NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS 24TH (1ST TYNESIDE IRISH) BTN.

Facts……in brief

24th (1st Tyneside Irish) Btn. Northumberland Fusiliers was a Pals Battalion, raised at Newcastle on 14th November 1914, by the Lord Mayor and City.

After initial training near home, they joined the 103rd brigade, 34th Division at Ripon in June 1915 after further training they moved on to Salisbury Plain in late August for final training.

They proceeded to France in January 1916.

The division concentrated at la Crosse, east of St. Omer.

They were in action during the battles of the Somme, including the capture of the Scots and Sausage Redoubts. The battles of Bazentin Ridge.103rd Brigade and the Divisional Pioneers also saw action in the battle of Flers-Courcelette.

In 1917 they fought in the 1st and 2nd Battles of the Scarpe and the Battle of Arleux during the Arras Offensive. In August they were involved in the fighting at Hargicourt and on the 10th they amalgamated with 27th Battalion to form 24/27th Battalion.<p>

Let’s follow my great uncle in his time as a volunteer with Kitchener's Army

**1914**

Tyneside Irish committee was set up.

**12th September**

An indication that a new regiment of the North East Irish community was first mentioned in the Newcastle Evening Chronicle on Saturday the 12th Sept 1914.

**October 1914**

On Saturday 24th October 1914 the first recruiting poster for the Tyneside Irish Battalion appeared in the newspapers.

Headline: Irishmen to Arms. The poster also had an application form where by any would be recruit could cut out, fill in, then forward to the recruiting office

**October 1914**

It was stated in the *Newcastle Chronicle* that Colonel Ritson had offered the use of two fields behind Jesmond Gardens for the use of training. Each morning the Tyneside Irish Battalion paraded on Eldon Square at 9am. Major Joseph Prior was in command.

By the 24th October the Tyneside Irish had strength of 303 men.

On this day it was announced Colonel V.M. Stockley, late Indian Army had accepted command of the Tyneside Irish Battalion.

**November 1914**

Recruiting Offices for the Tyneside Irish were being opened all across districts of the North East.

When volunteers arrived at the office they were given a blue card signed by the recruiting officer to prove they had joined up.

The Tyneside Irish Headquarters was at 10 Osmond Villas, Jesmond.

Accommodation for the men of the 24th was in Dunn’s building in lower Friar Street and The Town Hall Newcastle. Later those in the Town Hall were moved to Raby Street School.

By 2nd November over 900 men had been recruited (including my great uncle Charles A. Hughes.)

And by the 4th the Battalion was up to full strength.

The average age of these men were in their thirties.

The first Regimental Sergeant Major was RSM P.O Toole.

Drill practice was carried out on the Town Moor. They practiced for hours. At this time the men were still wearing their civvies, looking like a bunch of very proud ragamuffins as most of the men were from mining communities across north east .The mines at this time were virtually at a standstill, Most miners were only working a two to three day fortnight. Their (hobnail) boots and clothing were well worn and patched.

**December 1914**

Reverend Father Hartley of Blaydon volunteered to serve as Pardre to the Battalion due to the large number of Roman Catholic volunteers. Although those volunteers were recruited from the Irish communities most were born in England. It was their parents and grandparents that came over from Ireland.

Some were English and just wanted to join up with their friends.

Contracts for uniforms and equipment were placed with local companies .The colour khaki was said to be the true colour for the Irish uniforms, although many of Kitchener's Armies wore blue, known as Kitchener's Blue. It was decided by the Tyneside Irish committee that khaki uniforms would be issued, with much delight from the men.

On the 23rd December 1914 a Christmas dinner with beer for those in Dunn’s buildings was given.

A grand concert took place in the Town Hall on the 28th. Recruiting continued.<p>

**1915**

**12th March**

By this time 24th Tyneside Irish Northumberland Fusiliers had 1737 men. They were now training in Alnwick, Northumberland.

They marched proudly from Alnwick railway station through the town to the camp. Recruiting continued across the North East. By the end of spring there were enough volunteers to make up four Battalions and a reserve Battalion. Nearly 70% of those were from mining communities in County Durham.

Others joined Tyneside Irish because it was the nearest recruitment office.

**17th March**

A St. Patrick's Day Parade took place followed by mass, said at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Bailiffgate for the Tyneside Irish Battalion.

