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Acquisition

No

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1559, A.

WFR Diary 1914-1918.

Pack 18

ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

RSR MS. 2/57

3RD BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1914.

Appendix

August.

MORNING.

- 3rd Owing to rumours, all specialists and men leaving the Bn. were medically inspected.
- 3rd Remainder of Bn. was medically inspected, wagons were unstacked and placed ready for loading. Company rolls and Sussex Mobilisation forms were amended in accordance with Medical Inspection Rolls.
- 4th 6.30 Order to Mobilise received. The Bn. closed up, harness was issued, and as much of first day's work as possible was done.
- 5th Mobilization proceeded in accordance with Time Table contained in Bn. Mobilisation Scheme.
- 6th Mobilization proceeded satisfactorily. Reservists (first party strength 386/400) arrived at 1 a.m. and were accommodated and posted to Companies after "Reveille". On inspection by G.O.C. 2nd Infantry Brigade, mobilization was exactly half a day ahead of scheduled time. Reservists (second party strength 171/400) arrived at 4.40 p.m. at WOKING Station, and were posted to Companies and accommodated. Horses direct from Purchaser which should have arrived on first day did not arrive until morning of third day, when horses from serving units were drawn.
- 7th Explanation of Railway Time Table as to date of fourth day received. Diaries amended accordingly. Mobilisation completed by evening of third day, except for fitting of harness to horses received direct from Purchaser. 101 men ordered to 3rd Royal Sussex Regt. at Dover leaving the Bn. with only two Reservists fit for service in the Details. Officers and 15 N.C.Os. were ordered to Depot as instructors to new unit formed there. This necessitated immediate promotions which caused alteration in the personnel of Companies.
- 8th Handling over and cleaning up. Company training of Reservists carried out.
- 9th Reservists Quakery at Mialy. On return to Barracks it was found that about fifty Reservists were wearing boots too small for them. Forty pairs of these were exchanged at once and orders put forward for more.

1914.

Appendix.

August.FOOTING.9th
(Contd.)

Between this day and entainment 123 pairs of boots had to be exchanged. In the majority of cases, boots were too narrow. Seven men were transferred to Details as Medically Unfit on this account.

10th

Company Training and Mustered. Ordnance returned ordered the return of blankets, one suit of service dress, and one pair of boots per man. All wagons were loaded ready for move. This disturbed Transport Officers arrangements and hindered the fitting of harness as several horses had to be changed.

11th

Ordered to return Ceremonial Equipment. This was done in the Pakkon Tolly. 15 Reservists arrived at 6.30 p.m. Brigade Route March. Eight Reservists fell out and were transferred to Details as Unfit.

S.S. "OLYMPIA" & "AGAPENOR".

13th

The Br. entrained in two parties from Woking Station to Southampton at 11.5 a.m. and 12.40 pm. The first party embarked on S.S. "Olympia" with half Battalion of Coldstream Guards and General Headquarters Intelligence Corps. The boat sailed at 8.30 p.m. for Havre. The 2nd party arrived at Southampton and embarked at 11.45 a.m. on S.S. "Agapenor" and sailed at 11.30 pm for Havre. This boat ran into a collier just outside Southampton, did no harm to the "Agapenor" but rent a hole in the stern of the collier.

BREVILLE CAMP - HAVRE.

13th

First party arrived HAVRE at 11.30 am. Second party arrived HAVRE at 12 noon. The Br. marched to Breville Camp, a distance of about five miles from HAVRE. The 2 parties arriving there at 9 pm & 5 pm respectively and encamped.

HAVRE.

14th

The Br. entrained at 11.30 a.m. for KIRKUX. The Br. was received in a very friendly spirit by the French public. At ARNAS the Major and a deputy of the 33rd French Regt. presented bouquets to the Commanding Officer.

KIRKUX.

15th 6.30. Arrived at KIRKUX and billeted.

p.m.

1914.

Appendix.

August.ESQUERIES.

16th

Marched to ESQUERIES, about 5 miles distant and billeted. Arrived at 8.30 a.m. Found the remainder of the 2nd Brigade - 1st Northamptonshire Regt., Royal North Lancs. Regt. and K. Royal Rifles billeted in the village. Rations drawn at BOUL. Our billets were very scattered about the village.

17th

Bn. still billeted at same place. Bn. Route March 8 a.m. Rations drawn at BOUL. 150 Officers, W.C.Os. & men were inoculated against typhoid fever.

18th

Bn. Route March about 12 miles. Rations drawn at BOUL. Passed Drums of the Brigade played at 6 pm. Reserve Machine Gunners & Signallers were paraded at 3 pm for instruction.

19th

Bn. Route March, about 12 miles. Rations drawn at BOUL. The first mail from England arrived. The Brigade concert in evening.

20th

General cleaning up in billets.

AVRESSES.

21st

The Brigade marched (2nd Lt. Sussler leading) to AVRESSES, a distance of about 14 miles, and billeted.

22nd

ST. RENIAL MARTI-VILLERS SUR NICOLE.

Marched to ST. RENIAL MARTI with remainder of 2nd Brigade at 5.30 a.m. distance about 16 miles, and arrived at that place at 3 pm. Billeted for about 2 hours. Bn. vehicles were unloaded and horses were unharnessed. At 5 p.m. the Brigade received orders to move immediately, and the Bn. turned out in 30 minutes, fifty additional rounds of ammunition per man being issued in this time. The Bn. proceeded with the Brigade via FAUBERGE to VILLERS SUR NICOLE, and arrived at about midnight with considerable difficulty. "D" Coy. furnished two pickets on route North of the village.

HOUVAYOI.

23rd

Received sudden orders at 3.15 a.m. to move at once, and at 4 a.m. the Brigade marched off. Disembarked at HOUVAYOI, Belgium at about 5.30 PM. The Brigade was this day placed in Divisional Reserve.

1914.

Appendix.

4.

August.

23rd
(Contd.)

At 3 p.m. the Brigade moved into the village and billeted. In the evening we watched the Germans opening a heavy artillery fire on BORNH which could be plainly seen by us, and the 26th Brigade, B.G.A. who were stationed in our vicinity, brought their heavy guns into action just outside the village. The Bn. turned out billets and "stood by" until about 9.30 p.m. when we advanced towards HORN, and bivouacked by the roadside throughout the night at the head of the column $\frac{1}{2}$ miles short of GIVRY.

BORNH-TZIGNES.

24th
Soon after daylight, the duel between the rival artillery was resumed, and the Bn. received orders to march on BORNH, which place we reached about 9.30 a.m., artillery fire being kept up on our right flank throughout the march. On arrival we took up a position south of BORNH and strongly entrenched ourselves. Two Companies of the King's Rl. Rifles were on our right flank with the Kanister Fusiliers pushed forward in advance of them, and in front of us was the Royal North Lancs. Regt. On our left flank was the 3rd Brigade. Heavy Artillery fire took place during the day, but the Battalion was not called upon to assist these in front. The Bn. received the congratulations of the Division for the trenches it dug in this place. At about 5-45 pm, the 1st Division marched southwards, the 2nd Brigade acting as "rear guard", with the Bn. as its rear guard. Arrived at TZIGNES at 10 pm, where we billeted. Hd. quarters at Railway Station.

MARBAIX.

25th
At 7.30 a.m. the Brigade, as Rear Guard to the Division, moved southwards. Soon after starting, the French troops commenced firing at British aeroplanes thinking apparently that they were German machines, and it was by a bullet fired by this force that M. 7610 Sergt. A.J. Hitchman was wounded in the thigh. The Bn. continued their march throughout the day and on arrival at MARBAIX at about 8 pm, billeted. Previous to our arrival whilst the 1st & 2nd Line Transport of the Division was parked in the streets of the village, some confusion occurred, for it appeared that some French Troops opened fire on our

1914.

Appendix.August.25th
(Contd.)

weapons, and as it was dark, our troops returned the fire and a kind of a stampede amongst the horses occurred. A horse on which a French Gendarme was mounted bolted, throwing its rider under the wheels of a water cart & killed him. A woman was wounded by a rifle bullet in this affray. Lt. W. Burgess admitted to hospital.

ZAVILL - PIX CAMBRESIS.

26th

At 7 a.m. the Division once again moved Southwards.

At about 10.30 a.m. the Bn. reached ZAVILL, and here, with the remainder of the 2nd Brigade, we bivouacked for a while, and then moved on to PIX CAMBRESIS, and billeted in a farmhouse which was deserted, and several barrels of beer and hundreds of pounds of cheese were found on the premises, and provided a good feed for the Bn. Whilst reconnoitering, an aeroplane dropped two bombs close to Capt. A. B. Jemmett-Browne in the morning but with no effect. A heavy Artillery fire was kept up during the day. Before leaving HARVAIX we left our overcoats in charge of 10 men of the Bn. in order to facilitate the movement of the troops for an instant action appeared imminent, and ammunition was made up to 300 rounds per man.

HAVVILLAS.

37th

At 5 a.m. the Brigade resumed its march Southwards and on arrival at VASSIGNY at 7.30 a.m. remained on the green. At 1.45 pm the march continued, and soon after passing HARVAIX the Bn. (which was then acting as flank guard to the Brigade) took up a position on the high ground south of this place. Artillery fire only though was exchanged & we resumed our march to HAVVILLAS, which place we reached at 9 pm & billeted. On arrival there, we learnt of the loss of our great coats which were left at HARVAIX, & a party of Germans having entered the town immediately after we left, nine of the party left in charge were afterwards reported as captured, and the great coats were burnt.

1914.

Appendix.August.FRESHWATERCOURT.

28th

The Bn. marched off at 3 a.m. with the Brigade, and Companies took up positions just outside the village.

The march was afterwards recommenced and continued until 12 midnight when we reached FRESHWATERCOURT & bivouaced, the Brigade thus completing 21 hours on the move.

30th

Rest day for the Division in BIVOUAC.

AWLEY.

30th

The march Southwards was resumed at 4 a.m. and a halt was made at FRESHWATER for about 2½ hours where we were treated in a very friendly manner by the Sisters ¼ of the Asylum at that place a large quantity of hot coffee being provided. We then moved on to AWLEY and billeted.

VERRES ZEULIER.

31st

March continued at 4 am Southwards to VERRES ZEULIER via SOISSONS, arriving at 4.30 pm. Bivouaced.

J.S. GANNON, Captain,
Comd'g. 2/11. Sussex Reg't.

In the field.
14.12.1914.

2nd BATTALION ROYAL FUSILIER REGIMENT.

1914.

Appendix.

August.

VERRE FEUILLE.

March continued at 4 am. Southwards to VERRE FEUILLE via SOISEFORS, arriving at 4.30 pm. Rivonced.

31st

September.

OUPOPEL DUUX.

The Bn again marched Southwards at 5 am. for a distance of about 17 miles, the Brigade then being debelled for Outpost Duty. Orders being received to sleep in accommodations. At about 11.30 pm. the Bn. was roused and commenced moving; after crossing the river the papers blew up the bridges, & some empty barges on the river.

1st

VARHEDDES.

Southwards again at 12.15 am. the Brigade acting as Rear Guard, the Bn. doing Rear Guard to the Brigade. At 5.30 pm. we reached VARHEDDES a village in the vicinity of HENAY where we billeted and received our rations for the day. The whole march (17 1/2 hours) was done on no rations. Capt. A. B. WILDE to Hospital.

2nd

ROHEMAY.

At 4.30 am. the Division moved forward in a South Easterly direction the Brigade acting as Advance Guard with the Bn. leading. On reaching FERRE, the Bn. took up a position on the high ground in the vicinity, and at 5.30 pm. moved on to ROHEMAY, where we billeted.

3rd

AULNOY.

At 5 am. the Division moved off and reached AULNOY at about 11.30 am. where we billeted. At 3.30 pm. the Bn. received orders to "stand to arms" and then moved off to the high ground in the vicinity & took up a position with the remainder of the 2nd Brigade. On our right flank were the French troops whilst

4th

1914.

September.4th
(Contd.)

on our left was the 2nd Division, 113 Batsery R.P.A. and "E" Battery R.H.A. with the 3rd Cavalry Brigade & an escort to the guns also took up positions, and Artillery fire was exchanged with the enemy at once, and a heavy ~~artillery~~ fire on both sides was kept up until 6.20 pm. Shrapnel was bursting on our position in all directions, but happily only one man was wounded and then in the hand only. From information gained, there were only three casualties in our formation in this action and one horse only of the 15th Hussars was wounded. At about 7.45 pm. the Bn returned to Billets, "G" Coy remaining on Outpost duty for the night.

BERRY.

At 1.45 am. the Bn marched off with the remainder of the Brigade to BERRY, arriving about 1 pm. & billeted. First Reinforcements and Ordnance Stores arrived during the day. 2 Lieut. L.R. Croft was in command of Reinforcements.

FOZOV-VAUDOY.

The Brigade moved off at 9 am. and took up a position just outside BERRY, the Bn being placed as Brigade Reserve. After a while the Bn moved to ROZOV and the Brigade was placed as Divisional Reserve, the Bn being attached to the remainder of the 1st Division. We arrived at 11.30 am. and at 4.15 pm. we moved to VAUDOY where we bivouaced for the night.

JOY-SUP-HORIN.

The Bn moved off at about 4 am. and halted just outside bivouacs until about 9 am. when we moved off with the Brigade to JOY-SUP-HORIN, arriving about 8 pm. and billeted. 19 Reinforcements joined the Bn. 1 German was taken prisoner by "G" Coy whilst on picket, 2 G.S. The Gons

5th

6th

7th

Appendix.

1914.

September.Appendix.7th
(Contd.)

2 & R.P.A. Drivers joined the Bn to carry coals for Reinforcements, 2 Lt.D.G.Pamsey admitted to Hospital.

FLAGNY.

At 11 am, the Brigade moved off, and after moving across country for a considerable distance in order to avoid the enemy's artillery fire on the roads, we reached FLAGNY, and bivouaced in a field South East of FLAGNY FARM. 80 Reinforcements under command of Lieut. F.C. Westall, & 2 men from Hospital joined. During the march, & when close to SABLONNIERES we passed through the area in which a cavalry action had taken place that morning. The graves of 3 British Officers were passed in a church yard at SABLONNIERES and several graves of German soldiers by the roadside, also many dead German horses. Many carts, wagons, bicycles etc. which the enemy had abandoned in their flight also were passed.

LA FAYE GROISSEZEE.

The Brigade moved off at 3 am. & bivouaced at LA GROISSEZEE, arriving about 7 pm.

FREIZ-FAIRSY.

The Bn acting as advance guard to the Brigade, marched off at 4 am. with "B" Coy as our Advance Guard. On arriving on the high ground just before reaching FREIZ at about 9 am, the enemy was seen in position on the high ground on the other side of the village. Several shots were fired at them and the Bn advanced towards them through the village. As it was raining hard at the time, we were wearing our waterproof sheets. As soon as we cleared PRITZ, a heavy artillery fire was opened on us by the Germans, "B" Coy being only 750 yards from them with head cys and remaining Companies just in rear. Our own artillery which was in rear of us then commenced shelling us thinking apparently that we were Germans on a/c of the colour of our waterproof sheets. The German

Sketch
Given in
Appendix "A"

9th

10th

1914.

September.

Appendix.

10th
(contd.)

Infantry then opened a heavy rifle fire, and as we were isolated from the remainder of the Brigade, the Bn was forced to retire under such a heavy fire, and moved to the left flank, and after a short interval reoccupied a position on the right flank. The remainder of the Brigade then came forward to assist. Our own Artillery kept up a heavy fire on the Germans, and at about 3 pm, the enemy was driven back, the French troops from Paris then carrying on with the fighting, and thus thoroughly demoralising the enemy. Our own losses during this action were Capt. A.E. Jemmett-Browne killed, Lieut. H.B. Blakeney and Lieut. L. Boye wounded, Sergt Major W. Cleave killed, 17 others killed, 83 wounded, and a number of missing. 4 horses also were killed, 2 wounded, and one S.A.A. cart was blown up. It appeared that the Germans would have been more successfully attacked if the Advance Guard had been covered by mounted troops. Only one troop of the 15th Hussars arrived before the action commenced through some mistake and the preliminary reconnaissance was subsequently almost nil. Also the position of the Guns in the column prevented their giving close assistance to the Battalion. These are the lessons learnt from the days fighting. The line taken up by the Bn during this action was across the PRIZ-COINCY road - 5 haystacks on left and seven trees on right.

At about 6 pm, the Bn moved to BILLOTS at FAISSY.

COINCY.

The Bn moved off with the Brigade which was still acting as Advance Guard to the Division at 6 am. and marched to COINCY & billeted, arriving about 1.30 pm.

PARIS.

The Bn moved off at 7 am, and marched to PARIS, reached there at 6.30 pm. Billeted.

12th

11th

1914.

September.

13th

HOUJAINS.

Marching at the head of the advance guard, the Bn moved at 5 am, and on passing through BOURG, distinctive signs of the enemy were seen, for a bridge over the canal had been blown up, a sign of an action also had come to GPRINS where suffering 4 killed & 5 wounded. On reaching the high ground on the other side of the town the Brigade took up position and a heavy Artillery dual commenced, the French troops being on our Right Flank. The enemy after a while retired in a northerly direction. During this action, only a few rounds were fired by the Bn, but Private FRAINE was killed and 7 men were wounded by shrapnel. At about 6 pm, the Bn moved into Billets at HOUJAINS.

VANDRESSE.

(First day of the Battle of the AISEN.)
A reconnaissance was made on the evening of 13th Sept, which showed that the enemy had plagues between FROYON and about 5 Artillery Batteries at GENNY. The Bn. was sent to occupy the high ground above VANDRESSE and two Coy's of the R. Royal Rifles were ordered to occupy the high ground about FROYON, on reaching the village of VANDRESSE our Cavalry patrols were heavily fired upon by the enemy's plagues near FROYON and the CHEMIE-DE-DAMES. The Bn having narrowed out of Billets at 5 am, was on the spot to support the Cavalry, and as once seized the high ground about FROYON and North West of VANDRESSE, capturing 250 German prisoners who were hurried in bivouacs, and the surrendered under the white flag. As our men were in the act of rounding them up, the enemy opened fire on our men & their own troops which we had captured, causing considerable loss. The whole of the Division then came up and occupied the ridge running N.E. between VANDRESSE & FROYON. Heavy fighting continued

14th

Sketch
Even in
Appendix
"a".

1914.

Appendix.

September.

14th
(Contd.)

all day against the 7th Reserve German Army Corps. The Division was ordered to hold on to the position occupied at all costs, and we entrenched ourselves accordingly, the French troops being expected to come up on our right, and the remainder of the British troops on our left. The French were unable to come up in any strength on our right that evening, but the 2nd Division began to come up on our right left during the afternoon. In spite of very severe losses, especially among Officers, the Brigade managed to hold on. At nightfall there was a cessation in the battle, with the exception of some sniping between picquets. On this date the Bn lost Lt. Col. E. H. Montresor, Major H. B. Cookson, Captain Capt. D. Slaver, Lieut. Daven killed, Capt. J. S. Cameron, 2nd Lt. W. S. Hughes, 2nd Lt. H. Wallington & 2 Lt. W. B. Churchill-Longman were wounded, 11 others were killed, 79 wounded & 114 missing. The large number of missing is due to the fact that a large number of killed & wounded had to be left in front of our trenches, and we were unable to recover them at nightfall on account of German snipers, & fire from the enemy's trenches which were situated at a very close range. The weather on this day was very wet. Major E. W. B. Stark Green took over command of the Bn. Major 2/Lieut. Hughes was afterwards reported missing & nothing has been heard of him to date - Dec 10th 1914 -

15th

During the night of 14th/15th, the enemy advanced to within 600 yards of our position and entrenched. At dawn, the Artillery Bombardment recommenced and continued with intervals all day. The 6th French Army Corps on the left of the 3rd Division was pressing the enemy back in a N.W. direction. Our Cavalry reported that the enemy on our flank were relieving in a N.E. direction through BOURGONVILLE, the French following them up and advancing through LA VALLEE FOUILLOE. About noon, the French columns appeared

1914.

Appendix.

September.

16th
(Contd.)

on our right and supported our action with Artillery fire. The Zouaves replaced the 3rd Hussars who had filed a gap in our firing line, about 5 pm. During the afternoon, the enemy sent a large body of Cavalry to make a dismounted attack against our right centre. This was repulsed, & the enemy then retired in the late afternoon to a position about 1600 yards north of us leaving some troops still in their forward trenches. Meanwhile the 2nd Division was advancing and pressing the enemy back, and the 3rd Division was coming up on the left of the 2nd Division. The Artillery fighting continued until dusk, and during the night 15/16th our scouts who were picketing the enemy, reported large packets of the enemy, advancing against our front. These were easily repulsed & retired. During the night 2 scouts were wounded and one killed. Very wet weather.

16th

Soon after dawn the Artillery Bombardment again recommenced & continued throughout the day. At 5 pm. a general bombardment was ordered by our G.O.C. in C. and the enemy soon replied, several shells dropping on our position. Very wet weather.

17th

Artillery duel recommenced at dawn and continued throughout the day almost without interval. At about 2 pm. 18th Company on the left of the line occupied by the Bn. reported enemy's machine guns & 150 men to be entrenching themselves on the high ground on our right, somewhere about DEE in CHEMIN-DES DAMES. This position would have put them between us & the 3rd Brigade and in a position to enfilade our line. The Northants & K.P. Rifles made a successful counter attack against this position, driving the enemy away from their trenches at the point of the bayonet, inflicting heavy loss and capturing 40 prisoners. The Northampton dug themselves in on the high ground and our right was reinforced by the 1st Coldstream Guards, thus linking us up with the 3rd Brigade. In the evening the Gloucestershire Regt relieved the Coldstreams. Very wet weather. 2 Corps. killed and one man wounded.

1914.

September.Appendix.

18th

As usual, the Artillery Bombardment recommenced at dawn, and continued throughout the day.

VENDESMISE - PAISSEY.

19th

Usual Artillery Bombardment. At 2 pm, the Bn was relieved by the East Yorks Regt. the remainder of our Brigade being relieved by the remainder of the 18th Brigade at 11 pm. They moved to PARHAM as Divisional Reserve, and the Bn was sent to take up an outpost position at PAISSEY. Captain Aldridge and 48 men who had conducted German prisoners to LE MANS rejoined the Bn in the evening.

See
Appendix
"B".

20th

PAISSEY.

A heavy Artillery Bombardment commenced shortly after dawn, the Bn being concealed in caves. Many of the shells burst right on our position. At about 1 pm it was reported that the French troops on our right were falling back, and also that the West Yorks on the right of our line had been driven in, the enemy being in possession of a hill about 1000 yards to our right front. 2 Coys of the Bn. were launched against these and drove them back. The West Yorks then reoccupied their original position, supported by us on their right with 3 Coys. The fourth Company remaining in PAISSEY in reserve. We hung on to our position until relieved about 8 pm, then 2 Coys returned to PAISSEY. During the night 20/21st the Artillery Bombardment was kept up in a diminished degree ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Our casualties were 14 wounded, 2 of whom could not be found by our stretcher bearers but their bodies were subsequently found & buried by the 21 Artillery. (Cpl. Peacock & Pt. Boniface.)

21st

Usual Artillery Bombardment commenced at dawn, but was less vigorous until midday, consisting chiefly of high explosives. One shell dropped into a yard where men were billeted, killing one

1914.

Appendix.September.21st
(Contd.)

and rounding four men. Throughout the action on 20/21st inst. we were acting in conjunction with the 2nd & 4th Cavalry Brigades, who retired in the evening at dusk, leaving us to guard the high ground running south past PAISSEY, in case of a flight attack by the enemy.

PAROHAN.

At 6 am. we were relieved by the ROBERTS Post and the Bn joined the remainder of the 2nd Brigade at PAROHAN at which place many French Zouaves were bivouaced and the French Artillery were in action. Blissett, Lieut. L. H. K. Pinch lt. Col., Lezada & lt. W. Turner with 252 reinforcements joined.

MOULINS.

At about 4 am. the Brigade was ordered to support the French troops who were making an attack on the enemy's position. We therefore moved to MOULINS and remained there in reserves. During our march a heavy Artillery fire was opened on us luckily with no casualties, although the L. R. Lanes who were immediately in rear of us suffered a number of casualties. At 6.30 pm. we moved back to PAROHAN and Blissett.

PAROHAN.

This day was treated as a day of rest for the Bn and such use was made of the same.

PAROHAN & EROXON.

Another day of rest.
At 6 am. the Bn. advanced to the trenches at EROXON and took up a position on the right, about 5 miles S from our old VANDRESSE position.

EROXON.

Heavy Artillery Bombardment soon after daylight, and "D" Coy who were in our advanced trenches exchanged shots with the enemy. During the morning, a shell burst on their shelters, partially

1914.

September.21st
(Contd.)

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22nd

See
Appendix
pg^s

23rd

See
Appendix
pg^s

24th

25th

See
Appendix
pg^s

26th

1914.

September.

Appendix.

26th
(Contd.)

burying 3 men (killing 1 & wounding 2). At about 4.30 pm. another shell burst on the shelters partially burying Sgt Satcher and 2 men. It took 1 1/2 hours to dig Sgt. Satcher out but finally he was unharmed, the other 2 men though being wounded.

27th

Usual Artillery Bombardment commenced at daybreak. At about 10.30 pm. a very accurate enfilade fire was opened on the trenches occupied by "C" Coy. Luckily without doing very much damage, and at 5 pm. this recommenced doing more damage, knocking out a Machine Gun and 3 gunners. Total casualties were 6 killed, 29 wounded. We were relieved in the trenches by the L. H. Lancos. At about 12.25 am. (28th) a heavy rifle fire was opened on our right and we reinforced the Lancos with "A" & "B" Coys. On reaching the large trenches, it was discovered that the attack was entirely against the French. The attack lasted for about 1 hour, after which Coys returned to shelters. Our casualties in this affair were 2 Lt. Satchers wounded & 3 men wounded, probably from stray bullets.

Nothing of note, except of course, the usual Artillery Bombardment, occurred on this day.

28th

At about 9 am. shells began bursting in the vicinity of our trenches, and at about 12 noon, a heavy trench fire was opened on the road on which our Lt. Lane Transport was situated, causing the following casualties -
 Lieut. H. Preston, (Transport Officer) slightly wounded and four others wounded, not including 3 of the R. A. M. Corps attached to the Co. These men, include the Transport Sergeant, the Transport Corp. (who died on 30th of his wounds). 5 horses also were killed and 5 wounded.

1914.September.Appendix.29th
(Contd.)

At 6.45 pm. we relieved the Northants Regt in their trenches, situated a little under $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to our left front.

30th

A heavy Artillery fire on both sides began shortly after dawn, many of the shells dropping on our position. Our casualties were 3 wounded.

2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL GRENADIER REGIMENT.

1914.

Appendix.

October.

TRUYON.

1st.

At about 8 a.m. another heavy artillery fire was opened on both sides, many of the enemy's shells dropping on our position. Nothing else of note happened, but in the night 7th Coy. advanced to the enemy's trenches & filled them in. Serjt. Y. Harriott took charge of the working party.

2nd.

