

# The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

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## CANADIAN LOSSES IN RECENT FIGHTING AT YPRES HEAVIER THAN AT FIRST THOUGHT; DARDANELLES ATTACK RENEWED

### WOUNDED CANADIANS TELL GRAPHIC STORY OF THE GREAT FIGHT

"It Seemed That No One Could Live Through That Fire, But Away We Went"

Charging a Hill-top Up Slope Swept By Rifles, Machine Guns and Artillery—Asphyxiating Gases Used—No Bravado But No Hesitation or Holding Back—First Alarm at One O'clock in the Morning—Tribute to Care They Received When Wounded.

(Special Cable to The Daily Telegraph, by F. A. McKenzie.)

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Falkenstein, England, April 26.—All England throbs with pride today at the story of the Canadian great charge.

The words, "Bravo, Canadians," on one newspaper bill, typifies the general sentiment here.

I am witnessing the other side of the splendid endurance. Our first batch of wounded is already here, and others are arriving today. They are being dealt with with the utmost efficiency. Some were removed from the battle front late on Friday. They were started at 10 o'clock Friday morning, were at Boulogne by midnight, and at Dover Saturday night. They all speak in the highest terms of the care, devotion and skill shown upon them.

Canada may well be proud that everything in some ways that love, admiration and pity can suggest, was done for our boys when they came back to health.

From stories of the wounded men, I am able to piece together part of the story of the fight. After the Neuve Chapelle fight the Canadians moved around occupying positions north of Ypres. On Thursday afternoon the first brigade, who were acting as first reserve, and stationed on the western side of the canal, were ordered to march forward. They were exposed to constant sniping fire. Shell after shell burst over the pontoon bridge ten minutes after they had crossed it. Down showed them they were facing a slight rise with a sloping hill on the opposite side stretching upwards to a crest some 800 or 900 yards away. This crest was occupied by Germans in force. No enemy could be seen, they having dug themselves in, but a steady artillery and infantry fire was kept up.

The Canadians lay low, saying little. Now and again some irresponsible joker would send a laugh around his circle with some quip. "Say, boys, there seems to be a war on here," says one lad, when a particularly heavy blast of fire struck them. The outlook in front of the Canadians was seemingly hopeless. The Germans had numerous machine guns, abundant field artillery, ample men, and between them and the Canadians was 800 yards of most difficult going—plowed fields and unsheltered slope.

ORDER TO ADVANCE.

About 7 o'clock in the morning word was passed round to make ready for an advance. Company officers gave the word not to waste ammunition. Each man carried 200 rounds—these would be all wanted. Then the advance began in short rushes, two sections at a time. There was no cheering, no shouting, nothing but whispered words of command. The troops made short rushes down a ravine, up a slope, dropping to the ground after each rush. There was no hesitation, no bravado, no hanging back. Machine guns swept over the glaciis. German gunners timed their shrapnels so as to burst over the ranks. German companies, lining the trenches, picked out the men.

Meanwhile our artillery was raining its steady fire on the hill crest. At every point of advance some fell, most of them wounded, most with wounds that will quickly recover. The boys went on and on and on.

CANADIANS MOWED DOWN.

At this point the personal narrative ceases, for every lad I have spoken to fell before the hill top was reached. All they know is that lying on the earth they saw our troops go over the crest into trenches.

"It seemed no one could live through that fire," said one young private to me, "but we got the word and away we went."

On this height no asphyxiating gases were used. The reserve of the Sixteenth Battalion Highlanders, who were on the flank, were caught in the gas. They describe their experience as almost unbearable, the gases choking and burning. The men buried their faces in the earth to escape the fumes. The Sixteenth Battalion were apparently in a very hot corner.

The Winnipeg Rifles ("Little Black Devils"), to give them their nickname, were apparently in the second reserve.

Nothing impressed me more in talking with the boys than their calm matter-of-fact way of dealing with the affair.

The men, in the pauses during the rush, hastily gave first aid to the fallen. Those who were able crept back to an old farmhouse where some doctors attended them. The German fire drove them out of this; then they went back to a village, from there they were quickly taken to the distributing base, here to Boulogne, on the way to England.

