THE SPORT IN WAR

by

JOHN McCARTNEY

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HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN F.C.
PORTSMOUTH F.C.
LUTON TOWN F.C.
DEDICATION

To their everlasting Honour and Glory.

These lines are dedicated to the
HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN FOOTBALL CLUB
The Directors, Shareholders, Players & Supporters.

In Commemoration of their High Courage,
Unselfishness and Patriotism
displayed throughout the Great War,
1914—1918.
FOREWORD

To claim the sympathetic attention of the public for what is herein written, it is unnecessary to add embellishment with language of a lurid, disgusting, prurient or suggestive type. It is a reflection that publications of a more or less sordid nature have found their way amongst the masses. That morbid minds should be fed at the expense of our heroes is a horrible calamity. Our story is founded on facts. The fundamentals are the essence of truth. Realism is declared in the many quotations from the letters of our great Army and Naval Commanders down through the ranks to the humblest soldier and naval rating. The missives are vastly human documents and present a mosaic picture portraying pathos, humour, optimism, vivacity, brotherliness and honesty. The writers opened their souls, and we are greatly enriched thereby. Let us remember that these gallant men were facing death at every turn, and it will then be less difficult for all to realise actualism.

J. McC.

Edinburgh, March, 1930.
THE SPORT IN WAR

MUCH has been written about the late War by eminent authorities and practically every point of view has been thoroughly threshed out and history laid bare. Military and naval writers pat each other on the back and tell of how the Germans were out-generalled, out-maneuvred, and ultimately held impotent. It is a long story, and impossible of any detail whatsoever in the line of thought we intend to pursue in this contribution. There are, however, one or two points which some may consider small matter, yet had at least a live part in fetching about the complete disintegration of the Teutonic powers. It has been alleged that America won the war, and now the London "Evening News" would almost have us believe that the Cockney was the determining factor. For quite four months this popular London journal has given a full page daily to short quips from the pens of ex-Service men who survived and reside within the City walls. The stories told are certainly humorous and of the real "Lor' Lumme" type. What troubles those readers who dwell in that small part of Great Britain that exists outside of London, is to what interminable lengths will these tales extend. Like Tennyson's brook, they appear likely to go on for ever. London and the Home Counties did their part right nobly and made no complaint about their ranks being stiffened with battalions of a Canadian, Australian, Irish or Scotch brand—oh no! Remember that famous Brigade—the 51st—the sledge hammer held for dealing the knock-out in effectual style. The 51st had no levelling of Londoners or Home Counties—why?

"So we loosed a bloomin' volley,
And we made the beggars cut,
An' when our pouch was emptied out,
We used the bloomin' butt."

But let us cut the cackle. No good purpose can be served in arguing or disputing as to who won the War. Opinions are as numerous as backyard cats, or, shall we
say, tax collectors. Positivism and negativism have each their millions of supporters. One thing is certain—the pages of history record that the Allies completely defeated Germany and her dupes. It is immaterial how much one or other of the Allied armies contributed toward maintaining a free world for free peoples. The Hunnish Hydra slunk perforce back to his cave, never more to disturb the fair fields of Europe.

Historians seem to have missed the spirit that permeated our warriors throughout the long struggle, and it is here where we are desirous of entering the lists. Was it a case of lapsus linguæ or, through a sterile mind, beggarded by want of perception and conception, that governed our chroniclers? Let us at once assert here and now that it was the innate spirit of sport born in the Allies—particularly the British and American elements—that sustained those battling to save democracy. French, Belgian and Italian peoples during the last quarter of a century have taken keenly to all kinds of sport, so that generally speaking the struggle lay between open, free and honest units, against phlegmatic, brutal and lying hordes. The assertions we make we hope to prove absolutely true in substance and in fact before we finish. That sport has played a tremendous part in sustaining and nerving free nations is evidenced by the zest with which the Central Powers have taken to all kinds of athletics since the War. The universality of Brotherhood amongst the nations is only possible through the inspiration of sport. Appeals to the Deity by all the nations may be laudable and self-satisfying, but they do not prevent War. Hypocrisy may play a part in this, but it is impossible for the hypocrite nation to present itself as honest and trustworthy before all others. The Federation of the World and universal law may restrain the Martian spirit.

Being the possessor of over six thousand letters received from soldiers and sailors during the War enables us to say something anent the quality and mentality of men who endured the dangers and discomforts of the holocaust—not for the sake of pay, but for something they valued much higher—the good opinion of their fellows.

It is a moot point as to whether or not any other civilian was the recipient of such a huge post bag during the War years. Some of those letters have numerous signa-
tures adhibited. For instance, one from a Battalion of Royal Scots in Palestine contains 127 names, whilst an artistic epistle from H.M.S. "Repulse" has 44. Scores of others are signed by 10 to 30 or 40 men. In a word, we received approximately thirteen thousand six hundred "hieroglyphics" from the different fighting theatres. It may also be interesting to recall that our mail brought communications from the King of Belgium, General Joffre, General Diaz, Sir Douglas Haig, Admiral Sir David Beatty (H.M.S. "Queen Elizabeth"), and Marshall Foch. The latter sent his autographed photo (taken early in 1919), accompanied by his private card also signed, along with a very complimentary covering letter. Missives from officers of every degree, Padres and the general rank and file, together with autographs of Belgian, French, Italian, Serbian and Indian Soldiers, go to make up a collection of which we may justly feel proud. What led to this massive and cosmopolitan correspondence? Just a plain unassuming Football—that's all.

Shortly after the retreat from Mons and the British troops had to a degree recovered their equilibrium, we received two applications each for an old football. The applicants were soldiers named Braid and McKay. Unfortunately, we did not retain the letters to enable us to give the rank and battalion of either. It was only after eight demands had been made that we began to keep a complete record, showing rank, name, battalion and battle area, with a column indicating whether the balls had reached their destination or not. Applications began to pour in to such an extent that it was quite impossible for the Heart of Midlothian Football Club to comply. A way had to be found whereby the "lads over the water" should have their wants attended to. We mentioned the matter to "Diogenes," of the Edinburgh "Evening News" who, with his ready initiative, at once suggested that an appeal be made to the public. He would write up the scheme from time to time in the "News." As a matter of fact, the first contribution to the fund came from the workers at 18, Market Street. Sufficient to say that income kept pace with the demand right to the end, when finally one thousand seven hundred balls had been posted and a total sum of £870 collected. The record of collections are worthy of a page in history, as only by hard work on the part of willing volunteers was the scheme made possible.
And again let us reiterate the great assistance rendered by the "News."

