

A Touching Christmas Story¹

-The Story of an Italian Gentleman and his Heartwarming Connection to a Fallen Canadian Soldier and the Beginning of an Italian Christmas Tradition

By William J Anhorn K.C. ICD.D



From The Mad Hatter Historian

¹ A revised version of an earlier post from 2020

The Plight of the Genealogical Inquirer

I have always had a keen interest in history and more recently genealogy, and from time to time, I have researched and endeavored to document my family history, for what purpose, I was never exactly sure. I have always enjoyed researching and writing, which was a natural mainstay of my chosen profession. In my retirement, I continued with this passion for writing and created my own blog, where I post many of my articles on genealogy and other topics that I find of interest. (<http://wjanhorn.ca>)

In my research, I came across this paragraph, which explains very well the plight of the amateur genealogist and “why” we take up such an endeavor.

“Every day the task of the genealogical inquirer becomes more difficult; that task which is faintly remembered by one generation is totally forgotten by another; and tradition, which sometimes supplies the place of testimony, is thus entirely lost. Few persons are so insensible to the ties of kindred as not to feel a legitimate curiosity in the history and connections of the individuals of their own family, a feeling which remoteness of time cannot impair and which proximity of relationships only serve to strengthen. If the greatest nations have been ambitious in deducing their history of the earliest times, surely individuals may be pardoned who seek to trace their origins in the earliest recorded annals of their country. Without attaching undue value to the advantage of birth, the love of our race is laid so deep in the foundation of human nature that such adventitious circumstances will always influence our social position. It should teach us humility when we reflect how small a space we ourselves occupy in the eye of posterity and it may inspire us with the spirit of emulation to maintain the good name we have inherited from those who have gone before us.”²

² Botfield, Beriah, *Stemmata Botevilliana* 1858, Chapter I

Researching family histories, not only of your own but helping others to do so as well, opens doors to self-discovery, establishes **newly found relationships and friends** and creates a greater appreciation of you and your families unique place in history.

Although not always fully appreciated in the present, the hope of the amateur genealogist is that their effort will be acknowledged and rewarded in time and that someone will be inspired to take up the cause of preserving their family history and to assist others in that same cause. In the meantime, we steadfastly persevere in our quest to document and preserve our family history and to assist others in this endeavor and so, the plight of the genealogical inquirer continues.

History and Genealogy often Intersect with Interesting Results

My passion for history, in particular the history of WWI and WWII has been long standing and no doubt was inspired by my wife's family (Medlicott). Although none of my immediate family (Anhorn) was involved in either the First World or Second World Wars, both my wife's father (Norman) and her Grandfather and Great Uncle (Medlicott) participated in each campaign.

Norman Medlicott was a young 18 year old when he volunteered and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II. Although he left his home in Medicine Hat, where he was born, as a "boy", he returned back to his hometown as a man having observed and experienced all the hardships and difficulties of war.



His father, Thomas Medicott was a part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, being a member of the 175th battalion of the 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles. This regiment was composed of young men from Medicine Hat and the surrounding area. Her Uncle Edward Medicott was a member of the famed Calgary Highlanders.³

George Medicott, a Great Uncle and brother of Thomas and Edward was killed in France on June 6th 1918.

He was a member of the 9th Cheshire Regiment (England).



³ See my article entitled, [“The Medicott Brothers Go to War”](#) for details as to their involvement in the Great War.

My Grandfather on my mother's side, William John McIvor, after whom I was named, fought in WWI as a member of the 5/6th Scottish Rifles. My earliest recollections of my grandfather was his brogue Scottish accent and that he had served gallantly in WWI and saw action overseas.

Subsequent research reveals that he had enlisted at age 18 in the British army on the 26th of January 1917 and became a member of the Scottish Rifles, 5/6th battalion. (Reg. #41711). He was discharged from service in 1919 at age 21 and shortly thereafter, immigrated to Canada, residing in Medicine Hat for a period of time with Richardson's Bakery, before retiring and moving to Vancouver, B.C.

My Grandfather's brother, Robert James McIvor who was his older brother (1891) joined the British Navy in WWI. He was a crewmember on the HMS Black Prince, which was involved in the Battle of Jutland which was sunk by several German battleships on May 31st, 1916. All 857 crewmembers of the ship were lost at sea in this infamous navy battle.

Even for those extended family members who returned safely from the First and Second World War, they did so bringing with them their own "scars and wounds" both physically and mentally.

Lest We Forget!

