

Canada Goes Up Against Wotan

What Canadians have done in the great counter-offensive, illustrated by the first of a series of sketches made by a Canadian in Khaki among the Canadians. A series of drawings made by special arrangement of the artist with the war authorities and approved by them. The series will run through several issues, whenever possible as illustration to a war story in which Canada's part in the war is the leading feature.

THESE Canadian officers look as though they were discussing after the battles, what Canada has done in the great counter-push of 1918. As a matter of fact, when the drawing was made they were out of the line—in June—when the Germans were doing most of the work on the map. Left to right they are: Lt. R. W. Eaton, I.O.; Lt. O. D. Peat, Assistant Adjutant; Lt. A. H. Good, Lewis Gun O.; Lt. G. A. Ridgeway-Wilson, Sig. O.; and Capt. Frank B. Day, M.O.—all in the Junior H.Q. mess of the 54th Battalion.



WOTAN is a warlike name. It has that awful sound, and it is altogether German. When the Boches dubbed part of the Hindenburg Line Wotan, they figured it was a good advertisement for the old god of war—and they needed it.

But the Canadians—along with the British—have been putting some bad crimps in the Wotan Line. Wotan was the biggest all-German idea the Huns had. He was bigger to them than "Gott," because he was all-German. The other historic part of the line was Siegfried. Their second line is called the Parsifal. This Wagner-opera idea of the gods and demigods on earth was the German's conception of superhuman before Nietzsche taught it at all. Hindenburg and Ludendorff got the notion that whatever failures the "alte Gott" might make in their direction, Wotan the great Pan-God of War would never fail them. The German soldiers know about Wotan. Since nursery days they had been told about him. He was to the Hun armies an even bigger enchantment than St. George to the soldiers of England. He represented no chivalry; he was the symbol of almighty geschmettering conquest, of blood and iron, of Bismarcks and Welt-politiks, and all the rest of the vainglorious ideas that have driven the German people crazy.

But the British and the Canadians did not tremble at the name of Wotan. There was no dread enchantment here. Since the "angels at Mons" we have taken no stock in the supernatural. We have learned that modern war when it gets to be four years old is a dull drudgery at the best; until victory strikes; until the turn comes. Three months ago those Huns came staggering down from Wotan way, bursting with the hypodermic belief that the Wotan Line was to be swung down on Paris and Calais. In this last onrush, reinforced by the hordes cut loose from the Russian front, they were to go over the British army as a tank goes over a trench, and to trample down the hated Canadians as a boot smashes an ant-hill.

The best credentials the Canadians ever had in this war is that the Huns hate them. We don't exclude from this zone of hate the Australians, the other British or the French, or the Yankees. We army and the power of the nation behind it, Currie's

ONE WHO DIED YOUNG FOR HIS COUNTRY
Nobly he thrust aside the sweets of life
At life's green threshold. Thus nor gold nor shame
Can cloy his soul: surrendered in the strife,
He gained thereby all lost—new life, sure fame.

—R.B.

By THE WAR EDITOR
Illustration by T. M. Grover

Canadians have come in for more whole-souled hatred than any of the others.

There must be a reason. There is. Canadians learned it four years ago when the Boches crucified a Highlander—and at least three others. Hence it was good war business for the high command to put Canadians, as far as numbers would permit, in the forefront of the shock troops that eventually smashed the Wotan Line somewhere. And it is no vaingloriousness to state this. The cold facts related in the most matter-of-fact style, are in themselves proof.

In a sentence—what? That within thirty days from August 8, when they went into action before Amiens, the Canadians had won the two greatest battles of the war, and pierced the Wotan Line; had captured one-seventh of the total of guns taken by all the allied nations since the year began.

Livesay of the C. P. A., in his cabled account of the operations, says that the first day of the Canadian fighting rolled up a world's record. In 24 hours they advanced 20,000 yards and captured 17 villages. On the second day they captured 6 more villages. On the third day the enemy had been driven back to a system of trenches, and Quesnoy and Fouquescourt had fallen to the forward thrust of the Canadian divisions. By the 19th of August the Canadians had captured—and consolidated for defence—an area approximating 67 square miles. The average depth of penetration into enemy territory was 13½ miles and 27 villages had been wrested from the Huns.

During the battle the Canadians engaged 16 enemy are all hated by the Huns. But for the size of our

divisions. They took 9,131 prisoners of all ranks, 190 guns and howitzers, 1,040 machine guns and trench mortars, nine railway steam engines and countless booty in the shape of equipment, and vast stores of munitions.

Then the Canadian corps handed their line over to the French, and on August 20th moved north. They had been elected by Foch to be the hammer head of the drive intended to smash the great Queant-Drocourt switch.

Foch gave the Canadian fighting formations until August 25th to get into line for the great attack. At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 26th the attack was launched and by 7.30 the village of Monchy-le-Preux, situated on an eminence, had been captured by the third division. Three other villages were captured that day, and the intervening territory cleaned up to prepare a jumping off place for the great drive. Up to September 2nd the corps fought for and gained position. Eight more villages had been captured in the glorious meantime.

The big fight began at 5 o'clock on September 2nd. The attack was entirely successful. The great Queant-Drocourt switch was pierced. On the first day the corps advanced 4,000 yards and captured the villages of Dury, Villers and Cagnicourt. By September 5th the enemy was forced back to the east bank of the Canal du Nord, while the Canadians occupied the west bank.

"The second great victory of the corps," says Livesay in his cabled account, "was thus accomplished by September 5th, and that great fighting formation had made a name that must forever live in the annals of history. From a strategical standpoint this second great achievement was even more important than the first. The following is a brief summary of its deeds:

"Eighteen enemy divisions engaged, eleven fully, four partially and three identified. Five complete trench systems were taken and the captured area approximated 56 square miles, with an average depth of penetration 12¼ miles.

"Details of the captures are as follows:

"Eighty-nine heavy field guns, two 4.1-inch naval guns, 6 auto trucks, 1,016 machine guns, 73 trench mortars, 2 searchlights and 1 helio, besides wagons. (Continued on page 24.)