



**Research Relating to the Recovery of a First World  
War British Soldier of the Leicestershire Regiment**



**Hohenzollern Redoubt**

**Auchy-Les-Mines**

**20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016**

**Mark Khan - The Durand Group - March 2016**





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British attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt by the 46th (Midland) Division, Territorial Force.

## 1.Executive Summary

On the 20th February 2016 the Durand Group uncovered the remains of a WW1 soldier at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, Auchy-Les-Mines, France. The aim of this report is to bring together the information available in the public arena relating to the possible identification of the individual.

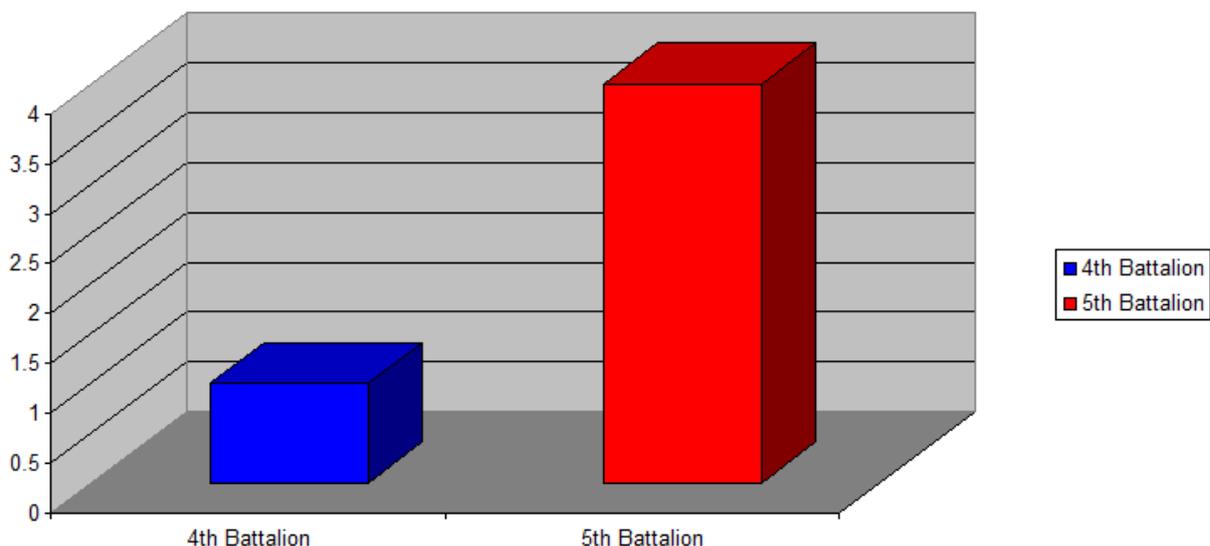
The report takes account of the archaeological evidence recovered with the body, an analysis of the historical context of the location where the remains were found, Divisional, Brigade and Regimental war diaries together with the CWGC records of previously recovered and identified WW1 soldiers from the area.

Archaeological evidence identifies the soldier as possibly a Private (no evidence of rank was recovered) in the Leicestershire Regiment and the equipment he was wearing or carrying indicates that he was killed in 1915 during the offensive of 13th October by the 46th (Midland) Division. The 138th Infantry Brigade part of the 46th Division had the 1/4th and 1/5th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment as part of its Order of Battle.

The report outlines the plan of attack and the likely positions of the 1/4th and 1/5th Battalions using the available War Diaries and the Operational Orders of the 138th Brigade. Together with Divisional and Battalion War Diaries an outline of the subsequent chronology of the attack is made. This indicates that both Battalions occupied the area where the body was recovered. Using the locations of previously recovered soldiers from the immediate area, held by the CWGC, the location of the body is within an area where more 1/5th Bn bodies have been recovered than 1/4th Bn.

The report uses a weighting methodology to determine the value of each piece of evidence in identifying which battalion the soldier was serving with. Although the evidence is not conclusive the report indicates that the individual is potentially to have been from the 1/5th Bn rather than the 1/4th Bn based on probability basis.

Included within the report is a list of those soldiers from each Battalion who remain missing, from the 1/4th Bn there are 143 Privates and from the 1/5th Bn 19 Privates. In conclusion the report finds that from the available information there is insufficient evidence to offer a positive identification of the individual.



Probability Analysis.

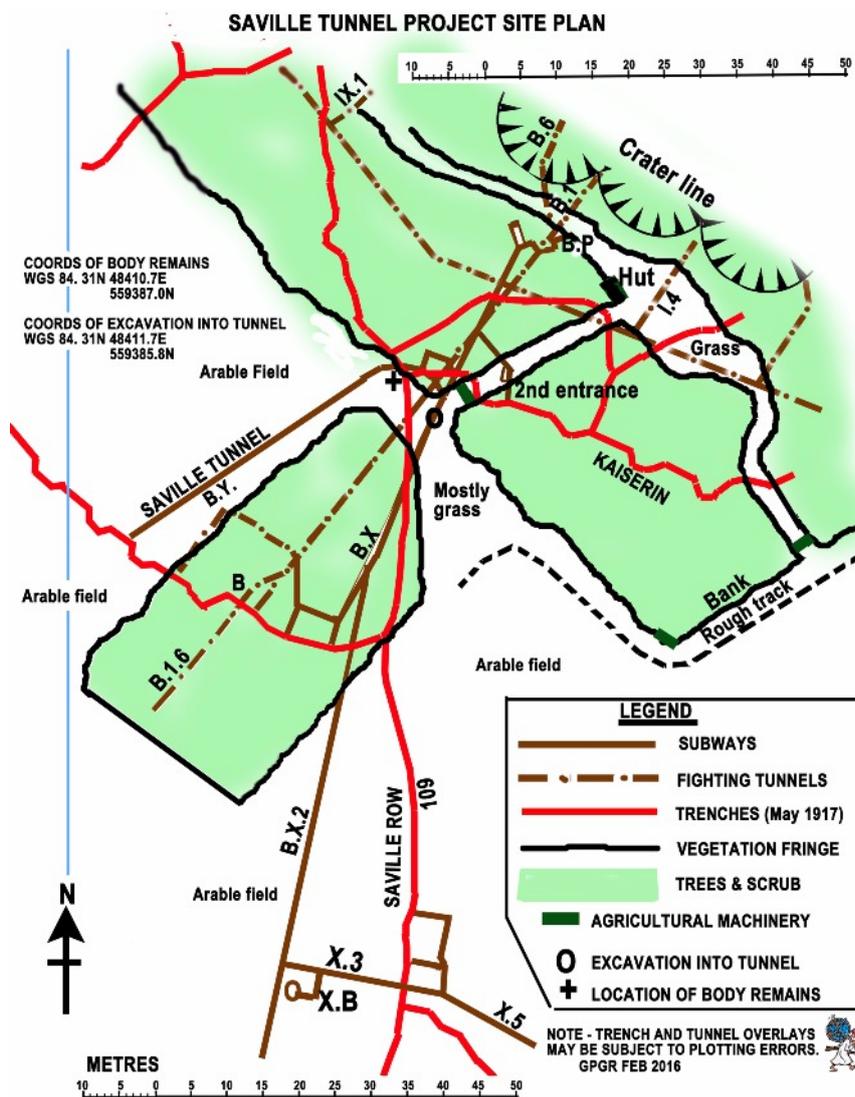
## 2. Background

**Engineering the Loos Salient 1915-2018'** is a long standing and on-going inter-disciplinary study of the Loos battlefield being conducted by the Durand Group in conjunction with local communities and authorities. The aim of this research is to educate and inform the general public on all aspects of subterranean warfare during the conflict. The Group has already uncovered several sections of tunnel system near LOOS-EN-GOHELLE and HULLUCH in the PAS DE CALAIS region of northern France.

During a 3-day project in February 2016 work has recently continued to investigate x3 possible entrances related to a First World War tunnel system. Work is on-going here to ensure safe access to subterranean systems to enable further investigation and recording. On all 3 sites, significant progress was made despite the short timeframe the work was carried out under.

On Saturday 20th February the remains of a First World War British soldier were uncovered during the process of investigating the existence of one of the potential tunnel entrances, near the 'HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT', just south of the town of AUCHY- IES-MINES. The HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT was a heavily fortified German strong point, which became notorious for the ferocity of the fighting that took place there, especially at the Battle of LOOS which took place from 25th September to 14th October 1915.

Immediately on making the discovery of human remains, team members from the Durand Group halted their work in order to set in motion the correct protocols for such a discovery. Led by historian and author Mark Khan and archaeology lead, Dr Matt Leonard, contact was made with the local police and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Some items of ordnance and ammunition were also uncovered and were removed and isolated by an EOD expert. The French police and a member of the CWGC initially attended the site. The soldier's remains were recovered by a team led by archaeologist Dr Matt Leonard and were handed over to the French Police who released them into the care of the CWGC.



Site map showing the location of the remains (Lt Col (Retd) Phillip Robinson).

### 3. Recovery of the Remains

As soon as the human remains were discovered all work on site was immediately suspended. Major (Retd) Andy Hawkins MBE QGM a Durand Group member and archaeologist with experience dealing with human remains, was contacted by the site Team Leader - Mark Khan and asked to attend site. After discussions with Major Hawkins protocol was agreed on and responsibility for the recovery was passed to Dr Matt Leonard, a Durand Group Member and archaeologist and anthropologist of modern conflict.

In accordance with protocol the local Gendarmes were immediately contacted by Anne Sophie Douchin, a Durand Group Associate Member and local resident of Hulluch. Subsequently, two members of the Gendarmes attended site and after consultation with Dr Matt Leonard were satisfied that the remains were not recent and likely belonged to a First World War soldier. This was evident by the visible remains, and the existence in context of First World War military equipment and clothing, and it was determined that the body was probably that of a British soldier. At this stage no attempt was made to excavate the body.

