



WAR DIARY

THE LOGISTICAL SUMMARY
FOR THE 116TH (ONTARIO COUNTY)
CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION'S
SOJOURN IN FRANCE

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Transcribed 2004-05

February 1917:

8th. Witley Camp, England. The Battalion was warned to proceed to France on Sunday the 11th.

9th. Arrangements being completed for the move, equipment etc., being brought up to date. The Quartermaster made two trips to Ordnance at Liphook.

10th. Equipment and Nominal Rolls, etc., almost complete. Horses and half the Transport Section, under Lieut. Proctor, left for Southampton in advance.

11th. The Battalion entrained at Milford Station, on two trains for Folk Stone, first train load under Col. Sharpe consisting of "A" and "B" Companies, with half of H. Q., and left Milford at 1:10 a.m. The second train load under Major Cameron, 2nd in Command, consisted of the rest of the Battalion, and left Milford at 1:25 A.M., all embarked at H.m.t. Victoria with part of 66th Imperial Divisional H.Q., and some drafts. Sailed at 10:20 a.m. and arrived at Boulogne at noon disembarking at 1:00 p.m., and marching to St. Martin's rest camp at once. Capt. Hind, in charge of baggage, left Witley for Le Havre, Via Southampton at noon.

12th. Took a short route march through Boulogne, in the afternoon. Received move order at midnight.

13th. St. Pol. Reveille at 4:00 a.m., First party left St. Martin's camp at 7:00 a.m., for St. Pol. Held up by Transport. 2nd Party left at 8:00 a.m., first party was on train all day. Second party arrived at St. Pol at midnight, and the whole Battalion billeted at Rest Camp.

14th. Divion. First party detrained at Houdain at 12:05 a.m., and marched to Divion, going into billets. Second party entrained at St. Pol. at 9:00 a.m., detrained at Houdain at 11:00 a.m., and marched to Divion, going into billets there. Reported arrival of Battalion to 3rd Canadian Division, at Bruay., and received orders to send billeting party to Haillecourt.

15th. Haillecourt. Battalion left Divion at 10:00 a.m., and arrived at Haillecourt at 11:30 a.m. Billets were found satisfactory, and the men settled down very quickly. Two limbers and one water wagon reported from 43rd, 60th and 52nd Battalions, respectively, for duty with us.

16th. Received orders to parade for inspection by Major General Lipsett, G. O. C., 3rd Division, on the 17th. General training was carried out during the day.

17th. Inspected at 11:00 A.M. the G.O.C., expressed himself as pleased. Finished at 11:00 A. M up with a march past in column of route.

18th. Lecture by Major Festings, General Staff, 3rd Division, on the new Platoon formation. General training was carried out for the rest of day. The horses and transport party, and the baggage party, arrived.

19th. Received instructions to re-organize Platoons on new specialist basis. This was carried out, and completed during the after noon. Lt. Cook, 3rd Division, and seven N.C.O's instructors reported for duty.

20th. Training of specialist under Lt. Cook, and his specialist continued. During the morning Lieut. General Sir Julian M.G. Byng, G.O.C. Canadian Corps informally inspected the Battalion while at work.

21st. Specialist training continued.

22nd. Nil.

23rd. Specialist training continued under Lt. White, 3rd Divisional staff reported to demonstrate the new formation. They stayed all day.

24th. New Training continued.

25th. Battalion Church parade followed by competition between Platoons in the new specialist drill. The afternoon was observed as a holiday. Divisional instructors left for Bruay.

26th. New Training continued. Changed parade grounds.

27th. Marched to Houdain for baths, and for practicing new formation, in attack from actual trenches. Received orders to move to Lieres and Faucquenham.

28th. Paraded at 9:00 a.m. and marched to Lieres and Faucquenham via Bruay, Houdain and Ballory. The day was fine but it proved to be a hard march.

March 1917

1st. Billets in Lieres and Faucquenham were found to be fairly satisfactory. Kit inspection was held at 9:00 a.m.

2nd. "A" and "D" Companies paraded for baths to Lillers, the remainders of the Battalion carrying on with training.

3rd. "C" and "B" Companies paraded to Lillers from Baths, the remainder of the Battalion carrying on with training.

4th. Battalion held a route march, Headquarters Company falling out at Lillers for Baths.

5th. Battalion carried out training, by Companies.

6th. Battalion moved from present billets in Lieres and Faucquenham, and was split up as follows: "A" Company, to 58th Battalion at Maries-Les-Mines; "B" Company to the 60th Battalion at Auchel; "C" Company to 43rd Battalion at Auchel, and "D" Company to the 52nd, in Maries-Les-Mines.

7th. The four Platoons of each Company were attached, one Platoon to each Company of the Battalion to which they were attached. The object of this was to give the Battalion training in actual warfare, with men who were already experienced with same.

8th. Very stormy snow and wind. Training was carried on when storm permitted.

9th. "A" and "D" Companies left their billets. With the Battalion to which they were attached and marched to Gouy. "C" and "B" Companies carried on training.

10th. "A" Company carried on training at Gouy. "B" Company still at Auchel. "C" Company left Auchel at 8:30 a.m., arriving at Gouy at 2:25 p.m. March discipline good. O.C. 43rd Battalion publicly complimented the Battalion Officers on the fine performance of their men. "D" Company left Gouy at 11:00 a.m., and arrived at Villers-au-Bois at 12:00 noon. Weather mild and misty.

11th. "A" Company left Gouy and moved to support Trenches, relief complete at 10:45 p.m. Dugout accommodation fair. Weather fine. "B" Company left Auchel at 7:30 a.m., moved to billets in Gouy. "C" Company at Gouy attended church parade at 9:00 a.m. "D" Company at Villers-au-Bois attend church parade at 9:00 a.m. Received Operation Orders and left Villers-au-Bois at 5:00 p.m., and marched by Platoons via Mont St Eloi and Latargette, through Goodman Trench, into the line. Relief completed at 10:30 p.m. German sniping very active in this section.

12th. "A" Company usual trench route weather fair. "B" Company left Gouy at 4:30 p.m., and went into billets at Villers-au-Bois. Company remained here four days with 6th Battalion as Divisional Reserve, and supplied cable-laying party each night. "C" Company left Gouy for the trenches at 5:30 p.m., relief completed 11:55 p.m. "B" Company in the line. Quiet all day. A little sniping, but no person hit. One man accidentally shot himself through the hand, while on sentry go.

13th. "A", "C" and "D" Companies in the line. Situations quiet during the day. Lieut. W.K. Kift, with "D" Company slightly wounded by a trench mortar.

14th. "A" Company supplied working parties. "C" Company situation quiet. "D" Company light shelling by both sides. Goodman Ave. Blown in at Western End. One man accidentally shot through the toe. Weather rainy and cold.

15th. "A" Company situation quiet. "B" Company Lewis Gun crews proceeded up the line to take over from Battalion being relieved. "C" Company on outpost duty in No Man's Land made a fine showing under heavy artillery fire from the enemy. "D" Company witnessed raids by 43rd Companies and the 52nd Battalion. No casualties.

16th. "A" and "C" Companies, nothing to report. "B" Company went forward with the 60th Battalion to relieve the 52nd Battalion, "D" Company coming out with the 52nd Battalion, moved back to Villers-au-Bois. Vimy Village reported to be in flames.

17th. "A" Company moved up to front line trenches, relief completed at 3:45 p.m. "B" Company nothing to report. "C" Company moved back to support trenches at 6:00 p.m. "D" Company resting in billets at Villers-au-Bois. Weather fine.

18th. "A" and "B" Companies situation quiet. "C" Company supplied wiring parties at night. "D" Company attended church parade at 2:00 p.m., at Villers.

19th. "A" and "B" Companies trench routine. "C" Company supplied working parties at night. "D" Company resting at Villers.

20th. "A" and "B" Companies usual trench routine. "C" Company supplied working parties. "D" Company moved from Villers to Haillecourt, leaving at 8:30 and arrived at 12:00 noon. Weather, rough.

21st. "A" Company, in conjunction with the 58th men put on a small raid. One other rank slightly wounded with rifle grenade. "B" Company stood to during enemy artillery activity were relieved and marched to Villers-Au-bcis to billets. "C" Company moved out of support trenches, and marched to Gouy, arriving at 3:30 a.m., "D" Company resting at Haillecourt.

22nd. "A" Company were relieved in the evening, and marched to Dumbell Camp, where they bivouacked. "B" Company left Villers at 8:00 a.m., and marched to billets at Bruay. "C" Company resting at Gouy. "D" Company at Haillecourt. Weather snowy and cold. Lieut. Hutchinson proceeded to Divion, and brought over to Haillecourt a draft of 200 other ranks reinforcements for the Battalion. This draft was composed entirely of Hamilton men.

23rd. "A" Company marched from Dumbell Camp to Divion. "B" Company changed billets in Bruay. "C" Company marched from Gouy to Bruay arriving at 2:00 p.m. March discipline very good. "D" Company left Haillecourt and moved into billets in Bruay. Col. Sharpe inspected the new draft at Ritz, in the morning, and was highly pleased with his first reinforcements.

24th. All Companies resting in their respective billets. Capt. A. W. Pratt lectured to the new draft on "Gas". Col. Sharpe received orders from the 3rd Canadian Division to re-assemble the 116th Battalion at Houdain.

25th. The Battalion marched into Houdain by Companies, arriving at 10:30 a.m. The draft also reported, and was detailed to different Companies. Battalion held church service at 2:30 p.m., weather fine and sunny.

26th. Rained heavily. Inside training carried on. Four instructors reported from Brigade.

27th. Outside training carried on. Lieut. Dixon and Haygarth reported as reinforcements, from the base.

28th. Weather fine, training carried on as usual. Air service active.

29th. Rained all day. Outside training carried on in the morning. A Musketry party went to Pernes, but through some mistake, did not use the ranges.

30th. Weather showery. Training carried on as usual.

31st. Weather rainy. Training carried out on as usual.

April 1917

1st. Platoon trained with live ammunition. One other rank killed, and one other rank wounded during operation.

2nd. Weather was snowy with some rain. Training carried on as usual.

3rd, 4th and 5th. Platoon training carried on.

5th. Orders were received to proceed to Dumbell Camp.

6th. Movement postponed for 24 hours. Training carried on.

7th. Battalion cleared Hundain at 9:00 a.m. and marched to Dumbell Camp, arriving there at 3:00 p.m. Map location, 36C. F.2.a.1.9.

8th. Battalion at rest in Bivouacs. Nothing unusual to report. Weather fair, but camp in a muddy condition.

9th. Received notification of Zero hour 5:30 a.m., bringing scheme of consolidation after attack, into effect. Except "B" Company, who supplied three Platoons for carrying parties to front line and one Platoon for wiring in front of strongpoint 5 and 6, the remainder of the Battalion stood to throughout the day. Casualties, 4 other ranks killed, 1 O.R. died of wounds, 21 other ranks wounded, two other ranks missing, later reported killed in action. Weather rainy.

10th. "B" Company supplied working party of 150 other ranks. Party was out all day. Composite Company from "A", "B", and "C" Companies of 200 men were out for a short period during the evening. Received orders to take over front line from the 8th Brigade (1st, 2nd, and 4th C. M. R. Battalions). Advance party went forward to look over territory and make arrangements for the relief.

11th. Dumbell Camp. Received orders that the Battalion would go into support, and take over trenches occupied by the 60th Battalion, between S.28.c.5.0. And, S.28.a.4.3.

Instead of taking over front line trenches, three Companies, "A", "C", and "D" Completed this relief without incident. "B" Company, under hostile shelling, had the following casualties. One officer, Lieut. J.J. Doble, killed, and three other ranks wounded. Heavy snowfall.

12th. Battalion supplied working parties, also supplied parties for improvements of dugouts. Hostile artillery slightly active. Weather fair and cold.

- 13th.** Battalion supplied working parties. Casualties one officer and 15 other ranks wounded. Enemy evacuated Vimy Village. Weather fair, with rain during the evening.
- 14th.** Battalion still in Brigade reserve. Working parties supplied for road work and carrying parties to front line trenches. No casualties. Enemy activity normal. Weather fine.
- 15th.** Battalion employed in road building. Reported to have done good work. One other rank wounded. Weather rainy.
- 16th.** Battalion supplied working parties on roads. Weather fine.
- 17th.** Supplied working parties on roadwork. Received orders from the Brigade, making the 116th a Pioneer Battalion, and attaching the 116th to 8th CDN Infantry Brigade for duty. Weather sleet snow and rain.
- 18th.** Supplied working parties on Lens-Arras Road. Casualties: one Officer and to other ranks wounded, and one other rank died of wounds. Weather fair in morning; rain in afternoon and snow.
- 19th.** Supplied working parties on the Lens-Arras road. Rainy.
- 20th.** Supplied working parties on Lens-Arras Road. Weather fair.
- 21st.** Supplied working parties. Battalion moved out to Berthonval area, as Companies reported back from working parties, and went into bivouacs at 51c.F. 6.c. Central.
- 22nd-27th.** Berthonval Area. The Battalion supplied working parties. No casualties. Weather fair.
- 28th.** Received instructions to proceed forward and take up position in Grange Tunnel and to take over position occupied by the 60th Battalion. Weather fair.
- 29th.** Advance party went forward at 9:00 a.m., to meet guides at 7th Brigade H. Q. Main party moved off after dark, and relief completed at 12:40 a.m. Held up by Gas shells. One other rank wounded. Headquarters located at S.18.d.5.2. "A" Company, S.18.b.3.3. "B" Company S.23.a.central, "C" Company S.24.s.central, and s.24.c., "D" Company T.19.c. Weather fair.
- 30th.** Provided working parties for work wiring second line, also from Tramways and roads. Weather fair.

May 1917/Support Line.

- 1st.** Weather fair, situation normal. Working parties were supplied for wiring, dugouts, etc. Strength of Battalion: 47 Officers, 1005 other ranks.
- 2nd.** Working parties provided. Weather fair.
- 3rd.** Fair and warm. Attack on right by first and second Divisions at dawn. Battalion supplied the usual working parties.
- 4th.** Working parties provided as usual. Fair and warm. Enemy shelling heavy at night, chiefly gas shells. A 5th C.M.R. Officer came forward to arrange relief. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded.
- 5th.** Fair and warm. Received relief order. Advance parties went back to Quarries, located 36.c.s.w.s.27.a.7.7. 5th C.M.R.'s. Completed relief at 10:30 p.m. Strength: 46 Officers 1144 other ranks.
- 6th.** Fair and warm. Relieved at 4:30 p.m. by the 49th Battalion, and marched to Villers-Au-Bois. 36.B.K.20.a.4.9., and went into billets.
- 7th.** Weather fair. Villers. Bathing and cleaning up.

8th-12th. Training at Villers, under Brigade Syllabus.

12th. Relieved the 2nd C.M.R.'s. in the Toronto area, located 36.A.s.w. S.21.d.4.2.

Completed relief at 4:00 p.m.

13th. Fair. Working parties provided for wiring, work on dugouts, etc.

14th. Working parties provided for cable and track lying. Weather fair.

15th. Fair to rain. Working parties sent out as usual.

17th. Fair-usual working parties provided. Enemy shelled camp during the night.

Casualties: were Capt. D.C. Sinclair and one other rank wounded.

18th. Berthonval Area. Weather fair. Working parties provided as usual. Strength of Battalion: 46 Officers 1179 other ranks.

19th. Weather fair. Advance party left to look over line at dusk.

20th. Weather fair. In accordance with orders received from 9th Brigade, the Battalion relieved the R.C.R.'s in front line, relief completed at 2:45 a.m. 21-5-17., location from approximately 36.c.s.w. T.16.c.10.71., to T.9.c.

21st. In the line. Weather fair. "B", "C", and "D" Companies holding the front line from T.8.d.8.3. to T.16.b.8.0. "A" Company in support. The Battalion holds the right sub-sector of Divisional front. The First Division are on the right flank, and the 43rd Battalion on our left. Casualties: 2 other ranks killed, one other rank wounded.

22nd. Weather fair. Work on line improvements, Patrols sent out in No Man's Land.

Dug dummy trench in front of center of position. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded.

Lieut. Blain left on furlough to Canada.

23rd. Weather fair. Patrols out during the night as usual.

24th. Weather fair. Relieved by the 52nd Battalion, Companies going into support, Map location approximately from S.23.b.4.6. to T.19.b.10.10., Relief completed 12:00 midnight.

25th. Vimy-Gieven Support lines. Weather fair and warm. Supplied working parties, including party of 300 for jumping off trench. Casualties: 2 other rank killed, 5 other ranks wounded. Capt. Eveny admitted to No. 9 F.A. Sick.

26th. Weather fair. Working parties as usual. Major F.H. Moody wounded, 2 other ranks wounded. One other rank wounded on 25th no reported, died of wounds. Battalion strength: 44 Officers, 1131 other ranks.

27th. Weather fair. Working parties as usual.

28th. Weather rainy. Clearing in the afternoon, and then cool. Lieut. C.C. Cowan transferred to 6th Canadian Railway Troops.

29th. Toronto Area. Weather fine. Battalion was relieved by the 4th C.M.R.'s. and moved into Toronto Area. Location 36c.s.w. S.21.d.4.2. Relief completed 11:35 P.M. Lieut. T. A. Irvin taken on strength as reinforcements.

30th. Fair and warm. Battalion bathed at Berthonval Farm. In the afternoon a program of sports, including Baseball and Football matches; followed in the evening by a concert. After the concert the usual working parties were sent out.

31st. Weather fine and warm. Furnished the usual working parties. Working parties returning early next morning, were shelled, 3 other ranks wounded.

June 1917

1st. Toronto Area. Quarry Line. Battalion in Divisional Reserve, map references France 36C.S.W. S.27.A. Battalion H.Q. at S.27.a.7.8. Working party of 3 officers and 150 other ranks worked on the Vimy Defense, and a new traffic road, approximately S.24.a and S.23.d. respectively. 3 other ranks wounded by German shellfire. Lieut. Newton invalid to England sick. No 757494 Pte. Brunner W.J., as awarded the Military Medal on May 20th. Weather fine.

2nd. Supplied working parties similar to those of June 1st. One other rank wounded on May 26th reported died of wounds June 1st. Hun Air raids on the Quarry Line. Weather fine and warm.

3rd. Supplied usual working parties. Lieut. Col. S.S. Sharpe proceeded on leave to England. 1 other rank reinforcement arrived. Air Raid repeated on Quarry line. Weather fine and warm.

4th. Supplied usual working parties. 1 other rank wounded. Air raid again repeated on quarry line. Weather fine and warm.

5th. Usual working parties supplied. Quarry line again bombed. Casualties: Lieut. M.H. Roach and 4 other ranks wounded. One other ranks died of wounds shortly after. 2 other ranks reinforcements arrived. Bass band proceeded on tour of duty 3rd Canadian Division Training School.

6th. Villers-Au-Bois. In accordance with orders received from the 9th brigade, the Battalion was relieved by the R.C.R's. and moved to billets at Villers. Relief completed by 8:30 p.m. Battalion H.Q. at 36.B. X.19.2.4. Weather beautiful.

7th. Spent the day in rest, baths and cleaning up. Lieut. George R. Weber joined the Battalion as reinforcements. Weather fine.

8th-9th. Brigade syllabus of training carried out. 43 other ranks reinforcements arrived. Weather overcast. Rain in the evening.

9th. Training as per 9th Brigade syllabus in the morning. The afternoon was devoted to sports. Gen Sir William Roberston, Chief of the Imperial General Staff and 116th Battalion was inspected by Major General L.J. Lipsett, C.M.G., G.O.C., 3rd Canadian Division. The General expressed himself well pleased with the Battalion. Weather cloudy, but dry.

10th. Brigade church parade at 9:00 a.m. Weather rain during night.

11th. Rain all morning. Training carried on in the afternoon.

12th. Toronto Area: Moved into Toronto Area, relieved the 5th Canadian Engineers, in a letter to the officers Commanding, Complimented the Battalion highly on the work done by our men under their supervision, in the beginning of the month. Weather hot and fine.

13th. The Battalion spent the day resting, and making preparations for moving into the line. Weather warm and clear.

14th. Front Line. The Battalion moved into the line, right subsection, Divisional frontage, clearing quarries by 9:30 p.m. Relief completed 1:45 a.m., June 15th. Bn. H.Q. at T.13.b.5.0. "A" Company in a trench T.9.d.2.0., "B" Company. T.9.c., "C" Company in support trench at T.14.d. "D" Company in trench at T.16.a.b., and T.17.a. 2 other ranks wounded. Weather fair and warm.

15th. Front quiet all day, but slight shelling. Patrols sent out as soon as relief was completed, and remained out until daylight. Other rank wounded. Weather fair and warm.

16th. Situation quiet, light shelling. Weather clear and warm.

17th. Front reported quiet. Four other ranks wounded, and one other rank wounded on 14th, now reported died of wounds. Usual patrols were out. Weather fine.

