

critical position, and elsewhere the mud had jammed rifles and machine guns.

At this juncture, when a general retirement seemed imminent, a party of 20 Canadian Cameronians gained the summit on the left of the BELLEVUE Spur from whence they could command a view of the surrounding country. While they rested for a moment in disorder, and many of them wounded they were rallied by Lieut. Shankland, who secured reinforcements and proceeded to clear the whole precincts of the enemy. For four hours they held on, resisting every attempt at dislodgment, and then Shankland, although wounded, hurried back to report to his commander :

" I have 50 men on top of the ridge. We command the entire position. Give me reinforcements and the hill is ours."

Instantly the advance was renewed. Two battalions moved on Dad trench and another force went to the defence of BELLEVUE SPUR. " The Canadians," wrote an observer, " had almost to dig the enemy out of their emplacements, so firmly were they planted in." Yet before night fell, the first day's objective was taken — nearly 1000 yards inside the German front line. Bellevue Spur was ours, and for his share in the day work Shankland received the V.C.

On the Canadian right British troops got into GHELUVELT for the first time since the First Battle of Ypres, three years before. On the left, the 63rd. (Royal, Naval) Division and a London Territorial Division moved on north of the BELLEVUE RIDGE. The French bridged the ST. JANSBEEK, preparatory to clearing the swamps called the MERCKEM peninsula, which they and the Belgians cleared two days later. This threatened the Germans still entrenched in HOUTHULST FOREST.

On the 30th. October began the great final push for PASSCHENDAELE, which was to cover the Canadians with glory. At 5.50 a.m. in a cold clear dawn one battalion of the Canadian Mounted Rifles moved on rapidly. On their right were the 49th. and the Princess Patricias, which being the