

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1917.

Appendix

January.

PRICOURET.

1st to  
5th

On 1st camp at Pricouret, large working parties, comprising all available men for fatigue duties were employed daily in road mending, and improvement and maintenance of the Camp. Coy. were in turn allotted the baths at BARRERIE & PRICOURET. and Lt. H. C. Barnes joined the Bn. for duty on 30/12/16. On the 5th, Coy. had their Xmas dinner, and a regimental concert was held in the new Y.M.C.A. Hut near the Camp.

PRICOURET TO MILNEBOURET.

10th

About 10 a.m. the Battalion and Transport left PRICOURET Camp and proceeded via ALBERT to MILNEBOURET, where we stayed under canvas. Lt. J. J. Burdett & 77 O.R.s. proceeded by train to PORT BANY to undergo a course at 4th Army Necessity School.

MILNEBOURET.

11th &  
12th

Battalion spent these two days in camp cleaning up, etc. Coys were fitted out with new clothing and boots and all equipment was washed and cleaned with hot water.

13th

Sgt. Major's Parade from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Bayonet fighting in the afternoon, and marches.

14th

(Sunday). Church Parade Service in the morning.

15th

9.0.0. and Bde. inspected the Battalion in the morning. Bature. Transport and Coys were inspected in turn. In the afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. Sgt. Major's Parade.

16th

Very cold weather. Freezing all day. Sgt. Major's Parade in the morning and afternoon. Physical exercises, Rifle exercises and Bayonet fighting. Sm/2cs.

17th

Weather remained very cold and snow fell heavily during the day. Physical drill and Rifle exercises under Coy arrangements. The

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January.Appendix.17th  
(Contd.)

Sergeants' Mess held the annual dinner in the evening.

18th

Training under Coy arrangements. Physical drill, rifle exercises, squad drill and shore route marches. The weather was very cold, freezing all day. 2nd/Lt. J. J. Bennett and 70 O.S.s. returned from Ankerstry Camp at ROY BAY, and 2nd/Lt. O. S. Hinson with 100 O.S.s. left the Battalion to undergo a similar course. The Corps played football in the afternoon.

19th

Very cold weather. Training same as previous day under Coy arrangements. In the afternoon the C.O. inspected the exercises of Coye alternately. Capt L. Lamotte joined the Battalion for duty and was posted in command of "D" Coy.

20th

Training under Coy arrangements. Inspection of Iron Battalion in the afternoon and Gun Helmet drill. Weather bitterly cold, freezing all day.

21st

(Sunday). Church Parade in the morning. Lt. Col. F. S. Elliott, D.S.O. left Batain to visit the Base Depot.

22nd

Training under Coy arrangements. Coye were allotted the Batain in turn. Lewis Gunners practised on the range all day.

23rd

General Parade, morning and afternoon. Musketry, Platoon training, Gun Helmet drill, etc. Specialists under their respective O.S. 1/8. The range was used by Lewis Gunners in the morning, and by Snipers & Engineers in the afternoon. "B" Coy proceeded by bus in the afternoon to LA FAYETTE for Divisional unloading.

WINTERCAMP NO BRADIE.

24th

The remainder of Battalion, together with all transport moved from WILMBOURNE about 0.15 a.m. and arrived at BRADIE, arriving there at 9.30 a.m. WINTERCAMP was taken over by the Australians and we occupied their vacated billets, consisting of barns etc., at BRADIE. Remains of day was spent in remaining of these accommodations generally of the Battalion. BATAIN opening all day.

1917.JANUARY.BRESEE.Appendix.

25th

At 8.30 a.m. "A" "C" & "D" with Specialists, paraded for route march towards ALBERT and on the return march practised the advance in artillery formation across country, finishing with an attack on a ridge in extended formation. Coy's returned to billets at 1.30 p.m. Short parade under Coy arrangements in the afternoon. Country still frost bound.

26th

In the morning Field Operations under O.C. Coy's, practising the artillery formation and open order attack. Afternoon General parades under O.C. Coy's. Bombing, muckratty etc. Specialists with their respective coys in the morning and under Co. 1/c in the afternoon.

27th

Battalion on 2-1/2 mile Route March at 8.40 a.m. Transport, pack animals and Lewis Gun Limbers accompanied the Bn. the remainder of Transport was brigaded. On the return route, the advance in artillery formation was practised from column of route, the troops marching across open country for about a mile, then returning to column of route marched back to billets. In the afternoon inspection of kits. Sp. 5,0,0. Gave a lecture to Officers in the Church, BRESEE, at 6.30 a.m.

28th

(Sunday). Church parades in the morning for all denominations arranged, but optional. Troops rested remainder of day. Country still frost bound, this making some 14 days of continued freezing.

29th

During the morning Field Training under O.C. Coy's. Artillery formation breaking into small columns, extending, reforming and finishing on patrol or battle reports. In the afternoon "A" Coy practised live bomb throwing under bn. Bombing Officer. "C" Coy on range east of BRESEE, and "D" Coy bayonet fighting. Specialists with their coys during the morning, but under Officers and N.C.O.s 1/c in the afternoon. In the evening

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January.Appendix.29th  
(contd.)

at 8.30 p.m. at BRIDLE, a boxing programme was arranged by Sgt Int. Bds, and held in billets of the 1.1.3. Coy. Bnt. The 2nd Bde the various units of was a large attendance of those Officers and men the 3.0.0. 2nd Bde, distributing the prizes. With the inclusion of the 1.1.3.0. Bnd, the evening's entertainment was highly successful.

30th

The Battalion paraded in the morning at 8.45 a.m. and marched in column of route to open country and trenches near BRIDLE, breaking into, and reforming from, artillery formation was again practised. The trenches afterwards being summed by "relieving troops" and the gas alert and gas attack practised. Men returned to billets at 12 noon. In the afternoon the Divisional Band played in the square at BRIDLE. Still freezing, with small snow showers during the day.

31st

Battalion paraded for Brigade Band March at 8.50 a.m. Diners were cooked en route and served on return to billets at 1.15 p.m. 3 to 4 p.m. "A" Coy were on marching, "C" Coy Beyond Fighting and "D" Coy Bombing.

HONOURS & AWARDS DURING MONTH OFJANUARY 1917.

2nd Lt. W. Chad. "The Military Cross".

Lt. Col. J. B. Elliott DSO.

S/Lt. L. de B. Ashburn

(Killed)

Hon. Capt. P. W. W. Jones

in

Despatches.

S/Lt. J. B. Alcomander

S/Lt. J. B. Owen

8992 Sgt. J. W. W.

6688 C.S.M. (A/R) M. S.

4. Empire Force.

9815 Opl. (A/R) G. C.

7. G. Sawyer.

7346 Sgt. F. G. F. Spicer

(Same wounded).

16918 Sgt. (A/O) G. H. S.

W. Webb.

"The  
distinguished  
gaining  
conduct  
medal"



2nd BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

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Appendix.

February.

ROSTER.

1st

During the morning platoons practised attacking strong, each platoon making the attack on the initiative of its Commander, the final assault being carried out by the Company when each platoon had arrived at its pre-arranged point. The afternoon was occupied in bayonet fighting, bombing and snusetry.

2nd

The usual parades were arranged during the morning, the remainder of the day being spent in clearing up billets, tidying up the area and preparing for the morrow's move.

REMARKS TO HERRICOURT-SUB-SYSTEM.

3rd

The Bn. moved off at 10.30 am. to proceed to HERRICOURT-SUB-SYSTEM via HIRIBONT - HERRICOURT - I'ABBE - SAILLY LE SEC - SAILLY LAETRE - GERISNY and HONBOURT. The march proceeded well until just past HERRICOURT - I'ABBE which was reached about 11.30 a.m. At this point the march was held up owing to the difficulty experienced by transport of other Battalions in negotiating a long gradual slope, which owing to the sharp frosty weather had become very slippery. The Bn. was obliged to utilize men to assist our transport up the incline so as to prevent further delay. It was not until 3.30 p.m. that the Bn. resumed its journey - finally reaching HERRICOURT at 9 p.m. without further difficulties. Billets were found in the village and dinner having been cooked on route was at once served.

HERRICOURT-SUB-SYSTEM.

4th

Cleaning up. Men's feet were treated in the morning under the new French Anti-Frost bite system.

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24th FEBRUARY.

Appendix.

5th

REINFORCEMENTS TO BE SENT TO  
CHIVILLON.  
The Bn. moved at 11 a.m. to  
CHIVILLON on route passing  
past the 18th French Army Corps  
Commander. Mills etc were found  
in the village.

REINFORCEMENTS

6th

Parades during the day under  
O.C. Coy. Feet washing  
contained and preparations made  
for going into the line.

REINFORCEMENTS TO CHIVILLON.

7th

Preparations were made during  
the day for the Battalion's  
move to front line trenches to  
relieve the French, and at 4 p.m.  
the Bn. moved off. Gas helmet  
were worn in the "Alert" position.  
At 6 p.m. we met the French  
Guides at X roads SUPRIMUS -  
ASSAVILLON and continuing the  
march (about 10 kilometers in  
all) reached the entrance to the  
main communicating trench about  
8 p.m. By 10.30 p.m. the relief  
was generally completed. LINDORS  
were exchanged between the French  
and our lines. The French  
artillery still remaining in  
support of our infantry pending  
full relief by our own artillery  
our Brigade relieved the 18th  
French Regiment of the 24th  
Division, 18th Army Corps. Our  
Bn. was placed with 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Coys. occupying the front line  
trench whilst 3<sup>rd</sup> Coy remained  
in support and 5<sup>th</sup> Coy in Reserve.  
Our lines were South East of BOIS  
de HEADON and North of St. HLOI -  
ESBOURG being about 10 kilometers  
in a North Easterly direction.  
The Northings were on our left  
flank - the French being on our  
right.

The night was fine and moonlight.  
All remained quiet and the relief  
was carried out without a hitch  
or casualty.

The transport remained at  
CHIVILLON.

IN THE LINE.

Small intermittent shelling on  
both sides occurred during the  
day. The weather continued fine  
and work was carried out in  
further strengthening positions.

8th

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Appendix.

9th  
(Cont.)

making firesteeps in POYNE Trench, deepening and improving HARRIQUE and JIBOZON trenches, arranging carrying parties, etc. Gas helmets continued to be worn in the "Alert" position, and all helmets and protective arrangements against gas, of "A" Coy. were inspected during the day. The Transport with rations etc. arrived at head of communicating trench about 11 p.m.

9th

Work and conditions in the trenches were much the same as on the 8th. Preparatory arrangements against gas were further perfected by the erection of STRUBBIS horns, gongs and blankets. "C" Coy's, Gas Helmets and Gas arrangements were inspected. At 7 p.m. "B" Coy. relieved "A" Coy. in the front line and "D" Coy. relieved "C" Coy. in the front line, "A" & "C" Coy's. moving back to support and reserve respectively.

10th

Work on trenches, bomb stores, observation posts etc., continued as usual. The 6.0.0. lat DIVISION visited the line during the morning. Enemy shelling during the day with "B's" intermittently. We had one casualty - the first in the new sector. Our artillery completed its relief arrangements today. Weather exceedingly fine. "B" Coy's, Gas Helmets and arrangements to combat gas were inspected during the day.

11th

Enemy shelling slightly increased this morning between support and front line and in vicinity of Ed. G's. (5.9s mainly) German Artillery was also very active during the night on our right flank and in rear. "D" Coy's, Gas Helmets etc. were inspected.

12th

The day passed without any special occurrence except for unusual amount of shelling and the M's. was relieved by the L. North lanes. In the evening, commencing about 7 p.m. and lasting till 10 p.m. The order of relief was "C" & "A",

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Appendix.

10th

"D", "H" and "I", "G". About 9.30 p.m. the enemy opened an extremely energetic and sweeping ~~artillery~~ fire over our communication trenches and support area. "G" Coy. Commanding Officer and staff having only just commenced the passage of the trenches were obliged to run the gauntlet of this fire, fortunately without a casualty. The "H" billeted in dug-outs in ~~ASHVILLE~~.

ASHVILLE.

15th

The "H" remained in ~~ASHVILLE~~ during the day, a distance of about 4 kilometers from the front line, and spent the day in cleaning up. The weather continued very fine but there was a decided thaw throughout the day.

ARRIVAL AT CHURCHILL.

14th

About mid-day the "H" moved by ~~commissaries~~ to CHURCHILL where billets had been provisionally arranged in the village.

CHURCHILL.

15th

The day was spent in cleaning up and inspection of clothing etc. Coys were marched to the baths at CHURCHILL where each man received a clean change, bathed and went through the anti-frost bite test washing treatment.

16th

Training took place throughout the day. Coys practicing the attack with single and double objectives during the morning and bombing, bayonet fighting etc. in the afternoon.

17th

The "H" practiced the attack. The "G", "I", "J", and "K", "G". The "H" brigade being present. The afternoon was occupied by lectures on discipline, fitting box respirators and bombing.

18th

Church parades and billet inspection by the "G", "I", "J", "K", "G". were arranged for the morning. owing to the rise in temperature during the last few days a complete thaw has set in, resulting in training grounds and roads being in a very muddy condition.

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February.Appendix.

19th

In the morning training continued as usual - Snicketz, Boyneet fighting, Bombing, etc. 7<sup>th</sup> Coy's. Gas helmets were inspected. At 2 p.m. the Commanding Officer inspected the Coy's. In marching order.

Lt. Col. J. S. B. Elliott, D.S.O., left the Bn. at 10, and Major J. S. Woodruff assumed command. Capt. B. Hammett taking over the duties of Senior Major.

Rt. Lt. C. S. Morten-Smith to hospital, sick.

20th

Route march which had been arranged to take place today had to be abandoned owing to the inclemency of the weather, therefore parades were arranged by Coy. Coy's. In billets.

21st

Training as usual.

22nd

Post washing during the morning. Parades were carried out during the intervals. In the afternoon Coy. Drill etc. was carried out under O. O. Coy's.

23rd

CHURCHILL AND NO RESERVE.

The Bn. left CHURCHILL to move into Reserve Hd. Qrs. leaving at 1.15 p.m. followed by Coy's. at 9 minutes interval. The Cooks and Lewis Gun Limbers behind their Coy's. 7<sup>th</sup> Coy. were located at DOWLING remainder of the Bn. being at BRUNINGOVER in dug-outs. The Royal Engineer Fusiliers took over our billets at CHURCHILL. Telephone communications have been reduced to a minimum in the forward area, therefore the staff of Headquarters was increased and special arrangements made for the despatch of communications between Hd. Qrs. and Coy's. The Transport remained at CHURCHILL. Capt. V. H. Jaques and 1 subaltern per Coy. Left in the morning for AINHO to attend a lecture given by LORD HAVERT on "WHAT GREAT BRITAIN HAS DONE IN WAR".

ARRIVAL.

The Commanding Officer accompanied by the Coy's Officers and Medical Officer left to reconnoitre the support line at FRANCOUIT. Working parties were found during the day.

24th





1917.

KOPRZYNAK.

288th  
(Ctd.)

another officer of the 1/4th  
Lt. Janner, was attached for  
instruction.

J. S. WOODRUFFE, Major,  
Comd'g: 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Appendix.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT.

1917.

Appendix.

March.

THIRD LINE.

1st.

Condition of the trenches much improved. Mud clearing was continued. The day being clear and sunny, aircraft of both sides were more active.

2/Lt. S.J. UPTON, (Signalling Officer) joined the Battalion.  
4 Officers and 13 Other ranks of the 1/4th West Lancos. (42nd Division) were attached to the Bn. from 27th Dec. 17. to study trench methods on the Western Front.

Casualties - Killed 1 O.Rank, wounded 2 O. ranks.

SECOND LINE TO SUPPORT.

2nd

The other misty and inclined to rain. The day was quiet. We were relieved in the evening by the 1st Royal North Lancos. who arrived from Reserve. The Bn. moved back to support replacing the Northants, who relieved the R.N.R. Corps on the right front.

Our Headquarters were in HELDON AVENUE. The relief was completed by 10 pm. The night was fine but clouds obscured the moon.

Working parties were found.

SUPPORT.

3rd

Usual working parties were found.

Working parties were found and dug-outs improved against Gas Attacks. About 6 pm the "Gas Alarm" was given from the front line. Gas shells were being used by the enemy for a short period. No casualties occurred.

5th

Two inches of snow fell during the night and rain during the day. At 3.45 am the 1st Northants after short artillery preparation raided enemy trenches on our front but were unsuccessful.

6th

Very fine and clear. The 1st Royal North Lancos attempted to raid BARRETT'S PLANTY as a trench with the usual artillery support. The raid was unsuccessful chiefly owing to the thickness of the wire arrangements and the fact that the enemy was apparently ready for the raid. They suffered considerable casualties. Major J. G. Woodruffe promoted to the rank of Acting Lieutenant Colonel.

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Appendix.

MARCH.SUPPORT TO FRONT LINE.

7th

Conditions normal. Weather turned windy and much colder as the day closed. Greatly assisting movement of troops. 2nd moved to front line relieving the 1st Royal North Wales. Relief was completed by 9 pm without difficulty. The Royal North Wales went to Support. The 60th Division was on our right and the 48th Division on our left.

Captain J. James promoted to the rank of Acting Major.

FRONT LINE.8th  
9th

Weather continued very cold and snow fell at intervals. The day was unusually quiet, hardly a shell being fired on our front and it was rumored that the enemy was preparing to retire and was moving his artillery. At 3 am urgent orders were received to temporarily evacuate our front line to close support in view of a predicted bombardment of the German position. In the afternoon snow covered the ground. It was discovered that the Germans were using a new mixture in their gas shells, a sample of the gas was obtained by means of a vacuum bulb, and this was forwarded to 2nd Brigade Headquarters. Our bombardment having been postponed, the men returned to their original positions in the afternoon.

10th

The front line was evacuated again in the early morning, the battery moving back to Support preparatory to a bombardment which was to assist operations on our left. The day was dull, misty and bad for observation. The bombardment opened at 11 pm and continued at intervals till 11 pm, when we opened an intense bombardment on BARNIX QUARRY. A fighting patrol was then sent out to try and secure a prisoner. This was unsuccessful and the patrol had three men wounded. (One of whom was missing)

FRONT LINE TO SUPPORT.

11th

Artillery fire on both sides was more active. Observation conditions were good. The 3rd Bn. was relieved at night by the 1st Bn. Black Watch, 3rd Brigade who had marched from CHURCHILLISH. Relief was completed by 11 pm, and the 3rd Bn. spent the night in the SUPPORT area with Sd. Qtrs. at BRIDGES AVENUE.

1917.

Appendix.

March.SUPPORT TO CHILDRERS.

12th

The Bn. remained in SUPPORT till 7 pm when it was relieved by the 10th Gloucester Regt. 3rd Brigade Coy. marched to CHILDERS independently as each relief was completed, soup being obtained for the men at HERBERT'S Soup Kitchen, on route. Rain had fallen at intervals during the day and the trenches were becoming in a bad condition again. The Bn. was accommodated in huts. Our total casualties during the 17 days in the forward area were 5 killed, 11 wounded and 1 wounded and missing.

CHILDERS.

13th

These days were spent in cleaning up, bathing, inspections, etc.

14th

The roads in CHILDERS were found to need much attention and daily working parties were found to remedy this. The Div. Band played in the village during the afternoon - 13th Instant.

15th

Men were fitted with the new Box Respirator, each man passing through a Gas Chamber to test the efficiency of his respirator. In the afternoon the Re-organisation of the Battalion in the new formation was practised in the presence of the Mgr. General. Weather was dry and sunny and greatly improved local conditions.

16th

The day was spent in practising the new formation. Box Respirator practise, - against fighting and other parades.

17th

During the morning the Bn. practised the new attack in the presence of the G.O.C. 1st Div. and G.O.C. 2nd Brigade. Parties such as Grenadiers, Riflemen, etc. wore more distinguishing colour patches. The day was fine and ideal for the work which was commendably carried out. O.C. Coy's. were in charge of the afternoon parades. More definite news of the retirement of the enemy on the Divisional Sector was received and preliminary preparations were commenced in readiness for moving. The Divisional Band gave selections during the afternoon.

1917.Appendix.March.

18th

Church Parade during the morning. Except for a few fatigue parties, the Battalion rested. Battalion Orders were issued for the move to ASSE VILLERS on 20th but subsequent reports showed that the enemy had retired still further across the canal and SOMME and orders were amended for the Bn. to move into Reserve at GRAND BOIS.

19th

Best washing took place during the morning. New formation attack on strong points was practised by Coy. during intervals.

CAMIGNES to BOULOGNE QUARRY.

The Bn. moved from CHIGNONS at 8.30 am with Coys. at 10 mins. intervals. Heavy rain and sleet had fallen before breakfast but the weather improved later on. We took over from the 1st Gloucester Regt. Hd.Qrs. being at BOULOGNE QUARRY. Reports were received that the enemy was still retiring to ST. QUERRIE and that our patrols had pushed forward to that point. The 2nd Brigade remained behind on road work. Coys. were out on salvage work for the remainder of the day.

RESERVE.

Battalion remained in GRAND BOIS and Coys. were employed again on salvage work throughout the day, much material being brought in.

31st.

22nd  
23rd.

Salvage work and road improvement occupied these days. The 1st Div. Artillery completed their relief by the 4th Division. Cookers were brought up from the Transport and a Canteen was opened. The relief of the Division from the front line was finished on the 22nd inst. but the 2nd Brigade remained in the same area, working on the main BRISTERS - GABOUILLET Road. The Battalion was not engaged in the advance which necessarily followed the enemy's withdrawal to a line at least 10 miles in rear of his MARIGNIX line.

24th  
to  
31st.

Bn. remained in GRAND BOIS and continued work on roads. Lieut. G.R.A., Rogers and 3/Platoon, T.C.R. Coeter joined the Bn. on 27th inst.

1917.

Appendix.

March.

24th  
to  
31st

(Contd.)

Honours & Rewards during the month.

8638 T/Cpl. Hedgrick awarded  
Military Medal Bar for Bombing a  
German Machine Gun.  
2/Lt. J. H. F. Alexander awarded Italian  
Silver Medal.

J. G. WOODRUFF,  
Lieut., Colonel,  
Commanding 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment,

In the field,  
31st March, 1917.



2nd BATTALION. THE ROYAL GRENADIER REGIMENT.

1917.

Appendix.

APRIL.

GRAND HOIS.

1st to  
3th.

Battalion remained billeted in GRAND HOIS and continued work on main exercises - VILLERS-CARONNEL Road. Det of 8 O.Ranks joined 1st.

GRAND HOIS to CHIGNON.

8th.

Battalion marched at 10 am. from GRAND HOIS to billets in CHIGNON.

General cleaning up was carried out for the first 2 days and was followed by training. Special attention being given to the new "Attack Formation".

CHIGNON.

9th to  
16th.

Bn. remained in CHIGNON and continued training. Football and other recreational sports were engaged in during the afternoons and evenings. Det of 18 O.Ranks joined 13th.

CHIGNON to MONCOURT.

16th.

Bn. with 1st line Transport marched via CHIGNOLLIN & MERICOURT-NEU-SOUDRE to a hut camp in wood just S. of MONCOURT.

MONCOURT CAMP.

17th to  
30th.

Bn. remained in Camp at MONCOURT & continued training. Special attention was given to markety & several competitions were arranged. On 24th a Brigade Practice Attack was carried out from PROVANT to MONCOURT and was very successful. On 26th 1st Lt. Capt. W.B. Churchill-Longman & 2/Lieut. T.G.A. Hooley joined the Bn. Captain F.H.C. Hardy joined the Bn. on 25th and proceeded to No. 2 H.Q. Coy on 26th, assuming temporary command. 2/Lieut. S.L.V. Goddard joined the Bn. on 26th instant.

1937.Appendix.April.17th to  
30th  
(contd).

Draft of 7 O.Ranks joined 2nd.  
On the 28th Inst. Brigade Sports  
were held, the 2nd winning the  
1 mile and 3 mile events. The  
weather during the last few  
days was extremely fine and hot,  
& enabled training and sports  
to proceed uninterrupted.  
Draft of 7 O.Ranks joined 26th.

J. S. WOODRUFF.

Lieut. Colonel.

Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex  
Regiment.

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2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

Appendix

1917.

15th.

1st to  
16th

MOROUR CAMP.

Battalion remained in camp and continued training on the same lines. On 15th inst the commanding Officer, Lt. Col. J. S. Foulshere, proceeded on leave to England and Major L. Lamotte assumed command.

MOROUR CAMP TO VILLERS BENOUMEUX.

19th  
26th

First Division moved from CHUIGNES - MOROUR area and concentrated in FAVESSE - VILLERS BENOUMEUX area. 2nd Brigade marched via main ANIENS - BENOUMEUX road to billets in Village BENOUMEUX. Battalion marched off at 2.22 pm and arrived in billets about 4.30 pm, marching past the Major General en route.

VILLERS BENOUMEUX.

Battalion remained billeted in VILLERS BENOUMEUX and continued training. On 22nd the heats for the Brigade entries for all Divisional Sports were run off. The Army Commander saw all Commanding Officers at Brigade Head quarters to bid a farewell on the Division leaving the 4th Army. A letter (attached) was sent round to all units. On 24th the Divl. Sports took place and 2nd Bde figured prominently in the winners. On 24th 2/16. P. E. CHAD, M. O., was appointed Camp Agent and Adjutant from 27/2/17.

VILLERS BENOUMEUX TO WETTEREN.

26th

1st Division commenced entraining for move to the 2nd Army area. The Bn. entrained at VILLERS BENOUMEUX, 1A Coy at 5.55 pm and the remainder of the Bn. at 9 pm. Detraining point at WALTEREN was reached about 8 am on the following day. On detraining the Bn. moved to billets & tents just outside the village of WETTEREN.

1917.

WEST57th to  
31stWESTERN.

Bn. remained in WESTERN and continued training. Owing to lack of area, route marching filled the largest part of the daily programme. On the 31st (Brigadier General A. B. HUBBARD, G. S. C. inspected the Bn. in "Marching Order".

J. S. WOODRUFFE,

Lt. Colonel.

Commanding 2nd Bn, Royal Sussex Regt.

FOURTH ARMY NO. 6, 8, 697.1st Division.

It is not 10 months since the 1st Division joined the Fourth Army, and I cannot allow them to leave without expressing my gratitude for all the excellent services they have rendered during that time.

The conspicuous part played by the Division in the heavy fighting around COMPIEGNE, RETHES, HIER WOOD and BAUCOURG is a tribute well beyond praise and reflects the highest credit on all concerned. Though they lost over 10,000 officers and men, and have suffered much during an exceptionally cold and trying winter, yet they are today, if possible, in a higher state of fighting efficiency than they were last July. The result is in the highest degree satisfactory.

There is no Division in the British Army which holds a finer record than the 1st Division, and I can never forget the conspicuous gallantry they displayed at the battle of LOOS when in the IV Corps. It is a matter of deep regret to me that they are now leaving the Fourth Army.

In thanking all ranks for what they have done, and in wishing them the best of good fortune in the future I shall hope that at no distant date I may again have the good fortune to find them under my Command.

H. RAWLINSON, General,  
Commanding Fourth Army.

H. G., Fourth Army,  
30th May, 1917.

2nd BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSER REGIMENT.

1917

Appendix.

June

~~1st -~~

11th

~~11th -~~

Battalion remained in billets in ~~ST. HENRI~~ and continued training. On the morning of the 7th instant an attack on a large scale was delivered against the ~~WYSSCHAART - BRUNING RIDGE~~, South of YPRES. The Division was in tactical reserve, but the attack was so successful that its services were not required. On 7th instant Lt. Colonel R. Bellamy, D.S.O., joined in, and assumed Command. 2nd Lieut. G.W. Her. Kniften and draft of 40 other ranks joined on this date. Draft of 10 Other Ranks joined on 9.6.17.

RETURN TO ST. MARIE CAPPEL.

11th

The Division moved back to the ~~WASSHOURE~~ Area. The Battalion left ~~ST. HENRI~~ about 8 a.m. and arrived in ~~ST. MARIE CAPPEL~~ about 12.30 p.m. Billeting area was very scattered.

ST MARIE CAPPEL.

12th  
to  
20th

Draft of 4 Other Ranks joined 12th.  
Training continued.

ST MARIE CAPPEL to WASSHOURE -  
CONCENTRATION to COMBES-LEZ-TOURNAI.

20th/  
2nd

Battalion left billets about 4 a.m. and marched to ~~WASSHOURE~~, remaining there the night and moving off again the following morning. ~~COMBES-LEZ-TOURNAI~~ was reached about 10 a.m. and the Battalion billeted for the night and following day.  
Draft of 8 Other Ranks joined 2nd.

COMBES-LEZ-TOURNAI to COXYDE BAIRE.

23rd

Battalion moved off at 6 a.m. and marched to ~~LEZ-TOURNAI~~ where we entrained. We detrained at COXYDE

1916  
June

Appendix.

23rd  
(Ctd.)

and marched to billets on the sea coast at COXIDE BAINS. The 1st Brigade took over the front line and 2nd Brigade being in support took over the Coast Defences.

COXIDE BAINS to OOST DUNKERKE BAINS.

24th

In the evening the Battalion moved to OOST DUNKERKE BAINS and at 9 p.m. took over the Coastal Defences (which consisted of lines of Posts along the sea shore, manned by night) in the right Subsector, one Coy being in the line by night and the remainder in reserve in billets.

24th/  
30th

OOST DUNKERKE BAINS.

Battalion remained in OOST DUNKERKE BAINS and continued manning the Coast Defences. On 27th instant two Coys were put into the Coast Defence line, 2d Coy being detached to a camp, one and a half miles off. The remainder of the Battalion did training and sea bathing. 2nd Lt. H. Sadler R.C. joined the Battalion on 27th.

HONOURS & AWARDS.

"MEMORIO IN DESPANCHES."

9368	Sgt.	W. T. Harris	} London Gazette dated 22.5.1917.
10021	Sgt.	S. Nelson	
828	A/Sgt.	V. Coppard	
5949	"	A. Love.	

"MILITARY CROSS"

2nd Lt. (T/Capt.) H. Roberts

"DISTINGUISHED  
COMBAT MEDAL"

1366 A/Sgt. C. S. Kenward

J. S. WOODRUFF, Major,  
Command. 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.



2nd BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1917.

Appendix.

July.

COYT DUNDEEK BAINS.

1st  
to  
4th

Battalion remained in COYT  
DUNDEEK BAINS.

COYT DUNDEEK BAINS TO  
SUDBURY VILL.

4th

The 2nd Brigade relieved the  
1st Brigade in front and Support  
lines.

The Battalion left COYT DUNDEEK  
BAINS at 9.30 p.m. and moved into  
the right Support area west of  
the Tross, occupying the area  
vacated by the 1st Northamptonshire  
Regiment who moved into the front  
line east of the river.

4th  
to  
10th

Battalion remained in support  
and found work during PARLES EAST  
of the YSER nightly, and  
carrying parties in HIRUBERT  
BAINS. On the 6th the enemy's  
artillery became very active on  
the area round Battalion Head  
quarters and did a good deal of  
damage to our defenses.

Hostile artillery became more  
active daily and the Battalion  
suffered numerous casualties.  
S/Lieut. H. Turner was wounded on  
the 7th and S/Lieut. H. Terry was  
wounded on the 8th.

10th

Dispositions on morning of the  
10th were:- Right West Battalion  
west of YWER; 1st Northamptonshire  
Regiment supported by 2nd Royal  
Sussex Regiment, west of the river,  
Left Front Battalion east of the  
YWER; 2nd K.R.H.G. supported by  
1st N.S. Lancashire Regiment west  
of the river.

At 5.30 a.m. the enemy commenced  
a heavy bombardment on the whole  
of the 1st Divisional area on  
both sides of the river. The  
bombardment increased in intensity  
as the day went on and an attack  
expended itself.

By 3.30 p.m. all three brigades  
across the YWER were down and the  
1st Northamptonshire Regiment and  
2nd Kings Royal Rifle Corps were  
cut off from the remainder of  
the Brigade.

1917.

Appendix.

July.10th  
Contd.

At 7 p.m. the enemy attacked and soon afterwards was observed on the Sand Runns just east of the river. A few officers and men of the 1st Northamptonshire and 2nd Kings Royal Rifle Corps were seen, but the remainder of the two battalions were killed or taken prisoners. On the right the 3rd Division was also driven back. The two supporting battalions immediately raised the defenses immediately west of the YARR, and thus held the front line. Touch was obtained with the 3rd Division on our right, and the Battalion "stood fast" all night. At about 5.30 a.m. on the 11th the situation quieted and it became apparent that the enemy, for the time being at least, was satisfied with having captured the whole of our defenses east of the river from the sea to a distance inland of about 1400 yards. The average depth of his advance was about 600 yards. (see attached summary).

11th

Situation remained quiet. Several parties of the enemy were observed moving about the dunes. In the evening a counter-attack was made on the 3rd Division front and a portion of the 1st ground was regained.

The enemy remained however in possession of the whole of the ground captured from the 1st Division and counter-attacked across the river was impossible.

12th  
13th  
14th  
15th  
16th

Situation remained quiet and situation remained in the front line.

One of the two companies of Royal Munster Fusiliers who had been sent up on the 11th was sent back, the other company remaining in support to the Battalion.

The Battalion remained in the front line on the west bank of the Yarr.



REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF JULY, 1917.

Reference Map -

1. PERIOD PREVIOUS TO THE ATTACK.

For some days previous to the attack the enemy had subjected our line to intermittent bombardments, shelling the whole area east of the River YSER, particularly local Headquarters and Communication Trenches.

On the east of the River he shelled HILPURT SALMS heavily at times, and hit or knocked out the majority of O.P.s. The trenches on the western bank were also shelled; the three bridges at the mouth of the River were heavily shelled on the 9th - some damage being done.

There was a considerable amount of hostile counter-Battery fire, and back areas were shelled.

The hostile infantry activity was below normal, very little movement being seen, and the nights were particularly quiet, both as regards artillery and infantry. There was the normal amount of hostile machine gun fire at night.

Hostile aircraft was active during the days of the 8th, 9th and 7th, flying considerably over our lines, but on the 8th and 9th it was less in evidence.

2. HOSTILE ARTILLERY PROGRAMME DURING 7.10.17 on the LOCH FRONT.

5.30 a.m.

6.45 a.m.

7.45 a.m.

8.45 a.m.

9.45 a.m.

9.50 a.m.

10.50 a.m.

11.30 a.m.

11.55 a.m.

11.55 a.m.

12.55 p.m.

1.55 p.m.

2.10 p.m.

Enemy heavy artillery started a general shelling of the Reserve line, the bridges and HILPURT SALMS. Shelling such increased, heavy barrage on front line for an hour. Barrage lifted to support and Reserve lines. Barrage lifted to S.W. side of the YSER. to 5.50 a.m. Fall. Barrage on support lines. Barrage lifted to S.W. side of the YSER. Barrage dropped on to front line. Barrage on S.W. side of the YSER. to 11.55 a.m. Fall. Barrage dropped to support line. Barrage dropped to front line. to 2.10 p.m. Fall. The front and support lines and S.W. bank of the YSER and the bridges had were continuously barraged. There was a distinct fall of about 10 minutes at 6.10 p.m.

From 1.15 p.m. a continuous barrage was maintained on the bridges and western bridge-heads. Shells of at least 8" calibre were falling at a rate of 4 a minute.

Another distinct barrage was also put across the houses at the eastern end of HINDFOOT BAINS.

The times given above are only approximate and while a barrage is reported in one place it means that the shelling was heaviest here.

The Battalion Headquarters were apparently maintained under a continuous barrage except during the lulls.

The bridges were destroyed at the following times:-

By 6.30 a.m. NORTHAIN BRIDGE WAS GUT IN TWO.

By 12.55 p.m. KEW BRIDGE WAS DESTROYED.

By 4.55 p.m. RICHMOND BRIDGE WAS BURNED.

The tunnels and covered trenches on the western side of the YARR were blown in before 4 p.m. and there was no covered means of approach to the bridge-heads.

Throughout the day all back areas, Headquarters Battery positions and ways of approach to the front area were kept under a steady fire, and the frequency with which all lines and means of communication were cut by this bombardment added extraordinarily to the difficulties of control of the situation.

### 5. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS.

The situation was reported by continual messages from observation posts of the Support Battalions, and reconnaissance was asked for by the Brigade on numerous occasions. Throughout, but in accordance with the Divisional Artillery throughout, but it was found best to control the fire from artillery O.V.s.

Reports of the situation were received from Battalions West of the YARR by pigeon; all telephone and wireless communication was cut by 10.15 a.m.

#### Message Times.

Messages from Headquarters.

11. 7 a.m.

O.C. 2nd K.R.R.C. reported that Right Company H.Q. was blown in, Battalion Headquarters was being heavily shelled, he was reinforcing Right with one platoon. (Pigeon message).

5.15 p.m.

O.C. 2nd K.R.R.C. estimated casualties at 35%. (Pigeon message).

6.30 p.m.

O.C. 1st Royal North Lancashire Regt. reported G.R.R. had gone forward to investigate repairs necessary to No. 1. Bridge and that he was trying to send two orderlies over the River in tubs.

7.10 p.m.

O.C. 2nd K.R.R.C. reported that he had two companies with no rifles; that Battalion H.Q. had been moved into tunnel in BEAUCH ALLEY; that he was endeavoring to reinforce, enemy planes were flying low. (pigeon message).

7.10 p.m.

White rocket bursting into two white lights - bombardment heavy. (Note: This was taken to be the S.O.S. signal and acted as such, but the green light appeared as a perfect white.)



7.18 P.M. Movement can be seen about German Reserve line.

7.25 P.M. Golden Train rocket's opposite both Battalions.

7.44 P.M. A lot of movement over our line. Right Battalion, Groups of men.

7.45 P.M. Enemy attacking.

7.52 P.M. Enemy have overrun Right Battalion, probably also Left.

7.50 P.M. Telephone message from O.C. 1st Loyal North Lancashire Regt. that he was holding west of canal as front line. O.C. 1st Loyal North Lancashire Regt. reported by telephone that a few of the 2nd K.N.H.Q. had swum across the River and report they are absolutely overrun. Enemy have reached BARB SUGGET and SIXTON LAKE roughly. Dugouts burning, prisoners going back.

Telephone Message. Enemy apparently waiting.

8.15 P.M. Small party of 2nd K.R.H.Q. putting up a fight alone to Battalion Headquarters. Enemy advancing in extended order to water at H.12.0.

8.20 P.M. Enemy working round our left at H.14.0.5 Small group of our men behind River barrage about Eastern end of No.1 Bridge.

8.54 P.M. Dugout near Right Battalion H.Q. burning. Golden Train rocket opposite left Battalion.

9.10 P.M. Enemy at H.14.0.5. Advancing slightly and reinforcing firing line.

9.13 P.M. Enemy crossed BARB WALK on our extreme left making for BARB AVENUE. Think trying to surround Battalion H.Q.

9.30 P.M. Field guns appear to have been brought into position behind the sand dunes. About 40 "HOWA" are holding Eastern end of No.1 Bridge. Enemy holding Right Bank of Canal between Nos. 2 & 3 Bridges.

11.10 P.M. Captain BUTLER & SMITH and Lieut. SHACIN and Artillery Liaison Officer have swum back. They report enemy digging hard by BARB RIVER. They think this will be his main line of resistance. Could artillery get on please. Enemy also active round KITCHENS.

1.28 a.m.

The extracts given above are only on points of particular interest.

4. RUZARPAK. The hostile infantry attacked in three waves, each wave consisting of a line of groups of men. Each group estimated at between 6 & 8 men strong. They are reported by survivors from the Right Battalion to have debouched from their lines at the junction of the Battalion front, i.e., about H.15.0. BC.28, and to have split into two, one half going to their left and working down BARB TRENCH and the other



half to their right towards Right Battalion Headquarters at H.15.d.70.05. The enemy is believed to have reached the Battalion Headquarters in about an hour. The enemy Infantry carried out their assault under a creeping barrage. Against the Left Battalion the enemy is believed to have attacked in groups over the top and to have had a particularly large working party along the coast.

As will be seen in the messages given in para 3 the first rear observers saw of the enemy was groups of men on the whole front simultaneously. These groups were in three waves and after the first creeping barrage of the assault there was a distinct lull in the hostile artillery fire, though a slow barrage was maintained on the bridges and HINDERS BAINS.

Porties of the enemy carried small flame-throwers which were used for firing dugouts. Smoke bombs are reported to have been used, and also "stick handle" bombs. They were grey and uniforms with steel helmets and either wore white or yellow smocks resembling us to whether they were bombers or flame-thrower carriers.

The enemy is believed to have used light machine guns as he swept the whole length of the H.V. bank of the YWER from the dunes whilst another machine gun near the left Battalion Headquarters took a large party of "G" Coy. 1st Northamptonshire Regt. in the rear. The machine gun reported by observer at H.14.b.6.5. had a heavy mounting resembling our Vickers gun tripod; the mounting being carried separately by one man.

Officers who succeeded in getting back estimated our casualties in killed and wounded at the moment of attack as being from 700 to 800 of the effective. The majority of the dead were blown in and their occupants either killed, wounded or imprisoned. The trenches were in most places nearly leveled and the communication trenches hopelessly blocked. That there was considerable resistance offered was evident from the fact that many of the enemy groups extended, stopped or proceeded only slowly from time to time, but actual fighting was impossible to observe from O.0a. owing to smoke.

Survivors of "G" Company of the 1st Northamptonshire Regt. state that their company resisted until practically all of them were knocked out, and the remnant almost surrounded. A few of these managed to escape across the river. There are no survivors from the other companies. The enemy penetrated into HOOR TRENCH and HOOR SUPPLY on the right. The Battalion went Sergeant escaped by making his way round to the Battalion Headquarters of the Border Regt. (left Battalion, 3rd Div.) informed them of the situation and told them that the enemy were working their way round behind them. The Officer Commanding this Battalion at once formed a defensive flank and strong point, thereby stopping a further advance on the enemy's part.

At about 8.30 a.m. a party, apparently officers, were seen near Right Battalion H.Q. fighting at close quarters with the last.

On the left front the enemy appeared to be seriously held up about SIXTY YARDS as there was noticeable short artillery preparation (directed by very lights from aeroplanes) and another distinct attack where the Reserve Company of the 2nd K.I.R. Corps appeared to make their stand.

Survivors who pushed alone by help report seeing many dead Germans and a considerable number of our men killed in the zone. They report that at the Regimental Aid Post of the 2nd K.I.R. Corps the enemy behaved atrociously, beavers and wounded.

The signal for lifting the hostile barrage appeared to be Golden rain rockets. The Machine Gun Officer who collected a party of 30 men at the river barricade, threw his gun into the river before crossing to prevent it falling into the hands of the enemy.

A party of about 16 men of the 2nd K.R.R. Corps who were unable to get out of their dugout on the 10th had two smoke bombs thrown in amongst them by the enemy who tolerated them no further. On the 11th they got out of their dugout and succeeded in making their way back across the river.

**5. CASUALTIES.** The following numbers of all ranks were lost of the River, not including Machine Gun Company, French Horse Batteries and Tunneling Company.

	East of YSER.	Rejoined.	Casualties.			
	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.			
1st Northampton-shire Regt.	20	508	0	9	20	499
2nd K.I.R. Corps.	20	501	3	46	17	485

TOTAL. 40 1009 3 55 37 984.

**6. AIRRAID.** Hostile aircraft flew over our lines during the hills in the bombardment, and when the Infantry attacked they flew very low over the whole area firing machine guns. The bridges over the YSER were barraged by them with machine gun fire. They directed artillery fire by very lights and they are reported to have opened fire (machine gun) on slightest movement east of the River during the preliminary bombardment.

**7. GUN ARTILLERY.** The Divisional Artillery was firing continuously throughout the day.

Gunfire preparation was ordered at 10.45 a.m. and was continued more or less throughout the day, though later some of the Heavy Artillery was employed on neutralising fire, but without causing much disturbance of enemy's fire.

There can be little doubt that the enemy has adapted the same tactics as have been so successfully employed by us in attack lately, but with the extra

9.

advantage that we were provided with dugouts which were not shell proof, with trenches never very good and much damaged, and that our aeroplane arrangements were so incomplete that the enemy were at entire liberty in the air, and we obtained no information of any value from our own Air Services. For the same reason the Counter-Battery work appeared far less effective than is generally the case.

(ed). H. G. BAINBRIDGE, Major,  
for Brigadier General,  
Commanding 2nd Infantry Brigade.

14th July, 1917.

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1912

August

1st DIVISION CAMP.

Appendix.

1st  
to  
31st

The Battalion remained in 1st DIVISION CAMP during the whole month and during that time did special training for a projected combined Naval & Military Offensive by certain Batters of the Fleet and the 1st Division. At midnight on 8/3rd 1st DIVISION CAMP was closed and all communication with the outside world (except in special cases) prohibited. The whole of the 1st Division was so enclosed.

The special training which was carried out consisted chiefly of scaling a wooden sea wall, and practice of disembarking from pontoons and ladders, models of which were laid out on the ground. Obstacle courses were constructed and besides the special training, tactical exercises, field firing, Recreational training etc. were engaged in.

Arrangements were made for sports and recreation, and besides Football, Gymnastics, Boxing etc., a Brigade Cinema was erected, and a Brigade Concert Barques.

At the end of July, all Commanding Officers had been sent to visit the Batters and Batters which were to assist in the combined operations, and which were isolated in the Thames estuary. On August 21st other representatives of units paid a similar visit. The following are events of note during the month:-

4th Major J. G. Woodruffe left the Battalion and took up an appointment of Instructor at the 4th Army School.

16th The Brigade held a Boxing tournament. The Battalion entered three competitors each of which secured 1st prize in his respective event. Lt. & Adjutant T. W. Chad, B. C., appointed temporary captain from 3.8.17.

1917

AugustAppendix.

18th

The G. O. C. 2nd Brigade (Brigadier General G. O. Kemp G. S.) offered a prize for the best platoon team in the Brigade over the Obstacle Course. This was easily secured by No. 6 platoon of the Battalion under 2/Lt. W. A. Gardner. The prize was a 75 mm. shell fashioned into a clock.

21st

2/Lieuts. J. I. Mason and H. Sadler, E. O., appointed temporary Captains from 10.8.17.

22nd

Lt. Colonel G. A. Hankey joined the Battalion from Kerriwan and remained attached. During the week 19th to 25th practice for a Divisional Ceremonial Parade was carried out.

23rd

The Division formed up on the sands of LE CLIFOR CAMP and marched past the Army Commander (General H. Haslington). For the first time in history the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment marched past to the 1st Battalion March. The remarks of the Army Commander are attached.

About 24th August news was received that projected operations had been indefinitely postponed. Restrictions on LE CLIFOR CAMP were relaxed somewhat and leave re-opened for Officers and Men in the Camp.

10th

2/Lt. H. G. F. B. New rejoined from the 3rd Battalion.

20th

Captain L. Lamotte appointed Acting Major.

30th

Parties of Naval Officers and ratings from the Sentors arrived at LE CLIFOR. The Sentors were anchored off the shore and Officers and men came ashore. Some were attached to each unit of the Division and the remainder were taken to visit the REMAINS Battlefield.

1st to  
31st

Training.

R. A. HEDDIE,  
Capt., Comd.  
2nd Trench mortar Battery.



1st Division No. 7702.

ALL UNIT.

The Divisional Commander desires that the message of the Army Commander should be conveyed to all ranks of the 1st Division.

A copy should be posted in all canteens and Recreation Hoses.

He wishes to congratulate all ranks on their very smart turn-out, and on the Parade generally. Considering that little or no practice has been carried out, the results were particularly good.

In this, as in all other respects, the 1st Division has more than upheld its reputation.

H. SHERRIN CLAY,

Lt. Colonel,  
A.A. & Q.M.O. 1st Division.

August 20th 1917.

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Fourth Army No. G.S. 843.

1st Division.

I want to let the 1st Division know how pleased I was with their appearance on parade this morning. The turn out of all ranks was particularly good, the handling of the arms was very smart, and the march past struck me as quite excellent, especially in three battalions which marched with a swing and a precision I have seldom seen equalled.

It is very evident that there is a high standard of discipline maintained in all units and I congratulate the Division as a whole on their fine spirit and soldier-like appearance on parade. Whatever duty they may be called upon to perform I know that they will do it right well and that none could do it better.

H. BASTINGS,  
General,  
Commanding Fourth Army.

H.Q., Fourth Army,  
20th August 1917.



2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL BURGESS REGIMENT.

Appendix.

1917.

September.

1st to  
30th.

The Battalion remained in  
IX CLIFFS Camp and  
continued the same training.  
Several Brigade Attack schemes  
were carried out in addition.  
The Naval parties remained  
with the Division until  
the 16th of the month.  
From 29th 10th to 20th  
Inst. Lieut. Col. F. Bollyay,  
D.S.O. was in command of  
the 2nd Brigade, during the  
absence on leave of the  
Brigadier.  
2nd Lieut. J. E. Pratt joined  
the Battalion on 23.9.17, and  
2nd Lieut. A. H. Perks-Morris  
on 30th instant.

R. BRILANTY,  
Lieut. Colonel,  
Commanding 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

In the Field,  
1st October, 1917.

8ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1917.

October.

Appendix.

1E CLIFFORD CAMP.

Battalion remained in 1E CLIFFORD Camp and continued training. At the beginning of the month it became fairly certain that the operations in which the Division was to have taken part would not take place and about the 10th instant the camp was opened. On 30th and 31st the 1st and 3rd Brigades left the camp for the YPRES Area.

The 2nd Brigade left 1E CLIFFORD Camp and marched to the ZEGGERS - CAPPEL area. The Battalion moved off in the early morning and marched to ZEGGERS-CAPPEL arriving in billets there about 4.0 pm. Dinners were eaten en route.

The Battalion remained in this area.

The Battalion marched to billets in the HAZENBEEK area, arriving about 12 noon. Billets were very comforted.

The Battalion (with the rest of the 2nd Infantry Brigade) marched to School Camp - one and half miles west of POPPERINGHEM. During the whole of the march not a man fell out.

The Battalion remained in School Camp, carried out training and prepared generally for the taking over of a portion of line in the YPRES area.

The Commanding Officer (Lt. Col. R. Bellamy, D.S.O.) proceeded on leave to England from 14th to 24th inst, and Major L. Lamotte assumed command during his absence. 2nd Lt. J. E. Prewt was admitted to Hospital on 18th inst. 2nd Lt. (P. Capt.) H. Roberts proceeded to England on 10th inst. For 6 months tour of duty.

R. BELLAMY

Lieut. Colonel.

Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.

1st  
to  
22nd

22nd

23rd

24th

25th

25th  
to  
21st

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUDBURY BATTALION.  
1917.

Appendix.

November

SCHOOLS CAMP

The Battalion remained in SCHOOLS CAMP until 5th inst.

5th

SCHOOLS CAMP to FOPPERINGE

The Battalion marched to billets in FOPPERINGE, remaining there the night.

6th

FOPPERINGE to HEIDENBURG

The Battalion moved by train to HEIDENBURG, arriving in camp about mid-day. The camp was a sea of mud and the only accommodation was tents and bivouacs. The Battalion remained in HEIDENBURG CAMP until 9th instant.

9th

HEIDENBURG to CANAL BANK.

Battalion marched to dug-outs in the YPRES Canal Bank where accommodation was very good, many dug-outs being electrically lit.

CANAL BANK to SUPERIOR LINE

The Battalion marched to the support line in the HERCHELLE sector, Battalion Headquarters being at KNORFELS FARM.

11th

13th

Battalion relieved the 1st Royal North Lancs in the front line. The mortar was not complete until 5 am. The country in this forward area is a mass of water-logged shell holes, traversed by a few "duckboard" tracks - the only means of crossing it. The front and support lines themselves consisted of a series of unconnected posts made of shell holes, the only means of approach being over the top.

During the whole tour the artillery activity on both sides was very great and we lost numerous men from that cause. Heavy aeroplanes were also very active, flying low over our lines and often firing with machine guns at troops passing along the "duckboard" tracks. During the two days in the front line the Battalion pushed out posts and established a line to front of that which was taken over, but the new positions were very heavily shelled.

1917.

NovemberAppendix

During the tour and the succeeding one (see below) we lost:-  
 S/Lieut. C. S. Hawker-Smith. Killed.  
 Lieut. A. S. Deakin. ) Wounded and Died  
 S/Lieut. A. B. Fooks - serious wounds in C.O.'s  
 line at O. R. Cotters. Wounded.  
 S/Lieut. B. Flynn. Wounded Gas.  
 Other ranks killed were:- 88  
 Wounded :- 111  
 Died or Wounded:- 12  
 Missing:- 4

On the night of 13/16th the Battalion was relieved by the 1st Cameron Highlanders and moved back to a hut camp at IRISH PARK. Relief was complete at 9.30 pm.

