

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

W A R D I A R Y

--- OF ---

4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Gloucester Regiment

FROM 1/4/16 TO 30/4/16

(VOLUME ).

6  
9

## WAR DIARY

7: Sat. Br.

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.

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

GLoucestershire Reg.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BASRA.	1-4-16		In Camp at Matruh manus.	
	-			
	7-4-16.			
	7-4-16.		Effective strength with unit Off. 24 O.R. 689.	
	8-4-16.		Bn. marched to MARGHIL No. 3. Berth and embarked on River steamers P. 23 . P. 24.	
			P. 23. B & D Cos. + 1 platoon A	
			P. 24. H-d. Qrs. C.Coy + 3 platoons A.	
	9-4-16.		Left MARGHIL.	
	11-4-16.		Reached AMARAH. Laid up here for the night. One man lost overboard during night.	
	14-4-16.		Reached ALI GHAREB 6.20 am.	
	15-4-16		Reached Osah. Battalion disembarked and pitched camp 400 yards from River bank Six Officers, Lt Morris, Gylos 2/L Chavasse, Ireland, latter a Fletcher, ordered to proceed immediately up river on P. 24	
	16-4-16		Battalion remained in camp.	
	17-4-16.		Received orders from Commandant to embark at 7.30 p.m. in P. 1. Camp was struck and baggage immediately moved to jetty. Owing to lack of orders & slowness of P. 1 in reaching jetty Battalion could not commence loading till 11 p.m. & steamer could not sail till 2 a.m.	

**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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	18.4.16		Reached corps HQ & disembarked about 6 a.m. All heavy kits were unloaded & reloaded on large S/I. In fact, Battalion was continually on fatigue until 3.15 p.m. when it marched off to D HQ arriving there about 6 p.m. Orders received from D HQ about 7 p.m. for Bn to move up & rejoin 39 <sup>th</sup> Bde near TELL PHIM PLES. On arrival there about 1.30 a.m. Bn was put into very badly constructed reserve trenches.	
BEIT ALESSA	19.4.16		In spite of the fact that Bn was worn out, having been on continuous fatigue for 36 hours, to get any cover at all, it had to continue digging till daylight. At 6.45 a.m. our artillery started a heavy bombardment to cover attack of our infantry on the BEIT ALESSA position. Our reply with shrapnel. Very well aimed and well burst, over our reserve trenches and in the first hour Bn suffered 50 casualties other tanks & officers. About 9 a.m. orders were received for C Company to reinforce R. Warwickers and Worcester's that the <u>beaten</u> between A <sub>3</sub> . We were in touch of C Company by orderly and wire until 2 p.m. when messages were received via QM Worcester, R. During the advance of C Company, Lt C. Hodson was wounded and also 2/Lt K. Ford. G Company rejoined the Battalion 11 p.m.  Casualties wounded <del>about</del> 4/Lt. Hodson and 2/Lt. K. Ford & R. Lumber. 12 <del>4</del> 10	Kd. Md. Sq. D.M.W.
	20.4.16		Battalion moved up to new reserve trenches 1A & D Companies on our right. TELL PHIM PLES removed during night 19-20 <sup>th</sup> by order of 39 <sup>th</sup> Bde. There should have been removed during previous night by outgoing Battalion, being prominent landmarks. During night A Company pushed out five isolated pickets in the direction of A <sub>4</sub> with a view to joining N. Staffs at that point, the latter being engaged in bombing toward A <sub>4</sub> from A <sub>3</sub> . Orders were received from 39 <sup>th</sup> Bde, about 7 p.m. to push forward during night and join N. Staffs at A <sub>4</sub> . A Company was detailed for this purpose with D Company to follow as a digging party to make communication trench between PHIM PLES and A <sub>4</sub> if attack succeeded. Great stress was laid by G.O.C. 39 <sup>th</sup> Bde on the digging of this trench.	all D.R. D.M.W. 4

**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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
Bat Aressa	20.4.16		<p>B &amp; C Companies were detailed by 39<sup>th</sup> Bde to dig another communication trench along stream towards A3. At 11 p.m. A Company moved out and shortly afterwards came under heavy machine gun fire from Turkish trenches half left. This company continued its advance over the first line of enemy's trench but again meeting heavy fire and bombs from Turkish communication trench A12 were forced to withdraw, losing heavily in so doing. It was here that 2/C A Company Capt T. B. Rathbone was killed and 2/Lt W. D. Boulton, who had been attached to A Company in charge of bombers was also killed and 2/Lt F. W. York (Buffs) was wounded. D Company was pushed up in support <del>lossing</del> in so doing Capt Seamell, 2/Lt E. O. Browning and 2/Lt G. D. Tyson were killed. The latter was wounded and was being carried back to cover by No 22555 Sgt. W. House when he was again hit and killed mid-light.</p> <p>In the meantime B and C Companies had been brought up from the right and were sent forward to assist, C Company moving first. B Company was sent forward with tools to make an attempt to work on the communication trench. 2/Lt A. N. Clark did good work in taking these companies into the firing line and rallying the withdrawn men. The result of the night's work was the digging of a communication trench between the point A4 and half way to the Pimples.</p>													
	21.4.16		<p>Towards morning Lieut Col H. Youngusband was killed at the end of the new trench and 2/Lt A. N. Clark was wounded, dying shortly after he had been removed to the field ambulance. Capt W. J. Darak took command of the Battalion at 7 a.m. During the day the new trench was improved and arrangements made to complete the work during the night. Casualties for the action were:-</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td>Wounded</td> <td>Missing</td> <td>D. of W.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0.00</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>O. R.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>147</td> <td>✓ 35</td> </tr> </table> <p>1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. &amp; A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.</p>	Killed	Wounded	Missing	D. of W.	0.00	0.00	0.00	O. R.	6	8	147	✓ 35	
Killed	Wounded	Missing	D. of W.													
0.00	0.00	0.00	O. R.													
6	8	147	✓ 35													

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.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

7<sup>th</sup> S.B. Gloucestershire Regt.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bethune	21.4.16		At 10 p.m. working parties commenced work at both ends of the proposed line (a dried water course) and communication was established between the PIMPLES and A4 before morning.	
	22.4.16		This work was continued throughout the day and night. About 11 p.m. the companies holding the A4 portion of the trench found numbers of enemy moving in front harassing the work of bombing parties by N. Staffs. Oblique fire was brought to bear with result that enemy withdrew. Work afterwards small enemy attack on our own trench was repulsed with considerable loss to enemy.	
	23.4.16		Casualties 4 Killed 8 Wounded all other ranks	
			Ordered by 39 <sup>th</sup> Brigade to change a section of line to communicate via water ditch from Communication trench direct to A4. This was found to be impracticable and old line was retained. At 6 p.m. orders received to hand over line to 6 <sup>th</sup> East Lancs. Relief completed about 10.30 p.m. Battalion moving to reserve bivouacs. Draft 177 men and two officers; Lieut. J. D. Deacon & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. A. S. B. Payne joined Battalion at bivouac about midnight.	
			Effective strength with unit 16 Offs. 566 O.R.	
	24.4.16		Battalion remained in bivouacs and provided the usual working parties.	
	25.4.16		Capt. G. Fleming 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. vacated his appointment as Staff Captain to 39 <sup>th</sup> Brigade and took command of the Battalion, Captain W. F. Banks being 2 <sup>nd</sup> in command. Capt. J. E. C. Wood reported at 39 <sup>th</sup> Brigade for duty as Staff Captain via Capt. G. Fleming. Lieut. J. S. Deacon took over duties of Adjutant. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. A. S. B. Payne was posted to "D" Company.	