

so into the fight. Almost three years later when, after the third Battle of Ypres, the Battalion marched this self-same road up into Passchendaele, of Potijze, Velorenhoek and Frezenberg only memories remained.

Although several shells fell in Ypres whilst the Battalion was passing through, Potijze was reached about 10 p.m. without any casualties. Orders were there received to push on to Velorenhoek and to report to Brigadier-General Chapman, commanding the 85th Infantry Brigade (28th Division). On arrival here the Battalion was ordered to move about four hundred yards east of the village, extend on either side of the road and there await morning. There was some delay at Velorenhoek before those orders were received, during which the Battalion very thankfully rested along the roadside. No shells were falling near but were constantly passing over and bursting behind. In spite of the ordeal of the march through Ypres and being under shell-fire for the first time the spirits of the men were in no way damped. Through the darkness came the voice of some irrepressible Bede College member of A Company as a shell passed over: "Aye, it reminds yer o' Durham Regatta. Now, lads, up goes another! All together! Bang! Mind the stick!" Then some one called, "Who's won the Grand?" and there were rival cries of "City" and "Bede." At 11.30 p.m., however, further orders were received to proceed to the Headquarters of the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers on the Zonnebeke-St. Julien road, where a guide was to be obtained to lead the Battalion to some trenches which were reported to have been dug by a Canadian Battalion but left unfinished by them. Although the tool carts had not yet come up, the Battalion at once moved off and proceeded through Zonnebeke and thence north-west. Progress was very slow owing to darkness, bad roads and many obstacles. Part of C Company which was marching last became separated from the rest of the Battalion in passing through Zonnebeke, but after a few anxious moments again got in touch.

On arrival at the 3rd Royal Fusiliers Headquarters the orders were explained to Major Johnson then commanding that Battalion. He, however, stated that the position the Battalion was ordered to was quite untenable and that, moreover, it would be quite impossible to entrench it before daylight, especially as the men's small entrenching tools only were available. On the situation being explained by telephone to the 85th Infantry Brigade, the Battalion was instead ordered to proceed to a position held by the 8th Canadian Battalion (Winnipeg Rifles—Little Black Devils) under Lieutenant-Colonel Lipsett at Boetleer's Farm.

It was now nearly 2 a.m. The Battalion immediately moved off to relieve the Canadians who were reported to have lost heavily and

## 18 8TH BATTALION DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY

to be much exhausted. Passing through a farm filled with Canadian wounded, the pack animals were left and the ammunition taken on by hand. The position at Boetleer's Farm was reached about 3 a.m. on Sunday, April 25th.

There was great difficulty on arrival in obtaining a clear idea of the situation, there being no plan of the position or system of defence, but the following message sent by the 8th Canadian Battalion to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade prior to the Battalion reaching Boetleer's Farm at 3 a.m. throws some light on the situation existing at the time.

*" 12.00 Midnight.*

" 8th Battalion to 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade.

" We hold our trenches and some of the 15th. I have two platoons in front of Battalion Headquarters to protect my left rear so we have a bad gap between us and locality 'C.' I have only 20 men in this gap. I can hold my line providing the Germans do not get round my left rear, but it is a very bad situation unless we can get troops to fill the gap from Battalion Headquarters to locality 'C.' If you are sending me reinforcements let them come to just south of Battalion Headquarters. Let me have instructions as to whether it is intended to hold this line or not. Have just heard German advance against our left seems to have slackened and come to a halt. I am not uneasy about being able to hold my line if Germans are prevented working round my rear."

It is through the kindly interest of General Edmonds, Director of the Historical Section (Military Branch), Committee of Imperial Defence, that the above message is available for inclusion here.

As will be seen from the accompanying sketch plan adapted from a drawing made by the Adjutant, Captain G. A. Stevens, during the action, the Canadian trenches centred upon a group of farm buildings (Boetleer's Farm) (8) (9) which were in ruins from shell-fire. These occupied the highest ground. To the north-west the ground sloped gently down, but observation was much restricted by small clumps of brushwood and hedges. Towards Keerselaare and the line of the Stroombeek the ground rose again and there were some fairly large fields. To the east was a large open field leading across a narrow valley to a ridge some twelve to fourteen hundred yards distant. Westwards the ground fell away gradually with a good field of fire, the crest line of this side being between the trenches (4), (5) and trench (6). The field (7) was enclosed by a thick hedge, and at its north-west corner adjoining the farm buildings was a small orchard which, on the arrival of the Battalion, was strewn with bodies stripped of their

uniforms. From point (10) on the St. Julien-Fortuin-Passchendaele road a thick hedge ran southwards.

The Canadian Headquarters had been stationed at the farm buildings. These on examination were found to be full of Canadian wounded in great need of attention owing to their Medical Officer having been killed. Though protected with sandbags the buildings were totally unsuitable for any purpose, as they were constantly shelled and partly destroyed. However, for the time being Battalion Headquarters was established here.

As dawn was breaking the following dispositions were rapidly made: A Company (Captain F. G. Harvey) and D Company (Captain T. A. Bradford) were ordered to occupy trenches (1) and (2), relieving the Canadians holding these. B Company (Major J. R. Ritson) and C Company (Captain J. A. S. Ritson) were ordered to entrench themselves as quickly as possible along the hedges of the field (7), there being no cover available for these two Companies, trench (3) being occupied by a small detachment of Monmouths whilst trenches (4) and (5) were held by some Canadians. A Platoon of B Company (Lieutenant F. M. Weeks) was, however, placed in the south end of trench (6) with a machine-gun at the south-west corner together with the few Canadians who were relieved from trenches (1) and (2).

The German positions varied from about eighty to two hundred and fifty yards in distance from trenches (1) and (2), the "No Man's Land" between being covered with young corn and mustard. About five hundred yards away to the north-west they also held a trench reported to have been dug by the Canadians but evacuated by them when found to be too isolated. From here there was a gap of some two or three hundred yards, and then the German trenches began again opposite trenches (3), (4) and (5).

Leaving Boetleer's Farm with a Canadian as guide, D Company, followed closely by A Company, moved over the crest of the ridge and then in a north-easterly direction down a gradual slope. After crossing two or three fields, in one of which were several unoccupied trenches, passing a ruined farm nearby which was a trench containing several dead, and crossing a stream, eventually they reached on slightly rising ground a line of trenches held by some weak Companies of the 7th and 8th Canadian Battalions. Turning left into this, D Company, still leading, filed along for a distance of some two hundred yards, then through a length used as a communication trench partly filled with water into a trench (2) beyond also held by the Canadians. A Company remained in the trench first entered, i.e., (1) on the right, or eastern side of the communication trench.

