

## THREE LINES TO CANADIANS AT GIVENCHY

A Summary of the Story of the Dashing Charge of Western Ontario Battalion, When 500 Fell.

The Quebec Chronicle, whose proprietor, Lieut. Co. Watson, is in command of the Second Battalion, First Canadian Contingent, prints a letter giving the first detailed account to reach Canada of the fighting around Givenchy, about the middle of June, when the First Brigade of the Canadians, commanded by Brigadier Mercer, underwent a severe grueling, especially by the First Battalion, a western Ontario unit, which lost in killed, wounded and missing about 500 out of 800 men, including 21 out of 23 officers, Lieut.-Col. Betcher among them. The First Brigade consists of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Battalions. The letter reads in part:

### The "Duck's Bill"

The Second Battalion had the very responsible position of the "Duck's Bill," a position which jut out and approaches to within 50 yards of the German line. This position, it was pointed out, was particularly dangerous, as it contained an important sap head, or mine, that was being constructed in a forward direction right under the German lines. This had been in course of construction for some considerable time back, and the engineers had reported that it would be ready within a few days. Together with this, four 15-pound field guns had been brought up to the front lines and placed at advantageous positions on the German lines. All these preparations, to the initiated, pointed out an early and thoroughly organized attack, and these views very correct, as orders were shortly issued to the effect that a determined attack was to be made by the 7th and 1st Divisions, who were on the immediate left of the Canadians, and that the First Brigade of the Canadians were to form a flank attack to protect and consolidate the right flank as the attack progressed. The date of the attack was fixed for the 15th, and as the Second and Fourth were holding the front line, the First and Third Battalions were kept in reserve for the attack. So the five days went by, the two front battalions standing a grueling daily shelling, and at night employed in fixing and rebuilding the shattered parapets and rebuilding the wire entanglements in front of their positions.

### The Eventful 15th

The eventful 15th arrived with all preparations made. At 5.58 p.m. the mine was fired, and most satisfactorily, with the exception that the engineers underestimated the strength of the explosion and besides blowing up the German trenches and a full company of 240 Germans, it had the backward effect of wounding 50 men of the First Battalion who were waiting behind the parapets in our front

line, preparatory to making an attack. The explosion was a most terrific one and quite successful as far as the demolition of the German obstacles was concerned. The field guns then tore down the forward German parapets and amid the most awful artillery bombardment that this war has yet seen, the infantry advanced to the attack.

### Two Trenches Taken

Like arrows from a bow did the men of the First Battalion spring across at the Germans in their front trench, and with very little resistance, this was captured. Then down the trench went the bombers, thrusting back the enemy and finally consolidating the line. Then on to the second line went the Canadians, and here was the difficult fight. But nothing could stop these men, and in a short time this trench was also taken. Some of the men got on as far as the third trench, but this could not be confirmed. But things were not progressing so well on the left with the Seventh Division. Machine guns, concentrated at different points, appear to have held up their advance, and so, for nearly three hours, they had to remain out in the long grass, and could not reach even the enemy's first trench.

### Losses Severe

On the night of the 16th it was rumoured that the Germans were to make a strong attack, and this assisted in a great way in bucking up the men, as it was the very thing that they had been longing for. But though they double manned the sentries and made full preparations, the Germans did not face the music, and nothing developed. So during the morning of the 17th the badly cut up and weary First Brigade were relieved by the Second Brigade. Besides the losses incurred by the First Battalion, which were by far the greater of the brigade, the Second Brigade lost three officers and ninety-seven men; the Third Battalion lost about one hundred and fifty men, and the Fourth Battalion lost about fifty men, all during this prolonged seven day and night engagement.

### A Gallant Officer

Of the officers in the Second Battalion, Lieut. D. A. Laurie was wounded in the head and arm by a shrapnel explosion near his dug out. He acted like a young hero and immediately thought of others before giving any attention to his own injuries. Though he Lieut. Hall had only joined the battalion a couple of days before, they had made themselves felt by their soldierly qualifications and sterling abilities and Lieut. Laurie's temporary loss to the regiment will be sincerely regretted.

## Explosion At Cordite Plant Seven Men Missing Probably Killed—Details of Beloeil Accident Scant

Montreal, July 6.—Seven men are known to be missing and are probably dead as a result of a cordite explosion at the plant of the Canadian Explosives Company at Beloeil, Que., about twenty-five miles from here, this morning. Ten people were severely injured. Among the missing are Captain Murray Wilson, manager of the cordite department of the company; Aylmer Brown, of the Dupont Powder Works, Wilmington, Delaware; and J. Simmons, a British government inspector, loaned to the company.

### Cause is Unknown

The details of the accident were difficult to obtain as the men working in the cordite department where the explosion occurred are either missing or are so badly hurt that they can give no account of their experiences. First stories attributed the explosion to a fire and later it was said that experiments were being conducted. The firm, which is affiliated with the Dupont Powder Works of Wilmington, was engaged, it is understood, in filling explosives orders for the Canadian and British governments.

### Wrecked Department

Those who were first at the scene state the explosion practically wrecked the cordite department. Rescue work was difficult for a while because of the fire that attacked the remains of the building. Special trains were ordered and as fast as the injured were got out they were

dispatched to this city and placed in hospitals here.

