

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JULY, 1920.

A Day of Remembrance.

SUNDAY, July 4th, will be specially observed this year in Seagoe Parish Church. We will commemorate the sad but glorious July 1st, 1916. An appropriate Anthem—"Who are these in white robes," will be sung by the choir. It will also be the first anniversary of the Confirmation which was held last July. We specially invite those who were then Confirmed to be present at the celebration of Holy Communion. The offerings at both services will be on behalf of the Co. Armagh Protestant Orphan Society. We hope this year to double the contributions from Seagoe Parish to this most useful Society.

Anniversary Service.

An Anniversary Service will be held in Seagoe Church on Sunday Evening, July 11th, at 7 p.m.—Preacher, the Rev. Ralph B. Cooke, M.A., Rector of All Saint's Church, Belfast. Mr. Cooke, who is a native of Levaghery, is well known in Seagoe Parish. Mr. Cooke will also preach at Morning Prayer, on Sunday, July 11th. The offerings at the Anniversary Service will be in aid of the Enniskillen Orphan Fund.

Flower Service.

A Flower Service will be held at Levaghery School on Sunday, July 4th, at 3.30. The Sunday School Prizes will also be distributed. Everyone is expected to bring flowers, which will be sent to Lurgan Infirmary to brighten the wards.

Col. Blacker's Letters.

We publish in this issue a further instalment of Col. Blacker's most interesting letters from the front. They deal for the first time with actual fighting in the Trenches.

The Excursion.

The Sunday School Children had a splendid day at Warrenpoint, on Thursday, June 17th. Though it rained early in the morning not a drop fell from the time the procession left the church. It was a perfect day—real Seagoe Weather and the sea and the mountains looked beautiful under the summer sun. Gilbert Price had the tea ready for us in good time, and the buns were fine. The recent rains had laid the dust, and everything combined to make the excursion a very happy experience.

Prayerless Marriages.

Some of our people have recently seen fit to marry in the Registry Office. At a most solemn crisis in their life they reject the prayers and ministrations of the Church. Can they expect the Divine Blessing in their future life? Perhaps some have done it thoughtlessly, but we hope we have seen the last of these Prayerless Marriages.

Acknowledgment.

Mission Week, Drumnagoon—Miss H. Dickson, 8/3. Florence Court, Joseph Street, etc.—Miss Ena Allen, 9/11. Kernan—Miss E. McLaughlin, 14/3.

Carrickblacker Road—Miss A. Cox, 5/2. Carne—Miss A. Connolly, 9/-. Bridge Street—Miss A. Johnston, 5/6. Carrickblacker Avenue—Miss A. Gates, 2/3. Total, £2 14s 4d. Total to date, £9 8s 1d.

Bible Society—5s each: Selina Bradshaw, Sarah McDowell, Samuel Jennett, Wm. Gracey, Lottie Magee, 2/4; Maggie Wilson, 3/2. Three Cards not yet returned. Complete total so far received, £4 16s 1d.

S.P.G. Missions—2/6 each. James White, May Johnston, Lily Wilson, W. J. Hewitt, Maisie Steenson, Lily Morton, Maggie Gracey, Robert Hewitt, A. Rainey. Three Cards not yet returned.

Seagoe War Memorial.

List of Subscriptions.—Total, £339 6s 9d.

£20 each—Lt. Col. S. W. Blacker, F. Armstrong.

£10 each—W. R. Atkinson, Rev. Canon Archer, Alan Bell, R.M.; David Rock.

£7—Thomas Walker (Levaghery).

£5 each—T. E. Maginnis, David Murray, Thomas Martin, John Montgomery, James Twinem, Robert Price, J. H. Stevenson, James Sands, A. Costello, J. G. Gracey, Jos. Monro, Mrs. W. R. Atkinson, Miss Atkinson, Miss G. Atkinson, Thomas J. Joyce, Mrs. W. Best, Hugh Stoops, J. L. Gilpin, George Reid, John Lavery, Ephraim Collins, W. J. Atkinson, Mrs. W. Walker, Dr. W. Walker, Mrs. Fitzroy, Jas. Boyce, Mrs. W. Best, W. J. Calvert, Miss Calvert, Miss Armstrong, T. J. Montgomery, F. D. Collen, W. and Mrs. Irwin.