Battalion remained in IRISH PARK. The Camp was shelled daily by enemy High Velocity Guns and on the 19th last we sustained 18 casualties (2 killed) from shrapnel.

#### IRISH PARK TO SPURT LINE

In the evening the Battalion marched to the front line in the KNOXHEADS sector (just north of RABOCHDALE) to relieve the 1st Lothl North Lancers. Owing to the Guides losing their way, relief was not complete until 9 pm when the men remainder of 1st Lothl North Lancers, who had stopped in the line owing to incompleteness of relief, came out.

No operations were undertaken during the two days the Battalion was in the line, but useful information was obtained by patrols and a German Light Machine Gun of new pattern was found in a vacant post just in front of our line. Shelling on both sides was very heavy during this tour, but casualties were very light.

S/Lieut. G. S. MacCallum "Missing"  
 Other ranks included in above figures.

On the night of 23/24th the Battalion was relieved by the 2nd K.O.V.L. and, lines of approach having been previously taped out, relief was complete by 10.15 pm and the Battalion marched back to IRISH PARK. This completed the relief of the 1st Division by the 2nd Division.

16th)  
 to )  
 1st)

1st

1917.

NovemberAppendix.

24th

IRISH FARM AND FURNELINGS CAMP.

About mid-day the Battalion entrained at IRISH FARM and moved to FERRISBURGH, marching thence to FURNELINGS CAMP.

24th )  
to )  
27th )

Battalion remained in FURNELINGS CAMP and spent the time in refitting.

27th

FURNELINGS CAMP TO HERRZBURG.

The Battalion marched to billets in the HERRZBURG area. Billets were scattered but food, and training areas were available.

28th )  
to )  
30th )

The Battalion remained in HERRZBURG and carried out training, special attention being given to :-  
attacks on isolated posts by day & night.  
Physical training & bayonet fighting.  
Route marching.  
Marksmanship.  
Specialist training.

HIRSCHLAMPFORD.

Lieut. Colonel H. Bellamy, D.S.O., assumed temporary command of 2nd Infantry Brigade during the temporary absence of the G.O.C., on leave, 24.11.17. Major L. Janszic appointed Lieut. Colonel and given command of 2nd K.O.Y.L.I. 25.11.17. Lieut. J. C. Shannon, M.O. joined Battalion on 24.11.17 and 2/Lieut. J. T. Pratt rejoined from Hospital same date.

2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL BRUSSELS REGIMENT.

1937.

Appendix.

December.

HERENBERG.

1st/6th.

Battalion remained at HERENBERG and carried out training special attention being given to Lewis Gun Sections and other specialists training.

CHOPINHEM.

7th.

The Battalion marched to billets in CHOPINHEM, and remained there until the 9th, when it moved to a French camp in the PÉRIKOFF area.

LYVINGHEM.

9th/12th.

The Battalion remained in the SYRROCK area. Time was spent in improving the camp and specialists training, with a little drill, only small fields for training being available.

SUPPORT AREA. (ELVERDINGHEM).

13th.

The Battalion moved (less Rearpost) into the support area N. of ELVERDINGHEM, and billeted in dug-outs and concrete shelters built under and against ruined houses. The accommodation was good. The weather continued misty and cold.

SUPPORT AREA.

13th/19th.

The Battalion remained in the support area and found large working parties daily for work in the forward area.

ROSCHE X ROAD.

30th.

The Battalion moved into the forward support area (Reserve Battalion for the front line) and relieved the 1st Battalion Loyall North Lanchashire Regt. at ROSCHE X ROAD. Billets were dug-outs and shelters in a wood. Working parties were found every night for the front line battalions during this period, viz: 30/23rd.



1917.Appendix.December.FRONT LINE.

The Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion Royal North Lancashire Regt. in the front line just on S.W. edge of HOUTHILL FOSTER. Had a quiet roller. On our left was the 4th Belgian Division and the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regt. on our right.

25th/27th.

Battalion remained in the front line which consisted of two lines of defence. (1) Outpost line (Shell Hole) (2) Main line of resistance (a series of pillboxes and strong points). Nothing of importance occurred during this time. Enemy artillery was quiet although increasing its activity on the last two days. Enemy infantry did not expose themselves much, except at some pillboxes at SURCOUFF FARM, which our artillery smothered very frequently.

FRONT LINE to BLVDINDIENS.

28th.

The Battalion was relieved in the front line by the 8th Royal Berkshire Regt. and it was a good roller. After being relieved the Battalion moved back to the billeting area north of BLVDINDIENS and stayed there the night.

RYKHONK.

The Battalion marched back to billets in the RYKHONK AREA.

29th.

The Battalion remained in the RYKHONK area.

30th/31st.

RYKHONK/ANNOIS.

Awarded Military Medal -

10998 Pte. Bolton J.  
 1406 Pte. Swenden W.J.  
 6114 Pte. Taylor H.  
 10472 Pte. Toolley C.  
 2152 Pte. Wenden F.  
 11601 Pte. Dwymer J.W.  
 6071 Pte. (L/C) Budd J.W.  
 8998 Ptl. (W/Regt) George C.  
 9837 Pte. (L/C) Corbett H.J.W.  
 8900 Pte. Finch. J.S.

1917.

December.30th/31st  
(contd)Appendix.

Awarded D.O.M.

150 Pte. ~~write~~ H.Captain W. H. W. Apperley, Awarded the  
Military Cross.Captain W. H. W. Apperley. Appointed  
A/Major 25/11/17.Lieut. G. R. A. Hovorn, appointed  
A/Captain 15/12/17.

Mentioned in Despatches -

Major W. H. W. Apperley, M.C.

Lieut. (A/Capt) E. Hollingsworth.

8712 Sgt. Farrell, W.

1701. Pte. Tapner, A.

Casualties during tour in the  
line - 1 O.R.W. H. W. APPERLEY, Maj.  
G/O. 2nd Roy. Sussex Regt.

2ND BATTALION ROYAL SURREX REGIMENT.

1918.

January

VIENNE.

Appendix

1st to  
6th

The Battalion remained in the VIENNE area. On the 1st January the Battalion had the Christmas dinner.

VIENNE.

6th

The Battalion moved to the Support Area North of SAVERIGNY.

13th to  
16th

Battalion remained in the Support Area and found large working parties for the front line.

FORWARD SUPPORT AREA.

13th

Battalion moved into the forward Support Area and relieved the 1st Battalion Royal North Lancashire Regt., at BOSCH CROSS ROAD.

13th to  
16th

Battalion remained in forward support area and each night found large working parties for the front line.

FRONT LINE.

17th

On the evening of the 17th the Battalion moved up to the front line and relieved the 1st Battalion Royal North Lancashire Regt. Had a good relief. Position: Left Battalion of Brigade, on S.W. edge of HOUFRUAT FOREST.

17th to  
21st

The Battalion remained in the front line. The enemy did not show himself and his artillery was quiet. Owing to recent rains, the ground was very soft and in bad condition.

FRONT LINE. VIENNE.

21st

On the evening of the 21st the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Battalion Royal Berks Regt. The relief went off very well and was complete by 7 pm. The Battalion then moved back by rail to VIENNE area, just west of BOSCHEN, where it remained for the night.

1918.

January.

VIAMERTINGHE - AXHOEK.APPENDIX.

22nd

In the morning the Battalion moved back to billets in the AXHOEK area. The Battalion remained in the AXHOEK area. Training was carried out during the morning, special attention being given to Musketry & Specialists.

AXHOEK.

27th

On the 27th the Battalion, including Transport, was inspected by the G.O.C., 2nd Brigade.

AXHOEK - LABERRETE.

28th

The Battalion moved into billets at LABERRETE Camp about 1 mile N.W. of ROESTER.

29th

2/Lieuts. J. W. Lamb and G. Clements, and 169 O.C.s joined the Battalion. WISSELIARHOEK.

CAPT. A. O. WHITE-KNOX,  
R.A.M.C., Military Cross,  
9117 G.S.M. Deerpone C.  
D.O.M.

(London Gazette 1.1.18)

Capt. W. B. Ouchhill-Johnson.

Lieut. S. J. Upton, M.B.

Capt. & Qr. Mstr. A. Jones, M.C.,  
D.O.M.

2/Lieut. J. R. Pratt.

2/Lieut. O. Clements

and 169 Other ranks awarded  
the 1914 Star Ribbon on  
1st.

1st.

CASUALTIES. The Battalion had six casualties on the night of the 10th, 3 killed and 3 wounded, all belonging to a working party for the front line, but no casualties during tour in front line.

W. H. W. APPENDIX Major, Regt.  
Comd. 2 Bn Royal Sussex Regt.

END BATTALION FOVAL BUREAU REPORT.

1918.

February.

Appendix.

1st  
to 8th

LAWRENCE IS.

The Battalion remained at LAWRENCE CAMP carrying out training in the mornings and receiving mail training in the afternoons.

LAWRENCE - HOWEL HILLS.

The Battalion moved by rail into the Support at HOWEL HILLS, N.W. of ST. JULIAN.

HOWEL HILLS.

Battalion remained in Support area.

8th/  
10th

FRONT LINE.

The Battalion moved into the front line and relieved the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regt.

The relief went off well.

The Battalion had the 8th Division on the right and the 2nd K.F.F.C. on the left.

11th  
to  
14th

The Battalion remained in the front line, nothing of importance happened. Hostile artillery was not active.

HOWEL HILLS.

The Battalion was relieved by the 2nd K.F.F.C. and moved back into support at HOWEL HILLS.

15th/  
16th

The Battalion remained in support at HOWEL HILLS.

FRONT LINE.

16th

The Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment in the front line (left sub-sector) having the 2nd K.F.F.C. on the right and the 8th Division on the left. The relief went off quietly.

16th/  
20th

The Battalion remained in the front line, nothing of importance happened on our front. Hostile artillery was more active than on 16th Battalion sector, a good many

1919.February.Appendix.16th/  
20th  
(Contd.)

Gas shells being used at night.  
Battalion HQ, Ops. was just West of  
POHCHAPPURIS.

20th

FROM 17TH - 17TH CAMP.

The Battalion was relieved by the  
1st Battalion Cameron Highlanders  
and after roll called moved back by  
rail to 17TH CAMP, about one mile  
S.W. of HAZARDINGHE.

17TH CAMP.

The Battalion remained in 17TH  
CAMP carrying out training during  
the mornings and recreational  
training in the afternoons.

MIRGHANROON.  
The Battalion suffered 10  
casualties during the two above  
courses in two days.  
Wounded 10 O.R.'s.

AWATE, BELGIAN.  
DEPARTMENT MILITARY, No. 828 Pte  
(A/Cpl) occupied A.V.  
OROCK DE QUERE, 2286 Cpl (L/Sgt)  
number 5. (R.H.)

F. BELLAMY

Major, Colonel,  
Commanding 3rd Battalion Royal Sussex  
Regiment.

21st/  
27th



2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1918

March

Appendix.

SIEGE CAMP.

1st

Battalion remained in SIEGE CAMP.

SIEGE CAMP TO CALIFORNIA TRENCH.

4th

The Battalion left SIEGE CAMP by train at 4.45 a.m. and detrained at WIMBORNE, worked on the Army Defence Line for the day and moved into Brigade Reserve in CALIFORNIA TRENCH about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile N.E. of WIMBORNE.

CALIFORNIA TRENCH.

5th  
to  
15th

The Battalion remained in CALIFORNIA TRENCH, finding large working parties for work on the Army line, which runs just N.E. of the above trench.

CALIFORNIA TRENCH TO FRONT LINE.

16th

The Battalion moved into the front line, relieving the 2nd Welch Regiment on the right of the Division. The relief was carried out satisfactorily.

FRONT LINE.

17th  
to  
18th

The Battalion remained in the front line, being relieved on the night of the 18th by the 1st Northamptonshire Regiment, and after reliefs moved back to HUGEL HALLS in support. Battalion H.Q. was at HUGEL HALLS, two Companies were at PHEASANT TRENCH and two in MARINE VIEW.

SUPPORT.

The Battalion remained in Support.

19th  
to  
20th

SUPPORT TO FRONT LINE.

20th

On the evening of the 20th the Battalion relieved the 2nd K.R.R.C. in the front line N. of FOULCAPPELLS being the centre Battalion on the Divisional front, the 1st Loyal North Lancs. being on the left.

1918

March21st  
to  
24thFRONT LINE.

Appendix.

The Battalion remained in the front line and was relieved on the night of the 24th by the 1st Northamptonshire Regiment. The relief was over in good time and without casualties. After relief the Battalion moved back to support in HUGEL HALLS area.

SUPPORT.

The Battalion remained in support.

25th  
to  
26thSUPPORT TO FRONT LINE.

The Battalion relieved the 2nd K.R.R.C. in the front line, right sector.

FRONT LINE.

The Battalion remained in the front line, being relieved on the night of the 28th by the 2nd Welch Regiment. The relief went off well and the Battalion moved into the reserve area at HILL TOP FARM about 1 mile N. W. of WIELTJE, remaining there until the morning of the 30th.

27th  
to  
28thHILL TOP FARM TO CANAL BANK.

The Battalion moved early into dug-outs on the Canal Bank owing to the shelling of the HILL TOP CAMP.

30th

WISCHLIANBOUL.

The 13 day tour in the line went off quietly and the enemy was not active.

Casualties during the month:-

2/Lt. A.J.A. Hutchins Missing 21.3.18.  
(On Patrol) Killed B.

Other ranks Killed B.  
Wounded 25.

Lt. Col. R. Bellamy, D.S.O. was wounded whilst in temporary command of the 2nd Brigade, 21.3.18.

1918

March

Appendix.

(Contd.)

Major D.G. Johnson, D.S.O., M.C.  
(South Wales Borderers) took  
over command of the Battalion  
25.3.18.  
Lieut. A.H. GREGG, Lt. J.P.B. Stacey,  
2/Lt. F. Atwood, 2/Lt. F. Hills  
and 2/Lt. H.F. Buxk joined  
Battalion 8/2/18.  
2/Lt. J. Anderson joined Battalion  
27/3/18.

D.G. JOHNSON,  
Major,  
Command, 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

5TH BATTALION, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY.

1918  
July  
1st

Appendix

1st -  
4th

QUEBEC BARR.  
The Battalion remained in the Grand Barr. About midday on the 4th orders were received that the Detainees would be prepared to move by train at very short notice.

QUEBEC BARR. BARRICADE - 1918.

The Battalion, less Grenade Co., moved from billets about 9.0 am and entrained at POISSON. The destination was at first MONTREAL but during the journey this was changed, and the Battalion detrained at QUEBEC about 2.0 pm. From here the Battalion marched to billets in MONTREAL. The Barricade, which had gone by road on the evening of the 4th spent the night at CHEVREUIL, moving early next day to MONTREAL where it remained the night and joined the Battalion on the 6th at MONTREAL.

MONTREAL - 1918.

On the morning of the 6th Officers went up to reconnoitre the line in the QUEBEC sector, while the Battalion remained at MONTREAL.

MONTREAL - 1918 - 1918.

On the morning of the 7th a Cheval Reconnoitre was held and about 9.0 pm the Battalion marched from billets at MONTREAL. These carriers were placed up and conveyed the Battalion to QUEBEC where we marched to QUEBEC relieving the 1/5th King's Own and 2nd K.O. sent into the line. Transport & details moved independently to QUEBEC.

QUEBEC.

The Battalion remained in QUEBEC. At about 9.0 pm on the 7th the enemy opened a very heavy bombardment on back areas with

5th

6th -  
7th

7th

7th -  
13th

1918  
April

Appendix A

9th  
13th (1918.)

gas shells, lasting about 10 hours. The Battalion area received a good deal of attention and several casualties were caused. The bombardment was resumed at intervals during the following day.

9th

Early on the morning of the 9th the enemy opened an intense bombardment on the Division on our left (with 121st and 1st Northampton). CASERIN also received a good deal of attention, especially with gas shells. Later in the morning news was received that the enemy was attacking the 66th Division North of the LA BASSIE QUARTERS, but no infantry action resulted on the front of the Northampton south of the canal. The situation was obscure for some time, but later it was ascertained that the enemy had met with some success and was on the high ground round GIVENCHY. He was driven out of this by the 66th Ptn. but further North met with more success. The Battalion stood to in battle positions in the HOYHANS-CHERRY line the whole day. Casualties were chiefly from gas shells, the enemy employing mustard, and both blue and yellow cross shells. The situation quietened down in the evening and normal conditions were resumed.

10th  
13th

The Battalion remained in CASERIN and the situation remained quiet. During this period a very large number of men began to lose their voices and it was ascertained that this was due to the delayed action of the gas to which they had been exposed during the 8th and 9th & 10th, when the whole area was saturated with it.

#### ORDER IN BATTLE.

On the night 13th/14th the Battalion relieved the 1st Northampton in the left sub-sector. Battalion front was from the GAMBRIEL-LE BASSIE road to the GAMBRIEL-LE BASSIE Canal. End K. P. S. O. were in the front line on our right.

13th

1918  
April  
191814th  
30thFOUR LINE.

Appendix.

The Battalion remained in the front line. In the first few days the situation north of the Canal was very uneasy, and it was expected that the enemy would make another attempt to capture the high ground about ORVAL and so strengthen his position.

The 1st & 3rd Brigades relieve the 15th Division in this sector. The situation remained fairly quiet south of the Canal until the early morning of the 18th, when the enemy opened a very violent bombardment of the positions occupied by the 1st & 3rd Brigades and also of the Battalion sector. Soon after 9.0 am he attacked North of the Canal and drove back the 1st Brigade several hundred yards.

No infantry attack took place south of the Canal, but the situation on our left flank was serious as a renewed attack would have brought the enemy down to the Canal bank. Here the Battalion held the important crossings at FORT FINE and the LACE. Further North however, the 3rd Brigade had repulsed the enemy with heavy casualties and he made no further attempt to pursue his advance. It was necessary however to watch the left flank very carefully and to make dispositions to deal with any subsequent attempt the enemy might make to push through.

Towards evening the situation towards dawn, and the reinforcements were pushed across the Canal to reinforce the 1st Brigade. As dawn on the 19th 2 Companies of Northampton made a very successful counter-attack which re-established our line north of the Canal and made the left flank of the Battalion more secure.

As the enemy showed no more signs of offensive action the work of repairing the damage done to our trenches which was considerable.



1918  
April  
1918

Appendix

14th (Ord.)  
South

was taken in hand at once. Many trenches had been blown flat and considering the intensity of the bombardment, our casualties (3 Officers and 41 men) were very light. This work of repairing damaged trenches occupied all available men for the remainder of the line the Battalion was in the line.

During this period many of the men who had been affected by gas became worse and 79 C.A. were replaced by new men from Retalia. Many of those sent back were admitted to Hospital "Rounded Gas" so that the number of casualties sustained during the tour was fairly large.

For the remainder of the period after the battle of the 14th the situation was quiet, although the enemy showed considerable French border activity, on several occasions blowing in the tunnels which connected the outpost line with the main line, and cutting off the garrisons of the front posts.

Casualties during the month were :-  
Killed - Captain P.O. McInten, M.C.  
19, 4, 18.

Lieut. A.H. Bell 9, 4, 18.

Other ranks - 12.

Wounded - S/Lieut. P. Gillie and  
41, Frate 16, 4, 18.  
S/Lieut. E.H. Mack, D.C.M.  
25, 6, 18.

Other ranks - 127.

The majority of the wounded cases were from gas shells. The following officers joined the Battalion :-

Captain H. Eberhart, M.C.  
S/Lieut. J.M. Dickinson, H.H. Little,  
J.D. Hancock, H. Kiddy,  
C. Small, H.H. B. Stray,  
J. McG. Gaulton, J. Hammett,  
H. Silver, H.V. Snel,  
H.P. Healey, H.M. Fowler,  
J.G. Gomes, M.C. G. Laver,  
J.P. Reteloff, M.C.

D. G. JOHNSON,  
Lieut. Colonel.

Command, 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regt.

2ND BATTALION THE ROYAL HUNGER BOMBERS

1918

APPENDIX

LINE

1/2nd.

The Battalion remained in the line.

LINE TO HONOR AND LINE.

3rd.

Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion, Cameron Highlanders and on relief marched to ROUTE D'ARRAS CAMP, HONOR AND LINE.

HONOR AND LINE.

3rd.  
to  
12th.

The usual training was carried out, attention being chiefly devoted to tactical work and snarkery.

On the morning of the 8th news was received that a German offensive was imminent on the Corps front, and the Brigade stood to "ready to move off at a moments notice. Considerable time was spent on the reconnaissance of battle positions.

HONOR AND LINE TO LINE.

12th.

The Battalion relieved the 2nd Welsh in the Hohenzollern sector. The 2nd K. R. B. Co., were in the line on our left and the 11th Division on our right.

THREE LINES.

12th.  
to  
20th.

A very successful tour during which it became apparent that the supported enemy attack would not develop on our front. Owing to one of our cylinders discharging which had taken place the night before we went in there was a quantity of gas in our front line for a day or two owing to leaky cylinders. These were eventually removed.

There was the usual patrolling activity on our part, but it was hindered by the nature of the gas lanes which was full of huge old mine craters.

19th.

The enemy fired gas projectors on the Division on our right.

29th.

RAW.

20th.

LIME to ANNEBOURNE.

The Battalion (less A & B Coys) was relieved by the 2nd K.R.R.C., and moved back to Annebourn in support. A & B Coys remained in the VILLAGE LIME under orders of the 1st Northampton and 2nd K.R.R.C., respectively.

REPORT ANNEBOURNE.

20/25th.

Battalion remained in support. On the night 23rd/24th the 2nd K.R.R.C. carried out a successful raid, capturing 4 prisoners.

ANNEBOURN to SHORT LIME.

25th.

The Battalion relieved the 1st Northampton on the left of the BRIDGE front. We fired gas projectors on the enemy line. The enemy retaliated with fairly heavy shelling.

26th.

Gas projectors were fired by the Brigade on our right.

28th.

The C.O., Lt. Col. D.O. Johnson, P.B.C., N.C., was wounded by a machine gun bullet and evacuated. Major V.H.W. Appleby, M.C., assumed temporary command. The Battalion was relieved by the 1st Bn. 10th North Lancashire Regt. and moved back to the former billets in NORTH-AM-BOURNE.

REPORT THE LIME.

29th.

to

31st.

Battalion remained in NORTH LIME and carried out the usual training.

30th.

Major L. G. Wallace (H.R.I., attached Mook watch) joined and assumed command. Other ranks. 4 killed & 3 wounded.

T. H. CHAD, CAPT.

for Major.

Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.

2nd BATTALION ROYAL SURREX REGIMENT.

1918.

Appendix.

June.

HOEUX LES MINES.

1st/  
5th

Battalion remained in HOEUX LES MINES.

5th

NOEUX LES MINES to PROFF LINE.

The Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers on the left of the left sub-sector. (QUINCY).

5th/  
13th

PROFF LINE.

The Battalion remained in the Front Line. The 1st Northhamptons were on our right and the 55th Division on our left. The tour was a very quiet one, marked only by demobury hostile sniping, especially on KINGSCOTE and THE LOCK. Active patrolling was carried out by us, but the enemy showed little activity in this direction. Casualties were few, although one orange rifle grenade hit a box of bombs in a post in the BRIGIERS' CRE and knocked out a Lewis Gun Team.

PROFF LINE to CAMBRIN.

13th

The Battalion was relieved by the 2nd K.R.F.C. and moved back to support in CAMBRIN.

SUPPORT.

13th/  
21st

The Battalion remained in support in CAMBRIN and was actively occupied in carrying and working parties. There was very little hostile shelling and the whole period was very quiet.

CAMBRIN to NOEUX LES MINES.

21st

The Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion Royal North Lancashire Regts. in the morning, and moved back to NOEUX LES MINES.

1918.June.21st/  
30thAppendix.ROEHL 128 MILES.

Battalion remained in ROEHL 128 MILES and carried out training. A little special training with relation to a projected raid was done, and on the 28th June the Battalion moved to the BOYS DEE PARKS for a rehearsal of a ceremonial parade for an inspection of the 2nd Brigade to be carried out on the 1st July.

During the period in reserve a number of officers and men in the Battalion contracted the "4 day fever" which was prevalent at the time.

The following casualties occurred during the month :-

Killed :- 2/Lieut. W. H. Silver B.6.18.  
 Wounded :- 1/Lieut. J. H. Robinson B.6.18. (Afterwards died of wounds).  
 Wounded :- 1/Lieut. J. E. Eppes, M. B. 6.6.18.  
 Other ranks. Killed 7. Wounded 18.

J. S. WOODRUFFE

Lieut. Colonel.

Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.

2ND BATTALION ROYAL SERRIX REGIMENT.

Appendix.

1918.

30/7.

1st

The Battalion went by lorry from NOUZI-LES-MINES to the BOIS DES DAMES to take part in an inspection by H.R.H. The DUC DE COUVAIGNE. The Brigade formed up in hollow square and was inspected by His ROYAL HIGHNESS who then presented ribbons. The Brigade then marched past in column of route, after the inspection on the Battalion returned in lorrys to NOUZI. A letter was received expressing the satisfaction of His Royal Highness at the smart appearance and soldierly bearing of the Brigade.

NOUZI-LES-MINES TO ZOOPEL LIME.

2nd

The Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion South Sables Borders in the Right Front of the BOUARDOUILLER Sector. Relief was complete at 6 pm.

3rd -  
1stb

The Battalion remained in the front line. The tour was a very quiet one and the most active patrolling on our part failed to discover any activity on the part of the enemy, who held his front line very lightly. Our casualties during the tour were 1 O.R. wounded on patrol.

ZOOPEL LIME TO AMBREVIN.

12th

The Battalion was relieved by the 2nd Battalion E.R.S.O. and on relief moved to billets in AMBREVIN, one coy remaining in the VILLAGE LIME under the orders of the left front Battalion. This in support training was carried out and nightly working parties were found. "g" Company commenced training over a taped course for a one Company raid.

AMBREVIN TO ZOOPEL LIME.

17th

The Battalion (less "g" Coy) relieved the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment in the left Battalion sub-sector. "g" Company remained in AMBREVIN and continued training for the raid. The tour was a very quiet one. At midnight on the night 30th/31st July "g" Company, under Captain V. HADJIGUS carried out a very successful raid which resulted in the capture of 2 machine guns. Orders for and report on raid are attached.



1918.

July.

Appendix.

SHORT TIME TO HOMEY.

21st

The Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion Cameron Highlanders and on relief carried back to former billets in HOMEY-DE-CHINES.

