

meant an attack on a five-mile front and an advance to a depth of about three and a half miles. The objective was the Bouchoir-Rouvroy—Meharicourt road. The country was almost flat, very open, with only a few villages and small woods scattered over it. The attack was to be carried out by the 3rd, 1st, and 2nd Divisions from right to left. The 3rd Division had to advance down the Roye road, and capture Folies and Bouchoir. The 1st Division had the villages of Beaufort, Warvillers, and Rouvroy on its front, while the 2nd Division was responsible for Vrely, Rosieres, and Meharicourt.

On the 1st Division front the 1st Brigade was ordered to capture Beaufort and Rouvroy. The 2nd Brigade was responsible for Warvillers.

The 1st Brigade attacked with the 1st and 4th Battalions in line, the 2nd Battalion in support and the 3rd in reserve. The attack was supported by two batteries of machine-guns, while one was held in brigade reserve. The 1st Brigade of Field Artillery covered the advance. From the outset the attacking troops came under heavy machine-gun fire. This came from the high ground on the right. In order to deal with it the right-flank troops of the 1st Division were deflected south. This resulted in the 2nd Battalion pushing forward to fill the gap and fighting right through to the objective. The 1st Brigade completed its task by the capture of Rouvroy, the 3rd Battalion relieving the 2nd Battalion at 9 o'clock that evening.

The 2nd Brigade was able to make rapid progress in the early stages of the attack, outstripping the troops on its right by the time Warvillers village was reached. This village and the woods immediately to the north of it, as well as several bits of old trench in which the enemy attempted a stand, were captured by the aid of tanks with little difficulty. It was only on the extreme left, in the early portion of the attack, that serious resistance was encountered. This came from a nest of machine-guns in a little wood called Hatchett Wood. The 2nd Brigade attacked with the 5th and 8th Battalions, with the 15th and 14th in support.