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ALWAYS SHOP AT
Charlotte Street
WILCOX'S
Corner Union

Canadians Best Troops in France

Even Arrogant Germans Concede Them Second Place

Result Easily Foreseen

British Are Masters of Air and Have Better Artillery, and New Armies Will Put Forth Magnificent Effort

Brigadier-General Swift of Quebec, who reached home from the Ancre recently, said to a Montreal Gazette reporter that although he had not as yet spoken for publication, he felt that the Canadian army deserved all the praise it had received. General Swift claims that the Canadians are the best troops in France today, a claim which, he says is borne out by all they have accomplished.

"And what is the enemy's opinion of the Canadians?" he was asked. "It is well known at the front that the Germans say that while they themselves are the best soldiers in Europe, the men from Canada are absolutely without fear and certainly come second to the men from over the Rhine. This is a great compliment to men who were plying peace vocations a year or two since."

The individual efforts of the Canadian soldier, he says, commands the admiration of the whole army, for, although the Canadians' discipline may not be perfect, they get in their work and the Germans have a mortal fear of the men from the Dominion.

Enemy on the Run
As for definite results, General Swift would make no comments, but there was no doubt, he added, about the enemy being on the run. Their morale is now exceedingly low, and they surrender at the slightest opportunity, throwing up their hands before the British can get near them. They are in a fine disposition to quit, but this is not a question to be decided by the private soldiers. He could not say that the German troops were a fine-looking lot of men, judging by batches of prisoners taken on the Ancre. They could not be compared to the men on the British side.

General Swift says that there are now about two million British troops in France, and they occupy something less than a hundred miles of the western front. As for next spring's effort, he says:

"We have two million more men across the Channel being rapidly put in shape for the spring campaign, and then we will see the most magnificent effort ever seen in the world."

Asked why the British did not take over more of the three-hundred mile front, General Swift replied that the British army was now defending by far the most important section of the western line, and was preventing the Germans from reaching Calais.

Speaking of the wonderful French achievements at Verdun, General Swift said he did not think General Joffre would ever have given up that fortress, even if the enemy had paid the awful price of sacrificing another hundred thousand German lives. There were always from the start big reserves ready to support the defenders of Verdun.

Speaking of the heroism of certain regiments at the front, and the claims made on their behalf by Montreal newspapers, General Swift thought it was a mistake to single out any particular regiment, as they had all done well and had covered themselves with glory all along the line.

Tanks are Efficient

Asked if he had seen the famous "tanks," which had wrought so much havoc on the enemy, General Swift answered in the affirmative. He confirmed Lloyd-George's statement that they little resembled the pictures appearing in the American and Canadian newspapers. He had heard rumors of strange fighting machines about to appear on the front a week or two before they really lumbered along. They caused much amusement, but were a wonderful auxiliary to the fighting efficiency of the British troops. They looked like a house on wheels. The Germans have not yet captured one of these tanks. Some have been disabled, but with the splendid system of repair shops at the British rear, these tanks, as well as machine guns, rifles, heavy artillery and everything else that can be thought of as a fighting arm, can be made as good as new in shortest time. A tank that is put out of business is simply moved to the rear, and shortly appears again at the front.

"At present," added the general, "we are masters of the enemy in the air, have better artillery and as many machine guns. They are outmanned, and with a superior fighting force on our side, the result in the long run is not difficult to foresee."

The Australians had also made a splendid name for themselves as a fighting unit, said General Swift, and they were a credit to the people of the Commonwealth.

Had His Goggles Shot off in Air
Canadian Flyer Warned Verdun of Attack

Mistake Foes for Friends and Had Several Thrilling Experiences and Narrow Escapes

The following letter has been received in Toronto from a Canadian aviator in France, dated November 8:

One of our Canadian flyers had a very exciting experience last week. He was flying up from our base to join the rest of us near Nancy. On approaching the city he saw another machine on the same level, and flying in the same direction as himself. This he took to be another of our chaps who was coming up the same day. He admits that he followed the other machine for nearly ten minutes, being within one hundred yards of it all the time. Suddenly it turned, but he took no particular notice, thinking he was merely turning to see the aerodrome. Then came the "putt-putt" of a machine gun and his goggles were splattered by a bullet. He swung round, and to his amazement the apparently friendly machine had shot at him from behind and below. He threw off his goggles, and with eyes smarting from the wind,

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waged an unequal combat. To add to his predicament, he saw five more enemy machines coming down at him, so he decided to make a run for it. No doubt owing to the excitement he overlooked doing the best thing, which was to have shut off his engine and gone down as quickly as possible, since he was still over friendly country. However, he flew north in an endeavor to get away. This carried him before the wind, so he was soon many miles into enemy territory. When he thought he had out-distanced the other machines, he began to edge around more to the west and then southwest. Flying thus for 45 minutes, he thought that surely by this time he was back over the lines again, especially as he had been shelled, but not during the last fifteen minutes.

Mistake the Aerodrome
Now he saw what appeared to be an aerodrome, so shut off and spiraled down. Remember, he had no goggles, so had to keep his head very well inside.

Having got down to about 200 feet, he was just straightening out for a landing when to his amazement he saw black crosses on the machines which were standing outside the hangars. He had come down over a German aerodrome! Opening the throttle, he flew at the 200 feet of height, not daring to lessen his speed over the ground by attempting to climb. He says that mistles seemed to rain about him. They fired all kinds of guns and rifles, but missed. He crossed the country at the same height, seeing trenches everywhere with shells bursting at him in all directions.

Next he saw a body of troops coming along a road which he took to be reinforcements, and then a bare spot caught his eye, so he thought he would see if it were good for a landing. Coming over to it, he says, it looked like a "perforated cheese." Afterwards he found out it was merely what was left of Fort Douaumont at Verdun! It was very smoky and the place really did not look suitable to land on, so, as he saw a town a little distance away, he flew over towards it. There were not many buildings left standing, but he felt sure he was in friendly country by now, so was looking out for a good field, when he spied an aerodrome. This time he made sure that the planes had rings painted on them and not black crosses. Having landed safely, he found he had come down near Verdun.

The French flying squadron there treated him grandly, and since the weather was had for the next few days he had a good opportunity for a look around.

He reported the reinforcements he had seen, which he knew now to be Germans, so that the French were prepared for the attack which the Germans launched that night to retake Douaumont. You see this took place the day after the French had regained Fort Douaumont on October 24.

There are not many buildings left standing in Verdun; possibly one in twelve. But the town has been kept from the Germans and that is the main thing.

With his clothing and some food in a bundle weighing about 40 pounds hung over his shoulder, Steve Bonneau, aged 102, of Summit, Conn., walked into Fiskdale, Mass., looking for a job as a wood chopper for the winter. Mr. Bonneau carries his birth certificate with him to prove his age.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

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EXTRA POWER driving surface cut lathe on shell work. Running close to tempering furnace. Machine was formerly out of commission because other belts failed. **EXTRA POWER**

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A 7" x 6 ply **EXTRA POWER** in use over two years driving friction for rotary carriage in a particularly difficult way. Still doing its work well. Lace holes do not pull out. Has not been materially damaged by stalling on a moving drive. **EXTRA POWER**

Read—and be convinced

We told the manufacturers and power-users of Canada what we knew about Extra Power Belting—we who created and manufactured it. Some were convinced—tried it and are still convinced of its goodness. Some were skeptical—tried it and are now enthusiastic. Some did not try Extra Power at all. To all such we say—"Read and be convinced."

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