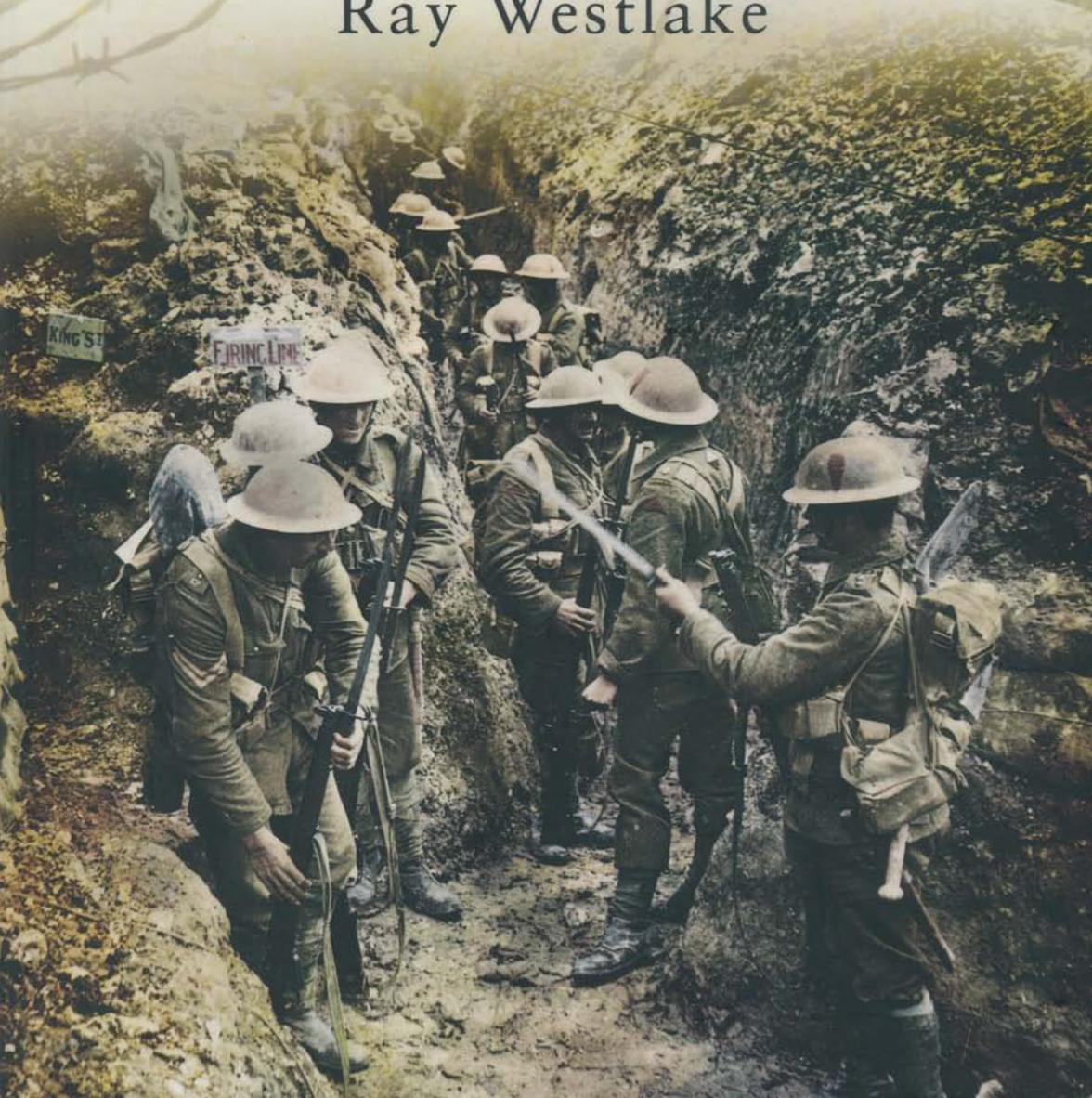


TRACING BRITISH BATTALIONS ON THE SOMME

Ray Westlake



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by

RAY WESTLAKE



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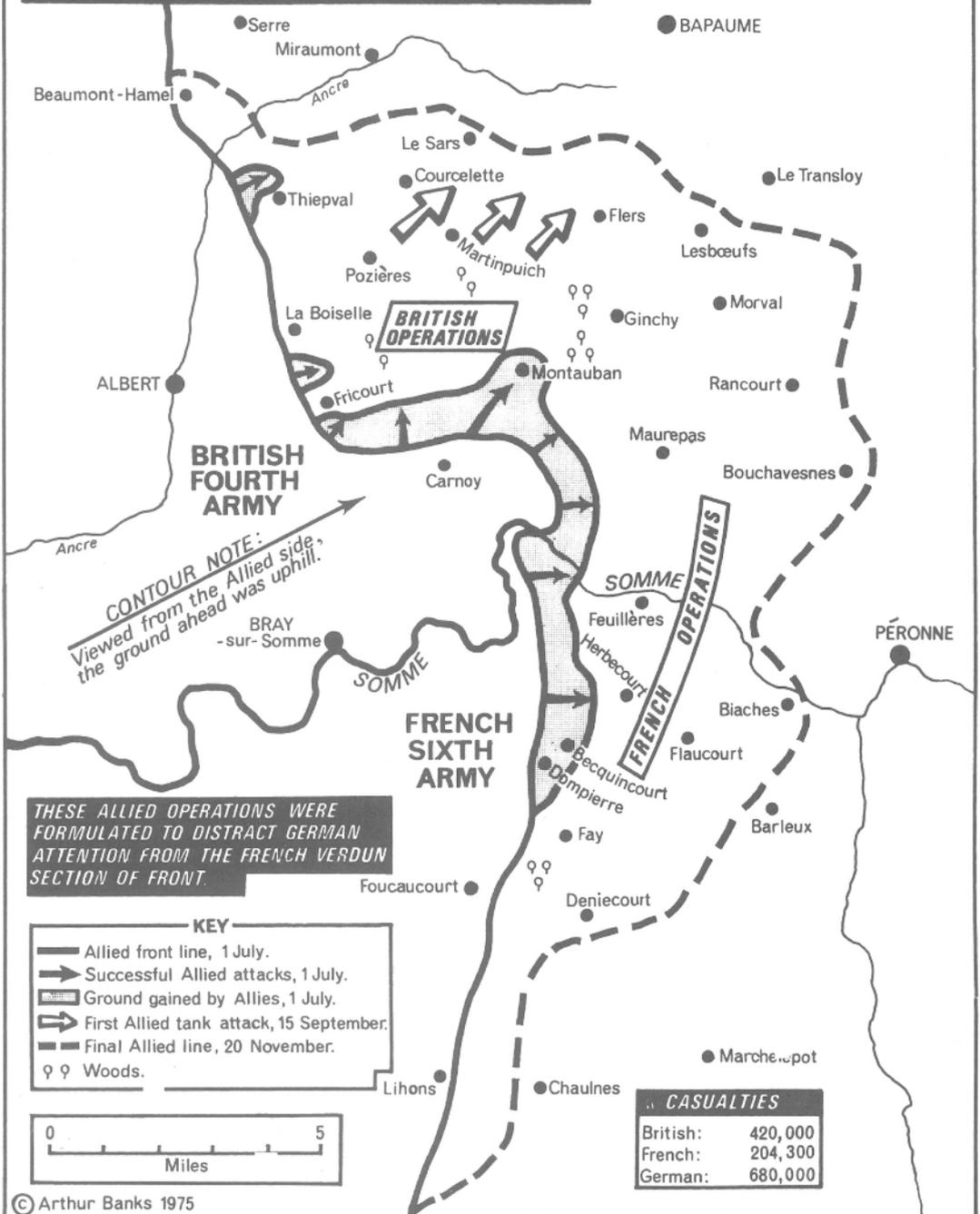
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for
Keith Enright
who hopefully will never know war.

THE SOMME BATTLE 1916



Introduction

The idea behind this book evolved as a result of many years of enquiries from historians and researchers. There has also been in recent times a welcome interest shown by many who simply wish to know where their relatives served during the Great War. I hope this work will provide help, at least as far as the 1916 Battle of the Somme is concerned, and literally enable any visitor to France to follow in the footsteps of their grandfathers, fathers, uncles, etc.

British Battalions of the Somme 1916 is not intended to be a history of the battle. Other and more knowledgeable authors having already covered this important period of British military history adequately. What has been provided is an account of some 616 infantry battalions belonging to regiments of the British Army and the 63rd (Royal Naval Division) during their service in the Somme area, battles and engagements, along with movements out of the line, being dealt with at battalion level rather than on a larger and less detailed divisional scale.