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J. Elliott, Newcastleton ... ... 5 0 0
Sums under £5 ... ... ... 267 19 1

The only charges made against the Fund were the cost of the footballs and postage of the same to the applicants. The Heart of Midlothian Football Club provided the stationery and letter posts. The accounts of the Fund were wound up on the 14th October, 1919, after being duly audited and certified by Mr. William D. Stewart, C.A., Albany Street, Edinburgh. A copy of the certification was deposited with the City authorities in order to comply with the requirements of the War Charities Act, 1916.

The only snag that interfered with the pleasurable work of speedily and spontaneously dealing with the wants of our service men was created by the “Central Prisoners of War Committee,” London. During the early years of the War there was no difficulty in getting footballs through to the various prison camps in Germany. Towards the end of 1916 however, the Committee named swooped down upon us and comanded that no more footballs were to be sent to German prison camps by means of any other agency than their own good selves. They also ordered that in future any applications made to us by prisoners were to be submitted to them, and if, after due consideration, they agreed to grant the prisoners’ requests, it would only be under certain conditions:

(a) That we purchase the balls from one or other of the scheduled shops. (All the shops were situated in London).

(b) Price of each football 12s. 6d.

(c) That we had the option of sending the cash to the Committee, who would do the purchasing and despatch work.

(d) That whether we bought the goods direct or not the parcels would be accompanied by a covering note stating that the gifts were from the Red Cross Society.

Time and again during the War brain-storms did engulf the bright and luminous "hats of brass" in a sea of
pure and unadulterated ignorance and stupidity. No matter how clamant the imprisoned soldier might be to obtain his football, the self-elected busy-bodies had to have their line of red tape in operation. They must do something to justify their existence. The mentality of the Committee may be understood when we quote from a letter of their's addressed to us in July, 1917.

"We beg to inform you that we are not allowed to forward footballs to Prisoners of War." Then, further on: "Balls have to be either packed by us, or by an authorised firm and despatched."

Heaven help us! If the Germans had issued this order or instruction, one could more readily understand the incongruity of such verbiage. But a Britisher!!!

All applications—and there were many—made to us by Prisoners were duly censored and officially stamped by the German Commandants. This would indicate that the enemy placed no embargo on the conveyance of footballs to the Prison camps. We have always doubted the legality of the London intervention, yet it may be no surprise to learn that this very thoughtful Committee have amongst them wearers of the order O.B.E. or K.B.E., or some such distinctive mark, intended to convey the impression that the holders had made a great War effort at some time or another. We righteously refused to be led by London. We collected our funds in Edinburgh and spent them in Edinburgh. It was quite superfluous for any other body to offer to do our work—not even the Red Cross Society, excellent institution though it be.

It came as a shock when we learnt of the Turkish Red Crescent refusing to accept a parcel for Prisoner of War, C.Q.M.S. G. B. Scott, Seaforth Highlanders. It was returned to us by the British Red Cross Society. It is historical that two-thirds of the balls were sent to Belgium, France and Italy, and were uniformly delivered. Enemy action—so said the "Royal Engineers, Postal Section, London"—was responsible for many parcels sent to Salonica, Egypt, Palestine and Mesopotamia being lost. Twelve were sent to Mr. R. Gaddie, Church Huts, Salonica, and there being no reply it must be assumed that they were "tin-fished" in the Mediterranean, as a humorous soldier wrote when his ball failed to materialise. No footballs were salved to our knowledge, but we are in possession of
two letters returned by the G.P.O., after having been at the bottom of the sea with the lengthy name. One was from Sergt. A. Murray, K.O.S.B.'s., and the other from Pte. J. Hislop, Signal Corp—an Edinburgh boy. Although written in copying ink pencil and blurred by contact with the water, yet they are decipherable.

Now to prove, if proof is necessary, the efficacy of sport, particularly football, in bracing up the fighting men and soothing minds that might otherwise have become morose. The terrible conditions under which our heroes laboured and fought, required a stimulant to counteract in some degree the awfulness of those four and a half years of war. After reading the following letters and extracts we feel sure you will agree that our assertion is no mere figure of speech.

From that of the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies to the humblest Private, there breathes the spirit of sport and brotherliness enough to damn and paralyse for ever the rankest of pessimists.

"Marshall Foch thanks you for your letter of June 17th, 1918, announcing that you have sent sixty-two footballs to him for our soldiers. He wishes to thank you for your great generosity towards our soldiers who are happy to fight side by side with your brave soldiers against the common enemy. The footballs arrived today, and are now being sent to different fighting units."

The King of the Belgians, from the Royal Palace, Brussels, on 6th March, 1919, acknowledges a dozen footballs before the Armistice, and a like number immediately after. He returns thanks and says, "I am very sensible of the sentiments that have inspired the gifts and also for the sympathy expressed towards Belgium contained in your letter."

General Joffre, Commander-in-Chief of the French Army, "Charges me to convey to you his thanks for the gift (12 footballs) that you have been kind enough to send him. He begs you to kindly accept the assurance of his most friendly sentiments."

General Diaz, Commander of the Italian Armies, expresses himself thus:—"Our soldiers appreciate the
kindness (20 footballs) as it proves the sympathy amongst the Allies especially on the part of the British, who are fighting with great valour side by side with us for the common cause."

Sir Douglas Haig.—" The Field-Marshall desires me to write and thank you for your generous contribution of twenty-five footballs. He further begs to assure you that they will be immensely appreciated by the men, and, in their name and his, he sends very grateful thanks."

(Signed) PHILIP SASSOON,
Private Secretary.

