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## EDITORIAL

### YPRES

"Exegi monumentum Aerii perennis"

Naturally at this time we mentally retrace our path, and re-examine the engraving on the mile stones by the way. The declaration of war, the rapid mobilization of the forces throughout Canada; the concentration at Valcartier Camp; the transatlantic voyage in the largest Armada the seas have ever borne on its historic surface; the months of purgatory on Salisbury Plains; the landing in France; the testing at Neuve Chapelle, Fleurbaix, Armentiers, and then Ypres, a word written with the life blood of its gallant sons on the title-page of Canada's history.

Most fittingly the first anniversary of the second battle of Ypres was observed by a special service on Easter afternoon in St. George's Church. The memory of the heroes who fell in that glorious struggle was honoured not alone by the brother forces of His Majesty's Services who happened to be in Ramsgate, and by a large number of residents. Many names come to mind, some of whom have passed to the Great Beyond, others still "carrying on" but who have all indeed "Built a monument more enduring than Bronze." Boyle and McLaren of the 10th; Hart-McHarg of the 7th; Norsworthy and Guy Drummond and McCuaig of the 13th, who for almost 24 hours held his position and was an important factor in saving the day; John Geddes leading his company in the famous charge into hell, wounded early, but gallantly pushing on, only to fall when the deed was done.

Our own hospital was especially interested not only from the number of patients who had taken part in the battle, which included Capt. Srimger, V.C., M.O., 14th Battalion, The Royal Montreal Regiment, who won his V.C., Privates Glidden and Wade, 1st Battalion, Private Bec, of the 5th, Private Dodwell, of the 16th, and Driver Whitestien, of the 1st Battery, but also from the fact that the following men of No 3 Field Ambulance are at present on the staff of this hospital: Lieut.-Col. W. L. Watt, the Officer Commanding, who also commanded there; Major F. C. Bell, Major S. A. Smith, D.S.O., Sergt. Hayes, Corporals Carr and Walsh. The first two were wounded and the last two captured by the enemy when

searching for wounded near St. Julien.

Just what the terrible struggle meant may be gauged from the fact that from the evening of the 22nd, when the first ghastly results of the gas poisoning started to come in, until the evening of the 28th, no less than 5,250 wounded were cared for and evacuated by this Ambulance alone.

It were hopeless to attempt to recall the names of all those who performed deeds of such prodigious valour on that day; one may only quote the words of Canada's Official Recorder, Sir Max Aitkin:-

"The Battle which raged for so many days in the neighbourhood of Ypres was bloody, even as men appraise battle in this callous and life-engulfing war, but as long as brave deeds retain the power to fire the blood of Anglo-Saxons, the stand made by the Canadians in these desperate days will be told by Fathers to their Sons; for in the military glory of Canada, in this defence will shine as brightly as any in the records of the British Army, the stubborn valour with which Sir James McDonnell and the Guards beat back from Hougoumont the Division of Foy, and the army corps of Reille."

The ringing cheers of the 10th Brigade, (British) and the Northumberland Brigade, as they rushed to their relief, were at once the death knell of the term "Colonial" and the Birth Greeting of a new Empire.

## \* The Canadian Army Medical Services in the Field.

### THE BATTALION MEDICAL SERVICES

By Capt. F. A. C. Srimger, V.C., C.A.M.C., M.O.  
14th Battalion Royal Montreal Regiment

The battalion medical service as it is seen to-day in the Canadian Army is an adaptation from the older regimental service. Then, the Medical Officer was an officer of the regiment with which he was serving. A certain number of men, two from each company, were trained as stretcher bearers; and were placed under his orders when there were casualties to be attended.

The Medical Officer is now supplied from the Army Medical Corps, is attached for duty with a battalion; and has as his commanding officer, the A.D.M.S. of the division in which the battalion is serving. He has under him two distinct groups of men; a medical orderly with

the rank of lance-corporal, sixteen stretcher bearers and one driver for the Maltese cart, drawn from the battalion, but permanently under his command as a separate detail; and one N.C.O. with four men, drawn from the C.A.M.C. and attached for water duties.

The position of the M.O. in a battalion is in many respects peculiar; his influence on the well-being of the regiment is almost anything he cares to make it. He is nominally under the Commanding Officer; but in all things strictly pertaining to the medical service he is accountable to the A.D.M.S. of the division. He is the advisor to the officer commanding in all things affecting the health and physical welfare of the unit as a whole and of each individual in it. It not infrequently happens that he is advisor in their other matters as well. He is a member of the Headquarters' Staff, his work brings him frequently into the company messes, and he sees, sooner or later, in the course of his rounds or on sick parade a large proportion of the N.C.O.'s and men of the unit. There is hardly a section or a detail he cannot know fairly intimately without seeming to go outside of his duties. There is not an officer in the battalion who has a better opportunity of knowing the needs, wishes and feeling of the men. During the times of relative quiet he has among his duties the supervision of the water; where it is to be drawn, the cleanliness of the water-bottles, and the supply of safe water whenever possible whether the unit is in or out of the trenches. He has the supervision of the the sanitary arrangements as they are carried out in the various companies and details. He is the sieve through which all men must pass who are temporarily or permanently unfit for service. The mesh must be small; yet he must be reasonably fair and reasonably accurate in his judgement if he is to retain the respect of the men, and in consequence maintain his usefulness. On him will depend in no small degree the daily wastage in men from the army in the field. Above all he must make the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the unit feel in times of quiet, that, in times of stress, all will be done that it is possible to do, for the relief of their wounded.

In times of active fighting these duties take second place. All his energies must be turned to the enormously