

Facsimiles of Hickman War Diaries

Image 1: May 1915

The National Archives' reference WO 95/1896/3

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Aldershot				
Aldershot	18/5/15	6.30am	Regimental Transport left Aldershot for Southampton + Harrier -	
Aldershot	19/5/15	3.40pm	Battalion left Aldershot for Folkestone + Boulogne -	
Boulogne	19/5/15	11.15pm	Battalion arrived Boulogne + spent night in rest camp -	
Boulogne	20/5/15	9.30pm	Battalion left Boulogne by train for WOTTON	
Wotton	20/5/15	12.30pm	Battalion arrived Wotton and billeted	
Millain	26/5/15	8.30am	at MILLAIN until May 26 th Battalion marched to ZWYTPÉENE and billeted there	
ZWYTPÉENE	27/5/15	6.50am	Battalion marched to FLETRE + billeted there	
OUERDOM FLETRE	28/5/15	8. am	Battalion marched to OUXERDOM + billeted there in huts -	
OUERDOM	29/5/15		Battalion commenced eight days course of instruction in Trench Warfare - attached to the 14 th Inf Bde - into whose trenches they went under the instruction of the S.C. Lt. McE. Jimmy Regt - the Devon Regt + the Manchester Regt - near YPRES.	
near YPRES	30/5/15		Battalion lost 5 men wounded whilst trench digging -	
near YPRES	31/5/15		Battalion lost 1 man killed + 1 wounded in trenches and 2 men wounded trench digging -	

1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

Handwritten signatures:
A.P. and Capt McE
K.R. Blythe

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New Ypres	1/6/15		Battalion under instruction in trenches of 14 th Infantry Brigade -	
New Ypres	2/6/15		Battalion under instruction in trenches of 14 th Infantry Brigade -	
Zweveken + New Ypres	3/6/15		C + 2 Coys moved to huts at Zweveken - A + B Coys under instruction in trenches 14 th Inf Brigade -	
Dickbusch	5/6/15		Battalion moved to Canada Huts -	
Dickbusch	6/6/15		Battalion moved to Pioneer Farm as Reserve Battalion to Brigade in trenches M ₂ to O ₅ .	
Gordon Farm	10/6/15		Battalion took over trenches M ₂ to O ₅	
Gordon Farm	11/6/15		Captain E. Fairlie wounded -	
Zweveken	13/6/15		Battalion relieved from trenches by Monmouthshire Regt and moved to huts E. of Zweveken -	
Poperinghe	14/6/15		Marched to Bironnes W. of Poperinghe -	
Ouderdom	15/6/15		Battalion marched to huts at Ouderdom and became reserve to 5 th Corps	
Ouderdom	16/6/15	2.50am	Attack against Bellewaarde Farm commenced by 5 th Corps.	
		11.30am	Battalion moved up to trenches in reserve S. of Ypres -	
New Ypres	17/6/15		In trenches S. of Ypres in reserve to 5 th Corps.	
near Ypres	18/6/15	8.30pm	Battalion moved to Ouderdom -	

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Onderdonk	19/6/15		In huts at onderdonk	
near Vlamertinghe	20/6/15		Battalion moved to B. Huts	
near Vlamertinghe	21/6/15		Battalion shelled in B. Huts during afternoon - no casualties	
"	22/6/15		Battalion shelled in B. Huts during afternoon - no casualties	
"	23/6/15		Battalion shelled in B. Huts during afternoon - no casualties	
"	24/6/15		Battalion shelled in B. Huts during morning - afternoon and night - no casualties - Transport moved back 1 mile towards Popsringhe -	
"	25/6/15		Battalion in B. Huts -	
Near Ypres	29/6/15	11.45pm	Battalion took over trenches from 43 rd Inf Bde -	
"	30/6/15		Battalion in trenches - B Coy in firing trench - B Coy in support A Coy in Reserve - 2dr R. Somers - Smith - killed - casualties 1 officer killed 2dr R. Boothroyd - wounded 1 officer wounded other Rankers - 4 killed 6 wounded	

at hand Capt
J.R.R.

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Trenches opposite BELLEWARDE FARM. E. of Ypres	1.7.15		Battalion in trenches - C & D Cos. in firing line E of RAILWAY WOOD. Germans shelled trench mortar trenches. 2 Lt. H. BREW killed. Capt H.M. POSLING 2 Lt. N. Hill FULLER wounded. Casualties other ranks 2 killed 3 wounded.	
Same	2.7.15		Batt in same position. Casualties 3 killed 30 wounded - Draft of 50 arrived -	
"	3.7.15		" " " " " " 2 wounded	
"	4.7.15		" " " " " " 2 " 14 " Germans continued to	
"	5.7.15		" " " " " " 4 " 12 " make much use of trench mortars	
"	7.7.15		About 10 a.m. the German trenches were heavily shelled in the morning. They replied by shelling our trenches especially support trenches heavily. 2 Lt. R. ARNELL wounded. 2 Lt. C.B. WHELAN wounded. Casualties other ranks 6 killed 16 wounded - About 10 p.m. a party of 6 under 2 Lt. WHELAN successfully rushed a German listening post bayoneting the occupants. The Germans threw a bomb by which most of the attacking party were wounded - One man was missing.	
"			Batt in same position. Germans trench mortar shelled 2 Lt. M.J. ST AUBYN wounded. Casualties other ranks 1 killed 21 wounded 1 missing.	Dr. [unclear] [unclear]

