

CEF WAR DIARIES 1914 -1919

42ND CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION (ROYAL HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA)

Transcribed and proofread by Michael Thierens

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1919

Wed., Jan 1, 1919

The Battalion marched from DENDERBRAKEL to RENAIX where it went into billets for the night.

Work on demobilization commenced.

Thu., Jan 2, 1919

Left RENAIX at 08.30 Hours, arriving at HERRINES [*HERINNES*], arriving there at 14.00 Hours where the Battalion went into Billets.

Fri., Jan 3, 1919

The Battalion marched from HERRINES [*HERINNES*] to NECHIN, arriving there at 12. noon, and went into billets.

Fri., Jan 3 to Fri., Jan 31, 1919

The Battalion remained in NECHIN during this period. Educational Classes were carried on daily in the Convent which was very kindly placed at our disposal. Parades were held daily between the hours of 09.00 and 12.00. Work consisted principally of Inspection – P.T. and Games – Smartening-up Drill and Route Marches. In the afternoons sports were carried on and inter-Company and inter-Battalion Hockey and Football Games played.

25 Passes per day were granted to men of the Unit to visit LILLE.

4th. Difficiency [*Deficiency*] and Pay Parades were held.

The following congratulatory message was received from Sir John Maxell, Colonel of the Black Watch, Royal Highlanders:

December 28th, 1918
Dringthorpe, York.

"General Sir John Maxwell thanks the Officer Commanding and Officers of the Royal Highlanders of Canada for their good wishes and takes this opportunity as Colonel of the Black Watch to congratulate the 42nd. Canadian Battalion on the magnificent results achieved by them during this War. He regrets very much that he has not had an opportunity of making the acquaintance of the Regiment and hopes he may yet find an occasion to do so. He wishes one and all every good wish and prosperity. "

9th- 10th. Medical Board and Dental Inspection was carried out in connection with Demobilization – about 700 being examined,

11th – Colour Party, composed as under, proceeded to England to escort the King's and Regimental Colours to the Battalion:

	Captain J. D. MacLeod,MC.
	Captain C. G. Heward,
132241 CSM Smith, G. (MM)	441179 Sgt. Trowse, C. (DCM)
192421 Pte. Gibson, A. (MM)	902249 Cpl. Kiely, J.J. (DCM. MM)
[192225]	
132421 Pte. Stapley, F.C. (MM)	754441 Cpl. Hanes, M.E.

15th – All English leave – with the exception of leave for men with dependents in England – was cancelled in view of the move to England by the Division.

17th – The Brigade was inspected by Lieutenant-General Sr Arthur Currie, K. C.B. K. C.M.G.

29th – The Colours were consecrated and presented to the Battalion, the presentation being made by Major-General F.O.W. Loomis, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. , Brigadier-General J. A. Clark, D.S.O. was also present.

Award of the following decorations was published during the month:

THE MILITARY CROSS

Captain W. A. Grafftey,

THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

418784 C.S.M. Davies, J.L. (M.M.) 3rd. Cdn. Div. R.O. 5.1.19

BELGIAN CROIX DE GUERRE

418877 Sergt. Haslett, J. 3rd. Cdn. Div. R.O. 3847 17.1.19

Following are the total casualties from November 16th, 1915 to November 11th, 1918:

	<u>KILLED IN ACTION</u>	<u>DIED OF WOUNDS</u>	<u>WOUNDED</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
OFFICERS	20	6	87	113
OTHER RANKS	546	174	2,077	2,797
	566	180	2,164	2,910

E. R. Pease MajorCol
Cmdg. 42nd Canadian Battalion R.H.C.

A

Operation Order No. 227

by

Copy No.14..

Lieut. Col.R.L.H.Ewing,DSO, MC, Secret

Cmdg. 42nd Canadian Battalion, R. H. C.

Ref. Map TOURNAI 1/100,000

Wednesday 1st January 1919.

1. Information. The 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group will continue the march tomorrow January 2nd 1919 to '?' Area.
2. Intention. The 42nd Canadian Battalion, R.H.C. will march on 2nd January from RENAIX to billets in HERINNES.
3. Parades. The Battalion will fall in ready to move off,at 08.15 hours, head of column opposite Battalion Orderly Room, facing south west.
- 4.Order of march. Half of pipe band – HQ – A – B Coys. – Half of pipe band – C – D – Companies.
- 5.Starting point. Cross roads on TOURNAIX [*TOURNAI*]- RENAIX Road south of M
in
MEULREEK [?] River.
6. Time. The Battalion will pass the starting point at 09.00 hours.
7. Route. GLIEST[?] – MOLE?RAIX – Chemin VERT – HERINNES.
- 8.Officers' Bed
rolls,mess
boxes etc. Officers bed rolls, mess boxes etc. will be piled at Q.M. Stores by 07.15 hours. Blankets will be rolled by Companies in bundles of two and properly marked, and piled at Q.M. stores by 07.15 hours.
- 9.Kitchens. Kitchens will be ready to move off at 07.45 hours.
- 10.Transport. Transport will accompany the Battalion.
11. Billets. Company Commanders will be responsible that all billets are left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition.

