

First some background info.....

The *Groupe d'Armées des Flandres* (G.A.F.) attacked at 5:30 a.m. on 28 September, with 12 Belgian divisions, 10 British divisions of the **Second Army** and 6 French divisions of the **Sixth Army** under the command of King **Albert I of Belgium** with the French General **Jean Degoutte** as Chief of Staff. The British attacked without preliminary bombardment on a 4.5-mile (7.2 km) front up to the Ypres–Zonnebeke road, from where the Belgian army attacked on a line north to Dixmude. The Allied attacks quickly penetrated the German defences and advanced up to 6 miles (9.7 km). The German defence was conducted by fewer than five divisions which were swiftly driven back. Much of the ground west of Passchendaele which had been abandoned during the withdrawal of early 1918 was recaptured. Rain began to fall but by the evening the British had taken Kortewilde, Zandvoorde, Kruiseecke and Becelaere; Belgian troops had captured Zonnebeke, Poelcappelle, Schaap Baillie and Ploot Forest.^[7] On the southern flank, minor operations by three British divisions advanced to St. Yves, Messines and the ridge from Wytschaete to Hollebeke. Messines, Terhand and Dadizeele fell on 29 September and by 30 September, despite the captured ground becoming a rather slough, all of the high ground around Ypres had been occupied by the Allies. By 1 October the left bank of the Lys had been captured up to Comines and the Belgians were beyond a line from Morslede to Staden and Dixmude. The advance continued until 2 October, when German reinforcements arrived and the offensive outran its supplies. Due to the state of the ground, 15,000 rations were delivered by parachute, from 80 Belgian and British aircraft.”

Included are the entries written by hand of the Battalion Adjutant probably in the field on the day of action.

Note the very interesting references to German morale (eg Saxons surrendering to runners who themselves were “lost”...which might explain how the two took 27 prisoners!). If it helps (I found it very confusing) the line of attack of the British Brigades is north to south east until they reach the River Lys.....the 2nd Battalion Hampshires doing a right jink before a left swerve (rugby parlance) to get to where this account starts (if you or your men folk are interested I can provide more detail). The details like the brook and the cemetery can all be found on Google Earth/Maps if you want to go that eyeballish.....even “street walk” the village (a lot cheaper than a flight to Flanders...actually free)... Let me know if you want pointers or more from the War Diaries... but I wouldn't want to spoil your own discovery of your very brave grand father

avid

Original.

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

OR
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

2/Bn. Hampshire Regt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France.	Oct.	1 st	At dawn we were still in the same positions before <u>GHELUWE</u> , and things were fairly quiet. Machine gun fire from the village prevented much movement on our part. During the morning a Battalion of the East Surrey Regt (41 st Div) came up on our right, which had previously been somewhat exposed. Their movements attracted a great deal of shell-fire and the enemy also showed activity with machine-guns and light trench-mortars. They succeeded in getting touch with the right of the battalion (Y. Coy), but made no further progress all day. About 5-30 pm the enemy put down a heavy barrage of H.E. and gas lasting about 1/4 hour and his S.O.S. signal was observed north-east of <u>WERVICQ</u> . After dark, the artillery on both sides was quiet, but the enemy continued active with his machine-guns and trench-mortars. Just before midnight orders were received for an attack on <u>GHELUWE</u> at 7 am on the morrow.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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2/Bn. Hampshire Regt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France	Oct 1 st		Casualties. Other Ranks 1 Killed. 39 Wounded. 3 To Hospital.	
1918	(contd)			
		2 nd	The Battalion was assembled at 4 AM, with the exception of two platoons of Y Coy, who were to be in reserve. At 6-30 AM the Field Artillery commenced a preliminary bombardment of the enemy's known defensive positions. At 7 AM the artillery fired a barrage of smoke and H.E. This was the signal for the infantry to advance. The attack was led by W and X Companies, Z company being detailed to clear up the village, while Y Coy. was retained in reserve. Two platoons of X Company, under the personal command of <u>LIEUT. G. H. BROWN</u> worked down the banks of the <u>REUTELBEEK</u> and with great gallantry succeeded in reaching the <u>CEMETERY</u> on the east side of the village. Here they were held up after sustaining heavy casualties, until two machine-guns that were holding	

