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The London Advertiser Company,  
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LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 2.

## EASTER.

IF Christmas is children's day Easter is the feast of adolescence. Herald angels are not singing over cradles and nurseries, but the sun dances tomorrow and Love sets his foot upon the skull of Death.

Young men and maidens wear bright clothes and walk together to or from the kirk in a gaily company. The fullness of new life swells through man and nature, as robins brave the yet raw wind, worms and snakes stretch themselves in their holes, frogs turn their throats and croak peer, while harder flames flow out on Easter bonnets and the world is at the prime.

Christmas is a domestic occasion, the festival of home. Easter is out of doors, let the north wind blow its worst. From the prison of the tomb the Savior of men into the air of earth and heaven. Once more he considered the beauty of the lily that took not spines, the combative, impudent parrot which God's hand feeds, and the lambs whose innocence and purity make them His symbol and whose blood is shed with His own. So the spring came lightly up expansive. The intensity of Christmas has a converse in the extensiveness of the Easter feeling. Life of sense and soul at the small end of the year is an involution in the term, which at Easter-tide evolves to the wide visions of adolescence and ascends towards infinity. From the broken shell the bird flies up. It is a spacious time of enfranchisement, miracle and joy.

## A HOPELESS TASK.

THE hopelessness of Germany's attempt to establish a blockade of the British Isles, is made clear by the shipping returns, which have just been issued by the British Board of Trade.

At the rate of one ship a day, which has been the submarine record since the "paper" blockade was declared, it would take something more than a century to reduce the British merchant marine to the point where the pinch would be felt by the people of England.

The figures issued by the Board of Trade show the total registration of the United Kingdom to be 21,057 vessels with a gross tonnage of 20,009,530. And the war, with its menace to shipping, has had no deterrent effect, as during 1914 over 400,000 tons was added to the registration. At the present rate of going in the race between the submarine destruction and the former will be easily outdistanced. Perhaps it is the realization of this hopelessness of the task that has caused the savagery of the submarine commander who sank the *Paluba*.

## THE VETERANS' LOSSES.

CASUALTY lists are becoming terribly monotonous in this country, but the full shock of hundreds daily slain has not come home to us as yet.

Those in the Old Land. And even in Britain, little as to the losses to individual regiments was known in the Old Country until the London Daily Citizen collected the significant figures. The Citizen tells the story of the partial destruction of the famous old regiments as follows:

Chiefly, no doubt, owing to the duty of gunners to sacrifice themselves in rearward actions, as in the retreat from Mons, but partly owing to the severe struggle to hold the advanced salient at Ypres in early November, the Royal Field Artillery have lost most heavily of all—namely, 234 officers and 2,772 men, officially announced up to last Thursday week. Among the cavalry, the 9th Lancers lost most men, 1,015 officers and 239 men up to the same date, probably also owing to the severe struggle to hold the advanced salient at Ypres in early November. The 13th Hussars came second among all the infantry with a roll of 112 officers and 2,138 men; while the Rifle Brigade has lost 69 officers and 1,263 men.

Of Highland regiments, the Gordons have lost 80 officers and 1,893 men; the "Cammerons" 59 officers and 1,350 men; the Black Watch 75 officers and 1,228 men. Of English line regiments, the Worcesters have suffered most heavily, losing 1,241 men. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers lost 1,241 men. The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) coming next with 84 officers and 1,589 men, closely followed by the Bedfordshire, Northants and Dorsets. The Royal Irish have lost 56 officers and 1,291 men. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers lost 1,241 men. The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) coming next with 84 officers and 1,589 men, closely followed by the Bedfordshire, Northants and Dorsets.

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## OUR POETS OF WESTERN ONTARIO

## In Twig-Land

Each softly curled leaf is a dream laid at rest

That was born in the magic of spring;

The tenderest dream of a wee, little twig

That wanted to burst forth and sing.

So close on the hillside in brown baby sleep

The weary leaves rock in the breeze,

Or drone to each other in dreamy delight

Of the happy days spent in the trees.

And each little twig looks down with a sigh,

And longs for the coming of spring.

While they weep for the leaves that have gone from their hearts,

Fond hopes make them silently sing!

AMY E. CAMPBELL.

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

HAVING captured Przemyśl, the Russians have swept on to the invasion of Hungary, and at several points are already reported close to the summit of the Carpathians. The fighting has been of the fiercest during the past week.

IN THE CARPATHIANS, as the Austrians are determined to prevent the Russians getting control of the passes which would open the way to the heart of their country. Petrograd reports taking many prisoners and guns. In Bukovina the Austrians are making a much better showing, and at one point have raided the Russian province of Bessarabia for a score of miles.

IN Poland, because of the weather which has made the roads impassable, there has been a lull in the fighting. Desultory engagements along the Niemen River and an occasional big gun duel at the Russian frontiers have been taken place. For some time now we have heard nothing of Von Hindenburg's drive at Warsaw. According to reports from the Caucasus the Turks have been driven from Russian territory.

