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holes it was almost impossible for an officer or N.C.O. to handle more than half a dozen men.

Major Watkins and Capt. Clarke however collected a party of all Regiments and went for Millers Houses. Parties went round either flank and the enemy eventually surrendered. This side show produced about 40 prisoners.

After this the advance was very slow and finally came to a standstill on a line about 400 yards in front of the main road. From all accounts the reason of the advance stopping was the awful condition of the ground. It was absolutely cut to bits and impossible for the officers to handle the Companies and they had got disorganised. Also the stoppage at Millers Houses had brought the Battalion in Support in amongst us and these together with units from the Division on the left completed the disorganisation.

Major Watkins, therefore, determined to dig in where he was. This was at about 12 noon. Touch was gained with the 29th Division and the Essex and a line of posts put out.

The Battalion was in the line all that night and conditions were very bad. Shell holes were half full of water. The men had no cover and it was bitterly cold. Towards morning Major Watkins was wounded by a stray bullet through the right arm and went down. This left Captain Martin in command. He was wounded about four hours later by a piece of shrapnel in the back and Captain Clarke took over command of the battalion.

The Bosche for some reason made no counter attacks at all, but was very active with his snipers. The only method of movement was series of kangaroo like leaps from shell hole to shell hole which meant landing in about a foot of muddy water every time.

The Battalion were still in the front on the morning of the 10th inst. but were relieved the night of

the 10th/11th by the Warwicks and came right out of the line to Redan Camp. The Rifle Brigade went right up to the line to take our places and were attached to the 12th Brigade, thus repaying their debt to us from Pilkem July 1915. We were attached to the 11th Brigade meanwhile. The 1st arrivals at Redan Camp were Gilmour and Clarke at about midnight and the Battalion began to come into Camp at about 2 a.m. The officers who came out with the Battalion were Capt. Clarke and Judd, Lt. Macdonald M.V. 2nd Lts. Gilmour, Lloyd, Blewes, Dunlevy, and Capt. Huxtable M.C. the Doctor.

February 5th 1918.

About this time a new organisation came into being. Three Battalions per Brigade. This led to numerous Battalions in the B.E.F. being split up and other Battns. being transferred. The Dukes were taken from the 12th Brigade and put into the 10th Brigade.

Organisation of the 10th, 11th and 12th Brigades is now :-

<u>New.</u>	<u>Old.</u>
<u>10th Brigade.</u>	Seaforths.
Seaforths.	Warwicks.
Warwicks.	Household Battalion.
Dukes.	3/10th Middlesex Regt.
<u>11th Brigade.</u>	
Hants.	Hants.
R.B's.	R.B's.
Somerset Light Inf.	Somerset.
<u>12th Brigade.</u>	East Lanes.
King's Own R.L. Regt.	King's Own.
2nd Lan. Fus.	Lan. Fus.
2nd Essex.	Essex.
	Dukes

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Operations on March 28th 1918.

Pampoux Ridge.

Prior to the commencement of the enemy's offensive on March 21st the 4th Division had for some time been holding the line South of the Scarpe. After a period of rest the Division relieved the Guards Division. On March 19th the Battalion relieved the 1st Bn. Scots Guards at St. Laurent-Blangy; one Company "D" Co. (Capt. G.H.Strange) going forward to Lemon Trench. When two days later, the battle opened on the 5th Army front all ranks felt that the enemy would attempt to retake the Pampoux Ridge and everyone, whether they had taken part in its capture on April 9th 1917, or no, felt confident in stopping him. The stand which the Battn. made on March 28th will always be famous and will rank with the greatest achievements of the Regiment. The German attack was launched on both banks of the Scarpe; it was preceded by an intense bombardment and it was pressed bravely with great determination. Its object was the capture of Arras and the Vimy Ridge.

In the following brief account it is well nigh impossible to name many individual heroes and it is equally impossible to do justice to the fallen. The heroism of Cassidy and his Company and the subsequent resistance which "B" Co. under Howarth and "D" Co. under Stange offered - aided as they were most gallantly in the thick of the fight by "C" Co. 1st King's Own Regt (Capt. T.Pritchard, M.C.) were entirely responsible for the bloody repulse which the enemy sustained.

It is hoped that the accompanying map will make the account clear.

