

# FOUR CANADIANS WIN THE V.C.

## DETAILS OF BRAVE EXPLOITS OF DOMINION SOLDIERS

### Example of Courage, Gallantry, and Initiative Which Was an Inspiration to the Army.

In its issue of Nov. 16, the London Gazette records the awarding of 15 new Victoria Crosses, of which four went to Canadians. The splendid exploits of the latter are thus officially described:

Lieut.-Col. Cyril Wesley Peak, D.S.O., of a Manitoba regiment, for most conspicuous bravery and skilful leading when in attack under intense fire. His command quickly captured its first objective but progress to further objectives was held up by enemy machine gun fire on his right flank. The situation being extremely difficult, Lieut.-Col. Peak pushed forward and made a personal reconnaissance under heavy machine gun fire across the stretch of ground which was heavily swept with fire. Having reformed the position, he returned and reorganized his battalion, and acting upon knowledge personally gained, pushed them forward and arranged the protections of his flanks. He then went out under the most intense artillery and machine-gun fire, intercepted the tanks and gave them necessary directions, pointing out where they were to make for and thus have a way made for a Canadian infantry battalion to push forward. To this battalion he subsequently gave the requisite support by his magnificent display of courage and fine qualities of leadership. He personally led the advance and caused it to be continued, although always under heavy machine gun and artillery fire, and contributed largely to the success of a brigade attack.

**Bluffed Into Surrender.**

The second Victoria Cross was awarded to Lieut. Charles Smith Rutherford, M.C., M.M., of Quebec, of a Quebec regiment, for the most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty. When in command of an assaulting party, Lieut. Rutherford found himself a considerable distance ahead of his men, and at the same moment observed a fully armed and strong enemy party outside a pill box ahead of him. He beckoned to them with his revolver to come to him. In return they waved him to come to them. He boldly did this and informed them they were his prisoners. An enemy officer disputed this fact, and invited Lieut. Rutherford to enter the pill box, which invited a masterly bluff, however, he persuaded the enemy that they were surrounded and the whole party, numbering 45, including two officers and three machine guns, surrendered to him. Lieut. Rutherford subsequently induced the enemy officer to stop the fire of a machine gun close by. Lieut. Rutherford took advantage of this opportunity to hasten the advance of his men to his support. He then observed on his right an assaulting party that was held up by heavy machine gun fire from another pill box. Indicating an objective to the remainder of his party, he attacked the pill box with a Lewis gun section and captured a further 35 prisoners with machine guns, thus enabling the party to continue the advance. This officer's bold and gallant action contributed very materially to the capture of the main objective and was a wonderful inspiration to all ranks in pressing home the attack on a very strong position.

**Dashed Forward Alone.**

Acting Sergeant Arthur George Knight, late of an Albertan regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross for the most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty, when after an unsuccessful attack Knight led a bombing section forward under very heavy fire of all descriptions and engaged the enemy at close quarters. Seeing that his party continued to be held up, he dashed forward alone, haphazardly several enemy machine-guns and trench mortar crews and forcing the remainder to retire in confusion. He then brought forward a Lewis gun and directed fire upon the retreating enemy, inflicting many casualties. Sergt Knight in the subsequent advance of his platoon in pursuit saw a party of about 30 of the enemy enter a deep tunnel which led off the trench. He again dashed forward alone, and having killed one officer and two non-commissioned officers, he captured twenty of other ranks. Subsequently he routed, single handed, another enemy party, which opposed the platoon's advance. On each occasion he displayed the greatest valor and by the example of his courage, gallantry and initiative was a wonderful inspiration to all. This very gallant non-commissioned officer was subsequently fatally wounded.

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**Britain Thinking of Million Dead.**

Talking to the British Pilgrims Society in London, James M. Beck observed at the restraint of the British people in the hours of their success, and diagnoses it by saying: "Britain's feeling is that of a Judge in a criminal court, facing a prisoner convicted of a foul murder, with the Judge putting on his black cap to pronounce sentence. That is the spirit of Britain to-day. She is thinking of her million dead."

