

2nd Bn. Rifle Bde.

Jan - Dec 1917.

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

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

15/8
2 Rifle Bde

HP 27

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
MAUREPAS FREGICOURT.	JANUARY 1917 1st.		Working Parties of 4 Officers + 200 other ranks from Maurepas to trenches.	
	2.		Working Parties as for 1st.	
Camp 14.	3.		On the night of 3/4 th the Battalion was relieved in the support-line by the 7th Rov. D.C.L.I. + moved back to Camp. 14. near BRAY	
	4.		Cos at disposal of O.C. Cos. Working Parties of 2 Officers + 80 other ranks were found for Camp Improvement.	
	5.		Cos at disposal of O.C. Cos. Brigade Conference was held at Headqrs. 1st Royal Irish Rifles at 11 A.M.	
	6.		Cos at disposal of o.c. cos.	
	7.		Cos at disposal of o.c. cos.	
	8.		as for 7th int	
	9.		The Battalion marched from Camp 14 to the BRAY - TOUBIERS for AIRAINES.	

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PARLUS	JAN 10		The Battalion reached AIRAINES at 12.45AM & marched to billets in HARLUS The Battalion paraded at 10 AM. & the reorganization of the Battalion under the new system was started.	
	11.		New organization was again practised under Company arrangements.	
	13 th to 18 th		Company Training continued.	
	19		New organization practised by Battalion.	
	20.		Battalion training continued. 2/Lieut. B.R. Everett joined for duty.	
	21		Battalion Training Continued. Battle Patrol Platoons of 25th Inf. Brigade gave demonstrations at METIGNY before Major General W. E. C. Heneker D.S.A, Commdg. 8th Division - Brig. General Coffin Commdg. 25th Inf. Brigade. - Battalion Commanders & Officers from 8th Divisional Schools.	
	22		Battalion Training continued.	

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WARRUS	22.		Battalion Training Continued.	
	23.		Battalion marched to AIREINES - Station & entrained for EDGE-HILL From there the Battalion marched to Camp. 12.	
	24		Cos at disposal of O.C. Cos for training under the new organization.	
	25		Coy Training continued. The Commanding Officer & Bombing Officer proceeded to RANCOURT to reconnoitre line to be taken over by Bn.	
	26.		Battalion marched from Camp 12 to Camp 17. One Officer from each Coy & Bombing Officer proceeded to RANCOURT to take over stores & from 12th South Wales Borderers	
	27.		450 men of the Battalion marched from Camp 17 to the trenches & relieved the 12th South Wales Borderers in the RANCOURT Sector - Right Sub-Sector. Details were left at Camp 21 & MAUREPAS. RAVINE	
	28.		Casualties 1 other rank wounded - shell fire. Draft of 21 other ranks joined details at MAUREPAS.	
	29		Casualties 3 other ranks killed one wounded - shell fire. Working Party 100 other ranks & 1 Officer found from MAUREPAS for work on ABODE-LAINE	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30.		Battalion was relieved at night by 1st Royal Irish Rifles + marched to reserve camp MAUREPAS. Working Party of 1 Officer + 100 other ranks at night.	
Camp. MAUREPAS.	31.		Cos at disposal of O.C. Cos. Working parties of 30 other ranks by day + 2 Officers + 230 other ranks by night. Camp slightly shell. Casualties nil.	
			<p>BB Pasor - 2nd Lieut; + Adj't for O.C. 2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade</p> <p>2nd February 1917</p>	

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Army Form C. 2118

2 Rifle Bde

Vol 28

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAUREPAS RAVINE	1-2-17		Cops at disposal of Os.C Cos. for training. Baths allotted to A + B Cos. Working parties, 30 O.R. by day + 2 Officers and 230 O.R. by night. Camp shelled slightly day and night.	
"	2-2-17		Cops at disposal of Os.C Cos. for training. Baths allotted to C + D + H.G. Cos. Working party of 1 Officer and 73 O.R. by day and 2 Officers + 230 O.R. by night. Camp shelled slightly during day and night.	
"	3-2-17		Cops at disposal of Os.C Cos. for training. Brigadier Genl. Coffin inspected camp. Battalion marched from MAUREPAS RAVINE Camp and relieved the 1 st R.I.R. in the trenches at RANCOURT. RIGHT SUB-SECTOR Detach left at MAUREPAS RAVINE CAMP. Working parties of 44 O.R. by day.	
"	4-2-17		Casualties 6 O.R. wounded by shell fire. Working party 1 Officer + 100 O.R. found from detail at MAUREPAS RAVINE CAMP for work on ABODE LANE. Support and Reserve Cos engaged at night carrying RE material to front line.	
"	5-2-17		Working parties as for 4 th C + D Cos relieved by A + B Cos in the front line. Casualties 2 O.R. Killed on patrol 1 O.R. wounded by shell fire.	
"	6-2-17		Working parties as for 5 th 1 O.R. accidentally wounded whilst at work or digging.	
"	7-2-17		Battalion relieved in front line by 1 st R.I.R. and moved back to support position at LE FOREST. Working parties as for 6 th .	
"	8-2-17		Detail Camp shelled at night, casualties NIL. Battalion engaged on working and carrying parties. Working party 1 Officer + 100 O.R. found by detail from MAUREPAS CAMP	

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MAUREPAS CAMP	9.2.17		Working party 50. O.R. from details. Battalion engaged on carrying parties.	
"	10.2.17		The Commanding Officer, and 1 officer & 2 N.C.O.s attended a lecture at Camp 21 on the Small Box Respirator Working parties as for 9 th	
"	11.2.17		The Battalion was relieved in the Support position by the 17 th Welsh Regt and embussed at MAUREPAS corner for Camp 13. G.H.Q. Reserve, middle area.	
Camp 13 BRAY-CORBIERD	12.2.17		Boys under O.C. Corps for training. 1 officer attended lecture at ETTENHEM on Citizenship.	
"	13.2.17		The Battalion engaged on Battalion Training. Battle Patrol Platoon engaged in conjunction with Brigade B.P.P. for training under supervision of Brig.-Genl. C Coffin D.S.O.	
"	14.2.17		The Battalion engaged in training under new organisation.	
"	15.2.17		Battalion Training cont'd.- The Commanding Officer, all available Officers, and 45 N.C.O.s attended a Lecture at Camp 12, Subject Aerial Contact Patrol. 1 OR accidentally wounded during bombing practice	
"	16.2.17		Battalion Training cont'd. by day and night	
"	17.2.17		Battalion Training cont'd.- Baths at Camp 12 allotted to C. or D. Corps. Then set in after 4 weeks frost.	
"	18.2.17		Divine Service. Baths allotted to H.Q. "A" & "B" Corps.	

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Camp 13 BRAY-CORBIE ROAD	19.2.17		Battalion Training cont'd. The Commanding Officer, all available officers, and all Platoon Sergeants, attended a demonstration by the Battle Patrol Platoons of the 2 nd Rifle Brigade and 2 nd Royal Bers before G.O.C. 4 th Army, 8 th Division, & 25 th Inf. Bds.	
"	20.2.17		Rain fell most of the day. Cos under O.C. Cos for training.	
"	21.2.17		The Battalion moved from Camp 13 to Camp 17 and stayed there one night. 4 H.H. Gun A.S.S.A. Keppel, 2/Lt. G. H. Southall & 2/Lt. W. J. Bachelor and 18 O.R. joined for duty.	
Camp 17 SUZANNE	22.2.17		The Battalion moved by Bus from Camp 17 to front line to relieve 2 Cos of 2/W Ridings & 2 Cos of 1/Hants Regt. in the QUARRY FARM sector. A Party of 50 O.R. remained at Detail Camp CURLU with 3 Officers. A Party of 2 Officers and 135 O.R. marched to LITTLE-DALE DUMP as permanent party for loading and pushing stores on the light railway forward.	
QUARRY FARM SECTOR BOUCHAVESNES	23.2.17		1 O.R. despatched to England for Temporary Commission. Conditions in front line uncomfortable - much mud and water. Enemy quiet.	
"	24.2.17		Working party of 1 N.C.O and 10 men from Detail Camp were employed working on the Camp, morning and afternoon. Enemy quiet. Casualties 2 killed. 4 wounded. - 2 admitted to Hospital French feet.	
"	25.2.17		Working party detailed yesterday was found today. The Battalion was relieved in the line by 2/Linc Regt, and moved back to Support at BOUCHAVESNES - Casualties 1 wounded. 6 admitted to Hospital. French feet. 2/Lt. A. Barker admitted to Hospital Sick.	

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BOUCHAVESNES JUNCTION WOOD	26-2-17		Working party found as on 25 th . - 52 other ranks admitted to Hospital with French feet. Enemy quiet.	
	27-2-17		Working party found as usual. 2/Lt G.E. Cates and 2/Lt W. Brown joined for duty. Enemy Quiet. 10 other ranks admitted to Hospital. French feet.	
	28-2-17		The Battalion was relieved by 1/R. I.R. and moved back to Reserve - 3 Cos. JUNCTION WOOD and 1 Cos. MESSIME. Working party found as usual. Captain & Quartermaster J.H. Aldridge, M.C. joined for duty.	

B. Marcol Lt Adj'tant
10106.
2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade.

To: D.A.G.
3rd Echelon
Bash.

R.B. 162
2. 4. 17.

Herewith War Diary for month
of March 1917.

L. A. S. Holland

Captain
Adjutant

for O.C.

2nd Bn. Rifle Brigade

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Army Form C. 2118

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2 Rife Bde 75/8
Vol 29

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CURLU.	1.3.17		Battalion less 2 boys moved back from JUNCTION. INOOD to LINGER. CAMP. CURLU.	
JUNCTION WOOD.	2.3.17		The Battalion took up positions previously occupied on February 28 th	
BOUCHAVESNE SECTOR.	3.3.17		The Battalion moved to LOCK. BARRACKS (3 boys and Bn H.Q.) and 1 boy moved to LOCUST. SUPPORT.	
	4.3.17		At 5.15 A.M. the 2nd Bn. R. Berks Regt. attacked FRITZ and PALLAS TRENCH in conjunction with the 24 th Brigade on the left, all the objectives were gained with out strong opposition and subsequent counter attacks were repulsed. 2nd Bn Lincolnshire Regt provided mopping up and currying parties 1 boy moved up to support the R.Berks Regt and took up positions 1/2 boy in our old front line and 1/2 boy in the captured trenches. This boy suffered the following casualties 2 officers and 20 other ranks being heavily shelled previous to taking up its position. The Officers were 2Lt. Pidgley and 2Lt. Brown. A collecting post for prisoners of 1 officer 2 Lt Nettleton and 20 other ranks was found and about 40 prisoners passed through the hands of this party. The party lost 1 other rank killed and 3 wounded during the day. Later in the day 1 boy was employed carrying R.E. Stores to the R.Berks Regt for consolidating the captured position. To night 1 boy was sent up to wire the front line of the position captured. This boy lost 3 officers wounded and 2 other ranks, the officers were 2LT BATTLER, WARE, HOBBS.	
	5.3.17		One boy took over a portion of our front line on the right of the captured trenches and held this position for one night. The Battalion suffered 1 O.R. killed and 6 O.R. wounded today.	
	6.3.17		Currying party of 1 boy was found today 2LT PIDGELEY was seriously wounded 2nd time. The company holding the front line was relieved tonight by 1 boy 2nd Bn Kings Liverpool Regt. Currying party was found of 20 O.R. under 2LT BOWLER.	
	7.3.17		Currying party of 1 company was found today 1 officer 2LT RATLIFF and 85 O.R. rejoined the Battalion at LITTLEDALE DUMP. During and after the attack the Battalion lost 4 officers and 36 other ranks wounded and 10 other ranks killed. Currying party of 18 other ranks rejoined the Battalion from 4 th Division Dump. At night the Battalion relieved the 1st Bn Royal Irish Rifles in the front line dispositions being 1 boy FRITZ TRENCH, 1 boy PALLAS TRENCH 1/2 boy holding the right flank between our old front line and the captured trenches, with 1/2 boy in support and 1 boy in reserve in our old front line 1 officer 2LT CATES wounded by shell fire.	
	8.3.17		Some shelling took place during the day & night. It was very noisy in the front line and under cover of the wiring took place 2 O.R. joined 25 th T.M. Butting 2nd LT CATES died of wounds and was buried at Muz Rif Albert sheet H8 A 24.	
	1875	Wt. W593/826	1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.	

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BOUCHAVESNES SECTOR.	10.3.17		Shelling was rather heavier than usual 3 OR accidentally wounded.	
	11.3.17		2nd LT. WELLIS joined 25 th T.M. Battal. An aeroplane duel took place in rear of our lines and one of our machines was hit and came down in direction of RANCOURT 10 R was wounded.	
	12.3.17		2nd LT. REDFERN joined for duty casualties 2 OR wounded.	
	13.3.17		Trench foot washing was carried out by Battalion. Battalion relieved part of R. Berks and the R.J.R. in the trenches in front of BOUCHAVESNES. Casualties 140 R wounded.	
	14.3.17		Even on and off all day trenches in very bad condition Battalion received notice to take over an extended front from their present position in front of BOUCHAVESNES. Casualties 1 OR killed 5 wounded.	
	15.3.17		Enemy reported returning on our left Sherwood Borderers entered enemy trenches in two places Battle Patrol Platoon joined from LITTLEDALE DUMP sent into front line for patrolling Draft of 61 OR joined for duty at Details camp. LT. CASSINELL rejoined for duty Hostile aeroplane active Active patrolling by Battalion.	
	16.3.17		Active patrolling last night 2nd Bn EL ANCS Regt reported to have entered enemy trenches casualties Battalion relieved by 1 st PIR. 4 moved as follows H.Q. and 3 companies to JUNCTION WOOD and 1 boy to MARRIERS WOOD Brigade H.Q. moved from JUNCTION WOOD to LANGTON BARRACKS. Enemy reported returning front held by Division is roughly as follows FRITZ BREMEN N of CLOVIS ATHENE trench BACCHOS trench WOODLANE to JUNCTION with LARSHAYENNE also GERMANY WOOD trench from JUNCTION with FRITZ ALLEY to trench JUNCTION CLOVIS.	
JUNCTION WOOD. NR CLERY.	17.3.17		Battalion settled at MAUREPAS engaged refitting with clothing.	
	18.3.17		Battalion engaged cleaning up Capt C.M.A. ELLIS who joined 14 P for duty.	
	19.3.17		Foot washing carried out at LOOK BARRACKS. Enemy reported returning Battalion relieved R.I.R. in front line near MOISLAINS 1 boy at ANSBACH trench 1 boy at ANGORA and FRITZ trenches 1 boy in BERTHA support and 1 boy in OB front line and LIVERPOOL The W YORKS Regt 23 rd Brigade are the advanced guard casualties nil.	
MOISLAINS	20.3.17		Battalion leave the line and move back to BOUCHAVESNES for road making one company being left at LIVERPOOL and OB front line.	
	21.3.17		Battalion employed road making.	

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BOUCHAVESNES	22.3.17		Battalion employed road making.	
	23.3.17		ditto ditto	
	24.3.17		Battalion employed road making. In afternoon Battalion moved to PRIEZ FARM. Draft of 68 O.R. and 1 Officer 2/LT. C. Mackeson reported, for duty. 2/LT. H. Barker rejoined, for duty from Hospital "Sick".	
MOISLAINS	25.3.17		Battalion marched to Moislains and did three hours work on roads.	
	26.3.17		Battalion bathed at Manrepas and fitted with small box respirators.	
EQUANCOURT	27.3.17		The Battalion relieved the 2nd Lincs Regt in the outpost line in front of EQUANCOURT and Equancourt Wood.	
	28.3.17		Still in line. Battle Patrol Platoon pushed forward posts on to the FINS - NURLU road.	
	29.3.17		Still in line. "C" Coy pushed out patrols and occupied village of FINS night of 29 th 30 th and together with "D" Coy occupied a line of outposts east of Fins and along FINS - NURLU road joining up with posts of Battle Patrol Platoon 1. Cpl killed 1 Rfn wounded.	
FINS - NURLU	30.3.17		Attack on DESSART WOOD. Orders were issued to "B" Coy to advance covered by patrols of the Battle Patrol Platoon from sunken road N of Fins at 4 P.M. On emerging from the road the leading wave were met by heavy R.G. fire from the right front, but as soon as the number of men advancing was seen by the enemy, they fled and were captured with their gun by a platoon of Royal Irish Rifles on our right.	
DESSART WOOD.			The Battle Patrol Platoon, 1 B. Coy supported by A. Coy advanced with little opposition through DESSART WOOD and after throwing out patrols and advanced Lewis Guns they dug themselves in about 200 yards to the N.E. of the wood getting into touch with the Corps Cyclists on the GOUZECOURT - FINS road to the right and the 59 th Brigade of 20 th Division on the left. It is worthy of note that three battalions of the Regiment were in line in the attack. 2nd Battalion on the	
FINS - EQUANCOURT.			2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.	

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DESSART WOOD. FINS. EQUANCOURT.	30.3.17		<p>right, and the 10th + 11th Battalions of the 59th Infantry Brigade on the centre and left respectively.</p> <p>Casualties. 2/Lt A. G. Adams slightly wounded at duty. 3. O.R. killed.</p> <p>10. O.R. wounded.</p> <p>G.O.C. 8th Division telegraphed his congratulations on "an altogether successful operation".</p> <p>The 1st Battalion, R.I.Rs. after the capture of DESSART WOOD advanced and occupied the ridge South of our line.</p>	
NR MOISLAINS. RIVERSIDE WOOD.	31.3.17		<p>On night of 30th 31st. Battalion moved back to Billets in Riverside Wood, which they took over from R.I.Rs.</p>	
			<p style="text-align: right;">Lastelland</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Captain Adjutant for O.R.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2nd Bn. Rifle Brigades.</p>	

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Army Form C. 2118.

158
2 Rifle Bde
Sgt 30 April 1917

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
RIVERSIDE WOOD NANANCOURT	1/4/17		D Coy found working party collecting wire on NORTH ROAD. Draft of 47 other ranks joined Battalion	
"	2/4/17		Working parties found in front line.	
SOREL-LE-GRAND	3/4/17		Battalion moved up and took over outpost line from 1 st R.I.R. Bn HQ & Bn in SOREL LE GRAND. During the night B and D Cos. pushed forward strong patrols & established posts about 1200 yards in advance of our previous line though they were unable to occupy the mill buildings on the FINS-GOUZEAUCOURT road on the high ground on our right flank. Connection was kept with the 24 th Brigade on the SOUTH.	
FINS-GOUZEAU-COURT	4/4/17		An attack was ordered to be carried out at 2 p.m. by 2/Royal Burks on the left, whose objective was the east end of GOUZEAUCOURT wood, and by the Battalion against the high ground N of the FINS-GOUZEAUCOURT road, but owing to the snow and the difficulty of getting up the artillery in time, the attack was ordered to take place at 2.15 p.m. At 2.15 p.m. 3 Platoon of C Coy advanced from the main road to capture the high ground N.E. but were only able to get forward about 500 yards, when they came under enfilade M.G. fire from the wood, in front of which, and further to the N. the Royal Burks were held up. C Coy suffered about 17 casualties and as no further advance could be made until their left flank was secured, they dug themselves in on the ground already gained. About 5.30 p.m. reports were received that the 20 th Division had captured METZ EN COUTURE and were moving eastwards and orders were issued for the Battalion to capture their objectives by standing patrols after dark. The Battle Patrol Platoon was moved up after dark, and half of them were able to occupy the high ground on our left flank and orders were then given for C Coy to advance and establish 2 posts & join up the left objective to the post D Coy occupied on the FINS road. This was soon accomplished without loss. The other half of the Battle Patrol Platoon under H.H. Adams was sent forward to work up the FINS road and occupy the mill as a strong point. They succeeded in pushing forward our	Sketch of 2/4th Royal Burks D.C.P. 1/4/17 2nd Lt. J. P. Jones 2nd Lt. R. G. Brinsford

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FNS-GOUVERNEMENT-COURT	4/4/17		line, and establishing themselves close to the German post but were held up by wire and machine gun fire and lost 2/LT Adams wounded and several casualties in attempting to capture the post. B Coy also attempted to occupy the high ground on our right flank but were unable to occupy the crest though they gained several hundred yards.	
ditto.	5/4/17		A Stokes Mortar was brought up to fire on the Mill at 10.30 am and after about 30 rounds had been fired Sgt Cross in charge of the 2 patrols, Battle Patrol Platoon worked their way forward and drove the Germans out of the strong post and pushed on down the slope and caused the enemy many casualties in the low ground. The enemy retaliated by bringing heavy shell fire on these troops in an exposed condition and after dark Sgt Cross after suffering 5 or 6 casualties brought his detachment back to the enemy trench on the crest by the Mill buildings. 2/LT SOUTHALL in charge of B Coy. detachment on our right flank again attempted to occupy the crest, but was himself wounded & lost 2 or 3 casualties, and it was not till after dark that this ground was occupied. Our casualties during the operations of 4 th & 5 th April totalled 2/LT Adams - 2/LT Southall wounded - 10 other ranks killed & 23 wounded.	Skipped 2/4/17. Attached to 2nd Lt. Mr. rifle Brigade
LIERAMONT	6/4/17		The Battalion dug in and organised the captured ground they were relieved at dusk by the 13 th Yorkshire Regt (2nd Bn) on the left and by the 2nd Dorsets on the right. The battn moved into support at LIERAMONT.	
LIERAMONT	7/4/17		The Battalion rested.	
"	8/4/17		Church Parade. Captain Hon E. Cole M.C and 21 other ranks joined for duty.	

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LIERAMONT	9/4/17		The Battn. bathed at MOISBAINS and changed clothing.	
"	10/4/17		Bn. resting at LIERAMONT.	
"	11/4/17		The Battn. moved to AIZECOURT-LE-BAS. relieving the 2nd Devon	
AIZECOURT-LE-BAS.	12/4/17		Battn training & roadmaking	
"	13/4/17		Do. Do	
"	14/4/17		Do. Do	
"	15/4/17		The Battalion moved to HEUDICOURT and relieved the Sherwood Foresters. Bn. moved off at 5pm by 2 Cos. at 5 minutes interval. C.O. left Bn to attend H th Army Conference.	
HEUDICOURT	16/4/17		Battalion doing camping work - 2nd T Anderson and draft of 19 O.R. joined the Battn.	
"	17/4/17		Battalion resting and camping for 2 Royal Berks.	
"	18/4/17		Battalion relieved the 4 R. I. R. in the outpost line	
"	19/4/17		Battalion engaged in working on improvements to existing trenches	
"	20/4/17		At 12 midnight the 2 Lincoln R. on our right were ordered to push forward patrols in order to endeavour to capture CONNELIEU. The Battn was to co-operate, keeping in touch with the left of the 2 Lin R. and the right of the night Battalion 40 th Division, the 19 R.W.S. who were to co-operate with us. Patrols of the 2 Lin R. pushed forward supported by their A & C. Cos., on patrols keeping in touch with them. The 2 Lin R. patrols reached the enemy's wire and cut gaps through it without a shot being fired. They then called to the Support Cos. to proceed through the gaps when a heavy rifle fire was opened. The 2 Lin R. patrols withdrew and our patrols advanced in conformity with them to the outpost line, as also did the patrol of 19 R.W.S.	Skipped. 21st & 22nd April 1918 2nd May 1918 Bridge

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GOUZEAUCOURT CONNELIEU	21/4/17		<p><u>Brief Summary of orders issued to Battalion previous to the attack on CONNELIEU:-</u></p> <p>As soon as the 2nd Line R. had captured the village, and while very lights were seen, or other information obtained that the objective was gained the Battn will move forward and secure the line R. 27. d. 3. 7. to R. 27. b. 5. 5. protecting if necessary the flank of the Brigade by keeping in touch with the 19th R.W. F. on the left and making a line of post between this final objective and the Right flank of the 19th R.W. F. The following positions would be taken up at hour before ZERO. The Battle Patrol Platoon would take up a position at a point R. 32. a. 0. 8. - The 2 leading Cos. on a line R. 26. c. 0. 6 & R. 32. b. 0. 3. The flanking Coy. at R. 25. d. 8. 7. The reserve Coy remained at the Quarry R. 31. d. 3. 4.</p> <p><u>Plan of attack.</u> The Battle Patrol Platoon would advance in 4 strong patrols on a front between the CAMBRAI road and the GOUZEAUCOURT-CONNELIEU road, keeping in touch with 2nd Line R. & 19th R.W. F. on right & left respectively.</p> <p>D' Coy (left attacking Coy) would advance in support of the B.P.P. between the CAMBRAI road and the GOUZEAUCOURT-CONNELIEU road at R. 32. a. 0. 9.</p> <p>A Coy (right attacking Coy) would also support the B.P.P. moving forward from a line R. 32. a. 0. 9 & R. 32. a. 0. 4. both Cos. keeping in touch with each other.</p> <p>C Coy would move forward from their present position in the Quarry and make a Support line between R. 26. c. 7. 9 & R. 32. a. 9. 7. as soon as the objective had been gained.</p> <p><u>Progress of the operations:-</u> (a) At 4.40 A.M. no very lights had been seen, nor any information received that the 2nd Line R. had captured the village (b) At 4.50 A.M. information was received that 4 very lights had been seen to be fired from the village. I immediately ordered my Adjutant to proceed to the Advanced Signal Station at R. 32. a. 0. 9. so that he might personally direct the operations under my orders and keep me informed of the progress of the operations (C) At 5.10 A.M. I received information that my Companies had commenced to move in accordance with my operation orders, but that the leading Cos. were suffering casualties from hostile artillery and that the B.P.P. were being held up by heavy machine gun and rifle fire, from a german trench R. 26. b. 0. 4 - R. 26. d. 0. 2 (d) Seeing that to continue the strong frontal attack would involve heavy casualties, orders were issued that the B.P.P. should hold on to their present position & also make every effort to gain a footing in the village. Further orders were that the left Coy should attack the trench from both flanks, sending strong patrols to attack at R. 26. b. 0. 4 & R. 26. d. 0. 2</p>	Sketch of 2/4th Royal Lancashire

Army Form C. 2113.

