

October  
1917

George Denna

1st BATTALION, SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY.

Appendix.

1917

October

1st

Training in the morning. Battalion moved to HULLS FARM near the Canal Bank in the afternoon and relieved the 2nd Essex Regt.

2nd

Battalion remained at HULLS FARM and 6 Officers, 8 N.C.O's and 8 men proceeded to the line to see the situation, take bearings and mark out assembly area by tapes.

3rd

Battalion moved to the line to take up assembly positions. Battalion moved at 5-30 p.m. and all ranks were in position by 11 p.m. One Casualty.

4th

The Battalion assembled in its pre-arranged positions on the night 3/4th October, without difficulty; the only casualty was one man killed by Machine Gun fire. At about 5-30 a.m. the German Artillery became active and many shells fell just in rear of the last line. In order to avoid casualties the Battalion moved forward about 30 yards before Zero. At 6 a.m. the advance started. The men were full of the idea of keeping close to our own barrage, and the tendency was to keep too close. The result was that we had several casualties from our own barrage, but the majority of these were caused by some of our guns shooting very short. There was also some hostile Machine Gun fire. Owing to the darkness it was hard to keep direction and Battalions became rather mixed soon after the start. The tendency was to ease off to the right. Germans were found in KANGAROO TRENCH, but these were easily dealt with. Our barrage had apparently accounted for a good many. Little opposition was met until the line of the track running South from LEMNOS HOUSE was reached. On the right some Germans were holding a pile of stones on the road about V.19.a.25.20. These were soon dealt with by fire and several were killed. The Right of the Battalion in conjunction with men of the 11th Division then advanced against the Concrete House in V.19.a.60.15. One Machine Gun was firing from the top of the house and one from the side. A Lewis Gun was brought into action and under cover of its fire our men worked round a flank, and got