

CANADIANS DO FULL SHARE IN BATTLES ON THE SOMME

Eye-Witness Tells of Conditions and Incidents in the Great Struggle

A Nova Scotian Hero--Another, Disgraced, Wins Back His Rank.

Ottawa despatch: The following communique from the Canadian War Records Office has been received:

Canadian Corps Headquarters in France, via London, Oct. 19.—It is impossible for those who are not actively participating in this great battle and who must still entertain a conception of warfare based on former wars to understand the extraordinary revolution which has gradually taken place in our methods of attack. And the Somme offensive is being conducted upon new principles drawn from the study and experience of the last two years. It is at the same time the most colossal and the most meticulous form of warfare which has ever been evolved. Its novelty, its character of change and invention, its bold departure from military precedents, is well exemplified by the famous tanks. Its gigantic scale is illustrated by the casualties returns, which represent, however, but a small fraction of the troops employed. Its infinite detail may be seen from a study of the trench maps, where the lacing and interlacing of innumerable lines form a slow labor and nature of the advance. Objectives of attack must be defined with the exactitude of a city plot. They must be approached by the construction of parallel jumping-off trenches and communication trenches, so as to reduce as much as possible the period of infantry exposure and also control the direction of the assault. Aeroplane photographs must be obtained of the area objective to show the precise location of the enemy's lines and the results of the artillery preparation there. Photographs are clear and searching, and some taken during the assault even show the advancing figures of the infantry. Every detail, every secret of the German defence is laid bare. Soon after the aeroplane observer, sweeping low over the enemy's lines has taken the photographs, the prints have been distributed to all the staff concerned.

ALLIES DOMINATE AIR.

In this respect the British and French domination is almost absolute. Here all day long we watch our planes circling above our heads. Closely they come and go with the speed and alertness of eagles; far off they seem to hang suspended in the sky. Occasionally a flight of five or more planes intent upon some special mission go over high up and disappears into the distant mist. So rarely do the German machines appear that some men have been here daily for a month and have not seen a single one.

The Canadian corps is only a unit in the great drama. Its movements depend not upon its own volition, but upon the intricate web of the greater scheme of battle. Let any essential portion be checked in its allotted task and a rearrangement of the whole fabric must be made. Yet the ultimate aim is never lost sight of. The mesh may be removed again and again, but the same grim intention remains. There is an inexorable purpose apparent in all this complication of movement. To the casual eye there may perhaps seem confusion in the forward areas where so many units come along the road, where bare rolling plains and valleys are alive with the ceaseless restlessness of a multitude and where from innumerable unexpected emplacements there is a constant flash and din of artillery fire. Yet in reality everything is the most ordered perfection to the smallest degree; every movement is ordained and co-ordinated. Behind it all lies the directing control of the military organization and behind that again the will of a great people.

In this mighty organism the Canadian army is playing its part. It has taken and given its share of blows. This battle has nowhere a counterpart for the slow, small grinding of the military machine.

A REGION OF CONTRASTS.

Never has human agency controlled such engines of destruction nor has ever so profoundly impressed itself upon the face of nature. No plague could be more ruthless, no natural blight more devastating. This is a region of contrast even for the heavy-footed infantry, who must march from one place to another. One day they may bivouac in a snug French village with its shady trees and its gardens bright with flowers; the next they will plod along the straight white roads marked by the regular rows of poplars on either side. Straining as far as the eye can follow, are the undulating plains, all as carefully cultivated as the best kept kitchen garden at home.

Fields are only distinguished by the differences of the crop or the direction of the furrows. There are no fences, there are no waste places, no ragged grass, no idle clumps of trees, no half-cleared land. Every inch of earth does its patient, happy labor; every tree grows for a purpose. Cattle do not wander aimlessly; they are penned in a field of fodder and each may only eat its allotted circle. This ordered thriftness is mechanical or smoothly self-sustaining, unless the farmer's life is known—his long, untrifling day, the faithful service of his brave women, the healthful labor of his children.

Very deep and very sincere is the admiration of the Canadian soldier,

not only for the skill and courage of the French army, but for the brave, silent industry of the women, the old men and the children of the French farms.

