

Seven brigades of field artillery supplied the barrage on the 1st Division front—or about 40 yards of front per gun. Only the divisional artillery and one brigade of heavy artillery were under the orders of the division for the advance. In addition, one battalion of tanks was allotted to the 1st Division.

The assembly of all those taking part in the attack was completed early on the night prior to the opening of the battle. The 3rd Brigade was in the front-line system; the 1st Brigade was concentrated immediately in rear to a depth of 1,000 yards, while the 2nd Brigade was in rear again, being distributed 1,500 yards in depth. The assembly positions were in front of Gentelles Wood.

THE OPENING OF THE ATTACK.

Zero hour was at 4.20 o'clock on the morning of August 8th.

Promptly to the minute the barrage opened up, and the infantry and tanks crossed the jumping-off line and moved forward to the attack.

At this hour a very heavy ground mist shut off all observation. While this made it very difficult to keep direction, it was the very thing needed to ensure the success of a tank attack on a large scale. The ground was dry and not seriously cut up by shell-fire. Everything favoured the attack.

The 3rd Brigade attacked with the 16th, 13th, and 14th Battalions in line and the 15th and 5th Battalions in support—one, the 5th Battalion (not to be used unless absolutely necessary), being attached from the 2nd Brigade, detailed to take the final objective. Twenty-two tanks supported the 3rd Brigade in its attack. Three batteries from the Machine-gun Battalion advanced with the infantry, and at 5.20 o'clock the 2nd Brigade of Canadian Field Artillery followed in support. Little serious fighting took place until the main resistance line was reached. Here in his trenches the enemy put up a stiff fight, and casualties on both sides were fairly heavy. The Green Line, however, was reached along the whole front well on time.