

through a sector of the Hindenburg line to a depth of five miles and to within two miles of Cambrai. Unfortunately, however, the British were unable to hold all the territory gained as the Germans on the 27th counter attacked on both sides of the salient made by the British advance, and by surprise broke through the British positions.

DECEMBER. — By December 5th the Germans had, in the face of stubborn resistance, penetrated three miles in depth on an eight mile front. It now became necessary to retire further in order that the British salient should not be cut off; so a strong position was taken up, which however, unfortunately abandoned over two thirds of the territory previously gained. On this line the Germans were successfully held. In December the Canadian Corps returned to the Arras front.

### 1918

The positions reached by the Allies in December 1917, were held during the winter of 1917-1918, and until the great German offensives in 1918 which commenced on the 21st March with a drive from east of Arras to La Fere on a sixty mile front in overwhelming force, and in the face of heavy losses, succeeded in advancing about four miles. The objects of this offensive were the separation of the French and British Armies and their defeat before the Americans could arrive in sufficient numbers to influence the course of the war, the capture of Amiens and its lines of railways, thus cutting off the British Lines of Communication. By the 23rd the Germans had broken through the defensive system west of Saint-Quentin and the British had retired about ten miles. The French had now come up on the British right and were heavily engaged with the Germans near Noyons. Paris was shelled for the first time by three 8-3/4" German long range guns from near Crepy-en-Laonnois, a distance of about seventy miles. On the 26th the British, French and American troops fighting together, checked the German advance west of Roye. To the north, the Germans entered Albert. To the south, the French held the Germans on the south bank of the Oise, east of Noyon. Here the Canadian Cavalry Brigade distinguished itself by holding the road through the wood from Suzoy and Scaucourt. The Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade further north took an important part in the battle on the Amiens-Roye road, and just west of Peronne, where they held the Germans at bay, while the British tanks and heavies were retiring from Maricourt. On the 28th the Germans unsuccessfully renewed their attacks on a front of fifty-five miles from south of the Somme to the north east of Arras. South of the Somme the French gained two miles in the Montdidier area. By the 31st the German offensive had been held and all the British positions on the Somme maintained. The French on the Oise repulsed all local German attacks, and held their positions.

The Canadian Corps in the meantime had been holding Vimy Ridge, which, although heavily bombarded, was not attacked. About this time the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions went into G. H. Q. Reserve South of