The transition from this scene of beauty, peace and ancient prosperity to the tramping rows of silent horses and are disfigured by variety of encampments, from ordered white tents to huts of rusted biscuit tins and low discolored bivvies. There is a certain inevitable litter of material, salvage heaps and smoldering incinerators; there is an obsession of a loitering military. The houses are all occupied by uniforms more or less clean, a few civilians are engaged in selling eggs, candles or embroidered picture cards and other odds and ends. The roads block and jam with a ceaseless procession of army vehicles or marching units. Either the dust rises in a choking cloud or the mud spreads and splatters everything.

WHEN SCENE CHANGES.

This area of active occupation gradually thins and abuts a region of more sinister appearance. Here trees have broken bodies, and the houses seem in pain, for their roofs are rent, their windows gone, their walls scarred and pierced, grass-grown trenches appear ringed with depths of rusted barbed wire entanglements and shell holes, fresh or old, become more and more frequent. But the full view of the land of war is not dulled in effect by its gradual coming over beyond the bleak, greasy slopes east of Albert, with their chalk scars cut by the long lines of trenches.

The view suddenly sweeps into the valley. Before La Boisselle there were the original German and British lines on July 1st. This was the outer wall, the stoutly-resisting shell of the defence through which the indomitable English had fought their way, and so permitted those who followed, other British, Australian, South African, and Canadians, to come and deal their blows.

Of La Boisselle there is more upon a map than on the ground. A few shattered trunks, here and there a splintered beam, perhaps a cornerstone or two, some cellars roofed with wreckage. Otherwise only the upheaval of tortured earth, mine craters, heaps of rotting white sandbags, half-choked trenches and a dreary litter of old wire, cans and human rubbish remain.

On the left is the twin city of desolation, Orville, La Boisselle, and between the two the white road runs beyond and mounts to the level of Pozieres. All the way to a vista of utter ruin and desolation. This is a desert land, but the silence of the desert is not there. Night and day the silence is shattered by the never-ceasing fire of our own guns or by the crashing explosion of the enemy's shells.

Pozieres shares the fate of La Boisselle. No hand could trace the outlines of a single house or garden plot. There are no bricks or beams which could be used in restoration. As a village Pozieres has disappeared. Just beyond Pozieres and still below the summit runs the line of trenches first occupied by the Canadians. These are in the midst of the ground which has most suffered.

Here is the acme of destruction. No grain of surface remains undisturbed. There is no room for a fresh shell hole. Nowhere now is the power of modern artillery or the thoroughness of preparation better exemplified. We have literally blasted our way forward. Ruins appear not only in the devastated earth and the crushed houses, but also in the sadder waste of human life. This is all ground sacred to the memory of our dead; also in the scarcely defined trenches of the enemy the German corpses lie thickly.

Already the scenes of our earlier attacks are losing the clearness of their detail. The memory of this ground is short; the immediate interest of the front line is all-absorbing. During the past week our advance has not been the result of infantry assault, but of hard labor, under artillery fire, and sometimes at night subject to the sweep of machine-gun fire or the bullets of the enemy snipers. Only upon one occasion did the enemy attempt by counter-attack to check the advance.

At 2.30 p.m. on the afternoon of Oct. 11th she opened a heavy fire on our front-line trenches. Shortly afterwards about 100 Germans attempted to leave their trenches, but our signals were promptly replied to by our artillery, and so effective a barrage placed upon their lines that they were driven back with considerable loss. As they retreated northwards along the Pys and east Miramont roads our field artillery discovered them with shrapnel and scattered the survivors. Otherwise the normal artillery duel continued without cessation.

Our supply of ammunition is abundant, and we fired a proportion of over five shells to the enemy's one. Aeroplane photographs showed the destruction and accuracy of our fire. Enemy batteries were engaged and several emplacements destroyed.

No more beautiful act of heroic self-sacrifice can be mentioned than that of Pte. Camille Shouie, of a Nova Scotia Battalion. During the great advance on Courcellets of Sept. 15th he was a stretcher-bearer, and while binding the wounded after the capture

of the positions was himself severely wounded in the shoulder. His wounds were dressed, but he refused to be evacuated, and immediately continued his work of ministrations for the remainder of the day and during the night. In the morning he was again wounded, this time through the leg, but he still refused to leave. Finally, about noon, while he was actually dressing the wounds of another man, this gallant, gentle soldier was shot through the heart and killed. His general has said of him, "greater devotion to duty I have never seen."

