



The Denstonian

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EDITORIAL.

JUST as the prospect of mail-less days fills those at the front with horror and despair, so the Editorial does the Editor.

The outlook for the Cricket season is not entirely unpromising, despite the fact that the Captain has only one old "Colour" left. Apart from a dispiriting Sports Day and one cricket match, since the last number of the *Denstonian* there has been very little to note from the athletic point of view. However, thanks to the efforts of various contributors, there is no diminution in the "copy."

Looking through past numbers of the *Denstonian*, one is struck with the thought, how thoroughly the contributions from Denstonians have dealt with the situation in every theatre of war—in Russia, Egypt, Mesopotamia, France, Italy, India, every part of Africa, and even in Dublin. In addition, we have had fairly recent articles on the situation in North-West Canada, in the United States of America, and in Portugal and Greece. There have been accounts of experiences in various capacities at the front too numerous to mention; while the doings of the Navy are represented by the battles of the Falkland Islands and of Jutland, as well as by incidents in many distant seas.

The letters of Old Denstonians are

always appreciated because, besides showing affection for the School and past members of it, they provide interesting reading matter for the present generation of Denstonians, masters and boys alike.

THE CAPTURE OF MORVAL.

By an O.D. Adjutant.

It was intolerably hot. I had just come out from England for the second time. Immediately upon rejoining the battalion, I had been pitchforked into a job which entailed the exercise of a certain amount of tact, and endless and indefinable knowledge. In the latter I was particularly deficient. At the exact time of which I write the Brigade was in for an attack upon two villages, both of which we had reason to believe would be strongly defended. In fact, in the somewhat cryptic words of the Brigade Major, "we were throwing a colossal stunt."

At zero hour the attack commenced; at zero and one hour, the second objective was gained; at zero and two hours, the old battalion could be observed climbing laboriously out of the so-called trenches and advancing on the village under our own heavy artillery barrage. So far, so good. Observation then became impossible, and likewise unhealthy, owing to the Hun barrage. The only thing to do was to retire to the dug-out (battalion headquarters) and await the arrival of runners.

For nearly half an hour we had no news—only shell fire and M.G. fire so incessant that it dulled our nerves. The CO. became fractious. Personally, I was in that state which the private soldier so poetically describes as "getting the wind up," when there appeared a small and dirty

orderly (two had started with the message): "From Mr. Mason, sir." I produce this gem of English literature, the work of an Old Denstonian (Modern Side):—

O.C.,———Bn.,———Regt.,

Sir,

I have taken MORVAL.

3.30 p.m.

J. D. MASON, Lt.,

25.9.16.———Regt.

The effect was miraculous. The CO. became again a human being. "We must move up at once." We proceeded—a motley crowd, consisting of the CO., myself, the R;S.M., orderlies, runners, stretcher-bearers, and the other personalia who attach themselves to Battalion H.Q. At length, after a most unpleasant journey through Fritz's barrage, we halted in a hollow—an advanced dressing-station, with its usual features.

Prominent among the latter was the hero of the historic message, limping about quite cheerfully, with a piece of shrapnel in the calf of his leg, waiting to be dressed. He was much pleased to see us, but was full of the doings of his Company, especially one valiant soldier, aged eighteen years, height five feet nothing, whom I remember he paraded for me, with his prisoners—three German officers and seventeen other ranks. This boy afterwards was awarded the Military Medal. As for Mason himself, it was with much difficulty that he was eventually persuaded to retire to the transport lines.

ON THE ROAD TO BAGHDAD.

From the beginning of the war we have had a number of Denstonians in Mesopotamia. Lieut.-Cols. Codrington, F. G. Jackson, and Chatterton—the first of whom lost his life in Kut—were amongst the first

to go out. More recently G. E. Jackson travelled 12,000 miles from his post as secretary to a Royal Commission in Canada, to help—as a lance corporal—in constructing a dam on the Euphrates.

For the March *Denstonian* W. A. Harrison sent a most interesting account of a journey up the river. The experiences of one O.D., however, have been of phenomenal interest. It is not without its significance that the first man to cross the Tigris above Kut should, but a few months previously, have been an assistant traffic superintendent on the East Indian Railway. In a sense, this is the civilian's war. W. S. Baker, M.C., in the month of February, 1917, crossed the Tigris under a frightful fire, took part in four attacks, was slightly wounded once, and was twice recommended for the Military Cross. It is a record hard to beat, even in this age of stirring deeds.

On the 3rd, Baker was in command of his company, as his Major had been killed the previous day. His men were the first to go over the parapet, and were told to take two lines of trenches. Actually they took three. Baker was hit in the shoulder at 10.45 a.m., before the first line was reached, but he went on till seven o'clock in the evening, when his company had consolidated the third line. Then he could endure no more, and so had to fall out.

Fortunately his wound was not serious, though a piece of his shoulder was chipped off. He was sent down the river to Amarah, happy in the consciousness that he was to be recommended for the Military Cross, and that his men had done brilliantly, taking prisoner a number of Turks and a solitary Arab.

On the very day upon which Baker rejoined he learned that his company was to be the first to cross the Tigris. The

plan was that of crossing in pontoons, rowed by soldiers. The movement began at 5.30 a.m., and the Turks suspected nothing until our troops were half-way across the river, when they opened a very heavy fire. Many of the rowers were struck down, and the powerful current swept Baker's boat 200 yards down the stream. Here a Turkish machine-gun opened fire at a range of but twenty yards, and only two men, of whom Baker was one, left the boat alive. It was, indeed, Baker's presence of mind which saved him, as he flung a bomb at the gun-team, and either killed or dispersed the whole party. Then, landing, he fought his way with bombs to the main body, killing or disabling no less than ten Turks before he reached the British force.

