

## 18th (Service) Battalion (2nd Glamorgan) The Welsh Regiment

### 25th Battalion The Welsh Regiment

#### World War I

Fact Sheet: 6-E03-15

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#### Summary of Service:

**18th Battalion (bantam):** January 1915: Raised as a Bantam Battalion and went to Porthcawl attached to 43rd Division. July 1915: to Prees Heath, Shropshire in 119th Brigade part of 40th Division. September 1915: Aldershot, Hampshire. June 1916: landed in France. 5th May 1918: reduced to training cadre. 18th June 1918 to 47th Brigade part of 16th Division at Boulogne and crossed to England. Went to North Walsham, Norfolk and on 20th June 1918 was reconstituted by absorbing 25th Battalion. 7th July 1918: joined 47th Brigade part of 16th Division at Aldershot. 29th July 1918: landed in France. 11th November 1918: south of Tournai, Belgium in 47th Brigade part of 16th Division.

**25th Battalion:** 1st June 1918: Battalion was formed at North Walsham, Norfolk on and absorbed into 18th Battalion on 20th June 1918.

On the 3rd March 1918, Lt Col WE Brown DSO MC (formerly 12th Battalion South Wales Borderers) took over command of the 18th Battalion with Major HPB Gough MC as second in command. On the 21st March 1918 the Germans having begun their big offensive the Battalion went into the line at Henin Hill; from thence to the Sensee Switch opposite St. Lager. It did good work in repelling two counter attacks on the 23rd March. On the 24th March having been relieved by the Guards, the Battalion took up a position in front of Mory and Ervillers and forty two days withstood the brunt of the German attacks in overwhelming numbers.

After taking part in the attack of Mory and Ervillers the following day they had to fall back on Hamelincourt having suffered severe losses. After fighting day and night for four days they marched for 20 miles, during which not a man fell out and took up a position in Adinfer Wood near Monchy au Bois as part of the Division in Support.

On the 28th March the Battalion was relieved and had another very long March to Dieval where it refitted and received reinforcements. On the 7th April 1918 the Battalion again went into the line at FLEURBAIX. This was supposed to be a 'quiet' sector but on the 9th April the enemy after a barrage of extreme violence attacked on the whole British front in the North.

The Battalion in common with the rest of the Brigade put up a very fine defence and was completely surrounded and almost wiped out. Of all the officers and men in the line at the time, only two, the Commanding Officer and Lt IT Lawrence MC and twenty other ranks came out, practically all the remainder being killed or wounded at their post. After fighting a rearguard action for four days, the Battalion, which had received about 200 reinforcements, and details which had been left out of the Line was finally relieved at Strazeele on 14th April by the 1st Australian Division and with the rest of the 40th Division moved in St. Omer area.

For this engagement the Battalion was again mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch. After being made up to strength it was with the rest of the Division reduced to a Training Cadre of 10 officers and 65 other ranks and spent the month of May reorganising rear defensive lines.

On the 18th June 1918 the Training Cadre left the 119th Infantry Brigade and went back to England where on the East Coats and at Aldershot a fresh Battalion was formed which after a short period of Training at Bourley Camp came out to France again as part of the 47th Infantry Brigade, 16th Division, on the 29th July 1918.

After some weeks training at Bezinghem the Battalion on 19th August moved up to the Line and took over the trenches on the 23rd August opposite Auchy, from the 2nd Welsh, 1st Division. These they held until the enemy showed signs of retiring. On 15th September 1918 the Battalion carried out a minor operation capturing the enemy's first line system, and on successive days advanced through Hainses to the Haute Deule Canal, being the first Battalion the cross the Canal. Then they followed up the enemy to the Soheldt meeting- with a considerable amount of opposition which was duly overcome.

On the 27th October after having been in the line for three weeks the Battalion came back as part of the Reserve Brigade to Rumes, moving to Guignies on 10th November 1918.

On the 11th November 1918 the Armistice by which hostilities ceased at 1100 hours was signed, and on the 15th November the Battalion marched back to the Pont-a-Marq area preparatory to demobilisation. It has worthily upheld the traditions and motto of the Regiment, and has gained the reputation of being ready at any time to carry out any operation which has been entrusted to it.