

1916

July

Appendix.16th  
(Contd)

to north edge of wood with wire etc - quiet night. no casualties -

19th

quiet day - men resting & improving trenches -  
at 9.0. p m ordered to relieve 2nd Worcesters in N edge of wood - Relief complete by 10.0 p m At 10.30 p m message received that 19th Bde with 2nd Worcesters were to attack HIGH WOOD and SWITCH TRENCH next morning and 100th Bde were in reserve and to be ready to move at short notice after 4.0 a m.  
Casualties other ranks wounded 5 -  
Telegram received from G.H.Q that coy S.M. Reid had been awarded Military Cross -

20th.

Attack of HIGH WOOD by 19th Bde & Worcesters commenced at 5.25 a m - At 10.0 a m attack reported to be progressing favourably - about 6.0 p m orders were received for an immediate move - Conference of C.O.s held by Bde - Queens and 16th K.R.R's were sent up to HIGH WOOD to be under the orders of 19th Brigade. Battalion moved at 9.0 p m to N E East corner of MAMETZ WOOD where Capt Foster met Battrn & held a conference of Coy Commanders - Capt Foster and B & C Coys moved straight to HIGH WOOD led by guides of 5/Scottish Rifles coming under very heavy H F & gas shell fire on the way & Capt Foster was wounded & handed over command to 2nd Lieut Faulkner Lieut Thrupp & 2 coys were sent to report to 212 Coy R 2 at cross roads S of HAZENELLE LA GRAND wood - on the way a report was made by a stretcher bearer that High Wood had been recaptured by enemy - This was reported to 19th bde & 2 coys ordered to stand by -

HIGH WOOD

21st

At about 12 midnight information received that wood was still in our hands and that Capt Foster was wounded - A & D Coys ordered to move at once to the wood arriving about 2.0 a m - Defence of wood was handed over to Queens & 16th K.R.R's under

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Appendix.21st  
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command of Capt & Adjt when  
16th K.R.R.'s - K.R.R.'s held  
East edge of Wood A to B -  
A to C held by West Kents 5th  
Division. A to D thereby  
held by D Coy Queens -  
E to H by C Coy - F to G -  
A Coy and G to H B Coy -  
At E was a strong point  
under construction by R.R.  
Trenches had only just been  
started and men were directed  
to dig themselves in, shell  
holes being chiefly utilized.  
The wood consisted chiefly  
of bushes about breast high  
fairly thick, and studded with  
scattered tall trees, rather  
thin and knocked about -  
The Germans appeared to be  
holding the North & N E  
Corner and did not appear  
to be holding the North West  
corner in any strength -

XXI

- 4.0 a m Boom after dawn the Germans  
were heard shouting and a few  
were seen moving about  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ in the  
mist that had arisen, evidently  
trying to make their way in  
round our right flank -  
rapid fire was opened and enemy  
retired but was frequently seen  
afterwards and fired on -  
During these operations 2nd  
Lieut Butterworth was killed  
and 2nd Lts Crook & Faulkner  
wounded - Later on 2nd Lt  
Milner took a patrol of 20  
men and examined the wood  
in rear of our trenches -  
about 3.0 p m the same officer  
took out a patrol of 5 men  
to get touch with the Detn  
on the right - several of  
these were wounded & 2nd Lt  
Milner went out again to find  
them & was not seen again -  
A search party failed to  
discover him -
- 5.0 p m About 5.0 p m a party of enemy  
were seen to carry out a  
machine gun on a stretcher on  
the left flank about 600 yards  
away - Lewis gun & rifle  
fire dispersed them.  
After dark endeavour was made  
to connect the trenches in the  
front line and the strong  
points on right & left.
- 11.30 p m Battalion was relieved by 4th.  
Gordons - previous to this  
heavy rifle fire had broken  
out in DELVILLE Wood and  
the Germans brought a barrage  
to bear in rear of HIGH WOOD  
and Battalion on relief had  
to go through the barrage &  
had several casualties doing so -

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BICORDHELAppendix.21st  
(Contd)

battalion marched back along valley on edge of MAMETZ WOOD where tear and gas shells were encountered and last company reached the bivouac half mile

22nd 3.20 am

East of BICORDHEL at 3.20 a.m. - The transport Echelon A & B had moved to this bivouac the previous evening & had tea & food ready for the Battalion - Casualties 20th - 21st  
1 Officer 2nd Lt Butterworth  
Killed 1 off 2nd Lt Milner  
missing 3 officers, Capt Foster, 2nd Lt Faulkner & Crook wounded -  
other ranks 6 Killed 39 wounded 12 missing -  
Total Casualties for period 15th to 21st July 1916

	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>O.R</u>
Killed	6	35
Wounded	15	262
Missing	1	65
	<u>22</u>	<u>362</u>

Remainder of day spent in resting & cleaning up.  
Capt Brodmurst-Mill rejoined from 1st Army School -

23rd 9.0 am

Battalion struck bivouac and marched ~~to~~ via MEAULTE and VIVIER HILL to fresh bivouac just West of DENHACOURT - ALBERT Railway about 1 mile from ALBERT. Bivouaced with Bde H Gns & 2nd Worcesters in a grassy field surrounded by cornfields -

NEAR ALBERT

Afternoon all companies washed in river  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off - Draft of 108 other ranks East Surrey, Buffs & Queens arrived - Tents were issued in evening & camp put up.

NEAR ALBERT

24th

The Battalion carried on inspection parades, and bayonet fighting classes in the morning. A draft of 36 other ranks arrived about midday - Royal Sussex and Royal West Kent's composed the draft. The afternoon the men rested and in the evening young & newly promoted N C O's were instructed under Company arrangements. Two N C O's per Battalion commenced to attend a Bde Bayonet Fighting Course in the morning at 9 a.m. Course to last 4 days. 2 Lt. E.d'A Collings joined from the Base for duty.