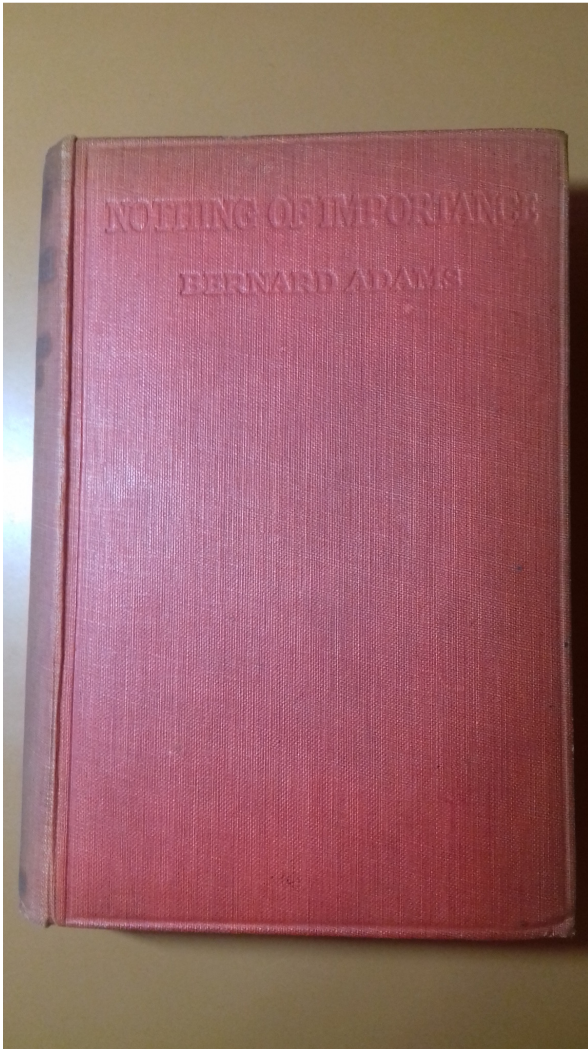


**Nothing of Importance by Bernard Adams - annotations made by Siegfried Sassoon**

*(Below are the annotations made by Siegfried Sassoon in 1917 who was a fellow officer of Bernard Adams in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers in the First World War. He gave the book to his friend Wilfred Owen when he learnt that Wilfred was leaving Craiglockart hospital. The original book is in the Wilfred Owen Collection at the Special Collections of the Weston Library, Bodleian Library, Oxford. Ref: Owen HO227)*

