

glamour of a spectacular action to relieve the monotony. Fighting, indeed, for all Canadian units died down for some time. There were the usual sniping excitements, trench raids, patrols, and periods in which training was undergone in the back areas. But it was not until the great smashing attack was delivered on Vimy Ridge that the good and lasting effects of those months of training were seen. It was essentially a Canadian victory.

THE TAKING OF VIMY RIDGE.

This was an operation which involved the co-operation of practically every Canadian unit, and the great victory was achieved on Easter Monday (April 9th), 1917.

For weeks there had been mighty efforts put forward behind the lines in order to get battalions and brigades and divisions working into a cohesive whole. They practised attack after attack over specially marked ground until every man was perfectly well aware of what was expected of him and how he was to carry out his part of the big job.

The position was perhaps the most important at that time on the whole battle-front. British and French armies had already tried to take it from the Germans, but had never met with the full measure of success. The slopes of the ridge were a maze of trenches of almost impregnable construction. Its dugouts could shelter entire battalions, and the diligent Germans had built almost perfect fortresses of machine guns. There was but one way to capture the ridge, and that was to smash its structures out of recognition and then seize it before the Germans had time to recover from the mighty blow. That was the plan which the leaders adopted, and it worked well and successfully.

The strength of the 13th Battalion taking part in the operation was approximately twenty-five officers and 760 other ranks. A reserve of about seventeen officers and 264 other ranks was kept back at Bois des