Guns Still Between Two Forces

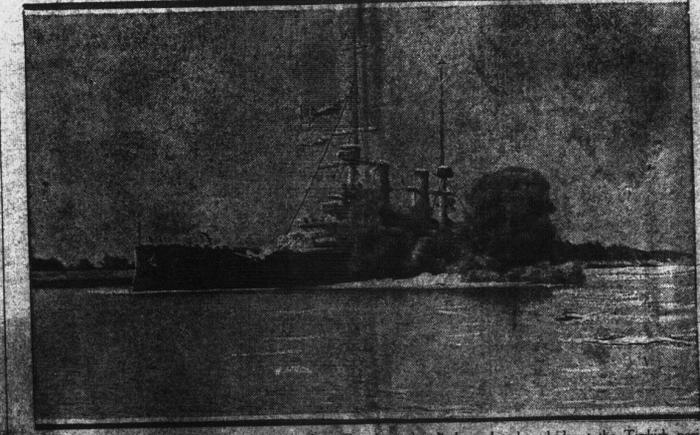
London, April 27, 2:39 a.m.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail in Northern France says:

"The thirty French guns which the Germans claim to have captured north of Ypres are not in German hands, although the French were forced to abandon them. The guns were abandoned in the marsh land, with their wheels half covered with water. At present they are in 'no man's land' between the rival forces. The French keep up a steady hail of artillery fire around the guns to prevent the Germans from getting near them."

### MOST OF CANADIAN OFFICERS AT YPRES WERE LOST, SAYS SURVIVOR

London, April 26, 5:27 p.m.—The Canadians who fought so valiantly and lost so heavily in the recent fighting near Ypres, Belgium, went in most cases forty-eight and in some instances seventy-two hours without food. Most of their officers were lost. This was learned from a young wounded Canadian who arrived in England today from the continent.

### FIRST BATTLE PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE SUEZ CANAL



A British cruiser photographed in the Suez Canal at the discharged broadside at the Turkish position. The picture conveys in a remarkable manner the atmosphere of power and potential destruction displayed by a modern warship when in action.

### MORE CASUALTIES AMONG THE CANADIANS; CONDUCT Praised

#### Our Soldiers in Reserve Yesterday, is Word to Ottawa

Their Heroism Highly Appreciated at Headquarters. Message—Britain Proud of Them and Whole Country is Ringing With News of Their Fine Stand—Yesterday's Official List of Dead and Wounded.

Ottawa, April 26.—The Canadian division was in reserve today, according to a despatch received by the minister of militia from Col. J. Carriek, M. P., of Gen. Alderson's staff. Col. Carriek wired: "Canadians covered themselves with glory. Their heroism most highly appreciated at headquarters. In reserve today."

The list of casualties which continues to come from the front, gives additional evidence of the fierce character of the fighting north of Ypres. That the Fifteenth Battalion was also in action is evidenced by the names of several officers of this corps which came through tonight.

Messages of a congratulatory nature continue to pour into the government, and a wave of intense patriotism is evidently sweeping the country. Sir George Perley, acting High Commissioner for Canada in London, cabled:

"All London is praising the conspicuous gallantry of the troops."

Hon. Lewis Harcourt, secretary of state for the colonies, says: "Britain is proud of her Canadian brothers." The prime minister answered:

"I am most grateful for your message, which will be deeply appreciated by the people of the dominions."

General James Drain, of Washington (D. C.), wired the minister of militia: "I sincerely regret the terrible losses, but glory in the magnificent showing of the Canadians."

Colonel H. H. McLean, M. P. of St. John (N. B.), who is designated to command the Eastern Province Brigade in the next contingent, issued a stirring call for one hundred thousand men. He wired the minister of militia:

"We mourn with pride our gallant comrades who died fighting for their empire and right. 'Are we downhearted?' Let our answer be one hundred thousand men in the fighting line and fifty thousand in reserve. Congratulations to you on the great work you are doing for Canada."

Major Scobell, command of the Frontier Guard of Niagara Falls, wired:

"Am ready to go to the front to fill the gaps."

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### BATTLE OF YPRES STILL CONTINUES

#### British Report Tells of Terrific German Losses

Denies That Four English Guns Were Captured—French Announce Hard Fighting and Repulses of the Enemy's Attacks—Kaiser's Troops Still Using Poisonous Gases—Allies Have Not Recaptured All of Lost Ground as Yet.

London, April 26, 10:30 p.m.—The tremendous battle, begun by the German attack on the Allied front around Ypres in the plains of Flanders, continues with undiminished fury, and England, like the rest of Europe, is awaiting the outcome with undisguised anxiety.

Even the news that the Allied fleet and army have commenced an attack on the Dardanelles and that troops are advancing against the Turkish entrenchments, which a few days ago would have aroused immense enthusiasm, has received only passing attention in the face of the stakes that are in the balance in the battle which is being fought across the English Channel.

While the majority of those capable of forming an opinion believe that the Germans, by the stroke they have delivered against the British, French and Belgians, are once more aiming at Dunkirk and Calais, there are others who believe that it is only a feint in force to draw the Allies reserves while preparations are being made for an attack at some other part of the long line.

