

Our casualties were to occur later, when, within an hour and a half, three separate counter-attacks were launched; these were all successfully opposed, but during the remainder of the day and throughout the ensuing night and day, when "A" Co. under Capt. J. F. Brandt arrived to relieve "D" Co., a constant barrage of shell fire was poured into our positions, with the result that the total casualty list showed six officers and 46 Other Ranks killed with eight and seventy wounded. On the night of the 23rd the battalion was relieved by the 54th and the men marched to the Chalk Pits, half a mile south of Pozières, where they went into dug-outs for rest and reorganization.

There were many individual deeds of heroism, but the following incidents may serve to illustrate the spirit of the battalion. Although seven machine guns were in action only four of the original six which started were among that number; two were hopelessly bogged and these were actually replaced during the operation by guns brought up with the utmost difficulty from reserve, whilst the seventh was "resurrected" from the old line of trenches and put into working order under heavy fire. The Machine Gun Section, which was under the Command of Lieuts. J. M. Whitehead and J. H. Grant, the latter being mortally wounded, sustained 30 casualties out of 70 men engaged; of these Sgt. M. M. Brown, though severely wounded, refused to leave his guns until a proper state of defence had been organized. For his supreme courage and devotion this gallant N.C.O. was awarded the D.C.M. The Report goes on to make special mention of the work done by the Battalion Scouts under Capt. A. C. Trousdale in keeping open communications between Headquarters and the front line, and by the Runners and Signallers; the former were in constant use under very heavy fire, but only sustained one casualty, young Stanley Wolverson, who, after being twice wounded in the leg, accepted the advice of his officer, Lieut. R. D. Forrester, that he go to the Dressing Station for treatment only on condition that he might take a prisoner with him; the latter had a particularly hazardous task, the wires being frequently broken and needing constant repair under heavy fire. The Stretcher-bearers also did magnificent work, many, though wounded, persisting in their task of tending the casualties. It was on such an errand that Lieut. A. Carss, though not a member of the Medical Detail, met with his death; he went to succour a wounded Hun who treacherously hurled a bomb at him causing fatal injuries. In this connection it may be mentioned that all prisoners taken had bombs in their pockets, in their haversacks and slung round their necks. Just two more instances of the unquenchable spirit exhibited by the men on this historic occasion:—Pte. A. E. Bailey of "C" Co. had his foot blown off; he rendered himself first aid and in the early hours of the morning of the 22nd was seen hobbling along on his stump towards the new trench; when drawn up over the parapet he lay down apparently oblivious of his own agony to discuss the events of the previous day. L.-Cpl. W. Miller of the Scouts, when lying mortally wounded, remembered orders and handed his prismatic com-