

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location of a member of the Commonwealth Forces, during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

CWGC Commemorations Section
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
2 Marlow Road
Maidenhead, Berkshire
SL6 7DX United Kingdom
Email: commemorations@cwgc.org

Report Date: 28 December 2016

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Clay, Vivian Hastings	i	Warlencourt British Cemetery	link
2 nd Bn., Wiltshire Regiment	i	Pas de Calais, France	i
Captain	i	Plot 6 Row F Grave 34	i
Death 18 October 1916	link	COG-BR 9 August 1920	i
Graves Registration Report	1	War Diary Extract(s)	6
Concentration of Grave	2	Casualty Card	
Exhumation Report		Grave Stone Photograph	
Headstone Register		Grave Stone Inscription	
Area Map(s)	3	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Trench Map(s)	4	Reporting and Review	7
Possible Candidates List	5	Other	

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Warlencourt British Cemetery Plot 6 Row F Grave 34 lists a Captain of the Wiltshire Regiment.

A review of the entire candidate list of Captains of the Wiltshire Regiment from the Great War made it extremely clear that the only person that this can be is Captain Vivian Hastings Clay of the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. Evaluations of the timelines and locations of other candidates provide positive proof of these findings.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 6 Row F Grave 34 at the Warlencourt British Cemetery are those of Captain Vivian Hastings Clay of the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The *Grave Registration Report Form (GRRF)* notes that there was an exhumation of a Captain of the Wilts Regiment into Plot 6 Row F Grave 34 at the Warlencourt British Cemetery (Attachment #1).
2. The *Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return (COG-BR)* provides a direct reference to the location of the exhumation at **57c.M.18.c** (Attachment #2).
3. An extract of the *McMaster 57c Map* shows us that the remains were found approximately 1,500 yards northwest of Factory Corner and 2,800 yards due east of Le Sars (Attachment #3). This area is in the direct path of the movement of the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment on 18 October 1916.
4. A Period Trench Map of the specific area shows the movement of the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment through **57c.M.24** to **57c.M.18** where the remains of the Captain were located (Attachment #4). The unit would have crossed GIRD Support Trench and GIRD Trench, to the west of Factory Corner.
5. The *CWGC Database* records two (2) Captains of the Wiltshire Regiment, missing in the Great War of 1914-1918, who are listed on the Thiepval Memorial. There are an additional three (3) Captains recorded on the Pozieres Memorial (Attachment #5). For action on the Somme, the Thiepval Memorial relates to men with no known grave for the period up to 20 March 1918 and the Pozieres Memorial is for the period from 21 March 1918 to August 1918.

We know from the historical references that the only time the Wiltshire Regiment was in the Somme area near Le Sars, where the remains were recovered at **57c.M.18.c**, was in October 1916. It was at this time when Captain Clay was killed and lost. In July 1916, the unit was in the Somme area near Thiepval at **57d.R.31**, when [Captain A. H. Hales](#) was killed and lost. Captains [A. O. Clayton](#), [W. B. Bristow](#) and [H. H. Martyn](#) were lost in July 1918, near Villers St. Christophe, a considerable distance to the south in sector **66d.K.9.b**. Five (5) other Captains of the Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action in the Somme, are buried in known graves.

Two (2) other Captains of the Wiltshire Regiment are on other memorials that are not related to action in the Somme. For historical reference, [Captain T. S. Frederic](#) was KIA on 24 March 1918 and is named on the Arras Memorial. [Captain F. Priestley](#) was KIA 27 May 1918 and is named on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial.

6. The *Wiltshire Regiment War Diaries* provide the confirmation of the location of the men that could have been near **57c.M.18.c** in the Somme battles of 1916 (Attachment #6). Only Captain Clay was killed in that area. Captain Hale was killed earlier in July 1916 near the Liepzig Salient at **57d.R.31.c**.

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #7).