My passion for military history was further heightened when my wife and I and another couple were honored to be selected to be part of the Canadian delegation to the 75th Anniversary of D-Day at Juno Beach in France, June 6th 2019.

It was an amazing experience and one that I will never forget.

Thereafter, we traveled through France and Belgium and visited such historic WWI sites as the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, Hill 60, Ypres and the infamous Menin Gate.

Only in visiting such places and walking among the row upon row of white markers in the Canadian and British War cemeteries does one fully appreciate the full nature and extent of the carnage and the terrible loss of life that occurred when so many young men, who heeded the patriotic call, paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The same holds true with the ravages of WWII, and the fact that so many lives were lost in defending Europe from the tyranny of the Third Reich and defending democracy and freedom throughout the world.

Most recently, my genealogical research and interest in military history intersected resulting in another interesting research project, which has a touching Christmas connection.

Let me explain.

A Touching “Tribute” to A Fallen Canadian Soldier and a Heartwarming Christmas Tradition

As a member of the Alberta Genealogical Society, I subscribe on FB to various sites that have a historical or genealogical theme. One such site is a FB public group site called -**A Canadian “Memorial Site” for our WWI & WWII “Heroes**. It commemorates those Canadian soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields of Europe, in both the First and Second World Wars.

A post dated December 24th, 2020 on the site from an Italian named Massimo Polimeni caught my attention, as it paid tribute to a Canadian Soldier –Private Michael Joseph Doiron, who is buried at the Bari War Cemetery, near his hometown of Reggio, Calabria in Italy.

His moving tribute reads as follows:



Massimo Polimeni

2d

...

A few months ago I read on this page

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/39810442441/permalink/10154472112422442>) the story of Private Michael Joseph Doiron of the Carleton & York Regiment and among the many figures who are remembered with honor on this page every day, his story struck me. I was struck by the fact that he had landed with his Regiment in my town, freeing it, (Reggio Calabria), that he continued his advance on the mountain places that I have frequented for many years and that I know very well and that only a few days after he lost his life in the Region where I was born ... I have always thought with affection and gratitude to all these young people who died far from their home, from their land, I thought about what pain they may have felt in the last moments of their life, to the things and scenarios on which their eyes finally rest before closing ... and as a parent, I thought about the unbearable pain of having lost a child so far away and not even having the consolation of being able to cry over his tomb. I have often visited British war cemeteries in Italy, some are very large (eg Cassino), others very small. Bari War Cemetery is one of these and is located in the countryside, in a town a few kilometers from my wife's parents' house, where we come to spend the Christmas holidays every year. This year I wanted Christmas to be special, I wanted those guys to feel the affection of people they don't know but who know their story and who are grateful to them for the extreme sacrifice they endured.

I decided to "adopt" Michael in the name of all the others and I decided to visit him whenever I can. I would like to know what this boy looked like, I would like to track down some of his relatives if possible. I would like to strengthen an extra bond with Canada, which I love and which I consider my second home, the home where my second family lives.

Today with my wife and four year old I went to the little cemetery to visit Michael and left a red flower on his grave. Michael rests in the midst of other 209 Canadians and more than two thousand British soldiers, he rests in the shade of a maple and his grave is full of these leaves ... I took one and will keep it in memory of him. I left him a flower in honor of all those boys and walked a long time among those tombstones, reading the names and regiments. My child ran around in all that greenery, picking flowers and shouting happy ... I let him do it, I thought it was not a sign of little respect for those who rested in that field, I thought that many of them had children inside era when they were killed and would have been happy to hear the shrill voice of a child above them ... is a little romantic thought, a little Christmas story that I dedicate to each of those boys and to each of you, Canadians, who you have given so much for the freedom of Europe!

Merry Christmas to you all and thank you with all my heart from an Italian.

I was particularly moved by his express desire “to adopt “Michael” in the name of all the others and decided to visit him whenever I can. I would like to know what this boy looked like, I would like to track down some of his relatives if possible. I would like to strengthen an extra bond with Canada, which I love and which I consider my second home, the home where my second family lives”.

I was also struck by his sincere appreciation and the thoughtful story.

“It is a little romantic thought, a little Christmas story that I dedicate to each of these boys and to each of you, Canadians, who you have given so much for the freedom of Europe.”



I decided to reach out to this empathetic Italian to try to fulfill his request to find out more about this young Canadian soldier and to endeavor to find a picture or perhaps better connect him with a living relative and further strengthen his bond with Canada.

