

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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 - J.H.G.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUESNY.	15 <sup>th</sup> (cont.)		<p>GUISCARD and BUCHOIRE to QUESNY Arrived 12 noon HQ's in the village. All sdrs and Echelons in the Bois D'ANTRECOURT to the South of the village. <del>Living</del> in tents. Lovely weather. Capt. R. M. THOMPSON to UK on special leave for 30 days. J.H.G.</p> <p>Brigade organised as a Dismt<sup>s</sup> Bde Group (which includes R.E. and RATIC personnel) under the command of Lt. Col G.T.R. COOK. D.S.</p> <p>All officers and sdrs of above reconnoitred the embussing point - on main HATT - NOYON road just North of ST MARTIN. 2 chargers joined. J.H.G.</p> <p>Parade of Dismt<sup>s</sup> Bde Group at the embussing point. 5 ORs to UK. on leave 3 ORs to Hosp<sup>s</sup> J.H.G.</p> <p>C.O. Second in Command and Company commanders reconnoitred the high ground about ESSIGNY and BENAY with a view to making a counter attack which is the proposed role of the Bde in III Corps Defence Scheme. 2 ORs to UK. for 30 days - leave 3 ORs to Hosp<sup>s</sup> J.H.G.</p> <p>C.O. etc reconnoitred high ground west of AMIGNY ROUY for the same purpose. 1 OR. to UK for 30 days leave 1 O.C.O. to England as candidate for R.A. commission 2 ORs to Hosp<sup>s</sup> J.H.G.</p> <p>Open air parade comm<sup>d</sup> for whole Brigade. J.H.G.</p> <p>Working Party of 4 officers and 150 ORs proceeded in Louviers to JUSSY under the command of Maj A.C. LITTLE D.S.O. J.H.G.</p> <p>Working Party employed on wiring and road making. Lt. E. W. BROOK and 7 ORs to UK on leave. J.H.G.</p>	
	14 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 PM		
	15 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 PM		
	16 <sup>th</sup>			
	17 <sup>th</sup>			
	18 <sup>th</sup>	11 AM		
	19 <sup>th</sup>	3 PM		

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY J. H. G.  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUESAY	20 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup>	4:30 PM 8:10 AM	<p>Were received prepare for Attack 14.4</p> <p>stood to from dawn Bombardment of VOSSY started 4:30 AM</p> <p>1 officer and 20 ORs of Army Troops having withdrawal reported to Maj. Little for orders 1 PM. Cleared out of the village owing to increased shelling. 3:15 PM. Maj. Little and 20 H Company with large numbers of stragglers who had been collected crossed the CROZAT CANAL and proceeded to LIZEROLLES. Col G. T. R. COOK D.S.O. and remainder of Dunt's Bde arrived 4:30 PM. 4<sup>th</sup> Q'S established in Railway embankment on southern outskirts of LIZEROLLES and a line was taken up facing east on outskirts of MONTESCOURT with units of 43<sup>rd</sup> Inf Bde on both the right and left. At 6:45 PM 54<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde arrived from south and dug in facing North across our front. Retirement of whole line across the CROZAT Canal ordered to commence at 12 mn with 5 CB to cover the retirement 14.4.</p>	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		<p>Units on right and left withdrew 2 am shortly after the 54<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde had also retired. At 3 AM RSG and 20 H withdrew through the line of the railway which was held by 12 RL and 3 MGs. All across the canal (except 1 co. RSGs which returned 9 AM) by 4:15 AM without molestation. Marched to FAILLOUEL arrived 6 AM.</p> <p>Alarm turn out which was cancelled as report that enemy were across canal was found to be false.</p>	