18th. Situation generally quiet. Battalion relieved by the 4th C.M.R.'s. relief completed 12:45 a.m., June 19th. One other rank killed and four other ranks wounded coming out. One other rank reinforcement. Weather fine.

19th. Villers-au-Bois. Battalion arrived at the Transport lines for breakfast at 4:30 a.m., and bathed at Berthonval Farm. Battalion moved into billets Villers-au-Bois at 5:00 p.m., 527661 Pte. Thomas D.A. awarded the M.M., June 19th. Weather fine and clear.

20th. Owing to heavy rain during the morning, time was spent in general cleaning up. In the afternoon the Battalion was inspected by the Commanding Officers. Officers and Platoon Sergeants afterwards visited the Taped Trenches representing the German lines in preparation for the coming operations.

21st. Morning was spent in Platoon and Company drill. In the afternoon, the Companies proceeded independently to the taped trenches, where they practiced their work for the coming operations. Weather cold and dry.

22nd. Morning spent in training. In the Afternoon the Battalion was again out for Brigade exercises over the taped trenches. Heavy rain during the afternoon. The Battalion attended a concert in the YMCA in the evening. 2 other ranks reinforcements arrived. During this rest period the Battalion baseball and football teams won the Brigade championship.

23rd. Battalion out for Brigade practiced over taped trenches in the morning. The afternoon a holiday. Weather cold and fine

24th. Church parades at 9:00 a.m., 1 other rank reinforcements. Weather fine and warm.

25th. Battalion parade, Platoon and Company under Capt. Every proceeded to the taped trenches, and practiced under an Officer of the 8th Canadian Engineers, who allocated their work during the coming operation. Another consolidation party of one Officer and 100 other ranks went over the taped trenches in the afternoon. Weather fine and warm.

26th. Vimy Defenses. Battalion cleared Villers-Au-Bois by 9:00 a.m., moving to the Battalion Transport lines arrived at 10:30 am. The Battalion rested there, and had midday and evening meals, after which they proceeded to relieve the 4th C. M. R. 's. Relief completed 12:10 am.

27th. Battalion H.Q. France 36C., at T. 13.b.5.0. "A" Company in cellars and dugouts at T.19.a., "D" at T.19.c.2.8., "B" in dugouts at S.18.d., "C" dugouts and cellars at T.19.a.7.8. Heavy rain in morning. Remainder of day fine and cool. Situations normal, slight shelling. Supplied 350 Officers and men for consolidation at T.2.d and T.1.b. and d. Casualties: 2 men slightly wounded. Battalion H.Q. changed at 10:00 p.m. to S.18.d.8.3. to be nearer the Companies. Weather rainy.

28th. Attack on Avion Trench by 52nd and 58th Battalions was successful, and completed by 3:00 a.m. Our bombardment of enemy trenches was very heavy. 350 Officers and men again working on consolidation in the front line. 2 other ranks wounded. Our "C" Company headquarters were shelled out, and the cellar destroyed. All got out in time. "C" Company new H.Q. S.24.d.2.4. 43rd and 58th Battalions are advancing through Avion. Enemy is retiring. Lieut. J.D. Tyrrell taken on strength. Weather fine and warm.

29th. Situation quiet. No unusual activity. Supplied consolidation party for work on front line, numbering 190 Officers and other ranks: Lieuts J.A. Hughes and Blandy reinforcements. Weather fine and warm.

30th. Front Line: In accordance with orders received from the 9th Brigade, the Battalion relieved P.P.C.L.I's in front line, relief completed 11:45 p.m. Situations quiet. Weather cloudy and rainy. Battalion strength: 46 Officers and 1181 other ranks.

July 1917

1st. Front Line. Outpost line established running from N.32.a.4.2. Along Street at N.33.c.7.2, in Avion (Sheet 36c) with front line in Avion Trench. The Battalion distributed as follows: "C" Company on the right, "A" Company on the left, with "B" and "D" Companies in support. Weather fair. On the afternoon of June 30th while making a reconnaissance of the front line, Lieut. G.D. Walls and one other rank were wounded.

2nd. Weather fair. Patrols were sent out during the night in Avion. On other rank wounded. Nothing unusual to report.

3rd. Weather fair. The Battalion was relieved in the front line by the 43rd Canadian Battalion, and completed relief at 3:45 a.m. The Battalion then proceeded to the Toronto Area, Quarry Line. Where the Battalion went in to bivouacs. During the period of relief enemy artillery was very active, and while this Unit escaped without casualties, the relieving unit was severely punished. Transport lines moved from Berthonval Area to billets new Carency. Location approximately: X.20.a.6.8.

4th. Weather rainy: The Battalion marched to Chateau de la Haie and went into rest billets there. Location: sheet 36B W.12.b.

5th. Chateau de la Haie: Weather fair. The morning was devoted to cleaning up of arms and equipment. Sports were held in the afternoon.

6th. Weather fair. Battalion training carried on in the morning. Sports were held in the afternoon. Strength: 30 officers, 1001 other ranks.

7th. Weather fine and clear. Church service and Holy Communion held. The balance of the forenoon spent in training. Brigade sports were held in the afternoon.

8th. Weather rainy: No training carried out.

9th. Weather dull. Training carried out during the morning. The afternoon was devoted to sports.

10th. Weather fair. Training as usual.

11th. Weather fair. Battalion training carried out in the morning. At 12:00 noon the Battalion formed up on the Gouy road for the reception of His Majesty, King George V, on his recent tour through France. Received orders from the 9th C.I. Brigade to proceed to Cobourg Dugouts, Located at S.14.b.central, and occupy position vacated by the 2nd C.M.R's.

12th. Cobourg Dugouts: Weather fair. Battalion supplied working parties for trench work. Received orders from 9th C.I.B., to move at once to Comak Camp and take over billets occupied by 52nd Battalion. Relief completed at 5:00 p.m.

13th. Comak Camp: Weather Fair. About 12 Officers and N.C. O's., went forward to front line for reconnaissance purposes.

14th. Weather rainy: Battalion practiced attack over taped trenches.

15th. Divine Service held in the morning. In the afternoon the Battalion again practiced over taped trenches in preparation for an attack. The Brigade and Divisional Staffs were

present on this occasion, and the Officers Commanding was complimented on the splendid showing made.

16th. Training continued by day and night.

17th. Training continued. Gen. Lipsett expressed himself as well pleased.

18th. Weather rainy: Received orders from 9th C.I.B. to relieve 5th C.M.R.'s. in Bde. Reserve in Halifax Trench. Relief was completed at 12:30 am.

19th. Battalion Headquarters established at approx. T.13.a.2.6. In the line: Weather very dull. Battalion supplied working parties for Trench digging.

20th. Weather fair. Working parties supplied for Trench work. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded.

21st. Weather fair. "D" Company 116th Battalion, relieved "B" Company of 52nd Battalion, in the front line.

22nd. Weather fair and warm. At 9:30 p.m. "A" Company followed by "B" and "C" Companies, left their trenches in the Red Line, and took up positions behind front line. About midnight, the Platoons were being led quietly and stealthily into position. Then suddenly the bells in the German trenches, not a hundred yards from the right flank, began to ring. Gas Fumes began to make their way over our positions. No one could tell whether the gas was merely lachrymatory or poisonous, and for some minutes, the success of the attack was in the balance. The situation was tense and uncertain. One Platoon leader could not see was coughing and sneezing and blinded with tears, and another Platoon had become broken in the darkness. One half marched on, stumbling and feeling their way feebly, with their gas helmets on, while the other half had lain down along the fence, and only moved when reassured it was tear gas. They had to send forward some scouts to find the other half of their Platoon, and come back for the remainders, otherwise they would be caught in the enemy barrage which was due in a few minutes. A desperate situation confronted the battalion. If the gas attack continued, our artillery barrage would open and its program would be carried out, while the gas incapacitated the assaulting troops. Unable to advance, and in due course, the enemy artillery would open up with their barrage, and the helpless men with their gas helmets on would be wiped out without a chance for their lives.

For about 30 minutes the situation was critical, and fraught with the greatest difficulties; the darkness, the gas, the flares, the irregularities of the ground, wire entanglements, ruins, shell-holes, all combined to make the assembling of the troops slow and difficult. Officers and men would put on their box respirators to escape the effects of the gas, and then would take them off and move forward, but was soon be obliged to restore their respirators again. Consequently progress was slow, and only the courage and determination of all ranks saved the situation.

Providentially, the gas became gradually dissipated, the Battalion rallied, and the Officers and men moved into their assemble positions, but the last of them, owing to the great difficulties, only got into their positions a few minutes before the zero hour. All the details had been carefully planned, and were carried out according to orders. Even the carrying parties overcame all obstacles and were on hand according to schedule. Stg. Deeks (Bombing Sgt.) had brought up a party with amonal tubes to blow up any wire, which might be unexpectedly encountered. Lieut. Sutton, had charge of another carrying party with wire mates, rolled up, to be used for crossing any of the enemy's wire not cut by out patrols or the artillery. Stg. Bonner led these to their rendezvous behind the brick

pile, just south of Quebec Road. After the scouts had finished with their wire cutting, they were to lead each party of three men with a wire mat, behind each of the six platoons, with the railway embankment as the final objective. Cpl. Savage, of the Scout Section did excellent work in leading these men into their positions. These men were told off to assist the stretcher-bearers, if necessary, in evacuating the wounded. As an evidence of the faithful performance of duty by these men, Capt. Allen, of "B" Company states that, when he reached the top of the Railway Embankment, he saw his party with their mates, at the final objective.

Medical Arrangements: An advanced Regimental Aid Post was established at the Junction of the Lens-Arras Railway and the Avion road, in an old cement gun-pit, which was cleaned out for the purpose. Capt. James Moore, the H.O. of the Unit attended the wounded with great care and distinction, until daylight, when an observation balloon took up its position immediately above it, after which vigorous shelling by the enemy made it necessary to vacate same.

23rd. Narrative of Raid: Lieut. Preston had charge of the signaling arrangements a telephone wire had been run up by B.H.Q. at Avion Road to be carried forward with the advance. Also two lamps with signalers were broke early in the attack, and under the heavy artillery fire, it would not be repaired. From the final objective, the lamps could not be read, owing to the Gas and smoke, owing to the action of the artillery.

The Attack: Zero hour was at one o'clock, and at that hour the barrage opened, first with a few shots here and there. Then the heavies seemed suddenly to open their floodgates on the abandoned and terrified Huns, who fled, those of them who survived, to the dugouts for protection. During the barrage "A" Company crept across Quebec Road and got a footing on the fair side and "B" and "C" Companies crept into the places vacated by "A" Company on the North side of the road. Exactly at zero hour, plus three minutes, the first line of "A" Company advanced, with Capt. H.V. Gould, well in front revolver in hand, encouraging his men, as cool as though on parade. No. 1 Platoon, on the left, under Lieut. Ott, had to contend with great difficulties. The Platoon was heavily shelled at Avion Trench, and five casualties resulted, and while Lieut. Ott looked after the casualties, the Platoon Sergeant started to take the Platoon into position. The gas stopped it, and the men had to put on their gas helmets several times, and progress was very slow. They were continually stopped. Finally, they got into Meander Trench, but the gas was very bad, and the men had to crawl along on their hands and knees. Again the Platoon got to its position, they were just in time for zero hour. The bombing section worked their way around the slagheap, put in the block, and started to deal with the dugouts going up the Communication Trench. Many Germans jumped out of the Trench and started towards the slagheap, and threw cylindrical sticks at the attacking party. These were killed on the spot.

Pte. W.M. Johnson, No. 1. Lewis Gunner, went with his crew up the gully in the slag heap, and swept the top of the same. He fired all his pans, and got more, and although two of his men were wounded, he kept the enemy at bay on the slag heap, and when his ammunition was running out, and men were being killed and wounded, he withdrew, fighting and covering the posts as he withdrew. He brought in his Lewis Gun, thoroughly exhausted, but full of fight. Pte. Kissock, and Pte. E. Carnaby of "A" Company together captured eighteen prisoners, and marched them back to Battalion Headquarters. Two other men, while bringing one German Officer and five men in as

prisoners, had to kill three of the six, before the remaining three would submit to being brought in, owing to the refractory conduct of the prisoners.

No.2 Platoon of "A" Company, under Lieut. Blandy, was in the centre, and met with little opposition. Metal Trench had been done in by out artillery. Lieut. Blandy himself went into a dugout, and got four prisoners, and handed them over to two of the men, who conducted two of them to B.H.Q., the other two being shot while attempting to escape.

No.3. Platoon of "A" Company, under Lieut. Joseph Hughes was on the right. This Officer displayed great gallantry and coolness in his leadership, both in getting to his jumping off position, and also in getting to the objective. He himself shot two Germans, who were trying to train their guns on our men, and put the gun out of action. The men were greatly inspired by his action.

"B" and "C" Companies followed close on the heels of "A" Company and proceeded to the final objective, meeting with stubborn and persistent resistance, machine guns from the flank and the embankment. It is reported that there is a tunnel under the embankment, with a gallery, in which are Machine Guns, with a field of fire towards out front and flanks. Captain Allen, and Major Currie, both displayed great coolness and "B" and "C" Companies marched slowly to the final objective and when it was reached, Officers, N.C.O's. and men threw themselves upon the enemy on the opposite side, where a desperate hand to hand encounter took place. Lieut. C.S. Lennox of "B" Company was in command of No. 5 Platoon on the left. He had a very difficult flank to handle but did his work most thoroughly. Capt. Allen reports that his posts from the first objective to the Railway Embankment were placed as coolly as though on parade. He placed three blocks, one on each side of the embankment, and one in trench North of the railway. Cpl. Kelly was wounded. Cpl. Congdon and Pte. Fairman were among the missing. Lieut. Gibson and Lieut. Crabtree respectively had charge of No 6 and 7 Platoons, and reached their final objectives, encouraging and leading their Platoons with great gallantry. The latter brought in two prisoners' single-handed. Major Currie, Lieut. J.A. Hughes was a brave young Officer, who had only lately joined the Battalion. He was wounded, but continued to lead and direct his men. Lieut. Yorke was wounded at the Jumping off line, and his platoon was without his services. Lieut. Neal was killed before reaching the final objective and his last words to his platoon sergeant, were "Carry On, Sergeant, go as though I were with you." He was the most capable and gallant Officer. Major Currie had to do double work, having lost the services of these two Officers. Without any hesitation he immediately shouted to the men to follow him, and led his Company with conspicuous bravery to, and over the Railway Embankment. His fine example was an inspiration to all ranks. He brought to advance Battalion H.Q. three prisoners, single handed, and although wounded in the face, he continued to lead and direct his Company throughout. The work of destruction completed, the two Companies "B" and "C" withdrew as ordered coving by a section of each Platoon acting as a rear guard.

Observation posts were left on the Railway Embankment where the right and left communication trenches intersected it and supporting posts were established on each flank. "A" Company remained in Metal Trench until "B" and "C" Companies had completed their withdrawal. "D" Company in local reserve with Capt. Ritchie in Command, occupying Avion trench had organized posts under Lieut. Weber and Lick,

which were to relieve at daybreak, the posts left by "B" and "C" Companies, Lieut. Lick was, however killed by a shell near Metal trench and his sergeant and Corporal wounded. Lieut. Weber went up on the left, and reached Metal Trench but at 4:45 a.m., the Germans had counter-attacked in force and out posts withdrew fighting as ordered.

Pte. Dan McDonald of "B" Company fought off and killed many Germans, swarming over the Railway Embankment and brick Kilns. His gallant conduct and coolness saved many men on the posts as he himself did not retire until wounded and then he withdrew bringing in his Lewis Gun.

When it was learned that Lieut. Lick was killed and Lieut. Weber was missing, Capt. Ritchie commissioned Sgt. Houston to lead a party up Meander communication trench and assist the posts. Sgt. Houston and his party got out between Metal trench and the Railway embankment, when the Germans began to swarm over the Railway Embankment and attack from the flank. They withdrew fighting to Metal Trench and down the C.T. taking the balance of the men on the posts with them. Still fighting took place all the way back, and when they got the slag heap some of the Germans intercepted the way, and were killed. Further down the party were cut off by Germans coming around the slag heap. Many of them were killed. Sgt. Houston personally dispatched four and took one prisoner. Having been wounded in the face, he withdrew to the Regimental aid post, taking with him several wounded men and had his wounded dressed and returned and carried on until his Company was relieved. His Conspicuous bravery and gallant conduct inspired the men, and saved many on our post. His devotion to duty was most marked, and his fortitude won him the admiration of his comrades.

23rd. Situation quiet after raid. Casualties: 2 Officers, 10 other rank killed, 3 Officers, 42 other ranks. wounded. 2 officers, 15 other ranks missing.

25th. Battalion moved to Halifax Camp, Zouave Valley.

26th. Moved to Camblain L'Abbe. Lieut. Hutchinson died of wounds.

27th-31st. Spent in rest, cleaning up and training. Weather fair with some rain.

August 1917

1st. Camblain L'Abbe. Strength: 25 Officers, 855 other ranks. Training carried on, and two Companies had use of ranges.

2nd. Battalion spent the day on the range.

3rd. Two Companies fired musketry test on the ranges.

4th. Training carried on as usual. During the week Platoon training and specialist work was carried on, along with firing on the ranges, but owing to the extremely wet weather, the training was hindered to a certain extent.

5th. Church parade was held, and two companies fired musketry test on the ranges.

6th. Weather wet. Training carried on as usual.

7th. Nothing to report.

8th. Two Companies had the use of the ranges.

9th. Battalion took part in a route march and reconnaissance over the ground of the proposed brigade maneuvers. Towards afternoon it commenced rain very heavily. No. 1 Platoon of "A" Company in the Corps Rifle Competition, held at Ferfay, won the Divisional Championship, defeating Platoons from such Battalions as the R.C.R's. P.P.C.L.I's. The Company team also took first place in the Brigade.

- 10th**. Training carried on as usual. Two Companies using the ranges.
- 11th**. The 116th Battalion, in conjunction with the other Battalions of the Brigade took part in the Brigade Maneuvers, map location of grounds, Roulin Topart Area, Map reference Carency, Sheet 363. S.3.a.2.4. This Unit was acting as an advanced guard to the van guard, consisting of two acting as O.C. 116th Battalion. Owing to heavy rains in the afternoon, the maneuvers could not be completed.
- 12th**. Strength: 28 Officers, 814 other ranks. Church parade was held.
- 13th**. The Battalion took part in the completion of the Brigade maneuvers. Weather fair.
- 14th**. The Battalion spent the day in cleaning arms and equipment, preparatory to moving from Camblain L'Abbe to Auchel.
- 15th**. Weather fine. The Battalion march from Camblain L'Abbe to billets at Auchel, location 36B.C.29., leaving at 8:50 a.m., and arriving at Auchel at 4:10 p.m. The Battalion maintained good march discipline during the trip. General Lipsett inspected the Battalion when marching through Houdain.
- 16th**. Auchel. Battalion spent the day in cleaning up generally. Examination of Platoons for the Dumbell competition was held.
- 17th**. Weather fair. Platoons were again examined in the Dumbell Competition. General Training was also carried on.
- 18th**. Baths were allotted to the Battalion at Raimbert and bathing was carried on throughout the day. Final examination of Platoons for the Dumbell competition was held, with the following Platoons in order of merit: No. 1 Platoon, Lieut. Ott, No.10 Platoon Lieut. Yorke, No.7 Platoon, Lieut. Crabtree, 4th, No.13 Platoon, Lieut. Baird.
- 19th**. Church parade was held. Weather fair.
- 20th**. Received orders from the 9th Brigade to proceed to billets in Gouy Servins, prior to moving to forward area. Battalion left at 7:00 a.m. arriving at Gouy Servins at 3:00 p.m.
- 21st**. In accordance with orders from the 9th C.I.B., the Battalion marched from Gouy Servins to Fosse 10, Sains en Gohelle, location R.8.a.1.8., leaving at 9:30 a.m. and arriving at 11:00 a.m.
- 22nd**. Fosse 10. Received orders from 9th Brigade to relieve the 27th Canadian Battalion in the front line, right sub-sector, from N.13.b.8.3. to N.8.a.6.2. Chicory Trench. Disposition of Companies as followed: "D" Company on the right, "A" Company on the left, "C" Company in support and "B" Company in reserve. Battalion Headquarters were established in Combat Trench. Relief completed at 1:15 a.m. Casualties: Capt. J. Moore, R.O., wounded 3 other ranks wounded.
- 23rd**. In the Line: Hostile shelling very active on our front all day. B.H.Q., on account of such heavy shelling, moved from its location and established H.Q. at N.12.b.7.2. Casualties, 3 other ranks killed, 11 other ranks wounded.
- 24th**. During the day hostile artillery very quiet. From 6:60 to 7:30 p.m. and from 10:00 to 11:00 p.m. hostile shelling was very active all along out front. Casualties: 7 other ranks killed, 25 other ranks wounded
- 25th**. Situation Normal. Artillery quiet during the day, increasing towards the evening. Casualties: Lieut. Precious wounded, 1 other ranks killed, one other ranks missing, 10 other ranks wounded.
- 26th**. Intermittent shelling throughout day and night. Casualties 6 other ranks wounded.
- 27th**. Weather very wet. Until 5:00 a.m. hostile artillery was very active. During the day, situation became normal. In accordance with orders relieved, the 43rd Battalion, in

the right sub-sector relieved the Battalion. The 116th Battalion moved into Brigade support. B.H.Q. established at N.11.c.05.55. Relief completed at 12:30 a.m. August 27th. Casualties 1 other ranks wounded.

