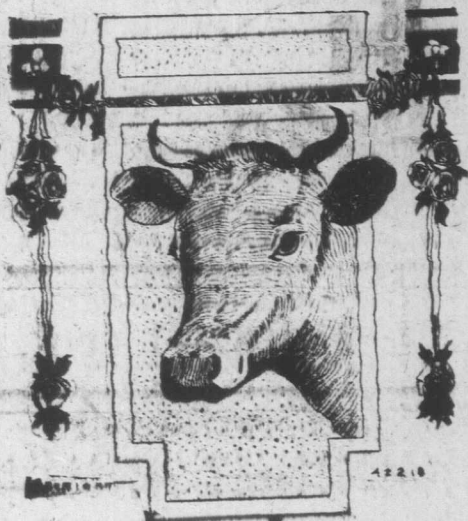


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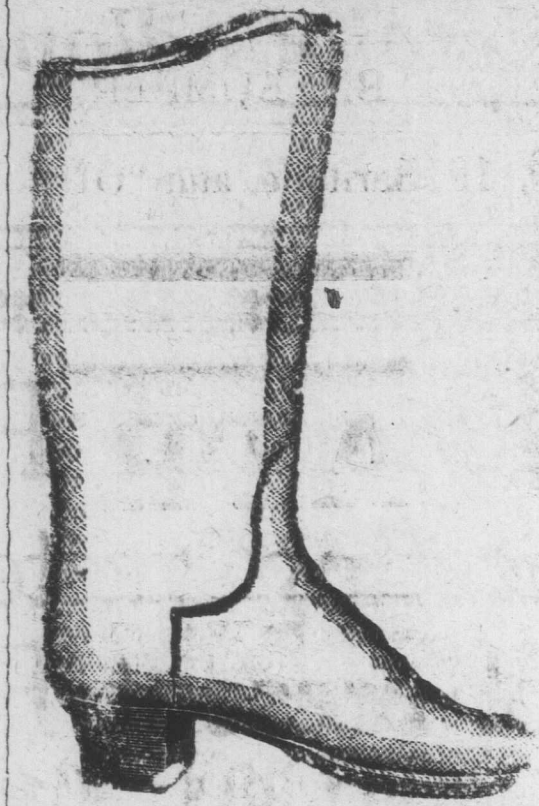
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## PRIVATE R. V. GARRATT, OF OSHANA, TELLS OF SECOND BATTLE OF YPRES

### Conspicuous Bravery of Ottawa Officers— Canadians Always Anxious for a Scrap With the Germans

Private R. V. Garratt, of G Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, who enlisted at Oshana, writes home of the "second great battle of Ypres." He mentions the conspicuous bravery of several Ottawa officers in the battalion.

At 10 a.m. on April 22, their colonel had stated that the 2nd and 4th Battalions had been chosen for Hill 60 reinforcements, should any be needed, but at 2 o'clock the order to "stand by" for this service was cancelled and the men were allowed, to some extent, the freedom of the town of Flammerringhe. At 6 o'clock all was serene and many were engaged in outdoor sports, but at 7.20 there was a startling and sudden turn of affairs. Private Garratt writes:

"It was soon after our sports were over, and we had turned in that one of the men of our company rushed in with the news that the Germans had broken through the French lines and were thin three miles of our billets. Realizing how improbable such a report would prove to be, we gave it no credence. Twenty minutes later men flocked in from all quarters confirming the rumor.

#### The Fortunes of War.

"To those of us who had never experienced the sensations of real war, the whole scene came as a great and stirring revelation. True, we stood calmly by, awaiting and receiving orders to leave at a moment's notice. But within! Who shall say he was calm within, and know he speaks the truth?"

"I remember telling one chap of our platoon, Stanley Merchant, of Quebec, that we would move off at once.

"I don't believe it, Perce. It will be just like it always has been—a scare and then 'turn in.' Gad! why can't we get into a real scrap!" he said. At ten o'clock next morning Stanley lay beneath the hot sun and between heavy opposing fires, unable to move, with two gunshot wounds in the thigh and a nasty wound in the ankle. He will never fight again. (Merchant, who was recommended for a decoration, has since died.)

"Our company formed up in proper order at nine o'clock that evening and marched to the trouble area. At about midnight we stopped near a barn and were about to sit down when a maxim had suddenly trained on us. Dixie we plopped, flat as a pancake—and remained there for fully ten minutes. About 3,000 shots pinged over us during these fateful minutes, some of these not an inch above our heads and shoulders.

