

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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1916

Sat, Jan 1, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 1/1/16 The Battalion now forms part of the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade commanded by Brigadier General A.C. MACDONELL D.S.O. The following Units form the 7th C.I.B. ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT., 42nd BATTALION, 49th BATTALION., & P.P.C.L.I.

The 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade forms part of the 3rd CANADIAN DIVISION Commanded by MAJOR GENERAL M.S. MERCER D.S.O. C.B. Heavy wind & some rain.

Sun, Jan 2, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 2/1/16 Weather damp. Company parades

Mon, Jan 3, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 3/1/16 Battalion route march in the morning, day fine.

Tue, Jan 4., 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 4/1/16 Company Commanders under Major A.H. GAULT D.S.O. visit KEMMEL DEFENCES day fine

Wed, Jan 5, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 5/1/16 Band of Royal Artillery give concert in the afternoon

Thu, Jan 6, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 6/1/16 Battalion Route march in afternoon to BAILLEUL under Major [Agar] ADAMSON and attend entertainment given for them weather fine

Fri, Jan 7, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

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

Sat, Jan 8, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 8/1/16 Fine. Final of inter company Football competition No 3 v No 4 Coy, No 3 Coy won 3-2 after playing two extra times of 10 minutes each way. Maj. Gen Mercer was present watching the game.

Sun, Jan 9, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

FLÈTRE 9/1/16 Bn marched to Wood Farm Dranoutre into ~~Div~~ Bde Reserve. Started 6 a.m. route via Meteren and Bailleul. Relieved the 4th Bn. Arrived 10.15 a.m.

Mon, Jan 10, 1916 DRANOUTRE, BELGIUM

DRANOUTRE 10/1/16 Bn. supplied considerable digging parties for front line & supports. Several HdQr officers visited the trenches.

Tue, Jan 11, 1916 DRANOUTRE, BELGIUM

DRANOUTRE 11/1/16 Digging parties, O.C. Coys visited the trenches. Rain p.m.

Wed, Jan 12, 1916 DRANOUTRE, BELGIUM

DRANOUTRE 12/1/16 Bn. fell in at 5 p.m. Marched to Trenches No 1 in D3 & D4, No 2 in 14, 14 B, 15, 15 S, & E; No. 3 in R.E. farm, No 4 in Tea Farm. Relief complete by 8.15 p.m.

Thu, Jan 13, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

TRENCHES 13/1/16 Trenches very fair considerable water in D 3 & D 4. Slight shelling behind S 15. Pte. Sawyer [J. 876] H.Q. Coy Signal Linesman wounded slight shrapnel.

Fri, Jan 14, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

TRENCHES 14/1/16 Very quiet large fatigue parties from 3 & 4 Coys working on front line & supports. Sgt: Landels [B.H. 475913] & fatigue party from 4 Coy: started work on drain from D 3.

Sat, Jan 15, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, FRANCE

TRENCHES 15/1/16 Bn. H.Q. shelled about 1.00 p.m. with by 4.1" Howz close but no damage, 15 S again shelled no damage. Asked for retaliation as front line was shelled rather heavily, retaliation consisted of 8" Howz & 2 Batteries of 18 pounders results excellent. No casualties. Our trench mortar fire 9 – 9 lb shells into the enemy front line, & we put over 60 Rifle Grenades & 1000 Rds from M.G's . no retaliation.

Sun, Jan 16, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, FRANCE

IN THE TRENCHES 16/1/16 Lieut. Newcombe. E.F. wounded in neck by rifle grenade 11 a.m., taken straight out to Bailleul. R.E. Farm & fields round it heavily shelled by 5.9" Howz. 35 shells round the farm & 7 into support breastworks no damage done at all. Sgt. Landels [B.H. 475913] completed the drain & D3 & D4 are quite dry, drain tiled. Relieved at 7.25 p.m. by 42nd Bn marched into DRANOUTRE into Divl Reserve.

Mon, Jan 17, 1916 DRANOUTRE, BELGIUM

DRANOUTRE 17/1/16 Resting, wet p.m. 10 officers attended lecture at Bailleul on the Battle of Loos. The following Extract from the London Gazette of Jan. /14/16 D.S.O. Lt: Col: R.T. Pelly; D.C.M. 1247 L/Sgt: E. Bowler, 1346 Pte. G. Bronquest, 1576 L/Cpl: J.M. Christie, 74 Sgt: F.W. Larkin, 650 C.Q.M.S. G.L. McDonell [McDonnell], 1158 Sgt: H. MacKenzie [McKenzie], 51883 L/Cpl: A.G. Pearson, [Pearson, [51383](#)] was published in Bn. Orders 17/1/16.

