC
SOUVENIR



Illustrated

Historical

Patriotic

1916

PATRIOTIC SOUVENIR

PUBLISHED BY NORMAN R. DOWARD
FOR

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE OF PAARDEBURG CHAPTER I. O. D. E.

CHAPTER HOUSE 17 JACKSON ST. WEST
HAMILTON, CANADA

Historical



Patriotic

Mrs. H. S. Griffin,
(REGENT)
Paardeburg Chapter I. O. D. E.

1916

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RTIES

PATRIOTIC SOUVENIR
— PUBLISHED FOR —
HOSPITAL COMMITTEE
— OF —
PAARDEBURG CHAPTER I. O. D. E.

The Hospital Committee of Paardeburg Chapter started it's work in April 1915. It began in a modest way to make supplies for No. 2 Canadian Hospital in France, to which a number of Hamilton officers were attached. One hundred dollars was donated by the Chapter, and this was augmented by a few private subscriptions. This money was exhausted in about two shipmentss and it was found necessary to raise more funds if the work was to be continued

The Committee then decided to try something larger and to extend it's work to the Canadian Hospitals in France in general. With the assistance of the Mayor of Hamilton, the clergy, the local Press, the Regimental and Salvation Army Bands, a Hospital Sunday was held the first Sunday in May, 1915. Young ladies with collection boxes stood at all the church doors on that day and they circulated in the streets and among the people who

had assembled in the parks to hear the bands play; and they reaped a goodly harvest. The collection on that day amounted to nearly four thousand dollars, and it was with this that the real work began.

Mrs. W. H. Bruce wife of Licut.-Col. Bruce, C. O., of the 173rd. Battalion, put her old home, the Billings' Residence, at 17 Jackson Street West, at the disposal of the Committee, and it is there that the work has been carried on ever since. The home was equipped with all the necessary furniture, such as sewing-machines, trestle-tables, chairs, desks, stoves—in fact, everything necessary for work and comfort. Through the kindness of some of the plumbers and carpenters of the city, some necessary improvements were made. A furnace was donated and installed by one of the manufacturers, and the winter's coal was supplied by a number of the city coal-merchants. All these things were



HOSPITAL COMMITTEE. Paardeburg Chapter I.O.D.E.

Top Row. From left to right. Mrs. Gordon Henderson Miss Irvine Mrs. H. S. Griffin, Mrs. Douglas G. Storms, Mrs. P. M. Yeates
 Mrs. Wm. Hendrie, Mrs. W. English, Mrs. Arthur Hatch, Mrs. R. A. Robertson, Mrs. H. B. Witton
 Second Row Mrs. F. R. Close, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. V. Ross, Mrs. F. F. Dalley, Miss Frances Barker, Miss Edgar, Mrs. T. E. Leather
 Bottom Row Mrs. Harry Carpenter, Mrs. Ernest G. Tucker, Mrs. Fred Cloke

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voluntarily given, so the Committee started its work without having spent one dollar of the fund

The Canadian Red Cross Society promised to ship all the Committee's boxes, free of charge, to the Canadian Hospitals in France.

Two experienced packers were loaned to the Committee—the one printed the address and contents outside the boxes while the other did the packing. And so the work began in real earnest.

Every department in the Chapter House has its own room. In the office all garments are given out to be made and received when finished. wool and knitting directions for socks are supplied to any who apply for them. The house is open every week-day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6.

In the large sewing-room, which is sunny and bright, various societies of women from the different churches meet to sew in the afternoons, one day Anglican, another Presbyterian or Methodist or Roman Catholic, and it is wonderful how many beautifully finished garments they turn out. Each society has its own locker, and there is always a little competition to see if the Methodists do more than the Presbyterians, or if the Roman Catholics do better work than the Anglicans. In the evenings from 7.30 to 10, women who work at something else all day, come and lend a helping hand in the work for the soldiers, while in the mornings the room is occupied by womens' clubs or little private groups of sewers

In the cutting-out room ladies have cut miles of flannelette both heavy and light weight. It is hard work, but they always have a plentiful supply of dressing gowns, pyjamas, sleeveless

jackets, bed jackets, etc., ready for workers, and never was more friendly rivalry shown in a game of golf, than there has been to see who can get the largest number of pyjamas or bed jackets out of a piece of flannelette.

