

SPECIALISTS OF TRENCHES

II.—THE MACHINE GUNNER.

By A.M.I.

In the early days of the war, the machine gun section was awarded the somewhat gruesome title of the "Suicide Club." Since then this title has been usurped by some other special sections, but the machine gunners, being the first to earn it, still claim it as their own, and are proud of it. For their work has always been of the dangerous type, both in defence and attack. The importance of the machine gun was early apparent. The preponderance held by the Germans in this kind of weapon was a great handicap to the first British armies. But its value was soon realized, and special attention was devoted to furnishing large numbers of the weapons, and to training the men in large numbers to use them.

A machine gun is a delicate weapon, and requires skilful handling. So the men of machine gun companies, corps and sections have to undergo a thorough training in the use of their guns before they are allowed to use them in action. Most of our soldiers know how to use a Lewis gun in an emergency, but only a specialist can keep one in constant working order. He has to learn not only how to fire his weapon, but also how to strip and assemble it at lightning speed. He has to learn the causes of stoppages, and how to remedy the fault in a few seconds. For when machine guns are in action their value depends upon the continuous stream of fire they can pour upon the enemy. Should a stoppage occur, the stream of bullets ceases, and the gun is out of action, so the machine gunners must be able to bring their gun into play with as little delay as possible.

The machine gunners are divided roughly into classes. The biggest class is made up of divisional and brigade machine gun companies. Their weapons are the heavier type of machine guns, usually the Colt or the Vickers-Maxim. They are seldom seen in the front line trenches, but take up positions in the support or reserve lines, and in machine gun posts in rear of the front lines. Most of the firing they do is what is known as indirect fire. They fire by map and compass, and are very accurate. They themselves cannot see, but of which they know the map location, in their work they fire over the heads of their own comrades in the front lines just as the artillery do. There is no limit to the variety of targets which they have. They may have to sweep the parapets of the enemy trenches so as to keep down observation. Sometimes they may send a shower of bullets into a clump of trees which may conceal sniping or observation posts. Every night they sweep the roads and light railways behind the main lines on the chance of catching bodies of troops on their way to and from the trenches. Cross roads behind the trenches come in for their special attention, especially when it has been reported that the trench garrisons on the opposing side are being relieved. They cause many casualties, if one judges by the damage done by the enemy's indirect fire amongst our own troops.

Although they are not in the front lines, their work is risky. When

the enemy locates their position, a few salvos of shells makes life most uncomfortable for them. Sometimes they have to change their position many times during the night in order to avoid casualties or loss of their gun. But still every night sees them on duty, and every night the boys in the front line can hear their bullets passing overhead to a bullet somewhere on the other side of no man's land.

The other general class of machine gunners is made up of those attached to their battalions or companies as machine gunners. Instead of the heavier type of machine gun, they use the lighter, more portable Lewis gun. It has become a very valuable weapon during this war, although the invention was refused by many governments before it was accepted. It is a deadly weapon, firing at the rate of 700 bullets a minute. It weighs only 26 pounds, can be carried around easily, and has a butt attached so that it can be fired from the shoulder while the barrel rests on the parapet. The gunners themselves have a dangerous job. A machine gun in the trenches is looked upon by the enemy as a deadly pest, and the gunners come in for a great deal of attention from artillery and bombers. In defence, the Lewis gunners are the mainstay of the line. Before their fire, attacking waves melt away and the attacks break down. Providing that there are no stoppages, which may be caused by defective ammunition, dirt in the gun, or breakage of parts, the Lewis gunners can easily repulse any attack, if sufficient numbers of them survive the preliminary bombardment. But the enemy always pays special attention to any suspected machine gun attacks.

In an advance, the Lewis gunners form part of the garrisons of the advance posts. They are strung out in old trenches, shell-holes or in any place where a little cover can be obtained. And to them usually belongs most of the credit of the failure of enemy counter attacks. As an experienced gunner once said, "The thicker they come, the better we like it," for a few machine guns can put up an impassable barrier across no man's land.

