Diary of Visit

to

Canadian Army

in

England and France

at the request of

The Canadian Government.

+ M. F. Fallon,

Bp. of London,

Ont.

~~JANUARY 1~~

Consult official papers from Maj.-Gen. Newburn, Min. of Militia, covering invitation and preliminaries.

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April 24, 1918 – Wednesday – via N.Y.

Boarded "Adriatic" at 3.30 p.m. Sailed at 10 a.m. following morning. On Friday morning our convoy consisted of 12 ships (Adriatic, Baltic, Kronia, Shropshire, Two Tankers, Auxiliary Cruiser Teutonic, Battleship Leviathan & others whose name I did not get) Camouflage. Airship, scout (balloon) for 1st day.

Adriatic had about 3000 U.S. officers & troops. Said to be about 14,000 in same in convoy, mostly from Kansas & Missouri. Few Catholics – Mass – Three days heavy weather; rest, fine.

Weird funereal aspect of ship after dusk. Remarkable experience of so many ships holding same position day and night for whole voyage!

From Friday a.m. May 3rd we were obliged to carry our life-belts constantly and we had two life-boat drills.

Early Sunday morning we were met by nine (9) Destroyers who kept watch as until

~~JANUARY 2~~

we reached Liverpool. A marvellous evidence of Britain's control of the seas.

Monday, May 6th at 2 p.m. we were startled by a shock that caused the "Adriatic" to tremble from prow to stern. "Torpedo" – "Mine" – Two depth Bombs from Destroyers; a shell from the "Teutonic" – all caused by "a floating spar" that looked like periscope of a submarine. This was what we were told. True? Perhaps. But a most hideous scare for all aboard. I noticed that the naval and military people were just as nervous and apparently as much afraid as the civilians.

I had as my table companion Earl Kitchener of Khartoum (brother of K. of K. whose title he inherits) The Earl is a character. Talked mainly of "Roman Church", "Athanasian Creed" and "Irish Question": boiled me around. Daughter, Lady Nora a Catholic.

Met Mrs Hobart – of Serbian fame – a very intelligent & entertaining lady.

~~JANUARY 3~~

Her eldest brother, heir to a baronetcy, is a convert. Family occupies house where Card. Manning was born. She is a close friend of Sir H. Plunkett and a convinced advocate of Irish self-govt. Likewise well acquainted in N.E. Ulster. Told me Ulster Protestants, under influence of Carson, had beggared themselves to purchase arms and ammunition & they do not now want to quit. Said they had presented Sir E. Carson with replica of ship that did the gun-running at Larne.

Tuesday, May 7, a.m. Landed at Liverpool. Earl Kitchener and myself were expected and allowed ashore at once. I went to Holy Cross Church where I remained until the following Monday, May 13th.

Visited New Anglican Cathedral at Liverpool. Lady Chapel a gem. Gladstone's birthplace, 62 Rodney St.

Card Liverpool opinion re Ire. as I gathered it:- "Give Ire. full & most generous measure of self-govt, and their trust her to do her share in the War".

Preached in Holy Cross on Sunday p.m.

~~JANUARY 4~~

Visited Rock Ferry on Saturday - Went to Aerodrome outside R.F. and was much interested in the plant and training school. Many aeroplanes at work -

Preached in R.F. Sunday a.m.

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Came up to London, Monday May 13th

That evening visited Catholic Soldiers' Club - 24 Grosvenor Gardens - Splendid institution for Canadian soldiers in London on leave or business.

May 14th - Visited His Em. Card. Bourne - a.m. His Em. spoke of loss of Card. Moran's influence because of the attitude of Archp. Manning. Also referred to exaggerations regarding conversions (15 to 40 thousand) among soldiers. 2 to 3 thousand would be much nearer truth. Still movement was important in its dispelling of prejudice and opening of Prot. soldiers eyes to what Church and Priest mean for Cath. especially in moments of danger & death.

P.M. Saw Sir Ed. Kemp. He was very courteous. Set things in motion at once in my favor. Spoke very

~~JANUARY 5~~

plain on my Letter on Union Govt. Also went over the military situation in France, pointing out present line on the large map, and showing German objective (Abbeville)

May 15th – Saw Genl Turner, G.O.C London. Found him most courteous + obliging. He gave orders to have my visit made as interesting as possible and instructed his aides to do whatever was necessary for that end.

Called at same time on Col. Pope who promised to arrange visit to Grand Trunk

P.M. Went To Ontario Hospital at Orpington, 14½ miles from L. Over 2200 beds. Model institution and it is evident that best provision is made for care of sick and wounded. Marvels of surgery are well shown in Museum where Dr Duff's paintings give a graphic illustration of what progress is making in surgery. Models are on exhibition to represent how the most desperately wounded are built up, metal

~~JANUARY 6~~

the organs, limbs or other parts that had been so badly shattered as to seem to make the case hopeless are so built up that appropriate description of the results appears impossible – Address to men in Auditorium.

