

and securing the front trenches, with the greater portion of St. Eloi itself and its outlying buildings. At 5.30 p.m. on the 14th, the regiment received instructions to fall in on the Battalion Alarm Post, and by midnight the column had reached Voormezeele. The ruined village was crowded with stragglers, and the tumult and alarmist reports made a plan of concerted action difficult enough. Colonel Farquhar worked out his scheme, however, and with as little delay as possible the battalion moved to the breastwork about two hundred yards west of Shelley Farm. From this point No. 2 Company went forward in a gallant attack towards the mound, but the German machine gun fire was too heavy to admit success. Our fellows had to come back, and now the element of surprise being lost, it was deemed useless to expend more men in another attack. Three platoons were left to hold the breastwork, and the remainder of the battalion returned to Dickebusch.

DEATH OF COLONEL FARQUHAR.

The following days were spent in the construction of the trenches and a second line behind St. Eloi, known as the Canadian support trenches. It was here that the battalion suffered a very severe loss indeed. Colonel Farquhar was mortally wounded on the night of March 20th. Crossing the open country behind our line, equally indifferent to communication trenches or the fire of the enemy, he was hit by a stray bullet and died a few hours later. He was a strict officer, but very much liked by his men—hackneyed sentence that for once is true. He had that divine and sympathetic spark in a commanding officer which leads him to appear before his men at exactly the right time and circumstances, and to say exactly the right thing at a time of stress. There may be one or two men left who will remember a certain night of February, 1915,