

# Characters in the Counter-Offensive

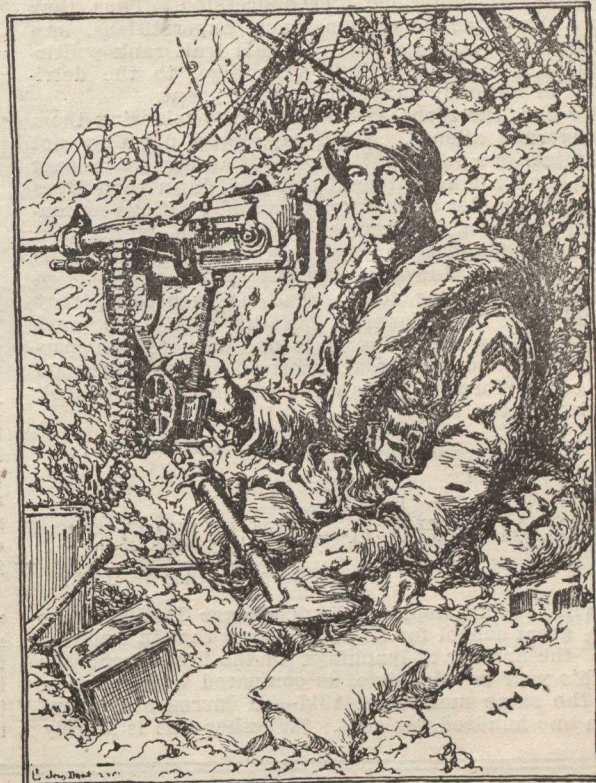
Sketches of Poilus made by Jean Droit, a Poilu Artist; appearing originally in *L'Illustration*, afterwards in the *Cartoons Magazine*



HAND GRENADEIER.



STRETCHER BEARER.



THE MACHINE GUNNER.



OBSERVER.



RIFLE GRENADEIER.



VOLTIGEUR.

**T**HE observer knows that at eleven o'clock soup trains pass by at crossing No. 131; that, half an hour later the smoke from numerous fires indicate the caves where the men warm their food. He misses nothing.

**D**ARING above all is he who throws the hand grenade—and throws it well. One of these bombs weighs from 14 to 26 ounces, and it is sure death to something where it lights.

## A VOICE FROM GALICIA

Teulon, Man., Aug. 5, 1918.

**T**O an uneducated or narrow-minded person, a "Galician" is simply a sort of football, an avenue through which bigotry and class hatred finds an easy channel of escape. To an observant, fair and just mind, the term is a constant reminder of the nation which has been one of the leading powers in Europe, a nation which shed its blood for centuries on the battlefield to defend the right of other people to a peaceful existence.

History, which is an everlasting monument to the noble deeds of these people, tells us that since their power was crushed by Bolshevism and Prussianism they are in a worse position than the Jews. For even

**T**HERE is the trench-mortar, the rifle grenade and the hand-grenade—these three; of which the rifle grenade slipped into a tube fixed to the point of his rifle is the most deadly.

**C**OURAGEOUS above all must be the stretcher-bearer, never so busy as of late, between the smoke clouds of the first lines and the first-aid posts. He climbs the hill, down to the shell holes—and his path is lost.

**O**BERVE the Voltigeur who accompanies advanced grenadier parties, protects the automatic-rifle gunner, flits, fights incessantly, and goes on night guard always—an eye and a sudden death.

**B**OCHES have been beaten by nothing more than by our machine guns. Two years ago they had scores to our one. Now we have the superiority. A man may dodge a shell. He never can dodge the machine gun's spray of death.

## Dear Mr. Editor:—

in their own homeland they are no more than mere water-carriers for the Austro-Prussians and Muscovites.

When these people were offered an opportunity to get away from subservency, they were more than glad to emigrate to distant lands with an expectation in their hearts that they would build up a new country and a new home, and through time forget all yearnings for their original homes. In their eagerness to get away from autocracy a large number of

them went into South Africa, where they found conditions even worse than in their homeland. Therefore they at once notified several companies, and advised them to have a committee appointed and sent to Canada and the United States to investigate conditions there.

Committees were sent across the sea, and the majority of them settled down either in the States or Canada, and sent home glowing accounts of a "free country", advising all those who could to break away and get out of "hell". This started a regular stampede, so that within a few years over one million and a half crossed the water. It was a sad procedure for them, but the thought of freedom drove the "home" thoughts out of their minds.

They had been under the rule of arrogance and