

During the entire night the fighting continued intensely, and throughout the next day (the 23rd) the battalion was shelled and gassed almost continuously. On the 24th they were still being shelled, but held the line until 7.30 a.m., when they were forced to retire to G.H.Q. trenches. On the afternoon of the 25th they were relieved and marched to Brayling, where they took over old French reserve trenches in Divisional reserve. The battalion remained in this position, the battle being still in progress, until they re-entered the trenches on the 28th. During this time they suffered many casualties from the severe enemy shelling, but they kept the position until the 30th April, on which day they were ordered to stand-to while British troops made an attack in the neighbourhood. The following day the battalion went into divisional reserve, with headquarters at Vlamertinge, and two days later marched to Bailleul for re-organisation and refitting.

The battle of Ypres had left the entire Canadian army tired and exhausted. Its numbers were shrunken, but its moral was unshaken, and it had the knowledge that Field Marshal French had already told the world that their steadfastness had "saved the situation." But for their tenacity the whole of the 27th and 28th British Divisions would probably have been cut off. Those, however, were days of urgency, and barely a fortnight had passed when the Canadians were again in the thick of the battle.

BATTLE OF FESTUBERT.

Attempts had already been made by the Allies to take the Aubers Ridge, which dominates Lille, but in spite of heroic efforts the hope had not been realised. On May 16th the 13th Battalion, by this time reinforced from England, was in reserve trenches at Quinque Road. The order was received on the 20th from headquarters detailing the part which the battalion was to play in the coming attack, which was to take place that evening at 7.45 o'clock.

The order was to the effect that the 16th Battalion