

The character of this fighting is illustrated by the heroic deed of Pte. John Bernard Croak of the 13th. Battalion, a native of Glace Bay, Cape Breton. Having become separated from his section he encountered a machine-gun nest, which he bombed and silenced, taking the gun and crew prisoners. Shortly afterwards he was severely wounded but refused to desist. Having rejoined his platoon, a very strong point was encountered, containing several machine-guns. Pte. Croak, however, seeing an opportunity dashed forward alone and was almost immediately followed by the remainder of the platoon in a brilliant charge. He was the first to arrive at the trench line, into which he led his men, capturing three machine-guns and bayonetting or capturing the entire garrison. He was again severely wounded, this time mortally.

When his company was held up by heavy fire from three machine-guns, which were seriously delaying the advance, Cpl. James Herman Good of the same battalion, a native of Bathurst, N.B., realising the gravity of the situation, dashed forward alone, killing several of the garrison and capturing the remainder. Later on, Cpl. Good, while alone, encountered a battery of 5.9-inch guns, which were in action at the time. Collecting three men of his section he charged the battery under point-blank fire and captured the entire crews of three guns.

The 13th. Battalion, Montreal Highlanders, was recruited in part from the Maritime Provinces. Equally stiff fighting was encountered by the 16th. Battalion, Canadian Scottish of Western Canada, and the 14th. Battalion, Royal Montreal Regiment. The battalions supporting this successful attack of the 3rd. Brigade, the 15th., recruited from the 48th. Highlanders of Toronto, and the 5th., Saskatchewan, had sharp work mopping up, the wood being full of enemy dug-outs.

The 1st. Brigade began to move forward at 5.10 a.m., and at 8.20 crossed the Green Line and carried the attack forward. This brigade also attacked with three battalions in line, the 2nd., from Ottawa, the 3rd., recruited from Toronto district,