

equipment, which we did, marching out afterwards in the open field where shrapnel and shells were bursting every minute. Our eyes started to burn and water terribly. and we were at once told that some kind of gases were being used in the shells which were sent after us like rain. After lying in the field for about twenty minutes, we witnessed, to our great surprise, hundreds of Algerians coming down the road. We did not then know the reason for it, but at once realised that we were in for some most exciting work. Orders were received from Headquarters that our Company be marched up immediately and take up position at the left side of the road in St. Julien, as the Germans by the use of gases had broken through the Algerians' line, and were fast advancing on Ypres. We were formed up, and in columns of two, with an interval of about five paces between each column, we marched up to carry out our instructions, which were: hold on at any cost until reinforcements come up. I think we succeeded in reaching our destination without a casualty, but the sights we witnessed of the sufferings from gas of the poor Algerians and lots of the boys of the 5th Royal coming down the road, just seemed to put extra strength and determination in us, and we took up our position and awaited, most of us with cigarettes in our mouths, the approach of the Germans anxiously. We did not have long to wait when in hundreds they came through the bush, and were treated by us to a nice surprise in the form of rapid rifle fire. Of course, in return, we were treated to the same thing, and our Major, realising that our position was none too safe, ordered us to retire to a hedge about fifty yards to our right, which would have afforded us better protection. In our retirement we lost Captain Stacey, who was killed, Major Hanson and Captain Knubley, both wounded, and lots of the boys killed and wounded. As it happened to be, just where we were supposed to retire to, two of our Artillery guns were posted, and a Major of the Artillery ordered us back to our old positions, and kept ten men to assist in turning the guns on the Germans, who were no more than about 300 yards away at the time. The guns opened fire on them at that distance point blank, and mowed the Germans down like flies. The lucky ones of them who were left ran for their lives, and we at once started to dig