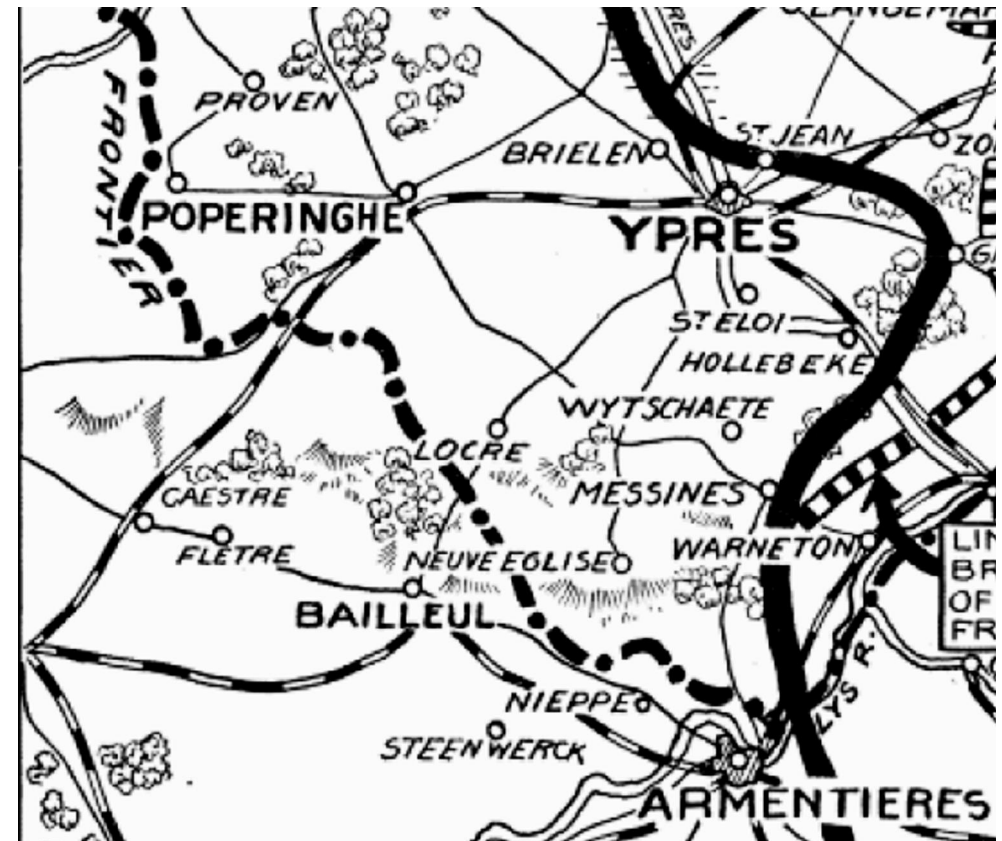


The Diary of Frank Arnold 1916-1917



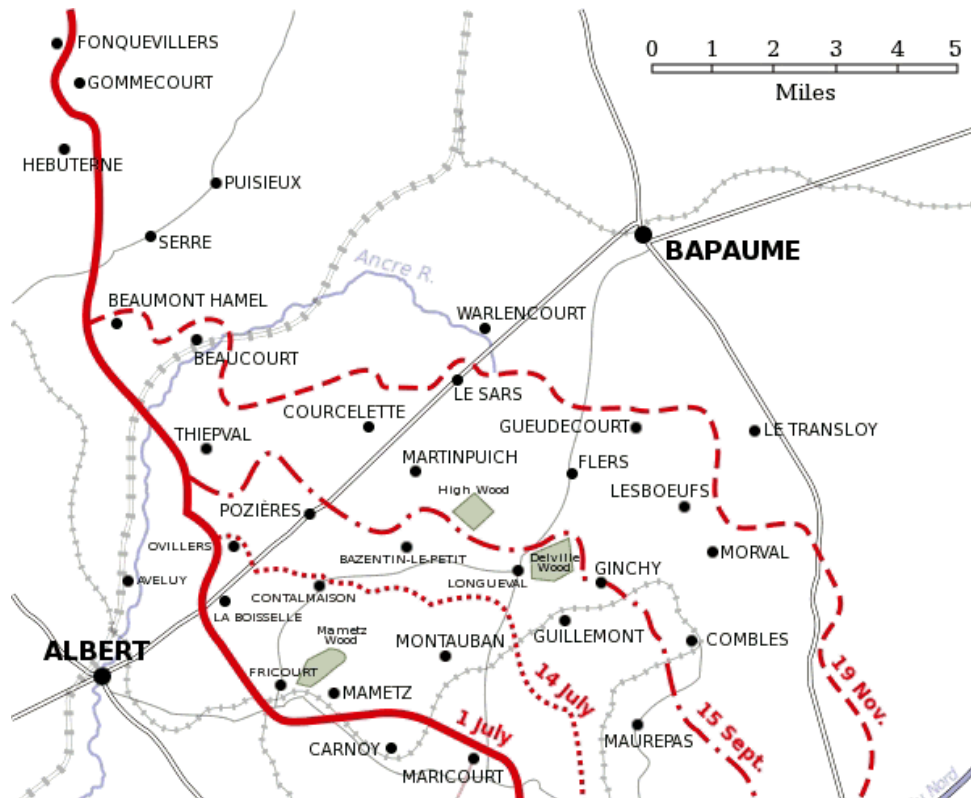
Transcription and commentary
by J.E. Simpson

Map of the trenches of Flanders, late 1917



This map shows the state of the front line in Flanders following the Battle of Messines in June 1917. Some of the places mentioned by Frank in his diary are clearly mentioned, such as Fletre, Steenwerck and Armentières. The distinct bulge of the Ypres salient is clearly visible. Just off the edge of the map is the village of Passchendaele which came to represent all that was worst about attrition warfare by the time of its capture in November 1917.

Map of the Battle of the Somme, July-November 1916



The progress of the British attack in the Battle of the Somme is illustrated on this map. Frank arrived in the Somme in preparation for the assault of 15 September 1916 and was posted into trenches ahead of Delville wood. On the morning of 15 September 1916 Frank was part of the successful assault on Flers. In a diary containing very little comment or introspection, Frank's observation of Delville wood, 'this place is a place of horrors', is particularly haunting.

The Diary of Frank Arnold 1916-1917

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September 1916

3 pm Went to a stream
in the river above.

9th 9 am Rifle inspection

9.30 am Physical drill.

2.30 pm marched to

Prigourt camp.

10th 12 am Church parade.