28th. Weather very fair. The Battalion supplied working parties for trench digging and carrying trench mortar ammunition to the front line. Casualties: 4 other ranks killed, 5 other ranks wounded.

29th. Battalion supplied working parties, laying cable, trench digging, and carrying parties. Weather rainy. Casualties: one other rank wounded.

30th. The usual working parties supplied. Casualties: 1 other rank killed, 5 other ranks wounded.

31st. Strength 50 officers, 718 other ranks. Usual working parties supplied Casualties.: 2 other ranks killed, 6 other ranks wounded.

September 1917

1st. The usual working parties were supplied.

2nd. In accordance with orders received, the 116th Canadian Battalion relieved the 43rd Canadian Battalion in the right sub-sector, with the following disposition of companies "B" Company on the right front, "C" Company on the left front, "D" Company in support, and "A" Company in reserve. Casualties: 1 other ranks wounded.

3rd. Situation quiet with the usual intermittent shelling of back areas. Casualties: 5 other ranks wounded.

4th. In accordance with orders received the battalion was relieved by the 14th Canadian Battalion in the front line. Relief completed by 11:05 p.m. The battalion then proceeded to Marqueffles farm arriving there by 2:30 a.m., Sept. 5th.

5th. Marqueffles Farm: The Battalion spent the day in resting preparatory to the move on Sept. 6. The Battalion daily orders issued on Sept. 5th contained a list of awards and decorations received by Officers, N. C.O's and men by reason of the raid on the night of July 22nd and 23rd, 1917.

6th. In accordance with orders received the Battalion moved at 8:00 A.M. Bois De (Ottawa Camp) Arriving there at 11:30 a.m. Good march discipline was maintained throughout the entire march, no men falling out.

7th. Ottawa Camp in accordance with orders received the 116th Canadian. Battalion moved to the reserve area relieving the 11th Battalion. Relief was completed 8:00 p.m. Disposition of companies on relief were as follows: "B" and "D" Companies in the vicinity of Vimy and Farbus and "A" and "C" Companies and H.Q. at A.2c.17.70.

8th. A.2.c.7.7., Reserve Area. Strength of Battalion: 26 Officers and 678 other rank. Situations quiet all day. A working party of 6 Officers and 300 other ranks was supplied for digging new communication trenches.

9th. Weather fair. Situations quiet. A working party of 6 Officers and 300 other ranks was supplied for digging new communication trenches. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded

10th. Situation quiet. Working party as usual. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded and 1 other rank gassed.

11th. In accordance with orders received from 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, "A" and "C" Companies moved at 3:30 p.m. to area alongside "B" and "D" Companies. Disposition as follows: "A" Company to Brown Line (T.26.d), "C" Company trench

running north from C.P.R. at T.26.c.85.40. Working parties for burying cables were supplied.

12th. Working party of 6 Officers and 300 other ranks were supplied for digging new communication trenches.

13th. Usual working parties supplied.

14th. Usual working parties were supplied.

15th. Trench strength: 22 Officers and 482 other ranks strength unit: 29 Officers and 667 other ranks. In accordance with orders received the Battalion relieved the 58th Battalion in the front line. "A" Company remained in support, "B" "C" and "D" in the front line. A working party of 2 Officers and 100 other ranks were supplied for work on Totum Trench and 12th Avenue.

16th. Situation quiet. Working party of 2 Officers and 100 other ranks supplied for trench digging. 5 other ranks wounded.

17th. Hostile shelling very active on the front line. A working party of 2 Officers and 170 other ranks was supplied for work on C.T. and improving front and support line. At 3:00 a.m. enemy opened barrage on our front line, and communication trenches that lasted for 50 minutes. One Officer and 73 Storm Troopers attempted a raid on our center and left Company frontages. A few crept forward through the wire, and entered "C" Company frontage in an empty bay at the junction of 12 Avenue. Communications Trench: They left the trench immediately and it is believed that the captured Pte. Dewes of "B" Company who had been wounded by the barrage and was evidently on his way out to the rear. About daybreak, Cpl. Cox of "C" Company climbed over our parapet and captured a prisoner. Sgt. Mason of "D" Company also captured a prisoner, but Lewis Gunfire killed him before he was brought in. The enemy evidently intended a large raid as our scouts found mobile charges in front of our trenches in the morning. Casualties: 2 other ranks killed, 13 other ranks wounded. 1 other ranks wounded and missing.

18th. Situation quiet. General Lipsett and Staff, who visited scene of raid, visited the Battalion. In accordance with orders received, the Battalion was relieved by the R.C.R's. relief completed at 11:20 p.m. The Battalion then marched to Thelus Cave, where it was transported by light railway to Fraser Camp, arriving there at 3:00 a.m.

19th. Fraser Camp, Mont St Eloi: The Battalion spent the day resting and cleaning up in billets.

20th. Weather fair. The Battalion held bathing parade all day.

21st. Officers visited taped trenches in Villers-au-Bois Area. Weather fair.

22nd. Practice over taped trenches was held by Platoon and Companies. Weather fair.

23rd. Strength: 30 Officers, 669 other ranks. Divine service was held on the Battalion parade ground.

24th. Before noon the Battalion spent in Company training. In the afternoon Officers and N.C.O's. attended a lecture on Aerial Service.

25th. Platoon and Company training carried on in the morning. In the afternoon a proportion of Officers, N.C.O's. and men visited the aerodrome at Camblain L'Abbe and a few were permitted to go up for a flight

26th. Weather fine. Training carried on all day.

27th. Specialist and general training carried on. 8 Officers and 50 other ranks attended an instructional tank demonstration at Wailly.

28th. General training and bathing parades in the morning. In the afternoon the Battalion went over the practice tapes and trenches with barrage.

29th. The Battalion attended the Corps. Sports, which were held at Villers-au-Bois leaving in the morning at 8:00 a.m. and arriving, back at 6:30 p.m.

30th. Divine service was held after which a parade was held for the investiture of certain other ranks who had been awarded decorations. The Corps, Divisional, and Brigade Commanders were present, and Lieut. General Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G., C.B. personally pinned the ribbons on the breasts of the N.C.O's. and men who did such good work on the night of July 22nd and 23rd.

October 1917

1st-10th. Battalion carried on specialist and general training, and practiced over taped trenches. During this period, a model of Mericourt was viewed, and Battalion received a lecture on same. Lewis Gunners used ranges, and the battalion carried out some musketry practices. Except for one day, the weather was fine and warm. Strength: 31 Officers and 752 other ranks.

11th. Battalion moved from Fraser Camp to Ourton. Leaving at 9:00 a.m. and arriving at 3:00 p.m. Good march discipline was maintained.

12th-13th. Weather rainy: When weather permitted, Company and training was carried out.

14th. Church parade was held in the morning.

15th. The Battalion, less "B" Company moved from Ourton, leaving at 8:00 a.m., marching to Tincques, arriving at 11:30 a.m., when Transport and Battalion entrained for Godewaersvelde, arriving there at 8:00 p.m., and marched to billets at Caestre, arriving at 11:00 p.m., Major Allen, with "B" Company arrived at 5:00 a.m.

16th. Caestre: Day spent in resting.

17th-20th. Company and Platoon training. Officers and N.C.O's visited model at Poperhinge, and some Officers went forward and looked over front line.

21st. Church parade: Battalion sports were carried on after service.

22nd. Battalion entrained at 3:45 a.m. and proceeded to X Camp, Wieltje Area to take over billets vacated by the 58th Battalion. Battalion detrained at 7:10 a.m. and reached camp at 8:00 a.m.

23rd. X Camp: Officers and N.C.O's. went forward to Banks farm Area, to reconnoiter location and accommodation. The whole Battalion engaged on working parties. Casualties 3 other ranks killed, 1 O.R. wounded. Strength: 34 Officers, 806 other ranks.

24th. X Camp: Working parties supplied. Casualties: one other rank killed and Capt. A.W. Pratt wounded, but remained at duty.

25th. Battalion moved from X Camp to Bank Farm Area, with H.Q. at Pommern Castle. Working party of 1 Officer and 50 other ranks from "A" Company supplied to 9th C.I.B., under Lieut. Gardner. Also party of two N.C.O's and 10 other ranks from "A" Company to 9th C.I.B. Party of 25 other ranks from each Company for carrying bathmats to the Battalions that had gone over in the attack, but on account of being held up, they could not do the work, and returned at 10:00 a.m. next morning. Casualties: 5 other ranks wounded.

26th. Banks Farm. Brigade attacked at 5:40 a.m. in conjunction with troops of the Canadian Corps. Two Companies, "A" and "D" moved forward to support in Abraham Heights in accordance with orders from 9th C.I.B., and at 10:00 p.m., were ordered to move into close support "A" Company moving into the left sector, and "D" Company less two Platoons moving into the right center. Lieut. Irwin and 75 other ranks from "B" Company detailed to report at 10th Field Ambulance to act as stretcher bearers, also party to report to 9th C.I.B., of one Officer and 50 other ranks from "A" Company. Casualties: 2 other ranks killed and 10 other ranks wounded. Strength 35 officers, 735 other ranks.

27th. In the Line: In accordance with orders received from 9th C.I.B. Balance of Battalion, and H.Q. moved to Otto farm Area with H.Q. at Otto Farm, and Companies on Abraham Heights. At 3:00 p.m. Battalion was ordered to take over front line from 43rd, 52nd, and 58th Battalions, with four Companies in the front line, running from left to right in order "A", "B", "C" and "D" and with Headquarters at Waterloo. Prior to the relief, the full Companies of "A" and "D" had been carrying bombs and S.A.A. from the dump to the Companies in the line. At night two Platoons of "C" Company under Lieut. Soper, were detailed as stretcher-bearers. Casualties: 6 other ranks killed, 5 other ranks wounded.

28th. In the Line: Working parties supplied. On the night of the 28th and 29th the 116th Battalion was relieved in the front line by the 49th Canadian Battalion, and one Company of the P.P.C.L.I.'s moving to Weiltje Area, near Ypres, with Battalion H.Q. at C.29.1.5.7. Casualties: Lieut. R.W. Biggar and 16 other ranks wounded, 5 other ranks gassed.

29th. Weiltje Area. Working parties supplied, Casualties: 4 other ranks killed, 5 other ranks wounded.

30th. Working parties supplied casualties 2 other ranks killed.

31st. Working parties supplied. Battalion moved forward to Banks Farm Area, with H.Q. at Pommern Castle, relief being completed by 12:00 noon. Casualties, one other rank wounded.

November 1917

1st. In the Line: Strength 31 Offices, 617 other ranks. Our casualties on The 31st of October were 7 killed and 3 wounded. The Battalion in the Grafenistafel Area under orders of the 7th C.I.B. orders were received that the Battalion would be relieved by the 16th Battalion, and would move back to St Joan Area, but this order was cancelled. Working parties were supplied for carrying parties. B.H.Q. and Otto Farm, Map Ref Belgium and France, sheet 28, D.15.a.4.2. Casualties: 6 other ranks killed and 19 other ranks wounded. 5 other ranks gassed.

2nd. On Telegraphic orders received from the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade the Battalion moved back to Saville Camp Area, for maintenance, etc. Companies marched to Ypres, and were bathed. Casualties: 3 other ranks killed, 1 other ranks wounded.

4th. Working parties supplied to 10th and 4th Field Companies, C.E. for work on roads. Casualties: 4 other ranks killed, 2 other ranks wounded and gassed.

5th. Working parties same as yesterday. Lieut. E.F. Corey was accidentally wounded in the left leg by a revolver.

6th. Working parties same as yesterday. Casualties: 10 other ranks wounded.

7th. Usual working parties provided. In accordance with orders received from Canadian Corps, the Battalion was relieved at 2:00 p.m. by the 4th C.M.R's. and moved by march route to Vlanertinghe.

8th. Vlanertinghe: Strength: 31 Officers, 687 other ranks. In accordance with telegraphic orders received from Canadian Corps, the Battalion moved by bus from Vlanertinghe to Wateau Area, Camp "J". Leaving at 1:00 p.m. and arriving at 2:30 p.m. The Battalion was formed up and addressed by Major General Lipsett on the work of the Brigade during the last offensive. The Battalion billeted in tents.

9th-11th. Wateau. Weather rainy. Time spent in cleaning up and resting.

12th. Training carried on in the morning and preparations made in the afternoon to move to the forward area.

13th. In accordance with orders received from the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade the Battalion moved from "J" Camp, Wateau to Camp "C"., with Headquarters at Jasper Farm. The move was made by bus to the crossroads at H.12.c. and marched to H.11.b., where halt was made, until Transport arrived at 2:00 p.m. Hot dinner was served, and the Battalion moved off by Platoons to Jasper Farm.

14th. Capricorn area: Battalion moved forward to Capricorn Area, commencing at 1:00 p.m. Relief was completed at 2:20 p.m. Battalion Headquarters were established at Capricorn Keep. Ref: Sheet 28 C.18.b.4.6.

15th. Strength: 31 Officers 689 other ranks. Working parties were supplied to 3rd Division. Artillery for hauling guns and ammunition. Some shelling in the vicinity of Battalion Headquarters principally at Spree Dump. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded.

16th. Working parties supplied as yesterday. Casualties: Lieut. W.A. Dunlop wounded at duty. 7 other ranks wounded, 2 other ranks gassed.

17th. In accordance with orders received from 7th C.I.B. the Battalion was relieving the Brigade Reserve area by Royal Irish Rifles Relief was completed at 4:40 p.m. Battalion proceeded to "C" Camp, Jasper Area, B.H.Q. at Jasper Farm.

18th. Jasper Farm. Battalion spent the day resting and cleaning up.

19th. In accordance with orders from 7th C.I.B. the Battalion moved by bus to Haverskerque, embarking at 10:00 a.m. at the Hospital Ypres, and arriving at destination at 2:00 p.m. Here the Battalion billeted for the night.

20th. Haverskerque: In accordance with orders received from the 7th C.I.B., the Battalion moved by march route to Amettes, leaving at 7:30 a.m. and arriving at 2:00 p.m.

21st. The day was spent in cleaning up and checking arms and equipment.

22nd. Platoons and Companies were inspected and bathing parades held.

23rd. In accordance with orders from 9th C.I.B. the Battalion moved from Amettes to Aumerval and Balleuil Les Pernes. "D" Company and Transport at Aumerval and remainder of Battalion at Balleuil Les Pernes.

24th. The Battalion marched to Li**ers and return. A group photo of Officers was taken to serve as a Regimental Christmas Card. Major A.W. McConnell was granted leave to Canada, and left for England on this date.

25th. Church parade was held at 3:00 p.m.

26th. Platoon and specialist training was carried out.

27th. On account of wet weather no training was carried out.

28th. Platoon and specialist training were carried on, two Companies using the Ferfay ranges all day.

29th. Platoon and specialist raining, Battalion paraded by Companies to the Divisional Gas School, for inspection of S.B.R's. and P.H. Helmets.

30th. Strength: 32 Officers, 735 Other ranks. The Battalion marched to Auchel.

December 1917

1st. Platoon and specialist training was carried on. Voting in the Canadian Elections was also carried on.

2nd. Church service was held at 1:30 p.m. on the Battalion Parade Ground.

3rd. Platoon and specialist training were carried on.

4th. Platoon and Specialist training were carried on. A lecture on Training Morale was given by Major Sutherland, O.C. 9th Brigade Training Battalion 1:30 p.m.

5th. Platoon and Specialist Training was carried on No. 1 Company at the ranges.

6th. Specialist training was carried on, Night operations-Battalion in attack.

7th. "B" and "D" Companies on Ferfay Ranges. The other two Companies and Headquarters bathed at Armettes.

8th. Two Companies on Rifle Ranges at Ferfay, 2 Companies on Specialist Training.

9th. Owing to very wet weather, no church Parade was held.

10th. Specialist Training was carried on. Weather dry.

11th. Specialist Training was carried on, Two Companies fired on Ranges at Pernes.

12th. Specialist Training was carried on, Two Companies fired on Ranges at Pernes. A night march was carried out with Box respirators.

13th. Specialists Training and Battalion Tactical scheme was carried out. Officers attended Lecture on "Gas" at Westrehem by the 3rd Canadian Divisional Gas Officer. Three Officers attended demonstration of "smoke bombs" at 3rd Canadian Divisional Wing.

14th. 9 Officers and 12 N.C.O's proceeded forward to reconnoiter the front line. Specialist Training and night exercises were carried out.

15th. The Battalion bathed at Amettes. Specialists Training was carried out. General Lipsett, G.O.C. 3rd Canadian Division visited the Battalion.

16th. Church Parade was held in the forenoon. In the afternoon, the Officers proceeded to Pernes to have a group photograph taken.

17th. The Battalion carried on training by Companies. On account of snow, lectures were carried on in billets on machine gun stripping, etc., The Commanding Officers, Senior Major and several Officers proceeded to Ferfay to attend "Smoke Demonstration: Lieut. L.W. Harron reported to the Unit for duty.

18th. The Battalion, preparatory to moving, spent the day in cleaning up of billets, arms and equipment.

19th. The Battalion moved to Busnettes (Ref. Map. France 36A.1/.100000) leaving Balleul-Les-Pernes at 9:30 p.m. and arriving at Busnettes about 1:00 p.m. Spent the night in billets. Battalion H.Q. established at Busnettes.

20th. Busnettes: Leaving at 7:00 a.m. The Battalion moved to Houchin, arriving there about 2:00 p.m. and spent the night in billets.

21st. Houchin. The Battalion moved from Houchin at 10:00 a.m. to Maroc via Neoux-Les-Mines, Petit Sains and Grenay. Battalion H.Q. established at Maroc.

22nd. Maroc. The Battalion H.Q. took over from the 9th Sherwood Foresters and the 8th Northumberland Fusiliers in the front line. Relief was completed at 8:05 p.m.

Disposition of Companies on completion of relief: "B" and "D" Companies in front line, "C" Company in support, "A" Company in reserve. Battalion H.Q. was established at N.7.b.6.1. (Condray Trench). Situation quiet.

23rd. Situation quiet. Some heavy T.M. shells during the day. Considerable wiring done by night. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded by T. M. shell.

24th. Situation quiet. T.M.'s busy. Lieut. McGrotty died of wounds from M.G. fire when wiring by night. Two observed hits by snipers, casualties: 2 other ranks wounded.

Strength of Unit: 37 Officers and 664 other ranks.

25th. Visit of padre of 43rd Canadian Battalion. An inter-Battalion relief was made. "A" and "C" Companies in the front line, "B" and "D" Companies in support and reserve. Compliments of the season were received from Brigade, Division, and Canadian Corps. The Christmas dinner at which major Pearkes, M.C., Capt Ritchie, Lieut. Sutton, Wood, Irwin, and Broad, Capt. Pringle of the 43rd Canadian Battalion, Lieut. Noble of the C.F.A. Were present and was held in the dugout occupied as B.H.Q. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded.

26th. T.M.'s busy. Enemy attempted a raid on Sap 6 at 6:30 a.m. closing in on head on sap from two points. Lewis gun jammed; bombing fight ensued. Casualties: five other ranks wounded. Later 1 of these died of wounds. Situations quiet during the day. T.M. Activity normal. During the day night warning was received from Brigade of an intended raid by the enemy. Battalion stood to all night. Enemy observed digging in No Man's Land. M.G. and Rifle fire was consistently used whenever opportunity availed itself. Five observed hits are claimed by snipers. Attack failed to materialize. Enemy believed to have relieved to night. Total Casualties for the day: 6 other ranks wounded.

27th. Situation quiet. T.M.'s conducted a shoot on enemy work in N.M.L. effectively it is believed, Unit strength: 33 Officers, and 670 other ranks. Casualties: 1 other ranks wounded. Lieut., S.R. Manson reported for duty.

28th. Situation fairly quiet. Enemy M.G. fire active. Snipers claimed one observed hit. Battalion was relieved in the front line by the 58th Canadian Battalion. The Battalion moving back to the support area vacated by the 58th Canadian Battalion. Relieved Completed at 8:30 p.m. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded.

29th. Working Parties were supplied in the forward area. The remainder of the Battalion "clean-up". Billets in fairly good condition. Casualties: 1 other rank reported "wounded" now died of wounds.

