

## HOW THE FOURTH BATTALION FOUGHT UNDER HEAVY FIRE

STORY FROM SIR MAX AITKEN THAT WILL BE READ WITH PRIDE THROUGHOUT PROVINCE

### FOURTH BATTALION CAME UNDER WITHERING FIRE---COL. BIRCHALL, CARRYING A LIGHT CANE, RALLIED THE LINE, AND THEN FELL DEAD

Thus Reads a Deathless Despatch, on Valor of the "Fourth Ontarios," Who Took Part in the Desperate Advance at Ypres on April 23—Sir Max Aitken Writes Home as Eyewitness.

By Sir Max Aitken.  
The Canadian Eye-witness.  
London, May 1.—The following communication is from Sir Max Aitken, the Canadian record officer now serving with the Canadian division in France, and its publication is authorized by the War Office.  
The recent fighting in Flanders, in which the Canadians played so glorious a part, cannot, of course, be described with precision of military detail, until the time has made possible the co-ordination of the various facts, and the piecing together in a narrative both lucid and exact of much which, so near the event, is confused and blurred. But it is considered right that the mourning in Canada to-day for husbands, sons or brothers who have given their lives for the Empire should have with as little reserve as military considerations allow the rare and precious consolation which in the agony of bereavement, the record of the valor of their dead must bring, and indeed the mourning in Canada will be very widely spread, for the battle which raged in the neighborhood of Ypres was bloody, even as men appraise battles in this callous and life-engulfing war. But as long as brave deeds retain the power to fire the blood of Anglo-Saxons in those desperate days, will be told by fathers to their sons, for in the military records of Canada this defence will shine as brightly as in the records of the British army the stubborn valor with which Sir James MacDonnell and the Guards beat back from Hougoumont the division of Foy and the army corps of Heille.

**DROVE GUARDS BEFORE THEM**  
The Canadians have wrested the trenches over the bodies of the dead and earned the right to stand side by side with the superb troops who, in the first battle of Ypres, broke, and drove before them the flower of the Prussian Guards. Looked at from any point the performance would be remarkable. It is amazing to soldiers when the genesis and composition of the Canadian division is considered. It contained, no doubt, the sprigging of South African veterans, but it consisted in the main of men who were admirable raw material, but who, at the outbreak of war, were neither disciplined nor trained as men count discipline and training in these days of scientific warfare. It was, it is true, commanded by a distinguished English general. It staff was supplemented, without being replaced by some brilliant British staff officers. But in its higher and regimental commands were to be found lawyers, college professors, business men and real estate agents, ready with cool confidence to do their duty against an organization in which the study of military science is the exclusive pursuit of laborious lives.

**COOL, RESOURCEFUL.**  
With that devotion, with a valor how desperate, with resourcefulness how cool and how brilliant, the amateur soldiers of Canada confronted overwhelming odds, may perhaps be made clear, even by a narrative so incomplete as the present.

The salient of Ypres has become familiar to all students of the campaign in Flanders. Like all salients it was, and was known to be, a source of weakness to the forces holding it, but the reasons which led to its retention are apparent, and need not be explained.

On April 22 the Canadian division held a line of roughly five thousand yards, extending in a north-westerly direction from the Ypres-Poelcapelle railway, to the Ypres-Poelcapelle road, and connecting at its terminus with the French troops. The division consisted of three infantry brigades, in addition to the artillery brigades. Of the infantry brigades the first was in reserve, the second was on the

#### OUR FALLEN HEROES

"Who lives if England die?"  
To idle mood, we read the words,  
And lightly turned away?  
To-day, with streaming eyes,  
Our comrades we renew  
Scathed with the fire blood of our  
sons.  
Our brave, our great, our true,  
Our dead! O, hear them call,  
"Give of your best! Give  
sons of the Empire, and be brave!  
"Who die for England live!"  
—G. K.

right, and the third established contact with the allies at the point indicated above.