Tue, Jan 18, 1916 DRANOUTRE, BELGIUM

18/1/16 Rain.

Wed, Jan 19, 1916 DRANOUTRE, BELGIUM

19/1/16 Fine, Concert in Y.M.C.A. Tent.

Thu, Jan 20, 1916 DRANOUTRE, BELGIUM

20/1/16 Relieved 42nd Bn in Trenches. Left DRANOUTRE at 4.30 p.m. Relief complete 7.30 p.m. 3 & 4 Coys in Front line, 1 Coy at R.E. Farm and 2 Coy at Tea Farm

Fri, Jan 21, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

TRENCHES 21/1/16 Some shelling and rifle grenade firing. McG142 Pte Ramsden. F.C. wounded by Rifle Grenade

A bomb accidentally ~~occurred~~ exploded in the bomb-waistcoat of [inserted: 51289] Pte Kelly, J.K., killing the bearer and severely wounding 23561 Pte O'Keefe A. and 22572 [22752] Pte Hanlon W[H], & slightly wounding 1716 L/Sgt: Popey, W.J., and 22897 Pte: McCormack A.C. who remained at duty; all these men belonged to the Grenade Section

Sat, Jan 22, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, FRANCE

TRENCHES 22/1/16 Very quiet & very little shelling.

Sun, Jan 23, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, FRANCE

TRENCHES 23/1/16 Very quiet very foggy early am & from 4 p.m. Gas Alert called for S.S.E. wind. 23561 Pte. O'Keefe. A. died of wounds in Bailleul Hospital

Mon, Jan 24, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, FRANCE

TRENCHES 24/1/16 Quiet very little artillery fire. Relieved by 42nd Bn relief complete at 7.35 p.m. H.Q, 1 & 2 Coys to Wood Farm, 3 to Pettawawa, and 4 to Screen Farm in Brigade Reserve.

Tue, Jan 25 to Fri, Jan 28, 1916 DRANOUTRE, FRANCE

25/1/16 to 28/1/16 Weather fine & very mild. Bn found 400 men per 24 hours for working parties in Front line & supports, No Casualties.

Sat, Jan 29, 1916 DRANOUTRE, FRANCE

29/1/16 Relieved by the 1st Bn C.E.F. and marched to billets near Flêtre H.Q at R.31.d. 4.2. started at 11.30 a.m. route via Dranoutre, Croix de Poperinghe, St Jans Capel and Schaexken and Le Quatre Fils d'Aymon, arrived 3.30 p.m. very good billets.

Sun, Jan 30 & Mon, Jan, 31, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

30/1/16 Fine & warm. Coy training bombing etc.

31/1/16

[Note transcriber: during January 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel H.C. Buller.]

Tue, Feb 1, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

Fletre 1/2/16 Fine warm. Maj. Genl. Mercer. C.B. inspected the transport at 2 p.m. and at the close congratulated the C.O and T.O. on their splendid condition.

Wed, Feb 2, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

2/2/16 Fine warm Coy: training

Thu, Feb 3, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

3/2/16 Bn: Sports in field at Bn: Hd: Qrs & H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught attended for a short time.

Fri, Feb 4, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

4/2/16 7th C.I.B. route march from R.19.a.5.2. (Mont des Cats) to Godewaersvelde, to Bertenaire Kemmelhof, Caestre to Thieushouk back to billets.

Sat, Feb 5, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

5/2/16 7 C.I.B. Sports at MONT des CATS Major Genl. Mercer: C.B. and Br Genl McDonald [*MacDonell*] attended. Transport won FIRST Prize for 4 Horse Teams in Limber Waggons, 2nd Prize Long Rain driving, V.C. Race 1st and 2nd, Hurry up competition 2nd.

Sun, Feb 6, 1916 FLÈTRE, FRANCE

6/2/16 Marched to LOCRE to go into Bde Reserve departed 8.45 a.m. Route via Les 4 Fils d'Aymon, Schaexken, La Leviette, Mont Noir to LOCRE arrived 11.30 a.m. Billets poor.

Mon, Feb 7, 1916 LOCRE, FRANCE

7/2/16 Marched into Trenches in front of KEMMEL. Relieved the 31st Bn C.E.F. Relief complete 7.30 p.m. Bn Hd Qrs Doctor's House in Kemmel Village. No 1 & 2 Coys in Front line No 2 in S.P.11 and S.P.10 one Platoon each of 3 & 4 in Port Arthur Farm. 3 Platoons of 3 Coy in Chateau. Edgar is still there & his mate with him.