The period covered by this work is that generally accepted as 'The Battle of The Somme' – viz: 1 July–18 November, 1916. Movements of battalions are generally dealt with while each remains within the area designated as *Departement de la Somme*. Consequently, locations out of the battle area, such as those around Amiens, Abbeville and Doullens appear in the records of each. Geographically, positions in the vicinity of the Gommecourt sector (Pas de Calais) would not qualify. However, the importance of this part of the line and the fighting that went on there necessitates their inclusion.

Normally, locations given are those where the majority of the battalion bivouacked or billeted. Often small parties (or single companies) moved away for temporary attachment to other formations, or on work detail, and this has been mentioned where known. Trench names are as given in war diaries. Casualty figures, where given, are generally those recorded in war diaries and are made up from killed, wounded and missing lists.

Notes on Infantry Organization

In 1914 infantry battalions of the British Army were those contained within the 4 regiments of foot guards (Welsh Guards raised Feb. 1915) and some 69 Line regiments. There were also several regiments made up entirely from members of the Territorial Force.

Each Line regiment contained Regular battalions (usually 2) and a number of Reserve battalions (the old Militia). In the case of English, Scottish and Welsh regiments, these also had Territorial Force battalions intended for home defence. At the outbreak of war Lord Kitchener created a 'New Army' and these battalions were added and numbered on from those Regular, Reserve and Territorial battalions of Line regiments already in existence.

Regular battalions (usually numbered 1st and 2nd) are referred to by number only. In the main, Reserve battalions did not go overseas as such. Those that did are listed as '(Extra Reserve)'. The titles of Territorial Force battalions are followed by the letters '(T.F.)', while those of Kitchener's New Army include the word '(Service)'. A number of non-combatant battalions '(Labour)' were also raised and numbered within regiments.

A Division (in 1916) comprised 3 infantry brigades (each containing 4 battalions) and a pioneer battalion. In the case of the 9th (Scottish) Division, 1 brigade was made up entirely from South African battalions, while in the 29th the 88th Infantry Brigade included the Newfoundland Regiment.

Sources of Information

The main source of information for this book has been war diaries and unit histories. The latter amounts to some 250 volumes, making a list impractical. War diaries are held at the Public Records Office under W.O.95 classification. References drawn from published memoirs, diaries, etc, have been acknowledged in the text. My own files (RAY WESTLAKE UNIT ARCHIVES) have also been put to good use – the 6,000-plus files formed over the last twenty-five years providing in many cases hitherto unpublished information.

The following works have been essential:

History of The Great War – Order of Battle of Divisions, Major A.F. Becke.

Part 1 – Regular British Divisions

Part 2A – 1st Line Territorial Force Divisions

Part 2B – 2nd Line Territorial Force Divisions

Part 3A – New Army Divisions (9th–26th)

Part 3B – New Army Divisions (30th–41st) and 63rd (R.N.)

H.M.S.O. 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1945.

History of The Great War – Military Operations France and Belgium 1916.

Two volumes, Brigadier-General Sir James E. Edmonds, Macmillan, 1932, 1938.

British Regiments 1914–18, Brigadier E.A. James. Samson Books 1978.

When The Barrage Lifts, G. Gliddon, Gliddon Books, 1987.

The V.C. and D.S.O., Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C. and Miss E.M. Humphris. Standard Art Book Co. Ltd, 1924.

Monthly Army List, June, 1916, War Office.

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Families also play an important part in the writing of books. Thanks to my wife Barbara for not only putting up with me during the two years that the Somme Battalions have been living in the house, but for tolerating rooms of dusty books and every flat surface covered with maps. Our son Paul's help with the day-to-day running of RAY WESTLAKE-MILITARY BOOKS is now essential.

Grenadier Guards

1st Battalion. 3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division: Arrived Halloy (30/7). To Bus-lès-Artois (1/8). Regimental history by Sir Frederick Ponsonby records that later 2 days were spent in trenches at Beaumont-Hamel. Entrained for Méricourt (25/8) and from there to Ville-sous-Corbie. Moved forward to reserve at Bernafay Wood (8/9). One company sent forward to Arrow Head Copse in support of 4th Grenadier Guards (10/9) and another to 1st Welsh Guards – the latter coming into action against enemy attack. Rest of Battalion moved forward to Guillemont. Attack on Ginchy Telegraph and The Quadri-lateral (12/9) – assault checked with heavy casualties. Relieved and to Happy Valley (13/9). To Trônes Wood via Carnoy (14/9). Advanced to positions south-west of Ginchy (15/9) – in support of attack towards Lesbœufs. Moved forward to trenches in front of Ginchy (16/9) – on right of attack – advance as far as high ground west of Lesbœufs – heavy casualties by machine gun fire from church tower. *Official History of The Great War* records advance as being without artillery support and against accurate machine gun fire. Battalion dug-in about 250 yards from objective. Withdrew to Carnoy (17/9). To trenches west of Lesbœufs (20/9), Trônes Wood (21/9), assembly trenches for attack (24/9). Attack on Lesbœufs (25/9) – in support – passed through leading waves to take final objective by 3.30 p.m. Relieved and to Carnoy (26/9). Casualties for Ginchy/Lesbœufs operations – 611. To Fontaine-le-Sec (1/10), Sandpit Camp (10/11). From there, via Trônes Wood moved to front line trenches east of Gueudecourt.

2nd Battalion. 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division: Arrived St Pol (30/7) and from there in motor lorries to Bouquemaison. Later marched to Neuvillelette. To Sarton (1/8), Bertrancourt (10/8). Later to front line Beaumont-Hamel sector. Relieved and to Bertrancourt (14/8). To Courcelles-au-Bois (16/8), Beauval (23/8). Entrained for Méricourt (25/8) and from there to Méaulte. To Carnoy (31/8) - dug trenches in rear of the 20th Division. Relieved and to Méaulte (3/9). To Carnoy (9/9), front line Ginchy sector (12/9). Successful operation carried out at the orchard just outside Ginchy (13/9) – British line being straightened out in readiness for forthcoming attack. Relieved and to bivouacs just behind Ginchy (14/9). Attack towards Lesbœufs (15/9) – followed 2nd and 3rd Coldstream into action through heavy bombardment, shells, according to one source, said to be dropping at 1 per second. Battalion's right on Ginchy-Lesbœufs Road – cleared enemy trenches at point of bayonet – holding first and second objective by evening. Relieved and to Citadel Camp (16/9). Casualties – 378. To Bernafay Wood (20/9), assembly trenches in front of Ginchy (24/9). Regimental historian – Sir Frederick Ponsonby records that trenches were so narrow that the men were unable to sit or lie down, and

had to remain standing shoulder to shoulder. Attacked 12.35 p.m. (25/9) – with Ginchy-Lesbœufs Road on right moved forward – assault held up by uncut wire, 4 officers preceded to cut gaps by hand, Battalion then charged through to take objective. Regimental history records high losses among officers and assault on second objective almost totally led by N.C.Os. Relieved from captured line (26/9) and via Bernafay Wood to Citadel Camp. Casualties – 351. Later to Morlancourt and from there Aumont. To Citadel Camp (10/11), camp near Montauban (12/11), Trônes Wood (15/11), front line between Lesbœufs and Gueudecourt (16/11).

3rd Battalion. 2nd Guards Brigade, Guards Division: From Le Souich took over trenches Beaumont-Hamel sector (13/8). To Sailly-au-Bois (17/8), Bus-lès-Artois (21/8), Amplier (23/8), Naours (24/8). Entrained for Méricourt (25/8) and from there to Morlancourt. To Happy Valley (9/9), Carnoy (12/9), assembly positions east of Ginchy (14/9). Attack towards Lesbœufs (15/9) – advanced 6.20 a.m. – heavy casualties before first objective reached and cleared. Relieved (16/9) and to Bernafay Wood. Casualties – 412. To Carnoy (20/9). In reserve for attack (25/9). Later to Heucourt. To Méaulte (11/11), Mansell Camp (15/11).