The evidence is clear that the remains were found in the precise area where Captain Vivian Hastings Clay of the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment was killed in action on 18 October 1918. Captain Clay was the only man killed at that location that has no known grave. Captain A. H. Hales, although killed in 1916, was not in that location.

ATTACHMENT #1

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Graves Registration Report Form.

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2061656.JPG>

MS. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. 27-9-20. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

3rd Area Serial No. W/4044
REPORT No. 60. SCHEDULE No. 143c

Commune:- WARLENCOURT, EAUCOURT

PLACE OF BURIAL WARLENCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY.

Map Reference 57c.M.11.d.15.90. 24 NOV 1920

The following are buried here:— *Information*

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		Plot 6, Row F. (Contd).				
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.			All Crosses Erected.	29. ✓
<i>1/8. D.L.I.</i>	36140	PICKLES. ✓	Pte J.	5-11-16	Ru/2776	30. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				31. ✓
<i>1/4 N. Fus.</i>	3524	HATELEY HATER. ✓	Pte A.G.	14-11-16	Ru 38559	32. ✓
N. Fus. 5/CAM. HLDRS.		McCURRACH. ✓	2/Lt.A.	18-10-16	Ru 16504	33. ✓
Wilts.		UNKNOWN.	Capt.			34. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				35. ✓
<i>4/N. Fus.</i>	3527	RILEY. ✓	Pte A.			36. ✓
<i>1/4 N. Fus. } late</i>	292280					
<i>late 4/N. Fus. }</i>	3825	JENKINS. ✓	Pte G.	14-11-16	Ru 38455	37. ✓
<i>1/7 N. Fus.</i>	290651	KING. ✓	Pte J.H.	14-11-16	Ru/2292	38. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				39. ✓
8/D.L.I.		HALL. U.S.S.	Pte		Ru 1992	40. ✓
<hr/>						
8/Londons.	372125 4311	Plot 6, Row G.	Pte			
		ANKERS. ✓	Pte R.	7-10-16	Ru/37908	1. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.				2. ✓
Seaforths.	8411	BAIRD. ✓	Pte W.			3. ✓
<i>3/ S. A. I.</i>	7684	HONEY. ✓	4/S. J. Pte W.	18-10-16	C.E.M./25/8/16600 Ru 620	4. ✓

