

1914.

Dec.

Appendix.

- 15th. Left trenches at dusk & came into local reserve at RUE DE BIACHE. 20 officers. 925 other ranks. 2 wounded, 3 to Hospital. Complimentary letters from G.O.C. 7th Division and B.G.C. 22nd I. Brigade received. Marked Appendix I.
- 16th. In local reserve cleaning up & resting. 20 officers. 920 other ranks. 1 to Hospital. The following remarks of Divisional General regarding attack on 15th inst. were received - "I regret the loss of the man who went to warn L/Cpl. Middleton's party but the enterprise was well carried out by 2nd Lt. Ramsay - The capture of the prisoner has been most useful." (Bde order No.20 (1) d/ 15.12.1914).
- 17th. Local Reserve. (Rue de BIACHE Close order drill). 20 officers. 919 other ranks. Officers. Reinforcements.
2/Lt. HEINEKEY. Queens.
2/Lt. BURKITT do.
45 other ranks.
1 Killed. 1 wounded. 4 to Hospital.
- 18th. RUE DE BIACHE.
At 10 a.m. The C.O's of 8. STAFFORDS, ROYAL WARWICKS & 2/Queens met at Brigade Hdqrs. The WARWICKS were ordered to attack enemy's line in front of our right E of LA BOUILLERIE. The front to be attacked was 500^m. The 2nd Queens were to support the attack. The attack was to commence at dusk 4.30 p.m. The Warwicks had to close up into 3 lines of men on the 500^m front. 2 Coy's of The Queens had to hold The Warwick trenches vacated by them on the E of WELL FARM & 2 Coy's had to take their places in the trenches on the W. of WELL FARM when after these 3 lines had advanced. Owing to the short time given to prepare for an attack against a strongly entrenched position & at night the details of the scheme were not circulated ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ to each individual man as they might should have been. Owing to the difficulties of getting men through communication trenches & other Coy's were sent off from Local Reserve at once they were not actually in THEIR places until 4.45 pm. The best Artillery opened a terrific fire on the enemy's trenches from 4.15 to 4.45 pm to cover the advance of the WARWICKS. This artillery fire apparently did no

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damage to the enemy but wounded a few of our own men & let the enemy know that we were going to attack them.

At 5 pm. an N.C.O. of WARWICKS came back asking for reinforcements C Coy & ½ D Coy were at once pushed forward in support, ½ C Coy being kept back in case of a counter attack 3 Platoons from one of the left Coy's was ordered up to take place of C Coy. In the meantime several attempts had been made to obtain information as to what the attacking line was doing. At 5.50 pm a message came from "C" Coy. Queens that WARWICKS line was half way to enemy's trenches; reinforcements of WELSH FUSILIERS were then sent for to carry on the attack. A report came in at 5.12 pm that one Coy. WARWICKS had got to enemy's trenches but had to retire. As neither the WELSH FUSILIERS or the 3 platoons from B. Coy. had arrived at 5.38 all Coy Comdres were warned to be prepared for a counter attack & it was not until 5.50 pm that the first reliable information of the whereabouts of the WARWICKS was obtained:- Sgt. SPILLER (Queens) had just returned from the 1st line of the WARWICKS & stated their casualties were very heavy that they had got close to the first lot of wire & that they were scattered in groups all over the place & that there was no line behind them. In the meantime it was ascertained that the our 1½ Coys were also close to the enemy's position & had suffered heavily. At this time one Coy of WELSH FUSILIERS had arrived & I decided that it would be madness to push the attack further & informed Hdqrs. At 7.52 pm I withdrew the remainder of attacking party, sent out parties to collect wounded. Owing to the arrival in the trenches of 2 more Coys. Welsh Fusiliers as well as wounded & also Queens & Warwick's returning, the trenches were very congested & great difficulty was experienced in reorganising the firing line & evacuating wounded. This was accomplished by about 8 am. Search parties were out all night collecting wounded. The fire was terrific & Machine

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Guns to our front & one enfilading attack to a certain extent. The fire dropped a bit towards midnight & altogether about 5 am. 22 officers. 958 other ranks.

19th.

At daybreak Germans were seen beckoning to our men to come out & collect wounded & bury dead. Several of our officers including the M.O. & 30 men went out. About 80 Germans & 10 German officers also came out & there was a local armistice. A sniper on our right killed one officer of S. Staffords & one of our men but there was no firing from our front. The Germans buried a lot of our dead & we collected wounded, some of whom were taken into the German trenches & others into ours. As our dead & wounded were mostly near the German wire the enemy took possession of their rifles etc. Our officers conversed with the German officers & unfortunately two of our officers 2/Lt. ROUGHT & 2/Lt. WALMISLEY were enticed into the German trenches & taken prisoners, so also were 7 stretcher bearers. These officers and men were not missed until after Armistice. The Armistice was brought to a sudden close owing to one of our guns shelling the enemy's trenches. Our losses were:-

Queens "C"	Captain Fearon.	wounded.
do "D"	" LEE	do
do C	Lieut. ALLAN	do
do C	2/Lt. BUTTERWORTH	do
do	" BURKETT	do
D	2/Lt. RAMSAY	missing killed.
C	2/Lt. ROUGHT	Captured.
D	" WALMISLEY	do

M.C.Os & men. 297 Killed.
26 16 missing.
39 wounded.
7 captured.

Total. 8 Officers & 92 89 other ranks.
9 to Hospital. 2 to Prison.
14 officers. 835 other ranks.

20th.

Enemy shelled our trenches but with little effect. Battn was relieved by S. STAFFORDS & WARWICKS & marched to billets at Rue de BATAILLE Divisional Reserve.
14 officers. 858 other ranks.

21st.

Rue de BATAILLE DIV. RESERVE.
Cleaning up & resting.
Major Crofts 2/Queens Rgt took over command of this Battn from today inclusive from Capt. F.S. Montague-Bates 2/EAST Surrey Regt.

22nd.

RUE DE BATAILLE. DIVISIONAL RESERVE.
Close order drill. The following messages were received - "The Brigadier-General wishes to place on record the