During great spells on the line, the machine gunners are always active. There are always enemy working parties to be dispersed. A sudden burst of machine gun fire will always catch a few heads which have been raised above the parapet. If caught in time, a raiding party is soon wiped out by a Lewis gunner. But their chief value is in defence. Strong points and villages can be made impregnable to infantry attack by the judicious use of machine guns. And so it is that the men behind the guns are exposed to great storms of shells. Nothing else will move them, and so the artillery are turned upon the positions. As the war goes on, the machine gun is being given a greater place in the operations. And now the "Suicide Club" once only a small section in each it has now become a corps by itself. Thus the machine gunners now form perhaps the largest body of the specialists in the trenches.

cause of the fire is unknown. John Craven was in Ottawa at the time. W. P. Deroche, Mrs. Costigan, Master Hamel and Miss Mary Costigan are spending Easter in Ottawa, the guests of Col. A. P. Deroche. Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Brooks of Montreal are spending Easter with her father, George Grievie, Albert Hartlett, of Rochester, N.Y., is spending a few days in Nanapanee. George H. Crabbe of Belleville, is spending Easter with his daughter, Mrs. Cline. Miss Bessie Sherwood is spending Easter with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Sherwood.

J. M. Graham has purchased R. J. Wales' blacksmith shop and the building next to it—presently occupied by the Gibbard Furniture Co. W. G. Schell has sold a portion of his fruit farm at Kelowna, B.C., for \$11,000. Mr. Schell expects to settle in this locality. Allan Simpson has moved into the house lately occupied by Garrett Taylor.

GUN MOTHER FACES TRIAL

Christina McKay Committed on Charge of Murdering Baby. Perth, Ont., March 30.—The preliminary hearing took place before Magistrate Taylor in the case of Christina McKay, aged twenty-seven years, whose thirteen months old child was found dead in bed on the 13th of March at the residence of Rev. D. Clayton, where the girl was employed as a domestic. The coroner's jury previously had brought in a verdict of "suffocation from causes unknown." The child's mother said she overlay it during sleep. The accused was committed for trial on a charge of murder.

Unless people swallow flattery it is liable to make them sick.

EASTER IN THE CHURCHES

LARGE CONGREGATIONS ATTENDED THE SUNDAY SERVICES

The Music Was a Special Feature—An Eastern Cantata Was Given in the First Baptist Church.

St. Luke's church was profusely decorated with Easter lilies and other flowers for the great queen of festivals on Sunday. Holy Communion was celebrated by the rector at 8 a.m. The attendance at this service was the largest on record. After matins at 11 a.m. the second celebration of the Holy Communion followed. The musical part of the service was of a high order. Miss Spencer was soloist in the anthem, "King of Kings." During the offertory Mrs. T. Morris sang "O Easter Morn." At 3 p.m. a special children's service was held. The mite boxes were presented by the children and amounted to over \$40. The church was crowded to the doors at the evening service. The rector preached at both services. The anthem, "Ave! Thou That Sleepest," was well rendered by the choir, as was Mrs. H. Horton's solo, "Hosannah," during the offertory. The proceeds for the day were about \$250.

In Sydenham Street Church.

The musical programme provided by Miss Shaw and the splendid choir of Sydenham street Methodist church on Sunday was one of the best ever given in the city. The congregations at both services were large. The programme of both services were: Anthems, "The Death of King Richard," "They Have Taken Away My Lord," postlude, "Hallelujah Chorus" and "March Cortège" by Ernest Macdonald; solos by Miss Woodman, Mrs. Good, Miss Bell, W. Mack, H. Anderson; violin selection by Arthur Locke; collo selection by Prof. Eaton.

At Queen Street Methodist Church.

The Easter music in Queen Street Methodist church on Sunday was especially fine and appropriate and splendidly rendered. The anthems were executed in a decidedly effective way; the one "Awake Thou That Sleepest," with the soprano solo "My Hope Is in the Everlasting," by Mrs. J. Evans was highly appreciated. The solos of Joseph Hodge and Alan Harter were choice. The male quartette also sang well together. Rev. Mr. Ellis' sermons were apt and interesting. The Sunday school had an open session with review of the quarter's lessons by Rev. Mr. Ellis, Messrs. W. G. Anderson, G. R. Smith, and R. M. Allen. Mr. Meek also took part in the proceedings. An interesting event was the baptism of three infants by the pastor.

First Baptist Church.

At the First Baptist church on Sunday night a beautiful cantata entitled, "The First Easter," was given by an augmented choir under Sydney Salbury, and with fine effect. The singing of the different parts was excellent. Those who took part in solos and duets were Mrs. Mathers, Miss Muriel Braithwaite, Miss Edna Singleton, Serg. Nayer, Rupert Claxton and Peggy. The Sunday evening service, marking the last of the union services of the First Baptist and Congregational churches. Yesterday morning Capt. J. K. Fairfull spoke and in the evening Rev. Dr. Courcy Raynor officiated. Miss Margaret Foster sang in good voice at the morning service and Miss Winnifred Woolgar took the solo part of the anthem.

