

by "spider-web" wire. These, where fought to a finish by the enemy, caused the heaviest casualties to our troops.

The boundary between the 4th and 1st Divisions for the first phase ran due east of Inchy, just north of Quarry Wood, then, swinging slightly to the left, it ran from one thousand to fifteen hundred yards north of Bourslon. The 1st Division left boundary was the canal.

The 1st Canadian Division, then, had to cross the Canal du Nord, seize the high ground to the north of Bourslon Wood and "mop up" the valley of the canal as far north as the village of Marquion. Then, in the second phase of the battle, it was to capture Haynecourt and the high ground north and east of that village.

The 1st Division, therefore, in the first phase of the battle, had to attack from a front of eleven hundred yards, gradually extend this front until it became six thousand yards when the final objective was reached, and advance over six thousand yards.

The Divisional Commander decided to make the initial attack with the 1st Brigade on the right and the 3rd Brigade on the left. When the general line, Bourslon-Marquion, was reached, the 2nd Brigade would enter the fight between the 1st and 3rd Brigades, and would carry the battle right through the second phase to the capture of Haynecourt and the high ground north and east of that place. This meant that each brigade had before it three very different tasks. On the right, the 1st Brigade had before it a series of frontal assaults. First it must cross the canal, then capture the Canal du Nord trench, advance two thousand yards and take the Marquion line; then advance fifteen hundred yards to the railway cutting and embankment that formed a natural trench line, and then across open country to the final objective—a total advance of six thousand yards, ending with a frontage of fifteen hundred yards.

The 3rd Brigade attack on the left resolved itself into a series of out-flanking and turning movements. After the first rush across