

which " in ten days of victorious fighting broke through the last and strongest of the enemy's prepared positions and opened the way to a war of movement and an advance on the German main lines of communication."

The battle was divided into three main phases :

First, on the left, the storming of the Canal du Nord and the advance on Cambrai ; followed immediately by the second phase, the great blow which shattered the Hindenburg Line and out-flanked the defences of St. Quentin ; and third, came the general attack on the whole front which resulted in the capture of Cambrai and St. Quentin, and forced the enemy to retire behind the line of the River Selle.

It was in the first phase of this battle that the Canadian Corps was chiefly interested, for to the Corps was given the task of forcing the Canal du Nord, capturing Bourlon Wood and the high ground to the north of it, and then advancing on Cambrai and seizing the crossings of the Canal de l'Escault and the Sensee River to the east and north of that city. This would afford complete protection for the main attack to the south—and this was the real objective of the Canadian Corps.

At the time of the opening of the Battle of Cambrai the Canadian Corps had only the 2nd Division in line on the western bank of the Canal du Nord, the remaining three divisions being out resting and reorganising. Immediately following the conclusion of the Battle of Arras on September 4th and succeeding days the 1st Canadian Division was relieved by the 2nd, and the 4th Division by the 3rd, while on the 19th of September the 3rd Division was relieved by the XXII Corps.

The 1st Canadian Division had moved to the Warlus Area, south-west of Arras, on September 5th. Training and reorganisation were carried out. On the 15th of September the 1st Brigade was placed under the command of the 2nd Division and moved to the neighbourhood of Cagnicourt.

On September 16th orders from the Canadian Corps for the attack on Bourlon and Cambrai were communicated to the Divi-