**8th battalion THE BORDER REGIMENT war diaries**

Grammar, spelling mistakes (e.g. Ploegstreet/Ploegsteert), missed punctuation etc. left as on original

(words in round brackets) are as such on original

Illegible or guessed words in [square brackets?] with? question marks.

Transcription notes in [*square brackets & italics*]

**September 1915**

ALDERSHOT

**26th** - 6pm. Left at 6pm in two troop trains for Folkstone & Boulogne. Reached Boulogne disembarked and marched to next camp about 2 miles out arrived there about 1 AM Iron rations issued that morning

BOULOGNE

**27th** - 9 am . Left camp and marched to station, entrained for Hazebrouck. Proceeded slowly by rail to that place, disentrained at 4pm, and marched to Strazeele, and billets were found there for the night about 8pm.

STRAZEELE

**28th** - 8am.Left Strazeele by motor lorries and reached Nieppe about 1.30pm, and marched to Le Bizet, where billets were found by the [gendarmes] for the Battn.

LE BIZET

**29th** - 8am. Three platoons were sent to the trenches that eveing under platoon officers for instructional purposes with the 48th Canadian Highlanders who were holding the trenches. All Company Commanders visited the trenches that day.

**30th** - 8am. D company (4 platoon) proceeded to the trenches at 6pm that evening, relieving the three platoons already there.

**October 1915**

LE BIZET

**1st**. One platoon from A,B,and C Co. s proceeded to the trenches that night relieving D Co.

**2nd**- 8am. Another platoon from A,B, and C Co. relieved those already in the trenches at 6.30pm. One lance Corp of [B W?] notes shot returning from a listening post on the night of the 1st

**3rd** - 8am Orders received to get into the trenches that night, billets soon vacated, and transport [removed?] all baggage. Left for trench at 6.20om, marching by platoon. The entire handing over was completed by 9pm, and 48th Canadians vacated trenches.

Right on the section of trenches E of PLOEGSTREET

**4th**- 8pm. A good deal of firing at night by the Germans. Casualties one man killed about 6.30AM. One slightly wounded by shellfire. [*14275 Thomas William Bailey of Far Pump Yard Kendal who was killed in action on October 4th 1915. He is buried in The London Rifle Brigade Cemetery, Belgium. Grave II.A.39]* Repairing of parapet being done and revetting in communication trench, which was damaged by [ourt?]. artillery observation post found out by enemy.

**5th**- 8am. Much less firing but a good deal of sniping on the German side who seem very active at daylight and in the afternoon. Two Germans were seen, one wearing black spiked helmet, the other soft round dark blue cap. Work continued in repairing parapets, and strengthening trenches. Latrines inspected & cleaned. Three or four shells came into A Co ‘s trenches, and [c?nv?t – *convent?]* again shelled.

**6th**- 8pm. A noisy night and a good deal of sniping. Two machine guns opposite C Co. on our left were very active. The [Co Comp] informed artillery, and with 3 or 4 rounds the machine guns were completely silenced, the range being perfect, and the machines guns are believed to be knocked out, as observed from the trenches. Very little firing from our lines, silence being maintained. Repairs to trenches carried out all day under supernision of RE officer.

**7th**- 8pm. A good deal of sniping at night. Repair to trenches continues under RE officer’s supervision.

**8th**- 8pm. A quieter night our snipers believed to have accounted for two of the enemy, one sniper and one man at work. Repairs go on as usual.

**9th**- 8pm. A quiet night. Relief completed by 8pm, and our Co’s occupy the farm where the X Cheshire were in billets

PLOEGSTREET

**10th**- 8pm. General cleaning up of billet.

**11th**- 8pm. Physical drill in morning. Short route march. B Cp. Furnished fatigue in second line trenches

**12th**- 8pm. Physical drill. Route marching. Improving trenches near billets. Baths commenced.

**13th**- 8pm. D Co furnished fatigue at 1.30pm all second line trenches manned till 7.30pm, [which?] guns bombarded enemy’s trenches. 20 casualties.

**14th**- 8pm. Drills as usual, and fatigue party Church of England service carried out in W’s quarters in rotation.

**15th**- 8pm Relieved X Cheshires in the trenches. Relief completed by 7pm and trenches handed over.

**16th**- 8pm. A quiet night. Some shelling in afternoon in reply to our guns, three shells dropped close to our communication trench and some other [near?] Lancashire support [???] [No?] damage done. A clear night.

**17th**- 8pm. Enemy in action at night they turned a machine gun on to our communication trench and tram line. It is evidently well marked but they just missed the ration party on the way up.

**18th** -8pm. The Germans shelled a good deal today, both in the morning and afternoon, and inflicted some casualties amongst [??nking] parties especially at Le Touquet [Borthe?]. One casualty amongst the patrol party in front of our lines at night. Pte Willan shot thro’ the arm.[*14695 Private John Willan Of Bowland Bridge, Crosthwaite, Kendal, a farm servant, born 1895, survived this wound to be killed on the Somme in July 1916*.]

**19th**- 8pm.A little more firing at night, the enemy shelled the trenches a little in the morning, and two casualties from shrapnel. L C Bownes [*5985 Lance Corporal Thomas Alexander Bownes, Husband of Eleanor Elizabeth Taylor (formerly Bownes), of Elm Villa, Rake Lane, Eastham, Birkenhead, Cheshire, age 36, recovered form this serious lung wound and was promoted to Corporal and later killed on the Somme in July 1916. Lance Corporal Bell also recovered and appears to have survived the war* ] seriously wounded in lung, and L C Bell wounded both of C Co .All work proceeding under direction of RE officer as usual.

**20th**-8pm. A noisy night much more firing on German side, apparently due to new reliefs. Capt McCulloch severely wounded in the leg. [putting?] up [soon?] about 5AM. Another casualty in B W the same night. A quiet day, and work proceeded as usual. Hope [???] have located a German battery which has been shelling our trenches and informed the artillery.

**21st-** 8pm. A quiet night. Heard of Capt McCulloch’s [*Captain John Wyndham Hamilton McCulloch, son of J. E. McCulloch, Richmond House, St Mary’s Terrace, Paddington, London. is buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension in grave I.C.25 .* ] death at No 2 clearing station from collapse. Relief was completed by 5pm and [stores?] and trenches handed over to X Cheshires

 PLOEGSTREET

**22nd**- 8pm. General cleaning up

**23rd**- 8pm. A & B Co’s on fatigues. C Coy sent to baths. A memorial service held for Capt McCulloch for officers & C Coy at 5pm.

**24th**- 8pm. C & D Co on fatigues. Divine service for A & B Co’s.

**25th**- 8pm.Relieved X Cheshires in the trenches. C Coy [???] [dig?] and part of communication trench between 1875 [ posn?- *position?}* and Batt HQ impassable owing to walls fallen in. Relief completed at 4.30 and trench handed over.

TRENCHES

**26th**- 8pm. A fine day, and several aeroplanes. One man slightly wounded by shrapnel from anti-aircraft gun and another by a German shell. A quiet day repairs carried on all day.

**27th**- 8pm. A quiet day. Two officers and 65 men went to attend the review at Bailleul. Work proceeded as usual. Communication trench btween [Lavina?] [posn? / farm? – *very poor copperplate writing of four letter word*] and 1875 [posn?] still impassable. And from [ Lavina posn/farm?] to Lancashire support [posn?] only kept open by pumping

**28th**- 8pm. A very quiet night, and most day. Trench work to be done owing to walls falling in when not revetted.

**29th**- 8pm. A quiet night. .Communication trench again blocked in places by water, and walls falling in Howitizers fired over our D Co this morning on earthworks. One man S.W.Borderers killed & 5 men of D Co wounded by shell dropping in cookhouse of D Co. Relief carried out in afternoon by 2nd S Lancs Regt. Relief completed by 5pm and trenches handed over.

PLOEGSTEERT

**30th**- Men resting after tour in trenches. The shell which wounded the men in the cookhouse yesterday appears to have been fired by the German from a Captured French gun ftom a pt. N. of Messines. This is the conclusion arrived at by Brig 2 [Battle CRA]

**31st**- B Company were away nearly all day working with the engineers, improving communication trenches. D company proceeded to Ploegsteert Wood to gather fire wood. The remaining two companies improved trenches at the own billets

 3/11/15 H Brander Col. Comdg 8th Border Regiment

**November 1915**

PLOGSTEERT

**1st**- On account of the inclement weather very little was done. A company sent 1 officer & 100 men to work under the RE. The men were employed in reconstructing NORFOLK AVENUE. This communications trench requires a good deal of repairing. The remaining companies improved the defences in the vicinity of their billets. Quiet day.

**2nd**- The weather again was very bad, and great difficulty was experienced in getting any satisfactory work done. Parties were sent out to gather wood C & D companies supplied large working parties for the RE. Quiet day.

**3rd**- A slight improvement in the weather. 3 officers & 200 men were detailed with the RE. These were again employed in the communication trenches.

PLOGSTEERT TRENCHES

**4th**-The Battn relieved the 2nd S. Lancashire Regt in the trenches. The relief was carried out than [intended?] in account of the clear day. The trenches were in bad state owing to the constant rain. The support trenches of the centre section of the line were 2 feet under water. The advance dressing station was also flooded and had to be brought back to the [ C???t ] farm East of Battn Headquarters. Very little sniping while the relief was carried out.

TRENCHES

**5th**- A fine day with little rain. There was hardly any sniping on either side. 2 men Pte [Donnelly?] and Pte [Woodhouse?] both of A Company were wounded, both were hit by the same bullet. [???] observation post was located, this being a tall chimney. Every available man was employed in repairing drainage to the trenches. Parties were employed to rid the trenches of water. During the night the enemy snipers were fairly active.

**6th**- A very quiet day. The fog was too thick to allow of much sniping. A fairly hard frost in the early hours of the morning. The whole Battn. was engaged in improving and repairing the front line trenches. Nothing of importance occurred during the day.

**7th**- Again a quiet day on account of the fog. Good progress was made in repairing parapet and communication trenches. Unfortunately Pte Troughton [*note: From CWGC - Pte J.W. Troughton 15852, son of Mrs M.A. Troughton, “Sunny Bank” Underbarrow, Kendal. Buried Lancashire Cottage Cemetery*] of B company was killed when repairing parados. Towards evening the enemy machine gun was active in front of A Company holding the centre section of our line. Our sniping bag during the day was one pheasant.

**8th**- A distinct improvement in the weather. Many of the trenches have been almost emptied of water. The enemy artillery was particularly active about 11.35am, their attentions were particularly directed to D Company holding the right of our line. Unfortunately two of our men were hit but neither dangerously. About 4.30pm our artillery returned the compliment also our machine guns were active.At 3.30pm Pte Denvir [*note: From CWGC- Pte W. Denvir 14421, they state he died on the 9th. Buried Bailleil Communal Cemetery*] of A Company was killed. He was working on support trench.

**9th**- A quiet day. Nothing of importance occurred. Col [Spurnell?] of the 13th Sussex was attached to us for a few days for us to [quarter?] him to visit the trenches. A screen along the tram line now practically complete.

**10th**- The day passed quietly. There was very little sniping but the enemy artillery were fairly active. At 4pm the relief of the Battn by the 2nd S. Lancashire Regt took place.

PLOEGSTEERT
**11th**- The Battn rested in billets during the day all the companies had baths at Pont De Nieppe and the 25th divisional bath at Nieppe. The day was fine and our artillery was particularly active. The enemys reply to this was weak. An aeroplane descended in the rear of [Soye?] farm. This was a Belgian aeroplane.
**12th**- Very wet day. Detachments from all companies were sent out to assist R P in [?arfaungaud?] reconstructing trenches. A few shells were fired on Ploegsteet at 6.30 pm. No damage.
**13th**- Again a wet day. The usual fatigues were sent out. The enemys artillery [????] active. during the evening again shelled Ploegsteert and the [????] One shell penetrated the roof of the stable at Bde, HQ and a few dropped close to the Battn HQ.
**14th**- A fine and fairly clear day. Church service was held at [Soye?] farm. A & D companies were supplying the fatigues for the RE wiring parties were sent to learn wiring, also 12th & 13th
**15th** - A quiet day. Sniping at the working parties was indulged in by the enemy and we had one casualty Pte [Burney?] of A Coy who was rather seriously wounded by a bullet in the face.
**16th** - Th battn relieved the 2nd Batt S. Lancashire Regt in the trenches C Company on the right of line, A Company in centre, and B on the left. D company in reserve at Lancashire support Farm. Our artillery very active. No casualties reported.
**17th**- About 2.30 am the artillery on our left very active. This was in the Canadian sector. This was a demonstration on the part of the Canadians. The trenches still very wet and the centre support line still impassable..
**18th** - A great deal of difficulty was caused by considerable rise in the water during the night. The sector held by A Coy at 106 was particularly bad. Two pumps were kept hard at work all day to cope with this. The support trenches to this sector had to be abandoned Pte [Davidson?] of D Coy was wounded in the head while in the observation post at the [conduit?]
**19th** - A hard frost during the night and early hours of the morning. This caused considerable damage to our parapets. B Coy had difficulty in ridding section 112 of the water. Artillery positions fairly active on both sides. Unfortunately C Coy had two men hit one our shells fired from B battery. They were Pte [*blank spaces, presumably he intended to add names later*?]
**20th** - There was a considerable decrease in the water level in both the sections occupied by B Coy and A Coy. The communication trench near the conduit was drained of water. Sniping was more active along the whole section. Night patrolling by [Lt Hamer?] [should?] [????] [????] [find?] of a considerable amount of German ammunition, equipment etc also a German helmet.
**21st**- Little to report. The enemy was particularly quiet. The work of repairing the trenches is steadily carried on. Pte [*blank space, perhaps intended to add name later?]* A Coy was wounded slightly this afternoon. [????] trench reported our own machine guns were firing into their trench.
**22nd** - Our relief was carried out by the 2nd Batt S. Lancashire Regt in cold and misty weather without any casualties. The relief was completed before dark. During the morning H [ probably a badly written “A”?] Company unfortunately had 3 men hit Pte Gilpin [*note: From CWGC- Robert Gilpin 14443. Age 21. Son of Robert & Elizabeth Gilpin. 19 Shaws Brow, Kendal. Buried Lancashire Cottage Cemetery*] was killed bullet wound in head. Pte [Irwin?] was wounded in the hand and Pte [Ratcliffe?] in the neck, the last one was of a serious nature. The usual work of repairs and drainage carried out during the morning.

PLOEGSTEERT
**23rd** -A very misty morning. About 11am the enemy dropped a few shells to the North of Ploegsteert. Sergt Hodgson of D Company was wounded in the stomach by a stray bullet. The companies had a day in billet and went to Nieppe for hot baths.
**24th** - A, B & C companies were out all day working in particular under the supervision of the RFA. A quiet day.
**25th** - B, C& D companies were out working for the RE. The enemy’s artillery was more active than usual about [4? - *flaw on paper -could be 40 or just 4 and a mark* ] shells were fired into Ploegsteert during the morning. There were no casualties.
**26th** - A very quiet day. The usual fatigues took place. A little rain and hail in the morning. A cold day. One man slightly wounded by splinter of shell.
**27th** - The enemy shelled Ploegsteert in the morning and also search for our billet near [Soyer?] farm where A Coy is billeted. One shell burst over the farm, but little damage done.
PLOGSTEERT
**28th** - The usual relief was carried out without casualties. B D & C companies posted in the firing trenches. A Coy being in support at Lancashire Support Farm. Relief carried out quicker than usual.
TRENCHES
**29th** - Nothing of importance to record. Preliminary measures were discussed with reference to a proposed minor operation opposite the centre trenches at present occupied by D Coy. A quiet day less sniping than usual.
**30th** - The usual fatigues were carried out during the day. Water again bad in the front line trenches especially B Coy. A quiet day. During the early hours of the evening the enemy set off an unusual number of very lights. A patrol from B Coy went out to see condition of enemy wire near the new work which they are constructing. Machine guns on [both?] sides were [times?] very active about 10.3? on our right.

**December 1915**

TRENCHES
**1st** - A quiet day. Very little sniping. Had warning that artillery would be firing on enemy’s trenches near [Bridcage?] A Company sent 3 platoons [????] the front line trenches keeping one platoon in support at Lancashire support Farm. These platoons were recalled at the evening stand to.
**2nd** - The morning was quiet. Sniping continued all day. Pte Edwards of B Coy was badly wounded about 2pm. Great difficulty is being experienced with the water in the trenches. The left of B Coy being particularly bad. About 7pm the enemy exploded a mine in trench 99 belonging to the 9th L.N. Lancs. Heavy firing on both sides was the result of this. Lt Gray [*From army list 1915- Lt Gray is A.E. Wingate-Gray* ] took a party of 12 men to No 99 trench to help to repair parapet and search for missing men.
TRENCHES PLOEGSTEERT
**3rd** - The usual relief took place in the afternoon without any casualties. A very wet day. Great delay in obtaining the Battn. [lug/baggage?] on account of new regulations with regard to the transport. No sniping.
**4th** - A quiet day. The Battn. Went to the baths and spent remainder of day in billets cleaning up and resting. [Soyer] Farm was shelled by the enemy but luckily no casualties
PLOEGSTEERT
**5th** - The usual fatigues were told off. These were withdrawn at 1 O’clock. Divine service was held at the billets during the afternoon. About 12.30 two HE shells burst [????] [Soyer] Farm where A coy is billeted. There were two casualties Pte Robinson being wounded also Pte [Walth???] slightly wounded otherwise a quiet day.
**6th** - A coy erected wire entanglements for purpose of experiment with reference to their projected night operation. [Soyer] Farm was shelled during the morning but no casualties. The remaining companies did the usual fatigues. The wire erected by the company blown up by the RE. Result, [the] knife [rest?] blown in half. The charge being [8?] lbs.
**7th** - The explosion with the blowing up of the wire entanglements was again tried, with better results. 10lbs being used, this completely demolished it. A quiet day.
PLOEGSTEERT TRENCHES
**8th** - The usual relief took place, the 2nd S.Lancs taking our place in billets. D, A & C companies in firing trench. B coy in Lancashire Support [Farm]. More firing than usual took place and agin at midnight.
**9th** -During the morning a 9.2 howitzer at [Dardre] Farm bombarded the German front line opposite trench doing considerable damage. Unfortunately one shell burst short and blew up D Coy headquarters. No one was near the spot at the time. During the night the R [latrines?] rose considerably and the fire trench about 30 yards either side became badly flooded. The enemy dropped about 30 shells N & E of Lancashire Support Farm but did no damage.
TRENCHES
**10th** - During the night the water again rose. A Coy especially had great difficulty in coping with it and had to abandon 3 bays south of 101/2. The day was calm.
**11th** -Water in trenches had subsided about 8 inches. The parapets were repaired as much of them had subsided. About 2pm the enemy again shelled the vicinity of Lancashire Support Farm and the tram line, no damage was done.
**12th** -The 8th Loyal N Lancs took over fat [*forward assembly trench?]* Paul & fat [Dudley] OC C coy extended his line northwards to the R. [W????rs?] OC A Coy on account of flooded dug out had to send 1 platoon to billet with B Coy at Lancashire Support Farm and 1 platoon from B Coy came to [mountain?] gun farm for billets. During the afternoon considerable shelling took place. In the morning Pte Carruthers C Coy was seriously wounded in the head [ *Note: CWGC states Pte R. Carruthers 15102 died 13/12/15. Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery*] The water in 105 & 106 subsided a little during the day
TRENCHES PLOEGSTEERT
**13th** - Relieved by the 2nd S.Lancs during the afternoon. The Battn returned to their usual billets.
PLOEGSTEERT
**14th** -The Battn. Rested in billets and during the day went by campany to Pont de Niepe for baths. D Coy supplied night fatigue. [Capt] [???] the chaplain [???] by splinter of shell.
**15th** - A, B & C companies furnished fatigues for the engineers at Touquet [Berthe] also night carrying parties from Touquet [Berthe] to Lancashire Support Farm.
**16th** - The usual shelling of Ploegsteert took place, the brigade HQ had a few shells close to them, also C coy at [????ille] Farm. The machine gun school [hit two/] shells. [ten?] men of the [Wilts?] Rgt attending the school were killed. The usual fatigues were carried out
**17th** - A very quiet day. The usual fatigues were found. A coy supplied 1 NCO and 30 men for a night fatigue in Touquet [Berthe]
PLOEGSTEERT TRENCHES
**18th** - The usual relief was carried out. The relief started at 2pm. D Coy occupied the right section. A the centre, and B coy on the left. C Coy in Lancashire Support Farm. Col Brander took over command of the 7th Inf Bde.
**19th** - Lt Col C E Bond took over command of the Regt from Col Brander who proceeded home. A quiet day. Very little sniping. All companies were employed on repairing parapets. A Coy supplied fatigue party for bring up of stores from Touquet [Berthe]
TRENCHES
**20th** - Each company employed in repairing their parapet and freeing trenches from water. L Corp Smith [*Note: CWGC states: L Cpl Robert Smith 8/15065 aged 23 son of John Smith 8 New St Cockermouth. Buried Lancashire Cottage Cemetery*], of D Coy was killed whilst working in CT 10?/3. OC 8th S. Lancashire Regt visited the line with a view to taking over when relief took place. At 2pm a bombardment of the enemy’s front line trench by trench mortars took place. The German retaliated. There were no casualties.
**21st** - A quiet day. Very wet. The officers commanding companies of the 8th S. Lancs Regt went around the trenches during the morning with a view to taking over the line.
**22nd** - All available men were employed in repairing parapets, and improving communication trenches. A coy started new dug out on the western side of the road inside of their support line. Quiet day, the right coy was shelled about 11am, about 7 shells falling in that area.
TRENCHES & PLOEGSTEERT
**23rd** - The Battalion was relieved by the 8th S Lancs Regt during the afternoon there were no casualties.
PLOEGSTEERT
**24th** - The Battn rested in billets and had baths in Nieppe. During the evening a night fatigue party was supplied both by B & D companies.
**25th** - Service was held at [Soyer] Farm, nearly 200 men were present. There were fewer fatigues. A Coy supplied 30 men during the afternoon. Quiet Day.
**26th** Ploegsteert was shelled during the morning and evening. All the companies were on fatigues [???] during the morning. In the evening A B & C companies supplied fatigue parties for the RE.

PLOEGSTEERT TRENCH
**27th** - The Battalion went into trenches at 6.20am relieving the 8th S.Lancs Regt. The XI Cheshires were on our left and L.N.Lancs on our right.C Coy was the right of line, A Coy centre, and B Coy on left.
**28th** - All companies were employed in repairing and remaking parapets and draining trenches. At 9.30 pm an operation was undertaken by the Battn on our right. There was a good deal of rifle fire and bombardment lasting for about an hour. B Coy had a man slightly wounded. Lancashire Suppoert Farm was hit.
**29th** - Nothing of importance occurred during the day.
**30th** - A enemy’s snipers were most active than usual [ not my grammar! Paul] Pte Ellis Jones [ *Note: CWGC states: William Ellis Jones 14316 age 22. Son of Mr & Mrs Ellis Jones 9 Ferney Green, Kendal. Buried London Rifle Brigade Cemetery*] B Coy being killed in C T 109. The Battn occupied in repairing the parapet & draining trenches.
**31st** - A quiet day. At midnight 10 rounds rapid were fired in reply to German fusillade. There were no casualties

**January 1916**

TRENCHES

**1st**- The expected retaliation to our fusillade last night did not materialise On the whole a quiet day. Sniping was more active on both sides.

TRENCHES & PLOEGSTEERT

**2nd**- Relieved by 2nd Batt S Lancs Regt during afternoon, the relief took place later than usual owing to the clear weather. There were no casualties.

**3rd**- The Battalion rested in billets. At 6pm a fatigue party of 1 officer and 20 men were told off to assist the RE. 250 men were sent to the [Battn? *or could be* Baths?]

**4th**- A, B & C companies supplied the usual fatigue.

**5th** -Nothing of importance to report.

**6th**- A quiet day. The enemy shelled the northern end of Ploegsteert but did little damage a few fell near Battn HQ

PLOEGSTEERT TRENCHES

**7th**- The usual relief took place at 3.30pm There were no casualties. On account of the shelling of Battn HQ the machine gun section was billeted in Lancashire Support Farm. The XI Cheshire Regt is on the left & the Lancs Fusiliers on the right. A Coy in Lancs Support Farm.

**8th**- The enemy were particularly active with regard to sniping especially at “stand to” in the evening. There were no casualties. The repairing of the parapets & building parados occupied the companies during the day. At 8pm fatigue party from A Coy.

