

With their right resting on a flooded area and their left providing both concealment and good going for their reserves and armour, the Germans were in a very strong defensive position. A Canadian attempt to turn their open flank on 8 October failed, partially as a result of fog, and the Canadians now faced stalemate.

On 10 October a bold drive by the Royal Regiment of Canada across the wet reclaimed land to the south and west of Woensdrecht reached the near side of the embankment carrying the railway across the isthmus at its narrowest point, almost but not quite closing it. In the face of a fierce counterattack the refused to yield any of the ground it had taken.

On 13 October the Black Watch of Canada, committed once more by Brigadier W. J. McGill's Canadian 5th Brigade an effort to break the stalemate, did no better. Faced by heavy mortar, air-burst artillery and small arms fire, the battalion ended the day back where it had started and had lost 145 men. The Canadian 2nd Division's final effort to break the deadlock came on 16 October when, at 03.30, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, covered by a heavy barrage and supported by tanks, finally fought its way into Woensdrecht and onto the low ridge above it, thereby cutting off North and South Beveland from the rest of the German-held Netherlands.

On 26 October Bergen-op-Zoom fell to the Canadian 4th Armoured Division, and the 49th Division was nearing Roosendaal. Thus relieved of anxiety with regard to its eastern flank, the Canadian 2nd Division was able on 24 October to begin its advance across the isthmus into South Beveland. Fighting to the north-west along the flooded isthmus, on which the deployment and commitment of armour was impossible, the division advanced about 5 miles (8 km) through the muddy terrain and against the resistance of of a German garrison now numbering, on the isthmus alone, four infantry battalions, two fortress troop battalions and 10 artillery battalions.

By 26 October Brigadier F. N. Cabeldu's Canadian 4th Brigade had fought its way forward to Krabbendijke half way along the isthmus, and Brigadier G. Gauvreau's Canadian 6th Brigade passed through to renew the offensive. Some 7 miles (11.25 km) farther ahead lay the flooded banks of the Beveland Canal.

The Canadian 2nd Division resumed its advance and on 29 October, linking with the British 52nd Division's beach-head, pushed on to Goes, the island's main town, to receive a great welcome from the liberated Dutch. Effective German resistance ceased on 29 October, when the island of North Beveland was also cleared and the last surviving German forces fell back to Walcheren. By the morning of 31 October the Allied forces had reached the eastern end of the causeway leading to Walcheren island, and South Beveland was clear of the Germans.

*Bron: <https://codenames.info/operation/vitality/>*