

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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Place	Date	Hour	Page 490	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and reference to Appendices
	1 <sup>st</sup>			<p><i>Fine and bright day. Battalion was relieved last night by the 1<sup>st</sup> East Surreys and after relief withdrew to support positions in H.13 area, where they remained until 10 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>The Brigade was relieved at night by 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade. The Battalion withdrew from their positions at 10 a.m. and moved back, into H.3 area. Brigade was in Reserve.</i></p> <p><i>Major G. E. J. Gent M.C. was wounded this afternoon by a shell. The area was bombed during the night where the battalion was resting causing four casualties.</i></p>	Ref. map 57.c 1/40,000
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		<p><i>Fine day. Battalion resting in H.3 area in huts and trenches. All companies were busy re-organizing and refitting. Five Officers joined Battalion for duty.</i></p>		
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		<p><i>Slight showers during forenoon. Bright in afternoon. Orders were received in the morning that the enemy were retrieving and the battalion had to be prepared to move forward at short notice. Brigade was in reserve and were ordered to take up a position</i></p>		

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	3 <sup>rd</sup>			<i>in depth with the leading battalion on the line of the normal gauge railway in H.13. Battalion moved off at 2 p.m. and took up a position in H.18. area. Orders were received to remain in this area for the night. The Division is being relieved tonight by the 37<sup>th</sup> Division. The present position of the leading brigade is now on the line of the railway running in front of VELU WOOD and the enemy is reported to be holding a line in front of HERMIES.</i>	<i>Ref. map 57.c 1/40,000</i>
	4 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Fine hot day. The Battalion marched off at 10 a.m. and went into huts and bivouacs along the line of the railway between BIEFVILLERS- les-BAPAUME and BIHUCOURT.</i>		
	5 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Hot day. Slight showers in the early morning. The battalion is resting in the present area. The day was taken up by inspections, cleaning up and bathing.</i>  <i>The Divisional Commander visited the battalion and through the Commanding Officer congratulated the battalion on their good work during the recent operations. The Commanding Officer addressed the battalion in the evening and conveyed to all ranks the congratulations of the Divisional Commander.</i>  <i>2/Lieutt. Winter joined battalion for duty.</i>		

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	6 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine bright day and very hot. All companies at disposal of Company commanders for recreational training. Special attention was made to cleaning up bivouacs area and collecting salvage.</i>	
	7 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine day. All companies at disposal of Company Commanders for platoon training.</i>	
	8 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Showery with bright intervals. Church Parade services in the morning. Remainder of day was given to recreation.</i>	
	9 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Very showery with rough winds. All companies at the disposal of company commanders for individual training.</i>	
	10 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Showery. Rough winds. All companies under Brigade Gas N.C.O's and P.T. &amp; B.F. instructors. Two hours were devoted to Platoon Training and one hour to special training of Lewis Gunners and Rifleman in Fire Control etc. A very successful concert was given in the evening by members of the battalion.</i>	
	11 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Very showery all day. All companies under Company Commanders for Platoon Training.</i>	

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	12 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Very heavy showers during morning and evening. Companies at disposal of company commanders for training of platoons in the attack. This was carried out as far as possible until the rain set in. A warning order was received that the 5<sup>th</sup> Division would relieve the N.Z. Division at an early date.</i>	<i>Sheet 57.c. S.E. 1/20,000</i>
	13 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Showery in the morning turning out into a bright afternoon. Companies at disposal of Company Commanders for marching order parade and short P.T. parade. Very little training was possible owing to rain.</i>	
	14 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine day. Battalion moved off from area of rest billets and relieved the 15<sup>th</sup> R. WARWICKS in brigade support area N.E. of YTRES at P.19.a &amp; b. Sheet 57.c. 1/20,000. The relief was complete by 6 p.m.</i>	
	15 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine day. Very Hot. Companies at disposal of company commanders for platoon training. The Commanding Officer and Company Commanders reconnoitred the forward areas during the morning. Lt. Col. J. W. C. Kirk D.S.O. took over temporary command of the 13<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. Battalion now commanded by Capt. A. Gough M.C.</i>	