The dept of dentistry is likewise most remarkable. Shattered and broken jaws, destroyed teeth, deformities that made the patient an object of horror are treated so successfully that the organs are almost as good as before the injury.

Paid a visit to the orphanage in the neighborhood under the direction of the Presentation Brothers. The boys gave us a splendid Band Concert.

May 16th –

Interview with Sir George Perley, High Comr for Canada. Discussed French question. When he heard my views and explanations, he said "I wish you would come to dine with me to-morrow. I should like to have you meet Col. Blondin and get his point of view as well as give him yours." I accepts

~~JANUARY 7~~

P.M. – Went with Father Jones Fallon as guest of General Alexander McDougall (son of late Auditor General of Can.) to Sunningdale to visit Base Camp of Can. Forestry Corps. Site of Camp in Windsor Great Park near Windsor Castle. Splendid camp on model lines.

Work of Can. Forestry Corps very successful. Remarkable figures of amt. of timber cut.

Addressed mess. Splendid reception. Guest of Col. Penhorwood (S.S. Marie) at dinner. Col. Hepburn (Pictou) also present.

May 17th – my 51st Birthday. Spent morning getting White Pass to visit Canadian Corps and Lines of Communications in France.

P.M. – Met Lord Beaverbrook (Sir Max Aitken). Here is a big man – the biggest I have so far met in Eng. He grasps a situation at once. Almost before I had spoken three sentences, he said "I want to bring you around to see some of the Cabinet Ministers, I want to bring you to see the Prime Minister".

~~JANUARY 8~~

"I want to see him", I replied. "I feel I have something to say that he should hear. I have worked and hoped and suffered for 25 years for a political ideal which is now endangered. In the support of this ideal I have alienated the sympathy of many of my own people." "Yes", he broke in "I know. You must see him as soon as possible. When are you going to France?" "In a day or two" I replied "most likely on the 20th inst." "It will be difficult to see him before that". "It may be too late after I return" I answered. "Yes," he said "but don't scold him. He is carrying a heavy burden and is breaking under it." I left him then and the interview was not arranged before I started for France.

7.45 p.m. Dined with Sir George Perley and Col. P.E. Blondin. Had a full discussion with Blondin on the Fr. Can. question. He has become an extraordinary imperialist. Declared he was going to devote himself hereafter to education in Quebec. Said he had paid for the J.M. Vincent pamphlet on

~~JANUARY 9~~

Regulation 17. Stated that those who said Quebec was bilingual were "liars", and he would tell them so. He amazed me. I told him the story of how the Hanna memo. was written and how it became public. He came with me to the Club where we parted bosom friends. He told me that he was going to write to Roy, Can. Commr in Paris to have me visit the French Army.

May 18th – Another visit to Virginia Waters with Father Casgrain. On way out Fr. C. told me of the mess that Imp. Govt had made in Russian affairs by sending Milner instead of a member of Royal Family. (Prince Arthur of Connaught has gone to Japan?) The Duke of Connaught would have been the man for Russia. Fr. C. said there was fear of the defection of Italy.

Saw beautiful Barge given to Queen Victoria in 1887; it has been twice in water since.

Much kindness from Genl Alex. McDougall, Col Penhorwood and Col. Hepburn.

~~JANUARY 10~~

May 19th. P.M. – Preached Kilburn. General impression I gain is that very few Irishmen – priests or laity – are sincere Sinn Feiners in the extreme sense.

11 p.m. – London's worst air raid to date. About 11 p.m. the Maroons gave warning of the approach of the hostile air-craft. This warning was followed by police whistles "Take to shelter". The hum of the German airships was soon heard; searchlights streaked the sky, big guns and anti-aircraft artillery boomed forth, red and green signals flashed from our airships, pieces of shrapnel fell in the street in front of St Michael's Club and the heavens were alive with bursting shells. The effect was appalling and weird, the uncanny feeling being increased by the fact that no sign could be had of the fighters in the sky.

May 20th Left London at 11.50 a.m. for Folkestone and Boulogne. The War

~~JANUARY 11~~

Office had sent word ahead and I had the novel experience of being met everywhere by imperial officials who treated me with the greatest courtesy and made travelling extremely pleasant as well as easy.

At Bonlonge I was met by Capt. Shaughnessy, son of Lord S., who took me by motor to Pernes, to Headquarters of the Canadian Corps. Capt. S. told us of the aerial raiding at Etaples on Sunday night.

Gen'l Sir A. W. Currie received me with greatest cordiality and made me his guest at his mess. I was billeted in Bp.'s room at house of the Curé of Pernes. At Gen'l Currie's mess met Gens Morrison, Woker, Watson, Lindsay, and an old Ottawa boy — Major Willis O'Connor.