Princess Street Church.

The choir of Princess street Methodist church, of which Miss Wilder is leader, assisted by M. James, an Ottawa soloist, attending the university, gave a very inspiring programme of Easter music on Sunday. Rev. H. E. Curry officiated at both services. Miss S. Parrott and Mrs. Patterson took the solo parts of the anthems, "King of Kings," "Thanks be to God," and "Christ is Risen Today." Mr. Jones sang in good voice, several solos.

St. Mary's Cathedral.

Large congregations attended the morning and afternoon services in St. Mary's cathedral. Under the direction of Prof. Noury the musical programme was excellent and great credit is due to the choir for the very able manner in which the very difficult music was rendered. The programme for the pontifical high mass was as follows: Offertory, "March, Gull-mant, Vid, Aquam," and Psalm, "Mass of St. John the Baptist, composition of Rev. Father Turner, O.S.B.; Kyrie, choir; Gloria, choir; Dominus Deus, solo. Serg. G. Staley; Credo, choir; Et incarnatus ER, soloist Serg. J. Langille and J. P. Karer; Grande Offertorio, "Missa Regina Caeli, solo by Prof. A. Noury; Santus, choir; Benedictus, quartette composed of Messrs. Milo, Bryson, Norris and Prof. A. Noury; Agnus Dei, duet, Milo and Bryson; Misereatur, Auet, Kane and McFarlane; Agnus, choir; God Save the King; Gounod's Marche Militaire, organ.

St. Andrew's Church Music.

At the morning service in St. Andrew's church, the music consisted of a ladies trio "Lift Thine Eyes," from "Elijah," and the anthem, "I Am He That Liveth." In the evening Arthur Craig sang the solo, "Hosannah" (Granier). Two anthems were sung by the choir, "Christ is Risen From the Dead," and "Saviour Thy Children Keep," the latter being especially well rendered. The solo parts during the day were taken by Mrs. Craig, Miss Jean Craig, Miss Foster, Cyril Archer and Mr. Craig.

At St. George's Cathedral.

A large congregation assembled in St. George's Cathedral Sunday morning to join in the celebration of

Easter. Lilies decorated the altar, chancel and pulpit. From the first line of the processional hymn, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," the service was calculated to convey the great message of the resurrection. The Dean preached from the text "and Jesus stood in the midst and said 'Peace be unto you.'" The anthem, "Easter Triump," was sung during the offertory, the solos being sung by Howard and Peter Fair, and C. B. S. Harvey. Between 500 and 600 communicants attended at the 8.00 a.m. and 11 a.m. celebrations. The Bishop of Ontario preached in the evening and dealt with the significance of the resurrection and showed that everything for the ultimate good exactly sacrificed—we can have nothing worth having that is not won as Christ won. He also pointed out the comfort to mourners that the Easter message conveys. Clark's evening service was exceptionally well rendered, C. B. S. Harvey singing the solo in the Nunc Dimittis during the offertory. Mr. Harvey sang in good voice the solo in "I Am He That Liveth."

At St. Paul's Church.

Beautiful Easter music marked both the services at St. Paul's church on Sunday. Special anthems bearing on Easter were rendered with fine effect. At the evening service, Mrs. Hill, wife of the organist and choirmaster sang in a fine solo. From the pulpit the rector, Canon W. P. Fitzgerald, spoke of the large attendance of communicants and stated that there were present at 8 o'clock service would never forget the sight. He thought this was due to the fact that intercession services had been held during the week for the troops at the front.

A Soldiers' Service.

At 10 a.m. Sunday Dean Starr held an open air service in front of the Court House for the part of the 1st Depot Battalion under quarantine. The men joined heartily in the service. At the conclusion, the Dean administered the communion to a large number of the men who appreciated the opportunity afforded.

Brock and Cooke's Churches.

Cooke's and Brock street congregations held a united service in Brock street church, and the music of the day was in special keeping with Easter-tide. The programme was one of very high merit. The anthems and Passover were rendered with fine effect. The anthems included "Awake My Glory," "God So Loved the World" (from Stainer's Crucifixion), "Angus Orr sang, "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings," and Dr. P. L. Nesbitt rendered "I Come to Thee," Mrs. Crawford sang "Christ is Risen Today." Miss Nesbitt presided at the organ and also rendered a very beautiful number.

St. James' Church.