The average man feels that those who have the most right to celebrate can never come home.

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# Chronology of the Great War

1914.

July 23—Austrian ultimatum to Serbia.

July 25—Serbia accepts all Austria's terms, except that Austrian officials conduct murder enquiry in Serbia.

Aug. 1—Germany declares war on Russia.

Aug. 2—Germans enter Luxembourg and invade French territory.

Aug. 3—Germany demands passage through Belgium.

Aug. 4—England sends ultimatum to Germany demanding observance of Belgian neutrality. Germany rejects ultimatum, and makes attack on Liege. England declares war.

Aug. 8—British troops land in France and Belgium.

Aug. 12—England declares war on Austria.

Aug. 20—Germans enter Brussels.

Aug. 23—Germans enter Namur and attack Mons.

Aug. 24—British begin retreat from Mons.

Aug. 27—Louvain burned by Germans.

Sept. 2—Germans are within thirty miles of Paris, and seat of French Government is transferred to Bordeaux.

Sept. 5—Battle of Marne begins.

Sept. 20—Germans bombard Rheims.

Oct. 9—Antwerp occupied by the Germans.

Oct. 19—First battle of Ypres begins.

Oct. 29—Turkey begins war on Russia.

Nov. 1—German naval victory at Coronel off Chile.

Nov. 10—The commerce raider Emden destroyed by the Australian cruiser Sydney.

Dec. 8—British naval victory off Falkland Islands.

Dec. 16—German cruisers bombard Scarborough and Hartlepool, 150 civilians killed.

Dec. 18—Egypt proclaimed a British protectorate.

1915.

Feb. 20—Allied fleets bombard Dardanelles.

March 12—British capture Neuve Chapelle.

March 22—Przemysl captured by Russians.

April 22—Second battle of Ypres.

April 24—Battle of St. Julien.

April 25—Germans first use poison gas in attacking.

May 7—Lusitania torpedoed.

May 9—Battle of Festubert.

May 23—Italy declares war on Austria.

May 31—Zeppelin raid on London.

July 8—South-West Africa (German) surrenders to General Botha.

Aug. 5—Germans occupy Warsaw.

Aug. 21—Italy declares war on Turkey.

Oct. 12—Germans execute Nurse Cavell.

Oct. 15—Great Britain declares war on Bulgaria.

Oct. 19—Italy declares war on Bulgaria.

Nov. 24—Greece yields to the demands of the allies.

Dec. 15—Sir Douglas Haig succeeds Sir John French as commander of the British forces.

1916.

Feb. 21—Germans begin attack on Verdun.

March 8—Portugal declares war on Germany.

April 3—Battle of St. Eloi.

April 29—Kut surrendered to the Turks.

May 31—Naval battle off Jutland.

June 5—Lord Kitchener drowned on H.M.S. Hampshire.

Aug. 31—Turkey and Bulgaria declare war on Rumania.

Dec. 21—Death of the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph.

Dec. 29—Admiral Beatty succeeds Sir John Jellicoe in command of the British High Seas Fleet.

1917.

Feb. 2—United States breaks off diplomatic relations with Germany.

Feb. 26—British retake Kut.

March 11—Bagdad taken by the British.

March 14—China severs relations with Germany.

April 6—U.S. Congress formally passes resolution declaring war on Germany.

April 9—Vimy Ridge taken by Canadians.

April 10—Brazil severs relations with Germany.

April 16—Workingmen and Soldiers' Delegates take control in Russia.

June 7—British take Messines Ridge.

June 29—Greece breaks relations with the Central Powers.

July 14—Michaels succeeds von Bethmann-Holweg.

July 22—Army of Crown Prince repulsed all along the line.

July 23—Russian troops demoralized.

Aug. 7—British Admiralty reconstructed. Canadian troops make further gains at Lens.

Aug. 10—Gen. Haig's men capture practically all German positions east and southeast of Ypres.

Aug. 13—Greece now at war with Germany, Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria.

Sept. 1—French strike shrewd blow on Alsace front.