3 pm Drew extra munitions
and bombs ready to

go to the trenches. 8 pm

marched to the trenches

at Deville wood. This

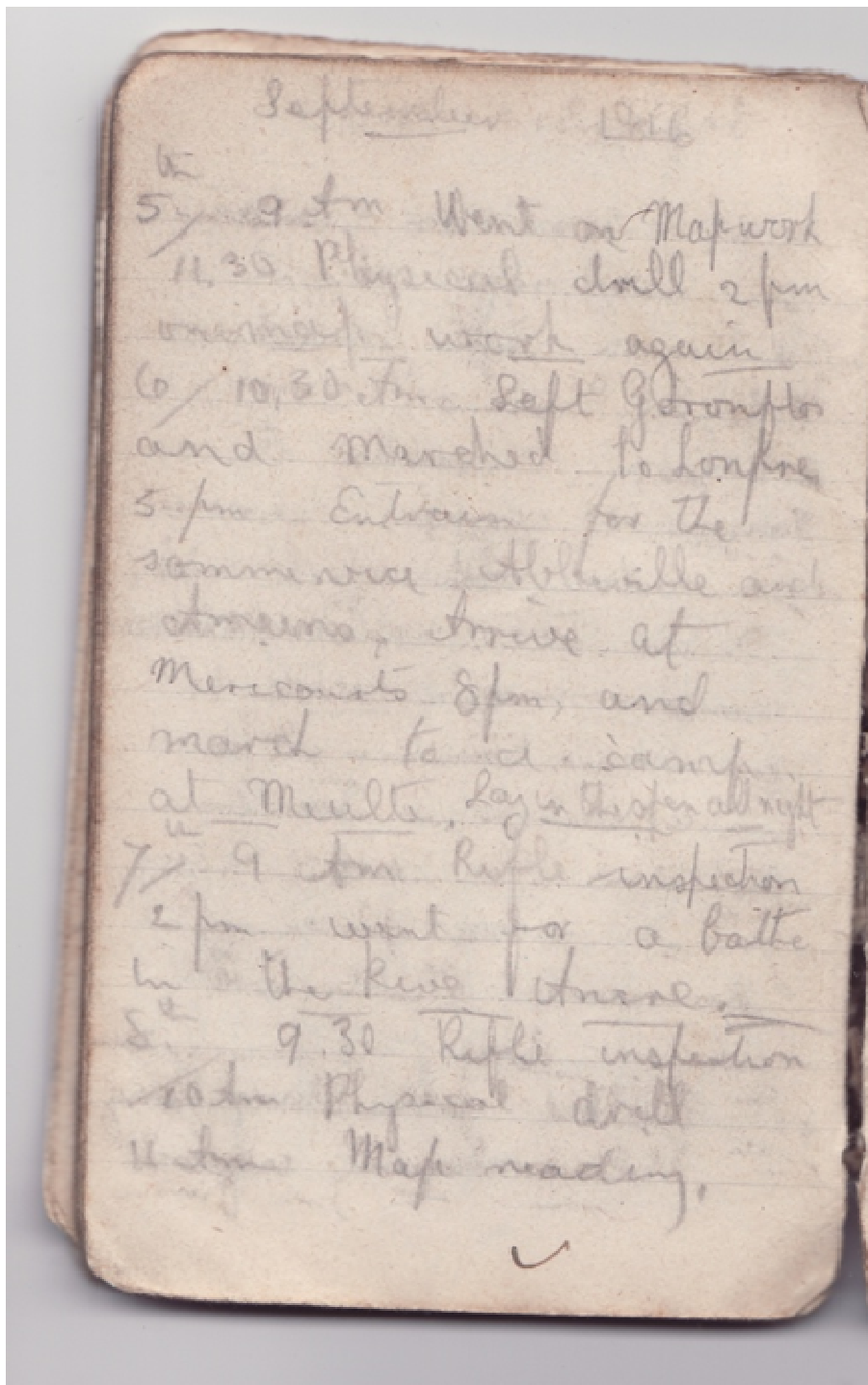
place is a place of

horrors. Shells all

day long.

11th Shelled full day long

12th Shelled heavily again



Introduction

Frank Arnold was born on 12 January 1898, in Arley, Warwickshire. When he was 18, he enlisted with the Middlesex Regiment, the Duke of Cambridge's Own. Frank fought on the Western Front and kept a diary of his experiences. The diary covers the period May 1916 to June 1917. Beginning with his departure from England and encompassing his experiences in the trenches of Flanders and the Somme, Frank's diary is a fascinating and illuminating window into a world that is scarcely imaginable today.

Frank maintains a factual record of his days: there is virtually no introspection or comment in the diary. This is perhaps partly because it would appear that Frank's diary was read on a regular basis by one of his superiors - each page is marked at the bottom with a tick in ink. Comments about his situation or condition are, therefore, very much the exception rather than the rule. This does not, however, make the diary any less interesting or useful to a historian. Indeed, one of the most striking things that one takes from the diary is a sense of the tedium and routine of life in the trenches and an insight into how soldiers coped with this. Frank is also a diligent recorder of place names and journeys: tracing his route around north-east France is easily done.

Frank's diary can be divided into three broad sections. The first section, from May 1916 to September 1916, covers Frank's initial experience of life in the trenches of Flanders. The second section, September and October 1916, deals with Frank's experience of the Battle of the Somme, specifically the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. The third section, from October 1916 to June 1917, sees Frank back in Flanders, finishing with him getting injured on the first day of the Battle of Messines. Although the diary remains factual and generally impersonal throughout the thirteen months covered, one gets a strong sense of how Frank developed as a soldier and a person through his record of activities and actions. The somewhat gauche and wide-eyed soldier of June 1916, "saw a Brit-

ish Observation balloon break loose and saw the officers descend on a parachute” gives way to the more worldly and streetwise soldier of November, “nothing doing.”

This booklet, in addition to the diary, contains some details about various places mentioned; a glossary of terms; maps of the Somme and Flanders and a scanned image of the diary pages.

My most sincere thanks go to the Deane family for allowing me the opportunity to work on this fascinating and delicate document.

A note on the transcription

In transcribing this diary I have been as faithful as possible to Frank’s original document. I have kept the spellings that Frank used, adding their modern versions in the appendix. Where Frank first uses an acronym I include its full version in brackets. Where the original writing is unclear I have either noted [?] or have completed the word [*in italics*]. Frank is consistent in the fact that he always marks 12pm (noon) as 12am. I have left this as he wrote it, rather than correcting him. Frank seems to either realise or be made aware of his mistake, because later in the diary he begins to write 12am noon.

Stand to

A regular part of daily life in the trenches, soldiers ‘stood to’ at dawn and dusk in full battle readiness in their trenches in anticipation of an attack. Generally only mentioned in the diary when ordered at an unusual or irregular time.

Trench mortar

A short tube designed to throw a projectile high into the air and a short distance forward so that it falls straight down onto the enemy.

Whiz bangs

Used to describe any German artillery shell, the term was originally coined because soldiers heard the ‘whizz’ of a shell flying overhead at supersonic speeds before they heard the ‘bang’ of the gun firing.

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette

Part of the Battle of the Somme of July-November 1916, the Battle of Flers-Courcelette is noted for being the first time that tanks were used in warfare. Launched on 15 September 1916 and considered one of the more successful operations of the Battle of the Somme, the offensive captured the twin objectives of Flers and Courcelette, although at considerable cost of life.

Battle of Messines

Arguably the most successful local operation of the entire war on the Western Front, the Battle of Messines began with the detonation of a number of enormous mines on 7 June 1917. These were audible as far away as Dublin and killed over 10,000 Germans in the first minutes of the assault alone. The operation captured all its objectives within three hours, although at a cost of 17,000 casualties. Interestingly, details of the exact location of two of the mines that failed to explode on the morning of the attack were mislaid by the British army. One exploded in a thunderstorm in June 1955, killing a cow. The other remains undiscovered.

this was a small village close to the British lines. Large mines were detonated here on 7 June 1917, starting the Battle of Messines, with which Frank's diary finishes.

Somme

Delville wood

Described by Frank as 'a place of horrors', Delville wood was an eerie landscape of destroyed trees and mud by September 1916. It was from trenches in front of Delville wood that Frank attacked on the first day of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette in September 1916.

Flers

A village, previously well behind German lines, taken on the first day of the Battle of Flers Courcelette

Glossary of terms

Billet

Place in which soldiers slept when not in the trenches. This could either be a camp or a building commandeered for military purposes in a town or village.

Fatigue

An army term for a non-military physical duty such as digging a trench or unloading supplies. Used as a punishment.

Five-Nines

German shells fired by guns with a 5.9 inch diameter, hence the name.

Rouse parade

Name given to parade held immediately after rising: an unpopular way of starting the day amongst soldiers!

Rum Jars

Slang for a German mortar projectile. Also known as footballs, moaning minnies or Christmas Puddings.

The Diary of Frank Arnold

May 2nd 10am Rifle inspection. 10.30am Physical drill. 12am cleaned out Barrack rooms. 2pm Drew overseas kit.

