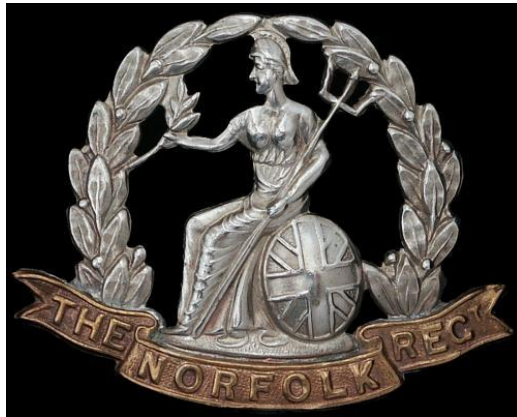


# The Norfolk Regiment on the Somme

1<sup>st</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916

## Sources

- *Tracing British battalions on the Somme – Roy Westlake*
- *The History of the Norfolk Regiment – F. Loraine Petrie OBE*



***The Norfolk Regiment had four battalions engaged in the Battle of the Somme suffering approximately 2,000 casualties during the main battles. Many men from our three villages also fought, both in the Norfolks and in other Battalions. Our records show that 12 died, including 6 from the Norfolk Battalions. This document describes the main battles and dates that the battalions were involved in. None of the Battalions ever fought in the same battle as they were part of separate corps.***

The **1<sup>st</sup> Battalions'** first major action (15<sup>th</sup> Brigade) was around Longueval between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July having moved up to High Wood on the 21<sup>st</sup>. By the time they moved into reserve on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August they had suffered 431 casualties, many of them from heavy shelling. They then took part in the attack on Falfemont Farm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September suffering a further 369 casualties. The Battalion left for the Bethune area on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

The **7<sup>th</sup> Battalion** moved up to the Somme area (35<sup>th</sup> Brigade) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and were in reserve for the actual attack on Ovillers on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, eventually taking over the front line. They took part in the attack on the Skyline Trench on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August. Returning to the Somme on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October they took part in the attack at Gueudecourt including Bayonet and Scabbard trenches where they were held up by uncut wire and sustained 221 casualties from heavy machine gun fire. They moved to the Arras sector later in October.

The **8<sup>th</sup> Battalion** (53<sup>rd</sup> Brigade) took part in the attack near Montauban on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the first day. They successfully took 6 enemy trenches until relieved on the 3<sup>rd</sup> after suffering 385 casualties. They then took part in the attack on Delville Wood on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July at 7.15am. Successfully cleared part of the wood and defended their positions against heavy bombardment until relieved between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This action cost 293 casualties. Their next main battle was the successful capture of the Schwarben Redoubt on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. They remained in the trenches until the 13<sup>th</sup> of November at Ovillers.

The **9<sup>th</sup> Battalion** arrived at the front line (71<sup>st</sup> Brigade) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August occupying a succession of positions ending at Trones Wood on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. From there they took part in the attacks on the Quadrilateral where they came up against uncut wire and suffered 431 casualties. They remained in the trenches until the successful attack on Mild Trench on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. They were relieved on the 19<sup>th</sup> after suffering a further 248 casualties.