

Weather Forecast:
Warm

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HOME
EDITION

GERMANS FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO AVERT LENS CAPTURE TERRIFIC STRUGGLE RAGING NORTH OF ARRAS 1ST BATTALION SAID TO HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES

CASUALTIES IN FIRST BRIGADE LIKELY HEAVY

Col. Becher and Men Were in
Festubert Fighting.

ONLY TWO OFFICERS HIT

Capt. Willis O'Connor of
Ottawa Slightly Wounded.

WESTERN ONTARIO MEN

Whole of 1st Battalion Re-
cruited Exclusively in
This Province.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, June 18.—That the 1st Canadian Brigade, under command of Gen. Mercer of Toronto, was included in the (British) forces, which recently saw some hard fighting at Festubert, is confirmed by private cables received here. In this fight, according to an official report of Sir John French, a line of German trenches was taken, but the British forces in them had to retire to their original positions.

All From Ontario.
The 1st Brigade is made up of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Battalions, all from Ontario.
The only officers so far known to have been hit were Lieut.-Col. Becher of London killed, and Capt. Willis O'Connor of Ottawa, slightly wounded. Casualty lists will probably come through within the next twenty-four hours, and will be announced in the usual way as soon as the next of kin have been notified.

Casualties Likely Heavy.

The fact that the second in command was killed is taken to indicate that the casualties among the 1st Battalion which was composed of Western Ontario men exclusively, will be heavy. Lieut.-Col. Becher's own men, those who formed the detachment of the 7th Regiment that left here last year with the first contingent, are part of the 1st Battalion, and it is certain that they would make desperate attempts to avenge their commander's death, with the result that heavy casualty lists may be expected in this city.

FIRST BATTALION HARD HIT.

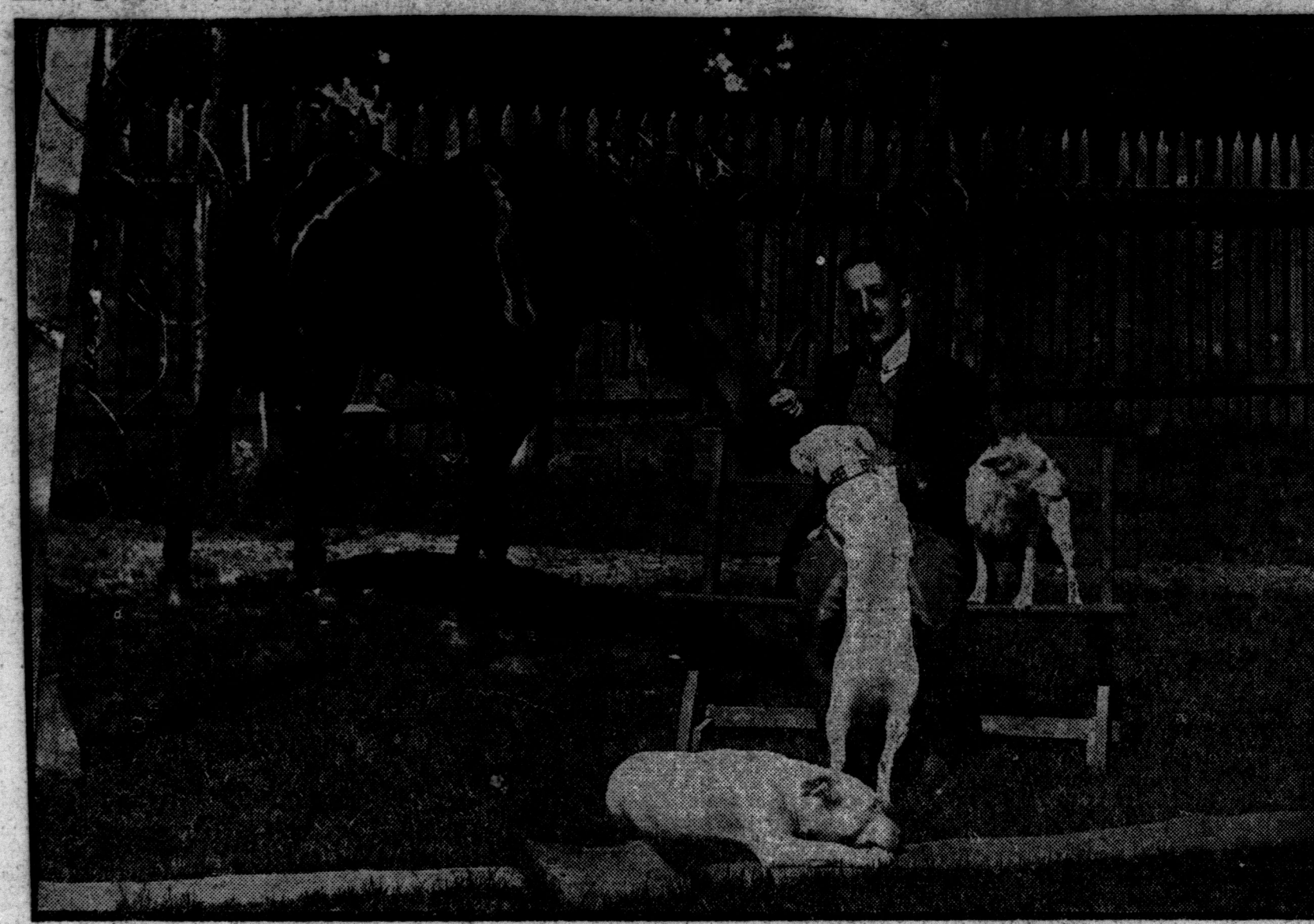
[Canadian Press.]
Ottawa, June 18.—Major-Gen. Hughes is advised today that the Canadian 1st Brigade, consisting of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions, all from Ontario, have been in another heavy engagement with considerable loss. Few details are given, but the fighting is thought to have been near Festubert. The brigade is under Gen. Mercer, and it is understood to have been in this battle that Col. Becher of London was killed. The 1st Battalion, of which he was commander, is said to have had the heaviest casualties. Capt. Willis O'Connor of Ottawa, adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, is reported slightly wounded, but still serving. The list of losses among the officers is expected to come through this afternoon.