A comparatively quiet day. It has been noticed of late that many of the enemy's shells have not exploded.

At about 6.45 pm. an attack was made on our position, but was repelled very quickly. Shells were dropping on our position. 3 men wounded.

3rd.

Shells began to greet us very early and one man was wounded. 1. Corp. Wicks of the Machine Gun Section whilst attempting to quieten a sniper of the enemy was killed by the same sniper. In the evening we relieved the Borhamts Regt. in our old trenches which we evacuated 4 days ago. Another attack was made about 8.15. and was, as usual, repulsed easily.

4th.

More shells commenced to fall on our position at about 8 am. and 6 men were killed and 6 men wounded. Capt. H.F. Villiers D.F.O. joined the Bn. for duty. In the evening about 5.30 pm. a few more shells round our reserve trenches causing Head qtrs. and the Reserve Company to move westwards for about 200 yards. To day, the position was divided into 2 sections, Ho. 1 (the Eastern one) held by the Bn. & the L.N.Lancers, commanded by Major R.W.H. Green, and Ho. 2 (the Western) held by the K.R.Rifles and the Norhamts R. under command of Lt.Col.

5th.

Artillery fire was again commenced

1914.

October.5th
(contd)

early and continued throughout the day. In the evening we were relieved in the trenches by the I.N.Lancon. One man wounded.

6th.

Pleasant day, with the exception of the usual shelling. No casualties. Serjt. Harillier and Corp. Jucena granted commissions & promoted 2nd Lieut. in the Bn, to date 1.10.14.

7th.

At about 6 am, the enemy's machine guns opened a heavy fire on some dummy trenches that had been constructed, managing to knock out a number of dummbles which we had made of old clothing stuffed with straw. One "man" reading a "Daily Mail" had over 40 bullets in him. At about 11 am, the enemy sent over some heavy shells, named "BOLBS". These are monster high explosive shells fired at quite short range by a gun that makes very little noise. It has a very high trajectory & falls almost vertically. & therefore can search behind hills however steep. Even over steep banks were no protection. These shells were probably directed by aeroplanes for 12 flew over our position before 10.30 am. The first round accounted for 2 men of G Coy. (wounded) in addition to some casualties in the I.N.Lancon. The next similar shell came about 1.30 pm. & burst in the Bess "dugout" of the Officers of the Lance, killing 2 and wounding 3 Officers. At about 5 p.m. another issue of the "BOLD" was made, one of them landing 20 yards from our Cookers and Bn. Head quarters. Capt. R.J.A. Aldridge was killed and Capt. G.B. Bond, Lieut. G.H.V. Fenton & 2/Lt. G.H.B. de Chair were wounded. The last of these officers was fortunately only slightly wounded & not evacuated. In addition 5 other ranks were killed & 16 were wounded. The heavy toll taken by this

1914.Appendix.October.7th
(cont'd)

shell was due to the fact that a party was drawing tools from head qrs. at the time. In the evening we relieved the Northants in No. 2 Section of the trenches. On this day, a second wire was received from D.A.G. that no formal rolls of casualties had reached the base, although these have been rendered in accordance with Regulations. The Brigadier was informed accordingly.

8th.

At about 3 am. 8 Officers & 124 Reinforcements joined us. The Officers were Capts. H.H. Ashworth & R.H. Wiltman & Lt. R.W.T. Rose & 2nd Lts. A.L. Silverster, G.S. Shaw, C.S. McGrath, O. Moore and J.Y. Goffin. Usual Artillery Bombardment.

9th.

Usual Artillery duel.

10th.

"do" The Bn. relieved the K.P. Rifles in No. 1 Section of the trenches.

11th.

Usual Artillery Bombardment.

12th.

An attack was made on our position in the very early hours of the morning and as usual, was repulsed. Artillery Bombardment continued, shells greeting us merrily in our position. 1 Killed & 5 wounded.

13th.

One man killed during the usual Artillery fire. Bn. became Reserve Bn. in the evening.

14th.

The usual Artillery "gunfire". Shells dropped on to our position. A few however, for a change, found our supply wagons which were at CEUILLY, but caused no damage. In the evening, we received orders to be in readiness to vacate our position on the following evening, and all baggage was therefore removed under cover of darkness.

THOYON (our last day on the AISNE).
In addition to the usual Artillery

15th.

1914.

Appendix.

October.15th
(contd)

duel, the only other incident of note was in preparing for departure. At about 8 pm. the first party of French troops arrived to relieve us. Unfortunately, this party was shelled whilst arriving in position, causing a number of casualties. At about midnight the bn. was relieved and all was in readiness for a move.

VAUXGIRRE.

16th.

By about 1 am. a heavy mist had fallen and this proved very fortunate, for it was under cover of this mist that we were enabled to quit our position without being shelled. At about 6 am. we reached VAUXGIRRE, at which place we billeted. At about 10 pm. we marched to PIRRES Railway Station.

PIRRES and EN ROUTE TO BEAULIEU.

17th.

At 3 am. we entrained and remained on the train throughout the day.

IN TRAIN.

18th.

Traveling via AIXENS, BOUTIGNES & GALAIS we continued our journey.

A long time was spent on the siding at PROUDES-BRIGNES on account of a breakdown on the line in front, but in the evening, all was clear and we resumed our journey.

CASSEL.

19th.

At about 3 pm. we reached CASSEL, and marched to the town & billeted. Head quarters & Co's & "D" Coy's, staying at the Casino.

LE VESDROIRE.

20th.

At 5 am. the Brigade moved off and marched to LE VESDROIRE thus passing into BEAULIEU. Billeted. Heavy Artillery fire could plainly be heard to our front.

1914.

October.HOESINGHE.

21st

At 8 am. we moved off & marched to HOESINGHE. Billeded.

22nd.

Bn. remained in Reserve in Billeets. Lt. S. W. T. Rowe to Hospital.

23rd.

Bn. remained in Reserve in Billeets. Lt. Col. H. T. Crispin from Northumberland Fusiliers arrived from India & took over command of Bn.

24th.

After waiting to be relieved by the French Troops practically all day, we moved off at 5 pm. and bivouaced in a field just outside the village. One Coy. took up a position to cover the withdrawal of the remainder of the 1st Division, which was then placed as Army Reserve.

YPERES.

25th.

We moved off at about 4 a.m. & reached YPERES about 7 am. and Billeded.

26th.

Moving at about 8 am. in the direction of HERRIN, the Brigade halted just outside YPERES & bivouaced near HAALTE.

YPERES ("CHATELAIN WOOD").

The Brigade advanced a few Kilometres and entrenched in "CHATELAIN" WOOD. (Wood belonging to HERRINGHAGH CHATELAIN).

27th.

YPERES ("PORTOORE" WOOD).

Moved at 8 p.m. and advanced about two Kilometres, the enemy dropping shells in our vicinity during the advance. We halted and entrenched in a wood ("PORTOORE" WOOD) over which a few of the enemy's high explosive shells burst. Killing 2 Officers horses & wounding 1 Officers horse & 1 draught horse, also one man. In addition, 3 men were wounded when bringing S.A.A. Gorts across some open ground up to the top, and Sgt. Burgess (in charge) was

28th.

1914.

October.28th
(contd.)

knocked off his horse but luckily escaped injury. Pte. Hollingdale the Driver of a S.A.A. Cart although wounded managed to bring the ammunition up to the Sn. under the fire.

XPERS (CHATREAU WOOD).

29th.

At about 5.30 am. an attack was made all along our line, several shells dropping on our position. The Brigade after a while moved back into "CHATREAU WOOD" & occupied their original trencher. We received valuable information the night before from a spy who must have been on German Staff - he foretold that this attack would be made at 5.30 & the exact spot. (X roads near GHESVULT).

XPERS (CHATREAU WOOD - "COALBOX WOOD").

In the morning about 10 am. the enemy, who probably had learnt by espionage that 1st Divn. H.Q. were in CHATREAU WOOD, began to "coal box" it with vigour. These shells dropped right among our men's dugouts. During this bombardment orders were received by the 2nd Bde to move at once to ZARDEVONDS to restore the line - order of march HUBBEX, HORTANTS - the other two battns. had moved towards GHESVULT the night before - route as shown on Map 5 & 6. In the first place Col. Crispin endeavoured to take a short cut across country to road east of point W. Hd. Qrs. & the leading Coy. were just off the main road when the enemy opened a heavy shrapnel fire. COL. CRISPIN'S horse took flight & took him on under this fire, he was shot & killed instantaneously & his horse stopped at a farm near by where he is buried. The battn. then proceeded under Maj. Green along the main road, & turning to the left at HOOBE advanced to point X. (Map 6). On reaching this point we were shelled a bit

30th. &
1st.

Maps 5 and
6 to 10.
Appendices
"C" to "H".

1914.

October.

30th & 31st
(contd)

by high explosive shrapnel & high explosive percussion shells, & received orders to attack & make good the line of the road A. B Company advanced & reached wood B supported by B Coy. They were unable to advance further although reinforced by B on account of very heavy rifle and machine gun fire from the Inn, G Coy. held the line of the hedge, but were held up there owing to heavy enfilade rifle fire from the left. On our right we were in touch with the Gordon Highlanders & on our left with the Starfords of the 22nd Bde, who were not quite up in line with us. While these coys. held the ground they had occupied A Coy. assisted by the R.B. prepared a position to hold that night (marked in red map 6).

This line was held until mid-day 31st when the 22nd Bde. reported that our centre had been broken near GIBBSVILLE & we were forced to leave our position & go back to point D & the Ground just north of it. A report was then received that the enemy were advancing in our direction and had sent 2 squadrons of cavalry to endeavour to get round our right flank. Consequently 2 coys. & machine guns were sent back to a second position in the direction of YPRES & 2 coys. remained to delay the enemy in the wood D. The enemy came on in large numbers as far as the 5 X roads; here we met him & drove him back (3.30 p.m.) by 5.30 p.m. the enemy had been driven right back out of wood D. & we received orders at 6 p.m. to retake our old positions. Information having been received that the centre near GIBBSVILLE had been restored by a counter-attack made by the Grenadiers. The whole battalion advanced with fixed bayonets from the

Appendices
Cs to
"H".

1914.

October.

30th and
31st

(contd)

Appendices
"C" to
"H".

5 cross roads where they had reformed the two compys. that were sent back to 2nd position having been recalled when we heard the centre was restored. Orders were then issued having been given to advance the battalion advanced by the track running from D to B wood map 6, while the Northants advanced by the next track on our left, after reconnoitering we found that the enemy were entrenched in the wood occupied by A & B Coys. In the morning, & had 4 machine guns in the belt of trees running from the north east corner of it, firing down the track & across the open towards 5 X roads: the enemy's trenches were well back in the wood & facing north, they also occupied the trenches held by D Coy in the morning & had placed a machine gun on the left of that trench. The following plan was made & carried out D Compy. were to attack the trench held by them in the morning while the remainder of the Bctm. advanced across the open against the German trenches in the wood. The Germans held their fire until we were quite close & then opened very heavy rifle & machine gun fire. Part of the line on the extreme left reached the road & led by Major Green & Lieut. Verrall got into the ditch on the other side of it; the centre of the line was forced by the onrushing machine gun fire to take cover in a ditch (map 6) the extreme right of the line reached the road & found the ditch on the far side occupied by the Northants, who went down as far as dotted line on map.

We then found ourselves compelled to retire D coy. in centre getting back across the open covered by our machine guns. G on the left & A on the right creased along the ditch running along the edge of the wood F, & got back to the 5 X roads. D Coy. came under heavy fire in close order & were driven back. Our machine

1914.

October,
30th and
31st
(cont'd)

Appendix.

Appendices
"C" to
"H".

guns succeeded in silencing the 4 German guns. We then got orders to enter the line shown dark on map 9: we reformed the Battalion & commenced digging in this line about 3 a.m. 1st. The Casualties during these two days were Lt. Col. Orispin killed & Major Green wounded, also Lieuts. Louzada & 2/Martin. Croft, Harfiller & Shaw & 394 other ranks killed, wounded & missing: most of these casualties occurred on the afternoon of the 30th. Major Green was shot in the forearm during the night attack & 4 subalterns were killed on the afternoon of the 30th.

1914.

Appendix.

November. 1914.

1st

In order to clear the enemy from the wood X (Map 8) a bayonet charge was arranged. "D" Coy was to take up position shown (brown) to cover the left flank of the Bn.

"C" & "A" Coy formed up just outside the wood (south edge) in single line. Machine Guns were posted as shown at H. at about 12.1 on the advance was ordered & the line advanced in dead silence. Map 8.

The machine guns were to sweep wood X should fire be opened. When the line had got $\frac{1}{2}$ of the way across, four German Machine Guns opened fire also & the firing was commenced. Major Green

at about this time blew his whistle (the signal for the charge).

Major Green & all the line on his right and some on his left got right across in spite of the fire and entered the ditch which we thought held by Germans. He

however found some of the Northamptonshire firing down. It appears that the Germans were holding the North edge of wood 'Y' for about 70 yards from the East edge and that their line was thrown back about 50 yards inside the wood for perhaps 100-200 yards & then their line turned South.

What happened to the various Coy's is as follows - "A" Coy left two sections to block the cross roads at "C" & "B" (Map 6). One platoon was left on the track at "D" under Lt Finch. The remainder formed the right of our line & took the track shown by the red & blue line (Map 8) and got right across the open into the trench on the other side which was occupied by Northampton.

"C" Coy left the remains of two platoons under Capt Baltham at the five cross roads ("D" Map 6). The remainder under Lt Verrall took the red line (Map 8) and the majority got across their left hand man being about 20 yards from the left of the enemy. Major Green advanced with

"C" Coy. "B" Coy took the blue line and were on the left of the machine guns & consequently were next to the German Machine Guns. When these opened fire, the Coy stopped & got into a convenient ditch where they remained for some time and then gradually trickled back to wood

1914.

Appendix.NOVEMBER.

1st

" (M.S.). The Machine Guns opened fire at once on the enemy's M. Guns and were successful in protecting the Battalion, as the German fire was at once turned on to the M.Guns. Lt Finch and his platoon then turned up and we decided to hold the edge of the road leading to "A" (M.S.). Orders were then received to hold on to this position at all costs. Capt Villiers then took command of the Bn. Major Green having been wounded. At about 3 a.m. we were ordered to retire and take up the line shown in Map 9. A line as shown in this map was therefore taken up & we entrenched. All the day was spent in digging &c. parts of our line were shelled but no serious damage was done. "D" Coy was sent back into General Reserve near Bn. Hd Qrs. In the evening it was decided by Lord Cayton (who was now in command of the 1st & 2nd Brigades - General Bullfin having been wounded) to straighten out the line. The Morbents were therefore ordered to enter on the line shown (M.S.) behind us, while we remained in our forward trenches until it was finished, when we were ordered back into Reserve. Our casualties for these 3 days were Lt Col Gilsbin Lt Lonsdale, 2nd Lie Croft, Barr Miller & Shaw killed, Maj Green wounded and 396 rank & file killed, wounded & missing.

At 2.30 p.m. we moved back into Reserve in Road H (M.S.) & dug our selves in. At about 9 am we finished digging & at 11 am we were ordered to send a Company "D" at once to the Guards Hd Qrs at point X (M.S.). Shortly afterwards another Company ("A's") was sent for to Brigade Hd Qrs (M.S.) - "H" ("A") and also "G" M.G. Machine Gunners. After lunch a Company (C) was sent for to go to the Brigade Hd Qrs and an hour later the last Company (B) followed by Bn Hd Qrs & the Machine Guns also went back to 346 Hd Qrs. Here all were given the 'Angouts' occupied

1914.

November.Appendix.2nd
(Contd.)

by the Signal Section. Here we learnt that D Coy had occupied "dugouts" in reserve on either side of the German Hd Qrs. They were not required & were sent back to us that evening. C Coy were sent to the S.W. corner of the wood and entered - 1 Platoon 60 yards behind the left of the Northants who had vacated their trench under shell fire - 1 platoon 100Y behind in support and the other two platoons in dugouts inside edge of wood. A Coy of the Forcesters then came up & occupied part of the Northants trenches. "A" B' & "D" Coys occupied dugouts as shown. At about 8 pm there was a wild yell from the Germans who for some minutes shouted "Vaterland" - "Deutschland" "Wear Away" etc. It soon happily passed in a platoon of B Coy who with the Forcesters held their fire until the enemy was quite close & then let them have it, completely repelling the attack. There were only 4 corpses (including the ~~first~~ wire post morning and about 100 unidentified).

3rd

A moderately quiet day. Of course the usual shelling went on all day but we suffered little harm. Most of the Sn spent the day trying to get a little sleep & food. Also the men got their water bottles filled - some had had no water for 48 hours. In the evening we relieved the Northants in the trenches and Hd Qrs moved over to point W where the Northants had had their Hd Qrs. The Kaiser had been in these parts, so it is presumed that last night's effort was inspired by him. During the morning an orderly reported that Capt. Beyer had arrived also. Lt. H. Paves & that the latter had been mortally wounded, & he died when he was hit.

4th

Comparatively quiet day with occasional outbreaks of rifle fire.

5th

A typical Gur Pawanas day we being subjected to a very severe shelling all day. Unmired over with Northants in the evening.

1914.

Appendix.

November.

6th

quiet morning. At 2 pm we sent 'A' Coy to HA G's Irish Guards who were in trouble, the Germans having broken through the French line on their left. Immediately afterwards 'B' Coy followed them. At 5 pm we heard that the Cavalry had restored the line. At 10.30 pm orders were received to move remainder of the Bn to 4th Guards Brigade HA G's ('A' Map 71). Here we learnt that the Germans had taken the part of our line previously occupied by the Irish Guards & that we had to turn them out in company with 32nd Bde who had been relieved & were then 6 miles away & were timed to arrive at 4 am.

7th

Soon after H.M. Coy moved off under direction of Major Steven (3rd Major 4th Bde). The orders were to move through the wood & drive out the Germans until they reached the S.E. edge of it. There they were to entrench & the 20th Bde was to move to the attack through us. They reached this spot without opposition & commenced to dig in 'C' Coy were shown & 'D' Coy in support at 3.30 as the M Gns were placed in position. Shortly after 6 am a heavy rifle fire was opened on us from 'X' to which we replied. 'D' Coy then came up to assist. The rest of the day was spent in digging on. In the evening 'D' Coy went into reserve & the 32nd Bde moved back. Casualties & Lt Moore killed. Lt Corling wounded & about 80 killed, wounded & missing.

8th

Many of our own shells dropped short just in front of our trenches - at about 8.15 am but the range was soon altered doing severe damage to the enemy. At 8.30 am a furious rifle fire broke out on our right & we received a message that the French were making an attack. Lt Nazrath was wounded whilst leading up the London Scottish to our relief.

1914.

Appendix.

November.

9th

Just after H.M. the London Scottish arrived to relieve us & we moved off via BILDBRAX - THE BALKS BOODE to 'g' (M.6) Here we dug ourselves in.

10th

Very quiet day. Spent in rest.

11th

At 9 am we moved off to support the 1st Brigade North of the River Soed & we moved via route shown by the dotted line Map 5 to GOALBOX to 'D'. Soon as we got underground the enemy sent shells over to us. At 3 pm we sent a party to help the 21 Scots Snailleurs. At dusk we received orders to attack & regain the trenches running N.W. by 'D' from Pt 'C' (Map 10). We had scarcely started when the Zn was collected & moved back 1/2 mile to make an attack in company with other units under the O.C. Grenadiers with the same objective but from a different direction. Major Cartley & 63 reinforcements about then joined the Sn. The attack however was abandoned, the Sn tho' having been shelled whilst on the road in four, but luckily sustaining only a few casualties. Lt Finch wounded.

12th

We took up position at Pt 'A' (u 10). Shelling commenced about 10 am. Situation rather critical, the line being very broken up. During the day & night the Sn was constantly in use patching up 'D' different parts of the line, 'D' Coy dug a new line of trenches running South from Chateau M (Map 10).

13th

Shelling took place all day, but fortunately without very serious results.

14th

Went away from GOALBOX road to our old pitch 'g' (M.6) arriving 5.45 am. At 8 am we were ordered to move out. Accordingly we moved to 'C' (M.6). A very filthy spot, wet & very muddy. Immediately named 'Ptg BRY BOOD'. Capt C K Bood & about 60 reinforcements joined in the evening. After dusk 'A' & 'g' Coy's returned to GOALBOX road to relieve the Irish Guards.

1914.AppendixNovember.

15th News was received in the morning that the 1st Div would be relieved today. The Bn. was accordingly moved to a field within 2 kilometers distance from YPRES where we bivouaced.

BERGHOVE.

16th At about 2.30 am we moved off via ~~SERRANT~~ railway line (General Map) round S. of YPRES to ~~VALBERINGHE~~ where we waited for the remainder of the Brigade. Moving off again, we reached ~~BERGHOVE~~ at about 2 pm & billeted.

SERRANT.

17th Paraded at 12.30 pm & marched to ~~SERRANT~~ & billeted. Hd Qrs. A B & D Coy's billeted in a halt house.

Day spent at ~~SERRANT~~. Large quantities of Comd'r's issued to the troops.

HAZEBROUCK.

19th Moved at 12.30 pm to ~~HAZEBROUCK~~. Arrived at 3 pm in a bivouac. Capt Weston & 86 Reinforcements joined yesterday. Officers permitted to proceed on 96 hours leave to England.

Refitting, & Route March.

30th

- do -

31st

- do -

23rd

- do -

Capt Cameron & ~~WIPRA~~ joined with 20 men. Capt Cameron took over command of Bn.

24th

Route March, Musketry instruction, Bomb Making, & Refitting. Limited number of H O Os granted leave to ~~NORLAND~~.

25th

As for 24th Nov. Machine Gun Training, Barr & Stroud Instrument Instruction also Telegraphy.

26th

- do -

Coy Training.

1914.

AppendixNovember.

- 27th As for 24th Nov. Machine Gun training. Barr & Brown instrument instruction at no telephone. Coy training.
- 28th ^{- 60 -}
In. Inspected by Gen Sir J. French who expressed thanks for work done.
- 29th Route March. Coy Training. Machine Gun instruction. Settling Lt Mackenzie. Lt Hobbs & Lt Gallie joined with 199 men.
- 30th Usual settling. Route March. Coy training etc.

R. TERRY Major
Command & Lt. Success Regt.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT.

1914.

AR 25414.

December.

14 DECEMBER.

1st- Reftling, Route Marches,
Bakerby, Coy Training, H. Gun
etc. Instruction.

3rd As above, H. H. The King visited
the troops & the Bn. took part
in lining the streets.

4th A ~~bazooka-attack~~ Reftling etc.
do.

5th A hostile alarm dropped & bombs
on the town, no damage however
being done to the Bn.
2nd Lt. W. H. C. Hardy, R. R. Lewis &
R. F. Shaw joined with 139
Reinforcements.

5th- Reftling, Route Marching,
19th Husko, VY, Coy Training, Machine
Gun Instruction, Bomb Making,
Telephony etc.

20th During the morning, a hostile
aeroplane flew over the town
& was chased away by a No. 11
Gun & two of our aeroplanes.
At 6 p.m. we received orders
to be prepared to move at one
hour's notice & at 9 p.m. orders
were received to march at 7 a.m.
& tomorrow.

21 DECEMBER.

21st Having off at 7 a.m., the
Bn. boarded Motor Buses,
but it was not until 10 a.m.
that a real start was made. We
travelled by Bus to ENGLISH. 2
Bns. of the Brigade had already
been sent ahead & the 4th Bn. R.
Rifles received orders to follow
as quickly as possible bringing
with us all the tools of the
Brigade and 40 Boxes of Ammunition
per Bn. which we had in the Buses
with us. We marched to IN SCURRY
where the Bn. was halted.
The Northants & L. H. Lancos. were
ordered to attack the enemy who
had captured part of our line

1914.

December.Appendix.21st
Contd.

between the RUE DE BOIS and QUINQUE RUE. This attack was timed to start at dusk. Northants on the left & North Lanes on the right. The former succeeded in retaking all the captured trenches in their sector & the Indians were equally successful except for the ground round the orchard "q" (H1) which was on the extreme right of their sector. The Inf. was ordered to proceed the Seaforth Highlanders between QUINQUE RUE and the road running N.S. as to WESTBURY. When we reached Seaforth Hd. Qrs. on the Brewery Road "x" (H11) at 6.15 p.m. we were informed by them that they would rather be relieved by daylight. Accordingly we marched back to RUE DE QUINQUE RUE & billeted.

22nd

We relieved the Seaforths, commencing at 7.30 a.m. but did not actually finish the relief until 8.20 p.m. The chief cause of delay was the appalling state of the communication trenches, during the time we were relieving the enemy collected in large numbers behind the houses in the orchard, & attacked the L.S. Lances right, succeeding in bombing them out of their trenches. Meanwhile the Northants had been relieved in the trenches they had retaken the previous night by an Indian Bn. and had gone into Reserve with 2 Coy. of the K. W. Rifles. Two Coy. of the Rifles, & the Northants were sent to take up position on the North side of the Brewery Road & link up with the Indians on their left.

This line had to be dug during the night 22/23rd. After the L.S. Lances had been driven back, some of our Germans got into the left of our five trench & the left of our support trench. We constructed barriers & bombed each other again violently. The five trench on the right of our line was exceedingly wet, one half of the company occupying it having to stand waist deep in water until we were relieved on night 23rd by the Greenadier Guards. End. Lt. O. Ward to Hospital.

1914.

Appendix.

December.

23rd

Relief started at 6 P.M. & was not completed until 9 a.m. 24th Dec. During this 3 days action we lost Lt. G.R. Verrill killed (27th) 2nd. Lts. Hardy & Le Galliers wounded (23rd) & 2d Rank & file killed, wounded & missing.

14. JANUARY.

24th

Dr. on relief marched to LE HAVEL arriving about 8.30 a.m. & billeted. Capt. R. H. Falkham & 2nd. Lt. R. H. Lowry to Hospital.

25th

In spite of the fact that at one time on the evening 24th we were ordered to proceed at 9 a.m. Xmas Day to relieve the 6th Brigade near CAMBRIN we escaped for the order was cancelled at 11.30 p.m. 24th. Xmas Day was spent in peace, the Brigade however being prepared to move at an hours notice.

Princess Mary's Girls & their Majesties Xmas Cards were issued. Major R. J. A. Terry arrived at 10 a.m. & took over command of the Bn.

CAMBRIN.

26th

Moved off at 6 a.m. to the relief of the 6th Bde near CAMBRIN. We commenced relieving the 8. Stationers at 12 noon & did not finish until 8.30 p.m. (another had communication trench). Here we had 800 yards of trench which we held with 3 Coys with 1 platoon in support ("C" Coy who had 90 men admitted to Hospital on 24th & 26th having been distributed amongst the other 3 Coys.) We have our right resting on the LA. BARBER Canal; on our left are the HERBANTS holding the village of DIVRIGNY. The 60th Rifles are echeloned about 300 yards to our right front on the other side of the Canal, held down as far as the BATHURS Road. On the other side of this road are the French, thus the Brigade is the extreme right

1914.

Appendix.

December.

26th
Contd.

of the British line (our old position once more).

