

# GREAT BATTLE NOW CENTRED IN LOOS

Phillip Gibbs Sees British Troops Moving Up to New Victories on Friday Last

German Dead Still Lie Heaped Thickly About Famous Loos Redoubt—Artillery Exchange Followed Successful Infantry Attack With British Holding Ground Stubbornly.

BY PHILIP GIBBS, STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE LONDON CHRONICLE.

(By Special Cable to New York World and Daily Telegraph). British Headquarters, Sept. 30—(Delayed by Censor)—I went today into the centre of the great battle field where heavy fighting is still taking place and stood near the famous Loos redoubt where the German dead still lie in heaps. A little distance away, looming up grim and gaunt against the grey sky, rose the tall, steel columns of the "Tower Bridge," those mining works at which I had stared several times from afar through a thick veil of smoke as an inaccessible landmark within the German lines. Now they are within our line—in the centre of that town of Loos which forever holds the memory of a great British victory.

I can hardly put together the picture of the scenes through which I passed yesterday up to this historic ground. The strange and rather dreadful aspect of the battle field upon which the sun shone in splashes of light through piled storm clouds, the turmoil of war was in the background. Thousands and scores of thousands of men moving in steady columns forwards and backwards in queer tangles during the great battle seems to have no purpose or meaning except to the directing brains of the headquarters staff. Vast convoys of transports choked the roads, with teams of mules harnessed to wagons and gun limber, with trains of motor ambulances packed with wounded men, with infantry brigades plodding through slush and slime, with divisional cavalry halted in villages and great bivouacs in boggy fields, heroes of a week of battle passed and repassed in dense masses, in small battalions, in scattered groups.

Famous regiments which gained new fame in the recent hours which will last through the unforgettable records of history, went by silently and no man cheered the legions of tall lads who a few months ago marched smart and trim down English lanes and who trudged towards the fighting lines under the burden of their heavy packs, with all their smartness soiled by the business of war, but splendid to see because of their hardiness and strength and enduring look they had.

## DESOLATE LANDS OF DEATH.

Further away within the zone of the enemy's fire the traffic ceased and I came into the desolate lands of death, where there was but little movement and the only noise was that of guns. I passed by ruined villages and towns. It was a long walk through the narrow trenches towards that Loos redoubt where at last I stood in the centre of the whole battle line. There was the smell of death in those narrow winding ways. One poor fellow whom death had taken almost at the entrance way, knelt on the first step with his head bent as though in prayer.

I was in the centre of the great field of fire with the enemy's batteries on one side and ours on the other in sweeping semi-circles. Shells of all these batteries were crying through the air with high, whining sighs which ended in the cough of death. The roar of guns was incessant and very close the enemy was sweeping a road to my right and his shells went overhead with a continual rush, passing over the shells, which answered back. The whole sky was filled with these thunderbolts. Many of them were Jack Johnsons, which raised a volume of black smoke where they fell. Passing over parapets, we saw the whole panorama of the battle ground. It was but an ugly naked plain, rising up to Hulluch and Huisnew on the north, falling down to Loos on the east, from where we stood, and rising again to Hill 70 still further east and a little south.

The villages of Haines and Hulluch fretted the skyline and Fosse was a black wall between them. The Tower Bridge close by in the town of Loos was one great landmark which broke the monotony of desolation. No infantry attack was taking place, no men moved about this ground, the only moving things were shells, which vomited up earth and smoke and steel as they burst in all directions over the whole zone. We were shelling Hulluch and Haines and Fosse with intense and concentrated fire. The enemy was retaliating by scattering shells over the town of Loos and our new line between Hill 70 and the Chalk Pits and the whole length of our line from north to south. Only two men moved about above the trenches. They were two khaki boys, carrying a German gas cylinder, and they went on their way whistling as though it were a nice, healthy spot under the autumn sun. They shouted out a cheery answer to our question: "These are German trenches, now ours after the first rush of the great attack."

## DEAD STILL HEAPED ABOUT FAMOUS REDOUBT.

Across the open ground there was the famous Loos redoubt through which "Kitchener's men" had stormed their way in the dawn of that Saturday morning which began our advance. Dead were still heaped about it. Down below in the town of Loos they were digging out the dead from deep cellars and taking them away for burial and piling up German helmets, German letters, and German weapons and a great store of booty which had fallen into our hands.