1875 Wt. W593/S26 1,000,000 4/15

I.B.C. &amp; A. A. D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118

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	22 <sup>nd</sup>	(cont)	<p>Turned out again 1.45 PM and moved to Sandpits half way between FAILLOUËL and JUSSY to be ready to make a counter attack if enemy succeeded in crossing canal as the bridges over it were not completely broken. The enemy did cross at MENNESSIS on the night and worked along the canal into JUSSY. 7.15 PM. 8 MGs posted on a line south of the railway which runs on southern edge of JUSSY and 12 R. Lancs moved up into immediate support at Sandpits where 43<sup>rd</sup> Inf Bde HQ's (under whom 5 CB still is) have been established. J.H.G.</p> <p>Situation appears to be. Some enemy in JUSSY and following dispositions were made 204 and half RSGs in JUSSY railway embankment under orders of OC 9<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rifles. 8 MGs as above. 1 SEDR 12 R.L. at Sandpits. 1 SEDR 12 RL about to move to high ground west of FAILLOUËL as would to some guns in position there. Remainder of 12 RL, RSGs and MGs echeloned back on night flank and east of FAILLOUËL JUSSY road. 6 AT infantry after a small counter attack reported JUSSY clear of enemy. Very heavy Trench Mortar bombardment all night and morning and by 8 AM enemy reached line of railway south of JUSSY. At same time enemy reported to have broken through on the night in direction of MENNESSIS. 11.30 AM Maj LITTLE was sent to line of FAILLOUËL FLAVY LE MARTEL road to collect and stop the infantry.</p>	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	5 AM		

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY ~~VHLC~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	(cont)	<p>who were retiring and 1 sdn 12 RL, 1 sdn RSGs and 1 regt 4<sup>th</sup> Cav. Bde ordered to form him there. 43<sup>rd</sup> Inf Bde HQ. and 5<sup>th</sup> CB HQ. moved back to south of PETROIT BLEU at 4<sup>th</sup> <del>PM</del> 12 Noon. Maj LITTLE was about to launch a counter attack to re-establish line of railway when enemy were seen pouring round the left flank. It was accordingly cancelled and the left was thrown back. Held roughly line of FAILLOUEL-FAVY road for a further 2 hours and then retired on FAILLOUEL where touch was established with 4<sup>th</sup> Cav Bde on night. Left still "in the air".</p> <p>About 3 PM enemy were again pouring round left so retired to edge of large wood to S.W. of FAILLOUEL. After an hour there withdrew through a few French troops onto main CUGNY UGNY line where all stragglers had been collected and made to dig in. Arrived 7 PM and billeted for night behind infantry at LA NEUVILLE.</p> <p>Left about the midday on all days since attack commenced 14.4. Paraded and marched thro' a large wood to BEAUMONT en BEINE where the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Cav. Bdes remained in support to 43<sup>rd</sup> Inf Bde who were being relieved by French troops at 12 noon. The morning was again very foggy. Ordered to withdraw when</p>	
	24 <sup>th</sup>	6 AM		

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 1149.

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Army Form C. 2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24 <sup>th</sup>		<p>The infantry had retired thro' the night. At 12.45 PM infantry passed thro' the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> CB and at 1 PM they also withdrew. It was then discovered the French who had taken over from the infantry were also coming back so there two Cavalry Bdes took up a position indicated by GBC 41<sup>st</sup> Inf Bde on high ground to the east of BEINES. Here about a thousand mixed English and French infantry were collected and with some difficulty persuaded to stay.</p> <p>At 4 PM ordered to retire on BUCHOIRE. Awaited orders there for some time while enemy shelled the cross roads with wonderful precision. At 6 PM ordered by 14<sup>th</sup> Division (Maj Gen GREENLY) to withdraw on CRISOLLES, and passed through a very large number of French batteries in action on roughly line of HATI-NOYON road. Arrived 8 PM All ranks very tired indeed.</p> <p>9.45 PM Moved on across NOYON - NESLE canal (DRY) to BEAURAIN. Arrived 12 midnight and found the horses there. 1.4.9.</p> <p>During night organized the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Cav Bdes as two regiments under Capt HERTMAN 5<sup>th</sup> Bds and Maj. LITTLE 20<sup>th</sup> Hussars both under the command of Lt Col GTR COOK. The whole being known as COOK'S DETACHMENT. (The surplus horses were sent to NOYON) 1 Troop of 5<sup>th</sup> Lancers also included in this command. 6 AM. Moved to VAUCHELLES. Got in touch with 14<sup>th</sup> Division at BEAURAIN and SERTAINZE, Gen HARMAN'S Cavalry Detachment at LAGNY and FRENCH at NOYON, and to the north of it French holding strongly BUSSY - CRISOLLES and AUTRECOURT.</p>	
	25 <sup>th</sup>			