This is that story!

The Investigation: Private Michael Joseph Doiron

Through the auspices of ancestry.com, I was able to access the military archives of Michael Joseph Doiron.

He was born on May 7th, 1912 in Rogersville, New Brunswick. He enlisted in the Canadian Army on March 12, 1940. At the time he enlisted, he was residing in the small town of Minto, New Brunswick and he gave his occupation as a “coal miner”. He was assigned and became a member of the Carleton and York Regiment and his unit arrived in the United Kingdom in August 1940.

His regiment was involved in the assault of Sicily in August 1943 and later went across the Strait of Messina where the Canadians captured Reggio Calabria and then advanced across the Aspromonte Mountains and then along the Gulf of Taranto to Catanzaro, moving inland in early September.

He was killed on September 9th, 1943 during this action, north of Locri, Italy and was buried nearby and later interned in the Bari War Cemetery (grave 25A3) on the Adriatic coast.

Michael Joseph Doiron’s father was “Phillip Doiron dit Gould” and his mother was Domitele Brun and I discovered that in his early life, he used the surname Gould and later, Doiron.



He was married (June 29th 1935) to Mary Catherine Marinoviche but apparently he and his wife had separated several years before his enlistment. They had one child who died in infancy. (3 months). They had no other children prior to their separation.

He had a sister named Celeste Doiron (1904-1986) and after some controversy, she was named as his next-of-kin for estate purposes as although he was married, he had named his sister as beneficiary. His wife had moved to Quebec and had two children from another relationship and ultimately, she remarried.

It appears that he had been employed by the Miramichi Lumber Company Limited in Minto, N.B. as there is a letter (June 1944)⁴ on his military file attesting to the fact that he went by both “Gould” and “Doiron” and that the Private Michael Joseph Doiron and Michael Gould shown on a marriage certificate were one and the same person.

Following his death, the Department of National Defense became involved in determining who was his beneficiary and lawful heir and an exchange of letters took place to resolve the issue.

An earlier letter (April 1944) from the Miramichi Lumber Company had confirmed that he had long since separated from his wife and that as noted, there had been no children from the marriage. It was explained that he had expressed in a letter to his mother (March 1943) that he wanted to get a divorce and that any “estate” should go to his mother or his sister Celeste, who was apparently looking after an invalid brother and that “under no circumstances should his wife be entitled to anything”. The letter from the Miramichi Lumber Company (A.D. Taylor) went on to say quite emphatically,

“I do not know what this estate may amount to, or whether or not there would be any pension, but I do know that it would be a great injustice if this man’s wife benefited from the sacrifice he has made”.

⁴ See, Appendix for Referenced and Related Documents

As his mother had since remarried, the Department of National Defense determined that Celeste Doiron should be his lawful beneficiary.

It appears from my research that in addition to his sister Celeste, Michael Joseph Doiron (aka Gould) had several other siblings and that they used both the surname Doiron and **GOULD**.

In addition to Celeste Doiron, the other siblings included Premila **Doiron** (1907-2009) James **Gould** (1898-) Emma **Gould** (1900-) Philestone **Gould** (1906-) Ida **Gould** (1918-).

In my effort to find the next nearest living relative, the antecedents of Premila Doiron seemed most promising and I pursued this avenue of genealogical investigation.

As an aside, as part of my own methodology in completing my genealogical research, I have always done two things. Firstly, as soon as I start a research project, I begin to write the narrative, not knowing of course, where the story will take me or how it will end. It is a simple way of cataloging the data as I proceed with the research

Secondly, I invariably create my own “tree” on ancestry.ca to document and record all of the antecedents and descendants of the person I am researching. In this case, I created a tree for Michael Joseph Doiron (also known as Michael Gould), with the “endgame” to endeavor to find the next nearest living relative. This provides a unique opportunity to utilize the search capability of the website and to confirm and verify information and double check data, where original source material or information is not always available. It also helps to keep the information and the many names in some semblance of order.

In doing so, I was able to locate a PUBLIC tree on ancestry.ca which provided some basic details of the antecedents and descendants of the aforesaid, Michael Joseph Doiron. One of the difficulties in this type of research is that although the PUBLIC trees on ancestry.ca are a valuable source of information, there is a “critical” limitation.

Due to “privacy” concerns, the names and relevant information such as date of birth/marriages/spouses etc. for those who are **still alive**, although shown as a male or female on the tree, their exact identities are not revealed. So the ability to find a **“next nearest living relative”** becomes a monumental task and requires some creativity and resourcefulness.