Among the ruins of the town shelled continuously since last December were civilians who lived here all the time. One woman who came creeping out of her cellar to greet the British victors is quietly peeling potatoes for the newcomers. Apart from the rubbish of masonry in the streets and litter of broken rifles and scraps of clothing there already is no outward sign of the fierce fighting which made a hell of the town on Sept. 25. It is only another ruined place like scores of villages around.

Out of the bewildering impressions of these days as I have moved about the battle zone it is difficult to give in a brief space one vivid picture which could help those at home to visualize these scenes of war—the scenes on the roadsides in the country behind the firing lines where headquarters are established.

## WEeping FOR JOY THAT LINE SMASHED.

Out of the confusion of all these scenes some things are unforgettable as when I saw some of our wounded after Loos singing and shouting hilariously as they went back to the base—not weeping for their fallen comrades, but joyous because of having smashed the German line. Another scene will live in my mind: A village near the front. Through its streets streamed a tide of war transports, of divisions, gun-teams with their limber, ambulance convoys, ammunition wagons, infantry moving up to the front, despatch and divers staff officers, signallers and a great host of men and mules and auto cars. Rain lashed down upon the crowds, waterpuffs and bulberies and tarpaulin coverings of forage carts streamed with water, and the bronzed faces of the soldiers were dripping wet. Mud splashed them, fountains of mud spouted up from the wheels of the gun carriages. The chill of winter made the Highlanders as well as the Indians shiver in the wind, but everywhere and among all these men there was the spirit of cheerfulness and exultation. At last there was a break in months of stationary warfare. The first proofs of victory stood visible there, where in a long line stood German guns captured at Loos, guarded on each side by British soldiers with fixed bayonets.

A group of French citizens gathered around them, excited at the sight of them. Some artillery officers examined their broken breech blocks and their inscriptions, "Pro Gloria et Patria Ultima Ratio Regis." The irony of the words made some onlookers laugh. Outside the headquarters of a British army corps stood another line of captured field guns and several machine guns, of which one had a strange history of adventure. It was a Russian machine gun taken

## GEN. JOFFRE AND ITALY'S KING



Photo taken on the occasion of the French Commander's recent visit to the Italian Front.

## Another Dominating Position in Champagne Taken as Part of Great Offensive

Paris, Oct. 6—(10.45 p. m.)—French infantry, after a heavy bombardment by the artillery, today captured, by assault, the village of Tahure and reached the summit of the hill of the same name, which constituted a supporting point in the second German line, according to the official statement issued by the war office tonight on the campaign in the west.

The text follows: "Our action in Champagne obtained today new results. Our infantry troops, after strong artillery preparation, captured, by assault, the village of Tahure and reached the summit of the same hill, constituting a point of support in the second line of the enemy resistance. We likewise made progress in the environs of the Navarin Farm. The number of prisoners taken exceeded 1,000.

"On the rest of the front only artillery engagements are reported. These were especially intense in Artois, in the region of the Ginchy wood and Hill No. 119; in the Argonne, to the north from La Bassée to Le Pretre; in Lorraine, near Leintz; Reillon and Badonviller, as well as in the Vosges, on the Metzler ridge."

**RUSSIANS CONTINUE TO RE-CAPTURE LOST GROUND.** Petrograd, via London, Oct. 6—The following official communication from headquarters was issued tonight: "In the Jacobstadt region the usual fusillade became intensified. Southwest of Jacobstadt the Germans bombarded the neighborhood of Bergrad.

"In the region of Dvinsk the artillery duel has been incessant. South of Postavy we dislodged the enemy from his trenches. At the farm of Zabaz, between the Narotche and Vichnevsko lakes, we pushed the enemy farther back. In the course of the pursuit of the Germans to the southwest of Vichnevsko lake our troops occupied Abramovszana, and the village of Manki, north of Smorgon.

"In the southern region of the Pripyet river there is no change. On the estuary of the Stokhod, the enemy once more sought to capture the village, under cover of a concentrated fire by his artillery. We repulsed this attack. Southwest of Cartorsk the enemy was thrown back toward the village of Novo Selki, leaving in our hands about 150 prisoners and one machine gun.

"On the Caucasus front, in the coastal regions of the Black Sea, southwest of Khopa, there has been nothing but advance guard actions.