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2/Bn Hampshire Regt.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France 1918.	Oct 2 nd (contd.)		<p>them up from the right, were rushed, with great gallantry, by two men of the leading platoon, resulting in the surrender of 27 of the enemy. The locks of the machine-guns were removed and the two men withdrew with their prisoners. Some advanced field guns of the enemy were now observed galloping down the main road in the direction of MEMIN; they had previously been firing at about 500' range. Strong parties of the enemy were now observed working up to the north and south of the cemetery, and as troops on the left of the Battalion had never advanced an inch, withdrawal from the cemetery was deemed advisable. The withdrawal was effected under covering fire from LIEUT. G. H. BROWN and one other man who remained till the last with great bravery, the remainder withdrawing to the south side of the village. Meantime, the one man with LIEUT. BROWN was wounded</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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2/Bn. Hampshire Regt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France 1918	Oct 2 nd (contd)		<p>but this officer bound up his wounds and the two withdrew. Throughout operations this officer displayed great gallantry and utter disregard of personal safety. Meantime, W Coy. had been able to make no progress north of the village, owing to the complete failure of the brigade on the left. The enemy was able to keep the western entrance of the village under machine-gun fire from the north and this latter portion of the village remained in his hands. Z. Company advanced into the village and W Company joined hands with X Company to the south of the village. One platoon of Y. Company was left to guard the western entrance to the village. The enemy's field artillery continued to be very active in the neighbourhood of the <u>MENIN ROAD</u> and there were some casualties from gas. By mid-day the situation was as follows: - W and X Companies holding the line of the</p>	<p>Remarks and references to Appendices</p> <p style="text-align: right;">HCS</p>

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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2/Bn Hampshire Regt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France 1918.	Oct 2 nd (Contd.)		<p><u>CHELUWE - WERVICQ ROAD</u>, and to their right, in succession a battalion of the K. R. R., East Surreys and 10th Hampshire all belonging to the 41st Division. These units had no further orders and were resting and making tea by platoons in pill-boxes 50 yards to the rear. No further advance by the Battalion seemed advisable, especially in view of the situation on the left. Z Company was unable to make much progress beyond the main cross-roads just south of the village church owing to heavy machine-gun fire from the north of the village. Three platoons of Y Company facing north-east and Bn N 2, were established 500 yards ^{to the} west of the village, just to the north of the <u>MENIN ROAD</u>. Throughout the morning the German machine gunners had proved obstinate and continued firing until surrounded. On one occasion they took refuge in an</p>	

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2/B: Hampshire Regt.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France.	Oct. 2 nd			
1918.	(Contd.)		aid. post, appearing a minute or two later with Red Cross brassards. They paid for their deception. In the afternoon advanced Bn. H. I. was established within a hundred yards of the line and a watch kept on the enemy's movements. The enemy's forward field batteries were quick to stop any movement on our part. About 5 p.m. the enemy's artillery fire grew more intense and at 5-30 troops on our right were seen retiring and the S. O. S. went up. Large parties of the enemy were seen working forward, but were easily kept off by rifle and Lewis gun fire, and the Battalion held its ground. Orders for the relief of the Battalion by the 1 st K. O. S. B. were now issued to companies. On the return journey to Bn. H. I. the runners got lost in the dusk and mistook the <u>YERVICO ROAD</u> for the <u>MENIN ROAD</u> . After an hours absence, one pair produced 10 prisoners and the other	

W.H.S.

