



stomach, received any consideration; it certainly wasn't custard and prunes. We made a cup of soldiers' tea, which was as welcome as tea ever was.

"But then there was the prospect of another wondering evening and the sad business of conveying fallen heroes to the dressing-station. The night we felt we must really try to get a little rest, and so we sought what we considered to be the safest corner, and sincerely hoped the rain wouldn't come. But the excitement of the day and the bitter cold of the night were far too much even for a tired body. The hours passed slowly, the only event to break the monotony being a few casualties. When day came it was difficult to think that this was only our second day in the trenches; but so it was. Nor did we think it was the dawn of the worst day we were to experience. That day we witnessed the worst bombardment there had been for a long time. Every gun in the Peninsula belched forth its fire, and our guns were supplemented by many naval guns. At one time it seemed as if nothing could live on the slopes of Achi-Baba. The noise, smoke, and flying debris all combined to make a veritable hell. About three o'clock in the afternoon we received orders to proceed to the next post, where six out of eight R.A.M.C. men had been partially buried and wounded. The position was extremely dangerous, being exposed to the enemy's view. We found them in a sorry plight, all suffering from shock, as well as from the loss of blood. By the time we reached the dressing-station one had succumbed to his injuries.

"Food was out of the question until the artillery fire had ceased. Then the rifle fire and trench bombing seemed to be mere child's play. And so the days passed slowly on, and yet no definite news of evacuation. However, the welcome news arrived on what will ever be to us the memorable 8th of January. At about five in the afternoon the desired news arrived. We were to pack up at once and proceed to an appointed post, and there await the passage of the troops, other than the rearguard. Our new post lay midway between the firing line and the beach, and thither we went with padded boots in strict silence. There we remained till almost midnight, and then, preceded with shell dressings, we made our way to the appointed beach. By that time thousands of troops were waiting embarkation, and we shuddered to think what would have been the result if the Turks had set their guns in action. Fortunately the much-dreaded and momentarily-expected shell didn't reach us, and so without untoward incident we boarded the lighters which conveyed us to the transports.

"During the evacuation I lost all my private property, and here paper is very scarce. However, I hope to get a fresh stock this week in Suez, when we are allowed there.

"The memories of Avenue Hall, with its very congenial associations and its profitable fellowship, will ever remain a hallowed memory, and you good people can scarcely realise the real good your institution has done. Personally I am deeply indebted for the pleasure and privileges I enjoyed, and also thank you personally for your interesting and profitable conversations, and if I return to Southampton I shall certainly make my way to the Avenue Hall.

"Yours sincerely,
"G. H."

Osenna Free Churchman

April 12, 1916

France,
April 26th, 1916.

Dear Miss —

Just a few lines to let you know that Sid Baker and myself are quite fit and well and to thank you very much for the cigarettes. We have recently done a six days' spell in the trenches, but were fortunately in reserve for Eastertide and under the circumstances spent a very enjoyable time. Services were held by the Chaplain on Good Friday and Sunday, and, as you may imagine, they were greatly appreciated. On Easter Monday, however, one of the fellows went down with measles, consequently best part of the company, including us two, have been isolated, as we have never had that complaint before. We are having a grand time in the middle of some woods, and while I am writing the sun is shining gloriously, the birds are singing, and I am surrounded with bluebells, violets, and primroses. We are sleeping in tents. The only fault is that the birds are singing to the accompaniment of guns. Never mind, let us hope that Easter Day coming on St. George's Day is a good omen, and that the cross will reign supreme sooner than any of us expect. Sid's brother has sustained a shock from a trench mortar bomb and is in Rouen Hospital, but we expect he will be with us again shortly. Sid wishes to be kindly remembered to you.

May God bless you and your work at the Hall, which has been a blessing to many of our fellows. Trusting you are in the best of health,

Yours sincerely,
E. L. PAGE.

British Forces,
Salonica.

To the Ladies of the "Tin Hut."
Dear Miss *Hemilton*

No doubt you will be surprised to receive this, but ever since we left Southampton it has always been the intention of one or the other of us boys who belonged to the old "Overseas Squadron" to write to let you know that we have not forgotten, and often talk about, the "Tin Hut," and the kindness we received there. All the boys who came out here are in the best of health, except Gibbons, who had an accident in Egypt, and Baldwin, who has been ill with rheumatism, and both have now gone home. We had a fairly good time in Egypt, but here it is very dreary. The only break we have in the week is Sunday evening service, which is held in the dug-out. All the boys—Jones, King, Russell, Graddon, Malony, and the rest—send their kind regards to all the ladies and gentlemen connected with the Avenue Congregational Church for the kindness they received at the "Tin Hut." They all join me in wishing you all, and the Church, a prosperous New Year, and that many more Tommies will have the pleasure of having such a time as we had. I will now close, hoping, as thousands of others are doing, that this war will soon end.

Believe me, yours sincerely,
V. G. HULL.

* * *

Avenue Free Churchman
May 1st 1916.

B.E.F., France,
June 14th, 1916.

DEAR MR. SPENCER,
Just a few words to thank you for sending the Church magazine to me.

I shall look forward very much to receiving the magazine, as it interests me very much, especially the note about the "Soldiers' Club." I am sure you would be quite surprised if you were out here and could meet hundreds of men whose only remembrance of Southampton is the Soldiers' Home. I, being a native of Southampton, often ask a man if he sailed from that port, and he would say, "Yes!" and then start praising the "Little Soldiers' Home," just below the Rest Camp, where "we could get anything for nothing." I assure you they cannot praise it enough.

Well, sir, I must close now. News is very scarce, and we are not allowed to refer much to military matters.

Thanking you very much for your kind thoughts,
I remain, yours very sincerely,

DUDLEY KIMBER.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

Another quiet month, except for a busy spell about June 18th. At the last Finance Meeting the Treasurer reported an income of £2,073, with an expenditure of £2,029, leaving a balance of £44. It is wonderful that we have raised so much, and scarcely a matter for astonishment that receipts are not so high as formerly.

Two very good concerts were given in the Hall during the month, one by Private Turner, of the R.A.M.C., who has gathered a number of musical friends together during his stay in Southampton, and the other by the A.O.C. Concert Party on June 20th. The A.O.C.'s are fortunate in numbering so many talented officers and men, and it is delightful to find them exercising their talents far and wide.

We refrain from further notes, because we desire to print a most interesting letter from one of the Seventh Division, with which we had such close contact in September, 1914. We had heard before of the casualties sustained by that Division. The letter brings the case before us in a most graphic way.

B.E.F.,
June 3rd, 1916.

DEAR MISS ———,

I don't know if you will remember me. If not, I am one of the men who had such kindness and good meals supplied to us by you and your friends when we were laying at Southampton in September, 1914. No doubt you will recollect us leaving for Lyndhurst and then out to the Front at the end of the month. I have often intended dropping you a line, but I don't write often, only home, so I think perhaps that is the reason I have not written you before. When I came out I was a mounted orderly to one of the Staff officers on headquarters, but I got a bullet through my knee, and that put a stop to that pastime, so I am now on the stretcher-bearers, which I like very much. At present I am having a rest after being up the line for eleven weeks; we expect to go back any day now, because we expect some fun very shortly. I have had some pretty exciting times since coming out. We went through the retreat from Antwerp, through Belgium, down to Ypres, where our Division dug themselves in. We were the first British troops in Ypres, and fought the first battle of Ypres; and those men you saw at Southampton and Lyndhurst nearly got wiped out there. . . . It was murderous work. I got knocked out of action for five weeks by a shell, and had my horse killed. I have been through Neuve Chapelle, Auber's Ridge, Festubert, and Loos as well. I got a piece chipped off my finger at Neuve Chapelle, only a small bit; otherwise I am fit and well, except for my knee, which gives me a bit of pain on cold days. I am sorry to say that a good few of the R.A.M.C. men you knew at Southampton have gone under. There are five of us here—that's all I know of, unless there are any elsewhere. I have been home on leave, and hope, if I get through this next attack, to be home again before the year is out.

Nov. 14 to 16 1916

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

We have had a very busy month so far as the evening hours are concerned. There are several hundred soldiers at Southampton receiving important instruction; a good proportion of them visit the Hall in the evenings.

There are musicians amongst them, and we are looking forward to concerts to be given by their Concert Party. Meanwhile two excellent musical evenings have been given by our own friends with the assistance of some soldiers. On September 5th Miss E. Hamilton and Miss E. Rowland, L.R.A.M., arranged an excellent concert in which the following took part: The Misses Rowland, Miss Coles, Miss Williams, Lieut. Godwin, Pte. R. G. Montague Lowe, Sapper Battersby, Pte. M. Smith, Pte. Scadden, and Mr. Spencer (recitation).

On September 19th Miss Conroy arranged a very fine programme, the artistes being Miss Ethel Humphries, Miss Dymott, Miss Conroy, Mrs. Chris. Conroy, Mr. Wilfred Powell, Pte. M. Smith, Sapper Battersby. A most amusing farce, "Semi-Detached," was given by the Misses B. Dymott, M. Cue, D. Cue, and E. Ashdown. All the items were excellent, Mrs. Chris. Conroy in particular being vociferously encored.

The Hall is opened now from 4 to 9, except on Saturday and Sunday, when the hours are 2 till 9. Refreshments are served from 6.30 to 9: Saturday and Sunday, 4 to 9. These hours suit the needs of the majority using the Hall.

At a recent finance meeting the Treasurer reported that the receipts to date were £2,225. Readers will remember that we also receive gifts in kind. We estimate the value of these at about half the donations in money. The men now using the Hall contribute liberally to the boxes, but we need a larger income; our small balance will soon be exhausted. May we appeal to our readers for donations large and small?

The Hall is registered under the Military Charities Act of August, 1916, so we are in order in making this or any other appeal.

WILL FRIENDS WHO CAN ACCOMMODATE A SOLDIER'S WIFE, AND PERHAPS ONE OR MORE SMALL CHILDREN, FOR ONE NIGHT OR MORE, GRATIS. OR AT A SMALL CHARGE, KINDLY COMMUNICATE WITH THE SECRETARY? In the earlier days we had a list, and much hospitality was shown. There is need for similar accommodation again, and we want to prepare an up-to-date list of hostesses and of lodgings.

A Church Parade is held every Sunday morning in the Church at 9.

Our friend Miss Rose Hickley has written an attractive patriotic song entitled "We thank you Boys"; the music is by her soldier nephew, Mr. Ewart A. Lyne. It has been sung several times in the Soldiers' Hall, and words and tune go with a fine swing. Copies may be obtained from Messrs. Hodges, Ltd., Above Bar, or from Miss Hickley.

The following letters are of interest:—

London Command Depot, Seaford,
Sunday, Sept. 10th, 1916.

DEAR SIR,

I now take the liberty of writing you a few lines, hoping they will find you and all the ladies and gentlemen connected with the Avenue Hall in the best of health, as it leaves me at present. I wish to thank you all for the many good turns you did our draft before going to France last November. We were the draft who had three attempts to cross, twice being unsuccessful. As we were eleven days at Southampton, naturally we were badly off for money. Of course we paid Avenue Hall a visit, and you all did all you could for us. I had this postal order sent down from home, and I give it with a most willing heart, and I hope others have had the decency to acknowledge the good work you have done for them. I had no time to write to you from France, but I asked a clergyman to write for me, hoping you received the letter safely. We were out in France eight months, and were in the 1st of July advance; as luck would have it, both my brother and I were wounded. We were in the same platoon and the same bombing party, and were always together while we were out in France. I hope my brother will write to you when he is discharged from hospital in Lancashire; he is improving, and expects to be discharged shortly. I am now in a convalescent camp at Seaford, which is not at all a bad place, and I hope to stay here some time. No doubt in reading this letter you will come to the conclusion that I am only young. I hope you won't be offended in my writing to you, but I have longed to show my appreciation to you, and wish you all the best of luck. I must now bring my short letter to a close, hoping you will receive money safely.

I remain, yours sincerely,
RFN. F. C. ROBERTS.

France,
17th Sept., 1916.

TO THE MINISTER AND HELPERS OF AVENUE HALL,
We venture taking the liberty of writing to you, hoping you will accept our humble letter as a token of our esteemed appreciation and many thanks for the patriotic endeavours you all so generously extended to us during our brief stay at Southampton. During that time we found ease, comfort, and many pleasures connected with your good work, and I venture to suggest your many kind acts will always remain a pleasant memory throughout our future life, hoping we shall soon be permitted to pay another visit to that much-respected place and kind friends connected with same under more pleasant conditions, leaving aside the parting, and thus adding the pleasant thoughts reuniting for ever. We ask you to please accept our small donation (3s.) from three of the boys, as a slight appreciation of your hospitality shown to us during our sojourn in Southampton.

From three of the boys,
SAPPER W. H. SMITH.
SAPPER C. R. T. COOPER.
SAPPER J. LOVELL.

Pleased to inform you we are all well.

1917.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

The rush mentioned in last month's Notes continued till November 7th, taxing our powers of accommodation to the utmost. Since then we have been comparatively quiet; but we are generally full up in the evening with our R.G.A. and other friends.

Three first-class concerts have been given in the Hall during the month—one by the Southampton Class Teachers' Concert Party on November 8th, and two by the R.G.A. Concert Party on November 9th and 23rd. The Signallers have now formed an excellent little orchestra, and it is delightful to hear them play.

There has been a liberal response to our appeal for funds. On November 17th the Hon. Treasurer reported total receipts since August, 1914, of £2,520, and expenditure £2,402. The appeal had produced about £150. Since then we have had other notable contributions, in particular the sum of £18, being the proceeds of the Class Teachers' excellent concert given in St. Barnabas' Hall on Wednesday, November 15th. But friends must not think we are rolling in money. This handsome balance will soon disappear unless it is constantly replenished. A bread and cake bill of £75 for one month absorbs a good many subscriptions over and above the men's contributions.

