

DIARY OF AN OFFICER

OF 21ST BATTALION OF TRIP TO ENGLAND

Heard of Torpedoing Of SS. Lusitania — Two Operations For Appendicitis were Performed During the Voyage.

One of the officers of the 21st Battalion has written his mother about his trip across the Atlantic. "We had a beautiful sail down the river towards the gulf," he writes. The Metagama slackened at Quebec at about eight o'clock in the evening while we exchanged pilots and dropped the mails. At Quebec the commanding officer received wires of good luck from the Governor-General and O.C. of the Montreal Military Division. The brass, bugle and pipe band have given us lots of music, and we had a jollification on deck in the evening.

Friday, May 7th.—After dinner most of the sixteen hundred were on deck. The men were singing on the deck aft, and large number of the officers joined in from the promenade deck above. Some of our fellows and those of the hospital units have fine voices, and it was well worth while to hear some of the patriotic songs they sang, and others of lighter strain. I never heard "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Lead Kindly Light" sung to equal it, at least it appeared like that. The Laval Hospital, crowd sang "O Canada" in French. Of course, promenading is in vogue at all times and so after dinner when the brass band came on deck, the crowd danced.

Our fellows are commencing to get acquainted with the nursing sisters, so there were a good many of khaki arms embracing the fair sex, in that rather stunning uniform of blue with red trimmings. Major Gray, said, as we looked on, that it was characteristic of the British to "carry on" like this even nights before battles, and he called to mind, among other instances, Wellington and his officers at the battle of the night before Waterloo. Talk about the "brotherhood of man." Eleven hundred of us fellows on our way to Europe with the avowed purpose of killing, and 400 doctors and nurses on board to take care of any of us who get scratched in the melee.

We had simply a glorious day and are now speeding out into the gulf. We passed some ships to-day as well as sighting some whales. Saturday, May 8th.—We just had a pleasant evening. This afternoon was uneventful. All the nursing sisters paraded for a short drill. They certainly are a swell bunch. Blythe, the boy who used to hold the bulldog in No. 4 Company, was operated upon this afternoon for appendicitis. They think he will be all right. All the troops on board paraded this afternoon for an inspection by the Brigadier. There is rumor aboard, and some say that it is confirmed, that the SS. Lusitania has been sunk by German destroyers. We are now well out into the Gulf alone and are running along the coast of Newfoundland.

Sunday, May 9th.—We are thinking a great deal of home to-day. I suppose the usual routine is going on to-day and the hundreds of people in Eastern Ontario are feeling pretty blue. Well to come to the point we are not as well a crowd to-day as we were this time yesterday. It is on the fourth and fifth days after sailing that a large percentage of the passengers "contract that feeling." As Jeff said: "There is no use of telling you what to do, when you get it you'll do it." Our medical officer has been pretty sick to-day and had to leave his patients several times while he "raved." We are seeing lots of ice, and two or three beautiful bergs from three to five miles away. There was fog this a.m., and the ship slowed down. Capt. Kidd, our chaplain preached at service this morning. It was held on the left deck a great sight. Our brass band led the singing. At 11.30 o'clock we learned of the confirmation of the report that the Lusitania had gone down, and realized how frightened our relatives must be to-night. One fellow just remarked that thousand of prayers will be offered up in the homes of eastern Ontario to-night for our safety. I understand the wireless is in constant communication with the Admiralty, and that an escort is to meet us.

Monday, May 10th.—This is the fifth day aboard and we have had no rough weather yet, but the continual rolling of the ship is not conducive to the healthiest state of your stomach. A French fishing vessel passed us this morning and manoeuvred about, we thought peculiarly, but I guess it was only getting information. This afternoon sports were held on the deck for the men. It is commencing to get windier and they say we are in for some rough weather.

Tuesday, May 11th.—On board this craft the "continuity" appear to "come from Missouri." They don't propose to take any chances. By that I mean that everything is being done to save a panic, should anything occur. The men on picket on the decks are armed with rifles and all the officers have been issued with ammunition for the automatic revolvers. Of course if there was an alarm each man would bring up his life belt. When the men are supposed to be on the deck in the day time, one man per room has been detailed to bring up the belts of his comrades.

Of course, it is case of women first, and we would use our arms if necessary if there was a rush for the boats. It would be difficult to identify the Metagama. She is flying no ensign, and her name has been obliterated. But we are not going to hunt for trouble, and are still rumping along.

