

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1918

CANADIANS AVENGE HUN SINKING OF HOSPITAL SHIP

Graphic Story by Vancouver Soldier, Formerly
of West St. John; Action Known as The
"L. C."; Llandovery Castle

The Daily Province of Vancouver in its issue of Sept. 28 publishes a stirring war article with pictures of Lieut. Geo. Herbert Clark and his brother, Pte. Donald L. Clark, West St. John boys, sons of R. F. Clark, now of Vancouver. Lieutenant Clark is suffering from trench fever and is in the Prince of Wales Hospital in London while his brother is in an American hospital in France recovering from a wound. The article in the Province has to do with the avenging drive of Canadians in Picardy in retaliation for the sinking of hospital ships by the Germans. It is as follows:

One of the most thrilling eye-witness stories that has ever come out of France has just been received from a Vancouver boy telling in vivid detail the story of the glorious Canadian drive in the Picardy salient, in which tanks and cavalry participated with the infantry. The writer is Lieut. George Herbert Clark, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald F. Clark, Sylvia Court.

Writing immediately after this spectacular advance, with all its tragic and stirring details fresh before him, the soldier describes graphically what it meant to go "over the top" low, from points of vantage in the thick of battle, he watched the magnificent advance of the Canadian infantry; how he watched the "hell-for-leather" gallop of a squadron of horse into certain death, to be avenged later by the victorious tanks; how his own machine gun section was wiped out, and a host of other intimate stories of gallantry and heroism.

Specific details are given of brutal Germans killing wounded Canadian soldiers with the butts of their rifles and with the bayonet, and how the fighting men from the Dominion were spurred on to action at the beginning of the offensive by being reminded of the sinking of hospital ships and the bombing of Canadian hospitals and nurses.

Leading up to the period of secret preparation immediately preceding the great offensive, he writes:

"One evening about 11 o'clock we found ourselves allotted to an area in a wood. It was a large wood, but it was crowded with troops and transport. We made ourselves as comfortable as possible under the circumstances and got a few hours' sleep. The Hun planes put about dropping bombs failed to keep us from slumbering so dead tired were the men."

Day Before the Battle.

"The following morning at an early hour the forest was a scene of feverish activity. It was the day before the big 'show'. There were many things to do, to be checked, special equipment to be drawn and issued; reports to be sent in, and a hundred and one other details to be attended to."

"At 9 o'clock that evening we fell in along the road which ran through our camp. The officers and men who were to take part lined up along the turnpike to wish us 'bon chance'. The battalion moved off by companies, each with its pipers and drummers. The latter after marching about three hours fell to one side and played us by. It was the last time some were to hear Scotland Forever."

"The roads to the front were becoming more congested, and we were passing all kinds of transport. Later in the day we were passed by thousands of cavalry troops. Farther over on the skyline were numbers of tanks creeping like huge bugs through the darkness. Everything making its way in the same general direction—the Hun line."

"Finally we halted in a wheat field and were told to lie down. There were batteries all about us, all silent, all waiting for the time. The whole atmosphere seemed charged with restrained energy. It was the 'get set' me. We spread our ground sheets, and despite the excitement and the tense situation preceding the attack, were soon asleep."

"I was awakened by a huge crash. It was 4:20—zero—and the barrage opened like one gun. From then it was a steady roar. A few minutes later we fell in quickly and got into position. We were then about three miles behind the front line, but the first assaulting troops were far nearer than that. On either side of us as far as we could see a line of troops was advancing in columns through the morning mist."

First Hun Prisoners.

"As we approached what had been our front line the first Hun prisoners began to dribble through, escorted by some of our walking wounded. These Huns were of a good type and looked in good condition."

Dead Huns Everywhere.

"About a mile in the rear of our former line we topped a rise and crossed a ridge. The shelling here was quite heavy, and there were some casualties. At the foot of the slope there was a village. This village had been occupied by the German supports, and our artillery had made a good mess of it. Dead Huns were everywhere among the ruins of the buildings. There was a stream running through this village, but our engineers were already constructing a bridge over it. Beyond we passed through fields of standing grain, and crossed a road where a determined stand had been made by some Boche machine-guns. We have to jump it to the Boche machine gun men, for they do most of the fighting for their side, and they are certainly on to their job. However, our boys had cleared up this mist in the most approved fashion, as the dead Huns and broken machine guns attested."

