

the Blue Lines. *The first objective, the Green Line, constituted an advance of roughly 5,000 yards on the whole Corps front. A brief description of the country within this area, the natural obstacles, and the enemy organisations is necessary. On the extreme right the river Luce ran through our front-line system, evenly dividing the 3rd Division front. To the left of the river the front line ran along the forward slopes of high ground for a distance of 2,000 yards, then through a large tract of scrub and brush known as Hangard Wood West, then open country again, still on high ground, until, on the left, it ran through the forward edge of Monument Wood, and to the northern boundary.

The valley of the Luce, after bisecting the 3rd Division front, ran in a generally easterly direction for 2,500 yards, made a sharp bend to the north-east for 1,000 yards, and then east again to its source, approximately 14,000 yards from our front line, or practically on the final objective for the first day. Immediately within the German lines on the north bank of the Luce was the village of Hangard, built in the valley and on the slopes running north. Fifteen hundred yards north of this village was Hangard Wood East, running 1,000 yards north and strongly fortified. Two thousand yards east of Hangard village, and also in the Luce valley, was the village of Demuin, with the river running through it. Two deep valleys ran to the south from Demuin, and one ran north, while between this valley and our front line still another valley ran to the north from the Luce. The Green Line ran roughly a thousand yards east of Demuin, in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction.

On the 1st Division front, therefore, to reach the Green Line meant attacking down a slope, on which was Hangard Wood and the German front and support line trenches, across a wooded valley known as Morgemont Wood, then capturing the high ground on which was sited the German main line of resistance, then through a sharp valley known as Pantaloon Ravine and in which were many enemy gun positions, and finally on to the forward slope of the north bank of the Luce. On the extreme right, and just a