Sept. 11—Korniloff starts civil war in Russia.

Sept. 14—Great battle raging on the Meuse.

Sept. 16—Kerensky declares Russian republic.

Sept. 19—Argentina breaks relations with Germany.

Sept. 20—Bolo Pasha seized in Paris as enemy.

Sept. 30—Great British offensive in Flanders begun.

Oct. 6—Peru breaks diplomatic relations with Germany.

Oct. 7—Uruguay breaks diplomatic relations with Germany.

Oct. 12—Von Capelle resigns as result of mutiny in German fleet.

Oct. 20—Four Zeppelins destroyed when returning from England.

Oct. 21—Russian fleet escapes from Moon Sound without loss.

Nov. 6—Canadians take Passchendaele.

Nov. 8—Revolution in Petrograd. Kerensky flees.

Nov. 20—Russian revolutionists offer separate peace to Germany.

Dec. 1 to 4—Fierce fighting round Cambrai.

Dec. 10—French and British troops take up positions on the Italian front.

Dec. 11—British capture Jerusalem.

Dec. 17—Bolshevik sign armistice with the Central Powers.

1918.

Feb. 23—British troops enter Jericho.

Mar. 7—Due to the defection of Russia, Rumania is forced to sign peace treaty with Central Powers.

Mar. 30—Gen. Foch appointed generalissimo of allied forces.

April 1 to 7—Terrific fighting on the Somme.

April 12—Battle of Lys.

April 23—British naval forces raid Ostend and Zeebrugge.

April 25—Battle of the Somme renewed.

April 26—Battle of Kemmel Hill.

May 29—Germans launch last great attempt to advance on Soissons.

May 30—Germans retake Soissons.

June 5—German advance halted.

June 12 to 14—Battle of Oise.

June 24—22—Italians rout the Austrians on the Piave.

July 23—Germans forced to retreat across the Marne.

July 29—Fere-en-Tardenois recaptured by the allies.

Aug. 3—French again occupy Soissons.

Aug. 7—Foch raised to rank of Marshal of France.

Aug. 9—British troops, under Haig, launch successful offensive. Germans in full retreat.

Aug. 27—Roye captured by the French.

Aug. 30—Bapaume taken by the allies.

Sept. 1—British pursue Germans through the Lys valley.

Sept. 13—Americans wipe out St. Mihiel salient.

Sept. 18—British break through the Hindenburg line.

Sept. 23—British rout the Turks in Palestine.

Oct. 1—Allies capture Roulers.

Oct. 1—Bulgaria capitulates to the terms of the allies.

Oct. 4—Germans abandon Lens.

Oct. 9—Canadians capture Cambrai.

Oct. 17—British secure Lille.

Oct. 18—British sailors occupy Ostend.

Oct. 31—Turkey surrenders to the British.

Nov. 1—Italians' huge drive of Austrians out of Italy.

Nov. 2—Austria surrenders to the Italians.

Nov. 2—British take Valenciennes.

Nov. 6—Germany seeks peace terms from the allies.

Nov. 7—Marshal Foch hands his terms to the German emissaries and grants them 72 hours' time limit for reply.

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**ANOTHER HUN TRICK**

**Heartlessness Shown by Firing Upon Refugees in Church.**

Instances of German mistreatment of the civil population of villages in France which were taken by the British-American armies are numerous, but perhaps none shows the cold and calculated heartlessness of the Hun more than the following story, which was related to the correspondent by one of the inhabitants of the little town of St. Souplet, near St. Quentin.

An attack by the English and American forces was impending. The Germans expected it and informed the population that if they gathered in the local church and put up a white sheet as a flag, they would be spared by the advancing allied troops. They did so. The Germans soon were driven out by the English and Americans. When they reached a point of vantage, however, they turned their guns on the church. Several persons were killed and many wounded.

The Germans had thought to make the British and Americans believe it was the allied artillery and not their own, that had bombarded the church. When the allied troops entered the village they found the church shattered, the occupants terrified, and many of their number lying prostrate on the floor, dead or wounded.

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