A trench was hastily made, but almost at once a heavy attack had to be beaten off. During the next two days Baker's force took part in further big attacks, in which large numbers of prisoners were captured. Some of his best friends were killed, but his own escapes were miraculous. His clothes and equipment were pierced with bullets, but he seemed to bear a charmed life. Illness intervened to put an end, temporarily at any rate, to his adventures, and he was again sent down the river. But by this time the Turks were in headlong retreat, and were throwing their big guns into the river to escape our pursuing cavalry.

Baker's task was really complete. Yet the strain of that "crowded hour" left its mark upon him, and all who have met him since remark upon the manner in which he has aged. Shakespeare reminds us of the brittle glory that shines in man's face. Who can expect that those who have looked the Great Enemy in the eyes should yet pass on with no sign of the encounter?

WITH THE BELGIANS IN TABORA.

By C. O. Andrews, O.D.

As soon as General Smuts' columns began to threaten the railway from Dar-es-Salaam to Lake Tanganyika, the Germans carried off all their combatant prisoners, about a hundred and twenty, to a place south of the line, intending to keep them as long as possible. At the same time they collected at Tabora the non-combatants from the other "Kriegsgefangenelager." We were a cosmopolitan collection—British from almost every part of the Empire, French, Belgian, Russian, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Boer, with representatives from Malta and Reunion, and an American in a cell under charge of treason—about ninety men, forty women, and ten children.

Tabora is about two hundred miles east of the middle of Lake Tanganyika, and nearly as far south of Victoria Nyanza. It used to be one of the great centres of the slave traffic, and was the scene of the famous meeting of Livingstone and Stanley. But the town shows very few traces of its past, and the descendants of the Arab slavetraders are a very weedy, undignified set of men. The town consists mainly of Indian shops, and these were naturally in a very depleted condition after two years' blockade of the coast. Greeks numbered about a hundred; they are the hotel-keepers of this part of the world, and, luckily for the Germans and their prisoners, they had started tobacco growing on a large scale. We were quite familiar with some of their names long before we had a chance of seeing them, as we had generally been allowed to buy tobacco. But the real importance of the town lay in the fact that it is the headquarters of the railway; and, as a branch line was being made northward to Mwanza, on Lake Victoria, there

are great workshops, equipped with the best German machinery. The town and suburbs are well laid out, with avenues of mango and iron trees; there are plantations of date-palms belonging to the Arabs, and the surrounding country abounds in mangoes; hence its name, Unyanyembe—"embe" being Swahili for "mango." Our "war prisoners' camp" was an unsightly collection of corrugated iron sheds, with barbed wire fences and thorn zarebas, between the central part of the town and the large stone fort. When we were gathered there at the beginning of May last year, we hoped our stay would be a brief one, as our very imperfect sources of news made us hope for decisive actions taking place immediately; but we had to wait four and a half months.

Rumours thickened daily, and by July it appeared to be a race between a British column, under General Crewe, from Mwanza, and two Belgian forces from Ujiji and Kivu. These we knew were really close, and we had less definite information of a British force that had made its way up from Rhodesia. The advance of the Belgians was a terrible blow to the Germans; the prospect of surrendering one of their largest towns to the Belgians was very bitter. Already for some time they had been trying to make the British arrive first, by withdrawing all forces from their line of advance, and doing everything they could to keep back the Belgians. It was not only that the women were afraid of being eaten by the cannibal troops from the Congo; the men disliked the indignity of capitulating to Belgians, and were afraid of reprisals for Belgium. Our guards were in a nervous state, frequently exclaiming, "Why don't the English come? We have left the road open for them; we want the English, not the Belgians." De-

lighted as we should have been to see an English force arrive, we were content that the Belgians should have the honour of the capture, feeling that the displacement of the German flag by the Belgian would be one small instalment of deserved retribution. During these days there were frequent movements of troops, and the short length of railway line still available for use was very busy. The get-up of some of the latest levies of askaris was a wonderful sight. Khaki had come to an end, and they were dressed in tunics and trousers of gay-coloured cottons intended for the wear of native women; strips of coloured blanket served for puttees. The kaleidoscopic effect of these troops on the march suggested pantomime. Many of them would have been dangerously conspicuous in the field, but there was always the chance that the enemy would not imagine these vivid patches could be soldiers.

Towards the middle of September we began to hear guns in the distance. Then one night we were aroused by the continuous booming of guns, obviously only a few miles away. We heard next day that the German force had been attacked by both Belgian columns, from the west and north-west. In the afternoon we could see the flashes of the guns and the bursting of the shells. On the night of the 14th the Germans decided to evacuate the town and retire eastwards. German flags were replaced by white flags; the few men remaining in the prison were told they would be free in the morning, and were given the keys of the safe and the store-rooms. The troops entrained, and started away to the east. Since the time when first there was danger of the line being damaged, trains had run with the engine behind, so that in the event of mishap the engine might escape damage. It was a

dark night, and a few miles from the station some cattle on the line derailed the leading trucks, and the movement came to an abrupt halt. The troops returned, the white flags were hauled down, guards were again posted at the prison, and the Germans maintained possession of the town for another four days. The Belgians were temporarily exhausted with their two-days' fight, following a long forced march, and one detachment had been roughly handled by the last effort of the Germans. So they were not ready to attack, and the British column was still too far away to cut off the retreat of the Germans. On the fourth day the Belgians again advanced. The Germans again abandoned the town, and this time they got right away. In the morning of September 19th the prisoners took their freedom, and anything else they could find in the guard-house and magazines. Some of them marched out to meet the Belgians, were captured and sent to the rear. Shortly before mid-day a company entered the town, surprised to find no opposition, and took possession of the Government offices. The Congo troops looked a most businesslike set of little men, as they prowled about with four cartridges between the fingers of their left hands, longing for the opportunity of sticking their long, thin bayonets into something German. More of them arrived, and in the afternoon, with bugles blowing and flags flying, they marched up to the fort, and in the presence of a large audience of released prisoners of many nationalities, the Belgian flag was hoisted and saluted. The joy with which we saw a flag other than the hated black, white and red, under which we had been living for over two years!

