

own ideas of going to War. There was to be no preferment through influence, only such promotion as might be won upon the field. Taking ship to America, in New York he enlisted under a Canadian recruiting officer and finally early in 1918 arrived with a draft at 42nd H.Q. in France. From the beginning he was conspicuous for his fearlessness and keenness in duty, but at Parvillers on August 12th, 1918, he found and seized the supreme opportunity of his life. Concerning the action fought that day Major D. B. Martyn, D.S.O., M.C. of the 44th Canadian Battalion, bore this testimony:

"There never was greater dash or perseverance shown by men than by the Company of the 42nd, who cleared about four miles of net work of trench, fought steadily and at deadly close range for ten hours, and the spirit was such that throughout the men continually cheered. The large number of blocks that had to be put in from time to time made a heavy demand on their initiative and ability to stick it. I regret that as I do not know their names, I was unable to put forward recommendations that I would like."

It was the testimony of the men themselves that Dinesen's was the outstanding figure of that day, and so it came to pass that the following paragraph, which has been the occasion of just pride to the 42nd, appeared in the columns of the London Gazette, dated October 26th, 1918.

"For most conspicuous and continuous bravery displayed during ten hours of hand-to-hand fighting, which resulted in the capture of over a mile of strongly garrisoned and stubbornly defended enemy trenches.

Five times in succession he rushed forward alone, and single-handed put hostile machine guns out of action, accounting for twelve of the enemy with bomb and bayonet. His sustained valour and resourcefulness inspired his comrades at a very critical stage of the action and were an example to all." (Parvillers, France, 12-8-18.)

Thus the young man who left his native land almost in obscurity returned in 1919 with this unique and honourable record, that he rose from the rank of private to that of Lieutenant and won the highest decoration for courage which it is in the power of the British people to bestow.

These and many other incidents of like spirit marked the conduct of the battalion during these memorable days. The Colonel and his Officers are justly proud of the men, who, by their unquestioning obedience and cheerful courage, demonstrated again the heart and spirit which has in centuries past made glorious the battlefields of our Empire. True, ours was only a corner of a vast front—only a little incident in an epic struggle, but through it there has been added to the history of The Regiment, and of the Dominion, a chapter high in honour and immortal in spirit.