

All that day the battle continued, the brunt being borne by the Canadian 3rd. Brigade, who, half gassed, nearly exhausted, without water or proper rations, exposed to fire from three sides, hung valiantly on, or when compelled to retire, moved slowly back to St. Julien. A company of the Buffs came up to help, but it was shot to pieces. Colonel Geddes himself was killed.

Meanwhile the German heavy guns from PASSCHENDAELE Ridge were booming and the great shells were bursting amongst the defenders of Ypres and in the doomed town itself. The fury of the bombardment hourly increased. And in addition came a fresh discharge of poison gas. The ordeal which the troops, especially the 13th. Canadian battalion — underwent, seemed more than human endurance could bear.

By the retirement of the 3rd. Brigade upon St. Julien, the 2nd. Brigade (Currie) which had hitherto held its ground, had to conform, all except Colonel Lipsett's 8th. battalion Grafenstafel ridge, the north-eastern extremity of holding the Salient — which did not budge but although heavily gassed held fast to the line.

On the 24th. the new St. Julien line was stormed by the enemy, but with scant success ; and on Sunday the 25th. we were strong enough to undertake a general counter-attack under the command of General Hull. But although the struggle was intense we could not retake St. Julien and were obliged to dig ourselves in just south of Fortuin.

In another part of the Salient at BROODSEINDE held by the 28th. division which had furnished reserves to the Canadians, the enemy, thinking the defence thereby weakened, made a violent assault aided by gas shells. It failed.

That evening the Canadians were allowed a much needed rest. Colonel Lipsett's 8th. Battalion (Winnipeg Rifles) had held on stubbornly to GRAFENSTAFEL for four days in spite of gas, bombs and machine-gun enfilading. At last the parapets of its trenches were blown in, filling the ditch, and