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12th Coy.
 1st C.I.B.
 N.Z. Forces.

Diary – 1917
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January
22. Lost my diary at Post Office, left it after getting address to send Will a wire. Had all my treasures in it.

25th.Left camp on 4 days draft leave to London. Arrived in London 1-30, found way to Soldiers’ Club and then to Central Hotel. Walked around the street.

26th Fri.
 Got up 9 o’clock and went down to Club, found Ted had got leave and was there, went back to Hotel and Ted booked bed. Went to Westminister & St. Pauls’ and had a general look round town. Got free ticket to play - “Peg O my Heart.” Met N. Hewlett and had supper at Club together. Met Ted Mulany.

27th Sat.
 Got up late and went round through Tower of London and over the London Bridge. Tower a fine sight. Went to Madam Tussards in afternoon and went to play at night. Very good. Met Jim Palmer and Bill Ricketts came down to see me. Met at Club. Got to bed 1-30. Had a good look round Piccadilly at night. Saw women in Pubs etc. All drinking and smoking.

28. Sun.
 Went down Petticoat Lane in morning and saw Jews’ fare. A rough show. Had dinner at Club. Ted and I went out to Freeston’s to tea. Had a good time. Came back to Club and then to Waterloo Station. Left at 9-50. Got into camp 2 a.m. Mon. Had to walk from train.

29. Mon.
 Paraded ¼ to 7. Roll call and general parade with full packs at 8. Marking in Butts in morning and in Bull ring in afternoon. Ted got his Serg. strips.
 Ground still frozen since 2 weeks.

30. Tues.
 Doing gas, barbwire and Lewis gun in morning.
 Doing Coy. in attack and extended order in afternoon.
 Got our new identification discs.

31. Wed.
 Route march all the morning and staff parade.
 Bull ring in afternoon.

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February.
1. Thurs.
 Had medical inspection. Kit inspection. Paraded with full marching kit, and was inspected about 6 times. Everything ready to go to France. Left Sling at 11-30 P.M. and marched to siding Bulford and left there 12-30.

2 – Fri. February
 Had a very cold trip down in train. Got to Folkstone ¼ to 7, everything white with snow. Had breakfast in barracks and left by boat at 9 A.M. Got to Bolougne in 1½ hours. Walked up through town and took transport waggon-motor out to Etauple. Arrived there just after dark and went into tents very cold and snow everywhere. Had dry rations and got to bed.

3. Sat.
 Revallie 6 a.m. Got issued with new rifle and bayonet and Gas helmet. Had medical inspection and kit inspection. The tucker very poor and the tents are very cold. Everything freezes – even our boots freeze during the night when they are covered over. Went to bed early.

4 Sun.
 On Fatigue at Cook house 6.15. A good job, had a real good feed and very little to do. Barrat went to Hospital.

5. Mon.
 Snowed all night and all morning. Never had any parade in morning, but some snow fights etc. About 6 inches of snow everywhere. Went for route march in afternoon in snow. Very solid going. Went through little village.

6 – Tues.
 Reported 27 degrees of frost in France. Very cold. In Bull ring till 1 P.M. Bayonet and drill, very different from Sling. Dinner at 2 P.M. and rest of day off. Got payed 35 Francs. Good concert at night.

7 – Wed.
 In Bull ring till 1 P.M. Bayonet and physical drill. Had a real picnic, playing games for training. Went down to Market Place in afternoon. Things very dear. Had good day.

8. Thurs. February
 Washing day. Marched down to beach and all washed our clothes in a trough of hot water, marched home and did nothing more. Very cold. Concert at night.

9. Fri.
 Parade 10 a.m. to Bull ring. Practising trench war fare for night parade. Night parade 7 P.M. Went out through trenches and carried on. Used star shells etc. Got home 10.30.

10 – Sat.
 Bull ring till 2-30. Had tea and biscuits at 11-30. Doing firing practise and locating snipers, judging distance and general firing practises. A lovely day. Had easy time. Good instructors. Dinner 3 P.M. Tea ¼ to 5.

11 – Sun.
 Had breakfast in bed, got up 8-30. Our Coy. on Fatigue. Dodged all work and did nothing. Writing in afternoon. Service at night. A warmer day, but cold at night.

12 – Mon. February
 Doing Coy in attack and Coy drill. Had a pretty solid day. Had a rotten officer. Dinner at 3-30. A warmer day.

13-Tues.
 Bull ring till 2-30 dinner 3.30. Doing Bayonet, Babwire, trench-work and bombing. Got a mail at night. 7 letters – “hurrah.”

14 – Wed.
 Trying our new rifles at the Butts. Only fired 15 rounds and came home – finished for the day. A very easy day. Went down to the market place.

