

National Archives 29 December 2015

War Diaries 1 July 1916 – 30 November 1916

WO 95/2049/1 7 BN BUFFS

WO 95/1608/2 1 BN BUFFS

WO 95/1860/2 6 BN BUFFS

WO 95/2207/1 7 BN BUFFS

WO 95/1861 6 BN QORWK

WO 95/2049/2 7 BN QORWK

WO 95/2213/2 8 BN QORWK

WO 95/2638/1 10 BN QORWK

WO 95/2634/4 11 BN QORWK

WO 95/1554 1BN QORWK

6 BN EAST KENT REGT JULY 1916 37, BDE

1 JULY BDE LEFT BRESLE FOR MILLENCOURT 0645 ARRIVING JUST AFTER 0730. AT 1100 A MESSAGE RECEIVED STATING THAT THE FIRST OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ALONG THE WHOLE LINE. LATER NEWS THAT THE ATTACK ON OVILLERS HAD BEEN HELD UP BY MG FIRE. AT 0630 PM ORDERED TO OCCUPY INTERMEDIATE LINE N OF ALBERT. SUBSEQUENTLY ORDERED TO RELIEVE A POSITION OF THE 25TH BDE. BN IN TRENCHES BY 2.45 AM ON 2ND OCCUPYING PENDLE HILL & CONISTON STREET. A & C COYS PENDLE HILL STREET TO CARTMELL ST AND B & D COYS AND HQ AT CONISTON ST. AT 4.15 PM THE BN MOVED OUT TO THIN THE LINE, DURING A BOMBARDMENT OF OVILLERS OCCUPYING QUARRY BRAE QUARRY POST CONISTON POST AND CONISTON ST, THERE WAS LITTLE RETALIATION IN THIS SECTOR FOR OUR BOMBARDMENT. AT 9 PM THE BN MOVED BACK TO THE TRENCHES IT HAD OCCUPIED IN THE MORNING.

3 JULY 1.15 AM BN RECEIVED ORDERS THAT 35 & 37 BDES WOULD ATTACK OVILLERS AT 3.15 AM AFTER AN HOURS INTENSE BOMBARDMENT. ORDER OF BATTLE 37 BDE:

6 QUEENS RIGHT SUPPORTED BY 2 COYS 6BN BUFFS. 6 QORWK ON LEFT SUPPORTED BY 2 COYS 6BN BUFFS – 7TH SURREYS IN SUPPORT. THE HOSTILE RETALIATION TO OUR BOMBARDMENT FROM 2.15-3.15 AM WAS FAIRLY SEVERE, THE COYS IN PENDLE HILL ST ESPECIALLY SUSTAINING A NUMBER OF CASUALTIES. AT 3.15 AM THE 6TH RWK AND 6

QUEENS ATTACKED. VERY HEAVY FLANKING MG FIRE MET THE RWK. A COY THE BUFFS WENT OVER BY PLATOONS ABOUT 3.28 AM. THE FIRST WAVE SUFFERED FEW CASUALTIES UNTIL THE GERMAN WIRE WAS REACHED, THE SUCCEEDING WAVES OF A AND C COYS HOWEVER SUFFERED HEAVILY CROSSING NO MANS LAND. THE FEW MEN THAT SUCCEEDED IN GETTING INTO THE GERMAN TRENCH UNDER 2/LT FARMER AT ONCE COMMENCED BOMBING THE DUGOUTS. 2 COMMUNICATION TRENCHES WERE BLOCKED. OWING TO CASUALTIES AMONGST BOMB CARRIERS THE SUPPLY OF BOMBS WAS SOON EXHAUSTED, AND CASUALTIES WERE INFLICTED BY GERMAN BOMBS. FINDING AT LENGTH IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO REMAIN ANY LONGER IN THE TRENCH 2/LT FARMER COLLECTED ALL THE MEN AROUND HIM AND BROUGHT THEM BACK TO OUR LINES.

ON THE RIGHT THE INTENSE MG FIRE HELD UP THE ATTACK AND B AND D COYS DID NOT GO OVER. THE GERMAN ARTILLERY MAINTAINED A HEAVY FIRE ON OUR TRENCHES WITH GREAT ACCURACY AND WEIGHT.

