

Sidney 3456 / #108

6th Battn, Kings Own Scottish Borderers

Died of wounds at Etaples 16/4/1917.

Etaples was a big military hospital near Le Touquet on the Northwest coast of France, but there are no records of admission, so we cannot identify when he arrived there. The only option is to understand the actions in which the battalion took part in the days leading up to this.

Battalion Diary

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1/4/17 ARRAS Battn holding line in J3 subsector. Two companies in front and support, two in reserve. Employed on clearing forming up positions and communications.

2/4 & 3/4/17 Ditto

4/4 Ditto. Relieved by 11th Battn Royal Scots. Relief complete at 7.30pm. On relief moved to Y huts.

5,6,7/4/17 cleaned up, completed preparation for the attack.

7/4/17 Marched to ARRAS and went into clean billets.

8/4/17 Rested

9/4/17 2.15am C company moved from billets at 2.15am. The remainder of the Battn 2 Coys Royal Scots, 3 sections of 27th MG Coy and Brigade carrying party followed at intervals of 10 mins between companies via ST NICHOLAS AUGUST AVENUE, OCTOBER AVENUE.

5am Forming up reported complete to 27th IB, 3 platoons D Coy to the north of CLAUDE crater, 1 platoon of 'D' Coy in the trench between CLAUDE and CLARENCE crater & 2 platoons of 'C' Coy in CLARENCE crater, 2 platoons of 'A' Coy immediately in the rear of CLARENCE crater, 'B' Coy, 27th MG Coy & carrying party in the front line behind the craters.

5:30am Zero hour. The Battns deployed in No Mans Land & suffered severely from our own barrage which fell very short.

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9/4/17 6.40am OBERMEYER trench captured & the fact reported to Brigade by visual.

Many of the men pressed on and occupied the sunk road East of OBERMEYER.

7.30am 11th Battn Royal Scots passed through to attack the RAILWAY. The 11th Battn Royal Scots on the left was held by machine gun fire. 'C' Coy went forward to support them and gained the objective. They then withdrew to the sunk road where the Battn reorganised.

11.30am 'B' Coy moved up and extended East of the railway to act as moppers for the 11th Battn Royal Scots in the attack on the 3rd objective.

11.45am 'A, C,D' Coys moved up & formed in an artillery formation East of the RAILWAY to support the 11th Battn Royal Scots.

12.11pm The attack on the 3rd objective commenced The Bn followed about 400 yds(?) in the rear of the 11th Battn Royal Scots. 'A' Coy sent forward to fill a gap in the line between the 11th Battn Royal Scots & 15th Battn Royal Scots. This Coy pressed forward & stormed the POINT DE JOUR house. 'D' Coy sent forward to support the left of the 11th Battn Royal Scots but were not required. The Battn occupied the front line of the German 3rd system and consolidated it.

11.30pm The Battn withdrew to the RAILWAY.

10/4/17 Reorganised & cleared the battlefield.

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Casualties on 9/4/17 Officers: killed 2 Wounded 12. Other Ranks: killed wounded missing (no numbers entered) Understood to be c 15,000 across the whole British forces involved.

11/4/17 Consolidated the line at the Railway.

12/4/17 Moved at 1.30pm via ATHIES to the trenches N of FAMPOUX.

5pm The Brigade attacked. The Battn in reserve and did not leave the trench.

13/4/17 Shelled intermittently

4pm Withdrew to ATHIES and bivouaced. Shelled with gas shells during the night but no casualties.

Casualties on 12th & 13th Officers nil Other ranks...(nothing entered, but probably none).

14/4/17 The Bn moved to the area behind our front line (3 Coys) & to ARRAS (Headquarters and 1 Coy.)

15/4/17 Marched to Y Huts

16/4/17 Bathed