Though by this time it was broad daylight, it was most remarkable

that no fire was opened on the Companies, for the German trench facing the point where they entered the Canadian trench was no more than eighty yards away, and to their strained imagination the noise made by the wash of the water carried by them in petrol tins was in itself alone sufficient to draw attention. Possibly after their efforts of the 24th the Germans were sleeping at the moment, but there it was, the position was occupied without a shot being fired.

The trenches, both (1) and (2), had obviously been held by the French at some time, for a number of bodies were buried in and around them, so little below the surface that they could be felt under the feet, and the shell-fire during the day that followed threw many of these up, scattering them in all directions, when it was seen that they were French Colonials.

They were shallow trenches with a fair breastwork partly loop-holed, but the traverses were incomplete and there was no protection in their rear, the lack of which was responsible for many casualties from the back blast of the shells bursting behind, and during the day even the breastwork gradually failed them, being blown in along much of its length together with a number of the dug-outs and burying the wounded where they lay waiting till darkness set in for succour—if the trench could be held till then. Nor were there in these early days steel helmets to protect against overhead shrapnel. The dug-outs, of which there were a number, were filled with Canadian dead, wounded and gassed, mostly the latter. Owing to the light it was impossible to remove any of these, and of the few Canadians holding the trenches but a small number were able to get away. They had been holding the position for some days. Much has been written in other records of their gallantry—let this be added to them here, they were good fellows, and fearless, officers and men alike. The trenches were well supplied with ammunition, periscopes and food. There was very little wire in front.

As the main and decisive German attack on the 25th developed from the gap existing on D Company's left flank the story of that Company will be taken first.

Trench (2), as we have seen, was connected with A Company on the right in trench (1) by a communication trench. Its left flank was drawn back at right angles for a distance of fifty or sixty yards. In the angle thus formed was a Canadian machine-gun. A portion of the trench, about its centre, was a communication trench, and two platoons were placed on each side of this. There was considerable dead ground on the left flank, but owing to a fold in the ground this did not become apparent till later on. About a thousand yards away to the north-west was a large wood. Boetleer's Farm was not visible from any part of the trench owing to the formation of the

ground. The German position was from two hundred to two hundred and fifty yards distant in front.

Lieutenant McLeod, commanding the Canadians in trench (2), now occupied by D Company, offered to remain together with his machine-guns and their teams (D Company being without any guns, though they had brought some gunners and belts of ammunition which, however, could not be used with the Canadian machine-guns being of a different pattern), also his signallers, and ordered the rest of his men to make their way back to Boetleer's Farm, which but few ever reached.

Soon after 3.30 a.m. heavy rifle fire opened from the west, lasting for about thirty minutes when it died down, and during the remainder of the early morning fire was only intermittent from this direction, whilst from the north there was little more than sniping. Between 8 and 9 a.m. a German aeroplane flew low along over the trench, dropping silver paper in spite of being fired at, and half an hour later heavy shelling opened and continued. One of the first shells struck the telephone dug-out, killing the operator and destroying the instrument. Communication with Battalion Headquarters by this means was never re-established. Casualties from the shell-fire were constant and heavy. Lieutenant J. N. O. Rogers and Lieutenant B. S. Richardson were wounded early on. The latter, lying in the dug-out to which he was carried, found there a jar of rum, a quantity of which in his thirst and agony he consumed, thereby becoming stupefied and apparently dead and as such he was reported. He recovered consciousness, however, when the Germans captured the trench in the evening but died a few weeks later in a German hospital. Many men were killed and wounded, and one of the Canadian machine-guns was knocked out, all its team being killed or wounded, for the trench gave but little shelter save from rifle fire in front.

During the morning the Germans from about eighteen hundred yards to the left twice advanced in waves, and though they suffered from shrapnel continued to advance, eventually disappearing over a crest to the rear of the left flank. At 10.30 a.m. what apparently amounted to two Companies of Germans appeared some four thousand yards distant to the north-west; these on coming under fire retired. As Captain Bradford felt much uneasiness with regard to his left flank and his casualties were increasingly heavy, he sent Lieutenant McLeod to report the situation to Battalion Headquarters. The shelling became intense about 12.30 p.m., and from then onwards, save during the intervals of the German Infantry attacks, never ceased till night.

About 2 p.m. scouts who had gone out to the north-west reported that the Germans were collecting in some dead ground in that direction. These could not be seen from trench (2) nor were they

observed from Boetleer's Farm. Shortly afterwards they advanced, but fire was opened on them at six hundred yards, and they were stopped, but now D Company was enfiladed by rifle-fire, and as the Germans appeared to be working farther and farther round the left flank Captain Bradford extended a section in the open amongst some mustard to prolong his flank and at the same time ordered Lieutenant J. O. Wilson with a patrol to work up a fence to a farmhouse in the rear. All the patrol, after a sharp fight at the farm, were killed or wounded, Lieutenant Wilson himself being wounded and taken prisoner.

Three trains now drew up four thousand yards away to the north on the Ypres-Staden Railway, full of German Infantry who immediately detrained, and at 3.30 p.m. large numbers were seen three thousand yards distant to the north in close order but beginning to extend and move south. These were also observed from Boetleer's Farm, and as they came into range Lieutenant E. H. Motum with his machine-guns got to work on them, and though drawing heavy fire, emptied belt after belt into the exceptional target offered.

A determined attack by the German Infantry now developed. After the long hours of shelling they had endured this came somewhat in the nature of a relief to the men, who faced it steadily, and under their rapid fire and that of the one remaining machine-gun the grey-clad figures doubling across No Man's Land halted, turned and melted away. Captain V. Burgoyne-Johnson, though mortally wounded, asked for a rifle to be given him, and continued firing until he died. Lieutenant W. Marshall was killed and many non-commissioned officers and men were killed and wounded. Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Briggs seemed to be everywhere encouraging the men, and he and Private Borthwick set a fine example of bravery both in this attack and throughout the day. Private Borthwick unfortunately was killed by shrapnel shortly before the trench was evacuated in the evening.

After the failure of their infantry to capture the trench a heavy bombardment again began, under cover of which the Germans continued to work round its left flank and rear. About 5 p.m. some hundred German cyclists came along a road on the left from the direction of Langemarcke until they were five or six hundred yards away, when, rapid fire being opened on them, they jumped from their machines and took cover.

The remaining machine-gun was knocked out at 5.30 p.m., and when its fire ceased the Germans again advanced in a most determined manner. Captain Bradford, himself wounded, had now only Lieutenant J. L. Wood and about thirty men left, but though the Germans approached quite close, their further advance was completely

stopped by the fire of this small party. During the lull that followed a supply of rum found in the trench was issued.

