

it. Advances beyond this, however, would encounter the well-established, well-wired trench systems built up prior to the opening of the first battle of the Somme on July 1st, 1916.

THE FRONT OF ATTACK.

The initial attack was launched on a front of eleven miles, from Moreuil, on the south, to the Somme Canal in the neighbourhood of Sailly-le-Sec, on the north, although the battle rapidly extended beyond these points. The battle-front allotted to the Canadian Corps was from the little village of Hourges, on the south, to Villers-Bretonneux, on the north, the right boundary of the Corps being the Amiens-Roye road and the left being the railway line running from Amiens to Chaulnes.

Absolute surprise, and an initial thrust of such weight and speed as to overrun the enemy's gun positions, followed by a rapid and relentless pursuit, were to be the chief factors in forcing a complete break-through. All arms were to be employed—infantry, artillery, cavalry, tanks, and air services. The initial attack was to be made under cover of a rolling barrage, with a smoke-screen, supported by tanks, and with cavalry, whippet tanks and motor machine-guns following the infantry closely, and ready to exploit any success.

The attack of the Canadian Corps was commenced by the 3rd, 1st, and 2nd Canadian Divisions, from right to left. The objective to be tried for on the first day constituted an advance of 14,000 yards. The Corps' frontage was approximately 7,000 yards. The 3rd Division had slightly over 2,500 yards, the 1st Division 3,000 yards, and the 2nd Division under 1,500 yards from which to launch their attack. After the 3rd Division had advanced a distance of approximately 7,000 yards—or to the Red Line (the second objective)—the 4th Division went through it. The 1st and 2nd Divisions were each to advance the whole 14,000 yards on their respective fronts.

OBJECTIVES FOR AUGUST 8TH.

Three objectives were laid down on the Corps front for the opening day of the attack. These were the Green, the Red, and