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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.

WAR DIARY

LONDON SCOTTISH

(14th Counties of London Regt.)
June 30th - July 6th 1916.

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

1916.
June 30th
July 1st
" 2nd
" 3rd
" 4th
" 5th
" 6th

Bn moved from Bayencourt to Trenches E. of HEBUTERNE.
Bn in action. Assault on German trenches E. of HEBUTERNE and 250' N. of SUNKEN ROAD, HEBUTERNE - FUISIEVAL.
Bn took over trenches E. of GOMMECOURT PARK.
Bn in trenches

Bn relieved. Moved to SOUASTRE.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

1. Account of action, July 1st, with sketch-maps. 1a. Report on Work of R.F. Section
2. Sketch-map of German position assaulted.
3. Bn Parade State, July 2nd 1916.

W. Johnston
Captain

Vol 21

1/4 London Regt
Vol 22

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

68/56
LONDON SOUTHW.
1/4 BATTAL

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
July 3 rd 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	BN relieved in trenches S of FONQUEVILLERS west of GOMMECOURT in billets in SOUASTRE BN relieved by Q.V.R. and work in trenches. BN in billets. move to HEBUTERNE - take over but only a few E as the Reserve in Trenches. move to BRAVENCOURT into Rest + Training; especially BN relieves 4 th LONDON [ROYAL BN in Trenches. Task. (raid attempted)]	July '13' already submitted. Strength Appendix A.M private letter. re July 1 st App. D
17 th 18 - 22 nd 23 rd	Divisional Reserve. Specialist Training. FUSILIERS in same trenches E of HEBUTERNE (a) restoring 5 part of old support line (b) restoring the Reserve down striking skills. (c) reorganise the SAA + Bomb reserve (d) making precautions against Gas.	revised Plans Appendix C
24 - 30 31 st	BN relieves by 4 th LONDON [ROYAL FUSILIERS] + moves to billets at SKILLY an 800s with 1st Reserve Bn B Coy - 2 Platoons C who remain at HEBUTERNE BN Task redigging C.T. + various digging for RE. 450 men per day to be found for work.	Strength Appendix B revised Plans Appendix C

168. INF. BDE.

Account of action on 1st July 1916. E. of HEBUTERNE
5.7.16.

30. June.
11. PM.

Battalion Scouts examined wire in front of FARMYARD trench it was found went for over 100' from the right end Bangalore Torpedoes were successfully placed under it & exploded.

Further N it was cut, N of HEBUTERNE - BOUQUAT it was uncut.

1 July

1.30 AM.

Company sent to MACARTY Group RFA asking "for guns to fire wire cutting fire to clear front thoroughly". 4SP.2-1.

7.28

Right & right center Companies moved over to Tape which had been placed out on neutral ground overnight to bring our line of men parallel to German lines

7.30

LONDON SCOTTISH moves forward then 4 Companies side by side a further right, each on a frontage of 1 platoon

Atty. Smoke was good but it was thicker than in practice - it was hard to keep direction The Smoke barrage put up by the Troops on our right until 8.30 AM was very good

2

8. AM.

Situation.

A Coy -
Capt SPARKS.

No. 2 POW

Missing

No. 3

✓

Petrie + 5 men

reached FAIR Trench

No. 4

went through a gap in

wire of FARMYARD and

occupied objective with

some opposition

No. 1 + Capt Sparks followed

+ started consolidation then.

Cpl BAIN held FAIR, Cpl MITKIN

Bombs down - pushed back German

bombers + RE got to work on block

Capt Sparks, his HQ + 2 Lewis guns

held CT between FAIR + FANCY on

a fire trench.

Cpl SPARKS + PETRIE held FARM

+ blocked FANCY.

Sniper was established in good position

Communication with B Coy re-established

in CT between FARM - FABLE

B Coy

Major FH LINDSAY

Occupied objective assigned to them

by 7.45 AM - consolidation begun

+ work of blocking FABLE. This

was interfered with by enemy bombing

attacks, which were driven off

3.

This was helped by Hopt THOMAS with 1 Lewis gun who chose a good position; and though he only has 3 magazines he did very good work.

Capt. Major C. J. Low DSO
Lt. J. C. Lamb.

4 Platoon led 12 next under Major Low the wire was cut. They swept right over and occupied FABLE Trench after some fighting, Major Low was wounded in flight with his pistol.

9+10 Platoon were delayed in Sermon Trench line by opposition from Germans who had come up from dug out by the Sussex Artillery who started firing at FARM + FARMYARD Trenches.

Lt. Lamb took over for Major Low who soon takes back to the Doctor. He then took on his two platoons on owing to the smoke + decided condition of Trenches both Officers thought they were in FARM.