Subsequent to the Gendarmes' assessment, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) were contacted by Dr Matt Leonard, as per usual protocol. Initial contact was made with Dr Ian Hussein (Director Western Europe Area CWGC), an associate of Dr Leonard. Dr Hussein arranged for Paul Bird of the CWGC to immediately phone Dr Leonard to discuss the situation.

Time was of the essence as there was a history of grave desecration in the area during archeological work that had occurred previously (No Mans Land Group for Great War Archaeology project in 2005) and a person known locally and believed to be a collector of WW1 relics had seen the recovery site. Mr Bird indicated that this was often an issue in body recovery. The inclement weather and remaining daylight also added to the urgency. It was therefore agreed that the on-site Durand team should commence the recovery of the body under the supervision of Dr Leonard. Steven Arnold of the CWGC attended site to assist if necessary, and on arrival was happy the Durand Group team were competent and qualified to recover the body. Both Mr Arnold and the two Gendarmes remained on site for the initial period of recovery. Poor light and increasingly bad weather brought a stop to the recovery at approximately 6pm on Saturday 20th. At this point the Gendarmes took receipt of the remains so-far-recovered and the site was protected and made safe for the night.

As early as practically possible on Sunday morning (21st February) Dr Leonard, Dan Hill and Anne Sophie Douchin returned to site (with other members following later). During the course of Sunday the recovery was completed and the soldier's remains and associated artefacts were handed over to the French Police.

Evidence uncovered during the excavation points to this individual being a member of the Leicester Regiment and to have been killed during the attack carried out by the 46<sup>th</sup> (Midland) Division on the Hohenzollern Redoubt on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1915, during the Battle of Loos.

The evidence recovered was as follows:

**Regimental Shoulder Title:** A Leicestershire Regiment shoulder title attached to a section of uniform was recovered in context with the human remains.

**Dating Evidence:** x1 French coin dated 1908, x1 British Penny dated 1914, x1 (of 12) British No.5 Grenades, dated August 1915. Large quantities of .303 ammunition were recovered. Sample dates examined on the headstamps of this ammunition indicated they were dated 1915. No dating evidence was found later the August 1915.

**Equipment:** This individual was wearing 1908 pattern Web equipment - as issued to units such as the Leicester Regiment involved in the attack of the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1915.

**Specialist Equipment:** The remains of gas protective equipment (a Hypo hood and PH Hood gas helmet) were found in context with the body. The 138 Infantry Brigade operational Order clearly details that both types of this gas protective equipment were carried during this attack. Large quantities of .303 ammunition were recovered - The 138 Infantry Brigade operational Order details each individual was to carry 220 rounds each. The ammunition recovered was Found in the remains of W.E. Patt. '08 ammunition pouches (configured to carry x75 rounds in 5 pouches on both left and right sides. Three .303 chargers holding 5 rounds each). Chargers showing evidence of being carried in cotton bandoliers were also found. Twelve No.5 grenades were also found in context with the remains. One of these showed evidence of having been carried in a sandbag. The 138 Infantry Brigade operational Order detail that 'bombs' were carried in 'bags' during the attack of the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The above evidence taken in context with the fact that the Leicester Regiment only served in this area during the period of the Battle Of LOOS in 1915 provide strong evidence that this soldier was a member of the one of the Battalions of the Leicester Regiment belonging to 138 Infantry



The remains being pointed out by Mark Khan.



Close-up of the remains as discovered.

## 4. Site Historical Context

The Germans had created a defensive line here in late 1914. The area around LOOS was initially held by the French, with the British taking over the line here on the 4th June 1915.

The location of the body lay to the south east of a strong defensive German position known as the The HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT - reputedly the strongest part of the German Line in this sector.

In mid 1915 The French were planning a major offensive to take place in September of that year. They were pressing the British to support them, by launching an offensive in the sector of the line they held between Lens and Armentières. This would need to take place to the North of the French sector near LENS, over an 8 mile line between LA BASSEE in the north to LOOS in the South.

Neither the British Commander in Chief - Field Marshal Sir John French nor General Sir Douglas Haig, Commander of the British First Army was in favour of conducting an offensive operation in this area at this time. This part of France was a semi-urban, industrialised landscape, where the significant industry was coal mining. The terrain comprised of a flat landscape, with settlements surrounding the coal mining centres. The Germans had turned this landscape to their defensive advantage. Whilst generally flat, it was punctuated by the pit-head winding towers of the principal mines (Fosses), secondary mine shafts (Puits) and by slag heaps (Crassiers). The German held winding towers (some rising to a hundred feet) and slag heaps provided for excellent observation over the British positions. The villages had been turned into strongly fortified positions linked by trenches with carefully wired defences in front. A second line of defence was being constructed, also with deep barbed wire defences and machine-gun emplacements. Along with Sir John French, and General Haig, the IV Corps Commander Sir Henry Rawlinson, whose troops would attack the southern sector, was also not in favour of an attack in this area. He recognised the difficulties that such an attack would face, stating *"My new front is a flat as the palm of my hand. Hardly any cover anywhere. Easy enough to hold defensively but very difficult to attack. It will cost us dearly and we shall not get very far."*

Despite the strong reservations of the British Commanders, under pressure from the French Commander in Chief - General Joffre and the British Minister for War - Lord Kitchener, the attack went ahead. The date of 25 September was finally set for the first major offensive by the British Expeditionary Force, that would later become known as The Battle of Loos.

On the 25th September, the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division were detailed to attack The HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT and the nearby slag heap known as FOSSE 8.

The attack of 9th (Scottish) Division had by mid-morning succeeded in reaching and occupying the enemy trench network around the HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT and the surrounding areas. Over the period up to 13<sup>th</sup> October the area of the HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT was subsequently held by units of the 28<sup>th</sup> division (who relieved the 9<sup>th</sup> Division on 27<sup>th</sup> September) the Guards Brigade (who relieved the 28<sup>th</sup> Division on 1<sup>st</sup> October). Desperate fighting took place here over this period and eventually German attacks slowly forced the British back. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October all the gains made on the 25<sup>th</sup> September were eventually lost with the HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT having been retaken by the Germans with only the BIG WILLIE Trench remaining in British hands. The Second Battalion of the Coldstream Guards held the line in front of the HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT in the first two weeks of October and had to defend against strong German counter attacks.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> October, the 46<sup>th</sup> (Midland) Division relieved the Guards Division and were tasked with renewing the offensive in this section of the line with a new attack to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The 46<sup>th</sup> (Midland) Division comprised of three infantry Brigades:

## 46<sup>th</sup> (Midland) Division

### 137th Infantry Brigade

- 1/5th Bn, the South Staffordshire Regiment
- 1/6th Bn, the South Staffordshire Regiment
- 1/5th Bn, the North Staffordshire Regiment
- 1/6th Bn, the North Staffordshire Regiment

### 138th (Infantry) Brigade

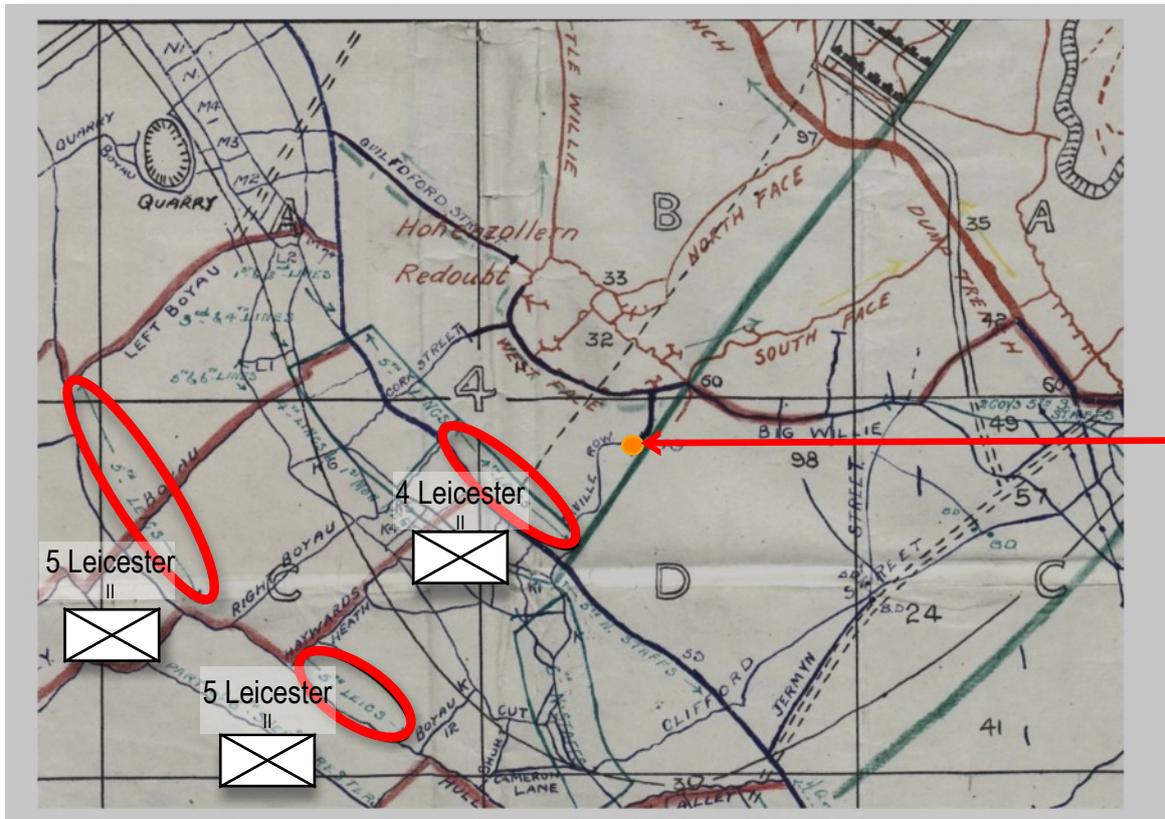
- 1/4th Bn, the Lincolnshire Regiment
- 1/5th Bn, the Lincolnshire Regiment
- 1/4th Bn, the Leicestershire Regiment
- 1/5th Bn, the Leicestershire Regiment
- 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Mommouthshire Regiment (assigned as Pioneer Battalion)