ABOUT 1030 AM THE DIVISION NOTIFIED THAT NO FURTHER ATTACK WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THIS SECTOR TODAY. CONSIDERABLE HOSTILE SHELLING CONTINUED FOR THE REST OF THE MORNING. ABOUT 1PM THE 7 EST SURREYS TOOK OVER THE WHOLE OF THE FRONT LINE. THE BUFFS BEING IN SUPPORT IN CONISTON STREET AND TH 6 QUEENS AND 6 RWK IN RESERVE. IN THE EVENING CAPT WARD, LT HATCH AND 2/LT HUNTER CAME UP TO TAKE COMMAND OF C, A AND B COYS RESPECTIVELY.

DURING THE NIGHT A NUMBER OF WOUNDED WERE BROUGHT IN. THE FOLLOWING OFFICER CASUALTIES WERE RECEIVED DURING THE DAY:

KILLED : CAPT J.C.T. LEIGH A COY, 2/LT H.G.COX C COY, 2/LT S.T.HINKLEY C COY 2/LT G.BRACHER C COY. WOUNDED: CAPT R.D. DE Q.C. CHILD BCOY, LT W.W.CHAPMAN B COY, 2/LT A.FREE B COY, 2/LT R.G.CARTER B COY, 2/LT W.T.MADDEN B COY.
MISSING LT. G.W.M.BURTON A COY, 2/LT L.H.BATSON A COY

TOTAL 11 OFFICERS 263 OR.

FROM FIELD STATE REPORT 30 JUNE 6 SERVICE BN BUFFS:

39 OFFICERS 1050 OR AMMUNITION 208 ROUNDS PER MAN 7500 ROUNDS PER MG – 8 MGS WITH BN.

7TH OCTOBER 1916 VERY FINE DAY AT GUEDECOURT LT COL T.G. COPE DSO CO 6 BN BUFFS ISSUED OPERATION ORDER NO 23 GENERAL ALLIED ADVANCE WILL BE RESUMED 7 OCT. 37 BDE WILL ATTACK GERMAN TRENCHES IN TWO STAGES.

1. A. AT ZERO THE INFANTRY WILL ADVANCE AND RECAPTURE THE 'GREEN LINE'
2. B. AT ZERO+20 MINS A FURTHER ADVANCE WILL BE MADE TO THE FINAL OBJECTIVE THE ' BROWN LINE' N.21.G.6.0-N.15.C.2.8

6 BN BUFFS ON THE RIGHT 6 BN RWK ON LEFT DIVIDING LINE GOUEDECOURT-
BEAULANCOURT ROAD.

THE ATTACK COMMENCED AT 1.45 PM AFTER THE ENEMY HAD OPENED A HEAVY MG FIRE AND SHRAPNEL BARRAGE AT 1.30 PM. VERY HEAVY MG FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED WHICH HELD UP C COY ON THE RIGHT. A AND B COYS REACHED THE FIRST OBJECTIVE WITH FAIRLY HEAVY CASUALTIES, BUT ON ADVANCING TO THE SECOND OBJECTIVE WERE COMPLETELY HELD UP BY MG FIRE. 20 MEN OF A COY SUCCEEDED IN GETTING IN TOUCH WITH 61 BDE AND ADVANCED WITH THEM. THE FIRST OBJECTIVE WAS HELD UNTIL 12 MIDNIGHT WHEN THE BN WAS RELIEVED BY THE Y6 QUEENS. THE 6 RWK WAS HELD UP ON THE LEFT BY MG FIRE; THE 61ST BDE ON THE RIGHT ATTAINED THEIR OBJECTIVES. ON RELIEF THE BN WENT BACK TO BIVOUACS IN LONGUEVAL VALLEY. OFFICERS KILLED 8. LT. HATCH 2/LT OMMANEY 2/LT NORRIE 2/LT ROUTLEY 2/LT LOTT 2/LT HARNETT 2/LT MOSS CAPT PAGEN RAMC. WOUNDED 12 LT.COL COPE, LT CUMBERBATCH, LT BON, LT CHAPMAN, 2/LT KIDD, 2/LT WOOLDRIDGE, 2 LT TAYLOR 2/LT SPRINGAY-MASON, 2/LT TURK 2/LT TAYLOR 2/LT JACOBS. OR KILLED , WOUNDED OR MISSING = 347 4 PRISONERS TAKEN.