IN the western zone of the war the week has been very quiet so far as any big engagement is concerned, but in the mountains of Alsace the French have been ceaselessly active. The Germans being pushed slowly backward.

A QUIET WEEK IN THE BELGIAN WESTERN FIELD, coast the Germans have been occasionally bombarding the British and Belgium positions, but without any notable results.

On Thursday British airmen made a raid on the German submarines based at Zeebrugge, on the Belgian coast, and it is believed destroyed two of them.

## Tales From Fighting Lines

[From London Leader.]

Pte. George Bruce, Lower Mill street, Blairgowrie, 1st Cameron Highlanders, has been twice wounded in the war, and has been home for a few days recuperating. In an interview he stated that the night of December 21, 22 would long be remembered by the Camerons. Marching in the darkness towards a position thought to be held by the enemy, the Camerons found themselves in proximity to the German trenches, occupied by a strong force of the enemy. Before they could retire eight or nine German machine guns and hundreds of rifles were blazing at them, inflicting severe loss on the Highlanders, who after retiring a little dug themselves in head coverings. Three times did the gallant Camerons attempt to dislodge the greatly superior force of Germans, and it was on one of those occasions that Pte. Stewart Murray (a son of the Duke of Atholl) gave his last order, "Take the trenches, Highlanders!" Lord James was reported missing after that terrible fight and is now understood to be a prisoner of war.

## BRITISH HEROISM.

One of the most thrilling stories of the war is told by a British officer who took part in a desperate battle in October, when 2,000 Britishers held the village of Gheluvelt, on the road to Ypres, against 24,000 Germans. Hastily constructed trenches in front of the village were manned by thinned battalions of the Scots Guards, the South Wales Borderers, and the Welsh and Queen's Regiments.

There had been no time to perfect these poor defenses against the artillery and rifle fire of the enemy, but the position had to be held at all costs, for once the line was broken there was nothing to stop the Hun's march on Calais. Reinforcements had been promised; the Worcesters were on their way, but even then the odds would be nine to one.

From long before dawn the battle raged. The German artillery searched the British trench from end to end, and shelled the Chateau de Gheluvelt, where the battalion commanders were quartered, causing their hasty removal to a dug-out in the chateau grounds. Men fell not by ones and twos, but by dozens and half-dozen, but those who survived were as steady as if on parade. There was no random firing. The officers, careless as usual of their own safety, ceaselessly patrolled the position from end to end, cheering and encouraging their men. Many fell, and those who could scramble to their feet again, making light of their injuries, but many had fallen for the Black Watch.

## The Heart of England

[Edward S. Van Zile, in Westminster Gazette.]

Who said the heart of England was not the heart of old? Who told us that it beat today for only games and gold? That petty men who buy and sell, and only bargains make, Had slain the soul that gave its strength to Wellington and Drake?

Who mourned for Britain's glory as a splendor that has passed? Who wailed that England's mighty arm was weakening at last? That her dream of glory faded just when Freedom called for men, That the hand that smote the Corsica could never smite again?

Who said the heart of England was not the heart of old, That the prowess of her heroes is a tale that has been told? Who sighed for vanquished valor and a might that is no more, Who told the world Britannia was dying at the core?

O ye who sang your sullen songs, or spake sharp words of blame, The heroes of the Marne and Alsace are bringing ye to shame; For the oaken heart of England beats as strong and high today As when it won at Waterloo—and made a tyrant pay.

came through such hard fighting, and they were so badly cut up that only about 100 were left out of 1,000 men when their hardest fighting was over. Only one or two officers were left to tell the tale, while Piper McLeod was one of three of the pipe band of eighteen who were left.

## ODDS TWENTY TO ONE.

The shelling redoubled in fury, and then came the second attack. The full line held the centre of the trench. The Welsh Regiment, the 1st and 2nd, were ordered forward. Hundreds fell as they advanced, but where one fell two filled his place. Right up to the trench they came, right up and in.

No quarter was given to the British. Savagely the Prussians stabbed about them. Bayonets were thrust into dead and living, and many an English soldier, but wounded by a Prussian bullet, was murdered by a Prussian bayonet.

On the left the Scots Guards still held their lines, and on the right the

queen's were at bay, and before the enemy could advance they had first to eat with these gallant remnants of the German host, and the Worcesters had arrived.

The Englishmen were only three companies strong, but these scarce 500 men charged right through the shot-swept streets of Gheluvelt, right up to the lost trenches, almost into the heart of the German host, and the Germans turned and fled—fled when the odds at this moment were more than 20 to 1 in their favor, and, feeling, lost forever their chance of breaking through to Calais. Had they withstood that desperate charge, had they in turn borne down upon the Englishmen, sheer weight of numbers would have carried them through to the Calais road. But they fell back—back behind their original position, and were never again to break the British line.

Of the 500 Worcesters who went to the charge, but 200 unwounded men answered to the roll when the field was won, and of the 2,400 British soldiers, half and whole when morning broke, but 800 lived to tell of that great fight.

## Stories from the Great War

(Montreal Star.)

