

12 THE STORY OF THE 13TH BATTALION.

morning. At 2 p.m. another call was made, and No. 3 company, under Major Peterman, went forward. Three hours later the remainder of the battalion also moved.

The first two companies held positions in the forward area and consolidated them. No. 1 company bombed the German communication trenches, and No. 2 company repelled a German attack. At 9 p.m. the entire battalion relieved the 52nd, 51st and 41st Australians. During the whole of the night the men were heavily shelled, and many were knocked out or buried by the upheavals. When day broke the shelling continued, and, later, the enemy made a determined counter-attack, but they were beaten back. On the 5th the shelling continued on both sides, and by this time our batteries had been ranged and were sending over two shells to every German one. In the evening of that day Nos. 1 and 2 companies were relieved by the 16th Battalion, the final relief of the whole battalion taking place on the night of the 7th, when they retired, worn out, to billets at Grande Mampis, Albert.

COURCELETTE.

There was little rest those days, however, for the Canadians were on the eve of one of their most memorable achievements—the attack and capture of all that remained of what had been the orchard village of Courcellette. The capture of this village—or what remained of it—was the greatest event in the fighting record of the Canadians during the year 1916. It was specially the work of the 2nd Division, so that the 13th Battalion did not figure in the operation in that sense. The attack was not an isolated action, but one carried out by certain battalions of the Canadian Corps in conjunction with an attack by the British and French troops in other sectors. There were really two distinct actions. The first was that carried out in the early morning of the 15th of September by the 4th and 6th Brigades, and the second was launched later the same day by the 5th Brigade. The object of the first was to seize