

the famous Sugar trench and Sugar Factory which barred the way to the village. By seven o'clock in the evening the whole of Courcelette was in our hands.

KENORA AND REGINA TRENCHES.

The fighting which took place before the Canadian battalions ultimately captured the famous Regina Trench was of an entirely different kind to that by which they had taken Courcelette. In the latter case they had plucked their objective from the Germans in two sharp, swift engagements. In the former case they had to cut their way forward almost yard by yard, bombing and bayoneting as they went. The trenches came into the Canadian operations first on September 26th, 1916, when the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions made attacks on a frontage of about 3,000 yards.

The attack began at 12.35 p.m. on the 26th, the 14th and 15th Battalions, which took over the position of the 13th Battalion the previous day, advancing on the German positions, in conjunction with other battalions. The attackers did not all reach their objectives, and it was not till the following month that the positions were fully in Canadian hands.

An incident which clouded the fighting of this first attack was the tragedy of the loss of the battalion commander, Lieut.-Colonel Buchanan. The O.C. was in the battalion headquarters, when a German shell landed on the top of the shelter. A gasoline explosion followed the crash of the shell and resulted in the deaths of Lieut.-Colonel Buchanan, Major W. F. Peterman, Captain C. C. Green and eight other ranks, mostly runners and scouts on duty. Thirty-three other men were also wounded, most of them being burned by the flames from the gasoline.

On the night of the 26th Major G. E. McCuaig returned from leave and the following morning took over the command of the battalion. On the 28th the remains of Lieut.-Colonel Buchanan, Major Peterman, Captain Green and Lieut. Sale were buried with full military honours in the cemetery at Albert.