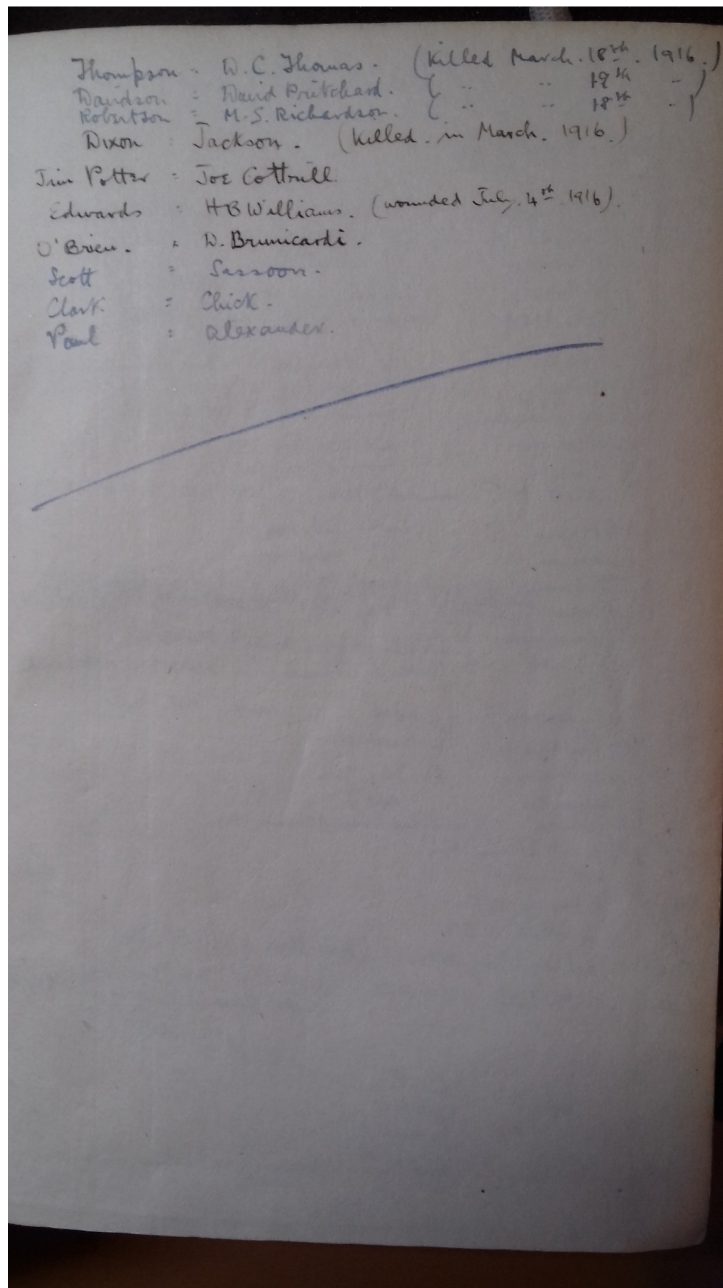


52214  
H.O. 227.

To Wilfred Owen:  
from Siegfried Sassoon.  
Oct. 31. 1917.

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To Wilfred Owen:  
from  
Siegfried Sassoon  
Oct. 31. 1917



Thompson = W. C. Thomas. (Killed March 18<sup>th</sup> 1916)

Davidson = David Pritchard ( " " 19<sup>th</sup> " )

Robertson = M.S. Richardson ( " " 18<sup>th</sup> " )

Dixon = Jackson (Killed in March 1916)

Jim Potter = Joe Cottrill

Edwards = H B Williams (Wounded July 4<sup>th</sup> 1916)

O'Brien = W. Brunicardi

Scott = Sassoon

Clark = Chick

Paul = Alexander

---



6/- net

VII<sup>th</sup> Div<sup>n</sup>. 22<sup>nd</sup> Bgde.

1<sup>st</sup> RWF. January. 1916.

A. Coy. M. Richardson. D. March 1916. (wounded Oct. 1914).  
E. Dadd. M.C. D. Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 1916.  
J. Davies. D. Sept 13 1916.  
R. Graves. Wounded. July 1916. (at High Wood. with 2<sup>nd</sup> RWF)  
C. D. Morgan. Wounded. July 1916. and Sept<sup>th</sup>. 1917.

B. Coy. Jackson. D. March 1916. (while commanding 10<sup>th</sup> RWF)  
J. B. Adams. D. Feb. 1917.  
D. N. Brumiearth. (remained with Batt. till Aug. 1917).  
H. B. Williams. Wounded. July 1916.  
F. Chick. (machine-gun officer).  
T. Black. M.C. wounded 3 times. (left Batt. S. M. 1<sup>st</sup> RWF).

C. Coy. E. J. Graves. Wounded. July 1916.  
J. Jasson. M.C. April 1917.  
D. C. Thomas. D. March 1916.  
E. L. Orme (wounded Jan. 1916). D. May 1917. (at Fontaine. by Arras. with 2<sup>nd</sup> RWF)  
N. Stansfield. } (discharged from Army) May 25 1916  
J. Dadd. } severely wounded. Sept 13 1916. (Now med.)

D. Anderson. (died!) (wounded Sept. 1914).

D. Pritchard. D. March 1916.

Baynes. D. July 1916.

Edwards. (died!)

R. G. Hawes. (invalided home; February. 1917.)

Bombing officer. R. Sturges. M.C.

T.O. A. M. Onnott.

Hq. R. Reeves. M.C.

Q.M. J. Cottrill. D.S.O.

M.O. W. Kelsey. Fry. M.C. (badly blown up. Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1916)

C.O. J. R. M. Ford. D.S.O. M.C. (got his brigade. Feb. 1916).  
wounded twice while commanding 91<sup>st</sup> Bgde.

Oct. 1917. Cottrill.  
Reeves.  
Sturges.  
Black. }

was still with the Batt<sup>n</sup>.

m/-

VII<sup>th</sup> Div<sup>n</sup>. 22<sup>nd</sup> Bgde.

**1<sup>st</sup> RWF January 1916**

A Coy	M. Richardson. E. Dadd. M.C. J. Davies R. Graves C. D. Morgan	D. March 1916 (Wounded Oct 1914) D. Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1916 D. Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1916 Wounded July 1916 (at High Wood with 2 <sup>nd</sup> RWF) Wounded July 1916 and Sept 1917
B Coy	Jackson J. B. P. Adams D. N. Brunicardi HB Williams F. Chick T. Black MC <sup>2</sup>	D. March 1916 (while commanding 10 <sup>th</sup> RWF) D. Feb 1917 (remained with Batt. till Aug 1917) Wounded July 1916 (machine gun officer) Wounded 3 times (later Battn S.M. 1 <sup>st</sup> RWF)
C Coy	E. J. Greaves S. Sassoon MC D. C. Thomas E. L. Orme  N. Stansfield J. Dodd	Wounded July 1916 " April 1917 D. March 1916 (Wounded June 1916). D. May 1917(at Fontaine les Civisilles with 2 <sup>nd</sup> RWF) (Discharged from army severely wounded) May 25 1916 " " Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1916 (Now mad)
D Coy	Anderson D Pritchard Baynes Edwards R G Hoares	(dud!) (wounded Sept 1914) D. March 1916 D. July 1916 (dud!) (invalided home; February 1917)
Bombing officer	R. Stevens MC <sup>2</sup>	
T.O.	R. M. Ormrod	
Adj	B Reeves M.C.	
Q.M.	J. Cottrill D.S.O.	
M.O.	W. Kelsey-Fry M.C.	(badly blown up Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1916)
C.O.	J.R.M. Ford D.S.O. M.C.	(got his brigade Feb 1916). Wounded twice while commanding 91 <sup>st</sup> Bde!)
	Oct 1917	Cottrill, Reeves, Stevens, Black were still with the Battn



