

known as "The Well." The stream of machine-gun fire and the flow of bombs prevented these gallant warriors from being able to retain the piece of trench they gained in the first dash and their casualties were very heavy. The valour displayed deserved a better end. In this vicinity the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions also did good work and I am sorry that owing to my not being near the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade, I am unable to write fully of the deeds of these brave men. Other writers, who are seized of the facts, I am sure will do them justice in due time.

THE 5TH BATTALION'S ATTACK.

On the night of the 24th the 5th Battalion troops were reinforced by a company of the 7th Battalion (1st British Columbia) and a squadron of the Strathcona's Horse and early in the morning of the 25th a brilliant attack was driven home on the redoubtable K-5, which this time proved successful. The bombers first went into the assault, lead by Capt. J. A. Critchley (24) of the Strathcona's and the men of the three regiments vied with each other in trying to win for their respective units distinction which would o'ertop all previous records for gallantry. The resistless tide rolled in on the battered fortress and found there the remnants of many dead and the broken pieces of a dozen or so machine-guns. K-5, which had proven such a stubborn opponent to the British advance, was now no more and the second line of German trench between Givenchy and the "Orchard" was in our hands. Why we did not take advantage of this break and sweep on to the Aubers Ridge remains a mystery, unless my deductions in the beginning of this Chapter, as to the lack of shells, may supply the reason.

The 26th and 27th days of May were spent in consolidation of the territory gained; the enemy ceased in his artillery activity, the Canadians gradually withdrew from the scene of their herculean achievements and deeds of valour, while their places were taken by fresh troops. One more bar was added to the Canadian medal, and "Festubert" became another memory in the thoughts of men.

Once more the 1st Canadian Division needed more men to take the place of those who had fallen in the path of duty. Once more they turn their eyes across the sea for the reinforcements necessary to fill the gaps—and not in vain. For over in Canada there was working still the man of the square jaw and the determined brow—Canada's foremost soldier who long before the clouds of war gathered in Europe had scented the danger, warned