

THE CANADIAN CORPS READY FOR BATTLE 9

Machine-Gun Brigade, then in the line on the Vimy sector, to be withdrawn and move south to the Fifth Army area. By the following midnight all its batteries were in action on a 35-mile front east of Amiens, having travelled over 100 miles during the day.

Sir Arthur Currie describes its activities as follows:—"The 1st. C.M.M.G. Brigade (Lt.-Col. W. K. Walker), under orders of the Fifth and later of the Fourth Army, was ordered to fight a rearguard action to delay the advance of the enemy and to fill dangerous gaps on the Army fronts. For 19 days that Unit was continuously in action north and south of the Somme, fighting against overwhelming odds. Using to the utmost its great mobility, it fought over 200 square miles of territory. It is difficult to appraise to its correct extent the influence, material and moral, that the 40 machine-guns of that Unit had in the events which were then taking place. The losses amounted to about 75 per cent. of the trench strength of the Unit, and to keep it in being throughout that fighting, I authorized its reinforcement by personnel of the Infantry branch of the Canadian Machine-Gun Corps."

Fighting over the same ground, and with equal gallantry, was the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, attached to the British Cavalry Corps. The brilliant work of both arms in the desperate and successful effort to stem the enemy hordes will ever be a proud chapter in Canadian military annals.

On May 7 the Canadian Corps, with the exception of the 2nd. Canadian Division, still in the line in the Third Army area, was relieved and placed in General Headquarters Reserve in the First Army area. This movement is explained by the *Times* History as follows:—"After consultation with the Commanders of the First and Second Armies at the more northern portions of our line, it was determined that each should contribute what divisions could be spared to form a General Reserve for the British Army for use where it might be required. The Canadian Corps formed part of this force and was intended for counter-attack in case the enemy broke