

the canal on a three hundred yard front, the brigade would break the Canal du Nord trench line and then swing north and even west in the attack on Sains-lez-Marquion, thus presenting the unique spectacle of our troops attacking directly toward our own lines. As a matter of fact, the artillery barrage here, first of all travelled forward in the usual way and then began to drop back towards the guns—the result being that our own barrage was between our infantry and guns. After the capture of Sains-lez-Marquion the brigade continued its “rolling up” tactics by taking the Marquion line in enfilade and attacking both Keith Wood and the village of Marquion from the east—in other words, taking the garrisons of these places in the flank and rear. After crossing the Arras-Cambrai Road the Brigade continued its flank attack on the Canal du Nord and Marquion lines as far as the final objective for the first phase—a total advance of six thousand yards, and an extension of front from three hundred to twenty-five hundred yards.

The 2nd Brigade had a still different task. Its Units had a four-mile march from the assembly position before they entered the fight. Once in the battle, it had practically open country before it, and attacked frontally, being required to make an advance of roughly thirty-five hundred yards on a front of eighteen hundred yards.

The Division, as a whole, staged forward on September 19th, and on the 24th and 25th completed the march to the assembly areas. On the night of the 25th of September the 1st and 3rd Brigades relieved units of the 2nd Division in the line, taking over their respective battle fronts. Divisional Headquarters moved on September 26th to battle headquarters in dug-outs in a railway cutting, twenty-five hundred yards west of Inchy.

September 27th was the day set for the attack. The ten previous days had been spent by all units in a careful study of the country, in planning their work and in out-fitting for the battle. The artillery were engaged in selecting battery positions and in getting ammunition forward, while the Engineers had to plan their share of the bridging of the canal.