

WELL DONE, "FIGHTING 26TH"

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PROBS.—FAIR

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THE 26th BATTALION WINS HIGH PRAISE FOR GALLANT CONDUCT ON BATTLE FIELD

ALLIED TROOPS ATTACKING THE BULGARIAN STRONGHOLD; SERBS FIGHTING VALIANTLY

Campaign in Balkans Grows More Desperate—French Troops Hold Off 40,000 Bulgarians—Serbs Successfully Resist Attacks, but Strong Reinforcements Are Urgently Needed—Bulgars Plan to Cut Off Serbs from Advancing Allies.

London, Oct. 18.—The Allied forces from Saloniki have begun operations against the Bulgarians with unexpected zeal, and already the Serbo-Anglo-French forces have penetrated into Bulgarian territory just north of the Greek boundary and are attacking the Bulgarian stronghold of Strumnitza, according to advices received from Saloniki by Reuter's Telegram Company by way of Athens. The advices declare that "the fall of Strumnitza is imminent." The despatch continues: "The Serbs, aided by the Allies, repulsed the Bulgarians, who retreated on Strumnitza."

"It is learned by diplomatic sources that Field Marshal Von Mackensen the German commander, has demanded reinforcements."

FRENCH AND BULGARS CLASH.

Athens, Oct. 17, via London.—The French troops in Macedonia have received their baptism of fire near the railway bridge at Hudovo Villandovo, where they were attacked by forty thousand Bulgarians. The fighting continues.

The Bulgarian artillery is bombarding the Villandovo garrison, which is offering a stout resistance.

The Bulgarian government has officially announced that mines have been laid along the coasts of the Black and Aegean seas. Lights have been extinguished and the port of Dedaghat has been closed, except to neutral merchantmen.

FIGHTING AT GHEVGHELI.

London, Oct. 17.—French troops have encountered the Bulgarian army at Ghevgheli, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Athens, Ghevgheli, or Gievghel, is on the Nish-Saloniki railway line in Serbia, about nine miles north of the Greek border. A despatch from Athens to a London newspaper last night said that the railway administration at Saloniki had been ordered to prepare seven trains for the transport of allied troops to Ghevgheli. Another news agency despatch to London from Athens stated that allied troops had left Saloniki on Saturday for the Serbian-Bulgarian frontier.

MORE FORCES TO LAND.

London, Oct. 18.—A Malta despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company says:

"Signs are not wanting that the Allies in the course of the next few days will be landing strong new forces at Saloniki."

"The view is expressed by persons arriving from Italy that there is every probability that an Italian expeditionary force will be despatched to help the Serbians."

SERBS WINNING SUCCESSES.

London, Oct. 17.—Fierce fighting in the region of Dolran near the Greek frontier, between the Serbians and Bulgarians, has taken a turn in favor of the Serbs, according to an Athens despatch received by the Exchange Telegraph Company, by way of Zurich. The first detail of four hundred German prisoners reached Nish Friday.

Saloniki, Oct. 16.—Heavy cannonading is reported around Dolran, southeastern Serbia. The Serbians are said to have forced the Bulgarians to retire. The Serbians are advancing from Souvevo in the direction of Strumnitza, which they claim they expect to take shortly.

GERMAN ATTACKS REPULSED.

Paris, Oct. 16.—A Nish despatch which is timed 11 o'clock Thursday evening, says:

"All Austro-German attacks on the Obrenovatz-Belgrade-Semendria front have been repulsed, the enemy sustaining serious losses. The German army, which attempted to turn the right wing of the Serbians at Semendria was driven back into the marsh of Godomina, situated on the right bank of the Danube near the fortress of Semendria. A Bavarian battalion was thrown into the swamps. Along this entire front it was quiet today."

"The pressure of German troops in the vicinity of Pozarevac continues. Enemy reinforcements in large numbers are reported to be coming from the north."

"The Austro-German losses up to this evening are estimated at 25,000 killed and 6,000 wounded. The Serbian army operating in the north also sustained heavy losses."

"Nish and other Serbian cities are preparing solemn receptions for the Anglo-French troops."

SERBIANS FACING GREAT ODDS.

Paris, Oct. 17.—The Austro-German troops on the Save-Danube front are estimated at 14 divisions, according to a despatch to the Temps from Nish, under Saturday's date. The Tauric pressure continues in the region of Pozarevac. Continued on page two.

The 26th Distinguished Themselves

The following telegram received last evening by Hon. J. D. Hazen from Sir Sam Hughes, K. C. B., brings to New Brunswick welcome but not unexpected news.

Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister Marine and Fisheries, St. John, N. B.

You will be pleased to learn that in the past week's fighting the 26th Battalion of New Brunswick, under command of Lieutenant Colonel James L. McAvity, greatly distinguished themselves.

SAM HUGHES.

Hon. Mr. Hazen replied as follows:

Sir Sam Hughes, Minister Militia and Defence, Ottawa.

