

# SIR MAX AITKEN TELLS OF CANADIANS' BRILLIANT WORK IN FIGHTING AT SOUCHEZ

Played an Important Part in Battle of the Orchard—Steadiness and Discipline in Face of Torrent of Machine Gun and Shrapnel Fire Won Admiration of British and French Comrades—Maj. Guthrie Leads Tenth Battalion in Charge on German Position.

London, July 13.—Sir Max Aitken, Canadian record officer, sends the following account of the brilliant work of the Canadian troops in the battle at the Orchard at Souchez:

"After the great battle of Langemark the Canadian division, worn out but not shattered, retired into billets, and rested until May 14, when the headquarters moved to the southern section of the British line in readiness for new operations. During that time reinforcements had poured in from the Canadian base in England, where were gathered the Dominion troops, whose numbers and efficiency we owe to the large vision and untiring energy of the minister of militia and defense. His direct and comprehensive methods are an example which the empire might follow with advantage.

"On May 17 the remade infantry brigades advanced towards the firing line once more. The attack followed. It must be understood that on the afternoon of May 18, the 3rd brigade occupied reserve trenches, two companies of the 14th Royal Montreal Regiment, commanded by Lieut. Colonel Meighen, and two companies of the 16th Canadian Scottish were to make a flanking movement on the enemy's position in the orchard of an old German communication trench, and, as this attack was to be made, of course, in conjunction with a frontal one, little time was available to make dispositions, and as there was no opportunity to reconnoitre the ground, it was very difficult to determine the proper objective.

"The flanking company of the 16th Battalion reached its allotted position, but, after the advance of the remaining companies of that regiment and the 14th, under very heavy shell fire, the proper direction was not maintained. The detachments reached part of their objective, but owing to the lack of covering fire, it was undesirable at the moment to make an attack on the orchard.

"The companies were told to dig themselves in and connect up with the Wiltshire battalion on their right and the Coldstream Guards on their left. They had the trench in front of them, and the trench occupied by the other two companies of the 16th Canadian Scottish to assist in the digging and to relieve the original two companies at daylight. During the night, the companies of the 14th Battalion, Montreal, were also withdrawn, and the trench occupied by these was taken over by stretching out the Coldstream Guards on one flank and the 16th Canadian Scottish on the other.

## The Attack

"On the morning of the 20th, orders were issued for an attack on the orchard that night. A reconnaissance was made by Major Leckie, brother of Lieut. Col. Leckie. They showed the Germans were in force. That night the Canadian Scottish occupied a deserted house close to the German lines, and succeeded in establishing there two machine guns, and a garrison of thirty men. The enemy was evidently not aware that we were in possession of this house, for although they bombarded it with their trench mortars with great severity, throughout the whole of the next day, this was left untouched.

"The attacking detachment under Major Rae consisted of two companies of the Canadian Scottish, one commanded by Captain Morrison, the other by Major Peck. The attack was to take place at 7.45 p.m., and at the same time, the 15th Battalion, 48th Highlanders, were directed to make an assault of a position several hundred yards to the right.

"During that afternoon the orchard was very heavily bombarded by our artillery, increasing in severity up to the delivery of the attack. Promptly to the minute, the guns ceased and the two companies climbed out of their trenches to advance. At the same instant the two machine guns situated in the advance position opened on the enemy.

"As the advance was carried out in broad daylight, the movements were at once seen by the enemy, and immediately a torrent of machine gun, rifle and shrapnel fire was directed upon our troops. Their steadiness and discipline were remarkable and were greatly praised by the officers of the Coldstream Guards, who were on our left. When they reached the edge of the orchard, an unexpected obstacle presented itself in the form of a deep ditch, and on the further side a hedge. Without hesitation, however, the men plunged through the ditch, in some places up to their necks in water, and made some previously reconnoitred gaps in the hedge.

"Not many Germans had stayed in the orchard during the bombardment. The bulk of the garrison had evidently retreated to the support trenches. A few had been left to man a machine gun redoubt near to the centre of the orchard, with the idea of holding up our advancing infantry till the enemy, withdrawn during the bombardment, could return in full strength. These

## BRITISH COMMONS VOTES APPRECIATION OF GEN. BOTHA AND SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS

London, July 13.—The House of Commons today voted its hearty thanks to Gen. Louis Botha, General Jan Christian Smuts and the forces of the Union of South Africa upon the successful conclusion of the campaign in German Southwest Africa. Premier Asquith, who moved the resolution, paid tribute to what he characterized as "the remarkable campaign which has just been brought to a remarkable conclusion."

