

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOTTOM WOOD.	13/11/16.		After a 'noon or less storm bombardment all day including 77mm guns the Battery was relieved by the 10 R.O.L.I. and marched back for rest to Fricourt.	
	14/11/16		The day was spent resting & preparing for the attack on the morrow.	
MANETZ WOOD.	14/11/16.		ATTACK ON BAZANTIN LE PETIT WOOD & village by the 110 th Inf. Bde. The Battery was drawn up for the assault in four lines. The first three lines were in front of MANETZ WOOD & were to move forward in succession at Zero, the first line to take clear and hold the German first line, the remainder to push on capture and consolidate the FOREST track (enemy support line) the fourth line was drawn up behind the North edge of MANETZ WOOD to move forward half an hour after Zero, and push forward through FOREST Trench ready to assault the German third line.	MM 10/10/16

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MAMETZ WOOD	14/1/16		(CONTY.) By 2.55 AM all xxx dispositions were made each platoon being on its correct alignment. A number of casualties were suffered during this operation, one platoon of 6 bay losing almost half its number. The men behaved admirably under trying conditions. At Zero 3.25 AM when the barrage lifted our first line trench was hardly close enough to it to reach the first line before the enemy could man it - as a result the advance was rather ragged. The night (A) bay in conjunction with the 6th Battalion had little difficulty in entering the trench. The left (D) company were momentarily held up by machine gun fire but managed to keep up close to the parapet & reach the line. The two centre (B & C) companies were held up for about 20 minutes by machine guns. The pressure was relieved by parties from the right working down a flank.	

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BAZANTIN LE PETIT WOOD	14 16.	7	[CONT'D] The centre companies were then able to reach the trench. The second and third lines coming on swept the remainder of the first line with them and made for the second line [Trench. trench]. By this time of the officers of B Coy only Quintus EVANS was left, in B Coy only 2nd REED, while in D Coy all the officers were out of action. The enemy in the first line trench at first made some resistance but many were caught in their dug out, & the rest seeing that they could not stop our rush retreated into the WOOD & made no resistance in the FOREST trench. By 4 AM our whole line was in occupation of FOREST trench and the work of consolidation was begun. Capt A.A. Blake taking command. 2nd Evans then sent back Coy. S. M. Geary to ensure	

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BAZANTIN LE PETIT.	14 7 16.		That the German post line was cleared off the enemy. This NCO. with his party found a number of the enemy who had been passed over in the night. In the meantime the left bay (II) after pushing on too eagerly under our own barrage & being forced to retire burned towards the flank & established connection with the 8th Battery - at 4.25 A.M. Capt A.A. Blake, leaving Lt Evans in charge of the First Trunk, went forward in charge of the party to capture the kind objective. No resistance was met with on the night, but on the left considerable trouble was caused by a machine gun & by snipers and also by the observation post in the tree both Capt. GARRICK and Lt WALKER were hit. This left the assaulting line without an officer, but Capt WALKER (Army) and Lt Sgt SHERLOCK (CCoy) rallied their men and made good this line.	

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BAZANTIN LE PETIT.	14. 15. 16.		There was no German trench in this position & in some cases the men again pressed forward & came under fire. From our own barrage. Meanwhile the left (D) bay being checked by the M.G. on the west of the road & being unable to make headway were halted by Lieut BUSH. An attempt was made to get round the position on the right, with the result that this party lost direction in the wood & finally found itself among the 6th Battalion. Lieut BUSH then placed himself under the orders of an officer of 4th Battalion. Almost before the barrage lifted, the party under Lieut WALKER pushed the German trench on the north side of the road. The enemy made no resistance here & being caught between the barrage of shell fire & an advancing line gave	

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BAZANTIN LE PETIT WOOD.	14 15 16		Unsubscribed up. By 6.45 AM. we were established in the line on N. edge of the wood. Subsequently officers of the 8th Battalion, bringing up supports took over command of this sector. About 7.15 AM. Capt. Maxwell GIVTHER was commanding the Battalion, ordered 2nd EVANS to push forward from FOREST TRENCH in support of the front line - on reaching the position selected for the strong point on the Railway - this party came under M.G. fire from the N.W. corner of the wood 2nd EVANS took up the line covering the strong point & prepared for reconnaissance. The position therefore at 8 AM. was:- Northern edge of wood held by us. Possession of the N.W. corner doubtful. Line of Railway and strong point secured by us.	

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BAZANTIN LE PETIT WOOD.	14 7 16		Throughout the morning the enemy kept up an intermittent bombardment with 150 mm howitzers and a few 77 mm, which grew in intensity about midday and during the afternoon. About 1 PM it was believed that the Germans were still holding the entire edge of the wood at the N.W. corner, & an assaulting party of the 7th Bn was organized to clear them out. The bushes & trees were very thick round this part which necessarily made progress slow. The enemy evacuating and returning a bunch about 30 yards from the wood, before our men could get through. He suffered several casualties from a Machine gun in the above mentioned bunch.	

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BAZANTIN LE PETIT WOOD	14 7 16.		An attempt was made about 9 o'clock to reorganize the Battalion, as they were considerably mixed up with the officers becoming casualties. Lt Col Drysdale was wounded whilst the Battalion was marching to its position in front of WAMBLE WOOD. Capt - Maj A.H. ALDWORTH taking command. Captains Wright, Gifford & The Baronet. Hollis Abbott & 2nd Lt Newton. Gledhill & Barr being all killed before our troops reached the first line - 2nd Lt Pickering-Blake, Simpson & Reid also at Wakeford were killed in the wood. The wounded officers were Capt A.H. Blake - 2nd Lt Wroughton & 2nd Lt Thompson. With, 1st Lt Nichol. Our total casualties were 18 officers & 535 men killed & wounded.	

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BAZANTIN LE PETIT WOOD.	15 14 17 16.		but by the time our troops got through, he had retired again to his Redoubt. The 40 men were left in the strong point under the 9 th Bn until the Bn was relieved - nothing more of importance happened during the day or night & evening guns were quiet.	
	16 17 16		The day was quiet, except a few shells on the strong point during the afternoon and evening. The Bn was relieved by the 10 th Yorkshires at 10. PM - It was raining, and the route was very bad. The enemy was dropping gas shells into MANIETZ wood which had no effect except that gas helmets were put on. The British bivouacked for the night near Fairmount wood.	

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FRICOURT	17/16.		The day was spent resting, and at 6 PM. the battery marched to RIBBEMONT arriving about 12 MIDNIGHT.	MM 15/16.14
RIBBEMONT	18/16.		Bills resting. weather fine.	MM 15/16.14
	19/16.		congratulatory address by Major General Donald Campbell.	MM 15/16.14
	20/16.		entained for SALEUX and marched 15 kilometres to HANGEST.	MM 15/16.14
	21/16.		Left HANGEST at 8 PM. in buses for LONGARE.	MM 15/16.14
	22/16.		marched through the outskirts of AMIEN to LONGUEVILLIERS and entained for PETIT-HOUVIN arriving about 8 PM. and marched to bills at MONCHEAUX.	MM 15/16.14