30th. General working parties were supplied. Casualties: 1 other rank reported wounded now died.

31st. General working parties were supplied. The Seasons Greetings were received from the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, the 58th, 52nd, and 43rd Canadian Battalions. Casualties: 2 other ranks killed, 3 other ranks wounded. Strength of Unit: 34 Officers and 634 Other Ranks.

January 1918

1st. Support Area Cite St. Pierre. Strength: 30 Officers, 607 other ranks. Working parties were supplied in the forward area some hostile shelling during the day.

- 2nd**. Working party of 400 men was supplied. Rear Support companies were subject to gas shelling from the enemy, Reinforcements: Lieut. A.M. Close and two other ranks.
- 3rd**. In the morning, "B" Company provided a tunneling party. In the afternoon arrangements were made preparatory to relief. On the night of the 3rd and 4th the Battalion was relieved by the 52nd Battalion and in turn relieved the 58th Battalion in the front line system. Situation very quiet, with the exception of two bursts of heavy trench mortar shells thrown on our support trench.
- 4th**. In the Line: Situation quiet. Indirect hostile M.G. fire concentrated during the night on Mason's House Sap. Considerable amount of wiring was put out. The enemy used a very large number of flares. 1 other rank wounded.
- 5th**. Situation quiet. Hostile Trench Mortar activity slight. Slight enemy air activity around the noon hour. Tow patrols left our lines and investigated railway track, Gatekeeper's House, and Mason's House.
- 6th**. Situation quiet. Trench mortar activity on both sides. Our men had done considerable wiring. 1 other rank reinforcement.
- 7th**. Strength: 25 Officers, 585 other ranks. Situation quiet. Some wiring down by our men.
- 8th**. Situation quiet. Hostile Trench Mortar activity slight. One other rank wounded.
- 9th**. Considerable retaliation by enemy with 4.1's and trench mortars during the day, due to our shoot on selected targets and enemy new trenches. Apparently his shoot was observed and directed by airplanes and balloons. Preparations were made during the afternoon for the relief. On the night of the 9th and 10th the Battalion was relieved by the 58th Battalion. Relief completed by 8:25 p.m. On completion of relief, three companies' returned to Les Brebis and "A" Company remained in support at Cite St. Pierre, with Headquarters at N.12.b.
- 10th**. Les Brebis: Battalion billeted in Les Brebis. Cleaning up in general, and bathing was carried out during the day. In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B., "D" Company moved up to supports in the Red Line, N.12.b. in front of Cite St. Pierre. The Brass Band played them up. Lieut. W.J. Redwood, reported and was taken on strength.
- 11th**. "B" and "C" Companies resting at Les Brebis; "A" and "D" Companies holding support line in N.12.b. 690554 Pte. R. Gordon was accidentally killed.
- 12th**. Bathing continued. Boots and clothing issued. The Battalion Gas N.C.O. held inspection of S.B.R's. Battalion attended a lecture on citizenship in the afternoon by Captain Oliver, and YMCA Cinema show at night. Training of a special Company for minor operations was carried out through the day.
- 13th**. Church parade held in the morning, Capt. Cameron held a voluntary service in the evening. Special Company practiced over the tapes, and attended a lecture on operations.
- 14th**. Cleaning up of billets, preparatory to going up the line and all equipment were checked. Battalion attended cinema show at night in the YMCA Hut. Training of special Company was discontinued in accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B.
- 15th**. In accordance with ordered received from the 9th C.I.B. the 116th Battalion received the 58th Canadian Battalion in the left frontage, on the night of the 15th and 16th. Relief was completed at 3:30 a.m.
- 16th**. "C" Company was held up in Cosy and Nester Trenches on account of very deep mud. Heavy rain fall, which caved trenches in places. Some enemy T.M. activity.

Casualties: 2 other ranks wounded. In the Line: Weather rainy. All available men for working parties were used for cleaning up and improving positions. Re-organization of front line system effected. Three strong posts per Company frontage. These posts were self-contained, on account of almost completed isolation, and were on duty for 24 hours consecutively. General situation: very quiet. Casualties: 1 other rank died of wounds. **17th**. Strength: 28 Officers, 517 other ranks. Work of cleaning trenches and improving position continued. Visibility fair. Trench Mortars active. Patrol of 1 officer and 1 other ranks went out to No.4 brickstack through the German wire, and round the North side of the brickstack. German sap unoccupied and filled with concertina barbed wire. Patrol then returned through gap in the wire, and examined the East Side of No.5 brickstack, where they discovered a German dugout and M.G. emplacements. These were also unoccupied and found to contain a number of German helmets bombs, and cutlery. Patrol then returned to our lines after first locating position of an active M.G. on the German Front line.

18th. Situation quiet. Considerable T.M., activity on both sides. Snipers claim to have made three hits. An inter-Company relief was successfully carried out and completed by 7:00 p.m. Patrol of 1 Officer and 1 other rank investigated dugout discovered on the previous day, and secured identification from greatcoats left in it. Dugout through to have been unoccupied for three weeks. Considerable M.G. activity towards night. 4 other ranks reinforcements.

19th. Situation quiet. Patrol out by night, consisting of one Officer and 10 other ranks investigated enemy wire and sap on other side of brickstacks. Patrol was halted once by enemy sentry, laid low for ten minutes and then went on again until stopped by wire. They were again challenged and laid quiet and returned later, with considerable information. Casualties: one other ranks wounded.

20th. Situation quiet. Several hostile airplanes conducted a shoot on Fosse 14, and the Opera House in Cite St. Pierre. Our Trench Mortars were busy, and successfully carried out in the front line.

21st. Situation rather noisy. There was considerable registration by hostile trench mortars and artillery. This was through to be an organized shoot on our lines. Advance party from the 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion arrived. Inter-Company relief was successfully carried out in the front line.

22nd. In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. the Battalion was relieved in the front line on the night 22nd-23rd January by the 2nd Battalion. Relief completed by 10:30 p.m. Hostile raid was attempted at about 5:40 p.m. on No. 4 post near Mason's House sap, by a raiding party of approximately 35 Huns. A heavy barrage upon our front line and support trenches preceded this. Our artillery was effecting retaliation when the SOS went up in the right Company front. The "Protect Mason" call was immediately sent in. The enemy raiding party had just emerged from his wire and was forming up in extended order in N.b.8. when it was caught in our barrage of artillery, Lewis Gun, Rifle and Grenade fire, had to retire, leaving casualties before reaching our wire. The conduct of Cpl. Allen of "B" Company in the handling of his section was most exemplary. Casualties: 2 other ranks wounded.

23rd. Les Brebis: Battalion resting. The day was devoted to bathing and the evening the Battalion attended the cinema.

24th. In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B., the Battalion march to Bruay.

25th. Bruay: In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B., the Battalion left Bruay and moved to Raimbert. Billets were very good, clean and comfortable, and the balance of the day was devoted to cleaning up.

26th. Raimbert: Strength: 28 Officers, 582 Other Ranks. S.B.R's. were inspected and equipment rolled checked up. The C.O called together the Company and Section Commanders to B.H.Q. to discuss program of training he had outlined and sports programmed for the Battlaion during the time the Battalion was in the Corps. rest area.

27th. Church parade was held at 11:00 a.m. Major General Lipsett, C.B., C.M.G., inspected the guard turned out and highly complimented the C.O of the efficiency of same.

28th. Bathing parades and training carried on. 10 other ranks reinforcements.

29th. Battalion used the ranges at Pernes throughout the day.

30th. Weather fair. Morning was spent in diligent training and in the afternoon, the sports program commenced. Reinforcements: 1 other rank.

31st. Battalion marched to Ferfay for demonstration by special Platoon. G.O.C. Brigade inspected the Transport.

February 1918

1st. Raimbert: Strength: 27 Officer, 610 Other ranks. Weather fine. Battalion used ranges at Ferfay.

2nd. Weather fine. Battalion spent a profitable day of training, Battalion paraded at 5:00 p.m. and marched to YMCA Cinema at Auchel to attend a concert by 3rd Divisional Concert party. Gas helmets drill was practiced on the march.

3rd. Church service was held at 11:00 a.m. Preliminary competitions in baseball and tug of war were held in the afternoon.

4th. The Battalion paraded to Ferfay for baths. Specialist training carried on in the afternoon. 228126 Cpl. Allen, J.E. was awarded the M.M.

5th. Companies and H>Q. details paraded to the ranges at Pernes, used same all day. Lieut. Col. Sharpe struck off strength on proceeding to England on Senior Officer's course, Aldershott. Major Allen proceeded on tour of British base. Library and reading for Battalion civilians training scheme was initially opened at No. 3 Calotte. Lieut. Wylie, Tennant and Brown were taken on strength from C.C.R.C.

6th. Weather fine. Battalion carried on training all day. 745105 Pte. Kennedy, G.A. was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

7th. Weather rainy: Battalion paraded for inspection by Brig. F.W. Hill inspection carried out in detail, and completed by 12:00 noon. Battalion paraded to Auchel to attend concert. Major G.R. Pearkes, V.C., M.C., taken on the strength effective 30-11-17 on transfer from 5th C.M.R's.

8th. Weather rainy: Companies paraded to practice trenches for Company and Platoon in attack, near slag heap.

9th. Strength: 32 Officers and 625 other ranks. Weather fine. Morning spent in Company training the afternoon being devoted to sport. In the evening at 7:00 p.m. the Sergeants held a very successful anniversary dinner, and passed an enjoyable evening.

- 10th**. Weather fine. Battalion paraded for church service at 10:00 p.m.
- 11th**. Weather cloudy: Anniversary of the Battalion's arrival in France. The Officers held their anniversary dinner in the schoolhouse at 8:00 p.m. a very pleasant evening being spent, 62 including guests, sitting down to dinner.
- 12th**. Cloudy and misty. The Battalion paraded at 8:00 a.m. afterwards marching to Pernes, where the rangers were used. Lieut. R.W. Biggar, Lieut. Smith, and Lieut. Mahon were taken on strength from C.C.R.C.
- 13th**. Weather misty. Tactical scheme of attack took place in trenches near slag heap. Brigade General Hill, C.M.G., D.S.O., afterwards expressing his approval and criticism to the Battalion.
- 14th**. Weather fine. The Battalion paraded at 8:00 a.m. afterwards marching to Auchel where Capt. Cameron of the 3rd Divisional YMCA gave a lecture on economy. Battalion paraded again at 1:30 p.m. in battle order, marching to Canadian Cops School at Pernes attending a Cinema show at the school theatre, but between pictures, the Battalion Glee Club competition was staged. "B" Company won the cup donated by Lieut. Col. Woods, D.S.C., for the best company Glee Club. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all ranks, the Battalion arriving back to billets at 10:00 p.m.
- 15th**. Weather fine. Battalion paraded at 10:00 a.m. the morning being spent in Company training.
- 16th**. Weather fine. The Battalion paraded at 9:00 a.m. then dismissed to prepare for move to forward area. Finals of the sports program were held in the afternoon.
- 17th**. Battalion paraded at 10:45 a.m. attending church service. Lieut. Vickery taken on strength from C.C.R.C.
- 18th**. Weather fine. Battalion paraded at 9:00 a.m. And in accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. moved off at 9:20 a.m. for Houdain. Brig. General Hill reviewed Battalion while on route at Calonne Recourt, and by General Lipsett C.B., C.M.G., when moving near Houdain.
- 19th**. Houdain. Weather Fine. Battalion spent the morning resting in Houdain. Paraded at 12:50 p.m. and in accordance with orders with 9th C.I.B., moved off at 1:00 p.m., to Villers-au-Bois arriving at Reben Camp at 5:10 p.m.
- 20th**. Villers-au-Bois. Strength: 36 Officers, 661 other ranks. Weather wet. Battalion spent the morning in billets at Villers. In accordance with 9th C.I.B. orders Battalion paraded at 1:30 p.m. detraining at Villers at 3:00 p.m. Field kitchens provided a hot meal here. Battalion moved off at 4:30 p.m. to relieve the 28th Canadian Battalion in the support area. Avion Section. Limbers accompanied companies with L.G's. and rations to respective Company Headquarters. A very successful relief was made there being no shelling. Relief was completed at 8:45 p.m. Location of B. H.Q. (36b.S.w.3. S.6. central).
- 21st**. Support Line: Weather rainy. Conditions exceptionally quiet. Working parties of 4 Officers and 250 other ranks supplied.
- 22nd**. Weather cloudy: Situation very quiet. Billets in dugouts gun replacements, etc. very comfortable. Working parties were supplied as yesterday. 8 other ranks taken on strength from C.C.R.C.
- 23rd**. Weather cloudy. Very little shell forces on area. The usual working parties were supplied. 100 other ranks taken on strength from C.C.R.C. Casualties: Lt. C.R. Hills, seriously wounded at 1:00 p.m.

24th. Weather cloudy: Situation quiet. Usual working parties supplied. Draft of 100 Other ranks reported from T Lines at 7:00 p.m. and were assigned to Companies.

25th. Strength: 34 Officers, 731 other ranks. Weather cloudy with light drizzling rain. Situation very quiet. The Usual working parties were supplied. Casualties: 1 other ranks wounded by the accidental discharge of a revolver.

26th. Weather fine. Situation very quiet. The usual working parties were supplied.

27th. Weather fine. Situation very quiet. In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. the Battalion relieved the 58th Battalion in the left Avion sub sector, front line, "A" "B" and "C" Companies front line with "C" Company in support. Battalion frontage approximately 1700 yards. From Souches on the left N.33.c.10.80. on the right. Battlaion H.Q. in Courotte brewery. A very successful relief completed. Frontage covered during the night by three patrols, each of 1 Officers and 10 other ranks. No enemy encountered, and nothing unusual seen or heard.

28th. Weather fine. Light fall of snow in the afternoon. Situation quiet. Enemy artillery showed slightly more activity on front line trenches. "A" "B" and "D" Companies each supplied offensive patrol of one Officer and 10 other ranks, which covered Battalion frontage during the night.

March 1918

1st. In the line: strength: 33 Officers and 738 other ranks. Situation quiet. Battalion frontage covered during the night by three offensive patrols. Lieut. Biggar killed in action, 3 other ranks wounded.

2nd. Situation comparatively quiet: 3 offensive patrols were out during the night. Casualties: 1 other ranks wounded.

3rd. Situation quiet. Patrols out as usual. 2 officers and 60 other ranks were engaged erecting wire on Battalion front. Casualties: 1 other rank wounded.

4th. Hostile light shoots placed on our front line. Avion village and Saskatoon Trench, at 5:50 a.m., lasting until 7:20 a.m. Usual patrols out. An inter-Company relief took place. "C" Company relieving "B" Company in the front line. Casualties: 2 other ranks killed, 1 other rank wounded.

5th. Situation quiet. Usual patrols out but had nothing special to report.

6th. In the early morning the enemy opened up on the Battalion on our right with a light barrage on front line followed by heavy gas projectors. 43rd Canadian Battalion suffered heavy casualties but having warning we suffered only two casualties. In accordance with orders received from the 9th Canadian Infantry Battalion, the 42nd Canadian Battalion relieved the Battalion. Relief completed at 10:40 p.m. the Battalion then marching to Hills Camp, Neuville where field kitchens provided a hot mean. 100 other ranks taken on strength from C.C.R.C.

7th. Hills Camp. Day spent in cleaning up, scrubbing equipment and resting.

8th. Re-organization of Platoons was carried out to absorb the reinforcements. Working parties of 3 officers and 350 other ranks were detailed from working the forward area.

9th. The morning was spent in resting up. In the afternoon sports were carried on. Working parties provided for work in the forward area, remainder of Battalion attended cinema show at the YMCA. Lieut. McCorkill reported from C.C.R.C.

10th. Battalion paraded for divine service at 10:00 a.m. working parties supplied for work in forward area.

11th. Companies held muster parade, and kit inspection. Usual working parties supplied. Remainder of Battalion attended 3rd Divisional concert party at YMCA Hut. Capt. Baird, M.C. received his captaincy on this date.

12th. Usual working parties provided. Lieut. J.R. Leslie had taken on strength from C.C.R.C. A revised system of canteen profits as made effective from this date, whereby each Company and Section received messing allowance of one-half franc per man a week, which was considered to be a more satisfactory arrangements than the former allowance of 75 francs per Company each week.

13th. In accordance with orders received from the 9th Canadian Infantry Battalion, the Battalion paraded at 9:40 a.m. and marched to billets in Suburban Camp, Villers-au-Bois area. Arriving at 12:30 and taking over billets vacated by the 52nd Canadian Battalion. The inter-Battalion relief was made so that we should have an opportunity for training and re-organization. Working parties detailed forward area. Lieut. Vickery and two other ranks gassed.

14th. Suburban Camp: Programs of recreational sports drawn up. The Battalion team played a football match with the 43rd Battalion. It was a close game, resulting in a draw. Vimy Ridge University classes were held in the afternoon.

15th. Morning spent in Training and the afternoon devoted to sports. Battalion attended concert in the evening at the YMCA Hut.

16th. The morning was devoted to training and baths. Sports programs continued in the afternoon. Battalion attended a cinema show at the YMCA in the evening. Pte. Barker was awarded the M.M. Captain Briggs, M.O, accompanied by Captain. Hind. Proceed to Aubigny with the mess cart to purchase fowl and other delicacies for a 17th of March dinner. Difficulty was experienced in locating fowl. Capt. Briggs approached a Tommy in Aubigny and requested information as to where he could find chicken. The Tommy, with a wise look of understanding and a grin, requested further information as to the kind of chicken he wanted. On being positively assured by the M.O. that it was the feathered kind he was looking for, he was directed to a shop.

17th. Battalion paraded for divine service at 9:30 a.m. Sports program was continued in the afternoon. Battalion Officers held a 17th of March dinner at 8:00 p.m.

18th. Battalion paraded for a demonstration by special Platoon, C.C.R.C., in new Platoon formation. The afternoon was devoted to sports, H.Q. Company. Defeating "C" Company in the football finals, this winning the prize of a barrel of beer, presented by the C.O. Lieut. F.W. Ott, received this promotion to a Captaincy.

19th. Strength: 38 Officers, 804 Other ranks. Weather wet. Battalion paraded at 9:00 a.m. proceeding to Marqueffles Farm. To witness demonstration by the 7th Battalion Tank Company, returning to camp at 5:00 p.m. Lieut. C.F. Brandon and 15 other ranks taken on strength from C.C.R.C.

20th. Battalion spent time morning in cleaning up and preparing for move forward. Advance parties from H.Q. and Companies proceeded forward to take over from the 2nd C.M.R's. Battalion paraded at 3:00 p.m. afterwards marching to entraining point on light railway at Ordnance Siding, Villers-au-Bois. Detrained at Zivi Siding, where kitchens served a hot meal. In accordance with orders from the 9th Battalion, the Battalion relieved the 2nd C.M.R's Battalion in the support line, relief being completed at 10:05

p.m. Battalion H.Q. in Zoreach Major Sutherland, 2nd in Command, remained at T Line to organize and train N.C.O. and Lewis Gun Classes, each Company detailing men for these courses.

21st. Support Line: Situation quiet. Battalion supplied working parties for work in forward area.

22nd. Instructions were received from 9th Brigade that more frontages was to be taken over by the Canadian Corps, and in accordance there with, "B" Company was relieved in the Bois la Chaudierre by a Company of the 43rd Battalion, and took over new billets from "B" Company. 43rd Canadian Battalion in Culvert, T.20.c. "D" Company relieved another Company of the 43rd Battalion in Canada Trench. Battalion Headquarters moved to quarters in the Railway Embankment, T.20.c. Relief completed by 9:30 p.m.

Intelligence reports received from Brigade during the day advice of German Offensive to the South, which accounted for the Division taking over more frontages.

23rd. Situation quiet. Working parties of 6 Officers and 400 other ranks were out during the night.

24th. Situation quiet. All ranks greatly interested in intelligence reports of enemy Offensive to the South. Battalion supplied working parties for work in forward area. Lt. Arnott, and 20 other ranks reported from C.C.R.C.

25th. Our front line strafed heavily by enemy trench mortars. Working parties supplied for work in the forward area.

26th. Situation quiet. On information received from prisoners captured by 52nd Battalion and the 15th Corps on our right, Issued orders by Brigade at 5:00 a.m. Situation being considered so serious as to warrant every possible precaution and alertness. Heavy fighting still continues to the South of Arras.

27th. Situation quiet. Some shelling on our front. Heavy artillery bombardment on the Brigade to our right. Preparations were made during the day for a move forward. Relieved the 52nd Battalion in the front line, relief completed at 10:00 p.m. Four Companies in the front line. From reports received, an enemy attack was expected in the morning, and all necessary arrangements were made to give him a warm reception. The moral and health of all troops are excellent.

