

After nightfall the Germans pushed on 700 yards further towards ZILLEBEKE and proceeded to entrench themselves firmly. For the moment their artillery had won them an advantage, but the price they had paid was at least as terrible as our own.

That night while the enemy was preparing to hold his new front and the stretcher-bearers and Red Cross workers on both sides were bringing in their wounded and dead, General Sir Julian Byng, the Corps Commander, was planning the counter-attack to recover the ground which had been lost. This attack was delayed for some hours, owing to the necessity for assembling artillery in such force as to silence the enemy, who still kept up a vigorous bombardment, occasionally becoming intense.

The advance was timed for six o'clock in the morning, but still the barrage did not lift and it was nearly half-past nine when our troops moved forward in earnest. These troops belonged to the First and Third Divisions, but the brunt of the fighting was borne by survivors of the 7th and 8th brigades of the latter division, assisted by two companies of the King's Royal Rifles, an Imperial regiment which had been serving in the Salient.

A bombardment of a vigour almost equal to that of the Germans of the previous day created a shelter for our advancing battalions. The enemy guns replied, and at one time the spectacle was witnessed of a double barrage of appalling intensity. None the less, the Canadians pushed on, and after fighting all day succeeded in reaching a portion of their old front-line trenches in the northern section. On the way thither they came across numbers of enemy dead lying about unburied. The trenches were however battered to pieces and they were not in sufficient strength to hold on. The same was true of the battalions of the 8th Brigade who advanced south of Maple Copse and east of Warrington Avenue, although the 49th battalion, which had lost its commanding officer, Col. Baker, M.P., struggled valiantly for a