

## Section 286

# Interlude IV

### The 6th Battalion October-November 1917

*This covers the period from the close of the Third Ypres, as far as the 6th were concerned, to the opening of the Battle of Cambrai in November*

Petre p 283

## Bibliography

The Battalion had disengaged from the third Battles of Ypres on October 13th 1917. From the 15th to the 30th October they were at Tunnelling Camp. On the 22nd October Major V J MacArthur MC was posted to the Battalion. He was promoted Lt Col. and took Command on 25th October.

From the 30th October the Battalion was at Plumstead Camp and remained there until the 4th November when it moved to Boesinghe, north of Ypres and entered the Front Line. The move began with a march to Proven where a train took them to Boesinghe.

On the 5th November Lt Col MacArthur went to Base for a Medical Board and Major Fitzhugh of the Royal West Kent Regiment took over command. 2Lt R E Cripps was killed in the line and Capt V R Price was wounded.

Cripp's company officer wrote to his parents:-

" Your son was killed outright by a trench mortar about 10 pm on November 4th. We had just relieved another battalion in Houlthulst Wood and this mortar fell on a section of men in a shell hole including your son and killed two others and wounded two more. He was by far my best subaltern and was as keen as mustard on everything he did. He used continually to have his men's welfare on his mind and his platoon were very fond of him. I shall miss him awfully, especially as we have recently lost so many officers and can't replace them with as good." [TX00724]

During the rest of the month the Battalion moved backwards and forwards between the Front, now beyond Poelcapelle, and support or reserve trenches and camps.

On the 16th November the Battalion suffered 80 casualties from gas shelling in the Broombeek Valley. 2Lt F G Hazard was wounded and gassed and three other 2Lts were also gassed: F C Greenfield, H J Lord and W C Molland.

Battalion Casualties during November 1917 were:-

Officers Killed 1, Wounded 2, gassed 3

Other ranks Killed 22, wounded 27, gassed 118, died of gas 5, missing 9