

Royal Sussex Regiment: Newspaper Articles and Sources

12th (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 12th Battalion is
available on this website on the 'Battalion
War Diaries' page.



12th BATTALION, ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT.

1916.

Appendix.

June.

ANNAQUINWORTH.

1st Bn. relieved 14th Hants in front line QUINCHY.

QUINCHY.

5th Bn. moved back to village line. Relieved by 14th Hants.

8th Bn. moved into front line QUINCHY & relieved 14th Hants.

10th Bn. relieved by 1st Middlesex & moved back to billets at ~~LES CHOQUAUX~~ QUESNAY.

LE QUESNAY.

11th Bn. moved back to Divn. Reserve billets at LES CHOQUAUX.

LES CHOQUAUX.

16th Bn. relieved 15th Cheshire Regt. (Bantams) in front line at FERME DU BOIS.

FERME DU BOIS.

21st Bn. moved back to CROIX BARBEE.

CROIX BARBEE.

22nd Bn. moved ~~back~~ to LES LOBES in Divn. Reserve.

LES LOBES.

28th Bn. moved to RICHEBOURG.

8 pm. Two companies marched to front line trenches right sector FERME DU BOIS. One company marched to RICHEBOURG. One company marched to VIELLE CHAPELLE.

FERME DU BOIS.

29th 9 pm. Two companies marched from RICHEBOURG & VIELLE CHAPELLE & joined rest of battalion in front line FERME DU BOIS.

Artillery bombarded enemy trenches BOARS HEAD from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

30th 3.5 p.m. Battalion attacked enemy front & support lines, & succeeded in entering same. The support line

1916.Appendix.June.30th
(Ctd.)

was occupied for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour
& the front line for 4 hours.
The withdrawal was necessitated
by the supply of bombs &
ammunition giving out & the heavy
enemy barrage on our front line
& communication trenches,
preventing reinforcements being
sent forward.

Operation orders are attached to
Diary. The Battalion was
relieved by the 14th Hants at 10
a.m. & marched to LES LOBES
after resting at RICHBOURG.

CASUALTIES.

1.6.16.	2 O.R. wounded.	
2.6.16.	3 O.R. "	
3.6.16.	3 O.R. "	
4.6.16.	1 Off. Lt. Boyd killed.	
	1 Wounded. 9 O.R. wounded.	
5.6.16.	2 O.R. wounded.	
8.6.16.	5 O.R. wounded.	
9.6.16.	2 O.R. "	
10.6.16.	2 O.R. "	
17.6.16.	4 O.R. "	
18.6.16.	3 O.R. "	
19.6.16.	4 O.R. "	
20.6.16.	2 O.R. "	
30.6.16.	O.R.	
	Killed.....	21
	Missing reported	
	killed.....	35
	Wounded.....	236
	Missing.....	120
	Total.....	412

List of Officers casualties attached.

Officers' Casualties during engagement of 30th June, 1916.

Lt. Col. Impey, G.H.	Wounded.
Captain Cotton, A.N.	Killed in Action.
Lieut. Boys, S.C.	Wounded.
" Sparks, C.	Killed in action.
" Robinson, H.C.T.	Wounded.
2/Lieut. Fenchelle, G.J.	Killed in action.
" Ambler, G.	Wounded.
" Arkcoll, F.T.	Killed in action.
" Hanby, F.J.	Missing.
" Moody, L.L.	Killed in action.
" Mercer, J.	Wounded.
" Dorman, C.C.B.	Wounded.
" Moyle, F.W.	Missing.
" Ardill, J.	Missing.
" Swallow, S.H.	Missing.
" Mason, F.A.	Wounded.
" Salberg, J.B.	Missing.

26th June, 1916.

SECRET.OPERATION ORDER NO. 20.1. Intention.

To capture the enemy's trenches between the BOARS HEAD and the salient about S.10.c.9.5. viz:-
 Enemy front line from BOARS HEAD to S.10.c.9.5.
 Enemy support line from S.16.a.5 $\frac{1}{2}$.6 $\frac{1}{2}$. to S.10.d.1.3.

2. Frontage.

The frontage allotted to the 13th Bn. is from Ditch from our front line S.10.c.5.3. to S.10.c.8.0., i.e.:- the frontage between the junction of HAZARA & VINE STREET with our present front line.

The 13th Bn. are allotted the right section of the assault.

3. Composition of Assaulting Columns.

The Battalion will assault in 4 lines of platoons, "A" Coy. with its right on the ditch about 30 yards N. of VINE STREET, "B", "C" & "D" Coys. with its left in HAZARA STREET; each Coy. to have approximately 20 yards of frontage.

The columns will be dispersed as follows:-

1st Wave4 Assaulting Platoons."D" Coy.

- 1 Assaulting Platoon.
- 2 special bombing & blocking parties for blocks 7 & 6 and support trenches leading up to them.
- 1 Coy. Bombing Squad to bomb up communication trench between D & C points.

"C" Coy.

- 1 Assaulting Platoon.
- 1 Coy. Bombing Squad for 7 communication trench and trenches of support line to left to join up with "D" Coy.

"B" Coy.

- 1 Assaulting Platoon.
- 1 special bombing & blocking party to bomb up 2 communication trench to block S.
- 1 Coy. bombing squad to bomb along support line & join up with "C" Coy.

"A" Coy.

- 1 Assaulting Platoon.
- 2 special bombing & blocking squads to deal with communication trench to blocks 4 & 3.
- 2 Coy. bombing squads to bomb along the two support trenches towards Z trench.

2nd Wave

4 Assaulting Platoons.
A reserve Coy. bombing squad
will be told off from each
Platoon.

3rd Wave

4 Assaulting Platoons.

"D" Coy.

