

Private

WALTER CHARLES PRING

19064, 8TH Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry

Died of Wounds 31 July 1916

Aged 21

Buried Bebington Cemetery, Cheshire

L. C. of E. 77

The Pring family were, almost without exception, agricultural workers and, by the time of Walter's father's generation, solidly fixed in the Blackdown Hills. His grandfather Charles was born in Broadway, and his grandmother Hannah at Haselbury Plucknett, near Crewkerne. But his father George and mother Annie (nee Every, daughter of Robert Every, a lime burner) were born in Buckland St Mary.

They had seven children, 3 boys and 4 girls, all of whom survived childhood; it was WW1 that took two of the boys, Walter and William. Walter was the oldest son, his sister Emma the oldest of the family. Walter, and William, went to Brown Down School; Walter, born on 27 August 1894, entered school on the 17 March 1902, and left on 27 August 1907, his thirteenth birthday. Both boys were baptised at Otterford, Walter on 4 November 1894.

The family had moved about within the area of Buckland St Mary and Otterford, no doubt following work. In 1891, George, before his marriage, was working as a Farm Carter for William Manley, the miller, at Otterford Mill. George and Annie married at Buckland on 27 April 1893; by 1901 George was working as a Carter at Howstead; they had 5 children. In 1911 they were living at Hornsey Cottages; 4 of the children were still at home, but the 2 older girls were working away, and Walter, now 16, was living just down the road at Madgeon Farm, working as Farm Servant to Sidney Dummett.

Walter's Service Records have not survived, but we do have some pointers to what happened to him from press reports, the 8th Battalion War Diaries and contemporary accounts. *The Taunton Courier* reports that Walter and his friend Harry Painter enlisted together (in Taunton) on 29 May 1915, 'both going from the same farm in this parish, and great friends, and much respected in the parish'. We don't know which farm; for what it's worth, Harry was working at Pound Farm in 1911, and Walter, as we know, at Madgeon. On Walter's Medal Roll Card (kept as a record of what Service Medals were due to each man) is recorded the day he (and Harry Painter too) landed in France – 4 October 1915. His death certificate tells us he was with "D" Company of the Battalion.

After the Battle of Loos in the Autumn of 1915, there were no major operations for the 8th Battalion who, after refitting, moved to Armentieres. They were part of the 63rd Brigade, 21st Division. They mounted a cutting out expedition from an area known as the Mushroom on December 16 which was conspicuously well planned and successful. It consisted of volunteers. It seems, perhaps, unlikely that 2 recently arrived recruits would have been involved in this. At the end of December Walter's "D" Company were taking over front line trenches when their Commanding Officer, Lt Col Howard, was killed by a sniper. They were in and out of the front line trenches during the first 3 months of 1916, and then on April 1 moved south from the Ypres Salient to the Somme, where troops were massing for the Somme attack of 1 July – another 'big push'.

There were immensely elaborate preparations going on for that attack. As well as day to day trench warfare the troops were expected to carry out these preparations, an exhausting business: digging new communication, assembly, assault and wire trenches, new dugouts, gun emplacements, and bringing up thousands of tons of ammunition and stores. And most of this work had to take place, unseen, at night. The writer C. Day Lewis describes the strange contrast: 'By day the roads were deserted; but as soon as dusk fell they were thick with transport, guns, ammunition trains and troops, all moving up...to take their positions in or behind the lines ...Endlessly, night after night, it went on ...Yet when dawn came, all signs of it were gone.'

The Somme had been a quiet part of the line. The British had the major disadvantage of occupying the lower river land, while the Germans held the heights – the drawbacks are obvious, and became more so as the attacks proceeded and the ground was churned up to a quagmire.

The preliminary bombardment began on 26th June and continued without respite till 1 July. The 8th Battalion moved up to the assembly trenches on the night of the 27th. It was during this operation that Walter's friend Harry Painter must have been killed, 'his friend [Walter] witnessing his death'; not a good omen.

The 8th Battalion War Diary continues the tale: 'At 6.30am trench ladders and bridges were put in place and an intense Artillery barrage was opened. 7.30 was ZERO Time for Assault.