J. P. Adams

—

# NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE

A RECORD OF EIGHT MONTHS AT THE  
FRONT WITH A WELSH BATTALION  
OCTOBER, 1915, TO JUNE, 1916

BY  
BERNARD ADAMS

WITH A PORTRAIT AND THREE MAPS

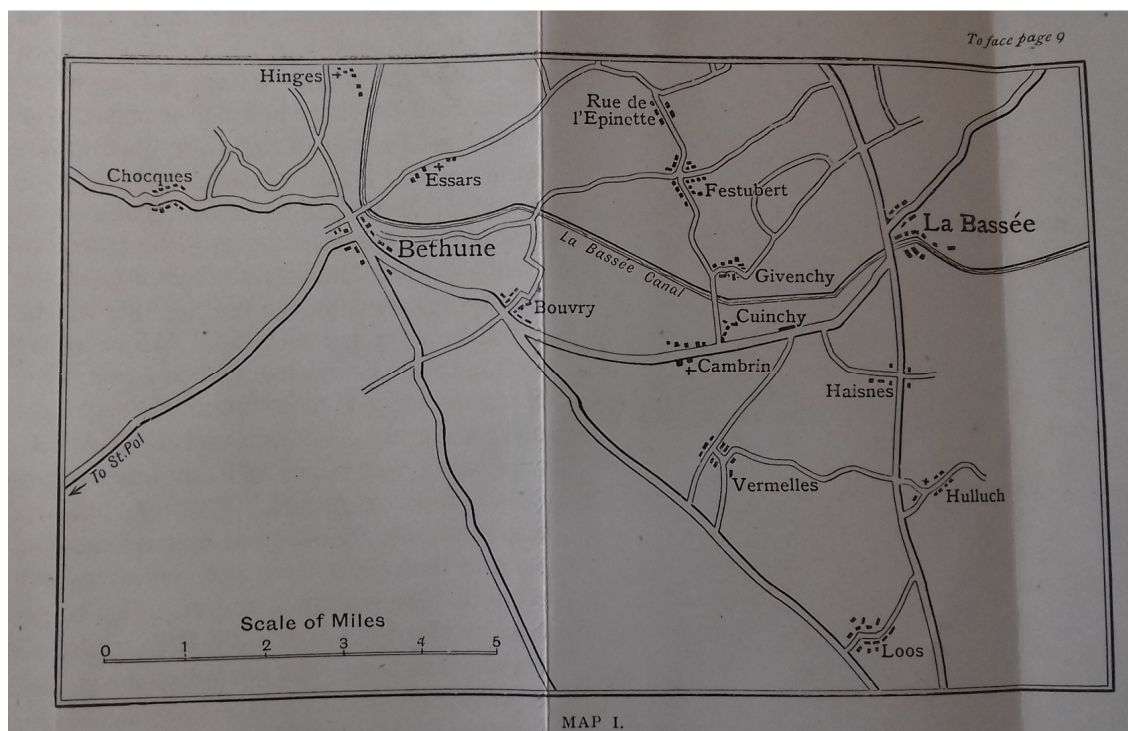
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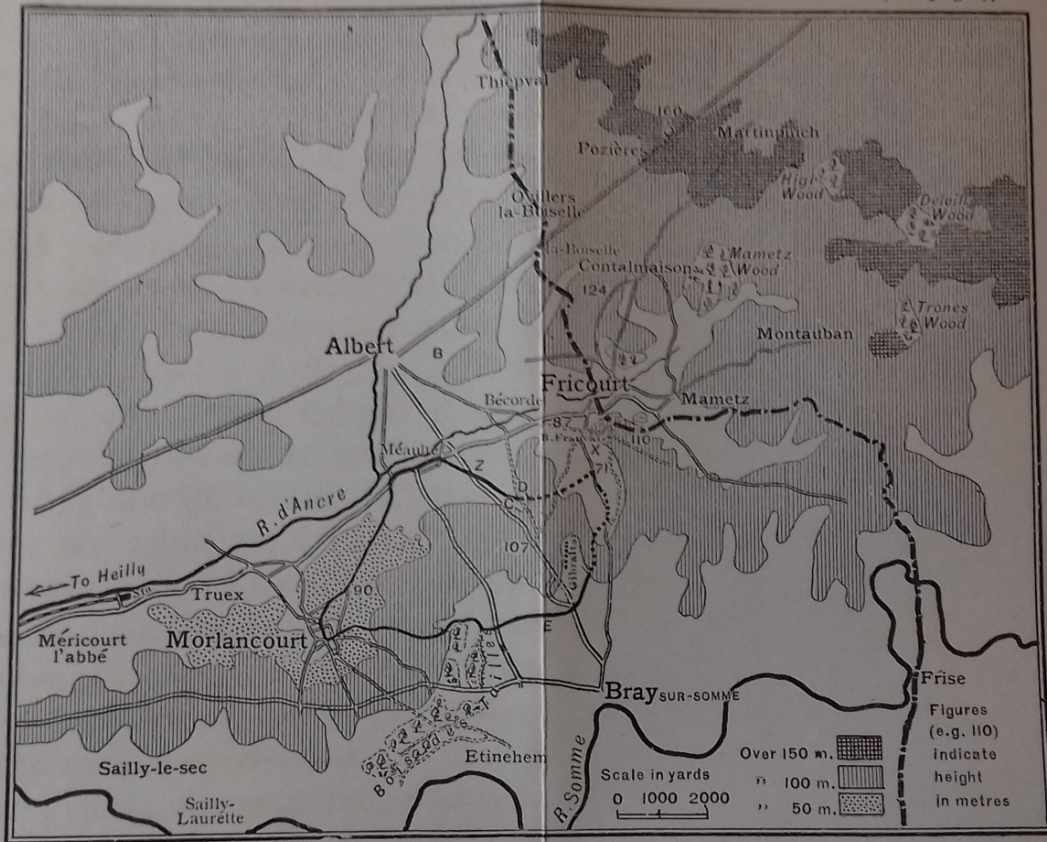
# Annotations within book:

