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THREE BRANTFORD MEN ARE AMONG CASUALTES-A LETTER FROM CORPORAL COBDEN

All Were Reservists Who Left Brantford in August -Cobden is at Present in Hospital at Boulogne, France.

Corporal John Ladyman Cobden lies in a Boulogne Hospital with wounds in his head and fingers. Private John Blanchard is supposed to have been killed in action at the battle of the Aisne. He is missing from his regiment. Private Arthur Barnes was severely wounded and is reported to have passed away in the hospital. These, the first Brantford casualties are made known in a letter written by Corporal Cobden while lying wounded in hospital, and received by his wife, by the last English mail. The letter is a human document and tells a terrible story of the war, as it is to an active participant. It tells of the German hordes and of their desperate fighting. It tells how regiments are wiped out and how comrades fall and it gives a hope of an early finish to the great war. The writer, Corporal J. L. Cobden, is well known in the city, and was a local police constable. He is serving with the 1st. Battalion Coldstream Guards and has been promoted since the beginning of hostilities. Lying in a Boulogne hospital wounded, after lying in the trenches and being under fire for nine weeks, he writes home as follows: November 6, 1914. No. 1 Company, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards Expeditionary Force on Active Service. My Dearest Wife and Children—Just a few lines hoping you are all well, as it leaves me to-day. I am doing fairly well at present. I am now in the hospital at (censored). I was wounded in the head and finger by the bursting of a shrapnel bullet. It grazed right along my skull about the same place as when Murray shot at me about last Christmas. It was nothing serious, but the worst was that I was nearly buried alive by one of those big German shells and it has injured me back. Poor Jack Blanchard is missing and I believe he was killed at the Battle of Ypres (censored). It was an awful fierce battle and I never thought would come out. The shells came over in hundreds and our fellows went down like sheep. Poor Arthur Barnes was wounded four times in the Battle of the Aisne and I believe he died, as his wounds were very severe, three in the legs and one in the stomach. I do wish that it was all over, that I might get back home, but I don't think it will last very long. I was in a trench last Sunday and a bullet went through my water bottle and it is still there. I will bring it home if the Good Lord spares me to do so. I hope you are all in good health. Give my love to all. It doesn't look as if I shall have Christmas with you after all, by the looks of things, though we were driven them back all along the line. At the time of writing I had been under fire for nine weeks and not got touched until Monday, Oct. 26th. My hat was knocked off my head by a piece of shell and two of my sections killed beside me. It does not seem to worry one. You see so many dead lying around, especially German born pigs, and fowl. The Germans shell every house until they set them on fire. The country is absolutely ruined and it will take the Belgians years to recover from it. I only pray to live to recover from it and get back home. Don't worry about me, as I am not so very ill or I wouldn't be able to write. I shall be about again in a few days. The nurses here are very kind to me. There are about 400 of them (wounded soldiers) here, all from the same battle, but the Germans lost more heavily than we did, by far, and they are said to be in retreat again. We are all looking for a quick finish to the war. I don't think we will go into action again as there are only a few Coldstream Guards left and not one officer. They shelled us clear out of the trenches, also the Scots Guards, the Coldstreams, Black Watch, Camerons and Scots Guards from the first brigade and they have all been pretty nearly wiped out. They will have a hard time forming the 1st. Battalion Constable about poor Jack Blanchard and I. I feel certain I shall soon be with you. Remember me to all old friends. How is the police force going on? I must close now, with a wish that God be with you until we meet again. I will write again in a few days. JACK. Records of Men. Below is appended the names and records of the men who are reported as casualties at the front. They were popular and esteemed members of the local police force and Draughts and will be missed. (Continued on Page Four.)



GOOD DOG.

Official Bureau Gives Out News of the Battle at Ypres Which the British Army Held Fast

LONDON, Nov. 23.—Colonel E. D. Swinton, the British official eyewitness with the expeditionary forces on the continent, continuing his narrative of the army operations, and supplementing his account of November 19, writes: "November 20—Once more there is no change to record in the military situation on our front with the exception of an attack in force again upon our left on November 17. The four days from the 16th to the 19th have been unusually uneventful. The great change that has occurred has been in the weather. Winter now has set in earnest. A miserable afternoon of snow and slush, succeeded by a night of frost, this morning is keen, calm and bright, and promises well for the aviators, who have recently been so much hampered in their work. "ALLIES HOLD YPRES "Regarding the exact situation at Ypres, since certain mistakes to the effect that the Germans had penetrated the town and had apparently been circled, it is well to state that Ypres is in the hands of the allies and that, save for prisoners of war or possible spies, no Germans have succeeded in entering the town or even getting near it. The allied position there is stronger than it has been. "Monday, November 16—Our troops on the left passed the most peaceful day they had experienced during the last month.

