Royal Sussex Regiment: Sources

11th (Southdowns) Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (original held at West Sussex Record Office RSR MS 7/23)

War Diary covering the Battle of Boar's Head (30th June 1916)

The whole war diary for the 11th Battalion is available on this website on the 'Battalion War Diaries' page.
1916

June

10th. 12 o'clock. 2/8 Warwicks moved off to join their Bde.
5.30 p.m. Enemy blew up small mine S.E. of JERUSALEM CRATER.
11.45 p.m. Our bombers bombed saphead left of JERUSALEM CRATER. Weather wet. 1 Q.R. Killed.

11th. 6 a.m. Advance party marched to HINGETT.
5 p.m. Mine exploded by us opposite Sap No. 15.
7 p.m. En relieved by 2nd A & S Highlanders. Bn marched to HINGETT. Weather wet.

HINGETT

12th. All in billets. Weather wet. A.W. returned from leave & resumed command of D Coy.

13th. 11 a.m. 4 Officers & 20 M.O. & men attended Memorial Service for Lt. Hitchener at Lough. Weather wet.

14th. Weather wet. Lt. Epton returned from leave & resumed command of D Coy.

15th. 11 a.m. Orders from Brigade to move to CROIX BARNEZ.

CROIX BARNEZ

16th. 9 a.m. Bn marched to CROIX BARNEZ & took over billets from 14th Bn. The Bn is in reserve.
10.15 a.m. All in billets. Found billets in very dirty condition. Weather Fine.


18th. Weather Cold & showery. Large working parties.

19th. Weather dull.


21st. 9.30 p.m. Bn marched in sections to relieve 13th Bn front line in FERME DU BOIS (NEW) Left Sector. Hqs. B C A D order of March
June

1916

APPENDIX

22nd. 1 am. Relief completed. Order in line. A Coy (left). C (Coy Centre). B (Coy) right – D Coy, in Support. Weather fine & hot. Enemy fairly quiet. Aeroplane activity on both sides, enemy aeroplanes being driven back at 1 p.m. & 6 p.m. Snipers active throughout the day. At night enemy M.G’s active especially around 7 Sisters. Silenced for some time at 11 p.m. by our howitzers. 1 O.R killed. Weather fine.

23rd. 6 am. Enemy’s 5.9s fell on Hill’s Post, to 8 am. 4 direct hits. Little damage. 3 pm. 5.9s on Neuve Chapelle ruins. 2 O.Rs wounded. Heavy rains in afternoon & evening.


25th. At intervals during day enemy shelled HUN ST. HILLS POST & FORT ARTHUR also howitzers near LANSDOWN POST. Our artillery active day & night. Enemy M.G.emplacement at S.11.a 5.9’s destroyed by artillery. Weather fine. 1 O.R. killed.

26th. HUN POST shelled intermittently during morning. Our artillery active. Heavy rain during evening & night. 11.40. p.m. We shelled Front Line on Left. Enemy retaliated on our Front Line & Supports breaching Left Coy’s line in 3 places. Little damage done. No casualties. M.9s active on both sides.

27th. A quiet day; weather wet.

June

29th.
2-5.30 p.m.
Artillery bombarded enemy front line. Enemy retaliated on FACTORY POST. No damage. 1 OR killed.
Most of the Battn went as carrying parties to 12th & 13th R. Sussex Regt. Also formed straggler's posts etc.

30th. 2.50 p.m.
Intense bombardment by our Artillery & enemy retaliation. Our carrying parties followed 12th & 13th Battalions to enemy's Front Line with R.F. material & S.A.A.
C.R. Approx: Killed 4 Wounded 80, Missing 32.
Burial parties & salvage parties for Front Line.

C.H. Harrison, Major, Condg. 11th Royal Sussex Regt.
30/6/16.