

Three Canadian Brigades Held Back 100,000 Germans

Official Story of One of Greatest Feats of Arms World Has Witnessed—Losses of Canadians Admitted to be Nearly 6,000—705 in Ranks Killed

Ottawa, May 3—An official statement dealing with the battle of Langemarck, near Ypres, Belgium, giving fuller details than the eye witness' report and relating the gallant conduct of the Canadian troops against overwhelming odds has been issued by the government.

It is the story of a desperate battle by three Canadian brigades against a German force of almost ten times their number, without support and without reinforcements for hours, while the German attack was repeatedly forced against them, only to be thrown back with tremendous losses.

The statement is made officially that the Canadian losses will be well up to 6,000. Of these the casualties among the officers, nearly 600, have been told; among the other ranks the losses were: Killed, 705; wounded, 2,162; missing, 2,536.

"The situation on the 22nd therefore appears to have been that the Canadians held the extreme left of the British line, covering a front of 5,000 yards, or about three miles. To their left were the French, and again to the left of the French were the Belgians. It is understood there was a main line of trenches, with a supporting line a short distance in the rear.

"The 1st Brigade, as stated, was some miles to the rear, in reserve. The guns were posted far to the rear. Four heavy Canadian guns, it seems, were some two or three miles in rear of the French line.

"In the afternoon of the 22nd, following a prolonged and terrific artillery fire, the enemy's trenches being on an average of about 200 yards from the allied lines, and the wind being from the enemy's direction towards the allied line, dense volumes of heavy gas were projected towards the allied line evidently by compression through tubing, and upon reaching the allied trenches were found to be asphyxiating.

"It is generally supposed chlorine was principally used. The fumes seemed to have enveloped all the French front, and part of the Highland Brigade, and in many instances proved immediately deadly, in other cases completely disabling the soldiers, while in others the effect was only temporary. Immediately thereafter the whole German force made up, it is estimated, of upwards of ten divisions, advanced.

"The French and Belgians, over a front of 9,000 yards, or upwards of five miles, gave way—indeed, many of them were completely prostrated and incapable of action. This portion of the line fell back beyond the canal, in some cases a distance of 10,000 yards, or about six miles.

"By the sudden retirement of the French, the heavy Canadian guns in their rear had not time to get away and consequently, for the time being, fell into the hands of the enemy. Meantime, the Highlanders being left without any protection on their flank, General Turner extended his force for about 2,500 yards, at right angles to his original front, to prevent, as far as possible, the German divisions, which were pouring in in overwhelming numbers, from completely cutting the Canadians off by enveloping them from the rear. Thus the Highlanders had to cover a rectangular of about 5,000 yards, the latter part of which was in the open.

"It appears this fight lasted through the afternoon and night. On Friday morning the Tenth Battalion, under the gallant Col. Boyle and Major McLaren, both of whom fell, and the Sixteenth Canadian Highlanders, made a desperate attack on the German position and recaptured the four guns. They were supported by the Second Eastern Battalion under Colonel David Watson, and the Queen's Own, under Colonel Rennie.

"This was the position up to the forenoon of Friday, the 23rd. With the Canadian Highlanders extended to double their normal trench front, one-half of it in the open, and assisted by the Tenth Battalion, from Southern Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, they not only held ten times their own number in check, but they actually retook the guns from the enemy and maintained their position, but the loss, as must have been expected, was appalling.

"However, the Germans had advanced six miles to the rear of the French position and there seemed nothing to prevent their getting in behind the Canadian line, greatly extended as it was and terribly diminished. Accordingly, another brilliant charge was carried out at some German trenches to the rear of the former French positions, under General Mercer, with the First and Fourth Battalions of the First Brigade, supported by the Second and Third, and the German trenches, temporarily erected, were recaptured. In this movement two British brigades also took part, as well as the remainder of the Canadians.

"Meantime the enemy concentrated able to hold firm against great odds, several divisions on the rectangle in the Highlander Brigade, that is, the extreme left of their original position.

"The troops in the trenches were but the scattered fragments holding the line, in the open, at right angles to the trenches, they were obliged to gradually fall back before vastly superior numbers.

"Thus large masses amounting, it is estimated, to three divisions, or about 60,000 Germans, got in the rear of the Highlanders, thus cutting them off, but they refused to surrender, and the firing was heard far into the night, the Germans being in front, on the left flank, and on the rear.

FOUGHT WHILE CARTRIDGE REMAINED.

"Whether the gallant Highlanders were annihilated or taken prisoners, is not known, but so long as a cartridge remained they fought.

"Thus, the fighting which began on Friday afternoon, raged throughout that evening and night, until daylight on Saturday, when the First Canadian Brigade arrived and reinforced.

"Early in that forenoon three British brigades came up also, and did valiant service in reinforcing and prolonging the lines to the left. During Saturday and Sunday the fighting continued by the Canadians and British and ably assisted by the French and Belgians, the line of defence was reformed.

"The Canadians have suffered severely, but their heroism is unquestioned. Many of them were without food or water for upwards of twenty-four hours, and some for much longer, but they unflinchingly held their positions."

CANADA IN THE WAR

Word was received yesterday in Sackville that Major C. J. Murray, who had been wounded, is improving. Mrs. Margaret Osborne, of Sydney street, received word yesterday that her son, Lance-Corporal James S. Osborne, of the 18th battalion, had been wounded at Ypres.

Lieut. Allan Swabey, of the Somerset Light Infantry, has been killed in action in France. He was a grandson of Rev. M. Swabey, formerly rector of St. Jude's church, West St. John.

Private J. Marr, formerly of 70 Brussels street, has been wounded in France, but it is not known to what extent.

Among the Nova Scotia men in the casualty list is Sergt. A. E. Rose, of Halifax, N. S., wounded.