HOMEY-DE-CHINES.21st to  
21st

The Battalion remained in HOMEY-DE-CHINES and carried out the usual training. On the 20th inst: the Brigade eliminating contest for the Divisional Horse Show was held. The Battalion scored heavily - obtaining first prize for Battalion transport team out, first for limbered G.S. wagon and pair I.D. horses in 'Marching Order', first for Heavy Draught stripped. First for Lewis Gun limber and pair I.D. mules in 'marching order', 2nd and 3rd for Best Light draught stripped and 2nd for best light draught mule stripped.

30th

Battalion Sports. A very successful meeting was held, for which the weather kept fine.

31st

The Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment in the left front of the CAMBRIE sector. Relief was complete at 9 pm. The 1st Northamptonshire Regt were on our right and the 55th Division on our left.

MISGLADINGS. The Commanding Officer (Lt Colonel J.S. Redcliffe, D.S.O.) went on leave from 4th to 18th and the Battalion was concerned during his absence by Major W.H. Apperley, M.C. Casualties during the month were:- Officers - Missing and Lt John X. Kilson; other ranks - Missing 2 killed 1 wounded 12.

Captain R.O. Darnley, M.C. attached and T.H. Severy was killed by the explosion of a bomb dump during the raid.

J.S. WOODRUFF, Lieut. Colonel,  
Commanding and Battalion  
Royal Sussex Regiment.

Headquarters,  
2nd Infantry Brigade.

Ref: Intelligence map Sheet 44 N.W.I. part of.

Report on the raid carried out by 1st Coy of the Battalion under my command on the night 30/1st July, 1918.

W. R. E. APPARENTLY Major,  
Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

REPORT OF RAID.

BARRAGE. The barrages of all arms did not come down quite simultaneously, the heaviest guns and machine guns appearing to commence a little too early.

When the H.E. barrage came down on the front line it was very accurate.

ADVANCE. The Infantry followed close up to the barrage and easily rushed the 1st Objectives. The 50 yard line of the barrage was not observed.

ENEMY FRONT LINE.

About 7 dugout entrances were found in the enemy front line. Two enemy were seen, one at each entrance of the dugout about A.28.4.36.70. Heavy effort was made to induce them to come out but they did not, and when the withdrawal signal was given, the ditches were bombed and the occupants undoubtedly killed. The remainder of the dugouts in the front line were empty. One was blown up with a mobile charge and the remainder numbered.

ENEMY 2ND LINE.

One cave of Infantry leap frogged and when the barrage lifted the enemy 2nd trench was easily aspired.

Many dugouts were found but only two appeared to contain any enemy, one about A.28.4.31.92 and the other about A.28.4.31.90. 3 of the enemy fired out of the trench, and 2 rifles were found outside the latter. The enemy were given until withdrawal time to come out, but refused and mobile charges were put in both dugouts which were destroyed.

In all 6 dugouts in the enemy and line were destroyed with mobile charges and one in the left Coy.

MACHINE GUNS.

1. One light machine gun was captured in a shell hole about 50 yards in rear of FORBES TRENCH (about A.28.4.30.93). The enemy was with this gun, but when a section rushed the gun he fled. The gun was found to be jammed.

2. One man of the 2nd Bns saw a Hun with a L.H.G. running between the 1st and 2nd Objectives. He gave chase and followed the German through our barrage on FORBES TRENCH, fired at him in an old Coy. and apparently hit him. The Hun dropped the gun which was captured.



Zero plus 20. Infantry re-call signal (para 6 (h)).  
 Zero plus 40. Signal to artillery to cease fire.  
 or later if possible. <sup>7.5.1.2. R. H. O. H. B.</sup>  
 not all <sup>7.5.1.2. R. H. O. H. B.</sup>  
 checked in)

Throughout the operations a box barrage will be put down round the raid area. Special danger points being plotted by 4.0 hours and 6" & 3" 7.5.1.2.

2. The following will also co-operate in the operations:-  
 (a) Heavy Artillery will carry out counter-battery work with both H.A. & obs from zero.  
 (b) 6" 7.5.1.2.  
 (c) 3" 7.5.1.2.  
 (d) Machine Guns putting down area shoots.

3. JOINT BARRAGES. (a) North zero to zero plus 7. Joint barrage on enemy front line from A.11.d.0.9. to A.22.d.1.4. and on enemy support line from A.22.d.1.0. to A.22.d.5.2. This barrage will consist of an intense bombardment from zero to zero plus 5, then slackening and ceasing at zero plus 7. zero plus 20 to zero plus 27. Position of the above. During both of the above joint barrages coloured lights to simulate enemy signals will be put up from our lines immediately opposite the joint area.

(b) Southern Joint Barrage. Zero plus 5 to zero plus 15. Joint barrage on enemy front line from 0.5.c.2.30 to 0.5.c.02.28 and on enemy support line from 0.5.c.076.41 to 0.5.c.040.52. This barrage will be intense from zero plus 5 to zero plus 15, then slackening and ceasing at zero plus 15.

4. No. 4 Special Coy. H.A. will put down a smoke barrage along the S.W. face of the dump in 0.5.2.

2nd BATTALION. THE ROYAL BIRKENBROUGH REGIMENT.

1918.

Appendix.

August.

FRONT LINE.

1st to  
4th.

The Battalion remained in the front line. A very quiet tour marked only by patrol activity on our part.

FRONT LINE TO CAMBRIN.

4th.

The Battalion was relieved by the 2nd Bn. K.R.R.C. and on fall of moved back to CAMBRIN in Brigade Support. There a certain amount of training was carried out and working parties were found by day and night.

CAMBRIN TO FRONT LINE.

8th.

The Battalion relieved the 2nd K.R.R.C. in the left front of the CAMBRIN Sector. 1st Bn. Northamptonshire Regt. were on our right and the 5th Division on our left.

FRONT LINE.

8th to  
17th.

The Battalion remained in the front line. This tour was marked by great patrol activity on our part; but on the whole the enemy was very inactive in this respect. On the night of the 10th August, 2nd Lieut.

B.A.H. KIRBY led a patrol which went beyond the enemy's 2nd line and obtained useful information. The G.O.C. 2nd Brigade sent congratulations to 2nd Lt. KIRBY for his excellent work. Other good patrols, including one by Lt. J.P.O. HARRON, also attained excellent results.

On the morning of the 10th August the enemy attempted to rick one of our posts. This attempt was repulsed and congratulations for the good work of the troops engaged were received from the corps, Divisional and Brigade Commanders. Full report is attached. The remainder of the tour was without event, except that hostile trench mortar activity increased.



1917.

Appendix.

AUGUST.

17th.

FRONT LINE to CAMBRID.

The Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regt. and moved to support in CAMBRID where the usual training and working parties were carried out.

LINE to DIVAL.

The Battalion was relieved by the 34th (London) KING'S Royal Rifle Corps (16th Division) and on feller marched back to BATHIN. Here they embarked and were taken back to Camp at DIVAL. The whole Division was relieved by the 16th Division and moved back to the ST. POL area, remaining in Army Reserve. Transport proceeded by march route to the above area. DIVAL.

22nd to  
30th.

The Battalion remained in Camp and carried out training in open warfare. Recreational training, football, hockey and cricket were also indulged in.

DIVAL to ARRAS.31st.  
Battalion moved by train from  
DIVAL to ARRAS.HIRCHLAMPPOUR.

Lt. Col. J. R. Goodfellow, D.S.O. was admitted to Hospital on 18th August, and Lt. Col. J. F. Budnum, D.S.O. (Worcester Regt.) assumed command. Lt. Col. J. F. Budnum, D.S.O. proceeded on Special leave to England on 29/8/1918, and Major F. H. W. Apperley R.O. assumed command. At the Corps Home Show on 20th August, the Batin, obtained 2nd prize for Complete Turnout and 1st prize for best light draught horse. Officers joined during the month -  
Lt. Col. J. F. Budnum, D.S.O.  
Lt. & qr. Mr. E. J. Sullivan.  
2nd Lt. R. O. Gordon, C.M. Hodde and J. R. Vaughan.



1917.August.

Appendix.

31st  
(contd)

The following Officers left  
the Battalion.

Lieut. H.L.P. Goddard and J.T.  
Burdett to H.A.F.

The total casualties for the  
month were 5 killed & 6 wounded.  
The following decorations were  
awarded.

The Military Cross.  
Captain W. H. Jaques & Lt. L. W. Lane.  
Distinguished Conduct Medal.  
Pte. Talion.

The Military Medal.

445 Sgt. Gerald O.  
959 Lt/Opl. Ash. J.  
12541 Pte. Hatton H.  
2164 " Wells A.  
18982 " Howlett R.  
6997 " Goidis A.

T. H. OHAD. Capt.

for Major  
Comd'r 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regt.

2nd Bde. No. 4.3/1/21.

2nd Royal Sussex Regt.

With reference to the attempted hostile raid on the morning of the 10th instant, I wish to congratulate Lieut. JARVIS and the men of his platoon on their success in teaching the 399th Regt., of the 10th BRITISH DIVISION the rick that have to be run in any attempt to raid the 2nd Royal Sussex Regiment.

It is most satisfactory to note that the enemy's movements were immediately spotted, and this speaks well for the vigilance and alertness of the sentries.

I am especially pleased to see that as soon as the enemy had been set with fire from the troops in the forward post, the first idea in the mind of the Platoon Commander and his men was to take offensive action, and to seek for an identification at considerable risk and under circumstances by no means favourable. The result was that although it was not possible to secure a wounded prisoner, a dead German was found and the identification established.

Please convey to Lieut. LAMB and to all the men of his Platoon engaged in this creditable little affair, my thanks, and my appreciation of their Good work.

(sd) G. C. KELLY, Brigadier General,  
Commanding 2nd Infantry Brigade.

11th August, 1918.

2nd Ide. No. 0-13/22.

R. Sussex Regt.  
Northamptonshire Regt.  
K. R. Corps.

1. In daylight yesterday morning the enemy made an attempt to raid our post at ANGLE and SUTHERLAND S&P H. held by the 2nd Royal Sussex Regt. This raid was repulsed owing to the alertness of the troops in the front line, on which the Divisional Commander congratulates all concerned.

2. In view of the battle being fought in the South, and of the fact that the enemy has not identified the first Division in this sector for a considerable time, it is highly probable that the Division opposite us will have received instructions to make every effort to secure an identification. Further efforts to raid us are therefore to be expected.

3. All troops will therefore be warned so as to ensure that the high standard of alertness shown today shall be constantly maintained.

4. This occasion should also be taken to remind all units again of the necessity for strict and rigid compliance with the rules as regards the use of the telephones in the forward areas.

5. In view of the fact that patrolling by our troops has been greatly increased recently the Brigade Commander wishes every precaution to be taken in order to avoid the enemy obtaining an identification from us. He suggests therefore, that patrols when going out, should not carry anything with them that, in the unlikely event of one of the patrol being captured, would disclose the presence of this Division.

6. For this reason twenty sets of raid identity discs are being issued to each Battalion.

(sd) G. K. MERRIN, Captain,  
Brigade Major, 2nd Infantry Bde.

11th August, 1918.

R E P O R T

Attempted Raid by Germans on ARMYLE SAp, 10/8/18.

At 7.30 am, on 10th August, 1918, two Hoche were seen moving along a trench at A.22.a.a.5. and at 8.15 am. No. 6977 Pte. Goids observed 7 enemy about 20 yards on the far side of the Greater opposite ARMYLE SAp from No. 3 Brickstack.

This Private soldier thinking a raid was probable raised his Lewis Gun, ran down the Brickstack and down the tunnel giving the alarm on route, and brought his gun into action from ARMYLE SAp. Lieut. L. O. Lane, commanding the platoon concerned (No. 12. Coy) ordered his men into their battle positions, took the nearest 6 men under his immediate charge and without any hesitation advanced to the attack, trying to strike the enemy's left flank. He came into contact with a superior German force at close range - being separated only by an old parapet - and after an exchange of bombs was forced to hastily withdraw, having used all his bombs.

The Hoche appeared to have a good many men in support, probably the entire platoon was carried out by the usual 40 Storm Troops attached to such Company.

Undoubtedly the enemy suffered. Lieut. L. O. Lane for his promptness and deterrent and quick grasp of the situation, which undoubtedly defeated the enemy by threatening the flank.

No. 6977 Pte. Goids for his promptness and quick grasp of the situation which undoubtedly saved what might otherwise have been a regrettable incident.

This private soldier's action alone made it possible to frustrate the enemy's designs.

I would like also to mention the name of No. 18982. Pte. Howlett who, although having experienced a narrow escape from a revolver bullet at close range in the morning, showed great coolness and courage in the afternoon in searching "the same land" and finding identifications.

(sd) F. B. WOODRUFFE,

Lieut. Colonel.

Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regt.

10/8/1918.

2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL SUDBURY REGIMENT.

1916

Appendix.

September

ARRAS.

1st

The Battalion arrived at ARRAS about 2 a.m. and was billeted in Rue D'ARLINS. The day was spent in cleaning up and resting. At 11.30 p.m. the Battalion marched off to an Assembly Position just West of WANCOURT. The Division was in Reserve to the Canadian Corps and waited in assembly positions in the open until Dawn.

2nd

At 5 a.m. the Canadians made an attack on a large scale and were very successful. About 12 noon the Battalion moved up in Artillery Formation to a new assembly position in the Valley just N. of VILLEMARNOIS, remaining there for the night. The attack by the Canadian Division was so successful that the 1st Division was not required to co-operate and the Battalion spent the night in the second assembly position. Many prisoners and much material was captured during the operation.

STALING.

3rd

The Battalion moved about 8 p.m. and relieved the 2nd Sussex (4th Division) in the STALING sector. Though nominally in support the Battalion was actually holding the line owing to a gap between the 11th and 1st Divisions across the SUDREY RIVER. The position had only been captured on that morning and there was a great deal of material lying about.

3rd-  
7th

The Battalion remained in the STALING sector and had a comparatively quiet time, as owing to the river being in between touch could not be obtained with the enemy. On the 5th instant Lt. Colonel D. G. JOHNSON, D.S.O., R.C., rejoined the Battalion and resumed command. Casualties during the tour:- Killed O.Rs 2. Wounded O.Rs 3.

1918

Appendix.

September

7th

The Battalion was relieved by the 1/4th London Regiment (56th Division) and marched to an embussing point whence it was conveyed by bus to billets in HABANO, arriving about 6 a.m. on the 8th instant.

HABANO.

10th

The Battalion marched with Transport to AQG Station and entrained there, departing the following day at GUYILLACOURT whence it marched to an area near PROVANT being accommodated in huts and bivouac.

PROVANT.

11th -

12th

The Battalion remained in the PROVANT area.

13th

The Battalion ambushed at PROVANT and moved to an old camp; 1 kilometre south of KONS-DE-CHAUSSEES. Reorganise the 3rd Brigade took over the line, acting as advance guard to the Division which was following up the retreating enemy.

ESTREES.

14th

Moved up to billets in ESTREES remaining in reserve.

16th

The Battalion moved to a camp just S. of SOMMILLY and remained in reserve.

FRONT LINE.

16th

In the evening the Battalion relieved the 2nd Welsh Regiment in the left subsector of the 1st Divisional Front.

16th to  
morning  
of 16th

The Battalion held the front line and made preparations for an attack.

16th

At 6.30 a.m. the Battalion, in conjunction with the Australians on the left and the 2nd R.R.P. Corps on the right attacked the enemy positions N. and S. of VANDOURT. The attack was part of a large one by the 3rd and 4th Armies.



1918

Appendix.

September

18th  
(Contd.)Account of the Attack.

At 4.30 a.m. the Battalion was in the jumping off position in artillery formation on a frontage of 1,100 yards, with a total depth of 400 yards.

"D" Coy. in 2 lines of platoons was right assaulting Company. "A" Coy. in 2 lines of platoons being left assaulting Company. "B" Coy. was in support in 2 lines of platoons with landing wave 100 yards in rear of "A" Coy.

"C" Coy. was in reserve echeloned with their left front platoon level with the rear of "B" Coy. One platoon of "C" Coy. being given the special task of following close behind the left platoon of "D" Company and when North of VADRCOURT to turn right and mop up the village.

1 Section of B. Coy. 1st Bn. R.G. Corps was attached to the Battalion and moved in subsections, one being with the reserve Company and one with the support Company.

3 Guns of the 2nd Trench mortar Battery were attached to the Battalion and moved in rear of the reserve Company. Battalion Hd. Qrs was established at zero hour with the right front Company, with orders to advance by bounds.

The Companies were commanded by:-

Captain J. I. ASHOF, R.C.	A. Coy.
Captain V. H. JAMES, R.C.	B. Coy.
Lt. J. W. LAKE, R.C.	C. Coy.
Capt. E. DOLLINGTON	D. Coy.

The jumping off line was a line running E.W. and S.W. through a point about 700 yards S.W. of the road junction in VADRCOURT, the first objective (GREEN LINE) being the trench system 1000 yards EAST of the road junction in VADRCOURT.

The second objective (RED LINE) being to secure the high ground and slopes overlooking FORTWUST from the N.W. After consolidating on the 2nd objective, exploitation to a further objective, which was the enemy positions about ST HELENS was to begin.



1916

Appendix

September18th  
(Contd.)

At 5.30 a.m. the creeping barrage came down 300 yards in front of the jumping off line and the leading Coy closed up under it and continued to advance with it. The left front Coy met with little opposition until reaching the trench system of the Green line but as was expected the right front Coy. met with a fairly strong resistance in VANNOCOURT and their right platoons were unable to keep up with the barrage over the marsh between the village and the 1st objective. This had been expected and the left platoons ordered to pass North of the marsh and work down the trench system to the right. This entailed a stiff fight with infantry weapons and all resistance was overcome and the Company organised on the green line 1/2 an hour before the time to start the advance to the 2nd objective. (This was largely owing to Capt. Dalgymore's skillful handling of his Company), O.C. "G" Company was then ordered to place 2 platoons in support of D. Coy. and O.C. "B" Coy. ordered to extend 2 of his platoons to greater depth in case it should be necessary to call them into reserve.

At zero plus 100 minutes the advance to the second objective began. Many of the enemy tried to escape before this advance but the troops were into them too quickly and captured large numbers about FORTIN and the quarry and the Tumulus defences. The 2nd objective was reached up to time and quickly consolidated for defence with troops disposed in depth. The slopes were much swept by enemy machine gun fire from FORTIN but these were kept under fire by Lewis and Vickers Machine Guns.

At zero plus 389 minutes two platoons of G. Coy. started to exploit forward by working small patrols down into the valley and up the opposite slope towards FORTI THESCH. Good progress was made at first but FORTI THESCH

1918

Appendix

September

18th  
(Contd.)

was found to be strongly held and just as a small patrol entered the trench the enemy launched a counter-attack against the right flank of the exploiting troops. This attack was repulsed. The O.C. "G" Coy was then ordered to form an outpost line connecting the line reached by exploitation with the red line.

Plank battalions. On the left the Australians had reached objectives level with the Battalion and exploitation had reached about the same level. On the right, however, the K.R.R. Corps had been held up in BERTHENCOURT but eventually succeeded in establishing connection with the right of the Battalion between BERTHENCOURT and MONTMERT.

At 11 p.m. the Australians continued their advance under a barrage to the enemy's trench system on HELLERS'S HILLS and the Battalion had been ordered to conform to this movement by attacking at midnight to secure a footing in the spongy road passing through ST HENRI'S. This necessitated preparing for attack at very short notice and as A. and D. Coys had suffered considerably during the day, B. and C. Coys were ordered to attack and D. Coy, to form a right defensive flank. Formation for attack - B. Coy on right, C. Coy on left, Both Coys to attack in 3 lines of platoons, 2 platoons being in the front wave. "G" Company made good progress and established one platoon in position on the spongy road South of ST HENRI'S with remainder of Coy disposed in depth behind it. "H" Coy came under very heavy H.O. fire from ST HENRI'S and FORTINIER and were unable to advance beyond FORTINIER so a line was formed with the right flank thrown back to connect with the K.R.R. Corps. The captures by the Battalion were estimated at 300 prisoners, 9 field guns, several mortars and numerous machine guns, rifles etc.

1928

Appendix.

September19th  
(contd.)

Prisoners taken by the bn  
belonged to the 46th I.R.  
Cranulites captured by the  
Battalion:-

Officers:-

Killed. Lieut. G. ORRHOOD,

2/Lt. H. S. LITTLE,

2/Lt. H. G. GORDON,

2/Lt. J. S. WHITE,

2/Lt. H. W. EARL.

Wounded. Capt. V. H. JAGGUS,

Capt. E. DOLLIMON,

2/Lt. E. R. RUSH (D.C.O.).

2/Lt. J. E. VAUGHAN.

Other ranks:-

Killed. 21.

Wounded. 123.

Missing. 4.

Letters of congratulation  
were received from the Army,  
Corps, Divisional and Brigade  
Commanders and the Divisional  
Commander paid a personal visit  
to congratulate the Battalion.

The following Officers took  
part in the operations:-

Lt. Col. D. O. JOHNSON, D.C.O., H.C.  
Commanding.  
Captain F. E. CHAD, E. G. Adjutant.  
Lieut. P. AITWOOD, Signalling Offr.  
2/Lt. W. E. WOOLER, Intell. Officer.  
Capt. J. I. MASON, E. G. Coy. Comdr.  
Capt. V. H. JAGGUS, E. C. Coy. Comdr.  
Capt. E. DOLLIMON, E. C. Coy. Comdr.  
Lieut. I. V. LAKE N. O. Coy. Comdr.  
Lieut. B. C. WRIGHT, E. C. Platoon Comdr.  
2/Lt. H. S. LITTLE " " "  
2/Lt. H. G. GORDON " " "  
2/Lt. J. S. WHITE " " "  
2/Lt. H. W. EARL " " "  
2/Lt. E. R. BURN, D.C.O., " " "  
2/Lt. J. E. VAUGHAN " " "  
2/Lt. J. ANDERSON " " "  
2/Lt. J. ANDERSON " " "  
2/Lt. F. O'BRIEN " " "  
2/Lt. S. A. H. KIRKEY " " "  
Lieut. G. ORRHOOD " " "  
Lieut. C. SLAKER " " "  
Capt. A. C. WHITE-KNOX R.A., H. C. attached.

PROXY LINE TO BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS

19th

The Battalion was relieved by the  
1st Northampton Regiment and moved  
back to Brigade Hqs. etc.

1918

## Appendix.

September BRIGADE RESERVE TO POMELITY.

20th

The Battalion was relieved by the 9th Sherwood Foresters and moved back to the area just South of POMELITY, the Brigade coming into Divisional Reserve.

21st

The Brigade rested and re-organised.

22nd

On the 22nd instant the Battalion was warned to prepare for an attack against the enemy position on the high ground North of GRICOURT, as part of an attack being made by the Division to secure the villages of PRASOR and GRICOURT and especially the high ground North of GRICOURT thus robbing the enemy of his observation of the back areas of the Division further North which was preparing a further attack. Reconnaissance by the Commanding Officer, Company Commanders and 4 Platoon Commanders was all that was possible.

On the evening of the 23rd September, the Battalion made an approach march to the quarries East of VERVAUD where stores, etc. were issued and a meal served.

At 11 p.m. the Battalion moved to the forming up position, having to move across country round MAISEMAY owing to the enemy barrage on the cross roads.

By 4 a.m. on the 24th the Battalion was formed up on a North and South line crossing FOURBOY and VILLERAY trenches with the right facing about the junction of VILLERAY TRENCH with BSELING ALLEY. The dispositions were:-

Right Front A. Coy. Commanded by Captain Roberts, H.C. disposed in two lines of platoons. The Coy. being on a 300 yards frontage, with a depth of 100 yards.

Left Front C. Coy. commanded by Lieutenant G. SUBBERLAND, disposed in two lines of platoons, a frontage of 200 yards with a depth of 100 yards.

Support "D" Coy. commanded by Captain J.T. BASON, H.C. and disposed:- 1 platoon attached to "A" Coy. for mopping up, 1 platoon in support of "A" Coy. and 1 in support of C. Coy.

(Notes:- The Coy. was organised in 3 platoons only owing to casualties of the 16th September).

1918

Appendix.

September

2nd  
(Contd.)

Reserve B. Coy. commanded by Lieutenant W. A. GARDNER, disposed in two lines of platoons making a total depth for the battalion of 400 yards. Attached:-

- 1 Section B. Coy. 1st W. G. Corps.
- 2 Guns of 2nd T. F. Battery.
- 2 Tanks.

The objective of the battalion was to gain a line on the southern slope of the High Ground North of ORICOURT to connect the right of the 1st Northamptonshire Regt. (who were to occupy the High Ground) with the left of the 3rd Brigade, which was to rest on the North Eastern end of ORICOURT. Zero was at 5.0 P.M. and at that hour the battalion advanced behind a creeping barrage. Considerable opposition was met with in the trenches and sudden raids but all was overcome by the front Coy. and many prisoners captured. The leading Coys. reached their first objective up to time, but owing to the 46th Division having failed to take POINTEUR the left flank of the Northamptonshire Regiment was exposed and all the advanced companies of that battalion withdrew, leaving the left flank of C. Coy. absolutely exposed on the side of the Hill. This company came under very heavy artillery and machine gun fire and owing to casualties and exposure of their flank, those that were left of them had to withdraw down the slopes towards SAIBSONS TRENCH.

Two platoons of "A" Coy. remained out on the advanced objective, but as the left had withdrawn and also the 3rd Brigade had not come up they were eventually ordered to withdraw. One platoon of the Reserve Coy. was sent to "A" Coy. to form a right defensive flank and a line was established about 200 yards in front of SAIBSONS TRENCH with the left thrown back to connect with the Northampton Regt. In SAIBSONS TRENCH. All the assaulting troops were very much disorganised so B. Coy. was ordered to establish



1918

September

Appendix.

8

2nd  
(C'd.)

2 platoons in CHEVILLARD TRENCH and kept one back in LEMUC TRENCH. About 11.50 a.m. a large force of the enemy (established at 400 strong) was seen advancing to counter-attack against the positions occupied by "A" Coy. Captain Roberts ordered his Coy. to open fire on the advancing enemy and then they were within about 50 yards, the leading waves began to waver, the leading waves Captain Roberts ordered his men to fix bayonets and then to charge the enemy. The men all rose from their positions in shellholes and charged with the bayonet and utterly routed the enemy, taking over 40 prisoners. The artillery in response to the C.O.'s signal put down an intense fire on to the enemy, causing numerous casualties as they were running away. This action was specially mentioned in Sir DOUGLAS HAIG's communique. It was a fine example of the use of Infantry weapons and the value of the dash and fighting spirit shown by all ranks who took part, as their total number was less than 50, then being out-numbered by 5 to 1. The Divisional Commander paid a special visit to congratulate the Battalion and letters and telegrams of congratulation were received from other higher Commanders and past Officers of the Regiment. The captures of the day were estimated at 400 prisoners, 3 field guns and much other material. The casualties suffered by the Battalion were:-

Officers :-

Killed

Lieut. B.C. ERIOT, R.C.