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 149  
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Army Form C. 18.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26 <sup>th</sup> (cont)		<p>RSCs were sent out on left to link up with Northumberland Co. and G.D.C. 10<sup>th</sup> French Division ordered what troops he could collect at PLESSIS-CACHELEUX to advance and hold the high wooded hills N.W. of LAGNY</p> <p>At 12.30 P.M. large numbers of French troops came up to vicinity of the farm in the centre of our position for the purpose of making a counter attack eastwards. This however did not materialise.</p> <p>At 3 PM the situation was, large numbers of enemy assembling to attack from direction of Bois des ESSARTS, French and ourselves holding the farm in the centre of our position, ourselves and the enemy both in LAGNY and the enemy streaming round the left flank on the high wooded hills, so a retirement mounted was ordered to a position covering the crossing of the stream at DIVES. The enemy again worked round the left and at 5 PM the position was evacuated, under heavy artillery fire on the exits from DIVES, with orders to concentrate on THIESCOUAT LT Col. GARR. COOK D.C.O. was killed during this retirement. No orders were received at THIESCOUAT where a</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY <sup>or</sup> ~~Summary~~ <sup>V.H.G.</sup>

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
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In fact situation appeared well in hand and NOYON reported by III Corp commander to be safe for the present.

2.10 PM Ordered to move to CATIGNY and join Gen HARMAN's detachment. Found him at LAGNY and waited there. 5.30 PM. Organized as dismounted party of 250 men (Two Hotchkiss Rifles only remaining) and moved off to take over part of front line of posts east of LE CHAPITRE Wood (east of CAMPAGNE). Before they reached this point the French were found to be retiring so they accordingly returned. The French asked for support so all the cavalry there moved mounted in a North easterly direction at 8 PM and took up a position to the South west of CATIGNY. Withdrawn at 1 AM and LASSIGNY moved to a completely bare piece of ground between DIVES and LASSIGNY with no cover whatsoever. 9.30 AM recrossed DIVETTE Stream and in conjunction with French troops held a semicircular line from wood North of CUY round and including a farm on top of a hill North of the wood to the junction of LAGNY and SCEAUCOURT. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cav. Div. was on our right at CUY and and a small number of Northumberland Hussars on the high ground N.W. of LAGNY. At 10.45 AM French withdrew from LAGNY. 20<sup>th</sup> Hussars and 1 sqdn 16<sup>th</sup> Lancers worked up the main street of the village, dismounted and established themselves at night angles to main street LAGNY and half way up it.

V.H.G.

1875 W.D. 593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms C. 2118

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 14.9

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26 <sup>th</sup> (cont)		very few French troops were preparing to hold a position. learnt from a straggler that 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cav. Div had been ordered to ELINCOURT so proceeded there via L'ECOUVILLE. Arrived 11 PM. 14.9.	
	27 <sup>th</sup>	10 AM	Ordered to rejoin 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cav. Div. Marched via MAREST sur MATZ, VILLERS sur COUDUN, COUDUN, then due south across country to VENETTE. Arr 1:30 PM. Moved 2:30 to high ground on main road west of that place where COOKS DETACHMENT was split up <del>and</del> into their own regts. Moved 4 PM to ARSY. 14.9.	
	28 <sup>th</sup>	6 AM	Paraded and all spare horses were left here with B Echelon. Enemy reported to have broken through south of MONTDIDIER so moved via GRANDFRESNOY, BLINCOURT, EPINEUSE, NAIMBEVILLE to NOROY where the situation was reported restored and the Div. was not needed. 12 Noon enemy reported to have broken through west of MONTDIDIER and to be making for main Paris railway line at CHEPOIX. So marched via LIEUVILLERS, ANGI-VILLERS, LE PLESSIER sur ST JUST, PLAINVAL, QUINQUEMPOIX, ANSAU-VILLERS to CHEPOIX <del>but</del> again it was found to be a false alarm.	