3rd 6.30am Drew Ammunition. 7.30 The last breakfast before we left England. 11am Marched to Farnboro station. 3.30pm Arrive at Southampton docks. 4pm Went on board "La Marguerite." 9.30pm set sail for France. 10pm Boat anchors in the Solent.

4th 4am The ship starts again escorted by Torpedo boats. 12am Arrived at "Le Havre" and marched to Rest Camp and met our first batch of German prisoners on the way. 7.30pm Helped to draw rations for the platoon.

5th 8am Helped to clean the lines. 10am Marched to Le Havre Station. 5pm Entrained for farther up country, travelling all night.

6th 12.30pm Arrive at a little village siding, Godwaersvelde. 5pm Arrive at Billets at Fletre.

7th 7am Physical Drill 9am Had my first bit of instruction on compass reading. 12am Kit inspection and rifle inspection. 2pm Foot and boot inspection.

8th 9am Physical drill 10am Bayonet fighting 12.30am Practice in standing in gas attack. Went through ordinary and enemy gas

9th 9am Rifle inspection 10 am Company Drill 2pm Went to the baths at Bailleul

10th 7am Physical Drill 2pm Rifle and General appearance inspection. Platoon's turn on Fire Signal.

11th 7am Running and marching. 9am Rifle inspection. 9.30am Cleaning the billets. 11am Small route march. 2pm Bayonet fighting and bombing. 3.30pm Lecture on gas.

12th 7am Running and marching. 9am Rifle inspection. 9.30am Cleaning up billets. 11am Small route march, 2pm Bayonet and bombing practice. 3.30pm Lecture on gas.

13th 9.30am Kit Inspection, entrenching tool handles had to be scrubbed. 2pm Lecture (Raining all the day) 10.30pm Night Alarm.

14th 9am Rifle inspection. 10.30am Church parade. 2pm wiring. Had 4 days

May, 1916

fatigue for going out of billets without permission.

15th 11am Practice in putting on Gas Helmets. 1pm Fatigue. 2pm Bombing and gas practice. 10pm Night Alarm.

16th 9am Rifle inspection. 11am Route march. 2pm Bombing and physical drill.

17th 7am Running and marching. 9am Rifle inspection. 9.30am Fatigue. 11.30 Kit inspection. 2pm Bayonet Fighting. 3pm Rifle Exercise. 5pm one hour march.

18th 7am Running and marching. 9am Drew the platoon meat ration for the day.

18th (German aeroplane brought down close to our billets by anti aircraft guns.) 4pm Equipment inspection. 9pm Helped to draw the platoon's rations for next day. 11pm Drew iron rations.

19th 6.30am Moved into different billets. 12am inspected by Gen Ferguson when German aeroplane passed over pursued by 2 British machines.

20th 7am Running and marching. 9.30am Rifle inspection. 10.30am Gas helmet practice. 3pm Saw another air fight.

21st 9.30am Church parade (shell burst over our heads from anti aircraft guns) 6pm Medical inspection. 6.30pm Detailed as platoon runner.

22nd 6am Finish off orderly duty. 7am Practice in emergency moves. 9am Rifle inspection. 10.30am Route march. 2pm practice in emergence moves. 4pm Kit inspection.

23rd 7am Running and marching. 9am Rifle inspection. 10.30am Route march. 2pm Lecture on Gas. 4pm inspection of ammunition and kit.

24th 8am Parade for baths. 2pm Rapid fire and bombing practice. 11.30 fire. Night alarm.

25th 6.30am Running and marching. 9.30 Rifle drill. 10.30am route march. 2pm Rapid fire in attacks. 3pm bombing practice. 4pm inspection of field dressing and goggles.

26th 6.30am On duty as platoon runner. 6.30pm finished duty for the day.

27th 7am Running and marching. 9.30 Gas Helmet practice. 10.30am Kit inspec-

A selection of places mentioned

Flanders

Armentieres

Correctly spelt as Armentières, this town was less than half a mile from German lines and was entirely destroyed during the war.

Dickebusch

Now spelt Dikkebusch, this town was very close to the British trenches. Frank's diary strongly suggests that it was the trenches close to Dickebusch and St Eloi where he served in the latter part of 1916 and the first half of 1917.

Godwaersvelde

Now written as Godewaersvelde, a small village by the French-Belgian border. Site of a British War Cemetery than now contains 972 Commonwealth burials and 19 German war graves.

Mont des Cats

The site of a sniping school, run by a retired big game hunter.

Ploegsteert

Known to those who served here during the Great War as "Plugstreet". The village is about two miles north of Armentières, close to the French border and eight miles south of Ypres.

Poperinghe

Poperinghe was the primary military base for the British forces in Flanders. Home to the famous Talbot House, a recreation establishment for resting soldiers.

Reninghelst

Behind the lines, a small town surrounded by a number of camps in which soldiers were billeted between stints in the trenches. These camps included Chipewa Camp, Ottawa Camp, Quebec Camp and Ontario Camp.

St Eloi

Principally remembered as the site of a number of enormous mine detonations,

June, 1917

Company Officer. 12am Lecture by C.O. 10pm put battle order together ready for attack.

5th 10am went up to the line ready for the attack. 5pm fetched water for cook-house. 10pm on working party digging jumping-up step. Got Whiz-Banged all night.

6th 2.30am finished work. 11am drew bombs, extra ammo and sandbags ready for attack. 10pm Took up position in front line ready for an attack.

7th 3.15am Out in no-man's land 3.17am In German front line. 5am reached our objective. 5.15 Wounded in leg and chest by our shrapnel. 3.30pm carried by SB [*stretcher bearer*] to a DS [*dressing station*].

May-June, 1916

tion. 2pm route march.

28th 9am Church parade. 11am Rifle inspection. 6pm mounted guard.

29th 6am finished guard. 9.30 rifle drill. 11.30am Cleared out the billets. 4pm left Fletre on the march to Bailleul.

30th 10.30am Rifle inspection. 2pm Route march.

31st 10am Rifle inspection 3.30pm left Bailleul for Armentieres. 7.30pm Saw the first lot of German shells bursting on a church. 8pm Billeted on a cotton mill.

June 1916

1st June 8.30am Went into the trenches for the first time with a working party. 1.30pm under shell fire for an hour. 7.30pm saw a British Observation balloon break loose and saw the officers descend on a parachute.

2nd 7.30am Went into the first line trenches with a working party. 12am till 12.13 shelled by trench mortars.

3rd 7am Physical drill. 10am went to the baths.

4th 11.30am went into the trenches, relieved the DC9 [*Duke of Cambridge 9th?*] 8.30pm stand to, 10pm stand down.

5th 3am drew rations for the sniper section. Went all along our battalion's front line.

6th 5am drew rations for the section. 3pm went into the front line. 9.30pm drew rations for the following day and came under fire of the German machine guns. 11.30pm took the intelligence report to the artillery officer.

7th 2.30am Returned to the dug out. 5.30am took my place in a sniping post on the front line. 7pm finished for the day.

8th 5am On the post in the front line again. 5pm relieved till 8.30pm on night sniping all night.

9th 3am Finished the night sniping. 9.30am till 3.30pm the reserve lines and cottages behind Liavel [?] shelled by the Germans.

10th 6am Again on post in front line. 2.30pm snipers post attacked and fired at. Reserves again heavily shelled, 362 shells fell in 2 hours. 7.30pm Batt-

June , 1916

[*Battalion*] relieved by DC9.

11th 10am Went on fatigue at RE [*Royal Engineers*] Dumps. 7.30pm went to dig a communications trench at Ploegsteert.

12th 3am Arrive back from trench at Ploegsteert. 8am went on working party up the trenches.

13th 9am Rifle inspection. 10.30am went to the baths. 7.30pm went wiring in front of front line pouring down with rain.

14th 2am Arrived back from wiring. 11am lecture. 2pm lecture. 7.30pm working party at Suffolk Avenue. 12pm all clocks put on one hour.

