

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE

Salisbury Square, E.C.

Dated      *Dec 29*      1916

PIPER LAIDLAW, V.C.

At the Mansion House yesterday the Musicians' Company entertained about 200 wounded overseas soldiers from the London hospitals. During the proceedings the Lord Mayor, on behalf of the guild, presented to Piper Daniel Laidlaw, V.C., who was "piped" in by one of the Lord Mayor's Recruiting Bands, a gold watch, in commemoration of his valour in playing the bagpipes on the parapet of a trench during the great assault on Loos. Sir Charles Wakefield said such deeds were a stimulus to those who were at home, and an incitement to us to do our duty in our sphere of life as nobly as Piper Laidlaw had done his at Loos. (Cheers.)

Piper Laidlaw, who was received with enthusiastic cheers, said if it had not been for the good regiment (7th King's Own Scottish Borderers) he was fighting with he doubted if he would have got his V.C. "Some people," said Piper Laidlaw, smilingly, "say there is no music in the pipes; evidently the Musicians' Company think otherwise." (Cheers.)

The gallant piper then played the same tune—"The Blue Bonnets"—on the pipes that he used on the occasion of his heroic act at Loos.

A very enjoyable entertainment followed.

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PIPER LAIDLAW, V.C., HONOURED.

Piper Laidlaw, V.C., was presented by the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House yesterday, with a gold watch, in recognition of his gallantry at Loos.

Piper Laidlaw, who was played in by the Lord Mayor's Recruiting Band of Pipers, was very modest in his reply to the Lord Mayor's compliments. "If it had not been for the good work my regiment was doing at the time," he said, "I do not think I should have got the Cross." He then played the identical piece, "The Blue Bonnets," which he played on the parapet of the trenches in face of a hurricane of fire.

Piper Laidlaw, who was presented by the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House yesterday, with a gold watch, the gift of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, in recognition of his gallantry at Loos.

"Our eyes grow dim with pardonable pride and our blood courses through our veins quicker when we read of such deeds as yours," said the LORD MAYOR to Laidlaw, "and such heroism is a stimulus to us men who are here to do our duty in our sphere of life as you have done yours over there at Loos."

PIPER LAIDLAW, who was played in by the Lord Mayor's Recruiting Band of Pipers, in his reply said:—"I must not take all the benefit to myself, for if it had not been for the good work my regiment was doing at the time, I do not think I should have got the Victoria Cross." He then played "The Blue Bonnets," which he played on the parapet of the trenches during a hurricane of fire.

*Blue Bonnets, which he played on the parapet of the trench.*