Further History Of Passchendaele

Latest Discussion of Costly Offensive Revives Old Dissensions

STORY FROM STAFF

Director of British Military Operations Summarizes Entire Movement

Interest continues in the re-fighting of the Battle of Passchendale, which was re-opened on Armistice Day when Gen. Sir Archibald MacDonell spoke at a ceremony in Picton, Ont., and recalled this deadly moment of the war. Sir Arthur Currie made a statement recently confirming what the Canadian First Division Commander had said in Picton.

Since then he was asked: "Was the real story never told until Sir Archibald Macdonell told it the other day?"

"Oh, yes," it was told," he said. "After the war was over there was no real reason for keeping it secret. I told the men of the Princess Pats the whole story shortly after I came back to Canada. I didn't just remember the year, but it was at a banquet at Ottawa soon after I returned to Canada."

Sir Arthur Currie stated at that banquet that the Canadian troops had been thrown in at Passchendaele because it was absolutely essential to divert the enemy from the French front, where it was a known fact that the French troops had broken out, in order to prevent wholesale surrender. Two battalions of French soldiers had thrown down their arms, the general stated.

Made Some Furore

"I remember the speech making quite a furore," said T. C. Lapp, editor of the Legionary. "Gen. Currie told the story in reply to a direct question asked by one of the men attending the banquet. He replied that it was very adverse to the Canadians being used to take Passchendaele, but Sir Douglas Haig told him the whole outcome of the war might depend on this action. The action was fought not so much for the purpose of capturing the ... but to divert the German troops ... in front of the French army ... where trouble had broken out ... mutiny on a large scale, threatened."

Views of Generals

Brig.-Gen. J. C. Draper, now chief of the Toronto police, who participated at Passchendaele, said: "I would much rather not be brought in to an argument. Sir Arthur Currie, in my opinion, is the only man who should give out a statement of that kind."

"I think that Gen. Macdonell is putting it rather strongly," said Brig.-Gen. C. H. Mitchell, who served on the general staff of the second army, "But there is this I can say about it. At the end of that year it was found necessary to put fresh divisions in that part of the line near Passchendaele. The British were bringing up all the divisions they could in order to finish the campaign. The usual way was to bring them one at a time, but the Canadians wanted to come as a corps—very rightly so, I think—and that was the reason for bringing the Canadian troops as a whole to Passchendaele.

"What Gen. Macdonell says about conditions in the French line and about the views of the people in London is probably correct," he went on, "but we knew nothing about it.

"We knew it was necessary to relieve the French by putting as much strength as possible into the north of the line and naturally it was the fresh divisions that were used. That is why the Canadians were there."

"Revelations" Not New

The Scotsman, of Edinburgh, was interested in the Passchendaele argument in 1920 and 1921 as well as all other papers and people, and published the following regarding it, showing clearly that the "revelations" of the last few days are merely an old story revived. The whole thing was generally known then. The article follows:

Fireside strategists have expatiated upon the autumn offensive in Flanders in 1917 as a series of quite useless and tremendously costly operations persisted in pig-headedly. Had the British army been content to remain on the defensive at that period, the critics have said, it would have been in a better position to meet the German attack in the following spring. Hitherto their views have been widely echoed in Parliament and in the Press, and Passchendaele has been used as a word of reproach to British generalship and as a symbol of waste and needless suffering. But an article which Major-General Sir John Davidson, M.P., has contributed to the February (1921) issue of the Nineteenth Century now puts a very different complexion on the matter and convincingly demonstrates that Passchendaele was not only worth while, but that it virtually paved the way to final victory.

General Davidson was then Director of Military Operations on the Headquarters Staff, and is, therefore, in a position to give an authentic account of the actual situation and of the motives behind the operations. It is a narrative that affords occasion for renewed pride in, and gratitude for, the splendid heroism of the soldiers of the Empire, who struggled manfully forward in that expanse of mud and mire, not knowing themselves what was at stake. In order to understand the circumstances it is necessary to turn back to the early part of the year, when the French effort under Nivelle to break through the German defence collapsed. He had attempted too much, blind to the fact that Verdun in 1916 had exhausted the strength of the French armies. The seriousness of the situation that arose was naturally concealed at the time, but in the interest of historic fact it may now be stated.

