

centre of the line suffered heavily, and further on three battalions of the 12th. Brigade. The latter captured Crest Farm in less than an hour from starting.

To the left of the Canadians was a British battalion — the Artists' Rifles, who met with such opposition that they, like the 49th., could advance scarce more than 150 yards. Nevertheless, in spite of this exposure of their flanks the C.M.R's kept on and after a hard day's fighting the troops found themselves entrenched at last on the outskirts of PASSCHEN-DAELE village. They had marched less than a mile, but every inch of the ground had been disputed, and the losses were heavy. No fewer than five strong counter-attacks were beaten off, our troops being greatly helped by the fire of captured machine-guns at CREST FARM.

The sodden state of the ground prevented the Artillery and the Naval Division from coming up, and the Canadian front formed a sharp Salient.

Next day under a tornado of German shelling the line went forward, the fighting concentrating about the pill-boxes.

"Black mud and great columns of debris were constantly being flung into the air. The soldiers at first cursed the mud, but after a time they had reason to bless it; for the deep mud prevented innumerable German shells from bursting and saved thousands of lives".

A few days of brighter weather followed, during which small advances were made and attacks repulsed, and then on November 6th. the Canadians struck another hammer-blow. The 3rd. and 4th. Divisions had meanwhile been replaced by the 1st. and 2nd. Divisions. The Germans had brought up large reinforcements, but although the Canadians fought in a salient, yet they had the advantage of high ground. The 27th. battalion swept through the village, of PASSCHEN-DAELE and beyond to the cross-roads. The hardest fighting took place at Vine Cottage and on the Goudberg Spur at Mosselmarkt stronghold, the entire garrison was either killed