On the following day some thousands of troops, and more thousands of porters,

arrived. Some battalions went eastward in pursuit of the Germans, others camped near the town. The total was 14,000 troops, with 20,000 porters. They were well provided with short, squat field-guns drawn by mules, and some trench mortars, which we were told had not been used. The shells were carried in wooden boxes, four shells in a box being a man's load. This great army of porters was recruited from Uganda and B.E.A., under British officers, as was the Red Cross detachment. It was a great delight to meet some British officers and get some news of the outside world; such a delight to meet *gentlemen* again. They gave us some newspapers, and we had to ask the meaning of "Hun," "Boche," "Anzac," and other words.

Our old prison quarters now assumed a new interest for us. All Germans who had done military work of any nature were immediately collected and installed in our old quarters. Fifty-five able-bodied Germans were found in the chief hotel, sheltering under red crosses, and finishing off the remaining drinks. A Belgian doctor examined them, said he needed the hospitals for the sick and wounded, formed them in fours, and marched them off to the prison, every one of them. During the following days fresh prisoners came in every day, sometimes as many as twenty, mostly of their own free will. We had complained of the overcrowding of the prison when there were hardly one hundred and fifty of us, and were informed that the Government had certified it for two hundred. When a hundred and seventy Germans complained that they were overcrowded, they were informed that their Government had certified it for two hundred, and that thirty more would be put in. By a just retribution they were given their own rules, exactly as we had had them.

Many of them seemed really surprised at the character of their own rules. They were given the same tasks as our Service men had had to perform. Fortunately the pocket book of the most objectionable of our guards was discovered and given to the Belgian commandant. This contained the daily list of work and the name of the men who had to do the different jobs. The Germans had to work on their own system. We desired no worse punishment for them. Two men who had made themselves thoroughly disliked when they were guards over us—one of them the owner of the pocket-book—had a very bad time from their fellow-prisoners. On one occasion one of them had to be rescued by the Belgian guard from the fury of his countrymen.

In other respects the Belgians treated their prisoners with poetic justice. The Germans had taken away all our money, and at the end refunded us in war paper. At the beginning of the war Berlin gave the colony a credit of two millions; we were told they had printed and issued notes to the face value of thirty millions. Naturally this stuff was of little use to us. So the Belgian commandant collected all the silver from his prisoners, and gave it to us in exchange for our notes, which were passed on to the Germans. It was their Government that had guaranteed them, so they would be all right. Similarly with boxes and water-bottles. Our tin boxes had been taken for carrying soldiers' food, and we were given dirty and ill-fitting wooden boxes with no lids. Naturally a good many of our clothes were destroyed by insects. So we were given our pick of the Germans' boxes, and they were given our old wooden ones and the German receipts for our tin ones. Probably there are some German prisoners who are now rather doubtful

about the justice and expediency of some of their laws and methods. Not that their prison experiences were similar to ours in all respects. The Belgian guards behaved like men and soldiers, and gave them food that was quite fit for human consumption. Complaints were listened to, not treated as mutiny; prisoners were addressed as men, not as swine.

We heard an interesting account of the way the Belgians kept their prisoners in the Congo. They were confined in a large tract of country bounded on two sides by swift and deep rivers swarming with crocodiles; on the third side, by the cannibal Manyema tribe. The Germans were warned of the dangers of the rivers, and that the Manyema had been given permission to eat any Germans found beyond the boundary. Crocodiles and cannibals saved them the trouble of providing guards and sentries. Many of the Germans at Tabora were looking forward with pleasure to the expected journey to Bombay and a luxurious confinement in India; that was one reason they were so eager to fall into the hands of the British.

The Germans had not done much damage before evacuating the town. They had knocked down the wireless tower, but that was easily repaired. They had not destroyed the railway workshops, but had contented themselves with removing small vital parts of the machines, to render them useless for the time. They had run the remaining locomotives off the line into the bush, taken off the wheels from coaches and wagons, and pulled up the points and thrown them away. A great many things—from bars of gold to telegraph switches—had been buried. After one man had been rewarded for giving information of this kind of grave, excavation went on apace, and many useful articles

were unearthed. Probably their reason for doing so little damage was that they counted on returning before long. They had warned the people that they would be back soon. Some of them had said to us, "We know we shall lose the Colony, but we shall get it back in a short time, with a large indemnity."

We were now free, but we did not want to stay in Tabora. As the railway was not yet wholly in our hands, we could not get out of the country that way. The East Africa Transport Corps came to our rescue. The supply of food was a great difficulty, and it was decided to take the porters back to their own country as soon as possible. So they decided to take the eighty released British prisoners to Victoria Nyanza with the first batch of Uganda porters. General Crewe helped the arrangements by sending us a most welcome supply of food, including white bread, a luxury we had not seen for a long time. Camp equipment was a difficulty, as all ours had been taken from us long before; but the German prisoners came to our rescue, and we found their tents and beds quite satisfactory. So, after living for a fortnight under Belgian rule, we set out on a two-hundred-mile walk to Mwanza, for a steamer to take us to British territory.