7.25 Front waves of B and C Coys crawled out.'

What the Diary doesn't make plain is the disaster of those 5 minutes before zero hour when the 8th left their trenches and crawled forward in readiness: many lost, the Commanding Officer dead, and all officers except 3 lieutenants out of action. They were followed by "A" Company, and "D" (Walter's Company), the latter weighed down with supplies – bombs, picks and shovels, trench stores. Heavy machine gun fire continued to mow them down, but they pressed on to the German trenches, 'battered out of all recognition, and only [consisting] of a mass of craters'. Eventually 2 groups, both under 2nd lieutenants, managed to join up and held out in a trench all night, repulsing a bombing raid. By this time, half of them were dead.

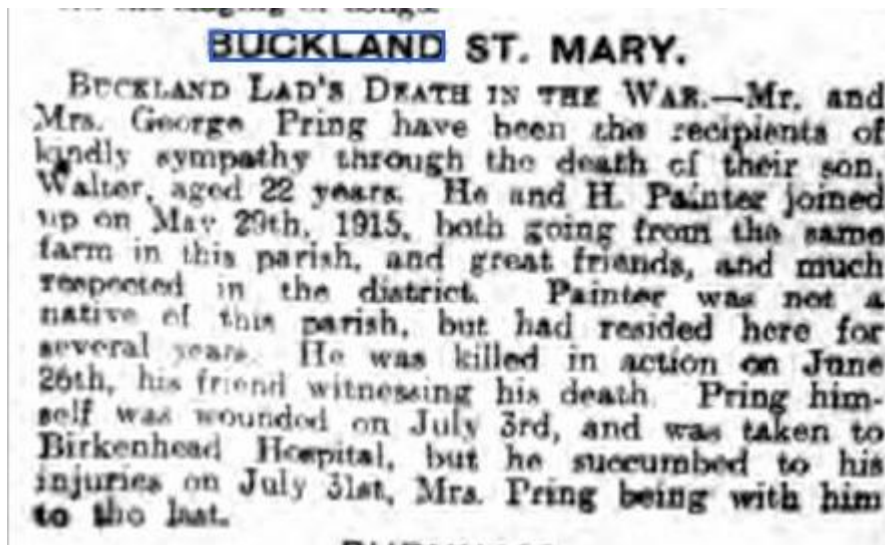
Next morning reinforcements and more senior officers arrived; counter attacks were expected and prepared for; '[we] remained in the same position all day and throughout the night of the 2nd.' Officer reinforcements arrived on the night of the 2nd/3rd. Attacks and counter-attacks were planned or expected, but the Battalion remained in this position till relieved in the early hours of 4th July.

It seems remarkable that Walter managed to survive until the 3rd, when he was mortally wounded. These first days of the Somme were a disaster: enormous loss of life, and nothing substantial gained. He would have been picked up by stretcher bearers, taken to an Advanced Dressing station, then to a Field Ambulance, then the Casualty Clearing Station and finally evacuated back to England. Vera Brittain, writing in *Testament of Youth* of her days as a VAD, says 'At the end of June, the hospital received orders to clear out all convalescents and to prepare for a great rush of wounded. We knew that already a tremendous bombardment had begun, for we could feel the vibration of the guns in Camberwell....On...July 4th began the immense convoys which came without cessation for about a fortnight and continued at short intervals for the whole of that sultry month and the first part of August.'

Walter was taken to the Auxiliary Military Hospital, Tranmere (on the Wirral) but he didn't recover; 'he succumbed to his injuries on July 31st, Mrs Pring being with him to the last' *The Courier* says with sad restraint. His Death Certificate says he died of a gunshot wound to the shoulder, followed by secondary haemorrhage. (There is a death certificate because he died in this country.) He is buried

at Bebington Cemetery on the Wirral, but with no individual headstone – there is a joint Memorial headstone to all those buried there.

Courier, 9 August 1916



A footnote to Walter's death: he had written a Will in the back of his Active Service Paybook, leaving everything to his mother; this was dated 9th October 1915, after his arrival in France. It seems certain that she never saw this, for it was filed away – mistakenly, one must presume – till re-discovered in 2013 with a large collection of other similar documents.



