

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

AUGUST, 1920.

Seagoe War Memorial.

Great changes have been made in the Church Grounds during the past month. The pillars and gates were taken down on Monday, July 5th, after having been in their place exactly 100 years, since 1820. £28 18s 1d were allocated by the Vestry of that day to pay for the pillars and gate. The following reference, from the old Registers, to the gate is of special interest—"Note: The gate weighed Cwt. 7. Qrs 3, lbs. 7, which at 3d per lb. is £10 8s 9d, which the Churchwardens settled for, and paid in full."—Robert Watson, Churchwarden, arranged for the erection of the gates

As the new gate and pillars will not be ready until the autumn, temporary wooden gates have been erected. The lowering of the walls has greatly improved the appearance of the church grounds.

Anniversary Service.

The Service held on Sunday, July 11th, was attended by 236 members of the local lodges from Seagoe and Portadown. The church was crowded, and the Service was very bright and reverent. The Rev. R. B. Cooke, of Belfast, preached, and in the course of his sermon referred to the stirring events of the past and present history of our land. The collection was on behalf of the Enniskillen Orphan Fund, and amounted to £9 15s 9d.

Acknowledgment.

Mission Week—Miss Montgomery, 14s. Total to date, £9 17s 1d. This sum was accidentally omitted from last month's issue.

Decorations on "The Twelfth."

A very fine Arch was erected in Edenderry this year. It was made by a loyal Edenderry man and his son—The Messrs. Adair of James Street. It reflected much credit on their talent, and with its gates and guns was a powerful reminder of what took place 250 years ago in Derry. Another Arch of fine proportions spanned Goban Street, and was, we hear, the work of the boys of Goban Street. Joseph Street and the Red Row had also a fine display of bunting.

ITEMS.

The Edenderry Pipers Band made a fine turn-out on the "Twelfth."

* * *

Protestant Orphan Cards should be returned on August 1st.

* * *

Seagoe School re-opens (D.V.) on Monday, August 16th, at 9-30 a.m.

* * *

The Rev. R. B. Cooke, who preached at the Anniversary Service, is a native of Levaghery.

Cooke's Hill, now Carrick Blacker Road, was formerly the residence of Mr. Cooke's family.

* * *

The Bishop has arranged to visit Seagoe on Sunday, November 21st.

* * *

Potato Blight has made its appearance in the Parish.

PARISH REGISTER for JULY.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized on July 3rd, 1920, in Seagoe Parish Church.

Hewitt—Thomas James, son of Moses and Rachel Jane Hewitt, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Mary Elizabeth McNally, Rachel Jane Hewitt.

Somerville—Margaret Elizabeth, daughter of John and Mary Somerville, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Martha Glassey, Mary Somerville.

Best—Margaret, daughter of William David and Sarah Anne Best, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Mary Jane Best, Sarah Anne Best.

Dickson—Mary Edith and John, children of John and Mary Dickson, of Lisniskey.

Sponsors—Sarah Hara, Mary Dickson.

Wright—William Norman, son of William and Elizabeth Wright, of Tarson.

Sponsors—William Wright, Elizabeth Wright.

Porter—Norah, daughter of David and Sarah Mary Porter, of Kernan.

Sponsors—Caroline Magee, Sarah Mary Porter.

Ruddell—Thomas, son of Joseph and Mary Jane Ruddell, of Kernan.

Sponsors—Caroline Magee, Mary Jane Ruddell.

Marriage.

Jeffers and McIlwaine—On July 7th, 1920, Albert Jeffers, of Belfast, to Emily Conway McIlwaine, of Drumgor.

Burials.

Major—5th July, Robert Major, of Lower Seagoe, aged 82 years

Brown—11th July, John Brown, of Kernan, aged 2 years.

Devine—18th July, John Alexander Devine, of Knock, aged 79 years.

WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE,

By Lieut.-Col. S. W. BLACKER, D.S.O.

[Continued from July Magazine.]

Sunday, October 31.

Having Service in barn, and Communion in Schoolhouse.

Pte. Wilson was mending wire in front, with a party at night, when they sprayed with M.G. on chance, and got him. Don't see much of other Battalions. The instant a man is ill he is sent right away. One man has been sent home with appendicitis. Gen. Allenby is acting in command of III Army at present. The Germans have never been as far as this. They came within a mile of our first billets—chez Mons le Curé, and a man suspected of spying was taken and tortured and killed. I don't censor the officers' letters. I put them on their honour. We have stopped all papers except "Times" and "Daily Mail," as they accumulated so when we were moving, and could not be carried.

Monday, November 1st.

To-day has arrived an issue of one pair woollen gloves per man, and 50 extra for emergencies. Send along all mitts you have, they will come in useful for emergencies. Concentrate on socks, of which they never have enough. Cakes or bread, if at all feasible, they would love. Am trying to rig up some sort of place as a reading room, but it is so hard to get a place.