The whole Canadian army has learned with sympathy and delight of the reinstatement of Lieut. O. B. Jones to his commissioned rank. Deprived by court-martial of his commission because of an act of intemperance while on duty, Lieut. Jones immediately enlisted as a private in a well-known Montreal Battalion. He showed not only strict devotion to duty, but conspicuous gallantry on several occasions. He became a corporal, then won his sergeant's stripes. He was awarded a D. C. M. for his reckless courage, and again a bar for his medal. On Sept. 15th, he was in the thick of the fighting. It was said of him he was perpetually out killing Germans. His conduct was such as to recommend him for further reward. Later he was so severely wounded that it is improbable he will be able again to serve his country as a soldier, but he is now reinstated as an officer, and he had won back his honor.

The total number of prisoners captured by the Canadian troops since Sept. 3rd is now 43 officers and 2,052 other ranks.

ROUMANIANS STILL GAIN

Latest Report Shows Teuton Menace Waning.

Ally Force Wins at Dangerous Point.

London cable says: The news from the Roumanian front is again excellent. In the one region on the long front where the gravest danger menaced the Roumanians, the Predeal Pass sector, the Teutons have been driven across the Transylvania frontier. Ground has also been gained in the Bran defile. In the Trotus valley the Roumanians forced the Austro-Germans to retire, and took 600 prisoners and 12 cannon. Another detachment attacking from Golcassa, in the Trotus area, surprised the Teuton troops and took 300 prisoners and some machine guns.

To-day's Bucharest official report reads:

"On the north and northwestern fronts there have been artillery actions at Tulgheaz and Bicoz. One of our detachments, passing by way of Lamprius mountain to Agas, in the Trotus valley, attacked the enemy with the bayonet and destroyed 12 of his cannon and limbers. It forced the enemy to retire and captured 600 prisoners. Another detachment, attacking from Golcassa, in the Trotus area, surprised the enemy, making 200 prisoners and capturing some machine guns.

"In the Uzal valley we repelled enemy attacks. In the Oltus valley fighting continues with extreme violence. Minor engagements took place in the region of Vrancea. On the frontier at Table Butzi there were light engagements. In the Bezen valley artillery fighting is under way.

"The situation is unchanged at Bratocosa and Predealus. At Predeal we drove back beyond the frontier small enemy units, which were advancing toward Chabucepul and Taurului. We gained ground in the Bran defile. The indications from Drago-Slavale is that small enemy columns which had advanced towards the Scar Pass have been stopped. On the remainder of the front the situation is unchanged.

"On the southern and southwestern front (Dobruja and the Danube line) the situation is unchanged.

The Berlin War Office reports: "At the entrance to the passes over the Roumanian frontier successful engagements are in progress. There were no events of special importance regarding the army of Field Marshal von Mackensen (in Dobruja)."

THE STORM'S TOLL.

Gulf Hurricane Killed Two, Did Great Damage.

Mobile, Ala., despatch: Southern Alabama and western Florida were recovering to-day from the hurricane which swept out of the Gulf across this coast yesterday, causing two deaths and property and marine loss. Although the wind attained a greater velocity than that which accompanied the storm of last July, both Mobile and Pensacola, the chief cities in the hurricane's path, suffered far less damage. The total loss in the two cities probably will not exceed \$100,000.

The chief damage here was to railroad sheds and terminals, and to telephones, telegraph, and light and power wires. Train service from Pensacola to Jacksonville will be suspended for a week.

Marine damage was heavy, both in this harbor and at the Florida port. Two small vessels here sank, while four others were driven ashore. In addition a number of small craft were destroyed. At Pensacola one steamer went down, another is missing, with the fate of the crew undetermined.

Sillius—Yes, he thinks I am a regular devil. Cynicus—Oh, few young men are really as bad as the girls try to make them think they are.

LIMBLESS, BUT THEY'RE HAPPY

Picture of Soldiers in a Canadian Hospital.

Dr. Roberts Receives an Interesting Letter.

