1918

October

18th (Otd.) the evening causing several casualties. Situation normal.

19th Battalion moved to Area G.36.d. where billets were allotted. The Battn. rested throughout the day. Total Strength 43 Officers 792 C.R. Ration Strength 24 Officers 526 C.R's.

20th The Battn. moved to COURTRAI where they rested in billets during the day.


22nd Orders were received for the Battn. to cross the CAMBRAI-ESSUYT CANAL and prepare to attack at 0900. A & B & D Coys crossed the Canal. C Coy was held up by M.G. fire. Captn. RYAN being killed. The Battn. was relieved at 23.59 by 23rd Middlesex and moved to Area: 0.9.c. and 0.8.b.

23rd The Battn. moved from Area 0.9.c. and 0.8.b. to Area 0.11.b and C. Battn. in Divisional Reserve.

24th The Battn. moved to Area 0.3.a. Move complete at 5 p.m.

25th The Battn received orders at 1.30 to move to area P.19.d. On route this was changed and Battn. halted in P.7.a. At 9.30 pm the Battn. moved to Area 0.16.d.

26th At 5 a.m. orders were received to concentrate in Area P.31.b & d in readiness for an attack on AVELGHEM. The concentration area was reached at 0830. At 1000 patrols were sent into the village and reported that the enemy had evacuated. A patrol was then sent out to secure Bridge-head across ESSUYT River. This was done and posts established. The village was heavily shelled during the night. Lieut W.G. ROBINSON was wounded.
26th (Oot.) Total Strength: 38 Officers
677 Other Ranks Ration Strength: 22
officers 493 Other Ranks.

27th The Battalion was relieved by the
17th Royal Scots, 25th Divn.
Relief complete 3 am. On relief
the Battalion moved to area N.18.0.
N.17.b & d.
2/Lt. SUMMERS W.G. was wounded.
The Battalion rested during the day.

28th The day was devoted to clearing
up. Two Companies & H.Q. bathed.

29th Training was carried out during the
morning under Coy. arrangements.
The afternoon was devoted to Sports.

30th Training was continued under
Company arrangements.

31st Church parade was held during the
morning. At 4 pm the Battalion
marched to VINKNERHONK. Some
29 officers were sent to the Brigade Support.
Total Casualties for month:
- Killed 4 Officers 56 Other Ranks.
- Wounded 12 Officers 257 Other Ranks.
- Missing 19 Other Ranks.

C.L. BROWN, Lt.Col.
Comdg. 12th Batt. East Surrey Regt.

DIARY OF OPERATIONS, 21st & 22nd October, 1918.

At 02.00 on the 21st October, the Battalion
moved from billets in COURTRAI and took up a position
in artillery formation along the line 0.7.d.31 -
0.13.a.5.4. Battalion Headquarters was situated at
N.12.d.8.2.

The advance was commenced at 07.15 and little
opposition was met until the line 0.21.b - d. was reached.
After sharp fighting the enemy retired behind a strong
belt of wire covering the tunnel in 0.22.d. Here the
Battalion was forced to halt by very heavy machine gun
fire.

At 03.00 on the 22nd orders were received to
form up on the eastern bank of the CAMBRAI - BOSSUIT
Canal, in preparation for an attack at 09.00.
A, B, & D Companies crossed the canal at 04.00 and C Company followed later, having suffered casualties in a previous attempt.

In spite of every effort the attack was halted by very heavy machine gun fire.

At 16.30 another attack was launched and an advance of 400 yards was achieved. The Battalion remained in this position until 23.45 when it was relieved by the 23rd Middlesex Regt. 123rd Brigade.

W.D. MUTCH, 2 Lt A/Adjt for Lt Col.
Comdg. 12th Batt. East Surrey Regt.

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DIARY OF OPERATIONS. 26th October 1918.

The Battalion moved from billets in 0.16.d. at 07.00 and marched to the concentration area in P.31.b & d. Battalion Headquarters being at P.31.a.5.6. At 09.00 orders were received to send out fighting patrols into AVELGHEM and get touch with the enemy.

The village was reported clear of the enemy at 11.40 by signal. The damaged bridgehead was seized and a post established at P.34.a.3.7.

Fighting patrols were sent out to the villages of WAPPELESTRAAT and RUGGE and an enemy patrol was met and dispersed Posts were established on the road at P.34.a.8.7. and P.34.a.8.4. and in WAPPELESTRAAT and RUGGE.

The village of AVELGHEM was shelled during the day and more heavily during the night.

W.D. MUTCH, 2 Lt. A/Adjt. for
Lt Col.
Comdg. 12th Batt. East Surrey Regt.

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