

PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY



(Thierens Family Archives)

WAR DIARIES 1914 -1919

Transcribed by Michael Thierens, 1914, 1915 and part of 1916 proofread and commented on by Donna Walker & Ross Toms. The complete War Diary was proofread by Stephen K. Newman, who also made valuable suggestions regarding lay-out and provided much additional information on individual soldiers and diligently researched and pin pointed the locations of the Regiment.

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1915

Fri, Jan 1, 1915 BLARINGHEM, FRANCE

1.1.15 BLARINGHEM Brigade inspected by Field Marshal Sir JOHN FRENCH Commander-in-Chief. Sir John said few words to the men. Very wet.

St, Jan 2, 1915 BLARINGHEM, FRANCE

2.1.15 C O & Adjutant went up to trenches of 3rd Division at KEMMEL for 24 hours duty in trenches. Attached to ROYAL FUSILIERS.

Fri, Jan 1, 1915 to Sun, Jan 3, 1915 BLARINGHEM, FRANCE

1.1.15 to 3.1.15 BLARINGHEM Bn employed on the entrenched position being constructed at BLARINGHEM.

Mon, Jan 4, 1915

[Note transcriber: there is no entry for Jan 4, 1915]

Tue, Jan 5, 1915 BLARINGHEM, FRANCE

5.1.15. Marched from BLARINGHEM to METEREN via HAZEBROUCH-SYLVESTRE-CAESTRE and FLETRE. Bn formed the Brigade Advanced Guard. Bn much handicapped from want of boots.

(Appendix III: Orders for March.)

Wed, Jan 6, 1915 METEREN, FRANCE

6.1.15. Marched from METEREN to DICKIEBUSH [*DICKEBUSCH*] via BAILLEUL, and LOCRE. Lack of boots much felt many men marching with no soles at all to their boots.

(Appendix IV: Orders for March)

DICKIEBUSH

2.30 pm

Arrived DICKIEBUSH and rested till 5 pm. At 4 pm Major HAMILTON [*A.H.*] GAULT returned to Bn with general instructions with regard to taking over the trenches from the 53rd French Regt. 63rd Brigade 32nd Division. Bn marched from X roads ½ mi. S.W. of DICKIEBUSH via DICKIEBUSH to road junction ¼ mi. N.W. of VIERSTRAAT.

When the Right Half Bn under Major GAULT took over the 2 sections on the right. The Left Half Bn marched to LA BRASSERIE & took over the remaining 2 sections. Time was lost owing to no guides having been provided by the French: Taking over completed at midnight without incident: Line held by the Bn extended 1150 yds as per attached sketch. Trenches were found to be in a very waterlogged condition: no brasiers & few dug outs: distance from GERMAN LINE 40 yds on our LEFT, 200 yds on our RIGHT. Work of bringing up ammunition to scale of 250 rds per rifle as well as rations continuing till 3 a.m. 7.1.15.

Appendix V SKETCH.

Thu, Jan 7, 1915 VIERSTRAAT & LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

7.1.15 DICKIEBUSH Enemy shelled trenches with shrapnel & H.E. at 9 am 1 pm & 4 pm. [Report for day attached} Casualties 3 slight.

Appendix VI: Daily Report.

Fri, Jan 8, 1915 VIERSTRAAT & LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

8.1.15. DICKIEBUSH. No 4 Coy shelled heavily during early morning. Casualties Captain D.O.C. Newton and 5 men wounded: 2 men killed. (*)Relieved in trenches by 3rd Bn K.R.R. Nos. 3 & 2 Coys returned to billets in DICKEBUSCH. No 1 to a position in support at VIERSTRAAT, No 4 ditto at LA BRASSERIE. Reliefs completed 1.30 am 10.1.15. Very wet.
Appendix VII: Daily report

(*) 252 Corpl W. Fry [[N. Fry](#)]

1284 Lance/Cpl H O BELLINGER [[1264](#), *H.G. Bellinger*]

Sa, Jan 9, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, VIERSTRAAT & LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

9.1.15. Captain Newton died of wounds. Party of Officers & NCOs 81st Bde reported to inspect trenches previous to their occupying them. 2 R.E. officers accompanied them.
2 Coys in support First Day. Nothing of note.

Sun, Jan 10, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, VIERSTRAAT & LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

10.1.15. Second day in Support. Nothing of note to report. No 1 Coy hunted a sniper from tower near VIERSTRAAT.

Mon, Jan 11, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, VIERSTRAAT & LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

11.1.15. Third day in Support. Heavy shelling by enemy: 2 or 3 shells through No 1 billet. Relieved at 10 p.m. by HQ & 2 Coys Royal Irish Regt. Marched independently to WESTOUTRE to billets. Arrived 2.30 am. 12.1.15.

Tue, Jan 12, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

12.1.15. WESTOUTRE Day of rest

Wed, Jan 13, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

13.1.15. Marched 3 p.m. to DICKIEBUSCH. Went into billets at MILLE KRUISSE. Bn in support.

Thu, Jan 14, 1915 MILLE KRUISE, BELGIUM

14.1.15. Marched at 5 p.m. and relieved 4th Bn K.R.R.C. in close support. No 4 Coy at CHATEAU at KRUISETRAATHOEK. H.Q. No 2 and 3 Coys at ELZONWALLE. (*ELZENWALLE*) No 1 Coy at LA BRASSERIE Relief completed about 8 p.m. Searched Chateau at ELZONWALLE for spies without result.

Fri, Jan 15, 1915 KRUISSTRAATHOEK, LA BRASSERIE & ELZENWALLE, BELGIUM

ELZONWALLE pretty heavily shelled during the day. 1 man hit on shin by splinter. Marched at 6 pm and relieved 4th K.R.R. in trenches at ST ELOI. Projected attack on GERMAN sap head by parties from both Battalions: postponed. Relief completed about midnight.

Sat, Jan 16, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

16.1.15. Trenches in bad order, parapets not bullet proof and few loopholes. Relieved by ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS. Relief completed about 10 p.m. Casualties Killed 2 [No 658 Pte N McLEOD and No 858 Private H. McNISH] [[J. McNish](#)] Wounded 4 [Pte THORBURN serious the other 3 slight] Marched to billets at MILLE KRUISSE.
Appendix VIII: Sketch of trenches

Sun, Jan 17, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

17.1.15. Relieved at MILLE KRUISSE by Royal Scots; marched to billets at WESTOUTRE; settled in billets by 9 p.m.

Mon, Jan, 18 to Sat, Jan 23, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

WESTOUTRE 18.1.15 TO 23.1.15. In billets at WESTOUTRE.

Sat, Jan 23, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

23.1.15. 4.30 pm. Marched to DICKIEBUSH and billeted.

Sun, Jan 24, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

24.1.15. Marched to VOORMEZELE (VOORMEZEELLE) and took over trenches at ST ELOI Section C 3 to C 10 from LEINSTER Regt. Heavy fire against C9 during relief. Casualties Killed Lieut. C.H. PRICE and Lce Cpl PEPLER Wounded four. Trench mortar in rear C 6 exploded causing further casualties four wounded. Three officers from 28th Division visited trench C 9 during the night. Weather fine: clear bright night; relieving difficult.

Mon, Jan 25, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

25.1.15. Mound near C 8 occupied by Battn heavily shelled during morning; Snipers accounted for 17 Germans. Commenced dig redoubt immediately East of St ELOI. Casualties 4 wounded.

Tue, Jan 26, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

26.1.15. Generally quiet along front. Relieved at night by Royal Irish Regt. Weather fine & cold clear night. Casualties Killed Captain F.G. FITZGERALD 730 Private A MEIKLEJOHN [[J. Meiklejohn](#)] 1173 Private A. NICHOLSON 1740 Private MURPHY 1552 Private CROOK. Wounded Lieut. STANLEY JONES and five others. Marched to DICKIE-BUSH and billeted.
Appendix IX Report on ST ELOI Section.

Wed, Jan 27, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM
DICKIEBUSH 27.1.15. In billets at DICKIEBUSH.

Thu, Jan 28, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM
28.1.15. 5 30 pm. Marched to relieve ARGYLL & SUTHERLANDS in support. Nos 1 & 2 Coys in close support at ST ELOI. No 3 at BRASSERIE No 4 at chateau KRUIS-TRAATHOEK. HQ at ELZONWALLE.

Fri, Jan 29, 1915 ST ELOI, KRUISSTRAATHOEK, LA BRASSERIE & ELZENWALLE, BELGIUM
ELZONWALLE 29.1.15. No 4 moved to join HQ at ELZONWALLE. About midnight heavy firing heard on left of ST ELOI section. HQ Nos 3 & 4 Coys & 2 Coys A & S Highlanders turned out & marched under CO. (Lt Col. FARQUHAR) to VOORMEZELE. All quiet & returned to ELZONWALLE.

Sat, Jan 30, 1915 ST ELOI, LA BRASSERIE & ELZENWALLE, BELGIUM
6 p.m. 30.1.15. Marched to ST ELOI and relieved 4th Bn K.R.R. being relieved at ELZONWALLE by A & S Highlanders.

Sun, Jan 31, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM
31.1.15. Relieved at ST ELOI by 3rd Bn K.R.R. & by K.S.L.I. Returned to billets at DICKEBUSH. All quiet along the line.

[Note transcriber: during January 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant-Colonel F.D. Farquhar, D.S.O.]

Appendix III

OPERATION ORDER No. 1

By

Brigadier-General Hon. C.G. Fortescue C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
Commanding 80th Brigade Area.

4th January, 1915.

Reference HAZEBROUCK Map
1/100000

1. The troops as mentioned below will march to-morrow to the area
METEREN – CAESTRE – BORRE – MERRIS – where they will billet.

(a) The 27th Divisional Cyclist Company will march to METEREN
independently and must be clear of HAZEBROUCK by 10.45 a.m.

(b) 1st Column.

Advance Guard. Commander Lt. Col. Farquhar P.P.C.L.I.
1st Wessex Field Co. R.E.
P.P.C.L.I.

Main body in order of march.

Brigade Headquarters.
4th Bn. Rifle Brigade.
3rd K.R.R.C.
4th K.R.R.C.
83rd Field Ambulance.
96 Company A.S.C.

This column will march via SERCUS – HAZEBROUCK - LE BREARDE -
CAESTRE – FLETTRE (FLETRE) – METEREN.

Starting Point road junction immediately N. of T in LE CROQUET,
to be passed by head of main body at 9.30 a.m.

Units of this column will be billeted as follows –

Brigade Headquarters.)
27th Divisional Cyclist Coy.)
Wessex Field Co. R.E.) at METEREN.
P.P.C.L.I.)
4th Bn Rifle Brigade.)

3rd K.R.R.C. at FLETTRE.

4th K.R.R.C. at CAESTRE.

83rd Field Amb.)
96 Coy. A.S.C.) at STRAZEELE.

The 83rd Field Ambulance and 96 Coy. A.S.C. will leave the column at HAZEBROUCK and
march direct to STRAZEELE.

(c) 2nd Column.

Commander Lt. Col. Briegford, 2nd K.S.L.I.
1st Brigade R.F.A.
2nd K.S.L.I.

This column will march via STEENBEQUE – HAZEBROUCK – PRADELLES

to STRAZEELES.

Starting Point cross roads ¼ mile N.E. of last B in STEENBEQUE
to be passed by head of main body at 10 a.m.

The units of this column will be billeted as follows.

2nd K.S.L.I.	at STRAZEELE.
1st Brigade R.F.A (less Amun.Column)	at PRADELLES.
1st Brigade Amun. Column.	At BORRE.

2. Baggage and blanket wagons will follow own units.
Supply wagons immediately after refilling will follow the column and will be distributed to the billeting areas under the orders of the Brigade Supply Officer.
3. Reports to head of main body.

[Signed] *R. Stewart* Major,
Brigade Major, 80th Inf. Brigade.

Copy No.1 Brigadier General Commanding,

2 Brigade Major.

3 Staff Captain.

4 War Diary file.

5 2nd K.S.L.I.

6 3rd K.R.R.C.

7 4th K.R.R.C.

8 4th Rifle Brigade.

9 P.P.C.L.I.

[Inserted: Issued by orderly at 6.30 pm]

10 1st Wessex Field Co. R.E.

11 83rd Field Ambulance.

12 96 Coy. A.S.C.

13 1st Brigade R.F.A.

Appendix IV

Copy No. 7.

Operation Order No 2.

By Brig-Gen'l. The Hon C.G. Fortescue CB., CMG., D S.O.

5th January 1915.

Reference HAZEBROUCK map 1/100000.

1. The troops as mentioned below will march tomorrow to a road junction $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S E of E in DICKEBUSCH.

(a) 1st Column

Advance Guard Commander Maj. I. Harring R. Bde

2 Corp 4th Bn Rifle Brigade

Main body in order of march

Brigade Hd Qtrs

4th Bn rifle Bde less 2 Coys

P.P.C.L.I. less 1 Coy

1st WESSEX Field Coy R.E.

Rear Guard. of 1 Coy P.P.C.L.I.

Comdt. to be detailed by O.C. P.P.C.L.I.

This Column will march via BAILLEUL –LOCRE –

LA CLYTTE – Starting Point, road junction of

uncoloured road with main BAILLEUL road 7

furlongs East of METEREN – 10.30 A.M.

