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2nd R. SCOTS FUSILIERS  
ORDERLY ROOM.  
Date *4 23 18*  
No. ....

WAR DIARY  
OF THE  
2ND BATTALION ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS.  
FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1918.

*J. H. Allen Rho*

3-4-18.

Lieut-Colonel.  
Commanding 2nd Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers.



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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field	1-3-18.		Day spent in preparing for move from Savoy Dug-outs to Forward Zone. Leading Co, leave Savoy at 6.30pm. Dispositions as follows. B Co, on right front. D Co, on left front. A Co, (counterattack) 2 Platoons in Trancilly & 2 Platoons close to St QUENTIN RAILWAY. C Co, (Redoubt Co) beside Barr 4.0 in BROWN QUARRY. Relief complete by 10.30pm. No casualties.	
" " "	2-3-18.		Situation quiet. Two of the enemy approached one of our posts during the forenoon, but were fired on, none believed to be hit. This man dropped his gas mask, which was recovered, enabled identification to be made.	
" " "	3-3-18.		Enemy attitude generally quiet. Observation rendered difficult owing to the inclemency of the weather. Left front sector slightly shelled from 9 am - 4.30 am during an attempted enemy raid on the Battalion on our left. About 9 pm. a strong party of the enemy attempted to raid the central post of D. Co, on the Old Roman Road, but were unsuccessful. We suffered no casualties. Enemy losses unknown.	



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In the field	4-3-18.		Situation generally quiet	
" " "	5-3-18.		Improvement in weather. Our artillery carried out harassing fire on various points in enemy line. Party proceeds to ETREILLERS to reconnoitre defences.	
" " "	6-3-18.		Bn relieved by 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn YORKSHIRE REGT. Relief complete by 10.40 pm. Bn proceeds to ETREILLERS.	
" " "	7-3-18.		17 <sup>th</sup> Bn MANCHESTER REGT relieves Bn in ETREILLERS, after which the Bn marches via FLUGUIERES, AUBIGNY to DURY, leaving at 5.40 pm & arriving at 9 pm. Capt FETHERSTONHAUGH & other officers attend a demonstration of gas projectors at FLUGUIERES. C.O. goes on a Commanding Officers scheme during the afternoon.	
" " "	8-3-18.		Day spent in cleaning up equipment clothing etc.	
" " "	9-3-18.		Training carried out according to 1 <sup>st</sup> Days Programme. C.O. goes attend a scheme during the day.	
" " "	10-3-18		Church service in field adjoining Officers Room at 11 am	



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	11.3.18.		Training carried on under Coy. supervision. L.O. attends practice counter-attack scheme.	
	12.3.18.		Coy training continued.	
	13.3.18.		Gymkhana held by Battalion outside DURY	
	14.3.18.		Coy training continued. L.O. again attends scheme, with Coy. officers.	
	15.3.18.		Coy training. Gen. Sir Douglas Smith visits B <sup>n</sup> .	
	16.3.18.		Coy training continued.	
	17.3.18.		Voluntary Church Services.	
	18.3.18.		B <sup>n</sup> marches to ETRAILLERS, via AUBIGNY & FORESTE. Relieves 2 <sup>nd</sup> YORKS. Regt in defended locality. Practice manning of Battle positions.	
	19.3.18.		Practice manning of Battle positions early in the morning. Quiet day.	
	20.3.18.		Own artillery somewhat active, especially at night.	
	21.3.18.		Intense enemy barrage opens at 4.40 am. <sup>1st Lt. W. Knight being wounded</sup> Battle positions manned. Strong attacks develop at 10.0 am. MANCHESTER REDOUBT still holding out at 4.30 pm. Fell, presumably about 6.30 pm, as no further news from 16 <sup>th</sup> inches.	
	22.3.18.		Attack on Battle Zone, held by 2 <sup>nd</sup> BEDFORDS. 'A' Coy R.S.F. moved up to replace.	



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			<p>counter-attack Coy. of BEDFORDS, involved in the fighting. A Coy of 18<sup>th</sup> K.L.R. replaces "A" Coy. "A" Coy makes a successful counter-attack at 1 p.m. on trenches N. of SAVY-ETREILLERS Road. 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. J. MURRAY wounded. At 2 p.m. enemy again retake trench. New counter-attack under 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. J. BLAIR temporarily successful, but Coy. is too weak to hold on. 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. J. BLAIR wounded. Remains of Coy. withdraw to ETREILLERS. CAPT. W.C. MAIR, O.C. "B" Coy, killed by a sniper. Enemy driving down on both flanks. Orders received at 4.30 p.m. to withdraw &amp; proceed to HAM. Withdrawal begun in good order at 4.40 p.m. with enemy snipers &amp; M. Gunners making their way thro' ETREILLERS. B<sup>n</sup> makes its way in small parties thro' HAM to VERLAINE, with orders to bivouac there. LT. HAKEWELL-SMITH &amp; No 5. Platoon of "B" Coy did not get order to withdraw, &amp; remained in forward position, holding off enemy until dark. They then marched on a compass bearing, thro' VAUX &amp; GERMAINE, already held by the enemy, &amp; though challenged twice by parties of the enemy, made their way successfully to HAM, &amp; passed thro' it at 5 a.m.</p>	