Bebington Cemetery, Wirral – joint headstone to W C Pring and fellow servicemen

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Page 4

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, Sec. of	Ecclesiastical District of			
Buckland & Mary					Wormsett				
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES Inhabited (1), or Building (2)	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb
19		1	James Wright	Head	Mar	32	Retired Farmer	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Emma Do	Wife	Mar	42	Do	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			George Do	Son		11	Scholar	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Richard Do	Son		6	Scholar	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			William Do	Son		4		Amesbury, Wiltshire	
20		1	John Thompson	Head	Mar	40	Shepherd	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Elizabeth Do	Wife	Mar	39		Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Charles Do	Son	Mar	17		Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			George Do	Son		12	Ag. Lab.	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			John Do	Son		11	Ag. Lab.	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Henry Do	Son		7	Scholar	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Richard Do	Son		5		Amesbury, Wiltshire	
21		1	Charles King	Head	Mar	29	Ag. Lab.	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Harriet Do	Wife	Mar	38	Do	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Mary Do	Daughter		6	Do	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Robert Do	Son		4		Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Edward Do	Son		2		Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			William Do	Son		1		Amesbury, Wiltshire	
22		1	James Carter	Head	Mar	31	Builder	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Mary Do	Wife	Mar	32	Widow	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Edward Do	Son		14	Ag. Lab.	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			John Do	Son		11	Widow	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			William Do	Son		8	Scholar	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			John Do	Son		5		Amesbury, Wiltshire	
			Richard Do	Son		2	Scholar	Amesbury, Wiltshire	
Total of Houses...	4		Total of Males and Females...	4	11				

Eng.—Sheet D.

P.A.C. RECORD SERVICE

RECORDS

R.G. 9/1635

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHY - NOT TO BE
REPRODUCED PROGRAMMATICALLY WITH-
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1861 CENSUS CHARLES PRING

The undermentioned Houses are situate within

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town				
Buckland Mary Tamesett								
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES In- habited (1), or Building (2)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of		
						Male	Female	
69	Pound Farm	1	James Sully	Head	Mar	61		Mar
			Ann Do	Wife	Mar	58		Mar
			Ann Do	Daughter	Unm	33		Mar
			Mary J. Knight	Serv	Unm	70		Gen
			John Doble	Serv	Unm	17		Pa
			George Kimbridge	Serv	Unm	14		Pa
70	Mearewood Cottage 1	1	Charles Pring	Head	Mar	40		Ag
			Harriet Do	Wife	Mar	48		Ag
			Walter Do	Son	Unm	14		Ag
			Emma Do	Daughter		7		Ag
			George Do	Son				Ag

1871 CENSUS GEORGE PRING

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish [or Township] of Buckingham City or Municipal Borough of Buckingham Municipal Ward of Buckingham Parliamentary Borough of Buckingham Urban Sanitary District of Buckingham Rural Sanitary District of Buckingham Ecclesiastical Parish or District of St. Andrew [Page 9]

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.) or Vacant (V.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
						Male	Female			
40	Buzzmore	1	Harriet Matthews	Head	W	38		Glover	Lomenet B.S.M.	
40			John	Son		10		Scholar	"	
41	Trove Cottage	1	Ann Manning	Wife	W	44		Wife	"	
			Charles King	Head	Mar	56		Ag Lab	"	
			Charlotte	Wife	Mar	60			"	
			William	Son	Mar	24		Carpenter	Devon Churchdown	
			William	Wife	Mar	24		Ag Lab	Lomenet B.S.M.	
42	36	1	Thomas Bates Collins	Head	W	5			Broadway	
			Mary Biddle	Wife	W	67		Pauper	B.S.M.	
43		1	William	Son	Mar	34			Chisford	
			James Collins	Head	Mar	72		Ag Lab	"	Lame
			Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	72			B.S.M.	
44	Wottons	1	Robert Barry	Head	Mar	38		Lime Burner	Stableford	
			Elizabeth & Husband			33			Chisford	
			Charles	Son		10		Scholar	B.S.M.	
			Robert	Son		6			"	
			James Smith	Son		5			"	
45		1	Benjamin Burford	Head	Mar	69		Farm Servant	"	
			Mary Ann	Wife	Mar	44		Gardener	Broadway	
			Thomas	Son		8		Scholar	Wottonville	
			Emily Jane	Son		6			B.S.M.	
			Heath			3			"	
76	Total of Houses...	6	Total of Males and Females...			114	16			

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng- Sheet B.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE						Reference:-	COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
1	2	3	4	5	6	RG 11/2385	

