



THE CREST

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE SALVATIONS ARMY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA AND BERMUDA

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON HERITAGE CENTRE
2130 BAYVIEW AVENUE, TORONTO ON M4N 3K6

90th. Anniversary Sinking of Empress of Ireland



This year marks 90 years since the sinking of the Empress of Ireland, an event which was to have a far reaching effect upon The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory. The loss in leadership was staggering. The engraving on the obelisk at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto reads: "...167 officers and soldiers were promoted to Glory from the Empress of Ireland.."

These numbers included the territorial leaders: Commissioner and Mrs. David Rees and Colonel and Mrs. Sydney Maidment. Of the 41 members of the Canadian Staff Band who were on board only 12 survived. In addition to the officers and bandsmen who lost their lives there was a large number of soldiers, wives, children and friends of the Army who were on their way to the

great International Congress which was to be held in London, England.

Ninety years later we look back on this tragic maritime event which took the lives of 840 passengers, (33 more than the number of passengers who had perished on the ill-fated Titanic just twenty-five months earlier) and we thank God for the heritage those Salvationists who answered the heavenly summons left us.

Memorial Service Sunday May 30th. 3:00 p.m

The service sponsored by The Salvation Army Historical and Heritage Centre will be held at the site of the Empress of Ireland Monument in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto. The Canadian Staff Band will be present, and the guest speaker will be Major Miriam Evenden, first Director of the George Scott Railton Heritage Centre.

New Homes for Heritage Centre and Museum.

Plans are well on the way for the move of the George Scott Railton Heritage Centre and Museum, from the present site at 2130 Bayview Avenue, where it has been located since its opening in 1982.

The archives, including the archival library will be re-located to Howden Avenue, just east of Warden Avenue and a block north of Lawrence. The new site is within ten minutes walk of

Scarborough Citadel. The new facility will be completely acclimatized and will meet the professional standards for archival storage and preservation.

The museum with all of its current displays will be re-located to 2 Overlea Blvd and will occupy the space formerly occupied by the Trade Store.

Staff will be available for group tours

by appointment, and the museum will be open to the public on specific days and hours. The Heritage Centre archives will continue to be open to the public for research, and staff will continue to work on search requests as is currently being done.

During the move interruption of research services will be minimal.

Footnotes in history 75 years ago.

- **February 13th Commissioner Higgins was elected the Army's third General.**
- **March 4th Earls court Band presented a program at Danforth Citadel in aid of the Young Peoples' work. Admission was 25 cents.**
- **March 7th North Toronto Band held its annual tea with newly commissioned Bandmaster Saunders in attendance.**
- **June 16, 1929 General Bramwell Booth was Promoted to Glory.**



“What God wants the Army to be He will prompt and inspire in the people. It’s no good my hanging on to my old-fashioned ideas“

Catherine Bramwell Booth



“The great message of the Army of the past to the Army of the future is this: that The Salvation Army exists for the whole world.”

Bramwell Booth

“Many hands, many hearts, and many heads have toiled and prayed and planned to bring the Army where it now is. History will record but a small part of the events, and many of the actors will be completely forgotten, but from God’s history, on the Great Muster Day, every heartache, every tear, every agonizing prayer, every day and night of toil will be read out and credited to the proper persons. God won the victory, and to Him we give Glory. It was not an uninteresting fight.”

Edward McKinley

Commentary

An old Chinese proverb says, “To understand the present, examine the past, without the past there would be no present.” and another says, “Past experience if not forgotten is a guide to the future.”

There is a tendency to be interested in the past simply from a nostalgic point of view. We tend to see the past as the ‘good old days’ when everything was right and nothing was wrong; when all was rosy and there

were no gray skies. We long for the ‘old days’ not realizing that time has a way of coloring our memories.

Here at the Heritage Centre we deal in history and nostalgia. We work diligently to preserve the artifacts and images of the ‘past’ that have been entrusted to our care, but not because we believe they represent the best days of the Army, but because we believe that we must understand

our past if we are to capture the present and move with vision into the future. The past represents our ‘roots’. It was in the past that our foundational principles and Army distinctives evolved. To fail to recognize their importance to our vision and planning for the future, is to commit a tactical error that will adversely impact upon who we are as a ‘Movement’, and how we fulfill our mission in a world that needs Christ.

