

The events leading up to the death of Sergeant Thomas Vasey Adamson, 4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards). (Source: www.4thyorkshires.com)

1/4th Battalion (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own) Yorkshire Regiment
War Diary, March 1918

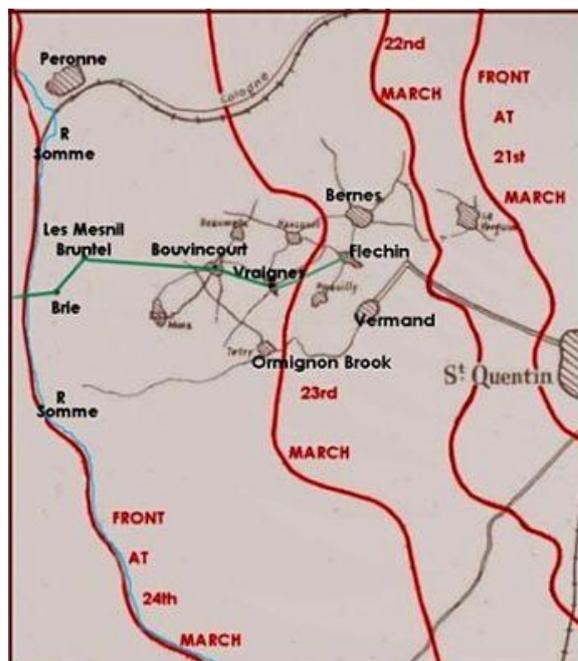
(The 4th and 5th Bns Yorkshire Regiment with the 4th East Yorkshire Regiment formed 150th Brigade)

Page 52:

On the 22nd the 4th Yorks Btn marched from Brie and took over trenches covering the villages of Bernes and Flechin.

Early on the 23rd March orders were received to retire to positions on the West bank of the River Somme.

The line of the 4th Yorks Btn retreat is shown in green on the next map.



Page 54:

25th March.

The Btn had snatched a few hours rest at Marchepot.

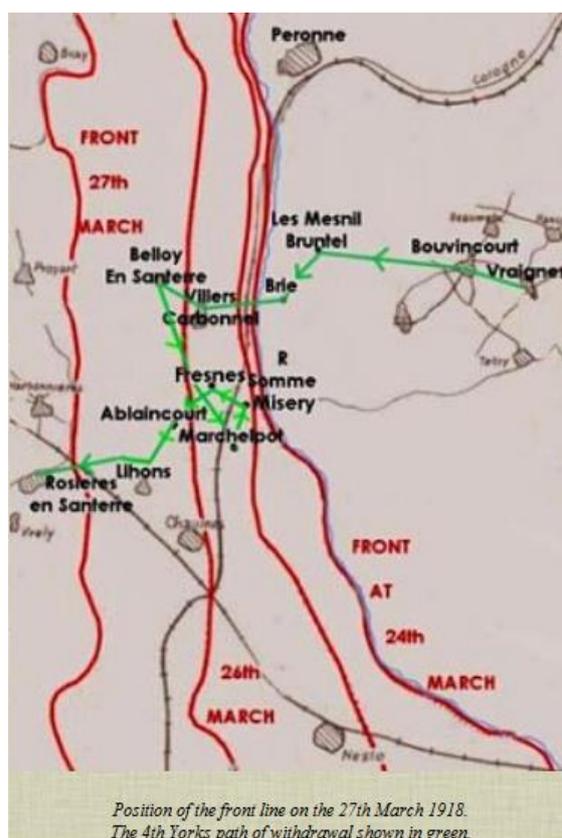
They were then detailed to make a counter attack at 7 a.m.

When the Brigadier of 150th heard that his exhausted men were to be sent once more into battle he entered a strong protest, but it was too late to make any alterations.

About 3 a.m the Btn was in position about one thousand yards North East of Licourt with the East Yorkshires on the left.

Diary - *"In the morning the Btn with the 4th East Yorks, on our left, was ordered to attack the enemy, who had crossed the River Somme by St Christ Bridge.*

This attack was to be supported by some



French Troops, one Tank, some armoured cars and an Artillery barrage, but nothing was ever seen of any of these.

Zero Hour was continually postponed, until about 10.0 a.m the enemy attacked.

Our line was held until the enemy worked round our flanks.

Our line at this time East of Licourt.

One Company of the Btn fought on until they were surrounded.

The remainder fell back about half a mile in the direction of Misery, where they held an old trench for seven hours. About 6 p.m. as touch could not be obtained with any other unit and as small arms ammunition was running short, Lt Col Wilkinson of the 4th East Yorks, who had taken over command of the detachment, ordered a retirement to the railway line North West of Misery.

After about half an hour a further retirement was ordered to a line East of Fresnes."

The East Yorks Diary - *"It was an uneven fight, for always we were outnumbered. If a German was shot down there were half a dozen ready to take his place; but we had no reserves."*

During the evening touch was obtained with 150th Brigade HQ and orders were received to join the remainder of the Brigade at **Ablaincourt**, which place was reached about midnight.

The 5th and 4th Yorks and 4th East Yorks, in that order, occupied trenches immediately East of the village.

By now they had lost so many men they formed one Composite Battalion. The strength of the Units at this time being 4th Yorks Btn 110, 4th East Yorks 300 and 5th Yorks 140.

26th March.

Diary " *Early in the afternoon the Brigade withdrew **through Lihoms to Rosieres En Santerre**, which place was reached about 5 p.m. The Brigade dug in here, facing South East, and held the position throughout the night and all the following day. We were in Support, with the 4th East Yorks on our Left.*

The 5th Yorks Btn and 8th D.L.I. were in the Front line. Casualties 2nd Lt R Campbell wounded and missing. Lt M.W. Macnay and 2nd Lt D.J.E. Lamb wounded."

15 other ranks were killed in action this day.

Page 55:

[including]:

200838 Sgt Adamson Thomas. Enlisted at Northallerton. Killed in action. Age 24. Buried at Moreuil Communal Cemetery Allied Extension.

Page 55:

Sergeant Adamson's Battalion remained at Rosières-en-Santerre during 27th March. On 28th March, the Battalion withdrew south to Vrely, then north west to Caix, then south-west to Villers Aux Erables (which is 2 miles west of Beaucourt en Saunterre, and 1.7 miles south east of the location that Sergeant Adamson's body was exhumed from in 1919-1921).

(map from page 56)

