

fire, and during the day three enemy counter-attacks were beaten off. That night the 1st Brigade relieved the 2nd Brigade.

Once again the early morning saw the whole Corps front in action. The fight on the 30th was for the villages of Sancourt, Blecourt, Cuvillers, Bantigny and Abancourt, and the high ground overlooking the Sensee River. The 3rd Division got east of Tilloy, but the 4th Division, after reaching Blecourt, were pressed back to their original line through Sancourt. It was therefore decided to cancel the proposed infantry action on the fronts of the 1st and 11th Divisions.

Orders were issued that night for a synchronised attack on October 1st by the four divisions in line. The 1st Division front was extended a thousand yards to the south, making a total front of attack of about three thousand yards. During the night the 3rd Brigade moved forward to the right and assembled behind the 12th Brigade, through whom they were to attack. The attack of the 1st Division was to be made by the 3rd and 1st Brigades. The barrage opened at 5 o'clock. On the right, the 13th Battalion attacked and captured Blecourt after very heavy fighting. On the left, the 1st and 4th Battalions launched the attack for the 1st Brigade. The 1st Battalion secured the line of the railway north of Blecourt, but were unable to get beyond owing to the intense fire from Abancourt. On the left the 4th Battalion got to within 200 yards of the railway, but were definitely held up there. Further on the left the attack of the 11th Division had been stopped at the very start. In the meantime, the 16th and 14th Battalions passed through Blecourt and attacked on the right and left. Cuvillers and Bantigny were captured by 8 o'clock by these battalions respectively. Enemy activity on the exposed left developed into counter-attacks against the 14th Battalion, three being driven off. Both battalions were now in untenable positions, enemy machine-gun concentrations on the high ground west of Abancourt sweeping their left rear and artillery firing at point-blank range from their front. Under the circumstances a retirement was ordered, the enemy being made to pay heavily for every foot of ground given up. A short stand was made at Blecourt, but fresh enemy attacks