These platoons reached the NAMELESS FARM road to the right of ELBE Trench were fired on from EDEN they with drew to their objective by sections the remainder opening covering fire. The smoke had now cleared.

Squad 8AM Cont. II

D Coy U. J. C. BROWN CONSTABLE

went over but suffered very severely for
German barrage fire No 16 - down gun
in reserve line being entirely knocked
out before they reached our wire

No 13 which led was held up by
much German wire & bombs &
snipers in FATE Trench

U. Constable No 14 came up by his
skill he got a potting in the German line
& reinforced by No 15 they bombed the
way up to FALL Trench & Northern
along FATE. suffering severely
by rifle fire from loop hole trenches
but progress was made by our
bombs getting out & rushing them
over the open.

Trench was obtained with the RANGERS
in FATE Trench - but the enemy
remains on our left in FATE & FALL
Trenches & made bombing attacks which
were driven off & the trenches blocked

Cleaning party of Kensington Bn.

suffered very severely coming over but
the remaining parties did good work
in FARM YARD Trench.

5.

5.

10¹⁵ AM. Situation.

at BN. HQ - message had been received from

Cpl. Wollack as the D of M. COMES

- 20 Prisoners have come over

from London. PANGERS found German Trench

fully manned + could get in

for CG. giving situation, Casualties 300+

✓ A. - - - 10/150

✓ B. - - - 50

No message received for D as this had
lost all Officers + NCOs. + ceased to exist
as a separate unitFrom this it was apparent that SAA Bombs
were urgently needed and thereforeat 9.15 AM. 1 Bomby Squad + 1 No. 10 Carrier
D.45.

10. 1 Bomby Squad + 6 Carrier

3 reserve Lewis Guns

were all sent forward.

ie. 59 No's + men in all.

Owing to German Barrage fire on our Trenches
on NEUTRAL ground and on FORWARD
trench only 3 of these have reached the
german lines ~~the~~ the others were hit.

6.

Situation 2.P.M. other units.

a mixed party of RANGERS, QVR & KENSINGTONS, made a stand at a FALL Trench and in FATE, the forces were driven back to FATE by hostile bombers as they threw out a lot of bombs. They made a brave stand in FATE.

A. F.S. THOMPSON - the London SCOTTISH Section of the 16th Bde M.S. Coy came over. A gun team arrived & took up its assigned position. Sgt STACHAN went back for the other, K91 has been hit in neutral ground but had gallantly crawled on with his gun to the German lines.

A party of KENSINGTON Bn, brought 5 Boxes of Bombs - 100. 50 men had started through the Barrage.

About 40 German had been captured and had received instructions to go over to our lines through their own barrage.

A message giving situation has been sent to the W.A. Nicks on our left.

7.

Situation 2.30 PM.

A. Coy. HE fire very heavy.
 Cpl BAIN & Cpl FAIRMANN still
 held FAIR trench, & new work made
 Southern face below FAIR & FANCY was
 destroyed
 New firing line made in trench "behind"
 it. by the SPEAR
 Covered by ① Lewis gun.
 • ② THOMPSON & Vickers gun
 to the South
 • ③ Lewis gun to the East
 W/pt AITKEN & Snipes picked off enemy
 bombers.
 FARM considerable good fire steps made

B Coy. 2nd WHITE & YOUNG held FAME
 & part of FALL
 but severe pressure on both flanks
 and left in the air necessitate a
 withdrawal to FALL
 a party works on restoring a
 communication trench to FARMER
 The 2 Lewis guns has good
 position in FALL
 Severe losses were inflicted

8

by enemy rifle men some of whom wore a green uniform.

About this time Major Francis Lindsay arranged for Capt SPARKS to rest, but the major was killed while walking back.

C. Coy. had acted in unison with B

The re-adjustment was helped by further good work by Sgt THOMAS with a Lewis Rifle

Sketch B shows the new position

Situation. about
4. PM.

The troops on our left had withdrawn

Capt H. SPARKS who had command since Major Lindsay was killed said

I am faced with this position

I have collected all bombs - SAAs from casualties every one has been used - going to

The enemy continued barrage fire none can be brought to me

I am faced with 3 alternatives:

Schedule 4. PM. 9.

- (a) to stay here with such of my men as are alive; and be killed
- (b) to surrender to the enemy.
- (c) to withdraw such of my men as I can

either of the first two alternatives is distasteful to me. I propose to adopt the latter.

We therefore gave orders for all wounded to be withdrawn + sent to GIVIN to the Southern SAMP in FARM YARD to send the ones in smoke bodies.

After giving the order he will draw the THOMPSON + the Vickers gun and arrange a methodical evacuation of the position, he did this so coolly that in spite of the fire, + the boldness of the enemy, + the one having no ammunition + that his arrangements were carried out + there was no confusion.

