April.

2 - Mon.

Left camp at 8 with full pack and walked to Heneker's - 6 miles. Had to go back to billets with message (3 miles) Got back and had tea, then went into front line. Had to stand to all night. Snowing.

3 - Tues.

Stand down 6 a.m. Had breakfast and went to bed. A pretty quiet night. Stand too at 9-30. A pretty quiet night, nothing doing on our sector.

M. I. 5. bay 6.

April.

4 Wed.

Artillary straffing, pretty hot. 2 landed just outside my bivvy, machine gun pretty hot through night. Standing too all night and did 2 hours fatigue.

5 Thurs.

Heavy bombardment on our left and in front by us. Big bombardment on our front line at night lasting 2½ hrs. One landed in end of our bay but never went. A very big straff on our left a great sight. We were raiding (Tommies)

April.

6. Fri.

Were relieved by 1st Brigade in morning. Marched out to Riepke with full pack and had a good sleep after dinner. Billeted in a farm loft. Had eggs & chips & a good nights sleep.

7 Sat.

Cleaning things up generally. Had a bath and change of clothes. On town picquet at night. Fritz brought down a plane near the town line in flames.

April.

8. Sun.

Left billets at 7 and marched to trenches for fatigue, waited there 2 hrs. and came back, a dud.

A lovely day. Aeroplanes doing a lot of work.

9. Mon.

Up at 4-30. Marched past Neuve Eglise for fatigue, digging gun possessions, a 12 mile walk and 4 hours work. A solid day.

April.

10 Tues.

Digging gun possessions same place, a shell fell behind hedge opposite us, very close.
Had a bath.

11 Wed.

Digging gun possies, same place. 4-30 Reveille, 12 mile march and 4 hours solid work. "No Bon!"

12 Thurs.

Digging gun possies on top of hill by Red Lodge near Ploegsteert. Muddy job.

April.

13 Fri.

Working a Romarin, making light railway. 6 hours work. Leo Price came and saw us.

14 Sat.

Working on light railway, a good job, spreading sand and laying line. Saw Ammunition dump go up by Fritz shell. 5 killed, 12 wounded.

15 Sun.

Bath in morning, paraded for boot repairs in afternoon and got badges issued. Son went on

transport guard while we are away training.

16. Mon.

Left Steppe at 7 a.m. with full packs, I am on rear guard. Went through Bailleul, a nice town. Stopped at 3-30 and billeted in Barn on straw. Did 13 miles.

17 Tues.

Left again at 9, Went through Hazebrouck and got to our billets at 12-30 in barn on straw, snowing in afternoon. Our blankets never came, lorrie got in ditch, slept in straw. A cold night Went inside a French church. Very pretty

April.

18 Wed.

Left again at 9, a rotten day. Passed through Arch and by St. Omer to 5 kilos. the other side. A solid day, reached billets 4 P.M. Passed lot of troops. Did 19 kilos.

19 Thurs.

Parade 8-15, marched out to ground, 1½ kilo. Not put into rifle grenade section. Drill & Lecture about our attack on Massines ridge and consolidation lecture. Came on to rain. Came home.

20 Fri.

Practising new formation of attack in Platoons. Did my rifle grenade shooting. Had a fair day

21 Sat.

Drill and practising attack in bay. Did our grouping practise. 5 rounds at 25 yards.

April.

22 Sun.

Church parade. General leave to St. Omer. Went in about 11 a.m. Had a good look round. Saw through big church and ruined Abby. Very fine. Had some good feeds, bought chain for neck and match box. Had a good time. A lovely day.

23 Mon.

Up at 4 a.m. Marched out to range and did shooting at 200. Did very well. Came home for dinner. Doing batt. in attack in

afternoon on proper scale
to aeroplane photo. Lost
2 letters.

24 Tues.

Marched into St. Omer
for bath, did drill in front
of old Abbey and in park.
Had bath and marched
through town home. A
perfect day.

25. Wed.

Practising Battalion
in attack and taking
machine gun possessions.
Anzac day.

April.

26 Thurs.

Practising attack on proper scale and plan dug out. All 1st Brigade in action. Otago on our left. Got a big mail at night, 14 letters back to 16th Jan..

