

never got into action and whose crews were deep in dug-outs. Much of the credit for this was due the Corps Counter-Battery Officer, Lt.-Col. A. G. L. McNaughton, and his staff.

Sir Arthur Currie describes the first day's operations in the following terms:—"At 4.20 a.m., Aug. 8, the initial assault was delivered on the entire Army front of attack, and the First French Army opened their bombardment. The attack made satisfactory progress from the outset on the whole front.

"East of Hourges, opposite the 3rd. Canadian Division, the high ground which dominated our front and a portion of the French front had been seized quickly by the 9th. Canadian Infantry Brigade (Brig.-General D. M. Ormond), and the way was opened for the Canadian Independent Force and the 4th. Canadian Division.

"The very complete arrangements made by the 3rd. Canadian Division to keep the bridge open, and to repair the road completely, allowed the reserves to go forward without delay. The heavy task of the Canadian Engineers was remarkably well carried out.

"By the afternoon the Canadian Corps had gained all its objectives, with the exception of a few hundred yards on the right in the vicinity of Le Quesnel, where stiff resistance was offered by unexpected reserves, but this was made good the following morning. The day's operations, in which the four Canadian Divisions took part, represented a maximum penetration of the enemy's defenses of over eight miles and included the capture of the following villages: Hangard, Demuin, Beaucourt, Aubecourt, Courcelle, Ignaucourt, Cayeux, Caix, Marcelcave, Wiencourt, l'Equipee and Guillaucourt. In addition to these, the Independent Force assisted the French in the capture of Mezieres, which was holding up their advance.

"The surprise had been complete and overwhelming. The prisoners stated that they had no idea that an attack was impending, and captured documents did not indicate that any of our preparations had been detected. An officer stated that the Canadians were believed to be on the Kemmel front."

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