"The German dominion of Southwest Africa has ceased to exist," he said. "I ask the house," said the Premier in his peroration, "to testify to the admiration of the whole Empire for, and its gratitude to the illustrious general who has rendered such an estimable service to the Empire which he entered by adoption and of which he has become one of the most honored and cherished sons, and to his dauntless and much-enduring troops, whether of Burgher or British birth, who fought like brethren, side by side in the cause which is equally as dear to them as to us—the broadening of the bounds of human liberty."

"Three platoons cleared the orchard, while a fourth platoon, advancing towards the north side, were hampered by a very awkward ditch which forced them to make a wide detour, so they did not arrive in the orchard until its occupation was complete. The men dug themselves in on the far side of the orchard, where there was another wire ditch.

"The Germans could be heard in their trench about fifty yards away, chattering and talking to one another; the officers, too, were heard giving commands and apparently trying to force their men to attack, but nothing would persuade the German troops to expose themselves. One company did not go into the orchard, but pushed forward and occupied an abandoned German trench, running in a southwesterly direction, to prevent any flank counter attack being made by the enemy.

"They found themselves in a very good exposed position, and consequently suffered heavily. The casualties in proportion to the number employed in the attack were heavy for all engaged, but the position was very important, having twice repulsed assault by other regiments.

"Had our advance been less rapid, the enemy would, no doubt, have got back into this position, and our task might have been impossible. They argued, as I have said, that any attack might be held up by the machine guns in the redoubt and in the fortified positions on the flank for long enough to enable them to return to the orchard after our bombardment had ceased and the trench was back."

At seven o'clock in the evening of the 20th the 13th Battalion (Royal Highlanders) of the 3rd Brigade, under Lieut. Col. Loomis, advanced across the British trench, and, supported by heavy shell fire with severe losses in support of the 16th Battalion, Canadian Scottish.

The attack on the orchard having succeeded, three companies of the 13th Battalion (Royal Highlanders) immediately marched forward. As four officers of one company, including the officers commanding, had been severely wounded, the company was taken over by Major Buchanan, the second in command of the regiment. A fourth company marched to a support trench immediately in the rear. The position was then consolidated and the 16th Battalion, after its hard work and brilliant triumph, withdrew.

Next afternoon the enemy in their trenches made a demonstration fifty yards north of the orchard, but our heavy fire soon drove them off the parapets. During the night the disputed ground between the trenches was brightly lighted by the enemy's flares and enlivened by the rattle of continuous musketry. None the less our working parties went on with their improvement and left the position in good shape for the third Canadian Toronto Regiment of the Second Brigade, which relieved the Royal Highlanders on Saturday.

During these brilliant, though costly operations of the 3rd Brigade, the 2nd Brigade had been very active against a fortified position a mile to the south held by the enemy, and known to the Intelligence Department as Bexhill. A British brigade had recently captured the trench trenches in the vicinity of Bexhill, and on the night of the 19th the position was taken over by the Second Canadian Brigade.

## Maj. Guthrie Leads Charge.

On May 20 at 7.40 p.m., the Tenth Canadian Battalion, under Major Guthrie, who joined the battalion at Ypres as a lieutenant, after the regiment had lost most of its officers, made an attempt to secure Bexhill. This attack was a failure, as no previous reconnaissance had been carried out and the preliminary bombardment had been quite ineffective.

Moreover, our troops were in full view of the enemy, when crossing a gap in the fire trench and as the only approach to Bexhill was through an old communication trench, swept by machine guns, the leading men of the front company were all shot down and the Tenth Battalion retired.

During the night a further reconnaissance of the enemy's position was carried out and the gap in the fire trench was repaired, which assured covered communications to all parts of our line.

On the evening of May 21st an artillery bombardment opened under direction of Brigadier-General Bursell, and went on intermittently until 8.30 when the attack was launched.

