

37th Inf.Bde.
12th Div.

WAR
DIARY

6th BATTN. THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT).

O C T O B E R

1 9 1 5

Attached:

Field States.

WAR DIAR

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

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VERMELLES	1.10.15.		<p>Situation quiet. During the morning the battalion had company drill and the bombing sections practised throwing bombs. Numerous officers reconnoitring patrols went out during the day and looked at the old British trenches, the old German trenches, and the ground in front generally. At 6.45 p.m. a working party of 150 men from 'K' Coy, and 150 from 'D' Coy went out to dig along the line dividing G & H from G 18 D point 09 to G 24 B point 17. At 9.45 p.m. a second working party of 150 men from 'A' & 150 from 'B' Coy went out to relieve the first party. Very little work was done owing to the fact that the guides lost their way. There was a great deal of shelling, but there was only one casualty - ser.</p>	MAP 36C N.W. 3-9P. 12.
VERMELLES	2.10.15.	6 p.m.	<p>The day was quiet. A few shells were sent over VERMELLES, just clearing the transport. In the morning, the Brigadier held a conference. From this we were led to suppose that the 37th Inf. Bde. was to be ready to make an attack shortly. A burial party under Lieut. WILLIAMS went out. About 50 bodies were buried. The party was heavily shelled, but</p>	

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			<p>returned with only the loss of one stretcher. Another working party of 600 men was again furnished, in two reliefs. Lieut. PHILLIMORE & LIEUT. ^{A.L.} GULLICK went out with the first party to reconnoitre the ground in front of the lines. Lieut. LEE & 2nd LIEUT. LAMBERT went out with the second party. Lieut. A.L. GULLICK was unfortunately hit by a stray bullet, and died within a few minutes. He was buried by the 8th R.F. at Pt. 36. opp. BOIS CARREE. A little work was done, but the R.E. sent the second working party back, as it was found impossible to relieve in the dark.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J.P.</p> <p>The battalion received orders to move at 11.30 a.m. to MAZINGARBE. Arriving there about 12.15 p.m. the battalion, the transport and the R.W.K. Regt. with transport were all moved into a field to bivouac till the evening. About 12.45, all were moved out again to another field under the slag heap along the railway at G 25 & 26 (BETHUNE continued sheet)</p>	
MAZINGARBE	3.10.15.			

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			<p>as the first field was too exposed. Billeting representations were sent into MAZINGARBE to take over the billets which the 3rd COLDSTREAM GUARDS ^{3rd COLDSTREAM GUARDS J.C.P.} were then occupying. Several shells were sent into the village, while the battalion was waiting to go in. At 5.30 p.m. orders were received that a working party of 600 men would be again required. The first party of 300 were found by C & D Coys, who had to be at LE RUTOIRE by 6.45 p.m. About 6.30 p.m. the remainder of the battalion marched into their billets in MAZINGARBE. Shortly afterwards a message was sent saying that the second relief of the working party would not be required. The first working party was not able to start work till midnight, & did not arrive back till 5.15 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J.C.P.</p>	

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MAZINGARBE	4.10.15.		The day passed quietly - A few shells were dropped into the town, but did little damage. The day was fine except towards evening, when it rained hard. Orders were received for a move the next day, and there were no working-parties.	
MAZINGARBE	5.10.15.		In the morning there was a court-martial held on Pte. Edwards of 'A' Coy. Major Beeching, G. R.W.K., was president - In the afternoon orders were received for the move - In the morning, the C.O. & all the O.C. companies met the General at NOTRE DAME de CONSOLATION (G10 C72 - Street 36 C N.W.3 r.P. of 1) and went over the trenches, which were then being held by 1 st GRENADEIR GUARDS - The battalion moved at 6.15. p.m. by companies at 10 mins. interval (D.A. & C.B. being the order of march). The road from MAZINGARBE to VERMELLES was thick with relieving troops, working parties and transport - After passing VERMELLES, the coys. were brought to a halt on the HULLUCH ROAD owing to the congestion. The guides of the 1 st GRENADEIR GUARDS could not be found, and when at length new ones were brought, it was they could not find the way. The communication trenches were very crowded, and one company took five hours to get from Bati. H. Q. to the Support trench. The relief was	

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			<p>finally completed by 3.30 a.m. The dispositions of the coys. were:-</p> <p>"D" coy. (left.) from G 12 D Pt. 44 down to G 12 D. pt. 60.</p> <p>"C" coy. (right.) from G 12 D pt. 60 down to G 18 B pt. 35 -</p> <p>"A" coy. (support) from G 12 D 15 down to G 18 B 19 -</p> <p>"B" coy. (reserv.) from G 11 D 51 down to G 17 B 68.</p> <p>The battalion had three slight casualties from stray bullets on the VERMELLES-HULLUCH ROAD.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J.P.</p> <p>There was some shelling during the night, which increased in the early morning - The casualties were five killed and five wounded - During the day, work was carried on in improving the trenches. The new forward trench at G 1866 9 1/2 to G 1869 1/2 5) was completed and manned by "C" coy -</p>	
Trenches.	6.10.15			