The following letters are of interest:—

Catford, S.E.,
24th November, 1916.

DEAR SIR,

Please find enclosed a small contribution to your fine work for the soldiers. As I have not to go to the front myself I feel it a privilege to do a little to help those who are making such sacrifices for their country. (5s P.O. and 6d. stamps enclosed.)

Yours faithfully,
H. W. R. (Corporal R.E.)

(The stamps are from a friend.)

In the Field,
14th November, 1916.

DEAR MR. SPENCER,

We landed quite safely in France. After a stay of ten days we were shifted to take part in the Great Push. Since then we have changed our quarters several times. At present we are in our winter quarters. I am glad to say I do not see the worse side of our work, as I am A.Q.M. for our column, which keeps me at our quarters. Should you really wish to see mud, I would advise you to visit some of the roads only; they are in a shocking state, having never been made for the heavy traffic which passes to and fro. I am enclosing a P.O. (2s. 6d.), which please place to the credit of your Soldiers' Institute Funds.

I must now close, trusting I have not wearied you with my note.

With kind regards and best wishes, hoping you and yours are well,

I am, yours sincerely,
J. L.

Dec. 1st A. F. C. 1916.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

The contributions—including a substantial amount from the men—for November and December reached the record total of £400. Of course, expenses were very heavy, but there is a good balance at present. We shall be grateful for continued generosity; otherwise the balance will soon melt, and, naturally, it will be a long time before we can issue another general appeal. The Committee is abundantly thankful to all who have responded to the appeal and given the work a new lease of life.

We have continued to be useful to the men billeted here, and have had the privilege of dealing with two or three "rushes" during the month. Entertainments have been provided not only by the R.G.A. party, reinforced by much additional first-class talent, but also by other parties.

Of course, the chief interest lay in the Christmas festivities. After all the men had gone away who could get leave, and could find accommodation by train, motor char-à-banc, and bicycles (!); after a host of private invitations had been kindly given and gratefully accepted, there remained enough men to provide an attendance of over 300 at our tea and entertainment on Christmas Day and 350 on Boxing Day. Many of them declared it was the only bit of Christmas they had. The Hall was decorated, under the direction of Miss Ethel Hamilton, by flags, kindly lent by Mrs. Walter Bowyer, and evergreens, provided by various friends. The menu consisted of sausage-rolls and mince-pies in addition to the ordinary fare, and such trifles as oranges, sweets, bananas, nuts, crackers, etc. The entertainment on Monday included games and a concert provided by Miss Matthews and Miss Bacon—a party of young ladies in Canadian dress who sang and recited most admirably. On Boxing Day several soldiers gave instrumental selections, including viola solos by Gunner Platt; Gunner Perry contributed amusing sketches; Miss Conroy and Mr. Lankester sang; and Mr. Spencer recited.

We finished up both evenings with "Auld Lang Syne," sung in proper fashion.

The following letter bears on the subject:—

155 Cassland Road, South Hackney, N.E.,
December 29th, 1916.

DEAR SIR,

I am writing this to thank you and all for the very nice time that you gave my son this Christmas. He wrote and told me that he had a most enjoyable time, and that you and all are most kind to the soldiers. I have only him, so you will know how very glad I was to hear that he had such kind friends. With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,
E. A. BRIDGE.

Jan. 1st 1917.
A. F. C.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

At the last meeting of the Avenue Hall Finance Committee the Hon. Treasurer informed the members that the receipts from August, 1914, to January 19th, 1917, had been £2,829 19s. 9d.; and the Hon. Secretary estimated the value of goods received at not less than £1,200. This large sum represents much comfort and pleasure to hundreds of thousands of men. Only yesterday the writer of these notes met a man who had been working at munitions in a Midland city side by side with a soldier who had been withdrawn from the front to do this skilled work. This soldier was very eloquent about the treatment that he and his comrades had received early one morning on entering Southampton, when they had been tramping for hours and were ready to drop with fatigue. "There were tables under the trees, and you could have tea or coffee and something to eat. None of us will ever forget it. Of course, we thought the War Office had provided it for us; but we heard afterwards it was all done voluntarily by the people at 'Avenue Hall.'" He was referring, of course, to our feeding the Division in July, 1915, seventeen months ago, and he has not forgotten the surprise and pleasure yet.

We have had a very musical month in the Hall. Two fine concerts were given by the R.G.A.'s. The orchestra grows steadily, and there is much new talent in addition to some of the old favourites still left. At the concert on January 18th Gunner Cock surpassed himself in his clever lightning sketches.

Miss Hamilton and Miss Rowland arranged a concert on January 9th. All the items were of interest, and Private Barber's singing showed us that, talented as our R.G.A. friends are, they have not got it quite all.

On January 24th, Miss Rose Hickley arranged a delightful programme, including a humorous entertainment by Mr. Beer and a sketch by those clever actresses, the Misses B. Dymott, D. Cue, V. Hickley, and E. Ashdown.

Then, on Friday, 26th, Mr. Viney brought members of the Red Cross Concert Party and others, including ventriloquism by Spitari, conjuring by Mr. Hay, and songs by Miss Fannie Bowyer and Miss Bulpitt.

We print a very interesting letter from thirty-three gunners of the Siege Artillery Signalling Depot, as it is now called; also one from Pte. Sam Townend. I wonder how many parcels he will get!

* * *

R.G.A. Signal School, Southampton,
2nd January, 1917.

REV. H. T. SPENCER.

DEAR SIR,

Before leaving Southampton the undersigned gunners of the above School desire to express their most sincere and hearty thanks to you and your helpers for the splendid and generous manner in which you have treated us during our stay here.

More especially do we recall the fine manner in which you treated us at this Christmas time.

There is not one of us but who has many reasons to bless the Avenue Hall, and you may be quite sure that the memories of the many kindnesses we have received there will long remain in our hearts.

Please convey to all your helpers our sincere and heartfelt thanks, also accepting the same yourself.

With all the best wishes for the New Year, permit us to sign ourselves as your friends, Gunners R. G. Bridge, W. J. Reynolds, A. J. Bott, S. Sandall, A. Lockwood, A. Willis, W. A. Hooper, A. J. Woodthorpe, W. Thorpe, E. Richards, E. A. Watkins, G. Tickner, O. Leach, W. J. Bolton, J. Goss, H. G. A. Lane, Thos. F. Pottle, E. T. Hall, A. Smith, R. W. Dibsdales, F. T. Rous, F. C. R. Lawton, J. Swinstead, W. M. Cutt, W. A. Sanders, H. Brownlee, A. G. Gardner, J. Keeling, G. S. Parker, A. C. Curtis, C. D. Smart, A. D. Drewett, A. Bastien.

Somewhere in France.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am taking the liberty of writing to you, and I think it is only right I should for the good times I and my pal had while we were staying at Southampton, isolated on the Common, after returning on leave. Well, I am pleased to say I and my pal are still alive after a very hard and rough time since we returned last May; and you will see by the papers that we have made a little headway, and we shall make more given good weather. I am at present at a hospital as servant for two padres, and my chum is doing other work, so if you care to write please write to address, "Pte. Sam Townend, 1616, No. 4 Casualty Clearing Station, B.E.F., France." I may ask you, if I am not intruding, if at any time you are sending any parcels, such as shirts, under-vests, or anything eatable, you would not forget us, for it is only one parcel we have had the chance to get to us for such a long time. You will find in your visitors' book our names, which we entered at the time. Well, I have not much more to say; but I hope you will take my letter as a return of thanks for your kindness, for as much as we can do under the circumstances.

Best wishes for your good work,

Yours truly,

PTE. SAM TOWNEND.

Feb. 1st 1917. A. J. C.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

The Treasurer's latest statement showed an income of £2,921 since August, 1914, a wonderful amount, to which must be added the value of many goods received. He has a balance still, but it is dwindling. An effort towards economy has been made by not beginning the provision of meals till seven most evenings and five on Saturday; further substantial saving is under consideration. Great use is made of the Hall, and when there are drafts in addition to our more regular visitors the pressure is great. The R.G.A. Concert Party gave two first-class concerts during the month, viz., on 1st and 28th respectively. They have a choir now as well as an orchestra, and though they have lost many of the original artistes they have much real talent in Gunners Purnell, Simcox, Veevers, Smith, Cartwright, Cock, and others. Gunner Hicks recited for the last time on February 1st. Mention should be made of the Merry Mauvettes, who, though not at their full strength, gave a capital entertainment on February 9th.

The workers have been deeply grieved by the death of Mr. A. E. Henley on February 27th, thus surviving his wife three weeks only. Mr. Henley was a helper from the earliest days of our work, and has been one of the assistant secretaries during the greater part of the time. He delighted in the work, and was most indefatigable, kindly, and courteous. He rejoiced in the *al fresco* feeding of the divisions, and has invited many thousands of men into the Hall. Spells of ill-health kept him away from time to time, and he has been seriously ill and unable to work at the Hall since last September. We have missed him greatly during these months, and it is hard to believe that we shall not see him amongst us again.

We give two letters out of several received recently:—

B.E.F.,
February 27th, 1917.

DEAR MR. SPENCER,

Just a line to thank you

I came to France at the end of last year, and, after spending a few weeks at a Base camp, joined my new regiment, where I am now employed in the very intellectual work of cooking to H.Q. Mess. Times change, do they not? I daresay your work in connection with the soldiers' canteen takes up quite a fair amount of your time and thought. I am not inexperienced in that branch myself, as prior to joining up I had six months with the Y.M.C.A., and opened one place for them on the island of Inchkeith, in the Firth of Forth, where I had a very interesting time. It is a different proposition over here. While at the Base, although the refreshment huts were large and numerous, if they had been trebled and trebled again they would have been totally inadequate to the demand. It must be seen to be believed. The men wait for an hour *outside* in a queue to get inside sometimes.

I do not see very much of the actual fighting here, but have nearly got on intimate terms with several shells which have paid chance visits to various billets I have been in, and last night a couple of bullets came through the bedroom I am in. Chance shots, of course!

This afternoon I have seen my first aeroplane brought down in flames.

Will close now, and with kind regards to yourself and Mrs. Spencer,

Yours very truly,
H. H.

B.E.F., February 4th, 1917.

DEAR MISS A.,

Just a few lines to let you know I have arrived here quite safe. Had a splendid journey across. Seemed just as though we were having a trip up a river. The weather here is very cold; plenty of ice and frost, but dry. We are at present staying in a rest camp, but expect to be moving before very long. A bit different to dear old "Blighty" is this place. I shall always remember my stay in Southampton. I think I enjoyed myself the short time I was there as well as any place I have stayed at during my two years of army life. I was very glad to meet with your acquaintance, and hope to see you again sometime. I have nothing else very important to say to you this time, so I will close with kindest regards, hoping you will give my sincerest wishes and thanks to all at the Avenue Hall. Shall be very pleased to hear from you any time, and will always acknowledge and answer your letters. Will write to you again when we reach our destination.

I am, very sincerely yours,
CLIFFORD LANCASTER.

* * *

March 1917 A. J. C.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

The Treasurer's latest report shows a total income from the beginning of £2,978 12s. 3d. As foreshadowed last month, not only have we reduced the number of hours during which food is provided, but each man has a ration instead of access to an unlimited supply. An incomprehensible Army order has virtually restricted our hours of opening from 5.30-9.30, except on Sunday, when we have special permission to open at 2, but not to provide meals earlier than 5.30 on that day.

Will friends who have volunteered for service kindly note that the curtailment of hours leaves a number of helpers free to fill vacancies as they arise; there may be some interval, therefore, before we find a niche for everyone who has kindly offered to help.

The R.G.A. Concert Party has been unable to perform since February 28th, but a concert is announced for March 29th. Miss E. Hamilton kindly arranged a concert for March 23rd. The Hall was full, and the items were well received, most of the artistes being encored. Mrs. Chris. Conroy sang splendidly, and so did Mr. H. B. Lankester and Private Barber, A.S.C. Also Mrs. Horace B. Cox and Mr. Lankester gave a charming duet, and the Misses Rowland a stirring pianoforte duet in excellent style. Mr. Spencer contributed recitations. Great interest attached to the first appearance of two visitors, Captain Gillett, A.S.C., and Engineer Lieut.-Commander Gaud. Captain Gillett's fine songs were much appreciated, and Engineer Lieut.-Commander Gaud proved to be a first-class "drawing-room entertainer," who delighted the men so much that they insisted on encores to all his three "turns."

France, 15th March, 1917.

DEAR MISS P,

I have now got settled down with my battery (the Nth Heavy Battery, R.G.A.), and would like to take the opportunity of thanking most sincerely yourself, Mr. Spencer, and the other ladies and gentlemen of the Avenue Hall, who did so much for us during our sojourn in Southampton. I can assure you my stay among you, and the many kindnesses showered upon me and my soldier friends, will remain indelibly stamped in my memory for all time. Your endeavours to make the lot of the soldier (sometimes far from home) a happier and less trying one have been more than successful, and, I am confident in stating, unsurpassed by any community I know. Please convey specially to Mr. Spencer my warmest thanks. I hope your mother and self are in good health. I am finding life in France quite interesting.

Yours sincerely,

GUNNER R. S. J.

R. S. J. April 1917

May 1917

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

There was "a certain liveliness" once or twice during the month. On one occasion—just before the middle of the month—the Hall was densely crowded for three nights, reminding us of the pressure in August and September, 1915. It was impossible to accommodate all the men at the refreshment tables. They filed down the length of the Hall (both sides), passed in front of the platform, received a cup of tea, etc., a plate of bread and butter and cake, and went into the small hall to consume the ration.