Sir David Beatty.—" I am directed by the Admiral to acknowledge receipt of a dozen footballs, which he has diverted to the use of the men of the H.M.S. 'Queen Elizabeth.' He has directed me to ask that you will be so good as to accept his sincere thanks for the present, which is much appreciated."

(Signed) RALPH SEYMOUR,
Commander.

The Padres, too, were eulogistic of the work we did and were doing at Tynecastle Park.

Rev. Lauchlan McLean Watt, Glasgow Cathedral (for a period was Chaplain to the Gordons and Black Watch in France and Flanders), writes:—"I want to tell you how grateful the brave men at the Front are to you for the footballs you have sent them. In the stress, discomfort and sorrow out here, they sorely need something to uplift them; and the thought that there are kind and faithful friends at home who do not forget them, is a constant strength and help. Nothing keeps them in better form and cheer than a hearty game of football. It would have done the folks at home a world of good to have seen the boys upholding the reputation of the old country against all comers. Go on with the good work. It is one way of helping to win the victory."

Rev. John Wattie, C/F. (Naval),—(a brother of the Hearts famous inside-right), expresses himself thus:— "Grateful thanks for footballs, and need hardly say how they will be appreciated and used. They will be called for constantly by the North Sea Strollers, by
the 'ins' when the 'outs' are out, and by the 'outs' when the 'ins' are out. Cheerio from the Boys up North.'

Rev. Alister J. Stewart, C/F. M.C.—(a one-time player for the Hearts), writing from a hut in the North Eastern deserts of Egypt, says:—‘Football out here is the great cheer up, and it is good to know that football has its part to play in the winning of this War. Those in authority are keen for the men to have plenty of football, and have asked me to act as sort of football 'impressario'.”

Rev. J. N. Ogilvie, Edinburgh.—(Has acted as Chaplain to the forces in India). In thanking us for sending a ball to Sgt. Doig, 7th Camerons, France, says:—“I had no idea of the extent of the services of this kind which your famous club has been rendering. More power to your elbow, or, should I say in this case, 'to your foot'? I know the Boys are most grateful.”

Rev. Hugh Brown, C/F., France.—“Your ball was held over for the final tie, and I can assure you that if the kind friends at home who make these gifts possible could have witnessed the contest and the enthusiasm of these lads, and the crowd of officers and men, they would have felt they had done something to fit the men for their greater tasks.”

Letters from Officers in every branch of the Services are numerous.

NAVY.

H.M.S. “Resolution.”  H.M.S. “Repulse.”
H.M.S. “Lion.”  H.M.S. “Royal Sovereign.”
H.M.S. “Malaya.”  H.M.S. “Australia.”
H.M.H.S. “Goorkha”  H.M.H.S. “Garth Castle.”

Also smaller craft: H.M.S. “Vittoria,” “Nestor,” “Columbine,” “Pegasus,” “Verdun,” “Coverley,” “Myrmidon,” etc., etc., etc., including armed escorts.
H.M.S. "Lion."—"Very gratifying to the boys to know and feel that the folks at home are ever mindful of them. The ball will keep us fit for the final tie in the Polo Tournament v. the Germans."

The letter from H.M.S. "Repulse" is accompanied by a large drawing of a football, showing on the panels the signatures of the Captain and other officers, along with many members of the R.M.A.—Sergt.-Major H. P. Arnold.—"The fact of the balls being received caused jubilation which you know the seafaring Jolly can forcibly express. God speed to those of your players who have upheld the sporting traditions by serving under the flag on active service abroad."

Sergeant-Major A. Black, R.A.M.C., of the H.M.H.S. "Goorkha": "Just received a letter from Salonica informing me that ball had arrived. It would be used there, or Malta, or Alexandria, as exigencies of duties permitted. I often think the name of John McCartney must be known to more of our fighting lads than the names of our best Generals. Here is a cutting from the 'Liverpool Echo,' to show that your good work is well-known."

THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE.

Lieut.-Col. Donaldson, 19th Royal Scots.—"You may well be proud of your wonderful record of footballs sent out."

Lieut.-Col. Sir Geo. McCrae, D.S.O., 16th Royal Scots.—"We played final tie of Army Corps Cup on 12th February, 1918, and won by 5 goals to nil. I am pleased to think we hold the field."

Lieut.-Col. Inglis, Royal Fusiliers, and Lieut.-Col. Archer-Shee, 10th K.O.S.B., also pay tribute.

Major Green, 19th Royal Scots.—"The gift and kindly thoughts keenly appreciated."

Major Macfarlane, 444th Siege Battery, R.G.A.—"The football will be a real boon to the men."
Major Lloyd, 148th Air Squadron.—"You cannot realise how much the ball is appreciated and hope it proves a sure mascot."


Captain Watt, 10th H.L.I.—"Was intensely amused when the Boys got round the newly-arrived ball like wasps around a jam pot. It does one good to see the training and enjoyment they derive from that small piece of leather. The determination to shine at such games enables them to give it Fritz well in the neck when opportunity occurs."

Captain Carnochan, 19th Motor Machine Gun Company.—"It does one good to see the happy and contented faces, when a ball is produced after a hard time in the trenches. They believe in the sovereign remedy for all ills—work hard and play hard."

Captain Winingult, 48th Canadian Highlanders.—"Grateful thanks for footballs. Grand tonic."

Captain Crabbie, A.S.C.
  ,, McKnight, 17th Royal Scots.
  ,, Lumsden, 3rd Seaforth Highlanders, E.E.F.
  ,, Winchester, 1/4th Royal Scots.
  ,, Ballantyne, 23rd Lancashire Fusiliers.
  ,, Stevenson, 26th Highland Brigade.
  ,, Miller, 3rd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
  ,, Evans, 70th Labour Company.
All write, in glowing terms, of the efficacy of football.

Lieut. Moore, Scots Machine Gun Company.—"Football is our chief sport out here and no better game could we have to keep us fit."

Lieut. Steel, 1/5th King’s Own Liverpool Regiment.—"The footballs are proving, after a very arduous time in the trenches, a source of great joy to the men."
Lieut. Fairbairn, Royal Engineers, Italian E.F.—"The footballs are simply splendid and a source of real enjoyment. Your name is quite familiar amongst the men."

