

THE BLISTER

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EDITORIAL

There should be some good reason for the publication of any paper. We have several and they're all good, but the best of the lot -- sufficient unto itself in fact -- is the opportunity it affords us to extend our heartiest congratulations to the O. C., Officers, Nursing Sisters, N. C. O. 's and Men on the completion of a year of successful service. The year was up on May 30. Part of it was spent in preliminary work, organisation, training, etc., the latter half on active service. It has seen us through a wealth of experience and on many of us it has left a kaleidoscopic series of vivid impressions, for much of what we saw and heard and did was entirely new to us. It brought us trials and aggravations galore, as was to be expected, but it compensated with pleasures in plenty. Whatever our personal feelings in the matter, however, whether we liked it or didn't like it the fact remains that during the year the unit established an enviable record for excellence of work accomplished. So efficient has our system been proved to be that other hospitals

have not hesitated to copy from it; so thorough (all circumstances considered) the comforts and so satisfactory the medical attention provided that No. 5 C. G. H. is now generally known in this part of the war zone as a very desirable place in which to be sick. We could publish a whole volume of reliable testimony to this effect but we won't. Suffice it to say that from the highest official in the service, as well as from the humblest victim of PUO, the word has been passed--- No 5 CGH is all right. Just a few bald facts relating to our work: Before embarking on Active Service we administered the Shorncliffe Military Hospital for about two months and it was during our term that the capacity of the hospital was raised from 350 beds to its present number, 434. Rarely did we have more than half a dozen vacant beds, this being the number held for emergency cases. In addition the unit sent drafts of officers, nursing sisters and men, amounting altogether to about half the strength, to assist in other hospitals in England and France. Since establishing our tent hospital here in December we have never lacked for work and at times it has come

Serbian Entertainment

One of the most delightful events in which the officers and nursing sisters have participated was a dinner given recently by Colonel Djonkitch of the Serbian Artillery. The affair was supposedly informal, but considering that the courses lasted approximately three hours and that a band, as well as vocal and violin music, was provided to add to the enjoyment of the guests, one wonders what would have occurred had it been a formal affair. The reception of the guests was imposing. Over 100 officers of different ranks were drawn up in lines in front of the mess tent. On descending from the car the members of the party were introduced to the officers, most of whom could speak French and some few English. The tent was beautifully decorated for the occasion with flags of the Allies suspended from the roof and smaller flags fastened to the draped poles. It was a feast of surprises, not the least of which was to find a neatly written bill of fare, in English, at each place. The articles of food were tastefully set out and deliciously palatable. The Serbian national dance was performed by several hundreds of soldiers. In this the Colonel himself joined to the intense delight of his men. Not to be outdone Major Monro and Capt. Schinbein essayed the rhythmic steps and finally Capt. Lindsay was prevailed upon to take part.

Major Procter made a short speech, in which he assured the Serbians that no where in the world could the Serbians have greater admirers and firmer supporters than the Canadians, and that Serbia could absolutely rely on the assistance of Canada to the last whether the war ended this year or several years hence. The speech was made in English, translated into French by Capt. Lewin and into Serbian by the Colonel. Toasts were drunk to King George and the King of Serbia. In drinking royalties' health it is the custom of the Serbians to drain the glass at a draught and then turn it upside down. The departure of the guests was quite as spectacular as the arrival. The Serbians stood around in a wide semi-circle and cheered their visitors to the echo. The Canadians responded every bit as heartily.

FROM OVER THE SEA

Capt Boucher has cabled from Malta stating that he reached that port safely and is improving in health. Nursing Sisters Playford and Tripp are in England now, according to word received. Capt. Bonnell has arrived in Nova Scotia and is with his family in a little town not far from Halifax. His home is in Fernie, B. C. Major Procter is proceeding straight through to Canada. Capt. Mc.Kee and Capt. Lionais are in London. Pte. Ritchie is on his way to England. Lucky sod!

SISTER SAYS

That Daddy Long Legs is in very good form these days.

That some times when the Silent Man opens his mouth the Lion roars.

That it is quite unnecessary for M. O. 's to make p.m. calls.

That the night superintendent can carry on.

That pulses are at a premium at present.

That some sisters would love to play golf.

