

1918

APPENDIX

October

11th
(Cont'd)

casualties at this time. Between 17.00 and 17.15 hours "A" Coy moved out of cellars, crossed river by FACTORY Bridge and reinforced 4th Middlesex at E.25. a.2.2. along Sunken Road. ("B" Coy on arrival at about 18.00 hours in accordance with Orders telephoned to Rear H.Qrs were ordered to take up position along Sunken Road further South. On right of "A" Coy and One Company 1/1st Herts remained as Reserve in BRIASTRE).

At 17.30 hours orders were received from G.O.C. 63rd Infantry Brigade that New Zealanders were attacking BELLE VUE at 18.00 hours and we were to co-operate. "C" Coy at once moved off to take up position occupied by it on previous night from 01.30 to 04.45 hours and to attack with New Zealanders. CAPT. ACKERMAN M.C. also co-operated with a trench mortar which he established and handled most skillfully, firing on houses and railway in vicinity of BELLE VUE. The attack was successful in the neighbourhood LA BELLE VUE, and no casualties had been incurred by this Battalion in the course of this attack, and it was decided to attempt to exploit our success Southwards.

The length of front held by the attacking Company was about 200 yards commencing with a post in close touch with the New Zealanders at LA BELLE VUE. Two platoons of another Company pushed Southwards along the railway cutting and with the assistance of a further platoon of another Company established a line of posts in the Railway along a frontage of 500 yards.

The Weather conditions and extreme blackness of the night together with the difficulty of having to mop dug-outs in the East side of Western Railway embankment, with the responsibility of handing over the position sufficiently mopped up to new troops, and the danger of establishing a line of posts too lightly held in the vicinity of an embankment containing dug-outs all along; the difficulty of establishing a good line further