FIELD STATE REPORT 28 SEPT 1916

38 OFFS 800 ORS.

WAR DIARY 7 BN WEST KENT REGT

1 JULY 1916 TWO PLATOONS DETACHED FOR CARRIER DUTIES IN SUPPORT OF ATTACK BY 55 BDE LED BY 8TH E SURREYS ON RIGHT WITH 7 QUEENS ON LEFT WITH 7TH BUFFS AS THIRD BN.

8.12 AM BDE INFORMED US BY TELEPHONE THAT ALL APPEARED TO BE GOING WELL, BUT THAT THE LEADING BATTALIONS HAD MET WITH MORE OPPOSITION THAN WAS ANTICIPATED, AND HAD SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES.

AS 7 BUFFS MOVED UP 7 WEST KENTS MOVED INTO THEIR FRONTLINE TRENCHES. AT 9.42 MESSAGE FROM 7 BUFFS ASKING FOR HELP FOR THE 7 SURREYS WHO WERE HELD UP AT TRAIN ALLEY AND STATING THAT THE WHOLE BN (THE BUFFS) HAD BEEN THROWN IN LESS ONE PLATOON. THIS MSG REACHED BN HQ AT 10.40 BUT AT 9.45 THIS MESSAGE HAD ALREADY BEEN RECD FROM 7 WK LIASON OFFICER WITH 7 BUFFS, 2/LT TINDALL. THEREFORE AT 10.08 AM A MESSAGE WAS SENT TO 8TH SUFFOLKS INFORMING THEM THAT IN THE EVENT OF OUR BEING THROWN INTO THE FIGHT THEY WOULD HAVE TO MOVE UP TO OUR ORIGINAL FRONT LINE.

BETWEEN 10 AND 1030 AN OFFICER OF EACH OF A, C AND D COYS REPORTED PERSONALLY TO ME AND RECEIVED ORDERS TO MOVE FORWARD. THE A COY OFFICER WAS WOUNDED, THE D COY OFFICER 'WAS TEMPORARILY KNOCKED OUT BY SHELL SHOCK' AND THE RUNNER FOR D COY BECAME A CASUALTY – D COY DID NOT RECEIVE THE ORDERS.

B COY & A COY MOVED AT 1120. VERY SHORTLY AFTER THIS CAPT LATTER AND 2/LT WOODHOUSE WERE WOUNDED. THE ADVANCE OF A COY WAS MUCH SLOWER THAN C, THE PLATOONS LOST TOUCH AND BECAME SEPARATED, BUT 3 PLATOONS WERE COLLECTED AND REORGANISED BY CSM KLEIN IN THE POMMIER LINE BETWEEN 1200 AND 12.20 AND THE 4TH PLATOON WAS AT NO 5 STRONG POINT ABOUT THIS TIME, UNDER 2/LT FILE, WHO

WAS NOT AWARE THAT HE WAS AT THIS TIME THE ONLY OFFICER LEFT IN THE COMPANY, BY THIS TIME -1145- TWO PLATOONS OF B COY WITH CAPT WADDINGTON HAD REACHED THE FINAL OBJECTIVE, PASSING THROUGH ELEMENTS OF E SURRE AND BUFFS, AND TWO PLATOONS WERE STILL IN THE POMMIER LINE.

D COY FOUND IN TENCHES AND WERE FINALLY GIVEN THEIR ORDERS AT 1215PM

1225 A MESSAGE FROM CAPT WADDINGTON STATED THAT HE HAD REACHED MONTAUBAN ALLEY AT 1145 WITH TWO PLATOONS OF HIS OWN COY WITH ONE PLATOON 7 BUFFS AND ONE PLATOON 8 E SURREYS AND THAT HE WAS CONSOLIDATING THE LINE.

BY 6PM CSM KLEIN HAD BROUGHT UP HIS 3 PLATOONS TO MONTAUBAN ALLEY. AT THIS POINT CSM KLEIN MET 2/LT FILE WHO NOW TOOK OVER COMMAND OF A COY

A MIXED FORCE OF 4 BNS NOW HELD MONTAUBAN ALLEY AND THE BRIGADIER CAME UP SAYING THAT THE LINE SHOULD BE TAKEN OVER BY THE 7 RWK AS FAR AS POSSIBLE..BN HQ SITUATED IN MINE VALLEY AND, ON THE 2ND JULY, SUBJECTED TO CONTINUOUS HEAVY SHELLING CAUSING SEVERAL CASUALTIES SO HQ WITHDREW TO POMMIER LINE. GERMANS IN OPEN BETWEEN LINES WERE FIRED UPON AND MONTAUBAN VALLEY ALSO RECEIVED THE ATTENTION OF GERMAN SHELLING. SITUATION CONTINUED UNTIL THE BATTALION RELIEVED ON THE 4TH BY THE 8 SUFFOLKS.

