

Alleux Huts, in case of emergency. The march to the trenches was made on the night before the attack, the route being marked by posts painted with luminous paint.

Five hours before "zero" time the battalion was in position. The plans of the operation placed the battalion in reserve, so that the men did not at the time realise exactly how matters were progressing ahead. But for the other battalions the 13th maintained communication with the brigade, and during the whole action were more or less a report centre.

At 1.30 a.m. on that famous morning, in a mixture of recurrent rain and sleet, the companies reported their men in position. At 4 a.m. an issue of rum was made. Hot soup had been provided, but the cookhouse of three companies was shelled, three cooks killed, and most of the soup lost.

At "zero" hour (5.30 a.m.) the advance began behind the heavy barrage, the attacking waves making their way across No Man's Land in the wake of the screaming shells.

Practically every section of the attacking troops kept schedule time. They met with no very great opposition, for the Germans were completely overwhelmed by the tornado of steel which had been rained upon them. It was at the second line that the Germans tried to put up a fight from nests of machine guns, tucked away in their concrete fortresses. This opposition was overcome, and in record time Vimy Ridge was in the possession of the Canadians.

On the following day, when the Germans began to shell spitefully, the 13th Battalion supplied parties to help clean up the battlefield and make roads to enable the artillery to bring up their guns. About 5 p.m. the battalion moved to a position in the old British front line trench, with headquarters at Post de Lille. The work of salvage continued in various parts of the battle front for some days, and on the 17th the battalion took up positions in Farbus Wood, where the men got into some of the old German dugouts and the gunners turned