TRENCH

**9th**- The enemy shelled our sector more than usual Lancashire Support Farm had a few shrapnel bursts within 100 yards. Sniping was not as active as yesterday. A Coy supplied night working parties also carrying parties.

**10th**- [Laurence?] Farm considerably shelled during the morning. 18 HE falling within a few yards of the far. The tram line torn up in places but repaired by the RE. One man Pte Fitzwilliam of A Coy slightly wounded in the back No damage done.

**11th**-The enemy again shelled [Laurence?] farm. 8 HE shells were fired. There were no casualties or damage done.

**12th**- A quiet day with the exception of the afternoon when from 4pm- 4 .30pm the Germans fired 25 shells which fell in the vicinity of Lancashire Support Farm and [Laurence] Farm. There was no damage The usual work carried out in the front line trenches.

TRENCHES & PLOEGSTEERT

**13th**- The usual relief took place. We were relieved by the 2nd S. Lancs Regt. On account of the German shelling the relief took place after 4.30 pm

**14th**- The Battn, with the exception of A Coy was employed in various fatigues.

PLOEGSTEERT

**15th**- Ploegsteert received about 15 HE shells during the afternoon, the Soldiers home was demolished but apart from this little damage was done.

**16th**- Divine Service was held at [Soyer] Farm at 9.30 am . Quiet day.

**17th**- Nothing of importance to relate. A lecture was held at Bailleul 9 officers attended. Ploegsteert had a few shells about 6pm, and again at 8.15pm

**18th**- The usual fatigues were furnished. Exceptionally quiet day. Wet.

**19th**- Lt Gray [ *From Army List 1915: Lt Gray is A.E. Wingate-Gray* ] was slightly wounded in the eye. The Germans put a few shells near Lancashire Support Farm about 10.30pm and also shelled the main communication trench. At 12.30 pm a minor operation started on our right this was carried out by the 74th Bde. The Battn supported their attack by riflr fire, machine guns, and grenades. The Germans replied by shelling our line. We had 6 casualties all of A Coy. Pte Fitzwilliams & 2 Lt Tyson both seriously wounded, L/C Williamson & L/C J Thornton slightly wounded. Pte Coates [ *Note: possibly Pte Robert Coates 19663 A Company 8th Border. Died 5/7/ 16 Age 24. Thiepval Memorial Son of John and Isabella Coates husband of Sarah Ann Woodburn (formerly Coates), of 188, Main St., Holborn Hill, Millom, Cumberland*] and Woodhead slightly wounded & Pte McGarr [ *Note: Probably Pte Thomas McGarr 12078 killed 5 July 1916. Thiepval Memorial*] B Coy was slightly wounded.

**20th**- A quiet day. Col Winston Churchill inspected our lines with a view to taking them over during the night. Lt Warren *[ note: Lt Archibald Alexander Warren Twice Mentioned in Despatches.Died 20/1/ 16 buried Cabaret Rouge Cemetery Souchez Age 19. Son of Timothy and Mary Don Warren, of 10, Westbourne Terrace, Kelvinside, Glasgow. Born at Hamilton, Lanarkshire* ] and Corpl Hodgson [ *note: Cpl Thomas Allan Hodgson 14467 Son of Timothy and Mary Ann Hodgson, of 39, Blencathra St., Keswick, Cumberland. He enlisted 7th Sept 1914 and was sent to France 26th Sept 1915 Reported missing on the night of 20th Jan 1916. Buried Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery Souchez* ] were on patrol they did not return, no evidence is forthcoming what happened to them.

TRENCHES

**21st**- The Coy Comanders of the relieving Battn inspected our trench during the morning. There was considerably more sniping than usual during the late hours of the afternoon and the evening.

**22nd**- A quiet day nothing of importance to record. The usual work on drains and parapets etc was carried out.

TRENCHES & PLOGSTEERT

**23rd**- The Battn relieved by the 2nd S. Lancs. The relief commenced at 5am and was finished by 7am. There were no casualties. There was much more sniping than usual during the relief.

PLOEGSTEERT

**24th**- Nothing of importance done except for a few fatigues. Coys arranging for move back on 26th.

**25th** Everything packed up for move tomorrow. A Coy found cart from the farm which took back Coy blankets. 2 motor lorries arrived for greatcoats & blankets.

**26th**- Battalion moved out from Ploegsteert and marched to billets at LA CRECHE. Start was made at 5am 20 minutes being allowed between coys to pass X roads at church. Arrived at La Creche about 8am. Advance party of 1 officer & 8 OR took over our billets night before. Stayed at this place for one day only.

LA CRECHE

**27th**- Moved off at 6am to Strazeele. Arrived about 10 am after a good march, few men falling out. Billets at Strazeele were again taken up by advance party of same strength as before. Coys rather too far apart but billets good on the whole. Took over from the 6th Scottish Rifles ( Cameronians). Billets untidy & in a bad state.

STRAZELLE

**28th**- Cleaning up. No work done as other Battalions had not arrived from Ploegsteert yet. Day quiet.nothing to report.

**29th** - D Coy changed billets as they were so far away from the others. Got much better billet near other coys.

**30th**- Other Battalions arrived in Strazeele. Rearguard joined up here again and reported all handing over done correctly.

**31st**- Coys went on route march from the different billets of about 4 miles length. Games [??] being played in the afternoon.

C.E. Bond Lt Col Cmdg 8th Border Regt

**February 1916**

STRAZEELE

**1st**- All Coys in billets and settled down. Companies doing training under Coy arrangements.

**2nd**- 6 officers went to lecture at Bailleil subject Preliminary Bombardment by Major Williams. Coys went for a short route march.

**3rd**- Lecture in Bailleul by Capt [Sir?] J. Keane on Trench Mortar organisation & employment.

**4th**- Company training.

**5th**- Company training afternoon devoted to sports.

**6th** - Church parade at Transport lines.

**7th**- Company training & route march.

**8th**- Gen Woodward relinquished command of the Brigade

**9th**- The Brigade inspected on route march by Gen Plumer during the morning

**10th**- The Brigade inspected on route march by Lord Kitchener.

**11th**- Comapany training

**12th**- Company training. Football during afternoon.

**13th**- Church parade during the morning held on field near B Coy.

**14th** -Battalion engaged in training.

**15th**- Usual training during the morning. In the afternoon cross country race open to all unit of the division. Won by Border Horse. 8th Border 2nd.

**16th**- Special training in use of gas helmets.

**17th & 18th**- Company & Battalion training. Lecture by Capt Fitzpatrick on Engineering work in the field.

**18th**- Company & Battalion training.

**19th**- Brigade sports.

**20th**- Church parade in morning. Brigade cross country race [underlining on original diary entry] was held in the afternoon won by A Coy 8th Borders. Gold medal won by Corp Close.

**21st**- Company training and machine gun training for all companies.

**22nd** - Company training including bayonet fighting, physical drill, route marching, and gas helmet drill.

**23rd**- Company training including bayonet fighting, physical drill, route marching, and gas helmet drill.

**24th**- Company training including bayonet fighting, physical drill, route marching, and gas helmet drill.

**25th**- 16 officers & 132 men proceeded to [Goteisterne?] to see demonstration of German Flammenwerfe. In evening concert given 8th Border Regt.

**26th** -Training considerably hindered on account of snow. Brigade boxing competition in evening. Lecture at 4pm by Col Richardson on sniping

**27th** - Company training & route march. Church parade.

**28th**- Company training & route march.

**29th** - Brigade nght march.

C.E. Bond Lt Col Cmdg 8th Border Regt

**March 1916**
STRAZEELE
**1st**- Route march by all companies
**2nd**- A & B companies route march C & D companies field training & bayonet fighting.
**3rd-7th** Company & Battalion training.
**8th-** Brigade route march 12 miles.
**9th**- Battalion employed in handing over & cleaning billets etc.
STRAZEELE & BOESEGHEM
**10th**- The Battalion left Strazeele and marched to Boeseghem via Hazebrouck and billeted there for the night.
BOESEGHEM & NEDON
**11th**- The Battalion left Boeseghem and marched to Nedon
**12th**- In billets resting
**13th**- All companies practised in the attack open warfare during the morning.
**14th**- The Battalion was inspected in the attack by the Brigadier.
**15th**- All companies practised in open order drill.
NEDON BRYAS
**16th**- The Battalion left Nedon and marched to Bryas arriving at 1pm
**17th**- Company inspections etc.
**18th**- Route march by Companies 8 miles.
**19th**- Church parade & inspection.
**20th** -The Battalion was inspected by Sir Julian Byng in the grounds of the Chateau de Bryas and marched past in column of route.
**21st**- Brigade practised in the attack, The XI Cheshires detailed as defending force. The attack carried out by 2nd S.Lancs on the right. 8th Border Regt in the centre, 8th S Lancs on the left.
**22nd**- Companies went on route march
**23rd**- The commanding officer, 2nd in command, adjutant & signalling officer visited the Southern portion of the new sector of the line of trenches [???] the subsidiary line was visited.
BRYAS
**24th**- On account of the bad weather a Brigade concentration march was postponed. The companies were inspected under Coy arrangements and lectures given.
**25th**- The northern sector of the new line of trenches was visited, only the subsidiary line was seen.
**26th** Church parade & inspections.
**27th**- Brigade concentration march.
**28th** -Battalion training. Attack & advance guards.
**29th**- The Battalion was practised in night outposts north of Bryas.
**30th**- Route march.
**31st** -Inspected by the C in C near MARQUAY while on the march

P.Strahan Major Comdg 8th Border Regiment

**April 1916**

MONCHY BRETON
**1st**- The Battalion was inspected at close order drill by the Corps Commander in the morning. Companies cleaned billets during the afternoon
**2nd**- Church parade
**3rd**- The Battalion was engaged in wood fighting, attack, & defence
**4th**- Route march
**5th**- Company drill in the morning. Brigade concentration night march and attack of a position.
**6th**- Company training drill for NCOs.
**7th**- Battalion practised attack on trenches.
**8th**- C Coy at ST POL relieved by D Coy. 100 men of B Coy on fatigue in bombing school. A Coy on range in morning
**9th**- Church Parade.
**10th**- Bn practised as Advance Guard to Inf Bde in [??] the country. Communication drill for NCOs. Col Bond to Div School.
**11th**- Very wet. Companies exercised in musketry & close order. Billets cleaned up. Lectures to NCOs & Officers.
**12th**- Very wet. Companies exercised in musketry & close order. 250 men to demonstration of flame projector.
**13th**- Showery. Companies exercised in musketry & close order. Squads practised in firing Lewis Gun on miniature range. Lectures to officers & NCOs.
**14th**- Brigade Concentration March & inspection by Corps Commander. Communication drill for NCOs afternoon. Lewis Gun firing on range.
**15th**- Companies exercised in close order drill, musketry & bayonet fighting. Lewis gun firing on the range. C.O. went up to inspect front line trenches occupied by 46th Division.
**16th**- Church parade & inspections.
**17th** – The CO, Adjutant and Company Commanders visited the new front line trenches North of [Arras?]
**18th**- Company Commander proceeded to Burneville to see demonstration of flammenwerfer.
**19th**- Company parade & training.
**20th**- The battalion was employed cleaning up billets and preparing to hand over to the incoming unit (1/6 S. Stafford Regt)
MONCHY BRETON TRENCHES
**21st**- The battalion proceeded to Ecoivres at 2.30pm in motor lorries and buses halted there till 7.30pm and then proceeded to relieve the 1/6 S.Stafford Regt in the trenches. North of Neuville St Vaast. We connected up with the 1st Wiltshire Regt of 7th Bde on our left and with 2nd Battn S. Lancashire Regt on our right. D C & A companies in the firing live B Coy in reserve
TRENCHES
**22nd**- The relief completed at 4.30am. Repair of trenches much hindered by continuous rain.
**23rd**- The Battalion engaged in repairing and improving trenches.
**24th**- The Batt was engaged in draining trenches of water and taking up boards and relaying, also repairing trenches.
**25th & 26th**- As on 23 & 24. On the 25th at 11.15pm our advanced posts were bombed & again at 8am on the 26th. Unfortunately we had casualties. One Serjeant killed and five men wounded two missing [ *note the fatalities were : ANDERSON, T. H. Lance Serjeant 13525. Age:21. Son of Daniel and Mary Ann Anderson, of 3, Bransty Villas, Whitehaven, Cumberland. Son of Daniel and Mary Ann Anderson, of 3, Bransty Villas, Whitehaven, Cumberland. GARTH, J.Private Age:21. Son of John and Emma Garth, of Field Cottage, Milnthorpe, Westmorland. Both buried LA CHAUDIERE MILITARY CEMETERY, VIMY* ]
**27th**- The Battalion was relieved during the night by the XI Cheshire Regt.
**28th**- The Battalion rested in Neuville St Vaast and were engaged in cleaning up equipment clothing etc. During the afternoon C & D Coys furnished working parties in the support lines. At 7.30 pm while D Company were working a shell burst in the middle killing 1 Serjeant 2 men and injuring [6?] others. Later one of the wounded men died. [ *note they were: BUTLER, J Private 12384. MARSDEN, A Serjeant 12923.TWEDDLE, J. Lance Corporal 12227 Age: 28.Son of T. Tweddle, of Coatham Mundeville, Darlington. WHITTAM, ROBERT KENDALL Private 19330 Age: 32 "D" Coy. 8th Bn. Son of Robert and Jane Whittam, of Church View, Staveley, Kendal, Westmorland . All buried: LA CHAUDIERE MILITARY CEMETERY, VIMY*] Stand to alarm from 9pm – 11pm.
**29th** The Battalion furnished fatgues for the construction of new support line and in the repair of existing communication trenches.
**30th**- The Battalion provided working parties for construction of [subsidiary?] line and general repair of communication trenches

P.Strahan Major Comdg 8th Border Regiment

**May 1916**

TRENCHES

**1st**- During the day & night the Battalion provided necessary working parties & carrying parties for construction of Southern line & repairs of C.T.s

**2nd**- Col Bond returned to Battalion from the Divisional school at Buneville. The Battalion provided necessary fatigue parties for repairing CTs & building the Southern line.

**3rd**- During the day the Battalion provided fatigue parties as before and in the evening relieved the XI Cheshires in the ytrenches of the left sector of the Brigade front. – A B & D in firing line & C Coy in reserve. B Coy had little bombing on their Y Post. Bombing accident in D Coy lines.

**4th**- Battalion trenches. A start was made in the new Doublement line behind the front line. General repair & upkeep of trenches also engaged attention.

**5th**- 3am Enemy put up 3 mines simultaneously, 1 opposite right of 064 & 2 in front of 063. They had the effect of extending the old craters (063.1 & 064.1) & much of our lip subsided. No enemy attack was made, nor were any of our works damaged. We suffered no casualties. There was no Artillery fire – Rifles & machine guns together with bombs being employed where necessary. During the day the Battalion was employed on general repair work & in strengthening & consolidation our listening posts. The new Doublement line was progressed with during the night.

**6th**- Nothing of importance occurred except in Y post where there was an occasional bombing duel. The old De la [Fonch?] trench leading from crater 063/1 was opened up as far as Doublement which latter trench was also progressed with during the night. Wiring the intervals of old 0/63 was begun.

**7th**- The Day was quiet with a little bombing at night especially in Y post work on the Southern was proceeded with & the Doublement was extended behind 065.

**8th**- In retaliation for some medium mortar bombs & some Stokes mortar bombs which we put over, the enemy [crumped?] the Southern line. No damage was done. Towards evening, by means of bomb & rifle grenades B Coy blew in an enemy post on the Eastern lip of crater 064/2

**9th**- The day passed quietly except towards evening, when there was considerable Artillery activity. For blowing in his post yesterday the enemy retaliated by bombing our Y Post. We had one casualty. [ *From CWGC, no other 8th Bn. casualties around this date : McLAUGHLIN, ROBERT Private. 8/15756. Date of Death: 08/05/1916 Age: 20.* [*ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETERY, MONT-ST. ELOI*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/6300/ECOIVRES%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY%2C%20MONT-ST.%20ELOI)*. Son of Catherine McLaughlin, of 38, Strand St., Whitehaven, Cumberland*] The Battalion was relieved by the XI Cheshire Regt at night & reached the huts at ECOIVRES without incident.

ECOIVRES

**10th** - In billets

**11th**- In billets

**12th**- In billets

**13th**- In billets

**14th**- In billets

**15th**- In billets

**16th**- The battalion went into the front line renches relieving the XI Cheshires. The S Lancs on our right and the 1st Wilts on our left.

**17th**- The usual repairs and improvements were made. Quiet day.

**18th**- Considerable shelling by the enemy also they were throwing over more bombs & grenades than usual. We had 2 killed & 12 wounded. [ *From CWGC:* *Casualties both buried at* [*ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETERY, MONT-ST. ELOI*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/6300/ECOIVRES%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY%2C%20MONT-ST.%20ELOI)*. ELSON, WALTER Private. 8/15130.Age: 22."C" Coy. 8th Bn. Son of Thomas and Martha Ann Elson, of Kendal, Westmorland. SNAITH, Francis William. Private. 8/14345.Age: 25. Son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Snaith, of 3, Dockray Hall Cottages, Kendal. Wife Nellie Snaith, of Mill Fold, Crook, nr. Kendal, Plumber/ painter apprentice in 1911 census. Mother Mary A. Snaith ran a bakery and sweetshop at Dockray Cottage home. Other children Ann and Violet.* ].

**19th**- The enemy again active We had 1 man wounded & Lt Hinksman wounded .

**20th** The Battalion went into Brigade Reserve at Neuville St Vaast being relieved by XI Cheshires. The relief was carried out during the afternoon. No casualties.

NEUVILLE ST VAAST

**21st**- The enemy shelled the village intermittently throughout the day and dropped “Tear Shells” those being the first the battalion had experienced. No casualties. The usual fatigues were furnished.

**22nd**- The enemy agin shelled the village with Tear Shells otherwise the day was quirt.

**23rd**- About 20 large shells were fired into the village. No damage was done & no casualties.

**24th**- The Battalion relieved the XI Cheshires in the front line trenches. 2nd Batt S. Lancs on our right 1st Batt Wiltshires on our left

**25th**- The enemy shelled our front line & support trenches during the morning. We had two men wounded.

TRENCHES

**26th**- The usual shelling took place, but little damage done. 2 Lieuts [Alday?] & Brown slightly wounded by a bomb also two privates.

**27th**- A quiet day no casualties.

**28th**- Our front line & support line trenches were subjected to Artillery fire and mortars for the greater part of the day our casualties 1 man of A Coy wounded, 6 wounded & 2 killed in B Coy and 1 wounded in D coy. [ *Deaths from CWGC : SKINNER, R. Private 14662* [*ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/56500/ETAPLES%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY)*. HOWARD, HERBERT Private. 8/21354 Age 31.* [*ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETERY, MONT-ST. ELOI*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/6300/ECOIVRES%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY%2C%20MONT-ST.%20ELOI)*. Son of the late William and Sarah Maria Howard. Born at Barmer, Fakenham, Norfolk* ]

**29th**- A fairly quiet day. The Battalion was employed in opening up & strengthening new trenches especially on our let. We had two men of B Coy wounded by a bomb.

**30th-** The enemy blew a mine in front of our centre coy (B) a platoon was sent forward and immediately occupied & consolidated the rear lip of the crater. The only casualty was one man of A who died later. [ *LICKBARROW, JOHN HENRY. Private14519.Date of Death: 31/05/1916 Age:25.* [*AUBIGNY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/5300/AUBIGNY%20COMMUNAL%20CEMETERY%20EXTENSION)*.Son of Henry and Margaret Lickbarrow. A farm servant. Born Rowrah, Cumberland in1891. Brother of Mary and Jane. On Holme Village War Memorial and Allhallows Church, Fellside,Kendal*] No damage was done.

**31st**- A quiet day on the whole. We had one man L Corp Wright of B Coy slightly wounded. [*Possibly: WRIGHT, LEONARD.Lance Corporal .12209. Died 05/07/1916 Age:23.*[*THIEPVAL MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/80800/THIEPVAL%20MEMORIAL)*.Son of the late Henry and Adelaide Wright, of 13, Chapel St., Middleton St. George, Darlington. Or: WRIGHT, C. Corporal. 12255. Died 21/10/1916.*[*STUMP ROAD CEMETERY, GRANDCOURT*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/30901/STUMP%20ROAD%20CEMETERY%2C%20GRANDCOURT) *].* We were relieved during the night by 1/5 Seaforth Highlanders. The Battn matched to ACQ where they went into billets till the following day

P. Strahan Major 8th Battalion Border Regt

**June 1916**

ACQ
**1st**- The Battalion remained in billets during the day and at 8.30 pm marched to SAVY to billets

SAVY
**2nd**- The Battaliaon employed in cleaning up. Also baths were allotted to the companies.

**3rd**- Physical drill and bayonet fighting. Short route march by all companies.

**4th**- Church parade during the morning.

**5th**- Battalion employed at Monchy Breton & Chelers in company training.

**6th** - Battalion employed at Monchy Breton & Chelers in company training.

**7th**- Battalion employed at Monchy Breton & Chelers in company training.

**8th** - Battalion training at Monchy Breton & Chelers.

**9th**- Battalion training at Monchy Breton & Chelers.

**10th** -Brigade field day & training.

**11th**- Church parade

**12th**- Divisional Field day at Monchy Breton & Chelers.

**13th**- Battalion rested in billets. Physical drill & bayonet practice

BUNEVILLE

**14th**- The Battalion marched at 9.30 am to Buneville.

VACQUERIE LE BOUC

**15th**- The Battalion marched at 8.30 am to Vacquiere Le Bouc arriving about one pm.

**16th**-All companies were employed in cleaning equipment etc Physical exercises and bayonet fighting.

PROUVILLE

**17th**- The Battalion marched at 10.30pm to Prouville arriving at 3am on the 18th. A C C Battalions in the division visited the trenches North of Albert.

DOMART

**18th**- The Battalion marched at 10.30pm for Domart arriving there at 2.30 am on te 19th

**19th**- Physical drill & bayonet fight

**20th**- Company training and route march.

**21st** - Battalion training,Bayonet exercise & Physical exercise.

**22nd**- Battalion training

**23rd**- Battalion training & practice for Brigade cross country race

**24th**- Brigade cross country race won by A Coy. By Coy second, D third

TALMAS

**25th**- Regimental sports. The Battalion marched to Talmas starting at 9.30 pm arriving at 3am the 26th.

**26th**-Company training and bathing parade.

**27th**- Regiment moved to Herrisart

**28th** - Regiment remained at Herrisart. Company training

**29th** - Regiment remained at Herrisart. Company training

**30th**- Battalion moved to Forceville.

P Strahan Major 8th Border Regt. C E Bond Lt Col

**July 1916**

FORCEVILLE

**1st**- The Battalion halted here for the day, but had sudden orders at 11 pm to be ready to move. However the order to move did not come till the next day.

MARTINSAART WOOD
**2nd**- The Battalion moved to MARTINSAART WOOD at 11 am. A team composed of Reserve Officers and NCO’s moved to VANDENCOURT. The Battn moved to its appointed place in the front line trench south of THIEPVAL preparatory to the attack. The XI Cheshires on our left and the 2nd S. Lancs Regt on our right.
The trenches were heavily shelled by the Germans

**3rd**- The Reg’t was supposed to attack the German front line at 3 am but this was postponed till 6 am. The Bat’n advanced in 4 waves. D a & A Coys from our front line B & C Coys from our support line.
Each company had two platoons in line crossing on a front of some 150 or 200 yards followed by the other two platoons. As the leading companies left the front trench their place was taken by the two leading Platoons of each supporting Company. Touch was kept with the Cheshires by means of runners. This means of communication was also adopted to keep touch with the 2nd S. Lancs. Regt. The leading companies understood their objectives and had sufficient time to explain their orders to their men according to the operation orders issued in MARTINSAART WOOD. The Coys in support had not sufficient time to explain these orders thoroughly to their men owing to the distance from the front line and the enemy’s shell fire.
The 1st two waves went out punctually at the appointed hour, the other two Coys were held in the front line till it was seen how things were going and till reinforcements were requested. A message was sent back asking for reinforcements and bombs and these were sent up immediately. [D ?] platoon at this time were sent up no reinforcements had arrived from the reserve to take our place. Eventually all reinforcements were sent except a platoon with 2 Lewis guns. The last reserve of 2 platoons did not reach the enemy line but returned with the Battalion when it retired. The frontage occupied In the German line was about 180 yards which had been much damaged by our shell fire and there was very little cover. The right flank giving way was the cause of the Battn falling back and also the unfortunate word “retire” undoubtedly passed along from the right. Major Birt ordered the left to conform.
Orders and messages referring to the operations took a very long time to reach Battn H Q owing to the dark and the orderlies being near to the trenches. There was no telephone to Battn H Q and all messages were by runners. This delayed instructions to O C Coys and did not give them time to arrange bombing parties, etc for clearing the German communication trenches. The German rifle & machine gun fire was not particularly severe and had communication with the right and left been kept up throughout the attack would have been successful.
During the operation we suffered the following casualties: 4 officers killed and 10 wounded 430 casualties other ranks.

