

HOW THE CANADIAN FORCES WON FAME AT COURCELETTE

French Canadian Troops Did Especially Good Work—Soldiers from Canada Cheered as They Charged Through Machine Gun Fire and Inferno of High Explosives.

(By Philip Gibbs in the London Chronicle.)

In a scrappy way I have told something about the way the Canadians fought for Courcellette. It is worth more than that as an historic narrative. From first to last, beginning with the dawn of Friday, Sept. 13, and going on now, beyond the village, against German counter-attacks, these men from the West have shown themselves very gallant, and hard and quick in fighting qualities.

There was a body of French-Canadians among them, dark-eyed fellows, of the same type as the French people among whom they found themselves by the odds of chance, like some of the French Chasseurs Alpins who have been fighting on our right, like-bodied men, with muscles like whipcord, full of individual character, and an old tradition of warfare behind them, war against nature and wild animals, away from town life.

The enemy was not sure what men he had against him down below Courcellette. I think it was to get this knowledge that he sent out a number of his bombers just before the Canadian attack was to be launched. I have already told about the sergeant who saw them coming, and about the boy by his side who was buried alive by a shell, and lived to tell the tale, with a strange smile in his brown eyes, as he leaned on a crooked stick, some old tree stump he had picked up to support him when he was weak from loss of blood. He was one of the French-Canadian boys. The German bombers came out of the darkness suddenly, and pounced upon a bit of trench, flinging their hand grenades, and trying to grab some of our men as prisoners. It was just like one of the old raids, better done by the Canadians themselves. They had a short innings, and not a man went back. A Canadian machine-gunner rushed up his "Lewis" and killed those who came over our parapets. One of them with 12 bombers accounted for the others.

Three "Tanks" Employed.

But it was awkward happening just at the hour when the grand attack was waiting for the word "Go." It might have been a disaster, but the plan at the moment did not let it make any kind of difference to them. At the exact moment all the waves of men rose, swept over the dead, rolled over No Man's Land. Three Tanks went with them, slower than the infantry, but climbing steadily over the trenches and the shell craters, and prowling around for the places from which there came a spitting fire of machine guns. They found some of them in the Sugar Factory, and I have told how they sat down there, crumbling the emplacements under their heavy ribs, and pouring out a deadly fire.

The Canadian infantry had a difficult operation. The ground from the high ridge of Pottiers sloped down before them to the edge of the village of Courcellette, where they had to consolidate while reserve battalions—the 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 chess players would say, the flank capturing the trench at the same rate of progress as the centre and right went forward.

Through an Inferno.

It was done. Through machine-gun fire and an inferno of shrapnel and high explosives the Canadians stormed their way down the slope, shouting and cheering as they went on, before officers who urged them on, before falling, some of them, mortally wounded. In the trenches the German soldiers fought stubbornly, flinging their bombs and maintaining a rapid rifle fire until the Canadians were right upon them with the bayonet. At the sight of sharp steel their hands grew more, but flung up their hands.

The Canadians had a long way to go to the outskirts of Courcellette, right across open country, and as they went the German crumps fell among them, tossing up great masses of smoke and earth filled with flying shell splinters.

Gathering Strength.

It was on the line outside Courcellette that they stopped, and took and savor their strength and take breath. It was late in the afternoon, I think, that the ground behind them was thoroughly cleared, and that the German defense of the Sugar Factory was finally broken with the help of the Tanks. There was a conference between the officers, those who were still unscathed. Men in the ranks asked the same question, and answered it. "Why not take Courcellette itself?"

The order and the honor of the new attack was given to the "mop-up" battalions behind, with the French-Canadians among them, who had been advancing behind the assaulting troops as a clearing and consolidating force. The colonel of the French-Canadians tells the story. He is a wiry man, typical of his race, modest, bright-eyed, keeping a sense of humor in spite of all the tragedy of war, such a man as Chaucer knew when Norman

French was spoken in English fields—"a very parit gentil knight." He is proud of his French-Canadians. They had a long way to go to get to Courcellette. Nearly three and a half miles to the final line given to them on the other side of the village. "We're late, we're late," said the little colonel. "We must get there in time at whatever cost. French-Canadians forward!"

