

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON JOHN MacPHERSON ALMOND

M.A., D.C.L., C.B.E., C.M.G., V.D.

RECALLING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF A NATIVE
GASPESIAN IN THE ANGLICAN MINISTRY AND THE
CHAPLAINCY SERVICE OF CANADA OVERSEAS.

KEN ANNETT

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON JOHN MACPHERSON ALMOND

M.A., D.C.L., C.B.E., C.M.G., V.D.

A RECALL OF THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF A GASPESIAN,
NATIVE OF SHIGAWAKE, IN THE ANGLICAN MINISTRY AND THE
CHAPLAINCY SERVICE OF CANADA.

MONTREAL

"DEATH COMES QUIETLY DURING SLEEP TO "FATHER JOHN"

DAILY

Long Career In Service of Church And Country

STAR

Ends In 68th Year

SEPT.18

1939

"FATHER JOHN" ALMOND, senior Archdeacon of Montreal, is dead. He passed away in his sleep on Saturday night after completing a busy day in his beloved parish of Trinity Memorial, Notre Dame de Grace. His genial smile, virile personality, and optimistic outlook endeared him not only to his own large congregation, but to thousands of men and women throughout the Dominion, and even beyond its boundaries.

The body will lie in state at Trinity Memorial Church all day Tuesday and until 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The funeral service will be held at Trinity Memorial Church at 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and the Bishop of Montreal, Right Rev. A. Carlisle, will participate in the service which will be conducted by the Rev. R. G. Fiander, curate of the church.

Starting his ministry on the wild, barren shores of Labrador, Archdeacon Almond throughout a ministry of over 40 years in the service of the Church of England in Canada combined with strong practical sense "a wonderful humanity that entered spontaneously into the trials, sorrows, and joys of his fellows", to quote the words of Bishop Farthing, spoken 10 years ago at the celebration of the silver jubilee of the Archdeacon's ministry in Trinity Parish.

IN TWO WARS

Archdeacon Almond was always intensely interested in the welfare of military men. He served through the South African War and participated in 27 engagements which brought to him the Queen's Medal with three clasps.

[One of six Canadian chaplains in the South African War. Operations in the Orange Free State, February to May 1900, including actions

[at Poplar Grove (7th March); Dreifontein (10th March); Karee Siding (29th March) and Zand River (10th May). Operations in the Transvaal, west of Pretoria, July to 29th November, 1900. Operations in Orange River Colony, May ~~to~~ 28th November, 1900. Operations in Cape Colony, south of Orange River, 1899-1900. Queen's Medal with three clasps. 6th Duke of Connaught's Royal Canadian Hussars, Montreal.]

Then when the Great War broke out Canon Almond, as he then was, enlisted at the outset, and was appointed chaplain of the 1st Division Royal Canadian Artillery. Promotion and decorations came to him on the field of battle, but while he was proud of them he was prouder still of the title of "Father John" which the troops conferred on him as a tribute to a man who was ready at all times to give spiritual consolation to every man, irrespective of creed.

He received his majority in 1916 and was appointed assistant director of chaplain services in 1917 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, becoming Director of Chaplain Services, Military Forces of Canada in 1917. He was made a Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George while on the battlefield and was also awarded the honor of Commander of the Order of the British Empire while on active service.

OFFERED SERVICES

Archdeacon Almond was ready to place at the disposal of the Canadian Government his wide experience during the present struggle. Only a few days ago he was in consultation with the Department of National Defence, offering his services for the organization of chaplains for active service.

The Archdeacon was apparently in his usual health on Saturday when he officiated at three weddings in Trinity Memorial Church, but yesterday morning when Gerald Almond, his son and a well-known lawyer, went to his father's room, he found that death had come during the night. The announcement was made in the church at the morning service by Rev. R.G. Fiander, curate, who took the service, and gave the sermon along the lines of the address that Archdeacon Almond had prepared and discussed with him the previous day. The announcement caused great emotion among the congregation and widespread regret was expressed.



The Venerable The Archdeacon John M. Almond.