At 11am a parade took place, Miss Johnson Wallace, the daughter of the Honorary Colonel, presented each man on parade with a sprig of shamrock.

A few days later sporting events took place with over 2oo men taking part in the quarter mile race. The whole Battalion turned out to watch. The Battalions' pipes and drums played throughout.

Shortly after arrival, the camps were given identifying letters.

A, camp was occupied by the Irish. At about this time some skilled men were temporarily discharged due to a shortage of skilled men in the munitions and shipbuilding industry.

**May**

By May, it was decided the time had come to bring all four Battalions of the Tyneside Irish together.

It was now the Brigade numbered 103 Brigade of the 34th division.

Command was given to Major-General E.C.Ingouville-Williams. A new location was found for the Brigade at Woolsington Hall, three miles outside of Newcastle. The men there were housed in tents.

20th May

On this day the Tyneside Irish Brigade, along with many other troops, paraded on the Town Moor in Newcastle to be inspected by His Majesty the King, who was accompanied by Lord Kitchener.<p>

**27th August**

The Tyneside Irish Brigade was taken over by the War Office and ceased to be the responsibility of the Tyneside Irish Committee. The Tyneside Irish was now in the last stages of training and would shortly be ready to take to the field.

**September 1915**

The 34th Division spent a month camped in tents at Windmill Hill near the village of Ludgershall. This area was prone to flooding so was quite unsuitable. By the end of September, 34th Division was now camped at the western edge of Salisbury Plain. All throughout the area from Salisbury to Warminster hutted army camps sprang up. The 34th were now stationed at hut numbered 7/8/9 and 10 Camp Sutton Veny.

Training continued with route marches getting longer and longer. About this time Colonel Howard of the 24th Battalion joined the men on a route march. He heard the men singing the Blaydon Races . He was so impressed he had it officially recognized as the Battalion's marching song.

December 1915</b<

For identification purposes, Divisional Headquarters issued an order for the wearing of battle patches. The 24th Tyneside Irish was to have a red shamrock, which was sewn onto their tunics by the men themselves. Brigade Headquarters personnel wore a green shamrock. <p>

**1916**

**4th January**

On this day, on the authority of Headquarter 34th Division order number 1329/A.12, the Tyneside Irish Brigade was mobilised for service in France. Lieutenant-Colonel L. Meredith Howard was Second-in-Command of the 24th Battalion.

The Battalion left Folkstone on the 11th January 1916, sailing to Boulogne, France, on the Isle of Man steam packet S.S. Mona’s Queen. Upon arrival Battalions were ordered to rest near the port where they remained overnight.

Next day the Battalions all marched at different times to the railway.

The 24th were ordered to Esquerdes village. Training was undertaken; route marches, musketry and several inspections were the order of the day. Battalion specialist training was given to signallers, scouts, snipers and bombers. Men were sent on courses of instruction to the 23rd Divisional school.

This is where my great uncle trained for scouting.

**8th January**

34th Div. H.Q. left Sutton Very at 1pm. At 4pm Division entrained at Codford for Southampton.

Arrived Southampton at 6.30pm, and embarked in S.S, Australind at 9pm

**9th January**

S.S. Australind arrived outside Harve harbour and 34th Division disembarked at 2pm. At 9pm entrained at Pt. 6 Harve for St. Omer.

**10th January**

34th Division arrived St.Omer and HQ marched to Distillery at La Cross where Divisional H.Q. took up quarters.

**15th January**

By the 15th all units of 34th Divisional Officers had arrived in France and concentrated at La Crosse, east of St. Omer.

**16th January**

From the 11th to 16th January, 34th Divisional Officers were engaged in visiting units and arranging concentration and training.

**20th January**

General Joffre, Commander in Chief of the French, army expressed his admiration of the appearance of the 34th Division; he was particularly taken with the steady behaviour of all ranks underarms. Training continued over the next few days with a party of officers and men testing gas helmets, using usual chlorine gas. The Brigade had now moved nearer the front line and was receiving instruction in trench warfare.

Infantry of the 34th Division were inspected by General Joffre. Notification was received that Brig. Gen. Fitton had died of wounds. H.Q.R.A. moved up to Upen Daval. Two M.G. Officers from each Infantry Battalion attended M.G. school at Wisques for one day for instruction purposes.