27th

Spent the day in improving trenches with the assistance of a Legion party of the 1. North London R. who were in reserve.

28th

Hortsmans took over 1 platoon of our line in order to give us one platoon in reserve. The enemy sent over about 20 high explosive shells on the road near Br. Rd. Garters with no damage. 115 Battery put 4 rounds per second on gun fire shrapnel into a trench where enemy's mortar was placed. 1. Sgt. Milton killed by sniper & 1 man wounded.

29th

One platoon of "B" Coy flooded out, relieved by reserve platoon. Establishment of Machine Guns increased to 4. 2 men wounded.

30th

47 men returned from Hospital at Base. 100 I. H. Lances sent to relieve remainder of "B" Coy. who went into Brigade Reserve.

31st

I. H. Rifles were bombed out of their Observation Post & machine gun emplacement on embankment. Counter attack was made by our "B" Coy at 10 P.M. "B" Coy was not strong enough to retake this ground & was reinforced by 3 Coys Scots Guards & 2 Coys I. H. Lances. Ground was then snailly retaken but we were driven back again by heavy cross & frontal fire five. A new line was occupied and dug in. Casualties 300.

A. I. Rifle Co. killed 4 rank & file killed, 7 wounded & 10 missing. During the period 24th Dec. to end of month, about 160 men were admitted to Hospital from Rheumatism, Ague, swollen feet etc.

R. TERRY, Major.

Command. 2 Bt. Sussex Regt.

2ND BATTALION THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

1915

APPENDIX

January

GANDRIA

1st.

Our "heavy" bombard captured posts on embankment with Lyellite. Casualties in last night's affair (re-ascertained) 2nd Lt A.V. Bywater killed 4 rank & file killed. 7 wounded and 10 missing. One machine gun was hit by a bullet passing over the 1st trench today and put out of action.

2nd.

The Cameron Highlanders relieved us & we went back to billets at GANDRIA. Relief started at 7.30 pm & finished at 2.15 am Sunday. Delay caused by bad state of communication-trench. We lost a great many men between 24th Dec & 2nd Jan - about 100 were admitted to hospital.

3rd.

Worked off at 4.30 pm & relieved B Coy of "our" and L. & M. Companies in the trenches on South side of the Canal. We took from Railway embankment to second row of brickworks. Relief started at 5.30 pm & finished at 7 pm. Better communication trench here. A & C were in firing line & D Coy in local support in Brick Kiln. B Coy sent back to billets as Brigade Reserve. "Mills" were on our right.

4th.

"Heavy" dug cropping Lyellite on embankment all day. The railway & seven Germans were seen hurrying through the air. The "Mills" (except one Coy) were relieved by porchmen in the evening. "B" Coy relieved "C" Coy in the afternoon.

5th.

We arranged for "B" Coy to relieve "A" Coy at 7 pm. Relief finished 7.30 pm. This system of 24 hour reliefs became automatic.

6th.

The trenches we took over on the 3rd were in a bad way. Most of our time has been spent in improving them & the communication

A2222221X

1915

January

6th.
atd.

trenches which were deep in mud & water after the rain. Our position is near a brick kiln in which are several large brick stacks. By joining several of these we have made a roadway behind our line; this we occupy today with 20 men & one officer 2nd Lieut H. J. Hobbs. This officer in the left of our position was also put in a state of defense. A patrol of 11 Coy did excellent work last night by crawling along the embankment as far as the captured redoubt & ascertained that it was occupied.

7th.

Our plan was made for retaking the captured post today. Our aeroplanes however have discovered a German trench facing South on the North side of the canal opposite the post. We attempted to reconnoitre this for the Brigade last night but were unable to do so.

8th.

The Rifles relieved us tonight, finished about 9 pm. Retired into billets at CAMBRIN.

9th.

Still in billets at CAMBRIN. We were to go to Bethune to bathe but same was cancelled on account of attack on captured observation posts to take place tomorrow).

10th.

Still at CAMBRIN. Attack on Observation Post started at 1.50 pm with heavy bombardment of Railway triangle by 50 guns; field guns & howitzers, heavy guns & howitzers. Rifles took observation post at 2.10 pm & machine gun emplacement at 2.25 pm however they were driven out of it. Gun emplacement but retained observation post.

11th.

Believed Right Coy of Rifles & Morchantz at 4.15 pm. "D" Coy took from Rifles Right & falling North as far as the brickstacks. C Coy from the brickstack & B Coy next with one Coy of 1st B. Coy on the right. This Regt had also 60 men in support at brickstacks near the RIVER.

1015

January

APPENDIX

12th.

Germans showed some activity in the morning. They shelled the Hillies & threw 6 bombs near and on the Britishish between G & D Oays. They also shelled QUINBY village considerably. At about 2.30 pm the enemy commenced to shell the village very heavily especially near our Hd Qtrs & then made a keen attack with HINDENBURGS on the observation post. It was successful. Shell dropped in Hd Qtrs Hitchen while Officers were lunching in next room.

13th.

Germans shelled less today. A draft of 130 arrived at 2.10 pm & H. Gormanshaw. These went straight into the trenches when they arrived from AFRIGHI where they had killed the night before. All Hitchen's August records. They seemed to be a good lot.

14th.

The Germans have been busy digging a trench along the bottom of the railway embankment. They have also started a ramp opposite our left Coy. This looks as though it is going to run into our sep which has the mine in it. Our communication trenches are still bad but we are working hard at them; the Royal Engineers assisting. The line was re-adjusted today. The Hillies take the place of our left Coy & we take over the G. Lanes Coy on the right of our line. The Lanes go into Brigade Reserve. A Coy left QUINBY village & relieved the Lanes. D Coy came back into reserve in the village. By the evening with the aid of the 3rd Coy R. Hedges's, the command action trench from the KISS to our right Coy was cleared of mud & water and in quite good condition all the way.

15th.

Today we fired rifle grenades from our left trench at the Germans digging along the bottom of the embankment (R.W.) & succeeded in frightening them & made them stop digging for a while.

1915

January

15th.
old.

Very busy improving trenches. We have now 2 communication trenches of our own. One to our right trench the other to our centre trench. We are joining the two by clearing & continuing our old trench between the two. We have also started digging a second line for supports about 20 yards behind the firing line. A sniping post was established in the top of a brickstack behind our line. 2nd Lieut. Austin & Dicker joined.

16th.

In the morning we were informed that we were to be relieved by 1st Div. A new system of 48 hours reliefs has been started on the advice of the doctors. We and the lance are to relieve each other 48 hours in the same trenches.

A Coy worked the Germans working in a dug about 40 yards North of main I.A. HALLS' bond. They got 2 bombs from a mortar into the dug. The Germans gave up working & hurled bombs at us. Coy! they all went over & no one was hurt. 2nd Lieut. Hunt & Taylor joined the Battalion at A. HALLS' in our new billets when we were all in by 6.40 pm. Heller started at 3 pm.

17th.

Remained in billets at A. HALLS'. (Today we bathed & then had the bathie equally divided between boys for their use while we are here. Undoubtedly sent from England was very useful as it enabled us to give a certain number of men clean shaves for their baths).

18th.

Returned to same trenches as before at 3 pm and relieved the 1st Div. It snowed yesterday and today & today it's been thawing and in consequence the trenches are in a bad way. The sides of O.A. front road have fallen in & we are working all night with B. King pumps and scooper; ammunition boxes provided by us last time we were here disappeared; have succeeded in getting 100 more this evening with a provision of a further supply tomorrow.

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January

APPENDIX

19th.

Frenches much improved; in the afternoon we fired 9 alp bombs at the German dug 40 yds North of La Hache road opposite D. (Boys in trenches are B, B, G from the right). The Germans put 2 bombs into G boys trench but did no damage. Capt Buchary & Sgt Caroly and 74 other ranks have arrived at AMERQUIH (A week till we go back there tomorrow night.)

20th.

The 2nd North Trench relieved us at 3 pm and we marched back to the AMERQUIH billets.

21st.

The Boots Guard followed us at 2 pm and we marched into BETHUNE for our rest. The Battalion got stacked into billets about 5 pm. (we were billeted in HORTHOUBOX BARBAROUS) The officers were billeted in various houses near by. Hdqrs at 36 RUE d'ANNEUX. A good deal of cleaning had to be done before the billets became possible; 5 rooms had to be cleaned altogether for disinfecting. Capt Cameron and Plinke proceeded to England on 6 days leave.)

22nd.

The day was chiefly spent in cleaning men's personal clothing and equipment. In the afternoon the boys did drill and musketry till 3.30 pm.

23rd.

Day was started with an Adjutant's parade at 8.30 am, at 9.30 am Lt HARRIS (Coy) went to bath at an Ambulance post started in BETHUNE by R.A.M.C. for washing each side as it comes out of the trenches. The men had in their kit dry underclothes and are given a new set and also have their kit ironed to kill any vermin that may have accumulated during a month of unwarmed state. The men were enormously cheered up by their bathings. (We got 28 days done by 3.30 when clean underclothes ran out and we had to stop) Those not bathing did drill & musketry.

24th.

Sunday was treated as a day of rest - 100 men attended church parade services in the theatre.

1915

January

24th.
etc.

at 10.30 am.

HEINRICH W. GUIBRY

25/26th.

(Our 2nd Battalion day: we also had the local rifle range allotted us in the morning.) We rose to the sound of a heavy cannonade and at 9.30 am got the order to move at once up to HEINRY/HEINRY ob- taking orders from Brigade H. Ita on the way. The Germans after exploding mines had pushed the GUARDS trenches WEST a SOUTH of the forward break-stack. Our troops were at one time driven back to the edge of GUIBRY village but by a counter attack got back to HEINRY LAKE & the GUARD BOER which they held as well as the KOP, as stronghold made by joining 4 breakstacks with brick walls which was ours throughout.

(At the same time as the attack SOUTH of the Camp, NORTH of the Canal the 3rd Bde had been driven back on to their KOP in the village of GIWERY church; by a quick counter attack however the Ita was totally restored on that side.) At 5.30 pm we reached GERMIN from HEINRY and went straight to GIWERY and WATON. At 7.30 pm B & C Cos advanced from GUIBRY village with the object of recovering some of the ground lost by the 1st Brigade. A & D Cos remained in reserve in GUIBRY. The moon was nearly full, & when our Companies crossed FUJING LAKE which was crowded with 1st Bde troops, the Germans, who were evidently expecting a counter-attack, opened a very heavy fire. Mein Ita pond of the black watch, who was in FUJING LAKE came up to Head Ita and told us that our men were advancing in capital style. They gained a position between the Old Observation Hill Ita & Hally bridge; during the night dug a new trench there on a frontage of about 30 yards. Digging was continued all night & by the morning enough cover had been provided for the two Coy's. The "M Class" began sapping from the KOP to meet our people who sapped all day. At 4 pm we

APPENDIX

1915

January

APPENDIX

25/26th.
etc.

relieved the BOOTB GUARDS in the KEMP by D Coy who also occupied what was dug of the trench 3 from the KEMP. At 4.30 pm we took over the whole line with the Hatten B. A B being the Coy in the firing line reading from 1st to right & with C Coy in reserve in GIBBERT village. The situation was quiet - we held the KEMP, the new trench 3 which we were still working at & the QUINBY post on the Babenham side also a small piece of trench 2 as far as Duxford; on our left 60 yds forward, on the NORTH side of the OADBY were the HUBBARDs of the 3rd Bn; on our right running from the KEMP to the LA BASSIER road were the 60th HINDS. The Germans held trenches 1 & 2 except small bits mentioned. SHER CAVAL & a line running along 2nd row of brickkilns to the LA BASSIER road. The day passed quietly except for heavy shelling by us & a somewhat weak reply occasionally from the Germans. About Col Green arrived & took command in the evening. Our casualties on 25th & 26th were 2nd Lieut Greenham killed in the attack on 25th & 2nd Lieut Jackson wounded & 64 other ranks killed wounded & missing.

QUINBY

A quiet day except for eternal sniping & heavy shelling on our part; trench 4 was dug as a second line to ease we were bombd out of the KEMP. The HINDS on our right also began preparing the QUINBY supporting point in which were 4 machine guns of the Motor Machine Gun battery. About half was shot dead in the KEMP early this morning, HINDS followed by MCKINNAYS.

Germans shelled a good deal especially the village; a machine gun was spotted opposite QUINBY post; 40th HORIZONS dropped some grenades very near it before lunch at 2 pm we arranged with the 51st GUNs to shell it vigorously our people took shelter under the QUINBY

27th.

28th.

APPENDIX

1915

January

26th,
etc.

29th.

ammunition; after this shelling the German moved the gun. We were relieved at 3 pm by the H. LANCES but returned again to relieve H. LANCES at 7 pm. quiet night.

Sketch
attached

A determined German attack was made upon the KEMP and trenches each side of 14 this morning. The attack was made with an attempt to bomb our Garrison out of the KEMP by means of one Lewis and two small HINDENBURGS at 8 am; the enemy shelled the trenches and the village very heavily at the same time. Immediate steps were taken to obtain artillery support and we managed to locate at least one of the HINDENBURGS within 10 minutes. At about 8.45 the enemy who had massed behind the Hylorkers which are H. B. & X of the KEMP, advanced to attack the KEMP on its N. EASTERN. EASTERN & WESTERN sides. The enemy carried on a steady advance and succeeded in getting up on a slope as 10 or 20 yds of the KEMP. Our Garrison besides doing great execution with their rifles used hand bombs with great success; in fact Captain VALLERS who commands the KEMP attributes so small part of the success in repelling the attack to his bombing party under Major Sgt Maj. Butcher. A small party of the HORNHARTS who were entrenched near the South eastern corner of the KEMP had their rifles buried by a HINDENBURG and were then engaged by the enemy who occupied the trench they were taking. The HORNHARTS counter attacked immediately and either killed or captured all those who had occupied their trench. The enemy at once massed behind the Hylorkers for a second attempt but were so accurately shelled by our guns that apparently the attempt was abandoned. The enemy continued to shell until 12.30 pm then all was quiet until 7 pm.

See
Messages
attached.

1915

APPENDIX

January

30th.

German bombes OULVERT POST but did no damage, otherwise quiet day. O Coy relieved D in the KEEP in the morning, D remaining in close support in trench 4. We were relieved by 4th BUNARDS Bde; GOLDSMITH'S took over our position; 2nd Lt started at 6.30 PM. Coy marched independently to HATHURD when relieved; last company arrived in billets at 12.25 on 31st. Battalion was billeted in the Trenches Factory; Hd Qtrs at 2^d Rue de LITTE.

31st.

Sunday. Rest day spent in trying to get some of the mud off.

SPECIAL BRIGADE ORDER
by Brig General G.H. Westcott
Comd. 2nd. Infantry Brigade

31.1.1.1915.

The Brig: General Commanding 2nd Inf. Div: desires to thank the 2nd. Royal Sussex Reg., and 1st Northamptonshire Regt who were engaged in the defence of the trenches at GULBERTY on the 29th instanc, and to congratulate them on the steadiness with which they met and repulsed the very determined attack delivered by the Germans on that date.

He wishes especially to congratulate the detachment of the 2nd Bn. Sussex Regt: which formed the garrison of the KEEP, and also the detachment of the 1/4 Northamptonshire Regt. which charged and captured a trench S. of the KEEP.

The Garrison of the KEEP, after being subjected to heavy bomb fire, was called upon upon to repel a most violent assault by a storming party carrying scaling ladders and axes, and by its steadiness and resourcefulness drove it off with heavy slaughter without allowing a single German to cross the defences.

The timely counter attack by the detachment 1/4 Northamptonshire Regt: resulted in the repulse of an important trench which had been temporarily abandoned owing to the rifle of the working party having been buried by explosions this counter attack was delivered with such determination that none of the enemy who had occupied the trench succeeded in escaping.

These two actions show a courageous and soldierly spirit which enhances the fine records of which these two battalions may be so justly proud.

The D.O. has communicated to the G.O. a message from Sir John French congratulating the Battalion in the magnificent defence of the Hoop by 'D' Co. and the beating off of the German attack this morning stop.

It is reluctantly that they do it but the 1st Division have such implicit confidence in the Royal Sussex and Northampton that they may have to call upon those regiments to remain in the trenches tonight promising relief tomorrow stop.

The G.O. trusts that if the Battalion is called upon for another night's duty all ranks will do their utmost to justify the confidence reposed in them.

2ND BATTALION THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

1915

APPENDIX

- February** **REMARKS**
- 1st. Battalion remained in billets at BERTING. General clearing up No. 2nd Lt. G. R. P. Roberts joined the Bn. Billets at BERTING. General clearing up No.
- 2nd/3rd.** **ALLOUAGNE**
The Bn marched to ALLOUAGNE and billeted. 2 Lt Col. G. W. Talbot & H. C. Toye joined.
- 4th. Platoon Training, firing on range built by Bn, H Gun Training, Signalling instruction etc.
- 5th/6th. Do
2nd Lt G. O. Clayton, C. H. Green, & T. R. Jackson joined with 46 reinforcements.
- 7th. Platoon Training, Company Training, firing on range, H Gun Training, Signalling instruction etc.
- 8 - 14th. Platoon Training, Company Training, firing on range, H Gun Training, Signalling instruction etc.
- 15th. As above. Lt & Q.M.R. T. A. Jones & 2 Lt H Wallington rejoined the Battalion with 67 reinforcements.
- 16 - 20th. Platoon Training, Company Training, firing on range, H Gun Training, Signalling instruction etc.
- 21st. Company Training, firing on Range, H Gun Training, Signalling instruction etc. 63 Reinforcements joined. 5th Bn (Glasgow Force) Royal Sussex Regiment joined the 2nd Infantry Brigade. 2nd Lt. G. R. P. Roberts to hospital.
- 22 - 23rd. Company Training, firing on Range, H Gun Training, Signalling instruction etc.
- 24th. As above. 2nd Lt. G. R. P. Child joined with 5 men. 2nd Lt. A. C. Clayton to hospital.
- 25/26th. Company Training, firing on Range, H Gun Training, Signalling instruction etc.
- 27th. Inspection of the Bn on parade by Lt Gen Sir G. Munro, H. C. H. Command Lt Col. G. W. Talbot. 15 reinforcements joined the Bn.

APPENDIX

1915

February

26th.

The Battalion marched to LMS-
CHOUQUA at 2.30 pm and billeted.
The Brigade camp in to Corps
Reserve.

R. TERRY,
MAJOR.

Command, 2nd Bn, R. Sussex Regt.

WEST SUSSEX
RECORD OFFICE
RSR MS 2/57

2ND BATTALION THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1915.

MARCH.

L'ES CHOUVAUX.

APPENDIX.

1st -
9th.

Battalion in Billeets. Company
Training etc.

L'ES CHOUVAUX - LE TOURNET.

10th.

Marched off at 7.15 a.m. to a
position of readiness near FORT
TOURNART at LE CASAR. At 7.30
a.m. a very heavy bombardment
was opened by the British all
along the line from GUICHY to
ABERTHIERES (?). We learned on
arrival at FORT TOURNART that
we were to bivouac there & were
in Army Reserve. We remained
in bivouac there until 4 p.m.
when we were sent as a reserve
to 1st Bde. holding the line
east of HUE de L'EPINETTE. 3
battalions from that Bde.
having been sent to NICHENBOURG
to assist the Indian Corps.
Got into billets in HUE de
L'EPINETTE by 8.30 p.m. At
10 p.m. we were informed that
2 Batts. sent by 1st Bde.
were not required by Indian
Corps and were returning at
once. These Batts. the SCOTS
GUARDS & LONDON SCOTTISH
marched HUE de L'EPINETTE by
12 midnight. We then marched
to billets in LA COURTE &
Southern end of LE TOURNET.
Battn. got settled in these
billets by 1.30 a.m.

LA COURTE.

Received orders at 2.30 a.m. to
return at 7 a.m. to position of
readiness as Army Reserve once
more. Marched at 7 a.m. &
billeted in LOUCH.

LOUCH - LE TOURNET.

Received orders from Bde. con-
cerning taking over the WEICH
Regiment's (3rd Bde.) trenches at
RESTUMENT. However in the evening
at 5 p.m. the 7th Division was
reported to have broken through
the German line at MOULIN de
PIETRE as far as EPINETTE, 2
miles east of ABERTHIERES. A
Brigade was moved up to LE TOURNET,
where we bivouaced for the night.

13th.

1915.

March.

13th.

AM JOURNAL - LES CHOUQUAUX.

At 11 a.m. received orders to return to LES CHOUQUAUX for the night of 13th - 14th & relieve the WEIGH Regt. the next day.

APPENDIX.LES CHOUQUAUX - PRESTUBERT.

14th.

Marched from LES CHOUQUAUX at 5 p.m. and started relieving WEIGH at 6.15 p.m., relief finished 9.30 p.m. We held from 200 yds South of RUE DE GAILLEUX on the left to a point about 550 yds. south. The NORTHAMPTONS held a frontage of about the same length as and in continuation of ours to the right.

The Batin. was disposed as follows:-
 7 platoons in the firing line, & one platoon 300 yds. in rear of the firing line carrying a work constructed round our orchard, G. & D. Coye. found the above, U on the left D on the right. In the village of PRESTUBERT which was some 600 yds. behind the firing line we had one company (A COY.) in close support & another (B COY.) 500 yds back at the western edge of the village. In reserve, Batin. Hd. Qtrs. about 300 yds. west of Reserve Coy. Hd. Qtrs. We were opposed to the Saxons one of whom spoke excellent English & shouted across to our men to remonstrate with them for striking sniping at night. No trenches here, they all breast-works, there were no communication trenches and consequently all reliefs etc. had to be carried out at night.

PRESTUBERT.

15th.

quiet day: a great deal of work was done in the village cleaning up and improving the defenses which were in a bad way. These defenses had been constructed some time before we took over the section and were intended to hold out and delay the enemy if the line was broken. We took over a bath house from the WEIGH ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and bathed men at the rate of 16 in half-an-hour.

191b.

March.APPENDIX.16th
Ctd.

Germans wanted a lot of rather inferior high explosive shells on an empty farm 400 yds N of Headquarters. They were some Dummy Guns in this farm. Enemy kept us awake at night by firing pip squeak gun round Hd. quarters.

16th.

quiet day, work in village & bathing continued. Saxons still chaotic. A & B relieved C & D in the evening. A on right & B on the left with one platoon back at Orchard work. D Coy. took over reserve billets, C Company were in close support in the billets in the village. Washing continued & Germans still shelled the dummy guns. Two Officers & two N.C.Os of the 5th Sussex who had been doing a tour of instructions returned to their unit & 2 more officers and N.C.Os came up.

17th.

quiet day, work in village and bathing continued.

PERVURET - BSBARS.

Relieved by 5th Sussex and marched back to billets at BSBARS for 4 days. Battalion got into billets by 12.30 a.m. Casualties whilst in PERVURET line 1 killed, 2 wounded.

16th.

BSBARS.

Company Training in the morning Inter-Coy. Japanese flag race in the afternoon.

19th.

Company Training. The new bath-house which we made near head quarters was in working order. We started by bathing the Transport and then went on to the Coy's.

20th.

Company training in the morning. Company football in the afternoon.

21st.

Company Training and football. Capt. H.S. Ashworth rejoined in the morning, but was compelled to go sick with a bad ankle owing to a trap accident on the way from the railway station.

22nd.

1916.

APPENDIX.

March.23rd
Ctd.

Orders for occupation of trenches at RICHESBOURG L'AVOUE issued by the Commanders of the 3 Companies to be in the firing line & the Adjutant rode to RICHESBOURG after dark to inspect the new position.

ESSARS - RICHESBOURG L'AVOUE.

Battalion paraded at 5 p.m. and marched from ESSARS to RICHESBOURG L'AVOUE where we relieved the 129th BATTALION and one company of the COGNACVANT BARRERS who occupied the orchard KEEP on the left of our line. The Pde. had 3 Battalions * in the firing line:- HORNHAYTS FROM QUINQUE RUE to RUE DUBOIS & BOUTH LANGS & ROYAL. SHENCK in the breastworks running 50 yds. E.S. of & parallel to the RUE DUBOIS.

1/40,000
Map of Bethune

Our companies in the firing line were O, D & A (from right to left). B Coy in support in RICHESBOURG L'AVOUE with 2 platoons in close support in dugouts 50 yds. E. of RUE DUBOIS behind D Coy. Head quarters in RICHESBOURG L'AVOUE, O & D Coys. each held a section of the line of Breastworks.

A Coy. held the ORCHARD KEEP & rectangular fort constructed round the edges of an orchard & had 2 platoons in the forward trench 100 yds in front. The south eastern face of the ORCHARD was about 700 yds. forward

from the line of breastworks. On the left of the ORCHARD was the CHESCHERT held on the night of the 23rd - 23rd by the BARRERS, on the left of the CHESCHERT was PORT ARTHUR which we are told was the pivot of the attack on March 10th. The enemy's breastworks were about 350 yds. from the south eastern face of the ORCHARD, their line ran back in a southerly direction & was about 600 yards away from our right Coy. On the night of the 22nd - 23rd the 2nd N.R.R. & 6th SUBSEX were in reserve at

LE TOURNET.
Each Bn. held a sub-section of Section D: these sub-sections were numbered D1, D2, & D3 from right to left.

101b.

March.

APPENDIX.

34th.

RICHENBURG L'AVOUE.

quiet day. In the evening the South rates Borders (2nd Bde.) relieved the Commandt Rangers (Serorepore Bde.) in the CHURCHARD on the left of the CHURCHARD. We moved our head quarters 400 yds. south down the road & took over the CORNAUICH HANGERS H. Coy, B Coy. A company in the orchard carried on the work of reclaiming the forward trench towards 24. In the evening a party of sappers worked on a communication trench from COPPER YARN to 22.

35th.

The Germans searched the ground behind the lines from RICHENBURG ST VAAS to NEUVE GRAPPELLE with Lydite, paying particular attention to RICHENBURG; in their efforts they put two shells very close to our headquarters breaking the windows but doing no other damage: the 77 mm. (PIPSQUAK) was also fairly active otherwise it was a quiet day. Capt. H.S. Ashworth rejoined from Hospital in the afternoon and C Coy. relieved D Coy. in the firing line. The sappers worked on the COPPER YARN communication trench in the evening and finished it. Brigadier went round the trenches at 7.15 p.m.

36th.

PIPSQUAK active otherwise a quiet day. D Coy. relieved A Coy. in the ORCHARD in the evening. H.S. started constructing breast-work from 24 in the direction of 24. Work in the ORCHARD forward trench continued towards 24.

RICHENBURG L'AVOUE - LE FOURNEU.

quiet day. Work in CHURCHARD forward trench continued. H.S. continued their new breastwork in the evening. 9th GURKHA relieved us in the evening. A B Companies went to RICHENBURG ST. VAAS to be in closer support of front line. C & D Coys. A Head quarters to LE FOURNEU. Casualties while holding DS - 2 killed & wounded.

37th.

1945.

APPENDIX.

MARCH.12 TOURRET & RICHENBOURG ST. VAAST.

28th.