Vindication of French

"The Nivelle attack, with its alleged costly failures, conceived on a mighty scale and with corresponding ly abnormal losses, imposed too heavy a strain on a willing and gallant army, the cord snapped, and widespread mutinies of a serious nature broke out. The French authorities succeeded in hushing the matter up. But it was explained to the British Commander-in-Chief, and the British were asked to play their part in preventing the enemy from exploiting the situation to his advantage."

General Gouraud has expressed his opinion that it was the most critical juncture of the war. Ludendorff in his "Memories" remarks that he heard by degrees about the mutinies and the losses, but that "only later did we learn the whole truth." Russia's power of resistance after the Revolution had crumbled and Italy had ... to do to hold up the Austrians.

"The thought of the possibility of a German offensive on the French front was almost too serious to contemplate. In the existing condition of affairs it would certainly spell immediate disaster. One thing was certain, that for the sake of the Allied cause as a whole the British must do their utmost to prevent the German army from regaining the initiative; in other words, the British must attack on their own front, pin the enemy to his ground, wear him down, and if possible prevent him from launching a serious offensive either on the Russian or French (or Italian) fronts. General Petain realized this, he paid a hurried visit to British Headquarters, begged the British Commander-in-Chief to continue attacking right through the summer, so that the French Army might have time to recover; and he himself carried out a ... mission of propaganda to ... officers to show greater steadfastness."

Only One Course

"There could be no question of what was the right course for the British command to pursue. It was impossible to say that we should prefer to wait another year; instant action was called for; and if it had not been taken, disaster would assuredly have followed. The possibility of such a course had been foreseen, and plans had already been drawn up for an offensive in Flanders, the recovery of which was desirable for many reasons, of which the most pressing was the activity of the U-boats from their bases at Zeebrugge, Ostend and Bruges. The Arras fighting was broken off, the capture of the Messines ridge was soon effected, and preparations were under way to deliver the Flanders offensive early in July. We asked the French to take over part of our defensive front, but instead they desired to have a small part in the offensive. It was considered advisable to acquiesce, but the commencement of operations was ... postponed, involving the loss of ... days of summer weather which would have been of incalculable advantage in view of the exceptionally bad weather experienced in August. The strategic object was to pin the Germans to the British front in the north and to draw their reserves in that direction away from the French. The locality was the best that could be chosen; indeed, it was the only one practically possible. Tactically, to drive the enemy from the ridges east of Ypres by gaining Passchendaele and threatening his hold on the coast would be advantageous to ourselves. General Davidson separates the operations into five periods, and shows conclusively how each of them was justified by results. In doing this he makes effective use of quotations from Ludendorff. About the first two periods the German leader says:

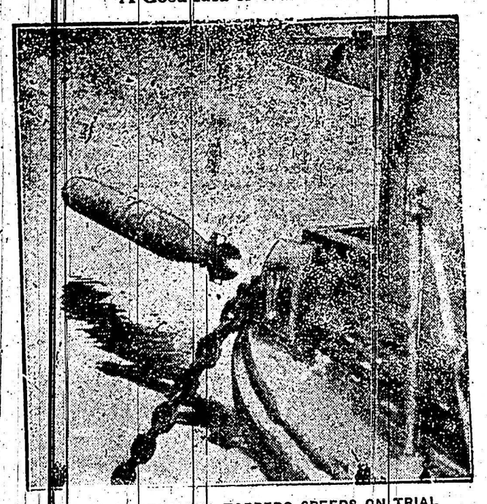
"The fighting became more severe than any the German army had yet experienced. . . . From the 21st of July till well into September was a period of tremendous anxiety. . . . Besides the loss of from two to four kilometres along the whole front, it caused us very heavy losses in prisoners and stores, and a heavy expenditure of reserves. . . . The costly August battles . . . imposed a heavy strain on the Western troops. In spite of all the concrete protection, they seemed more or less powerless under the enormous weight of the enemy's artillery. At some points they no longer displayed that firmness which I, in common with the local commanders, had hoped for."

