

and took over its old front near the Vimy Ridge. The 4th Canadian Division remained a month in the Bruay-Auchel area, where the time was spent in training and refitting. Just before Christmas the Mericourt-Avion sector was taken over.

During this tour extensive raids were carried out, and an increase in the activity of the Bosche became noticeable.

Towards the end of February, 1918, the Division was again relieved, and moved to the Bruay-Auchel area, where further headway was made with training and the proper assimilation of the large drafts which had already come to replace the Passchendaele losses.

About the middle of March the Division returned to the line, and took over the Lens and St. Emile Fronts. Here the raiding, shelling, and gassing activities on both sides increased beyond anything experienced up to that time.

Since the disappearance of the Russian Front there had been ever-increasing signs that the enemy intended to make a big effort to smash the Allied Armies on the Western Front. Accordingly plans for certain changes in organization were made within the Canadian Corps, which were calculated to strengthen our fighting ability. These included in this Division the formation of a Brigade of Engineers, a third Machine Gun Company, and an increase in establishment of 100 other ranks per infantry battalion.

A policy of defence in great depth was adopted, and the various features of value to us were organized so as to afford facilities for defence either mutually or independently. Great attention was given to the machine-gun defence of the areas, and a large number of Champagne type emplacements were constructed.

The work accomplished on defences by the Division during the period in 1918 when the Allied Armies were on the defensive was very gratifying, and was in no small measure due to the feeling that the Vimy Ridge, which was so essentially Canadian, had been placed in our care.