That there is none so blind as he who will not see.

That the Old Horse is a mascot.

That if one does not believe it one may go there himself.

That there are many more men in the hills, a weary night sister knows.

CUT OFF STRENGTH

Since reaching Salonica No. 5 has lost, through sickness and other causes, six officers, two nursing sisters two N.C.O. 's and three men. The majority of these have been invalided to England. The list follows :

Cpts. Bonnell, Lionais, Mc. Kee, Boucher, Lewin and Major Proctor ; Nursing Sisters Playford and Tripp ; S.M. Glass and Sgt. Taylor ; Ptes. Chudley, Wilkinson and Ritchie. Nursing Sister Keppell left the unit at Cairo returning to England.

FIRST IN THE FIELD

We take pride in the fact that this is the first "Active Service," paper to

be published regimentally in the Macedonian area of warfare. In order to justify that pride, however we must make the paper worth while and, in order to do that, must have the support and assistance of every member of the unit. Contributions, short and pithy, humorous or „newsy“ having anything to do with the life of the camp, or dealing with matters outside the camp provided they have a real interest for a fair proportion of the personnel always will be welcome. Address them „The Editor“ and drop them in the letter box.

RESERVE YOUR JUDGMENT

In passing judgment on this paper it must be borne in mind that it is printed under war time conditions in a foreign land where the printing facilities are primitive. More than that a first edition is always most difficult to get out and we haven't very much time to spare. Wait for the improvements that will most certainly come if you help us.

NEW ARRIVALS

On June 6 the strength Of the unit was reinforced by the arrival of four nursing sisters, namely, N. S. 's Burpee (Vancouver), Attrill (Winipeg), Hudson (Dauphin, Manitoba) and Rose (Vancouver). The first three left Canada with the first contingent and were in France for several months. Miss Rose was with No 5 CGH until the unit left England, when she was cut off the strength in order that she might carry on with her duties at Folkestone. The new arrivals report hav-

ing had a remarkably smooth passage from England: The trip, which included a call at Alexandria, did not take more than two weeks.

OFFICERS COMING

It is understood that Capt. Robt. Gibson, of Vancouver, who, it will be remembered, crossed from Canada on the same boat as No 5, The Scandinavian (God bless her!), is on his way out from England to join this unit, together with Capt. F. X. O' Connor, of Winnipeg.

OFFICERS HUMBLE MEN

Never in all their chequered careers, it is safe to say, have the ball players (did you get that, Ball Players!) of No. 5 received so rude a shock as they did on June 7 when the officers invited them to play a game of ball just for the fun of the thing. They accepted the invitation, thinking it would be a pleasant way to pass the afternoon. Sure, it would be amusing and a gallop around the bases was just what they needed in the way of light exercise—Can you imagine their surprise and disgust, not to say indignation, when the officers started right in to hammer blue blazes out of them and ramble around the paths like Ghurkas hun-hunting? Battery after battery of the Ball Players was silenced, even the big 13-5 being put

out of action although only temporarily, while through it all the solitary gun of the officers bowled over its victims with unhesitating precision. When the smoke rolled away a battered, bedraggled and back-broken band of Ball Players was to be seen beating as hasty a retreat as their weary legs would permit. The score was 11 to 8. The features of the game were the pitching of Lt.-Col. Panton and a couple of hair-raising catches pulled off in centre field by Capt. R. L. Miller. A return game will be played in the near future and the men are betting that they will shut the Officers out. The teams were: Officers—c, Pte. F. Dunn; lb, Capt. Nicholson; p, Lt.-Col. Panton; ss, and lb, Capt. Schinbein; lf and ss, Capt. Wall cf, Capt. R. L. Miller rf; Capt. Hannington; 3b, Lieut. Mann; 2b, Capt. Wilson; lf, Capt. Miller. Men 3b, J. Kerr; p and 2b T. Raftery p and lf W. Sedger; lb Mc. Kenzie c Thorsteinson: lf and 2b, H. Pottinger; rf. Chase; cf, W. Fraser; ss J. Raftery. Umpire, Lieut. Orr.

Baseball — Cricket — Lacrosse — Tennis — Track and Field — Aquatics — Football.

