



Report on the German Raid made on "G" Sector -
HEBUTEMNE on the night 15/16th May, 1916.

Dispositions of 1/4th Royal Berkshire Regiment.

On the night 15/16th May, 1916, the Right of the Battalion line was held by B Company (Captain G.H.W. CRUTTWELL).

The front line was held by two platoons furnishing by night 7 posts in K.23.2. K.23.3. K.23.4. K.23.5.

The only Communicating Trench from these posts (except No.7 post) to the rear is NAIRNE on the extreme right of the line. No. 7 post was entirely isolated.

The support consisted of two Sections and a Lewis Gun and team of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men - all in JONES; two Sections and a Lewis Gun and team in CABER, and one platoon in WORCESTER STREET.

In addition, one platoon of the Right Reserve Company (A) were in PIMLICO and would be at the disposal of O.C. Right Company in case of attack.

The Left was held by D Company (Captain R.G.ATTRIDE). The front line was held by one platoon in K.23.6. K.23.7. and K.23.8. furnishing 5 posts.

The support consisted of two Sections in DOMINIQUE with a Lewis Gun and team of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men in POST CLISSOLD.

The other two Sections of this supporting platoon were in the neighbourhood of OXFORD STREET.

Another platoon held Trenches K.23.9 and 10 with 3 posts and a supporting platoon with a Lewis Gun and team of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men in the forward end of JENA.

In addition, one platoon of the Left Reserve Company (C) in VERCINGETORIX would be at the disposal of O.C. Left Company in case of attack.

On the night 15/16 May, two platoons of the Reserve Company

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Company (C) had been working in WRANGLE, but at the commencement of the bombardment they were returning and were put into dugouts in or near PIMLICO.

About 12.45 a.m. I ordered the supporting platoons of A and C Companies to report to the Right and Left Company Commanders respectively.

No news could be obtained from the front line of the Right Company and the possibility of an attack more serious than a raid had to be considered.

The remaining Platoons of A and C Companies were kept in Battalion Reserve and were not moved.

I take full responsibility for the dispositions and method of holding the line. The two Company Commanders concerned were only carrying out my orders for the arrangements of the platoons and posts.

THE BOMBARDMENT.

At 12.30 a.m. the enemy commenced an intense bombardment on the front line with 77mm., 10.5 cm., and 15 cm. guns.

Hostile MINENWERFER, estimated at not less than six in number, and probably more, concentrated on our wire and front line trenches from K.23.2 to K.23.7 and the Northern end of JONES. At the same time JONES, DOMINIQUE, and the forward ends of the Communicating trenches were heavily shelled. This continued for about 30 minutes, and at 1.0 a.m. a RED Rocket was sent up behind the German lines and immediately in addition a very heavy fire from fresh Batteries of 15 cm. guns from the direction of SERRE was opened all down the Communicating trenches, on the support line, CABER - WORCESTER STREET - FOURNIER - OXFORD STREET - BOYAU 140 - FORT BRIGGS and GUINDET, and further back on the next line. At the same time the guns were lifted from the front line K.23.2 to K.23.5 on to the support line

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and Communicating trenches, and the bombardment slackened on the front line of the 31st. Division on our Right; About 1.40 a.m. it lifted from K.23.6. K.23.7. K.23.8, but was never lifted off the front line of our extreme Left platoon in K.23.9 and 10.

CABER - FORT BRIGGS and BOYAU 140 as also that part of NAIRNE nearest to CABER were especially subjected to a bombardment of extraordinary violence and accuracy.

It was during this period that the raid took place.

The trenches including the front line were so filled with a dense smoke from bursting shells that in places it was impossible to see more than 10 or 15 yards.

The damage done to our trenches was very great. Posts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Right Company were either obliterated or filled up with earth and sand bags. Many of the men on the Posts were partially buried, their rifles damaged or buried, and the bombs scattered, so that within a very few minutes of the commencement of the canonade many men found themselves without any means of defence.

Posts 3, 4, and 5 of the Right Platoon of the Left Company suffered in the same manner and the sap and trenches held by the Left Platoon were very badly knocked about.

WORCESTER STREET, FORT BRIGGS and BOYAU 140 were deluged with 15 cm. shells and suffered very material damage: CABER and BOYAU 140 being completely blocked in many places and a dense smoke pervaded the whole area.

Many casualties occurred in these localities.

THE RAID ON THE RIGHT.

About 1.0 a.m. a raiding party entered our Right Company lines opposite No. 7 post in K.23.5. This party encountered considerable resistance at post No. 7 but the Germans must have eventually overpowered them as all the nine men on this post were missing. There were many unexploded German bombs found scattered about the ground

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ground and a German automatic pistol and a fully loaded magazine for a similar pistol were picked up.

This party then divided into two bodies; one proceeded along JONES and on the parados of JONES. There were signs of considerable opposition having been made by our left post here which must have been eventually overcome. Six men of the post were missing.

The Lewis Gun team, who were on the right of this post under Lance Corporal COOKE, finding their regular gun position destroyed, moved further to the right of JONES where they took up a new position and opened fire. Two men of this team got detached and were never seen again. Owing to dirt having got into the mechanism the gun soon jammed. About the same Lance Corporal COOKE observed a party of about 15 men moving in file along the parados of JONES. These at first he took to be reinforcements coming over land but afterwards he began to realise they must have been Germans and that they would have entered JONES near the Left post in that trench. He therefore returned along the trench some way and then mounted the parados near his original gun position and there he endeavoured to get the gun into working order while the men of the team kept up a steady rifle fire. It is undoubtedly due to the presence of this post formed by the Lewis Gun team that the enemy did not attempt further progress in this quarter.

This party apparently returned by the same route as they had entered.

Great credit is due to Lance Corporal COOKE for his coolness in dealing with a difficult situation.

The other body, when the party divided, worked along behind the fire trench towards NAIRNE taking posts 6, 5, 4, 3, and 2 in rear. These posts had suffered severely in the bombardment, especially from 'MINNIES', and many

rifles

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rifles had been broken and buried: the bombs which had been on the parapet for immediate use had been scattered and the boxes of bombs buried. About 13 of the survivors, finding themselves either without rifles or with rifles rendered useless for firing, and being unable to get at their bombs, edged along the trench towards our Right or No. 1 post.

Lieutenant D.J.WARD, who was on duty in the front line during the whole of the bombardment, took up his position in the trench immediately behind No. 1 post, which was in a "T" sap. Here he met the 13 men mentioned above. He quickly organised a party of those who had rifles and bayonets to hold the right of this trench, but on finding a few of these men without any means of defence, and wounded, he sent them back down NAIRNE. A little later he examined the rifles of those who had them and ascertained that they were useless, and the trench being a very deep one he decided to retire this party to NAIRNE. At this moment four Germans appeared looking over the parados close to him. He immediately fired at them with his revolver and one was seen to drop on his knees and the others ducked down. Owing to the depth of the trench Lieutenant WARD could not see what happened to them. Fearing that his party, of whom several were wounded, might be bombed in the deep trench, he ordered most of them to retire to NAIRNE, while he himself went with one or two of the men to the left post of the 13th WEST YORKS (31st. Division) and asked if they would move a post further to their left so as to protect NAIRNE. This they readily did. While this was happening the men in No. 1 post, under Serjeant HOLLOWAY, had kept up a steady fire to their front but catching sight of some Germans behind the parados they opened fire on them and threw bombs and the Germans made off.

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It is certain that the progress of the Germans towards NAIRNE was stopped by Lieutenant WARD and the party he organised, assisted by the prompt co-operation of Serjeant HOLLOWAY and No. 1 post when they found the Germans were behind them.

The greatest credit is due to Lieutenant WARD for his cool judgment in dealing with the situation in spite of the severe ordeal of the bombardment - also to Serjeant HOLLOWAY for keeping his men well together so that they were ready to make full use of the opportunity of driving off the raiders when they appeared at their backs.

As soon as the bombardment ceased, Lieutenant WARD went down the front line and found that ten men were missing from Posts 2 to 6 inclusive.

On No. 2 post only one man survived and it appears that at an early stage the post was blown in and the men partially buried. While they were endeavouring to extricate themselves and their rifles and bombs from the wreckage, Germans appeared behind them and ordered them in English to get up on the parapet or they would be fired on. Private CHAPMAN at once tackled a German Officer with his fists but was shot dead by the latter's revolver. One man got away but the remaining four of the post were taken.

In the initial stages of the bombardment Captain G.H.W. CRUTTWELL sent Lieutenant GATHORNE-HARDY to locate the area affected, as telephonic communication with the front line was broken in the first five minutes. Meanwhile Captain CRUTTWELL sent his support platoon of A Company under Second Lieutenant HAMPSHIRE to FORT BRIGGS. Later, as many casualties occurred in FORT BRIGGS, two sections of this platoon were moved to BOYAU 140.

Later, Lieutenant GATHORNE-HARDY made his way through the barrage to CABER, where he found Lieutenant G.S.FIELD with his support platoon. Lieutenant FIELD was seriously wounded at the commencement of the bombardment but he

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remained with his command and organised the support line defence.

THE RAID ON THE LEFT COMPANY.

The bombardment on the right of the Left Company front line continued till about 1.40 a.m., when it lifted to the OXFORD STREET - GUINDET line.

After about half an hour from the commencement posts 1 and 9 were levelled and the men buried.

On No. 1 post, No. 4749 Private APPLEBY, though wounded, dug out the Lance Corporal in charge of the post and found he was dead. He then dug out three others and helped to get out the remaining two men, all of whom were wounded. His devotion to duty and cool-headedness undoubtedly saved the lives of these five men.

On Post No. 9 all the men were ~~missing~~ buried and the trench levelled. These men extricated themselves and moved to Post CLISSOLD where they were later of considerable use.

On post No. 3 all the men were buried. Captain BOYLE, who was on duty in this line, and Serjeant PITMAN, proceeded to this post and commenced to dig out Lance Corporal SARGENT and the other men. While thus engaged a German appeared on the parapet and Captain BOYLE and the Serjeant shot at him and he was seen to stagger backwards. Other Germans appeared going in the direction of No. 4 post. Thereupon Captain BOYLE and the Serjeant went to No. 4 Post and there organised a bombing party.

Captain BOYLE also visited No. 5 post and found them alright. Great praise is due to Captain BOYLE for the way he organised his bombing party and generally handled the situation at this point in the very trying circumstances prevailing. Captain BOYLE'S coolness had no doubt a great

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great influence on the men who remained steady throughout and by their rifle fire prevented the enemy proceeding further into our lines.

Serjeant PITMAN was with Captain BOYLE and gave him most valuable help and is deserving of high commendation.

Meanwhile Lance Corporal SARGENT collected some bombs from a little way along the trench on the left and on returning to his post commenced to throw them at a party of the enemy, estimated at 7 or 8, who had apparently been in the trench and had just left, taking with them two men from the post, one of whom was known to be badly wounded. Lance Corporal SARGENT threw bombs at this party and at a supporting party of Germans who were in the CHASSEUR HEDGE. Corporal HEWETT, who had come up the South side of the HEDGE from the supports with bombs, saw both parties of Germans and the bombs bursting in their midst. He also saw a line of 8 or 9 Germans rush up to the party with the prisoners.

When Captain BOYLE reached No. 4 post, Corporal PAGE, who was on duty in the trench, volunteered to go back for supports. He ran over land through the barrage and brought about 30 men from OXFORD STREET, under Serjeant V.H.TAYLOR, up to post No. 5, where they supplemented the fire which posts 4 and 5 had been keeping up on the HEDGE the whole time. This act of Corporal Page reflects the greatest credit on him for his courage.

No. 2834 Private SHAW is deserving of special mention. He took messages through the thickest of the bombardment from his Company Headquarters to the front line.

It was reported that some of the Germans were seen in Khaki with white armlets.