INQUIRY INTO DEATH OF WILLIAM BURROUGHS

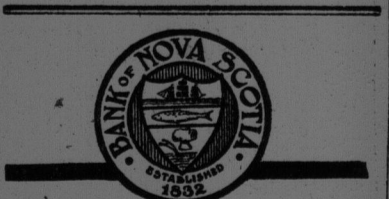
The inquest into the death of William Burroughs, conducted by Coroner W. P. Roberts, was opened last evening in the court house. The witnesses were B. B. Bishop, proprietor; John P. Parry, George Cowie and Gordon F. McNeil, all soldiers who had been with Burroughs; Dr. F. T. Danson, who conducted the post mortem; Deputy Chief Jenkins, Detective Lucas and Patrolman Briggs, who told of the filthy condition of the house and of frequent disorder there. The deputy spoke of the proposal to license hotels and lodging houses and to compel them to keep registers of their boarders, expressing his approval of the idea, an opinion in which the coroner and jury concurred. The hearing will be continued this evening.

WINNIPEG PROTESTS AGAINST ELECTION

At a public meeting, announced as non-partisan, and at which members of both parties spoke last evening, the citizens of Winnipeg went on record as

strongly protesting against an election at this time. The Ministerial Association also took the same stand at a meeting yesterday.

Broke His Leg. Alexander McManus, baggage master at Hampton station, fractured his leg yesterday when an overturned baggage truck fell on him.



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33 Charlotte St.; 363 Main St.;
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on St. West.

One eyelet missing — O

the only fault in 5000 pairs of Invictus Army Boots

Publicity is a two-edged sword; however, as I have no apology to make, and, believing absolutely in the Canadian public's intelligent sense of fairness, I make the following statement:

I maintain that the public has the right, when its fathers, sons and brothers, are fighting to defend a principle of this nation, in a distant country, to know something about the way we have cared, and will care, for those men; therefore, it will be of interest to know that:

The firm of Geo. A. Slater, Limited, did not supply a single pair of boots for the members of the 1st Contingent, neither did we supply any boots to the Government, for use by the Militia previously. Late last October, however, we received an order for 5,000 pairs of army ankle boots, for which we were paid in full (\$20,000) without any hitch whatsoever. I admit that two pairs were returned to this factory; one pair because it was mismatched at Ottawa—the other because in some manner, an eyelet had been detached. Please bear this in mind, an unblemished record, except for one small eyelet.

I did appear before the Committee on Boot Enquiry, but solely in the capacity of a boot manufacturer desirous of rendering what service he could to the public, with information based on 39 years of experience.

Every one of the five thousand pairs made by us, was constructed with the finest of skilled workmanship and the best of material.

It is an unfortunate circumstance, that reflections have been cast in so general a manner, that a stigma has attached itself to the name of every boot and shoe manufacturer in Canada, regardless whether it was, or was not, deserved. In taking the public into my confidence, I desire to point out that this concern, its methods and its product, are based on honesty of purpose, and never, knowingly, has there been sent out from this factory, a boot that will not meet the high standard quality test, set by us in making Invictus Shoes.

I write this in defence of our own principle, which is to deal squarely with our customers, be they Government or individuals. The standard of quality is the same to all, although I regret to say this firm lost money on the business which we secured from the Government, solely because in upholding the same principle, we felt that it was absolutely essential to the soldiers' comfort, to have boots made on special patterns, which it was necessary for us to order specially, to properly fill our contract.

We still point with pride to the few army boots that we made, every pair of which carries the name "Invictus." They will not only redound to the credit of this organization, but will be, as well, a vindication of Canadian manufacturing superiority and square dealing.

Geo. A. Slater

President,
Geo. A. Slater, Limited
and having no connection whatsoever with any other shoe concern in Canada.

Montreal, May 1, 1915.

Invictus Boots

FIRST PEACE RIVER WHEAT TO MARKET

Grown in What Was Once Considered Barren North; Shipment Arouses Great Interest Among Grain Men

Montreal, May 3—Grand Trunk Pacific officials report that the first car of wheat shipped out of the Peace River country in northern Alberta has arrived at Winnipeg.

It was grown at Vanerna, but how the wheat got from Vanerna to Peace River landing is not known at the present time. From Peace River landing to Edmonton the trip was made by the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia line, and then west, the distance is close to 400 miles. From Edmonton to Winnipeg the distance is more than 800 miles, so that a trip of around 1,200 miles was made before this wheat reached Winnipeg to have government inspectors announce that a point so far north could produce No. 3 northern wheat.

They Don't Like Us

One of the principal papers of Germany, the Hamburger Nachrichten, gives utterance to its sentiments as follows:—"The Englishman indeed is not to be classed among human beings. He is rather a bull, an ulcer on the body of mankind. May the coming of the day be hastened when the good German sword may remove this monstrous parasite from the world as its inviolable possession that life blood of freedom and Kultur of which that robber state has for so many centuries drained its arteries." "Ebony Swells Minstrel's."

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By using Windsor Table Salt it's made in Canada

Three-Cornered Fight in Saskatchewan. Saskatoon, May 3—In the Shellbrook by-election to fill the vacancy caused by the translation of S. J. Donaldson to the dominion house, three candidates were placed in the field today: E. S. Clinch, Liberal; T. A. Berthwick, Independent Liberal, opposing the temperance proposals of the Scott government; and S. Agnew, Conservative.

NON RUSTABLE D & A CORSETS

The War tax on corsets adds nothing to the retail price of a D & A or a La Diva Corset.

Because they are Made-in-Canada—But, about fifty cents, out of every dollar paid for imported corsets, now goes for customs duties and profits on them, which add nothing in corset value.

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