

And when in August the hour of the great offensive has come Canadian troops break through the German lines on the route from Amiens to Roye and the first day advance more than 15 kilometres.

That is only the preface of that ardent period during which Canadians advance from Arras to Cambrai which they capture, breaking in their passage the famous Queant-Draucourt line reputed to be impregnable; then, tireless, always aggressive, they leave Douai, seize Valenciennes and at length take possession of Mons the day of the Armistice, crowning by the capture of that city a battle of one hundred days in the course of which the Canadians spent themselves without counting the cost and performed the most illustrious exploits.

In those hundred days they have liberated more than 700 square kilometres of French soil, 228 towns and villages, engaged and definitely broken 47 German divisions who leave in their hands more than 31,000 prisoners, 700 guns, 400 mortars and thousands of machine guns.

It is with deep emotion that I recall these memories in front of this Monument simple and strong like the Canadian spirit.

I recall the days when, moved by the same feelings of justice and burning love of liberty, we fought together against the common enemy. This close collaboration gave us victory on the field of battle.

Let me believe that the sacrifices mutually suffered by our soldiers have created between our countries imperishable bonds which German intrigue will not be able to weaken.