WAR NEWS.

Since the issue of the April *Denstonian* we have heard of the following distinctions won by Old Denstonians in the war:

BAR TO THE M.C.

Temp. Captain R. P. N. B. Bluett, M.C., R.A.M.C., attached to the Highland L.I.

He displayed great judgment and endurance in organizing the stretcher-

bearers in the attack. He worked continuously throughout the day, exposed for many hours to very heavy hostile fire.

MILITARY CROSS

Captain N. H. Radford.
 Captain A. du P. T. Cole.
 Captain G. B. Fyldes.
 Captain H. T. Valentine.

CROIX DE GUERRE.

Captain N. H. Radford.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

Temp. Major H. Rudgard.
 Lieut. J. D. Mason.
 Captain A. S. Hind.
 Captain J. K. Summers.
 2nd Lieut. G. G. Shone.
 Temp. Captain C. L. Roberts.
 Captain N. H. Radford.

Amongst many Denstonians recently wounded are the following—Major E. Fearenside, D.S.O., K. B. Penney, J. F. Menzies, M.C., C. L. Dunkerley, R. H. F. Coleman, G. F. Mason, C. Girling, N. F. Humphreys.

H. S. Griffin has applied for a commission after considerable service in the ranks. So have A. Martin and H. B. Dudley.

A. E. Barlow is being transferred to the Indian Army. He spent Holy Week and Easter-tide in dismantling huts and making roads. He adds: "The men are just like children. Whenever there is a move on one finds they have worn out their boots or lost their shirts. I can never imagine what they do in their homes; I suppose their wives look after them."

L. A. Cumin is now in the 29th Dragoons (French Army).

Barry Girling wrote in March:—"We have been wanderers on the face of the earth since the Bosche withdrawal. There is

not much fun lying in muddy clothes and blankets every night."

J. W. Stoddart writes:—"I am Captain and Adjutant at the 62nd Divisional School of Instruction for Officers and N.C.Os. The work is particularly interesting; our students come to us straight out of the line for a month's polish. The work is pretty hard, but we make a point of games and entertainments. Only two days ago we had a match against the Sherwoods, in which team Briggs played forward. We had a good game. Afterwards in mess I sang 'Wrap me up in my 1st XV. jersey.' The song often finds an unexpected O.D.

"We have had some good Church services lately, and have been particularly fortunate in the padres, three of whom have been Mirfield men.

"I'm beginning to feel very old, especially as I was at Denstone when we had all the excitement of the South African War. After one victory Pat Saunders dressed up in a khaki suit, and I got my violin, and we went for a route march to Alton. During the war most of us wore khaki ties, the ends of which were Union Jacks! Soon after that the Cadet Corps started, with 'Steger' in command. He had a wonderful uniform: 'B.P.' hat, blue jacket, silver buttons, blue knickers, and magnificent brown spats. Still, it was a start, and it has more than justified its existence.

"I learned a lot at Denstone; I learned about things that really mattered. We were not a particularly brainy lot, but on looking back I can pick on the whole of the VIth Form as a splendid set, with men like Reggie Brownfield and Bonham Burr as junior prefects."

Three of the Brownings—two of them O.Ds.—chanced to meet recently in Mesopotamia.

G. E. Jackson has been offered an important civil post in Mesopotamia, but he has refused it in order to continue in the ranks. He is in the force operating on the Euphrates.

C. C. R. Reynolds writes from Durban:—"The voyage was quite interesting on the whole. We were in a convoy of ships under the care of an auxiliary cruiser. We touched at various ports, and though we were not allowed to land we had great sport with the fruit-sellers. The people here are awfully decent asking us out to tea and tennis, Weigall is a section commander and I am in his section. He is very good, and about the only one whose orders are visible—I mean audible. I have met Alan Key worth here. He is in the Calcutta Volunteer Battery and is now a sergeant. We embark to-day for India once again. Back again in four years!"

S. W. Bird writes:—"In February, 1916, I left Southampton for Egypt, and stayed a week at Mudros on the way. Three months of wandering about the Lybian desett followed; at the end of that period I returned to Alexandria, and was in hospital for six weeks. Shortly afterwards I left Egypt for Salonika. I went up country into Macedonia and joined a battalion on the Struma. At the end of September the fighting commenced: most of this was open and very interesting. Then, in November, I left Salonika for Egypt, and joined the R.F.C. to become a pilot. I passed the necessary examinations and so on, and left Egypt for England at the beginning of April. The trip home was very interesting: we called at Malta and Sicily, were chased by submarines, and ran aground on the Corsican coast. We were eventually landed at Marseilles."

We quote the following from an Indian paper, which reports the gaining by W. S.

Baker of the Military Cross. "The decoration was awarded in connection with his fine work at the crossing of the Tigris at Sbumram Bend on 23rd February, when he was in one of the first pontoons to get across in the face of very heavy fire. Subsequently with one officer and a small party of Gurkhas he held on to the position on the river bank for a long time without reinforcements."

E. K. Middleton, after carrying out the construction of very large and important munition works, joined the Army, and is now a Captain in the Royal Engineers. He is attached to the Inland Waterways and Docks Department.

K. B. Penney writes:—"I was hit in the big attack near Arras. I was in charge of my company for this attack, and we went over at 5.30 a.m. in front of the village of Tilloy, which was our objective. Everything went well, and we got the village; but just as we were entering it, a shell burst near me and knocked me down, whilst a piece of it hit my left hand, takix:g off my first two fingers and knuckles. I had the satisfaction of seeing we were consolidating our position before my servant got me away to a dressing station. The Huns bolted at the sight of us."

