

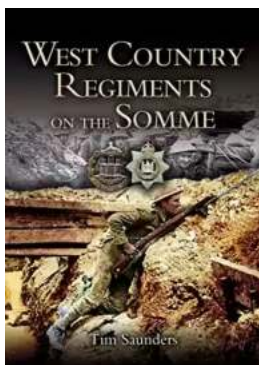
West Country Regiments On The Somme: Remembering the Brave Heroes

In the trenches of the Somme battlefield during World War I, the West Country regiments played a crucial role in shaping history. Their bravery, sacrifice, and determination are not to be forgotten. This article explores the incredible stories of these regiments, shedding light on the triumphs and tragedies that unfolded in this brutal conflict.

1. The 43rd (Wessex) Division

One of the key regiments from the West Country that played a significant role on the Somme was the 43rd (Wessex) Division. Comprised of units from Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, and Somerset, this division faced unimaginable challenges but fought valiantly for their country.

The 43rd Division was involved in numerous battles during the Somme offensive, including the infamous Battle of Mametz Wood. They endured heavy casualties while launching successive attacks against well-fortified German positions. Despite the horrors they faced, their determination never wavered. The division's bravery at Mametz Wood became legendary, as they eventually succeeded in capturing enemy strongholds at a tremendous cost.



West Country Regiments on the Somme

by Tim Saunders (Kindle Edition)

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Many soldiers from Devon and Cornwall played an active role in the 43rd Division, with their unwavering courage helping to secure crucial victories on the Somme. Their presence on the battlefield showcased the immense strength and resilience of the West Country regiments.

2. The 28th Division

Another West Country regiment that made a significant impact on the Somme was the 28th Division. Comprised of units from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and the surrounding areas, this division fought bravely in some of the bloodiest battles of the entire offensive.

The 28th Division played a pivotal role during the Battle of the Ancre Heights. Their objective was to capture the fortified German positions atop the ridge. Despite dense enemy artillery fire, the division pushed forward relentlessly, demonstrating their unwavering determination.

One of the most notable regiments from the 28th Division was the 2nd Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. The battalion faced intense resistance but continued their advance towards the ridge, not letting anything deter them. Through sheer perseverance, they successfully captured their objective, contributing to the overall success of the offensive.

3. The 61st (South Midland) Division

The West Country regiments were not limited to Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, and Somerset. The 61st (South Midland) Division, comprised of units from Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and other areas, also fought courageously on the Somme.

During the Battle of Guillemont, the 61st Division endured heavy casualties while attempting to capture the village. Despite the challenges, their unwavering determination pushed them forward, and they eventually achieved their objective. Their bravery in the face of adversity epitomized the spirit of the West Country regiments.

The 61st Division's success at Guillemont showcased the resilience and determination of soldiers from the South Midlands. Their unwavering commitment to the cause played a significant role in the overall Allied victory on the Somme.

Remembering the Heroes

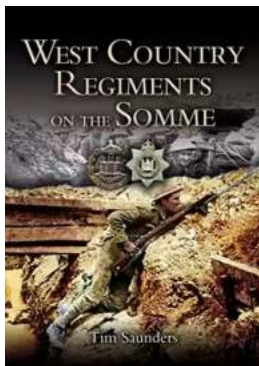
The West Country regiments on the Somme left an indelible mark on history. Their sacrifices and bravery deserve recognition and remembrance. Many heroes from all walks of life fought side by side, displaying unwavering courage and determination in the face of unimaginable horrors.

From the battles of Mametz Wood and the Ancre Heights to Guillemont, the West Country regiments played a pivotal role in the Somme offensive. Their stories deserve to be remembered and retold, ensuring that future generations never forget the tremendous sacrifices made by these brave soldiers.

Today, we honor their memory and remember their courage as we reflect upon the events that unfolded on the Somme battlefield. We must never forget the sacrifices made by the West Country regiments, as their legacy continues to inspire and remind us of the true cost of freedom.

The West Country regiments on the Somme were forged in the fires of adversity. They displayed unwavering courage, resilience, and determination in the face of tremendous odds. The battles they fought and the sacrifices they made shaped the course of history.

As we remember and pay tribute to these brave heroes, let us ensure that their stories and sacrifices are passed down through generations. The West Country regiments on the Somme will forever be remembered as a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who fought for freedom and justice.



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Previous works have concentrated on the 'Pal' in Britain's northern towns and cities. This book seeks to explore the little appreciated part in the Battle of the Somme played by the Regular and Volunteer Service battalions of two small West Country regiments; the Devonshire Regiment and the Dorset Regiment. These two regiments had five battalions in action on the first day of the battle and were represented in most of the significant attacks during the three and half months of the 1916. The reader will be able to form a clear picture of the battle's

development as a whole through the eyes of Westcountry soldiers who fought on the Somme.



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