

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

OCTOBER, 1922.

Colonel Blacker's Letters.

In this issue of the Magazine we print the sad record of the losses in the 9th Battalion on July 1st, 1916. It is a heartrending story, and will stir the hearts of all who read it. Years may pass but the deeds of those who shared in that Great Advance will never be forgotten.

The Harvest Services.

These Services will be held in the Parish Church on Thursday, October 5th, at 8, and on Sunday, October 8th, at 11.30 and 7. The Preacher on Thursday will be the Rev. E. A. Myles, M.A., Rector of Tullylish, and on Sunday the Rev. F. B. Aldwell, LL.D., Rector of Aghalee. The offerings on Thursday will be in aid of Foreign Missions, and on Sunday on behalf of the Parochial Fund.

District Harvest Services.

HACKNAHAY—Sunday, October 1st, at 3.30.

„ Monday, October 2nd, at 8. Preacher, the Rev. Dr. Orr, LL.D., Rector of Gifford.

CARNE—Sunday, October 1st, at 3.30.

„ Monday, October 2nd, at 8. Preacher, the Rev. G. C. Johnston, Curate of Shankill.

DRUMGOR—Sunday, October 15th, at 3.30.

„ Monday, October 16, at 8.

EDENDERRY—Sunday, October 22nd, at 3.30.

„ Monday, 23rd October, at 8.

LEVAGHERY—Sunday, October 29th, at 3.30.

„ Monday, October 30th, at 8.

Sunday School Teachers' Excursion.

The Teachers had an enjoyable Excursion to Bangor on Saturday, September 23rd. They left the Parochial Hall by Motor Charabanc at 8.30. The weather was perfect. On arrival at Bangor a Meat Tea was ready at the Carlton Cafe, and with an appetite whetted by the 35 mile drive the excursionists appreciated it to the full. During the day the members walked to the Pickie and to Ballyholme, enjoying the splendid sea views. At 6.30 a start was made for home and all reached the Parochial Hall safely about 9 o'clock. The Hacknahay G.F.S. accompanied the Excursion with their Associate, Miss Calvert.

Next year (D.V.) we hope to have another Teachers' Excursion, perhaps to Portrush.

The Mothers' Union.

The Mothers have had several very pleasant gatherings during the past month. On the first Tuesday they were most hospitably entertained to tea in Seagoe School by Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Stoops and Mrs. Vance. There was a

large gathering, and after tea Mrs. Johnston and Miss M. Johnston sang, and Miss Stevenson recited. A visit to the Parish Church was then made, and the Rector pointed out the interesting features in the Church and its furniture. After a further short Musical interval in the School the members separated after a very pleasant afternoon. Miss Collen made all the arrangements for the Meeting. Meetings have also been held in Carne and Drumgor. At the former Miss Taylor, of the Child Welfare Centre, gave a most useful address on "Health." The Rev. A. O. Draper spoke at Drumgor on Preparation for Holy Communion.

Mothers' Union Excursion.

On Wednesday, October 4th, an Excursion of the Mothers' Union will take place by Motor Charabanc to Armagh. The Charabanc will leave the Parochial Hall for Armagh at 1.30 sharp, and will be back at the Hall at 7.30. Tea will be provided in Armagh. The Ticket for the Excursion, including Tea, will be 4s. Seats must be booked in advance in Edenderry with Mrs. David Johnston, 1 Carrickblacker Road, in Carne with Mrs. Draper, and in Drumgor with Mrs. McCullough, Balteagh.

Miss Macoun, a Missionary of the Zenana Medical Missionary Society, will give an Address to the Mothers' Union in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 4 o'clock. Miss Macoun's Lecture will be of great interest, and the Mothers' Union is to be congratulated on having secured such an interesting speaker for this meeting. Miss Macoun is a daughter of Mr. John Ritchie Macoun, formerly of Mountpleasant, Drumgor.

A Children's Service.