(Sgd) J.T. McCall Staff Capt.

for Bde Major. 80th Inf. Bde.

Appendix IV.

P.P.C.L.I. Copy No 7

Operation Order No 2

by Br Genl. The Hon. C.G. Fortescue CB., CM.G., DSO

5th January 1915

Ref. HAZEBROUCK Map 1/100000.

1. The troops as mentioned below will march tomorrow to the road junction $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.E. of E in DICKEBUSCH.

(a) 1st Column

Advanced Guard Comdr. Maj. J. Harrington R. Bde

2 Coys 4th Bn Rifle Brigade

Main body in order of march

Brigade Hd Qrs

4th Bn R.B. less 2 Coys

P.P.C.L.I. less 1 Coy

1st WESSEX Fd. Coy. R.E.

Rear guard of 1 Coy P.P.C.L.I.

Appendix V

SKETCH showing trenches occupied by P.P.C.L.I. from night 6th/7th Jan. '15 to night 8th 9th

[Sketch 1](#) & [Sketch 2](#).

Appendix VI

Brigade Major
80th Brigade

P 8 – Just returned from inspecting trenches – all men are over their ankles in water. Some up to their knees all cheerful AAA Draining impossible until rain stops as ground completely flooded AAA ENEMY shelled trenches with shrapnel and H.E. about 9 a.m. 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. fire heavy in places Sixty three Jack Johnsons in one section AAA CASUALTIES THREE all slight shrapnel wounds AAA Machine guns both damaged by direct hit AAA 12 men in right section not accounted for they were counted in trench and are believed to have followed French as they marched out AAA. Relief yesterday difficult as guides supposed to be provided were not forthcoming. French evacuated one trench NORTH of VOORMEZELLE –ST. ELOI road before being relieved by Rifle Brigade-I occupied it temporarily to avoid gap in line but should be grateful if detachment could be relieved there AAA Consider it advisable for R.E. officer to inspect trenches with view to draining AAA PUMPS bailers & TUBS urgently required AAA HOPE TELEPHONE will THROUGH TO MY HEADQUARTERS TONIGHT IMPORTANT TO COMPLETE IT TO TRENCHES AAA

R.A. officer could OBSERVE with advantage from my Headquarters AAA Names of casualties S.S. JACOBS No. 1058 C. BIRT No. 1361 R. MAGEE [[528 R.H. Magee](#)].

FROM O.C. P.P.C.L.I.
PLACE BOIS CHARRE (*CARRE*)
TIME 10. p.m.

See also **MESSAGES AND SIGNALS** [e001072363](#), [e001072364](#) & [e001072365](#).

Appendix VII

TO

Brigade Major
80th Brigade.

P. 10

8/1/15

One company shelled early morning, considerable sniping in evening-Casualties as far as known as follows Killed No 252 Corporal W. FRY (*N. Fry*) Wounded NO 1636 Pte. W.A.M. A'COURT severe 65 Pte G. GILBEY slight 75 J.H. FRY slight Officers Captain D.O.C. NEWTON severe AAA Relief by 3rd K.K.R. proceeding AAA Work last night at revetments which are improved Trenches still full of water and conditions trying.

From O.C. P.P.C.L.I.
Place La BRASSERIE
Time 10.5 p.m.

To

Brigade Major
80th Brigade

P.13

9/1/15.

Add to yesterdays casualties Killed No. 1284 Lce Corporal H.G. BELLINGER Wounded 1049 BUGLER H. BAYLISS No. 2 Company SERGEANT-MAJOR S.M. (*J.H.*) BRADLEY No. 1656 Pte J. GRAY.

FROM O.C. P.P.C.L.I.
Place VIERSTRAAT
TIME 4.15 p.m.

See also **MESSAGES AND SIGNALS** [e001072369](#) & [e001072370](#).

Appendix VIII.

[Hyperlink](#) & [hyperlink](#).Appendix - IX.

After Careful consideration Think The NIGHT Garrison ST ELOI should be not less than five hundred men disposed as follows two hundred and forty fire trenches one hundred and ten for counterattack, one hundred holding new redoubt and long fire trench running S.W. from Voormezele – St. Eloi road fifty in trenches or redoubt to be dug between roads N. of ST. Eloi AAA In addition two hundred men to be moved to Voormezele at night AAA By day the hundred and fifty men occupying new trenches and redoubts could be kept in Voormezelle which would be sufficient as garrison for that place AAA The SAP HEAD opposite No. 9 trench is supported by 3 successive lines of trenches all said to be occupied the nearest being within 20 yards of sap head AAA This makes it impossible to rush sap head without also taking trenches Solution appears to be either to take these trenches or to guide German attack into channel favouring heavy counter from us preferably from our left flank in neighbourhood C 11 AAA Will take O.C. Leinsters carefully over ground on his arrival here to-night and will advise him to bring the 200 men of Voormezele night garrison to ST ELOI during the nights of 26/27 and 27/28.

 See also **MESSAGES AND SIGNALS** [e001072375](#), [e001072376](#) & [e001072377](#).

Mon, Feb 1, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKIEBUSH 1.2.15. Battalion in billets. In evening visited the trenches held by the French Regt. on left of 27th Divn. trenches.

Tue, Feb 2, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

2.2.15. In billets. Again visited same trenches now occupied by YORK & LANCASTER Regt. who had taken them over from the French

Wed, Feb 3, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

3.2.15. Marched to ST ELOI & took over trenches from York & Lancaster Regt Section D. HQ at SHELLY (*SHELLEY*) FARM.

Appendix X Sketch & report

Thu, Feb 4, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

SHELLEY FARM 4.2.15. Line pretty quiet by day though some excitement by night.
6.53 pm.

Report that enemy had broken through 28th Divn. line N. of CANAL Square I 34 c & all reliefs postponed.

Appendix XI. General report.

Fri, Feb 5, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

5.2.15. Relieved by Leinster Regt. after quiet day except for fairly heavy shelling of No. 2 Coy in trenches D1 & D2 by German trench mortar. Lieut. Sullivan (*H.E. Sullivan*) wounded.

Marched to DICKIEBUSH (*DICKEBUSCH*) into huts arriving about midnight.

Sat, Feb 6, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

HEKSKEN 6.2.15. 2.45 pm

Marched to billets at HEKSKEN. Weather fine.

Sun, Feb 7, 1915 HEKSKEN, BELGIUM

7.2.15. In billets. H.R.H. The Prince of Wales visited the Battalion.

Mon, Feb 8, 1915 HEKSKEN, BELGIUM

8.2.15. In billets. Total casualties to date. Officers. Killed 3 Wounded 2 Other Ranks Killed 20 Wounded 30 [Total Killed. 23 WOUNDED 32].

Tue, Feb 9, 1915 HEKSKEN, BELGIUM

HEKSKEN 9.2.15. In billets. Very fine.

Wed, Feb 10, 1915 HEKSKEN, BELGIUM

HEKSKEN 10.2.15. In billets. Very fine. H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught visited the Battalion.

Thu, Feb 11, 1915 HEKSKEN, BELGIUM

11.2.15. 4 p.m.

Marched to DICKIEBUSH (*DICKEBUSCH*) and went into huts.

Fri, Feb 12, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

12.2.15. Marched at 6.30 pm. and took over trenches 1 to 6. S1 S2 S3 from 4th K.R.R. H.Q. at BRASSERIE. Lieut MINCHIN & 20 men returned from ROUEN.

Sat, Feb 13, 1915 LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

13.2.15. In trenches all quiet.

Sun, Feb 14, 1915 LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

14.2.15. 5.45. pm.

Report that Germans had taken trenches 19.20.21 at St. ELOI. Relief postponed. Very dark night cold & wet. About 9 pm. outbreak of Enemy's fire opposite Nos 2 & 3 trenches.

Mon, Feb 15, 1915 LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

15.2.15. 4 am.

Counterattack on 19. 20. 21. successful. 3rd Bn K.R.R. took prominent part. Very wet & cold. All quiet during day except at noon when enemy shelled trench 6 killing 2 men & wounding 2.

Killed Pte. Palmer (*H. 871*) }
 ,, Clayton (*A.G. 1800*) } M. Gun detachment

6.30 pm.

Relieved by 4th Bn. K.R.R. & by 1 Coy 3rd K.R.R. at VIERSRAAT. (*VIERSTRAAT*) Marched to billets in DICKEBUSH. (*DICKEBUSCH*)

Tue, Feb 16, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKEBUSH 16.2.15. In billets. Very fine.

Wed, Feb 17, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

12 noon. 17.2.15.

Report that 28th Division had lost trenches. Regiment ready to move at short notice. Very wet & cold. Marched at 5.30 pm. and relieved 4th K.R.R. trenches as on 12th.

Thu, Feb 18, 1915 LA BRASSERIE, BELGIUM

18.2.15. Enemy shelled BRASSERIE at 3 p.m. Killed one man and wounded three: otherwise all quiet. Cold wind.

Killed Pte. MURDOCK ([*Murdoch J. 697*](#))

Fri, Feb 19, 1915 DICKEBUSH, BELGIUM

19.2.15. Enemy shelled BRASSERIE at 3 pm. No casualties. All quiet along line. 1 man killed and 1 wounded. Cold wind. Relieved at 10 pm by 3rd K.R.R. and by 1 Coy 4th KRR at VIER-STRAAT. Bn. Returned to DICKEBUSH. Same billets as on 15th.

Killed Pte. CAMERON (A.F. 1163)

Sat, Feb 20, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKEBUSH 20.2.15. In billets. Fine but wet afternoon.

Sun, Feb 21, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

10 a.m. 21.2.15.

Marched to rest billets at WESTOUTRE.

Mon, Feb 22, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

WESTOUTRE 22.2.15. In billets. Captain A.ADAMSON. Lieut. (*E.O.C.*) MARTIN and draft of .111 others joined the Bn. Lieut WILMOT [[F.L. Eardley-Wilmot](#)] & 5 rejoined from Hospital.

Appendix XII: Extract from Sir J. French's dispatch & telegram from Sir J. F. to Prime Minister Canada.

Tue, Feb 23 to Thu. 25, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

WESTOUTRE 23.2.15. In billets at ~~HEKSKEN~~ WESTOUTRE

Fri, Feb 26, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

4.30 pm. 26.2.15.

Marched to billets in the huts at DICKIEBUSH.

Appendix XII.A.: Defences of VOORMEZELE

Sat, Feb 27, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

27.2.15. Very cold boisterous weather & wind. Marched at 6.30 and relieve Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in St ELOI Section trenches 19 to 22. S 14 & 15.

Sun, Feb 28, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

4.30 a.m. 28.2.15.

No 4 Coy together with Snipers & bomb throwers (under (*T.M.*) Lieut PAPINEAU) attacked & captured German Sap opposite trench 21. Lieut. (*C.E.*) CRABBE led the attack. The Sap was demolished & the trench parapet knocked in. The coy withdrew at daybreak. Lieut. (*W.G.*) COLQUHOUN who had previously gone out to make reconnaissance never returned. Casualties. 1 officer missing (*) 2 officers wounded (∅). Other ranks 5 killed 7 wounded. 2 missing. Appendix XIII: Sketch of German trenches near ST ELOI, Appendix XIV: Short account of operation. & Appendix XV: Telegrams of Congratulation

(*) Lieut. COLQUHOUN

(∅) Major HAMILTON GAULT

Lieut. CRABBE

[Note transcriber: during February 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant-Colonel F.D. Farquhar, D.S.O.]

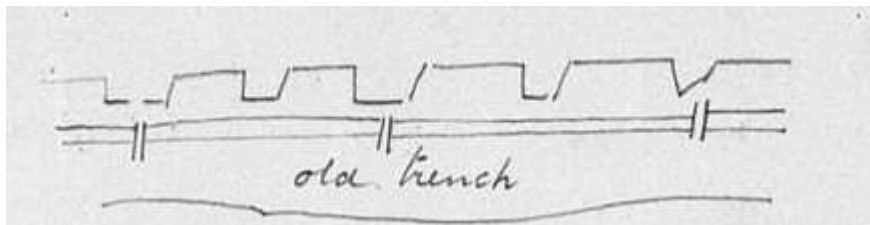
Appendix X: NEW AREA E of St ELOI

[Hyperlink.](#)

Report on New Area East of ST ELOI.

4.2.15

- General. 1). The trenches were numbered as shown on the sketch before the ground had been seen. As a matter of fact the trenches were in 3 groups 1) A.. 2) B. 3) C and E. D & F. being support trenches and G Dugouts.
- Peculiarities 2)(a) The 3 fire trenches are not homogeneous but consist of a number of embrasures more or less connected by trench. In certain cases it is impossible to go from one embrasure to another without getting out of the trench
 (b.) There are far too many dugouts, many of them against the parapet, which greatly weakens fire from the trench.
 (c.) The general trace makes it necessary to take strenuous precautions to prevent one trench firing into another.
 (d.) With the exception of A. they are easy to get into, but the communication trench should be improved..
 (e.) The enemys line is more distant than in other Sectors ranging from 50 yds on the right to 200 yds on the left (EICKHOF FARM).
- 3). Trench A. wet. Wet. Very unsanitary: parapet either too thin or fallen away. A good deal was done to remedy the parapet and to drain the trench on the night of 3rd /4th .
 An R.E. pump has been left there to continue the work. It is suggested that a new trench should be made as follows:



With a view to this, four saps were begun on 3rd / 4th & it is strongly urged that they be continued and that a trench 2 ft 6 deep with a sandbag & earth parapet 2' high be constructed.