G. W. Pratt writes:—"I have lately returned from the Mediterranean, where I have been ship's surgeon on H.M.S. *M*———. We had an excellent time, and visited every port in that ancient sea except Salonika and Gibraltar. We had a good deal of all kinds of work, which included mine-sweeping, patrolling, escorting troops and demonstrating before King Constantine at Athens. I had a fine opportunity of improving my French, and getting hold of a smattering of Italian and Arabic. It was a great grief to me to hear of C. G. Carson's death; he was perhaps my greatest friend

at Denstone, and a thoroughly fine man. I hope to return after the war to my work as Demonstrator of Bacteriology and Pathology at Cambridge."

Maxwell Spicer has now left the "Isles of Greece," and was last heard of at Colombo.

S. G. Fillingham is now in France.

Lieut. E. S. Rerrie, M.C., is, we regret to say, reported as "wounded and missing." So, too, is L. B. Forrest.

C. W. Townsend is slightly wounded in the right arm.

J. B. Hardinge, who was one of the last officers to leave the Gallipoli Peninsula, is now Adjutant of his M.G. unit.

D. Riley has had a post for some time in a Quartermaster's office, but is now joining a Cadet Unit.

G. F. Mason writes of his wound to say that he was "very lucky and only got hit in three places." He has met Eric Anderson in Oxford, and A. W. Wilson—"of the Guards"—at the M.G. base.

C. T. Hutchison has had temporarily the command of his unit, following the death of his Colonel. He has been through heavy and costly fighting, but was able recently to pay us a visit.

An O.D. in France writes:—"Watching the day dawn is very nice. Certain stars change from silver to a golden hue, and I like to think that their glory is reflected from the souls of those who have died for their country during the night."

H. Rudgard has been undergoing a special new treatment whilst recovering from his serious wounds in England.

C. Hobday is with the Salonika force.

A. W. Wilson wrote in the middle of May to say that he was still at the base in France. He expected soon to be moved up into the line.

S. H. M. Larkam was some time at

Catterick, but previously attended a pioneer's course at Reading. He has now returned to France.

H. C. C. Collis is in a Cadet Unit at Weedon.

J. B. Gurnhill sends a photograph of a French church. "Of course you can at once see why the post-card caught my eye? I don't remember East windows so similar to those at dear old Denstone." He is O.C. a section in a Field Co. R.E.

R. W. Peel wrote happily from the Crystal Palace in March, though he found Swedish drill on a snowy morning rather breezy work. He was with Robinson and Slater. He has since crossed to France.

R. Bassett was ill for some time, but was able to visit us before sailing at the end of May.

P. C. Atkins, after taking a commission in the 9th Londons, had appendicitis; on recovery he applied for a transfer to the Indian Army.

G. W. Reed is still in hospital; he shared a ward with Atkins. He has applied for a transfer to the R.F.C.

P. H. Sykes has been at Catterick Camp, and has met S. H. M. Larkam there.

L. B. Helder has been moved from Osnabrück to the Hartz Mountains. He is in a building which in peace time is a hydro. The place is beautiful, and though there is less music in the new camp, he seems quite happy.

WAR OBITUARY.

Captain Frank Bailey Perkins (Woodard) was here from January, 1904, until July, 1907. He was distinctly a clever boy and obtained the higher certificate. He was a Prefect and in the Cadet Corps. He was

also an excellent cricketer (1st XI. Colours) and above the average at lawn tennis. After leaving he adopted teaching as his profession, and when war broke out joined the K.F.A. as 2nd Lieutenant. He quickly-obtained promotion. In France last year he was wounded but recovered, and was again in the recent fighting, being killed on May 19 last. At about 9.30 a.m. his battery seemed to have obtained a respite from the enemy's guns and Captain Perkins with three other officers were snatching a hasty breakfast in a very strong dug-out, when a single shell was fired at the battery position. Unfortunately it happened to come straight in at the small entrance and, of course, all were instantly killed. He is buried in the cemetery of the large town near, and on the following day a special service was held, attended by the whole battery, the colonel, and officers, followed by a celebration of Holy Communion. The Chaplain speaks of his unflinching cheerfulness and humour, and says, "We have done all we can to commend his soul to God, Who surely will have mercy on those who so nobly lived and died for others." His Colonel pays him a very fine tribute: "I have to mourn the loss not only of a very capable officer but also of a dear personal friend who had endeared himself to me and others in many ways, but especially by his charm of manner."

The death of *Second Lieut. W. M. N. Pollard*, on April 10th, was a great shock and grief to us all. Until last Christmas he was the life of the School, and our school work, military training, acting, games—everything—benefited by his manifold activities and versatile talents, which he expended without stint. He was a member of the School (Shrewsbury Dormitory) from 1901 to 1909. He was a leader in

everything, and was Captain of School, Captain of Shooting, and Captain of Football. He went to S. John's College, Cambridge, with a Classical Sizarship, and there he made a host of new friends, and was prominent in shooting, rowing and football. He held a commission in the Cambridge University O.T.C. Immediately after taking his degree he came back to us, and soon became one of the mainstays of the College. Outsiders knew him as a keen and efficient sportsman, a skilful actor, a welcome companion. We knew he was all that, and very much more. He was, in particular, a teacher of exceptional ability. He did work of incalculable value in the O.T.C. He was master of Selwyn Dormitory. Our Sports were the object of his unflinching care. And it would be a grave omission if we neglected to record the high and inspiring example he set in higher things, and in the performance of duty. His commission and valuable work in the O.T.C. relieved him of any necessity of offering his services, for they were at the disposal of the military authorities; but at the end of last year he insisted on being transferred to the N. Staffordshire Regiment. His value was quickly recognised, and he was soon at the front. J. B. Hardinge describes his death. He was in charge of a working party who had to connect two of our outposts, and the task had to be done in the daytime. He got his men to work in a wood, but the enemy quickly discovered them, and began shelling. Pollard was killed by the first shell. His company commander spoke very highly of him to Hardinge, and felt his loss very much. He is buried in what was a German military cemetery, but has now passed into our hands.™ His commanding officer said:—"By none will he be more regretted than

by his brother officers. His Company occupied the post of honour when death found him. He died as he lived, in defence of king and country, of liberty and truth."

