



Confidential

War Diary
of

2nd Bn. The East Surrey Regiment

Volume II

from 1/2/15 to 28/2/15.

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 1.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>FLÉTRE 1-2-15. OUDERDOM 2-2-15.</p>	<p>Companies at Running Practice - Fire Control practice - Bayonet fighting - Brigade headed by the Battalion left FLÉTRE at 8.28am to OUDERDOM, distance 13 miles - arriving in new billets at 2.30pm. No casualties - 85th Inf. Bde. Reserve Brigade to 28th Division -</p>	
<p>3-2-15.</p>	<p>Companies at Fire Control Exercises - Bayonet fighting and practising the charge - Cleaning out billets, and making paths - German Aeroplane flew over billets and was fired at, but was flying too high to be hit. This is the first we have seen of enemy at close quarters. Boots issued at WINCHESTER are wearing very badly and causing a great deal of trouble. The same is of trade manufacture.</p>	
<p>4-2-15 YRES 9.30pm.</p>	<p>Companies at Fire Control + Bayonet fighting exercises - Battalion marched at 8.45 pm. to YPRES to reinforce 83rd Inf. Brigade. It arrived at 9.30pm distance about 8 miles, and was held in reserve at 83rd Inf. Bde. Headquarters. C + D Coys. were detailed to carry rations and water into the fire trenches. One man wounded being our first casualty in the war. Battalion returned to billets at 4.30 am. fifth inst.</p>	
<p>OUDERDOM 5-2-15</p>	<p>Battalion arrived in billets at 7.45 am and rested. At 7.15 pm orders received for Battalion to be in readiness to move at a moment's notice to YPRES.</p>	
<p>YPRES. 6-2-15.</p>	<p>Battalion marched to YPRES leaving at 1.30pm arriving at 4.15pm. C Coy + B Coy, 1/2 Machine Gun section, drew rations, picks, shovels, periscopes, and marched at 6.35pm to relieve B + C Coys. 2nd LEINSTER Regiment in trenches. The relief commenced at 8.10pm. C Coy and 1 platoon B Coy under Capt. ANSON and LIEUT. HEALES respectively and 1/2 Machine Gun section under Lieut J. GURDON, only being required. The relief was carried out and completed by 11.30pm without any casualty in spite of heavy rifle fire. B Coy less 1 platoon marched back to billets at 10pm and being held in reserve at the former place.</p>	
<p>KRUISSTRAT-YPRES 7-2-15.</p>	<p>C Coy and 1 platoon in trenches. Nothing unusual occurred during day till 5pm when KRUISSTRAT was intermittently shelled at 5pm. B Coy (less 1 platoon in trenches) and 2 platoons D Coy marched at 5.10pm, under Capt. C. S. REEVE to relieve C Coy + 1 platoon B Coy in trenches. A Coy marched at 5.15pm to dig 2nd line trenches under instructions from O.C. / D.C.L.I. Capt A.T. ROBINSON (2nd in command) accompanied these companies to complete the reliefs, collect reports and the best results personally on his return to 85th Bde. Hdqrs. - Reliefs were completed at 12 midnight. Casualties during day: Killed during relief Nil. Wounded.</p>	

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KRUISSTRAT Y PRES. 8-2-15.	B Coy (less 1 platoon) 2 platoons D Coy in trenches. A Coy trench digging 2 nd line. C Coy carrying rations and supplies to trenches 3 rd Bn. Middlesex Regt. 2 platoons B Coy ditto to B Coy, 1/2 Machine Gun section and 2 platoons D Coy in trenches. Casualties 5 wounded. Situation generally normal. Enemy shelled vicinity intermittently throughout the day. Battalion billets in KRUISSTRAT. No damage.	
9. 2. 15.	Battalion ordered to relieve 3 rd Bn. MIDDLESEX Regiment in trenches S. S. E. YRES. This relief was subsequently counter ordered and the Battalion was employed in carrying rations and water to the trenches. During this 2 nd Lieut R. G. MILBURN was wounded. 2 nd Lieut F. W. COKER reported his arrival on joining the Battalion. Lieut J. L. CONGDON was placed on sick list and admitted to hospital. Casualties 4 wounded. Battalion returned to billets by 6.45 am. 10 th inst.	
10. 2. 15.	Battalion in billets. 2 nd Lieut R. G. MILBURN died of wounds at 6 am. Battalion left billets at 6 pm. to relieve 3 rd Bn. MIDDLESEX Regiment in trenches which was carried out. Casualties 4 wounded. B. Coy (less 1 platoon) 2 platoons D Coy and 1/2 Machine Gun section relieved in the trenches returned to billets and placed at disposal of OC. 3 rd Bn. MIDDLESEX Regiment. Casualties	
11 - 2 - 15.	Battalion on duty in trenches. Nothing unusual occurred. Casualties 5 killed, 15 wounded. German saps observed and reported.	
12 - 2 - 15.	Battalion on duty in trenches. Nothing unusual occurred. German saps extended and this was reported. Battalion was relieved by 3 rd Bn. MIDDLESEX Regiment. The relief being completed by 1 am. 13-2-15. Casualties - Killed 3. Wounded Four. Missing 2.	
13. 2 - 15.	Battalion after being relieved by 3 rd Bn. MIDDLESEX Regiment, Battalion was retained in support of the latter Battalion while special trench digging was being carried out as a countermeasure to the German sapping, and left for billets at 4.30 am arriving at 6 am. Casualties - Nil.	
14 - 2 - 15.	At 8.30 am. Battalion (less B Coy less 1 platoon, and 2 platoons D. Coy in trenches) marched out with object to attack & capture a lost trench. The attack commenced at 2 pm. A Coy firing line and supports, C Coy in support, 2 platoons D Coy and 1 section B Coy held in Reserve. The advance was over very exposed open ground and the attack was held up. A Coy losing nearly all its officers, and C Coy suffering similarly, both with many casualties. Casualties Officers: 1 Killed [Lieut J. W. BIRNIE] Wounded [Capt A. T. ROBINSON, Capt E. G. ANSON, Lieut A. G. HEALS, Lieut F. E. SWINTON, Lieut K. BELL IRVING, 2 nd Lieut F. W. COKER, 2 nd Lieut D. H. BEATTY.] Rank & File - Killed, Eight Wounded, 106 missing 37 Battalion marched back to billets at 6 am. 15. 2. 15. Casualties in Trenches. Killed Capt C. S. REEVE. Rank & File killed 4 wounded 7. Lieut C. H. TAGG reported missing.	

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