At 6 p.m. the German artillery fire increased in intensity, and a little later, ammunition being almost exhausted, communication with Battalion Headquarters impossible and the trench being surrounded, Captain Bradford decided to attempt a retirement. Lieutenant J. L. Wood, with about half the men still left, was ordered to work along to the right in the direction of A Company and take up a position if possible at a belt of trees to the right rear, whilst Captain Bradford, with the remaining men, stayed to cover the movement. About five minutes later, as this covering party followed, a heavy bombardment with shrapnel opened; this killed and wounded several, and Captain Bradford, bringing up the rear, was again hit but slightly and then found himself alone. Making his way along the trench, he found Lieutenant J. L. Wood lying wounded close by Lieutenant J. N. O. Rogers; both were unable to move. After remaining with them for a short time he went on and entered trench (1) to confer with Captain Harvey who had still a few men left as well as a machine-gun. Almost immediately the Germans entered trench (2), which now only held dead and wounded. It was decided that Captain Bradford should endeavour to reach Battalion Headquarters and report the position whilst A Company hung on. He reached the belt of trees to which Lieutenant Wood's party had been ordered, but found it unoccupied. From here as soon as the shrapnel and rifle-fire which was sweeping the ground from the east eased up he made his way in the direction of where he believed Battalion Headquarters was situated, but failed to find it, and eventually by a roadside came to a dug-out which proved to be an aid-post where his wounds were dressed, and he then set out to find Brigade Headquarters. The losses sustained by D Company throughout the day amounted to 7 officers and 173 non-commissioned officers and men, killed, wounded or missing.

Now follows the tale of A Company.

As soon as D Company was clear of trench (1) Captain Harvey took over from a Major of the 8th Canadian Battalion, his name cannot now be recalled, who then withdrew his men but left his machine-guns and their teams. There still remained, however, on the extreme right a number of the 7th Canadian Battalion who were not relieved. It was found after the relief was complete that the Canadians had removed their telephone, and as A Company was minus an instrument the only means of communication with Battalion Headquarters was by runners.

Many dead, wounded and gassed still lay in the trench, for it had been impossible to remove all owing to the repeated attempts to capture it made by the Germans during the night. A Canadian officer

stated that the position was practically untenable and that it was with the greatest difficulty they had repulsed the last frontal attack.

A somewhat curious coincidence on taking over the Company Headquarters' dug-out was the finding there of an envelope addressed to a Captain Harvey of the Canadians.

Between the trench and the Germans, who were on slightly higher ground, was a field of tares and young corn, but there was little to see, and it was impossible to discover where lay the nearest British trenches to the right. Owing to the rain overnight the trench was very muddy, and great difficulty was experienced in keeping the rifles fit for use. All were wet through, but the sun which soon became hot quickly dried every one. It was difficult on so fine a spring morning with larks singing overhead to realize that one was actually awaiting an attack, the real thing at last.

After the Company got settled in the men started firing odd shots at the German trench which in parts, on the crest of a small ridge, was as close as eighty yards. There was a little firing in return by the Germans, only enough to make the men keep their heads down, and the opportunity was taken to have some food and a short rest.

The first incident of note was the circling over the trench of a German aeroplane at which the men fired, and soon afterwards shells were seen bursting on Battalion Headquarters at Boetleer's Farm. A little later the trench itself came under very accurate shell-fire directed by an aeroplane flying constantly above. No British planes were seen, and there appeared to be but little artillery support from the British batteries. One gun was observed to come into action from behind a farm about a mile to the right rear, but after firing only two rounds the German Artillery shelled the buildings, from which a cloud arose and the gun fired no more.

Away on the left a large number of troops, at first thought to be French on account of their blue uniforms but later on recognized as Germans, were seen crossing a railway, marching in close order, ultimately disappearing behind a wood. They made a splendid target for artillery had there been any. When next they came into sight they were extending and coming up in the direction of the rear of the left flank where they began to dig in carrying sleepers from the railway. D Company got busy on them at this moment.

The German Artillery now got going in earnest, and seemed to have the exact range of the trench. Casualties were very heavy mainly owing to the lack of protection in the rear. Under cover of this the German Infantry got fairly close up into a long thin strip of trees and some farm buildings. In spite of the shrapnel which swept the trench continually rifle-fire was kept going at every target that offered, and so the day passed on. Evidently dead beat, a man was observed, during

one severe bout of shelling, sound asleep. "I had not the heart to waken him," said his Company Commander, "and even envied him."

Late in the afternoon a message was received from Captain Bradford stating that D Company in trench (2) could not hold out much longer as the Germans were in their rear, and later a few men of that Company were seen doubling back over the open in the rear of A Company. Most of them fell under the hail of shrapnel.

Part of A Company trench had by now become untenable, there being no cover left, and the men were moved from here to the part held by the 7th Canadians where a hedge afforded a certain amount of protection, and here was seen perhaps the most outstanding in its heroism of the many courageous acts of this first stern day of fighting. Corporal J. M. Watson lay wounded in an exposed position crying for water. A bottle was thrown to him but fell beyond his reach. Seeing this, Private J. H. Atkinson left his shelter to give his comrade the water he needed, and gave his life in the attempt. Casualties still continued heavy, very many men being hit, and as the Germans pushed nearer and nearer the position became impossible, the only hope being to hold on until dark.

The shrapnel fire became more and more intense for a time, when it ceased and a bombardment with high explosive followed; fortunately many of the shells were "duds." The farm building immediately behind was repeatedly hit, its stones being scattered in all directions. C.S.M. E. Lee with a party was sent down a hedge in an attempt to stop the Germans working up a strip of woodland, but all were soon killed or wounded. Heavy rifle-fire was still kept up, Lieutenant T. Callinan and Sergeant Price being very conspicuous at this time encouraging the men and directing fire. One of the Canadian machine-guns in action manned by Lance-Corporal R. H. Robson and Private J. Huggins, who had taken the gun over when all the Canadian gunners had become casualties, was eventually knocked out, Huggins being killed and Robson dying of his wounds a few days later at a German dressing-station.

The German Infantry was now very close and the artillery fire ceased for a time, and a few men of D Company, followed a little after by Captain Bradford, entered the trench. After a consultation Captain Bradford set out to find Battalion Headquarters; several runners had previously been sent but apparently none of these got through. One did actually reach Battalion Headquarters with a message to the effect that A Company was hard pressed and might have to retire, to which a reply was sent that the Company must hold on at all costs and that reinforcements were reported to be coming up. This reply however, never reached Captain Harvey. A number of Canadians also moved off.

A Company continued to hold on, and now manned an old ditch running towards the rear on the left in an endeavour to hold up the Germans who had entered D Company's old trench which now only held dead and wounded, and were advancing along it.

