

was cleared by the 15th Battalion. A combined attack by the 13th and 15th Battalions then resulted in the capture of Marquion itself. The 15th then pushed on rapidly, and by two o'clock in the afternoon had reached the final objective of the first phase.

Four tanks assisted the 14th Battalion in the initial attack, but were unable to proceed beyond the Canal du Nord Line. Three batteries of the Machine Gun Battalion were attached to the 3rd Brigade for this operation.

While this fighting was going on units of the 2nd Brigade were marching forward ready to intervene in the battle at the appointed hour. The 7th Battalion, the first to enter the fight, had to leap-frog the 13th Battalion, after that unit had captured the Marquion Line. The 7th found the 13th hotly engaged, and assisted it in breaking the Marquion Line. By this time the artillery barrage had left the infantry far behind. A local barrage was arranged and supplied by the 2nd Brigade C.F.A., and under cover of this the 7th Battalion was able to move forward, the enemy's resistance rapidly weakening as our troops advanced. The chief resistance beyond the Arras-Cambrai road was met with from machine-guns just north of Bois de Crocrot. Patrols were pushed forward and reached a line over 2,000 yards north of the Arras-Cambrai road. During the afternoon a small counter-attack by the enemy on the centre was repulsed. The 8th Battalion had followed the 7th in support, but were not called on for help.

This ended the first phase of the battle. By two o'clock in the afternoon we had Bournon Wood, and our line then ran north and east from Bournon Village to within 500 yards of Raillencourt, then north practically to Haynecourt, and then swung back westward, meeting the Canal du Nord just south of Sauchy-Lestree.

The second phase called for an advance by four divisions in line, the 3rd, 4th and 1st Canadian and the 11th British Division from right to left being ordered to continue the attack. The 3rd Division on the right and the 11th on the left had followed the attacking divisions closely and were ready to carry on the fight.