Achieved Objects

Then there follows an admission that the offensive achieved the objects aimed at.

"I was myself being put to a terrible strain. The state of affairs in the West ... compared to prevent the execution of our plans elsewhere: Our wastage had been so high as to cause grave misgivings, and exceeded all expectation. The attack on the Yser had to be pressed repeatedly."

A Good Idea of War Waste



RADIO-CONTROLLED TORPEDO SPEEDS ON TRIAL

Hammond torpedo, radio-controlled, is fired during recent United States navy tests off Newport, R.I. The new torpedoes cost $12,000 and have six-mile range. Puff and its gone.

Minard's Liniment for Chapped Hands

Regarding the third period, Ludendorff again remarks on the "extremely critical situation," "The Eastern front had to send considerable forces there." The fourth period brought "extraordinary high wastage." "Two Divisions that had been held in readiness in the East, and were already on their way to Italy, were diverted to Flanders." Unfortunately the Germans could not be prevented from helping in an attack on Italy, and the debacle of Caporetto ensued. But the British did their best by a sudden attack at Cambrai to increase the enemy's difficulties, although that operation was seriously interfered with by the dispatch of British troops to Italy. It was decided to continue the Flanders offensive in a modified form. Ludendorff's description of this period, is misleading. He says the British "charged like a wild bull against the iron wall which kept them from our submarine bases." But, General Davidson replies, "The truth is, that in all this period of fighting the number of British divisions which actually delivered an attack was approximately the same as the number which assaulted on one single day, the 31st of July." General Davidson does not pursue further the tactical results of the battle. Ypres was freed, and the Passchendaele ridge was gained, but the hoped for result—a German retreat along the Flanders coast—did not follow. Considering the difficulties of terrain, what was achieved was wonderful, and the various operations were undoubtedly most skilfully planned and executed. But it is the broad strategical aspect that really matters most, because it was a vital issue. The Flanders offensive saved the Allied situation at the moment; it was also a material factor in saving the situation in the spring of 1918. Ludendorff admits that "the Army had been fought to a standstill, and was utterly worn out." The spring offensive was in the nature of a gambler's throw, for Ludendorff confesses that the German Army could not have endured another defensive campaign.

"These results," General Davidson justly says in his summing-up, "were due almost entirely to the great British offensives of the Somme and Flanders. They were not spectacular victories, but they wore the enemy out, reduced his power of resistance, saved the Allies, and paved the way to final victory, for without them victory could never have been gained. The British nation may justifiably be proud, for probably no other nation could have found so great a strain or successfully performed so great a task—a task of the first importance, decisive in influence, unselfish in character, and unostentatious in execution."

This ends the article. It does not refer particularly to the Canadians or details, but bears out Sir Arthur Currie's statement that the Battle of Passchendaele has been open history for a decade.

Outstay Their Welcome

Manitoba Free Press: In Ontario there is discussion in provincial Liberal circles about the advisability of calling a convention to consider why it is that the party makes so slight an appeal to the people of that province. The weakness of the party after its ejection from office in 1905 and for some years afterwards was readily understandable. It had outstayed its welcome, holding on to office for some years after the public had tired of it by political devices discreditable in character; and it paid for all this in the crushing defeat which ended the thirty-three-year period of Liberal rule. The fate of the once all-powerful Liberal party in Ontario ought to be a warning to parties against the folly of trying to hang on to office after there is clear evidence that the public has withdrawn its support.

"He must be a religious man—he quotes the prophets a great deal."

"Yes, but it's the profits usually mentioned along with the losses, my friend."