27 Fri.

Practising attack on ridge all day. Had lecture by champion bayonet fighter in British army. 3,000 men together.

28. Sat.

Practising open attack by Brigade, attacking villages etc. Rather a

mix up. Saw an aeroplane looping the loop.

29 Sun.

Up at 2-45 a.m. and marched out to ridge and had an attack at dawn. Got back home at 8-30. Got leave to St. Omer. Bob and I had a good feed. A lovely day.

30 Mon.

Final stunt for Massines ridge, smoke bombs for barrage. Had to dig ourselves in past 2nd Fritz line. Got parcel from Clarrie.

May.

1. Tues.

Packed kit and left billet at 8.30 on our way back to the line, a very hot day, went pretty solid. Did 21 kilos to same billet as before.

2 Wed.

Had an easy day. Left billets at 10 and got to other billets at 1-30, a short trip but hard going. Cobble stones very bad.

3. Thurs.

Left billets at 4 a.m. had lunch at 10 and came right on to Bulford

camp. Had to march past General Godley and all the N.Z. Generals, some at Baillent and some further down road. A good trip. Saw the remains of a Fritz plane go past on a motor lorrie.

4 Fri.

Up at 5.30 and away all day on Fatigue. Up past Ration Farm building gun posses. A very hot day. A lot of air work going on. Our new planes are superior.

May.

5 Sat.

On same job, baging Belgium. Fritz raided Friday night, but got properly cut up only one got into our line and he was taken. Sat. night old Fritz opened up some big guns on our camps and the other camps about this sector. We all had to scale for our lives twice throughs the night. He did a lot of damage. Killed 23 and wounded 50 and about as many horses no bon.

6 Sun.

On the same job, baging Belgians, got strapped with wiz-bangs on the job first thing in the morning. Les and I took our blankets and gear down under a hedge behind the camp, as we reckoned he would shell again and so he did and got several chaps. We slept out all night.

May.

7 Mon.

On fatigue, same job. Woke up too late and missed breakfast.

Molly Drummond was killed while on night fatigue. Our guns open up on Fritz. ¼ million shells

8 Tues.

On fatigue at Fishers place. Gun possies. It rained in morning. Got up too late for breakfast, sleeping out.

9. Wed.

On fatigue at Fisher Place on Gun possies.

[illegible] all night.

10 Thurs.

On Fatigue all day at Fishers Place, gun possies. Got back to camp at 4 and had gear packed up and marched into Ripple to old billets Artillary very lively. Saw Fritz minnies coming over.

11 Fri.

On Fatigue at Fisher's Place gun possies. Marched up from Ripple and back again round Neuve Eglise A solid day, very hot.

May.

12 Sat.

On Fatigue, went up to Fisher's Place, had a close go with a whiz-bang 10 yds. off in the open. Went back to F.6 near dump and worked all day. walked both ways from Pierre.

13 Sun.

On fatigue, gun posies F.6. up at 4-30 and went to Neuve Eglise in lorries and back in lorries, Fritz shell our posies. Things pretty lively.

14 Mon.

Went up Red Lodge in Lorries for fatigue at F.6. making ammunition possies, and getting duck boards. Aeroplanes lively.

15 Tues.

Fatigue F.6 making ammunition possies. A good day.

16 Wed.

Fatigue. Artillary Headquaters filling sand bags.

Had a bath and change of clothes after work.

May.

17 Thurs.

Fatigue, building artillary Headquaters and cable station.

Raining in morning.

18 Fri.

On fatigue same place. Got a big mail and photos at night. Good news, all happy. Saw our guns shelling Hassines. Fritz aeroplane came over at night after baloon close to us, never got it, but we got him. Very daring.

19 Sat.

On fatigue, same place, sand bagging. Had to walk home.

20. Sun.

On Fatigue at Artillary Headquaters carrying bricks. Had a close go. Fritz shelled just where we were working. We had just got 20 yds off. Saw a big aeroplane duel.

21. Mon.

On fatigue up Medicine Hat filling sand bags.

Got payed at night 35 francs.

Had a good view of Massines

May.

22 Tues.

Shifted camp. Marched from Nieppe to Red Lodge. Camping 14 in a bell tent. On fatigue at night out in No Man's Land. I was on covering party for 6 hours, lying out. Got mail from Ted with photo.

