## LOST FAITH IN THE ROSS RIFLE

Sir Douglas Haig Says of Troops

LEE-ENFIELDS INSTEAD

Recommendation of the Army Council-Sir John French Heard of Trouble on Eve of Battie-Exchanged Weapons Without Authority

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tinues as follows:

Sir Douglas Haig wrote on March 29, the Ross is less trustworthy than the rifle to the Canadians.

"In conclusion I would observe that London, Jan. 30—Official corresponding which has just been issued, considering the Ross rofle, quotes Lord serving the Ross rofle have not the Ross rofle have not the Ross, nor have I any sufficient data confidence in it that is so essential that

> Haig Grants Canadians' Request. Haig Grants Canadians' Request.
>
> "I, accordingly, am of the opinion that the second and third Canadian Divisions should be re-armed with short Lee-Entheld rifle. It will be remembered that their apprehensions are unfield rifle. It will be remembered that founded, or what possibly be found more armed on the 12th June, 1915. I am too tin a position to effect this with the means at my disposal in France.
>
> "I have the honor to inquire, therefore, "I have the honor to inquire, therefore, ammunition."

again consulted the general officer commanding the second army in case any fresh points have come to light during the recent heavy fighting by the Canadians near Ypres, and he tells me his experience of the working of the Ross rifle during the last fight has only confirmed him in the opinion that Canadians in the Third Division at all events have lost their confidence in their rifle, and he recommends the rifes in this division.

he recommends the rifles in this division be exchanged." "Although reports from the Second Division are not to the same effect, I am of the opinion the Lee-Enfield rifle should be issued to all three divisions of Canadians. Canadians. I must therefore adhere to my recommendation that the Second and Third Canadians should be re-armed with the short Lee-Enfield. I would urge necessary steps to give effect hereto be taken without delay.

Sir John French London, Jan. 20.-There was issued today the official correspondence relating to the use of the Ross rifle in

On June 19, 1915, Lord French, then ommanding, wrote from headquarters cknowledging a war office letter dated hree days previously regarding the ac-"I had heard rumors that there was growing want of confidence in this ific as evidenced by the fact that the

infantry of the Canadian division were taking every opportunity of exchanging their rifles with those of the Lee-Enfield pattern from casualties on the bat-Council of Inquiry

"To satisfy myself whether there was any real justification for this state of affairs without at the same time lendng encouragement to the idea that the Ross rifle was unsatisfactory, such as night have resulted from investigation by divisional authorities, I gave instruc-tions for the assembly of a small com-mittee at my general headquarters to test the rifle with various natures of ammunition in use, including ammuni-tion of Canadian manufacture of which a small supply was obtained from England for the purpose, none having been sent out to this country for use with the

One-Third Had Got Other Rifles

"The proceedings of this committee were laid before me on the eve of a serious offensive operation in which the Canadian division were to take part. 1 was at the same time informed that over 3,000 or more than one-third of the infantry of this division had already succeeded in re-arming themselves with the Lee-Enfield without any authority having been given them to do so. "Looking firstly to the unanim opinion of my committee, that the Ross rifle do not be relied upon to work smoothly and efficiently in rapid fire with any ammunition other than that of Canadian manufacture; secondly to the fact that no ammunition of this nature

was available in this country, and that sufficient supplies do not be obtained from England, thirdly to the want of nsidence in the rifle which a large number of the infantry evidently felt, as evidenced by the fact that over three thousand had without authority exchanged their rifles for those used by British comrades, and taken from casualties on the battlefield, I did not feel justified in the Ross rifle, and ordered their re-armcarried out before they went into action

on the 15th inst. "As regards the suggestion made by the Army Council that the opinion of one or two selected Canadian officers should be obtained, I submit this is difficult to comply with. The question can only be satisfactorily settled by the best expert opinion, and that the views of a few selected Canadian officers who may or may not be prejudiced in the matter will not be of any material assistance. I would therefore suggest that the Army Council should send to this country one of the most highly qualified exor more of the most highly qualified experts obtainable to make necessary tests under service conditions and report whether the ammunition of British manufacture is or is not suitable for use with the Ross rifle.