2nd Lt. Sir JOHN D. SWIFFIN, Bart.

2nd Lt. A. GARGOY

2nd Lt. W.D. FORSLIN.

Wounded

Captain R. ROBERTS R.C.

Lieut. S.A. GANDNER

Lieut. J.D.G. HANCOCK

Lieut. J.W. ROGOOK

2nd Lt. S. GIBBERTS.

2nd Lt. B. JEFFRIES.

2nd Lt. J. FARRISY.

Missing

Lieut. G. SWINDELAND.

2nd Lt. P. S. AUBIE '1.



1918

September22nd  
(C'td.)

Other Ranks	13.
Killed	117
Wounded	59.
Missing	59.

The following officers took part in the operations:-

Lt. Col. D. G. JOHNSON, D.S.O., M.C.	Commanding.
Lieut. L. O. CORRIE, M.C. A/Maj.	Intell. Offr.
2nd Lt. W. H. FOWLER	Signl.
Lt. P. ATWOOD	Coy. Commandr.
Capt. J. I. MASON M.C.	"
Capt. H. ROBERTS, M.C.	"
Lt. G. SUDDELAND	"
2nd Lt. E. CLEMENTS	"
Lt. B. C. WRIGHT M.C.	Platoon
Lt. W. A. GARDNER	"
Lt. J. W. POOCOKE	"
Lt. J. D. G. HARGOCK	"
Lt. H. O. HILLIARS	"
Lt. O. L. W. ICHSIL M.C.	"
2nd Lt. H. JEFFREY	"
2nd Lt. J. FAHRETT	"
2nd Lt. C. R. BECKETT	"
2nd Lt.	"
Sir John B. SHIPPER, Bt.	"
2nd Lt. F. E. ALKIN M.M.	"
2nd Lt. H. H. HOLBROOD	"
2nd Lt. A. GARTON	"
2nd Lt. F. MASON	"
Capt. A. C. WHITE-KNOX, R.A.M.C.	attached.
Lieut. C. Baker Echelon "A"	Transport.

The prisoners taken by the Battalion belonged to the following units:-  
 261st R.I.R., 262nd R.I.R.,  
 263rd R.I.R., 51st I.R., 63rd Res.,  
 P.A.R., 12th M.G., 10th Bavarian  
 Berser Coy., 12th Res. F.A.R.,  
 and the 7th Jaegers.

In the evening of the 24th the 2nd Bn. K.R.R. Corps retook the high ground which the 1st Bn. Northamptonshire Regiment had evacuated and the 3rd Brigade also took GILCOURT, thus the battalion was able to establish a line of outposts connecting the right of the 2nd K.R.R. Corps with the left of the 3rd Brigade.

Detachments of R.F. and Pioneer Battalion came up and helped to consolidate the position by digging platoon posts and wiring across the front.

1918

September

Appendix.

22nd  
(Contd.)

At midnight "B" Coy. took over the outpost line and "A" Coy and "C" Coy organized as one composite Company under Captain HADSON took up positions for the defence of the sector in depth behind the outpost line. The Battalion continued to hold the line until the 28th instant. The enemy was fairly quiet and showed greatest activity during the early morning from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. when he put down a heavy counter preparation barrage.

26th

The G.O. (Lieut. Colonel D.G. JOHNSON, D.S.O., S.C.) took over command of the Brigade vice Brigadier General B.G. KELLY. Captain J.I. HADSON, G.O. took over command of the Battalion.

28th

The usual reconnoitering parties of the 1st Battalion, Gloucester Regiment came to look round during the morning.

On the night 28th/29th the 1st Battalion, Gloucester Regiment relieved the Battalion and the 2nd K.R.R. Corps in the front line. On completion of relief the Battalion marched to the VERLAND area and the Brigade became Reserve Brigade.

29th-  
30th

The Battalion rested and re-organised into three Companies owing to casualties suffered on the 28th.

D.G. JOHNSON,  
Lt. Colonel,  
Commanding and Br. Royal Sussex Regiment.

DETAIL.

(a) Dress Fighting Order. The days ration and an "Iron Ration" will be carried.

The following stores will be carried.

2 Mills Bombs per man of Rifle Sections,  
1 Section per platoon will carry 3 Hales Grenades per man.

One extra Bandolier of S.A.A. per man.  
40 Red Flares per Platoon.

4 S.O.C. Grenades (Red over Red over Red) per platoon.

2 packets 1" White Very Lights per section.

(b) Prisoners. Identification of prisoners will be sent to Battalion H.Qrs. at once. A collection post for prisoners will be established at Battalion Hd.Qrs. to which all prisoners will be sent.

(c) Communications. Communication will be by Visual and runner. It is important that frequent reports as to the situation with maps are sent back to Battalion Hd.Qrs.

No pigeons will be available.

Red flares will be lit when called for by Contact aeroplanes, and helmets and rifles will be waved to low flying planes.

(d) Advance dumps of S.A.A., Water etc.

An Advance dump of S.A.A. and water etc. will be established at PARING CRATER.

(e) MEDICAL.

R.A.P. will be established at Baten Hd.Qrs. and casualties will be sent down the Sunken Road.

(f) Tin discs.

Tin discs will be worn on the back by leading waves.

(g) Compass bearing.

All officers will plot the compass bearing of the direction of their advance.

1st Division No. G. 596.

12

21.9.18.

I am most glad to convey to you the attached congratulations and thanks of the Army Commander and Corps Commander on your splendid work in the recent fighting.

You have now been engaged with the enemy since September 2nd with but a short interval spent in travelling, and during all this time you have been called on to undergo very considerable exposure and hard work. It ended with two days of very severe fighting, on the 18th and 19th, when you advanced your line on an average depth of 3,000 yards, took several strong positions and captured several hundred prisoners in the face of very determined opposition, during which a large number of the enemy were killed. It is a record that you may well be proud of. You have once again shown that fine fighting spirit, determination and esprit de Corps which makes you what you are, and every Unit has well maintained the fine traditions that are theirs.

I realize to the full all that you have gone through, and I think you all very deeply for the great gallantry, sense of duty, and determination that you have shown.

The Staffs of all Units have had an exceptionally trying time and the smoothness of all arrangements is proof of their excellent work.

Much hard fighting is in front of us in the near future, and at no period of the war were greater efforts required of us than now, when the enemy is suffering from defeat, morally and physically, and every blow now will render his final and complete defeat nearer and surer.

I am full of confidence that you will more than maintain the reputation of the 1st Division in the fighting that is before you, and that you will again acquire yourselves with distinction as you have done so often before.

I feel great pride in commanding you, and great gratitude for the ground work you have done under continued severe conditions.

E. P. STRICKLAND,  
Major General,  
Commanding 1st Division.

To 1st Division.

0.615. 16th

Following message received from Army  
 Commander begins AAA Please convey to 1st and  
 6th Divisions my congratulations and warm thanks  
 for their success of yesterday AAA Though all  
 objectives were not attacked they carried through  
 a difficult operation with great gallantry and  
 determination AAA I offer to all ranks my warm  
 thanks and congratulations AAA Signed General  
 Rawlinson ends AAA It gives me much pleasure to  
 forward this appreciation to which I hope it is  
 needless to say I add my own very sincere  
 congratulations AAA

General BRATHWAITE.

All Coys.  
 Signalling Officer  
 Scout Officer

The following Officers and other ranks will  
 parade at Bn. Hd.Qrs. at 5 p.m. tonight in fighting  
 Order:-

2nd Lt. W.H. Fowler and 6 Guides for Hd.Qrs.

1 Officer per Coy and 1 Guide per Coy. and 1  
 marker per platoon. Each Platoon marker will be  
 in possession of a white board with the number  
 of his Platoon upon it.

Role of Guides.

(1) 1 Guide for each Company and 1 for Hd.Qrs.  
 will go with 2nd Lt. W.H. Fowler who will show  
 them the assembly position to be occupied this  
 evening. These Guides will meet the Battalion at  
 junction of road and railway at R.27.0.50.40 at  
 7.0 p.m. tonight and guide battalion to assembly  
 position.

(2) 2nd Lt. W.H. Fowler will post 1 Guide  
 at each of the following road junctions to guide  
 the Battalion through. These Guides will rejoin  
 Battalion Headquarters as they pass.



H.17.0.60.15.  
 H.23.b.20.80.  
 H.23.b.30.80.  
 H.23.b.75.85.

(111) 1 Officer per Coy. and 1 guide per platoon with 2nd Lt. W.H. Fowler will meet per Headquarters will meet H.M. Officers at road junction R.23.b.75.70 at 7.0 p.m. tonight and will accompany him whilst tapping out the assembly positions. When tapping is finished each platoon marker will place his platoon board in the ground to mark his platoon assembly position. These markers will then return to junction of the road and trench H.13.b.90.10. where they will meet their platoons and guide them to assembly positions.

(12) 2nd Lt. W.H. Fowler will meet officers of the 23rd P.M. Coy. at trench junction H.14.c.45.30 at 11.0 p.m. tonight.

F. AFTOOD, Lieut.  
 for Captain  
 Adjutant, 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regt.

23rd September 1918.

1st Division Ho.9. A.5.

24.9.18.

-----  
 The 1st Division has today covered itself with glory. It has taken strong positions strongly held, repelled heavy counter attacks and taken over 800 prisoners.

All units engaged have every reason to be more than proud of their gallant achievements.

G.P. STRICKLAND,  
 Major General,  
 Commanding 1st Division.

Issued on Unit scale.



1st Division Ho. O.A.S/1.

26.9.18.

The Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has today personally directed me to convey to all ranks of the 1st Division his congratulations on their splendid successes in the recent fighting, with which he is much pleased.

M. P. STRICKLAND,  
Major General  
Commanding 1st Division.

(Issued on unit scale).

SECRET.

R. S. S.

All Companies.

1. The Battalion will advance tonight to the road running through St. Helens R.S.b.O.V. to the river. Zero will be at 12 midnight.

2. 7th Coy. will attack on the right.

Dividing line between Companies 1st joining H.3. Central to H.3.c.O.V. 2nd Coy will form a defensive flank from H.5.a.5.4. to the river line at the objectives. 4th Coy will be in reserve.

2. Jumping off line H.5.a.O.V. - H.2.d.89.06 - M.d.a.E.4.

3. Coys will be formed up on their line  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour before Zero. The 2 front Coys. will advance in 3 lines of platoons at 100 yards interval. 2 platoons in front line.

4. Barrage will come down 200 yards in front of the forming up line at Zero and will lift 100 yards at Zero plus 3 and 100 yards at Zero plus 6, after that 100 yards every 4 minutes, ending with a protective barrage under which captured positions will be organised in depth. POWTRUCK will be heavily shelled throughout.

5. The 1st Fortshamptonshire Regiment will move up and occupy the present Battalion sector. The Battalion on the right will not co-operate but the Battalion on the left will be asked to push forward.
6. Battalion Rd. Grs. will remain in its present position and all prisoners will be sent down. Battle Hd. Grs will be at H.2.d.6.3.
7. Tools will be left under a guard and taken up when the objective is captured.
8. Acknowledge.

T. B. CHAD, Captain,  
Adj. 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

18th October 1918.

APPENDIX "A"

1. DETAILS. Dress. Fighting Order. The day's ration and an Iron Nation will be carried. The following stores will be carried:-

4 Mills Bombs per man of Rifle Sections.  
In addition each Rifle Section will carry 2 Bomb Bags each containing 8 Bombs. Each Rifle Section will carry 3 Hales-drummers per man. 1 Extra Bandolier of S.A.A. per man. 1 Red Flare per man. 9 S.O.B. Signals per Coy. 3 Specialmessengers per Coy. (These will only be put up by Signals per Coy. The order of an officer not below the rank of Coy. Commander). 2 Packets 1' White Very Lights per Section. 30 Coy will carry 100 Shovels and 25 Pickets. These will be dumped in Trench line H.15.d.60.80. to H.15.d.70.40.

2. MEDICAL. R.A.P. will be at Battalion Headquarters until ZERO. After ZERO at H.20.b.90.80.
3. THE DISCU. 24n Discs will be worn on the back with landing waves.
4. SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES. Watches will be synchronized at Battalion Headquarters at 6.0 P.M. tonight and correct time will again be sent round at a later hour.

SECRET.

10

2nd Bn. Royal Tank Regiment  
Operation Order 0.0.177

Copy No.....

Ref. Maps:-  
GRIGNOUR WEST 1/10,000.  
SAIGONY 1/50,000.  
.....

23rd September 1918.

1. INTENTION.

At zero on 23<sup>rd</sup> day the Battalion will attack the enemy's positions as shown on the map of which copies were made by Company Commanders this morning.

1st Bn. Northamptonshire Regiment, will attack on the left.

3rd Brigade will deliver a simultaneous attack on MESSUY-MESSUY WOOD and the ground south of it.

The 2nd Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps will mop up on the right flank of the Battalion and will secure the right flank of the Battalion along BELLING FRENCH as the Bn. moves forward.

A creeping barrage will cover the attack throughout. The flank will be protected by Artillery fire, barrage lifts 100 yards in 4 minutes.

2. TANKS.

Two tanks will operate in the Battalion Sector. Sale Tank No. 9099 - Name SANDWICH, Officer I/O. Lieut. VALLEY, will operate in the front of the right front Company. Female Tank No. 9348 - Name KENNEDY, Officer I/O. 2nd Lt. YOUNG, will operate in front of the left front Coy.

3. MACHINE GUNS.

1 Section of 7<sup>th</sup> Coy. 1st Bn. R.O.C. is attached to the Battalion and will advance in rear of the 500<sup>th</sup> Coy. Their role being a battery of opportunity.

TRENCH MORTARS.

Two Trench Mortars are attached to the Battalion. Their role is:-

(a) From previously selected positions to barrage the trenches between the forming up line and the zero barrage line.

(b) To follow the Battalion as far as BARRON TRENCH then get in touch with the leading Coy Commanders and give them any assistance required.

4. ARRANGING.

The jumping off line will be topped by the R.F. The Battalion will form up with the head line of the two leading Coys disposed along the line. The remainder of the Battalion in depth behind. Dividing line between Coys. Line

K.15.c.00.40.  
K.16.c.00.30.  
K.17.c.00.00.

5. DISPOSITION.

"A" Coy. Right Front.  
"C" Coy. Left Front.  
"D" Coy. Support.  
"E" Coy. Reserve.

6. PLANS.

Left Front Coy. To make good the Green line and part of BARRON TRENCH in Coy sector and finally to throw out a line of posts on the Blue objective with an advanced post pushed forward to hold the wood and SHIRAZ Road - E.17.c. Central.

Right Coy. To make good the Green line and also BARRON and DAVID TRENCH, finally to throw out a line of posts on the Blue objective connecting the Left Front Coy. with the Left of the 3rd Brigade.

Support Coy. To attach one platoon to Right Front Coy. for the purpose of sweeping up BARRON TRENCH as far as trench junction E.21.b.70.80. and forming block at all places where trenches or broken roads lead into it from the South. This platoon will be relieved by the 2nd King's Royal Rifle Corps as they move up in rear of the Battalion and will then rejoin its Coy. Meanwhile the platoons will advance in support of the Left Front Coy. & 1 in support of Right Front Coy.

REAR COY. To advance with the Battalion keeping their distance as far as trench line E.18.d.60.80 - E.18.d.70.40. and not to move

that line without an order from Battalion Headquarters, with the exception that should the Coy's having on the left have been held up and our line an exposed gap in the left flank. In such circumstances Coy. Commander may use his discretion as to making dispositions to protect the flank. He must report immediately to Battalion Headquarters of action taken.

#### 7. ARTILLERY BARRAGE.

(1) The crossing barrage will in the initial instance come down 200 yards east of the existing dividing M.14; M.15 and will creep forward throughout by lifts of 100 yards.

(11) From ZERO to ZERO plus 5 the barrage will remain in its initial lines from ZERO plus 5 onwards. It will lift at 4 minute intervals per 100 yards until it finally becomes protective in front of the final objective, except that a 10 minute "dwell" will be given in front of SAYBON'S & DAVID'S TRENCHES. The final protective barrage will be maintained continuously for 15 minutes and will then become intermittent for 40 minutes to cover consolidation by the Infantry.

(111) Barrage maps will be issued later.

(IV) The barrage covering the 2nd Infantry Brigade will be known as 'B' barrage.

(V) 'C' Barrage. The left Battalion of the Right Brigade will be advancing under a barrage covering FRUSBOT and FRUSBOT WOOD at lifts of 5 minutes per hundred yards. The direction and lifts of this barrage are shown on the barrage map. This particular barrage will be known as 'C' Barrage.

#### 8. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS.

Battalion Headquarters at ZERO will be established at E.14.C.80.30. Battle Headquarters first bound to E.15.D.0.00.

#### 9. LINKON.

Left Front Coy will move its left Section with the right section of right Coy. of the 1st Northampton, an officer of the left front Coy. will be detailed to advance with this Section on a compass bearing. Right front Coy. on reaching the compass SAVID TREMOR will pop down towards the SAVIDON & DAVID BRIGADE at about the junction left flank of ALBADE TREMORING. As, however, we shall be in possession of some of SAVIDON TREMOR some little time before the 3rd Brigade reach trench junction referred to above our 16 pdr guns will be kept firing continuously on to SAYBON'S TREMOR at E.22.E.20.00, until such time as the left flank of the 3rd Brigade barrage reaches this point.



Days must therefore be taken not to mop down beyond such a position as will leave a safe entrance with the 2nd Brigade barrage bus.

#### 10. ENLIGHTENING OF WAR.

Prisoners of war will be sent back to Bn. Hd. Qrs. at B. 14. 0. 10. 50. Brigade code is at QUARTY R. 27. d. 20. 40.

#### 11. CO-OPERATION BY AIRBORNE

The Army King of R. A. P. is arranged

(a) to attack with bombs immediately East of the creeping barrage the following targets:-  
 INDOUR ROAD with bunker road just east of it and trench just East of it down to junction of latter with BELTING ALLEY, SANDRICE DUNVILLAND and DAVID'S TRENCHES.

(b) To neutralise with smoke 3 SAVAGES (R. 23. D. ) and GLOUGROS TRENCH in the neighbourhood of GALUPHYS ALLEY (R. 24. A. 3 0. )

(c) To neutralise with smoke Southern portion of BLAIRBY TRENCH in R. 25. 0. and high ground just East of it.

(d) To attack with machine guns the bunker road on the final objective on the 2nd Infantry Brigade.

12. DETAILS. For Details see Appendix 'A'.

R. R. CHAD,  
 Capt. & Adjt.,  
 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

Issued at 4.15 P.M.  
 Copy to: 1 Commanding Officer.  
 2 O.C. A. Coy.  
 3 O.C. B. Coy.  
 4 O.C. C. Coy.  
 5 O.C. D. Coy.  
 6 Medical Officer  
 7 Sig. Officer  
 8 A. S. Transport Officer.  
 10 Q.R. Coy.  
 11 Intell. Officer.  
 12 Battalion on Sight  
 13 O.C. 1st Troop  
 14 C.O. and R.N. Coy.  
 15 O.C. B. Coy. 1st Bn. B. G. Coy.  
 16 O.C. 2nd Troop  
 17 A. S. Tanks Officers  
 18 A. S. 20 Air Planes  
 21 Office.



From 6 P.M., 23.2.19, to 6 P.M., 24.2.19.

No. 14.

PART I.

1. OPERATIONS  
ALONG ROAD.

Preceded by a heavy bombardment and supported  
by tanks and machine gun fire and bombs from  
aeroplanes, an attack was launched at dawn today  
along the ~~road~~ <sup>front</sup> of the centre and right of the  
Corps front. This attack has been ~~not successful.~~  
On the right our troops met with very heavy resist-  
-~~ance.~~ They captured the western face of the quad-  
-~~riateral~~ <sup>lateral</sup> of trenches in B.3.A.4 and established post  
at B.3.d.6.5. and B.4.a.12.55. In the right centre  
and centre the final objectives were reached in  
spite of the fact that the defences were heavily  
manned. Our line here runs along North Alley,  
~~ASHGROVE TRENCH, V, OUTPOSTS OF GHIDOUR, just~~  
west of staken road in B.17.a.8. and B.16.b. The  
greater portion of POWERS has been captured though  
the enemy still holds out in the southern corner  
of the village. On the left of the attack my line  
was pushed forward a short distance as planned  
and now runs along the road from B.10.e.2.3. to  
B.3.d.5.9. thence through B.4.m.1.4. to B.3.b.5.9.

The enemy has resisted vigorously throughout.  
Two counter-attacks were delivered during the  
morning on our advanced positions in B.17.c. The  
first was shattered by combined artillery, B.6.  
and rifle fire, the enemy retiring in disorder. The  
second penetrated our barrage but was met with  
the heaviest by two weak companies of our men and  
repulsed in the capture of 50 prisoners. The enemy  
were seen massing in GHIDOUR at about 1 P.M. and  
were dealt with by our artillery.

Corps on our flank.

The Corps on our right attacked successfully  
this morning in conjunction with us and gained the  
line: ~~SPINE d.11.10. (not.)~~ - B.57.b.5.7. -  
-~~BRADLEY (Ind.)~~ <sup>along road</sup> B.5.0.d.0.5. - B.3.b.7.3.  
Over 400 prisoners were taken. The situation on the  
EASTERN HILL is still obscure.

Enemy's Theatre.

The prisoners taken by allied forces now  
number 25,000. This represents the greater part  
of the Turkish force in this Theatre.

number of guns and great quantities of transport and stores have been taken but no figures are yet available.

LAFRAN. The 7th and 8th Turkish armies have been cut off and cease to exist. British cavalry occupy the only remaining fork across the Jordan Transport sig. to our hands. All Turkish occupied HALPA and AMR yesterday with only slight opposition. Enemy is withdrawing from JORDAN VALLEY in AMR (40 miles N of JERUSALEM). Our troops have reached KHALF capturing prisoners and 60 rifles. of AKABA GULF, and is harassing enemy's retreat along line of NY, northwards. Total number of prisoners will greatly exceed 25,000 and up to 8 p.m. 2nd Sept. 240 guns had been captured.

Madisonian Thacker. (French Official)

The successes obtained by the Allied armies in KACHEBIA are assuming the character of a great victory. The rapid progress of the Franco-Serb armies in the centre towards the Middle VANDAR has involved along the whole front of 150 km. between KOSMATTI and LAZ DIBAN, the precipitate retreat of the enemy armies which the allied contingents are vigorously pursuing. North-east of KOSMATTI the line BOGILA - SAKHARATSI - HALYANI has been reached, while further North German troops are marching on BRISK (GOLF in SAKHARATSI), linking the VANDAR from CHAKKO to DESHIL-KAY and have even thrown elements across to the left bank of the river. In the VANDAR valley the allied troops have passed the line KOTIKO - GURIBET on the right bank. On the left bank they have captured GURIBET and the entire first positions of the enemy as far as LAZ DIBAN. The allgarian rearguards are forcing themselves to broken the pursuit. On the roads in the region of KOSMATTI-KOTIKO - KOTIKO the Bulgarian columns are retreating in an indescribable disorder, machine-gunned and bombed successfully by the numerous detachments and villages allied aviators. Prisoners, guns and an enormous quantity of material have fallen into the hands of the allies and the hauling of it all has not yet been possible. They have, in particular, on the VANDAR valley captured 100000 rifles, three complete trains, and two long range guns. At many points the demoralised Bulgarians have disbanded throwing away their arms. According to the latest news progress continues along the whole front of the attack.

CANTONIERE.  
Prisoners.

The following prisoners passed through Corps Camp and C.O.S. up to 6 p.m.

Unwounded	13 Officers,	847 O.Ns.
Wounded	"	105 "
Total	18	752 "

The number of prisoners reported by divisions is:-

20 Officers, 1063 O.Ns.

#### Material.

Reported up to 6 p.m.:-

1 Field Gun  
5 Transport Wagners  
31 B.O's.

0 further field guns have been found on the ground captured on September 18th.

#### 3. ARTILLERY. Hostile.

Hostile artillery displayed normal activity during the evening, last night harassing fire increased especially during the hour preceding the attack. Hostile fire today has not been great and the enemy's reply to our barrage this morning was slight.

Last evening the northern portion of ST QUERRIN Wood and the valley S.W. of FRENCHOT were harassed by 190 B.

At 11 P.M. there was increased shelling of tracks and field battery areas between HALSBOET and ARTILLY. Shelling was intermittent and at times heavy until 5 a.m.

Between 3.45 a.m. and 5 a.m. the enemy kept under heavy field artillery fire the valley N. of VANDEBOCKH and fired a burst of gas shells into the valley N. of GARDENOT Wood. At the same time the spur S. of FORTINO was heavily shelled.

Our counter-battery work at zero hour reduced the enemy's fire to weak retaliation on our forward areas.

Very little shelling was experienced until 10.55 a.m. when the enemy carried out a 15 minute concentration against FORTINER. Battery areas in the vicinity of 2D. PERL were lightly shelled during the afternoon.

H.V. guns fired intermittently on S. 56 and S. 35 throughout the forenoon.

#### Ordnance.

Harassing fire was kept up against the enemy's organisations and centres of activity until 5 a.m. when our artillery put down a creeping barrage and commenced vigorous counter-battery work in support of the Corps' attack.

At 11.50 a.m. a counter-attack was repulsed by the Infantry in S. 16. The enemy caught by our barrage whilst retreating.



A few M.P. ZONE CALLS were sent down,  
R.A. very active.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF THE BRITISH FORCES.

Prisoners of the following units have been passed through Corps Cages:-

2nd Div. 44 I.R., 2nd Bn.

79th Res. Div.

261 R.I.R. All Bns. (least of 3rd)  
262 R.I.R. 1st & 2nd Bns and 3rd R.O. Coy  
263 R.I.R. All Bns (only 4 of 1st)  
63 P.A.R.

197 Div.

7th Jaeger Regt. 13th & 20th Res. Jaeger  
Bns.  
373 R.I.R. All Bns. (most of 3rd only 4 of  
1st Bn.)  
28 Brecht Regt. All Bns. (only 1 of 1st)

2nd Div. 44 R.I.R., 2nd Bn.