23 Wed.

Kept till 1 P.M. Cleaned up and had inspection at 2. Saw aeroplane fight, one of ours came down in flames. Covering Party out in No Mans Land.

Quiet night.

24. Thurs.

On night fatigue in Regent support carrying sand bags. A big straff just on our left by us, got very little back.

25 Fri.

Night fatigue, supports, building up parapet. Things fairly lively.

26 Sat.

Night fatigue. Assembly trench revetting and sand baging. New trench. Artillary very active during day.

May.

24. Sun.

Had gas alarm, but no gas. Fritz blew up artillary dump not far from camp. Artillary very lively all day. On fatigue off Calgary. Building dug outs. Got a few shells. Aussies raided. A failure. Heavy bombardment.

28. Mon.

Gas alarm early morning. Heavy shoot all day. On fatigue same place, was shelled. Another raid at night. Heavy bombardment.

29 Tues.

Saw 12 inch siege gun firing shell weighing 900 lbs. Artillary active all day. Heavy guns going in everywhere. On night fatigue. We put over gas and liquid fire — great sight.

30 Wed.

Shifted camp into Subsidiary Hill 63, Windy Corner. Got into a dug out. On day fatigue at Ration Farm digging trench. Heavy shell fell on bivie at night but never came through so

May - June

we fixed her up at night.

31. Thurs.

On fatigue Ration Farm, trenches. Had close go coming home. 3 shell burst just over my head, lucky it went forward. I went for my life. Playing cards when one of ~~our~~ our shells (dud) landed one yard off us and glanced on again, too close, scatter. Allen Colman and Arnold Mead wounded.

1 June. Fri.

Heavy bombardment all day. On Fatigue at night. Putting wire in no

mans — rotten job. Had to stand too Windy Officers.

2. Sat.

Left Hill 63 at 8 A.M. and marched to canteen corner, billet in Hat. Went down to see the 4th Brigade at night, did nothing but shake hands, all looking well. Benny Arnold came round to our camp. All our hands pretty worn.

3 Sun.

Church parade in morning. Went over to see 2nd Batt. saw Mont and all other boys. Not shelled out of camp at night.

June.

4 Mon.

Fooling about - lectures and parade, went into Nipp for grenade practise. A dud. Went down to 4th Brigade at night. Saw all the boys. Bill Ricketts came up to see us. Got mail - 7.

5 Tues.

Got issued with ammunition, 10 rifle, 2 mill bombs and s.a.a., iron ration and all fighting gear, wire cutters etc. Left Canteen corner at 5 and marched cross country to Red Lodge, Stayed in Dug Outs. On Gas Guard. Got mail.

6 Wed.

Put in a quiet day getting ready. Got a few shells over at tea time and got 22. Charlie Hill, Joe Morton W. Left the tunnel 9-30 and filed up into assembly ~~Hall~~ French Got there without casualty 7. Thurs.

Over the top for Massines zero time 3.10 A.M. Mine went up to start off (terrible shake) 1000 gun open up on our sector. Barraged 9 mins front line, 3 mins support & so on. 19,000,000 machine gun bullets go over in 9 mins. Hell on earth comes all at once. Good barrage. But

7th (Bantam) June

our own men went into it & got a lot knocked out. I was moping up party, found a few dug outs with Fritzs in, all were killed but wanted to surrender. All bombs got mixed up but gained all objectives. I dug in three times before getting right place. Shells flying all way Fritz surrender in mobs without fight 15th Boy. dugin on top of hill and has to man the trench at all costs. Shelled all the time with very heavy "foundries", losing men all the time. Maurice killed — trench on top of hill. Con wounded. Les

Killed, carrying party. ~~Coy~~. Company

casuality to date - 80 out of 162.

I carried Western down to dressing station, rotten trip. Saw tanks that did no good. Got relieved Saturday evening and went out to Neuve Eglise. Had good night's sleep.

Battle of Massines.

June 7th 1917.