#### OPENING OF THE BATTLE.

The day was a peaceful one, warm and sunny and except that the previous day had witnessed a further bombardment of the stricken town of Ypres, everything seemed quiet in front of the Canadian line. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon a plan carefully prepared, was put into execution against our French allies on the left. Asphyxiating gas of great intensity was projected into the trenches, probably by means of force pumps and pipes laid out under the parapets. The fumes aided by a favorable wind floated backwards, poisoning and disabling over an extended area those who fell under their effect. The result was that the French were compelled to give ground for a considerable distance. The glory

which the French army has won in this war would make it impudent to labor on the compelling nature of the poisonous discharges under which the trenches were lost. The French did, as everyone knew they would do, and the Canadian division, officers and men, look forward to many occasions in the future in which they will stand side by side with the brave armies of France.

The immediate consequence of this enforced withdrawal was, of course, extremely grave. The third brigade of the Canadian division was without any left, or in other words, its left flank was in the air. It became imperative necessary greatly to extend the Canadian lines to the left rear. It was not, of course, practicable to move the first brigade from reserve at a moment's notice, and the line, extended from five to nine thousand yards, was not naturally the line that had been held by the allies at five o'clock and a gap still existed on its left.

#### CAPTURE OF THE GUNS.

The new line, of which our recent point of contact with the French formed the apex, ran quite roughly to the south and west. As shown above, it became necessary for Brigadier-General Turner, commanding the third brigade, to throw back his left flank southward to protect his rear. In the course of the confusion which followed upon the readjustment of positions, the enemy, who had advanced rapidly after his initial successes, took four British 4.7 guns in a small wood to the west of the village of St. Julien, two miles in the rear of the original French trenches.

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### CAPT. EWART OSBORNE IS STILL REPORTED MISSING

His Last Letter Home—Much Anxiety Expressed for Popular Officer—Other Casualties are Pte. A. Hamilton and C. Kirby.

Enquiries set on foot to-day reveal the fact that the casualty list, so far as it concerns the 48th Highlanders, continues to mount up. The official list to-day contains the names of many officers of the regiment commanded by Col. J. A. Currie, and Capt. J. E. Osborne and Lieut. Hugh A. Barwick are among the missing. The former officer's father, Mr. J. K. Osborne, who is staying at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, and who is connected with the Massey-Harris firm, got a message from his wife in London in the following words: "Osborne among missing."

#### POPULAR OFFICER.

Only Thursday a reassuring cable came from the other side regarding the captain, and it was hoped that he was safe and well. In any case it is presumed that he has not been injured. He is a popular and clever officer, devoted to his profession, and is very popular with his brother officers and men. He has always taken a great pride in the 48th, and commanded No. 4 double company.

In one of his last letters from the front, Captain Osborne wrote as follows: "The day before yesterday (April 7th) the whole division was moved and we did an eighteen-mile march, which, by the way, was very well handled. We did the whole distance on schedule time, losing very

few men, and the troops arrived in their new billets in good condition. A great deal of the marching here is on cobblestone roads, which are very hard on the feet, and while a few men are lost from exhaustion, it is sore feet which cause the great proportion of the casualties.

**GOOD MARCHING.**  
"I am glad to say that my fellows did the journey very well, indeed. We are now in quite a different part of the country, and some distance behind the line; in fact, practically for the first time in nearly six weeks we are out of range of shell fire. The country is more picturesque, which is, perhaps, more or less accentuated by the fact that spring has set in and the countryside has taken on a more pleasing aspect. Just what they are going to do with us we do not know, but no doubt we will take over a new bit of the line.

**VISIONS OF HOME.**  
"I am fit as a fiddle, but after a few months of this life, I am to be inspected to-morrow by Gen. Alderson. The regimental work here is quite different to what we have been accustomed to—we use the double company system, which is superior to the old formation."

received from her husband was to the effect that he was returning to the trenches after having been in the hospital for some time from ptomaine poisoning, from eating tinned meat.