In another room kit bags are made and filled, and lovely generous bags they are. A kit bag practically outfits a man when he leaves the hospital for the firing line and he is able to make a fresh start in comparative comfort. The Hospital Committee can make the kit bags up more economically than was the case at first, and this has resulted in an increase of the number sent. Altogether one thousand of these bags have been shipped to hospitals in France since the beginning.

Two rooms are devoted to surgical supplies and bandages. At one time there were forty hospital nurses making dressings, etc. The Committee felt that this important work was being properly done. The surgical department attends to its own packing. Another room is given up to the packers, who are to be seen hard at work every Wednesday and Thursday morning. All the goods are packed in dozens and half-dozens according to regulation. A very bright attractive feature in the work is that of the youngest members of the Committee. The "Tea Girls" started a tea-garden in the large study garden every afternoon except Sunday. They served afternoon tea on pretty flower-bedecorated tables—everything being given. When the cold winds of Autumn make it too uncomfortable to sit out of doors, they begged one of the largest rooms and set to work and stripped the walls of the paper they considered too dull, coaxed a paperhanger to do some re-decorating, stained the floors themselves, and made some pretty chintz curtains and cushions, commandeered



TEA GIRLS

Reading from left to right. Top row. Misses Lumsden, Bessie McLaren, Muir, Bowman, Inch, Davies, Fidler, Mrs. Dwight
Misses Grantham, Marjorie McLaren, Mrs. Henderson, Miss Galilee
Bottom row. Misses Allen, Alexander, Phyllis Henderson, Kathleen Dewar, Mewburn, Mrs. N. Dalley, Elsie Thomson,
Lois Greening, Marion Wilson.

their friends' willow chairs from deserted verandas, lighted a hospitable fire in the grate and put prettily shaded candles on the tables, and have ever since carried on a very profitable tea-room. Up to the present time these energetic girls have earned two thousand, one hundred and sixty two dollars, and this has gone to buy cigarettes, tobacco, pocket-knives, games, musical instruments, chewing-gum, chocolates, handkerchiefs and all manner of luxuries which the boys at the front appreciate. Every Wednesday morning when the hospital garments are being tied up ready for packing, three young girls fill all pockets with a handkerchief and many a little extra lovingly tucked in besides. The girls are responsible for the money they take in and they do their own buying and transact their own business in a very efficient manner. For a considerable period they carried on the "Saturday Morning Market." Housewives went there and bought homemade cakes, pastries, bread and candy, on the last Saturday of each month. The proceeds of the sale went to pay the household expenses, thereby enable the Committee to spend every cent of it's fund on the soldiers. Even the caretaker, a Beer War veteran, is paid for his services by the husband of a member of the Committee. All this goes to show how anxious everybody is to keep down expenses.

The "Tea Girls" likewise pack one or more packages a week containing some of their little luxuries, pay postage, and send them to some officer they know in different hospitals at the front, and great is their rejoicing when an appreciative letter arrives telling of the reception of the parcels, and something of the men who receive them. There is a very human satisfaction in knowing where one's presents go, and if they were all right and enjoyed, one feels encouraged to send more.

Many gifts are sent to the Committee each week by the different circles and societies outside the Chapter House, as well as by individuals. One old nurse trained under Florence Nightingale rarely lets a week slip by without sending a number of useful articles for the men, and she never forgets to slip in some note-paper, a fountain pen, or a pair of rubber gloves, or a magazine for the nurses.

As a result of a Pillow Day which was held in the summer of 1915, great comfort was brought to many a weary head. Every citizen who could spare a good feather pillow from his home was asked through the Press, to do so. Five thousand good, clean feather pillows, each with a pair of white pillow slips, some of them tiny downy babies' pillows were the result. On one wee pillow was pinned a letter from the mother, saying that on this had rested the baby head of her son whose name shortly before had swelled the honor roll of the heroes of our country. The soldiers and boy scouts and drivers of the drays and motors who went through the streets to collect their light, but bulky loads, all had some pretty little story to tell—something of some sacrifice made, so that some dear boy might rest the easier. Some gave whole feather beds to be made into pillows.