Towards 7 p.m. it was obvious that a retirement could not be postponed much longer, for the Germans were on three sides, whatever British troops had at one time been on the right flank apparently having gone, and shelling now opened from the left rear. As the first shell passed over and burst in front a man exclaimed, "Thank God, our guns have opened at last," but those that followed all burst along the trench. Captain Coulson had already reconnoitred as far as the farm buildings in an endeavour to find a line of retirement with an intermediate position between the trench and the ridge in the distance, but there appeared to be no alternative to crossing the intervening ground in one movement. It looked a long way, and as the light was still strong Captain Harvey hesitated. C.Q.M.S. Price had been ordered to warn the men to be ready, and now reported that all knew. No reply having come to his message to Battalion Headquarters, Captain Harvey at last gave the order, "Get out steadily and scatter for the ridge." Then followed that dread experience, a retirement of exhausted men across the open over unknown ground swept by rifle, machine-gun and artillery fire. Though wounded both in the thigh and arm, Captain Harvey endeavoured to control the movement. The men bunched somewhat crossing the stream, but once over it extended and made the best line they could. About half-way Privates F. E. Dann and J. Heslop, seeing Captain Harvey's difficulty in moving, came to his assistance thoughtless of themselves.

How many such acts passed unnoticed and how many gave their lives to help their friends over the long stretch to the ridge that promised safety!

When at last the ridge was reached no troops were found there, but in some fields beyond men were seen digging in. In the hope that these might be Durhams the survivors made for them, but found they were of some other regiment, the name of which is now forgotten.

Lieutenant C. W. Baldwin now took control of the few unwounded who had reached here, and carried on. Some few others actually succeeded in reaching B and C Companies at Boetleer's Farm, which lay farther to the north-west than the ridge to which A Company had retired.

To go back for a little. At the moment the retirement started Lieutenant G. E. Blackett, who with seven men and a Canadian officer, Lieutenant H. E. Lloyd Owen, occupied a position with a machine-gun in a ditch facing the Germans in the trench lately held by D Company, realized that if the withdrawal was to succeed it must be covered by

his party  
they wou  
ever, aft  
behind t  
minutes  
again.

water.  
with all  
ing to s  
inflicted  
until af  
situation  
their fir  
Battalic

Ca  
afterwa  
experie  
our tur  
It was  
by shel  
with a  
togeth  
after l  
myself  
dropp  
quiver  
I gat  
consid  
saw o  
which  
again  
just t  
He v  
later  
he w  
killin  
happ  
roun  
lying  
rifles  
were  
when  
kept  
a dr

the party, and therefore his little group gallantly remained, hoping they would be able to hold on till dark which was not far off. However, after seeing the Germans, who had collected in large numbers behind the ruins of a house about thirty yards distant, at bay for ten minutes the machine-gun broke down and could not be got going again. The lock was therefore removed, broken and thrown into side ways. The Germans then advanced and surrounded the party, which, with all ammunition exhausted, was captured, its small number serving to surprise the Germans, who showed anger at the heavy losses inflicted on them. Of this act of self-sacrifice nothing was known until after the war. The heroism of these few officers and men in a situation which would have tried even seasoned soldiers, and this was their first action, will always hold a high place in the traditions of the Battalion.

Captain W. H. Coulson's description, written by him shortly afterwards, gives a very vivid picture of what must have been the experience of so many during the withdrawal. He writes: "At last our turn came and we warned the men, then gave the order to retire. It was a terrible experience crossing that open ground as it was swept by shell, machine-gun and rifle-fire. There was a field of young corn with a cartway running through it. Harvey and I left the trench together, but soon got parted. Callinan and Baldwin I saw shortly after leaving the trench a short distance in front of me. I found myself near the cart road and had not got very far when my right arm dropped to my side useless. I looked down and saw my hand was quivering. I did not feel much pain at the time but just a numbness. I gathered my right arm up with my left hand and ran on for a considerable distance. Men were falling on all sides of me, and I saw one man helping another along. I came to a small field drain which I tried to jump over, but somehow I fell and could not get up again. I tried to undo my belts but could not get them loose, and just then a red-headed lad threw himself down beside me to help. He was risking too much staying there so I sent him off. I saw him later on in the train and he told me he had not got very far before he was hit himself. We all had the impression that the Germans were killing everyone and taking no prisoners, so I did not feel in a very happy position. I was lying in a very open spot and could see all round me. The Germans came on and passed the place where I was lying. Several times I saw the Germans in the corn bringing their rifles up and firing at something at very close range. I am afraid they were shooting the wounded. I suppose it would be about 7 p.m. when I was hit, and it was not long before it grew dark. Germans kept passing me, and one or two were very good and offered me a drink of cold coffee from their water-bottles. I could hear shots

and groans all round me from the wounded. I myself began to feel very weak and discovered I had a wound in the back and was bleeding heavily. I could not get at this wound, but put some iodine on my shoulder and laid my field dressing on it. I had great difficulty in breathing and realized my lungs were hit. I became very stiff and cold and could hardly move. One German came up and said something, and then raised his rifle and aimed at me, but another stopped him. They of course took my revolver away and went through my pockets. At last two German Red Cross men came up and they cut the clothing away from my arm. They put me on to my feet and supported me, one on each side, and tried to get me to walk. It was very painful and I was very stiff. I only got a few yards when I dropped again, this time on the cart road. They stayed a short while, but then a lot of bullets came very close and they cleared off, leaving me there. I could hear someone calling me by name and groaning, so I tried to find out who it was but could not. I thought it was Harker, but apparently it was not. I was unable to do anything for him as I could not move. I think I was unconscious part of the night but do not know. A perfect hail of bullets was coming from somewhere and striking the earth all round. I never thought I should see daylight, and one moment hoped for a bullet to finish me off and the next hoped they would miss me. I was firmly convinced I should be shot if taken prisoner.

"Daylight came at last, but there was a thick fog. I could still hear the man I had heard before, and later saw him through the mist on his hands and knees apparently trying to crawl towards me. Just then some more bullets came and he seemed to lie down, and I did not see him again. The fog gradually lifted and the sun came out. Some Red Cross men at last found me and they, supporting me, led me back over the ground we had retired across the night before. I hardly dared to look around, dreading who I might see lying there. I am almost sure I saw Sergeant Price, but the man I had taken to be Harker I could not see anywhere."

Soon after A and D Companies had left Boetleer's Farm the position around (7), (8) and (9) was subjected to shelling, the farm buildings with high explosive and the whole position generally with shrapnel. About the same time C Company, which was digging in along the north side of field (7), came under a sharp burst of rifle-fire, but only suffered one casualty, Sergeant T. Taylor being shot through the head and killed. It was surprising that more were not hit, for owing to the sodden nature of the ground and only having the small entrenching tool available, they had not succeeded in getting very deeply dug in. Great trouble was experienced in keeping the rifles ready for action, and it was actually necessary to immerse some in

a small stream running alongside in order to clear them of the mud with which they were clogged.