28th. Front Line: Very heavy bombardment opened on the frontage of the 8th C.I.B. and 13th Imperial Corps on our right. At dawn the enemy attacked our front comparatively quiet. Reports received during the day advice that Boche offensive was a failure. Our Lewis Gunfire brought down a Boche new troop line on the left of our front. In accordance with instructions from the 9th C.I.B., H.Q., "D" Company moved into Beehive, it being expected that further attacks would be made from Opey and Arleux in an effort to capture Hudson locality, and force back our left flank. Offensive and standing patrols covered the frontage during the night, but had nothing special to report.

29th. Situation still comparatively quiet on our front, although enemy artillery was apparently registering our position. At 1:00 p.m. the 43rd Canadian Battalion on our immediate right reported enemy advancing in large numbers on their front. Warning orders was immediately sent out to all Companies to "stand to" in their dugouts and billets. At 2:55 p.m. the 43rd Battalion reported enemy massing in our old front line, and coming overland in-groups from Arleux. Artillery advised. 56th Imperial Division holding the line in front of Opey sent the following messages to Brigade. "Prisoners taken by left Brigade, report attack will be resumed tomorrow. At 5:10 p.m. German

bombing parties were seen in our old front line. During the day there was considerable artillery fire on our front, principally in the vicinity of the quarries. At 6:30 p.m. instructions were received to move Battalion Headquarters to the brickfields. Move completed at 3:15 a.m. Instructions received from the 9th C.I.B. to take over more frontages. Same was completed at 10:00 p.m. Battalion frontage now held from Vesta Tilley and Teddy Gerrard to Junction New Brunswick and Hudson Trenches.

30th. Situation comparatively quiet, light showers during the day. Reports front Brigade Headquarters the enemy is preparing for an attack on this front. "A" "B" and "C" Companies provided offensive patrols during the night.

31st. Strength: 40 Officers, 940 Other ranks. Situation comparatively quiet. Instructions received from 9th Brigade to re-occupy positions of the line evacuated on the 27th inst., Headquarters moving back to the Quarries and "D" Company moved forward taking over portions of the new front line. New disposition completed at 9:40 p.m. Lieut. Haygarth and 3 other ranks wounded. Three offensive patrols covered the frontage during the night, and verify previous information that the Boche was occupying our old front line in Totnes Trench.

April 1918

1st. Quarries: Situation fairly quiet with some shelling. Advice was received from 9th C.I.B., that Army and Corps required identification. The C.O. major G.R. Pearkes, V.C., M.C., immediately called a meeting of Company Commanders and it was decided to put on a raid at 11:00 p.m. Organization and preparations were immediately made, the raid was a complete success. Some particularly gallant work being done by "D" Company raiding party, under Capt. A. W. Baird, who with two scouts and two runners, in had to hand fighting killed five of the enemy and secured one wounded, and one unwounded prisoner. Prisoners were immediately sent on to Brigade. The following telegrams of congratulation were received from the G.O.'s. C. Division and Brigade (G.O.C. 3rd division) "Please convey my congratulations to Major Pearkes and Officers in command of the raiding party on the excellent results of same. (G.O.C. 9th Brigade) G.O.C. sends best congratulations to yourself and 116th. Casualties: 1 other rank killed, two Officers and eight other ranks wounded. Lieut. W.J. Preston appointed acting Captain.

2nd. Strength: 40 Officers, 945 other ranks. Situation fairly quiet, though there was considerable shelling on the vicinity of the Quarries. Two offensive patrols out during the night, but nothing to report. Lieut. R.W. Soper, killed in action, Lieut. J.A. Gibson wounded inaction, three other ranks wounded.

3rd. Preparations made for moving back to support area. Advance parties from 52nd reported during the day, relief being completed at 10:50 p.m. The Battalion moved to Acheville Left Support Area, with H.Q. in Grand Trunk Trench. Casualties: 2 other ranks killed, 4 other ranks wounded.

4th. Grand Trunk Trench: Situation quiet, weather cloudy and misty. All ranks enjoying the change from the strain and tension of the front line. Companies spent in resting.

5th. Instructions were received that the Brigade would be relieved on the night of the 5th/6th by the 8th Canadian Brigade. In accordance there with, the 1st C.M.R. Battalion, relief completed at 1:50 a.m. 6th inst, relived us. On completion of relief, the Battalion

marched back over Vimy Ridge to Hanson Camp, in the Neuville St Vaast Area.

Casualties: 5 other ranks wounded.

6th. Hanson Area: men crowded in billets. Morning spent in cleaning up. Working parties supplied for the forward area Major Sutherland at Advance B.H.Q. reported to 8th Brigade in Thelus Cave for tactical purposes. All working parties in at 4:30 a.m.

7th. Weather misty and intermittent drizzling rain. Day spent in kit inspection, and cleaning up. Cpt. James and 10 other ranks taken on strength on reporting from C.C.R.C.

8th. The day was spent in cleaning up, M.G. and Musketry classes carried on. Each Company supplied working parties for work in the forward area. Lieuts. McDonalds and Woodruff reported from C.C.R.C.

9th. Strength: 38 Officers, 963 other ranks. Lecture on the care of feet given to all officers and N.C.O's. by the M.O. at 11:00 a.m.

10th. Perpetration were made during the day for a move forward. Advance parties from H.Q. and Companies proceeded forward in the forward area. Casualties: one other ranks wounded.

11th. At 3:00 a.m. a wire was received from Brigade in the Cite St. Emilee Section on the night of the 11th and 12th. The 116th Canadian Infantry Battalion to relieved the 8th Sherwook Foresters in the support area in Cite St. Pierre. Battalion paraded with full kits, and marched to Territorial Siding where they entrained on the light railway, moving off at 6:00 p.m. Owing to the congestion of traffic on the light railway the Battalion did not commence detraining in Cite St Pierre until 4:45 a.m. the 18th inst. Relief was completed at 5:50 a.m. transport proceeded by road and spent the night in Les Brebis. 20 other ranks reported from the C.C.R.C. and were taken on the strength.

12th. Cite St. Pierre: Situation quiet. Billets mostly in cellars and quite comfortable. B.H.Q. located at M.11.d.95.50. Each Company detailed working parties for work on battle positions during the night.

13th. Some shelling of Battalion Area during the day. Brigade detailed Working parties for working during the night in the forward areas.

14th. Situation comparatively quiet. Usual working parties were detailed.

15th. Working parties were detailed as usual. French Civilians were evacuating their homes in Bully Grenay throughout the day. Advance parties from Companies and H.Q. reconnoitered the front line area.

16th. Situation quiet. Day spent by all ranks in preparations for inter-Battalion relief. The 52 Canadian Infantry Battalion relieved Battalion in the support area. Relief completed at 1:50 a.m. Battalion H.Q. located at N.7.b.65.15. the same spot where H.Q. Officers had their Christmas Dinner.

17th. Front Lone: At 4:30 a.m. Enemy laid down a heavy T.M. and artillery shoots on our front and support sectors. Intermittent shelling during the day. Sector badly in need of repairs, all Companies being detailed as working parties for wiring etc. Three Patrols covered the Battalion frontage during the night, but nothing unusual occurred.

Casualties: 2 other ranks killed, Lieut. Gallen and two other ranks wounded.

18th. Owing to increased activity of our artillery and T.M's. harassing the enemy's front and rear lines, the situation livened up considerable, he replying intermittently during the night and day with T.M. fire. Working parties during the night carried on fortifying positions. Three patrols covered the frontage during the night

19th. Situation fairly active. 4:20 a.m. a strong enemy raiding party approached our lines, but were covered and dispersed by our M.G., and rifle fire. Casualties: 1 other rank killed and 5 other ranks wounded.

20th. At 2:00 a.m. special Companies of the R.E's released 1300 drums of projector gas on enemy's line to our front. Reconnaissance patrols of "B" and "C" Companies covered the frontage during the night. "B" Company patrol entered the Trenches at Nobob Sap, but no enemy were encountered. Lieut. Seago and Lieut. Waterous were taken on strength from C.C.R.C.

21st. Situation fairly quiet. Preparations made in conjunction with the 8th C.I.B. for a stealth raid on Battalion frontage, "B" and "C" Companies each detailing a party of 1 Officer and 20 Other ranks to raid the enemy's trenches. "B" Company party encountered enemy in Hun's Alley Sap where a tough fight took place before the Germans were finally overcome. Several of them threw up their hands as if to surrender. L/Cpl. Hayward ran forward to secure these prisoners, but instead of surrendering they grappled with him and it was with the greatest difficulty that he succeeded in extracting himself from their grip, especially good work was done on this raid by C. S.M Jamieson, L/Cpl. Hayward and Pte. H.A. Shaw. Casualties: 5 other ranks wounded

22nd. Strength: 43 Officers, 961 Other ranks. At 2:45 a.m. the Germans released 2300 gas drums of phosgene on the frontage of the 9th C.I.B. but without inflicting casualties on Battalion holding the line.

23rd. Preparations were made during the day for relief by the 58th Canadian Battalion, the relief being completed at 11:10 p.m., the Battalion moving to Divisional Reserve in Bully Grenay, less one Company who came under the orders of the 7th C.I.B. and were billeted in Lievin.

24th. Bully Grenay. Billets in Grenay found to be very comfortable. Working parties detailed for work in the forward area.

25th. Special musketry and M.C.O's. classes were organized, and training commenced.

26th. Working parties detailed for work in forward area. Details carried on with range work and musketry classes.

27th. "B" Company paraded to Les Brebis Ranges "C" and "D" Companies proceeded to _____ Farm ranges.

28th. Divine service was held at 10:00 a.m. Col. Gault, D.S.O. of the P.P.C.L.I. addressed the officers of the Battalion in the cinema theatre at 5:30 p.m. afterwards being present for dinner at the Senior Officers' Mess.

29th. Day spent in cleaning up, preparatory to move. Move was cancelled and a short route march was taken. 2 Officers and 20 other ranks taken on the strength from C.C.R.C. advance party left for Petit Servins and Chateau De la Haie, to arrange billets for the Battalion.

30th. In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. the Battalion paraded at 6:00 p.m. and on relief being completed by the 13th Middlesex Regiment, moved to new billeting area, with H.Q. and one Company in Petit Servins, and two Companies in Chateau De la Haie. Brig Gen. Hill inspected the Battalion preparatory to moving Off. Lieut. Sheppard reported from C.C.R.C.

May 1918

1st. Petit Servins. Strength: 44 Officers, 925 Other ranks. Weather fair and cool. The C.O. lectured on economizing in Transport. Companies carried on independently with kit inspection.

2nd. Weather rainy: In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. the 116th Canadian Infantry Battalion marched to Monchy Breton, passing the starting point, Grand Servins, at 9:00 a.m. and arriving in Monchy Breton at 3:00 p.m.

3rd. Monchy Breton. Weather fine. Battalion parade was held and musketry riding class of all mounted Officers, and Cpt. D. Ritchie, is to be congratulated on his excellent showing. The Battalion baseball team played the American Engineers, the Battalion team winning by a score of 9-6. This was the first time that the Battalion had met the Americans in France, and the spirit of good fellowships displayed by both sides was wonderful.

4th. Battalion paraded at 9:00 a.m. and the balance of the morning was devoted to training.

5th. Weather rainy: Battalion paraded in battle order at 10:40 a.m. Moving off at 11:00 a.m. to Rainbert. The Battalion received a great welcome from the inhabitants as Rainbert is considered the home of the Battalion in France. Two Companies proceeded to billets in Auchel, as there was not sufficient accommodations in Rainbert.

6th. Weather rainy: Battalion paraded afterward training was carried on. In the evening a dinner was held in the H.Q. Officers mess in honour of Capt. A.F. Hind's birthday.

7th. Weather rainy: Companies carried on with training. Cpl. A.N. Hayward was awarded the M.M. for conspicuous bravery on the night of the 21st-22nd of April.

8th. Weather rainy: Battalion carried on with training. Company Commanders proceeded to the forward area on reconnaissance. Battalion paraded at night at YMCA and attended Concert.

9th. Weather fine. Battalion carried on training. The C.O. lectured to two Companies in open warfare, afterward carrying out open warfare scheme.

10th. Weather fine. Battalion carried on with training. Sports carried out in the afternoon, after which the Commanding Officers challenged Capt. Baird, O.C. "D" Company to a race. The distance was about half a mile. The C.O., easily winning by 100 yards.

11th. Battalion parade was held at 9:30 a.m. Battalion carried on with open warfare training. Scout section proceeded to ranges at Pernes, and made the best scores in the Brigade. Major G.R. Pearkes, V.C. M.C. was promoted to Lieut. Colonelcy.

12th. Weather fair. Battalion paraded at 10:30 a.m. for church parade. In the afternoon a field day was held, Headquarters Company scoring the highest number of points, thereby winning a barrel of beer donated by the C.O. "B" Company won the final football game, winning a barrel of beer donated by Major Sutherland. Lieut. Sharpe struck off strength on transfer to Air Force. 10 other rank reinforcements arrived.

13th. Weather rainy: Battalion paraded at 9:00 a.m. and marched to position allotted them in the Bridge scheme, which was carried out successfully, Battalion returned at 5:00 p.m. H.Q. details carried on range work in their absence.

14th. Weather fine. Battalion carried on training. Battalion paraded to YMCA hut in the evening and was entertained by the P.P.C.L.I., Concert Party.

15th. Strength: 43 Officers, 929 Other ranks. Battalion paraded at 9:30 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m. moved off for a 14-kilo route march. Box respirators were worn a portion of the

way. In the afternoon, the battalion baseball team played the 58th, the 116th winning by a score of 22 to 0.

16th. Weather fine. Battalion spent the day on the ranges, commencing at 7:00 a.m. The Battalion ball team defeated the 10th Field Ambulance, in the last inning, by the score of 5-4.

17th. Weather fine. Battalion paraded at 8:00 a.m. for Battalion scheme, returning to billets at 2:30 p.m.

18th. Weather fine. Battalion spent the day on the ranges. Battalion football team played the 43rd, game resulting in a draw.

19th. Weather fine. Battalion paraded for church parade, 9:30 a.m. Battalion baseball team played the 123rd Pioneer Battalion and lost in the last inning, by a score of 5-4.

20th. Weather fine. Battalion paraded at 10:00 a.m. to take part in Divisional scheme, returning to billets at 5:00 p.m.

21st. Weather fine. Companies paraded for baths, training carried out between bathing parades. Lewis Gunners were on the ranges in the afternoon to complete for a prize by Lieut. Close, L.G. Officer, to be donated to the best shot. Baseball game between the 116th and the 40th Battery resulted in a win for the 40th Battery, 16-0.

22nd. Weather fine. Battalion took part in Brigade scheme.

23rd. Weather fine. Battalion paraded and inspection, after which training was carried on. The afternoon was devoted to sports.

24th. Weather rainy: Companies carried on independently with training. The Afternoon was devoted to cleaning up preparatory to moving.

25th. Weather fine. In accordance with orders from 9th C.I.B. the Battalion moved from Rainbert to La Lacque arriving at 4.00 p.m.

26th. Weather fine. In accordance with orders from 9th Brigade the Battalion vacated billets in La Lacque and proceeded by march route to Enquin Les Mines, leaving at 10:00 a.m. and arriving at 2:15 p.m.

27th. Weather fine. Battalion paraded for inspection at 8:45 a.m. the remainder of the day was devoted in cleaning up. Capt. A.F. Hind appointed Adjutant of the Battalion. The Battalion Ball team played the American team at the aerodrome, The Battalion team winning by a score of 18-7.

28th. Strength: 43 Officers, 908 other ranks. Weather fine. Battalion paraded at 7:00 a.m. and moved to position west of Cusil, taking part in the Brigade scheme. News was received of the death of Lieut. Col. Sharpe, D.S.O. M.P. late commanding Officer of the Battalion.

29th. Weather fine. Companies carried on training independently. The Yankees from the aerodrome played a return game of baseball to the Battalion. The 116th winning by a score of 8-7.

30th. Weather fine. Battalion carried out tactical exercises in the morning. In the afternoon the Battalion ball team played the Canadian Fight Force, winning by a score of 11-9.

31st. Weather fine. In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. the Battalion moved by march route to the Busnes Area, leaving at 8:00 a.m. and arriving at 3:00 p.m. to Bivouac camp.

June 1918

- 1st.** Busnes Area. Weather fine. Companies carried on the Dumbell competition in the morning. Working parties supplied for work on the Aire Canal.
- 2nd.** In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. the 116th Battalion moved from Busnes Area to billets in Rely, leaving at 12:00 noon, and arriving at 4:00 p.m. Accommodation in Rely fair.
- 3rd.** Rely. Battalion carried on with Dumbell competition all day
- 4th.** Weather fair. Battalion carried on with Dumbell competition. (It may here be stated that this competition is for the best Platoon in the Battalion for which the members of the Platoon are entitled to wear a Dumbell on their Divisional Colours.)
- 5th.** Weather fine. Battalion carried on with Dumbell competition. 116th Battalion football team played the R.A.F. winning by a score of 2-0.
- 6th.** Weather fine, Battalion spent the day on the ranges. Dumbell competition was completed, No.1 Platoon of "A" Company under Lieut. Hanson, winning.
- 7th.** Weather fine. 3 Companies paraded for baths. Lewis Gunners on the ranges. Brass band returned from on Command with 3rd Divisional Wing, CCRC. Strength: 42 Officers, 938 other ranks.
- 8th.** Weather fine. Battalion practiced ceremonial parade.
- 9th.** Weather fine. Battalion paraded at 7:30 a.m. and marched to Lingham where the divisional Commander presented Medal Ribbons to Officers and men who had been awarded decorations. In the afternoon a memorial service was held to Lieut. Col. Sam Sharpe, D.S.O. late-Commanding Officer of the Battalion.
- 10th.** Weather rainy: Battalion took part in Divisional maneuvers, parading at 7:30 a.m. and moved to positions at Cuhem, returning to billets at 4:30 p.m.
- 11th.** Weather fine. Battalion carried on with training. In the Brigade football elimination, the 58th Battalion teamed defeated the 116th by a score of 8-0. The 58th Battalion indoor ball team played the 116th. Game was called in the third inning, owing to all bats being broken.
- 12th.** Weather fine. Battalion marched to Lingham and held a field day. The 43rd baseball team defeated the 116th team, by the score of 9-6. At 9:40 p.m. Battalion was called to man battle positions, returning to billets at 3:00 a.m.
- 13th.** Weather fine. Battalion carried on with training. About 8:30 p.m. the general alarm was blown by the order of the C.O. and Battalion was in position, on masse, ready to move off in 15 minutes. At 8:50 p.m. orders were issued for a night scheme, and scheme was carried out, Battalion returning to billets at 2:45 a.m.
- 14th.** Weather fine. Battalion paraded at 9:00 a.m. for distribution of prizes won in the Battalion sports. In the afternoon, a tank scheme was carried out infantry in co-operation with tanks. Strength: 41 Officers and 946 other ranks.
- 15th.** Weather fine. Battalion paraded at 11:45 a.m. and proceeded to Lingham where the champions are as followed: 116th-107 points, 58th- 67 points, 52nd- 62 points, 43rd-32 points, Brigade H.Q.- 9 points.
- 16th.** Weather rainy: Church parade was called off. The 116th battalion indoor baseball team defeated the 58th by a score of 10-1. The 116th lacrosse team won from the 43rd by default. The Commanding Officers proceeded on leave to U.K. 3rd Div, Concert party

(the Dumbbells) game a concert in Hanger 36, at the aerodrome ground for the 116th Battalion.

17th. Weather fine. The Battalion paraded at 8:30 a.m. for Divisional maneuvers returning to billets at 8:30 p.m.

18th. Weather fair. Battalion spent the day on the ranges. The 116th indoor baseball team defeated the 43rd Team at Linghem, score 17-7.

19th. Weather fine. The Battalion spent the day in training. 116th Lacrosse team lost to the 58th Battalion by the score of 16-0. Officers indoor ball team defeated the P.P.C.L.I. score 12-7.

20th. Weather fair with some showers. Battalion carried on with training at the ranges. The 116th indoor ball team won the Brigade Championship in the morning, defeating the 52nd Battalion by a score of 6-0. In the Divisional semi finals, the 116th lost to the 49th, score 6-3. The bow bells concert party entertained the Battalion in the evening.

21st. Weather showery and cool. Battalion took part in Brigade scheme. 116th baseball team played the P.P.C.L.I. and won by a score of 8-5.

22nd. Weather dull. Battalion carried on training by Companies. Officers indoor team won from the 5th C.M.R's. score 8-6.

23rd. Weather very cool. Battalion paraded at 11:30 a.m. to attend Divisional sports competition at Linghem. Sgt. Howarth, Cpl. Picotte and Cpl. Philip awarded the M.S.M

24th. Weather cool: The Battalion suffered heavily with the epidemic of influenza, which at this time was very prevalent, upwards of 275 cases, was reported in the Battalion.

25th. Weather showery: Lieut. Col. G.R. Pearkes V.C., M.C. returned from leave. Advance parties proceeded to new area to take over billets.