Capt SPARKS, SPTS LATHAM, LEGGATT
Cpl. PARKMAN + WESTON with 1 Lewis gun held the German parapet to cover the withdrawal and remains then keeping off the enemy until all other had got away.

10

This other anti Gun has been put out of action
by ~~hand~~ before moving

Capt SPARKS himself had to remain in a
shock hole SD* from the enemy line for 4 hours

The Battalion was reformed in the old
British Front line just SW of the road
from HERBETERNE to BUSDEUX

Those went into Action

23 Officers	1	811	Soldiers	#
1 Officer	•	360	Medical Staff	
			+ S.B.'s	

of them 5 Officers + 62 O.R.
were not ordered to go over to the
German lines -

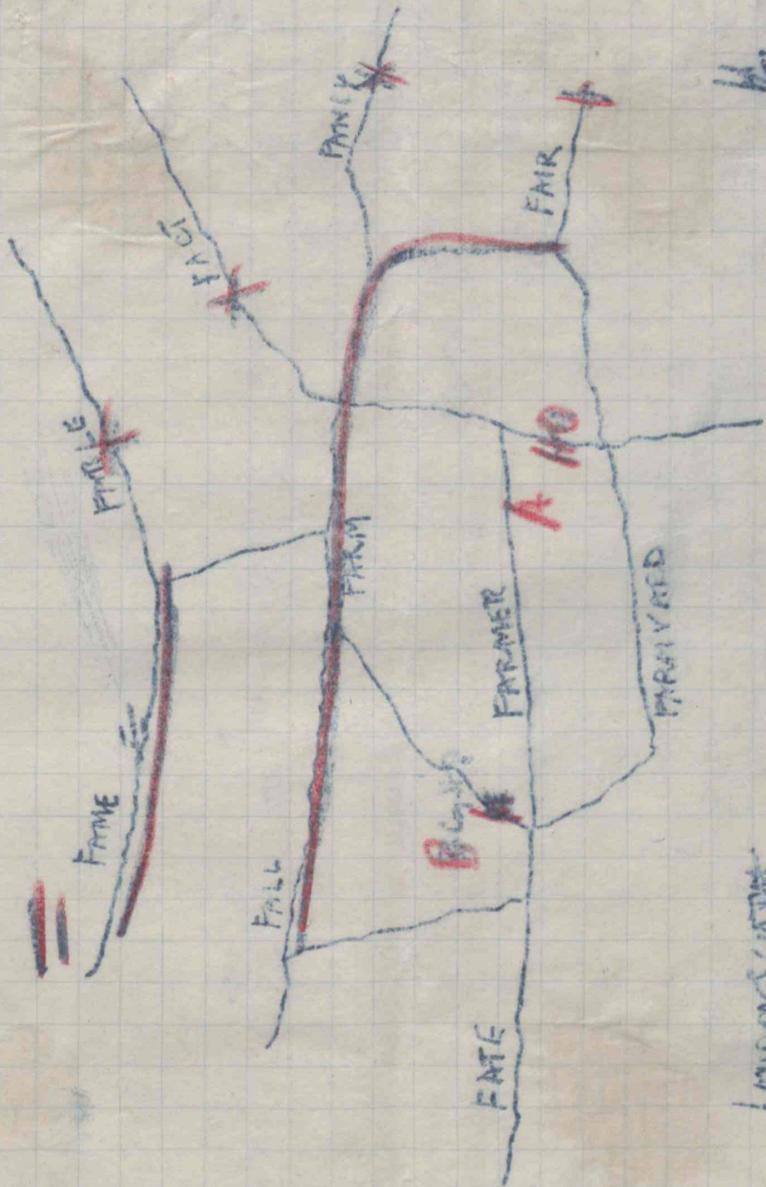
Those remained the next morning

9 Officers	•	256	O.R.
	•	21	Medical Staff
			+ S.B.'s

I am sending detail of German method, bombs
etc later.

Bernard C. Green N.C.1
Commanding London Garrison

Sketch 'A' Situation - 8. AM.



APPENDIX 1^A

(50)

To
165. Bde for CRE of DIV.

7.7.16.

Report on work of Section 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ LONDON FIELD
Co RE under Lt. VILLA during Action
on 1st July 1916.

The Section was divided as follows.

Lt. VILLA + INCO. 10 men in Reserve.

Remainder divided into 4 parties, each party attached to the Company whose duty it was to block FAIR, FANCY, FACT and FABLE trenches respectively. They carried tools and demolition material.

In the assault they went with the 3rd wave. These attacks to the right Company A reaching their objective the Bombers being successful they were able to get to work at once on the block in the trench just line, did it by demolishing 3 traverses, making it very good.

The Block in the 2nd line was also carried out very well under the exceedingly difficult circumstances.

The other 2 parties also got to their objective, but owing to the very heavy fire, casualties and the failure of the

2.

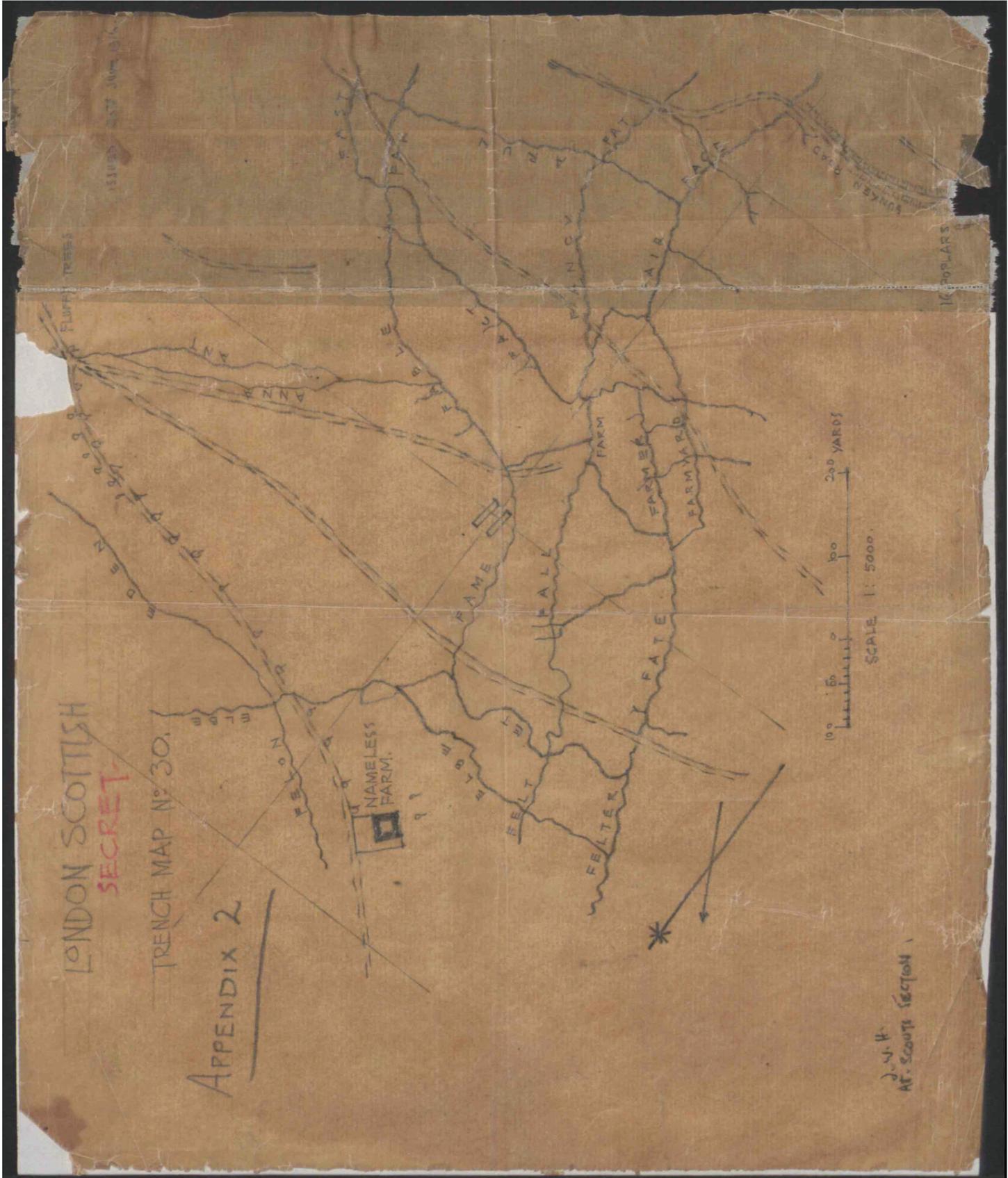
Troops on one side they were not able to
 carry out what they had set out to do
 and one party with very great gallantry
 managed to make a hasty block to
 protect one side.

Throughout the action the RE
 behaved very well indeed. They carried
 out their work regardless of the very
 heavy howitzer fire and rifle fire
 of the enemy and they earned the
 very high respect and regard of
 all those who fought beside them.
 Their very fine behaviour
 must have been largely contributed to
 by the training and leadership they
 had received before the action.

I have formed a high opinion of the
 VILLAS abilities and have recommended
 N° 2431 Cpl AE PERRETT. for the Distinguished
 Conduct Medal

H-Ed

Commander,
 LONDON SCOTTISH.



J. V. H.
AT. SCOTT SECTION 1