#### CANADIANS FIRST TO RECOVER

Whatever are the intentions of the Germans, they certainly made a successful coup, which, while it did not break, did ding the Allies' line. The Canadians, who were holding the British portion of the lines, were the first to recover themselves, and in a counter-attack, the praises of which are ringing throughout the empire—recaptured the ground they had been compelled to give up, and since then, with their comrades, have successfully withstood the German's assaults.

The French and Belgians, who received the blast in fuller force and were driven back across the canal between Boesinghe and Steenstraete, were not much slower in recovering, and, according to the French official reports, succeeded in regaining possession of the canal banks and much of the surrendered territory to the east.

There is no inclination here, however, to belittle the initial success of the German sweep, and the work that is before the Allied armies before the situation can be fully restored.

A writer in the Pall Mall Gazette describes it as "a masterly tactical counter stroke," and declares that "if the Germans have waited long to take their revenge for Neuve Chapelle, they have taken it now."

By getting across the canal, it is pointed out, the Germans gained, for the moment, command of the new roads, and if they had not been driven back would have forced a re-adjustment of the whole Allied line in the region of Ypres.

#### MORE SEVERE THAN EVER.

The official reports throw little light on the progress of the battle but news from Holland gives the information that the cannonade last night was more severe than ever, and that long trains of German reinforcements going to the front are passing equally long trains of wounded, bound for the base hospitals. There is no likelihood, therefore, that the battle will be over for some days to come, as the Germans have made immense preparations in men and material for their offensive, which has forestalled that of the Allies.

That there is no shortage of either men or munitions is shown by the fact that the Germans are, at the same time, conducting an offensive in the heights of the Meuse, where they have made an unsuccessful attack, according to the French official report, in an effort to re-capture Les Eparges.

British optimism in the outcome is encouraged by the success of the Allies in repelling similar attacks last October, when they were less well equipped than the Germans, whereas now there is believed to be little to choose as between the opposing forces in either numbers or the machinery of war. The battle has had a marked effect in re-creating, which enjoyed a considerable boom today.

#### BRITISH WAR OFFICE STATEMENT.

London, April 26, 11:15 p.m.—The British war office has issued the following statement respecting the battle around Ypres:

"First—Severe fighting on the northeast of Ypres still continues, the general situation remains unchanged. Our left flank, in readjusting its line to meet the altered conditions due to the original forced retirement of the French, had to face to the north and to extend to the west beyond St. Julien. This extension weakened our line for a time and, after a very gallant resistance by the Canadians against superior numbers, St. Julien was captured by the enemy. Our lines now run south of that place.

"Second—Our troops to the east of Ypres have borne the brunt of repeated heavy attacks, which they have stubbornly opposed throughout the battle, in an entirely unexpected situation, which has demanded the exercise of gallantry and fortitude by the men, and quick resource and other military qualities by their commanders.

"Third—Attacks were also delivered yesterday by the Germans on the east of the Ypres salient. In spite of the use by the enemy of asphyxiating gases, the attacks were repulsed and German officers and men were captured.

"In the fighting during the last three days we have inflicted very heavy casualties on the Germans. Our losses also have been heavy. The German wireless report that four English heavy guns were captured is untrue.

(Continued on page 8.)

### SOLDIER WITH EIGHT WOUNDS IN HALIFAX

Private George Wales, of the Lincolnshire Regiment, Saw Much Fighting in the Western Theatre of War—Letter from Prisoner in Austria Village.

Rev. F. H. Wentworth, pastor of a street Baptist church, has a man who has been made a war prisoner of the Austrians and is now confined to the little Austrian village of Kautzen. He had formerly been in an insurance business in Vienna and though when war broke out he was allowed freedom he was ordered to internment in November. In a letter to friends, a copy of which has just been sent to Rev. F. H. Wentworth, he says that there are about thirty-five prisoners in the village, whom twenty are English and the rest French and Serbian. He cannot see the village and is quartered in a hut and he writes, though Mr. Wentworth thinks with some regard to the pastor, that "all in all the life is quite tolerable."

Don't Think About Death.

The Halifax Chronicle has the following:

"Death is about the last thing we think of at the front," said Private George Wales, of the Second Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, lately invalided from France, to a Morning Chronicle reporter yesterday afternoon. "We try to go where we are ordered as quickly as possible. That is what we are there for."

