

Volume 6 Section 302

Interlude V

2nd Battalion December 1917 - March 1918

The 2nd Battalion had been involved in Passchendaele right to the bitter end. Continued from section 272

Sources.

Petre pp97-98

Winter Trenches

Continued in Section 312

After the action of 2nd December the battalion was sent by rail to Boirdinghem and was training in the Moringhem area from the 4th till the 25th.

This was the fourth Christmas of the war.

On the 26th it marched to the Wieltje area, and on the 30th relieved the 24th Brigade in the line about Bellevue.

The 25th Brigade was in its turn relieved by the 23rd on the 3rd January 1918, and the battalion went by rail to Warrington Camp in the Branhoek area.

During February it absorbed men from the 6th Royal Berkshires which had just been disbanded. There were

1	captain
2	Lieutenants
14	2nd Lieutenants
23	Sergeants
12	Corporals
41	Lance Corporals
252	Privates

Here, and in the Wieltje-St. Jean area, it remained till the 25th again relieved the 23rd Brigade in the front trenches.

It seems unnecessary to detail the various posts of the battalion in this neighbourhood down to the 21st March, 1918, sometimes in line, and sometimes in the different reserve areas. Nothing of special note, outside the usual routine of winter trench warfare, occurred.

In the period from the 3rd December 1917 till the 21st March 1918 the casualties were:

Officers. Killed: 2nd-Lieut. W. V. Knowles (3rd December 1917). *Wounded:* 2nd-Lieut. W. A. Upton, D.S.O. (31st December). 2nd-Lieut. R. W. Griffiths (6th March 1918). *Other Ranks: Killed or Died of Wounds* 15. *Wounded* 69. *Missing* 3.

