

Diaries Tell the Story of a Fierce Battle

HAIG SPEAKS (Continued)



Passage of the Marne. "D" Company, 1st Camerons, are crossing a pontoon bridge at Le-Ferte-sous Jouarre on September 10, 1914.

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The orders that Haig received on the previous evening were typical of the optimism which now prevailed at G.H.Q.

"The Army will continue the pursuit to-morrow at 6 a.m. and will act vigorously against the retreating enemy. . . . The heads of corps will reach the line Laon-Suzy-Fresne"—that was to say about twelve miles north of their actual position.

Haig could not share the confidence which dictated such orders.

"About three to four miles north of the river, a considerable ridge (some 400 ft. or more above the river), on which is the Chemin des Dames, runs east and west with spurs running southwards to the river.

"It seemed to me very necessary to have possession of this ridge before

WARM TRIBUTE TO GALLANT TROOPS

quarters back about a mile to the canal bridge south of Bourg village.

"By 3.30 to 4 p.m. reports from different parts of the line began to show signs of improvement. After encountering heavy opposition in the woods the 4th (Guards) Brigade had fought its way forward to the open ground, where it came into contact with the Connaughts about 5.30 p.m.

"There it found a position through Cour de Soupir to the southern point of the Spur, which afforded a clear field of fire for several hundred yards. In this advance through the woods the artillery had been able to give very little support to the infantry, except for one section which had been pushed right up to the firing line.

"With the left flank thus secured,



One of the first British trenches—in a cabbage field at St. Marguerite, September, 1914.

"In the dark, Ge to get touch with t his patrols found O both flanks. He back his troops un ness to the n Verneuil."

As night fell upon th a visit to each of his D

"Monro seemed o I complimented h haviour of his t critical conditions.

"I then rode o found him near Mo a five-mile ride via was dark, and the o in his motor-car, a shelling the village tended to spend th

"I told him to di I would arrange for right and all the Bri take the offensive to

"After the battle o the idea of an immed advance of the All gradually abandoned which had been gai Corps as the result battle had to be ada of defence.

"The total length the right of the 2nd 166 north of Chavo than 12,000 yards, front to be held by Divisions. reduce against an active C large reserves to c

"It was therefor to relieve the me where, even when were subjected by