

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

25 July  
11 Cheshires

Diaries and Intelligence  
returned in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
Manual respectively. Title Pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
HEDAVILLE	July 1st		<p>On the night of June 30th/July 1st The Battalion marched from TOUTENCOURT to HEDAVILLE, a distance of about 9 miles, getting into quarters at about 1.30 am and settling down into Huts &amp; Tents. At 9.30 am a Memorandum was received from the G.O.C to the effect that offensive operations on a large scale, to which end the recent training has been directed, were to commence this day. All kits were stored in the village, and the Batt<sup>y</sup> was held in readiness to move at an hour's notice.</p> <p>During the night of July 1st/2nd orders were received for the Battalion at about 11.30 pm to hold itself in immediate readiness to move forward to AVEUY WOOD, but at 4.30 am the normal state of readiness was resumed.</p> <p>At 9.30 am on the morning of the 2nd int. orders were received for the Batt. to move with the remainder of the Brigade at 9.45 am to MARTIN SART WOOD.</p> <p>This move was accomplished without difficulty - Lt-Col RL Armitage DSO being in command of the Brigade on the march - The Brigadier General having proceeded to THIEPVAL for a reconnaissance of the trenches there.</p> <p>The Batt: <del>proceeded</del> bivouaced along the side in Martin Sart Wood from W 4 d 2.3 to W 4 d 8.0 (Ref Map 57 D S.E 1/20,000) &amp; <del>remained</del> 1 officer per Company was sent to report to the Hd Qrs of the Batt: occupying the British Trenches in R 31 a &amp; R 31 c (Map 57 D S.E 1/20,000)</p>

Remarks and references to Appendices

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			<p>The C.O. of the Batt. was not with the Batt. but at the Brigade Head Quarters (temporarily situated at - about - W 2 d 9 4 (ref. ref. as before). The Batt. remained at its Bourneville address for the remainder of the day unaware of why it was there or of any other fate that was to befall it. The officers who had proceeded to the trenches returned reporting to the Adjutant that no guides had met them as the Brigade had said was arranged and that the Battalion in the trenches was unable to give them any information whatever as to the cause of their visit or return. The lack of journey of the 4 Company officers was therefore fruitless. At about 5 pm an order was received by <del>the Adjutant</del> from 75- Brigade Head Quarters to issue each man in the Batt. with 2 bombs (hills) and to issue all picks &amp; shovels that could possibly be come by the Ben of the Battalion was ordered to move to the attack. This order was carried out - read man in addition in accordance with the order was <del>made</del> to carry an extra 50 rounds S.A. During the detonation of the bombs before issue, an accident - happened</p>	

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			<p>which resulted in the wounding of 3 men. After a period of <sup>2 1/2</sup> hours about 9.30 pm all Adjutants of the Brigade were summoned to the temporary Brigade Head Quarters <del>at the direction</del> of the Brigade Major some very hasty notes were made. These notes were to the effect that the 75<sup>th</sup> Brigade were to be in sections of hostile trenches just South of THIEPVAL. The 11<sup>th</sup> CHESHIRE were to be on the Right; 2nd S. Lancos Regt on the left; 8<sup>th</sup> Border Regt in the centre with the 8<sup>th</sup> S. Lancos Regt in Brigade Reserve. The boundaries of the attack were very vaguely stated and the time of the attack was not issued - orders were to be sent to units later, meanwhile units were to proceed at once, then assembly positions in the British trenches and await orders.</p> <p>It is significant to find that the C.O. rejoined the Battalion about 11 pm and being detailed to O.C. Corps the previous he had gleaned at Brigade Head Quarters during the day. The attack was to be carried out in depth. The Battalion attacking in 8 waves - D Coy on the left, A Coy on the right C Coy in support of D &amp; A Coys with B Coy held in Battalion Reserve. The Battalion was fallen in and marched via BLACK HOLE RSE Bridge</p>	