What do you think about all this for Active Service sport? Is there any unit serving in any of the Allies' many campaigns better off in provision for keeping fit and pleasantly passing their spare time? It is hardly likely. Best of it all is that No. 5 CGH has representatives in all but one or two of the sports mentioned who could

hold their own in average amateur company anywhere. And only 200 men and 35 officers to select from! Can you beat it? You can't even tie it.

BASEBALL

So far the team captained by Pte J. Rafferty has played 3 games with No 4 CGH and has won two and lost one. The scores were: 13 to 11; 4 to 11, and 8 to 3. The team has a grand battery in Tom Rafferty and „Nig“ Thorsteinson, the „makings“ of real good infield and an outfield which shows undeniable promise. Gradually the players are settling down into regular places and getting steady practice there. In regard to facilities the team is decidedly fortunate. The diamond, from which the grass has been burnt is really fast and fairly reliable and the outfit of gloves, balls bats, etc., recently accured, is just about the best obtainable. It is worthy of mention, even at this late date, that Tom Rafferty pitched a genuine „no-run“ game against No. 4 on the 30th. A couple of errors in the first inning allowed No 4 their 3 runs. At time of wrfiting the team has one game scheduled, with No 1 Canadian Stationary on Saturday June 10.

Two Cricket Matches

So far the No 5 CGH

cricketers have played two matches, one with the A. S. C. M. T.'s, which resulted in a win for the Canadians, 150 runs to 107, and the other with the Army Forwarding Office, which the latter won by the remarkable score of 24 to 18.

LACROSSE

The men are just beginning to warm up to lacrosse and „Fat“ Fraser is proudly flaunting the first honorable scar. At a meeting held recently Bill Laidlaw, Al Kerr and George Pottinger were appointed to look after the sticks and carry on with preliminaries towards getting the game under way. Laidlaw is an old-timer at the game and handles his stick nicely. Chances are, however that he will have lots of good company. The first game is scheduled for July 1 with No 4 CGH. On that date No 4 plans to hold a big sports day and the lacrosse match will be one of the main features.

HOW HE GOT HIS START

A drunken man blocked the way of a swarm of boys who were racing along the street. Grinning amiably he said: „Stop boys!“

have race. *Arf crown winner.* With uncertain gestures he indicated the course and lined them up. Then he noticed a little fellow, the smallest of them all, who was standing to one side, sobbing bitterly, because he was too small to have a chance to get in on the money. "You gotta run too kid, c'mon' he said and he leered encouragement. The race started but it had a most unorthodox finish for as soon as the bigger fellows had taken the lead the man grabbed the little fellow, pressed the half crown into his grimy little paw and, assuring him that he would some day be a great runner, lurches back into the "Blue Lion." Then and there this little boy swore he would make good. He would not drink, smoke or chew tobacco. Some day he would be a champion runner and win oodles of prizes. Just then his mother called, "Freddie!, and Freddie ran. Good Lord, how he did run! He's still running.

TENNIS

Unfortunately for the men the officers and sergeants have a monopoly on the tennis. They each have a clay court in use, on which they did most of the work themselves. The officers reserved space for two courts but they don't seem to be in a hurry

to go ahead with the second and moreover, the first is rapidly becoming grass-grown through lack of attention. The sergeants owe thanks to S.M. Walsh, of the R.E. 's, whose engineering skill enabled them to transform a poorly - promising piece of ground into a splendid court. The social end of the game is well attended to specially by the sergeants who are very often to be seen entertaining friends, civilian or military, at a game on their court.

GROUNDS IN PLENTY

One of the beauties of this country is the fact that is no lack of good grounds for sports. A baseball diamond, quarter mile track, tennis courts, etc. , have been laid out at absolutely no expense beyond the comparatively little labor involved and, in view of this, the wonder is that the cricketers have selected such a poor pitch.

