

CANADIANS DO FULL SHARE IN BATTLES ON THE SOMME

Eye-Witness Tells of Conditions and Incidents in the Great Struggle

A Nova Scotian Hero--Another, Disgraced, Wins Back His Rank.

Ottawa despatch: The following communiqué from the Canadian War Records Office has been received: Canadian Corps Headquarters in France, via London, Oct. 19.—It is impossible for those who are not actively participating in this great battle and who must still entertain a conception of warfare based on former wars to understand the extraordinary revolution which has gradually taken place in our methods of attack. And the Somme offensive is being conducted upon new principles drawn from the study and experience of the last two years. It is at the same time the most colossal and the most meticulous form of warfare which has ever been evolved.

Not only for the skill and courage of the French army, but for the brave, silent industry of the women, the old men and the children of the French farms. The transition from this scene of beauty, peace and ancient prosperity is infinitely distressing. Fields are given over to the trampling rows of tethered horses and are disfigured by a variety of encampments, from ordered white tents to huts of rusted biscuit tins and low discarded bivvies.

WHEN SCENE CHANGES. This area of active occupation gradually thins and abuts a region of more sinister appearance. Here trees have broken bodies, and the houses seem in pain, for their roofs are rent, their windows gone, their walls scarred and pierced, grass-grown trenches appear ringed with depths of rusted wire, mine entanglements and shell holes, fresh or old, become more and more frequent.

ALLIES DOMINATE AIR

In this respect the British and French domination is almost absolute. Here all day long we watch our planes circling above our heads. Closely they come and go with the speed and alertness of engines; far off they seem to hang suspended in the sky. Occasionally a flight of five or more planes intent upon some aerial mission go over high up and disappears into the distant mist. So rarely do the German machines appear that some men have been here daily for a month and have not seen a single one. The Canadian corps is only a unit in the great scheme of things, and depends not upon its own resources, but upon the intricate web of the greater scheme of battle. Let any essential portion be checked in its allotted task and a rearrangement of the whole fabric must be made. Yet the ultimate aim is never lost sight of. The means may be revised again and again, but the same grim intention remains. There is an inexorable purpose apparent in all this complication of movement. To the casual eye there may perhaps seem confusion in the front lines where so many units come along the road, where bare rolling plains and valleys are crisscrossed with the ceaseless restlessness of a multitude and where from innumerable unexpected emplacements there is a constant flash and din of artillery fire. Yet, in reality everything is the most ordered perfection to the smallest degree; every movement is ordained and co-ordinated. Behind it all lies the directing control of the military organization and behind that again the will of a great people.

A REGION OF CONTRASTS

Never has human agency controlled such engines of destruction nor has war ever so profoundly impressed itself upon the face of nature. No plume could be more ruthless, no natural blight more devastating. This is a region of contrast even for the heavy-footed infantry, who must march from one place to another. One day they may bilge in a snug French village with its shady trees and its gardens bright with roses; the next they will plod along the straight white roads marked by the regular rows of poplars on either side. Stretching as far as the eye can follow are the undulating plains, all so carefully cultivated as the best kept kitchen garden at home. Fields are only distinguished by the difference of the crop or the direction of the furrows. There are no fences, there are no waste places, no matted groves, no idle clumps of trees, no half-cleared land. Every inch of earth does its patient, happy labor; every tree grows for a purpose. Cattle do not wander aimlessly; they are pegged in a field of rich fodder and each man only sees its allotted role. This ordered thrift grows medicinal or smoothly self-supporting, unless the farmer's life is known—his long, untiring day, the faithful service of his brave women, the helpful labor of his children. Very deep and very stoic is the admiration of the Canadian soldier,

ROUMANIANS STILL GAIN

Latest Report Shows Teuton Menace Waning. Ally Force Wins at Dangerous Point. London cable says: The news from the Rumanian front is again excellent. In the one region on the long front where the gravest danger menaced the Rumanians, the Predal Pass sector, the Teutons have been driven across the Transylvania frontier. Ground has also been gained in the Bran defile. In the Trotus valley the Rumanians forced the Austro-Germans to retire, and took 600 prisoners and 12 cannon. Another detachment attacking from Goicaca, in the Trotus area, surprised the Teuton troops and took 300 prisoners and some machine guns.

THE STORM'S TOLL

Gulf Hurricane Killed Two, Did Great Damage. Mobile, Ala., despatch: Southern Alabama and western Florida were recovering to-day from the hurricane which swept out of the Gulf across this coast yesterday, causing two deaths and preparatory and marine loss. Although the wind attained a greater velocity than that which accompanied the storm of last July, both Mobile and Pensacola, the chief cities in the Gulf's path, suffered far less damage. The total loss in the two cities probably will not exceed \$100,000. The chief damage here was to railroad sheds and terminals, and to telephone wires. Train service from Pensacola to Jacksonville will be suspended for a week. Marine damage was heavy, both in this harbor and at the Florida port. Two small vessels here sank, while four others were driven ashore. In addition a number of small craft were destroyed. At Pensacola one steamer went down, another is missing, with the fate of the crew undetermined.