Lieut. Lumley, 137th Heavy Battery, R.G.A., in acknowledging a ball says:—"I have had pamphlet, 'Hearts and the Army,' which I cherish and include in my collection of photos and historical data."

Lieut. Davies, 192nd Siege Battery, R.G.A.: "Can find no words to express thanks. Have had some stirring games, but are now ready waiting the promised Fritz offensive (4th March, 1918). I am a follower of Notts County and Notts Forest Clubs."

Lieut. Whittaker, 259th A.A. Section.

Taylor, 51st Machine Gun Coy.
Bridge, 15th Machine Gun Coy.
Ness, 153rd Prisoners-of-War Camp
Thomson, 8th Black Watch.
Kirkwood, 5/6th Royal Scots.
Cairns, R.A.M.C.
Marshall, Royal Scots (Salonica).
Armstrong, Royal Scots (Salonica)
Haultain, 19th Indian Lancers.
Hannah, T.M.B.
Coats, 10th Royal Scots.
Miller, Liverpool Regt.
Smith, 2nd Canadians.
Stewart, 8th Black Watch.
Wilson, 1st Royal Dragoons.
Hepburn, 2/6th West Yorks.
Kerr, 11th A. and S. Highlanders.
Oliver, 6th Border Regiment.
Hogg, 11th Royal Scots.
Stevenson, R.F.C.
Lieut. Grossert, 6th Gordon Highlanders.
.. Burns, 1st Camerons.
.. Scott, 31st Battery, R.G.A.
.. Hodge, 2nd K.O.S.B.
.. McLeod, 5th Labour Coy.
.. Ferguson, Base Camp.

Unless otherwise specified, all these letters were from B.E.F.

The Subalterns, being more in close contact with the men, were able to express their thoughts and feelings more lucidly and emphatically, thus probably accounting for the preponderance of letters from Officers of that rank.

Have we clinched our contention? We have no desire to mislead our readers nor leave them in doubt, so perhaps this might be the psychological moment for hearing what the "ranks" have to say. It is difficult to describe the delight of intimate association with such men. Their communications were of the most open nature—free, untramelled, frank, honest, illuminative and educative.

True, the Censor on occasion deleted a remark or two likely "to give the show away," or, in other words, disclose battle positions. Quite three thousand letters, were posted from the Offices at Tynecastle Park, so that the law of reciprocity was fully honoured. The writer felt that he was indeed near to the "Boys" and that their heart-beats seemed to strike his ear.

The volume of correspondence practically converted the offices into a sort of transmission station for the exchange of news—not, of course, of the ramifications, magnificence and immensity of a "Press Association" or a "Reuter" Agency. In addition, Tynecastle Park may be said to have been a miniature War Office. Relatives asked by personal call and by post if we could find out anything of dear ones missing, and others for fuller particulars of someone reported killed. Soldiers asked to be put into touch with other soldiers. We accomplished much in respect thereof. We have before us two letters in which the writers enquired for the address of each other. Sad to relate, both have passed hence. They were well-known and highly respected in Edinburgh: Gunner R. Mercer.

Now let us quote extracts from some of the letters, eschewing a high percentage that are almost stereotyped, as e.g.:

_Corporal Gordon, 15th H.L.I._—"It gives me great pleasure to write and thank you for the football. It was very kind of you indeed to answer my request so quickly and I am sure we all appreciate your kindness"

The above is typical of hundreds more and we shall therefore pass on to others of a more varied trend.

_Private Anderson, 13th Royal Scots._—The Boys were all wearing a No. 9 smile when the ball arrived. Blown up in fifteen minutes and biffed about for two hours. 22 Signatures.

_Corporal Brown, 4th Gordon Highlanders._—"Cold, miserable weather. Warmer in the trenches than out. If Fritz can stick it so can we."

_Private Gordon, 12th A. and S. Highlanders (Greece)._—"Wherever Tommy goes in the field he takes the ball with him."

_Private Walker, 43rd Royal Fusiliers._—"Words and writing appear very insignificant to what we feel towards the excellent people at home, including yourself."

_Private Malcolm, M.G.C., Rawal Pindi, India._—Writing for a pair of boots, asks for address of big Bob (Mercer) and Paddy (Crossan). He heard the latter was in Italy.

_Private Mitchell, 11th Royal Scots._—"Few seconds after arrival ball was in action. Played till dark. Best thing to make us forget there is a War on."

(16 Signatures).

_Sergeant Pratt, 37th Machine Gun Coy._—"Were chasing Jerry when splendid ball arrived. Hearts did splendidly for their country, yet there are kill-joys going about trying to spoil everything."
Gunner Borthwick, 40th Canadian F.A.—“Our task is a heavy one handling big guns, but we are always fit for a bit of enjoyment with the ball.”

Sapper Spiers, 330th Coy. R.C.C.—“Only sorry we can’t reward you as you have rewarded us, but I pray God that He will keep and guard over you. You are a true friend to the Tommies in France.”

Private McEwan, 1/5th Gordon Highlanders.—“You are doing a great work in helping us to while away many dull moments. If you were to think all day and dream all night you could not conceive the look of delight that was on all faces.”

Piper Rough, 5/6th Royal Scots.—“Sincerest and best, a happy family.”

(Signed by Band members).

Private Paton, 1st Australian Tunnelling Coy.—“Grateful thanks. Pat Crossan knows me and Curly Neilson, of Loganlea.”

Private Crossan, 1/4th Royal Scots, Palestine.—“I have landed in the Holy Land, and it is a lovely place. I would rather be fighting against Turks than Germans. The Turk is a clean fighter and they have just had an awful smashing. We have just captured Jerusalem—in fact all Palestine has been lost to the Turks. I am beside Neil Moreland (another Hearts player).”

