

when evening came we started a long heavy night march. The roads were choked with moving columns of men, guns and lorries. We passed down a steep hill through a village and at two o'clock in the morning came to a wood where we were to stay. Dog-tired we lay down in the damp and pulled our ground-sheets over us. Shortly after sun-up the Boche started to shell the wood. The whole wood was packed with men like sardines. We ran across the 38th. Battalion, another Ottawa unit, and sang out to them. We met many of our old chums and had a good time. We hoped for a day's rest but that forenoon were put on fatigue, packing up water and ammunition. We 'slept in' that afternoon.

"In the evening a canvas bag was handed round to each man and we were given two days iron rations, with Mills and smoke bombs. I was getting pretty well loaded down, for being one of the machine-gun unit I was carrying twenty pounds of ammunition—there were seven of us: the N. C. O.; No. 1, carrying the Lewis gun; No. 2, carrying the spare parts; and the rest of us the ammunition. Each platoon was given a map and our officer and sergeant explained the lie of the land and our objective, and we were told to take particular note of the Luce river, which we were to cross. This was the first hint we had as to where we were; some of us had an idea that we were due east of Amiens, but we were further south. Batteries were coming up and taking their positions.

"At half past ten we were off again and marched up towards the line, getting to our positions at one in the morning of Aug. 8. We understood the British were holding the sector, and were surprised when we heard it was the Australians. Rising ground lay between us and the front line a mile away. We were tired out and opened cans of bully beef and beans and had a little breakfast. Then we lay down but it was bitter cold. No body of men could have been fitter physically; we were in fine trim and excellent spirits, and had confidence the Canadians would go through anything they were up against. But we knew we were in for a hard job and a lot of us wouldn't be there next night. We weren't exactly keen on going in,

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