

KING HIMSELF PRAISES CANADIANS

**SURROUNDED AND ENFILED, CANADIANS
FOUGHT WITH INFINITE COURAGE AND DASH
GAVE GERMANS SOME TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT
DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS OF GREAT BATTLE**



The First Contingent of Canadian soldiers fighting overseas distinguished themselves as an extremely dependable and battle ready military organization in the month of April 1915. As April progressed, through cable despatches and letters home from local soldiers, local newspapers provided readers with descriptive accounts of the battles as war raged in France.

Fort William and Port Arthur soldiers attached to the First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) were heavily involved in the Second Battle of Ypres which commenced on April 22, 1915. In this battle, as well as the Battle for Hill 60, Canadian soldiers at the front were praised for their courage in combat. This was the time in which German forces unleashed chlorine gas for the first time in the war, which caught the allies completely unaware. Even with the Germans using gas warfare, the allies persevered; however, there were a great many casualties. While news reports did not list many war casualties of local soldiers in April, the official list of casualties was not released until the following month, with devastating numbers.