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SECOND SECTION

ONE AGAINST SIXTY

HOW PTE. JOHN CHIPMAN KERR WON V.C.

A Graphic Story of the Heroic Act Performed by the Nova Scotia Boy, Who Was the Sixth Canadian to Win the Most Coveted British Military Decoration.

An authenticated story of one against sixty odd, is the story, just allowed through the censor's hands of how John Chipman Kerr, Canada's sixth and latest V. C. hero, won his Victoria Cross.

Pte. Kerr, the son of a Canadian militia captain and born at Fox River, Nova Scotia, was transferred to a battalion at the front on June 8th, 1916, in the course of the re-formation of the Canadian division, and on June 22nd the reorganized battalion went back into the line in the same position as Sanctuary Wood, where they had first suffered. On Sept. 15th they were sent to the chalk pits on the left of Courcellette.

Meantime, the attacking parties had advanced to the capture of Fabek Graben, a difficult trench to take, as the men had to go forward in oblique fashion. The trench was taken, and Capt. Harstone rushed his company, Kerr amongst them, to all the gaps, and Fabek Graben fell. But its taking was not complete. The enemy, in unknown strength, retained possession of a stretch of 200 yards, where he was sandwiched in between different portions of the Canadian force. His hold on this position was strengthened by the fact that he also held in great force Zollern Graben, which adjoined.

This disposition was fraught with great danger to both the opposing troops, neither of which knew the other's strength in men and munitions, but the enemy had the advantage of knowing every inch of the ground, concealed machine guns, and snipers' nests. Capt. Harstone decided on a bombing expedition to oust the enemy from the trench, and he sent word to this effect to the brigadier through his battalion headquarters. The assault, however, had consumed all the bombs, and before the supply could be replenished night had set in.

Meanwhile, an elaborate plan to capture this particular portion of Fabek Graben and also Zollern Graben was in course of preparation by the staff, but a brigade message gave Captain Harstone an allotted time in which to carry out the bombing expedition.

A squad of a dozen men was detailed under Corporal Patterson to execute this minor operation, and Pte. Kerr was selected for the post of first bayonet man. His duty as such was to precede the party, dispose of the enemy sentry in a manner which would not arouse the whole garrison, seek the latter's whereabouts, and advise the bombers of their target.

Kerr climbed the block, or boundary line, established in the Canadian trench, and made his way toward a similar obstruction erected by the enemy. The other men followed him. The German sentry was alert and hurled a bomb over the parapet. Kerr saw the missile hurtling towards him, and bent his right arm in front of his body the better to protect himself. It was a near call, for the bomb blew off the top of Kerr's forehead and wounded him in the side. Bombers of both sides then became busy, and neither could see the other nor the effect of their missiles.

Regardless of his wounds and of the enemy, Kerr scrambled to the top of the battered parapet. Here he obtained a full view of the enemy. The small attacking party could easily have been overcome by the number of Germans that crowded the trench, but this did not enter into Kerr's calculations.

He had only two bombs with him, and after making efficient use of

them he opened fire with his rifle. This, however, had become clogged with mud and jammed. With his bombs expended and his rifle useless he remained at the top of the trench, directing the aim of his bombers. Then he seized the rifle of the second bayonet man to make reprisals for his own hurt. He seemed to bear a charmed life, as, though he was in full view, the wild aim of the German passed him by.

Under continuous pressure the enemy retired, and as soon as they had rounded the first bay, which hid them from sight, Kerr jumped into the trench and grimly followed. The place was thick with dead and dying Germans. Prepared for German treachery, Kerr rounded the first bay without incident, holding his bayonet fixed. They had retired to the other extremity of the trench.

Kerr discovered this when on rounding the third bay of the trench he came face-to-face with a heavily-built German, who at sight of the bayonet instantly threw up both hands. There stood the wounded Canadian facing, not this one man, but sixty others behind him, in a trench amply provided with ammunition and weapons. He smiled with amusement when one among the sixty waved a white flag at him.

Kerr signalled to the Germans with his rifle to climb over the parapet, at the same time calling to his comrades to hurry along as he was in touch with the enemy. The attacking party now numbered only nine, and in addition to Kerr wounded, others in addition to Kerr wounded. When the other eight Canadians came on the scene the opposing forces were roughly equal to one in favor of the enemy. Zollern Graben was close at hand, and the Germans had a plentiful stock of munitions, including a machine gun, yet they refused to make one last bid for their freedom.