1881 CENSUS PRING AND EVERY

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										[Page 3]
Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Division of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of			
Whitstable				Whitstable		Whitstable	81			
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (1) or Vacant (2)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Males Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	If (1) Dead and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic	
9			Samy Prince	Son	Unm	7	Scholar	Son Whitstable		
10		1	Elizabeth Mayer	Wife	Mar	43		do		
			George Harris	Head	Do	64	Labourer	do		
			Mary do	Wife	Do	57		do		
			Francis do	Son	Unm	52	Labourer	do		
			James do	do	do	47	Carpenter	do		
11		1	Jacob Smith	Head	Mar	65	Shaler	do		
			Susan do	Wife	Do	67		Son Epworth		
			Albert Combs	Son	Unm	10	Scholar	do Stockland		
			Thomas do	do	do	3		do		
12		1	James Pitt	Head	Mar	61	Labourer	Son Whitstable		
			Mary do	Wife	Do	48		Son Chardwick		
			George do	Son	Unm	12	Scholar	Son Whitstable		
			Mary do	Son	do	10	do	do		
			James do	Son	do	8	do	do		
			John do	Son	do	6	do	do		
			Sarah do	do	do	4	do	do		
13		1	Samuel Vale	Head	Mar	56	Farmen 314 Acres	Son St Nicholas		
			John do	Wife	do	68		Whitstable		
			George do	Son	Unm	31	Farmen Son	do		
			Charles Barry	Son	do	16	Farm Servant, adult	do		
			George Pring	Son	do	16	do do	Buckham		
14		1	Mary Lovelace	Head	Do	71	Occupier of the acre	Son Haslemere		
			Grace do	Son	Unm	32		do Weyford		
			Elizabeth do	do	do	37		do		
5	Total of Houses...	5	Total of Males and Females...			13	12			

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng-Sheet A.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE						References:-	COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
1	2	3	4	5	6		
						RG 11/2385	

1881 CENSUS GEORGE PRING – FARM SERVANT

Administrative County		Somerset		The undermentioned Houses are									
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District				Ward of Municipal Borough, or Urban District					
of Otterford		of Otterford St Leonards		of				of					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
No of House	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		Building	Number of Houses occupied if less than five	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of				
		Inhabited	Uninhabited						Males	Females			
		In Occupation.	Not in Occupation.										
	Matabays Farm		1										
70	Lower Tiff H Farm	1				Samuel Pike	Head	M	58				
						Virginia Do	Wife	M		56			
						James Do	Son	S	29				
						Harry Do	Son	S		23			
						Harry Do	Son	S	15				
71	Higher Tiff H Farm	1				Thomas Westlake	Head	M	64				
						Jane Do	Wife	M		63			
						Ann Elizabeth Batten	Servant	S		21			
						Joseph Gardiner	Serv	S	32				
						Walter Peters	Serv	S	16				
72	Houstead	1				George Pring	Head	M	31				
						Annie Do	Wife	M		28			
						Ernest Do	Son	S		7			

1901 CENSUS PRING FAMILY

[illegible]

	Rosa	184	b 15.7.87	ent 9.5.93	left 28.10.01	JB	BSM
HARDWILL	James	348	b 2.4.92	ent 11.4.04	left 2.6.05	James Hardwill	BSM
	Martha	349	b 29.1.97	ent 11.4.04	left 13.5.10	JH	BSM
PRING	Emma	247	b30.7.93	ent 31.8.96	left 30.7.93	George Pring	O
	Emma	275		ent 4.4.98	left 30.7.06	GP	O
	Walter	286	b 27.8.94	ent 29.8.98	left 27.8.07	GP	O
	Elsie	309	b 28.4.96	ent 9.7.00	left 15.3.04	GP	O
	William	325	b 31.7.97	ent 17.3.02	left 27.7.10	GP	O
	Bessie	346	b 8.9.93	ent 1.9.03	left 27.7.10	GP	O
	Samuel	358	b 15.6.01	ent 8.5.05	left 27.7.10	GP	O
	Annie	369	b 30.12.02	ent 4.7.06	left 27.7.10	GP	O
SMITH	Frank	362	b19.4.98	ent 9.10.15	left 13.4.11?	Frank Smith	O

Name	Grade	Rank	Serial No.
PRING W.C.	S/ Soni G.P.	1st	19064
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victory	C/2/102/15/1802	1802	D/W. 31.7.16.
15 years	C/2/103/223	223	
Theatre of War first served in Date of entry therein			
10 France 4.10.15.			