A & B Companies were shelled a bit in the latter place; no casualties. We found 2 working parties for the R.B. in the evening. One from D Coy. at 15 TOURRET of 100 men to work near CHOCOLATE HEWIER CORNER and one from RICHENBOURG of 25 men to work at WINDY CORNER. 2nd Lieut. Goring rejoined in the morning.

29th.

Captain Cameron commanding RICHENBOURG Detachment detected a mysterious individual dressed as a guard. He was handed over to 2nd Bde. who released him after examining his pass. We and our own Brigade were not satisfied with this and caused further investigations to be made.

Although the 1st Division admitted that there was enough evidence against the man to justify his being shot on sight the French entirely guaranteed his bonafides. Keen disappointment was felt by us particularly by "B" Company as the Colonel had offered £5 for this first bona fide spy captured by the Battalion. RICHENBOURG was not shelled. We found two working parties for the R.B. in the evening, two of 100 each from D Coy. at 12 TOURRET to work near CHOCOLATE HEWIER CORNER and 1 of 100 from the Detachment to work near WINDY CORNER. Casualties whilst in RICHENBOURG (Detachment) 1 wounded.

12 TOURRET and RICHENBOURG ST. VAAST
TO LAFORET WILLOT.

30th.

The Brigade was relieved by the 1st Guards Bde. and went back to billets in the vicinity of LOON. The Battalion was relieved at 3 P.M. by the Scots Guards both at 12 TOURRET and RICHENBOURG and Coys. marched independently to billets at ~~xxxxxx~~ LA FORET WILLOT (map sheet TONOS WILLOT on 1/4000 Map.

LA FORET WILLOT.

Battalion in billets. Cleaning up etc.

31st.

1918.

APRIL.

APPENDIX.

LA TOURNE VILLON.

1st
to
6th.

Battalion in rest billets. Our time was spent in Company training, football competitions and athletic sports. Captain H. S. Ashworth who was suffering from sciatica was appointed Command the Divisional Convalescent Camp at HIXONS, and joined there on 6th April.

NEUVE CHAPELLE.

7th.

The Brigade relieved the 3rd Brigade in Section B. We relieved the Royal Munster Fusiliers in sub-section F.3. (NEUVE CHAPELLES). The Battalion (less "A" & "B" Coys. and plus one Company, 9th Kings Liverpool Regt. attached) was met by guides at the cross roads E. 27 d. (Map REFERENCE 1/40,000) at 7.45 p.m. and, after an issue of sand bags, proceeded with the relief. "A" & "B" Coys relieved half a Battalion of the 1st London Division at RICHMOND ST. VAAST and took over in the afternoon. The 9th Kings Liverpool Company attached to us was split up into two halves one half being attached to each Company for instruction. "C" Coy were on the right of our line, "D" Coy on the left. The Battalion on our right was the 8th Bn. Rl. Sussex Regt. and the Battalion on our left, the Commandant Rangers of the FORTHOUSERS Brigade. The Royal North Lancs Regt. was in reserve in dug outs about 300 yards behind our firing line. Battalion head quarters were in a half ruined house 300 yards behind the firing line on the northern edge of NEUVE CHAPELLES (square E. 35a. E. 2. on 1/40,000 Map). The enemy's front line was about 300 to 400 yards from us. They appeared to have no intention of attacking, but were busy making preparations for the defensive; they sniped a good deal at night, and as far as we could judge, we thought they were using machine guns a certain amount for this purpose. We found a good deal of work to be done in the front line, the parapet in some places was far too low; we started on this at once. The left communication trench was in a bad condition.

1918.

April.

8th.

APPENDIX.

The enemy shelled the village with shrapnel in the morning, one shell burst just over the yard of the farm where Sn. Head quarters were, while the Brigadier General, Colonel Schreiber, A.S., Major Penhice, (Brigade Major) and Major R.J..A. Terry were standing talking there. Colonel Schreiber and the Brigade Major were wounded, the former slightly in the head, the latter not seriously in the arm; no other damage was done. The enemy also shelled the house where the Companies got their water from with shrapnel and high explosive for about 20 minutes in the morning.

In the afternoon Major R.J..A. Terry left us and took over the duties of Brigade Major.

Capt. J.B. Cameron joined Head quarters in the evening as second in command. A draft of 110 men joined in the morning. They remained in RICHBOURNE until the evening then those of them who had been posted to "C" & "D" Companies came up into the firing line. 25 men of this draft were men who had been sick or wounded and recovered, the bulk were men of the new (Kitchener's) Army, the remainder, re-enlisted men. A & B Coy's took over the front portion of the reserve dug-outs from two Companies of the L.H. Lances Regt. in the evening. The North Lances Coy's went back to "A" & "B" Coy's billets in RICHBOURNE ST. VAULT. By the evening we had finished boarding up the roof and sides of the house next to Head quarters farm, and made a more or less comfortable mess room. The Signallers discovered a house supposed to be a Head quarters of some German Unit; they found a certain amount of German literature, which we forwarded to the Brigade.

9th.

A quiet day. The enemy shelled the village a little bit, but not as much as yesterday. We commenced work with a few men on the ditches in the neighbourhood, with a view to inducing the water to flow away, and drain our area. The condition

1915.

APPENDIX.

April.

9th
Ctd.

of the left communication trench had become worse and we commenced clearing it with spades and the few mud scoops we were able to obtain.

10th.

The enemy shelled the village a little also the support breast-works and behind them. We continued our work on the front line and also had small parties working in reliefs throughout the night on the left communication trench which had become very bad. It was cleared by the morning.

11th.

The Commanding Officer and Officers of the 9th Gurkhas and 4th Seaforths came up in the morning to make arrangements about relieving us in the evening. The enemy shelled a little at the usual targets.

About 5.30 p.m. there was considerable activity by the armen of both sides over our trenches.

Two German aeroplanes appeared but were chased away by our rifle fire and machine gun fire and aeroplanes.

The 9th Gurkhas retook our trenches and started to relieve us about 9.30 p.m.

The relief was finished about 3.30 a.m. and companies marched independently to billets at LES CHOQUAUX, which were reached about 6.30 a.m.

Our casualties were 7 men ~~xxx~~ wounded during the period of our occupation of sub-section B.3.

LES CHOQUAUX.12th -
13th -

Men in billets at LES CHOQUAUX. Company Training, Musketry etc. A draft of 20 men joined the Bn. on 14th April.

PORT HINGES.15th -
14th -

Battalion occupied billets at PORT HINGES. A draft of 25 men joined on 21st April. Company Training, Musketry so carried out.

HUDS BY NOISE

24th.

Marched from HINGES at 5.15 pm and took over sub-section D5. (RICHBOURG L'AVOUS) from the Hunter Fusiliers (3rd Brigade) One Company 9th King's Liverpool Regt attached to us.

1915

APRIL

24th.
etd.

Guides met us at WINDY CORNER and after sand bags had been issued, "B" Coy and the 9th King's Laverpool Company marched up and relieved the firing line of "A" Coy (in support) supporting breastworks) 50 yards south West of the RUC DU BOIS. "D" Coy (in reserve) moved 2 platoons into the dugouts North West of RUC DU BOIS and 2 platoons into the billets 200 yards South of WINDY CORNER. An Head "G" took over the same house as they occupied when holding D3 before. Two Gunner Officers slept at our head quarters at night, one from the 14th Battery, and one from the 39th Brigade R.F.A. They spent the day in their observing stations in the RUC DU BOIS. Lieut. "D" Downes joined the Battalion at RICHENBOURG 1, AVOUR. The firing line we took over was 250 yards forward from the breastworks near the RUC DU BOIS which we held as our front line the last line we occupied D3. This new line was then in the process of being established. The 2nd R.R. Division were on our right and the 1st division of the Chaval Brigade in the Orchard on our left.

25th.

The enemy shelled the RUC DU BOIS a good deal during the day. We counted as many as 50 high explosive and 12 "grip-squawks" (or light straggles) and 500 lbs. of these, 5 high explosives and one straggler were blind and did not burst during the night 24/25th. The enemy's working party showed considerable activity in front of their trenches, apparently improving their wire entanglements.

We were unable to fire at them, as a reconnaissance was being made from our own lines by a R.S.

Officer. Our casualties on this day were 2 other ranks killed and one wounded; the 9th Laverpool Company attached had one man killed.

26th.

The enemy shelled Lens. At 6 pm "C" Coy moved up to the support breastworks and the North West gate up from RICHENBOURG BY VAASST

1915

APPENDIX

APRIL

26th.

Into close support near WINDY CORNER. During the night 25th/26th the enemy began had a large and noisy working party improving their wire entanglements. The Coy fired a burst of "ragds" at them. In the afternoon the Germans threw three of their dead over their parapet towards our line; possibly the result of our shoot the night before. We put up a "snice post" wire entanglement in front of our trenches after dark. Casualties - 3 other ranks wounded.

27th.

The enemy shelled the POW DU BOIS a good deal, otherwise a quiet day. A draft of 93 P.O.'s & men arrived and were distributed to Despard etc. We found a working party from "D" Coy in the evening for the purpose of improving the left communication trench. Lieut W.D. Downes who was with this party was wounded. Other casualties on this day were 4 other ranks wounded.

28th.

A certain amount of enemy shelling in the HUR DU BOIS, otherwise a quiet day. The 5th Bn Royal Sussex Regt relieved us in the evening starting at 6 pm, and we returned back to Milllets at FORT AVENETTE, arriving there at 3 am. Casualties 1 other rank killed.

FORT AVENETTE

Company Training, Baths etc.

30th.

Lieut Col R.W.H. Green D.S.O. took over command of the 3rd Brigade during the Brigadier's absence on leave in England. Company Training, Bomb Throwing practice and Baths.

Captain J.S. Cameron took over command of the Battalion vice

Lieut Colonel R.W.B. Green D.S.O.

R.W.H. GREEN, Lieut-Col.,
Command, 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regt.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX ENGINEERS.
1918.

Appendix.

MAY

FOUR AVENGERS

1st

5 am. Avenged early in the morning by a heavy bombardment. We received orders from the Brigade to be ready to move at the shortest notice. The Battalion got up dressed and had breakfast. We move however was made. It transpired that the enemy were expecting us to deliver an attack and so bombarded our fire & support trenches in the HIGHSBOURNE L'AVOUE sector. They also bombarded LAOUREUX where the Cameron Highlanders were billeted, causing some casualties. We remained at FOUR AVENGERS. Company training was carried out.

FOUR AVENGERS - ALLOUAGET

2nd

Marched to ALLOUAGET at 1.30 pm. Capt V. P. O. Deaswood evacuated with messages.

ALLOUAGET

Company training etc.

3rd)
4th)
5th)

ALLOUAGET - LES FACONS

6th

Received orders to move up to LES FACONS; marched off 8 p.m. and reached LES FACONS at 6.30 pm. & went into billets for the night.

LES FACONS

7th

Received orders for an assault on the German lines opposite HIGHSBOURNE L'AVOUE to take place on the morning of the 8th. Remained in LES FACONS making necessary arrangements for the next day. 7 pm just as we had were moving off to HIGHSBOURNE received orders that the attack had been postponed 24 hours and we were to remain where we were for that night.

LES FACONS - HIGHSBOURNE L'AVOUE

8th

Remained at LES FACONS all day and moved up to HIGHSBOURNE L'AVOUE in the evening. On arrival took over breastworks from HEAVY TRENCH.

1915.

Mar

Appendix

9th
(Ctd).

During the night bombs, wooden bridges were drawn for crossing the stream in front of our line. 5 Sappers (Mining Experts) joined our two Companies in order to put the wires of the mine in German lines, when we had captured them.

Capt Villiers & St Croix were wounded in the SUR DU BOIS on the way up.

BREASTWORKS IN VOUE

9th
The day started with an issue of tea and rum at 3.30 am.

Battalion limits with regard to engine first line trenches, S.S. to V.I. frontage of Dn about 400 yards. An left on cinder track. Bombardment commenced at 5 am. At this hour the Battalion was distributed as follows:-

1st line of Breastworks - 2 "G" Company
right, "D" Company left.
2nd line of Breastworks - "A" right;

"B" Company, left,
(less 1 platoon No 8)

No 8 Platoon under 2nd Lt F. R. Goring attached to Lowland Coy R.E. in breastworks immediately behind the SUR DU BOIS.

Machine Guns were distributed as follows - 2 on extreme left of 2nd line. One of these guns remained in this position throughout. 2 guns about 100 yards to the left of 2nd right.

Bath Head quarters at telephone near right flank of Battalion, in front breastwork.

At 5.30 am an intense bombardment commenced and two platoons of "G" & "D" Coy's respectively advanced over the parapet.

first line from right to left being formed by No 9 Platoon (2nd Lt Gerrrell) 11 Platoon (Sgt Reeves) 13 Platoon (2nd Lt Sobbers) 15 Platoon (Sgt Dwyer), and were closely followed by the second line formed by 10 Platoon (Sgt Starup) 12 Platoon (2nd Lt Taylor) 13 Platoon (2nd Lt Child) 14 Platoon (Sgt Lower).

The VOUE over the parapet was made in line except by 15 and 13 platoons which crossed the parapet at a particular spot which afforded some cover.

At the same time, "A" Coy advanced from second line of breastworks on the top of the ground, the two platoons in front being No 3 (2nd Lt Shaw) right, and No 6 Platoon (Sgt Catbopole) left, followed respectively by No 4 Platoon

1915.

May

9th
(Crd).

(Lt Dicker) and No 1 Platoon (2nd Lt Tolbot) at a distance of about 30 yards. A Coy's advance was in column of sections to a flank at a distance of about 100 yards. From 3 and E Platoon left the rear breastwork, the other platoons filed inward behind the breastwork, thus getting into position behind the leading platoons before they advanced. Meanwhile, B boys three platoons, advancing from the end line breastwork to the first line by the last communication trench having started two minutes before the advertised time (5.28 am) in order to allow of their reaching the first line at the same time as 'A' Company. Of these Companies, the whole of 'A' followed 'G' over the breastwork, and two platoons of 'B' Coy followed 'D' Coy. These were No 6 Platoon (2nd Lt Miller) right and No 5 Platoon (2nd Lt Jukes) left. No 7 Platoon (2nd Lt Halliorton) being ordered to remain behind the front breastwork by O O B Coy (Capt O B Bond) 5.30 The Machine Gun Officer had given orders for two Machine Guns to go forward with the leading Coys line, one from each flank, and the other two guns were to advance in a similar manner with the supporting Coys 2nd line. Both guns were only to move if substantial progress was being made. The two right guns actually went forward, but the two left guns remained in their original position except that one of these was moved about 10 yards to the left front, to a listening post. This gun was withdrawn to its original position after firing for about a quarter of an hour. No 8 Platoon advancing with a section of Lowland Coy B. R. on the top of the ground reached the left portion of the first line breastwork just after No 7 Platoon. It appears that through some misunderstanding that an order was passed that the supports should advance over the breastwork. Many did so, but being shortly afterwards recalled, but not before they had suffered several casualties. No 6 Platoon carried sand bags, barbed wire so for making good the enemy's position if taken.

1915.

MAY9th
(CPL).Appendix.

Before our supporting companies were clear of the first line breastwork, the 5th Sn Pl Snapper Regt arrived, many of them going straight over the breastworks and becoming mixed up with our men.

The following arrangements had been made with regard to Bombers by 2nd Lt Austin, Commandg 'D' Company - Bombers of 14 & 15 Platoons were to collect at VI when enemy's first line was reached with the intention to bomb the enemy out of the communication trench in rear. 'D' Coy's bombers were distributed, one with each of sections. Sergt Starbuck having orders to supervise the work of these bombers as occasion offered in arriving at enemy's first line.

'D' Coy's bombers were with their platoons except that those of No 8, (attached to E Pl) and were attached to 'A' Coy's Bombers were grouped near their respective Platoon Commanders. The leading Coys, 'C' & 'D' bridged bridges and ladders. 'C' Coy 5 bridges and 2 ladders. 'D' Coy 6 bridges and 2 ladders.

From information collected it appears that on the night Capt R J Finke 'C' Coy was hit early in the action but continued to lead his men. The same is also reported of Bnd Lt Taylor 'C' Coy who was leading 'C' Coy's 2nd line. End Lt Ferrell, leading 'C' Coy's first line advanced to within about 40 yards of the enemy's wire.

Capt Finch, Commandg A Coy also reached this line.

End Lt Shaw was wounded whilst leading his platoon and was subsequently killed whilst endeavours were being made to bring him back.

Lieut Dickler and End Lt Tubbot were both wounded.

The right of our line was subjected to enfilade fire from Machine Guns.

On the left End Lt Austin 'D' Coy appears to have been hit early in the engagement leaving End Lt Roberts in command of 'D' Coy's first line - End Lt Roberts was wounded and End Lt Child in command of 'D' Coy's 2nd line was killed. Coy Sgt Major Batcher assumed command and ordered the first line to dig themselves in.

1918.

May9th
(Ctd.).

Appendix.

Of 'H' Coy, 2nd Lt Miller & 2 Lt Jukes were both hit. The 1st suffered very severely from enfilade fire from an angle in the German trench opposite the Hunter Passiers, the early retirement of this Bn leaving our 1st Flank in the air. In general the centre of gravity of the assaulting troops did not get more than 150 yards, or about half way to the German Breastworks, though a portion succeeded in getting within about 40 yards of it, and one man appears to have reached the parapet itself.

Flags were carried to denote the position of Companies. The German fired from Leopolds low down in the parapet.

At 6.30 a.m. orders were given to withdraw behind our first breastworks, under cover of repeated bombardment. D Coy's first line seems to have received this order, but not 'G' Coy's. Several men managed to get back during the day but some remained till dark, a few joining in the assault by the 1st ~~Straker~~ Brigade delivered in the afternoon.

The two machine guns on the right were got back and three out of the four machine guns and what remained of the Battalion were returned to a line of breastworks being the NZC Div Bn's, the fourth machine gun by request remained up in the first line till late in the afternoon. Our casualties were

Killed
Officers 2 (1 Lt A R Shaw
" " 1 S S Child

Wounded
9 Capt S J Villiers.
" do St Croix.
" Lt Westrell
" Lt Dicker
" Lt Miller
" Roberts
" Talbot
" Taylor
" Green

Missing
3 { Capt H J Jukes
" Lt F. R. Jukes.
" O. Austin

Other ranks 101. 259 (includes
Total. 14 Officers 248 rank & file.

118.

1913.May9th
(Oct).Appendix.

Our casualties were due to Machine Gun fire Shrapnel and High Explosive shells when advancing over the first breastwork and between our line.

At 4 pm a fresh assault was delivered by the Black Watch and Cameron Highlanders (1st Guards Bde) after another bombardment. This attack reached the enemy's first line but was driven out soon afterwards. In the evening about 7.30 pm the Battalion marched back to billets at LES CHOUQUAIN.

LES CHOUQUAIN.

10th
Evening. At 4 pm the Battalion marched to billets at ORLIGNY-SE.

ORLIGNY-SE.

11th
Drest of 150 M G O's and men joined ExplosiveBatteries

ORLIGNY-SE - BETHUNE

12th
Bath was inspected and addressed by the Brigadier in the morning. In the afternoon the Battalion moved to billets in BETHUNE (squares 2 10, d. 11, c. 16 b. & 17 a.

BETHUNE

13th -)
14th)
Battalion in some billets BETHUNE; training carried out under Company arrangements and bathing parades held at swimming baths.

BETHUNE - LABOURSE

15th
The Battalion marched to billets at LABOURSE

LABOURSE

16th.)
17th.)
18th.)
19th.)
2 Companies West, Owen and Cook joined on 19th. 2 Lieut A.S.H. Dickor rejoined on 19th. Battalion held a concert in the courtyard of the CHAPEL LABOURSE (Batt N. 1) on 18th. Men were given baths during this period under Coy arrangements.

ROUTE OF LA BASSIERE - BETHUNE ROAD.

20th
The Battalion marched from LABOURSE at 5 pm and relieved the Welch Regt. 3rd Brigade in sub-section "A.S." south of the LA BASSIERE - BETHUNE road.

1915.

MayAppendix.20th
(Otd.).

Guides met us at the cross roads A 200 2's. (BENTON 1/40,000 Map) just North of CALBERT (March at 3.15 pm. The relief was finished by 6.15 pm. The 1st Division limits were the main LA BASSER - BENTON Road on the North, to the Cross roads 0.16 0.2.3. (about 500 Yards S E of BENTON Farm). The 2nd Brigade limits were the main LA BASSER - BENTON Road on the North to a point (A.200 1'1.) on AVERY - VERMILION Road. The Brigade section, numbered from right to left and held as follows - 3 9th Kings Liverpool Regt; 2d 2d Bn R Sussex Regt and 2d 2d S. R. Corps. The limits of the sub-sections are shown on Map. The head quarters of 2d were in a palatial dug-out near the HAINSON BIDGE. The Coys in the firing line were 'A' on the right, 'B' in the centre and 'C' on the left. 'D' Coy was in support trench. One Company 5th Bn Sussex Regt in the dug out North of HAINSON BIDGE. 2 Machine Guns of the Northants Regt were sent up into our line under our orders.

21st

Quiet day spent in making firing steps in the fire trench and a bombing trench 20 yards in rear of the fire trench behind 'C' Coy.

22nd

Quiet day. We continued our work begun yesterday. In the afternoon we got the trench mortar section to bomb the crater in front of 'B' Coy. Draft of 7 Officers (Lieuts Middleton & Hardy, 2nd Lieuts Leveson-Cower, Hobbs, Nicolle (3rd S. Stafford B. Gard & Ireland) and 571 B O O & men joined and went into billets in CAMBRIE Village for the night.

23rd

Quiet day. Company reliefs took place in the morning as follows. 'D' Coy relieved 'A' Coy who came back to dug out North of HAINSON BIDGE. 'E' Coy moved back to the support trench. No drafts of 'B' 'C' & 'D' Coy's joined their Coys before the relief took place. 'A' Coy's draft joined them when the Company reached HAINSON BIDGE dug-outs. Capt C. W. Bond D.S.O., left the Battalion on appointment as assistant Camp Commandant, 1st Corps.

1910.

NovAppendix

24th

The three Battalions in Section 2 were relieved as follows. The 9th Kings by the Royal North Lancs who also followed End M Sussex R as far as BOYAV the remainder of 5th M Sussex Regt by 5th Bn M Sussex R. End E.N. Rifles partly Northampton Regt. so left two Machine guns in the firing line attached to the Royal North Lancs R on relief. Bns marched to billets as follows - 9th Kings and End E.N. Rifles to AMBERT. End M Sussex R to CAMBERT. End Ments O.S. Orms & F.O.S. Orms rejoined the Bn. 2 Lt.-Col. de la Barriere joined - 1 killed and 3 wounded during trench period.

CAMBERT.

26th

Bn in billets in local reserve.

26th)

No change. 2 men wounded by shell fire.

27th)

SOUTH OF LA BASSETT - BETHUNE ROAD.

28th

Bn relieved 5th Bn M Sussex Regt in sub-section 20 between BOYAV 11 and BOYAV 13 and the L. North Lancs between BOYAV 11 and BOYAV 9. The Divisional and Brigade limits were as before. The Bn on our flight was the 9th Kings and on our left the End E.N. Rifles. Relief started at 3 pm and finished at 6 pm. All Coy's were in front line and disposed from flight to left as follows - 'A' Coy to 'D' Coy

29th

Night of 28th/29th quiet. In the morning the enemy bombed 'D' Coy and partially the 9th M Battalion but no other damage was done. At 5 pm the 2nd Brigade took over the 3rd Brigade line in the QUICHER section as well as our own down to the VERMERS road. Our flight company was relieved by the Monocaster Regt (attached 1st Brigade) as far as BOYAV 13. The remainder of the Bn's line was taken over by the Rifles. 'A' Coy were sent into local reserve in GRABON ROAD dug out, 'B' Coy to local reserve at CAMBERT defences.

1945.
MAY

Appendix.

29th
(044).

'G' Coy to local reserve at MALDEN
HOUSE dug outs. 'D' Coy took
over QUINCY on 10th FEB. The Brigade
left was now the Railway embankment
at QUINCY; the right the LA BASSÉE -
VERMELLES road. Battalions in the
firing line from left to right were
Northampton 9th FINGERS & 2nd R N
41109. 'A' B' & 'G' Coys were in
local reserve to these 3 Battalions
respectively in case of attack, while
'D' Coy had orders to hold the LINE
and were not available for
redeploying the front line.

QUINCY.

30th No change
31st No change.

WEST
RECORD OFFICE
RSR MS 2/57

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1918

Appendix.

June

1st

ROUTE OF RETIRE - LA BASSE
ROAD.

Battalion followed 60th Rifles in front line from BETHUNE - LA BASSE road on the left, to ROYAU 9 on the right. Brigade units as before. Battalion had 4 Coys in front line each with their own local reserve. 1 Coy. 60th Rifles was in close support of us in FAISON BOUGE dugouts. Part of our line was a bit troublesome and frequently subjected to vicious bombing; this was the portion known as ERJA & VERRIVIS and situated round the ABEZES COLTBY. In the evening just as we had finished taking over the "patches" commanded by Coy's lines and blew in ROYAU 13; we had one man killed.

2nd

All quiet except for various bombings especially in ERJA and VERRIVIS. We continued the work of improving the trenches and handed over to us.

3rd

Awakened at 4.30 a.m. by the enemy blowing up a mine. Happily their judgment was at fault and they blew in their own parapet. At 5.15 a.m. another mine went up on our left on the north side of the BETHUNE - LA BASSE ROAD in front of the L.V. LINDS. This time the enemy met with more success and buried a good many of the LINDS. Their casualties were not insignificant. The rest of the day was quiet and we continued our work in peace. Casualties for this period of fighting 4 killed, 17 wounded.

ROUTE OF RETIRE - LA BASSE ROAD -
BETHUNE.

4th

Battalion relieved by WELCH REGT. 3rd Bde. The Brigade marched back to rest billets; we went to BERRING and billeted in the AVENUE de FROUX. The Colonel left the Battalion at 2 p.m. to command the Bde - the Brigadier going on leave.

1918JuneAppendix.BETHUNE.

5th - Battalion at BETHUNE - Company
 16th - Training, Bombing, Swimming,
 Sports, Concerts etc.

BETHUNE - ANNEQUIE.

16th Brigade moved back into the firing
 line - The Battalion moved up to
 ANNEQUIE in Dde Reserve.

ARRASVILLE.

17th- On night of the 17th and 18th
 18th there were rumors that the
 Germans intended celebrating the
 anniversary of Waterloo by attack-
 ing us so the Battalion slept with
 its boots on.

ANNEQUIE - FOUQUENVILLE.

19th Orders for our relief by 6th
 Brigade suddenly received. We
 moved off about 2 p.m. after being
 relieved by the 8th Kings and
 marched to FOUQUENVILLE.

FOUQUENVILLE.

20th- Battalion in Corps reserve at
 24th FOUQUENVILLE. Company training and
 Bombing Practices.

FOUQUENVILLE - LOZINGHEM.

24th Brigade moved back. Battalion
 moved to LOZINGHEM.

LOZINGHEM.

25th Battalion at LOZINGHEM. Coy. Train-
 ing carried out.

26th Division transferred to 4th Corps.
 Capt. J.B. Cameron to Brigade as
 Staff Captain temporarily.

LOZINGHEM - CAMBRIN.

27th Moved from LOZINGHEM at 10.45am.
 to relieve 3rd Coldstream, 24th
 Guards Bde. In subsection 2 at
 CAMBRIN. We halted at HOIG DES
 KORTWANGS on the way for dinner.
 Company commanders of A, B & C Coys
 went on ahead and reconnoitred the

1915

Appendix.

June

27th
(Ctd.)

trenches; Guides met the Bathn at Brigade Headquarters, the Chemist shop at CAMBRIN at 6 p.m. The relief was finished at 8.30 p.m.

Battalions -
Division: Left AUCHEY-VANREUILLES

Brigade: Left AUCHEY-VANREUILLES
ROAD. Right:

Battalion: Left AUCHEY-VANREUILLES
ROAD. Right.
Left AUCHEY-VANREUILLES
ROAD. Right.
LES BRIGUES Road.

Companies in firing line A on the Right - B. on the left.

Companies in Support C. on the

Right - D on the left.

All Machine Guns in the firing

line.

Battalion Headquarters:

Brigade Headquarters:- Chemist's shop CAMBRIN until 30th when they moved to CHATEAU DES FRÈS BAVILLY - LABOURSE.

CAMBRIN.

28th

Quiet night. About 8.30 in the morning we were shelled in the vicinity of BOYAU 13 with high explosive; some damage was done to the 8th. Staffs fire trench on our left. They repeated the dose in the evening probably in reply to a demonstration by us at 5.30pm. We blew up two small mines and then opened rapid rifle fire on the enemy's parapet on a front of 4 Battalions; after five to ten minutes fire we blew up a much larger mine. About 60 to 80 yards of the enemy's parapet was blown in. A good deal of work done narrowing our fire trench by building up the rear side with sandbags and making dugouts (chiefly in the support line). We also started a new Company Headquarters which was more central than the existing one.

29th-
30th -
JULY
1st

Battalion holding Subsection 25; situation normal. Our work as described above continued night and day.

1918

JULY

2nd

CAMPBELL.

Appendix.

Relieved by 9/Kings at 4.15 p.m.
A & B Coys went back to the dug-
outs near CAMPBELL CHURCH, C & D
Coys to AMBERLEY, Battalion
Headquarters CHERRIER'S SHOP,
CAMPBELL (late Sde. Headquarters).

WEST SUSSEX
RECORD OFFICE
RSR MS 2/57

1915

Appendix.

JULY

CAMBRIE.

3rd Battalion disposed as above.
Companies at CAMBRIE at very short notice; those at ANDREQUHIE at 1/2 hour's notice. The CAMBRIE Companies could be called upon by Officer Commanding 9/KINGS or Serjeants (holding front line) to reinforce without reference to our Headquarters.
On July 4th the first number of the "DUG-OUT DISPATCH" was published.

CAMBRIE - VERQUIGNET.

7th Battalion relieved (less one Company) at CAMBRIE by I. K. LAROS and marched to VERQUIGNET at 11 a.m.; we became Brigade Reserve at 2 hours notice. C. Coy returned to support trenches 22 in support of 5th SUSSEX who were too weak to hold the line alone.

VERQUIGNET.

8th- Battalion remained in Brigade
12th Reserve at VERQUIGNET.
On 9th a draft of 50 other ranks joined from ENGLAND.
On 10th D. Coy relieved G. Coy. In 22 - C Coy marched back to VERQUIGNET.

VERQUIGNET - BETHUNE.

13th Lieut. Col. E. W. H. Green D.S.O. on leave to England.
Captain J. S. Cameron returned from the Brigade & took over command. The Brigade was relieved by 3rd Brigade. The Battalion marched to billets in AVINUE DE BRIVAY and AVENUE DE ENDS BETHUNES.

BETHUNE.

13th- Brigade in rest billets. Battalion at BETHUNE. Coy training, Bombing, Swimming, Water Polo, Boxing etc.

19th

1918

JULY

Appendix.

RETRUCE - VERMELLES.

19th

Brigade moved back to front line. Enemy shelled the AVANCE DES BRAYS and generally in the vicinity of the railway station in the morning. We moved at 1.45 p.m. & marched to subsection Y3 in front of VERMELLES where we relieved the BLACK WATCH (1st Guards Bde.). Battalion went up by RAILVALLEY and guides met us at the FACTORY. Relief complete about 7 p.m.

VERMELLES.

20th

Started a scale of work as handed over by BLACK WATCH; this mainly consisted in improving REMSAIVE TRENCH and existing GOVAINX and new front line. Four Officers of the New Army, Col. MacDougal of 1st Bde., his Adjutant, and two machine gun Officers were attached to us for instruction.

21st

Col. MacDougal's second in command, Major Forbes, joined us. While these two were making a tour of the trenches with Capt. Cameron, a Howitzer shell burst right among the party as they were passing through the lines of the left (B) Coy. wounding Major Forbes fatally, killing Col. MacDougal & seriously wounding Captain Cameron, German aeroplanes exceptionally active during the day. Brigade 3rd's party at work on this and following nights, and our patrols kept watch on German working parties in Hohenzollern Redoubt.

22nd

Col. E.V.D. Green D.S.O. returned from leave in the evening.

23rd

House behind German lines, set on fire by our artillery burning vigorously. No other incident of any kind.

25th

The Battalion was relieved about 4 p.m. by the 2nd F.R.N.'s, moving out by HULLICH ALLEY, and billeting in VERMELLES. The Adjutant and 2nd Lieut. NICOLIS admitted to hospital sick. Duties of Adjutant taken up by Lieut. Wallington.

1915

July

26th-

29th

Digging and carrying parties furnished to assist R.S. in various works in the trenches & to improve HULLER ALLEY, CHATEL ALLEY, LE ROTOURS ALLEY and SUGGEST TRENCH.

30th

A draft of 30 R.C.O.'s & men joined.

VILLIERS - YERGIN

31st

Village shelled a little in the morning. We were relieved about 9.30 p.m. by the GROUNDHOGS, the Brigade going out to rest. We were billeted in VERGIN.

S.O.P. GREEN,

Lt. Colonel,

Comd'g. 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regt.

WEST SUSSEX
RECORD
MS 215
RSR

2nd PATRAGON, ROYAL AIRMAIL REGIMENT.

1918.

Appendix.

August.

VERQUIN.

1st to 5th
Battalion in billets at VERQUIN. Time spent in Company training and bombing at BOLD DUG HORTHOUSES, New Wood Bomb Arsenal introduced and practised with. On 9th August the 2nd Brigade held a Horse show at which we won the following prizes:- H.C.Os, Riding Horse - 1st prize; H.D. Pairs - 1st prize; Cooker turn-out - 1st prize; S.A.A. Cart - 1st prize; L.D. Pairs - 2nd prize; ORIFLÈVE Jumping - 2nd prize; water Cart 3rd prize; Jack animals - 3rd prize.

Captain J.G. Stammers, who was thrown from his horse was admitted to Hospital with concussion.

GAVERIN.

6th
The Battalion relieved 1st Bn. Coldstream Guards in section 22 (trenches).

7th
Comparatively quiet.

8th
Night of 6th/9th - a good deal of bombing took place. On morning of 8th our heavies registered on enemy's billets, 2 killed, 14 wounded during trench period.

The Bn. was relieved by 2nd Bn. K.R. Rifles and we sent into Brigade Reserve at LABOURNAY, and billeted there.

LABOURNAY.

10th
16th
Time spent in Company Training and in sending fatigue parties for Royal Engineers to the trenches. On 12th August, Capt. J.W.B. Willett joined the battalion from England.

On 15th August a draft of 35 men joined and on 12th and 19th August 3 ex-Quailers and 6 Machine gunners joined the battalion.

GAVERIN.

16th
The Bn. relieved 9th KING'S LIVERPOOL REGT. in the trenches in section 21.

1915.

Appendix.

August.

BATTLES.

19th

We were relieved by the Gloucestershire Regt; after a period but rather wet time in the trenches. The Bn. marched to BETHUNE and billeted in ZAMBUNG D'ARLES. Capt. R. P. VILLIERS, D.S.O., rejoined the Bn. from England. Captain R. H. PRESTON appointed Staff Captain 2nd Brigade.

19th to
24th

Time spent in Company Training and in Bombing.

21st

2/Lieut. R. C. G. O. LEVISON GORE and 1 man wounded. 1 man killed whilst at Bombing practice at BOIS DES HOMMAGES.

22nd

2nd Lieut. J. L. & R. C. BRIGHT joined the Bn. The Bn. was inspected by Gen. Theisler on his appointment to command a Division.

YPERBLES.

24th

The Bn. relieved the London Regiment in section Y (trenches).

25th

2nd Lieut. Gook and Collins joined, and left on 26th August to join the 5th R. Sussex Regt.

27th

2nd Lieut. J. Dugdale joined the Bn. from the Base.

29th

The Bn. was relieved by 10th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and so billeted in VERBUNDEN, where we provided various digging parties and fatigues. 7 killed and 2 wounded during trench period.

September.

2nd

The Bn. relieved 1/Norhampton Regt. in the trenches in section I. Divisional Post commenced. Lt. Colonel R. V. B. GREEN, D.S.O., took over command of the 2d battalions of 2nd Brigade left in the line.

5th

2/Lieut. Barnes and Crowley joined the Bn.

1918.

Appendix.

September.PRIMUM ST. PLY.

7th

We were relieved by the Hunter Fusiliers (3rd Brigade) and the Bn. marched to PRIMUM ST. PLY where we bivouaced for the night. 1 killed, 9 wounded during trench period.

SECUNDUM ST. PLY.

8th

The Bn. marched from bivouac at 6.30 a.m. and halted for breakfast near REVILLON, and reached SECUNDUM ST. PLY about 11 a.m.

8th to 20th. In billets. Time spent in Battalion and Company training Bombing, football etc.

17th

Draft of 25 men joined the Bn.

19th

Major R. V. VILLIERS, D.S.O. rejoined Bn. from leave.

THIRTIUM ST. PLY.

20th

The Bn. left SECUNDUM ST. PLY about 6 p.m. and marched to BILLETIA at THIRTIUM ST. PLY. Most of the boys, however, bivouaced.

21st Capt. H. B. Baker, R.A.M.C. to Hospital.

22nd Lieut. G. D. Hamilton R.A.M.C. attached to Bn.

QUARTUM ST. PLY.

23rd

Bn. moved to bivouac near QUARTUM ST. PLY. Very wet night.

QUINTUM ST. PLY.

24th

The Bn. moved into trenches in ST. PLY. Lt. Colonel Green, R.E.M.E., D.S.O. took over command of Green's Force (formed for the evening assault).

SEXTUM ST. PLY.

25th

Narrative of the part taken by the 2nd Royal Sussex in the action of Sept; 25th 1918. In the battalion was detailed in Operation Orders as supporting Battalion for the attack on the German line on Sept; 25th. A German line in position in the old support line from Doyun 2 on the left to Doyun 45 on the

1918.

Appendix.

September.29th
(cont.)

right & with one Coy. (79*) in the old firing line, 1st left resting on 32. This position was taken up at 1.50 a.m. on 29th. 29th. My orders were that immediately the two assaulting Battns: (1st L.F. Bn and 2nd F.R.B.) advanced the Royal Sussex were to move forward and occupy their trenches in the front line in readiness to move forward again in support of the assault as soon as I could ascertain that the assaulting Battns. had obtained a footing in the German front line trench. At 6.30 a.m. the assaulting Battns. advanced and the Royal Sussex immediately pushed on to our front line trench. Owing to the dense smoke from the smoke candles it was not possible to see how the advance was progressing but the wind had veered round and had carried some of the gas back over our front trench causing a good deal of confusion amongst the troops of the assaulting line. My Company Commanders then on their own initiative at once advanced and pushed on to the assault the Battalion thus becoming part of the assaulting line at a very early stage of the attack. This advance was pushed right up to the German wire which was not cut and at this stage all our officers and men who had reached or got close to the wire were either killed or wounded.

The 7th. Sussex Battalion was a section which had advanced with the Battalion endeavoured to reach the German line but were annihilated about 50 yds in front of Lone Tree. Meanwhile the 16th Division on our right and the 1st Brigades on our left had succeeded in driving the Germans out of their front line trenches. Owing to the fact that almost all my officers & B.C.s. were either killed or wounded it was very difficult to obtain reliable information as to the progress of the attack but it was evident that in front of the 2nd Bde. the Germans were holding their front line in strength. My second in command, Major Elliott went forward to endeavour to obtain information as to the progress

1918.

September.28th
(ctd.)

of the attack he was able to get as far as Lone Tree but beyond this it was impossible for anyone to advance in the face of the German Machine Gun & Rifle fire.

At about 11.45 a.m. Green's force attacked but at this time did not get any further forward than Lone Tree.

A second attack delivered by the same force later in the day was able to push on further and at about 3.40 pm. the Germans in front of the 2nd Bde. surrendered, at about 3.15 p.m. I and Major Elliott with Lieuts. Baker & Wellington, collected all the men of the Batta; whom we could get hold of some 70 in all and formed a line close to Lone Tree when the Germans in the front line surrendered. I occupied their trenches and from there pushed on to CHALK PIT where by order of the U.O.C. 2nd Bde. we entrenched ourselves along the Lone-La Basse road with our right resting on the CHALK PIT. Our line we held until relieved at about 9 a.m. on Sept. 28th when we returned to the old British line in front of BOIS CARRE.

September 29.

29th
27th.

In old British trenches in front of 28th, moved into new front line on 27th.

1003.

Went back to HALLINGHAM for a few hours into billets.

9 p.m. moved up to 1003 to relieve the CAVALRY Division. Battalion relieved 3 Dragoon Guards & the Rifles, remaining there till September 30th 1918.

R. WILLIAMS, Major,
Comdg. 2nd Royal Sussex Regt.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1915.

October.

1003.

Appendix.

1st.

Battalion was relieved in the trenches by the 114 French Infantry Regt. about 12 midnight. On relief Battalion moved to billets in POUX LES VIEUX.
Major H.J.A. Terry, R.V.O., D.S.O. (Bde. Major 2nd Bde.) was hit by a shell in 1003 and died of wounds.

WOLF AND WIRE.

2nd

Battalion got into billets about 3 A.M.

3rd

2 Lieutenants, Burdun & Welch joined Battalion.

3rd

2 Lieut. H.G. Toye rejoined the Battalion.

4th

2 Lieut. H. Bradbury rejoined the Battalion.

Draft of 392 men from England joined the Battalion and also the following officers:-

Capt. Apperley, Capt. Burgess, Lieut. Diddin, Lieut. Inceem, 2 Lieut. Herriot, 2 Lieut. King.

6th

WOLF-TROOPERS to HAZINGWATER.

Battalion left WOLF-TROOPERS and moved to HAZINGWATER arriving about 11 A.M.

NEAR 1003.

Battalion moved into old German front system of trenches near 1003.

8th

The Germans attacked our front line about 4 P.M. They were unsuccessful. Casualties for this day 1 killed.

9th-
12th.

In old German trenches in support. Digging parties provided every night. Weather good. Casualties for this day 1 wounded, 3 gassed.

10th

2 Lieut. Welch to hospital.
Casualties 1 killed.

11th

Captain Churchill Longman joined.
Casualties 3 wounded.

13th

Lieut. Col. H.W.B. Green, D.S.O. left Battalion to take up command of the 45th Brigade.

1915.

October.
13th.

Appendix.

BEAR HILLTOP.Narrative by Lieut. Col. R. W. Villiers,
D.R.O.

1. In compliance with 2nd Infantry (Reference Trench Map Sheet 35a R.W.) Bde Order No. 37 dated 11/10/15. The Battalion took up the position assigned to it in Para. 8 of that order in the early morning of Oct. 13th. The Battalion then came under the Orders of the D.O.C. 1st Bde.
2. The Gas & Smoke discharge was timed to commence at 1 pm (Zero) & the 1st Brigade was detailed to assault the German front line trenches one hour later.
3. In 1st Bde Operation Order No. 22 the Battalion was ordered to find one Company to act as a strong Patrol which in the event of the 1st Bde capturing the German front line trenches was to be pushed forward half an hour later along the line of the road H.13.d.4.2. Leading into HILLTOP with the object of establishing themselves in the German trench immediately west of of the road H.13.d.4.5. to H.13.b.1.2. The remainder of the Battalion (less one Coy.) was to closely support this enterprise.
- One Company was detailed to act as a support to the Cameron Highlanders & came under the Orders of the Officer Commanding that Battalion.
4. In accordance with the above orders a Coy. was detailed to act as the strong Patrol & was located in Trench G.18.d.3.8 to G.18.b.8.0. by order of G.O.C. 1st Bde.
- G.Coy. was ordered to closely support A.Coy. in the event of the latter reaching the German trench immediately west of HILLTOP, they were located in Trench G.18.c.8.9. to G.18.b.3.2. D.Coy. was detailed as the supporting Coy. to the Cameron Highlanders and were located in Trench running North & South from point G.18.b.3.5.
- R.Coy. was ordered to closely support G.Coy. and was located in Trench G.18.4.7.6. to G.18.a.3.4.
6. At 2 pm the 1st Bde delivered their assault and at 2.19 pm A.Coy. and Royal Sussex advanced.
- At 2.30 pm I received a message from 1st Bde, informing me that the Camerons attack over the open had failed & directing me to support them if necessary in order to gain the German first line trenches.

1918.Appendix.October.13th
(Contd.)

I immediately sent forward G Coy, 2nd Royal Sussex who advanced at 2.35 pm & I informed 1st & 2nd Brigades accordingly. The telephone wire to B Coy, having been cut by shell fire I at once despatched two separate messages by orderlies to G C Coy, ordering him to advance and support C Coy, after some little delay B Coy, advanced to the line G.18.0.8.9.0.19.0.3.3. and then moved my Headquarters forward to G.18.4.3.6. From first reports it appeared probable that the 1st Bde, had in some places gained a footing in the German front line and the G.O.C. 1st Bde, sent me to make further enquiries as a result of which I formed the opinion that no footing had been obtained in the German front line, and I therefore retained G & B Coys, in the support line ready for eventualities.

Casualties on 13th Oct.

Capt. Burgess - Missing.
2 Lieuts. Tovey, Perrier,
Capt. Churchill-Ronzgan, wounded.

Killed. Wounded. Missing.

9 O.R. 71 O.R. 39 O.R.

2 Lieuts. Atkinson, Hopkins, Mason,
Owen, Collins & Cook joined Battr.

14th

6. No further offensive was attempted until about 5.30 A.M. on the 14th when the Battalion was ordered to support an attack by the Northamptonshire Regt, and advanced accordingly as far as the British front line trench when we received orders to effect that as it was now daylight the attack was not to be proceeded with.

The Battalion was relieved by the London Regt. at about 10.30 pm on the evening of the 14th October.

(Signed) W. F. WILLIAMS, Lieut. Col.
Comd'g. 2nd B. Sussex Regt.

1918.October.14th
to
31st.LITLERS.

The Battalion entrained for
LITLERS.
2 Lieut. Thompson joined the
Battn.
Battalion at Post 4 in LITLERS.
Company training, scrubbing,
bakeery and route marching
carried out.

Appendix.23rd.2 Lieuts. Blake - Gould
A MacDonald joined Battn.25th.2 Lieut. Turner and draft of
8 Signallers and 19 W. Gunners
joined Battn.27th.

2 Lieut. Kennally joined Battn.

29th.Draft of 28 other ranks joined
Battn.30th.

2 Lieut. Chad joined Battn.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUDBURY REGIMENT.

1918.

Appendix.

November.

LILLERS.

1st Battalion in rest billets. A
series of parades was carried
out daily including running,
drill, physical exercises, drill
& munkeyry. Sergeant Major's Parade,
Regimental Concerts were also held
in the Theatre Lillers.
Night operations were carried
out in the western vicinity of
Lillers.

1st

P. Lieut. Smith joined the Battalion.

3rd

P. Lieut. Sinton P.O. joined the
Battalion.

8th

7319 Sgt. W. J. Upton granted a
Commission.

10th

Corps Commander's Inspection.

13th

LILLERS TO HAZINGHAM.

Lieut. Hamilton (R.A.M.C.) to
Hospital.
The Battalion left LILLERS and
engrained for HONOX LES BRUSSE!
from there we marched to billets
in HAZINGHAM where the
Battalion was in Brigade Reserve.
Lieut. F. J. Joycelyn (R.A.M.C.)
joined.

HAZINGHAM TO HULLUCH.

Battalion moved to support
trenches in B.I. opposite HULLUCH,
occupying the original German
fire line. Draft of 24 other ranks
joined.

NEAR HULLUCH.

Battalion moved up to firing line
B.I. P. Lieut. Burdon posted to
4th K.R. Rifle Coy.

19th

23rd

Draft of 17 other ranks joined
Battn.

26th

P. Lieut. Stokes joined Battn.

1916.Appendix.November.

20th
 2. Lieuts. Dadswell, Taylor and Parrack joined the Battalion.

30th
 2. Lieut. F. Prince & 65 other ranks joined the Battalion.

December.

1st
 Battalion in Support Trenches near HULLBURN. Captain Appleby wounded whilst visiting the front line trenches, previous to Battalion taking over.

2nd
 2. Lieut. Blakie admitted to Hospital. 2. Lieut. Dadswell to Base. 2. Lieut. Taylor left us to join 7th Battalion, to which he had been posted. Battalion moved up in to the firing line; Section A.1 1008.

1008.

3rd
 Battalion in front line. One man killed and 2 wounded.

4th
 2. Lieuts. Kennard and Brown joined the Battalion.

5th
 2. Lieut. Gernsten R. joined Battalion. One man wounded.

1008 TO PHILGOSPH.

6th
 Battalion was relieved in front line and came back to billets in PHILGOSPH.

PHILGOSPH.

7th
 Battalion in billets, cleaning up clothing etc.

PHILGOSPH TO SUPPORT TRENCHES A.1.

8th
 Battalion moved up to Support Trenches in Section A.1.

SUPPORT TRENCHES SECTION A.1.

9th
 10th
 11th
 }
 Battalion in Support line in section A.1. During these 3 days, owing to the inclement weather, much work had to be performed by Companies, in keeping the trenches free from water & mud, by removing trench boards and digging deeper sump pits.

1918.

Appendix.

December.NEAR HULLBACH.

17th

Battalion moved up into front line trenches in the vicinity of the quarries near HULLBACH.

13th

The capture this day the German aircraft and our own were very active, on two occasions German machines were reportedly checked from crossing our lines. Two men killed one wounded.

NEAR HULLBACH TO MORUX LES MINES.

14th

One man killed, one wounded, one missing. Late in the night the Battalion was relieved and conveyed in lorries to rest billets at MORUX LES MINES. This last period in the trenches was a very strenuous one for all ranks and the Brigade was demoralized for the excellent condition in which the trenches were handed over.

MORUX LES MINES.15th
to
20th

Battalion in rest billets. Training, bathing, lectures etc.

16th

2. Lieut. Jackson joined the Battalion.

MORUX LES MINES TO WILLIGORF.

20th

Battalion moved up to billets in WILLIGORF and was in Brigade Reserve.

WILLIGORF TO SUPPORT B.

22nd

Battalion moved up to support trenches in Section B. 1.

26th

SECTION B. 1.

Battalion moved up to the piping line in Section B. 1.

28th

2. Lieut. Kennard wounded.

1918.

Appendix.

December.

SECTION B.1 TO PHILCOPPER.

30th

Battalion was followed in the firing line and came back to billets at PHILCOPPER in Brigade reserve.

PHILCOPPER.

Battalion remained at PHILCOPPER in reserve.

31st

2nd BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSER REGIMENT.

1916

Appendix.

January

HORNIX LEE HILLS.

1st

The Bn. Brigade having been relieved by the 1st Brigade, we were ordered to move to HORNIX LEE HILLS to Hilllets, and we then came into Divisional Reserve. One man wounded during relief.

2nd-
4th

During this period we carried out Reikin, Franklee, Smoke Helmet Drill, Snicketry etc. On 3rd Jan. Christmas Day was celebrated in Hilllets the 28th December having been spent in the trenches, and consequently but little celebration could take place, but however, we made good on the 3rd.

HILLMICH.

About midnight 4/5th Jan. orders were received for the 2nd Bn. Bl. Sussex Regt., to move up on the 6th in support of the 3rd Brigade and we occupied the old German front line in the vicinity of HILLMICH.

LOOS.

Acting under orders As Coy. moved to LOOS ROAD REPAIRS and occupied that place whilst the remaining three companies moved to GUN ALLEY near LOOS, all still in support and in. Head quarters occupied cellars etc. in LOOS.

6th-
10th

The Bn. remained in support in same positions. 6th Jan. 2 wounded; 9th - 1 wounded; 10th 1 wounded.

11th

The Bn. moved into the front line in section A.1 (ZOO) 1 wounded. A draft of 88 R.O.Cs and men joined on this date.

12th

1 killed, 1 wounded.

13th

1 killed.

14th

1 wounded. At night the whole Division was relieved by the 15th Division, and the Bn. marched to PHILCOZIE at which place we took buses for HORNIX LEE HILLS, and

1916

Appendix.

January

14th
(Ctd.)

billeted there for the night. During the period of our occupation of the trenches near 1008, the enemy's artillery showed increased activity and a considerable amount of shelling took place.

BILLETING.

15th
In the morning we entrained for BILBERS, which place we reached at about 11 A.M. and we commenced to settle down to removing the mud (a job which took a deal of time and energy) and in cleaning ourselves up generally.

16th
to
28th

Spent in the training of Specialists (Bombers, Wipers, French Pioneers, French Forter, E. Gunners etc) and in Company Training, Basketball, Physical Training, Sn Training etc. On 26th January Sgt. S. C. Stokes and Lieut. J. A. Dildain preceded for transfer to R. K. Gun Corps with 45 M. C. Os & men.

On 27th January we were placed under orders to be in readiness to move up to the front line at two hours notice, and on 28th Jan. we were placed at three hours notice, whilst on 29th Jan. the two hours notice again came into force. On this account training areas were limited, and all training had to be confined for the time to Billeting Areas.

30th-
31st

Although the Bn remained in readiness to move at 2 hours notice until the end of the month, we were not called upon to move, and we therefore carried on with training in the vicinity of Billeting Area. Football matches were played and concerts arranged during our rest period. In the 1st round of the 2nd Brigade Football Tournament the Bn was successful in the 1st match against the Northamptonshire Regt, winning by 5 Goals to nil.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SCOTS BATTALION

1916.

Appendix

Zepherus.

HILLES.

1st to 14th

Battalion was billeted in HILLES. Physical training, hockey and bagonet exercises were carried out in Hillesing area. Training in the attack took place in area allotted to the Battalion in the vicinity of HILLES. 16 men on leave to the United Kingdom.

2nd

Regimental team took part in Brigade Final Football Competition, the result was a draw after extra time had been played.

3rd

Divisional manoeuvres took place in districts around HILLES; the Battalion was out all day. Lieut Col. E. J. Hilliers, D.S.O. was in Command of the Advanced Guard and an attack was carried out in the vicinity of BOURNEBROOKS. Next of 24 other ranks joined.

