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War Diary
of
1st Bn. K.O.R.L. Regt.
for
July 1916.

12
4

1 K.O.R.L.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
30 th June to 1 st July 1916.	<p>Account of Operations on 30th June 1916, to 1st July 1916.</p> <p>Owing to the fact that there are so few Officers and men now with the Battalion who made any substantial progress in the attack on the 1st July it is neither possible to give an accurate nor detailed account of the operations.</p> <p>This account is based on information obtained from Officers and men who took part in the attack and are now serving with the Bn. Also on different categories of casualties sustained by different companies according to their different dispositions.</p> <p>At about 10 p.m. as the Bn. was preparing to march off, the enemy commenced to shell the neighbourhood of our camp at BERTRANCOURT. At 10.5 p.m. Head Qrs. moved off and Coys. moved in rear with 100 yds. distance between platoons. The route of the Bn. was as follows:—The track running E. of the Camp, across BERTRANCOURT—COURCELLES road—down the valley thence following the white guide posts to MAILLY—SUCRERIE road, following the SUCRERIE road for 20 yds, turning S.E. along the track marked by the white guide posts to 6th AVENUE, along N. side of 6th AVENUE across the sunken road, continuing along 6th AVENUE to where ROMAN road runs under SERRE road, thence turning N.E. following white guide posts to CHEERON AVENUE, Assembly trenches</p>	

BERTRANCOURT.

10 p.m. June 30th

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<p>ASSEMBLY AREA. 1.30 a.m. July 1st.</p>	<p>trenches in neighbourhood of GREEN TRENCH and BOW STREET. The Battalion was present in its assembly area at 1.30 a.m. 1st July. Casualties amounted to 6 up to this period. <u>Dispositions of Coys. in the attack.</u> Each Coy. had a frontage of one platoon. i.e. Battalion had a frontage of 4 platoons (approximately 500 yds.) exact disposition of Coys. as shown on att diagram below. <u>The Attack.</u> An Officer's patrol consisting of 1 Officer (2 Lt. C. G. MacWalter) and 20 O. R. advanced as a screen extending over the whole Battalion front at 8.41 a.m. At 8.46 a.m. leading sections of the Battalion advanced from their Assembly Area. Directly the advance commenced the Batt. came under heavy machine gun fire and there seems no doubt that a large number of casualties occurred before reaching our own front line. The two left Coys. seemed to have suffered most heavily up to this point. The advance still continued, however, a large number of casualties being sustained in NO MAN'S LAND from both machine gun and shell fire; this is proved by the fact that a large number of killed and wounded were brought in from NO MAN'S LAND. The two left Coys. again seemed to have suffered most heavily.</p>	<p>G. O. R.</p>

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<p>July 1st</p> <p>German 2nd line. 12.30 h.m.</p>	<p>Only a small number of these Corps. reached the German front line. The two right Corps. seemed to have made substantial progress. Some men state that they actually saw men crossing the German second line. The casualties in missing of these two Corps. are considerably greater than in the two left Corps.</p> <p>An Officer of the left centre Coy. who was only able to reach the German front line owing to his having so few men left, states that he saw no one advancing on his left, but that to his right he could see men advancing (Most of these men appeared to belong to the Seaforth Highlanders). He further states that the enemy were holding their second line directly in front of him and to his left front very strongly and that they had machine guns in the open just in front of their second line on his left front. Those men of the two right Corps. who are now with the Batt. state that in the German second line there was a mixed force of all Regiments and that at about 12.30 h.m. these men retired with the remainder of this force, first of all back to the German 1st line, and shortly after, thence to our front line, owing to the strong bomb attacks made by the enemy which they were unable to meet owing to the shortage of bombs.</p>	