**4th**-The Regt left the front line trenches being relieved by the 1st Wiltshire Regt & marched to the south side of AveluyWood .

AVELUY WOOD

**5th**- The regiment remained in bivouac at Aveluy Wood

**6th**- The regiment remained in bivouac at Aveluy Wood

**7th**- At 2 pm the Regiment marched to ALBERT and remained there for 6 hours and then marched to USNA REDOUBT these being a reserve line of trenches

USNA REDOUBT

**8th**-The Battalion remained at USNA REDOUBT.

**9th**-The Battalion remained at USNA REDOUBT.
**10th**- A & B companies proceeded to the front line trenches. The Commanding Officer accompanied these two coys.
**11th**- C & D companies remained at USNA REDOUBT. A & B in the front line.
**12th**-C & D Coys marched at 6pm and joined A & B Coys in the front line German trenches.
OVILLERS
**13th**- The Batt was ordered to attack & take two lines of trenches on the southern side of OVILLERS. A & B Coys on the right and C & D on the left. All companies gained their objectives with little resistance. Unfortunately during the operation Capt Conelly [*Perhaps an attached officer. Noone of this name in Border Regt Army List or CWGC*] of A coy was killed and 2nd Lt Rhodes wounded. He eventually died from his wounds. [*John Kenneth Rhodes , 10th Bn. attd. 8th Bn. Border Regiment. Age 25. Son of Agnes and the late Samuel Rhodes, of Hill Park, Greenodd, Ulverston. Also on Colton All Saints Church Memorial.* [*WARLOY-BAILLON COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION*](http://i920.photobucket.com/albums/ad50/granatloch/France%20Cems/WarloyBaillonCCE/WarloyBaillonCCE_view2.jpg)]

**14th**- The attack on Ovillers was continued. The trench occupied by C & D coy was retaken and a block established under Lt Stewart at the Northern end . [ *Capt John Ebenezar Stewart MC, killed 28th April 1918 Tyne Cot memorial panels 85-86 8th Bn. Border Regiment attd. South Staffordshire Regiment. Son of William A. Stewart, of 37, Kildovan St., Coatbridge, and the late Isabella Shaw Stewart*] The trench was then consolidated and held. In the meantime we had pushed forward and taken and held the church and the trench North of it.

**15th**- The Cheshire Regt relieved us in the captured trenches. A & B companies were held in readiness to advance and occupy the trench held & the 2nd Lancs Regt if they advanced.

**16th**-The Battalion rested in the afternoon in the German front line trench which was at the time our support trench to Ovillers.
SENLIS  **17th**- During the night the Batt left the trench and marched to SENLIS and bivouacked.

**18th**- The Regt remained halted. Left 5pm when we marched to HEDAUVILLE and bivouacked there for the night.
HEDAUVILLE
**19th**- Left Hedauville and marched to AMPLIER, billeted in huts.
AMPLIER
**20th**- The Brigade was inspected by the Divisional General during the afternoon.
**21st**- Baths were allotted to the Battn. Company parade.
VAUCHELLES
**22nd**- The Battn moved to VAUCHELLES at 10am and were accommodated in huts.
ACHEVY
**23rd**- Church parade in morning. The Regt moved to ACHEVY at 4pm.

**24th**- Regiment remained in billets in ACHEUX

**25th**- The Regiment moved from ACHEUX to Marley Wood

MARLEY WOOD

**26th**-The regiment remained in Marley Wood. Draft of 1 Coy x 91 men arrived

**27th**- “ “ “ “ “ 59 men “

**28th**- “ “ “

**29th**- “ “ “ “ “ 82 “

**30th**- The Battalion moved to the front line trenches opposite BEAUMONT HAMEL. Draft of 31 men arrived.

**31st**- Front line trenches. A Coy x 37 men arrived

P. Strahan Major for Lieut Col Comdg 8th Border Regt

**August 1916**

FRONT LINE TRENCHES OPPOSITE BEAUMONT HAMEL
**1st**- The Battalion was employed in constructing new line of trenches and generally improving & repairing existing trenches.
**2nd-5th**- The Regiment held front line and continued its work on the new trench in North [Street?] and Hunters Trench. The enemy was active with mortars and rifle grenades. Total casualties 1 killed and 9 wounded [ *From CWGC- BELL, JAMES ERNEST KIRKHAM Lieutenant. Date of Death 05/08/1916 Age: 20.* [*THIEPVAL MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/80800/THIEPVAL%20MEMORIAL)*. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ernest Bell, of 139, Culverley Rd., Catford, London*]

BDE RESERVE

**6th**- The Battn moved into Brigade Reserve in trenches 86 and 88. The same working parties were detailed as when in the front line.

**7th & 8th**- Headquarters moved to AUCHONVILLERS. C & D Companies were billeted in the village. A & B Companies remained in 88 and 86 trenches.

AUCHONVILLERS

**9th**- The Battalion moved into huts at WARNIMONT WOOD beling relieved by Scots Guards & Irish Guards.

**10th**- The Battalion remained in WARMINTON [ note: the writer has changed the spelling! ] WOOD .

**11th-14th**- The Battalion remained in huts in WARMINTON WOOD and carried out field training under company and Battalion arrangements.

WARMINTON WOOD & RAINCHEVAL

**15th**- The Battalion moved to RAINCHEVAL during the morning and arrived at their billets about 12.45pm. The Regt was billeted in the village.

**16th**- Battalion training during morning & afternoon.

**17**th- The Battalion moved to FORCEVILLE

FORCEVILLE

**18th**- The Battalion left FORCEVILLE at 1pm for AVELUY WOOD. A fatigue party of 300 men & 5 officers were detailed to work on trenches in front line in the left sector .

**19-21st**- The Battalion remained at AVELUY WOOD. Working parties of 400 men were employed each night from 8.30pm to 2am on constructing the 1st parallel in front of the 1st line trench in left sector. Total casualties were 1 man of C Coy killed & 4 men wounded. [*TAYLOR, G, Private. 21863. Date of Death recorded by CWGC as 22/08/1916.* [*LONSDALE CEMETERY, AUTHUILLE*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/59400/LONSDALE%20CEMETERY%2C%20AUTHUILLE)]

**22nd** -The Battalion left for HEDAUVILLE. C & D Companies were billeted in the village. A & B Coy in huts in the chateau grounds.

**23rd**  - Company training carried out by the Battalion.

**24th** - Company training carried out by the Battalion.

**25th**- The Battalion left Hedauville at 10om. B & D Companies with lead quarter proceeded to the BLUFF via BLACK HORSE BRIDGE. A & C companies bivouacked the night in AVELUY WOOD.

TRENCHES

**26th**- A & C companies moved at 1.15 pm to QUARRY POST and were joined by B & D companies. The whole Battalion then relieved the 1st Battn Wiltshire Regt in the front line trenches, B Coy took over Hindenburg trench C & D in support and A in reserve.

**27th**- The front line was heavily shelled throughout the day also the support companies. Many casualties.

**28th**- 2 Lt Hall killed [*From CWGC -HALL, JOHN MARTINDALE Second Lieutenant Age: 19.3rd Bn. attd. 8th Bn.* [*BLIGHTY VALLEY CEMETERY, AUTHUILLE WOOD*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/18500/BLIGHTY%20VALLEY%20CEMETERY%2C%20AUTHUILLE%20WOOD)*. Son of James T. and Elizabeth A. Hall; of 7, Inkerman Terrace, Whitehaven, Cumberland*] and again many casualties. B Coy relieved by D Coy.

**29th & 30th**- The disposition of companies the same. The whole line was heavily shelled day & night. Lt Renton was killed [ *From CWGC -RENTON, FRANCIS WALLACE HOME. Lieutenant Age: 29.* [*BLIGHTY VALLEY CEMETERY, AUTHUILLE WOOD*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/18500/BLIGHTY%20VALLEY%20CEMETERY%2C%20AUTHUILLE%20WOOD)*. Son of the late Brig. Surgeon Lt. Col. David Renton, M.D. (15th Hussars). Native of Edinburgh. Got his 1st XV. Rugby Football Cap at Sedbergh School, Sedbergh, Yorks*] & 2nd Lt [Day?] was wounded. Many casualties.

**31st-** A Coy relieved D Coy in the front line

 P Strahan Major for Lt Col Comdg 8th Border Regiment

**September 1916**
TRENCHES & BOUZINCOURT
**1st**- At 2pm the Battalion was relieved by the XI Chesires Regt. The relief was not completed till 8am. The Regiment went into billets at BOUZINCOURT. Inspected by G.O.C at 5pm. At 8.30pm the officers & NCOs witnessed a practice attack by the 1stWiltshire Regt.

**2nd**- The Battalion left BOUZINCOURT at 2.45 pm and went into front line trench (HINDENBURG TRENCH) relieving 8 S Lancs Regt.

**3rd-6th**- In front line trenches at LEIPZIG SALIENT. The Battn was engaged in holding these trenches and improving & repairing them. Fewer casualties than where they were before.

**7th**- The Battn was relieved during the morning by the West Riding Regt and marched to BOUZINCOURT where they were billeted.

 BOUZINCOURT

**8th**- The Battalion marched to LILLEVILLERS to billets.

LILLEVILLERS

**9th**- The Regt remained at LILLEVILLERS. 5 Officers proceeded to AMPLIER for the day.

AMPLIER

**10th**- Marched to AMPLIER and billeted in huts

**11th**- Marched to VACQUERIE

DOMLEGER

**12th**- The battalion proceed to DOMLEGER

**13th**- The day was given up tp cleaning equipment etc and refitting

**14th**- Squad drill, company training. Bayonet fighting and physical drill 6 hours per day.

**15th**- Squad drill, company training. Bayonet fighting and physical drill 6 hours per day.

**16th**- Squad drill, company training. Bayonet fighting and physical drill 6 hours per day.

**17th**- Church parade at 10 am. Three officers attended gas demonstration.

**18th**- Indoor work lecture etc. Five officers attended gas demonstration.

**19th** - Company training. One company on the range.

**20th**- Company training. One company on the range.

**21st**- Company training. Lectures on gas. One company on the range.

**22nd**- Company training. Lectures on bayonet fighting & discipline.

**23rd**- Company training in morning. Football competition with 2 South Lancs. Borders winning by 3 goals to 1. Orders to move.

**24th**- Church parade. Prepartion for move.

**25th**- Moved to Amplier starting at 7am. Halted for one hour & half at midday. Total distance 16 & half miles Very few men fell out.

AMPLIER

**26th**- Marched to [Leulvillers?] Good few men fell out owing to heat

[LEULVILLERS?]

**27th**- 2 Coys A & B were practiced in Intermine digging by RE. Other Coys practiced bayonet fighting. Lectures were given to Coys by Coy commanders. NCOs under RSM in afternoon.

**28th** -2 Coys were practiced in intermine digging ( C & D). Lecture by Lt Col E. M. Birch GSC 1 Division on lessons learnt on operations since July 1st. All Coy officers CO Adjt. BO & MGO attended.

**29th** -Moved to bivouac in field just NE of BOUZINCOURT no men fell out on march.

**30th** - Moved to dugouts in Ovillers.

 [ *Next two lines are crossed out but legible. They are NOT repeated at the start of the “new” October page*]

“Deleted Ovillers. Remained in Ovillers. At 3.15 heavy bombardment by our guns opened. Informed that Canadians were attacking”]

C.E. Bond Lt Col Comdg 8th Border Regt.

**October 1916**

OVILLERS
**1st**- In dugouts in old farm on front line and North side of road. Working parties supplied for carrying rations stored up to Mouquet Farm.
**2nd** --- do. --- [*ditto*]
**3rd** --- do ---
**4th** ---do--- Lt Parkinson hit in leg”
**5th** ---do--- Ordered to relieve Canadians on right of Pozieres. In relief 2 Lieut Turner was wounded.
TRENCHES
**6th** -Trenches were shelled intermittently shelled throughout the day. CSM of D Coy killed [*Company Sergeant Major of D company CWGC states he died 5/10/16 - NOLAN, PATRICK JAMES Company Serjeant Major. 6453.*[*THIEPVAL MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/80800/THIEPVAL%20MEMORIAL)*]* 2 Lt. Lewis wounded & 2 Lt. Wilson *[ Presumably- WILSON Stanley Wright 2nd Lt. KiA 18/11/1918 Died with 11thBorder formerly 8th Border. Age 22. Son of John Wright Wilson & Margaret Wilson, of Ravenstone, Penrith, Cumberland. Theipval memorial,Also on Shap St Michaels Church Memorial Plaque]* . Relieved by the 9th L.N.L. [*Loyal North Lancs?]* 74th Brigade. Proceeded to Crucifix Corner.
CRUCIFIX CORNER
**7th** - Men cleaning up after the trenches
**8th** -Companies under Coy arrangement. Bayonet fighting bomb throwing etc.
**9th** --do ---
**10th** --do--- NCOs proceeded in afternoon to look at ground over which an attack was to be practised on next day
**11th** -Attack practised 1st by company & then by Battalion Major Strachan in Command.
**12th** -Company & Battalion training.
**13th** -Battalion training
**14th** -The OC and Coy officers inspected the line of trenches to be taken up by the Battn..
**15th** -The Battn. Relieved the 1st [*Wilts?]* Regt. In the front line. We were the left Battn in the division, the 39th being on our left. The 2nd S.Lancs on our right. During the evening the headquarters were heavily bombarded.
**16th** -The Battn moved to the right, taking the line occupied by the 2nd S.Lancs Regt. HQ moved to Quarry Pit.
**17th & 18th** -Battn engaged in repairing & strengthening their line.
**19th** -The contemplated attack on Regina Trench postponed 4 [*illegible]* on account of rain. Lt Passmentewounded
**20th** -Repairing of trenches after the rain continued
STUFF REDOUBT
**21st** -Attack on REGINA TRENCH by the Battn and 1 Coy of 11th Cheshire Regt. The Battn and 1 Coy XI Cheshires took over the line in Hessian trench as 6am. The relief being completed by 8am. Borders on right & Cheshire on left of line. The objective in Regina trench assigned to the Battn was roughly 350 yards. The 13th Cheshires 74th Bde being on our right & [*illegible]* for the [*illegible three words, possible that the last two are “on road”]* The 8th Lancs were on our left.
The attack was advanced in four waves, Borders being in half Coy columns. A Coy XI Cheshires in column of platoons 30 paces [*illegible- diuvance?]*
Our artillery barrage opened at 12.6 pm which was the signal to get out of the trench. The waves were not very good but there was no confusion, direction was well kept by the Borders, this was caused by the communication trench on the right running obliquely across our front, a change of direction had also to be made.
The whole advanced too quickly, sufficient attention was not paid to the barrage orders, officers were few, but watches could not have been properly used.
The ground was not cut up by shell holes as much as was expected and was easy to advance over, the leading wave reaching the objective before the barrage lifted and suffered some casualties in consequence. The wire was well cut and presented no obstacle.
The barrage was excellent, a few shells were short, but I think this must be expected. The attack was sudden and swift, had there been a slight check to allow the barrage to lift the Battn would have got out almost without a casualty.
When the trench was reached on the left, the men got in so easily that they did not realise they had gained their objective, a gap was also left on the right owing to opposition from a large dugout on the right where a machine gun fired a few rounds.
Some dugouts & emplacements showed up unexpectedly on the left of STUMP ROAD, and Germans were seen coming out of there. Within a minute of reaching REGINA TRENCH some officers and about [*80?]* men of whom 40 were Borders left the trench and made straight across for them. Amongst these men were about 20 of the 13th Cheshires who had come across our front, some went through the barrage and occupied a trench some 600 yards in front of the line, they were withdrawn after dark.
Capt Stewart realized what was happening and stopped a good many from going forward and got them to work at once in the trench. He found he was in touch with the 8th S.Lancs on the left but the right was held up. He ordered a block to be made up till he could collect some men as the line was thin & sent back a written report of the situation which was most useful as it arrived soon after a report came from Lt. Willard as to the situation on the right. He said the trench had now been cleared but was now full of Borders & Cheshires. This turned out to be the bombers originally told off to clear the right & two details of [*illegible*] & about 30 men of the Cheshire Regt. who were unable to go on. Lt Birnie *[BIRNIE, Edward,D'arcy. Captain DSO MC KiA 22/3/1918.Age 26 Son of Robert and Isabella Birnie, of Sycamore Terrace, High Harrington, Cumberland. Native of Workington, Cumberland. DENANCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION.]*was the sent up with the last remaining squad of Battn bombers at Batt HQ to try and get in touch with Capt Stewart by bombing up the CT [*communication trench]* . On arriving at the dugout he found that the one just beyond the block was ablaze and he could not get in that way, but under cover of the smoke caused by it he managed to get his squad & 10 others from the CT over[*illegible]* German to Regina Trench where Capt Stewart was *[STEWART John Ebenezar Captain MC. 8th Bn. Border Regiment attd. South Staffordshire Regiment. 28/4/18 TYNE COT Memorial. Son of William A. Stewart, of 37, Kildovan St., Coatbridge, and the late Isabella Shaw Stewart]* , only one man being hit on the way. He got to work at once in a very gallant manner, himself getting onto the parapet and sniping while his men worked up the trench. He accounted for at least 8 Germans killed, and within 20 minutes the remainder [ *illegible*] to surrender. The trench was cleared and touch gained with the 13th -Cheshires. Consolidation proceeded without opposition and several patrols were captured during the night. 3 machine guns were captured, 1 by the Borders, 1 by XI Cheshires, & 1 by the 8 Lancs. 251 Germans were captured and 50 killed were counted. The Coy of the XI Cheshire Regt & the officers attached from that Battn rendered very useful assistance. Also the platoon of carriers who did excellent work carrying bombs and ammunition.
A Coy of the XI Cheshires was ordered to uniface the front line, their place in Hessian Trench being taken by a Coy Xth Cheshires. FIELD TRENCH was dug during the night by the R.E.s also the PT [*parapet?*] on the right was improved and made passable throughout. This trench was heavily shelled after the attack commenced, this was kept up in [*two words illegible*] for 24 hours until the Battn was relieved.
The front line was thinned out on the morning of the 22nd, the Coy of the Xth Cheshires being sent back to their HQ, the XIth Cheshires from front line taking their place. The bombers of the XIst Cheshires were kept in reserve and were not required. Casualties Capt Miller *[MILLER Tom Drysdale . Captain MC Died 21/10/16 Age 28. Son of the Rev. Andrew Miller& Isabella Elspeth Smith Miller, of 29, Annfield Rd., Partickhill, Glasgow.THIEPVAL MEMORIAL]*  & Capt Watson Thomas *[WATSON-THOMAS Walter Patrick Captain Born 1884 at Landsdowne Road, Notting Hill. Address: 80 Brondesbury Villas, Kilburn. Antique dealer, auctioneer, estate agent and valuer. Mother Margaret, THIEPVAL MEMORIAL]* killed. Lt Le May wounded, 18th other ranks killed, 111 wounded, 80 missing.
**22nd** - Battn relieved by the 10th [ *Lancasters?* ] &marched to camp [ *illegible*] Albert & Beaumont

**23rd** - Btn left camp and went to Warloy in motor[ *B?????court* ] buses.
GEZAINCOURT
**24th** - Battn left Warloy & marched to Gezaincourt some went by road and some in buses
**25th** - The Corps commander inspected the Brigade. The Borders & 2nd S . Lancs. paraded at 2pm in the chateau grounds.
**26th** – [No *diary entry made]*
**27th** -The Battn was unable to carry out field training on account of the bad weather. Sir Douglas Haig inspected the Battn. In billets during the afternoon
**28th**- Training was carried on under company arrangements.
**29th** - Church Parade at 9.30. At 7pm the Battn left Gezaincourt for [*D????]* to entrain for Meteren. Train left 10.50pm
METEREN
**30th** -The Battn arrived by rain at Bailleul at 5 am and detrained and marched to Meteren.
**31st** -Company training carried out at. OC Battn proceeded to (Romain?) to inspect part of new line being taken up by this Brigade.

Signed P. Strachan Major

**November 1916**

PONT de NIEPPE
**1st** -The Regiment moved to Pont de Nieppe. B and A companies billeted at the [*Dinliarch Battery?* ] and C& D coys in Nieppe.
**2nd** - Moved at midday to huts in Romarin.

ROMARIN
**3rd & 4th** -Company training. Draft of 42 men arrived and two officers.
**5th** - Church parade in the morning.
**6th & 7th** - Company training. Draft of 22 men arrived and one officer.

TRENCHES
**8th** -The battalion relieved XI Cheshires in front line trenches. The 12th R.Irish Rifles on our left and the 8th South Lancs on our right. Our line extending from [*Le Douve?*] to Seaforth Farm. HQ of Battn at Red Lodge. D Coy in front line. C Coy in subsidiary line. A Coy in support & B in reserve.
**9th** - Quiet day. Coys engaged in repairing & improving trenches. Patrols had nothing special to report.
**10th** - The subsidiary line had a few hostile shells. The usual work was carried on. 20 men from XI Cheshire Regt were sent to help to repair front line.
**11th** - D Coy in front line was relieved by B Coy. The remaining two Coys were not moved.
**12th** - Quiet day. The front line received about 6 shells (small) on the front line. Fatigue patrols carried up material during the night.
**13th** -The enemy again shelled front line also subsidiary line. Repair work was carried on without trouble & the usual fatigue parties carried up material.
**14th** - The Battalion was relieved in the front line trenches by the XI Cheshires.
**15th** - The new draft of 125 men were drilled and instructed during the morning. Field mortars and [*B???]* were taken out and repairs started. Each post held by 1 NCO and 7 men.
**16th** - All available men were practised in the use of the new box gas respirators. 30 men in the morning & 31 in the afternoon were sent up to front line on working parties & 30 men on carrying party and 20 as working party at night in the trench.
**17th** -The battalion furnished the same parties as on the 16th also 21 men to work on [*"Fats"? Forward advanced trench? – a sap perhaps?]* Marshall & Brandon
**18th & 19th** – Same as 17th
**20th** –The Battalion relieved the XI Cheshires in the trenches A Coy front line. B Coy subsidiary line. C Coy in support. D Coy in subsidiary & locality.
**21st & 22nd** - Nothing of importance to relate. The usual working parties carried out repairs in the front line and CT [*communication trench]*
**23rd** - C Coy relieved A Coy in the front line. About 12 shells were fired into the front line held by the Germans/ No damage.
**24th & 25th** - Repairs were carried out in the front line & subsidiary lines.
**26th** - The Battn were relieved by the XI Cheshires. [*Fats?]* Marshall and Brandon occupied by detachments from A Coy.

RED LODGE

**27th & 28th** -The Battn were exercised under Coy arrangements in drill, bayonet fighting physical exercises. 40 men each day were sent up to the firing line to help the XIth Cheshires repair parapets.
**29th** - The two detachments in [*Fats?]* Brandon and Marshall were relieved by two more detachments of A Coy. The usual fatigue parties were furnished.
**30th** - The usual working parties were furnished to assist in repairing the front line trench. The remainder of the Battn has exercised in drill, bayonet fighting, & physical exercise

Signed C. E. Bond Lt. Col.

**December 1916**

 RED LODGE

**1st**- The Battn still holding front line trenches. Parties from XI Cheshire Regt sent up during the morning & afternoon to assist in repair of parapets.

**2nd**- The front line occupied by B Coy was shelled during the morning between 11 & 12 no damage or casualties.

**3rd**- Quiet day nothing to report

**4th**- No working parties were supplied by the XI Cheshires. The repairs to the subsidiary line were carried out by A coy.

**5th**- The Battn was relieved by the 2th Battn [Wilts?] during the morning and afternoon, and moved to [subsector?] in Plogsteert Wood. Batt HQ were situated at [Curlew?] Farm A Coy at Touquet Berthe. B &C Coy at Ploegsteert Hall and D Coy in Fat line.

**6th**- The day was given up to cleaning of equipment and baths.

**7th** -Training was carried out under company arrangement.

**8th**- D Coy in the front line was relieved by C Coy.

PLOEGSTEERT

**9th**- Training was continued under company arrangements.

**10th**- The Battn relieved XI Cheshires in front line trenches. C Coy on the left. B Coy in the centre and A on the right. D coy in support line. The XIII Cheshires on our left and 8th S Lancs on our right.

