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Another stretcher party come along and take me away. Beastly journey down. Essex and King's Own all coming up. Stretcher bearers have to get into the open. After a long time we get to the road. John Carr and L/Cpl Owen meet us with a stretcher. Take me over and send S.B's. back for someone else. John & Owen start off with me, to Bn. H.Q. Drop me off stretcher twice. John keeps patting my head and telling me I am O.K. Reach Bn. H.Q. Brain and Blencs come out and give me a drink. Willis sends me a message to say, I'll soon be in town. Cheers me up a bit. Brain tells me our casualties.

Poor Old Daddy Mansell killed. Robin, Greaves, Kirkland, Addison and others wounded. Bolton missing. Watkins and Sammy Howarth, only 2 to get through. Whole show dud. The doctor decides to send me on at once. I am lying on a stretcher in a trench near Battalion H.Q. Dammed shell bursts near, and covers me with mud. Don't seem to mind a bit. Seem a apathetic since getting hit. Am sent off to a Dressing Station near Givichy and thus sever connection with the Bn. again after ' months ' spell.

October 7th 1917.

The attack was altered to take place on the 9th so the plan of Campaign now is 7/8th relieve the 10th & 11th Brigades.

9th Attack.

PRELIMINARIES TO THE ATTACK.

The attack was to take place in accordance with the accompanying map.

The extreme left the French, on their Right the Guards Division. Of these two the French are to work round to the left and the Guards to the right of their main objective i.e. Houtholst Forest. On the right of the Guards are the 29th Division, the 4th Division and the 11th Division and the 2nd Army.

The 12th Brigade of the 4th Division is attacking with the 10th Brigade in support, the 11th in Reserve.

Dispositions of the 12th Brigade are :-

Left Front Battalion	2nd Lancashire Fusiliers.
Right Front Battalion	2nd Essex Regiment.
Support Battalion	2nd Dukes (West Ridings).
Reserve Battalion	1st King's Own R.L. Regt.

Dispositions of the Battalion.

Left Front Company	"C" Company.
Right Front Company	"A" Company
Support Company	"B" Company
Reserve Company	"D" Company

In the 29th Division, 2 Brigades attack. The 86th Brigade being on the Right of the Division and the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on the Right of the 86th Brigade. In other words the 1st and 2nd Bns. Lan. Fus. attack touching. This is the first time in history.

Of the 11th Division there is the 9th Battalion and of the 17th Division in Reserve there is the 10th Battn. so the Regiment is well represented.

Officers of the Battalion going into the attack.

Commanding Officer.	Major J.W.Watkins.
Adjutant.	Capt. G.C.Martin, M.C.
Signalling Officer.	2nd Lt. R.Gilmour.
Intelligence Officer.	Capt. S.Clark,

"A" Coy.

2nd Lt. C.U.Lloyd
 2nd Lt. A.Worrall
 2nd Lt. E.J.Howl.
 2nd Lt. C.Dunlevy.

"C" Coy.

Capt. J.Judd.
 Capt. Lowe. (Essex Regt).
 2nd Lt. E.S.Paragher
 2nd Lt. Blewes

"B" Coy.

Capt. G.L.Elkington.
 2nd Lt. C.H.Elliott.
 2nd Lt. H.M.Dodson.
 2nd Lt. R.S.Thicknesse.

"D" Coy.

Lt. A.D.Macdonald. M.C.
 2nd Lt. W.H.Riley.
 2nd Lt. L.Shipman,
 2nd Lt. E.G.Daglish.

10% Reinforcements.

Lt. Col H.W.Glenn (W.Riding Regt).	Transport.
Capt. K.Guy.	Dragon Camp
Capt. V.F.S.Hawkins, M.C.	Transport.
2nd Lt. G.N.Stange.	Herzeels.

Carrying Officer	2nd Lt. J.Grimshaw, V.C.
Quartermaster.	Major W.Bowes, D.S.O.
Transport Officer.	2nd Lt. A.R.Topping.

If on the 9th the 2nd Lan. Fus. and the 2nd Essex gained their objective fairly easily, at zero plus 9 hours the Dukes and the King's Own will go right through to a further objective about 1000 yards ahead.

The Battalion left Wolfe Camp the night 7/8th October and marched by Cos. to the line, to relieve the Hampshire Regt. 11th Brigade.

The weather since the 4th had been simply poisonous and as the line simply consists of posts in shell holes,

it will be awfully bad for the men until the attack comes off. It stopped raining at about 5 p.m. on the 7th.

"A" Co. moved off at 6:30 p.m.