At this dinner had a long and intimate talk with Gen'l Currie who impressed me as one of the biggest men I have ever met. The combination of ability and simplicity, of high command and

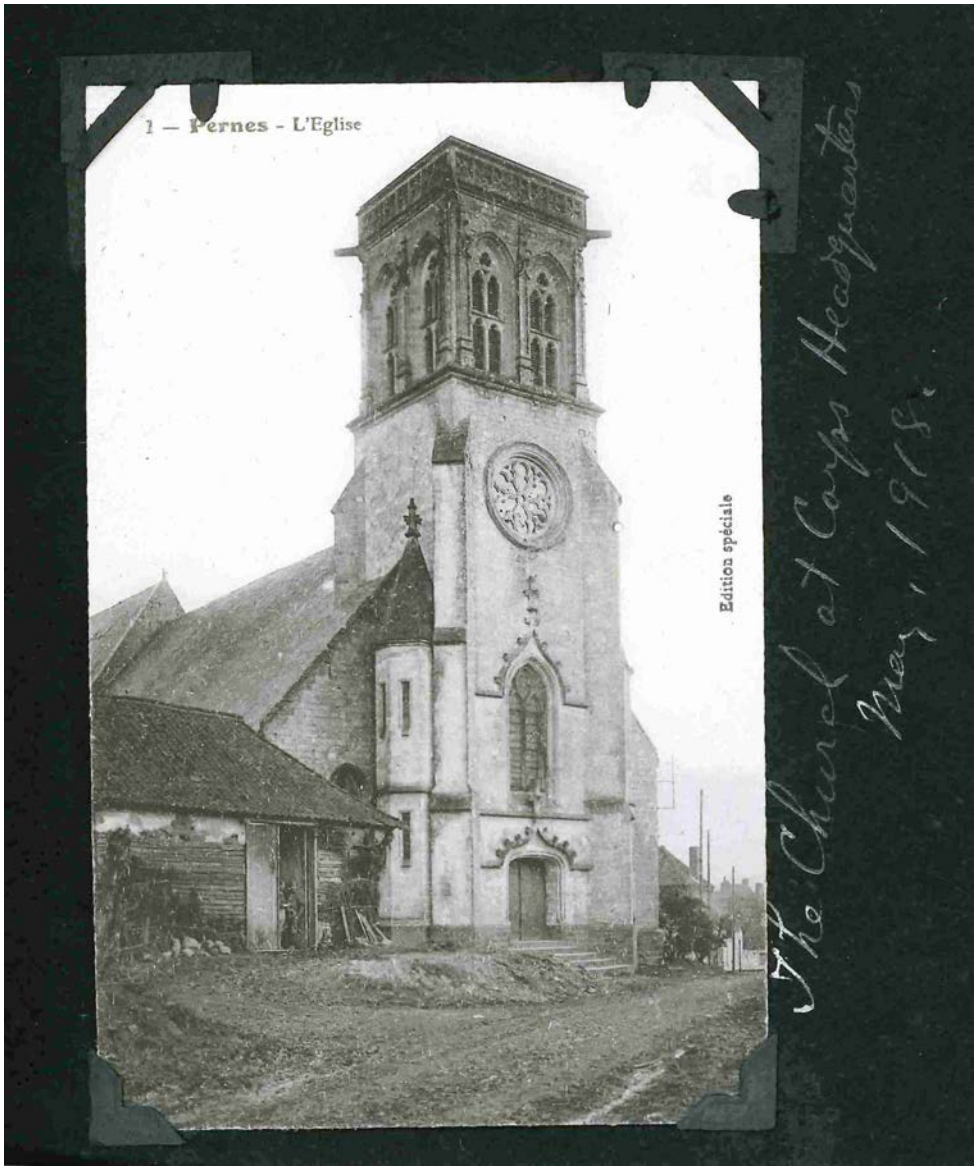
~~JANUARY 12~~

humility in Gen'l Currie is such as I have rarely if ever found in any other person. He went into details to show how Canada leads the way in machine gun work, in light railroads, in sanitation and in the transport service.

May 21 st. Attended a sham battle between division commanders respectively by Gen'ls Morrison and McBrian. Went out to battlefield with G. O. C. in his car, which he then placed at my disposal. I went around the whole field and had the fullest opportunity to view the operations from best sides. met Gen Horne Com. 1st Br Army

Went over to Chateau Bréas to meet Gen'l Watson, an old acquaintance and proprietor of Quebec Chronicle. He is strong on the shame of Quebec in the matter of enlistment and its attitude vis-a-vis the Military Service Act, as well as on the Fr. Can. situation generally.

P. M. Went to Frevillers to see Father Chas. Fallon, who came back to Pernes with Fathers French, O'Gorman


1 — Pernes - L'Eglise
Edition spéciale
The Chural at Corps Headquarters
May, 1918.