The Treasurer reported to the Finance Committee on April 20th that the income, £3,100, had been exceeded by the expenditure to the extent of £11. The Committee met again on the 27th, when the income had amounted to £3,135 15s. 10d., and the balance was on the right side; but we are still anxious, and appeals have been made from the pulpit and in the press, with fairly good initial results. No man is supplied with more than two ounces of bread and two ounces of cake, and the number of cigarettes has been reduced.

We have great pleasure in stating that the men's contributions exceeded an average of £50 per month for February, March, and April. Miss Hutchens' display of dancing, deportment, etc., realised the sum of £9 9s. for our funds; and we are encouraged to expect good contributions from the recital by Miss W. Cook and Miss Stella Williams, and from the Young Helpers' League matinee, both of which were highly successful in every way and well patronised.

One of the pleasantest surprises we have had for a long time was a letter of appreciation from the Assistant Commandant of the Siege Artillery Signalling Depôt, enclosing a cheque for £10 from their Funds Account for our work.

Mention must be made of the many concerts of the month.

The Siege Artillery Signalling Depôt gave two of their excellent concerts—one on March 29th, the other on April 12th. Gunners Purnell and Smith, almost the last remaining of the old favourites, have now "classified" and gone. Corporal Fahey and his 'cello have gone for a time at least. Not only the men but the helpers will long remember the delightful series of "R.G.A." or "S.A.S." concerts which have brightened the long winter. There is good talent at the Depôt now, and we hope for at least an occasional concert this spring.

Music was given on April 9th by Captain Wilson, C.F., and Miss Morgan, with stories and recitations by Corporal Shuttler and Mr. E. H. Rose.

On April 20th we had a "return visit" from Engineer-Lieut.-Commander Gaud, who was very clever again in his humorous songs and sketches. Madame Grace Hobbs, Madame Russell Lloyd, Mr. H. B. Lankester, and Private Barber, A.S.C., sang with all their wonted skill and success. Mr. L. R. Stewart gave two fine recitations in excellent style, and very good instrumental work was done by the Misses Rowland (piano), Mr. W. G. Thorn (violin), and Corporal Fahey ('cello). Altogether one of the best of our many delightful concerts.

A charming novelty was introduced by Miss Rose Hickey on April 25th. She had trained a number of Band of Hope children in action songs, etc. Miss Hickey was helped, too, by Mrs. Chris. Conroy, Miss Marsh, Miss Nurse, Miss Wootton, and Miss Dimond. The little people enjoyed their parts and did them well, and gave great pleasure to the audience. The seniors were very good too.

SOME "UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS."

From a Corporal of the Londons, en route for France, April 14th: "I was recommended to visit the Avenue Congregational Recreation Room, about half a mile from our camp. Here I found a very hearty company of workers, and have written the last two pages of this letter at their tables. At the top of the room there is a long table with a white oil-cloth for refreshments. You merely wait a turn until someone vacates a chair at this table, and one of the attentive ladies immediately places a plate of bread and butter and a piece of cake in front of you, with a cup of tea. . . . The people are splendidly big-hearted . . . and this practical love is, to my mind, one of the good things that is a result of this awful war. Just going to write my name in visitors' book, Wm. James Slee, London."

"H.Q. Co., V.R., B.E.F., France.

"TO THE COMMITTEE.

"DEAR FRIENDS,

"On behalf of myself and members of the above section, I should like to thank you sincerely for the hearty and full welcome which was extended towards us on the all too few occasions when we were able to visit Avenue Hall. I often thought that the fellows hardly appreciated all that was done for them in this direction, but I suppose it is attributable to our national trait of concealing our emotions. But I think it would only be fair to tell you from what I know first hand that your efforts are deeply appreciated, and that the men are really grateful.

"Thanking you again,

"I am, yours faithfully,

"J. NEWHAM."

And Gunner A. H. Shepherdson, who used to sing in our Church choir, writing to one of our helpers from another part of this country, says: "I hope the cantata ('The Darkest Hour') was a great success last week. I should have liked to have been present. I want to express my thanks to you and your Minister and the different helpers at the Church for the kindness and real 'At Home' feeling shown in the very valuable work which the Church is doing in regard to soldiers."

May 1917

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

It was reported last month that the food given to the men using the Hall had been severely restricted, and that the men were contributing voluntarily a considerable portion of the cost.

During May we received orders from the military authorities that no more food was to be given, but that the men must pay on a fixed scale. The quantities were prescribed. These proved to be the same that we had fixed, but there has been a subsequent extension by the authorities.

We are very thankful that we were able to give the soldiers all they required for just over ONE THOUSAND DAYS. We received the order without regret, for it did not seem right to give food in the present condition of the nation's supply. It is expected that there will be a small profit from the sale of food; but our generous friends are reminded that we are still at heavy expense for stationery, cleaning, lighting, heating (in winter), repairs, and renewals, and that we shall welcome all gifts in money and in kind. Almost every evening in May has seen the Hall well filled, and the daily average of letters written here has increased considerably. The men now using the Hall are principally new-comers, and we have evidence that their appreciation is as great as that of any of their predecessors.

The Signalling Depot Concert Party has been silent during these bright, warm evenings. Nor has the alteration in our arrangements made it desirable for us to organise concerts; but now that the new plan is working so well it should be possible for us to hold concerts occasionally.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

The charge for food does not appear to have interfered with the popularity of the Hall, which is generally well filled all the evenings and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

At the urgent request of the men tobacco and cigarettes may now be purchased, and a brisk business is done.

We have had an evening of songs and sketches recently by Engineer-Lieut.-Commander Gaud, and an R.G.A. Concert Party is about to give a musical evening.

Several of the men help in the choir on Sunday evenings, and a good many others attend the Sunday evening services.

We should be glad to hear from friends prepared to take occasional or permanent duty in the Hall, especially to fill the places temporarily of those workers who are going on holiday.

The latest report to the Finance Committee showed that the income had been £3,320, leaving a small balance on the right side. The takings at the canteen from May 7th to 31st were £103. Though the men pay for their food, and we now provide very few cigarettes gratis, the expenditure for stationery, lighting, cleaning, and general upkeep is considerable, and donations are as welcome as ever.

"DEAR MISS _____,

"France, 1917.

"I was very pleased indeed to receive your welcome letter and card of greeting. I have often thought and talked of you and all those at Southampton who were so kind to us during our stay there; and I have often wished to write to you, but unfortunately I had lost your address.

" Since we have been in France we have been travelling about a great deal, doing duty in various places, some fairly pleasant and others distinctly the reverse; and in the course of our wanderings our little party of twelve has been sadly broken up. Two of our number are attached to different units, one is dead, four have returned to England sick or wounded, and five, including myself, are attached to this casualty clearing station. I must say this place is a very good one.

" I suppose the Rest Camp is still being used for the same purpose, and in that case you will be kept very busy with your good work. I shall always carry with me very pleasant recollections of my stay in your delightful town, and after the war I hope to be able to pay both it and you another visit. Please give my kindest regards to all at the Hall, including Mr. and Mrs. Spencer. With best wishes for all,

" I remain, yours very sincerely,

" H. B. S., R.A.M.C."

I hear that you are still " carrying on " the good work in the Soldiers' Hall, and I hope that your untiring efforts are still being well rewarded. I have met many fellows out here who have been to the " Tin Hut " in Southampton, and they are all loud in its praise.

Well, I am very tired to-night, and we keep very good hours here, so I will do my best to recapture a few of the lost hours of sleep which I have foregone on past nights.

Hoping you and all your family are in the very best of health, believe me to be,

Yours very sincerely,

HORACE J. FURMINGER.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

The latest financial report available only takes us to the end of June, when the total income from the beginning had reached £3,517 17s. 1d., with an expenditure of £3,463 3s. 10d. The June receipts and expenditure were £195 1s. 7d. and £194 2s. 4d. respectively. The takings at the canteen during June were £177 8s. 2d., showing that the subscription list was very small. Though the men's payments provide the refreshments, we still need subscriptions for stationery, lighting, cleaning, repairs, renewals, etc.

We have a list of some sixty houses where soldiers can obtain apartments for their wives and children. We are in constant need of additions to that list, and should be glad to hear from friends who can recommend lodgings.

Gunner Weller and his friends have given two really first-class concerts during the month.

We are in need of additions to the staff of workers, especially of some who will undertake duty temporarily during the absence on holiday of regular helpers. Volunteers for the canteen should apply to Mrs. Leach or Mr. Harrison; for the rest of the work to Mr. Rose. We are very busy still in the evenings, and there is plenty of work for a full staff.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

During August the work pursued the ordinary tenor, but during September there have been several striking episodes. We have seen " black men " in the Hall aforesaid, but not in such numbers as came one evening in September. Then, again, we have had a real foretaste of the part that America will take in the war, and were able to show hospitality to a large number of our cousins, to whom our resources were very welcome. As anticipated, our income from donations has fallen off considerably. Of course, under the new conditions our requirements are not so heavy as formerly, but we still need a good income to meet the cost of stationery, lighting, heating, cleaning, and general upkeep. Our friends billeted round about the Hall still find it very useful as a supper-room and writing-room; also for reading and recreation. It is quite full most evenings, and the enjoyment of the men and its expression are very real. We have had recently a high tribute from the General of the Southern Command.

* * *

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

Alas! our friends of the R.G.A. Signalling School have left this town. Their departure means the loss of several hundred visitors every evening. These men seemed to have an affinity with us; they were in many cases men with whom we could fraternise, with whom it was delightful to have contact. In public speech and in private greeting they expressed sorrow for their departure and gratitude for all the comforts of Avenue Hall.

We have had during the month a great many American visitors in the Hall, but they have been " birds of passage " compared with the men referred to above. It is very satisfactory to be of some use to our cousins who have become our allies through the ruthlessness of our enemy. Henceforth we shall understand one another better, and become inseparable allies, not only against our present foe, but against everything that would retard the freedom of mankind, and on behalf of all causes that will make for enlightenment and progress.

On two of the Sundays in October we were glad to welcome large numbers of American soldiers at both morning and evening services in the Church. It is very fitting that these visitors should have the opportunity of worshipping God with us during their brief time in this country, and feel at one with us in this most important part of life.

The following note is from one of the R.G.A. men:
B.E.F., 20th October, 1917.

DEAR MR. SPENCER,

Just a post-card to let you know that I have not forgotten your kindness to us all while we were at the Signalling School. Hope you are always carrying on your good work towards the Tommies. I shall never forget Southampton, especially your Church. I hope we shall meet again some time soon.

With kind regards to you,

Nov. 6. 1917 A. CLARKE.

* * *

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

More has been done during December for the entertainment of the men than for some time past. An excellent concert and sketch were provided by Mrs. R. Jackson and Miss Gertrude Merry on December 12th. Miss Ida Bond and Miss Una Dyte were the violinists, Mrs. Dalgarno the pianist, and songs were splendidly given by Miss Merry, Mrs. Jackson, Private F. Slater, and Mr. Bruton. The play was "Pretty Polly," by A. G. Merry, produced by R. H. Plascott. Other parts were taken by Miss Merry, Mrs. Jackson, and Messrs. S. O. Allen and H. Hunch. It was interesting and laughable, and very well acted. The men and helpers enjoyed the evening thoroughly.

Our Christmas parties were very successful. The authorities required us to charge for tea and to make no display of foodstuffs. But even on this score there were "no complaints," and by the kindness of friends we were able to give apples, nuts, crackers, cigarettes, sweets, etc. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hoare for a liberal supply of very good crackers. About 200 men attended on Christmas Day, including a number of Americans and Royal Welsh Fusiliers who had just come to the camp; there were also many R.A.M.C. men. After tea a delightful concert was given by Madame Grace Hobbs, including songs, duets, and a trio by herself, Miss Constance Shearer, and Mr. Harold B. Lankester. Mrs. Parvin recited, and the Misses Rowland played pianoforte duets. Later in the evening came the musical play "Old Knockles," under the direction of Corporal E. W. Carter. Corporal Carter took the part of Old Knockles, and the other members of the cast were Mrs. Parvin, Miss Constance Shearer, C.Q.M.S. Hunter, and Mr. E. J. Hobbs. The play was most amusing, and was given admirably, to the huge delight of everybody.

On Boxing Day about 150 sat down to tea. During the evening several games and competitions were held, the prizes being given by Mrs. H. B. Cox and Miss Ethel Hamilton and Mr. Colenutt. The men entered into the fun very heartily. Music was played by Miss E. Johnson, and Miss H. Johnson and Serjt.-Major Hardwicke contributed excellent recitations.

Both evenings ended with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Miss Hamilton arranged a Scotch concert for December 31st. Among the performers were Miss Rowland, L.R.A.M., Miss Doreen Eathorne, Mrs. Chris. Conroy, Mr. Harold Lankester, Mr. W. R. Nicoll, Miss Winnie King, and Pte. Litham. Mr. Eathorne presided.

We greatly miss from our staff of helpers Mrs. Horace Cox, who has removed to Manchester, where Captain Cox is now stationed. She has taken a most lively interest in the work from the first, and has rendered invaluable help in all sorts of ways.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

A drastic reduction of the bread ration by the military authorities and of the hours during which food and tea may be served has rather complicated matters for the ladies who have charge of the refreshment department. They are devising means by which some provision may be made for hungry men, whilst loyally obeying orders.