Much of it involves “painstaking” detective work, following different leads and regrettably going down many different “rabbit holes”. But perseverance usually pays off.

In this case, I utilized the Message function on ancestry.com and reached out to the manager of the several “public trees” for assistance. One tree, managed by Rene Fitzpatrick, looked promising, although I had no idea as to his or her connection, if any, to the Doiron family.

My research indicated that Premila (nee Doiron) and Augustus “Gus” Andries had a son named Henry Andries (1925-1997) who married Cecilia Velma Crawford, and they appear to have had at least two daughters. One child, Helen T (1944-2017) married Sylvantus (“Red”) Moses of Lunenburg, Massachusetts but she passed away in 2017. The other daughter however, still appeared to be alive and my efforts concentrated on finding her.

Through more diligent research, I determined that she had married Robert F. Zitoli (1952-1999). She later remarried Charles Ouellette and they were now residing in Lunenburg, Massacheutts. Her name was Gail Lynn Ouellette.

Facebook also provides a unique investigative tool and much like the proverbial “sweater”, one must keep pulling at loose strands to find another source of information and gradually, using some ingenuity and much perseverance, I managed to connect the “dots” and establish several connections she had with other FB established family members. Once there are clear data points for a likely familial connection, it is a matter of utilizing the “Messenger” function on FB.

I sent out a carefully crafted or worded message detailing the nature of my inquiry and requesting assistance. I sent out several enquiries without any immediate response.

I persevered in my search.

Remarkably, within a few weeks, I received a response from Rene Fitzpatrick indicating that her mother was the aforesaid Gail Lynn Ouellette and “she” gave me some contact information, including a telephone number. I called her and someone guardedly, she took my call and after some hesitation, we had a pleasant conversation, as I explained the nature of my inquiry.

This was followed by an exchange of emails and needless to say, she and her siblings and other family members were thrilled to learn about this compassionate and kind Italian. They were deeply touched that he felt compelled and duty bound to give a lasting and memorable tribute to their Great Uncle Michael Joseph Doiron, who he revered “*with affection and gratitude*” and who like so many other young people, “*died far from their home, far from their land*” and that he had “*felt their pain in the last moments of their life, to the things and scenarios on which their eyes finally rested before closing their eyes*”.

An Italian Christmas Tradition

With the task complete, I corresponded with both my Italian friend and the extended family of Michael Joseph Doiron and provided them each with contact information and I shared with them this compelling story of appreciation and gratitude and as I have found and experienced, to paraphrase the Italian saying-

‘Life is not always measured in days but in rare moments like this’.

I am pleased to report that every Christmas Day, Massimo Polimeni and his wife place a bouquet of flowers at the foot of the headstone of Private Michael Joseph Doiron, at the Bari War Cemetery, near his hometown of Reggio, Calabria in Italy as a tribute not only to this fallen Canadian soldier but to all the other Canadians who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom.

It is a touching Christmas Story that I feel compelled to share with you at this time of year.

William J Anhorn K.C. ICD.D



Massimo Polimeni and his wife and son (2023)

***ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

William J. Anhorn was born and raised in Medicine Hat, Alberta and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Political Science) from the University of Calgary and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta. He returned to his hometown of Medicine Hat in 1976 and practiced law for over 35 years as a Senior partner with the Law firm of Pritchard and Company. He retired in 2012 and he and his wife Joan Elaine Anhorn (Medlicott), a retired teacher, continue to reside there. Always having a keen interest in writing and more recently genealogy, this is one of a series of articles he has researched and written not only in relation to his family and his extended family (Anhorn/Medlicott/Williams/McIvor) but also on behalf of others that have requested his assistance in discovering their own family origins. He is a member of the Medicine Hat Genealogical Society and Chairman of the Historical and Heritage Resource Committee of the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Company.



*He can be reached at wjanhorn@gmail.com
For other articles which you may find of
Interest go to his Personal Homepage by searching William J Anhorn
QC or go to <http://wjanhorn.ca>*

Appendix of Referenced and Related Documents

Miss Celest Doiron,
Minto, N.B.

Dear Madam:

I deeply regret to inform you that your brother, G.17867 Private Michael Joseph Doiron, gave his life in the Service of his Country in the Mediterranean Theatre of War on the 9th day of September, 1943.

From official information we have received, your brother was killed in action against the enemy. You may be assured that any additional information received will be communicated to you without delay.