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July 1 st	<p>X As regards the left Coy., owing to the fact that the right Bn. 31st Division had been unable to make any headway, few of them reached the front line.</p> <p>There seems to be a general opinion that the Batt. lost its direction to a certain extent, advancing too much to its left as men of the left Coy. state that when they crossed our front line there were men of the 31st Division in our front line at this point.</p> <p>The Brigadier of the Right Brigade 31st Division checked any further advance and ordered what men remained to form up in LEG END. This seems to have been about 4 p.m., but the exact time is uncertain.</p> <p>120 men remained at the end of the day and were ordered to form up in their former Assembly trenches. (GREEN TRENCH area). X</p> <p>(Diagram of Disposition of Batt. attached below.)</p>	<p><u>KILLED</u></p> <p>Capt. J. F. N. Young. 2nd Lt. H. P. Melly. " R. R. Minor. " C. C. MacdWalter. " P. Clegg. " J. Rowley. " G. R. Hablutzel.</p> <p><u>WOUNDED</u></p> <p>Capt. A. H. Read. 3rd Batt. Somerset Regt. " S. S. Skeels. 2nd Lieut. H. S. Siver. " J. P. Robinson. " L. L. Mordlock. " F. A. Markham. " C. O. Wright. " G. H. Hallett. " A. P. Myers. (Shell Shock) " W. R. Thompson. " L. A. Hall. (Shell Shock). " C. S. Whitworth. Capt. F. M. Barnes. R.A.M.C.</p> <p><u>MISSING</u></p> <p>Major. J. N. Bromilow. Capt. A. Weatherhead. 2nd Lieut. A. H. W. Hudson.</p>

LEG END. 4th p.m. (about)

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	<p><i>Critique of Scheme and Time Table for the Attack.</i></p> <p><i>Speaking from observation on the extreme right of the 4th Division as well as from accounts received from left of the Division there seems to have been</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Lack of weight.</i> <i>2. The fact that 11th Brigade and 31st Division were unable to capture and consolidate their first objectives, enabled the enemy to in places to man these objectives and with rifle and machine gun fire inflict heavy losses on the Battns. advancing in rear before they could even reach their own front line. They were thus by the Time Table unable even to act as a support to the 11th Brigade.</i> <i>3. Whilst not in a position to state whether any batteries ^{were} detailed as "Swingers", had such Batteries been able to fire on points where the enemy in rear of their front lines were seen to be using both machine gun and rifle fire, the advance would have been probably more effective. As it was it appeared that the Artillery programme barrage worked strictly according to programme as was intended, thereby giving little "Artillery support" to the rear Battns. of the Division.</i> <i>4. Such strong points as the village of SERRE, the RIDGE REDOUBT which commanded the advance inflicting heavy casualties</i> 	

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	<p>with machine gun by cross fire must be captured before a considerable advance can be made. No doubt, owing to the fact that the 31st Division were unable to make any advance, most of the machine guns in SERRE, by that time unmolested by Artillery fire were able to concentrate on the advancing troops to their left front.</p> <p>5. There seems to have been an impression in the Batt. that there would be no advance by the 12th Brigade until SERRE and THIEPVAL were taken, which of course would have been the case had the programme worked out satisfactorily.</p> <p>6. The Time Table was strictly adhered to throughout, and the advance carried out as a drill movement.</p> <p>7. If a proportion of Officers could be kept in mine dug outs near the front line and sent up to their units directly the troops have entered the enemy trenches, or at the discretion of the Brigadier General, control could be efficiently established, and the positions captured thoroughly consolidated and held.</p>	

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	<p><u>Memo sent 11/6/16. to 12th Brigade. re above diagram.</u></p> <p>"Reference the attached sketch showing disposition of Batt. during under my command during the advance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lines of sections though shown as covering from front to rear and all in line will in reality be irregular. 2. My reasons for putting the four Coys. in line, is, that it avoids intermingling of units, and is preferred by my O.C. Coys rather than leaving two Coys. in the front line and two in support. 3. The 24 barbed wire cutters will be distributed amongst the scouts until reach the PUISIEUX road, and each patrol has been instructed to ensure that 2 lanes in his lines of advance are open for sections to pass through in single file. On reaching the PUISIEUX road the wire cutters will be handed over to the nearest Officer or N.C.O. for redistribution to selected men. <p>The 64 bayonet wire cutters, and 40 wire breakers are distributed equally to the four Coys. and are all in the leading lines".</p>	