BORN IN GASPE

John MacPherson Almond was born in Shigawake, Bonaventure County, Gaspé, on July 27, 1872 and was educated at Bishop's College, Lennoxville. He was ordained for the ministry in the Church of England in Canada in September 1897, his first charge being as a missionary on the Labrador coast, after which he served for a period in the Quebec Anglican Cathedral. From there he went to the South African War. Returning in 1901 he became rector at Grand 'Mere, where he remained until 1904, when he was appointed rector of Trinity Church on St. Denis street. He carried on his ministry there until the Great War, when as a Canon of the Church he volunteered for overseas service with the Artillery.

On his return after the Armistice Archdeacon Almond found that most of his congregation had moved westward and he then set about the task of putting into practical form the idea that he had formulated while in France of erecting a church and buildings that would be a permanent memorial to the soldiers who had given their lives for the Empire in the war.

The Church of the Good Shepherd on Claremont avenue merged with Trinity and the two congregations, led by Archdeacon Almond, set out to raise \$200,000 for the Trinity Memorial Church to be built between Marlowe and Northcliffe avenues, south of Sherbrooke street. That he was successful in his effort is evident from the splendid building that stands for what the Archdeacon himself described as liberal churchmanship. The cornerstone of the church was laid in September 1923 and the first service held in the parish hall on Thanksgiving Day, 1925. Not only has Trinity Memorial Church one of the largest congregations among the Anglican Churches in Montreal but its other activities are very varied. The Trinity Women's Association, the Young People's Society, the Trinity Players, Boy Scout Troop, Cub Pack and Cadet unit are an indication of the widespread character of the Archdeacon's work.

MANY INTERESTS

But even with that Archdeacon Almond found time to take an active interest in many other spheres of public life. He was the first

President of the Last Post Fund, and was Dominion President at the time of his death, chaplain of St. George Club, of the Canadian Field Artillery, the Military Hospital of the Soldier's Civil Re-establishment, and the Montreal Jail. He was also prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of the 32nd degree and a past officer of Grand Lodge. He was a member of the Corporation of Bishop's College University - which in June 1920 conferred on him the honorary degree of D.C.L.; a member of the Board of Governors of Trafalgar Institute; a member of Islemere Golf and Country Club, and of the United Services Club, and a honorary member of the mess of practically every military unit in the city and of the Amputations Association of Veterans of the Great War.

Mrs. J. M. Almond, whom he married in 1901 at Quebec Cathedral, was in Gaspe when the Archdeacon died, and arrived home this morning. She was formerly Miss Nellie Estelle Beamer. Surviving also are three sons, Lloyd B., mining engineer; Gerald M., advocate; and John G., in government service; four sisters, Mrs. Joseph Hayes and Mrs. H. E. Wright of Shigawake; Miss Winnifrede Almond and Mrs. A. B. Finnie of Montreal; and two brothers, E. Earle and Rev. Eric Almond, who also served overseas in the last war, both of Shigawake.



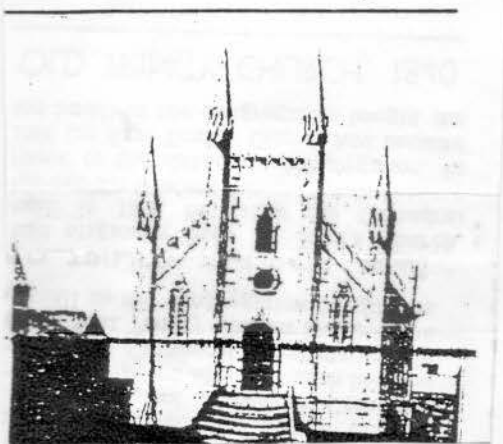
Major (Rev.) John Macpherson Almond, M.A.

