madian Corps Strikes first Blow for Captur of Passchendaele Ridge.

mugh Mud, Fire and Inferno of Machine Gun Fire Third and Fourth Divisions have an exposed flank." Fight Their Way to Bellevue Spur.

WILLISON, Canadian War

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cantile Mari ims have be mal G. J. Farmar of "Q." The tons throughout the Canadian here are two kinds of "Now It | knoll with machine-gunners and rifle- deep mud, which an all-night drizzle a Told." It is doubtful if one men, and as our men came up to the had turned to little more than slime. , and now it may be told that

who had more consideration

GENERAL ALLIED OPERATION The first of the Canadian operations success—and af- against Passchendæ Ridge was that was Pass- not scheduled for October 26, the same precarious routes. When the actual date, but for an earlier day. It the thunder of guns on a was part of a general Allied opera-Divisions captured tralasian troops. General Currie and until they, too, dwindled out and gave vital object his staff insisted that further time was place to marsh and quagmire. The essential, the adequate artillery sup- difficulties of establishing battery ort was vital to success, and that positions and finding secure foundahere should be no battle until every possible preparation had been made. many cases tanks had to be employ-No one can estimate what that consided. Straining teams and men were ation for the rank and file meant in common sights; and once the battery duced casualties during the bloody days that followed. While Corps Headrenches and quarters was deciding the scheme of ly. Artillery men slept beside their riendly estam- attack and striving to perfect every guns in hovels made of parallel rows detail of organization, the 4th Can- of mudbags with sacking for doors Lens and the Sallau- adian Division, under Maj.-General Sir and tin for roofs. Crazy-looking struc-David Watson, took up its headquar-tures they were, housing varieties of ters in the famous ramparts of Ypres, eager but unwelcome visitors, but and the 3rd Division, commanded by providing some shelter against the maj.-General L. J. Lipsett, found its cold and the rain. Ammunition dumps leadquarters along the canal. Brig- had to be established, casualty clearides went forward to crawl into old ing stations had to be organised, and lugouts in long-abandoned trenches, so forth, with a multitude of details r to take refuge in such sinks as that all to be dovetailed and perfected. Inrty underground warren that mark- terviewed two days before the first the Wieltie crossroads, Ahead of attack, General Currie said: "In two battalion headquarters: while artillery united and batteries and gunners and infantrymen of the rank and mmand file lived with their subalterns and His quiet assurance of success was captains in concrete hovels, in soggy the most striking tribute that a comtrenches and caves on the slopes of mander could pay to his men. These hills, in pits, in dirty trenches. There men justified the confidence. were, indeed, few trials of endurance rooded over that men did not endure, but they and and destruction had haunted recked little of them. Hereabout were Britain had left the flower Canadian graves. Near here gas had the whole salient on a 10-mile front torn the lungs and brought the agony from Houlthoust forest to Gheluvelt, and borne the white man's burden; of death to many brave men on an woke to the neise of thousands of even then, New Zealand and April in 1915. Over the Passchendaele guns. Never before, not even on the puls were snarling back from ridges, Canadian prisoners of war had some Spar. There, a little north of gone to long brutal confinement in len and other historic Canadian Germany. There was a debt to be paid. | hours, French, Imperial, Australian It was in all men's minds that the and Canadian troops waited in their

settlement would be soon, but there was minded to was no thought that the account would ment continued, wiping out enemy be lightly squared. This was grim trenches, demolishing his advanced business, even for Flanders. Bellevue positions, wrecking many of the strong ere on the march. They knew Spur was the chief objective in the points, sweeping his support areas, deal that was in front of them; first Canadian attach. On October 12, and disturbing his communications. min that is inseparable from bat- tralia and New Zealand had failed by one long line of bursting shells. there was grim business to do; over this area. Canada should be The Canadian attack was confined to home; indeed, our troops eventually Defences had been grim and costly, and men in hurried up to the Passchendaelle theirs was the doing of it; but familiar with Philip Gibb's descrip a 3000-yard front, extending roughly pushed on to the southern corner of the news. But their defence—and the a series of attacks against pill-boxes, that dawning looked back over the front. had rested, they were well fed, tion of their experience to appreciate from the Passchendaele-Zonnebeke Deck Wood and obtained command troops showed none of the demoralhis company alone capturing six of terrible land that they had won and GREAT PRAISSE FOR NON-COMad rested, they were well fed, they were well fed, they were well fed, they better what her own troops did. Des- road to Wallemolen. They had as over it, thus neutralizing the enemy ization of the German artillery, but them, with one hundred prisoners and marvelled; for it had been a battle M Byng had gone to his Third cribing the Australasian attack, the their objectives Hillside Farm, Heine machine-gun fire. Everywhere on the fought hard and well—was unavail—ten machine-guns. Later on in the even worse than those of the Somme.

