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1/5 Scottish Rifle

Vol XVIII

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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
	April 1 st to 4 th to 5 th		<p>Moved to ANNEQUIN SOUTH and took over billets of 16th North & Derby Regiment working parties to R.E. for mining and carrying during the whole period. Battalion relieved 16th North & Derby Regiment in Cuchy right Subsection. The Camerons were on our left and 12th Division on our right. Battalion went on 650 strong and took over an additional portion of the support line with one platoon. At midnight 4 mines were blown by our miners on our right. Rebuilding of firesteps commenced and general repair work throughout the subsection. Enemy quiet. Rifle grenade batteries have been most successful and have succeeded in keeping the enemy quiet. We took over a new portion of line from 12th Division with one platoon. About 5 pm a small mine went up just south of the Holengreen Redoubt, followed by heavy shelling, but our sector was not affected. Large party of Germans was seen by our observers and the guns & machine guns turned on to them. Two of our men were slightly wounded, one by shrapnel and one by a rifle grenade but Snipers claim a victim today.</p>	
	6 th		<p>At 7 am enemy shelled our support line presumably trying to knock out our</p>	

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9 April

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	April 6 th		rifle grenade batteries. There was considerable hostile shelling throughout the day, which however caused us no material damage. We had 1 man killed and 3 wounded by rifle grenades. Our Snipers again claim a victim.	
	7 th		Battalion was relieved by 2 Coys 30 th Royal Fusiliers and two Coys 17 th Wiltshire Rifles Regiment. Relief was completed by 10.30 pm. Just before relief a rifle grenade fell into one of our saps & wounded 2 of our men. Our Relief Battalion marched to billets in Colledge des Genies Villers Bethune halting for soup at Beuvry.	
	8 th		In Bethune. Billets good. Remained for 2 days and moved to OBLINGHEM on 10 th April.	
	10 th		Battalion marched as a Battalion and was quite strong in numbers. At the moment we are the strongest Battalion in the Brigade. Billets at Oblinghem are scattered but generally good. Beds have been erected in a number of billets and more have been put in by us. All the ground in the vicinity of billets is under cultivation and a training ground for the Battalion was found about 1 1/2 miles away. While at Oblinghem the G.O.C. 33 rd Division inspected the billets. He took special notice of the coppers and inquired	

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April 10 th			About the kind and variety of food given to the men. He ordered that field ovens should be built, so that roasts might be prepared. The G.O.C. 19 th Brigade also inspected the Battalion's transport during this period. While at	
" 15 th			Obbingham a test alarm was carried through. Battalion was ready to move in 1 hour & 40 minutes. Draft of 50 arrived.	
" 17 th			Moved to Bethune for the night. C.O. and Coy. Commanders visited the trenches at Cuinchy Right Subsection	
" 18 th			Tanks over from 1/6 th Scottish Rifles in Cuinchy Right Subsection. On the way from Bethune via was taken at Bouvry. In spite of wet weather, gun boats were not necessary and relief was completed under 2 hours	
" 19 th			About 8 am trenches were heavily bombarded by mine-thrower. About 35 large Minnie came into our section. The telephonist's dug out was knocked in and the men buried. Captain Russell and two stretcher-bearers were killed and 11 others wounded. Effective Artillery retaliation could not be procured. During the rest of the day the enemy was quiet. Between 11 and 12 midnight we exploded a mine to the left of our section	

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	20 th April		<p>At 4.45 am the enemy exploded a mine just north of our section. No damage was done and no action by the enemy developed. Sapping platoons have been working in our section making a new trench and cleaning an old one. Headquarters was shelled about 2 pm and 3 direct hits were obtained. The kitchen utensils were left for 4 hrs dinner. A red, white and red flag has been spotted by our observers on a tree on the La Basse Road facing the enemy. It is thought to be the boundary mark of a unit and is being kept under observation. Sandbag covers have been issued for Steel Helmets as it was found that they were too conspicuous. At 9.30 pm the German trenches on our left were heavily bombarded by Artillery and trench mortar batteries. After the bombardment a party of the Cameronians entered the enemy's saps but they were found empty and the party returned without trophies or information.</p>	
	21 st "		<p>At 4 am the enemy exploded a small mine immediately on our right, which however did us damage. It transpired that they had blown up some of their own men in the process as they were seen trying to pull out a man by</p>	

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	21 st April		<p>the Regs. A Newton rifle grenade burst prematurely and wounded 3 men. Our snipers have been disappointed as there is no sign of the enemy looking over his trenches, and they cannot get any targets. At 10.25pm we had a test gas alarm. Average time before all Coys were ready 3 minutes. Artillery fired in 55 seconds. Helmdts were kept on by all ranks for 50 minutes without discomfort.</p>	
	2 nd do		<p>Trenches very wet. All tanks being oiled & pumping. Support trenches shelled by field guns & Howitzers and knocked in in several places. A draft of 50 men arrived from 3rd Sec. Rifles. Battalion was relieved by 2nd P. W. Fusiliers and went to billets at Amegier North. The Coy remained in support to the 2nd P. W. F.</p>	
	23 rd		<p>Billets fair. Practically the whole Battalion out on working parties for P.F. Owing to the linings of steel helmets becoming easily detached it has been necessary to have the holding rivet centre punched. This has been done. A patrol report has been sent back to us with the Divisional Commanders comments on it thus "A very well conducted Patrol"</p>	

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	23 rd	April	I hope it will lead to good results" Patrol was lead by 2 nd Lt Lang.	
	24 th	"	Work carried on in bullet improvement. Owen put in and Steel shelters built. During the day the enemy sent over some heavy shells in the Batteries south of the La Bassac Road. Weather brilliant and very warm.	
	25 th	"	The 2 nd R. W. F. after a heavy bombardment made a raid on German trenches which was fairly successful a good number of Germans being killed. Owing to the wire not having been properly cut at one point the R. W. F. had a number of casualties.	
	26 th	"	Relieved 2 nd R. W. F. in Cuirchy Right Subsection with Cameronian on our left and 100 th Brigade on our right. A great deal of machine gun fire at night. We kept open the gap in enemy's wire. There was a very heavy bombardment going on in the direction of Loos.	
	27 th	"	At 5 am very heavy bombardment in South. We received that enemy were using Gas at Hulluch. Gas was seen on our flank but it did not affect our section. The artillery got most of it and their cat succumbed. It was learned that the Germans had	