THE MONTREAL
CHURCHMAN
OCTOBER 1939

DIOCESE MOURNS VEN.ARCHD. J.M.ALMOND

To many of us in the Diocese of Montreal the name of Trinity Memorial Church has always in our minds evoked the person of the Venerable Archdeacon John MacPherson Almond, M.A., D.C.L., C.B.E., C.M.G., V.D., so long have the fortunes of this leading Montreal parish been associated with the dignitary who passed away a few days ago. His death came as a great shock to the large circle of acquaintances and friends who thought him to be in good health. Just what a wide circle this was a glance at the huge crowds gathered to honor his memory at Trinity Memorial revealed. For two leading parishes the present year has been an eventful one. Christ Church Cathedral parish, the Anglican mother church of the City saw its rector elevated to the bishopric, and now Trinity Memorial has lost a leader who has been with it as rector about a third of a century. The late Archdeacon Almond through his energy and foresight piloted his parish through problems and changes that were the most important of its long life. It is given to few parishes to be so completely uprooted and moved to the opposite side of a metropolitan city as was Trinity Memorial after the Great War, and it was only a galvanic personality such as his that could carry out the project with the success that has attended the Notre Dame de Grace congregation. It has always seemed fitting to us that the old military church of Trinity should in modern times be for so many years under the guidance of a man who probably more than other clergyman in the country had served his King under varied active service conditions.

OLD TRINITY CHURCH, 1840



In 1840 the original Trinity Anglican Church was constructed on St. Paul Street, opposite Bonsecours Market and was built entirely at the expense of Major W.P. Christie, a son of General Christie of the "Royal Americans" a Regiment which later became the "65th Rifles." It was an elegant structure capable of seating 800 people. The first rector was Mark Willoughby who died in 1847 after only four years service. But, he died a real martyr having contracted ship's fever while ministering to hundreds of dying immigrants!! He was truly a servant of the people, not to just his own parishioners but to all the community. "He died doing this," stated the present rector Fr. Campion. He added, "It is to this early example of truly community service that we are returning."



In 1864 the cornerstone of the "Old Trinity" was laid at the northwest corner of Viger Square and St. Denis. It truly was a beautiful church. Bishop Fulford dedicated it on September 17th, 1865 and many generous gifts were recorded. The upper stories of the tower and spire were the gift of Mrs. William Molson. The font, lectern and the pulpit were all donated by army officers in England who had attended Trinity Church while stationed in Montreal. There were stained glass windows given by or commemorating some of Montreal's oldest families: Garth, Moffat, Mackenzie, Brydges and Gault. The building was 173 feet long, 78 feet wide and the spire was 200 feet high! It could seat 1500 when necessary.

SECOND TRINITY CHURCH

THE MONTREAL CHURCHMAN CTD.

And with the enthusiasm of a patriot he had just offered himself to the Government of Canada in any capacity in which they could best use him during the present war. To a great many people what stands out in the passing of this Montreal clergyman is the close sequence of his offer of his services and the last call that came to him. On Saturday, September 16th came the announcement of his proffered services to the War Department in Ottawa and in the following night he died in his sleep. Among the laudable enterprises with which he identified himself was the Last Post Fund, a friend of many an ex-soldier left destitute by the world. He kept his affiliation with veterans still suffering from the effects of war's ravages through his chaplaincy of the St. Anne de Bellevue soldier's hospital and the suitability of this appointment is recognized when we remember that he was senior chaplain in the Canadian Chaplain Forces overseas during the 1914-1918 period.

Born at shigawake, Bonaventure County, Gaspé, July 27, 1872 he began his ministry as a missionary on the Labrador coast and then was appointed to the staff of the Cathedral in Quebec from which post he went to the South African war as chaplain to the 19th Brigade. Following the campaigns there he returned to his Cathedral office in Quebec and soon afterwards became rector of Grand-Mère. A graduate of the University of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Archdeacon Almond never lost his deep interest in the life of his Alma Mater, a fact recognized by the University when it honoured him with a D.C.L. degree.

He was a member of the Council of the University and

other educational institutions on the governing bodies of which he served including Trafalgar Institute. In Free Masonry he reached the high place of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

To Mrs. Almond and other members of his family the Montreal Churchman extends the deepest sympathy in their sorrow.

THE THIRD TRINITY CHURCH



On Thanksgiving Day in 1925 the first service was held in the "new" Trinity Memorial Parish Hall. The old Parish of the Good Shepherd is commemorated by the lovely Good Shepherd Chapel in the present church which was dedicated on May 26th 1926. The present Trinity Memorial Church is built in Tudor Gothic style with simple wall buttresses and with a front and side porch giving access to the interior. It seats 1000 and is constructed without columns thus affording an unobstructed view of the altar and pulpit. The basement contains a large auditorium and stage. The pulpit has a grand fluted sounding board above and behind the preacher. It is one of the few in the city and was obviously designed before microphones became common in large churches.