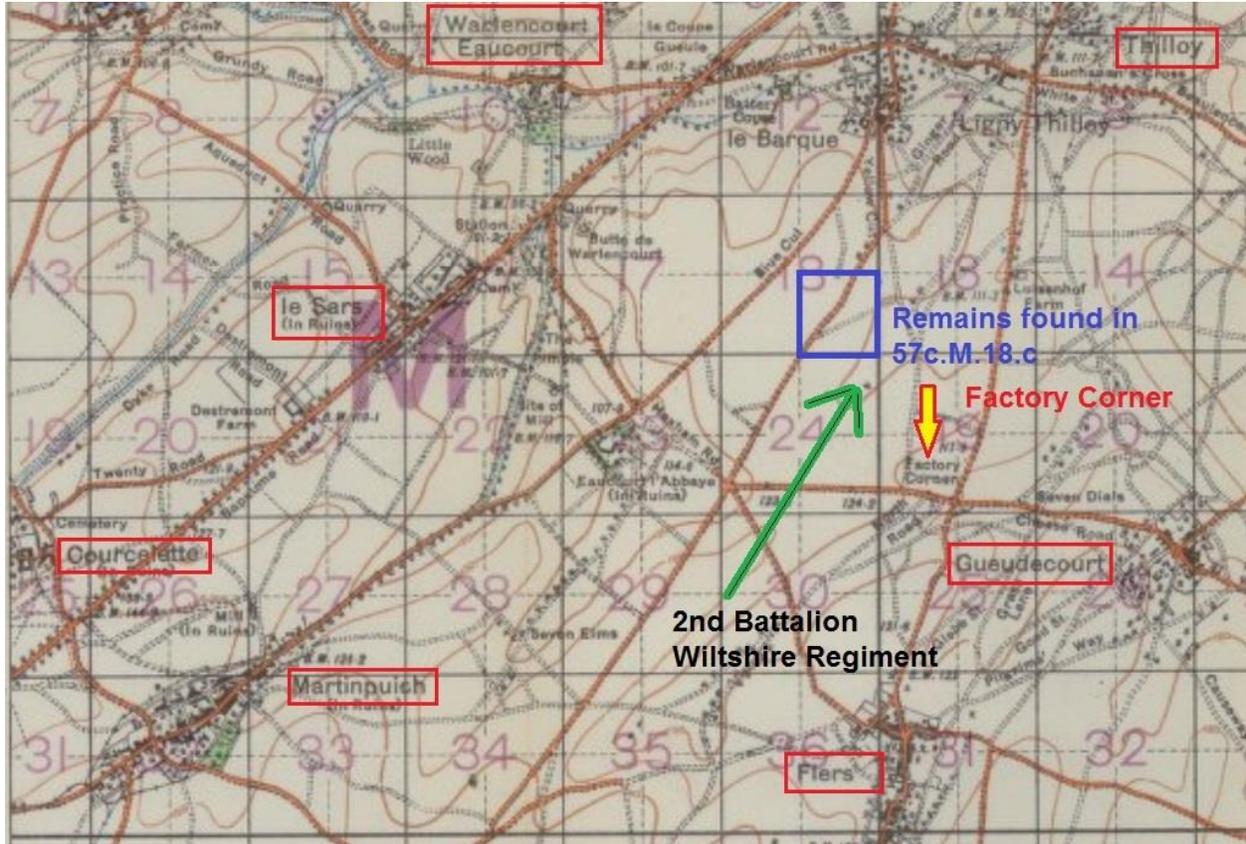
(6 31 5) W3160-P2723 100,009 9/19 HWV(P1024) Forms W3372/3

