

## **FLANDERS' FIELDS – CHAPTER #8 – THE SOMME**

Narrator: (J.Frank Willis) – The Somme was not a battle....

Hadow, A.L. (Royal Nfld Regiment): On June....

Narrator: Many....

Leach, R.J. (Arty Corps): During the preliminary...

Parsons, Charles (Royal Nfld Regiment): The General....

Frost, Syd (Royal Nfld Regiment): The troops were....

Hadow, A.L. (RNR): The 29<sup>th</sup> Division....

Morry, Howard (Royal Nfld Regiment): It was a lovely....

Frost, Syd (RNR): The first wave....

Narrator: As so much....

Parsons, Charles (RNR): The bombardment....

Ross, J.W. (4<sup>th</sup> Div. Arty): They saved a great....

Frost, Syd (RNR): As soon as the shelling....

Leach, R.J. (RNR): One Division, the British 21<sup>st</sup>....

Narrator: It had all gone wrong....

Hadow, A.L. (RNR): The 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade...

Goodyear, Ken (Royal Nfld Regiment): We went over four abreast....

Frost, Syd (RNR): To get through....

Parsons, Charles (RNR): I remember in one gap...

Frost, Syd (RNR): Advancing in waves....

Goodyear, Ken (RNR): I had sixty men....

Frost, Syd (RNR): Even if it had been....

Hadow, A.L. (RNR): The casualties I have....

Goodyear, Ken (RNR): In the first two waves....

Hadow, A.L. (RNR): It was all worked out...

Narrator: In the ivory tower of a rear echelon....

Frost, Syd (RNR): They had a disc...

Narrator: Under the hot sun...

Goodyear, Ken (RNR): I got into No Man's...

Morry, Howard (RNR): Charlie Parsons and I...

Parsons, Charles (RNR): We brought in the wounded....

Goodyear, Ken (RNR): Human life was so cheap.....

O'Driscoll, J. (Royal Nfld Regiment): The best of Newfoundland's manhood...

Narrator: A calamity indeed....

Lee, J.H. (PPCLI): We were told to pack....

Young, Gordon (43<sup>rd</sup> Bn): We left the Ypres area....

Brown, Charles (4<sup>th</sup> Bn): We were billeted in Albert....

Stevens, Charles (20<sup>th</sup> Bn): We arrived at this Albert....

Holmes, C.B. (25<sup>th</sup> Bn): The first thing everybody....

Caunt, T.G. (8<sup>th</sup> Bn): It wasn't likely....

Lee, J.H. (PPCLI): The Virgin was at the top.....

Kidd, Canon W.E. (21<sup>st</sup> Bn): I'll always remember her....

Alley, H.R. (3<sup>rd</sup> Bn): We went in at Pozieres....

Narrator: On September 15<sup>th</sup>, in accordance.....

Lee, J.H. (PPCLI): There'd been a couple....

Stevens, Charles (20<sup>th</sup> Bn): Naturally we were interested....

Narrator: On September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:20 am.....

Smith, Sid (18<sup>th</sup> Bn): The Commanding officer...

Bryden, C.V.(31<sup>st</sup> Bn): The Germans pinned....

Scott, G. (29<sup>th</sup> Bn): We were on a kind....

Smith, Sid (18<sup>th</sup> Bn): Our first objective.....