The concerts given during the month have been specially good. On February 13th Miss Ella Forbes arranged an excellent programme. Miss Forbes sang several songs herself, and was assisted by Miss Rita Ivimey (piano), Miss Winifred Cook (songs), Miss Georgina Brown (recitations), Miss G. Picton Jones (dances), Mr. Wilfred Thorne (violin), and Mr. L. Williams (songs). Most of these artistes are well known, and some idea can be formed of the excellent songs, recitations, piano and violin playing that we heard; together with Miss Picton Jones's dances.

Madame Grace Hobbs had another fine programme. A feature was the singing of quartettes by herself and Miss Rosie Tiller, Mr. Parvin, and Mr. Harold Lankester, who all sang songs and duets as well as the quartettes. Mrs. Parvin recited, and Mr. and Mrs. Parvin gave an amusing duologue. Mr. Wilfred Thorne was again the violinist, acquitting himself admirably as always, and as did all the others. A most delightful concert.

We have received permission to publish the following memorandum which refers to a matter which gave great pleasure to the workers at the Hall last September, and which had a very interesting sequel in January:

"AMERICAN RED CROSS.

"LONDON CHAPTER.—SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH.

"In the matter of the Red Cross grant of £30 to the Southampton Avenue Soldiers' Rest Hall, 1917.

"In September, 1917, American troops were moving very freely through Southampton to the front, and were frequently delayed by reasons for several days. Some of the commands had been without pay for some time, and were 'broke.' They found the rations deficient for able-bodied men, and accepted the open invitation of the Rest Hall, where the usual accommodations were afforded. Among those commands was the Eighth Artillery, which was in the Common Rest Camp from September 17th to September 23rd; and it was discovered that, while the men in the Hall looked hungry, they did not buy refreshments, as did the English soldiers. Mr. Spencer, the pastor of the Congregational Church and Chairman of the Hall Committee, surmised the cause by getting into conversation with some of the selected men, and learned the truth. He spoke to me about the matter; but as the food regulations were strict as to payment for all food at the Hall, it was left for me to consult with Colonel Day, the Camp Commandant, to get leave to grant help in this case.

It was made a personal matter, and freedom given to entertain the men in this small but satisfying way. I announced it to a crowded house of the men of both armies, telling the English lads that they would be privileged to go on paying for their snack, but for reasons they would probably understand the Americans would become guests of the Hall or some friends of the place. They cheered the sentiment, and so it was done. The 31st and 32nd Aero Squadrons also figured in the deal, and their names are found in the Book of Records kept by the Hall authorities, signed by the men themselves. The funds of the Hall have been wholly on the free contribution plan, until the order was made for the required payment for all food and hot drink. I did not think that the American troops should be put on the free list in a permanent way, so the matter as here stated was presented to the General Committee of the Red Cross, London, and the debt paid by the allotment of £30, still leaving a great measure of gratitude to be remembered as due to this Hall for its welcome and comfort to our soldiers so kindly shown.

"Thus stated to accompany the receipt of the Treasurer.

(Signed) ALBERT W. SWALM,

"American Consul.

"January 15th, 1918."

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

AVENUE HALL FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

The month of March passed without much incident. At the time of writing, however, there are signs of another of the well-known rushes, and the helpers are enjoying the experience of being really busy again. When we speak of a quiet time, it must be understood that, nevertheless, hundreds of men still use the Hall, and find in it for the time being the nearest approach to home.

An excellent concert was arranged by Miss Elsie Johnson for Wednesday, March 20th. A welcome feature was the delightful playing of the orchestra, comprising Mrs. Clift and her friends. Miss Johnson sang and played. Musical selections and sketches were given by Mr. and Mrs. Cameron and Mr. Robertson. Miss Clift sang, and the Misses Sutton and M. Johnson gave a sketch. The men were highly pleased with all the items; and Mr. Cameron, appearing for the first time, established himself as a prime favourite by his splendid singing and violin playing and his clever impersonations in costume.

One of the workers at the Avenue Hall has received from an artilleryman recently stationed in Southampton, and now at the Front, a letter of appreciation for the work for soldiers of which the Hall is the centre.

He is very enthusiastic concerning the benefits of such places as temporary homes for men on service in their vicinity.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

A large influx of men has made us very busy again. Now that bread rations are so severely limited and cake is almost non-existent, the ladies have no small work in providing sufficient porridge, rice pudding, and baked potatoes for the numerous customers.

Stationery has soared to a fabulous price. Fortunately we have a sufficient supply for some months ahead, secured when prices were more reasonable; but future renewals will be a serious matter. It has been impossible to obtain supplies of tobacco and cigarettes for sale for some weeks. Now that prices are fixed once more we hope to be able to resume operations.

We have had some good entertainments during the month. On April 3rd Mr. George Young brought an excellent party. Mr. Young has often delighted us with his clever impersonations of Dickens' characters, but had not hitherto given a whole entertainment. In addition to giving his own inimitable character sketches, he had Mr. Harry Essex at the piano and Miss Winnie Freemantle in capital songs. There were songs also by Miss Conroy, Miss Hobbs, and Staff-Sergeant Phelps, R.A.M.C.; violin solos by Mr. V. S. Herridge; and dances by Miss Turnbull and "Betty"—a sweet little mite. The men enjoyed the whole performance most thoroughly.

Last month we reported that Mr. Harold Payne, Mr. G. K. Gibbs, and other young friends from the Sunday School, assisted by the Misses W. and F. King, had given a very good concert in the small hall, resulting in a profit of over £4 for the Soldiers' Home. They repeated the concert, with some alterations, for the soldiers on April 17th. The violin playing of Miss W. King, the solos of Miss Violet Coffin, the humorous pieces by Messrs. Payne and Gibbs, and the piano playing by Miss Olwen Picton-Jones and Mr. Claude Smith were greatly enjoyed, and we congratulate our friends on what they did for the soldiers formerly and on this occasion.

AVENUE HALL FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

There is nothing very startling going on, but a good deal of quiet, useful work, and we are often quite busy enough. The Hall is largely used by men billeted near, but a good many others share in and enjoy the comforts. We want some more deck chairs or basket chairs, new or second-hand, for the men's use in the garden, so tastefully laid out and so well kept by Miss Ethel Hamilton.

Mrs. Clift and her friends give excellent orchestral music on alternate Tuesday evenings, to the great delight of the men. Otherwise we have not had much in the concert line during June.

We have lately seen vast crowds of men march past the Hall en route for the Front. The majority of them are not British, though closely related. To see all this is to have a vision of a vast army collecting on the other side, which should before long not only replace the weary and strengthen the lines, but be able to hurl back the foe.

The enthusiasm and regular help of the workers is beyond all praise. Many have been at their posts now for nearly four years, and have ministered to hosts of men.

A financial statement will be published shortly. The men's contributions more than pay for the actual food supplied. Subscriptions and other help go a long way towards paying for lighting, heating, cooking, cleaning, repairs, renewals, stationery, etc.

July. Q-F-C.

I should not be surprised if the town most universally known to the B.E.F. was Southampton—excepting London, of course. So many men have sailed from Southampton. Most of them merely entered the town and left it. In so far as they comment on the place at all, they do not show it much favour, for the glimpse they obtained from the train gave them an impression of murkiness. When I, a native of Southampton, occasionally point out the falseness of this impression, they are eager to show they have no prejudice against Southampton at all. Indeed, I suspect that many men remember with kindness the place where they left old England, and what thoughts were theirs as they steamed into the town on their way to the boat—all who have left for the front know.

The writer goes on:—

What I really desired to point out was the unqualified popularity of Southampton among soldiers who have seen and know it. One comes across praise of it in every batch of letters for censorship. All unite in praising it for its amusements, shops, and scenery. I'm afraid the general belief is that it is a rather "hot" town, as to which I am not really in a position to say anything, though as a loyal Southamptonian I affect indignation at the very thought. There was a signalling school in Southampton last year, and in the R.G.A. one frequently runs across fellows who were taught in it. They all say the time they had in Southampton was the best in their soldier lives; that a better town and kinder people they had never come in contact with. Considering the billets these lucky fellows had—houses in Hulse Road, Archers Road, Winn Road, and Howard Road—I do not wonder at their being greatly predisposed in favour of the town. I have come across many and many a grateful allusion to the Avenue Congregational Hall, and whenever I have taken the opportunity of pointing out what this hall has done for soldiers since August 4th, 1914, they agree with me in extolling the work as probably quite unique.

Sota Times. June 1918

LETTER FROM A FORMER HABITUÉ OF AVENUE HALL.

France,
Thursday, July 11th, 1918.

DEAR MISS *Hampton*

I am just letting you have a line as you requested when I left Southampton. I know you will think I have been a long time in writing, but you must not think by that that I have forgotten your many kindnesses while I was in Southampton.

You and your friends did your utmost to make us, who were strangers in a strange town, feel at home, and I am sure all of us have the dearest of memories of Southampton in our hearts.

You will understand when I tell you that I have been five months up the line and have had some very narrow escapes, that I am to be excused for not writing earlier. During the big smash in March I came across several of the old boys of our signalling school, and, of course, Avenue Hall, as one implies the other, surely. Unfortunately several of them will not return, and that is the unkindest part of all.

I fully intend, if ever again I am in Southampton (as I hope to be), to call upon and thank you one and all again. I hope you are still carrying on your good work, but hope that it won't be necessary much longer for you to do so.

I am now out of the line for a little while on a course of signalling. I take it you will remember me, as I used to have such a lot of correspondence, and you forwarded me some on when we moved to Fareham. I shall be only too pleased to hear from you and good old Southampton.

Yours, with all kindest regards,

A. R. STURDY.

* * *

The Avenue Church could not, by any stretch of the imagination, be called a "hand-shaking" church; but recent experiences have taught some of those whose business it is to welcome the strangers many things. One Sunday during the month many American sailors and soldiers were in the Church, and were very much delighted when one of our Deacons in a side aisle shook them warmly by the hand and wished them God-speed. Their faces literally shone and beamed with great pleasure at the kind words spoken to them. Many strangers are visiting us just now, especially Americans. Let us see that they are not neglected, but cheered on their way to the battle-front by a sympathetic word. These men are far from home and fellow countrymen, and appreciate any kindnesses that can be rendered to them.

* * *

The Soldiers' Hall has been doing great business lately. A few weeks ago things were decidedly slack, and many ladies were sighing for the bustling times of long ago, when so many men used the Hall. But now there is a decided change. A look around on several evenings last week revealed the fact that many more men were now visiting us. There were seamen—British and American—soldiers of all nationalities—British, American, Italian, and Serbian—with just a sprinkling of wounded men, and men who, alas! cannot go back. Many British drafts have been passing through recently to and fro to France, and some of them remember the Avenue Hall from past experience, and do not forget to visit it again and bring their friends. What a boon the old tin tabernacle has been to many a hungry, weary man, and what grand Christian work has been done by our helpers who have so willingly supplied their needs!

Sept. 1918. A.F.C.

PARTY FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

Some of the lady helpers at the Hall had the happy idea that it would be well to entertain wounded soldiers as a peace celebration. A Committee Meeting was held on November 18th, the scheme was taken up most enthusiastically, and the party held on Friday, 22nd. The money was provided apart from the Hall funds, being given by the helpers and a few other friends. The ordinary furniture was removed, and the Hall set out with small tables and chairs for whist and tea. The Hall was beautifully decorated with flowers and flags. One hundred and forty men came from University College Hospital, mostly in ambulances, under the supervision of Mr. A. E. Andrews, to whom the Committee is deeply indebted. Many of the men had been very badly wounded; some had lost both legs, one both arms, and many had lost one arm or leg. Even these seemed happy, and for the rest there was no mistaking the delight.

The arduous task of managing the whist-drive was kindly undertaken and ably performed by Mr. R. J. Foot, and the prizes were presented later in the afternoon by Mrs. Hamilton. The tea was bountiful, and was excellently prepared and served, and was greatly enjoyed. After tea part songs and solos were rendered by a large party of lady students from the University College; these items also were greatly appreciated. The party, which began at two, broke up about six. Some of us have visited the hospital since then, and it is delightful to hear the men talk about our entertainment, and give it a very high place amongst the treats they have had. It is probable that another party will be given, especially as there is some money left over.

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously and all who worked so splendidly.

THE AVENUE HALL FOR SOLDIERS.

We have not said much about "The Soldiers' Home" in recent months. The work proceeds strenuously and happily. It is just as useful as ever it was to a great number of men, and the expressions of gratitude from those who use the Hall to-day, and those who write from all parts of the world, are as warm as ever. We do not appeal for funds nowadays; since we have been obliged to charge the men for food, and that at stipulated rates, a profit is made on the canteen which covers expenses. We are, of course, thankful for donations for stationery, etc.

Dec. A.F.C. 1918.

1919

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

Avenue Hall was so quiet almost throughout December that we hardly knew what to do about organising festivities for Christmas. However, it was decided to prepare in faith, and on Christmas Day drafts of men returned from France and the East—released miners—and found it impossible to get to their homes in Lancashire, Wales, and Cornwall. The Camp Commandant kindly told their officers of our Christmas fare and entertainment, and a number of men came, also two officers, a captain and a lieutenant. These, together with a few A.S.C. men from Winn Road, a few from the camp hospital, and some Americans, numbered 320. All greatly enjoyed the "spread," the crackers, cigarettes, oranges, etc., and the beautiful decorations of the Hall, especially the stranded men who expected no "Christmas" at all. Mrs. Clift's orchestra played beautifully during and after tea. We are especially grateful to them and to Miss Forbes, who sang several solos, for tearing themselves away from other parties to be with us for part of the evening. Mr. H. B. Lankester and the Misses Rowland contributed excellent music too. Besides the music there were several games and a few competitions. Everybody appeared to spend a happy, jolly evening, and the expressions of gratitude were overwhelming.