On Sunday, September 10th, at Morning Prayer, a Children's Service was held in the Parish Church. The Hymns and Collects were chosen with the young people in mind, and the Sermon on "The Garden of our Life," preached by the Rector, was specially addressed to the children present. Our next Children's Service will be held at Morning Prayer on Sunday, October 15th. We invite Parents to be present with their Children.

Collection for the Poor.

There are always a considerable number of people in this Parish who are not eligible for Pensions, but who for one reason or another are without sufficient means of support. Hitherto the only source of relief for such persons comes from the offerings given at Holy Communion and on Christmas Day. We have recently lost a generous subscriber to the Poor Fund. The sum now received is insufficient to cover the many claims on the Fund, and the Rector has arranged to discontinue the Collection at Holy Communion and to invite offerings at the Offertory on the 1st Sunday of each month, beginning on Sunday, October 1st, at Morning and Evening Prayer.

**Parish Register for September.
Baptisms.**

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on September 2nd, 1922:—

Wilson—Joseph Henry, son of Leonard and Mary Anne Wilson, of Ballymacrandle.

Sponsors—Sarah Mary Livingstone, Mary Anne Livingstone.

Robinson—Hampton, son of Joseph and Mary Robinson, of Tannficarbett.

Sponsors—Mary Forde, Mary Robinson.

Hewitt—Edna Alice, daughter of Moses and Rachel Jane Hewitt, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Alice Hewitt, Lily Hewitt.

Gracey—Mabel and Irene, twin daughters of William and Rebecca Gracey, of Balteagh

Sponsors—Kathleen Frances Hoy, Rebecca Gracey.

RECEIVED INTO THE CONGREGATION.

Johnston—Edith Louisa, daughter of James and Elizabeth Johnston, of Kernan, having been already Privately Baptized was Publicly Received into the Congregation on September 2nd, 1922.

Sponsors—Matilda Johnston, Elizabeth Johnston.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

Atkinson and Archer—On September 10th, 1872, at St. Peter's Church, Dublin, by the Rev. Maurice Nelligan—William H. Atkinson, Solicitor, elder son of the late Edward D. Atkinson, Esq., Tandragee, to Maria Bolton, third daughter of the late Bunbury Archer, Esq., Ballyseskin, Co. Wexford.

Deaths.

Atkinson—On September 4th, 1922, Carleton Richard Buckby Atkinson, M.B.E., late H.B.M. Vice-Consul Tetuan, Morocco, aged 32 years, only son of the late John Buckby Atkinson, of Portadown, and of Mrs. Atkinson, 2 Harrington Gardens, London, S.W.

Cooke—September 11th, suddenly, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, the Rev. Ralph Bullick Cooke, M.A., Rector of All Saints', Belfast, and formerly of this Parish. Aged 70 years. Interred at Seagoe on September 14th, 1922.

Death of Mr. Carleton Atkinson.

We record with deep regret the death of Mr. Carleton Richard Buckby Atkinson, O.B.E., only son of the late Mr. John Buckby Atkinson. Some years ago Mr. Atkinson entered the Diplomatic Service and was appointed to a responsible post in Morocco. Last Christmas he paid a visit to Seagoe and seemed to be in good health, but a serious illness developed, and despite medical skill he passed away on Monday, September 4th. He was buried at Bedford. The people of Seagoe will sympathise deeply with Mrs. J. B. Atkinson and his relatives in their bereavement. The death of one so young and promising is very sad. "He asked life of Thee and Thou gavest him life even for ever and ever."

Congratulations.

Our hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Atkinson, of Clarisford, on their Golden Wedding, the anniversary of which occurred on Sunday, September 10th. We hope some day we will have the pleasure of congratulating them on their Diamond Wedding. We wish them God's blessing and much further happiness in the days to come.

Death of the Rev. R. B. Cooke.