Still less—Yes, he thinks I am a regular devil. Cynicus—Oh, few young men are really as bad as the girls try to make them think they are.

LIMBLESS, BUT THEY'RE HAPPY

Picture of Soldiers in a Canadian Hospital. Dr. Roberts Receives an Interesting Letter. An inside picture of the King's Canadian Red Cross Convalescent Hospital, at Bushy Park, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, England, is contained in a letter just received by Hamilton's Health Officer, Dr. James Roberts, who visited the Orient as captain of the medical staff, suffering typhoid at Remnos and being forced to return home. The communication is from H. R. Casgrain, of Windsor, brother of the Hon. T. Casgrain, K. C., Canada's Postmaster-General. He writes: My Dear Bobb,—By a singular coincidence your letter from Quebec and Berto's from France reached me by the same mail. The reception of these from you both simultaneously brought back to my mind numerous pleasant recollections of the many times we met in the flesh since we mobilized in London, 17th February, 1915, and parted company on the now famous, but ill-fated, Lemnos.

I have just received a letter from Dr. McCullough in which he states that he has seen you on several occasions since you returned, and that your health was improving satisfactorily, all of which I am very glad to hear. I am almost well and am most contentedly situated here with a fine command. I have already, patients convalescing from wounds received on the Somme as late as three weeks ago. All amputation cases are first sent to Ramsgate. When their stumps are ready for artificial limbs, they are sent to Ramsgate, and from here they go to the hospital at Tottenham, where they remain with them until they are able to use them properly, when they are sent to Canada for discharge. Patients suffering from disease, as soon as they are well enough are sent to Epworth, where they are shipped into shape for further service. Rheumatic cases are sent to Buxton, where your friend Guest is O. C. All convalescent and active treatment hospitals are full at present. No. 3 Stationary is still in France, at Boulogne, and under canvas. It is still undecided where they will winter, whether somewhere in France or in England.

I have at present 323 patients under my care. Many of them are suffering from all kinds of wounds. Of course shrapnel wounds predominate, but I also have many cases of shell-shock. There are six amputation cases, men with legs off above and below the knee, and three cases where both legs are gone. They have to be wheeled around like babies. I have also cases of armless men, who have to be fed like babies. They are all the happiest bunch one could meet, notwithstanding their afflictions. Their only complaint is that they cannot get back to the firing line. They are possessed of an unconquerable spirit, which no human horror or suffering can break. Were it not for their cheerfulness and optimism I would be more depressed and melancholy at the sight of so much affliction, but it is the fortune of war. What does it matter who dies, or how many are crippled, if only England lives? Who cares what happens if we can effect the ruin and destruction of that plague spot beyond the Rhine, which has risen from God's green earth, the German Empire? Your friend Kelly is still at Tenslow, and Gordon with No. 2 Stationary. Connelly is in the Casualty Clearing Station in France. Brown, Macaulay, and Nettleton are still with the old unit. Captain (Chaplain) Frost is in Canada, where he went to get married. Affairs are progressing at the front with all the Allies, in France especially. Since the big push began in the latter, we have regained 126 square miles of territory, redeemed fifty villages, and captured 70,000 prisoners, besides heaps of guns and millions of rounds of ammunition. The Allies are progressing slowly with their usual tenacity and dogged perseverance, while the Serbians and Rumanians are more than holding their own and beating back the Bulgars and Austrians.

QUAKE AND STORM

The Southern States Were Shaken, Also. Atlanta, Ga., despatch: The south was rocked by an earthquake and swept by a storm at the same time to-day. While a tropical hurricane was flaying the Gulf coast, earth tremors overturned chimneys and frightened many people from their homes in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. The earthquake did little damage, but a mile an hour lifted roofs and sank a number of vessels in the harbor. One life was lost. The earthquake was felt as far north as Louisville, Ky., and east to Augusta, Ga. Its duration was about three minutes and there were two shocks.

LOST 40,000 MEN

Austrian Casualties Since Cadorna's Drive Opened. Rome, Cable—Despite the inclement weather the Italians continue to push their new offensive toward Trieste. It was estimated to-day that the Austrians have lost 50,000 in killed, wounded and captured since the offensive began. The War office reports: "On Monte Pasubia here, our forces, all possessed of the most modern and most powerful armaments. They succeeded in breaking into the enemy's position on the summit of Monte Pasubia, but were promptly driven out after a hand-to-hand struggle. About 100 prisoners were taken, and one gun and a howitzer, and the remainder of the front only by the German lines. On the Carso plateau we took some prisoners and machine guns. Austrian aeroplanes dropped bombs on Borgo Carizza and on our lines east of Carizza without inflicting any damage. Our airmen destroyed an enemy kite balloon east of Carizza."