We arranged to hold another party on the evening of Boxing Day. Our "drafts" had gone, but we had a number of guests from the camp hospital, the A.S.C., the Americans, and others—about 250 in all. A whole Christmas party had adjourned from a certain hospitable house to help in the Hall; Miss Gladys Rowland sang, the Misses Rowland played, and several of the men gave songs, recitations, etc. Paddy Quinn in particular was a host in himself, with his clever imitations, impersonations, etc. There was time for several games and competitions, which caused great fun.

The workers were very glad that they had arranged to spend the fifth Christmas of the war in this way, especially as in all probability it will be the last time that any such service is required. It is wonderful how every Christmas, except the first, a large number of men have turned up who have been in real need of our entertainment, and to whom it was most acceptable.

Jan. 1919. R.T.C.

AVENUE HALL FOR SOLDIERS.

The most interesting features of the work during January were the entertainment of more than 100 wounded soldiers from the University and Camp Hospitals on January 2nd, and the reception of a party of Belgians on January 12th and subsequent days. On the former occasion there was a whist drive, managed by Mr. Foot, an excellent tea, and a concert, in which several of the men took part.

On January 11th some of our ladies saw the announcement in the "Echo" that a number of Belgians had come to the camp, and that the representatives of Belgium here would be grateful for offers of hospitality. Arrangements were made at once for the whole of the 66 to come to the Hall on Sunday afternoon. After a very good tea there was an impromptu concert, songs being given by Miss Gladys Rowland, Mr. Harold Lankester, and Sergeant Verkoyen, one of the Belgians. Later they attended Mr. Withers' organ recital in the Church, and returned to the Hall for supper. Throughout the week they made use of the Hall, and on Friday a concert was arranged by Miss Hamilton especially for their benefit. Solos were sung by Miss Conroy, Sergeant Verkoyen, Miss Gladys Rowland, Private Williams, and Private Hardy, R.A.M.C.; Private Allbury, R.A.S.C., gave violin solos; Corporal Bush, R.A.S.C., contributed humorous songs and sketches (some in French); and lady students of the University College sang several part songs.

These Belgians had been taken prisoners at Liège and Namur about August 7th, 1914, and have been working in German salt mines, etc., ever since, suffering innumerable hardships. Some time after the armistice they were sent, with a larger number of French soldiers, to Denmark, thence to Cherbourg, and had been brought here *en route* for Antwerp. Sunday evening, January 12th, was the first quiet, happy time they had spent since before the war. They were loud in their praises of England, Southampton, and Avenue Hall.

Southampton has not hitherto been used, as was expected and planned, for demobilisation to any great extent. If ever it is, we shall be busy. Meanwhile the Hall serves a very useful purpose for the R.A.S.C. men and other units.

* * *

Belgian Prisoners Entertained at Southampton.

Thanks to the appeal through the columns of the "Echo" on Saturday night on behalf of the band of Belgian martyrs who had just reached this town from the horrors of German goals, the men spent an agreeably pleasant week-end. In the morning they marched to St. Edmund's Church for devotions, and in the afternoon were the guests of the Committee of the Avenue Hall for Soldiers, where they were entertained to tea, being cordially welcomed by the Pastor, the Rev. H. T. Spencer. So delighted were the men with the warmth of their reception, and the quality and quantity of the tea, that one of them expressed the hope that their furlough in this district might last at least a month. Another one of the guests said the cake of which he partook at tea was the first he had tasted for four years. Before the gathering broke up Capt. Goossens, Belgian Military Commandant at Southampton, returned thanks on behalf of his countrymen for the hospitality which had been extended to them. In the evening there was an organ recital in the adjoining church, at which many of the Belgians were present.

1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. 13th. 14th. 15th. 16th. 17th. 18th. 19th. 20th. 21st. 22nd. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st. 32nd. 33rd. 34th. 35th. 36th. 37th. 38th. 39th. 40th. 41st. 42nd. 43rd. 44th. 45th. 46th. 47th. 48th. 49th. 50th. 51st. 52nd. 53rd. 54th. 55th. 56th. 57th. 58th. 59th. 60th. 61st. 62nd. 63rd. 64th. 65th. 66th. 67th. 68th. 69th. 70th. 71st. 72nd. 73rd. 74th. 75th. 76th. 77th. 78th. 79th. 80th. 81st. 82nd. 83rd. 84th. 85th. 86th. 87th. 88th. 89th. 90th. 91st. 92nd. 93rd. 94th. 95th. 96th. 97th. 98th. 99th. 100th.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS ENTERTAINED AT AVENUE HALL, SOUTHAMPTON.



67

A. J. C. March 1919

LETTERS FROM GRATEFUL BELGIANS.

The following letters are selected from a large number we have received from the sixty-six Belgians entertained at Avenue Hall in January.

Feluy-Arguennes, Hainaut,
January 30th, 1919.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I take the respectful liberty of writing you these few lines in order, first of all, to let you know that I arrived home safely and found my dear family in good health. Dear ladies and gentlemen, my first duty is to thank you for the very kind welcome given to us on our arrival in Southampton. My dear family wishes ardently to associate itself with me in recognising the brotherly love and generous heart of the British people. Your generosity has not fallen on an egoist, for I can, according to my means, be good and amiable to your dear soldiers who still occupy our country.

If my captain, Mr. Goossens, is still among you, would you kindly give kindest regards from his humble servant, as well as those of my dear family.

He who writes to you is one of the sixty-six prisoners who, on returning from Germany, spent a pleasant week at Southampton. With sincere regards,

ARTHUR BASSÉE.

Bièvre (Province de Namur),
January 30, 1919.

DEAR BENEFACTORS AND BENEFACTRESSES,—At last I come to thank you all for the hearty welcome and kind attention that you gave us; I shall never forget it.

I arrived home very tired on January 24th. I had the great joy of finding all the family in good health; it consists of my mother, aged 76, and two sisters. They suffered very much from my absence, especially as they knew the bad treatment we were undergoing. Then our house was completely burnt down; we have saved nothing. If I can change my clothes it is thanks to my benefactors of England. We are living in a house of emigrants, who doubtless will soon be able to return to their own homes. Our village is composed of 1,000 inhabitants: 72 houses have been burnt down; 18 civilians killed, men, women, and children, among others a child of three years who had its throat cut by a bayonet in its father's arms, and the latter shared the same fate. I will stop here, for there would be too much to say.

We shall all take courage again while waiting impatiently for the indemnities and materials for reconstruction, for without we could do nothing. The situation is sad, for no work nor commerce is possible. I have now seen again all the members of my family, and I am going to pay a visit to my sister, who is married, at Gemblouk. There are, at her house, several English officers who have been there since the armistice; to them I shall be able to praise the English people as they deserve.

My mother and sisters join with me in thanking you for the welcome you gave me, as well as for your beautiful presents. They will all keep a good remembrance of England, and, as for me, you can believe in my eternal gratitude.—I remain your devoted

JOSEPH ROUGEOLT.

Southampton Times

Aug. 9. 1919

A Famous Resthouse. How the Avenue Soldiers' Room was Inaugurated.

In view of our article last week, entitled "A Famous Resthouse," the following from this month's "Avenue Free Churchman" is of interest:—

"When three ladies saw the soldiers who had recently arrived on the Common on August 8th, 1914, standing in queues writing letters with one another's backs for desks in the pouring rain, and suggested to the deacons that it might be possible to open the Avenue Hall as a writing room, they little thought that they were undertaking work which would find continuous occupation for scores of people for five years, and occasional employment for many more. Yet so it has turned out. The work begun on Sunday, August 9th, 1914, is to terminate on Saturday, August 2nd, 1919. Whilst all rejoice that the need for the work is practically over, the number of men using the Hall the last week or two having been very small, the closing of the Hall gives real sorrow to many.

"It is unnecessary to tell over again how the canteen was originated and the various departments of the undertaking added; how hundreds of men slept in the Hall at the request of the military authorities; how seven whole divisions were fed as they marched past, often in the early hours of the morning; how every soldier received all he wanted gratis for nearly three years; how generous benefactors came forward with large gifts, and many more repeated smaller gifts till they became large. These things are written in many hearts, and still the testimony comes that they have not been done in vain. Thousands of men with whom we have played and talked, and prayed, have gone away to die for us or to suffer for us, and they have not forgotten. Many lonely ones, homesick ones, have found fresh heart and strength in our Soldiers' Home.

"And many of our workers have come to know and value one another, and are the better fitted to unite in other and perhaps longer service. There are Comrades of the Great War, why not Comrades of Avenue Hall? As soon as possible after August 2nd it is intended to hand over the Hall to the workmen for very necessary "break up" when many have departed or are departing on holiday, it is intended to invite all the workers to a reunion in the renovated Hall some time in September—probably late in the month."

Mare Island Navy Yard,
Vallejo, California,
September 14th, 1919.

DEAR MR. SPENCER,

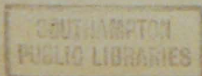
I note in the "Churchman" that the Avenue Rest Hall has closed its doors as the spot of much blessed comfort and rest to the hosts of marching men when the war drums were throbbing and great things being done for the honour, safety, and protection of King, country, and the best interests of the whole world. I have a very keen remembrance of the first days of the opening of the Hall for the soldier purpose, and you and I know what interest I may have taken met its success in some branches at least. At all events, from the very beginning it served actively a splendid purpose, in which there was displayed on the part of the women a devotion to hard work at all times that will for ever call for the highest praise and sincerest recognition. Nor will the service of the men be forgotten, for they were as instant and sure as were the sainted women. In a personal way, on behalf of the many men who wore the uniform of my country's army, and who found welcome, care, and shelter in the Hall in times of stress and need, I beg to thus record the deepest appreciation. They were taken in as brethren in the common cause, and served so finely, so hospitably, that the act will not be forgotten, but it will go to add one more strand to the weaving of the unbreakable cords that shall serve to hold our two great English-speaking people together in ties that shall serve only for the world's betterment, unselfishly considered. Therefore the Hall should be considered as having served its place and time in a noble way, coupled as it is with that very great work that originated its purpose—the last English home for the multitude that used it to send a last message home before taking on the journey that led into dire battle, and for so many of them to the great test of the waiting beyond, and where they wait, and where they shall be met again by the bereaved hearts here left. Save every record of that work and Hall. Precious beyond all price they are and as a part of the life of Avenue Church, so far as it lies there—and so much of it does—it will always be a crown unto it. The blessings of a gracious God attended it from the beginning in this work of soldier relief, and the light and happiness sent into English homes by reason of all its conveniences in correspondence alone is light on the path of duty for ever luminant and glorious. I shall treasure my remembrance of the Hall, its workers and supporters—every phase of it—as one of the precious things of life, and as long as life may hold me in its embrace of worldly duty.

Faithfully, and in remembrance dear,

Sincerely yours,

ALBERT W. SWALM,
American Consul on leave

Rev. H. T. Spencer, pastor,
Avenue Congregational Church,
Southampton, England.





The arrival of German prisoners at Southampton, cinematographed by Pathes Frères.

THE AVENUE HALL

Admission Free 11th 1933

Soon to be Replaced

ITS STORY AND ITS MEMORIES

With the sky gleaming through a partly dismantled roof, a significant little service took place in Southampton on Sunday night. It was in the Avenue Hall—famous far beyond the confines of the town during the war—and members of the Avenue Congregational Church gathered there in considerable numbers after the evening service.

The corrugated iron buildings are being demolished to give place to new ones on the same site.

One could imagine that the thoughts of those present who had been baptized, had attended the Sunday School, or perhaps had been married on that spot, must have been tinged with sadness.

In references to the past history of the hall, the Minister, the Rev. Stanley Herbert, B.D., said that the buildings were those of the former St. John's Free Church of England in Clifford-street. They were purchased in 1802, and the Rev. Dr. R. F. Horton preached at the opening service on December 21 that year.

57 YEARS AGO.

The speaker mentioned that a member present, Mr. W. H. Fanner, had been a choir-boy in the original building 57 years ago, and also referred to the ministry of the Rev. A. D. Martin.

Touching on the "rare memories" and great work connected with the Sunday School in the old hall, Mr. Herbert said Mr. Harry Stephens was the first Superintendent, and was followed by Mr. W. R. Nicoll and Mr. John Stephens. Mr. R. N. Nicholson was now carrying on the old traditions.

There had been great teachers, too, who had given years and years of service. Miss Rose Hickley started in 1802 and was still teaching, and so was Mr. Joseph Harrison, who joined in 1902.

AVENUE LECTURES

From the Avenue lectures had sprung the nucleus of the fund they were now building up, and they were indelibly associated with one who had been responsible for them, and who had held the Treasurership—Mrs. Harold B. Lankester.

Several of the early lecturers mentioned had relatives among the congregation. Famous men who visited Southampton in this connection included Hubert von Herkomer, Ian McLaren, Bishop Weldon, the Earl of Lytton, Prof. Flinders Petrie and many others.

DURING THE WAR

From August, 1914 until 1919 the hall became the Avenue Hall for Soldiers and Sailors, and during that "magnificent time" its fame, as the Minister pointed out, became known far beyond the confines of Southampton. It was initiated by the late

Minister, the Rev. H. T. Spencer, who was Hon. Secretary and President, and the officials connected with it included Mr. H. B. Lankester (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Leach, Mrs. T. H. Smith, Miss Ethel Hamilton, Miss Robinson, Mr. A. E. Bance, Mr. J. Harrison, Mr. C. Phillips, Mr. R. Shepherd, Mr. Horace Cox, Mr. Rose and Mr. J. C. Smith.