4th Battalion. 3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division: Arrived Halloy (30/7). Later to camps at Arquèves, Mailly-Maillet before taking over line Beaumont-Hamel sector. To Vauchelles-lès-Authie (20/8), Gézaincourt (22/8), Vignacourt (24/8). Entrained for Méricourt (25/8) and from there to Ville-sous-Corbie. To Carnoy (8/9). Worked on road running from village to Wedge Wood. Later to huts near Talus Boisé. To line between Guillemont and Leuze Wood midnight (9/9). In support of failed attack on The Quadrilateral (12/9). Relieved and to Happy Valley. To Carnoy (14/9) and from there to the copse eastern side of Trônes Wood. Attack towards Lesbœufs (15/9) – from reserve advanced on right passing over first objective. Regimental history notes heaps of dead Germans as evidence of recent fighting. Dug in 500 yards north of Ginchy and consolidated gains. In support of attack (16/9). Withdrew to Carnoy during evening. To line in front of Lesbœufs (20/9) – dug communication and assembly trenches for forthcoming attack. Relieved and to Bernafay Wood (22/9). Moved forward (24/9). Attacked 12.35 p.m. (25/9) - Regimental history notes over 150 Germans killed with the bayonet before rushing on to clear first objective. Second objective taken. Relieved 10 p.m. (26/9) and to Carnoy. Casualties since (18/9) – 458. To Sandpit Camp (30/9). Morlancourt (1/10). From there via Amiens to Epaumesnil. To Sandpit Camp (10/11), Carnoy (12/11), trenches in front of Lesbœufs and Gueudecourt (13/11), Carnoy (17/11).

Coldstream Guards

1st Battalion. 2nd Guards Brigade, Guards Division: From Ypres sector arrived Lucheux area end July. Via Bois de Warnimont began duty in forward area Auchonvillers sector second week August. To Bus-lès-Artois (21/8), Amplier (23/8), Naours (24/8). Entrained for Méricourt (25/8) and from there to Morlancourt area. To Happy Valley (9/9), Bernafay Wood (12/9). Attack towards Lesbœufs (15/9) – assembled south-east of Ginchy-Lesbœufs Road. On left of Brigade advanced in line with 2nd Coldstream to left and 3rd to the left of 2nd (all three Coldstream battalions going forward together). Hard fighting crossing 2 forward lines – the enemy, according to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Ross of Bladensburg's Coldstream history, defending these with great bravery to the last man. Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Hon. G.V. Baring killed. Relieved and to Citadel Camp (16/9). Casualties – 360. In reserve during attack on Lesbœufs (25/9) – later moved forward to support line. To front line beyond Lesbœufs (29/9) – attack on Rainy Trench driven back by machine gun fire and strong barrage. Dug in and new line established 200 yards in advance of original line. Relieved and to Carnoy (30/9). Guards Division relieved (1/10) and to Amiens area. Casualties since (18/9) – 129. Arrived Méaulte (11/11).

2nd Battalion. 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division: From Ypres sector arrived Bouquemaision area end July. Moved forward, arriving Bertrancourt (10/8) and began duty in Beaumont-Hamel sector. Relieved and to Beauval (23/8). Entrained for Méricourt (25/8) and from there to Méaulte. Moved forward via Bernafay Wood to Ginchy sector (12/9). Attack towards Lesbœufs (15/9) – on right of Brigade received heavy casualties from enemy machine guns in sunken Ginchy-Flers Road. Position stormed and advance continued to German first line. Next objective taken by 11.15 a.m. Relieved and to Citadel Camp (16/9). Casualties – 440. To forward area during night (20/9). In support for attack on Lesbœufs (25/9) – bombers cleared cellars in village. Relieved during evening and to Carnoy. Guards Division relieved and to Amiens area (1/10). Casualties since (18/9) – 145. Arrived Citadel Camp (10/11). Later moved forward via Montauban and Trônes Wood to forward area Gueudecourt.

3rd Battalion. 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division: From Ypres sector arrived Bouquemaision area end July. Moved forward, arriving Bertrancourt (10/8) and began duty in Beaumont-Hamel sector. Relieved and to Beauval (23/8). Entrained for Méricourt (25/8) and from there to Méaulte. Moved forward via Bernafay Wood to Ginchy sector (12/9). Attacked towards Lesbœufs (15/9) – advance of 1st Guards Brigade towards first objective soon met

by strong machine gun fire from Ginchy-Flers sunken road. Most officers becoming casualties before they had gone forward more than 100 yards. Lieutenant-Colonel John Campbell, D.S.O. (commanding 3rd Battalion) soon rallied the survivors and then with a blast from his hunting horn, took the men on. In a fierce charge the Guardsmen poured into the sunken road and cleared the enemy by hand-to-hand fighting. Advance continued and German first line taken. In next assault – heavy casualties from machine gun fire from right. Colonel Campbell once again collected his men and led attack onto next objective. Enemy cleared from position by 11.15 and posts established 600 yards in front. Colonel Campbell awarded Victoria Cross. Relieved and to Citadel Camp (16/9). Casualties – 361. To forward area during night (20/9). In support for attack on Lesbœufs (25/9) – bombers in action clearing dug-outs and cellars in village. Relieved during evening and to Carnoy. Guards Division relieved and to Amiens area (1/10). Casualties since (18/9) – 131. Arrived Citadel Camp (10/11). Later, via Montauban, to forward area Gueudecourt.

4th Battalion (Pioneers). Pioneers, Guards Division: From Ypres sector concentrated with Guards Division in Doullens area end July. Began work Hébuterne and Beaumont-Hamel sectors second week of August. Began move to Méaulte area (21/8). Worked on defences. Detachment joined tunnelling companies for mining operations. Moved forward to Ginchy sector beginning September. Attack towards Lesbœufs (15/9) – operated as signallers and carried ammunition to forward area. In action during attack on Lesbœufs (25/9). Remained in forward area until (6/11).

Scots Guards

1st Battalion. 2nd Guards Brigade, Guards Division: Arrived Lucheux from Ypres sector (26/7). To Bois de Warnimont (2/8). Took turns in trenches - Auchonvillers sector facing Beaumont-Hamel (9/8)–(16/8) – resting between tours at Bertrancourt. To Sailly-au-Bois (16/8) and tours in trenches - Hébuterne sector. To Bus-lès-Artois (21/8), Amplier (23/8), Naours (24/8). Entrained for Méricourt-l'Abbé and marched to Morlancourt (25/8). To Happy Valley (9/9), Bernafay Wood (12/9). Moved up to assembly positions in front of Ginchy (14/9). War Diary notes moving up of the 'Armoured Creepers' (Tanks) which was brought to a standstill by heavy fire. Attacked towards Lesbœufs 6.20 a.m. (15/9) – in support behind 3rd Grenadier Guards – fighting on record as being of the severest kind – hand to hand combat encountered by most, and all ranks performing in a gallant and heroic manner. One Guardsman, Lance-Sergeant Fred McNess was to receive the Victoria Cross for his gallantry and leadership while organizing a bombing attack on the enemy – although severely wounded in the neck and jaw he continually brought supplies of bombs up to his men until falling exhausted from loss of blood. Relieved and to Citadel Camp (16/9). Casualties – 288. To Carnoy (20/9), Trônes Wood (25/9) - returning to Carnoy same evening. Later one company sent forward to support 2nd Scots Guards during attack on Lesbœufs. Relieved 2nd Battalion in line at Lesbœufs (26/9). To Fricourt-Carnoy Road (30/9). Entrained at Dernancourt for Airaines (2/10) and from there marched to Warlus. To Méaulte (11/11), camp on Carnoy-Montauban Road (12/11).

2nd Battalion. 3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division: Entrained at Cassel for Frévent (30/7) and from there marched via Lucheux to Halloy. To Bus-lès-Artois (1/8), Bertrancourt (10/8) and began tours in front line Auchonvillers. To Bus (19/8), Sarton (20/8), Hem-Hardinval (22/8). Entrained at Vignacourt for Méricourt-l'Abbé (25/8) and from there marched to Ville-sous-Corbie. To bivouacs just north of Carnoy (9/9), Bernafay Wood (10/9) – 2 companies moved forward to line north and north-east of Ginchy and assisted in capture of the orchard. Rest of Battalion moved up to Ginchy (11/9). To Happy Valley (12/9). At 5 p.m. marched to Carnoy and from there took up assembly positions east of Trônes Wood. Moved forward 9 a.m. (15/9) for attack on Lesbœufs – heavily shelled and forced to dig in between Guillemont and Ginchy – later provided defensive flank left of 1st (Guards) Brigade. To Carnoy (16/9). Casualties – 164. Moved to forward line facing Lesbœufs (20/9), 2 companies to Trônes Wood (22/9)–(24/9).

6 — SCOTS GUARDS

Attack on trenches north-west and north of Lesbœufs (25/9). Relieved by 1st Scots Guards and to Trônes Wood (26/9). Casualties – 325. To camp just south of Fricourt (29/9), Vergies (1/10), Via Treux to Sandpit Camp (10/11), Trônes Wood (11/11), reserve trenches (12/11), Montauban (15/11).

