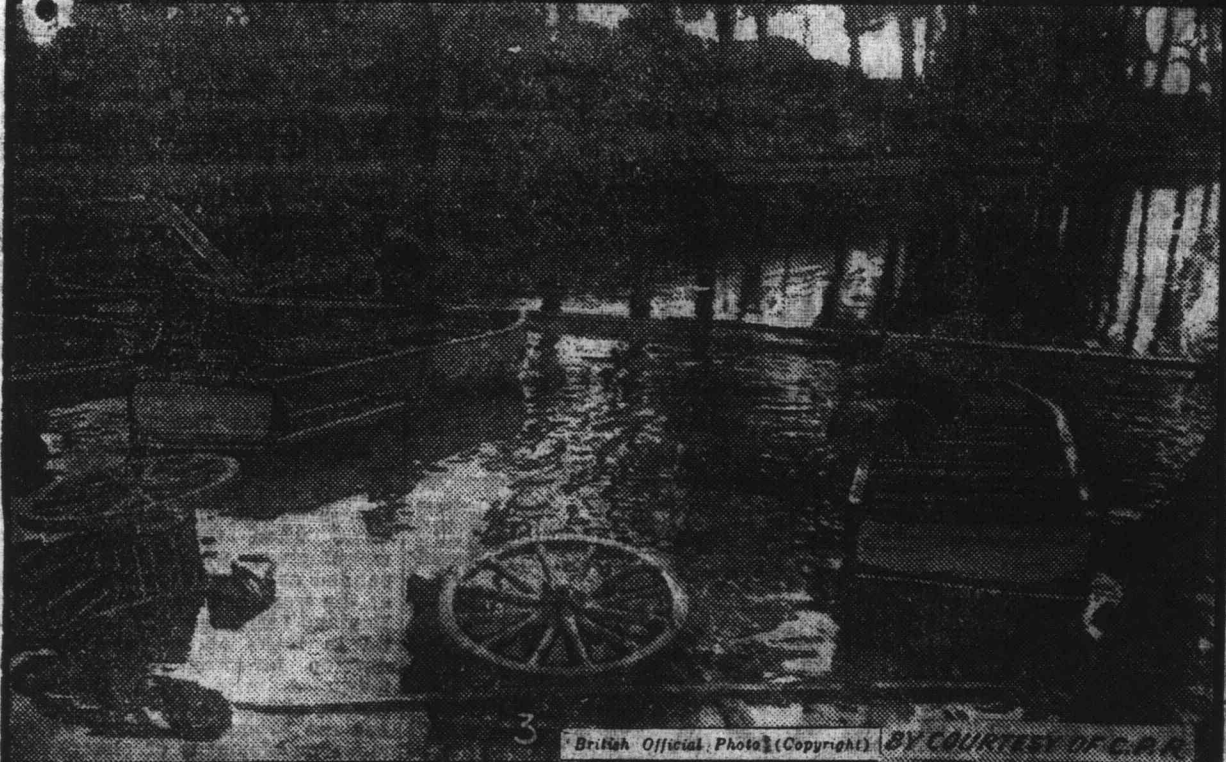


# THE GERMANS IN RETREAT—THE PRINCE SMILES



(1) One of the many mines in the Denain area destroyed by Germans.

(2) A bridge blown up by Germans during their retreat from the Cambrai front.

(3) Canadian engineers busy putting a bridge across a canal under fire near Cambrai.