A fuller and slightly different account comes from Pollard's servant. He says :—" We were in the front-line trench opposite a wood strongly held by the Germans, and as we could not dislodge them by rifle-fire, the Artillery was called upon. After half an hour's barrage, Mr Pollard had orders to go forward with part of his Company. We met with little opposition till we got into the wood ; then shells, shrapnel and machine-guns played havoc with the place. There was, of course, no shelter of any description ; we simply lay flat on the ground. When things seemed to quieten down, Mr. Pollard gave the order to advance. We had not gone very far when fire started again. Mr. Pollard was leading his men, when a H.E. shell dropped two yards from him. He was blown off his feet, and dropped a few yards away. When picked up he was unconscious. He was hurried away to the nearest dressing station, but was beyond all human aid. He lived about two hours, and suffered no pain, passing away very quietly. He was not even marked, and must have died from something internal." The servant was with him to the last, even to carrying him to the cemetery ; and indeed all the men of his Company regarded him as one of their best officers, who had always a cheery word for them, and was always ready to do his duty.

Basil Johnson Gedge was here (in Selwyn) from 1894 until 1901, when he went to Selwyn College, Cambridge. He was a Prefect, and a member of both the Football and Cricket teams. He was Captain of Fives in 1900. In 1907 he was ordained

for work in Madagascar, where he remained until ill health compelled his return in 1914. He was refused acceptance as an Army Chaplain, so took up work in High Wycombe. When his brother Peter was killed, he again asked that he might be appointed Chaplain to the Forces, and this time was accepted. He was sent to Salonika, and there, on or about April 26th, was so seriously wounded in action that he died. Both his brothers had already been killed in the war.

Sapper William Rolhera Webster was *iti* Lowe in 1906-7. He was in the Royal Engineers, and went to France early in 1917. On April 22 last he was killed in action at Guinchy, aged 28 years.

Lieutenant Harri Willis Edwards was here from 1888 until 1891, when he left to join the Keighley staff of the Bank of Liverpool, and for some time was in charge of the Cross Hills branch. He was for some time a keen member of the Burnley Volunteers, and later took a keen interest in the Boy Scouts and was a District Commissioner. Although close upon the age limit he insisted on joining the Army when war broke out, and saw service first in Egypt with the West Yorkshire Regiment. In the spring of 1916 he went to France and took part in the battles of the Somme last July. By this time he was a sergeant. For a long time he refused to accept a commission, though he was offered one several times (once in the Guards), but last September he was persuaded and went out again to France, after training at Cambridge and Ripon, on March 8 last, as 2nd Lieutenant in the East Lanes. Regiment. On April 28 he was killed, at the age of 40. The night before going into action he wrote

to his wife expressing the wish that his only son might come to Denstone—he is coming, we hope, next term.

Lieut. George Olaf Damian Ceadda Jackson was in Shrewsbury Dormitory from 1897 until the end of 1900. He then emigrated to Canada. On the declaration of war, he at once volunteered, with his brother, at Winnipeg to serve with the Canadian troops. After training at Valcartier Camp, the two brothers came to England with the 1st Canadian Contingent, in October, 1914, and went to Flanders next May. After nearly two years of active service, they were promoted Lieutenants in the Canadian Infantry. G. O. D. C. Jackson died of wounds received in action on April 28 last. He was 33 years of age.

Lieut. Hugo Anthony Launcelot Ceadda Jackson was three years younger than his brother, and was here, in Shrewsbury Dormitory, from 1898 until 1903. He was a Prefect, a member of the Shooting Eight, and a Lance-Corporal. The two brothers served together throughout, and in death they were not divided, for the younger was killed by a shell early in the morning of the same day on which his brother was fatally wounded, and in the same engagement.

Lance - Corporal Robert Carruthers Fitch was here from 1892 until 1896, in Meynell Dormitory. He was always a good sportsman, and wherever he was employed, in the service of the General Accident Assurance Corporation, he retained the characteristic. He was in Edinburgh when the outbreak of war occurred, a member of the Perthshire R.U. F.C., and also of the Perthshire Cricket Club, and regarded with affection and respect by men of all classes. He joined the Sea-

forth Highlanders, and soon proved himself an efficient soldier. He did much service in France, and had been twice wounded before he was killed in the fighting on April 28 last. An impressive service in memory of him was held in S. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth; for he was an earnest Churchman and a regular communicant. The service was taken by Bishop Plumb and Provost Smythe.

Captain Herbert Gilmore Waghorn, N. Staffordshire Regiment, was in Head's i. from January, 1907, until July, 1908. He was a boy of distinct abilities, and passed the Senior Local Examination and carried off the Junior Arithmetic Prize before leaving to go into business in Paris. He was in the Shooting Eight in 1908, when we reached fifth place for the Rapid Firing at Bisley. In Paris he was with Messrs. Condourier, Fructus & Descher, and did not neglect his athletics, for he played cricket and football regularly, and went on tours with the Stade Francais, both in England and Belgium. After four years he was transferred to the London branch, and on the outbreak of war he enlisted in the London Scottish. Before the end of 1914 he was gazetted to the North Staffordshire Regiment, and was first stationed at Burton, where he quickly made many friends. He saw service in the Irish rising at Easter, 1916, and went to France in 1917. When Mr. Pollard went out, he was near Waghorn's battalion, and it was Waghorn who first sent us the sad news of his death. Soon afterwards, on April 25th, he himself was seriously wounded, and died next day. His colonel wrote "He received his wounds holding a place of the greatest importance, which we had only taken the night before; and through this particular position being taken and held

many of his comrades' lives have been saved. It was a position which had been of great strategical importance to the enemy."