15th 9am Rifle inspection. 10am Heard two court-martials read out. 10.30am went to the baths again. 6pm Went for a walk around Armentieres.

16th 9am Rifle inspection. 11.30am went into the trenches for the 2nd spell. 11.30pm Our artillery shells the German trenches.

17th 3am Went on observation duty. 9am relieved for a time. 3pm went on duty again. 9pm finished for the day.

18th 3am went on observation duty and at 4am saw the first German. 9am relieved for a rest. 3pm on duty again. 5pm saw German sniper and observer. 7.30pm saw a German officer. 9pm finished for the day. 12pm Gas attack.

19th 9am Went on OD [*Observation Duty*] 5pm saw a G [*German*] sniper killed by a NZ [*New Zealand?*] sniper 7.45pm saw a German with a spiked helmet on. 9pm finished for day.

20th 3am On OD again. 9am relieved for a time. 3pm on duty again. 7.45pm Saw G with field glasses. 9pm finished for the day.

21st 3am Again on OD. 3pm finished for the day. 7pm saw squadron of B [*British*] aeroplanes heavily shelled but get away.

22nd 9am again on OD. 2.30pm moved to a different position to await a strafe which never came off. 9pm finished for the day.

23rd 3am On OD. 8.30pm finished for the day (nothing to report).

24th 3am again on OD. 4pm relieved. 7.30pm relieved from the trenches for a

May-June, 1917

new trench).

17th 2am finished work. 8pm on working party.

18th 2am finished work. 9.30pm on working party.

19th 3.30am finished work. 10am rifle inspection. 7.15pm on working party digging a new trench.

20th 2am finished work. 11.30am relieved from trenches. 2.30pm arrive in Alberta camp. 5pm pay 6pm drew Compy. rations.

21st 11am till 9pm On working party at Army corp dump.

22nd 6.15am till 4pm on working party at Dickebusch. 5pm pay.

23rd 6.15am till 4pm On working party at Ouderdom dump.

24th 6.15 till 4pm On working party at Le Clytte making a reservoir.

25th 6.15am till 4pm On same party as yesterday.

26th 7am left camp to relieve trenches. 12am arrive in trenches. 4pm till 8.15pm on OD.

27th 7.30am till 10am on OD. 1pm till 3.30pm on OD. Heavy shelling of G lines all day. 8.15pm Enemy artillery starts to strafe but our artillery again starts on lines.

28th 6am till 8.15am sniping in front line. 5pm till 8.30pm again on sniping (again a lot of strafing by both sides).

29th 6.30am till 8.30am OD. 10.30am to 12.30am on OD. 2.30pm till 4.30pm on OD. 6.30pm till 9 pm on OD. 9.30pm Enemy again starts his nightly strafe.

30th 8.30am till 1pm on OD. 5pm till 7.30pm on OD.

31st 6.30am went to draw rations. 7am till 8.30am on OD. 12am relieved from the trenches. 3pm arrive back in Chippewa camp.

1st June 9.15am baths. 11am Kit insp. 11.30am Clothing inspection. 3pm pay.

2nd 7am working party at Ouderdom. 4pm finished work.

3rd 9am parade (Consolidation). 10.30am Baths. 2pm drew bomb and rifle grenade bags. 3.45pm practice lining up on tapers.

4th 9am Parade. Clean fatigue dress. Visited by Div. Gen. 11am Lecture by

May, 1917

heavy artillery.

5th 10am till 12 noon On OD. 5pm On OD. 5.55pm G aeroplane brought down in flames 6.30pm finished OD. 7.30pm on working party. 9pm turned back owing to officer not turning up. 10.30pm sent up to supports on work but nobody was there.

6th 12.30 till 3pm On OD 5.30pm till dusk on OD. Fairly lively artillery fire on.

7th 7am on OD. 8.50am off for a time. 9am till 11.30am on OD. 4 till 6pm On OD. During the night our artillery open rapid fire three times over a period of about 15 minutes.

8th 8.30 till 2.30pm On OD. 5.30pm till 8.30pm On OD.

9th 6am on OD. 8.30am off for a time. 10.30am on OD. 12.30am off for a rest. 2.30pm On OD. 5.30pm finished for the day. 9.30pm enemy started a bombardment but got shut up by our artillery.

10th 8.30am On OD. 10.30am off for a time. 12.30am on OD. 2.30pm off for a time. 5.30pm on OD. 8.30pm finished for the day.

11th 7am On OD. 8.30am off for a time. 10.30am On OD. 12.30am off for a time. 2.30pm till 5.30pm on OD. 8.45pm Saw enemy artillery set fire to a small ammunition dump.

12th 8.30am till 10.30am On OD. 12.30am till 2.30pm On OD. 3.30pm till 4.30pm on OD. 5.30pm till 6.30pm On OD. 8pm relieved from the trenches and went into reserve dugout at Dickebusch.

13th 2.30pm Left HQ for company in reserve at G.H.Q.2. 8.30pm on working party at BHQ [*Battalion Head Quarters*]

14th 2.15am finished work. 7am went to Mx [*Middlesex*] Lane and got water for cookhouse. 10am rifle inspection. 10.30am Drew steel helmet cover and waterproof cape. 8.30pm on working party.

15th 2am finished work. 11am paraded for sandbagging but did not do any. 10pm On working party 11.30pm turn back because RE did not turn up.

16th 10am rifle inspection. 8pm On working party (pouring with rain, digging a

June –July, 1916

rest.

25th Nothing done today, all night shelling.

26th 8.30am Went building dugouts. 3pm back at billets. 10pm Things rather lively: had to stand to in case of emergency.

27th 8am On working party.

28th 8am Went trench digging at Ploegsteert. All night heavy artillery fire.

29th 8am Went trench digging at Ploegsteert. Heavy shelling again.

30th Cleaned and polished. 11am went to the baths. 6.30pm saw a squadron of 17 British Aeroplanes. 10.30pm Stand to in case of emergency. Heavy bombardment.

1st July 8am Went making relief trenches at Bucks Avenue.

2nd 10am Gas helmet drill. 10.30am Musketry. 11.30am lecture on gas.

3rd 11am Went to the baths. 2.45 Went into the trenches for the 3rd time. 4.30pm on OD. 9pm finished for the day. 11pm heavy artillery fire on the right.

4th 3am On OD. 7.30am saw German working party. 9am relieved for a time. 8pm again on duty. 9pm finished for the day.

5th 9am on OD. 11am While on a bit of a prowl round I pick up a German officer's cap in a dugout in a disused trench. 9pm finished for the day.

6th 3am On observation duty. 6pm went on making a sniping post. 11.15pm finished for the day.

7th 3am On a sniping post. 7.30am Went to H.Q. 9am on sniping post. 9pm finished for the day.

8th 9am On. 12am saw a man working in Enemy trench. 8.30pm While firing from a loophole, a bullet from a German sniper comes along my rifle and busts the middle fingers of my left hand, knocked the skin off the knuckle on my right hand.

9th 5am On OD. 12.30 I had my own back by putting a bullet straight through the middle of an enemy Artillery box. 3pm finished for the day.

July, 1916

10th 1am Went digging a listening post. 3.30am returned to the H.Q. 10am Saw the German Artillery send some incendiary shells into Armentieres setting a church on fire. 2pm went on OD. 7.45pm saw an enemy working party. 9pm finished for the day.

11th 9am On OD. 8.30pm had my first bit of luck by killing a German. At 9pm I had a second. Both these shots were witnessed by an observer. 9.15 Cut some grass in front of OP. [*Observation Post*] 9.30pm finished for the day.

12th 3am On OD. 10 till 11am our trenches were bombarded by shells, whiz bangs and trench mortars. 3pm finished for the day. An artillery duel was on all night.