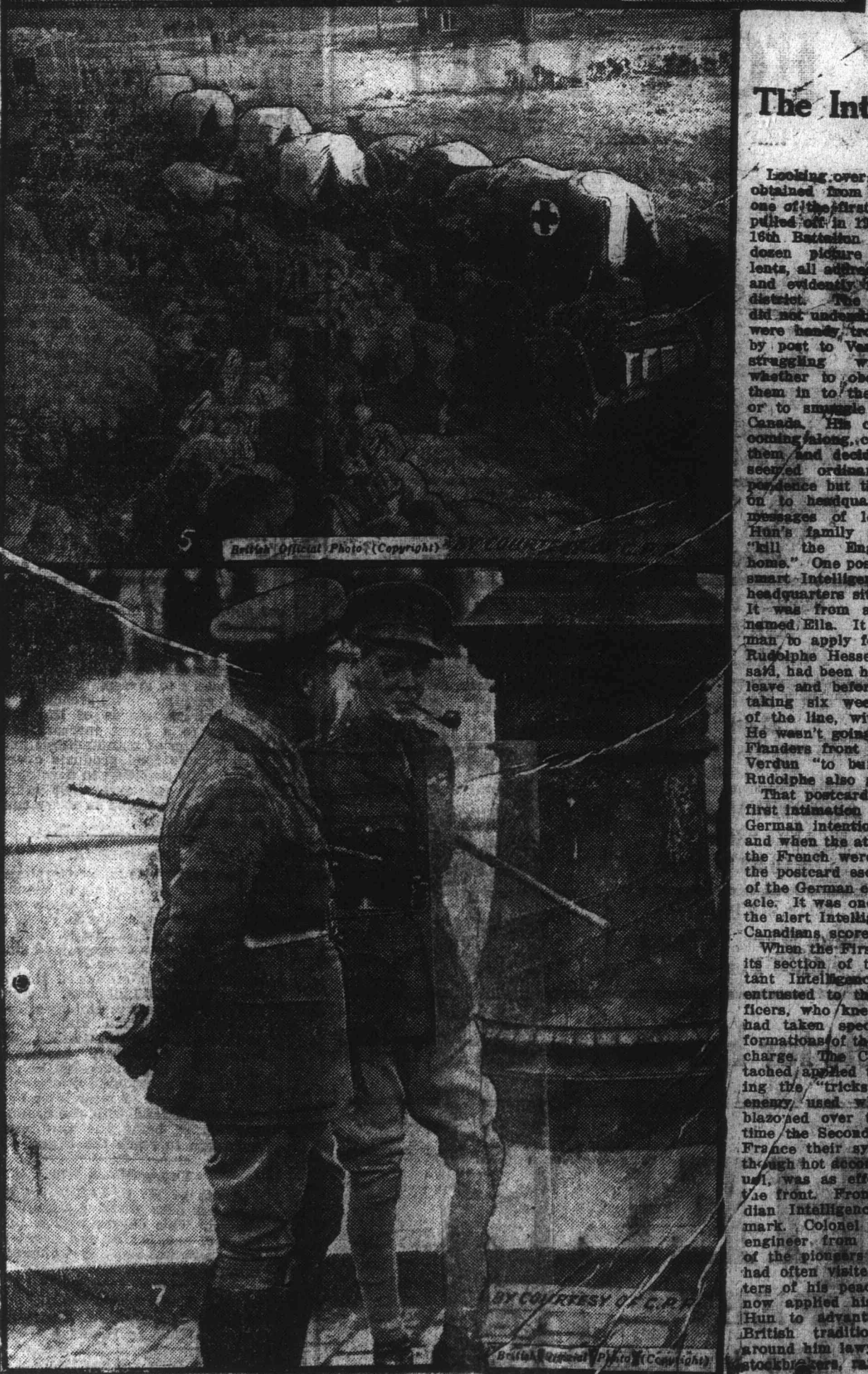
(4) British Cambrai advance—transports crossing the Canal du Nord.

(5) Cavalry ready to break through—they have their own horse ambulances with them.

(6) Germans bomb a Canadian hospital—smashed windows but no casualties—Canadian sisters cleaning up one of the wards.

(7) A snapshot of the Prince of Wales in Lille, while having a quiet look around the town.

(8) Tournai, a city on the Western Front.



