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## "THE GREAT FIRE AT THE VINEGAR BARRACKS".

Vinegar Barracks was the scene of a hard-fought battle last Thursday, the 21st of November, 1918, between the Vinegar Legions, under Commander-In-Chief Milne, and the "devouring element", which apparently had no leadership except its own uncontrollable devilry.

This hive of Military Activity was engaged in its accustomed routine and the Supper Parade had just fallen in, when at 5:05 p.m. the fire alarm was sounded by Cpl. Joyce, and it was discovered that the enemy had reached our outposts and was endeavouring to capture the quarters of the Sanitary Fatigue. This simple but impressive specimen of Franco-Canadian Architecture was in flames, and Lieut. Shand, Acting Commander of Our Forces, realized that the situation was grave.

The Guard had turned out and with Fixed Bayonets repelled the onrushing enemy, ably assisted by the Vinegar Fire Picquet, the Vinegar Hose under Command of Cpl. Griffiths, and the Ropes and Fire-Buckets which were still in the safe of the Q. M. Stores at the Main Barracks. Acting Commander Shand despatched reinforcements to the aid of these Gallant Fighters and the efforts of the enemy to advance his line were repulsed everywhere with heavy loss.

At 5:20 p.m. Commander-in-Chief Milne took over the direction of affairs and made a skillful disposition of his troops preparatory to assuming the offensive. The Main Body, under the Second-in-Command, took up a position facing the line of advance of the enemy, its left and right flanks being protected by strong columns under the command respectively of Sgt. Tomney of "A" Company and Sgt. Roxburgh of "B" Company.

The arrival of strong reinforcements, consisting of the 18 City Firemen under the command of Capt. Whatsisname (who is also Chief of Police, Head of the Board of Health and Director of Public Safety), was the signal for the attack to be launched. The men of the Vinegar, furious at the threat to their well-loved home, rushed forward and, in spite of a heavy barrage of sparks, got to close quarters with the foe. In the darkness of the Winter Evening each man fought individually and with the weapon which came first to hand.

Rifles, axes, fire-hose, bayonets, fire-buckets and water were wielded with unstinted vigor, and

the enemy began to give ground. Emitting a furious volley of smoke he endeavoured to halt our advance, but the Pickle Stalwarts would not be denied, and at 7:20 p.m. the would-be invader of our Sacred Precincts sullenly retired, went out, quit, gave up the ghost and said "Good-by", while the bright star of Victory rested on the time-worn and odoriferous banners of the Vinegar Legions.

Our casualties were heavy, but, considering the magnitude of the forces engaged and the violence of the fighting, were not excessive, and show the able generalship and loyal cooperation with which the action was conducted. They were as follows:—

L/Cpl. Sparrow, severe wounds in the head (caused by worry over the possible loss of his kit, this being the moulting season).

Sapper Glenn—Overcome by Smoke.

Captain Whatsisname, feelings hurt (by remark of Spr. Westlin that "he didn't know enough to fire a cook-stove").

The following N.C.O.'s and men were mentioned in despatches for gallantry.

Sergt. Tomney—"A" Company.

Sergt. Roxburgh—"B" Company.

L/Cpl. Lee—"B" Company.

L/Cpl. McConney—"A" Company.

Spr. Smith, A. G., M.O. Orderly.

Spr. Glenn, T.—"A" Company.

Spr. Mitchell, T.—"A" Company.

Spr. Yeoman—"B" Company.

Spr. Westlin, F.—"B" Company.

Spr. Peberdy—"B" Company.

Spr. Fox, H.—"B" Company.

Cpl. Joyce—"B" Company—Turning out the Guard—on duty.

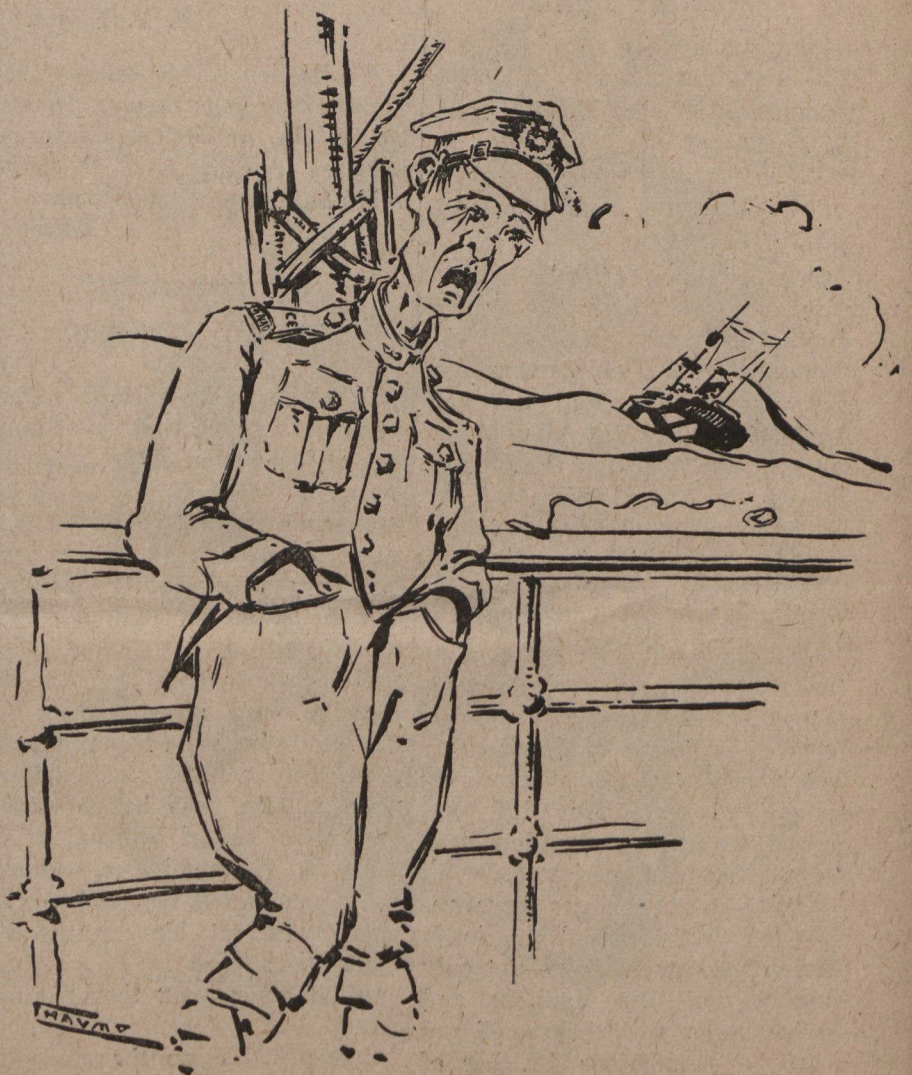
L/Cpl. Kimber—"B" Company—Posting his guard and directing traffic.

Spr. Hodgkinson—"B" Company—No. 1 Post, Observing fire and giving alarm.

Scrutator.

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