**11th**- Work was carried out in repairing parapets and repairing trenches.

**12th**-Quiet day nothing to report.

**13th**-B Coy was relieved by C coy in the centre of the line.

**14th**- The Brigadier inspected the line during the morning.

**15th**- Quiet day nothing to report.

**16th**- Battn relieved by XI Cheshire Regt. The regt went into huts at ROMARIN on being relieved.

**17th**- Battn cleaning equipment & clothing.

ROMARIN

**18th** -The Battn was exercised in Company training. Physical exercises & bayonet ighting.

**19th** - One Company (A) proceeded to Meteren to undergo instruction in wiring. The remaining 3 companies practiced wiring at Romarin.

**20th**- The regiment was inspected by Gen Sir Douglas Haig during the morning.

**21st**- The Battalion had a route march under company arrangement distance 7 half miles.

**22nd**- The Battalion relieved XI Cheshires during the morning in the front line trenches. The XII Cheshires on our left and 8th South Lancs on the right. C Coy on left of line. D in centre and A on the right. B coy being in support. During the afternoon A coy was shelled by the enemy considerable damage being done.

TRENCHES

**23rd**- A coy was again subject to considerable shellfire, also heavy trench mortar & aerial torpedoes. 1 man was killed *[McLAREN, ANGUS Private 25797* [*PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/88800/PLOEGSTEERT%20MEMORIAL)*]* and one wounded. A great deal of damage was inflicted on our parapets.

**24th**- A quiet day with the exception of intermittent shelling on our right. A Coy was temporarily relieved by C Coy.

**25th**- A Coy again took its place on the right of the line. A successful raid was carried out by the XI Cheshire Regt on the German line opposite the front held by A coy. The artillery barrage opened at 8.30am and almost immediately the party of XI Cheshires entered the German trenches. They came back with the loss of only one man killed. They killed a considerable number of the enemy and brought back one prisoner. Our casualties were 8 men wounded 5 seriously.

**26th**- The companies were engaged in repairing the parapets damaged by the German artillery fire. We had one man badly wounded.

**27th**- A quiet day . Very little shelling from either side. Our casualties were one man seriously wounded (since died) *[GARROWAY, W.Corporal 14448 Date of Death: 27/12/1916* [*BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, NORD*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000048/BAILLEUL%20COMMUNAL%20CEMETERY%20EXTENSION%2C%20NORD)*]*

**28th** - The battalion was relieved in the front line by the XI Cheshire regt. A Coy at Touquet Berthe, B coy in fat line, C & D at Ploegsteert Hall.

**29th**- The new draft 270 men were inspected during the morning. The remainder of the Battn engaged in cleaning up.

**30th**- Detachment of new draft paraded during the morning for drill & exercises. Working parties furnished by remaining companies. The Battn was practiced in a night alarm.

**31st**- Church parade in the morning. B coy relieved D Coy in the front line.

 P Strahan Major Cmdg 8th Batt Border Regt.

**January 1917**

 TRENCHES PLOEGSTEERT

**1st**- Quiet day nothing to report.

**2nd**- The Battn left the line and came into billets at NIEPPE for a fortnights training.

**3rd**- Cleaning billets, rifles, equipment.

**4th**- A Coy was on 30 yd range all day. The remaining Coys underwent instruction in wiring under RE officer.

**5th**- B Coy on the range at ROMARIN. The remainder of the Battn did Bayonet fighting, physical drill etc.

**6th**- The same as the 5th, in addition extended order drill was practiced and a lecture given by the MO in the evening.

**7th** - Church parade and recreation.

**8th**- C & D companies marched to the training ground at BAILLEUL and practiced the attack by companies. Remaining coys bayonet fighting, physical drill, extended order drill and musketry exercises

NIEPPE

**9th**- C Coy on the range at NIEPPE remaining coys as on the 8th.

10th- A & B companies marched to the training ground at BAILLEUL and practiced the attack by companies.

**11th**- D company on the range, remaining coy bayonet exercises etc.

**12th**- The Battalion marched to BAILLEUL and practiced attack.

**13th** -The Battalion started to march to the training ground for practice attack in Brigade, but ordered to return on account of the weather.

**14th**- Church parade & recreation. 8th Border beat 2nd S. Lancs in 1st round for cup at football.

**15th** -The Brigade marched to the training ground and practiced the attack.

**16th** - The day given up to cleaning billet, equipment etc. Final football played in afternoon. 8 Borders beat 8 S.Lancs 2 goals to 0.

**17th**- The Battn. Was relieved by the X Cheshire at NIEPPE and marched to PONT DE NIEPPE and relieved the 1st Wilts Regt.

PONT DE NIEPPE

**18th** - [Five?] carrying parties numbering 170 men were supplied by the Battn for carrying material to the trenches.

**19th-21st** – During these days the Battn furnished the same carrying parties as on the 18th. The remainder were exercised in bayonet fighting.

**22nd**- The Battn was ordered at 6pm to hold itself in readiness to proceed to the trenches as the Germans made a raid on the trenches held by the 74th brigade

TRENCHES

**23rd**- The Battn relieved the XI Cheshire Regt in the front line trench. B Coy on the right, D in the centre & A on the left. C Coy being in support ar TANCREZ FARM ( the 8th S Lancs were on our left with the Australians on our right. The [rear?] Lts being the dividing line.

**24th**- Fairly quiet day. No casualties Keen frost.

**25th**- Very little work could be done on account of the frost. The 3 companies in the front line were engaged in wiring.

**26th**- About 3pm the Germans opened heavy artillery fire on TOUQUET STATION little damage was done & no casualties.

**27th**- A quiet day, all companies engaged in strengthening their front. Frost still too severe for other work.

**28th**- The German artillery more active than yesterday . One man wounded by shrapnel bullet. Usual wiring was carried out.

**29th** The Battn was relieved by the XI Cheshires and went to LE BIZET and were distributed as follows: A & D Companies in LE BIZET. One company (B) occupied LANCASHIRE SUPPORT FARM, RESERVE FARM and GUNNERS FARM. One company (C) occupied LYS FARMS, STATION REDOUBT and SEVEN TREES REDOUBT

**30th**- The Battn engaged in cleaning arms, equipment & clothing.

**31st**- 85 men were employed in carrying materials up to the front line trenches. The remainder practiced bomb throwing, physical exercises & bayonet fighting.

P. Strahan Major 8th Border Regt.

**January 1917**

 TRENCHES PLOEGSTEERT

**1st-** Quiet day nothing to report.

**2nd**- The Battn left the line and came into billets at NIEPPE for a fortnights training.

**3rd**- Cleaning billets, rifles, equipment.

**4th**- A Coy was on 30 yd range all day. The remaining Coys underwent instruction in wiring under RE officer.

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NIEPPE

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**10th**- A & B companies marched to the training ground at BAILLEUL and practiced the attack by companies.

**11th**- D company on the range, remaining coy bayonet exercises etc.

**12th**- The Battalion marched to BAILLEUL and practiced attack.

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PONT DE NIEPPE

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TRENCHES

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**27th**- A quiet day, all companies engaged in strengthening their front. Frost still too severe for other work.

**28th**- The German artillery more active than yesterday . One man wounded by shrapnel bullet. Usual wiring was carried out.

**29th** -The Battn was relieved by the XI Cheshires and went to LE BIZET and were distributed as follows: A & D Companies in LE BIZET. One company (B) occupied LANCASHIRE SUPPORT FARM, RESERVE FARM and GUNNERS FARM. One company (C) occupied LYS FARMS, STATION REDOUBT and SEVEN TREES REDOUBT

**30th**- The Battn engaged in cleaning arms, equipment & clothing.

**31st**- 85 men were employed in carrying materials up to the front line trenches. The remainder practiced bomb throwing, physical exercises & bayonet fighting.

P. Strahan Major 8th Border Regt.

**February 1917**

LE BIZET & SUPPORT LINE

**1st**- The Battalion furnished the usual carrying parties to the front line. A few shells fell in the village to the south of Batt HQ.
**2nd & 3rd**- Extra carrying parties were required to carry up material to front line in anticipation of a thaw.
TRENCHES
**4th**- The Battalion relieved the XI Cheshires in the trenches taking over the same portion of the line as in the last tour. A Coy on left – D in centre and C on the right. B in support at Tancrez Farm.
**5th** - Quiet day. Nothing to report.
**6th-** The Companies were engaged in wiring, and making knife rests [*note: named after the similarly shaped table top item, a “ knife rest” was an portable obstacle barrier consisting of two X shaped end pieces with a pole between them, used for blocking gaps, roads etc*] . No digging was possible owing to hard ground.
**7th**- Quiet day. Lieutenant Donohue died of wounds received in action. [ *The second line was added later in pencil, not ink as used for rest of the diary. I suspect tomorrow’s entry is the correct day for Lt Donoghue*]
**8th** -The enemy was very active especially with trench mortars. Batt HQ at [S??y] Farm was shelled, receiving 5 direct hits. Lt Donohue was wounded and died next day. [ *Also mentioned in yesterday’s diary. 8/2/17 is recorded as date of death by CWGC - DONOHUE, Thomas Second Lieutenant 08/02/1917 BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, NORD*]
**9th**- The enemy again active with trench mortars especially about 6pm doing considerable damage to the trenches held by A Coy who had 2 casualties. [ *NELSON, J W Private 24880 Age:32 TANCREZ FARM CEMETERY. Son of Edward and Ann Nelson, born Wythburn, living No 4 James Court, Keswick, Husband of Fanny Neen (formerly Nelson), of 17, Derwent Avenue, Seaton, Workington, Cumberland married Fanny Osborne 27th Nov 1906, two daughters, enlisted 12th Dec 1915, entered France 22nd Dec 1916. SEWELL, WILLIAM Lance Corporal 8/17283 Died on 10/02/1917 Age: 24. HAZEBROUCK COMMUNAL CEMETERY Son of John and Elizabeth Sewell, of 30, South St., Egremont, Cumberland*. ]
**10th-** The Battn relieved by the XI Cheshire and came back into support at LE BIZET. A & D Companies holding the front line. A on the left & D on the right.
**11th**- Church parade. 50 men were employed in carrying parties for the Trench Mortar Battery.
**12th-15th** -The Battn furnished carrying parties for the front line.
TRENCHES
**16th**- The Bn Relieved 11th Cheshires A Coy on left. C centre. B on right. D in support at Station Redoubt. Enemy very quiet.
**17th** -Enemy artillery active & our Artillery were put on to working party – who were dispersed. Shouting was heard opposite ESSEX FARM
**18th** -Patrol went out at 9pm opposite Sap C to ascertain if enemy were working on their wire, this was thought to be the case. Lewis Gunners were [turned?] on. Weather misty.
**19th**- As arranged our Artillery were very active at 7-9pm, the enemy retaliated with 77mm & 4.5” shells on Long Avenue. C [Gap?] and behind [????thwaite?] house – Also T. M. which fell short of our line. Pigeons were observed flying past from NE FRELINGHAM FARM. During our Artillery activity 1 Red light & 1 Green rocket set of from Frelinghem.
**20th**- Between 4-4.30 enemy shelled vicinity of C 16a88 with field gun - afterwards range was shortened & 3 shells fell round CARTERS FARM. Our right coy supports & around BARKENHAM HOUSE was shelled between 12.30 & 1pm [????] field guns from SE. Rifle Patrol went out to ascertain of enemy was attempting to repair gaps made in enemy wiree by our artillery – nothing was observed & rifle fire was kept on gaps during the night.
**21st**- Enemy sniping from opposite LE TOUQUET has increased. Enemy working party observed opposite C 10b 15-65. L G [ Lewis Gun] fire opened. Sound of water pumped from [???ch?] opposite ESSEX CENTRAL heard at 11pm and 3am – Enemy has thrown many bombs into NO MANS LAND between C4d24 & C4c98 - Heavy mist. Capt E.S. Philips died of wounds received in action. [ *PHILLIPS, ERIC SUTHERLAND Captain Age PONT-DE-NIEPPE COMMUNAL CEMETERY. Son of Elizabeth Phillips, of York House, Clarendon Place, Leamington Spa, and the late J. A. Phillips. Native of Rugby*]
**22nd**- Battn were relieved by New Zealand Bn & moved to LE BIZET
**23rd** -Working parties furnished for work on BARKENHAM AVENUE.
**24th**- As yesterday.
**25th**- Battn to NIEPPE
EECKE
**26th**- Battn marched with Bde to EECKE
**27th**- Engaged in cleaning billet & equipment.
**28th**- Training under Coy arrangements. All specialists returned to Coys. Reorganisation of platoons commenced. In afternoon classes [ ???? - *obscured by signature*] for Junior officers & Reserve Teams.

T.S. Wilkinson for Lt Col COMDG 8th Border Regt.

**March 1917**

EECKE

**1st**- Companies continued training under new organisation. In afternoon [officers *– crossed out* ] classes of instruction for junior officers in Lewis Gun, also for NCOs & men in Lewis Guns, Bombing & Signalling & Stretcher Bearing.

**2nd**- Two Coys fired on [ Berthune?] Musketry Range. Coy training in morning- Bn route march via FLETRE, THIEUSHOOK in afternoon – cold & misty weather

**3rd**- Coy drill & training of [specialist- *crossed out* ] Lewis Gunners etc in morning – Demonstrations of Smoke Bombs & Gas attack in afternoon. B Coy passed through Barrage of Smoke & Gas & 4th Coy on morning of 4th. Lecture by CO to Officers & NCOs on Advance Guards.

**4th**- Church Parade & Recreational training. – Also inter platoon football matches begun. OC of a/2nd in Com (*acting second in command?* ] & Adj on staff ride. OC corps rode in afternoon to reconnoitre ground for next days practice attack.

**5th**- Owing to high wind & much snow Attack Scheme postponed – Bn route march via STEENVORDE & practice of small attack.

**EBBLINGHEM**

**6th**- Bn moved to EDDLINGHEM & billeted there for the night – 11 miles.

NORTBECOURT

**7th**- Bn marched to NORTBECOURT – 16 miles, where billets had been arranged – Transport- with personnel billeted at LA WATTINE.

**8th** - Day spent cleaning up – inspections of feet & kits.

**9th**- Firing on range of 2nd Army Musketry School – abandoned owing to snow & high wind - coy training in billets- lecture to offices by Capt Wiilkinson on [ Interior?] Economy.

**10th**- Bn fired on musketry range “B” – 32 targets – firing practice 13,14,&19, the same as musketry school as the other 32 targets – Coys not firing –under Coy arrangements on miniature range – PT & BF Army Comdr inspected firing – afterwards G. O.C. also who criticised firing behind cover as wasted time.

**11th**- Lecture to officers & NCOs by MO on first Aid – Voluntary Church Service in afternoon – Battn under Coy arrangements in billets – Football match between Bn & 2nd Army School – Score Border 8 – A.S - O. CO on ride with 75Bde having left afternoon of 10th.

**12th**- Bn fired on musketry Range – 14,15,16,&17 practices. 80 men of B Coy to baths at HOULLE - ( Musketry School baths)

**13th**- Bn route march via LA WATTINE – MORINGHEM – INGLINGDEM thence practice attack on windmill at CHISLINGHEM returning 3pm. 40 [moun? – mountain? ] battery at HOUILLE- weather rain & misty in morning afterward warm & sunny.

**14th**- Btn fired on Musketry Range practiced 20,21,22,23. Morning wet & windy – clear till 4 then dull. G) Bde visited billets.

**15th** -Bn under Coy arrangements – nightmarching for companies for Officers- weather very fine. Football with RFC postponed.

**16th**- Bn fired on Musketry Range practice 23,24 & 25 the 2 latter being shot at 200 yds with Box Respirators.

**17th**- Bn drill 9- 10.15 am afterwards Coy arrangements . Usual L G classes – cross country race 8th Border v musketry school (15 men per team) 8th Borders won 15 men out of first 17 home. Weather very fine – strong wind.

**18th**- Church Parade. Staff ride from ACQUIN for Co 2 in C & Adj. Afternoon Musketry Field Practice – Day fine.

**19th**- Coy training. In afternoon – preparation for marching off next day – football matches against musketry school detachment, Borders won 3 goals to 1 Boxing tournament in Evening. Col Bond to hospital with Rubella (German Measles)

ACQUIN

**20th**- March to ACQUIN – Afternoon high wind & sleet.

EBBLINGHEM

**21st**- March to Ebblinghem - cold & sleet

BORRE

**22nd**- March to BORRE – Inspected on march by Lt Gen GODLEY 2nd ANZAC Corps – cold & slight sbow.

**23rd**- Inspection & Coy training.

**24th** - March to OUTTERSTEENE

**25th**- Church Parade in morning – LG & Bombing classes in afternoon.

**26th** - Coy training & classes in L Guns., Bombing etc. Offices classes & lecture by LG officer to officers & NCOS.

OUTTERSTEENE

**27th**- Bn inspected by Gen Sir H Plumer 2nd Army Commander Coy training & specialist classes – lecture by Capt Dawson on Reconnaissance. Day fine.

**28th**- Coy training lecture by Bombing Officer & lecture to men by MO Usual classes – Showery. CAPT COXON reported – Brigade scheme for Adjt, Coy Commanders, Signal Officer & Bn signallers.

**29th**- Coy training. Lecture by TMB [ *trench mortar battalion?* ] officer – 1st round of football match AVC coy for Brigade Cup. ( A Coy won 5 -0) Bayonet instruction by Bde Staff Sgt. Col Bond returned.

**30th**- Route march via FLETRE to 1 kilometre S of GODWAERSVAELDE A coy beat Brigade 5-0 , 3-0, tie I Goal each

**31st**- Coy practice attack over flagged course at DUTTERSTEENE B Coy beat D 3-1

F.S. Wilkinson Capt 8 Border Regt

**April 1917**

OUTTERSTEENE

**1st**- Coy inspections.

**2nd**- Inter platoon Bombing Competitions – C Coy won 26 pts B coy 19, A & D 11pts. 2nd S Lnacs Sports in afternoon – Brigadier & Bde Major dined at Bn HQ.

**3rd-** CO & OC Coys specialist officers to trenches at WULVERGHEM. Usual Coy training.

NEUVE EGKISE

**4th**- Bn moved to NEUVE EGLISE area – 2 in Comm & Adjutant to trenches

WOLVERGWEN

**5th**- Bn relieved 1st OTAGO NZ Bde \_ D Coy on left, C coy on R, A left support, B right support- A coy SOUTLAND FM, GALWAY dugouts DESTROYED WINDMILL – B coy FORBES TERRACE. A & B supplied working parties for front line Heavy Artillery bombardment at 8pm. Enemy retaliated - 3 casualties D coy, 2 NZ TN Battery killed & 1 RE

 **6th**- A & B working parties 40 each in morning & night – Day cold & wet fairly quiet day.

**7th**- A & B working parties 20 morning 20 afternoon & 40 night. Day very clear. TM active in morning on left. 8pm heavy artillery fell on left. We retaliated.

**8th**- Working parties as usual - little activity - weather very fine.

**9th**- A relieved D, B relieved C in line. Relief completed by 6.00 am. Col Bond left to command 7th Bde temporarily. Unsettled weather. RIR Officers went round trenches.

**10th**- Blizzard in morning. Usual working parties, Day quiet . Patrol 10th to 11th reported movement opposite bombing post N36/7

**11th**- Cold mild weather with snow. No night working parties or patrols.

**12th**- Usual working parties. Enemy active with Minenwerfer oppositeBombing Block N 36-7. Night quiet. Day fine.

**13th** -Bn relieved by 2nd RIR . GOC Div & Bde through front line.

STEETHUE

**14th** -Arrived in billets 2am. Battn rested & cleaned up.

**15th**- Church Parade. Coy officers reconnoitred attack course at BAILLEUL. Wet & attack in afternoon postponed.

**16th**- Coy training in morning. Also Baths. Attack over course in afternoon. Training for sports C Coy 10th platoon chosen to represent Bn. Wild & wet day.

**17th**- Wet morning – sports postponed. Fine afternoon. Working parties supplied 360 men.

**18th** -Heavy snow – sports cancelled – working parties 360 men.

**19th**- OC Coys watched attacks by 11th Cheshires . Preparing for move in morning. Day wet & cold.

PONT DE NIEPPE

**20th**- Cleaning up billets. Bth took over billets 2nd S Lancs. Day fine.

**21st**- Working parties supplied all day. 1 man from C Coy killed [ *BALL, JAMES ROBERT Private 26714 Age: 41* [*PONT-DE-NIEPPE COMMUNAL CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/19201/PONT-DE-NIEPPE%20COMMUNAL%20CEMETERY)*. Husband of Ada Ball, of 53, Reservoir St., Seedley, Manchester* ] 1 wounded returning near Chapelle [Rouque?] Day fine & warm

**22nd**- Working parties as usual. Church Parade. Day fine & warm

**23rd**- Usual working parties ( 4 Coys) Cable laying SOYER FARM & moving stores. [????] Btn concert at night. Divisional orchestra attended by Brigadier & staff. 2nd Lt Jones 3rd Worcesters attached for duty.

**24th**- Uual working parties. Major CWH Birt & 2nd Lieut F.. Haswell ( 4 Border) reported for duty. Day fine. Inspected all Lewis Guns.

**25th**- Usual working parties. 1 LG section sent to TOOL HOUSE to asst Btn in line. Night compass march for officers. Day warm. & fine.

**26th** - Usual working parties and LG and Bombing classes. Enemy shelled Bridge over River Lys during the day. Slight damage. Day cloudy clearing up low & dark.

**27th**- Usual working parties and LG and Bombing classes. Night working parties cancelled. Day cloudy. Lecture to officers & NCOs in afternoon by Major Birt & night marching by compass for officers.

**28th**- Usual working parties and LG and Bombing classes. Day cloudy & warm. Boxing tournament in evening

ERQUINGHEM

**29th**- Cleaned up billets. Marched to Erquinghem to take over billets in laundry from Australians in afternoon. Fine & warm. Church Parade.

**30th** - Cleaning up. Physical drill. Baths at laundry morning. Afternoon marched with Brigade to Billets near Outersteene

 F.S. Wilkinson Major 8 Border Rgt 30.4.17

**May 1917**

OUTTERSTEENE

**1st**- Col Bond arrived from leave also Capt Turner RANC – 2nd Lieut Drew (4th Border) reported for duty- Brigade Conference 10am- 1 officer platoon HQrs & 1 section Riflemen reported to Brigade platoon – Coy training. Day very fine & warm.

**2nd**- Coy training – Bde signalling scheme in afternoon – attended by OC’s & sig officers – also Border signallers – Beautiful Day Inter platoon

**3rd**- do [*ditto Coy training*] – XI Cheshire v 8 S.Lancs- draw 1 goal each – conference for OC coys & CSM – to draw up Btn Sports Programme.

**4th**- do. – Coys visited by Brigadier & WA QMG & expert from Army S of Cookery – Coy Bombing contest B v C, B won. Field arranged for sports

**5th**- do. Btn Sports in afternoon & Cross Country Race. 11 Cheshire 1st, 8 Border 2nd. Open Air Concert at night. Day fine- wet at night. Iron rations turned over.

**6th**- Church Parade in barn at HQrs. Day fine. OC Coys reconnoitred ground for practice attack tomorrow. Fine.

**7th**- Half Brigade Practice Attack over Mont Lille training grounds afternoon officers reconnoitred ground for night compass march. Day fine.

**8th**- Half Brigade Practice Attack postponed – coys attack over same area. Officers night compass march. Day Cloudy & wet in morning – fine later.

**9th**- Coy training. 24 m3n paraded before ADMS

STEENT-JE

**10th** -Coy training. Major Wilkinson, Company Cdrs, & Qr Mr [ *Quartermaster*?] to Cookery School Hazebrouck for instruction. In afternoon Battalion moved to billets in Steent- Je area. Photos taken. Warm

**11th**- Coy training. Col Bond to Brigade & Major Wilkinson on leave. Fine & warm. Major Birch Commanding. Capt Smith to A coy

**12th**- Battalion to Mont de Lille training ground.Practice attack. C Coy 50 men Strazeele area working party. Warm

**13th**- C & D Coys away at 5 am to Neuve Eglise – detached for several days working party. Church parade. Cricket match A versus B coy in afternoon – won by B coy 36 runs to 28. Capt Dawson to cookery school for day instruction. Thunderstorm.

