

TOC H CANADA

(Patron H.R.H. The Prince of Wales)

An Introduction



This pamphlet has been written to let those outside the Toc H family know something of what we are attempting to build.

Toc H is an ever-growing family (gradually becoming world-wide) of younger men, keeping alive and passing on the great traditions of brotherhood and unselfish service between men of all classes. Toc H is a living memorial to those who "passed forward" in the world war and also to the men who during their lifetime have gone "all out" for their fellows. It is a challenge to younger men to join up in the great adventure of building things that belong to Peace, and to do this by thinking fairly, loving widely, witnessing humbly and building bravely.

The Name Toc H

Talbot House, a house in Poperinghe, in the Ypres salient, from 1915 till the end of the War, became known by its initial letters, Toc being simply the signallers' pronunciation for the letter T.

In Talbot House thousands of men found refreshment for body, mind and soul. Within that house, full of gay humor and friendship that knew no distinctions, many saw life—and death—in a new light and many lives were changed. So wonderful a spirit grew up there, that in 1919 many of the survivors determined to see that such a spirit should not be allowed to die. It has now spread to every continent. In Canada we have three Houses, three Branches, and some forty Groups. Toc H can be found in Africa, Argentine, Australia, Belgium, British Isles, Ceylon, Chile, Egypt, Malay Peninsula, Newfoundland, New Zealand and the United States.

How is the Spirit of Toc H Expressed?

Toc H is open to men of all classes and types (the vast majority being between the ages of 18 and 30). IT IS NOT CONFINED TO EX-SERVICEMEN. It is inter-denominational. It has no politics. Toc H sets out to develop a spirit of understanding by bringing men together into a working team, and so breaking down the prejudice, contempt, suspicion, distrust and strife which are brought about by separation from, and ignorance about, others. A characteristic part of the method towards this is "to bring the Expert to the group, to hear him and ask him questions, to listen hospitably and humbly to Everyman's story, and to help the truth to prevail." Toc H is definitely a Christian Movement; but it is chiefly concerned with practical Christianity. It holds no Sunday services of its own. It embraces within its membership men of every Christian denomination and encourages them to greater loyalty of their own church. It also attracts many who, for some reason or other, have not been attached to organized religion of any kind. Toc H does not usurp the Churches'

function of teaching. It welds men into teams to practice it. It is not an organization for young men, but an adventure undertaken by them. It does not provide amusements, recreation, and the like for its members, they are offered nothing—except the finest thing in the world,—a fellowship of gallant and high-hearted usefulness. Its members on joining undertake to give what they can, in smaller or larger jobs of service, i.e. individual service, in which the personal touch is emphasized. It can operate and spread its infectious spirit in the smaller places as well as in the great cities, in fact wherever half a dozen men will get together to form a Toc H "Group".

Toc H attempts to supply man-power for social service of every kind, by supplying Scout-masters, leaders of boys' clubs, hospital visiting, Big Brother work, helping in Y.M.C.A. work, running camps, visiting the blind, deaf, dumb, crippled, etc., helping in probation work, volunteering professional services, etc., etc. Much has been done in Canada in linking up with fellows coming from the Old Country.

Method of Development

The first stage in any place is a "Group" of men meeting regularly each week in the simplest way in some central place and taking care to keep a sense of humor and fairmindedness in all they do. The meetings are in the evenings and the expenses are cut down to meet the modest purse. The Group is a provisional one until its Officers have been approved by the Provincial Executive. It is allowed to nominate its first few full members of Toc H very carefully, they become the nucleus of the Group. Everyone else is a Probationer until he has been tried out in his attendance (so as to develop the Toc H family spirit) and show his willingness to take on some "job" of service and to put it through. The group eventually may become a Branch, with definite powers of self government and will then receive its Lamp of Maintenance. In some cities a Toc H "Mark" may follow; (i.e., House where a team of Toc H members live, such as in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver). The "Mark" acts as a centre for that area. The essential officers of the Group are the Padre, Secretary and the Job-master, the man who should know his district and have the experience and personality to place the members in their appropriate jobs.

The Meaning of the Lamp

The spirit of Toc H is based on the sacrifice of those who are known to us in Toc H as the "Elder Brethren". They include, not only those who fell in the Great War, but all men who have given their lives in self-sacrificing service to the world. They are commemorated in the Toc H Lamps of Maintenance, one of which is bestowed upon each Group of Toc H when it gains Branch status. As a Group they use a "Rushlight". They symbolize the "Torch" of adventurous sacrifice passed on by those who have "gone forward" and kept alight by the members of the Toc H family in unselfish service-work which their Elder Brethren "have thus far so nobly advanced." At the opening of each meeting the members stand in silence while their Lamp is lit and the simple but deeply inspiring "Ceremony of Light" takes place.

Published herewith is a list of Branch and Group Secretaries. Any further information can be obtained from them, or by applying to the Provincial Registrars.