40,000 SIGNATURES.

As many as 3,500 letters were written in the hall in one day (the total number being 358,744), and a week's supplies included 8 cwt. of cake, 156lbs. of butter and 23,350 cups of tea and coffee. Altogether 450 British regiments, and nearly 100 of the Allies', are recorded in the visitors' book, with its 40,000 signatures—but a part of the number who used it.

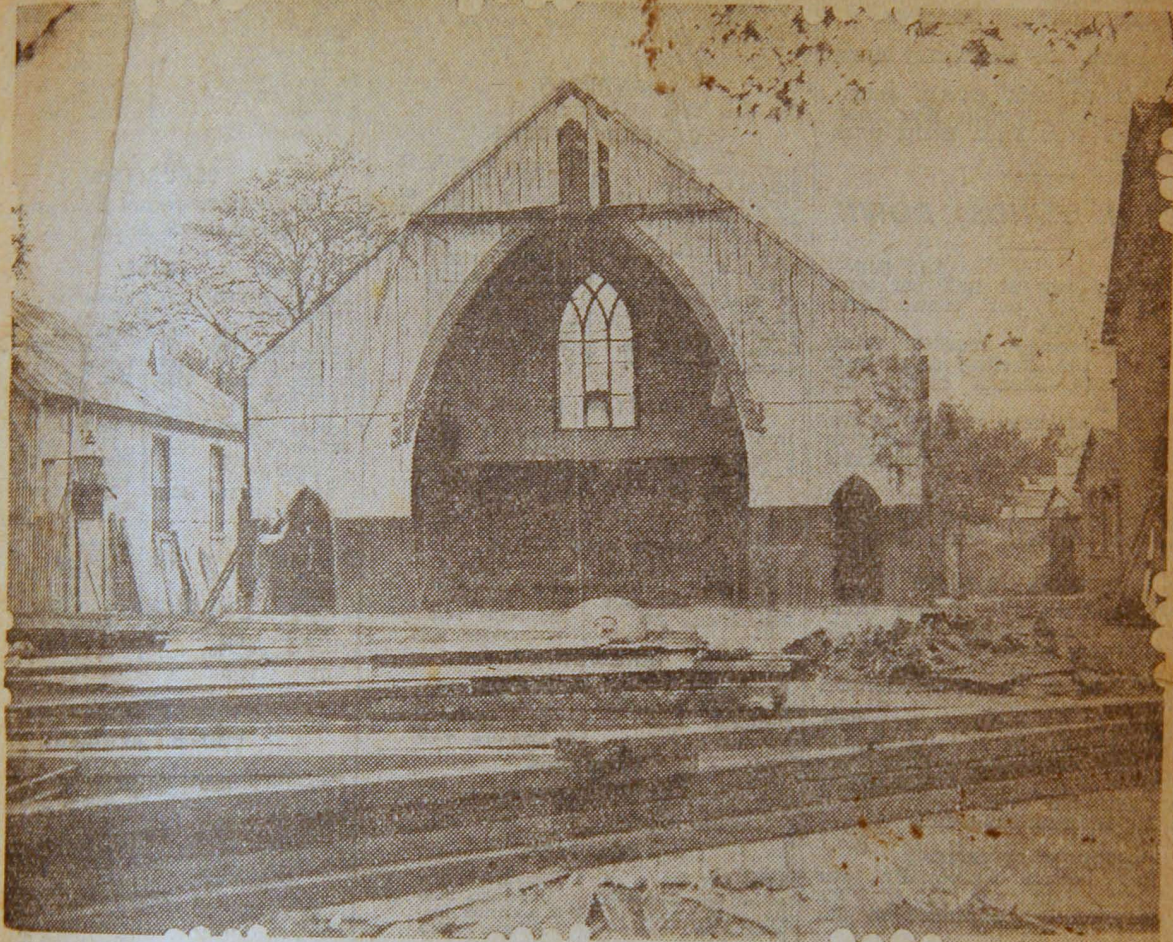
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The little commemoration concluded with the singing by the choir of Oakeley's anthem "Evening and Morning," an appropriate passage from Lamentations was read and, after special prayers and a hymn, the congregation sang the Doxology.

THREE-YEAR SCHEME.

The Avenue Church is now launching a three-year scheme to include new halls (large and small), classrooms, kitchen, etc., and furnishing, at an estimated cost of £9,600. Of this amount, the sum of £6,954 is already in hand or promised, the fund having been opened in 1909. Mr. H. B. Lankester is the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

WAR STORY OF AVENUE HALL



Avenue Hall, Southampton, is being demolished. But its story will live. Nothing can destroy that. Those who worshipped in the hall when it was used as a church; those who enjoyed the excellent lectures given when the hall was one of the centres of the intellectual life of the town; and soldiers and sailors who found it a sanctuary during the Great War, will

treasure memories of a building that will soon be no more.

Erected in Clifford-street in 1892, the hall was first known as St. John's Free Church of England. Then it was moved to its present site and used as a Congregational church until the present church was built.

The hall was one of the first in the country to be given over to service men on the outbreak of war, and for five

years splendid work was done. Until May, 1917, the hall was conducted on the "all free" principle, but after that date orders were received to charge for all refreshments.

Troops on the march often used to cheer on passing the hall, which they came to look upon as a home from home.

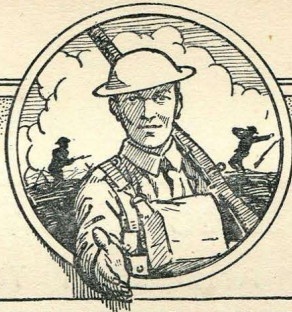
New and up-to-date buildings are to replace the hall.

62



62
St. James Church, N.Y.

B.T.27



For he to-day that sheds his Blood with me
Shall be my Brother *Henry V.*

The blood which you so generously gave has been used by the fighting forces. This brings you the thanks of those concerned for the personal service you have rendered to your country.

ARMY BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Charles Thomas

Avenue Hall for Soldiers and Sailors
Southampton

August 9th. 1914

August 2nd. 1919

The Executive Committee request the pleasure of
the company of

Miss E. Hamilton

at a Reunion of Workers and Helpers to be held at the Hall

on

Thursday, January 22nd, 1920, at 7.30 p.m.

The Mayor and Mayoress
will be present.

S. T.

R.S.V.P. to the Hon. Secretary,
Rev. H. T. SPENCER,
52 Gordon Avenue,
Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON HONOURS U.



Southampton yesterday granted the 14th Major Port, Transportation Corps, U.S. Army, the right to march through the town with bayonets fixed, colours flying, and drums beating. Men of the corps are seen marching through the old Bargate, which was reopened in their honour.

Tribute To Premier

"Great Leader in Fair Weather or Foul"

"There is in certain quarters a disposition to disturb confidence in the Prime Minister.

"If I may say so, I can speak of him perhaps in rather a detached way. If I were to confess it, I came into the Cabinet first prejudiced against him. I did not belong to his party, and I had no axe to grind.

"His integrity, his courage, and his wisdom are priceless assets to us to-day.

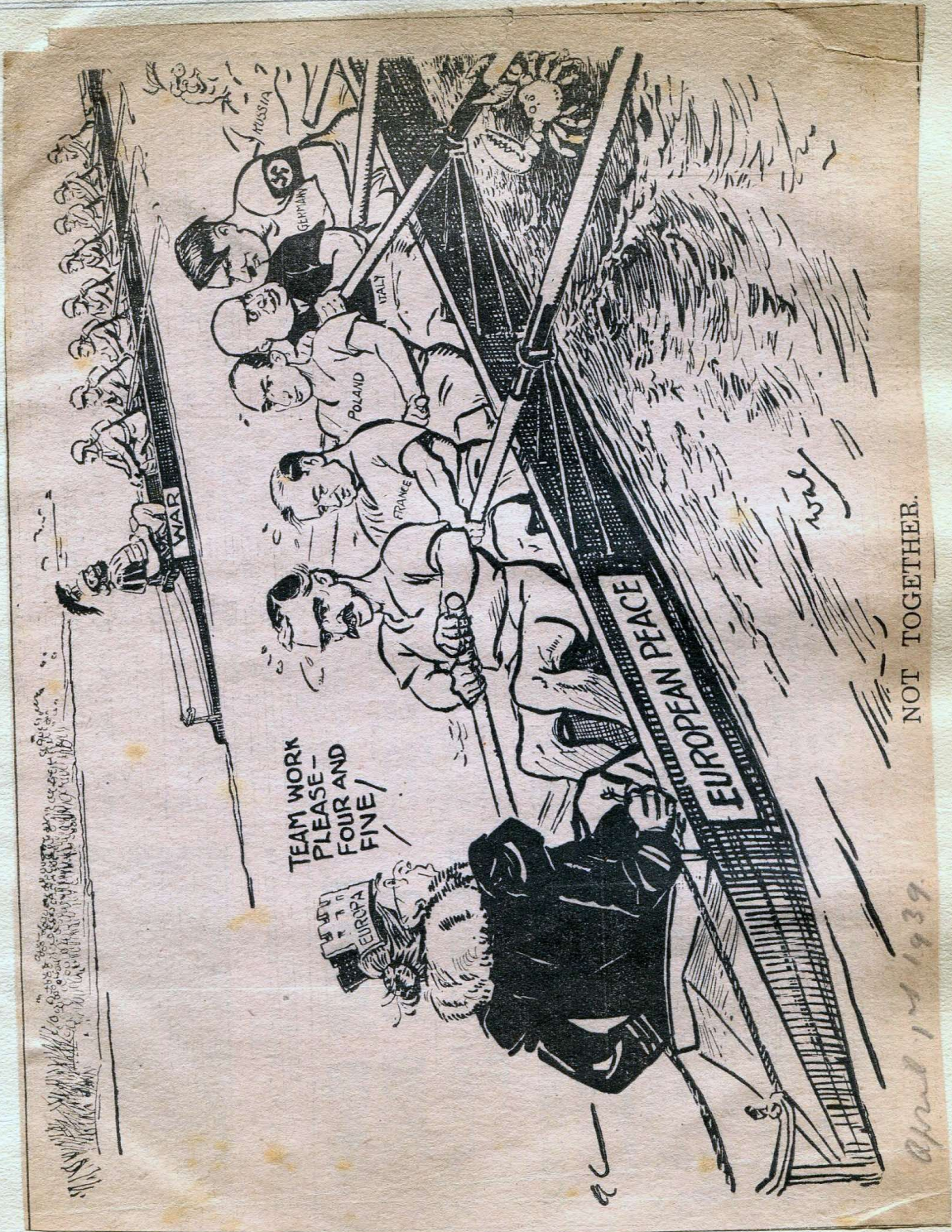
"He has a capacity for decision and action which are unsurpassed and if it be fair weather or foul, after three years of having the honour of serving under him, I for one would choose no other leader than that remarkably great man." — Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Colonial Secretary, speaking at the Parliamentary Press Gallery's annual dinner.

April 1, 1929

GE TO D



MR. CHAMBERLAIN
leaving No. 10, Downing-street, to make his momentous statement in the House of Commons.