Bryden, C.V. (31<sup>st</sup> Bn): Well, without the tanks....  
 Smith, Sid (18<sup>th</sup> Bn): When those tanks came.....  
 Pope, M.A.: They were spitting fire.....  
 Smith, Sid (18<sup>th</sup> Bn): A lot of them.....  
 Scott, G. (29<sup>th</sup> Bn): It was an absolute surprise.....  
 Narrator: The tanks were not Canadian armor.....  
 Fraser, James (4<sup>th</sup> Bn): My tank, the "Maple Leaf".....  
 Narrator: Before that morning.....  
 Mitchell, Robert (24<sup>th</sup> Bn): We thought it was grand.....  
 McKay, J.F. (28<sup>th</sup> Bn): I had a man.....  
 Narrator: Brigadier-General Ross, then commanding.....  
 Ross, Alex: The beastly tank started an hour.....  
 Gardner, B.C. (43<sup>rd</sup> Bn): They couldn't have used.....  
 Narrator: Despite their many faults.....  
 Holmes, C.B. (25<sup>th</sup> Bn): The Fourth Brigade was to.....  
 Anderson, H. deB, (25<sup>th</sup> Bn): We got up to this stone wall.....  
 MacGregor, F. (25<sup>th</sup> Bn): There was very little.....  
 Anderson, H. deB. (25<sup>th</sup> Bn): We were supposed to take.....  
 MacGregor, F. (25<sup>th</sup> Bn): There was a gap.....  
 Narrator: Thousands were to give.....  
 Bryden, C.V. (31<sup>st</sup> Bn): The price that we.....  
 Narrator: For two more months.....  
 Flemons, R.G. (31<sup>st</sup> Bn): Our objective was.....  
 Dwan, J. (15<sup>th</sup> Bn): We just got in the line.....  
 Flemons, R.G. (31<sup>st</sup> Bn): We were told we had.....  
 Dwan, J. (15<sup>th</sup> Bn): You forget all about.....  
 Flemons, R.G. (31<sup>st</sup> Bn): Every now and then.....  
 Caunt, T.G. (8<sup>th</sup> Bn): As we went by the.....  
 Narrator: The attack on the 26<sup>th</sup>.....  
 MacGregor: F. (25<sup>th</sup> Bn): We were told that.....  
 Narrator: These attacks were beginning....  
 Barclay, R.G. (PPCLI): And we weren't going in.....  
 Stevens, Charles (20<sup>th</sup> Bn): Now this attacking force.....  
 Narrator: Before the assault.....  
 Fowlie, A. (49<sup>th</sup> Bn.): When we went in.....  
 McKay, J. Keiler (2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Arty): My heart breaks even today.....  
 Higgins, D.C. (4<sup>th</sup> Div. Arty): We knew, at that time.....  
 Narrator: There was a great mass.....  
 Russenholt, E. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): We hadn't yet mastered.....  
 Smith, Sid (18<sup>th</sup> Bn): I would say that the German Army.....  
 Narrator: Before major attacks, a percentage.....  
 Keeler, C.P. (49<sup>th</sup> Bn): Senior N.C.O.'s, like sergeants.....  
 Narrator: Some units did see Regina Trench....  
 Thomas, William (4<sup>th</sup> Bn): We took Regina Trench....  
 Narrator: For another month....  
 Wilson, R. (5<sup>th</sup> Bn): We were sent in with.....  
 Narrator: In front of the German....  
 Fowlie, A. (49<sup>th</sup> Bn): We went over just.....  
 Robert, A.E. (49<sup>th</sup> Bn): That night the H.Q.....  
 Brown, Charles (4<sup>th</sup> Bn): My first dressing was put on.....  
 Narrator: Some men lay for days.  
 Brown, Charles (4<sup>th</sup> Bn): I was wounded.....  
 Parson, M.E. (2<sup>nd</sup> C.M.R.): We moved into Mouquet Farm.....  
 Brown, Charles (4<sup>th</sup> Bn): I remember being.....  
 Narrator: Many a man's war.....  
 Pope, M.A. : I had an old sailor.....

Narrator: Still apart from the first.....  
 Marshall, W.M. (46<sup>th</sup> Bn): By the time we got down.....  
 Hines, H. (72<sup>nd</sup> Bn): We were marching into.....  
 Scott, Stewart (78<sup>th</sup> Bn): We sure didn't like.....  
 Swanson, C. (102<sup>nd</sup> Bn): Before we went in.....  
 Crowe, R. (72<sup>nd</sup> Bn): It was pretty bad.....  
 Swanson, C. (102<sup>nd</sup>): I had never been under fire.....  
 Narrator: For the men that fought there.....  
 Panet, E. DeB. : Shortly after our arrival....  
 Brown, Bob (46<sup>th</sup> Bn): Twice when we went in.....  
 Caunt, T.G. (8<sup>th</sup> Bn): The whole country.....  
 Panet, E. DeB. : The difficulty of supplying.....  
 Jack, Alex. W. (54<sup>th</sup> Bn): We always went in.....  
 Narrator: While much of the heaviest fighting.....  
 Russenholt, E. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): We went in on the night.....  
 Narrator: Strange that youth.....  
 Robinson, J. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): I was in the hospital.....  
 Goodall, T. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): It was cancelled that day.....  
 Russenhold, E. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): We sat in those funk-holes....  
 Goodall, T (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): When the barrage started up.....  
 McLeod, S.N. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): But that was all.....  
 Russenhold, E. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): We were always of.....  
 Goodall, T. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): I was in the leading.....  
 Russenholt, E. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): As the line went.....  
 Goodall, T. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): The Company commander.....  
 Robinson, J. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): We got about, oh 150 yards.....  
 Goodall, T. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): Night come. I says.....  
 Narrator: The giant meat grinder.....  
 Odlum, Victor W.: The Somme ran for months.....  
 Brown, Bob (46<sup>th</sup> Bn): It seemed so senseless....  
 Russenholt, E. (44<sup>th</sup> Bn): It was utter confusion.....  
 Stevens, G.L. (PPCLI): The Somme operation, for all.....  
 Worthington, F.F.: We had the cream of the British Empire.....  
 McKay, Keiler, J. (2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Arty): They called it the steamroller.....  
 Odlum, Victor W.: The area was so big.....  
 Cunnningham, M.J. (43<sup>rd</sup> Bn): The generalship over there.....  
 Pope, M.A. : It was a grueling business....  
 Stevens, G.E. (PPCLI): While we had a great.....  
 Narrator: In totting up his accounts, Sir Douglas Haig was.....