CASUALTIES 1-4 JULY KILLED LT. C.G. INNOCENT. WOUNDED CAPT. F. R. LATTER, CAPT. S.S. EMDEN, 2/LT J.S. FREEMAN, 2/LT J. HEATON, 2/LT J E M WOODHOUSE, 2/LT D.G. PHIPPS, 2/LT H.J GREGORY.

CSM PEARSON AND CSM URQUHART KILLED. 37 OR KILLED, 135 WOUNDED AND 1 MISSING

13 JULY 100 HRS ORDERS RECEIVED FROM 56 BDE THAT 7 WK AND 7 QUEENS WERE TO ATTACK TRONES WOODS AT 7 PM THAT NIGHT. WKS TO ATTACK SOUTHERN PART OF WOOD. THE 7 BUFFS ARE ATTACKING THE STRONG POINT AT THE JUNCTION OF THE GUILLEMONT –MONTAUBAN ROAD AND THE E EDGE OF TRONES WOOD.

ARTILLERY COMMENCED BOMBARDING TRONES WOOD AT 4 PM AND THE ENEMY REPLY WAS AN INTENSE BARRAGE ON THE S, SE AND SW APPROACHES AND ON OUR POSITIONS IN THE WOOD. A AND D COYS SUFFERED FAIRLY HEAVY COMING THROUGH THIS, LT SKINNER COMMANDING A COY AND CAPT ERDEN COMMANDING D COY WERE BOTH HIT, BUT THE ADVANCES OF THESE TWO COYS CONTINUED STEADILY AND IN GOOD ORDER. SHORTLY BEFORE 7 PM LT BROWNE COMMANDING C COY ALSO BECAME A CASUALTY. THE ATTACK STARTED AT 7PM COYS WENT OVER THE PARAPET COMMANDED AS FOLLOWS:

A-LT FILE, B –CAPT HOLLAND, C-2/LT HOGG, D= 2/LT WILLS

AT FIRST THE ATTACK PROGRESSED SATISFACTORILY B & C COYS REACHING THE SOUTHERN LINE OF THE RAILWAY, BUT OWING TO THE DETERMINED RESISTANCE OF THE ENEMY AND THE DENSE UNDERGROWTH, MATTED WITH FALLEN TREES, THE VARIOUS UNITS GOT SPLIT

UP AND DIFFICULTY WAS EXPERIENCED IN KEEPING TOUCH. THIS WAS ACCENTUATED BY THE HEAVY CASUALTIES IN OFFICERS AND NCOS. ABOUT 7.30 PM A MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM B COY STATING THAT HE WAS ON THE S BRANCH OF THE RAILWAY, THAT HE HAD LOST TOUCH WITH C AND D AND THAT GERMANS WERE STILL BEHIND HIM... ... IS ENT MY ADJUTANT CAPT P M ANSTRUTHER FORWARD TO ASSESS AND REPORT. AT 8.30 PM HE REPORTED THAT HE HAD FOUND ABOUT 150 MEN OF A, C AND D COYS SCATTERED AROUND IN SMALL PARTIES ABOUT THE LINE OF THE RAILWAY AND BY THE WOOD, WHICH APPEARED TO BE CLEAR OF THE ENEMY. THERE WERE NO OFFICERS, OTHER THAN WOUNDED, AND SO HE REMAINED TO FORM A COMPANY. GRADUAL PROGRESS WAS MADE AND LINKS WITH OTHER BNS – BUFFS AND E SURREYS MADE.

PATROLS SENT OUT TO FIND B COY BUT IN MEANTIME CAPT HOLLAND HAD COLLECTED AND DUG IN THE WHOLE OF THIS COMPANY WITH A FEW MEN OF A COMPANY ON THE S BRANCH OF THE RAILWAY. HE WAS SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY – HENCE NO MESSAGES RECEIVED.

