

broad a battle-field to be held against such artillery and overwhelming forces. The German attack on May 2nd. a bloody affair between the Ypres Canal and Fortuin, assisted by gas, confirmed the decision. On the following day it was carried out methodically. The wounded had to be moved out from the field hospitals, the supplies and ammunition, and then the trenches were silently evacuated, without the loss of a man or a gun. The retirement affected the British right and made the Salient a curve whose apex was less than three miles from Ypres. Abandoning GRAVENSTAFEL and ZONNEBEKE, just taking in FREZENBERG and HOOGHE. From thence it curved round to the ZILLEBEKE ridge and HILL 60.

It was on the 5th. of May that HILL 60 fell to the Germans.

For it was not in flesh and blood to withstand such a devilish contrivance as asphyxiating gas. We had not then devised either a protection or antidote. Hill 60 was therefore to witness a further deadly struggle, in which the valour of our troops could not count against the vapours of hell. On May 1st the Germans released gas in enormous quantities. The fumes enveloped the summit of the hill, guarded by the Dorsets, who were strangled by the gas where they lay. So thick and penetrating was the green cloud that the Germans themselves could not approach, and it was the relieving battalions of Devons and Bedfords who first penetrated to the trenches on the summit, only to find the dead bodies of their comrades and the survivors writing in agony.

Foiled this time, the enemy repeated his attempt on May 5th, gassing the 2nd West Ridings (The Duke's).

"There appeared, staggering towards the dug-out of the commanding officer of the Duke's in the rear two figures, an officer and an orderly. The officer was pale as death and when he spoke his voice came hoarsely from his throat. Beside him his orderly, with unbuttoned coat, his rifle clasped in his hand, swayed as he stood. The officer said slowly, in his gasping voice: 'They have gassed the Duke's. I believe