Tue, Feb 8 to Thu, Feb 10, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

Trenches at Kemmel 8/2/16 to 10/2/16 Very quiet indeed no shelling, very little rifle fire & nothing of note. Trenches very good & very comfortable. Only one casualty & that on a working party behind the line at night

Fri, Feb 11, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

11/2/16 Relieved by the 49th Bn: Relief complete by 7.30 p.m.

Sat, Feb 12, 1916 KEMMEL, BELGIUM

12/2/16 Very fine. Heavy Bombardment up North. Much Aeroplane Activity.

Sun, Feb 13, 1916 KEMMEL, BELGIUM

13/2/16 Battalion in Bde Reserve in Kemmel Shelters. Furnished Working Parties Etc.

Mon, Feb 14, 1916 KEMMEL, BELGIUM

14/2/16 As Feb 13th. Very windy.

Tue, Feb 15, 1916 KEMMEL, BELGIUM

15/2/16 Wet and windy. Relieved the 49th Bn in Kimmel Trenches; relief complete by 7-5 P.M. Considerable heavy gun fire.

Wed, Feb 16, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

16/2/16 Windy, some rain, otherwise uneventful. Supplying 145 men per day to 6th Field Co Can Engineers for work parties, besides our own work in front line.

Thu, Feb. 17, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

17/2/16 All quiet, finer. Lieut [J.WH.G.] Van den Berg sniped between H.1.A. whilst reconnoitering Machine Gun emplacements. Both 3 and 4 Coys busy strengthening their wire.

Fri, Feb 18, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

18/2/16 Wet. Artillery quiet. Considerable sniping from Peckham and other points along the line. Put out a considerable amount of wire in front of front line trenches. One man wounded on covering party.

Sat, Feb 19, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

19/2/16 Sniping very active. One Corporal killed and man slightly wounded by snipers located at Peckham. Our men cannot reach the enemy at this point; and their Fort, which is very strong, needs smashing up with big guns. Hear that the man wounded last night has died of wounds.

Sun, Feb 20, 1916 LOCRE, BELGIUM

20/2/16 Battalion in Divisional Reserve at Locre. Fine. Cold. The whole Battalion was inoculated for Para-Typhoid and therefore out of action for 48 hours.

Mon, Feb 21, 1916 LOCRE, BELGIUM

21/2/16 Fine, cold. N.E. wind. A number of officers attended lectures in Bailleul. Subject "Battle of Loos." Many officers and men suffering from effects of yesterdays inoculation

Tue, Feb 22, 1916 LOCRE, BELGIUM

22/2/16 Coys. Bathing. Snow and frost. Gas alert for N.E. wind.

Wed, Feb 23, 1916 LOCRE, BELGIUM

23/2/16 Snow and hard frost. Relieved 49th Bn in Kimmel Trenches. Relief complete at 7-55 P.M. Transport had great difficulty owing to slippery state of the roads, and had to go round by Dranoutre and Lindenhoek.

Thu, Feb 24, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

24/2/16 Hard frost and more snow. All quiet.

Fri, Feb 25, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

25/2/16 Still freezing – otherwise normal. [C.E.] Capt Cooper-Cole (C.A.M.C.) Medical Officer P.P.C.L.I. badly hit by rifle bullet. (Location Via Guellia)

Sat, Feb 26, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

26/2/16 Very quiet, a little warmer. There must have been a relief in the enemy lines since our last tour as they are so peaceful.

Sun, Feb 27, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

27/2/16 Arranged strafe of Rifle Grenades, Trench Mortars and Artillery. Fired 24 Rifle Grenades at 3.45 P.M. without response. At 4 P.M. the Trench Mortars in G.1. and G.4 opened up - - so did Minnie. The Guns sent over 6 rounds for every Minnie received. The enemy Battery started firing with 77 mm. but most of them landed in the open fields. The Boche had two Minnies, a heavy and a medium. One heavy smashed in a bay of G.1. and a few 77 mm. also landed in the salient. Net results:- The Boche wasted 80 or 100 rounds of 77 mm. H.E. and a dozen or so Minnies. Our casualties nil:- Our loss, a small ~~ammount of~~ amount of ammunition, a few sandbags and a little labour.

The 53 Battery Trench Mortar under Lieut Thurston did much good work, and was ably assisted by the 85th Batt R.F.A. also the A/131, 4.5 inch Howitzer Battery, who knocked the enemy's parapet about considerably. A big gun behind Kimmel also joined in the fun and fired off Waeschuite [*Wyttschaete*] whether from sport or unintentionally is not known.

Mon, Feb 28, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

28/2/1916 Relieved by 49th Bn; relief complete by 7 P.M. Marched to Kimmel Shelters.