12. Marching out States. Marching out states will be turned into the Orderly Room by 07.45 hours.
13. Halts. Usual halts will be observed from ten minutes to each clock hour until each clock hour.
Noon day halt from 11.50 – 13.00 hours.

J.D. MacLeod.
Captain/Adjutant.

Distribution :-

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| No.1 Copy | 7th C.I.B. |
| 2.3.4. | C.O. 2 i/c Adjt. |
| 5.6.7.8.9 | C.Os. – A.B.C.D. HQ. Cos. |
| 10.11.12 | M.O. T.O. Q.M. |
| 13 | R.S.M. |
| 14.15.16 | War Diary. |
| 17. | File. |

Operation Order No. 238.

by

Lieut. Col. R.L.H. Ewing, DSO, MC. Copy No.

Cmdg. 42nd Canadian Battalion, R.H.C. SECRET

Reference Map TOURNAI 1/100,000 Thursday 2nd January 1919.

1. Information. The 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade will march tomorrow January 3rd 1919 to 'F' Area.
2. Intention. The 42nd Canadian Battalion, R.H.C. will march from HERINNES to NECHIN.
3. Parades. The Battalion will fall in ready to move off at 09.50 hours, head of column facing south, opposite 'B' Company's Headquarters, about one kilo. south of the Battalion Orderly Room.
4. Order of march. Half of pipe band – HQ – A – B Cos. Half of pipe band – C – D Companies.
5. Starting point. Pecq Station.
6. Time. The Battalion will pass the starting point 10.00 hours.
7. Route. PECQ Station, PECQ, NECHIN.
8. Officers bed rolls, mess boxes etc. Officers' bed rolls, mess boxes for HQ. A, C, and D Cos. will be piled at Q.M. Stores by 08.45 hours, B Company's will be piled in front of Company Headquarters by 08.30

hours. Blankets will be rolled by Companies in bundles of ten and properly marked and piled at Q.M. stores by 08.30 hours.

- 9.Kitchens. Kitchens will be ready to move off 09.00 hours.
- 10.Transport. Transport will accompany the Battalion.
- 11.Billets. Company Commanders will be responsible that all billets are left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition.
- 12.Marching out States. Marching out states will be turned into the Battalion Orderly Room by 09.00 hours.
- 13.Halts. Usual halts will be observed from ten minutes to each clock hour until each clock hour.

J.D.MacLeod,
Capt. Adjt.

Issued by runner at 23.30 hours.

Distribution :-

No.1 Copy	7th C.I.B.
2.3.4.	C.O. 2 i/c Adjt.
5.6.7.8.9.	O.Cs. A.B.C.D. HQ Cos.
10.11.12	M.O. T.O. Q.M.
13	R.S.M.
14.15.16	War Diary.
17	File.

Sat., Feb 1, 1919

The 3rd. Canadian Division started entraining from BASSIEUX [*BASIEUX*] for England via LE HAVRE.

Sun., Feb 2, 1919

13 Officers and 300 Other Ranks proceeded on 8 days demobilization Leave to England, under instructions to report to BRAMSHOTT at its expiration and meet the rest of the Battalion there.

Mon., Feb 3, 1919

4 Officers and 64 Other Ranks proceeded to England on 8 days demobilization Leave. The remainder of the Battalion entrained at BASSIEUX [*BASIEUX*] for LE HAVRE. The journey took over forty eight hours, the Unit arriving at LE HAVRE on the 5th, and the train was composed entirely of box cars.

Tue., Feb 4, 1919

[*Note transcriber: there is no entry for this date.*]

Wed., Feb 5, 1919

[*Note transcriber: there is no entry for this date.*]

Thu., Feb 6, 1919

[*Note transcriber: there is no entry for this date.*]

Fri., Feb 7, 1919

The Battalion proceeded from LE HAVRE to WEYMOUTH arriving there in the early morning of the 8th, and entraining about 11.00 Hours for BRAMSHOTT which was reached at 17.00 Hours.

The various Divisional Wings in France had preceded the Corps to England with their staffs and were in charge of the Bramshott Camp. "A" Wing had charge of North Camp where the Battalion was located.

Sat., Feb 8, 1919

[*Note transcriber: there is no entry for this date.*]

Sun., Feb 9 to Fri., Feb 28, 1919

9th. Medical boarding of the Battalion commenced.