"Southeast of Portum lake, on the front between the villages of Kephik and Ardost, northwest of Khorossan, on October 4, the Turks, profiting by darkness, attempted to advance, but were stopped by our fire. South of Khorossan, near the village of Kuria, there have been brushes with a Turkish advance guard."

by the Germans on the eastern front and retaken by us on the western front.

## GERMAN WARNING BELL CAPTURED.

At headquarters is another queer piece of booty. It is a big bronze bell used by the Germans in their trenches to signal a British attack. A few days ago it rang too late.

Best of all the booty, perhaps, apart from the guns, is an enormous mass of documents taken in Loos and in the trenches. They reveal the mentality of the German army and are very curious and instructive. In spite of comments which show that German soldiers were much elated by German successes in Russia, they complained that war on the western front is unendurable. Even the comforts of certain dugouts, lit with electricity and elaborately decorated and furnished with arm chairs, does not soothe the souls of these men who have heard the number of our guns grow stronger and who cannot face the steel of our bayonets.

One fact is significant, there are a great number of sub-lieutenants commanding companies and most of them have joined since the war began. This reveals the dearth of more experienced officers. Men complain they never see their high officers in the trenches. Colonels and commanders remain well in the rear. Nevertheless, in spite of sufferings at the front, many men complain of the desperately hard time they had in regimental depots at home with bullying from morning until night so that they prefer to go to the front whatever the risks of death. They deplore the heavy losses in Russia, and one man says: "How nice it would be if we could make a separate peace with Russia; then we could give those damned English a hammering. They deserve it, the swine."

## GERMANY STRIPPED OF ITS MANHOOD.

A German girl, writing to her sweetheart, complains that all the young manhood of the country is gone. The 1915 class of recruits has been called to the colors and the 1917 and 1918 have been registered so that every boy in the Fatherland is on the roll call. A sense of depression reaching to the heights of sadness fills most of these documents and shows that the heart of the army is filled with foreboding in spite of recent victories.

Yet, in conclusion of this long despatch, I must say there are no signs of deterioration in the fighting qualities of our enemy. On the contrary, recent fighting has shown the majority are very brave men, determined the sell their lives dearly and in many cases willing to fight to the death when surrender would be easy. Their bombers have in many cases been a match for ours, and it is only when they are surprised and when our bayonets are among them that they throw up their hands. Their artillery is still enormously strong, and skillfully handled.

One warning, too, must be written lest there should arise false hopes at home. We have made a successful advance, but therefore some time it ends, and the people at home will be bitterly disappointed if they expect to read of a captured town every time they sit down to breakfast. We have achieved a magnificent success; but the way is still far to go before the end comes, and patience must still be the watchword.

## WILL 64TH GO ACROSS SOON?

Officers Deny Report of Wintering in St. John—Cards Received from Members of 26th, Mailed in France.

Wednesday, October 6. Rumor was busy yesterday that the 64th was about to come to St. John for the winter but on inquiry of the officers at Sussex it was found that not only had they no information as to such a move but that they were expecting to be included in the twelve new battalions to be sent to England for training. Indeed there was a general feeling that they were sure to go and that the battalion to be quartered here for the winter would be the 88th under Lieut-Col. Fowler. No official information of this is, however, forthcoming.

Service postcards from members of the 26th Battalion sent from France are now coming to hand in the city and province. They give no clue, of course, of where the writers may be but the regulation "I am quite well" is what all of them bring. One from Major Charles T. Dunfield to a member of The Telegraph staff was the first that so far has come from an officer of the first of the New Brunswick battalions.

Brothers Meet in France. Driver Otty D. Lingley, who is serving with the Ammunition Column in the first contingent, met his brother, Harry, who is with the 26th Battalion, now in France. The brothers met on Sept. 22 and were together for four hours, when they had to separate, owing to Harry having to take his place in the trenches.

Harry is quite well again after being injured in England in a motor cycle accident, and Otty, who is a younger brother, writes that he is in the pink of condition. The Lingley boys are sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Lingley, of 89 High street.

A letter received by Thomas Stack, secretary-treasurer of the East End League from M. McNutt, now in France with the first Canadian division, acknowledges the receipt of the receipt of a supply of baseballs and cigarettes.

A letter received by W. H. Dunham, of Indianapolis, from a former employee, Corporal Ernest Earle, reports his recovery from injuries which kept him for some time in hospital. He was not in form to be sent to France, so has been kept in England attending to the distribution of stores, and has been promoted to the rank of corporal. He is now at Moore Barracks, Shorecliffe (Eng.) in Nova Scotia.

