

1917

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# “Don’t See Us Stuck”

A Message from the Trenches



“Patriotism is builded on reason.”

—W. E. HODGINS,  
*Adjutant-General.*

## Endorsement

R. M. S. ——— at sea, January, 1917.

We the undersigned Canadian soldiers who have been in the trenches and have done our bit, endorse the appeal here conveyed by Capt. J. H. Burnham, M.P., who visited our brother Canadians at the Front. Recruits will soon be most urgently needed. Failure to keep up the supply of men means the ultimate failure of Canada to do her share in the Defence of the Empire. So far Canada has tried to do her duty. Is she to falter and fall back? It remains for those at home to say. We add our appeal. Enlist now. You will never regret it.

Name	Battalion (in France, Flanders &c.)	Name	Battalion (in France, Flanders &c.)
Brumer, G.	26th Batt.	Pte. E. Payne	42nd
Sgt. James Harvey	29th	Pte. G. Kirtzshin	29th
Sgt. A. J. Lavell	5th C.M.R.	Pte. F. Watkins	1st Batt., 1st C.E.F.
Cpl. Alex. F. Berry	14th	Pte. E. Capistrom	3rd
Sgt. Evans, N.	C.E.	Pte. Jas. Graham	1st C.M.R.
Cpl. C. Bishop	26th N.B.	Pte. K. J. Marshall	2nd C.M.R.
Pte. J. L. Killom	26th	Pte. Jas. L. Stewart	4th C.M.R.
Pte. H. Newton	26th	Sgt. D. McInnes	8th Field Co.
V. Dessla	16th	J. C. O'Connell	53rd
J. McLean	1st Pioneers	Pte. Melburn Sprague	4th C.M.R.
Sgt. J. H. Gibbons	1st	Pte. D. G. Denny	7th
Pte. E. Stuart	7th	Pte. G. Kropf	27th
Jas. Stark	31st	Pte. A. M. Morris	3rd
Pte. E. Brin	3rd	Pte. A. McAskill	4th
Cpl. M. C. Forrest	42nd	Pte. D. McDougall	1st Pioneer
F. Wilson	42nd	Pte. J. Edwards	4th
T. Regan	7th	Pte. J. Gree	3rd
J. M. Greaves	48th	Pte. E. W. Holliday	31st
D. Hume	26th	Pte. P. Carter	48th 3 P.N.R.
Pte. Dalsfer	7th	Pte. L. Picard	22nd
F. Hamilton	15th	Sapper Wolsterholme, W.	C.E.
Pte. G. Reynolds	3rd	Pte. F. E. Phillips	3rd
P. J. Barham	19th	Pte. F. Guy	27th
Sgt. W. Thorogood	58th	Lce.-Corpl. A. J. Aylen	2 C.M.R.
W. Kidston	25th	Pte. W. Richardson	19th
A. Goulet	60th	Pte. A. E. Macdonald	19th
L.-Cpl. F. L. Coleman	2nd Pioneers	Pte. J. Steedman	49th
Pte. O. Cole	26th	Bglr. E. R. Walker	P.P.C.L.I.
Pte. H. C. Holme	26th	Pte. H. J. Hammond	7th
Pte. J. Williamston	60th	Pte. W. V. Ramsay	P.P.C.L.I.
Pte. W. Patterson, Sig.	1st	Pte. John Whalen	2nd
J. P. Lees	R.C.R.	Pte. J. McWilliam	7th
F. Moore	28th	Cpl. J. I. Kinnon	10th
H. Robmooch	5th	G. E. Buck	2nd
R. Howard	42nd	H. E. Kennedy	16th
F. Boseley	1st C.M.R.	A. Uden	16th
C. Cresswell	24th	J. Turner	15th
T. Hunter	27th	Sapper H. Foley	C.E.
F. R. Mulligan	1st C.E.	A. Graham	31st
Pte. C. Smart	R.C.R.	H. W. Reid	2nd C.M.R.
Corpl. J. Armstrong	13th	L. Johnston	4th C.M.R.
Pte. J. Arnold	60th	O. Falardeau	14th

