

left. Simultaneously with the attack of the Canadian Corps, the Third Army, on the south, was to advance along its whole front.

The attack of the 1st Canadian Division was carried out by the 3rd and 2nd Brigades from right to left respectively, the 1st C.I.B. being held in divisional reserve.

On the morning of September 2nd, at 5 o'clock, the artillery and machine-gun barrage opened, and the infantry at once began to move forward into what proved to be a day of bitter fighting.

The 3rd Brigade, at the time of the opening of the attack, had two battalions holding the line, the 15th and 14th. The two remaining battalions, the 16th and 13th, carried out the assault on the Drocourt-Queant line, and were then to be "leap-frogged" by the 15th and 14th Battalions, who were to capture Bois de Bouche, Bois de Loison, and Cagnicourt. The 2nd Brigade, on the left, were attacking on a one-battalion front, and were using two battalions—the 7th to capture the Drocourt-Queant system on their front, and the 10th to carry the attack as far as the western outskirts of Buissy. The 1st Brigade was to continue the attack from this point and secure the crossings of the Canal du Nord.

The attack proceeded rapidly, and according to plan up to the time of the capture of the Drocourt-Queant line on the divisional front, in spite of very heavy enfilade fire from the right flank, south-west of the village of Cagnicourt. The tanks, of which there were eighteen operating on the divisional front, did great service in the capture of the Drocourt-Queant system.

Strong resistance was met with by our troops east of this trench line, and the attack slowed up very considerably. The battle devolved upon platoon, company, and battalion commanders, and it was only by the initiative and determination of all ranks actually engaged in the foremost lines that the enemy was slowly but surely pressed back. On the right the chief obstacle was the flanking fire from the south; on the left the strongly fortified village of Villers les Cagnicourt and an isolated factory on the Arras-Cambrai road were the centres of resistance. By 4 o'clock that afternoon,