Harpoon Replaced By Trap in Hunting Of Beluga Whales

Alaska Company Sets Nets in Inlet to Catch Runs of Big White Mammals

Anchorage, Alaska. — An Alaska company near here has devised a method of trapping beluga white whales without the bother of harpooning them at sea.

The capture and killing of these whales is most exciting, as well as a profitable sport. European manufacturers are willing to buy every pound of hide produced here. The expensive skins are salted before shipment. They finally will evolve into razor strops, belt lacing, waterproof leather articles, hunters' sporting goods and similar high-class merchandise.

The blubber is compressed for oil. An extract from the jaws is valued by jewelers to lubricate watches and clocks. Meat is dried for dog biscuits and the heavy bones are crushed for poultry feed and fertilizer. The pearly teeth, which are small, but of pure ivory, are sold to curio makers. Schools of beluga whales, which measure about fifteen feet in length, often number 10,000. Such schools are sometimes mistaken by tourists for whitecaps.

The white whales come from the ocean through Cook Inlet into the Beluga River. At tidewater, where there is a maximum high tide of thirty-five feet, a long, wide net is laid. One end is staked on the mud flats and along the top runs a thin rubber hose, connected with an air compressor on shore. The net remains sunken on the river bottom while the tide rises and the whales come in.

Just as the tide turns, the air pump inflates the rubber tubing and the huge net floats to the surface, completely fencing the outlet to the ocean. Many whales swim up the river, but numbers lie stranded on the muddy flats. One shot in the brain, with a .30-30 rifle is deadly. The ten-and-a-half whales are floated to the rendering plant near here and hauled up the slips in the same manner as logs go to the mill saws.

In addition to Beluga in Cook Inlet, the mammals are hunted on the Siberian coast and in the Anadyr River, Manchuria. The meat of beluga is much of a luxury with Eskimos and the Aleuts of the north Pacific islands.

The Ministry of Finance

L'Evenement (Quebec): Candidates are not lacking for the succession of the late Hon. Mr. Robb in the Ministry of Finance. Premier King will be very fortunate, indeed, if he finds amongst his political friends in the Province of Quebec a candidate who is as admirably endowed as Mr. Robb was with the qualities that are required for efficiently serving a province and a party; for, as has been said of the late Minister of Finance, rarely has a representative of the English-speaking minority in Quebec so well understood the French-speaking majority, who gave him their esteem, their confidence and their affection. Speaking their language, Mr. Robb entered into happy and intimate relations with his fellow-citizens of French origin. If his urbanity won him electoral success and public honors, it is but just to acknowledge that he constantly rendered service to communities and individuals with whom public life brought him in contact. Mr. Robb's example demonstrates once more the practical and national utility of bilingualism in Canada which, very happily, prominent men to-day favor with more intelligence and sincerity than was formerly manifest.

KEEP THEM HAPPY BY KEEPING THEM WELL

It is natural for children to be happy, active and full of fun. When they are fretful, fussy and disinclined to play you may be sure something is wrong. Almost invariably that something lies in the digestive tract.

It is to meet the need for an absolutely safe corrective of childhood ailments that Baby's Own Tablets have been designed. They gently regulate the stomach and bowels, and thus drive out constipation and indigestion; break up colds and simple fevers and allay teething pains. Concerning them Mrs. W. E. Forsyth, Dover, N.B., writes:—"I would not be without Baby's Own Tablets as I know of nothing to equal them for fretful, fussy babies who are troubled with colds or sour stomach."

Baby's Own Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Trade With Russia

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix: There is, of course, not the slightest doubt that the Soviet Government gave and still gives aid and comfort to the Communist movement in Great Britain. As consistent Marxians, the Bolsheviks believe that the "world revolution" cannot occur until Capitalism fails in Britain. They watch with anxiety for the withering of the Communist branch of the British Labor movement. They do what they can to revive the drooping plant, but their failure has been so complete that their propaganda can be safely disregarded. The advocates of Socialism by violence are a hopeless minority in Britain.