An old French communication trench runs parallel to and 30 yards from the right of A.

This is believed to be used by the Germans as a listening post & should be occupied by our snipers.

Work to be done. 1) New trench 2). Communication trench 3). Draining

- 4). Trench B. Most of the Dugouts have been torn down & proper sandbag headcover & loopholes made. This should be carried on & communication improved both laterally & from front to rear.
- 5). Trench C. As in B. Some draining is also required and traverses should be constructed across dangerous gaps.
- 6.) Dug Outs Many of the trench dug outs round the Farm are wet & should be put straight. A new dug out for 20 men was made by us between SHELLEY FM & A.
- 7). Machine Guns The French emplacement in A opposite the German Gun was abandoned & new emplacements made in B & E as shown. It is not easy to find sites for more guns but with care two more might be placed in A.(new trench). One firing to right & one to left.
8. Entanglements. Patches of knife rests along front of parapet. Not very effective nor placed with any idea of guiding German attack.
10. Sanitation. A minus quantity. "A" trench has a good many French bodies lying in rear of it & some more are probably trodden down in the trench. The Frenchmen buried in the parapet are marked with crosses.

[Unsigned]

Appendix XI

Report on general events night of 4.2.15.

6.53 pm. Enemy reported to have broken through 28th Division N of Canal Square I 34 c. Counter attack being arranged and all relief's suspended.

7.55 pm All quiet in our front. KOYLI fairly active on our left. Heavy firing audible on other side of Canal.

9. pm. Enemy reported to have occupied a trench immediately next to that held by our left Company [inserted: who] were in danger of being enfiladed.

11.15 pm O.C. left Coy (Major WARD) reported said trench to be still in possession of 28th Divn Bn holding it being Lieut. COLQUOHOUN and 15 men sent to report on situation. 4th Bn. K.R.R. sent to SHELLEY FARM to reinforce the Bn. All very quiet in front.

1.5 pm. Lieut. COLQUOHOUN reported that owing to some misunderstanding certain trenches had been temporarily evacuated on our left. Situation now completely restored normal and quiet. 4th Bn. K.R.R. returned to DICKIEBUSCH. Result Battalion remained any extra night in trenches as relief was postponed till

following evening.

Appendix XII

The following Extract from F.M. Sir John French's despatch of Feby 2nd is published for the information of the Battn :-

"I may mention in particular the fine appearance presented by the 27th and 28th Divisions, composed principally of Battalions which had come from India. Included in the former Division was the Princess Patricia's Royal Canadian Regt. They are a magnificent set of men, and have since done excellent work in the Trenches. "

The C.O. wishes to warmly congratulate the Battn. on having received such a compliment from the C in C and is convinced that all ranks will strain every nerve to maintain this high reputation.

Appendix XII

NOTICE

The Commander-in-Chief has received the following message from the Prime MINISTER of CANADA.

"There is but one Spirit in CANADA, that of resolute determination to force this war to a victorious issue. WE trust that the FIRST CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE may soon join the Armies and Your Command and that it will emulate the unsurpassed valour and heroism already displayed Often in face of overwhelming odds by the British Expeditionary Forces now in France. We bid You and all the ALLIED FORCES God Speed in your great task.

Signed BORDON"

The Commander-in Chief has sent the following Reply:-

"In the name of the Army under my Command, I thank you for your most kind and encouraging message which has been Communicated to the troops. We are full of hope and Confidence.

Princess Patricia's Canadian Regiment has been engaged in the trenches and has fully justified the hopes which their magnificent appearance inspired"

Signed FRENCH"

APPENDIX XII A

Defences of VOORMEZEELLE – MAP.

Appendix XIII

Aeroplane reconnaissance of German saps.

Information regarding German Saps.

- 1) Opposite trenches 13 to 15
5 Saps. Sapheads start from 5 very conspicuous trees 2 of which are broken.
Sapheads of the two nearest 15 are reported 25 yds & 40 yds distant from right end of 15.
- 2) Opposite trenches 17 and 18.
Parallels from the original Sapheads & probably others started since have been reported running left to right of 17.
Parallels in front of these two trenches are not continuous & do not yet cover the front of 17.
- 3) In front of 19-21.
These parallels from Saps first reported about 17/18th January are now practically continuous at distances varying from 25 to 30 yds in front of right of 19, 40 to 50 yds in front of 20 to not more than 15 to 25 yds in front of 21.

26.2.15.

Appendix XIV.

Attack on German Sap 28.2.15.

1. The attack was undertaken with a view to giving a setback to the enemy who, from the sap opposite trenches 20 & 21 had become very aggressive & was doing considerable damage to 21 with bombs. etc.
2. No. 4 Coy was detailed for the attack & organized as follows: 3 snipers under Cpl. ROSS. (D. 148) -Lieut (C.E.) CRABBE - 3 bomb throwers under Lieut (T.M.) PAPINEAU – remainder of snipers – 1 Platoon of No 4 Coy under Sergt PATTERSON (S.V. 1503) – 1 Platoon No. 4 in support – 1 Platoon No 4 with shovels to be ready as soon as trench was captured to demolish the parapet. – 1 Platoon in Reserve.
- 3 The force was led by Cpl ROSS from SHELLEY Fm along hedge in front of new 21 to trench 22, thence to left end of trench 21 which was selected as jumping off point. From this point to the nearest point of German Sap was about 15 yards. The attackers crossed this without difficulty and entered the Sap. Cpl. Ross was killed immediately on entering the Sap. Lieut CRABBE then led the Coy down the trench whilst Lieut PAPINEAU ran down the outside of the parapet throwing bombs into the trench. Lieut CRABBE continued down the trench until

brought up against a barrier behind which Germans had collected : at this point all rifles except one of the party with Lieut CRABBE were out of action.

In mean time Sgt. Pattersons platoon occupied the rear face of sap to guard against a counterattack. Sgt. Major Lloyd (C. 1501) & 1 platoon attacked & demolished the parapet for about 30 yds.

After some 20 minutes occupation of the trench combined with work in demolishing the parapet, orders were given for the attackers to withdraw.

The withdrawal was successfully carried out though daylight was rapidly appearing.

4. The attack was carried out with considerable dash notwithstanding the fact that the men had been for six weeks employed in trenches under not very favourable conditions.

The attack was gallantly led by Lieut CRABBE who was well supported by Corpl. NOURSE (C.B. 172) and the snipers and by Lieut PAPINEAU & the bomb throwers.

5. Major HAMILTON GAULT and Lieut (W.G.) COLQUHOUN had previously carried out a reconnaissance in the neighbourhood of the German sap, and brought back valuable information regarding the enemy's trenches. Lieut COLQUHOUN went out a second time but never returned.

6). Casualties.

Killed. 5 other ranks.

Wounded. Major Gault. Lieut CRABBE and 7 other ranks.

Missing. Lieut COLQUHOUN and two others.

Total. 5 Killed. 9 wounded & 2 missing.

Appendix XV.

1580. Feb'y 28th AAA. I heartily congratulate you and your gallant men on your successful operations this morning. AAA Please Express to Lieut Crabbe and the party he led my Great Appreciation of their services x Repeated 2nd Army and 5th Corps

Commander-in-Chief.

28/2/15

Following message from fifth Corps received begins The Corps Commander has great pleasure in transmitting to You the following Message from Second Army Nine Eighteen A.m. AAA Begins The Army Commander wishes You to Express to the P.P.C.L.I. his appreciation of the grand piece of work performed by them this morning ends

BRIGADE MAJOR.

28/2/15

GENERAL PLUMER wires please give my heartiest Congratulations to the P.P.C.L.I. on their gallant [inserted: and] useful Exploit.

BRIGADE MAJOR.

28/2/15

Well done P.P.C Congratulations on Your splendid work

GEN'L SNOW. 10.30 A.M.

28/2/15

Twenty Eight Division wires hearty Congratulations.

BRIGADE MAJOR.

28/2/15

Heartiest Congratulations on Success last night.

1st CANADIAN. DIVISION. 10.15 A.m.

Mon, Mar 1, 1915 STELOI, BELGIUM

1.3.15. Enemy bombed trench 21 heavily during the day practically demolishing the parapet. One section of the trench having lost heavily withdrew their place being taken by No 3.

Relieved at night by 3rd K.R.R. Major WARD severely wounded.

4th K.R.R. again attacked sap & converted it to our own use. Battalion remained at VOORMEZELE [VOORMEZELE] till 4 am. 2.3.15. Casualties during period 27.2 15 to 1.3.15. Officers. 3 wounded. 1 missing. Other ranks. 17 killed. 44 wounded 2 missing. Total 67.

[Inserted: 1.3.15. Draft of 146 NCOs & men & [following]officers joined. [Capt. S.H. HILL. Capt. N.C. OGILVIE. Capt. C.A. MOORHEAD. Lieuts. C.R. BANNING, A.M. GOW. N.A.EDWARDS. J.S. HARVEY. H. LYALL [[H. Lyle](#)]

Tue, Mar 2, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

2.3.15. In billets at DICKEBUSCH. Working parties by night from all Coys except No 2. at work on new trench 21.

Wed, Mar 3, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKEBUSCH 3.3.15. In billets. Working parties on new 21.

Thu, Mar 4, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKEBUSCH 4.3.15. In billets. Working parties on new 21. 3 men wounded.

Fri, Mar 5, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKEBUSCH 5.3.15. No 3. took over trenches 23 A 23 B 23 C from Cheshire Regt 28th Divn. 2 men killed 2 wounded.

Sat, Mar 6, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKEBUSCH 6.3.15. No 4. relieved No 3 Coy. in trenches. 23 A. B. & C. Enemys trenches heavily bombarded during the day: sap & trenches in front of 20 21. blown to pieces. Sgt. CONNOR [*H.* 695] killed and 3 men wounded.

Sun, Mar 7, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

7.3.15. No 1 Coy relieved No 4 in trenches 23. A. B. C. All quiet.

Mon, Mar 8, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

8.3.15. No 2 Coy. relieved No 1 in trenches. 2 saps begun towards German lines from 23 B& 23 C. No 3 Coy at work from 12 m n [*midnight*] till 4 am on new 21. Fine night but cold wind. Lieut A.M. GOW slightly wounded.

Tue, Mar 9, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

9.3.15. No 4 Coy relieved No 2 Coy in trenches.

Wed, Mar 10, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

10.3.15. No 3 Coy relieved No 4 Coy in trenches. No.1 paraded 8 pm and worked till 3.30 am on new trench 21.

Thu, Mar 11, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

7 p.m. 11.3.15.

Battalion less No 3 Coy. marched to rest billets at WESTOUTRE.

LEINSTER Regt. relieved No 3. Coy. at midnight. No 3. arrived WESTOUTRE 6 am 12.3.15.

Fri, Mar 12, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

12.3.15. Bn in Army Reserve ready to turn out at half hour notice.

Sat, Mar 13, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

13.3.15. Bn out of Army Reserve ready at 1 hour notice. 7 men rejoined from Hosp. ROUEN.

Sun, Mar 14, 1915 WESTOUTRE, BELGIUM

4.30 pm. 14.3.15.

Bn. warned to be ready to turn out a moments notice.

5.30 pm.

Battalion ordered to fall in.

7.30 pm.

Marched to DICKIEBUSH [*DICKEBUSCH*] & thence on to ST. ELOI. Where Bn was ordered to assist in counter attack on German trenches West of the MOUND in cooperation with 4th Bn. R.B. Lieut [*D.E.*] CAMERON & 7 NCOs & men killed and Lieuts [*C.J.T.*] STEWART & [*P.E.*] LANE [1789] and 17 N.CO.s & men wounded.

Report on the action Appendix XVI.

Mon, Mar 15, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

4 a.m. 15.3.15.

Battalion ordered to return to DICKIEBUSH. Remained in bivouac during the day & moved into huts at night. No 2. Coy remained holding the breastwork.

Tue, Mar 16, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKIEBUSH 16.3.15. In huts. No 2 Coy. returned about midnight.

Wed, Mar 17, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKIEBUSH 17.3.15. 3 Coys. employed at night digging on second line behind St ELOI. known as CANADIAN support trenches.

[inserted: Casualties 17th to 21st

	K.	W.
Officers	2.	2
O. ranks.	<u>9</u>	<u>22</u>
	11	24
	+ <u>35.</u>]	

Thu, Mar 18, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKIEBUSH 18.3.15. Bn. relieved 3rd K.R.R. in trenches. 21 22. 23. A. B & C & in left bit of breastwork.

Fri, Mar 19, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

19.3.15. Pretty quiet throughout the day: few shells came near SHELLEY Fm. Lieut [H.W.] NIVEN wounded near canal bridge on the YPRES. ROAD. Lieut [F.L.] EARDLEY-WILMOT killed in trench 22. Lieut. CAREW MARTIN slightly wounded.