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a.D. 16. 12. 20

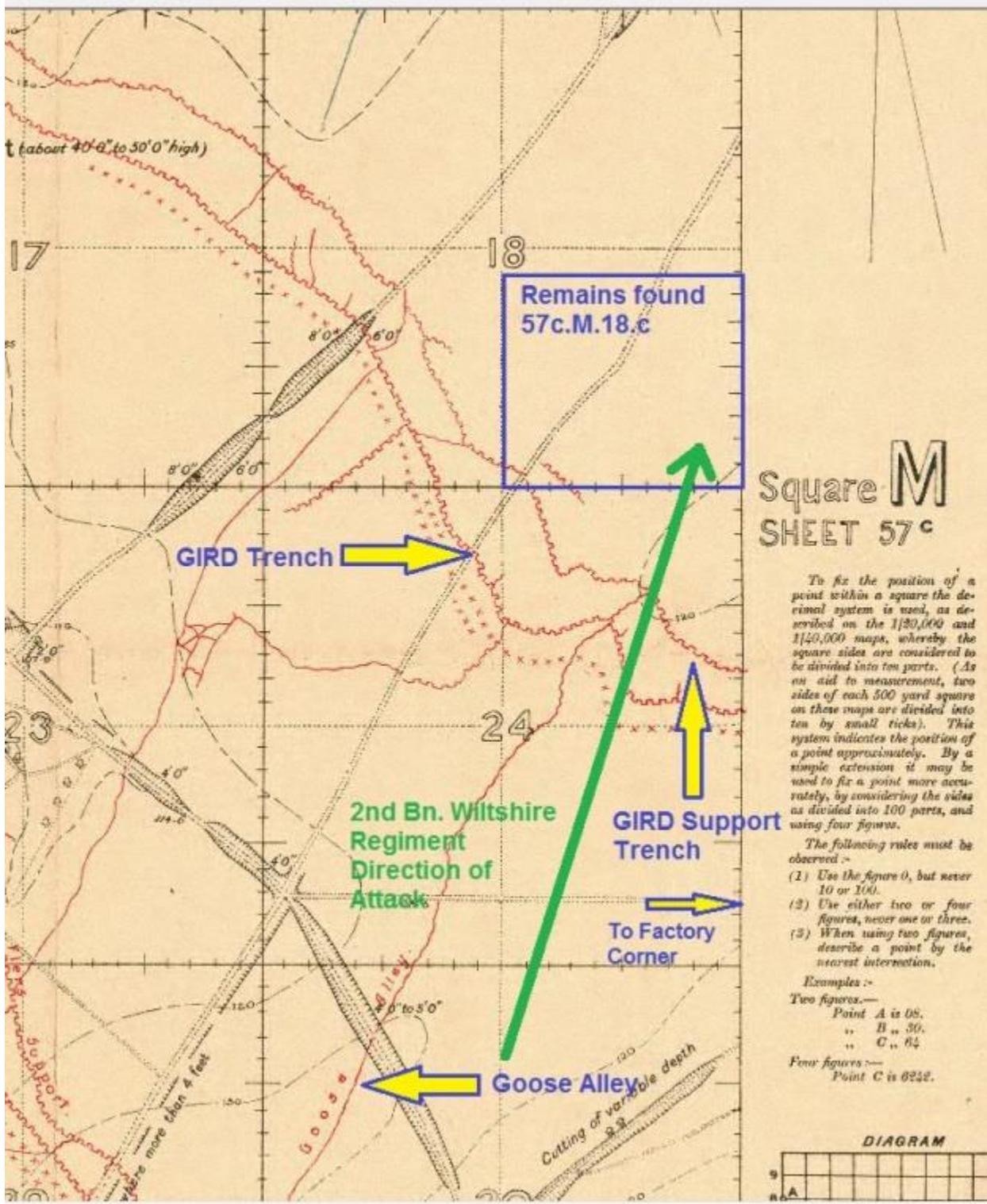
ATTACHMENT #3

Lloyd Reeds Map Collection of McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario Canada. Bapaume Map 389WW1MAP. <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A4079/-/collection> (change link)



ATTACHMENT #4

Lloyd Reeds Map Collection of McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario Canada. Bapaume Map
 389WW1MAP. <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A4079/-/collection> (change link)



ATTACHMENT #5

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Casualty Record: Commonwealth Forces.*
<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx?cpage=1>

Thiepval Memorial (1916):

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave.

Surname

 Initials
 Forename

Country
(commemorated in)

France ▾

Cemetery or memorial

Thiepval Memorial

War

First World War ▾

2 record(s) match your search criteria

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
CLAY, VIVIAN HASTINGS	Captain		18/10/1916		Wiltshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Pier and Face 13 A.	THIEPVAL MEMORIAL	
HALES, ARTHUR HOARE	Captain		06/07/1916		Wiltshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Pier and Face 13 A.	THIEPVAL MEMORIAL	

Pozières Memorial (1918):

The POZIERES MEMORIAL relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918.

Surname

 Initials
 Forename

Country
(commemorated in)

France ▾

Cemetery or memorial

Pozières Memorial

War

First World War ▾

3 record(s) match your search criteria

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
CLAYTON, ARTHUR OLIVER	Captain		21/03/1918	23	Wiltshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Panel 64.	POZIERES MEMORIAL	
GARDNER, WILLIAM BRISTOW	Captain		20/03/1918	30	Wiltshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Panel 64.	POZIERES MEMORIAL	
MARTYN, HAROLD HENRY	Captain		21/03/1918		Wiltshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Panel 64.	POZIERES MEMORIAL	

ATTACHMENT #6

The Wardrobe – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire – War Diaries

<http://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/research/war-diaries/search>

