

## The Battle of Festubert.

of Captain Francis Grenfell, of the 9th Lancers. He was a most popular officer, beloved by all who knew him. He had gained distinction earlier in the war, being awarded the Victoria Cross for saving a battery of guns at Doubon on August 24th last year.

### THE BATTLE OF FESTUBERT.

MAY, 1915.

The Battle of Festubert was fought from May 9th to 25th. It resulted in the enemy being driven from a position he had strongly entrenched and fortified north of Givenchy, and ground was won on a front of four miles to an average depth of 600 yards. This was the most conspicuous success of the Allies in this region during the whole of the spring and summer. The long-hoped-for offensive did not mature, for the Germans were still in advance of both the French and British in stores of shells as well as in heavy artillery. Not until September was there made any serious breach in the German entrenchments and fortresses in northern France.

### THE SUMMER OF 1915.

The four summer months of June-September were generally quiet on the Western front, the time being largely used in consolidating positions and developing the maze of trenches which had now become such an important part of the *terrain* of the opposing armies. Little ground was lost by the Allies, although the Germans continued to exact a considerable toll in the way of casualties. The only action of importance during this summer period was the assault of the Crown Prince on the French troops in the Argonne. Between June 20th and July 2nd four attacks were delivered against the angle formed by the French lines and the Vienne-Binarville road. Much use was made of asphyxiating shells, but with little result. On July 7th another attack was made against the French right, and a point known as La Fille Morte was carried, which advanced the German lines for nearly a mile. A week later the French counter-attacked and regained a part of the ground. To sum up the sole result of the Crown Prince's activity was a slight gain in the Argonne approximating about 400 yards in all.