"A Company advanced in direct attack upon the Germans, who were deep in the woods. This was at about six o'clock. This was a truly magnificent charge in the face of practically instant death. Every officer of this company, with the exception of Lieut. Koltz, was dead fifteen minutes after the charge began. Lieut. Koltz died within the next twenty-four hours. Major Bennett died literally at the head of his company. And those other officers, Lieut. Day, Lieut. Gordon and Lieut. Dorse, fell with equal gallantry. The death of Lieut. Dorse, one of the most popular officers among the junior leaders, recalls a touching incident in the days of trench warfare. Mr. Dorse had received a serious bayonet thrust up the thigh. He had not long been in hospital when, in direct disregard of the doctor's orders, he returned to battalion duty, and led his men as though perfectly cured of his wounds.

This one act above all others had endeared him to his men.

#### Took Some Prisoners.

"Our own company was on Friday, April 23rd, engaged partly in attack, partly in reserve. No. 14 platoon acting in reserve in conjunction with No. 13, while the other two platoons engaged in forays on both flanks. Capt. Hooper of Ottawa leading with his customary vigor. These small attacks resulted in the capture of several prisoners, among these an officer and two corporals.

#### Dangerous Work.

"During that Friday we remained 'on the ready,' prepared for all emergencies, and two facts of the two days fighting I recall well: Sleep was practically impossible, and we had rarely had a dry crust of bread, a lot of bully beef or a dog biscuit as we did whenever one of the other chanced to come our way during that uncertain period. April 24th, our company made a dash across the fields to some redoubts, and thence up to the trenches held by the 16th and 18th battalions, whom we relieved.

#### A Heavy Assault.

"At two o'clock we received orders to prepare for a German attack. At three o'clock we received brigade orders to retire, and form in line with the Buffs. On our flank the Germans with huge reinforcements were advancing upon us and the Germans in the woods had also begun to move. Platoons 14, 15 and 16, retired. No. 16 leading, and platoon No. 13 covering the retirement of the other three. This retirement was made again across open fields. It was during this retirement that I was shot. We do not, any of us, know how on earth we escaped alive.

"As I have already pointed out, platoon No. 13 covered the retirement of the other three platoons. It is not easy to express all that this means. It means that platoon 13 remained and shot at the hordes of advancing Germans while the others retired. It was one of those gallant stands which must inevitably at some time or other fall to one platoon or another. In charge of this platoon was our company commander, Major H. G. Balster. At first he had the platoon of fifty with him; by degrees the platoon had dwindled down to ten. Always quiet and always kind his commands were without ostentation or flurry. And finally he himself practically alone threw tickler-bombs, and faced the advancing hordes, now not twenty-five paces away. Thus he fell. The memory of that gallant stand of a mere handful is one of the sweetest and at the same time one of the saddest of those few days of real vivid war. Capt. Hooper and Lieut. McLennan of Ottawa fell with undoubted heroism. Just how badly wounded I cannot say.

#### Promoted Despatch Rider.

"By six o'clock that evening the German advance was checked. At four o'clock I passed our battalion chief, Colonel Watson, who kindly directed me to the ambulance station. Apropos of our chief, I heard a thrilling story. Among the many heroes of the battalion in this battle were the messengers and despatch riders. One of these, Lance-Corporal Gotts, had hurriedly brought in a message of much importance. The colonel promoted the corporal a sergeant on the spot. Turning to Capt. O'Connor of Ottawa, Colonel Watson said: 'Capt. O'Connor, I may not live long. You are witness to the act of promotion in regard to Sergeant Gotts.'

## Anglican Synod At Halifax Demands Prohibition

At the meeting of the Diocesan Synod of the Anglican church held in Halifax, last week, the following preamble and resolutions, after due discussion, were adopted amidst great applause and much enthusiasm: "Whereas, our General Synod in Canada, in reference at Ottawa, in 1908, approved of the report of the Committee on Temperance, which declared the bar to be a public menace, and further declared it to be the duty of every man to endeavour to further the effort to abolish the bar; and

"Whereas, since that year very great advance has been made in the work of Temperance Reform; and the public conscience has been awakened in a marked degree to the appalling effects of individual and national life resulting from the sale of alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes; and

"Whereas, the conditions created by the war have furnished an occasion which is demonstrating the great need of restricting the use of alcoholic liquor as a beverage, has also furnished the occasion which justifies the taking of strong measures for its restrictions as such."

Be it therefore resolved: "That this Commission on Social Service of the Synod of Nova Scotia is of opinion that the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is productive of untold misery and evil; and that such Dominion and Provincial legislation should be enacted as will provide during the present crisis the fullest possible measure of prevention of the sale and use of alcoholic liquor as a beverage."

"And further:— "That guided by the experience of all the countries enacting special legislation at this time, in this connection; and also by our own experience, the Dominion and Provincial Governments be urged to continue the same permanently; and as soon as possible to bring about the entire abolition of the traffic in alcoholic liquor as a beverage." As one of the speakers pointed out this is probably the most drastic resolution ever passed in favor of prohibition in an Anglican Synod in Canada.

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