### 139th Infantry Brigade

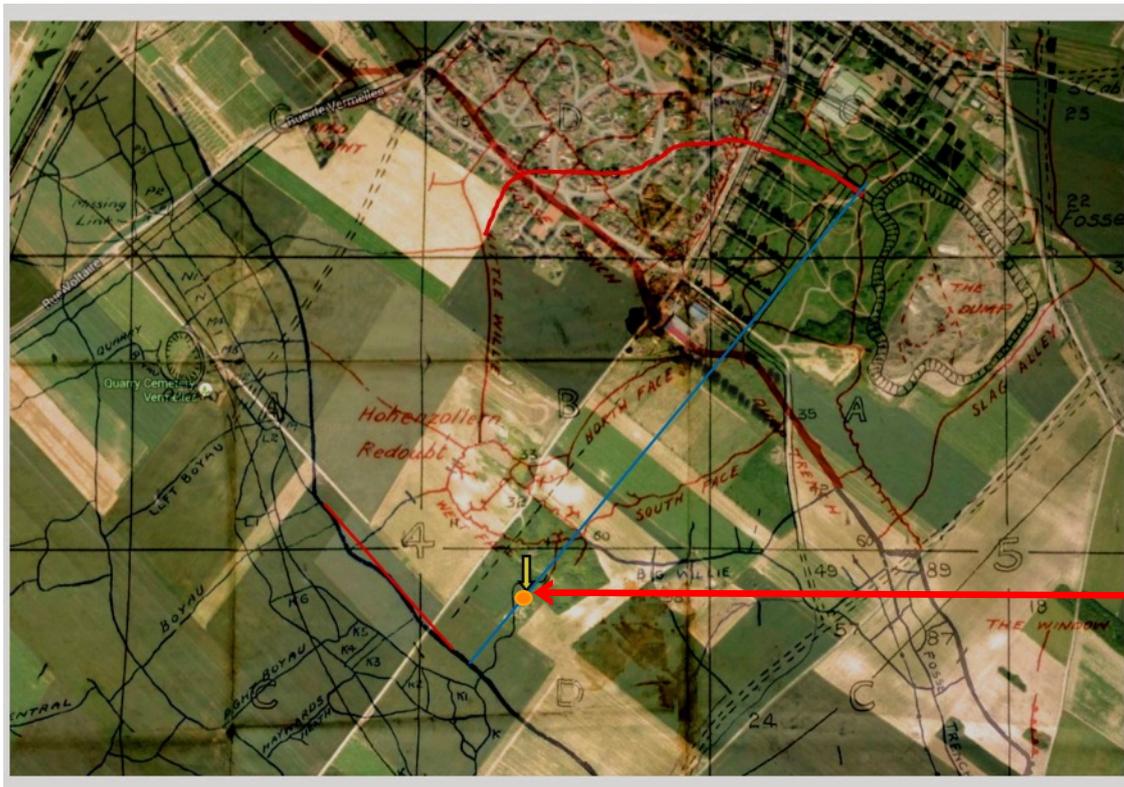
- 1/5th Bn, the Sherwood Foresters
- 1/6th Bn, the Sherwood Foresters
- 1/7th Bn, the Sherwood Foresters
- 1/8th Bn, the Sherwood Foresters

## 5. Examination of the Location of the Remains in Historical Context

The section aims to examine the location of where the body was found with the aim of seeing it is possible to ascertain which Battalion the individual was a member of.



Map showing the disposition of the units involved in the 46<sup>th</sup> Division attack, prior to the attack from the division War Diary.



A map overlay using satellite imagery and a contemporary trench map (Dan Hill).

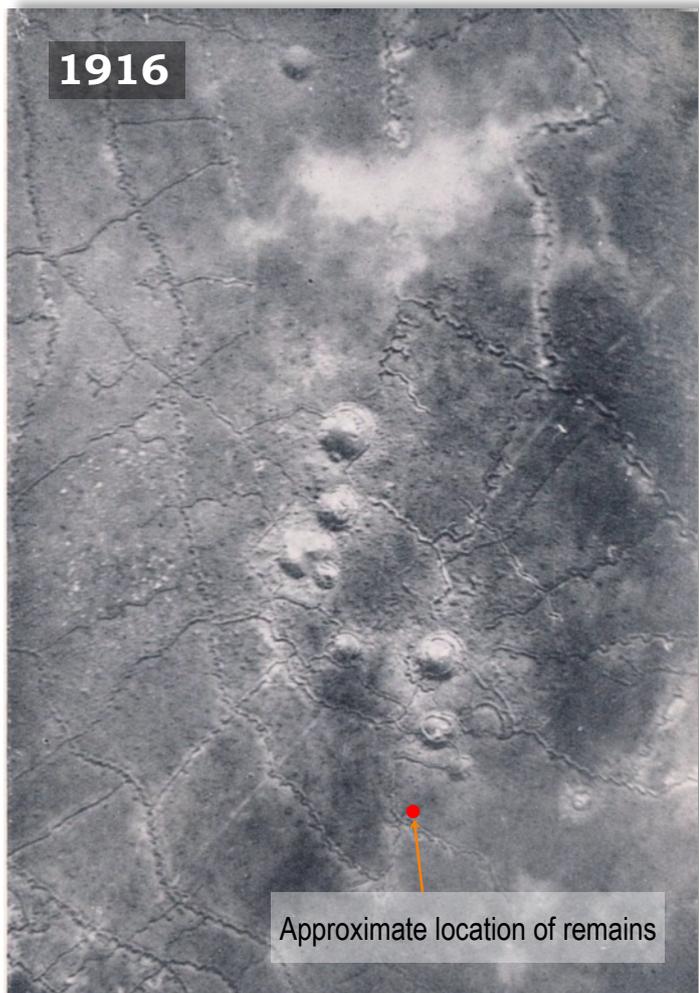
Location of the body

## 1915 image in context with satellite imagery



## 1916 image in context with satellite imagery

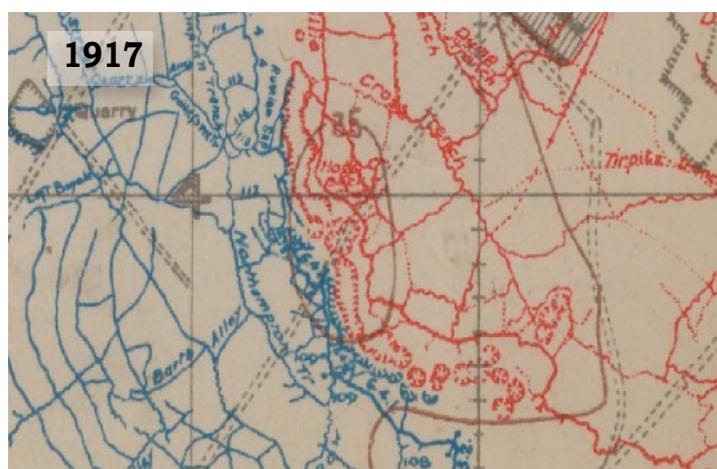




Craters resulting from the British attack in March 1916.



Approximate location of remains.



Extract from a trench map dated 1917 showing the subsequent mining activity in the area.

Contemporary references exist to **unburied dead** as well as dead being buried. The war diary of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters who relieved the Leicesters at the HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT on 14<sup>th</sup> October, specifically mentions improving trenches, parapets and **burying dead**. The area remained a highly contested battlefield until the end of the war. In December 1915 the 15<sup>th</sup> (County of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles) were holding the line in front of the HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT. Their official history recounts; *'The HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT was not a pleasant spot. There had been a good deal of fighting in the neighbourhood during the past three months, and khaki clad figures still lay stiff and grim in No Mans Land where they had fallen'*.

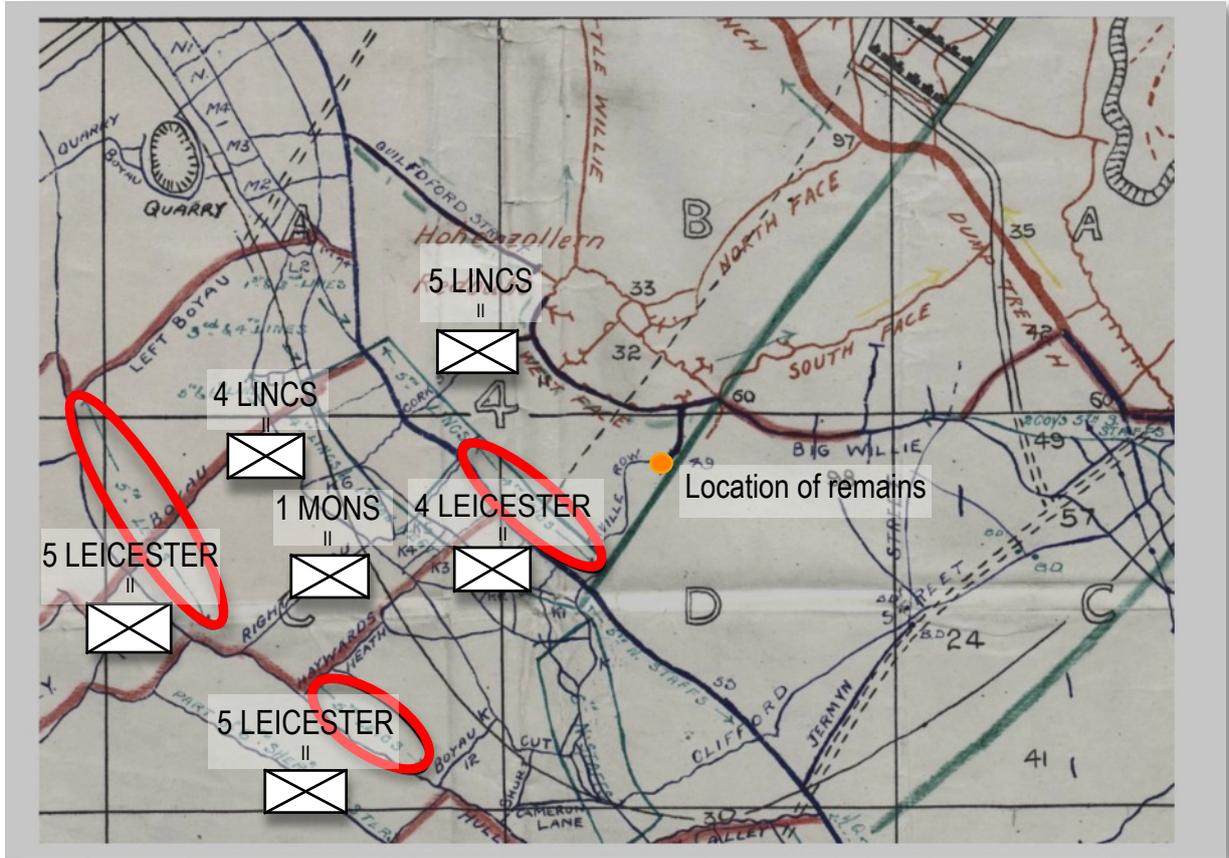
In March 1916 another major offensive took place here with the explosion of a number of offensive mines under the German defences and an attack launched by the 12<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division. Extensive mining activity continued here by both sides, destroying large sections of the original HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT and considerably changing the landscape.