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GOUZEAUCOURT-	2/4/17		<p>(e) At the same time I directed that the right attacking Coy. should enter the village with their patrols at R. 32. d. 0. 8. and to take both machine guns and infantry holding the trench, in their left rear.</p> <p>(f) Both these operations were successful and the enemy, now almost surrounded, were forced to surrender and 46 prisoners and 2 machine guns were captured.</p> <p>(g) This manoeuvre enabled the B.P.P. to enter the village from the N. and to clear the N.W. end of it.</p> <p>(h) The B.P.P. were then ordered to take up a position in front of the final objective to secure the 2 leading Cos. from the danger of a counter attack.</p> <p>(i) The two leading Cos. supported by 2 platoons of the flanking Coy then pressed forward to the final objective & established a line of post there joining the 4thinc R at R. 27. d. 2. 8. this line had dug to cut the GOUZEAUCOURT-CAMBRAI road at R. 26. b. 35. 35.</p> <p>(k) The remaining 2 platoons of the flank Coy together with the support Coy (which I had sent forward) commenced to dig a support line behind the German wire between R. 26. c. 7. 9. and R. 32. a. 9. 8 and also made a post to protect our flank between our left post at R. 26. b. 4. 4 and the right post of the 19 RWF at R. 26. a. 8. 5.</p> <p>(l) When these positions had been established I withdrew the B.P.P. who had taken 6 prisoners in the street fighting in GONNELIEU.</p> <p>The success of this operation was due to the initiative and courage of the Battle Patrol Platoon which held on to all ground gained under heavy fire, and the quickness with which the attacking Cos. which, although suffering casualties, outflanked the enemy position.</p> <p>The enemy must have suffered heavy casualties in killed though the actual number is not known.</p> <p>At 5.30 A.M. when I saw that the trench in N.W. corner of the village would not immediately fall into our hands & that the machine guns had not been destroyed by our artillery, I applied to the Ob. 4thinc R for assistance from the Stoke-Mosta Battery attached to him. Unfortunately these mortar arrived too late to be of any assistance in capturing the village. The consolidation of the final objective was carried out under heavy shell fire. Major S. D. A. Ellis M.V.O. was hit by a shell when going forward.</p>	Skipped. 2/4 T. Aldean 1st P. B. P. 1st G. P. 1st
GONNELIEU				

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COURCEAUCOURT	21/4/17		<p>To win the progress of the Companies. Captain Hon S. Cote M.C. assumed the command & continued the attack. Our losses on this day were. Killed 2/LT Holland + 12 other ranks. Wounded Major G.M.A. Ellis, Captain S. Le Haddad, 2/LT Throssell 2/LT Bell + 45 other ranks. Prisoners captured were chiefly men from the 97th Inf. Reg. and 4 complete machine gun crews.</p> <p>The Battalion was relieved in the Outpost line by 1/R.I.R. and moved into Support.</p>	
CONNELIEU	22/4/17		Battalion digging & wiring in the BROWN LINE.	
	23/4/17		do do do	
	24/4/17		The Battalion relieved the 1/R.I.R. in the outpost line. The R.I.R. had advanced their ^{outpost} post near the CAMBRAI Road. We improved the outpost & support lines and started wiring. 4 Enemy hand mines were found by R.I.R. We sent out a strong patrol, who although not encountering the enemy brought back very useful information.	<u>Slogged 2/LT. Adjacent post</u>
	25/4/17			
	26/4/17		Lieut A.H. Curtis and 23 other ranks joined for duty. Two strong patrols were sent out with a view of capturing a sniper post, the post was however found to be evacuated. Information was obtained of an enemy position, which was successfully bombarded by our artillery.	
	27/4/17		Battalion was relieved by 1/R.I.R. and moved into Support. Lt Col. Hon R. Brand DSO resumed command of the Battalion.	
	28/4/17		Battalion employed on digging in Support line	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COURCEAUCOURT	29/4/17		Battalion employed on digging in Support line	Sketch 2/17. May 17 for 8th Div 13th Inf Bn
	30/4/17		Battalion employed on digging in Support line	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOREL - FINS - GOUZEAUCOURT				
	1-5-17		The Battalion bathed at Sorel.	
	2-5-17		Companies under O.C's Coys for training.	
	3-5-17		Corps Commanders inspected the Battalion and presented Medals to the following members of the Battalion. 2/Lt. J.H.BOWLER. MILITARY CROSS. Sgt.A.Cross. Distinguished Conduct Medal. A/Cpl. E.Phillips. Military Medal. Sgt. H.Souster. Distinguished Conduct Medal. Divisional Commander congratulated all ranks of the Battalion, on their smart turnout and soldierly bearing, on the Corps Commanders inspection. 2/Lt.G.C.Chatfield and 8 other ranks joined for duty.	
	4-5-17		Battalion working on Light Railway, between Fins and Gouzeaucourt. 2/Lt G.H. [redacted] Southall awarded Military Cross, for gallantry and devotion to duty	
	5-5-17		Battalion working on Light Railway between Fins and Gouzeaucourt. 2/Lt.W.A.Martin joined for duty.	
	6-5-17		Battalion working on Fins-Gouzeaucourt Light Railway.	
	7-5-17		ditto .	
	8-5-17		ditto .	
	9-5-17		Battalion relieved 2nd East Lancs Regt in Outpost Line, East of Villers Guislains. Work on improvement of positions. Casualties . 2. other ranks. 1 Troop of the Corps Cavalry Regt, (Royal Wilts Yeomanry) attached for instruction in reconnaissance, patrols etc.	
VILLERS- GUISLAINS				

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VILLERS - GUISLAINS	10-5-17		Patrols reported Honnecourt Wood strongly held and the enemy busy in improving his defences. Casualties. 3 other ranks.	
NURLU	11-5-17		2/Lt C.E.Pegram and 9 other ranks joined for duty.	
	12-5-17		Battalion (less 1 Company) was relieved by 1st R.I.R's and moved into Brigade Reserve S.W. of Villers Guislains. Battalion worked all night on 2nd line defences.	
	13-5-17		Battalion worked all night on second line defences.	
	14-5-17		Battalion was relieved by 21st Middlesex Regt, and moved into Corps reserve at Nurlu. Casualties. 1 other rank.	
	15-5-17		Battalion bathed at Sorel. Refitting of Clothing & necessaries.	
	16-5-17		Training was begun under Platoon arrangements.	
	17-5-17		Training of the Battalion continued. Draft of 2/Lt G.H.Jackson M.C. and 23 other ranks joined for duty. Sports were held in the evening.	
	18-5-17		Training continued. Sports held in the evening.	
	19-5-17		The Battalion carried out firing on the range.	
	20-5-17		Church Parade.	
	21-5-17		Training continued. The Divisional Commander presented Medal ribbons to C.S.M. F.Birtwistle (Distinguished Conduct Medal)	
	22-5-17		Training during the day was prevented by rain. A night march by compass was carried out.	
	23-5-17		Training as usual. Captain A.H.Pelham Burn, and 33 other ranks joined for duty.	

Army Form C. 2118.

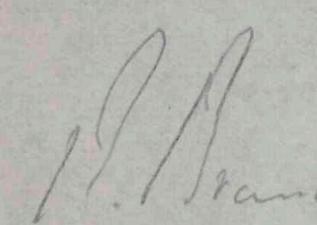
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NURLU	24-5-17		Musketry Training.	
AIZECOURT LE HAUT	25-5-17		Training continued.	
NURLU	26-5-17		Training continued. 30 yards range in the Camp was completed.	
NURLU	27-5-17		Church Parade.	
NURLU	28-5-17		Battalion training continued. 2/Lts W.Brown. L.H.Hillman, and J.M.L.Renton joined for duty.	
AIZECOURT LE HAUT	29-5-17		The Battalion marched from Nurlu Camp to Aizecourt-le-Haut, taking over from 1st Sherwood Foresters.	
NURLU	30-5-17		Battalion Training continued.	
NURLU	31-5-17		The Battalion marched from Aizecourt-le-Haut to Camp 17 in the morning. Bathing parades took place during the afternoon.	
	2nd June 1917.			
			 M. H. Ward Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding 2nd Battn. The Rifle Brigade.	

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2 Rifle Bde

Vol 32

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
AIZECOURT-LE-HAUT	1/6/17		The Battalion marched from AIZECOURT-LE-HAUT to VAUX-SUR-SOMME, arriving there at 9 A.M. and was billeted on the inhabitants of the village. The weather during the past week has been very warm and fine.
VAUX-SUR-SOMME	2/6/17		The Battalion was billeted in VAUX-SUR-SOMME musketry training was carried out.
- - -	3/6/17		The Battalion, less one Company marched to HELLY Station and entrained for CAESTRE. On arrival there the Battalion marched to CROIX ROUGE and took over billets, reaching CROIX ROUGE at about 12 noon on the 3 rd .
CROIX ROUGE	4/6/17		The company which remained at VAUX-SUR-SOMME after the Battalion had left the village rejoined at about 12 noon. Musketry training and bayonet fighting was carried out by the Companies which reached CROIX ROUGE on the 3 rd inst.
- - -	5/6/17		Training of Specialists, Musketry and Bayonet Fighting continued. 2 Lieut. A. H. Burman and 20 other ranks joined the Battalion for duty.
- - -	6/6/17		Training continued, as on 5 th inst, during the afternoon baths were allotted to Cops.
- - -	7/6/17		Training continued. 2 Lieut. J. C. Lewis and 52 other ranks joined the Battalion for duty.
- - -	8/6/17		Training continued.
- - -	9/6/17		Training continued, 48 other ranks joined for duty.
- - -	10/6/17		Training continued.

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ROUGE CROIX	11/6/17		The Battalion marched from ROUGE CROIX to billets situated near P. 27. d. 1. 4. Map. BELGIUM & FRANCE. Sheet 27. 46 other ranks joined for duty.	
	12/6/17		Training continued. The Battle Patrol Platoon ceased to exist. 9. COs & men returned to their Companies.	
S.W. of CAESTRE	13/6/17		Training continued. The Battalion marched to new area S.W. of CAESTRE at noon. (P. 36. W. 147. Q. 31). Weather fine and very hot. 2/ST. W. C. Field and 35 other ranks joined for duty.	
S.E. of POPERINGHE	14/6/17		Battalion marched to new area 3 miles S.E. of POPERINGHE (Map reference Sheet 28. BELGIUM and FRANCE. G 23. A. 8. 3). The 3rd Battalion are about 2 miles away S.E. 2/ST. C. Knollys joined for duty.	
	15/6/17		Training continued.	
	16/6/17		Training continued.	
	17/6/17		Sunday. Church Parade. Weather during past week very fine and hot. The Battalion marched to Baths (about 3 miles N.E.)	
	18/6/17		Training continued. 8 other ranks joined for duty.	
E. of STEENVOORDE	19/6/17		Battalion marched back to new area Map reference - Sheet 27. BELGIUM and FRANCE. K. 34 and 35. (about 2 miles E of STEENVOORDE)	
	20/6/17		Training continued.	
	21/6/17		Battalion Training - (Attack).	

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ESTEENVOORDE	22/6/17		Training continued. 1 officer and 140 other ranks sent to Summer Rest Camp for 14 days	
- - -	23/6/17		Battalion Training (Attack)	
- - -	24/6/17		Sunday. Weather during past week-variable.	
- - -	25/6/17		Battalion Training by Companies. Inspection of Companies at work by Corps Commander Sir bland Jacob K.C.B.	
- - -	26/6/17		Training continued.	
- - -	27/6/17		Training continued.	
- - -	28/6/17		Training continued.	
POPERINGHE	29/6/17		B & B Coy and 2 Platoons of D Coy marched to Headquarters 177 th Tunnelling Coy. at F. 21. d. (sheet 27) and will be attached to 177 th Tunnelling Coy. for working parties.	
DOMINION CAMP. YARDS - POPERINGHE	30/6/17		The Battalion less B. C + $\frac{1}{2}$ D Coy marched to DOMINION C.A.M.P. (G. 23. b. central - Sheet 28)	

P. Brand Lieut.-Colonel
Comdg. 2nd Bn. The R.R. Brigade

D.A.G.
3rd Echelon

RK 334
2/8/17.

Aterwith War Diary for
July 1917 made up to 30th
only, under instructions of
25th Infantry Brigade.

C. Macken?/Lieut
for Lt. Colonel
Comdg 2nd Rifle Brigade

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Army Form C. 2118.

2 Rifle Bn

fol 33

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Sunday	1-7-17		Brunch Parade, weather during first week very changeable, with heavy showers. Casualties to B & G Coy, working parties 3 killed 10 wounded. 2/LT S R. MOORE joined for duty.
Monday	2-7-17		A & D Coy Parades under B & G Cops. Casualties to working parties 1 killed 3 wounded.
Tuesday	3-7-17		A & D Coy. Parades under B & G Cops.
Wednesday	4-7-17		do. do. 11 A.R. joined for duty.
Thursday	5-7-17		A & D Coy Parades under B & G Cops. in morning, reported to SWANSHATEU for working party at night.
Friday	6-7-17		Working parties for Battalion.
Saturday	7-7-17		do. do. Casualties 2 O.R. wounded.
Sunday	8-7-17		No Parades, weather during past week variable.
Monday	9-7-17		Casualties to working parties B & G Cops. 1 killed 3 wounded. Battalion moved to PATRICIA CAMP. L.29.6.3.6
Tuesday	10-7-17		Rested in Camp.
Wednesday	11-7-17		Battalion moved to TOURNEHEDE Training Area (UK form CALAIS). Entering at REININGHELT and detraining at AUDREICK, marching to billets at BONINGGES.

REININGHELT - POCERINGHE

BONINGGES

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONDAYS	12-7-17		Parades under Lt. Col. Capt. A. H. Peltier. Review took over details of Adj/Adjutant since last in Paris to II Corps HQ.	
TUESDAYS	13-7-17		Battalion Training	
SUNDAYS	14-7-17		Training Cont'd	
SUNDAYS	15-7-17		Church Parade	
MONDAYS	16-7-17		Training on Rd. in Full Battalion Order.	
TUESDAYS	17-7-17		Battalion Field Firing at REQUES in area. Draft B in 2nd joined Society. Completed Draft.	
WEDNESDAYS	18-7-17		Battalion rested. Picnic & sports in celebration of regimental Birthday were abandoned owing to rain.	
SUNDAYS	19-7-17		Battalion Training Cont'd (Attack)	
FRIDAYS	20-7-17		Training Cont'd. Major Hon. S. Coke R.C left Battalion to command 16th Batt. The Rifle Brigade	
SATURDAYS	21-7-17		Training Cont'd (Attack)	
SUNDAYS	22-7-17		Church Parade	
MONDAYS	23-7-17		Battalion rested in Bullec.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Friday	24-7-17		Battalion left Training area marching via VILLENEUVE to AARDRUIK where it joined the 400 OUTRE (POPERINGHE) and moved to Camp. Staying at new RENINGHE LST.	
Saturday	25-7-17		Parades in Camp under 1st Coy.	
Sunday	26-7-17		Parades in Camp under 2nd Coy.	
Monday	27-7-17		5.06 Parades & Parade Addresses to men on forthcoming operations.	
Tuesday	28-7-17		Battalion moved to DOMINION CAMP	
Sunday	29-7-17		Blanchford & heavy rain	
			Battalion moved up to HOCK NO 9 in the evening after equipping during the day (locking a tunnel 1000x 500 yards)	
Monday	30-7-17		Battalion moved up to HALFWAY HOUSE about 700x 500 of ZILLEBEEK on night 30/31 st . Having stayed the day at Hock No 9. preparing to attack.	
				M. Brand Lieut-Colonel Command 2nd Bn. The Royal Brigade

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Y P R E S - O U D E R D O M - V L A M E R T I N G H E - W E S T H O E K	1/8/17		The Battalion arrived at HALIFAX Camp at about 10.30 am.	
	2/8/17		Re-organising etc.	
	3/8/17		Parades under O.C. Coys. 24 O.R. joined for duty. <i>Captain H. Elliott - R.A.M.C. joined for duty as Medical Officer vice Captain J. C. MacLean - wounded</i>	
	4/8/17		Parades under O.C. Coys.	
O U D E R D O M - V L A M E R T I N G H E - S T E E N V O O R D E	5/8/17		Sunday. Church Parade at 11 am. Battalion proceeded by Bus to billets in and around STEENVOORDE. Latter part of week, weather very bad.	
	6/8/17		Battalion Training.	
	7/8/17		Training. 51 O.R. joined for duty.	
	8/8/17		Training.	
	9/8/17		Training.	
O U D E R D O M - V L A M E R T I N G H E - S T E E N V O O R D E -	10/8/17		The Battalion left STEENVOORDE by Bus at 8.15 pm and debussed near HALIFAX Camp, marched to SWAN CHATEAU and took over dugouts there.	
	11/8/17		Had message to say Operations postponed, and marched back to HALIFAX CAMP in evening.	
V L A M E R T I N G H E - W E S T H O E K	12/8/17		Marched up to YPRES in the afternoon and took over tunnels in the ramparts at "The Esplanade" and "Lille Gate". Lt. Col. Hon R Brand being supernumerary Brigade Commander in case of a casualty. Major J.J.B Cole had temporary command of the Battalion.	
X	13/8/17		2/Lt. Everett went up to the line on WESTHOEK Ridge with guides so as to lead the Battalion up in the evening. Head of Battalion marched out of MENIN Gate at 8.10 pm. with 200 yards distance between double platoons. We picked up two Brigade guides at BIRR Cross roads, and set off over a very badly shell pitted country deep in mud. Battn closed up in single file. After going about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour the enemy opened a heavy barrage of 4.2" and we all round, and we stopped under what cover we could for about 20 minutes till it calmed down. The guides next lost their way, and it was nearly 2 O'Clock in the morning before we had entirely taken over the line from the 8th Cheshire Regt.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13/8/17		A & D Coys in the firing line under Captain Milne and Captain Curtis, H.Q. & C Coy, (Capt. Pegram) in support in JAFFA Trench on the top of the WESTHOEK Ridge, and B Coy (Capt. Heaton-Ellis) in reserve in BELLEWARDE Ridge. The Lincolns (25th Bde) held on our right and the Scottish Rifles (23rd Bde) on our left. The Support trench was more or less continuous though entirely demolished in many places, but the front line was only held in short lengths of trench and posts.	
EAST OF YORES	14/8/17		Three enemy aeroplanes appeared low over our trenches in the early morning firing their machine guns but causing no casualties. A good deal of shelling during the day, and in the evening about 8.45 pm a very heavy barrage was put down on our support line during which 2/Lt. & A/Adjutant C. Mackeson was severely wounded while sending up S.O.S. Signals at the request of the Lincolns on our right. He lived all that night in the H.Q. Dugout and was removed in a stretcher the next day, apparently better. However, he most unfortunately died later at BRANDHOEK, after an operation. Patrols active during the night.	
	15/8/17		Plenty of work by C & B Coys in carrying fatigues. B had a particularly hard time of it and worked very well. The front line trenches were shelled and sniped, some of our own 6" shells falling between our front and support lines. Luckily a Major of R.F.A. was in our O.P. at the time, and we got off his corroborative evidence by pigeon straight to the Corps. The gunners couldn't then say "The - Infantry always say its us when they are shelled". During the day 2/Lt. Nettleton made a reconnaissance of the country with guides to lead up the Royal Irish Rifles to their position of attack. 2/Lt Everett was to have done this but he took over A/Adj't. when 2/Lt Nett Mackeson was hit. After dark we were going to advance our line down to the road 300 yards W of HANNEBEEK but the Division on our right were driven back slightly, so that the Lincolns had to withdraw their right Company. Our gunners also put down a light barrage this side of the road so that the scheme fell through and we remained in our old front line position, but cleared up all ground to the road by patrols. 2/Lt H. Barker arrived about 7 pm and joined D Coy for duty in the front line about 10.30 pm.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	16/8/17		<p>The Battalion was in support to the Royal Irish Rifles ad Royal Berkshire Regt. the Lincolns being in reserve. We had to find 2 Coys (A & D) as an immediate support to the R.I.R. with orders to advance at Zero plus .20 and take up a position 100 yds E of the HANNEBEEK and wait there for orders ready to act on any emergency. Zero was fixed for 4.45 am, and at Zero minus 50 minutes A & D Coys had to retire back to the support trench (a distance of about 300 yds) only leaving out 4 small posts which were withdrawn at Zero minus 30 minutes. At Zero minus 50 orders were sent to B Coy in reserve to join the Battalion, taking cover in JAFFA Avenue as near JAFFA Trench as possible. This message failed to reach them, though the Coy joined the Battalion later. At Zero minus 40 minutes we were ordered by Brigade to furnish one Coy to mop up for the R.I.R. as their mopping up Company had nearly all become casualties. D Coy who had mopped up on the 31st July was detailed for this job and Captain Curtis was hurriedly given an idea of the ground and what he had to do. The attack started well and at Zer plus 1 hr 15 mins I had a message from A Coy that they had reached their objective 100 yds E of the HANNEBEEK. From about 8.30. am I could see that everything was not going quite right in front, and was rather worried as my support Coy C who had been out carrying all night had not yet returned. There were only 8 Lewis Guns with 2 men each, and $\frac{1}{2}$ of B Coy with me in the support trench. At 9.45 am I saw that the attack was on our right front on the ridge about J 3 c had failed and the Germans had counterattacked successfully, driving the Regiment there back and taking some prisoners. Numbers of stragglers of various regiments were now filtering back right up to the support line so I advanced with every available man I could find to our old front line trench. Here I found Capt Milne with $\frac{1}{2}$ A Coy and various men of other regiments. The Battalion did good execution among the bosches wh were advancing from shell-hole to shell hole down the opposite slope of the valley during the rest of the morning and early afternoon. At 4.15 pm Captain Curtis got to Bn. H.Q. with $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen riflemen, he having been till then in shell holes E of the HANNEBEEK with a mixed lot of R.B. R.I.R. and West Yorks and only retired when out of ammunition and practically surrounded. D Coy had killed about 20 Germans during their mopping up and sent back over 40 prisoners, but when advancing to support the troops in front who had been heavily counter-attacked and driven back, they suffered very heavy casualties themselves. All of C Coy who had got lost on the BELLEWARDE Ridge the night before had by now joined up so that when a message came down from Brigade to advance with every possible man to repel a threatened German counter attack and to counterattack</p>	

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	16/8/17		<p>counter-attack</p> <p>them in turn with the sword, we were able to put about another 50 men into the firing line. Captain Curtis being slightly wounded since the 14th and very exhausted, was left behind at old Bn. H.Q. with 2/Lt. Nettleton who had been blown up and rather shaken by a shell, to help him. 2/Lt. Pincock with his 5 Signallers & 4 runners were also left to look after communications. On the whole the telephone line between firing line and Bn. H.Q. in the support trench line worked very well, greatly owing to the efforts of A/C Colter. About 6 pm Genl. Coffin came along the front line to our bit of the trenches making a reconnaissance of the position. He told us that we were to be relieved that night by the 8th Sherwood Foresters and would be withdrawn to an old support line in JAFFA trench.</p> <p>Half the Battalion were relieved that night by 11 pm but 2 Coys of the Sherwood Foresters lost themselves on that trackless and shell pitted ground between BELLEWARDE and WESTHOEK Ridge so that A & $\frac{1}{2}$ C had to be relieved during daylight on the 17th. This was successfully done by 9.20 am.</p> <p>10 Signallers joined for duty.</p>																			
EAST OF YPRES	17/8/17		<p>Cleaned up dead out of the trench, salvaged rifles, ammunition etc made it more of a continuous trench and handed over to the Lincolns at 10 pm while we went back into reserve on the BELLEWARDE Ridge. Just before relief the Bosch put down a heavy barrage of H.E. and gas shells 200 yards behind us and down wind.</p>																			
	18/8/17		<p>Had a quiet day on BELLEWARDE Ridge cleaning up in the sun and watching the batteries and working parties near BIRR X Roads have a very bad time of it from the enemy's heavies. Marched back at 6 pm - BIRR X Roads - MENIN Gate - YPRES Cloth Hall - Esplanade - KRIISTAAT - Belgian Battery Corner - Groenen Jager - X Roads to Camp at HALIFAX where the Colonel and Captain Alldridge were waiting for us with a hot meal.</p> <p>Casualties during tour of duty in trenches and battle of 16th August:-</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>2/Lt. C. Mackeson</td> <td>died of wounds</td> <td>Capt. H.H Elliott R.A.M.C. wounded at duty.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/Lt. H. Barker</td> <td>missing</td> <td>Ki.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/Lt. R.H. Robinson</td> <td>Died of wounds</td> <td>Other Ranks 10 killed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/Lt. E.F. Ratliff</td> <td>wounded</td> <td>72 wounded</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capt. A.H. Curtis</td> <td>wounded at duty</td> <td>50 missing</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>6 wounded at duty 1 died of wds.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2/Lt. C. Mackeson	died of wounds	Capt. H.H Elliott R.A.M.C. wounded at duty.	2/Lt. H. Barker	missing	Ki.	2/Lt. R.H. Robinson	Died of wounds	Other Ranks 10 killed	2/Lt. E.F. Ratliff	wounded	72 wounded	Capt. A.H. Curtis	wounded at duty	50 missing			6 wounded at duty 1 died of wds.	
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DUDERDOM- AMERTINGHE	19/8/17		<p>Church Parade and Baths in the morning at HALIFAX Camp. In the afternoon the Battalion moved back to BORRE by bus. The Transport preceded the Battalion being brigaded under the Brigade Transport Officer. Billeted that night at BORRE.</p>																
	20/8/17		<p>Companies under Company Commanders reorganising and refitting. Military medals awarded to:</p> <table> <tbody> <tr><td>1152 A/Cpl. G. Stone (Bar to M.M.)</td><td>3631 A/Cpl. H. Salter</td></tr> <tr><td>15441 Rfn. W. Nelson</td><td>200893 Sgt. V. Scrivener</td></tr> <tr><td>971 Rfn. H. Bullen</td><td>15969 Rfn. H. Warner</td></tr> <tr><td>2866 Rfn. W. Tomlinson</td><td>14851 Rfn. A. Tippen</td></tr> <tr><td>1821 A/Cpl. J. Stayton</td><td>200627 Rfn. G. Goddard</td></tr> <tr><td>3183 Rfn. J. Vince</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Reinforcements joined as under:-</p> <table> <tbody> <tr><td>2/Lt. H.A. Barker</td></tr> <tr><td>" H.F. Cranswick</td></tr> <tr><td>" E?B?Anstie and 28 other ranks.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The men were of good physique and above the average standard.</p>	1152 A/Cpl. G. Stone (Bar to M.M.)	3631 A/Cpl. H. Salter	15441 Rfn. W. Nelson	200893 Sgt. V. Scrivener	971 Rfn. H. Bullen	15969 Rfn. H. Warner	2866 Rfn. W. Tomlinson	14851 Rfn. A. Tippen	1821 A/Cpl. J. Stayton	200627 Rfn. G. Goddard	3183 Rfn. J. Vince		2/Lt. H.A. Barker	" H.F. Cranswick	" E?B?Anstie and 28 other ranks.	
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	21/8/17		<p>The Division was inspected by the Commander in Chief, being drawn up in 3 sides of a square. Captain C.W.H. Bailie Ox & Bucks L.I. took up the duties of Acting Adjt. vice 2/Lt. C. Mackeson.</p>																
	22/8/17		<p>Parades under Company Commanders. C.O. inspected drafts received since 31-7-17 9764 C.W. M.Sgt. A.E. Trueman appointed to permanent Commission as 2/Lt. in Regular Army and posted to the Battalion for duty.</p>																
	23/8/17		<p>Parades under O.C. Coys. Reorganising the Coys with 4 Platoons.</p>																
	24/8/17		<p>The Brigade paraded for C.of S Service conducted by the Rev A.S. Crawley, Senior Divisional Chaplain, assisted by the Rev J.A. Kitson. The Service was attended by the II Anzac Commander, Major General Sir A.J. Godley K.C.B. K.C.M.G. and the Divisional Commander. Reinforcements joined as under:-</p> <table> <tbody> <tr><td>2/Lt. C.H. Cooke</td></tr> <tr><td>" D.A. Gibbs</td></tr> <tr><td>" R.C. Cook</td></tr> <tr><td>" G. Gamble</td></tr> <tr><td>" H.A. Sutton</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	2/Lt. C.H. Cooke	" D.A. Gibbs	" R.C. Cook	" G. Gamble	" H.A. Sutton											
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BORRE -	24/8/17		Lt. Col the Hon. R. Brand D.S.O. took over Command of Brigade the Brigadier proceeded on leave.	
CAESTRE AREA.	25/8/17		Regimental Birthday No Parades, but Sports were held under Coy arrangements. A Concert was held in the evening.	
	26/8/17		No Parades. Voluntary Services (C of E) held at Coy billets.	
KORTEPYP. CAMP. NR NIEPPE.	27/8/17		The Battalion under Major J.J.B.Cole M.C. marched from BORRE at 6 am to KORTEPYP Camp near NIEPPE. The 25th Brigade relieving a New Zealand Brigade forming Divisional Reserve. Honours and awards granted to Officers, N.C.Os and men as under:- D.S.O. Capt I.C.Maclean M.C. RAMC. Military Cross. Capt(A/Major) J.J.B.Cole 2/Lt.(A/Capt) H.R.Price. 2/Lt. N.Redfern(Attd 25th T.M.Battery) D.C.M. 6197. R.SM.. J.Furey 5822 Rfn. P.Blazeby Military Medal 26586 Rfn. Sgt F.Barnes. 3954 Cpl. C.Lacon 9202 Rfn. J.Cartwright. 678 Rfn. H.Lane. Parchment Certificate 4765 Sgt. E.Leese. Training under Coy Commanders. Training under Coy Commanders. Commanding Officer (Major J.J.B.Cole M.C.) with 4 Coy Commanders. and L.G.Offr. reconnoitred the front system of trenches but unable to proceed to actual front line by day.	

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KORTEPYR CAMP. NR NIEPPE.	31/8/17		<p>Training under Coy Commanders. Parchment Certificates awarded by Divisional Commander for gallantry and devotion to duty East of YPRES between 15th & 16th August 1917.</p> <p>397 Cpl. J. Spellman. 2766 Rfn W Farrell 385000 Rfn H. Bint.</p> <p>2-9-17.</p> <p><i>W.M. Cole</i> Major. Commanding 2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade.</p>	

KORTEPY P. CAMP.
NEAR NEUVE - EGLISE.

RED LODGE
NEAR
PLOGSTEEERT
WOOD

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form G. 2118.

2 Rifle Brdg

Vol 35

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
	1-9-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training
	2-9-17		Church Parade.
	3-9-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. 15 O.R. joined for duty.
	4-9-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Lieutenant Colonel the Hon. R. Brand D.S.O. awarded BAR TO DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER for gallantry and devotion to duty EAST of YPRES 31st July - 1st August 1917.
	5-9-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training
	6-9-17		-do-
	7-9-17		-do-
	8-9-17		No. 4215 Rifleman W. Johnson of A Company awarded MILITARY MEDAL for gallantry and devotion to duty near YPRES between 15th & 18th August 1917.
	9-9-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. 12 O.R. joined for duty.
	10-9-17		Voluntary C.of E.Service. The following awards granted for gallantry and devotion to duty EAST of YPRES between 15th & 17th August 1917:- THE MILITARY CROSS- Captain A H. Curtis - Captain H.H. Elliott R.A.M.C. - 2/Lt. E.F. Ratliff. BAR TO DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL 6602 Company Sergeant Major F. Birtwistle. THE MILITARY MEDAL - No. Z/281 Lance Corporal C. Colter. 2/Lt. W. Bridgeman joined for duty.
	11-9-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training.
	12-9-17		Battalion moved into Brigade Support at RED LODGE (Sheet 28 S.W. T.18.d.7.4.) relieving 1st Bn. Sherwood Foresters.
			Company Training and Refitting of Clothing.



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RED LODGE	13-9-17		Battalion found Working parties for R.E.	
NEAR PLOEGSTEERT	14-9-17		-----do-----	
WOOD	15-9-17		-----do----- . 9 O.R. joined for duty.	
REDDING	16-9-17		-----do-----	
NEAR PLOEGSTEERT	17-9-17		-----do-----	
SECTOR.	18-9-17		MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL awarded to No. 1522 Sgt. C. Ransted for gallantry and devotion to duty near ROMARIN during bombing practice on 15th September 1917.	
ST YVES	19-9-17		The Battalion relieved the 2nd. Bn. Royal Berkshire Regt, in the trenches. A & B Coys in front line. C Coy in support and D Coy in reserve, Headquarters at ST YVES WARNTON SECTOR.	
WARNETON	20-9-17		Quiet day with occasional shelling on support line. C Company found working parties to assist A & B Coys on work in front line. D Coy found carrying parties.	
PLOEGSTEERT	21-9-17		2/Lt. C.H. Cooke and 1 O.R. killed and 3 O.R. wounded by shell fire at dawn. The remainder of the day was quiet. Work as on previous night. 2/Lts J.E. Lung, D.F. Thuillier A.J. Sluman and C.B. Matheson joined for duty.	
ST YVES	22-9-17		Slight shelling in early morning and evening. Work as on previous night.	
WARNETON	23-9-17		Inter Company relief C. Coy relieved A, and D Coy relieved B. The enemy attempted to raid one of our posts in front of LA BASSE VILLE, on being discovered cutting our wire they tried to rush the trench by throwing bombs. 2Lt. C.B. Matheson was killed and 2/Lt. G. Gamble subsequently died of wounds. 2 Sergeants killed and 5 O.R. wounded. The bodies of 5 Germans were found in front of our trench. No German reached our trench. A great deal of shelling at night, 2/Lt. H.A. Barker being wounded. Total casualties 5 O.R. killed and 12 O.R. wounded.	
PLOEGSTEERT	24-9-17		Slight Shelling. 2 O.R. killed and 3 O.R. wounded. Work as on previous days.	



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ST. YVES. WARNETON SECTOR.	25-9-17		Slight shelling and a few minnenwefers fell on our front line. Captain A H Curtis wounded. 1 O.R. killed and 10 O.R. wounded.	
	26-9-17		Heavy shelling about midday on Support line. 6 O.R. killed and 12 O.R. wounded. 4 O.R. joined for duty.	
DE SUELLE CAMP. BAILLEUL-ARMENTIERES ROAD.	27-9-17		Inter Brigade relief. Battalion relieved by 1st Bn. Worcester Regt. and marched back to Camp. at DE SUELLE Following awards granted for gallantry and devotion to duty EAST of YPRES between 15th & 17th August 1917:- BAR TO THE MILITARY MEDAL - No. Z/922 Sergeant A Dale- No. 3185 Rfn. J. Vince. MILITARY MEDAL No. 2561 L/Sgt. O. Gerrard- No. 2278 Rfn. J. Tracey- No. 19907 Rfn. J. Berry - No. 1583 Sgt. W. Small- No. Z/696 Rfn. A Derrington No. 25735 Rfn. W. Moore- No. 1754 Rfn. T. Masters - No. 2491 Rfn. G. Hendle No. 3289 L/Cpl. J. Webster- 29624 Rfn. A. Addison- No. 1534 Cpl. T. Rogers- No. 25847 Sgt. W. Partridge.	
	28-9-17		Companies under Os C Coys. 2/Lt. E.F. Ratliff joined for duty.	
	29-9-17		Companies under Company arrangements.	
	30-9-17.		Church Parade at 10 am.	
	2/10/17.			Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding 2nd. Battalion The Rifle Brigade.

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Army Form C. 2118.

2 Rifle Bn

fol 36

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
	1-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training.	
	2-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training.	
	3-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training, 3 Companies worked under R.E. at night.	
	4-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. No. 6701 Rfn. H. Barnard awarded the MILITARY MEDAL for gallantry and devotion to duty on night 23-9-17 at LA BASSE VILLE. Working party of 250 under R.E.	
	5-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. 2/Lt. D.P. Jones joined for duty. Working party of 250 under R.E.	
	6-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Working party of 250 under R.E.	
	7-10-17		Parade Service (C.of E.) at 10 am. Baths for Battalion.	
	8-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Working party of 250 under R.E.	
	9-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Nor. 3359 Sergeant R. Doveton awarded DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL for gallantry and devotion to duty at LA BASSE VILLE on night of 23/24-9-17.	
	10-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Working party of 200 under R.E.	
	11-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training.	
	12-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training Working party of 200 under R.E. Divisional Commander presented Medal Ribbons to Officers, N.C.Os and men for gallantry in action E.of YPRES.	

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ROMARIN CAMP NEAR PLOEGSTEERT FRONT LINE WARNETON SECTOR	13-10-17		25th Infantry Brigade relieved 24th Infantry Brigade, and Battalion moved into Brigade Reserve at ROMARIN, relieving 1st. Battalion Sherwood Foresters. 2/Lt. F.E.A.Fulford joined for duty. Casualties- 1 Other rank wounded.	
	14-10-17		Parade Service (C.ofE.) at 10.30 am. Battalion found working parties of 215 for work at night under R.E. and Pioneers.	
	15-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Working parties as for 14th.	
	16-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Working parties as for 14th.	
	17-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Working parties of 175 for work at night under B.E. & Pioneers. Baths for Battalion.	
	18-10-17		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Working parties as for 17th.	
	19-10-17		ditto	
	20-10-17		ditto.	
	21-10-17		Battalion relieved 2nd. Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. in front line, WARNETON Sector. C & D Coys in front line, B Coy in Support, C Coy in Reserve, Battn. H.Q. ST.YVES	
	22-10-17		Intermittent shelling. Work- A and part of B Coy. carried. Remainder of B Coy assisted front line Coys with work. Casualties- 1 other rank wounded by shell fire.	
	23-10-17		Continual shelling and Trench Mortar fire on LA BASSE VILLE and front line. Casualties- 2 other ranks killed, 12 wounded. Work- As for 22nd. Following Officers joined for duty:- 2/Lts. A.G.Tyndal, J.Brooker and G.E.Collins.	
	24-10-17		Intermittent shelling and Trench Mortar fire. Casualties- 3 other ranks wounded. 2/Lty D.W.W.Baden-Powell joined for duty.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE FRONT SECTOR WARNETON	25.10.17.		Less shelling than two previous days. Casualties- 1 other rank wounded.	
	26.10.17.		A quiet day. On the night of 25/26th 2/Lt. J.E.Lund took out a patrol of 2 men between BASSEVILLE and WARNETON to investigate an enemy trench. He left the men of his patrol about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way across No man's land and proceeded alone to the enemy wire. When on the wire, 2 Germans passed inside the wire within ten yards of him, one of whom he wounded with a revolver shot. This alarmed the garrison consisting of about 12 men, who, after a moments panic, commenced to bomb 2/Lt. Lund who maintained his position and though slightly wounded in the wrist by a German bomb returned the enemy's fire with Mills bombs and revolver. He succeeded in pitching one bomb in amongst a party of four men, but could not see the effect. Owing to the danger of being separated from his men, he withdrew after some time. quiet day - no casualties.	
DE SEULE CAMP BAILLEUL - NIEPPE ROAD.	27.10.17. 28.10.17.		A Quiet day, except for Trench Mortar fire. At 9 pm. 2/Lt. E.B.Anstie and a party of 25 other ranks raided the enemy trenches under artillery barrage. They succeeded in entering enemy trenches, and killing one German, but the remainder of the garrison of the post raided, ran away while our party was getting through the wire. Our casualties in the raid were:- 5 other ranks slightly wounded, 1 other rank missing (believed blown up by shell). Other casualties during the day 3 other ranks killed by trench mortar fire in a front line post.	
	29.10.17.		After dawn, exceptionally quiet day. 3 other ranks wounded by shell fire. Battalion was relieved by 1st Bn. Worcester Regiment, and moved into DE SEULE Camp. Following Officers joined for duty:- 2/Lts. H.Coles, C.H.Sidney and A.F.A. Woodward.	
	30.10.17.		Inspec tions and refitting clothing of Cos and Detts. Baths for Battalion.	
	31.10.17.		Companies under Company Commanders for Training.	

C.W. Hall
Captain, 1st Lt. Colonel.
Commandant, The Rifle Brigade

— Div. Boundary.
 - Front Line before Attack.
 - Batt. Boundary.
 - Company Boundary.
 - Barrage Zero + 8
 - Barrage Zero + 9.

MESSAGE MAP.

German Trenches Corrected to 24-10-17.



MESSAGE FORM.

To:—

No.

1. I am at..... Note:—Either give Map Reference or mark your position by a 'X' on the Map on back.

2. I have reached limits of my Objective.

3. My Platoon Company is at..... and is consolidating.

4. My Platoon Company is at..... and has consolidated.

5. Am held up by (a) M.G. (b) Wire at..... (Place where you are).

6. Enemy holding strong point

7. I am in touch with..... on Right at..... on Left.

8. I am not in touch with..... on Right. on Left.

9. Am shelled from.....

10. Am in need of—

11. Counter Attack forming at.....

12. Hostile (a) Battery
(b) Machine Gun
(c) Trench Mortar } active at.....

13. Reinforcements wanted at.....

14. I estimate my present strength at rifles.

15. Add any other useful information here:—

Name.....

Platoon.....

Time m.

Company.....

Date 1917.

Battalion.....

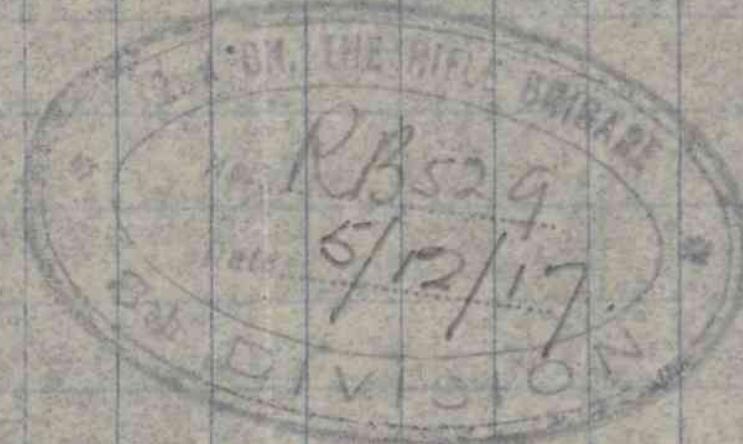
(A). Carry no maps or papers which may be of value to the Enemy.

(B). Give no information if captured, except the following, which you are bound to give:—

Name and Rank.

(C). Collect all captured maps and papers and send them in at once.

D. A. G.
5th Battalion
Batt.



Herewith I enclose Diary of this
Battalion for month of
November 1917.

S. Anderson
Lieut
for Captain
Commanding 8th Rifle Brigade

25
8
2 Rife Bn
Oct 37

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
DE SEULE CAMP. BAILLEUL - ARMENTIERES ROAD.	1-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training.	
	2-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training. R.C. Church Parade Service at BALLEUL - 11.00 a.m. to commemorate soldiers of Allied Forces who have fallen in the War.	
	3-11-17.		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training.	
	4-11-17		C. of E. Parade Service at 10 am. 21 other ranks joined for duty.	
	5-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training.	
	6-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training. The following were awarded the MILITARY MEDAL for gallantry and devotion to duty near WARNETON on 28th Oct. 1917. 24308 L/Cpl. J. Jordan 21998 Rfn. G. Ball.	
	7-11-17.		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training.	
	8-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training. Baths for Battalion.	
	9-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training.	
	10-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training. Final of Brigade Boxing Tournament results - FEATHERS Runner up. Cpl Lewsey- Welter, Winner, A/Cpl. Dorow- MIDDLE. Runner up. Sgt. Rye- HEAVY Winner. C.Q.M.Sgt. Bingham 2/Ltg G.H.G. Anderson, J.B. Macgeorge, and W. Morrison joined for duty.	
	11-11-17.		C. of E. Parade Service at 10 am. 10 other ranks joined for duty.	
NEAR VIEUX-BERQUIN.	12-11-17.		Battalion moved into billets in the RUE DU BOIS and RUE VERTE, VIEUX-BERQUIN. 2/Lt. B.R. Everett struck off strength of Battalion from 7-9-17. 'sick'	
	13-11-17.		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEAR VIEUX BERQUIN	14-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training. No. 6197 R.S.M. J. Furey M.C. joined for duty.	
WIELTJE Near YPRES.	15-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training.	
PASSCHENDAEL SCTOR. YPRES FRONT.	16-11-17		The Battalion marched to CAESTRE where they entrained. The Battalion detrained at YPRES and marched into bivouacs at C Camp. WIELTJE.	
	17-11-17		The Battalion moved into the line N.W. of PASSCHENDAEL relieving the 47th Canadian Inf. Battn.- 1st Division on the left, 2nd. Lincolnshire Regt. on right. Heavy shelling on Battalion front during relief and throughout the night.	
	18-11-17		Battalion remained in the line and were heavily shelled, the enemy several times putting down intense barrages. During the night the Battalion advanced their line in the centre, straightening out a reentrant, without any opposition.	
	19-11-17		Heavy shelling of our front and support lines and communications throughout the day. The Battalion were relieved at night by the 2nd. East Lancashire Regt. During the tour the Battalion experienced heavier shelling than on any previous occasion. CASUALTIES- 2/Lts. A.G. Tyndall and A.F.A. Woodward killed- 2/Lt. J.E. Lund wounded. Other Ranks. 77 killed, 83 wounded. 22 missing.	
BRANDHOEK PAPERINGHE & VLAMERTINGHE. RH	20-11-17		The Battalion entrained at WIELTJE and proceeded to "B" Camp BRANDHOEK.	
	21-11-17		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training. Baths for Battalion.	
	22-11-17		Companies practised in forming up for the attack.	
	23-11-17		Companies practised in forming up for and advancing to the attack. 2/Lt. King-Harman joined for duty.	
	24-11-17		Battalion Training by day- Company Training by night.	
	25-11-17		Brigade Training by day- Battalion Training by night.	
	26-11-17		Brigade Training by day - Brigade Training by night.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRANDHOEK	27-11-17		Battalion Rested.	1-11-17
POPERINGHE	28-11-17		Companies paraded in Battle Order for Inspection by the Commanding Officer	1-11-17
VLAAMERTINGHE ROAD.			Baths for Battalion.	
ST JEAN area.	29-11-17		Battalion moved to "F" Camp ST. JEAN. 2/LT. C.B. Keffie joined for duty.	1-11-17
Neat YPRES	30-11-17.		Battalion, less details, moved to CAPRICORN Camp.	1-11-17
			<i>J. H. M. J. D. 1917</i>	
			Lieut. for Captain Comdg 2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade.	
			5/12/17.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

2 Rifle Bde
Vol 38

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST JEAN - N.E. PASSCHENDAEL (N.R YPRES)	1 st Dec. 1917		At dusk the Battalion marched by road to WATERLOO and then by track No. 5 N. to assembly positions N.E. of PASSCHENDAEL. Lt. Colonel Hon R. Brand D.S.O wounded. Lt. P.H.G. Anderson M.C. took over command of the Battalion.	
	2 nd Dec		At 1.55 Am. A, B, and C Cos advanced to the attack on a frontage of 370 yards. D Coy remained in the original front line. The attacking waves came immediately under intense machine-gun fire and suffered heavy casualties. They succeeded in advancing about 100 yards beyond the front line, where they dug themselves in, but were unable to reach their objectives or to capture the redoubt, known as VENISON TRENCH, in the centre of the Battalion front. Between 9 p.m. and 12 midnight the Battalion was relieved by the 8 th Battalion ^{The Rifle Brigade} and marched to HASLAR CAMP, ST JEAN. Casualties:-	
			<p>Capt. E. F. Ratcliff M.C. 2/LT. W. Morrison " J. Brooker } Killed</p> <p>2/LT. J. B. Mac George " D. P. Jones " L. M. King-Harman " D. F. W. Dader-Powell " H. F. Cranswick " W. Bridgeman } Wounded.</p> <p>O. R. 21 Killed - 72 Wounded - 21 missing</p>	
ST JEAN - WIZERNES - ACQUIN	3 rd "		The Battalion proceeded by train from ST JEAN to WIZERNES and marched to Billets at ACQUIN. Captain C.W. H. Baillie took over command of the Battalion.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ACQUIN (TRAINING AREA)	4 th Dec 1917		<p>Battalion inspected by the Corps Commander. Battalion bathed. The following awards granted for gallantry and devotion to duty near PASSCHENDAELE between 17th and 19th Nov. 1917.</p> <p><u>BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.</u></p> <p>No. 4012 Sgt. A. Shoplard No. 8429 Sgt. A. Smith No. 1522 Sgt. J. Ransted</p> <p>" 4819 " Pte. J. Whiting " 6767 Rfn. T. Gibson</p> <p>" 11688 Rfn. H. Whitaker " 12643 " C. Halcomb</p> <p>Battalion reorganized in 8 double-Platoons.</p>	
	5 th Dec		Coy's under OC Coy's for Training and Reorganization. 28 O.Rs joined for duty.	
	6 th Dec		Coy's under OC Coy's for training.	
	7 th "		Coy's under OC Coy's for training.	
	8 th "		Coy's under OC Coy's for training. Major T. T. B. Cole M.C. took over command of the Batt.	
	9 th "		C. of E. Parade Service at 11 a.m. Captain S. A. Hadland - 2/LTS G. Logan - R. T. Dent - W. H. Hearn M.C/M.M. 2/LT. C. J. Eyston - 27 O.Rs joined for duty.	
	10 th "		Coy's under OC Coy's for Training	
	11 th "		Coy's under OC Coy's for Training	
	12 th "		Coy's under OC Coy's for Training.	
	13 th "		Coy's under OC Coy's for Training.	
	14 th "		Coy's under OC Coy's for Training. Lt. R. C. S. Stevenson joined for duty. Following Awards granted by Divisional Commander for gallantry and devotion to duty near PASSCHENDAELE between 20 th Nov. and 2 nd Dec. 1917.	



