

CANADIAN CORPS PUBLICITY CHIEF INJURED  
STRUCK BY CANISTER DROPPED FROM AIR

Captain Gillis Purcell, Public Relations Officer for the Canadian Corps and one of Canada's best-known newspapermen, has suffered the loss of part of his left leg through being struck by a supply canister dropped from an aeroplane while on manoeuvres in Britain.

"We were on manoeuvres watching canisters being dropped by parachute when one broke away and screeched down to the spot where Capt. Purcell was helping two photographers on a hillside," writes Ross Munro, Canadian Press War Correspondent. "He tried to dodge but the canister hit him on the left leg, which was severed at the knee."

Rolling over on his back, Capt. Purcell smoked a cigarette and chatted with the medical officer who rendered first aid and other officers who hurried to the scene. Both Major-General G.R. Pearkes, Commander of the Canadian 1st Division, and Major-General C.B. Price, 3rd Division Commander, spoke with him before he was rushed off by ambulance to the casualty clearing station. He was in the Surgery within 45 minutes of the accident.

Latest report from hospital is that Capt. Purcell is "out of the woods and making a remarkable recovery."

Capt. Purcell is on leave for the duration from his position as General Superintendent of the Canadian Press.