The shelling continued on and off until 11 a.m., when a heavy bombardment of the whole position began, shells being counted bursting at varying rates of from forty-five to sixty-eight per minute, and casualties were heavy in and around field (7). An infantry attack against trenches (4) and (5) also developed but was beaten off. Telephone communication which had early broken down with A and D Companies now also failed with the Headquarters of the Canadian Infantry Brigade. All attempts to restore the lines failed, Lieutenant E. A. Leybourne, the Battalion signalling officer, being wounded and much of the equipment destroyed by a shell whilst endeavouring to run a line forward to trenches (1) and (2).

Shortly after 2 p.m. a Canadian soldier reported to Battalion Headquarters that the "Durhams" had left their trenches, a statement disbelieved at the time and subsequently found to be absolutely untrue, not a single man having retired, but on hearing this a Canadian officer went back to his Brigade Headquarters. It is not known what he reported, but the following written message was subsequently received about 4 p.m. apparently in consequence of his report.

"To O.C. 8th and 7th B.M. No. 8, April 25th. Strong reinforcements are coming. Hang on. Please report situation. From O.C. 2nd Bde. 3.25 p.m."

Between 3 and 3.30 p.m. B Company, under Major J. R. Ritson, was brought up from reserve and placed under cover to the east of the buildings at (9), Lieutenant E. H. Motum with two machine-guns was ordered to take up a position facing north, east of the same buildings, on the side of the road running through Boetleer's Farm from St. Julien to Grafenstafel, and Captain E. H. Veitch was sent with a detachment of C Company to hold the high ground by a wind-mill about one thousand yards distant on the right flank, for no information could be obtained as to what troops there were in that direction or how they were disposed, and there was great danger of the Germans coming round from that point. No sooner had the machine-guns got into position than there came a great opportunity for their use. A little earlier three trains had been observed disgorging German Infantry on the Ypres-Staden Railway, and now these were seen nearer still in close order but beginning to extend, and move south. Soon they came into range, and the chance was not lost by the eager gunners who wrought havoc amongst them. About this time a number of men were seen retiring towards the east, and as it was thought they might

be men of A or D Companies Captain J. A. S. Ritson was sent to collect them, but they were found to be about thirty Canadians who had been ordered to retire.

Some time afterwards, as the situation with regard to A and D Companies was unknown, two platoons of B Company, under Captain J. Turnbull and Lieutenant P. Kirkup, were ordered forward to reinforce them. After an advance of about five hundred yards these platoons reached a breastwork (marked (11) on the sketch plan), where they came under enfilade fire from the left and any further forward movement became impossible. From this breastwork a line of trench something over a hundred yards ahead was visible, and out of this after a while about twenty men emerged, moving towards the east, where they disappeared. Owing to continued loss from the enfilade fire the two platoons were eventually compelled to evacuate the breastwork and fall back on their Company, which, together with C Company, which had been brought up from support, held the line of the road from Boetleer's Farm towards Grafenstafel. Here many were gassed by the shells bursting along its length. Owing to hedges and brushwood the situation on the left was not visible from this road, up and down which a German aeroplane now flew very low, though heavily fired on, directing artillery fire on both B Company and the machine-guns.

Whilst the two platoons of B Company were endeavouring to reach A and D Companies, Major J. R. Ritson was sent forward to reconnoitre, and, though his orderly, Private Patterson, was shot down, he succeeded in reaching approximately the point marked (12) on the sketch plan, i.e., the line of the Stroembeek, south of Kron Prinz Farm, which was burning, from where he could see a line of trench but did not observe any movement. Owing to heavy rifle-fire he was unable to proceed farther forward, and after a short time made his way back to Headquarters.

The Germans had by now advanced considerably, having extended both east and west from their original position, and threatened to envelop the Battalion. This situation was reported to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade, the report also stating, on the information of a Canadian officer, that all in trench (2) were either killed or wounded, it not being known till later that this was incorrect, but that the enemy at the time were not pressing the attack with their infantry.

A great difficulty experienced during the day was that it was not known under whose command this section of the defence came or to whom reports were to be sent. It was not under the 85th Infantry Brigade, and the Canadian staff were apparently only responsible for their own people, and therefore between 4 and 5 p.m. Captain J. A. S.

Ritson  
Battali  
was a  
that th  
Battali  
and w  
inform  
up to  
Canad  
from t  
on the  
A  
comm  
Battal  
and t  
ments

Major  
positi  
was  
refus  
so se  
bear  
priso  
hand  
in g  
arou  
the l  
loss  
Batt  
Wee

and  
Ter  
Com  
to th  
acco  
duri  
mov  
The  
Com  
righ  
rear

Ritson was sent back to try to ascertain under whose orders the Battalion actually was and to explain to them the situation; that there was a wide gap between the Battalion and the troops on the right, that the Germans were in greatly superior numbers, and also that the Battalion was suffering from very heavy artillery fire in front and flank and was in need of artillery support. On his return he brought the information that an Infantry Brigade was standing by and would move up to reinforce the position after dark, also that a Major of the Canadian contingent had told him that he, the Major, had orders from the Canadian Brigade to tell us to retire to a position he indicated on the map along the line of the Hannebeek.

About 5.40 p.m. a verbal message was received from the officer commanding the detachment of Suffolks in trench (3) asking if the Battalion was retiring. To this the answer was sent that it was not and that he had to hold on. Ammunition was sent him and arrangements made to send further supplies if required.

Amongst those wounded during the afternoon and evening was Major J. R. Ritson, who, after his return from reconnoitring the position of A and D Companies, was severely wounded by a shell. He was carried a few yards to the rear and his wound dressed, but he refused to be taken out of the fight as he realized the situation was so serious that no men could be spared to carry him and no stretcher-bearers were available. This self-sacrifice resulted in his being taken prisoner early on the morning of the 26th and suffering much at the hands of the Germans until sent into Holland. Of the happenings in general the individual knew nothing save of those immediately around him, but that Major Ritson was wounded spread quickly over the Boetleer's Farm position, and one still recalls the sense of personal loss felt as word was passed along, so much of the existence of the Battalion had always seemed to centre round him. Lieutenant F. M. Weeks was wounded at the same time.

Just after dusk a Company from a Middlesex Regiment Battalion and also one from a Battalion of the Monmouth Regiment (both Territorial) arrived at Battalion Headquarters. Both these Companies had been relieved on the night of April 24/25, but owing to the reliefs being late they were unable to join their Battalions on account of daylight and so had remained under cover to the rear during the 25th. Hearing the engagement in front of them, they moved up in the evening, practically "to the sound of the guns." Their arrival at this moment was very welcome, and the Middlesex Company was immediately pushed into the firing line to prolong the right flank, whilst the Monmouth Company was held as a reserve in the rear of that flank.

