

## ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

**“Mons” “Retreat from Mons” “Marne, 1914”  
“Aisne, 1914” “Ypres, 1914” “Gheluvelt”  
“Nonne Bosschen” “Givenchy, 1914”**

### 2ND BATTALION

#### AUGUST

Woking. Part of 2nd Brigade, 1st Division. Moved by train to Southampton (12th) and embarked SS *Olympia* and SS *Agapenor*. Sailed for France, arriving Havre (13th) and marching to Bleville Camp. Entrained for Etreux (14th). Marched to Esqueheries (16th), Avesnes (21st), via St. Reminalbati, Maubeuge to Villers-sur-Nicole (22nd), Rouveroy (23rd). War Diary records that the German bombardment of Mons could be clearly seen. Began advance about 9.30 pm, bivouacking for night along the roadside just outside Givry. Moved forward to Bonnet (24th) and entrenched. Later to billets at Feignes. To Marbaix (25th), via Favril to Pit Cambresis (26th), via Wassigny and Hannappes to Hautville, Fressancourt (28th), via Premontre to Anizy (30th), via Soissons to Verte Feuille (31st).

#### SEPTEMBER

Continued retreat (1st), arriving Varedes (2nd). Marched via Ferere to Romeny (3rd), to Aulnoy (4th), Bernay (5th), via Rozoy to Vaudoy (6th), to Jouy-sur-Moring (7th), Flagny (8th), La Croisette (9th). Marched on Preiz (10th). War Diary records that the enemy were fired upon from high ground just before the village. After passing through Preiz, “B” Company leading the advance came under heavy artillery fire. The forward troops being just 750 yards from the German lines. The Battalion was then shelled by British artillery. War Diary suggests that the gunners mistook the Sussex for Germans as they were wearing (presumably grey) waterproof sheets. Enemy opened up with heavy rifle fire and Battalion forced to retire to line across the Preiz-Coincy road. Casualties – Captain A.E. Jemmett-Browne and 18 other ranks killed, 2 officers, 83 other ranks wounded. Moved back to Raissy during evening. To Coincy (11th), Paars (12th). Passed through Bourg (13th) and enemy engaged. Casualties – 1 killed, 7 wounded. Later moved into billets at Moulins. Advanced to Vendresse (14th) in support of attack on high ground above Troyon. War Diary records the capture of 250 prisoners who, while coming forward under a white flag, were fired upon by their own side. Casualties – Lieutenant-Colonel E.H. Montresor, Major

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M.E. Cookson, Captain L. Slater, Lieutenants Hon. H.L. Pelham, E.C. Daun, W.S. Hughes and 11 other ranks killed, 3 officers and 79 other ranks wounded, 114 missing. Battalion dug in and held positions under shell fire and infantry attacks. Relieved by 1st East Yorkshire (19th) and to outpost line in caves at Paissy. Assisted in regaining trenches lost on right by 1st West Yorkshire (20th). Relieved by 1st Northamptonshire and to Pargnan. To Moulins in reserve (23rd), returning to Pargnan same night. Took over front line trenches at Troyon (25th). Relieved by 1st Loyal North Lancashire early morning (28th). Relieved 1st Northamptonshire in front line (29th). Casualties since 25th September – 6 other ranks killed, 2 officers, 43 other ranks wounded.

### OCTOBER

Relieved by 1st Loyal North Lancashire (5th). War Diary records (7th) that the enemy opened fire on some dummy trenches near the Battalion's position. A number of dummies had been made and one of these, a man reading the *Daily Mail*, was noted as having over 40 bullets in him. Later came under bombardment from "Bolos" – Captain R.J.P.D. Aldridge and 5 other ranks killed, 3 officers, 16 other ranks wounded. Later relieved 1st Northamptonshire in front line. Relieved from Troyon sector during night (15th) and to Vauxcéré. Casualties for month – 1 officer, 14 other ranks killed, 3 officers, 34 other ranks wounded. Entrained at Fismes 3 am (17th). Remained on train throughout day, moving via Amiens, Boulogne and Calais (18th) and arriving at Cassell early morning (19th). Moved to Elverdinghe (20th), Boesinghe (21st), Ypres (25th). Bivouacked near Haalte (26th) then advanced to trenches at Herentage Château Wood (27th). To Polygon Wood (28th). Withdrew to Château Wood after enemy attack (29th). Moved forward with 1st Northamptonshire to Bodmin Copse during morning (30th). Lieutenant-Colonel H.T. Crispin killed during advance. Moved into Shrewsbury Forest (31st). War Diary records – "The enemy came on in large numbers as far as the 5 Cross Roads: here we met him and drove him back." Records of the Northamptonshire Regiment note that much hand-to-hand fighting took place and the German dead were lying in heaps. Later attacked enemy in Bodmin Copse but forced to dig in on edge of Shrewsbury Forest. Casualties (30th/31st) – Lieutenant-Colonel Crispin, Lieutenant E.A. Lousada, Second-Lieutenants L.R. Croft, F.C.J. Marillier and C.F. Shaw killed, 394 other ranks killed, wounded or missing.

### NOVEMBER

Moved back into reserve positions (2nd). Relieved 1st Northamptonshire in front line during night (4th). Moved (7th) and in action near Klein

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Zillebeke. Second-Lieutenant G. Moore killed and approximately 20 others killed, wounded or missing. Relieved (9th) and to support line. Moved to Herenthage Château Wood (11th) in support of 1st (Guards) Brigade. Relieved from trenches just west of Veldhoek (14th) and to billets in Westoutre (16th). To Strazeele (17th), Hazebrouck (19th).

### *DECEMBER*

Moved in buses to Zelore (21st) then marched forward to Le Touret. Relieved Seaforth Highlanders in front line trenches – Fleurbaix sector (22nd). War Diary records that the trenches were flooded. Some of the Battalion standing waist-deep in water. Relieved by 1st Grenadier Guards (23rd) and to Le Hamel. Casualties – Lieutenant C.F. Verrall killed, 1 officer wounded, 28 other ranks killed, wounded or missing. Relieved 2nd South Staffordshire in trenches near running from north bank of the La Bassée Canal to just south of Givenchy (26th). Second-Lieutenant A.L. Silvester killed, 4 other ranks killed, 7 wounded, 10 missing during attack (31st).

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