Our force consisted of the Grenadier Company of the First Canadian Bri-

## SAY SUBMARINE CREW REFUSED TO SAVE THEM

Survivors of the Armenian say Germans shoved them off submarine when they tried to climb aboard

Newport News, July 13.—The British steamer Victorian arrived here today with four survivors of the British mule ship Armenian sunk by a German submarine June 28 with the loss of more than a score of lives. The men landed here today were negro muleteers. They asserted that when they attempted to scramble aboard the submarine they were kicked off by the German sailors, who laughed at them.

## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS OPENS AT MONTREAL

Notre Dame Church crowded—Distinguished gathering of clergy—Cardinal Begin welcomed.

Montreal, July 13.—Notre Dame church was crowded tonight at the opening of the three days Canadian Congress of the Eucharistic League, although admission was by ticket, and the gathering of Roman Catholic prelates and priests was the largest seen in Montreal since the noted Eucharistic Congress a few years ago. His Eminence Cardinal Begin, Quebec, was present and was tendered a formal welcome. Archbishop Bruchési of the active president of the congress, which started tonight with a special blessing from Pope Benedict. A sermon in French was delivered by Rev. Rene Labelle, S. S., pastor of Notre Dame church, and a sermon in English by Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Burke, of Toronto.

## DISFIGURED SKIN MADE SLIGHTLY BY POSLAM

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## CREWS OF FOUR TRAWLERS ARE BROUGHT TO PORT

Lowestoft, England, July 13.—The crews of four Lowestoft trawlers, Woodbine, Purple Heather, Speedwell and the Merlin, which were sunk by a German submarine, have been landed here. The crew of the Speedwell came in on the trawler Emerald, which was attacked by a submarine, and was abandoned but did not sink. After leaving their own vessel, the crew of the Speedwell sighted the Emerald, and, boarding her, brought her to port.

## CANADIAN NURSE HONORED BY THE KING

London, July 13. (Gazette Cable)—Miss Edith Campbell, of Montreal, matron of the Duchess of Connaught Hospital at Cliveden, was among a dozen nurses decorated by the King yesterday with the Royal Red Cross.

## "WIN THE WAR FROM THE AIR" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

English Aeronautical Men Advocate Building of Fleet of 10,000 Aircraft to Wreck the Enemy's Ammunition Factories and Supply Bases.

New York, July 13.—A News Agency despatch from London says: "With the slogan, 'Win the war from the air,' English aeronautical men today launched a movement for the creation of a Ministry of Aviation and the building of a fleet of ten thousand aeroplanes to deluge German ammunition works and supply works with bombs. L. B. Desjardis, lecturer in aerodynamics at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, is the real leader of the campaign to create a gigantic air fleet. He is supported by H. G. Wells, British novelist; C. C. Grey, London Aeronautical Editor, and a score of experts in aviation. The plan is to organize public sentiment through lectures and newspaper articles behind the idea that England's salvation lies in the air.

"Batter down the Rhine bridges by daily air raids and trench warfare in France is ended," said a statement issued in support of the new movement today. "Send ten thousand aeroplanes carrying fire bombs over the Krupp munition works and the German armies will be paralyzed. Destroy the bridges over the Meuse over which supplies are transported to the German armies and the Kaiser will be on his knees."

## WAR CONTRACTS INVESTIGATION INCOMERS FROM THE UNITED STATES HEADED THE LIST

Over Eight Thousand Came to Canada to Locate Last Year—36,069 Registrations for the Year.

Special to The Standard

Ottawa, Ont., July 13.—The war has stimulated the registration of naturalized citizens of this country. During the past year there has been 35,069 throughout the country and there will be more this year than last. In fact in Winnipeg alone during the past six months there have been over one thousand registrations. Usually before general elections there is a rush to the registration offices by immigrants, who have become naturalized but since the war began the registration has been greater than ever before.

Incomers from the United States headed the list last year. There were over eight thousand. Next came Austrians with over seven thousand. There were nearly six thousand Russian registrations, over three thousand Italians, over sixteen hundred Swedes, eleven hundred Norwegians, eleven hundred Japanese, one thousand Gallians, one thousand Germans, eight hundred Finns, three hundred forty Roumanians, three hundred eighty Belgians, two hundred eighty Danes and one hundred forty Swiss.