Irish Guards

1st Battalion. 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division: Moved towards Somme from Ypres sector end of July – reaching Bouquemaison (1/8). To Vauchelles-lès-Authie (4/8), via Louvencourt and Bertrancourt to Mailly-Maillet Wood (11/8). Took over reserve positions east of Englebelmer. To Louvencourt (12/8), front line opposite Serre (16/8). – Rudyard Kipling in his history of the Irish Guards records the dead of 1st July still laying around in large numbers. Some 200 being buried by the Battalion. To Bois de Warnimont (20/8), Beauval (23/8). Entrained at Canaples for Méricourt (25/8) and from there marched to Méaulte. Moved forward to Bernafay Wood and trenches near Ginchy (10/9). Formed up north-west of Ginchy (15/9) and in attack towards Lesbœufs at 6.20 a.m. Rudyard Kipling notes advance as being through a haze of flying dirt – No.1 Company behind the Coldstream saw a platoon ‘crumped out of existence in one flash and roar.’ Withdrew via Bernafay Wood to Citadel Camp (17/9) Casualties – 342. To couse on eastern edge of Trônes Wood (20/9). Led attack left of 1st Guards Brigade on Lesbœufs (25/9). Relieved by 2nd Irish Guards in village (26/9) and withdrew via Bernafay Wood to Citadel Camp. Casualties – over 250. To Hornoy (1/10), camp near Carnoy (10/11), near Montauban (11/11), front line between Lesbœufs and Gueudecourt (13/11). Relieved and via camp between Carnoy and Montauban to Méaulte (16/11).

2nd Battalion. 2nd Guards Brigade, Guards Division: Left Ypres sector end of July – reaching Lucheux (30/7). To Mailly-Maillet Wood (1/8), Bois de Warnimont (6/8), front line Auchonvillers sector (13/8). Relieved and to Mailly-Maillet Wood (15/8), Couin (17/8). Rudyard Kipling in his Regimental history records that at Couin men of the Battalion witnessed the tragic death of music hall artist Basil Hallam (‘Gilbert the Filbert’) who fell to his death from an observation balloon (20/8). To Bus-lès-Artois (21/8), Amplier (23/8), Naours (24/8). Entrained for Méricourt (25/8). To Happy Valley (9/9), Bernafay Wood (12/9). Moved forward to line at Ginchy. Attack towards Lesbœufs (15/9). Withdrew to Citadel Camp (16/9) – Rudyard Kipling noting that just 88 men made the journey with some 78 arriving later. To Carnoy (20/9), Trônes Wood (25/9). Relieved 1st Irish Guards at Lesbœufs (26/9). To Trônes Wood (28/9), Carnoy (30/9), Méricourt-en-Vimeu (2/10), Méaulte (11/11). Rudyard Kipling recalls the journey to Méaulte as being in French buses driven by Senegalese. An experience, he notes, almost as deadly as warfare itself and justifying the award of a medal. Moved forward to Trônes Wood (18/11).

Welsh Guards

1st Battalion. 3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division: Left Ypres sector (27/7) – reaching Halloy (30/7), Bus-lès-Artois (1/8), Arquèves (6/8), Mailly-Maillet (9/8). Took over line between Beaumont-Hamel and Serre (10/8). Relieved by 2nd Scots Guards and to Colincamps (14/8). To front line (17/8), Bus-lès-Artois (19/8), Vauchelles-lès-Authie (20/8), Gézaincourt (22/8), Vignacourt (24/8), Méricourt-l'Abbé (25/8), Ville-sur-Ancre (7/9). Took part in operations at Ginchy (9/9)–(11/9). Relieved and to Bernafay Wood. To Happy Valley (12/9), trenches west of Trônes Wood (14/9). Attacked towards Lesbœufs just after midday (15/9) – Regimental historian Dudley Ward recording 'hard and confused fighting' during the attack. Relieved and to Carnoy (17/9). To Trônes Wood (20/9), Lesbœufs sector (25/9). Capture of Gueudecourt (26/9). Relieved and to Trônes Wood. To Mansell Camp (29/9), Fricourt (30/9), St. Maulvis (1/10), Mansell Camp (6/11), Montauban (14/11) and from there front line due east of Gueudecourt.

Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment)

2nd Battalion. 8th Brigade, 3rd Division: Arrived Candas (2/7) and from there marched to Bernaville. To Flesselles (3/7), Allonville (4/7), Vaux-sur-Somme (5/7). Less 'A' Company to Celestines Wood (6/7), via Bronfay Farm into trenches near Montauban (7/7). 'A' Company to Bronfay Farm (6/7) – digging and laying cables in front of Carnoy (7/7)–(8/7). Moved forward to reserve positions (13/7). Attack on Bazentin-le-Grand (14/7) – gains held and consolidated. Relieved and to Montauban Alley (19/7). Took over captured German positions between Waterlot Farm and Trônes Wood (20/7). Attacked towards Guillemont – failed assaults taking place (22/7) and (23/7). Relieved and to Happy Valley (25/7). To Méaulte (26/7), Talus Boisé (16/8), Maltz Horn Trench in support (18/8). Relieved and to Talus Boisé (19/8), Sandpit Camp (20/8), Méaulte (21/8). Entrained at Méricourt for Candas (23/8) and from there marched to Prouville. Began journey to Hulluch sector (25/8). Entrained at St. Pol (7/10) – arrived Acheux (8/10) and took over huts in Acheux Wood. Provided working parties to line near Serre. To Vauchelles-lès-Authie (18/10). Began tours in front line Serre sector (23/10). Relieved by 8th East Yorkshire and to Courcelles-au-Bois (1/11). To Vauchelles-lès-Authie (4/11), front line (12/11). Attacked (13/11) – War Diary records left flank of 'A' Company withdrew finding no gaps in enemy wire – supporting companies crawled to the wire and attempted to cut their way through but found it impossible. Relieved at nightfall (14/11) and to Bus-lès-Artois. Casualties – 274. To Courcelles-au-Bois (15/11). Relieved 7th K.S.L.I. in front line (17/11)

5th/6th Battalion (T.F.). 14th Brigade, 32nd Division: Arrived Beauval (18/10). To Warloy (21/10), brickfields on Bouzincourt-Albert Road (23/10), Harponville (26/10), Aveluy (9/11), Mailly-Maillet (15/11). Provided carrying parties for units in front line. Waited in positions near Serre Road, but was not used in an attack carried out by 14th Brigade against Frankfort and Munich Trenches (18/11).

1/8th Battalion (T.F.). Pioneers, 51st (Highland) Division. Arrived Bouquemaison by motor lorry from Monchy-Breton (15/7). To Candas (16/7). Entrained for Méricourt-l'Abbé (20/7) and from there marched to Ribemont. Made ready in Mametz Wood for attack on High Wood (21/7). To Happy Valley (22/7) and awaited orders to consolidate any positions gained. More than 100 casualties sustained from shell fire. Work later included digging of Thistle Alley. To bivouacs on Albert-Amiens Road (6/8). Entrained at Méricourt-l'Abbé for Longpré (9/8) and from there marched to Pont-Remy. Entrained for Armentières sector (12/8). Entrained at Bailleul and Merville

for Doullens and Candas (1/10). From there to billets at Hem-Hardinval. To Thièvres (2/10), Louvencourt (3/10). Less 'B' Company to Courcelles-au-Bois and Colincamps (4/10). Began work on communication trenches and railways. To Mailly-Maillet (18/10). Work in Beaumont-Hamel area – included construction of large numbers of dug-outs, maintenance of existing trenches and setting up of dressing-station at White City. Engaged throughout 51st Division's operations on the Ancre (13/11)–(18/11) – playing important role during capture of Beaumont-Hamel.

1/9th (Highlanders) Battalion (T.F.). 154th Brigade, 51st (Highland) Division; From Arras sector reached Beaumetz (16/7). Entrained at Candas for Méricourt-l'Abbé (20/7) and from there marched to Méaulte. Moved forward via Fricourt and Mametz to trenches near Bazentin-le-Grand Wood (21/7). Attack at High Wood (23/7) – War Diary records assaulting companies subjected to heavy shell fire while crossing open ground – also to machine gun fire on reaching first objective (fire was from eastern end of Intermediate Trench, western tip of wood). Relieved during evening and to Mametz Wood. Casualties - 175. To Bécordel-Bécourt (25/7), Mametz Wood (1/8), bivouacs near Dernancourt (6/8). Entrained at Méricourt-l'Abbé for Longpré (9/8) and from there marched to Erondelle. Entrained at Pont-Remy for Steenbecque (11/8). From Armentières sector arrived Candas (30/9). To Famechon (3/10), Bus-lès-Artois (4/10), Colincamps (8/10), Louvencourt (12/10), Forceville (17/10), Léalvillers (18/10), Mailly-Maillet Wood (22/10). Relieved 1/7th Argyll and Sutherland in trenches east of Auchonvillers (26/10). Relieved and to Léalvillers (30/10). To Mailly-Maillet Wood (5/11), front line east of Auchonvillers (8/11), Mailly-Maillet Wood (12/11). Moved into assembly positions along railway line south of Auchonvillers (13/11) – later forward to St. John's Road and in action at Beaumont-Hamel. Relieved and to Mailly-Maillet Wood (19/11).