CONTRACT INQUIRY OPENS IN OTTAWA

Powell Dealings and Binocular
Case To Be Probed
Early.

[Canadian Press.]
Ottawa, June 18.—The preliminary sitting of the army contract inquiry before Sir Charles Davidson was held this morning, but lasted only a few minutes, when adjournment was taken until next Monday.
The Powell contract for field dressings will be the first taken up. This is the case with which the name of W. F. Garland, M.P., was connected, after that binocular purchases will be probed.
The commissioner announced that counsel for contractors will be allowed to examine witnesses.

Lt.-Col. Becher. Horse He Took to Front and His Canine Pets



This photograph was taken at "Thornwood," the historic Becher home, and shows Campbell Becher surrounded by his animal friends. He was fond of good dogs and horses, and when he left for France, "Rex," his favorite mount, went with him and is still there. The bull terriers are Rex and Kim, and the terrier, Bristles. One of them was always at his heels.

CITY MOURNS FOR CAMPBELL BECHER

Functions Are Cancelled by
Officers and Women's
Canadian Club.

MOTHER BRAVE IN LOSS

Family Touched by Many
Warm Expressions of
Condolence.

SEE ALSO PAGE TEN.

The officers of the 7th Regiment will hold a meeting within a few days to draft a suitable resolution regarding the death of their commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. H. C. Becher, who, while in France on active service, still retained his command of the regiment.
Lieut.-Col. A. M. Smith, formerly commanding officer of the regiment, and now its honorary colonel, paid a tribute to the fallen officer this morning. Col. Becher was one of Col. Smith's dearest friends, and he spoke with a keen sense of the loss the family, the city, and he had sustained.

Joined 7th in 1899.
"It was with the greatest grief that I heard of the death in action of my old friend, Campbell Becher," he stated. "He came into the regiment when I was reorganizing it in 1899 as a lieutenant, and gradually rose to command of the regiment. He was colonel of the regiment at the time he was killed, though seconded by Major Spittal during his absence. The fact that he died in defence of his country will be the only consolation to his mother. Col. Becher was loved by all the officers and men of the regiment, and had always been a hard worker in the interests of the regiment. In private life he was beloved by all his friends. He was an enthusiastic sportsman, and we rode much together. There was no one whose loss I could feel more keenly than his. He was one of my greatest friends, and a delightful companion."

Fought to Death.
The sentiments expressed to The Advertiser by Col. Smith and others all had the same ring of poignant sorrow, yet all felt that as the son of an aristocratic British family, Campbell Becher died as a true British mother would. She even chatted with an Advertiser reporter who called at the house. Her son had died for the great cause. Thousands of other mothers had heard the same news. God had willed that it should be.

