WAR DIARY—8TH BATTALION—KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS
MAY—JULY 1915

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

8 KRRC
May 1915

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Rushmoor Camp Aldershot.	May 18th	5.30 AM.	In extremely inclement weather The Transport party (107 of all ranks) leave Early under Major C.H.N. Seymour for Southampton where they Embark for Havre. This party include Transport (under Lt Tetley) + Machine Gun Deth: (under Lt Bowere) Cyclists etc:	
"	May 19th (1) 5.30 pm (2) 6.30 pm		The Bn Entrain in Two Train Loads at Govt Siding Aldershot. (1) under Lt Col Green Hd Qrs A + B Coys (2) under Major J. M. Crum C + D Coys + proceede to Folkestone, where Embark 1st Train load on SS. Invicta with Dio' + Bde Hd Qrs + 7th Bn 2nd Train load Embark on arrival Folkestone later on S.S. Queen with Bn R/Bde. Both parties disembark Boulogne during night after good Crossing + proceed to rest Camp at Boulogne.	
Boulogne	May 20th	3.30 pm	Parade to March to Station where Entrain Bn in troop train from HAVRE on which Transport had been already loaded. Travel in large trucks (covered) 40 to 44 men per truck. Detrain WATTEN. + March to MERCKEGHEM. where Bn is billeted + remain till Wednesday morning 26 May.	
MERCKEGHEM	May 26.		March to Nordpeene. Bn. Head Qrs at Armoured Cars Headqrs:	
Nordpeene	27		March via Zuytpeene, Bavinchove, Cassel, CAESTRE to Billets at Thieushout.	
Thieushout	28.		Bde split up + 8th Bn K. R Rifles attached North Midlands Brigade for instruction in trench warfare at LOCRE (marched via Berthen, + Westroutre) Crossing into Belgium. Bivouac in fields.	
LOCRE	29		A + B Coys go to trenches for 48 hrs. C + [illegible]	

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June 1915
8th Inf. URRC

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LOCRE	30	✓	A + B Coys under Instruction with 5th + 7th Bns Sherwood Foresters. Lt Williams wounded + 3 men A. Coy. Lt Williams was injured whilst in dugout with 2 officers Sherwood Foresters by trench mortar.	
"	31	✓	C + D Coys relieve A + B Coys 3rd + 4th Bns march through LOCRE marching S. from YPRES. 1 man D Coy wounded. Rfn MORRIS A. Coy Killed. Rfn Davies A Coy wounded. Subsequently died in Hpt Boulogne. Cpl Barnes accidently wounded.	
"	June 1st	✓	Quiet day in trenches. 1 man C Coy wounded.	
"	2th	✓	A + B Coys go to trenches for Adv. instruction 24 hrs by Platoons 24 hrs by Coys. with 6th + 8th Bns S/F. 1 Rfn B Coy wounded	
"	3th	✓	A Certain amount of Sniping. Rfn Wilcox B Coy killed S6 shelled (B Coy)	
"	4th	✓	C + D Coys relieve A + B. During Afternoon Trenches occupied by Loudoun Shand's Platoon shelled, Trenches Evacuated; ~~Rf~~ 3 Casualties of which Rfn Henigan's proved fatal, ~~&~~ in Hpt. LOCRE next morning. Reliefs took a long time.	
"	5th	✓	Orders received to be prepared to move tomorrow.	
LOCRE/DICKIEBUSH	6th	✓	March DICKIEBUSH via LA CLYTTE, stay night in CANADA Hutments. Commanding Officer and Coy Officers visit Trenches. Two Large shells pitch in Vicinity of Camp. Shrapnell.	
Dickiebusch	7th	✓	The Battn take over trenches from E. Surrey and Middlessex Rgts. Relief delayed owing to M/Guns reliefs going wrong. B Coy 7th K R Rifles attached in Support. Adv. Bn Hd Qrs ~~attached~~ established at GORDON fm wea[illegible] warm. Situation Quiet	
"	8th	✓	Situation [illegible] owing to a certain amount of Gun fire in the afternoon. Trenches improved one Casualties.	