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>PARCHMENT</u> <u>CERTIFICATE</u>	
14 Dec (Contd)			No. B/723 Rfn. T. C. A. Hickton " 5/28497 " E. Derrick " 2/40 " S. Swinscoe	No. 28322 Rfn. W. Sims No. 15448 Rfn. F. L. Polledge " 5/11464 " H. Southall 2/67 " T. H. Date
15th Dec			Cos under OC Cos for Training. Divisional Cross Country run. Battn Team 6 th	
16th Dec			C. of E Parade Service at 11 a.m.	
17th "			Cos under OC Cos for Training. Brigade Cross-Country run. Battn Team 1 st . 16 OR joined for duty. Transport inspected by OC 8th Div. Train.	
18th "			Cos under OC Cos for Training. Following Awards granted for gallantry and devotion to duty near PASSCHENDAEL between 20 th Nov & 3 rd Dec. 1917.	
			<u>MILITARY MEDAL</u>	
			No. 397 Cpl (7Sgt) now Sgt. J. Spelman " 5988 A/Cpl now Cpl. T. Stainer " 4984 Rfn B. Pearce	No. 2753 A/Cpl. now Cpl (7Sgt) R. Davis 743 Sgt. R. Bloodworth 2831 Rfn. W. M. Envoy.
19th "			Cos under OC Cos for Training. Battalion bathed.	
20th "			Cos under OC Cos for Training.	
21st "			Cos under OC Cos for Training.	
22nd "			Inter-platoon Route Marching and Miniature Range shooting Competition 1 st 7-8 Platoon 2 nd 11-12 Platoons.	
23rd "			Christmas Day celebrated on this date throughout the Brigade Church Parade (C. of E) 10 a.m. Finals of Divisional Boxing Competition RESULT: Light weight Cpl Brooks HEAVY WEIGHTS. com.sgt. Bingham.	
24th "			Battalion bathed.	

ACQUINING AREA

WAR DIARY
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ACQUIN.	17 Dec '17 (Contd.)		<p>Following Awards granted for gallantry and devotion to duty near PASSCHENDAEL between 20th Nov. & 3rd Dec 1917...</p> <p><u>BAR TO MILITARY CROSS.</u> Capt. B. C. Pascoe MC. 2/LT. now Lieut G.H.G. Anderson MC.</p> <p><u>DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL</u> No. 1522. Sgt. C. Ransted No. 26847 Sgt. W. C. Partridge 8 O.R.s. joined for duty</p>	
JUNCTION. CAMP. ST JEAN.	25 Dec		1 st Line Transport moved from ACQUIN to YORK CAMP, BRANDHOEK.	
NR YPRES	26 Dec		Battalion marched to WIZERNES STATION, proceeded thence by train to ST.JEAN and then marched to JUNCTION CAMP.	
	27 Dec		Coy. under Q.C. Coy for Training.	
	28 Dec		B. C. & D Coy paraded for work under R.E. and 22 nd Bn. Q.L.I. The Camp was shelled during the morning and afternoon. 1 O.R. wounded.	
	29 Dec		Coy under Q.C. Coy for Training.	
NR PASSCHEN- DAELE.	30 Dec		Battalion relieved the 1 st Bn. Sherwood Foresters in Support at BELLEVUE.	
	31 Dec.		Battalion found carrying parties to the front line. Quiet day. 2 O.R. wounded.	
	2 nd January, 1918			<p><i>St. Anderson</i> Lieutenant for Lt. Colonel Commanding 2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade</p>

~~SECRET.~~

Report of the part played by the 2nd Batt. The Rifle Brigade
 in the recent operations at PASSCHENDAELE
 Reference attached MSS. Map.

1. ASSEMBLY. This was carried out with comparative ease.

Neither the enemy's artillery nor machine-guns were particularly active.

2. FORMING UP. Little interference from the enemy with the exception of close-range sniping from TEAL COTTAGE. Owing to the latter being in the enemy's possession it was found necessary to throw back the left flank from the point where the tapes ended on the left (i.e. about 250 yards from the MOSEL MARKT - WHISK FARM road) to join hands with the 32nd Divsim.

3. ADVANCE. Very intense machine-gun fire commenced immediately after ZERO and continued until ZERO + 60. Two machine-guns were seen firing from TEAL COTTAGE and three from the front^{trenches} of the Northern Redoubt (which was strongly held), but there were certainly others firing direct from the flanks and probably many more carry out indirect fire from the line WRANGLE FARM - WRATH FARM. Intermittent bursts of machine-gun fire continued from ZERO + 60 until dawn. The advance was checked for the following reasons:-

- (a) The number of casualties rendered further progress impossible.
- (b) The front trench of the Northern Redoubt and shell-holes in front of and to the flanks of this position were strongly held by enemy who had been pushed out in front of our barrage.
- (c) The 32nd Divsim having failed to take TEAL COTTAGE our left was in the air and it was necessary to throw back a defensive flank.

4. CONSOLIDATION. Posts of from 3 to 6 men each were formed in shell-holes.

5. HOLDING THE LINE. The enemy's attitude throughout the day following the attack was aggressive. Several attempts were made to raid our posts but these were driven off. There was also a considerable amount of bombing and rifle-bombing from the enemy's forward posts. Except for a few hours during the morning, it was practically impossible owing to heavy and accurate sniping, to get from post to post. The posts established with the units on our left

2

6. RELIEF. All posts were taken over by the reliving unit.

Relief was carried out individually by small bodies of men and few casualties were sustained.

7. COMMUNICATIONS Throughout the operations communication from the front to the support line and thence to Batt H.Q. was entirely by runner.

8. GENERAL REMARKS. Visibility in the moonlight was up to 500 yards. The moon was behind us. It seems obvious that the enemy observed our forming ^{up}, but, instead of interfering with it, pushed forward posts and machine-guns in front of our barrage-line. Consequently when our barrage commenced the machine gun increased rather than lessened.

It was very noticeable that there was practically no enemy barrage on our front or support line, their artillery fire being practically confined to the back areas and the ground between the support line and MOSEL MARKT. Even in these areas it was not very heavy.

From our new line the ground slopes very slightly to the Northern Redoubt and thence steeply to the N.E.

There was a considerable number of enemy dead between our advanced posts and the Northern Redoubt.

J. H. Anderson

L.D.

Adj't. 2nd Batt. Rifle Bde

6th December 1917.

Headquarters 25th Infantry Brigade.

SECRET

In reply to your No G1/19, herewith information as required:-

(a) BARRAGE. i. Very efficient.

2. Not many shorts.

3. Pace was found suitable.

(b) ASSEMBLY. Carried out with only slight interference from the enemy although from their subsequent action, the forming up in the tapes was apparently observed by them.

(c) ENEMY'S FIRE. 1. No many barrage in our front or support lines.

Scanning fire from about 200 + 5 in rear of Support line.

2. Machine gun fire particularly deadly. Machine guns firing low - about 2 feet from the ground.

(d) FORMING UP. 1. Under the circumstances (i.e. Tral Cottage being in the hands of the enemy) the tapes were all that could be desired.

2. The direction tapes proved useful in the absence of any apparent landmarks.

(e) EQUIPMENT. 1. The men were not overloaded in any case.

2. There was no shortage, except of very lights.

*G. Anderson
1r
adjt.
2nd Batt Rife Brigade.*

6th December 1917.

4th Copy.

Histori

2 Rifle B

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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
BELLEVUE - PASSCHENDAELE SECTOR	21.18	10+0	Battalion still in support at BELLEVUE carrying to front line - Casualties nil. quiet day.	
	21.18	10+0	Battalion still in support at BELLEVUE carrying - Enemy Aircraft showed some activity. 2/Lt. A.G. Sutton killed. 1.O.R. Killed. 4 O.Rs wounded.	
	3.1.18	10+0	Battalion were relieved on night of 3rd/4th by the 2nd Devon Regt. and moved by train from WIELTJE to BRANDHOEK. - Shelled slightly during relief - Casualties 2. O.Rs wounded.	
BRANDHOEK - VLAMERTINGHE ROAD	4.1.18	10+0	Battalion at BRANDHOEK. "B" Camp. Cleaning up and Bathing.	
"B" CAMP - POPERINGHE	5.1.18		BRANDHOEK. Training under Company arrangements.	
	6.1.18		BRANDHOEK. Church Parade. Following HONOURS & AWARDS published in the London Gazette. MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES. December 18th 1917. Lt-Cpl. The Hon. F. Brand, D.S.O. 2/Lt. B.R. Everett. 2/Lt. J. Nettleton. 2/Lt. C. Mackeson. (died of wounds) 2836. C.S.I.H. Spencer. 8438. Q.M.S.A. Foreman. 8589. C.Q.M.S.G. Bingham. 2/655. Sergt. H. Steele, O.R.C. 2/461. Cpl. J. Poterton. (attd. A.P.M.) DECEMBER 21st 1917. Captain I.G. Maclean, D.S.O. M.C. (R.A.M.C.) late attd. PROMOTED FOR DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT IN THE FIELD January 1st 1918. AWARDED MILITARY CROSS. Presented for Distinguished Conduct in the Field. To be Hon. Major. Captain & Quartermaster, J.H. Aldridge M.C.	
			2/Lt. H.H. Darby. 5571. C.S.M. A.H. Richardson.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIELTJE - ST JEAN	7.1.18		Battalion moved to WIELTJE-ST JEAN area. H.Q. and A. & B. Companies at JUNCTION CAMP. C. & D. Companies at CALIFORNIA CAMP.	
	8.1.18		Battalion finding Working Parties.	
	9.1.18		Battalion on Working Parties.	
	10.1.18		ditto. draft of 9.O.R.s joined for duty.	
	11.1.18		Battalion on Working parties. 2/Lt. G.E.Collins killed by shell fire. 1. O.R. ditto.	
	12.1.18		Battalion on Working Parties. Following Officers joined for duty. 2/Lt. B.F.Everett. Lt. L.S.Chamberlen.M.C. 2/Lt. R.T.Parkin. 2/Lt. W.M.Gardiner. 2/Lt. H.M.Small. 2/Lt. G.E.Lascelles. 2/Lt. D. Gault.	
	13.1.18		H.Q. A & B Companies roved from JUNCTION CAMP to join remainder of Battalion at CALIFORNIA CAMP. Working Parties. 1.O.R.Wounded.	
	14.1.18		Working Parties. Sasualties. 2.O.Rs Killed 4 wounded.	
	15.1.18		The Battalion relieved 2nd Bn. The Devon Regt at BELLEVUE. Sasualties Lt-Col J.J.B. Cole M.C. wounded by Shell Fire. Relief carried out in a heavy snow storm. Captain F.D.P.Milne took over command.	
	16.1.18		Battalion relieved the 1st Royal Irish Rifles in the line (left sub-sector). Condition of posts was extremely bad. Enemy activity slight. Casualties caused by our own artillery. 2/Lt. W.M. Gardiner killed. 2 O.R.killed 6.O.Rs wounded. 7 O.Rs missing	

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PASSCHENDAEL SECTOR	17.1.18	at 10	Battalion holding the line. - working on improvement of posts at night - conditions continued very bad. Enemy Artillery inactive. Slight shelling of Battalion H.Q. (Fill Box 83.) Casualties 1.O.R. wounded.	
E. OF STEENVOORDE	18.1.18	at 10	Battalion holding the line - relieved at night by the 2nd Battn. Royal Fusiliers (29th Division). Enemy inactive - a quiet day. On relief, Battalion marched out to WIELTJE and thence entrained to ABELE - whence they were conveyed by lorry to Billets at K.28. K.29. K.34. K.35. East of STEENVOORDE	
STEENVOORDE	19.1.18	at 10	Battalion established in Billets. H.Q. at K.35.a.7.2. Major S.A. Hadland took over Command of the Battalion. Battalion specially mentioned in Brigade Orders of 16th inst. "The work done during the last week by the 2nd Battalion The Rifle Brigade "on the Divisional Reserve line, is reported by Lt-Col. Sherbrooke D.S.O. "1st Sherwood Foresters (attached H.Q. 8th Division) to be extremely good "particularly the work done by the Company, commanded by Captain E. Heaton- "Ellis. The Brigade Commander is very pleased to have received "this excellent report, and wishes to congratulate all ranks of the 2nd "Battalion. The Rifle Brigade."	
STEENVOORDE	20.1.18	at 10	Battalion resting and cleaning up.	
STEENVOORDE	21.1.18	at 10	Battalion resting - cleaning up and re-fitting.	
STEENVOORDE	22.1.18	at 10	Training under company arrangements. ditto. Following extract from report of inspection of Transport dated 19.1.18. "General Condition excellent. The Turnout of Transport of 2nd Bn. "The Rifle Brigade was exceptionally good." No other unit was individually mentioned.	
STEENVOORDE	23.1.18	at 10	Training under Company arrangements. Following Officers joined for duty. 2/Lt. H.F.C. Moore. 2/Lt. D.F. Thuillier. and draft of 146 Other Ranks.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

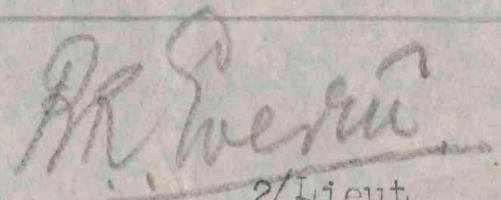
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OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

STEENVOORDE OF EAST

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24.1.18	10 a.m.	Battalion training under company arrangements.	
	25.1.18	10 a.m.	ditto. Lincolnshire Regt in the first round of the Brigade Football Competition and won by two goals to none.	The Battalion played 2nd Bn. The Lincolnshire Regt in the first round of the Brigade Football Competition and won by two goals to none.
	26.1.18	10 a.m.	Training under Company arrangements. Sports held in the afternoon. Commanding Officer inspected the new draft.	
	27.1.18	10 a.m.	Battalion Resting. Church Parades. Battalion beat 25th Trench Mortar Battery in the 2nd round of the Brigade Football Competition. 6 goals to nil.	
	28.1.18	10 a.m.	Battalion Training. 7 O.Rs joined for duty.	
	29.1.18	10 a.m.	Training continued. Boxing competition held.	
	30.1.18	10 a.m.	Training continued. 1 O.R. joined for duty.	
	31.1.18	10 a.m.	Training continued.	



R. Veru
2/Lieut.
for Major.
Commanding 2nd Battalion. The Rifle Brigade.

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Army Form C. 2118

2 Riffle Bde
21 Riffle Brigade

Vol 40

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
STEENVOORDE				
AREA	31.1.18		Battalion Training.	
<i>K. 27. K. 28. K. 29. K. 34. K. 35.</i>	1.2.18		Battalion Training. Draft of 36 other ranks joined.	
	2.2.18		Battalion marched via STEENVOORDE - ABELE Road to POPERINGHE, being billeted in the Rue de BRUGES. Battn. Headquarters 9 Rue de Bruges, relieving the 2nd, Battn. Scottish Rifles.	
	3.2.18		Battalion finding working parties of 70 men, 50 men, and 50 men, with 2 Officers with each party. Working in Army Battle Zone.	
	4.2.18		Battalion finding working parties same as yesterday. Captain J. Maclean D.S.O. M.C. rejoined Battn. for duty as Medical Officer.	
	5.2.18		Battalion finding Working parties same as yesterday. 2/Lieut. D. Gault struck off strength, upon being evacuated to England "Sick".	
	6.2.18		Battalion finding Working parties same as yesterday. 2/Lieut. W.H. Brann joined for duty. Battalion played Divl. M.G. Battn. in semi-final of Divl. Football Competition. Result. - lost 0. - 5.	
	7.2.18		Battalion finding Working parties.	
	8.2.18		Battalion finding Working parties. Nothing of interest to report.	
	9.2.18		Battalion finding Working parties same as previously during tour in billets in POPERINGHE.	
	10.2.18		Battalion finding Working parties as usual.	
	11.2.18		Same as yesterday. Nothing of interest occurred.	
	12.2.18		Battalion finding Working parties as usual. Remainder of Battn. moved by march route to "B" Camp, BRANDHOEK, where working parties rejoined Battn. in the evening. Transport moved to YORK CAMP. Casualty 1 O.R. S.I.W.	

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"B" Camp BRANDHOEK	13.2.18		Battalion training under Company arrangements. Battalion bathed.	
	14.2.18		Battalion training under Company arrangements. Baths at POPERINGHE. Major H.S.C. PEYTON M.C. joined for duty and took over command of the Battalion. Details moved to BRAKE CAMP.	
	15.2.18		Battalion moved by rail to MANOPS JUNCTION, and thence by march route to Front line, relieving 2nd. DEVON Regt. A. & D. Cos. occupied Front line system from (approximately) D.6.d.9.8 to V.29.a.7.65. B. and C. Companies in Support on GOUDBERG - MOSELMAPKT line. Front Line system under command of O.C. D. Coy. Headquarters VIPILE FARM. Support line under command of O.C. B. Coy. H.Q. VINECO T Battalion Headquarters at BELLEVUE. Weather fine and dry. A good relief. 1 O.P. wounded.	
near PASCHENDAELE (FRONT LINE)	16.2.18		Battalion holding Front line, being centre Battalion of Divisional front. Heavy hostile barrage put down on our front and support lines between 9.30 and 11.30 a.m. Casualties 3 O.P. killed 6 O.P. wounded. otherwise a quiet day and night. BELLEVUE shelled at intervals with 5 minute concentrations, - H.E. and Gas mixed, Companies working in front and support line systems. Two platoons of 2nd. Royal Berkshire Regt. carrying P.E. material for Front line. Captain W.G. GABAIN M.C. joined for duty.	
	17.2.18		Battalion holding line as before. A quiet day in front line and support. BELLEVUE shelled at intervals, - considerable quantity of gas shell sent over - identified by Divl. Gas Officer as Blue Cross. Casualties 2 O.P. wounded. Weather dry and cold.	
	18.2.18		Battalion holding line as before. Enemy M.G. and artillery inactive during the day on front and support lines. BELLEVUE shelled but not so much, owing to retaliation by our artillery. During the night enemy attempted to raid a post on D. Company's frontage. - they were repulsed. Otherwise a quiet night, save for occasional bursts of machine gun fire. Weather continuing fine and dry. 3 O.P.s wd.	

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near
PASSCHENDAELLE

"B" Camp

20.2.18

Battalion holding line as before. A quiet day. BELLEVUE shelled at intervals. Battalion relieved in the evening by the 2nd. Bn. Middlesex Regt. Relief being reported complete at 10.30 p.m. Battalion marched by Companies to OXFORD ROAD NORTH and entrained there and proceeded by light railway to HAGLE DUMP, detraining there for "B" Camp, which was reached at 2.50 a.m. on the 20th. Casualties 1 O.R. killed 3 O.P.s wounded. During whole of this tour in the line, the weather was fine and cold, - bright moon at night.

BRANDHOEK

21.2.18

Battalion at "B" Camp. Baths at VLAMERTINGHE. Changing clothing.

22.2.18

Battn. at "B" Camp. Training under Company arrangements.

23.2.18

Battn. entrained at HAGLE DUMP Siding at 2.0 p.m. and proceed by rail to MANORS JUNCTION, and thence by route march to the trenches, relieving the 2nd. Bn. Middlesex Regt. in the same sector as last tour in the line. Relief was effected without casualties. Battalion working on line of trenches in front and support. "B" and "C" Companies were in front line with "A" and "D" Companies in Support on GOUDBERG line. Battn. H.Q. at BELLEVUE.

24.2.18

Battalion holding line as yesterday. Enemy inactive generally during day. Machine Guns active at night. BELLEVUE shelled at intervals with short concentrations.

25.2.18

Battalion holding line as before. 2nd. Lieut. S.K. Moore killed by rifle fire in early morning. A quite day. Inter-company relief carried out in the evening. "A" Company relieved "B" Coy. and "D" relieved "C" Company in front line. Enemy machine guns active at night. BELLEVUE shelled with 12" shell. Otherwise enemy artillery inactive.

26.2.18

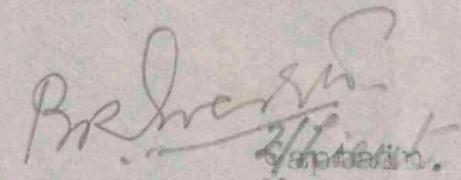
Battalion holding line and working on front and support systems. Quiet day. Casualties 1 O.R. Killed. 1 O.R. wounded.

Army Form C. 2118

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
near PASSCHENDAEL	27.2.18		<p>Battalion holding line as before, - were relieve at night by the 2nd. Middx. Regt. and marched out to OXFORD ROAD NORTH where they entrained and proceeded by rail to "B" Camp, detraining at HAGLE DUMP. During this tour the weather kept fairly dry, - rain began falling during relief which was carried out without losses. Major A.E. WASS M.C. joined for duty as second in command on the 26th inst. and took over command of the Battalion from this date.</p>	
"B" Camp BRANDHOEK	28.2.18.		Battalion at "B" Camp resting and cleaning up.	
			<p>3rd March, 1918.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  Captain for Major. Comdg. 2nd Battalion The Rifle Brigade. </p>	

25th Inf.Bde.
8th Div.

WAR
DIARY

2nd BATTN. THE RIFLE BRIGADE.