"C" Co. Moved off at 6:45 p.m.

"E" Co. moved off at 7 p.m.

"D" Co. moved off at 7:15 p.m.

Watkins and Martin left at about 8 p.m. with headquarters.

October 8th was a fine day with a strong westerly breeze. A good drying wind. Towards the evening however it began to rain again which will make the ground very bad going for the troops. The creeping barrage however only goes 100 yards in the first ten minutes and 100 every 6 minutes afterwards. Besides this pace the attackers wait $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours on the first and second objectives. Zero hour is 5:20 a.m.

October 9th 1917.

Attack on enemy positions North of Poelcappelle. Final of objectives about 1500 yards into the enemy territory. General direction of the attack 6° Magnetic bearing.

The following account of the fighting is written from accounts given by officers who went into the attack with the Battalion.

The night preceeding zero hour 8/9th October the Battalion assembled for the attack. Tape had been put out by Major Hodgett of the 9th Field Co. R.E. for the assaulting Companies "A" & "C" to line up on. The Support Cos. "B" & "D" formed up behind. One platoon of "B" Co. No.5. under 2nd Lt. Elliott was mopping up platoon for "A" Co. No.16 platoon of "D" Co. under 2nd Lt. L. Shipman was mopping up party for "C" Co.

The men carried two days rations with them and their water bottle full.

At zero hour 5:20 a.m. on the 9/10/17 the battalion was ready. The barrage opened on time and from all accounts

was the most extraordinary sight. It consisted of 13 pound shrapnel and H.E. up to 9:2

The first 10 minutes the Battalion moved 100 yards. The enemy barrage came down on the Support line 3 minutes after the attack started. The attackers were scheduled to reach the first objective at about 5:45 a.m. and were up to time. Major Watkins, Capt. Martion, M.C. the Adj. Capt. S. Clarke the Intelligence Officer and 2nd Lt. R. Gilmour the Signalling Officer comprising Headquarters were up on 19 Metre Hill before the attack commenced and went over practically with the first wave, which position they maintained till the end of the attack.

The first $\frac{1}{2}$ of an hour of the show may be described by the remarks of an officer and a private, Pte. Olive, 2nd Lt. Elliott's Servant brought Elliott down the line after that officer was hit, and having seen him off to the C.C.S. reported to the Transport. When asked how the show was going he said "It was grand, Sir; the first 5 or 6 minutes was just like a practice attack on parade".

The other description was by 2nd Lt. W.H. Riley. This officer was hit just beyond the first objective, but when he got to the C.C.S. he refused to go down the line, and came back to the Battalion, and was only stopped $\frac{1}{2}$ going back to join the Battalion in the line with the greatest difficulty. When asked what he thought of the show he said "That it was the finest mornings outing he'd ever had in his life". He admitted at the same time that he had been wounded before the worst part of the fighting began.

The worst fighting began according to all accounts at the Light Railway on the Poelcappelle - Gonde House Road. The Division on the right had been held up in Poelcappelle and Machine Guns enfiladed this road. In addition to this enemy snipers who had escaped the barrage were very

active round Landing Farm and Compromise Farm and isolated shell holes. By the time the Battalion had crossed the Farm the advance had turned from walking behind our barrage, to rapid jumping from shell hole to shell hole. Capt. Lowe, Essex Regt. att. Lan. Fus. was killed crossing the road. 2nd Lt. Worrall and Thicknesse were also killed. Capt. Elkington had been badly wounded in the right arm, by a shell very early and in addition Daglish, Shipman, Elliott, Dodson and Faragher were all wounded. This left the Battalion at this part of the proceedings as follows at about 11 a.m.

"A" Co. Lloyd and Dunlevy
"B" Co. No Officers.
"C" Co. Judd, Blewes.
"D" Co. Macdonald & Riley.
Hd. Qrs. As at the beginning.

The first serious check came to the left of the Battalion from Millers House. The Essex on the right had already been held up by the right Division failing to advance. This caused a temporary standstill.

The Germans had not been giving themselves up very willingly and appeared to be very numerous around Landing and Compromise Farms. Millers Houses.

The result of this standstill was that our barrage got right ahead of us.

Major Watkins and Capt. Clarke, seeing how things were going immediately got up to the front line and reorganised things. By this time men of the Dukes and King's Own and one or two of the Essex had got muddled up with the Battalion. Besides them men of the Royal Fusiliers and 1st. Battalion Lan. Fus. from the 29th Division were in amongst us, so that proceedings were rather disorganised. Also owing to the extraordinary state of the ground which was cut to pieces with shell