

the heroic fighters had perforce fallen back to Wieltje and now looked forward to repose. *

The Lahore Indian Division (Keary) came into the line, and in view of reinforcements elsewhere a general counter-attack was ordered for the 26th.. For 1500 yards the Indian troops advanced bravely and then a fresh emission of the terrible poison gas stopped them. Many perished on the spot, and the remainder, although stupefied and staggering, seized their shovels and dug themselves in. The arrangements for the attack had been made too hurriedly. We had not used our artillery enough. But the Indians had done a fine thing. To advance, as General Smith-Dorrien said, "up an open slope in the face of overwhelming shell, rifle and machine gun fire and clouds of poison gas : but" he added, "it prevented the German advance and ensured the safety of Ypres. Several battalions had been almost wiped out — the 29th Baluchis could muster afterwards only 100 men.

On the right the trenches were held by the Northumbrian Brigade (Riddell). Its 6th. battalion managed to reach a point in the attack 250 yards beyond its starting point, but its losses were enormous. General Riddell was killed, together with 42 officers and 1800 men of his brigade, and a retirement was ordered.

At Grafenstafel the Canadians had been succeeded by the 85th. Brigade who were also compelled to yield a part of the ridge. On their right came the 26th. Division which stood firm. Much fighting took place south-west of St. Julien (13th. Brigade) at the Vanheule farm (which our men called Shell-trap Farm) and for the next few days the struggle went on in all parts of the line. On May 1st. a desperate bombardement took place between Grafenstafel and Zonnebeke.

It was now decided that the Ypres Salient was far too

* "If the Salient of Ypres will be for all time the classic battle-ground of Britain, that blood-stained segment between the Poelcapelle and Zonnebeke roads will remain the holy land of Canadian arms," *Buchan*. This was written in 1916 before Sanctuary Wood and Passchendaele.