

12/13th BATTALION NORTHERN IRELAND FUSILIERS.

1917

October WESTOUIRE.

Appendix.

- 1st The Battalion (12/13 Northld Fusiliers) marched out of ARRAGON camp WESTOUIRE to a bivouac between RIDGE and SCOTTISH WOODS - immediately south of DICKEBUSCH LAKE; a nucleus party was detached at WESTOUIRE and marched under MAJOR EDMANN D.S.O. to MURRUMBIDGE CAMP at LA CLYTTE. There was considerable bombing near the Battalion bivouac, but no damage was done to the Battalion lines. Ref Map Sheet 28 Edition 3 1 40,000
- 2nd The Battalion marched from the bivouac at SCOTTISH WOOD to ZILLEBEKE LAKE at 4 p.m.; teas were taken on the south side of the lake, some shelling was experienced here. At dusk the Battalion moved up into Bde support - the 62nd Bde taking over from the 110th Infy Bde. The Battn Transport remained at SCOTTISH WOOD. (N.S.A.)
- 3rd The 3/4 Battn QUEENS Royal West Surrey Regt held the Bde front line, the Bde being on the left of the Divisional Front, the 64th Bde on the right & the 110th Bde in Divisional Reserve. The Bde frontage held by the Royal West Surrey Regt extended from J.10.D.2.5 to J.11.C.40.55. The 12/13 Northld Fusiliers & the 10th Battn Yorkshire regt were right and left support Battns respectively, the 12/13 Northld Fusiliers having 2 Coys (C & D Coys) in position on the EASTERN edge of CLINGCORSE WOOD and A & B Coys & Battn Hdqrs in the tunnel at CLAPHAM JUNCTION (J.13.D.9.8.) The Battn remained in these positions all day, there was occasional heavy shell fire, but casualties were not heavy, 62nd Bde Hdqrs were in SANCTUARY WOOD at J.13.C.65.10.
- 4th The 21st Division was ordered to attack the line J.11.C.55.05 - J.11.d.2.3 - J.12.a.1.5. in conjunction with the 5th Division on the right and 7th Division on the left and "to form a defensive flank facing South South-East and East with a view to protecting the Southern flank of the attacking troops on the North" (the remainder of the second army, including the Anzac Corps) "and obtaining observation of the

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4th
(Contd.)

POLYGON WOOD (de ZONNEBEEK)

Appendix.

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REUTEL BEEK VALLEY and the spur running S.E. to BECELAIRE." The 62nd Bde attacked on the left of the Divisional Front, the 64th Bde on the right and the 110th Bde were in Divisional Reserve. The 62nd Bde had as 1st objective the Road from J.11.C.60.55 to J.11.A.85.30, for this the 3/4 QUEENS were detailed, the second objective was the line J.11.d.65.75 - J.11.b.95.15 - J.12.A.1.5.; this was to be carried by the 12/13 Northld Fusiliers on the right and 10th Battn Yorkshire Regt on the left: the 1st Battn LINCOLNSHIRE REGT being in Bde Reserve.

At 2 A.M. on the morning of October 4th C and D Coys. moved forward to their assembly position immediately in rear of the jumping-off position of the 3/4 "QUEENS". A & B Coys followed by Battn Hdqrs moved from CLAPHAM JUNCTION at the same time. Between GLENCORSE WOOD and POLYGON WOOD a hostile barrage was encountered, but the Coys pushed on & suffered comparatively few casualties.

At about 5.20 A.M. the Battn had formed up in its position for the assault as follows: D Coy on the right, C. Coy on the left, A Coy supporting D Coy and B Coy supporting C. Coy: Battn Hdqrs immediately in rear of B Coy. The Coys were composed of three platoons & were formed up each on a one platoon front echeloned in depth. The 10th Battn the YORKSHIRE REGT having been caught in & delayed by a hostile barrage, the 1st Battn LINCOLNSHIRE REGT came up on the left of the 12/13 Battn Northld Fusiliers. At Zero (6 A.M.) the Battn moved forward to the attack (the final objective of the Battn being a line drawn from the SOUTHERN END of JUDGE COPSE on the right to JUDGE COTT on the left); moving forward close behind the 3/4 QUEENS ROYAL WEST SURREYS the first opposition encountered by the Battalion was from the shell holes of the enemy original front line where some of the enemy appear to have been passed over by the leading Battalion, & several casualties were suffered.

After crossing JUNIPER TRENCH the Battalion came under fire from both flanks; on the right a strong point which was not being attended to by any troops opened fire & caused trouble,

Near REUTEL.
4th 6 A.M.

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Near REUTEL (CONTD.)

4th
(Contd.)