The left platoon of D Company in trenches K.23.9 and 10, which had at that time no lateral communication with

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the right platoon, was heavily shelled throughout the bombardment.

The men in the D sap were cut off and one man was killed and the others buried.

The Lewis Gun in JENA, under Lance Corporal LODGE, kept up a steady fire on the enemy's front line throughout.

Second Lieutenant H.M.W.WELLS of C Company, who was on duty in the front line, displayed great coolness, and visited all his posts during the bombardment and handled the situation in a very capable manner.

The supporting platoon of C Company and 1 Lewis Gun team, which had been sent to VAUBAN in the early part of the bombardment were later moved by Captain ATTRIDE to GUINDET.

The two Company Commanders, Captain R.G.ATTRIDE and Captain G.H.W.CRUTTWELL, were in constant telephonic communication with Battalion Headquarters. They both dealt with the situation in a cool manner. From the left Company in particular I received the information which I wanted to enable me to realise the position there.

Our Batteries. As soon as the bombardment commenced I, through the F.O.O., rang up the two GLOSTER Batteries covering our front who put up a good barrage on the enemy front line, and continued at various rates of firing till the bombardment ceased. Later, support was asked from the Heavies and Counter Batteries, which was given, though at the time they were firing on the 56th Divisional front.

The enemy bombardment on our trenches continued till 9.45 a.m. without slackening, when it suddenly ceased.

Gas shells. No gas shells were reported.

Relief of Posts. As soon as the bombardment ceased, all the posts were relieved by N.C.O's and men from the Reserve Platoons in less than an hour, the line being held in the same way

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as normally.

All available men were also put on to clear the trenches and, where possible, repair the damage done.

Fires were lighted in the Cookers before 3.0 a.m. and hot tea was sent up to the men soon after 3.0 a.m.

Casualties. I regret to report the following casualties:-

KILLED	18
WOUNDED	51 (includes Lt. Field)
MISSING	29

These were made up as follows :-

		Killed	Wounded	Missing
A Company	5	12
B Company	9	24 ♂/ 27
C Company	1	2
D Company	3	13

♂ Includes Lieut. Field.

Supply of Bombs.

The dispositions previously made for the supply of bombs in case of attack were as follows:-

The Battalion Bomb Store was in VERCINGETORIX; another forward store was in PIMLICO; three forward stores in the Company support line, i.e., CABER, OXFORD STREET, and JENA (junction of GUINDET) (two of these stores had only been made in the last three days). 15 men from each of the Reserve Platoons in VERCINGETORIX and PIMLICO were to report at these stores respectively to be under the orders of the Battalion Bombing Officer and Bombing Serjeant. These parties were to carry forward to the three forward posts - the support platoons were then to carry forward to the front line. The party at VERCINGETORIX also were to replenish their store from the Brigade Store in the Village.

This system worked well.

Serjeant EVANS, Battalion Bombing N.C.O., who was at

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the PIMLICO store, carried out his duties with ability.

Telephones. Telephonic communication existed from the three sections of the front trenches to their Company thence to Battalion H.Q. Headquarters, but the Right and Centre wires from Company Headquarters forward were broken in the first five minutes and communication could only be maintained by runners.

Communication with the Left held good all the time.

Communication from Battalion Headquarters to the Brigade was never interfered with.

The Battalion was relieved in the afternoon of the 16th, according to programme, by the 8th WORCESTER Regt. Search parties from B and D Companies were left behind and spent many hours of the night searching for the missing men.

Handling of Wounded. The arrangements made for the handling of the wounded were excellent. In reply to a message stretcher bearers were sent up from the village and with the aid of our own bearers collected the wounded. Although it was a four hour's journey to carry some of the stretchers from the front line to the Village dressing station, all the wounded were evacuated by 10.0 a.m., except three who could not be moved by day. Lieutenant MURRAY, 2nd Field Ambulance, who was attached to us while the Regimental Medical Officer was on leave, went to the Village Dressing Station. He, and Captain G. MOORE, 3rd. Field Ambulance, who was at the forward section stationed at HEBUTERNE, were chiefly responsible for this work.

The Revd. MEEK, the Non-Conformist Chaplain came up from the Village at dawn and was of great assistance to the wounded.

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The steadiness and general behaviour of the N.C.O's and men were excellent and in spite of the intense shelling and heavy casualties they never lost their morale. One Post of the Left Company kept up their spirits when they were not firing by singing the chorus of the song, "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile." (After one of the "Curios" Concerts I suggested this song as a good tonic for the Battalion if ever they were in a tight corner). The example set them by their Officers was worthy of all praise.

R.J. Clarke
Lieut: Colonel:
Commanding 1/4th Royal Berkshire Regiment.

23.5.1916.

145th Brigade.

48th Division.

1/4th BATTALION

ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

JUNE 1916:

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 211

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAISON-ROLAND	1/6/16		<p>The Battalion marched to the training area, ST RQUIER, leaving at 6.0 am and returning at 1.0 pm. Battalion training was practised. This was the first time the Battalion had been able to do any field training without taking any notice of what crops were on the ground for eleven months. It was very quickly realised how much trench warfare tends to dull the initiative and work against any quick movements of mind or body. It must be considered essential that many weeks must be given for practising field operations before troops who have been holding the trenches for any length of time can be fit for their new work.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> a fine day</p>	RJL
do	2/6/16		<p>All N.C.O's paraded at 10.0 am. before the Commanding Officer.</p> <p>The Battalion moved off at 11.45 am. for practising field operations on the Training area, returning at 8 p.m. - A long day's work, but fortunately the weather was not too hot.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> a fine day.</p>	<p>Cpl Boyle L' Down Went on leave. L' Golden Went to 143 Bde as Assistant Staff Capt.</p> <p>RJL</p>
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MAISON-ROLAND.	3/6/16		<p>The Battalion moved off at 6.0 am. to take part in Brigade Field Operations. The Brigade formed up at YVRENCH, returning to billets about mid-day.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day.</p>	Ref.
do	4/6/16		<p>The Brigade changed their billets to the North of the area. We moved to GAPENNES independently leaving 9.0 am., arriving at 11.15 am. We received a very friendly send off from the inhabitants of MAISON-ROLAND. During our stay there the Battalion had made friends with all the inhabitants and had quite changed the hostile feeling which was shown when we first marched in. The billets at GAPENNES were fairly comfortable. There again we received a hostile reception from the inhabitants on our arrival. This feeling was entirely caused by the behaviour of the troops who had been billeted there before us.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day</p>	Ref.
GAPENNES	5/6/16		<p>The Battalion moved off at 6.0 am. for field operations, in conjunction with the 5TH GLOSTERS: taking up position and digging in was practised from 7.10 am. The Battalion returned to billets about 12.30 p.m.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a very wet day.</p>	Ref.

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GAPENNES	6/6/16		<p>No work was possible in the morning on account of the weather. The Battalion moved off at 5 pm. and joined the Brigade rendezvous 5.30 pm - The attack was practised. The Brigade then marched to bivouacs for tea at 8.15 pm. The march across Country by night and deploying for the attack was practised, the point of assembly being reached at 11.0 pm. The Brigade returned to billets about 3.0 am.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- a wet day, fine night.</p>	
do	7/6/16		<p>No work was done in the morning. A Brigade Horse Show was held in the afternoon at AGENEVILLE. It was a good show and the turn-outs were all very creditable to each unit. Programme attached. The School Children from GAPENNES walked over to see the show on the invitation of the Commanding Officer.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- a showery day</p>	<p>R.J.C.</p> <p>Li Ward rel'd. from Leave.</p> <p>R. Gathorne- Hardy went on Leave.</p> <p>R.J.C.</p>
3			<p>The following wire was received from the Division on the 6th June:-</p> <p>"The Commander-in-Chief awards Military Cross to Capt. Boyle and the Military Medal to Corporal Sergeant. Convey Corps and Divisional Commanders' Congratulations.</p>	R.J.C.

WAR DIARY

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GAPENNES	8/6/16		<p>A full Battalion parade was held at 10.0 am, when the Commanding Officer ^{presented} said a Divisional Card to Lieut Wells for distinguished conduct in the field on the night of the 24th/25th April, and also read out a list of honours and awards, as affecting the Battalion, in the Birthday List, as follows:-</p> <p><u>Order of St Michael and St George, Companion</u> <u>Lt Col. (Bt. Col.) Oswald Pearce Serocold</u> <u>4th Royal Berkshire Regt (T.F.)</u></p> <p><u>Military Medal</u>.</p> <p>12. Sergt. A.W. Brerley, 1/4th Royal Berkshire Regt Encl. 4445 Sergt. R.A. Wickens do do do</p> <p>The Battalion moved off at 1.45 pm. to join the Brigade at YVRETCHEUX for field operations in conjunction with the 4th Brigade. Operations ceased at 6.45 pm and the Battalions returned to billets very wet as rain began to fall at 6.30 pm.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- a fine day, rain at night.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R.J.L</p>	<p>G/Hrie and Lt Lieut went to Dowl. School.</p>

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GARSTYNES	9/6/16		<p>The Battalion moved off at 7.15 am. to join the Brigade at 8.15 am. The two Brigades practised an attack, returning about 12.30 pm.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day, wet night.</p>	<p>11 Ridi 0nd on leave. 11 Ward assumed dukes of adjt</p> <p>R.J.</p>
do	10/6/16		<p>The Battalion moved off at 4.40 am. to the Brigade Rendezvous at YVRENCHEUX, the Brigade moving off at 5.0 am. - we were the second Battalion on the march.</p> <p>Route:- YVRENCHEUX - HEIRMONT - OXILE-LE-CHATEAU - NAVANS - FROHEN-LE-GRAND - MEZZEROLLES - OUTREBOIS - OCCOCHE. The OXFORDS were billeted at ^{Nº}(1), the GLOSTERS ⁽²⁾ and ourselves at ^{Nº}(2), and the BUCKS at ^{Nº}(3). A halt was made from 9.30 am. to 3.0 pm. ^{to} one mile West of FROHEN-LE-GRAND. We arrived at billets at 4.5 pm. It was a trying march at first and we lost 18 men before the long halt, but 14 of these reported in less than an hour. Very heavy rain fall between 4 and 5 pm. Billets were fairly clean.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a showery day.</p>	<p>R.J.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OUTREBOIS	11/6/16		<p>The Battalion moved off at 5.30 am. to the Brigade Starting Point - OCCOCHE. The Brigade left at 6 am. - we were at the head of the column. Route:- HEM - ORVILLE - SARTON - THIEVRES - AUTHIE - ST. LEGER - COVIN. A three-hours' halt was made just East of SARTON and tea was issued. We arrived in Trucks at COVIN 3.30 pm. - only three men fell out on the march.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a lovely day</p>	<p>The C.O. proceeded to FLIXECOURT to attend a Conference of C.O.s Capt. Battcock assumed temporary command of the Battalion.</p> <p>R.J.</p>
COVIN	12/6/16		<p>The Battalion moved to bivouacs at SAILLY 10.0 am owing to heavy rains the Camp was in a very bad state and in consequence of the many changes that had taken place in the immediate surroundings the village had quite changed in the past month. Four reliefs of 5 N.C.O.s and 64 men each were found day and night for work under the R.E.s. at HEBUTERNE on the various trenches etc.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> - a dull day, cold night, with rain.</p>	<p>A draft of 44 men joined the Battalion.</p> <p>Capt. Boyle's Reinforcements returned from leave.</p> <p>R.J.</p>
SAILLY - AU-BOIS	13/6/16		<p>Working parties as on the 12th.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> - a cold day and rainy.</p>	<p>Rev. S. J. GOSLINE (R.C) C.F. attached to the Battalion.</p> <p>R.J.</p>

