

No. 1.

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.	
			21 3 18 - 28 3 18.	
			Ref Meas. 57c.	
BERKELEY CAMP.	21 3 18	5 am.	Heavy enemy barrage was heard over the Corps front and Battalion moved to.	
BIHUCOURT.		5 30 am.	Orders received to move at 9-15 am.	
G. 12. C. 5. 3.		9-15 am.	Battalion moved off under Major C. R. S. Prior, D.S.O., D.E.C. (Strength 20 Off. 500. OR)	
No. 11. CAMP			and marched to No. 11. Camp FAYREUIL (B team, stores etc. were left at BERKELEY CAMP)	
FAYREUIL		12 Hours.	Battalion reached No. 11. Camp where the men had dinners. The camp was being shelled by H.V. Gun.	
H. 12. Central		1-20 am.	Battalion was placed in 6 <sup>th</sup> Div. reserve and moved to a position of readiness at H. 12. Central, two companies North and two South of the VAULX-BEURJATRE road.	
		4-30 am.	The position was reached at about 2-30 am. and about 2 hours afterwards the Battalion was placed at disposal of 16 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. and ordered to fill a gap between the 6 <sup>th</sup> Division and the 59 <sup>th</sup> Division in the Corps line at about H. 20. a. 76.	
			Major Prior went in advance to 16 <sup>th</sup> I. B. H.Q. in VAULX for further instructions.	
			As the Battalion was moving off to take up this position this order was cancelled.	

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			and the Battalion was ordered to return to the position of readiness at H. 12. central.	
		8. pm.	The Battalion was placed at disposal of 71 <sup>st</sup> I. B. with the idea of reestablishing the Corps line in C. 29. C. 5. 6. which was reported to have been broken. A. O. C. 71 <sup>st</sup> I. B. however did not require the Battalion. About 6 casualties were caused by shell fire in this position. Hot tea was provided for the men at about 4-30 pm. Transport moved to the old Transport Lines (H. 15. 6) in FAYREUIL.	
I. 10. central.	22/3/18	1. am.	Battalion was placed at disposal of 18 <sup>th</sup> I. B. and moved guided by an R. E. Officer of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Division to a position about I. 10. central and Major Prior went to 18 <sup>th</sup> I. B. H. Q. I. 17. a. 5. 8. Orders were first given to remain in this position	
I. 12. a. 9. 7.		5-30 am.	for the day but were cancelled about 30 minutes later as follows: - Two companies (A + C) dug + occupied a line from about I. 10. 6. central - I. 11. central One company (B) took up a position from N. W. corner of CHAUFOURS WOOD to I. 12. C. 5. 8. The remaining company (D) moved to a dug-out in the sunken road I. 12. a. 7. 8. Batt. H. Q. was established in the same sunken road at about I. 12. a. 9. 7. Owing to a very heavy barrage on the sunken road when D left + Batt. H. Q. entered it some 15 or 20 casualties were caused.	

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			D Coy. was placed at disposal of O.C. 11 <sup>th</sup> Essex Regt to counter attack and retake the Corps line if required.	
			The Battalion had then come under the orders of the 74 <sup>th</sup> I. B.	
I. 17. a. 5. 8.	12. 30. pm.		Batt. H.Q. moved back to the old Bde. H.Q. at I. 17. a. 5. 8.	
I. 12. a. 9. 7.	3. 30. pm.		Batt. H.Q. was again ordered to move to I. 12. a. 9. 7. By this time D. Coy. had taken up a position in advance of the sunken road in rear of Corps line with a post in MORTCHIES.	
I. 17. a. 5. 8.	3. 30. pm.		The enemy broke through the Corps line in C. 28 + 29. to the North of	
	5. 0. am.		MARRICOURT WOOD and at about 5. am. a counter attack with 24 tanks was launched. "A" + "C" Coys followed the tanks for about 300 yards but finding no infantry moving forward on their flanks retired to their original position.	
	5. 30. pm.		The enemy broke through the Corps line on the front of the 57 <sup>th</sup> Division and entered the sunken road at about I. 12. v. 7. 1. Batt. H.Q. together with the Batt. H.Q. of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders and 11 <sup>th</sup> Essex withdrew under heavy machine gun fire to the H.Q. in I. 17. a. 5. 8.	
	7. 30. pm.		After dusk D Coy. who were still holding on in front of MORTCHIES were withdrawn.	

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			to a position about I. 17. 6. "B" Coy also withdrew slightly to conform with D Coy and the 11 <sup>th</sup> Lanc. Fusiliers on the right.	
	23/3/18.	1.45am.	Bde Major of the 74 <sup>th</sup> visited Bde H.Q. and gave orders for A + C Coys to relieve 2 Coys of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Worcestershire Regt. who were holding a line I. 17. w. 5. 8 to BEET ROOT FACTORY I. 17. d. 5. 7. "A" + "C" Coys were relieved by A + B Coys. XI QUEENS. 41 <sup>st</sup> Division.	
			Estimated casualties up to this time 80. O.K.	
		8.am.	At about 8.am. the enemy renewed his attack from CHAUFOURS WOOD to the S.E. also between BOIS DE YAULX and PEARICOURT WOOD. All attacks during the morning were held North of the BAPAUME CAMBRAI road, but on the South of this road the 51 <sup>st</sup> + 19 <sup>th</sup> Divisions were forced to withdraw which left the flanks of this Battalion exposed, and a defensive flank was formed along the BAPAUME CAMBRAI road facing S.E.	
		3.p.m.	At about 3.p.m. 2 Battalions of the 41 <sup>st</sup> Div. who were on the left of this Battalion were ordered to withdraw at dusk, and about 3-30 pm these two battalions and also the two battalions of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Div. who were in the vicinity	