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DICKEBUSCH	June 9th	✓	Mining reported in the Early morning between M_1 + M_2 trenches. The matter taken up by R.E Expert. Quiet day Large Carrying party for trench stores. 48th R.F.A. Bde Shell HOLLANDSHER fm for Snipes. ~~Casualties.~~	
"	10	✓	Quiet. Some rain. Orders Given by Bdr. for new trench in Support of M_2 in Case of Mining. Relieved by 7th Bn. Relief Completed by 4.30 AM (11th Inst). Rain during night.	
"	11th	✓	Coys on Relief disposed as under. A. B. C Coys in RIDGE WOOD. B Coy at GORDON fm. with Lt Smith's platoon in SUPPORT fm. Casualty. Rfn Ride killed in action. Hd Qrs WILTSHIRE farm	
RENINGHELST.	12	✓	Remain in Support till 7pm when move to Huts at RENINGHELST. Transport + M/G very late getting in.	
"	13	✓	Remain in Huts at RENINGHELST.	
POPERINGHE	14	✓	Start 7.30 am + move via HEKSEN to Bivouak W of POPERINGHE. A Coy billeted in Brewery	
Huts Near VLAMERTINGHE	15	✓	Capts Rotschild + Barber carry out reconnaissance. Brigade march from POPERINGHE about 10 pm arriving huts at about midnight. Hear intensive bombardment of HOOGE farm at 2.50 am.	

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YPRES	16th	✓	Leave Huts at 10.45 am + march as a Bde. Via KRUISSTRAATE where Bns sent to allotted trenches in Support of 42nd Bde. On arrival at trenches 2 Bns 42nd Inf. Bde still occupying trenches So delay. This Bn eventually sent up to occupy Dugouts on N. Embankment of Rly from LILLE GATE for 300x up line. Much Activity in Both our + Enemys Artillery. Some Shrapnell in Evening. Casualties one Sgt. (Bull)	5 Oxford L I + 9th R/Bde
"	17th	✓	In Early morning before dawn battn. moved to G.H.Q trenches in Extension of 8th R/Bde. Heavy early mist. Some intermittent shelling. Casualties. 3 wounded.	
"	18th	✓	Remain in Same trenches in Support, rather more shelling during Afternoon, + also at Guns as we were leaving. Casualties 8 wounded (including C/Sgt White) Leave trenches 8.50 pm + return to Huts near VLAMERTINGHE.	
VLAMERTINGHE	19th	✓	In Huts. Cmdg Offr Inspected Lewis M.G. 9th Bn. Shelled as they were leaving Huts 600x down road. C.M.	
"	20th	✓	More into Huts vacated by 42nd Bde.	
"	21st	✓	Morning occupied in digging Shelter trenches + Dugouts. About 4.30 pm the Enemy placed several 5" Shells in/o the Vicinity of the Huts. No Casualties.	
"	22nd	✓	Signalling M/Guns + bombing Classes commenced. Ordered to Stand by during night.	
"	23rd	✓	10 Shells over during afternoon Coys continue training. Instruction to Bomb throwers under R.E. Officer	
"	24th	✓	Shelled (10) Morning + Evening (6) Coys Continue training. 4 officers visit trenches	
"	25	✓	Reserve M/Gun Sections selected. Bombers Exercised. No Shelling. 4 officers visit trenches.	

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Casualties checked on this sheet ✓