15 – Thur.
 Washing day. Also paraded for a bath. Had easy day. Got parcel from home – in good order. Sent 21st Nov.

16 – Fri. February
 In Bull ring. Doing gas work all day. Went through both kinds of gas. Practising with both kinds of helmets.

17 Sat.
 In Bull ring all day. Bombing and lectures all the time. Threw a live bomb. Had an easy day. A thick mist all day and things very muddy. Were issued with cork soles and cigarettes.

18 – Sun.
 1st Cant. Unit for duty. Got put on W.C. Fatigue after being put out of draft. Paraded in morning and was told off for draft to get ready to go Monday morning. Had medical inspection and got steel helmet, gloves, oil, goggles and iodine. Got kit packed and then were put out of draft with many others. Only Reg, Bob, and Allan out of our crowd getting away. Tim and Jim were put out.

19 – Mon.
 Doing nothing all day, only had rifle inspection. Got leave to Etauples at night, town in a dirty mess and not much to see, had a good feed and came home at 8. Very few people in town.

20. Tues
 Nothing doing all day. Very misty with a little rain. Concert at night. Loafing about tents.

21 – Wed. February
 Doing nothing all morning had a short route march in afternoon. Very misty.

22 – Thurs.
 Washing day. Did our own washing first thing in the morning.
 Had medical inspection, and did a loaf the rest of the day. Good concert at night.

23 Fri.
 A big draft told off to go up line, got all gear and jacket, had kit inspection and packed kit clothes, not dry but had to take them. Went to Communion.

24. Sat.
 Up at 4. Packed blankets, had breakfast and got away at 6. Were put in cattle trucks & had to wait till 10-30 before the train left. Went through Bulonegue, had a rotten time in train & arrived Steenwerk, came through St. Omer. Had to march 8 miles with full packs. Arrived at billets 1.30 a.m. & had a sleep. Solid trip.

25 Sun. February
 Beef and biscuits for breakfast, dinner and tea. Had a look round, saw old trenches and entanglements, big boats on canal pulled by horses. Route march in afternoon.

26. Mon.
 Got kits ready to move off, but never went. Artillary draft arrived. Had a look at Sailly town. Nothing doing all day. Heard heavy bombardment at night.

27 Tues.
 Went for 2 route marches in morning and afternoon. Went across to town at night and saw Small, Ching, Palmer, Les Price; missed Keith Peart and P. Ricketts: all looking well. Saw Hubert Avery.

28. Wed
 Left camp at 8 with full pack and marched to camp, other side off Steenwerk, billeted in shed, up loft. Went down to Neape and saw Bob, Reg and Allan – all doing well. Got good billet.

1. Thurs March
 Went through gas test with box resperator. Had kit inspection. Saw some good air fights. Marched into Neippe and joined up 12 Nelson 9 Platoon. Saw Ted Eden and other boys. Had a good yarn.

2. Fri.
 Left billets at 8 and marched to Bayouel, had inspection and little drill, marched back back to camp by 4 o’clock. Wrote 2 letters.

3 – Sat.
 Platoon drill in morning. Played 10 Platoon football in afternoon. Lost 3 - 0. Ces Higgins came back.

4. Sun.
 Church parade in morning and feet inspection. Went down and saw McWhite, doing well, had a good yarn. Mounted guard at 4 P.M. with full pack at the clinch.

5 Mon.
 Had 15 prisoners to look after. Nothing startling happened. Came off guard at 4.30. It snowed during morning about 2 inches.

6 – Tues March
 Doing Platoon drill. Went for a bath and change of clothes in morning. I was put in a bayonet fighting team.

7. Wed.
 Fooled about all morning, getting full pack right. Went down to Sailly in motor lorries, for bayonet competition, a rotten cold day. Got 8 letters.

8 – Thurs.
 Got packs ready to parade, but it came on to snow. Had Lewis gun lecture in billet. Went for a route march and then to training ground.

9 – Fri.
 Parade with full packs for inspection by Generals Godley and Brethwait and several other knobs. Had to hold our packs up 5 hrs. and marched round a back way to get home. Coy - Football matches in afternoon. Very cold day.

10. Sat.
 Paraded with full packs for inspection by General Brethwait in the morning, inspected every man in our Battalion.

11 – Sun.
 Church parade in morning. Con went to hospital with mumps. Had to have all blankets and gear disinfected. Saw good air fight. Fritz put our balloons down in flames and got away after daring fight.

12 – Mon March
 Relieved R.I.R. Packed gear up to move off, marched up to rear of sector and waited till night. Fritz shelling batteries just behind us. 9 Platoon never went in line but went back into billets just behind batteries.

13. - Tues.
 Got up with mumps, had to walk to Batt. headquaters up to line to see Dr.  Came back and packed gear and walked into Nieppe with full packs to No 3 Hospital. Waited there in tent till 8 P.M. Left for St. Omer in car, arrived at 10-30 and slept in store room.

14 Wed.
 Shifted into Marquee and went to bed. All sorts in tent – Tommies, Canadian, Scotch, Australia & N.Z.. 12 men in, 2 left at dinner time.

15 Thurs.
 3 more left tent to go back to unit.

16. Fri.
 4 chaps left for Blighty and 9 more came in at night. Wrote 2 letters.

17 Sat. \_\_\_\_\_\_

18 Sun.
 2 hard eggs for breakfast.

19.Mon.
 Got up and knocked about tent.

20 Tues.
 Up all day, very cold. Caught fresh cold. Bread and dripping for Breakfast and tea.

21 – Wed.
 Stayed in bed all day, with cold, with dripping and bread.

22. Thurs.
 Snowed all night, about 6 inches. Very cold day.

23 Fri. March
 More snow, but a better day.

24 Sat.
 Got up and had a cruise around, saw Artie Ching, a better day.

25. Sun.
 Had a cruise round camp. Got watch back from jewellers.

26 Mon.
 Went round and saw Con and Jim Boyd.

27 Tues.
 Got letter from Ted. Went to pictures – very good.

28 – Wed.
 Playing cards (crib) every day. Did a little garden work.

29. Thurs.
 Wet and dirty day.

30 Fri.
 Warned to go back to unit. St. Omer town a fine place.

31 Sat.
 Fooled about all the morn., drawing gear & clothes. Left Hospital at 12-30 and marched to St. Omer. Went into barracks & got rations. Saw a lot of German Prisoners. Went to train at 2-30 and had to wait till 6-15. Got to Hazebrouck at 7. Went into barracks and then went round town and got feed of eggs. Put in a cold night – no blankets.

1 – Sun. April
 Left Hazebrouck at 5 a.m., got to Steenwerk at 7.30 & went into Reinforcement Camp. Got shortages and did 2 hours Fatigue unloading Cement off train. Rotten job.

2 – Mon.
 Left camp at 8 with full pack and walked to trenches – 6 miles. Had to go back to billets with message (3 mile). 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 7-30. A pretty quiet night, nothing doing on our sector. U. I. 5. bay 6.

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

6. Fri. April
 Were relieved by 1st Brigade in morning. Marched out to Nieppe 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 piquet at night. Fritz brought down a plane near the town here in flames.

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.

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 Revallie, 12 mile march and 4 hours solid work. “No Bon!”

12 Thurs.
 Digging gun possies on top of hill by Red Lodge near Plougsteert. Muddy job.

13 Fri. April
Working a Romarin, making light railway. 6 hours work. Les 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. Con went on Transport guard while we are away training.

16. Mon.
 Left Nieppe 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.

18 Wed. April
 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. Got 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 our rifle grenade shooting. Had a fair day.

21 Sat.
 Drill and practising attack in Coy. Did our grouping practise. 5 rounds at 25 yards.

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. Got 2 letters.

24 Tues.
 Marched into St. Omer for bath, did drill in front of old Abby 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.

26 Thurs April
 Practising attack on propper scale and plan dug out. All 1st Brigade in Action. Otago on our left. Got a big mail at night, 17 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.

1. Tues. May
 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. Cobbel stones very bad.

3. Thurs
 Left billet at 7 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 Bailleul 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 possies. A very hot day. A lot of air work going on. Our new planes are superior.

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 camp and the other camps about this sector. We all had to scale for our lives twice through 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 Belgium, got strapped with wis-bangs on the job first thing in the morning. Ces 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.

7 Mon. May
 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 posies. It rained in morning. Got up too late for breakfast, sleeping out.

9. Wed.
 On fatigue at Fishers Place on Gun possies. Slept out in loft 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 Nieppe to old billets. Artillary very lively. Saw Fritz minnies coming over.

11 Fri.
 On Fatigue at Fisher’s Place gun possies. Marched up from Nieppe and back again round Neuve Englise. A solid day, very hot.

12 Sat. May
 On Fatigue, went up to Fisher’s Place, had a close go with a wis-bang 10 yds. off in the open. Went back to F.6. near dump and worked all day. Walked both ways from Nieppe.

13 Sun.
 On fatigue, gun possies F.6. Up at 4-30 and went to Neuve Eglise in lorries and back in lorries, Fritz shell our possies. 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.

17 Thur. May
 Fatigue, building artillery 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 Massines. 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.
 Our 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 duet.