Bertie McCalmont has gone to take command of 1st Irish Guards. Withicombe, K.O.L.I., has got 107th Brigade.

The place is liquid mud ankle deep, and the country over your ankles. We shall do much damage to crops to-morrow, I fear, with our Field Day.

Tuesday, Nov. 2nd.

Bull, who has come to command 12th R.I.R. (in Mc'C's place), is a 1st R.I.F. man. We started at 7-15 a.m. this morn and returned at 2 p.m., and it never ceased pouring the whole time. It's still raining, harder than ever. Roads running water. Had a bath to-night. Washing just back; very well done.

Wednesday, Nov. 3rd.

Fine, after three days' rain. I am trying to start a sort of canteen to supply note paper, soap, and little things, but until we are settled it is difficult.

Our report from G.O.C., 48th Div. (Gen. Fanshawe, I think), to whom we were attached while in the Trenches, etc., has just come in; rather satisfactory. Among other pleasant things he says—"The 9th R. Ir. Fus. is the best Battalion of the New Army I have seen." Of course he may not have seen many, but still its pleasant, and will buck up all ranks. 11th and 12th got good reports too. Halahan's sing song to-morrow night, is in a somewhat battered barn, which he calls the Cathedral, as we have Service there.

Thursday, Nov. 4th.

Socks, and indeed, all articles, are very hard to get out of Ordnance. The Battalion wants everything, and cannot get from Ordnance—Boots, Clothing of all sorts, and necessaries. Socks are *always* wanted. One can replenish nominally at any time, but as I say, things are hard to get. The evenings are drawing in fast, and getting cold. Feeling very fit and well.

Friday, Nov. 5th.

Glad Socks for men are on their way. Would like potted meat and cake. Frost and colder. Fine sunny day. Am trying a scheme of sending to Field Force Canteen for things for men. The difficulty is the lack of all change under 5 franc notes.

Saturday, Nov. 6th.

Parcel came to-day with 36 pairs of Mitts. All the Company Commanders delighted with them. 168 pairs Socks also arrived. *Splendid*. They are indeed a boon. Lovely cloudless day, with N wind and strong sun; a perfect late autumnal day. Did some revolver practice with Adj. in p.m., alternate right and left hand.

Sunday, Nov. 7th.

Padre had a severe day, five Services this a.m. and two in p.m.

Monday, Nov. 8th.

Cakes and potted meat, etc., are very welcome whilst we are sitting tight. Am trying to rig up Recreation Room for the men, but it's very hard to get a place at all. Weather fine for last week but has broken again, and is raining now. I asked Halahan to write to you re sending out games—draughts, dominoes, etc., for the men. Mitts will, of course, soon wear out, and they and socks will be always welcome. Shirts are easy to obtain so don't send them. French bread is good, but we only get the brownish variety, not the white. The ration bread is not enough for these men, who still buy much bread. Bales of papers will be excellent. I am starting Recreation Rooms in each of the villages with the Padre's help. "Times" Broadsheets are excellent. Yes, send some. The King asked for McCalmont, so he could hardly refuse. I heard this morning that we are getting Gen. Powell's cup for best Brigade at Musketry, and he is giving it to us as the best shooting Battalion, and it is to go to FitzGerald at Lurgau, very sensibly. I asked him to have an order published about it. I find men had an issue of gloves about four months ago, and they are now all worn out! Fergie says more can be got from Ordnance. He thinks notepaper and indelible pencils are badly wanted.

Tuesday, Nov. 9th.

Col. Bull, who has come to command the 12th

R.I.R., started in Leinsters and went into Irish Fus. You ask about food—Well, breakfast: tinned salmon kedgerie, or ditto fish, cakes, eggs and bacon, Cooper's marmalade, tea, fresh milk and butter. Lunch—1 p.m.: mince or stewed beef, stewed apples, cream and sugar. Dinner—7 p.m.: soup, beef or Maconachy ration, stewed prunes or apples, and coffee. Quite good, but little variety. Called at 7; breakfast, 8; parade, 9 to 1; bed, 9-30 to 10. There is a fearful amount of rum in the village. I think the houses have it. Their lives, doing Field Punishment, are not pleasant. I have got a new Provost Sergeant who hots'em well. Betsy Jane had got so woolly that she was clipped to-day and looks very smart. She is under cover, in a barn (in fact, Stronge has all the transport animals under a roof), and has a good warm blanket. The mail doesn't leave till about 2 p.m. Had a bath this evening. Plum pudding and caviare for dinner. I have Cathay training as an understudy to Adj. Raining steadily to-night. I have asked the Padre to write a short weekly note to "Armagh Guardian," as to our doings. Tiger's woolly is invaluable.