Sat, Mar 20, 1915 ST ELOI, BELGIUM

20.3.15. Relieved at night by 3rd Bn. K.R.R.C. Lieut Col. F.D. FARQUHAR mortally wounded & died at 2.30 a.m. Bn returned to billets in DICKIEBUSH. [DICKEBUSCH]

Sun, Mar 21, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

DICKIEBUSH 21.3.15. Lieut Col. FARQUHAR buried in the Battalion Cemetery in VOORMEZELE. [VOORMEZELE] Revd Percival Comeau. Chaplain to 2nd K.S.L.I. officiated.

Mon, Mar 22, 1915 DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

22.3.15. Battalion relieved 3rd Bn K.R.R. in trenches as before.

Tue, Mar 23, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

23.3.15 Quiet except for few shells near SHELLEY [SHELLEY] Fm. & trouble from German trench mortar directed against 22.

Wed, Mar 24, 1915 ST ELOI & DICKEBUSCH, BELGIUM

24.3.15. Line taken over by Battalion of MIDDLESEX Regt under Col. STEPHENSON. Relief completed at midnight. Bn. marched to billets near POPERINGHE [halting at DICKIEBUSH [DICKEBUSCH] for tea: into billets about 5 am.]

Thu, Mar 25 to Sat., Mar. 27, 1915 POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

POPERINGHE 25.3.15 to 27.3.15 In rest billets at POPERINGHE. Weather fine: cold wind & frosty nights.

Sun, Mar 28, 1915 POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

POPERINGHE 28.3.15 Draft of 66 joined Bn. including 24 old hands. Lieutenants. R.T. CRAWFORD. [R.G. Crawford] J.W. VAN DEN BERG and W.H. BOTHWELL accompanied it.

Tue, Mar 30, 1915 POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

30.3.15. Bn. inspected by the Corps Commdr. Sir H. PLUMER & Div. Commdr. Maj. Gen. SNOW. both of whom spoke in highest terms of the work done by the Batln.

Wed, Mar 31, 1915 POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

31.3.15. Brigade inspected by Army Commdr Sir H. SMITH-DORRIEN. who in course of his remarks warmly congratulated the Bn.

Casualties to date	:	K.	W.	M.	
Officer.		7	9	1	
Other ranks		<u>76</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Total 238</u>
		83	151	4	

[Note transcriber: after the death of Lieut.-Col. F.D. Farquhar, D.S.O., and with all the Majors out of action, the PPCLI Adjutant, Captain H.C. Buller, was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and took command.]

Appendix XVI.

Report on the action near ST ELOI on the night of March 14/15.

The Battalion was billeted in WESTOUTRE when orders were received about 5.30 pm on 14th Mar to fall in on Bn. Alarm Post. Bn marched about 7 pm. at ZEVECOTEN touch was gained with 3rd Bn. KRRC. behind which unit we marched to DICKEBUSH. [*DICKEBUSCH*] About 9.30 pm we proceeded to KRUISTRAATHOEK [*KRUISSTRAATHOEK*] X roads where a short halt was made and subsequently to VOORMEZELE [*VOORMEZELE*] where the Battn. was drawn up on the road running N.E. towards crossroads in I 19. d.

Owing to reports from stragglers that the Germans were advancing in large numbers towards the Eastern edge of VOORMEZELE [*VOORMEZELE*] from the S.E. precautions were taken against surprise by the most Easterly Coy of the Bn. (No. 4).

Soon after 2 am orders were given me personally by the G.O.C. 80th Infantry Brigade to cooperate with 4th Bn. R.B. in an attack on the ST ELOI ‘Mound’ which had been lost earlier in the day, the zone of operations of the Batl being to the East of the VOORMEZELE [*VOORMEZELE*] – OOSTAVERNE road.

The actual situation in the front line was still obscure. It was known that the Mound & certain trenches to the West of it were in German hands.

To the East, we were known to have lost Trenches 19 & 20: it was uncertain whether 21 was still held or whether the whole of the Breastwork was in our possession.

It appeared to me to be preferable to proceed towards SHELLEY’S FARM. If 21 and the left of the breastwork had fallen, they would have been attacked at once: If not they would cover the commencement of an attack along the German line against 20, 19 & the Mound successively. The alternative was to advance Southward with the right on the YPRES – ST ELOI Road: This would have meant slow progress through the Enclosures round ST ELOI & the subsequent attack would have been exposed to heavy flanking fire from 19 & 20.

The progress of the Battalion was necessarily slow. The street in VOORMEZELE [*VOORMEZEELLE*] was full of stragglers, touch was difficult to maintain across country without constant short halts & the alarmist reports from stragglers made it necessary to keep a screen of scouts in front none of which things made for rapid progress.

I ascertained from Major PROWSE. in ST ELOI that trench 20 had been retaken and modified plans accordingly. Instead of going to SHELLEY FARM our objective was changed to the Breastwork 200 yds West of it.

We reached this point about 20 minutes before broad daylight and an attack was organized by 1 Coy. (No 2) against Trench 19 via the back of 20. This was made in 3 parties: the first two being composed of 1 platoon & the third of 2 platoons.

This attack failed to make progress against the very heavy machine gun fire from the Mound which completely swept the ground: To reinforce with another Coy appeared to me to be useless sacrifice once the element of surprise had been eliminated. I had already sent back one Coy. and after leaving three platoons to hold the right of the Breastwork next door to the Mound, the rest of the Batln. was withdrawn to VOORMEZELE [*VOORMEZEELLE*] and reached DICKEBUSH [*DICKEBUSCH*] about 8 a.m.

Our casualties amounted to 1 officer killed & 2 wounded & 7 N.COs & men killed & 17 wounded. Total 27.

The Battalion behaved with great steadiness throughout the some trying experiences of the night and withdrew over open ground in daylight without leaving a wounded man behind. It is much to be regretted that owing to being overtaken by daylight, more could not be effected.

All ranks behaved very well but there was no individual sufficiently conspicuous to merit his name being especially put forward for consideration.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient Servant

Sd. F D. Farquhar

Lt. Col.

Comdg. P.P.C.L.I.

Thu, Apr 1 to Sun., Apr 4, 1915 POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

POPERINGHE April 1st to April 4th In billets.

Mon, Apr 5, 1915 POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

April 5th 8.45 am

[Marched via VLAMERTINGHE] to YPRES and billeted.

Wed, Apr 7, 1915 YPRES, BELGIUM

April 7th 5.30 pm.

No's 3 & 4 Coys under Capt. [*S.H.*] HILL occupied dug outs in close support to the Brigade near the ETANG de BELLEWAARDE. Wet. Draft of 37 N.C.Os & men rejoined the Bn.

Thu, Apr 8, 1915 YPRES & HOOGE, BELGIUM

April 8th Officers visited trenches to be occupied by their Corps the next night. Wet.

Fri, Apr 9, 1915 YPRES & HOOGE, BELGIUM

April 9th 7.30 p.m.

Bn. marched from YPRES and relieved 4th. Bn. Rifle Brigade in trenches B. C & S.3 in POLY-GONE DE ZONNEBEKE

Sketch & short report. Appendix XVII.

[*note from transcriber: this appendix is missing from the original War Diary*]

Sat, Apr 10, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

[*Note transcriber: there is no entry for Sat, Apr 10*].

Sun, Apr 11, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

April 11th 4. pm.

Enemy shelled C trench with H.E. but did no damage.

12. m.n. [*midnight*]

Relieved by 4th Bn. Rifle Brigade: relief complete at midnight.

Casualties [3 men killed and 4 wounded] Draft of 26 N.C.Os & men rejoined Bn. Weather fine.

Mon, Apr 12, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

April 12th Marched to huts at VLAMERTINGHE and arrived 6 am

11.30 pm

A Zeppelin came over Camp & dropped 6 bombs. No damage

Tue, Apr 13, 1915 VLAMERTINGHE, BELGIUM

April 13th VLAMERTINGHE Sir H. PLUMER, the Corps Commander visited the Battalion.

Wed, Apr 14, 1915 VLAMERTINGHE, BELGIUM

April 14th Marched to YPRES and in evening took over trenches from 4th R.B.

Nos. 3 & 4 Coy.s in trenches Nos 1 & 2 Coys in Support

Thu, Apr 15, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

April 15th Rumours of expected attacks by Germans

(Casualties 2 wounded)

Fri, Apr 16 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

[*Note transcriber: there is no entry for Fri, Apr 16*].

Sat, Apr 17, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 17th Relieved by 4th R.B. and returned to biletts in YPRES
Casualties 4 killed 3 wounded.

Sun, Apr 18, 1915 YPRES, BELGIUM

Apl 18th Remained in biletts in YPRES

Mon, Apr 19, 1915 YPRES, BELGIUM

Apl 19th Remained in biletts in YPRES casualties 4 men wounded.

Tue, Apr 20, 1915 YPRES, BELGIUM

Apl 20 YPRES Heavily shelled in YPRES. Btn. turned out of Barracks in afternoon & waited round pond till time to move off in evening. Moved up to trenches in POLYGONE WOOD and took over from 4th R.B.

Nos 1 & 2 Coys in trenches 3 & 4 Coys in support Casualties 2 men wounded

[Cas. 1st - 21st - K 7. W .1 + 21]

Wed, Apr 21, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 21st POLYGONE Wd Btn. remained in trenches without relief owing to battle being fought to North in neighbourhood of St. JEAN. Btn. subjected daily to a certain amount of shelling.

[Casualties 3 men wounded & Lt. [W.H.] Bothwell wounded.

Thu, Apr 22, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 22nd POLYGONE Wd Remained in occupation of trenches in POLYGONE WOOD
[Casualties Lt. ~~Bothwell~~ 3 men wounded also 3 others slightly at duty

Fri, Apr 23, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 23 POLYGONE Wd Still occupy trenches [Casualties 6 men wounded
Barracks in YPRES shelled & we had casualties 1 man killed 1 man missing believed under debris one man wounded Sergt Cook McBrierty. [[McBrearty R. 150](#)]

Sat, Apr 24, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 24 POLYGONE Wd Still occupy same trenches [Casualties 10 men wounded .& 3 slightly, 1 man killed Transport & details. were moved from YPRES to BUSSEBOOM

Sun, Apr 25, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 25 POLYGONE Wd trenches [Casualties Lt. Bainsmith & Capt. Ogilvie wounded 6 men wounded]

Mon, Apr 26, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 26 POLYGONE Wd Still hold same trenches [Casualties 9 men wounded.

Tue, Apr 27, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 27 POLYGONE WOOD Occupy same trenches in WOOD. Casualties[1 man killed and 10 men wounded.

Wed, Apr 28, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl POLYGONE WOOD Still POLYGONE WOOD trenches [Casualties 5 men wounded & 1 man killed

Thu, Apr 29, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl POLYGONE WOOD Still POLYGONE WOOD trenches [Casualties 3 men killed and 2 wounded (at duty)

Fri, Apr 30, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Apl 30 POLYGONE WOOD [Casualties 6 men wounded. Capt Grey [[D.F.B. Gray](#)] slightly wounded.

[Cas. 22nd – 30th K 8. W. 3 + 53. M. 1]

[Note transcriber: during April 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant-Colonel H.C. Buller.]

Sat, May 1, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

MAY 1st POLYGONE WOOD 10th day in trenches at POLYGONE WOOD Casualties 7 men wounded

Sun, May 2, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

MAY 2 POLYGONE WOOD 11th day in trenches at POLYGONE WOOD Casualties none

Mon, May 3, 1915 POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

MAY 3 POLYgone WOOD Orders received to withdraw to a subsidiary line. The Batn. to go through the line & go into rest in G.H.Q. trenches for the night

Further order received that owing to K.S.L.I. having been ordered North, Btn would occupy these trenches in Subsidiary line. Casualties during day 3 men slightly wounded.

8 P.M.

Two Support Coys under Capt [Agar]Adamson withdrew & occupy subsidiary line, running N from ETANG BELLEWAARDE to Railway

9 P.M.

Half trench parties withdrew & occupied Support trenches in subsidiary line

10.30 P.M.

Half remaining trench parties withdrew to support trenches

12 Midnight

Remaining parties (except 15 men under [P.E.] Lieut Lane [1789] who remained and acted as rear guard to cover the withdrawal) withdrew under Lt Col [H.C.] Buller & by 3 A.M. Btn. was in occupation of new line. without casualties

Tue, May 4, 1915 BELLEWAERDE LAKE, BELGIUM

MAY 4th BELLEWAERDE LAKE Men worked hard all night on new trenches but by 7 A.M. the Germans were noticed advancing over crest of ridge to our Right & by 9 A.M. Enemies Artillery began shelling the trenches & this heavy shelling continued throughout the day, trenches in many places were blown in, Nos 1 & 2 Coys in the Fire line trenches lost heavily. 26 men killed 96 men wounded two of which died two days later

Btn. was relieved by K S L I at 10 p.m. and withdrew to G.H.Q. line near YPRES at junction of Railway & YPRES-MENIN ROAD [*HELL-FIRE CORNER*]

Wed, May 5, 1915 HELL-FIRE CORNER, YPRES, BELGIUM

MAY 5th G.H.Q. line Enemy shelled G.H.Q. at intervals during day Lieut Col H.C. Buller and Lieut A.M. Gow wounded.