21. Mon.
 On Fatigue up Medicine Hat (*?*) filling sand bags.
 Got payed at night 35 francs.
 Had a good view of Massines.

22 Tues. May
 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.
 Slept 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 Nuegent 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.

27. Sun. May
 Had gas alarm, but no gas. Fritz blew up artillery 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 straff 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 Subsidary 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 as 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 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. Cutting wire in No Man’s – rotten job. Had to stand too Windy Officer.

2. Sat. June
 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. Bunny 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. Got shelled out of camp at night.

4 Mon.
 Fooling about – lectures and parade, went into Nieppe 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 trench. Got there without casuality.

7.Thurs.
 Over the top for Massines. Zero time 3.10 A.M. Mine went up to start off (terrible shake) 1000 guns 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 our own men went into it & got a lot knocked out. I was moping up party, found a few dug outs with Fritz in, all were killed but wanted to surrender. All hands got mixed up but gained all objectives. I dug in three times before getting right place. Shells flying all ways. Fritz surrender in mobs without fight 15th Coy. dug in 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 in trench on top of hill. Con wounded. Ces killed carrying party. 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 nights’ 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 trenches the night of 6th about 10 o’clock and waited very quietly till jumping off. Had a terrible load to carry 15 rifle grenade, 2 bombs, 70 rounds S.A.A., 5 sand bags, wire cutters, oil sheet, 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 a lot of men got into it & was knocked over. I was mopping up party with 4 men. Found nothing in front line only one dug out, concrete, bombed that and went on into supports, found a few dug outs with Huns in who came out Mercy Karmarade, but they got no mercy. Got machine gun in same possie, they had all gear packed up 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 Coys’ form a line & dig in and ordered to stand at all costs. His heavy artillery pick up our trench & shell us all day & night with very heavy stuff. No good. Australians go through us in afternoon & take another objective but lost it again at night & have retaken it again. All wells poisoned in Massines town and surroundings knocked absolutely to pieces. Our casualities pretty heavy. Con 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.

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

12 Tues
 Got fixed up and marched up to Catocombes’. Good dug outs and beds.

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. Got straffed and gassed, shell gas.

17 Sun.
 Had a rotten time on fatigue at night. Carrying rations out to strong points, got caught in wire and straffed etc.

18 Mon.
 Left Catocombes at 9 P.M. and marched down to Bulford Camp.

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

20 Wed. June
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 one of his ‘planes. I 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 Belguim church and got 20 Civilians.

25 Mon.
 On Fatigue at Plougstreet making strong point in Subsides. Reg arrived back and George joined up our Company.

26 Tues. June
 On Fatigue, Plougstreet, 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 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 Colie.

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.

4 Wed. July.
 Had a run in morning. Paraded on road to see King George go past in car. Run off Batt. sports afterwards. Fell out off 3 mile.

5 Thurs.
 Bombing in the morning and instruction.

6 Fri.
 Bombing in morning. Went Pont de Nieppe for bath. Got N.Z. mail – 7 letters.

7 Sat.
 On Fatigue on water pipe up to Messines.

8 Sun.
 Church parade in morning. Went to Nieppe in afternoon, saw 4th Brigade just out of line.

9 Mon.
 Went on Batt guard at 6 P.M. Doing nothing all day.

10 Tues
 On Guard all day. Came of at 6 P.M.

11 Wed.
 Drill in morning. Pont de Nieppe for bath in afternoon. Saw Lew & boys.

12 Thurs. July.
 Left Aldershot at 9 & marched to Doulieu about 3 miles the other side. Saw Will in Canteen. Camping in shed but we slept out in orchard.

13 Fri.
 Drill & bombing in morning. Went and saw cricket match in afternoon.

14 Sat.
 Drill in morning. Sports training in afternoon.

15 Sun.
 Had Church Parade in morning. Coy. sports training in afternoon.

16 Mon.
 Went for route march round to near Estares. Lecture to N.C.O’s and officers by General Brethwaite.

17 Tues.
 Had Batt. sports all day

18 Wed.
 Left billets for Catacombes at 7.30 arrived 2 P.M. Solid trip. Place knocked about since last visit.

19 Thurs. July.
 Left Catacombes about 6 P.M. to go up on patrol. Look over from Aussies got a good possie in Fritz dug out. On patrol out towards canal for 4 hours. Saw no one. Got straffed.

20 Fri.
 Slept most of the day. On patrol at night. Went a long way out and had a look at old Buildings, good patrol. Went very close to canal. Got parcel from home – Birthday cake.

21 Sat
 On patrol at night. Fritz put up a straff in No Mans’ Land, never got very far out. Had to get home early as our Artillary opened up at 2 A.M. Fritz gassed 2nd Coy. with new gas, got about 60.

