

ated them. A little further south, they were more successful, and from the "Loop" where an entire company of the Princess Patricias had perished, they penetrated to Gordon Road and beyond and then commenced a fierce attack to the north. But here a swift and stern retribution was to be exacted from them. A company commander, Captain Hugh Niven who, although already twice wounded, was still full of valour and resolution, gathered the remainder of his company together, some seventy rifles in all and two machine guns, and hidden behind sandbags awaited the foe in silence. The order was given. "Not a man must shoot until I give the signal!" Apparently, the Boche was taken unawares. The volley which blazed forth was reminiscent of the immortal front rank fire of Lascelle's Regiment at Quebec. One stalwart French-Canadian, Arsenault by name, who had often faced wild animals in the backwoods, burning with ardour, could not be restrained from leaping up on the improvised parapet and repeatedly emptying his rifle, before the enemy could recover from his astonishment. His captain related that no fewer than eight Germans fell to this man's marksmanship alone in that swift encounter. When it was over, at least a hundred of the enemy slain lay on the ground. Afterwards the officer mentioned shepherded his men into a section of trench, he himself spending the whole of the ensuing night perambulating the trenches directing defences, ministering to and encouraging and directing his men.

On the edge of the craters the bodies were seen of a stalwart Sergeant Major of the Mounted Rifles and two privates of the Princess Patricias. Lying around and beneath them, were the bodies of twelve of the enemy, whom they had slain by the bayonet.

By half-past five o'clock the enemy had penetrated and possessed themselves of about a mile of our front line trenches, in the middle of the arc they had attacked with such demoniac force. The trenches south of HOOGE for 1000 yards we still held and also the front east of HILL 60.