## The Intelligence Branch of The Canadian Army

Looking over the shoulder he had obtained from a German on one of the first raids the Canadians pulled off in 1915, a fragment of the 16th Battalion came across half a picture postcard of Cologne, all addressed to the same person and evidently from friends in that district. The Canadian Sergeant did not understand German but they were happy to send home by post to Vancouver and he was struggling with his conscience whether to obey orders and hand them in to the intelligence officer or to smuggle them in letters to Canada. The company officer, too, coming along, caught him looking at them and decided the point. They secured ordinary personal correspondence but the officer sent them on to headquarters. There were messages of love from the dead Hun's family and instructions to "kill the English and hurry up home." One postcard alone made the intelligence officer at Corps headquarters sit up and take notice. It was from a feminine admirer named Ella. It asked the man to apply for a job in the unit. Rudolph Hesse was in Hesse, it said, had been home for three weeks' leave and before that he had been taking six weeks' instruction, out of the line, with "Hammenerwerter." He wasn't going back to the muddy Flanders front but was leaving for Verdun "to burn up the French." Rudolph also got more pay.

That postcard was practically the first indication the Allies got of the German intention to use liquid fire and when the attack came at Verdun the French were ready for it. How the postcard escaped the eagle eyes of the German censorship was a miracle. It was one of the first "beasts" the alert intelligence officers of the Canadians scored.

When the First Division took over its section of trenches, the important intelligence branch was not entrusted to them. Imperial officers, who knew German and who had taken special courses on the formation of the Hun army, were in charge. The Canadian officers attached applied themselves to learning the "tricks of the trade" the enemy used which were not explained over text books. By the time the Second Division arrived in France their system of intelligence though not according to British manuals, was as effective as any along the front. From then on the Canadian intelligence section made its mark. Colonel Charles Mitchell, an engineer from Winnipeg, was one of the pioneers in the branch. He had often visited Germany on matters of his peaceful profession and now applied his knowledge of the Hun to advantage. He upset all British traditions by gathering around him lawyers, newspapermen, stockbrokers, railway surveyors and