22 Sun.
 Had a quiet day, wrote some letters. On patrol at night went out as far as the canal, about ½ mile in front of strong point.

23 Mon.
 Shifted Camp back to Subsidery line – bivies no good. Put on gas guard 2 on 4 off.
 Ted left Blighty for N.Z.

24 Tues.
 Got payed in afternoon on gas guard, was taken off and put on again. Fairly quiet day.

25 Wed.
 On gas guard all day and night. Wrote a few letters.

26 Thurs.
 Got out behind machine gun which played on us. Taken off gas guard in morning to go on patrol. On Patrol and covering party, went out & along bank of land running through Warinton. Very lively night. Working party digging trench. Wellington went over.

27 Fri.
 Got mail – 7 letters as usual. Things pretty lively. Had to go on patrol and visit trenches we dug. Rather a tricky job. Had a close go coming in and got slightly lost.

28 Sat. July
 Fritz raided on left, things very lively, had the night off. All artillery very active in air. Fritz does just about as he wants to in the air. The sector about the hottest on British front.

29 Sun.
 Got relieved from line, went back to Regina Camp, not far back. Thunder Storm going out – a pretty wet day.

30 Mon.
 Rain at night, went for bath to Pont de Nieppe in morning. No fatigue. Heavy straff all day.

31 Tues.
 A wet day. Artillary very heavy. Big offensive towards Coast from our Sector.

1 Aug.
 Wet day, had kit inspection. No fatigue. Sent cable home, Reg, Bob and self.

2 Thurs. August
 Still raining, nothing doing. Went to Romarin. Men up the line up to waist in mud and water. Saw them out.

3 Fri.
 Had gas drill etc. under roof of shed in morning. Went on guard at night. Still raining.

4 Sat.
 On guard all day. Raining a little. Complimented on good guard. Had a wet week.

5 Sun.
 Had church parade in Y.M.C.A. in Romarin in morning. I missed fatigue at night.

6 Mon.
 On fatigue at night, carrying up wire to supports. Gen Johnson killed.

7 Tues.
 Shifted up into line. Got up on Batt. gas guard in bush. Col. Young promoted to Johnson’s place.

8 Wed.
 On gas guard. Had thunder storm at night.

9 Thurs.
 Col. Young severely wounded same place as Gen. Johnson killed by sniper. Things pretty lively, a clear day. On gas guard. Fritz had a bombing stunt to Baillicule.

10 Fri.
 A very clear day, things very lively especially in air. Big reinforcements arrive 24-25. Bombing stunt at night by us and Fritz. Very lively on guard.

11 Sat.
 A cloudy day but things lively, had little rain. Put off gas guard and went out to out posts by canal. Had heavy thunder storm going out, got wet to skin. Ground all mud and very slippery, got bogged. Had terrible trip. One man wounded. Rotten post, up to knee’s in mud and slush and no cover. Things very lively.

12 Sun.
 Had to cover up possie before day break and then squeeze up in a hole until dark. Put in 18 hours without being able to move. The worst time I ever put in. Mud and slush to sit in.

13 Mon. August.
 Got relieved Sun. night and had a rotten trip going in, got partly lost. Arrived at our bivie just before day-break. Went out to out post with wet rations at night. Got some gas.

14 Tues.
 Had a rough tip. Tried to dry clothes and get a sleep through day. Had to relieve the out posts again at night.

15 Wed.
 In the mud hole, put in a rotten day, no boss. Had some close events. Our Artillary very lively all night and away on our left.

16 Thurs.
 Had hell of a day. Just stood down and got covered up when our chaps put up a dummy stunt same time as the one on left. Fritz retaliated and his barrage fell just across our possie, got one direct hit, lucky escape. “Like murder”

17 Fri. August.
 Got blown out of possies. 3 shells inside and others all round. Had to take to new sap and got straffed all day, put in a rotten time. Got relieved by Auckland at night who were very welcome.

18 Sat.
 Had a lucky trip getting in, other parties got smacked and we had to go back and carry them in, then had to walk to Bulford camp. Got there just after day break. Just about beat. Put in most of day scraping off mud and getting things dry. Saw J. McBride at night. Got 9 letters (26th June.)

19. Sun.
 Church parade in morning. Went to Ballieul for bath in afternoon, got leave there and had a good feed and got a ride home.

20 Mon.
 Told off to go to school but it worked out as the Brigade was moving out for training.

21 Tues.
 Batt. moved off at 6 A.M. from camp en route to La Motte – had a big day, solid going. Arrived at billet at 4 P.M. Had to sleep in open. All crops cut and stooked, looked well.