The Rev. Ralph Bullick Cooke, M.A., Rector of All Saints', Belfast, passed away with great suddenness on Monday, September 11th. He had been suffering for about two years from weak action of the heart, but was able to carry on the exacting work of a large Belfast Parish. He got suddenly ill in the Vestry of his Church on the Monday morning, but rallied during the day. He was brought to the Royal Victoria Hospital (an Institution in which he was always greatly interested), and the Doctors were very hopeful about him, but at a quarter to eleven that night he had a second seizure and passed away almost at once. The interment took place on Thursday, 14th, in Old Seagoe Graveyard. Several of those who knew him in the old days in this Parish attended the Funeral, among them Mr. John Montgomery and Mr. Joe Monroe. The Service at the grave was taken by the Rev. Canon Archer and the Rev. J. M'Curry, Curate of All Saints. Many beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave. Mr. Cooke was always greatly attached to Seagoe, and nothing delighted him more than to visit his native Parish. He lies in the old burying place where so many of his ancestors are buried. We shall long remember his kindly good humour and genial sympathy of manner. The Church in his death has lost a stalwart champion of the Faith.

Communicants' Class.

This Class, for those recently Confirmed and others, was held in Seagoe School on Monday, September 25th, at 8. An address was given by the Rev. A. O. Draper on "Preparation for Holy Communion." The next meeting will be held (D.V.) on Monday, November 13, in Seagoe School at 8 o'clock.

ITEMS.

The Rev. I. E. Davidson preached in Seagoe on Sunday, September 17th, on behalf of the Church of Ireland Jews Society.

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Mrs. Hall Hewitt, of Tannficarbett, who is 92 years of age, has recently been enjoying a holiday with her daughter in Belfast.

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Miss Ellen Matthews, of 21 James St., has sailed for Ayre, Queensland, Australia, on the s.s. "Orvieta." She will reside with her brother, Mr. Moses Matthews.

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We have now many families of refugees residing in the Parish. It is pitiable that such fine loyal people should be driven from their homes. Their lot is a sad one.

WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE.

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

(Continued from September Magazine.)

TUESDAY, JUNE 27th, 1916.

Shill. goes out of the line as we have got our 20 allowed. A disturbed night; had to withdraw 1 Company owing to suspected mine, in the middle of the night and rain. We are rather a crowd in consequence.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28th.

3 p.m.—A wet night, and raining to-day. Everything very messy. Since we came in we have had 39 casualties.

I Didn't Go Up in a 'Plane After all.

They have been trying to find the Elephant all this p.m. with 5.9's, and some have come within a few yards. A change to-night, and I may win Pak's bet! G.N. has issued an order of the day—quite good. It has been thick and raining all day. Pres'd ration and Bully Beef and Biscuit, but Fergie brought up bread, tinned milk, etc. So while other Bns. have had nothing but rations for a week our men have done well.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29th.

2 p.m.—I shall just win my bet with Pak. Owing to hard time we were relieved last night to get the men rested. Came back very short distance. Such a wonderful scene. The heavens alight for miles with discharge of guns, and a continuous roar, which goes on without ceasing. 'Downs' did a good raid; brought out 13 prisoners, 1 Officer, and penetrated a long way. A chance big shell caught a platoon of them last night and killed 14 and wounded 30—Bob slightly, Adj't. severely. We had 6 killed and 33 wounded while we were in. All day yesterday they were trying to find the Elephant; came very close but didn't succeed. Fergie has fed the men splendidly, and they are in good form. 11th had a bad time—100 casualties, and standing in wet trenches for 5 days, on bully beef. Oliver paid us a visit at dejeuner to-day, 12 noon, and sat and talked while we ate. Very affable and optimistic. I took the opportunity of telling him some points which he promised to see to. I think everything promises well. George Bruce came to see us about 11 a.m. (I was in bed!) Full of chat. One more comfy night. Fine last night, but threatening rain now—warm. I used ear protectors last night, the noise here is worse than in the line. I am getting up my valise for a comfy night, and a change. Ugh! I'm so dirty. I wonder how you are getting these letters. Thanks to Fergie we've got them away each day. No one else has in the line. I got in at 2 a.m. wet to the knees. Every one resting, such a relief to have nothing to do. Fergie brought in letters, papers and parcels, so we are well provided. News good to-day; especially from our immediate front. Roads and tracks very bad. School treat to-day, I believe. 9.30 p.m.—We had 6 casualties to-day—2 severe and 4 slightly wounded, but it's been a great rest to the men, from the wet and discomfort of the line. I hear Bob Maxwell is in hospital after all, but wound only slight. The Adj't.