Functions Cancelled.
The city mourned sincerely for its lost son. Functions which had been arranged by the officers of the 7th Regiment and Women's Canadian Club were cancelled.

At "Thornwood," the close friends and the relatives of the family were received. Mrs. Becher, mother of Col. Becher, bore the shock bravely. Just as a true British mother would. She even chatted with an Advertiser reporter who called at the house. Her son had died for the great cause. Thousands of other mothers had heard the same news. God had willed that it should be.

KAISER IS SORE

Karlruhe Attack Brings Home His
Crucifixes to Him.

[Canadian Press.]
Amsterdam, Holland, June 18.—Via London.—A message received here today from Frankfurt says that the Grand Duke of Baden, now at the front, has sent the following telegram concerning the recent raid on Karlsruhe by French aeroplanes to the burgomaster of that city:
"Emperor William has telegraphed to me his deep indignation at the wicked attack upon beloved Karlsruhe. The poor innocent victims among civilians have greatly afflicted him."

BULGARIA ASKS FURTHER DETAILS

Premier Visits Entente Min-
isters, Thanking Them for
Offers Made.

[Canadian Press.]
Sofia, Bulgaria, June 18.—Via London.—Bulgaria's reply to the proposals of the entente powers is a request for further enlightenment. Premier Radoslavoff personally visited the entente ministers and thanked them for the offers of their Government. He asked for clearer information on specific points, so that Bulgaria may be able better to judge what would be her position and her relations with her neighbors at the end of the war.

A. S. C. NEAR BETHUNE.—A card received by a friend from Major W. Cotes stated that he and his men were stationed near Bethune and that there was lots of water for the horses and all, with him were well.

Extra! Read All About Paul Revere's Ride on Page 8 of Last Evening's Sneeze Fresh

The Sandman, Who Usually Tries To Operate on the Eyes of the People of London, Is
Now Getting in His "Rebel's" Propaganda on the Innocent Children—
The "Villun" Is Unmasked.

Commissioner Fred Mitchell may be a reader of the Evening Sneeze Fresh. We hope not, and are rather inclined to think better of his judgment. But if by any mischance, someone had placed a lost, strayed or stolen copy on his doorstep, he would have had a prolonged chuckle. For he is the man who was assailed, for having, before the war, purchased a calendar, showing Paul Revere making his famous ride for George Washington on the occasion of the extra innings game the Americans played with the British some 146 years ago. And now the villain is unmasked! For on Page Eight—look it up—The Sandman employed by the Evening Sneeze Fresh to throw sand in the eyes of the children, so that they will grow up to cheer for Mr. Gaults and others, related the full story of Paul's ride for the detection of the good British folk of this city.

WILL WEAR PURPLE RIBBON IN MEMORY OF COL. BECHER



Great sympathy and regret was expressed by members of the Seventh Regiment Chapter, Daughters of the Empire, this morning at the death of Lieut.-Col. Becher. In his honor members of the chapter will wear a knot of purple ribbon for the next six weeks. These will be in readiness for the members on Monday when the Seventh Regiment Chapter meets at the home of Mrs. C. T. Campbell, Queen's avenue. At this meeting Capt. Smith of No. 2 Ambulance Corps will give a talk on what is needed at the hospital.

BELIEVES LONDON CAN BREAK GRIP OF BELL MONOPOLY

President of Independents Says System Could Be Bought
for \$1,000,000 and Rates Lowered.

That London should start a movement for municipally-owned telephones is the contention of A. Delholm, Bleinheim, president of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association, in a talk with an Advertiser reporter this morning at the city hall, where members of the Western Counties Telephone Association are holding their fifth annual meeting. An outlay of \$1,000,000 would be all the money needed for the enterprise, said Mr. Delholm, and after the initial expenditure it would cost the city about \$100,000 yearly to keep up the system. The private users of telephones would have to pay but about \$18 a year, while business phones would come in the neighborhood of \$30 or \$35 yearly.