JEC

The Salvation Navy

When Commissioner Will Pratt was the territorial commander here in Canada we sometimes joked with him about his time in the British navy and how he left the navy to join the army, The Salvation Army that is. If he had been around in the late 1800’s he could have stayed in the army and joined the navy -The Salvation Navy, or to be more accurate the ‘Naval Brigade.’

The early editions of the War Cry carried numerous accounts of Salvationists mariners, perhaps the most well known being the Naval Brigade under the leadership of Adjutant McGillivray, who was listed as the Commodore of the *William Booth*. Adjutant McGillivray and his crew toured the Great Lakes stopping at the many ports along the way, where they conducted evangelistic meetings with outstanding results. “SIN



ATTACKED BY WATER!” read one headline.

The Naval Brigade upon docking at a particular port would go ashore and then commence a series of meetings, traveling either by foot or by train to nearby towns. A headline in the War Cry of the day read: **“Uxbridge Visited by the Naval Brigade, A Rousing Time -Barracks Jammed.**

Hundreds Turned Away, Seventy-Five Souls!” The War Cry report went on to record: “The town was stirred from centre to circumference. At 2:30 p.m. the crowds filled the barracks, many standing. Hundreds were turned away. The *Jack Tars* seized the opportunity of doing good. Sinners felt their guilt and were gloriously saved.”

Salvation Navy not only saved souls, through Christ, but lives as well....

The mission of The Salvation Navy, was referred to in *Orders and Regulations for Officers* dated 1886 in a chapter which dealt with "The Salvation Navy", whose work is "to do for those who go to sea what the Army does for those attending no place of worship on land." To this end vessels, at the urging of William Booth, were acquired in many countries .

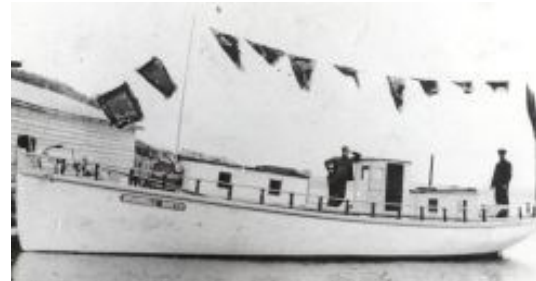
When Evangeline took command of the work in Canada in 1896, three Salvationist yachts were on the Great Lakes spreading the good news of the Gospel.

Newfoundland had its own fleet of boats, all appropriately named. There was the 'Salvationist' with Captain Parsons as the skipper. His crew consisted of, Cadet S. Banter; Lieut. M. Barry; Lieut. S. Bishop, 1st mate; and Cadet J. Sparks. Captain Parsons wrote to the War Cry: " Our schooner 'Salvationist' sets sail with the fishing fleet for Labra-

dor's lonely shore. This year again the 'Salvationist' is bound for the coast of Labrador on a mission of love and mercy. The boys are all in good trim, and believing for good times."

The 'Glad Tidings' was another of those early day schooners which traversed the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador during the summer season. At the end of the season the captain wrote to the War Cry: "While looking back over the past summer, I have to say that goodness and mercy has followed us from the first day of August, when we left St. John's until now. God has been with us and we have seen a good many poor souls brought from darkness to light."

There were other boats: the 'William Booth', and 'The Founder' which took Colonel and Mrs. Cloud and Major and Mrs Tilley on a tour of Newfoundland out-ports, and there was the



The Bramwell Booth

Bramwell Booth, a model of which was built by Envoy Roland Abbott of Musgrave Hr., and which now resides in the Heritage museum.

"The Salvation Navy had a world-wide influence. Wm Booth's ambition was to Capture for Christ not only the five continents, but the seven seas as well. On July 29, 1885, there appeared in the War Cry a report headed "North Sea Corps" telling of thirteen vessels with the Salvation Army flag flying overhead, lashed together so that their crews, seventy to eighty in number, could take part in meetings in which eight souls were saved."

War Cry October 22, 1955

In Alaska it was the "William Booth" that sailed the treacherous seas ; in Paris, France it was the "Louise Catherine" on which meetings were held regularly, on England's canals it was the "Salvo" a converted barge which was the Army's evangelistic unit, and in Norway the motor ,sail boat "Katarina" (Catherine) was used in times of storm as a life boat. Over a twenty year period this vessel was the means of saving 1000 men from the deep. Wm Booth's navy not only saved souls through Christ, but saved lives as well.