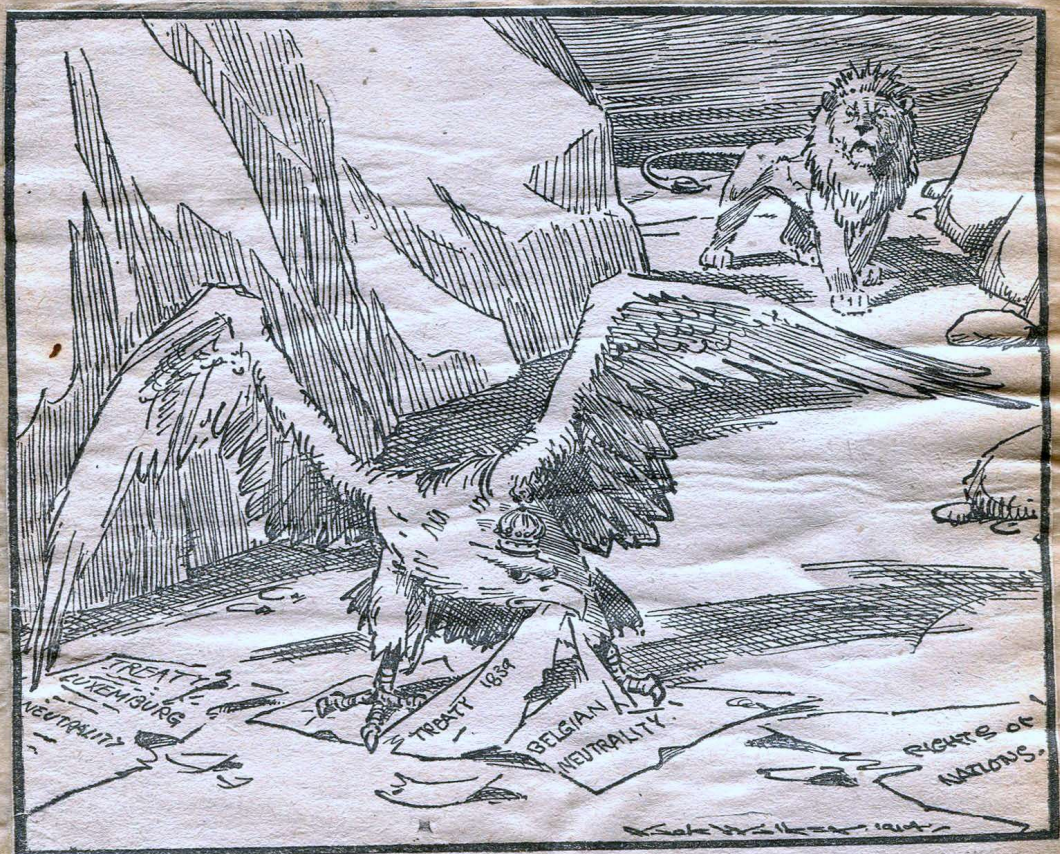


Feb. Friday 15th 1940

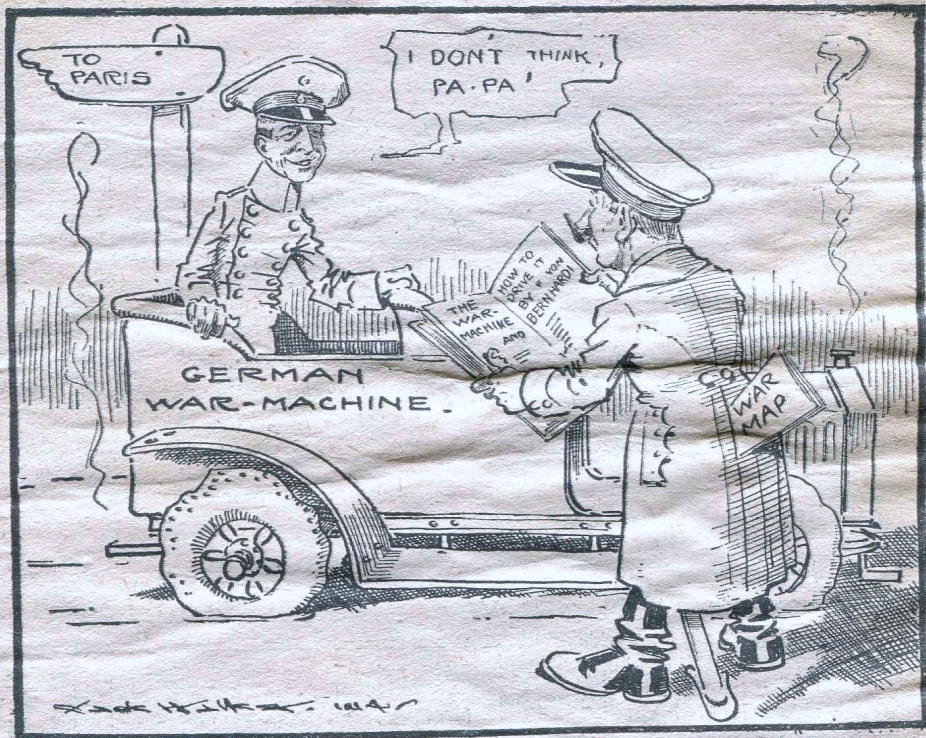
E DAILY TELEGRAPH AND MORNING POST



“NEUTRALITY REWARDED”
By Louis Raemaekers.



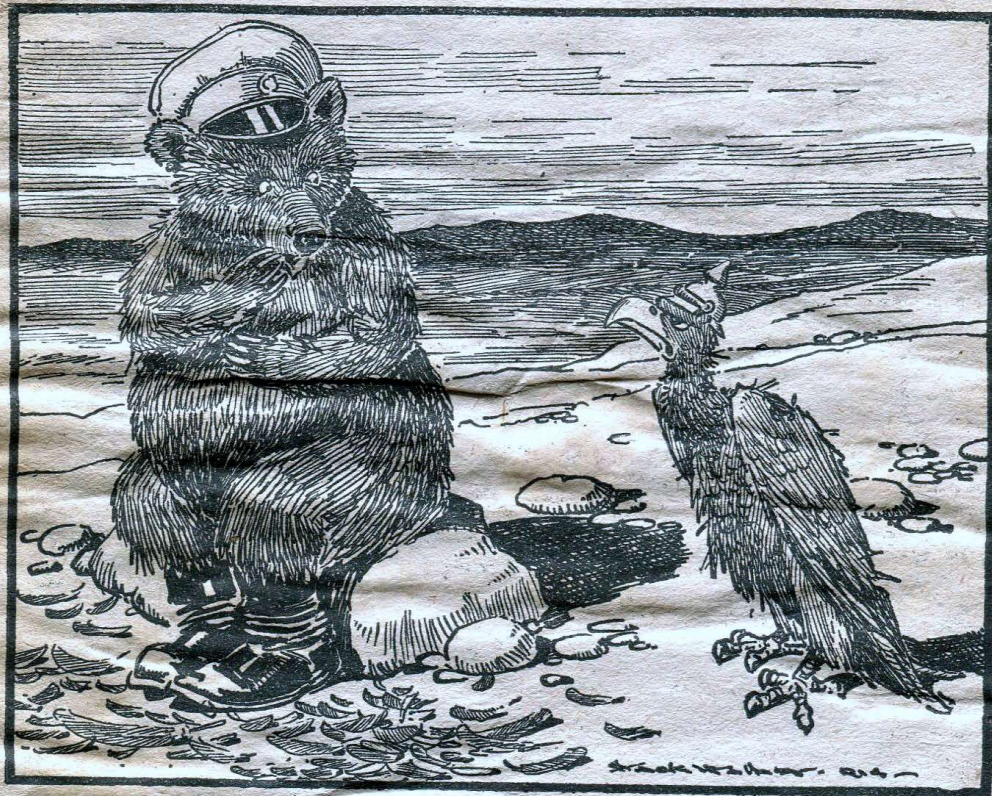
Aug. 1914. TOO MUCH FOR THE LION.



THE UNEXPECTED.

The "Road Hog of Europe": "This looks all very well up to a certain point, but it doesn't explain what to do in case of a breakdown." (With acknowledgments to Mr. Harry Tate in "Motoring.")

Sept. 25. 1914



Sept. 26. 1914 A BARE POSSIBILITY. Sept 26.

German Eagle: "Excuse me, I suppose you haven't seen my two-headed friend anywhere about, have you?"



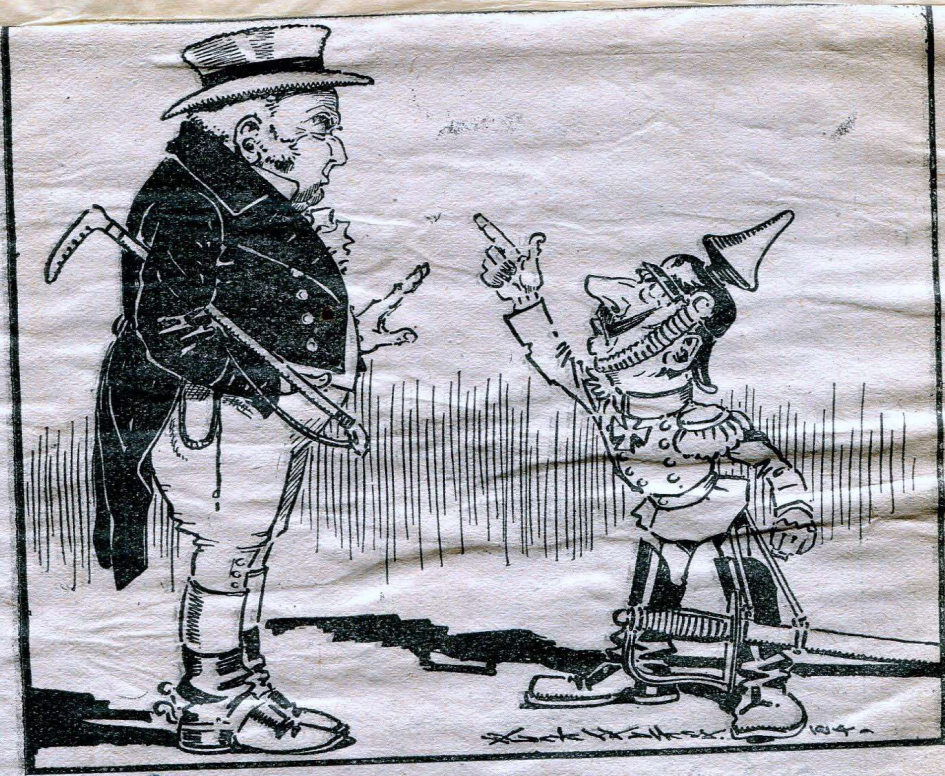
Sept. 29, 1914 NEVER AGAIN.

Policeman: "Now then, drop it. You've done enough damage."



THE KAISER'S DREAMS—NO. 2: THE END OF THE WORLD.

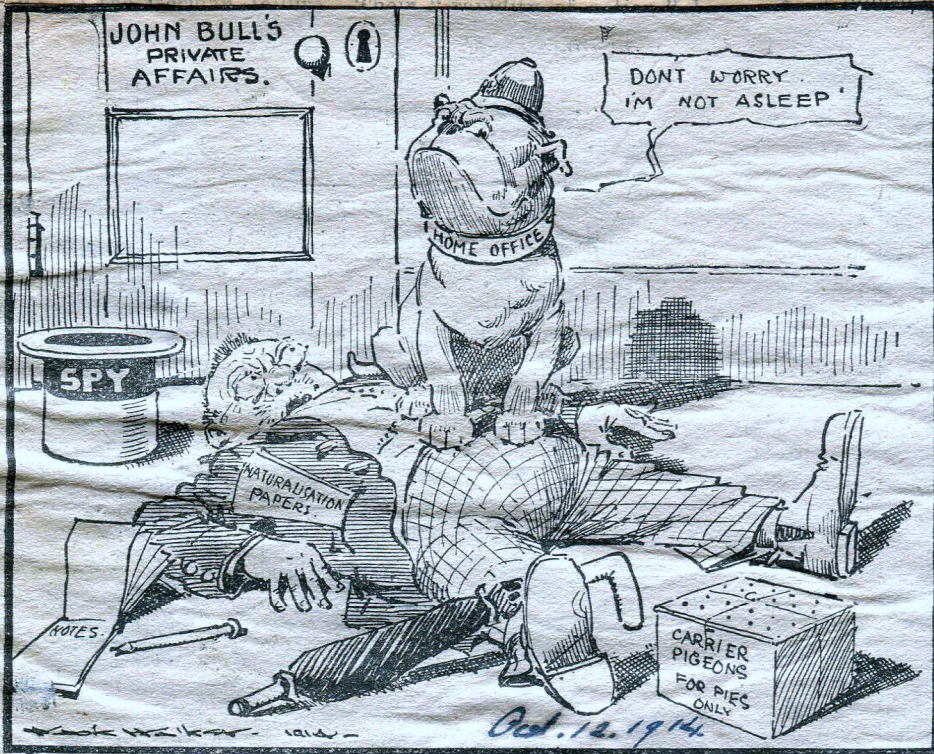
A BARE POSSIBILITY
Bernhard says: "Excuse me, I suppose you haven't seen my two-headed friend anywhere about, have you?"



Oct. 10.

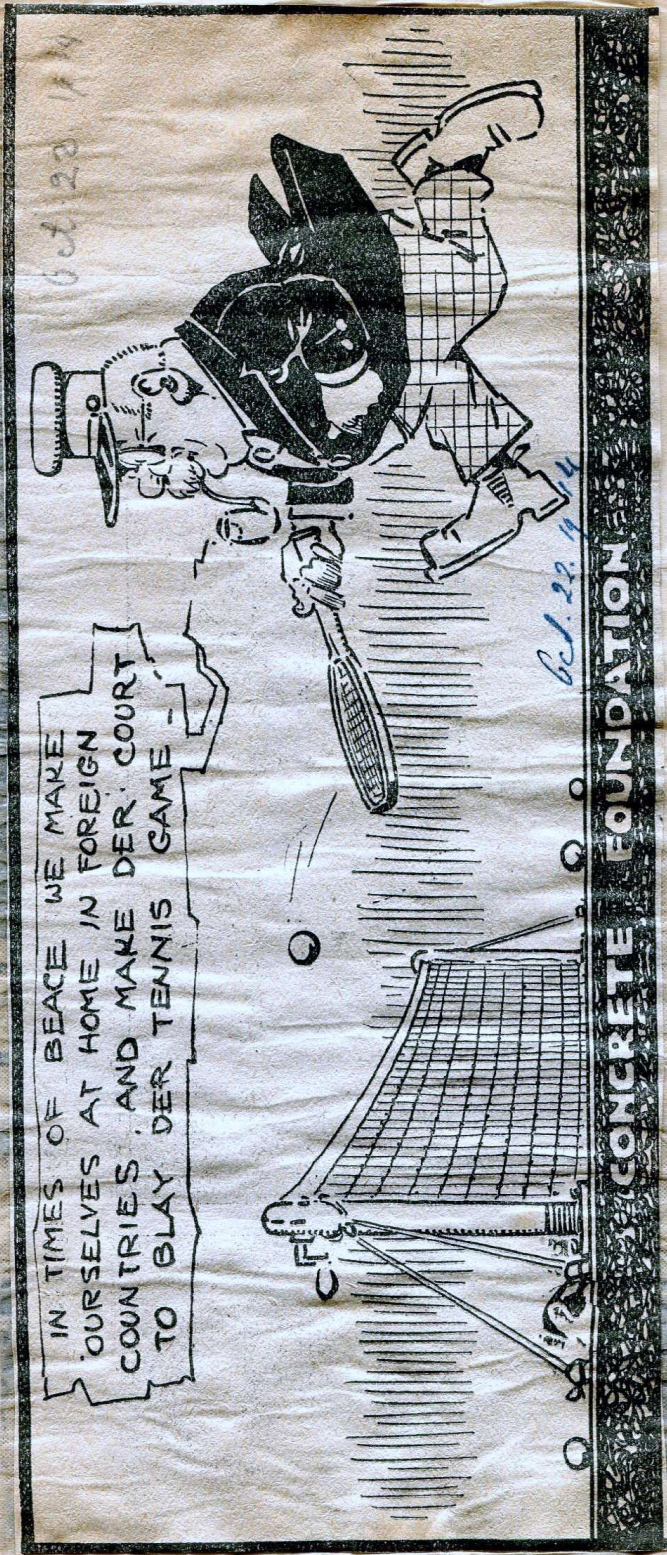
LOGIC.