£4—Samuel Abraham.

£3 each—Miss Armstrong's Edenderry Women's Bible Class, The Misses Dawson,

£2 10s each—F. Robinson (1st inst.), Watson Wilson, Wm. Wilson, James W. Mayes, Sunday School Collection.

£2 each—R. Gracey, Mrs. R. J. Archer, Dr. Hadden, Thomas Dickson, W. Browne, T. M'Keown, Eliza Magee, T. H. Wilson.

£1 10s each—James Bradshaw, Samuel Walker, Mrs. Taylor, J. H. Hughes, Jos. M'Loughlin.

£1 1s—Mrs. E. M. Hall.

£1 each—W. J. M'Dowell, G. S. Neill, Pte. Neill, N.Z. Force; Nicholas England, Mrs. Twinem, Robert Hopps, Sam. H. Best, Mrs. Carrick, Miss M'Collum, Robert Coulter, Sergt. J. Shepherd, George Jennett, Mrs. J. Walker, S. Rennix, Thomas Hoy, John Sandford, John Flannigan, T. Shanks, Mrs. Shanks, Mrs. Frazer, Windsor Terrace, Belfast; Mrs. Gerrard, Samuel Guy, Derryvore.

10s each—Mrs. Hoy, J. Gracey, jun.; Joe Lewie, Mrs. Lewie, Mrs. Craig, R. M'Cormack, W. J. England, Mrs. Preston, Miss Sands, Mrs. Bond, Robert Dunlop, John Lavery, Miss Dynes.

6s—Mrs. M'Mullen,

5s each—Thomas M'Dowell, Alex M'Cormick, John Gordon, J. M'Keown, Mrs. C. Twinem, H. Graham, J. Shanks, late Robert M'Knight, W. Campbell, H. Cooke, L. Mayes, Mrs. E. J. M'Cormick, Ed. Webb

Richard Maxwell, W. J. Cox, Mrs. W. Rowan, Thos. Metcalf.

4s—Joshua Chambers. 3s 6d—Isabella Coburn.
3s 3d—James Webb.

2s 6d each—Misses Rodgers, W. Graham, Margaret M'Kain, Mrs. Gibson, Wm. Tedford.

2s each—Mrs. Wm. Best, W. J. Thompson, W. Lutton, J. Flavel, E. Hawthorn, Mrs. Johnston, John M'Cann, Ann Wells.

1s each—Mrs. Clayton, W. Fleming.

Interest to date—£5 3s 1d.

PARISH REGISTER for JUNE.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church, on June 5th, 1920—

Baptisms.

McElroy—Doris, daughter of William and Elizabeth McElroy, of Drumnagoon.

Sponsors—Mary Forde, Elizabeth McElroy.

Fiddes—Robert Logan, son of Robert Logan and Mary Fiddes, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Maria Weir, Mary Fiddes.

Porter—Gladys Winifred, daughter of Robert Henry and Jemima Porter, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Agnes Wilson, Mary Anne Allen.

Gracey—Hannah, daughter of William and Rebecca Gracey, of Balteagh.

Sponsors—Kathleen Frances McMullan, Hannah Gracey.

Hara—Dorothy, daughter of Robert and Mary Hara, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Charlotte Matilda Clayton, Mary Hara.

McDowell—Eileen Maude, daughter of William Jas. and Anna Maria McDowell, of Levaghery.

Sponsors—William James McDowell, Anna Maria McDowell.

Armstrong—On Easter Day, April 4th, 1920, in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, South Manchester, Connecticut, U.S.A., Everett Best, son of Richard and Lena Best Armstrong (formerly of Ballyhannon.)

Sponsors—Thomas Haddock, Richard Armstrong, Lena Best Armstrong.

Marriage.

Walker and Webber—On the 17th June, 1920, at St. Barnabas, Rotherhithe, London, Isaac Walker, of Upper Seagoe, to Emma Webber, Rotherhithe.

Burials.

McCabe—June 7th, Joseph McCabe, of Edenderry, aged 9 months.

Preston—June 8th, Margaret Preston, of Ballinteggart, formerly of Ballinacor, aged 31 years.

* * *

The workmen are engaged at Seagoe Church preparing for the erection of the War Memorial walls and gates.

WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE,

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

October 20—[Hebuterne]—Continued.

Halahan is splendid, and is now living with us. Munro goes to Dardenelles. I think we just escaped Balkans. They put 200 large shells into this village the day before we came in; no casualties to speak of. None yesterday or to-day. They hammered one part of this Trench line two days ago; 400 high explosive shells; only three casualties, owing to the line being held lightly in front. Some of the 107 Brigade (Belfast Regiments) got shelled whilst bathing, and had 15 wounded. Firing (somewhat desultory) Rifle—goes on always. If place is bombarded we retire to cellars. We are all very fit and cheery. McClintock (late Berks) commands one of these Brigades; he is now in reserve, resting. We have captured a table and three chairs. Last night coming in we had to move with 150 yards between Platoons, and a like distance between vehicles. A guide met each Company and took it off. This place is a ruin, the church battered to pieces, and shell holes in most houses. Not an inhabitant in the place. I met Munro attached to 'I' Battery, after Staff College, in 1890. Yesterday before leaving I addressed a few words to the men, and Halahan held a 10 minute service. Very nicely done.

The Trenches here are most comfortable, brick floors and officers' dug-outs, with shelves, mirrors and

beds; far more comfortable than billets. We have made our billet much better to-day. It is a one-storied house, with four rooms. Padre, Fergie, and Pratt in one room, Adj. and I in another, which we use as an ante-room, and a mess room and kitchen. We have rigged up a door and window and got the fireplace in order, so to-night are very cosy. A great outbreak of rifle and machine gun fire lasted from 4-30 to 6 p.m., and has now died away. A good cellar to this house. Plenty of derelict houses from which to take wood, doors, etc., but not a pane of glass in the place.

October 21.

We leave here 26th, and return to our original billets. Been all round another Battalion trenches this morning. Good walk; foggy morning. Am dining with another C.O., and going round his trenches to-night. Wonderfully quiet last night, and we all slept like tops, and were most comfortable. Stronge and transport are about 1½ miles away, and he comes in for each meal. Fanshawe is Div. Gen. of this Div., brother of the gunner, Very nice fellow. The mail bags I use as a zarefa round my bed to keep off the wind. The first night we were here a working party composed of a few Glo'sters and some of our men, had two shells into them. Two Glo'sters were killed, and two of our men knocked down by the blast,

but not touched and quite unhurt. I expect they will write home a useful account!

I visited the Soldiers' Cemetery. About 30 graves, very nicely kept, all with wooden crosses, about 4 feet in height. While here three of our aeroplanes came over and the Huns opened fire on them. No result, but very pretty to watch the bursting shell very high up. Our Hws. then shelled the Huns over our heads. Pratt and I dine out with Micklem, C.O. of 6 Glo'ster Terr. Was a Sub. in R.B. 1st Batt. Knew Freddy. Wounded in November. Took over Adjutancy of Terr. and has now got command. After six years' service!!

7 p.m. In the middle the Huns fired two shells into the village. One burst in our yard, and one in the next. Pratt, Adj. and I retired to the cellar, but are up again now. A joint patrol of our men and the others, with young 'Shill.' and another officer, went out last night and met a similar patrol of Huns—result a scrap, in which we bagged one Hun, brought in, and heard groans from three others. Our casualties nil, which was very good. Young 'Shill.' I hear, was excellent.

October 22nd.

I arrived just as they were bringing the German into the Trenches; shot through the lung. Fairly quiet night, lovely day. No more shelling. 2 Div. gone from here to Salonika, and we to take their place in Trench line, and not to return to our billets.

October 23rd.

Still lovely weather. A fairly quiet day and night, and all well. To-day we are going to strafe them with M.G.'s, and guns of all sorts. We are not to return to our old billets, but go somewhere else near here, I fancy, and take over a bit of the line from some Div. gone away. At least that is the rumour. Dined last night with Nicholson. Capital fellow. He told me ours were the best lot he'd had under instruction, which was satisfactory. Had our 1st casualty last night—Pte. Wilson, 'C' Company, flesh wound in arm, rifle bullet.

October 23rd.

