The Canadian V.C.'s

How Men From Canada Earned the Empire's Highest Tribute for Bravery in the Field of Battle.

Piper James Richardson, V.C., 16th Canadian Scottish. Prior to the attack he obtained permission to play his company "over the top," As the company approached its objective it was held up by very strong wire and came under an intense fire, which caused heavy casualties which momentarily demoralized the formation. Richardson, realizing the situation, strode up and down with the greatest coolness. The effect was instantaneous. Inspired by his splendid example, the company rushed the wire with such fury and determination that the obstacle was overcome and the position captured.

Later, after participating in bombing operations, he was detailed to take back wounded comrades and prisoners. After proceeding 200 yards he remembered that he had left his pipes behind. Although strongly warned, he insisted on returning to recover his pipes. He was never seen again, and is accordingly presumed dead through lapse of time

BY CAROLYN CORNELL. How the skirl of the pipes led the Caledonian sports in Vancouver, Canadian Scottish to victory in the North Vancouver and Victoria, and awful battle of the Somme, October, won valuable prizes. His father is 1916, has only recently been fully in possession of three gold medals told when the Victoria Cross was which he won in contests. granted posthumously to Piper James Richardson, a brother of the V.C., is Richardson, who performed this he- also in the army

role act. It was between Oct. 8 and That young Richardson was not Oct. 9 that the action took place in lacking in daring and physical courwhich Piper Richardson led the at- age before he went overseas is shown tack over the top and with the wild in an incident which happened in music of the hills of Scotland fired Vancouver, where he was working, in his followers to show the world the year 1914. The factory where what a Scotsman can do. The at- he was employed is situated near tack was victorious. - Canada was False Creek, Vancouver. One day, honored, but the young piper has while he was working, the alarm was given that a boy was drowned in the creek. James Richardson at once ter and brought up the body, but life was extinct.

> since Piper Richardson "played his men over the top" in his last gailant attack, and Lieut.-Col. C. W. Peck. then Major Peck, recommended him tion through the next day. Well, as little incident if you had been here, for the V.C. at that time. Through the farmhouse was an ideal sniping some technicality the award was not post for the Huns, the matter was regazetted, however, until last fall ported to the artillery, which, need-With three other pipers Richardson played the men over at the beginning business. of the battle of the Somme, and continued to play as the troops advanc- sense of humor is shown in many li ed in a murderous fire. He came the stories that he related. back safely ,but suddenly remember- cially in letters to his mother does loved pipes. He had been helping ing one he concludes with the proto carry in wounded. He went back mise that he will not frequent the for the pipes and has never been seen more dangerous route any more. The since. Lieut.-Col. Peck, now offi- letter was dated May 1916. 'He cer commanding the 16th Battalion, says: who recommended the decoration for "Well, I had a nice little spin on the heroic young piper, has since the bicycle down to brigade headthen been given the V.C. himself. | quarters with a message. By the

-Official report.

peted in the piping contests at the

the story of Piper Richardson's deed, own use, that is; for carrying messaid: "Volunteers were asked for, sages, etc., and it is certainly a very one from each of the four compa- handy asset when moving from one nies. The first four who came were billet to another. On two occasions taken. It was the first time any pi- last week I got messages to take up per had gone out with the Canadian to the firing line, and without think Scottish, or, perhaps, with any Cana- ing I started on the bike and delivdian battalions. It was a wonder- ered the goods. On both occasions ful thing to hear these men playing I was told that I did the trip very away at their pipes while the attack- quickly, and, of course, I just said ing party were cutting the wire, and that I hit the high spots only, when it had a wonderful effect on them. doing daylight trips up there. Well, Only his spirit remains to The skirl of the pipes continued until there was nothing more said until a the country which strives to do him the men got through. Then the pi- couple of days after when I was dehonor—a memory which thrills ev- pers went forward with the men. tailed as guide for an officer going to ery Canadian boy and makes him Richardson was seen walking strong- the trenches . The officer asked me