After the destruction of the Turkish Armies, a short space of relaxation followed. Our two inseparables availed themselves of the opportunity to visit one or two places of ancient historical note. In Damascus they failed to identify the “street that is called Straight.” (N.B. There is no suggestion of Estaminets, let us at once declare). Jerusalem presented no evidence of possessing a “Wailing Wall,” as the citizens were holding high festival over their emancipation from Ottoman rule. A run into the country with the intention of finding that pillar of salt presumed to be near the ruins of Gomorrah, at the Southern end of the Dead Sea, proved futile. However, our Crusaders did at last make a discovery of a somewhat sensational nature. They found that a remnant of Jordan Highlanders were in position to defend the remains of the Turkish Dead Sea fleet. A hurried message to Allenby led to the extermina-
tion of the last of the enemy outposts. Hail to our Richards of the Cœur de Lion stamp. The author dare presume that the two heroes, having put paid to the Turkish account, resolved to do likewise with the German. Don't we find them both back in France in almost double-quick time?

_Private Forbes_, 34th Division.—“Your promptitude extraordinary. Football here has no critics and no detractors. A lot of rubbish has been written and spoken about what Tommy glories in. No mistake is made when one says he delights either in playing or watching a match. In spite of jibes and jeers, football holds first place in his eyes.”

_Private Kerr_, 8th Royal Scots.—“Delighted. But for the ball and enjoyment it gave we might have sought solace in an Estaminet.”

_Private McGregor_, 43rd Royal Fusiliers.—“I am sure you will never be forgotten by the Tommies who come through the War, as your name is on everyone's lips out here, and you have cheered up many a man when your ball arrived.”

_Sergeant Bonar_, “Princess Patricia’s” Canadian Forces.—“You would have been pleased had you heard the praises sung about the good people in the Mother Country for sending such suitable gifts.”

_Battery Sergt.-Major Willis_, Motor Machine Gun Coy.—“Pleased some one is thinking of us in Blighty. Practical sympathy is worth a good deal to us and no more practical way could be found than sending a football.” (38 Signatures).

_R.Q.M.S. Munroe_, 7th Seaforths.—“The tonic served up by the ball has done more good to the lads than all the medicines prescribed by the M.O. The ‘leather’ pill keeps the Boys fit and chases away all troubles and worries when out of the firing line. Little Willie is offside and his father off the field.”

_Private Anderson_, 1/1 Bucks. Regiment, Italy.—“Would fill a book to describe what took place when the ball arrived. You would have thought senses had disappeared. (Signed by Massuato Silvio, Bellia Giovanni and other Italian soldiers).
Driver Sinclair, Royal Field Artillery.—"Send old Bob (Walker) (Heart's famous right winger) out here and we will put 10 yards on his speed. We shall have a banquet when McCrae's come out. Menu: Bully beef, dog biscuits, with Black Maria for dessert. We collared some chickens on retreat from Mona. In a wayside cottage we had the fowls in a pot and picturing a grand feed, when shouts indicated Germans at hand. Had to slip away for cover and so left our appetising dish for the Huns."

B.S.M. Henderson, Aden Field Force, Egypt.—"Cannot purchase footballs here. Nearest shop is in far-off Bombay. Am proud to belong to Edinburgh because of its goodness to service men and the action of the Heart's players. My battery is the fittest here, thanks to your footballs."

Private Speedie, 7th Camerons (Jimmie was Hearts' popular outside-left). Tells of first experience under shell-fire, and demolition of and carnage inside their shelter. Of the accuracy of snipers, etc. His optimism was pronounced in a rather lengthy letter.

Gunner Lomax, 30th Canadian Royal Field Artillery.—"That class of kill-joy and fireside fighter who live to the detriment of the world in general, must curl up in their shells after the glorious action of your players. What a fund of pleasure your ball has been."

Private McGregor, 11th Royal Scots.—"Germans have placed a white flag before us and placards, 'Gotte strafe England!' 'Warsaw has fallen to us,' etc. We have seen a lot of this sort of thing as we are in a bad part of the line, and only some 30 yards from the Germans. Dying to get out to have a go at the ball."

Private Meikle, 1/4th Royal Scots, Egypt.—"Have beaten all other regimental teams in the Desert. Your footballs are a blessing and inspiration despite terrible heat."

(65 Signatures).

Sergeant McCartney, M.M., Royal Canadian Regiment.—"Have not had much time for football recently. Attacks, counter-attacks, and consolidation, being continuous around Vimy Ridge and thereabouts. A game of football will be a certain cure for all our troubles."
Bombr. Adams, Royal Field Artillery.—"Fritz was very considerate one evening. He sent out a 'bird' to spy around. We stopped and took cover expecting a shelling. But as nothing happened after a time, we resumed and finished our match, which was semi-international, Scots and English."

Private Rutherford, 2nd Canadians.—"Came out of trenches in a snowstorm covered with mud and soaking wet. Your ball proved irresistible, and, despite our condition, a hard game was indulged in."

B.Q.M.S. Sheridan, R.F.A., 29th Division, M.E.F.—"Had footballs arrived with your letter the Turks would have been playing with them now. Happily the parcel came a fortnight later by which time we had recovered our position. Look out! here comes the Censor! Nuff said."

Private Brown (Hughie), M.T., A.S.C.—"Shell-shock was blamed for a mate who declared he was the famous International. Charlie Thompson, but it was learned his first name was Willie and not a footballer. Our team is known as the 'Dirty Third.' Some one has put the moon out to-night. It is thought to be an American trick for doing something nasty on Fritz."

Private Archibald, 1st Camerons.—"Good old McCartney! I greeted receipt of a ball. I am sure football will be more popular than ever after the War." (He is severe on some looter for pinching first ball sent him).

Drummer Drysdale, Black Watch.—"Don't think football was ever played here (St. Martin's Camp) before. Your ball has been kicked by soldiers of all nationalities except Jerry."

Sergeant McCready, Royal Air Force: "Our English mates can't understand how you not only send footballs, let alone of such fine quality. Their clubs don't respond. I told them they could expect nothing else from the Capital of Scotland. We were very tired when ball came, but it was just the thing to brighten and revive us all."
Lieutenant Q.M. Ferguson, Scots Reinforcements.—In acknowledging full Cricket requisites supplied by us, encloses a programme of sports. The men take the various events just as seriously as at a home gathering. Mr. Adair, let us say, supplied the bats gratuitously.

