

on the slopes of PASSCHENDAELE. It was necessary to act quickly. On Oct. 4th. was anticipated his advance by only 10 minutes, and our barrage dealt havoc to his formations. We got into POELCAPELLE, GRAFENSTAFEL and BROODSEINDE, passing beyond the BECELARE road. 5000 prisoners fell to us that day. It was a victory, but at what a price ! and how below our hopes ! There had been 10 weeks of fighting, and all that we had accomplished we had planned to perform in a single fortnight. We had not won even the preliminary objective of July 3rd. — the PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE. Winter was coming on, and the enemy still held the high ground. For a time Haig hesitated whether or not to abandon the offensive. Then he decided to continue it until the end of the month. If PASSCHENDAELE was then uncaptured, other plans must be made.

No wonder, then, that the whole army and the nation concentrated its attention eagerly on this famous ridge.

On Oct. 9th. a new Franco-British advance was begun with the rain falling in sheets. For the rest of the month the Salient was a greater sea of mud than it had ever been in the war. Never — scarce even in the winter of 1914-15 — had the troops fought under such wretched conditions. On — with men staggering under the burden — and they and their horses drowning by scores and hundreds in the slime — on they pushed, each day a little further.

If was at this juncture that the Canadian Corps was summoned from Lens. The 3rd. and 4th. Divisions, under Generals Lipsett and Watson, took over part of the line on the 20th.

The Corps Commander (General Sir Arthur Currie) realised the desperate nature of the task confronting him. The first thing was to contrive some means of transit for guns, shells and material. Thousands of men were set to work making roads across the bog, flinging down iron, steel, cananets, sandbags, tree stumps and laying a double line of planks