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PRISONER TELLS OF HIS HELLISH TREATMENT

Pte. Booth of Victoria Returns and Confirms German Methods of Treatment.

A sample of one of the many crimes which will be held to the account of Germany when the final peace terms are being considered is given in the tale told by Private Booth, now spending his first leave since arriving home after experiences in German prison camps which have brought him down from a tall robust healthy man as he left Victoria with the 103rd Battalion to a mere shadow of his former self.

Pte. Booth related experiences of his own and treatment meted out to men unfortunate to fall into the hands of the brutal Hun captors that will bring home to the people more than anything else the atrocities which have been committed in the name of Germany in view of the fact that some of the men that he refers to are men who left from this city.

Booth was still in the fighting and unharmed when his battalion consolidated at the Germans' second or third line trench. To the best of his recollection he and several other men, among them Pte. Wm. Simpson, of Spring Ridge, and Pte. John Bell, who also left Victoria with the 103rd Battalion, were about forty yards ahead of the Germans' third line trenches when they heard orders shouted to "dig in." It was too late for the little party who were surrounded by numbers against whom it was impossible to resist. They were taken to a Hun dugout, where they were kept until night. At night they were taken out to commence a march which lasted the whole of the night and to the middle of the next day, and for first part of the journey were under the heavy barrage the Canadians were putting over. For part of the journey they had mounted Uhlans for guards and during the long march about a half pint of burned acorn coffee, cold, and a "pretty slim slice of black bread" was their only refreshment.

It is impossible to tell all the hardships which this poor man went through at the different camps. Speaking of the work they were forced to do, Private Booth says: "We started at 5:30 in the morning and were given a drink of coffee and a slice of bread. We were marched five kilometres towards the line and handed picks and shovels and told to make a track for a railroad to get ammunition straight up to the line. They worked until noon each day, when they rested for twenty minutes, but were given nothing further to eat. Work was then resumed until 5:30, and they then commenced on the five kilometre march back to the half built house. Russian prisoners, they were told by the German guards, were working from the front line towards them to connect up the railroad track. A Greek in the Imperial forces and a Dutchman, who could both speak German, were used as interpreters.

Blows and abuse were the common lot of the men, and Private Booth himself declares he has had both. "It seemed," he said, "as if their intentions must have been deliberately to incite us to open revolt for an excuse to shoot. If we straightened our backs the guards struck us with sticks or threw lumps of hard clay at us. They would push and hit us with sticks and the butts of their rifles. Two men attempted to escape and got as far as the German front line barb wire, but were caught. They were both beaten and brought back and put on bread and water for three days. Men weakened by exposure, hunger and hard work frequently fainted. They were rolled aside until they regained consciousness and then set to work again."

The men reached their home about 6:30 o'clock in the evening and were allowed a small fire until 8 o'clock if they could pick up any pieces of wood in their path on the way back. As already

mentioned, their great coats and leather jackets had been taken away, "and," says Booth, "we often went to bed drenched to the skin and woke up the same way. We very seldom had a fire, and as for sleep—night time especially is hell when you are hungry. Your stomach grinds until you have to get up and walk the floor. We used to lie down on the concrete floor in the basement to try and sleep because it was the driest place in the house. We could get no timber to close up the openings made for windows and doors, and had nothing we could hand up. The amount of soup we got at night was just enough to aggravate, and we used to lie on the concrete floors longing for morning to get the slice of black bread and acorn coffee."

"French women and children would try to give us a piece of bread or a few cigarettes, but if the German guards saw them they would kick them and knock them down, and take the bread and cigarettes away from the prisoner or the French woman or child. Anyone who took pity on us that way was taken before the German officer in charge of the town and fined."

MINEHAL ACT

Certificate of Improvements.

NOTICE
Drum Lummon, I. L. Caledonia, Mavis, Ibis, Kitchener, Big Thing, Dumfries, Montive, Index, Malachite, Cupprite, Grey Copper, Wharf and Bunker mineral claims, situate in the Skeena Mining Division of Range 4, Coast District. Where located:—On Copper Creek, Douglas Channel.

TAKE NOTICE that I, John D. Anderson, E. C. L. S., of Trail, B. C., acting as agent for the Drum Lummon Copper Mines, Limited, Free Miner's Certificate No. 22, 639-C, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining Crown Grants of the above claims.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issue of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 21st day of September, A. D. 1918.

J. D. ANDERSON.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Sale of Lands to be held on the twenty-fourth day of October next upon which delinquent taxes are due has been postponed so far as lands in the Prince Rupert Assessment District are concerned and that on the 23rd day of November following a sale will be held of all such lands in the said Assessment District.

W. HOMER, Assessor and Collector
DATED this 2nd day of October, A. D. 1918

SYNOPSIS OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT

Pre-emption now confined to surveyed lands only.

Records will be granted covering only land suitable for agricultural purposes and which is non-timber land.

Partnership pre-emptions abolished, but parties of not more than four may arrange for adjacent pre-emptions, with joint residence, but each making necessary improvements on respective claims.

Pre-emptors must occupy claims for five years and make improvements to value of \$10 per acre, including clearing and cultivation of at least 5 acres, before receiving Crown Grant.

Where pre-emptor in occupation not less than 5 years, and has made proportionate improvements, he may, because of ill-health or other cause, be granted intermediate certificate of improvement and transfer his claim.

Records without permanent residence may be issued provided applicant makes improvements to extent of \$300 per annum and records same each year. Failure to make improvements or record same will operate as forfeiture. Title cannot be obtained on these claims in less than 5 years, with improvements of \$10 per acre, including 5 acres cleared and cultivated, and residence of at least 2 years.

Pre-emptor holding Crown Grant may record another pre-emption, if he requires land in conjunction with his farm, without actual occupation, provided statutory improvements made and residence maintained on Crown granted land.

Unsurveyed areas, not exceeding 20 acres, may be leased as homesteads; title to be obtained after fulfilling residential and improvement conditions.

For grazing and industrial purposes, areas exceeding 80 acres may be leased by one person or company.

PRE-EMPTORS' FREE GRANTS ACT.

The scope of this Act is enlarged to include all persons joining and serving with His Majesty's Forces. The time within which the heirs or devisees of a deceased pre-emptor may apply for title under this Act is extended from one year from the death of such person, as formerly, until one year after the conclusion of the present war. This privilege is also made retroactive.

TOWNSITE PROPERTY ALLOTMENT ACT.

Provision is made for the grant to persons holding uncompleted Agreements to Purchase from the Crown of such proportion of the land, if divisible, as the payments already made will cover in proportion to the sale price of the whole parcel. Two or more persons holding such Agreements may group their interests and apply for proportionate allotment jointly. If it is not considered advisable to divide the land covered by an application for a proportionate allotment, an allotment of land of equal value selected from available Crown lands in the locality may be made. These allotments are conditional upon payment of all taxes due the Crown or to any municipality. The rights of persons to whom the purchase from the Crown has agreed to sell are also protected. The decision of the Minister of Lands in respect to the adjustment of a proportionate allotment is final. The time for making application for these allotments is limited to the 1st day of May, 1919. Any application made after this date will not be considered. These allotments apply to town lots and lands of the Crown sold at public auction.

For information apply to any Provincial Government Agent or to

G. R. NADEN,
Deputy Minister of Lands,
Victoria, B. C.

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