Col Balfour commands R.A. Just had tea with him. He left 13 years ago, and 6 years ago took up Terriers R.F.A. Lives at Tetbury. Says Dickie is up N. in Flanders. Great gunner. Hotham with him. Great strafe on our part, this p.m. for half an hour, from 8-30. All our guns—Hows. and 6-in. heavies poured in high explosive shell on the Hun Trenches. I watched it with the General from a capital place. Very pretty and accurate shooting. So far no reply at all. We leave here on Monday, I believe, and go behind the line again into safety for some time. Our movements are uncertain, but we move back on Monday. Carson made a fine speech on resignation, one of the best he has ever made. All very fit and well, and now quite got into the changed conditions of living.

October 24th—[Sun.]

Quiet night after all. We leave in the morn. Our people all coming out of the Trench line now.

and billet with the Reserve to-night, setting off to-morrow morning, and having baths en route. We stay the night at new place, and on to another place about 12 miles. We've had a capital week here, lovely weather and the men have enjoyed themselves. Three shells into far end of village this a.m., and they've been spraying it with M.G. fire this p.m. No casualties. Three of our aeroplanes over the village this p.m., and the Huns fired at them for some time, but no result. I had a long morning round the Trenches of the Right Battalion of the Brigade—with communication Trenches, etc. They have eight miles of Trenches to keep up! Geoffrey Bishop just got his Commission, and Bishop with Res. Cavalry in England. Ady. had a sniping shot at a Hun at 800 yards range this morning. He made him move under cover pretty smart, but did not, I think, actually hit him tho' very close. Poor Serbia seems in a bad way. Nasty blow about Bulgaria. In a way we are more comfy here, as its the first place we have managed to get firewood for a fire. A shell dropped near old Ensor in the Trenches yesterday, and he dug up the nose of it and is carrying it about—(1½-lbs. weight)—full of pride. Halahan is a splendid fellow, and Berry excellent, too. Service for Transport to-day, all the rest of the Battalion in the Trenches.

October 26th—[Couin] and [Beaunal].

Here we are back again at the place we stopped before going into the Trenches. Only 1 casualty this week—"Downs" 1, 11th and 12th eleven. We now trek away 12 miles to-day, and 12 to-morrow, well behind the line. 109th go into the Trenches for a week. Rumours of all sorts. 11th Army goes to Salonika is one. We go S.W. Lunched with McClintock yesterday, and a good warm at the fire. They're in the chateau, and they get the "Times" the same evening! We got here after a 12 hour march. Large town, scattered billets. Move on to-morrow, 10 miles, when we stay for a week, when we go back to the Trenches, taking the place of a Battalion in the 4th Division, to whom we and the 109 Brigade shall belong for the period of two months we are Trenching. I believe we shall take turns with a Brigade of that Div.—8 days in and 8 days out. (Service in ———— I'm glad to say, not for us.) Lovely day, cold wind. 107th had about 25 casualties. I believe. I don't actually live in the Trenches, but in village 200 yards in rear. Was walking round them day and night, the exercise did me good. They are very much what I thought, but more maze like, and difficult to find one's way about. More comfortable also both for officers and men. Very late before we got settled in to-night. We got a good report from the Trenches, I believe. Symon was out with the R.A., but went to Vickers' works to some job. Our interpreter is troublesome and lazy. Roads very slushy to-day after yesterday's rain.

October 27th—[Ribeaucourt.]

Managed to keep quite warm last night tho' we were under canvas. Very comfy billets to-night. Rain first, and then lovely sun. Roads exceptionally

muddy and tiring. Another 12 mile march and the men were tired, but Halahan and Berry cheered them on, and we came in all right, dropping no one en route. 107th go into Trenches next week instead of us. Rumours of all sorts. We stay on here for three or four weeks, and then take up some Trenches with 109th and a Regular Brigade. Very nice comfortable billets, tho' we are scattered. A & B and H.Q. here, and Brig. H.Q. and C about 1½ miles away, and D ditto, in another direction. Adj. and I each a room with bed in this house, with mess and kitchen. A nice woman who tells me she had an English Gen. here, with family, for six years, some years ago, so she understands English ways. The King and K inspected 107h and 109th Brigades. We were in the trenches. The houses and barns are much less tumble down than in our first village, but the roads very muddy. I hope we may be here three weeks at least. All are well and fit on the life, and improving. Casualties so far—

107th Brigade	...	27
108th	"	14
R.A.	"	4
		45

We took these Trenches over from the French, but we bricked them. Bavarians opposite us. Don't know where we shall go into the line, probably south.

