

belonged to the 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and was attached to the Royal Flying Corps. On July 31, while carrying out a flying reconnaissance near the Belgian border, his thigh was smashed by a fragment of shell. For a time he lost control of his damaged aeroplane, which fell a distance of 3000 feet. The heroic pilot, however, partially regained consciousness, and while the machine was still being made a target by the enemy's guns, he succeeded in reaching the British lines and saving his machine and his observer. 'It would seem incredible that he could have accomplished his task,' says the official description of the deed which won him the V.C. The remains were sent to England for interment, and conveyed to Farm Street Church, where a Requiem Mass was celebrated in presence of a small congregation, comprising mainly members of the family, personal friends, officers of the Royal Flying Corps, and a few wounded soldiers.

THE IMMUNITY OF SACRED IMAGES.

The testimony from soldiers as to the extraordinary immunity of sacred images when their surroundings have been shattered has been overwhelming. A further instance may well be quoted. A Boston man, serving in Belgium, writes:—

'Many stories have reached England concerning sacred relics which have been found undamaged while everything else near by has been blown to atoms by German shells. Recently a party of us were waiting near a school in a village which had long been a target for the German guns. We were fetching stores from a ruined cottage, but, as the Germans were shelling the road, it was deemed advisable to wait a little.

'One room in the school had been badly knocked about; the roof was falling in, and the floor was full of holes. Everything in the room had been smashed by the shells except three things—a statue of Christ, a large figure of the Virgin Mary, and a statue of one of the Apostles. Not one of these three figures was even so much as scratched or discolored. No one could help contrasting the wreckage of the room with these statues, which were as perfect as they were on the day they were placed in the school.'

SOLDIERS IN FRANCE ATTEND FIVE DAYS' MISSION.

A 'mission' to the soldiers in France is described by a sergeant in a private letter. He says:—

'The priest, Father Gleeson, held a fine mission for the lads for five evenings, and you can imagine how well they took advantage of it. I played the organ (a wheezy one), and it was altogether a grand mission. The village people came every evening to Benediction, and were highly pleased to hear how well the lads could sing together. The church was prettily decorated, and on the altar was placed the company flag of the battalion. The flags were presented by an Irish lady to the battalion, and the lads always carry them up into action. On the last evening of the mission all the flags were blessed, and presented to the company sergeant-major of each company, and then the mission was finished by an open-air procession and Benediction, and it was a grand sight. The next day the regiment went back to the trenches, and that is the way life goes on. We had to move on the third day of the mission, and I had some distance to come for the last two evenings. Every one of the battalion received Holy Communion during the mission, so you can tell the lads went back with light hearts.'

REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE.

The O'Mahony, of Grange Con, County Kildare, has written for the *Weekly Freeman* a description of the visit paid by the deputation from the Irish Recruiting Council to the front, in France and Flanders, at the invitation of the War Office. The O'Mahony writes:—

'On August 30 I obtained permission to visit the front trenches with Colonel Sir Nugent Everard, Mr. Percy, and Mr. Doig. We reached headquarters on the evening of August 30. On the 31st we visited the trenches, and walked through 7½ miles of trenches, including the firing trenches. On the way I saw and examined a ruined church. There was no roof on the church, all the windows were broken, the walls battered and in ruins. The tombstones and monuments outside broken by shell fire; amidst all this ruin there was a large crucifix against the wall of the church with the figure of our Lord absolutely untouched. On September 1 we visited another portion of the trenches, and walked over three miles in them up to the firing trench. We also saw at the rear the arrangements for giving the men baths and clean clothes. The rule is to give each man a hot bath and clean clothes at least once a fortnight.

'I was greatly struck with the cleanliness of the trenches, also with the cheerfulness and excellent spirit of the men. They were having dinner whilst we were in the trenches, and the food was excellent. Everything possible is done for the health and comfort of the men, with the result that the health of our Army is far better than in any previous war. I also visited the hospital and was greatly struck with the great cleanliness and the admirable arrangements for the treatment of the patients, also by the cheerfulness of the wounded.

'On the afternoon of September 1 we were allowed to visit Ypres, which was under shell fire at the time. The once beautiful Ypres is now a mass of ruins, not a single building standing. I visited the Irish convent, and clambered over ruins to get into the chapel, of which only a few battered walls are left. There was nothing to show that it had been a chapel, except the remains of the twisted and battered altar rails. Near the large square, amidst ruins and desolation, in what evidently was the garden of a convent, there stood a cupola about six or seven feet high. Under it on a pedestal was a statue of the Blessed Virgin. Surrounded by broken stones and glass and debris, there it stood absolutely uninjured, a truly remarkable sight. On the way to Ypres I examined a ruined church, and again found a crucifix against the wall of the church with the figure of Christ absolutely untouched.

'On the way back to headquarters we visited the 2nd Leinsters, from whom we received a most hearty welcome. Colonel Everard and I were allowed to address them and to express our appreciation of their noble deeds. Their spirit was splendid, and the chaplain, Father Malony, begged us to come again, which I hope to do. On September 2 I visited another ruined church, and again saw amidst the ruins a large crucifix with the figure of our Lord untouched, although even the wall against which it stood was battered by shells. On our way back to Boulogne we visited the 2nd Battalion of the Irish Guards, lately come out to France. We were again allowed to address the men, who were most enthusiastic and longing to get their chance. After being hospitably entertained by the officers at lunch we proceeded to Boulogne, and arrived in England on the night of September 2.

'I feel that those three days were the most interesting days of my whole life. Nothing could exceed the kindness shown to us by the military authorities, nor the desire which they evinced to allow us to see all we most desired. We were particularly fortunate in meeting with two Irish Generals—General Hickie and General Shea—who accompanied us through their respective trenches.

HOW COLONEL MALONE DIED.

Chaplain-Captain Father McMenamin, writing from Gaba Tepe on August 25, gives the following account of the great attack of August and of the death of Colonel Malone:—

'By this time you will have heard of great fighting which has taken place here during the last three

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