An inside picture of the King's Canadian Red Cross Convalescent Hospital, at Bushy Park, Hampton Hall, Middlesex, England, is contained in a letter just received by Hamilton's Health Officer, Dr. James Robertson, who visited the Orient as captain of the medical staff, suffering typhoid at Remnos and being forced to return home. The communication is from H. R. Casgrain, of Windsor, brother of the Hon. T. C. Casgrain, K. C., Canada's Postmaster-General. He writes:

My Dear Bob,—By a singular coincidence your letter from Quebec and Bert's from France reached me by the same mail. The reception of these brought back to my mind numerous pleasant recollections of the many times we met in the flesh since we mobilized in London, 17th February, 1915, and parted company on the now famous, but ill-fated, Lemnos.

I have just received a letter from Dr. McCullough, in which he states that he has seen you on several occasions since you returned, and that your health was improving satisfactorily, all of which I am very glad to hear. I am almost well and am most comfortably situated here with a fine command. My hospital is filled to the brim. I have already received one convalescing case from you three weeks ago. All amputation cases are first sent to Ramsgate. When their stumps are ready for artificial limbs, they are sent to me, and from here they go to Rochampton to be fitted, and afterwards remain with them until they are able to use them properly, when they are sent to Canada for discharge. Patients suffering from disease, as soon as they are well enough are sent to Epsom, where they are whipped into shape for further service. Rheumatic cases are sent to Buxton, where your friend Guest is O. C. All convalescent and active treatment hospitals are full at present. No 3 Stationary is still in France, at Boulogne, and under canvas. It is still undecided where they will winter, whether somewhere in France or in England.

I have at present 228 patients under my care. Many of them are suffering from all kinds of wounds. Of course shrapnel wounds predominate. I also have many cases of shell-shock. There are sixty amputation cases, men with legs off above and below the knee, and three cases where both legs are gone. They have to be wheeled around like babies. I have also cases of armless men, who have to be fed like babies. They are all the happiest bunch one could meet, notwithstanding their infirmities. Their only complaint is that they cannot get back to the firing line. They are possessed of an unconquerable spirit, which no human horror or suffering can break. Were it not for their cheerfulness and optimism I would be morose and melancholy at the sight of so much affliction, but it is the fortune of war. What does it matter who dies, or how many are crippled, if only England lives? Who cares what happens if we can effect the ruin and destruction of that plague spot beyond the Rhine, which has risen from God's green earth, the German Empire?

Your friend Kelly is still at Telpow, and Gordon with No. 3 Stationary. Connolly is in the Casualty Clearing Station in France. Brown, Macaulay and Nettleton are still with the old unit. Captain (Chaplain) Frost is in Canada, where he went to get married.

Affairs are progressing at the front with all the Allies, in France especially. Since the big push began in the latter, we have regained 126 square miles of territory, redeemed fifty villages, and captured 70,000 prisoners, besides heaps of guns and millions of rounds of ammunition. The Russians are progressing slowly with their usual tenacity and dogged perseverance, while the Serbians and Roumanians are more than holding their own and beating back the Bulgarians and Austrians.

I am sorry that I cannot write you a more interesting and entertaining letter. The routine is becoming monotonous. Were it not that I am helping the cause, I would become homesick and return to Canada, but, by the grace of God, I will remain here until the last dog is skinned, and until the Germans are beaten to a frazzle.

Give my kindest regards to all enquiring friends, receiving a large share for yourself. I am

H. R. Casgrain.

STILL STRUGGLE IN VOLHYNIA

No Decisive Result of the Fighting There.

Hun Effort to Separate Allies Fails.

London cable: As yet no decisive result has been achieved by either the Austro-Germans or the Russians in the violent fighting that has been going on for several days in Volhynia and Galicia. The Petrograd War Office says that near Kiselin and Svinuski, in Volhynia, violent attacks by

the Teutonic allies were repulsed, while Berlin records the capture of Russian trenches on the west bank of the Stokhod and the repulse with heavy casualties of Russian attacks near Bubnow.

Germany's effort to drive a wedge between Russians and Roumanians by advancing in the Dorna Watra region is not succeeding. It is officially announced to-day that continued attacks against the Russians in that sector were repulsed. A violent snowstorm rages in the Carpathians.

RUSSIAN REPORT.