The following units have also been identified:-  
270 R.I.R. (2nd Res. Div) 35rd Bns. Regt. 2nd Div.  
261 P.A.R. 197 Div. B. I.R. 11th Div - 12th & 20th  
Foot Art. Regts. - 301 Tel. Det. 1st Army Corps.  
In addition a prisoner belonging to the 2nd  
Gren. Regt. was captured on the left flank of our  
attack.

He stated the 4th Gren. Regt. was in the line  
with him and has presumably been drafted to the 4th  
Gren. Regt. 2nd Division  
Thus 11 Infantry Regts, excluding the 4th Gren.  
Regt., have been identified today.

The order of the battle has been difficult to  
fix but from prisoners' statements it appears fairly  
certain that the enemy's dispositions this morning  
were as shown on the attached map.

The 273 R.I.R. and 28th Bncht Regts. relieved  
the 168 I.R. and 113 R.I.R. respectively.  
The 7th Jaeger Regt. reinforced the right of  
the 79th Res. Div. and was on the point of being  
withdrawn and put into line further south with the  
273 Res. and 28th Bncht Regts. The 2nd Division  
relieved the 119th Division.

The 11th Division which was in reserve was  
alarmed at 2.0'clock this morning (24th) and the 51  
I.R. took part in the counter-attack R.16 at 11.30a.m.

5. BRITISH INTENTIONS.

From prisoners' statements it appears that the  
orders along the whole of the Corps front were to  
hold on to the last man and to counter attack any high  
ground lost.

This is corroborated by the dispositions in  
vogue. The general dispositions are 1 Bn in the line



1 Bn in close support, and 1 Bn. in reserve. The Support Bns. according to the statements of several prisoners, had orders to counter-attack at once.

Prisoners state that our attack was expected on the 24th or 25th the reasons being given:-

- (1) Overheard telephone conversations indicating it.
- (2) On Sept. 24th both aeroplanes and ground observers reported that tanks had been seen moving up.

B. C. DIXON,  
Major  
For B.O.O.S., IX Corps.

IX Corps Intelligence.

24th September 1918.

\*\*\*\*\*



1st DIVISION INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 6 a.M. 24.8.18. to 6 a.M. 26.9.18.

1. IDENTIFICATIONS.

The following prisoners were captured during the successful operations reported in Para. II.

<u>79th Reg. Regiment.</u>			
201 R.I.R.	Offrs.	0, 1 R.	
262 R.I.R.	10	410	
263 R.I.R.		14	
12th H. G. Detachment	2	132	
16th Hussars.		9	
63rd Res. Sq. Arty Regt.	1		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13	560	
<u>187th Division.</u>			
275 R.I.R.			
7th Jaeger I. R.	4	211	
26th Grenade. I. R.	3	72	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	30	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	18	313.	

11th Division.  
10th Grenadier R.  
Dist I. R.

Artillery Units.  
12th Res. Post Arty. Regt.  
20th  
33rd Field Arty. Regt.

Odd Units.  
10th Bavarian Heavy Coy.  
601st " Signal Detachment  
64th " Arty. Detachment  
148th "

Total  
Through V.D. Co. (rounded)  
Grand Total

21 Officers 843 O.B.  

---

3 " 132 " "  

---

24 " 1075 " "  
-----  
24

Order of Battle H. to B.  
7th Jäger Regt. (197th Div.)

262nd R. I. R.  
 263rd R. I. R.  
 261st R. I. R., reinforced by  
 81st R. R., 11th Div.,  
 10th Gren. Regt., 11th Div.,  
 273rd R. I. R., }  
 28th Struck Regt., } 197th  
 } 10th Gren. Regt., 11th Div., }  
 } 79th  
 } Res. Divn.

Prisoners of the 1st and 10th Grenadier Regts.

took part in the unsuccessful counter attacks.

#### II. OPERATIONS.

The 1st Div. attacked at 5 a.m. in bright moon-  
 light the enemy's strong trench system along the German  
 line ARONIE, HUGZAND ALLEY to N. 25. b. 1. 6. to  
 SARTOUILERS WOOD, then along SAUSSON'S TRENCH and  
 high ground in N. 16. b. All objectives were gained  
 before noon except the high ground, which although  
 held for some time, our troops were forced to give  
 up owing to very severe H. G. fire from POLKRUSS,  
 and artillery fire.

At 5.30 p.m. a second attack resulted in the  
 capture of GRICOURT and the trenches east of it,  
 and at 8 p.m. an attack on the high ground in N. 16  
 enabled our troops to establish a line of posts  
 along the banked road, with flanks thrown back to  
 SAUSSON TRENCH in N. 16. a. and 21. b.

As a result of these operations 21 Officers and  
 943 O. A. S. unrounded prisoners passed through 1st Div.  
 Canteen, and a further 3 Officers and 132 O. A. S. wounded  
 prisoners went through the S. D. S., making a total of  
 24 Officers and 1075 O. A. S. The material captured  
 included 1 77 mm. Gun, 3 H. T. As, 5 L. T. As, 1 Anti-  
 Tank Rifle and a large number of H. Gs. not yet  
 counted.

The Division on our left reported late last  
 night that they had evacuated POLKRUSS and were  
 holding their original line in rear. Touch was  
 gained with them at IS DUC TRENCH.

The Division on our right report capture of  
 BRUNOY and CHATEAU WOOD in N. 9. b. and their line  
 runs along DOUAI TRENCH and ANGOULE TRENCH, where  
 they have touch with our troops at junction of  
 ANGOULE and FRENCH TRENCHES.  
 Our line now runs as follows - Along FRENCH  
 TRENCH in N. 25. a., BOUQUET ALLEY, BLATON, SEAUVALENTS  
 and ALACE TRENCHES, thence SAUSSON TRENCH, with a  
 line of outposts at N. 16. d. 7. 8., N. 16. b. 9. 2. and 7. 6.  
 with flank thrown back to junction of IS DUC and  
 SAUSSON TRENCHS along IS DUC TRENCH to N. 9. d. 1. 6.

G. HOWARD JONES,  
 Capt., for Lt. Colonel,  
 General Staff, 1st Division.

8TH BATTALION ROYAL SUESS PORTERS.

1919.

October.

Appendix.

1st -  
3rd

VERBAND.

The Battalion remained in the VERBAND Area and continued training.

VERBAND to PORTSMOUTH.

The Battalion marched to stations Col. HENRY PORTSMOUTH. On arrival orders were received to stand fast and later to return to billets in VERBAND. The Battalion returned to VERBAND where they had dinners and then marched to shelters, etc. in CAULVAINGOURE.

CAULVAINGOURE.

The Battalion rested.

5th

6th

Church Service. The Major General commanding attended and after the service addressed the Battalion.

The Battalion trained in the vicinity of Camp.

7th &  
8th

CAULVAINGOURE to BELLENOUVE.

The Battalion marched to a dugout and trench area just east of BELLENOUVE, and remained there, carrying out training until the 15th inst.

8th

to  
15th

BELLENOUVE.

Personnel and officers went on leave by Lezzy and the Battalion marched to a field just N.E. of BOHEMIE and remained for the day.

16th

17th

At 01.00 hours the Battalion left the BOHEMIE area and marched up to an assembly area just outside RICHOUVERTY, in readiness for an attack which was to take place later in the morning.

OPREVAUX from morning 17th

COGNOR, AIN. The Battalion at 01.00 hours the Battalion moved from an assembly area north of BOHEMIE to RICHOUVERTY

1928.

October.

17th

(Contd.)

Appendix.

where it forced up in artillery formation immediately south of the railway. The battalion being in brigade reserve with the Northamptonshire Regiment Light Front and the 2nd Bath Kings Royal Rifle Corps left front.

The plan of operations being for the brigade to jump-frog through the 1stn Brigade where they had made the first bound easwards from Vaux Andrioz and captured an objective marked as the Red dotted line 1.e. a line running approximately N by E and E by W through the Green Roads 400 yards N.W. of the N.E. edge of LA VALLEE HILLARS. The barrage was to halt for half an hour in front of this line to give the 2nd Brigade time to pass through and continue the advance to the Red line which ran just East of the RIBAUDVILLE - BELAIS VES - LA VALLEE HILLARS Road and after a three hour halt there to exploit forward to the high ground overlooking the CASLE DE SAVERE.

At zero 08.20 hours, 17.10.1918 the advance started & the Battalion, following closely on the heels of the Northamptonshire Regiment moved in column of route with platoon intervals along the southern edge of the BOIS de BUNTOFF, struck the railway W of VAUX ANDRIEZ. The fog was extremely thick and the Boole was patched down & gas barrage on VAUX ANDRIEZ so the sniping of gas masks in addition to finding the way in the fog made progress slow. After passing the eastern outcrop of VAUX ANDRIEZ the Battalion deployed into artillery formation of 2 lines of companies each in 2 lines of platoons and advanced with the fight on the railway. When the head of the Battalion was approaching POINT the fog began to lift and unengaged enemy machine guns opened fire from HILLAIN and the high ground North of the railway.

The 2 Front companies were then ordered to open out into section formation and the whole Battalion disposed in Greater depth. The machine gun in POINT was dealt with by 1st Coy and the advance continued over the high ground towards LA VALLEE HILLARS until the 2 Front companies were in close

1918.

October.

Appendix.

17th  
(Contd.)

bench with the Kings Royal Field  
 Corps and the Northamptonshire  
 Regiment. A report was then  
 received that the K.R.F.C. were  
 held up by machine gun nest about  
 the North-west corner houses of  
 LA VALLEE MILAIRE, 2 Victoria  
 machine guns were sent up to  
 engage them and 'D' Coy sent 1  
 platoon to capture them which was  
 done by an enveloping movement.  
 There was now a gap between the  
 K.R.F.C. and the Northamptonshire  
 Regiment which 'D' Coy moved  
 forward to fill. By about 14.00  
 hours it was discovered that neither  
 of the front battalions were able  
 to make further progress owing to  
 the strength of the enemy's  
 positions about BELLE VUE - BERT  
 LIND and wood S.W. of LA VALLEE  
 MILAIRE. Shortly after 16.00  
 hours the Brigade Major arrived  
 with orders to continue the  
 advance at 17.15 hours behind a  
 barrage. The Royal Fusiliers  
 passed through the K.R.F.C. and the  
 Northampton to continue the  
 advance on the right. There was  
 that unfortunate time to assemble  
 Coy, Commanders and to give verbal  
 orders for the attack which were  
 'B' and 'C' Coy, so attack -  
 'B' on left - 'C' on right with  
 BELLE VUE as the dividing line  
 and 'D' Coy was ordered to form  
 a connecting link with the  
 Northampton or defensive flank  
 if the Northampton were not up  
 in time. 'A' Coy, was in reserve  
 and ordered to move to BELMONT,  
 Comd West 10 machine gun fire was  
 not from BELMONT which was  
 overcome by 'C' Coy and 1 platoon  
 of 'B' Coy. (10 machine guns and  
 1 1/2 old gun being captured there).  
 'B' Coy had advanced beyond the  
 enemy and encountered heavy  
 machine gun fire from a hedge  
 between BELMONT and BELLE VUE.  
 Some of these were pounded up  
 and in the meantime 'C' Coy  
 continued to advance but lost  
 direction and crossed in front  
 of 'B' Coy to the ordered 800  
 yards N.W. of BELLE VUE. Report  
 was then received that the  
 Northampton had been unable to  
 make progress and had withdrawn  
 through the outposts of



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October.

Appendix.

17th  
(Contd.)

IA VALIER MILITARY unit meant that the Battalion was about 1,000 yards forward of any troops on either flank, and the front coys being fired at by machine guns in rear of their flanks, so the front coys were ordered to establish a line along the railway with 'D' Coy thrown back along the right from DENI LEU to connect with the Northampton at IA VALIER MILITARY and 'A' Coy to move to a position as Reserve Coy.

The number of prisoners captured was 215. Material captured :-

1 field gun and several M.G.s.

The casualties were :- Lieutenant

J.A.DODDS (wounded) and 67 Other

Ranks (killed, wounded and missing).

The following officers took part in

this engagement :- Lieutenant: D.G.

Johnson, D.S.O., M.C., Capt &

Adj't R.B. Chad, M.C., Lieut: P.

Atwood, 2/Lieut:P.Hills, Lieut:

O.L.McLellan, M.C. Capt W.B.Churchill-

Longman, 2nd Lt: C.R.Peddie, Lieut:

P.E.O'Connellman, 2nd Lt: J.P.Isaac,

2nd Lt: H.H.Homerwood, 2nd Lt: E.R.

Bush, D.C.M. 2nd Lt: S.A.H.Kirby,

2nd Lt: C.M.Bodley, 2nd Lt: C.B.

Copeman, 2nd Lt: E.S.Loder,

2nd Lt: H.L.H.Korley, 2nd Lt:

C.W. Parley, 2nd Lt: G.M.Smill,

Capt E.Dolleymore.

The French strength of the Battalion

was 15 officers and 374 other ranks

and was organised in two coys of 3

platoons each.

On the morning of the 18th the

3rd Brigade passed through our line

and took the high ground about

RIBEAUVILLE and the 1st Brigade

took WASSIGNY. Before this advance

many of the enemy machine guns had

been located and were engaged by

the Lewis Gun sections of the

Battalion whilst the South Wales

Borderers advanced to go through

our lines. The finding of several

of these enemy machine guns

knocked out and men of the teams

lying killed near the guns

testifies to the good shooting

made by some of the Lewis Gun

sections.

After the 3rd Brigade had

passed through the 2nd Brigade

remained in position as Support

and on the afternoon of the 18th

the Battalion was ordered to

relieve the 120th American



1916.

October.

17th

(Contd.)

Appendix.

regiment in the HAZINGHEIN sector. They had 3 Battalions in the line, each of which was relieved by one of our Companies and the Battalion frontage with 1st Coy right front, 1st Coy left front, 1st Coy Support, 1st Coy Reserve. On the night of the 20th/21st the Battalion was relieved by the 2nd F.R.R.C. and withdrawn to 2nd Brigade reserve around MAZINGHEIN to prepare for an attack to capture LA HAIE TORNOILE FARM and the high ground east of its overlooking GAPTILLOH. On the night 2nd/23rd the Battalion moved to forming up positions in an area North of the North eastern edge of HAZINGHEIN and was disposed in 2 lines of coys each on a five hundred yard frontage and a total depth of 450 yards for the Battalion. The Northampton were on the right and the Durham Light Infantry (5th Division) on the left with the 2nd F.R.R.C. Support. 1st Coy were right front company, 1st Coy left front, 1st Coy left support with 1st Coy in Reserve, moving 300 yards behind the right front coy. One platoon of 1st Coy was ordered to advance with 1st Coy for the special purpose of mopping up LA HAIE TORNOILE and the surrounding enclosed country. One section 1st Coy 1st Machine Gun Company was attached to the Battalion and ordered to advance in rear of the 2 leading coys. Two Stokes Mortars were attached to 1st Coy. One section Yanks was supposed to co-operate with the Battalion but in spite of a very definite assurance given by their Commander that the Yanks would be up with the leading wave before they reached the line of LA HAIE TORNOILE, nothing was seen of any Yanks until some hours after the objective had been reached and the position consolidated. Zero was at 01.50 hours, 23rd October, and the Battalion was



1918.October.

Appendix.

17th  
(Contd.)

and 2nd Lt. H. R. Rowwood (wounded) and 53 Other Ranks (killed), founded the following officers took part in Johnson, P. S. O. H. C., Capt & Adj. W. B. O'Neil H. O., 1st P. Ashwood, Capt. Conoham, Lieut. G. L. Nicholl, H. O., 2nd Lieut. G. R. Smith, J. P. Isaacs, S. H. Rowwood, S. R. Bush, D. C. M., Kerley, G. A. Parley, H. L. H. P. Hills, and Lieut. H. O. F. Caldwell. The French strength for this attack was 17 officers and 388 other ranks. On the night of the 33rd October the Battalion was relieved by the 1st Black Watch and moved to Support Brigade billets at LA VALLEE MUYERS.

LA VALLEE MUYERS to FRONT LINE.23rd  
to  
27th

The Battalion remained in the LA VALLEE MUYERS area until 27th October.

On the 27th a draft of 85 other ranks joined the Battalion and on the evening of that day the Battalion relieved the 1st Black Watch and held the front line on a front of 1200 yards.

Artillery was very active on both sides but casualties were few.

FRONT LINE.

28th

In the afternoon the enemy attempted to push one of 'G' Coy's posts but was driven off by Lewis Gun fire.

29th

At 03.00 hours the 1st Northampton on our right carried out a minor enterprise which resulted in the occupation of the line of the CANAL and the capture of several prisoners. To assist this operation 'D' Coy took over a portion of the Northampton's front and remained under the orders of the O. C. 1st Northampton.

In the evening the enemy made a strong attack on one of 'G' Coy's posts (through S. O. P.'s.) causing

1919.

October.Appendix.39th  
(contd.)

3 casualties. The remainder of the section withdrew but the attack was held up by Lewis Gun fire. The situation was restored a short time later but meantime the Northchambers on our right had been attacked and had withdrawn a little. Two companies of the Loyal North Imperial Regt were sent up one in support to each Battalion but the enemy remained inactive all night.

30th

At dawn the S.O.S. was sent up by the Northchambers on our right and the enemy apparently advanced silently and permeated between two of their companies and they receded to the line originally held. The Battalion sector remained normal but the Coy of the Loyal North Imperial Regt that had supported us during the night was moved across behind the Northchambers. At 12.00 hours the 1st Northchambers Regt with one platoon of 'D' Coy attacked and drove the enemy back making good the line of the Canal. The platoon of this Battalion co-operating with the Northchambers gave a good account of itself killing 18 Germans and capturing one prisoner and a machine gun.

FRONT LINE TO HOLLATE.

On the night of the 30th/31st the Battalion was relieved by the 1st South Wales Borders and on relief moved to HOLLATE. Casualties during the tour were 9 O.R.'s (wounded).

31st

The Battalion remained in HOLLATE cleaning up, etc.  
Honours and Awards.  
1st Col. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
Awarded Bar to the Distinguished  
Service Crozier.  
Bar to Hillary Medal.  
1st CO. 1st Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 2nd Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 3rd Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 4th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 5th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 6th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 7th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 8th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 9th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 10th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 11th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 12th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 13th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 14th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 15th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 16th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 17th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 18th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 19th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 20th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 21st Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 22nd Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 23rd Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 24th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 25th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 26th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 27th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 28th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 29th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 30th Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.  
1st CO. 31st Lt. W. J. D. Johnson, D.F.C., M.C.

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Appendix.

## The Military Medal.

No. 4383 Pte Cox A. 5866 Sgt  
 Watkins T. 21174 Pte Bargeino C.  
 7619 Cpl. Jennings A. 11824 Pte  
 Oury A. 7867 Pte (L.C.) Siamonds A.  
 8004 Pte Stevens, A. 7835 Sgt Walker A.  
 8003 Pte (L.C.) Heddler P. 408 Pte  
 Blackman W. 18915 Pte Chapman B.  
 1669 Pte Thompson J. 6362 Pte  
 Farrer G. 9802 Pte Quibrill A.  
 11019 Pte Lorton D. 14482 Pte (L.C.)  
 Spencer D. 202190 L.C. Homalor E.  
 8218 Sgt Clements P. 14322 Pte  
 Keare G. 17339 Pte (L.C.) Fricker J.  
 11120 Pte Brey G. 1464 Pte Vigor J.  
 14627 Pte Nichols P. 965 Cpl  
 Melford S. (attached 2nd W.M.  
 Battery). 14671 Cpl (V/888) Coe P.  
 6346 Pte (A/Cpl) Reil J. 12022 Pte  
 (L.C.) Smith J. 14318 Pte (L.C.)  
 Finckney J. 1118 Sgt Knowles F.  
 1701 Pte Impper A. 9750 Pte Atcock G.  
 9665 Cpl Lewis L. 11834 Pte Falch W.  
 202183 Pte Wilson A. 14678 Pte Jay C.  
 18325 Pte Amphridge G. 476 Cpl.  
 Underman G. 3288 Pte Feymour A.  
 11000 Pte Gordon F. 6601 Sgt Watson J.  
 14619 Pte Mann P. 20078 Pte Dolman G.  
 18978 Pte Wilson B. 10081 Cpl Reed H.  
 18972 Pte Cor E.

The following officers joined the  
 Battalion during the month :-  
 2nd Lt. O. H. Small. And 1st Lt. S. S. Under  
 2nd Lt. C. A. Fepley. And 1st Lt. C. B.  
 Copeman. And 1st Lt. H. H. Kerley.  
 Lieut. J. A. Dodds. Lieut. W. C. F.  
 Caldwell Major A. P. Ballery. And 1st  
 C. H. Cousins. Lieut. W. G. V. Lambory. Stone.  
 Lieut. F. Millie. And 1st Lt. H. Rowell.  
 2nd Lt. F. S. Walters. And 1st Lt. J. Saxe.  
 2nd Lt. B. Glements.

The following drafts joined the  
 Battalion during the month :-  
 Draft of 37 O.R.'s joined 4.10.1918.  
 Draft of 36 O.R.'s joined 8.10.1918.  
 Draft of 3 O.R.'s joined 13.10.1918.  
 Draft of 28 O.R.'s joined 24.10.1918.  
 Draft of 83 O.R.'s joined 27.10.1918.  
 Draft of 31 O.R.'s joined 29.10.1918.

W. H. F. APPENDIX

Major

Lieut. Colonel

Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex  
 Regiment.

1st November, 1918.



The following telegrams received and sent in connection with the operations of the 17th and 18th:—

From Genl BRATKHAITE, Commanding IX Corps.

"Well done 1st Div'n your work yesterday and today is in accordance with your best traditions and it enhances even your reputation as I congratulate you personally very heartily."

To Genl BRATKHAITE, Commanding IX Corps.

"In the name of the 1st Div'n and personally I wish to thank you for the most kind message you have sent us and which is much appreciated by all."

E.P. FERRICLAND,  
Major-General,  
Commanding 1st Division.

18/10/18.

WEST  
RECORD OF THE  
RSR MIS 215

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1918.

November.

Appendix.

MOULAI TO TROUY LYR.

1st to 5th  
See attached narrative.  
The Battalion marched out to IA VALIER BULLAYE remaining there for the night.

IA VALIER BULLAYE to FRESNOY-LE-GRAND.

6th  
The Battalion moved off the following morning and marched via MOULAI to billets in FRESNOY-LE-GRAND.

FRESNOY-LE-GRAND.

6th to 13th.  
The Battalion remained billeted in FRESNOY-LE-GRAND.  
The first three days were spent in cleaning up, after which training of a ceremonial nature was carried out. On the morning of the 13th the Battalion embarked and moved to billets near WAVRIL, passing over the ground of its previous 2 battles en route.

WAVRIL.

13th  
The Battalion remained in WAVRIL and carried out training.

WAVRIL TO DOURPIERRE.

15th  
The Battalion marched to DOURPIERRE, moving on the following day (16th) to SARRS POTRIERS, where it remained for 2 nights.

SARRS POTRIERS TO STEEL.

15th  
The Battalion marched to billets in STEEL and on the 19th moved on again to CHASTRES.

CHASTRES.

19th to 22nd  
The Battalion remained in billets in CHASTRES; and training was carried out. On the 21st a Battalion parade was held by the Commanding Officer, Ceremonial being precised.

CHASTRES TO MORLAIXE.

23rd  
The Battalion marched to billets in MORLAIXE. Dn. Hd. Qrs. being in a chateau at HARTZVILLE some 2 kilometres away.

1918.

November.

24th.

CONTAINS TO APTHEM.Appendix.

On the following day the Battalion moved on to new billets, 3 Coy. in SERVILLE and 2nd Hd. Qrs. and 1 Coy. in APTHEM. Billeting was somewhat crowded and on the 30th Headquarters moved to the Chateau d'OSTENDE, one Coy. from APTHEM and one from SERVILLE also being moved from SERVILLE to billets near 2nd Hd. Qrs.

The Battalion remained in their billets until the 1st December.

The Commanding Officer held a drill parade and other Battalion drill and Ceremonial Parades were carried out.

On the 11th November, the Armistice was signed, between Germany and the Allies and hostilities ceased at 11.00 hours on that day.

Under the terms of the Armistice the British Army was to hold Bridge-heads over the Rhine until peace was signed.

The 1st Division was one of the Divisions chosen for this task and the march from ~~WISSENY~~ LE GRAUD was the first stage of the march to the Rhine. (Instructions issued with regard to this march are attached.)

On the march the civilians inhabitants of villages through which the Battalion passed were most demonstrative in their actions and were unanimous in their hatred of the Boche. At CHASPERE a

procession of maidens and youths bearing banners, headed by a Cure and accompanied by a Concession, presented a bouquet of flowers to the Commanding Officer and marched in at the head of the Battalion.

A similar reception was made at the Chateau, ~~HANDELIN~~ where the Commanding Officer was greeted by a deputation of villagers, headed by the Maire and the Cure; and bouquets were presented to the Commanding Officer and Adjutant.

Along the first stages of the advance were many signs of a hasty evacuation by the enemy. Overturned lorries which had been burned out and dumps of ammunition by the wayside showed that

his retirement was so rapid that he was unable to take away all his stores. In some cases the billets occupied by us had only been tenanted by the enemy for 3 days.

All the inhabitants of the villages passed through spoke of the harsh way in which they had been treated by the enemy for the past 4 years, and for the previous 3 years some of them had seen no meat, and had been living on very short rations.

1918.

November.Appendix.24th  
(Contd.)

All along the roads numbers of returning prisoners of war and civilian evacuees were met. The former wore chiefly Italian and French but there was a small sprinkling of British. Most of these prisoners were robust and healthy looking but there were a few who looked as if they had undergone great hardships. Their clothing was a queer mixture of English, French, and German uniforms and civilian garments.

HONOURS & AWARDS.DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Lieut. (a/Capt.) H. Roberts, M.C.

BAR to the MILITARY CROSS.

Captain A.O. White-Fox, M.C.

Captain J.H. Mason, M.C.

Lieut. (a/Capt.) V.H. Jacques, M.C.

Lieutenant B.C. Briggs, M.C. (since killed in action).

MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. (a/Capt.) E. Dellewore.

Lieut. J.D.G. Hancock.

3rd Lt. S.A.H. Kirkby.

2nd Lt. J. Pennett.

2nd Lt. Z. Clements.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

10507 Sgt. Spurling, A. 2150 Pte. Boulter, W.H. R. V.

4728 L.C. Childs, J. 1406 " Evenden, H.H. R. R.

14913 L.C. Hantörge, S. 3755 " Golden, H. R.

2187 Pte. Burke, M. 10463 T.C. Stoner, A. A.

MILITARY MEDAL.