Major [A.H.] Gault & Lieut [P.V.] Cornish with draft of 47 other ranks joined the Batn. the evening of 4th Lt [R.O.] Earl & Lt [J.O.] Newton joined on 5th

Thu, May 6, 1915 HELL-FIRE CORNER, YPRES, BELGIUM

MAY 6th G.H.Q. line Remained at G.H.Q. Trenches all day, were shelled in afternoon casualties 3 killed 9 wounded

8.45 P.M.

Btn. left for trenches in front of BELLEWARDE LAKE and relieved K S L I relief complete by 11-30 P.M. Nos 3 & 4 Coy firing line 3- & 4 1 & 2 support

Fri, May 7, 1915 BELLEWAERDE LAKE, BELGIUM

MAY 7th BELLEWAERDE LAKE Shelling started by Germans about 9 A.M. and considerable damage done to Fire trenches. casualties 3 men killed 13 wounded [Capt [D.F.B.] Gray & Lt [P.V.] Cornish were sent back sick in Evening. Nos 1 & 2 Coy relieved 3 & 4 Coys in fire trenches.

Sat, May 8, 1915 BELLEWAERDE LAKE, BELGIUM

4 A.M.

Shelling by Germans started chiefly from our right flank which enfladed our fire trenches this grew more severe by 5.30 & about this time some Germans were noticed coming down hill directly in front of us and we opened rapid fire on them

6 A.M.

All our telephone wires were cut by this time both to Brigade & also to trenches so all Signalers, Pioneers, Orderlies & Servants were ordered into Support trenches and shortly afterward all advance by Germans was checked and any not sheltered by buildings or dead crawled back over crest of ridge to trenches Germans had two possibly three Machine guns in buildings & were sweeping our parapets both in fire and support trenches. An orderly took a note to Brigade H.Q. notifying them of situation

7 A.M

Major [A.H.] Gault was severely hit [by shell in left arm & left thigh.]

Shelling by heavy Howitzers using all high Explosives & field guns started again in heavy bombardment both on Fire & Support trenches. Fire trench on right being blown in at several points. A note by orderly to Brigade notified them we were being heavily shelled & asking for reinforcements as our casualties were heavy.

9 A.M.

Cessation in shelling and Germans again attempted to advance but heavy fire from our Machine Guns & rifles checked them & forced them to retire & take cover at this time P.P.C.L.I. accounted for many of the Enemy.

Lieut [A.G.] Martin [1266] & [G.] Triggs were hit & came out left communication trench with number of wounded Capt. [S.H.] Hill & Lt [M.S.] De Bay hit also

9-30 A.M.

† Lt [H.W.] Niven went at this time & was in communication with the Officer of K.O.Y.L.I. on our left & Officer of 4th Rifle Bgd. on our right both were suffering heavy casualties from enflade fire. Bombardment started again particular attention being paid to our Machine Guns all machine guns were buried but two were dug out & mounted again over three times but a shell killed every man on its section

10-30 A.M.

Left half of our Right fire trench was completely destroyed & Lt [H.S.] Dennison ordered Lt [D.A.] Clark [1763] to take remaining men & get in our Right Communicating trench. Lt [H.S.] Dennison & Lt [P.E.] Lane [1789] still held part of our right fire trench with few men. Lt. [N.A.] Edwards was killed

Our Left fire trench (right half) suffered severely & trench was blown in and Machine Gun put out of action. Sergt Scott [L. 640] and few men withdrew to communication trench & held it until it was blown in. Lt [R.G.] Crawford who was most gallant was severely wounded. Capt [Agar] Adamson who had been handing out ammunition was hit in shoulder but continued to work with only one arm useful. R. Sergt Major Fraser [A. 3] was also handing out SAA to support trenches was killed instantly by bullet in head

12 A.M.

Snipers had been extremely brave taking messages to Brigade & reserve Batn kept in rear of BELLEWAARDE LAKE during the morning as ground they covered was continually shelled A message was sent asking Brigade for more S.A.A., as rifle fire was brisk at all times.

1-30 P.M.

One Platoon of 4 R.B's was sent us as reinforcement [& the support trench gave them a cheer as they came up.] Lt. N [H.W. Niven] placed them on our extreme right in ~~tree~~ order to watch our flank as we were unable from trench to overlook this ground. They were in line with our support trench behind trees & hedge They also sent a Machine Gun and section that did good service

2 P.M.

I went with orderly to BELLEWAARDE LAKE dugouts as ordered by Brigade to telephone G.O.C. 80th Infy. Bgd. complete details of situation returning at 2-30 P.M. Orderlies accompanying me both going and coming were hit by High Explosive shells.

3 P.M.

A platoon of K.S.L.I. under an Officer reached our Support line with 20 Boxes S.A.A. which was distributed. This party also acted as reinforcement & occupied Left end of Support Trench

4 P.M.

Made tour of Support Trenches & found we were out of touch with Regt. on our Left a gap of fifty yards was unoccupied, I placed 8 men in this gap to inform me of happenings there. shortly afterward I was informed that Monmouth Regt. on left of K.O.Y.L.I. had withdrawn to trenches 300 yards in rear and about 5-30 was informed that K.O.Y.L.I. had also withdrawn to same line of trenches

Another attempt by Germans to advance was stopped by our rifle fire although some reached our [inserted: fire] trench on right that could not be observed from our support trench but I believe at this time there were none of our men alive at this point.

11.30 P.M.

We were relieved by 3rd K.R.R.C. who gave us assistance to bury our dead that were in Support & Communicating trenches as it was impossible & imprudent to attempt to reach the fire trenches.

Our casualties were as follows Killed [inserted: 2 + 73] Lieut. [N.A.] Edwards died of wounds Lieut [R.G.] Crawford , missing [inserted: 2 + 79] Lieut [H.S.] Dennison & Lieut [P.E.] Lane [1789] . Wounded [inserted: 6 + 203] Major [A.H.] Gault, Capt. [Agar] Adamson, Capt. [S.H.] Hill, Lieut [M.S.] De Bay Lieut [A.G.] Martin [1266] , Lieut [G.] Triggs Other ranks 93 killed, 79 missing 203 wounded.

Sun, May 9, 1915 BELLEWAERDE LAKE, BELGIUM

May 9th Btn. had orders to withdraw to G.H.Q. Trenches S of Railway & we started at 2.30 A.M. Lieut [H.W.] Niven, Lieut [T.M.] Papineau, Lieut [D.A.] Clark [1763] , Lieut [J.W.H.G.] Vanden Berg. [Van den Berg] On arrival at G.H.Q. line we were ordered to proceed to LILLE GATE – YPRES and occupy ground at Ramparts there. During the day we were shelled and lost 5 killed & 3 wounded.

Mon, May 10, 1915 YPRES, BELGIUM

May 10th YPRES all day, in evening furnished a carrying party for SAA of 50 men & one Officer & delivered 25 boxes SAA to trenches of BELLEWAARDE LAKE. Casualties 1 killed 2 wounded furnished a digging party of 100 men under Lieut [D.A.] Clarke [1763] who constructed part of support trench S of G.H.Q. line

Tue, May 11 & 12, 1915 YPRES, BELGIUM

May 11th [YPRES all day &]

May 12th received orders to proceed to BUSSEBOOM and marched at 2 A.M. and camped in field near Divisional H.Q. about 7 A.M. Casualties 1 man wounded in YPRES on 11th

Thu, May 13, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

May 13th In bivouac at BUSSEBOOM till noon when we formed composite Battn with 4th K.R.R.C. & marched to HOOGE-CHATEAU and received 4th R.B. in trenches there relief completed at 11.45 P.M.

Fri, May 14, 1915 HOOGE, BELGIUM

14th May In trenches at HOOGE CHATEAU All quiet.

Sat, May 15, 1915 HOOGE, BELGIUM

15th May Still in trenches at HOOGE CHATEAU. Major [R.T.] Pelly rejoined from sick leave & took command from Lieut & Adj. [H.W.] Niven.

Sun, May 16, 1915 HOOGE, BELGIUM

16th May All quiet in trenches [a few "Whiz bangs" sent over Battn Head Quarters

Mon, May 17, 1915 HOOGE, BELGIUM

17th May All quiet. Relieved by Queens Bays and 11th Hussars at 10. p.m. & returned to bivouac at BUSSEBOOM

Tue, May 18, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

18th May In bivouac at BUSSEBOOM

Wed, May 19, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

19th May 80th Brigade inspected by the C. in C., Sir John French, who spoke in highest possible terms of the P.P.C.L.I. and also referred to the loss the Regiment sustained when Colonel [F.D.] Farquhar was killed.

Thu, May 20, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

20th May In bivouac at BUSSEBOOM.

Fri, May 21, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

21st May Still at BUSSEBOOM. The men had hot baths at POPERINGHE.

The following new officers arrived, having been sent as a reinforcement from the 11th Canadian Bn., Shorncliffe.

2 Major [J.G.] Wayne, Major [J.H.] Lindsay, [inserted 5] Capt [F.G.] Arnold, Capt [H.E.] Pembroke, Capt [H.S.] Cooper, Capt [R.G.] Mainer, [inserted: 12] Lieut [R.R.] Reid, Lieut [Sellers [R. [Sellar](#)]], Lieut [J.O.] Newton, Lieut [S.] Smith, Lieut [N.A.] Sparks, Lieut [J.C.] De Balinhard, Lieut [J.E.] McDermid, Lieut [G.A.] Ferguson, Lieut [J.H.] Strathy, Capt [J.W.] Forbes, Lieut [A.] Fraser, Lieut [J.H.] Stewart, Lieut Ralph [H.S. [Relph](#)].

Lieut Stanley Jones [[Jones](#), *Stanley Livingston*] also rejoined from England

Sat, May 22 & May 23, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

22nd & 23rd May In bivouac at BUSSEBOOM

Mon, May 24, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

24th May Very heavy bombardment heard at dawn in direction of YPRES.

5.30 a.m.

Received to turn out in half an hour

6 a.m.

Brigade marched to a point on the POPERINGHE – VLAMERTINGHE Road, the P.P.C.L.I. in rear, where we waited for 6 hours.

noon

Received orders to proceed to the LILLE GATE , YPRES going via the South of the town.

From there the 2nd K.S.L.I. & 4th K.R.R.C. moved on to the line crossing on the YPRES – MENIN road to form the firing line in a counter attack on the trenches at HOOGE CHATEAU which had been lost in a gas attack.

A Brigade of the 27th Division counter attacked on the left of the K.S.L.I. while on the right the 4th K.R.R.C. endeavoured unsuccessfully to get in touch with the cavalry in ZOUAVE WOOD

The 3rd K.R.R.C. & 4th R.B formed a supporting line while the P.P.C.L.I. moved to the G.H.Q.

8.30 p.m.

line near the MENIN Road level crossing & obtained tools & sandbags ready to assist in digging the firing line in when the attack was complete.

Tue, May 25, 1915 HELL-FIRE CORNER, YPRES, BELGIUM

25th May 2.15 a.m

Day broke when the attack (which was unsuccessful) was held up about 1000 yards East of the Railway crossing.

The P.P.C.L.I. then took the tools up under a somewhat heavy shell fire & rifle fire & on completion of this duty the Battalion was ordered to occupy the trench near the LILLE GATE.

Casualties 1 Officer (Major [J.H.] Lindsay) & men wounded.

4. a.m.

Reached the LILLE GATE & remained all day, being periodically shelled.

8.15 p.m.

Proceeded to level crossing in MENIN Road where we met transport with Rations tools & sandbags.

Moved up the road 1 mile to the East & dug a new line of trenches to fill a gap between the MENIN Road & ZOUAVE Wood.

2.a.m.

Trenches completed at dawn, Battn returned to LILLE GATE.

Lent two officers, Capt. [H.E.] Pembroke & Lieut. [N.A.] Sparks to 2 K.S.L.I. who had lost all their officers except two. Casualties while digging trenches – 2 men wounded.

Wed, May 26, 1915 LILLE GATE, YPRES, BELGIUM

26th May 1915 Remained at LILLE GATE. Were shelled a little & had casualties :-

1 Officer (Lieut Stanley Jones) [S.L. Jones] & men wounded.

12 midnight

Received orders to return to bivouac at BUSSEBOOM.

3 a.m.

Reached BUSSEBOOM.

Received report from 2 K.S.L.I. that Lieut [N.A.] Sparks was wounded.

Thu, May 27, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

27th May 1915 In bivouac at BUSSEBOOM

Fri, May 28, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

28th May The Brigadier (Gen Smith) inspected the transport in the morning

5 p.m.

General Sir Allenby commanding the 5th Corps paid us a farewell visit.

Sat, May 29, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

29th May In bivouac at BUSSEBOOM.

Sun, May 30, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

30th May In bivouac at BUSSEBOOM.

Mon, May 31, 1915 BUSSEBOOM, BELGIUM

31st May 4. a.m.

Marched to DANOUTRE [DRANOUTRE] near LOCRE & went into huts.

[Note transcriber: during April 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant-Colonel H.C. Buller, until he was wounded May 5, 1915. Major A.H. Gault took over until he was severely wounded, for the second time, May 8, 1915 and Captain Agar Adamson took over command and kept on acting as such even though he was wounded in turn and lost the use of an arm. After a while he relinquished command to the Adjutant, Lieutenant H.W. Niven. Major R.T. Pelly, returning from sick leave, took over command from Lieutenant Niven May 18, 1915.]