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			were ordered to withdraw forthwith.	
		3-30 pm.	A conference was held between the 5 battalions commanders as to whether it was possible to withdraw 5 battalions from a forward slope in daylight, and it was eventually decided to hang on until 8 pm. and then to attack BEURJY and fight a way through to the Army line.	
		4-30 pm.	About 4-30 pm. information was received from our right company that the enemy was working northwards in large numbers through the Eastern edge of BEURJY and had already crossed the BEURJY-DEORCHIES road. It was there decided to withdraw to the Army line by N. W. side of BEURJY forthwith.	
G. 22. d.		5-15 am.	The Battalion assembled in the Army line (Total strength 3. Off. 81. OR) when orders were received to return to the transport lines near GREVILLERS.	
			G. 22. 2 which were reached about 12. IV. IV.	
			Estimated casualties 17. Off. 419. O.R.	
			Transport had moved to this position 24 hours earlier from FAYREVIL.	
SAPIGNIES.	24/3/16	1-30 pm.	The Battalion rested here until 1-30 pm. until ordered to take up a position with the remainder of the 175 <sup>th</sup> I. B. to the E. of SAPIGNIES at about 25.9. a + C.	

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			<p>where 'B' teams rejoined the Battalion and Lt. Col. A. DARWELL, M.C. assumed command. Total strength 10.00. 198. O.R.</p> <p>7.5pm The Battalion took up a position after dusk, 2 Coys about H. q. a. 8.5 and 2 Coys. who were pushed forward at request of B. A. C's 122 + 124 I. B. at about H. q. d. 1.7. The enemy was at this time in FAYREUIL and there were a large number of our troops belonging to 40<sup>th</sup>, 41<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Divisions dug in in this vicinity.</p>	
LOBEAST WOOD	25/3/18	3. am.	<p>A brigade of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division came up and relieved the 75<sup>th</sup> Brigade groups which was withdrawn to a line N.E. of LOBEAST WOOD A. 26. d - B. 3. a. which was dug by the 2 Brigade.</p> <p>Ref. Map. 57. d.</p> <p>Transport had moved to LOBEAST CAMP. F. 30. a. (57. D.) at about N. N. 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> and had had to abandon at G. 22. d. all blankets, packs, hand instruments and drums. A hot breakfast was given to the men in this position. During the day the Battalion was subjected to light shelling and about 6 slight casualties were caused.</p>	

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			<p>at about 4.30. pm. a tank counter attack passed through the Battalion in direction of BIHUCOURT which was held by the enemy.</p>	
PUISIEUX			<p>7. pm. At about 7. pm. orders were received to take up a position in L. 20. d + L. 21. a to the S.E. of PUISIEUX. Transport which had moved to about F. 26. c. was ordered</p>	
	26/3/182.	2. am	<p>to move to COLINCAMPS. The Battalion reached PUISIEUX about 2 am + had just had a hot meal preparatory to taking up their position when orders were received to concentrate at GOMMECOURT.</p>	
GOMMECOURT			<p>5. am. The Battalion reached GOMMECOURT about 5. am and formed up in the valley E. 28. c where outposts were put out for protection.</p>	
			<p>9. am. The Battalion took up a position in E. 29. c facing East.</p>	
	12 Noon		<p>At about 12 Noon the enemy was reported to be attacking through HEBOTERNE Northwards and the Battalion was ordered to take up a line in K. 3. a + d. facing S.W. This report proved to be entirely false + the Battalion was stopped before arrival at this position and assembled in the original position E. 28. c where they remained until about 4. pm.</p>	
			<p>4. pm. The Batt. moved a took up a line in E. 22. d facing E and dug in.</p>	

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			<p>The Transport has assembled in FONTQUEVILLERS in the early morning and about midday during the alarm moved to ST. AJRAND</p>	
	27/3/18	11-15 pm	<p>Orders were received to move forthwith to COUIN. The Battalion marched off at 12.5 pm and reached ST. LEGER about 7. am where they were billeted.</p>	
		2. pm	<p>The Battalion marched to PUCHEVILLERS arriving about 8. pm. and bivouaced in a field in N. 26. C.</p>	
	28/3/18	7. am	<p>The Battalion marched from PUCHEVILLERS via TALTIAS - CANAPLES - DOJEART to FRANQUEVILLE where it was billeted. During the period 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> the battalion marched a distance of 38 miles.</p> <p>During the whole period the battalion dug in on no less than 6 occasions. The Battalion remained at FRANQUEVILLE until 31<sup>st</sup>, the time being spent in general reorganisation.</p>	
	31/3/18		<p>The Battalion marched via BERNEUIL - FIENVILLERS - HEZE to DOULLENS and entrained for GODEWAERSVELDE.</p>	