

A Selection of 'Notes' re 1914 and 1915

Henry Williamson

SAVAGE CLUB

TELEGRAMS:
"SAVAGE CLUB," LONDON.
WHITEHALL 5264-5-6.

1, CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

Distance - from 1865 in 49 years to 1914
- De Dene in 5 hours man
became 3 tons for V.C. in Boer war + then in
the Royal Fusiliers
Major Hankey
11 Nov 1914

On 27 Oct '14, Philadelphia, early morn; 24,000
German or 5,000 planted Bush

3 miles East Philadelph.
Below 2 p.m. J. French + Major Hankey
watching

On 31 Oct '14 we 300 yards to corner Philadelph.
"Sharing" in (Major Hankey & Worcester)

11 Nov. Price Grade in Bush, planted 1000 bushels
(B. bushels) 1st year, bushels
12 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.

13 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
14 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.

15 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
16 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.

17 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
18 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
19 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
20 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
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23 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
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26 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
27 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
28 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
29 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
30 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
31 Nov., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
1 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
2 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
3 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
4 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
5 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
6 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
7 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
8 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
9 Dec., 1000, 1st year, bushels - 1000 bushels.
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1, CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

British - sand 1/2 day + country road + tea
+ sand across the country. Suddenly more come
out of darkness clouds + yester evening found 4 in
tents = little way ahead. Gen. H.C.
Hillier + his hands + fell dead + others
found him. (Capt. Hankey) was wounded

Loss:

1st Sept 1915

Observing station was at Lone Pine 26 Sept.
Tunisia (was ~~steeply~~ land to
Jamil Gains (and P.M. (Gains) + 120
in the hills (in the hills (Gains)
near away) - Vennells battle two saw the
tattoos or
actions.
16 Nov 1914 in day of snow +
heavy frost

17 Nov in ame night in hotel Southern (11/12 Nov)
It was in ame night in hotel Southern (11/12 Nov)

1915.

Wesley speaks "Come into my funk-Pile, & have a spot of old man whisky:

Lone Tree is on 50 metre contour, about 350-~~400~~ yards from Br. Trenches
& 50 for Germans, = 400 yards between the lines.

1st, & 2nd Inf Bde were at Le Rontzé 25 Sept.

1st Bde would be getting MG streams from the ~~near~~ Quarry beyond
Bouzanc hovel & Fritz redoubt beyond the Hulluc road, about
1 mile from Bas Carré.

Maroc is 75 metres - 70 metres up

21st Div went through Magigarbe on morning of 25 Sept.

Re heavy rain began to fall on column of 24th Sept
& cont'd, all night. [Guard Div moved from S. to AIRE
at 6am on 25th.

Raining at 9.30, & at 11.30 am.

& at 2 pm. "incessantly" the Guards Div. moved

If again, to Nolay-les-Mines. March was 16 miles.
(after 4 hours 6 am - 10 pm march) all continuous stoppage.
No traffic control. — transports of 47th, 21, & 24 Div.

— the way, + Cav Corps.

Guards reached destination at midnight.

On 26th Sept, 1st Div attack on Hulluc failed : also
attack of 21 & 24 between Hulluc & Hill 70. Also
15th Div to again Hill 70 failed.

Gds ordered to march at 1pm on 26th to position &
positions in rear of old Br. front line trenches
between the Le Rontzé — Louvres — Hulluc road.

1st Div first for Northern Saps, out of German lines | ED Saps } German
to Hullach - Vermelle Roads.

Original front line was 800 yards from German.

Twenty 20 brands were dug east Sept, closest.

most of the Grenay ridge, & the German lines were

not visible from front line (the Germans were 157 Regiment, 400 men)

Owing to danger of MGs from the S. & N. sides, a gap of

600 yards was left, like bombay of the South (15th Div.)

2nd Bde (under Bg J. Pollard) was to assault on 600 yards
from Northern Saps to Lone Tree — on CHERRY tree,
15ft high, white blossom in May P. smell bark &
so fresh it's cherry. No leaves in Sept.

1st Bde between Lone Tree & Vermelle-Hullach Roads.

Wind from South enabled the brands of 2nd Bde

At 6.20 am wind ~~south~~ veered back to S-west

at 6.34 am 2nd Bde (2) KRR (2nd L.N. Lanc) were
over: enveloped by machine guns in sap-head 40 yards
in front main German trench, across N. Saps, & the other south &
Lone Tree. Ger. wire was over the crest: 10 yards wide,
staked low (to be invisible). Troops lay before wire.

2nd wave lay 100 yards back behind the crest.

There were two waves in front of 1st Bde (Bn Camis at La Haie)
Saps dug to them for German line.

Gloucestershire were decimated by m.g. fire in the advance (1st Bde)

Berkshires got thru' very well, and by 8 am were in German
Trench, 1200 yards from British front. Two large poplar trees on

Lens - La Bassée road, 500 yards N. could be seen.

Some 30 1/2 Cameron Highlanders were said blown up to Hullach, by 9.10 am.