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SAILLY.	14/6/16		<p>Working parties as on the 13th and an additional party of 230 for Corps work at MAISILLY-MAILLET. Another party of 3 Officers and 150 men were found for work at HEBUTERIVE in "H." Sector.</p> <p>One blanket per man was issued - these were badly needed owing to the cold weather.</p> <p>The Day-light Savings Bill came into force, all watches and clocks being advanced one hour in the night.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> fair.</p>	<p>Capt. Lewis Went on Leave.</p> <p>R.J.E.</p>
do	15/6/16		<p>Working parties were found ^{as} on the 14th, with the exception of the Corps working party.</p> <p>Baths at SAILLY were allotted to the Battalion.</p> <p>Orders from the Brigade were received for a Pioneer Section, consisting of 1 Officer, 2 N.C.O.s and 28 men. This system had already been adopted by this Battalion for some months and had proved a great success.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> a fine day.</p>	<p>R.J.E.</p>
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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAILLY	16/6/16		<p>The Battalion relieved the 5th GLOSTERS in "H." Sector at HEBUTERNE. D. and R. Companies up in the Line: C. Company in Battalion Reserve: 'A' Company in Brigade Reserve at SAILLY. The Relief was completed about 12.25 pm. Battalion H.Q. were in Billet 81. Working parties for various Communication Trenches were found by A. Co., C. Company and 150 from the 5th GLOSTERS. Four Officers of the Battalion went round the trenches of the 91st Divn. Weather:- a fine day.</p>	L. Taylor went on leave
HEBUTERNE	17/6/16		<p>Working parties as on the 16th for various Communication Trenches, etc. Enemy's guns and M.G.s were fairly active. Weather:- a fine day.</p>	The C.O. returned from FIXECOURT.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 211

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices										
HEBUTERNE	18/6/16		<p>Working parties as on the 17th instant. All the trenches were full of various working parties at night on details - Stokes Mortar Battery, new dug-outs; special parties for Smoke Canobs, etc. were to be found all along our front line. Enemy's 15 cm. guns were busy ^{most} of the afternoon. The following were mentioned in Despatches:- Lieut. Colonel R. J. Clarke. Lieut.-Colonel (Bravet-Colonel) O. Pearce-Serocold, C.M.G. Captain J. N. Aldworth.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- a fine day, cold night.</p>	<p>Lt. Cooke returned from Adjutant's Course. Lt. Gathorne-Hardy from Leave.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R.J.C.</p>										
do	19/6/16		<p>Working parties as on the 18th. A. and C. Companies relieved B and D. Cos. by 9.0 pm. Divisional Cards were received from the G.O.C. for Distinguished Conduct in the Field on the night of the 15/16th May. - names below. Their guns were more active all the day, chiefly 15 c.m., and their Machine guns hardly stopped firing all night in our front.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:-</p>	<p>Casualties:- 1 Died of wounds 1 Wounded</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R.J.C.</p>										
9			<p>2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>2443</td> <td>Sergt. Pilman, C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2171</td> <td>4/Sergt. Page, A.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2646</td> <td>Cooke, A.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3051</td> <td>Drewett, A.J.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2834</td> <td>Shaw, E.</td> </tr> </table>	2443	Sergt. Pilman, C.	2171	4/Sergt. Page, A.	2646	Cooke, A.	3051	Drewett, A.J.	2834	Shaw, E.	<p style="text-align: right;">R.J.C.</p>
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WAR DIARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEBUTERNE	20/6/16		<p>Working parties as on the 19th.</p> <p>Enemy's guns were quiet most of the day, but their Minenwerfers were active on our left front by night.</p> <p>One of our aeroplanes was forced to descend near PUISIEUX; crowds of the Enemy at once rushed round in numbers estimated at many hundreds.</p> <p>Patrols from A. and C Companies were out all night, but had nothing to report.</p> <p>Weather: a fine day.</p>	<p>C. Ridley returned from Leave, and posted to B. Co.</p> <p>R.J.E.</p>
do	21/6/16		<p>Working parties as on the 20th.</p> <p>Enemy's guns were active all day on our front, support, and reserve lines, chiefly 77's and 15 cm.</p> <p>Weather: a fine day.</p>	<p>R.J.E.</p>

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HERBIEUERNE	22/6/16		<p>We were relieved by the 5th WARWICKS in the morning. The relief Commanding at 11.30 am. The Battalion moved to huts at COVIN, the last platoon arriving about 4.0 pm.</p> <p>A Conference of Commanding Officer was held at Brigade at 5.30 pm. and of Company Commanders at Battalion HQ at 7 pm.</p> <p>All Companies were inspected by the Quartermaster for Clothing, Books, etc. in the afternoon.</p> <p>Extracts from London Gazette of 22.6.16:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major (tempy. Lieut.-Col.) R. J. Clarke, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, April 19th, 16. Captain G. A. Battcock to be Major, April 19th, 1916. Lieut. (tempy. Captain) to be Captain April 19th, 1916, F. A. Willmott. <p><u>Weather</u>: - a lovely day.</p>	
COVIN	23/6/16		<p>A working party of 2 Officers and 100 men was found from D. Coy. for work at COIGNEUX. A, B, C Companies were under Company Commanders, special instruction being given in bayonet fighting, smoke helmets, field dressing, &c.</p> <p>All H.Q. Details fired on the Range.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a sultry day: heavy thunderstorm in the afternoon: wet night.</p>	<p>R.J. L.G. Hardy left the Battalion & was app'td. Q.S.O. 3 of Reserve Army.</p> <p>R.J.</p>
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COUIN	24/6/16		<p>The COIGNEUX Working party was found by B. Coy. for work as on the 23rd.</p> <p>The Range was allotted to A. Coy. in the morning. C. Coy. in the afternoon.</p> <p>The Battalion Signallers were placed at the disposal of the Brigade Signal Officer.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer gave a lecture to the Battalion in the afternoon on Consolidation, and the new method of bayonet fighting. Before the Lecture he presented the Divisional Cards as sent in on the 19th inst.</p>	<p>Pilot Card received orders to report to the R.F.C. for instruction as Pilot in England.</p> <p>R.J.C.</p>
do	25/6/16		<p>Work as on the 24th. C. Company finding the COIGNEUX party.</p> <p>Church Parade was held at 10.30 am. in the Chateau grounds.</p> <p>Major Battcock attended as Ample a Divisional Advance Guard Exercise by the Motor Machine Gun Company and mounted troops in the AUTHIE district.</p> <p>Weather:- a showery day and night.</p>	<p>R.J.C.</p>

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COVIN	26/6/16		<p>Work as on the 25th with the addition of practices in wire cutting and wire breaking. The COIGNEUX party was found by A Coy. The Range was allotted to B. Coy. in the morning, D. Coy. in the afternoon. Baths were allotted to the Battalion from 2 to 5 pm. - 130 per hour. Weather:- a showery day, wet night.</p>	
do	27/6/16		<p>Work as on the 26th. COIGNEUX party found from D. Company. Lewis guns practised at a tactical exercise under Major Battcock. C. Coy. were inspected by the Brigadier at 10 am. in fighting order. A badge to distinguish the Battalion from others was selected by the Commanding Officer - a heart cut out in Royal Blue Serge to be attached to the back of the covers of the steel helmets; the cost of both covers and serge were met by the Christmas funds. Fighting dress as follows:- 2 Sandbags to be worn on the front of the belt; 2 Mills Grenades carried in the pockets; a bandolier of 50 rounds over the right shoulder; Iron Rations and what would be left of the present day's issue carried in the haversack; Carbine and S.O. Cap. or woollen Cap. in the haversack.</p>	R.J.G.

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COURT	27/6/16		Waterproof sheet on the outside of the haversack; a 1 in triangle to be fastened to the outside of the haversack, 50% to carry Picks and Shovels in the proportion of one to two. - These would be slung. A copy of notes of various odd details issued to Platoon Commanders is attached. <u>Weather</u> : - a wet day.	R.J.
do	28/6/16		Working party at Coigneuse was cancelled, also baths. Companies were at the disposal of Company Commanders for training. <u>Weather</u> : - Heavy rains most of the day.	R.J.
do	29/6/16		Company Training under Company Commanders. The Range was allotted to A. Coy in the morning, B in the afternoon. <u>Weather</u> : - a fine day.	R.J.
			The remaining days will be included in the Diary for JULY.	
14			R.J. Clarke Cl. B. Comdg 1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.	

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COVIN	30/6/16		<p>Work as on the 29th.</p> <p>The Throat Cases all shewed an improvement, the darkness and dampness of the walls evidently having been responsible for them.</p> <p>The Working party from ACHEUX returned to the Battalion.</p> <p>Weather: - a fine day.</p>	R.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Strength Return (present with unit)</p> <p>June 1916</p> <p>Week Ending</p> <p>June 2nd</p> <p>" 9th</p> <p>" 16th</p> <p>" 23rd</p> <p>" 30th</p> <p>All Ranks</p> <p>707</p> <p>701</p> <p>742</p> <p>746</p> <p>736</p>	

BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
145th BRIGADE

HORSE SHOW

TO BE HELD « SOMEWHERE » IN FRANCE

2 P. M.

on June 9th, 1916

Under the patronage of Brigadier General DONE, D. S. O.

COMMITTEE

Captain R. J LEAHY Brig Major.

Capt. J. N. ALDWORTH

Lt. F. BALFOUR

Lt. J B. HILL

Lt. J PAYNE

Lt. G. LISTER

Hon Secretary. Lt. A. K. GIBSON

Judges. Col. COSSART. R. F. A.

*Col. Harris
Col. Roberts, A.S.C.
Col. Smyth - Osborne*

*It is hoped that the 48th Divisional Band will play during
the afternoon.*

145th Brigade Horse Show

PRIZES

PRIZES.				Horses over 14. 2. Classes A. & B.	
	1st	2nd	3rd		
Class 4. Best pair of H. D. Horses	30 fr.	20 fres	10 fres.	11. Jumping Competition	
<i>2 Entries per Unit.</i>				Horses 14. 2. and under. Classes A. & B.	
2. Best pair of H. D. A. S. C. Horses	30 »	20 »	10 »	12. Tug of War on Horseback	20 fres.
Open to N° 4 C'oy Train.				Teams of 4 Horses, 1 Entry per Unit	
3. Best pair of L. D. Horses	30 »	20 »	10 »	13. Wrestling on horse back.	
<i>3 Entries per Unit.</i>				Teams of 4 Horses, 1 Entry per Unit. 20 fres. divided	
4. Best pair of Mules	30 »	20 »	10 »	14. Victoria Cross Competition.	
<i>2 Entries per Unit.</i>				Teams of 3 horses, 1 Entry per Unit	
5. Best pair of Pack Cols	30 »	20 »	10 »	Class A. for Officers.	
<i>2 Entries per Battalion.</i>				» B. » Transport Personnel. 20 fres divided	
6. Best single horse to be shown in Tug harness with vehicle	20 »	10 »	5 »	15. Driving Competition	
				Pair of L. D. or Mules in limbered Wagon.	
7. Best Riding Horse	30 »	20 »	10 »	<i>4 Entries per Unit</i>	20 fres 10 fres
Open Class					
8. Best Riding Horse	30 »	20 »	10 »		
Open to all Officers horses, except					
Brigade H. Q. and Commanding Officers					
9. Best Team of L. D. or Mules in Wheel & Lead Harness	20 »	40 »	5 »		
Open to B. M. G. C'oy.					

CONDITIONS

1,3,4 & 9
1. Classes ~~13 & 4~~ will be shown without vehicles. *Covered Carriages*

2. No horse may be shown in more than one class, except in the Riding Horse Classes, and Classes 10 to 15 inclusive.

3. Horses in Class 2 will be shewn in E. P. Harness, *and G.S. Wagons*

4 Only Canvas Pack saddles will be allowed in Class 5.

5. In Jumping Competitions Classes A. B. are as follows:-Class A Open, B, Officers who have never hunted or ridden in a Show Ring.