Weather fine with wind from the west.<p>

**21st January**

3rd Corps Operation Order no. 63, Headquarters, 111 Corps. 21st Jan.

1. The 34th Division will relieve the 23rd Division in the left Division area, on the completion of the course of instruction in accordance with table B and C.

2. The 23rd Division on relief will become Army Reserve and move into Reserve area.

3. The 23rd Division will hand over all maps, photographs, log books etc. to the 34th Division on relief.

4. The artillery of the 34th Division will be responsible for the defence of the Left Division front on completion of the reliefs on February 18th.

5. The relief of the field Ambulance will be arranged between the Divisions concerned, the arrangements to be reported to Corps H.Q. three days before a relief is to take place.

6. Progress of reliefs to be reported at once to Corps. H.Q.

7. The G.O.C. 34th Division will assume command of the Left Division area at 11am.on the 24th February 1916.

8. Please acknowledge receipt by wire.

C.F. Romer Brig. General, General Staff. Issued at 6pm.

22nd.January

SECRET… 34th Division Operation Order No. 2. 22nd January.

1. The 34th Division will march on the 23rd inst. In accordance with attached March Table to join 3rd Corps.
2. It will be billeted in the rear of the area Sergus-Morbecque- Steenbecque-Blaringhem, less a detatchment in the forward area near Estares. Appendix B(1) (map) shows the distribution of units in the rear and Appendix B(11) those in the forward area.
3. The A.P.M. will arrange for road control posts at:
4. Cross roads Wallon Cappel from 8.45 am. till 2.30 pm.
5. Cross roads Blaringhem from 9am.till 5pm.
6. Cross roads Belle Croix from 8am. till 11am.
7. Reports. Divisional Headquarters will close at Distillery La Crosse at 12 noon and will open at the same hour at the crossroads Blaringhem.

P.B. O, Connor, Major, for Lieut. Colonel. General Staff, 34th Division. <p>

**23rd January**

Units of the 34th Division moved to new billeting area as per scheme set out in operation order No. 2. Except move of ammunition Sub-Park postponed until 24th January under order from 3rd Corps. One officer of the 101st Infantry Brigade and one officer from 103rd Brigade and one from R.F.A. detailed to attend artillery course at M.G.R.A. office Aire at 12 noon. 34th Division H.Q. closed at La-Crosse and reopened at Blaringhem. Arrangements were made for inspection of infantry of Division by 3rd Corps commander. Weather fine and clear.

**24th January**

Infantry of 34th Division was inspected by Commander 3rd Corps.

**26th January**

34th Division HQ reports “Information received from 3rd Corps that in view of railway activity having been reported and tomorrow being the Kaiser's birthday all units should be on high alert.“ All units warned accordingly. Weather, fine and clear.

**27th January**

34th Division HQ reports “Emergency Scheme F issued to units G.S.O.(2) exchanged with G.S.O. (2) 8TH Division(temporarily)for course of instruction.”

**28th January**

34th Division H.Q. reports: "Emergency Scheme G issued to units “. Weather fine and clear.

**February 1916**

Battalions were now ready for the trenches. They were to be attached to other more experienced units for instruction. The 24th was attached to 24th Brigade. This was a regular formation that had been transferred to the 23rd Division from the 8th Division; the companies were allotted as follows:

A Company of 24th to 1/Sherwood Foresters

B Company attached to 2/East Lancashire Regiment

C Company attached to 2/Northampton shire Regiment

D Company attached to 1/Worcestershire Regiment

C and D Companies were marched off to Rue Marle where they went into billets.

A and B Companies went straight into the trenches.

After a few days C and D Companies had its first casualty when Lieutenant Short was wounded during a trench mortar barrage.

**February 1916**

Now in the trenches at Bois-Grenier. The men regularly repaired the parapets which had been blown down .This had to be undertaken in darkness. At dawn the men stood to. Rum was issued to all. At stand down they were given breakfast and then began the foot inspection. The men removed their boots and socks, rubbing their feet with grease. The rifles were then cleaned and inspected. About this time the Battalion was visited by the Tyneside Irish Raising Committee. They stayed a couple of days and were shown around the trenches and around the rear area.