Tue, Feb 29, 1916 KEMMEL, BELGIUM

29/2/16 Quiet, work parties.

[Note transcriber: during February 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel H.C. Buller.]

Wed, Mar 1, 1916 KEMMEL, BELGIUM

1-3-16 Bn bathing at Locre. Work parties cancelled because of strafe up North.

Thu, Mar 2, 1916 KEMMEL, BELGIUM

2-3-16 Heavy bombardment up North. Work parties P.M. only.

Fri, Mar 3, 1916 KEMMEL, BELGIUM

3-3-16 Relieved 49th Bn in Kimmel Trenches, relief complete at 7.15 P.M. No 3 Coy, on the right. No 4 Coy on the left. No 2 in Chateau and S.P.10. One Platoon of B. Coy 52nd Bn with each Coy for instruction. 29th Bn on the right. R.C R on our left. Heavy Rain.

Sat, Mar 4, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

4-3-16 Everything normal. Weather bad and heavy snow. B. Coy 52nd Bn relieved D. Coy. No 2 Coy took over F4 and F5, and half Regent St Dugouts from 29th Bn. Heavy snow and thaw, trenches very wet and a lot of work to do on them.

Sun, Mar 5, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

5-3-16 More snow, fine at times. Owing to a Rifle Grenade hitting a Boche brazier Minnie became active and knocked down some parapet. We replied with 60 lb Trench Mortar, also 85th Battery and 4.5 Howitzer and got in the last word.

Mon, Mar 6, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

6-3-16 All normal, snowing, Pte Parrott [*R.E.* 411109] buried in Kimmel Chateau Cemetery.

Tue, Mar 7, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

7-3-16 All quiet, more snow.

Wed, Mar 8, 1916 KEMMEL DEFENCES, BELGIUM

8-3-16 Fine. Relieved by 28th Bn: Relief rather late owing to the other Bn having had to march in from rest billets; complete by 8-15 P.M. Marched into Divl, Reserve at Locre. Billets very dirty.

Thu, Mar 9, 1916 LOCRE, BELGIUM

9-3-16 Fine. Baths.

Fri, Mar 10, 1916 LOCRE, BELGIUM

10-3-16 Marched to Roukloshille by Mont Noir and Schaexken, left Locre at 1-45 P.M. arrived billets 4-00 P.M.

Sat, Mar 11, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

11-3-16 Coy Parades.

Sun, Mar 12, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

12-3-16 Service by Capt Ball chaplain to 49th Bn at 12 noon followed by Holy Communion.

Mon, Mar 13, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

13-3-16 Coy Parades. Inter-platoon football.

Tue, Mar 14, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

14-3-16 Coy Parades. Inter-platoon football.

Wed, Mar 15, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

15-3-16 Bn route march nearly to Strazeele, then to Caestre back by Thieushook & Mont de Chats. Rugby Football final: No 4 v No 3 Coy. No 4 Coy won by 11 points to nil.

Thu., Mar 16, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

16-3-16 Fine. Coy training. Football

Fri., Mar 17, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

17-3-16 Fine. Coy training. Football. C.O. and Adjt went to Ypres to inspect trenches in Sanctuary Wood to be taken over by Bde.

Sat., Mar 18, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

18-3-16 Inspection by Lt Gen Alderson in Football field at 2 P.M. Bn very steady.

Sun., Mar 19, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

19-3-16 Very fine. Church Parade. Service by Capt Ball [*Padre-49th Bn*] at Noon.

Mon., Mar 20, 1916 LE ROUKLOSHILLE, BELGIUM

20-3-16 Marched to camp at Ouderdom left Roukloshille at 9-30 a.m. Arrived Camp D at 12.40 p.m. Warm and muggy.

Tue, Mar 21, 1916 OUDERDOM, BELGIUM

21-3-16 Relieved 3rd Bn Rifle Brigade in Railway Dugouts and Maple Copse by Zillebeke Lake.

Wed, Mar 22, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

22-3-16 Wet and foggy, Quiet, 2 O.R. wounded.

Thu, Mar 23, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

23-3-16 Very quiet. 1 O.R. wounded.

Fri, Mar 24, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

24-3-16 Snow and cold. Some Artillery shelling round Transport Farm. [*Railway Dugouts*]

Sat, Mar 25, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

25-3-16 Quite a lot of artillery activity on both sides. Relieved the 49th Bn in A11 & A12. B1 B2 & B3.

Sun, Mar 26, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

26-3-16 Weather changeable: Sanctuary Wood heavily shelled, - Shrapnel and H.E., between 2 and 4 o'clock, otherwise quiet throughout the day.