They were not too late. They came up to the first assaulting battalions—those who had dug in south of the village—just in time to pass through them and lead the new attack. Many men had dropped on the way. The ground was still being torn up by steel ploughs. All the air was full of the scream and whine and crash of shells. Round Courcellette there was a clatter of machine-gun fire from German hiding places. The garrison there was ready for defense.

"Mes Enfants."

"Alors done, mes enfants!"

It is the way in which French officers lead their men to victory or to death.

The French-Canadians, with their comrades on the left, swung round 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 some of the fiercest fighting men of the war. The 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 dug-out, and after a time—what queer conversation could he have down there—came out again with prisoners. There were twenty of them, tall, big men, who could have made a meal of this brown-eyed lad who marshaled them up.

Some of the Germans made themselves useful. A wounded German 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 sandbags they made the stretcher, and then carried him down.

Two German doctors helped to dress our wounded, and worked bravely and steadily under shell fire for many hours. One of them objected to having a serry put near his dug-out. "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 ours, poor, suffering men, needing my help, which I am glad to give."

A Handful of Heroes.

Beyond the village that night the enemy made seven counter-attacks upon the Canadians. There were moments when even the Colonel thought that things did not look "too bright." But all these assaults were beaten off, as the Canadians have beaten off other attacks yesterday and today, inflicting heavy losses and gaining more ground.

One counter-attack was repulsed by a handful of men in a way that gives a grotesque comedy to all this night scene of war filled with so much death, and terror, and human courage strong in endurance. A lot of rum had been

driven out to each Canadian to give a glow of warmth to limbs chilled in the west soil of shell craters and to hearts chilled by the reaction which follows fierce excitement. This handful of men were sitting in a German dug-out in August, 1914, there is probably no branch of the Canadian overseas forces which have stepped to the front of the scenes about them. It was as jolly as in a log-cabin of the West, by this dug-out, where a corpse lay very quiet. Again they shouted, and laughed more loudly, giving Red Indian war-cries, and other wild whoops. And that was when the counter-attack began.

It did not get very far. A body of Germans advancing over No Man's Land to the British lines suddenly heard frightful, blood-curdling sounds. It was as though the tribes of the Blackfeet had come out upon the war-path, yelling as they swung their tomahawks and dancing round the scalps of their victims. The Germans hated to hear such a noise. It was as though all the devils of hell were upon them, laughing diabolically. . . . They turned and fled.

Valuable Branch.

Those who have had the privilege of observing the marked rapidity with which Divisional Signallers have come to the foreground will admit that this branch of service in addition to being of a highly intellectual nature is also a valuable contributing factor in the progress of the war.

Many inquiries have been received within the past few months from young men anxious to connect themselves with this organization but who have not a thoroughly clear conception of the work embraced in this branch of the service. For the benefit of such inquiries the most important features of Divisional Signal work are herewith outlined.

What They Do.

Divisional Signallers are a corps assigned to take charge of all messages and communications between Divisional and Brigade Headquarters.

Those in charge of the work determine as to how such communications shall be transmitted. Sometimes it is advisable to lay miles of cable and thus transmit the message by telephone or telegraph, whilst at other times prudence demands it essential to forward the command by a despatch rider, the latter using either horse or motorcycle.

Has Pleasures.

The laying and concealing of a cable is a work which need not help interest all who have ever followed the vocation of linemen or electricians, whilst any who enjoy speeding along the countryside with motorcycle at a good clip must find there a large scope for their activities.

It will readily be observed from the foregoing that the work is the very life of the fighting forces, and therefore the highest standard of efficiency in this particular branch of the service must be attained.