Cross and Crown adorns Memorial Plinth

The Memorial Pillar which was erected to commemorate the lives of those comrades who were Promoted to Glory by the Empress of Ireland disaster was designed by Colonel Gideon Millar and sculpted by Emanuel Hahn.

The Army mourning badge- a cross and crown is the most prominent feature of

the plinth. The cross is shown in relief against the rough hewn stone and surrounding it is the crown, emblem of the Heavenly reward of all who conquer through the cross. The granite base- was carved into the semblance of waves beating against a rock with a seagull flying overhead. This

suggests the terrible disaster which carried so many of our comrades into the Beyond, and reminds all who see it of the strength of the Rock of Ages, with its cross firm against the waves of adversity and sin.

The design symbolizes the hope and victory that was the testimony of those who



perished in the Empress disaster on that fateful day May 29th 1914

PRESENTLY PRESERVING THE PAST FOR FUTURE

EMPRESS OF IRELAND SURVIVOR AND HERO

It was at the Canadian Delegates Meeting in the Strand Hall, presided over by the General that Canadian Staff Bandsman McIntyre was to give his first public testimony. The General introduced him by saying "We have on the platform this morning the only survivor of The Army party present at the congress which travelled upon that ill-fated ship, the Empress of Ireland. Before I call on him, I would like to tell you what he would not tell you himself – that from accounts I have received of the demeanour, sacrifice, and courage of the Salvationists upon that vessel in their hour of trial, the part that Kenneth McIntyre took was second to none in its unselfishness; for he had put on a life-belt, but stripped himself of it in order to give it to a woman."



Kenneth McIntyre

As the hero stepped forward to the reading-desk, with one impulse, the crowded assemblage, comprised of people of all nations and all classes, rose to do him honour. Speaking to the congregation Kenneth said, "I arrived in London in the forenoon of Saturday, June 13, 1914. The International Congress opened that afternoon with a great procession through the heart of London. I was taken to a place in line of march, where the Canadian Staff Band was to have marched. In my Band uniform, behind draped flags, I marched alone."

The Bandsman, Local Officer and Songster – June 27, 1914

WE ARE ON THE WEB:

WWW.HERITAGE.SALVATIONARMY.CA

90th Anniversary of Sinking Empress of Ireland

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday May 30, 2004

3:00 p.m.

Special Guests

Canadian Staff Band

Guest Speaker

Major Miriam Evenden



Service at:

EMPRESS OF IRELAND MONUMENT

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto

(Should it rain, service will be at the C.F.O.T

Chapel -2130 Bayview Avenue)

THESE WE HAVE KNOWN....

Their influence lives on.

Commissioner William Dray upon farewelling as the Chief of the Staff in London England recalled the Divine direction on his pathway from a "place of obscurity" 'I have sought only to lay my bricks straight' he told the congregation at the farewell service for he and Mrs. Dray. 'I have sought only to build the structure, to put a few more tiers into the building.'

Commissioner Dray was born in London, England and as a boy of fifteen migrated to Canada, where the Captain of the small corps in the village where he lived took a great interest in the boy. On an Easter Sunday morning in 1909 William Dray made the consecration of his

life for service in the Army, and in September of that year he, with his brother entered the Toronto Training College from Feversham, Ontario, and was commissioned in 1910.

In 1920 he was married to Captain Florence Edith Jones, who gave him loving support in all his appointments. Their appointments covered thirty years in various capacities in Canada, first as corps officers. Later appointments included oversight of the Immigration Department, followed by supervision of the Canadian Red Shield services during World War II. For his untiring work for service personnel he was awarded the O.B.E.



William and Florence Dray

At the end of the war he was appointed the Public Relations Secretary, for the Canada and Bermuda Territory and in 1948 was appointed Chief Secretary. Back to England in 1950 as Chief Secretary; the U.S.A. Southern Territory as Territorial Commander and then the call to England as Chief of the Staff rounded off the service of William Dray, the young man from Feversham, Ontario.

Excerpts from a letter written by Commissioner S.Cottrill

Upon the Promotion to Glory of Commissioner Dray