

The Entire Day in This Train Without Food, and not knowing where we were being taken to. We learned later that the train had had to go out of its way considerably to escape the firing. The train following ours was less fortunate, for a bomb struck it. At last at 9 p.m. we got out of the train at Courtrai, where we were received by a sympathetic crowd. We were taken to the Sisters of Charity du Fort, who were afraid to open at first, fearing the Germans. At last we were received in a large hall where some gentlemen were busy placing mattresses for the ambulance station. Dry bread was distributed out of large baskets, and jars of beer were placed at our disposal, after which we rested two by two on the mattresses. Next morning the train for Ostend was ready for us at 8 a.m., and here our first sad separation took place. Unfortunately, the night before poor little Sister Marie Rose fell on getting down from the train, and being badly hurt, was obliged to have medical assistance. The doctor who attended her could not refrain from admiring her calmness and resignation. Not knowing what was in store for us, we thought it best to entrust her to the hospitality of the good nuns du Fort, leaving our two infirmieres, Sister M. Pia and Sister M. Gerard, with her. Our procuratrix, Sister M. Alphonse, also remained behind. One must understand community life to realise what this separation meant to us all.

Towards 10 o'clock we reached Ostend, where we were obliged to go to the Catholic Club until our Superiors had made the necessary arrangements for us. Imagine, if you can, all these enclosed nuns, totally unaccustomed to any dealings with the world, brought in contact with all sorts and conditions of people who came there purposely to stare at us, while enjoying their beer. It was impossible to procure any food. At last, Rev. Mother Vicar, and our chaplain went out to seek accommodation for us. They were able to find a small hotel, we would only have one bed for each two Sisters, but at least we would be alone. We said good-bye to the Wavre nuns, and about 6 p.m. entered our new domicile. Our procuratrix did her utmost to provide a substantial meal after a fast, as one might almost say, of three days, so that we might gain strength for our proposed journey to England. Her means were limited, but her trust in Providence was boundless. Some of our nuns' relatives who were at the seaside just then, having heard of our arrival, hastened to visit us, and were full of compassion at our appearance in our strange costume. We all looked so worn and fatigued that they laughingly declared we might well be taken for tramps. At last, on Friday, October 2.

We Embarked for Hospitable England. At Folkestone we immediately remarked the courtesy of the English officials. We were given free places in the train, and were graciously offered refreshments. We reached London in about three hours, and there we experienced the same courtesy. Our Superiors found every help and sympathy in their endeavors to find a home for us. Two motor buses took us to our destination, where some charming young girls received us. We had our first repast here, and shortly afterwards made our arrangements. We were forced to divide ourselves into three little groups for a time. Everywhere we met the same cordiality and kindness, which only deepened when we related our adventures. The Sisters of the Assumption in Kensington were conspicuous for their goodness to us, and even went so far as to offer us their country house at Boxmoor until the end of the war. We went there on October 8, happy to find ourselves once more re-united. We endeavored to reorganise our community life, but fresh sacrifices awaited us, for two or three days after our arrival, our dear procuratrix (Sister M. Alphonse) fell ill. At first it seemed merely over fatigue, but soon the illness took a more serious turn. The doctor diagnosed it as heart disease and pneumonia. On October 19, eight days later, death called her from us. She was only 42 years of age, and seemed indispensable to us, being the only member of the community fully

acquainted with our business affairs, which she handled with great dexterity. 'The thunder of the cannons killed me,' she said; 'I was so frightened,' and oftener still she repeated 'My God, I offer you my life for Belgium and for the Allies.'

Since then, many of our Sisters have been seriously ill. One of them had to go to hospital to undergo an operation. The doctors say that all these illnesses are due to weakness, and their sympathy is wonderful. As for us since we landed in hospitable England, we count our daily sacrifices as nothing, so small are they in comparison to those we endured in Belgium at the outbreak of war. We are happy to offer our little sacrifices for our brothers in arms, who give their lives so generously and for the happiness of the noble and magnanimous British nation.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

September 25.

The Rev. Father McCarthy, Marist Missioner, preached at St. Aune's last Sunday evening.

Mr. R. P. Smythe, until recently secretary of the Thorndon parish committee of the Catholic Federation, and at present in camp at Trentham, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Mr. M. J. Schaab, of the General Post Office, and a member of the H.A.C.B. Society, has been selected for duty in the Army Post Office, and will leave for Egypt with the next reinforcements.

The H.A.C.B. Society Council met on Wednesday evening, under the presidency of Bro. J. J. L. Burke, to discuss the new agreement submitted by the British Medical Association. Bros. Burke and Hoskins were appointed delegates to the conference of friendly societies to deal with the matter.

Mr. Leo Carroll (of the Government Life Insurance staff, and well known in St. Mary's parish), was married to Miss Margaret Jones, daughter of Mrs. E. Sullivan, Dunedin, at St. Mary of the Angels' Church, on August 18. The Nuptial Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M. Mr. L. Loftus was groomsmen, and Miss Christina Johnson bridesmaid.

Mr. A. Dibley, a member of St. Francis' Church Choir, Island Bay, who has enlisted in the Medical Corps, was entertained by the members of the choir and friends at Mrs. Elliott's residence. The Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., on behalf of those assembled, presented Mr. Dibley with a wristlet watch as a mark of appreciation of his services. During the evening musical items were contributed by the following:—St. Francis' Choir, Miss Dibley, Mr. Dallow, and Miss O'Regan.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society took place last Monday, Bro. J. P. McGowan presiding. A large amount of routine business was transacted, and committees were appointed for the purpose of organising the Boxing Day picnic and the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The receipts for the evening totalled £100, whilst sick pay, amounting to £7, was passed for payment. A roll of honor, containing 12 names of members of the branch who are at the front, was placed in the meeting room.

Everything is in order for the opening of the bazaar which the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and his energetic committee are organising. Her Excellency Lady Liverpool has graciously consented to perform the opening ceremony. The lady stallholders are already busy stocking their stalls. An entertainment committee is doing everything possible to make the bazaar an attractive one, and the feature of the entertainments will be the dancing. The proceeds of the bazaar will