1 special bombing & blocking
party to deal with front line
to block S.
Each platoon will detail 1
bombing squad to clear the
enemy's front line as follows:
Each squad to work from its
right to left flank until it
joins up with the Coy. on its
left.

4th Wave

4 Assaulting Platoons.
Each platoon to detail one
reserve bombing squad.

Lewis Guns

The 4 Lewis Guns will
accompany the last wave and
will join their Companies as
occasion requires.

Snipers

- (1) Six pairs will be selected by
each of the Assaulting
Battalions in conjunction with
the Brigade Sniping Officer.
- (2) These snipers will advance
with the third wave of their
respective Battalions, and on
their outer flanks.
- (3) On arrival in the new trenches
they will take up suitable
posts for sniping and
observation.
- (4) When all the Battalion
Snipers have taken up their
posts, the Battalion Sniping
N.C.O. will send a report to
his Bn. Hdqrs., from which it
will be sent on to the
Brigade Sniping Officer at
VINE STREET H.Q.

4. Assembly of
Column.

Nos. 1 & 2 waves, plus the specialist
parties, will assemble in the front line
trench between HAZARA STREET and VINE
STREET.

Nos. 3 & 4 Waves will similarly assemble
in the support line between these 2
points.
The definite allotment of frontage of
each platoon will be decided upon on the
ground.

5. The Assault.

At a.m. on the the Artillery will lift and the Assault will be carried by waves as detailed in para.3. The 1st Wave will immediately go over the parapet & will be followed by the second, 3rd & 4th Waves as soon as possible. The platoons will be formed in lines, and with their specialists parties immediately in rear of them and on the flank nearest to their allotted task. The objectives of the 1st & 2nd Waves is the enemy's support trenches, and the platoons concerned will on no account stop at the enemy's front line. The objective of the 3rd & 4th Waves will be the enemy's front line. O.C. Coys. will assure that certain men of the Coy. bombing squads are told off to deal with dug-outs.

6. Consolidation.

The work of consolidating the new trenches will be undertaken at once. Special typed instructions have been issued to each Company Commander on the subject. The R.E. are constructing strong points at A, B, B2, C & D as per attached sketch. The 116th Bde, M.G. Coy. will supply Vickers Guns for these strong points.

7. Stores.

Two extra bandoliers will be issued to each man, which, with the 120 rounds already carried, will make 220 rounds, per rifle.

Ammunition.

There will be a close reserve of 100 rounds per rifle at the following points:-

- A Coy. VINE STREET (Northern Side) 15 boxes.
- B Coy. COPSE STREET (Northern Side) 15 boxes.
- C Coy. COPSE STREET (Northern Side) 15 boxes.
- D Coy. HAZARA STREET (Northern Side) 15 boxes.

A Brigade Reserve of 50 rounds per rifle will be stored at the junction of GUARDS and VINE STREET.

Bombs.

Bomb Stores will be established under Brigade arrangements as follows:-

First Reserve Store

A Coy. at forward end of VINE ST. (Southern side) 500.

B & C Coys. forward end of COPSE ST. (Southern side) 1,600.

D Coy. forward end of HAZARA ST. (Southern side) 800.

Second Reserve Store

Junction HAZARA STREET and GUARDS - 6,000.

Third Reserve Store (Brigade Reserve)

At junction of VINE STREET with GUARDS trench - 6,000.

8. R.E. STORES.

Dumps for R.E. Stores will be at the head of COPSE STREET and HAZARA STREET.

9. Rations & Water.

Each man will carry 1 days rations & a full waterbottle. Water will be stored in petrol cans etc. at convenient points against the front line parapet. Stores for rations and water will be established as follows:-

- A. Coy at forward end of VINE STREET.
- B. Coy at forward end of COPSE STREET.
- C. Coy at forward end of COPSE STREET.
- D. Coy at forward end of HAZARA STREET.

10. Stores.

Within our New Lines.

Within our new lines, Ammunition, Stores, Bomb Stores, Dumps for R.E. Stores and Tools, and Stores for Rations and Water will at once be constructed and filled up as detailed above.

11. Equipment.

Marching Order No.2 i.e. without packs. Each man to carry his waterproof sheet on back of his belt.

Arrangements regarding the dumping of packs & great coats will be notified later. All ranks will carry 2 bombs. These will on no account be used except by order of an Officer. They will be collected, if possible, under instructions of Platoon Commanders, to form a reserve. Tools and Sandbags will be carried as follows:-

	<u>Picks & Shovels.</u>	<u>Sandbags.</u>
First Wave	-	1 per man.
Second Wave	Each man 1 tool	2 " "
Third Wave	Each man 1 tool	4 " "
Fourth Wave	Each man 1 tool	4 " "

12. Carrying Parties.

A carrying party of 20 men has been detailed from the H.Q. Staff, Pioneers, etc.

O.C. Coys. will detail a further 6 men.

Lieut. C.O. Bolton will be in charge of the R.E. Stores, Rations & Water.

2/Lieut. H.T.K. Robinson will be in charge of the bomb & S.A.A. Stores and will be responsible for the supply of same to front line.

These officers will arrange together the distribution of the carrying parties.

O.C. Coys. will detail one reliable N.C.O. to assist these officers.

13. Communication. See Appendix 1.

14. Special Warning

The order "RETIRE" will not be given and should this particular word be heard it must be understood that it emanates from no one in authority.

15. Runners.

O.C. Coys. will ensure that all Runners make themselves well acquainted with the various H.Q. & Signal Stations.

16. Medical Arrangements.

All wounded will be evacuated via HAZARA STREET and tramway.

17. Battalion
H.Qs.

Battalion H.Qs. will be at a point in
COPSE STREET half way between that trench
and GUARDS.

(Sgd.) G.H. IMPEY,
Lieut. Colonel,
Commanding L.B.B.