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so fast as almost to threaten to overwhelm us. But we have taken it all and asked for more. Twice has our capacity of 1040 patients been exceeded, marques being erected to accommodate the surplus. On May 14 we reached a figure of 1097 and on June 2 the figure was 1078. At time of writing we are twenty-two over capacity, and have handled in this hospital altogether 5130 patients. During ordinary times we average about 35 patients a day while during Convoy week, that is, the week we are on duty for the district, which comes once in every four, we take in from 100 to 150 a day. In this connection we have other interesting statistics we would like to give, but space won't permit. We will reserve them for a later date and pass on to a brief resume of the origin and organization of the corps. The idea of organizing this hospital for active service first germinated in the minds of Majors Monro and Proctor. They succeeded in interesting the medical profession of Vancouver. It was their intention to have it a Vancouver unit. They conferred with Lt. - Col. (then Major) Hart, of Victoria, and he, while heartily endorsing the project, proposed that the extent of its representation should be enlarged to take in all British Columbia. Thus it was arranged. Major Hart immediately wired the offer of the hospital to the military authorities at Ottawa. Rather to their surprise it was turned down. This was in February, 1915, and nothing

further was heard of the matter until May 30, when orders suddenly came through to Major Hart to "go ahead.", He did so and the medical profession and the people of B. C. backed him up splendidly. Major (then Capt.) Burris, followed by Capts. Clark and Wilson, went to Victoria as recruiting officers in June and it took very few weeks to bring the unit up to strength (real strength, mind' you!) as far as the men were concerned. The nursing sisters and medical officers joined later. The undertaking was financed largely by public and private subscription. Lists were opened in the chief centres and the response was very generous. The B. C. branches of the St. John's Ambulance and Red Cross Societies joined in the good work. Lt. - Col. McTavish (then Major) as secretary of the former body was a prime mover in a campaign prosecuted so energetically that the "sinews of war," were forthcoming with astonishing promptitude. The corps was equipped and fairly well trained in a space of three months and on August 21 the great day arrived. We sailed for England.

OUR CASUALTY LIST

Those sick in Hospital at time of going to press: Sgt. Jones, S1, Cpl. Newens, S1, Ptes. A. Bent, H3, G. Scott, E2, J. Buckley, D3 J.J. Hamilton, A2.

TRACK AND FIELD

Coming to Track and Field your kind attention is directed to the results of the sports of May 30, a full account of which has been published in The Balkan News. Against picked competitors from a dozen or more units Fred Hill romped home an easy winner in the 100, 220 and 440 and he, Jeff Baker, G. Stewart and G. Whale won the relay handily. Despite a badly weakened foot, the result of a recent operation, Stewart's great running in the relay was mainly responsible for No 5's easy win. When in good condition he ought to make it interesting for Hill in the 100. No 5 performed prodigies of strength in the tug-of-war, winning from no less than 21 rival teams and Pte. Farquharson upheld the honor of the unit in the jumps, being first in the broad jump and the hop-step and jump and second in the high jump. Capt. Wall won the officers' 100 yards.

SIMPLY SALONICIOUS

One day strolling through the camp I met an athlete who was said to be a great Walker. He seemed out of breath for he was Panton and probably had some Hart affection. They say he is a heavy smoker for I heard him ask: „Have you got your pouch about you, Boucher?“ He was then going to see the Taylor who was mending his Green McIntosh. He had locked it in a trunk and he said „I have lost Mc Kee.“ Some one suggested lifing the lid with a Winch,

but others said let the Frost crack it. Just then the King's Procter arrived with the Miller's daughter and threw me against the Wall—and I woke up.

OUR ANNIVERSARY

No 5 CGH had a great day on May 30th when the first anniversary of the corps was celebrated. Starting early in the afternoon with a baseball game the festivities continued unflaggingly until quite late at night when the last of the visitors were driven home to their various camps in motor ambulances. Hundreds of visitors were entertained—nursing sisters and officers from other hospitals, French, Serbian and British officers of many combatants units, civilians in their gay finery, so poignantly reminiscent of holiday-making at home--- and all unquestionably took away with them pleasant memories and a greatly enhanced opinion of their hosts. By none of them, however, was the entertainment more relished than by the patients who were well enough to get about. Some of the bed patients were carried on stretchers to the concert given by the "Empties" in in the evening and they, too, had their fill of merrymaking. Altogether the day was a huge success, a most delightful change from the monotonous routine of military life on foreign service. The only unfortunate circumstance was the fact that a rush of "receiving" kept many of the orderlies and several officers at their posts most of the day.