7.45 am Brigadier Pollard (1st Bde) ordered
Support batt (2 Royal Sussex) & 2 companies of the
1 Northumbrian, in Bde reserve.

2.45. assault reported successful: at 8.5 am message
sent 1 Div, "2nd Bde held up at first by Sussex line
got thru in German trouble."

So Div (1st) ordered 2nd Bde to "push on with all speed",
with Green's force behind & 3rd Bde, in div reserve at
Le Ruiton, to follow Green.

At 9.1 am. Counter-attack reached Div Hq. But 2nd Bde
(Sussex & Northamps) led up on wire south of ~~Lens~~ ^{Line} Tree
Comm ~~Tree~~ tanks were filled with wounded & gassed men.
coming back

at 9 am. Germans had worked north across ^{the} Bois
Carre & were in the sap there.

Captured Captain Ritter of 157 Regt., & many others [ammo. and]
→ 59th ad 51st (draft) "Ran out of hand
grenades" (i.e. 1st batt of 157 Regt).

Kings Liverpool & Lond. Scotiol took the prisoners.

Attack, time of sunset, delivered by
Holland on line of 1st Bde along Lens Road, made
by reserve batt. of 157 Regt.

Fairly light - leader shot - could nevertheless
see the straight white line of the Lens Road, & beyond
it, on Mile 70, the two copes of Chatelet wood & Bois Hago.

4.15 pm. Cassette of 2nd Bde 224, by myself of 25 feet,
including Green force.

1 Coldstream
1 Scots Guards
3 G.G.
2 Irish Guards.

} at Honchim
on night of 25/26 Sept.

On 21 Sept wind was in the East.

Adv. Div H & Q small losses in main st of Sandy - Labours

At 2.10 pm (reverse order, after failure of morning attacks,
guards to advance) 1st German from
line in front of previously allotted sectors.

1st Guards Bde in attack of Le Batoe fan

1st + 2nd Bdes ordered to relieve the 21st + 24th to

Dawn on 27th Sept

Guards left point on Lens - Le Batoe road S of rd Nuker
to 6th (7th) Line Tree. ~~other in~~

At 6 am of 27th 2nd Bde f Fort Glatz on
NW outskirts of Loo, N along the western side of

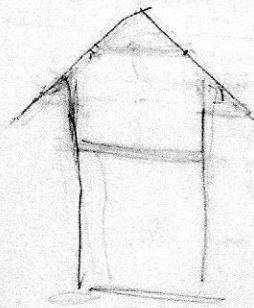
Lens - Le Batoe road

Bertie lathe (I.C G) was 1st + 2nd German

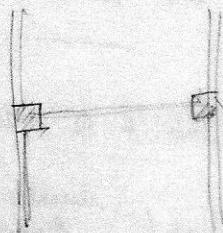
line Nuker of Loo.

By 6 am the 2nd Bde (Gd) HQ f Raton went to Loo
Tempo class getting int position - strengthen - dead - few casualties
f shells.

2 p.m. 27 feet 9ds
ordered to attack Chalk Pit &
Pants No 14 B's & Hill 70.



Chalk Pit road was wet &
Lens - La Bassie Road, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
NE of Loo (M guns).



Hag wanted to stop the
attack they learned at 2.30
from their ^{4th} ~~3rd~~ ^{Dump} 8 P.M. retaking
German: it too late

2nd Bde attack on Chalk Pit & Pants 14 hrs. (tall red chimney)
before this things.

Big PONSONBY. (at Loo).

2nd I.G. to attack Chalk Pit at 4 p.m.
Supported by ~~1st~~ C.G.

3rd G.G. in support
Adv in smoke f. Grand S-W of Hillhead Down the slope & up.
Meanwhile

Set Guards in extended order until down the slope f. Br.
bunker & came under heavy shrapnel fire. Turn to Loo - Hillhead
red. Up the slope met a withering fire f. Bois Haie, the Koch,
& the Punt (red brick buildings).

Needed Pints till 11 A.M., which Lt Col Godman,
casualty in the advance. A small party of entered
the Punt & held a

Meantime 1st C.G. supports Irish G. fell back to
water side of Chalk Pit road.

(2)

At nightfall of 25/26 Sept

Melville 1st Div 3rd Bde knew

that 2nd Bde & Green's force had
~~reached~~ come up & no report reached

These generals (1st & 3rd). So they

wildly over for the Lens road, unable to dig

trenches. Then night was exposed, they

thought, not knowing that the 2nd & G. force were

about Bas Hugo: so they retired to Germa

comm. brand Alley 4, running to Lone Tree

comm. brand Alley 4, running to Lone Tree

S. gap of about a mile was

on left of 2nd Bde.

1st Div. never knew this

Both 2nd Bde & 1st & 3rd had reported

at 5 pm. (Rawlinson at 8.30 wrote his

div. general & was told I ~~had~~ ^{any} gap, &

remained ignorant of the gap all night