**14th** - A & B Coys to Mont De Lille training ground for company training & Firing exercises. Boxing contest evening. Cloudy & little rain in afternoon

LA CRECHE

**15th**- A & B Coys & Headquarters moved to billets & bivouac at La Creche. C & D remaining at Neuve Eglise. Cloudy & Cool.

**16th**- A & B coys to Mont De Lille training ground for company training in Attack & firing exercises. 200 men to DE KEENNEBAC sidings to unload munitions. Working all night. Cool Day very wet night.

**17th**- Wet- only a few men available for training. Major Birt, Capts Coxon [*Capt Percy Hunter Coxon, killed 13/4/18 near Neuve-Eglise . Age 25. Son of Thomas and Mary Coxon, of 8, Vernon Parade, Whitehall Rd., Gateshead. Gazetted Sept., 1914; wounded at Thiepval July, 1916 Buried Messine Ridge Cemetery*], Lay, Stewart [*Capt John Ebenezar Stewart MC Killed 28/4/18 8th Bn. Border Regiment attd. South Staffordshire Regiment. Son of William A. Stewart, of 37, Kildovan St., Coatbridge, and the late Isabella Shaw Stewart. Tyne Cot Memorial*], & Dawson to view model enemy trenches at LOCRE. 200 men to DE KEENEBAC Siding. C & D at NEUVE EGLISE

**18th**- Wet only a few men available for training. C & D Coys still at Neuve Eglise.

**19th**- A & B Coys provided working parties 200 men for unloading at DE KEENEBAC Siding . C & D at NEUVE EGLISE.

**20th**- Fine. A & B Coys provided working parties 200 men for unloading at DE KEENEBAC. Church Parade at 10.30 am. CO & Major Birt to C & D Coy in afternoon. CO returned from Brigade.

**21st**- Fine. C & D at NEUVE EGLISE, A & B resting & bathing. Officers & NCOs to MONT DE LILLE to watch attacks by 8 S. Lancs. Brigade Boxing Competions in evening. L/ C Shields beaten in 10 rd. contest by Pte Newbiggin XI Cheshires.

**22nd**- Close & muggy with little rain. C & D coys still at NEUVE EGLISE. A & B coys to MONT DE LILLE for practice attack in conjunction with XI Cheshire . Divisional Cdr present. Attack was done well. Coy training in morning.

**23rd-** Cool. A & B Coys doing company training.. L G sections firing on small range at STEENWERCK. C & D Coys at NEUVE EGLISE. Officers & NCOs to watch practice attack by 8th & 2nd S Lancs on MONT LILLE in afternoon. Corps, Div, & Brigade Cdrs present. Capt W.O.LAY came down to HQ on way to take post as Staff Capt 70th Brigade. 200 men to DE KENNEBAC siding unloading munitions. Away all night.

**24th**- Fine. C & D Coys returned from Neuve Eglise area, relieved by 2 coys 8 S. Lancs .Company training. 80 men A Coy to DE KENNEBAC Siding as working party at night.

**25th**- Warm. Coy training in morning & D Coy to baths. In afternoon the Battalion did a practice attack on MONT DE LILLE training ground.

**26th** - Battalion took part in Brigade exercise at MONT DE LILLE with XI Cheshire in morning. Working party of 80 men from B Coy to DE KENNEBAC Siding . Back 11pm. Nos 1, 2, 3 Lewis Gun teams on Range & Rifle Grenadiers on bombing pit. War. Bathing.

**27th**- Very warm. East wind. Church Parade 9.30. Lewis Gun 1, 2, & 3 on Range & Rifle Grenadiers on Bombing pit. Bathing.

**28th**- Very warm. A, B,C,& D Coys to MONT DE LILLE training area for attack under Brigade arrangements . Concert in evening – good. Major Birt & [Sjt? – *Serjeant* ] Anderson up to see trenches.

RAVELSBURG

**29th**- Cool & cloudy. Battalion marched to Ravelsburg in morning – tents & bivouacs. Cross country run – Borders beaten by XI Cheshire recreation in afternoon.

**30th**- Warm. A & B Coys Company training – musketry & Bayonet – C & D oys supplied 200 men working party SOUVENIR FARM. Shell burst as C Coy were going down NEUVE EGLISE Road killing 4 & wounding 6 men. [ *Four men died 30/5/1917 all buried at Kandahar Farm: Private WRAY, Edward. 241861 .Private PORTER William 25718 .Private IRVING Matthew 17321 . & Lance Serjeant BOSTOCK, John 33275 .This may be one of wounded? L Cpl WILLOCK, Robert 15011 31 May 1917 Of* [*Castle Street, Kendal,*](http://i920.photobucket.com/albums/ad50/granatloch/France%20Cems/BailleulCCE/WillockR_CastleStreet.jpg)  *Westmorland. Born 1890. Clerk. Parents George Harrison Willock & Isabel. Brother of Martha. Bailleul Cemetery*]

 Lew is Gun teams on range. Lt Col Bond (OC) received notice of his appointment to command of 51st Brigade.

**31st**- Fine. A & B Coys on fatigues. C & D doing company training. Lewis Gun teams on Range. “B” teams of Battalion under Major Wilkinson left for Morbecque.

C W H Birt Major o/c 8th Bn Border Regt

**June 1917**

RAVELSBURG

**1st**- Fine C & D Coys provided working parties of 100 men each. A & B Coys doing Company training. Lewis Gun teams o Range. Brigadier Gen C.E. BOND CMG DSO left the Battalion to take over 51st Brigade

**2nd**- Fine A & B Coys provided working parties of 100 men each. C & D Coys did company training. Lewis Gun teams on range at Crucifix Corner. Church parade in evening 7 O’clock.

PIONEERS CAMP NEUVE EGLISE

**3rd**- Fine, A & B Coys left RAVELSBURG CAMP at 5am to take over DURHAM TRENCHES from 1st Wilts. C & D moved out at 6.30 am to take over Bivouacs at PIONEER Camp from remaining Coys of 1st Wilts. C & D finding working parties for RE Coys. Parties visited model tranches CONNAUGHT ROAD “B “Coy 2 casualties wounded.

**4th**- Fine warm. A & B Coys in Durham Trench – B Coy 1 casualty wounded. C & D coys doing RE work.

**5th**- Fine & warm. A & B Coys in DurhamTtrench. C & D working parties for Engineers. Heavy Bombardment all day.

**6th** - Warm. East wind. C & D relieved A & B Coys in Durham Line early this morning. B Coy had 24 casualties during its stay in the Durham trench. The Battalion in assembly trenches Newcastle Trench soon after midnight preparing to attacking in the morning. Stores tools re issued at Pioneer camp.

MESSINES RIDGE

**7th**- Warm. Attack on MESSINES RIDGE began at 3.10am. Battalion left Assembly trench (Newcastle) at 7am to take part. C on left ,D on right, A & B in support respectively. Provisional task – Consolidation of Black Line – just to East of MESSINES- WYTSCHAETE Road, but had to help clear several pockets of enemy left by advanced troops, reached Black Line about 8.30am & began consolidation. Also dug two CTs from October support trench & one on right & one on left of our own position. 2nd Lancs wired the front at night. Enemy shelled very heavily at intervals all the day & night. 2/ Lt E. Healey killed [ *Edward Healey 6th Border attached 8th. Menin Gate*] during advance & 2 Lt Bott [ *BOTT, George, Gerard, Randall MC Lieutenant (S. Lancs Reg attd. 8th Border) Died 13/4/18 Age 26. Son of Arthur T. and Constance Bott, of 63, Victoria Rd., Fulwood, Preston; husband of Mary A. Bott. Messine Ridge Cemetery* ] & 2 Lt Johnson wounded. Sent 4 platoons forward to support XI Cheshires on [OP?] line.

**8th**- Warm. Consolidation proceeding Shelled at intervals all day. Heavy shelling at night. reported counter attack at night on Australian Division in front. Relieved about midnight by 2 companies of 1st Wilts. Total Casualties 1 officer killed 2 wounded. 13 OR killed 15 wounded.

 *[ Private CARTWRIGHT Herbert 32089 7/6/17. Bailleul Communal Cemetery.*

*Sergeant COCKELL Raynard 28373 7/6/17. Age 26. Husband of Ettie Florence Cockell, of 5, Barrow Hill Place, Ashford, Kent. Menin Gate.*

*Private DAVIDSON Andrew 24868. 7/6/18 Age 20. Son of John 7 Agnes Davidson, of Charlesfield Cottages, Annan, Dumfriesshire. Menin Gate.*

*Private ELLIOTT Mitchel. 202883. 7/6/17.Menin Gate.*

*Private MASON George Wright, 24687. 7/6/17 .Of Causeway End, Levens, Westmorland. Born 1892. Parents Samuel and Margaret A.. Brother of Kate, Mary E., and Maria. Buried Westhof Farm Cemetery*

*Sergeant McEWEN Allan 15060. 7/6/17 Age 29. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McEwen, of Clifton House Gardens, Workington, Cumberland. Also commemorated in Clifton Churchyard on a family grave. Menin Gate*

*Private MILLS John W. 26396 7/6/17. Age 36. Son of Walter Mills, of John St., Booth Fold, Waterfoot, Manchester; husband of Jane Ann Laycock (formerly Mills), of 3, Edison St., Bacup, Lancs. Menin Gate*

*Corporal PATE, Arthur. 16815. 7/6/17 Age 21. Son of Arthur and Alice Pate, of 7, York St., Blackpool Menin Gate*

*Private RINGWOOD Bertie. 26502.7/6/17 Son of Mrs. E. Ringwood, of Stiffkey, Wells, Norfolk Menin Gate*

*Private ROGERSON William. 18620. 7/6/17 Bailleul Communal Cemetery.*

*Private STONES Harold. 28486. 7/6/17 Age 20. Son of Mrs. Jane Stones, of 4, Bowden St, Bolton Menin Gate*

*Private WILSON Charles. 25449 7/6/17 Menin Gate*

*Private MOFFATT Robert 17314 8/6/17. Age 23. Son of Mrs. Mary A. Percival, of Burgh-by-Sands, Carlisle. Westhof Farm Cemetery.*

NEUVE EGLISE

 **9th**- Warm. Battalion in Brigade Camp resting & refitting. Major General Bainbridge visited camp.

**10th**- Fine. In camp resting & refitting. Church parade 11am.

**11th**- Cool & cloudy. Still in camp. Corps commander II ANZAC CORPS visited camp in morning & personally thanked the whole Brigade for splendid work done in the attack on MESSINE RIDGE. Battalion did little company drill. Also baths allotted.

**12th** -Cool & showery. Bn moved up to trenches – Messines sector B team at KANDAHAR Camp

MESSINES

**13th**- Fine- Artillery bombardment. Lt W H Anderson killed on patrol [with?] Major Birt. [ 2nd Lt W H Anderson 5th Border att.8th Border 13/6/17 Messines Ridge British Cemetery.]

**14th**- Bn attacked from Assembly position in new Switch trench – A, B, &D from R to L with C in support - & attacked at. With objective FERME DE LA CROIX- U5d12.40 LES QUATRE ROIS CABT. – GAPHARD – DECONICH FARM which was successfully accomplished. Lt W.A. BELL was killed [ *2nd Lt BELL William Arundel Age 25. Son of the late S. A. and E. M. W. Bell, of Wavertree, Liverpool Messines Ridge British Cemetery*] . Major BIRT, CAPTS STEWART & DAWSON wounded – the 2 former joined B team & Capt Dawson was evacuated.

**15th**- Fine – Bn continued consolidation & was relieved by N. Cheshires - & moved into support

**16th**- Five working parties furnished.

DE KENNEBEK [*Same place as KENNEBAC in May I presume, but one is mis-spelt?]*

**17th**- Fine. Bn moved to camp Nr KENNEBEK siding.

**18th**- Fine Bn refitted & rested.

**19th**- Fine- Parades under company arrangements. Lt Col BIRT on short leave.

**20th**- Cloudy – Bn route march – Recreational training.

**21st**- Wet- route march cancelled – Coy training.

**22nd** - Fine- Coy training- various events for Inter Coy Cup run off.

SEC BOIS

**23rd** - Bn moved to SEC BOIS leaving at 9.50 pm fine.

MERVILLE

**24th**- Bn moved to MERVILLE at 10.45pm Fine

 St HILAIRE

**25th**- Bn moved to ST HILAIRE leaving at 10.40pm- wet

ERNY ST JULIEN

**26th** - BN moved to ERNY ST JULIEN- leaving 11.20 –Fine.

**27th** -Attempt to clean filthy billets – Wet in afternoon.

**28th** - Coy training – Lt Gen Jacobs Corps Comdr addressed officers of 75 Bde at BONY.

**30th** - Wet. Coy training. Lecture in evening by Col Birt to NCOs & officers.

 F J Gemmell Smith Capt a/adjt 8th Border Regt.

**July 1917**

ERNY ST JULIEN

**1st**- Threatening. Church parade on Bn Parade ground with 8 S. Lancs & Bde HQrs & 76 FA. Football match on Battalion parade ground. 8th Borders v XI Cheshires. Won by Borders 5 goals to 1.

**2nd**- Beautiful day. Battn (less LG teams) to LONG Range near BOMY for rifle shooting L.G. teams on miniature range at ERNY ST JULIEN.

**3rd-** Warm. Battn doinf individual training. LG teams on miniature range. CO Adjt & Coy Cdrs to CUHEM for Brigade Staff Ride.

**4th**- Very wet. Battn marched to CUHEM for Bde practice attack. Attack cancelled owing to rain. Returned to billets & carried on with individual training – musketry & Bayonet fighting.

**5th**- Fine. Brigade practice attack from CUHEM – BOMY road. Battalion attacked thro ERNY ST JULIEN to the high ground North West of village. Attack repeated in afternoon. Ceremonial parade in front of church for presentation of medal ribbons by GOC Brigade & Guard mounting. Football Battn team played 77th F. Ambulance on our ground & won 3 goals to 1. LG teams on miniature range.

**6th**- Beautiful Day. Battalion ceremonial parade in morning. Coys on Long Range afternoon. L.G. teams & classes on miniature range.

**7th**- Fine . Bathing parties to BOMY morning. Battalion practiced attack in afternoon. LG teams on range & new draft at Bombing pits.

STEENBECQUE

 **8th**- Very wet overnight – Cloudy all day. Battalion mved in Buses & Lorries to STEENBECQUE (billets)

WINNIPEG CAMP

**9th**- Cloudy & cold. Battalion moved in with rest of Brigade OUDERDOM area – in huts at WINNIPEG Camp ( per Buses & Lorries)

OUDERDOM

**10th**- Fine. Company parades in morning. Resting & cleaning up afternoon. Party of 502 all ranks under Capt COXON moved on in lorries at night to SWAN CHATEAU. New drafts paraded under RSM for drill. Capt Reade ( 8th S. Lancs) arrived to take over second in command temporarily.

**11th**- Fine. Cleaning up. Drafts paraded under RSM & new LG classes ( 6 per coy) started under Lt Strong. Signallers paraded under 2 Lt [Dodd?]

**12th**- Fine. Range finding class ( 2 per coy) started under 2/lt Laycock. Work of other instructional classes continued. Working parties supplied from SWAN CHATEAU for road making & earth laying. Capt Stewart returned from leave.

WINNIPEG CAMP OUDERDOM

**13th**- Fine Day rain during night. Fourteen of draft sent to SWAN CHATEAU to take place of men withdrawn to attend instructional classes. Work of parties dueing night hindered by hostile shelling. Casualties 7 killed 17 wounded. [ *All buried* [*BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/8900/BELGIAN%20BATTERY%20CORNER%20CEMETERY)*:*

*BARNES, ANTHONY Private 240552. Age: 27. Son of Margaret Barnes, of Water St., Wigton, and the late Alexander Barnes; husband of Millicent Barnes, of 75, Water St., Wigton, Cumberland.*

*BUTTERWORTH, ENOCH. Private. Age: 25. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William James Butterworth, of 75A, Todmorden Rd., Bacup.*

*CAPSTICK, THOMAS.Private. 25287. Age: 30. Son of James and Charlotte Capstick, of 21, Walton St., Colne*

*CLARK, J.Private.240689. Age: 21. Son of William and Elizabeth Clark, of 5, South St., Fletchertown, Carlisle*

*NEWTON, HERBERT Private.26666. Age: 33. Son of Samuel and Jane Newton, of Roundthorn, Oldham; husband of Violet Newton, of 31, Rochdale Rd., Oldham.*

*OGDEN, HAROLD Private.260119. Age: 19. Son of Bethel and Annie Ogden, of 42, Cardinal St, Burnley.*

*ROGERS, EDGAR EAGLE .Private.26864. Age: 36.. Husband of Isabella Agnes Rogers, of 28, Fleming St., Maryport* ]

**14th**- Close during day. Thunderstorm at night. Work of instructional classes continued Scouts also taken by LT Laycock in rangefinding. Casualties from working part7 1 killed 7 wounded. [ *CWGC lists two 14/7/17 casualties, both* [*LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/14900/LIJSSENTHOEK%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY)*: DIXON, G.Private.12506. TUCKER, W J.Corporal. 33004. Age: 22.Son of Kentley Sidney and Mary Tucker, of 5, Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, Glam* ]

**15th**- Fine. Church parade at WINNIPEG CAMP & SWAN CHATEAU. Men attending Lewis Gun classes returned to SWAN CHATEAU to strengthen working party (6 per coy)

**16th**- Fine. Remiander of draft (totalling 33) and rangefinding class 8 men) returned to SWAN CHATEAU to strengthen working parties whose members were depleted owing to sickness caused by [lacrymatory?] gas. Lt Duggan returned from base.

**17th**- Fine,. Trained signallers only available for instruction. Casualties among working party - 5 wounded.

**18th** – Showery- During the evening demonstration given to all available men of use of Yukon Pack [ *A sort of rucksack-type frame for carrying assortment of items – see attached photo* ] Only one working party of 270 men required from today at SWAN CHATEAU. Remainder to be relieved by 8th South Lancs. 2/ Lt H. MacTavish returned from rest camp. 2/ Lt John Davidson, [ *DAVIDSON, JOHN Lieutenant Date of Death:15/10/1917.Age: 32.*[*NEUFCHATEL-HARDELOT (NEUFCHATEL) CHURCHYARD*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/28705/NEUFCHATEL-HARDELOT%20%28NEUFCHATEL%29%20CHURCHYARD)*.Son of the late William and Annabella Davidson, of Colmonell, Ayrshire. M.A. (Hons.) Edinburgh* ], 2/ Lt James [ Silva Kamislin?] , 2/Lt Robert Smith. [*SMITH, R. Second Lieutenant. Date of Death: 09/08/1917.*[*HOOGE CRATER CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/52700/HOOGE%20CRATER%20CEMETERY)] These officers reported today from base and were taken on the strength of the Battn.

WINNIPEG CAMP OUDERDOM

**19th**- Fine. Day spent by men returned from SWAN CHATEAU in cleaning equipment and ammunition. Men paraded for inspection at 3pm. 20 men returned to SWAN CHATEAU to make strength of working party there of 270, exclusion of Sergeants, stretcher bearers & duty men. Casualties on working parties 4 wounded.

**20th**- Fine 33 men sent to reinforce detachment at SWAN CHATEAU. Deficiency caused by casualties & sickness. Classes of instruction continued. Working parties totalling 67 detailed from camp for work during night. Casualties nil.

**21st**- Fine. Work of instructional classes continued. Working parties supplied as on previous day. This work was considerably interfered with through gas casualties. 2 killed 4 wounded, 24 gassed. [ *CWGC records no 8th Bn deaths on 21st – but on 22nd : DUPRE, JOHN Private 28471 & BERRY, FRANK Private 260137 Age:22Son of Richard Berry, of Skirsgill, Penrith, Cumberland. Both on Menin Gate* ]

**22nd**- Fine, Church parades at WINNIPEG CAMP and SWAN CHATEAU. Working parties supplied from both the above places in night work ( 270 and 76 respectively). Remainder of Battalion moved out at 9.45 to RENINGHELST STAGING AREA A. Working parties on completion of tasks were conveyed by motor buses to the above camp.

RENINGHELST STAGING AREA A

**23rd**- Fine – Day spent by men in cleaning equipment. Also kit inspection & reorganisation throughout Battalion.

**24th**- Fine Programme of training as follows: 7am -7.30 Physical training. 9.15-9.45 Battalion Parade. 9.45- 12.30 Classes of instruction & coy training. 2 to 4pm classes of instruction and recreational training. A party of 50 men & 5 officers assembled at Brigade headquarters to hear an address given by Archbishop of York.

**25th**- Fine. Physical training. 7am-7.30. Batt parade 9.15-9.45. 9.45-12.30 Special Instruction classes. Remainder musketry & bayonet fighting. Thee Brigade assembled at 2.15 pm on 8th S Lancs parade ground and were addressed by the Divisional general.

**26th**- Fine. Physical training. 7am-7.30. Batt parade 9.15-9.45. Specialist classes 9.45-12.30 Lewis Gun Classes continued 2-4pm. During afternoon, inter Company football & tug of war competition.

**27th**- Fine. Training programme continued. Battn football played 13th Cheshire in semi final Dival competition and lost 1-0. Lt [Glodd?] gave demonstration of use of Yukon Pack to Battns of 7th Brigade. No classes were held during afternoon.

**29th**- Heavy thunderstorms during morning. Church parade at 11.30am. Men rested during remainder of day.

**30th**- Showery. Battalion paraded during morning in fighting order for inspection. A draft of men joined the battalion at 6pm. 1 NCO & 55 men - At 2pm B team (including CSM) marched to OUDEZEELE. At 7.30 pm – T team under Capt Reade marched to transport lines. The remainder of Battalion left camp at 9.30 pm & marched to position of assembly SOUTH of BELGIAN CHATEAU.

BELGIAN CHATEAU **31st**- Fine. Battalion moved from Assembly Area at 7.40 am to position of readiness. During the night we took over lines gained by the 2nd West Yorks. Regt- the 8th Division having attacked during the morning. Casualties 9 wounded including Lt King wounded at duty.

**August 1917**

 BELLEWARDE FARM

**1st**- At 1.30 Battalion was ordered from Mud Lane to take up position in close support of 23rd Bde who were holding BELLEWARDE RIDGE. At 4am the Bn was in position between BEELEWARDE LAKE and YPRES-ROULERS RAILWAY . C Coy (Capt KING) & D COY (Capt DUGGAN) right & left respectively. A Coy ( Capt SMITH) & B Coy (Lt Birnie MC) in support. – Battalion HQ & Aid post at BELLEWARDE FARM. Rained heavily all day. Men suffered from exposure & cold. Enemy shelled the position fairly considerably. Two parties 50 men each sent forward at night to assist dig support trenches on West slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE.

**2nd**- Still in position North of BELLEWARDE LAKE. Rained nearly all day. Warning received of probable counter attack on BLACK LINE ( WESTHOEK RIDGE) Bn held in readiness to move forward to BELLEWARDE RIDGE and to counterattack if necessary. Shelled intermittently

**3rd**- Still in BELLEWARDE position. Acting under order GOC Bde who visited us in the morning. A party of 100 men under Capt F.J. Gemmel- Smith who detailed to assist the XI Cheshires who were attacking the next morning in order to push their forward post out a couple of hundred yards. Owing to the continued rain the attack was postponed.. Sec Lieut W.F.J.LAIT killed in action near LAKE FARM. [ *Wilfrid Francis James Lait Second Lieutenant 3rd Bn att. 8th Bn, Menin Gate*]

**4th**- Still in BELLEWARDE Position. Weather fine though threatening

**5th**- Still in BELLEWARDE Position. Little rain Ground in very muddy state. Movement difficult.

RAILWAY WOOD

**6th**- Bn relieved early in morning by 1 coy L.N.Lancs & 1 Coy Lanc Fus and moved back to Dug outs in RAILWAY WOOD.

**7th-** More Rain. 2 working parties of 110 men each provided for 74th BDE to carry knife rests [ *knife rests – a portable barrier with X shaped ends and a pole between, named after the table top item of a similar shape*] At 10pm Bn moved forward. A & C Coy (Capt SMITH & KING resp) to JACOB TRENCH – A on right. D Coy ( Capt COXON MC) north of LAKE FARM. B Coy (Lt BIRNIE MC) IDIOT RESERVE, HQ & AID POST at BELLEWARDE FARM.

BELLEWARDE

**8th**- Bn ordered to be prepared to assist 74th Bde in proposed attack. A Coy placed under orders Lt Col FINCH (13 Cheshire) to support his right flank South of WESTHOEK. D Coy brought into JACOB TRENCH to be vacated by A coy & B coy sent down to RAILWAY WOOD to assist carrying parties. Aid post at BELLEWARDE FARM and Bn HQ. at junction JACOB TRENCH and IDIOT DRIVE. All in position by 12 midnight 8/9 August. Rained heavily & enemy shelled very heavily.

