

RECORD OF CANADIAN CORPS TO MONS' CAPTURE

Four Divisions of Dominion's Troops Were Pitted at Various Times Against 57 German Divisions Between Start of Offensive and Signing of the Armistice.

The following dispatch is forwarded from the office of Sir E. Kemp, Canadian Overseas Minister of Militia, by Fred James, official correspondent with the Canadian Overseas Military Forces:

Canadian troops have furnished a curious coincidence in British military history. The first troops to enter Mons the day the armistice was signed were those of the 42nd Royal Highlanders of Canada, which battalion, through the parent regiment, the 5th Royal Highlanders of Canada, is affiliated with the famous Black Watch. On August 23, 1914, the last British battalion to leave Mons was the 42nd Highlanders, the Scottish Black Watch.

From August 8 to November 11, the date the armistice was declared, the Canadian Corps captured 34,000 prisoners, 750 artillery guns of all calibres, 5,500 machine guns, hundreds of trench mortars, and huge quantities of all kinds of material.

In the last three months of the war the corps advanced in depth a distance of 95 miles, covering an area of approximately 450 square miles. The principal towns captured by the Canadians in that time were Cambrai and Le Cateau on October 9; Denain, October 20; Valenciennes, November 2; Mons, November 2. At least 150 smaller towns and villages were captured in addition to those larger centres, which released from German domination over 300,000 French and Belgian civilians.

The three outstanding battles fought by the Canadian Corps since August, 1918, were: Amiens, which began August 8; Arras, on August 26; and Cambrai, September 27. In these three battles, and in the advance from Cambrai to Mons through Valenciennes, the Canadian Corps engaged and identified a total of fifty-seven German divisions, several of whom were so badly decimated as to render them useless of fighting organizations.

At Amiens we advanced in less than two weeks a depth of 15 miles. At Arras and Cambrai the depth of penetration into the enemy lines was 35 miles, and from Cambrai to Mons 55 miles. At Amiens we captured 12,000 prisoners; Arras, 10,000; Cambrai 7,174; and from Cambrai to Mons, 2,825.

German Hopes Gone

It has been definitely established that when the Canadians captured Cambrai and Le Cateau in the darkness of the morning of October 9, the enemy hopes of victory vanished entirely and the vision of sure and certain defeat on the field loomed up as inevitable. He then began to retire as rapidly as possible towards the Rhine, protecting his backward movements by fighting rearguard actions with machine guns. After the fall of Cambrai we took up a line to the north towards Douai and began the advance in the direction of Valenciennes. On October 10th the Second Division attacked and occupied Naves with little opposition. The Sixth Brigade took Thun Levee and Thun St. Martin, northeast of Cambrai, assisted by the Canadian independent force composed of the Motor Machine Gun Brigade and the Cyclists' Corps. This force peppered the enemy from roads in several positions from which they could do good work for us and had for the opposition.

The next day the Second Division again attacked and cleared the Boche out of Iwuy undeterred by the enemy's artillery, which put down quite a heavy barrage on our troops. By 10.30 on that morning the Germans launched a strong counter attack from the direction of Avesnes started by artillery and seven tanks. It was a foolhardy effort on his part, because all the tanks were quickly knocked out, his ranks were ripped to pieces, and we got 300 prisoners.

On October 12 the First Division occupied the villages of Arleux, Estrees, and several other centres in the neighborhood, while the Fifth Brigade of the Second Division pressed on and established themselves in the village of Hordain. The enemy was evidently determined not to be driven back without a fight, so to break the monotony he delivered a counter attack north of Aubigny au Bac, with the result that we netted two officers and 199 other ranks as prisoners and took possession of Lieux St. Amund.

Before the enemy evacuated the territory he held he found time to destroy all the railway tracks, bridges, and blow huge holes in cross roads, and in every possible way try to impede our advance. By October 18 the First Division had crossed the Canal de La Senne and established a line just beyond Fechain, Pressin, Villors au Tertre, Lewarde, Diche, and Sur le Noble. At Pecquencourt and villages in the neighborhood which fell to the First Division, nearly 3,000 civilians were released on October 19. On the night of October 19-20 the Tenth Brigade of the Fourth Division entered the large mining town of Denain after a sharp fight on the outskirts, and 28,000 civilians there welcomed our men with most hilarious enthusiasm. Before the end of the month the First and Fourth Divi-

sions were established on the outskirts of Valenciennes on a line running North, and the number of civilians freed by that time totalled 75,000, all of whom became a charge on the Canadian Corps for rations, for the Germans had robbed them of every particle of food and left their cupboards as bare as Mother Hubbard's.

