

108th BRIGADE.

36th DIVISION.

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1/11th BATTALION

ROYAL IRISH RIFLES

JULY 1916

108

36

Army Form C. 2118.

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

July 1916

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Vol 70

Remarks and  
references to  
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
THIEPVAL WOOD	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.15 a.m.	Batt. left assembly trenches to take up its position in line of deployment for attack. From assembly trenches to no man's land there was very heavy shelling shrapnel & H.E. one platoon each of "B" & "D" Companies were practically annihilated four men only of the "B" platoon & 3 in "D" remaining. Capt. O. B. Webb commanding "D" Company was wounded at this period in the stomach & subsequently died.
		7.28 a.m.	Batt. formed up in no man's land deployed for attack.
		7.30 a.m.	Advance began.
		7.32 a.m.	First wave of A & B Co struck German front line trench & passed it without many casualties.
		7.35 a.m.	Advance continued & "A" line taken. There was no organized resistance, one or two Germans only seen shooting. Clearing up parties were left to comb the outworks where all the garrison were found & many taken prisoner.
		7.48 a.m.	Advanced to within 50 paces of German 2nd line & waited left of our barrage.
		7.50 a.m.	German 2nd line captured without much opposition few casualties. Bombing parties left to clear out any remaining enemy. At this time connection was established with the 10 <sup>th</sup> Innis. Regt. but nothing was seen of the 13 <sup>th</sup> R. I.R. Regt. on our left either at this or any other time during the battle & in consequence our left flank was always unprotected.
		8 a.m.	Report received at Batt. H.Q. in THIEPVAL wood from Major Jenkins at 8.15 a.m. stating that "B" line was occupied & the strong point of CLONES was being consolidated also from Capt. Craig who was commanding the left Co in the attack.
		8.5 a.m.	Advance continued to German third line but owing to the impetuosity of the attack some of our men were caught in our own barrage shell & were about 100 yds to wait until it had lifted.
		8.18 a.m.	Another advance over barrage was once again encountered. The officers present decided not to attempt a further advance until the barrage of our guns had lifted from its line to German 3 <sup>rd</sup> line.

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THIEPVAL WOOD	1/7/16	8.46 a.m.	At this hour the advance was again started & the German third line was occupied. The attack had progressed so far without organised opposition & few casualties once out in the open, but from now on heavy machine gun & shell fire was opened from both flanks this continuous throughout the day.	
		9.20 a.m.	Reports from Major Jenkins & Capt. Craig by runner received at H.Q. at 10 a.m. stating that their companies had occupied & were consolidating the German 3 <sup>rd</sup> line were suitable. The immediate vicinity of OMAGH proving unsuitable. No other consolidation was attempted as carrying platoons had failed to return & material was scarce. Much work was however done with the entrenching tool. There also seemed a general absence was needed to the Germans & here where some men did not seem to be holding the front of the German line, others coming up in support.	
		10.30 a.m.	Gradually attacks directed to our own lines, this carried out like a pincer movement a belt longwards & the Aspinwall road.	
		11 a.m.	There were six pickets & Lewis guns supporting the attack. Six pickets going down a communication trench from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> German lines & the Lewis guns on the flanks.	
		11.30 a.m.	As units had become intermingled at this juncture our men were ordered by Major Jenkins to move to the left of those of the 107 <sup>th</sup> Bde to the right.	
		12 p.m.	Units of 107 <sup>th</sup> Bde attacked D line but were driven back owing to no support on either flank.	
		1.30 p.m.	a period of quiet now ensued & consolidation was proceeded with. First period of heavy shelling by enemy occurs.	
		3.30 p.m.	Counter attack developed by enemy on our front & left extending down to R. ANCRE. Enemy moved in extended order at about 2 paces interval. This attack was dispersed by our artillery & machine guns but undoubtedly small bombing parties got into communication trenches as enemy bombing attacks became frequent from this time onwards.	