11th (Service) Battalion. 27th Brigade, 9th (Scottish) Division: In Corps reserve at Cope Valley (1/7). Moved forward and relieved 17th Manchester at Montauban (2/7). Took part in operations at Bernafay Wood. Relieved and to Billon Wood (8/7). To assembly positions Caterpillar Valley (13/7). In action at Longueval (14/7)–(17/7). Relieved and to Talus Boisé. Casualties – 321. To Citadel Camp (19/7). Entrained at Méricourt-l'Abbé for Hangest-sur-Somme (23/7) and from there marched to Bellancourt. Entrained at Pont-Remy for Diéval (25/7). Arrived Neuville from Penin (5/10). To Baizieux (7/10), Laviéville (8/10), bivouacs near Mametz Wood (10/10). Moved forward to Bazentin-le-Grand (19/10) and in evening to support positions east of Martinpuich. To front line Le Sars sector (20/10). 'B' Company in action at The Nose (21/10) – War Diary notes some 300 German dead laying

about The Nose. A wounded South African was found who had been out in the open for 6 days – another had crawled down into a dug-out; he was found lying at the bottom of the steps with a pick through his skull. Relieved and to Mametz Wood (24/10). To Bécourt (25/10), Franvillers (26/10), Molliens-au-Bois (27/10), Talmas (28/10), Héricourt (29/10).

12th (Service) Battalion. 27th Brigade, 9th (Scottish) Division: At 12.30 a.m. (1/7) arrived in Billon Valley – moved forward 10.30 p.m. to assist 18th Division in consolidation at Pommiers line. War Diary records Battalion returned at 7.30 a.m. (2/7) having been misled by guides and no useful work was carried out. To Montauban (2/7). Attack and capture of Bernafay Wood 9 a.m. (3/7) – with 6th K.O.S.B., only six casualties recorded during advance over 500 yards of open ground. Lewis guns assisted 90th Brigade in attack on Trônes Wood (8/7). War Diary records – ‘No. 23433 Pte. J. Stevenson here showed conspicuous gallantry in engaging enemy sniper with his Lewis gun. He advanced across the open and having fired off all his ammunition he sat down and cleaned his rifle until more could be obtained. He was wounded in both arms, but nevertheless later on when one of his team was wounded he went to fetch stretcher for him.’ Relieved and to Billon Valley (8/7). To Caterpillar Valley (13/7) and in operations at Longueval. War Diary once more notes the bravery of Pte. J. Stevenson who was recommended for the Victoria Cross and subsequently received the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Relieved and to Talus Boisé (16/7). To front line (18/7), Talus Boisé (19/7). Casualties for period (14/7)–(19/7) – 312. To Citadel Camp (21/7). Entrained at Méricourt-l’Abbé for Hangest-sur-Somme (23/7). To Francieres (24/7). Entrained at Pont-Remy for Diéval (25/7). Arrived Neuville (5/10). To Baizieux (7/10), Laviéville (8/10), Mametz Wood (10/10). Moved forward to south-east corner of High Wood (19/10) – later relieved 8th Black Watch in front line Le Sars sector. Relieved and to Mametz Wood (24/10), Bécourt (25/10), Franvillers (26/10), Pierregot (27/10), Talmas (28/10), Ecoivres (29/10).

13th (Service) Battalion. 45th Brigade, 15th (Scottish) Division: Moved from Hulluch sector end of July – arriving Prouville (28/7). To Vignacourt (31/7), Molliens-au-Bois (3/8), Bresle (4/8), Peake Wood via Albert (8/8), support positions at Contalmaison (9/8), front line (10/8). Relieved and via Contalmaison to Peake Wood (12/8). To Bécourt Wood (14/8), front line Martinpuich (19/8), reserve positions on Fricourt Road (22/8), front line (27/8), Villa Wood (29/8), Fricourt Road (30/8), front line Intermediate Trench (3/9), bivouacs east of Albert (4/9), north-east of Laviéville (5/9), east of Albert (12/9), near Shelter Wood (13/9). To front line east of Pozières (15/9) – attack and capture of Martinpuich. War Diary records men went over

under heavy bombardment at 6.20 a.m. – there was practically no hostile fire from trenches – ‘enemy apparently taken by surprise.’ High casualties from British artillery noted. Relieved and to Millencourt (18/9). To Baizieux Wood (19/9), Baizieux (25/9), Bresle (5/10), Scots Redoubt (8/10) and from there into support positions around Destremont Farm – Le Sars sector. To front line (10/10), support (12/10). Relieved at midnight (13/10) and to Martinpuich. To Contalmaison (14/10), Martinpuich (17/10), support line (18/10). Work carried out on Scotland Trench (20/10)–(30/10). Relieved and to Martinpuich (1/11), Albert (3/11), Baizieux (5/11), Lahoussoye (13/11).

15th (Service) Battalion (1st Edinburgh). 101st Brigade, 34th Division: Attack at La Boisselle (1/7) – War Diary notes 1st and 2nd waves forming up in No Man’s Land just before zero hour (7.30 a.m.) – the men leaving ‘with great heart and in grand form.’ Heavy casualties among 3rd and 4th waves when leaving front line parapet – mostly from machine guns; one in a bank south end of La Boisselle; another further up Sausage Valley. News of Scots Redoubt being taken received 7.48 a.m. – ‘C’ Company in Peake Trench 3 p.m. Relieved and to Long Valley (4/7). To Hénencourt Wood (6/7). Such tremendous losses had occurred (628) that links with Edinburgh were almost completely wiped away. The City being unable to provide sufficient recruits for the necessary drafts required to bring battalion back to strength. To Bécourt Wood (30/7), trenches north end Mametz Wood (31/7). Provided carrying parties to front line – salvage work – burying dead. Relieved 16th Royal Scots in front line Bazentin-le-Petit (4/8) – bombers assisted 10th Lincolnshire in unsuccessful attack on Intermediate Line. Renewed attack (5/8). Relieved (6/8) and to Quadrangle Trench. War Diary notes – position in midst of many batteries which fire day and night and are constantly shelled – new German phosphorus shells seen for first time. To Bécourt Wood (10/8), front line (13/8), Bécourt Wood (15/8), Franvillers (16/8). Entrained at Méricourt for Longpré (18/8) and from there marched to Liercourt. Entrained at Pont-Remy for Armentières sector (19/8).

16th (Service) Battalion (2nd Edinburgh). 101st Brigade, 34th Division: Left Bécourt Wood for assembly positions 5 a.m. (1/7). Followed 15th Royal Scots into attack at La Boisselle 7.35 a.m. – heavy machine gun and shell fire before reaching British front line. Report in War diary records No Man’s Land crossed with few casualties – battalions on left (10th Lincolnshire and 11th Suffolk) suffering heavily with very few reaching enemy lines – some of 16th said to have reached Contalmaison. Messages received – Peake Wood reached 8.45 a.m., German support line 5.40 p.m. Direction somewhat lost owing to exposed flank – enemy counter attacked in neighbourhood of Peake Wood. Scots Redoubt taken and consolidated (2/7). Relieved midnight (4/7) and to

Bécourt Château. To Long Valley 8 a.m. Casualties – 472. To Hénencourt Wood (5/7), Bécourt Wood (30/7). Took over front line (eastern end Intermediate Line) (1/8) – 5 separate bombing attacks made by ‘D’ Company on German portion of Intermediate Line during night. Attacked 9.20 p.m. (2/8) – ‘D’ Company taking 150 yards of German trench – later forced to withdraw 30 yards – position held and consolidated. Unsuccessful attack (4/8). Relieved by 15th Royal Scots and to Mametz Wood. To Bécourt Wood (7/8). Relieved 15th Royal Scots in Quadrangle Trench (10/8). To Intermediate Line (11/8). Withdrew to support line (12/8), Bécourt Wood (14/8), Franvillers (15/8). Entrained at Méricourt for Pont-Remy (18/8) and from there marched to Bailleul. Entrained at Pont-Remy for Armentières sector (19/8).

