War Prisoner in Germany Writes of Receiving Red Cross Parcels All Right

First Instalment of Interesting Account of Life as Prisoner-of-War in Germany as Given by Mrs. Katharine N. Strachan, Niece of Mr. J. .H. Stovel, of the Dome, President of Eastern Porcupine Red Cross.

In the current issue of The Red cels during three months of internment Cross Despatch there is the first in- in Southern Germany. If I describe stalment of an account in which a Canadian woman described her trying of-war in Germany. The article holds so much special interest for the people were to us. of this district that it is published in , these columns as a service to readers in general. In the first place the writer, Mrs. Katharine N. Strachan, is a niece of Mr. J. H. Stovel, general manager of the Dome Mines, and president of the Eastern Porcupine Branch of the Canadian Red Cross. In the next place this brave Canadian woman answers the question sometimes heard:- "Do the Red Cross parcels really arrive?" Finally, it is not too much to say that anything dealing either with Red Cross work or prisoner-of-war in Germany is of vital interest to all at this time. Here is the first instalment:-

"I Was a German Prisoner"

Since my return from Germany some weeks ago, I have been asked literally their lives. hundreds of questions about my experiences and one of the most frequent has been, "Do the Red Cross Parcels really but the fortunes of war had bound arrive?" I am always very pleased and proud to answer that I was a most enthusiastic recipient of Red Cross par-

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something of the adventures I shared and thrilling experiences as a prisoner. the "Zamzam" you will realize how very necessary these wonderful parcels

On the bright and sunny afternoon of June 16th, 1941, the "Zamzamers" as we had begun to call ourselves arrived at Liebenau, the British Women's internment camp near Ravensburg in Wurttemburg. We were a bedraggled hungry and extremely weary group of 28 women and children. Nationalities included English, Canadians and South Africans, French, Greek and Norwegian and ages ranged from a little girl under two years to a sprightly lady of seventy. Two of the party were negresses the wife and daughter of a Liberian missionary, and another two had been stewardesses on the ill-fated "Zamzam." After three months of extensive travel we had experienced enough adventure to satisfy most people for the rest of

We had all set sail from New York on March 20, unknown to each other, together indissolubly through the destruction of our ship and the loss of our freedom. Each of us had what she considered a valid reason for travelling In our ranks were missionaries returning with their husbands to the fields in Africa after furlough in the 'United this work for the first time. Like myself, some were wives endeavoring to join their husbands after months of separation. One of the Canadians was to be married on arrival in South Africa to a member of the R. A. F. Ironically enought most of the English members had left England for peaceful Canada to escape German bombs. A nervous breakdown had sent a South African to this side of the Atlantic for treatment and after months of recuperation she was trying to reach her family in Durban. The two young Greek nurses, trained in The Presbyterian Hospital in their country's call of need.

our cheerful appearance and apparent bread. A brew of so-called tea was our health on arrival, a long series of sud- daily drink. Toothbrushes and soap den shocks had left its mark on our

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were rudely awakened at six o'clock in Four Teams Tied the morning by terrifying explosions as round after round of shells was fired for First Place in at the defenceless "Zamzam" by the Nazi raider "Tamesis," which had crept Timmins Dart Club up on us in the night. For many months afterward we were to feel the Ties Between Teams Freeffects of this brutal attack and unexpected noises, even the banging of a door could turn our knees to jelly. Then followed the horrors which attend a sea disaster, the mad scramble for clothes and lifetelts, the long descent down the swaying ladder, the seemingly interminable minutes in the lifeboat, the sight of women and children in the water and the unfortunate wounded. Taken aboard the raider with the British women survivors of came the unpleasant realization that we had been kidnapped on the high seas by modern pirates and as prisoners of war we were completely at the mercy of the enemy. That afternoon, standing on the sun-scorched decks of the Tamesis," we witnessed the sinking of the "Zamzam" as one might a movie enacted on the beautiful calm sea the South Atlantic and with it vanished one's personal hopes and dreams. the middle of the night the raider had White Cross a dramatic meeting with one of her supply ships, the "Dresden," to which Legionaires we were transferred the next day. For week the "Dresden" marked time, then the raider appeared again with final instructions as to our fate. One of our party was given permission to go aboard the raider to visit her husband who had been badly wounded. Knowing that he must be left behind, it was a touching sight to watch her go alone over the side of the "Dresden" and climb bravely down the steep lad-

der to a bobbing launch below. Then came the long journey north- fore October 28th. ward five weeks of alarms and apprehension, rumour and conjecture about our destination, and privations and discomforts such as few had experienced before. Women and children were packed into accommodation for half that number and the men fared much worse below deck. With twenty others Presentation of S. J. A. B. States. Others were going to take up I slept for thirty-four nights on half a mattress in what had been the smoking salon. As we crossed the Equator the heat and smell of that closely blackedout room became almost unbearable, but farther north the air was so dank and cold that we slept huddled in coats and as many blankets as we could muster. The food was such as one reads about and hopes fervently never to sample—unappetizing watery mixtures, flour porridge aptly dubbed "bill board paste" for breakfast and "glop," a thin soup of rice or macaroni base with peas potatoes and occasionally an unidentifiable piece of meat floating in it. The New York, were gallantly answering finding of maggots was common. The children fared better with tinned milk Although we were congratulated on oranges and a more palatable grade of were precious and a half litre of water was allowed each day for the washing of one's self and one's clothes. Thankful that our lives had been spared, we knew the main requisite was to keep well and cheerful and the fresh air and sunshine of the long voyage did much to buoy us up physically and mentally.

> ends of other people's wardrobes. accorded the same treatment and anxiety was allayed by the promise of children would be allowed to go free. many qualms and quakes as imagina- which seemed to nonplus them. tions played wildly with thoughts of assports were to be detained.

Though entertaining and even amusing in retrospect, the experiences of the next few weeks were highly unpleasant and unexepected. In Bordeaux we women and children were herded into a gloomy and depressing German Red Cross Hostel which had been formerly a boys' school and was used now as a shelter for refugees from the north of France. These poor inmates gazed at us curiously as we passed restlessly up and down the paved courtyard wondering endlessly about our fate. We were told nothing except that we would be shot if we attempted to escape. After ten miserable days came the unique adventure of a week's travel to the north of Germany in a huge prisoner of war train. We found that for seven adults cramped into one compartment a sitting-up position for six days and nights was not conducive to sleep and backs and nerves at times reached the breaking point. The stretching of legs was possible only in a narrow corridor leadling to a small ,dirty bathroom which

Take out your cheque book And cough up some dough;

Recipe for Victory

V V V V V

V V V V V

VVVV

Brush off the cobwebs

And then you can go

To empty the mattress

And open the sock,

For the victory loan

Must go over the top.

The boys in the army,

The lads in the navy,

Expect you at home

Does it matter if we

Of sugar or tea;

Are short of our rations

And the money you save

Keep it out of the banks,

And sink it in bonds

For the victory loan

To battle the Hun.

And how will it be

ried.

Must go over the top,

The Jap, and the Wop;

When the fighting is done,

To get them on the run.

Can you say that you helped

Pretty Wedding at

the United Church

at South Porcupine

fern, and white streamers. She wore

Arbour, John W. Bawtinheimer, Alfred

Blake,, Frank King, Alan Raney,

missioner) of Toronto will pay an an-

Timmins, S. Porcupine and Schu-

macher Ladies' Division will be inspec-

George Salter, Roy J. Irwin.

- Wilson Thomson

To buy guns and tanks.

To cough up the gravy;

So let go the paycheque,

You husbands and wives,

For you'll never fail those

Who are giving their lives.

While we're sitting at home

quent Result These Days.

Games played on Friday, Oct 16th. 0 White Cross v Imperials 2 2 O'Keefes v Legionaires 0 1 United v Greenhorns 1 0 White Label v Seven Up 2 1 Capital v Three Star 1 Games played Monday, Oct. 19th. 1Three Star v White Label 1 x O'Kesfes v Imperials x 0 Seven Up v White Cross 2

1 United v Capital 1 2 Legionaires v Greenhorns 0 League Standing PWLT

Imperials Three Star

Russel Trophy (Knock-out Compell-First Round Draw

0 United v White Cross 2 White Label v Three Star O'Keefes v Seven Up Byes - Legionaires - Capital. First named, Home Teams. To be played on October 21st or be-

Imperials v Greenhorns

Games for Friday, October 23rd. Capital v Legionaires. Seven Up v United Imperials v White Label Three Star v O'Keefes

White Cross v Greenhorns

Certificates at South End

South Porcupine, Oct. 21st. Special J. A. Lyttle united in the bonds of holy

fum in the High School certificates were the late Mr. Toderan, and William presented to successful students in St. Henry Moore, second son of Mrs. John Ambulance work and Home Nur- Steeves, of South Porcupine.