Wednesday, Nov. 10th.

Nice bright morning after the rain. I wrote in yesterday strongly recommending the cheese ration—4oz. a day per man be reduced to same amount twice a week, as the men do not care about it, and in lieu that more vegetables and potatoes be allowed, to be purchased locally. One cheese ration for the Batt. Hugh O'Neill has been taken on at Div. H.Q. Staff, as Claims Officer. No chickens no omelettes! Yes, Fanshawe is the G.O.C. 48th Div., and he said "The 9th R.I.F. appear to be well disciplined, well trained, and well commanded. They are the best Battalion in the New Armies I have seen." Yes, there is some rheumatism, a good deal of toothache, some diarrhoea, and the usual sprains, sore feet, &c. Few cases of itch. About 40 in hospital, of whom about 6 will go to England. The men are in barns mostly, and out-houses; very dirty some of them, but now cleaned up, and plenty of clean straw. We have nearly 2,000 sandbags now. Turned very wet.

Thursday, Nov. 11th.

Lovely morning, fresh and bright, Chickens here at 5 francs each. Reading Room was crowded last night. Light was bad, but tried to get Acetylene hand lamp but failed. How about lanterns or lamps? I hope very much to get the extra veg. and potatoes, 5 days a week, instead of cheese. Cannot hear anything of lamps from Amiens. Good thing for you to accumulate sandbags to send out, when we go up again. Saw Elkington to day, looking much better for his nine days at home. Cheery as usual.

9-30 p.m. Brigade Major came in just before dinner to say a telephone message had come from Div H.Q. that we were to start for the Trenches again on Monday, a bother as we have been spending much time and labour in making these billets comfortable for the men. To go in for a fortnight and then

come back here is the idea; very upsetting this moving about. If we could only settle down to a regular trench line we could be comfortable. However, here it is and it's no use grumbling. My kit will be heavy. Shall have to leave something behind, I expect. Raining hard to-night.

Friday, Nov. 12th.

We are to go into the 4th Div. lot of Trenches, near Maily, I think. We are ordered to march 17 miles on Sunday, and 12 Monday. The men can't do it, and I've represented it pretty strongly. I don't know what the outcome will be. Anyhow, after to-morrow, till we are settled in the Trench line, my letters will be scrappy and uncertain. Such a wild wet day. We went to the rendezvous, and then came home. Scrambling to get men fitted with boots. Such a lot have gone altogether. Fergie says we have 3,400 sandbags. They will all be wanted. Much warmer this evening, but windy all day, tho' it doesn't seem to be a windy place. Practically had none to bother about since we came out.

Saturday, Nov. 13th.

Another wet day. I suppose the weather has broken. Just like last year. It was yesterday, last year, we moved from Clondeboy to Belfast. A cheerful prospect for the march to-morrow. To start men off on a 17 mile march is madness! Stating Brigade and Div. make no difference in time of receipt of letters. I fancy the order was issued in case Battalions or Brigades were detached.

Later.

Well, our move is postponed, and we don't move now until Monday at 7 a.m. for P——. Next day two Companies to C——C, and two Companies to M——Y. Who should turn up this p.m., but Holt? He is Div. Cavalry to 3rd Div., now resting. Got an opportunity of a car and came down to H.Q., and Farnham brought him over to see me. Looking so well, full of buck, and enjoying himself. Been up near Wipers for some time. Hope to be able to get boots for the men whose boots are done (about 80) before we move now. I rather dread the two marches—first 17 miles, and next day 12 miles. Glad we are staying on. We shall get mail, double dose, to-morrow, instead of it pursuing us, and our getting four days at once.

I see the Huns put 80 high explosives into our last Trench place yesterday. The "Downs" go there. The 1st R.I.F. are at Maily, so we may see them. The men like going back to the Trench line. This sort of playing at soldiers—Div. Field Days, and digging latrines, etc., is making them discontented, so I'm glad we're going.

Sunday, Nov. 14th.

Lovely day. Church in the barn at 10 a.m. Padre had mustered an efficient choir, which made much difference to heartiness of service. The broad sheets here. Padre says some men like them very much. I fancy they are a little above the heads of

