

The 1st Brigade began to move forward at 5.10 o'clock, and at 8.20 o'clock crossed the Green Line and carried the attack forward. This brigade also attacked with three battalions in line, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th from right to left, but had only one, the 1st, in support. Its attack was carried out without artillery support, except for the bombardment of distant points by the heavy guns. Six tanks were allotted to it, but eighteen actually went forward in support of the infantry, as twelve of the twenty-two that attacked with the 3rd Brigade were still in action. Three machine-gun batteries and the 2nd Brigade of Field Artillery supported this brigade, but had few opportunities of coming into action, as the infantry were everywhere successful. The objective—the high ground east of Cayeux and the crossings of the Luce at this village and at Ignacourt—were secured on the right at 11 o'clock and on the left half-an-hour later.

In the meantime the 2nd Brigade had been marching forward, its troops moving off from the assembly area at 6.20 o'clock. This brigade attacked with the 7th and 10th Battalions on the right and left of the Luce river, with the 8th Battalion in support and the 5th in reserve. Three machine-gun batteries were attached to the brigade, one supporting the attack on the right, one on the left, and one being held in brigade reserve. Fourteen tanks advanced with the infantry, of which six reached the final objective. Except on the extreme left, little resistance was encountered by this brigade.

Infantry and machine-guns were disposed in depth on the night of the 8th-9th to cover the old trench line running east of Caix, and were supported by the field artillery of the division and one brigade of mobile heavy artillery.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 9TH.

While the 1st and 2nd Divisions were able to reach the Blue Line, the 4th Division, which had passed through the 3rd Division on the Red Line, was not so fortunate on the right. The 4th Division not only had a frontage of 5,000 yards to cover, but also, as the French attack on the right did not commence until more