Nursing Division, Mrs. Doherty, of Tim- Borden. mins, Corp Supt. Gibson and Corps Officers Ash and Murphy, all of Tim- riage by her brother, Nicholas Toderan, mins, and Corps Surgeon, Dr. Kelly, was beautiful in a floor-length bridai Gulka Not present but sending gifts: Leslie May. who presented the certificates.

Each honoured guest addressed the made on princess lines, with a fingergathering and the ladies of the Nurs- tip veil of Brussels net caught to the well-Smith. ing Division were inspected by L.C.O. head in a coronet of orange blossoms. Mrs. Doherty.. All looked very smart She carried a bouquet of red and and wore the regulation SJ.A.B. uni- white roses and lily-of-the-valley with C. Jamieson on Bloor avenue. This

Certificates were presented to those as her only ornament a necklace of of the following who were present, many however have left for service in some ranch of war work:

Vouchers: Leigh W. Bladen, William

rarely offered any washing facilities Food consisted of bread and rations of Lawrence Hart, Ralph Wood, Norma Clothes were a problem the first few tinned meat, "horse" and water to Holmes, Joseph Rotondo, Hugh Hamildays before we were allowed to inspect drink if we could get our bottles filled ton. William Mairs (S. Porcupine and what remnants of baggage had been as we stopped at stations on the way. Schumacher. saved from the "Zamzam" and men and women appeared often hatless or shoe-Packed in the long line of cars behind us the prisoner crews of seven or eight sion of S.J.A.B. is to be held on Thursless in amusing and pathetic odds and ships must have been infinitely more British and American passengers were tired and unhappy, yet we often heard Dr Bell and Miss Osler (District Com- evening, them singing. Our own good humour a and high spirits often surprised us, too, nual visit of inspection. neutral port where all women and during the trials of this trip, and though we were being carried farther Hopes of release at Teneriffe vanished and farther into enemy territory we ted on Friday at the McIntyre Hall. as we passed its latitude and the fears never allowed each other to become of all increased as it became more and downhearted .. At each station in Germore obvious that the Captain intended many we faced the gaping population to run the British blockade. There were with a special show of cheerfulness

At Bremerworde we left the train and perhaps another disaster and of over- the cameras clicked cruelly as husbands crowded lifeboats tossing like cockle and wives said good-bye to each other shells in the stormy North Atlantic. A naval officer politely informed us With singing hearts we passed Portu- that we were to be taken to a women's gal and Spain and finally dropped an- camp in the south of Germany, and chor on May 20, in the tiny harbour of that he was sorry more comfortable ac-St. Jean le Luz in Occupied France. For commodation could not be provided en the first time the "Dresden" ran up the route. Never again shall we be able to Nazi swastika and the news was an- answer truthfully "no" to the question, nounced that the Americans were to go ["Have you been in prison?" for pauses ashore but holders of British and other in the journey were made at jails in Wesermude, Bremen, Hanover and

(To be continued)

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TUES.

blue forget-me-nots (the conventional Eleanor Jamieson and Mrs. J. Costello,

looked charming in a floor-length gown the guest of honour. Mrs. Brawley sent of pale pink crepe, made on flitted lines a gift but was unable to attend with a shoulder-length yeil of pink net

sweetheart roses. Miss Joyce Wilson was first brides-naid, lovely in a gown of ice blue tafmaid, lovely in a gown of ice blue taffeta covered with blue net. A shoulderflower chaplet of the same shade of blue completed the costume. She car-

accessories and carried a bouquet

ried a bouquet of talisman roses. Miss Pauline Ursulak was the pretty second bridesmaid, who wore a gown of Wedgewood blue crepe, with blue flower hat and shoulder-length veil. With this she wore golden slippers and carried a bouquet of yellow roses.

Mr. John Blahey attended the groom as best man and Messrs George Toderan and J. D. McKinnon acted as ushers.

