

At about noon 'D' company reinforced the firing line, and shortly afterwards 'E' and part of 'B' company also reinforced the remainder of 'B,' 'F' and 'G' companies, becoming supports, with 'H' still in reserve.

Only one Maxim gun could be crossed, and that was soon got into position by Capt. Bell on the rising ground to the left, at a distance of some 1,000 yards, where it did most excellent service during the day, being in a position to keep down the fire of the enemy, who occupied the dongas on our left. A battery of field artillery occupied the hill on our left rear, and shelled the enemy's lines at intervals during the day. The fire discipline of the several companies engaged was excellent, and perfect coolness, as well as accurate shooting, was maintained throughout.

Throughout the day the fire was maintained, at times being comparatively slack, and then severe. The enemy evidently had the ranges marked, as their fire at certain prominent places was so accurate as to render them almost untenable by us. Interruption to our fire was occasioned several times during the day by the cry from beyond the right of our line to 'stop firing on the left,' as men in that part were being hit from the fire from our left. The fire complained of was, I am satisfied, from the dongas occupied by the enemy on our left, and not from our men.

At about 4 p. m., three companies of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, under Lieut.-Col. Allworth came up, and this officer informed me that 'he had been sent to finish this business,' and 'proposed doing so with the bayonets'; he then asked for information respecting our own position and that of the enemy, which I gave him.

One company of the Cornwall's was at once sent into the firing line, followed in half an hour by the other two, this reinforcement being received by a very heavy fire from the whole length of the enemy's front.

At 5 p. m. Lieut.-Col. Allworth notified that a general advance would take place, and about 5.15 p. m. the whole force, with the exception of parts of 'G' and 'H' companies, which I held in reserve, went forward with a rush; the fire of the enemy became intense, and after an advance of about 200 yards effectively stopped our men; and no further progress could be made. The loss to both the corps taking part in the charge was very severe. Lieut.-Col. Allworth was killed.

The position gained was, however, held, and a continuous heavy fire maintained until darkness set in, about 7 p. m., when I gave the order to collect the dead and wounded and withdraw to the bivouac at the drift. The enemy also withdrew from their position at the same time, to the Boer laager, some two miles up the river, leaving a few men in the dongas on our left, who continued 'sniping' our collecting parties until 2 p. m.

Many instances of individual bravery were displayed, as for example, the case of No. 8110, Pte. Kennedy, who led one of the ammunition mules right up to the firing line, where it was instantly killed. The company stretcher-bearers exhibited great pluck, and five of them were among the wounded; three were wounded in conveying Capt. Arnold from the firing line. The stretcher upon which he was being made a special object of attention by the Boer marksmen. In connection with this incident, I must note the courage displayed by Surgeon-Capt. Fiset, who, when the stretcher upon which Capt. Arnold was being brought to the rear was stopped a

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

short distance from the firing line, but the wounding of one of the bearers, went forward and attended to Capt. Arnold, and subsequently assisted a bearer in bringing him to the rear. Capt. Fiset also attended to many others wounded under fire during the day.

Lieut.-Col. Buchan was in charge of the firing line, which he directed and controlled in the coolest and most effective manner, while my acting adjutant, Lieut. Ogilvy, rendered excellent service in carrying my orders about the field. The following N.C. officers and men distinguished themselves during the day, viz.: No. 6559, Sergt. Utton; No. 7117, Pte. Andrews; No. 7040, Pte. Dickson; No. 7043, Pte. Duncafe; No. 7376, Pte. Page; and No. 7306, Pte. Murphy.

The collection of the dead and wounded of both our own battalion and those of the D.C.L.I., was made by parties of the Royal Canadians, and continued all night. The duty was a most onerous one, and too much credit cannot be given to those who were engaged in it. By 7 a. m. of the 19th inst., all the dead of the battalion were buried, besides many of these of the D.C.L.I., and the wounded sent to the rear. I must here place on record the great services rendered by the R. C. chaplain of the battalion, the Rev. Father O'Leary, who was present in the field all day, and towards the end in the firing line, while during the night he was prominent in the search for the wounded, as well as officiating in the burial of the dead.

Several of the officers accompanied these parties up to midnight, while No. 685, Q.-M. Sergt. Reading; No. 7304, Sergt. Ramage; No. 7302, Sergt. Middleton, and No. 7258, Pte. Whingate, were out all night on this day.

Another incident of coolness and pluck was that of No. 7347, Pte. Hornibrook, who at daylight in the morning of the 19th inst. was down in the extreme right of the lines occupied by the enemy the previous day. He was unarmed, and came suddenly upon an armed Boer, looking for a stray horse. With great presence of mind Hornibrook pretended to be armed with a revolver, and called upon imaginary assistance, at the same time demanding the man's surrender. The Boer at once submitted, and on being brought in proved to be one of General Cronje's adjutants, and a most important officer.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) W. D. OTTER, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding Royal Canadian Regiment,
2nd Battalion.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (Montreal, St. Ann's). I am sorry that the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), has gone out for a moment, because, I think, the matter to which my hon. friend from South Simcoe (Mr. Tyrwhitt), referred, was more particularly relevant to the wounded and ill, who have not been heard of for a long time. I had occasion to ask in the Department of Militia and Defence—and I must say that the minister has been very kind under the circumstances—some information about one of the young privates of the first contingent, but for the last three weeks I have been unable to get any information whatever about him. I think it is the duty of the government—and if the minister does not possess the power, I think he should be vested with it—to obtain, as soon as possible, correct information about the Canadians who have