The Easter musical service at St. James was exceptionally well chosen. In Robinson's the tenor solo was sung by Mrs. L. Foster. Noble's "Klein Christ" was sung during the offertory, Corporal Lighthouse took the tenor solo in good voice. In the evening "Chambers Evening Service," and the anthem, "Christ Our Passover were rendered with fine effect. In the latter Miss Olive Derry sang the solo and Misses Perry, Bureau and Messrs. Bradley and Nelson sang the quartette.

CHILDREN ARE IN DANGER

DRIVER HAD A NARROW ESCAPE FROM AN ACCIDENT.

In Trying to Avoid Running Down a Child—Parents Should See That Their Children Keep to the Walks. With the opening of the roads to automobile traffic, the Whig has been asked to voice a protest against children playing on the roads. This practice has become so widespread in Kingston streets that accidents are bound to occur this year unless the parents insist that their children remain off the highway. On Sunday afternoon a driver almost wrecked his car in an attempt to save a child on Alfred street. He avoided an accident, but only at great risk to himself. It will be remembered that last year a doctor met with an accident on upper Princess street, under the same circumstances. No driver wants to strike a child with his machine and no mother wants her child hit, but with this in mind it is a pity that children are allowed to play on the streets. To use the streets as playgrounds of someone's little boy or little girl is bound to be injured.

THE WORLD'S NEWS IN BRIEF FORM

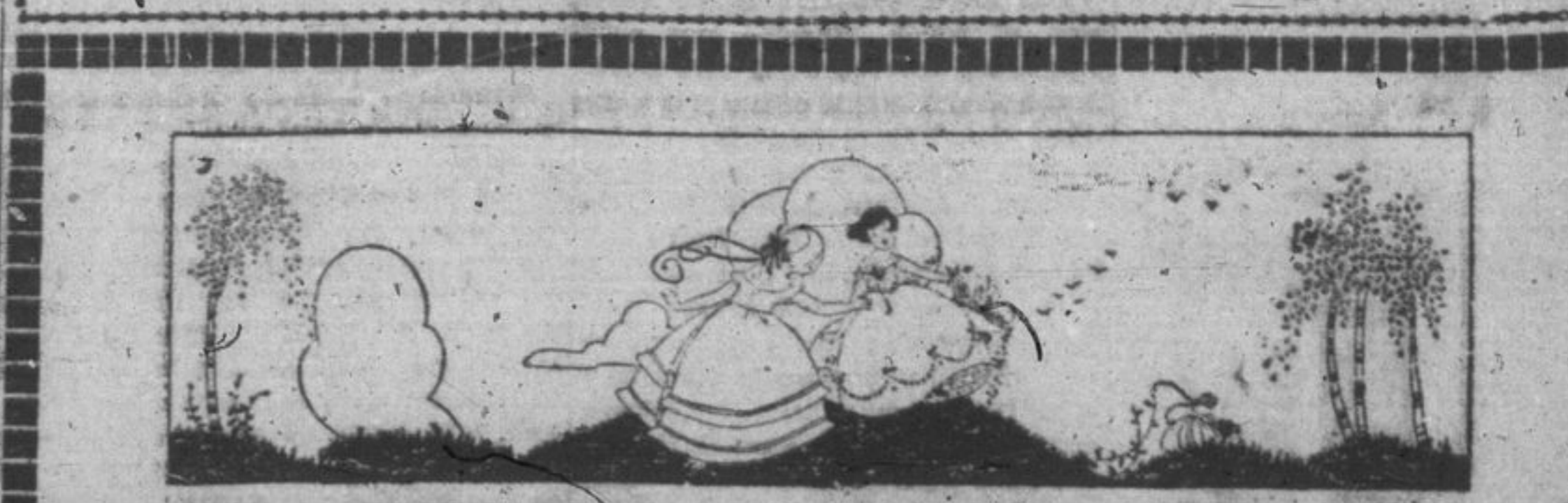
Tidings From All Over Told in a Pithy and Pointed Way.

Lady missionaries were appointed by the Presbyterian Home Mission Board for the first time in its history. The complete abolition of wheat and wheat products from the menus of all first class hotels in the United States to help the Allies is promised. The workmen in the New York Air Brake Co., Watertown, N.Y., are insisting on the removal of the manager on the ground that he is a German. Sensational documents showing how Germany early in the war endeavored to break the enemy's morale by inspiring sabotage, strikes and anarchy, have fallen into the hands of the French staff.