~~JANUARY 13.~~

and myself. On the return journey as we passed through Hondain about 10.45 p.m., Fritzie dropped a bomb from an aeroplane that was humming overhead. The bomb burst about a hundred yards from us. I thought it was underneath our automobile, as we sped along at breakneck rate. I felt that it was getting the worth of my money. A few minutes later a German airship was to be seen distinctly in the junction of three of our searchlights. It was a remarkably beautiful sight and lasted about two or three minutes. But the aviator was evidently climbing and got away from the lights. The Germans were bombing about Peronne all night and our anti aircraft was very active. An enemy machine came down. There were three German officers in it. For over 24 hours these fellows hid right in our area, they got food, walked to roads, saluted our officers, and tried to get one of our planes for escape.

~~JANUARY 14~~

Finally they were captured and brought before Gen'l Watson, from whom I got the facts.

May 22nd. Ath and after breakfast I had a long talk with Gen'l Lindsay, chief of Canadian Engineer Corps. He went into the story of how Canada forged to the front in the matter of transportation in the forward area especially. The difficulties of transportation were enormous and the attempt was made to meet them by the old methods. Of course it was a huge success. Lorries, pack horses and mules, and, where these could not go, men were used to get the supplies to the Front. The expense was enormous, much time was lost, and it was impossible to keep the roads in repair. This was the greatest difficulty. The heavy traffic and the bad weather caused the highways to be ruined faster than they could be restored. It became imperative, therefore, to replace the worn out methods by new plans.

~~JANUARY 15~~

The Can. Engineer Corps did it by the system of light-railways and Trams. Every obstacle, however, was put in the way by both the Imperial and Canadian authorities. Routine and Red Tape had to be overcome. It was an "objectionable experiment", a "Toy railroad", upon which public money would be wasted. Gen'l Lindsay and his staff had to finance their own experiment, to find their own equipment and to defend their efforts. They had to make the spikes for their rails. The first "Tram" was made up of an engine that had been abandoned by the Bosche and was dug up by the Engineers and some old useless cars that had been repaired and remodelled. When this "Tram" brought a big load of supplies right up to the front line in less time and at less expense than could be done by any other system, the "Experiment" was a success. To-day, the Can. Light Rys (the Tram system) is one of the glories of our achievements. Gen'l Ma~~xsey~~, Com. of 18th Imperial

~~JANUARY 16~~

Army Corps, told me that it was the finest thing in Transportation that had ever been accomplished. Much time and expense are saved and large forces of men are relieved for other work. The morale of the men is likewise improved and their period of rest left intact, because they are not called upon to do so much heavy manual labor in and out of hours.

Had luncheon with General Dyer, a fine type of bluff old soldier, comes from Minnedosa, Man. On the way to him we saw the ruins of Lillers and St Pol, towns that had been bombed by the Germans in air raids and that are horribly destroyed. In the distance appeared the shattered towers of St Eloi. Gen. Dyer had been shot clean through the breast, the bullet coming out through his back. No one believed he could live, but to-day he is commanding a Brigade. He spoke of fine work of Chaplains and of the spirit of self sacrifice and unselfishness of the men. He hates war; its trials are beyond description; but it is the only way. He wished civilians

could understand the sufferings and privations of the soldiers. His men had just come back after 56 days in the trenches. It was the first rest of the Can. Corps in over a year and a half.

Visited Gen. Ensslie (R.C.) A charming gentleman, but got no information from him. Was told later by G.O.C. that Ensslie's health would oblige him to relinquish his command.

Dined with Gen'l Odlum. Went thoroughly with him into the Imperial question and the Commonwealth idea. Is a "Round Table" man. Has very definite views on the importance of Canada in the Commonwealth, and feels that the Imperial tie has not been strengthened by the War. Was very fair-minded on the Irish Question and on Cath. Education. Keen intellect and much of a student, but an extravagant admirer of what he is pleased to style "The University Word", by which he means those only who turn their intellectual energies towards the

destruction caused by so-called Higher Criticism. I refused to be pushed off the intellectual stage and told him plainly that he must not draw a circle round his pet ground and hold that all intellectuality was confined within his circle. Very interesting discussion on my statement that "The Army & the Cath. Ch. were both founded on the one principle - authority". The Gen'l got on the well known fallacy that Cath. Authority attempted to control "opinions" - and Army Authority only "actions". To my reply that "opinions" expressed in words were really "actions" and would be very readily dealt with by Army Authority, he had no answer. Conversation then touched the field of Faith and I declared that there would be no final triumph until God and His Divine Son, Jesus Christ, were publicly acknowledged along the Whole Western Front.

Gen'l Odlum has ambitions to play a part in future Can. public life. He is of a keen incisive mind but not so deep as its owner imagines

~~JANUARY 19~~

Lieut-Capt. Maurice Pope (Ottawa) at Gen'l Odlum's headquarters.

May 23rd—

Meeting of Chaplains.