Tue, June 1, 1915 DRANOUTRE, BELGIUM

~~31st May~~ 1st June 1915 4.30 a.m.

Marched to STEENWERKE & billeted in 3 farms.

3. p.m.

Officers went by motor bus to ARMENTIERES & visited the trenches we are to occupy.

Wed, June 2, 1915 STEENWERKE, BELGIUM

2nd June 4.15 p.m.

Marched to ARMENTIERES

7.30 p.m.

Halted for 1 hour near Asylum.

8.30 pm.

Occupied trenches with our right resting on L'EPINETTE relieving 2nd. London Regiment.

Thu, June 3, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

3rd June 1915 All quiet.

Fri, June 4, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

4th June All quiet. Did a lot of work in improving trenches.

One man killed in trenches.

Sat, June 5, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

5th June All quiet.

5. p.m.

Battn. Head Quarters heavily shelled. No casualties.

Casualties in fire trenches 1 man wounded.

12 midnight

Relieved by 4th R.B. & marched to billets in ARMENTIERES.

Sun, June 6 to Thu., June 10, 1915 ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

6th -10th June In billets at ARMENTIERES

Sgts. Horner [A.H. 854] & Tabernacle [P.B. 1703] received their commissions

8th. one man wounded in square by shell.

Fri, June 11, 1915 ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

11th June 9. p.m.

Proceeded to trenches and relieved two Coys. 4th R.B. in Nos. 77 & 78. All quiet, no casualties.

Sat, June 12, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

12th June All quiet. Erected a rifle battery to sweep a road junction 1000 yards behind German lines. No casualties.

Sun, June 13, 1915 L'EPINETTE FRANCE

13th June All quiet. No casualties.

Mon, Jun 14, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

14 June All quiet. No casualties.

Tue, Jun 15, 1915 L'EPINETTE FRANCE

15 June All quiet. No casualties.

Wed, Jun 16, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

16 June All quiet. No casualties

Thu, Jun 17, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

17 June 10. a.m.

Lt. J.H. Stewart killed while sniping at a loophole

No. 3 & 4 Coys. were relieved by 2nd K.S.L.I. and marched to billets in ARMENTIERES.

No. 1 & 2 Coys were relieved by 2nd K.S.L.I. in Trenches and occupied Support Trenches immediately in rear

Fri, Jun 18, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

18th Maj. [R.T.] Pelly proceeded to England to confer with Col. [H.C.] Buller and Maj. [A.H.] Gault D.S.O. Two Coys. remained in billets and two Coys in support. No casualties.

Sat, Jun 19, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

19th H.Q. Coy. & 3 & 4 Coys. remained in ARMENTIERES.

No 1 & 2 Coys in support trenches. No casualties.

Sun, Jun 20, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

20th No. 3 & 4 Coys. relieved No. 1 & 2 Coys. in the support trenches

No casualties.

Mon, Jun 21, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

June 21st 1915 ARMENTIERES. H.Q. No. 3 & 4 Coys in billets. No. 1 & 2 Coys. in support trenches. No casualties.

Tue, Jun 22, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

22nd All quiet. Same report as 21st.

Wed, Jun 23, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

23rd All Quiet. H.Q. No. 3 & 4 Coys. take over trench 79 from 2nd K.S.L.I. at L'EPINETTE No. 1 & 2 Coys. in support trenches. No casualties.

Thu, Jun 24, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

24th Maj. Hayne [*J.G. Wayne*], Capt. [*F.G.*] Arnold, Capt. [*H.S.*] Cooper, Capt. [*R.G.*] Mainer, Lt. [*J.O.*] Newton, Lt. [*R.R.*] Reid, Lt. [*J.H.*] Strathy. Lt. Sellars [*R. Sellar*], Lt. [*S.*] Smith, left on afternoon train to proceed to Base.

All quiet in trenches. No casualties. Major [*R.T.*] Pelly returned to Regt.

Fri, Jun 25, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

25th All quiet in trenches. No casualties.

Sat, Jun 26, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

26th Lieut. [*H.S.*] Relph went to Hospital. All quiet in trenches No casualties.

Sun, Jun 27, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

27th Nos. 1 & 2 Coys. were relieved in trenches by 3rd K.R.R.C. & with H.Q. Coy came to billets to ARMENTIERES. No. 3 & 4 Coys. remained in support Trenches. All quiet. no casualties.

Mon, Jun 28, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

28th No. 3 & 4 Coys. in support trenches. All quiet. no casualties.
No. 1 & 2 Coys. & H.Q. Coys. in billets in town.

Tue, Jun 29, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

29th All quiet. same as 28th. No casualties.

Wed, Jun 30, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

30th All quiet. Nos. 1 & 2 Coys. relieve Nos. 3 & 4 Coys. in support trenches. 1 man killed at Transport lines by shell.

[Note transcriber: during August 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel R.T. Pelly.]

Thu, Jul 1, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

July 1st The Battalion went into trenches at L'EPINETTE
No. 4 No. 3. No. 2 Coys. went into Fire Trenches 79 & part of 78
No casualties.

Fri, Jul 2, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 2nd All quiet, good weather.

Sat, Jul 3, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 3rd All quiet, no casualties.

Sun, Jul 4, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 4th All quiet, one man wounded

Mon, Jul 5, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 5th H.Q. & two companies came out to billets in ARMENTIERES and two Companies remained in support All quiet no casualties.

Tue, Jul 6, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

July 6th Shell burst in Transport billet in town killing one man and wounding three others. Two Companies in billets relieved the two Companies in support.

Wed, Jul 7, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

July 7th All quiet, no casualties.

Thu, Jul 8, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

July 8th All quiet no casualties.

Fri, Jul 9, 1915 L'EPINETTE & ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

July 9th Regiment went into trenches again 78 & 79 at L'EPINETTE & one Company in support no casualties.

Sat, Jul 10, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 10th All quiet, one man wounded.

Sun, Jul 11, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 11th All quiet, no casualties.

Mon, Jul 12, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 12th All quiet, no casualties.

Tue, Jul 13, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 13th All quiet, no casualties.

Wed, Jul 14, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 14th All quiet no casualties.

Thu, Jul 15, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 15th All quiet no casualties.

Fri, Jul 16, 1915 L'EPINETTE, FRANCE

July 16th Relieved in trenches by 4th Northumberland Fusiliers and marched to bivouac at TROIS ARBES near STEENWERK

Very wet night.

Sat, Jul 17, 1915 TROIS ARBRES , FRANCE

July 17 Remained in camp rest.

Sun, Jul 18, 1915 TROIS ARBRES, FRANCE

July 18 Remained in camp rest.

Mon, Jul 19, 1915 TROIS ARBRES, FRANCE

July 19 Remained in camp rest.

Tue, Jul 20, 1915 TROIS ARBRES, FRANCE

July 20 marched to new camp at PETIT MOULIN farm

Wed, Jul 21, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 21 were inspected by SIR ROBERT BORDEN and PRINCE ARTHUR of CONNAUGT.

Thu, Jul 22, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 22 Remained in Camp & built shelter huts.

Fri, Jul 23, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 23 Remained in Camp & received call from Sir Douglas Haig Commander of 1st ARMY. wet day.

Sat, Jul 24, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 24 In camp. wet

Sun, Jul 25, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 25th In Camp. Fine.

Mon, Jul 26, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 26th In Camp Fine.

Tue, Jul 27, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 27th In Camp Fine.

Here!**Wed, Jul 28, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE**

July 28th Camped at PETIT MOULIN farm. New draft (McGill) of 244 men and 5 Officers arrived. Officers C.J.T. Stewart, Lieut. E.O.C. MARTIN, Lieut. S.F.A. MARTIN, Capt. [G.] BARCLAY, Capt. McDOUGAL. [E.S. [McDOUGALL](#)]

Thu, Jul 29, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 29th The following Officers rejoined from Base Capt. GREY [*D.F.B. Gray*], Lieut [C.E.] CRABBE and the following Officers joined from Depot Lieut [C.A.] POPE, Lieut [W.E.C.] IRWIN, Lieut [E.J.] BEVINGTON [833].

Fri, Jul 30, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 30th In Camp

Sat, Jul 31, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

July 31st New draft and Officers inspected by Brig. Gen. Smith

[Note transcriber: during August 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel R.T. Pelly.]

P.P.C.L.I
 War Diary
 Month of August 1915

Entry
 under date

Errata.

Aug. 5th.

For Grey read, Gray.

Aug. 24th .

For Major Colwell
 read, Major A. Calvert D.S.O.

Addendum

Under date

Aug. 5th.

Add to last line of entry the following;
 Lieut. Newcombe joins regiment.

R. T. Pelly Lieut. Col.
 Comdg. P.P.C.L.I.

Sun, Aug 1, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

August 1st Lieut. Col. [R.T.] Pelly & Officers made a tour of inspection over new line of trenches to be taken over next day.

Officers of the Regiment were inspected by new G.O.C. of the 27th Division ~~Lieut~~ Maj. General MILNE

Mon, Aug 2, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

August 2nd At 9.30 P.M. Nos. 3 and 4 Companies took over fire & support Trench # 63 from 9th ROYAL SCOTS at RUE DU BOIS

Nos. 1 and 2 Companies occupied billets on outskirts of ARMENTIERES. no casualties.

Tue, Aug 3, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 3rd All quiet in trenches no casualties.

Wed, Aug 4, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 4th All quiet in trenches. Lieut E.O.C. MARTIN was wounded by Machine Gun fire at Dumping Ground and one man killed on fatigue at LA CHAPELLE d'ARMENTIERES.

Thu, Aug 5, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 5th Capt GREY [D.F.B. GRAY] made a reconnoissance in front of trenches and found all clear of enemys patrols. Lieut. [E.F.] Newcombe joins Regt.

Fri, Aug 6, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 6th In trenches, all quiet, searchlight used by enemy frequently during the night, Orchard at H.Q. shelled but no casualties. Relieved by reserve companies.

Sat, Aug 7, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 7th One man slightly wounded, found dead German in front lines,

Sun, Aug 8, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES,, FRANCE

August 8th Reserve Companies #3 & #4 under [Lieut.-]Col [R.T.] Pelly inspected by Gen. Sam Hughes who spoke about large pensions and *[inserted by transcriber: end of entry]*

Mon, Aug 9, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 9th All quiet, work continuous building Shell Shelters & wire entanglements

Tue, Aug 10, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 10th Reserve Companies relieve those in Firing Trench, All quiet.

Wed, Aug 11, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 11th Exceptionally quiet in trenches. no casualties, many fatigue parties

Thu, Aug 12, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 12th All quiet, Colors flying at H.Q. to celebrate first birthday of Regiment, receive many congratulations

Fri, Aug 13, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 13th All quiet

Sat, Aug 14, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 14th Snipers locate Germans digging sap towards our trench, All quiet, no casualties. Lieut Lowther of the Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry is attached to this Regiment for instruction

Sun, Aug 15, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 15th All quiet, one man wounded, rain.

Mon, Aug 16, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 16th All quiet, wet day

Tue, Aug 17, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 17 All quiet, one man wounded.

Wed, Aug 18, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 18 All quiet, one man wounded.

Thu, Aug 19, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 19th All quiet, constructing Shell Shelters in Fire trench no casualties

Fri, Aug 20, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 20th All quiet, no casualties, four Colonels visit our trenches .K.

Sat, Aug 21, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 21st All quiet, no casualties.

Sun, Aug 22, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 22nd All quiet, no casualties.

Mon, Aug 23, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 23rd All quiet, no casualties.

Tue, Aug 24, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 24th All quiet, no casualties. A Squadron of the Surrey Yeomanry were attached to us in the trenches for instruction. They are commanded by Major A. Colville Damp night

Wed, Aug 25, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 25th All quiet, Parties work in front of our fire trench every day digging borrow pit and strengthening parapet

Thu, Aug 26, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 26th All quiet, wet day.

Fri, Aug 27, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 27th All quiet Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry Machine Gun section under Lieut Lowther return to their Unit.

Sat, Aug 28, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 28th All quiet, no casualties.

Sun, Aug 29, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 29th All quiet, no casualties. wet day.

Mon, Aug 30, 1915 RUE DU BOIS/ARMENTIERES, FRANCE

August 30th All quiet. We are relieved by Cambridgeshire Regiment and go to rest camp at PETIT MOULIN FARM

Tue, Aug 31, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

August 31st In Rest Camp at PETIT MOULIN FARM

[Note transcriber: during August 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel R.T. Pelly.]

Wed, Sep 1, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

September 1st Rest Camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Receive large reinforcement of 244 other ranks. 28 old men returned 216 new draft composed of University men chiefly weather damp. Battalion Strength today 994 the largest since January.

Thu, Sep 2, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

2nd Rest Camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Inspection of new draft and posting them to their Companies

Fri, Sep 3, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

3rd Rest Camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Furnish working parties of 400 men but heavy rain prevents work being carried out

Sat, Sep 4, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

4th Rest Camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Wet day. Lieut [R.A.S.] Nash joins the Battalion & is posted to No 3 Coy

Sun, Sep 5, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

5th Rest Camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Had Church parades in the morning and played a rugby match in the afternoon with the R. Bs.

