

CHAPTER V

OPERATIONS: AUG. 8

THE impressions of an onlooker recorded above are of a rather confused scene, the rough and tumble of battle, where but a fraction of the canvas comes under the eye and no just estimation can be formed of the picture as a whole. In reality it has been all worked out beforehand in minutest detail and every piece falls into its place almost automatically. The plan and course of the first day's operations can be best followed in the words of the Corps Commander:—

"The front of attack was to extend from Moreuil to Villers-sur-Ancre on a front of approximately 20,000 yards. The dispositions of the troops participating in the battle were as follows:—

- "(a) On the right from Moreuil to Thennes (inclusive)
—The First French Army under orders of Commander-in-Chief, British Army.
- "(b) In the centre from Thennes (exclusive) to the Amiens-Chaulnes Railway—The Canadian Corps.
- "(c) On the left from the Amiens-Chaulnes Railway to the Somme—The Australian Corps.
- "(d) The left flank of the Australian Corps was covered by the III (British) Corps attacking in the direction of Morlancourt.

"The object of the attack was to push forward in the direction of the line Roye-Chaulnes with the least possible delay, thrusting the enemy back in the general direction of Ham, and so facilitating the operations of the French on the front between Montdidier and Noyon."

The French on our left were not to attack until our movement had been well advanced. The battle front of the Canadian Corps exceeded 8,500 yards in a straight line, from a point

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