plains and of the mother land across ing his pipes." the sea, of brave and valorous men, whose history is full of such deeds as We are fortunate in having several the one performed by Piper James letters of the brave young piper, which Richardson, of the Canadian Scottish, speak volumes themselves of his high spirits; his cheeriness, his good hu-Piper Richardson was the son of mor and bravery. He had many Chief of Police and Mrs. D. Richard- narrow escapes. The fact that one son, of Chilliwack, B.C. He was of the most hair-raising escapes only born at Bellshill, Lanarkshire, Scot- came out by chance leads one to be-While residing in Ruther- lieve that he probably had them evglen, Scotland, he was a member of ery day, but did not mention them the corps of Boy Scouts. The Rich- In the very first engagement in which ardson family came to Canada about he took part, the taking of the little five years ago. James enlisted at wood near St. Julien, in April, 1915, the age of 17 years in the 72nd Sea- he performed a feat of daring worforth Highlanders, at Vancouver, in thy of decoration itself. Through August, 1914, and went to France his nerve the battalion was able to with the first contingent. He was secure its position. He did not menattached to the 16th Canadian Scot- tion this event for more than a year, tish, and was through all the big en- and then only on the request of his gagements with the Canadians dur- father, who had had an imperfect acing the first two years of the war, count of it from a returned soldier. including the memorable stand made In writing to his father in June, at St. Julien in April, 1914, which 1916, Piper Richardson said of this

placed Canada's name in the histo- experience: ries of the world forever. Previous "I would like very much to know working in Vancouver, where he was experience to you. There were only well known for his piping. He com-three men in the battalion to my knowledge who knew of my experience, and only one man saw me actually go through it. It is now over a year since this incident happened during the Germans' second attempt to take Ypres, and it seems funny to start to relate a story so long after,

but I suppose I will have to do so. "Well, you will remember we made a charge at St. Julien on the 22nd April, 1915, and took a wood from the Germans. After we had carried the wood some of us kept going on Fritz's heels, and after advancing about 30 yards on the other side of the woods the party, about 50 men, started to dig in, but I kept going on my own, although the thing was ridiculous. Well, I may ftell you I didn't get very far ahead. about 40 yards, before I landed at a farmhouse, and sure enough the Fritzies were all clustered round it sheltering from the flying bullets. When I saw what I was up against I didn't know what to do, but, believe me, my brain worked like lightning. As it was dark save for the moonlight, I 'flopped' to see if I was spotted and I really thought that while I was lying there they would hear my heart heating, Lying motionless, I saw an officer (judging by his voice and actions) coming towards me and waving his arms as if letting his men know to follow on.

My brain told me that I had two alternatives, namely, to shoot the nearest man I saw (which was the officer) and make a dash for my pais, or give myself up as a prisoner. I risked the former and aimed as quick and the best I could at my man. who rolled over like a log. Then you talk about running-there fan't a man who could have covered the ground quicker than I did, and nobody could be more thankful than I was when I found myself amongst my, own kith and kin. I told the sergeant-major that the farmhouse in front was full of Germans, and that they would have to be cleared

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less to say, put the farmhouse out of hips, whereupon he shouted.

ed that he had left behind his be- he tell these stories. In the follow-

An officer of the battalion telling way, I have got a bicycle here for my proud of this land of mountains and ly towards the German trench, play- how far we had to go by my route, and this fairly tickled the officer, as road, as I call it, and the officer looked at me as much as to say, 'Are side of the road, where he took out a Dr. Woods's Norway Pine Syrup. carefully. After a pause he insix miles' walk, we got to the buy.' again, and I don't intend to, either, Toronto, Ont.

While we were busy unloading the wagons a stray bullet came over and strafed' a chap right through the got a blighty.' He just lay down That the young piper had a keen where he was and laughed like to ourst his sides, passing remarks that he would soon be having a good ime in Scotland, while we were still

carrying on' out here." In a letter to his brother and siser after telling about pushing up the line, he says: "I was at a town yeserday on pass, where we were billeted over a year ago, and I went to a house there which I used to go to. and the family knew me right away. The old lady has a fine daughter

Coughed, Coughed All Night Long

Terribly wearing on the system is he cough that comes at night and his loss and best of congratulations prevents sleep. Sometimes it is a on the great award." constant cough, cough that will not

ing difficult, and sleep impossible. Whatever kind of a cold or cough | death; on have, Dr. Wood's Norway Pine syrup is the remedy you need to "Over the top and awa' awa'. all the lung healing virtues of the he was told he would have six miles | bined wild cherry bark and the soothto walk each way. Well, we got ing, healing and expectorant pro-

you sure of the road?' He stopped, E.I., writes:--"I am writing to tell and cold in my head. I was unable

was exposed the whole way to the sleep, but cough, cough, all night Germans, and therefore we couldn't long. A friend advised me to use Dr. proceed further. Well, when we got Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, and bethrough woods, across fields, over was entirely cured, and I have found ditches, etc., and at last, after about this the best cough medicine I can

trenches. Leaving the officer there Do not accept any other "pine" I thought I would risk the road once preparations when you ask for "Dr. The men are forlorn without his more at the double 'knees up.' Well, Wood's." This remedy has been on got back safely, but, believe me, the market for a quarter of a centhe road seemed wery long with my tury It is put up in a yellow wrapnew information, and I had a great | per; three pine trees the trade mark; to enlisting James Richardson was the name of the man who related my yarn to tell my rais. They said, 'I price 25c and 50c. Manufactured et Jimmy won't take that road only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Where the crowds are jostling in the

there whom I get on well with was asking her if she would come to Canada with me (Ho! Ha!), but she said her flance was at the war, so

