

on the 10th of that month an offensive was commenced against the Bulgarian defences south of the line Doiran-Hill 535. The French captured Hills 227 and La Tortue, while the British occupied in succession those features of the main 535 ridge now known as Kidney Hill and Horseshoe Hill, and, pushing forward, established a series of advanced posts on the line Doldzeli-Reselli. The capture of Horseshoe Hill was successfully carried out on the night 17th-18th August by the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry at the point of the bayonet in the face of stubborn opposition. The enemy's counter-attacks were repulsed with heavy loss.

4. As a result of these operations it became possible to shorten considerably the allied line between Doiran Lake and the River Vardar, and on 29th August, in agreement with General Sarrail, I extended my front as far as the left bank of that river so as to set free more troops for his offensive operations. This relief was completed by 31st August, the position then held extending from Hill 420 to the Vardar River just north of Smol. In the Struma Valley a French mounted detachment was at the same time pushed forward to Seres.

5. On the 17th August, the Bulgarians, who, at the end of May, had entered Greek territory by the Struma Valley and moved down as far as Demirhisar, continued their advance into Greek Macedonia. Columns of all arms advanced from seven different points, between Sarisaban, on the Mesta, and Demirhisar. The four eastern columns converged on the country about Drama and Kavala, while the remainder moved southwards on to the line of the Struma from Demirhisar towards Orfano. On the 19th August a mounted brigade with one battery carried out a strong reconnaissance, and found the enemy in some force on the line Prosenik-Barakli Dzuma; on the following day, after being reinforced by a battalion, this brigade again advanced in conjunction with the French detachment. These attacking troops, after encountering the enemy in force on the line Kalendra-Prosenik-Haznatar, withdrew after dark to the right bank of the Struma. The French detachment was subsequently placed under the orders of the General Officer Commanding British troops on this front, and received instructions to co-operate in the defence of the river line. On the 21st August the railway bridge near Angista Station was demolished by a detachment from the Neohori garrison, and three days later two road bridges over the Angista River were destroyed. Both these operations were well carried out by yeomanry, engineers and cyclists in the face of hostile opposition. The Bulgarians continued their advance into Eastern Macedonia unopposed by the Greek garrison, and it was estimated that by the end of August the enemy's forces, extending from Demirhisar southwards in the Seres sector of the Struma front, comprised the complete VII Bulgarian Division, with two or three regiments of the XI Macedonian Division, which had moved eastwards from their positions on the Beles mountain to act as a reserve to the VII Division, and at the same time to occupy the defences from Vetrina-Puljovo northwards. Opposite the Lower Struma was a brigade of the II Division, with a brigade of the X Division, in occupation of the coast and the zone of country between Orfano and the Drama-Kavala road. This brigade of the X

Division was supported by another brigade in the Drama-Kavala area. As a result of this advance and of a similar move in the west General Sarrail decided to entrust to the British Army the task of maintaining the greater portion of the right and centre of the allied line.

6. On the 10th September detachments crossed the river above Lake Tahinos at five places between Bajraktar Mah and Dragos, while a sixth detachment crossed lower down at Neohori. The villages of Oraoman and Kato Gudeli were occupied, and the Northumberland Fusiliers gallantly captured Nevoljen, taking 30 prisoners and driving the enemy out of the village. The latter lost heavily during their retirement and in their subsequent counter-attack. They also suffered severely from our artillery fire in attempting to follow our pre-arranged movements to regain the right bank of the river.

On the 15th similar operations were undertaken, six small columns crossing the river between Lake Tahinos and Orljak bridge. The villages of Kato Gudeli, Dzami Mah, Agomah and Komarjan were burnt and 27 prisoners were taken. The enemy's counter-attacks completely broke down under the accurate fire of our guns on the right bank of the river. On the 23rd a similar scheme was put into action, but a sudden rise of three feet in the Struma interfered with the bridging operations. Nevertheless the enemy's trenches at Jenimah were captured, 14 prisoners taken, and three other villages raided. Considerable help was given on each occasion by the French detachment under Colonel Bescoins, and much information was obtained which proved to be of considerable value during subsequent operations.

7. On the Doiran-River Vardar front there remained as before the whole of the Bulgarian IX Division, less one regiment, a brigade of the II Division, and at least two-thirds of the German 101st Division, which had entrenched the salient north of Macukovo on the usual German system. To assist the general offensive by the allies I ordered this salient to be attacked at the same time as the allied operations in the Florina area commenced. With this object in view the whole of the enemy's entrenched position was subjected to a heavy bombardment from the 11th to 13th September, the south-west corner of the salient known as the Piton des Mitrail-leuses being specially selected for destruction. The enemy's position was occupied during the night 13th/14th, after a skilfully-planned and gallant assault, in which the King's Liverpool Regiment and Lancashire Fusiliers specially distinguished themselves. Over 200 Germans were killed in the work, chiefly by bombing, and 71 prisoners were brought in. During the 14th the enemy concentrated from three directions a very heavy artillery fire, and delivered several counter-attacks, which were for the most part broken up under the fire of our guns. Some of the enemy, however, succeeded in forcing an entrance into the work, and severe fighting followed. As hostile reinforcements were increasing in numbers, and as the rocky nature of the ground rendered rapid consolidation difficult, the troops were withdrawn in the evening to their original line, the object of the attack having been accomplished. This withdrawal was conducted with little loss, thanks to the very effective fire of the artillery. During the bombardment and subsequent