1916-07-05

Regiment. 1st Wiltshire

Location France, Leipzig Salient

Entry

Enemy continued shelling. Shortly after mid-day orders were received that the whole Battn was to move into the old enemy trench in the Leipzig Salient with a view to an attack on the enemy 2nd line, which was very strongly held forming the Leipzig Redoubt. The length of line to be attacked was about 600 yards and necessary operation orders were issued. At 4p.m. however the length of objective was changed to 300 yards. Operation orders were issued as follows. C & D Coys were selected to do the assault, C Coy on right and D Coy on our left. B Coy half to form carrying parties, half in support. The attack was carried out in following order Attacking wave of each company, C & D, 3 platoons In support 1 platoon Two platoons of B Coy were carrying parties, one to each attacking Coy. The remaining half Coy of B were in support holding the line of the Quarry. The time originally appointed for the attack was 6p.m., this was afterwards changed to 7p.m. For half min before this, there was an intense artillery bombardment assisted by Stokes Mortars, punctually at 7p.m. our 1st wave advanced to the attack under heavy rifle and machine gun fire. D Coy on the left under Capt R L Knubley reached their objective without heavy casualties, but D Coy on the left were badly cut up by machine gunfire and though they reached their objective were insufficient in numbers to withstand the heavy German Counter attack which followed immediately, and were compelled to withdraw temporarily. The second wave of each Coy consisting of 1 platoon had followed on the first wave at an interval of about 30-40 yards. C Coy on the right were followed by the carrying party of 1 platoon of B Coy. After the trench had been cleared of Germans, all dugouts were bombed immediately and then took in hand the consolidation of the position gained. Barricades were erected in all the communication trenches leading to the German 3rd line and bombing parties posted. In the case of 1 CT the Germans had erected a strong barricade prior to the attack. Two blocks were also built on the left of the captured trench, the second about thirty yards behind the first as a precautionary measure in case retirement became necessary. The men in this attack were magnificent, all showing the greatest coolness and initiative. Officer casualties in this attack were:- D Coy 2nd Lieut Starkey, missing. Lieut Holman, wounded (later died of wounds). C Coy Lieut G W Penruddocke. 2nd Lieut Troughton. Very shortly after the attack commenced the enemy began an intense bombardment chiefly directed on their old front line now occupied by our HQ and support company, especially on that portion of it into which the Russian Sap entered, an underground tunnel from the old British front line excavated before first offensive of July 1st 1916. In this bombardment 1 shell made a direct hit on the trench killing Lieut Colonel W S Brown and wounding RSM Parker and 2nd Lieut Stockbridge the Battn Signalling Officer. **Capt A H Hales acting 2nd in Command who was directing the attack from the line of the Quarries having also been killed**, Capt R L Knubley took Command of the Battn until the arrival of Capt S S Ogilvie from the B team. Other officers brought up from the B team were 2nd Lieut Sharpe, 2nd Lieut J R Tayler. Prisoners taken during this attack 41. Approx Casualties Killed 20. Missing 22. Wounded 158. Missing believed killed 2. Recommendation for Award 7th Inf Bde. 25th Division. 10th Corps July 5th. For immediate award. 1st Battn Wiltshire Regt, 7809[4] L/Cpl Victor Wilfred Butler. On 5th July 1916 at Leipzig Salient, L/Cpl Butler displayed greatest devotion to duty. For several hours continuously he carried grenades up to the front line through an intensive barrage. Recommended by S S Ogilvie, Capt. Commanding 1st Wilts Regt. Honour awarded, Military Medal 21/7/1916 Recommended (signed)xxxxxxxxxxxx Brig General. Commanding 7th Brigade. 7th Inf Bde. 25th Division. 10th Corps. July 5th 1916. For immediate award. 1st Battn Wiltshire Regt No 19899 Pte Arthur Wheeler On the evening of July 5th 1916 at Leipzig Salient during an attack on an enemy trench, Pte Wheeler displayed great courage in bringing up his Lewis rifle, under severe fire, to an exposed flank from which he was able to enfilade the German trench inflicting many casualties on the enemy. Recommended by S S Ogilvie Capt. Commanding 1st Wilts Regt. Honour awarded. Military Medal. 21/7/1916. Major General Commanding 25th Division. [signed] xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Brig General Commanding 7th Inf Bde.

