1914.

September.

9th
(Contd.)

The horse was killed, the driver wounded, and the Sgt. Major had to get away by the ditch through the adjacent wood. Total casualties: Capt. Hon. A.R. Hewitt, Capt. & Adjt. F.A. Bowring, Capt. H.E. Stakes, Lieuts. E.O. Lawton & H.P. Stoneham wounded. 20 other ranks killed and 90 wounded.

NEAR ST. QUENTIN.

10th

Moved at 6 a.m. Brigade in reserve, leaving parties behind to collect wounded and bury the dead. Many of whom were awaiting removal along the roadside ambulances by which we passed. Bivouacked near St. Quentin about 7 p.m. after overtaking many Germans. Lt. Macfarlane & Booth, 3rd BN and 191 men joined the Battalion.

SAN REMY.

11th

Moved at 6.30 a.m. Much cooler weather and heavy rain in afternoon, before getting to our billets at SAN REMY. Enemy's retreat had evidently been rapid as we overtook fewer Germans today.

CHACRICE.

12th

Moved at 6 a.m. Heavy showers all day and roads in shocking state. French heavily engaged on our left before MARGUERITE some, in our progress therefore retarded. Billeted in CHACRICE in heavy rain.

ST. MARGUERITE.

13th

Rained all night, but fine though very cold when we moved off at 4.30 a.m. The guns of our group opened soon after 10 a.m. and continued for some two hours while the Brigade, except the Manchesters who acted as Advanced Guard, rested in a field under cover. Meanwhile the R.E. made a raft by which the Manchesters followed by the Battalion crossed the river ABRES. These two Battalions were across by 3 p.m. and at once advance across the open valley on St. MARGUERITE in widely extended lines under shrapnel fire.
There we met a Brigade of the 4th Division which had crossed lower down the river. They were advancing East whilst we were advancing North which necessitated a modification of direction of both Brigades. Having made good our objective (St. NAPOLEON) the Brigadier, who had now come up, ordered the Battalion up the wooded spur to the North of it. It was 9 p.m. before the Battalion was through the wood, and when it descended close by the outposts of the 4th Division. The rest of the Brigade did not cross till after dark and the 1st Line Transport did not cross till the following day. Total casualties: 8 other ranks wounded.

Moved down off ridge in early morning and advanced on MISSY with the D.C.L.I. The line of advance was open and rather across enemy's front and casualties commenced very soon. By noon we were in occupation of the North edge of village, with B D & C Coys. northwest with A Coy. at eastern end in order to get touch with the 13th Brigade, two of whose Battalions had crossed by a bridge higher up the river. A reconnaissance from here showed the enemy's position on the wooded spur above MISSY to be a very strong one and strengthened by a high wire paling and barbed wire entanglement round the edge of the wood. Search was made through the village for any implement that would cut wire, and a certain number was found and passed forward to the leading Companies who proceeded to make openings through the entanglement. The mission of the 13th Brigade was to attack this spur from the East but at this time had not progressed further than the South of the village, thus there were two Battalions of the 13th Brigade on the East of MISSY, the Battalion and one Coy. of the D.C.L.I. on the North besides the 15th Brigade. Thus there were plenty of troops in the vicinity but it was not apparent \textit{exactly} to the Comdg. Officer where the necessary