17th (Service) Battalion (Rosebury). 106th Brigade, 35th Division: Entrained at Chocques for Frévent (2/7). To Bois de Warnimont (5/7), Varennes (10/7), Bresle (12/7), Celestines Wood (13/7), Talus Boisé (14/7). Working parties digging trenches at night around Waterlot Farm. To Caftet Wood (19/7). Working party dug trench south end Trônes Wood during night (20/7). Under orders of 8th Brigade ‘W’ and ‘X’ Companies to Breslau Trench (23/7) – remainder at Montauban. ‘W’ and ‘X’ to northern end of Bernafay Wood (24/7) – later to Longueval Alley. Battalion relieved and to Caftet Wood (25/7). Moved forward to front line (Silesia Trench) and support line (26/7). Relieved and to Caftet Wood (27/7). Moved forward to Casement Trench (29/7). To positions near Maltz Horn Farm (30/7). Held in support of 89th Brigade but was not used and that evening returned to Caftet Wood. To Morlancourt (1/8). Entrained at Méricourt-l’Abbé for Saisseval (5/8). To Morlancourt (10/8), Sandpit Valley (16/8), Contour Wood (20/8). Provided working party at Maltz Horn Farm (21/8). Relieved 16th Cheshire in Silesia Trench (22/8). To Happy Valley (26/8), Bernaville (30/8), Sus-St. Léger (31/8).

Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)

1st Battalion. 100th Brigade, 33rd Division: Arrived Saleux (9/7) and later marched via Dreuil and Agrœuves to St. Sauveur. Via Amiens to Daours (10/7), Morlancourt (11/7), Bécordel-Bécourt (12/7), Fricourt (14/7) and later assembly positions south of the Mametz-Fricourt main road. That evening forward to Flatiron Copse and from there took up positions between High Wood and Bazentin-le-Petit. Attacked towards German Switch Line in front of Martinpuich (15/7). To northern side of Mametz Wood (16/7), High Wood in reserve (20/7), Bécordel-Bécourt via Mametz Wood (21/7). Casualties since (15/7) – 384. To bivouacs just west of Dernancourt-Albert railway line about 1 mile from Albert (23/7), support trenches rear of High Wood (7/8), bivouacs between Bécordel-Bécourt and Méaulte (13/8), Pommiers Redoubt (19/8). In support of attack west of Delville Wood (21/8). Returned to Pommiers but later back in support (22/8). Attack between Wood Lane and Flers Road (Tea Trench) (24/8). To Fricourt Wood (25/8), Bécordel-Bécourt (27/8), Ribemont (30/8), Mirvaux (31/8), Talmas (1/9), Heuzecourt (2/9). Moved to St Pol area (4/9). From Souastre took over front line Gommecourt sector (12/9). To Humbercamps (26/9). Left Somme area (28/9). Arrived Méricourt (19/10). To Méaulte (21/10), Mansell Camp (22/10), bivouacs between Bernafay and Trônes Woods (25/10), Guillemont in reserve (30/10). Moved forward via Ginchy (2/11). Attack on Boritska Trench (3/11). To Carnoy (6/11), Citadel Camp (7/11). Entrained at Buire for Airaines and marched to Liercourt (10/11).

2nd Battalion. 91st Brigade, 7th Division: From Bois des Tailles advanced into assembly positions for attack towards Mametz (1/7) – moving forward at 9.50 a.m. 'A' and 'C' Companies came under heavy fire from Danzig Alley before entering Bucket Trench and Bulgar Alley – 'B' and 'D' following on later cleared Fritz Trench. Cliff and White Trenches taken (2/7). Relieved from Queen's Nullah and to Minden Post (4/7). Casualties – 307. To Buire (5/7), Citadel Camp (11/7), Mansell Copse (13/7). Dug in at head of Mametz Wood and Flatiron Copse Valley (14/7). Moved forward early evening for attack on High Wood – final objective at north-eastern edge of wood taken at 8.45 p.m. Further attacks failed and ordered to evacuate positions at 2.20 a.m. (16/7). To Mansell Copse. Casualties – 305. Latter moved via Méricourt, Hangest-sur-Somme, Picquigny, Ailly-sur-Somme to St. Sauveur – billets taken over there (22/7). To Vignacourt (11/8). Entrained for Méricourt and from there marched to camp just north of Dernancourt (12/8). To Delville Wood (31/8) – taking over Folly, Devil, Diagonal and Angle Trenches. In action until relieved (3/9) and to camp just west of Citadel. To Montauban Alley (5/9) – moved forward into Delville Wood via Diagonal Trench. Attack

on eastern edge of Wood 5.30 p.m. – heavy casualties from machine guns situated at north-east corner. In action until relieved during night (7/9) and to camp west of Citadel. Entrained at Albert for Oisemont (11/9) and from there marched to Huppy. Entrained at Abbeville for Ypres Sector (17/9).

6th (Service) Battalion. 37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division: Arrived Millencourt from Bresle 9 a.m. (1/7) – moved forward during evening to trenches north-west of Albert and later front line opposite Ovillers (Hen Trench-Rivington Street). Took part in unsuccessful attack towards Ovillers (3/7) – ‘B’ Company moved forward 3.15 a.m. – held up by uncut wire and machine gun fire from Mash Valley. ‘C’ Company on left of attack – War Diary notes 1st Platoon moved too far to their left – just 8 men reaching German wire – bombers entered trench. Supporting waves also held up by strong fire. Casualties – 304. Withdrew to Donnet Post and Ribble Street (4/7). To front line (6/7). Provided covering fire and smoke barrage during 36th Brigade’s attack (7/7). To Warloy (9/7), Louvencourt (11/7), Bertrancourt (21/7), Louvencourt (24/7), Bouzincourt (25/7), front line north of Ovillers (27/7). Martinsart Wood (31/7), Ribble Street (4/8) and from there trenches north of Ovillers – took part in successful attack on Ration Trench. To Martinsart Wood (7/8), Bouzincourt (9/8), Ribble Street (11/8), Forceville (13/8), Léalvillers (14/8), Bus-lès-Artois (15/8), Halloy (16/8), Sombrin (17/8). Arrived Grouches from Wanquetin (26/9). To Shelter Camp (29/9). Moved forward via Montauban and Bernafay Wood to support line behind Gueudecourt (Pioneer Trench, Gird Trench, Bulls Road Trench) (1/10), front line (3/10), support line (6/10). In support for attack on Rainbow Trench (7/10) – held front line until relieved (9/10). To trenches near Bernafay Wood (11/10), bivouacs between Montauban and Pommiers Redoubt (16/10), Ribemont (20/10), Albert-Amiens Road (21/10) and there boarded buses for Arras sector.

7th (Service) Battalion. 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division: Attacked 7.30 a.m. (1/7) west of Montauban – heavy fire at first held up advance in front of Breslau support Trench – later fought on through Back Trench and Train Alley to Montauban Alley. War Diary records that after 12 hours fighting the final objective was reached and consolidated on a front of about 200 yards. Casualties – 532. Relieved and to Back Trench (2/7), Bronfay Wood (3/7), Celestins Wood (7/7). To reserve line north-west of Maricourt (11/7), support (Dublin Trench) (12/7). Attack on Trônes Wood 7 p.m. (13/7) – War Diary records that owing to heavy casualties from bombardment on the way up, only about 1½ platoons arrived in time for assault – attack checked by heavy rifle, machine gun and shell fire. Withdrew to Longueval Alley. Official History of The Great War notes that no drafts had been received to replace losses

of (1/7) and that the strength of 7th Queen's stood at just 280. Casualties for (13/7) given as 200. To Grove Town Camp (14/7), Ailly-le-Haut-Clocher (20/7). Entrained at Méricourt for Longpré (21/7). Entrained at Pont-Remy for St. Omer (22/7). Arrived Lucheux from Houvin-Houvigneul (10/9). To Puchevillers (11/9), bivouacs in Blighty Valley (24/9). Attack on Schwaben Redoubt (28/9) – attached to 53rd Brigade – took and held southern side – War Diary records continuous fighting at close quarters until relieved by 8th East Surrey (29/9). To North Bluff near Authuille, casualties – 395. To Forceville (2/10), Acheux (3/10), Longuevillette (15/10), Hérissart (16/10), Albert (17/10), front line – Regina and Hessian Trenches (22/10), support line – Fabeck Trench, east of Mouquet Farm (25/10), Albert (26/10), Regina and Hessian (3/11), Fabeck (6/11), Albert (8/11), Warloy (9/11), Albert (13/11), Owillers (14/11). Attack on Desire Trench 6.10 a.m. (18/11) – 'C' and 'D' leading incurred high losses from machine gun fire from Stump Road.