6th

Our Regimental Team proved successful in the Final Brigade Football Competition; after a well contested game we won by the narrow margin of 1-0. Brigadier General Shillier distributed medals to the winners.

7th

Battalion took part in Divisional Horse March which was short owing to the inclement weather.

13th

A platoon of the Battalion under the command of 2nd Lieut. H. J. Collins left us to be attached to 1st Battalion Welsh Borderers.

During this period of rest the National Officers, Lieut J. Jones and Lieut J. Jones, of the Battalion against Farm, Glynoid.

LETTERS TO MARCH SECTION.

15th

Battalion entertained for HUNDREDS of men in the afternoon and from there we proceeded to HILLES where a halt was made for dinner.

1916.

February.

15th (Ctd.)

Towards the evening Companies worked independently to LEB KRIBIS, packs were stored here and trench requisites issued. Battalion then proceeded to the BACOC position at the line and relieved the 14th LANCER Regiment who were in support.

16th

16 men on leave to the UNITED KINGDOM.

REPORT TO FRONT LINE.

19th

Owing to a change in the direction of the wind, which was now blowing from the German trenches, we received a gas alert from 2nd Brigade. In the evening Battalion moved up into the firing line and relieved the 14th LANCER LIONS. On our left was the 3rd Brigade and on our right the French.

19th

The enemy was very active with trench mortar bombs (ammunition) which they directed on our front line trenches. Facing the evening which was a very alert one, our aeroplanes reconnoitered the area opposite our sector. One other tank wounded whilst on patrol duty to the German wire.

REPORT SECTION TO 2ND BRIGADE.

20th

In the morning we received another gas alert from Brigade. The Battalion was relieved in the evening by the 8th SOTAL BATTALION and came back into billets at LEB KRIBIS where we were in Divisional Reserve till the 26th.

19th FEBRUARY.

21st

Very cold weather, snow fell during the day. In the afternoon the Germans attacked the French in the direction of SCURCHE. Battalion was ordered to be in readiness to move at 1 hour's notice. LEB KRIBIS was shelled with gas shells.

1916.

February.Appendix.

22nd

Temperature still low and more snow. The wind having veered round to the East, we received a few alerts from Brigade.

23rd

Freezing hard all day and snowing. 15 men on leave to the United Kingdom.

24th

No change in the weather. Part of 27 H.C.O.s and men joined the Battalion from the Base.

25th

Temperature rose and it rained towards the evening. Battalion changed from billets in "A" Area to "D" Area and came into Brigade lines. During this period spent in Divisional Reserve the Battalion had to find a sign and carrying parties each night.

27th -
28th

Battalion in billets. Working parties were detailed to assist in clearing and deepening communication trenches in the LOOS Sector; these were in a bad state owing to the recent snowfalls. Sketcher personnel instructed H.C.O.s of the Battalion in methods of message with whale oil. Lecture by a H.C.O. on his experience at the American school.

THE MESSIS TO LOOS 1916.

Battalion moved to Loos Sector and relieved the 1st Bn. Royal North Devonshire Regiment.

29th

E. VILLIERS,

Lt. Col.

Commanding 2nd Bn., Reg. Trencher Regt.

.....

2ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1916.

Appendix.

MARCH.

1008.

1st

Battalion in the Front Line opposite Harrison's Crater; 15th Division on our left; NORTHARDTOMS and 1st Bde Grade on our right. Germans very active with trench mortars (aimmwerfers) these were directed on to HARRISON & HART CRATERS. Owing to the recent snow, much work had to be carried out in the trenches to keep them free from water. The signallers were kept busy on the lines all day & carried out some good work, under shell fire. Trials were made with Red & Green Very Lights. Casualties 1 O.R. Killed & 9 O.Rs wounded.

2nd

Enemy again active with trench mortars. In the afternoon a hostile battery in the direction of BOUVAIN shelled our trenches in 3 of these shells which actually dropped in our front line, caused little damage, & no casualties ensued.

1008 TO OLD GERMAN 1ST LINE.

3rd

Very quiet day except towards the evening, when the enemy again shelled our front line. 2 Other ranks wounded & 3 O.Rs killed. In the evening the Battalion was relieved by the 1st TOTAL NORTH LANCES and came back into Reserve, in the Old German First Line.

OLD GERMAN 1ST LINE - 1008.

4th &
5th

Battalion in Reserve Trenches. Working parties were provided by Companies, for work in clearing the trenches which were in a bad state owing to snowfall.

OLD GERMAN 1ST LINE TO 1008 FRONT LINE.

6th

Battalion moved up to the firing line & relieved the 1st TOTAL NORTH LANCES opposite HARRISON'S CRATER. 15th Division were on our left & 1st NORTHARDTOMS on our right
5th & O.Rs wounded.
7th & O.Rs wounded.

1916.

March.1009.Appendix.

8th

Enemy shelled our trenches, heavily with 6 inch H.E. shells. "C" Coy's trenches were filled in in several places. 1 O.R. killed - 3 O.R.s wounded.

1009 TO 1013 BRABIS.

9th

Fairly quiet day, with occasional shelling on both sides. Casualties 1 O.R. killed and 3 O.R.s wounded. In the evening the Battalion was relieved by the BRACKENRUE & marched back to 1013 BRABIS

1013 BRABIS.10th -
15th

Battalion in billets, cleaning up etc. During the period that the Brigade was in Divisional Reserve, Companies supplied working and carrying parties nightly. Casualties: 1 O.R. newly killed on March 10th.

1013 BRABIS TO NORTH BAROC.

15th

In the evening the Battalion moved up into SOUTH BAROC in Brigade Reserve. The wind being S.W. we received a gas alert from Brigade.

8TH BAROC.

16th

Gas alert cancelled.

8TH BAROC TO FOURTH CRASSIER.

18th

Battalion relieved the 1st TOTAL NORTH LANGS in the fighting line opposite the DOUBLE CRASSIER. The 1st Brigade were on our left and Merthamptons on our right

19th

1 O.R. newly wounded.

20th

Lieut COL EA. VILLIERS D.C.O. on leave to England. Captain B. WALLINGTON took command of the Battalion & 2 Lieut Gannston was Acting Adjutant. About 7 pm the Germans sent up a green rocket signal which was closely followed by the explosion of a mine at the end of the SOUTHERN CRASSIER. part of our front line trench was blown in, otherwise no damage was done & no casualties. During the shelling of our trenches which followed the mine exploded on, 2 Lieut Gould & one other rank were wounded.

1916.

Appendix.March.DOUBLE CRASSIER TO 3TH BAROC.

21st

Battalion was relieved by 1st I.H. LANS, and went over in support in South BAROC. One O'Leary killed.

DOUBLE CRASSIER.

26th

Battalion relieved the 1st I.H. LANS in the front line opposite the DOUBLE CRASSIER. The 3rd Brigade were on our left and the Northeyons on our right

26th

Lieut. R.H. King joined the Battalion. During the morning a gas alert practice was carried out throughout the Brigade. About midnight 4 or 5 Germans attacked our Saphead on the SOUTHERN CRASSIER. They crawled up both sides of our trench running up to the saphead & reached a point about 10 or 15 yards in rear of our saphead without being seen or heard. They then threw bombs, badly wounding one of our bombers & made a prisoner of another bomber, who it is believed was wounded. Our bombers in support immediately retaliated. One German was killed, & another hit by a rifle bullet, rolled down between the two CRASSIERS.

26th

All quiet on our front. The 68th Infantry Bde on our right carried out minor operations, consisting of rapid rifle, artillery & trench mortar fire. The enemy did not retaliate on our front, positions however had been taken again & 2 Lieuts Bayne and deLewik joined the Battalion.

DOUBLE CRASSIER TO PERT SAIRS.

27th

Battalion was relieved in the firing line by the 8th Royal BIRMS and came back to billets in PERT SAIRS in Divisional Reserve. Casualties:-
Sgt O'Leary wounded.

1916.

March.26th -
21stPERIT SAIRS.

Battalion in billets in PERIT SAIRS. Drill, musketry, practices in rapid loading & firing and in the Advance. Coy's were allotted the Hot water baths at PERIT NO 2 Le MOEUR, on the 21st however the enemy shelled the Baths & mine works with long range gun, and bathing had to be cancelled. One of our H Q Co was instrumental in bringing about the arrest of 2 civilians, suspected as spies.

H. WALLINGTON.

Company 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regt.
Captain.

Appendix.

2nd BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1916

Appendix.

April

PETIT SAIRS.

Battalion in Divisional Reserve at PETIT SAIRS, Drill, Musketry & Physical Training. Battalion allotted the Baths at FOSSIE No. 2 de NOEUX. Inter Company Football matches were played. Captain F. J. Goring and 2/Lieut. G. P. Falbet joined the Battalion.

PETIT SAIRS to NORTH MAROC.

2nd

Battalion moved up to N. MAROC & was in support to the 1st L.N. LANCES. Fatigue parties provided nightly for the improvement of the trenches.

N. MAROC to LOOS.

5th

Battalion moved up to Front line & relieved the 1st L.N. LANCES, HARRISON and HARRIS craters were included in the frontage held by us. About midnight the Germans exploded a small mine opposite SEAWORTH ALLEY & followed this up with rapid rifle and trench mortar fire. Slight damage was caused to a sap which we had, leading out from SEAWORTH ALLEY by the mine explosion; by 12.30am. the situation was again normal. Casualties 1 other rank wounded. 1 Officer & 9 O. Nankers on leave to England.

LOOS.

6th

The enemy occupied their side of SEAWORTH CRATER formed by previous night's mine explosion, and our sap head was extended towards it and barricaded.

7th

Our 12 pounder batteries were very active during the morning shelling suspected enemy Machine gun emplacements. One O. Nank wounded by a sniper. In the afternoon the enemy retaliated with their heavy artillery, on our front line system, causing some damage to the trenches which were filled in, in two places but no casualties resulted from this heavy fire.

1916

April

8th

LOGS TO E. BAROC.

Appendix.

The supply of Steel Helmets having now increased these were issued to every man in the Regiment. Quiet day. In the evening the Bath was relieved by the I. K. BARON, & came back in support in the cellars at H. BAROC, whilst relief was taking place, a small counterlet was sprung by our Miners in close proximity to SEAFORTH (GRABER); the enemy opened rapid artillery & machine gun fire on our front line & our batteries retaliated successfully. 2/Lieut. G. H. Broad was severely wounded & succumbed to his wounds in hospital at TOSKI, LES MINES, the next day. Three O. Ranks were also wounded.

NORTH BAROC. - LOGS.

On the night of the 9th 2/Lieut. T. K. Brown was seriously wounded whilst in charge of a wiring party in front of our lines. 1 Officer & 9 other ranks on leave to England.

On the 10th German aircraft allowed persistent activity but were repeatedly driven back by our armen & anti-aircraft guns. During these 3 days we prepared a scheme for a small raid on the German front line Trench at a particular point which had been selected. Volunteers for this enterprise were called for and there was great competition for inclusion in the Raiding Party which 2/Lieut. OSWALDSON which selected to command. A careful reconnaissance was made and the point to be attacked, carefully watched by the Brigade & Battalion Scout Officers. The party consisted of one Officer & 15 H. O.'s & men, some being armed with rifles and others with handgrens, every man carried a few bombs. The raid was arranged to take place in the early hours of April 14th and the objective a suspected enemy machine gun emplacement. On the night of the 14th we again relieved the I. K. BARON in the

9th
to
11th

1916

Appendix

April

9th
to
11th
(Contd.)

same sector & found the situation there much as we had left it. The 3rd Brigade was on our immediate right & the 2 K.R.C. on our left. At DEADWATER BAR close to the GRATER there had been some excitement, the enemy having attacked the Saphed with bombs who after throwing their bombs into our sap & wounding several of the Lancashire bombers had pulled away a part of our wire from in front of the Sap. They also had several snipers and two machine guns continually firing across the Saphed throughout the hours of darkness, thus making it extremely difficult for us to replace the wire; in this however we eventually, to some extent, succeeded.

10th.
quiet day. Casualties 1 other rank killed and 2 O. rank wounded. One Officer & 9 other Pks. on leave to England. Preparations for the raid were completed and each man carefully instructed in the part he had to play. It was arranged that the Raid was, if possible, to be carried out in silence, and the boynant or bindgson only to be used, unless of course the party was counter-attacked. The line of advance between our own & the enemy trenches had been reconnoitred & marked the night before by S/Lieut. OSBASTON & Lieut. Oplis, ADAMS & HERT, who to do this, had crept up quite close to the enemy's wire where they found that the gap in the wire, which we knew of, still existed. Our chief anxiety was with regard to the moon which we knew would not set on the morning of the 14th until 3 a.m., thus giving only about one hour before daylight.

The Raid Party paraded at 1.30am. and assembled at the starting point in our own trench at 2 a.m. At 2.35 a.m. a bank of cloud fortunately obscured the moon & the party left on its mission. We

12th

13th

1916

April

13th
(C'td.)

Appendix.

I listened anxiously for any developments in the situation but could hear nothing except occasional sounds as of wire being thrown on the ground in the German lines and the faint sound of digging there also. There had been some bombing activity at DEARBANS S&P a few hundred yards to the left so the S&P's were instructed to keep this up; this they did with a will, and as the enemy replied vigorously a regular bomb battle ensued which made a great noise and was no doubt very useful in diverting the enemy's attention. To those waiting for the return of the party it seemed a very long time since they had gone out, but still not a sound from the enemy trenches in front, until, at last at 3.15 a.m. after an absence of fifty minutes all but S/Lieut. OSWALTON and three men came in. From them we learned that the Raid had been successful, that the only two Germans met with in the enemy's net had been quickly & silently despatched with the bayonet, and that the remainder of the Party were following on. Five minutes later Lieut Cpl. ADAMS came in followed shortly afterwards by S/Lieut. OSWALTON and the other two men; these last had stayed behind to cover the retirement of the Party. S/Lt. OSWALTON then described to us how the whole Party had crept up silently to within a short distance of the enemy's wire when they had to lie quiet for some time as some enemy sentries were found to be working close on their left and another party of Germans were digging a trench on their right; finally however they managed to crawl unobserved to the edge of the sap and having cut the wire, dropped down it. A sentry was then positioned in the sap and the suspected machine gun emplacement was examined; unfortunately it had not been completed and therefore there was no gun in it. Meanwhile two

1916

Appendix.

April

13th
(Contd.)

Germans who came up the gap had been killed and there being nothing more to be done, the party returned as quietly as they had come. It was not until our party was all safely back in our own trench that the enemy became aware of what had happened; when they put up a number of lights and opened fire on our parapets which of course did no harm whatever.

For their excellent work and gallant leading on this occasion 2/Lt. OSWALDORF was awarded the Military Cross and Ice, Cpl. ADAMS the D.C.M. The names of Ice Cpl. KERRY & Pte MOORE were also noted by the Major General commanding the Division.

14th to 15th BRIGADE.

Quiet day with the exception of occasional shelling. One of the towers above mine shafts of FURTS No. 15 de LENS (Tower Bridge) collapsed on being struck by a German shell of heavy calibre. In the evening we were relieved by the 6th ROYAL BRIGADE and came back to billets in LES BRERIS in Divl. Reserve. Casualties: One other rank wounded.

LES BRERIS.

Battalion in billets. Drill, Musketry & Smoke Helmet Practice & Bathing at Divisional Baths. Ratione and Garvizing parties were provided nightly. The village was shelled daily but more heavily than usual on the 14th, little damage was done however. On the 19th a practice was carried out near the Brigade Bombing ground, with smoke bombs, & other ranks wounded during this period of rest. On the 16th 2/Lieut. V. H. Jaques and 69 other ranks joined the Battalion.

LES BRERIS to E. MAROC.

Drill under Company arrangements in the morning. Battalion relieved the 1st GIGIERS in the cellars at E. MAROC in the evening.

14th

15th
to
20th

20th

1916

Appendix.

April

H. KAROC.

Situation quiet, owing to inclement weather. Fatigue parties were provided both evenings for clearing communication trenches leading to front line. On the 22nd a draft of 29 other ranks joined the Battalion.

H. KAROC to DOUBLE CRASSIER.

23rd

The enemy distributed snapper fire over the village during the morning. C.S.M. Starks and 3 other ranks were wounded; one other rx killed.

In the evening we relieved the 2 K.R.R.C. in KAROC SECTOR including the DOUBLE CRASSIER. 3rd and 4th Coy were in the front line, 4th Coy in support & 5th in Reserve. The 3rd Bde on our left & I.V. KAROC on our right. 2/lieut. C.E. Cook joined the Bde from Hospital.

DOUBLE CRASSIER.

24th

Quiet day except for occasional shelling - Casualties one other rx killed - 2 other rxs wounded.

25th

Our 18 pounder batteries destroyed a large portion of the barbed wire entanglement which ran deep on the right of the DOUBLE CRASSIER. One other rank wounded.

DOUBLE CRASSIER to H. KAROC.

Orders were given for 3rd Coy. to evacuate the SOUTHERN CRASSIER in the afternoon; our 8 inch Howitzers fired 40 rounds on a suspected German wire esp on the immediate right of the S. CRASSIER. Good effects were observed & the mine was completely destroyed.

Battalion was relieved in the evening and came back into reserve in KAROC. One other rank wounded.

H. KAROC.

27th

About 9 a.m. the enemy delivered a sharp bombardment on our left where the 3rd Brigade were holding the line. This was followed by

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April

Appendix.

27th
(C'td.)

an Infantry attack at 3.30 a.m. and Companies were given the order to stand to.
The enemy succeeded in occupying our front line for about 300 yards & also part of the reserve trenches. On counter attacking & hour later however, all the lost ground was recaptured, all the left wing killed & the enemy lines, several prisoners also were captured. S/Lieut. Turner accidentally wounded during a bombing practice at the bomb school.

28th

Our artillery very active all day, especially towards the evening when a sharp bombardment lasting one hour was carried out on the German front line. At night the enemy attempted to repair the wire destroyed by our artillery on the 25th inst. They were surprised by our batteries & Lewis Gunners & suffered heavy casualties. 2 other ranks wounded. 2 Officers & 10 other rks on leave to England.

29th

About 4.30 a.m. we received a gas alert from 16th Division in front of HOLLICH. The enemy were reported to be releasing Gas & a pungent smell of Chlorine was in evidence in HANOC Village. Gas helmets were put on, but after ½ hour the air became clear once again. The enemy did not follow up this gas attack. Patrol followed the R.R.N.C. in HANOC in the evening. Lat side wire on our left & the LACOS. on our right. 1 Other rank killed, 1 other rank wounded.

30th

Intermittent shelling otherwise a quiet day. Capt. A.S.H. Dicker left the Battalion & proceeded to the Base on duty. During this and the previous day our airmen reported considerable activity behind German lines.

B. WILLIAMS,
Lt. Colonel,
Command. 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

2nd BATTALION. THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1916.

Appendix.

NOV.

1st.

DOWNY CHASSELER.

The roof of the house where some trench stores were kept, fell in burying some of the stores. In the afternoon, the enemy gave "G" Coy. a very lively time with iron mortar bombs, "Sigsbecks" & snaphel. Sgt. Coulson D.C.M. and one other rank were killed & 4 other ranks wounded. We learnt that the enemy, the previous night, at about 10.45 pm, made a bombing raid on our front line, & entered it just to the west of HARRISON CHASSELER. They attempted to take away a Lewis gun, but failed. Our casualties amounted to 1 killed & 2 wounded, 3 Germans were killed, one of them was found to have his hands tied together and a rope round his neck.

INDRA CHASSELER to IES HERDIS.

2nd. quiet day. In the evening Battalion was relieved by 8th BARRIS and came back in Divisional Reserve to IES HERDIS. Battalion was at one hour's notice to move.

IES HERDIS.

3rd, 4th, Battalion in billets. Physical training, drill & musketry practice with smoke helmet. On the 5th the Commanding Officer impromptu Companies separately in full marching order. On the 6th a practice crater was exploded on the Brigade Bombing Ground. Fifty other ranks witnessed the explosion and the consolidation of the crater which was carried out by the Brigade Grenade Coy. Captain Knjington and 11 other ranks on leave to England. 2 Lieut. Chad replaced Capt. Wallington as Acting Adjutant. On the 7th, a draft of 29 O.r.s. joined the Battalion.

IES HERDIS to O.d.l.

Battalion moved up to Old German

8th.

1916.

Appendix.

NOV.

8th

(contd)

Front line (0.0.1.) in support to the Lano, who were in LOOS Sector, we relieved the 1st GROSSEBR. An Coy. was in dugouts in 0.0.1. & the remaining Coy. B. C. D. were in cellars in LOOS and the SMOUSERS. One O. Rank wounded; situation exceptionally quiet.

~~NOV. 9th~~ 0.0.1.

9th.

Very quiet all day. Gas alert in the afternoon. In the evening a bombardment, lasting about 1 hour, was carried out by our artillery in the direction of SOUCHEN. 2 Lieut. G.F. Hooley joined the Battalion.

10th.

12 O. Ranks on leave to England. A quiet day.

0.0.1. to 1008.

11th.

Intermittent shelling all day. About 6 p.m. the enemy opened a bombardment of LOOS and HULLUCH Sectors, which lasted for a considerable time. Our batteries were also shelled with incendiary shells and the wind (W.W.) blew the gas towards our front line, but caused little discomfort to Hd. Qtrs. and the Reserve Company in 0.0.1. In the evening we relieved the 1. V. LANCES. In LOOS SATORH & wore the left Battalion of the Brigade, the Northampton being on our immediate right. The Germans were very active in their front line with machine guns and snipers. Sgt. Stevens then a/Sergeant Major of 9th Coy. was wounded by machine gun fire at HULLUCH SATORH.

1008.

A very lively day. The enemy blew in our front line in several places also causing some damage to our Reserve trench & communication trenches. Heavy snipers too, were very active, one man was killed shot through the hand; 7 others wounded by shrapnel. Large working parties

12th.

1916.

Appendix.

189712th
(contd)

were required at night to repair the damage caused to our trenches, and for consolidating the wire opposite our lines.

13th.

The enemy, accustomed to be Prussians, were again very noisy, and our front line trenches again suffered damage from trench mortar fire, chiefly minewerfers, and pipebombs.

Casualties - 1 Killed & 8 wounded. Our artillery retaliated in the evening on the enemy's front line; good results were obtained, several 9.2 inch shells were observed to drop in the German trenches.

14th to 0.6.11.

quietest day on the whole. Good work was performed by our trench mortars which kept harassing the enemy front line & so kept down their fire. One man killed by a sniper and 4 oxen wounded. About 9 pm. just as we were about to be relieved by the I.M.LANGS the enemy heavily bombarded our front line system throughout.

Telephone communication to D Coy, was broken by this bombardment. Captain Macdonald, commanding "B" Coy, which was situated immediately North of the 1008 CRASSIER sent up the "S.O.S" emergency rocket signal to our batteries which immediately opened fire. Meanwhile a small enemy bombing party attacked our front line but were soon compelled to retrace their steps owing to our artillery fire. A quarter of an hour later the situation was normal again & the relief carried out. Battalion then came back in support. 3 Coys. in 1008 and Hd. Qtrs. of "A" Coy. in 0.6.11.

0.6.11.

quiet days. Working Parties and a wiring party was provided at night time. 3 Killed and 2 wounded on the 16th whilst wiring in front of our front line. On the 15th Captain Wallington was appointed Staff Captain of the 2nd Infantry Brigade.

15th &
16th.

1916.

Appendix.

Nov.

O.O.1. to 1st BRIGADE.

Battalion was relieved late in the evening, the 2nd which and 8th INFANTRY BATTALIONS, relieved the 3 Companies in LODS, and the 1st OLORENS relieved A Coy. in O.O.1. About midnight our runners exploded a communication on the GUYRENS CHAPEL, this was followed by bombing on both sides, all was quiet again 10 minutes later. Battalion came back to billets in 1st BRIGADE in Divisional Reserve. Total Casualties for this 10 day period in the trenches, 8 Killed & 39 wounded.

1st BRIGADE.

18th.

Battalion in billets - Bathing and Kit & Clothing inspections.

19th.

Battalion was allotted the Divisional Bath. About 9 pm. in the evening, our artillery opened a bombardment which lasted for an hour, the Battalion received orders from 2 Brigade to move up at once to the HANOC SECTOR. Companies fell in and were formed up outside Headquarters, just as we were about to start however, orders came through from 2nd Brigade to stand by in billets, and finally this last order was cancelled and we turned in. It transpired that the Germans had made a heavy bombing attack & penetrated our front line in places, they were driven out immediately however & the situation was normal again by 11.45 p.m.

20th.

Battalion left 1st BRIGADE in the morning at 6.15 am, with the Lewis Guns, Cookers & Water Cars, and marched through PRIT VAINS to BOIS DU MOISSANT about 5 miles. On arrival here training was carried out as follows:-
Deployment of Lewis Guns in Open Warfare, Extended Order Drill, Close Order Drill & Saluting.
The Battalion marched back after tea reaching 1st BRIGADE about 8 p.m.

Battalion spent the day in 1st BRIGADE. Soon after mid-day the

21st.

1916.

May.

21st.

Germans shelled the village nightly, and at about 3 o/c. in the afternoon this developed into a regular bombardment of the whole village. Several shells penetrated into the building where the Officers Mess was situated and telephone communication was greatly interrupted; little real damage was done however and the casualties throughout the village amounted to 3 killed and 28 wounded; a low percentage considering that the bombardment lasted until 8 pm. After this hour the situation quieted down. It transpired that the Germans had made a strong counter-attack at VIMY a few kilometers to our right. In order to regain some trenches lost by them during the week, and the bombardment of LES BERTS was to prevent the despatch of reinforcements.

22nd.

Much quieter day, the Germans shelled the mine works in the village. A draft of 22 o.pks. joined the Battalion from the Base. Sgt. HARRIS (O.N.C.) was admitted to Hospital with a wound sustained the previous day, through a shell bursting opposite Battalion Orderly Room.

23rd.

A draft of 63 o.pks. joined us from the Base, including 8 Drummers.

24th.

9 o.pks. and 2 Lieut. Cook G.M. on leave to England. Drill, rifle exercises and markety in the morning. Platoon & Section drill in the afternoon & bathing under Coy. arrangements.

LES BERTS to H. HARBOR.

25th.

Quiet day. Battalion moved up to the cellars in H. HARBOR in the evening. Headquarters and 2 Coy's were in the cellars, and two Companies were in the firing line.

H. HARBOR.

27th.

13 o.pks. on leave to England.

1916.

MAY.

28th.

Major P. W. B. Willett D.S.O. rejoined the Battalion from England. 2 Lieuts. Adams J. and Shipworth B. joined the Battalion from the Base, and also a draft of 17 o.r.s.

30th.

Major R. H. Waltham, joined the Batta. from England and assumed the duties of second in Command. 2 Lieut. Hinkie rejoined the Batta. from Sick Leave. The Germans shelled ILS BISHOP in the morning. A shell burst in our trenches on the front part of Field 6 of our horses were killed and one wounded.