MEDAL ROLL INDEX CARD – WALTER

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 5724209-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT					BIRKENHEAD			
1916 DEATH in the Sub-district of Tranmere					in the Counties of Birkenhead C.B., &c.			

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

155	4th July 1916 Auxiliary Military Hospital, Tranmere M.B.	Walter Pruitt	Male	22 years	of Tanlake Hutings, Buckland St Mary, near Church, Parish of Compton, Co. Somerset.	Gun shot wound of shoulder Secondary Haemorrhage Certified by G. S. Stanfield M.R.C.S.	G. J. Godfrey Acting Steward Auxiliary Military Hospital, Tranmere.	Second August, 1916.	S. H. Swan, Registrar.
-----	---	------------------	------	-------------	--	---	---	----------------------------	---------------------------

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the

13th

day of

June

2014

DYD 708662

See note overleaf

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE
AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

7264668 78631 10/13 334755D 034484



SBM

INFORMAL WILL.

W.O. No.: E/236889/1 DOMICILE *English*

Record No. *W/236889/16*

The enclosed document dated *9/10/1916* and signed *W. Pring*

Name *Walter Charles Pring*

Regtl. No. and Rank *19064 Private*

Regt. *4th Somerset L.I.*

Died at *Buckland (Hospital)*

Date of Death *2nd July 1916*

WAR OFFICE.

Date *1st December 1916*

for the Assistant Financial Secretary.

H. H. Malings

G. 32388

W/236889/1

P

19064 Pte W.C. Pring

4th Som L.I.

WILL.

In the event of my death
I bequeath all my be-
longings to my mother
Mrs E Pring
Tornlake Cottage
Buckland St Mary
Dorset
Signed this date 9/10/1916
by *W. Pring*

8th (S) BATTALION SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY.

1916.

Appendix.

June. LA NEUVILLE.

2nd The S/Som.L.I. marched from LA NEUVILLE to VILLE where we were billeted for 10 days. During this period were employed on working parties.

VILLE.

11th The Battn went into the trenches, taking over left Sector of the 21st Divnl. front. During this period our casualties were O.R. 1 killed, 4 wounded.

15th The Battn was relieved by the 10th York & Lancs & held the intermediary line for 5 days with Battn H.Q. at MEAULTE. A draft of 86 men arrived on 7.6.16. - another of 55 men on the 19th. 2 Lt. R.H.G. BAILEY went to Field Ambulance on the 13th 2 Lt BARKER joined the Battn on the 17th 2 Lt. G.H. Sims rejoined from 63rd T.M. Battery on 19th.

LA NEUVILLE.

20th The Battn marched to LA NEUVILLE - short parades were held daily & the men were practised in "getting in & out of trenches" Bde sports were held on the afternoon of 24.6.16.

25th Capt. H.A.H. CAMPBELL joined from (1st Bn.)

26th The Battn marched from LA NEUVILLE to VILLE.

VILLE.

27th The Battn marched from VILLE to the trenches & took over the assembly trenches + MARISCHAL ST. and STONERHAVEN ST.

TRENCHES.

28th In the evening we took over from the 4th MIDDLESEX the attack having been put off 48 hrs we lost 1 cpl & 6 men in the relief. The bombardment of the enemy's positions commenced 26.6.16. & kept up till 17.16.

29th Held front line - The 4th Middlesex returned to their original position. We took over the new front line which had been tunnelled out & only just opened at the top. Bn. H.Q. moved up

Appendix.1918.June.29th.(C'td.)

to SHUTTLE LAKE at 9.30 p.m. The night was employed in removing our front line wire & preparing for Assault.

July. At 6.30 A.M. Trench ladders & bridges were put in place and an intense Artillery barrage was opened.

1st 7.30 Was ZERO Time for assault at-7

A.M.