Bunches of prisoners up to seventy-five or more were passing now. They all seemed quite pleased to be prisoners. An odd thing about the Hun is that he invariably thinks you are going to kill him. When he finds out that he is quite safe he is immensely pleased; and becomes quite cocky again. He is the most miserable, cringing specimen you ever saw up to that time."

"The ground we were now on was quite level, and we could see the tanks and cavalry scouring the country away ahead of the infantry. We came to another village which had been used as a brigade headquarters. The first our troops had captured the whole staff there. About a mile farther we came to some German gun positions in a wood. There was every evidence that Puffs had left in a hurry. Beyond the wood we crossed more grain

fields. The crop had been harvested here, and dotted over the ground in various places were rifles sticking in the ground with the butts up. This is the conventional sign that there is a wounded man there awaiting a stretcher party."

"In the centre of one of the fields was a captured Boche machine-gun nest. A cavalry officer told me that he had been up to it and met a Hun officer coming up the steps, who as soon as he saw he was trapped, shouted to German 'The enemy is upon us,' and turned to run below. The cavalry officer shot him with his revolver, and the troop coming up surrounded the strong point and captured it before the Huns had time to fire a shot."

Hostile German Nurses.

"A few miles further on we came to a wood which was held by another battalion in our brigade. We were passing through then and advance another thousand yards. This wood had sheltered a German horse transport line and a Boche hospital. Beside the hospital was a huge design of a Red Cross worked out in red paint on a whitewashed background. The perfect state of this hospital showed that we respect the wounded in hospitals more than our foe. There were four German nurses captured in a dugout near the hospital, but they refused to work, even to look after their own cases."

"As we lay on the edge of the woods getting our breath before continuing our march, we saw a troop of cavalry gallop up a road to charge a machine-gun position. It was a brave but foolhardy attempt. Saddle after saddle was emptied and horse after horse fell. The remnant of the troop came back on the gallop, followed by the 'address' horses and some horseless men. Then a tank rolled up the road and one shot from its gun cleaned up the whole crowd. The tank guns fire grape-shot, and it has the same effect as a huge shotgun."

Shortly after that we shook out in extended order and advanced. The enemy was now holding a trench, and as we came closer we advanced by section rushes, each section being covered by the fire of the others. By the time we rushed the trench the Boche was in full flight. Along the trench were huts which had been occupied by the artillery, and their headquarters were in one of them. Everything was just as they had left it. They were a machine-gun position, a mortar position, a transport wagon loaded with officers' kit boxes, and horses harnessed to it when we arrived. The horses later became frightened at the firing and broke away, running up and down in front of our lines. They were shot down by Boche machine-guns."

"Our boys have acquired a great reputation as souvenir hunters, and certainly kept it up here. The souvenirs from that officers' kit wagon and the huts were whimsy great. Within half an hour everybody was 'smoking' big cigars. I had a box of choice ones myself. I also secured some fine souvenirs which I put in my pack."

Advanced Seven Miles.

"It was then about 6 o'clock in the evening and we had advanced seven miles that day. We consolidated our trench and got settled for the night. At dusk we could see small parties of Huns advancing from a wood a mile in front and coming toward us. They continued to come forward, but nothing happened that night, though we made every preparation for repelling a counter-attack."

The following morning—Tuesday—about eleven o'clock the scouts of the Battalion came tumbling into the trench. The open space between our trench and the wood we had left the afternoon before was being swept with heavy machine-gun fire, and it was dangerous work to get across it. Then the Hun started to shell the wood, which caused heavy casualties to the troops assembling there."