some men. It's no use sending out *old dailies*. Some people are sending Halahan weeks old papers; pure waste. Padre is simply excellent. He moves round the men, runs the Reading Room, and literature is invaluable. He never intrudes in any way. On a march he is worth a wagon with the stragglers. He and Berry will have their work cut out to-morrow. I fear. Meat lozenges still going well, and half-a-box in hand. We had your wet weather on Friday. Hope it will be fine to-morrow. Bull is off on leave. and is trying to get 1st R.I.F. Kentish has been made Commandant, School of Instruction at St. Omer. C. Clarke comes as Staff Captain, I believe. I had to send Reid to Havre as an Instructor of Reinforcements. I was sorry for him: it seems ridiculous to call on front line Units to find Instructors, when there are plenty at home dying to come out. We all continue fit and well. I'm thankful to say. Two more cases of appendicitis, from eating green apples, Berry says; one of Tuberculosis. The waste of war has begun without wound casualties. Letters for the next few days will be irregular. To-morrow I doubt being able to post a letter, and the next day the same, but by Wednesday we ought to have settled down all right and the post sorted itself. Breakfast 6-15 a.m. to-morrow in the dark. Snow is our Army Corps Commander. He came out in Command of 4th Div. Frank Lyon is his G.S.O.I. Hastings Anderson is on either his Staff or 11th Army Staff.

Monday, Nov. 15th—[Puchevillers.]

5 p.m. Just in after 17½ miles. Heavy snow in early a.m., 2-inches to 3-inches on road. Very bad for horses and heavy for men. Start and first 6 miles very trying. Transport jibbing and falling. Men handling waggons. Snowing at times. We then got on to level road; sun came out and things were all right. Men marched in here at 4-15 p.m. splendidly. We had dinner half-way, cooked in cookers. Padre and Berry splendid, helping transport, driving waggons, handling wheels, and cheering on the men. We brought everyone in, thanks to them, with the Battalion. This is where we billeted before going up to trenches, where Pratt, Adjt. and I were in one room. Much better billets this time. I have a room and bed. We start at 9 a.m. to-morrow. French troops here also. Delay in post caused by submarine in Channel I hear.

Wednesday, Nov. 17th—[Colincamps.]

No means of posting, or getting letters, Monday or Tuesday. Heavy march in here, 12 miles in snow, yesterday. Transport took 8 hours. Men and horses cooked. Rum ration. In different billets. To-morrow we take over Trench line as a Battalion—two Companies here and two Companies H.Q. in Trenches. Don't know for how long. Have had no letters since Sunday. I believe a five-day mail comes in this p.m. All well, save for Brew, internal chill, and Allen. Just seen Willie Strong, who is Brigadier R.A. this Div. Came in here to see me. Looking very well, but snow-

white hair. W. Stirling here in Command of R.A., and S. Gosling, Major, Commanding a Battery. Dined with latter. Have to be off in 15 minutes to look round trenches we take over to-morrow p.m. I don't know how long we shall be in. All sorts of rumours about. This is a weird billet. Pratt, Adjt. and I in one room. I in the mess room, and the kitchen next door. No tables or chairs. Lovely sunny day. Snow still lying. We take over from 7th A. & S. H'rs., Commanded by Hyslop. Hall, Brigadier of 10th Bde., under whom we go, knows both Pratt and Fergie. Rather rushed. Writing on floor, while others are eating! We are going in a very quiet bit of line, and I am living in a dug-out. Much more comfy than this billet, I expect.

Wed. & Thur., Nov. 17th & 18th.

No mail in yet. Started at 1-30 and went round Trench line. We take over to-morrow. Quite a decent dug-out; two beds and mess for self, Adjt. and Pratt, M.G. officer, and R.A. observing officer; rest back in a village. Company dug-outs quite good, but men's very bad. Trenches, of course, in a muddy state, and not so good as H——ones, but paved with brick in parts. As far as I can gather we are not to be in for long, as the latest idea is that the 36th Division moves South to form part of the new 13th Corps, to take over some line further S. On our way here yesterday we passed the village where the 1st Inniskillings are, and saw Doak. We do not relieve until 5 p.m. in the dark—rather a nuisance. They seem an easier lot of Trenches to find one's way about in, and about 250—500 yards from the Huns.

Thursday, Nov. 18th.

Post came in late last night. Six letters from you, and parcel etc.

Friday, Nov. 19th—[Trench Line.]

Just a line to say I'm all right, and we all are after our first night. Post goes at 10 a.m. Poor C. Shillington was wounded and missing from a patrol last night. He is in the 8th R.I.R., attached with his Company to Dublin Fusiliers, next to us in the line. Trenches very sticky and dirty; one is covered with mud. No mail yesterday.

6 p.m. Been hard at it all day, with few moments to spare. Got up at 5 a.m. and went round front-line. Dark, misty, but no rain, and not too cold. Very quiet night and day and no casualties. Frank Lyon came to see me to-day here. He says, and should know, we go out of Trenches on 23rd and join 13th Corps, now forming, and take up line S. of this, he thinks. Adjt. and I sleep in this dug-out, and five of us feed in it, and it is an office. Messages come in all day and night, and one mayn't take one's clothes off. Men's dug-outs not nearly so good as before. Want a lot of work on them. Have seen no paper since last Saturday! Don't want any more potted meat yet. We shall be on the move again next week.

[To Be CONTINUED.]