October 29th—Friday.

Such a pouring day. Never ceased. Mud everywhere, over your ankles. Such luck not to have this in Trenches. We are not allowed to send any articles of clothing home. Am getting washing done here. They have issued us with goatskin coats for the men. "Holt" is in the Trenches near Ypres. Fine and sunny to-day, and we cleaned up roads and billets, etc. Had a nice bath to-night. Manage one now once a week. I fancy this Salonika show is not thought out and will be a similar muddle to the Dardanelles show. Some 12 men looted a cabaret last night, and got violently drunk on spirits. Shall have them tried and bottled, I hope. No chance of getting change in these villages, silver being a scarce commodity, paper 5 franc notes being the smallest.

October 30th.

Behind the line the absence of men and the tumble down outhouses, strike one most, and desolate condition of gardens. Country well and carefully cultivated by women and old men. In the Trench line, and for a mile behind it, the reversion of the land to its primitive state (no crops only a waste of weeds) is sad, and total absence of inhabitants. Of course our bombardment was small, guns well behind and only lasted an hour. Noise not bad; M.G. and Infantry fire worse; bursting of large shells on enemy Trenches deafening, but on the whole nothing to bother about. One looks out over a deserted country, not a sign of life, nothing but weeds, woods, isolated trees, and a maze of Trenches. Hard to realize that they are full of men, waiting and looking for an oppor-

to attack or snipe you. Totally different from S.A., and, of course, India. No terrible sights as yet. The day before we got into the line an officer of the Terrier Warwicks moved from his very deep dug-out, afraid of being buried alive, and went to a Signallers observation post; an 8-inch shell dropped right on it, and there was nothing left I believe.

Halahan is getting up a sing-song next week. We've managed to rig up baths and hot water in the three villages, and to-morrow is to be devoted to bathing, hair-cutting and intervals of Divine Worship, cleanliness being next to Godliness. The last troops here were Indian Cavalry, who left the place dirty, and apparently did not get on with the inhabitants. I believe we are fixed here for a month; started musketry to-day, about a mile off. My room is off the kitchen, with a door, shut of course, and not used in between, but every voice is audible—much chattering. The mess room is another kitchen, with a brick floor and curious sort of range—small fire.

[To Be Continued.]

Seagoe School Repairs.

Receipts—W.R. Atkinson 10s, John Montgomery 5s, T. E. Maginnis 10s, John E. Lavery 5s, T. J. Montgomery 10s, Thomas Martin 5s, James Sands, 10s, Joseph Monro 5s, J. H. Stevenson 5s, Andrew Costello 5s, James Twinem 5s, Lt.-Col. Blacker, D.S.O., 10s, D. W. Murray 10s, W. J. M'Dowell, 5s, Thomas M'Cauley 5s, George Jennett 5s, Ephraim Collins 5s, John G. Gracey 5s, Wolsey White 5s, Wm. Holmes 5s, Samuel Rennix 10s, Samuel Hall 5s, Miss Calvert 5s, Robert Price 5s. Total £7 15s 0d.

Expenses—4 bags cement £3 1s, 4 loads jink £1 8s 9d, 8 loads broken stones £1 1s 5d, Labour £1 8s, Cartage 12s 6d—£7 11s 8d. Balance 3s 4d, Total £7 15s 0d.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.

Hidden Towns and Rivers—Perth, York, Naples, Tagus.

Word Diamond—I, End, India, Din A—C, Pot, Cover, Ten, R.

ITEMS.

The New Hymnal will be introduced into Seagoe Church on Sunday, September 5th. Everyone should purchase a copy without delay.

Sincere sympathy and regret are expressed at the sudden death of Mrs. Margaret Preston, wife of Mr. George Preston, of Ballinacor. The anxiety of her husband's long imprisonment in Germany seriously affected her health.

Miss Margaret Isabella Best has been appointed a Monitress in Seagoe School.

Three Seagoe lads, Andy Hall, Joe Mathers and Ben Neill are serving with the British Army in North Persia, and are at present stationed at Kasvin. They are unpleasantly near the Bolshevist forces.