**9th**- Attack postponed owing to unpropitious weather & by 6am the Bn was moved back to the positions occupied by it 24 hours previously. At 11.30 am the Battalion was relieved by the 3rd WORCESTERS & moved back via MENIN GATE & BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER (where lorries were waiting) to WINNIPEG CAMP. Sec Lt R. Smith died of wounds received in action while he was being relieved. [ *2nd Lt Robert Smith. Hooge Crater Cemetery* ]

WINNIPEG

**10th**- Bn resting & refitting in Camp. “B” teams from transport rejoined. Men Bathed.

**11th**- Warned to move back to line to relieve 2nd R.Irish R. Lt Col BIRT went forward to arrange relief with 4th Bde. Bn moved by lorries to BELGIAN BATT. CORNER. Thence marched via WARRINGTON ROAD and BIRR CROSS ROADS to position on WESTHOEK RIDGE. Owing to enemy barrage & heavy rain& guides not being at appointed place relief much delayed. Ground very wet & boggy.

WESTHOEK

**12th**- Bn completed relief of 2nd Royal Irish Rifle by 3.30 am & disposed as follws. A Coy (2/Lt HASWELL) J8a65.20 – B Coy (Capt COXON MC) J8a50.40 – C Coy (Capt KING) J8a60.65 - D Coy ( 2/Lt CROOKSTON) J8a60.75. All on Easterly slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE AID POST at SEIBEN HOUSE BN HQ J7d80.90. Morning was fine but rain fell heavily inn afternoon. Movement during day practically impossible. Position shelled very heavily especially at night. By 11.30 pm the Battalion was relieved in the 2 right coys by 3rd LONDONS & 2 left coys by XI Cheshire & moved via BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER (where lorries were waiting) to DOMINION CAMP.

DOMINION CAMP

**13th** -Bn all in camp except for one or two stragglers. Transport & the B teams with transport moved from forward transport lines (near BELGIAN CHATEAU) to DOMINION CAMP. The Day spent in resting & cleaning up. Little rain.

**14th**- Heavy rain duringthe day. Bn resting & cleaning up & refitting. CAPT TURNER (MO) sent down sick & Capt WELLS sent from 76 FA to releie him. Capt READE rejoined his battalion 8th S.Lancs.

**15th**- Thundershowers. Battalion refitting. B teams rejoined & reinforcements from MILLAM. Capt DOVE, [ *DOVE, CHARLES BERTRAM Captain Date of Death: 21/03/1918. Age:34. 3rd Bn. attd. 8th Bn.* [*FAVREUIL BRITISH CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/62503/FAVREUIL%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY)*. Husband of Amy Caton Dove, of "La Casina," Hayling Island, Hants*. ] 2/Lts HOGG, OAKDEN, & LAY joined from Corpos Reinforcement Camp. Brig Gen C.E. BOND (late CO) paid the battalion a visit.

**16th**- Received short notice to move up to Divisional Rsve. Left at 12 noon for SWAN CHATEAU – no casualties. Carrying parties (5 of 50) – for the 8th Divn, carrying to DUMP by BELLEWARDE RIDGE. Casualties- nil.

SWAN CHATEAU

**17th**- Relieved in evening by 17/Londons & marching to embossing point on OUERDOM-FLAMERTIGHNE Rd.

GODEWEARSVELOT

**18th**- Arrived at Billets at 4am. Major F.A.WILSON 1st R Dublin Fus joined Bn for duty as 2nd in Command.

**19th**- Church parade & cleaning up.

**20th**-Brigade moved to STEENVORDE AREA. Left at 9am – marched as Bn. Lieut Col CWH Birt DSO left Bn for a week’s rest at [Jen?] - side.

STEENVORDE

**21st**- General inspection by C in C Field Marshal SIR DOUGLAS HAIG KCB etc. Bn did very well - complimented by C in C.

**22nd & 23rd**- General & specialist training in morning. Recreational training in afternoon

**24th** do. Competition for BOND CUP completed – A Coy winners.

**25th**- General & specialist training in morning. Recreational training in afternoon. Lieut Col CWH Birt DSO rejoined Bn.

**26th**- Church parade. CO’s Conference at Bde HQ ( start) Heavy rain at night.

**27th** - Heavy rain. Indoor classes. CO’s tactical exercise for Senior Officers.

**28th** -Heavy rain. Indoor classes.

**29th**- Bde Horse Show & Sports. Bn tied with 11 Cheshire for 1st place in Transport events & scored highest points in Athletic events.

**30th**- General & specialist training in morning. Final for Divisional football played on Bn ground in morning & won by 13 Cheshires. Afternoon 8 S Lancs beat Bn (Football) 4-2. Evening Bde Boxing Tournament.

**31st**- General Specialist Training. Musketry on 30’ range at CASSEL

CWH Birt Lt Col Cdg 8th Bn Border Reg.

**September 1917**

 STEENVORDE

**1st-** Short notice move of Bde to DOMINION CAMP. Bn left at 12 noon & marched with Bde.

DOMINION CAMP

**2nd**- Church parade. Bn continued march to CHAU SEGARO in DICKEBUSCHE AREA – where went into bivouac. Enemy aeroplanes heavily bombed surrounding area at night – No casualties.

CHAU SEGARO

**3rd**- CO’s Conference at Bde in morning. Regt transport moved back to North of DICKESBUSCHE. Bn standing by.

**4th**- Bn standing by. Regimental party reconnoitred front line.

**5th**- Bn moved up at 12 noon – relieving 8 L N Lancs in front line ( Bn HQ at CLAPHAM JUNCTION) with advanced posts in GLENCORSE WOOD 150\* [ *I presume \* means either feet or yards ?* ] in front of fairly continuous line. Front about 1400\*. Relief completed at 10pm. Casualties NIL. Working all night improving line. Major F A WILSON Commanding. Col CWH Bity left for weeks rest.

FRONT LINE in front of HOOGE

**6th**- Corps (British) on our left attacked some enemy posts – Battle lasted several hours (morning). Light barrage put down by enemy on our left. About noon enemy counterattacked corps on our left – light barrage again. Put down on our left. At 7.15 pm enemy appeared to counterattack again – very heavy barrage put down all along our front - but no enemy attack. Barrage lasted for about an hour. All our telephone lines held for 45 minutes – 1 line to one coy the whole time. During night we carried on wiring, making of strong points 100\* behind our lines (3 such points) – joining up the two Advanced Posts in GLENCORSE WOOD & improving our trenches.

**7th**- Quiet day – continued work of night 6/7.

**8th-** Quiet day- At 9pm enemy put down heavy barrage on our front – but did not attack. Barrage lasted one hour. Our telephone lines cut after a few minutes. Wok continued as above.

**9th**- At 4am enemy put down very heavy barrages on our front - & attacked Bn on our right, taking one advanced post in INVERNESS COPSE. Third Bn ( R.W.Kent) counterattacked at once & retook last post – with 12 prisoners. 2/Lt LANGWORTH killed (shellfire) [ *Langworth, Harold Samuel 2/Lt Attached 8th Bn. Border Regiment. Age 37. Belgian Battery Corner CemeterySon of S. T. W. and J. E. Langworth, of Fulham, London; husband of Florence E. Langworth (nee Barker), of 12, Leinster Avenue, East Sheen, London. Educated at Christ's Hospital*. ] Bn relieved by 7 London Bn. Relief complete for B Coy (on right) C Coy (Centre) & D Coy (Support) – except for the two Advanced posts by 6pm. Advanced Posts relieved by 10.45pm & remainder of Bn ( A Coy on left & Bn HQ) by 1.30am on 10/9/17.

CHAU SEGARO **10th** -Bn HQ arrived 4am – found Coys all safely in. At 8.30 Bn moved down to WINNIPEG CAMP. During night enemy shelled & bombed camp.

WINNIPEG CAMP

**11th**- Bn cleaning up & reorganising.

**12th**- Bn moved to PRADELLES ( by bus)

PRADELLES

**13th** - Bn moved (marched) to STEENBECQUE.

STEENBECQUE

**14th** - Bn marched to MAERLES – LEZ-MINES (about 18 miles) Men marched v. well indeed.

MARLES-LEZ-MINES

**15th**- Bn reorganising & cleaning up. Also cleaning village & billets which were found in filthy condition. Lieut Col CWH BIRT rejoined Bn.

**16th**- Church Parade. Brigade conference.

**17th-22nd** - General & Special training in morning. Recreational training in afternoon.

**23rd**- Church parade. General & Special training in morning. Recreational training in afternoon. Shooting on range. Won Brigade Competition.

**24th & 25th** - General & Special training in morning. Recreational training in afternoon.

**26th**- Divisional Sports & Fete. Lost Shooting Competition Wilts 1st, Lanc Fus 2nd, Borders 3rd. BORDERS 2nd for cooker. 3rd for limber & water cart. 3rd for pack mules, 2nd for tug of war. 1st Hurdle race. 1st & 2nd wrestling, 3rd officers relay, 2nd football kicking. A very successful & pleasant day – 2/Lt Drew rejoined Battn from signal course.

NOUEX-LES-MINES

**27th**- Battalion marched with Brigade ( less 8 S Lancs) to NOUEX-LES-MINES. Men in huts . Officers in billets.

**28th**- Resting & cleaning. Advanced party under Lt Reed [ *Reed,Gerald, Francis, Woolterton Lieut.Mentioned in Despatches, Died21/3/18 Age 22. Arras Memorial Son of Thomas Allen Woolterton Reed and Ida Reed, of The Inglenook, Rode Hill, Rode, Bath* ] to Cite CALCONE to clean up dug outs. Battn left NOEUX-LES-MINES at 8pm & marched to CITE CALLONE – Brigade reserve.

CITE CALLONE

**29th**- Cleaning out cellars. Working parties deepening & opening up CTs under RE’s at night. No casualties.

**30th**- Improving dugouts & fitting gas blankets. 2 coys provided working parties – deepening trench under Res at night. No casualties.

CWH Birt Cdg 8th Border Regt.

**October 1917**

 CITE CALLONE

**1st**- Weather excellent. Usual working parties ( 2 coys 100men each 7pm, 2 coys 100 men 7am ) Casualties 2 killed, [ *WALSH, J. Private.23786 01/10/1917 .* [*BULLY-GRENAY COMMUNAL CEMETERY, BRITISH EXTENSION*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/3100/BULLY-GRENAY%20COMMUNAL%20CEMETERY%2C%20BRITISH%20EXTENSION)*. COHEN, H. Private.34137 01/10/1917 Age: 26.* [*LOOS BRITISH CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/62300/LOOS%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY)*. Son of Margaret Cohen, of 54, Elizabeth Avenue, Ann St., Collyhurst, Manchester, and the late Goodman Cohen* ] 5 wounded.

**2nd**- Weather continued very fine. Usual working parties supplied – Aeroplane activity –nil.

**3rd**- Fine Btn moved out into NOUEX LES MINES – working parties supplied during day.

**4th**- Day spent cleaning up & resting – Cold & windy.

CUINCHY support

**5th**- Bn left at 4pm to march to Le Preol – on arriving at BOURY guides ainformed CO the Bn was to go into trenches CUINCHY sector in Bde support. A coy in front line. C,C,& D supports. Day cold- no activity.

**6th**- Wet & cold.

**7th**- Morning fine – Afternoon wet – G.O.C. Bde also [Col Legge? ] GOC discussed readjustment of Bn – arrangement taking out two coys in front line – this to be filled by another Bn ( 2nd S.L.)

**8th**- Fine Col Maxwell ( 2nd S L) discussed with CCO – taking over sector occupied by A Coy 8th Borders – Arranged to move with effect tomorrow 9th .

**9th**- Wet in morning - GOC & Brigadier round front line in morning A Coy relieved by a coy 2nd S Lancs – Quiet. 2nd Comd – 2 S Lancs staying at Bn HQrs.

**10th**- Wet in morning – Fine afternoon – Major MOTT 2nd Comd – 2 S Lans shown round line taken over by his Bn from A Coy – quiet.

**11th**- Wet. Major Denny 19th Hussars attached to Bn. 4 Officers Lts Dowdell, [ *Dowdell, Ernest, George M.C.2/Lt Killed at VAULX WOOD - 22.3.18. Arras Memorial* ] Gibson, Watts, Conley - reported for duty & posted – Quiet.

LA BASSEE

**12th**- Wet. Bn was relieved by 2nd S. Lancs& took over right sector of Brigade front from 11th Cheshires. Relief complete 21m 13th.

**13th**- Wet. Line reconnoitred for organising working parties- day quiet.

LA BASSEE Canal sector trenches

**14th**- Fine in morning- Wet in afternoon. News received of death of Sgt Cuthbertson [ *Cuthbertson , John Wilson Lance Serjeant 13190. attached. XI Corps School. Age 30. Merville Communal Cemetery Extension Also commemorated on Lamplugh memorial* ] drowned whilst on a course at Corps School at Merville . Quiet. A coy supplied working parties 15 to B , 15 to C, 10 to D Coy.

**15th**- Fine – usual working parties supplied by A Coy – word received of death of Lt Davidson [ *Davidson, John. Lieut Age 32. Buried Neufchatel churchyard Son of the late William and Annabella Davidson, of Colmonell, Ayrshire. M.A. (Hons.) Edinburgh.* ] found shot while on a course at Army school. Quiet at night.

**16th**- Fine- Slight Enemy activity – Retaliation by our Stokes. Enemy registered on his own line. Our wiring party & reconnoitring patrol prevented by MG fire on R sector.

**17th**-Slight enemy activity – fine – Enemy aeroplane active.

**18th**- Our artillery bombarded enemy front & support trench – Enemy retaliated – Bn relieved by 11th Cheshires & moved into reserve at Le Preol.

LE PREOL

**19th**- Cleaning up & baths.

**20th** - Baths Working parties carrying Stokes bombs to trenches. Inter platoon football.

**21st** - REGINA DAY (21.10.16) [ *Sounds like a celebration of the attack on Regina trench a year earlier- sort of an updated “Arroyo Day”* ] Church Parade. Poirot concert by [local?] troupe followed by History of Border Regiment by Cap Stewart MC – working parties supplied.

**22nd**- Demonstration of wiring by B coy – coy training – inter platoon football in afternoon. Unsettled weather – Sgts dinner. Lt Col Birt went on leave.

**23rd**- Lecture by Major Wilkinson on Trench discipline – Demonstration of sandbagging by A coy. Wiring parties practised new GHQ method of Apron wire – coy training. Unsettled weather.

Trenches CANAL sector – LA BASSEE

**24th**- Batt relieved 11 Cheshires in front line trenches relief completed by 10 am. B, A, D, Companies in front line C Coy in support. Considerable enemy activity during morning. Morning fine turned wet in afternoon.

 **25th**- Fine morning but wet afternoon. Wire cutting shots by our artillery and trench mortars from 11.05 to 12.05. Gas sent over to enemy’s support line from projectors and Stokes mortars at 8.30 pm – patrols reported little damage done to enemy wire on Batt front.

**26th**- A wet day- poor visibility – very quiet – usual working parties.

**27th** -Fine day- some enemy artillery and aeroplane activity.

**28th** - Fine day – our front very quiet – some trench mortar & artillery activity N of canal.

**29th**- Fine cold day. Artillery activity on both sides above normal – moon too bright for night patrols.

In support PONT FIXE

**30th**- Some rain. Battn moved into support, being relieved by 11th Cheshire – relief completed 12.10 pm. B coy Maryleborne Line ( support to 11th Cheshire) A Coy Gunner siding and Hun View. D Coy Keeps. C Coy Pont Fixe.

**31st**- Very fine day. Considerable artillery activity. Much aerial work on both sides. One British aeroplane brought down on fire behind enemy line near canal. Kite balloon brought down near GIVENCHY in flames by enemy planes. Gas alarm sounded about 5.45 pm

F.S. Wilkinson Major.

**November 1917**

 In support PONT FIXE

**1st**- Dull Day- Normal artillery activity – Conference of Company Commanders 10 am.

**2nd**- Dull day. Great artillery and trench mortar activity throughout day – Normal MG fire during night. No aerial activity.

**3rd**- Dull day. Normal artillery activity. No aerial activity. MGs active during evening.

**4th**- Fine but dull. Very slight artillery activity . No EA’s [ *enemy aircraft* ] seen. Slight MG activity

LA BASSEE canal sector FRONT LINE

**5th**- Fine, but dull. Very quiet. Usual working parties found. The batt relieved the 11th Cheshires in the front line (right sector) 2 patrols sent out with a view to future operations.

**6th**- Fine. Fair observation. 1 of our planes playing low fired MG into enemy positions. Enemys aeroplanes inactive, also artillery inactive. At 10.30 pm Cloud gas was discharged from our right, with a gas shell bombardment. Usual patrols sent out.

**7th**- Fine weather, observation fair. A large number of gas shells were fired into our supports behind the centre company between 2.0 and 3.0 am . Normal artillery activity during day.

**8th**- Fine day with good visibility. 3 EAs came over the lines. Hostile artillery very quiet. Our snipers fired 5 shots at working parties. Usual working parties employed.

**9th**- Fine day, Cloudy, fair visibility. Our artillery active on enemy front & support line. Enemy artillery inactive until 11.o from when he shelled our supports. Normal EA activity. Usual patrols & working parties.

**10th**- Very wet day until afternoon. At 2.20 am GAS was projected on AUCHY at the same time 2 fighting patrols went over under cover of smoke, they found no enemy in the front line. Enemy artillery was very active about noon on the support line behind the right company.

LE PREOL

**11th**- Battalion relieved by 11th Cheshires proceeded to LE PREOL in reserve. Fine day.

**12th**- Fine day. Cleaning up & Baths. 5 days RE course started for officers & NCOs..

**13th**- Fine day. Coy training lectures to platoons by officers. Lecture to NCOs in canteen.

**14th**- Fine day. Coy training lectures to platoons, Lectures to officers. Night compass march for officers.

**15th**- Fine day. Battalion parade. Brigadier, Brig Major, MG officer & Coy Commanders to dinner.

**16th**- Divine Service. Company Commanders conference at HQ. Football match with RE at Noeux cancelled owing to casualties in RE team.

LA BASSEE CANAL SECTOR FRONT LINE

**17th**- Fine day fog In morning. Relieved 11th Cheshires in front line by 11am. Mill tunnel and LANE generously treated with Minnies. Both artilleries quiet. Usual patrols & working parties.

**18th**- Fine day, overcast, no rain. Fairly quiet. Our snipers hit 4 Germans. Usual working parties. Patrols found 2 enemy post and saw 12 Germans.

**19th**- Fine day, very cloudy. Artillery fairly active. 2 EAs seen. A patrol of 2nd Lt Kamester, 2nd Lt Robson, a Sergeant, and a Corporal went out. 2nd Lt Robson and the Sergeant did not return, it is believed they were captured. [*Must be correct not listed as casualties by CWGC*]

 **20th**- Very dull day, rain commenced about 11.0pm. Our artillery & T.Ms carried out a programme from 3.0 to 3.45. Enemy artillery above normal. 5 casualties caused t medium T.M. crews 1 being killed

 **21st**- Rainy day, bad observation, our artillery very quiet. Enemy artillery quiet. T.Ms very active near Burbure post. Usual working parties. Above normal activity was observed in the enemy lines.

 **22nd**- Fine day, but dull. Low heavy clouds. Our artillery carried out a wire cutting programme astride the BETHUNE- LA BASSEE RD from 12.30 pm to 3.45 pm. Enemy artillery very active. 1 EA flew low over our lines firing with his MG, but doing no damage

 PONT FIXE

 **23rd** – Fine day. 11th Cheshire relieved us in front line, while the 8th Borders went into support. Very quiet day.

**24th**- Fine day. Our artillery carried out a programme with the TMs.

**25th**- Fine Day. Fairly quiet, warned to expect a raid on the 7th Brigade front. Did not materialise, expected early in the morning.

**26th**- Fine day until 11.0pm when it started snowing with turned into rain. Our artillery carried out an organised shoot. Gas was projected at 8/0pm on the 74th Bde front. Fairly sharp artillery retaliation by the enemy.

**27th**- Still raining, colder.

ANNEZIN

**28th**- Bn relieved in support lined by 6th Lanc Fusilers (42nd Div) & moved to ANNEZIN Nr. BETHUNE- Fine.

BURBURE

**29th**- Bn moved to BURBURE – (Brigade march) & marched past G.O.C. DIVISION & Brigadier – fine.

ERNY ST JULIEN

**30th**- Bn marched in Brigade to ERNT ST JULIEN – Inadequate accommodation – Capt Darwell  *I George Darwell, later Major. Served with 6th Bn at Gallipoli*] reported from Bde for temporary duty with Bn during training- Showery. CWH Birt Lt Col Comdg 8th Border Regt

**December 1917**

ERNY ST JULIEN

**1st**- Cleaning up billets - & Coy inspections- Cold & showery.

**2nd** - No church parade owing to chaplain having left Bn through sickness.

**3rd**- Bn preparing to move to 3rd Army area – D coy proceeded as loading coy at ANVIN.

**4th**- A Coy left ast 1.45am – Transport 5.am – remainder 7.45am left ERNY ST JULIEN & marched to ANVIN – entraining for ACHIET LE GRAND ( 3 Army Area) – arrived 11.30 pm & marched for GOMIECOURT- Freezing

GOMIECOURT/ROCQUINGY

**5th**- Cold night in tents at GOMIECOURT. Marched in Bde to huts at ROCQUINGY via BAPAUME – Cold but fine.

**6th**- Cleaning up & Coy inspections – showery.

**7th**- Coy training & Lewis Gun classes wet.

**8th**- Cold & showery – Lt Col Sir H. Lennard Bt. (ADC 6th Corps) – late 2nd in Comd visited Bn Concert at night & coy training – musketry & Bombing.

ROCQUINGY/BEUGNATRE

**9th**- Bn marched as Brigade to BEUGNATRE in huts – Bde in Divl reserve – wet

**10th**- Coy training & Lewis Gun classes.

**11th-15th**- Bn found working parties for burying cable. Weather cold, hard frost at night.

**16th**- Bn attended divine service. Weather cold & frosty but fine

BEUGNATRE

**17th**- Bn engaged on working parties burying cable. Slight fall of snow. Weather cold.

**18th**- Bn engaged on working parties burying cable. Weather extremely cold, freezing hard.

**19th**- Bn engaged on working parties burying cable . Weather cold & frosty.

**20th**- Cleaning up billets. Company inspections. Company Commanders reconnoitred trenches.

LAGNICOURT

**21st**- BN relieved 4th South Staff Regt in the line NE of LAGNICOURT, No casualties.

**22nd**- Very quiet. Good work done during day improving & deepening trenches in places. Wiring at night.

**23rd**- Quiet day. LAGNICOURT shelled fairly heavily by hostile artillery. Wire in front strengthened. Freezing.

**24th**- 50 men ( A Coy) digging new support trench from HARROGATE AVENUE to YORK SUPPORT 5pm -9pm. Freezing.

**25th**- Xmas Day – Enemy shelled Harrogate Av. Nr. Bn HQ wounded 2 Cheshire men. Snow during day. 2 officers 3rd Worcesters on right on wiring duty – lost during snowfall not returned – Brigadier visited Bn trenches to wish compliments of season.

**26th**- Quiet day- fine

VAULX-VRAUCOURT

**27th**- Bn moved to VAULX-VRAUCOURT

**28th**- Cleaning up. Coy inspections & baths - fine – freezing.

**29th**- 2 coys wiring MORCHIES-VAUX line. 2 coys digging, deepening & improving LAGNICOURT SWITCH – Fine & cold.

**30th**- Usual working parties.

**31st**- Usual working parties. Fine & cold.

CWH Birt Lt Col Comdg 8th Border Regt

**January 1918**

VRAUCOURT

**1st**- Bn still in line occupying right subsection - Day fine - quiet

**2nd** - Bn relieved by 4th South Staffs – relief completed by midday.

**3rd**- Cleaning up & coy inspections – Col Birt went on 3 days course to R.F.C.

 **4th**- Cleaning up billets – Xmas Day festivities held today – Day quiet.

**5th**- Heavy gunfire between 5.30 and 6.30 am.

**6th**- Church parade – Special Intercession Service – Quiet – fine.

**7th**- Practice attack by A Coy on pillboxes. Other coys range & coy training.

**8th**- Practice attack by A & C coys on pill box- Brigadier & A/B Major present. Operation done in blizzard – other coys - coy training & Baths.