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THIEPVAL WOOD	1/7/16	4.30 p.m. 5 p.m.	By our repulse of the afore mentioned attack our positions were revealed to the enemy & heavy continuous shelling resulted ceasing a gradual retirement to the second or B line. We had been fighting now for 10 hours, there was no water & the men were becoming exhausted.	
		7.30 p.m.	The second line which had been consolidated by the 15th R.D. Inf. was held up to 9.15 p.m. when the remnant of its defenders were shelled out.	
		8.30 p.m.	An enemy counter attack was made on the second line from the right or THIEPVAL direction. It was repulsed, but fronting attacks continued from that flank.	
		10.30 p.m.	During this period a gradual retirement was made to the first line where some troops of the 149th Bn. were found in possession.	
		11.45 p.m.	A retirement was made to our own lines the troops being utterly exhausted.	
	2/7/16	1 a.m.	The remnant of the Batt. who went to the attack in the morning returned to our trenches 40 men & about 250 men. The ammunition supply was maintained as far as the German front line, (where a dump was established) throughout the day, but no means were available to send it further forward as almost all our carriers had become casualties by 4 p.m. on the first.	
			The front line in THIEPVAL WOOD was now held by troops of the 148 Bn. & our men what remained of them were held in reserve in South Anton Villas.	
		2.30 p.m.	Our front line & the wood in general right down to the ANCRE was heavily shelled all the afternoon & especially from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. with 8 in shells.	
			The Batt. got out without a casualty, the C.O. & Adj. having last at 6.30 p.m. & marched to MARTINSART & billeted for the night.	

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	3/7/16	2 p.m.	marched out to Ypresville to hills. Began to reorganize.	
	4/7/16		Inspected by General Agent. 12 officers + 392 men only remaining exclusive of transport & various employed men.	
	5/7/16	2 p.m.	marched out to hill at PUCHEVILLERS. Reorganizing also continuing. Casualties heavy during battle. killed Major Jenkins. Capt Webb. Capt Sweet. Lt. Vance 1st. salte wounded & prisoner Capt C. C. Craig wounded 1st Hunter. Daniel. Samuels. Murphy. Carson. missing Lt. R. H. Hall.	
	6/7/16		Still at PUCHEVILLERS.	
	7/7/16		Under orders to hold ourselves in readiness to proceed at $\frac{3}{4}$ hour notice. Organizing classes for Lewis gun. signallers. bombers. scouts etc.	
	10/7/16		Moved by march route from PUCHEVILLERS to GEZAINCOURT	
	11/7/16		Moved from GEZAINCOURT to FREVENT hence entrained to STEENBECKE Arrived 5 p.m. & marched to Lynde.	
	12/7/16		Remained one day at Lynde.	
	13/7/16		marched to GANSPETTE & BLEUE MAISON	
			Reorganizing at GANSPETTE.	
	19/7/16		marched from GANSPETTE to MERKEGHEM.	
	20/7/16		marched from MERKEGHEM to BOLLEZEELE hence entrained for Doperinge & marched to camp near ST. JEAN 2 miles N of PIPERINGHE	

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21/7/18	10.am		Battalion moved by march route via POPERINGUE to LOCRE where the	
			it was accommodated in huts.	
22/7/18	10am		07C Corps went to KORTEPYP to reconnoitre bivouacs.	
	5.30pm		Battalion marched via DRANOUTRE and NEUVELLE GLISE to huts in KORTEPYP evacuated by 11 <sup>th</sup> Rifle Bde.	
23/7/18	9.am		Company Officers reconnoitred sector of trenches allotted to this battalion. Capt. S. D. Masterson admitted to hospital.	
	9.p.m.		Battalion moved from huts to relieve 11 <sup>th</sup> R.R. in trenches, the relief was completed without casualties at 12.30pm. Owing to the weakness of the battalion, this battalion and the 13 <sup>th</sup> R.I. Rif were amalgamated and occupied the line as a composite battalion, the H.Q. staff of 11 <sup>th</sup> R.R. Rif were relieved after 4 days by H.Q. staff 13 <sup>th</sup> R.I. Rif. Night quiet	
24/7/18			quiet day. Enemy Machine guns active during the night.	
25/7/18	10.am		Enemy bombarded A Co - on the right - with trench mortars and machine gun fire. 3 men shell shocked. 2 Lt. Audens J.H.M. slightly wounded. Usual M.G. activity during night.	
26/7/18			Both days very quiet, M.G.s active at night.	
27/7/18			H.Q. staff 11 <sup>th</sup> R.R. Rif relieved by H.Q. staff 13 <sup>th</sup> R.I. Rif & moved to huts at KORTEPYP.	
28/7/18			Days quiet except for a few trench mortars and a little sniping.	
29/7/18				
30/7/18				
1/8/18			Battalion relieved by 9 <sup>th</sup> + 10 <sup>th</sup> R.I. Rif moved to huts in KORTEPYP. Relief completed 1.25am.	