

time to maintain itself. The result was that we were forced back to a new front line of trenches near ZILLEBEKE.

The losses of these two days had been grievous — some 7,000 killed and wounded. General Mercer, had fallen. Just as the Huns were making their advance at half-past one o'clock the General was seen supporting himself against a parapet at the entrance of a dug-out known as the Tube, suffering from shell shock and there beyond doubt he met his death. A brigade commander and a battalion commander were taken prisoners. Two other colonels, Buller and Baker, had been slain.

The Battle of Sanctuary Wood illustrated vividly the whole character of the fighting in the war. It combined the essential features of all, with the exception of poison gas. Brief, compact and murderous, it was by far the greatest artillery ordeal to which the Canadians had yet been subjected. As an exhibition of German frightfulness on the one hand and British steadfastness on the other, it is unsurpassed in the war.

The earth was all torn, seared and fretted hereabouts, but a surprising amount of fine timber still stood. All through those two fierce days' fighting, wounded men were crawling about or lying motionless for hours either helpless or to avoid observation. One man spent two nights on his back in No Man's Land without food, drink or succour. Another was thrice buried by the effects of the much-vaunted minenwerfer shell, which ploughs up the surrounding earth, and thrice dug out by a passing officer. Machine guns were repeatedly buried and then rapidly and diligently excavated and brought again into action, much to the enemy's amazement and discomfiture.

On June 13th. the Canadian troops, chafing over the results of the fierce German offensive of the past ten days, planned and successfully carried through in the early hours of a counter-attack which restored every foot of valuable ground they had lost,—OBSERVATORY RIDGE, the whole of Armagh