

We append extracts from a further letter from LIEUT. R. J. HOLMES, dated 8th November, giving a very vivid picture of some of the fighting just preceding the signing of the armistice:

"I am glad that you found my last letter interesting, and it must have been written after the Battle of Cambrai. We left that vicinity and pulled back for a rest, the one which had been promised to us for a long time, but we had hardly been out four days when intelligence was received that our friend Heinie was evacuating at a certain area, so our brigade was rushed up to get in touch with him and this we did with a vengeance, although not in the manner anticipated. He was holding very strongly on one side of a canal, so we simply dug in on the other and for three days he let us have all the iron rations in his possession. On the night of the third day he was strangely silent, so we essayed a crossing of the canal and found not the slightest resistance. It was dark as pitch and foggy so you may imagine the uncertain feeling of pushing on in the dark not knowing what you might encounter.

We kept going that night and until the afternoon of the following day when, just as we were appearing over a rise, his rearguard let us have it from strongly fortified positions, so we could do nothing but await darkness when it was decided to attack. This we did and seized certain high ground that would give us the advantage the following day, but our foxy friend didn't wait for us but moved again in the night. This sort of business lasted for six days and we drove him back eighteen miles in what I call the most miserable kind of fighting. The weather was wet, and sleeping out in cabbage patches is a much overrated pastime.

However, during that time we liberated several small villages and towns, and one good-sized town, and after nine days from the time we started we were relieved and returned to the large town for a rest. Here we were reviewed by the Prince of Wales, who I think is a remarkably pleasant looking fellow, considering the inspections and liberation festivities he is called upon to be a part in. He always seems quite nervous, but is very nice apart from that, walks around our billets with only an aide with him and seems to enjoy himself while doing it.

We were feted in great style for a few days, then we were called up to attack a most important city on the morning of November 1st. Heinie was holding here strongly and got wind of our attack, and while we reached our assembly position in good style, he shelled us consistently until our barrage opened at the zero hour and then it was wonderful. He had packed his men in cellars thinking we would neglect to mop up, but he was completely fooled, and in that one morning our little depleted brigade captured about 1,800 prisoners and there were between 800 and 900 dead Germans in our area. I never saw anything like it. . . . We surely got ours back for almost a month of hard chasing and dirty fighting. . . . in that fashion.