"As we watched the wood a line of khaki-clad figures emerged from the edge and advanced toward us in extended formation, the sun glinting from their bayonets and from the brass portions of the equipment. The machine-gun fire on that open stretch was intense and the shell fire was also very heavy. I could not have believed such courage was possible. They were simply magnificent. Never a man faltered nor hesitated. Time and again I saw a shell drop among a group of these brave men, and when the smoke had cleared away there was no group. Here and there men would seem to stumble before they fell, others just crumpled up and dropped in their tracks. But they just kept on coming and when they reached our trench they paused to wipe the perspiration from their foreheads. Then I would hear a section commander say to his little group: 'Well, I guess we had better be getting along,' and out they would climb and crawl to the hall of lead and shells."

"One lance-corporal who was wounded told the next senior to carry on, and as the boys continued on their way he leaned over the parapet and yelled 'Give 'em hell boys!' until his section passed out of sight in the smoke."

At Grips With Enemy.

"Soon the machine gun fire decreased as our boys reached the Huns. Then the shell fire stopped gradually until only an occasional 5.9 came over. I had been going up and down the trench talking to the men when a little further on I saw a shell burst right in the trench. I threw off my pack and rushed up to find that my machine gun crew had been practically wiped out. They were sustained. My platoon sergeant, who was a few yards from me, went down. I rushed over to his side and held an artery in his leg until a stretcher bearer put a tourniquet on it. He had been hit by an explosive bullet, and was seriously wounded. We kept on and had several more casualties. The shelling here was very bad and we had to lie down for awhile to allow 'C' company to get ahead. Here we could see the tanks ahead nosing out machine gun emplacements and clearing up strong points. We entered the town of C—."

"By this time the companies had got somewhat mixed. We had lost touch with the Battalion on our left so that platoon fifteen and sixteen had to protect our flank."

Just before entering the village one of our lieutenants was hit in two places by machine gun bullets. He fell shouting: 'Come on, 2nd; they're running. His batman stayed with him until eleven o'clock that night, when he was taken to the clearing station. There he died a few hours later. We all regret his loss as he was one of the most popular subalterns we had."

going along the trench I was much surprised to see him with his neck bandaged up sitting by the fire digging into a can of 'bully'. He is with us yet."

"The stretcher bearers worked until they were out of bandages, then the Red Cross wagons came up on the gallop, and in a very short time had the field cleared up. Equipment of all kinds lay scattered over the field. Our fellows were busy collecting souvenirs, most in demand being automatic pistols and binoculars."

Aiding the Wounded.

"We moved on at five o'clock the next morning and marched a few miles to the place where we were to jump off that day. We passed through several villages, the air at times being thick with machine gun bullets. Many casualties were sustained. My platoon sergeant, who was a few yards from me, went down. I rushed over to his side and held an artery in his leg until a stretcher bearer put a tourniquet on it. He had been hit by an explosive bullet, and was seriously wounded. We kept on and had several more casualties. The shelling here was very bad and we had to lie down for awhile to allow 'C' company to get ahead. Here we could see the tanks ahead nosing out machine gun emplacements and clearing up strong points. We entered the town of C—."

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What are Canada's Victory Bonds

CANADA'S Victory Bonds are the solemn promise of the Dominion of Canada to the holders that Canada will repay, at the time stipulated in the bonds, their full face value in money, and will pay interest at the rate stated in the bonds, every six months.

As a financial investment Canada's Victory Bonds are in the first rank of the world's investments because:

- the security of the principal and interest is certain as anything human can be; being nothing less than the entire assets of Canada, the pledged honor of the people of Canada and all the assets of all the people of Canada,
- they are the most "liquid" form of investment; they can be promptly turned into cash at any time,
- they bear interest which, if saved and compounded, at ordinary bank interest rates would double the amount of the original investment in about fourteen years.

They are also free from Dominion taxation, present or future.

FOR the investment of estate funds, trust funds, sinking funds and all other funds which by law or other necessity must be invested in unquestioned securities, Canada's Victory Bonds are the premier investment.

Executors, trustees, municipalities and public service corporations and all others with trust or sinking funds to invest, can render to Canada valuable patriotic service by investing their funds in Canada's Victory Bonds.

AND because of the high rate of interest they bear, coupled with their supreme security, there is every reason to expect that Canada's Victory Bonds 1918 will increase in value, when peace is declared—already in the open market Victory Bonds 1917 are quoted at an increase over the issue price.