Location	Text	Annotation
Top of Page 17	There are two other officers in it, <u>Davidson</u> and <u>Symons</u> .	Pritchard & Stevens
Middle of page 32	<u>One of the other officers</u> in our battalion has shown me several German signatures on his pay-book (he was in the ranks then), given in friendly exchange in the middle of No Man's Land last Christmas Day.	Dadd
Bottom of page 36	<u>Our C.O.'s</u> lectures on trench warfare were always worth hearing	J. R. Minshul Ford. M.C. D.S.O.
Top of page 57	It started with snow; then followed hard frost for four nights; and last but not least, a thaw and incessant sleet and rain. I have never experienced such cold; but, on the other hand, I have never had to stand about all night in a severe frost (it was actually I believe from 10 to 15 below freezing point).	'The Redlower' ?
Bottom of page 63	Next afternoon we left Rue de l'Épinette and halted at a <u>village</u> on the road to Lillers...	Gonnehem
Top of page 66	We arrived at a <u>station</u> a few miles from Amiens at 9pm.	Saleux
Middle page 67	Sometimes the <u>band</u> would strike up a little	Fifers and drums
Top of page 71	Next day in orders appeared an extract from corps orders re prohibition of poaching and destruction of game. It was all part of the dream that we were surprised, almost shocked, at this unwarranted exhibition of property rights! Not that there was much game about, anyhow.	? (Partridges & hares in profusion).
Middle of page 73	But scarcely had I been a week at Montagne when off I went suddenly, on a Sunday morning, to the Third Army School.	Elixecourt
Middle of page 76	I can best describe it [Army School] as the opposite of what is generally known as academic. Theories and text-books about the war were at a discount: <u>here were men who had been through the fire, every phase of it.</u>	50% were cavalry officers!
Middle of page 78	Then there were other fascinating lectures – Captain <u>Jefferies</u> , the big game hunter, on Sniping.	Herketh-Pritchard
Middle of page 113	There were two Lewis guns to every company.	Lewis guns and steel hats reached us in Feb 1916.
Middle of page 124	Today we were to have been relieved by the <u>Manchesters</u> at midday.	24 <sup>th</sup>
Middle of page 131	Then on March 8 <sup>th</sup> Captain Dixon was transferred as Second-in-Command to our ---th Battalion and on that date I took over the command of 'B' Company, which I held until I was wounded on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of June.	10 <sup>th</sup> [battalion] at St Eloi