26th. Weather fine. Battalion vacated billets at Rely at 1:30 p.m. and marched to Aire where they entrained at 5:00 p.m. for points south, detraining at Aubigny and proceeding by march route to Lignereuil.

27th. Battalion arrived in billets at Lignereuil at 3:00 a.m. Transport arrived at 2:30 p.m. having parked for the night at _____. The afternoon was devoted to kit inspections, checking up, preparatory to moving it on the forward area.

28th. Weather fine and cool. Battalion carried on with specialist training. 116th Officers indoor team defeated the Corps Motor M.G. Team, but a score of 18-8.

29th. Weather fine and warm Battalion carried on with specialist training in the morning. The Afternoon was devoted to sports. Notification received that Lieut. Capt. W. J. Preston had been promoted Temp. Captain.

30th. Weather fine and warm. Church parade held at 11:00 a.m. Voluntary service was held in the evening by Lieut. M.S. Elliott.

July 1918

1st. Lignereuil: In accordance with orders received from 9th C.I.B. the 116th Battalion marched from Lignereuil to Wailly Woods, leaving Lignereuil at 9:00 a.m. arriving at Wailly Woods at 4:00 p.m. About 150 members of the Battalion attended the Corps Sports at Tincques. It was a fine day, and those who attended the sports enjoyed

themselves immensely. Capt. A.A. Pratt was promoted to Temp. Major, effective May 7th, 1918.

2nd. Wailly Woods: Weather very warm. The Battalion was allotted baths at Bradcourt. Balance of the day was devoted to Musketry and L.G. training.

3rd. Weather Cooler with North east winds: Three Companies carried out Brigade tactical scheme No.6 Balance of the Battalion carried on specialist training. Order was received from 9th Bde to man the purple line and telegraph Hill Switch at 8:30 p.m. The Battalion had cleared billets by 8:57 p.m. and returned to camp at 12:30 a.m.

4th. Weather fine. Battalion carried out specialist training. In the afternoon the runner section challenged the Officers indoor baseball team and game was played at 4:00 p.m. the Officers winning by a score of 6-5.

5th. Weather fine. 3 Companies carried out practice attack the remainder carried on with training. An advance party proceeded forward to front line left sector, Neuvillevitasse to take over Trench sector from the P.P.C.L.I. Strength: 40 Officers, 893 other ranks.

6th. Weather fine. Battalion prepared to take over front line from PPCLI. In accordance with orders received from 9th Bde, the 116th Canadian Battalion relieved the PPCLI in the front line leaving Wailly Woods Camp at 9:30 p.m. relief completed at 1:50 a.m.

7th. There is not sufficient accommodation on this front, and the Battalion spent the day in building shelters. Working parties sent out at night. 1 other rank killed in action.

8th. Weather fine. One daylight and three night patrols were sent out. Work on shelters continued. Working parties were supplied. Two other ranks wounded in action.

9th. Weather fine. Four night patrols were out all night. Working parties were supplied and patrols sent out.

10th. Weather fine. Working parties supplied and patrols sent out. Inter Company relief took place, and was completed at 12:15 a.m.

11th. Strength: 41 Officers, 918 other ranks. Weather rainy. Working parties supplied. Two day light and three night patrols were out from 11:00 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

13th. Working parties were supplied in the Battalion area. One large battle patrol of one Officer and 25 other ranks were out from 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Battle patrol encountered none of the enemy. Casualties: 3 other ranks wounded. Lieut. S.D. Woodruff killed in action.

14th. Weather fine. Working parties were supplied. One large battle patrol out all night, and at one time entered the German Trenches but no enemy encountered.

15th. Battalion spent the day cleaning up, ready for a move to Support Area. In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. the 116th Battalion was relieved by the 8th Battalion. Relief completed at 1:50 a.m. Battalion moved back to position I support area vacated by the 58th Battalion. 2 other ranks wounded.

16th. Weather fine and warm. Battalion supplied working parties for digging trenches.

17th. Battalion supplied training throughout the day.

18th. Weather fine. Working parties supplied as usual, 10 other ranks taken on strength for C.C.R.C.

19th. Weather fine. 15 other ranks taken on strength from C.C.R.C. Working parties as usual.

20th. Weather fine. The usual working parties out.

21st. The day was fine with the exception of a heavy thunderstorm at 3:30 p.m. Working parties for work in forward area were supplied.

22nd. Weather fine. At 12:30 a.m. a projector gas attack was put over by the special Company of the R.E's. There was very little artillery retaliation, except on our right. Working parties supplied as usual.

23rd. Rainy. M.C.O. classes carried on with specialist training. The Battalion was relieved by the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion and moved back to Dainville arriving in billets about 4:00 a.m. working parties were supplied by "D" Company.

24th. Battalion paraded for baths. Balance of day was spent in cleaning up. Weather fine.

25th. Weather showery: Battalion moved to "Y" Hutments near Etrun arriving about 11:30 a.m. The balance of the day was spent in cleaning up.

26th. Weather showery: The Battalion furnished working party to report at L.11.c.80.7c. The remainder of the Battalion spent the day in specialist training.

27th. Very Showery. Baths at Wagnonlieu were allotted to the Battalion. The balance of the day was devoted to the Company inspections.

28th. Weather warm: The Battalion furnished a working party of 14 Officers 28.N.CC's and 520 other ranks.

29th. Weather very warm: In accordance with orders received from the 9th C.I.B. the Battalion vacated its billets in "Y" Camp and moved to Warluzel, leaving at 10:00 a.m. and arriving at 4:00 p.m. Battalion march as the Divisional Commander, who complimented the C.O. on the fine appearance of the men and Transport.

31st. ____: Weather very warm. In accordance with orders from 9th C.I.B. the Battalion moved from Billets in Warluzel by bus to (place unknown) leaving at 6:30 and embossing at Sus-st-Leger

August 1918

1st. Aumont: The Battalion de-bussed on the road about 5:00 a.m. and marched to Aumont. The remainder of the day was spent in resting up. Weather fair.

2nd. Weather rainy. During the day the Battalion rested and at 8:00 p.m. fell in, moving off at 8:30 p.m. for Taisnil. The march took all night, and in many places the road was in poor condition and very muddy. A halt was called from 12:50 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. while a hot meal as served.

3rd. Weather fine. Taisnil: The Battalion under the command of Major Sutherland arrived at Taisnil about 6:00 a.m. The day was spent in resting up, the men being very tired after the hard march the night before. At 8:00 p.m. orders were received from Brigade to march to Hebecourt leaving Taisnil at 10:00 p.m. The early part of the march was crossing a muddy wagon track, but after crossing the railway track leading to Amiens, increasing evidence of an offensive was seen. From this point, until reaching Hebecourt a large number of tanks were passed, moving up the road.

4th. The whole day was spent in resting up, the Battalion falling in and moving off at 8:30 p.m. for Bois de Boves arriving there about 10:30 p.m. There was no accommodation whatever for the men, who made use of whatever shelter they could find. Bn. Headquarters was located in a farmhouse near the Chateau. Weather rainy.

5th. The Battalion fell in, and moved off for Bois De Gentelles at 11:30 p.m. On account of the heavy traffic on the road they did not reach their destination until 7:00 a.m. though the distance was not far. Weather rainy.

6th. The Battalion rested for the day in these woods. The final preparations were made before moving up to the assembled positions on this and the succeeding day. Weather fine (for a duck).

7th. The Battalion moved up to the assembly position near Hourges preparatory for an attack on the following day.

8th. In the line: the Battalion attacked in conjunction with troops on the right and left, zero hour being at 4:20 a.m. The attack was highly successful, the Unit bivouacking for the night at the final objective. Weather fine. Our casualties were 2 officers and 39 other ranks killed, 10 Officers and 148 other ranks wounded or missing.

9th. Hammon Wood: Weather fine and very warm. At noon orders were received from 9th C.I. Bde. To move forward along the Domart-Roye road, and bivouacked for the night in a field close to Beaucourt-en-Santerre.

10th. Le Quesnel: Weather fine and very warm. About 2:00 p.m. orders were received from 9th CIB to move forward and bivouac in Orchard in front of Le Quesnel. The Battalion formed up and moved off at 3:00 p.m. and arrived at destination about 4:30 p.m. During the night there was considerable bombing of the roads in the vicinity of Le Quesnel.

11th. About 6:00 p.m. on the 11th the Battalion proceeded forward to relieve a Unit of the 32nd British Division, then holding the line, and took over positions from the Royal Scots, Dorsets, and Manchester Regiments, three Companies being in the line and one Company in support. Relief was completed by 7:00 a.m. The situation was obscure due to the heavy fighting that 32nd Division had encountered.

12th. In the Line: In conjunction with the PPCLI on the left, six Platoons were rushed forward to capture Middle Wood and Square wood. They were successful, a number of M.G's. being captured and identification secured.

13th. At 4:15 a.m. a counter attack was delivered by the enemy from Parvillers and Damery, which forced our outposts to retire slightly. The remainder of the day was spent in reorganizing. "C" Company moved into close support, "A" and "B" Companies slightly advanced their line. During the evening our line was subjected to heavy shelling particularly with gas.

14th. During the night of the 14-15th, the 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. Commenced to work their way forward through Parvillers and in conjunction with these "B" "C" and "D" Companies worked their way forward and re-took middle wood.

15th. During the night strong Patrols were pushed forward as far as Parvillers Goyencourt Road, and entered Blavet Wood. The same night the Battalion was relieved by the 58th Canadian Battalion, moving back into support near Le Quesnel, relief was completed about 1:00 a.m.

16th. Support line: The Attack was resumed the following day, this battalion remaining in Support. The Battalion was relieved by the 10th Canadian Battalion about 8:30 p.m. and moved back to Beaucourt Wood. During the tour, our casualties amounted to 1 Officer and 13 other ranks killed, 3 Officers and 64 other ranks wounded and 9 other ranks missing. There had been much heavy fighting, and many hand to hand encounters. Six M.G's. and 20 prisoners were captured by us. Weather fine.

17th. Beaucourt Wood: The day was spent in resting up and reinforcements of 5 Officers and 100 other ranks joined the Battalion. Weather fine.

18th. Beaucourt Wood: Weather fine. Divine service was held in the morning and in the afternoon the Commanding officer inspected the draft which had just arrived, and posted them to Companies.

19th. The day was spent in resting up, orders were received about 6:30 p.m. to move off at 7:20 p.m. preparatory to embossing at Maison Blanche on the Domart Roye road, for a destination unknown. The hour of moving off was afterwards changed to 8:20 p.m. and the embossing was completed by 11:00 p.m.

20th. Bouque Maison. The Battalion arrived at Bouque Maison about 6:45 a.m. and were billeted in town, headquarters being located in the schoolhouse. The Battalion rested all day, the men being very tired after the all night journey.

21st. Weather fine. The day was spent in cleaning up, so that training could be carried on the following day.

22nd. The day was spent in training, and in the afternoon orders were received to proceed by route march to Maizieres. The Battalion moved off about 10:30 p.m. arriving at 4:20 a.m.

23rd. Maizieres: The day spent in resting up. During the afternoon orders were received to proceed by route march to Harbarcq the Battalion moved off about 8:30 p.m. and arriving in Harbarcq shortly after midnight. Weather fine.

24th. Harbarcq: Strength 31 Officers, 904 other ranks. The day was spent in resting.

25th. Orders were received at 10.00 a.m. to move off at 10.20 a.m. to "Y" Hutments. The Battalion marched in full marching order and arrived in "Y" Huts about noon, and as the R.C.R.s had not vacated their billets, the Unit rested in a large field along the Arras-St. Pol Road adjacent to this camp. During the afternoon, our own, as well as the R.C.R. Band, favored us with selections. About 7.00 P.M. the R.C.R.s vacated the camp, moving into the line, and the Battalion occupied the Hutments.

26th. "Y" Huts. At 1.30 a.m. orders were received to "stand to" from 3.00 a.m., ready to move forward at half an hour's notice, and at 9.10 a.m. word was received to move forward along the Arras-St. Pol road at a point on the east outskirts of Arras. The Bn. Arrived at this point at 11:30 a.m. At 7:00 p.m. Battalion moved into such shelter as was available, in the Orange Hill area, proceeding forward from this point at 12:20 midnight under the Command of Major Sutherland.

27th. IN THE LINE. Zero Hour was at 4.55 a.m., on the morning of the 27th, The objectives being Boiry- Notre Dame and Artillery Hill. "A" Company was to follow in support of the 52nd Battalion, "D" Company followed by "C" Company were to work along the sunken road between Bois Du Bert and Bois Du Bert. "D" Company, making direct for Artillery Hill and "C" Company to capture Boiry-Notre Dame. "B" Company was in reserve. Considerable opposition was encountered from machine guns, and further progress being impossible after the capture of these two woods it was found necessary to re-organize, the whole being under the command of Major Pratt, Major Sutherland having been killed by machine gun fire. It was found necessary to withdraw the line somewhat to complete re-organization, and despite the heavy machine gun fire as well as artillery fire, rations were brought up during the night, and distributed to the several platoons.

28th. The attack was resumed at 11.00 a.m. by the whole Division, this Battalion following in support of the 4th C.M.R.'s, with Artillery Hill as objective. The objective was taken, and positions consolidated. At 9.30 p.m., orders were received that Division

was to be relieved by the 4th British Division, relief of the 116th Battalion being completed by a Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment at 3.10 a.m.. The Battalion then moved back to billets in Feuchy. Our casualties for the tour were 3 officers, 42 other ranks killed, 7 officers and 220 other ranks wounded, 23 other ranks missing.

29th. Feuchy- Battalion rested during the day, and about 6.00 p.m. moved off, arriving in "Y" Huts at 10.00 p.m.

30th and 31st. "Y" Huts. The time was spent in cleaning up, and re-organizing. Weather fine.

September 1918.

1st. "Y" Huts. Weather fine. Church parade in the morning, and Battalion rested during the afternoon.

2nd. Weather cloudy. Battalion inspected at 11.00 a.m. In the afternoon, on verbal orders, the battalion moved up to the Feuchy Chapel Area, bivouacking in the field for the night.

3rd. Feuchy Chapel Area. Weather cold and raw in the early morning. The Battalion moved to the Vis-En- Artois area, on verbal instructions, moving off about 5.30 p.m., and arriving in position in front of Vis-En-Artois at 10.00 p.m. . The Battalion Bivouacked in line of trenches, with H.Q. at 0.29.o.60.50. During the night the area was heavily bombed, four other ranks were wounded.

4th. Weather fine. The morning was spent in fitting the men out for the line. Extra water bottles were issued to the Battalion. Orders were received to move forward at 8.00 p.m., and take over the front line from units of the 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade. The Bn. Moved off in fine spirits, both bands playing them out. Relieved 44th Battalion, and one Company of the 46th Battalion. In the outpost line at Ecourt St Quentin. Patrols were immediately pushed out to the Sensee River, and patrols got in touch with the enemy along the Canal Du Nord. The civilians had evacuated the town only that morning. The Black Watch was on our left, "A" and "B" Companies in front line and "C" and "D" Companies in support.

5th. Ecourt St. Quentin: 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade relieved the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade on our left. Patrol pushed put to all brigade heads, which were held by the enemy. Some of the brigade leaders ___orr fall into the canal and received a shower of cylindrical sticks. "A" Company patrol had a stiff fight with the enemy post at Palleul Bridge head.

6th. The Commanding Officer and Brigade Major put on a nearly morning patrol around Serpentine Lake and located an enemy post. During the day we located practically every enemy post, and that night shot them all up with stokes, artillery and rifle grenades. According to the Officers then enemy thought it was an air raid, because he turned on his searchlight.

7th. Day spent in shooting up targets. Artillery fired on a long house which was troubling us, one hit was observed, out of 60 rounds fired. Enemy planes bombed our forward area throughout the night.

8th. The Commanding Officers, Adjutant and a black watch officer patrolled the marches to Hamel, where they ran into a lot of sniping. Throughout the day the artillery tried to hit the long house. This house had now become famous. Lieut. Dunlop, while patrolling towards Hamel was forced under bridge and discovered a charge laid there. We wired for

Engineers Officer to come and cut the charge. Lieut. Boyd, of the 5th Division Trench Mortars got a 6 inch Newton into action in No Man's Land, and got off 40 rounds before being forced to return. During the night, our heavies fired on the Long House.

9th. Long House is still standing, with no apparent ill effects of nights' shelling. Our artillery turned on enemy transport movement in read. Evening-very windy and rainy. Two Engineer Officers claimed that no patrol experienced and ten sappers, reported to our charges under Hamel Bridge, and to reconnoiter some bridges which happened to be behind the enemy front line. This latter operation was called off.

10th. Lieut. Dickenson was one of the Engineers and with Lieut. Bonner, went out to cur charges in bridge but were unable to on account of heavy enemy machine gun fire.

Advance parties of 2nd C.M.R's. reconnoiters our line. Promotions of Capt. Hind to Temp. Major, and Lieut. Broad, Willson and Morgan to Captain, appeared in orders.

11th. A very quiet day. Were relieved by the 2nd C.M.R's. relief completed by 12:05 a.m. then moved out to bivouacs near Guemappe.

12th. Guemappe Area: day spent in cleaning up and resting. In the afternoon, Major General Lipsett, G.O.C. Division came and broke the news to the Battalion that he was leaving the Division. Strength: 31 Officers, 855 other ranks.

13th. The day was spent in bathing and kit inspection.

14th. The Battalion supplied working parities of 14 other ranks for work in the Vid-En-Artols area. The enemy was very active against our balloons.

15th. **Divine** Service was held in the morning, as on the previous day, the enemy was very active against our observation balloons, and bombing at night.

16th. Useful training was carried on during the day. During the night slight shelling of the area. Particularly near the Transport Lines.

17th. During the day training was carried on between showers. Some shelling of the are about 5:00 p.m. Lieut. Col. Pearkes, V.C., M.C., O.C. unit, Capt. F.W. Ott, Adjutant Capt. T.H. Broad, Lieut. J.A. Proctor, were casualties, Capt. Ott and Capt. Broad being killed in action. 2 other ranks were killed, and 15 other ranks wounded.

18th. At 9:00 a.m. Capt. Ott and Capt. Broad and two other ranks were buried near Monchy-Le-Preux. Weather fine. Battalion moved by route march to Arras, leaving Quemappe Area at 3:30 p.m. and being billeted in barracks in Arras.

19th. The morning was spent in cleaning up, and at 2:00 p.m. The Battalion moved off to billets in "Y" huts, Major A.W. Pratt being in command.

20th. "Y" Huts. Weather rainy. Battalion parade in the morning. Military Medals and Croix du Guerres were presented to recipients who had won them in the operations in the South Training was carried on during the day. Lieut. Col. Pearkes reported as out of danger.

21st. Weather rainy. Battalion threw live bombs at the bombing pit. Battalion parade was also hid during the day.

22nd. Weather fine. Battalion carried on at the ranges all day. One blanket per man was issued during the day, 30 Casualties returned from hospital.

23rd. Battalion carried on with bathing parade to _____ Barracks, Arras. Weather showery. Warning orders received to proceed to Lattere St Quentin Area on the 24th. Operation order received at 6: 00 p.m.

24th. Weather fine. In accordance with C.O. the Battalion march to new area. With H.Q. and "D" Company at Montnotescourt, and "A" "B" and "C" Companies at Gouves. The Battalion moved off at 9:30 a.m. and arrived at 11:00 a.m.

25th. Montnotescourt: Weather rainy. A Company inspection was held in the morning, and useful training carried out. Received operation order at 4:00 p.m. to move to Caghourt-Heidicourt Area on the 26th dismounted personnel to proceed by train mounted personal by route march.

26th. Weather fine. The Battalion marched from present billets to the entraining point at Vancuentin, arriving there at 4:00 p.m. Trained moved off at 5:00 p.m. reaching detraining point at Queant, at 1:30 a.m. 27th inst.

27th. _____: After detraining, the Battalion marched to billets at approximately V.11.c. in a heavy rainstorm. No sleeping accommodations were available. At 11:20 a.m. message was received from Brigade on move forward. Rear details were left behind in the Gagnicourt-Hendicourt Area.

28th. E.9.c. Read details moved up ____ of the Canal. Four Officers and 12 other ranks reported. All other ranks were casualties returning from recent shows. Read detail bivouacked for the night in the open. Rations were delivered to the Battalion in the line at F.2.d.

