

in Arras itself. On the 27th the infantry moved to the Neuville Vitasse-Telegraph Hill area, while the artillery detrained at Dainville.

Orders were issued by corps that the 1st Canadian Division would relieve the 2nd Division on the night of the 28th, the 4th British Division relieving the 3rd Canadian Division on the left at the same time. During the day of the 28th, while the 1st Division was moving into the forward area preparatory to taking over the line, the 2nd and 3rd Divisions continued the attack. The 2nd Division was successful in pushing forward its line towards the Fresnes-Rouvroy trench system, but failed to capture the system itself. The 3rd Division, however, succeeded in taking this trench on its front, and by nightfall had captured the villages of Remy and Boiry-Notre Dame.

On the night of the 28th-29th August the 1st Division relieved the 2nd Division, the G.O.C. of the 1st Division taking over command of the line at midnight. The relief was most difficult. The position of the 2nd Division front line was uncertain, and it was necessary for the relieving troops to form up in extended order and march forward until the foremost troops of the battalions in line were reached. The 3rd C.I. Brigade took over the right sector, the 2nd Brigade the left, and the 1st Brigade came into divisional reserve.

The next day, the 29th, passed without incident, except for fairly heavy shelling that was maintained on forward areas and roads. On this day the plans of the Corps Commander for an extensive operation, tentatively set for September 1st, were communicated to the division. This new attack was to be made by three divisions, the object being to break the Drocourt-Queant line, overrun the crossings of the Canal du Nord, and seize Bourlon Wood and the high ground to the north of it. In the meantime the divisions in line were ordered to secure by a series of minor operations a "jumping-off line" running from Chateau Wood, on the right, crossing the Vis-en-Artois Switch, and to the village of Eterpigny, on the left.