## **CONCLUSION:**

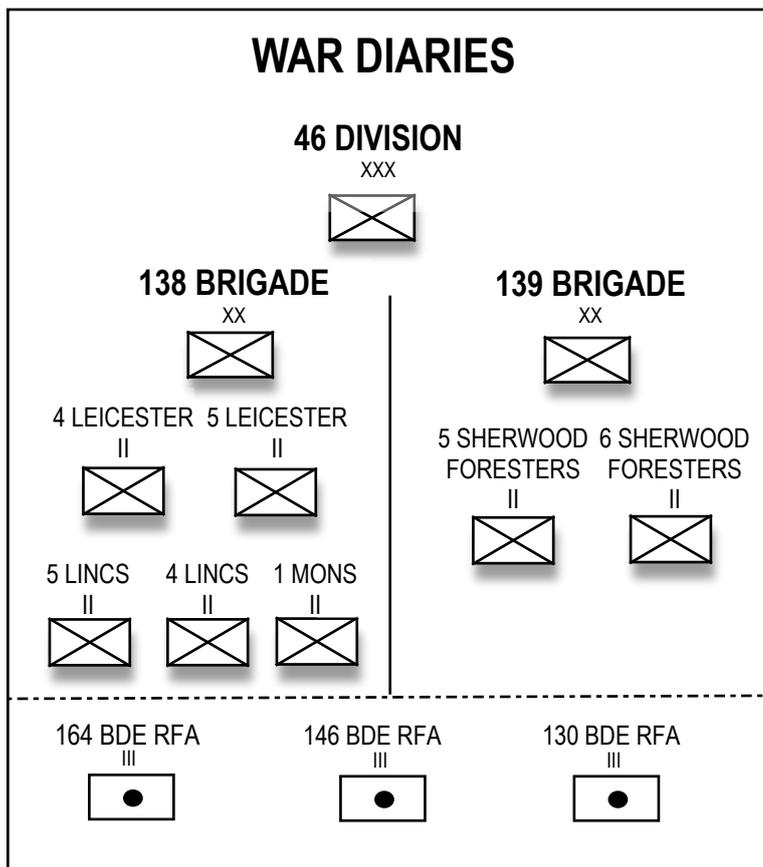
***No conclusions can be drawn from this section of analysis***, other than it is remarkable that the remains existed in largely complete form despite the highly contested nature of the battlefield at this location, particularly in relation to the intensive mining activity that took place here. It would seem that some dead were buried during the time the redoubt was held during the battle of Loos, with unburied dead also still remaining after the battle.

## 6. Research Methodology

Research has been performed using, Divisional, Brigade and Regimental War Diaries of the units involved in supporting and attacking the HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1915. Additional sources utilised were Regimental histories and the official publication 'MILITARY OPERATIONS -France & Belgium 1915 Vol . 2'. Edmonds, Brig.Gen.Sir James.



Dispositions prior to the attack on October 13<sup>th</sup> 1916.



**War Diary References:**

46 Division War Diary - Supplied by Dan Hill  
138 Brigade War Diary - WO 95/2688/2

4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicester Regiment - WO 95/2690/1  
5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicester Regiment - WO 95/2690/2

4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment - Ancestry Piece 2691/1  
5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment - WO 95/2691/2  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment - Ancestry Piece 2678/1

5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters - Ancestry Piece 2695/1  
6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters - Ancestry Piece 2694/1

64 BDE RFA - WO 95/1838/2  
146 BDE RFA - Ancestry Piece 2271/1  
130 BDE RFA - Ancestry Piece 2271/5

**Regimental History:**

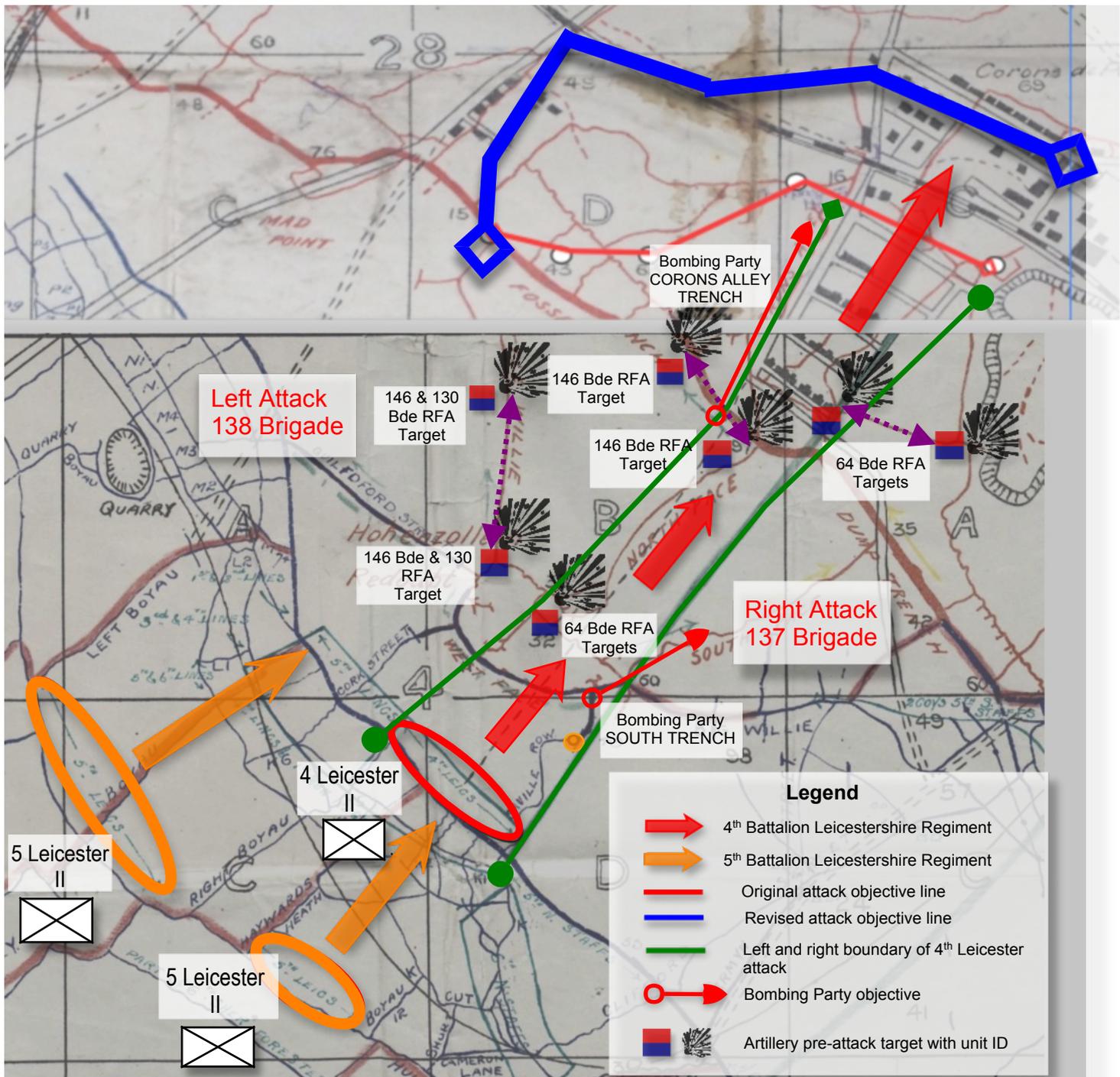
THE FIFTH LEICESTERSHIRE. A record of the 1/5th Battalion the Leicestershire Regiment, T.F., during the War, 1914-1919, Captain J.D. HILLS, M.C., Croix de Guerre. LOUGHBOROUGH.PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT THE ECHO PRESS.1919.

FOOTPRINTS OF THE 1/4TH LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT, John Milne, Edgar Backus Leicester 1935

### 7. The Plan of Attack - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 1915

An artillery preparation commenced at 12:00 hrs with the main attack commencing at 14:00 hrs in waves of 6 lines of attacking infantry. Gas was released from cylinders from 13:00hrs from the frontline trenches. The objective line is outlined in **BLUE** (a later revision - the original objective line shown in **RED**) on the map below. The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Leicesters were detailed to attack the HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT and advance through to the objective line. Bombing parties were detailed to attack along CORONS ALLEY trench and what is described in the 46<sup>th</sup> Division War diary as a 'strong' bombing party along the SOUTH FACE trench extending slightly over the Brigade boundary to the East.