8th (Service) Battalion. 72nd Brigade, 24th Division: Arrived Longueau from Bailleul (24/7). Later to Fourdrinoy, Ailly-sur-Somme and Méricourt. Arrived Morlancourt (31/7). To Sandpit Camp (1/8), front line near Guillemont (10/8), Talus Boisé (13/8), front line (17/8), craters at Carnoy (18/8), front line (20/8). Unsuccessful bombing attack on the Quarry near Guillemont 4.30 p.m. (21/8). Relieved and to craters. To Citadel Camp (22/8), positions on Albert-Amiens Road (25/8), Ribemont (27/8). Moved forward via reserve camp near Fricourt to support line Bernafay Wood (31/8). Relieved 8th Royal West Kent in front line Delville Wood (1/9) – under almost continuous bombardment for next 3 days. Relieved (5/9). Casualties from shelling – 143. Entrained at Edgehill for Longpré (8/9) and from there to Buigny-l'Abbé. Entrained at Abbeville for St. Pol area (19/9).

10th (Service) Battalion (Battersea). 124th Brigade, 41st Division: Arrived Pont-Remy (23/8) and from there marched to billets at Buigny-l'Abbé. Entrained at Longpré for Ribemont (7/9) and from there marched to Dernancourt. To camp ½ mile north of Méaulte (9/9), Pommiers Redoubt (13/9) and from there to trenches north-east side Delville Wood. Attacked (15/9) – War Diary records 4 lines enemy trenches immediate front assaulted – Flers taken – trenches north-east of village occupied. Official History of the Great War notes – leading waves formed up in No Man's Land before zero hour – little resistance at first – Switch Line captured by 7 a.m. – Flers Trench taken 7.30 a.m. Two enemy counter attacks repulsed (16/9). Withdrew to support line on right of Flers Road (17/9). To Dernancourt (19/9). Casualties – over 300. Moved forward beginning October – via Pommiers Redoubt to Gird Lines. Regimental history by Colonel H.C. Wylly records Battalion under tremendous fire from its front beyond Thilloy

Road (4/10). With 21st K.R.R.C. reinforced 26th and 32nd Royal Fusiliers in front line after attack on Bayonet Trench (7/10) – Official History notes strength of whole brigade less than the establishment of a single battalion. Relieved and to Bécordel (10/10). To Buire (13/10). Entrained for Airaines (15/10) and from Longpré to Méteren (18/10).

11th (Service) Battalion (Lambeth). 123rd Brigade, 41st Division: Entrained at Bailleul for Longpré (23/8) and from there marched to Bussus-Bussuel. Entrained at Longpré for Méricourt (6/9) and from there to bivouacs near Méaulte. War Diary notes Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel H.B. Burnaby killed while reconnoitring front line trenches near Delville Wood (8/9). To Fricourt Camp (9/9). Relieved 9th King's at Carlton Trench, Tea Lane, Flers Road, Tea Trench, Orchard Trench (10/9). Withdrew to Montauban Alley (13/9). In reserve for attack towards Flers (15/9) – moved forward from Carlton Trench 11.30 p.m. to consolidate positions gained north-east of Flers. Relieved and to Méaulte (17/9). To Montauban (27/9), Gird Lines, Factory Corner (28/9). 'C' and 'D' Companies advanced some 100 yards during night (29/9). Relieved and to bivouacs near Pommiers Redoubt (1/10), Mametz Wood (2/10). Moved forward to Flers Trench (Turk Lane-Goose Alley) (7/10). Relieved and to Mametz Wood (10/10), Dernancourt (13/10). Entrained for Oisemont (17/10) and from there marched to Limeux. Entrained at Pont-Remy for Godewaersvelde (19/10).

Bufs (East Kent Regiment)

1st Battalion. 16th Brigade, 6th Division: Arrived Amplier from Poperinghe (2/8). To Puchevillers (4/8), Acheux (7/8), front line trenches south of Beaumont-Hamel (9/8), Beaussart (14/8), front line (20/8), Bertrancourt (27/8), Amplier (28/8), Naours (29/8), Rainneville (6/9), Corbie (7/9), Bois des Tailles (8/9), German Wood and Wedge Wood (11/9). Attack on The Quadrilateral (15/9) – in support of 8th Bedfordshire advanced at 6.35 a.m. – heavy machine gun fire checked both battalions. To Morlancourt (19/9), trenches west of Morval (21/9). German attack repulsed (24/9). In action during successful operation between Morval and Lesbœufs (25/9). To La Briqueterie (26/9), Méaulte (1/10), Trônes Wood (7/10), Ginchy (8/10), Méaulte (21/10), Daours (22/10), Huppy (23/10). Entrained at Pont-Remy for Béthune (23/10).

6th (Service) Battalion. 37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division: At Millencourt (1/7). To trenches facing Owillers (2/7). Attacked (3/7) – 2 companies moved forward in support about 3.30 a.m. – German line bombed - withdrew after supplies of bombs ran out. Casualties – 274. To Warloy (9/7), Louvencourt (11/7), Bertrancourt (21/7), Louvencourt (24/7), Bouzincourt (25/7). Took over trenches Owillers sector. Attacked (3/8) – several strong-points including part of Ration Trench gained. Relieved and to Martinsart Wood. To trenches in front of Owillers (7/8), Bouzincourt (10/8), Hédauville (13/8), Léalvillers (14/8), Bus-lès-Artois (15/8), Halloy (16/8), Grand Rullecourt (Arras sector) (17/8). Arrived Albert (30/9). Took over trenches at Gueudecourt (3/10). Attack on Rainbow Trench (7/10) – reached objective but after heavy casualties could not hold. Withdrew at midnight and to Longueval. Regimental historian Colonel R.S.H. Moody records that Battalion came out of action just 40 strong and were led away by the Adjutant Captain Page, the only remaining officer. Casualties – 367. To Pommiers Redoubt (13/10), Ribemont (20/10), Arras sector (22/10).

7th (Service) Battalion. 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division: Moved forward from La Pree Wood 7 a.m. (1/7) – in Brigade support ‘B’ Company (less 2 platoons) sent to clear enemy from the craters (2 mines blown 7.27 a.m.), this operation taking some 6 hours to complete. Remainder moved forward towards western edge of Montauban – objectives taken – in Montauban Alley by 5.15 p.m. Relieved from Pommiers line (4/7) and to Bronfay Farm. To Celestines Wood (7/7), Maltz Horn Farm area (12/7). In action at Trônes Wood (13/7) – ‘B’ Company sustaining heavy casualties while attached to 7th Queen’s. Part of ‘D’ Company in bombing attack down Maltz Horn Trench – line cleared and held. To Grove Town Camp

(18/7). Entrained at Méricourt-l'Abbé for Longpré (21/7) and from there marched to Huppy. Entrained for Racquinghem near St. Omer (23/7). Arrived Puchevillers from Le Souich (11/9). To Hedauville (25/9), Crucifix Corner (27/9), front line Thiepval sector (29/9). In action at Schwaben Redoubt (30/9)–(5/10). Relieved and to Hédauville (6/10). To Candas (7/10), Gézaincourt (15/10), Hérissart (16/10), Albert (17/10), front line (Fabeck Trench) (22/10), Albert (26/10), Fabeck Trench (3/11), Regina Trench (6/11), Albert (8/11), Warloy (9/11), Albert (13/11), Ovillers (14/11), front line (16/11). Attack on Desire Trench (18/11).

8th (Service) Battalion. 17th Brigade, 24th Division: Arrived Longueau (25/7) and from there marched to Le Mesge. To Bois des Tailles (31/7), Sand-pit Camp (1/8). Via Carnoy to Bernafay Wood (8/8). Attack near Waterlot Farm (18/8) – 'A' Company took Machine Gun House – 'C' northern end of ZZ Trench. Casualties – 358. In support of 3rd Rifle Brigade during failed attack (21/8). To Bray (23/8), Buire-sur-l'Ancre (25/8), Pommiers Redoubt (31/8), support line Delville Wood (1/9). 'D' Company moved forward on loan to 72nd Brigade (2/9) and in support of 9th East Surrey sustained high casualties from shell fire. Attack on Wood Lane Trench noon (3/9) – assault failed. Renewed attempt 4 p.m. also checked. To Fricourt (5/9), Yaucourt-Bussus (6/9). To Vimy sector (19/9).