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Now Getting in His "Rebel's" Propaganda on the Innocent Children—
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With a German Knife.
Mr. Mitchell, no doubt, took out the "Made-in-Germany" knife which the Evening Sneeze Fresh has been giving away to induce people to read the paper, and which one man brought to him, and cut out the story of Paul's ride. When he came to one paragraph he howled. It read:

"SO OUT AGAIN INTO THE NIGHT RODE PAUL TOWARD WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS. IT WAS A LONG, ALONE, RIDE OF FORTY MILES, ALONE, IN THE NIGHT AND SNOW, BUT THE BOY MADE IT AND GAVE THE PAPERS INTO THE GENERAL'S HANDS. PAUL TOLD THE STORY OF HOW HE HAD UNSEATED THE OFFICER."

TO REWARD YOU SUITABLY, BUT TAKE THIS IN MEMORY OF THIS NIGHT, AND HE LAID A GOLD MEDAL IN THE BOY'S HAND."

PRESENTING THE MEDAL.
The Sandman also had a picture in his story showing George Washington presenting the medal to little Paul. He is saying: "I have no way to reward you suitably."

A Hearst Publication.
The Evening Sneeze Fresh is one of on city work. The wages bill amounted to \$1,784.60.

ENEMY PAYING TERRIBLE PRICE FOR ADVANCES

Tens of Thousands Lost in
Two Days Near Dro-
hobycz.

ONE SUCCESS IN 8 DAYS

Incredible Sacrifices Made
Before Capture of Stry
Was Accomplished.

[Canadian Press.]
Petrograd, June 18, via London.—An official review of some recent occurrences along the Austrian battle front, which, among other things, calls attention to the fact that the progress of the Austro-German forces in Galicia was dearly bought, was given out in Petrograd today. It reads:
"The development of the battle along the Tsimenitz-Svika front, along which one of the six armies attacking our forces in Galicia is operating, will serve to give some idea of the magnitude of the actions in this region. The significance of the operations in the vicinity of Stry is found in the fact that they were an endeavor to turn our front opposed to the phalanxes under Gen. Von Mackensen. The eventual success of the enemy in the direction of Stry and Lemberg would have been of great help to the offensive of Gen. Mackensen. Failure, on the other hand, would have meant that Mackensen's operations were merely a series of fruitless frontal attacks."

Only One Reverse.
"The above referred vector on the Dniester River, however, was not the scene of the principal fighting, even with regard to the numbers of troops engaged. On May 15 the enemy, closely following our troops retreating from the Carpathians, met our opposition in the region to the east of Drohobycz, north-west of Stry, and in the vicinity of Belachov. On the 19th the enemy brought all his forces into action, but (Continued on Page Three.)

G. N. W. MESSAGES KEPT 8 MONTHS

Sudden Change Ordered for
Winnipeg and Others
June 10.

COMMENT IS STILL RIFE

Old Rule Was Elaborate and
Very Definite in
Form.

[Canadian Press.]
Toronto, June 18.—Comment is still rife over the remarkable coincidence whereby a change in the routine of the G. N. W. is said to have been responsible for the destruction of telegrams wanted by the commission investigating the Manitoba scandal just a few hours before a subpoena was served for their production.
Rules which have governed the Great Northwestern for years called for the retention of copies of messages for months after dispatch. On June 10 the message was sent to Winnipeg, under the authority of which telegrams ten days old might be destroyed.

Kept Eight Months.
The officials of the company today refused to allow a newspaper man to read their regulations governing the preservation of files, but from inquiries elsewhere it was learned that the G. N. W. has had in force a rule which calls for the preserving of telegrams not for six months, but eight months. This rule which was admittedly in force till June 10, and which is still in force except as regards messages between Toronto and Winnipeg, Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa, reads as follows:

The Old Rule.
"All messages must be filed away in the order, in which they are entered on Form 22, and plainly labelled by days and months. Each month's messages must be retained for a period of eight months after transmission, and then destroyed by fire. No message must be taken from the files without its place being filled by a full copy or by a blank form properly filled up."

This somewhat elaborate and very definite rule is alleged to have been supplanted on the night of June 10, by the following rather vague wire from the head office in Toronto to the local manager at Winnipeg:
"We are inaugurating new system, in connection with which you may now destroy your business with Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Quebec, to May 31st."
(Signed) "GEORGE D. PERRY."

THE CITY'S WORKMEN.—The city engineer submitted a weekly departmental labor return to the board of control today, showing that during the week ended June 15, 254 men were employed on city work. The wages bill amounted to \$1,784.60.

ALLIES ENDEAVOR TO REPEAT VICTORY OF WATERLOO WAR JUST HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Huge Army, Just Eighty Miles From Scene, Hurling Itself
Against Germans in One of Greatest Battles—
Historic Struggle Only Small

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]
Paris, June 18.—Eighty miles from the battlefield of Waterloo, where Napoleon was crushed by an allied army 100 years ago today, another allied army is hurling itself against the Germans before Lens in one of the greatest battles in the present war.

More shells are crashing against the German positions every hour than Napoleon used in cannon balls during the whole of that historic battle. Napoleon's army at Waterloo consisted of 71,947 men, a mere handful compared with the forces at grips around Arras.

FURIOUS BATTLE RAGING FOR CAPTURE OF GERMANS AT BAY

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]
Paris, June 18.—On an eight-mile front around Arras, a furious battle, over wrecked trenches and hillside strewn with corpses, is proceeding.
The French are fighting desperately to surround a large enemy force at bay in a ravine east of Lorette hills. From the hill near Souches, heavy artillery is sweeping the enemy's lines with a semi-circle of terrific shell fire.

Of Great Importance.
All around Souches fighting is going on with the greatest intensity. Tremendous importance is attached to the conflict north of Arras by military officials here. The war office this afternoon announced that no official bulletins regarding the progress of the battle would be made public for twelve hours.

Furious Fighting.
This announcement only increased the tension here. The Germans are counter-attacking with great fury. Bombs, hand grenades and bayonets all are playing their part in the great conflict. The loss of Lens would force a readjustment of the German lines from Arras to the sea, and for this reason the Germans are throwing their forces into the battle with utter disregard for lives.

CELEBRATION QUIET.
[Canadian Press.]
London, June 18.—Less than a year ago preparations were afoot in England to celebrate the centenary of the battle of Waterloo by purchasing the famous field and dedicating it as a perpetual memorial, but the anniversary today with the battlefield in the hands of the Germans, is passed almost unobserved.

Flag For King.
The only recognitions of the centenary were the presentation by the Duke of Wellington to King George, of the Windsor Castle, of a miniature French tricolor, and a celebration at Wellington College, erected by public subscription in honor of the Iron Duke.

Germans Say Allied Force Is Annihilated

[Canadian Press.]
Berlin, June 19.—Via London.—Official announcement was made here today that an allied force which attacked German positions north of LaBasse, northwestern France, was destroyed, only a few succeeding in retreating.

CANADA WILL LOOK AFTER MONTENEGRINS ON WAY TO HOMELAND

The Canadian Militia Department has arranged to forward Montenegrin soldiers, reservists or volunteers to the old country, and the local divisional headquarters has been authorized to accept all Montenegrins who desire to return to the old country to fight. They will be sent on to one of the seaports and dispatched to Europe from there.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—WARM.

Toronto, June 18.—8 a.m.
Forecasts.
Today—Fresh easterly winds and fair; showers and local thunderstorms to night.

Saturday—Westerly winds; warmer and clearing.

Temperatures.
The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours supinated on the night of June 18, 1915.

Stations	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	58	50	Cloudy
Calgary	52	42	Rain
Winnipeg	54	44	Cloudy
Port Arthur	56	46	Cloudy
Parry Sound	64	42	Clear
Toronto	76	46	Cloudy
Ottawa	75	52	Cloudy
Montreal	78	58	Cloudy
Quebec	68	50	Cloudy
Essex Point	55	44	Cloudy

Weather Notes.
The low area which was in the Western States yesterday is now approaching the Great Lakes.
Showers have occurred in Manitoba and the southern parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta, also in the St. Lawrence Valley and Maritime Provinces, while in Ontario the weather has been fine.

WARNING FOILS ATTEMPT MADE TO DITCH TRAIN

Tie Was Placed on G. T. R.
Rails West of
Wyoming.

Grand Trunk Railway officials are conducting an investigation today in an effort to find the guilty party who last night placed a railway tie across the tracks just west of Wyoming, which was struck by a westbound fast freight. During the evening the station agent at Wyoming noticed a couple of strange men hanging around the premises. Later they walked down the track a short distance and seemed to be attempting to place something on the tracks. The agent wired the local headquarters, and when the west freight left here the crew were warned to be on the lookout for the men and obstructions on the tracks.

Travelling at a rapid rate of speed a mile or so west of Wyoming, the engine crew noticed a tie across the tracks, which they struck just as the heavy train was brought to a standstill. The tie was thrown to one side of the tracks and the train proceeded on to Sarina.