22 Wed.
 Cleaning up all morning – had to scrub web gear. Went down to canal for swim in afternoon, about 3 miles. Not too good.

23 Thurs.
 Had route march with full packs in morning. Down to canal for swim in afternoon.

24 Fri.
 Route march – full packs – in morning. To canal for swim in afternoon. Got promoted to Corp.

25 Sat. August.
 Had drill in morning. Sharpening bayonet in afternoon.

26 Sun.
 Church parade in morning, Gen. Godley and Brethwaite were present. Went down to see 2nd Batt. in afternoon.

27 Mon.
 Drill and route march in morning. Raining in afternoon. Struck camp and cleaned up, got gear ready to move.

28 Tues.
 Breakfast at 1-30. Moved off, full pack at 3. Marched to Castre and entrained to .
Then marched to Lumbres in rain and wind.

29 Wed.
 Left Lumbres and marched 8 kilo further on. Billeted in a little town in a gully.

30 Thurs.
 Went on parade at 8 A.M., marched up hill to parade ground extended order and platoon drill. Left ground at 4 P.M.

31 Fri.
 A wet day. Fell in several times but was wash out.

Sept. 1 Sat.
 On parade in morning. Had bath in afternoon, had to go 10 kilos, got no change.
 Wet day.

2 Sun. September
 Rained in morning so was no church parade. Got new pair of boots, first since being in army.

3 Mon.
Paraded several times but never got out, wet day, but fooled about all time.

4 Tues.
On parade as usual doing extended order and practising march past in Coy. line.

5 Wed.
 Parade as usual march past and extended order. Went for a bath after parade got change of clothes.

6 Thurs.
 Had a big day. Brigade in attack. Marched nearly to Lumbres and attacked back over hills. Left at 8 got home at 6.30.

7 Fri.
 Shooting all day. Never did too good. Ted and I sent Bob a cable. 8 Francs.

8 Sat.
 Went to dentist to get teeth fixed, but he couldn’t do them. Had to go back in a fortnight.

9 Sun. September
 Went for a bath in morning and had to parade before T. McKenzie who said a few words

10 Mon.
 Had Brigade. Practising review all morning by Bill.

11 Tues
 Practising open order and attack all day.

12. Wed.
 Practising review and Batt. in attack and bush fighting. Got mail. 8 letters.

13 Thurs.
 Had a trip to Seaside in motor lorries, rather a cold, windy day, so was glad to get home. Went near Rulonge we.

14 Fri.
 Had big day, N.Z. division, reviewed by Sir D. Hay and staff. A great show, well worth seeing, had rest of day off.

15 Sat.
 Doing Brigade in attack, through bush fighting. Had Batt. sports in afternoon. 1st Coy. won cup and 12th Second.

16th Sun. September
Had Church parade by new Chaplin in morning. Playing 11 & 12 football in afternoon.

17th Mon.
Went through gas test and lecture on orderly Cpl.
Played football against 4 team.

18th Tues.
 On orderly Cpl. Got inoculated in afternoon. Coy. football matches. 12th beat 13th. 1st beat 2nd.

19th Wed.
 On parade. Batt in attack. Had afternoon off. Orderly Cpl.

20th Thurs.
 Orderly Cpl. Rained in morning. Went for a bath. Nothing much doing.

21st Fri.
 On parade. Brigade in attack through bush and open. Final Batt football 12th Coy. won 8 to 3.
 Orderly Cpl.

22nd Sat.
 Orderly Cpl. Running about all day. Men had ½ day off.

23 Sun. September.
 Had Church parade A M.C.(?) in morning. Batt football in afternoon. 2nd Batt off V 1st. 1st won 21-nil. 1st men beat 2nd Batt by 5 to nil.

24 Mon.
 Orderly Cpl. in morning. Getting fixed up to move off in morn. Went down to Periots at night, very good programme.

25 Tues.
 Up at 4.30, full pack up and left Columby at 7. Marched into Arques about 22 kilo’s, a very hot day. Had a look round town at night.

26 Wed.
 Got left sleeping in morn. Batt moved off at 5 A.M. We got away at 6 and caught the crowd before 10. Arrived at billet 2 P.M near Cassel. Did about 18 kilos.

27 Thurs.
 Moved off again next morning, had lunch on way, and ended up just in front of Whatoc. (*?*) Camped the night. Did about 17 kilos.

28 Fri.
 On the move again next morning, went through Poperinge, had lunch on way. A terrible lot of traffic on road. Ended up just in front of Yprés and camped the night in open.

29th Sat.
 Getting fixed up to move into line. Left camping grounds about 4.30 and moved off in Sect. Went through part of Yprés town all knocked to nothing. Ended up in shell holes, still some distance behind front posts. Made a bit of bivie and stayed all night and next day.