N. MAROC to S. MAROC.

Battalion moved from cellars in N. MAROC to S. MAROC and occupied the houses & cellars there. 14 o.r.s. on leave to England.

31st.

B. WILLIAMS, Lieut. Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex
Regiment.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1916.

Appendix.

JUNE.

SOUTH WAROC.

Battalion in the firing line.

1st
to
3rd

Battalion was relieved by the Royal North Lancashire Regt. & came back in support.

4th

HIGGLEY HONOURS.

Major Lt. Col. F. J. VALLIBERG, D.S.O.
Major Lt. Col. G. J. GRIFFIN, T.A.
Major Capt. R. A. BAKER,
Capt. M. WALLINGTON,
Capt. S. H. BRESTON.

D.C.M. R. S. H. W. F. PALMERFORD, O.M.S.,
W. HEARN, O.S.V., W. JOUGHTON.

MILITARY CROSS. Lt. Cpl. HORSBROFT,
Pte. HUGHES, Cpl. LARBY,
A/Sgt. YOUNG, Pte.
OFFICER.

5th-
6th

Very quiet day owing to wet weather. Capt. F. W. JOSELYNE. (R.A.M.C.) left the Battalion to take up another appointment and was replaced by Capt. R. H. HORNWALL. (R.A.M.C.)

7th

Battalion moved up to the firing line and relieved the Royal North Lancashire Regt.

8th
9th

Battalion in trenches.

SOUTH WAROC TO LES MEUBIS.

2/Lt. T. S. OGDEN to leave.
2/Lt. R. G. OMBASTON performed the duties of Adjutant during his absence. Battalion was relieved by the Black Watch and came back to billets in Les Meubis in Divisional Reserve.

LES MEUBIS.

Battalion in billets. Cleaning up etc.

11th

The Divisional Batches were allotted to the Battalion.

12th

Battalion was to have spent the day near the BOIS de ZNOISSART but this had to be cancelled owing to the very wet weather and in the afternoon the Battalion went for a short Route March. A Detachment of 46 men under Capt. F. T. GORING and 2/Lt. OSBORN represented the Battalion at a Memorial Service to Lord Kitchener at MAUGHAMPTON.

13th

1916.
June.

Appendix.

14th

Training, marketry and physical exercises in Battalion billeting area. Leave allotment reduced to 2 per Bn. a week. French time was put forward one hour from 11 pm that night. Officers of the Battalion went to visit the Calonne Sector in the morning.

15th

All arrangements concerning the 2nd Brigade taking over the Calonne Sector were cancelled. In the evening a Regt. Concert was held in the new Divisional Recreation Hut, and was very successful.

16th

Battalion in billets.

17th

Battalion left Les Erebis at 11 am and marched via EVILY CALMS - HOIS du FROISSANT. On arrival here, Coys. had dinner; during the afternoon drill and marketry was carried out and after tea the Battalion returned to Les Erebis. Draft of 45 other ranks joined the Battalion.

LES EREBIS TO E. MAROC.

18th

Battalion moved up to the firing line in Harzo sector 'A' 'B' & 'C' Coys. were in front line immediately to the left of the CHASSIER and 'D' Coy. was in the Reserve trenches and DRG Coy NOV.

The K.N.P's were on our immediate right and the 1st Brigade on our left. Two Coys. of the 18th BRIG were attached to the Battalion for instruction. Draft of 4 other ranks joined.

NORTH MAROC.

19th

Lt. Col. E. F. VALLIERS, C.M.G., D.S.O., proceeded on leave to England and Major R.H. Waltham took command of the Battalion. HIDDEN ALLEY KINGS GARDEN, and CONDIALS AVENUE were shelled by the enemy and the trenches killed in, in 3 places, otherwise the situation was quiet.

20th

During the early morning the enemy shelled the extremity of the CHASSIER with heavy shells, but caused no damage. About 11 am two mortarlets were sprung by the Germans, slight damage was caused to Mine Gallery. Casualties - 50 wounded.

1916.June.Appendix.

21st.

The two Coys. of the 17th Welsh attached to us for instruction were relieved by the Coys. of the 18th Welsh - Casualties - Two wounded.

22nd

quiet day on the whole. Both our own and the German aeroplanes were very active - Casualties - one wounded - Draft of 32 Other ranks joined.

23rd

Occasional shelling on both sides otherwise a very quiet day. 2/7th L. Paratroop to England. Draft of 33 other ranks and C.S.M. Palmer joined.

24th

The two Coys. of the 18th Welsh were relieved by our Co. Coy. & proceeded to HOWERT, A bent mid-day the Germans shelled the vicinity of Headquarters with pipenoars, the observation post near Hd. Qrs. was slightly damaged. Our artillery retaliated and was active all day. Capt. O. BENT, Talbot admitted to hospital. Casualties one wounded.

NORTH WARNOCK TO HESSEVE LIME.

25th

Battalion was relieved in the afternoon and came back in reserve in North Warnock - A. Coy. was in O.C.I. and the remaining Coys. occupied houses and cellars in North Warnock (Harrow Road) - 2/7th. R.S. OSWALTON left the Battalion and was attached to 3rd Brigade Headquarters.

26th

Lt. Col. E.T. VAILLERS, C.M.G., D.S.O., returned from leave to England. During the Battalion in reserve. On the day the 3 Coys. in NORTH WARNOCK were employed in making concertina barbed wire entanglements. In the evening working parties were provided to clear up the trenches, owing to the heavy rainfall during the whole afternoon.

27th

1/7th. G.S. GONNREIT attached to 3rd Brigade French mortar battery was killed by (Ammunition) trench mortar bomb.

28th

Preparations were being made for the prospective attack on the OMBASHERS.

29th

2/Lts. Hartman and Wright joined the Battalion.

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE 2ND ROYAL SUSSEX BATT. & 2ND KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS ON THE NIGHT OF 29th JUNE, 1916. AGAINST THE GERMAN POSITION IN THE TRENCH AND ON THE NORTHERN ARM OF THE DOUBLE GRASSIER.

In accordance with the scheme all troops were in position by 8.30 pm ready to take part in the attack which was ordered for 9.10 pm.

At 9 pm the enemy commenced a bombardment of our front and support trenches which were crowded with men and we consequently suffered a number of casualties before our attack was launched. Nos. 1, 2 & 3 Bortles Royal Sussex occupied the front line trench. A supporting party under 2/Lt. C.H. Cook occupied the support line trench.

Immediately in rear, with orders to go forward on receipt of a pre-arranged signal from the Coy. Commander on the GRASSIER and, in the event of the Assaulting Parties being unsuccessful to penetrate the captured trench on the NORTHERN GRASSIER; otherwise they were to make a second attack in conjunction with the Company Reserve Party on the GRASSIER.

On the right of the Assaulting line, the two parties of the R.A.H.C., who were to attack the supposed enemy tunnels at 'Z' and 'O' led, closely followed by our parties Nos. 1, 2 & 3 led by 2/Lt. OGDENAR.

They made for 'Y' opposite to which point our artillery had been calling the enemy wire throughout the day. It was found however that the wire here was not completely cut and it was impossible to get through at this point. Our parties then advanced along the front of the enemy wire and attacked the GRASSIER at 'Z' capturing the enemy post there. A number of the R.A.H.C. also turned right handed from point 'Y' and occupied the GRASSIER which had been formed by the explosion of our mine.

At this time an enemy machine gun was firing from their front line near point 'Y' in the direction of the GRASSIER and on the side

of the GRASSIER. Nos. 4, 5, 6 & 7 parties had been called along the top of the GRASSIER from our post at 'Z' & some of them (including 2/Lt. Goddard and Sergt. Baker both of whom were killed) got into the German saphead and the remainder held the GRASSIER and passed bombs up to our men in the enemy sap. Repeated efforts were made to advance along the German

1916.

June.30th
(Contd.)

Sap but the trench had been practically levelled by shell fire and trench mortars, and 50 yards up the trench the enemy had placed a barricade with a loophole through which a machine gun fired directly down the trench. In front of this barricade was a thick wire entanglement in the trench and extending across the top of the GRASSIER and down the side. Our men bombed this continually but the enemy had evidently overhead cover for the gun as the bombs had no effect on them and they kept on firing.

The enemy made several bombing attacks endeavouring to drive our men out of their Sap head, they brought up a second machine gun in the hollow between the two GRASSIERS and opened fire at about 30 yards range, firing at the side of the GRASSIER, under cover of this they pushed forward parties of bombers, who however met with no success and were dispersed by SGT. WEALE and his men holding the Sap head. SGT. WEALE informs me that the enemy suffered a number of casualties here and that after 3 attempts the gun ceased firing and no more attacks were made on that side. At 11.10 pm Capt. Macdonald sent me a message that he could hold what he had got but could advance no further, and in view of the fact that the K.H.R.C. right Company had failed to take the enemy trench in the TRIANGLES asked for further orders.

At 12.35 am I sent Capt. Macdonald the instructions I had received from the BRIGADIER that he was to withdraw to our original position on the NORTHERN GRASSIER and this was carried out in good order at about 1.15 am. The enemy making no attempt to follow them up.

Most of our casualties appear to have been caused by rifle and machine gun fire from the TRIANGLES and from the SOUTHERN GRASSIER except in the Sap head itself where a number of men were hit by splinters from bombs. Owing to the number of casualties this Company has suffered I found it necessary to send up a small reinforcement of one Officer and 30 men of "B" Coy. from BRIGBY HQ but these in the end were not required.

The supply of bombs was well kept up but even with the large stock of Reserve bombs (300 boxes) which had been placed on the GRASSIER it was necessary to send up further supplies during the night from the Dumps in rear.

1916.June.Appendix.30th
(Contd.)

The spare bomb buckets placed on the GRASSIER were of the greatest use.

The signalling communication was well maintained until about 11 pm when the wires were cut by shell fire. My messengers went out at once and under heavy shell fire endeavoured to repair the wire but found it was broken and buried in several places owing to the trench being blown in, and although they worked for two hours, were unable to get communication re-established. All messages subsequent to 11 pm being sent by Orderly.

F. VILLIERS, Lieut. Colonel,
Commanding and Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

In the Field,
11th July, 1916.

Headquarters,
2nd Infantry Brigade.

Herewith War Diary, Volume VIII for
the month of July, 1916, of the Battalion
under my Command.

P. W. B. WILLIAMS, Major,
1st August, 1916. Commanding 2nd Bn., Royal
Sussex Regiment.

2nd BATTALION, ROYAL HUSBERS PRODUCE.

1916.

Annex 12.

July.

NORTH HARCQ.

1st Battalion in Support in North HARCQ. Situation quiet.

NORTH HARCQ TO HOUGHIN.

2nd Battalion was relieved in the evening and marched via LES BRASSIS, MARIODANNE, KENUX LES HIES to HOUGHIN, where we spent the night under canvas.

HOUGHIN TO DIVOIR.

3rd The Battalion left HOUGHIN soon after dinner and marched via MALLIGNOUR & BRAY to DIVOIR. On arrival there at about 7 p.m. the Battalion was billeted.

DIVOIR.

4th Battalion in billets, training, Sergt-Major's Parade etc.

5th Training etc. Preparations were made for a move next day.

DIVOIR TO WANDERBANS.

6th Battalion left DIVOIR at 8.15 a.m. and marched about 6 miles to WANDERBANS. On arrival here about 1 p.m. we entrained with the whole of our Transport. About 7 p.m. we arrived at GAIAS and detrained. The Battalion then marched to STANBISHAM, about 6 miles, arriving there at about 1 a.m. Some difficulty was experienced in finding sufficient billets for the troops and most of the Battalion was billeted in barns.

STANBISHAM.

7th Battalion in billets, owing to the very wet weather, no training was carried out.

1916.

Appendix.

July.PREPARATIONS TO BREACH THE BATTIN.

6th

About 8 p.m. the Battalion left TRASSINGLAND and marched to PRECHINGCOURET, about 8 miles & the Battin. blotted here.

PREPARATIONS TO BREACH.

9th

At 5.15 p.m. the Battalion moved off again and marched to MURGET, a village about 8 miles distant, here the whole of the Battin was billeted in a very large shed & head-qrs. were in a farmhouse next door.

BREACH TO BRECHERT WOOD.

10th

Packs were left with the Transport and at 9.45 p.m. the Battin, now in fighting order, proceeded via ALBERT to BRECHERT WOOD and bivouacked in the wood. C/Lt. Collins, admitted to Hospital. C/Lt. HUBBARD, left the Battalion and was attached for duty with the Reinforcement Camp, 1st Division.

BRECHERT WOOD.

11th

Battin. remained in the Wood all day. In the evening the Snery shellied the Wood further heavily endeavouring to silence our batteries which were very active; only one casualty was sustained. Good news reached us from the firing line; the BLACK WATCH met with considerable success, and the whole of the village of CORFALVAISON was now in our hands after very severe fighting, and our troops were established 600 yds. in front of HAVERT WOOD.

About 7 p.m. after a very sharp bombardment, the BLACK WATCH succeeded in occupying CORFALVAISON WOOD.

12th

Battin. remained in the Wood all day. Slight progress was made in the firing line, but the Snery showed a determined opposition and checked our advance by a number of well concealed machine guns. Three howitzers fell into our hands during the afternoon. The Snery

1945.

Appendix.

14th.

13th
Contd.

main shelled HECOURT WOOD. Generaliser 1 killed & 3 wounded. A striking party under 2/Lt. BRIDGEMAN was found at night to do some digging in front of CORTALAISSE village.

15th

Battn. remained in the wood all day. The heavy rain which fell during the day impeded further operations.

14th

Our batteries carried out a very heavy bombardment starting at about 3 a.m. Later in the morning we learnt that our troops had captured the villages of LONGUEVAL BARNEVILLE-LE-PRIT & BAZEVILLE-LE-GRAND. Our artillery remained very active throughout the day. In the evening the enemy shelled HECOURT WOOD with gas shells.

15th

During the morning our batteries bombarded the village of PERINNES. The enemy however repulsed the attacks made by our troops in the afternoon. Draft of 5 O.Pts. joined the Battalion.

16th

HECOURT WOOD TO VIGNYVILLE
WALCOOTE.

A very wet day. In the evening about 10 p.m. the Battalion left HECOURT WOOD and relieved the 1st NORFOLKERS in the vicinity of TRIGGERS. (BUNCEW ROAD) Head-Quarters were in the BUNCEW ROAD and the Companies were in the recently captured trenches. The 3rd Brigade captured 3 lines of trenches to the right of CORTALAISSE and established themselves 300 yds in front of the second line. 2/Lt. Atkinson joined the Battalion from Hospital and a draft of 18 o.p.s.

(HEAR) TRIGGERS.

17th

A very nasty day. CORTALAISSE was shelled by the enemy with gas shells.

1916.

Appendix.

JULY.

TRIANGLE TO COMTAIVAISSON.

18th

Heavy bombardments by our artillery throughout the day. In the evening the Bn. moved up to COMTAIVAISSON village and relieved the 1st NORTHAMPTONS. The Germans were then shelling this village with gas shells. Bend, Btry, was situated in a cellar in the village and Coy's occupied the trenches in the vicinity.

COMTAIVAISSON.

19th

A quiet day except for the occasional shelling of the village by the Enemy. Killing parties were provided by Coy's at night. 2/Lieuts. H.L. Young, H.B. Blev, R.J. A. Harvey & B.O. Johnson joined the Bn. with a draft of 83 O. ranks, composed of men of 10th & 13th R. Sussex Rgt. 2nd, 8th & 10th Queens Rgt. 8th, 11th & 26th M'ssex Rgt. 6th & 8th N. West Surreys, 1st 7th & 9th East Surreys.

20th

The Enemy shelled the village considerably during the day. Their aeroplanes were also very active; one was brought down in COMTAIVAISSON, by one of our battle balloons, a machine of ours fell within our lines.

21st

The Enemy again shelled COMTAIVAISSON, but not as much as yesterday. Sgt. SEAL & Cpl. SLOAN awarded the D.C.M. for their work on June 20th.

COMTAIVAISSON TO THE TRIANGLE.

19th JULY.

22nd

The Enemy shelled the village heavily in the evening with High Velocity & Gas shells. At 10.30 p.m. the Battalion moved up to the firing line & occupied the trench which they had dug the previous night opposite the THIMINGS to the right of FOZIERES. The SUBSTITUTION 1st DIVISION were on our left and the 1st Bde on our right.

ATTACK BY 2ND BRIGADE HIGHLY 27/23rd JULY 1916.

Orders were received by the Battalion that an attack was to be made on the line POZIERES-HUNOTER

1916.

Appendix.

July.22nd
Contd.

ALLEY & the Swiss on NEW GERVAU LINE, which pivoted on POZIERES & HUNTER ALLEY, passed HUNT & east through HIGH ROAD to just south of PIEDS. At first the attack was to follow one delivered by the 1st Brigade by 2 hours but was believed to be going to coincide with that of the 2nd Brigade. The task of the 2nd Royal Sussex was to attack HUNTER ALLEY lying at right angles to the "SIXTH" and connecting it with POZIERES. The final orders fixed the whole attack at 12.30 a.m. July 23rd, to be preceded by 5 minutes intense bombardment. Unfortunately the enemy being on the sides of the area to be crossed could by means of his very lights see the two leading Coy's (A & B) moving to their positions of deployment and opened a heavy artillery fire and machine gun fire from both flanks & in front (two tiers). The result was to cause confusion and the attack never properly got under way. The casualties 7 Officers including all except one in "A" & "B" Coy's, & 109 O.C.'s also mostly in the leading Companies. Under the circumstances "C" & "D" Coy's were not thrown into the fight.

"STAVANIER" TO NEW GERVAU END LINE
IN MORNING.

23rd
Battalion came back to the original German 2nd LINE of defence & remained there all day.

COMRADES TO REGENT ROAD.

24th
In the early morning the Battalion came back into the vicinity of REGENT ROAD & bivouacked there. We remained here until the morning of the 26th.

REGENT ROAD TO BRAYVILLERS.

26th
At 10 a.m. the Battalion moved off & marched to within 5 miles of the village of BRAYVILLERS, here we

1916.Appendix.July.26th
Contd.

stopped to have dinner and afterwards completed the distance to SHAVILLISH where the Bath. Billotted. Lieut. Col. E. F. VILLIERS left the Battalion, and Major F. W. B. ZILST took over command of the Battalion.

27th.

27th

Battalion in billets cleaning up etc.

28th

Battalion in billets. Several prizes were won in sports held in the afternoon. 1st Waser Gunts. 1st 2nd & 3rd Goekers. 3rd Linsford Engels. 2nd Frank Horse. Drift of 21 o.ikes. joined the Bath.

29th

The Baths at HEVILLIE were allotted to Companies during the morning and afternoon. Sgt. Major's Parade in the evening.

30th.

30th

In the afternoon the Battalion marched to HEMENCOURT about 3 miles, and bivouacked in the Camp there.

HEMENCOURT.

31st

Inspection of the Battalion by the G. C. C. 2nd Brigade, in the morning Drill etc. in the afternoon.

SND BATTALION, ROYAL SCOTISH REGIMENT.

1916.

Awards.

August.

HERSCOURT.

- 1st Inspection of the 2nd Brigade by the G.O.C., 2nd Corps, Regimental Sports in the evening. Night Operations & Wood Fighting.
- 2nd Physical Training, Drill etc. Sports in the evening. Draft of 46 O.P.Ms. joined the Battalion.
- 3rd Physical training & Drill. Night operations & Wood Fighting.
- 4th Battalion went through ordinary training during the day and at night carried out night operations.
- 5th Battalion took part in the Brigade defence of night operations. Training, Physical exercises, Drill and Musketry. Companies held their respective sports in the evenings.
- 6th - On the 9th, a Regimental Concert was held in HERSCOURT WOOD, in the evening & proved very successful.
- 10th Training in the morning. During the afternoon, Eglishiel Hoxing Concerts took place in HERSCOURT WOOD.
- 11th Companies went out to their ~~messengers~~ allotted area in the morning and training was carried out in Artillery Formation, movement. The Batches in the Chateau were allotted to Coy's and Troop's.
- 12th Demanding Officer's parade in the morning. The afternoon was devoted to Regimental Sports in celebration of honours won by the Regiment at MALTA.
- 13th HERSCOURT & BROADBENT WOOD.
Battalion left HERSCOURT towards the evening and marched via ABERNETHY to BROADBENT WOOD, & bivouacked here for the night.

2016.

Appendix.

Appendix.

BROOKER WOOD TO HIGH WOOD.
(Firing line.)

24th

About 1 pm, the battn. marched off from BROOKER WOOD and proceeded via HAINES WOOD to HIGH WOOD. We relieved the 11th Buffs in the firing line, the situation was then quiet. At night, about 11 pm, the enemy shelled our trenches in reply to our artillery bombardment and we suffered several casualties. The 1st Brigade was on our left and the 1st Middlesex (35th Division) on our right.

HIGH WOOD.

25th

Our batteries remained very active throughout the day, the German guns replied with occasional shelling.

About 9.30 pm, a patrol was sent to report upon the western portion of the trench running S.W. from HIGH WOOD. At midnight the patrol reported the line not wired and attack feasible. About 2.30 am, Sgt. Coy on the right, and one Company Northants on the left, moved out. There was no artillery preparation and the enterprise was unsuccessful, principally owing to loss of direction. Lieut Collins killed and some 30 or 40 men, casualties.

26th

Some shelling during the day. It was further decided to again attack the German position but with 2 Coy's. 2 Bnack and 2 Coy's, 1/4 Northants. This time, moving forward at 10 pm, under an intense bombardment the trench was occupied with few casualties and some 12 prisoners unmounted, were taken by the 2 Coy's.

HIGH WOOD TO HAINES WOOD.

27th

Towards morning the Germans made a determined counter-attack with a flamethrower and hand grenades. Considerable confusion ensued; 2/4 Wests, Atkinson & Johnson & 1/4 Wests, Salton & Johnson having been wounded earlier in the evening, 2/14. 5 Light was the sole officer left and managed to

1916.

Appendix.

August.

17th (Wed.)

maintain himself with a small party in the original trench. The enemy bombarded all day and about 8 pm. the Royal North Lancos began to relieve the Battalion which now moved into Brigade reserve in HARBET WOOD.

HARBET WOOD.

Battalion in reserve in the wood. Disruption in our direction was noted. In the afternoon our batteries opened a heavy bombardment which lasted about 4 hours. Our troops (1st Division) met with success and captured several important trenches. In the subsequent attack in the direction of HIGH WOOD and the "SPLIT" working parties and carrying parties were found in the evening.

19th

Battalion remained in the wood all morning. In the afternoon the K.R.C. Corps moved up to the firing line and relieved the L.I. Lessons who had lost rather heavily in the previous days attack. Fighting was very severe in the vicinity of HIGH WOOD where the Germans were very active pushing forward bombing parties. Our "A" & "B" Coy's moved to support the Northants who had occupied the high ground west of HIGH WOOD.

20th

In the early morning we received orders that the Battalion would be relieved about 8 pm. and proceeded to billets in ALBERT; this order was however cancelled about 1 pm. and the two remaining Coy's in HARBET WOOD "A" & "B" moved up to reinforce the firing line immediately under 2/Alenco. Squad & Young.

About 8 am. the Germans with strong forces had moved against the Northants advanced line and driven it back.

The Northants counter-attacked from OLAKES TRENCH (captured on the night 16/17th) and "A" Coy was moved forward from the original British front line to OLAKES TRENCH, where later "A" Coy. joined it. The previous attack having failed. "A" & "B" with "C" & "D" who had now come

1916.

Annex 1.

Annex 1.

Both (ctd.)

up, and one Coy Northants attacked at 2.30 pm. Enfiladed from the East (SOUTH LINE) and from HIGH ROAD on the East by machine guns and meeting a very strong resistance in front, but little headway was made though a strong post was ~~was~~ established by E/ALYON. Roberts near the crest of the Hill and this with the rest of the line was handed over to the 2/Devon and the Battalion having withdrawn, reorganised E. of HERBERT ROAD and moved into billets in ALBYNS about 3 am.

Although the situation had quietened down whilst Bathin was being relieved, the Germans shelled HERBERT ROAD with gas shells and continued to do so throughout the night, but we were fortunate ~~to~~ in suffering no casualties through the gas. The fighting strength of the Battalion on coming out was 4 Officers & about 180 men. The previous day's attacks, although heavy were nullified by the success gained and the excellent work carried out. The following message was received by the G.O.C. and Brigade. "On coming out of action the G.O.C. and Infantry Brigade is desirous of expressing his immense admiration of the gallant manner in which all ranks responded to the severe gas made upon them, and in carrying out the directions and trying tactics allotted to them. The G.O.C. is proud to have troops under his command who have so splendidly reinstated the famous traditions of the units to which they belong".

ALBYNS.

About 9 am. an enemy aeroplane flew over the town & dropped bombs. Very little damage was caused.

Artillery engaged in clearing up the last few days attacks.

Figured as follows: E/ALYON.

ARKINSON, COLLINS & YOUNG.

21st

1916.

August.

Appendix.

21st (Ctd.)

Found as follows: Captain Macdonald, Major Baker & Capt. H. S. Baker, (H.A.W.C. H/Lieut. Finnis, Macmillan, Hooley, Sunderland, Johnson, Thompson, King, Capt & Pr. Lieut. Jans, H/Lieut. Chad & Selton were also wounded but remained at duty. Sobel, Officers 3 killed. 14 wounded. C.Ranks 56 killed 321 wounded. 67 missing.

22nd

Companies were allotted the Bette in Alder and Impediments were carried out by Company Commanders.

23rd

Draft of 128 O.Rs. joined the Battalion. In this draft were included 97 men from the Royal East Kent Reserve Company.

24th

Prill, Mackery & Physiotherapist arrived. Another draft of 57 O.Rs. joined the Battalion and H/Lieut. Robbins & King of the 15th Royal Hussars were posted to the Bette for duty.

25th -
26th

Prill, Mackery and Rifle exercises. Physical Training. Prill and Mackery. Coy. Sgt. Thorp & Butcher proceeded to England on being relieved by Coy. Sgt. Major's freedom and return.

ALDER & NO MARETS WOOD.

About 5 pm Coy. moved off independently to MARETS WOOD and relieved the 10th Division Regt. The situation was quiet owing to the inclement weather.

MARETS WOOD.

Battalion in Brigade Reserve in MARETS WOOD. The weather was very wet and the situation remained quiet. Working and carrying parcels were found each day.

29th.)
29th)
30th)

MARETS WOOD TO FIGHT OF HIGH WOOD.

PIPING BATTAL.

In the afternoon the Battalion moved up to the Piping Line and relieved the 6th Series, then holding the line immediately to the right of HIGH WOOD.

31st

P. W. B. WILKINSON Lt. Col.

Comd'g. 5 Bn. Royal Sussex Regt.

2ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1916.

Appendix.

September.

RIDGE OP HIGH WOOD.

