

employ, serving in the Tump-line or Pack-train; including Headquarters Staff, Medical Details, Runners and Signallers, who, though essential, cannot be included in the effective fighting strength of a battalion, only 375 men had marched out and the task set was no light one. To "C" Co., under Lieut. R. P. Matheson, numbering 50 men, to whom were added 20 men from "A" Co., was assigned the offensive on Regina; "D" Co., under Lieut. Mackenzie, numbering 76, was to attack the new trench. The balance of "A" Co. was appointed as a carrying-party and "B" Co. was held in reserve. Midnight of Nov. 10-11 was the hour when the barrage would start, lasting eight minutes and then lifting 150 yards, when the two assaults were to be delivered. During the course of the evening Capt. A. C. Trousdale, commanding our Scouts, who was later severely wounded, reported that the enemy was effecting a strong relief and that New German Trench was being held in strength.

It was a brilliant night; a full moon was shining in a cloudless sky, and everything was as easily visible as in the day-time. This was in favor of the attacking force, who possessed all the psychological advantages offered by a night attack undiminished by the handicaps imposed by darkness. At midnight the barrage started and at 12.30 a.m. a Runner reached Headquarters with the news that "C" Co. had gained their objective, but had had to extend considerably to the right in order to keep in touch with the 47th. In the end it was found that this company was occupying and holding 350 yards more than its allotted portion. At 12.35 the news came in that "D" Co. had been similarly successful and an hour later the first batch of prisoners arrived, to be closely interrogated by the Brigadier who spent the night in Battalion Headquarters. The objectives had been gained, but the enemy was not disposed to part with them without a final struggle. Fierce counter-attacks were launched and Lieuts. Matheson and Sturgeon were badly wounded. At 2.30 a.m. Lieut. Lister was ordered to take up reinforcements from "A" Co. and assume command of operations in Regina Trench, which he did with success. Such alarmist reports, however, continued to come in through the medium of casualties that at 4.15 General Odum took charge of the operation himself and eased the situation by directing a well-sustained artillery fire against the massing Huns. It was during these counter-attacks that the majority of our casualties were incurred, the Hun maintaining a hail of shells on all our positions. The Regimental Aid Post, or Dressing Station, in the Red Chateau at the north end of Death Valley became the centre of a particularly fierce bombardment and a report reached Headquarters that all the occupants had been buried. A rescue party under Lieut. J. B. Bailey was hastily organized and went out armed with shovels, only to find that the report was luckily false. By morning positions had been consolidated and once more the 102nd Bn. had a fine achievement to its credit, as is shown by the following letter which was read out on parade in Albert on the 13th.