As darkness fell rifle-fire ceased with the exception of occasional

## 32 8TH BATTALION DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY

bursts on either side. A few men of A and D Companies found their way to the position and were collected in reserve. The Germans used Véry lights constantly, but the Battalion was without these, none having been issued to it.

At 8 p.m., there being no sign of the promised reinforcements, Captain J. A. S. Ritson was again sent back to report the situation and try to ascertain under whose orders the Battalion came. He succeeded in reaching the Headquarters of the 3rd Royal Fusiliers, from where, after some delay, he got in touch by telephone with the 85th Infantry Brigade and was told that a Territorial Infantry Brigade was due to relieve the Boetleer's Farm position at 9 p.m. and also that it was intended to fall back to a new line. This was actually the order of the Commander of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade, but Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull, being in doubt as to whose orders he came under, remained in action at Boetleer's Farm, and thus the Battalion and the other detachments were now out in front of this new line in an isolated position.

Time passed and there was no sign of reinforcement or relief. The defence of the position was reorganized and all dug in more deeply, the small entrenching tool still only being available. Extra ammunition and water were distributed. Patrols were sent out and the Monmouth Company brought up to near field (7), from where two of its platoons were sent forward to the buildings at (9) to close a gap which existed there between trench (3) and the point (8) on the plan.

Throughout the night of April 25/26 the whole position was constantly shelled with shrapnel, and a number of men were hit by snipers. Though dealt with by patrols, they showed remarkable boldness, two actually succeeding in getting into the buildings at (9) and it was some time before they were located.

At midnight there was a violent action apparently about a mile away to the east, but though a patrol was sent out it could gain no information as to what it was or the result. Touch was, however, gained with the 5th Canadian Battalion on the right.

A little before dawn the Middlesex and Monmouth Companies received orders to rejoin their Battalions. As reinforcements were still expected, the Middlesex Company was ordered to remain in position till these arrived, when it could withdraw. The two platoons of the Monmouth Company filling the gap between trench (3) and point (8) were ordered to remain there, but the other two platoons of this Company having suffered very heavily during the night, losing both platoon commanders, all non-commissioned officers and a number of men from the shrapnel fire were allowed to withdraw.

At daylight on the 26th a mist obscured the ground. Patrols which now returned reported the Germans to be between two hundred

and fifty and three hundred yards distant to the north and overlapping the right flank of the Battalion.

As nothing had been heard from the two Monmouth platoons near point (9) for some time Lieutenant A. W. Nesbitt was sent to discover, if possible, the reason. Passing the building nearest (8) on the sketch plan, he found several wounded Canadians and men of the Battalion lying behind it. These stated that they had recently heard shouting from the other building about fifteen yards distant across the road asking for an officer to go over. They had called back, "Who are you?" and received the answer "Monmouths." None of them had, however, ventured to leave the shelter of the building as the road here was swept by rifle-fire. On hearing this Lieutenant Nesbitt himself shouted, but received no reply. Taking a Canadian rifle, he left the building and advanced to a gap in the hedge where at one time a gate had opened on to the road. Just as he reached this a bullet splintered one of the gate-posts, so he took cover behind the hedge. At this point he was within a few yards of the other buildings and again shouted, asking if they were Monmouths, and received the reply, "Yes, come across." He thereupon left the hedge, crossed the road, turned the corner of the building and was met by six Germans and made a prisoner. Private J. W. Bowman of C Company, who had followed a short distance behind, succeeded in making his escape and reporting what had occurred. It was afterwards ascertained that the Germans, having advanced during the night, had rushed the building shortly before dawn.

It was now about 4 a.m. and the Germans were reported to be advancing. The position was very serious, for the Middlesex Company was at that moment found to have withdrawn but was followed and brought up into action again on C Company's right which had suffered very severely during the night, losing all non-commissioned officers here. Private A. Dixon, who had carried several messages during the night, however, took control.

As the light grew stronger Lieutenant Motum observed two Germans on the roof of one of the farm buildings close to his left gun. These were promptly shot and it was then found that the buildings were full of Germans. There was no time to deal with these, for the guns were firing at a continuous stream of Germans running into the buildings and into an orchard less than a hundred yards away and which was full of them; many were carrying timber which looked like railway sleepers. The fire from the buildings gradually killed or wounded all the machine gunners save Lieutenant Motum and Sergeant S. Platten who, however, continued firing and "getting a nice bag" till all the belts were used up.

As the German Infantry appeared through the mist they came

on in a thick line, firing from the hip and calling that they were "British and Suffolks," and on the right, "Don't shoot, we are your own men." In consequence of this the firing slackened momentarily but then opened in full again. In the centre and towards the right they were stopped when about fifty yards distant, but on the extreme right they turned the flank of the Middlesex. On the left they captured all the buildings at (8) and (9), and bringing up a machine-gun, enfiladed the line of the road from there. Trenches (3), (4) and (5) on the left were then reported to have been evacuated, and with the Germans working round both flanks there was no alternative to a retirement. At first there was some confusion, but this was soon checked, the men obeying orders with wonderful steadiness, and at a shallow trench about three hundred yards in rear of the road the line was halted. There Lieutenant J. R. Brass was wounded. In spite of the heavy fire reorganization was carried out. This trench soon became untenable, being commanded by high ground on both flanks, and a further retirement was ordered by alternate sections to a new position about the line of the Hannebeek, which was held with wide intervals to cover a more extended front. From here a steady fire was maintained under the cheery advice of Captain Stevens who exhorted the men to "aim at the middle button, boys," and the advance of the Germans was stayed. Though the position was then shelled, there were but few casualties. A small number of men of C Company became separated on the right near to the Hannebeek and were pressed back to near the Zonnebeke-St. Julien road, where they encountered a patrol from the 12th Battalion County of London which was holding the new front line astride that road. Captain Veitch, after reporting to the Headquarters of that Battalion, ordered the party to fill a gap existing on the right, and Lieutenant P. Kirkup then went forward to lead the remainder of the Battalion into this position; the movement was carried out in good order without pursuit, and some shallow lengths of trench, only knee-deep, on the right of the 12th County of London were occupied. There appeared to be a gap to the right again of these, but this was eventually filled by a Battalion of the Rifle Brigade which, when it first appeared, was taken to be Germans and fired on by the Londons until a message was semaphored: "Cease fire, Rifle Brigade."

Although a heavy bombardment lasted on and off throughout the 26th, the farms and cottages immediately behind receiving the attention of "woolly bears," and there was considerable sniping, there were but few casualties, though all were too exhausted to attempt to deepen the trenches.