There was little shelling and no infantry attacks. A prisoner asserted that it had been the intention of the Germans to assault this quarter on the 16th, but the damage inflicted by our artillery on the previous day had been so heavy that it had been decided to postpone the operation until reinforcements should arrive. "There is no doubt that on the 19th, the massing preparatory to attack, the Germans had committed several faults, and our guns and maxims were given a good opportunity which they at once seized, with devastating results, to these rear battalions. "FRENCH HOLD GROUND "The fighting to the south of Ypres continued without marked advantage to either side, but the French everywhere held their ground. On the centre all was quiet. On our right the enemy continued to show some activity, pushing forward the saps and throwing bombs from their trenches and mortars. One of their sap heads was successfully attacked during the night, and an earth boring tool was captured. "On Tuesday, on our left, the Germans made another effort in the direction of Ypres. After shelling our positions to the east and to the southeast, they made three attacks. About 1 p.m. their infantry advanced in strength against our section on this line and took possession of some trenches, out of which our own troops had been driven by shell fire. When the Germans endea-

ored to press on our infantry made a brilliant counter attack with bayonets and drove them out of the trenches and for some 500 yards beyond. "A second attempt made further within five yards of our line before it was broken by our rifle fire. On this occasion the Germans advanced obliquely across our front and suffered very severely from our rifle and gun fire. 1,200 DEAD IN 500 YARDS. "The number of killed in front of a length of some 500 yards of our front is estimated at about 1,200. The assault was made by regular troops, though not by the Guard. "About 3 p.m. they massed for the third assault, but being subjected to a hot shell fire, they gave up the attempt. On the whole, it was a most successful day for our arms. "Wednesday, the 18th, was another quiet day. Nothing occurred except the shelling of our east. The enemy contented himself with sapping, it is said. Owing to the high tide the inundation was extending satisfactorily to the southeast of Dixmude. "Thursday, the 19th, also was uneventful. Our trench mortars were used for the first time, with good results. The successful resistance we have up to the present made to all the efforts of the enemy has had a very encouraging effect on the morale of our troops. (Continued on Page Four.)

GERMAN PRISONERS IN A REMARKABLE ATTEMPT TO MAKE THEIR ESCAPE

Guards Frustrated Effort by Pouring Volleys Into Prisoners--Expected That They Could Make Get-Away From Isle of Man.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. The Manchester Guardian, referring to the rioting last Thursday in the alien detention camp on the Isle of Man, in which five prisoners were killed and twelve wounded, says this outbreak was due not merely to discontent with the food and treatment given them, but was part of a desperate plan of the prisoners to escape from the camp with the ultimate hope of seizing a vessel in the harbor and making their way to some neutral country. The dining room of the camp where the trouble occurred, gives access through the adjoining kitchen to the only part of the camp enclosure not protected by a double circuit of barbed wire. The prisoners on Wednesday went on a hunger strike. This rapidly developed into an angry demonstration against England. The prison commandant succeeded in quieting the disturbance, but not before the Union Jack had been torn down. "The mutiny began Thursday, the signal being the throwing of a chair through a window. The prisoners instead of making for the main doors leading from the dining hall, all rushed toward the kitchen doors. Only six soldiers guarded these doors, and this half dozen men were attacked by 2,000 however the moment a volley was fired into their midst. The correspondent of The Manchester Guardian expresses the belief that the prisoners hoped to secure enough arms to hold the guards at bay until the sailors in the camp had time to get possession of a boat in the har-

PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION BROADENS ITS SCOPE

Officials Are Appointed to Carry Out the Work to the Strictest Letter in the City of Brantford.