"I want," said the producer, "a young man who looks like Apollo, is tall, blue-eyed, with a distinguished air, and a sense of humor." "So do I," sighed his daughter.

For Toothache—Minard's Liniment.

Steward on Atlantic Liner (entering smoke-room) — "Time, gentlemen. Drink up your glasses. We're in sight o fthe Statute of Liberty!"

Minard's Liniment for Coughs.

WHY SHOULD HE *suffer from rheumatism like this?*

IF he would accept the advice of thousands of men and women, he would find relief by taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Rheumatism is not a surface ailment that can be banished by rubbing with liniments or oils. Watery, poison-laden blood must be built up and purified before there can be any progress toward permanent recovery.

Time and again, sufferers have proved the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the treatment of rheumatism. "For some years," writes Thomas Martin, of Novar, Ontario, "I was so badly troubled with rheumatism I could hardly walk and suffered great pain. I had medical treatment but did not get much relief. After taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for some time the trouble disappeared and has not since shown the least sign of returning."

Start today to relieve your rheumatism. Buy a box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills at your nearest druggist's or, postpaid, by mail at 50 cents a box from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ontario.

5.12

Dr. Williams' PINK PILLS

"A HOUSEHOLD NAME IN 54 COUNTRIES"

Keeping Them Busy

Honduras Puts Idle Generals to Work as Road Overseers

Tegucigalpha, Honduras. — Road building as a cure for "revolutionary fever" has been a success this year in Honduras. It has also answered a question as to what the government should do with its huge crop of generals.

Honduras needs roads and the generals are good bosses. So the superfluous commanders were detailed to oversee road gangs. They did good work, too. Nine of them were assigned to the north coast road, about 120 miles long, and among those who made monuments for themselves in the form of smooth highways were Generals Angel Maluce, Blas Dominguez, Pedro Trimmio Francisco Valladares, Rueben Bacalenia and Ricardo Lardizabal.

Some of the working generals were liberals and some were conservatives, but they realized that good roads would rebound to the credit of their political parties and there was much rivalry among them.

Canadian Air Mail Lines Increase With Winter

Montreal, Que.—Flying activity in Canada will become more extensive during the winter than during the summer by reason of the close of river navigation. Mail ordinarily sent by the boat will be placed on five exclusively winter services which are about ready to begin operations.

These exclusive winter lines run from Quebec to Seven Islands, Seven Islands to Anticosti; Moncton to Charlottetown and Moncton to Pelee Island, Ont.

The Prairie Air Mail service, which will connect Eastern and Western Canada, will not be inaugurated until late in December because of delay in the erection of directional beacons due to bad weather.

The closing of navigation on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence is dependent wholly pon weather conditions, according to the Marine Department, but it probably will halt the first week in December.

THE VITAL FORCE

The one fatal thing in life is to lose one's interest in it, and this is where the specialist, the man of one set of interests, only seriously handicaps himself in life's adventure. The Humanist alone, taking the term in its widest sense, seems to me to have the key. The vital force that keeps man going is not solely physical and material, it is spiritual as well, a certain ethical and intellectual attitude to life.—Sir Reginald Blomfield.

OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity must be a practical joker. More often than she appears in her true form, she comes upon her favorites in the guise of anything but good fortune. It is really surprising to learn how man fortunes and how much success have come from what looked like abject failure.

By doing good with his money, a man as it were stamps the image of God upon it, and makes it pass current for the merchandise fo heaven. —Rutledge.

Minard's Liniment for Coughs.

Trans-Atlantic Telephone Call

Direct Secret Talk Between London and New York

NEW INVENTION

Success Due to Counteracting Fading—Amplifiers Used

An invention is being perfected which will enable a business man in London to hold a conversation, direct and secret, with a man in New York, through his ordinary desk telephone, writes Sir Robert Donald in the London Daily Mail.