N. Z's attack. Massines at day - break - 3.10. a.m. zero Time. All hands filed into ~~the~~ trenches the night of 6th about 10 o'clock and waited very quietly till jumping off. Had a terrible load to carry 15 rifle grenades

Battle of Messines (cont'd) June.
2 bombs, 70 rounds S.A.A., 5
sand bags, wire cutters, oil
shut, 2 gas helmets, rations,
shaving gear etc.. We blew
up mine at zero time. A terrible
shake. All guns & machine guns
open out at once. Hell on earth
We hop over top & get close
up to barrage but got too
close and lot of men got into
it & was knocked over. I was
mopping up party with 4 men.
Found nothing in front line
only one dugout, concrete, ~~the~~
bombed that and went
on into supports, found
a few dug outs with Huns

in who came out Merry
Karmadrade, but they got
no mercy. Got machine gun
in same possie, they had
all gear packed as though
moving off. I went on again
to look for our crowd, got
up to town & couldn't find
any of them, came back &
found officer & 4 men digging
in shell hole, started
with them; dug in 3 times
before we got right line.
12th & 2nd. boys form a line & dig
in and ordered to stand
at all costs. His heavy
artillary pick up our trench
& shell us all day & night

Battle of Bassines (Contd.)
with very heavy stuff. No good
Australians go through no
in afternoon & take another
objective but lost it again
at night & have retaken it
again. All wells poisoned
in Bassines town and
surroundings knocked about
by 60 pieces. Our casualties
pretty heavy. Son wounded
wounded coming up hill. Maurice
killed in trench on top of
hill. Saw some terrible sights
Carried Jack Western down to
dressing shed 3.30 Friday
morning. Rotten trip, nearly
got me beat. Aeroplanes

very active. Saw one burst in pieces high up and men fall out.

The attack a great success. Fritz taken unawares

10 Sun.

Sent cable home. Had Church parade and Roll Call 71 left in Coy.. Went down to 2nd Batt. in afternoon and saw boys.

11 Mon.

Had to parade for fighting kit shortages in morning. Batt. Pont de Nieppe in afternoon.

June.

12 Tues.

Got fixed up and marched up to Catacombs. Good dug outs & huts.

13 Wed.

Easy day. On fatigue — making road.

14 Thurs.

On fatigue all day and night, digging C.T. to new line. No Bon.

15 Fri.

On night fatigue, digging C.T. A heavy barrage by Fritz at dark.

16 Sat.

Got a good mail — 7

letters. On fatigue at night.
Digging support line. Not
shelled and gassed, shell
gas.

17 Sun.

Had a rotten time
on fatigue at night. Carry-
ing rations out to strong
points, got caught in
wire and strained etc.

18 Mon.

Left Catacombes at 9 P.M.
and marched down to
Bulford Camp.

19 Tues.

Men came back from
Hondeck. Had bath at Pont de Nieppe
Saw 4th Brigade at Nieppe. Had tea with
Lew.

June.

20 Wed.

Had kit inspection and general gear shortages taken.

21 Thurs.

Inspection by General Godley in morning and said a few words on good work done at Massines.

22 June.

Drill in morning and pack inspection in afternoon. Fritz brought two balloons down near us.

23 Sat.

Inspection by General Russel in morning. Had afternoon off. Fritz brought 3

of our balloons down. We got ~~24~~ one of his 'planes I ~~and~~ went and saw it, big crowd. On guard at night.

24 Sun.

Went down and saw 4th Brigade. Bob and I had photos taken. Fritz brought soon balloons down. Dropped a few bombs near camp and put a few shells over. Put one in a Belgium church and got 20 Civilians.

25 Mon.

On Fatigue at Ploug-street making strong point in Subsides. Reg arrived back and George joined up our Company.

June.

26 Tues.

On fatigue, Ploughstreet, making strong point in mine crater.

27 Wed.

Went on guard at 6 P.M. nothing doing all day. Others on night fatigue.

28 Thurs.

On guard all day. Shifted camp at night up to Aldershot camp.

~~29~~ 29 Fri.

Doing fatigue about camp. Had kit inspection.

30 Sat.

On fatigue, making

Reservoir up at Camel Hill.
Came on to rain. Did very
little.

1 July. Sun.

Church parade. Reg, Bob
and I walked down round
Nieppe and home. Photo not
done. Got a letter from
Lolie.

2. Mon.

Had a run in the
morning. Nothing doing in
afternoon. Went to Pont de
Nieppe for bath.

3 Tues.

Rifle grenade instructions
and fired a few.