The Third Division took over from the First on a line in the vicinity of Ralsmes. On November 1 the Fourth Division attacked south of Valenciennes in conjunction with the 22nd Corps, an attack which was an unqualified success, for over 800 enemy dead were counted after the show at the portals of the city, and we captured 1,400 prisoners, several artillery guns, and many machine guns. The next day the Eleventh and Twelfth Brigades joined hands in the Place D'Armes in Valenciennes, since named Place du Canada.

From Valenciennes the Third and Fourth Divisions began to push on towards Mons, the Fourth operating on the right of the Mons road, the Third on the left. So far as spectacular features of fighting were concerned, there were none. The was some fighting, but the enemy was too much concerned with retiring to prevent being completely routed that he had little time to offer much resistance. As our men entered towns and villages they were kissed and embraced and held as deliverers and treated as such. That section of France on the Canadian front was cleared of the enemy by about November 7, and the Fourth Division was relieved just over the Belgium border by the Second Division. By the 10th November the Second and Third Divisions were on the outskirts of Mons; the Second on the right and the Third at the very gates of the city itself.

On the morning of the 11th, at four o'clock, the 42nd Battalion (the Montreal Kilties), the P.P.C.L.L., R.C.R.'s, and the 44th Battalion, of the Seventh Brigade, attacked. The city was actually captured by the 42nd Battalion and the Princess Pats, and the R.C.R.'s also had some troops enter the city, so that in nine days the Canadians advanced thirty miles.

On the afternoon of the 11th, Lieut. General Sir Arthur Currie and his staff made a triumphant entry into Mons, and were welcomed by thousands of civilians in a most demonstrative way. General Currie presented to the city a Canadian flag tied to a lance, which now has a prominent place in the council chamber of the city hall. The body-guard of the Corps Commander was a section of the 5th Imperial Lancers, all of whom wore the Mons Ribbon and were among the last to leave the city on August 23, 1914.

It was at Mons that the British began fighting in the war and it was there the war ended. Throughout all the advance made by the Canadians invaluable assistance was given by the Canadian Railway Troops and the Canadian Forestry Corps, whose work was extremely difficult owing to the devastation and destruction caused to railway tracks, bridges and roads.

TO SPEND \$500,000 ON EXTENSIONS TO BRANDON ASYLUM

As part of the program of public works to be undertaken next Summer, partly on account of the need for additional accommodation, and on account of the necessity of providing employment for returned soldiers, the Manitoba Government contemplates a comprehensive addition to Brandon Insane Asylum at an estimated cost of \$500,000. Hon. George Grierson, Minister of Public Works, announced on Saturday.

The Minister stated that while details in connection with this project had not yet been completed, he expected next week to be able to announce definitely the character of the work and the financial limits within which it will be kept.

At the present time there stands to the credit of capital account, \$100,000 voted by the Legislature in 1917 for the construction of an extension to the asylum.

In the Spring of 1917 Hon. T. H. Johnson, Minister of Public Works, called for tenders for the construction of a certain accepted addition to the institution. When the bids came in, however, it was found that they were so uniformly in excess of the amount authorized for the project the Government decided to abandon the scheme until a more convenient time.

This would be a quite peaceable world were it not for the movements of the under jaw.

Price Revisions of a Most Remarkable Character on Hudson Seal and Muskrat Coats

7 ONLY DARK MUSKRAT COATS

Regular \$145.00; Xmas sale price—

\$119.00

Seven real beautiful enveloping Coats, made from specially selected natural heavily furred skins; silk poplin lining, large shawl collar.

1 ONLY HUDSON SEAL COAT

Regular \$200.00; Xmas sale price—

\$159.00

This model comes in the popular 42 inch length; has deep shawl collar and satin lining. It's a rare find for the money.