2353 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. &amp; L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOUTILLERIE	28 <sup>th</sup>	4 PM	Moved into billets at LA HERELLE (a deserted village) out at night. I.H.G. Patrol sent out at dawn to effect liaison with 58 <sup>th</sup> French Division at BROYES who reported situation well in hand and French holding a line about MERNIL ST GEORGES. Moved 2 PM via MORY MONTEURX, CHEPOIX, PAILLART, CHAUSSOY - EPAGNY, ESTREES SUR NOYE, SAINS en ATIENOIS, ST FUSCIEN and CAGNY to BOUTILLERIE Arr. 8.15 PM	Small hosts put to whom Bde is acting as a Mounted Reserve
BOIS LABRE	30 <sup>th</sup>	8 AM	Moved via CAGNY to BOIS LABRE where of CACHY Arrived 10 AM when it commenced to rain. Spent all day and night there	1/45
ITINERY	31 <sup>st</sup>		Remained in wood. Organised as a Dismounted Company of 138 all ranks under Capt W. D HALL R.C.	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		LED HORSES of Regt. period 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> LEFT QUEREMY and marched to M <sup>t</sup> LAGACHE via NOYON TO BAILEY	
	25 <sup>th</sup>		To just west of COMPIEGNE	
	26 <sup>th</sup>		Rejoined <del>26th</del> Regt. west of VENETTE	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		Attached APPENDIX I Account of a party detached from 25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> under Capt W. D. HALL	
			APPENDIX II LIST of Casualties.	

Albittle Major  
 endg 20<sup>th</sup> Hunsary.

20<sup>th</sup> Hussars War Diary.

## APPENDIX I.

1918.  
March  
25<sup>th</sup>

Lt J.C. BLAND and 60 ORs left BAILEY and proceeded under the command of Lt Col FANE G.M.G. DSO. 12<sup>th</sup> Alancans to PONTOISE where Capt. W.D. HALL M.C. joined and took over command from Lt BLAND. 57 ORs who had lost touch with main part of regt. also joined here. 7 PM Marched to CHIRY and on arrival there at 8 PM suddenly ordered to seize and hold Mt RENAULT. On arriving there found it was held by French. Patrols sent to LABROYE and NOYON, both unoccupied by enemy. Took up a defensive position astride the main road with C Sqn holding LABROYE BRICKWORKS.

26<sup>th</sup> French troops which had been holding main road bridge out of NOYON evacuated it at 4 a.m. and enemy occupied NOYON in strength at about 7 a.m. C Sqn ordered to occupy hill 160 N.W. of LABROYE. 9 AM enemy reported advancing in large numbers along NOYON LABROYE road. 10 AM ordered to concentrate as quickly as possible at PASSEL, and enemy occupied hill 160. Moved round to DIVE-LE-FRANC, where Divisional Party was concentrated. 2 PM ordered to occupy and hold hill 104 south of SUZOY with ~~one~~ one sdn. 5 PM remainder of regt. reinforced this sdn. as enemy had occupied hill 104. This was done with few casualties. 11 PM. Regt was withdrawn to the houses at VILLE.

27<sup>th</sup> Marched to CHIRY station. arriving 3 AM. Marched at midday to rejoin Division west of COMPIEGNE.

J.H.G.

20<sup>th</sup> Hussars.

Appendix<sup>2</sup> to the War Diary for the month of March 1918.

Date	Casualties.
21-3-1918.	2 Other Tanks killed in Action 5 " " Wounded in Action 1 " " " (remaining at duty)
22-3-1918	3 Other Tanks killed in Action 9 " " Wounded in Action 2 " " Missing.
23-3-1918.	1 Other Tank to England, as candidate for a commission 1 " " to Hospital 1 " " from Hospital. Lieut. G. B. Cook, killed in Action Lieut. W. W. Ogilby, Died of Wounds. Lieut. D. G. Jackson, Wounded in Action 4 Other Tanks killed in Action 31 " " Wounded in Action 16 " " Missing
24-3-1918	1 Other Tank killed in Action 3 " " Wounded in Action
25-3-1918	Lieut. G. J. Mann (Wounded, remaining at duty) 1 Other Tank killed in Action 9 " " Wounded in Action 3 " " Missing
26-3-1918	Lieut. Col. G. J. P. Cook D.S.O. killed in Action Lieut. P. S. Clinton M.C., Wounded in Action 10 Other Tanks killed in Action 2 " " Wounded in Action 4 " " Missing
27-3-18	Lieut. W. J. Balfour to Hospital " J. L. Tansley to Hospital " J. B. Phillips to Hospital 10 Other Tanks, Wounded in Action
28-3-18	NIL
29-3-18	1 Other Tank to Hospital
30-3-18	2nd Lieut. G. H. Robson to Hospital 1 Other Tank from Hospital
31-3-18	1 Other Tank to Hospital.

I.H.G.

Captain