severe in groin. I don't expect I shall get another letter off after this for a day or two, but will snatch any opportunity. My valise is up, so I can get a change of under-clothing, which is welcome. The din still goes on. It has been dry all day, and the men have been able to dry their boots and clothes, and are in excellent heart. Shill and Fergie visited us to-day from their Bivouac. 'Joseph' is busy examining prisoners—one small man in 'Downs' was escorting two large Bosche prisoners back across No Man's Land; they thought he wasn't going fast enough, so they each took an arm and hurried him o'er the danger zone. Another yarn—one of the prisoners said to his captor "Hullo, I played cricket against you at Donaloney."

FRIDAY, JUNE 30th.

11 a.m.—Rain again last night, and a threatening day. Just sent Cox the forms. Your Saturday's letter just come. We go in to the line to-night.

JULY 1st, SATURDAY.

Safe and unhurt, but broke. The Battalion is no more. At least 400 casualties, but hard to estimate, as they keep coming in. 'At.' and Ensor missing. They got right in with their Coys. Brew, Gibson, Jackson, Shillington, Barcroft, all wounded, but none severe. Charlie Johnston wounded, I believe, and we hope to get him in to-night. Pratt, Cather, Menaul, all out collecting wounded. Every Officer who went over is a casualty. 6 H.Q. ones did not go over. 12th same, and 11th and 13th ditto, I hear. The men were splendid! Fergie just in and will take this. Pratt walked to dressing station to give my field P.C. to a wounded man. So good of him. I was never in any danger, but am tired to death, and so sad. Jimmy S all right. Nearly every Serg't. a casualty; Hughes v. bad.

SUNDAY, JULY 2nd. "MARTINSART."

We have been pulled out of the line (the whole Div.) and I don't know what will happen to us. Each Battalion had in or about the same casualties, viz., 15-20 Officers and 400-500 men. My beloved Battalion and the companions of the last two years swept away in a few short hours. They did splendidly; on they went regardless of loss of Officers, and charged, a mere handful of some half dozen. I fear 'At' is killed; he was seen by a Sergeant apparently dead. Charlie Johnston we can't find. From 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. No Man's Land was searched deliberately and found many, but not him. I still hope C. J. may be found. Now Cather, who has been out rescuing wounded in daylight, has been caught. He went out this morning and they turned a M.G. on him, when he was out of sight of our Line, and he hasn't returned. I

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have left 2 orderlies to search for him to-night. Poor Montgomery. I fear he's gone. 8 missing and 7 wounded. The Battalion about 170 strong. I am heartbroken. So gallant and so splendid they all were. Will you go and see the relations. I will try to write to them. Thanks to Fergie I haven't missed your letters for one day. Even last night he brought them in. Cather's loss is a heavy one. He was an extraordinary good Adjt. I still hope we shall see him again. Meantime I have no one, and all the details of losses, etc., to be made out.

MONDAY, 3rd JULY. "FORCEVILLE."

We came back to-day some 3 miles; all the Brigade here. Greatly fear about C. J. We have searched and searched for him, and to-night we search again. We've got more information as to when he was seen, but it's so contradictory. I fear no doubt whatever about 'At.,' Ensor, Montgomery, Hollywood, and T. and Seggie. Poor Cather. So gallant, he was found shot through the head, quite dead, but the man he went to bring in was brought in by the party looking for Cather. He is a sad loss to the Battalion; he was quite marvellous as an Adjt. I am going to try Menaul. Poor young Moore, badly wounded looking for wounded, like Cather. Alas for the Div.; the finest in France last Friday, and now a skeleton, with its best gone—and nothing to show for it. We, the Div., reached our objectives, and owing to the Divisions on our right and left failing we had to fall back. Cruel luck! Our men were mowed down by M.G.

TUESDAY, JULY 4th.