Nearly every nationality under the sun was represented, in some cases by one or two.

For instance there were two Portuguese, a people who seldom emigrate to this country.

W. H. Dwyer of Ottawa gave evidence as to six thousand bushels of oats which he had sold to George Sparks and Sons of Vars, Ont., who sold them to the government. Sparks said he bought the oats from him at 67 cents and resold them to the government at the same figure. He merely handed the order over to his brother, H. D. Dwyer of Montreal. He said western oats had not been called for and he considered Ontario oats just as good as the western variety and he did not consider that they could be purchased for ten cents per bushel less as Sparks had stated.

J. A. Ruddick, Dominion dairy commissioner, testified as to the price of oats last fall. Shortly after the opening of the war 560,000 bushels were commandeered in the Port William district at 47 3/4 cents per bushel. On August 24 oats cost 75 cents per bushel, the government having purchased 57,000 bushels at that price.

C. E. Frost was next heard. He charged that he had tendered repeatedly on medical stores to the Militia Department and although he had offered proper prices he met with no success.

H. W. Brown, director of contracts, stated that in all cases the prices of Mr. Frost were higher. He produced the vouchers to show this. After hearing Mr. Brown's evidence Mr. Frost stated that he was perfectly satisfied that he had not been the lowest tenderer as he thought.

Liverpool, July 13. (6.03 p.m.)—Seven passengers on the American line steamer Philadelphia, which arrived here on July 11, from New York are held on board the vessel in the Mersey, because of the lack of passports, or because their passports were unsatisfactory.

## ZAPATA FORCES DRIVEN FROM SUBURBS OF MEXICO CITY

Mexico City, July 13, via Galveston, Texas. July 13.—The outskirts suburbs of the federal capital were cleared today of Zapata troops by forces under General Cross. The water works were recaptured and a partial resumption of street car service was made possible. Heavy fighting in the neighborhood of Anasco is still in progress, with the forces of Zapata retreating.

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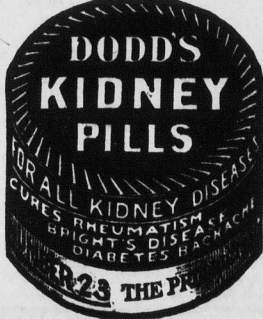
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ANY OF "PETE LEE" VISITING IN CITY

A. Shea renewing acquaintanceships John — Old time

visitors to the city yesterday Wilbur A. Shea, of East- ne, who is well known in circles in the United States, recently interested in the New Star Theatres in Eastport, St. Croix and Milltown Opera Calais. Mr. Shea is a son of "Pete Lee," who, for about three immediately preceding the St. held a lease of an Opera house on a good class of provided a fine minstrel and type, having succeeded up by whom the house was

at one time and another various minstrel companies of the States, including the Forest Brothers minstrels, formerly enjoying a great for high class productions. They came to St. John with company and was induced to lead part in running the house as a place of entertainment with minstrelsy as the prime.

probably many of the citizens of the city who will be glad to see him. He is a well known figure here because of his geniality and ability as an entertainer. Before the fire a number of citizens gave him a commission at a gathering in the Academy of Music in Germain street, that occasion he was with a gold watch, suitably and in thanking the citizens for their interest in him, he made an announcement that he was in St. John, a fact that to only one or two pres-

Shea says he has the and treasures it as a val- sion. Soon after the he went to Eastport, this place where he last company. During this he had as a colleague Hugh well known barber of the who by the way, is back work after a long spell of as the result of breaking months ago. Mr. Camp- street opera house, taking numbers. Pete Lee passed sixteen years ago, but recall with pleasure his John, where he took great remote the best grade of and vanderbilt.

has been visiting old t. John and will return to is morning.

## RUDDER BROKEN.

despatch of the 8th states was made by Major Leckie, brother of Lieut. Col. Leckie. They showed the Germans were in force. That night the Canadian Scottish occupied a deserted house close to the German lines, and succeeded in establishing there two machine guns, and a garrison of thirty men. The enemy was evidently not aware that we were in possession of this house, for although they bombarded it with their trench mortars with great severity, throughout the whole of the next day, this was left untouched.

## IMPERIAL THEATRE

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