Those who have been privileged to visit the beautiful camp at Rockliffe, this summer, where the Divisional Signal Depot has gone about the work of training young men for its various needs, must have admired the splendid conditions under which the recruits have been taught the many branches of the work. The high type of men engaged in the work of learning to signal strikes one very forcibly.

Capable Officer.

Under the able command of the officer commanding, Capt. Hadley no stone has been left unturned to make the quarters as comfortable for the men as possible, and whilst the strength and morale of the men has been maintained, the high standard of efficiency has been maintained.

As one looks at the work of the past two years of warfare with its ever increasing demands for men it is extremely gratifying to observe that up to within the past few weeks ago every man who was admitted to the Divisional Signal Depot had previously entered his own application and had not been canvassed by any representative of the corps.

Steady Demand.

Since the demand for men has steadily advanced, however, and the various universities and educational institutions have gradually become saturated with recruits, it has become essential for the Divisional Signal Corps to seek a number of men with the necessary qualifications in order to secure for the depot its full strength, as the drafts are sent overseas, the latter occurring approximately every six weeks as the men become efficient.

In the past two months excellent work has been accomplished by the recruiting staff of divisional signals at the base recruiting office, Sparks street. Much credit is due to Lieut. H. J. Kirby and his staff who, and had charge, the task of recruiting men for King and company has developed into a more difficult problem day by day, every application that has been received has been from men well fitted for the important work in which they will be engaged. In view of the fact that Lieut. Kirby has been assigned such a small staff to carry on his work heading the list for this military district in the month of September when he secured for the depot ninety-eight men, is highly commendable.

Any desirous of connecting themselves with the Divisional Signal Corps and who are of military age

Heart Fluttering Easily Corrected

GOOD ADVICE TO FOLKS BOTH-ERRED WITH PALPITATION, WEAKNESS, ETC.

If your heart flutters, be careful. An attack is liable to come on at any time. Excitement, over-exertion may cause it. If blood rushes to the head, if palpitation and short breath are noticeable, there's cause for alarm. If you want a good honest remedy try Ferrozene. We recommend it because we know it's just right for heart trouble. It cured A. F. Beattie, who lives at Allen Hotel, Pay City, Mich. See if your symptoms resemble these:

Some Symptoms of Weak Heart. Nervousness, Palpitation, Trembling, Dizziness, Sinking Feeling, Heart Pain, Short Breath, Weakness.

Mr. Beattie says: "I was weak and miserable. I was subject to heart palpitation and dizziness. As I grew weaker I began to have trembling and sinking sensations. Ferrozene strengthened my heart, gave vigor to my nerves, soon made me well. It's a great rest-builder."

By strengthening the muscles of the heart, giving proper circulation and causing a general rebuilding of the whole system, Ferrozene is bound to do grand work in heart trouble; try it, 50c. per box, or six for \$2.50, at all dealers, or direct by mail from The Catarrhoe Co., Kingston, Ont.

AN ERROR RECORD.

The record for numerous errors in a big league game has stood thirty-three years, as it was made by August 21, 1883, by Pitcher Hagen and Catcher Gross of the Quakers, in a game with the Providence Grays, then in the National League. The Quakers, under the management of Bob Ferguson, were new to the National circuit, and they had some hard sledding. On the day in question Ferguson sent Arthur Hagen into the box, while another youngster, Gross, was behind the bat. The Grays fell on Hagen's delivery hammer and tongs, and batted over seven runs in the first chapter. Providence scored in every inning thereafter except one, making a total of twenty-eight runs, while the Quakers were shut out. Ferguson's club made twenty-seven errors, and of this number eleven were chalked up against Hagen and eight against Gross, making nineteen mistakes pulled off by the battery. This record has never been equalled since the top, and it is likely to stand for all time.