Classes 7-18
6. In Jumping Competitions horses will be ridden by their owners or an officer of the same Company.

7. No Officer may ride more than one horse in any Class.

8. In Classes 7,8,10 and 11 & 14 there will be an Entrance Fee. of 5 frs. per entry

9. Horses entered in Classes 10 and 11 will be measured by the Committee prior to the Show.

10. In Class 13 horses will be ridden Bareback without bits, and riders will not wear boots Canvas Shoes are allowed.

11. All entries must be sent in to the Secretary by ~~12~~ noon on Wednesday May 31st. *To be made on the Ground.*

12. In Classes 1 to 9 the judges have instructions to award marks as follows:-

Turn out 40%

Condition 40%

Quality 20%

13. In classes 10-11 and 13 no officer of the unit.

The following points are passed to you for information and necessary action.

1. In the event of the Brigade relieving another Brigade in the trenches, men will carry their packs.
2. In the event of the Brigade being ordered to attack, packs will be left behind and sent to the Quartermaster's Stores.
3. All ranks will carry Haversack, Waterproof sheets, Mess Tins.

Contents of Haversack:-

Two day's rations,
S.D.Cap or Woollen Cap (if possible).
Chocolate.
Pair of Socks.
Cardigan.

All ranks are advised to carry in their pockets, a pipe, tobacco and matches.

Every man will carry 170 rounds of S.A.A.

Very lights and pistols will be carried by Officers or N.C.Os

Very guns and 1½" lights will be carried on the Small Mess Cart.

Canvas buckets for carrying up water are being issued to Battalions and will be with the 1st Line Transport.

4. The following men will be left behind:-

Quartermaster's Stores.

Shoemakers.

Pioneers.

Tailors.

Company Quartermaster-Sergeant, Storeman and 4 Cooks per Company will remain with each Cooker.

Orderly Room Staff.

One servant per Company Officer's Mess will report to Sergt Hancock and will be with the Mess Cart.

5. Company Hand-Carts will be taken to the dump.

6. The following will be detailed by each Company:-

Four Runners.

Twelve ~~the~~ Wire-Cutters (these men will wear a yellow armlet and lanyard).

Seventeen ~~the~~ Wire-Breakers, & Cutters (These men will wear yellow Armlet with Black bar and lanyard) One man per Platoon for detonating bombs. Further men (possibly 20) may be required for special jobs which may arise, and these men should be detailed now.

7. Special attention to be paid to the following:-

- (a) Oil Bottles and Waterbottles must be kept filled.
- (b) Whenever greatcoats, waterproof sheets, packs or any other article of equipment is ordered to be discarded, such equipment is to be stacked by units in dumps and a guard left in charge, one of whom to be detailed for the special duty of informing the Quartermaster of the unit of the exact position of the dump.

8. Transport will be divided into Echelon "A" and Echelon "B". Echelon "A" will march with the Battalion. Echelon "B" will be Brigaded.

ECHELON "A" Two Lewis Gun limbers.
Two S.A.A. limbers.
Medical Cart.
Eight pack ponies.

ECHELON "B" Two S.A.A. limbers.
One bomb limber.
Two tool limbers.
Two watercarts.
Two Mess Carts.
Four Cookers.

Snare dixies will be carried on the second Mess Cart.

9. Special attention is drawn to Officers' Dress (para. 6 Battalion Orders No. 279 of 26.6.1916).

10. Burberrys will be carried by Officers. Wallets should be used for spare maps, extra rations, etc.

11. Two pigeon men will be attached to the Battalion.

12. Buglers will carry their bugles.

13. All Headquarter Details will mess with their Companies.

14. The telephone will not be used except in case of emergency. One drum of wire will be carried by each Company. Special Orders have been issued to the Inter-Communication Section.

15. "Blue Hearts" and Tin triangles should be drawn as soon as available. "Blue Hearts" must be sewn on neatly by the men to the back of the steel helmet covers.

16. Runners will carry 25 rounds of ammunition.

17. Dixies will be carried on the small Mess Cart.

18. Balance of Wire-Cutters will be carried on Tool limber No. 2.

19. Flares and Belt-Bags will be carried by Officers or N.C.O.s.

20. Two oilskin waterproof bags will be carried on the Grenade limber. They are to be used for storing Grenades when in the trenches.

21. Gloves, Hedging, 72, have been drawn and issued.

22. Wire-Cutters (long) ^{1/2} ~~1/2~~, have been drawn and issued, and will be carried in the same manner as the Pick Head.

23. 50 "Vigilant" Periscopes have been drawn and issued.

SOME NOTES ON WEARING OF EQUIPMENT AND
CARRYING OF TOOLS - FIGHTING ORDER of this
BATTALION.

1. The Haversack will contain:-

Cardigan.
Pair of Socks.
Soft Cap.
Iron rations.
2. The waterproof sheet will be folded under the flap of the Haversack.
3. Mess Tins will be attached to the lowest buckles of the Haversack.
4. Tin Triangles, with the point downwards, will be fastened to the two tags on the top side of the Haversack.
Extra holes to be punched half way down either side of the triangles for the purpose of attaching it securely to the Haversack straps so as to prevent it flapping or shewing when the wearer lies down.
5. The Bandoliers will be slung over the right shoulder with sufficient length so as to rest on the lower pouches.
6. Shovels will be slung across the right shoulder, the string to run under the left pouches.
7. Pick helves will be carried in the same way as shovels.
8. Pick heads will be tied on to the Entrenching tool frog.
9. Two sandbags will be carried on the belt in front, and tied.
10. Long Wire-Cutters will be carried in the same way as Pick Heads.

145th Inf. Bde.
48th Div.

WAR
DIARY

1/4th BATTN. THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT.

J U L Y

1916

Attached:

Report on the Oper-
ations in the Pozieres
District July 22-25,
1916.

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	2/7/16 (Contd.)		in great spirits, feeling that at last the time for attack had come after all the many months of trench life. <u>Weather</u> : - a fine day.	R.F.E.
MAILLY- MAILLET.	3/7/16		All day was spent in resting. The two Brigades moved back to the bivouacs at COVIN etc in the afternoon. We moved at 6.30 pm, arriving at the huts at COVIN at 9.30 pm. - a good march. The feeling of disappointment seemed far greater when we returned. <u>Weather</u> : - a fine day, wet night.	R.F.E.
COVIN	4/7/16		Companies were under their Company Commanders for the day. <u>Weather</u> : - A fine morning, rain all the afternoon.	R.F.E.
do	5/7/16		We moved to bivouacs at MAILLY, leaving at 9.15 am, onward, Companies at a quarter of an hour's interval. Companies were under Company Commanders for the day. <u>Weather</u> : - a fine day; a noisy night as the Germans were trying to find the Batteries near most of the night.	R.F.E.

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS REGT

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAVILLE	6/7/16		<p>Companies under Company Commanders morning and afternoon. Working parties of one Officer and 65 men per company for carrying Smoke Candles, etc in the trenches, leaving at 9.45 p.m., and returning about 2.30 a.m. - most of them were wet up to the waist. A Conference of Commanding Officers held at Brigade 4.30 p.m. <u>Weather</u>:- a fine day until about 5 p.m., very heavy rain afterwards.</p>	
do	7/7/16		<p>Very little work was possible owing to the weather. <u>Weather</u>:- Rain all day.</p>	R.F. Casualty:- 1 Wounded 2 Hampshire W.S. 1 School of Justice at FLEIXECOURT. R.F.
do	8/7/16		<p>We relieved the 5th GLOSTERS in H. Sector at HERBUTERNE by 6.45 a.m., the first Company leaving bivouacs at 4.0 a.m. - the going was very heavy. Dispositions:-</p> <p>A. Company - Right Company:- { 1 Platoon up: 1 in CARENCY: { 2 in RAGLAN. <u>By night</u> 2 Platoons up: 1 in CARENCY: 1 in RAGLAN.</p> <p>C. Company - Left Company:- { 1 Platoon up: 1 in ALSACE: 2 in POISIEUX ROAD. <u>By night</u> 2 Platoons up: { 1 in ALSACE: 1 in POISIEUX ROAD.</p>	

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8/7/16 Contd		<p><u>Dispositions - Continued.</u></p> <p>D. Company, in FORT GROSVENOR.</p> <p>B. Company, Brigade Reserve in bivouacs at STAILLY.</p> <p>During our absence the village had acquired a very unhealthy reputation, but during our tour there was not, at any time, as much shelling as we had often experienced in days gone by.</p> <p>The trenches were in very bad condition, full of water and mud, and very few pumps were available: the water in many places was waist deep.</p> <p>Enemy's guns were active all the day, chiefly 77's and 150.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> a showery day</p>	
HERBIEUERNE	9/7/16		<p>All day and night was spent in dealing with the water and mud, pumps being kept going continually.</p> <p>We received orders about 1.0 o'clock to make all preparations for letting off smoke, but the order was cancelled about 4.30.</p> <p>B. Coy. relieved A. Coy: D. Coy. relieved C. Coy, A moving to STAILLY, C to FORT GROSVENOR.</p> <p>2,000 "P" grenades were sent up late at night to positions in the front-line. Orders were received for all arrangements to be made to let these off at an</p>	<p>R.F.</p> <p>Casualties:- 3 wounded. 2/1. Buck, 5/L R. Warwick alld to B Coy.</p>

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WAR DIARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

1/4th ROYAL BENGAL RIFLES

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEBUTERNE	9/7/16 Contd.		<p>hours notice Their guns were fairly active all day, and their Machine Guns at night. <u>Weather:</u> a lovely day</p>	RJF
do	10/7/16		<p>Work in the trenches as on the 9th. A. Coy. relieved B. Coy; C. relieved D, D to FORT GROSVENOR, B. to bivouac at SPILLI. Brigade Conference was held at 2.30 p.m. re the new trench to be dug, Major BATTCOCK attending. A new trench from the first Barricade to the SERPENTINE RD. It was about 700 yards straight: the 3 Communication trenches, PAUL 140 yards, BUGEAUD 280 yds, NATSON 220 yds. The digging parties were found by the 4th OXFORDS, the BUCKS and ourselves finding the covering party. Our covering party was 2 officers and 50 men in groups of 5, about 30 yard interval. No wire was put up. Total Casualties - 3 killed 9 wounded. The moon was very bright and the enemy kept up Machine Gun fire, and 77 m. shells intermittently all the night. Their guns were fairly active all the day <u>Weather:</u> a lovely day</p>	Capt Lewis went to the 6th Warwick as Second in Command. Casualties: 3 killed 2 wounded RJF

Army Form C. 2118.