(Report by Major, Rev. J. J. O'Gorman)

The meeting of Cath. Chaps. of Can. Corps area to meet Bp Fallon took place at the Officers Club, Camblain l'Abbé. Orders had been sent to all the Divs. to provide transportation for their Chaps. All the Chaps. of the Corps were present except Father Farther. There were fours from each Div. as well as Fathers Tompkins, Chas McDonald, Staley, R. Macdonald, Bradley, J.R. O'Gorman, and Hawks. These, with Fathers F.L. French and J.J. O'Gorman made 28 Can. Chaps. Lt.Col. Father Devos, S.J. Corps Chap. of the 18th Imperial Corps, was also present and thanked us for the use of our chapel tents. After lunch a group photo. of those present was taken.

The meeting was opened with prayer. It lasted three hours and a great deal of business was covered. Everybody was very happy, and there was not the slightest untoward incident. The

~~JANUARY 20~~

following are some of the conclusions reached:—

1— Impurity and venereal disease are unfortunately only too prevalent; and the percentage of Caths. who have contracted the disease is as high as the general average.

2— Drunkenness is rare.

3— Chaplains should be provided with proper transport:—

a) It is impossible for them to do their work without horse or bicycle, as many of them are now.

b) A bicycle is not a sufficient means of transport.

c) A motor cycle, with side car, is the best means of transport. The C.A.H. will supply funds for these and for the petrol necessary. Bp. Fallon will endeavor to procure the necessary authorization.

d) Failing this authorization, horses should be provided by the Army.

4— At present the erection of a Hut in the forward area is not advisable, owing to the frequent moves of the Can. Corps. Should

conditions allow so as to permit its erection and maintenance, it should be erected.

5 – The Chapel Tents are satisfactory and have been of the greatest utility. More should be ordered so as to be ready if needed. At present there are four on hand at Corps Headquarters to be distributed when Canadians proceed to forward area. Six more should be ordered at once, of exactly the same type.

6 – A lorry, or combination lorry and motor chapel would be advantageous, if authority can be procured.

7 – Large quantities of writing paper should be sent to all Chaps, desiring it, for indiscriminate distribution. Gramophones may be supplied to Officers' Messes. Sporting goods will be supplied to all who ask for them.

8 – Religious reading matter, and good reading matter not of a rel. character, will be supplied to all chaps. desiring same. Controversial pamphlets are not

desired. Pamphlets on the Pope and the War and on Social Questions are very useful.

9 – Cards were distributed giving the address of the Catholic Army Club, London. It was decided that a large number of posters should be printed and put in prominent spots to advertise these clubs.

10 – Bp. Fallon warmly commended the work of the London C. A. Clubs.

11 – It was announced that Altar breads and Altar wine may be procured from the C. W. L. Hut, Boulogne, at the expense of the C. A. H.

12 – The Chaps. requested Bp. Fallon to ask the Holy Father for permission to celebrate three masses on Sundays under the same conditions as they were celebrated two; and that the D. A. D. C. S. be granted authority to confirm soldiers when a Bp. is not easily available.

13 – Chaps in Eng. were requested to find out the Castles, who are to be sent

on Draft to France; and, in addition to giving them the sacraments, they should give them the name of the Cath. Chap. of the unit to wh. they are proceeding, and should notify the Chap. of the names of those who are coming.

14- Public information should be given to soldiers in Canada and France, that any Can. Soldier may at any time, by being paraded to the Hospital of his unit, obtain the name and location of the nearest Cath. Chap.

15- Arrangements were made that Bp. Fallon should confirm those soldiers who were ready to receive this sacr.

16 - Father Doras, S.J. asked Bp. Fallon to tell the Holy Father how thankful the Caths. of France and of the British Armies were to the British Govt for forbidding Non-Catholics ever to use Catholic Churches, even though disused or secularized, for religious services. It was pointed out that the Germans are not so particular.

17- A Brief reference was made to the Holy Name Society.

18- Chaps. were urged to make retreats annually, and Father Kent was instructed to apply for special leave for this purpose. Paris (and Lourdes) was suggested as the best place for a retreat.

19- Missions for Soldiers were urged by some Chaps., but were considered impossible by the older Chaps. present, except in very unusual circumstances.

20- It was decided that the Catholic Chapel Tents, surmounted by the Cross, should not be used for recreation purposes. Recreation Tents will be supplied to all Chaps. who can use them.

21- The question of the burial of Protestants was discussed. Bp. Fallon stated that when no Prot. Chap. was available, a priest might bury a Prot. or a Jew, by reading the Cath. burial service in Eng. but omitting the blessing of the grave. Or on account may a

JANUARY 25

Non-Cath. bury a Catholic.

22 - Any statements made by certain non-Catholics concerning a Communicatio in divinis are absolutely devoid of foundation.

23 - Bp. Fallon gave a touching address to the Chaplains, expressing the pride of the Bishops of Canada in the wonderful work that they were doing. He added that the religious future of half a continent depended on their efforts. He trusted that both they and their soldiers would return to Canada better men as the result of their work, their sufferings and their sacrifices Overseas. He concluded by giving his blessing.