**9th**- B coy practice attack on pill boxes – wild weather – Aeroplane from [ *blank space*] squadron compelled to land owing to blown out cylinder – 2 officers [S/????] & [??] [holiday?]

**10th**- Working party on [ *long blank space on diary entry*] of men – New Chaplain for 2 S Lancs & 8 Border Rev Capt Scott came to lunch.

**11th**- Usual coy parades – Wild & unsettled weather.

**12th**- Divl Staff Officer of Staff Corps visited camp & promised 2 extra huts for men, 2 for officers, & 3 cookhouses.

**13th**- Church Parade. Coys 1 hour ceremonial – cold & wet in morning.

LAGNICOURT

**14th**- Bn relieved 4th South Staffs in line. Relief complete 7.30 am. Cold & dry. Lecture by CO to officers & NCOs – A coy left. B coy R. C left support. D right support.

**15th**- work continued on new cookhouses for 2 front line coys (under REs) Also sinking of well. Day fine & sunny to rain later.

**16th**- Trenches in shocking condition – much falling in during night. – Day wet & misty – frost in evening turning to rain about midnight.

**17th**- Work on cookhouse temporarily abandoned – torrential rain.

**18th**- Unsettled weather in morning poor visibility.

**19th**- Unsettled weather. Enemy artillery active on A coys sector & around Bn HQrs on sunken road. 3 men wounded by shell at Bn Hdqrs.

**20th**- Fine morning unsettled in afternoon. Quiet. Vicinity of Bn Hdqrs occasionally shelled. Bn relieved by 2nd Bn South Lancs and moved into support.

**21st** - One coy (D) in support to right Bn. one coy (C ) in support to left Bn. Both coys at tactical disposal of our front line Bn. No casualties during relief. Remaining two coys employed in clearing trenches of left Bn and carrying timber from RE dump for tunnelling coy.

**22nd & 23rd**- Employed clearing trenches.

**24th**- One company working with tunnelling coy. One coy carrying for Res. Remaining two companies employed cleaning & clearing up communication support trenches

**25th** do. [ *ditto*]

**26th**- Relieved in support by 4th Bn South Staffs Regt and moved back into reserve. Quiet relief. Enemy sent some tear shells into vicinity of LARNICOURT.

**27th**- Bn found working parties amounting to 332 men digging & wiring. Church service in camp in afternoon.

**28-31st** – 332 men on digging, wiring, remainder on improvements to camp

CWH Birt Lt Col 1/2/18 Cdg 8th Bn Border Regt.

**February 1918**

VRAUCOURT

**1st**- 5 officers & 250 other ranks employed on VAULY-MORCHIVES line digging. Remainder of Battalion employed on improvement of camp.

**2nd** - 5 officers & 250 other ranks employed on VAULY-MORCHIVES line wiring under RE supervision. Remainder of Battalion employed on improvement of camp.

**3rd**- 5 officers & 250 other ranks employed on VAULY-MORCHIVES line digging under RE supervision. Remainder of Battalion employed on improvement of camp. C of E service in camp at 5.30pm

**4th**- 5 officers & 200 other ranks employed on VAULY-MORCHIVES line wiring under RE supervision. Remainder of Battalion paraded at 9.30am for their Ceremonial Drill, remainder of morning under Company Commanders.

**5th**- 5 officers & 200 other ranks employed on VAULY-MORCHIVES line digging under RE supervision. Remainder of Battalion employed on improvement of camp.

**6th**- 5 officers & 200 other ranks employed on VAULY-MORCHIVES line wiring under RE supervision. Remainder of Battalion employed on improvement of camp.

LAGNICOURT

**7th**- Relieved 4th Bn South Staff Regt in the line. Relief commenced 6.30 pm. Finished 9pm. Night very dark. Enemy shelled spasmodically. 2 men wounded 1 remaining at duty.

**8th**- Dull & showery. Brig Gen BAIRD left Bde for India – succeeded Brig Gen DOBBIN. Enemy artillery fairly active.

**9th**- Fine – but dull- Heavy enemy shelling on front line – also behind LAGINCOURT – Forward post on left of POULTRY – received direct hit about 1 am 1 killed 1 wounded – one man was also killed R subsector 11am – Suspect new Regiment opposite. [ *CWGC list no 8th Bn deaths on the 10th, but two on the 11th: CAPON, G. Private 28899 . Grevillers British Cemetery. BENNETT, JOHN JOSEPH Corporal 23691 Age: 27.* [*NINE ELMS BRITISH CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/14300/NINE%20ELMS%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY)*. Son of Thomas and Catherine Bennett. Born Carlisle* ]

**10th**- Fine- intermittent shelling on QUEANT road – also on post hut during night. Met GOC DIV in RIPON ALLEY. Lieut Col Birt departed on long leave – Enemy active in sniping.

**11th**- Representatives of relieving unit visited the line. Weather fine and trenches in good condition.

**12th**- Battalion relieved in the line by the 1st Btn [KSLF?] and moved back to camp at no 16. Relief completed at 10.30 pm.

LOG EAST CAMP

**13th**- Battalion moved back into Corps Reserve with remainder of division [We took?] over LOG EAST CAMP. Rained practically all day.

**14th**-Major F.S. Wilkinson left to take over command of11th Cheshires. Major G. Darwell MC took over command of the battalion. Day spent in cleaning up.

**15th- & 16th**- Programme of training carried out preceded by half hour ceremonial parade.

**17th**- Divine Service. Recreational training in afternoon. Lt Col CWH Birt DSO rejoined battalion.

**18th**- Major Darwell proceeded on leave to England. Programme of training carried out preceded by half an hour ceremonial drill.

**19th-23rd**- Programme of training carried out preceded by half hour ceremonial parade.

**24th**- Divine Service. Recreational training in afternoon.

**25th-28th**- Programme of training carried out preceded by half hour ceremonial parade.

CWH Birt Lt Col.

**March 1918**

LOG EAST CAMP ACHIET area

**1st**- Training continued . Ceremonial Parade. Firing on 100 yards range ( 15 rounds rapid fire and five rounds application with box repirators. Coy training in Bombing etc and Jump Lines – remainder of Battalion ( almost 100) passed through Gas Chamber.

**2nd** - Training continued. Firing on 30 yd range. Coy Training. Surprise Gas Alarms. Demonstration of PBT by selected platoon of HAC at DIV HQRS. CO officers and 45 ORs attended lecture in Brigade Cinema on Growth of RFC by OC 59 Squadron.

**3rd**-Divine Services & Recreational Training. Officers Record of Services Book received and issued, supplying a want much felt by junior officers owing to changes from one Battalion to another.

**4th**-Training continued. Bde Horse Show on cold wintry afternoon. Cup for best cooker won by 8th Borders also 2nd & 3rd in limbers and 2nd in mess cart.

**5th**-Training continued. Capt A.V. Bentley rejoined Battalion from hospital and resumed command of C Coy.. Information received that 2Lt (T/Capt) J.G.Runciman Royal Scots attached to this battalion has been posted to 5/6 Royal Scots. Night Firing on Corps Reinforcement Camp Range from 6.30 pm to 10pm.

**6th**- Training continued. Commanding officer took all officers over ground for proposed night Assembly and Attack. Weather mild & bright and Bde Sports took place in afternoon.

**7th**- Training continued. Firing on 30 yds range. Night operations.

8th- Returned to camp from night operation 8am. No training in morning. Lewis Gun class in afternoon. D coy on 200 yds range in afternoon.

**9th**- Training continued. Firing on 200 yds range ( 15 rounds rapid & 5 rounds application) Recreational training in afternoon.

**10th**- Divine service & recreational training.

**11th**- Training continued. Ceremonial parade. Musketry (15 rounds rapid). Brigade staff ride for Coy Commanders. Recreational training.

**12th**-Training continued. Ceremonial parade. Musketry. Recreational training. Brigade removed to SAVOY CAMP.

SAVOY CAMP ACHIET AREA

**13th-16th**- Training continued. Ceremonial parade. Musketry. Recreational training.

**17th** -Divine Service & Recreational Training.

**18th**-Training continued. Ceremonial parade. Musketry. Recreational training.

**19th**- Training continued. Ceremonial parade. Musketry. Recreational training. Practice attack under Brigade arrangements

**20th**- Training contined. Musketry. Lewis Gun Classes. Recreational training.

**21st**- Heavy guns fire 5.30 am. Bn stood to 7.00am – Bn moved off 9.10 am under Lt Col Birt with 1st line T’port to 150 Labour Coy Camp at BEUGNATRE- Bn was placed under order of 16 Bde & was ordered to counterattack North of VAULX Wood in the VAULX- MORCHIES line. Capt Dove killed [*DOVE, CHARLES BERTRAM.Captain. Age: 34 3rd Bn. attd. 8th Bn.* [*FAVREUIL BRITISH CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/62503/FAVREUIL%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY)*.Husband of Amy Caton Dove, of "La Casina," Hayling Island, Hants* ] After leaving BEUGNATRE:- order of battle from Right A Coy (Capt BIRNIE), B Coy (Lt REED), C Coy (Lt ALLAN),with D Coy (Lt DUGGAN) in reserve. Counter attack reached 1st objective 3.10pm & did not proceed further owing to wire being uncut.. Communication established on the right by Lt BELL & party – D coy filled gap on left joining up with BUFFS on Rt & RSF on left. Lt REED hit in VAULX-MORCHIES lines & died of wounds. [*REED, GERALD FRANCIS WOOLTERTON.M i D. Lieutenant.Age:22.* [*ARRAS MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/82700/ARRAS%20MEMORIAL)*. Son of Thomas Allen Woolterton Reed and Ida Reed, of The Inglenook, Rode Hill, Rode, Bath* ]

VAULX-MONCHIES LINES

**22nd**- Shelling began early & enemy attacked about 7.30am – penetrated VAULX WOOD on our right. The Bn was surrounded on 3 side – for 4 hours Capt BIRNIE held the enemy at bay & only withdrew at 1pm our right being in the air - & the [ Divn?]on our left falling back.- All communication with Artllery & Bde was cut – Bn withdrew to VAULX-FRENICOURT road. During the day Lt DOWDELL, McTAVISH & WARWICK were killed [*DOWDELL, ERNEST GEORGE.2nd Lieut. MC.3rd Bn. attd. 8th Bn. Arras Memorial. WARWICK, COLIN WINDER 2nd Lieut MC Age:26. 5th Bn. attd. 8th Bn.* [*VAULX HILL CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/68001/VAULX%20HILL%20CEMETERY)*. Son of John and Sarah Warwick, of "Brundholme," Workington, Cumberland*  ] The Bn eventually reorganised in ARMY LINE assisted by Scottish troops (51st Divn) Bn relieved by 41st Divn Except Lt OAKDEN, Lt FENTIMAN [*FENTIMAN, FREDERICK WILLIAM . 2nd Lt Age:19.* [*ARRAS MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/82700/ARRAS%20MEMORIAL)*. Son of Frederick and Annie Louisa Fentiman, of "Slievemore", Dalhousie Rd., Eskbank, Dalkeith, Midlothian* ] & 24 ORs who refused to leave until properly relief which never came. Lt FRYER missing [*FRYER, JOHN PERCIVAL 2nd Lieut. Age: 25.* [*ARRAS MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/82700/ARRAS%20MEMORIAL)*.Son of George K. and Frances Fryer, of Birkenshaw Colleries, Gomersal, Leeds* ] . CAPT BIRNIE, Lt GANDOLFO, 2Lts LIGHTFOOT & SANDWELL wounded. [ CWGC state *Capt Birnie died on 22/3/18 -BIRNIE, EDWARD D'ARCY Captain DSO MC.Age:26.*[*DERNANCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/3800/DERNANCOURT%20COMMUNAL%20CEMETERY%20EXTENSION)*.Son of Robert and Isabella Birnie, of Sycamore Terrace, High Harrington, Cumberland. Native of Workington, Cumberland.]*

SAVOY CAMP

**23rd**- Bn relieved and moved to SAVOY CAMP – hot meal at 4am – At 9am ordered to move to ridge E of BEHAGNIES-SAPAGNIES road & dig in. About 4pm B team from 25 [ORB?] under MAJOR WILKINSON & 140 ORs arrived - & Col Birt handed over command and went down to transport.

BEHAGNIES-SAPAGNIES line

**24th**-Trenches improved during day. Shelling became active in afternoon & increased – situation became very vague & Lt ALLAN [*ALLAN, JOHN WILLIAM ANDERSON 2nd Lieut MC Died 10/04/1918.* [*PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/88800/PLOEGSTEERT%20MEMORIAL)*. Son of Andrew Allan, of 42, Cambridge Gardens, Leith; husband of Isabella D. Elliot Allan, of 4, Montagu Terrace, Edinburgh* ] twice went forward to report. Night passed without incident. Bn was relieved by 1 Coy 5th Lancs Fusiliers [42? Div] & moved to LOGEAST WOOD

**25th**- LOGEAST WOOD – where the Bn dug in E of Wood Lt Col Birt resumed command. Shelling was intermittent but never very heavy.- Orders received 8pm to move to AISIEUX AU MONT.

AISIEUX AU MONT

**26th**- Dug in – POISIEOX – with 62 [Divn?] on left- Information received 4am that enemy held MIRAUMONT & that our right flank was in this [a?] & ordered to concentrate north of GOMMECOURT – which was reached 6.30am – At 10am moved to form defensive position N of GOMMECOURT- 7th & 74th Bde in front - 75th in supports- At midnight Bn was withdrawn to

COUIN

**27th**- COUIN arriving 4am- where a good nights sleep was obtained- left 3.30pm and marched to

PUCHEVILLERS

**28th**- PUCHEVILLERS arriving 8pm- & left next morning 7.30 am for

VASQUERIE

**29th**- VASQUEERE arriving about 2pm- & billeted there.

**30th**- Cleaning up & resting

**31st**- Marched to DOULLENS & entrained for GOOEWAERSVELDE

CWH Birt Commanding 8th (S) Bn, The Border Regt.

**April 1918**

?WAERSVELE KORTE PYP CAMP

**1st**- Advance Coy D coy arrived 1.301m & remainder of Bn 5am & embussed for KORTE PYP CAMP- New draft of 170 19 year old boys . Excellent appearance & smart of parade. CAPT J.DAWSON rejoined.

ROMARIN CAMP

**2nd** - Move to ROMARIN CAMP- 2nd S Lancs in line - 8 Border support 11 Cheshire reserves. D coy under Capt DAWSON ( Lancashire Support Farm) { co????e – *communique*? ] attaching coy under tactical orders of 2/S Lancs – C coy CAPT BENTLEY A & B coys. ROMARIN CAMP with Bn HQrs – Excellent weather

**3rd**- Cleaning up & baths – unsettled

**4th**- Unsettled cleaning up & inspections – C &D coys withdrawn from support line – preparatory to moving up next day. OC Coys reconnoitred front line. The Bn relieved 3rd Worcestors & 11th Lanc Fusiliers – Bn sector Lys River on right to C4b7.8 on left – C Coy (Capt Bentley) left subsector D coy (Capt Dawson) right subsector.

T?OUQUET SECTOR

**5th**-B coy- support- Grande Rabeque- A coy - Reserve - Le Bizet- Bn HQrs - [Desquieres?] Farm- Relief began 7.30pm & finished 10pm except 3 posts D coy 3am - night wet.

**6th**- Fine. Co visited OC’s front line coys C & D – Day quiet. Patrols out at night.

**7th**- Battn in the line. A little TM activity. Persistent fire by enemy MG all night from FRELINGHEIN.

**8th** -do. MG fired from FRELINGHEIN all night. Patrol located strong enemy working party at West end of FRELINGHEIN BRIDGE, they were wiring the Bridge Head. 2nd Sth Lancs on our left relieved by XI Cheshire. A Coy (2nd Lt Allan) moved up from LE BIZET to FRANDE RABEQUE – B Coy side slipping to the right in the RESERVE LINE. Enemy TMs in WARNETON sector heavily bombarded during the afternoon.

**9th**- Dull & cloudy. Heavy bombardment on our right - several miles away. Reported GERMAN attack from ARMENTIERES to LA BASSEE. Our sector heavily shelled in afternoon - with Gas, HE & shrapnel. A coy (Lt Allan) relieved C coy ( Capt Bentley) in left front. B coy ( Capt COXON) relieved D Coy ( Capt Dawson) in right front.

**10th**- Dull-slight mist-. Enemy attacked about 5.30 am after heavy bombardment. A Coy practically cut off B C & D Coys returned to Reserve line which was soon enveloped & about midday Battalion withdrew with other troops to a NORTH and South line West of LE BIZET. A further withdrawal to the ROAD Clef de la BELGIQUE- OOSTHOVE was necessitated during the afternoon, and late at night the right flank was swung back to the line COUTRE RUE OOSTHOVE-DOUDOU – Two companies 9th Cheshires being on our right at COURTE RUE, and 2 companies 9th Cheshires on our left at OOSTHOVE

OOSTHOVE

**11th**- Enemy attacked early morning but was driven off by rifle & LG fire. Position bombarded fairly heavily. About midday a withdrawal on the left necessitated falling back on TRENCH LINE about LE ROSSIGNOL which was held till night. LT STRONG & party of 40 OR captured a MG & restored a temporary gap in the line about BRUNEGAYE in the afternoon. Orders to evacuate NIEPPE SALIENT being received, the Battalion withdrew to CONNAUGHT ROAD at dusk – where it dug in, in support to 75th Inf Bde Group.

CONNAUGHT & KORTE PYP

**12th**- Day was fine. Beyond little shelling & sniping nothing of great importance occurred during the morning. About 2pm a general retirement was observed on our right – which necessitated a further withdrawal to KORTE PYP – where the line was reorganised.

**13th**- Very heavy mist in morning. The night had passed quietly. About 6am 6SWB were seen to be retiring along the NEUVE EGLISE Road & soon after under cover of mist &the heavy bombardment enemy attacked in great strength & forced us back to the line NEUVE EGLISE – TROIS ROIS CABT. Where elements of 75th Bde Group & the 9th HLI had already dug in. Here a stand was made. Caot COXON & LT BOTT [ *COXON, PERCY HUNTER Captain MC Age: 25.* [*MESSINES RIDGE BRITISH CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/55400/MESSINES%20RIDGE%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY)*. Gazetted Sept., 1914; wounded at Thiepval July, 1916. Son of Thomas and Mary Coxon, of 8, Vernon Parade, Whitehall Rd., Gateshead. BOTT, G G R Lieutenant MC.Age: 26. South Lancashire Regiment attd. Border Regiment.* [*MESSINES RIDGE BRITISH CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/55400/MESSINES%20RIDGE%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY)*.Son of Arthur T. and Constance Bott, of 63, Victoria Rd., Fulwood, Preston; husband of Mary A. Bott*  ] were both killed making a counterattack on the enemy’s flank during the morning. Meantime a position was being prepared from CRUCIFIX CORNER along the ridge in a NORTH EASTERLY direction.

**14th**- Morning quiet except for heavy shelling of back areas. About midday enemy began dribbling small parties forward & soon evidence of massing was observed in the valley along the NEUVE EGLISE-DRANOUTRE ROAD about TBC Central. Our barrage & MG fire nipped the attack in the bud. Orders for Bde relief received about 9.30 pm.

KOUDOKOT MONT des CATS

**15th**- Battalion relieved in line by 71st Bde about 2.30 am & marched to KOUDOKOT where it joined the rest of the Brigade. At 2pm the Brigade marched via BERTHEN to MONT DES CATS which was reached about 7pm.

LA LEVRETTE

**16th**- About 10.45pm Battalion marched via BOESCHEPE to LA LEVRETTE in support to 33rd & 34th Divisions. Bde formed into a composite Battalion under Lt Col J.B.ALLSOPP. Capt BENTLEY & Lt DUGGAN remained with Battalion. Lt Col BIRT returned to rear Brigade HQ.

**17th**- Still at LA LEVRETTE- Shelled rather heavily during the day.

MONT DES CATS

**18th**- Early morning the Battalion returned to hutments at MONT DES CATS. Major STEWART rejoined Battalion temporarily during the evening. Draft of young boys mostly.

**19th**-Snow fell- very cold. Shell burst in C Coys hut killing 5 & wounding 26 OR [ CWGC list 6 deaths on 19th: - *MITCHINSON, M S.Private.202985.*[*TOURCOING (PONT-NEUVILLE) COMMUNAL CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/28004/TOURCOING%20%28PONT-NEUVILLE%29%20COMMUNAL%20CEMETERY)*.*

*HILL, CHARLES EDWARD.Private.34574. Age: 19.* [*METEREN MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/25300/METEREN%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY)*. Son of James Edward and Florence Hill, of Hemming Green, Old Brampton, Chesterfield*

*JONES, J R. Private. MM & Bar.15153. Age: 22.*[*METEREN MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/25300/METEREN%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY)*.Son of the late John R. and Mary A. Jones, of Branthwaite, Cockermouth, Cumberland*

*MARTIN, G.Private.18166.*[*METEREN MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/25300/METEREN%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY)

*POTTS, J.Private.24856.*[*METEREN MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/25300/METEREN%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY)

*QUINN, EDWARD.Private.18993.Age: 32.*[*METEREN MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/25300/METEREN%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY)*.Son of David and Eliza Quinn. Native of Workington, Cumberland*  ]

**20th** - Cold cleaning up & refitting. Enemy shelled vicinity fairly heavily. Classes for specialist. Firing on range behind MONASTRY. Inlying piquet established as a safeguard against surprise.

VOXURIE - POPERINGHE

**21st**- Brigade marched to HIRST CAMP> near VOXVRIE-POPERINGHE. Fine

**22nd**- Fine. Classes continued. 18 officers joined Battalion in afternoon & draft of 63 OR.

**23rd**- Lewis Gun classes continued 2nd Lt Mackie joined the Bn and was posted to A Co.

**24th**- Specialist classes continued. Lt M. TURNBULL [*TURNBULL, MAXWELL Captain MC.Date of Death: 18/10/1918 Age: 27. 3rd Bn. attd. 8th Bn.* [*ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/56500/ETAPLES%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY)*. Son of David and Isabella Beattie Turnbull, of Ellock, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire* ] joined the Bn . He was posted to D Co and appointed Bn signalling officer.

**25th**-The Bn was employed in digging trench line. At 10am orders were issued from Bde warning the Bn to stand by ready to move. Coys were recalled from digging and preparations were made for an immediate move. At .30 pm the Brigade moved to HOUGRAAF CABARET where the division were ordered to concentrate. At 11pm the DIVISION received orders to counterattack in the vicinity of KEMMEL. The 7th Brigade on the right and the 74th Brigade on the left were ordered to move forward in conjunction with the 39th French Division. The 75th Bde were in close support. The Battalion moved forward and took up a position in the right of the LA CLYTTE- RENINGHELST road about 600 yards E of RENINGHELST at 2AM

RENINGHELST

**26th**- Owing to heavy enemy shelling D Coy [?????ed} to a [????] position on the flank. The remainder of the day was fairly quiet

IN LINE

**27th**- During the afternoon the Bn. moved forward and relieved the 10th Cheshires ( 7th Brigade). In the evening the Bn moved into the front line and relieved the 8th Loyal North Lancs and 3rd Worcesters. Patrols were sent out during the night. Small parties of the enemy were encountered and dispersed.

**28th** -Intermittent hostile shelling throughout the day. Otherwise quiet. Lt F.W. DARVELL[*DARVELL, FREDERICK WILLIAM 2nd Lieut MC. Age:20.*[*SOISSONS MEMORIAL*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/79400/SOISSONS%20MEMORIAL)*. Son of the late Arthur H. and Jane Darvell* ] took out patrol during the day and patrolled the whole of the right front. During the night patrols were again sent out and a little wiring was done.

**29th**- At 3am the enemy opened a bombardment of Gas shells which at 5am developed into a heavy HE barrage. The SOS was seen going up on the left of the line. At 6.15am the two from coys reported the enemy were massing on the right front and appeared to be attempting to attack down the L CLYTTE-KEMMIL road. Owing to our artillery MG and rifle fire the attack did not develop. About this time the two front Coys were subjected to heavy MG and rifle fire from the right front. At 10 AM LT COL CWH BIRT DSO was wounded in the left arm by a shell. Capt A.J.BENTLEY A/Adjt took over command of the Bn. Up to 11am considerable enemy movement was observed on the right front. MG and rifle fire was opened on them and heavy casualties inflicted. Owing to heavy hostile shelling throughout the morning communication with the rear was difficult. At 5.15pm the enemy opened a heavy barrage on our front and support which continued until 6.15 when the enemy again appeared to be attempting to attack along the LA CLYTTE-KEMMIL road. This attack was again broken up by our artillery MG and rifle fire. The remainder of the day was without incident. The following officers were wounded during the morning. CAPT C.W McLENNAN, Gassed went down to ADS and returned to the Bn. 2 Lts. J.W.ROGERS (B coy) J.GIBSON (B Co) J.T.R VAREL ( B Co) J.H.MACK!E (A Co) on the night of the 29/30 the Bn was relieved by the 2nd Bn South Lancs. On relief the Bn moved back to a position on the LA CLYTTE-RENINGHELST road 800 yds west of LA CLYTTE. There Major H.G.FRASER joined the Bn and assumed command.