Petrograd, Oct. 19.—Thursday's War Office report reads: "North of the village of Kiselin, the Germans liberated gas and attacked our trenches under cover of a fierce artillery fire. The attack was repelled. In the region east of the little town of Svinuski fierce fighting continues. Here also all attacks of the enemy were repulsed.

"North of the Kuropatniks yesterday we took prisoner one officer and 35 men and captured one bomb mortar. In the region of the village of Potutork, south of Brzeazy, an enemy aeroplane fell after being hit by our fire as it struck the ground. The aviators were taken prisoner.

"In the region of Dorna Watra (near the Roumanian border), stubborn enemy attacks were repulsed.

"In the Carpathians a violent snowstorm is in progress."

368,863 MEN

Total Canadian Enlistment —6,000 Per Month Now.

Ottawa despatch: Recruiting in Canada is proceeding at the rate of about 6,000 a month, compared with 30,000 a year ago. In the fortnight, ended October 15, 3,160 men were enlisted, compared with 3,046 in the previous two weeks. The aggregate enlistment from the start is 368,863.

From the 1st to the 15th of October, Montreal again led in its enlistment. It reported 672 recruits.

By divisions the enlistments are as follows:

Div.	Two Wks.	G'd Tl.
London	314	30,455
Toronto	447	32,827
Kingston-Ottawa	356	38,891
Montreal	672	31,951
Quebec	138	7,344
Maritime Prov.	336	33,410
Manitoba		
Saskatchewan	425	74,320
British Columbia	296	36,157
Alberta	286	33,508
Total	3,160	338,863

QUAKE AND STORM.

The Southern States Were Shaken, Also.

Atlanta, Ga., despatch: The south was rocked by an earthquake and swept by storm at the same time to-day. While a tropical hurricane was flying the gulf coast, earth tremors overturned chimneys and frightened many people from their homes in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. The earthquake did little damage, but a wind that reached a velocity of 74 miles an hour lifted roofs from houses at Pensacola, Florida, and sunk a number of vessels in the harbor. One life was lost.

The earthquake was felt as far north as Louisville, Ky., and east to Augusta, Ga. Its duration was about three minutes and there were two shocks.

LOST 40,000 MEN.

Austrian Casualties Since Cadorna's Drive Opened.

Rome, Cable—Despite the inclement weather the Italians continue to push their new offensive toward Trieste. It was estimated to-day that the Austrians have lost 40,000 in killed, wounded and captured since the offensive began.

The War Office reports: "On Monte Pasubio there were almost incessant attacks and counter-attacks, all preceded and supported by extremely violent bombardments. Yesterday morning the enemy succeeded in breaking into the redoubt on the 'Tooth of Pasubio,' but was promptly driven out after a hand-to-hand struggle. About 100 prisoners were taken, and one gun and a howitzer. Along the remainder of the front only artillery actions took place. On the Carso plateau we took some prisoners and machine guns.

Hostile aeroplanes dropped bombs on Borgo Carizza and on our lines east of Gorizia without inflicting any damage. Our aviators destroyed an enemy kite balloon east of Conser.

STORM DELAYS LAKE TRAFFIC.

Cleveland, Report—A storm that swept Lake Erie Wednesday night and this morning caused considerable delay, and in some cases freighters had trouble getting in and out of Ohio ports.

A number of boats were late, and the steamer Republic, due here last night, did not get in until this afternoon. Steamers had to wait outside at some points.

At the head of Lake Superior the wind was blowing a gale from the north-east to-day, and a number of boats loaded and ready to sail were held in port at Duluth.

A package freight steamer is reported ashore at Outer Island.

WORK OF U-BOATS.

Washington, Report—Despatches to the State Department today report the sinking of the British steamer Kennet by a submarine and the landing of the body of her captain. The steamer Damia, presumably Norwegian, also was reported sunk by a German submarine, and the Swedish steamer Norma was reported disabled south of Dresden. Light vessel by her propeller becoming entangled in nets stretched by the Germans to trap submarines.

The cowboy had just been served with papers in a breach of promise suit. "Well, I guess here's where I am lassoed," remarked the cowboy.

You never can tell. The fellow who gives himself away sometimes has to take it all back.