"I am with my old company, but I am sorry to say very few old faces. Of course I am with them with the pipes when in billets only, then when we move back to the line I go back on the ration pob, and only see the trenches once a week. Father asks me about the cooking job. Well, I think I told you that I got fed up with it, and as it is optional duty I quit. I had to cook for 18 men, and had no help, so it was no soft job. You must remember that one hasn't things fixed up out here to make such a job easy. It is a case of getting bricks together for a fireplace, chasing after water, which i sometimes hard to find, and then nothing but grousing if you put salt instead of sugar in the tea (some good reason for a grouse, eh?) You would have laughed here one morning at such an incident. The morning was very cold, and here was Your Humble' sitting on a box, frying bacon, while the water boiled for There was a wind blowing, and, of course, the dixie was taking extra long to boil, so the men started to gather round the fire as a hint for me to hurry up the grub. Well, the pot at last came to the boil, and I put in the tea, taking the dixie off. I then asked one of them to 'sling' me over the sugar, with the result that he passed me the salt, and I, like a silly clown, dumped the salt in before noticing the mistake. The language that followed made another dixie of water boil right away. I have not composed a tune yet

The old ones are sufficient for me yet. We are going to strafe Fritz some of these fine days, and I sure mean to let him hear the "Braes o' Mar" if I get the chance. I can assure you if I get the pipes going Fritz will get it on his neck. hasn't the nerve, therefore I would rather face him in a charge than be a Hun and have to face this mob. Well, I think I'll stop bletherin'; in the meantime, so, so long----'

Major Gavin H. Davies, of the 16th the conferring of the Victoria Cross for the brave deed of Piper Richardson, wrote the young hero's father as Tune up for a blaw, a blaw."

'It was with the greatest pleasure in the world when I saw this photo 'Bonny Boy' had at last been awarded the greatest medal of all. He company when we left Vanconver. the V.C. I was in the fight when 'Jimmy' went back for his pipes, but

"You have my deep sympathy in

John Stephen, of Hamilton, Ont., composed the following lines on Pi-Sometimes it is a choked-up, per Richardson's heroic deed, which stuffed-up feeling that makes breath- were printed in a Toronto paper with an account of his award and his

ure it, for the simple reason that Come, Piper, gie us a blaw, a blaw." this valuable preparation combines The piper played as he forward Norway pine tree with which is com- A merry all tune for a rough old

7 and fire; Miss Margaret Landly, Bristol, P. When the men were held by the ugly and we went to a shell hole by the you the benefit I have received from He played and strutted up and down

Where is the piper?" called the on to the main road we started off fore the second bottle was used, I The wounded he tended back to light.

ut forever floats his brave old tune

Canadian Scottish, when he heard of Tune up! for we cannot spare your

and read the good news about your By George Matthew Adams. was a delightful chap, and in my Never tired, however long the march loves. was and always really with a willing hand to do anything and give the boys a tune, and always anxious to around itself and marvels at time and mine lead his company 'over the top.' He space and things, and grows into a was a great loss to the battalion, and warm ecstatic mood and the feel of I am sure greater to you. I had always hoped that he would receive