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The fought hard and well—was unavail—ten machine-guns. Later on in the even worse than those of the Somme. was at their head, and with But machine-gun fire never ceased Bellevue Spur, Wolf Copse, and the intonly veteran Canadians of the from the higher ground, from tall higher land to the northwest. Over wals as Brig.-General Radcliffe, craters beyond the reach of our men. our guns sought out the enemy. In arge of operations, and Brig. . . They were stuck in the swamps some parts of our line his reply to at Marsh Bottom . . . and in the bogs our fire was immediate and heavy, mew their quality, but even below Crest Farm. They plunged into but the powerful concentration of our these bogs, fiercely cursing them, shells continued until the German arwhat such men as Radcliffe and struggling to get through them to the tillery was largely demoralized, and meant to her Headquarters in enemy, but the men could do nothing when the moment came for our adfield, or Ironsides to the 4th Cane, with their legs held fast in such vance the marked decrease of enemy birdsion, or those others of the slime, nothing but shout to comrades gun-fire gave unmistakable signs of ar British Army who were to be to drag them out. While they strug- his disorganisation. Then our men here and there in important gled German snipers shot at them "Went Over." On the right of the bus throughout the Canadian with a cool aim, and the machine-gun the Canadian attack, the 10th Brigade adand for Laambeek. But when it endcovered themselves with glory and the German Command sent two bat stained with blood before the day was

the Y.M.C.A. did its customary good
the Canadians were victorious all
work. And many a wounded man in provided a leaven of experience across the shell craters. "Australian fields to the Passchendaele-Zonnebeke dd much to make the Corps the troops on the right made good and road. To the left, the 8th and 9th

cause of the deadly fire ed. preventing all visibil the Australians on the right centre withdrew their line in order DIFFICULTIES WERE TREMEND.

Only those who saw that land can know how vital adequate preparations were to victory. Literally miles of traversed by "duck-walks" to bring ammunition and rations to the forward area. Reliefs had to go by the

centration of artillery. For two trenches while the terific bombardwere marked a fighting machine it was. Even reached the edge of the hummock call- Brigades went forward against Laamal Currie has been subjected to ed Crest Farm. Some of them swarmed beek, Bellevue Spur, Wolf Copse, and mous and infamous attack for up it and fought and killed the gar- the higher land to the northwest. The king the lives of Canadian sold- rison there, but beyond was another infantry went over the top in waist

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On the extreme right flank our line

was pushed forward to Decline Copse the but such tried and excellent masts of branchless trees, from shell all this area, the gridiron barrage of and in the general attack we had taken Hillside Farm, Heine House, and Augustus Wood, and gone beyond our objectives to Deck Wood.

> top of Crest Farm they were under Wallowing ahead with a spirit that close and deadly fire. They would nothing could daunt, they pressed forhave held their ground here if they ward victoriously on the right, win-could have been supported on the left, ning their objectives after sharp fight-

beke road overlooking Passchendaels ed to hold them at all cost. Captur- companies of his unit had launched

