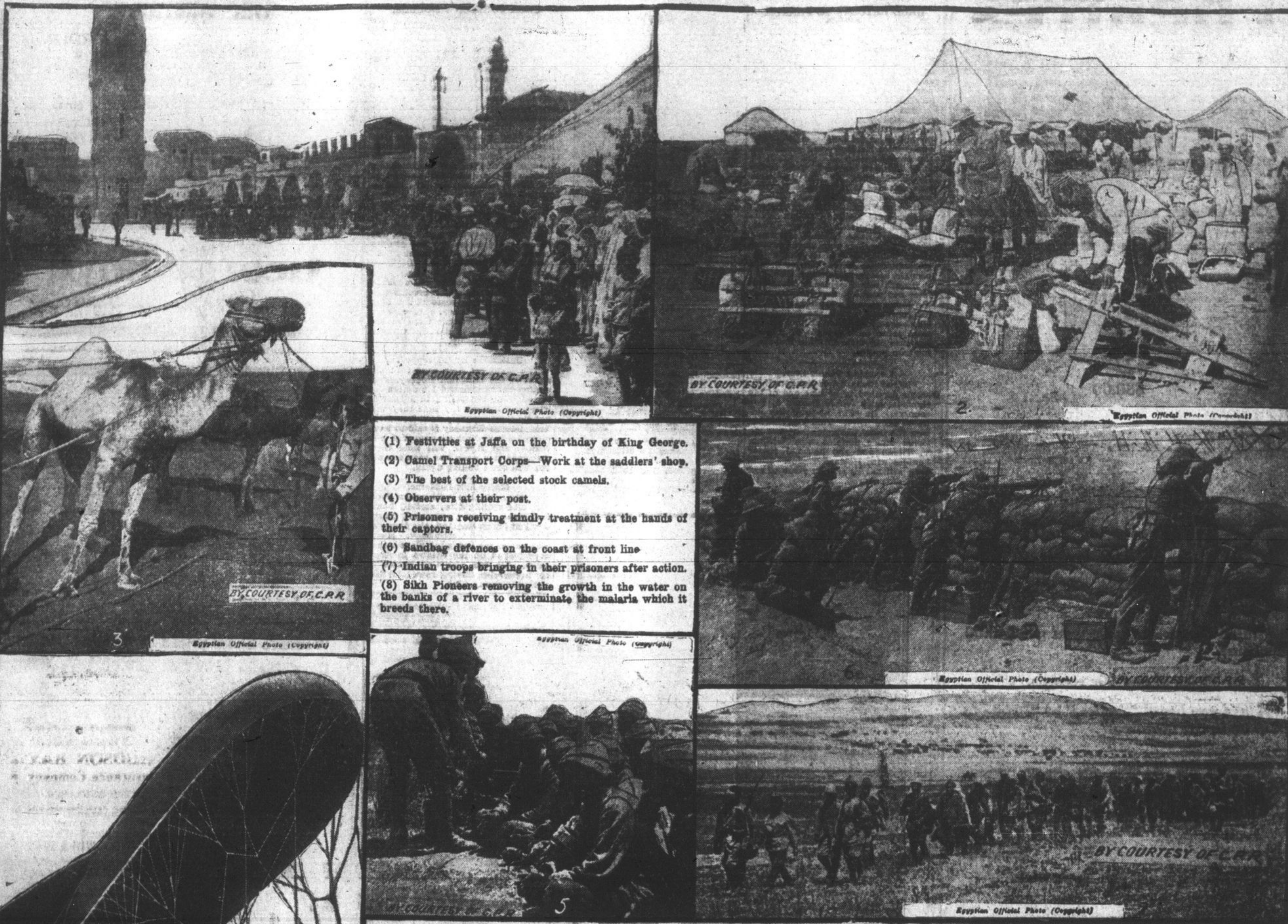


SWEEPING THE TURKS OUT OF PALESTINE



- (1) Festivities at Jaffa on the birthday of King George.
- (2) Camel Transport Corps—Work at the saddlers' shop.
- (3) The best of the selected stock camels.
- (4) Observers at their post.
- (5) Prisoners receiving kindly treatment at the hands of their captors.
- (6) Sandbag defences on the coast at front line.
- (7) Indian troops bringing in their prisoners after action.
- (8) Sikh Pioneers removing the growth in the water on the banks of a river to exterminate the malaria which it breeds there.