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VLAMERTINGHE B Huts.	26th	June	Morning Bomb Throwing. Bn employed in Digging during night Extending & Completing new Communication Trench. Lieutenant Rawes & Six Rfn. hit. (Rfn Hall subsequently killed leaving Hpl.)	
"	27th	Sunday	Shelled morning & early afternoon. (Lt Shand to I. Ambulance Sick)	
"	28th	Mon:	Morning Shelled. Then carry on as usual. Evening A. D. & C Coys go digging. Reserve M/G un Section formed.	
B Huts/YPRES	29th	Tues	Battn move into YPRES in Bde reserve. Dugouts, Cellars etc; Quarters Very dirty. (~~7 men~~ Sick) Rfn Pollard killed by afternoon shelling.	
"	30	Wed.	Battn remain in YPRES. M/G un Section relieved by ~~another~~ 2nd Team. Large Carrying parties etc. Rfn Harris killed by Shell carrying trench Stores. 3 wounded.	
	July			
"	1st	Thur	Battn remain in YPRES. Some shelling. Rfn Barnes killed & 1 man wounded both M/G Sectn: more Care about Aeroplane Sentries.	
"	2nd	Fri	" " " " Fatigue parties to clear up roads.	
"	3rd	Saturday:	" " " Heavy shellings of ECOLE Then fire opened at SALLY PORT. One shell exploded in Shelter in which A Coy were cooking Teas. 3 killed 15 wounded (2 Subsequently died in Hospital at Asylum)	
	4th	Sunday	——— " ——— YPRES. Carrying parties Each night. Bn also Construct Amtn: Dugouts. (~~2 wounded~~) (7 wounded 5 very Slightly) Sgt Hughes poisoned from drinking from a bottle found in the Town.	
	5th	Mon.	——— " ——— New method of Spraying Smoke Helmets carried out. Bomb throwers under Domville go to trenches in morning. Rfn Hutchins & Rfn Freeman M/G unners killed by Shell. Rfn Andrews & Rfn Fletcher wounded	
	6th	Tues	Battn remain in YPRES. Rfn Terry & Hawtin C Coy killed on carrying party & Six wounded (of whom Rfn Hodges & Harris subsequently died)	
	7th	Wed	——— " ——— Very quiet day as regards shells. The Priminister, Lord Kitchener & Large party visit YPRES. Two sick men to Hospital. Several Houses fell down owing to wind, & roads had to be cleared. Major Crum Slightly Wounded.	

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YPRES (ramparts)	8th	Thur	Day spent thoroughly cleaning up Billets + dugouts. Amtn. Dugout finished. Also 3 large dugouts of A Coy. Battn. Relieved by 5th K.S.L.I. completed by 11.30 pm. Coys march back to fields near Brewery POPERINGHE previously occupied by Battn. One man sick to Hpl. Casualties during period in Bde reserve (29th June to 8th July) Officers nil other ranks. 15 Killed 21 wounded sick 6 men (to Ambulance)	
POPERINGHE	9th	Friday	Baths (14th Div?, in Convent) alloted in error.	
"	10th	Sat	Battn have baths + change of clothing (not alltogether satisfactory) Coy physical + running drill. Bomb-throwers class got together again. 4 fresh men selected for Reserve M/Gun Sectn. Signallers class commence work. V. good lecture by Officer of Garden Hdrs. on Bombing.	
"	11th	Sun	Services in morning. Money obtained from Field Cashier. 450 men by Motor Bus to dig at YPRES at night. Strong post + Communication trench. 1 man wounded	
"	12th	Mon.	Brigadier visits bivouacs.	
"	13th	Tues.	Bombers practiced. Reserve M/Gun Sectn. made up	
"	14th	Wed.	C/martial. " 10 men per platoon allowed into POPERINGHE. Field Sanitary arrangements	
"	~~17th~~ 16th	Thursday.	450 men under Capt Moore go to dig by Motor Bus. Carried out. No Casualties but V. wet. Bomb trenches for practice completed. Bomb demonstration by Bde Bomb Officer.	
"	~~18th~~ 16th	Fri.	Sniperscope demonstration.	

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POPERINGHE	17	Sat.	Route March cancelled owing to Rain.	
"	18	Sunday	Parade Services.	
"	19	MON.	Working party of 400 under Major Seymour proceed by Bus to YPRES.	
"	20	Tues	4 Coy Cmdrs proceed to C Sector to see trenches. Taking over of trenches postponed 24 hrs.	
"	21	Wed	Get ready for move tomorrow.	
POPERINGHE/YPRES	22	Thur	Take over rt of C Sector trenches from 4th Gn: Hdrs. 8th Bde. [This was the last entry made by Capt. W. J. Davis, killed in action 30/7/15]	
Sanctuary Wood.	23	Friday	C. Coy occupies C1. C2 right. 1 Platoon D Coy in C2 left, isolated. 1 Platoon D Coy in support F1. 2 Platoons D Coy & A Coy at Battn HQ in Sanctuary Wood. B Coy at Halfway House. C2 left shelled in afternoon and damaged, built up by working party at night. 2nd Lt Henriques wounded by bullet in head in F1. 3 men wounded.	
	24	Saturday	2nd Lt Henriques died at Bailleul. C2 Left & gap between C2L & C2R constantly demolished, by heavy howitzer from direction of Hill Sixty enfilading trench. Working party of A Company under 2/Lt Sidney build it up at night. 1 Platoon of A Coy under Lt Bourdillon relieves the platoon of D Coy in C2L. 2nd Lt Tod Naylor & 1 platoon of A relieves Capt Barber and the platoon of D Coy in F1. Lt Smith & 1 platoon of B Coy at H.Q. Carry rations etc each night.	
	25	Sunday	C2L & gap repaired with help of R.E. Two Minenwerfer bombarded towards crater from 7.45 p.m. onwards, one from trees in front of C3, one from East end of wall.	
	26	Monday	Bombardment all day, Salvage of bombs, ammunition etc in C2L & gap. D Coy relieve A in C2L & F1.	
	27	Tuesday	Aeroplane reconnoitres 4.45 am, 5 am. to 7 am French Mortars to rear of C3 from our right of the wall. C2L shelled with HE from E of Sanctuary Wood. Wiring port of C1.	
	28	Wednesday	Patrols sent out in front. 1 Sniper killed. German machine gun located.	
	Note	from	28th This Section coming under VI Corps from V Corps; Trenches renamed G. vice C.	