1/4th ROYAL BERKS, REGT.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEBUTERNE	11/7/16		<p>Work as on the 10th.</p> <p>B. and D. Cos. relieved A and C Cos, A to FORT GROSVEYNOR, C to SAILLY. A large working party was found by the 5th GLOSTERS for the new trench, the Bocks and ourselves finding the covering party again. The enemy kept up "Minnie", 77's and Machine Gun fire continuously and very little work was possible. Their guns were very active all the day.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> a lovely day</p>	<p>Carnasses - 5 wounded</p> <p>R.J.L.</p>
do	12/7/16		<p>The 5th GLOSTERS relieved us by 8.0 am., our last platoon arriving in bivouacs at SAILLY by 9.30 am. We handed over the trenches in a very different state to what they were when we took over.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> a fine day: showers at intervals.</p> <p>Working parties were found from C. Cos. to work under the P.E.'s. on the at HEBUTERNE all the day - 96 men in all.</p> <p>The other three Companies were under their Company Commanders for the day.</p> <p>The "Cirios" came over and gave their Entertainment in the afternoon - an excellent performance.</p>	<p>Capl Lewis relief the Bn. as Col. Wetmore had been sent out from Eng^t to command and Major Danielsen 2nd in command</p> <p>R.J.L.</p>

WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SAILLY	13/7/16		<p>Work as on the 12th.</p> <p>About 100 of the Battalion went over to see the 5th Battalion in the afternoon: they were bivouacking in the BOIS DE WARVIMONT, their Division having come back for a rest after their attack at OVILLERS. The 5th Battalion had been badly hit here. Their Commanding Officer was the only Officer to come out unhurt.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- a showery day.</p>	R.F.
dv	14/7/16		<p>Orders were received to be ready to move by 11.0 am. We finally left our bivouacs at 2.0 pm. to meet the lorries on the SAILLY-COIGNEUX Road: they were all very late and we left at 6.25 pm. We moved via BERTRANCOURT, arriving at SENLIS about 8 pm. The billets were very dirty^{dirty} and the allocation made by the Town Major were very incorrect.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- a showery day.</p>	R.F.
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SENLIS.	15/7/16		<p>Only the usual Platoon and Company inspections were held. Company Commanders rode up to look at the ground in the OVILLERS-LA BOISSELLE district in case the Battalion was ordered to advance. The Commanding Officer went with the Brigadier to look at the trenches near OVILLERS.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> - a fine day</p>	R.F.
do	16/7/16		<p>Work as on the 15th.</p> <p>The Seconds in Command rode up to have a look at the ground. The Commanding officer motored with the Brigadier to look at LA BOISSELLE. ALBERT was full off troops but no civilians were seen. LA BOISSELLE was a perfect sign of desolation; no wall of the village was left, the trenches were blown in, all the wire was shot away, and the debris of the battle lying about - dead, equipment, rifles, bombs, kit, etc - the scene was terrible. Our guns had done their work well and the village had been completely destroyed. The fortifications of the Germans were wonderful and some idea of the difficulties our attacking troops had to face could be understood.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> - a fine day, showers in the afternoon</p>	R.F.
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SENVLIS	17/7/16		<p>Work as on the 16th. Orders were received to move to BOUZINCOURT, but were cancelled later. <u>Weather</u> - a showery day.</p>	rgf
do	18/7/16		<p>We moved to BOUZINCOURT, leaving at 6.45 am., bivouacking in a field North of the village. Tents were sent up by degrees. A Brigade Conference was held at 6 pm for Commanding Officers and orders were issued re the attack on points 39-79-97.11 and 81 (See Map). The OXFORDS were making the attack and we moved to bivouacs to the East of ALBERT to be in support. Companies moving off at 9 pm, with five minutes interval. H. Company found carrying parties for the OXFORDS. A very cold night and little sleep was possible. <u>Weather</u> - a wet morning, fine later.</p>	rgf
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALBERT.	19/7/16		<p>All day was spent in bivouacs. We relieved the 7th R. WARWICKS at 5pm onwards, holding the trenches on the West of POZIERES. Dispositions as follows:</p> <p>C. Company - in Support</p> <p>B. Company - 2 Platoons in the Front Line, 2 in Support.</p> <p>A.T.D. in Reserve at the bivouacs.</p> <p>H.Q. were in an old German dug-out in LA BOISSEILLE, very well made, and it gave one some idea of all the work the enemy had put in during the time they had been holding their front. The whole village ruins were very fine. The trenches were in a very bad state, parts of them very shallow and the dead were unburied - some of them had probably been there for 10 days.</p> <p>Their guns were very active all the evening and night, chiefly 15s and 21s. Their lines appeared to be very strongly held and they were very alert. In the night they used gas shells with some effect.</p> <p>Weather: a fine day</p>	<p>Casualties - 1 Died of wounds, 15 Wounded 7 Gassed.</p> <p>Reinforcement of 44 joined the Batt.</p> <p>Rgt.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1/4 BOISSEILLE	20/7/16		<p>No work beyond clearing up was possible by day.</p> <p>A Conference of Commanding Officers was held at 3pm at Brigade re the night attack.</p> <p>A and D. Companies were moved up into the trenches in the village.</p> <p>A very busy afternoon and Evening, the main road near the trenches being full of odd units and working parties. At 11.45 pm. we received orders that we should not be wanted in the attack. A. Coy. returned to bivouacs, D. Coy remained in the village, C. relieved B. Company.</p> <p>A very noisy night, every gun on both sides appeared to be firing.</p> <p>The Anzacs were on our Right - a splendid lot of men, full of confidence.</p> <p>Weather: A fine day</p>	Carnallos 8 wounded.
do	21/7/16		<p>Supports of the front Coy were moved to 82 trench.</p> <p>A relieved C Company, C. moving to bivouacs.</p> <p>A very busy day clearing the trenches, carrying Bombs forward and generally improving our position.</p> <p>Their guns were firing practically all day, chiefly 15c and 21c.</p> <p>A party of 150 OXFORDS came up at night to help clear the trenches.</p>	Reinforcement of 102 joined the Battalion.
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA BOSSELLE	21/7/16 Contd.		<p>but owing to the heavy fire very little work was possible, gas shells again being used frequently. A patrol under command of Lieut Down, went out from our Right trench to reconnoitre the S.W. corner of POZIERES. They returned with most valuable information, though owing to the M.G. fire and the number of flares the enemy kept sending up all night the difficulties and dangers of their work were increased. Their information was of great use to the Anzacs when they attacked.</p> <p>Weather:- a fine day.</p>	Casualties Killed 17 Wounded
do	22/7/16		<p>B and D. Cos. spent most of the day clearing German dug-outs. A Conference of Commanding Officers was held at 2.30 pm. at Brigade H.Q. re the night attack. Copy of orders attacked. A very busy afternoon was spent, making all the necessary preparations. The 7th R. WARWICKS came up after dark to support us if necessary. B.H.Q. were moved forward after dark to form B.M. 12.3 point 2 the OXFORD H.Q. joining us there</p> <p>Weather:- a fine day</p>	Casualties 6 Wounded
13				R.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LA BOISSELLE	23/7/16		<p>Our attack began at 4.0 am - see Report. Their shell fire was incessant from dawn till dark. The captured trenches, on our right and all communication trenches being continually under fire. At 6.20 pm we received orders that the 5th WARWICKS would take over our front and this relief was completed by 3.0 am on the 24th. The Battalion did well in the attack and later when holding the captured trenches. Weather: a fine day.</p> <p>(Reinforcement of 46 joined the Bn)</p>	<p>Casualties 2/10 Clayton & Wakeford Killed 23 killed 103 wounded, including Shell shock Ry. 16.</p>
do	24/7/16		<p>We relieved the BUCKS in the OVILLERS Section by 1.30 pm. - A. Coy. in the front line: D. Coy. in support: B and C. in Reserve. A very trying day for the shelling was continuous till dark. D. Coy. had arranged to attack Point 40 at dusk, but at 5.30 pm. orders were received to try and take Point 3723: two Companies of the GLOSTERS under Major Collet, came up to support us (See Report) The trenches in the OVILLERS Section were in many places bad. The work there the enemy had put in was well worth inspecting.</p>	<p>Casualties 2/1 Reed Killed 2/1 Kenney Wounded <u>O. Ranks</u>- 2 Killed 43 wounded, including 9 Shell Shock Ry.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LAT BOISSELÉ	25/7/16		<p>The GLOSTERS relieved us by 11.30 am: we moved back to bivouacs near ALBERT, all the Battalion being in by 1.0 pm. All were tired as many of us had only very few hours sleep in the two days and night we had been holding the line, either at LAT BOISSELÉ or OVILLERS. They soon pulled themselves together after a hot meal. The bivouacs were changed to the other side of the road, near the river, in the afternoon.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day.</p>	
ALBERT	26/7/16		<p>The Battalion moved from the bivouacs to a field near the transport at BOUZINCOURT, after breakfast. They rested there until 1.15 pm. and then marched in the Brigade to ARQUEVES, arriving about 4.30 pm. All packs were carried by Lorries.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day.</p>	R.F.
ARQUEVES	27/7/16		<p>All the day was spent in resting. The Commanding Officer inspected the Battalion at noon telling them of the praise they had received for their work. The Draft were inspected at 12.30 pm. by the Commanding Officer.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day</p>	<p>R.F.</p> <p>a Draft of 34 joined the Battalion.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PARQUEVES	28/7/16		<p>The Brigade moved off at 7.50 am marching to BEAUVAU. A very trying march for the last three miles, but only 810 men fell out - all of them Drafts. We were back in our old billets in the town, much to our joy and the joy of the inhabitants who had not forgotten us for the excellent way in which the Battalion had behaved when we were there before. We arrived 10.45 am, and the rest of the day was spent quietly.</p> <p>Weather: - a lovely day.</p>	
BEAUVAU	29/7/16		<p>The Brigade left BEAUVAU at 8.0 am. We, with the 5th GLOSTERS, marched to CRAMONT via BEAUVUESNE. A very hot march and most trying although the heat of the day. We arrived at 1.45 pm, having had two half-hour halts on the way: 125 men fell out, 96 of them being Drafts. Some of these men should not have been sent out: they had not handled a rifle before, only broomsticks; they had not been taught to turn and had no knowledge of a bomb. Many of the Elementary points on Sanitation were unknown. These remarks refer to only a few. The Corps Commander, General MORLAND, met us and congratulated the Commanding Officer on the excellent way in which the Battalion had fought.</p> <p>The G.O.C. Division inspected the Battalion on the march.</p>	age

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices										
			<p><u>Strength Return</u></p> <p><u>JULY</u></p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Week Ending</u></th> <th><u>All Ranks</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>July 8</td> <td>842</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- 15</td> <td>828</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- 22</td> <td>864</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- 29</td> <td>828</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>All Ranks</u>	July 8	842	- 15	828	- 22	864	- 29	828	
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REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS IN THE POZIERES
DISTRICT JULY 22-25, 1916.

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS IN THE POZIERES DISTRICT JULY 22-25, 1916.

A Conference of Commanding Officers was held at Brigade H.Q. at 2.30 p.m. on the 22nd, July, 1916, and verbal orders were received re the night attack. Copy in writing followed :-

- "1. 145 Infantry Brigade will attack tonight in conjunction with 144 Infantry Brigade - dividing line is the Railway in X 3 c, inclusive to 145 Infantry Brigade.

"2. 1/5th GLOSTERS will attack 02 to 79 as their Right and the Railway as their Left. They will capture Point 79 from West and Point 40 from East. 144 Infantry Brigade are attacking Point 40 from North. 1/4th OXFORD & BUCKS L.I. will advance left just East of Point 28 Right on Point 81. They will send flank parties to seize and occupy Points 97 and 81. They will cross trench 28-81 and attack Point 28 from East and North and Point 11 from East, sending a strong bombing stop up trench towards Point 54. Both Battalions will join hands North of and in trench 79-11.

"3. Such Points in the Railway bank North of Point 11 as are necessary will also be captured.

"4. Every trench and post captured must be consolidated and a sufficient garrison left to hold it.

"5. Stokes Guns will fire on points 39 and 40 under instructions given separately.

"6. Machine Gun Company will carry out special duties which have been given them.

"7. Zero time has been notified to all concerned.

"8. 1/BUCKS and 1/4th ROYAL BERKS will be prepared to continue or resume the operations under instructions already given and by order of this Office.

"9. Flares are to be let off at 5.0 a.m. 8.0 a.m. 12 noon, 4.0 p.m. 8.0 p.m.

"10. Reports to this Office. O.C.ROYAL BERKS will endeavour to get information about the progress of operations on our Right through his Right Company.

"11. 7th ROYAL WARWICKS, with 1 Section 143. M.G.Coy attached, will move up tonight and will be responsible for holding LA BOISSELLE and the 2nd and 3rd lines of Defence should the Garrison move forward, in accordance with instructions given personally to O.C. 5th ROYAL WARWICKS.

"12. 1 Section R.E. is attached to each of the assaulting Battalions and is at the disposal of Officers Commanding.

1/4th ROYAL BERKS, REGT.

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A Conference of Company Commanders (B, C, and D only) was held at 4.0 p.m. at Battalion Headquarters, when I explained the position and issued orders verbally: a copy in writing followed:-

Operation Order - 1/4th ROYAL BERKS - 22.7.16.

- "1. 145 Infantry Brigade will attack tonight in conjunction with 144 Infantry Brigade - dividing line is the Railway in X 3 c inclusive to 145 Infantry Brigade.
- "2. 1/5th GLOSTERS will attack 02 to 79 on their Right and the Railway as their Left. They will capture Point 79 from West and Point 40 from East. 144 Infantry Brigade are attacking Point 40 from North. 1/4th OXFORD & BUCKS will advance Left just East of Point 28 Right on Point 81. They will send flank parties to seize and occupy Points 97 and 81. They will cross trench 28-81 and attack Point 28 from East and North and Point 11 from East, sending a strong bombing stop up trench towards Point 54. Both Battalions will join hands North of and in trench 79-11.
- "3. Such Points in the Railway Bank North of Point 11 as are necessary will also be captured.
- "4. Every post and trench captured must be consolidated and a sufficient garrison left to hold it.
- "5. Stokes Guns will fire on Points 39 and 40 under instructions given separately.
- "6. Machine Gun Company will carry out special duties which have been given them.
- "7. Zero time has been notified to all concerned.
- "8. 1/BUCKS and 1/4th ROYAL BERKS will be prepared to continue or resume the operations under instructions already given and by order of this Office.
- "9. Flares are to be let off at 5.0 a.m. 8.0 a.m. 12 noon, 4.0 p.m. and 8.0 p.m.
- "10. 7th ROYAL WARWICKS, with 1 Section 143 M.G.Coy, will move up tonight and will be responsible for holding LA BOISSELLE and the 2nd and 3rd lines of Defence should the present garrison move forward, in accordance with instructions given personally to O.C. 7th ROYAL WARWICKS.
- "11. Should this Battalion be called on to attack it will attack with two Companies (B and C), each Company in three or four lines, D Company being in support to either Company. B Company on the Right; C Company on the Left. B Company to use the new trench for forming up in position, C Company the Sickle trench, about 20 yards between each line.
- "12. Two front Companies ready to move off 4.0 a.m. from the front line, D Company taking up position near Point 82 and moving forward with its head near main road at Point 66 in readiness to follow; all to move by the main road if possible.
- "12a. Orders as to Stores, etc. as last received, all being drawn from the trenches by A, B, and D; C from the R.E. Dump.
- "13. Advanced Dressing Station near Point 82.

1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

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- "14. Commanding Officer will be at Support Company's H.Q.,
B.M.123.2 moving forward to X 9 d 67.
- "15. All messages to be sent to Last mentioned Point. The Lewis Gun Officer will be at that Point to act as Forward Observing Officer, and will send all messages on.
- "16. There will be two advanced Bomb Stores :-
1 at K.9.b. ~~99~~ 66 on road
1 at Railway Arch.
Bombing Officer will be at one post and Bombing Sergeant at the other.
- "17. A Company will detail 1 Platoon to be under orders of Bombing Officer and arrange to clear the Sickle trench and the new trench parallel to it on the East for the attacking troops to use

"Issued verbally at 4.0 p.m. to Company Commanders, copy (in writing) to follow.

A wire was run out on the Metallic Circuit before dark to connect the forward Headquarters with B.M. 123.2, a distance of 1500 yards straight.

All spare Bombs, S.A.A., etc. were collected and dumped in the two places selected - A, B, and D Companies doing this work. By night everything was prepared.

The Headquarters of the 4th OXFORDS came up after dark and joined our Headquarters.

B Company took up their position in the trenches by Battalion Headquarters, ready to move forward by 1.0 a.m.

C Company moved up from the bivouacs and joined up with B Coy.

Two Platoons of D Company from LA BOISSELLE joined C Company, the remaining two Platoons of D Company being in the trenches near the Dressing Station, ready to follow on.

A Company held the front line.

About 12.20 a.m. on the 24th the three Companies began to move off to get into position in case the Battalion would attack, no definite reports having come in from the OXFORDS. They all marched by the main ALBERT-POZIERES road, moving by platoons. B Company had taken up their position in two lines, each of two platoons, along the tape, previously put out for forming up on. Their Platoons were weak owing to the casualties sustained in the last few days. C Company had formed up by 3.15 a.m. in four lines on the left of B Company. D Company had taken up their position in the trenches near Point 66 ready to support either Company in front.

About 3.0 a.m. orders were received from the Brigade to place one Company under the command of the OXFORDS if required. About 3.55 a.m., from reports received from the OXFORDS, the position seemed to be serious in front, and Captain ALDWORTH, with both Companies, at once moved off to support them. The advance was carried out in perfect order, the lines moving as if on parade, in spite of the Machine Gun fire and barrage of shells put across by the enemy; the behaviour of all ranks could not have been braver or better. The position about 4.0 a.m. was critical, and I cannot

speak

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● speak too highly of the quickness with which Captain ALDWORTH realised how matters stood, or of his able handling of the supports. In my opinion he contributed very materially to the success of the operations. The objective was reached and the captured trenches consolidated. Messages were sent back for Bombs, etc. and Captain ATTRIDE at once organised carrying parties from D Company for the supply of bombs, tools, etc.; these were taken across the open, each party moving quite steadily, though it was broad daylight and the fire from Machine Guns and Artillery was heavy. A platoon of D Company was also sent up to assist Lieutenant DOWN, who was in command of the Right bombing party. All the arrangements made by Captain ATTRIDE worked most smoothly.

● by us and the OXFORDS

All day the captured trenches were held and from mid-day to dusk they were subjected to a very fierce bombardment, chiefly from 15c. shells, and there were many casualties, but the line was held with the same steadiness as had been shewn in the advance. All the trenches held by A Company were subjected to a similar bombardment.

● That night we were relieved by the 5th ROYAL WARWICKS, our Battalion moving to be in support to the BUCKS who were holding the OVILLERS Section. We occupied the old front line of the enemy between LA BOISSELLE and OVILLERS, one Company being in dug-outs, the rest of the Battalion sleeping in the trenches. The relief was completed by 3.0 a.m. on the 24th. At 8.0 a.m. on the 24th we received orders to take over from the BUCKS, this relief being completed by 1.30 p.m. The front line was Points 11 - 79 - 39; there was no telephone system from Advanced Battalion Headquarters to the front line, but a line was run out and a post established near 79, 900 yards distance straight. Arrangements were made to make an attack on the enemy's strong point 3.A.2.3., D Company finding the attacking party. A forward dump near 79 was arranged with three others in relays: (1) at Advanced Battalion H.Qrs. (2) near B Company' H.Qrs (3) near Battalion H.Qrs. Parties were told off to carry between each dump only, so there was a constant supply going forward with no confusion. Arrangements were also made with the group of guns covering our front; Major TODD of the 1st GLOSTER Battery was the forward Artillery Liason Officer and through him I could control all the Batteries. This system worked admirably, and the shooting of the guns could not have been better. The attack was timed for 1.50 a.m. preceded by an intense bombardment at 1.45 p.m. As soon as our guns opened fire the enemy replied with Machine Guns and heavy shelling, when most of the attacking parties were knocked out. The enemy's fire was so heavy and intense, and the number of men behind Point 40 so large, that it appeared fairly evident the enemy were themselves preparing for an attack on Point 79. After the Companys had reorganised their attacking parties, Captain ATTRIDE asked to be allowed to make another attack, but after consultation with the Brigade I would not give permission, all chance of a surprise having gone.

About 4.0 a.m. the enemy commenced shelling heavily, which grew intense about 5.9 a.m. Under cover of this bombardment they started a bombing attack but though they reached our line they were held up and driven back; about 7.0 a.m. no further efforts were made to continue it.

Platoons of D and B Companies who were sent up to assist A Coy. did good work, and the system for the supply of bombs worked well.

About 9.30 a.m. we returned to bivouacs, arriving by 1.0 p.m., having been relieved by the 5th GLOSTERS; all were thoroughly tired but cheerful. I cannot speak too highly of the gallant conduct of the Battalion during the past six days. The way the Companies were handled, the way the platoons were led, and the manner in which all ranks advanced across the open in face of heavy fire,

● and

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1/4th ROYAL BERKS. REGT.

and held the captured trenches under the severe bombardment, reflect the greatest credit on all who took part and is deserving of high praise.

A list of the special acts of gallantry, also the reports of Company Commanders and Bombing Officer, giving full details of their work, and a list of messages received are furnished on attached sheets.

The system for the supply of bombs worked admirably each day, not once did the supply break down or the system fail. The greatest credit is due to Lieutenant HINE and Sergeant EVANS for their organisation and work.

Second Lieutenant JAMES did most excellent work as Forward Observing Officer: his reports were most clear and his method of obtaining and sending on messages worked well. I relied on his reports largely for the ordering of the fire of the guns covering our front.

The communication between our front Companies and Battalion Headquarters could not have been improved under the circumstances and great praise is due to Sergeant WICKENS for this success.

The shooting of the guns covering our front was excellent and our front Companies placed absolute confidence and reliance in them.

The arrangements made for the handling of the casualties worked well: all the stretcher bearers, either of the Battalion or from the Field Ambulance, shewed the greatest heroism in carrying stretchers^s cases across the open; owing to the number of cases their work was not completed before dawn.

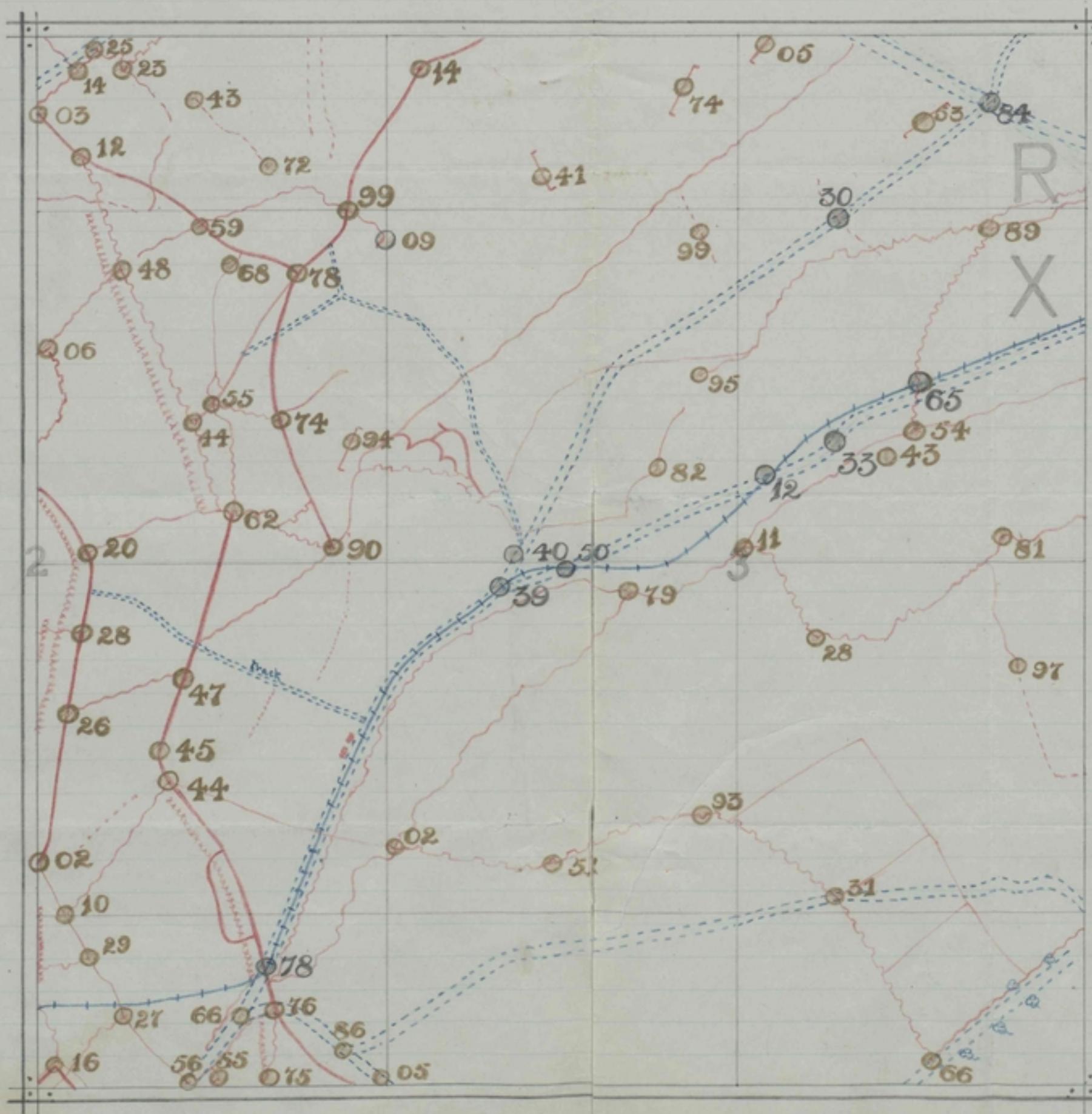
The total Casualties for the six days ^{were} was:-

OFFICERS - 2 Killed; 3 Wounded.