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	16 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine hot day. Companies under company commanders for training of platoons. Three companies at Baths during afternoon. There was a considerable amount of bombing in the back area during the night and early morning.</i>	
	17 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Very heavy storm during early morning. Fine and bright during the day. Companies training under company commanders. One company and battalion headquarters at baths. Bombs were dropped in the camp shortly after midnight 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>. No casualties were caused amongst the battalion. One horse killed and one wounded. One enemy bombing plane brought down in flames.</i>	
	18 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine and bright day with cloudy intervals. A slight shower during the evening. Companies at training under Company Commanders. Battalion moved to new billets at YTRES.</i>	
	19 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine and Bright day. Companies at the disposal of company commanders for training. A number of shells fell in vicinity of billets during the day without causing any casualties.</i>	

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	20 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine during the day. Very heavy storms at 10 p.m. The Battalion moved into the line relieving the 14<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwick's. Relief was complete by 10 p.m. "A" &amp; "D" Coy's in the front line. "B" Coy in support and "C" Coy in reserve. Battalion H.Q. was at Quarry (Q.16.c.2.2. Sheet 57.c. S.E.).</i>	<i>Ref map 57.c. S.E. 1/20,000</i>
	21 <sup>st</sup>			<i>Fine and Bright. Situation normal. Enemy's artillery very active all day. Casualties to noon. 2 other ranks wounded. Enemy Bombing planes were active over back areas during the night.</i>	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>			<i>Cloudy and some showers during the evening. Situation normal. Enemy artillery again active on our front and support lines and around Battalion H.Q. An enemy patrol which attempted to reach our lines was driven off by our Lewis Gun and Rifle Fire.</i>	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>			<i>Heavy showers during forenoon turning out into a bright afternoon. Situation normal. Enemy artillery much quieter. A number of enemy aeroplanes crossed our lines during the day, but were very high. Enemy bombing planes were very active from about 8 p.m. until midnight bombing back areas and approaches to front line. Two of our platoons went out at night and encountered enemy posts. All returned safely.</i>	

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	24 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Dull morning turning to rain in the afternoon. Situation normal. Enemy artillery fairly active. Patrols were out for 3 hours during early morning examining wire. Enemy Bombing planes were very active throughout the night in back areas.</i>	
	25 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine and bright. Situation normal. We projected Gas into enemy lines at 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. Enemy retaliated on front line trenches with shells causing very few casualties. During the afternoon we advanced our forward post slightly in direction of CHARING CROSS.</i>  <i>The Battalion was relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Cheshire Regiment and after relief withdrew to CARON and BROUELLE trenches just east of YTRES.</i>	
	26 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine and bright day. All companies cleaning up and re-organizing. Baths and clean change were provided for the Battalion during the day.</i>	
	27 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Fine bright day, heavy showers during early morning. - The First, Third and Fourth Armies continued the advance to-day. (Ref. Map Sheet 57.P.(or D?) S.E.). The 5<sup>th</sup> Division attacked at 7.50 a.m. with the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Brigades.- The 95<sup>th</sup> Brigade are under orders to move up to-night and continue the advance.- A reconnoitring party went forward at 2 p.m. and put out a line of tape for</i>	

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Army Form C. 2118.