Now that the actual pressure of the German attack was eased hunger and thirst began to make themselves felt, and though a small

supply of water was obtained, in spite of snipers, from some deserted houses behind, there was no prospect of any food. Some tried to snatch a few moments' sleep, lying on the bundles of tree branches which lined the bottom of the trenches, but there was no great success in their attempts.

A message was about to be sent back to the Brigade Headquarters when at 1 a.m. on the 27th information was received that a portion of the line was to be relieved before dawn by the 5th Battalion (D.L.I.). Shortly afterwards it arrived, and as the Battalion was fortunate enough to be holding the portion in question, it was soon out of the trenches and directed to withdraw to Velorenhoek. The ordered reliefs of later days down communication trenches contrast strangely with this first in the dark hours of the morning of April 27th when the Battalion stepped out of mere ditches and formed up roughly on a field track behind, officers and non-commissioned officers calling out for any more "8th Durhams" lest any were left.

Following a track across country, the main Zonnebeke-Ypres road was reached at a point between the railway crossing and Frezenberg, the entrance to the village being marked by the wreckage of a field-gun with its horses caught by a German shell.

Some two or three hundred yards beyond Frezenberg Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull halted the remnant of his Battalion under cover of the wayside trees, for there were still trees there in those days and green fields, with here and there a picturesque old Flemish farm. There does not appear to have been any record kept of those who answered to their names when the roll was called, but only six officers, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Turnbull, Captain G. A. Stevens (adjutant), Captain E. H. Veitch, Lieutenants P. Kirkup, W. Johnson and C. L. B. Whall, together with Company Sergeant-Major W. Roxby, Sergeant J. Forrest and one hundred and forty-two other non-commissioned officers and men, mostly from B and C Companies, were found to be present. Later on news was received of a further party, including Captain T. A. Bradford and Captain J. A. S. Ritson, which had reached Vlamertinghe. Whatever emotions may be aroused by a picture or the reading of such an incident as a roll call after battle, most of those present were much too exhausted to have any feeling or to realize to any extent the loss of so many comrades; that was to come later, and for the moment overcome by an intense desire for sleep and food, the last consumed having been on the afternoon of the 24th, perhaps little attention was paid to the words of Captain Stevens, who, after a company had been organized and the remaining ammunition shared equally, said amongst other things now forgotten: "You have taken part in a battle which will be remembered as long as the war is spoken of."

Then the march to Velorenhoek was resumed and there, at 3 a.m., a position was taken up in front of the village with two platoons on either side of the road. There were a few dug-outs and old gun-pits which served as dug-outs, and these were occupied. Close by the roadside was discovered a pond. The water was of such doubtful cleanliness that there was some hesitation in its use; eventually, however, off came puttees and boots and in went the tired feet, but washing was confined to these.

The total casualties suffered during the action amounted to 19 officers and 574 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men, killed, wounded or missing.

That the great sacrifice was not in vain became clear later on when Lieutenant-General Bulfin, commanding the 28th Division, placed the following on record:

"The greatest possible credit is due to the 8th Bn. The Durham Light Infantry and the small Detachment, who, in spite of having their flanks turned and being enfiladed, remained in the Northern Line beating off all attacks and inflicting heavy loss on the enemy and thereby saved the flank of the 85th Infantry Brigade."

During the course of the war the Battalion took part in many battles and saw many places, but Ypres and the Grafenstafel Ridge in April, 1915, will ever hold the chief place in the memories of those who survived.

The most immediate needs after arrival at Velorenhoek were sleep and food. The latter could not be expected before night, but Private J. W. Bowman of C Company, possessed with the instincts of an old campaigner, appeared shortly after the dug-outs had been taken over bearing bowls of soup and milk. Some gunners had given him the soup and he had caught and milked a cow. Water was difficult to obtain, for though a few civilians were actually still in the village they had removed the handles of their pumps and refused to replace them. A party set off with all the water-bottles to Potijze, where it was rumoured there was a well, but had to return empty-handed owing to heavy shelling. A battery close by, however, provided tea from their own scanty supply.

Although the plateau on which Velorenhoek was situated was shelled off and on every day, not a single casualty resulted from this cause during the whole of the period spent here. This appeared to be largely on account of the characteristically methodical shelling of the German system, the plateau being apparently divided into areas, each receiving its shelling in regular rotation, consequently everyone knew when the shelling was due and got under cover while it lasted. It was the exception for a dug-out to be hit.

The first line transport, however, were not so fortunate. Their lines, which were only a half-mile west of the Battalion's dug-outs, were very heavily shelled each day, even to the extent of "Jack Johnsons." Possibly much of this attention was due to the fact that the lines were immediately in front of a Canadian battery. In addition to several casualties amongst the personnel, no less than forty-three horses were killed in seven days. The transport also had a very trying time bringing up supplies for the Battalion each night from the quartermaster's stores in Vlamertinghe. Ypres, through which they had to pass, was continually shelled, as were all the cross-roads, and they had to run the gauntlet of this.

On the 26th the quartermaster's stores were struck by a shell which wounded Lieutenant and Quartermaster W. Francis, Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant H. Wilkinson, Armourer Sergeant Eves (died of wounds), Pioneer Sergeant Mole, Private Smiles and one or two others. Private Hogg, a Bede College student who had only joined the Quartermaster's Staff that day, was killed, and also a Canadian who had come in to borrow something. Private Proudlock of A Company, who was unhurt, then carried on the duties for a considerable time.

The Battalion remained at Velorenhoek until May 3rd, being employed each night in digging trenches and constructing dug-outs. On the night of April 30th the party drawing tools was heavily shelled, but the men were wonderfully steady and there were no casualties. On this day Captain J. Turnbull with eighty-three men rejoined from Vlamertinghe.

Protection against future gas attacks was now issued. This consisted of cotton waste soaked in a solution of hypophosphate contained in a gauze wrapping, and when in use covered the mouth and nostrils but gave no protection for the eyes.

On May 2nd orders were received to move back west from Velorenhoek, and arrangements were made for a start at 8.30 p.m., but at 5 p.m. the Germans began a determined attack to the north and north-east on the line of the Hannebeek, making use again of asphyxiating gases. Dense clouds of the greenish-yellow vapour were visible from Velorenhoek, and the plateau itself was very heavily shelled from 5 to 8 p.m. In consequence the move was postponed. Both attacks were repulsed. With the exception of four men buried in a dug-out, but who were extricated only more or less shaken, no casualties were suffered. Of the digging out of these four men the story is told that the third man uncovered was asked if they had all been got out now; as soon as he could speak he replied: "What number am I?" and was told number three. "Then," said he, "there's another." The Battalion eventually, at 10.30 p.m., marched

(April)

Silo

Hend

\*

H.

