

9. 3<sup>rd</sup> Division

12/5/54

10<sup>th</sup> River Pool (Section).

Vol. VIII 2 — 30. 6. 15.

7h

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1915 the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade relieved the 83<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in trenches N of ZILLEBEKE, which had been inspected by Officers of each Battalion on the previous day. Leaving E Camp on the VLAMERTINGHE-OUDESDOM Road at 6pm the Battalion marched via KRUISSTRAAT, where tea was served, arriving at the trenches about midnight where we took over from the East Yorks. The trenches which were situated on the East Edge of ARMAGH WOOD were well made, being very deep, and had an additional advantage in being dry. We had 470 Rifles and 4 machine guns in the fire trench, whilst a small support trench on the right was manned by 38 rifles, in addition a small garrison of 1 NCO & 19 men held a redoubt in SANCTUARY WOOD. One company of the R.S.F. in the latter wood was under the command of our C.O. as Reserve.

Headquarters were established in a dug out about 30 yards behind the firing line. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June were very quiet days for the most part passed without incident, sniping was indulged in by our men on the night with some success, but unfortunately this position was open to enfilade fire

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|                   | <p>from a machine gun &amp; several casualties occurred before the traverses could be improved.</p> <p>On the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> the R. E. Officer in charge of mining operations blew up a small charge in an attempt to check similar operations by the enemy, the effect of his so doing was only local.</p> <p>Various improvements including the making of loop holes were carried out and on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> the Brigade were relieved by the 150<sup>th</sup> Brigade, the 5<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry taking over the particular section which we had occupied. The Battalion marched back to VLAMERTINGHE arriving there about 4 am on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> A &amp; C Coy's were billeted in A Camp &amp; B and D Coys in B Camp, Headquarters being in a house near to the station.</p> <p>On Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> inst Orders were received that the III Divn were to go back for 10 days rest &amp; the Battalion marched back to a point near to BUSSEBOOM, where encamping on a field which had been occupied by our transport for some time.</p> |                                      |

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|                   | <p>From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> June the Battalion was busily engaged in training for an operation to take place on the 16<sup>th</sup>, particular attention being given to bombing.</p> <p>On the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> June a composite Company under Capt R. F. B. Dickinson attended a ceremonial parade near camp, when the G.O.C. III Divn, General Haldane presented D.C.M.s to 1200 men of the Brigade. Private Howarth of B Coy being one of the recipients of this distinction.</p> <p>On the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> June Major A. S. Anderson proceeded to RAILWAY WOOD (which is situated West of BELLEWARD Farm &amp; North of Hooze) from which point the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade were to attack on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>. He took with him 2 men per Company to act as markers &amp; also 2 cyclists.</p> <p>At 4 pm on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> the Battalion left the Camping ground near Busse Boom &amp; proceeded via YPRES to RAILWAY WOOD.</p> |                                      |

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The attack was made on a frontage of about 1000 yards, the Northumberland, Royal Scots & Royal Fusiliers were detailed to take the first line & we in conjunction with the Lincolns were to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> line, the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade being in Reserve.

We were shelled rather heavily between 12.30 & 2.10 am on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> & during this time several of our men were killed or wounded.

Our Artillery bombardment started at 2.10 am & earned out the work of demolition so successfully that little difficulty was experienced in taking the first & second line trenches.

Unfortunately however in continuing the advance we suffered many casualties as owing to the difficulty experienced in observing signals it was impossible to keep our shells ahead of the advancing Infantry.

Although the 3<sup>rd</sup> line German trenches were reached it was impossible to hold on to them & so the whole Brigade consolidated the 1<sup>st</sup> & part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> line German trenches, manning them until 11.30 pm on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup>.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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at which hour they were relieved by the 8<sup>th</sup> brigade. The casualties amongst our Officers were particularly heavy & of the 24 Officers who went up only four were killed, 7.4. Riddick & Lieut Chevasse came back unscathed.

The work of all ranks throughout the day calls for the highest praise, our bombing parties doing particularly good work.

The stretcher bearers throughout a most trying day did excellent work & showed great courage in attending to so many wounded under very heavy shell fire. The following is an extract from a special order by Major General Saldane Commanding 3<sup>rd</sup> Divn published on the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

"The Major General Commanding cannot adequately express his admiration for the gallant manner in which the attack was carried out yesterday. The dash & determination of all ranks was beyond praise, and that some actually reached the objective in the first rush & remained there under most trying circumstances is a proof of their superiority over the German Infantry

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|                   | <p>That the captured ground could not all be held is disappointing, more especially as the losses incurred were heavy. But these casualties have not been in vain.</p> <p>The 3rd Bn carried out a fine piece of work, &amp; fought splendidly, &amp; their Commander is deeply proud of them.</p> <p>From the 17<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month the Bn was encamped in the same field near Busseboom, here Lt. Wall being in command, with 2nd Lieut J. G. Roddick acting Adjutant, the time being devoted to Company Training &amp; Route Marching.</p> |                                      |

*Leslie Edall*  
 LIEUT. ~~REGT.~~  
 100PM 10TH (SETTLED) DU THE KING'S (LPOOL REGT.)