Keep Jolly!" Somme Veteran Tells Our Men

Soldiers at the Front Would Go Crazy If They Didn't Joke, Says Lieutenant Alexander Mc Clintock, U. S. R., Formerly in Canadian Army

TRETTY nearly the worst thing the soldiers have to do in this war," said Lieutenant Alexander Mc Clintock, U. S. R., "is to sit around and think about it.

"When I was at Plattsburg," he added, "it seemed to me that those in charge were running one grave danger—that of working the soldiers harder than is necessary. They are working the soldiers harder than is necessary and are working in any training camp in Canada or England.

"Lieutenant Mc Clintock is a Kentuckyan, just down from Plattsburg with a brand-new commission. It is not because he is an officer in the new American Army that he can talk about the war and the soldiers, but because he has recently come back from active service in Flanders and France. He was a Sergeant in the 87th Battalion, Canadian Grenadier Guards. He was wounded in the battle of the Somme. He won the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in action and receives the personal thanks of King George. He is the author of 'Best o' Luck,' (George H. Doran Company), one of the best known of the West's first-line soldiers' narratives. And he has just been spending a short time on furlough in New York before leaving for Camp.

"He has something interesting to say about the front." And he has, withal, some words of warning for us Americans. If every man, woman, and child doesn't wake up and help, he says, we may have worse yet.

"I say that the idle times and the thinking are pretty nearly the hardest things for the boys to take. Because, of course, there are actual physical experiences now and then that are more than newsworthy and serious. And there is a tendency to see the war in the eyes of the physical easier than he had expected.

"It is the thinking about it all that drives men crazy. I've known men to break down to all pieces just sitting around thinking. It gets on your nerves if you let it. The only thing to do is to laugh at everything. Keep jolly! Make fun of it all! You hear about the Tommy's jokes. Well, they're good if they don't have their jokes. So they make a joke of everything.

"The thing to do, there, is the daily intelligence sheet that is sent out from General Headquarters; it's a serious little report of whatever is going on. They try to cut out the last twenty-four hours that's of value or interest. You'd think it was just that you'd cut out every soldier's letter getting another officer and ask if Comic Cuts had come out yet? But that's what one every man should do.

"That's just a sample. They give absurd names to everything. The Tommies call the 'R. I. P.' that is put on a solid ground the 'giant Argentina.' The cooks are bad in Belgium and we were amusing ourselves by shooting at them along the same lines. We had a rookie that those trench rats were so big that he had seen one of them trying on his grandfather. Lots of their jokes would seem rather appalling to you people here at home. But they must have their jokes, and the more they can make the boys think the better.

"You people here at home when you read your men over—keep 'em jolly! It will do more than home usa.

"As for the actual fighting—well, you don't know what you're doing then. In the front lines, his scenes are be- numbed, everything he does is automatic, he actually doesn't know what is happening. It's the other day, for in- stance, that I learned what had happened on the day I was wounded. I ran out of the trench in the middle of a shell burst and told him that we were to take two German trenches, and, by mistake, two trench rats, in the end of the shell; we were wounded just as we got the first trench. But it is actually true that there's not a reason for any other than it is.

"The thing is that there were an especially tough job to be done General Byng al- ways asked the honor of doing it. Byng is a wonderful fellow. He has one unravelling rule, and there is no ex- ception to it—if you lose a trench you get it until you hold it; and he is great on discipline, as everyone knows. It was Byng who said what you often hear quoted: 'Discipline is reduced to a habit.' It is, all right, in his army.

"As for the Canadians—well, I'll tell you one typical thing. One time last year we sent word from England that they didn't want to go to France if they wouldn't take any more; the officers were told that they were free to leave the army and go about their business. But do you think they did? No! Sir! They resigned their commissions as Majors and Captains re-enlisted as pri- vates, so as to stay in.

"Lieutenant Mc Clintock enlisted in the Canadian Army as a private in October, 1915. He was in France last April. He remembered the first time he went to the trenches. He said:

"That day was one of the great dispar- symmetries of my life. I didn't know a thing about the world except the one I was in and I must confess that I was delirious and didn't know what I was doing. I was not in my right mind. I was not made for the English soldier. He wants a quiet, pleasant, little job they didn't want to do, and not much of an idea of how the land was waiting for them. Not 'fit' for the military. 'fit' once more, he volunteered for the Second Officer's Training Corps and is now in the service of the United States.

"And we haven't won it. As things stand now, we are losing it. We are the underdog. The sooner we realize that the better. I tell you frankly, that I do not feel by any means sure of the out- come of the war. Look at the maps! Ger- many has the advantage of every other war but, of course, we can do only by fighting as she has—urged and aroused our country. And we are doing it in spite of the fact that Germany is fighting this war against us. We've got to fight it this way against every power. And we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at all costs or we will try to do it not by any means sure of the outcome of the war. Look at the maps! Germany has the advantage of every other war but, or we can only do it in any case. It will be a long war with us at