

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

"The greatest moving picture in the world"

BATTLE OF SOMME FILM FAITHFUL
PICTURE OF REAL BATTLE SCENES

"The BATTLE of the SOMME"



The first leap from the British trenches on July 1, taken from the film of "The Battle of the Somme."

THE TIMES JOURNAL on Monday at 12.30 p. m. will make the first public presentation in this city of the wonderful battle pictures, showing the beginning of the conflict still raging on the banks of the Somme. This is the official film of the British Government, and was produced amid battle conditions. It is a "first line" picture, and the only one of any importance that the military authorities have yet allowed to be made public. It is the picture that aroused such a furore in Great Britain, and which has been the subject of press and public discussion ever since it was first shown in London. Millions of people have flocked to see it in the British Isles. It is said that a million people saw it in London during the first ten days.

"THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME," in its form as released by the Imperial authorities, consists of 5500 feet of film, in five reels. It requires about an hour and fifteen minutes to run. The first reel deals with the now-famous preliminary bombardment, which crushed the German trenches and the spirit of the German survivors. The huge British guns, which have been made only since the war began and which are gradually overcoming the resistive power of the enemy, as they have already overtaken his initiative, are shown in action, close up. An idea of the vast amount of munitions needed may be gained from watching these gun crews at work. The men labor and sweat just to keep the guns firing shells in an unceasing stream, one shell leaving the gun while its predecessor is still in full flight.

THE GRADUAL CONCENTRATION of thousands of men and their supplies for the great attack was completed in the last few days of June. The film shows the famous British regiments—Kitchener's army boosted at last—marching up to their positions to be ready for opening the infantry advances on July 1. Loaded with their gear, spades, rifles, bayonets, blankets, greatcoats, steel helmets, gas masks and personal kit, the men march by, smiling and waving their hands at the camera. Many of these men had only a few hours more to live, and all of them knew it. But the soldier's lot is to live while he can, and to worry not. No happier faces in the world could be found than those of Tommies moving "up" into the Battle of the Somme.

ON JULY 1—THE HOUR and the minute struck, and in a second, at a signal from the officers, the men of Britain were up over the parapet and charging over "No Man's Land." But not all of them. The moving camera tells the tale: Some fell back into the trench they had just climbed from, and lay still, faces pressing against the mud wall. Others, scrambling through the German barbed wire, were struck by machine-gun bullets, and fell. But the others pressed on—on in the face of fire—until, by sheer weight of flesh and blood, they overwhelmed that hail of lead. The German trenches, battered out of shape by the British shells, were taken, and the deadlock on the western front was broken at last.

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME will be shown next week under the auspices of The Times-Journal at the Orpheum theater. It comfortably seats over 1100 people who have a clear view of the screen from every part of the house. The first presentation will take place on Monday at 12.30, and from then on until 11 p. m. the film will be run practically without interruption.

POPULAR PRICES WILL RULE

Matinee	25c
Evenings	25c
Boxes	35c

ORPHEUM

First showing Monday next, Jan. 15, at 12.30. Continuous Performance, 12.30 Until 11 P. M.
Prices will be 25c—Box Seats 35c.

ORPHEUM

In December 1916, both Port Arthur and Fort William newspapers announced that the authorized British War Office Film "The Battle of the Somme" would be shown in both cities. While this was not the first war film to be shown in the Lakehead, it would be most anticipated at the time. The Fort William Daily Times Journal, in conjunction with the Orpheum Theatre, publicized that the film would be shown on January 8th, 9th, 10th (this was later changed to Jan. 15th, 16th, 17th). Similarly, the Port Arthur News Chronicle, in partnership with the Colonial Theatre, announced that the film would be shown on January 4th, 5th, 6th (later changed to Jan. 11th, 12th, 13th). This 5 reel, 75 minute presentation was fully endorsed by the King of England, King George V, and was said to depict the real warfare which took place during the Battle of the Somme, beginning July 1, 1916.

COMING The BATTLE of THE SOMME

"The greatest moving picture in the world"

Under the auspices of
The Daily News-Chronicle

COLONIAL THEATRE

Thursday, Friday and
Saturday
January 11-12-13

(Next Week)

Port Arthur News Chronicle Dec. 16, 1916 ; Jan. 3, 1917
Fort William Daily Times Journal Jan. 3, 1917, Jan. 12, 1917