Name	Battalion (in France, Flanders &c.)	Name	Battalion (in France, Flanders &c.)
E. J. Rogers	14th	H. J. Napin	16th
G. R. Stewart	58th	J. Howe	15th
A. F. Cornelius	1st	W. Crowter	5th
W. G. West	C.E.	S. R. Pragg	1st
A. Hedderwich	42nd	G. Vallin	4th
John Barnes	21st	G. Pleau	49th
Jack McConnell	2nd	N. W. Hallett	15th
M. McMillan	5th	Pte. C. H. Morgan	2nd
G. N. Cowan	28th	Corpl. J. N. Rogers	2nd
H. Jameson	49th	M. Zaikom	42nd
Chas. Austen	1 M. G. Coy.	Stephens, Pte.	13th
J. Smith	2nd	W. R. Jones	R.C.R.
J. Gendron	14th	P. H. Green	27th
Pte. H. E. Saunders	10th	G. Daoust	22nd
D. T. Mutem	4th	H. Bergeran	22nd
Sgt. R. A. Banks	28th	A. Meharg	20th
Pte. W. Glaholm	33rd	H. Petanzoals	14th
Pte. E. Tremblay	31st	J. Bersseara	22nd
Cpl. J. Foskett	2nd	H. A. Roberts	25th
Sgt. A. C. Goodall	1st C.M.R.	W. H. Doherty	18th
Lct.-Corpl. Jolleys	8th	F. Drake	R.C.R.
Pte. R. Reynolds	48th	A. Roper	13th
Pte. A. B. Anderson	42nd	Pte. Sotroff	2nd
A. B. Clarke	10th	E. R. Blades	8th
A. W. Stevens	P.P.C.L.I.	W. Parrier	22nd
E. Weare	5th C.M.R.	W. D. Parker	29th
Sgt. B. Carbrey	20th	F. Higgins	29th
Pte. J. H. Marah	1st	R. Tremblay	22nd
Sgt. S. Townnon	15th	W. A. Alley	48th
Pte. J. Hamilton	P.P.C.L.I.	W. Cook	1st Pioneer
Pte. Thompson	5th	Sapper H. Ryland	C.E.
W. LeMurray	48th	J. White	48th B.C. Batt.
A. G. Giles	27th	Pte. G. W. Mason	P.P.C.L.I.
Pte. R. Smith	16th	G. Downpalm	1st
Sgt. G. Tucker	16th	Corpl. A. F. Bertelsen	15th
Q.M. Sgt. C. Normandin	4th	Sglr. G. H. Lee	4th M.G. Coy.
Lce.-Corp. J. Ryan	7th	Pte. S. Pitts	4th M.G. Coy.
Sgt. N. E. Steeves	8th C.F.A.		

"The support which Canada furnished . . . surpassed all expectations. . . . Soon after I found myself in their midst in a part of Belgium which had been devastated and I was a witness of the heroism with which these regiments of volunteers opposed a victorious resistance around Ypres to the fierce attacks of the Germans, who launched their asphyxiating gases without succeeding in breaking the Canadian front."—From "Britain's Effort—through French Eyes" by Henri Davray.

## The Message

Throughout the length of our thousand-mile journey from the Hospitals and Base-depots of ——— to the ruins of Ypres, the region of Hill 60, and of the Sanctuary Wood, through the trenches of the Vimi Ridge and along the valley of the Souchez to the Somme and to the diggers-in on the road to Courcellette, and from the Hospital of St. Cloud at Paris back to the great base-camp and entre-pot at ——— from the highest to the humblest, from officers, men and nursing-sisters, messages to those at home never varied. "Tell them at home not to see us stuck. We can beat the Bosche if we can get the men."

Tired and depleted battalions must be relieved and filled up. The war continues. The crisis of the war and, with it, the fate of the British Empire, is not perhaps a year away. Four-fifths of the Canadian fighting force has left Canadian shores. The spectre of a failing supply begins to point with its warning finger. Already those at the Front are apprehensive. The credit, the honour, and the existence of the British Empire, and of Canada, are at stake. The men and women at the Front look wistfully to you. The hour of your trial and theirs is near at hand. It is not necessary to appeal to feeling, the appeal to reason should suffice. Canadians are a people of spirit. It is spirit alone that raises men above the brute. What part then have Canadians in these things? What is the Empire which they have helped to build, to them? It is the home of their valiant ancestors who lie buried in it, of those who knew no such word as falter. It is the home of those who were reared in the simple joys of British freedom. It is the hope of those who must choose between the iron rule of the German and the progress of Democracy. What is the duty of Canada at this hour, what is the urgent need?

The story is a long one though it may be told in a few words. It begins with the Great Elector. Early in the 17th Century, modern Germany had not yet sprung into being. The Teutonic people of the north were content to live in small principalities. But in Prussia, which had a strong infusion of the ancient Hun, there had developed a restless spirit, a desire to take from others, a craving to be one of the great powers. This spirit had its seat in the kings, and sprang into being first in the heart of the Great Elector who early in the 17th century devised that Prussian military and economic organization which has proved one of the wonders and one of the curses of the world. Spain developed commerce and for a time was a blessing to the world. Holland became great and prosperous and helped mankind on its progressive way. Italy has given us the blessings of law and art and is content to be a hand-maiden in the service of humanity. Great Britain and the United States have made the world happier and greater. France has been one of the chief apostles of human liberty. What then has Germany done or what is she doing? She has done great things, things that are very great. And she too would have been a blessing to mankind if she had a heart. But the Prussian and the Hun have no heart. Their aim is not to serve but to rule. Germany does not wish to rise and to raise the world with her. She wishes to impose her system on the world. She is iron in her rule and in her spirit and would put an iron collar on the world and subject it to her will. Not since Genghis Khan or Attila has there arisen such a scourge. It is hard for some to believe that trade and