ALLIES ARE CLOSING IN ON PERONNE

More Gains On the Somme Front by Both British and French.

AIDS ROUMANIA

Germans Prevented From Sending Men to Help Falkenhayn's Drive.

London cable: Operations on the Somme, directed toward the isolation of Peronne simultaneously with a frontal advance on Bapaume, made progress again to-day. Directly across the river from Peronne, where the French last night announced that the German first line had been stormed, there has been, according to this morning's French communique, a new advance by General Foch's men. In heavy fighting they have made further progress between La Maisonette and Blaches, on a front of about two miles. More than 350 prisoners were taken by the French.

North of the Somme a German attack on the French lines north and east of Sully-Saillissel was repulsed, and the French are firmly consolidated in the ruins of the village, the last house of which was taken in the face of clouds of poison gas and sheets of liquid flame. The Germans fought desperately to retain a footing in this hillside village, overlooking Cambrai plain. At least a score of counter-attacks were launched, but each mass of German infantry which swept forward was moved down and the French continued their slow but methodical advance. The fighting then became hand-to-hand, and practically the whole garrison was killed. Nearly 200 enemy machine guns were captured or destroyed.

The British have slightly advanced their line at Butte du Warlencourt. Berlin, in admitting that both the French and British made gains, claims that they were not "commensurate to the losses sustained."

The Germans on the Somme front are being prevented from sending men to aid in the Austro-German attack against Roumania, according to Major-General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations of the War Office, who to-day discussed with the American correspondents the objectives of the Anglo-French offensive.

This provides a temporary feature of the Entente objective in the west, as the Entente commanders feel that while the situation in Roumania cannot be considered a crisis, it is serious and that the best assistance the western armies can give is to prevent, as they have done thus far, the despatch of any reinforcements to Gen. von Falkenhayn.

General Maurice declared that Bapaume and Peronne cannot be considered objectives in the usual sense of that term. The capture of these cities, he said, may be expected as a result of the present offensive, but their fall could not be called a decisive feature of the operation. It is planned to drive such a wedge into the German lines that attacks can be made in three directions against the expanded hostile battle-front.

Ultimately it is hoped to carry these advances so far that a breaking point will result. The Germans, said Gen. Maurice, may shorten their lines before this happens, but such an outcome is always kept in view by the Entente staffs in planning future advances.

BRITISH REPORT.

London cable: The bulletin from British headquarters in France issued Thursday night reads: "Rain fell heavily all morning. We have slightly advanced our line at Butte de Warlencourt. An enemy counter-attack in that neighborhood was stopped by our barrage.

"Elsewhere there is nothing to report."

FRENCH REPORTS.

Paris cable: Thursday's War Office report reads: "North of the Somme the Germans tried vainly about 5 o'clock in the afternoon to attack our lines north-east of Sully-Saillissel. Our curtain of fire broke up their unorganized efforts and inflicted heavy losses upon them. Progress of the Somme was made fresh south of the Somme between La Maisonette and Blaches and La Maisonette. The total number of prisoners taken during yesterday's action exceeds by actual count 250, of whom 10 are officers. Elsewhere on the front the day was calm."

"North of the Somme our troops organized during the night the village of Sully-Saillissel and consolidated the conquered positions around this place. Some German counter-attacks were broken by our curtain of fire and all our gains were maintained.

"South of the Somme we made fresh progress between La Maisonette and Blaches.

"In Lorraine an enemy surprise attack on our trenches near Bures, northeast of Lunville, was repulsed easily.

"Our machines yesterday, during operations south of the Somme, attacked with machine guns enemy troops in the region of Blaches. It is confirmed that Adjutant Dorne brought down on Oct. 16 a German aeroplane to the north of Peronne, this being his fourteenth. Another enemy aeroplane fell to the ground near Beaulencourt."

COMMITTED FOR OLD CRIME.

Chatham, Ont.—Frank Macdonald of "Sudbury" was committed for trial in the County Police Court this afternoon on a charge of murder in connection with the derailment of a Michigan Central train near Ridgeway on the night of May 31st, 1911. Henry Macdonald, a brother, will in all probability be committed on a similar charge. The complaint of Macdonald was brought about a fortnight ago by evidence by his wife Nora.