

7TH BATTALION THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT.

1915

Appendix

October VERMELLE.

1st Most of the officers paid visits to the battlefields in front of LOOS, it gave one a good impression of what the battle on the 25th and 26th must have been, the German trenches and wire were practically destroyed altogether. There was a good amount of shelling going on but mostly from our side. The ground right up to the German trenches (old) is under cover from the front and right and one can only be seen from the left near Hohenzollern Redoubt, and unless many many bunch together it is comparatively safe to walk about in the open. Bomb practice under Lieut. Marshall went on all day, great stress is being laid on the absolute importance of having really efficient bomb throwers, and a lesson learnt from the attack on Saturday 25th was that our men throw the bombs much too hard and wildly whereas the Germans merely place them gently in the trenches, but with far more valuable effect. The 2nd Battalion are on our left and the French on our right with the Guards division in support so being in very good company and the right of the British line our men have every incentive to do well.

2nd A continual bombardment goes on all day and night it certainly seems that we claim the largest share, the whole ground is strewn with our guns and trench 7.5 c.ms.

VERMELLE - LOOS

3rd The Battalion and The Queens moved up into the old British trenches with the Queens right on the LENS Road and our left on the LOOS Road, The Buffs, West Kents and Brigade went back to MASINGAREE. The Guards division came up again and took our billets, they are now in the firing line on the left of the 36th Bde. The crowd in the trenches is terrible as we have only 1000^x of front and there are two regt. in the trenches as well as about 1000 cavalry who are burying. The Bn. Headquarters is more lucky as