Drummer Smith, 1/4th Seaforths' Band.—"Some of the Boys will not run down the Hearts any more after seeing glorious football and reading 'Hearts and the Army.' Are just going into the trenches as we must keep an eye on Jerry."

Corporal Sneddon, 173rd Coy., R.E.—"You would be surprised to see the great change that has come over the Boys since the ball came—all gloominess has gone." (22 signatures, amongst whom are three holders of the D.C.M.).

Private McCracken, 13th Royal Scots.—(Ball dispatched to this soldier in Salonica, but before it reached its destination he had been transferred to France. We sent him another. He was severely wounded and at intervals attached to Seaforths and Durham Light Infantry). "Not another club in the British Isles did what the Hearts have done and are doing."

Driver McCartney, Cable Section, R.E., Egypt.—A pair of football boots were sent to this soldier. Writing from the Jordan Valley: "The boots are a perfect fit, and I am for ever grateful. Your Boys (Hearts) have performed a bigger task than any other club in Britain, and made history in the football world.

I wish you health,
I wish you wealth,
I wish you gold in store.
I wish you Heaven after Death.
What could I wish you more?

God bless and protect you at all times."
(Not a relative of the author).

Private Thompson, A.O.C., Salonica.—"The Hearts are known all over the Armies for their good work, and by the gallant action of its players. I am a tinsmith and play for a team of 'tinmen.' We have an exciting
match coming off—Scots v. English. The latter have two Blackburn Rovers players and one of Sunderland."

C.Q.M.S. Gardner, Labour Coy.—"The Boys are at the game tooth and nail. What a tonic is a ball! They might be blown Heavenwards at any moment, but nothing care they. Have tried to get a nice hut near here. It was at one time a Headquarters of a German Army Corp and Kaiser was said to have stayed there. Our 'red tape' may consent to let us have it the day before War finishes. But then we shan't require a place to strip in or store our gear."

Corporal Stewart, 96th Heavy Artillery, Jerusalem.—"We are well up in League points with your ball and, in addition, gaining valuable points against the Turks at the other game."

TAILORS, SHOEMAKERS AND POLICE,
1st GORDONS.

"To Drum Major. Herewith challenge from above branches to meet in deadly combat (football). Date and place to suit you. Corpl. A. McRae. P.S. Smoking Concert to follow. All find their own tobacco and drinks, also Allumetos, Ambulance, Maltese carts, G.S. waggons with Stretcher Bearers in attendance." (A Heart's ball in use for match).

Private Sutherland, R.A.M.C., Salonica.—"The Serbian patients take a great interest in the game. Your splendid ball was six weeks late in delivery—no doubt due to submarine menace." (16 Serbian signatures exhibited but cannot transcribe the names with any degree of accuracy).

Bandsman Steven, 5/6th Royal Scots.—"When 'postie' brought your parcel into the billet you might have heard the shout in Edinburgh. Only two obstacles trouble us—a blessed old apple tree in middle of pitch and the mud."

Lance/Corporal Brown, A.S.C., Salonica.—"We made a vigorous offensive against a defence without scruples.
Finally we discovered they had twelve men on their side. Letters of thanks will have become mere platitudes to you by this time. As we play under the shadow of mighty Olympus, which proves that modern 'keelies' are worthy of Hector, Priam or other ancient Achilles. I conjure up visions of a day when swallows get ready to fly, and grouse have lain dead for days (with no identity discs), that we shall return and see sights that were lost awhile. May 1918 be it. What remarkable men are Plato, Diogenis, McGonigal and McCartney!

_Private Crossan, 1/4th Royal Scots._—"Back to France once more. Have been in Italy and Palestine. Just saw Sandy Grossert (Hibernians) leading platoon of 'Gay Gordon' up to the firing line. Would rather face the whole Prussian Guard than those big ugly brutes—trench rats. Something terrible out here. German offensive at its height."

_Sergeant Dent, Garrison Guard._—"Kicks are not usually an expression of gratitude, but in this instance the number your ball received will be a measure of our appreciation."

_Sergeant Ellis, Lewis Gun Section._—"You must be proud to belong to such a patriotic Club as the Hearts. Your players have done splendidly, and you, in your turn, are doing great things for the Boys out here."

_Corporal Farrell, 113th Squadron, R.F.C., Palestine._—"In ten minutes ball was blown up and then banged about on the shifting desert sands. Amid all difficulties the lads never tire when a ball is about.

_Corporal Brown, 4th Gordon Highlanders._—"I often wonder if the folks who used continually to preach against our love of sport think we are in a better state now. If the Boche had had a little of our sportiness there would have been less trouble to-day. If spoil-sports could see some of our modern battle-fields after an advance, they would worry less about the amusements of people who at least only wish to live in peace."

_Corporal Burgess, 1/4th Royal Scots, Palestine._—"Officers dumbfounded at pace kept up by the men during a game. Nothing like football to keep us fit."
Sapper Whitson, Rail Coy., R.E.—“We have them on the run now and may the Rhine be the Goal with Kaiser and wee Willie as the goalposts. Should just like to bundle both into the net. The game is well on in the second half, and Geordie Sinclair, now in ‘Auld Reckie,’ will be studying the War map. He played on the same ground in first months of the War.”

Private Williams, 1/5th Royal Scots.—“Have heard say you were a decent sort of chap. You have done your bit—a big bit—and many lads have been made happy. Football is the thing.”

Private Bullock, 51st Division.—“Now then, Boys—three cheers for McCartney’s gift and cheerio. We still go on playing the War game till the whistle blows.”

Private Johnstone, 5th Scottish Rifles.—“We have had a kick at Fritz, and are longing for a kick at your ball when the time comes to leave the line for a rest.”

C.S.M. Laurie, Corps School.—“All the shouting is ‘Good old Hearts’ out here. Sincere thanks for ball and pair of football boots. We all hope, when this ghastly business is over, that your club will resume its former high place.”

Piper Lindsay, South African Scottish.—“Chasing the leather is best exercise we get when out of the firing line. Our final tie had been delayed as we are very busy with Jerry at the moment. Extremely regret to hear of several Hearts players having fallen. I knew Harry Wattie personally.”

