

Whippet Tanks also ably assisted the Infantry in mopping up Fritz, whilst Aeroplanes annoyed him a great deal more, flying very low and firing on the retreating enemy. The front line was advanced about a mile on a four mile front, making a splendid hopping-off ground, for the big stunt that was to follow. The same night Fritz made a feeble effort to counter-attack, but came a gutzer.

On the 9th of July, a glaring bit of work was done by three diggers. They crept over to the enemy trenches and found him asleep. They threw bombs down the dug-outs, killing many, and brought back sixteen prisoners.

On July 15th, we took up another position near CORBIE, and in rear of FOUILLOY, and kept Fritz annoyed by constant harrassing fire, usually cross-roads dumps and C., about a dozen bursts (each 20 or 30 rounds) being sent over nightly, per Battery.

It was just about this time that Fritz showed signs of breaking up, as he kept evacuating a great deal of territory, closely pursued by the Allies.

Preparations on an enormous scale, were now carried out, the roads being one mass of traffic, bringing ammunition and war material well up to the front, and although Fritz was constantly shelling the back areas, no delay was caused.

On August 5th, the Brigade guns were taken up much closer to HANEL and the front line: everything at the Waggon lines was got ready for a quick move. The guns were placed in a wheat-field, and, on gazing around the following morning, one could notice rows and rows of them in these fields--all silently waiting for the moment, to commence the opening barrage.

On the morning of August 6th, they opened up at 4.20 a.m. just breaking. By 8 a.m. the 3rd Division Infantry had gained all their objectives, with a very small casualty list, then the 4th Div. went on, continuing the advance. Prisoners were coming back in great numbers now, all looking very down-hearted and war-weary. A very heavy mist settled down and obscured all the surroundings, but the sun soon got the best of it, and it was not long before all was clear again. About 8 a.m. the Gun Teams and Waggon Teams were just at the rear of the positions, waiting to limber up and go forward. Firing continued until 8.20 a.m., when the order was given to limber up. We passed close by what was once, the village of HAMEL, but now a heap of shattered ruins.

Shortly after passing this village, we crossed the front line of the night before. While going along, Fritz opened up at very short range with H.E. and things looked serious for a few minutes, but, owing to inaccuracy of laying, a very tight corner was passed, with only a few casualties occurring to the Brigade.

The English on the left were meeting with a very stubborn resistance, at a village called CHIPPILLY, and were not able to advance so quickly. This upset plans a little, as enfilading fire from the enemy was causing havoc amongst some of the Batteries, who had gone forward earlier. During the day the Brigade Batteries took up different positions, but the diggers had gone on too fast, and not much firing was done after the barrage was finished.

The following day positions were taken up near a village called MORCOURT. Passing over the newly won country to these positions one could notice numberless field guns, that had been captured--Whizzbangs up to 8 inch guns being everywhere. After a couple of quiet days at MORCOURT the Brigade was relieved on the 12th August, by an English Brigade.

The 7th pulled back as far as Hamlet, almost alongside, where the guns were when the push started on the 8th, but it was well out of range of Fritz's guns now. It was rumoured we were to have a fortnight's spell, but you can guess the disappointment next morning, when we had to move again. The Batteries moved via VILLERS BRETONNEUX and MARCELCAVE to the vicinity of Hangard Wood, where the 9th Brigade of our Divy Infantry, with the French, suffered so severely in March and early April. The guns were to go into action at MEHARICOURT near ROSIERES to assist the Canadians, but after ammunition was carted for three days to this posy, an order was received to stand fast. Although not actually in action, we were unfortunate in having several casualties at the Cross-roads in ROSIERES.

We then got on the "WALLABY" in the direction of HAMLET, where we were held in reserve till the 20th August, when our next port of call