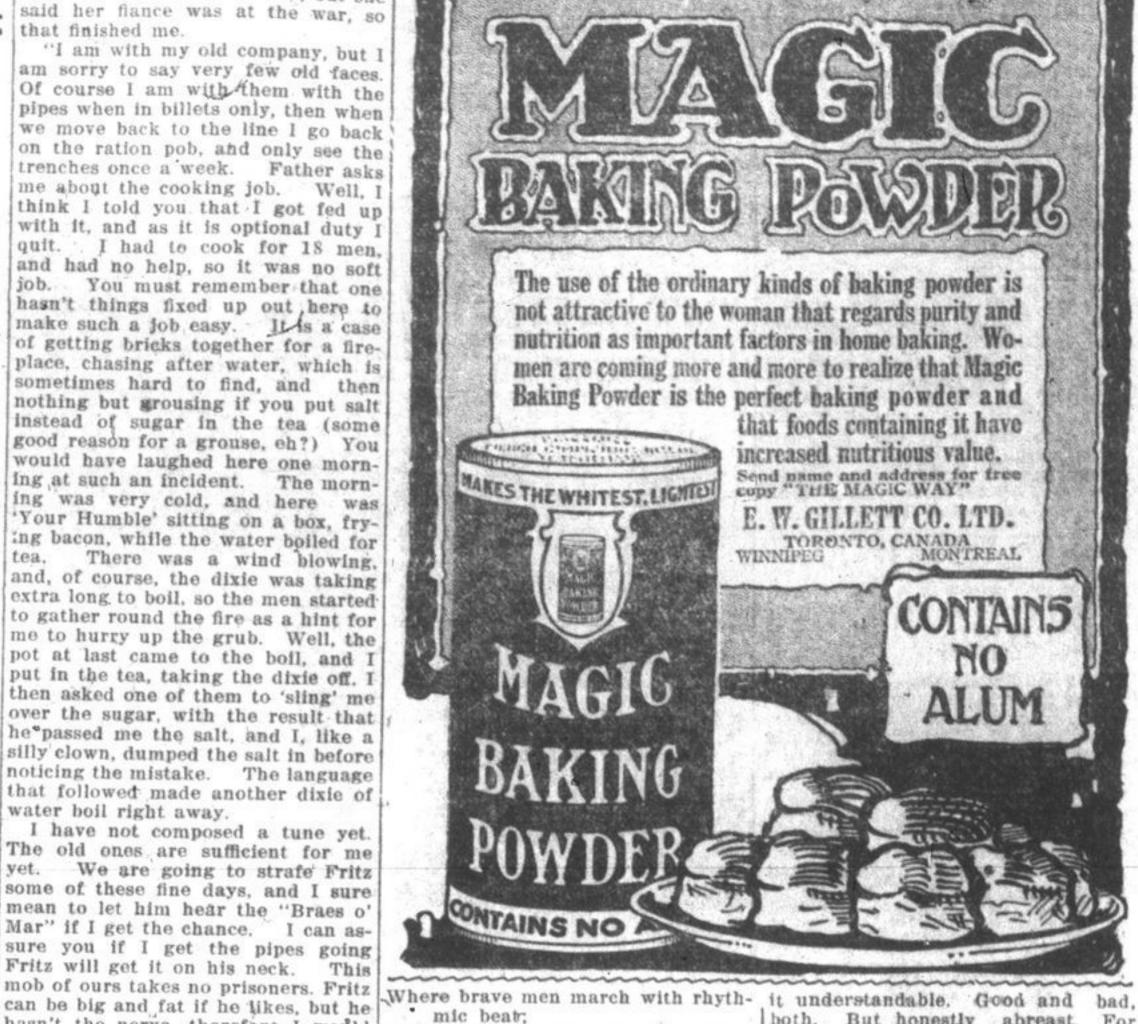
has never returned

about half way and turned in to my perties of other excellent herbs and He played the lads through the mud

formed me that the road we were on to do anything. At night I could not The day was won and the men were

But he has gone into the night.

Where seas are murmuring to the



At set of sun you can hear his note Like a far song from a wee bird's hour of every day.

Tune up your pipes for the way is

Over the top and awa', awa',

it works, and it sleeps. Also, it

This Me of mine gets lonely, too, even in the midst of work. It looks end of all that there is to this Me of

both. But honestly abreast, For true things are passing by at every I talk to this Me of mine. And it

talks to me. And the world of action all around stirs the blood in this Me of mine. For it is wakeful and

I run errands for this Me of mine. risk, I work, I sorrow, I sympathize for this Me of mine.

This inside one, this outside one, this everywhere one-this Me of mine-it's all that I may keep and First, it's very individual, this Me call my own. But I shall stick, with of mine. It eats, it walks, it plays, loyal pride, and gladly strive to make better, to wield stronger, the plans and thinks and dreams and brain, the heart, and the soul of this Me of mine.

So that to serve may prove the

-February Good Housekeeping



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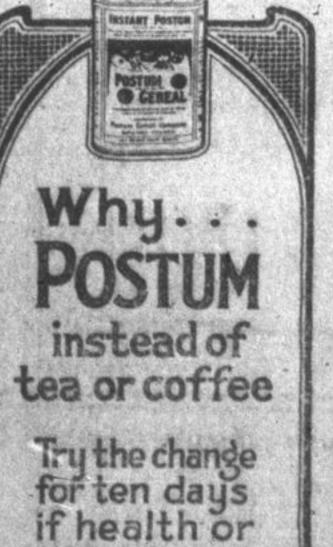


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