The Brant Patriotic and War Relief Association has decided to affiliate with the Canadian Patriotic Association. This decision was reached at a meeting of the special meeting were read and confirmed, thus constituting the act of affiliation. This means that the Brant Association will contribute 50 per cent of its funds to the Canadian Association and will be entitled to draw upon the larger association. It also means that the Canadian Association will take over the matter of attending to the Brantford dependents of those who have gone to the front. A special committee was formed to deal with the Brantford end of the National fund, the working officials of which are: President, Mayor Spence, Vice-President, Lloyd Harris, Secretary-Treasurer, H. T. Watt and assistant secretary, Miss E. VanNorman. The offices of the assistant-treasurer will be in the Great Brantford board offices. It will take a matter of a week or two days to settle all the details of agreement with regard to the joining of the two associations, but in the meantime the Brant Patriotic Association will attend to the requirements of the dependents of those who have left the city with the latest contingent. A grant of \$500 was made towards the cost of labor incurred in the extending and widening of Birkett's Lane in the Township. This is a matter of 30 per cent towards the wages and will be distributed through the social service league. A resolution was passed in favor of the Christmas tree idea and it moved the co-operation with the ladies of the Women's Patriotic League upon the work. In conjunction with the matter a committee was appointed to act and it is composed as follows: Lloyd Harris, Judge Hardy, Cockshutt, Franks, Ham, W. F. Bunnell, W. N. Andrews, Major Genet, A. McFarland, T. E. Rycer, Reginald Scarfe, C. A. Waterous, L. M. Waterous, H. T. Watt, and N. H. Preston. Alien enemies in a British detention camp mutinied and five were killed. The Dominion Government plans to increase the number of troops in training to fifty thousand at once, and when the second contingent sails, to enlist 17,000 more immediately.

WILL VISIT BATTERY MEN IN HAMILTON

Arrangements have been made for a special car for the members of the 32nd Battery to visit their comrades, at Hamilton tomorrow night. Col. Rennie announced to Colonel Ashton today that wives and sweethearts of battery men would be permitted to make the trip, but no children. In order that there will be no hitch in the arrangements, orders have been issued for the men to assemble at the armories to-night. The local battery continues to make splendid strides in spite of the number who have been sent forward for active service.

No Sympathy For Spotters

[By Special Wire to the Courier] HAMILTON, Ont., Nov. 23—Magistrate Jelfs has no sympathy for whiskey spotters. He said so this morning, Jerry Champaign, Toronto, employed by the department, charged Mike Deweny with purchasing a bottle of whiskey and selling it without a license. The Court was satisfied Champaign incited Deweny to break the law and dismissed the case. "Instead of this man, the detective should have been arrested," said the magistrate.

