

**WAR DIARY**  
XX

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,  
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In-the-Field.	Augst. 17th.		RANSART Trenches (Reserve).	
	18th.	-do-	The Battalion paraded at 9.30 p.m. and proceeded to the SUPPORT Trenches round ADINFER.	
	19th.		SUPPORT Trenches round ADINFER.	
	20th.	-do-	The Battalion paraded at 8.30 p.m. and proceeded by march route to dug-outs at HENDECOURT becoming Battalion in Reserve.	
	21st.		HENDECOURT. (Reserve).	
	22nd.	-do-	Casualties :- 3 O.R.'s Wounded & 1 O.R. Wounded (Remained at duty).	
	23rd.	-do-	The Battalion paraded at 7 p.m. and proceeded by march route to Trenches in front of BOIRY remaining as Reserve Battalion. Casualties :- 2 O.R.'s Wounded (Gassed). Lieut: J.A.ANDERSON, M.C. proceeded to ENGLAND on a 6 months tour of duty.	
	24th.		Trenches near BOIRY. (Reserve)	
	25th.	-do-	The Battalion paraded at 4 p.m. and relieved the 1st Bn: Welsh Guards in the Front Line Trenches (St. LEGER).	
	26th.		Front Line Trenches. (St. LEGER). (Casualties:- 2 O.R.'s Killed, 2 O.R.'s Wounded & 1 O.R. Wounded (Gas).	
	27th.	-do-	At 7 a.m. the Battalion attacked. A detailed account of the operations is attached as APPENDIX. "A". Casualties :- Capt: E.J. WATSON SMYTH, APPENDIX "A". Lieut: G.F.B. HANDLEY, M.C. & 2/Lt: G.C. BRASSEY, KILLED. Capt: L.W.G. ECCLES, M.C. Lieut: E.F. LUTYENS, Lieut: C.E. ESPIN, Lieut: H.M.D. BARLOW, 2/Lt: G.C.L. ATKINSON, M.C., 2/Lt: E.F.S. GRAHAM, & 2/Lt: W. JACKSON, WOUNDED. Draft of 125 O.R.'s joined the Battalion. Casualties of Other Ranks :- 55 Killed, 57 Missing, 6 Wounded & Missing, 192 Wounded & 4 Wounded (Remained at duty).	
	28th.		The Battalion followed up the German Retirement and consolidated their positions, being relieved by the 8th Bn: King's Own Lancaster Regiment at 11 p.m., and marched back to Trenches near HAMELINCOURT. Casualties :- 1 O.R. Killed & 3 O.R.'s Wounded.	(continued).

On 27th August, 1918.

Reference Post 57 C. N.W.

Account of attack made by the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards on the 27th August, 1918.

Map reference :-

FRANCE SHEET 57 C. N.W.

The Battalion was ordered to attack on a 1500 yards front in conjunction with the 2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards on the right; the 1st Bn. Irish Guards being in Reserve. The Battalion attacked with

No. 4 Company (Lieut: G.E. Espin) in front.  
 No. 2 Company (Capt: L.W.G. Eccles, M.C.) left support.  
 No. 3 Company (Lieut: G.F.B. Handley, M.C.) right support.  
 No. 1 Company (Capt: E.J. Watson-Smyth) reserve.

The Division on the left did not attack.

Zero hour was at 7-00a.m. it was therefore necessary to form up under cover owing to the daylight.

The Battalion formed up as follows:-

Right half No. 4 Company with No. 3 Company in support in sunken road from B.4.d.4.0. to Crucifix.

Left half No. 4 Company with No. 2 Company in support in St. LEGER Wood B.4.b.5.5. to T.28.d.8.8.

No. 1 Company in reserve West of the ridge in B.4.a & c.