STILL STRUGGLE IN VOLHYNA

No Decisive Result of the Fighting There. Hun Effort to Separate Allies Fails. London cable: As yet no decisive result has been achieved by either the Austro-Germans or the Russians in the violent fighting that has been going on for several days in Volhynia and Galicia. The Petrograd War Office says that near Kiselin and Striniski, in Volhynia, violent attacks by the Teutonic allies were repulsed, while Berlin records the capture of Russian trenches on the west bank of the Stokhod and the repulse with heavy casualties of Russian attacks near Buhnow. Germany's effort to drive a wedge between Russians and Rumanians by advancing in the Dorna Watra region is not succeeding. It is officially announced to-day that continued attacks against the Russians in that sector were repulsed. A violent snowstorm rages in the Carpathians. RUSSIAN REPORT. Petrograd, Oct. 19.—Thursday's War Office report reads: "North of the village of Kiselin, the Germans liberated gas and attacked our trenches under cover of a fierce artillery fire. The attack was repulsed. In the region east of the little town of Svirinsky fierce fighting continues. Here also all attacks of the enemy were repulsed. "North of the Kupropatka yesterday we took prisoners, one officer and 35 men and captured one bomb mortar. In the region of the village of Potutork, south of Brzeazy, an enemy aeroplane fell after being hit by our fire as it struck the ground. The air was taken prisoner. "In the region of Dobca Watra (near the Rumanian border), stubborn enemy attacks were repulsed. "In the Carpathians a violent snowstorm is in progress."

ALLIES ARE CLOSING IN ON PERONNE

More Gains On the Somme Front by Both British and French. AIDS ROUMANIA. Germans Prevented From Sending Men to Help Falkenhayn's Drive. London cable: Operations on the Somme directed toward the isolation of Peronne simultaneously with a frontal advance on Bapaume, made progress again to-day. Directly across the river from Peronne, where the French last night announced that the German first line had been stormed, there has been, according to this morning's French communiqué, a new advance by General Foch's men. In heavy fighting they have made further progress between La Maisonette and Blaches, on a front of about two miles, more than 250 prisoners were taken by the French.

368,863 MEN

Total Canadian Enlistment—6,000 Per Month Now. Ottawa despatch: Recruiting in Canada is proceeding at the rate of about 6,000 a month, compared with 30,000 a year ago. In the fortnight, ended October 15, 3,160 men were enlisted, compared with 3,046 in the previous two weeks. The aggregate enlistment from the start is 368,863.

Table showing enlistment statistics by province and division. Columns include Province/Division, Two Wks., and G.D.T. Total enlistment from the start is 368,863.

BRITISH REPORT

London cable: The bulletin from British headquarters in France issued Thursday night reads: "Rain fell heavily all morning. We have slightly advanced our line at Butte de Warlencourt. An enemy counter-attack in that neighborhood was stopped by our barrage. "Elsewhere there is nothing to report."

FRENCH REPORTS

Paris cable: Thursday's War Office report reads: "North of the Somme the Germans tried vainly about 5 o'clock in the afternoon to attack our lines east of Sully-Saliffel. Our curtain of Sully-Saliffel, our curtain of Blaches, and our curtain of La Maisonette and Blaches upon them, and inflicted heavy losses upon them. The total number of prisoners taken during yesterday's action exceeds by actual count 250, of whom 10 are officers. Elsewhere on the front the day was calm. The afternoon report reads: "North of the Somme our troops organized during the night the village of Sully-Saliffel and consolidated the captured positions around this place. Some German counter-attacks were broken by our curtain of fire and all our trains were maintained. "South of the Somme we made French progress between La Maisonette and Blaches. "In Lorraine an enemy surprise attack on our trenches near Bures, northeast of Lunéville, was repulsed easily. "Our machines yesterday, during operations south of the Somme, attacked with machine guns enemy troops in the region of Blaches. It is confirmed that Adjutant Dorne brought down on Oct. 15 a German aeroplane to the north of Peronne, this being his fourth. Another enemy aeroplane fell to the ground near Beaucaucourt."

COMMITTED FOR OLD CRIME

Chatham, Ont.—Frank Macdonald of Bala, who was committed for trial in the County Police Court this afternoon on a charge of murder in connection with the drowning of a British Central train near Edgemoor on the night of May 23rd, 1911. Henry Macdonald, of Bala, in all probability be committed on a similar charge. The committal of Macdonald was brought about through evidence by his wife Nora.

WORK OF U-BOATS

Washington, Report—Despatches to the State Department to-day report the sinking of the British steamer Kennet by a submarine and the landing of the body of a Norwegian, also was reported by a German submarine, and was reported disabled south of Dredgen light vessel by her propeller becoming entangled in nets stretched by the Germans to trap submarines. The cowboy had just been served with papers in a breach of promise suit. "Well, I guess here's where I am lassoed," remarked the fellow. You never can tell. The fellow who gives himself away sometimes has to take it all back.

STORM DELAYS LAKE TRAFFIC

Cleveland, Report—A storm that swept Lake Erie Wednesday night and this morning caused considerable delay, and in some cases freighters had trouble getting in and out of their ports. A number of boats were late, and the steamer Republic, due here last night, did not get in until this afternoon. Steamers had to wait outside at some ports. At the head of Lake Superior the wind was blowing a gale from the north, and a number of boats loaded and ready to sail were held in port at Sault Ste. Marie. A package freight steamer is reported ashore at Outer Isles.

THE COWBOY

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