

AROUND AND BEYOND CAMBRAI.

We must not think that the Canadians rested on their arms between the victorious conclusion of the great battle which gave them the ground commanding Cambrai (October 3rd) and the storming and capture of the city in the darkness of the early morning of October 9th. Far from it.

On the night of the 7th, Canadians raided northward into hostile territory in force and returned with prisoners; and on the morning of the 8th these same troops pushed up to the outskirts of Douai. Our front north of the Sensee River was brought into alignment. Under cover of a barrage and smoke screen put on by our artillery on Tuesday morning, our patrols went forward and discovered the enemy to be strongly established, his positions thick with machine-gun posts. Our patrols crossed the river and took possession of Sailly-en-Ostrevant, but were soon forced out of this and back to the south side of the river by overwhelming pressure. This daring thrust had served our purpose, however, in disclosing the dispositions of the enemy. At three o'clock next morning we attacked, with English troops on our left. Our patrols had found the way and our gunners paved it with a heavy bombardment. We attacked on a front extending from the fragments of the Drocourt line to the Scarpe. We took Mont Bedu; we crossed the river; and by nightfall we had broken the Sporcourt-Queant line and were established from Brebieres to points beyond Estrees and Hamel.

This advance was on the 9th, the day of the capture and investment of Cambrai by other Canadians. It was continued next day to the Sensee Canal. With our left close to Douai and our right in Arleux, we had accomplished in thirty hours a drive into hostile territory nine thousand yards deep and twelve thousand wide.

While this was happening, other Canadian battalions had fought the enemy out of strong positions around Iwuy, they had pierced his flank between Douai and the Scheldt River, and cleared Estrun and Hordam. Our men from the Maritime Provinces established themselves north of the river.