Instead, they followed the pointed instructions of their captor and made their submissive way down a communication trench into captivity, while Pte. Kerr proceeded to the dressing station, hence to the base and across the channel to England, oblivious of the fact that he had been recommended for the Victoria Cross.

Pte. Kerr is described as a typical specimen of the best Canadian manhood—over six feet tall in his socks and an open air advocate. When war came he was homesteading at Spirit River, Alta., and as there were no ready-made ranches there, he, with a dozen other ranchers, walked in fifty miles to the railway and booked passage for the 300-mile trip to Edmonton. Here they enlisted, reaching England in April, 1916.

WANTS LUMBER BUSINESS.

Good Results From Campaign in British Columbia.

British Columbia is making a bold bid for Ontario and Eastern Canadian lumber business, and the chances are that Douglas fir will oust southern pine from his place in the "affection" of eastern Canadian architects and writers of building specifications.

After a cursory investigation of the lumber market, an energetic campaign was decided upon. A lumber commissioner was appointed and located in Toronto. The duty of this official is to confer with architects, engineers, and users of wood in general—not particularly for the lumber trade—to woo them away from their southern instincts, and develop a liking for the British Columbia output.

Many good results have accrued. The British Columbia lumber companies in Toronto has in many instances been able to assure users of lumber in this Province of the efficacy of Douglas fir, which, heretofore, so it is claimed, has been more or less discriminated against in the north.

One report states that: "It was found that city-by-laws, where they existed, uniformly gave preference to southern pine. For instance, Toronto allowed a three stress for Douglas fir of only 1,200 lb. per square



SCHUMANN-HEINK'S SONS UNDER TWO FLAGS

Mme. Schumann-Heink has two sons in service on opposite sides in the war. August Schumann-Heink, the eldest son of the noted singer, is serving the Kaiser. He is in the German navy. Henry Schumann-Heink, the younger son, is in the naval forces of the United States.

MISSIONARY DREW SWORD.

Led Punitive Expedition Against Cannibals. Dr. George Brown, probably the greatest South Seas missionary of the nineteenth century, and an authority on all matters concerning the Polynesians and Melanesians, is dead. For a quarter of a century after he had done his practical missionary work he was the Methodist conference's secretary for foreign missions, and in that connection he was intimately known and loved throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The story of his adventures would fill several volumes. Finding neither a chemist nor a draper an attractive employer, he went to sea when only 16 years old, and wandered about the oceans in some of the roughest ships of the early fifties. In 1855 he reached New Zealand. He was a distant relative of the well-known Biddle family of Auckland, ardent Methodists, and they inspired him with missionary fervor. Eventually he volunteered for Fiji, but was not readily accepted, being strongly objected to on the ground that he was "a meek, mild, ladylike young person," altogether without the spirit to make a missionary.

However, he was sent to Samoa, which was Old Samoa, the "toughest clime in the Pacific," nothing like the Samoa of today, and a most severe trying-out ground for any young missionary. But young Brown proved to be a youth of indomitable pluck and spirit, and he made good. In 1875 the missionary went to the almost unknown islands of the Pelago, where there were no other white men, and where the natives were utter savages and cannibals. The mission gradually extended its influence, and then came a check, in the hostility of a native chief and the murder of a minister, and three teachers. Dr. Brown himself led a punitive expedition which administered sharp punishment, nipped the hostile movement in the bud, and undoubtedly saved many lives.

Dr. Brown, on the account, met bitter criticism, but official inquiries abundantly justified his prompt action. Later on this remarkable man established successful missions in New Guinea and the Solomons. He had a wonderful facility for acquiring languages, and in fifty years the reputation of many groups of islands in the Southern Seas completely changed, and in almost every case the work of Dr. Brown can be discerned, both as the man on the spot, and as the organizing genius behind the foreign missions. Dr. Brown was 72 when he died. He leaves behind some books and many pamphlets, records of a truly wonderful life.

Shipbuilding in N. S. The S.S. War Wasp, the first steel ocean-going steamer built in Nova Scotia, was successfully launched recently by the Nova Scotia Steel Company. Work on this vessel was commenced in October last. The boat has a carrying capacity of about 2,000 tons, a displacement of about 1,370 tons and a speed of eleven knots per hour. The dimensions are as follows: Length, between perpendiculars, 220 feet; moulded depth, 20 feet, and beam, 35 feet.