other rivalries are not at the base of all this horror. But commercial and scientific Germany is not the real Germany. Must then we give way to the Teutonic idea? For what reason? Have we too not a right to live and thrive in our own free way? Must we yield like the Roman Empire to a new Teutonic invasion? Let us trace rapidly then the rise and revelation of modern Germany and its aim. Let us justify ourselves. We fight not for conquest but in defence of our freedom. To all difficulties there is usually a key. Of all unusual situations there is usually a true explanation. The key to the present situation lies in these memorable words of the German official account of the negotiations which failed to prevent war:—"Faithful to our principle that mediation should not extend to the Austro-Serbian conflict which is to be considered a purely Austria-Hungarian affair, but merely to the relation between Austria-Hungary and Russia, we continued our endeavours to bring about an understanding between these two powers."

Now, the Congress of Vienna had met many years before and there the nations of Europe after centuries of struggling had agreed upon a status quo, a Balance of Power, which is the only hope of peace. The whole trend of human events since the beginning of history has through all the horrors of all the wars led up to this solution. Nations had at last agreed upon the relations and extent of the powers of Europe and had said at the Congress of Vienna, "there must be no more wars of conquest or bad faith, we have agreed upon our boundaries." Belgium, Serbia and similar small nations made up the exact adjustment of the balance, and were thus guaranteed their independent existence. But lo! in 1909 Austria seized Bosnia and Herzegovina, of the Balkan States, without warning or excuse. Europe wondered. Then came the declaration of this war of Austria upon Serbia, and the expressed refusal of any reference to arbitration. The agreement of the Congress of Vienna became for Germany and her Ally a dead letter. But for Britain, France and Russia it still exists and that is what is meant by "keeping faith" with Belgium and Serbia. In the last analysis it is the balance of power in Europe, and therefore the security of the Entente Nations that is at stake. If France becomes a third-rate, defeated power, the British Empire goes with it. Germany dreams of a great Colonial and friendly empire, and she has transferred her affections from Brazil to Canada. It is for Canadians to give the answer.

Who then is to blame for this interruption? Who has defied the compact of the Congress of Vienna. Not Britain, not France, not Russia, nor Italy, Serbia or Belgium. We may well and seriously again ask ourselves what are Germany's intentions.

It is at this point that the sketch of the history of German development becomes especially illuminating. Prussia—Brandenburg in 1620 had about 1,000,000 inhabitants. The Thirty Years War had made it even poorer than before. The people were without hope. The Great Elector instituted the present "system" which he applied not only to military affairs but to civil affairs as well. Under this system the monarch is the sole ruler. By dint of energy and economy, and robber-raids he enlarged the boundaries and prosperity of his provinces. Popular government in Prussia had failed. Autocracy had succeeded.

Frederick followed the Great Elector. His very weaknesses was said to have demonstrated the necessity of "the system." He was succeeded by Frederick William the 1st, who though a rude and uneducated man, perfected the system and developed further under it the wonderful transformation of Prussia. Then came Frederick the Great, who represented the modern climax of the Military System as understood and approved by all Germans, who ask what else could have saved Prussia and made her great and feared. Democratic Government therefore is not the desire of Germany. If Germany wins the whole plan of Western human life will be changed. The word of the conquering autocrat takes the place of the will of the people. The British Empire will vanish and pass into history. This is not a myth or an exaggeration. It is a fact. And that is why (as if indeed instinct had discerned what reason had failed to see), our brothers and all that noble band of men and women who succor and support them say to you, "come and help us, the destiny of the British Empire, the fate of Canada is at stake." The love of comfort and peace-at-any-price may make some indifferent but it is hard to believe that the young men of Canada who are eligible but have not yet signed up will fail to do so or will prove that Germany was right when she contended that British democracy too is a failure and has weakened the spirit of the British people.

We saw and talked with the Canadian Commander-in-Chief and with the Generals of Division and Brigade. We were furnished with credentials that admitted us to "everything" and our staff—guides enjoyed with us our experiences of danger and exploding shells. We visited the firing-line, the front trenches, and the observation post. We saw the Germans face to face across No-man's Land.

The Corps Commander-in-Chief told us that there are no finer soldiers than the Canadian soldiers. Their modesty, self-effacement, and fortitude are all that could be desired. It is these men, on the whole Canadian front, from Ypres to Courcellette, who call upon their brothers still in Canada to come to them. **THEY CALL TO YOU.** Will you see them stuck?

On board the —— amongst those soldiers who had done their bit and were returning for discharge many had been very severely wounded, and fifty were minus either a leg or an arm. When word of this message and appeal was intimated to them they asked to be allowed to sign it too. And thus goes forth to Canadians this appeal also of these wounded soldiers who, as their brothers in the trenches did, cry "don't see the boys stuck."

J. H. BURNHAM,  
of 93rd Batt., C.E.F.