HILLMAN

THOMAS  
POWER

via Potijze and Ypres to a rest camp south of Brielen, arriving there at 2.30 a.m. Both Ypres and the roads were shelled. The 9th Battalion was unfortunate, losing nine killed and three wounded from one shell whilst passing through Ypres.

May 3rd was spent quietly in camp. In the afternoon all were placed in shelter in dug-outs, for the camp had the reputation of being shelled each afternoon; however, such was not the case this day. In the evening Captain Bradford rejoined with 120 men from Vlamertinghe, and at 8.30 p.m. the Battalion proceeded with the Brigade and marched through Vlamertinghe and Poperinghe—both these towns had been frequently shelled since the Battalion passed through on April 23rd and were in consequence practically deserted—to billets in and about a farm between St. Jan-ter-Biezen and Watou, arriving there at 2 a.m. on May 4th.

The weather now became warm and sunny, and the peaceful agricultural countryside was a welcome contrast to the shell-torn area around Ypres. The few days' rest here were very delightful.

During the morning of May 4th the Battalion, together with the 7th Battalion, paraded in a field near to Watou and was addressed by the Commander-in-Chief, Sir John French, who remarked how a critical situation had arisen at Ypres due to the dastardly use by the Germans of poisonous gases; that the Northumbrian Division had been called upon earlier than had been intended, and referred to the magnificent stand that had been made and the gallant behaviour under fire. He remarked on the heavy losses sustained by the 8th Battalion and paid a tribute to those who had fallen in the battle.

The strength of the Battalion was now 14 officers and 411 other ranks, but on May 8th a draft of no less than 19 officers arrived from England, these including Captain A. N. Clark, Captain A. Oswell, Lieutenants N. Clark, A. M. Gelsthorpe, H. B. Holdsworth, T. A. Saint, J. W. Turnbull and Second-Lieutenants W. Boyd, F. W. Burgoyne-Johnson, K. M. Guthrie, W. D. Walker and E. Fisher, all from the second line Battalion. About the same time Lieutenant Stewart, Royal Army Medical Corps, who had recently joined the Battalion in the place of Lieutenant Stenhouse, taken prisoner, was relieved by Lieutenant Wilson, Royal Army Medical Corps, as Medical Officer.

On the afternoon of May 9th the rest came to an end and the Battalion proceeded with the Brigade to the woods just north of Brandhoek, about midway between Poperinghe and Vlamertinghe, where it bivouacked until the 11th, supplying working parties on the night of the 10th for the construction of the defences of Ypres. The bivouac shelters were only made from the branches of trees, the weather unsettled and no fires possible during daylight.

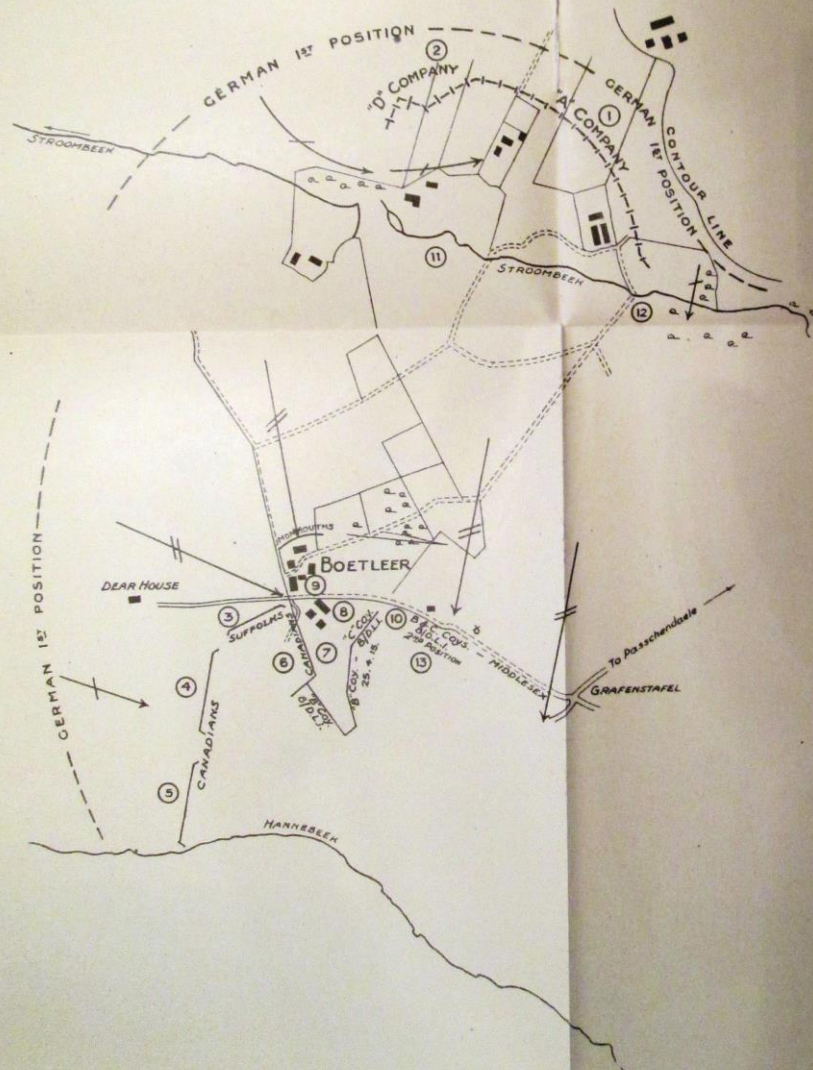
# SECOND BATTLE OF YPRES.

ACTION OF  
25th, 26th April 1915.

→ = German Attack—1st Phase 25th April.  
→ = Do. 2nd Phase 26th April.

Scale 1:10,000

1. A Coy.—25th April, 1915.
2. D Coy.—25th April, 1915.
3. Suffolks and Monmouths—25th April, 1915.
4. Canadians.
5. Canadians.
6. Canadians—Relieved from ① and ②.
7. Field.
8. Buildings (Boetleer's Farm).
9. Buildings (Boetleer's Farm).
10. Junction of hedge with road.
11. Approximate Point reached by 2 Platoons of B Company.
12. Approximate Point reached by Major J. R. Ritson.
13. Position of B and C Companies on evening, April 25th, and morning of April 26th, 1915.



## Scale 110.00

1. A Coy.—25th April, 1915.
2. D Coy.—25th April, 1915.
3. Suffolk and Northants—25th April, 1915.
4. Canadians.
5. Canadians.
6. Canadians—Relieved from (1) and (2).
7. Field.
8. Bulldozer (Booster's Farm).
9. Buildings (Booster's Farm).
10. Junction of hedge with road.
11. Approximate Point reached by 2 Companies of B Company.
12. Approximate Point reached by 2 Companies of A and C Companies on evening of April 25th, and morning of April 26th, 1915.

