

through the British front. Its place of assembly was in front of Amiens."

Early in May Canadian Corps Headquarters moved to Pernes and on May 25 to Bryas. There followed a period of intensive training in the tactics of the offensive, the three divisions not in the line being concentrated in the area Monchy Breton-Lignereuil-Le Cauroy-Dieval-Auchel-Chateau de la Haie. While they are there we may enquire briefly into the causes that led to the recognition of the Canadians as a 'corps d'elite,' to be used as storm or shock troops in desperate or critical adventures.

Canada's first contingent has been described as a mob of amateur soldiers passionately inspired to give their all for a great cause. Discipline was lax, the officers unproved, and though the stuff was there, it took time to transmute it into the perfect fighting machine it became. Take the simple matter of saluting. To men of democratic birth and habit of mind, saluting had in it something of kôw-tow—to the young officer it seemed an insult to his men, the tried comrades of his civil life, and they in turn might resent the implication of a social distinction that had no existence in fact. And so, for long, saluting was a perfunctory affair.

But there came certain officers who explained patiently and carefully that saluting was of the essence of military life—that the constant exercise it affords of vigilance and smartness is part and parcel of the making of a good soldier. At the end of the war there was no smarter saluting in the British Army than that of the Canadians, as there were no better marching regiments, no superior Staff work, no alerter Intelligence, nor more scientific gunnery.

The Canadian Corps owes an immense debt to its former Commander, Sir Julian Byng, who first welded it into a perfectly co-ordinated fighting machine, knit together in spirit and applying to all its problems and difficulties the idea of a common loyalty to the Corps. It was not long when in the shock of battle the Canadian Corps came into a full apprecia-

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