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MONCHY BEFORE BREAKFAST BATTLECRY OF CANADIANS

**Our Gallant Boys in France Are Keeping
Right After the Huns--Canadian Overseas Correspondent Tells of Their Splendid Work--Monchy Was Strongly Defended But Canadians Put One Over on the Enemy**

With the Canadian forces, Aug. 28,—"Monchy, before breakfast," such was the battle cry of a Canadian unit that went over the top at three o'clock Monday morning. They had it by 7.30 and then the cry became "Cambrai or bust." Cambrai is a great way off, but they are still going strong.

Monchy Le Preaux is an island eminence and dominates the sea of rolling country surrounding. Our advance eastward was barred until it was taken. It was stormed two days after we took Vimy Ridge and at its foot still lies a rusted tank that foundered on that occasion. It is a mass of broken machinery which was once ordered and strong and of blasted tree trunks. Only on the southwest slope, facing that distant lofty ridge where lie so many Canadian sons, there still stands intact a great cross of timber. It is a site fit for a palace of a king for miles around the country lies in panorama. Not two miles to the north is the silver thread of the Scarpe river and Equal distant to the south is the Cojeul. North of the Scarpe is the great hill which is known as Grenland, which trains its batteries at will on Arras or on Monchy. So great is its strategic value that after its capture yesterday the enemy won it back by a massed attack. Throughout the present advance its fire has considerably interfered with our advance.

West of Monchy, like two considerable but lesser hills,—Orange Hill, a mile to the northwest, and Mount Hills, the same distance due west. Athwart the Cambrai road, these two breasts swelling out from the plain provide natural redoubts for the defence of Monchy from frontal attacks. On either flank are the two rivers and in the rear are the Verte and Hart Woods.

A Strong Defence

Impregnable as was the place in feudal times it is still well adapted for defence in modern warfare. Long months when confined to their trenches around Arras, the Canadians gazed upon Monchy as the prisoner upon the door of his cell. The place must be stormed and consolidated prior to any general advance. Then came the cry of "To Amiens," and for a fierce joyous fortnight Monchy was forgotten. Back again in the trenches it loomed smaller, because in the meantime the force had tested itself. But it was a hard nut to crack.

Accurate Information

Before the battle opened our admirable intelligence service had compiled detailed, and, as it transpired, accurate information of the whole enemy position, mainly based on air photographs. The enemy decided to establish his line of resistance athwart the low ground between Monchy and the twin hills. On the western slopes of the hills he placed his light machine guns with his heavier machine guns strongly emplaced on their eastern slopes, prepared to sweep the skyline of any frontal advance. Half a mile back was an elaborate trench system and everywhere was wire. His heavy guns were massed in the woods east of Monchy and perfectly registered on all the forward area. This was the problem. Monchy must be taken at

all costs. The attacking force flushed with victory elsewhere awaited only to go in.

In the old days they, of not many months ago, there would have been an intensive artillery preparation of some hours, designed to level a path, and then our infantry must plough their way through, indifferent to loss. But with the whole enemy plan charted out in detail a weak spot in the enemy defence developed.

The Kick Off

We had not contemplated the width of our battle lines, not only to the north of the Scarpe, but beyond it among the heights of which he depended to protect by cross fire his right flank at Monchy. His preparation had been concentrated on making the place impregnable against a frontal attack. Over night therefore attacking forces spread its left well along the Scarpe river, where it met practically no opposition, because the enemy depended for the defence of this swampy valley on his batteries around Greenland Hill, on the north and Monchy on the south. The brigade attacking was well established for the kick-off on Monday morning with its left thrust out along the river. When the barrage opened at three o'clock our artillery conformed automatically with the plan of the attacking force. There was a forward concentration of guns on the left, but on the right the lifting barrage took a diagonal course from northeast to southwest, because there was no intention of passing in a frontal attack until the left got well on its way toward a flanking movement from the north. Tanks, however, went in on the front, but as they topped the twin hills they came under a heavy fire. This was not until after they had cleaned out the light machine guns and thus afforded a footing for our infantry under the western slopes. No doubt the enemy was thus deceived into looking for the main attack from the west, whereas it suddenly swept down on him from the north, taking Monchy in the flank and rear, the whole position falling automatically with considerable captures of prisoners and guns.

The plan was well conceived and brilliantly executed by the troops concerned. The men had the satisfaction of breakfasting in Monchy-Les-Preux but apart from its spectacular features this force did not do a whit better, not perhaps was ever so heavily engaged as other of our troops battling forward that morning south of the Amiens-Cambrai road through an exceedingly difficult country. The Canadian forces rejoice that the eastward gate is flung wide.

TEMPERANCE VALE

Temperance Vale, Aug. 22.—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Corey of Peel, Carleton County, Miss Clark and Mr. Thornton of Woodstock were Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Allan Corey.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Morse and son of Lakeville, Carleton County and Mrs. Morse's brother Mr. Fowler of Presque Isle spent the week-end with Mr. Morse's sister Mrs. William McElwain.

Mr. Ora Bartlett of this place spent Sunday with friends at Upper Queensbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lockard spent Sunday with friends in Clark Settlement.

Miss Zella Fox who was visiting friends at Woodstock and Jacksonville has returned home.

Mrs. William McGuire of Nackawick spent a few days with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Zara Fox.

Mr. Fred McElwain who has been at the military hospital Fredericton is at present spending a few days with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Levi McElwain.

Miss Bessie McDonald and Miss Constance Williams who have been visiting relatives in the Vale returned home to Fredericton on Monday last.

Mr. Foster of Lower Windsor, Carleton County, and his two grandsons Eldon and George are the guests of Mr. Foster's daughter Mrs. G. A. Bartlett.

A party including Messrs Jack White, William Carten and Burden arrived by motor at Mr. G. A. Bartlett's and took luncheon one day last week enroute to Fredericton.

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Those making payment later in the month must do so at the Company's Main Office, No. 1 Shore Street.

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