On the morning of March 28th the 2nd Essex Regt. held the Front line; no pen can do justice to their heroic stand which completely broke up the first waves of the

attack and made possible the subsequent defence. The Battalion was in Support and the 1st King's Own Regt. in Reserve. At 3 a.m. an intense bombardment opened of both artillery and trench mortars. At about 5:30 a.m. the 56th Division on our left flank sent up the S.O.S. and at 6:30 a.m. the enemy was reported to be cutting ~~the~~ the wire on our Brigade front. Our Front Line extended from Civil Avenue - Costa Alley some thousand yards in front of the 2nd System. At about 7:30 a.m. the attack was launched. The Bosche made slow progress and suffered heavy losses but by 9 a.m. the Essex were overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers and the enemy with our front system in his hands, at once pressed his attack upon our Second which fell soon afterwards - Line Cadiz - Calf - Chalk - Chicken.

The dispositions of the Battalion were :-

"A" Co.	Humid and Civil Trenches.
"B" Co.	Hudson and Hyderabad Trenches.
"C" Co.	Trent Trench.
"D" Co.	Harry and Hussar Trenches.

This was a switch line and had been constructed for Right flank defence; consequently the full force of the attack now fell upon "A" Co. It was entirely owing to their splendid resistance that the enemy was unable to turn the left flank of the Division.

Up to this time the enemy had succeeded largely owing to the fact that our Artillery were occupying fresh positions, necessitated by our withdrawals, South of the Scarpe, and were unable to provide an effective barrage and the Germans were able to bring up reinforcements and Field Guns in full view over the top of Greenland Hill.

Finding that he could make little headway ^{across} the open he now took every advantage of our numerous communication trenches and worked his way up Chili, Caledonian

and Civil Avenues in large numbers. By about 10 a.m. he bombed his way into the junction of Humid and Harry Trenches taking "A" Co. in the rear and separating them from "D" Co.

Cassidy had already suffered heavy casualties - his supply of bombs was almost exhausted and he could not re-establish touch with Stange and in addition large numbers of the enemy were coming up on his left flank. At about 10:30 a.m. he was practically surrounded and he saw that he could only extricate his Company by a withdrawal across the open to the line Trent - Hyderabad Trenches. He went up and down the line cheering and encouraging his men and fell whilst organising this movement. Heron was seen to fall a few minutes later and lastly, Butler-Bowden. Not more than 6 of the Company escaped unwounded. The enemy made repeated strong bombing attacks up Hussar Trench which were all repulsed by "B" and "D" Cos.

The 11th Brigade on our right had fought with great gallantry but were compelled to fall back owing to the situation South of the River. At Noon the Line was established in Trent - Hyderabad - Havana Trenches. At dusk in order to conform with the 11th Brigade we re-established ourselves on the line Trent - Hudson - Stoke Trenches.

The dispositions of the Regiment were now :-

"C" Co. and about 50 survivors of the Essex Regt. Trent Trench.

"D" Co. Tripoli Trench.

"B" Co. and "C" Co. 1st King's Own Regt. Hudson & Stoke Tr

At dawn on the 29th the enemy made a further determined bombing attack on Hudson Trench. He was repulsed by "B" Co. who captured one prisoner of 189th I.R. Regt. and one Machine Gun. Another Machine Gun was captured by "D" Co.

Capt. S. Clarke M.C., joined with 10% reinforcements.

On 30th the enemy repeated his bombing attack with great determination and with no better success. For 48 hours these two gallant Companies withstood his repeated efforts and he was unable to make a yard of progress.

On the night 30/31st the 1st King's Own Regt, relieved the Battalion in the Front Line and the Regiment moved into Support Missouri - Mississippi Logie and Lemon and Effie Trenches.

One Company of the Essex Regt. joined the Battalion on 31st under 2nd. Lt. Stenderwick. This Company relieved "B" Co. in Mississippi Trench and later held Stoke Trench most gallantly.

Brigadier General E.A. Fagan, D.S.O. had much against his will been forced to move his Headquarters from Lemon Trench to the Railway Embankment at St. Laurent-Blangy. On the night of the 28th the Regiment formed a joint Headquarters with the 1st King's Own Regt. at the old Brigade Headquarters and during the following days of inter Battalion relief until the Brigade was relieved by Regiments of the 1st Canadian Division on 7th April. The 1st King's Own Regt. showed kindness and consideration such as it will be impossible for any one of us ever to forget. The Signallers were beyond all praise as also the Headquarters and Company Runners and communication was maintained to Companies throughout the operations. The thanks of the Battalion are once again due to Major W. Bowes, D.S.O. Lieut. A.R. Topping and the N.C.O's and men on their respective staffs. Rations were brought up under severe conditions and under heavy shell fire with unfailing regularity.

Much regret is felt at losing our Medical Officer, Capt. L. Little, M.O.R.C., U.S.A. His work and that of the Battalion Stretcher Bearers, especially No. 34906 Pte. Jones, M.M., was simply magnificent. We wish the former a speedy