29th. Weather fine. In accordance with Brigade operations order, the Battalion moved up, following closely behind the 7th Brigade, through Bourlon and assembled in the Railway Embankment in F.2.1 at 6:30 p.m. Orders were received that the 58th Battalion would attack the Marcoing Line in front of St. Olle, and that the 116th Battalion passing through would attack and capture St. Olle. Zero hour 7:00 p.m. At Zero hour the Battalion moved off from the railway embankment and made their way over in artillery formation to F.11.a. The 58th Battalion was found to be established in the Marcoing Line. And we moved through them "A", "B", "C" Companies making up positioning the sunken road running through F.5.d. and F.11.b. "D" Company took up their positions in F.12.a. and A.7.b. Sending patrols from here to go in touch with the enemy. The village seemed to be very strongly held by machine guns. No reconnaissance of ground having been made, we decided that our attack on the village would be delayed while the following morning. Weather fine. Zero hour 6:00 a.m. "B" and "A" Companies attacked and were caught under heavy Machine gun fire, coming from the enemy trenches in front of St Olle and Petit Fontain. These two Companies were practically wiped out. News to this effect being brought by Lieut. Smith to Battalion H.Q. Established at F.11.b.90.90.

Artillery fire was then brought to bear on these positions, and superiority of fire gained by our Lewis Guns situated along the road at F.11.b. As soon as this was accomplished, two Platoons of "C" and "D" Companies were dispatched to make a flanking movement to the northwest of the village, the remainder of "C" Company being sent over to help out the 58th Battalion who were having heavy fighting in the Marcoing Line near its junction with the Bapaune-Guibrai Road. Lieut. Bonner, who was in charge of the flanking operations northwest of St Olle, succeeded in entering the trench, and by great leadership, overcame all resistance, capturing the entire system. About 100 prisoners and 15 machine guns were captured. The rest of the day was spent in organizing our new positions. "D" Company holding posts around Petit Fontain, two Platoons of "C" Company in St Olle, Two Platoons of "C" Company on the right of the 58th, and the remnants of "B" and "A" Companies back at headquarters. Our casualties

for the day were about 260 killed and wounded. Capt. Preston was taken prisoner, Capt. Williams, Lieut. Robson and Lieut. Brandon, wounded. Lieut. Norton killed, and Lieut. Palmer, missing, believed prisoner. Sill holding positions in and about St Olle.

October 1918

1st. In the Line: The attacking returned in the morning. During the night, the battalion was relieved in the front line by the 24th battalion, 2nd Canadian division moving back to sunken road.

2nd. During the day the battalion moved back in small practice on sunken road in M.10.b.

3rd. F.10.b. The day was spent in resting up. Most of the rear details with the exception of the Transport and personnel joined the Battalion. It was impossible to bring the transport forward as the grounds was under direct observation from two towers in Cambrai and any lorries or horse transport moving on the road were promptly shelled.

4th-7th. Weather fine. Little training could be carried on because of the observation of the enemy. At night there was considerable bombing in the vicinity of the ___ line.

Though more bombs . . .

8th. The Battalion moved back into the outskirts of Bourlon Wood with H.Q. at E.12.d.85.85. The day was spent in cleaning up arms and equipment.

9th. Weather fine. Men in good spirits. Inspection of Companies and musketry training was carried out under supervision of Major Hind. Orders were received that the Battalion would move by route march to Queant, occupying shelters in the Drocourt-Queant Line, in advance of the town. Preparations were made accordingly.

10th. D.7.a.8.3. Weather fine and warm. Battalion moved off at 11:30 a.m. and marched to Queant, arriving at 3:00 p.m. B.H.Q. located at D.7.a.8.3. G.O.C 3rd Division inspected the men as they marched past and the battalion Commander was complimented on the turnout and cleanliness of his unit.

11th-12th. Training carried on, particular attention being paid to the organization of Lewis Gun crews and training of Lewis Gun fire.

13th. Divine Service was held in the field adjacent to the billets.

14th. Syllabus of training carried on. The band gave a concert in the afternoon for the men.

15th. Specialist training carried out during the day. In the evening the battalion attended a concert given by the Dumbells in the YMCA tent, which was greatly appreciated. Major. D. Carmicheal. D.S.O., M.O., returned from hospital and reassumed command of unit.

16th. During the day H.R.H. the Prince of Wales paid an informal visit to the area, accompanied by the Corps Commander in the afternoon. The Officers of the Battalion, together with the Composite Company of 100 other ranks attended the funeral of the late major General Lipsett, killed in action, who had for so long commanded the 3rd Canadian Division and who had only recently been transferred to the Imperial Forces. His loss was greatly felt by all ranks of the battalion as he had been very popular.

17th. Brigade inspected by the Corps Commander, who expressed himself as very pleased, and spoke a few words about the Military situation in general.

18th. Firing on the ranges was carried out during the day.

19th. Little training could be carried out on account of rain.

- 20th**. Weather wet. On this account the church parade was cancelled. Orders were received that the battalion would proceed by bus to the forward area. In the afternoon a concert was given by the 16th battalion concert party, which was thoroughly enjoyed.
- 21st**. Battalion marched from Queant to the embossing point near Buissy, leaving at 7:30 a.m. Weather rainy. Embossed at 10:20 a.m. moving off about 7:00 a.m. Battalion arrived at 2:30 p.m. the transport about 7:00 p.m. The civilians' gave the Battalion a warm reception. The unit remained there for the night. Received orders that they would proceed forward and be the supporting Battalion for the 32nd Battalion in the front line. Conference of the Battalion Commanders held at Brigade H.Q. to arrange details.
- 22nd**. At 7:15 a.m. the Battalion moved off by Companies Transport and H.Q. stores remaining behind and proceeded by march route to the support area. B.H.Q. was established at Gense a Papins V.21.a.9.9. Sheet 44, arriving at 10:00 a.m. Weather wet. In the afternoon the Battalion moved again to Raisnes, following up the 52nd Battalion who had advanced without any opposition. B.H.Q. established at V.17.a.9.8. Received orders to continue following up the 52nd Battalion.
- 23rd**. Raisnes. The Battalion moved by route march by Companies, to the close support area with intentions to continue to follow the 52nd Battalion. Orders were received, however, that the Battalion would remain in billets in this area. B.H.Q. established at W.2.a.3.2. Two Companies established themselves along road from W.7.c.5.6 to W.7.b.9.4. One Company along road in house from W.2.c.6.2. to W.2.c.4.9. The remaining Company along road with H.Q. Later in the Day B.H.Q. was established at 7.2.c.6.2. Rear details joined the Battalion at Raisnes, remaining there, when the Battalion moved forward.
- 24th**. W.2.c.6.8. Weather fine, Company Commanders and Company Officers went forward to reconnoiter the line held by the 52nd Battalion. Received verbal orders, later confirmed, that the Battalion would carry on training in this area, as the 52nd Battalion had ceased to advance.
- 25th**. Weather fine. Scouting, training and musketry carried on with range work for Lewis Guns. Orders received that the 11th Battalion would relieve the 52nd Battalion in the right front line on the night of the 26th-27th. Relief completed by 7:45 p.m. a Patrol of 3 Officers and 4 other ranks were supplied to act as a covering party for engineers working on bridges across the canal on our frontage.
- 27th-29th**. Weather bright. Nothing unusual to report. Very light shelling from Hostile barrettes. Occasional bursts of M.G. fire/
- 30th**. Battalion relived in the line by 1st and 4th C.I.R. Battalion Relief completed by 7:00 a.m. Rear details vacated billets in Raisnes at 2:30 p.m. and proceeded by march route to Arenberg and joined battalion.
- 31st**. Day spent in resting and cleaning up arms and equipment. No training carried out.

November 1918

- 1st**. Arenberg: A Battalion parade and inspection by the commanding Officer was held to check over uniforms of all ranks and regards dress and equipment.

2nd-3rd. Usual program of training was carried on, including smartening drill, rifle manual, and Platoon scheme.

4th. Training was dispensed with on account of wet weather.

5th. Rifle practices were carried on by the Battalion at the ranges. At 10:00 p.m. orders were received that the Battalion would move from the Arenberg to the Denain Anzin Area on the 6th.

6th. The Battalion moved from Arenberg to Denain Anzin Area at 10:00 a.m. arriving in the area approximately 12:30 p.m. Battalion took over the area vacated by the PPCLI's patrols from each Company reconnoiter the bridges and approaches across the canal from points between W.17.c to _____ at W.6.d. (Sheet 44).

7th. Danain: Orders were received that the Battalion would move to the Onnaing Area, and remain in Divisional Reserve. The Battalion moved off from Anzin at 12:25 p.m. by march route through Bruay, W.17.centrol, _____, arriving at Onnaing at 3:00 p.m. taken over billets vacated by the 42nd Battalion.

8th. Weather very wet. AS working party of 2 Officers and 150 other ranks was supplied for filling in holes in the road caused by mines. A party of one Officer and 50 other ranks was also supplied for burying horses in the neighborhood.

9th. In accordance with orders received from the 9th Brigade, the Battalion moved from Onnaing at 9:45 a.m. to Quievrain arriving there about noon. At about 2:30 p.m. orders were received that the Battalion would be again to moving, Battalion moving at 4:00 p.m. and arriving at new billets at 6:00 p.m. Orders were again received that the Unit would move the following morning.

10th. Haihin: At 7:00 a.m. Battalion moved by route march to area at approximately O.12.c (Sheet 45) Major D. Pratt assumed command of the Battalion as Major D. Carnichael, D.S.O., M.C., proceeded on 30 day leave. Destination was reached at 9:30 a.m. the Reception received from civilians was wonderful. The best of accommodation was placed at the disposal of the troops.

11th. Wasmuel: The Battalion received orders at 8:00 a.m. to take over frontage occupied by the R.C.R.'s. Orders were also received at this time that hostilities would cease at 11:00 a.m. Battalion moved off at 10:00 and was in position east of Mons by 11:30 a.m. The line was later moved forward and B.H.Q. established at Nimy. Transport and rear details, including brass band represented the Battalion at the demonstration held in the public square in Mons to celebrate the liberation of the town.

12th. The Battalion received instructions to occupy the line running along the road from St Denis to crossroads. These positions were occupied, but later changed so that the 58th Battalion took over half the frontage. At 5:30 a.m. the town was startled by a series of explosions, which sounded like a re-opening of hostilities, but turned out to be an enemy ammunition truck on fire. The Transport moved to Nimy on the morning of the 12th.

13th. Nimy: B.H.Q. moved up to front line, and established in Chateau posts were harassed through the day by continual barrage of civilians wishing to pass through hour posts from both sides. Many escaped prisoners came through hand were sent to Brigade.

14th. Weather cold and frosty. Our posts still busy with civilians.

15th. Re-organization and equipment of the Battalion was carried out with "A" Company under Capt. Wilson. M.C., represented the Battalion at a review of the official entry of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, into Mons.

16th. Companies carried on syllabus of training under Company arrangements. 250 other ranks attended a concert at the Theatre in Mons, put on by the 3rd Divisional Concert party. Weather bright but frosty.

17th. Weather bright and cold. Battalion parade was held at 9:00 a.m. at which the Companies as were inspected by the Commanding Officer. A voluntary church parade was held in the square, St Denis. R.C. parade was held in the parish Church.

18th. Battalion was allotted baths at Mons. Weather bright with snow flurries in the afternoon.

19th. At 9:00 a.m. the Battalion was inspected by the G.O.C 9th Brigade. Two Companies was inspected in Company and Platoon drill. Well Pleased. In the afternoon 225 other ranks marched to the theater in Mons, and witnessed the play H.M.S. Pinafore, put on by the Dumbells performance commenced at 6:00 p.m.

20th. Battalion parade was held in the morning, after which Company training was carried on. Weather bright and cold.

21st. Training carried on.

22nd. Training carried on as usual. In the afternoon a group picture of all the Officers was taken outside the Villa Antonia Obourg. Band concert was given in front of B.H.Q.

23rd. Training carried on as usual, special attention being paid to company drill.

Weather bright and cold.

24th. Church parades were held on Battalion parade ground, 43rd Chaplain conducting the service.

25th. Battalion parade was held at 9:00 a.m., Lieut. Col. Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., arrive back to the Unit after having being seriously wounded, and on his appearance on the parade ground the Battalion came to the present and three rousing cheers were given. The C.O. then spoke to the Battalion, stating how everjoyed he was to be back with the Unit, and hoped the Battalion would uphold its record of smartness and efficiency during the march to Germany, as it had during the heavy fighting. He then inspected the Transport, Companies carrying on independently with training.

26th. Weather cloudy. Company training carried on. A representation of 12 Officers and 6 N.C.O's went by buses to visit the historic town of Waterloo and Brussels.

27th. Weather very unsettled. The Battalion supplied a guard of honour of 3 Officers and 100 men for the triumphal entry of H.R.H. Albert, King of the Belgians into the historic town of Mons. The King arrived in a private are, attended by a bodyguard, and drove through the principal streets. He received a tremendous ovation from the people.

Afterwards, a special service was conducted in the Cathedral, the reminder of the Battalion carried on with Company training. In the afternoon a sports program was held.

28th. Weather cloudy and unsettled. A Battalion ceremonial was held on the Battalion parade ground at 10:00 a.m. when the colours of the 16th Battalion, having been brought to France from Westminster Abbey. The colours where presented to the Battalion, Col. G.R. Pearkes, V.C. D.S.O. M.C., after a very impressive speech. Handing the colours to Major Pratt D.S.O., and Major A. F. Hind, who in turn handed them to Lieut. Montague and A.S. Deeks. The Colours party then took up its position on the Battalion grounds, to the tunes of "O, Canada" and "God save the King". The Battalion then marched past the colours in columns of Companies, after which they formed up en masse, remaining at the slope while the colours were marched off the grounds. It was a very impressive ceremony and one not likely to be forgotten for some time to come. After the ceremony, a very

pretty compliment was paid to lieut. Col. Pearkes by the school children of St. Demis and Obourg in the nature of a handsome bouquet. With a suitable inscription to "les braves Canadiens, liberators de la Belgique" to which the commanding Officers responded with a suitable speech in a foregone language.

29th. Weather very unsettled. Companies carried on training.

30th. Weather fine in the morning, unsettled and cold in the afternoon. Divisional Commander inspected the 9th Brigade on drill ground at 12:30 p.m. The Battalion paraded past in column of route, and the Divisional Commander appeared to be well pleased on the turnout of this Battalion. Inspection lasted one hour and a half.

December 1918

1st. Weather cold. Church parade was held, service conducted by the 43rd Chaplain.

2nd. Company drill was carried out in the morning, sports in the afternoon.

3rd. Training was carried on in the morning and indoor baseball in the afternoon.

4th. Weather rainy in the morning. All outdoor training was cancelled. Lecture by Platoon Commanders, after which educational training was carried on.

5th. Battalion parade was held, after the usual syllabus of educational training was carried out.

6th. Weather favorable. Company training carried out in the morning. Orders were received that the Battalion would move to Louviers on the 7th inst. This was later postponed until the 11th.

7th. Weather fine. Battalion went on a route march in full marching order. The Battalion presented a very fine appearance.

8th. Weather fine. Capt. Ridgeway, M.C, conducted Church service.

9th. Company parades were held until 9:45 a.m. when Battalion parade was held. Weather was very favorable.

10th-11th. Training carried out by Companies. The usual syllabus of educational training under Capt. Moody was carried out. Indoor baseball was held in the afternoon.

12th. Battalion completed with Transport moved to Ecaussins D'Enghien, arriving at 11:30 a.m. with H.Q. at no. 14 Place de Sud. Officers' dance was held at Brigade H.Q. in the evening.

13th. Weather dry and cold. Company parades were held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Battalion parade held at 10:15 a.m. including a march past.

14th. Weather very wet. No training was carried on except lectures.

15th. Battalion was formed up en masse on the square and moved off at 8:30 a.m. to Nivelles, taken over billets vacated by the 49th Battalion.

16th. Nivelles. Weather rainy. The day was spent in cleaning up billets, which were found in a disgraceful condition. The Brigade marched through the town of Nivelles, the 116th Battalion moved off at 11:00 a.m. march to last for about 50 minutes.

17th. Weather very dull. Making preparations for a move to a new area.

18th. Although it was a long march the troops were in fine mettle, and marched in very cheerfully. Billets were in good condition, and the men were all satisfied.

19th-2st. Company parades and inspections, educational training, and program of sports were carried out.

22nd. Lovely weather. Divine service was held in cinema hut, conducted by the chaplain of the 43rd Battalion.

23rd-24th. Company parades was posted to Companies.

25th. Christmas was celebrated in fine style. A sumptuous dinner was prepared for the men, including turkey, and plum pudding. At each hall, the Commanding Officer made very interesting news that the battalion was commencing a march to the rear, preparatory to demobilization. His words were greeted with enthusiasm by all ranks. After dinner, the music halls and dance halls ere thrown open and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I was a celebration not likely to be forgotten for some time to come.

26th. An inspection of the new draft was held, and shortages of equipment checked up. Orders were received that the Battalion would move the following morning.

27th. Battalion moved off at 8:40 a.m. and marched to Beersel. The Army Commander, General Sir H.S. Rawlinson, Bart., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., K.C.M.G. inspected the Battalion en route. The weather was very disagreeable and the roads heavy. Battalion reached the new area at 1:00 p.m. orders were then received that the Battalion would continue the move on the morrow.

28th. Battalion moved off from billets in Beersel at 8:15 a.m. and proceeded to Neyghen. It was a long hard march, and it poured with rain all day. Despite this the Bn.marched into their billets at Neyghen and marching to Lierde St martin, arriving at 1:30 p.m. Weather very wet and roads bad.

30th. Battalion marched off from Lierde St Martin and proceeded to Renaix, arriving there at 1:45 p.m. Roads in fair condition, weather dry and cold. 31st. the day was spent in cleaning up and resting.

January 1919

1st. Weather dry, but very cold. Battalion proceeded by march route to Mourcourt, leaving at 8:50 a.m. and arriving at 1:00 p.m.

2nd. Mourcourt: Battalion continued the march, leaving billets at 8:43 a.m. and proceeded to Blandain. Weather quite cold, and roads in very fair condition. Battalion reached new area at 12:30 p.m. "A" and "B" Companies were quite conformable, but "C", "D" and H.Q. billets were very unsatisfactory, as most of the billets had suffered somewhat from shellfire, and ore striking resemblance to open air summer houses.

3rd. Day was spent resting and cleaning up.

4th. Weather very bright. Companies carried on training. Sports held in the afternoon.

5th. Weather fair. Church parades were held. Pay parades held in the afternoon.

6th. Weather bright and cold. Medical inspection of "C" and "D" Companies. Remainder of the battalion carried on with training.

7th. Remainder of the Battalion were medically inspected. Inter-platoon sports were carried out in the afternoon.

8th. Weather bright and cold. Company training was carried out, in the afternoon, inter-Platoon football was played.

9th-11th. Weather dry and cold. Company training was carried out, and sports held in the afternoon.

12th. Weather fine. Divine service ws held in the concert hall, Blandain, by Capt. Ridgeway M.C.

13th. Weather bright and clear. Company parades and educational training was carried on, with sports in the afternoon.

14th. Battalion parade held at 10:00 a.m. marching past in column. Companies and Platoons were practicing in a few movements of Battalion drill. In the afternoon, the battalion cross country running Competition was held, the course being over rather a rough ground, with numerous obstacles, the distance about three miles. Out of 140 starters, 94 finished, which was a good percentage, and the competition on the whole were very successful, and everyone enjoyed themselves. I.G. Gower, was the first man to finish.

15th. Company parades inspection and educational training was carried out.

16th-17th. Weather bright and cold. The usual Company parades and inspections were held, and educational training carried on.

18th. Muster Parade was held to obtain information from the men regarding their return to civil life.

19th. Weather bright and clear. Capt. Ridgeway, M.C., held divine service in the concert hall.

20th. Battalion parade was held at 10:00 a.m. A few scheduled brigade sports, which were to be run off on the 22nd, teams which consisted of indoor baseball, rug of war, and cross country running.

21st. Weather bright and cold. Company parades, and educational training carried on in the morning. In the afternoon, the 116th Battalion met the 52nd battalion in a game of football and tug of war, but this time came off second best.

23rd. Weather bright and cold. Usual Company training was carried on in the morning and a lecture by Doctor Dale, in the concert hall was given in the afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

24th. The usual Company training was carried out in the morning. At 12:50 p.m. the Battalion paraded and marched to Templeuve, to witness the Brigade sports. Teams for indoor baseball, and cross-country running, represented this Battalion, which resulted in wins in both events, the score in indoor baseball being 25-0 against the 58th Battalion.

25th. Route march was held. The roads were in very fair condition and although the weather ws very cold, the march was thoroughly enjoyed.

26th. Divine service ws lend In the Concert hall, Capt. Ridgeway, M.C., conducting the service.

27th. The usual company training was carried on.

28th. Company training in the morning, at 12:45 p.m. the Battalion paraded and marched to the concert hall, Templeuve, to witness the varieties concert party, and everyone enjoyed the show. At 7.30 p.m. a boxing tournament was held between the 52nd and ourselves, at the concert hall, Blandain, and some very good bouts were put on, including exhibition bouts.