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Sanctuary Wood.	July 29	Thurs	Dugouts made, communication trenches cleared, parapets raised especially in F1. 7th K.R.R. relieved 8th K.R.R. about midnight. 8th Battalion returns to Ypres, A & D Coys to ramparts near Lille Gate. B & C Coys to dugouts near White house west of Asylum.	
	30	Friday	Enemy attack trenches occupied by 8th R.B & 7th K.R.R at 3-0 am. using liquid fire on G3 & G4. Front line trenches opposite Zouave wood lost. Bombardment by our guns and (enemy guns opens at 3-45 am. 8th K.R.R. ordered to reinforce 8th R.B in Zouave wood. D Coy leads off getting to Zouave wood at 6-30 am 3 platoons under Major Crum & Capt Barker. Remainder of Battalion goes to Sanctuary wood. No 3 platoon of D Coy reinforce a Coy of 8th R.B's at edge of Zouave wood are heavily shelled, they are withdrawn to Sanctuary wood at 12-0 noon. Lt Hawkes R.A.M.C killed just past bridge 14 on way up to Sanctuary wood with the battalion. Intensive bombardment by our artillery opened at 2-15 pm. Combined attack arranged for at 2-45 - 8th 60th to support 7th 60th attack to be launched from Sanctuary wood, R.B's from Zouave wood. Enemy machine gun fire makes it impossible to leave wood; edge of wood being heavily shelled, a few platoons succeed in getting some way out from wood, A Coy, & B Coy in front line, supported by C Coy, D Kept in reserve in trench near Headquarters in Sanctuary wood. About 3.15 pm a message was received by Col Green from Major Seymour saying that the 7th Battn and one own advance was stuck up & asking whether he should again attempt to push on. Col Green seeing that the R.B attack had also been held up, decided to hold on & ask for orders. The order was shortly received from the Brigadier not to press the attack further. Col Green issued orders for a trench to be dug through SANCTUARY WOOD at the point held by our firing line. This was done by all available men - helped by the 7th Notts & Derby & the D.C.L.I. who had sent 2 Coys to reinforce. The losses had been very heavy, including Captain W.J Davis - the adjutant - Lt Watson - killed & 8 officers wounded - & N.C.Os & men. The medical arrangement were entirely inadequate. Dr Hawkes having been killed - only one Dr was available to cope with over 500 cases - Great difficulties were experienced in finding & collecting the wounded in the thick woods & when found in bringing them to dressing Station. It being impossible to bring ambulances within 900x of the first aid Station many men had to remain out exposed for over 24 hrs - This, coupled with the fact that the Battn had had no rations for 36 hrs & suffered from want of water - caused the loss of many fine Riflemen who might have been saved. At about 3 AM a terrific rifle & M.G fire was opened by both sides. The artillery & flare lights & rockets of both sides added to the confusion & what appeared to be a heavy night attack took place - The 7th Battn & A & D Coys having been relieved - only B & C Coys & M.Gs were present. These took up positions & awaited development under Col Green. One M.G. under Rifleman Bentley particularly distinguishing itself. At Daybreak the firing died down & the 2 Coys having been relieved withdrew. Col Green visited Brigadier & Div General on the way reported fully on the events.	