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23. 3. 18			<p>at 4.30 am. heavy M.G. rifle fire near HAM aroused B<sup>n</sup> which stood to.</p> <p>at 6 am. it was decided to take up a defensive position astride VERLAINE — ESMERY. HALLOW Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bedfords on right, ourselves on left.</p> <p>Quiet day, except for a good deal of shelling on positions. orders received to move up to fill up flank towards DOLAN COURT. move postponed.</p>	
24. 3. 18.			<p>B<sup>n</sup> ordered forward. at 4.45 am. Patrols immediately in contact with enemy. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. H.S. Bryce wounded. Our immediate <sup>left</sup> flank was pierced at 7 am. &amp; withdrawal ordered to ESMERY. HALLOW defences. Delaying action fought along the road, heavy casualties being inflicted on the enemy working in force round our left flank. boys separated from B<sup>n</sup> Hdqrs &amp; withdrew in direction of VILLETTE to a position near FLAYY-le-MELDEUX, where they reorganised, fought a delaying action, &amp; finally under orders withdrew to ROIEGLISE, which they reached at 12 noon 25<sup>th</sup>, &amp; were joined by B<sup>n</sup> Hdqrs. late that night. Meanwhile, about 11 am. withdrawal was made by B<sup>n</sup> Hdqrs along with 2<sup>nd</sup> Bedfords to ESMERY. HALLOW defences, already under fire from our field guns, &amp; vacated. We then</p>	



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24.3.18	(continued)		<p>went down thro the village, intending to make for the Canal defences at LIBER MONT. On the way thro the village, CAPT. R. H. THOMAS, R.A.M.C. was killed. Immediately west of ESMERY. HALLON, elements of 90<sup>th</sup> Bde were formed, with other mixed units, into three or four skirmishing lines, &amp; these gave mutual protection until the bridge at LANNON FARM was safely crossed. The new line was immediately organised, into posts of mixed units under such senior officers as were available, the 90<sup>th</sup> Bde sector being E. of LANNON FARM. Sector, S of the bridge was relieved by elements of French troops during the night.</p>	
25.3.18.			<p>about 11 am. the battle developed along the whole front, but a strong resistance was made, though the position was heavily enfiladed by m.l. &amp; Field Gun fire. About 2.30 pm. the French on our right retired, &amp; the left flank being turned, orders were received from Bde to withdraw. This was done, but was very difficult owing to the marsh &amp; canal behind, &amp; the heavy enfilade fire. Two rallies were attempted, but nothing could be done, &amp; the elements of the Division went down by SOLENT.</p>	



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25.3.18	(cont <sup>d</sup> )		to ROIEGLISE, where B <sup>n</sup> Hdqrs & Coys. permitted were reorganised. B <sup>n</sup> bivouaged here. Bde conveyed by bus to ARVILLERS.	
26.3.18			At 11 am. B <sup>n</sup> was ordered to advance along the ROYE-AMIENS Road, & take up a defensive position at LE QUEENY. Enemy was in possession, & it was decided to make a stand at BOUCHOIR. with 89 <sup>th</sup> Bde on left & BEDFORDS, R.S.F. astride the road, & 36 <sup>th</sup> Div. on the right. All afternoon, cavalry patrols &c were visible in front of the position. Towards nightfall, transport, infantry & artillery were seen crossing our front in the direction of ERCHES, about 3000 <sup>x</sup> from our outposts. At 11 pm. a section of transport missed their way, & came into our lines, the personnel killed or taken prisoner, & 1 field kitchen, 1 water cart, & two G.S. wagons captured.	
27.3.18.			about 10 am. a strong attack developed both right & left, and by 12 noon both flanks being turned, we had to withdraw to about 800 <sup>x</sup> west of ARVILLERS- LA FOLIE road. A counter attack was immediately organised, and under heavy M.G. fire, advance was made to a position 40 <sup>x</sup> west of the road, with outposts on it &	



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27.3.18	(Contd)		in front of it towards BOUCHOIR. During the advance LT HAKEWELL SMITH, <sup>2nd Lt. N. A. McMillan</sup> LT. K. MACKENZIE, 2nd Lts J. SANGSTER and P. MARION were wounded. By nightfall the position was organised, with 18th Kings L.R. on left, R.S.F. centre, 9 BEDFORDS right. During the night the French were to relieve us.	
28.3.18.			By 6.0 am. only 30 French had arrived in the position, which they apparently considered as an outpost line, but it was decided to hang on. Strong attacks developed on LA FOLIE (left) + ARVILLERS right by 10.0 am. & our front was pressed from 11.0 am. many casualties being caused by a field gun firing point blank at 800 yds. Word was received from the 89th Bde on left that they were to consider themselves relieved & withdraw at once. Our right flank was turned, but a defensive flank was formed, & a strong rifle fire was brought to bear on the enemy until about 2 p.m. S.A.R. ammunition was practically exhausted. Word was now received that we were relieved, & were to withdraw, but to minimise casualties, it was decided to hang on till dusk. Immediately afterwards it was found that the BEDFORDS	



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28.3.18.	(Conf <sup>d</sup> )		4 R.S.F. were alone in the trenches, with the enemy far round on the right; the order to withdraw was given. During this, we suffered numerous casualties from M.G. & field gun fire, & 2nd Lts. A.R. DOUGAL & W. TEMPLETON were missing. The Bn marched to ROVREL, & remained here in close billets all next day.	
29.3.18.			at ROVREL, in reserve to 4 <sup>th</sup> French Cavalry Division. Ordered to take up CANTONNEMENTS des ALERTES at MAILLY. Ordered cancelled.	
30.3.18.			at 8.30 am. ordered to march to SALEUX, where Division entrained for ST. VALERY. S. Somme.	
31.3.18.			Arrived at S. VALERY at 1.0 am & marched 8 kilos to AAREST.	

*J. Hutton-Riley*

LIEUT. COLONEL,  
COMMANDANT, 2nd BATTAL, ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS.