

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.			WAR DIARY <small>or</small> INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. <small>(Erase heading not required.)</small>		Army Form C. 2118.
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX	23rd/24th April 1918		<p>Heavy enemy barrage came down at 3.45 am. This continued until about 7 am, when it became less intense, and chiefly covered ground between Reserve Line and Battalion Headquarters. Barrage included a large proportion of Gas Shells. Continual reports received from G.S. Companies that barrage was not on front line or close support Companies during the above hours. During the night 23/24th D Company had been moved into close support on the right and half on the left by order of G.O.C. 25th Infantry Brigade. The morning was very misty and the enemy put down a heavy smoke barrage at dawn, making it impossible to see for more than 20 yards. About 7 am. a runner from "A" Company reported at Battalion Headquarters that the enemy had got round the right flank of the Company, and was attacking them and the support platoons of D Company from flank and rear, and was moving towards "C" Company.</p> <p>At 8 am "B" Company was ordered to form a defensive flank, joining with support platoons of D Company and remains of "C" Company, from B Company's right to Reserve Line. Battalion H.Q. details moved forward to continue the line covering Battn. Headquarters and in touch with 2nd. R. Berkshire Regt. on the right, N.W. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. 2/Lt. Gurrier and elements of A C &amp; D Coys joined this line during the morning.</p> <p>At 9 am enemy Very lights were seen going up on N.W. outskirts of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and enemy Machine guns opened fire on vicinity of Bn. Headquarters. Reserve line, and vicinity of new line joining with 2nd. Royal Berkshire Regt. was shelled at intervals all day. B Company on the left was subjected to heavy Trench Mortar fire at intervals, the enemy advanced several times on the right of this Company, but was each time driven off by rifle and machine gun fire.</p> <p>It was afterwards ascertained that the enemy, after breaking through SOUTH of VILLERS BRETONNEUX WARFUSSEY Road, had turned in Northwards, between our front and support lines and also in rear of the latter, being unobserved owing to the dense mist and smoke barrage. A &amp; C Companies taken unawares in the rear were overwhelmed after a sharp fight by superior numbers of the enemy, the whole of the two Companies with few exceptions being killed or captured. Very little was ascertained as to their exact fate, but it is known that one Platoon of D Coy. fought to their last man, and was completely wiped out. 2/Lt. J. Doyle was dangerously wounded while commanding this Platoon, was found on the night of 24/25th during the counter-attack by the Australians. The remainder of the day passed without further attack on our front, with the exception of half-hearted</p>		

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