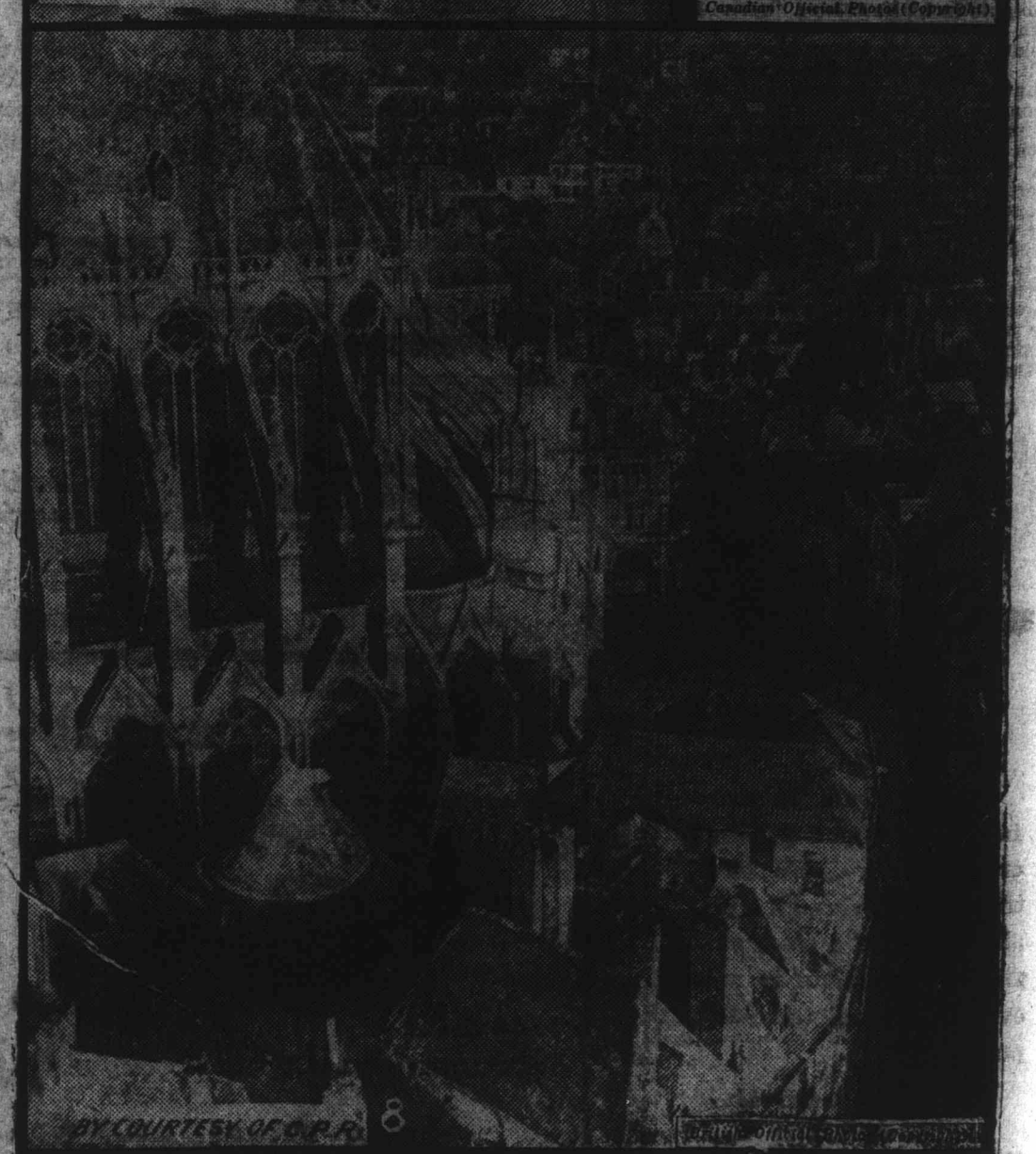
even prospectors from the North. In a military way they might be classed as a motley crowd but their deductive aggregate was something over the hundred mark.

Colonel Mitchell went from the Corps to a British army and then, promoted again, to British General Headquarters. He was used as a sort of travelling military Sherlock Holmes working on various fronts in France, Italy and Palestine. He is now an Imperial Brigadier General of Intelligence.

Another success in intelligence was Colonel J. Lamb, a mild mannered, easy spoken officer who might have been a schoolmaster, but with a brain that could think three different ways at the same time. Then came Colonel Roland Parsons, a lawyer from Winnipeg, who for a considerable time headed Corps intelligence and worked his department through many famous battles. He had been a "pupil" of Mitchell's and if anything improved the service. Parsons went to England where he was in command of an Imperial intelligence school for some months and later returned to the Corps where he is now First General Staff officer with a Division.

For the last year the man who has made his mark at the head of this branch at the Corps is Major MacAvittie, of New Brunswick. He served through from the intelligence section of a battalion and became a General Staff Officer at the Corps. From the Battle of Passchendaele down to the capture of Valenciennes and Mons he has proved the equal of any that preceded him. With Major Vernon who has been on the intelligence staff ever since the First Division went across, and a Captain from the West with a very Teutonic name, the Canadian Corps has a team that is hard to beat. The captain is almost a German, if such a description can be given to any man as a compliment. He speaks all Hun dialects and has such an intimate knowledge of German towns that many a prisoner under examination has been surprised and divulged important information. He also had an unusual knowledge of German army organization which proved to be the undoing of more than one arrogant German officer prisoner he interrogated.

The Canadian Corps intelligence has a proud record and in that secret dossier that was circulated among British Army Commands there were often long quotations from the reports these officers gathered together from Hun sources. They got to know the temperament of the German commanders like a book and they always gauged the character of the troops opposed to them. Of the few men at the front whom I heard predict that the German machine would fail to piece these Canadian intelligence officers were one group



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