30th Sun.
 Camped in shell hole all day, put in a very cold night. A few stray shells flying about. A perfect day but heavy mist in morning.

1st Oct.
 Had three dummy barrages during day, each lasting ¾ hour, very heavy. Shifted up about 100 yds and made better possie. On water party.

2nd Tues. October.
 Had three more practise barrages of ¾ hr each. Got a fair bit back. Went out on burying party in morning. Shifted back into old front line at night.

3 Wed.
 Put on gas guard. Camped in among batteries. Same practise barrages and got a little back. Had a little rain.

4 Thurs. **Yprés Advance** Zero time 6-15, just before they started Fritz put a lot of stuff about.
 We left and moved up 8.30. A lot of prisoners coming back and lot carrying out our wounded.

5 Fri.
 Stood by all day. Had to go out and guide some Tommies in who relieved us, then go out ourselves to transports, get our gear and march a few miles, then had to wait for lorries till nearly midnight.

6 Sat.
 Came back to near Cassel arriving about day-break, slept in tents all day, nothing doing, had rotten trip coming down in lorries. Got lost and fooled about. Was crook in lorry.

7 Sun.
 Got up 5 A.M. and marched full pack to other side of Steenvoord. A cold day, nothing doing. Got payed. Went into town at night.

8 Mon.
 Cleaning up gear, had inspection. Nothing much doing, playing cards all day.

9 Tues. October
 Had to be ready to move off at any time. A wet day. Ted and I sent a cable home saying both well.

10 Wed.
 Left billet at 5 A.M. and marched to Brigade and took lorries to Ypres. Got fitted out with fighting order and moved up to Pommeran Castle and stayed the night. Rotten trip going in.

11 Thurs.
 Came off hill at 12 o’clock in the night. Jack in support and carried out wounded and re-organized again. Rotten weather. Got everything ready and had stunt explained etc. Moved off at dark for assembly place got settled down once and had to move again, a rotten night, blowing and raining – very cold.

12 Fri.
 Zero time 5-35. All hands were wet through but got going. Mud up to --------. Practically no barrage. The first 2nd Batt got held up, and we went forward but aid no good. Got badly cut up by machine gun and snipers. Never gained first obj. I had to go at one gun crew with rifle and Lewis gun got 4. Had several close shaves both from sniper and machine gun, one bullet jumped under rifle and through pack and one cut strap off shoulder going through every sheat I had on. A lot got smacked around me, but I got out.

14 Sun.
 Carrying out wounded to tram. about 4 miles. 6 men to stretcher, mud up waist. Left possie on hill at night and came back to Pommeran Castle, stayed all night.

15 Mon.
 Had a good sleep and got cleaned up a bit and dried clothes which filled in day. Went to bed early and had good sleep but very cold.

16 Tues. October.
 Up early and moved down to old British front line and got old bivies, finished cleaning up gear and getting shortages. Nothing much doing.

17 Wed.
 Had inspection of all gear and fixing up things generally enquiries to missing men.

18 Thurs.
 Doing a little salvage work. Had an easy day. Fritz very active with bombs, flying very low.

19 Fri.
 Had a bath and changed in morning down by Ypres canal. On salvage in afternoon. Weather good, heavy guns very active.

20th Sat.
 Salvage in morning cleaning up gear etc. in afternoon ready to move out. Were relieved by Canadians. All the 2nd Army were relieved.

21st Sun.
 Left line at 4.30 and marched through the town of Ypres and got train to Urzern’s *(Wizernes?)* and then marched to Colomby and stayed the night. Had packs carried for us.

22 Mon.
 Slept in till 10 o’clock then had foot inspection, and kit inspection. Had rest of day off.

23 Tues.
 Left billet at 9-30 and marched to Lottingham, it rained all the way. Got good billet but away from town.

24 Wed. October
 Had to parade machine gunners to get gear and get it cleaned up a bit. In a terrible mess.

25 Thurs.
 Cleaning up gear in morning. Route march in afternoon.

26 Fri.
 Machine gunners parade at Batt for instruction in morning. Went for bath in afternoon. Came through that I got M.M. at Ypres.

27 Sat.
 Parade in morning drill and musketry. Had afternoon off.

28 Sun.
 Church parade in morning. Went up to see 2nd Batt. and any new chaps. Found a nest of them. Brethwaite and Russel at Church.

29 Mon.
 Inspection and lecture by old Bill on good work at Ypres. M.M. men had to stay behind and he said a few words. Route march in afternoon.