ATTACHMENT #6 (cont'd)

The Wardrobe – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire – War Diaries

<http://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/research/war-diaries/search>

1916-10-18

Regiment. 2nd Wiltshire

Location France, Trenches

Entry

The artillery shelled heavily the enemy positions until 2.40am when the bombardment was intense. Previous to this hour C & D coys were formed up in waves, each company having two platoons in the first wave and two in the second wave. Both of these were in advance of the front line. A coy formed the third wave, lying behind the parapets of our front line, and B coy were ready to move up from support line. At 3.40am the 21st Brigade attacked, the 2nd Wilts on the left, the 18th Kings L'pools in the centre and the 2nd Yorks on the right, with the 19th Manchesters in support. Very little information forthcoming. Apparently C & D coys reached their objectives but failed to take them. 2/LT EW WARE wounded and missing, 2/LT SG HINE wounded; LT FN VERRAN and 2/LT DI LYALL missing, all of D company. 2/LT EB GARNETT missing, 2/LT IC TRENCH, VW VENABLES, AEL CRAVEN wounded, all of C coy. A coy advanced but were held up by wire and were eventually driven back. 2/LTS HT Newton and HL REEVES wounded. B coy advanced but lost direction and part of the coy under Capt VH CLAY crossed the SUNKEN ROAD and got into the first German lines. They bombed up a communication trench, but were driven back before a block could be made. They again bombed up the trench but were again driven back on account with shortage in bombs. On being reinforced by the Camerons of the 26th Brigade 9th Division this trench was captured and a block made. The first line trench captured in conjunction with the 9th Divn, of which we held a part, and was consolidated. **Capt VH CLAY was killed during the consolidation**, and 2/Lt JH THOMPSON was killed during the advance. 2/Lt EA CARRINGTON volunteered to seek information as regards the position of our companies some while after the attack started. He did not return and parties sent in search afterwards found no trace of him. 2/LT RL SCULLY who acted as liaison officer was buried by a shell and consequently had to be sent down suffering from the shock. Information did not arrive and it was understood that the attack had failed on the whole of the 21st Brigade front but that the 9th Division had gained all their objectives. Our estimated casualty report read: 14 officers 350 other ranks. The remainder of the Battalion held the old British front line from the SUNKEN ROAD to the junction of TURKLANE and FRONTLINE. The trenches were by this time in an appalling state owing to the bad weather. The 19th Manchester Regt took over the front line from TURKLANE to the right.

ATTACHMENT #7

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Commonwealth Forces during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

This process differs from cases related to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) as these do not go first to the CWGC Canadian Agency in Ottawa. We have modified the requirement information noted below to include CWGC criteria from their source material:

Guideline Criteria for Submission:	Evidence and Source Material:
<p>Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.</p>	<p>Un-cited resources cannot be accepted as official evidence. Research conducted on the internet will only be accepted if supplied by a recognised authority such as the CWGC, National Archives etc. Any primary (contemporary) sources <i>e.g. the National Archives, CWGC, and Genealogical website original documentation etc.</i> must be copied and submitted with the case. The relevant pages of any secondary material <i>e.g. published reference books and articles; website material etc.</i> should also be copied and submitted. All sources must be correctly referenced as footnotes throughout the submission as well as cited in a complete bibliography of consulted sources. Referencing is essential to any historical research and should contain some uniform elements.</p>

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton Canada	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Investigator & Report Author
Timothy McTague	Private Researcher Rhode Island USA	timmct@verizon.net	Report Reviewer