I am still dazed at the blow, and cannot settle down to anything; and everything crying out to be done and re-organised. Poor C. J. We found him last night, at last, but he must have been killed almost at once. Oh! How I feel for his poor wife and mother. Gen. saw the Bde. on parade to-day and was very complimentary. He published a very fine Order of the Day on the operations, and the behaviour of the Division. I fear Montgomery is dead. I must write now to the relatives.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5th.

10 p.m.—Now to try and give you some idea of what occurred. After 7 days' bombardment, ending in an hour's hurricane artillery fire, from 6.25 a.m. to 7.30 a.m., on July 1st, the attack was delivered—109th Bde. on right and 11th and 13th next, all on Thiepval side, 12th and ourselves Hamel side, 107th in reserve. We attacked in 4 waves. The leading wave got out all right, and the 2nd wave suffered fairly badly getting out, but the remainder were mown down by M.G. fire. The men advanced as if on parade, and regardless of losses to Officers. 'A' and 'B' on right, then 'C' and 'D' Coys., 2 Coys of the 12th, then 29th Div. These latter were held up by M.G. and 'C' and 'D' and 12th only just reached 1st line. 29th didn't even do that. 'A' and 'B' leading 2 waves got right on through the 3 lines to their goal, which a few reached. A splendid performance! But no one being on their left they were annihilated. Meanwhile

the 109th, and 11th had got right on to 4th line, and after staying some time, and lacking support and bombs and ammunition, were driven slowly back by counter attack, their right being exposed, the Div. here not having advanced. 107th badly mauled coming up. As soon as assault started Germans barraged No Man's Land, where most of our casualties occurred. 'At.,' C.M.P., and Ensor killed leading their Coys gloriously. Failure to knock out M.G.'s, day-light attack from our Trenches, and failure to have reserves near enough, were, in my opinion, the causes of failure. Bosche Infantry surrendered in herds whenever a handful of our men came near them, but their M.G.'s were deadly. Ricardo came to see me to-day; his heart is broke. Gas used Thiepval side. That roughly is the way things went. To the South things are going well, but Oh! to have the finest Division in France wiped out and nothing to show for it, but the knowledge that all did their duty magnificently, and as Gen. N. says, surpassed even the high expectations formed. I cannot face the reorganisation and beginning all over again, without dismay, with all my old trusted companions gone. C.O.'s were forbidden to go over the parapet. The Padre worked for 60 hours, tending and comforting the wounded. The trenches were a shambles, and he organised parties to collect and bury the dead. I wrote to Mrs. Cather. Shill has been and is splendid, and a tower of strength. He came out at exactly the right time. Pratt's out with a party to-night looking for wounded. We have had parties out every night, but it's dangerous work.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5th. "PUCHEVILLERS."

We moved here suddenly this p.m., about 9 miles. Our old friend P (). I believe we are to stay here a bit to refit. Pratt and his party were quite successful last night. They brought in old Ensor, who had been 4 days in a shell hole. He was quite wonderful, but, of course, weak, and with a limp; had flesh wound in leg, and he lost a lot of blood. But he will do all right the doctors think. They also got 3 more wounded men in. A sad birthday; the feeling of sadness for one's gallant comrades, and the hopeless feeling of having to begin all over again weighs on us all. Leave is to be opened again, I hear, soon, but I must get reorganisation well ahead before I think of coming home. I couldn't face the sorrowing relatives yet. I must try and get Padre away. I saw some of our poor fellows in hospital. Sgt. Sewell, in great pain, but I hope will get all right. You remember him in U.V.F. days? I haven't grasped who have gone yet. They don't keep men in Field Ambulance, but clear them right away to England at once. The medical arrangements were good. It's so hard to get any information as all who got on are either wounded and away, or missing. Two men told me they saw 'At' fall and went to him later, and he was dead, but it's not an absolute certainty, though I thought it was when I wrote to his father. It's a bare possibility he may have been taken by the Germans when lying wounded. Such a relief to be away from the sound of the guns. Things are going well in the S. Young Edgar is all right.

(To be continued.)