13th 6am on OD. 9am relieved for a time. 3pm again on OD. 9.30pm finished for the day. 10.30pm heavy artillery fire on both sides.

14th 9am OD in front line. 3pm relieved of duty, finish of 3rd spell in the trenches. 6pm arrive at our billets.

15th 12pm Rifle inspection. 2.30pm went to the baths. 10pm our artillery starts a heavy bombardment of the German lines.

16th 9.30pm Our batteries again shell the German lines. 10pm German batteries retaliate on our billets at "Le Bizet", one shell going through the roof of the house we were billeted in.

17th 9.30am Went to Widows House to make concrete loopholes.

18th Went to Ploegsteert for shooting. Get shelled on the way up and on the way back. The final four burst that near that we had to take refuge in a ditch.

19th 9am Went to Ploegsteert and was shelled again so returned and went to range at Pont de Dieppe. 2.30pm rifle inspection. 4pm carried Gas Cylinders up the trenches.

20th 4am Returned from fatigue. 9am went firing at a range. 6pm made concrete loopholes at Motor Car Corner.

21st 9am Went to the baths. 2pm paraded for working party. A shell really intended for our party burst in a farm killing two men and one woman. 9pm On a

April-May, 1917

17th 7.15am till 11.30am rifle drill and extended orders. 5.30pm pay. 5.45 drew section rations.

18th 11 till 12.30am scouting. 4.30 drew HQ rations.

19th 7.15 till 2pm practicing attacking.

20th 7.15 till 2pm practicing attacking. 4pm drew HQ rations.

21st 7.15 till 2pm practicing trench attacks and deploying under fire.

22nd Went for a walk around during the morning.

23rd 6.30am Started on march to Arneke. 15 miles 2.30pm arrive in billets.

24th 8.15am started on march to Steenwoorde. 11miles Arrive in billets. 3pm 4pm drew blankets from HQ.

25th 7.30am paraded for working party, met lorries at Steenwoorde and went to Corps Dump. Finished work at 4pm. Arrive back at Chippewa camp 5.20pm.

26th 8.30am Rouse parade. 11.45am close order drill.

27th 7.30am Rouse parade, clean mess tins. 9am physical drill and bayonet fighting. 10.45 Gas helmet drill. 11.45 C.O.'s parade. 2pm rifle inspection. 3pm paraded for inoculation.

28th 7.30am On working party. 4.30pm finished for the day.

29th 10.30am On fatigue. 2.30pm watch football match. 3pm Enemy began to shell the railway close to camp and continued during the night till about 4am next morning.

30th 7.30am Rouse parade. 9.15 physical drill. 10am baths. 11am Cleaned equipment. 2.30pm lecture by C.O.

1st May 7am On working party at Ouderdom dump.

2nd 9.30am Went into trenches right of St Eloï. 1pm On OD. 5pm finished for the day. 11pm stand to Gas alarm.

3rd 8am on working party in sap in front line till 2pm. 9pm drew sections blankets.

4th 7am On OD. 9am relieved fro a time. 3pm on OD. 4.20pm finished for the day. During all the afternoon our heavies farted (?) the G support line without

March-April, 1917

28th 9am rifle inspection. 6pm went to Batt concert.

29th 8.30am On working party at Reninghelst. 4pm finished work. 5pm drew rations for HQ company.

30th 10.15am paraded for trenches. 1.30 On OD. 4.30 finished for the day. 7.30pm drew section's blankets.

31st 9am On OD. 12am off for dinner. 2pm on again. 5pm FINISHED.

1st April 9.30am On OD. 12.30am off for dinner. 2pm on duty again. 5pm finished.

2nd 3am On OD. 9pm finish for the day.

3rd 4pm Collected reports from OP.

4th Section Orderly. 8am drew breakfast. 1pm drew dinner. 4.30pm drew tea. 5pm shell struck dugout – had to run for it. 9.15pm dugout again shelled.

5th No duty owing to OP being destroyed by Rum Jars. 3pm shelled by 5-9s (five nines)

6th Left Chippewa camp on 3 days march for a rest. Left camp 9.30am arrived at Steenvoorde 1pm. 8 miles. 3pm foot inspection.

7th 8.30am on the march again. 3pm arrive at Arneke. 12 miles. 3.45pm foot inspection. 6pm drew rations for C.py.

8th 8.30am left Arneke for another place. 12.30 stopped for dinner. 2.30pm on the march again. 4.30pm arrive at Bayenghem after 15 miles march.

9th 9am running drill. 9.30am pay. Fatigue till dinner then finished.

10th 7.15am Rouse parade. 8.30am paraded for training in attack. 3pm lecture.

11th 9.30 till 12am marking in Batts on a range.

12th 8am training in an attack.

13th 8am training in attack. 2.45pm lecture. 3.15om musketry. 8.45pm till 11.15pm night operations.

14th 11.45 went to baths. 3pm arrive back.

15th 9.30am equipment inspection.

16th 7.15am till 2pm practicing attacking.

July-August, 1916

working party again carrying trench mortar shells up the trenches.

22nd 1am arrive back from fatigue. 2.30pm went firing on a range at Pont de Dieppe.

23rd 8am Went to Ploegsteert on working party. 4.30pm went in trenches for the 4th spell. 6pm On OD. 8pm Saw a G officer. 9pm finished for the day.

24th 4am on OD. 3pm finished for the day. Note this is about the hottest day's fighting we had had. Shells, whiz bangs and trench mortars, sausages and aerial torpedoes coming over by the ton.

25th 4am On OD. 9am relieved for a time. 3pm again on duty. 10pm finished for the day.

26th 9am on OD. During the day I saw about half a dozen German officers. 9pm finished for the day. 12pm standing to as heavy bombardment being carried out.

27th 3am On OD. 7am saw 3 German officers in range finder. 3.30pm A whiz bang which fell close to my OP killed the youth who had been with me all the week.

28th 4am Again on OD. 9am relieved for a time. 3pm again on OD. 9pm finished for the day.

29th 9am On OD in front line. 9pm finished for the day. Plenty of aeroplane shelling going on all day.

30th 3.30am Again on OD. 3pm finish OD for the day. 5pm had a church service in the Battalion Headquarters.

31st 3.30am On OD again. 9am relieved for a time. 3pm again on duty. 9pm finished for the day.

1st August 9am On OD. 4pm relived, end of the 4th spell in the trenches. 8pm Arrive in billets.

2nd 10am Went to the baths. 2pm Rifle inspection. 6.30pm Gas helmet inspection.

3rd 9am Rifle inspection. 1pm Went on a working party. 11pm shelling on.

August, 1916

Stood to in case the German artillery retaliated.

4th 1pm Went on working party. 8pm pay.

5th 8.30pm Went on working party to Le Toquet.

6th 2.30am Returned from working party.

7th 8.30am Went on working party to [*unclear*] 4pm returned to billets.

8th 8.30am Went on working party to Barkenham Farm. 4pm returned to billets.

9th 8.30am On working party at Barkenham Farm. 11am Our trench mortars strafe the German trenches. 4pm returned to billets.

10th 8.30am Went to Barkenham Farm again. Trench mortars again strafe the German trenches. 4pm returned to billets. 6pm went for a swim in the River Lys.

11th Went to the baths. 6pm went for a swim in the River Lys.

12th Went firing at Pont de Dieppe. 6.30pm went in the trenches for the commencement of the 5th spell. Small bombardment carried out on our right during the night.

13th 4.30am On OD. 8.30am Relieved for a time. 3pm again on duty. 8.30om finish for the day.

14th 4.30am On OD. 3pm finished for the day.

15th 9am on OD. 8.30pm finished for the day.

16th 4.30am On OD. 8.30am relieved for a time. 3pm on OD again. 8.30pm finished for the day.

17th 9am On OD. 1.30pm finished for the day. 6.30pm relieved from the trenches and marched to Steenverck where we arrived at 11pm.

18th 9am Rifle inspection. 3pm set out on the march to billets at Fontaine Houck. Arrived at billets at 7.30pm.

19th 7am Drew rations for the section. 2pm went for route march via Meteren, Fletre and Strazeele.

20th 9am Bayonet fighting. 11am baths. 5.30pm pay.

21st 7am Took a message to HQ. 9am route march. 11am musketry. 2pm com-

March, 1917

9th 9.30am on OD. 12.30am to 2.30pm off duty. 5.15pm finish for the day.

10th 9.30am on OD. 12.30am to 2.30pm on OD. 5.15pm finished for the day. From 3 till 4pm we were shelled with TMs [*trench mortars*] and light shells.

11th 7am On OD. 9.30am relieved of duty. 11am saw an aeroplane fight. One machine brought down, pilot fell out. 1.30pm relieved from trenches. 5pm arrive at Chippewa camp.

12th 7.30am Rouse parade, mess tin inspection. 9am rifle inspection and gas helmet inspection.

13th 9am rifle inspection. 11am took damaged sniper scopes to Armourer Sgt. 2.30pm kit inspection. 5pm pay. 6pm went to Battalion concert.

14th 9am rifle inspection. 1.30pm went to [*unclear*] camp on a course.

15th 9am rifle inspection. 9.15am till 12 lectures on signalling to aeroplanes. 2.15pm till 4 signalling to aeroplanes.

16th 9am rifle inspection. 10am signalling to aeroplanes. 3pm signalling to aeroplanes.

17th 9am rifle inspection. 9.15am signalling to aeroplanes. 2pm signalling to aeroplanes.

18th 9am rifle inspection. 2pm signalling to aeroplanes.

19th 9am rifle inspection.

20th 11am Packed up and rejoined Batt at Dickebusch.

21st 3pm lecture on telescope sights. 6pm on working party at Lille dump.

22nd 10am lecture on map reading. 6.30pm On working party but got sent back owing to shell fire.

23rd 11.45 am left Dickebusch for Chippewa camp. 4pm drew section's rations.

24th 7.30am Rouse parade. 9am rifle inspection and gas helmet drill. 11am C.O.'s parade. 2pm clothing inspection.

25th 8.30am working party. 4.30om drew rations for HQ company.

26th 2pm baths.

27th 7.30am Rouse parade. 11.30am till 4pm out reconnoitring.

February-March, 1917

the day. 6.30 drew section rations.

16th 5pm on working party at Spoil Bank.

17th 5.30pm On working party. (10am rifle inspection)

18th 3pm on working party at Middlesex Lane.

19th 5pm on working party at Lille dump.

20th 5.30pm out to Café Belge on working party but had to return owing to shelling. A successful raid was carried out 104 prisoners being brought in.

21st 10am pay. 5.30pm working party at Voormezele.

22nd 5pm working party at Middlesex Lane.

23rd 2.30pm rifle inspection. 5pm working party at Middlesex Lane.

24th 11am rifle inspection. (5pm our artillery is heavily shelling the G trenches) 8pm on working party. Had to return owing to trench being cut up by shell fire.

25th 5pm on working party at Middlesex Lane.

26th 9am acted as bearer at an officer's funeral. 5pm on working party at Lille Dump.

27th 5.30pm on working party at Ecluse [*unclear*] trench.

28th 11am relieved from Dickebusch by another Battalion. 1pm arrive in Chipewa camp.

1st March 7.30am Battalion drill. 9.30am rifle inspection. 11.30am Kit inspection. 2pm baths.

2nd 7.30am Rouse parade. 9am traversing. 2pm Plotting.

3rd 7.30am Rouse parade shaking blankets. 11.30am C.O.'s parade. Battalion drill. 2pm gas helmet parade. 6pm drew rations and went to Batt Concert.

4th 8.30am on working party. 3.30pm finish for the day. 5pm drew rations.

5th 8am went up to trenches. 11am On OD. 3pm finished for the day.

6th Section Orderly.

7th 8.30am On OD. 12.30 till 2.30pm dinner. 5pm finished for the day.

8th 7am on OD. 9.30am off for a time. 12.30pm on duty again. 2.30pm finish for the day.

August-September, 1916

pass work.

22nd 7am physical drill. 9am compass work. Went to Mont des Cats and had a look round the sniping school. 2pm went road traversing. 7pm went down to HQ with officer's kit. 12pm marched to Bailleul.

23rd 6am Left Bailleul for L'Heure by train via Hazebrouck, St Omer, Calais, Boulogne and Abbeville. 3.30pm marched to Gorenflos. Arrive in billets at 8pm.

24th 10am Rifle inspection. 11am Scouting. 2pm off Scouting. 10pm drew rations.

25th 7am physical drill. 9.30am scouting. 3.30pm bayonet fighting.

26th 9am physical drill. 9am Acting Scout for Machine Guns. 2pm cleaned up bullets. 6pm pay.

27th 10am Church parade. 12am Rifle and Gas helmet inspection. 2pm kit inspection.

28th 7am physical drill. 9am On scouting with M.G.S. [*Machine Gun Squadron*] **2pm** On scouting work again.

29th 9am On parade with M.G.S. 5.30pm Drew rations for the section.

30th 9am Went out with M.G.S. and got soaking wet.

31st 9am Went out scouting and making scout reports. 2pm went out making reports.

1st September 9am Scouting and making reports. 2pm scouting and making reports.

2nd 9am Scouting and making reports. 2pm route march.

3rd 10am Church parade. 2.30pm had a bath.

4th 9am Scouting in an attack. 2pm scouting in the final attack before the Division General. 5pm Listened to speech by Gen Lawford and told that we were proceeding to the Somme.

5th 9am Went on map work. 11.30 physical drill. 2pm on map work again.

6th 10.30am Left Gorenflos and marched to Longpre. 5pm entrain for the Somme via Abbeville and Amiens. Arrive at Mericourt 8pm and march to a

September, 1916

camp at Meaulte. Lay in the open all night.

7th 9am rifle inspection. 2pm went for a bath in the River Ancre.

8th 9.30 Rifle inspection. 10am physical drill. 11am map reading. 3pm went for swim in the River Ancre.

9th 9am rifle inspection. 9.30am physical drill. 2.30pm marched to Fricourt camp.

10th 10am Church parade. 3pm Drew extra Ammun and bombs ready to go to the trenches. 8pm marched to the trenches at Delville Wood. This place is a place of horrors. Shells all day long.

11th Shelled all day long.

12th Shelled heavily again.

13th 2am Went back to dugouts at Montauban for a day or two's rest before going into attack.

14th Bombardment starts. 10pm went into advanced trenches in front of Delville wood.

15th 5.30am Barrage starts. 6.20am Commencement of the attack. 6.30am and 8.30am Prisoners coming in and the Germans are running like mad men. 10am Flers captured. This was the first day the tanks were used. (We had to run through a curtain fire) One tank was in Gueudecourt by 11am. 3pm we retired about 200 yards. Held the line till reserves come.

16th 2am Digging a reserve trench in front of Flers after being relieved from the front line. 7am marched back to Delville wood. 12am Sent back again to Flers to act as supports to another attack in which another 200 yards were captured. Counter attacks were made but were repulsed under heavy fire.

17th 10am Relieved from the trenches. When we arrive at G[ueudecourt?] where the tanks were. About 150 answer the battalion roll call.

18th 6am left G[ueudecourt?] 7am arrive at M[ontauban?] and halt for breakfast. 9am moved on to a camp at Becordel. Pouring down with rain all afternoon.

January-February, 1917

30th 9.30am On OD. 12.30am relieved for a time. 2.30pm On duty again. 5pm finished for the day.

31st 9.30am On duty at OP. 12.30am relieved for a time. 2.30pm on duty again. 3.30pm had to evacuate OP owing to fire of rifle grenades and Rum Jars. 4.30pm finished for the day.