FAMOUS CANADIAN BATTLE FIELDS

By ROLAND HILL Former Official Canadian War Correspondent

THE German line in France and Belgium from the Channel southwards to Peronne and Ham has been swept backward in the wonderful fighting of the last few weeks. The undulating barrier which on their section British and Canadian troops have now completely broken will never again rear itself as a menace to divide the forces of Britain and France. The coveted Channel ports are safe and it is almost certain that the Germans will never again be able to strike at any point in enough strength to regain those battlegrounds of France and Flanders where history has been in the making for the last four years.

Those scores of towns where Canada has shed her best blood will from now on be inviolate. German guns will never again pound the ruins of Ypres and Somme and Courtrai and the brave Canadians who lie in the shadows of these monuments to the fallen will rest in peace. The little graveyards among the poppy fields of Flanders, some of them unapparently torn by enemy shells in this last great fight, will be silent and at peace. Now and again some comrade will steal back to find the resting place of some friend; the kind old padres will visit and tend the little white crosses; but the thunder of the guns that drummed the great funeral march when those Canadian lads were laid to rest will for the rest of the war be but distant echoes. The great victories of these weeks have saved something that those who had to stay at home in Canada may see when war is done.

Langemarck, Wielze and St. Julien where in 1915 Canada "saved the day" are mere rubbles of brick and stone. Along the main road that runs out from Ypres there are little clusters of Canadian graves that have unparalysed survived the cyclones of war that have swept by them. Out on the mangled distorted highway which runs to Passchendaele there are little groups of Canadian graves whose heroes who fell in that first great fight have been joined by their comrades who died two years later in the taking of the strong German position which was again a menace to Ypres.

In many places around the historic Flanders city you can still find traces of the old trenches. The men who know can lead you to some of the old brigade headquarters now grass-grown and pathetically delapidated. Piles of blistered stone and ironwork mark the old Flemish graveyards where well-known battalions made their stand. In Ypres itself the ruins can be marked for what they were. The asylum where thousands of wounded and gassed Canadians were tended in those heart-rending days of April, 1915, is still there and the barracks can be traced by its heavy brick walls. The ramparts, Vanhan's strong fort built for other days and other kinds of warfare, are still standing in defiance of modern artillery and they have sheltered many of the Maple Leaf. There are badges of many a fine Canadian battalion painted over the big stone arches.

Vlamertinghe church, the landmark that meant comparative safety in those anxious days of 1915, and the station where scores of wounded were rescued by train, are badly damaged but still proudly in evidence, their battle scars making them look wonderfully dignified. Poperinghe, the happy hunting ground of the lucky battalions in rest, is shell torn but will be saved for already the Flemish shop keepers and the restaurateurs are flocking back.

Further to the south Bailleul and Armentieres and Hazebrouk are standing and the old hotels and eating places where officers and men found change from rations in French diners when out for brief rests are optimistically replacing their boarded windows with glass. Bailleul is the worse for war wear. The old square tower of the Hotel de Ville has been shattered. The big hotel, which always was "out of bounds for British troops" has been burned by accident or design during German occupation. The station is a mass of twisted steel and shattered glass but already the French engineers are at work and soon the leave trains will be running again as of months ago.

Hazebrouk has suffered least; Armentieres is badly mauled by shells, its great factories blown up by Hun explosives and there is still the sickly smell of poison gas.

Around historic Vimy the Germans are pressed back but slightly as yet but from Bethune to battered Arras, those little towns that have been the happy hunting ground for men from Halifax to Victoria, are now safe. Vimy's sombre cemetery with its giant cross marking the resting place of those who won what was then Canada's greatest victory,



The Cathedral at Arras.

has been won back from the range of the largest German guns. The quiet picturesque, well-tended plots that marked the graveyards of scores of Canadian battalions around Bouches, side by side with those of France who fell at the first great assault of the Ridge, will never again be disturbed by Hun shells.

Before Albert and on the Somme the line has been rolled back too, there are scores of white crosses under which sleep the fighting men from Canada. All along the Beaucourt road you come across them until you reach Conzellette. The German has not burned them since his last advance. Sometimes a stray shell has obliterated a cross but generally these little plots, screened off by fences of barbed wire torn from neighboring trenches, have been respected by the enemy.

Southward again from the Somme there are little towns and hamlets where Canadian cavalry and the Motor Machine Gun Brigades made history. Outside of Arras, in Hoye and Neulle, even to Moyon there are clusters of graves, still there and respected by the Huns, where gallant men from Canada have been buried. They are far from their comrades who sleep in Flanders and around where the Canadian Corps won their other great victories, but there is one great tribute to them too, that binds them with bonds of bravery. They also "saved the day." General Gouraud, who is now commanding the army in the Champagne, told those who survived and published it in French orders: "The Canadians have saved the day." General Gouraud, fought with them have as carefully tended these graves as they have their own. They are there around the gravest of France and again in Allied ground.