BN HQ ATTACKED FROM NE AT ABOUT 9PM BUT DRIVEN OFF BY MG, RIFLE FIRE AND BOMBS. CO ARRANGED FOR RELIEF OF BCOY BY SURREYS, MIDDX. AT ABOUT 4.30 AM ON THE 14TH I SAW OC 12 MIDDX AND 6 NORTHANTS AND EXPLAINED THE SITUATION TO THEM. BETWEEN 5.30 AND 6 AM THEY ADVANCED INTO WOODS – CONFUSED FIGHTING. AT 6 AM MESSAGE FROM BDE STATED THAT 7RWK AND 8 E SURREYS WERE TO BE WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS RELIEVED. ABOUT THIS TIME AN ENEMY COUNTER ATTACK TOOK PLACE AND WE WERE COMPELLED TO GIVE SOME GROUND ON THE W EDGE OF THE WOOD – BUT THE NORTHANTS DROVE THEM BACK AGAIN. WOOD CLEARED AND BN WITHDRAWN AT 8.30 AM PROCEEDING TO RV AT MARICOURT.

13/14 CASUALTIES LT R. G. CROSSE DIED OF WOUNDS, LT D.G. SKINNER, DOW, 2/LT H.W.FILE, J. FORSYTH AND D, CATHCART KILLED. CAPT C.S. EMDEN, 2/LTS COCKLE, BUSHELL. NEWBOLD, BOND, WILLS SAVEALL ALL WOUNDED. CAPT P.L. WATKIN-WILLIAMS RAMC WOUNDED. OT KILLED 28, WOUNDED 174 AND MISSING 33.

WATKIN –WILLIAMS AWARDED THE DSO FOR GALLANTRY 1 ST JULY 1916

WAR DIARY 7 (S) BN QORWK

26TH SEPTEMBER 1916 AEDAUVILLE ON TRAMWAY WORK ORDERED TO MOVE 1.45PM TO CRUCIFIX CORNER – ARRIVED IN DUGOUTS BETWEEN 5 AND 6 PM AND ‘LENT’ TO 54 BDE. STRENGTH 20 OFFICERS 720 ORS

27TH SEPT 3.45 AM BN MOVED FURTHER UP AND HEAVILY SHELLED AS PASSED NORTHERN BLUFF. ONE SHELL CAUSED 42 CASUALTIES IN C AND D COYS...HEAVY SHELLING CONTINUED ALL DAY CAUSING 20 MORE CASUALTIES... DUGOUTS UNSAFE. 28TH D COY ORDERED TO FRONTLINE FOLLOWED BY TWO MORE COYS AND HQ TO THIEPVAL CHATEAU. AT 4.30 PM BN ORDERED TO RELIEVE 7 BEDFORDS AND 1/5 WEST YORKS ON THE LEFT SSW OF SCHWABEN REDOUBT – NOT YET IN OUR HANDS. DURING RELIEF CAPT WADDINGTON C COY WAS MISTAKENLY LED INTO A GERMAN POSITION WHERE HE WAS WOUNDED IN THE

LEG. RELIEF COMPLETED BY 7 AM ON 29TH... AT SAME TIME ENEMY LAUNCHED A BOMBING ATTACK AGAINST RIGHT OF C COY WHICH WAS DRIVEN OFF AFTER A QUARTER OF AN HOUR'S FIGHTING. 8.30 AM TEO ENEMY BOMBING ATTACKS IN CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH, DRIVEN BACK BY C COY COUNTER ATTACK. BN NOW TRYING TO IMPROVE TRENCHES BUT UNDER CONSTANT SHELLING AND SNIPER FIRE. 5PM BDE ORDERS BN TO TAKE ENEMY POSITIONS BEFORE DAWN. THESE ORDERS CANCELLED AT 5.30 INSTEAD BN TO PUSH UP EXISTING TRENCH AND A BOMBING ATTACK BY B AND C COY WAS ORGANISED FOR 10 PM. ATTACKS COMMENCED AT 10 AND WERE AT FIRST QUITE SUCCESSFUL B COY REACHING PT 19 IN A SHORT TIME AND C COY WORKING UP TO WITHIN SOME 20 YARDS OF PT 39, WHERE THE ENEMY WAS DISCOVERED IN STRENGTH. BUT, OWING TO THE SHORTAGE AND DIFFICULTY OF SUPPLY OF THE BOMBS AND GRENADES, OUR MEN WERE GRADUALLY FORCED BACK AGAIN, UNTIL BY MIDNIGHT THE SITUATION WAS IN STATUS QUO ANTE.

