

June was a terrible month for Ypres in the throes of the German bombardment.

Throughout July a fierce British artillery fire spread further ruin and desolation, if that were possible, over the northern and eastern extremities of the Salient, in preparation for the coming great battle. This tempest of steel was accompanied by constant infantry raids and gas attacks. One of the most deadly of the latter took place in almost exactly the spot (St. Julien) where this hellish invention had first been tried by the Germans in the Second Battle of Ypres along the Passchendaele Road. This time it was he who was the sufferer.

On the 27th. July it was found that the enemy had suddenly fallen back from his trenches near Boesinghe where Gough's 5th. Army joined up with the French under General Anthoine. In consequence the Allies crossed the canal and manned the late German front to a length of 3000 yards, throwing over at night no fewer than 17 bridges over the canal.

On the last day of July in wretched weather, from the southermost edge of the Salient to the sea at Nieuport at 5.50 in the morning hell burst forth in the shape of the biggest barrage the Allies had ever launched. Over the parapets went the Allied Infantry and back went the Germans. Like an expanding wave on the waters, so swelled the line of the Salient. HOLLEBEKE, then ZILLEBEKE, SANCTUARY WOOD and SHREWSBURY FOREST, HOOGHE, BELLEWAARDE LAKE, WESTHOEK, FRENZENBERG, ST. JULIEN, PILKEM, and BIXSCHOOTE. The German first line was over-run everywhere, the second line in parts. No longer could the enemy overlook the Salient. 6000 prisoners were taken, including 133 officers.

But there we stopped. The enemy had massed himself in GLENCORSE WOOD and INVERNESS COPSE — the key to his position, and on the afternoon of August 1st. the rain began to descend. For four days and nights it con-