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KILLS PAIN

SIGNALS ARE THE NERVE LIFE OF FORCES FIGHTING IN FIELD

The Work That Signal Corps is Called Upon to Do at the Front—More Intelligent, Trained Men are Needed for Service.

(Ottawa Free Press.)

Since the outbreak of hostilities in August, 1914, there is probably no branch of the Canadian overseas forces which have stepped to the front of the scenes about them. It was as jolly as in a log-cabin of the West, by this dug-out, where a corpse lay very quiet. Again they shouted, and laughed more loudly, giving Red Indian war-cries, and other wild whoops. And that was when the counter-attack began.

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should interview Lieut. Kirby at the base recruiting office at an early date. Those who have any of the following qualifications are especially desirable: linemen, telegraphers, motor cyclists, signallers, electricians and drivers.

THE PULL TOGETHER.

Without being overly blessed or overly cursed by any great array of stars, Boston has more than her share of experienced workmen who have been through the smash more than once.

Jack Barry has been a star in five pennant races and five world's series. He should get beset with fluttering duck fits at another!

Duffy, Lewis, Harry Hooper, Forest Cady, Bill Carrigan and Larry Gardner have been through three pennant winning campaigns, and two winning post-season championships.

The Red Sox pitching staff for two years has been acclimated against disaster and lifted to the test by facing and stopping a few such people as Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, Joe Jackson, Eddie Collins, Sam Crawford, George Sisler, Frank Baker, Happy Felsch, Bert Shotton, Bob Veatch and Amos Strunk. This brand of competition has developed stamina and a pull-together spirit.

By losing Speaker in April and by losing Jack Barry in September the Red Sox were able to prove they were no one-man or two-man ball club. Against much tougher all-around competition this season, minus Speaker all the year and Barry the last month, Cavan's club has done as well this season as it did last.

Glen White, "heavy" of William Fox's new picture, speaks:

"Longfellow said that everybody in this world must be either hammer or anvil. It seems to me that a great many of them are merely bellows."

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OLD ENGLISH RECIPE FOR CATARRHAL DEAFNESS AND HEAD NOISES.

If you know someone who is troubled with head noises or Catarrhal Deafness, cut out this formula and hand it to them, and you will have the means of saving some poor sufferer perhaps from total deafness. Recent experiments have proved conclusively that Catarrhal Deafness, the system of the catarrhal poison from the system. The effective prescription which was eventually formulated, and which has aroused the belief that deafness will soon be extinct, is given below in understandable form, so that any one can treat themselves in their own home at little expense.

Secure from your druggist 1 oz. Permin (Double Strength), about 75c. Take this home and add to it 1 pint of hot water and 4 oz. of granulated sugar; stir until dissolved. Take one tablespoonful four times a day.

The first dose should begin to relieve the distressing head noises, headache, dizziness, cloudy thinking, etc., while the hearing supply returns. The system is invigorated by the tonic action of the treatment. Loss of smell and mucus dropping in the back of the throat, are other symptoms that show the presence of catarrhal poison, and which are often entirely overcome by this efficacious treatment. Nearly ninety per cent of all ear troubles are directly caused by catarrh; therefore there must be many people whose hearing can be restored by this simple home treatment.

Every person who is troubled with head noises, catarrhal deafness, or catarrh in any form, should give this prescription a trial.

Important Note: In ordering Permin always specify that you want double strength. Your druggist has it or he can easily get it for you. If not send 75c. postal note or money order, to the International Laboratories, 74 St. Antoine St., Montreal, Que., Can., and they will supply you. Postal note or money order.

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First quarter 4th—7h. 0m. a.m.

Full moon 11th—3h. 1m. a.m.

Last quarter 18th—9h. 0m. p.m.

New moon 25th—4h. 37m. p.m.

Date, Day, Month, Year, Time, Tide, Wind, Weather, etc.

10 D. of W. Sun. rise. Sun. set. H. water a.m. H. water p.m.

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12 W. 6.40 5.42 11.20 23.34 5.23 17.47

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