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THE PRINCE TALKS WITH THE HIGHLANDERS AT EDMONTON

EPIC OF CANADIANS IN NORTH-EASTERN RUSSIA MONTHS OF GRIM FIGHTING ON THE DWINA.

Wherever they may be scattered on their return all Canada should know the epic of the Canadians who fought in Russia. A portion of them—the section which for convenience sake was known as the Elope Party—is again at home. The Elope Party was the 16th Brigade of Canadian Field Artillery which served under Colonel C. H. L. Sharman, C.M.G., C.B.E., under whose personal supervision it was recruited at Whiteley. Colonel Sharman's method was to pick the best officers he could find who had served under him in France. They in turn picked the best men who had served under them. In this way the personnel was the very finest.

The party started for Archangel in September, 1918, and was immediately rushed down 200 miles south to the front which the Bolsheviks were then threatening. On the way it shed two small parties, one detached for duty with the Railway and one for duty near Seletskoe. The balance of the Brigade proceeded for duty with the Dwina force. The business of the Canadian Artillery was to hold a point at the junction of the Vaga and Dwina Rivers. This was the strategic point which was the key of the whole position. The Canadians went straight into action, and at the time the prospects were not of the brightest. The Bolsheviks were well armed, and they were also many. At no time, even including the Artillery, did the Allied Force here number more than 5,000, while a very moderate estimate of the Bolsheviks place their numbers at 12,000. Altogether it was reckoned that 32,000 Bolsheviks were opposed to the little North Russian Expeditionary Force under General Ironside, formerly G.S.O., 1. 4th Canadian Division.

The Canadians had arrived only just before the winter "freeze up" and as it was held that offensive tactics were most suited to the very serious needs of the moment, the party pushed on to a point some 75 miles beyond the junction. Then from January until May began one long rearguard action. The Bolsheviks not only had weight of numbers but weight of guns on their side, and to save the situation three 60-pounders were brought down over the snow and ice in March and April. That gave the artillery a range of 16,000 yards as against the range of 7,000 yards which was all it could compass before. None the less so persistent and bold was the Bolshevik attack that the little force, which was now under the command of Colonel Sharman, was compelled to fall back foot by foot fighting every inch of the way.

Conditions were very bad all round. The temperature was below zero, and comforts practically non-existent, but the approach of spring and the break up of the ice threatened a peril which was worse than any discomfort. The

break up of the ice meant that it would release the Bolshevik Fleet then frozen in up-steram. The Bolshevik fleet, which consisted of various kinds of craft, included some big rafts on which were mounted guns of a calibre which would enable the enemy to shell the Allied Force out of its positions, as soon as the Bolshevik vessels could get under way.

Down-stream to the north there was lying the small British Fleet composed of monitors and river gun boats only too anxious to join battle with the Bolsheviks, but the ice breaking upstream would inevitably enable the opposing fleet to get into action first. It was, therefore, obvious that the crisis would come during the days when the ice had not sufficiently melted to enable the British fleet to come up to the Allies' aid.

The ice broke, and the crisis came about May 5, on which dates the Bolsheviks threw 5,000 shells into the Allied positions. The 60 pounders did good work, and to some extent checked the fire from the Bolshevik fleet, but the crisis became still greater when the whole of the Russian Force which was ostensibly supporting the Allies killed their officers and went over to the enemy.

This threw the flank of Colonel Sharman's main position upon the enemy, and there was a very serious situation and some very sharp fighting before the position was recaptured, but not until the British fleet came up to the rescue, some of the Bolshevik rafts went down in flames, and the rest of the enemy fleet ran for it. Upon this there arose a very interesting position. Colonel Sharman had the British fleet placed under him for tactics, so that in addition to the commanding the Artillery he also became a naval commander.

So successful were the combined land and river operations under Col. Sharman that with the coming spring the Bolshevik attack was smashed, but it was only by grim and determined fighting that the situation had been saved.