Thanks for your telegram. The information contained in it is most gratifying. New Brunswickers can be depended upon to do their duty like men under the most adverse circumstances.

J. D. HAZEN.

BRILLIANT EXPLOIT OF THIRTY MEN FROM THE FIGHTING 26th

Drove Germans Out of Crater Under Heavy Fire—Major Brown Slightly Wounded—Gallant Conduct of Sergt. Wyer and Private F. L. Daley.

[Extract from Official Communication of Canadian Eye-Witness to Sir Sam Hughes.]

"At one point, under cover of smoke, a party of thirty men, under Major W. R. Brown, of the 26th Battalion, Col. McAvity, St. John, commanding, accompanied by Lieutenants C. Fairweather, 26th Battalion, and McPhee, Canadian Engineers, left our trench to examine a crater close to the German parapet, where the enemy was thought to be carrying on some work. An enemy bombardment was in progress, and heavy rifle and machine gun fire was opened on the party. Major Brown was wounded in the advance, but continued to direct operations. The crater was entered by a few men under Lieutenants Fairweather and McPhee and rendered untenable to the enemy. The crater was then evacuated."

"During the retirement, Sergt. W. C. Wyer, 26th Battalion, St. John, succeeded with the help of Private F. L. Daley, in bringing in a wounded man under heavy fire."

The Communication.

Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 17.—The following official communication was issued tonight by the Minister of Militia, as received by him from Canadian headquarters in France:

On October 6, Major A. V. Roy, 22nd Battalion, Montreal, was standing in a trench issuing orders to Company Sergeant Major Marion and others. The enemy trench mortar shells were falling in the vicinity. Brig-Gen. Watson, Quebec, had just passed along the trench when a mortar shell fell into the trench, a few feet from Major Roy and his men. The shell did not burst on impact and rushing towards it, Major Roy bent down with the object of seizing it and throwing it over the parapet in order to save the lives of those near him. Before he could grasp it, the projectile exploded, inflicting wounds from which Major Roy shortly afterwards died. His gallant self-sacrifice has been specially reported by his brigade and divisional commanders.

During the period from October 8 to 14 there has been no material change on the front of the Canadians. On the afternoon of October 8, the enemy exploded four mines at points on the front of one of our divisions, simultaneously opening a heavy bombardment on the area affected. The enemy advanced into the craters, but was driven out of them by our bombers.

At one point two German officers led a party through a crater. One was bowled to bits by our bombers and the other rolled back into the crater. This party then withdrew. At another point a party of the enemy reached our parapet and attempted to effect a permanent lodgement, but was driven off with fixed bayonets. Our companies manned their parapets and maintained a controlled fire wherever the enemy showed himself. The slight damage

caused by the enemy to our parapets was speedily repaired.

The 22nd Battalion, under Col. Gaudet, of Montreal, and the 28th, under Col. Embury, Regina, displayed great coolness in dealing with this surprise attack, which consequently failed completely. Our patrols had been very active, frequently casting the enemy's wires and bringing in samples.

On the afternoon of October 8, Lieut. J. G. Anderson, accompanied by Private A. H. Wythe, both of the 5th Battalion, encountered five of the enemy in a German sap. One of the enemy was killed and three were wounded. On the morning of Oct. 9, reinforced with three bombers, they re-visited the sap driving off a German working party and bringing in two rifles and other articles of value for identification purposes.

On the morning of October 10 we exploded a mine in front of our first brigade. The enemy was heard working in his mine gallery a few feet away, just prior to the explosion. It is believed his losses were considerable. On the afternoon of Oct. 13 a demonstration was carried out along our front. The fire of our artillery was effective both against the enemy's wire and parapets. While the enemy's supporters were being brought up they were subject to heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire.

Here follows the reference to the exploit of the 26th, published in full at the beginning of this article.

BOMBARDING BELGIAN COAST.

Flushing, Holland, via London, Oct. 17.—During the whole of this afternoon a continuous heavy gunfire to the south was audible here. It is thought probable that there was a bombardment of the Belgian coast. Owing to the fog it was impossible to make observations.

THE 26TH'S HONOR ROLL

WOUNDED.

Major W. R. Brown, St. John, (slightly).
Sgt. Roland Smith, 282 Princess street, St. John, (slightly).
Pte. George E. Miles, 34 Charles street, Fairville, (slightly).
Pte. W. Hazen Carson, St. George, (seriously).

ARRANGING FOR TROOPS FOR WINTER

Special to The Standard

Ottawa, Oct. 17.—Recruiting, distribution and organization of the troops in Canada for the winter were amongst the topics discussed at a conference here on Saturday between General Sir Sam Hughes and the officers commanding divisions throughout the country.

It was decided that any centre, large or small, which raises twenty-five or more men who pass the medical examination, will have them clothed, rationed and billeted in that centre. The men will be trained by organizing them into territorial areas so far as convenient, corresponding to the present militia areas. Shooting galleries and other auxiliaries for indoor training will be utilized.