"For this purpose a supply of ammunition of Canadian manufacture

should be brought out for comparison. French's letter on the subject and contensive inquiries carried out throughout whether, looking to all the circumstantiques of follows:

connence in it that is so essential that they should possess. The inquiry on which these conclusions are based was as I can judge, the ammunition of Britthe outcome of an urgent application is manufacture is not suitable for use from a battalion of the Third Canadian with the Ross rifle, and that there is a Division for re-armament with a short large growing feeling of want of confice-Enfield rifle, in consequence of the dence in their rifle on the part of the high percentage of jams experienced with their Ross rifles during a hostile attack on May 1, 1916.

Hair Grant Canadiane Regress ed in turning out rifles in sufficient num

"I have the honor to inquire, therefore, whether the necessary number of rifles can be supplied from home services without interfering with or delaying the arrival and arming of divisions due from England and Egypt, on which I am relying?"

On June 10, 1916, Army Council asked Haig whether he considered the tests already carried out sufficient, and if not, asking that further tests should be at once made in order that there might be with British ammunition."

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ad Company to build a branch line of police inspector gets only \$1,650 a year railroad from some point on the line of the European & North American railway, Maine Central Railroad Company lessee, in the town of Bancroft, running in a general northerly or northeasterly STOP DANDRUFF! croft, Hanynesville, Weston and Orient or any of them all being in the county of Aroostook, to the easterly boundary line of the state of Maine, to connect HAIR GETS THICK, with the railroad to be built by the gov-ernment railways of Canada, will make WAVY, BEAUTIFUE ritory served by the 2,500 miles of Canadian government railways in the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island into New

England and will facilitate the exchange Girls! Draw a Cloth Through ritory and New England



Above will be found the picture of a modera gun of the kind that is being used in the present war. At a glance the gun and some old trees appear to be all there is in the picture, but by careful scrutiny some soldiers' faces will be found. There are 18 of them in all. Can you find them? It is no easy task, but by patience and perseverance it can be accomplished. You may win a cash prize by doing so. Many have done this as will be shown by the names and addresses we will send you. If you find the faces mark each one you find with an X, cut out the picture and send it to us together with a slip of paper on which you have written the words "I have found all the faces and marked them." Write these nine words plainly and neatly, as in case of ties, both writing and neatness will be considered factors in this contest.

plainly and neatly, as in case of ties, both writing and neatness will be considered factors in this contest.

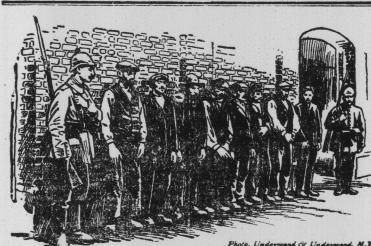
This may take up a little of your time, but as there are TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS in cash and many merchandise prizes given away, it is worth your time to take a little trouble over this matter. Remember, all you have to do is to mark the faces, cut out the picture and write on a separate piece of paper the words, "I have found all the faces and marked them."

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HOW GERMANS MAINTAIN RULE AMONG BELGIANS.

This photograph is a graphic depiction of what happens to the men—and sometimes to the women—of Belgium, when they are suspected of defying German authority. These eight peasants were charged with giving information against the invaders, tried by a summary court martial, and shot.

Such is the fate of thousands of loyal Belgians who have had the courage to resist the conquerors. Those who have not been executed or killed or disabled in battle have largely been impressed into service for the Germans, of late the Kaiser's soldiers have been deporting all available men to work in Germany.

What, then, becomes of the families of these men. Do the Germans look after them? They do not! The mothers, wives, and children of the Belgian nation are left destitute, with no homes and no food—saved from starvation only by the devotion of the Belgian Relief Committee.

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But ever the need becomes greater, particularly in the cold months that are This photograph is a graphic depiction of what happens to the men-

But ever the need becomes greater, particularly in the cold months that are now beginning. To Canada in particular the starving people of Belgium justly look for aid in their dire need, for we have an abundance of the food which

Practical expressions of Canada's gratitude to and admiration for the Belgians may be sent to the headquarters at 59 St. Peter street, Montreal, or to the



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