## Fight for a Machine Gun.

From letters which have been received, it appears that Sergt. William Ledsham, B Company (Wrexham), 4th R.W.F., has been recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal in recognition of his bravery in action.

The story is told in a letter sent home of his brother, Pte. A. Ledsham, of the 4th R.W.F. The letter states: "Bill Ledsham is very lucky to have come out of such a battle, for he has been simply murdered. He is quite cheerful, but a little dead. He told me how he thought it happened. He said that after he had bandaged a wounded German, he was coming away, when he threw a bomb and it exploded. It caught him in the back, exploded, and ripped his arm open. I had to leave him to make some tea for the officers. Later on, Capt. T. O. Bury came in and started to tell us of his experiences. He said that Sergt. Ledsham had been the hero of the day, and that it was a shame that such a fellow should get hit after doing such good work. He told us all the details of the fight. After they had got up to the trenches, the Germans started a very strong attack, and our men had to leave the trenches and fight in the open. Sergt. Ledsham was sent to the extreme right. The Germans kept on popping at them, and our machine gun fellows had to run. They put it out of action before leaving it, but the Germans had it. But only for a short time. . . . Bill was on the right with a corporal and six men, and he said, 'Lads, let's try and get it back.' So the eight of them went and drove the Germans out and took the trench by themselves. The Germans left the Maxim gun behind. Bill went up, put the gun in action again, and started to fire for all he was worth."

that several men were there. Then I saw two men and they spotted me, so I beat a hasty retreat. They fired twice, but either very wide or low as I did not hear the bullets."

This is believed to be the only occasion on which the Russian "V.C." has been given to an Englishman serving as an officer in the Russian army.

Sang Songs When Enemy Charged. Wonderful praise of the British officer and his contempt for danger is given in a letter from the 1st Royal Fusiliers, who has been in the thick of the fighting for four months.

"We are under fire our major is as happy as a sand-boy. He rubs his hands together and smiles and cheers us on with all sorts of expressions. During our first attack he actually sat on the back of the trench, fully exposed, and sang songs whilst the Germans came up, every one and then encouraging us with such remarks as 'Keep cool, men, and give it to the beggars hot; you are worth ten of them any day.' We used to think he was a bit too particular and even petty in peace time."

## WARFARE WITH PARACHUTES.

Corp. Godwin, of the Princess Patricia's, writing to a friend in Montreal, says:

"We got plenty of excitement watching aeroplanes being shelled and admiring the skill of the daring pilots. This is the first time on either side that can effectively deal with aeroplanes, and the airmen know it."

"At night-time the Germans use a contrivance, probably a kind of spring-trap, which noiselessly shoots toward us, about fifty yards in the air, a closed parachute, balanced at the bottom by a smoke bomb, which holds a piece of magnesium ribbon. When the chute commences to descend and open the ribbon is automatically fired, and burns brightly, thus giving the enemy a chance to fire at anything in view. Naturally, they long ago ceased to be if indeed they ever were, effective."

"A few days ago a friend and I when out skirmishing for luxuries, came across six porkers in the yard of a deserted house. We afterwards found a sack of potatoes in the basement and proceeded to light a fire, intending to have a right royal feed, but the smoke from our fire attracted the attention of some German gunners, who succeeded in firing a shell which crashed into the room above, so we retired to the cellar and did not venture to leave our 'stronghold' until dark."

## Promoted for Heroism.

Many gallant deeds have been performed by youthful heroes in this great war, but, according to a French correspondent, the bravest of all was that of Yvon Nicolas, of the 2nd Regiment of Marine Fusiliers, who for his heroism was made a quarter-master on the battlefield.

In spite of heavy German fire at a certain point, Nicolas hoisted his gun on some sacks of earth which separated him from a German trench. He was hit by the heavy rifle fire, but he got his gun into action and succeeded in destroying the greater part of the trench which had not been wrecked.

The gun did frightful execution, and seeing comrades fall on all sides the Germans abandoned that part of the trench which had not been wrecked.

Englishman Gets Russian V. C. Mr. George Schack-Sommer, a Londoner and old Etonian, has received from the Tsar the St. George's Cross for valor, the Russian equivalent of our British Victoria Cross. He is twenty-four.

As a mining engineer he was employed in the Russian army, and volunteered for service with the Russian army. Overcoming the impediments in the way of an Englishman joining the Russian army, Schack-Sommer served in Galicia on the staff of Baron Scheremetef, and early in November joined the 12th Artillery Hussars, with which regiment he performed the deed which won for him the cross, Russia's greatest recognition of valor.

In a letter to his sister he says: "We were storming the Austrian lines all day. After 4 o'clock they did not reply, so we decided to send scouts to find out if they were bluffing. I volunteered to go, and eight others made up the party. We all went down to the edge of the trench, and I crept forward, trying to look like tree stumps."

"There was no moon and it was snowing, but the snow on the ground made it light enough to see and be seen. When about twenty yards from the lines I heard voices and waited some twenty minutes and ascertained

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