The pattern was set. Battalions spent time in the trenches, holding the line for a few days then were relieved to rest, although those resting did anything but rest: they took part in extra training, route marches, bomb throwing, fatigues and they also took stores and rations to the men at the front. Extra training courses were given in signaling, transport, bombing and machine guns at Divisional and Army schools.

**16th March 1916.**

Meanwhile back home in England the raising committee of the Tyneside Irish was busy collecting and supplying comforts for the troops. It was proposed to hold a flag day. The events took place in Newcastle, South Shields and in Durham City. In Durham speakers stated that many men were serving in the Tyneside Irish. Durham City event was held on the 18th March as it was felt this would be a better day to collect money rather than on the Friday. The other events were held on the 17th. The principle speaker at Newcastle and South Shields was Second-Lieutenant Michael O’Leary VC who had won the Victoria Cross while serving as a corporal in the Irish Guards. The local police had to form body guards around him as so many people wanted to meet him and shake his hand. The band of the Royal Artillery played Irish melodies, at which point the Lord Mayor, Alderman Fitzgerald addressed an emotionally stirred crowd and explain the purpose of the event. A considerable sum was collected in all three towns.

**19th March**

In France, Sniping and patrolling were activities that had to be undertaken and the snipers of the 24th Battalion claimed two Germans. Award for gallant conduct in the trenches started to be made.

**7th April**

Three Germans approached the front line of the 24th Battalion. Two escaped, but the other, a 21 year old Prussian, of the 230th Regiment, was captured by 24/1151 Private John Connolly from Millburngate Durham, assisted by other Durham men of D Company. He was the first prisoner taken by the Battalion and the Brigade. Word spread quickly through the ranks.

10th April

The Tyneside Irish Brigade was to be withdrawn from the line to begin preparing for the coming summer offensive. They began handing over the line to Battalions from 2nd Australian Division, arriving in France from Gallipoli via Egypt. Some leave had now started. Some lucky officers and men managed to get home to England for a few days. <p>

**May 1916**

After weeks of assault training in an area near Moulle, the Battalion entrained at St. Omer and Wizernes heading for Amiens. After traveling for hours by train they then had a 12 mile walk to get to the front. As they walked through the town, the pipers played and they were given a great welcome by the locals. They arrived at St.Gratiens on the 4th May at 11pm. The men continued to the front.

Albert (a small town in Northern France) stood in ruins. As the men moved further up the front line on the Somme, battalions were billeted around Albert. The 24th Battalion was billeted at Dernancourt. On the 20th May Brigadier Cameron attended a conference at Divisional Headquarters, and was warned to prepare 103 Brigade to carry out a series of trench raids on the enemy in opposite trenches, near the village of La Boisselle. The Battalions were warned to put together and start training raiding parties. The parties from the 24th and 26th Battalions were selected. On the 22nd May, the Brigade moved back to Bresle and became Divisional Reserve supplying working parties for the front line.. Meanwhile two groups of raider parties (of which my great uncle was one) started training.

Left raiding party dug a practice trench, while Right raiding party found an old trench to use. The objectives of the raiders were: Right raiding party, the German Salient in x20.a.; Left raiding party, The Triangle in the German trenches points .14c01,x13.b.9.0.,x20a.1/2.2. Meanwhile the Officers and NCOs of both 24th/26th visited the front line several times to reconnoitre the objective where exact points of departure from the British line, and points of entry in the German line were fixed. Right party would enter at x.20.a4.5, Left party at 19.b.9.9.

Arriving at the Somme was a huge tonic for the men. It was not nearly so wet and it was a very pleasing area with a fair few civilians around. The village of La-Boisselle is near to the soon-to-be-famous Tara and Usna Redoubts astride the Albert-Bapaume road.

**June 1916**

On the 1st and 3rd of June meetings were held at Divisional Headquarters to ensure everyone understood the whole Artillery programme. Meanwhile the chosen raiders continued their training. Special stores required for the raid by the 24th Battalion were supplied by Division as follows: 140 Mills Grenades, 4 Grenade waistcoats,19 small axes,18 Traverser mats,6 torch rifles, 6 small electric torches, 6 whistles,40 pairs of gloves,300 yards of white tape,3 sets of silent signaling apparatus, 4 wire cutters large, 2 wrist watches.

The 24th Battalion raid was to be commanded by Major J.P.Gallwey and would be in two squads, each commanded by a subaltern, comprising: 1 Officer: 1 Sergeant; 7 Bayonet men; 4 Bombers; 3 Carriers; 2 Scouts; 2 Signalers and 2 Stretcher bearers.

