

of the 26th broke wet and it was through a dismal rain that we started off over the muddy roads which were crowded with traffic to our first halting place, Léonvillers, which we reached in the late afternoon. It was bitterly cold, and the billets were very poor; to add to our discomfort the Transport was held up by traffic, took a wrong turning and did not arrive with the kitchens until midnight. The following night one officer and nine men left on the first allotment of leave, which had come to us rather earlier than anticipated; but this allotment did not last long and it was late summer before leave opened at all generously. On Nov. 30th we left Léonvillers and marched nine miles to Authieule, leaving early on the next morning on a twelve-mile march to Noeux; here the greatest difficulty was encountered in obtaining sufficient fuel to cook the men's supper; Filleevres was our next objective, quite the pleasantest village we had visited since Tournhem and one capable of catering to the thirsty needs of men fresh from the line; another twelve miles saw us at Monchy on Dec. 3rd; a straggling village where the companies were widely dispersed; here we received a hundred reinforcements and so strengthened we faced the last spell of marching on a glorious frosty morning on Dec. 4th and covered twelve miles to La Comté, where good billets were provided against a prolonged stay. Here we may be said to have closed the chapter on the Somme preparatory to continuing our history on Vimy Ridge.