

On April 7th., we received orders to move forward to support the attack on VIMY RIDGE, but this was cancelled and departure postponed twenty-four hours.

On Sunday, April 8th 1917, the Battalion left billets in VILLERS-AU-BOIS, at 9.30 p.m. to take up their position in the straight trench running along the western side of the ARRAS-BETHUNE Rd., moving via BETHONVAL FARM and the PlanR Road to PONT STREET. The Battalion was in position in this trench at 12.35 a.m., "A" and "B" Companies north of PONT STREET, "C" and "D" Companies south of PONT STREET. Part of the night was spent completing the fitting out of the men with bombs and ground flares and other necessities, which we were not able to obtain at VILLERS-AU-BOIS but which had been moved forward to the Brigade Dump. There were no dugouts and trenches were wet and muddy.

At 11.15 a.m., April 9th., the Battalion was ordered to move forward and occupy the old Canadian front and observation line in rear of the Craters, VIMY SECTOR, between DE LA FOURCHE and GOODMAN trenches, with Battalion Headquarters in the GOODMAN TUNNEL. This was accomplished without casualties, although enemy shells were still falling behind our old front line. The Battalion remained in these trenches until the night of April 11th., when they were moved forward to take over trenches dug and consolidated by the Eighth Canadian Infantry Brigade in rear of the crest of the forward slope of the ridge. This, we did, relieving the 1st., 2nd and 4th C.M.R. Battalion, with HQs. at SPANDAU HAUS, easterly end of the PRINZ ARNOLO TUNNEL.

It had been snowing the 10th and 11th., and the trenches were in a terrible condition, as might be expected from those freshly dug. The ground also, between the craters and the ridge was churned up by the thousands of shells fired by the Canadian guns, during the ten days prior to the assault and during the actual assault. All calibres of guns from the eighteen pounder to our heaviest (15") guns were used and the result made the going, over what was previously enemy ground, exceedingly difficult, as it was necessary for the relieving troops to pick their way between the myriads of shell-holes, some of which were of gigantic proportions. The famous SWISCHEN STELLUNG was almost unrecognizable and had been converted into a muddy and irregular ditch. Everywhere, the entrances to dugouts, and dugouts themselves, were crumpled to pieces.

On April 11th., the 60th Battalion was ordered to attack and capture the town of VIMY at 5.15 o'clock the following morning, but this was later postponed for twenty-four hours.

During the 11th., Acting Major J. E. Wilson pushed forward a platoon down the Sunken Road and established a post at