

flage " carried out that two Canadian battalions were actually on their way north at this time, and a few days later went into line in the Kemmel area. Canadian wireless sets, using Canadian Corps calls, Canadian casualty clearing stations, and Canadian railheads in the Second Army area all strengthened the impression. Prior to August 1st the G.O.C. and the G.S.O.I. were the only persons in the division that knew the actual destination and task of the Candian Corps. On August 1st, however, the C.R.A., C.R.E., and brigade commanders were told of the plans.

The relief of the 1st Division was completed at 10 a.m. on August 2nd, and the division was moved by bus and light railway to the Le Cauroy area.^{*} On this same date the move of the division by strategical train, bus, and road to the assembly area south-west of Amiens (a distance of 40 miles) was commenced, and was completed in the early morning of August 5th. From this point to the forward assembly area at Gentelles Wood and in the trenches in front of it all moves were made under cover of darkness only. Extraordinary precautions were taken to prevent the slightest suspicion being aroused in the minds of the enemy. Reconnaissance parties were limited to not more than two officers or N.C.O.'s at a time, and these had to travel by trench wherever possible. Artillery positions and ammunition dumps were carefully camouflaged, work being done only at night. No guns, other than those normally holding the front, fired a single round before zero hour. The repair of roads was cut down to a minimum, and by the exercise of care and attention the concentration of this huge force—four divisions of infantry, one cavalry corps, two motor machine-gun brigades, four battalions of large tanks, two battalions of whippet tanks, seventeen brigades of field and ten of heavy artillery, and a brigade of horse artillery—representing an actual fighting strength of 30,000 rifles, 2,500 machine-guns, including Lewis guns, 10,000 sabres, 450 field guns, 160 heavy guns of all calibres, and 300 tanks of various kinds—was completed on a frontage of under 7,000 yards without the enemy becoming aware that anything untoward was happening.