The Minister of National Defence and the members of the Army Council have asked me to express to you and your family their sincere sympathy in your bereavement.

We pay tribute to the sacrifice he so bravely made.

Yours sincerely,

H. F. G. LETSON
Major - General
Adjutant - General

(H. F. G. Letson),
Major-General,
Adjutant-General.

OCT 1 1943

GH/403

OFFICIAL CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS CASUALTY NOTIFICATION			
NUMBER	0.17867		RANK Private
NAME		DOIRON, Michael Joseph.	
SERVICE UNIT		The Carleton and York Regiment (C.A.)	
DATE OF BIRTH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
	7th	May	1912
MARITAL STATUS Married			
NEXT OF KIN AS SHOWN ON M.F.M. 1, 2 & 3 RELATIONSHIP		NAME	
Sister		Miss Celest Dobron,	
ADDRESS		D.A.B.	
Minto, N.B.			
ADDITIONAL PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED		ADDRESS	
PARENTS NAME			
ADDRESS (IF SOLDIER (MARRIED OVERSEAS))			
AUTHORITY CAS. SIG. NO.		DATE	
Canrecords 3337 R.Q. 405-D-11,995		9-9-43	
CASUALTY DETAILS			
Killed in Action.			
LAST WILL ATTACHED TO NOTIFICATION TO A. OF E.T.		M.F.M.S. ATTACHED TO NOTIFICATION TO A. OF E.T.	
YES/NO		YES/NO	
		DATE 30-9-43	
6		OFFICER I/C RECORDS	
COPY FOR DOCUMENT FILE			

REBURIAL

Bari Military Cemetery,
Bari, Italy.

Grave 25, Row A, Plot 3.

HI & CR Form Despd. NOV 15 1946

**Photographs
Despatched
MAR 28 1947**

DEATH CERT. TO N.K.
BURIAL REPORT TO N.K. **AUG 26 1944**
RETURN TO BUR. OF STAT. 22-2-44.
ROYAL MESSAGE DESPD. **JAN 31 1944**
CAN. MESSAGE DESPD. 2-10-43.

FIELD SERVICE

405-D-11495
Army Form B, 2090A.

REPORT of Death of an Officer or a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death. See Table II, Appendix III, Field Service Regulations, Vol. I.

REGIMENT } Carl & York Regt. Squadron, Troop, }
OR CORPS } Battery or Company }
Officer's Personal No. (if known) } G-17867 Rank Pte.
Soldier's Army No. }

Surname DOIRON Christian Names M.J.

Died { Date 9 Sept. 43. Place Italy
Cause of Death* Killed in action BC

Nature and Date of Report Cas List (undated)

By whom made HQ 1 Cdn. Div.

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Burial { Place North of Locri MR- 239834 Date 10 Sept. 43.
By whom reported CF CARL & YORK REGT.

State whether he leaves { (a) in Army Book 64 Not received
a Will or not { (b) as a separate document Not known no effects received

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as A. B. 64, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any report received as to verbal expressions by a deceased officer or soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be forwarded to the War Office at once, supported by a certified statement of the person who actually received the information.

In the case of a soldier a duplicate of this report is to be sent to the Paymaster at the Base, together with the deceased's A. B. 64 (after withdrawal of any will from the latter), for transmission to the Paymaster who compiles the soldier's account.

Station and } North Africa Signature of Officer in charge of Section } [Signature] Capt.
Date } 1 Oct. 43. Adjutant-General's Office at the Base } for Officer i/c

Wt. 46939/917 500M. 3/40 M. & S., Ltd. 51-6239 Cdn Sec GHQ 2nd Echelon North Africa

FORM C.-2.

This form is placed in an unsealed envelope marked "Vital Statistics" and properly addressed will, by order of the Postmaster General pass through the mails "FREE."

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AUC - 5 '35

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF MARRIAGE

REGISTERED No. **1309**
(For use of Registrar General only.)