5453 Pte. Goucher, R. 6696 Cpl. Ho, Kerman J. O.

5906 " Farley, A. 6004 " Gray, A. O.

17492 " Cornish, Y. 18977 Pte. Oulton, A. A.

18976 " Gane, A. 6281 " Moore, H. H.

14836 Lo. Dix, T. 18980 " Coley, K. K.

14904 " Lewis, A. 18861 " Briffett, Y. F.

19276 Pte. Harvey, O. 6839 " Hills, H. H.

Casualties to Officers during the engagement of the 4th November 1918 were:- Killed 3rd Lt. S. Loader wounded - Lt. R. O. K. Limbery-Thos, 2/Lt. G. R. Cousins 2/Lt. R. H. Howell, 2/Lt. C. R. Peckitt, 2/Lt. C. T. Bass, 2/Lt. J. P. Isaac & 2/Lt. P. Hills.

2ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

Narrative of the Operations of forcing the passage of the SAVERIDGE CANAL at the LOCK one and a half miles South of CATTILION.

The Battalion was withdrawn from the line opposite CATTILION on the night 30th/31st October to rest at YOLAIR and prepare for an attack which was to be launched to effect the crossing of the SAVERIDGE CANAL and establish a bridgehead about 3000 yards in depth after crossing.

The 1st Brigade were given the task of effecting a crossing immediately S. of CATTILION and the 2nd Brigade were to effect a crossing at the LOCK one and a half miles South of CATTILION. The French on the right were to effect a crossing at OIRY.

On the 31st October an outline of the proposed operations was explained by the Brigadier and November 1st and 2nd were spent in reconnaissance of the ground by officers.

The country on both sides of the Canal was very enclosed with hedges and orchards, making it impossible to distinguish any marked tactical features or pick out any landmarks which would serve as instant direction guides during an advance. A liberal supply of excellent aeroplanes photographs however, were found to be of the greatest assistance and these were issued in time for officers and N.C.O.'s to make a thorough study of the ground they would be required to advance over. They also made it possible to locate streams on either side of the Canal which could not be recognized by patrols. A reconnaissance of the Canal and Lock showed it to be as per the following sketch:

The Canal being about 40 feet wide whereas the Lock itself was 17 feet wide and 170 feet long. The bank in front of the Lock was about 16 feet high and the stream in front of it varied from 15 to 30 feet wide.

On November 2nd and 3rd plans were made and explained in detail to all officers who in turn explained them to their N.C.O.'s and men.



Copies of the orders issued are attached. Additional verbal orders were given defining in detail the tasks of certain platoons and the H.O. section.

At 17.00 hours in November 3rd the Battalion marched to a shelter camp at ARBON DE OUISS where a hot meal was served and stores, etc. issued. In addition to the stores usually carried in battle, 3 men per section carried axes or bill-hooks and all men of the 21 leading coys. wore riflebelts. It rained from 17.00 hours to 20.00 hours and then cleared up.

At 22.30 hours the Battalion started to march to Assembly Positions. 3 sections 1st Coy. 1st H.O. Corps were attached to the Battalion.

Owing to the darkness and state of the cross country tracks it was decided to carry the Lewis and Vickers guns from the camp at ARBON DE OUISS.

By 01.30 hrs. on November 4th the Battalion was formed up in Assembly Positions behind hedgerows about 250 to 400 yards from the Look as shown in diagram.

Zero was timed for 05.45 hours. 4th November. At 05.44 hours an artillery barrage opened from the south.

At 05.45 hrs the Artillery barrage opened on the line of the Canal and on the Look (There had been no preliminary bombardment of the Look houses).

At 05.45 hrs the Artillery barrage opened on the line of the Canal and on the Look (There had been no preliminary bombardment of the Look houses). As the barrage opened No. 11 platoon 1st Coy. and No. 5 platoon 2nd Coy. and 1 section H.O.C. advanced with the sappers carrying the bridges and all closed up to within 100 yards of the barrage lifted 100 up to within 100 plus 3 the barrage lifted 100 the life.

At zero plus 3 the barrage lifted 100 yards and the leading waves advanced with sappers carrying subsidiary bridges for crossing the stream west of the Look. The bridges turned out to be of insufficient length to span the stream. So some men of the leading platoons waded the stream and scrambled up the Look bank and one man actually scrambled across remnants of the broken look gate.

At this time waves of infantry and sappers with the bridges for bridging the loek itself were approaching the stream when several shells landed amongst them causing casualties amongst the sappers, as well as the infantry, thus delaying the time table for getting the bridges in position. This caused the rear waves to close up on the leading waves, and bridge crews, and there was now a considerable crowd of men held up owing to disorganization of the bridge carriers.

Officers then hurriedly got any men near to pick up the bridges and advance to the stream but just as they arrived there further showers of shells landed right amongst them, literally blowing them back again on to the rear waves.

Once more sapper parties were got to re-handle the bridges and the landing waves advanced to the stream and this time succeeded in getting one of the bridges (intended for the main crossing of the loek) laid across the stream. Men soon crossed this and lined the bank of the canal engaging the enemy on the opposite bank with fire - some of the Lewis Gunners standing on top of the bank firing their Lewis Gun from the hip, traversing as they did so. Under cover of this fire a second bridge was pulled across the one already laid and hauled up the bank to the edge of the loek. The wheels and launching lever were then fixed and the bridge laid across the loek at 06.10 hrs. Major Brindley, R.C. Commanding 409th Field Coy. R.E. was personally superintending the getting of this bridge into position and the bridge was actually handled by about an equal number of sappers and men of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

As soon as the 1st bridge was laid over the loek men crossed and dealt with the enemy in the loek houses.

The getting up of additional bridges was now facilitated and in a short time three bridges were laid across the loek. Plank bridges were also laid across the stream E. of the loek and within a very short time of getting the 1st bridge over, the whole Battalion had crossed and extended outwards to cover the allotted frontage.

The K.R.R. Corps also crossed part pastur with the rear waves of the Battalion. Owing to the delay in getting the bridges in position and the fact that nearly the whole Battalion crossed on 1 bridge the Coy's and platoons were very mixed and their difficulties were much increased by a thick fog made more dense by the smoke of the barrage. In spite of this the 1st objective was reached up to them with a touch established right across the front and with the Battalion on either flank.

Once the enemy had been crossed the resistance put up by the enemy was small and beyond rounding up a few machine guns which gave little trouble and there were no infantry fight worthy of mention as the enemy infantry seemed only too ready to 'surrender'.

As all four Coy's were now in the front line and very much reduced in numbers owing to casualties and disorganization, the O.C. 1st Battalion was asked to send a Coy. up behind the left of the Battalion ready to come into line and link up with the Cameron on the left in the event of a review of the situation showing that the Battalion dispositions did not do this.

The situation however, proved to be that the Battalion was evenly extended over the 1000 yards of the frontage along the road passing through VAIS FOND and when the fog lifted it was clear that there was no enemy immediately in front. After a half of one and a half hours on the first objective the advance was continued and Coy. officers were ordered to regulate their advance by the Cameron's as the operation was movement striking the left forward and forming a defensive flank facing ESSEY.

The Cameron's were held up in front of ROHMERETTES and thus the advance was cleared to continue and a line established east of the HAUTREVE - VIEVILLE road with outposts pushed forward.

That night everything pointed to the enemy having withdrawn altogether from the battle area and the following day the 4th Division on the left and the French on the right advanced and linked up across the Brigade front squeezing it out to be withdrawn to rest on the night of the 6th.

The following officers took part in the operations.  
Lt. Col. D.G. Johnson, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. Adjutant  
P.E. Chad, M.C., Lieut. P. Atwood, Lieut. W.C.P. Caldwell,  
Lieut. H.C. Williams, Captain I. Mason, M.C.,  
Captain L.W. Lane, M.C., Lieut. J. Wallis, Lieut. R.O.K.  
Lambert-Buge, 2/1st C.H. Company, H. Daskins, M.H.  
Regall, J.P. Gase, G.H. Peckitt, C.T. Bass, S.S.  
Leader, H.L.H. Kerley, J. Hills, C.E. Nodde, W.S. Waters,  
G.H. Small.

The casualties were:- 1 Officer, killed, 7 wounded.  
Other ranks - 8 killed, 86 wounded, 4 missing.  
Number of Prisoners captured:- 200 belonging to  
the 78th, 112th, 74th, 36th, 1st, 163rd, 94th, 73rd,  
92nd, 30th Regiments.  
Material captured:- 2 Field Guns, 3 heavy and 4  
Light Trench Mortars and about 50 Machine Guns.

D.S. JOHNSON,  
Lieut. Colonel,  
Commanding 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regt.

17th November, 1918.

R.E. Narrative of events at Crossing No.1.

See Plan attached at end.

H.E. The part of the Narrative relating to the placing of the Infantry foot-bridges is difficult to follow unless the distinction between the various types employed is clearly borne in mind; these were as follows:-

- (a) Bridges for the Stream West of the Canal.  
These were 16 feet long and are designated in the Narrative Subsidiary (v) footbridges.

- (b) Assault bridges for the Lock, with special launching devices. These were 23 feet long and are designated first-wave footbridges.
- (c) Supplementary bridges for the Lock, also 23 feet long but plain. Designated Supplementary footbridges.

- (d) Bridges for the Stream East of the Canal. These were 12 feet long and are designated Subsidiary (S) footbridges.

The dispositions of bridging parties prior to zero hour are shown on the plan. The bridges at the Southern assembly point were:-

- 4 Subsidiary (W) footbridges.
- 2 First-wave footbridges.
- 4 Supplementary footbridges.
- 6 Pack Transport bridges.

1.e. 2 for Stream W. of Lock.  
2 for Lock.  
2 for Stream E. of Lock.

The bridges at the Northern assembly point were:-

- 4 Subsidiary (W) footbridges.
- 2 First-wave footbridges.
- 3 Subsidiary footbridges.

The times underlined were recorded directly; the others are approximate.

05.44 Machine-gun barrage from South opened, followed half a minute later by machine-guns further North.

05.45 Artillery barrage opened punctually and fell on line of Canal and near Bank. The length was excellent, with the exception of one gun on flight which was dropping about 100 yards short at 8.1.45.30, marked on attached plan; this necessitated eging towards the North, after passing through the gap in the wire. The Southern bridging parties, consisting of the Subsidiary (W) and first-wave bridges, under Sergeant MELBURN 409th Bn. Co. H. S. and the supplementary bridges under Captain BIRNID of the same unit, were well away at zero, and some 50 to 100 yards ahead of the infantry.

05.48 Artillery barrage on Canal.

05.49 Barrage lifted and fell behind the Lock buildings; inspection of the ground afterwards confirmed the accuracy of the lift.

The southern bridge party moved forward to the Canal; 500 about half a minute the area was unshelled, then the enemy barrage came down on a centre line about 50 to 80 yards east of the Canal with shorts falling on the Canal Bank.



Up to this time the Southern parties, with the exception of Captain RIND who had been severely wounded, had only had 2 or 3 casualties.

In the Northern Group - the leading infantry parties had just reached the Canal bank, suffering several casualties. The bridge parties of this group consisting of the subsidiary (W) and first-wave bridges under Lt. KESLIE 409th Pd.Co. and the subsidiary (S) bridges under Lt. KENLY of the same unit, had moved forward punctually at zero; they encountered a small stream which Lt. EMERIZ bridged with two of the subsidiary (W) bridges to allow of the passage of the first-wave bridges. The first of the latter under Corp. DOB had crossed, and the second was on the point of doing so, when an enemy shell put out of action Lt. KESLIE, his section Sergeant, and the whole of the team of this second bridge, except one man. The two remaining subsidiary (W) bridges, under 2/Cory. WILTS followed by Corp DOB's first-wave bridge moved forward; one of the subsidiary (W) bridges teams suffered casualties and had to stop, but the remaining subsidiary (W) bridge and the first-wave bridge reached the stream immediately west of the Lock.

0850. It was evident that owing to the obstructions such as roots, fallen trees and barbed wire, it would not be possible to find places where two of the subsidiary (W) bridges could span the stream (immediately west of the Lock) side by side, and orders were sent for the supplementary bridges to come forward at once. Examination showed that the far bank south of the ruined house was covered with barbed wire, whereas the bank north of this point was free from it, and also afforded a suitable site for placing two supplementary bridges side by side; the Lock surface moreover above this point was free from debris. This site was selected and the passage eventually took place here.

0853. The first two subsidiary (W) bridges of the Northern Group arrived at the stream immediately west of the Lock while the above examination was going on and were placed over the stream by men wading up to their waists; the remaining two subsidiary (W) bridges of this group, arriving shortly after, were used in conjunction in a V - form to make a single crossing-infantry of whom some scrambled over the stream and up the bank, and slumped the enemy post in the ruined house west of the Lock, which up to this time has caused much trouble and some casualties by bombs.

0856 About this time the sole remaining subsidiary (W) bridge of the Northern party arrived at this stream and being placed across it on to a tree, enabled the leading first-wave bridge of the Southern Group to be dragged across and bridge this stream.

0905. By means of these bridges the sole remaining first-wave footbridge of the Northern Group was taken across this stream and on to the Lock from the Southern Group. By the other first-wave bridge of the Southern Group.



0608 One of the supplementary bridges was placed over the stream immediately west of the look. The placing of all bridges over this stream involved a considerable amount of adjustment owing to the obstructions already mentioned, and a consequent delay. When the sole remaining first-wave bridge, Northern group arrived on the top of the look, its wheels and launching lever were fixed: one of its steel gys had been shot away and it had to be raised and lowered very gently to avoid cracking the bridge.

0610 This first bridge was lowered into place over the look and Major JINDRAY 409th Pz.Co. with two H.C.O's. of this unit crossed the bridge, closely followed by infantry.

0611. 2/CORP. WARDROP 409th Pz.Co. with subsidiary (E) bridge and 2/CORP. WITZ of same unit with a subsidiary (W) bridge, which was not required west of the Canal; crossed the look and placed them over the stream east of the Canal.

0612. The next first-wave bridge, one from the Southern group, was now successfully launched.

0613. Two supplementary bridges arrived and were put in place.

0615 Two more subsidiary (W) bridges crossed the look and were placed over the stream east of Canal.

0619 2/CORP WARDROP reported that he had reconnoitered the road bridge over the stream east of the Canal and that it was intact.

0620 The remaining first-wave bridge from Northern Group, which had been demolished through casualties to its team, now arrived and was launched on the look.

0625 Another supplementary bridge arrived and was placed, as was also a German light footbridge found improvised from ladders.

0625. By this time all the six bridges brought up to look, and the German footbridge had been spaced out along the length of the look. This completed the programme of infantry bridges over the look, as two had been absorbed by the stream immediately west of it.

0640 About this time Lt. KEILY 409th Pz.Co. was killed by a shell.

0645 The infantry crossings having been completed the main body of 409th Pz.Co. was assembled in the cellar of the look building forward and a search was instituted for mines in the look itself and the neighbouring buildings.

0720. One pack transport bridge was placed across the stream west of the Canal, at the point where the road crossed it, spanning the gap in the original alignment. This bridge had to be fetched from a distance of some 400 yards.

0745 The Transport Officer of 2nd Royal Sussex arrived with about 40 pack animals; with the assistance of some of his drivers, supplemented by men of the R.M.B. and 1st Australian Tunnelling Company, the 409th Rd.Co. which had been seriously weakened by casualties were able to bring up from a distance of 500 yards the two pack transport bridges for the Lock itself.

0800. Capt. WOODWARD, 1st Aust. Tnn.Co. made detailed measurements of the Lock, preparatory to the erection of the Tank bridge.

0820 The first steel joists for the Tank bridge arrived at the Lock they had to be carried at least 500 yards.

0830 The pack transport bridges were completed, including soreens, and the pack animals began to pass over them.

0800 409th Rd.Co. leaving a maintenance party at the Lock, were withdrawn to 2nd Bde. H.Q. About this time the enemy began to shell the Lock and its vicinity with 6" and other heavy shells; this lasted till about 1830.

0930 2/Lt. BROWN, Commanding No.3. Section, 26th Rd.Co. R.E. reported to O.C. 409th Rd.Co. H.Q. at the Lock with a view to reinforcing the latter Company with his Section, the work to which they had been sent had however been completed.

1030 Tank bridge was completed. The coping stones of the Lock had been removed and the abutments created to bring the bridge surface down to the level of the top of the Lock.

06-3. Section 26th Rd.Co. arrived in vicinity of Lock, but was halted clear of it temporarily owing to heavy shelling in progress, while Lt. MUIF in Command of 26th Rd.Co. went on and examined the Lock and the bridges over it. It was found that the Tank bridge was suitably placed for horse transport over the Lock, though the stream on the West side of the canal was spanned by a bridge capable of taking pack transport only.

1245. The wagons containing the horse transport bridge for the Lock, and the German portable artillery bridge on wheels arrived at the Lock, having been held up by shelling at KX.2.5. The wagons had just been unloaded, when the shelling at the Lock began again in very severely and the horse transport bridge material received a direct hit and was rendered useless; this was not of vital importance, because the Tank bridge, as stated above, was suitably placed for horse transport.

1330. The work of placing the German portable bridge over the stream east of the Canal was begun; the work was seriously interfered with by shelling, and the bridge had to be altered so that two of them could be used end to end over one gap.

1830 A party of the 6th Welch Regt. (Purs) arrived at the Lock and assisted in placing the horse transport bridge; they also removed the wire entanglements and improved in other ways the horse transport route over the Lock.

1630. By this time the horse transport bridge over the stream west of Canal was finally completed, though it had been available for traffic considerably earlier than any arrived. The tank bridge over the Loek had been fitted with screens and handrails.

SECRET.

Copy No. 16.

2ND BATAILION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 1.

2.11.1918.

Ref. Map Combined Sheet.  
(Parts of 573.S.H. & 574.S.W.)  
1/20,000.

1. On a date 'Z' to be notified later the 2nd Brigade will force the passage of the SAUMES - OISE CANAL about S.1.d. and advance to the objectives stated below.

Zero hour will be in the early morning.  
Simultaneous attacks are being delivered by the 1st Brigade on the left and the 66th French Division on the right.

2. The 2nd Brigade attack will be carried out by the 2nd Royal Sussex Regiment on the left and the 2nd K.R.R. Corps on the right, with the 1st Northamptonshire Regiment in support to carry out a special tank attack the capture of the mine line.

3. The crossing of the canal by the Brigade Group will be made at the LOCK in S.1.d. and subsidiary crossings will be attempted by 1 Coy. K.R.R.C. at the footbridge S.1.d.2.1.

4. The Battalion boundaries are:-  
Left Boundary. The Northern Grid line of S.1.c.3.3., S.3.3. and S.4.4. as far as the road N.34.d.8.0. thence the road from that point through N.35.c. and d.  
Right Boundary. The road from S.1.d.1.5. to fork to road S.3.c.5.2. thence a line drawn from that point to S.4.central, thence along the Grid line joining S.4.central and S.5.central.

The Battalion objectives are:-

- (1) Mine ~~set~~ set line:- The main road from S.3.c.5.0. to N.35.d.1.0.  
(2) Blue line:- A line from N.35.c.8.4. to S.5.b.2.0.  
(3) Red line - A line from N.35.d.1.5. to S.5.b.2.0.

5. On Y/Z night the Battalion will move to forming up positions under cover of the hedger west of the Canal in X.6.c. These positions have been reconnoitred by Coy. Commanders. The attack will not take place till after dawn. As it is essential that all men in forming up places remain perfectly concealed until zero and strict orders for this must be given.

6. Harrage. At zero the harrage will be put down on the line of the canal for 3 minutes.

At zero plus 3 lifts 100 yards.  
At zero plus 4 lifts 100 yards and remains till zero plus 9 or 10 to cover the crossing. It then creeps

forward at the rate of 100 yards in 4 minutes up to the road in S.2.e. and c. where it halts for 30 minutes after which it moves forward at the rate of 100 yards in 6 minutes and halts for one and a half hours after the blue dotted line is reached, before going on to the next objective.

7. Bridges. At zero the 409th Field Coy. R.N. advances to the look and put 4 bridges over the look passage and also flank bridges over the stream W and S of the look.

8. Attack. The Battalion attack will be carried out by 1st Coy. Right front - 1st Coy. Left front - 1st Coy. Support, 1st Coy. Reserve.

9.3.e.0.2.- S.3.b.0.2. - S.4.p.0.6 - S.5.a.0.8-S.6.S.8. At zero 1st and 1st Coys will advance from their assembly positions in 2 lines of platoons in single file Coy. Hd. Qrs. counting as the 4th platoon.

1st Coy. will cross over the 3 right bridges and 1st Coy. over the 2 left bridges.

1st Coy. will follow 1st Coy. in the same formation and 1st Coy. will follow 1st and Bn. Hd. Qrs. follow 1st Coy.

2 Coys. of K.H.R.C. will follow 1st Coy.

1 Section of 1st Coy, 1st Bn. H.O.C. will advance with 1st Coy.

As soon as the canal is crossed 1st and 1st Coys. will close up to the barrage extending out to cover their frontage and follow the barrage.

1st Coy. will turn forwards immediately after

crossing the canal and mop up the area behind 1st Coy. set touch with 6. coy. of the Cameron Highlanders working southwards and advance eastwards in support to 1st Coy. and gradually easing off southwards so as to be in a position to support 1st Coy. if necessary.

1st Coy. will move to an area about S.2.c.0.8.

ready to follow after the 30 minutes halt 500 yards in rear of 1st Coy. until reaching the stream 'e' of

2. SHRILDAR when the Coy. will halt during the wait on the blue dotted line. When the leading Coys. advance from the blue dotted line 1st Coy. will move to SANS FORD and after that to the neighbourhood of the house on the road at S.4.a.9.8, where it will take up position as reserve for consolidation of blue line.

10. Love of Battalion Headquarters. Battalion Headquarters will move (level with the Reserve Coy) along the road which is the right battalion boundary and establish at I'SHERIDANS during HALT on blue dotted line. The next bound will be to SANS FORD and after that to the house at S.4.a.9.8.

11. Reports. All map references given in reports will be taken from the 1/20,000 map issued.

T.K. GRAY,

Captain,

Adjutant, 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regt.

Issued at 11.15 hours.

Copy No. 1. Commanding Officer	No. 2. 2nd in Command.
2. O.C. 1st Coy.	4. O.C. 1st Coy.
3. O.C. 1st Coy.	6. O.C. 1st Coy.
7. Signalling Officer.	8. Intelligence Officer
9. Medical Officer.	10. Transport
11. Quartermaster	12. O.C. 1st Bn. Reserve tons.
13. O.C. 2nd K.H.R.C.	14. O.C. 1st Cameron Bn
15. O.C. 409th Field Coy.	16.
R.N.	17.
18. File.	WAR Diary.



A P P E N D I X 'A' to  
2ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

14.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No.1.  
D R E S S.

'Fighting Order' with haversack instead of packs.  
Leather jessens will be worn and waterproof sheets  
rolled on the back.  
One day's ration will be carried on the man in addition  
to the iron ration.

The following stores will be carried:-

- 2 MILLS' bombs per man.
- 1 Extra bandolier of S.A.A. per man of rifle sections  
of 'A' & 'D' Coys.
- 1 Red flare per man.
- 2 packets 1" Very lights per section.
- Wire cutters (additional to establishment) 2 per rifle  
section.
- Bill-books } Distributed among sections as available.
- Axes }
- S.O.S. Signals - as available.
- Special Success signals - as available.
- Lifebelts - 1 per man of landing Coys. and will be  
discarded after crossing the canal.
- Life-lines - 1 per section.

A P P E N D I X 'B' to

2ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No.1.

DETAILS.

REAR BATTALION HEADQUARTERS. Rear Battalion Headquarters  
consisting of Dressing Station, Sorcery, Police will  
after crossing the canal, establish at the house  
S.1.d.2.3. It will move after the advance to the 2nd  
Objective to HANS WIND, B.3..9.2. and will remain  
there.

PRISONERS. All prisoners will be sent to REAR  
BATTALION Headquarters slightly wounded men only being  
used for escort. Pray will be collected by the Police  
and sent back in barbets to collecting stations.

DMPS. Supplies of S.A.A. and Lewis Gun Drums will  
follow the Battalion on pack ponies and reach Bn.Hd.Qrs.  
before halt on the blue dotted line. They will be  
dumped at forward Bn.Hd.Qrs. after the capture of the  
final objective. Communication will be chiefly by  
COMMUNICATIONS. Communication will be made to establish  
runners but every effort will be made to establish  
runners.

SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES. Watches will be synchronized  
on 1<sup>st</sup> day and again in the forming up positions.  
CUTTING OF DMPS. After arrival in the forming up  
position, coys. will send out patrols to cut gaps in  
the wire along their line of advance. The greatest  
care must be taken to observe silence.  
Gaps in the hedges will be cut as the platoons advance.



DIGGING. A certain number of holes have been dug behind the forming up hedges and with the exception of 'D' Coy. the only digging which will be permitted will be excavating with the shovel and of the entrenching tool and that must be done without making any noise.

HUM. Hum will be issued in the forming up position.

1st Division No. 6. 653/

5th November, 1918.

The following wires have been received and sent in connection with yesterday's operations:-

From IX Corps.

"Following wire from General RAWLINSON was please convey to First Division my congratulation on their splendid success today and the forcing of the passages of the Canal and the capture of so many prisoners was a very fine performance and worthy of the Divisions past high record and and was please communicate to all ranks and

9th Corps.

22-00.

To General Sir Henry RAWLINSON,  
Fourth Army.

G. F. 70. 5.

"All ranks of the 1st Division thank you very heartily for your very kind message which they are proud to have".

General Strickland.

11-00.

From General BRAITHWAITE.

B. 26. 4.

"Please accept for yourself and convey to all ranks my most sincere congratulations on your great performance today and the crossing of the Canal is notable achievement and evidence fine staff work and triumph of preparation and skill on part your engineers and whole Division was someone more how thoroughly it lives up to its number."

General Braithwaite.

18-00.

To Lieut.-General Sir W. BRAITHWAITE,  
9th Corps.

G. F. 69.

5.

"The 1st Division thank you very much for your most kind message which has been much appreciated by all ranks."

General STRICKLAND.

R. H. Brudenell Bruce, Major,  
General Staff 1st Division

11-00.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

BY

Major-General R.P. SHIRKLAND, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O.,  
Commanding 1st Division.

5th November, 1918.

The task that the Division was called on to perform yesterday was one entailing the utmost fore-thought for every detail, the most careful and precise organisation in all branches, a thorough and precise gallantry, tact and endurance on the part of all troops engaged.