1st February 8am On OD. 9.30am relieved for a time. 12.30am noon on duty again. 2.30om finished for the day. Warm time with Rifle grenades.

2nd 9.30am On OD. 12.30am relieved for a time. 2.30pm On duty again. 4.30pm finished for the day.

3rd 9.30am On OD. 11am relieved from trenches. 12am left trenches for Chippewa camp. 6pm Drew rations for HQ company.

4th 7.30am On working party. 3.30pm finish for day. 6pm pay. 6.15 drew rations for HQ company.

5th 7.30am Rouse parade. 11am Rifle inspection.

6th 7.30am Rouse parade. 3pm Baths.

7th 9am Taking cross bearings and finding positions. Afternoon off. 6pm went to Batt concert.

8th 9am Rifle and ammunition inspection. 9.30am Box respirator drill. 11am route march. 2pm battalion drill.

9th 7.30am on working party at Dickebusch.

10th 11am Left Chippewa Camp for Dickebusch 5.30 till 9pm on working party.

11th A Day's rest.

12th 8.30am on working party. 12.13am finished for a time. 1.30pm on work again. 3.30pm finished for the day.

13th 8.30am on working party. 12.30 till 1.30 dinner. 3.30pm finished. Heavy artillery fire during night.

14th 8.30am On working party. 12.30 till 1.30 dinner time. 3.30pm finished for the day.

15th 8.30am On working party. 12.0 till 1.30 dinner time. 3.30pm finished for

January, 1917

12th Orderly today. 11am firing with machine gun.

13th 9.30 Reported at Orderly Room before going on course. 1.15pm left Poperinghe for Mont des Cats. 2pm arrive at sniping school. 3.30pm had a bath. 5.30pm lecture. 9pm on fire piquet.

14th 8am lecture. 9 till 12 lessons on sniperscopes. 1pm went up to Zero range but could not fire owing to mist. 4.30pm lecture.

15th 8am lecture. 9am till 12 On 300 yds range. 1 till 4 lecture. 4.30 lecture.

16th 8am lecture. 9 till 12 lessons on sniper scope, fixed rifle and rifle batteries. 1pm on Zero range. 4.30pm lecture.

17th 8am lecture. 9 till 12 300 yards range (firing in a snowstorm). 1 till 4 lesson on maps, trenches and reports. 4.30pm lecture.

18th 8am lecture. 9 till 11 sniper scope range. 11 till 1 Zero Range. 2 till 4pm On 300 yards range. 4.30pm lecture.

19th 8am lecture. 9 till 11am lesson on sketching. 2pm left school for Reninghelst by motor bus. 3.30pm reported at transport lines. 5pm arrive at Dickebusch. 11pm a bombardment.

20th 9am on working party at Voormezele. 2pm finished for the day.

21st 9am on working party at Voormezele. 2pm finished for the day.

22nd 9.30am Left Dickebusch for Chippewa Camp.

23rd 10.30am Clothing inspection. 5.30pm pay.

24th 7am Rouse parade. 11.30am went on traversing and mapping a reserve trench.

25th 7am Rouse parade. 9am Road traversing. 1.15pm firing at Brigade Range.

26th 7am Rouse parade. Rest of the day on holiday. 6pm Went to a Batt concert.

27th A Day's holiday. 8.30pm drew rations for HQ Company.

28th 10.15am marched to trenches. 7.30pm drew the section's blankets.

29th 7am On O Duty. 9.30am relieved for a time. 12.30am noon on Duty again. 2pm finished for the day.

September-October, 1916

19th 9am Rifle inspection and kit inspection, iron rations and gas helmet inspections. 3.30pm Paraded and congratulated by the Div'l General on our success at Flers.

20th 5pm pay.

21st 9am Practiced attacking for the benefit of the draft. 2pm again on the attacking practice.

22nd 9am Practiced attacking again. 8pm Got ready to move up to the trenches again. 9pm awaiting orders.

23rd Map work all day – still under orders to move.

24th 11am Church parade.

25th 9am Mapping.

26th 9am Mapping. Was in charge of squad.

27th 9am Mapping. 11.30am Battalion drill. 5pm packed up ready to move off. 7pm moved up to Montauban. While we were marching up to Montauban German Aeroplanes were trying to bomb the camp.

28th 5pm Drew bombs and extra ammunition ready for firing line. 9pm went into the trenches in front of Flers. 12pm started digging new reserves.

29th 6am Stopped digging and settled down for a sleep. 12am Digging in again. 5pm Drew rations for the platoon.

30th 2am Took rations from a dump against Flers to a Battalion in front of Gueudecourt. 9am On fatigue making a road. 2pm on fatigue again. 7pm moved from the reserves up to the front line, got shelled all night.

1st October 3am Had to draw rations for the platoon. Again shelled all day. 3.15pm went over the top on a raid. Germans put up a curtain fire and heavy machine gun fire. 4.30 came back to front line. 7pm Sent out as a guide to the relieving troops. 9am relieved and marched to Montauban.

2nd 1am Arrived at Montauban. 12am roll call.

3rd 9am Rifle inspection. 3.30pm moved off to billet camp at Bazentin. 9pm arrive at the camp. 10pm had a few shells over.

October, 1916

4th 7am Arms. 8pm had a rum issue.

5th 9am Rifle inspection. 9.30am got fighting kit ready. 10am physical drill. 2pm bayonet fighting.

6th 9am On Rifle inspection. 10am physical drill. 11am cleaning ammunition. 11.30am saluting drill. 6pm on working party.

7th 5am again on working party. 12.30am held in reserve for a big attack. 9pm moved up in support and day in [unclear]

8th 6am Settled down for a sleep in the new trenches with only a groundsheet for cover and in the rain. Dead bodies were dug up here. 5pm left the trench for the front line. 12pm arrived in front line.

9th Nothing doing except slight artillery fire. Detached as a platoon runner and have an easy time.

10th Nothing doing until about 3pm when I had to take a message. 8pm Germans start to heavily shell our trenches – counter attack expected. 8.30 pm forty Germans were seen digging in between lines but were put out by one of our machine guns.

11th 2am Relieved from the trenches by a new division. 7am arrive at Bazentin. During the time we occupied the front line we only had one mug of water issued per man. 9am Took on a job as an officer's servant.

12th Nothing doing, still at Bazentin.

13th 5.30am packed up the officer's kit. 10.30am marched to a siding at Mametz. 11am entrained at sidings. 1.30pm arrive at Meaulte siding and detrain. 2.30pm marched to Dernacourt.

14th 9am rifle inspection. 10.30am kit inspection.

15th 9am Cleanliness inspection. 10.30am Inspection. 11.30am Church parade.

16th 9am paraded with the snipers. 5pm pay.

17th 10am paraded with the snipers section for mapping. 2pm left Dernacourt for another place. 5pm Entrained at Dernacourt sidings.

18th 12.30am arrive at Oisement and detrained. 2pm Merelessart.

December, 1916 – January, 1917

4pm finished for the day.

28th 8.30am On the WP again. 12am off for dinner. 2pm on again. 4pm finished for the day.

29th 8.30am On WP again 11.30am finished for the day. 1pm Left Dickebusch for Chippewa Camp. 6pm drew rations for HQ company. 7.30pm pay.

30th A day's holiday today [unclear] up Christmas day. 2pm went to Batt Concert.

31st 7am Fell in for working party but got dismissed.

1st January 1917. 8am baths. 9am went firing at the Brigade School. 6pm went to Batt Concert.

2nd 7.30am Rouse parade. 9am went out taking bearings repaired and cleaned sniperscopes during the afternoon. 5pm drew rations for HQ Compy.

3rd 9.15am Paraded for the trenches. 2pm arrive in the trenches.