Private Rennie, 7th Seaforths.—“How is this for a team to beat the Germans: Goal, Howitzer: backs, Barbed Wire and Four Point Two; halves, Bomb, Strategy and Lee Enfield; forwards, Whiz Bang, No. 1 ‘Jock,’ 303, No. 2 ‘Jock’ and Machine Gun. Both wingers are very fast, whilst 303 has a way of getting through a defence. These three, with a couple of Jocks making the openings, are a very formidable line.”

Gunner Glen, R.F.A.—“Sincerely appreciate your gift and also your letter warmly wishing us best of good luck. All the lads wish to sign this note, but there isn’t room.”

(34 Signatures).
Private Kidd, 27th Canadians: "Nothing delights us more (barring pay parade) than a hard game of football. Unfortunately our best player, Jack Hutton, once of Slateford, Edinburgh, has been wounded. Your players were sportsmen. Hope they will come through."

Private Connell, 1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers, Egypt.—"The ball I wrote you for from Hill 70, in France, has followed us here, also your letter. Hope my pal, Jock Wilson, lives through to once again help your famous Club."

Private Morton, Dragoon Guards (Hibernian one-time centre-forward): "People say the Germans are great fighters. I do know they can run—Applegarth couldn't catch them after they smell steel."

Footballs were also sent to

PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS

and have been invariably received and acknowledged.

List from our Register.

Corpl. Driscoll, Royal Scots, Germany.
Poilu Tirol, French (Edinburgh Connections) Germany.
Pte. Sharp, Scots Guards (Friedrichsfeld), Germany.
Pte. Webster, Scots Guards (Schneidemühle) Germany.
Pte. Robertson, 7th Camerons (Mannheim), Germany.
Pte. Thompson (per "Evening News"), Germany.
Pte. Tait, (Mersalburg), Germany.
Pte. Welch (Paderborn), Germany.
Pte. Cairns, 1st Gordons, Germany.
Marine Bloom, R.N.D. (Guben), Germany.
L/Corpl. Shiels, 2nd Royal Scots (Friedrichsfeld), Gy.
L/Corpl. McDonald, Germany.
Corpl. Duthie, 1st Gordons (Paderborn), Germany.
Pte. Chisholm, 2nd K.O.S.B. (Dyrotz), Germany.
Corpl. Sinclair, Royal Scots (Limburg), Germany.
C.Q.M.S. Scott, Seaforths, Turkey.
Pte. Prentice, 11th Royal Scots (Gustrow), Germany.
Corpl. Shiels, Royal Scots (Munster), Germany.
Pte. Bell, H.L.I. (Soltau), Germany.
Pte. Johnstone, Royal Scots Fusiliers.
(Rhennban), Germany.
Corpl. Black (Frankfurt), Germany.

One prisoner seemed to have found the blind eye of a German Prison Camp censor. Whilst others could only send a "Poste Karte," the Royal Scot pushed through the following letter:—

"I am President of the British International F.C. in this camp and beg to know whether you could supply us with football requisites. There are about 400 men in camp and have formed three teams—one an International, and one Senior and one Junior. Commandant has given permission to play. We eagerly await your reply.

(Signed) President Corpl. Sinclair,
British International Team,
Limburg,
Germany."

Needless to say we sent footballs, but could not supply clothing and boots. The President, curiously enough, does not mention the name of his crack team’s opponents. Perhaps it was his native modesty or fear of a raid on his compound by British club managers with explosive purses that compelled the secrecy.

This Booklet must be read in conjunction with the brochure "Hearts and the Great War," written and issued by us towards the end of 1918. Readers will then be in a position to grasp fully to what extent War work was carried out at Tynecastle Park. The large sums collected in aid of various Funds; the historic joining up of so many brilliant players and the numerous letters of congratulation received from all over Britain and Scandinavia are dealt with in extenso.

We set out to prove generally that the spirit of sport in the Soldiers and Sailors of the Allied Forces brought
about the downfall of the Central Powers. We claim to have succeeded, even although a great part of our story is bound up in and around the City of Edinburgh. It is only natural that it should be so. Yet we readily grant the same measure of patriotism and enthusiasm that inspired all other centres that were War active in this Island of ours. A sport is always an optimist and *vice-versa*.

"New bonds of Empire have been wrought
In deeds that give a newer thought,
As through the shadows we have passed
There lives a friendship that will last."

The few extracts quoted from the thousands of missives received from the "Boys" do not require the oratorical powers of a Demosthenes to emphasise the assurance of their fondest sentiments. Yes, the dark night of pain and sorrow passed for ever—thanks to our gallants.

"While our soldiers man the trenches,
While our Jack Tars roam the sea;
Britain's flag will still keep flying,
Emblem of the truly free."

We still remain optimists!

Two Tynecastle worthies seemed to be inquired about by almost the entire British Army. "Remember me to" or "How are Paddy Crossan and Old Jimmie (Duckworth) going on?"

Of course, as already stated, Paddy visited all the Battle areas and his arrival was duly heralded. Although coming into contact with so many different nationalities he does not appear to have forgotten his own, as his Xmas Card for 1917 would indicate:—

"The bonnie blooming heather and the hilltops clad wi' snaw,
Our hearts are aye in Scotland tho'
we're faur, faur, awa'."
MULTUM IN PARVO.

A party wrote from Canada enclosing conscience money. He "once got into Tynecastle Park free by false pretences, but was now converted." Amount placed to credit of Football scheme. Splendid!

A soldier addressed the writer from France:—"Mr. McCartney, Manager, Hearts of Midlothian Football." No more and no less. The letter came to hand alright. We knew there was a War on and the British Army knew there was a football club named Heart of Midlothian.

Several pencil drawings from "somewhere in the field" are above the average. One entitled:—

"Fighting for Two Flags"

depicts a player in the Heart’s uniform with a ball at his feet and the League flag fluttering above him. Alongside is another view of the player, this time dressed in khaki and disclosing bandaged head wound. He is charging with the bayonet, whilst shells are bursting under the Union Jack.