LIST OF BRANCH AND GROUP SECRETARIES IN CANADA

EASTERN CANADA

Registrar—G. G. W. Goodwin, Royal Trust Co., St. James St., Montreal, Que.

MONTREAL

(Central Group)

R. Smith, Canadian Industries Ltd., Canada Cement Bldg., Montreal, Que.

(Westmount Group)

E. Oesterman, 248 Addington Ave., Notre Dame De Grace, Montreal, Que.

(Verdun Group)

J. B. Brown, 3793 Ethel St., Verdun, Que.

(South Shore Group)

E. J. Smith, 62 Stanley St., St. Lambert, Que.

SHERBROOKE

N. W. Robins, 20 High St., Sherbrooke, Que.

ST. JOHNS, QUE.

L. G. Gage, c/o E. R. Smith Co. Ltd., St. Johns, Que.

QUEBEC, QUE.

H. Pfeiffer, 102 de la Tour Ave., Quebec, Que.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

Major F. J. Nisbet, New Brunswick Telephone Co., St. John, N. B.

OTTAWA, ONT.

ONTARIO

Registrar—Major R. R. Carr-Harris, 614 Huron St., Toronto, Can.

Headquarters—Toc H, Mark 2 (C) 614 Huron St., Toronto, Ont.

TORONTO BRANCH

W. T. Hilton, 614 Huron St., Toronto, Ont.

(East Group)

F. B. Roberts, 296 Milverton Blvd., Toronto, Ont.

(West Group)

B. S. Aitchinson, 70 Harvie Ave., St. Clair W., Toronto, Ont.

(North Group)

A. C. Savage, 46 Ranleigh, Ave., Toronto, Ont.

OAKVILLE

H. W. Boorer, Oakville, Ont.

HAMILTON

Ralph Lidgley, Toc H, Room 5, 271 King St. E., Hamilton, Ont.

LONDON

Charles Taylor, 15 Southgate St., London, Ont.

PORT HOPE

Cyril V. Brown, Port Hope, Ont.

OSHAWA

MID-WEST AREA

Registrar—H. B. Shaw, 236 Roslyn Rd., Winnipeg, Man.
Headquarters—Toc H, Mark 1 (C), 11 Kennedy St., Winnipeg, Man.
WINNIPEG BRANCH
E. Colyer, 11 Kennedy St., Winnipeg, Man.
FORT WILLIAM, ONT.
L. Stanfield, 328 Dease St., Fort William, Ont.
KENORA, ONT.
Horace Baker, P. O. 582, Kenora, Ont.
BRANDON, MAN.
B. E. Glavin, 541-14th St. Brandon, Man.
ST. JAMES, MAN.
Stewart Morris, 210 Hampton St., St. James, Man.
VIRDEN, MAN.
James Hewitt, Virden, Man.
REGINA, SASK.
W. G. Denney, 2034 St. Johns St., Regina, Sask.
PRINCE ALBERT, SASK.
E. Fleming, 518-20th St. W., Prince Albert, Sask.
MOOSEJAW, SASK.
Frank West, 113 Hochelaga St. W., Moosejaw, Sask.
LOVERNA, SASK.
Rev. W. D. Hassell, Loverna, Sask.
KERROBERT, SASK.
H. Gordon Hooton, Windsor Hotel, Kerrobert, Sask.
MAIDSTONE, SASK.
Rev. Lawrence, The Rectory, Maidstone, Sask.
SASKATOON, SASK.
H. Rose, 729 Temperance St., Saskatoon, Sask.
EDMONTON, ALTA.
E. Clark, 10623-127th St., Edmonton, Alta.
CALGARY, ALTA.
F. H. Elphicke, 3029-4th St. W., Calgary, Alta.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Registrar—Lt. Col. H. T. Logan, 7856 Heather St., Vancouver, B. C.
Headquarters—Toc H, Mark 3 (C), 1263 Davie St., Vancouver, B. C.
VANCOUVER BRANCH
Harold Le Neven, 1205 Jervis St., Vancouver, B. C.
VANCOUVER (Group 2)
J. N. Brown, Editorial Dept, "The Sun", Vancouver, B. C.
VANCOUVER NORTH
Jack E. Martin, 156 Queen's Rd. E., Vancouver, B. C.
VICTORIA
C. K. Morison, 1905 Duchess St., Vancouver, B. C.
KAMLOOPS
L. C. Stapleton, 346 Battle St., Kamloops, B. C.
TRAIL
Charles H. Wright, Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. Ltd., Trail, B. C.
KELOWNA
F. Allen Martin, Box 649, Kelowna, B. C.
PRINCE RUPERT
James Underwood, Box 825, Prince Rupert, B. C. .
PRINCE GEORGE
Rev. T. F. W. de Pencier, The Rectory, Prince George, B. C.
NELSON