24 - The Sub Juno was then recited and the meeting adjourned. A list is appended giving the names of those present. The other Chaplains who were attached to the Canadian Cavalry, the C.C.C.S's, C.R.T's or hospitals were too far distant to be able to come to the meeting. They will be visited individually

JANUARY 26

by Bp. Fallon.

On Thursday, May 23rd, 1918, a meeting of the Cath. Chaplains of the Can. Corps and vicinity was held to meet Bp. Fallon. There were present the following Chaplains:-

Canadian Corps Headquarters
Hon. Lt-Col F. L. French, D.S.O., D.A.D.C.S.

1st Can. Division
Hon. Capt. F. M. Lockary
" " F. P. White
" " B. J. Murdoch
" " M. J. Pickett.

2nd Can. Division
Hon. Capt. E. J. Macdonald
" " A. B. W. Wood
" " J. J. Desjardins
" " H. E. Leitang

3rd Can. Division
Hon. Major J. M. McCarthy, M.C.
" Capt J. F. Nicholson
" " A. B. Cote
" " W. B. Carleton

4th Can. Division
Hon Capt. W. L. Murray
" " C. A. Fallon
" " R. A. Macdonell, M.C.

~~JANUARY 27~~

Hon. Capt. M. Gillis
5th Can. Divisional Artillery
Hon. Capt. D. Macpherson
Can. Corps Heavy Artillery
Hon. Capt. M. N. Tompkins, M.C.
Can. Railway Troops
Hon. Capt. J. R. O'Gorman
" " E. Hawks
Can. Casualty Clearing Stations
Hon. Capt. J. L. Bradley
" " M. D. Staley
Can. Corps Reinforcement Camps
Hon. Capt. P. A. Macdonald
With Bp. Fallon
Hon. Major J. J. O'Gorman.

Fathers T. P. Hussey and Paul Costello came to see me at Pernes two days later. They regretted very much not having heard of the meeting of the 23rd. as they would certainly have made arrangements to attend it.

I saw Rev. Fathers Madden in England & again in France & Rev Fr. McGillivray in Eng.

~~JANUARY 28~~

Key to Photograph taken at Camblain l'abbé on May 23rd, 1918

Sitting – Left to right – Revs. T. M. Lockary, R. A. Macdonell, M.C., T. McCarthy, M.C., T. L. French, D.S.O., Rt Rev. M. F. Fallon, D. Macpherson (major) M. N. Tompkins, M.C. J. J. O'Gorman (major) H. E. Letang.

Centre Row – Left to Right – Revs. J. R. O'Gorman, T. P. White, W. L. Murray, A. B. Coté, B. J. Murdoch, J. L. Bradley, A. B. W. Wood, M. J. Pickett.

Top. Row. – Left to right – Rev. M. D. Staley, E. Hawks, C. A. Fallon, E. J. McDonald, P. A. Macdonald, J. J. Desjardins, M. Gillis, J. F. Nicholson.

Canadian Chaplains - Canadian l'Abbé - May 23, 1918.

~~JANUARY 29~~

~~JANUARY 30~~

After the chaplain's meeting I took tea with Lieutenant-General Sir Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O. commanding 18th Imperial Corps. The General is a brother of the editor of the National Magazine. Without warning he declared that he himself and "all of us" believe that the Holy Father and the Vatican are pro-German because the autocratic authority of the Kaiser and the principle of authority upon which the Catholic Church is founded must necessarily be sympathetic, since they are so similar. I put before him, though apparently with little success the attitude and the acts of the Holy See since the outbreak of the War, showing especially the bearing of the Pope's peace note and the various activities of the Holy Father which were plainly a condemnation of Germany and had been so accepted by the King and Gov't of Belgium. With English obstinacy, the General refused to yield, and I promised him that

I would lay the matter personally before the Hol. Pontiff and that I would communicate the Pope's reply to the Gen'l. Otherwise my visit was very agreeable.

Had dinner with Gen'l Watson, prop. of Quebec Chronicle. The Quebec question in particular and the Fr. Can. question in general was a topic of conversation. I find that Quebec and Ireland are a very real difficulty. For most of the people I have met. They are fair-minded and honest but they cannot understand the position taken by the Irish and the Fr. Canadians. The regrettable feature of the matter is the increase of prejudice against the Cath. Ch. Many a mind that has begun to feel the divine attraction of Catholicity is thrown back by this consideration. The Church is apt to suffer losses, both positive and negative as a consequence.

Gen'l Watson described very well the Portuguese defection

which caused the disaster at Armentières. These Gall and soldiers took off their boots that they might get away the faster. They took possession of ~~the~~ bicycles that had been parked without guard behind the lines. The only fighting they did was with the British troops that tried to prevent them from running away.