Another sketch is described:—

"Before and after the match"

The soldier, spick and span in inspection outfit, whilst later appearing as a "muddied oaf"—could only be identified by his disc.

A sergeant in the 17th Royal Scots (Bantams) sent for a ball in hot haste. He had been insulted, but was determined to show "they big men, who thought they were everything, that we were just as good, if not better than them. We were up to the waist in water-logged trenches, whilst it only affected them to the lower part of the leg. Yet we fought, at least equally as well as they did." A ball was duly despatched; but we never heard the sequel to the leather tussle.

From "The Balkan News," of June 24th, 1918, lying before us, we read:—

"Germans are deserting from the Fatherland by aeroplanes. Some have reached neutral Scandinavian countries, whilst others have been shot down in the
Baltic. One to escape was Professor Nicolay, who wrote a book, "The Psychology of the War." His persecution by the Prussians was acute and on the usual scientific Hunnish lines.

Another note:—

"Compared with our fellows, the Boche is, frankly speaking, a mere clod. He has no stomach for close fighting and seems to smell steel afar off."

During the life-time of our scheme we found opportunity for working in harmony with other agencies busily engaged in supplying comforts for the men at the Front.

Miss Thallon (Turnhouse Camp).
Miss Duncan (Royal Scots Association).
Mrs. Winram (Prisoners-of-War Committee).
Mr. H. Rawson, J.P. (Territorial Force Association).
Mr. J. Maitland (Lord Provost's Committee).

Each helped the other by exchange of goods where necessary. One or other might require a football or footballs, and we supplied the articles. In return, we would perhaps obtain underclothing to meet a demand made upon us. Indeed, the work was congenial and harmonious, besides being of mutual benefit to all concerned. No scintillating Don Quixote or Sancho Panzo, either of whom so frequently manage to stow away on board the ship "Good Cause," were present to stultify our efforts with their sterile and humbugging platitudes.
"For King and Country"

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Roll of Honour

From letters in our possession and from notes in our Book, which contains a complete record of those who participated in our football scheme, we find that the following gallants made the supreme sacrifice:

Sergt. Allan, Royal Scots.
Private Blair, Royal Scots Fusiliers.
Corpl. Burgess, Royal Scots.
Private Clasper, Royal Scots.
Sergt. Currie, Royal Scots.
Private Edington, Camerons.
Private Ellis, Royal Scots.
Lieut. Hannah, T.M.B.
Lieut. Hepburn, West Yorks.
Trooper Innes, Dragoon Guards.
Private Isdale, Royal Scots.
Private Levine, Machine Gun Corp.
Private McCardle, Royal Scots.
Private Rennie, Seaforths.
Lieut. Speedie (John) ———
Sadler Stocks, Field Artillery.
Private Speedie (James) Camerons.
Seaman Sloan, H.M.S. "Monmouth."
Private Wattie, Royal Scots.

We bare our heads.
H.M.S. "Vehement" is noted as having been lost and indicating that there were 25 survivors. Whether A.B. H. Brock was one of the saved or not we cannot say. His last letter to us in acknowledging a ball is dated 24th February, 1918. He has a Paisley connection. If alive we congratulate him. If he went under the waves, then he is a member of our Roll.

Seaman Sloan was well-known to the writer. Whilst a member of the Tay training ship, he wrote for a ball in 1911 or 1912. We complied. He made many calls at Tynecastle Park after leaving the training ship and was working in Leith at the outbreak of the War. He immediately answered the call, and was the very last man to be allotted to the ill-fated H.M.S. "Monmouth," which was sunk with all hands by the Germans off the coast of Chili. Willie was a typical brave.

Our task, although a self-imposed one, was conscientiousy carried out. We seek excuse for the undertaking in order to throw a ray of light on an aside of the general activities of War. Lloyd George put no more zeal into his wonderful and stupendous efforts as munition purveyor than did we in carrying out a duty.

We rejoice in being a part—perhaps a small one—of the glorious whole.

Truthfully prophetic has been our "Dedication" to the "Hearts and the Great War" written in December, 1918. We then quoted:—

"In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world:
There, the common sense of most shall hold a fretful realm in awe."

To-day we have the League of Nations controlling the destinies of most centuries, with perhaps the notable exceptions of Russia and Turkey. The former is hopeless until she rids herself of a degenerate, tyrannical and heathenish government, made up mostly of ghouls from the slums of European capitals. Turkey, on the other hand, is quietly proceeding by peaceful revolution to Westernise her ideals. She is gradually putting her financial affairs on a more established basis. The Turk is as cunning

ERRATA
PAGE 33. READ "COUNTRIES" FOR "CENTURIES"
as the proverbial fox. He may be dreaming of the day when he sets out to clean up Palestine, Egypt, Arabia, etc., to the borders of India. Then set up afresh the Caliphate to enforce the socialisation and assimilation of Ottomans, Mahommedans, Arabians, Algerians, and Egyptians. Be-ware of the fate that befell William II! But that day of Ottoman conjurations and sophistries is not yet.

In fetching our simply told story to an end, we would ask our readers to be generously considerate towards us in their criticism of our rather crude literary attempt. We realise that we are quite one million miles removed from being either a Wells or a Shaw, or a Doyle, or even a McGonigal. Our heroes write plainly and frankly, coupled with a homeliness and honesty of purpose, that cannot be surpassed. The spirit of the Brotherhood of Mankind regulated those heart-to-heart talks. So let us pray that the inculcation of such high ideals shall remain the striking force with all of us as long as life itself its term extends.

As Robert Louis Stevenson once expressed himself:
"We hope we have not proved dry, stockish and dyspeptic."
The War Charities Act, 1916, required the formation of a Committee to be held responsible for the administration and control of the Scheme.

Committee:
E. H. FURST (Chairman, Hearts F.C.).
W. McPHAIL (Editor, Edinburgh "Evening News")
W. REID ("Diogenes," Edinburgh "Evening News")
J. McCARTNEY, (Manager, Hearts F.C.), Secretary and Treasurer.
GIBBS, BAMFORTH & CO.,
PRINTERS,
LUTON AND LONDON.