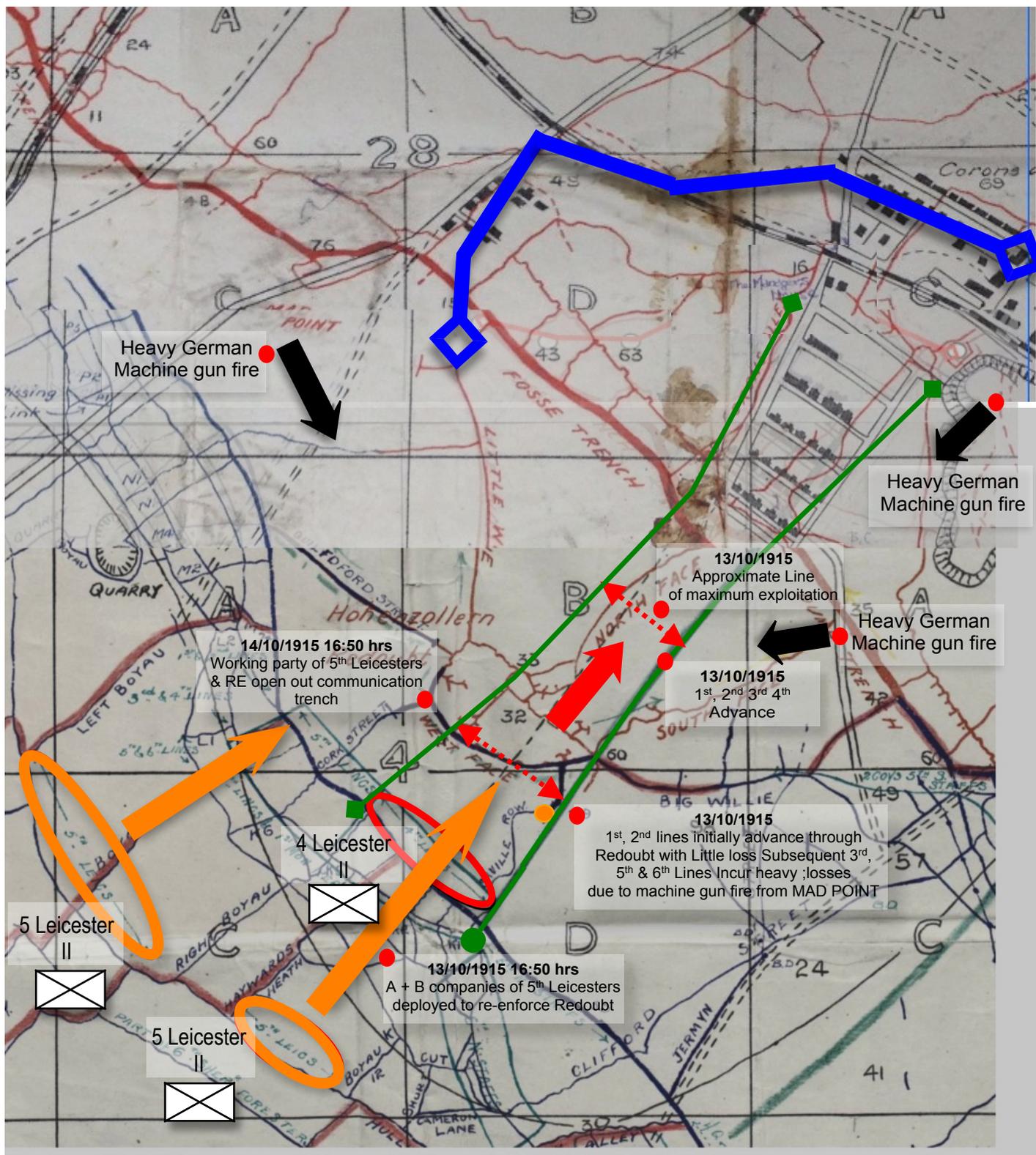
The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Leicesters were in reserve positions behind the front line trenches and were detailed to move up to the Front line trenches as these vacated by the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.



**CONCLUSION:** The location of the remains is in the clear line of the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion attack and close to the SOUTH TRENCH bombing party detailed in the 138 Brigade operational order. ***This analysis indicates a possibility of 4<sup>th</sup> battalion, possibly the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion bombing party detailed to attack the SOUTH trench.***

8. Events of the of 13th October as detailed by the 46 Division War Diary

Events relating to actions of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment have been highlighted.



**CONCLUSION:** The location is where heavy losses were taken by the advancing elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion during the attack and where A & B companies of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion were moved as part of a reinforcing action at the Redoubt. ***This analysis indicates possibility of 5th battalion - reinforcing A & B companies. Also possibly a member of D company, but the elements of this company were deployed further to the East (left) of the Redoubt.***



## 9. Events of the of 13th October as detailed by the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment Official History Section relating to the movement & location of specific element, are highlighted in RED.

...Lieut. Wollaston was supervising the work of his teams and improving their positions when he saw that a considerable number of men were coming back from the Redoubt. Their officers and N.C.O.'s killed, they themselves, worn out by the exertions of the past 24 hours, half gassed by the chlorine which still hung about the shell holes, shot at by machine guns from every quarter, had been broken by bombing attacks from every trench they attacked and now, having thrown all their bombs, were coming back. The situation was critical, and Lieut. Wollaston, deciding to leave his guns now that they were in good positions, made his way along the trench and tried to rally the stragglers. Many were too badly shaken to go forward again, but some answered his call and collecting some more grenades the little party started back towards the Redoubt. Lieut. Wollaston was knocked down and wounded in the back by a shell, but still went forward, and, reaching the first German line, turned left towards "Little Willie," which the Boche was still holding in force. At the same time General Kemp ordered two of our Companies to be sent up to assist, and Colonel Jones sent word to "B" and "A" to move up. One message from the Redoubt which reached Colonel Jones at this time said "Please send bombs and officers." Captain Langdale decided to advance in line, and leaving their trenches the four platoons started off in that formation. The platoon commanders became casualties in the first few yards, 2nd Lieut. Marriott being wounded and the two others gassed, and by the time they reached our front line the Company Commander was leading them himself. Walking along with his pipe in his mouth, Captain Langdale might have been at a Field Day, as he calmly signalled his right platoon to keep up in line, with "keep it up, Oakham," as they crossed our trench. The line was kept, and so perfectly that many of the stragglers who had come back turned and went forward again with them. But once more as they were reaching the German front line came that deadly machine gun fire, and their gallant Commander was one of the first to fall, killed with a bullet in the head. C.S.M. Lovett was badly wounded at the same time, Serjt. Franks killed, and the Company, now leaderless, was broken into isolated parties fighting with bombs in the various trenches.

"A" Company followed. Keeping his platoons more together and on a smaller frontage, Captain Hastings decided to attempt a bayonet attack against the German opposition on the left of the Redoubt, and himself led his men up to the attack. Again Platoon Commanders were the first to fall, and as they climbed out of our trenches, 2nd Lieut. Lawton was mortally wounded in the stomach and 2nd Lieut. Petch badly shot through the arm. However, this did not delay the attack, and the Company, crossing the German front line, quickened their pace and made for the junctions of "Little Willie" and "N. Face." Once more bombs and machine guns were too hot for them, and first Capt. Hastings, then 2nd Lieut. Moss were killed near the German second line, leaving the Company in the hands of 2nd Lieut. Tomson and C.S.M. Gorse, who at once organized the platoons for the defence of the second line, realizing that it was useless to try to advance further. 2nd Lieut. Petch, in spite of his wound, remained several hours with his platoon, but eventually had to leave them. The ground was covered with the dead and wounded of the other Battalions, Meanwhile, in addition to our two Companies, there were several other parties and units fighting in various parts of the Redoubt, and of these Colonel Evill, of the Monmouthshires, himself on the spot, took command, sending down for more men and more bombs. Of these little parties the most successful was that under Lieut. Wollaston, who, although wounded, led a bombing attack into "Little Willie," and pushed on so resolutely that he gained some eighty yards of trench before being compelled to withdraw owing to lack of bombs and ammunition. Unfortunately there was no other party near to help him, or "Little Willie" would probably have been ours. On the right, Lieut. Madge, of the Lincolnshires, held on for an incredibly long time with only a few machine gunners far in advance of anyone else, only coming back after 5 p.m., when he found that part of the captured ground had been evacuated by us. Here, too, Lieut. Morgan, of the Staffordshire Brigade R.F.A., was killed leading his gunners forward to help the infantry who were in difficulties. Some of "D" Company were also in action at this time. **Thirteen and Fourteen Platoons set off, as originally ordered, under Royal Engineer officers, to put out barbed wire in front of the Redoubt,** but as they reached our front line were heavily shelled and lost touch with the Engineers, many of whom were killed. 2nd Lieut. Stoneham had already been badly wounded, and Lieut. Williams, with a blood-stained bandage tying up a wounded ear, was with his other half Company, so the two platoons were left without officers. Serjt. W.G. Phipps, who was leading, knew nothing about the wiring orders, having been told simply to follow the R.E., so he ordered his platoon to collect all the bombs they could find and make for the Redoubt. **Serjt. G. Billings with 14 followed, and the half Company entered the fight soon after "A" Company.** Their fate was the same. Serjt. Billings, with Corporals A. Freeman and T.W. Squires, were all killed trying to use their bayonets against "N. Face," and **the rest were scattered and joined the various bomb parties. F. Whitbread and A.B. Law** found themselves in "Little Willie," and helped rush the enemy While this took place in the Redoubt, Colonel Jones **occupied the old front line with "C" Company** (Lieuts. Farmer and Shields), and **elements of "D" Company occupying the bays which were free from gas.** With darkness came orders that the Sherwood Foresters would take over the line from us, but long before they could arrive our Companies in the Redoubt were being very hard pressed, and scarcely held their own. The German bombers never for a moment ceased their attack, and for some time our bombers held them with difficulty. Then came the cruellest blow of fortune, for many of the bags and boxes of bombs sent up during the afternoon were found to contain bombs without detonators, many others were filled with types of grenades we had never seen. Soon after 6 p.m., the Sherwood Foresters started to arrive and gradually worked their way up towards the Redoubt, a long slow business, for the communication trenches were all choked and no one was very certain of the route. By dawn the Sherwood Foresters had taken over the whole Redoubt, though many of our "A" and "B" Companies were not relieved and stayed there until the following night. Our task now was the defence of the original British front line, for which Colonel Jones was made responsible, and which we garrisoned with "C" (Farmer) right, "D" (Williams) centre, and "A" and "B" (Tomson) left. .

