

the 1st Brigade on the right, made a further advance of nearly a mile, clearing the German second position and the village of Farbus, capturing the enemy guns and supplies collected there, and penetrating to the railway embankment.

On the front of the 3rd Canadian Division, 1,400 yards wide at the start and increasing to 2,000 as it crossed the central portion of the Ridge at La Folie Farm and Wood, the havoc caused by the artillery was so complete that the enemy was unable to offer any serious obstacle to the irresistible infantry assaults. As elsewhere, the first phase entailed the crossing of the mine-craters at the front line and the maze of shattered trenches behind them, scattered with torn entanglements and deep in watery mud; as elsewhere all resistance was quickly overcome, and the first objective was reached by 6 a.m. The second, and in this sector the final, phase entailed the capture of a mile of the crest of the Ridge including La Folie Farm, the Ecole Commune, and the other strong points and observation stations along the western fringe of La Folie Wood: this was completed by the two attacking brigades—the 8th and 7th—by 7.34 a.m., a penetration of 1,200 yards in two hours.

The assault of the 4th Canadian Division, against the German front line and the crest of the Ridge 500 yards distant, was aimed at capturing Hill 145 and covering the northern flank: the former task to the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade, the latter to the 12th. These accomplished, the subsidiary summit—The Pimple—would be secured next day by a separate minor operation by the 10th Brigade. The left brigade made good progress, cleared most of its area and established a flank on the north, but was held up because the right brigade, having secured a footing only in part of the German front line, was checked by heavy machine gun fire, lost pace with the barrage, and suffered heavily. But the fight was maintained: by 3 p.m. the forward system of trenches had been cleared with bomb and bayonet, and as darkness fell the last of the enemy was driven from Hill 145 and the crest of the Ridge. During the night the Canadian line was established along the eastern slope.

**The German Defence.**—In the midst of the assault a chance phenomenon had astonished the combatants: at half-past ten a sudden blaze of sunlight split the dark curtain of snow-clouds and disclosed endless waves of Canadians, some advancing steadily over the Ridge north and south of Thélus while others worked methodically on the construction of positions and prepared to meet a counter-attack in force. Thus for a fleeting moment was revealed the final issue of the day: the Germans saw that the Ridge was lost, the Canadians knew that it was won. By noon these Canadians stood exhilarated on the eastern escarpment, looking down upon the broken enemy scattered for miles across the wide plain below. The German defence was so dislocated and demoralized that their prearranged counter-measures were doomed to fail; only at Hill 145 reinforcements, taking advantage of a covered approach, for a time stiffened but could not restore the line. In the centre our airmen observed one reinforcing battalion after another marching westwards across the open plain and these were engaged by the Canadian artillery, so that the two main German counter-attacks, originally ordered for 3 p.m. were postponed to 5 p.m. The northerly counter-attack, to be delivered by battalions assembled north and south-east of Vimy, against the high ground above Thélus,