Mon, Mar 27, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

27-3-16 Heavy shelling heard in direction of St Eloi for about 3 hours. 4 to 7 a.m. Heavy shelling again heard in same direction towards noon, otherwise quiet on this front.

Tue, Mar 28, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

28-3-16 Fine and clear: Transport Officer hit while passing through Ypres, on night of 27th. Another quiet day on this front. From observation post discovered by the sniping officer, numbers of Germans could be seen passing and repassing a certain point throughout the day; this point to be S.E. of Sterling Castle. Relieved on night of 28/29th by the 43rd Bn. - 9th Brigade. Relief occupied the whole night. Bn arriving Camp B at 8 a.m. 29th. Night very dark with a driving snow storm in the early morning. Found Camp to have been left in a disgraceful condition.

Wed, Mar 29, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

29-3-16 Bn rested and cleaned up.

Thu, Mar 30, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

30-3-16 Fatigues detailed to clean up Camp and programme of work drawn up.

Fri, Mar 31, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

31-3-16 Drill in morning – Sports in afternoon. Maj [Agar] Adamson and Capt [H.W.] Niven returned from leave.

[Note transcriber: during March 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel H.C. Buller.]

Sat, Apr 1, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

1-4-16 Battalion marched to Poperinghe for Baths, by companies.
Drills and lectures.

Sat, Apr 1 to Tue, Apr 4, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

1/4/16 to 4/4/16 In rest camp fine Coy: Parades etc.

Wed, Apr 5, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

5/4/16 Moved over to C camp in H area

Thu, Apr 6 to Wed, Apr 12, 1916 CAMP C, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

6/4/16 to 12/4/16 In Brigade reserve wet & cold most of the time found work parties of 150 men each night. Camp was shelled on evening of 7/4/16 one hut hit no damage done

Wed, Apr 12, 1916 CAMP C, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

12/4/16 Relieved the 49th Bn in the Hooge trenches relief complete 1-15 am

Thu, Apr 13, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM

13/4/16 Snipers very active wet.

Fri, Apr 14, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM

14/4/16 Snipers active again and some shelling several casualties

Sat, Apr 15, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM

15/4/16 A little shelling wet.

Sun, Apr 16, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM

16/4/16 Some artillery and bombing.

Mon, Apr 17, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM

17/4/16 Aeroplane reconnaissance by enemy aeroplane very low fine

Tue, Apr 18, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM

18/4/16 Bn Hd Qrs at Half Way House shelled with 4.2" R.S.M [*Godfrey S. 1589*] killed by direct hit on dugout. Fine

Wed, Apr 19, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM

19/4/16 Enemy snipers not so active. Some shelling of Half way house and R no damage, heavy retaliation by our artillery and heavies Heavy ennemy bombardment on both sides in evening & small infantry attacks. Very quiet on our front.

Thu, Apr 20, 1916 HOOGE, BELGIUM

20/4/16 A few shells a hit on R.S.8. 3 men wounded. Relieved by 60th Bn relief complete at 2.15 a.m. Total casualties in tour 16 killed & 45 wounded
Trained back from the Asylum to Brandhoek and occupied camp D arriving at 7 a.m.

Sat, Apr 22 to Sat, Apr 29, 1916 CAMP D, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

22/4/16 to 29/4/16 Rest. Coy parades, M.G. & Bomb courses 240 men out working every other night

Sat, Apr 29, 1916, CAMP D, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

29/4/16 Bn. relieved the 5th C.M.R Bn in Railway Dugouts & Maple Copse complete 12.45 am 30/4/16. Bde Support.

Sun, Apr 30, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

30/4/16 Very quiet fine. Gas attack at Vierstraat on night.

[Note transcriber: during April 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel H.C. Buller.]

Mon, May 1, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

1/5/16 In Railway Dugouts Heavy shelling all round supports

Tue, May 2, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

[Note transcriber: there is no entry for May 2, 1916]

Wed, May 3 to Sun, May 7, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

1/3/16 to 1/7/16 Fine quiet

Sun, May 7, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

7/5/16 Relieved 49th Bn in Sanctuary Wood Nos 1 & 2 Coys in Front line 3 & 4 in Supports HdQrs Maple Copse Good relief complete 10.15 p.m. Lieut [C.A.] Pope killed by rifle Grenade. 1 OR killed & 3 wounded

Mon, May 8 & Tue, May 9, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

8/5/16 & 9/5/16 Quiet wet

Wed, May 10, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

10/5/16 Left front line & supports shelled heavily from 4.30 am to 5.30 am no casualties. Retaliation effective. Fine.