As soon as the barrage came down at Zero, No. 4 Company advanced behind it followed by the support Companies at 200 yards distance. No. 1 Company in reserve 400 yards behind support. On the right No. 4 Company got forward a certain distance but the enemy machine guns in Banks Trench in B.5.d. soon opened a withering fire and the right Platoons of No. 3 Company were unable to get out more than 200 yards from the jumping off position. Lieut: G.F.B. Handley and 2nd Lieut: G.C. Brassey were killed here.

In the centre No. 4 Company and the right of No. 2 Company got to the crest line in T.29.d. Here they came under intense M.G. fire from the right flank and were unable to get farther. Before reaching this point Captain L.W.G. Eccles, M.C. and Lieut: H.M.D. Barlow were wounded.

On the extreme left No. 4 Company and No. 2 Company continued to go forward taking many prisoners in the sunken roads in T.29.d. and T.30.c. and got over to Bushill Trench in T.30.a. and d., some of No. 4 Company going further than this. The two Platoons of No. 2 Company under Lieut: H.W. Lake dug in in Bushill Trench under heavy machine gun fire from T.24. and from U.25.a. & b.

Left half of No. 1 Company then came up to the sunken road in T.30.c.. By this time the centre had suffered very severely; all the Officers were hit; and the machine gun fire from the copse in B.6.a. and from B.5.a. and d. was intense. The right was unable to get forward at all.

The Germans kept moving up more machine guns into the banks in T.30. and B.5.b. The centre was therefore withdrawn to LEGER Reserve. On the left the position was very critical; the machine gun fire from all flanks was intense and large bodies of enemy were seen to be moving along the light railway from T.24 central to T.29.d. completely outflanking the party in Bushill Trench these numbers had now been reduced by casualties to 18 under Lieut: H.W. Lake. The party of No. 1 Company under Lieut: T.T. Barnard in the sunken road at T.30.c. were also being outflanked from both flanks. It was therefore decided to withdraw and the left was withdrawn to LEGER Reserve. By this time there were about 140 men left in the Battalion. The Battalion therefore took up a position in LEGER Reserve from T.28.b.5.6. to T.29.d.7.0. A Company of 1st Irish Guards taking over the rest of LEGER Reserve to where it joins Banks Trench. Banks Trench was still held by the enemy and our right which had never been able to get forward dug in to cover the right flank assisted by a Company of 1st Irish Guards.

continued:-

The operation was a difficult one for the following reasons :-

(a) Owing to Zero hour for the Brigade on our left being altered to 3 hours later than the Zero hour arranged for this Brigade, our left flank was exposed.

CROISILLIES and the vicinity was strongly occupied with enemy machine guns which covered the ground over which our left advanced.

(b) Banks trench on the right flank was strongly held by the enemy, and was not touched by the creeping barrage.

The right of the attack came under heavy Machine gunfire at close range from this trench as soon as the advance began; the advance was held up on this flank.

(c) The jumping off place was awkward, particularly on the left. The thick undergrowth of St. LEGER Wood made it difficult to keep touch and to keep up to the creeping barrage, which moved forward 100 yards in 2 minutes.

(d) The frontage of the Battalion (1,500 yards), necessitated a very wide extension. The enemy was in considerable strength on the ground, and employed a large number of machine guns.

About 7 p.m. the Artillery put down a 10 minutes barrage on Banks Trench in B.I.d; immediately it lifted Irish Guards and our men on the right, rushed in, and the occupants surrendered ( 1 Officer, 95 Other Ranks and several Machine guns).

The casualties during the operations were as follows :-

Capt: R.J. Watson Smyth.	}	KILLED.
Lieut: G.F.B. Handley, M.C.		
2/Lieut: G.C. Brassey.		

Captain L.W.G. Eccles, M.C.	}	WOUNDED.
Lieut: H.M.D. Barlow.		
Lieut: E.F.S. Graham.		
Lieut: C.E. Espin.		
Lieut: E.F. Lubyens.		
2/Lieut: W. Jackson.		
2/Lieut: G.C.L. Atkinson, M.C.		

and 334 Other Ranks casualties.

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