30 SEPT 2PM ORDERS RECEIVED FROM BDE THAT SCHWABEN REDOUBT WAS TO BE CARRIED. E SURREYS TO ATTACK ON RIGHT AND 7 RWK WAS TO COOPERATE BY ATTACKING PTS 19 AND 39 ON THE LEFT. THIS OPERATION ALLOTTED TO D COY LT STEVENSON COMMANDING – A FRONTAL ATTACK OF 2 WAVES NO 15 PLATOON 2/LT GRIST IN THE FIRST WAVE, AND NO 14 PLATOON LESS 2 SECTIONS UNDER 2/LT GRIFFITHS IN THE SECOND WAVE. THE 2 SECTIONS TO FORM A BOMBING PARTY. 3.20 PM D COY ATTACK CANCELLED AS 2 PLATOONS OF 7 BUFFS WOULD NOW ATTACK PTS 19 AND 39 AND BE SUPPORTED BY D COY 7RWK. ZERO HOUR 4 PM-ARTILLERY BARRAGE OPENED AND 2 PLATOONS BUFFS WENT OVER THE TOP. OWING TO THE EXTRAORDINARY BROKEN NATURE OF THE GROUND, AND THE FACT THAT NO OPPORTUNITY HAD BEEN GIVEN THEM FOR RECONNOITRING NO MAN'S LAND, THE TWO PLATOONS 7 BUFFS CONVERGED TO THE RIGHT TOWARDS PT 39, LEAVING PT 19 UNATTACKED. 2/LT GRIST NOTICING THIS LED HIS PLATOON FORWARD TO ATTACK FROM PT 19 TO THE LEFT OF THE BUFFS; 2/LT GRIFFITHS FOLLOWED WITH HIS PLATOON. NO BOMBING PARTY HAD BEEN SENT UP THE TRENCH FROM PT 86 TO 19. IN THE MEANTIME THE BARRAGE LIFTED WHEN GRIFFITH AND HIS PLATOON WERE STILL 50 OR 60 YARDS OFF, WHEREAT THE ENEMY MANNED HIS TRENCHES AND OPENED HEAVY RIFLE FIRE. 4.10 PM GERMAN ARTILLERY OPENED INTENSE BARRAGE ON OUR FRONT AND REAR LINES AND ON NO MANS LAND. ABOUT HIS TIME 2/LT GRIST NOTICED A GERMAN BOMBING PARTY WORKING ROUND HIS LEFT FLANK. HE THEREFORE COLLECTED THE REMAINS OF HIS PLATOON, ENGAGED THEM AND DROVE O THEM BACK. AFTER THIS, SEEING THAT THE 2 PLATOONS BUFFS WERE BADLY HAMMERED, AND HAVING ONL;Y 9 MEN LEFT WITH HIM, HE WITHDREW TO OUR OWN TRENCHES. DURING THE EVENING 2 PLATOOS 7TH BUFFS UNDER 2/LT CHANT WERE SENT UP TO REINFORCE THE BN. ABOUT 11 PM ONE PLATOON WAS SENT TO A COY AND ONE TO B COY.

CASUALTIES UP TO 30 SEPT

OFFICERS KILL 2/LTS T.W ROBERTS, G.A.WARD, H.W.GRIFFITH, E,FRICKER. WOUNDED-CAPTS WARREN AND WADDINGTON, 2/LTS BUFFEE, BROWNLEE, SMYTH, SHATTOCK, MACDONALD AND STEVENS. OR. KILLED – 20, WOUNDED 95, 8 MISSING.

AWARDS DSO – CAPT ANSTRUTHER MC, MC –LT L.H. LEWIN, DCM SGT CHAPMAN, W AND SSGT COOK,A. MMs – PTE CHEESEMAN, C,SIMPKINS, J,WHYATT, A,HUBBLE,F, SWIRE, CW,

BENNETT, B, WILSON F, BARDEN H, FARMER E,, CPLS BLACKMAN P, PINK, SGT JOHNSON, J.L.