7.25 Front Waves of B & C Coys crawled out.

A.M. The Battalion was ordered to attack in the following formation "B" & "C" Coys in front "B" on right & "C" on left were to advance in 4 lines of Platoons at 2 paces interval, ~~Supports~~ about 100' between lines - Supported by "A" Coy in 2 lines of 1/2 Coys. "D" Coy coming on in rear in Artillery formation e.g. in lines of platoons in file as a carrying party for S.A.A. Bombs - picks & shovels - Trench stores etc. Directly the Artillery barrage lifted our men advanced in quick time. They were met by very heavy Machine gun fire and although officers & men were being hit & falling everywhere the advance went steadily on, and was reported to by a Brigade Major who witnessed it to have been magnificent. The leading platoons lost quite 50% going across "No Mans Land" On arrival near the enemy's front line they were momentarily held up by a Machine gun, but ~~they~~ as the successive supporting lines came up they soon got in. Already the enemy had opened an Artillery Barrage on "No Mans Land" & our front line trench - which caused heavy casualties among the supports. The only enemy found alive in his front line were a few machine gunners, who were immediately killed. Our men worked their way down the German communication Trenches Bombing dugouts which contained live Germans, then on to where the trenches had been battered out of all recognition, and only consisted of a mass of craters. They were supported by one Stokes gun but the officer in charge & the team were soon knocked out; Then a Lewis Gun team of ours got up & lent considerable help; enabling our men to make a further advance. This party was under 2 Lt Kellett and worked its way from crater to crater until it got to LOZENGE ALLEY which had not been strafed by our Artillery, here they consolidated - making fire steps etc because it was only a communication Trench. The enemy's barrage of shrapnel prevented further advance. In LOZENGE ALLEY 2 Lt KELLETT's party

Appendix.1918.July.

Inty
(G'td) joined up with 2 Lt A.H. HALL's party making a total of about 100, who had been doing much the same work. They held this position all night - during which time they repulsed a bombing attack coming from the direction of FRICOURT.

2nd 8.00 Capt N.A.H. Campbell arrived with a A.M. party of reinforcements carrying rations he had previously found Lt. AKERMAN, J.P. and about 30 men in BRANDY TRENCH who he had fed and given them rations. Major R.H. HUNTINGTON's whereabouts were located & his party was of reinforcements carrying rations were guided down to where the Batt LOZENGE ALLEY. The following officers joined with Maj Huntington :-
2 Lt. S. Baker & 2 Lt. Hams. During the morning a counter attack was expected from FRICOURT and orders were received to be prepared for an attack from either direction we arranged the trench accordingly and remained in the same position all night day and throughout the night of the 2nd.

Night of 2/3 The following officer reinforcements arrived 2 Lt F.G. Adlam 2 Lt. G.A. HAM and 2 Lt S.A.M. DOBSON. 2 Lt Adlam was ordered to take command of A.Coy. 2 Lt. S. Baker was ordered to take command of B.Coy. 2 Lt E Kellett was ordered to take command of C.Coy. 2 Lt G.A. Ham was ordered to take command of D.Coy. 2 Lt S.A.M. DOBSON was attached to D.Coy. 2 Lt. HALL acted as temporary Adjutant. 2 Lt. AKERMAN and his party were ordered to remain where they were in BRANDY TRENCH as there was no more room in LOZENGE ALLEY.

LOZENGE ALLEY.3rd

About During the morning of the 3rd an attack 9.0 was to be launched from CRUCIFIX TRENCH a.m. on to the line SHELTER WOOD - BOTTOM WOOD - and Capt N.A. H. Campbell 2 Lt. S. Baker and 2 Lt. G.A. Ham went to reconnoitre with a view to occupying CRUCIFIX Trench in support of the attack as soon as the attackers left it. The Battn was not ordered to take up their position. About 2 p.m. a senior officer was sent for by Bde. H.Q. Capt Campbell was sent, he was given instructions to

Appendix.1916.July.

14th Battn was relieved in the trenches by the 9th Londons and marched back to HUMBERGATE. The 37th Div were today transferred to IV Corps.

15th Battn marched to NOUVIN NOUVICHENL.

16th Battn marched to VILLERS BRULIN.

18th " " to GOUY SERVINS.

24th Major Huntington sick to hospital.

25th Battn marched to CAMBLAIN L'ABBE. Working parties were provided for Berthonval.

26th 2nd Lieuts P.C.Hagon & T.C.Snow joined the Battn.

28th Capt H.Hussey, 2nd Lieuts L.S.Holmes, F.H.T.Joscelyne, E.A.Matthews, A.Garrard, W.R.B.Peel, P.S.Bryant, J.H.M.Hardyman, F.H.Baker, E.H.Morgan, H.J.Fricker joined the battalion.

30th Capt. S.Baker went sick

31st Battn. relieved 8th London Regt. in Berthonval I first line.

NEIL A.H. CAMPBELL, Major,
Comdg. 8/Somerset L.I.