One of the badly injured is H. C. Shock, an explosive expert, from Wilmington, Del.

### Caused by a Spark

A number of women were working in the cordite department, and who were badly hurt, were among the first saved.

A description of the accident was given by one of the women employees in the factory when she recovered consciousness. She said a chipping machine caused a spark to ignite the cordite. The explosion followed immediately.

## Globe Trotter Is Out To Win Wager

To win a wager of \$75,000 put up by some sports in Buenos Ayres, Carlos J. Paris, a native of Argentina, is taking a little walk round the world. He arrived in Ottawa to-day en route for Alaska, from where he will cross to Siberia through the Behring Straits, then on through Europe and Greenland, and from there by a round about route home.

Like the several other land distance pedestrians who have visited Ottawa on the same errand in the last few months, Mr. Paris is traveling without money and without price; he relies on the sympathies of the public to help him. He is a well set up young fellow, and has with him souvenirs in the shape of letters, pictures, etc., of his trip to date, which has taken him through most of South America and the United States. He has so far travelled 18,775 miles.

After a girl gives her hand in marriage she may discover late that she put her foot in it.

## DAVIDSON DID GREAT WORK

Pte. Cahs. Tenny Pays Tribute to His Pal Who Was Killed in Action

"Most of the letters we read in the Canadian papers are from heroes who never go near to the firing line, but kick along with the staff, transport, hospitals, Army Service Corps, etc.," writes Private Charles Tenney, of the 2nd Battalion, the "Bunkie" of the late Lance-Corp. Alan Davidson, the well-known hockey player, who led the bomb throwers in the First Infantry Brigade, of whom Private Tenney is one. Private Tenney writes to his wife, Mrs. Tenney, at 139 Drummond street, Ottawa East, under date of June 29th, after the recent battle in which the First Brigade of the Canadians lost so heavily. Private Tenney has been through all the actions with his battalion but has so far escaped unscathed.

"We have enough to keep us busy here," says Private Tenney, "and I do not think you ought to bother sending me anything at present, not socks above all things."

"We went into the trenches on June 10th and for seven days the 2nd closest of any we were in yet, being Battalion was in the firing line, the within forty yards of the enemy at one place. It was hot all the time. Davidson, (Alan "Scotty" Davidson) and I during the first five days had a great time. He had charge of the bombs and I was getting pointers all the time and helping him. We also had a gun fixed in a frame to shoot grenades over into the enemy's trenches. He (Davidson) would post himself to observe, and when he gave the order I would let her go. How we did enjoy that part of it. Sometimes I would be sound asleep and Alan would give me a shake and say 'Come on, Old Timer, we will give them five rounds rapid from our artillery!'"

### Terrific Shooting.

"Well, Tuesday, the 15th of June we had to drop back into reserve to make room for another battalion to attack. Alan and I had to go different ways. Then pretty soon hell broke loose on all sides. It seemed worse than the April 23rd-24th Ypres snip. Coal boxes and shells of all descriptions came over. We were getting buried. We started a runner with a message to the captain, but as came back. It was up to yours truly then. I got the word through wading through a ditch of water and darting from there across the open to the firing line. I delivered the messages and started back with the answer. I met Al. (Davidson) just going to the bomb depot.

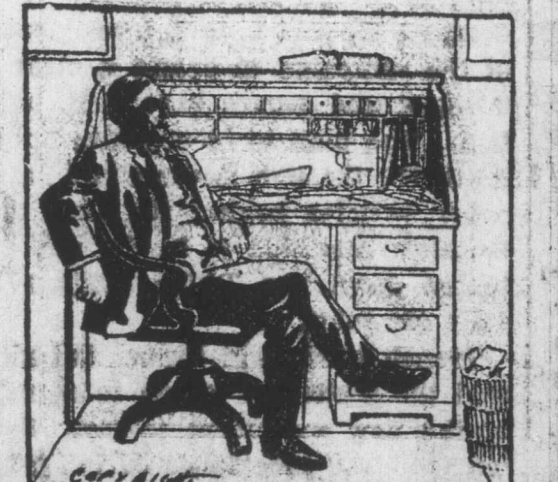
### Picked Up Wounded.

"I started back, and while on my way gathered five wounded lost in the darkness who were asking for help. I took one on my back, he was badly wounded, and told the others 'there's a nasty old scrap on. If our line ever breaks its curtains for the wounded.' They followed me. I met my C.O., who asked me if I would get them to the dressing station."

### Hard to Replace.

"I did, and when I got back I heard a fellow say 'Corporal Davidson was hit by a shell and killed instantly.' Well, the 1st contingent has lost its best man when that shell burst and I lost the best 'pal' I ever had or could have. They may send more men in thousands from Canada, but I fear we'll never see Davidson's place taken, by any of them. I know every man in the 2nd Battalion has the same belief."

But if a man is foolish and doesn't know it, it's a sign that he has no wife to instruct him.



### SO NECESSARY,

Yet so difficult, is perfect filing and indexing of records that Office Managers would be compelled to devote much valuable time and thought to this important subject were it not already solved by the "Safe-guard" system originated by the Globe-Wernicke Company. Are you not interested? The Globe-Wernicke Co. Percie Johnson, Agent.

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