

"2. Support either the First French Army or the Fourth British Army."

It has seemed worth while to describe these measures at length for in their result they furnished the greatest surprise attack of the war. There were some curious developments. Certain foreign officers, attached for liason purposes to the Canadian Corps, hurried north to secure good billets at the new Corps Headquarters. An indignant message came to British G. H. Q. from the Belgian G. H. Q. staff to the effect that the Canadian Corps was being moved to Belgian territory without notice of any kind, whereas common courtesy should have suggested that the Belgian Army be notified in order that it might be in a position to make arrangements for the comfort and well-being of the Canadian troops.

Necessarily the destination was a profound secret, and officers of even high rank within the Corps who knew it might be counted on the fingers. One by one the Divisions moved, roundabout routes being followed, and, until it developed the general direction was south, the men for the most part thought they were going back to the Salient. Thus at the end of July the 3rd. Canadian Division came out of the line and moved west to the vicinity of Doullens, where it entrained under sealed orders, battalion commanders even not knowing whether they were going north, south, east or west.

As an example of how it was done, the 8th. Brigade, C. M. R., detrained at Prouzel and marched that night to Hebecourt, where they lay hid next day, marching the following night to the Bois de Boves, west of the Avre, arriving on Aug. 2, the rest of the division being behind them. On that night they moved up into the Gentelles trench system, behind the Australian support line, where there was accommodation for a large body of troops. Absolutely no movement was permitted during the day, not a single man being allowed out of the trenches and dug-outs, except for reconnaissance. The 7th. and 9th. Brigades joined the 8th. on Aug. 6. All roads were packed, the brigade taking five hours to get from Boves to Gentelles Wood—an hour and a half's march.