M A R C H

1918

21

WAR DIARY

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	1-3-18		Parades under Company arrangements.	
	2-3-18		Parades under Company arrangements	
	3-3-18		Battalion relieved 2nd. Bn. West Yorks Regt. in the Support Line and were employed on carrying parties etc.	
	4-3-18		Battalion employed on carrying parties, etc.	
	5-3-18		-----do-----	
	6-3-18		-----do----- Casualties 7 O.R. killed 6 O.R. Wounded.	
	7-3-18		Battalion relieved and moved by bus to STEENVOORDE Area. Battalion billeted in STEENVOORDE.	
	8-3-18		Coys at disposal of O.C. Coys for cleaning up etc. Battalion inspected by the Commanding Officer in billets. 86 O.R. joined for duty.	
	9-3-18		Baths for the Battalion. Church Parade.	
	10-3-18		Coys. at disposal of Os.C. Coys.	
	11-3-18		Battalion moved to TILQUES Area by road and rail. Battalion billeted in TILQUES.	
	12-3-18		Companies paraded for Squad Drill Arm Drill etc. under Company arrangements. 108 O.R. joined for duty.	
	13-3-18		Companies under Os.C. Coys for Musketry and elementary practise in the Assault.	
	14-3-18		Coys. for training on Assault Course - Extended order drill- Artillery Formation. Boxing Tournament held in afternoon Battalion V 2nd. Bn. E.Lancs.	
	15-3-18		Coys under Os.C. Coys for Training.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	16-3-18		Battalion Route March.	
ARQUES	17-3-18		Church Parade. 2/Lt. L.W.J. Pinnock despatched to England for 6 months tour of duty.	
	18-3-18		Battalion Training. Battalion bathed at ST.OMER.	
	19-3-18		Battalion practised in A.R.A. Competition.	
	20-3-18		Battalion Training.	
	21-3-18		Battalion passed through Gas Test. Battalion Training.	
	22-3-18		Battalion marched to ARQUES, where they entrained.	
	23-3-18		Battalion proceeded by train to ROSIERES EN SANTERRE, detrained and marched to CHAULNES, and were conveyed in lorries to MORCHAIN, Opened out into artillery formation and advanced to PARGNY, coming under heavy shell fire, while crossing the high ground above the river. Took over line of river from N. of PARGNY bridge to S. of FONTAINE LES PARGNY with A.B. & C Coys. in the line, D Coy in support. Shortly before midnight patrol of enemy succeeded in rushing bridge-head, and penetrated between front and support lines. These were ejected by immediate counter-attack, 8 of the enemy being killed, 2 taken prisoners, and 2 machine-guns captured. Casualties. - Killed. - 2/Lt. E.B. Anstie Wounded. - 2/Lt. R.T. Parkin Lt. L.S. Chamberlen M.C. 2/Lt. C.B. Keppie. 2/Lt. A.J. Sluman. about 60 other ranks killed & wounded.	
	24-3-18		Shortly after dawn the enemy commenced to bomb the posts on the river bank, succeeded in fording the river to the right, and left of the line held by the Battalion, and started to work round our flanks. Situation became very precarious and withdrawal was ordered. This was effected in good order, but with very heavy casualties, Battalion taking up line of sunken road 500 yards E of MOGCHAMN. Remained here for about 1 hour, and then withdrew about another 300 yards to a position on N.E. outskirts of village. Here the Battalion remained until about 4 pm. with no other troops in sight, enemy passing in large numbers on sunken road and in hollow behind wood about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile eastwards. Finally ordered to withdraw	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>to line of trenches astride MORCHAIN-PERTAIN Road, N. of POFFE where rest of Division had already formed up. Casualties.- Killed.- Captain S.A.Hadland- 2/Lt. R.T.Dent- 2/Lt. G.E.Lascelles- 2/Lt. D.A.Gibbs. Died of wounds.- Lt.Col. H.S.C.Peyton M.C. Wounded at duty.- 2/Lt. W.H.Braun. -Wounded. 2/Lt. B.R.Everett- Captain C.E.Pegram M.C. Wounded & Missing.- 2/Lt. E.F.C.Moore- 2/Lt. T.C.Lewis- Missing.- Captain I.C.MacLean D.S.O.M.C.- Captain W.G.Gabain M.C. About 300 other ranks killed, Wounded and missing. Major A.E.Wass M.C. took over command of the Battalion.</p>	
25-3-18			<p>About 4 am. Battalion Headquarters and a party of 80 men under Captain F.D.R. Milne were despatched to LICOURT to take part in action, timed to commence at 9 am. in conjunction 160 men of 2/Royal Berks. Regt., elements of the 24th Brigade, 24th Division and 3rd French Corps, which had as its object the re-capture of lost ground to line of SOMME Canal. Remainder of Battalion under Captain E.W.Cremer, in trenches W. of MORCHAIN. At about 8 am enemy penetrated our line on a wide front and advanced rapidly towards DRESLINCOURT and PERTAIN. Battalion became scattered into about 5 groups, each under an Officer or N.C.O., which took up a number of positions, retining gradually in a N.W. direction. Headquarter Party held on to trench on S. outskirts of LICOURT until enemy within 200 yards, and all other British troops out of sight, withdrew with difficulty to PERTAIN (which they found occupied by the enemy) thence to a position 1 mile N.W. of that village, remaining there for 2 hours, thence to line of OMIECOURT-MARCHELEPOT road, holding on there for 4 hours and finally to HYENCOURT-MARCHELEPOT railway where remainder of Division was already in position. Casualties.- Wounded. Captain F.D.R.Milne - 2/Lt. H.M.Small- 2/Lt. C.H.Sidney- 2/Lt. A.A.Sutton. About 50 other ranks killed, Wounded and missing.</p>	
26-3-18			<p>About 2 am. Battalion was ordered to march to bivouacs in W. outskirts of LIHONS-MEHARICOURT road and S of CHAULNES-ROSIERES Railway. Remained there till 5.30 pm. when enemy had entered LIHONS, orders were received to withdraw through line held by 23rd and 24th Brigades. to bivouacs W. of ROSIERES.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27-3-18		At about 10 am the Battalion was ordered to counter-attack through S outskirts of ROSIERES in the direction of the Sugar Rifinery. Battalion advanced in artillery formation, coming under fairly heavy shell fire, but on arrival at objective found line intact. Reinforced 8th D.L.I. and 2/Worcester Rgt. in front line. About 20 other ranks killed and wounded.	
	28-3-18		About 1 am, no enemy attacks having developed on our front, Battalion was withdrawn to bivouacs W of ROSIERES. At about 9 am proceeded to position in mobile reserve on railway line $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles W of VRELY. When troops in front withdrew, Battalion took up line of trenches $\frac{3}{4}$ W. of this point. At about 3.30 pm. ordered to march to MOREUIL to hold bridgehead at all costs. On arrival at MOREUIL, bridgehead was found to be held by French. Battalion went into billets at MORISEL.	
	29-3-18		Battalion remained in billets. At about 2 pm Battalion ordered to take up position in S.corner of large wood N.E. of MOREUIL. Fairly heavily shelled. At about 5 pm. French commenced to withdraw S.W. 19th Corps N.W. Battalion carried out rearguard action to cover right flank of latter. About 10 pm Battalion dug in 300 yards N. of wood and facing it, on right of 19th Corps.	
	30-3-18		At 4 am orders were received to abandon this line. Battalion marched via CASTEL to wood N.W. of ROUVREL where they remained bivouacked till evening. About 6 pm Battalion marched to CASTEL coming under heavy shell fire in valley W of village, and took up position to protect bridgehead, supporting 23rd and 24th Brigades. Casualties. - About 20 other ranks Killed and Wounded.	
	31-3-18		Battalion remained in position W. of CASTEL, protecting bridgehead.	
	5-4-18.			A. G. W. Major. Commanding 2nd. Battn. The Rifle Brigade.

The date of Peyton's first Commission
is March 25th 1911. Joined 2nd Bn. and
killed March 24th 1918, Commanding the 8th Battalion,
on last day of his 6th year of Service. w.w.s.

25th Brigade.

8th Division.

2nd BATTALION

THE RIFLE BRIGADE

APRIL 1918.

2nd Bn THE RIFLES BRIGADE.

Army Form C. 2118.

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9/4/42

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THENNES - COTTENCHY - LE MESGE	1-4-18		At about 10 am Battalion moved into position about 500 yards S of THENNES in readiness to counterattack, and remained there all day. At dusk relieved by elements of 3rd Cavalry Brigade in line S.E. of THENNES.	
	2-4-18		The Battalion was relieved in the Line by a Company of the 133rd French Regt. and marched to billets in COTTENCHY. Battalion paraded at 2 pm. and marched to SANNE EN AMIENOIS where they embussed and proceeded to billets at LE MESGE.	
	3-4-18.		Coys under Os.C.Coys. for cleaning and reorganization	
	4-4-18		Coys. under Os.C.Coys. for cleaning and reorganization. Battalion bathed. Lieut. J.P.F.Kennedy joined for duty, and took over command of "C" Company.	
	5-4-18		Coys. under Os.C.Coys for training in Arm Drill & Squad Drill. Captain R.C.S.Stevenson took over command of "A" Company. Draft of 73 Other ranks joined for duty.	
	6-4-18		Coys. under Os.C.Coys for training in Musketry and Extended order drill. 144 Other ranks joined for duty.	
	7-4-18		Church Parade. 85 Other ranks joined for duty.	
	8-4-18		Coys. under Os.C.Coys. for training in Musketry and & Close order Drill. 20 Other ranks joined for duty.	
	9-4-18		Coys. under Os.C.Coys. for training. 146 Other ranks joined for duty.	
	10-4-18.		Coys. under Os.C Coys. for Musketry, Section. Platoon, and Company Drill. 115 Other ranks joined for duty.	
	11-4-18		Coys. under Os.C.Coys. for training. Miniature Range and Drill. Captain R.A.Mostyn-Owen takes over Command of the Battalion this date, and is permitted to wear the badges of rank of Major. 30 Other ranks joined for duty.	

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12-4-18			Coys. under Os.C.Coys for Training. Miniature Range & Artillery Formations. Lt.(A/Capt) B.C.Pascoe M.C. appointed Brigade Major 25th Infantry Brigade Captain R.H.C.Ward. Lt.J.S.Gribbon, 2/Lt. J.D.Aitken and 2/Lt. P.G.McCubbin joined for duty.	
13-4-18			Battalion paraded on SOUS.REINCOURT Road to march to entraining point at HANGEST. The Battalion detrained at ST. ROCHE. AMIENS. The Battalion was billeted in the RIVERY.CAMON Area.	
14-4-18			Battalion rested.	
15-4-18			Parades under Company arrangements for Musketry & Squad Drill 2/Lt H.E.Mitchell, 2/Lt. W.Loftus & 2/Lt. W.A.Seaman joined for duty.	
16-4-18			Coys. under Os.C.Coys for Musketry, Close Order Drill and Miniature range.	
17-4-18			Coys. under Os.C.Coys. for Artillery Formation and training in the attack. Capt. (A/Major) R.A.Mostyn-Owen is permitted to wear the badges of rank of Lieutenant-Colonel pending the official announcement in the London Gazette.	
18-4-18			Companies under Os.C.Coys. for training in Artillery Formation, practice in the Attack, Bayonet Fighting and Physical Training. 2/Lt. Oddy A.E. 2/Lt. W.H.Harris M.C. W.H. F.C.March - T.McGee - W.Mackechnie - H.Young - J.Doyle - K.J.Guerrier - J.M.Simon joined for duty. The Divisional Commander has awarded Parchment Certificates to the undnamed N.C.O.s and men for gallantry and devotion to duty WEST of the SOMME between 21st March and 2nd April 1918. 5431 Cpl.(A/Sgt) M.Molloy - Z/403 Rfn. F.Wilcox - 2435 Rfn. R.Collins - 4569 Cpl.(A/Sgt.) E.Butler - 28322 A/Cpl. W.Simms. - 25722 A/Cpl. A.Davids. - 28155 Rfn. W.Matthews - 1443 A/Cpl. W.Hughes - 2030 Rfn. A.Windebank - S/10534 Cpl. F.Pamplin - 27310 Rfn. A.Barnes. - 19863 Rfn. J.Taylor. - 2383 A/Cpl. R.Farrell. - 6/315 Rfn. A.Bloomfield. - 34104 Rfn. E.Goldsmith. - 4663 A/Cpl. M.O'Keefe - 9887 A/Cpl. A.Burwood - 4463 C.Q.M.Sgt. L.Williams - 1522 Sgt. C.Ransted. D.C.M. M.M. - 26878 Cpl. J.Lambkin. - 8453 A/Sgt. T.Braund. - 11957 A/Sgt. C.Price - 564 A/Cpl. S.Roper - 203226 Rfn. G.Phillips - 13872 Rfn. A.Nichols.	

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CAMON	19-4-18		Companies under Os.C. Coys. for Gas Drill, Musketry and Squad Drill. The Battalion (less Details) moved from CAMON to billets at BLANGY TRONVILLE.	
BLANGY TRONVILLE	20-4-18		The Battalion relieved elements of the 55th & 56th Battalions of the 14th Australian Brigade, "B" Company front line (left), "C" Company front line (right) "A" Company Support, "D" Company Reserve. The night was exceedingly quiet and the relief was carried out without a casualty.	
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	21-4-18		Very quiet all day. No casualties. A considerable amount of work was done improving posts and constructing a continuous apron of wire in front of front line.	
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	22-4-18		A very quiet day. No casualties. Work as on 21st. "A" Company took over one Company front on the right up to, but not including the VILLERS BRETONNEUX WARFUSEE Road from one Company 2/East Lancs. Regt. this relief was carried out without casualties. Lieutenant Colonel H.S.C. Richardson took over Command of the Battalion vice Lieutenant Colonel R.A. Mostyn-Owen posted to Command of 13th Battalion the The Rifle Brigade.	
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	23-4-18		A Patrol, consisting of 2/Lt. P.G. McCubbin and Other ranks left our lines at 2 am 23rd inst to reconnoitre the right of our front. One Rifleman wounded, reported at Battalion Headquarters at about 3 am that 2/Lt. McCubbin had been wounded, also some members of the Patrol. Another Patrol was immediately sent out no trace of the first patrol, which seems to have walked into an enemy post could be found. 2 unwounded members of the first patrol eventually returned to our lines. 2/Lt. McCubbin was "missing". 2/Lt. J. Farrell joined for duty. Reports received that enemy would attack at dawn obtained from prisoners captured on the right of our Sector. No attack developed, probably owing to wet morning. A quiet day. Work done improving our line and wiring posts continued. A new M.G. Post made in our line near Battalion Headquarters. Some enemy Gas-shells at night.	
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	23/24th		Reports again received late that enemy would attack at dawn on 24th. Enemy observed working in VILLERS BRETONNEUX WARFUSEE Road, fired on by our Lewis guns and rifles from our line. Reported to Division by Brigade Major.	

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23 rd / 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 O.S.C. Companies that barrage was not on Front Line or Close support Companies during the above hours. During the night 23/24th 23/24th $\frac{1}{2}$ 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. 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 & 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. R. 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 WARPUSSEY Road, had turned in Northwards, between our front front and support lines and also in rear of the latter, being unobserved owing to the dense mist and smoke barrage. A & 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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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			attempts to turn the right flank of B Company which were frustrated by the effective fire brought to bear on them by this Company.	
	24/25th		On the night 24/25th a counter-attack on VILLERS BRETONNEUX and ground S.W. of the village, was carried out by an Australian Brigade, which surrounded the village, establishing itself on the Eastern outskirts as far as the Old Hangars on the VILLERS BRETONNEUX - WARFUSEE road, with its right flank thrown back. Its left covered the Northern and North Western parts of the village, and was extended to the right flank of our B Company, where this Company bent back, forming our defensive flank. The Australian left at this time was not in touch with B Companies Right, but the gap was covered by the continuation of our line joining up with the 2nd. Royal Berkshire Regt. Our lines were shelled at intervals throughout the night.	
25-4-18			The lines held by the Battalion were not attacked on the 25th inst. Readjustments of our lines were carried out early on night 25/26th, B Company front line, 2 Platoons of D Company in Support in positions occupied by A Company when the line was taken over. 1 Platoon of D Company and an amalgamated Platoon formed of remains of A & C Cos in Reserve in old Reserve line. On the night 25/26th the Battalion moved to counter-attack position W. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.	
26-4-18			Situation on the S.E. outskirts of VILLERS BRETONNEUX being obscure, orders received from Division were brought to Battalion Headquarters by Brigade Major, 25th Infantry Brigade that a reconnaissance was to be carried out to clear this part of the village if necessary, and make sure of the situation. This was carried out by 2 Platoons of B Company under 2/Lt. McGee, accompanied by the Brigade Major, 25th Infantry Brigade, who carried out the reconnaissance meeting with considerable resistance outside the village. Several casualties were inflicted on the enemy, 2 machine gun teams being put out of action by our fire. The party returned at 2 pm, having suffered casualties.- 2/Lt. McGee killed- 26 Other ranks killed and wounded. The rest of the day passed without further incident.	
27-4-18			A quiet day. The Battalion remained in counter-attack position and was not called upon to take part in active operations. Casualties Nil. Casualties sustained by Battalion between 23/26th April - 1 Officer killed- 3 Officers wounded- 2 Officers wounded & missing- 9 Officers Missing.	

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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
BOUTILLERIE	28-4-18		Other ranks.-Killed 18- Wounded 96- Missing 268. At 10.30 am. orders were received to evacuate the position occupied by the Battalion and the Battalion moved by march route to billets at BOUTILLERIE, S. of AMIENS.	
HUCHENNEVILLE	29-4-18		In billets at BOUTILLERIE. Companies under O.s.C.Coys for re-organization and Baths.	
	30-4-18.		The Battalion moved in busses to billets in HUCHENNEVILLE near ABBEVILLE Battalion Headquarters in Chateau. Reinforcements 176 Other ranks. Captain E.Boughton-Leigh. 2/Lt. E.P.Horgan joined for duty.	
	10-5-18.			<i>H.C. Richardson</i> Lieut-Colonel Comdg. 2nd. Battn. The Rifle Brigade

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

May
1918

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd Rifle Brigade

Army Form C. 2118.

25
8Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Vol 43	
	1-5-18		Parades under Os.C. Companies for Training.		
	2-5-18		The following message from Major General W.G.Henneker C.B. DSO. was received "I desire to thank Captain Pascoe MC. and the platoon of the 2nd. Bn. Rifle Brigade with him, for their splendid work on April 25th in clearing the houses and railway line S.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. The operation was carried out with rare dash and gallantry, and fully achieved its object" The Divisional Commander awarded Parchment Certificates to the following.- 2/Lt. W.H.Brann - 2/Lt. A.A.Sutton.		
	3-5-18		The Battalion, less Transport, moved by bus from HUCHENNEVILLE to SALOUEL.		
	4-5-18		60 Other ranks joined for duty.		
	5-5-18		Battalion entrained at SALEUX Station and detrained at FERE EN TARDENOIS, and marched to billets at LHUY'S.		
	6-5-18		Parades under Os.C. Companies for Training.		
	7-5-18		Parades under Os.C. Companies for Drill and Musketry. Following telegram received from Colonel - in - Chief in reply to a telegram sent on the occasion of his birthday. "My best thanks to all ranks, and my heartiest congratulations on their splendid services in the recent fighting, of which I and the whole Regiment are proud"		
	8-5-18		Parades under Os.C. Companies for Progressive Training. A & B Coys. Musketry.		
	9-5-18		Parades under Os.C. Companies for Progressive Training. A & C Coys. Musketry. The following decorations were awarded to the undnamed Officers for gallantry and devotion to duty West of the SOMME between 22nd March and 2nd April 1918. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER Captain G.H.G.Anderson MC. - BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS Major A.E.Wass MC. - THE MILITARY CROSS Captain F.D.R.Milne & 2/Lt. A.J.Sluman.		

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
COURLANDON	10-5-18		The Battalion moved from LHUYS to COURLANDON by march route.	
	11-5-18		The Battalion moved from COURLANDON to VENTELAY by march route.	
	12-5-18		Church Parade at 9 am. The Battalion relieved 358th French Infantry Regiment on night 12/13th May. Relief was carried out quietly and no casualties suffered.	
	13-5-18		Battalion in front line. All quiet and no casualties suffered. Patrols were carried out at night.	
	14-5-18		Battalion in front line. Everything very quiet. No casualties.	
	15-5-18		Battalion in front line. All quiet. No casualties.	
	16-5-18		Battalion in front line. All quiet. On night of 16/17th May Battalion was relieved by 2nd. East Lancs. Regt. Relief was carried out without casualties, and Battalion moved into billets at GUYENCOURT.	
	17-5-18		Battalion rested and cleaned up. 81 Other ranks joined for duty.	
	18-5-18		Parades under O.S.C. Companies for training. Decorations awarded to the following for gallantry and devotion to duty at VILLERS BRETONNEUX between 24th and 28th April 1918. THE MILITARY MEDAL - 40893 Rfn. E. Walker - 41083 Rfn. J. Coit. The Divisional Commander awarded Parchment Certificates to the following for gallantry and devotion to duty West of the SOMME between 22nd. March and 2nd. April 1918. Lieut. L.S. Chamberlen MC. 18160 Rfn. J. Ditch - 26490 Rfn. H. Harris. Promotion 2nd. Bn. Rifle Brigade. 2/Lt. (A/Capt) G.H.G. Anderson D.S.O. MC (now Acting Adjutant) to be Adjutant and to retain his Acting rank vice Lt(A/Capt) B.C. Pascoe MC.	
	19-5-18		Church Parade at 10 am.	

Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

*May
1918*

2/ Rifle Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20-5-18		Parades under Os.C Companies for Training. 18 other ranks joined for duty. On the night of 20/21st May the Battalion relieved the 2nd. Bn. R.Berks. Regt. in the right sector of 25th Infantry Brigade front. Relief was completed successfully and the front was very quiet.	
	21-5-18		Battalion in front line, all very quiet, no casualties.	
	22-5-18		Battalion in front line, all very quiet, 1 other rank killed while on patrol.	
	23-5-18		Battalion in front line, all very quiet. Casualties- 1 other rank wounded. 3 other ranks joined for duty.	
	24-5-18		Battalion in front line, very quiet, no casualties	
	25-5-18		Battalion in front line, All quiet, no casualties.	
	26-5-18		Battalion in front line All quiet , no casualties.	
	27-5-18		German attack started. Barrage opened at 1 am. and Battalion front was heavily gassed and Trench Mortared at 4 am. The enemy attacked, using Tanks. The Battalion suffered very heavy casualties during the preliminary bombardment and attack. The remnants retired to the 2nd Line and thence over the AISNE by GERNICOURT and held that village till forced to retire towards GUYENCOURT. Lieut-Colonel Richardson was wounded. Captain D. Heaton-Ellis killed. 2/Lts. Hoare, Denison, Lowder and Halford wounded. 60 Details (Lewis Gun) went up at 12 noon under 2/Lt. R.C.Ellis, who was killed. 44 other ranks went up under Capt. E. Boughton-Leigh and 2/Lt. J. Nettleton at 9 pm	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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2/Rifle Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SARCY	28.5.18		Remnants of Battalion still in the line. Casualties estimated at 27 Officers and 680 other ranks.	
SARCY	29.5.18		Remaining 60 other ranks and 7 Officers under Major A.E.Wass MC went to CHAMPLAT to form a Composite Battalion of 25th Infantry Brigade. Major A.E Wass MC and Lt. C.J.Eyston attached to 23rd Brigade to form a Battalion. The men in Composite Battalion of 25th Infantry Brigade marched to SARCY, they went on and held a line N. of BOULESEE. Casualties estimated at 3 Officers and 100 other ranks from remainder of Battalion and men in Composite Battalion.	
CHUNDRY	30.5.18	47	3 Officers and 16 other ranks still with Composite Battalion of 23rd & 25th Inf. Brigades withdrew to South of SARCY.	
CHUNDRY	31.5.18		3 Officers and 16 other rank s went to CHUNDRY and thence to MANTEUIL with remainder of Composite Battalion.	
			A. E. Wass, Major Comdg. 2nd. Bn. The Rifle Brigade	

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

2 Rifle Bn

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-6-18		Men with Composite Battalion went to MARFAUX .	
	2-6-18		Captain E.Boughton-Leigh , 2/Lt. T.M.Simon with 49 other ranks went up to 2/8th Composite Battalion from Details .	
	3-6-18		Transport and remainder of Details moved from GRAUVEs to SOULIERES .	
	4-6-18		Training of men in Musketry , Close Order Drill- 5 Officers and 61 other ranks away with Composite Battalion .	
	5-6-18		Training of men in Arm Drill- Gas and Musketry .	
-GRAUVEs -SOULIERES	6-6-18		Training of men in Guard Mounting- Musketry and Close Order Drill .	
	7-6-18		Training in Extended Order Drill- Arm Drill & Musketry .	
	8-6-18		Men paraded to make a Rifle Range .	
	9-6-18		Transport & Details moved to BANIES .	
	10-6-18		Training in Musketry and Extended Order Drill - Arm Drill .	
BANNES	11-6-18		Training in Platoon Drill- Musketry & Gas .	
	12-6-18		{ Training in Musketry & Platoon Drill .	
HOCQUINCOURT			{ 2/Lt. W.H.Brann and 13 other ranks rejoined from No.1 Composite Battalion .	
	13-6-18		The Battalion entrained at FERE-CHAMPENOISE .	
	14-6-18		The Battalion detrained at LONGPRE and marched into billets at HOCQUINCOURT .	
	15-6-18		Battalion employed in cleaning up and refitting clothing & equipment .	
	16-6-18		Church Parade at 10 am .	

