

Section 153

The Other Battalions

The 9th Battalion

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The 9th was changed from a Service Battalion to a Reserve Battalion in July 1915. Originally it had been based at Victoria Barracks in Portsmouth but had moved to Bovington Camp near Wool in Dorset.

Men from the 5th to 8th Battalions would rejoin the 9th after recovery from injuries and then be posted back to their battalion when declared fully fit. The battalion was also receiving batches of recruits from both the Royal Berks depot and other regiments in Western Command. The registers give no hint as to why a man might be posted to the 9th rather than the 3rd

From the 1st September 1916 the 9th was renamed the 37th Training Reserve Battalion and while it retained some links with the Royal Berks these grew more and more tenuous as drafts were sent to whichever battalion needed re-inforcement rather than to re-inforce the battalions for their own regiment.

To add to the confusion men were given a Training Reserve regimental number and then promptly re-numbered again when they reached their destination units.