

S.30.a.4.1, was maintained as an Advanced Company Headquarters, notwithstanding the heavy shelling this road and the valley were subjected to.

I cannot speak too highly of the great assistance rendered by Acting Major J. E. Wilson in all these operations and the manner in which he carried out the duties allotted to him.

April 12th., the patrols in charge of Lieut. E. A. Lalanne were sent out to reconnoitre FLUTE, PETIT and FLICKER trenches, which formed the western defences of the town of VIMY. This reconnaissance was successfully carried out, though the patrol was subjected to considerable machine-gun and rifle-fire, but it demonstrated that the enemy were not holding VIMY in force.

On the morning of April 13th., "B" Company sent out a strong patrol under Sgt. Brooks who moved through PETIT VIMY without meeting opposition. In the afternoon, the Battalion was ordered to send out strong patrols, through the towns of VIMY, PETIT VIMY, and to follow up with the balance of the Battalion and take possession of these towns. This was successfully accomplished, PETIT VIMY being occupied 4.15 p.m. and the town of VIMY itself about 4.25 p.m. While this was going on, I received further orders to push forward and occupy the town of LA CHAUDIERE S.18 central, to the CULVERT, at T.13.d. central, thence southerly to the VIMY RAILWAY STATION, this line to be occupied as an outpost line, with pickets pushed out in advance, and patrols pushed still further forward to the FRENCH ROAD, as far as possible towards CYRILL TRENCH on the left, and up the Railway track as far as BOIS DE LA CHAUDIERE on the right, another patrol moving out to the right, taking HILL 65. All this was successfully accomplished and the town was occupied, about 7.15 p.m. that same night, the 58th Battalion taking over the northern defences of VIMY evacuated by us. We were in touch with the 85th Battalion, 4th Division on our left, and the 21st and 20th Battalions, 2nd Division on our right. Fortunately, the weather had improved by this time, which made operations less difficult.

Major I. S. Ralston was in command of the Outpost Line and performed his duties in a very creditable and most satisfactory manner.

On April 13th., the Battalion Headquarters were moved to the Advanced Company Headquarter, S.30.a.4.1, evacuated by "C" Company, and on the morning of April 14th., our own linesmen and Signallers, having strung a wire to LA CHAUDIERE and established connection, I moved my Headquarters to that place.

This position was held by the Battalion until the night of April 14th., when it was relieved by two Companies of the 58th Canadian Battalion, and moved back into the QUARRY LINE and GRANGE TUNNEL, in Brigade Reserve.