The complete success of the operation is very greatly due to the skill, ability, rapidity and completeness with which the bridging arrangements were completed and perfected. I wish to pay special tribute to Lieut-Colonel G.F.E. BARKER, D.S.O., his Field Coy. Commanders and all ranks of the D.S. and Section 1st Australian Tunnelling Coy. R.E. for the part they have played in these operations. The cool gallantry with which they placed the Bridges in position under heavy fire after long and arduous hours of labour, was magnificent. After this severe ordeal they were engaged for the rest of the day in Bridge building under fire, without which the operations could not have been completed.

They have very worthily upheld the very high traditions of the Royal Engineers.

I cannot sufficiently express my admiration and thanks to all branches of the Staff and to all units in the Division, for their unexpressed efforts of the last 3 weeks, culminating in as fine a military achievement as any troops could have carried out.

The Division as a whole, has every reason to be more than proud of their record, and they could not have done more than uphold, as they have done, the brilliant records of the first Division of the British Army.

(Sd.) R.P. SHIRKLAND,  
Major-General,  
Commanding 1st Division.

2nd Brigade No. 6-43.

Royal Sussex Regt.  
Northampton Regt.  
K. H. H. Corps.  
T. M. Battery.  
Co. Coy, 1st N.G.C.  
400th Field Coy. R.H.

No. 2. Field Amb.  
.....

The Corps Commander has personally requested the Brigadier to convey his thanks to all Units of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Group and his appreciation of the work they have done to-day.  
He wishes the Brigadier to add that it is with the greatest regret that he is compelled to keep the 2nd Infantry Brigade in the line to-night.

(Signed) XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Captain, Brigade Major,  
2nd Infantry Brigade.

4th November, 1918.

SECRET.PAROLE TO THE REINE.2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT, INSTRUCTIONS No. 1.

1. There will be no intercourse or fraternisation of any kind with the enemy. He will not be allowed to approach our lines, and any attempt to do so will be immediately stopped, if necessary by fire.
  - (a) Any parties coming over our lines under a white flag will be made prisoners and a report sent to Battalion Headquarters.
  - (b) Enemy aircraft will not be allowed to cross the line. If any attempt is made it will be stopped by fire.
2. (a) No civilians will be allowed to pass through the British lines from West to East.  
(b) Civilians presenting themselves for passage through the British lines from East to West will be allowed to pass, but will be collected.
3. By the terms of the Armistice the enemy are to evacuate the occupied portions of France, Belgium and Luxembourg by November 26th.  
A further withdrawal by the enemy East of the Rhine will take place at a later date.
4. The Allied Forces will advance towards the Rhine on the 17th inst. and up to that date no British troops will

cross the following line:-

Point where Belgian frontier cuts the HZB Sauvage -  
MORTHELIAR - western edge of Bois de HARTISBAERT -  
FRANSES inclusive - western edge of Bois de HARTISBAERT -  
WARRENS - COMBERGEX exclusive - S.W. point of Bois de

The 1st Division will be the left front Division  
of the 6th British Army with the 6th Corps on its left  
rear. The 6th Division on its right and the 6th Division in

The front will be covered by Cavalry.

5. During the whole of the Armistice no Musketry  
practice will take place within four kilometres of the  
line.

6. The strictest attention will be paid to the  
discipline, smartness and well-being of the men, so as  
to ensure that the highest standard of efficiency is  
maintained.

Every opportunity of rest, training, recreation and  
leave will be given.

(Sgd.) T.H. CHAD,  
Captain,  
Adjutant, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regt.

Copies to:-

- No.1. O.C. 1st Coy.  
2. O.C. 2nd " "  
3. O.C. 3rd " "  
4. O.C. 1st " "  
5. Medical Officer  
6. Scout Officer  
7. Lewis Gun Officer  
8. Transport Officer  
9. Regtl. Sergt. Major  
10. War Diary  
11. " "  
12. File.

MARCH TO THE RHINE.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT, INSTRUCTIONS No. 2.

SECRET.

1. During the March to the Rhine the Division will  
march in groups as under:-

$\left. \begin{array}{l} a \\ b \\ c \end{array} \right\}$	Advanced	1st Brigade Group.
	Support	2nd Brigade Group.
	Reserve	3rd Brigade Group.

2. The Division will keep one day's march in rear of  
the 2nd Cavalry Division.

The 1st Brigade Group will provide the Advanced  
guard, which will picket all roads leading from front  
and flanks by night.

3. Subject to the above, the comfort of the Troops  
will be the first consideration.

4. Any enemy encountered will be made prisoner.

(Sgd.) T.H. CHAD, Captain,  
Adjutant, 2nd Bn, Royal Sussex Regt.,  
16th Nov. 1918.

Issued to all recipients of 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regt.

Order No. 1.

MARCH TO THE RHEIN.  
2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT, INSTRUCTIONS No. 3.

1. ORDERS TO EXISTING ROUTES.

- (a) No unit will interfere with or damage in any way, existing telegraph or telephone routes.
  - (b) No instruments are to be removed from any existing Signal Office or private house.
  - (c) After arrival in billets the location of all enemy or civilian telegraph and telephone offices discovered will be reported at once to Bn. Hd. Qrs.
- The nearest Company will at once mount a Guard over the office.

T. F. CHAD,

Adjutant, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regt

19th November, 1918.

Issued to all recipients of 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment Instructions Nos. 1 & 2.

MARCH TO THE RHEIN.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT, INSTRUCTIONS  
No. 4.

1. The strictest March Discipline will be maintained throughout.

Special attention will be paid to the following points:-

- (a) An Officer will march in rear of each company Distance as laid down in 4th Army No. O. S. 128 will be maintained.
  - (b) Transport will observe rules laid down in S. S. 724.
  - (c) Bands will march in sections of 3.
  - (d) During halts all cross roads and road junctions will be left clear.
  - (e) Compliments will be paid once daily to the Divisional and Brigade Commanders and once to the Commanding Officer as the Battalion marches into billets. Compliments will also be paid to corps flying the flags of the Commander in Chief, Army Corps and Divisional Commanders.
2. TRANSPORT.
- (a) All first line transport will march in rear of the Battalion.
  - (b) Second line will march thirded. A baggage wagon will be detailed in orders.



- (c) Drakemen at the rate of 1 per I.O.S. wagon and 3 per G.S. wagon will march in rear of the wagons. Dress - Marching Order less pack - Haversack worn on the back. Packs must be properly loaded on the vehicle.
- (d) 1 Platoon will be detailed daily in orders to march in rear of the transport. All transport personnel not with wagons will march with the platoon.
- (e) Mounted men will dismount directly a halt is ordered.
- (f) Personnel will fall out on the side and horses will be turned with their heads to the centre of the road.
- (g) Transport will not be parked on roads.
4. British prisoners of war escaped or returned from enemy lines will be sent to Mh.Rd.Qtrs.
5. Vehicles which break down will not rejoin except during halts.
6. On arriving in billets O.O.Coy's. will drop guides to meet their transport.
7. Troops will not parade earlier than a quarter of an hour before they are timed to move off.
8. No man will be allowed outside his billeting area without a pass.
9. Company alarm posts will be chosen and their position notified to Mh.Rd.Qtrs. Battalion alarm post will be notified to O.O.Coy's.
10. All troops moving about the billeting area will be smartly and properly dressed. When the Battalion halts for more than 24 hours, belts will be worn by all ranks moving outside their billets.

(Sgd.) T. E. OZAD.

Captain.

Adjutant, 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regt.

21st November, 1916.

Issued to all recipients of instructions Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

MARCH TO THE RHINE.

Appendix to Instructions No. 4.

1. Para. 1. (c) of Instructions No. 4. will be amended to read as follows:-

(a) Proper compliments will be paid on the line of march once daily to Army Corps and Divisional Commanders, 1<sup>st</sup> and when the Battalion passes them. Also to the Brigadier and to the Commanding Officer as Coy's march into billets. Guards will receive the usual compliments.

- (b) Whist on the march, except in the case of the Commander-in-Chief, complements will not be paid to General Officers, complements will not be paid to General Officers in Motor Cars. At all other times, except when actually on the line of march, complements will be paid in the usual manner.

F.R. CHAD.

Adjutant 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

26th November, 1916.

Issued to all recipients of Instructions No.4.

MARCH FOR THE REEF

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS No.1.

1. CAMERAS. Cameras may be carried.
2. WATER. Water for drinking will be drawn only from the water-cart.
3. CARE OF FEET. Campher powder will be freely used.
4. CENSORSHIP. This will be relaxed. Censor stamps will still be used and letters censored, but no restrictions are placed on locations being mentioned.
5. DISCIPLINE.
  - (a) Every care and consideration will be shown to civilians and every precaution taken to prevent damage.
  - (b) Rigid precautions will be taken to prevent fires. Any outbreak will be at once reported to Bn. Hd. Qrs. and a Court of Enquiry, at which the Coy. Commander concerned will attend, will be assembled. Hazing or trees will be strictly guarded against.
  - (c) MARCH DISCIPLINE. Attention is called to the samples on this subject, a copy of which has been issued to all officers.

F.R. CHAD.

Captain,

Adjutant, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regt.

19th November, 1916.

8th BATTALION, ROYAL SCOTS REGIMENT,  
1916.

Appendix.

December ONVALE.

1st

The Battalion marched to billets in ONVALE leaving on again on the 2nd to CHURS and on the 3rd to BARKIE.

4th - )  
7th - )

Post of BARKIE. Training was carried out. On the 4th a party of officers and N.C.O.s was sent by lorry to visit the famous CHURCHES de SAS SUR SARTRE.

On the evening of the same day a number of casualties from leave had hospital and a few new arrivals joined the Bn. The Colour party which had been sent to England on 18th November, and which consisted of 2nd Lieut. S.A.H. FIRBY, HQ Q.M. BODLE,

NO. 917 C.S.M., DEZBORDER, D.C.M.,

10165 Sgt. JARVIS & 7928 Cpl. BARRIE,

D.C.M., R.M., returned with the Colours. Owing to the next day's move it was impossible to arrange a ceremony to receive them. The Battalion marched to HORS D'AVRIN on 7th and remained there for two nights.

8th

On the morning of the 8th the Colours were formally received by the Battalion. The Battalion formed up in close column and then formed line facing a saluting base at which the Colours took post, the Battalion coming to the "present". The Battalion then marched past in column and close column afterwards forming line in its original position. The Colours then took up position in the centre of the line and the Battalion advanced in "Review Order" and presented arms to the Brigadier (General G.G. EDGAR, D.S.O.). The General afterwards made a short address, calling attention to the good work done by the Battalion in the recent fighting.

9th

The Battalion moved to AINCH, marching on the following day to BOURG and again on the 11th to FISSINNY, where it rested for two days.

14th

The Battalion marched to Billote in CHARENTAIS and on the following day marched again, three Coy's billeted in BEAIS and Bn. Hd. Qrs and 1 Coy in HERSOVAL.

1918.DecemberAppendix.

16th

The Battalion resumed the march and stayed the night at EMO.

17th

The Battalion moved to HAUVELANG and WEISER, crossing the German frontier en route. The Divisional Commander (Major General E. P. SPRIGGELAND, C.B., O.M.C., D.S.O.) stood at a saluting base on the frontier and the Battalion marched past paying the usual compliments. The Sgt. Band played the Battalion march and the Colours were "let fly" at the saluting point.

18th

The Battalion marched to billets in ARZBACH and again on the following day to HANDELANG where a halt of one day was made.

21st

The march was resumed and the Battalion billeted for the night in SCHNEIDER, moving again to MUNSHEIM the following day.

23rd

The Battalion marched to LEHNDORF and on the 24th marched to the final destination at WIRTSCHAID, just west of DOH on the Rhine.

24th - )  
31st )

The Battalion remained at WIRTSCHAID. Training was commenced and preparations were made for a combination of educational and Military Training with a view to fitting men who would shortly be going back to civil life, for the opportunity they would be taking up. Demobilisation of the Army was commenced and a few men were sent away.  
On 27th 'A' & 'C' Coy's held their Christmas dinner, "G" & "D" Coy's on the 28th. Transport on 30th, Sergeant on 31st and Officers on 1st January, 1919. The event was historical as after spending four historical days in the line the Christmas at last celebrated.  
Battalion at last collected. The Dining Hall was tastefully decorated and the guests were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Much dinner was followed by a segmental concert.

1916.

DecemberAppendix

The following awards were granted during the month

BAR TO MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut (a/capt) R. AUST, R. E. CHAD, M. O.,

DIETHELM DISCHOLD COMPANY, HENDAY,

14888 Lt Col (1/521) G. O. SHANN, M. M.,

7922 Col.

R. J. SHOWN, M. M.,

8152 Lt Col.

P. WEDDIE, M. M.,

MILITARY CROSS.

2nd Lieut. J. P. ISAAC.

2nd Lieut. O. A. JARNEY, proceeded for

death with the Tank Corps on 4th.

2nd Lieut. T. A. O. HUBBER, rejoined on 6th.

Captain V. H. JACOBS, M. O., rejoined on 23rd.

As the Battalion marched nearer

the German frontier the nature of the

forms and villages and of the

inhabitants changed. The enthusiastic

welcome with which the advancing

Army had at first been received here

place in some cases to sullen looks

and refusal to give up billets.

A certain underlying pro-German sentiment

was apparent and the villagers on

the whole became dirtier as the

march progressed. On the 17th the

2nd Brigade crossed the frontier,

and for the first time in the war

billeted on German soil. Strict

instructions had been issued to the

German civilians as to their behaviour,

and the respect to be paid to the

British officers and men, and on

the whole were well exemplified with.

In some cases the civilians were

most hospitable and did all in their

power to make the men comfortable.

No hostile feeling was encountered

by the Battalion, although cases

were heard of.

As the night advanced and orders

to maintain order and enforce

regulations by the

German civilians extra guards and

patrols were posted at night but no

trouble of any description was

experienced.

R. B. C

WARREN TO THE FRONT.  
 2ND BATTALION ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.  
 INSTRUCTIONS NO. 5.

After crossing the German frontier the following orders will come into force

1. A Guard or Platoon will be placed near where every road enters the village in which



the Battalion or portion of the Battalion is billeted. This will be arranged by allotting the outposts, a single sentry by day and a double sentry by night.

1. Inlying platoons will be detailed (a) one by each Company or platoon and concentrated (b) one by the Battalion if platoons are concentrated. Patrols from the inlying platoon will patrol the village at intervals during the night.

2. In cases where the platoon detailed has no officer and an officer of another platoon will be detailed to command the inlying platoon.

3. The inlying platoon will sleep in their coats and clothes with their rifles and equipment close at hand so that they can turn out at a very short notice.

4. Each Company will mount a Company Guard and the Lewis Gun Team, Cooker, and Ammunition Wagon and Water Cart when with Company, will be so placed that they come under the charge of this Guard.

5. The Headquarters Guard will normally furnish the following sentries:-

(a). One Guard Room sentry by day and night.

(b). One sentry over H.Q. stores and columns by day and night.

(c). One sentry over orderly room at night.

6. (d). One sentry over motor-maintenance stores at night. Transport vehicles will be parked together and a sentry posted over them.

7. All officers and warrant officers entitled to do so will invariably carry loaded revolvers. All other warrant officers, N.C.O.s and men will invariably carry sidearms.

8. No billet will ever be left vacant when available. Light duty men will do billet guards. Not more than 75% will be allowed to be absent from any billet except during parade hours when they will invariably carry their rifles as parade.

9. Inhabitants will be confined to their homes from 19.00 hours to 05.00 hours and no inhabitant will be allowed to enter or leave a village during that period unless provided with a special pass (further instructions for the endorsement of this order will be issued).

10. Lewis Guns will be taken off the limbors by Lewis Gun sections and kept in the billet with the section.

11. Officers will invariably be accompanied by their runner and other teams will not go about alone away from the immediate proximity of their billeting area.

NOTE. As the above entails a large number of guards, every effort will be made to reduce the number by no exceeding the billets and stores that one guard will suffice for two or more of the above. Such as the garrison at the entrance to the village being all the guard at the entrance to the village mentioned Company (each) or so grouping the billets mentioned in paras 4 & 5 that two or three sentries will suffice for all.

F. R. CHAD.

Captain,

Adjutant, and Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.

WEST SUSS  
RECORD OFFICE  
RSR MS 2/57

Copies to:-

1. Ho. 1.0.0. "A" Coy.
2. "B" Coy.
3. "C" Coy.
4. "D" Coy.
5. "E" Coy.
6. Medical Officer.
7. Scout Officer.
8. Lewis Gun Officer.
9. Transport Officer.
10. Lt. H. C. Williams.
11. Capt. Sgt. Major.
12. Lt. War Party.
13. P.M.O.

2ND BATTALION, ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL.

1919.

AGENCY.

1st to  
Masc.

EXERCISES ETC.

Appendix.

The Battalion remained in Rattrapallok. The time was devoted chiefly to educational and recreational training, a certain amount of military training being carried out as well.

RECREATIONAL TRAINING.

This consisted of one hour's training per Company each morning in educational subjects one morning per week in addition being devoted entirely to education. Voluntary classes for the more advanced subjects were also held in the evenings.

RECREATIONAL TRAINING.

This consisted chiefly of a platoon football competition organised by the Sports Committee, an Inter Company football competition among units of the Brigade, boxing contests, gymnastic classes and hockey matches. Military training was generally confined to Corporals. On Jan. 18th 1919, a Brigade ceremonial parade was held at Durbinby, when units of the Brigade marched past the General Officer Commanding. (Brigadier General G.C. Kelly, D.S.O.)

REWARDS AND DECORATIONS.

On 21.1.1919 a message from His Majesty announced the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to the commanding officer (Lieut. Colonel G.G. Johnson, D.S.O., D.C.). The following is an extract from the London Gazette of the 6th January, 1919.

"The King has been pleased to approve of the Victoria Cross to the following:-  
Lieut. Colonel G.G. Johnson, D.S.O., D.C.,  
Commanding Officer, 2nd Bn.,  
Royal Army Medical Corps,  
Borneo Force, East Borneo,  
Borneo Regt.  
Borneo Force."

1919.

January.

let to  
34st.

Amstedt.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during the forcing of the Hambré Canal on November 4th 1918. The 2nd Infantry Brigade of which the 2nd Bn. R. Sussex Regt. formed part, was ordered to cross by the lock south of Gellidon.

The position was strong and before the bridge could be thrown a steep bank leading up to the lock and a waterway about 100 yards short of the Canal had to be crossed.

The assaulting and bridging parties R.A. on their arrival at the waterway were thrown into confusion by a heavy barrage and machine gun fire and heavy casualties were caused.

At this moment Lt. Col. Johnson arrived and realising the situation at once collected men to man the bridges and assist the R.A. and personally led the assault.

In spite of his efforts heavy enemy fire again broke up the assaulting and bridging parties, without any hesitation he again organised the platoons and bridging parties and led them at the lock this time succeeding in effecting a crossing after minor casualties.

Bearing all this time Lt. Col. Johnson was under a very heavy fire, which, though it nearly decimated the assaulting columns left him unharmed.

His conduct was a fine example of great valour, coolness and intrepidity, which added to his splendid leadership and the examples alike that he had inspired in his battalion were entirely responsible for the successful crossing.

REPORT ON THE CROSSING.

Extract from London Gazette Supplement dated 29.12.1918.  
Lieut. (A/Maj) G. Mfr. T.R. Omd.  
R.O. 5083 R. (M.S. Hampshire, D.O. 11.

THE HAMBRÉ CANAL.

2/Lieut. G. Baker.





2ND BATTALION THE ROYAL HUSAR REGIMENT

1919

February

1-26th.

APPENDIX

WINTER SERVICE

The Battalion remained at WITTONSBRICK and continued training chiefly of an educational and recreational nature. In the latter the Brigade and Divisional finals were played off. In the Brigade Cross Country Run the Battalion secured 7 places in the first 12, and in the Divisional Cross Country Race 2 places in the first 12. In Boxing the Battalion won 2 events in the Brigade finals, but the winners were unable to compete in the Divisional final. The Battalion played Football Competition was continued and various Battalion football and hockey matches were played.

Demobilization continued at a faster rate and during the month practically the whole of the "1914" men were sent home. Re-enlistment also continued at a faster rate and by the end of the month over 20 men had joined the Regular Army. Over 20 had also volunteered for the Army of Occupation.

On 11th a ceremonial parade was carried out and on 21st the 9.9.0.0. 2nd Infantry Brigade (Britisher General G. G. KIMMEL, D.S.O.) inspected the Battalion on ceremonial Parades, the Battalion afterwards marching past.

Information was received towards the end of the month that Regular Battalions who were due for service abroad were to go home in order to re-form. In view of this a Divisional Farewell Dinner was held at the KINGSBURY Hotel, 100th, at which the G.O.C., 1st BOMB, Division (Major General F. F. BRIDLAND, C.B., D.S.O., D.S.M., D.S.O.) presided. About 100 officers were present. Lieut. I. G. CORNELL, D.S.O., was present. The Divisional Officers were evacuated to the U.S.A. and on 6th. Major G. H. O. JOHNSON was admitted to Hospital on 4th. Captain J. A. HANCOCK, D.S.O., and Captain E. H. H. ALFORD, D.S.O., proceeded to England on 26th and

1919

February

1-26th.  
etc.

APPENDIX

2.

16th respectively for 2 months  
leave under A.O. 5658(O).  
Lieut. Col. Baker, B.C., ad out.  
W. C. F. Caldwell, 2/14 out. B.  
Copeman and 2/14 out. B.  
Bedley were demobilised  
during the month.

D. G. Johnson, Lieut. Colonel,  
Commanding and Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.

2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1919.

Appendix.

March.

WITTSCHILIK, GERMANY.

1st to  
24th.

The Battalion remained at  
WITTSCHILIK at continued  
training.

24th.

The Battalion vacated billets  
in WITTSCHILIK and marched  
to a new area in GIESSENZ  
and OEDERKOVEN, being replaced by a  
Young Soldiers Battalion (2nd  
South Wales Borderers).

25th to  
31st.

From the new area the Battalion  
began to reduce to Cadre prior  
to proceeding to England to  
prepare for foreign service.  
General demobilization commenced  
but owing to congestion only  
20 men were sent away up to the  
end of the month.

On 31st the final of the  
Divisional Hockey Competition  
was played at WITTSCHILIK.  
2nd Battalion ROYAL SUSSEX REGT.  
versus No. 141 FIELD AMBULANCE.  
The Battalion won 4 - 1. On  
conclusion the General Officer  
Commanding the Division (Major  
Genl. S.P. STRICKLAND, C.B.,  
C.M.G., D.S.O.) presented the  
cup and medals to the winners.  
On the 15th instant, The Battalion  
went for a trip up to COMBENZ  
on the RHINE on a river steamer

INCIDENTALS.

Attached to the War Diary (original  
only) are photos of the LOCK  
where the Battalion forced the  
passage of the SAABRE CANAL on  
4th November, 1918.

No. 4382 I/Cpl. A. COX M.E.  
was awarded the Rumanian  
decoration - Medaille Babaric  
St. Grdinita, 3rd Class on  
14.3.19.

Captain B.B. HURD M.B., United  
States Army joined the Battalion  
for duty as Medical Officer on  
10.3.19.  
2nd Lieut. E.F. STEVENSON was posted  
to the 2nd French Mortar Battery

1919.Appendix.March.Miscellaneous (ctd)

on 17.3.19.  
 Lieut. T.A.O. Hookley was detained  
 in England (on leave) pending  
 Demobilization on 17.3.19.  
 2nd Lieut. R.I. Lewis. Granted  
 leave to the U.K. 27.3.19. to  
 10.4.19.

D. G. JOHNSON,  
 Lieut. Colonel,  
 Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex  
 Regt.

Gleisdorf, Germany.  
 1st April, 1919.

## SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

Brigadier General G. C. KELLY, D.S.O.,  
 Commanding 2nd Infantry  
 Bde.

On relinquishing command of the 2nd Infantry  
 Brigade, I wish to place on record my very deep  
 and lasting appreciation of the services rendered by  
 all ranks during my tenure of Command.

To my Staff I wish to tender my most  
 grateful thanks for their zeal and for their  
 loyalty at all times during the past year.

To my Commanding Officers I feel a debt of  
 gratitude which is beyond words to express, for their  
 magnificent services which have been such a potent  
 factor in maintaining and increasing the traditions  
 of the 2nd Brigade.

To the Battalion Staffs I wish to record  
 my great appreciation of their strenuous work, whether  
 of a Military or administrative nature, without  
 which the high standard of efficiency of the units  
 could not have been achieved.

To the Company Commanders and other Officers,  
 to the Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers  
 and men, of the whole Brigade, I tender my deepest  
 thanks for the manner in which they have always  
 carried out the tasks I have set them, for their

3.

Gallantry in operations, for their smartness and soldierly bearing in peace, and for their consistent good behaviour and strict discipline.

I wish to add the very deepest tribute of regret and sorrow for those who, during my tenure of Command, have fallen in their Country's service, and lie to-day in a soldier's grave. They died to save their Country, and their Country's service, enabled England to triumph over her enemies.

In a very short time the 2nd Brigade as originally constituted, will have ceased to exist, and I wish the best of fortune in the future to every Officer and man who has ever served under my Command.

I have been intensely proud to lead such magnificent troops, and in after life the period during which I have been your Brigadier will always be one of my happiest memories.

Second Brigade, Farewell.

G. C. KELLY,  
Brigadier General,  
Commanding 2nd Infantry Brigade.

19th March, 1919.



2ND BATTALION THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

1919

AFRICA

1st  
to  
12th.

GHILMOR

The Battalion remained at GHILMOR and continued reducing to Gader. Details of 100 Other Rank to the 10th Royal West Kent Regt and 105 Other Rank to the 14th Royal Sussex Regt, all remaining non, were despatched, and by the 11th instant all officers and men were being to the Gader had been sent away for demobilisation, etc., and the Battalion was at Gader strength of 5 officers and 51 Other Rank.

The following officers formed part of the Gader:-  
Lieut. Colonel D.O. Johnson, V.O.  
D.O., Capt. R. Adjt. T.M.  
Capt. H.O., Lieut. T. Franks,  
2/Lieut. O.H. Poole and Lieut. & Qr. Mx. G. Parker.

At 5.30 a.m. on the 12th instant the Gader with colours and baggage left GHILMOR in lorries and proceeded to SOLOMONS.

Here the Gader entrained and after a two day journey arrived at DUNKIRK. On the 15th instant the Gader embarked for England in the S.S. Antis.

WAR DIARY OF LIEUT. COLONEL

D.O. JOHNSON, Lieut. Colonel,  
commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.

APPENDIX