

During the first half of the year the Canadians had been moving northward along the straggling battle line of France back towards Ypres, the scene of the first Canadian stand in the great war. The 2nd Division was still down in the mud by St. Eloi, but the 1st and the 3rd divisions had been brought up to the slightly more pleasant, and certainly more intimate, surroundings. The 3rd Division was on the left of the 1st Division, the left of the line being held by the 7th Brigade, and the right by the 8th. Two companies of the Royal Canadian Regiment were astride the Menin Road, towards the ruins of Hooge. On their right they were in touch with the P.P.C.L.I. The trenches here had been partly demolished and were being reconstructed when the German attack swept down.

The storm of German artillery which burst upon the 3rd Division on that morning of the 2nd June was the greatest which the Canadians had yet been called upon to face. It was the concentrated effort of the summer's preparations, for the Germans were then not merely trying to break through a line but endeavouring to obliterate an area.

The 13th Battalion were holding sports on that day in a field adjoining the "Patricias" lines. Soon after the events had been contested came word that the battalion was to "stand to" and be ready to move at a moment's notice. The Germans, said the report, had broken through the front at Mount Sorrel, and had cut up the battalions in that area. Hard on the heels of the first order came a second for the battalion to go to the support of the 14th Battalion. The 13th at once began a forced march to Zillebeke Etang, but owing to the roads being heavily shelled by the Germans the battalion did not arrive at the position assigned for it until 2 a.m.

To save the men as much as possible, Lieut.-Col. Buchanan ordered them to leave their packs at the side of the road to be picked up by the transport and taken back to the transport lines. In spite of this, however, the men were worn out when they dug themselves in alongside the hedges near Manor House. There they