After the ceremony the wedding party partook of a wedding dinner at the home of the bride, and later in the evening a reception was held which was widely attended by the hosts of friends of this popular young couple. At the reception Mrs. Toderan re-

ceived the guests in a gown of navy sheer with a corsage of talisman roses. Mrs. Steeves wore a rose coloured crepe dress with a corsage of roses. Many gifts were received by Mr. and

Mrs. Moore who are both well liked by

all who know them. Two showers for the bride were given -one previous to the wedding and one following. The first was held at the home of Mrs. W. Gulka at 11 Golden Miss Mary Toderan and Mr. Avenue and took place on Saturday last. Many gifts of a miscellaneous na-Wm. Henry Moore Marture were showered on the pretty little

fun was enjoyed by all present. The

South Porcupine, Oct. 21-(Special hostess served a lovely lunch. to The Advance) -A very pretty wed-Those attending were: Mesdames V. ding took place in the United Church, Toderan, C. Jamieson, S. Reilly, L. Tot-South Porcupine, on the afternoon of ten, T. Galbraith, A. McPhate, W. M. Thursday, October 15th, when Rev. bridegroom is an LAC of the Royal gown of white embroidered taffeta Mrs. P. Ursulak, Miss Joyce Wilson,

The second shower was held on Tuesday, October 20th at the home of Mrs. shower was of a personal nature and the bride received some lovely gifts to add to her wedding trousseau. Games, intelligence tests, puzzles and a singsong were enjoyed by the guests and Certificates: Frank Thorpe, Stanley the winners were presented with novelty

Miss Betty Cumming and Mrs. Max-

Charles Girdwood, Alan D. Pearce, In order to find her gifts Mary was required to go on a treasure hunt throughout the house and following a ribbon clue, present were discovered in most unexpected places. On finding Special inspection of the Men's Divi- the parcels she made appropriate speeches to her friends. A dainty and day at 7.30 in the McIntyre Hall when delicious funch was served later in the

Guests present were Misses Josephine Cecconi, Audrey Bennett, Jean Stringer. Violet Dillon, Rita Costello, Pauline Ursulak, Teena Yorke, Audrey and

"something blue" which a bride must Mrs. V. Toderan, Mrs. W. Gulka, Mrs. T. Galbraith, Mrs. W. Steeves, Mrs. Her matron of honour was her sister, Eade, Mrs. J. Blahev and the hostess, Sapphira, (Mrs. John Blahey) who Mrs. C. Jamieson and Mrs. Wm. Moore

Kiwanis Club at which depended from a tiny hat of pink flowers. With this she wore white South Porcupine

length veil of blue net from a tiny Scrap to be Admission Price for Children at Matinee To-morrow Afternoon.

South Porcupine, Oct. 21st. Special

A novel idea, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club which is to make the public school children conscious of the necessity of salvage work, is to be put into effect on Friday.

A matinee is to be held in the Mascioli theatre on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m., of the regular set of pictures shown, at which all school children will be admitted free upon presentation of some articles of salvageable worth. It is being impressed upon them in school that no "good" article will be accepted as admission unless a note is given from a parent certifying that it is to be used or this purpose.

Three pounds of old rubber will admit one child, or 6 lbs. 2 children. Two to 6 pounds of old iron, 1 rubber "mucker's boot," 1 pr. rubbers, 1 hot water bottle, 1 pr. of rubber gloves, or one piece of aluminum—all are accepted as the price of one child's ticket.

We venture to say that this town will be miraculously cleaned up of old salvage and nothing salvageable will be found here for weeks to come! !

bride-to-be and a happy evening of Pleasant Surprise Party on Occasion of Birthday

The home of Mrs. Guy Redden, 35 Columbus Avenue, was the scene of a surprise party on Saturday, Oct. 17th, Gower, L. Zinuick, M. Haapala, J. Kui- the occasion being the anniversary of visto, T. Brawley, M. Komar, R. Allard, Mrs. Redden's birthday. Several of her matrimony, Mary, second daughter of W. Steeves, J. Blahey and the Misses friends presented her with a large bir-On Tuesday evening at the Auditor- Mrs. Toderan (of Bloor avenue), and Pauline Ursulak, Evelyn Mitchell, Vera thday cake, beautifully decorated and Ursulak, Leona Didone, Audrey Wil- complete with candles. Mrs. Redden liams, Carmella Didone, Eila Korhonen, also received a number of other very The Viola Mansfield, Grace Cunningham, lovely gifts. Among those present were: Wilma Finan, Mae Cunningham, Hilk- Mrs. Joe Trainor, Mrs. Paul Nozack, Present were Lady Corps Officer of Canadian Air Force stationed at Camp ka Olki, Norbetine Ferrigan, Francesca Mrs. Herbert Palmer, Mrs. Cliff. Hornby Cattarello, Ruth Steeves, Marietta Ne- and Mrs. Ken Cambridge. Sending The bride, who was given in mar- nonen and the guest of honour, Mary gifts but unable to be present were Mrs. Toderan, with the hostess, Mrs. William Jean Phillips, Miss Barbara May, and

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