The Governor General of North Russia was so impressed and so grateful for the wonderful work which had been done that he bestowed ten St. George's Crosses—the Russian equivalent to the V.C.—and ten St. George's medals on the Canadians. On this occasion the Canadians followed the Russian custom, that is to say no Crosses or Medals were accepted for officers, but they were given to the men who voted them to those other ranks whom they thought most deserving of the honor. The Governor General, however, refused to allow any Canadian officer to leave the country undecorated, and every Canadian officer bore away with him from Russia some mark of distinction. He also sent a message through the Brigade to the Canadian government for the incomparable assistance rendered to the Russian cause by the Canadian Artillery.

The Brigade was also paraded before Major-General Ironside, Commander in Chief in North Russia, who in addition to rendering thanks made the statement that the Canadian Artillery had time and again saved the whole Expeditionary Force.

HIS ONLY OPINION

Things had certainly looked black for the very young lieutenant when his colonel discovered him in sweet communion with his daughter. "What could he say when he was summoned to explain himself? As a general rule, men are helpless as babes when in love, but not so our lover. He was made of sterner stuff than to knuckle under like a German. "Here you any explanation to offer for your conduct?" the colonel demanded sternly. "Sir," answered our hero, bringing his hand up to a smart salute, "I have the honor to report an engagement at close quarters, in which I have been entirely victorious. It now only remains for you to give consent to the terms of surrender." He carried the day.

Advertisement for Mennen's Shaving Cream, featuring an illustration of a shaving brush and text: "A rich copious lather produced from a half inch of cream in cold water as well as hot... MENNEN'S SHAVING CREAM"



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"LITTLE DARLING" "LITTLE DAISY" HOSIERY FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN



TROUSERS FIRST USED FOR MILITARY

Some difficulty may be experienced in fixing the date when khaki breeches and puttees became part of the uniform of the British infantryman, but there is no doubt of the date upon which the British soldier of the line first made his appearance in trousers instead of knee breeches. It was on June 18, 1823, on which occasion the reform, or change, was announced in a Horse Guard order by the Duke of York, the then Commander-in-Chief, as follows:—"His Majesty has been pleased to approve of the discontinuance of breeches, leggins and shoes, as part of the clothing of the infantry soldiers, and of blue grey cloth trousers and half-boots being substituted." The changes in military uniform had been very gradual. In 1638 the 7th Foot (now Royal Fusiliers) and the 6th Foot (Northumberland Fusiliers) are shown to have worn green breeches, white stockings, and high shoes; in 1692 the 1st Royals and 10th Foot (Lincolnshire Regiment) wore breeches and stockings; and in 1742 many regiments wore uniform comprising purple, blue or red breeches, and white leggings or gaiters. This dress occurs frequently in the pictures by Hogarth. In 1793 tight green pantaloons and Hessian boots were worn by at least one corps. Incidentally the introduction of trousers brought about the abolition of the "clothing colonel," although it was not until the Crimean War that the much-abused system, which provided this officer with an allowance for clothing his men, was brought to an end.

SEEKING HAPPINESS.

Little Things That Make Living a Joy Are Not Always Appreciated

We are told that happiness comes by pieces and that it is these small lives worth while. Some of us are not content to take our happiness by degrees or at intervals. We want it all the time in big pieces, and if we cannot have it that way we think that we are deprived of our natural rights and look upon ourselves as injured beings.

It is a rather singular expression of human nature how happiness affects the individual. With some of us it makes us friendlier toward others and anxious that they should experience like joys; with others it makes us too

satisfied with ourselves to think very much of our neighbors.

Perhaps those of us who know what the joy of living means have experienced both of these attitudes at different periods of our lives and are in position, therefore, to appreciate a varying viewpoint, but even so it is only after we lose something of that joy of living and have found out for ourselves that there are shadows which no amount of sunlight can dispense that we can readily appreciate the blessing of whatever happiness may find its way into our lives.

The little things that count so much in our intercourse with each other are not always regarded as highly as they should be, and for this reason we pass by much that would give us joy if we only knew how and where to find it.

BRINGING UP FATHER