THE AERO RAIDS MADE BY THE BRITISH ON ZEPPELINS WERE REAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Kaiser and His Staff Were Very Mad at the Prowess of the British—Zeppelins Were Put Out of Business.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Nov. 23.—A cable to The Herald from The Hague says: Reports from Berlin state that the British air raid on Friedrichshafen caused terrible uneasiness mingled with anger throughout the German empire, especially in military circles. The Kaiser's headquarters particularly was infuriated about the magnificent feat. There is good reason to believe that the damage done by the British bombs to the Zeppelin workshops was far greater than the Wolf Bureau telegrams state. The aviators' object was to destroy six Zeppelins now in process of building and with which the Kaiser's fondest hopes of invading Britain are closely connected. Beyond a doubt, two sheds in which four airships are being completed, were set on fire by the British bombs, but as the Zeppelin workshops are fitted with an efficient fire alarm system, it is possible, the flames were stopped before any Zeppelins actually were destroyed. There is no doubt, however, that the airships' usefulness has been seriously impaired. WAS REAL HERO. NEW YORK, Nov. 23.—A cable from London to The Herald says: No greater hero has been developed by the war than Lieutenant Briggs, of the British royal naval air service, who was one of three aviators, who tried to destroy the great Zeppelin sheds at Friedrichshafen. A dispatch received here last night by way of Berlin and The Hague from Friedrichshafen states that Lieutenant Briggs, with his shrapnel gasolin tank on fire, volplaned across the sheds, dropping many bombs as he glided to the earth. Then, with his pistol, he fought single-handed until he was killed by a head wound. The three British airmen, whose starting point is not announced, suddenly appeared to the Germans at two o'clock Saturday afternoon, while flying at a great height over the town of Friedrichshafen. Great precautions which the Germans have taken to protect the Zeppelin works and its enormous dirigibles at Friedrichshafen were responsible for the detection of the aeroplanes. Word was telephoned ahead to Friedrichshafen, and when the three aviators approached the Zeppelin plant the Germans were ready for them. A bombardment of high-angle air was begun by the numerous high powered Krupp guns, that have been mounted on roofs and in a wide area, surrounding the Zeppelin plant. These guns, specially designed to fire at high angles, sent scores of shells into the sky, the shells exploding near the aeroplanes. Two of the aeroplanes kept high enough to be out of range of the shrapnel shells. All three circled about the town and dropped six powerful bombs. These came so close to hitting the Zeppelin sheds that a tremor of apprehension spread through the thousands of persons who were watching the combat. Two other bombs were dropped into the town, severely damaging several houses and killing a woman and a man. The marksmanship of the British airmen was exceptionally good, considering the great height at which they were flying, and after the bombs had dropped into the streets many persons fled to cellars and other places where they fancied they would be safer than in the streets. One of the airmen, Lieutenant Briggs, apparently realized that not much could be accomplished by dropping bombs from such a height, and the German report gives him credit for making a "fearless attempt to cross the hangars at a height of only a quarter of a mile. They considered this fearless, as they knew that it would mean almost certain death to the aviator. But Lieut. Briggs bravely took his chance. After circling down like a hawk about to seize its prey, his aeroplane glided across the hangars within easy range of the powerful aeroplanes mounted on the hangars and on buildings near them. An avalanche of shells was hurled at him. They burst all about him, each explosion rocking the wings of his machine. But he fearlessly continued, and as he was above the hangars he dropped two or three bombs. The heart of every German was in his throat, expecting to see the giant Zeppelins being made ready for an invasion of England, blown to pieces. But the speed of Lieut. Briggs' machine was so great that they missed their mark and exploded a distance from the sheds, doing small damage. While his aeroplane was over the hangars and as it was being rocked and dipped by the explosions of shells, near it, a fragment of shrapnel shell, pierced the British airman's gasolin tank. The spilling gasolin caught fire, possibly from other shells, bursting near it, and Lieut. Briggs, with his aeroplane on fire, realized that he could not escape. With his power thus cut off he could do nothing, but volplane, and as he glided down to the earth he untripped his heavy revolver. As the wounded and burning aeroplane landed, only three hundred feet from the Zeppelin plant, Lieut. Briggs hopped out and prepared to fight to the death. He was alone and his enemy was the German army. He was the only other airmen who were dropping all the bombs they carried, and flew away across Lake Constance and toward the lines of the allies. Soldiers ran from the Zeppelin wharf toward Lieut. Briggs' tank. He waited calmly until they were within range of his pistol and then he opened fire. The German report fails to state that damage he did with his pistol, but they give him full credit for his valor. Only when a German bullet had hit his head and knocked him senseless was he taken prisoner. Those who knew him best believe that every cartridge in his revolver was discharged before he fell. The officer was carried to Germans to a hospital, and so great was the admiration of the enemy for his valor and his heroic and hopeless defence that it is understood that the best of treatment is being accorded to him.

WAR LECTURE AT BORDEN CLUB ON WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday night, in the Borden Club, a lecture will be given on the war by Mr. Watson of Paris. The slides are new and of original interest, many of them never before shown, and the evening is being looked forward to with keen anticipation. This evening is one of the Borden Club's open nights, and all members can bring a friend. Ladies are specially invited. Speakers are being arranged for, and an orchestra will play.

CONTRACTS FOR IRON EXCITES SOME SUSPICION IN THE OLD LAND TODAY

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Nov. 23.—Under the heading, "Is the War Office being fleeced?" The Daily Chronicle makes a demand for an official inquiry regarding the government's contracts for the purchase of galvanized and corrugated iron. The newspaper suggests that parliament ought to set up a vigilance committee to keep an eye on all contracts made by the great war spending departments and newspaper scandals in them. Regarding the iron contracts, The Chronicle says it believes it has evidence of a trade ring, which is maintaining prices for government work as much as \$9 per ton above the prices openly quoted for private persons. "Twenty leading firms," says The Chronicle, "have been asked for prices for supplying iron sheeting for government order and for private customers. Only two firms replied with quotations for both. The others gave quotations for private customers and referred inquiries regarding the prices for government orders to a firm of accountants who seem to have been successful in organizing the trade ring. This firm's price for the government is higher than that quoted by any firm for private customers."