

hundred guns. Twenty German divisions were identified among the prisoners.

The French army commanded by General Mangin began a forward movement east of the river Oise on August 18. Attacking on a nine-mile front, with a large number of light tanks which enabled him to break up the German machine gun positions very easily, he made rapid progress. Resuming his advance on August 20, on a wider front, he took ten thousand prisoners and gained the line of the Ailette on August 22.

The British attack was then transferred to the north. The Canadian Corps and the Second American Corps were moved in that direction by night in railway trains and motor transport vehicles. On August 22 the Third Army under Sir Julian Byng, reinforced by these two corps, attacked in the direction of Bapaume and reached the Arras-Albert railway. The point of attack then shifted to the south of Albert. That town was captured and the assailants crossed the river Ancre. German reserves, hurried up to oppose this attack, were defeated. Montauban was taken on the 26th and on the following day the New Zealand division entered Bapaume. On August 23, another advance began from Arras along the Scarpe, which was equally successful in spite of obstinate resistance. The town of Bray was taken by another British force on August 24. On August 26 the Canadian Corps co-operating with the Seventeenth British Corps carried the German positions at Monchy-le-Preux, Wancourt and Roeux. German reserves thrown in on the following day were repulsed and a further gain of ground made. Southward of this the Australians made a swift advance in the direction of Peronne which they carried by assault on the 31st, after severe fighting from house to house, taking many prisoners. By these operations the flank of the German positions on the Somme was turned, and they were compelled to withdraw to the east bank of that river. Twenty-three divisions were engaged on the part of the Allies, and during the ten last days of August, they took 34,250 prisoners and 270 guns. They had been opposed by thirty-five German divisions.

French troops, who had been released by the shortening of their front after the success of their recent operations, moved northward and took over part of the line from the British. A successful attack was made by them on August 25. On August 27 they took Roye and next day captured Chaulnes. The Germans withdrew from Noyon on August 29 and the French pursued them closely. On September 4 Mangin commenced a new offensive in which he succeeded in crossing the Aisne near Vailly. This compelled a further retirement of the German line in that region. They fell back to their old defensive positions in advance of Douai, Cambrai, St. Quentin, and Laon. The First British Army striking eastward from Arras had made slow progress against very stubborn opposition. Experience gained in the operations near Amiens indicated that tanks should follow rather than precede the infantry. An attack was launched early on the morning of September 2 by the Canadian Corps and 17th British Corps against the Drocourt-Quéant system of defence. Preceded by an effective barrage and followed by a large fleet of tanks,