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155 The King's Own Rifles

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trenches East of MAILLY MAILLET	6th Heavy rain. In support trenches in ELLES SQUARE	Captain R.C. Matthews rejoined to take com- mand of the Battalion from 11th Bde. Staff.
7th	ELLES SQUARE heavily shelled with lacrymatory shells in the morning. Battalion relieved in ELLES SQUARE ^{by Duke} about 2 am. proceeded to billets in MAILLY MAILLY heavily shelled up to 3.30 am. no damage done to the Battalion.	
8th	First day in billets general cleaning up. Carrying Parties still in trenches.	
9th	The Corps Commander Lt General Sir Arthur Hunter Weston visited the Battalion and spoke to Coy. congratulating them on the operations of 15 July. Batus in the afternoon.	
10th	The G. O. C. 4th Div. spoke to the men by Coy. congratulating them on the operations of 15 July. Battalion marched to BERTRANCOURT in the afternoon.	
11th	First day in rest. Brigade in Divisional Machine specialist classes commencing. Lt. Brown General.	

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19.6 Hut BERTRAND COURT July 11th (cont)	Signatures, Snipers, Bombs	
12th	Company Training and Battalion Class continued as on 11th	
13th	"	
14th	"	
15th	"	
16th	"	
17th	Battalion received 15th Royal Warwickshire Regt in trenches 2 1/2 mile due East of AUCHONVILLERS, about opposite BEAUMONT HAMLET. Battalion distributed as follows. Front line in Right D Coy. Centre B Coy. Left "C" Coy. A Coy in Bn reserve in TENDERLOIN. Bn HQ TENDERLOIN. Trench strength of Battalion about 350. Front held by Battalion, northern extremity KATLING STREET, Southern junction of front line with NEW BEAUMONT ROAD.	LT Colonel Bonfield joined the Battalion from command of the Shropshire L.I. & took over command. Following officers joined for duty on 16th
18th	A quiet day. New trench commenced at night running forward to SUNKEN road. Enemy machine guns & rifle fire all night but no effect against this work, but	LT J. H. Hardy 2nd Lt. A. Barraclough " R. D. Hopson " F. R. Goochland " R. S. Tanner " R. Hamworth " McC. Daly " F. H. Barlow

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15 The King's Own Light

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trenches E of AUCHONVILLERS	considerable progress made.	
19 th	a certain amount of enemy artillery activity, but with small effect. Work on new trench continued. enemy more active against this work, causing a few casualties.	
20 th	Enemy artillery registered front line with field guns & 4 2. howitzers. Work on new trench continued at night under heavy artillery fire. trench completed to depth of 4' 6" a number of casualties.	
21 st	5th Royal Bucks Regt. relieved the Battalion in trenches. Relief complete 5.15 pm. Battalion marched by Coys to billets at LOUVENCOURT. Present in billets 8.15 pm.	1 st Jewers 4 th Bower } joined Somerville } Am " Jay
LOUVENCOURT		
22 nd	Battalion marched to AUTHIEULE at 7 am, arriving 10.30 am. Rested all day. Battalion marched at 10.55 pm for DOULLENS. entered at DOULLENS at 12.30 am. Train left DOULLENS at 1.30 am.	
AUTHIEULE		

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15th The King's Own B.

Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

CASSEL } July 23rd
HERZEELE }

Battalion detained at CASSEL 7.30am. Breakfasts
at CASSEL. Battalion marched from CASSEL
10.15am to HERZEELE, arrived there 2.30pm.
Companies billeted in farms round the village.
Very comfortable billets.

HERZEELE 24th

Company Training. Classes of instruction for
Specialists. CO's inspection of billets.

25th Company Training26th Adjutant's Parade + Company Training

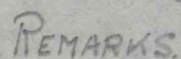
27th Battalion marched from HERZEELE at 12.30pm
and bivouacked in wood about 2 miles West
of POPERINCHE (close to PROVEN).

D. Camp N.E. of
POPERINCHE

28th Battalion marched 9.15am to huts in
D Camp, about 2 miles N.E. of POPERINCHE,
about 1 mile from POPERINCHE-YPRES RD.

29th Company Training30th

O.C. B. Mellett Lt. Col. O. R. V.
Cmndy. 21st The King's Own B.



Carriers - L.M.G. ammunition who
are trained in filling drums - 16

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