During the terrible stress in France last Spring, the Committee volunteered to supplement for shortening the surgical and hospital supplies of the Secours National. This enables the latter to devote more time to the relief of the destitute refugees. The Committee confined itself exclusively to hospital work, and the funds which were collected for the Canadian Hospitals in France were not encroached upon for that purpose.



KIT BAG AND CONTENTS
Made by Paardeburg Chapter I. O. D. E.

In these days the work is being conducted much as it was at the beginning. Donations of money are continually being sent in by kind friends, and the tireless workers are faithfully knitting, cutting out and sewing articles for the men overseas.

There has been less activity in the surgical department of late. This is due to the fact that the Hospital Committee of Paardeburg Chapter, together with other organizations interested in war work, were asked to refrain from sending surgical dressings for the time being, there being already a large quantity on hand and more than sufficient to meet the present demands. The surgical department's excellent work has been frequently recognized by letters sent from the matrons of hospitals in France. Two of the letters, bearing out this statement, appear in these pages. Many of those who were making the dressings at one time, are now helping to make hospital sheets, towels and pillow cases as well as Christmas bags for the sick men.

There has been occasional visits to the Chapter House from returned medical officers who have been in hospitals at the front. They have always encouraged the members of the Committee by telling them what was needed, and how they had strengthened their hands in their work for our wounded men.

Materials, flannel, yarn, etc., are getting more and more costly, and wooden boxes are hard to procure. Great praise is due to the Hamilton Canadian Club for the generous and substantial aid which they have given. They have raised large sums of money, bought quantities of good materials, and distributed them among the different organizations of women's work. Already 85,044 1/2 yards of material and 819 1/2 yards of wool, to the value

of about six thousand dollars, have been sent to the Chapter House by them.

Altogether three Hospital Sundays have been held since the beginning, and the collections added to additional subscriptions amounted to \$15,368.59.

The packers have shipped more than 800 boxes containing surgical supplies, hospital garments and socks, since the work started, and the Committee has never had to refuse an appeal.

One matron in a large tent hospital in France, once asked if the Committee could make long white garments in which to bury the dead soldiers. They have been using sheets or hospital shirts. Several ladies asked to be allowed the honor of providing suitable material. A dressmaker desired the privilege of cutting out a hundred, and when they were made, and with a small silk, Union Jack—the flag they died for—sewn on the breast of each, sprigs of lavender laid in the top, and tied up in fair white bundles, everybody felt grateful to the loving, womanly matron, who had cared enough for the proper laying away of our men to ask for them. On their arrival a letter was sent, stating when they had been received, some of them already had been put to use, and how pleased the matron had been to clothe two young Canadians who had made the great sacrifice. As long as it is necessary, this Committee will continue to give time, work and money for the good of the cause, and all that is done, will fall far, far short of what the men are doing.

May the Hospital Committee of Paardeburg Chapter be of help to those who are working so hard to lessen the suffering, and restore to health those who have borne the brunt of battle.