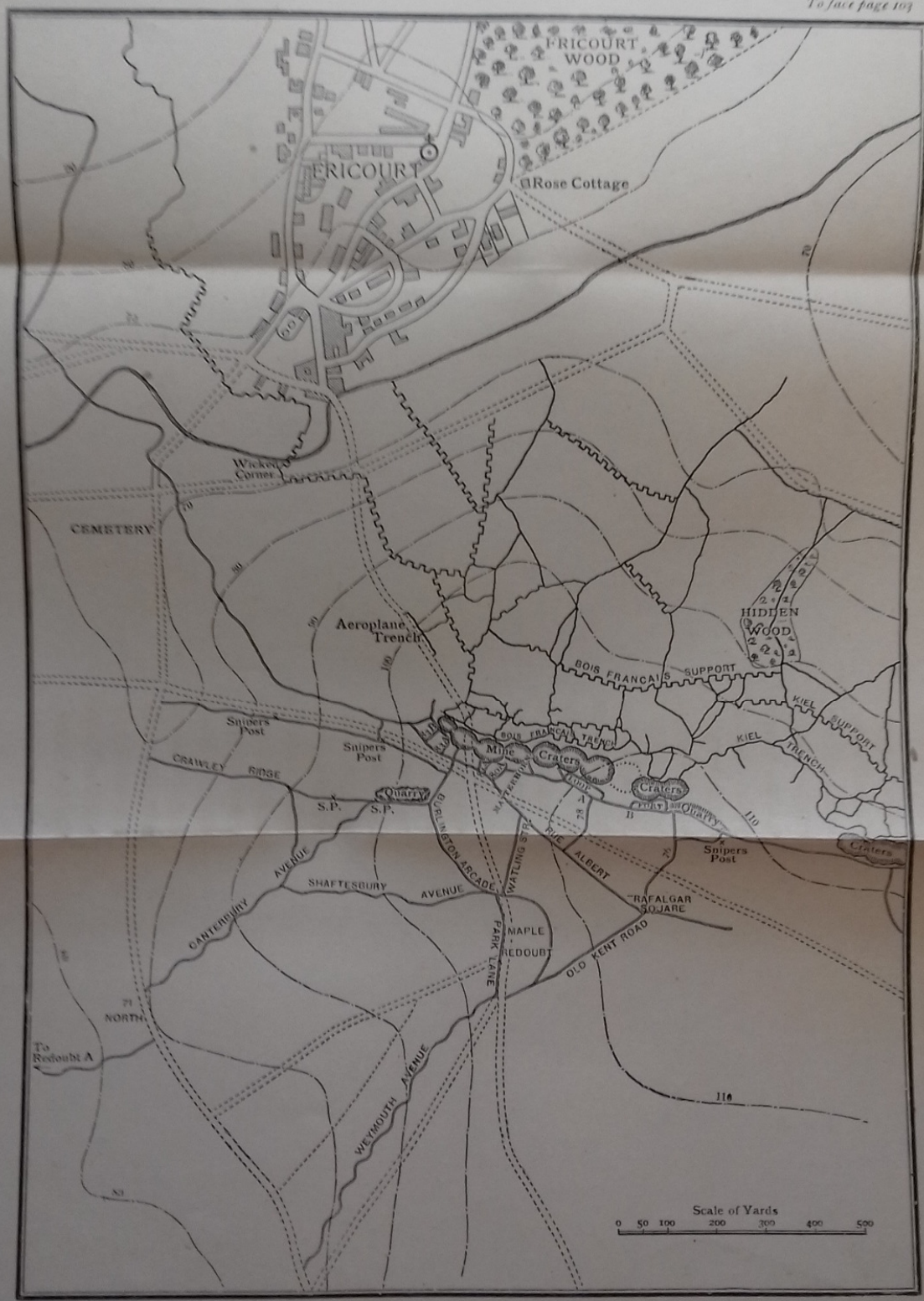
Bottom of page 132	During all these four months I was fortunate in having as a commanding officer a really great soldier... If things went wrong there was the devil to pay; but if things went well, one was left entirely unmolested; and if there was a bombardment on the orders came quick and clear. And any company commander will know that those three qualities in a commanding officer are worth almost anything.	Lt Col C. I. Stockerell D.S.O. (Commanded till Sept 1916 when he got his Brigade).
Bottom of page 225	That was a <u>bad night</u> . The Boche mine had caught our R.E.'s this time.	May 25 <sup>th</sup> . C Coy did a surprise raid on B's right. 28 men & 1 officer (Stansfield). There were 17 casualties. (10 killed).
Middle of page 231	Now as I walked quickly along the street, past our battalion 'orderly room', and returned the immaculate salute of Sergeant-Major <u>Shandon</u> ,	Harman
Top of page 240	Old <u>Muskett's</u> going to send me a nag at five.	Rowley
Middle of page 268	I very nearly quarrelled with Captain <u>Wetherell</u> , the battalion Lewis-gun officer, over the position of a Lewis gun.	Anscombe (severely wounded in Feb 1917 – 2 days after Adams was killed).
Bottom of page 268	I decided therefore to go out again to-night with our <u>wires</u> .	wirers





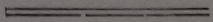
MAP II.

TRENCH LINE



MAP III.

OUR TRENCHES



GERMAN TRENCHES



*I would like to thank the staff at the Weston Library for allowing me to view the book (Oliver House, Nicola O'Toole, Judith Priestman & Paul Nash) and for permission from Dr Jane Potter on behalf of the Wilfred Owen Estate to photograph pages of the book.*

*William Bridge, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017*

'Nothing of Importance' by Bernard Adams:

can be read online at <https://archive.org/details/nothingofimporta00adam>

or ordered from Amazon at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/184342133X>