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THIEPVAL	3/7/16		<p>(note Square Q 36 d Map 57<sup>D</sup> SE 1/20,000). On immediately visiting the Company the Adjutant found that a considerable number of casualties had been incurred during the advance to the assembly positions. That the best trenches were devoid of bullet holes and that the guides had no instructions other than to lead the companies to some particular spot in the trenches. How much of the trenches each Company was to occupy was left to the imagination - no proper relief of troops in fact had taken place. By about 5.30 am the Companies had more or less taken up some portion of the trenches and got in touch with one another. The trenches were exceedingly badly knocked about, affording little cover from fire and in a great many places little cover from view. Steps were taken to organise the Bombers and to ascertain where the dumps were to ensure a supply of bombs and S. A. A. to the Companies. At about 6.20 am</p>	

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			<p>The Border Regt on the left of the B Station (with whom touch had been made) attacked the German position <sup>but</sup> by whose whereabouts not known. The right flank <sup>of the Border Regt</sup> being exposed, the leading Companies of the CHRS WRAE Regt immediately attacked and the assaulting waves passed over 'NO MANS LAND' in perfect order. Word to this effect was immediately sent to the Commanding Officer who at once proceeded to the scene of action. The assaulting troops <sup>made the ground</sup> very soon came under a withering fire from Machine Guns which at about 50<sup>+</sup> from the first German line <del>was</del> absolutely impassable. Line after line of the troops were worn down. The Commanding Officer who went with the reserve Company was unfortunately killed and Captain Hill, the Adjutant, on whom the command of the Battalion devolved decided to get the men still lying back into the trench from which they jumped off and to hold it as a defensive line. The remainder of the day was spent in trench warfare and early in the evening of wounded and other casualties. Unfortunately the list of casualties was large</p>	

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THEPVAL	4/7/16		<p>and included every <sup>on 6.3.16</sup> <del>company</del> Commander. 20 Officers 657 Other Ranks entered the trenches, and of this number 6 Officers 350 OR came out on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> instant.</p> <p>On the <del>6th</del> night of the 3<sup>rd</sup> the Battalion under orders from the Brigade moved further North, and held another section of trench <sup>by STAFFAST &amp; TVNDRUM ST.</sup> <del>banking</del> up nearly with the 8<sup>th</sup> Border Regt. - The piece of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cheshire being filled by the 1<sup>st</sup> Wiltshire Regt. During the night of 3-4<sup>th</sup> the section of trench held by the Battalion was heavily shelled. And the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. the Cheshires were relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Wiltshire Regt. and proceeded to some assembly trenches in KEELLY WOOD. Major B Evans of the 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Lancashire Regt. took over command of the Battalion on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant and at 2 pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> the Battalion proceeded to ALBERT. On arrival in ALBERT the Battalion was broken up into 4 O.C. Coy immediately visited the USNAVALLEY and made a reconnaissance of the trenches in and around the USNA REDoubT in a factory situated at about W 276 8.0. Major Evans and the</p>	
ALBERT	5/7/16			

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ALBERT	6/7/16		<p>At about 10.55 pm orders were received for the Batt. to move at once to the trenches at USNA REDOUBT. The Battalion moved off at 11.15 pm and spent on its way suffering casualties of 1 officer &amp; 5 OR from Shrapnel and arrived at the trenches named where a most miserable night was spent in being kept in rain.</p> <p>At 4 pm orders were received to attack and consolidate the line captured the German 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> lines sketching from X 8 d 80 to X 8 d 34 and X 9 c 55 to X 8 b 80 respectively.</p> <p>A Coy under the command of 2/Lt Curwen and 'B' Coy under the command of Lt G E Martin were despatched at 6 pm with instructions <del>to</del> to assemble in the German 2<sup>nd</sup> line then in British hands and push out patrols along the ALBERT-BAPAUME Rd and the back running through the <del>1<sup>st</sup></del> I in BOISELLE of the word O VILLER-<del>A</del>-BOISELLE on map 57 D SE 1/26, 000. The <del>front</del> <sup>post</sup> of <del>the</del> entered boundaries of the objective at 6.30 pm the C.O followed the above 2 Companies with the remainder of the Battalion and left it at the original British front line on the ALBERT BAPAUME Rd.</p>	
-do-	7/7/16			