LA CLYTTE

**30th**- The day was fairly quiet . At 6pm the vicinity of Bn HQ was heavily shelled for about an hour

HONOURS and awards during the month

MILITARY MEDAL for Conspicuous gallantry during the retreat on the SOMME

32272 Cpl J.S.SEWELL, 12235 Cpl J.W.BURKIN, [*BURKIN, J W Corporal MM 12235 Date of Death: 18/04/1918.* [*HARINGHE (BANDAGHEM) MILITARY CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/9001/HARINGHE%20%28BANDAGHEM%29%20MILITARY%20CEMETERY) ] 9844 Cpl P.CARR, 24645 L/C J.LEE, 11884 Sjt J. MACDONALD, 21036 Cpl H.WISE, 27434 Pte H.SINGLETON, 5622 Pte H.FERGUSON, 18388 Pte. R. LAWRENCE, 13589 Pte J. VARITY, 16233 L/C B. DUCKWORTH, 30198 Pte.G. PORTER, 15597 L/C G. JOHNSTON, 14509 Pte J.KELLY, 15091 Sjt M.CRAYSTON.

AJ Bentley Capt for Major Comdg 8th Bn The Border Regt.

**May 1918**

LA CLYTTE

**1st**- Beyond intermittent shelling the day was very quiet

 ROMARIN CAMP

**2nd** – do

**3rd**- About 7.30 pm the Bn moved back out of the lines. On arrival at L16 &22 (Sheet 27) at hot meal was ready for the men. After one hours halt the Bn again moved back to L29 A 15. 20 where they rested for the remainder of the night.

ST ELOT CABT L29 A 15.20

**4th**- The following officers having reported to the Transport lines on the 2nd Inst were taken on the strength of the Bn and posted to the coys shown against their names;-

Lt. A.L.E. SHEEHAM - B Co.

 Lt.W.BECKETT DCM- D Co.

2nd Lt E.A. JACKSON- B Co, [*JACKSON, ERNEST ALEXANDER 2nd Lt . 6th Bn attd 8th Bn . Died 27/5/18 SOISSONS MEMORIAL* ].

2nd Lt H.R. SAWE – B Co.

2nd Lt.H.G.MACHELL-A Co. [*MACHELL, H G. 2nd Lt. Died 12/6/18 Age 30.*[*ST. SEVER CEMETERY, ROUEN*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/16900/ST.%20SEVER%20CEMETERY%2C%20ROUEN)*.Son of Hugh and Helena Machell, of 69, Grosvenor St., Marylebone, London* ],

2nd Lt G.A.SUTCLIFFE- C Co. 2nd Lt A.S.PEARSON- D Co. Lt G.E.H. SLATER-A Co.

At 10.30 AM in accordance with Bde instructions the battalion marched via WATTOU – HOUTKERQUE, HERZEELE to billets in the vicinity of WYLDER. Bn Hq at PONT DE WYLDER. Coys were settled in their billets by 3.30pm.

WYLDER

**5th**- Inspection of Billets. Church service.

**6th**- CO’s inspection. The remainder of the day was spent in cleaning up reorganising. Kit inspections. Medical inspection, and forming new Lewis Gun and signalling classes

**7th**- Physical Training and Arms Drill, Lewis Gun and signalling Classes Lt V.BLOOMFIELD appointed Bn Lewis Gun Officer

**8th**-Physical training, Arms drill and classes. The following officers having reported on 7th inst were posted to Co’s as stated against their names:-

2nd Lt. R. SCOTT – D Co.

2nd Lt. J.K.MACKENZIE – C Co. [*MACKENZIE, JOHN KINCAID 2nd Lt. Died 27/5/18 Age:26 SOISSONS MEMORIAL. Son of the late Frederick Thomas Mackenzie and of Annie Sang Mackenzie, of Riverview, Wormit, Fife* ]

2nd Lt. A HEPBORN – B Co.

2nd Lt. W.T.THORTON- C Co.

2nd Lt. A.A.DALLAS - A Co.

2nd Lt. D. PHILIP – D Co.

2nd Lt. J. BROWN – A Co.

2nd Lt. J.D. DEAS – B Co.

2nd Lt. L. RITCHIE – C Co.

2nd Lt. J.GORDON – A Co.

**9th**- At 3AM the Bn marched to entraining point at HEIDEBECKE arriving there at 7AM. Breakfast was issued and at 10.15AM the train moved off. The remainder of the day was spent on the train.

TRAIN, FISMES

**10th**- At 10.30 the train arrived at the detraining point (FISMES). The Bn then marched to billets in COURVILLE arriving there at 10pm.

**11th**- Cleaning up, foot inspections & c.

COURVELLE

**12th**- Billet inspection by C.O. Church services. Lt M.TURNBULL appointed Bn Signalling Officer at 5pm the Bn was inspected with the other units of the Bde group by the Divisional Commander

**13th** & **14th**- Training. Physical Training. Bayonet Fighting. Musketry. Squad Drill. Gas Drill and classes.

**15th** - do. Lt. Col J.N. de la PERRELLE DSO MC having arrived took over Command of the Bn. Capt J.DAWSON MC having reported was taken on the strength of the Bn and took over command of “A” Co.

**16th-17th** – Training. Physical Training. Bayonet Fighting. Musketry. Gas Drill and classes. Lt A.L.M.SHEEHAM was appointed Bn signalling officer Vice Lt M.TURNBULL who took over the duties of A/Adjutant.

**18th**- Training. 2nd Lt F.W.DARVELL appointed intelligence officer.

**19th**- Church parade and service.

**20th**- Training.

**21st** - Training included firing 100 yards. Grouping and 200 yds Application.

**22nd**- Training

**23rd-** do. 2hrs specialists only. At 7.5 the Bn marched to [ billets in VENTENAY- *this crossed out*] ROMAIN CAMP EAST 50 yds N. of I in ROMAINE arriving in camp about 11.45pm. Ref MAP SOISSONS.

ROMAIN CAMP

**24th**- The morning was spent in cleaning up the Camp. During the afternoon Coys practiced “Coy in the Attack” and specialists had two hours instruction.

**25th**- Training specialists. Coy in the attack. Musketry.

VENTELAY

**26th**- Church parade in the morning.

6.45pm. At 6.45pm orders were received from Bde to be prepared to move within one hour

9.30pm. At 9.30pm the Bn moved to a position south of VENTELAY- BOUVANCOURT road about 800yds E. of VENTELAY and there awaited further orders

**27th**

1 AM- At about 1 AM the enemy bombardment opened and a few HE and Gas shells fell on our right. Orders were received to reconnoitre roads and approaches to CONCEVREUX ROUCY and GEYRECOURT. Our Scouts were sent out

6.35 AM -. At 6.35 a.m. orders were received to send one platoon per Co. to take up position astride the VENTELAY-ROUCY road in front of LA PAITE farm preparatory to Bn. taking up that line.

7.30 AM- At 7.30 a.m. orders were received to move forward and take up a position to defend the bridge head at PONTAVERT. This task was allotted to C & D Coys. with A & B Coys. in support. At 8.30 a.m. orders were received to move forward and defend the bridgeheads between PONTAVERT and CONCEVREUX. There were eight bridges and dispositions were made so that each Coy. held two bridges.

9.30 AM- At 9.30 a.m. the Bn. moved off. Between VENTELAY and ROUCY information was received that the Enemy were already over the River and Canal. Orders were then received to send two Coys. forward at once to reinforce the 2nd SOUTH LANCS. in a line 100 yds. north of the village of ROUCY to the East of the ROUCY-PONTAVERT road. A & C Coys. were sent forward, B & D Coys. were ordered to remain in support in the vicinity of ROUCY. On arrival at Roucy at midday B Coy. was sent forward to reinforce the 11th CHESHIRES on the left of the 2nd SOUTH LANCS. and D Coy. was placed in close support to the 11th CHESHIRES to the west of ROUCY. Bn. Hqrs. were established in a sunken road immediately behind D Coy.

12.30 PM -. At 12.30 p.m. a message was received from C Coy. to say they were in position 150 yds south of railway N. of ROUCY and later a message from A. Coy. saying they had placed themselves under the 2nd SOUTH LANCS. and were occupying the northern slope of the BUTTE de MARCHANNE.

1 PM- At 1 p.m. orders were received from Brigade to withdraw two Coys. into reserve to the top of the hill on the northern outskirts of ROUCY. B & D Coys. were withdrawn and held in readiness in BOIS de ROUVROY. Each Coy. sent forward an officer and small party to position held by 2nd SOUTH LANCS. and at 2 p.m. one Coy. was ordered to move forward into the line west of BOUFFINGEREUX. D Coy. went forward but were unable to advance owing to heavy MG fire and were ordered to fall back to their original position. A patrol was then sent out to ascertain the situation on the right and failed to return. The line appeared to have fallen back on the right but could not be located.

3PM- At 3 p.m. orders were received to move back about 300 yds and take up a position astride the VENTELAY-ROUCY road with our right resting on the BOIS ROUVRIY. D Coy. were placed on the right and B Coy. on the left of the road. Details of the 8th and 50th Divisions were collected and placed in the line on the left and also a small party of 11th Cheshires under Capt. WILKINSON. A number of MGs were collected and placed for the defence of the position. One MG and one LG were placed in a position to command the road. Lt. BLOOMFIELD went forward to the left front with four LGs but was forced to fall back on the main line.

4.30PM- At about 4.30 p.m. a number of the enemy emerged from the wood and rushed down the road cheering and shouting. They were soon repulsed and heavy casualties inflicted. Patrols were then sent out on both flanks but were unable to locate any British troops. Our position was reported to Brigade who told us to hang on. They were arranging to send up ammunition which however did not arrive.

5.30 PM - At about 5.30 p.m. the Enemy commenced to encircle our position. He brought up heavy TMs and shelled the road and were in front of our position inflicting some casualties. They crawled out from the wood in front and started to snipe. At the same time they advanced through the woods on both flanks and started to enfilade our position with MG fire. At this point orders were sent to a party of 75th TM Battery who had been previously ordered to withdraw to LA PAITE farm, and await orders to come forward and deal with the enemy MGs in the wood. The runners failed to find this party and no more was seen of them.

7 PM- At about 7 p.m. a Colonel from 8th Div. HQ. informed us that a French Regiment was moving up to reinforce us. By this time the position on our right made it imperative for the right flank to swing back. This was successfully done. The left of the line had by this time suffered heavy casualties and part of it on the extreme left consisting of mixed details of various units had broken and withdrawn. The Bn. continued to hold on to this position until about 10.30 p.m. By this time the position had become untenable. Enemy were seen in the farm 600 yds. north of BOURGOYNE and MGs were firing from our left rear. The Bn. withdrew to a position immediately in front of LA PAITE farm. On arrival at the position an order was received from 23rd Bde. to hang on to our line and informing us that a party of 50 CHESHIRES was coming up on our right flank. This party failed to reach us. Two runners were sent back to try and find the location of 23rd Bde. HQ but they failed to return. Immediately after taking up the position the enemy fired a Very Light from the valley about 600 yds to the NW of VENTELAY and numbers of the enemy were seen in the valley. These were dispersed by our rifle and LG fire. A patrol under Cpl. ROBINSON was immediately sent out who brought back identification from a wounded Enemy. Papers and identification were despatched to Bde. by runners who were fired on from VENTELAY and failed to find Bde HQ. Later two other runners were sent out to inform Bde. of our exact disposition but they were unable to get through and brought back information that VENTELAY was in the hands of the enemy. Lt. Col. de la PERELLE and Capt. BENTLEY then went out to the west of LA PAITE farm to reconnoitre a position to be occupied before dawn. They were fired on by an Enemy MG and it was apparent that the position was surrounded. After a brief consultation it was decided that an attempt should be made before dawn to break through and rejoin our troops.

**28th**

1.30 AM - About 1.30 a.m. the remaining troops were formed up on the road running through the farm. Advance Flank and Rear Guards were detailed and the Bn proceeded along the Spur running South between VENTELAY and ROMAIN. Our left flank guard became engaged with the enemy on the outskirts of VENTELAY and the remainder were enabled to get through to ROMAIN which was occupied by 21st French Infantry Regt whose H.Q had just moved to BREVIL. The Bn. then proceeded to BREVIL and reported to Lt Col WEILLER Commanding the 21st IR. Here information was received that the 75 Inf Bde HQrs were at MONTIGNY. On receiving this information the Bn moved to LES VENTEAUX , and on arrival there runners were sent out to locate Bde HQrs and report our positions. These runners failed to return and later two more runners were despatched who returned with the information that our troops were retiring and Bde H.Q could not be found. A D.R.[ *despatch rider* ] was found who said he was looking for Bde. A message was despatched by him to Bde that as we could not find them we would place ourselves under the command of the 21st I.R. (French). On doing so we were ordered to report to the Officer Commanding 3rd Bn 21st I.R. at FM.BONNE MAISON on the hills to the NE of COURVILLE. The troops at the disposal of the Bn were formed into two Coys. One Company consisting of the Border Regt and the other of details from various Units of the 8th and 50th Divisions. A position was taken up between two French Battalions on the Aerodrome on the high ground N of COURVILLE

2pm- At 2pm the enemy launched a further attack on our position. The Bn of French on our right gave way and fell back.

3pm- At 3pm Orders were received to occupy a position astride the spur to the North of CRUGNY.

5pm- At 5pm The Enemy who had been working round our left flank launched an attack from the direction of COURVILLE which appeared to be in his hands. Since both flanks of our position were again up in the air a withdrawal was ordered to the South of CRUGNY. By this time ammunition was running short and the French were unable to supply either ammunition or rations we were ordered to the rear to get In touch with our own troops. The reminder of the Bn proceeded in the direction of BROUILLET coming under heavy enemy shelling. From BROUILLETE the Bn marched to LARGERY here rations were waiting but no ammunition.

9PM- At 9pm we proceeded to AOUGEY and on arrival here rested for a few hours.

**29th**

4AM- At 4AM we proceeded to ROMIGNY and here reported to 8th Divl HQ. We received orders to rest in a field 1 mile S of N in ROMIGNY and await further orders.

10AM- At 10AM in accordance with orders received from 8th Div a position was taken up on the west side of the LHERY- [SCNIGNY?] road about half mile from ROMIGNY. On taking up this position we came under the orders of 74 Inf Bde. On our left were the 106 Field Coy RE and on our right the 1/6 CHESHIRES. The position held by us was a reserve line in case the enemy broke through from LHERY. Beyond slight shelling the day was fairly quiet.

10PM-About 10pm the French troops who were occupying the ridge in front of our position fell back leaving a gap of about 200 yds. This was patrolled continually throughout the night.

ROMIGNY

**30th**

4AM- About 4AM the Enemy were seen advancing down the slope towards [RE?] NW of AOUGNY. They continued to work down the valley and owing to the French withdrawing our left flank was in the air and the village of ROMIGNY undefended from S.W. By this time our position came under heavy enemy MG fire and light field gun fire from the ridge. The troops on our right withdrew leaving our right flank in the air. As our position had become untenable we gradually withdrew in a S.W. direction over the VALE-EN TARDINOIS-ROMIGNY road into the BOIS de BENIAL and coming round in a Westerly direction took up position in the front edge of the wood facing North. The position ran along the front of the wood from road 800 yds S.W of ROMIGNY to where track runs North to ROMIGNY- JONQUERY road. By this time the enemy were in the village of ROMIGNY but were driven out by a Counter attack by the N.F.s. Good targets were fired on from our position and we were able to provide covering fire.

10AM- At 10AM the wood was very heavily shelled with 4.2 HE. Owing to the heavy shelling our line was withdrawn about 200 yds. On our right was a Bn of South Wales Borderers. On our left the French.

6PM- At 6PM a party of French troops came up and took over the line held by us. Runners were sent out to try to find HQ but they failed to do so. Orders were then received to take up a position on either side of the VALE EN TARDINOIS –JONQUERY road about 200 yds from the rear edge of the wood. The remainder of the night was fairly quiet.

NAPPES

**31st**

5AM-At 5AM in accordance with instructions received from 74 Bde this aBn withdrew to NAPPES and took up a position of readiness on ridge running from CARBON WORKS along North side of road to CHAUMULY.

6PM- We remained here until 6pm when orders were received to take up a position running from W side of BOIS de EGLISE for 200 yds towards T in BOOJACOURT. The 1/6 CHESHIRES were on our left flank and 2 NG on our right with details of 74 Bde in support. Posts were dug and patrols were pushed well forward and round the wood. About 10pm a message was received from Bde saying that small parties of the Enemy were trickling through from VILLE EN TARNINOIS. Cpl ROBINSON took out a patrol but encountered no enemy. The remainder of the night was quiet

Casualties

 Officers: Killed - 2nd Lt J.BELL, 2nd Lt J.K.McKENZIE .

Wounded -2nd Lt N.W.S.YOUNG. Wounded & Missing – 2nd Lt E.W.JACKSON.

Missing- Capt A. MISSCAMPBELL, Lt.H.LANSLEY; 2/Lts.W.T.THORTON, J.BROWN, D.PHILIP, C.SPENCE, F.H.DARVELL.G.A.SUTCLIFFE.

 Other ranks killed 9, Wounded 60. Missing 203

Honours during month ( Military Medal)

14455 Sgt GRAHAM H.F,, 28895 Pte HEWITT W.,2903133 L/C Bray.F.W., 15047 Pte GEORGE J.,26595 Pte JONES W.B.,14659 Pte STAFFORD W.J., 15754 Pte McGUINESS T., 15153 Pte JONES J.R., 203060 Pte TODKILL H., Bar to Military Medal 15091 Sgt CRAYSON

J.M.DE LA PERRELLE Lt Col Comdg 8 Border Regt

**June 1918**

June 1918 events: Composite battalions

NAPPES

**1st-** 4.30AM- Orders were received from Bde to move to South West corner of BOIS DE EDLISSE and await further orders. The Bn with other details of the 25t Division then became 19th Divisional reserve.

4PM- Order were received that a Composite Battalion would be formed. This Battalion was called the 1/25 Divisional Composite Battalion and commanded by Major TRAIL of the 1st Bn Worcestershire Regt. The 8th Border Regt had to supply 4 Officers and all other ranks (104). The following officers were detailed: Lt C.A.SCOTT, Lt.V.BLOOMFIELD, 2nd Lt J.D.DEAS, 2nd Lt R.SCOTT. One Coy was formed and called No 2 Coy (Border Co.)

6PM – The Border Co proceeded to BOIS DE COURTON where it remained until 9pm

9PM- During this time the wood came under heavy hostile fire inflicting five casualties.[ *CWGC lists three 8th Border deaths on 1-2 June: STABLES, A B.Private 34753.*[*MARFAUX BRITISH CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/32000/MARFAUX%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY)*. McCANN, J.Corporal 23452.*[*SEZANNE COMMUNAL CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/63513/SEZANNE%20COMMUNAL%20CEMETERY)*. PERRIN, ERNEST ALFRED Private. 29563. Age: 21.* [*RETHEL FRENCH NATIONAL CEMETERY*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2096913/RETHEL%20FRENCH%20NATIONAL%20CEMETERY)*.Son of Mrs. E. A. Perrin, of 55, Melbourne Rd., East Ham, Essex* ] The Company was then moved to BOIS-De ECLISSE where it remained with the Bn in reserve.

**2nd** – 10AM The Company in conjunction with the remainder of the Bn took up a position in support to the French, the Border Company holding a front of 250 yds. 500 yds S of CHANTEREINE Fm. The remainder of the day was quiet.

**3rd**- With the exception of slight shelling during the day nothing important happened. In accordance with orders from 74 Bde. 2nd Lt J.D. DEAS went to 2/25 Divisional Composite Battalion. 9PM. The Battalion took up a position in depth holding the front of CHANTEREINE Fm. (Southern corner of BIS DE EDLISSE) the Border Company being in Close support.

**4th**- Remained in same position

**5th**- do. 2 patrols were sent out

**6th** -3.15 AM The Enemy put down a heavy barrage of HE and Gas on the right of our position, which was followed by an attack. The attack was successfully repulsed. Casualties (5 wounded) were inflicted on the Border Cos.

**7th**- Same position. The day was very quiet.

**8th**- Same position. The day was very quiet.

**9th**-10.30 PM The Battalion was relieved by 1/8 Divisional Composite Bn and went on completion on relief into reserve in the BOIS DE COURTON.

**10th- & 11th**- Resting

**12 &13th**-During the 12th & 13th the Border Company found a working party of 1 NCO and 20 men daily.

**14th**- 9.30PM. The BN. moved up to the front line and relieved the 2/25 Divisional Composite Bn the Border Company taking over the front line from CHANTEREINE Fm. To a point 300 yds west of the L in BOIS De ECLISSE.

**15-17th**- Holding the line

NAPPES, GERMAINE

**18th**- 1.30AM The Composite Bn was relieved by the 52nd Bn ALPE Regt (Italians) and on relief marched to GERMAINE arriving there at 12.30pm. 3pmM The Border Company entrained and arrived at FERE CHAMPENOISE at 7.30pm. From here they were conveyed in lorries to ST LOUP and rejoined the remainder of the 8th Border Regt.

ST LOUP

**19th**- Cleaning up, Bathing & c.

**20th**- In accordance with instructions received from Bde The Bn. detailed 12 officers and 306 other ranks to form with the remainder of the 9th Loyal North Lancs, No 2 Bn of the 50th Divisional Composite Brigade. Two Coys were organised and on Completion were handed over to O.C.9th Loyal North Lancs.

**21st & 22nd**- Awaiting instructions.

CONNANTRAY

**23rd** –The remaining details of the Bn ( 16 Officers and 86 other ranks) marched to CONNANTRAY arriving there at 4pm

HAUSSIMONT

**24th** – Marched to HAUSSIMONT Arriving in at 1pm.

**25th**- 11pm. At 11pm the Bn, along with details of 75 Bde marched to the station at SOMMESOUS, where they entrained.

SOMMESOUS

**26th**- 3.30 AM . Left the Station at 3.30 AM. The train halted at 11.30AM at MONTEREUX for 45 minutes.

HESDIN

 **27th**- Travelling. Another halt was made at US-MARINES. The train arrived at HESDIN at 1pm where the Bn detrained and after tea marched to billets at EMERY arriving there at 9pm.

EMERY

**28th**- Cleaning up

**29th**- The Staff of 25th Division left for England leaving the bn along with other details of the Division to await instructions from G.H.Q.

**30th**- Church Parade

Casualties during month:

Officers: killed 2nd Lt H.G.MACHELL [*MACHELL, H G. 2nd Lt 12/06/1918 Age: 30.* [*ST. SEVER CEMETERY, ROUEN*](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/16900/ST.%20SEVER%20CEMETERY%2C%20ROUEN)*.Son of Hugh and Helena Machell, of 69, Grosvenor St., Marylebone, London* ]

Other ranks: wounded 15

Honours & Awards

2nd Bar to MC: Lt R.Strong

Military Cross: Capt A.J.BENTLEY, Lt J.F.DUGGAN DCM, Lt F.L.WILLIAMS,2/Lt F.W.DARVELL. Capt M.TURNBULL

DCM: CSM J.M.J GENT

Bar to MM: 10085 Pte ROBERTS, E.

Military Medal: 13513 Pte. BELL J., 260155 Pte. GELLING W.,13548 Pte. HERD J., 25420 Cpl O’CONNELL J., 33468 L/C WILKIE R., 25618 L/C TATTERSALL J. , 9100 Pte. DIXON R., 33265 Pte. VAUGHAN H., 27963 Pte. BELL (DCM) T., 23913 Cpl ROBINSON (DC) W.

MSM: 5793 RQMS KNIGHT J., 5526 Sgt WALKER J.

Mentioned in Despatches: 14869 Sgt BERRY J.

J.M. de la PERRELLE Lt Col Comdg 8th Bn The Border Regiment

[Footnote - useful map website for locations mentioned in this transcript:

<http://www.map-france.com/region-Nord-Pas-de-Calais/> ]