No.1 squad would come from D Company and No.2 squad from C Company.

In each party there would be at least one Corporal and one Lance Corporal. Raid H.Q. would be made up of OC raid and two telephone operators. The plan was for the raider to leave the British Front Line at the same spot and pass through the British wire. They then would spread out and on reaching the German wire, two bombers and one carrier would throw their traversing mats over the wire and quickly cross, followed by the remaining squad, except for one scout, who would return to raid H.Q. and report that the enemy wire had been crossed. Two signalers would remain outside the wire and send a signal reporting the wire crossed. Having crossed the enemy wire, No.1 squad would work to the right and No.2 to the left and enter the enemy fire trench. Immediately the second scout would return to raid H.Q. and report the trench had been entered and the signalers would also report by sending the prearranged signal. The bombers and bayonet men, accompanied by a carrier, would begin working to the flank along the trench protecting the rest of the squad. The remaining bayonet men, along with an Officer and Sergeant, would try to capture a German prisoner, and if possible obtain identification.

The second party of bombers and bayonet men would protect the rear of the squad and one stretcher bearer would remain on top of the parapet, whilst the other would enter the enemy trench. To assist with the evacuation of any wounded. A late addition to the plan was the inclusion of a Lewis gun team, of an Officer and two men, who would go out and protect the flank.

This was the plan, then, for the 24th *Battalion raid, but what actually happened was quite different.*

**June 1916**

NOMINAL ROLE OF THE 24TH BATTALION RAIDING PARTY.

5TH/6TH June 1916: in Command Major J.P Gallwey.

No.1 Squad: in command Lieutenant W.A. Brown.

348 Sgt. P. Butler.

Bayonet men 373 Pte. J. Reardon; 656 Pte. H. Gilroy; 541 Pte. J.W. Creighton; 836 Pte. J. Brierly; 1189 Pte. D. Cain; 1170 Pte. H. Hughes; 544 Pte. H. Bowles.

Throwers 1120 Pte. R. Taylor; 1133 Pte. J. Connoly; 1469 Pte. O. Kehoe; 1518 Pte. J. Fennelly.

Carriers 220 Cpl. A. Brodie; 1577 L/Cpl. Nightingale.

Scouts 701 L.Cpl. Gray; 66 Pte. J. Donnelly

Signalers 1375 Pte. A.T. Smith; 101 Cpl. T. Lawler

Stretcher bearers 48 Pte. T. Brown; 1027 Pte. W. McGarr

Machine gun team 204 L/ Cpl. Nolan; 420 Pte. Flannigan; 1150 Pte. Egan .

No.2 Squad: in command 2nd Lieut. J.A. Donally

630 Sgt. J. Leighton.

Bayonet men 1448 Pte. Skelton; 1635 Pte. Harold; 727 Pte. Hubbard; Pte. Jones; 147 Pte. Traynor ; 70 Pte. Wilson; 764 Pte. Smith.

Bombers 1015 Pte. Cairns; 983 Pte. Nimmons; 1602 Pte. Blades; 884 Pte. Charters

CarriersL/Cpl. Stockhill; Pte. J. Kelly

Scouts 611 Pte. C. Hughes; 448 Cpl. Graham.

Signalers 1402 RSM. Grailey; 1426 Pte. Marron

Stretcher bearers 234 Pte. Welsh 833 Pte. Rowell.

**June 1916**

Meanwhile those not involved in the raids were employed on working parties with as many as 600 men a day from each Battalion employed in Albert, Dernacourt and Franvillers areas. Every sort of stores required for the coming offensive had to be manhandled to dumps in the forward areas: rations, ammunitions, barbed wire, grenades and sandbags etc. One Private recalled that the best job of all was being attached to the tunnellers on Y sap and Lochnagar mines. For the Durham miners it was regarded as home from home, for most of the men had already spent their working lives down the coal mine, the work here was not as heavy.

**5th June**

The raiding parties left Franvillers in a motor bus at 18.30 hrs. on the evening of the 5th June, they were driven to Albert town, reaching the town approximately 20.00hrs. They were assembled in the large dugout at the enemy end of Mercer Street. By the same hour the Brigade and Battalion Commanders were in their respective positions, and communications had been tested. There was at the time complete silence over the line. At 23.00 hrs (zero hour) the bombardment started according to the programme and during the bombardment the raiders left the dugout and made their way along the trench Sap No.6.

