

Injured and the Major-General laughingly thanked the men for the exhibition.

On the following morning, Sept. 1st, another attack was made and our Infantry ran up against a very determined resistance, made by Prussian Guards, who, we learned later, had volunteered to stop the advance of the Australian troops. The Guards failed miserably, being shot down and bayoneted in great numbers and most of those who escaped being killed were brought back prisoners. The objectives for the day were MONT ST QUENTIN and the town of PERONNE. Immediately the barrage was fired, the guns moved forward on to the slope that commanded PERONNE. The Diggers were not to be denied and after very bitter and severe fighting, the Germans were driven back from these places, our boys gaining the admiration of all, by their determined and successful effort.

The next day was very quiet, Fritz not having heart left for serious retaliation. On 3rd Sept. an early morning attack took place on our immediate sector, our guns taking part in the strafing. The enemy fell back and for the remainder of the day the guns were out of range. On the following day the guns came out of action; the Batteries going back to the rear of SUZANNE and were held there in reserve. On Sept. 5th, orders were received to go forward again, and the Brigade proceeded back to CLERY, still being in reserve.

The roads leading to PERONNE were now absolutely packed with traffic, Mile after mile of Motor-lorries laden with Australian and English troops, passed steadily on towards the line.

On Sept. 8th the Brigade got on the move again, passing the ruins of HALLE, PERONNE & DOINGT (Doing-it" as the Diggers called it) taking up Waggon-lines around the village of COURCELLES. We passed over during the day the famous battlefields of 1916.

The town of PERONNE had suffered considerably, though not actually razed to the ground. Then there was MONT ST QUENTIN a little to the North West, commanding a magnificent view of the country all around. Its' slopes were literally covered with barb wire and solid machine gun posts were everywhere. Countless German dead were strewn all over the place. Whole camps were absolutely burnt to the ground by Fritz on his retirement, all of which had been built by the British before the famous March drive. At COURCELLES, almost alongside the Waggonlines flowed a splendid little stream, called the "COLOGNE RIVER", a branch of the famous SOMME. The country around here was practically free from the ravages of war, very few shellholes and plenty of green grass. Bombing Planes made their usual night attacks, trying to locate the Waggonlines and main roads. The Brigade was kept here in reserve and enjoyed a well-earned rest, as it had had a very strenuous time during the last month. Hardly a day passed without the Guns or Waggonlines being shifted to different positions. Field manoeuvres were carried out in the mornings during our stay here, and the afternoons were devoted to improving the conditions around the camp. At nighttime, it was quite a fine spectacle to see a score or more of Searchlights playing on the Hun Bombers. The night of 13th Sept. brought forth cheers. Some of our night-flying "Scouts" succeeded in accounting for three of these terrors of the air. It was a glorious sight watching the Hun trying to get away from the Searchlights, then to see the "phosphorous tracer bullets" from our own machines spitting fire at the enemy, then his crash to earth in flames accompanied by a display of colored "Verrey" lights.

The civilian graveyard at DOINGT, about a mile from the Waggon lines, created much interest, as all the tombs had the appearance of being opened and the lead and metal taken from the coffins. Skeletons and broken coffins littered the tombs and it appeared as if the Huns had robbed them all.

On Sept. 17th the guns went into action again, taking up a position near the village of HERVILLY. During the night there was very heavy rain and the gun positions were anything but cosy. Fritz strafed the positions the whole of the night with gas and high explosives. The following morning at 5 a.m. a barrage was opened up and the Infantry went over. The Waggonlines moved forward ready to take the guns further along to a position near CARPEZE WOOD. Owing to gas and fog, things were not too cheery after getting to the positions and Fritz absolutely rained shells on them. It was marvellous how any one escaped with a whole skin. When the hostile fire died down, the guns were withdrawn, taking up a rear position again and still being only 2500 yards from the front line. The following day, Sept. 19, observed shooting was carried out with marked success. The G.P.'s now, were conducted in outposts of the Hindenburg Line.

On Sept. 21st at 5.40 a.m. a covering barrage was put down, the Infantry getting into a position where they could overlook the Hindenburg Line. Harrassing fire was the daily routine from this "possie",