

On 30 November the German counter attack came against the thinly held British lines. What few tanks were left assisted in the defence; even those undergoing major repairs were put back together and sent off. But the German attack was too strong to resist and the British began to fall back. The withdrawal was carried out between 4th and 7th December, almost back to the 20th November start line.

D. WHITE

After the withdrawal came the snow and freezing weather. It was back to digging in for the winter, as had been done each previous winter of the war.

All that had been expended in men, machines and munitions came to little. The blunderers of the British Staff had lost what the men at the front had so expensively gained. Naturally there was an inquiry and naturally the junior leaders were blamed. Was this fair? No, for it was the front line leaders who had pushed on doing the impossible with too little and too few.

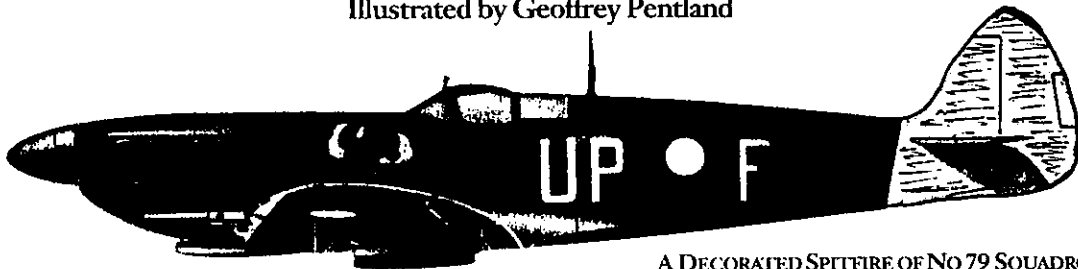
by Tom James

For the cost of a flung away victory the Tank Corps lost 188 officers and 965 other ranks killed, wounded or missing. Around 200 out of 374 tanks were destroyed and most of the remainder damaged. Cambrai had been a costly "victory".

Next. The German View.

SOME DISTINCTIVE AUSTRALIAN AIRCRAFT FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Illustrated by Geoffrey Pentland



A DECORATED SPITFIRE OF NO 79 SQUADRON

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