O.RANKS - 27 Killed; 192 Wounded; 7 Gassed; 11 Missing.

31/7/1916.

R.J.Clark Lieut. Colonel:
Comdg. 1/4th Royal Berkshire Regt.



145th Brigade.

48th Division.

1/4th BATTALION

THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

AUGUST 1916

Attached:- Reports on Operations

13th August.

18th August.

27th August.

Congratulatory messages.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 21

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CRAMPTON	1/8/16		Companies were under Company Commanders for the day, special attention being paid to Bombing, Bayonet Fighting and the Range. Work began at 6.0 am., six hours per day being put in. The Medical Officer arranged a most ingenious system for baths, being most economical in water. <u>Weather</u> : - a very hot day.	2/1st Bn trans'd to A.Coy. R.J.E.
do	2/8/16		Work as on the 1st. <u>Weather</u> : - a very hot day.	2/1 Hampshire returned from School of Instruction. 2/1 Gregory from Hospital R.J.E.
do	3/8/16		Work as on the 1st. <u>Weather</u> : - a very hot day.	R.J.E.
do	4/8/16		Work as on the 1st. <u>Weather</u> : - a hot day.	Capt. Fosling (C.C.F.) rejoined from F.F. R.J.E.
do	5/8/16		Work as before. Major Barron, M.T. gave his Cinema most of the Battalion attended - Entertainment in a field by P. Coy. HQ. <u>Weather</u> : - a lovely day, cold night.	an excellent entertainment R.J.E.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~or~~
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CRAMONT	6/8/16		Platoon inspections only were held. Voluntary Church Parade was held at 10.30 am. <u>Weather</u> : - a lovely day	PF
do	7/8/16		Work as usual. The Divisional Band played in the village from 6 to 8 pm. <u>Weather</u> : - a lovely day.	Capt Boyle Went to Hospital PF
do	8/8/16		Work as usual. The "Thresher" was sent over for the Battalion's use and from 6.0 am to 6 pm. the Battalion's clothing, except greatcoats, was treated. Arrangements were made to keep a continuous supply, which worked well, 70 sets per hour being treated. <u>Weather</u> : - a lovely day.	PF
do	9/8/16		During our stay at CRAMONT all ranks in the Battalion had thrown at least two live bombs each another practice proved of very great use in the fight by B. Company on the 18th/19th.	PF

WAR DIARY
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CRAMONRT	9/8/16		<p>The Division left the CRAMONRT district during the day. Our Brigade left at 7.15 am., arriving at BEAUVAU at 12.15 pm. onwards. We left at 7.15 am leading the Brigade. It was a very hard march, very dusty and hot. 79 men fell out but the men marched well - the great majority of those who fell out marched till they dropped from the great heat. We occupied our old billets at BEAUVAU to the joy of all ranks.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- a very hot day.</p>	RJL
BEAUVAU	10/8/16		<p>The Brigade moved to VARENNE. We left at 5.30 am. arriving at 11 am. Owing to some mistake the Brigade had to make a large detour in consequence of part of the original road being unfit for trooping traffic. Packs were carried in lorries. In the Battalion four men fell out on the march, but all the sick were sent on in advance. The billets were very crowded and dirty. Orders were received to be ready to move 7. pm. on the 11th. These were cancelled at 8.45 pm. but at 10.30 pm. orders were received to move at 7.30 am the following day.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- a cloudy & sultry day with some rain in the morning.</p>	M.J.

WAR DIARY
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VARENNES	11/8/16		<p>The Brigade moved to BOUZINCOURT, leaving at 7.0 am arriving about 9.0 am. The billets were rather crowded. The village had grown somewhat unhealthy since our last visit, being shelled every day. There was cellar accommodation for about only 150 of the Battalion. About mid-day we received orders to vacate the billets and move to bivouacs on the BOUZINCOURT-SEYRIS Road</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a very misty morning, clearing about 9.0 am.</p>	2/1 Gregory went on leave from Curie at Le Toguet
BOUZINCOURT	12/8/16		<p>The day was spent in rest with the exception of the ordinary platoon inspection. A Brigade Conference of Commanding Officers was held at 2.30 pm re the taking over the line from the 35th Brigade. The Commanding Officer rode up in the evening re details of the relief.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a very hot day, some rain at night.</p>	rgf

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OVILLERS	13/8/16		<p>We left bivouacs at 5.30 am marched by the "P" road to OVILLERS, arriving at our dug-outs in the trenches about 7.45 am. The relief was rather unsatisfactory as six Companies were to take over where five Corps had been, but as each of our Corps was about 150 strong and the other Corps 100, the dug-outs etc were far too crowded. After referring the question to our Brigade, the two BUCKS Companies rejoined their Battn. and the dug-out accommodation was then sufficient for this Battalion. We took over from the 5TH BERKS, 7TH NORFOLKS, and 9TH ESSEX. During the day all bombs etc were collected, one Battalion dump and four small Company dumps being made. Their guns were very active all day and night.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> :- a very hot day</p>	<p>2/1 Cooke Went to Hospital. Lt. Bayley- Butler went on leave; Captain Bushanan, R.A.M.C. came in his place.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R.W.</p>

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OVILLERS	14/8/18		<p>The 6th Avenue having been lost by the OXFORDS in the night the Baldr moved up for the Counter-attack. See report attached.</p> <p>We were relieved by the GLOSTERS, the relief being completed about 2 pm.</p> <p>We moved back to OVRA Redoubt jumpers, which made very comfortable billets.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a very hot morning: heavy rain middle day: showery afternoon and night.</p>	<p>2L Hine went to Hospital</p> <p>M.J.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OVILLERS	15/8/16		<p>The day was spent in resting. Excepting for ordinary platoon inspections. B. Coy. went up to support the GLOSTERS in their second attack if necessary, but they were not required, and remained in N° 3 Street OVILLERS. A carrying party of 100 for the GLOSTERS was found by A. Coy.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a dull day, rain at intervals.</p>	<p>Capt Lacy took command of A. Coy.</p> <p>Capt Holcroft of C. Coy.</p> <p>Capt Cruttwell of W. Coy.</p> <p>28</p>
do	16/8/16		<p>We relieved the 5th GLOSTERS at OVILLERS in the afternoon, completing the relief by 4.0 p.m. Dispositions:- A. Coy in N° 2 Street; B. Coy. N° 3 Street; C. and D. Cos. N° 1. Street. B. Coy. found a carrying party of 100 for bombs. The village and our trenches were shelled most of the afternoon.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> :- a very hot day</p>	<p>Canalises</p> <p>2 killed</p> <p>1 wounded</p> <p>28</p>

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OVILLERS	17/8/16		No work beyond general clean up and inspections. <u>Weather:</u> a very hot day.	ref
do	18/8/16		We relieved the OXFORDS in the front line by noon). Dispositions:- C. Company in the front line. D. Company in Support at 11 and 65. A. B. Companies in reserve in the village. Orders were received at 1.37 pm. to co-operate with the 143rd Bde. in their attack - see report. "B" Company found the attacking party with A. in Support to them and two Companies of the GLOSTERS were placed under the Commanding Officers orders in addition. <u>Weather:</u> A very hot day	ref

WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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OVILLERS	19/8/16		<p>We were relieved by the OXFORDS. The relief being completed by mid-day.) we returned to OVILLERS. The other 3 Battalions of the Brigade moved back to bivouacs in the afternoon, being relieved by the next Brigade, but we remained in the village as Divisional Reserve</p> <p>Weather:- Rain in the morning, fine later.</p>	P.M.
do	20/8/16		<p>All companies were employed on continuing the clearing up.</p> <p>We were relieved by two Cos. of the 8th Warwicks about 7.30 p.m., returning to bivouacs near SENLIS MILL. Extra bivouacs had been put up and all arrangements made for our return.</p> <p>Weather: a fine day.</p>	P.M.
BOUZINCOURT	21/8/16		<p>Only the usual inspections by the Quartermaster and Platoon Commanders etc were held. The Commanding Officer spoke to the Battalion, reading out to them the messages received from the Corps and Divisional Commanders re their attack on the 18th/19th.</p> <p>A Brigade Conference of Commanding Officers was held at 4.30 p.m.</p>	<p>L. Soolden rep'd from Div. HQ. & assumed Com. of A. Coy.</p> <p>F. Ward received the orders of Adj't & took Com. of D. Coy.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21/8/16 <i>Continued</i>		<p>re the attack by the 144 Brigade. <u>Weather</u>: - a fine day.</p>	<i>2/1. James apptt. Adt. adit. 2/inf gregory to to D. Coy 2/inf. Hampshire to C. Coy. R.J.</i>
Boozincourt	22/8/16		<p>We remained in the bivouacs all day but we might have been required to exploit any success of the 144 Brigade. Companies were practised in bomb throwing, bayonet fighting, and physical exercises. The "Curios" gave another Entertainment in the evening. <u>Weather</u>: - a very hot day.</p>	<i>M.C.</i>
	23/8/16		<p>We moved to OZNA Redoubt Sunpits at 9.30 a.m. Heavy shelling at Crucifix Corner most of the morning. <u>Weather</u>: - a fine day.</p>	<i>A Draft of 49 joined the Batt. R.J.</i>

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OVILLERS	24/8/16		<p>Companies were practised in Bomb Throwing, etc in the morning. Diving parties of 75 each from B. and D. Cos. were found, leaving at 9.15 pm. for work in the front line. Owing to the continual shelling all night by the enemy not much work was possible.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day.</p> <p>Military Medals for immediate awards granted to Corporal RICE: Corporal COOKE: R/Corporal RUSSELL: Private MITCHELL: Private SMITH.</p>	
do	25/8/16		<p>We relieved the GHOSTERS in RIBBLE STREET by 8.0 am. A. and C. Companies found carrying parties of 63 men each for ammunition for French Mortars, 10.30 am.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day. Some showers at intervals.</p>	<p>2nd Buck appeared in Gazette as b/o to this Batt. 24th Aug.</p> <p>Casualties:- 2 Killed 3 Wounded</p> <p>R.J.F</p>

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WAR DIARY

or

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OVILLERS	26/8/16		<p>We relieved the OXFORDS in the Right Sector, beginning at 8.0 am.</p> <p>Dispositions:-</p> <p>'D' Company on the Right - 38; 62, 47 Points.</p> <p>'B' Company on the Left - 76 and 03</p> <p>'A' Company in support - 18, 26, 92.</p> <p>'C' Company in reserve in dug-outs by B.H.Q. and K.E.P.</p> <p>Each Company held a very narrow front, but great depth.</p> <p>The Enemy kept up a continual fire of 5.9's and 8" nearly all day.</p> <p>Companies were employed on clearing up the trenches, etc.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> :- a fine day.</p>	
do	27/8/16		<p>The day was spent in clearing up and making preparations for the Evening's attack. - see Report.</p> <p>All details worked well.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>:- an uncertain day, heavy rain in the morning making the trenches very bad.</p>	R.F.
12				R.F.

WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOUZINCOURT.	28/8/16		<p>The Brigade was relieved by the 74th Brigade. Parts of two Battalions took over from us. The relief was completed by 10.0 am. We moved back to BOUZINCOURT bivouacs by Platoons.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: - a fine day except for a few showers.</p> <p>Immediate awards were made to the undermentioned Officers</p> <p>Warrant Officer & man :-</p> <p><u>MILITARY CROSS</u> -</p> <p>Captain T.H. ALDWORTH. Lieut. W.O. DOWN. 46. C.S.M. RIDER, A.G.</p> <p>D. C. M. 2594 Private SADLER, C.J.</p>	
do	29/8/16		<p>The Brigade moved to Bv's. We left at 7.15 am. arriving about 10.0 am. Packs were carried on Lorries. Two men only fell out. The roads were heavy but the men were marching in great spirit after their successful attack on the 27th.</p>	13

WAR DIARY

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OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Copies of messages received</u></p> <p><u>II Corps.</u></p> <p>"The Army Commander wishes you to convey to the 48th Division his high appreciation of their work during the past fortnight. This Division has fought, with only very short periods of rest, since the 1st July. Since then it has met and defeated several many different units of the German Army and has fully maintained the best traditions of British Infantry. This record shows a high sense of discipline and honour in all ranks of the Division"</p> <p>Sd) N. MALCOLM, Major General General Staff.</p> <p>Headquarters, Reserve Army 29th August, 1916</p>	<p>Reserve Army G.A. 31/4/12.</p>
			<p><u>48th Division</u></p> <p>"The Corps Commander directs me to forward the above letter from the Reserve Army and to request that you will communicate the contents to all ranks of the Division: his own appreciation of the work of the 48th Division he has already expressed to you personally"</p> <p>Sd) P. HOWELL, B.G., G.S.</p>	<p><u>II Corps</u> G.783, 29.8.16</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Copies of Messages - Continued</u></p> <p>Major General R. Fanshawe, C.B., D.S.O. Commanding 48th Division.</p> <p>"The report on the operations carried out by the 48th Division up to the 25th August is an eloquent testimony of the excellent work carried out by all ranks."</p> <p>"Will you please express my gratitude and thanks to all the the units under your command for their devotion to duty and for the way they have fought and worked to make those operations so successful."</p> <p>"All ranks of the Artillery, Engineers and Infantry have carried out their tasks with such spirit and co-operation that the results have exceeded expectations."</p> <p>"You have all done nobly and I congratulate you and your Officers on the way the Division has worked."</p> <p>"Your record in the recent operations is first rate."</p> <p>(Sd). C.W. JACOB. Lieutenant-General Commanding II Corps</p>	<p>"II Corps G.734 28. 8. 16"</p>

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
130S	30/8/16		Companies were under Coy. Commanders, but owing to the heavy rains all day no work at all was possible.	R.J.C.
do	31/8/16		Companies were under Company Commanders for the day. Bomb throwing, Bayonet Fighting and physical Exercises were practised. 50 men were sent to GEZANVCOURT for work on the Railway. Weather: a fine day	2nd Gregory proceeded to Gozanvourt R.J.C.

R.J.Clarke M.C.
COMMDR 4th BN ROYAL BERKS REGT

16

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

13th August

August 13th.

We were in support to the OXFORDS who were holding the front line.

At 10.30 pm a message was received from Brigade to send up more bombs to the OXFORDS and two platoons were sent up. This was the first intimation we received that the 6th Avenue trench had been taken by the enemy.

About 12.50 am (14th) the Brigade ordered by phone a Company to be placed under the C.O. of the OXFORDS - I ordered D. Company to proceed at once, taking with them a further supply of bombs and another Company to First Avenue, North of Fourth Street. I was in constant communication with C.O. 4TH OXFORDS: he informed me he only required one Company.

About 2.55 am I received orders from the Brigade to counterattack as soon as possible, and retake the trench.

At 3.0 am I issued orders for the attack.

C and D Companies and one platoon of A Company went over the top, but though they advanced with the greatest bravery, most gallantly led by their Officers, the Machine Gun fire was so intense, chiefly coming from the left, that the attack failed.

I regret to report the heavy casualties as follows:-

<u>Officers</u>		
Killed -	Captain Attide	
	2/Lient Beasley.	
	2/Lient Bartram	
Wounded -	Captain Blandy.	
	Captain Lewis	
	2/Lient Taylor	
Killed -	Lient. P. G. W. O'Bara	
	(3rd East Surrey Regt. attached)	

<u>Other Ranks</u>	
Killed	78
Wounded	81
Missing	31

R.J. Clarke

Report on Bombing Attack made by "B" Coy. on August 18/16

At 1.37 pm orders were received from the Brigade to co-operate with the 143rd Brigade who were making their attack on the trenches W. of POZIERES. At 2.0 pm I issued orders to B. Company to find the attacking party, with A. Coy. in support, if required. Two Coy. of the GLOSTERS were also placed under my command to be called up from OUILLERES if wanted.

A patrol was sent out from Point 99 towards 78, but found it occupied. The attack commenced at 5.0 pm. and our bombing attacks did not cease till mid-night. Several times they reached their first objective, only to be driven back through loss of men, but each time they renewed the attack and finally broke through, joining up with the WARWICKS who were advancing from 62. Work on consolidation of Point 78 was commenced, and another attack was made on Point 59, which was reached. A further attack was made towards Point 12, but the trenches here had been completely obliterated. The Co-operation between "B" Coy. and the 143rd. Brigade was most successful, for many of the enemy were driven down by B. Coy. to the 6TH. WARWICKS and the results were entirely satisfactory.

I beg to report on the excellent organization and handling of the Coy. shown by Major ALDWORTH - much of the success of our part in the attack was due to his efforts.

Practice in throwing dummy bombs when we were last out for a rest proved of great value.

I regret to report the following Casualties:-

OFFICERS-

Killed - Lieut. Ridley.

Wounded - Capt. C. N. Lacy
Capt. G. H. W. Cruttwell

Lieut G. A. Wix } 3rd East Surreys
Lieut. E. Smith } Regt. altd.

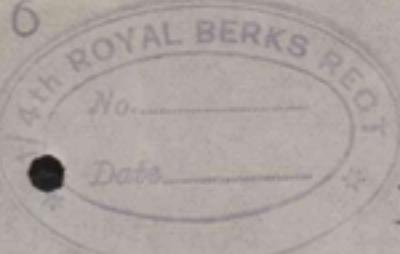
OTHER RANKS-

KILLED 9

WOUNDED 36

27 Prisoners were actually captured by B. Coy. One batch of 10 prisoners was sent down and another of 172, but these latter were handed over to the escort of the WARWICKS, who were leaving at the same time. A Machine Gun was also captured: this has been sent to Ordnance and application has been made for its return to Reading in due course.

R. J. Clarke L/Cpl
COMD^O 4th BN ROYAL BERKS REGT



Report on Attack on August 27th 1916

On the 25th the Commanding Officer was warned that the Battalion, in conjunction with the 5th GLOSTERS, might be required to make an attack on the 27th. Definite orders would be received on the morning of the 27th. All advance preparations were made, such as forward dumps for bombs, rifle grenades, tools, sandbags, water, and forward trenches were deepened where necessary, etc. About 10.30 am. on the 27th, orders were received from the Brigade, and orders were issued to Companies by mid-day. Copy attached.

The attack was most successful, each Company leaving our own trenches as soon as our own barrage commenced; the Right Company formed up in the new communication trench running N.W. of Point 38, advancing in two lines. The Left Coy attacked from Point 76 with three platoons, one platoon advancing each side of the trench leading to 79, the third forming a bombing party down the trench. Point 91 was difficult to locate owing to the trenches round having been practically obliterated by our heavy shells. The position was selected and work was at once commenced making it into a strong point. About 40 men of the 5th ROYAL SUSSEX came up later and assisted digging a communication trench back to point 38. The Support and Reserve platoons of C. Company were employed in carrying tools, sandbags, etc. and in digging too.

Re the left attack, Point 79 and the trenches running due W. of it were very strongly held, some dug-outs round 79 and the trench having suffered very little harm from our bombardment. For some little time the attack could not make good, but finally they broke through, seized both the Point and the trenches round, joined up with the GLOSTERS on the left, and then proceeded to make Point 79 into a strong point. A Section of R.E's was sent up to assist in this work and good positions were made. Work was also started to open a trench between 79 and 91 but this was not

not quite completed by dawn.

In the two attacks 10 Prisoners were taken and I estimate about a hundred of the Enemy were either killed or wounded. Lewis guns did great execution amongst the Enemy when they stood on their parapets to meet our bombing party coming up the trench, and again after we had seized our objectives and forced the Enemy to retire across the open. The Enemy were very quick in putting up their own barrage, chiefly 5.9's and for over twelve hours they kept up a continual bombardment with their heavies on our front line and communication trenches.

The attack was carried out by the Platoons most coolly. The men advancing without any hesitation, led by their Officers.

Our gunners were excellent and were absolutely trusted by the attacking troops. Great help was rendered by the two Companies who were holding our original line in further carrying parties etc. I did not use either of these Companies for the attack, keeping them in readiness for any counter-attack.

The GLOSTER'S attack on our left was quite successful too.

The WARWICK'S attack on our right unfortunately could not make good their objectives.

There was telephonic communication between the Left Coy. and B.H.Q., which held good all through the attack and the following night. Runners were used from the front line back to O3. Others were used by the Right attacking party on their front to Point 62, when relays took them back to D. Coy. H.Q., whence they were 'phoned back to B.H.Q. All the runners did their work excellently, though the communication trenches were under heavy fire all the night. A Company of the OXFORDS under Captain Jones came up to B.H.Q. and were employed in carrying parties when necessary to the Left Coy. H.Q.

It was a most successful attack for the Brigade and the men returned in great spirits after having met the far-famed Prussian Guard and driven them back, taking their trenches. This was the Division which had been specially sent down to the THEIPVAL district by the Kaiser. They had received a special speech from him before leaving, an extract of which appeared in the English Daily Papers.

All details of the attack worked out well and the Battalion may well be proud of what they did.

Casualties:

OFFICERS.

2/Lieut. T.O. GARSIDE - Wounded
2/Lieut. C. BUCK - Wounded

OTHER RANKS

Killed	9
Wounded	48
Missing believed	2
Killed	
Wounded and	10
Missing	
Missing	10

R J Clarke L/Cpl

Q.M.D.S 4th Bn ROYAL BERKS REGT

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>Copies of Messages - Continued</u>	<u>18/8/16</u>
			"Corps Commander Considers that Division have done very well and wishes all ranks to be informed. G.O.C. Cordially Endorses this statement."	
			"The Corps Commander is very pleased with the work of the Division, and General Fanshawe endorsed this and also thinks your Battalion has done very well."	<u>18/8/16</u>
			Following received from GEN. BIRDWOOD, Condr. 1 st Anzac Corps, through L.A. " Well done, my hearty Congratulations."	<u>18/8/16</u>