Books of instructions will be issued and schools for commissioned and non-commissioned officers will be established in every centre possible. Those troops which are already organized will be stationed and rationed by themselves, but newly organized troops under the plan just arranged will be billeted where there is not sufficient accommodation to keep them together.

BRITISH SINK GERMAN TRANSPORTS IN BALTIC.

Petrograd, Oct. 16.—British submarines operating in the Baltic Sea have sunk five German transports and forced another ashore, according to a Russian official statement given out here tonight.

IMPORTANT SUCCESSES FOR ALLIES ON WESTERN FRONT; FRENCH TROOPS ADVANCING

In Artois, Lorraine and in the Vosges They Have Gained Positions from Germans—French Aviators Also Play Big Part—Hand-to-Hand Fighting for Hun Trenches—Prisoners' and Munitions Captured.

Paris, Oct. 17.—Successes for the French in the Artois district and in Lorraine are reported in today's official statement by the war office. South-east of Nouvelle St. Vaast, in the former region, a strong barricade was seized and held against counter-attacks. In Lorraine one hundred metres of trenches were captured to the north of Reillon.

French aviators have bombarded a German army provision post at Malzieres D'Asoudan and Avricourt railroad station.

The text of this afternoon's communication is as follows:

"In Artois we seized a strong barricade last night to the southeast of Nouvelle St. Vaast and maintained ourselves there after having repulsed two counter-attacks in the course of the night."

"In the sector of Lihons there was a violent bombardment on both sides. There is no incident to report from the Alsace front in Champagne nor in the Argonne."

"In Lorraine we again captured 100 metres of trenches to the north of Pelillon in the course of stubborn combats fought at close quarters."

"During the night of the 16th our aviators bombarded the German army provision post of Malzieres in the D'Asoudan and the railway station at Avricourt."

The official communication issued by the war office on Saturday reads as follows:

"In Artois we completely repulsed a new German attack in 'Le Bolsen Hache' and on the slope west of the valley of La Souchez."

"The fighting from trench to trench, supported by cannonading on both sides, has continued to the south of the Somme, in the region of Lihons and Quenoy En Sauterre."

"The enemy renewed his bombardment of the regions behind our Champagne front, employing shells causing irritation of the eyes. Our artillery replied against the enemy batteries and trenches."

"A struggle with bombs and grenades has occurred in the Argonne, to the north of Houyette, as well as at Vauquois."

"In the Vosges a vigorous counter-attack has enabled us to recapture all our positions on the summit of Hartmanns-Wellerkopf and to take, in addition, a small fort previously occupied by the enemy. We took about one hundred prisoners."

"A group of aeroplanes today bombarded the Sablon station at Metz. A number of explosions were observed to have taken place around the station and a moving train was compelled to stop. A switching post was blown up."

"On the Alsace close fighting with grenades is reported in the environs of Godat."

"There has been a continuous artillery duel of an intense character in Champagne, particularly in the region of Tauxere."

"On the Lorraine front we have repelled energetically to the cannonade of the enemy by an effective fire, which caused outbursts of flames at several points in the German lines near Leintrey, Amencourt and Gondrexon. Violent and repeated German counter-attacks against our positions to the north of Reillon were arrested by our barrier fire."

"The Germans having again recently carried out aerial bombardments against English towns, and one of their aeroplanes having dropped yesterday two bombs on Nancy, a group of our aeroplanes today bombarded the town of Treves (Rheinish) on which thirty shells were dropped."

The official communication issued by Belgian headquarters reads:

"The night and morning were relatively calm. In the afternoon the enemy displayed more activity. He cannonaded the region to the south of Dixmude and bombarded with artillery and bomb-throwers the district between Steenstraete and the 'Fryman's House.'"

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NOVA SCOTIANS ANNIHILATED AN ENTIRE GERMAN BATTALION

The 25th Regiment Won Honor and Distinction in Action—Lost Trenches and Then Recaptured them at Bayonet's Point.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Oct. 17.—A thrilling story of how the 25th Nova Scotia Regiment, after losing its trenches in Flanders, when they were blown up by mines and many of their men killed and wounded, rallied and recovered the lost trenches is told in a special message received from the front today by General Sir Sam Hughes.

For some days it had been rumored in militia circles that the 25th had met disaster through the blowing up of mines. General Hughes cabled for details and is informed that several mines were exploded in front of the trenches of the Nova Scotians, thirty men being killed and wounded.

The soldiers fell back from the falling rocks and debris, whereupon the Germans rushed in and occupied the vacant trenches.

This was the Nova Scotians' first taste of battle. Rallying and with a wild cheer they charged the Germans in the trenches, recapturing the lost ground at the point of the bayonet and annihilated the enemy battalion. Sir Robert Borden and Sir Sam Hughes today cabled their congratulations to the battalion.