R.I.P.

THE SPORTS.

April 9 was a day typical of the Sports and of the English spring. Violent storms of sleet drove boisterously across the fields, making the comfort of the visitors and the speed of the competitors alike of an uncertain quality. Tobias repeated his success of the previous year and retained the Challenge Cup, whilst Lowe gained the Dormitory Cup. Mrs. de Vitro' was kind enough to give away the certificates which in war time take the place of the usual prizes. The results were as follows:—Kicking competition (open).—ist, D J. Fergusson, 2nd, J. H. Whittles; (under 15)—ist, G. H. Lloyd, 2nd, R. W. Casewell. Long jump (open).—ist, H. C. C. Collis, 2nd, J. Corbishley; (under 15)—ist, J. A. Adamson, 2nd, P. H. Davies. One mile (age) handicap.—ist, J. I. Boothroyd, 2nd, L. Atkinson, 3rd, N. H. Pattison. One mile (open).—ist, A. G. Tobias, 2nd, Pattison, 3rd, R. E. McDonald, 4th, M. S. Waghorn. Throwing the cricket ball (open).—ist, Collis, 2nd, J. F. Leys; (under 15)—ist, Casewell, 2nd, A. G. Crofts. Hurdle race (open).—ist, Corbishley, 2nd, E. C. Warren; (under 15)—ist, Lloyd, 2nd, Casewell. Half mile.—ist, Tobias, 2nd, Pattison, 3rd, McDonald. 100 yards (open).—ist, Collis, 2nd, Whittles, 3rd, Tobias; (under 15)—ist, Casewell, 2nd, J. W. Church, 3rd, Adamson. Choir race.—ist, N. G. Holloway, 2nd, Church, 3rd, R. B. Brigg. Quarter mile (handicap).

—ist, M. S. Barker, 2nd, Holloway, 3rd, D. M. Garman. High jump (open).—ist, Corbishley, 2nd, J. Carmichael; (under 15)—ist, Lloyd and A. H. Rigby (equal). Preparatory school race.—ist, Fairclough, 2nd, R. Garman, 3rd, Mason. Under 12 race.—ist, M. S. Barker, 2nd, T. A. Hunter, 3rd, Holloway. Quarter mile (open).—ist, Tobias, 2nd, Collis, 3rd, McDonald. Three leggedrace.—Kinder and Caiger. Steeplechase (under 16).—ist, Atkinson, 2nd, B. W. Whyte, 3rd, W. G. Smith, 4th, R. J. H. Scarratt. Steeplechase (open).—ist, Pattison, 2nd, McDonald, 3rd, T. C. Booth, 4th, G. H. Slack.

As a whole, surprisingly little interest was taken in the events, and the number of entries was often small.

CRICKET.

THE CROCKS.

This year the cricket season opened on May 19th, with an indecisive match against Mr. T. Smith's XI. We started by batting, and the first wicket fell for 4 runs. J. T. Davies being run out. Waghorn went in next and partnered Fergusson, and the two of them soon brought the score up to 60, when the second wicket fell, Fergusson being bowled for 20 by Mr. Smith. Waghorn was the next victim to Mr. Smith's bowling, but he first made 51 very useful runs. Jeffries, Hobday and Corbishley next batted, and helped the score on considerably, the latter making 26 runs. Hall and Austin were not out, as the innings was declared closed at 5.15, the score by that time having reached 166 for 7 wickets.

"The Cocks" had one hour in which to raise the runs, and succeeded in getting 92 for two wickets, Mr. Goodwin making 55, the highest score of the day. Bowling

for the College, Hobday took one for 18, and Corbishley one for 24.

COLLEGE.

D. J. Fergusson b Smith	20
J. T. Davies run out	2
M. S. Waghorn b Smith	51
H. H. Davies b Smith	2
F. B. Jeffries b Hetherington	11
M. G. Hobday b Swinston	22
J. Corbishley c Yates b Walker	26
W. Hall not out	16
K. Austin not out	7
Extras	9

Total (for 7 wickets) 166

H. G. Newton and P. W. A. Wood did not bat.

THE CROCKETS.

Goodwin not out 55; Yates b Corbishley 19; Colleyc Waghorn b Hobday 7; Walker not out 8; Extras 3. Total (for 2 wickets) 92.

O.D. NEWS.

F. M. Fitch (1899) has been appointed to the Rectory of Tealby, Lincolnshire. He has recently been married.

L. H. Jones studied medicine at Cardiff University until he "joined up" last March.

G. L. Marriott has taken charge of a parish in Chorley.

R. S. White (1909) was with the firm of Messrs. Kelsall & Kemp, Rochdale, until he joined up.

F. M. C. Houghton organized two successful Military and Naval Race Meetings at Brooklands in 1915.

Favourable notices have appeared of two recent books by O.Ds.—T. B. Allworthy's *Position of Women in the Church and French Windows* by F. B. D. Bickerstaffe Drewe ("John Ayscough").

D. Victor is Examining Chaplain in the Diocese of Nyasaland. Last year his duties were particularly heavy, he has had to conduct fourteen examinations of various kinds between Easter and Advnt, in

addition to arranging the work for the future examinations of three European deacons.

