

the right was the 18th. Battalion, Western Ontario, with the 19th. Battalion, Central Ontario, on the left, in close touch with the Australians. At 6.23 a.m. the barrage lifted from Marcelcave and the troops rushed the village. Its capture was completed by 7.20 by the 19th. and 21st. Battalions, the latter being from Eastern Ontario. While leading his Battalion into action, Lt.-Col. Elmer W. Jones was killed by machine-gun fire, the command of the 21st. Battalion devolving upon Maj. H. E. Pense.

Meantime the 18th. Battalion had done good work towards Morgemont wood. All battalions in the Brigade had hard fighting, the 20th Battalion, of Toronto, though in support, suffering heavy casualties while mopping-up.

The 5th Brigade, Brig.-General J. M. Ross, advanced in support of the 4th. Brigade. Owing to the very heavy fog prevailing at the kick-off, units of the latter advanced rapidly without encountering opposition, passing in this way over wooded areas where the enemy lay hid until they had gone through. As a consequence the 5th. Brigade, following up at about 6 a.m., ran into heavy and quite unexpected machine-gun and rifle fire, progress being slow and its units losing heavily in both officers and men. The tanks were on ahead and the infantry had to fight it out alone.

In this way the 26th. Battalion, New Brunswick, Lt.-Col. A. E. G. McKenzie, was badly cut up in Snipe Copse, south of Marcelcave, losses of officers being very great. A Lieutenant, a junior subaltern in his company, found himself in command of it before reaching his objective and was later recommended for the greatest bravery and skilful leadership, inspiring his men to fresh exertions. So heavy were the casualties in the Battalion, that at one time it was seriously checked. The Officer Commanding, however, gathered together the battalion staff, including cooks and batmen, and led them into the assault, thus saving the situation, and the Battalion continued on to its objective.

The 24th. Battalion, Victoria Rifles of Montreal, of the