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12th Coy.

1st C.I.B.

A. Z. Forces.

Diary - 1917.

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 Soldier's 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 Westminster &
St. Paul's and had a
general look round town.
Got free ticket to play-
"Big O my Heart." after
A. Newlett, and had
supper at club together. after
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 Madame 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.

29 - Mon.

Paraded $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 boy. in attack
and extended order in
afternoon.

Got our new
indentification discs.

31. Wed.

Route march all the morning and staff parade.

Bull ring in afternoon

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 PM and marched to siding Bulford and left there 12-30.

February.

2 - Fri.

Had a very cold trip down in train. Got to Folkestone $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, everything white with snow. Had breakfast in barracks and left by boat at 9 A.M. Got to Boulogne in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Walked up through town and took transport waggon-motor out to Chauple. 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 trucks 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.

February.

4 Sun.

On Fatigue at book 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.

February.

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.

February.

~~7. Wed.~~ 8. Thurs.

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 am. to Bull ring. Practising trench warfare 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 practice and locating snipers, judging distance and general firing practises. A lovely day. Had easy time. Good instructors.

Dinner 3 P.M. Tea $\frac{1}{4}$ 105.

11 - Sun.

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

February.

12 - Mon.

Doing bay in attack
and bay 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 - "hurray."

February.

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 P.O.

February.

16 - Fri.

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 hit poked
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.

February

19 - Mon.

Doing nothing all day,
only had rifle inspection.
Got leave to Etamples at
night, town in a duty 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.

February.

21 - Wed.

Doing nothing all morning
had a short route march³
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.

February.

23 Fri.

A big draft sold 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 Buloneque, had a rotten time in train & arrived Muenwert, came through St. Omer. Had to march 8 miles with full packs. Arrived at billets 1:30 a.

February.

25. Sun.

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. Artillery draft arrived. Had a look at Sully town. Potting doing all day. Heard heavy bombardment at night.

February.

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 Peape and saw Bob, Reg and Allan - all doing well. Got good billes.

~~Thursday~~

1. Thurs.

Went through gas test with box respirator. Had kit inspection. Saw some good air fights. Marched into Peippe and joined up 12 Pelson 9 Platoon. Saw Ted Edens 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.

March.

3 - Sat.

Platoon drill in morning
Played 10 Platoon football
in afternoon. Lost 3-0. Bro
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
church.

5 Mon.

Had 15 prisoners to look after
Nothing startling happened. Came
off guard at 4-30. It snowed during
morning about 2 inches.

March.

6 - Tues

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

7. Wed.

Foiled about all morning, getting full pack right. Went down to Sully in motor loeries, for bayonet competition, a rotten cold day. Got 8 letters.

March.

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 know. Had to hold our packs up 5 hrs. and marched round a back way to get home. Boy-Football matches in afternoon. Very cold day.

March

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. Cow 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.

March.

12 - Mon

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. head quarters up to line to see Dr. Came back and packed gear and walked into Pieppe with full packs to APO Hospital. Waited there in tent till 8 P.M.

13th (cont.)

March.

Left for St. Omer in cars,
arrived at 10-30 and slept
in store rooms.

14. Wed.

Shifted into Marguee and
went to bed. All sorts in tent -
Tommys, Canadian, Scotch,
Australia & C.P.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. —

March.

18 Sun.

2 hard eggs for breakfast

19. Mon.

Got up and knocked
about tent.

20 Tues.

Up all day, very cold.
bought 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.

March

23 Fri.

More snow, but a better day.

24 Sat.

Got up and had a cruise around, saw Artic thing, a better day.

25 Sun.

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

26 Mon.

Went round and saw Ben and Jim Boyd.

27 Tues.

Got letter from Ted. Went to pictures - very good.

March.

28 - Wed.

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

29. Thurs.

Wet and dirty day.

30 Fri.

wanted to go back to unit. St. Omer town a fine place.

31 Sat.

Foiled 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

31 (cont.^d)

March-April

Hazebrouck at 7. Went into barracks and then went round town and got feed of eggs. Put in a ~~very~~ cold night - no blankets.

1 - Sun.

Left Hazebrouck at 5 am., got to Steenwerk at 7-30 & went into Reinforcement Camp. Got shortages and did 2 hours fatigue unloading cement off train. Rotten job.

April.

2 - Mon.

Left camp at 8 with full pack and walked to benches - 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.