100,000 AMERICANS ENTERING THE BATTLE

(Canadian Press Despatch.) With the American Army in France, April 1.—All American troops have been turned over to the Allies and their activity under way in the whole American zone. Mile after mile of Americans are on the move. One hundred thousand American fighting men fully equipped are available at once.

Probs: Tuesday, scattered showers; mostly fair.



Easter Week is Fashion Week at Steacy's

Our special display of new spring modes continues throughout the week with many late novelties that arrived too late for Easter.

SUITS AND COATS

A large and distinctive showing of the newest spring modes awaits your inspection here — never were the styles so attractive nor the values quite so alluring as the ones now on display. Suits from \$16.50 to \$42.50. Coats from \$9.98 to \$35.00.

MILLINERY

The hundreds of shoppers who visited our millinery salon on Easter Saturday were loud in their praises of the beauty of our new spring hats and many were the exclamations of amazement at the smallness of price. Have you seen our new showing? Its beauty is truly indescribable; one must see it to be appreciative!

NEW NECKWEAR NEW BLOUSES NEW GLOVES NEW HOSE

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BORN.

FUNNELL — At Switzerville, on Mar. 1st, to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Funnell, a daughter. ROSE — In Picton, March 19th, to Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Rose, a son (stillborn). SPRAGUE — At Big Island, March 21st, to Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Sprague, a son. PARKS — In Southampton, March 21st, to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Parks, a son. STEINBURGH — In Picton, March 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Steinburgh, a daughter.

DIED.

CLARK — In Picton, Mar. 25th, Margaret Ann Palmer, wife of the late John Clark, in her 84th year. NORTON — In Hallowell, March 25th, Smith V. Norton, aged 73 years. PECK — At Big Island, March 26th, 1918, William Ferguson Peck, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peck, aged three days. VAN DER BRUG — At Centerville, on Mar. 23rd, William VanDerBrug, aged 72 years. YOUNG — In Picton, March 25th, Benjamin Young, aged 43 years.

Giant of High Explosives.

John's straight in April. The Review. The best of all the modern explosives, trinitrotoluene or T. N. T., is being manufactured from toluene with the aid of nitric and sulphuric acids at the rate of many tons per day. The power of this explosive was never shown in a more tragic and overwhelming manner than in the recent destruction of Halifax, which was brought about by the explosion of a cargo of T.N.T. in the harbor. Other high power explosives, picric acid or trinitrophenol, gum cotton or nitrocellulose, nitroglycerin, the explosive ingredient of dynamite, and nitrogelatin, are being manufactured on a colossal scale under the direction of expert chemists. Let the compounding go a bit too fast and temperature control be lost, then the giant powers inevitably pass from the control of man, whose only safety lies in flight from the approaching volcanic upheaval.

For the scientist all of these high explosives are substances whose ultimate molecules are extraordinarily unstable, because they contain in closest proximity within each molecule the combustible ingredient of the nitro. Or, in more modern terms, these explosives contain huge quantities of electricity, in the form of electrons ready to leap within each tiny world like a flash from atom to atom, and when they do let go, producing gas that can raise cities and remove hills by the energy of their quick expansion. But "that is another story," to which I have referred only to emphasize that it is through our knowledge and control of this ultimate structure of matter that chemistry can transform at will the same crude material into either a destructive giant, like T. N. T., or into the fairest of modern realisms—hypnotics, anaesthetics, and other curative agents.

Peterboro Resident Called Suddenly.

Peterboro, April 1.—George Mather, a well known grain merchant, died suddenly on Friday, aged fifty-eight years. Deceased had previously been in good health. He went to his office as usual and shortly afterwards took ill, but was unable to walk home. He died within a few minutes after his arrival. A widow and three daughters survive. The daughters are Miss Louise Mather, who is surviving in France; Miss Nellie Mather, nurse in training at Chilton Springs, and Miss Bessie Mather, at home.

Wood's Phosphorus.

The Brazilian Government on Saturday officially extended its congratulations to the Allies for their success against the German offensive. President Wilson has expressed his willingness to accept the honorary degree of doctor of laws from Cambridge University.

Best's Spring Tonics. Are prepared to give the quickest results — lasting, too. Sulphur and molasses... 25c Sarsaparilla Compound... \$1.00 Blood Purifier, 50c and \$1.00 Beef, Iron and Wine... 75c and \$1.00 Emulsion Cod Liver Oil, 50c and \$1.00. Popular Drug Store. Everything Photographic. Developing and Printing. Phone 59. Branch 2018.

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