Pte. R. Anthony was a moulder employed at the Hartley Foundry company plant and resided up to the time he left with the Duferin Rifles first

#### LOCAL CASUALTY LIST INCREASING

Four Names Added To-day, All Wounded—Further Names Expected.

Brantford's casualty list received considerable increase this morning in the addition of four names to the roll of fallen in battle. These names, subjoined are to-day's toll for the battle of Langemarch, and subsequent engagements, in which the fourth battalion, Ontario, took part.

**CASUALTIES TO DATE.**  
Pte. R. Anthony, Scotchman, wife residing 230 Brock, wounded.  
Pte. C. Kirby, Englishman, residing 118 West Mill, wounded.  
Pte. A. Hamilton, Englishman, wounded.  
Pte. Robert MacCartney, 18 Mt. Pleasant street, wounded.  
**PTE. MACCARTNEY**  
Pte. MacCartney, who resided at 18 Mt. Pleasant street, was a candy-maker by trade, and was employed at the Paterson Biscuit Company for a period of five years before his enlistment.  
He served for two years in the Duferin Rifles, and was a keen and

#### Pte. A. Hamilton



Reported Wounded To-day.

efficient militiaman. On the call for recruits, he responded and was one of the first to enlist.

**PTE. R. ANTHONY**  
The name of Pte. R. Anthony, No. 11255, was in the casualty list yesterday, and Mrs. Anthony had official confirmation this morning.  
The last word that she

#### Pte. T. Kirby



Reported Wounded To-day.

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#### Lieut. A. Cockshutt



Lieut. Ashton Cockshutt, eldest son of Mr. W. F. Cockshutt, M.P., and Mrs. Cockshutt, who enlisted the first week of the war with the Tenth Battalion in Calgary. Previously he belonged to the 103rd Calgary Rifles and held the rank of lieutenant nearly a year before the war commenced. He was in the recent action, but no news has been received of his welfare.

#### FRENCH OFFICIAL NOTICE

By Special Wire to the Courier.  
Paris, May 1, 2.45 p.m.—The French War Office this afternoon gave out the following official statement on the progress of hostilities:  
"No change has been reported in the general situation on the front since the giving out of the official communication of last night.  
"Ten more shells fell on Dunkirk during the evening of yesterday (Friday), and there were several victims."

The San Carlo Opera Company has gone bankrupt at Philadelphia with artists unpaid.  
Chicago police can wear wrist watches and wear gossamer uniforms this summer.  
Mrs. J. F. Fisher of Le Grande, Ore., was bitten by a mad coyote, that entered the town.

### LADS FROM ANTIPODES ROUT TURKISH ARMIES AT SARI BAIR FIGHT

Australian and New Zealand Contingents, in the Thick of Desperate Fighting Which Occurred, Acquitted Themselves Nobly, Although the Casualties Were Heavy.

London, May 1.—After very serious fighting, in which the Turks offered a stubborn resistance, British troops have firmly established themselves on the Gallipoli Peninsula and made considerable advance toward the narrow of the Dardanelles, while the French have cleared Cape Kum Hale, on the Asiatic side of the straits of the Turks. Thus it may be said that the second and most serious attempt to force the Dardanelles has been fairly launched.

In an official statement issued last night, the Admiralty gives the first detailed story of the landing of the troops. The Turks made a desperate resistance at several places, but the British troops now hold strongly entrenched positions on the Gallipoli Peninsula as far inland as Krithia, about five miles from the tip.

It is admitted that the landing operations cost the army a heavy toll of lives. It is announced that the casualties in the fleet, which supported the landing parties are small.

