

taneously killed by a piece of shell hitting him on the head.

The next day was wet, and nothing could be done but keep under cover. No fires could be lit, and everyone was wet through. At night, patrols reconnoitred the enemy position, which was found to be strongly supported by artillery and machine guns. Early on the morning of the 5th the Germans began a violent bombardment, which lasted for over half an hour; and throughout the day they were very active along their whole front. Several large shells landed close to the trench in which No. 3 company was stationed, one knocking in a dugout and burying several men. While the artillery was pounding their positions the battalion was "standing to" ready to counter-attack; but headquarters decided that the moment for hitting back was not yet, and on the night of the 7th June the battalion was relieved.

The big counter-attack took place on June 12th; and then the 13th Battalion had its share of the fighting.

During the days prior to the blow the Canadians who were to take part trained for the occasion behind the lines. Lectures were delivered to the officers and by them to the men. The 13th Battalion spent the night of June 11th in the Fosse Way near Manor Farm. At 10.30 p.m. on June 12th they began their forward movement, and their first line went into the forward assembly trench, which was then garrisoned by men of the 2nd Battalion. The new front line was from Maple Copse on the left to Observation Ridge on the right, and the battalion was to attack the German positions as far back as the original Canadian front line from Vigo Street on the left to Observation Ridge Road on the right. This was to be the final objective.

The assault was timed to begin at 1.30 a.m., and the dispositions were completed by midnight. Rain fell almost continuously, the night was dark and cold, and the ground was muddy and slippery. But the light—just sufficient to enable the attackers to keep their direction and to distinguish friend from foe at close