1st

Enemy's artillery was very active and our trenches were shelled again during the morning. Our heavies shelled a sap head held by the Germans, and several of the enemy who were occupying shell holes in the vicinity of the sap, were sniped by our men while attempting to fall back on their trench over the ridge. In the evening the enemy shelled our front, Support & Reserve lines. "B" Coy. (Support) relieved "A" Coy in the front line; although very few casualties had taken place, "A" Coy had had a very trying time; the front line trench was filled in several places & a number of men buried. The following officers joined the Battalion: Lieut Wigston G.H. (5. Surrey Regts.) 2 Lt. Breading H.B. (E. Surrey Regts.) 2 Lt. Alexander J.R.W. 2 Lt. Clarke B. 2 Lt. Clarke C.E. 2 Lt. Fisher-Stromer A.H. 2 Lt. Collins C.A. 2 Lt. Reade C. 2 Lt. Burnett J.E. 2 Lt. Coleman H.B. 2 Lt. Forster C.F. 2 Lt. West P.A. 2 Lt. Humphreys W.G.

HIGH WOOD TO BACOURE WOOD.

2nd

Situation was quiet during the morning. Our artillery opened a bombardment at 8 pm. which lasted till 8 pm. to draw the enemy fire, whilst an abatis was carried out on our right by the 50th Division. The Germans pulled up their heavies on our line; once again we were fortunate in suffering few casualties in spite of the deadly accurate German fire; the trenches were filled in a good many places. This period in the trenches in the evening we were relieved by the 1st Cameron Highlanders & came back in February at BACOURE WOOD. Casualties for the period in the trenches:- Killed 3. Wounded 32. Missing 5. Capt. W.H.W. Apperley joined the Battalion as second in command & 2 Lt. Ferrell A.H.H. as Transport Officer.

1916.

Appendix.September.BECCOURT WOOD.

3rd Battalion bivouacking in BECCOURT WOOD. Clearing up etc.

4th

Working party of 2 officers and 250 men was found by Battalion, for burying cable in LAZIERE WOOD. Draft of 350 c.wks. joined the Battalion.

BECCOURT WOOD TO LAZIERE WOOD.

5th

In the afternoon the Battalion moved up into Brigade Support in LAZIERE WOOD and bivouacked there; the situation was normal. Draft of 9 c.wks joined the Battalion.

LAZIERE WOOD.

6th

Battalion remained in the vicinity of the wood all day. At night working parties were found for deepening & widening the trenches near HIGH WOOD.

LAZIERE WOOD TO HIGH WOOD (FIGHT).

7th

At about 3 pm, the Battalion moved up to the trenches on the right of HIGH WOOD and relieved the 2nd Battalion in the firing line. Situation was then quiet.

HIGH WOOD (FIGHT).

8th

During the early morning the enemy shelled our trenches heavily and we suffered several casualties, the trench being filled in places. Casualties this day:- Killed 5. Wounded 15. In the evening carrying parties were found to carry ammunition & bombs to front line for the next day's attack.

9th

Draft of 4 c.wks joined the Battalion. The 3rd Brigade was relieved in the morning by the 2nd Brigade and the 10th Division (1st Brigade) came up from BECCOURT WOOD in support. The Germans were very active all day with their artillery. Orders were received that the 2nd and 3rd Battalions each of the 1st and 3rd Brigades would attack & capture the German trench in HIGH WOOD and so the east. At 4.45 pm, in conjunction with the 1st Northampton on our left and the 2nd K.R.T.C. on our right, the

1916.

Appendix.

September.

11th

HIGH WOOD TO BECOURT WOOD.

"D" Coy was relieved by the 21st London Regt. and we came back to BECOURT WOOD.

BECOURT WOOD TO BAITZEVIL.

12th

At 5 am, Battalion left BECOURT WOOD and moved via AISBERT to BAITZEVIL about 8 miles. The 1st Division was now in Corps Reserve and the Battalion bivouached in the WOOD near the village.

BAITZEVIL.

13th

A number of tents having become available for use of the Battalion, we came out of the WOOD and camped in a field adjoining; this was a great improvement.

14th
15th
15th

On the 14th, the Battalion rested in camp, and the following days Physical Drill, Swimming & Hockey were carried out.

17th

Battalion Church Parade in the morning, Inver Company Football matches in the afternoon & evening. We received news of a successful advance by the 14th Corps; the villages of COMBLETREUX, MATHURVILLE & FLEURS were now in our hands.

18th

A very wet day. The Commanding Officer lectured to all Officers and N.C.Os in the morning.

BAITZEVIL TO BECOURT WOOD.

19th

A circular from 1st Divn H.Q. was informed us that the Division would be required in the line again shortly, to fulfil one of two purposes :- (a) For joining in the pursuit should operations about to be undertaken prove entirely successful (b) For relieving another Division of the III Corps & accomplishing & holding part of the defensive flank.

The Division accordingly moved up & the Battalion via HENRIBOURG & AISBERT to BECOURT WOOD where we bivouached. Our artillery was very active, otherwise the situation remained quiet.

1916.

September.Appendix.20th
21stRECOURE WOOD.

Battalion in bivouac in RECOURE WOOD. The weather was very wet and the situation remained normal. Det^{ts} of 31 o'rsⁿ joined the Battalion on 21st.

22nd
23rd
24th

In the evening the enemy shelled the WOOD in the vicinity of our Evacuation Lines; we lost 7 horses killed and 4 wounded. 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RECOURE WOOD TO SEARFISH LIME.

In the afternoon the Battalion left RECOURE WOOD and moved up in Brigade Support in front of HIGH WOOD. A Coy were in SEARFISH LIME. A Coy in BOE SWERCH. A Coy in HIGH WOOD. A Coy in BLACK WOOD. Considerable shelling was taking place on our right, but on our front the situation was quiet.

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27th

1916.

September.Appendix.27th
(contd.)

German position. "g" Coy. led the assault, with "A" Coy in close support; "C" Coy following up to consolidate. "D" Coy remained in Reserve.

The Battalion advanced steadily and in splendid order, in spite of much hostile artillery fire, and easily secured its objective. Touch was at once obtained with the 50th Div and a block was established on the right flank which was exposed. Later the I.W.LANCS advanced and occupied the trench on our right. Our casualties during the advance were slight and the captured position was consolidated before dark. Later on it was reported that the PIERS LINE in front had been evacuated and we were ordered to establish a post there.

An officer, 12 bombers and a Lewis Gun were placed in position in the post and a barricade erected. At one time a counter attack appeared imminent & the enemy appeared to be massing in SAUCOURT LAUBAYE.

Our artillery was turned on, and no attempt to counter attack was made during the night. Our casualties in both attacks were :-

Officers. Wounded. 2 Lts. A. Gardner, W. A. Gardner, R. D. King, J. C. Fitz G. Herman, R. W. Alexander.
Other ranks. Killed. 21 Wounded 99 Missing 36.

SMURFISH LINE to BECOURET WOOD.

28th
Battalion was relieved late at night by the 17th London Regt. 47th Division, and came back to BECOURET WOOD bivouacking there for the night.

BECOURET WOOD to MILLENGOURT.

29th
Soon after dinner the Battalion moved off and marched through AYSREY to MILLENGOURT where we bivouacked.

MILLENGOURT.

30th
Battalion in billets, cleaning up etc. and fitting new clothing.

W. H. W. APPERLEY

Major

Comdr. 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regt.

82D BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT,
1916.

October

Appendix.

HILLESBOURNE

1st French time was set back one hour.
 Battalion remained in billets
 all day.

2nd

Battalion in billets. Preparations were made for the following day's move. The Transport left at 9 a.m. to proceed by road with remainder of Divisional Transport, to our new billeting area, they rested for the night at LA CHAUSSEE, about 12 kilometers from AMIENS and resumed the journey at 9 a.m. the following day.

HILLESBOURNE - COMPIEGNE.

3rd

Battalion left HILLESBOURNE in the morning and marched as far as the AMIENS-ALBERT road. From here motor buses conveyed us to COMPIEGNE, arriving at about 5 p.m.

COMPIEGNE.

4th

Battalion in billets. Cleaning up etc. leave to England was started for all ranks - 56 per week.

5th) Training was started. Drill and
&) Physical Exercises in cory areas.
6th) The following Officers joined the
 Battalion on the 6th:- Captains

A. Hildner and A. H. K. Loyd. Majors:
P. D. A. King, A. B. Deane, A. H. Hill,
P. A. B. Strassens, B. P. Deane, H. D. Hinds,
O. Ormrod, J. B. Pocock, H. G. Williams,
H. Dollsimore, A. Cobbin.

7th

Serjt. Major's parade in morning and afternoon.
Specialists' classes were carried out separately under their respective Officers on 7 & 8.10.16.

8th

Church Parade Service at 11.30 a.m. in Orchard in front of Battalion Ed. Com. 0.0.0. 2nd side distributed ribbons for medals won in recent operations. Maj/Lt. F. B. Stacey joined the Battalion.

9th) Training drill before breakfast.
&) In the morning Sgt. Major's Parade,
10th) also bombing, rifle exercises, squad
 drill, under Coy arrangements.

Sgt. Major's parade in the afternoon. During the late afternoon the Orchard Divisional Band played in the Orchard

1916.

Appendix.

October

9th)
 a)
 10th)
 (ctd.).

Opposite Battalion Headquarters.
 Draft of 8 other ranks joined
 on the 9th.
 On the 10th, training same as
 yesterday. In the evening the
 Chaplain, Ser. H. D. A. Brown opened
 a reading and recreation room,
 light arrangements were provided.
 2nd/Lt. V. Matthews joined the Battalion.
 Training as usual. Draft of 30 other
 ranks joined the Bn.

11th
 12th
 13th

Training as usual. Coy's bathed under
 Coy arrangements. The leave allotment
 was reduced from 86 to 13 per week.
 Draft of 72 other ranks joined.
 Training on similar scale as previous
 days.

14th
 15th

Draft of 20 other ranks joined the
 Battalion.
 Church of England Parade Service
 at 10 a.m. The names of those men of
 the Bn. who had fallen in action on
 the Somme front were read out.

16th

Training in preliminary formations
 for attack by day and night was carried
 out during morning and afternoon. "B"
 Coy was allotted the range which had
 recently been built.

Night operations under Coy arrangements.
 Lt. Col. Fillett, D. S. O., took over command
 of the 2nd Bde. from Lt. Col. Bethell
 (1st Northants) who was appointed G. O. C.
 of 74th Bde. G. O. C. 2nd Bde., Brig. Genl.
 Hulseker was away on leave.

17th

Company training - assault and re-
 organisation. Covering of captured
 positions by outpost patrols. Sending
 back messengers for supplies etc.
 Bayonet fighting. "C" Coy had the
 range in the morning and "J" Coy fired
 in the afternoon. The Battalion played
 football against No. 141 P. A., the
 result was a draw.
 2nd/Lt. G. J. D. Watson joined the Bn.
 for duty.

18th

In the morning and afternoon, training
 under Coy arrangements. Night
 operations in the evening from 6 p.m.
 to 8 p.m. Draft of 8 other ranks joined
 the Bn.

19th

Brigade Route March. Major J. S. Woodroffe
 joined the Bn. for duty.

1918.

Appendix.

October

20th

In the morning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon "J" "J" & "A" Coy's training in attack and wood fighting. "G" were on the Range. 5.50-8 p.m. Battalion night operations.

21st

In the morning the Battalion in drill order, in mass, was inspected by the Major General Commanding 1st Division. Coy training and Bayonet Fighting in the afternoon.

In the evening at 6 p.m. Colonel S.O.S. Doble lectured to all Officers, S.O.S. and Duty Sergeants. Subj. Wood Fighting. During the afternoon we won in a football match against the 1st Northants. Result being 2. 0.

22nd

Divine Service in the morning. 6.02 P. Parade Service at 11.30 a.m.

23rd

In the morning "A" "G" & "J" Coy's Coy Training (Attack and Wood Fighting) "J" Coy - Bakery.
8-8.30 p.m. Bayonet Fighting, Rapid Loading & Bombing in Coy billets. 9.30 p.m. Lecture on Gas to all Officers and N.C.O.s.

24th

9 a.m. "J" Coy. Range Practice. "A" "J". & "G" Coy's Coy training Attack & Wood Fighting.
8.30 p.m. Bayonet Fighting, Rapid Loading & Bombing under O.C. Coy's. 9.30 p.m. "G" Coy - Night Firing.

25th

9 a.m.----"J" Coy. Range Practice.
"A" "J" & "G" Coy Training under O.C. Coy's Attack and Wood Fighting etc.
2-3 p.m. Bayonet Fighting, Rapid Loading & Bombing under O.C. Coy's.
5.30 p.m. "G" Coy - Night Firing.

26th

9 a.m.----Coy Training under O.C. Coy's. Attack and Wood Fighting
2-2.30 p.m. Bayonet Fighting, Rapid Loading, Extended order Drill.
Epl/lt's B.C. Wright and 20 other ranks proceeded to EASTWICK. Lt. PERKINS to report there on the 27th inst. to 7th Flia. Coy. Hqs. for work on construction etc. of 60 0/7s. HALLSBERG.
A draft of 18 other ranks joined the Battalion today.

1916.

October

Appendix

27th

A Divisional Route March took place in the morning. The 5th (Less 6th Coy) with Transport moved off at 10.10 a.m. from Battalion Headquarters, Order of march being "Squires" "B" "P" & "A" the Lewis Gunners, Engineers and Transport, companies whilst the Guns and ammunition were carried on pack animals under the new arrangement. The route taken was via SOUPELIS, ACHSIL Church, thence to "P" in Hills, 14 miles S.W. of ACHSIL and west along the ACHSIL-ACHSILWILLIE RD. as far as OSMONDHILL-SEWITERS cross roads, thence via FROVIERERS-CHEER to ACHSIL and back to billets about 1.30 p.m. Weather was windy and showery. at 4 p.m. the whole of 6th Coy left COMPANYIES to proceed to BROUWER BOOD for hut building for winter accommodation.

28th.

Companies paraded in the morning under 6th Coy, training being in the attack, sending out of batteries etc., special notices having been given the evening before for all officers and N.C.O.s to be returned by 6th Coy and N.C.O.s to be personally acquainted with the sappers. In the afternoon all N.C.O.s were instructed in a new manner of packing full winter kit for marching order.

29th

(Sunday). Church Parade cancelled owing to bad weather. Transport moved off at mid-day (preparatory to the movement of the Regiment on the 31st) billeting for the night at OISEBERG, and on the 30th at ST. ALDYMER, being due at BRISIZ Camp on the 31st, leave to England discontinued till further notice to closing of HAVENS POSE.

30th

From 8 a.m. till 12 noon the Battalion practised the attack in fields on the ACHSIL-ACHSIL road. About 9.45 the 6th Coy. 2nd Brigade arrived to witness the manoeuvres. In the afternoon Rifle Exercises etc. from 7.30 p.m. under direction of 6th Coy.

2nd BATTALION, ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT.

1916

Appendix.

November BREXID.

1st

General training arrangements during the morning, and Sergeant Major's parade in the afternoon.

2nd

Sgt. Major's parade before breakfast, during remainder of the day general training work, with 2nd and 3rd Coy's, bombing in the afternoon.

3rd

General training carried on throughout the morning, and in the afternoon Sgt. Major's parade. In the evening a lecture was given in the church, BREXID WILLARD, at 6 p.m. on "Horse Mastery" by A.D.V. H. 1st Div. to Battalion Transport Officers and W/O. Gun Company Commanders.

4th

In the morning the Regiment participated in a Brigade scheme viz. the taking of the ridge immediately west of BREXID and BREXID WILLARD itself. The taking of the single line of "enemy" trench along the crest of the ridge was carried out in the following order and under the general supervision of the O.C. 2nd Bde. - R.S.R., on right flank, next I. H. James, next Northants, and on the left flank of Bde. line the K.R.R.C. The attack commenced at 10.10 a.m. and lasted till about noon. No general parade in the afternoon but fatigue work was carried on in putting the camp in better shape for winter habitations.

6th

The Battalion with cookers, water-carts, mess carts, Lewis gun pack animals etc. moved to ALBERT today. (The rest of the 1st and 2nd line Transport moved under orders of Bde. Transport Officer). The march commenced at 11.50 a.m. via LAVENTINE - MILLSBOURNE - ALBERT. Battalion arrived at ALBERT at about 2.30 p.m. and proceeded at billets in the town. Hqs. Hdqrs. being in

1918

Appendix.

November

9th
(Contd.)

the Rue Garnet, and 8de Hdqrs. in the Rue Beppaux, ALBERT. The remainder of the day was spent in cleaning up billets etc.

ALBERT.

6th

Gen Helnet, Ammunition, and Genr Inspection in the morning, otherwise General cleaning etc. of billets during the day - leave to the United Kingdom recommenced today. At 8.30 p.m. the Germans commenced dropping shells in the vicinity of the station, until about 11 p.m. There were no casualties in the regiment.

7th

During the morning the Attack was practised by Companies. Wet weather prevented further parades during the day.

8th

In the morning troops were lectured on French Routine and Prohibite, the morning being commiserated with a short route march. Lt. Major's parade in the afternoon.

9th

Goye practised the Attack in field area 2.3.4. during the morning. No parade in the afternoon. A few shells were dropped near the station at night. No casualties. There was also considerable German aerial activity over the town during the night.

10th

The Battalion marched from ALBERT to JEMMARCOURT and back during the morning. In the evening, a concert was given by the Regiment in Cinema Hall, ALBERT, at 6.30 p.m. which, supported by the band of the 1st Division, proved a great success. Small aerial raids on the town during the night. During the day the C.O. with Coy. Commanders, went round the line.

11th

During the morning the Companies were instructed on the training ground in Defensive and Offensive use of Bombers. In the afternoon Sgt. Major took parade in billet areas. Col. Wiltet left for Senior Officers' Course at TRENICOURT.

1916

Appendix.

November

11th
(C'd.) Major J. S. Woodruffe taking command of Battalion during his absence.

12th (Sunday) C. of F. Service at 11 a.m. in Cinema House, ALBERT. Also R.C. and Wesleyan services in the morning. A voluntary service was given in the Cinema House in the evening at 6.30.

13th During the morning the Companies practised the attack.

14th Usual training programs, morning and afternoon.

15th Usual training programs, morning and afternoon.

16th Battalion route march to Kowalls, Derronscourt and back in the morning. Parade under R.S.M.'s direction during the afternoon.

17th General cleaning and clearing up throughout the Battalion preparatory to moving into Support Area on the 18th.

HIGH WOOD.

18th Battalion moved off from ALBERT (to go into Support Area) between 11.15 a.m. and 12 noon - Companies marching independently. Battalion arrived at destination (canvas huts by High Wood) and took over from the Black Watch, 1st Bde. about 3 p.m.

19th 4 a.m. Following a conference at Bde. Hdqrs. the C.O. (Major Woodruffe) accompanied by Lewis Gun Officer and 4 Company Commanders, visited the line to be taken over, to inspect the position generally. Fighting parties were found during the day and night.

20th Col. Willott returned from the Senior Officers' Course. Working parties were again provided.

21st The Battalion moved off from HIGH WOOD at 3.50 p.m. and proceeded to front line trenches to relieve

1916

Appendix.

November

21st
(Contd.)

the 8th Australian Bde. Bn. Headquarters at H. 24 c. 2. 4. was reached at 5.30 a.m. and the taking over of the sector completed by 11 p.m. Intermittent shelling was maintained by the enemy throughout the night on the support line and locality of Headquarters. "A" and "B" Coys. were in support, "C" on the left in front line, and "D" Coy on the right.

IN THE LINE AT RIGHT OF
FAVROUET L'ARBAYE.

At dawn the C.O. inspected the lines. By 10 a.m. all signalling lines to Companies and Bde. were complete. Frenches were in a bad state owing to wet weather. In the evening we succeeded one Company Frontage, "D" Coy relieving a company of the 1st L. B. Bn. on their right, and "G" Company being relieved by a Company of the 1st Northampton. "G" Company then occupied the piece occupied by "D". Heavy enemy shelling, especially round Battalion Headquarters, but few casualties.

REMARKS.

Enemy artillery active. At 3 p.m. our artillery carried out a concentrated bombardment of the BURTIS de VANDERBURG. The enemy retaliated with 4.2s and 5.0s on our front. 2/Lt. H. F. Dams wounded, one O.C. killed and 2 wounded. Weather fine and cold.

24th
23rd

General shelling round Bn. Hdqrs. and support lines. In the evening "D" Coy was relieved by "B" Coy, but "C" Coy elected to remain in the front line. The relief was carried out without difficulty.

26th

Rain commenced early in the day and continued in a steady down-pour. The trenches, especially on the right of the front line, soon became very muddy and were soon almost impassable.

1916

DecemberAppendix.

25th

Again wet. The trenches crumbled and in many places the men became stuck. In spite of much hard work the line became more than knee deep in mud and water. Communication with front line was very difficult owing to bad state of TURK LAMP, the only communication trench. BREWERY artillery was very active.

27th and 28th

Trenches almost impassable, and a great many men were stuck in the mud. In the evening the Battalion was to be relieved by the 2nd N. Hampshire Puffins, but relief was not complete until about 7 a.m. the following morning. Companies marched back to camp near HAVERTZ WOOD, under cover, the Brigades being in Divisional Reserve.

HAVERTZ WOOD.

29th

Bathing and fitting new clothing. Everyone was in a very filthy state owing to the state of the trenches from which the Battalion had come. All spare time was employed in getting dry and clean.

30th

Standing up generally.

F. W. B. WILLIAMS,

Lt. Colonel,

Commanding 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL SHERIFF REGIMENT.

1916.

Appendix.

December.

HAREZZ WOOD.

Physical training, rifle bayonet & drill exercises during the morning. Good gathering parties to bring in fuel were arranged in the afternoon.

2nd. Parades were arranged as for yesterday.

3rd. Working parties were found during part of the day.

4th. 2/Lt. O.B. Hinson with 17 O.Rs. left for FRIGODDUP to attend Divisional Bomb School. All rifles were inspected by the Armourer Sergeant. Working parties & Coy. Parades arranged during the day.

HAREZZ WOOD to HIGH WOOD.

In the afternoon Battalion left HAREZZ WOOD & moved at intervals of 10 minutes to a hot camp at HIGH WOOD.

HIGH WOOD to FLENS LINE.

These two days were spent in improving the camp which was very muddy. Several working parties were also found.

On the afternoon of the 7th "A" & "B" Coy's. moved up in support and occupied the FLENS LINE & relieved the 1st LOYAL HORSE LANCES, whilst two Coy's. moved back to a camp at BAZERTIN under Major Woodhouse. 2/Lt. Clarke was sent to Hospital.

FLENS LINE (SUPPORT).

6th & 7th. Our artillery was very active.

The enemy replied with sniping fire. "D" Coy. suffered a casualties & 1 Lewis Gun damaged by shell fire. Much work was spent on reclaiming the trench, originally the German front FLENS LINE, & on the erection of shelters which were

8th - 10th.

1916.

Appendix.

December.

8th - 10th
(cont'd)

Very no action. Working parties were found nightly and reported to 1st NORTHAMPTON Regt. In the front line, for construction of dugouts and laying down of trench boards. By the 9th a further 30 yards of trench had been reclaimed and two platoons of 4th Coy under Capt. LLOYD came up from BARNETT to occupy a further portion of trench reclaimed.

PLUMB LINE to BARNETT.

Work on dugout making in the PLUMB LINE was completed. In the late afternoon we were relieved by the 2/K.R.R.C. and came back to the camp at BARNETT IN SWIT. Part of 72 O.Rs. joined the Battalion.

BARNETT.

The morning was spent in cleaning up and drying clothes. Snow fell during the morning, this turned to rain in the afternoon and Companies were busy draining to the camp, the vicinity of which was a sea of mud.

13th & 14th. Companies engaged in cleaning away the mud from the camp and laying down trench boards. Working Parties were also provided daily to the Royal Engineers for work on improvement of roads.

BARNETT to FACTORY GOMER.

15th.

In the afternoon the Battalion moved up to the front line, in front of FACTORY GOMER and relieved the 1st LOVAL NORTH LANCs. Accommodation being limited a proportion of N.C.Os. and men from each Coy. 160 in all, remained behind at BARNETT CAMP under 2/Lt. Barton-Delsh. N.C.Os. occupied posts consisting of 4" head saws. The 1st GLOUCESTERS REGT. was on our left and the AUSTRALIANS on our right. Headquarters occupied the cellars of the ruined factory at

1916.

Appendix.December.15th
(contd.)

FACTORY CORNER. "G" Coy. was in Support and "D" Coy. in Reserve. Relief was complete by 9 p.m. and the situation remained quiet.

FACTORY CORNER.

Situation remained quiet except for occasional shelling by the Germans. At night time fatigue parties were found foraging a Support line varying from a distance of 80 to 130 yards in rear of front saps. Casualties - 4 O.M.s. Killed and 3 wounded whilst proceeding on fatigue.

17th.

Occasional shelling throughout the day. The situation in the front line remained quiet and fighting was limited to bombs & rifle grenades, owing to the short distance (in some places only 40 yards) between our lines and the Germans. At night "C" Coy. & "D" Coy. relieved "B" & "A" respectively in the front line.

18th.

In the early morning 2/Lt. KING was killed by machine gun fire whilst visiting the posts with the Commanding Officer who himself had a narrow escape. Usual shelling at intervals during the day. Working parties continued work on Support line at night. 2/Lt. H. TERRY & A.G.A. HUTCHINSON joined the Battalion for duty.

FACTORY CORNER to BAZENTIN.

19th.

Battalion was relieved in the front line by 2nd K.H.R. Corps and came back in Reserve to BAZENTIN Camp.

BAZENTIN.

20th.

Battalion in Camp Cleaning up etc. Owing to the sharp frost and clear observation both our own and the German artillery were very active throughout the day.

21st & 22nd.

Battalion engaged in cleaning up vicinity of camp. Several

1916.

Appendix.

December.

21st & 22nd
(cont'd)

working parties were found for pushing trucks, sanding roads & unloading trucks & maintenance of trench board trucks. 2/Lieut. ROBERTS admitted to hospital.

BATTALION TO PLAINS LINE.

In the afternoon Battalion moved up to relieve the 2nd K.R.I. Corps who were then in support in the PLAINS LINE, we were in support to the NORTHWARDS. The situation remained quiet.

24th - 26th.

Battalion in support. Situation was quiet during these 3 days except for the usual artillery activity on both sides.

Patrols parties were found for the 1st NORTHWARDS and Companies were engaged in re-occupying positions of damaged trench, laying trench boards and building shelters.

On 24th day, fatigue parties and work were reduced to a minimum by order of the Maj Genl 1st Division. Lt. Col. P. W. B. Elliott D.S.O. proceeded on leave to England and Major J. G. Woodroffe took over command of the Battalion.

PLAINS LINE TO BATTALION.

Battalion was relieved in the evening by the 2/Lt. R. R. C. and came back to No. 2 Camp at BALENSTIN.

27th.

BATTALION TO PRIGORNE.

Battalion in Camp cleaning up etc. Various working parties & carrying parties were provided for maintenance of roads & pushing trucks & unloading stores. On the 30th, 1st Division was relieved in the line by the 50th Division and Battalion moved back to a Camp at PRIGORNE.

28th - 30th.

PRIGORNE.

Large working parties from the Battalion were employed on road making during the whole of the day.

31st.

J. G. WOODROFFE, Major.

Comd'g. 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.