May 24th – Visited Gen'l A.C. Macdonell a relative of Senator Claude Macdonell. He is a fine old soldier whom I knew as a member of the R.M.C. football club back in 1886-7. After lunch on I went to the room of the Gen'l where we had a heart to heart talk. He was baptized a Catholic, but brought up a Protestant. Has lost his only son, Ivan, in this War, a young lad of 21 who was burned to a crisp in the flames of his falling aeroplane. The Genl has a very tender heart, notwithstanding his mustachios. He condemned very strongly the hysteria of the framers of the Can. Army. They do not understand "the law of averages", he said. I quite agree

~~FEBRUARY 2~~

with him. There followed an illuminating description of our and the Bosche lines as shown on the large map in the Genl's room.

From Genl Macdonnell's we went to dine with Col. Lister of the 102nd Batt. at Freviller. Father Charles Fallon is posted with this unit. The evening was most enjoyable, I addressed the officers present and was very well received. Col. Lister presented me with a beautiful match-box as a souvenir. There was a fine programme of music by an orchestra and some splendid singing.

To-day I passed through St. Pol and Lillers. Both of these towns have been terribly devastated by shells and bombs.

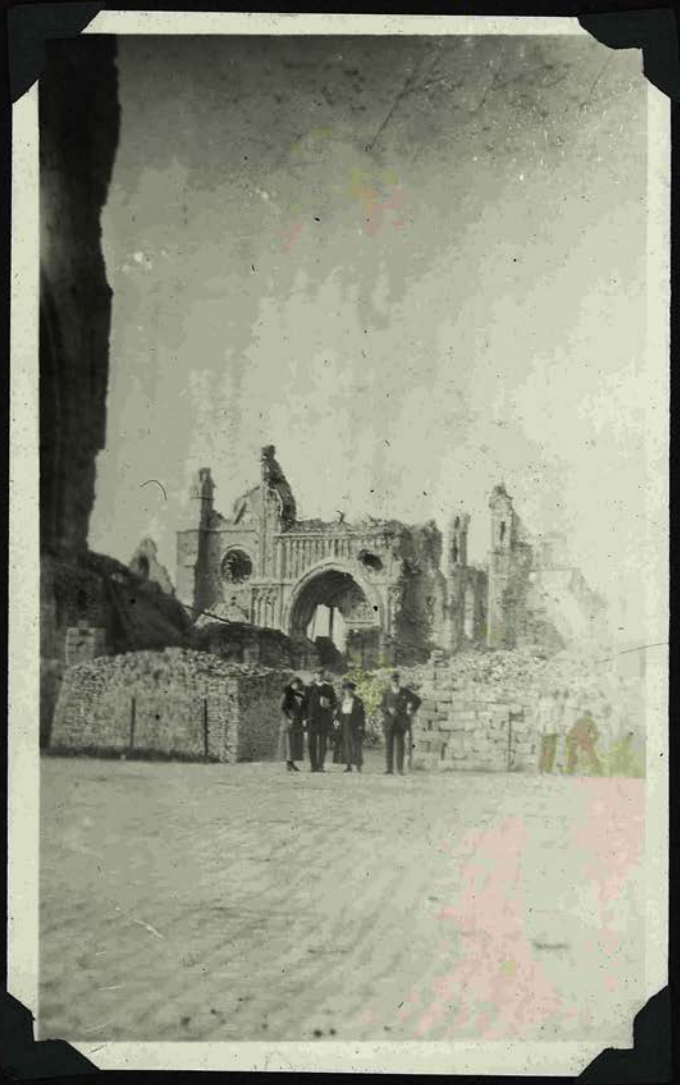
May 25th - By the courtesy of Genl Lindsay and under the guidance of Major Rogers, I made a trip to-day over the Canadian

~~FEBRUARY 3~~

Light Railways and Tramways in the "Private" Car "Conicagas". Nothing more interesting or instructive or more indicative of Can. energy and enterprise could well be imagined.

On our way by motor car we viewed at close range the desolation of Villers a Bois which had been shelled, and went up to the marvellous ruined towers of Mont St Eloy. This church had been destroyed at the Fr. Rev. and only its magnificent towers were standing at the outbreak of this war. Even these are now badly shattered. But their grandeur is still impressive. The three orders of Grecian architecture are visible in the doric, the ionic and the corinthian capitals of the beautiful columns. But alas! the towers are destined to fall to pieces. A few paces down the street stands a long low stone building, the centre of which was cut out by a shell and 17 persons killed.

After leaving the automobile for the "Conicagas" the first stop



~~FEBRUARY 4~~

was made at "Dinkeyville Dump" where enough ammunition is stored, one would think, to blow up the world. Ahead of us, to the left, we soon come in sight of Lorette Ridge; somewhat to the right of Lor. Ridge is Hill 170; and directly in front, Vimy Ridge!