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WAR DIARY *or* INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOCQUINCOURT. BUIIGNY WOIGNARUE.	17-6-18		Training continued in Close Order Drill-Musketry and extended order Drill under Company Commanders. 2/Lt. A.Laithwaite and 2/Lt. A.J.Guerrier joined for duty.	
	18-6-18		Companies under Company Commanders for Training. Draft of 637 Other ranks joined from Base. Lt. E.Davies (2nd.K.O.Y.L.I) Joined for duty.	
	19-6-18		Details of Battalion bathed. Remainder under Company Commanders for Training and Organisation. The following Officers joined for duty.-Captain J.C.Wood, 2/Lts. A.Henderson-J.C.Simpson-C.L.Corner- J.Wheeler- A.C.Russell- H.W.Shearcroft- A.G.McBryde- J.W.Congdon- J.S.Lamb- A.N.Cunningham- S.Halliday. Officers & 49 other ranks rejoined from 2/8th Composite Battalion.	
	20-6-18		Battalion inspected by G.O.C. 8th Division.	
	21-6-18		Training in Musketry-Section & Platoon under Company Commanders. G.O.C. 25th Infantry Brigade inspected Reinforcements at 12 noon. Baths for Details of No.2 Composite Battalion.	
	22-6-18		Battalion moved to BUIIGNY by road.	
	23-6-18		Battalion moved to WOIGNARUE by road. <u>Honours & Awards.</u> - To be Brevet Lt. Colonel Brevet Major the Hon R.Brand D.S.O Awarded the MILITARY CROSS Captain E.W.Cremer. Awarded the MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL No.1051R.Q.M.S. C.Watkins - Z/655 Sgt H.Steele Mentioned in Despatches May 24th 1918 Lt. Colonel the Hon. R.Brand D.S.O. Lt. Colonel J.J.B.Cole M.C. 2/Lt. Major A.E.Wass M.C. 2/Lt L.W.J.Pinnock MM. No.1683 Rfn. J.Moncur MM.	
	24-6-18		Cleaning and re-organisation of Companies- 2 Other ranks joined for duty.	
	25-6-18		Training under Company & Platoon Commanders in morning- Specialists Training in afternoon.	

WAR DIARY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26-6-18		Training as for 25th. The following Officers were taken on strength of the Battalion having joined for duty on 24th inst... Lt.C.V.P. Ad green - Lt.F.P.Raven - Captain B.H.Bennett-2/Lts. S.L.Read-W.E.Gillespie-G.W.S.Brown-C.E.Goody-O.J.Lyne-E.T. Witherden-A.Macnamara- B.R.Everett. 24 Other ranks joined for duty.	
WOIGNARUE	27-6-18		Training as for 25th with addition of Shooting on 30 yds. Range.	
	28-6-18		Training under Company Commanders. Platoon & Section Drill and firing on range. Baths for the Battalion.	
	29-6-18		Training under Company Commanders. Platoon Schemes with ball ammunition. Lt.Col. R.H.Leyland joined Battalion and took over Command.	
	30-6-18		Divine Service -Church of England at 10 am.	
			<i>R.H.Leyland</i>	Lt- Colonel. Comdg. 2nd, Bn. The Rifle Brigade.

Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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90844

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>WAR DIARY</p> <p>JULY 1918</p> <p>2nd Bn The Rifle Brigade</p>	45

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WOIGNARUE	1-7-18		Training under Company Commanders - Each Company 1 hour on 200' range.	
	2-7-18		Training under Platoon Commanders for Close Order Drill, Extended Order. Platoon Formations and Fire Control. A simple Field Firing Scheme was carried out by each Platoon.	
	3-7-18		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Close order Drill. Extended Order Company Formations and Field Firing Scheme. 2/LT JAS JACKSON & 2/LT G.G. BEAZLEY joined for duty. Lieut J G LAWN joined for duty as M.D.	
	4-7-18		Battalion moved to WOINCOURT by road and took over billets vacated by 1 st BN. Sherwood Foresters.	
	5-7-18		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training. B Coy on 600' Range C Coy on 30' Range.	
	6-7-18		Companies under Coy. Commanders. B Coy on 30' range. Battalion Sport in the afternoon.	
	7-7-18		Divine Service C of E at 9 a.m. Battalion Boxing in the evening. Football match - Battalion v 2nd BN Royal Berkshire Regt. in afternoon (Score 11-11)	
	8-7-18		Companies under Coy. Commanders A B C Coy. on Training Area for Coy Attack Practice. D Coy on 30' range. Platoon Pool Shooting Competition began.	
	9-7-18		Companies under Coy. Commanders for Training - C & D Coy. on 600' Range - B Coy Attack Practice - A Coy 30' Range.	
	10-7-18		Companies under Coy Commander for Training - Coy Attack Practice. 1 Coy. on 30' Range - 2/LT P.A. MacGeorge joined for duty. Brigade Sports in afternoon.	
	11-7-18		Coy. under Coy. Commanders for training. A & B Coy. 600' Range - D Coy. 30' Range - C Coy. on Training Area "A". Brigade Sports finals. SIEUTS. C.M. BEAZLEY and J.M. WEST joined for duty.	
	12-7-18		Coy. under Coy. Commander's in and around billets.	

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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	13-7-18		Companies under Coy Commanders for Training - C & D Coy on 600 ^x Range A & B Coy. on Training Area Divisional Horse Show - 2/4 T R. H. DOYNE and 10. O.R.s joined for duty	
	14-7-18		Divisional Horse Show - Divine Service C of E. 9.15AM - Division transferred from XXII to IX Corps	
	15-7-18		Battalion moved by road to MONTIERES.	
	16-7-18		Companies under Coy Commanders for Training Company Rear Guard Scheme.	
	17-7-18		Battalion Attack Practice.	
	18-7-18		Company Attack practice on 600 ^x Range - Gas and Bombing - Brigade Pool shooting & ARA Competition finish	
	19-7-18		Battalion moved by rail from GAMACHE'S area to PERNES and thence by road to BARLIN. 6 Officers left to join various Battalions of the London Regiment.	
	20-7-18		Battalion arrived at OLHAIN WOOD. Brigade H.Q. in BARLIN.	
	21-7-18		Divine Service C of E. 11.15AM.	
	22-7-18		Battalion moved by road to MONT ST. ELOY. 2 Officers left to join the London Regt.	
	23-7-18		Training under Company Commanders - Honours & Awards Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with gratuity. No 4463 C QMS L. Williams. 4765 Sgt. E. Lees.	
	24-7-18		The Battalion is in VIII Corps Reserve at MONT ST. ELOY. - Training under Coy Comds, including Lecture on Map Reading - 4. O.R. joined for duty	
	25-7-18		Battalion parade in Full marching Order for inspection by Commanding Officer, followed by training and lectures under Company Commanders. Left hand salute officially abolished	

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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	26-7-18		Battalion in Battalion Attack Practice. Captain C. H. Baillie struck off strength on returning 2nd A.D. and Backs L. I. - 2 P.D.S. Blockley and Rogers and 20 O.R. joined for duty.	
	27-7-18		Training under Company Commanders, including lectures. C.O. & 2nd in Command recommended reserve line. Gas Training for one company - 1. O.R. joined for duty.	
	28-7-18		Divine service C.O./E. 11.45 AM. Battalion Bathed - 15 CM BEAZLEY left to take command of 8½ Divl. Lewis Gun School	
	29-7-18		Companies under boy commanders for training by attack practices	
	30-7-18		Companies under boy commanders for training. In control by section leaders on range. 3. O.R. joined for duty.	
	31-7-18		Battalion trench to trench attack practice. Machine guns & trench bursters co-operating.	
			A. K. Wall, Major Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Bn Rifle Brigade	

75/8
2 Rifle Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

4R 46

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices															
MONT OTTAWA CAMP	31 st July - 1 st Aug 1918		<p>Coys. under Coy Commanders for Training. Advance and rearguard actions. Silent Patrols. 3 Other ranks joined for duty. Battalion Camp shelled night July 31st-August 1st and on morning Aug 1st.</p> <table> <tr><td>Casualties</td><td>Killed</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Died of wds</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Wounded</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Wd at duty</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="3">1 Horse killed.</td></tr> </table>	Casualties	Killed	4		Died of wds	1		Wounded	6		Wd at duty	1	1 Horse killed.			
Casualties	Killed	4																	
	Died of wds	1																	
	Wounded	6																	
	Wd at duty	1																	
1 Horse killed.																			
VIMY	Aug 2 nd		Brigade Field Day. Cancelled at 12 noon on account of rain.																
MAP.	" 3 rd		Battn. moved up to PADDOCK SWITCH at night																
			Coys. under Coy. Commander for Training. - to test arrangements for Reserve Bde.																
	" 4 th		Divine Service. C.of E. 10.30 a.m.																
	" 5 th		Battalion moved into support in VIMY VILLAGE relieving 2nd. Devon Regt. Battn. H.Q. at S.23.d.5.8. on forward slope of VIMY RIDGE. C. Coy. in VIMY VILLAGE, A and B Coys in Railway embankment S.E. of village and in BROWN Line trench just E. of embankment. D Coy. with 185 Tunnelling Co. R.E. on ARRAS - SOUCHEZ Road.																
	" 6 th		3 Coys. working on front line trench between T.10.c.0.8 and T.16.b.5.2. D Coy. working under 185 Tunnelling Coy. R.E.																
	" 7 th		Coys. working as per yesterday. Casualties 2 O.R. wd. shell fire 1 " accidentally wounded.																
	" 8 th		Coys working as per yesterday.																
	" 9 th		" " " "																
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Army Form C. 2118.

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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
	Aug 12 th 1918		<p>Battalion relieved 2nd. Royal Berks Regt. in left Sub-sector.</p> <p><u>Dispositions.</u> North to South, D, C, B, A Coys.</p> <p>Each Coy. 2 platoons in main line of defence, 2 in front line of which two sections are pushed forward to observation posts in front of front line.</p> <p>Battalion H.Q. at T.25.b.5.9. Casualties 1 O.R. wounded (at duty) 1 " " (self-infl.)</p>	
Sheer Hill A.S.W.	" 13 th		Battalion provided covering party of one Coy. for 2nd. Royal Berks Regt. digging new trench between QUEBEC and VESTA TILLE (cf. Aug. 6th.) 1 O.R. wd shell fire.	
V I W Y	" 14 th		Covering parties as for yesterday.	
	" 15 th		Covering parties as for yesterday. Retaliation asked for for shelling of A Coy's area from 1 - 2 p.m. and provided by 4.5 hows. on hostile battery. 1 O.R. killed while on patrol down ACHEVILLE ROAD.	
	" 16 th		Covering parties as for yesterday. A Coy. area shelled 8.0 a.m. 1 O.R. killed.	
	" 17 th		Covering party as for yesterday. Also 1 Coy. wiring new trench.	
	" 18 th		As for yesterday.	
	" 19 th		Covering and wiring parties as for yesterday. <u>Dispositions changed.</u> C Coy. hold whole of Battalion front with 2 platoons garrisonning observation posts and 2 platoons in front line. Remainder of Battn. in main line of defence (BLACK LINE).	
	" 20 th		2/Lt. Hon. T.C. Plunkett joined for duty, and posted to B. Coy. Covering and wiring parties as for yesterday. 15 O.R. joined for duty.	
	" 21 st		Battalion relieved in Left Subsection by 2nd. Royal Berks Regt. and took over Right Sub-sector from 2nd East Lancs Regt. <u>Dispositions.</u> C Coy. holding front line and observation posts as in Left Sub-sector. Other Coys. in main defence line - from North to South - D, B, A. 2/Lt. Hon. T.C. Plunkett joined for duty and posted to B. Coy.	P.T.O.
			A5834 Wt. W4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13.	

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
	Aug 22 nd 1918.		<p>D Coy. relieved C Coy. in front line. Working parties. 1 platoon working on main line of defence 2 sections " " light railway 1½ " " New dug-outs in Railway embankment S.E. of VIMY under 185 Tunnelling Coy. R.E.</p>	
	" 23 rd		<p>Working parties as for yesterday. A. Coy's area heavily gassed with Yellow Cross shell (about 1,500 rounds). Casualties 3 Officers 63 Other ranks. A Coy. withdrawn to an area round Battalion H.Q. and sentries posted at limits of infected area.</p>	
	" 24 th		<p>B Coy. relieved D Coy. in front line. Working parties as for yesterday. { B Coy's area slightly gassed. 1 O.R. wounded accidentally.</p>	
	" 25 th		Working parties as for yesterday. 1 O.R. wounded.	
	" 26 th		<p>Working parties as for yesterday. C Coy. relieved B Coy. in front line. Battalion on right pushed forward posts into ARLEUX LOOP NORTH about T.29.c.9.0. (Sheet 44a S.W.) Battalion was ordered to push forward patrols to ascertain if enemy had retired. About 11.0 p.m. S.O.S. signal was sent up from one of the right flank forward posts. Our artillery support was extremely weak - enemy did not attack, so patrols were sent out as ordered and posts established at T.29.b.1.0. T.29.a.9.4. and T.29.b.1.9.</p>	
	" 27 th		<p>Battalion relieved by 7th Somerset Light Infantry, and went out without any orders as what was going to take place. Enemy shelled communication trenches during relief, causing casualties to incoming unit and killing two and wounding two O.R. off D.Coy.</p>	
			<p>Battalion moved by companies in lorries from CANADIAN MEMORIAL on LENS-ARRAS Road (A.11.a.9.9. Sheet 51B N.W.). to WOOD CAMP, ECURIE. (Sheet 51 B N.W. about A.27.b.9.9.)</p>	P.T.O.

S E C T O R
O P P Y

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SECTOR OPPY	Aug. 27-28 th 1918		<p>On arrival Battalion had a hot meal and was then ordered up onto support Battn H.Q. at B.27.c.7.1. Cos in trenches in B.27.b. B.28.a & c and H.3.a. Relief started 4.0 p.m. 27th Aug. and Battalion was established in new positions about 5.0 a.m. 28th.</p> <p>Brigade had moved from North flank of Division to South flank and now became right Bde. No work was done this day.</p>	
OPPY	" 28 th			
OPPY	" 29 th		<p>Front line Battn. pushed forward strong patrols to clear up situation in and around GAVRELLE (Sheet 51 B N.W.)</p> <p>C Coy. was ordered forward and placed at disposal of 2nd. Royal Berks Regt. to support and carry for them.</p> <p>In addition Battalion found working parties as follows.-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 platoons making dumps of S.A.A. and bombs for forward Battalion. 1 Coy. deepening TYNE ALLEY (Sheet 51 B N.W. d.23 central). 	
OPPY SECTOR	" 30 th		<p>Battalion found working parties as follows.-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 platoons forming dumps for forward Battalions. 1 Coy. working on TYNE ALLEY. 3 platoons carrying T.M. ammunition to forward guns. 1 platoon carrying R.E. material for Right Forward Battalions. 	
OPPY	" 31 st		<p>Battalion found working parties as follows.-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 platoons forming dumps for forward Battalions. 1 Coy. working on NAVAL TRENCH (sheet 51B N.W. B.30.) 1½ Platoons carry T.M. ammunition to forward guns. C Coy. withdrawn from 2nd Royal Berks. Battalion bathed at ECURIE. 	
	1st September 1918.		Comdg. 2nd. Battalion The Rifle Brigade.	<i>Niblack</i> Lieutenant-Colonel

SECRET.

COPY

2nd. Battalion The Rifle Brigade Operation Order

Ref. Map. L.M. TARGETTS.

1. The Battalion will be relieved by the 2nd. Royal Berkshire Regt. on the morning of 21st. After relief the Battalion will relieve the 2nd. S. Lancashire Regt. in the Right sub-section.
2. C Coy Rif. Bde. will be relieved by A Coy R.Berks Regt.
 D " " " " " B "
 B " " " " " C "
 A " " " " " D "
3. GUIDES. 1 Guide per platoon and H.Q. will meet the incoming unit as follows:-
 C Coys guides will be at the junction of TOAST & TOMMY Trenches (T.21.b.60.75.) at 9.45 a.m.
 D " " " be at junction of PEGGY & CANADA SUPPORT (T.20.a.8.8.) at 9.45 a.m.
 B " " " " ditto. at 10.30 a.m.
 A " " " " ditto. at 12 noon.
4. Immediately Coys. are relieved they will move down the BLACK LINE to their new positions. GUIDES will meet them at junction of TOAST AND CANADA TRENCHES (T.21.d.1.8.)
5. Stores will not be moved, but will be handed over as they stand. Tools will be collected and dumped at Coy. H.Q. Defence Schemes of the area and work programmes will be handed over.
6. The bicycles sent up to ^DA and A Coys. will be sent back in empty ration limbers tonight. 1 N.C.O. and 1 O.R. from the Transport will report to O.C. D Coy. at 9.0 a.m. 21st inst. to take over the empty water tins of B and C Coys. These men will remain with the tins until dark, when they will load them on to the returning ration train.
7. Relief complete will be notified to the present Battalion H.Q. by wiring the word "FIRST".
8. Coys. will inform relieving Coys. of any guards and detached posts which they supply in order that they may be relieved.
9. The dispositions of the 2nd East Lancashire Regt. is as follows.
 Advanced Coy. - "A" Coy.
 BLACK LINE Coys. from Right to Left - "B" Coy "C" Coy "D" Coy.
10. Relief takes place as follows -
 C Coy. Rif Bde. relieves A Coy. S.Lancs.
 A " " " B "
 B " " " C "
 D " " " D "
11. GUIDES from the East Lancs. Regt. at rate of 1 per platoon & H.Q. will meet Coys. at junction of TOAST AND CANADA (T.21.d.1.8.) at the following times D Coy 11.0 a.m. B. Coy 11.45 a.m. A. Coy. 1.15 p.m. C Coy. is making arrangements regarding the relief direct with O.C. "A" Coy. S. Lancs Regt.
12. RATIONS are brought up as follows- They arrive at MORRISON DUMP (T.26.o.8.4.) by light railway about 9.45 p.m. From here they are pushed on trucks to VANCOUVER DUMP (T.28.a.4.5.) From here they are drawn by Companies. The Transport are finding the men to push the trucks up each night from MORRISON to VANCOUVER DUMP.
13. COOKHOUSES for Coys. are as follows -
 Advanced and Right Coys. about T.28.a.50.15.
 Centre and Left Coys. about T.22.o.7.2.
 Advanced Coys. food is carried forward in containers.
14. WATER. Each Coy. will have 45 tins of water sent up each night. Battalion H.Q. 15 tins. These tins are filled at MORRISON DUMP and pushed up to VANCOUVER DUMP on trolleys. 45 empty tins will

sent back each night by Coys. for filling for the next night. Coys. must fetch the water from VANCOUVER DUMP. The centre Coy. will detail a party each night to carry the Advanced Coys. water to their Coy. H.Q. From here the advanced Company will carry it.

The advanced Company will send two guides each evening to report to O.C. Centre Coy. to accompany and guide the water carrying party.

O.C. Coys. should arrange with their C.Q.M.Sgt. tonight how much water will be required to be left at the cookhouses for cooking purposes.

C.Q.M.Sgts. should give any necessary instructions to the ration and water parties each night.

15. Defence Schemes of the area, work programmes etc. will be taken over.
16. O.C. Coys. will forward by 12 noon 22nd inst. the proformas showing material taken over, particular attention being made to note the state of B.O.S. rockets, S.A.A., and bombs.
17. Trench kits and Messes will be moved under Company arrangements.
18. 5 Pack Mules will report to the present Battalion H.Q. after dark to remove Orderly Room and H.Q. material and Battalion Reserve L.G. Boxes.
19. O.C. Right Coy. will detail 1 N.C.O and two men as a guard for MORRISON DUMP. These men will draw their rations from Battalion Headquarters. Any other guards or detached posts will also be taken over by each Coy. as necessary. These guards and posts will be reported to Battalion H.Q.
20. SALVAGE will be sent each night to MORRISON DUMP on the returning empty trolleys.
21. In event of ATTACK (a) before 1st relief is complete, Coys. will remain where they are and take orders from O.C. 2nd. Rifle Brigade (b) before 2nd relief is complete Coys. will take orders from O.C. 2nd East Lancs.
22. Relief complete will be wired by word "SECOND".
23. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. H. West Capt and a/Adjutant.

Copy No. 1	Officer Commanding	Copy No. 7	Quartermaster
SidgytMnt 2	Adjutant	"	8 Transport Officer
" "	3 O.C. A Coy.	" "	9 O.C. 2.Lancash re R.
" "	4 " B "	" "	10. " R.Berkshire R.
" "	5 " C "	" "	11 25th Inf. Brigade.
" "	6 " D "	" "	12 File.

~~SECRET~~

O.R. NO. 424

Headquarters,
25th Infantry Brigade

Attached please find copy of War Diary for the
month of September 1918.

5-10-1918

John Cope Jr
Lieut. Col.,
Commanding,
2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

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2 Page 6

88 47

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
	1/9/18		The Battalion relieved 2nd. Bn. Royal Berks. Regt. in left subsector of Brigade front. Relief complete 11.35.p.m. and Battalion disposed as follows.- Battn.H.Q. at B.27.b.8.7. B & C Companies holding main line of defence from B.23.a.0.91 S.E. along BOW SUPPORT, TYNE ALLEY, NAVAL TRENCH to B.30.a.6.7. A & D Companies holding front line along VISCOUNT ST, BLUE ALLEY, RAILWAY TRENCH to C.19.c.3.1. with section observation posts in CADORNA TRENCH and CECIL SUPPORT. 24th Inf. Brigade on the North and 2nd E.Lancs. Regt. on South of Battalion. Our Artillery showed considerable activity, the enemy very little.	51B N.W
	2/9/18		Our Artillery active with harassing fire. Enemy quiet. At dawn, patrols were pushed forward to CHAMPAGNE TRENCH and CECIL TRENCH but saw no enemy. At night, B & C Coys strengthened wire in front of TYNE ALLEY.	
	3/9/18		At dawn, patrols were pushed forward towards CHEESECAKE TRENCH. Hostile machine gun was located at about C.19.b.05.15. C Company relieved A Company in left part of front line- B Company relieved D Company in right part of front line.	51.B.N.W
	4/9/18		Patrols pushed up CHARLES to CECIL TRENCH, saw no enemy, Casualties.- 1 O.R. accidentally killed.	
	5/9/18		Small party of the enemy attempted to enter our lines at C.19.c.40.80. about 2 am., 2 men got into trench but got away again without casualties. Our casualties.- 1 O.R. died of wounds, 2 O.R. wounded. No identification obtained. No artillery barrage to cover raid, though enemy were in CHAMPAGNE & CHEESECAKE trenches and were bombing up CHARLES TR. apparently under the impression that we held it. The Commanding Officer went away on C.O's Course and Major A.E.Wass M.C. took command of Battalion. At night, A Company took over the whole of Outpost and BLUE LINES from B & C Coys, who withdrew to BLACK LINE. 2/Lt. A.HENDERSON and 1 O.R. wounded by a bomb thrown by one of our men during relief.	51.B.N.W
	6/9/18		At night, a platoon of C Coy. was caught in a hurricane burst which included gas shells. Casualties.- 3 O.R.	