The War Wasp has been sold to the British Government. A second vessel, about 25 per cent. larger, is under construction, and a third vessel will occupy the berth vacated by the War Wasp.

A Growing Industry. Canada now has a total of 90 pulp and paper mills, many of which are large and of modern design. The export figures for the calendar year 1916 show that pulpwood, wood pulp, and paper produced have increased in value to nearly \$50,000,000, or about half of the total export value of forest products, with the exception of the small proportion of specially manufactured articles.

D. A. Walsh, for some years a member of the Arrupric high school staff, has accepted the principalship of the Uxbridge high school. The graphite works at Port Elmsley are rushed with work. The village is prospering as it never prospered before.

Mr. Moffat and family, Napawa, have rented a cottage at Adolphus town, and are there for the rest of the summer. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Macdougall, Arrupric, celebrated their golden wedding on Aug. 7th.

A football club has been formed in Hanover.

One of Canada's Notable Women

MRS. JULIA HENSHAW, of Vancouver, was made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society during one of her lecturing tours in England, being the first Canadian woman to be so honored.

This unique distinction is one well merited by Mrs. Henshaw for she has, both on her private account and as a member of the Alpine Club of Canada, explored great stretches of the Rocky Mountain district, to the signal enrichment of geographic science. Her book, "Mountain Wild Flowers of Canada" and her other book with the similar title, "The Wild Flowers of British Columbia," are treasure-trove to the botanists or to the simpler lovers of flowers, to whom a pretty primrose is—a primrose.

In her lectures across the water before the war on the flora of the fauna of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, the slides shown by way of illustration were remarkable for their originality and beauty, and represented a collection of photographs taken by Mrs. Henshaw which is quite unique in its great extent and completeness. This lecturer has added hundreds of names to the list of known flowers in nature's garden, and may be termed a constitutional "finder" in this regard.

This scientist is not Canadian-born, although this country has taken her in and Canadianized her into an almost native. She comes of an old Shropshire family, her father being that Mr. William Henderson, who wrote a number of works on folklore and angling. She was born in Durham, not so many years ago, and preserved the name of her birthplace in her pen-name, which is seen ubiquitously, "Julia Durham."

Mrs. Henshaw has written on many subjects besides those of which we have made mention. She has contributed profusely to "The Girls' Own Paper," "The Canadian Magazine," "The Graphic," "Sketch," "The Queen," "The Pictorial," and "The Traveller." As an author, she has produced the volumes, "Hypnotized," or "The Experiment of Sir Herbert Galbraith"; "Why Not, Sweetheart?" and the two books on flowers already referred to.

This clever Anglo-Canadian lady was married in 1887 to Mr. Charles Grant Henshaw, of Montreal. She had a place on the editorial staff of the Vancouver Province during the years 1894-98. Latterly her time has been principally devoted to giving lectures, illustrated with her views.

Mrs. Henshaw gave her lecture, "The Awakening of Vancouver Island," in London before the Royal Colonial Institute. A large and appreciative audience was present. Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., presiding, and previous to the lecture, the speaker of the evening was the guest of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute at a dinner in the Whitehall Rooms. Mrs. Henshaw has done great work exploiting the wonders of Vancouver Island as she has seen them.

"She has explored," says a British Columbia writer, "many new districts in this Province, of whose vastness those of us who reside in cities have often a more imperfect conception than have those who form the Royal Geographical Society." Very correcting misconceptions.

This brilliant woman of research and revelation is member of a number of the organizations in which Canadian women fraternize. She belongs to the Canadian Society of Authors, English, and holds office in the Vancouver Women's Canadian Club. She is also a member—a most active one—of the Canadian Alpine Club, in which last organization she continues to be a member, though the fact is an obvious one that she has "climbed."

Since 1914 she has devoted her time to war work, and in recognition of her efforts the Militia Department has made her Capt. Julia Henshaw.

No Canadian Tea Party.

Sir J. D. Rees made the suggestion in the British House of Commons recently that as Australia had prohibited the importation of tea from China and Java, in order to help the Indian and Ceylon growers, who are at present to a large extent deprived of the home market, the Colonial Secretary might suggest to the Government of Canada the propriety of taking similar action in view of the fact that the Dominion is now importing quantities of Java tea.