Mon, Sep 6, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

6th Rest Camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Drafts inspected this morning by Major Brig. General Milne Smith. Afterwards nos 1 & 2 companies were inspected in the attack. The regiment supplied a working party of 600 men at Rue du Bois in the evening.

Tue, Sep 7, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

7th Rest Camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Had our sports today. Weather very fine and hot. [inserted: Lieut. [T.M.] Papineau went to England on leave]

Wed, Sep 8, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

8th Rest Camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Had our boxing and wrestling bouts today. A/Captain [H.W.] Niven and A/Captain [R.O.] Earl went to England on leave.

Thu, Sep 9, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

September 9th Petit Moulin Farm. Weather very hot. Still in rest camp at PETIT MOULIN FARM.

Fri, Sep 10, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

10th Weather still very hot. [inserted: Lt. [C.B.] Cowley [517] reported back to the regiment] The regiment did very well at the brigade horse show and carried off four events and was second in three others.

Sat, Sep 11, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

11th Weather still very hot. Still in rest camp at Petit Moulin Farm. Had our concert and prize giving for the sports this evening. Lt [C.E.] Crabbe left for England.

Sun, Sep 12, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

12th Weather very warm. Regiment had church parade in the morning, and supplied a small working party in the afternoon.

Mon, Sep 13, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

13th Companies went for route marches today but otherwise no activities, weather warm.

Tue, Sep 14, 1915 PETIT MOULIN FARM, FRANCE

14th The day was quiet and no parades were held until 6.15 in the evening when the regiment moved with the brigade on its way to a new area and were billeted at Pradelles, a village about 3 miles from Hazebrouck.

Wed, Sep 15, 1915 PRADELLES, FRANCE

Pradelles Sept. 15th Today was spent resting in billets and there is nothing of interest to record.

Thu, Sep 16, 1915 PRADELLES, FRANCE

Sept. 16th Company route marches were made by all the companies today. The weather still fine & warm.

Fri, Sep 17, 1915 PRADELLES, FRANCE

Sept. 17th Today the regiment paraded with the rest of the brigade to take leave of our Corps Commander, General Pulteney. The whole parade was of an exceptionally high order of merit and in saying goodbye, General Pulteney reminded the brigade that it was a regular one of the highest repute going to stiffen the front held by one of the new service armies sent across from England quite lately to take over part of the line hitherto held by our allies south of Arras in a most important part of the line. He said further that he considered us very worthy of the duty before us and hoped that the day would come when we would return to his command. In the meantime he wished us all Godspeed and the very best of good fortune. The brigade before marching off to battalion parades gave him three cheers.

Sat, Sept 18, 1915 PRADELLES, FRANCE

Sept. 18th Today the regiment marched into Hazebrouck and entrained at 6 o'clock in the afternoon for our new area in the neighbourhood of Amiens, which we expect to reach at an early hour tomorrow morning.

Sun, Sep 19, 1915 TROOP TRAIN TO GILLAUCOURT, FRANCE

Mericoourt Sept. 19th Arrived at Gillaucourt about 6.30 this morning, after a very satisfactory journey as regards transport arrangements.

The unloading was completed without accident in 40 minutes from the time of arrival. The regiment then marched about 6 miles to Mericoourt where we bivouacked & in a field just beyond the village. The march discipline was very good and there was no straggling.

We were joined about 6 p.m by 2 officers and 25 men of the 82nd Trench Howitzer Battery (Lt. Beard & Lt. Wilmot i/c) They are attached to the 80th Brigade and to the P.P.C.L.I. for quarters and rations.

Mon, Sep 20, 1915 MERICOURT, FRANCE

Froissesey 20.9.15. Arrived here at 4.15 p.m. today after a march of 2 hours from Pradelles. [Mericoourt] The Regiment is quartered in a line of huts along the right bank of the Somme, [inserted: Canal] Weather- fine and warm.

Tue, Sep 21, 1915 FROISSEY, FRANCE

21.9.15. The regiment remained in quarters all day. Colonel [R.T.] Pelly, Major [D.F.B.] Gray and one officer per company visited our new trenches. Weather fine and warm.

Wed, Sep 22, 1915 FROISSEY, FRANCE

22.9.15. Remained in quarters all day. A party of officers visited our new trenches. Weather fine & warm.

Thu, Sep 23, 1915 FROISSEY, FRANCE

23.9.15. Companies practiced in attack this morning. Furnished working party of 200 men to-night. Weather becoming stormy with thunder.

Fri, Sep 24, 1915 FROISSEY, FRANCE

24.9.15. Regiment remained in quarters all day. Companies worked out in extended order. Weather fine and warm. Working party of 200 men in evening.

Sat, Sep 25, 1915 FROISSEY, FRANCE

25.9.15. Moved to Cappy this afternoon. No 1 Company and half of No 2 Company (under ~~M~~ Lt. [C.A.] Pope and ~~M~~ Lt. [W.E.C.] Irwin) went into Trenches and No 4 company went into support at Eclusièrs. Weather was rainy and marching quite sticky.

Sun, Sep 26, 1915 ECLUSIERS & CAPPY, FRANCE

26.9.15. Nothing of interest to record today. Sent a working party of 40 men to dig new fire trenches in the evening. Weather was fair.

Mon, Sep 27, 1915 ECLUSIERS & CAPPY, FRANCE

27.9.15. This evening the remainder of the battalion (no 3 company and no 2 less 2 platoons) marched up to Eclusièrs to go into brigade support. One platoon from No 3 Company (LT. [E.F.] NEWCOMBE) and one from No 4 Company (LT [C.E.] COWLEY) went into supports with the 4th RIFLE BRIGADE at REDOUTE DES GOBELINES. Weather ~~very~~ cold and rainy.

Tue, Sep 28, 1915 ECLUSIERS, FRANCE

28.9.15. Nothing of importance today. Weather, cold and rainy.

Wed, Sep 29, 1915 ECLUSIERS, FRANCE

29.9.15. Nothing of importance today. weather, cold and fine.

Thu, Sep 30, 1915 ECLUSIERS, FRANCE

30.9.15. Two platoons which were in supports to the ~~Rifle Briga~~ 4th RIFLE BRIGADE were relieved today by the RIFLE BRIGADE and returned to ECLUSIERS. Weather cold & fine.

[Note transcriber: during September 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel R.T. Pelly.]

Fri, Oct 1, 1915 ECLUSIERS, FRANCE

In trenches at FRISE 1.10.15 Today was quiet in the trenches and tonight no 3 company moved up to the fire trenches taking over the line on the left of the canal. No 2 Company moved to the trenches immediately on the right of the canal. Weather cold and fine.

Sat, Oct 2, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

2.10.15 Today nothing of interest was done. The men were busy improving the trenches in different ways and making new dugouts. Weather fine.

Here!

Sun, Oct 3, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

3.10.15 Today the enemy have been very active on the right of our trenches. There was quite a lot of sniping and a number of whizz bangs were fired into the trench occupied by no 4 company. LT. DE BALLINHARD [*J.C. [De Balinhard](#)*] and LT [*C.B.*] COWLEY were wounded. Otherwise no casualties. weather very fine.

Mon, Oct 4, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

4.10.15 A very quiet day, a detachment of the BLACK WATCH have come into the trenches for instruction by LT [*J.W.H.G.*] VAN DEN BERG. in machine gun work and a new detachment take their place tomorrow. weather, fine.

Tue, Oct 5, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

5.10.15 Another very quiet day. Two men slightly wounded in the CROWS NEST by a stray bullet. [inserted: NO A11096 [*Pte Turner H. 411096*]] (one from BLACK WATCH) weather, wet.

Wed, Oct 6, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

6.10.15 Very little activity today and the line begins to show the results of the work done on it, particularly the left half which is now in very good condition. Weather damp and unpleasant.

Thu, Oct 7, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

7.10.15 Today has been very quiet all along the line and there has been unusually little firing. LT [T.M.] PAPINEAU reported back for duty A patrol of 8 snipers & 2 grenadiers under Sgt CHRISTIE [J.M. 1576] went out late this afternoon from our left trench and made their way, crawling through the grass to the German side of the marsh, with a view to intercepting a German patrol believed to pass down the road from LA GRENOUILÈRE to CURLU about 7 p.m. each evening.

Our patrol got safely to the German side of the marsh and concealed themselves 20 yards from the road. Just after dusk a strong German Patrol came down the road, (consisting of 30 men under an officer) marching in fours and with a flanking party in the marsh. Sgt. CHRISTIE seeing himself hopelessly outnumbered and in danger of being cut off between the two parties resorted to bluff and ordered the Germans to "Hands Up."

The enemy not complying, our men opened rapid fire, the grenadiers at the same time throwing their bombs into the midst of the close mass of men in the road. The Germans threw themselves down and returned the fire of our men while the flanking party closed up. Our two right hand men faced around to meet them and one of our men killed a German who had come within a couple of yards of him.

The enemy after throwing 2 or 3 bombs which did no damage began to crawl away leaving several dead and some wounded men groaning in the road. Fearing a return of the enemy with reinforcements from LA GRENOUILLERE, Sgt. CHRISTIE took the opportunity of withdrawing, his whole party returning to our lines without a casualty.

Pte FLEMING [A.S. 14472] did splendid work with his bombs, remaining behind with Sgt CHRISTIE to cover the retreat of the remainder.

Fri, Oct 8, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

8.10.15 No activity today and everything has been very quiet. Weather warm.

Sat, Oct 9, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

9.10.15 Another quiet day. An attack was expected tonight and the men stood to till dawn. It did not materialize. The weather, mild.

Sun, Oct 10, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

10.10.15 The only unusual incident today is the appearance of a very large German flag on the ridge in front of the centre Trenches in the left half of our line. Weather, fine.

Mon, Oct 11, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

11.10.15 Very little activity today, Two men slightly wounded in NO 3 [inserted: & NO4 (NOS [A11036](#) [Pte McLellan W.G. 411036] [McG73](#)) [Pte Phillips E.M.]] company Trenches. Weather very mild.

Tue, Oct 12, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

12.10.15 Everything quiet today except on the hill where the enemy destroyed The CROW'S NEST with Trench Mortars. (Casualties 1 killed (NO. [McG44](#) [*Pte Johnstone G.B.*]) 2 wounded (NOS, [McG58](#) [*Pte Moyle W.D.*]; [McG181](#) [*Pte Ferguson V.S.*]) weather very mild.

Wed, Oct 13, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

13.10.15 Today nothing to record. Weather very mild.

Thu, Oct 14, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

14.10.15 Today was featureless on the left. On the hill we were a good deal troubled by whizz bangs [inserted: and trench mortars] Casualties 1 killed (no [A10993](#) [*Pte Hodgson G.M. 410993*]) and 1 wounded (no [825](#) [*Pte Brown G.H.*]) weather warm & bright.

Fri, Oct 15, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

15.10.15 Today our artillery shelled the German trenches on the hill and stopped the whizz bangs which have been frequent up till today. Weather, fine and mild.

Sat, Oct 16, 1915 FRISE, FRANCE

16.10.15 Marched to Morcourt tonight after a very good relief by the Cambridgeshire Regiment, completed at 7 p.m. The battalion left the ARTILLERY DUG OUTS about 9 p.m. and made its first halt just up the road from the FROISSY BRIDGE and the second halt at PROYARD.

On arrival at MORCOURT we found MAJOR [A.H.] GAULT and LTS [P.V.] CORNISH, [G.C.] McDONALD, [P] MOLSON, McKENZIE [*P. MacKenzie*], and [G.S.] CURRY, who had just arrived from the base at SHORNCLIFF [*Shornecliffe*] for duty.

The march was well carried out and only 6 men were unable to finish with the battalion on time. A man was [inserted: found] drowned in the Canal at FRISE today, [crossed out: (No)] PTE [WATTERSON](#) [*Pte Waterson J. 54*] [inserted: who had been missing for 10 days.] Weather fine & cold.

Sun, Oct 17, 1915 MORCOURT, FRANCE

17.10.15 In billets all day. weather fine.

Mon, Oct 18, 1915 MORCOURT, FRANCE

18.10.15 In billets all day. weather fine and cold.

Tue, Oct 19, 1915 MORCOURT, FRANCE

19.10.15 Working parties began today. Nos 1 & 2 Companies went road making at the junction of the roads between ~~Proya~~ PROYARD and MERICOURT. Nos 3 & 4 Companies had battalion parade this afternoon. Weather fine and cold.

Wed, Oct 20, 1915 MORCOURT, FRANCE

20.10.15 Nos 3 & 4 Companies carried on with the road building started by 1 & 2 yesterday. The battalion is standing by. weather fine and cool.

Thu, Oct 21, 1915 MORCOURT, FRANCE

21.10.15 In billets all day and no working parties. Weather, fine and cool.

Fri, Oct 22, 1915 MORCOURT, FRANCE

22.10.15 Still in billets, battalion parade this afternoon, LT. S.F.A. MARTIN [203] reported back for duty today. Weather, very fine.

Sat, Oct 23, 1915 MORCOURT, FRANCE

23.10.15 Had the battalion practising in attack this morning and remained in billets during the rest of the day. Weather fine and cold.

Sun, Oct 24, 1915 MORCOURT, FRANCE

24.10.15 Left ~~Morcourt~~ MORCOURT at 8.15 a.m. and marched to BOVES
The march was well carried out and about 20 men could not finish on time mostly on account of a new issue of boots, Route WARFUSÉE-ABANCOURT-VILLERS BRETONNEUX
POINT 49. – POINT 60 BOVES. (MAP AMIENS 12 1/80.000) Weather variable.