The average enlistments in Nova Scotia are now 250 a week. The average in Halifax is about sixteen a day. There have been in the last three months 2,700 volunteers in Nova Scotia.

James Briggs and John L. Butt are the latest Sackville additions to the roll-call of the 88th. J. W. Coles and William Keever, of Moncton, have enlisted in the 64th Battalion. Both are well known Moncton boys. Mr. Coles being employed with Reed Company and Mr. Keever with the I. C. R.

Sutton Steeves, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Steeves, of Moncton, a noted musician, has enlisted with King Edward's Horse, and is at present in a training camp in Ireland.

## Recruits From Boiestown.

Seven men from Boiestown arrived in Fredericton Monday for the purpose of receiving medical examination in order to enlist for overseas service. The seven are Willard McCloskey, Delaneur McCloskey, Irvine McCloskey, Harold Nelson, Roydon Nelson, David Stewart and William Conroy.

Major A. A. Magee, son-in-law of Mrs. George F. Smith, of St. John, and C. F. Crandall, formerly of St. John, are among those who have joined the McGill University recruiting movement.

Driver Lyle Dargaves, of the first contingent, writes to his cousin here, Miss F. M. Stephenson, that he will probably not be able to go back to France as he is lame from a wound.

## TEN RECRUITS RESULT FROM CHIPMAN MEETING

Chipman, Oct. 5—A very successful recruiting meeting was held here Monday evening under the auspices of the local recruiting committee, organized by Lieutenant Clements, recruiting officer for Queens and Sunbury. The chair was taken at 8 p. m. by the Rev. E. E. Mowatt and very stirring speeches were made by Lieutenant Brooks, of the 55th battalion; Captain Harrison, chaplain of the 64th battalion, and Lieutenant Clements.

After the general meeting the men of military age were asked to remain behind for a confidential talk with the officers and in order that they might ask any questions that occurred to them. The net results of the meetings are that two recruits are going forward to Sussex today, three tomorrow, and five others will go forward from Minto later in the week.

In addition, however, to the immediate results the speeches have instilled great enthusiasm into the committee and the people of Chipman generally, and the results will be far reaching. The committee are now determined to continue their efforts towards securing recruits unabated, while the whole community, who have been brought to a greater realization of the empire's needs than ever before, are all talking about the call for young men, and are determined that Chipman will not be behind other places in proportion to its population in answering the call.

It is proposed to hold weekly meetings each Monday evening. Good speakers are being secured for next week, and the speakers for the week after are already announced. They will be Father Carney and Captain Harrison.

Sir Charles Topper Raffles, Winnipeg, Oct. 6—W. J. Tupper, of Winnipeg, has received word that the condition of Sir Charles Tupper, who is reported seriously ill in London, is somewhat improved today.

## SERGEANT B. M. WARD, OF ST. JOHN, WOUNDED; FIFTH BRIGADE IN ACTION, BUT 26TH ESCAPES

Ottawa, Oct. 5—The casualties in the second Canadian contingent continue to grow. The list issued tonight contains the name of Joseph Etchells, New Waterford (N. S.), of the 25th Battalion, slightly wounded. This battalion is fighting alongside the 26th from New Brunswick but no casualties from the latter unit have yet been noted.

The list contains the name of S. W. Lockhart, formerly of the composite battalion, Wellington Barracks, Halifax, slightly wounded, with the 13th, and it states also that Martin S. Johnson, formerly of the 12th Battalion, Bartibog Bridge (N. B.), previously reported wounded, has rejoined his battalion, the 10th.

### The midnight list is:

#### FIRST BATTALION.

Wounded. Robert M. Turner, London (Ont.); Harry Heard, Courland (Ont).

#### THIRD BATTALION.

Killed in Action. Arnold Winger, Humber Bay (Ont.)

#### FOURTH BATTALION.

Wounded. David George, Chilliwack (B. C.)

#### FIFTH BATTALION.

Wounded. William Snodgrass, Ireland; A. Wickham, England; Edward Inall, England.

#### SEVENTH BATTALION.

Killed in Action. David Miller, Scotland.

#### TENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Ernest Arthur Hill, England.

#### SIXTEENTH BATTALION.

Slightly Wounded. John H. Sutherland, Bradford (Ont.)

#### SEVENTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Captain Marcus Pott (formerly 30th Battalion), England.

#### EIGHTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Harold W. Carter (formerly 12th Battalion), Winlaw (B. C.)

#### NINETEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. William J. Buchanan, Barrie (Ont.)

#### TENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Anthony Harrington (formerly 46th Battalion), Regina (Sask.); MARTIN S. JOHNSON (FORMERLY 12TH BATTALION), BARTIBOG BRIDGE (N. B.), (REJOINED REGIMENT).

#### THIRTEENTH BATTALION.

Slightly Wounded. S. W. LOCKHART (FORMERLY COMPOSITE BATTALION), WELLINGTON BARRACKS, HALIFAX (N. S.), (GUNSHOT IN FOOT).

#### FOURTEENTH BATTALION.

Died of Wounds, Sept. 8. E. Elliott, Montreal.

#### FIFTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. William Dewar, Galt (Ont.)

#### SIXTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Milton Templeton Montgomery, Hamilton (Ont.); John W. Cunningham, Hamilton (Ont.)

#### SEVENTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Albert Brodrib, Ottawa; William Gillespie, Cornwall (Ont.); William F. Mangan, Ireland.

#### EIGHTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. JOSEPH ETCHELLS, NEW WATERFORD (C. B.), (SLIGHTLY).

#### NINETEENTH BATTALION.

Seriously Ill. Robert J. Score, St. Louis (Mo.)

#### ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS.

Killed in Action, Sept. 23. Earl Houser, Brantford (Ont.)

#### THIRTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Hugh Brown, Toronto.

#### LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE.

Severely Wounded. Herbert Wright (formerly 6th Battalion), Dauphin (Man.)

#### FOURTEENTH BATTALION.

Killed in Action, Sept. 24. Alfred Wilson (formerly 6th Battalion), Winnipeg.

#### FIRST FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

Slightly Wounded. Gunner C. D. Kiser, Belleville (Ont.)

#### RESERVE ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

Seriously Ill. Gunner Thomas A. Robinson (formerly 31st Battalion), East Toronto.

#### SECOND FIELD COMPANY, CANADIAN ENGINEERS.

Killed in Action, Sept. 12. Sapper E. L. Chadwick, Windsor (Ont.)

#### DIVISIONAL AMMUNITION COLUMN.

Seriously Ill. Gunner Walter Chandler, England.

Ottawa, Oct. 6—The casualty list issued at midnight contains the name of Company Sergeant-Major B. M. Ward, 290 Wentworth street, St. John, of the Seventh Battalion, wounded in action.

It also has the name of Harry S. Baker, Arcadia, (N. S.) of the Twenty-Fifth Battalion, second division, wounded in action, and it has one wounded in the Twenty-Fourth and one killed in the Twenty-Eighth. This would indicate heavy action. The Twenty-Fourth and Twenty-Fifth are of the same brigade as the Twenty-Sixth, but so far no announcement of casualties in this body from New Brunswick has been made. It seems quite possible that the battalion may be taking its turn in

resting while the other battalions of the brigade are in the actual fighting.

### The midnight list follows:

#### THIRD BATTALION.

Dangerously Ill. Donald Freeman, Toronto.

#### FIFTH BATTALION.

Wounded. William Snodgrass, Ireland; A. Wickham, England; Edward Inall, England.

#### SEVENTH BATTALION.

Killed in Action. David Miller, Scotland.

#### TENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Ernest Arthur Hill, England.

#### SIXTEENTH BATTALION.

Slightly Wounded. John H. Sutherland, Bradford (Ont.)

#### SEVENTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Captain Marcus Pott (formerly 30th Battalion), England.

#### EIGHTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Harold W. Carter (formerly 12th Battalion), Winlaw (B. C.)

#### NINETEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. William J. Buchanan, Barrie (Ont.)

#### TENTH BATTALION.

Wounded. Anthony Harrington (formerly 46th Battalion), Regina (Sask.); MARTIN S. JOHNSON (FORMERLY 12TH BATTALION), BARTIBOG BRIDGE (N. B.), (REJOINED REGIMENT).

#### THIRTEENTH BATTALION.

Slightly Wounded. S. W. LOCKHART (FORMERLY COMPOSITE BATTALION), WELLINGTON BARRACKS, HALIFAX (N. S.), (GUNSHOT IN FOOT).

#### FOURTEENTH BATTALION.

Died of Wounds, Sept. 8. E. Elliott, Montreal.

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