At the time the barrage was supposed to lift, but it did not. With shells landing all around the head of the Sap, Major Gallwey waited for the opportunity to leave the Sap and cross No-Man’s land, but time had run out. The party had by now suffered several casualties. Private Joseph Hughes of Spennymoor was killed and Lance Corporals Stockhill and Blades and Privates Brierley, Cairn and Brown along with Major Gallwey were wounded by British shellfire. Sergeant Patrick Butler and four other soldiers were awarded Divisional Cards of Honour for the part they played in the raid. For Pte. Brown who had severe wounds, it was the end of the war and by the time the lads were going 'over the top' on the 1st July, he was well on the way back to Blighty and home to Usworth.

**25th/26th June**

A second raid was set for the 25th/26th June with a few changes from the first; Major J.M.Prior would command the raiding party of the 24th Battalion. This time the Germans were well ready for them. On the right the party under Major Prior reached the enemy parapet but then met with intense rifle and machine gunfire. Forced to retire, they had two men wounded, one managed to walk in under his own power, the other had more serious wounds, and he was carried in by Lieutenant Brady and Private E Hedley.

**27th/28th June**

The raider did not get much rest for on the 27thand 28th the battalion began to move forward. This was in preparation for the opening of the attack. For the previous four days the British Artillery had been bombarding the German trenches. Every man in the Brigade was aware that the opening of the offensive was very close.

Before setting off for the front line, men wrote what could be their last letters home. However the date and time of the attack was to be delayed by 48hrs. Heavy summer rain had fallen on the 26th/27th and there was a great possibility of flooding. The Divisional and Brigade Staff Officers had the job of halting and turning around those battalions on the way to the front line.

**1st July**

The 102nd (Tyneside Scottish) Brigade, were in the front line, astride the road at La Boisselle with the 20th and 23rd N.F. (1st and 4th Tyneside Scottish) to the left and 21st and 22nd N.F. (2nd and 3rd Tyneside Scottish) to the right, alongside the 101st Brigade, with the 10th Lincolns (Grimsby Chums),the 11th Suffolk’s (Cambridge Pals) and 15th and 16th Royal Scots, on the right of the Divisional line.

In support on the Usna and Tara ridges a mile to the rear, was the 103rd (Tyneside Irish) Brigade. Composed of the 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th Battalions (Tyneside Irish), Northumberland Fusiliers.

Major General E.C. Ingouville Williams, C.O. of the 34th Division, was confident that his men could thrust up Mash Valley to the left and Sausage Valley to the right of La Boisselle, outflanking the village and driving what remained of the German Garrison into the guns of his troops manning the trenches at the south west entrance of the village. The rest of his division would continue in their advance to Pozieres and Constalmaison throughout the rest of the day.

At zero hour, the huge mines detonated and in eight successive waves, 34th Division made their advance, walking in straight lines with their officers in front as ordered. The four battalions of the Tyneside Irish Brigade climbed from their support trenches, on the Tara and Usna ridges, and started down the mile long hillside. This is where, sadly, the body of my great-great uncle was eventually found.

The Germans in their deep dugouts had survived the artillery bombardment and as the guns fell silent they climbed out to meet their attackers. In a matter of minutes the Tynsiders sustained heavy casualties from enemy machine gun fire. The British gathered in small groups and continued forward; taking covers in shell holes. Some found cover in the Lochnagar Crater, and by the early evening were able to make contact with elements of 21st and 22nd Northumberland Fusiliers, who held a position in the German second line between the crater and the village of La Boisselle.

On the right of the division, small parties of the 15th and 16th Royal Scots,11th Suffolks and 100th Lincolns advanced 700 yards into the German lines and occupied a position in Wood Alley on the left flank of the British 21st Division.

Some men of the Tynside Irish Brigade reached Contalmaison on the 1st July, but none survived. The extent of their advance was only discovered when the village was eventually taken.

Total known casualties of the 24th Tyneside Irish Brigade: 1057

**10th August 1916**

24th and 27th Battalions Northumberland Fusiliers were amalgamated to form 24/27th Battalion.<p>