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	7/9/18		Smoke bombs were thrown from our front line, to assist a Raid of 24th Brigade on our left. Operation successful. Several prisoners and a machine gun being captured, with no casualties to raiding party. At night, D Company relieved A Company in front line.	
	8/9/18		Quiet day. Weather changed and rain fell. Trenches bad, especially in Outpost Line. Battalion Transport chosen to represent Division in Corps Transport Efficiency Inspection. 7 O.R. joined for duty.	
	9/9/18		Wet. B Company relieved D Company in Outpost line and took over from E.Lancs. another post at C 25.a.90.99.	5105.N.W.
	10/9/18		Daylight patrols pushed forward to CHAMPAGNE & CRUMPET Trenches, and found them un-occupied. At night, further patrols were pushed out and by dawn on 11th posts were established in CHEESECAKE & CRUMPET Trenches.	
	11/9/18		C Company relieved B Company in Outpost line. Heavier shelling of Outpost line. A Company withdrawn to Camp behind ECURIE.	
	12/9/18		Patrols reported CHESTNUT TRENCH free of enemy. 4 O.R's joined for duty.	
	13/9/18		D Company relieved C Company in Outpost line and attempted to establish a post at junction of CUP & CHEDDAR Trenches. Enemy were holding trench strongly and we failed to establish a post. Casualties.- 1 O.R. killed. 5 O.R's joined for duty.	
	14/9/18		Battalion relieved by 2nd. Battn. E.Lancs Regt. and moved back by bus to ECURIE WOOD Camp (A.21.d.) Battalion established in Camp 5.5. am. on the 15th.	
	15/9/18		Rest- Cleaning up and refitting, B.&C. Coys. bathed.	

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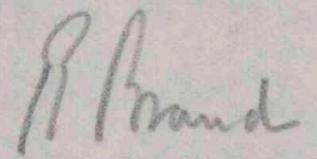
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	16/9/18		Cleaning up & refitting. A.D. & H.Q. Cos. bathed. Inter-Section Shooting Competition.	
	17/9/18		Platoon training. 7 O.R's joined for duty.	
	18/9/18		Platoon training. 7 O.R's joined for duty. Lt.(A/Capt) L.W.MARTINANT MC. rejoined from Staff of XXII Corps School.	
	19/9/18		Platoon training. 2/Lt. M.E. GLADSTONE joined for duty.	
	20/9/18		Battalion inspected by Divisional Commander at MONT ST. ELOY. 210.O.R's joined for duty.	
	21/9/18		Brigade did night attack, advancing about 500 yards. Battalion moved into support, Battn. H.Q. at B.27.c.55.05. (Sheet 51b. N.W.) 1 Company in KILKERRAN Trench in support to 2nd. E.Lancs Regt. 3 Companies W. & S.W. of GAVRELLE in support to 2nd. R.Berks. Regt. Captain C.E.SQUIRE MC joined for duty.	
	22/9/18		Trenches bad through rain. 2nd. R.Berks made an attack at midnight 22nd/23rd to capture WHINE TRENCH. A Company moved forward to position just S. of GAVRELLE SUPPORT (WILLIE Trench). D Company moved to A Cosys. position in CIVIL AVENUE.	
	23/9/18		Battalion relieved 2nd. Bn. Royal Berks. Regt. Dispositions.- A & D Cosys. in WHINE and CHEAPSIDE- 1 Coy. in GAVRELLE SUPPORT - 1 Coy. in COD, CRAB, CRAWL- Battn H.Q. at B.30.c.69.28. Casualties.- 2/Lts J.A.S. JACKSON and E.J.WITHERDAN wounded. 2 O.R's killed and 15 O.R's wounded.	51B NW
	24/9/18		Lt. Colonel R.H. LEYLAND killed by a shell while going round the line at ^{about} 5.15.am. Captain C.E.SQUIRE MC took command of Battalion. Dispositions changed.- 1 Coy. (A.Coy) in front line and 2 platoons of C Coy - 1 Coy. (D.Coy) in CHICKEN RESERVE, CIVIL TRENCH AVENUE and CORK SUPPORT- B Coy. and remainder of C Coy in MARINE and NAVAL TRENCHES - Battn. H.Q. at B.28.c.5.4.	51A NW

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks reference Appendix
25/9/18			Quiet. 1 O.R. wounded. 2 O.R's joined for duty.	
26/9/18			Lieut Colonel R.H. LEYLAND buried at ROCLINCOURT (full report attached) Battn. carried up dummy targets to positions in front of WHINE and GAVRELLE SUPPORT NORTH 3 O.R's joined for duty.	
27/9/18			Chinese attack carried out by raising dummy targets and barrage fire in conjunction with a larger operation further South. R.A.F. reported FRESNES ROUVROY line unoccupied. Patrols pushed out down WIND Trench and GAVRELLE Road reported enemy posts at C.27.a.85.45. and about C.20,d.5.4.	51-B NW
28/9/18			Patrols pushed down GAVRELLE Road and WIND Trench were stopped by enemy fire from about same places as yesterday. 1 O.R. joined for duty.	
29/9/18			Patrols pushed down GAVRELLE-FRESNES Road stopped by a party of about 10 Germans. 1 O.R. wounded in this patrol. Captain E.R.B. DRUMMOND - 2/Lt. H.A. BARKER - 2/Lt. A.J. SLUMAN MC. - 2/Lt. E.A.S. COX and 2/Lt. D.P. JONES joined for duty.	
30/9/18			Very heavy rainstorms. Work almost impossible and trenches very bad. 1 O.R. wounded.	

4-10-18.



Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding 2nd Battalion The Rifle Brigade

SECRET

2nd. Battalion The Rifle Brigade ORDER No. 121

Copy 9Reference Map 51 B.NW 1/20,000
OPPY 1/10,000

1. In conjunction with troops on the right and left, 25th Inf. Bde. will move forward the Observation line to the following line, WHINE - CHEPSIDE - GAVRELLE SUPPORT - CHUTNEY - CURRY - CHESTNUT - CHEDDAR - CANNIBAL. The advance will be carried out after dark.
2. The advance will be carried out by R.Berks. Regt. on the right, E.Lancs. Regt. on the left. The Battalion will be in reserve, and will be responsible for the defence of the BLACK LINE now held by the R.Berks. and E. Lancs.
3. Companies will be disposed as follows - 3 Companies in the BLACK LINE from Southern Brigade Boundary to the BAILLEUL GAVRELLE Road inclusive. Max "A" Company on right, "B" Company centre, "C" Company, Left. "D" Company will be in KILKERRAN TRENCH at B. 23.c: Battn. H.Q. and Aid Post will be at B. 27. c. 5. 0.
4. Boundaries are as follows:-
- Southern Brigade Boundary: I.b.0.7. to C. 28. d. 90. 45.
Northern " " Grid Line between C. 13. & C. 19.
Inter Batt. " " C.25.a.3.9 to C.21.c.0.0.
5. The 3 Cos. in the BLACK LINE will be responsible for its defence as soon as the relief of the BERKS REGT. is completed. D Coy. will reinforce the BLACK LINE immediately, now held by the E. Lancs Regt., in event of hostile counter-attack, or on receipt of orders from O.C. 2nd East Lancs Regt. As soon as this Coy. is in position, an officer and a runner will be sent to Battalion H.Q., E. Lancs Regt, and report to the Adjutant exact location of this Coy.
6. PRISONERS POST consisting of 2 Rifle sections of C Coy. under Lieut. Nettleton will be established at the junction of MARINE TRENCH with BAILLEUL-GAVRELLE Road, and will be escorted from there to 24th Brigade H.Q. at B.20.b.1.3. Numbers of prisoners coming in will be immediately reported to Battalion H.Q., by telephone or runner. O.C. C Coy. will be prepared to find prisoner escorts as required by Lieut. Nettleton.
7. Details for relief have already been issued in Battalion Order No. 120. Completion of relief will be reported to Batttn. Headquarters by wiring the word "WEST", or by runner.
8. ZERO hour will be notified later.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

21st September, 1918. Capt. and Adjutant.

Copy No. 1 Commanding Officer.
 2 Adjutant.
 3-6 O.C. Cos.
 7 O.C. H.Q.
 8 Headquarters, 25th Infantry Brigade.
 9 O.C. 2nd East Lancs.
 10 O.C. 2nd Royal Berks.
 11 Intelligence Officer.
 12 Signalling Officer.

CHEDDAR - CANNIBAL - GAVRELLE - CHAMINA - CHUBB - CHURCH
 WHINE - CHURCHIDE - GAVRELLE - CHAMINA - CHUBB - CHURCH
 WHINE - CHURCHIDE - GAVRELLE - CHAMINA - CHUBB - CHURCH
 WHINE - CHURCHIDE - GAVRELLE - CHAMINA - CHUBB - CHURCH
 WHINE - CHURCHIDE - GAVRELLE - CHAMINA - CHUBB - CHURCH

25th Bde. 8th Division.

War Diary.

2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade.

October 1918.

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OB/4

2 Rifle Bde

Vol 48

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
1-10-18			Battalion relieved by 2nd. Bn. E.Lancs. Regt. and then relieved 1/4th Seaforth Highlands in the next Sector south. Orders for move received 1630 on afternoon of the 1st and move occupied all night. Dispositions when move completed.- Battn.H.Q. I.i.c.6.O. (Sheet 51B.N.W.) -B.Coy in front line WHACK TRENCH - C.Coy WOOL, LEG, ARM, Trenches. A Coy. CORK SUPPORT, CURSE SUPPORT, CONRAD CAB, THE NOSE.- D.Coy. CHICKEN RESERVE- CHALK RESERVE. Casualties .Other ranks.- 2 killed 2 wounded.
2-10-18			Shelling of B Coy H.Q. retaliation asked for. Enemy reported blowing up buildings and making craterers in the roads, and divisions to our North moving forward. Patrols pushed forward down COUNT and WAVE Trenches reported enemy in HOLLOW COPSE and the FRESNES-ROUVROY Line. Gas shelling round ARM and LEG trenches.
3-10-18.			Continual patrols up WIND and WAVE to see if enemy had retired, but posts found in usual positions in FRESNES-ROUVROY Line. Gas shelling round WIBBLE, ARM and LEG trenches. Lt.Col. Hon. R.Brand D.S.O. took over command of the Battalion. Casualties.-3 Officers. 44 Other ranks.
4-10-18.			Patrols as for yesterday. Many fires and explosions observed behind enemy lines.
5-10-18.			Patrols out, but enemy still holding line on our front. Battalion changed sectors with 2nd. R.Berks. Regt., 2nd. R.Berks. R. took over FAMOY Sector, 2nd. Rifle Bde. took over GAVRELIE area again.
6-10-18.			Battalion holding line- Orders received to attack FRESNES-ROUVROY Line in conjunction with all units of 23rd Brigade and 2nd R.Berks. Regt on left. Bn. H.Q. moved forward to WIBBLE. Major J.K.V. Brown (Att.E.Lancs) took over temporary Command vice Lt.Col. Hon. R.Brand D.S.O. promoted Brigadier General. Companies detailed for operation tomorrow- "A" Company in front line B.&C. Cos in Support in WHACK trench- D.Coy. in reserve in WIBBLE- Major Brown was in command for operations but did not actually assume command of Battalion until next day.
7-10-18.			At 0050 attack by units above named commenced- all objectives gained- By evening whole FRESNES-ROUVROY line was in our possession from SCARPE to GAVRELIE-FRESNES Road. Lt.Col. Hon. R.Brand D.S.O. took over command of 25th Inf. Bde. at 0800, leaving Major Brown in command of the Battalion-Casualties.-1 OR. wounded.

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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
7-10-18.			In the evening 2nd. E.Lancs Moved up to reserve taking over Bn. H.Q. at I.I.C.6.0.	
8-10-18.			Success of previous day exploited . Battalion pushed forward to MAUVILLE FARM . Early morning patrols had occupied RAILWAY COPSE By evening enemy had withdrawn to QUEANT-DROCOURT line. Battalion occupied FRESNES village but were ordered to withdraw from it. This village was subsequently occupied by 2nd.Devons Regt. In the evening the Battalion was relieved by the 2nd. E.Lancs Regt. and was was transported by lorries to ECURIE WOOD CAMP and went into Reserve. Relief occupied a long time and was not complete until 0530 in the morning of the 9th.	
9-10-18.			Battalion at ECURIE WOOD CAMP , resting and bathing. Major J.B.G. Taylor MC joined the Battalion as Second-in-Command and took over command vice Major J.K.V.Brown.	
10-10-18.			Battalion at Ecurie Wood in Reserve at one hour's notice to move. resting and refitting. Battalion warned to be ready to move at a minutes notice after 0700.	
11-10-18.			Battalion warned to stand by ready to move up the line. Orders received to move by lorry at 0900. Battalion moved off about 1100 by lorry via ARRAS to GAVRELLE . Thence Battalion marched to FRESNES where dinners were taken. Battalion then moved to DROCOURT-QUEANT line at 1500 occupying trenches. C.&D.Coys in enemy 2nd.line and A.&B Coys. in enemy 1st line 90.12.b. Sheet 51 B.)) Dugouts found prepared for demolition and were placed out of bounds to avoid accidents. Battalion billeted in trench shelters for the night.	
12-10-18.			Battalion standing by. 2nd. R.Berks.Reg. in front pushing on to ESQUERCHIN and CUINCY. At 1500 hours orders received to move forward to RAILWAY Embankment. in QUIERY-LA-MOTTE which was reached at 1700. Battalion at this time billeted here for the night. Some shelling. One water cart damaged. Casualties Nil. Battalion at this time was in Brigade Reserve.	
13-10-18.			Battalion standing by at QUIERY all day. Enemy reported holding CANAL st DOUAI in strength.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14-10-18.		Battalion still standing by. Training. O.C. Coys. reconnoitring country ahead . All ranks enjoyed a good supply of vegetables from deserted countryside.	
	15-10-18.		Battalion relieved 2nd. R.Barks. Regt. in front line. Dispositions 2 Companies (C. & D.) in front "A" in support "B" in reserve. Front line approx. in front of DOUAI Prison. Headquarters in Chateau in PETIT CUINCY.	
	16-10-18.		Enemy artillery fairly active , particularly in reserve company's area. This Company "B" was accordingly moved forward to cellars in CUINCY, Casualties.- Lt.A.C.Russell severely wounded- 5 O.Rs wounded. Night spent in active patrolling.	
	17-10-18.		Battalion still in front line. Patrols were pushed forward by both front Coys , to CANAL in front of DOUAI All bridges blown up. Very little opposition. At 1500 a patrol of "C" Coy. had crossed CANAL and entered DOUAI , being first troops to enter the town , which was found completely ransacked. The 2nd. Middlesex Regt. also claimed to be the first Allied troops in DOUAI . Much wanton damage was noticed in the town. Pianos thrown into the Canals- furniture broken with axes- Also pipes of the Organ in the Cathedral had been removed- Draft of 13 O.Rs joined for duty.	
	18-10-18.		Battalion pushed on . "D" Coy being the only company in the front line. Advance continued through WAZIERES with very little opposition."A" Company in support- "C" Company was disposed about area X.14. b.&d, and X.8.d.(Sheet 44 A.SE) and B Company occupied WAZIERES. Advance continued without opposition until stream running through X.21.b. was reached when a machine gun opened fire from wood in X.22.d. D Company was finally held up on the bank of the SCARPE RIVER- A Company then passed through D Company and crossed the river during the night and made good VRED and CATTLET. Lt.Col. T.R.Eastwood MC. took over command.	
	19-10-18.		Battalion relieved by 2nd. E.Lancs Regt. and moved into billets in ANHIERES "A" Coy . remaining in VRED. Battn H.Q. in LALAING Chateau.	ANHIERES VRED
	20-10-18.		Battalion moved by route march via CATTLET to MARCHIENNES arriving there about 1000 hours , and went in to billets in the town.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21-10-18.		B.& C Coys went on road mending for the morning. Rest of day occupied cleaning up. (N.B.) this was the 11th day out of the line, since the Battalion went in on 5th August last in the VIMY Area.	
	22-10-18.		Battalion paraded for Inspection by the Commanding Officer at 1030 hours and then marched to billets in WARLAING.	
	23-10-18.		Battalion cleaning up generally. Commanding Officer inspected billets.	
	24-10-18.		Battalion still cleaning up and refitting. Details rejoined Battalion from Divisional Details Camp.	
	25-10-18.		Battalion Training under Company arrangements. Particular attention being paid to Platoon training under Platoon Commanders.	
	26-10-18.		Battalion inspected by Brigadier General Hon. R. Brand D.S.O.. After Inspection billets of the Battalion were also inspected.	
	27-10-18.		Church Parade. The Band attended for the first time.	
	28-10-18.		Battalion training. Band plays daily to Companies or H.Q.	
	29-10-18.		Battalion Training. Still at WARLAING.	
	30-10-18.		Battalion Training.	
	31-10-18.		Battalion Training. Captain C.R. Stuart MC 2/Lt. L.W.J. Pinnock MM and 6 O.Rs joined for duty.	
	6-11-18.		Lieutenant Colonel Comdg. 2nd. Battn. The Rifle Brigade	<i>R. R. Radford</i>

2nd BATTALION
OR 107
No.
Date 3-12-18

Army Form C. 2118.

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WAR DIARY *or* INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
	1-11-18.		Battalion still at rest. Training.
	2-11-18.		Battalion Training.
	3-11-18.		Church Parade. In the afternoon the Battalion held a Fete for the benefit of the local inhabitants. It proved a great success. All the children were given prizes, hot cocoa and biscuits. After the National Anthems had been played, the Commanding Officer presented the Maire with a framed coloured drawing of the Regimental Badge. Later, the Maire called on the Colonel and presented a bouquet. Orders were received that 8th Division would be withdrawn into Army Reserve.
	4-11-18.		Orders were received to move to CATTELET area. Battalion marched away from MARLAING at 1330 hours and went into billets in the CATTELET Area, arriving about 1600 hours. Battalion H.Q. at No.7. WIESEN STR. MARICHON.
	5-11-18.		Battalion Training in CATTELET Area.
	6-11-18.		Battalion Training as yesterday.
	7-11-18.		Battalion Training. Company Schemes.
	8-11-18.		Company Schemes.
	9-11-18.		Orders received at 0415 hours to march to ST AMAND at 0800 hours where the Battalion arrived at 1230.
	10-11-18.		March to POMMEROEUL via HERGNIES - VIEUX CONDE' - HARCHIES. The Brigade halted for dinners at 1200 hours, the Battalion being drawn up in a field at LORETTE. The march was resumed at 13.30, and Battalion marched into POMMEROEUL at 16.00 hours amidst acclamations of the populace. March casualties - 10. Length of march: approximately 18 miles.
	11-11-18.		Day spent cleaning up. News received at 10.30 that hostilities cease at 11.00 hours.
	12-11-18.		Battalion moved by march route to BAUDOUR.

Army Form C. 2118

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUMES - ESPLECHIN - BAUDOUR.	13-11-18		Battalion in billets at BAUDOUR resting and cleaning up. Following Officers joined Battalion today:- Lt.G.M.ROBINSON posted to "A" Coy. 2/Lt. P.LOWER posted to "B" Coy. 2/Lt. R.U.FISHER " " "C" "	
	14-11-18.		Battalion training at BAUDOUR. The following officer joined Battalion today:- 2/Lt. J.D.COLLIE and posted to "D" Coy.	
	15-11-18.		Battalion training as yesterday.	
	16-11-18.		Battalion moved by lorry from BAUDOUR to ESPLECHIN via TOURNAI.	
	17-11-18.		Battalion resting in billets.	
	18-11-18.		Battalion marched to RUMES and went into billets.	
	19-11-18.		Battalion Training.	
	20-11-18.		Battalion Training.	
	21-11-18.		Battalion Training.	
	22-11-18.		Battalion still Training.	
	23-11-18.		Commanding Officer's Parade and rehearsal of a Ceremonial parade for Brigade Inspection. The Corps Commander was present.	
	24-11-18.		Church Parade.	
	25-11-18.		Battalion Training. Commanding Officer's Parade.	
	26-11-18.		Battalion still at RUMES training. G.O.Cs Inspection (Brigade) at FROIDMONT.	
	27-11-18.		Battalion Training. Route March.	

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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
	28-11-18.		Battalion training. The Band gave a concert in the evening.	
	29-11-18.		Battalion training. Adjutant's Parade.	
	30-11-18.		Battalion route march. In the afternoon the Battalion played the 2nd Royal Berkshire Regt. at Association football and lost 1-2. A Concert was held in the evening.	
	2nd Decr. 1918.		Lieutenant Colonel Commanding 2nd Battalion The Rifle Brigade. <i>A. J. D. B. M.A.C.</i>	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2113.

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
	1-12-18		Church Parade 1145 hours.	
	2-12-18		Company Training.	
	3-12-18		Company Training.	
RUMES	4-12-18		Battalion was due to parade at FROIDMONT at a Brigade Ceremonial Parade. Owing to the rain the Parade was cancelled.	
	5-12-18.		Company Training.	
	6-12-18.		Company Training. The Band gave a Concert in the xxxxxxxx Concert Hall at 1730.	
	7-12-18.		The King visited TOURNAI and the Battalion was marched in, in belt and sidearms to see His Majesty. The Division fell in by Brigades on the Plain Dxx Exercise, and from there marched to the portion of the road to be lined. The King arrived in a car at 1200, and walked down between the troops, after the Divisional General and the Brigadiers had been presented. The Battalion then fell in again on the Plain d'Exercise for cocoa and haversack rations, and then marched back to RUMES.	
	8-12-18		Church Parade at 0945.	
	9-12-18.		Company Training.	
	10-12-18.		Company Training.	
	11-12-18.		Company Training. Brigade	
	12-12-18.		xxxxxxxx Ceremonial Parade again put off owing to rain.	
	13-12-18.		A Football Match was due to be played against the 3rd. Bn. Rifle Brigade, who were at CHERENG but owing to bad weather it had to be cancelled.	
	14-12-18.		Company Training. The Final of the Inter-Platoon Football Competition was played in the afternoon, No. 1 Platoon of A Company winning.	

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WAR DIARY *or* INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUMES	15-12-18.		Church Parade at 1145 . A League Football Match against the 1/7th D.L.I. was played in TOURNAI in the afternoon, and was lost 3-2. A Friendly Hockey Match against 25th. Brigade H.Q. was successful for us, winning by 3-2.	
	16-12-18.		The move to ENGHIEŃ was begun. The Battalion moved from RUMES at 0900 hours and marched to BARRY for one night.	
	17-12-18.		Battalion marched to ATH, where it arrived about 1330. Lt.Colonel G.N.SALMON CBE DSO. joined the Battalion.	
	18-12-18.		Battalion arrived at ENGHIEŃ at 1230 hours and billeted in the COLLEGE DES AUGUSTIN	
	19-12-18.		Day spent in cleaning up.	
	20-12-18		More cleaning up. Lt.Col. T.R.EASTWOOD MC, left the Battalion to take over command of the 12th. Battalion, and Lt.Col.G.N.SALMON CMB DSO took over command.	
	21-12-18.		Continued cleaning up, settling in , and scrubbing equipment.	
	22-12-18.		Church Parade in the Theatre attached to the College at 1000 hours.	
	23-12-18.		Company Training.	
	24-12-18.		Company Training. 2nd. Round of Divisional Football League. Battalion defeated 26th F.Amb. by 5-0.	
ATH	25-12-18.		Battalion attended a Brigade Church Parade at 1030 hours. Dinners were at 1230. The Brigadier went round and received a great reception from the men. There was a Concert at 1730. In the afternoon the Sergeants played the Officers at Football. The Sergeants won 10-1.	
	26-12-18		A "Six-aside" Football Competition was begun. In the evening a Fancy Head-Dress dance was held with great success.	
	27-12-18.		Company Training. A Route March ordered, had to be cancelled owing to rain . The Battalion played the 1st.Worcesters(away) in 3rd Series of Divisional League and won by 2-0	
			1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.	

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ENGHIEN	28-12-18		Companies at the disposal of O.C.Companies- Cleaning equipment. R.S.Ms Parade cancelled owing to rain.	
	29-12-18.		Brigade Church Parade. Rifle Inspection by Brigade Armourer. Iron rations withdrawn and consumed.	
	30-12-18.		Company Training. Adjutant's Parade cancelled owing to rain. Inspection of rifles by Brigade Armourer.	
	31-12-18.		Companies at disposal of O.C.Companies. The Battalion played 8th D.A.C. in 4th. Series of Divisional League. A Dance for half the Battalion was held in the evening	

In Salutation.

Lieutenant Colonel.

Comdg. 2nd. Bn. The Rifle Brigade.

8
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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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*Jan - May 1919**2 Rifle Bde*

Army Form C. 2118.