Wednesday, May 12th.—There is a great sea on this morning. We are now six days out and have five or six hundred miles to go. We expect to see land by Friday night. We got into the danger zone to-night. Some on board are pretty nervous. Every precaution has been taken in-

WAR PRISONER WRITES

LANCE-CORP. W. HOLTHAN, KINGSTON, CAPTURED.

By the Germans While Giving Drink to Capt. George T. Richardson's Servant, Who Was Wounded—Being Treated Well.

Mrs. W. Holthan, 64 Markland street, on Monday received a letter from her husband, Lance-Corp. Holthan, who is a prisoner of war in Germany. Corp. Holthan went from Kingston with the First Canadian Contingent. His letter is dated May 23rd at Gessen, Allemagne: "I am writing to you from Germany to tell you that I am a prisoner of war. I was captured on the 24th of April after the great battle. You will be worried, I expect, and you set to know the result. There are only a few of our battalion here, but there are nearly a thousand Canadian taken prisoners all together. Murray is here. He is the only one besides one other I know from Kingston. We are being treated all right, being kept clean, but it is awfully monotonous. We can't get any news of any sort. I shall be glad when you get this letter. Then your mind will be relieved and you will know I am safe till the war is over.

"I don't want you to worry now, as I am not allowed to think it must have been you praying for me saved me. There are not many men saved out of the 2nd Battalion. All the officers of our company have been killed except Capt. Richardson. I was giving his servant a drink of water when I got captured. He was wounded. I hope to be with you again, but you must wait patiently now you know I am safe.

"As far as I know there are twelve Kingston men here, including Sergt. Cross, Corp. Murray, Ptes. Hancock and Murphy. The remainder I don't know, but they joined the 14th. "Germany is a fine country, and Belgium too. If you send a parcel send some biscuits and tobacco, and enquire the best way to send it. You won't have to pay any postage. Hope you will all keep in good health till I return."

Another Prisoner of War. A telegram was received by Mrs. John Taylor, Montreal street, from the Adjutant-General at Ottawa on Monday that her husband is now a prisoner of war in Germany. Mr. Taylor was attached to the 13th Battalion, C. E. F., and enlisted with the 5th Royal Scots at Montreal. He is a brother-in-law to Gunner F. Murray, who was killed at the front, and also to Joseph Murray, who is also a prisoner of the Germans.

Bryce Davidson a Prisoner. A telegram received by Mrs. William Davidson, Sixth street, mother of Pte. Bryce Davidson, who a couple of weeks ago was reported missing, stated that Bryce was now in the hands of the Germans and in good health. The captured Canadian soldier was taken after the battle of Langemarck, and three weeks ago he wrote from his German detention camp to his sister in Toronto. The latter sent the news to Mrs. Davidson on Monday, and she was jubilant when she heard her son was safe.

At the Court House. David Sly, Sharbat Lake, charged with assault, will be tried in the County Judge's Criminal Court on Wednesday morning. The General Sessions of the Peace and the County Court will be held on "Buy Talcum Powders," Gibson's, June 8th.

Ready for Assembly. All arrangements have been made at Grant Hall for the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, which opens Wednesday night. Luncheon and dinner will be served to the delegates in the basement. Three class rooms and two other rooms have been set aside for the tables. Messrs. Reid & Hambrook are the caterers. Mr. Hambrook being in charge. Mr. Reid is catering at the Methodist Conference, which opens this week in Ganouque.

"Buy Talcum Powders," Gibson's, June 8th.

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The war within your mouth. All day long the battle is waged. The hottest fighting is after meal times. Tiny particles of food remain in your mouth—even after you thoroughly brush your teeth. These particles ferment to become acid. The acid tries its best to hasten decay of the teeth. Too often it succeeds. To fight acid comes your own saliva. Saliva is alkaline. When it reaches the acids it neutralizes them, rendering them harmless. But—many folks haven't enough saliva. Modern diet has too much starch—a depressant to the salivary flow. Naturally you want to know what will keep the mouth normally moist and healthy. Sterling Gum is a genuine corrective in mouth hygiene—a delicious, clean product with a sweet, natural after-taste. Chew Sterling Gum a few minutes after each meal for one week and notice the benefits. Sterling Gum. Made in Canada. REFRESHING PEPPERMINT 5c. The Sterling Gum Co. of Canada, Limited.

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