

LT COL JOHN HENRY BRIDCUTT DSO

Lt Col John Henry Bridcutt - 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles was born in 1874 in Benson Oxfordshire; he enlisted at the age of 19 in the 1st Bn Coldstream Guards and served with distinction during the Boer War where he was mentioned twice in Dispatches. In 1902 he returned to Britain married and was promoted to Garrison Sergeant Major London District.

In March 1914 he was Commissioned and again served his new Regiment 7th Bedfordshire Regiment with distinction. Capt Bridcutt acting as Adjutant to this Regiment was awarded the **Distinguished Service Order** for the organisation and preparedness of the 7th Bedfords for 1st Jul 1916.

Bridcutt continue to serve with the Bedfords, receiving a Mention in Dispatches in Jun 1916 and twice during 1917. Now Second in Command of the Regiment, Bridcutt was rewarded by promotion to Lt Col on 8th Aug 1917 and given Command of the 2nd Bn Royal Irish Rifles.

At 1355hrs on 30th Sep, the 107th Brigade, to which the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles belonged, received orders to order up and attempt to seize Klythoek. It was found to be impossible to advance owing to the devastating German machine gun fire and there being no British Artillery available to target the German positions. This attack frittered out and the men sought cover wherever they could from both the enemy fire and the elements until dawn and a further assault.

The Bn attacked at dawn through heavy wet mist (01 Oct 1918); A and C companies passing through D and C Coys but was unable to make any advance on account of machine gun fire from CLARBOROUGH HOUSE and WHEATLEY CORNER. The front Companies swept by this devastating machine gun fire, they soon lost direction in the heavy mist. Lt Col Bridcutt attempted to reorganise them, like he had so many times before, but was killed 150 yds North of CARTON HOUSE. The attack petered out, with the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles suffering about 183 Casualties.

Lt Col Bridcutt held his Lt Col for less than 2 months and was killed a little over a month away from the Armistice.

He was buried in Dadezeele New British Cemetery plot III.E.17