*25**SIR 51*Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
	1-1-19		Company Training. A Dance was held in the evening in the Canteen.
	2-1-19		Company Training. A Whist Drive was held in the evening in which 76 other ranks took part.
	3-1-19		Battalion Route March at 1000 hours.
	4-1-19		Company Training. The Battalion played 2nd. Bn. West Yorkshire Regt in 5th. Series of 8th.Divl. Football League and won 1-0. Band Concert at 1800 hours.
	5-1-19		Brigade Church Parade at 1100 hours.
	6-1-19		Company Training. Lt.Colonel G.N.SALMON CMG.DSO. took over Command of 25th. Infantry Brigade during the absence of Brigadier General Hon. R.BRAND DSO on leave.
	7-1-19		Company Training. A Dance was held in the Canteen. The Battalion defeated 8th. Divisional Signals in the 6th. Series of the 8th. Divisional League.
	8-1-19		Battalion Route March. "Six-aside" Competition continued.
	9-1-19		Company Training. A Whist Drive was held in the evening. The final of the "Six-aside" competition was played, No.11 Platoon defeated No.10 Platoon by 2 points to NIL.
	10-1-19		Company Training. Battalion Boxing Competition was commenced.
	11-1-19		Company Training. Boxing Competition concluded. A Dance was held in the Canteen in the evening.
	12-1-19		Brigade Church Parade in the College Theatre.
	13-1-19		Company Training.
	14-1-19		Company Training.
	15-1-19		Battalion Route March.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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- or -
INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	15-1-19	Cont'd	<p>The following memorandum was received from G.O.C. 8th. Division:-</p> <p>" It has been brought to my notice that a party of 2nd. Rifle Brigade, when returning from leave at a Base Depot refused to follow the example of a large body of men of other units, who, led away by agitators, disobeyed orders and refused to parade when ordered to entrain for the front.</p> <p>These soldiers of the Rifle Brigade carried out all orders and set a high standard of soldierly behaviour and discipline.</p> <p>I desire to congratulate the 2nd. Rifle Brigade on its Esprit de Corps.</p> <p>I desire also to congratulate the Battalion on the fine spirit which, at all times, has animated all ranks during the time it has been under my command, and which manifests itself now, in its individuals, when away from their Battalion, in the face of great temptations.</p> <p>I am proud that soldiers of a unit of 8th Division should have set such a splendid example of discipline".</p>	

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
16-1-19			Company Training. 1914-15 Star worn for first time. Battalion played 25th. F.Amb. in Divisional League. Result- Draw- 1-1.	
17-1-19			Company Training.	
18-1-19.			Company Training. A party of Riflemen went to MONS by Bus.	
19-1-19			Brigade Church Parade. A Concert was held in the Canteen at 1730.	
20-1-19			Company Training. Orders received for a Ceremonial Parade in BRUSSEES next Sunday. Companies practicing for the Parade.	
21-1-19			Company Training, particularly on BRUSSELS Parade. Battalion Team played 2nd.Bn. Royal Berkshire Regt. in 8th. Divisional League and won 2-0. Major J.B.G.TAYLOR MC took over command while Lt.Colonel SALMON on leave.	
22-1-19			Companies training and practising for Ceremonial Parade. A Concert was held in the Canteen at 1730 hours.	
23-1-19			Battalion in conjunction with 2nd. Bn. E. Lancashire Regt. practised the "march past" before the Divisional General and the Brigadier. The 2nd. Bn. Northampton Regt. were accommodated in the College for the night. In the afternoon, the Battalion played the 2nd. Bn. Northampton Regt. in the Divisional League. Result- a win for us by 1-0.	
24-1-19			Battalion paraded at 0800 hours on the MONS Road and marched in conjunction with the 24th. Brigade Group towards BRUSSELS, being billeted for the night at LENNICK ST MARTIN. Billets were not good. The following Honours and Awards were published:- <u>MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES</u> Lt.Col. T.R. Eastwood MC. (Lond.Gazette 20-12-18) Lt.Col.G.N.Salmon DSO (Lond.Gazette 28-12-18) Major J.H.Allridge MC.DCM do Capt.G.H.G.Anderson DSO.MC. do No.1405 Rfn.N.Davey do No.2/435 " H.Flight do	

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WAR DIARY
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24-1-19		Cont'd. AWARDED "CMG" Lt.Col.G.N.Salmon DSO. AWARDED MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL No.9012 CQMS Gibson R. 3568 Sgt.W.Marney	Lond.Gazette 1-1-19 -----do-----
	25-1-19		Battalion paraded at 0830 and marched to BRUSSELS and were billeted in ST GILEES area.	
	26-1-19		Battalion took part in Ceremonial Parade and marched past the King of Belgium, formation was in "double fours" 8 pack mules and 8 limbers followed the Battalion. After the Parade all ranks were granted 24 hours leave in BRUSSELS. Snow fell during the march past and during the previous night.	
	27-1-19		Battalion on leave in BRUSSELS.	
	28-1-19		Battalion paraded at 0830 and marched to LENNICK ST MARTIN, and were billeted in same billets.	
	29-1-19		Battalion returned to ENGHIEN arriving about 1430 hours.	
	30-1-19		Practise for Ceremonial Parade.	
	31-1-19		Ceremonial Parade at 1145 in Parc d'ENGHIEN for the presentation of the Croix de Guerre to the 24th. Field Ambulance by General DEGOUTTE. The Battalion and 2nd. Bn. Royal Berkshire Regt. formed 2 sides of the square, and after the ceremony, marched past the General.	
	1-2-1919.		Major. Commdg. 2nd. Battalion The Rifle Brigade.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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2 Rifle Bn
ffl 52

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-2-19		General Training. A Special Order of the Day from Lt.Genl.Sir R.H.K.BUTLER KCMG.CB.Commanding III Corps was received as follows"His Majesty the King of the Belgians has asked me to convey to all ranks of the III Corps, and particularly to those who took part in the march through BRUSSELS on January 26th., not only his pleasure at the opportunity it afforded him and the population of BRUSSELS, for the first time since WATERLOO, but also his personal appreciation of the soldierly bearing and turnout of the troops. I wish also to express my appreciation to the Commanders and Staffs, for the success of their arrangements, and it is with great satisfaction that I repeat King Albert's own expression "As fine a body of troops, as it would be possible to find under arms anywhere!"	
	2-2-19		Church Parade at 1100 hours in the Divisional Theatre.	
	3-2-19		General Training. Lts.J.NETTLETON and G.M.ROBINSON demobilized.	
	4-2-19		General Training. A Dance was held in the Canteen at 1730.	
ENGLAND	5-2-19		General Training.	
	6-2-19		General Training. Captain.J.B.KIRKPATRICK & 2/Lt.I.S.WOOD demobilized.	
	7-2-19		General Training.	
	8-2-19		General Training.	
	9-2-19		Church Parade at 1100 hours.Divisional Cross country run won by the Battalion by 2 points. M.PONCET, who has been with the Battalion 5 years, left for duty at 5th.Army H.Q. 2/Lt. J.B.GORDON-DUFF joined from 12th. Battalion for duty.	
	10-2-19		General Training. Lt. J.L.SCOTT demobilized.	
	11-2-19		General Training. A Dance as held at 1730.	
	12-2-19		General Training. Bandmaster S.J.YOUNG, 4 bandsmen and 17 band boys joined from 51st. Battn. for duty, conducted by 2/Lt. R.H.DOYNE.	

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13-2-19		General Training.	
	14-2-19		General Training.	
	15-2-19		General Training.	
	16-2-19		Church Parade at 1100 hours. A Congratulatory message from H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught (Colonel-in Chief) was published for information: "I have shewn the copy of the letter you received from the O.C. Infantry Base Depot, to the Duke of Connaught, and His Royal Highness has read it with the greatest interest. He considers that those Riflemen showed the best spirit of the Rifle Brigade, and that their conduct was a splendid example to the rest of the Army. The Colonel in Chief would like you to express his appreciation of their conduct to the men themselves."	
ENGHIEI			The following were awarded the MILITARY MEDAL in the Peace Despatch:-No. Z/333 Sgt. J. Earle No. S/31336 Rfn. A. Bennett.	
	17-2-19		General Training. Major J.B.G.TAYLOR MC. was admitted to Hospital and Captain C.E.SQUIRE MC took over Command of the Battalion. No. 48253 Rfn. S. Carpenter died from pneumonia at the 1st Australian C.C.S. HAL on 16-2-19.	
	18-2-19		General Training. A Dance was held at 1730. The Band under Bandmaster Young played for the first time.	
	19-2-19		General Training.	
	20-2-19		General Training.	
	21-2-19		General Training. Owing to demobilization it is extremely hard to find requisite number of men for guard duties, each man barely getting 2 nights in bed.	
	22-2-19		General Training. A Band Concert was given in the Canteen at 1745.	
	23-2-19		Church Parade at 1100 hours. The Band played for the Service. The Battalion played the 1/7th DLI at ATH A5834 Wt. W4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D.D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13	

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and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ENGHIEN	23-2-19		in the Knock Out Competition of League finalists and was beaten 4- 1.	
	24-2-19		General Training.	
	25-2-19		General training. The Battalion 6 aside Team played the M.T. Co. and were beaten 4-0. The R.A. Band gave a Concert in the Divisional Theatre at 1430.	
	26-2-19		General Training.	
	27-2-19		General Training. From now onwards the phrase "in the Field" is discontinued and the actual name of the place to be stated on official documents.	
	28-2-19		The Battalion moved out of the College St. Augustine with R. Berks Regt. into the Ecole des Filles in the Town. Battalion played Div. Signals 6 aside team and drew 2 all.	

C. E. Squire

Major.
Comdg. 2nd. Battn. The Rifle Brigade.

2 Rgt. Bn
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WAR DIARY
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WL 53

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-3-19.		2/Lts G.W.S.BROWN & E.J.PLANT and a draft of 60 O.R's proceeded to join the 25th. Batt.K.R.R.C. at DUNKIRK. Played E.Lancs 6 aside Football. Won 8--0.	
	2-3-19.		Church Parade 1100 hours.	
	3-3-19.		Training.	
	4-3-19.		Major Alldridge M.C.D.C.M., Captns. J.M.West & D.L.Maclean, Lieuts Fulford & 2/Lts. Cosby and Fyers with 19 of the Band Boys visited WATERLOO. A Special Order of the day was issued by Major Gen. SIR WILLIAM HENEKER KCB.DSO. Commanding the Div. (Copy herewith). 2/Lt. A.MACNAMARA struck off strength en proceeding to DUNKIRK as T.C. O.	
ENGHEN	5-3-19.		Training.	
	6-3-19.		Training.	
	7-3-19.		Training. Batt. played Div.H.Q. in the 7th. Series, 6 a side competition and won 3--1. This was the final game & left the Batt. 2nd. in the Divn. by 3 points. Lt. Col. T.R.EASTWOOD M&C. rejoined the Batt. from commanding the 12th. Batt. & took over command.	
	8-3-19.		Training.	
	9-3-19.		Church Parade 1100 hours. The Band played in the Square at 1530, but was forced to stop owing to rain.	
	10-3-19.		Training.	
	11-3-19.		Training. The Band paraded as strong as possible for inspection by the C.O. at 1030.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	12-3-19.	Capt. C.R. STUART with 31 O.R's proceeded to join 25th .Bn.K.R.R.C.		
		2/Lts.R.A.MacGEORGE and Hon.T.C.PLUNKET were struck off strength on being confirmed as ADC's to G.O.C.5th .Corps(Lt.Gen.Sir Cameron SHUTE KCB,DSO) & G.O.C.8th.Div (Major Gen.Sir WIL LIAM HENEKER KCB .DSO) respectively.		
ENGLAND	13-3-19	Parades.		
	14-3-19.	Parades.		
	15-3-19.	18 O.R's proceeded to join 25th.K.R.R.C.		
	16-3-19.	Church Parade 1100. Owing to the smallness of numbers and a fatigue which was found of 16 O.R. there were no men to parade.		
	17-3-19.	Batt.moved to ATH. The men were quartered in the Barracks and the Officers a nd Orderly Room in billets.		
	18 -3-19.	Cleaning up.		
	19-3-19.	The Batt.paraded as strong as possible for inspection by the C.O.		
	20-3-19.	Parades.		
	21-3-19.	Parades.		
	22-3-19.	Parades.		
	23-3-19.	Church Parade 1030.		
	24-3-19.	Parades.		
	25-3-19.	2/Lt.J.WHEELER conducted a draft of 20 O.R's to join 25th.K.R.R.C.		

WAR DIARY

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118

2 - Rifle Bde

9/1 54

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ATW	1-4-19.		Parades. The Battalion bathed.	
	2-4-19.		Parades. Everyone was given metal R.B's for the shoulder, the cloth ones being done away with.	
	3-4-19.		Parades. Lt.H.H.Darby M .C. proceeded to join 52nd.Batt. Rifle Bde.	
	4-4-19.		A "Strong-as-possible" parade at 1100 hours, after which a Photograph was taken of the Cadre and Band and also a group of those who still remained who came to France with the Batt. in 1914.	
	5-4-19.		Parades. Lieut.B.R.Everett, 2/Lt.V.G.Neve M M. and 2/Lt.A.L aithwaite proceeded to join the 52nd. Batt.Rifle Bde.	
	6-4-19.		Church Parade at 1030. In the evening the Band gave a Concert in the Salle des Concerts at 1800 hours which was very successful.	
	7-4-19.		Parades.	
	8-4-19.		Parades. Gen.Hon.R.Brand ,Capt.J.M.West & Lt.F.E.A.Fulford visited Passchendaele, finding	
	9-4-19.		relics on the ridge of the Battalions last attack in Dec.1917.	
	10-4-19.		Strong as possible parade at 1030, Lieut W .E.Gage and 2/ Lt.E.A.S.Cosby proceeded to England for 2 months leave.	
	11-4-19.		Parades.	
	12-4-19.		Parades.	
	13-4-19		Church Parade at 1030 hours.	

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WAR DIARY
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ATH	14-4-19		Parades.	
	15-4-19		Parades. Battn. bathed.	
	16-4-19		Parades.	
	17-4-19		Strong as possible parade at 1030 hours.	
	18-4-19		12 O.R's proceeded to join 173rd. Prisoners of War Co at Ypres.	
	19-4-19		Parades. Lt.L.W. J.Pinnock MM. proceeded to England on 2 months leave.	
	20-4-19		Parades.	
	21-4-19		Parades. Battn. bathed.	
	22-4-19		Parades	
	23-4-19		Parades	
	24-4-19		Parades.	
	25-4-19		Strong as possible parade at 1030 hours.	
	26-4-19		Parades.	
	27-4-19		Parades.	
	28-4-19		Parades.	
	29-4-19		Parades.	
	30-4-19		Parades. Batt. bathed.	
			The Band played usually once a week in the PA RK.	
	6-4-19		<i>J. Rusling</i> Li eut. Col. Comdg. 2nd. Batt. The Rifle Bde.	

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2nd Rife Bde

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ATH	MAY 1919		<p>The Battalion remained in ATH, but moved from the Barracks to the ECOLE DES FILLES, near the Station on the 15th.</p> <p><i>D.S. Lashford</i></p> <p>Lieut. Col.</p> <p>Commdg. 2nd. B att. The Rifle Bde.</p>	98 54

S P E C I A L O R D E R O F T H E D A Y
by
Major-General Sir WILLIAM C.G. HENEKER, K.C.B., D.S.O.,

C O M M A N D I N G 8 T H D I V I S I O N.

-----ooooo-----

To my Comrades; Soldiers of the 8th Division.

The demobilization of the Division has begun and officers and men are beginning to leave and return to England.

I have no chance now of seeing you all, as I should like to, in order to say "Good bye", so I must adopt this means of conveying to you what I feel on the breaking up of the Division.

To those of you who are still here, to those of you who have served in the 8th Division and who are now in other Divisions, to the comrades who have returned to civil life, and also to you gallant fellows who are still in hospital, I desire to extend my warm appreciation of your magnificent services and devotion to duty, and my grateful thanks for all you have done to help me during the two years I have had the honour to command the Division.

The 8th Division was formed in England and brought out to France by Major-General F.J. DAVIES, now Lieut.-General Sir F.J. DAVIES, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Military Secretary to the Secretary of State for War, War Office.

The Division landed in France on November 5th, 1914 and was pushed forward at once to hold the line on the LA BASSE Road East of ESTAIRE. It saw some heavy fighting in 1915, principally in front of the AUBERS RIDGE, at the battle of NEUVE CHAPELLE, at ROUGES BANCS, near FROMELLES, on 9th May, and at BOIS GRÉNIER on 25th September, 1915.

In June 1915 General DAVIES was succeeded by Major-General H. HUDSON, now Lieut.-General Sir H. HUDSON, K.C.B., C.I.E., Adjutant-General in India.

To the powers of organisation and the capacity for command of its first two Divisional Commanders the 8th Division owes a great deal.

On 1st July, 1916 in the first SOMME battle the Division suffered very severely and maintained its high reputation.

On 23rd October, 1916 the Division took part in the stiff fighting for ZENITH TRENCH and suffered severe casualties.

On 8th December, 1916 I took over command from General HUDSON.

During March and April 1917 the Division took part in the advance to the HINDENBURG LINE, from BOUCHAVESNES to GOUZEAUCOURT, and in various operations inflicted severe losses on the enemy. A magnificent fighting spirit was displayed by all ranks and the very generous appreciation which the Commander-in-Chief, as well as our Army and Corps Commanders, bestowed upon units will never be forgotten by those in the Division.

During the above two months the Division received two wires of congratulation from the Commander-in-Chief and six from the Army Commander (General Sir HENRY RAWLINSON, Bart) as well as many similar marks of appreciation and help from our Corps Commander (Lieut.-General Sir J.P. du CANE).

In reserve to the Second Army during the MESSINES RIDGE battle in June, 1917, the Division was not called upon to go into action. Later however it took part in the battles which were fought on 31st July and 16th August East of YPRES, and it

/captured ...

captured HOOGHE and the WESTHORN RIDGE. In this fighting Brigadier-General C. COFFIN, D.S.O., R.E., Commanding 25th Infantry Brigade, and Capt. T.R. COLYER FERGUSSON, 2nd Northampton Regiment gained Victoria Crosses. The latter award was posthumous for he was unfortunately killed in action.

Our casualties had been severe but the Division had covered itself with glory, and the Commander-in-Chief signified his appreciation of the magnificent fighting spirit displayed by coming to inspect us when we came out of the battle. His generous appreciation inspired all ranks.

In March 1918, after a Winter in the PASSCHENDAEL Salient, we were suddenly rushed down to the SOMME and took part in the heavy fighting of the retreat as part of the Fifth Army.

Ordered to hold the line of the SOMME South of PERONNE, the Division, which then consisted of only nine battalions, was given a front of 9 miles. It was attacked by 9 German Divisions - a German Division against each British Division. For twenty-four hours it held the line and hurled the Germans back, and it was not until the enemy were forced to put in three fresh Divisions that any impression was made on our gallant battalions, and then only at one spot. Royal Engineers, Pioneers and everyone capable of holding a rifle were thrown into the fight. The line did not break, it only bent, but it was felt that the strain was too much, and at dusk on the second day, after having held in check 12 German Divisions for thirty-six hours, the 8th Division fell back in perfect order to a newly prepared line. The German Divisions had had enough and did not follow us for twelve hours. It was here on the SOMME that Lieut.-Colonel F.C. ROBERTS, D.S.O., M.C., 1st Worcester Regiment and Capt. A.M. TOYE, M.C., 2nd Middlesex Regiment gained their Victoria Crosses.

Two days later those of you who took part in it will remember with pride the heroic fighting in the RONSIERES-en-SANTERRE position, and how, although holding 3 miles of front, the reserves of the Division were employed North of our line, and counter-attacking with magnificent courage, restored the situation on a further front of 3 miles, thus aiding three other British Divisions which had been in the battle from the beginning and had suffered severely. It was a wonderful week to have come through alive and to look back upon. The Germans, from first to last, put in 18 different Divisions against the 8th Division.

The line became stable at MOREUIL and, relieved by the French, we came out to re-organise and train, but returned to hold the front just East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX towards the latter half of April.

Attacked at daylight on 24th April by 2 German Divisions assisted by Tanks the front line of the Division was wiped out. The Germans captured VILLERS BRETONNEUX and a portion of the high ground which overlooks AMIENS and the Valley of the SOMME. The remainder of the Division held the enemy all day and prevented him from exploiting his initial success. The situation was critical, and had all the high ground been lost AMIENS might have fallen, and the road been opened to ABBEVILLE. Reinforcements were rushed up in the shape of the 13th and 15th Australian Infantry Brigades, and these, under cover of night, aided by 3 battalions of the 8th Division, carried out a magnificent attack and retook VILLERS BRETONNEUX and the important ground. I always feel that this was one of the most

/critical ...

critical times of the war. Had the Germans improved their original positions by a successful attack at VILLERS BRITONNEUX, they might have concentrated great strength in order to try and drive the blow home; defeated here however they transferred their masses to the South and opened a fresh battle ground on the AISNE.

After the battle at VILLERS BRITONNEUX the Division was sent South to hold a portion of the line just North of the AISNE, North West of RHEIMS.

We were sent there for a rest. Going into the line on 13th May we were all but overwhelmed on the 27th by the weight and power of the German attack which was not stayed on the British front until we had been pushed back for some 20 miles. Extraordinary gallantry was displayed here by the young soldiers of the Division, a great many of whom had only recently arrived from England.

While each unit played a magnificent part in the action, the 5th Battery, R.F.A., and 2nd Bn. Devon. Regiment, were specially selected by the G.O.C., Fifth French Army, under whom we were serving, for a "citation" in French Army Orders, for gallantry. The only survivors of the Battery were four Gunners, while the 2nd Devon. Regiment lost in the action the Commanding Officer, 28 other officers and 552 other ranks.

All the gallant units of the Division fought to the last and, as in the words of the "citation", "responded with one accord, and offered their lives in ungrudging sacrifice for the sacred Cause of the Allies".

I feel convinced that nothing finer in war has ever been chronicled than the action of these young soldiers fresh from England who were imbued with a wonderful spirit - a spirit which no words of mine can adequately describe.

Brigadier-General G.W.St.G. GROGAN, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 23rd Infantry Brigade, won the Victoria Cross during this retreat, on the BOULEUSE RIDGE.

Relieved and sent North again to refit and train, we went into the VIMY RIDGE portion of the line.

On 7th October the Division broke the FRESNES-ROUVRAY LINE and three days later captured the QUBANT-DROCOURT LINE and so initiated the British advance North of the SCARPE.

It followed up these successes by capturing DOUAI, MARCHIENNES, ST AMAND, and various smaller towns.

For special devotion to duty and the care of the French sick and wounded at ST AMAND, which was being heavily bombarded by the enemy from 22nd to 25th October, 1918, the 24th Field Ambulance was "cité" in the French Orders of the Day issued by "le Marechal Commandant en Chef" of the French Armies of the North and North East.

Finally at 11 a.m. on 11th November, 1918 the outposts of the Division reached almost the exact place just North of MONS from which the British outpost line had fired the first shots of the war some 4 years and 3 months before. A very remarkable fact.

This short record of the doings of the 8th Division shows what a brave part it has taken in the breaking of the German power.

German prisoners we captured frequently told us that we were called a "Death Division", and said how they feared being put into the line facing us. This was always satisfactory to hear and showed that your efforts were duly appreciated by the enemy.

And now I must mention what, to my mind, is one of the chief factors which has helped the Division to maintain its high reputation - this is the spirit of comradeship which has pervaded all ranks.

/True ...

True comradeship is founded on mutual respect and confidence, and without this spirit discipline would not have carried us so far.

Discipline has been severe, but you have recognised the value of it and have helped to maintain it. Confidence and comradeship have followed, and I have often been relieved of anxiety on hearing this note of mutual confidence sound on the eve of an operation.

I trust you will carry this feeling of comradeship away with you. You and I have been comrades together in the 8th Division in the greatest war that has ever been: let us keep this feeling alive in the future, and let us make a resolve to aid one another whenever an opportunity presents itself.

This note of parting brings to our minds our gallant comrades who have given their lives for their country in this war. They are not forgotten. The thought of their sacrifice will tend to cement the bonds of comradeship which already exist amongst us.

In conclusion I give you my most unbounded admiration for your magnificent behaviour and devotion to duty, and I offer each one of you my best wishes for every success in the future.

A long life and happiness to each member of the 8th Division.

M. Haig
Major-General,
Commanding 8th Division.

25th January, 1919.