

officer who went over the parapet (and there were 17) had become a casualty. 6th Battalion
Three had been killed, 12 wounded and 2 were missing.¹ In other ranks the
Battalion had lost 41 killed, 203 wounded and 143 missing. The ridge
between "A-A" and "X-X" Trenches was a veritable death trap, and here
the Somerset men, as they advanced, were shot down in dozens by German
machine gunners firing from the north and east.

On the 18th September the 6th Somersets moved to billets in Ribemont, 18th September
where the remainder of the month was spent.

The Battle of Flers-Courcellette ended on 22nd September, and the
results are thus given in the official despatches:—

"The result of the fighting of the 15th September and following days
was again more considerable than any which had attended our arms in the
course of a single operation since the commencement of the offensive. In
the course of one day's fighting we had broken through two of the enemy's
main defence systems and had advanced on a front of over 6 miles to an
average depth of a mile."

Three large villages, powerfully defended, had been captured. The
enemy appears to have had warning of the intended use of tanks, but all the
same they struck terror into the German troops; they certainly gladdened the
heart of the British soldier, who saw with delight and amazement German
trenches and strong points crushed out of existence.

THE BATTLE OF MORVAL, 25TH-28TH SEPTEMBER

In this action the 7th Somersets were in Brigade Reserve. The Somerset 7th Battalion
men, on 22nd September, had moved into billets in Meaulte, where a very
welcome draft of North and West Somerset Yeomanry—a splendid lot of
N.C.O.'s and men—joined the Battalion. On 25th another move forward
to the Citadel was made, the 61st Brigade having again taken over the front
line, though the 7th Somersets were in reserve. The next day the Battalion
(still in reserve) was moved up to the Quadrilateral, part of the old German
trench system between Ginchy and Les Bœufs, and remained there until 28th.
Twenty-two men had been wounded by shell fire during the three days' tour
in the line. Returning to Carnoy Craters on 28th, the Battalion, on 29th, 29th September
once more moved up to the trenches (south of Gueudecourt) where, during
that day and on 30th, two other ranks were killed and one officer and 20 other
ranks were wounded.

THE BATTLE OF THE LE TRANSLOY RIDGES: 1ST-18TH OCTOBER ²

The capture of the villages of Morval, Les Bœufs and Gueudecourt had
given Sir Douglas Haig possession of high ground of considerable strategic

¹ No names are given in the Diaries.

² Here, again, the decisions of the Battle Honours Committee are of an arbitrary nature. No
recognition is made of the operations of 29th September, on which date the 20th Division alone
captured some 2,000 yards of the enemy's trenches east of Gueudecourt and gained a footing on the
crest of the long spur which screened the defences of Le Transloy.