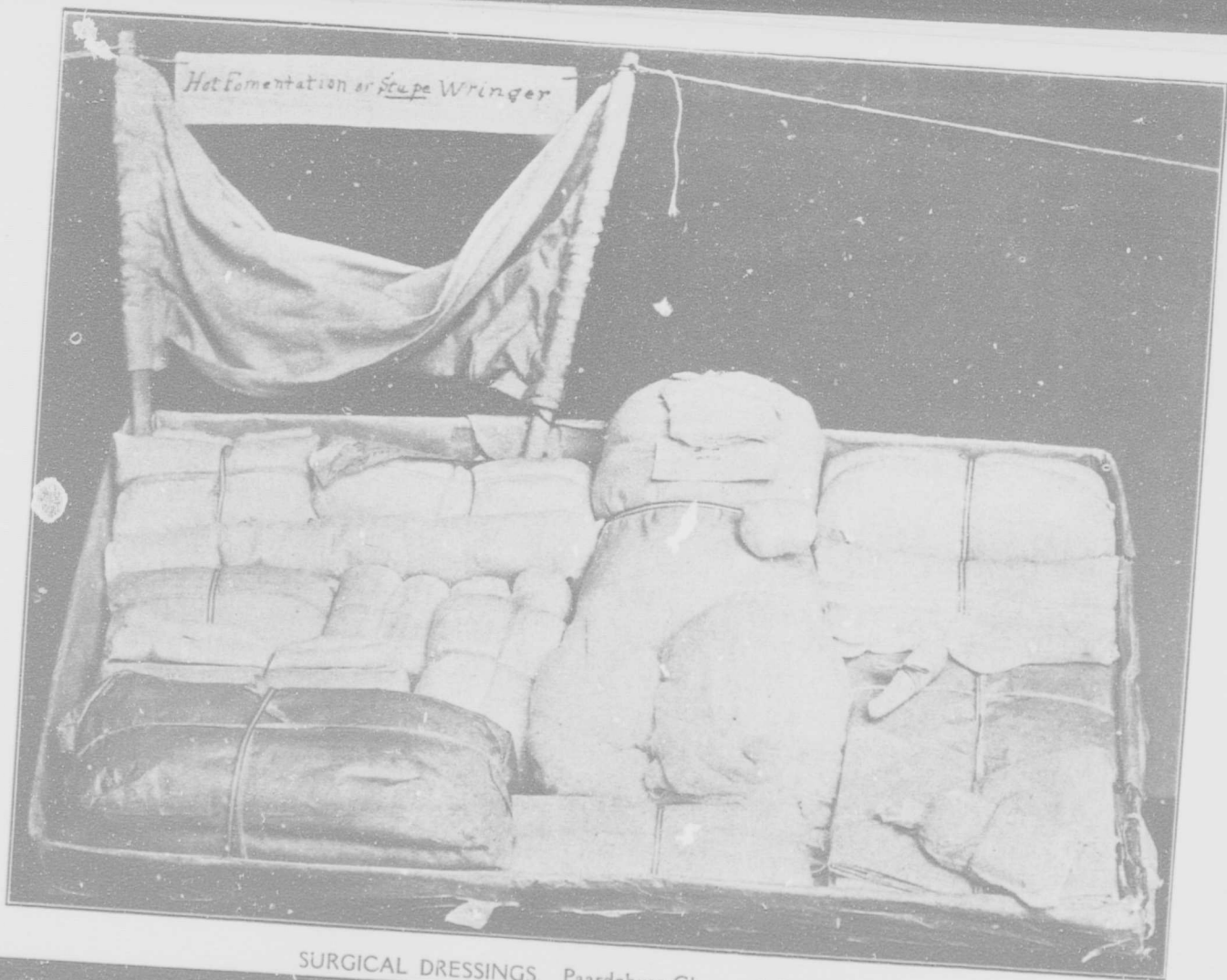
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SURGICAL DRESSINGS. Paardeburg Chapter I. O. D. E.



Major-General Logie.

Major-General Logie.



Major Chester Walters. Mayor of Hamilton



CHAPTER HOUSE
Paardeburg Chapter, I. O. D. E.



HUSBANDS AND SONS OF PAARDEBURG HOSPITAL COMMITTEE (AT THE FRONT)

Top Row Left to right. Pte English, Capt. Close, Lieut. Robertson, Lieut. Grffin, Lieut. English
 Middle Row Left to right. Lieut. Wallace, Major Wright, Capt. Leather, Pte. Close, Major Henderson, Capt. Leslie
 Bottom Row Left to Right. H. H. Leather, Major Bell, Major Philp, Major Wallace, Lieut. Lester, Driver Close.