At 3 p.m., the German bombing attacks increased in vigour, and this time a large part of our garrison of the German second line trench gave way and came back to the original front line of the Redoubt—some even to our front line. Who gave the order for this withdrawal was never discovered, but there was undoubtedly an order "Retire" passed along the line, possibly started by the Boche himself. Such a message coming to tired and leaderless men was sure to have a disastrous effect, and in a few minutes we had given up all except Point 60, a trench junction at the N. end of "Big Willie," and the front line of the Redoubt. In this last there were still plenty of men, and these, led by a few resolute officers and N.C.O.'s such as 2nd Lieut. Tomson, C.S.M. Gorse, and others, were prepared to hold it against all attacks. The original paradoss was cut into fire steps, bomb blocks were built in "Little Willie" and "North Face," and the garrison generally reorganized. Messages were sent for more bombs, and these were carried up in bags and boxes from Brewery Keep, Vermelles to the old front line, and thence across No Man's Land by parties of "C" and "D" Company.

THE FIFTH LEICESTERSHIRE. A record of the 1/5th Battalion the Leicestershire Regiment, T.F., during the War, 1914-1919, Captain J.D. HILLS, M.C., Croix de Guerre. LOUGHBOROUGH. PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT THE ECHO PRESS. 1919.

**CONCLUSION:** This account details the offensive nature of the activity carried by the reinforcing A & B Companies the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters at the Redoubt, that losses were sustained and the use of bombing. Requests were made for bombs to be sent to the Redoubt (possibly sent with the reinforcing troops). The account also relates that elements of D company were also engaged at the Western (left) side of the Redoubt. These elements were also responsible for collected bombs and taking them to the Redoubt. C company was engaged in holding the British front line trenches and moving re enforcement supplies of bombs to the redoubt. **This analysis re-enforces 46 Division war diary account.**



## 10. Events of the of 13th October as detailed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment Official History

Due to the very heavy casualties of this battalion details are very sketchy as there are few accounts. The regimental history, matching the battalion war diary as such has a very short account of this day. This account is also at odds with the 46<sup>th</sup> division war diary, which states that that the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Lines advanced through the Redoubt with little loss.

At 1p.m our smoke and gas started. The gas cylinders were at the bottom of the front trenches, and the projectors protruded well over the parapet. Everybody hoped that as promised by the corps commander all the Germans in the trenches opposite would be asphyxiated or fly, and the rum was issued joyfully, lots of it. At 1.50 p.m. The smoke and gas stopped and the enemy began merrily to snipe the top of the parapet with machine-guns. This was not at all according to plan and quite contrary to what the staff had promised.

It is now getting near 2 p.m., The time of the assault. The trenches are thronged with men, everyone keyed up with excitement. They know most of the infantryman's art, these men; one operation they have never carried out, however - "the charge": but in two minutes' time they will have performed the highest and they will know the worst.

The little ladders are in position against the parapet, the seething mass of men is ready to climb up them into the open and into fame. The barrage lifts, a cheer goes up, over go the first wave; the colonel springs to the parapet shouting "En avant, mes braves"; the second-in-command (Major B.F. Newill) stands there too, helping up men and machine-guns and bags of bombs. Up they come, over they go forward towards their objective; no one falters, the position must be taken at all costs. This is the excitement, this is the history, this is life. Yes, and this is death. The enemy machine-guns redouble their fire; the German artillery put down a barrage; the colonel is badly wounded in the leg as he gets out of the trench; men are hit on the parapet; men are mown down in swathes as they advance ; down go company commanders; down goes the adjutant ; the second-in-command goes forward at the double, but shrapnel catches him and he lies helpless under the German wire.

The third and fourth wave come on and meet the same fate; some get as far as the German front line, some get further. They hold on as long as they can but bombs and ammunition run out and their rifles become choked with dirt. Bombing goes on incessantly and there is some hand-to-hand fighting. C.S.M Ford settles two Germans with the bayonet before being wounded. C.S.M. Hunt with a small party gets as far as anybody, but they have to retire as ammunition is exhausted, and the enemy are counter-attacking. All the officers are dead or wounded. Help comes from the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters and Sherwoods, but there is little more to be done. The attack has been carried out with the greatest dash, courage and precision, but the odds are too great, the machine gun fire from Fosse 8 has been devastating . No Mans Land is a shambles.

The colonel stays in the front line trench ; he is in great pain but he still directs operations, receiving reports and giving orders. He reads the bible to Clive Harvey, one of the youngest subalterns, who is mortally wounded, and comforts him as he dies. He remains at his post until ordered to the dressing station by the brigadier twenty-hours after the attack.

And so it ends. All the officers who took part in the attack are casualties. 188 N.C.O.'S and men answer the role -call when the battalion is relieved next day and goes back to the Lancashire trench. Losses are 20 officers 453 other ranks In the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> the remains of the battalion return by motor lorry to the billets at Hesdigneul

FOOTPRINTS OF THE 1/4TH LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT, John Milne, Edgar Backus Leicester 1935

**CONCLUSION:** *No conclusions can be drawn from this account*, but it provides excellent context for the attack of the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion. .

## 11. Events of the of 13th October as detailed MILITARY OPERATIONS -France & Belgium 1915 Vol . 2. , Brig.Gen.Sir James Edmonds. Page 386

This official record recounts the events of 13<sup>th</sup> October in some detail at the point the position at the Redoubt was becoming untenable to the attacking British forces.....

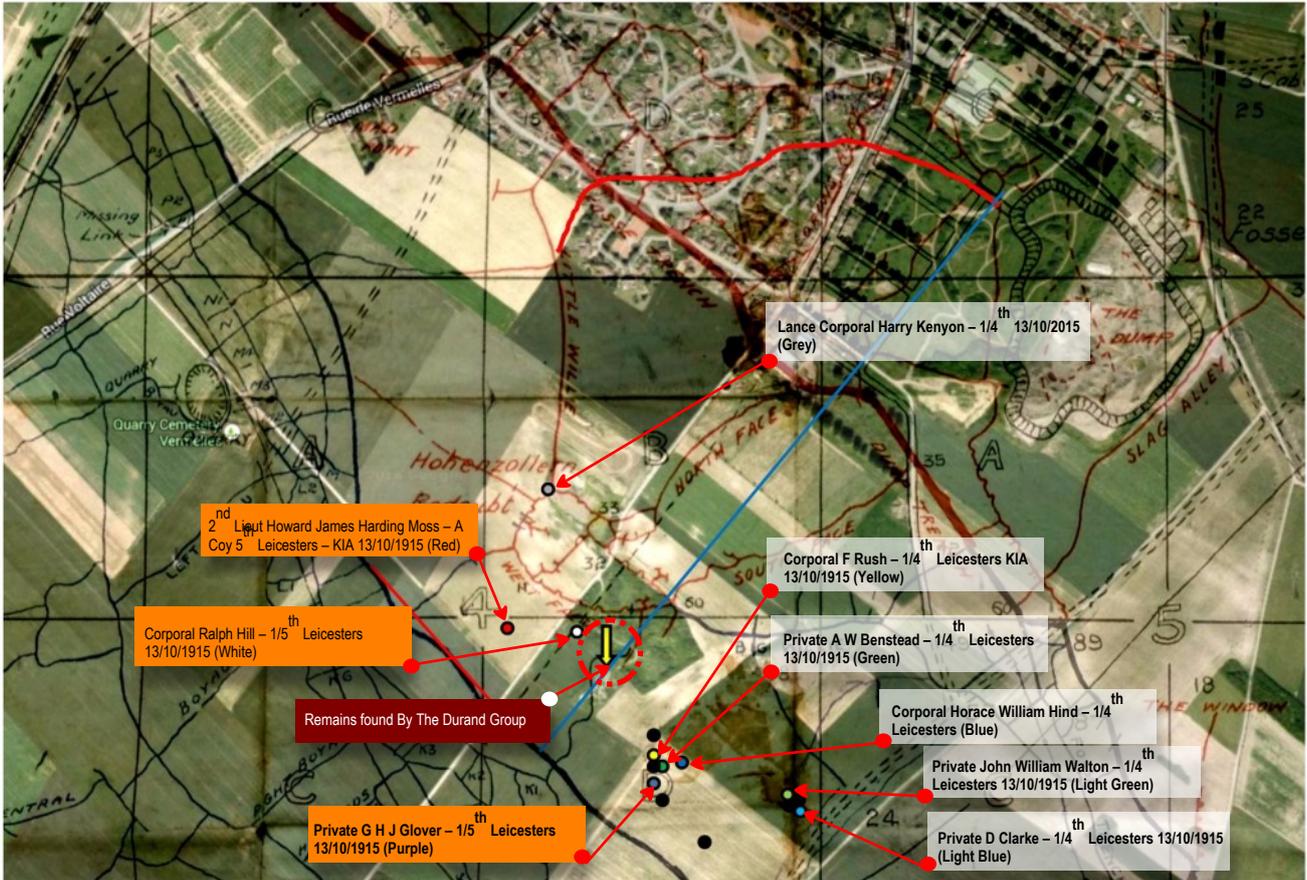
'Any position beyond the Hohenzollern was clearly untenable, as both flanks were exposed, and the attack, although reinforced by two companies of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire,<sup>1</sup> came to a stop. Fighting and bombing continued, and isolated parties remained in Fosse Trench and shell holes in the dark, but gradually the units, after further severe casualties among officers, drifted back to the Hohenzollern redoubt, which had meantime been taken over by the 1/1<sup>st</sup> Monmouthshire.

