

The cheers that were sent up by the troops around could be heard for miles.

On the 17th. the guns were pulled into a position a little north west of Hervilly, at night; ammunition had been carted to this position the preceding day. Throughout, this was anything but a comfortable place on account of the continuous rain and the heavy strafing Fritz put down of H.E. and gas.

Next morning at 5.20 a.m. the barrage was fired and at 7 a.m. the guns were moved forward just to the west of Hesbecourt, and continued to fire in the barrage.

Another barrage was fired at 5.40 a.m. on the 21st. with good results, causing Fritz to retreat to his carefully prepared positions in the Hindenburg line.

On the 24th. the guns were pulled back to Tincourt and spelled till the 28th. At 7 p.m. the brigade moved off in the direction of Ronssoy, which place was reached after midnight after many halts caused through the heavy traffic on the roads. The different batteries had been told off to report to the various infantry battalions of the 3rd. Australian Division. At 6.30 a.m. on the 29th. the advance for that morning did not adventurate on account of the failure of the American organisation in the "mopping up" process. On this particular occasion, the Americans were to follow up the barrage and reach the first objective, the 3rd. Div. Infantry were to go through them and take the 2nd. and 3rd. objective. The Americans went on as the barrage lifted and reached their objective, but through the faulty mopping up, (this mopping up process is the bombing of dugouts, smashing enemy machine guns and generally demolishing strong posts and rounding prisoners. A very large party are always being detailed off for this job in an advance.) they lacked thoroughness in this department, so much so, that when our infantry moved up to go through the Americans, they had to fight all the way to the first objective instead of simply walking up to it, owing to all the strong points being strongly manned by the enemy who had come out of concealment. The Americans lost heavily, they had the Huns not only in front but at the back as well.

After the batteries had been "standing to" for over ten hours right up with the infantry, they were ordered to take up a position about a mile and half to south east of Ronssoy. After being exposed to enemy machine gun fire, quite a number of casualties from this weapon were reported among the personnel and the horses.

The same open warfare methods, as prevailed in August, were again made use of.

The weather throughout September was changeable and showery, though fine days occurred at intervals. The ground was good and dried quickly, so that the rain did not hamper the fighting to any great extent. The open warfare methods proved far more exacting than trench warfare, and towards the end of the month after four months of almost continuous and heavy fighting, the effect was beginning to be seen on men and horses and a good rest was badly needed.

When October opened, the batteries were meeting strenuous fighting in the vicinity of Bony, which place was captured by the 10th. and 11th. A.I. Brigades.

On the 3rd. October, the brigade fired a barrage at 5.50 a.m. and then moved forward to a position between Bony and Bellicourt, where the fighting of the previous couple of days had occurred. It was perhaps the worst sight that one could have looked upon, every where were piles of dead bodies, unfortunately the greater number being those of the Americans.

Being on S.O.S. work only, the brigade withdrew to Villaret on 5th. October.

On the 6th. October, fresh positions were taken up in the valleys north, east and south east of Wiancourt, while on the road to take up their position, the 107th. battery was heavily shelled and suffered casualties to men and horses.

Under the cover of a barrage which started at 5.20 a.m. the villages of Fremont, Montbrehein and Brancourt were captured on the 8th. October, and when the towns were entered, many of the inhabitants emerged from hiding places in cellars. Their gratitude for their relief knew no bounds, as for four weary heart-breaking years they had been under the heel of the German.

On the 13th. the brigade took up positions in the Busigny area, and while here, the enemy showed considerable artillery activity as well as deluging the batteries with gas.

On the 14th. the guns were moved to a position north of Escauffourt and at 5.20 a.m. on the 17th. the barrage was opened, and during the afternoon, the brigade took up a position to the north of La Haie Menneresse. From here, two small barrages were fired, and on the morning of the 19th. a new position was taken up to the north east of L'Arbre de Guise which was reached about midday.