2 Lt EDMONDS at once moved up A Coy on to the right flank of the Battn and attacked & captured this strong point, taking between 30 and 40 prisoners, a party of the K.O.Y.L.I (64th Bde) who came up shortly afterwards were left in this Strong Point as a garrison. A Coy moving on half left resumed its position in support of D Coy, meanwhile on the left flank C and B Coys suffered casualties from a strong point near JUNIPER TRENCH (about J.10.D.6.8.) near Junction of 12/13 Northld Fusiliers with the right flank of 1st LINCOLN REGT; in conjunction with the 1st Lincoln Regt this strong point was captured. Continuing the advance the Battalion became somewhat scattered owing to the boggy nature of the ground chiefly on the left flank; heavy rifle & M.G. fire was now directed against the Battn from the opposite ridge and a strong point near JUDGE TRENCH (about J.11.C.7.8), heavy casualties were suffered here. The Strong Point at J.11.C.7.8 was captured by C Coy, rifle grenades being used first with good effect: meanwhile heavy machine gun fire continued to come from the front & right flank & many casualties occurred: Lt Col Dix M.C now reorganised the left half Battn & leading on B Coy into the front line to strengthen C Coy was himself killed whilst leading the remaining men of these two Coys up towards their first objective, Capt RIDDELL, who was already wounded took command but found it impossible to advance further owing to the heavy fire & the weakness of and gave orders to consolidate the first objective, along the line of which the 12/13 Northld Fusiliers & 1 Battn LINCOLNSHIRE were now intermingled with the men of the 3/4 QUEENS, at this juncture Capt RIDDELL was severely wounded & the command of the Battn passed to Lieut B J. McKINNON, the LEWIS GUN officer, all officers senior to him having become casualties; one officer was now left in each Coy, namely 2 Lt EDMONDS in command of A Coy, Lt JACKSON of B Coy, 2 Lt CHERRYMAN of C Coy, and 2 Lt HUTCHINSON of D Coy. Before the barrage moved on D Coy found it necessary to attack a strong point at J.11.C.65.60 on the right of the Battn front which was causing trouble, a large number of the enemy were killed at this point and three machine guns captured.

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Near REUTEL (CONTD.)

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4th 7.40 At Zero plus 100 minutes the
(Contd.) A M barrage moved on according to plan
(7.40 A.M.) to allow of the capture
of the final objective & the 12/13th
Northld Fusiliers on the right &
1st Battn LINCOLNSHIRE REGT pushed
on towards their respective
objectives still under heavy
machine gun & shell fire directed
from the ridge opposite. Having
reached a point about 250 yds
short of the final objective the
Battn dug in, in line with the
1st Battn LINCOLN Rgt on the left
& considerably in advance of the
64th Bde on the right: a defensive
flank was at once formed on the
right by A Coy who obtained touch
with the 9th Battn K.O.Y.L.I.
Consolidation was satisfactorily
completed by dusk and A Coy
withdrawn into close support in
JUDGE TRENCH. The total advance
effected by the Battalion was 1100 yds
from our original front line.
No counter attacks developed against
the Battn front, but heavy barrage
fire constantly fell on the Battn
owing to S.O.S signals sent up by
neighbouring units.

5th

Early in the morning Capt BRUNTON M.C.
took charge of the Battn & remained
in command until the 6th Battn
LEICESTERSHIRE REGT relieved the
1st Battn LINCOLNSHIRE REGT & 12/13
Northld Fusiliers on the evening of
Oct 5th. Lt McKINNON marched the
Battn out to the BUND at ZILLEBEKE
LAKE, Capt Brunton remaining behind
to point out the position to the
new Battalion, Capt Brunton was
severely wounded on the morning of
Oct 6th.

6th

The Battalion arrived at ZILLEBEKE
LAKE at 3 A.M & went into dugouts.
The casualties suffered were -
Officers Killed 7 - Lt Col SHLDIX M.C.
Lt FEGGETER, Lt LOWTH. 2 Lt WAISTELL,
2 Lt LUMMIS, 2 Lt GREGORY and
2 Lt LETHERIDGE, wounded 13 -
Capt OAKSHOTT, CAPT RIDDELL,
CAPT HERBERT, CAPT GRAHAM,
CAPT GRIFFIN M.C. R.A.M.C (remained
at duty), Lt PHILIP.D.S.O. M.C.,
Lt BRANWELL, 2 Lt DICKENSON,
2 Lt ALFORD, 2 Lt THOMAS, 2 Lt Urwin
and CAPT BRUNTON M C & 2 Lt CLIFFORD
the officer in charge carrying party

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October Near REUTEL (CONTD.)

Appendix.

6th
(Contd.) 44 O.R. Killed, 320 O.R. Wounded.
At 9 p.m. the Battn moved from
SILLESKE LAKE to SCOTTISH WOOD.

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7th At 2 p.m. the Battn moved from
SCOTTISH WOOD with the transport
to MURRIBIDGE CAMP near LA CLYTE,
where the nucleus party was
located; Major F.J.F. EDLMANN D.S.O.
assumed command of the Battalion, &
the following officers of the
nucleus party assumed command of
companies, CAPT WAIGHT of A Coy,
Lt BRYNE of B Coy, Capt RUTHERFORD
of C Coy, Lt DRENNING of D Coy.
During the period of active
operations 2 Lt R.H. COMLEY arrived
from 31st I.B.D on Oct 2nd and
Lt F.L. SMART on Oct 4th together
with 4 O.R.

LA BELLE HOTESSE.

8th The Battn marched at 2.30 p.m. to
OUDERDOM and entrained there,
detrained at 11 p.m. at EBLINGHEM,
and marched into billets at
LA BELLE HOTESSE, transport
proceeded by road.

HAZEBROUCK
5.A.
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9th The Battn reorganised at LA BELLE
& HOTESSE. Coys were reformed from
10th 3 to 2 platoons each and LEWIS GUN
teams made up to strength (16 teams,
each of 1 N.C.O and 6).

YPRES.

11th The Battalion moved by motor bus to
a camp $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N.W. of YPRES, and
came under the orders of the 2nd
ANZAC Corps for work on LIGHT Rlys
under the 2nd Canadian Rly
battalion.

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11th-18th The Battalion worked daily on the
light railway between ST JEAN and
the Front line, the camp was
frequently bombed by fleets of
GOTHA airplanes, but only one
bomb caused casualties, one bomb
which fell on Oct 18th causing
casualties to 13 O.R.

18th At 3.30 p.m. Battalion moved by
motor lorry to MICMAC CAMP between
HALLEBAST and OUDERDOM and there
came under order of the 110th Bde
Lord Locke commanding.