This is the latest triumph of the science of dielectrics: the transmission of the human voice over thousands of miles of submarine cable.

Up to now the maximum distance which the telephone carries with certainty under the sea is less than 200 miles. It was this failure to get a submarine cable to transmit the spoken word as effectively as it does the Morse code signals which gave wireless telephony its opportunity in long-distance ocean communication.

The introduction of the loaded cable two years ago by which the speed of transmission was multiplied tenfold, gave cables a new lease on life, and within a few years they will couple the telephones with their long-distance cable channels.

This revolution is due to the work of scientists and experts in laboratories in London and New York, experimenting quite independently of each other. The credit in America belongs to the research department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company—the Bell combination. In London the invention has been developed in the laboratories of the International Standard Electric Corporation.

The two corporations are working on parallel but competitive lines. The only ocean telephone planned between New York and London is that belonging to the Bell Company.

Quick As Trunk Call

The telephone ... ment of the loaded ... The cable will be loaded with ... of alloys, which ... the name of "permivar," ... that its permeability is ... It is insulated, not with ... but with a new dielectric material ... ed "paragutta."

While intended ... munication under the sea, the ... cable will relay as long as possible ... the land. It will go from New York ... by way of Nova Scotia to Newfoundland.

From Newfoundland it will travel ... 1,800 miles to a small place called ... French Port, in Mayo. It will then be carried through Northern Ireland, across the shortest sea route to Stranraer, and on to Glasgow, where it will link up with the main trunk line to London.

This sounds as if it were a ... time journey, ... the system ... work as quickly as the ordinary ... telephone. ... relays are automatic. ... The ... of success is due to ... counteracting fading. In the ordinary ... trunk land line the voice has to be ... amplified at repeater stations every ... 50 miles. The permivar cable will preserve the sounds over a distance of 1,800 miles, but it will be a very ... still small voice which reaches Ireland.

The cable will be stationed for a ... dred miles from the shore to ... guard it against land disturbances, and then will be picked up and ... fied by the repeater station.

It is almost impossible to ... arithmetically the variation ... the input and output power ... completely ... be false almost to ... fading away ... and million-million ... mitted power.

Yet such is the ... and perfection to which ... carried that the faint ... will at once be ... speech, just ...

His Hearing Restored

The ... for deaf ... A. O. Leonard, ... rubberone ... the ear, entirely ... ing the hearing of a ... de. Mr. Leonard invented the ... to relieve himself of ... head noises, and it does this so ... that no one would ... deaf man. A request ... to A. O. Leonard, ... Suite 357, New York City, ... given a prompt reply.—Ad.

Another thing that has ... little, about "success stories," is ... the interviewer sometimes ... hunt up his subject in a cannibal ...

Minard's Liniment for Distemper.

"I would like to know what my ... thinks of me." "That is easy to find ... out." "How?" "Sit on her new hat."

LUXO FOR THE HAIR

Ask Your Barber—He Knows

On COUGHS and COLDS 'BUCKLEY'S'

Acts like a Flash

A SINGLE SIP PROVES IT

BUCKLEY'S MIXTURE

Simonds Saws

Better—faster cutting ... is made and specified in the Simonds ... Every Simonds Saw. ... SIMONDS CANADA ... Montreal Toronto ... Vancouver ... St. John, N.B.

Deafness HEAD NOISES **Leonard** EAR OIL

... where ... LEONARD, Inc. ... Ave., New York

NARD'S KING OF PAIN LINIMENT

Was In Bed All Summer

... to work ... South Bedeque, ... years and I ... ly all summer. The doctor ... make me ... e Lydia ... Compound and I have taken ... bottles. It has made me strong ... I put more color into my face ... looking after my home and ... work and my four children ... I am getting along nicely now." ... J. Mellis, R.R. No. 5, Barton ... st, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Pinkham Med. Co., Lynn, Mass. U. S. A. and Cobourg, Ontario, Canada.

ISSUE No. 49—'29