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Therchessop. 2 miles W. of BELLE WAR DE. FARM E. of VPRES	8.7.15		Batt ⁿ in same trenches. Relieved during the night by 22 nd Inf. Bde. For attack 2 killed 7 wounded. The whole of this tour of duty in the trenches was marked by considerable German artillery activity. Support trenches were constantly shelled, the position being enfiladed by a former gun of heavy calibre, probably 8", fired from WYTSCHAETE. Free use was made of gas shells particularly against B ⁿ & G ^s . No serious damage was caused by the gas in these.	
2 miles W. of POPERINGHE	9.7.15		Batt ⁿ reaches billets about 8 A.M. Resting.	
"	10.7.15		Same billets. Working party, casualties 2 wounded.	
"	11.7.15		" " " " " "	
"	12.7.15		" " " " " " " " " "	
"	13.7.15		" " " " " " " " " "	
"	14.7.15		" " " " " " " " " "	
"	15.7.15		" " " " " " " " " "	
"	16.7.15		" " " " " " " " " "	
"	17.7.15		" " " " " " " " " "	1 killed 2 wounded.
"	18.7.15		" " " " " " " " " "	

Handwritten notes:
 2 miles W. of
 Poperinghe

Image 6: Week 30/31 July 1915; the big battle

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOOGE	30.7.15 <i>Continued.</i>	2 p.m. 2.45 p.m.	<p>killed or driven out 2 Lt COLONEL LONGBOTTOM in command being killed - News gradually reaches the HQs. Lt COLONEL L. SEYMOUR ROBINSON, CAPT. DOWLING, LT ARNELL are killed CAPT. RADCLIFFE mortally wounded, CAPT. EVANS & 2 Lt COLONEL LAWRENCE are wounded & that there are many casualties in other ranks. There are at this time 2 platoons of D Coy, 1 platoon of B Coy, in support & matters appeared serious when D.K.R. Rifles who had turned round & marched straight back from their intended billets began to arrive. They had been led as sleep & no food. Our own Battalion was in the same position. Eventually orders were received that an entrenching bombardment would begin at 2 p.m. & an infantry counter attack would be made at 2.45 p.m. This was duly carried out. The infantry counter attack failed being brought to a standstill by heavy machine gun fire shell fire & rifle fire. Heavy casualties occurred & there were at the moment only 2 platoon commanders left in the bat. viz: 2 Lt COLONEL FRANCIS & LT WILLIAMSON. 2 Lt COLONEL ROE turned up about this time having been away on a course. He heard of the fight & resumed. As it was getting dark orders were received that the Battalion would be relieved by 6 P.L.I. The relief was duly effected under cover of darkness & the men were withdrawn. The relief was duly effected under cover of darkness & the men were withdrawn. The relief was duly effected under cover of darkness & the men were withdrawn. The relief was duly effected under cover of darkness & the men were withdrawn.</p>	

Handwritten notes in margin:
2 p.m.
2.45 p.m.

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Image 7: 31 July - analysis of what went wrong

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HOOGHE	30.7.15 continued		<p>battalions were Capt. G.C. DOWLING, LT. F. JEFFYMOUR, 211. RB. ARNELL, 211 R.F. ROBINSON 211 R. LONGBOTTOM killed. 211 Lt. G.F. CARTER died of wounds. CAPT. T.D.H. RADCLIFFE missing killed dead. 211 Lt. S.H. JNELGROVE LT. A.B. FINDLAY missing. Capt. RA. G. A.P. EVANS. LT. G.H. GIBSON, 211. H.W. LAWRENCE Capt. H.M.B. de SALES ZA TERRIERE wounded ^{the latter is dead} other ranks killed 35 wounded 187. Missing 67. The chief features of the day were (1) the first use of liquid fire against British troops. (It appears to have been very effectively handled against the 211 R.B. & ineffectively handled against us) (2) the swiftness with which the Germans consolidated their position (3) the ineffectiveness of 3/4 hrs of their bombardment which quite failed to knock out their machine guns or their infantry (4) the defence of 92 & 91 by A & B Cos. under CAPTIS WORMALD & LA TERRIERE when the trenches which were without efficient parapets were exposed ^{exposed} to fire from the rear as well as from a front.</p>	
1 mile E of POPERINGHE	31.7.15		<p>B² to bivouac arriving about 6 A.M. resting.</p>	
"	1.8.15		<p>Some bivouac. reorganisation of Cos. arrival & draft of 2 officers</p>	
"	2.8.15		<p>LT. COOPER BLAND & 211 FINDLAY & 11 O.R. Same bivouac. Inspection by G.O.C. VI Corps -</p>	<p>G.S. A.S. Major M.P.R. 11</p>