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2/Bn Hampshire Regt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France 1918	Oct 2 nd (Contd)		<p>pair, 8 prisoners. On being questioned, these prisoners, who were mostly Saxons, with a few Bavarians, stated that they had been driven forward by their officers and had no wish to fight except in self-defence. One man had been employed to within two or three days as a musician behind the lines, and it would seem that divisions had got somewhat mixed. By 10-30 pm the Battalion was relieved and marched to huts on the reverse slope of the <u>KRUISECKE RIDGE</u>. These huts had been newly completed by the enemy in preparation for the coming winter.</p> <p>Casualties. Other Ranks. 19 Killed, 46 Wounded, 8 Missing, 9 To Hospital.</p> <p>3 Reinforcements Lieut. G. H. Brown (at duty), 2 Lieuts. E. F. Packham, H. A. Perry, 4 S. Eng. & H. Hill - wounded.</p>	

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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2/Bn. Hampshire Regt.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France 1918.	Oct. 3 rd		Every officer and man resting till noon. Much movement of artillery & transport in the vicinity. Visibility being good, a certain amount of shelling was caused, but no apparent casualties. At 4-30 pm the Battalion was in column of route, marching up the main road to <u>GHELUYELT</u> . Our march co-inciding with that of the 86 th Brigade, there was considerable congestion in the traffic and this attracted hostile shelling. Fortunately the shells were falling 50 to 100 yards over the road, and there were no casualties. Prisoners were still being led to the rear. The road made very different going to that of the morning of the 28 th ult, and heavy guns were already rumbling past <u>HOOGHE</u> . The Battalion reached <u>BURR CROSS ROADS</u> about 7-30 pm, where the men rested and there was an issue of tea whilst other units were entraining. The Battalion entrained at 11 pm.	

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2/Bn. Hampshire Regt.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France	Oct. 3 rd		Passing through <u>YPRES</u> the Battalion was greeted by two rounds from an enemy naval gun, firing shrapnel. There were no casualties. Later, the train was bombed by hostile aircraft, one bomb falling within 50 yards of the train. The train, at times, attaining the speed of 10 miles per hour, camp was reached and the Battalion detrained at 1-300m on the 4 th .	
1918	(Contd.)		2/Lieuts. P. J. Lowerbutts, A. Goslin and H. Walmesley joined Bn.	
		4 th	Resting and making lists of casualties and deficiencies. Estimated casualties, 240. Casualties Other Ranks. 1 from Hospital.	
		5 th	Battalion moved to the ramparts <u>YPRES</u> in the afternoon, the nucleus remaining at <u>BRAKE CAMP</u> . Casualties Other Ranks. 3 To Hospital. 1 from Hospital. 6 Reinforcements.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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2nd Bn. Hampshire Regiment

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELGIUM	November		AWARDS during the month	
			Bar to the Distinguished Service Order - Capt. (1/4 Lt. Col.) H. C. Westwoodland, D.S.O.	
			Bar to the Military Cross - Lieut. (1/4 Capt.) A. L. W. Vicars-Wiles, M.C.	
			The Military Cross - Lieut. (1/4 Capt.) G. H. Brown, 2/Lieut. A. Quinn, 2/Lieut. W. A. Mitchell, 2/Lieut. F. S. Guy, 2/Lieut. L. J. L. Cotton, Lieut. (1/4 Major) T. W. O'Reilly, 2/Lt. J. W. Miles D.C.M., 1/Lieut. P. G. Fall.	
			The Distinguished Conduct Medal - 14201 Pte (1/4 Plt.) J. Bone, 241459 Pte J. Hammond, 42304 Pte H. Guedy	
			The Bar to the Military Medal - 8118 Sgt. F. Vine, M.M., 29970 Plt. F. T. Dixon, M.M.	
			The Military Medal - 24943 Pte H. Loader, 44985 Pte W. F. Browning, 54972 Pte H. C. Gordon, 55162 Pte F. A. Vidler, 56601 Pte (1/4 Plt.) G. Woods, 55152 Pte C. Tilzey, 203767 Pte F. Smith, 24829 Pte (1/4 Plt.) A. W. Birt, 27273 Pte W. Holesworth, 25928 Pte J. Silver, 33391 Pte H. Gregory, 29957 Pte H. Battam, 8747 Pte P. Kruller	
			H. P. Constable	
			Comdg. 2 nd Bn Hampshire Regiment	