Health District of Sunbury Sub-Deputy Registrar area of Northfield

BRIDEGROOM

1. Full name Gould Michael
(Surname) (Given name)
2. Occupation miner
3. Bachelor, Widower or Divorced Bachelor
4. Age 23 5. Religious Denomination R.C.
6. Residence North Minto
(If in Canada, province, county and Post Office address. If foreign, state country.)
7. Place of birth Rogersville
(If born in Canada, province, county. If foreign born, state country.)
8. Name of father Philip Gould
9. Place of birth of father Rogersville, Cape Bauld, N.B.
10. Maiden name of mother Dominile Brunet
11. Can bridegroom read? yes Write? yes

BRIDE

12. Full name Marinovich Mary Catherine
(Surname) (Given name)
13. Occupation housewife
14. Spinster, Widow or Divorced Spinster
15. Age 17 16. Religious Denomination R.C.
17. Residence North Minto
(If in Canada, province, county and Post Office address. If foreign, state country.)
18. Place of birth Glace Bay, N.S., Canada
(If born in Canada, province, county. If foreign born, state country.)
19. Name of father William Marinovich
20. Place of birth of father Ukraina
21. Maiden name of mother Stasia Dimchuck
22. Can bride read? yes Write? yes

23. When married 29th day of June 1935
(Month) (Year)
24. Place of marriage Sole, Rosary Church Minto
(Name of church or clergyman's residence or location of dwelling house)
25. By license or banns Joanna
(If by license, give number)

26. Signature of { Groom Michael Gould
Bride Mary Catherine Mariniche
Name Andries Gus
Address North Minto
27. Witnesses { Name Mrs. Bremilia Andries
Address North Minto

I certify the above stated particulars are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Clergyman R. B. Fraser M.A. J.P.
(Signature)
Address Chapman
Religious Denomination R.C.

Registered No. 14 Filed at this office 10 day of July 1935
J. D. Beacombe
Signature of Sub-Deputy Registrar.

NOTE.—This form must not be mutilated. All information asked for is to be given including full Christian and Surnames of all parties, and if for any reason this is impossible, the reason for the omission must be stated.

[SEE OTHER SIDE]

MIRAMICHI LUMBER COMPANY (LIMITED)

MINER AND SHIPPER
BITUMINOUS COAL
INDUSTRIAL SIZES

MINTO, N.B.

April 12, 1944.

C. Stevenson, Captain,
For L. M. Firth, Lt.-Colonel,
Administrator of Estates,
Department of National Defence,
Estates Branch,
Ottawa.



Re: Doiron, Michael J., Pte. (Deceased)
No. G. 17867 C.A.

Dear Sir:

I have before me your letter to Miss Celeste Doiron regarding her late brother. I am very much interested in this case and believe I can give you the true facts.

This young man worked for me before he joined the army as also his father before him. This young man got married when he was about eighteen years old and lived with his wife a year or two. After they were married about two years, she ran away with one, Albert Govang, deserting her husband. There was one child born of this marriage but this child died when three months old. Since that time she has had two children and has been living with this Govang as far as I know continuously since several years before the war broke out.

In a letter written to his mother, March 28th, 1943, he speaks about getting a divorce from his wife. Previous to going overseas, after joining the army, he talked to me about having his assigned pay given to his mother and sister as he wanted to be absolutely sure that his wife didn't get any of his money. His sister, Celeste Doiron, is supporting an invalid brother.

I do not know what the estate would amount to or whether or not there would be any pension, but I do know that it would be a great injustice if this man's wife benefited by the sacrifice he has made.

This young man's mother remarried some years after Mike's father died, so it is wholly up to Celeste to support herself and her invalid brother.

Yours very truly,

QD Taylor

ADT:IK

PREVENT FOREST FIRES—IT PAYS

WILLIAM BOOTH, FOUNDER
GEORGE L. CARPENTER,
GENERAL

ALBERT ORSBORN,
BRITISH COMMISSIONER



Red Shield Club

If in need of advice,
write to the Director, The
Salvation Army War Work,
William Booth Memorial
College, Denmark Hill,
London, S.E. 5

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WAR EMERGENCIES DEPARTMENT

Wednesday July 21st 1943
Present Address

NAME *M. J. Dawson*

FOR ARMY. No. *617867* RANK *Pte*

COMPANY *Support* REGIMENT *CYR*

FOR R.A.F. No. RANK

SQUADRON

Dear Mother

Just a few lines to let
you know I am well an Hoping this will find
you all the same But I was to the doctor this
Morning an he was sending me to the Hospital
But as things happen They won't take me in
so I had to come back But I might go to the
Holding unit. But I did not go to Sicily yet
But maybe I will never go. Well Mother I am
going to send you some Pictures I want you to take
care of them for me you can expect them any day now
But maybe I will have my chance to go some day
with the rest of the Boys Well Mother the news are
dear so I must close with all my love an good
Health an good Luck to all an give my Best regards
To all the folks around Good night Love to all

answers soon

XXXX
XXXX

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

Over