OCT 1ST SCHWABEN REDOUBT – ON THE RIGHT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER CONTACT WITH 7 BUFFS HAD BEEN MADE THEREFORE 2/LT SOUTHERST PROCEEDED TO RECONNOITRE AND FOUND AN ENEMY DOUBLE BOMBING STOP HE ATTEMPTED TO BOMB THEM OUT BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO; HE RETURNED FOR A STOKES MORTAR AND UNDER COVER OF ITS FIRE HE LED A BOMBING PARTY TO THE ATTACK AND SUCCEEDED IN CARRYING BOTH STOPS BEHIND WHICH 20 OR 30 DEAD GERMANS WERE FOUND. TOUCH WAS THEN ESTABLISHED WITH 7 BUFFS. OUR HEAVY ARTILLERY DROPPED SEVERAL SHELLS INTO OUR TRENCHES DURING THE AFTERNOON CAUSING SOME CASUALTIES.

ON THE 2ND THE ENEMY MADE STRONG COUNTER ATTACKS AGAINST B COY WHO LOST 60 YARDS AND 2/LT HUDSON – 2/LT WILLS WAS TRANSFERRED FROM D COY AS REPLACEMENT. B COY THEN COUNTER ATTACKED THEMSELVES AT 4PM. INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN TAKING BACK THE GROUND LODT, THE GERMANS COUNTERED AGAIN AND RETOOK IT. 'THE FAILURE OF THIS OPERATION WAS PARTLY DUE TO A LACK OF A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF BOMBS, RIFLE GRENADES AND STOKES MORTAR BOMBS, BUT MAINLY TO THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT FRESH MEN AVAILABLE TO CARRY IT OUT.

7PM CAPT HOLLAND KILLED BY AN ENEMY SHELL. 2/LT WILLS TAKES OVER COMMAND B COY.

7th (Service) Bn.

Summary

5 Sep 1914 - Formed at Maidstone as part of K2; 55th Brigade in 18th (Eastern) Division.

Moved to Colchester in Apr 1915 and on to Salisbury Plain in May.

27 Jul 1915 - landed at Le Havre;

9 Feb 1918 – to 53rd Brigade, 18 Division

11 Nov 1918 – Le Cateau, France.

16 Jul 1919 - Disbanded

Commanding Officers

Col AW Prior	(Appointed on Formation)	
Maj JT Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes	Oct 1915	
Maj AE Phillips	28 Nov 1916	
Maj EM Liddell, DWR	Jan 1917	(Wd. Feb 1917)
Maj AE Phillips	Feb 1917	
Maj LH Hickson	Apr 1917	(Wd. 3 May 1917)
Capt PN Anstruther, DSO	3 May 1917	
Maj CHL Cinnamond, RIR	9 Jun 1917	
Capt JD Crosthwaite, MC*, 1/Ldn	18 Mar 1918	(Wd. & PoW 21 Mar 1918)
Maj AE Phillips	2 Apr 1918	
Maj LH Hickson	15 Apr 1918	
Maj AE Phillips	Jul 1918	
Maj LH Hickson	23 Aug 1918	

Notable Events & Awards

1 Jul 1916 – *Montauban*, Somme - the only battalion of the Regiment involved on the infamous “First Day” of the Somme.

Sep 1916 – heavily involved in the assaults on the *Schwaben Redoubt*.

Oct 1917 – suffers heavy casualties in the fighting at *Poelcapelle*, 3rd Battle of Ypres.

21 Mar 1918 – Battalion annihilated on the first day of the German Spring Offensive (*der Kaiserslacht*)

Casualties

c.4000 (36 Officers/1185 ORs killed/died)

nb. 7/RWK was the only battalion of the Regiment involved in the Battle of the Somme from beginning to end – 1 Jul – 18 Nov 1916. During this period it lost 44 Officers and 1263 ORs.

Bufs (East Kent Regiment) during WW1

The Regiment raised 14 Battalions and was awarded 48 battle honours and 1 Victoria cross, losing 6,000 men during the course of the First World War.

6th (Service) Battalion

Aug 1914 Formed at Canterbury as part of the First New Army (K1) and then moved to Colchester and Purfleet to join the 37th Brigade of the 12th Division and then moved to Shorncliffe.

Feb 1915 Moved to Aldershot.

June 1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

1915

The Battle of Loos.

1916

The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Pozieres, The Battle of Le Transloy,

1917

The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Arleux, The Third Battle of the Scarpe, The Cambrai operations.

1918

The Battle of Bapaume, The First Battle of Arras 1918, The Battle of Amiens, The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Epehy, The Final Advance in Artois,

11.11.1918 Ended the war at Rumegies east of Orchies, France.