The general plan was – All men who had arrived in Camp with the Unit were medically boarded and all their documents for demobilization completed, after which they were despatched on 8 days demobilization leave. As soon as those who had proceeded from France on leave returned to Camp they went through boarding and documentation.

The boarding of the Unit took considerable more time than was anticipated owing to the delay and difficulty in obtaining the men's papers. The Casualty Forms of a large number were still in France, the Attestation Papers and Medical History Sheets at the Records Office in London, and great difficulty was experienced in tracing and obtaining these.

The boarding of the Unit was not finally completed until the 28th of the month the day before the Unit left Camp.

Training was carried on for two or three hours each morning as far as weather conditions would allow. These during the entire stay of the Unit in Bramshott were most unfavourable.

22nd. The following farewell message to the Brigade was received from Major-General Sir Archibald Cameron Macdonell, K.C.B. :-

1st. Canadian Division
February 6th, 1919

My Dear Clark,

Forgiveme for bothering you, but I cannot let the dear old Brigade be demobilized without a word from myself. Will you please convey to each and every Unit of the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade my heartfelt wishes for their welfare, success and happiness on being demo-

bilized. It is a proud boast for me to be able to say that at one time I commanded such a Brigade. I have no fear but that they will succeed in civil life if they exhibit the same qualities of courage, initiative, thoroughness, and tenacity of purpose that they showed to such a large degree in the battle field.

The best of good luck attend you and the Old Brigade in all your undertakings,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Archibald Cameron Macdonell.

23rd. The Adjutant – Captain J. D. Macleod,MC- who was on leave in London was admitted to hospital where it was discovered that he was suffering from Diphtheria.

25th. Brig. General Hugh M. Dyer, C.M.G., D.S.O. visited BRAMSHOTT and a Brigade Parade was held at which he said farewell to the Brigade.

26th. A special investiture for Officers of the 3rd. Canadian Division was held by the King at Buckingham Palace, at which the undermentioned Officers were invested with decorations set forth:-

	<u>INVESTED WITH</u>	<u>INVESTED WITH</u>
Lieut. Col. R.L.H. Ewing, DSO,MC.	DSO & MC	Capt. W.A. Grafftey MC, MC
Major R. Willcock,MC	MC & Bar to MC	Capt. J. K. Beveridge,MC, MC
" S.J. Mathewson,MC	Bar to MC	Capt Wm. Hale, MC. Bar to
MC		Lieut. J. W. Cave, MC. MC

The following Officers left the Battalion and proceeded on two weeks leave at the expiration of which they were to report to the Quebec Regimental Depot, South RIPON, and proceed from there to Canada with their wives:

Captain J. B. T. Montgomerie,MC.

Lieut. A. B. Proven,MM

" P. Ackerley,DCM

" D. B. Macaskill,MC

" G. S. Ryder,

27th Lieuts. F. C. Nobell, J.M. Kavanagh,MCR. N. Munroe joined the Unit from the 20th Canadian Reserve Bn.,

28th Boarding and Documentation of the Unit was completed and orders were issued that the Battalion would entrain at LIPHOOK Station on the morning of the 1st. for LIVERPOOL to sail on that date on the R.M. S. ADRIATIC.

The men of the Dispersal Areas of MONCTON, ST.JOHN and QUEBEC, numbering 45 were to remain under command of Lieuts. A. C. Baldwin and A. W. MacMinn and proceed by the next boat.

The strength of the Unit on this date was as follows:-

	OFFICERS	OTHER
RANKS		
REMAINING IN BRAMSHOTT SAILING ON NEXT BOAT	2	45
A.W.L.		7

IN HOSPITAL

26

DISPATCHED TO RIPON FOR VARIOUS REASONS

37

2 115

PROCEEDED WITH UNIT TO LIVERPOOL

31 606

33 721

The following statistics concerning the Unit are of interest:-

Cont

	<u>KILLED IN ACTION</u>	<u>DIED OF WOUNDS</u>	<u>WOUNDED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
OFFICERS	20	6	87	113
OTHER RANKS	<u>546</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>2077</u>	<u>2797</u>
	566	180	2164	2910

BATTALION STRENGTH

<u>ON ARRIVAL IN FRANCE STRENGTH</u>	<u>INCREASE BY REINFORCEMENTS OR RETD. CASUALTIES</u>	<u>TOTAL STRENGTH 31.12.18</u>		
<u>DECREASE</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>		
OFFICERS 33	173	206	39	167
OTHER RANKS 974	3675	4649	1037	3612

Royal L. Ewing.

Lieut. Colonel,
Cmdg. 42nd. Canadian Battalion, R. H. C.