Mon, Oct 25, 1915 BOVES, FRANCE

25.10.15 Left BOVES this morning and marched to ~~Ferrier~~ FERRIERES, (7.45 A.M. to 12 A.M. noon) The march was made, in good order with 200 yard interval between companies and 10 yards between platoons. Route Cagny CAGNY, SALEUX, FERRIERES. Weather overcast and cold.

Tue, Oct 26, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

26.10.15 Spent day in billets and apart from an escaped observation balloon which landed near our billets there is nothing of interest to record. weather very fine and cool.

Wed, Oct 27, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

27.10.15 In billets all day, weather unsettled.

Thu, Oct 28, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

28.10.15 In billets all day, weather rainy.

Fri, Oct. 29, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

29.10.15 This morning the battalion practised an advance guard in attack. Weather very fine.

Sat, Oct 30, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

30.10.15 Today was spent in billets with company training. Weather very fine.

Sun, Oct 31, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

31.10.15 In billets, parade cancelled on account of weather which is rainy.

[Note transcriber: during October 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel R.T. Pelly.]

Mon, Nov 1, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

FERRIERES 1.11.15 Nothing to record today. All parades cancelled weather rainy and cold.

Tue, Nov 2, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

2.11.15 Parades cancelled on account of rain. LT ~~Papineau~~ [T.M.] PAPINEAU went to hospital sick.

Wed, Nov 3, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

3.11.15 Company in attack this morning and afternoon was free as the sports were postponed. weather very fine.

Thu, Nov 4, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

4.11.15 Companies carried on with private parades today, weather fine.

Fri, Nov 5, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

5.11.15 Parades cancelled today, weather rainy.

Sat, Nov 6, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

6.11.15 Battalion worked out in attack this morning. In the afternoon we had our battalion sports. The weather was very fine and cold.

Sun, Nov 7, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

7.11.15 Church parades this morning, weather showery.

Mon, Nov 8, 1915 FERRIERES, FRANCE

FERRIERES 8.11.15 Today marks an epoch in the history of the regiment as they have left the 27th Division and gone to FLIXECOURT. The companies fell in at 8.15 a.m. and marched to the battalion parade ground where they formed up in mass to hear the parting words of the Brigadier (Brigadier General SMITH) The divisional band came to play us off and afterwards led us quite a distance as we marched away from the 27th Division of which we had so happily formed a part during the last 10 months. Among the officers and men there was a very marked feeling that this parade meant the loss of old friends with whose viewpoint and traditions they had been in absolute accord.

General Smith, in his farewell said it was a day he had never wished to see. The 80th Brigade had been unique, he said, in having five units to compose it and in having remained unchanged since its inception. Also he considered it unique in having preserved such a perfect harmony between its parts. Although he had not had pleasure of commanding it from the first he had had that honour during the most critical periods of its existence, especially those terrible days – the Second Battle of Ypres – when against tremendous odds the brigade had stood firm and Princess Patricias, Canadian Light Infantry by their dogged resistance had made a reputation that would never die in the Annals of the British Army. He had hoped that some day it would have been his lot to command the same brigade when it would encounter the enemy under more equal conditions. Then he was confident what the result would [inserted: have] been and the old brigade would have given such an account of itself that the memory of those ~~gallant~~ who had fallen so gallantly at Ypres would have been amply avenged. This hope would never now be realized and the regiment was going from him and the 80th Brigade for good. He felt it a very keen loss but he was sure whoever might be their commander, or comrades, and whatever might be the line, Princess Patricias Canadian Light Infantry would be worthy of their past record and the best traditions of the 80th Brigade, He wished them all good fortune and Godspeed whatever their lot may be.

Major Gault in reply thanked General Smith for the way he had spoken of the regiment and on its behalf expressed the appreciation felt. He reminded him of how proud we had all been to form a part of the 80th Brigade and how cordial had been our relations with all since the start. Whatever our lot might be, it would [inserted: be] our most earnest endeavour to live up to the opinions which the General had expressed and to bear with us unimpaired the traditions upon which the 80th Brigade had so nobly stood.

He wished on behalf of himself, the officers, non-commissioned officers and men to wish General Smith, the 80th Brigade and the 27th Division the most cordial wishes for all good fortune and to assure him that their memory would always be fresh in our minds. Three cheers were then given for General Smith, the band played “Auld Lang Syne” and the regiment started on its way. Along the road there were many heartfelt greetings and good luck wishes from men of the 80th Brigade.

It would be very difficult for one who has not been with the regiment for several months back to appreciate the importance of this change. Those who had the honour of sharing in the great days last spring feel a loss almost irreparable, while the sympathetic bond which united all in the 80th Brigade will probably never be replaced by our new associations ever so happy. Tonight the past lies behind in the detached light of history and before us lies a new arena in which the traditions

and all the glory that was Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry must again be established and maintained.

Tue, Nov 9, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School

FLIXECOURT 9.11.15 Battalion parade this afternoon and presentation of prizes. Weather showery.

Wed, Nov 10, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School

10.11.15 Company parades, weather rainy.

Thu, Nov 11, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School

11.11.15 Company parades, weather rainy.

Fri, Nov 12, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School

12.11.15 Parades called off on account of rain

Sat, Nov 13, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School

13.11.15 Parade in morning was a route march and in the afternoon battalion drill, weather, very unsettled. [inserted: Lt. Gen Milne motored to Flixecourt to bid goodbye to the Officers.]

Sun, Nov 14, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School

14.11.15 Church parade this morning. Weather cold & fine

Mon, Nov 15, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School

15.11.15 Route march this morning and this afternoon the battalion made an instructional attack, weather snowing and later fine and cold.

Tue, Nov 16, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School

16.11.15 Battalion Parade practising Artillery Formations & extensions previous to the attack.

Wed, Nov 17, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE**Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School**

17.11.15 Snow fall of about 1" ½ during night & early morning. Battalion Parade same movements as 16-11-15.

Thu, Nov 18, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE**Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School**

18.11.15 Heavy snow until 10 a.m. Battalion Parade Ceremonial Parade

Fri, Nov 19, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE**Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School**

FLIXECOURT 19.11.15 Battalion Parade practise Ceremonial drill

Sat, Nov 20, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE**Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School**

20.11.15 Battalion Parade Ceremonial, march past etc. before 3/Army School of Instruction.

Sun, Nov 21, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE**Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School**

21.11.15 Church Parade in front of Chateau

Mon, Nov 22, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE**Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School**

22.11.15 Nos 1, 2 & 3 Coys: with the Students of the 3/Army School acting as an extra platoon to each Company, practise the attack

Tue, Nov 23, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE**Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School**

23.11.15 Nos 1,2 & 3 Coys lent to the 3/Army School to practise the Attack Officers & N.C.Os supplied by the Students at the School

Wed, Nov 24, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE**Instructional Battalion, Third Army Officers' School**

24.11.15 The same as 23/11/15 Received orders at 5 p.m. for the Bn to entrain at 9 a.m. at Pont Remy for Northern Area.

Thu, Nov 25, 1915 FLIXECOURT, FRANCE

25.11.15 The Bn left Flixecourt at 6 a.m. marched to Pont Remy, 9 miles, arrived 9.30 a.m. entrained & departed at 12.08 a.m. arrived Caestre at 9.30 p.m. Met at the station by Lieut: Gen: Alderson C.B. and the band of the 1st Divn. C.E.F. Marched to billets at Flêtre, about 1½ miles, arriving 11.15 p.m, headed by the Dival Band. Whilst at Flixecourt a Bn mess was formed, with much success, at the Chateau by kind permission of Mon. Saint. The regiment received the greatest kindness from Col: Kentish & the officers of the 3/Army School who on our hurried departure took over all the surplus stores from the Officers Mess, Q.M. stores, & regimental Canteen.

The 3rd Army School drum & fife band played the regiment from Flixecourt to Pont Remy & Col. Kentish accompanied the regiment to the station. The School gave the Hd. Qrs. Officers breakfast at 5 a.m.

Fri, Nov 26, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

26.11.15 Heavy [inserted: snow] storm in the morning.

Sat, Nov 27, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

27.11.15 Hard frost.

Sun, Nov 28, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

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

Mon, Nov 29, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

29.11.15 Battalion Parade p.m.

Tue, Nov 30, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

30.11.15 Battalion was inspected at 11 a.m. by Lt. Gen: Alderson. C.B.

[*Note transcriber: during November 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel R.T. Pelly.*]

Wed, Dec 1, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 1/12/15 Lt. Gen. Alderson C.B. assisted by Major Beattie D.S.O. judged the Transport for the best kept teams, & harness:- Class Draft horses 1st 1034 Pte A. Little. 2nd 51082 Pte. C. Bunting. [[Bunting, Fred](#)] Class Long line 1st 662 Pte. T. Allen. Class. Pack 1st 174 Pte. B.H. Todd. [[Todd, Herbert B.](#)] 2nd Pte. T. Rose
Battalion parade in the afternoon

Thu, Dec 2, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 2/12/15 Battalion Route March in the morning

Fri, Dec 3, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 3/12/15 Rain all day

Sat, Dec 4, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 4/12/15 Rain all day. Lt [P.B.] Tabernacle [1703] was wounded by bomb while attending course & sent to Base

Sun, Dec 5, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 5/12/15 Rain all day. Draft of 138 men arrived from base and were posted to Companies making our parade state 31 Officers 1008 other ranks.

Mon, Dec 6, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

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

Tue, Dec 7, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 7/12/15 Lt Col [H.C.] Buller D.S.O. arrived from England and assumed Command of the Regiment relieving Major Pelly who had commanded since May 18th

Wed, Dec 8, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 8/12/15 Rained all day

Thu, Dec 9, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 9/12/15 Lt Col Buller inspected the Transport in afternoon

Fri, Dec 10, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 10/12/15 Rain all day, Battalion marched to Baths at Bailleul & returned very late.

Sat, Dec 11, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 11/12/15 Battalion photographed by Cinema operator in morning Transport also taken

Sun, Dec 12, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 12/12/15 Sunday, no parades, Football match in afternoon with 42nd Canadian Btn, is cancelled on account of rain

Mon, Dec 13, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 13/12/15 In billets. wet day

Tue, Dec 14, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 14/12/15 Company parades in morning, rain afternoon

Wed, Dec 15, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 15/12/15 Wet day, no parades

Thu, Dec 16, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 16/12/15 Battalion parade in the morning under Major [R.T.] Pelly who said good by to the Regiment that he had commanded since May 18th. Major Pelly proceeded to England tonight to take command of the 8th Royal Irish Fusiliers.

The Transport was inspected by General Mercer in the morning and he praised the men on their showing and said it was the best Transport he had seen since coming to this country.

Fri, Dec 17, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 17/12/15 Battalion Route March in the morning, afternoon wet

Sat, Dec 18, 1915 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 18/12/15 Company parades in morning. Football match in afternoon.

Sun, Dec 19, 1915 LA CLYTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 19.12.15 Battalion marched from billets and took over tents from Royal Canadian Regiment near LA CLYTE [LA CLYTTE] about 10 miles from FLETRE. Camp very wet and muddy. Furnished 35 N.C.Os & men as guard to KEMMEL defences, Lt [C.A.] Pope in charge. Day fine and clear. No 2 Company occupy two farms at HELLEBLAST. [HALLEBAST].

Mon, Dec 20, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 20.12.15 Furnished 30 N.C.Os & men as permanent road control at HYDE PARK CORNER, WESTOUTRE, LOCRE wet day

Tue, Dec 21, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 21.12.15 Furnished working parties in morning, cancelled at night on account of rain.

Battalion furnishes 450 men per day as working parties

Wed, Dec 22, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 22.12.15 Very wet, working parties go out

Thu, Dec 23, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 23.12.15 Working parties as usual, wet in the morning, finer at night

Fri, Dec 24, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 24.12.15 Working parties out morning and evening. very wet. Change No. 3 & 4 Coys to huts 500 yards west of Head Quarters. Rum issue at night.

Sat, Dec 25, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 25.12.15 Working parties cancelled for Christmas day, 75 men went to BAILLEUL for Communion Service in morning

Sun, Dec 26, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 26.12.15 Working parties morning and evening, weather better high wind

Mon, Dec 27, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 27.12.15 Usual working parties, wet at midday fine in evening

Tue, Dec 28, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 28.12.15 Working parties as usual, weather better, no rain

Wed, Dec 29, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 29.12.15 Working parties as usual, afternoon LA CLYTE was shelled and three men were wounded
weather fine

Thu, Dec 30, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

LA CLYTE 30.12.15 Working parties in morning, afternoon working parties cancelled owing to move next day

Fri, Dec 31, 1915 LA CLYTTE, FRANCE

FLETRE 31.12.15 Battalion moved to old billets at FLETRE being relieved at LA CLYTE [LA CLYTTE] by Lord Strathcona Horse, Permanent Road Controls & Kemmel Hill Defences relieved by same Regiment

[Note transcriber: until December 15, 1915 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel R.T. Pelly. He was struck off strength to command the 8th Battalion Royal Irish (Imperial) and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel H.C. Buller.]