The *Geological Magazine* of November, 1915, contained an account of W. W. Watts, LL.D., Sc.D., M.Sc., F.R.S., Professor of Geology in South Kensington, and Hon. Fellow of Sidney Sussex.

B. Y. Vickers is second officer on the R.M.S.P. Co's. liner *Danube*.

H. R. Hignett is acting in *Wanted, a Husband* at the Playhouse.

NOTES.

Mr. Lockton has contributed a very valuable article, containing evidence of wide research, to the current number of the *Church Quarterly Review*, on the subject of the proper place in the service for the consumption of the consecrated elements.

In the place of the Rev. J. D. Robertson who left us last term, Mr. R. J. Green, B.A., Queens' College, Cambridge, has joined us. He has seen service in France and has been invalided out of the army with the rank of Hon. Lieutenant.

The Rev. C. O. Andrews, M.A., Selwyn College, Cambridge, has also made a most welcome return to the School in which he was both boy and master. He has been for some years working in East Africa with the U.M.C.A., and was interned with other missionaries.

The new School Officers are as follows:

Captain of School, M. S. Waghorn.

Captain of Cricket, M. S. Waghorn.

Prefect of Hall, R. E. McDonald.

Prefect of Chapel, P. W. A. Wood.

Ed. of the *Denstonian*, E. A. Champney.

Captain of Tennis, H. L. Pearce.

The following have been elected to the Sports Committee:—J. T. Davies, F. S. Parker, N. G. Whitfield.

The new prefects are :—N. G. Whitfield, W. Hall, G. Hargreave, I. H. Jones-Parry, G. H. R. Wildsmith, E. Finney, H. D. Ainger, R. C. A. Miiller, E. A. Champney, F. S. Parker, J. F. Wood, F. G. Wynne.

M. S. Waghorn has been awarded the second prize by the Royal Asiatic Society for his Essay on "The Sikhs and their History." We offer him our heartiest congratulations.

The following prefects left last term :—

Barker, G. (Shrewsbury).—Prefect of Hall, 1917; Sgt., O.T.C. Royal Navy, direct entry.

Brewis, E. C. (Meynell).—Editor of *Denstonian*, 1916-17.

Collis, H. C. C. (Lowe).—Captain of School, Jan., 1917; 1st XV. Colours, 1915-17; Coy. Sgt.-Major, O.T.C., 1916-17; Captain of Tennis, 1916.

Mason, J. O. (Woodard)

Tobias, A. G. (Meynell).—Sgt. O.T.C.; 1st XV. Colours, 1915-17; Captain of Football, 1917; Sports Challenge Cup, 1916-17; Fives Colours, 1916.

Walker, J. J. N. (H.M.H. i).—Cpl. O.T.C.; 1st XV. Colours, 1916-17; 1st XI. Colours, 1916.

The following O.T.C. promotions are posted :—Sgt. M. S. Waghorn to be Coy.-Sgt.-Major; Cpls. P. W. A. Wood to be Sgt.; Lee.-Cpls. Pearce, Cowan, Austin and Fergusson to be Cpls.; Pte. Jeffries to be Cpl.; Ptes. Podmore, Miiller, Whitfield, Cornes and Newton to be Lee.-Cpls.

On May 14th, there was a memorial service and Requiem for those O.Ds. killed in the war, particularly 2nd Lt. W. M. N. Pollard, who only last December was with our own O.T.C.

Last term the Trent Officers were kind enough to come over and judge the Dormitory Corps Competition. Heads i. and Shrewsbury were both first.

G. Barker was successful last term in his examination for direct entry into the Navy.

The following is the list of new boys :—

Bayliss, Gordon Houston ...	H.M.H. iii.
Blackburn, Wilfrid Evelyn.	Lowe,
Blackburn, Cuthbert Walter	„
Brearley, George Crosland .	Selwyn.
Chapman, Francis John ...	Shrewsbury.
Davie, Greigior Hugh Grant.	H.M.H. ii.
Dewhurst, Victor ...	Woodard.
Dexter, John Millington ...	Preparatory.
Dodd, Lawrence Walter ...	Selwyn.
Harvey, James Martin ...	H.M.H. i.
Hibbert, Aidan Bernard ...	„
Hitchcock, Gilbert Edward	Meynell.
Hodgson, Kenneth Easton .	H.M.H. iii.
Hogarth, William Whewell.	„
Leadbeater, Edwin Sydney.	Selwyn,
Lloyd, George Hallowes ...	ILM.H. iii.
Lowndes, Robert Malcolm.	Lowe.
Newton, Norman Roy ...	H.M.H. ii.
Nightingale, Robert Charles	H.M.H. iii.
Oliver, Osborne George ..	H.M.H. ii.
Robinson, Arthur Desmond	Preparatory.
Rushworth, David Charles.	Shrewsbury.
Samuels, Rupert Kingsley	Chassircan
	Woodard.
Schofield, James Ingham ...	Shrewsbury.
Seville, Sydney George ...	„
Shervven, Arthur Russell ...	Preparatory,
Sinclair, Eric Harry ...	H.M.H. iii.
Stewart, Edward John ...	H.M.H. ii.
Summerfield, Ronald	Bernhard
	Selwyn.
Sutton, Geoffrey Charles...	H.M.H. ii.
Thompson, John Frederick.	Preparatory.
Watts, Arthur William ...	Shrewsbury.
Wilding, John Owen ...	„

From the Preparatory School have come into College the following :—

Butler-Smith, James ...	Meynell.
Mason, Eric Gould ...	H.M.H. i.