King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

1st Battalion. 12th Brigade, 4th Division: Left Bertrancourt 10.05 p.m. (30/6) for assemble area – Green Trench and Bow Street. Attack between Beaumont-Hamel and Serre (1/7) – War diary records leading sections advanced 8.46 a.m. and heavy casualties before British front line was reached – further losses in No Man's Land from both machine gun and shell fire – few men reached German line. Withdrew to support trenches Elles Square. To Mailly-Maillet (7/7), Bertrancourt (9/7), trenches east of Auchonvillers (17/7), Louvencourt (21/7), Authieule (22/7). Marched to Doullens 10.55 p.m. and entrained for Cassel. Entrained at Houputre for Saleux (17/9) and from there marched to Poulainville via Amiens. To Allonville (25/9), Corbie (26/9), Citadel Camp (8/10), Bernafay Wood (9/10) and from there to trenches between Ginchy and Lesbœufs. To Bernafay Wood (10/10), trenches in front of Le Transloy (13/10). 'B' Company attacked German held section of Spectrum Trench (14/10) – 60 yards gained and consolidated. Further action until withdrawn to Bernafay Wood (19/10). To front line (22/10). Attack on Spectrum Trench (23/10) – 'C' and 'D' Companies advanced 2.30 p.m. – passed through objective to sunken road – subjected to heavy fire from the right and fell back to Spectrum. Casualties – 193. Relieved and to Bernafay Wood (24/10), Citadel Camp (25/10). To Ville-sur-Ancre (26/10). Entrained at Méricourt-l'Abbé for Airaines (29/10) and from there marched to Allery.

1/4th Battalion (T.F.). 164th Brigade, 55th (West Lancashire) Division: Arrived Berneuil from Sombrin (22/7). Entrained at Candas for Méricourt (25/7) and from there marched to Méaulte. To Happy Valley (26/7), positions between Trônes Wood and Guillemont (30/7). 'B' Company attacked advanced German strong-point 8.30 p.m. (2/8) – forced to retire due to severe shelling. Renewed attack later more successful. Withdrew to reserve line – Dublin and Casement Trenches. To bivouacs south of Carnoy and west of Bronfay Farm (4/8). To trenches near Arrow Head Copse (7/8). Attack on Guillemont 3.45 a.m. (8/8) – assault driven back by bombs and machine gun fire. Casualties – 271. Relieved and to bivouacs south-west of Carnoy (9/8). War Diary notes observation balloon broke away towards enemy lines – occupant parachuted. To Méricourt (14/8). Entrained for Abbeville (19/8) and from there marched to Limercourt. Entrained at Pont-Remy for Méricourt-l'Abbé (30/8) and from there marched to bivouacs near Dernancourt. To positions near Albert on Amiens Road (31/8), east of Bécordel-Bécourt (6/9), Montauban (7/9), Montauban Alley (8/9), reserve line Crucifix Alley (9/9) – 1 company attached to 1/8th King's Liverpool in support. Moved forward to Delville Wood (10/9). Attack on Hop Alley and Ale Alley 5.20 a.m. (11/9) – withdrew after strong machine gun and rifle fire. Relieved and to Bécourt

(12/9), Ribemont (13/9). One officer and 120 other ranks sent to guard German prisoners in Corps cage at Mametz (15/9). To Buire (16/9), Bécourt (17/9), York Trench (18/9) – moving to Mametz at midnight. Working parties around Longueval. To trenches in front of Delville Wood (Green Trench, King's Walk) (24/9). Moved forward to trenches east of Flers (26/9). In support of 1/8th King's Liverpool for attack on Gird Lines (27/9) – took over captured positions (28/9). Relieved and via Mametz to Dernancourt (29/9). Entrained for Longpré (1/10) and from there marched to Bouchon. Entrained at Longpré for Poperinghe (2/10).

1/5th Battalion (T.F.). 166th Brigade, 55th (West Lancashire) Division: Moved from Sombrin to Bouquemaison (20/7). To Boisbergues (21/7). Prouville (22/7). Entrained at Candas for Méricourt-l'Abbé (25/7) and from there marched to Ville-sur-Ancre. To bivouacs near Sandpit Camp (27/7), Wellington Redoubt (30/7), Reserve line Talus Boisé (1/8) – working parties digging communication trenches near Trônes Wood. To Citadel Camp (6/8). 'A' Company moved forward to La Briqueterie (7/8) – providing carrying parties and supervising prisoners during operations at Guillemont. To Dublin and Casement Trenches (8/8), front line and support trenches (9/8). Relieved and to bivouacs south-east of Citadel (10/8), Talus Boisé (13/8) – working parties digging new fire trenches near Guillemont. War Diary records that men were ordered to dig in a kneeling position as to stand would have been impossible due to enemy snipers. To bivouacs east of Citadel (14/8), Méaulte (15/8). Entrained at Edgehill for Martainneville (19/8) and from there marched to Chépy. To Béhen (29/8). Entrained at Pont-Remy for Méricourt-l'Abbé (30/8) and from there marched to bivouacs south-west of Albert. To bivouacs near Bécordel-Bécourt (31/8). Moved forward to trenches north of Delville Wood (5/9). Relieved and to Montauban (8/9), bivouacs south-west of Fricourt (10/9), near Dernancourt (11/9). To Pommiers Redoubt (17/9) and from there positions north of Delville Wood (King's Walk Trench). To front line Flers sector (18/9). Relieved and to Pommiers Redoubt (23/9), Ribemont (28/9). Entrained at Méricourt-l'Abbé for Longpré (30/9) and from there marched to Epagne. Entrained at Abbeville for Proven (2/10).

7th (Service) Battalion. 56th Brigade, 19th (Western) Division: Moved forward from Hénencourt Wood (30/6) and at 7.30 a.m. (1/7) took over support positions in Tara-Usna Line for attack on Ovillers. Took over line at La Boisselle (3/7). Attacked 8.30 a.m. (4/7) – moving forward up 3 communication trenches, assault held up by strong machine gun fire from positions north-east of village. New line taken up and consolidated about 300 yards in advance. Relieved and to Tara-Usna Line (5/7). To support line (6/7). Attacked 8 a.m. (7/7) – War Diary records that whole battalion

charged across the open and carried its objective. Over 400 prisoners taken. Casualties – 156. Relieved and to Albert (8/7), Hénencourt Wood (9/7). To support trenches south-western edge of Bazentin-le-Petit Wood (19/7). Working parties digging new forward trench. To Mametz Wood (23/7), bivouacs north of Bernafay Wood (27/7). Took over front line north-east of Bazentin-le-Petit (29/7). In action (30/7). Relieved from captured positions in Intermediate Trench and to bivouacs south of Bécourt Wood (31/7). To Franvillers (1/8). Entrained at Fréchencourt for Longpré (3/8) and from there to Ailly-le-Haut-Clocher. Entrained at Longpré for Bailleul (6/8). Entrained at Bailleul for Doullens (5/10) and from there marched to Rossignol Farm, Coigneux. To Sailly-au-Bois (7/10) – working parties with Royal Engineers and Corps and Divisional Signals. To Couin (11/10), Harponville (17/10), the Brickworks near Albert (21/10). Relieved 11th and 13th Royal Sussex in recently captured Stuff Trench north-east of Thiépval. New front line consolidated. Relieved and to Brigade reserve at Wood Post and Leipzig Redoubt (24/10). To Aveluy (27/10), Stuff Trench (30/10) – War Diary notes average depth of mud 2 foot. Relieved by 7th East Lancashire (1/11) – War Diary records relief as ‘difficult’ owing to heavy shelling and state of trenches. Relief began at 10.30 a.m. and was not complete until 6 p.m. – 1 man being stuck in mud for 7 hours. To Wood Post and Leipzig Redoubt. Relieved 9th Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Regina Trench (5/11). Relieved and to Ovillers Post (8/11). To Leipzig Redoubt and Wood Post (11/11), Schwaben and Bainbridge Trenches (12/11). In close support for attack on St. Pierre Divion and Hansa Line (13/11) – providing carrying parties. Hansa Line taken over (14/11). Relieved and to Marlborough Huts (17/11).

8th (Service) Battalion. 76th Brigade, 3rd Division: Entrained at St. Omer for Doullens (1/7) and from there marched to Autheux. To Naours (3/7), Coisy (4/7), Franvillers (5/7), Celestines Wood (6/7), Bronfay Farm (8/7), Carnoy (13/7), Caterpillar Wood (14/7). In support of 1st Gordon Highlanders during operations at Longueval and Delville Wood (18/7). Relieved and to Bund Trench near Carnoy (19/7). To trenches south-west of Longueval (22/7). Withdrew to Bund Trench (23/7). To Montauban Alley (24/7) – ‘A’ Company sent forward in support at Delville Wood. Relieved and via Bund Trench to Bois des Tailles (25/7). To Méricourt (28/7), Sandpit Camp (11/8), Talus Boisé (14/8). Attack on Lonely Trench 5.40 p.m. (16/8) – War Diary records heavy casualties from machine gun and rifle fire as soon as assault was launched. Renewed attack met similar result – all officers and N.C.Os of ‘B’ and ‘C’ Companies becoming casualties. Attack by ‘D’ Company failed (18/8). Later relieved via Citadel to Carnoy. To Happy Valley (19/8). Casualties for period (16/8)–(18/8) – 271. To Morlancourt (21/8). Entrained at Méricourt for