Sister Wilson (St. John N.B.) and Red Cross Car
(FRANCE)



Red Cross Sore Tent.
(FRANCE)



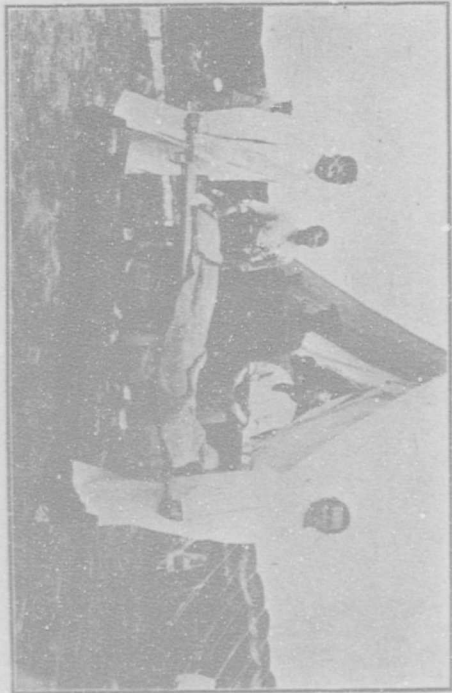
HAMILTON MILITARY MEN AT THE FRONT

TOP ROW: Left to Right Lt.-Col. Bruce, Lt.-Col. Moore, Lt.-Col. Domville, Lt.-Col. McLaren, Lt.-Col. Turnbull.

MIDDLE ROW: Left to Right Lt.-Col. Labatt, Lt.-Col. Davey, Lt.-Col. Stewart.

BOTTOM ROW: Left to Right Lt.-Col. Moodie, Major Southam, Col. Rennie, Lt.-Col. Inksetter, Lt.-Col. Fearman.

FRANCE



To The Operating Room.
(FRANCE)



Hospital ward, Canadian General Hospital
(FRANCE)

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT TO PAARDEBURG CHAPTER

3736 H. E. H. Dyke, B Co. 59th Australian Inf. Batt. France.

Dear Friend:

I take the liberty of writing a few lines to thank you kindly for little bag I received from you the 23-7-16 at one of your Hospitals, in France. I am sorry to say I was unfortunate enough to get a little knock on the head a few days ago but pleased to say feeling much better now, since being in your Hospital. I am sure I could not have had more attention at my own home. I think the sisters were most lovely. They are working for all they are worth. Well girls I found everything I needed in my surprise packet (as we call them) the tooth brush and paste are really the very best things that can be included in them. I think as of course we have to leave everything behind when we get wounded. I myself have only been in France a short time. We have been on the sands of the desert in Egypt. I must say this is a much better climate and country in every way. I have plenty to write about but am sorry to say we are not allowed to write what we would like to. All I can say is we are well treated, plenty of work and

plenty to eat, so we just do as others do, growl and keep growling. I suppose that is one privilege we have. Well girls in again thanking you for your great kindness to us, I will close.

I am yours respectively,

H. E. H. Dyke.

Canadian Red Cross, London.

Dear Friends.—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your parcel containing the bag of wonders, and wish to thank you very much for it. I had written you a few days ago saying that I did not I needed anything, but goodness, you knew more about it than I and everything in the bag was so useful.

Doesn't anything from Canada look nice when one is in this damp foggy country anyway.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Had a jolly time opening the bag—just like a kid pulling the stuff out of a Christmas stocking and wondering what is next.

I wish you people could hear the way the boys who have been through them praise the Canadian Hospitals in France; makes one glad he is a Canadian. I will return the book as soon as I am able to be up and around. I enjoyed it very much.

I am getting along as well as can be expected, and though not able to sit up yet, I can feel a big improvement.

The Tea Room Girls,
Hamilton, Canada.

My Dear Girls:

I do want you to know that the funny little "wriggling" things you tucked in the pockets of some grey flannelette jackets were thoroughly appreciated by our dear lads. Some of my boys were provided with these jackets when leaving our hospital and there was great glee and amusement when two of these amusing things were discovered.

Needless to say "Sister" was besieged with requests to look over other coats—but only the two were found in the lot assigned to us

The lucky finders said they would write "The Tea Room Girls" their thanks. They are dear brave lads, forgive them if they forget to do so.

And my thanks for the pleasing amusement you gave the whole ward. You girls at home are surely doing your bit, and I know it counts more than you realize.

Sincerely yours,

Nursing Sister,

A. Tupper, C. A. M. C.

B. E. F. France

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