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BRAVE FRENCH-CANADIANS AND THEIR GALLANT WORK IN THE SOMME DRIVE.

Invaded Streets and Hunted Out Stray Germans—Volley of Blood-Curling Yells Drove Back Serious Counter-Attack.

With the British Armies in the Field, Sept. 25.—(By Philip Gibb, in the Halifax Chronicle)—The Germans seem to have a special kind of hatred for the Canadians, and tried to knock them about at Courcellette by savage attacks and heavy concentrations of artillery, and the Canadians paid back, life for life.

There were trappers among them who devised cunning ways of crawling at night over No Man's Land. There were real Indian tactics between snipers. Eight raids were organized and rehearsed with a scientific accuracy of detail that created a new method of trench warfare which the Germans feared.

A Difficult Operation
The Canadian infantry had a difficult operation. The ground from the high ridge of Pozieres sloped down before them to the edge of the village of Courcellette, where they had been ordered to halt and consolidate, while reserve battalions of French Canadians on the right came up behind to mop up the captured ground. A German trench ran at an angle from their objective and as they advanced the Canadians had to take this en passant, as the chess players would say, the flank capturing trenches at the same rate of progress as the centre and right. The French Canadians with their comrades on the left swung in a loop round the southern half of the village and closed in and invaded its streets. The capture of Courcellette was one of the astounding things in this battle of the Somme. There were 1,500 Germans in and about it and the place was stormed by much less than that number. Dugouts full of Germans, were routed out by a few men who could have been crushed and killed by the odds against them.

One Canadian boy went down into a dugout and after a time, (what queer conversation could he have had down there), came out again with prisoners. There were twenty of them, tall big men who could have made a meal off this brown eyed lad who marshalled them up.

Two battalion commanders were taken and brought to the trench of the Canadian Colonel. One of the German officers was a Baron, stuffed with pride, but a brave man, who believed that he had surrendered to overwhelming odds. When he found that he had commanded a greater force than the attackers, he was confused and humiliated. He tried to hide this by arrogance and show of contempt, but the little Colonel of the French-Canadians chastened him but a few words and a flick of ironical humor.

"You are our prisoner now, sir," he said. "I will send you down with the wounded under the Red Cross. If your people do not respect this emblem it will not be our fault if you are hurt."

Hunted Out Germans
The Baron went away with the wounded. He expressed his surprise at the Canadians talking French so well, and on the way down was wounded by shrapnel from his own guns.

There were extraordinary scenes in Courcellette and beyond any when the Canadians put the Germans to flight and took more prisoners and made strong points to guard against a counter attack.

"We shall take Courcellette back again," shouted a German angrily. "You will not take it back again," said a French-Canadian. "We shall get all the line into our hands again," said the German. "Don't you believe it, Fritz," so the argument continued. "You won't get back a metre of Courcellette, not if the whole German army comes against us. Many German soldiers had been buried or half buried by shells. Those who gave sign or tongue were dug out and rescued. One man was dug out as far as his waist but the Canadians had other work to do to save themselves from the same kind of fate. Every un wounded man was wanted in the front line.

"Finish the rest yourself!" said the Canadian, giving the man his shovel, "I've other jobs."

The German dug and dug about himself steadily and desperately. Shells were screaming overhead, men were running up and down among the ruins, prisoners were being rounded up, officers were shouting to their men, ammunition was being sent forward, machine guns were being carried up, and all the twilight of the day was throbbing with shell flashes and signal lights. In the centre of all this tumult was the German digging and scraping himself out of the grave which had buried him.

Made Themselves Useful.
Some Germans made themselves useful. A wounded Canadian officer captured five of them before he became too weak to get back to the dressing station unaided. Speaking French to them, which one at least understood, he ordered his prisoners

to make a stretcher for him, enforcing his command by keeping his revolver on them. From some old sticks and sand bags they made a stretcher and carried him down.

Two German doctors helped dress the British wounded and worked bravely and steadily under shell fire for many hours. One of them objected to having a sentry put near his dugout. "I am not a fighting man," he said, "I did not help to make this war. My work is for humanity, and your wounded are the same to me as our poor suffering men, needing my help, which I am glad to give."

Seven Counter Attacks
The Colonel of the French Canadians thanked them for their work, but kept the sentry there. He could not afford to take the risk, slight though it might be, of letting the German doctor inform the German soldiers that they outnumbered the men who had captured Courcellette.

Beyond the village that night the Germans made seven counter attacks upon the Canadians. There were moments when even the Colonel thought things did not look any too bright. But all their assaults were beaten off as the Canadians had beaten off other attacks inflicting heavy losses and gaining more ground.

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Our Missing Soldier Lads

12 Lily Hill Terrace, Edinburgh, Sept. 18, 1916

Dear Mrs. McDonald:

I have just had your letter, for which I thank you, and now write to say how very sorry I am to have no good news to give you of Fred. After the awful time of July 1st, we gradually traced all our N.I.D. boys, a great number in hospital and alas a greater number who have paid the price. Of Fred we can only learn he is missing.

As Roy Spencer and Fred were so friendly (they came always together here) we thought Roy might know something, but the only answer to all our enquiries is "missing." We expect Roy in Edinburgh this week, from Convalescent Home, and will hear all he has to tell, when I will once write you. I cannot tell you what a shock we got when we heard that Fred was again in action. We thought he would be kept back, but now we know he offered to go, and it is his everlasting credit he did so and his family may well be proud of the gallant young hero. The boys are very backward in telling of what they went through in that fatal Peninsula, but we heard of Fred's bravery, and yet every one was decorated who should be, he most certainly would have a medal, but I dare say you know all that and the story of Caribon Hill. (It is very difficult to single out one when all were so brave, is it not?)

Now, dear friend, I would not have you give up hope, as so far as we know no one saw Fred fall. In the case of Billy Knight and many others we know they were seen to be shot and to fall, but we cannot hear of any one who saw Fred even wounded, and after his previous wound in the head, one never knows what effect a subsequent wound may have, he may be without memory somewhere, rest assured. However, I will let you know at once when we learn anything definite. I am writing to Ayr to your young brother and am asking him to come to see us when he gets a pass. We know lots of boys at Ayr. Eric Chafe, Finlay Richards and others,

who, I am sure, will be kind to the new arrivals. Anyway our door is always open to any boy from our oldest Colony and indeed we feel quite well acquainted with some of our good people of St. John's. It is a most trying time for all of us, and I have some idea what it must be for your dear mother, who is so far away, and yet how proudly she can hold up her head, and know she is the mother of such brave young soldiers. Our part is very small, and we feel we never can repay the debt we owe to our lads from overseas. It was just a chance we got to know the boys when in our castle and we have got to know and love all those who made this house a kind of home. I have by me a little note written by Fred, thanking us for a small package we sent, socks and smokes, etc, just a few words. Fred never wrote long letters, but he was so thankful at being minded. We keep knitting socks all the time. My daughter Elena and I knit light gray wool, with white tops and toes, and the boys like them, as they look like home socks. In all their letters they say a new pair of socks makes them feel so much easier, as the feet get very tired and sore in the trenches. Now I must stop, with kindest regards to all.

J. W. GRAHAM.

[This letter was received by a sister of Lance Corpl. Fred E. Snow reported missing July 1st, son of Mr. Geo. Snow, 116 Pleasant Street.]

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