Thu, May 11, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

11/5/16 A good deal of shelling. Fine. 1 OR killed 1 O.R. wounded, 3 & 4 relieved 1 & 2 *[Companies]*

Fri, May 12, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

12/5/16 Artillery & T.M. [*Trench Mortars*] active on 61 & 62 & supports 12 OR wounded

Sat, May 13 & Sun, May 14, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

13/5/16 & 14/5/16 Some artillery activity, wet

Mon, May 15, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

15/5/16 Quiet. Fine. Relieved by 43rd Bn complete 12.15 pm. Bn entrained & went to B camp. G area.

Tue, May 16 to Tue, May 23, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

16/5/16 to 23/5/16 Resting. Very fine & hot. Sergt Carter 1st Bn Grenadier Guards carrying out instruction for Officers & NCOs & where possible with Companies.

Tue, May 23 to Mon, May 29, 1916 CAMP F, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

23/5/16 to 29/5/16 Moved to Camp F Brigade Reserve H.Q. 2,3, 4 Coys at Camp F
1 Coy at Belgian Chateau find work parties of 250 men each night. Each Coy does 2 days in Belgian Chateau in turn

Tue, May 30, 1916 CAMP F, YPRES AREA, BELGIUM

30/5/16 Very fine up to 30/5/16 then wet.

Wed, May 31, 1916 CAMP F, YPRES AREA, BELGIUM

31/5/16 Fine & hot. Relieved 49th Bn in Sanctuary Wood, Right Subsector of Left Sector. 1 & 2 Coys in front line 3 & 4 in Support

[Note transcriber: during May 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel H.C. Buller.]

Thu, Jun 1, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

1/6/16 Considerable shelling in the morning on supports and headquarters' dug outs. Comparatively quiet in the afternoon. In the evening the enemy threw over a few trench mortars. Fine and warm

Fri, Jun 2, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

2-6-16 At 8.30 am. the enemy began shelling our front line and supports. This gradually increased to an intense bombardment from H.E. shells and trench mortars. The bombardment lasted for five hours when it was lifted and an infantry attack followed. The enemy succeeded in capturing the front line of our right company No 1. The garrison having been almost annihilated. Our left company No 2 succeeded in holding their trench and stopped an enemy bombing attack. Our Supports held, on the right, the greater part of Warrington avenue and Lovers Lane to Border lane, and on the left, the "R" series of trenches. Our casualties were

heavy. In the evening the enemy evidently suspected a counter attack as they opened up rapid machine gun and rifle fire and an intense barrage in our rear. Water and food supply low.

Sat, Jun 3, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

3-6-16 About midnight 2/3 [June] the enemy in the same manner showed nervousness and again at daybreak on the third when the barrage was kept up for about eighty-five minutes. The forty-ninth battalion made a counter attack from our trenches about nine am [a.m.] which was not successful being held up by machine gun and rifle fire. It resulted, however, in our improving our positions. The enemy shelled our positions considerably during the day and in the evening, as usual, showed considerable nervousness and fear of counter attacks by opening up their barrage of rifle, machine gun and shell fire.

Sun, Jun 4, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

4-6-16 Shelling continued all day but our casualties were not severe. At daybreak the 43rd Bn came up on our right and the 60th on our left to relieve us but as it was too light the relief was postponed until evening when the 49th Bn and ourselves were relieved by the 60th and 43rd Bns. The battalion as relieved marched to the Asylum via the Lille gate and were conveyed to "C" camp by motor lorry.

Mon., Jun 5, 1916 CAMP C, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

5-6-16 Rested at C. camp. Fine and warm

Tue, Jun 6, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

6-6-16 Expected to march back to rest billets but had to stand by and be prepared to go back to trenches anytime. This was in consequence of an enemy attack at Hooze and north where they blew some mines. The S.O.S was taken off in the afternoon

Wed, Jun 7, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

7-6-16 Marched back to rest billets north of Steenvoorde Via Poperinghe. after receiving only one hours notice to move, Major [D.F.B.] Gray was injured by [inserted: his horse] falling down on the pavé. Draft of 21 joined us.

Thu, Jun 8, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

8-6-16 Rested. rain.

Fri, Jun 9, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

9-6-16 Draft of two hundred and seventy-nine men arrived including the fifth University company.

Sat, Jun 10, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

10-6-16 Draft of two hundred and fifty men arrived drawn mostly from fourth division and ~~fifty third battalion.~~

Sun, Jun 11, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

11-6-16 Sunday and church parade.

Mon, Jun 12, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

12-6-16 Guards instructors take hold and drill the battalion – rain.
Draft of seven officers from fifty-third battalion arrived.

