

the German line at Bapaume and Peronne. The next day Rawlinson had equal success between Albert and the Somme River. For three days the two British armies steadily pushed back the enemy over the old Somme battleground. By August 25th Byng was at the edge of Bapaume.

Meanwhile Haig had prepared another great blow to facilitate the British advance. At 3 a.m. on the morning of August 26th Sir Arthur Currie, with the Second and Third Canadian Divisions and the Fifty-first Imperial, attacked astride the Scarpe River. He broke clean through the German defences on a five-mile front, winning as much ground in one day as had been won in six weeks in that area during 1917. This success, which was developed on the following day, threatened to outflank the Siegfried line, which alone offered a haven for the beaten armies of Germany. The threat materialized on September 2nd, when the First and Fourth Canadian Divisions and the Twenty-first Division of the British army attacked the Drocourt-Quéant switch-line. The attack went clean through one of the strongest positions in the West, and forced Ludendorff to retire behind the Canal du Nord, which formed a last line of defence before Cambrai.

By the first week of September the British were once more face to face with the enemy along the Siegfried line. In one month they had forced the Germans to relinquish all the ground gained in their March offensive, and had taken 70,000 prisoners and 700 guns.

Away to the East Foch had another surprise in store for the enemy. The German advance in 1914 had been halted on the banks of the Meuse at Verdun; but east of Verdun a sharp salient had remained projecting into the French lines at St. Mihiel. On September 12th the First United States Army under General Pershing crushed in