

CHIN-WAG Newsletter

Villiers Park Educational Trust's commemoration of the First World War through extracts from the Old Etonian's and Eton Manor's CHIN-WAG Newsletter

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August 1916.

Mr Wellesley receives the Military Cross

The Club flag with the Eton coat of arms emblazoned on it only makes its appearance on great occasions. The last time it climbed the mast was when Captain Gilbey won the Military Cross – it has climbed again in honour of Mr Wellesley winning the same distinction.

Needless to say, the members of the club were delighted at the news. Mr Wellesley will be sure of 'some' welcome when he comes on leave.

Our joy at the good news was somewhat tempered by the large number of questions we had to answer as to what act earned him the coveted distinction.

Mr Wellesley seems equally in the dark, for he wrote: "Perhaps you saw they've given me the Military Cross. Heaven knows what for. I think it's rather like gout. If you live long enough you're bound to get it".

Henry Whitson writes from Canada

433 St. Antoine St, Montreal

I have been so very long without writing that you probably must think I had forgotten you.

When I read through the letters from members of the Club at the front I oftentimes think that we in Canada do not realise or appreciate the enormous difficulties and obstacles that they have to contend with. We do see continuously battalions drilling and becoming proficient, to say nothing of the very extensive advertising through posters and newspaper articles. However, we know from recent casualty lists and reports that the Canadians have acquitted themselves right well. We are raising battalion after battalion, and now we come to the 245th. There seems no end to the number we must raise. Our Militia are getting quite a strenuous training too.

Conditions in this country are very good under existing conditions. It seems to be munitions, munitions everywhere. The country is taking the war very seriously to heart, and there seems no doubt but that Canada will do her level best to assist in the defeat of the enemy.

With kind regards and best wishes to all

Yours sincerely

Henry Whitson

Please revisit www.villierspark.org.uk each month for the next edition of CHIN-WAG from a century ago.

Nicknames in the Club

I have always had considerable difficulty in remembering people's real names: but once they have got an appropriate nickname it is almost impossible to forget them.

It was obvious when Fone became a member that he would at once be known as Tele(phone), but it was a bit of a puzzle what to call his younger brother. Some genius solved this by calling him Grama(phone).

Anyone who has tasted the excellent pickles made by Messrs. Lazenby will at once understand why we wish to be reminded of them and have christened our Lazenby, Pickles.

If Veal's name were Calf, he would be called Veal; but as his name is Veal, he is called Calf.

Stamford having lost an arm has blossomed into Nelson; Blatter, whose chief business on Otter's nights is apparently to assist Nelson in dressing and undressing, has become known as the Valet. Dietz, who is minus one foot, is better known as Stumpy.

Bamber has quickly become Bamboo, and now he is sugar-cane.

G. GAW



Brian Riversdale Osborne, aged 16 ½, who left Eton at the outbreak of war, enlisted as a trumpeter in the West Kent Yeomanry, was left behind when his regiment went to the front, but managed to get on board ship as a stowaway.