COVERED THEMSELVES WITH

On the left there was grim and bit- Rifles from Central Ontario. The in- courage, daring, and ability of Capt. and that will not bear the telling. It ter fighting. Skirting Marsh Bottom itial attack against the spur was O'Kelly." and the waters of the Ravebeek, our checked. A. Company of the 52nd, troops went forward to the slopes of under command of C. P. J. O'Kelly, Bellevue under sweeping machines was called upon to fill the gap between their objectives. The formidable Bel- to upset the whole artillery program- attacking force was swept away un- ing the rear areas, endeavouring to levue Spur was taken—that network me. It was not called back, but the der a heavy withering artillery and cut off supports and disorganize comof wire entanglements, redoubts and companies, without direct support machine-gun fire and routed with pill boxes; that vertiable nest of from the artillery, fought their way losses, leaving no fewer than the wounded went slowly in ambulangenuity could invent to defend what and flank by machine-gun fire, and fantry thrown against Decline Copse, and there helping or being helped by they considered a vital point in the took the spur by storm. Capt. O'Kel- and our positions on the ridge domin- German prisoners; while at the advan-Flanders defence. The Bellevue pos- ly, who had already won the M.C., was ating Passchendaele village, were re- ced dressing stations, doctors and oritions were held by the 11th Bavarian awarded the V.C. for "most conspicu- pulsed with severe losses. They came derlies were attending to friend and

this gallant officer, his company re-

GERMAN COUNTER ATTACKS. but, the New Zealanders were having into and which carried them to the dominating a terrible time in Marsh Bottom and which carried them to the dominating They believed their positions to be skill and determination. After the effectively broke down the offensive.

the Passchendaele-Zonne- impregnable. They had been order- original attack had failed, and two During the night the Germans again ed well pleased to be out of the battern of the battern or the battern village itself. It was stern business, ed documents, and the information a new attack, Captain O'Kelly advan- levue Spur and Laambeek, but only to hold Bellevue at all costs, that hrew attacking forces against Bel- They said they had been ordered t rendered more stern by the concentaken from prisoners, also proved lattration of hostile machine-gun fire er that they had known beforehand yards, under heavy fire without any with the Canadians successful all aand that, forewarned of the Canadians the attack was everywhere pressed up from Lens to take the position. itions on the crest of the hill by storm was done. But the twenty-four hours 111th Bavarian Division, had been afternoon, under the leadership of The very ground under their feet had menaced them. The yawning shell- great and quiet satisfaction that the pelled a strong counter-attack, taking holes everywhere--filled with water more prisoners. Subsequently, dur- that concealed their depth-were the of the machinery had held true, that The 52nd Battalion of the 3rd Divis- ing the night the company captured ceach traps for the wounded and the ion, New Ontario troops, had been sel- a hostile raiding party, consisting of crippled who might slip into them successfully. Every arm of the Serected to win the spur. On their right one officer, ten men, and a machine- with no comrade near to help. Inwas the 43rd Battalion, Manitoba, and gun. The whole of these achievements deed, there are stories of that dreadon their left the 4th Canadian Mounted were chiefly due to the magnificent ful day that are better not imagined adian Red Cross and the Chaplain

was a battle against enemy anl elements, and not only the forward zone, but also the roads that ran from The first of the counter attacks, Ypres to St. Jean and Potijze, Wieltje, gun fire. For fourteen hours there was the 43rd and C. M. R., B. Company which A Company repelled, came at Bridge House and Frest House, and forward stations and special stalls, So hard and bitter fighting for the spur following in support. Officers and men four o'clock in the afternoon, when so forward, were torn with shells and the Y.M.C.A. did its customary good ed, the Canadians were victorious all won imperishable renown for the reg- talions against the tired but victor- old. For after the first attacks had transfer to the hospitals blessed these along the line and in possession of all iment. To call back the barrage was lous Canadians on Belleuve Spur. The gone forward the enemy began shellmachine-guns, fortified by all the deforward over a thousand yards of des-fensive contrivances that German in-perate fighting territory, swept front quarters of an hour later, enemy in-

but the New Zealanders were having ing, and scoring signal successes but the New Zealanders were having ing, and scoring signal successes 22nd Bavarian Infantry Regiments. led his companies with a more vigorous reception, that whole were well built men of the physical successes and all seems. sique of "shock troops" and all seem-

At Corps headquarters there was a day had gone so well, that the links vice had distinguished itself, and many Services, both of which had co-operrelieving the suffering and wounded men and had provided hot coffee, biscuits, cigarettes and other comforts at battle had only begun. The Canadian Corps had carried out successfully the first phase of the operations that on November 6th, at Passchendaele Ridge, was to be crowned with complete success.



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