30 Tues.
 Bathing parade in morning, rained hard all day. On N.C.O. class.

31 Wed.
 On N.C.O. class in afternoon by Tommy instructor.

1 Thurs. November.
 On orderly Cpl. Had inspection of billets by Gen. Russell.

2 Fri.
 On orderly Cpl. Had to escort prisoners down to bath in afternoon.

3 Sat.
 Orderly Cpl. Nothing much doing. Enquiry of missing men.

4 Sun.
 Orderly Cpl.

5 Mon.
 Orderly Cpl. Had a vegetable raid.

6 Tues.
 Orderly Cpl. Got payed.

7 Wed.
 Orderly Cpl. Got boots mended.

8 Thurs.
 Batt in attack in morning. Bath in afternoon.

9 Fri.
 Drill in morning. Route march, full packs in afternoon.

10 Sat.
 Interior enconimg *(?).* Cleaning gear.
 Football in afternoon 1 & 12 had a draw.
 Reinforcements arrive. Got cable from Ted.

11 Sun.
 A wet day. Went to 2nd Batt & saw Ern.

12 Mon. November
 Drill in morning. Route march in afternoon. Were all lined up in the square and presented with our ribbons by Col. Charters.

13 Tues.
 Up at 6 a.m. and went to clink and got prisoners. Batt moved off to Colombuy in morning in one spell.

14 Wed.
 Up at 2 and moved off at 4. Marched to Wigerns, 17 kilos and entrained to Popier hinge then marched to Dickabusch. One day.

15 Thurs.
 Stayed about billet all day had kit inspection and gas drill and foot inspection. Got 5 letters (10 Sep.)

16 Fri.
 Moved off past Dickabusch, into tents and got settled down. An easy day.

17 Sat.
 On guard over prisoner. Fatigue round camp. Nothing doing.

18 Sun.
 On guard. Went round to 2nd Batt in afternoon and saw boys.

19 Mon.
 Nothing much doing, cleaning up camp and inspection.

20 Tues.
 Went for bath in morning. All new chaps went to school and some to engineers.

21 Wed.
 N.C.O’s class in morning all got a big straff for not having gear polished.

22 Thurs.
 N.C.O’s class all morning and drill in afternoon. November.

23 Fri.
 Marched about three miles to parade ground and drilled all day. A fine day. Aeroplanes active and a lot of bombing at night.

24 Sat.
 Marched down to parade ground and did drill all morning. Came home for dinner. N.C.O’s class in afternoon. Blowing a gale.

25 Sun.
 No Church parade. Shifted camp further back about 2 kilo’s into huts.

26 Mon.
 On fatigue putting bankment round Cinema. A very cold day. Promoted to full Cpl.

27 Tues
 On parade, arranging movements for stunts.

28 Wed.
 Practising stunt over planned ground. Put on mopping party.

29 Thurs
 Practising stunt in full scale with Otago on left.

30 Fri.
 Practising stunt as it will be done with aeroplanes etc. Put on Batt guard.

1 Dec. Sat.
 On Batt guard. Taken off guard at 1-30 and had to have all gear ready, fighting sides to move off at 3. Went up in night railway. Then had 3 miles to go into front line and take over. Put in charge of out post. A bad possie, very cold.

2 Sun. December
 Put in a rotten day and very cold. Got relieved at night and went back to jumping off trench and dug our selves in and kept under cover.

3. Mon.
 Very cold. Jumped off at 12. Just got 20 yds when a shell blew arm off. Knocked me silly for time. Got up and ran back to trench where L. Smith stopped bleeding. Walked out to aid post. Carried from there in two relays to dressing station. Got car to main station, was dressed and sent to C.C.S.10. Had operation same night.

6. Thurs.
 Left C.C.S. by train for Wimerau. Arrived midnight in 53 Gen. Ward 18.

12 Wed.
 Marked for Blighty.

13 Thurs.
 Left by car at 1 P.M. for Boulongre on Hospital Ship. Left it and arrived Dover 6. Was sick. Train to London.

14 Fri.
 Then car to New End Hospital. Hampstead 41 Ward.

15 Sat.
 Mrs Freeston came to see me.

16 Sun.
 N.Z. lady round to see if we wanted anything.

17 Mon
 Got full set of gear from N.Z. fund.

19 Wed.
 Reg, Con and Mrs Freeston came to see me.

25 Tues. (Christmas Day)
 Had a good day.

27 Thurs.
 Got up for the first time for a couple of hours.

28 Fri.
 Up for a time. Started strapping skin over end.

29 Sat.
 Up and had a hot bath. Got a big mail. 17.

30 Sun
 Got cable from home.

5. Sat. January 1918
 Went into London to Strand Theatre in afternoon. My first time out.

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