

1916

July

15th

BAZENTINAppendix.

About 3.0 a m 15th it was found necessary to throw back a defensive flank on the right of A Coy owing to enfilade fire from the enemy in HIGH WOOD down a sunken road the battn was holding - an old German trench was converted into flank defence and Major Parnell reported position to the Bde -

About 7.0 a m orders were received that the Battalion was to attack the trench running West from HIGH WOOD known as the German SWITCH - The H.L.I were to come up on the right and the 1st Middlesex Regt of 96th Bde were to attack on the left - No very definite orders received, so company commanders could not be given much information except that the left would be 200 yards East of the Cross tracks at (X) and that the frontage would be 500 yards the direction being practically N - orders were given for A B & C Coys to form the firing line with D Coy in support - The front companies were to advance in two waves of 2 platoons each with 2nd wave at 100 yards distance, companies to be in position by 6.0 a m - Bombardment was to start at 6.30 a m and to last for half an hour. At 6.55 a m the first wave was to advance, the distance to the German trench being about 900 yards - While companies were getting into position, the enemy opened heavy enfilade fire with rifles M G's & Shrapnel causing several casualties, Capt Gurrey being wounded - Right company commander asked for bombardment of N W corner of HIGH WOOD, but few shells were sent there

Ref  
Appendix  
XXX

WEST OF HIGH WOOD

8.55 a m Front Wave started and almost at once came under fire from both flanks and the front and second wave came under similar conditions and 2nd Lieut Richards & many men were hit - Line pushed on till within about 200 yards of the German trench when they came under very heavy fire and started to come back - At this stage while the men were being

1916

July

Appendix.15th  
(Contd)

rallied Major Parnell came up on the left, with Capt & Adjt Carslake and in the most gallant way started to lead forward the attack, but was almost immediately hit and killed & Capt Carslake soon afterwards was wounded and 2nd Lieut Crichton killed -

The enemy's wire had not been cut by the artillery and when about 100 yards from it the line halted in the long grass and started to dig in - 2 platoons from the support company were now sent forward but did not reach the firing line apparently turning off to the left.

9.25 At 9.25 Capt Foster A Coy sent back a message that he had reached a point about 100<sup>x</sup> from enemy's trench, that wire was not cut & H.L.I had not come up, but message did not reach the support line -

~~\*\*\*\*\*~~

10.5 am Lieut Thrupp on left sent back that he was held up by wire & asking for bombardment to be resumed & for reinforcements. Message got thro' & bombardment started about 12 noon but all shells were short, some

12.30 pm ~~no~~ reinforcements coming up officers remaining held a conference and decided to withdraw as there was considerable danger of their being cut off from the right. Retirement was carried out in small parties to original position on road -

This position was heavily shelled during the remainder of the afternoon and evening and during the night of 15th-16th - During the night strong patrols were sent out to get information & bring in the wounded -

#### WEST OF HIGH WOOD

The casualties this day were  
5 officers killed 11 officers  
wounded Total 16  
Other ranks 28 killed 52 missing  
207 wounded - Total 287  
Officers Killed. Major Parnell -  
Capt Slatter -  
2nd Lt Crichton -  
Houquette & Bower.  
wounded. Capt Gurrey

1916

July

Appendix.15th  
(Contd)

2nd Lieut Richards, Burrell, Barland, Bottomley, Robinson Parwell, Fairlie, & Poly, Capt & Adjt Carslake and Lieut Brown (Signalling Off)  
The casualties amongst N C Os was very heavy 20 Sergeants and 50 Other N C Os being among the casualties -

~~SECRET~~ MAMETZ WOOD.

16th

At about 4.0 a m the battalion was relieved by the 5th Scottish Rifles 19th Brigade and went back to some small pits in the open ground E of MAMETZ WOOD, where Battalion rested and made up ammunition etc - Day was quiet till about 11.0 p m when enemy started sending over gas shells & 2nd Lieut Buist who was asleep was gassed - Shelling went on till about 2.30 a m -  
Casualties other ranks 1  
Killed 10 wounded -

MAMETZ WOOD.

17th

Battalion remained in bivouacs near MAMETZ WOOD - quiet day until about 8.0 p m when valley was shelled intermittently with 5.9's - At 10.0 p m orders received to prepare to move & relieve 15th North Fus. 5th Div in MAMETZ WOOD. Battalion moved about 11.0 p m and took up position with 3 coys inside N W edge of the wood and one company on west edge - Battn H Cqs in centre of wood near track running N & S through it - Relief completed by 3.0 a m 18th -  
Casualties 3 O R wounded -

18th

At about 10.0 a m enemy commenced shelling wood with gas shells for about an hour no casualties - Conference held by Brigadier in Batt H Cqs in afternoon - Battalion ordered to move into WOOD RESERVE Trenches on West of MAMETZ Wood - 9th H L I. to take over all defences of the wood and battalion to be in readiness to move at short notice as a mobile reserve to support or relieve 19th brigade - Relief complete at 6.0 p m - carrying parties of 300 & 90 men were sent up