Tue, Jun 13, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

13-6-16 Parades under Guard's instructors.

Wed, Jun 14, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

14-6-16 The armies in France adopted the same time as ordered by a recent decree of the French Government. At 10 p.m the night of 14-15 the time was advanced sixty minutes, - 10 p.m. became 11 p.m. Parades under Guards' instructors and Company arrangements.

Thu, Jun 15, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

15-6-16 A Regimental Revue was given by members of the Battalion at the Town Hall Steenvoorde. Capt. [H.E.] Pembroke the Pay Master was responsible for the arrangement of the concert which was a great success. One hundred men of Nos 1. 2. and 3 Coys were marched to the concert under [W.H.] Lieut Morris [410512].
1742 A/R.S.M. M Allan and # 1150 Sgt. J. Dickie have been awarded the Military Medal.
Capt. D.A. Clarke returned from Brigade duty and assumed command of No 2. Coy.

Fri, Jun 16, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

16-6-16 Parades under Guards' Instructors. Special attention given to musketry. Bathing parades at Poperinghe by motor busses & lorries. Regimental "Revue" was repeated at Steenvoorde. Special parade under Lieut [W.E.] Dunton attended. Lieut J.S Allen [McG 1] rejoined The Battalion.

Sat, Jun 17, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

17-6-16 Letter received from Lt-Col [R.T.] Pelly of 8th Bn Royal Irish Rifles and extract therefrom placed in Battalion orders. Major [Agar] Adamson D.S.O. went on special leave and Major [D.F.B.] Gray D.S.O. assumed command.

Sun, Jun 18, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

18-6-16 Parades under Lieuts [G.M.] Smith & [M.W.] Williams [McG 145] and guards Instructors for Musketry. Sixteen officers joined from Depot England.

Mon, Jun 19, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

19-6-16 Parades as usual. Major A.S.A.M. Adamson awarded the Distinguished Service Order, Major D F B Gray awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Lieut. G.C. Carvell awarded the Military Cross, - Auth Supplement to London Gazette 29608 3/6/16.

Tue, Jun 20, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

20-6-16 The Battalion was visited by Lieut Colonel. Malcolm Murray Personal A.D.C. to H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught.

Wed, Jun 21, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

21-6-16 Battalion moved by Motor bus and Motor lorry to transport Lines G.17.d.8.1. In the evening battalion marched to the Infantry barracks Ypres as Brigade reserve. Billets very comfortable. Working parties to be supplied.

Thu, Jun 22, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

22-6-16 Quarters were very comfortable. Many sentries were posted to warn of the approach of hostile aeroplanes and to prevent men from wandering about the town. Small working party at night. One platoon garrisoned strong points East of Ypres I. H. and I K.

Fri, Jun 23, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

23-6-16 Quiet day. Aeroplanes active. One of our planes seen shot down by machine gun fire from enemy plane. It fell West of Ypres. Working parties at night. Small party of officers visited the trenches.

Sat, Jun 24, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

24-6-16 Quiet day – Working Parties at night – Party of officers visited the trenches.

Sun, Jun 25, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

25-6-16 Relief arranged to take place on this day was postponed twenty-four hours on account of a small bombing attack by the 42nd Bn on the right of trenches to be taken over by us. This attack obtained its object except in one case where it was stopped by our own artillery barrage. The points attacked were found unoccupied by the enemy.

Mon, Jun 26, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

26-6-16 Quiet day – rain – Battalion relieved the R.C. Regt [R.C.R.] in front line trenches.

Tue, Jun 27, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

27-6-16 At daybreak front line trenches at Sanctuary wood and supports were heavily shelled. The shelling developed into an intense bombardment. Many shells fell near our front trenches and supports but we did not suffer any casualties. The bombardment was followed by an infantry attack upon the trenches held by the 3rd Can. Inf. Brigade immediately to the right of our brigade in Sanctuary Wood. This attack was repulsed. Intermittent shelling kept up during the rest of the day.

Wed, Jun 28, 1916 SANCTUARYWOOD, BELGIUM

28-6-16 Lively artillery duel north of the Menin Road in which we appeared to have the superiority. Small attack made by us to the north of the Menin Road at night. Heavy artillery fighting was heard from the South.

Thu, Jun 29, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

29-6-16 Certain amount of shelling by the enemy. To the north our guns were very active and also to the South. After dusk the enemy threw over a number of trench mortars at the Culvert. Lieut [W.H.] Morris [410512] conducted a successful patrol & secured valuable information.