#### THE BRITISH STATEMENT

The British War Office last night made public an official communication concerning the operations of the allies against the Dardanelles:  
"The disembarkation of the army in the Dardanelles began before sunrise on April 25. Six different beaches were used, and the operation was covered by the whole fleet.  
"The landing was immediately successful on five beaches, although it entangled enemy in successive lines which were protected by barbed wire entanglements, in some places fifty yards wide, and supported by artillery.  
"On the sixth beach, near Seddul Bahr, the troops could not advance until evening, when a fine attack by the British infantry from the direc-

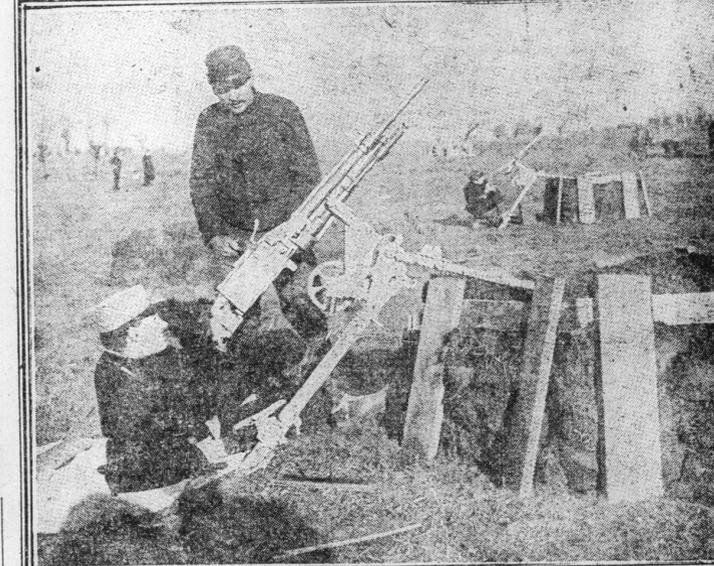
tion of Cape Tekeli relieved the pressure on their front. The arrangements for landing had been concerted in the utmost detail between the fleet and the army.  
"The result of the first day's operations was the establishment of strong British, Australasian and New Zealand forces at three points, namely, the Australian and New Zealand troops on the lower slopes of Sari Bair, to the north of Baba Tepe; of British troops at Cape Tekeli, at Cape Helles and near Morto Bay, and of a French force on the Asiatic shore at Kum Kale, after a gallant attack toward Yeni Shehr.

#### DISSEMBARKING THE ARMY.

"During the afternoon of the 25th strong counter-attacks by the enemy began and hard fighting took place. Meanwhile the disembarkation of the army proceeded, and was continually favored by good weather.  
"At daybreak on the 26th the enemy was still holding the village and position of Seddul Bahr, which was a labyrinth of caves, ruins, trenches, pits and entanglements. Aided by the gun fire of the fleet this position was stormed by the British in frontal attack through undamaged wire entanglements. Seddul Bahr was taken about 2 p.m., four pom-poms being captured. The situation at this end of the peninsula thus was definitely secured and the disembarkation of French and British forces proceeded.  
"On the morning of the 27th, after repulsing a Turkish attack upon their left towards Cape Helles, the allied force advanced and at 8 p.m. was established in an entrenched line running from a point about two miles north of Cape Tekeli to a small plain

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### A MACHINE GUN OF THE ALLIES READY FOR ACTION.



**A FRENCH AIR COOLED MACHINE GUN IN SOUTHERN FLANDERS.**  
Guns for the projection of bullets—that is, mankilling rather than battering pieces—were in use in the tenth century. They were called by fanciful names, such as "murderer" and are frequently mentioned in records of the Anglo-Spanish wars. Some of them had more than one barrel. In modern times the first effective machine gun was that invented by the American, Dr. Gatling, which was used during the last stages of the civil war (1870-71). It was not, however, very effective, as its stream of bullets scattered so much on leaving the grouped barrels. The above illustration shows a French machine gun fitted up so as to repel enemy aircraft. This machine gun is air cooled and not water cooled. The explosion of the charge which propels the bullet also causes a rush of air through a small hole in the side of the barrel which cools the gun, thus making it independent of water.

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