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	27 <sup>th</sup>			<p><i>for Assembly positions along the ridge on Q.18.a. and b.-</i></p> <p><i>The 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Brigades attacked at 7.50 a.m. and reached the line of the Red objective (LINCOLN RESERVE) but were unable to advance owing to the Division on their left being held up at BEAUCAMP. During the afternoon thye enemy counter-attacked and the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade withdrew to the line of the sunken road running S. from BEAUCAMP. The 1/D.C.L.I. moved from CARON and BROUELLE trenches at 4 p.m. and occupied PESTLE trench in P.14 and 30. where orders were received to "Stand by", and await further orders.</i></p>	
	28 <sup>th</sup>			<p><i>Dull early morning turning to rain. At 12.30 a.m. orders were received that the 95<sup>th</sup> Brigade would attack and capture BEAUCAMP and LINCOLN RESERVE (The RED LINE), attack to commence at 2.40 a.m. The 1/E. SURREYS and 1/DEVONS in front line 1/D.C.L.I. in Support and 12/GLOUCESTERS in Reserve.- The 1/D.C.L.I. took up positions in SNAP RESERVE, and after ZERO moved into the old front line SNAP TRENCH.</i></p> <p><i>No definite information was received as to the progress of the attack, but at 6 a.m. our contact aeroplanes reported that enemy had evacuated his lines.- Orders were issued for front line battalions to push forward patrols to gain touch with the enemy, and at about 3 p.m. reports were received that enemy were holding lone of the railway in R.13 and 19.- At 5 p.m. the Battalion moved forward from the old front line to positions in Q.12.a, b,c and d. and Q.18.a and b.- Casualties to 12 noon were one Officer and 5 other ranks killed, 16 other ranks wounded, and 5 missing. At 9 p.m. orders were received for the</i></p>	



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	28 <sup>th</sup>			<i>Battalion to pass through 1/E. SUUREY Regiment, who were holding the line of SURREY ROAD in R.14.a. At 11 p.m. Battalion "H.Q". moved forward to the road E. of BEAUCAMP where the Commanding Officer gave details to Company Commanders.-</i>	
	29 <sup>th</sup>			<p><i>(Ref. Map SHEET 57.c. S.E.) At 1.30 a.m. the Battalion moved off from BEAUCAMP to assembly positions at the line of SURREY ROAD in R.14.a. and b. The attack was to commence at 3.30 a.m. and the Battalion had only just reached the assembly positions when the barrage opened. The objective was LA VACQUERIE ROAD in R.21.b. and d.- The Battalion was opposed by heavy M.G. fire and after reaching NEWPORT TRENCH found both flanks in the air.- 17 machine guns were taken in this trench.- After daybreak attempts were made to get into touch with units on right and left, and it was their found that the New Zealand Division on the left had gone out of their direction, and units of the Division had reached FERN TRENCH in R.21.c. The 12/GLOUCESTERS on our right were in FRIENDLY TRENCH and Units of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade were between our Battalion and the 12/GLOUCESTERS.</i></p> <p><i>The line commenced to move forward again at about 2 p.m. The Battalion moved and occupied CORNWALL TRENCH and PRENTICE TRENCH in R.14.d. and Patrols were established in the S.W. edge of LA VACQUERIE. The 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade pushed forward and occupied FERN TRENCH, but elements of the enemy were still holding out in JAM TRENCH.- The line was established in these positions and</i></p>	

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	29 <sup>th</sup>			<p><i>preparations made for the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade to go through the following morning.</i></p> <p><i>Over 100 prisoners were taken during the operations mostly of M.G. Companies of the JAGER Division and at least 30 M.G's.</i></p> <p><i>Our casualties were roughly 75 other ranks – Lieut. S. E. Girling and 2/Lieut Collins were killed. 2/Lieut. Andrews and 2/Lieut. Robbins wounded.-</i></p>	
	30 <sup>th</sup>			<p><i>Weather dull and cloudy with rain in early morning.- At 430 a.m. the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade continued the attack with the New Zealand Division on the left, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Division on the right.- By mid-day, the N.Z. Division on the left and Patrols of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade were reported on the line of the Canal.</i></p> <p><i>The 37<sup>th</sup> Division relieved the 5<sup>th</sup> Division and our Battalion withdrew to BEAUCAMP, and later in the day to trenches and bivouacs around METZ_EN_COUTUR.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>A. Gough Major</i> <i>Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Duke of Cornwall'a L. I.</i></p> <p><i>Attached to War diary:-</i>  <i>Operation orders – 512/520</i>  <i>3 Situation Reports</i>  <i>2 Special Orders</i>  <i>Copy of Translation from Commando 48<sup>th</sup> Italian Division</i>  <i>20 Aeroplane Photographs</i>  <i>Army Form B213 No. 's 158/161</i></p>	