

The intervention of a new division on each flank meant that the 4th and 1st Divisions would have to close on the centre. It was found late in the afternoon that the 4th Division could not continue the advance that day. The 1st and 11th Divisions, however, attacked about four o'clock in the afternoon according to programme.

The continuation of the attack on the 1st Division front was carried out by the 2nd Brigade. The 5th and 10th Battalions had assembled ready to advance, and at 3.20 o'clock the 5th Battalion swept over the outpost line and advanced very rapidly, meeting with but little resistance. Haynecourt was soon captured. The 10th Battalion here continued the advance, but soon began to meet opposition. Owing to the fact that the troops on the right were not advancing, the 5th and 10th Battalions had a heavy enfilade fire poured into their flank. The enemy here were in great numbers apparently, and soon had field guns as well as machine-guns firing on our troops. In spite of this the 10th Battalion pressed forward until held up by a heavy and continuous belt of wire just west of the Douai-Cambrai Road. Patrols, although under heavy machine-gun fire, cut gaps through this wire by hand, and then, in a sudden rush, overpowered the gun crews and crossed the Douai-Cambrai Road. East of the road, however, five belts of wire were encountered, and, as the enemy fire was steadily increasing, the advance was halted.

The 11th Division had advanced on the left and had captured Epinoy, but on the right the situation was far from secure. Here the Brigade found itself with an exposed right flank of 4,000 yards. The responsibility of guarding this flank devolved upon the 5th and 8th Battalions, the 7th being in reserve. On the front of the 5th Battalion the enemy made three unsuccessful attacks at nightfall.

The 1st and 2nd Brigades of field artillery supported the 2nd Brigade throughout the afternoon's operations, and supplied protective fire throughout the night.