Following the Souchez valley, through wh. runs the tiny stream called the Souchez River, we come upon the ruins of Carency and Souchez. Not a stone is left upon a stone of these towns. At Carency, the town major took me into the first dug out I had visited. It had been built by the Huns under the old monastery of Carency and beside the parish church. They used the crypt (perhaps the burial place of the monks) for underground shelter. The Boche construction seemed to have been made for a permanent residence. It is now a comfortable and safe quarters for the Canadian soldiers, and is fitted up even with a bath

~~FEBRUARY 5~~

tub. The Hun piano is, however, not in evidence.

Here, running through Carency, the Germans had a line that went over Lorette Ridge. In this area occurred one of the most remarkable battles of the War, when, in the spring of 1915, the French drove the Germans from what seemed to be impregnable positions and pushed them back over a large amount of territory. The remains of the German barbed wire entanglements, the Canadian new style of barbed wire defense, and the defense line trenches of our Army are everywhere visible along the Souchez valley.

About half way up the valley to the left, stands the ruined Gothic church of Ablain St Nazaire with the ruins of the shrine of Lorette in the background. Opposite the ruins of the church of Ablain St Nazaire I had my first glimpse of a Canadian cemetery in France! How many a bereaved Can. father or mother &c

PLOT. 1

wound long for the consolation of such a sight!

As we passed up the valley, leaving the desolate Souchez village behind, we came upon one of our batteries of artillery in action, blazing away over Vimy Ridge at the enemy behind it, six or seven miles in the distance. Our car stopped, and here I fired an 8 Howitzer at the Germans. The Report stated it was a fair shot. I stood behind gun no 6, which I had fired, and saw distinctly the shell issue from the muzzle of the gun and sail off into space.

All around the fields were red with poppies and I realized for the 1st time why Col. McCrae had written "poppies bloom" in Flanders fields.

The absolute ruin and desolation from this point on defies all description. Bully-Grenay, Cité de Jeanne d'Arc, and Lievin were once flourishing towns. The two last have been shelled and bombed and

smashed in a way that must be seen to be realized. Houses, public institutions, churches, railway stations and equipment are such a jumble of ruins as the worst combined fire and earthquake could not create. And yet right up here I found a dressing station fitted up like a modern hospital and ready to receive the wounded.

A little above this point we left our car and proceeded on foot and behind a protecting hedge to a spot of high ground about 200 yards beyond "Whizz Bang Corner". Here occurred an unusual and unpleasant experience. We had moved about in this vicinity for about 20 mins. straight in front of us was the city of Lens, now in German hands. The enemy line stretched along the valley beneath our feet, and with our glasses we could see 5000 yards beyond Lens and the Hun line. The moment was fascinating. Suddenly a

In Flanders Fields

BY LIEUT. COL. JOHN D. McCRAE

[Written during the second battle of Ypres, April, 1915. The author, Dr. John D. McCrae, of Montreal, Canada, was killed on duty in Flanders, January 28, 1918.]

IN FLANDERS fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amidst the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch. Be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

America's Answer

BY R. W. LILLARD

[Written after the death of Lieut. Col. McCrae, author of "In Flanders Fields," and printed in The New York Evening Post.]

REST ye in peace, ye Flanders dead.
The fight that ye so bravely led
We've taken up. And we will keep
True faith with you who lie asleep
With each a cross to mark his bed,
And poppies blowing overhead,
Where once his own life blood ran red.
So let your rest be sweet and deep
In Flanders fields.

Fear not that ye have died for naught.
The torch ye threw to us we caught.
Ten million hands will hold it high,
And Freedom's light shall never die!
We've learned the lesson that ye taught
In Flanders fields.

~~FEBRUARY 8~~

German shell fell about 150 yards to our left and as it exploded a cloud of dust filled the air. "We shall move off." said Major Rogers "we are under enemy observation. In fact we are within range of his rifle and machine-gun snipers." I moved rapidly towards the "Couiagos".

The return journey was but a repetition of the ruins and desolation. Now Vimy Ridge was on our left and the funnels and dug outs on the side of the Ridge, where the Canadian troops were concentrated and hidden for the famous charge, were plainly in view. Meanwhile the guns were booming with a constant fire that a week ago I should have believed it could not have stood.

Here, at a point along the road after we had left the Car for the automobile, I was challenged by a sentry & for the first time had to show my

~~FEBRUARY 9~~

"White Pass".

At 6.15 this evening I had a most unusual experience and a most consoling ceremony. In the little "Catholic Chapel" Tent of the C.C.C.S. No 1, (Fr. Bradley) I confirmed, to the booming of the guns and the humming of aeroplanes overhead, a convert to the Faith - Edward Lawrence Bills. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in this remarkable spot. After the administration of Confirmation, all present sang "Faith of our Fathers". I then visited several sick patients in various wards of C.C.C.S. No I.

In the evening I dined with Col. Count de Bury, a former professor of the R.M.C. and a very well informed man. Among those present were Herb Molson and Dr Ross, of Montreal and Kingston respectively, old opponents on the football field. At the invitation of the Col. I addressed the officers present-