29th. Company training carried out in the morning. At 7:00 p.m. H.Q. Company put on a euchre drive, which proved to be a huge success. The brass band provided the orchestra and some very amusing stories were told, after which, tea and sandwiches were served. Before this, however, a harmless beverage known as Shepherds' knockout was handed around. Which added somewhat to the signing qualities of a number of men, including a representative from the Transport, who, from his facial expressions, had never had much experience in singing before an audience.

30th. Weather very cold, with snow flurries. A kit inspection of the whole Battalion was held.

31st. The usual company and educational training was carried on. In the evening the Battalion was entertained by a concert troupe from "B" Company. The Brass Band furnished some very good selections.

February 1919

1st. Blandain. Weather bright, but very cold. Battalion parade was held and a few movements in Battalion drill were practiced. Inter-platoon football was carried on in the afternoon.

2nd. Weather very cold. Church parades were held, Cap. Ridgeway M.C., 52nd Battalion, conducting the service.

3rd. Weather bright but very cold. Company and educational training was carried on.

4th. Snow and sleet. Educational training was carried out. Orders received for entraining to Le Havre for embarkation to England.

5th. Cold and frosty. 6 Officers and 363 other ranks left Blandain for Le Havre by train, and the remainder of the Battalion carried on with cleaning up.

6th. Cold and frosty. The remainder of the Battalion entrained for Le Havre.

7th. The whole day spent on the train. Accommodations fair. Arrived at Le Havre at 8.30 p.m. and marched to camp.

8th. Le Havre. The Ban. Paraded to camp Medical Officer for inspection, and spent the balance of the day in cleaning up.

9th. Battalion paraded for baths, and a change of underwear. All the men's clothing was fumigated. Concert was given by Dumbell party during the afternoon.

10th. Route march through Le Havre by Companies.

11th. Muster parade, and division of Battalion into dispersal area.

12th. Battalion paraded at 5.00 p.m. in full marching order, and marched down to ship. Embarkation commenced at 6.00 p.m. and ship set sail at 9.00 p.m. Accommodation very good, and passage calm.

13th. Arrived off Veymouth, England, about 5.30 a.m. and anchored. Band played selections on the deck. Commenced disembarking at 9.00 a.m. and marched to the station, where each man received a lunch. Battalion arrived at Liphook at 3.00 p.m. and marched to Branshott camp.

14th. Medical Boards, documentation and clothing parades were held.

15th. Documentation and Medical Board proceedings were carried on. About 300 men left on eight days leave.

16th. Documentation and Medical Boards continued. About 200 men left on eight days leave.

17th. Documentation and Medical Boards, the remainder of the Battalion left on eight days leaves.

19th-25th. Documentation and Medical Boards carried on with. Investiture of Officers of the 3rd Canadian Division was held by His Majesty, King George V. at Buckingham Palace.

27th-28th. Documentation and Medical boards.

Narrative of 116th Battalion in the Third Battle of the Somme

After a period of long night marches from rear areas, made with great secrecy, the 116th Battalion first began to take an active part in the third Somme Battle. On the evening of August 5th, 1918, at Boves Wood, where the BN. Was bivouacked, when the Commanding officer had a meeting of Company Commanders in an upper room of the old Chateau and communicated the first plan of the operation, and issued maps of the

area. The first day on which the attack was to be made was not given, but that it was to be on a large scale and in co-operation with Australian, British, and French troops. It was expected that there would be little time for the final preparations to which we had been accustomed in the past. The importance of carrying out to the fullest extent the training in open warfare, which we had experienced during the summer, was particularly impressed. "A" Company was to attack on the right, and "C" Company on the left. The frontage of the attack was from East of Hourges Village, on a very narrow front, due East about 1000 yards, where the front rapidly extended, taking in the BADE Trench system. The high hill marked by contour 100, thence forward to, and including Hammon Wood defenses; in all, a depth of 6000 yards.

The general plan was that "A" Company would attack on the right, dealing with the defenses at 0.5 central, thence forward to the BADE Trench system, which they would capture and consolidate. "C" Company was to follow "A" Company as far as 0.5 central, thence as rapidly as possible, along the left of our flank, around the left of the high ground, to drive for the enemy defenses North of Mannon Wood. Thence push from the North edge of the wood to the left of our final objective, dealing with the enemy Battery that was supposed to be there. "D" Company was to follow "C" Company and passing through "A" Company., work around the Northern slope of the high ground, and push for the Eastern side of Hammon Wood, by going through "C" Company., and attacking the far side of the Mannon Wood defenses. "B" Company was to follow in reserve until the BADE Trench system had been captured, when it would follow "D" Company and mop up Hammon Wood, "A" Company then coming into Battalion reserve. This, from a study of the map, and intelligence provided was evidence that even with little opposition, the turning movement to be made would be extremely difficult, and that the leaders of all the Units would be called upon to exercise their best judgement and skill to ensure success. Especially in view of the fact that there would be very little opportunity of making a personal reconnaissance.

When it was generally known that the attack was imminent, the Battalion's spirits ran very high, and preparations for the great battle were pushed with all possible zeal. The Battalion moved from Boves to Gentelle Wood, a distance of six kilometers, moving out at 11.00 p.m., and arriving at 6.00 a.m. The congestion of traffic on the road was the worst one could possible imagine, consequently, it was only with the greatest difficulty that movement forward was possible, caused by such traffic over the one approach, and the great difficulty of controlling so much traffic.

With but little sleep, reconnoitering commenced at once and as far as possible, parties were sent forward to make a personal reconnaissance, in _____ to observe secrecy. It was consequently necessary to do most of the reconnaissance from Domart Wood. The Commanding Officer, Intelligence officer, and Company Commanders, only were able to reach the forward system, and made a quick reconnaissance at close range.

On the night of August 6th, the Commanding Officer, Intelligence Officer went forward to arrange for the assemble of the Battalion in the Jumping off positions. Owing to the broken nature of the ground, the assemble area was limited and positions for one Company had to be found forward of the front line, held by the troops then holding that sector. All areas were thoroughly reconnoitered, and positions taped off. Owing to the night activity of the enemy Machine Guns, the task was a difficult one, but thanks to the assistance of the Commander of the outpost Company of the Australian Battalion then

holding the line, who personally pointed out the best positions, the task was completed satisfactorily.

The day of August 7th was given to making final preparations. Conferences of the Commanding Officer with Company Commanders, Company Commanders with Company Officers, and finally the non-commissioned officers and men with their Officers, occupied a good deal of the time. In addition to conferences with artillery and tank Officers. It was generally known in the evening that the attack would likely be the following morning and the spirit of Battle in the air was contagious.

The Battalion moved off at 9.30 p.m. on the night of August 7th, and occupied the assembly positions. It was a bright moonlight night with good temperature, and the movement forward proceeded uninterrupted, the guides being the Battalion scouts, guiding their Platoons, and the slow task of crossing the river of bridge 53 commenced, opened out to five paces interval and having to move quietly, made the march a tedious one. Finally, however, the whole Battalion successfully crossed the river, and swampy ground in single file, on the bath mats previously laid out, and company by company arrived in assembly positions under the personal supervision of those who had made the arrangements the night before. It was by no means an easy position in which to attack, as the leading company was facing South. The assembly was finally completed at 2.15 a.m. and word passed that the ZERO HOUR would be at 4.20 a.m., consequently there was plenty of time to rest, and look to any minor details which might have been previously overlooked.

Finally at 4.20 a.m. Sharp, perhaps one of the greatest barrages in the history of the war from guns and machine Guns opened out, and it was truly a wonderful piece of work on the part of our artillery, very few shorts being experienced, showing very creditable work, on account of no registration being previously made. The difficult work of getting out of the assembly positions commenced at Zero plus eight minutes, and great credit is due to the leaders for getting their Companies and Platoons out of the assembly positions as well as they did. It was necessary for the left Company to make a left about wheel around the hedge, out to the road over which they crossed, and from where they deployed in artillery formation and thus began the attack in earnest. The remainder of the Battalion followed rapidly and at Zero plus 40, the whole Battalion was clear of the jumping off positions, including Battalion Headquarters, which was following in rear of the reserve Company. The enemy SOS came down rapidly, but was not very heavy. The congestion at the assembly point, however, resulted in some casualties there. The dense fog and smoke gave great difficulty in getting direction, but the Demuin Road, well marked by tall trees, was an excellent landmark, previously noted, and enabled the 43rd, 58th and our own Battalion to deploy towards its own objective when clear of the assembly positions. The enemy machine guns were then busy, and necessity of pushing on as rapidly as possible made very good time. "A" Company got in the fight early, and suffered severe casualties, losing all their Officers, and about 60 other ranks before reaching their objective. C.S.M. Fenwick had gathered together what was left of the Company, and was ready to move up the slope of the hill on the sunken road. The tanks were very much handicapped by the dense fog and lost direction, operating chiefly on our flanks, with the exception of two, which nearly ran down a number of the Battalion going through us, at the start.

Heavy fighting took place at the cross roads at 0.5 central, where enemy H.Q. were located. Machine Guns were in abundance, and it was only after dashing work on the part of the forward Company that this nest was successfully dealt with, and a long stream of prisoners' commenced leaving to the rear. The dash of the men was most marked, their training in open warfare, showing a marvelous difference from the old, staid method of following the barrage shoulder to shoulder at the high post. It was difficult to locate enemy Machine Guns nests owing to the poor observation, and very many of these were put off and surrendered, having to be dealt with by the Infantry following behind.

Owing to the check which "A" Company. Received at the Hangard Dodo Wood road, Battalion H.Q. soon found itself close to the battle, and "D" Company meantime having pushed well to the left, working forward behind "C" Company H.Q. Company details reinforced "A" Company, to assist them in taking their final objective, and started the final assault on the defenses forward of the BADE Trench system. Capt. A.F. Hind, Adjutant, and Lieut. T.A. Irwin, Signaling Officers, here took an active part in leading the composite Company to the assault.

The advance had been checked by a nest of M.G's on the forward slope, immediately to the right center, and left of BADE Trench. Under cover of our M.G's. these nests were rushed and put out of action. Severe casualties being inflicted on the enemy. M.G's. were captured, and many prisoners sent to the rear. An isolated field gun was still in action being a small hedge approximately to the front and left of BADE Trench. This was soon put out of action, and the survivors of the crew captured. The advance then continued under our M.G's. and the BADE Trench system was finally taken, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, and capturing a number of M.G's., some of which were at once mounted, on the parapets of BADE Trench and ready for action by 6.15 a.m. Battalion H.Q. was established here. The composite Company, which had captured the trench, then moved forward to provide a covering fire for "C" and "D" Companies, in their advance on Hamon Wood.

Meanwhile, on the left, the advance was going along well. Very many machine guns being captured, without being able to interrupt our progress. Close touch was kept on our left flank, with the 58th, and making sure of our left flank being secure at Damuin before committing all quietly, one Platoon went into Damuin with the 58th Battalion. Major Sutherland, Second-in-Command of the Battalion, went into the village. "B" Company which were pretty well amalgamated now, to the advance on Hamon Wood from the North.

It was not known exactly what progress the right was making at this time, and with depleted ranks, it seemed, at the moment that the number of infantry available for the advance on Hamon Wood would be none too strong. As the advance progressed, the enemy was seen on the high ground 500 yards to the right, still in action. Apparently firing at "A" Company in the BADE Trench. Fire was immediately brought to bear on the rear of the party, and a few rounds were sufficient to make them capitulate. Again, a large number of prisoners were sent to the rear. This enabled the attack on Hamon Wood from the North. Their appearance considerably heartened "C" Company and the advance pushed rapidly forward against Hamon Wood from West and North. It was also realized that "D" Company was making good progress on the right, and was getting within reach of the woods. An enemy field battery of two guns, still in action, was dealt

with on the high ground to the North of Hammon Wood re-entrant. A number of M.G.'s had to be dealt with here, and no proposition was met with well forward of the wood. Progress was temporarily impeded, but the advance of "D" Company on the right considerably helped the attack from the North, and these nests were dealt with in a manner which did great credit to the leaders and men concerned. Severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and many prisoners captured. A tank came along at this point and rendered assistance in dealing with another M.G. nest which was holding out in an isolated farm ruins. These having been dealt with, it was with high spirits, and splendid dash that the attack began in earnest on Hammon Wood.

While "D" Company progressed forward on the right, a composite Company of "C" and "B" Company men, pressed up the re-entrant, from the North. Major Sutherland, with a few signallers and runners was, without any difficulty, able to read the North-East side of the woods from which point artillery had evidently been reached before they had realized their danger; some of the gunners fought to the finish, firing with open sights, on the advancing Infantry, until surrounded. A few rounds of rapid fire from the East side, together with the bold dash of Infantry straight to the guns was sufficient to prove to the enemy the futility of further resistance. Consequently, a record capture of enemy guns was made, and the survivors of the artillery group, which were numerous (they had taken refuge in the deep dugouts at hand) came streaming forth, and marched to the rear, led by Artillery Officers, behind a senior Artillery Commander. At this point an 8 inch Howitzer, a 5.9 and one 4.1 long range battery were captured.

Some enemy M.G. nests still held out on the high ground to the south and east, but these were quickly dealt with by "D" Company and Hammon Wood was cleared. The Infantry pressed well forward of the wood, and commenced firing on parties of enemy infantry seen on hill, 100 yards on the left. A temporary defense system was rapidly established, and the grounds cleared in front for the 7th Brigade, who was close behind, and ready to push forward to their objectives. Our put post line was by 7.30 a.m. the Battalion had reached and consolidated its final objective. At 9.00 a.m. an artillery Officer had succeeded, with the assistance of our men, tired as they were, in reversing a number of the enemy guns, and an 8 inch and 5.9 howitzer were soon in action in towns behind the German lines.

In the operations of the Battalion for the day, about 40 machine Guns were captured, 16 enemy guns, and about 450 prisoners were sent to the cage. Our casualties were 2 Officers, 30 other ranks killed; 10 officers and 148 other ranks wounded, or missing.

Narrative Covering Operations from 27th September until 2nd October, 1918

September 7th: After a long and very cold journey in the train, we arrived at Qurant at 1.30 a.m. and found that our guides had been sent to Croieil_es. It was pouring with rain when we marched to our allotted area, where there was practically no accommodation for the men. A hot meal was served and at 11.20 a.m. orders were

received to move forward. The roads were packed with Transport and Guns coming up from every direction, and we picked our way by overland routes, to Inchy, and from thence to our new area east of the Hanal. The kitchens did not move forward with us, and we bivouacked in shell holes, with no covering what ever and nothing inside us except a little bully beef and biscuits.

September 8th: About 2.00 a.m. the kitchens arrived, and the men gathered around in small groups to try and get warm, and as soon as the cooks were ready a hot meal was served. At 7.00 a.m. Battalion moved forward according to plan, closely following the 58th Battalion, and about 10.00 a.m. We were assembled behind the railway embankment in T.2.d. up to this time we had encountered nothing more than scattered shell fire, and we had no casualties. At 6.30 p.m. orders were received that the 58th Battalion would attack the Marcoling Line in front of St Olle and that the 116th Battalion passing through the 59th Battalion, would attack and capture the illage of St Olle. Zero hour 7.00 p.m. At 7.00 p.m. the Battalion moved up to the assembly positions behind the 58th. "B" Company leading, following by "A", "C", "D" and H.Q. By the time we had reached our positions, it was pitch dark. The attack of the 58th was successful, and we moved through them, "A", "C" and "D" Companies taking up a position in sunken road running through F.5.d., and F.11.b. and "B" Company in F.12.a. and A.7.b. The village appeared to be strongly held with Machine Guns, and as no reconnaissance of the ground could be made, it was decided that we would not attack until the following morning. Battalion H.Q. was established in a dugout at F.11.b.90.90 and rations were brought forward and distributed to the Companies. The Company Commanders were brought together, and all details for the morning attack worked out.

September 9th: Weather fine. Zero hour 6.00 a.m. "B" and "A" Company attacked with "C" Company in support and "D" in reserve. The attacking Companies were caught between cross belts of M.G. fire coming from the small trench in front of St Olle and _____. "B" and "A" Companies were practically annihilated. We then got in touch with a battery of Field Artillery behind us to fire, with direct observation from B.H.Q., which was brought to bear on the M.G. positions in the St Olle trench. The firing from this battery was so good that it was possible to work two Platoons of "C" and "D" Companies around the North West of the village and Lieut. Bonner, M.M., who was placed in command of the operation, succeeded with consummate skill and bravery, in rushing the St Olle Trench from the flank. About 100 prisoners were captured, and 10 machine guns. "D" Company then went on through the village, and cleared it up, as well as the Areas-Cambrai Road as far as its junction with the _____ Road. Posts were immediately established around the junction of these roads, also in _____. And the remnants of "B" and "A" Companies withdrawn to the sunken road in front of B.H.Q. There were fine men left in "A" Company and 3 Officers and 25 men in "B" Company. Our position then, was roughly thwo Platoons, "D" Company holding trench in fron of St Olle, "D" Company holding junction of road as above, and _____. Two Platoons "C" Company sent over to assist one company of the 58th Battalion, who were having heavy fighting in the Marcoing Line, near its junction with the _____ Road, and the remnants of "A" and "B" Companies at B.H.Q. The remainder of the day was spent in re-organization, and improvement of our positions. Major Pratt came up during the afternoon and relieved Major Carmichael for a few hours. Rations and water arrived safely about 6.00 p.m. There was no rum, and the men, who had been on the go

practically since the morning of the 28th were all in. Our casualties about 260 killed, wounded and missing.

September 30th: Weather fine. Enemy activity nil. Scattered shelling in St Olle and _____ from which we suffered several casualties. During the afternoon, orders were received that operations would be continued the next day. At 5.00 a.m. 43rd and 52 Battalion securing the bridge heads in _____, and Pont D' Aire and the 116th Battalion passing through and capturing _____ - and the bridge heads therein. Owing to the severe casualties it was necessary to call up 41 men from the read details as the attack was to be continued on the following day, the BN. Being reduced to three Companies of and average strength of 90 rifles.

October 1st: It had been pouring with rain all night, and B.H.Q. was practically flooded, weather clearing up. Companies moved off from their positions around St Olle, "D" Company leading following by "C", "B" and H.Q. An intense artillery barrage was encountered while crossing the Douai-Cambrai Road, and the Battalions suffered quite a few casualties. Major Carmichael was badly wounded in the face, and came back to H.Q., and gave instructions to Capt. Allen to go ahead with the forward Companies. At 6.45 a.m. the Battalion was lying behind railway embankment S.21.d. together with the read forced to go out, owing to loss of blood, although he did so with great reluctance. Before going, he handed the Battalion over to Capt Allen. At 6.50 a.m., "D" Company moved forward followed by the rear companies, advancing on a line approximately drawn from S.20.d.50.60. to S.22.b.10.90. On our left, we could see the 4th Division advancing in artillery formation, lines of men, in single file, going forward as if nothing could stop them, it was most inspiring. Quite a few prisoners came pouring back from the vicinity of _____. At S.22.b.10.90, the leading Companies came under heavymachine gun fire, and from our right, we observed a battery of guns in action. We changed front, and extended and engaged the Battery with M.G. and Rifle fire, killing and wounding most of the crews, the remainder disappeared over the hill, and on following them up, we found that they had taken up a position in a small wood at S.23.a.20.90. A tremendous volume of rifle and L.G. fire was brought to bear on them, and the wood rushed. About 100 prisoners were taken, together with several machine Guns, and the three field guns spoken of above. "D" Company and some sections of "C" Company then advanced over the ridge, and took up a position in shell holes, facing _____ in S.23.a. Whilst in this position, they came under very heavy M.G. fire and a Battery of whizz-bangs, opened on us through open sights from approximately S.28.a. Our Flanks were up in the air, owing to the fact that the Division on our left were forced out of _____, and the Battalion on our right had encountered very heavy resistance in the valley, and after holding our position for nearly two hours, it was deemed advisable to fall back a few hundred yards behind the west of the hill, and re-organize. Re-organization in our present position was absolutely impossible, owing to M.G. and Artillery fire. The withdrawal was carried out in good order, the men getting back by two's and three's to their new position, although, whilst getting back, we could see practically the whole of the troops in our rear retiring hot foot. We established ourselves in a line of rifle pits and shell holes, and got in touch with our right and left. On our right were remnants of the 43rd and 52nd Battalion and on our left the 27th Battalion. Our men were by this time very exhausted, and news was gladly received later

that we would be relieved by the 24th Battalion that evening. The relief was carried out by 3.30 a.m.

October 2nd: Our casualties for this operation was about 140 killed, wounded and missing. Throughout the whole operation, the Officers, N.C.O's. and men showed great devotion to duty, and an indomitable spirit to push forward. The difficulty of attacking a well organized system of enemy defenses was considerably increased, owing to the fact that there had been no opportunity for anyone to reconnoiter the assembly positions, or view the ground over which we attacked, also the time which could be devoted to explaining to the men even the merest outline of the plan of attack was almost negligible.

It was again proved during these operations that a Battalion can go through a heavy artillery barrage in sections and single file with very few casualties and without becoming disorganized.