Mr. Steel Maitland, Under Secretary for the Colonies, replied: "I do not think that representations could usefully be made to the Canadian Government, and if the facts are as stated in the question the Canadian Government will doubtless duly consider the matter."

He added that during the year ended 31st March last, which was the latest period for which statistics are available, the imports of Java tea into Canada did not exceed one per cent. of the total imports of tea.

Ships for Motherland.

The Imperial Munitions Board has let twenty-two contracts for ships in British Columbia. These ships are of standard design, 250 feet long, 44 feet 6 inches beam, and 25 feet draft, having a dead weight capacity of 2,800 tons. The contracts call for delivery within fifteen months.

Martin B. Grace has purchased the furniture business at Killbuck of J. Kizell.

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AN OLD LANDMARK TAKEN George Scates, Verona, a Devoted Man Called Away. Verona, Aug. 27.—Another old landmark has been removed in the person of George Scates. Deceased had been ill for some time, but sore his suffering with that true Christian fortitude which had characterized him through the later years of his life. Deceased was a strict adherent of the Methodist faith and was a worthy class leader for years. His children were with him throughout his long illness and showed great devotion for their aged father. Those left to mourn are his wife, one son and seven daughters, Mrs. I. Van Nest, Mrs. C. W. Martin, Mrs. E. Goudy, and Mrs. P. Embury, Verona; Mrs. M. Martin, Titchborne; Mrs. H. Alport, Holford; Mrs. W. Lillie, Moberly; Mrs. N. Alport, Port Colborne; Mrs. W. Embury, Saskatchewan; and one son, W. Scates here. The funeral was largely attended, Rev. C. V. Fairburn, officiated.

Odessa Personal. Odessa, Aug. 27.—Mrs. O. D. Lewis has returned from spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. Frank Morrison, Toronto. Miss Lottie Thompson returned last Wednesday from spending a few days in Kingston. Mrs. E. P. Wood has returned from spending the past six weeks with her mother in Sunridge, accompanied by her sister, Miss Edith Errington. Mrs. Lockwood, who has been the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Herbert Barnett, returned to her home in Enterprise last Thursday. Mrs. William Fraser is visiting her cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Fraser, J. G. Fraser, who is ill at his son's, Austin Fraser, is improving slowly.

Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Mabson and Mrs. W. G. Clark are home from a motor trip to Muskoka and Lake of Bays, visiting Camp Borden and Toronto en route home. Miss Henderson is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Henderson, Hamilton.

HARVESTERS! LOOK! 30,000 Farm Laborers Are Wanted in the West. The Canadian Northern Railway will operate the first excursion trains for the West, leaving Toronto Union Depot at 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. August 21st and 10 p.m. August 30th, and running through solid to Winnipeg. The equipment will consist of electric lighted colonist cars, lunch counter cars, and in addition, the railway will continue their last year's innovation of keeping a special car for the accommodation of single women and families, and of placing it in the train where the occupants will be separated from the other passengers.

The territory served by the Canadian Northern Lines offers the widest choice of employment with high wages; but regardless of where you may locate, remember we give you the best service to Winnipeg, where you will re-purchase to final destination, no matter on what line it may be. For leaflet showing special train service with dates, number of men required at various points and other information, apply to M. C. Dunn, 217 Princess Street, or General Passenger Department, Canadian Northern Railway, Toronto.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY. Photograph shows a munition girl treating an Anzac at the Dartford sports in London. The sports were held in aid of the disabled sailors and soldiers fund.

a Present for the Soldier YOU can depend on the mothers to think of the little things which will be appreciated by the boy in the camp or trenches. And one article which many a mother has given her boy at the last moment is Dr. Chase's Ointment. There are so many ways that Dr. Chase's Ointment is useful to the soldier that it becomes invaluable to him. It is used for chafing and skin irritation resulting from heavy clothing and equipment. It brings comfort to sore, scalded feet after the long march. Applied to wounds it prevents blood-poisoning and heals the skin. And it should never be forgotten that Dr. Chase's Ointment is the most effective treatment obtainable for chafe, a distressing ailment which results from contact with the cold earth, whether in camp or trench. The Canadian soldiers have been well supplied with this standard ointment, and, judging by their many letters of appreciation, there seems to be few things more keenly appreciated. Just try it in the next parcels you send to the front. Dr. Chase's Ointment 6c a box, all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto. Refuse to accept substitutes, for they only disappoint.