

LANGEMARCK road by dint of hard fighting and took the German third line north of LANGEMARCK. But north and north east of ST-JULIEN, between the WIELTJE-PASSCHENDAELE and YPRES-ZONNEBEKE roads all their valour was bruised in vain in that terrible sea of mud. From the innumerable pill-boxes poured a steady fire and although we made captures, the days gains were far less than had been hoped. The same terrible tale of fighting against odds and ultimate failure was true of the Menin Road advance. The troops had passed the highground (Hill 64) but the Wood of HERENTHAGE (INVERNESS COPSE) towards GHELUVELT, GLENCORSE WOOD and POLYGON WOOD (where a race-course had formerly stood) brought them to a stand-still. On the whole field, however, two thousand prisoners had been taken and 30 guns and we had seriously dented the German third line.

In spite of appalling weather conditions, fighting went on for the rest of the month. Tanks were brought in by hundreds to assist the ill-starred 5th. Army, and scores of them sank in the mud. Splendid troops were sacrificed in vain. von Arnim's scheme held good. A new move was necessary, new strategy, new tactical dispositions, new troops, and above all, as our soldiers remarked grimly, new weather.

To the magnificent 2nd. Army under Sir Herbert Plumer now fell the task of dislodging the Hun from the Salient. After a few weeks of comparative quiet the attack was renewed on Sept. 19th. and the land, now partly dried about ZONNEBEKE, ST. JULIEN, GHELUVELT, and VELTHOEK became again a welter of blood. The Australians fought like heroes, capturing POLYGON WOOD, and the whole line began to move forward through the Slough of Despond. Smarting under his losses of 3000 Germans von Arnim launched next day 11 cannon attacks. For nearly a week the British fought their ground inch by inch, while the enemy meditated a monster counter-attack, before we could set foot