4th Orderly man. 8am Out for breakfast. 12.30am went for dinner. 4.30pm went for tea. 7.30pm drew rations for section.

5th 9.45am On observation duty. 2.15 On duty again. 4.15pm finished for the day. (Saw British aeroplane brought down by FRITZ)

6th 7.30am on OD. 9.30 relieved for a time. 12.30am On OD again. 2.30pm finished for the day.

7th 9am On OD. 12.30am off for a time. 2pm on duty again. 4.45pm finished for the day. (saw one of our aeroplanes brought down in flames. 3 airfights today)

8th 9.30am On OD. 2pm relieved but could not get down to dugouts owing to enemy shell fire. About 500 heavies even sent over between 9.30am and 3.30pm. 4pm allowed to proceed to dugouts. 5pm relieved from trenches. 7pm arrive in camp at Reninghelst.

9th 10am rifle and iron ration inspection. 12am Gen. Sir H. Plumer inspected camp. 2pm medical inspection. 4pm pay.

10th 10am went to have boots mended.

11th 7am Rouse parade with clean mess tins.

December, 1916

14th 9am on sniping. 2pm on sniping. 4pm finished for the day. 7.30 [*unclear*] and get rations. Heavy bombardment again all night, Germans make a raid and get into the trenches but are quickly driven out.

15th 7am went up to the front line with a message. 9am Packed up. 12am moved out of the trenches. 3.20pm arrive at Chippewa Camp. 7pm drew HQ company rations. Note, another bombardment was carried out on our right and left.

16th 9.45am Went firing on the range at the Brigade Sniping School.

17th 7.30am Went on working party to [*unclear*] by motor bus via Reninghelst and Poperinghe. 1pm finished work. 2pm Arrive back at Reninghelst and to see our Batt beat the R Govt at football 3-1.

18th 7.30am Rouse Parade. 9 till 11 cleaned up the equipment. 11.20 paraded for musketry and gas helmet drill. 2pm went to a football match between officers and privates.

19th 7.30am Rouse parade. 9am Out taking bearings. 2pm baths.

20th 9am went [*unclear*] no parade.

21st 7am Rouse parade. 9am went on parade to be inspected by Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, Commander in Chief. 2pm Gas helmet drill.

22nd 8.15am went into Dickebusche. 12.30am on working party. 3pm finished for the day.

23rd 8am on working party. 12am finished for dinner. 2pm work again. 4.30pm finished.

24th 8.30 On working party. 10am Saw German artillery try some counter battery fire in reply to our heavies which failed. 12am off for dinner. 2pm on again. 4.30pm finished.

25th 9am fell out for MD. 2pm on working party. 4pm finished.

26th 8.30am on working party. 12am off for dinner. 2am at work again. 4pm finished for the day.

27th 8.30am On WP [*working party*] again. 12 off for dinner. 2pm in again.

October-November, 1916

19th 9am Rifle inspection. 10am Map and compass work. 4.30pm marched to [*unclear*] 8.30pm entrained for Godewaersvelde.

20th 8am Arrive at Godewaersvelde. 8.30 helped to unload the transport. 10pm marched into Berthen into billets.

21st 9am rifle inspection. 9.30am went out with the section. 2pm went out traversing.

22nd 9am left Berthen for Reninghelst.

23rd 8.30 sock inspection. 10.30am gave up the drill gas helmets. 11.30am ready to go up the trenches. 1pm marched to the trenches at St Eloi. 4.30pm arrive in the trenches. Rather a quiet night.

24th 10am went on observation duty. 4pm finished for the day.

25th 9.30am Again on OD. 4.30pm finished for the day. Still quiet.

26th 9am Again on OD. 4.30pm finished for the day. Still quiet.

27th 9am on OD. 4.30pm finished for the day. Still quiet.

28th 9am on OD. 4.30pm finished for the day. Still quiet.

29th 9.30am on OD again. 1pm finish for day. 3.30 returned from the trenches. 5.30pm arrive at camp at Reninghelst.

30th Nothing done today.

31st 10am Went to the baths. 2pm had a C.O.'s parade. 3pm pay.

1st November 7.15am Paraded for a general inspection by General Sir H. Plumer. 3.45pm had instructions on how to use the Gas respirator.

2nd 8.30am Went through a test of gas with the respirator. 4pm packed up and went to Dickebusch to take over billets for H.Q. company.

3rd moved into the billets.

4th 8.30am went on working party. 2pm finished for the day. 3 till 5pm heavy shelling by our artillery.

5th 8.30am On working party. 4pm finished for the day.

6th 8.30am On working party. 4pm finished for the day.

November, 1916

7th 9am on map work. 4.30pm On working party.
8th 11am On map work. 4.30pm On working party.
9th Moved from Dickebusch into Quebec camp, Reninghelst.
10th 10am kit inspection. 11am inspection.
11th 10am baths. 12.30 went firing at Mont Rouge.
12th 8.30am went firing at Mont Rouge.
13th 8.30am went firing at Mont Rouge.
14th 8.30am went firing at Mont Rouge.
15th during the morning the section cleaned 24 rifles for batteries.
16th 8.30am Paraded to the trenches. 2.30pm went up the OP.
17th 11.30am On OD. 3pm finished for the day.
18th 9am On OD. 2pm finished for the day.
19th 9am on OD. 10.30 relieved for a time. 2.30m on OD again. 4.30pm finished for the day.
20th 6am Went on sniping. 4.30pm finished for the day. Nothing doing.
21st 6am on sniping again. 4.30pm finished for the day. Nothing doing.
22nd 6am on sniping again. 4.30pm finished for the day. Nothing doing.
23rd 6am on sniping again. 11am took fixed rifle rests up to the front line. 2.30pm relieved from the trenches. 5.30pm arrive at Chippewa camp, Reninghelst.
24th 10am rifle inspection.
25th 7am working party. 3pm pay.
26th 10am Church parade. 2pm kit inspection.
27th 9.45am Cleanliness inspection. 2pm bayonet inspection. 6pm went to the Batt Concert.
28th 8am went into Dickebusch. 5pm on working party. 9pm finished for the day.
29th 9.30am Rifle inspection. 5pm On working party. 9.30pm finished for the day.

November-December, 1916

30th 9.30am Rifle inspection. 10am Cleaned up the billets. Played a game of football during the afternoon. 5pm On working party. 9pm finished for the day.
1st December 9am rifle inspection followed by running exercise. 5pm on working party at Middlesex Lane. 9pm finished.
2nd 9.30am rifle inspection followed by [unclear] 4.30pm working party at Middlesex Lane. 9pm finished for the day.
3rd 9.45am left Dickebusch for Chippewa Camp, Reninghelst. 5pm Drew rations for HQ company.
4th 9am Cleanliness parade.
5th 7.30am parade. 9am on fatigue at the camp. 3pm went to the baths.
6th 7am paraded for working party but get dismissed. 5pm drew rations for HQ company.
7th 9am running exercise. 9.30am gas respirator and goggles and rifle inspection. 3pm went to the Batt concert.
8th 8.45am went to the baths. 10.30am foot inspection. 11am went for a tour of inspection round the brigade sniping school. 5pm drew rations for HQ company.
9th 8am paraded for the trenches. 11.30am arrive in the trenches. 12am On OD. 2.30pm finished for the day.
10th 9am on sniping. 2pm mended some sniperscopes and took them up the front line. Heavy shelling on from 2 till 6pm, 6pm till 7pm our artillery retaliates.
11th 10am took a sniper's place up the trenches. 2pm on sniping. 4pm finished for the day.
12th 7am on sniping. 2pm on sniping. 3pm on sniping. 4pm finished for the day.
13th 7am went on sniping. 10am on sniping. 3pm went up to OP but had to turn back because of the shell fire, a piece of shrapnel caught the little finger on right hand. 4pm went up the line and put a sniper's place in. Was played on by machine guns all the way back.