The 139<sup>th</sup> Brigade (Br.-General C.T. Shipley), in reserve had been moved up towards the front line of trenches as the other brigades went forward taking with them over two hundred of its bombers. At 2.45 P.M., On the request of Br.-General Kemp (138<sup>th</sup> Brigade), who had a call on the brigade for reinforcements, two companies of the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters were sent up to and reached the northern part of the Hohenzollern, but were unable to issue from it ; and at 5 P.M. The 2/1<sup>st</sup> North Midland (later No. 468 Field Company R.E was sent up with entrenching materiel. There was a considerable mixture of units in the redoubt, but Lieut-Colonel Evill (MK note: Lieut-Colonel C.A. Evill was commanding officer 1/1<sup>st</sup> Monmouthshire Regiment, the divisional pioneer battalion ), who had taken charge, gradually evolved some sort of order. Movement over the open having proved impossible, the fighting developed into a contest in the trenches, and here the British were more than usually at a disadvantage ; for there was such a shortage of bombs that the 46<sup>th</sup> Division on arrival had been served out with bags containing anything that looked like a bomb. Old rifle grenades without sticks and old patterns without means of ignition. Parties of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire, which tried to bomb up North Face and Little Willie, had as first considerable success, but were driven back, leaving most of their bombers killed.

**CONCLUSION: This report further evidences the activities of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion in relation to bombing and clearly defines the heavy casualties suffered taking part in this activity. This could be taken as another indicator of the soldier being a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion.**

## 12. Known Casualty Location Analysis in the Same Location

Using information from the CWGC cemetery concentration reports - the location of individuals found that were moved to concentration cemeteries have been plotted by military historian Dan Hill, for those men that belonged to either 4th or 5th battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment



**CONCLUSION:** *This analysis would point to the soldier possibly being a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion as he lay close to x2 identified members of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion.*

### 13. Artefact analysis

As detailed in section 2 (Recovery of the Remains), a number of artefacts were identified with the remains indicating that this soldier was a member of the Leicestershire regiment and that he was killed in the attack of the 13<sup>th</sup> October. Some of these artefacts are detailed here, with some additional contextual information.



The Leicestershire Regiment shoulder title found attached to a fragment of uniform.



A rolled ground sheet (top) and a W.E. Patt. '08 webbing buckle (bottom).

15. Troops will carry greatcoats and waterproof sheets in the attack, but not packs.  
 All men in the front trenches must have their smoke helmets on before the gas cylinders are opened at 1 p.m.  
 The assaulting troops will wear a smoke helmet (old pattern) and carry a tube helmet in addition. The smoke helmet will be worn on the head, tucked in at the back of the neck in such a manner that it can be easily pulled down and adjusted on encountering gas.  
 Every man will carry <sup>220</sup> ~~200~~ rounds of ammunition (grenadiers 100 rounds), his iron ration, and six empty sandbags.  
 1 VERMOREL SPRAYER per Company will be carried forward, and, if possible, four gallons of solution in addition.

Part of the 138 Brigade operational order detailing the carrying of 'waterproof sheets' (groundsheets), the anti-gas equipment and the large quantity (220 rounds) of 303 ammunition.



**Right:** An eye piece from a PH type anti-gas hood with an actual example for comparison (**Left**).



**CONCLUSION:** The gas equipment was found on the remains around the waist area, not around the upper part of the body. This might be an indication the the soldier was not taking part in the initial attack where gas was used and therefore might be part of later activity. **Possible indication of later activity on the 13<sup>th</sup> October when less gas present - I.e a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion re-enforcing parties.**



The No.5 Mills grenades found with the remains. The fragment of a sandbag can be seen adhering to one of the bombs, indicating that its was possibly carried in a sandbag.

APPENDIX "A"

BOMBS.

Each Platoon will be issued with three bags of fifteen bombs each.  
 Each Bombing Party will be issued with sixteen bags of fifteen bombs each.  
 288 bags, each holding fifteen bombs, will be stored at VERMELLES and the same number of bombs will be in the trench bomb stores, but not in bags.  
 On going into trenches the following will be issued at VERMELLES  
 to each platoon 3 bags i.e. 48 per Battrn, Total 192. 64  
 to 4th LINCOLN REGIMENT 64  
 to 1st Monmouthshire Regiment 10

On the morning of the 18th instant, the bombs which are in boxes in trench bomb stores are to be issued by Lieutenant RAINES (Monmouth Regiment) and put into bags which are provided at the stores, as follows :-

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 5th LINCOLNS                       | 64 bags.    |
| 4th LEICESTERS                     | 32 bags.    |
| MONMOUTHS                          | 46 bags.    |
| Bombers 459th Inf.                 | } 224 bags. |
| Brigade attached to Monmouth Regt. |             |

All spare bombs found in trenches will be collected into the Bomb stores.  
 Bombs must be collected from casualties.

Copy No. 15

SECRET.

AFTER ORDER TO  
 OPERATION ORDER No. 14,  
 by  
 BRIG-GENL. G. C. KEMP,  
 Commanding 138th Infantry Brigade.

Headquarters,  
 12/10/15,

The following additional instructions have been received from Divisional Commander :-

1. The 4th LEICESTERS will send a Bombing Party up SOUTH FACE in order to clear the way for the attack of 137th Brigade, which will now take place ten minutes later than our attack, i.e. at 2.10 p.m.  
 It is reported that Machine Gun emplacements have been made in this trench. The above however, does not cancel the original boundary of attack between the two Brigades. This will be an isolated bombing attack outside the line of our general advance.
2. The Final Objective of the Left attack is modified to the extent that it will extend from the W. corner of GORON DE PERIS A.29.a.30 to half way along Railway at A.28.d.88 - thence along the Railway to original northern limit at A.28.b.41.
3. The 1st Corps will co-operate by bombing up the trench from 28.c.61 to LITTLE WILLIS and North along LITTLE WILLIS to FOSTER TRENCH.  
 They will also, during the attack, join up MAD POINT with the British Front Line.

12/10/15.  
 SA. W. H. GODSAL, Captain.  
 Brigade Major, 138th Inf. Bde.

Extracts from the 138 Brigade Operational order detailing the use of bombs (grenades). Stated is the use of 'bags' (sandbags) for carrying. Also (right) the detailed order for the bombing party assaulting the SOUTH TRENCH.



Dating evidence. Left - 1914 Penny. Right - August 1915 dated No.5 grenade.



**Above left:** A soldier of the Leicestershire regiment showing the W E P'08 webbing equipment worn by the soldier recovered.

**Above right:** A soldier of the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion showing the characteristic 'T' marked territorial shoulder title.

**Right centre:** Territorial shoulder titles of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> battalions.

**Below right:** An example of a standard title & the title found with the remains.



**CONCLUSION:** The shoulder title found was not a 'T 4' type or 'T 5' Type, but the standard type title. This may simply have been issued to a soldier who had joined the regiment recently and not an original pre-war territorial or a replacement issued to a pre-war territorial.

**Unfortunately, this provides no indication of specific battalion identity.**

## 14 .Identification Summary

As a result of the analysis carried out, no conclusive evidence was found to indicate which battalion the soldier belonged to. Following, is summary listing the conclusions to help establish a probability indication only.

| Report Section  | Conclusion  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Indicator | 5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Indicator |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Examination of the Location of the Remains in Context with the Historical Context   | No conclusions can be drawn from this section of analysis,  | —                                   | —                                   |
| The Plan of Attack - Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct 138 Brigade Operational Order   | Indicates a possibility of 4 <sup>th</sup> battalion, possibly a 4 <sup>th</sup> battalion bombing party.   | YES                                 | —                                   |
| Events of the of 13 <sup>th</sup> October as detailed by the 46 Division War Diary  | Indicates possibility of 5 <sup>th</sup> battalion - reinforcing A & B companies. Also possibly a member of D or elements who were deployed further to the East (left) of the Redoubt or possibly elements of C company who were engaged in re-supply of bombs to the Redoubt.                | —                                   | YES                                 |
| Events of the of 13 <sup>th</sup> October as detailed by the 5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment Official History | Re-enforces 46 Division war diary account.  | —                                   | —                                   |
| Events of the of 13 <sup>th</sup> October as detailed by the 4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment Official History | No conclusions can be drawn from this account   | —                                   | —                                   |
| Events of the of 13 <sup>th</sup> October as detailed MILITARY OPERATIONS -France & Belgium 1915 Vol . 2.                       | This report further evidences the activities of the 5 <sup>th</sup> battalion in relation to bombing and clearly defines the heavy casualties suffered taking part in this activity. This could be taken as another indicator of the soldier being a member of the 5 <sup>th</sup> battalion. | —                                   | YES                                 |
| Known Casualty Location Analysis in the Same Location   | This analysis would point to the soldier possibly being a member of the 5 <sup>th</sup> battalion as he lay close to the locations of x2 identified members of the 5 <sup>th</sup> battalion.   | —                                   | YES                                 |
| Artefact analysis   | Possible indication of later activity on the 13 <sup>th</sup> October when less gas present - I. e a member of the 5 <sup>th</sup> battalion re-enforcing parties.<br><br>CWGC have all artefacts - this report only has what was regarded as noticeable during the removal of the remains.   | —                                   | YES                                 |

**Synopsis:** A lack of available detail from the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion does not allow such a comprehensive indication compared to that of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion where the detailed information is much better. The remains lie on the clear axis of the main attack made by the x6 attacking waves of the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion and where they were known to have suffered heavy casualties.

Indicators also point to the possibility of the soldier belonging to the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion. Like the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion, the elements of the this battalion are known to have occupied the position where the remains were found and to also have suffered casualties here. Perhaps an indicator can be found with the known locations of members of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion that have been found nearby and at a greater level than that of the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion. The wearing of gas equipment in a not 'ready for use' position may also indicate the soldier was part of later activity on 13<sup>th</sup> October - I. e a member of the reinforcing parties belonging to the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion Leicestershire Regiment

There is no conclusive evidence however to indicate either battalion.