4 ONLY HUDSON SEAL COATS

Regular \$250.00; Xmas sale price—

\$195.00

Four excellent style models in the 45 inch length; deep shawl collar and cuff of self; lined with guaranteed satin.

MEN'S BLACK MANCHURIAN FUR COAT

Very special value at—

\$35.00

So far superior is this coat from the lower priced coats that are on the market, that one glance at them side by side is sufficient to distinguish them, by any man who knows quality. Full 50 inch length; leather protectors at arm holes; deep storm collar and well lined. A coat easily worth \$10 more.

MEN'S FUR COLLARED COATS

Regular \$75.00; special for—

\$58.00

Warm, smart-looking tweed-lined coats with shawl collar of rich dark colored plucked beaver. A popular coat for city wear with men who like to appear well dressed.

2 UNPLUCKED BEAVER COATS

Made from the finest first quality specially selected pelts, rich dark color. Regular \$3.75; special for **\$295.00**

Men's Ulsters

CLEARANCE OF A SURPLUS STOCK

Values ranging from \$18.00 to \$30.00 on sale for **\$10.00**

The man who wants to get one of these warm winter ulsters in exchange for one ten-dollar bill will have to lose no time in getting here, for there is only a limited number to dispose of and there'll be no such value again. See them by all means tomorrow.

2000 Pounds Best 4-ply Scotch Fingering Yarn

At per lb—

\$2.55

This is the lowest price we have been able to offer this quality for since last winter. It's the lowest price you will pay for it in 1919, for all woolsens are due for another advance. A late shipment direct from the mills, which we had given up hope of ever receiving, arrived a few days ago and makes this offer possible. Full weight, soft 4-ply knitting yarn, splendid for socks and mitts, in white, light grey and mid grey.

Stanfield's Red Label Underwear

Special per garment—

\$2.25

Buy a full season's supply of this sterling quality underwear while you can get it at this price. Heavy elastic rib unshrinkable wool shirts and drawers, finished in the same fine manner as is usual with this quality. All sizes.

* TRADE CONDITIONS GOOD *
* That trade conditions in the *
* Brandon distributing area during *
* the past year compared *
* very favorably with other districts *
* may be gathered from *
* the fact that Mr. R. A. C. *
* Forbes, of this city, traveller *
* for Gordon, Ironsides and *
* Fares, won the salesmanship *
* championship for Western Ontario, *
* the whole of Manitoba *
* and Eastern Saskatchewan *

KATHERINE STINSON TO FLY OVER OCEAN

London, Dec. 23.—Katherine Stinson aviatrix, has announced that she will fly from Europe to America. She expressed confidence in her ability to do what no mere man has ever done.

Miss Stinson is the first pilot of her sex to fly over London. She accomplished the feat on Friday in a Handley-Page machine.

"Miss Stinson was scheduled to fly to Paris on Saturday, where she will enter the employ of the Red Cross. According to local officials of the Red Cross she will be sent on a flight into Germany, to search out unreported prison camps, where it is believed there are many missing soldiers. She may be accompanied on this proposed flight by Alice Fleenore, of San Francisco.

Every man should master the art of concealing his ignorance.

STRAND

January 1-2-3-4

AMBASSADOR JAMES W. GERARD'S

MY 4 YEARS IN GERMANY

The screen's greatest achievement



In the wonderful feature film production made from Ambassador James W. Gerard's book "My Four Years in Germany," you see scene after scene that eloquently exposes the Prussian menace to America and world freedom. You see the Kaiser tell Gerard, after he had churlishly refused to see him for six months, that America had better look out after this war; "I will stand

no nonsense from her." You will see the overrunning of Belgium, the German prison camps, the U-boat warfare, the underground pages of German diplomacy that Germany never intended Americans to find out. It is an historic document of tremendous importance to every man and woman who would know the truth.

TWICE DAILY, AT 2:30 and 8:15 — ALL SEATS RESERVED.

PRICES: Matinees 15c and 25c; Evenings 25c and 50c.

Seats on sale now — mail orders must have stamped addressed envelope enclosed.