Kaiser: "I will rid the world of you, you arrogant oppressor! Mark my Royal and Imperial word!"
John Bull: "Come, you can't have it both ways. Just now you told me I had a contemptible little army. Well! A fellow can't do much arrogant oppressing with that, you know!"



From the official statement it appears that the Home Office has the spy danger well in hand.

[A collected edition of Mr. Jack Walker's War cartoons is now on sale, in handy booklet size, at all newsagents and bookstalls, price one penny. Ask for "Daily Graphic War Cartoons"]



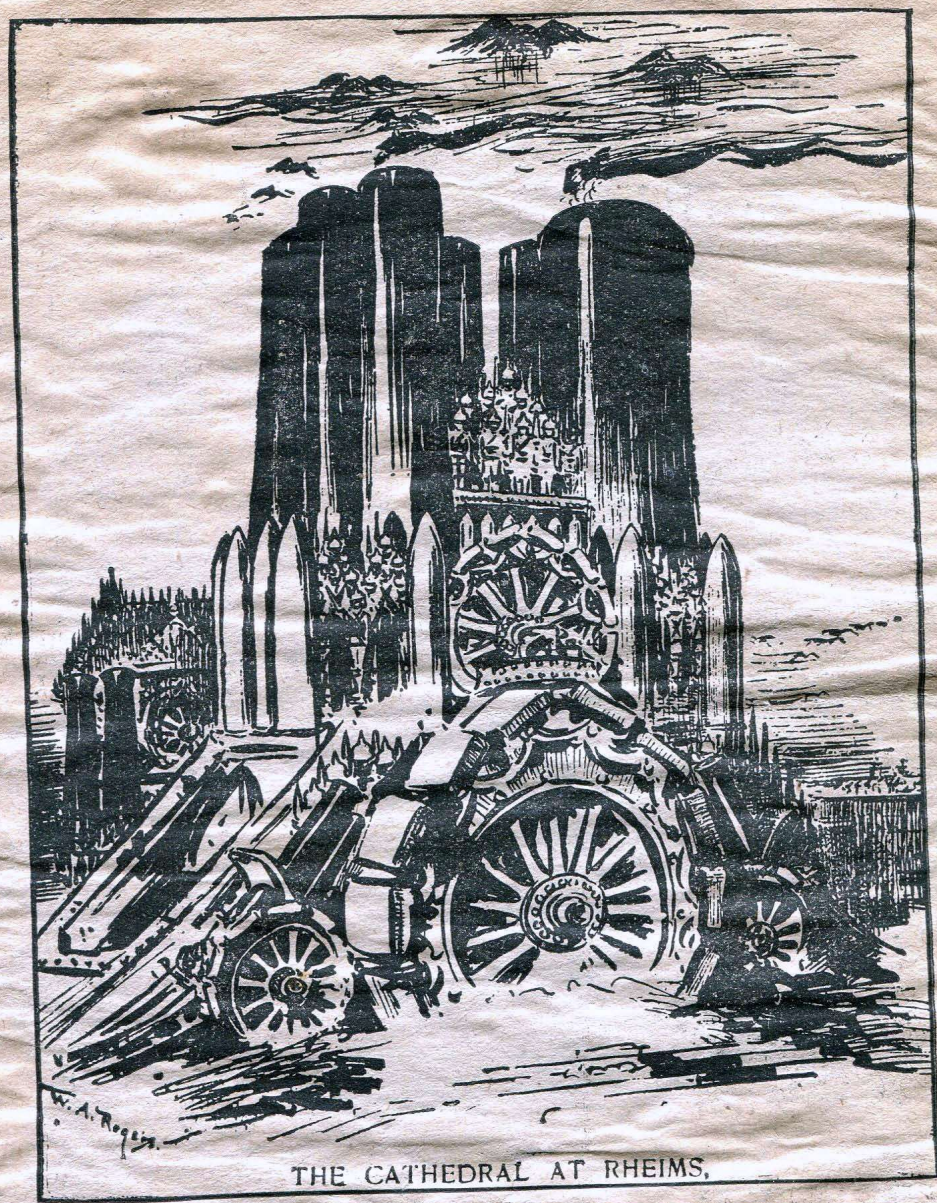
77



CONCRETE FOUNDATION

Oct 22, 1914

GERMAN "KULTUR" ILLUSTRATED—No. 1.



THE CATHEDRAL AT RHEIMS,

MODERN GOTHIC ART—AFTER KRUPP.

American opinion regarding Germany's crime at Reims is admirably reflected in this cartoon, which appeared in the "New York Herald" under the title: "The Cathedral at Reims: Modern German Gothic Art." The substitution of the Krupp siege guns for the graceful towers of the cathedral is a satirical reflection upon the change which has come over the erstwhile "sober, thoughtful" inhabitants of Germany.

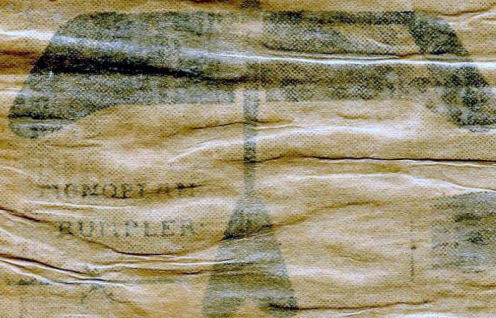
AVIONS ALLEMANDES

MONOPLAN TAUBE



1. I. P. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

MONOPLAN EDITHA



MONOPLAN RUMPLER



BIPLAN ALBATROS

ALBATROS



ZEPPELIN

WAR-HAWKS OF THE MODERN BUNS

A diagram issued by the French War Office for the guidance of the men in the trenches. It gives a silhouette of every aeroplane and airship in the German service, and bears the injunction "German aeroplanes - fire on these machines."

McLaren, Bishop Welldon, the Earl of Lytton, Prof. Flinders Petrie and many others.

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13-5 23

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The little commemoration concluded with the singing by the choir of Oakeley's anthem "Evening and Morning," an appropriate passage from Lamentations was read and, after special prayers and a hymn, the congregation sang the Doxology.

THREE-YEAR SCHEME.

The Avenue Church is now launching a three-year scheme to include new halls (large and small), classrooms, kitchen, etc., and furnishing, at an estimated cost of £9,600. Of this amount, the sum of £6,954 is already in hand or promised, the fund having been opened in 1909. Mr. H. B. Lankester is the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.



WHERE "TOMMY" IS MADE WELCOME.



[Photo, Farringdon, 74, Milton Road, Southampton] The above photograph shows the interior of the Avenue Hall, near Southampton Common, where, since the war broke out, our gallant soldiers have been happily entertained. They have been supplied with free refreshments, writing materials, and literature, and their heartfelt gratitude has quite repaid the workers for their praiseworthy efforts.

Southampton's Hospitality to Tommy Atkins.

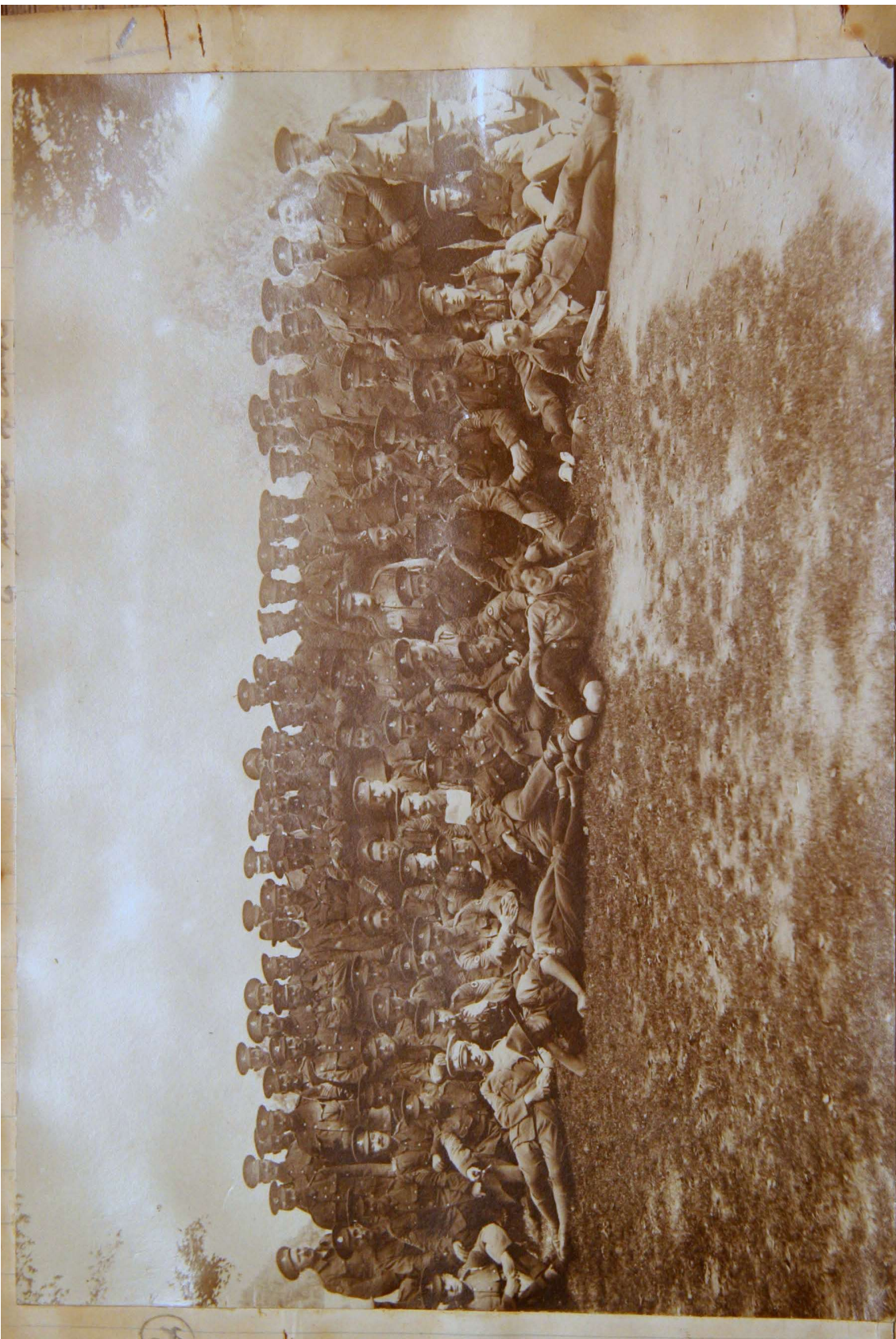
Splendid Work of the Avenue Church,

Typical of the spirit which prevails throughout the nation that the soldier really matters is the provision which has been made for the troops this week at the schoolroom adjoining the Avenue Church. Here a willing body of helpers has waited on them with practically everything they really needed—and all gratis. In addition to letter-writing facilities, illustrated journals and papers are lying about on the many tables for their perusal, while there is no stint of refreshments. Even cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco are served out to the soldiers. The idea was mooted at the chapel on Sunday morning. By half-past two that afternoon the hall was in order for the troops. The work has gradually expanded, and is now by no means restricted to that denomination, for many outside have rallied to their help, and it is under the supervision of a Committee who are open to, and do receive, provisions and money from all quarters. Money, indeed, is to be preferred, for then they can more easily regulate their stock. The Chapel Corps of the Boys' Life Brigade is on the premises, and performs many handy little services for the soldiers, including the recording and posting of their letters, of which there have already been over three thousand.

A fine instance of the admirable service the hall is rendering occurred on Wednesday morning, when about eighty of the Royal Flying Corps trooped in. For several hours they had had no refreshments whatever, and as there was then little prospect of them securing any for the next few hours, one may well imagine with what joy they welcomed the hospitality extended to them, even although they were hastily summoned away when they had been there but barely fifteen minutes. It was a pleasant, if brief, pause for them. The Third Echelon have been there while awaiting orders for embarkation.

As a mark of their heartfelt gratitude—although we have been informed by several that it was but a poor representation of what they felt—a pleasing presentation was made by the troops to the workers last evening. It took the form of a handsome silver epergoue, and a framed group, which was accompanied by a book signed by 136 names. They wrote:—The following warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of his Majesty's forces desire to convey to the subscribers and workers of the Avenue Congregational Church their thanks and their appreciation for the kindness bestowed on them during their stay in Southampton pending embarkation for the European War 1914. No words of ours can sufficiently express our appreciation of the efforts of all those who so kindly co-operated in our interests. The kindness and forethought which has been extended to us will never be forgotten by his Majesty's troops, who have been fortunate enough to be able to avail themselves of the same. The memory of the people of Southampton will long live in our minds."

In making the presentation, Sergeant-Major Smith, of the Royal Engineers, spoke of the gratitude which they all felt, and the gifts were received by Mr. J. T. Hamilton, J.P., on behalf of the workers. The company were afterwards entertained with an organ recital by Mr. Pearson, and all were impressed when Sergeant Morfitt, of the R.A.M.C., sang a couple of sacred solos. The presentation will certainly form an interesting memento in years to come of the stirring times in which we live.



The 3rd Echelon.
General Headquarters Staff.
Phot. was taken in August at the Rest Camp, The Common, Southamp^{ton}.
[10/15.]