

# THE PAPER WITH SNAP IN IT!



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TAKE away cavalry from the army, and you take away half its glory. In this war of rabbit-warrens, cavalry have had few chances to show what they could do, but when the opportunity did occur they made the most of it. The epic charge of Fort Garry Horse at Cambrai, when Lieut. Strachan won the V.C., is a case in point.

When "B" Squadron, riding through Masmeres, crossed the newly-built bridge outside the town and attacked the Germans upon the ridge they did not know that orders had been sent by the Commanding Officer that they were to remain west of the Canal. The orderlies were unable to deliver their instructions. It happened this way.

The infantry had cut a gap in the German wire, and winning through the swamp the Canadian troopers charged for it at the gallop, riding hell-for-leather. At the gap there were many casualties. Captain Campbell went down, and the command was at once taken over by Lieut. Strachan. Sweeping through the gap, in a dashing, smashing devil-may-care charge, forming in line of troop columns, the men went forward to an objective dear to a cavalryman's heart—a battery of German field guns which lay before them.

Fort Garry rode down upon the guns without hesitation. In a moment they were riding down the gunners or sabreing them where they stood. Two of the guns were deserted by their crews, the third was blown up by its gunners, while the crew of the fourth fired a round point

## THE CAVALRY V.C.



Photo by

Beaver Gallery: No. 12.

(Swaine)

**CAPT. HARCUS STRACHAN, V.C., Fort Garry Horse.**

blank at the advancing troops. The shell went wide. There was a brief melee of plunging horses and stumbling artillery-men. Then the business was finished.

Behind the guns German infantry appeared. Strachan led his troopers into the thick of them. The Germans were not accustomed to this kind of thing. They fled, the Canadians cutting them down as they ran.

There was no news up to this time of the main body of the Cavalry Brigade, and Lieut. Strachan realised that something had gone wrong. Surrounded on three sides he decided to abandon his horses and cut his way through to Masmeres. Collecting the horses he stampeded them eastward, the Germans imagining that the cavalry men were making another charge.

Gathering his men together Strachan led them off quietly toward the British lines. On the way back no less than four parties of Germans were encountered, the dismounted troopers capturing more prisoners at the point of the bayonet than they could handle.

In darkness it was difficult to find a gap in the wire that would admit the passage of all the men and the party divided, both eventually getting in without further casualty.

In this little affair Lieut. Strachan destroyed a battery, inflicted well over a hundred casualties, tangled the German communications over a wide area, captured a number of Germans exceeding the original strength of his squadron, raised the devil generally, and won the V.C. He deserved it.