

began sending shrapnel into the oncoming foe at a 200 yard range. Two British battalions also helped in this work. A couple of reserve battalions came hurrying up from Ypres, where the shelling continued hot, (16th. and 10th.) and set forward to the wood west of St. Julien, where the captured British guns lay. They came upon them at midnight, standing up grim and formidable in the moonlight; but the gun-teams were miles away and there was no means of removing them. But the breech-blocks were removed and the guns made useless to the enemy. For a time the Canadians held the whole of the wood and kept the Germans at bay. In this advance Colonel Boyle (10th.) was slain and Colonel Leckie (16th.) seeing himself surrounded by the foe withdrew his men. Before dawn from all points reinforcements were on their way, but by the time they could arrive the Germans might break through. They had already captured Steenstraete, had crossed the canal, had taken LIZERNE and were on the outskirts of BOESINGHE. The Canadian 1st. Brigade (Mercer) were pushed up to counter-attack, suffering heavily. One battalion lost its commander (Col. Birchall) and stirred to anger by his death ran forward and carried the German trenches where they remained without relief for two days. But at last we were now in touch with the fast rallying French troops.

By daylight, on St. George's Day the reinforcements arrived. They were mixed battalions, hurried through the night from the British 28th. Division, which was holding the line from Zonnebeke to POLYGON WOOD, and a lot of reserve units of various regiments under Colonel Geddes of the Buffs, and now known to history as Geddes Detachment. On the way they were joined by a grenadier company of the Northumberland Fusiliers who for eight days had been in the trenches at HILL 60 and were weary and hungry, but not too weary to fight. Also General Allenby's cavalry and two Indian divisions were hastening forward to buttress the French west of the Canal.