

My Short Experience of fighting in France.

Left Southampton Dock with the 7th Division on Oct 5th on the Transport Turcoman. Landed at Zeebrugge on Oct 8th after being at sea 3 days. On the same date we Train to St Andess billeted for the night, marched to Iderburg on the 9th & on to Ostend 10th & Trained to Ghent the same date, rested on the 11th. satpost duty at night heavy fighting just on the borders of Ghent. The Germans drove us out of Ghent the same night we had a long night march to Somerghem on the night of the 12th another long march to Thielt. brought down enemys areoplane on the 13th. Marched on to Roulet on the 14th on to Ypres on 15th. I mounted enemy scout outpost during night. & bagged 2 more scouts. rested in trenches on the 16th. during night moved off from Ypres about 3 miles out & entrenched. expected attack from Von. blucks army but he retired about 3 miles. on 17th on 18th. attached all round at night on outpost duty at Memin. on 19th morning we moved off a few fields forward & entrenched again for the night of 19th on 20th & 21st. Terrible fighting & bombardment by Germans night & day. A maxima gun only 50 yds off waiting for us to put our heads up but we finally charged & captured the gun. & only 22 men & 2 officers were left. My messt pal

was shot in the head by shrapnell. The shell
 dropped in the trench & knocked all the roof
 off and buried us. while helping to carry my
 pal (Stevens) back. The Germans attacked &
 bullets fell like hail but I got through without
 a scratch. we kept in the trenches until the 22nd
 when we was relieved on the night of the 22nd we
 reinforced the 21st Brigade under heavy fire all night.
 On the 23rd we moved off to shelter trenches & the
 shells fell like hail 5th day. Terrible battle renowned
 reinforcements of the 2 divisions Gen French. On the
 23rd we help the South Wales Borderers. Germans broke
 through & our guns were in danger. we ~~were~~ caught under
 enemys shell fire. heaps of wounded terrible slaughters
 out all night. but on the 24th fell back to rest in trenches
 until about 3.30 in the afternoon when we were call
 out to reinforce our troops about 2000 Germans had
 broken through & our company No 4 had to drive them
 back out of 225 only 120 were left we also lost 55
 officers out of 6. it was estimated by General Paul
 of the French army that we drove 2000 Germans
 back. We was mentioned in dispat for it &
 praised by Gen French early in the morning
 On the 25th Oct we reinforced by the 2nd division &
 French guns. On the 26th we were in our dug outs

but was shelled all day. out all night on the 27th poured with rain all night. The Germans broke through. but we captured them by scores we were. all fed up and had to retire lost about 200 men doing so. we went to Ypres + joined the rest of the army. The roll of company was call and only 82 men was left on the morning of the 28th we advanced to trenches. was in them all night. on the 29th was attacked + we were drove back by about 4000 Germans but we finally charged + lost 3 parts of the Batt but we got them back again. I had my bayonet blow of my rifle in the charge. we ~~went~~ went in Billets but on the morning of the 30th. we again advanced in reserve this is where I got my wound while in those trenches + was took to hospital at Isoleange.

Signed Pte W. James
1st Batt

Gren Gds No 4 Coy.