

This halt afforded the enemy sufficient respite to collect himself and consolidate and strengthen his new line, so that by the time we were again in a position to resume the offensive the enemy was also thoroughly prepared for defence.

There followed a number of large raids and minor operations, resulting in the capture of La Coulotte, the Electric Generating Station, and the Railway Triangle. The fighting in these operations was particularly bitter, and their success was due very largely to the individual bravery and initiative of the troops.

On July 2nd the Division was withdrawn to Villers au Bois area to Corps Reserve, where training and re-fitting took place. The weather was fine, and sports were much in evidence.

To take Hill 70 was the next task set the Canadian Corps. The actual assault was to be made by the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions, but the 4th Canadian Division had an extremely important part as well. This was to work forward the line in front of Lievin, so that Lens might be attacked from a favourable position if opportunity offered, and also to create a diversion on this front, in the hope that the enemy might think the attack to be on a much larger scale than was the case. Both these tasks were successfully carried out. The line was taken forward over 1,000 yards right up to the well-known Green Crassier and Aconite Trench in face of severe resistance.

About the end of August the situation quietened down on this front, and normal reliefs were going on when the Division was suddenly ordered to Ypres along with the rest of the Canadian Corps.

The events which led up to the situation as we found it east of Ypres were as follows. The Allies had undertaken a major operation in July, with a view to freeing the Belgian Coast, and thus dislodging the bases from which the German submarines were operating in the Channel. For the first three weeks this attack had gone well, but from then on the German defence had been