## 15 .Possible Identities

Selecting casualties known to have been lost on 13<sup>th</sup> October listed on the Loos Memorial to the missing. The following Individual listed below could form the identity of the soldier.

Due to the indicators found with his remains, a supposition has been made that he was a private soldier (based on the fact he was carrying a sandbag of bombs, therefore not an NCO). The losses of the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion were significantly worse than that of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion

| surname  | forename         | rank    | unitshipsquadron     | surname       | forename                | rank    | unitshipsquadron |
|----------|------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------|------------------|
| MURDY    | FREDERICK        | Private | "A" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | DIGGLE        | WILLIAM                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| UPTON    | ALBERT VICTOR    | Private | "A" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | EDWARDS       | JOHN                    | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| ALLEN    | ARTHUR           | Private | "B" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | FOREMAN       | ARTHUR                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| COLES    | CHARLES          | Private | "B" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | FREEMAN       | ALFRED                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| KNIGHT   | GEORGE           | Private | "B" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GAMBLE        | GEORGE                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BASS     | ALBERT           | Private | "C" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GAMBLE        | MAURICE ARNOLD          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| CLARE    | CYRIL            | Private | "C" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GARNHAM       | ROBERT HENRY            | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| DODGE    | THOMAS CYRIL     | Private | "C" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GEORGE        | HENRY JAMES             | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| ORME     | ALBERT EDGAR     | Private | "C" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GEORGE        | JAMES ALFRED            | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| RHODES   | WILLIAMS         | Private | "C" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GODRICH       | ERNEST ARTHUR           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| SHEPARD  | JOSEPH           | Private | "C" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GOTCH         | WILLIAM HENRY           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| WALLIS   | CHARLES HENRY    | Private | "C" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GRAYSON       | WILLIAM                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| RICHARDS | LEONARD DUDLEY   | Private | "D" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GREENHILL     | JAMES                   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| WARD     | EDMUND           | Private | "D" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GRUDGI<br>NGS | CLAUDE                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| WRAGG    | GEORGE ARTHUR    | Private | "D" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. | GUESS         | GEORGE                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| WALKER   | HERBERT          | Private | 1st 4th Bn.          | HALL          | JOHN HENRY              | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BREWIN   | FREDERICK NOEL   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | HALLAM        | AUGUSTUS                | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| JAMES    | GEORGE HERBERT   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | HAMSON        | HARRY                   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| PHILLIPS | HARRY            | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | HARDY         | WILLIAM                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| ADCOCK   | ERNEST WALTER    | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | HEARD         | WILLIAM                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| ADNITT   | ALFRED           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | HICKLING      | GEORGE                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| ALLEN    | GEORGE FREDERICK | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | HICKMAN       | JOSEPH<br>AUGUSTUS      | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BACON    | JOSEPH           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | HICKMAN       | WILLIAM JOHN            | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BADDELEY | HARRY            | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | ILLSTON       | CHARLES                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BASON    | BASIL THOMAS     | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | JACKSON       | ERNEST                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BAXTER   | JOHN ROBERT      | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | JAMES         | ERNEST WILLIAM          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BILSDON  | JOHN WILLIAM     | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | JARVIS        | SIDNEY                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BOTTOMS  | THOMAS HAROLD    | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | JONES         | JOHN GEORGE             | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| BUTTON   | GEORGE SIDNEY    | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | KING          | SAMUEL JAMES            | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| CASSWELL | DOUGLAS          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | KIRBY         | GEORGE                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| CAVENER  | WILLIAM          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | LAKIN         | EDWARD                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| CHAMBERS | JOSEPH           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | LAURIE        | ROBERT                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| CHANDLER | RICHARD          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | LEM           | WILLIAM GEORGE<br>HENRY | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| CHAPMAN  | HAROLD HENRY     | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | LOOMS         | FREDERIC<br>GEORGE      | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| CLARK    | HUBERT           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MAKEPE<br>ACE | HARRY                   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| COOKE    | ALBERT HENRY     | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MANNING       | FREDERICK<br>ARTHUR     | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| COOKE    | FREDERICK        | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MANSHIP       | JAMES                   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| COPE     | ARTHUR ALLAN     | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MARSTON       | JAMES                   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| COWARD   | WILLIAM JOHN     | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MATTHEWS      | WILLIAM HENRY           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| CRISP    | JAMES            | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MAWBY         | JOHN LANE               | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| DALBY    | SAMUEL           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MILLER        | THOMAS                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| DAVIS    | WILLIAM          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MITCHELL      | FREDERICK BYRON         | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| DAY      | CHARLES          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MORLEY        | WILLIAM                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| DEAN     | GILMORE HORACE   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.          | MORRIS        | FREDERICK               | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
|          |                  |         |                      | MURDY         | WILLIAM                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |

## 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (cont)

| surname   | forename               | rank    | unitshipsquadron | surname    | forename      | rank    | unitshipsquadron |
|-----------|------------------------|---------|------------------|------------|---------------|---------|------------------|
| MURDY     | WILLIAM                | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      | WELCH      | JOHN HENRY    | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| McGARRY   | FRED                   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      | WESSON     | CECIL ROY     | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| ORTON     | OLIVER THOMAS          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      | WILFORD    | ARTHUR LEWIS  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| OSWIN     | GEORGE EDWARD          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      | WILLIAMSON | WILLIAM       | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| PARKER    | JAMES                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      | WILSON     | ALFRED        | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| PARKER    | NORMAN WEBSTER         | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      | WILSON     | JOHN EDWARD   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| PETTIFOR  | CHARLES                | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      | WOOD       | ALFRED        | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| PICK      | ARTHUR VICTOR          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      | WOOD       | GEORGE EDWARD | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |
| POLLARD   | GEORGE HARRY           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| POSTLES   | THOMAS                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| PRESTON   | FRANCIS                | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| RANDELL   | FRANK                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| RANDLE    | ARTHUR                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| RATCLIFFE | FREDERICK ROWLAND      | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| RENWICK   | WILFRED                | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| RILEY     | SYDNEY EDWARD          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| ROBINSON  | FREDERICK JAMES        | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| ROLLESTON | BENJAMIN               | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| ROSS      | JOHN                   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| ROWE      | ALBERT EDWARD          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SAINT     | JOHN WILLIAM           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SALT      | EDMUND                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SALT      | REGINALD               | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SAUNDERS  | WILLIAM                | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SHARPE    | WILLIAM                | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SHIPLEY   | EDWIN                  | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SHIPP     | FRANCIS GERALD         | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SMART     | BERT                   | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SMART     | CHARLES ALBERT         | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SPENCE    | RALPH EDWIN            | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SPONG     | ALBERT EDWIN           | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SQUIRES   | ALBERT CHARLES         | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| STONE     | FREDERICK WILLIAM      | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| STORK     | BERNARD                | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| SUTTON    | HAROLD                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| TAPP      | EDWARD                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| TAYLOR    | GEORGE                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| TROLLEY   | ARTHUR VICTOR          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| TURNER    | RAYMOND HARDY          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| TYLER     | ALBERT                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| VINCENT   | THOMAS ARUNDEL COLLIER | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| WAKEFIELD | GEORGE                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| WALE      | ARTHUR RONALD          | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| WALKER    | ALBERT                 | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| WALKER    | GEORGE PHILLIP         | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |
| WARREN    | FREDERICK DAVID        | Private | 1st/4th Bn.      |            |               |         |                  |

**TOTAL: 143**

If NCO's are included in the total (Corporal & Lance Corporal) + 20

**Total: 163**

| Hour, Date, Place                                      | Summary of Events and Information |      |            |    | Remarks |       |
|--|-----------------------------------|------|------------|----|---------|-------|
| CASUALTIES<br>12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec | preceded to trenches 12.10.15.    |      | Casualties |    |         |       |
| 4 LINC   | Officers                          | O.R. | K          | W  | M       | Total |
|  | 4                                 | 666  | 1          | 4  | 5       | 10    |
|  | 33                                | 139  | 2          | 2  | 2       | 38    |
| 5 LINC   | Officers                          | O.R. | 9          | 11 | 2       | 22    |
|  | 70                                | 157  | 2          | 15 | 19      | 46    |
| 4 LEICS  | Officers                          | O.R. | 11         | 7  | 2       | 20    |
|  | 5                                 | 187  | 3          | 10 | 10      | 45    |
| 5 LEICS  | Officers                          | O.R. | 3          | 9  | 2       | 14    |
|  | 18                                | 108  | 2          | 27 | 29      | 175   |
|  | 76                                | 2579 |            |    |         |       |
|  | Total 64 Officers                 |      |            |    |         |       |
|  | 1476 O.R.                         |      |            |    |         |       |

### 138 Brigade War Diary Casualty Summary



## 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion

| surname    | forename       | rank    | unitshipsquadron |
|------------|----------------|---------|------------------|
| ALLUM      | HARRY          | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| BAGULEY    | GEORGE HERBERT | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| BARTLAM    | FREDERICK J.R. | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| BETTS      | CHARLES EDWARD | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| BIDDLES    | JAMES HENRY    | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| FLETCHER   | GEORGE EDWARD  | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| GADD       | LEWIS          | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| GADSBY     | GEORGE THOMAS  | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| HALLIDAY   | ALFRED BERNARD | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| HENNEY     | GEORGE         | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| MONK       | JOHN           | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| NEWTON     | ERNEST         | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| WALPOLE    | JOHN THOMAS    | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| WATERFIELD | GEORGE ARTHUR  | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| WATTERSON  | ALBERT         | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| WHEAT      | GEORGE         | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| WHETTON    | HERBERT        | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| WILEMAN    | JAMES HENRY    | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |
| WOOLHOUSE  | FRANK WILLIAM  | Private | 1st/5th Bn.      |

**TOTAL: 19**

If NCO's are included in the total  
(Corporal & Lance Corporal) + 5

**Total: 24**