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Trenches.	7.X.15.		<p>Very heavy shelling all night on the the South; this continued incessantly all day. Bate. H.Q. was shelled frequently and also the Pearson trench, in which A Coy. was situated. The continuation of this trench was attempted during the night to HAIE ALLEY, but had to be abandoned owing to the heavy shelling.</p> <p><u>H.P.</u></p>	
Trenches.	8.X.15.		<p>About 8 a.m. Capt. GULLICK was hit in the back on his way to B'de H.Q. His wound, though painful was not serious. The French bombardment continued all day without cessation. Our sector of the line was on the whole, quiet. A "gassing" officer came round to each of the</p>	

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			<p>corp. to arrange bags to hold the cylinders, but nothing further was done.</p> <p><u>J.P.</u></p>	
Trenches	9.8.15		<p>Our artillery was active. The R. W. Kent Regt. made an attack from their lines N. of the HULLUCH road on the German trenches. The trench was taken in parts, but they were eventually driven out by bombs. The original front line was maintained.</p> <p><u>J.P.</u></p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trenches 10.2.25	10.2.25		Morning was quiet. 6 th QUEENS Regt. relieved the battalion in the afternoon. New position taken up was in the old British line. N. of HULLUCH-VERMELLES Road. Relief completed by 6 p.m. No casualties.	
Trenches	11.10.25		The Battalion was moved from the old British line to old German line, with Bn. H.Q. in centre of old German line. The fl. R. W. Kent went into old German line.	

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Trenches.	12.X.15.		<p>Bath. H. Q. moved from old British line, to which E. SURREY H.Q. came, up to the KIDNEYS, a small trench leading into BRESLAW AVENUE and CENTRE ALLEY.</p> <p>A conference was held in the afternoon to discuss plans for the attack on the following day.</p> <p>Coy. commanders received full instructions, and these were carefully explained to all ranks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J.P.</p>	

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Trenches.	13. X. 15.		<p>at 10.45 a.m. - the coys. moved from their positions and took up the following in the trenches N. of CENTRE ALLEY:-</p> <p>A coy. in front line Q 12 A pt. 54 to Q 12 A 9½ 3.</p> <p>C coy. in S.F.T. Q 12 A 5-3 to Q 12 A 1½ 8.</p> <p>D coy. in support trench Q 12 A 42 to Q 12 C 6 9½</p> <p>B coy. in 2nd support trench Q 12 A 21 to Q 12 C 38.</p> <p>At 12. noon - the artillery began their bombardment. They were replied with some effect on our trenches, CENTRE ALLEY suffering some damage. At 1 p.m. a smoke cloud was created along the line, the position on our front being made by the E. Surrey Regt. By about 2 p.m. all the smoke had cleared. At 2.15 p.m. the order was given to charge. A & C coys. went in one line, with D coy. a few yards behind. The men were met with a terrific fire, machine-guns on three sides, while the Germans were lying on their parapets giving rapid fire. The three coys. were practically wiped out. It was very difficult to get any information at Bats. H.Q. as all the wires were broken.</p> <p>At 5 p.m. B. coy. were ordered up to the S.F.T. and one coy. of R. West Kent Regt. to the Support trench.</p>	

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			<p>Major Lloyd went up to the front line. The line was as far as possible reorganized. Our casualties were ten officers, viz. Major Furley, Major Soames D.S.O., Capt. Davidson, Capt. Brodie, Lieut. Phillimore, Lieut. Marsh, 2/Lieut. Telf, 2/Lieut. Lambart, 2/Lieut. Bainbridge, killed and 2/Lieut. Birkett wounded, and 400 other ranks (including Sergt Burnett, acting C.S.M. "A" coy. and C.S.M. Glover 30th "C" coy.).</p> <p>The night was fairly quiet, though some bombing took place. The following 5 officers reported at 10 p.m. Lieut. A. Christmas, Lieut. L.R. Dale, Lieut. P. Lamb, 2/Lt. H.E.B. Wilkins, 2/Lt. G.F.A. de B. Wood.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">V.C.P.</p>	

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	14.X.15.		<p>The 6th R. W. Kent Regt. relieved the Battalion at 5 a.m. who took the trenches vacated in the old British line. Numerous parties went up to find the bodies of officers and men. At 5 p.m. the 6th Queen's took over the trenches and the Battalion proceeded via Wings Way, Fosse way, and Le Rutoire to billets in NOVELLES les VERMELLES. The Battalion were all in, without any casualties, by 9 p.m.</p> <p>J.C.P.</p>	

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NOYELLES LES VERMELLES	15.X.15.		<p>The officers that arrived on the 13th inst. were posted to companies as follows:—</p> <p>Lieut. Christmas. A. to A coy. } 2/Lieut. Wilkins. H.E.B. ... A coy. }</p> <p>Lieut. Lamb. P. to C coy. Lieut. Dale. L.R. and 2/Lieut. Wood. G.F.A. & B. to D coy.</p> <p>In the afternoon, 15 men per hour had babies at Post. no. 9. In the morning, the bodies of Capt. Davidson, 4/Lieut. Bainbridge and 2/Lt. Telf. were brought down from the trench.</p> <p>Telf.</p>	
NOYELLES LES VERMELLES	16.X.15.		<p>A draft of 42 other ranks arrived from BETHUNE. They were posted to C. coy. At 12.30. p.m. there was a funeral service in the Military Cemetery at VERMELLES and Capt. Davidson, 2/Lt. Telf. and 2/Lt. Bainbridge were buried. In the afternoon, the body of Lieut. Phillimore was received. He was buried at 5. p.m.</p> <p>Telf.</p>	