Private Wales has no less than eight wounds to testify to the part that he has taken in the fighting and describes his experiences modestly but well. He received all his wounds in a charge which his battalion was making on German positions to the southwest of Ypres last year. "We made three charges in an hour," said he. "The enemy were eight to one against us but our plan was to dispose of as many of them as possible with little loss to ourselves, and that was what we did. We would charge and then hurriedly retreat, giving the Germans the impression that we were broken. They would then come on in massed formation and our rifle and machine gun fire mowed them down. By this means we reduced their strength."

"It was in one of those charges that I was wounded. Two bullets struck me in the thigh and one in the ankle, and in the foot, and a hand-to-hand encounter, I was twice bayoneted, the last time in the forehead. Then I fell for forty-eight hours lay between the two opposite sides. I was unconscious all the time and a chum of mine who was wounded in the leg stood by me until relief came. I cannot very well describe my feelings when I was being nursed during those forty-eight hours, but I suffered pretty severely. There was not much rifle fire and we were not in great danger for the time, but shells were constantly screaming over our heads and although we knew they would land nowhere near us, it was a bit of an ordeal. My friend might have crawled back to safety, but he preferred to stay with me. At the end of the forty-eight hours our troops advanced and as they steadily pushed forward, the stretcher-bearers followed, and I was picked up and taken to the rear and sent to hospital at Boulogne. There I spent six weeks, then crossed to England when sufficiently convalescent for the passage and after some time there, was given my discharge and here I am."

Private Wales arrived in Halifax last Saturday by the steamer Missanibou from Liverpool and leaves today for Bermuda, his home. He is a British reservist and when the war broke out he joined his regiment, the Lincolnshires, then stationed at Bermuda. He came with the regiment to Halifax. The Lincolnshires sailed from Halifax in September on the steamer Canada, and met the First Canadian Contingent at sea. They remained in England less than a month, landing in France on November 11th. They entered the trenches and saw fighting there, thence to La Bassee and more fighting. They were in Lille before that city was evacuated and retreated, and took part in the formation of the attack on Ypres. From the 11th to the 17th of November the Lincolnshires fought continually and were on very heavy rations. They were eighteen days in the trenches and then had a three days' rest. Afterwards they were moved to the southwest of Ypres and fought near the Neuve Chapelle, and there Private Wales left. He lost his company and platoon commanders. He has a list of those of his officers who were officially reported up to March 30, killed or died of wounds. The list includes the following: Lieut.-Col. G. B. McAndrew, officer commanding; Major J. J. Howley, D. S. O., second in command; F. D. Montague, Lieut. C. G. W. Penke; 2nd Lieut. G. H. Deffe; Captain C. G. V. Wellesley; Lieut. A. W. Wylie; Lieut. H. St. G. Eggar; Captain E. P. Lloyd; Captain E. F. O. Richards, and Lieut. W. F. G. Wiseman.

All these officers were with the regiment when it was in Halifax last year.

Private Wales speaks most enthusiastically of the fighting qualities of the Indian troops. He fought with the Gurkhas and says they are very keen. He saw the Indian Lance in a splendid charge and says the Sikhs are very steady fighters.

"With us it is our officers that lead the troops and with the Germans it is the troops that lead the officers," said Private Wales. "In all the charges that I was in or saw the German officers with loaded revolvers followed their men and should they waver, they threatened to shoot them. On the whole, though, you have to give the German soldier credit for his bravery under fire."

### AUSTRIAN AEROPLANE OVER ITALIAN COAST.

Rome, April 22, via Paris, 6:15 p. m.

Word has been received from Ancona that an Austrian aeroplane was seen last night scouting the Italian coast, along the Adriatic Sea. The aeroplane was equipped with strong searchlights. The authorities are attempting to identify the aeroplane.

### Halifax Bank Clearings.

Halifax, April 22.—The Halifax bank clearings for the week ended today were \$1,972,048 and for the corresponding week last year \$2,104,922.

### How Britain Will Deal With Drink Problem

London, April 27, 8:50 a. m.—The government has finally arrived at a moderate decision for dealing with the drink problem, according to the Times, which places the proposed restrictions under the following heads:

"First, prohibition of the sale of immature spirits; second, encouragement of the brewing of light beers; third, special public house restrictions in munitions areas; fourth, reduced hours of sale generally; fifth, compensation for the interests affected."

### No Liquor to Dublin Soldiers.

Dublin, April 27, 1:50 a. m.—Brigadier-General Hill, commanding all the troops in the Dublin district, has issued an order forbidding the sale of alcoholic liquors to soldiers or sailors.

### PRINCE OF WALES FUND \$25,000,000

London, April 26.—The national relief fund of the Prince of Wales today reached the total of \$25,000,000.

### KING GEORGE OPENS BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

London, April 26.—King George has opened with a donation of \$2,500 a subscription list of the British committee for relief in Belgium.