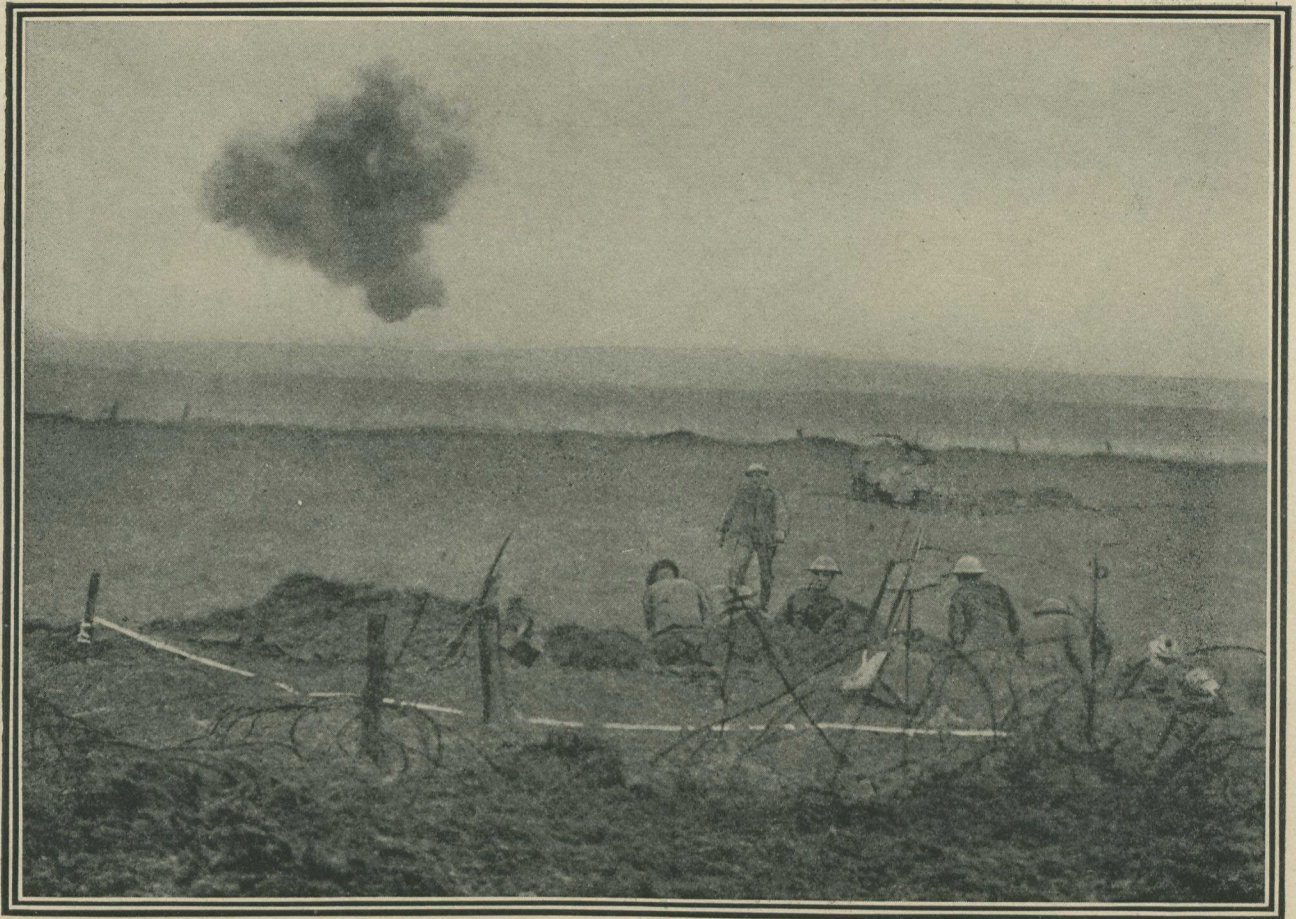




SHRAPNEL BURSTING OVER OUR TROOPS AS THEY DIG THEMSELVES IN

## THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

(Continued)

attacks did not develop. The enemy had no retort ready. Evidently his ejection from Vimy Ridge had been so swift and violent and sure as to leave him utterly unnerved and in a state of physical and moral collapse. Having been broken once by that unbearable and indescribable onslaught, he had neither heart nor nerve to court a repetition of the experience. Better troops than these might well have arrived at a similar conclusion in regard to this matter. Human flesh and blood, human nerve and brain, even the immortal spirit of man while still encased in human clay, may reach a limit to the endurance of horror. This limit was poured upon the strongholds and garrisons of Vimy Ridge by the guns of the Canadian Corps. From half-past five until noon our barrage and bombardment had been continuous; the barrage in front of the left portion of the field of operations had continued until ten at night; and the bombardment of the German positions beyond the thrust of our infantry outlasted even our final barrage.

Throughout the entire battle and the days that followed, the retaliation of the German artillery was light as compared to the fire of our batteries.

On Wednesday morning, at five-thirty, in a blinding snowstorm, Canadian infantry went forward behind an intense barrage to capture the last outstanding point on the northern end of the Ridge. The ground was almost knee-deep in snow and mud. The men moved slowly, guided by their curtain of shrapnel-fire that lifted before them by easy stages. In spite of the murk and mud and cold, and the protesting fire of the enemy, they found their objective and took it.

This brilliant assault concluded the Battle of Vimy Ridge.



CANADIANS ADVANCING ON THE ENEMY'S THIRD-LINE TRENCHES