

eventually moved off at 8 p.m. to be swallowed up in mud and darkness without gaining a yard of ground. Further south the German counter-attacking battalions, assembling east of Willerval, were also effectively engaged by the artillery; the leading battalion deployed to meet a patrol of twelve Canadian cavalymen who dashed through to that village at about 5 p.m. Thus delayed, the attack to recapture Farbus and the adjoining wood only with difficulty attained the Arras-Lens railway embankment at some points and did no more than increase the threat to the Canadian right, where the 51st (Highland) Division on the Third Army front had been unable to advance within 1,000 yards of the railway embankment because of strong enemy forces in the second position on the eastern slope of the Ridge covering Bailleul.

Well ploughed by the bombardment, the loosened soil over all the western slopes of the Ridge soaked up the melting snow, which fell all through the afternoon and only ceased at midnight. The condition of the captured ground, which had assumed the consistency of thick porridge, mixed with strands of wire, stakes, trench-boards and sandbags, restricted the advance of the artillery to the Arras-Lens road—now the only strip in the area where a horse could find a footing. These conditions would have prevented further exploitation, had such been intended, but the primary task of the Canadian Corps was accomplished: the Ridge had been captured, now it must be put into a better state of defence so that it could be securely held.

On the 10th of April consolidation proceeded, trenches were dug, machine gun emplacements constructed, and barbed wire entanglements erected; on the left the enemy, who still retained a precarious hold of a few trenches on the hanging eastern face of the slope near Hill 145, was pushed further back. Next day more guns and ammunition were brought forward, communications were improved and roads across the sodden ground were made passable. On the 12th, the special operation to capture The Pimple was successfully carried out by the 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade, and the enemy, having previously concluded that there was no hope of regaining the Ridge, completed his withdrawal to the Drocourt-Quéant line, a new position two miles further back in the open plain and covering the villages of Avion, Méricourt, Acheville, Arleux, Fresnoy, and Oppy. This general line was manned opposite the Canadian front by four fresh divisions; it was only driven back slightly in subsequent British attacks, and the Germans held it until the autumn of 1918.

**The Forces Engaged.**—At the capture of Vimy Ridge, the strength of the Canadian Corps was 170,000; of these 97,184 were Canadians, of all arms and services, from every province of the Dominion and every man a volunteer. The remainder consisted chiefly of the attached 5th British Division 14,736 strong, of which one brigade was engaged, and over 30,000 of the Royal Artillery. In the preparatory bombardment 553,000 shells were fired, an expenditure of over 13,000 tons; on the day of the assault 863 field, heavy and siege guns covered the attack with 211,000 shells. The Canadian casualties for the second week of April were 11,297. In the battle the Germans were driven completely from the Ridge, with a loss of 54 guns, 104 trench mortars, 124 machine guns and 4,000 prisoners; their total casualties on the Canadian front are not recorded, but one division lost 3,133 and another 3,473 officers and men.