BUT Canada's Victory Bonds are much more than merely a sound money investment; they are Canada's renewed pledge to fight the war to a finish, till victory is with the Allies and lasting peace is secured to the world.

Investment in Canada's Victory Bonds is sound business patriotism

Issued by Canada's Victory Loan Committee
in co-operation with the Minister of Finance
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Every one of Canada's Victory Bonds bought by you is a new assurance to every Canadian soldier that Canada stands behind him ready to send him food and munitions, and to care for those he has left in Canada.

Canada's Victory Bonds guarantee that Canada will keep on producing the food, the munitions and machines to bring victory to the Canadian soldiers in France, and that Canada will keep the home fires burning for their loved ones while they are fighting for our freedom.

SO when you buy Canada's Victory Bonds you help Canada finance the war,—you help to maintain the production of food, munitions and supplies which our soldiers must have.

—and the money paid for these products helps to maintain business and industrial conditions by which the productive efficiency of Canada can be kept at high pressure.

Your investment in Canada's Victory Bonds will be a link in the complete chain of helping our soldiers, helping the country, and thereby also helping yourself.

SPORT NEWS OF THE DAY; HOME AND ABROAD

HOCKEY.

The Outlook.

Montreal, Oct. 21.—As the result of the annual meeting of the National Hockey League on Saturday a three-club schedule is assured for this season, and there is every likelihood that four clubs will compete for professional hockey honors.

Owing to the influenza epidemic only three delegates attended the meeting, which adopted the reports from last season and ratified the transfer of the Quebec franchise to Percy Quinn of Toronto.

FOOTBALL.

Old Country Matches.

London, Oct. 21.—(By the Canadian Associated Press)—Football results:

Scottish League—Airdrie 1, Dumbarton 1; Ayr 2, Queens 0; Celtic 0, Rangers 0; Clydebank 3, Falkirk 2; Hibernian 0, Hearts 0; Motherwell 2, Morton 0; Partick 6, Hamilton 3; St. Mirren 1, Clyde 1; Third Lanark 3, Kilmarnock 3.

London Combination—Brentford 4, Millwall 2; Chelsea 4, Arsenal 1; Clapton 1, Fulham 4; Tottenham 2, Palace 0; Westham 4, Queens Park 1.

Midland Section—Birmingham 4, Bradford 0; Bradford City 2, Leicester 0; Grimsby 0, Notts Forest 2; Hudders-

field 4, Coventry 0; Lincoln 1, Leeds 0; Notts County 1, Hull 0; Rotherham 2, Sheffield United 4; Sheffield Wed 2, Barnsley 0.

Lancashire Section—Blackpool 0, Manchester City 4; Burnley 1, Preston 0; Bury 2, Oldham 0; Liverpool 6, Bolton 1; Manchester United 1, Everton 1; Southampton 3, Rochdale 3; Stockport 3, Burslem 0; Stoke 2, Blackburn 0.

TURF.

Sets World Mark in Trot.

A world's record was lowered in the third day of the final week of Grand Circuit racing on the Lakewood track, Atlanta, last week.

Lu Princeton, Cox's best stallion, defeated St. Frisco in the straight heats in the free-for-all trot, and in so doing established the world's mark for the three fastest heats ever trotted in a race, scoring in 2:02, 2:04.8-4, 2:02.1-2. The time lowered the mark made by St. Frisco this year.

From the standpoint of excitement, the feature event of the day was the 2:07 pace, with Belle Ancantara, Edna Early, and John D. Braden as the starters, driven by McMahon, Giers, and Thomas respectively. The closest finishes were recorded in each heat, and a blanket could almost have covered the three horses. Belle Ancantara, just barely tossed out Edna Early in the first two heats, and the latter reversed the count by a fine burst of speed in front of the grand stand in the final heat.

R. A. Sutherland, manager of the Charlotte street branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, has been transferred to the management of the branch at Chatham. He will take over his new duties within the next two weeks. The Charlotte street branch will be temporarily in charge of Mr. Jones of the inspecting staff.

Chatham, Mr. Sutherland will succeed Mr. Lewis.