Fri, Jun 30, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

30-6-16 Day was quiet except for our artillery which was active. We were relieved at dusk by the 60th Battalion and proceeded by train and Motor bus to Camp A.

[Note transcriber: until he was killed June 2, 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant- Colonel H.C. Buller. Major Agar Adamson took over command from June 4, 1916.]

Sat, Jul 1, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 1-7-16 Spent the day resting and cleaning up. The following extract from a letter to the C.O from Lady Buller, mother of the late Lt. Col. H.C. Buller D.S.O. was published for the information of all ranks—"It grieves me very much to think how the regiment has suffered and I shall be so glad if you will assure them in their great loss and thank them very much for their kind sympathy and thought of me. I shall always take the deepest interest in its welfare." Extract from the London Gazette of 2nd June 1916 – His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve of the undermentioned rewards for distinguished service in the field prior to 1st June 1916 – D.S.O. – Major Agar Stewart Allen-Masterton Adamson, Major Donald Fairlie Brauston Gray- Military Cross Lieut. George Cecil Carvell – Military Medals 1742 Sergt M Allen 1150 Acting Sergt. J. Dickie – Mentioned in despatches by General Sir Douglas Haig G.C.B Comdr in Chief of the British Forces in France for conduct prior to 1st June 1916. Major A.S.A.M. Adamson, Major D.F.B. Gray. Lieut (temp Capt) D.A. Clarke, Lieut A.G. Martin adjutant, 1489 , 1589 R.S.M Godfrey S. (killed), 1081 R Q S.M. Keble F.E, 1186 C S M Anderson J, 667 Pipe Major Colville J. 1167 Sergt Bishop A, 1541 L/Cpl. Candy G.W. 645 Pte Flintoft J. 1724 Pte Dalby W. 254 Pte Stanborough W.,

Sun, Jul 2, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 2-7-16 Pay parade was held during the morning and during the afternoon the battalion was marched to Baths in Poperinghe.

Mon, Jul 3, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 3-7-16 Battalion parade as per syllabus of training. Captain S.F.A. Martin [203] is posted to No 4 Coy to assume command.

Tue, Jul 4, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 4-7-16 Syllabus of training was followed with Guards instructors in charge of drill.

Wed, Jul 5, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 5-7-16 The first of a proposed series of lectures was given in the YMCA. to Officers & NCOs. The subject of this lecture was "Bayonet Fighting. Parades as per syllabus.

Thu, Jul 6, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 6-7-16 Parades in morning. A Brigade sports day Gymtiana was held in the afternoon. Our Transport did very well. The sports were very successfully run off. A serious accident to Major B. McClellan of 42nd Bn in the jumps. In the evening the revue artists of the battalion repeated their entertainment at Reninghelst. The R.C.R. were invited to send a number of men. The concert was very successful.

Fri, Jul 7, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 7-7-16 Parades as per syllabus

Sat, Jul 8, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 8-7-16 Practice in platoon attack and defence was held in trenches near transport lines As a result of June fighting following casualties were published in orders – 81 missing 12 wounded and missing – 5 missing believed killed, unofficially reported prisoners of war 4, 4 died of wounds. , Lieut Sullivan [*H.E. SULIVAN*] is posted to No 1 Coy and assumes command Lieut [*A.G.*] Rosamond assumed command of No 3 Coy.

Sun, Jul 9, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 9-7-16 Divine service in morning, practice at night manoeuvres and attack at night.

Mon, Jul 10, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 10-7-16 Parades under company arrangements. Lieut [*C.R.*] Banning returned from sick leave.

Tue, Jul 11, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

Camp A 11-7-16 Lecture to all officers in YMCA by Capt S.F.A. Martin [203]. Battalion moved by train after dusk to Asylum siding and men marched to Zillebeke Bund relieving the 49th Battalion which moved into front line right sector.

Wed Jul 12, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

Zillebeke Bund 12-7-16 Day quiet, found dug outs and surroundings very dirty – working parties for whole battalion at night except for one platoon garrisoning a strong point.

Thu, Jul 13, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

Zillebeke Bund 13-7-16 Bund was shelled in morning by 5.9 Howitzers. Shells fell either short or over and did not do any damage. Working parties for whole battalion at night. Officers visited trenches

Fri, Jul 14, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

Zillebeke Bund 14-7-16 Day quiet – working parties – Officers visited trenches

Sat, Jul 15, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

Zillebeke Bund 15-7-16 Battalion relieved the 49th Battalion in right sector front line trenches 46 – 55 relief was satisfactory except that towards the end of its completion the enemy appeared to be aware that it was taking place and threw over many rifle grenades and trench mortars. We had twelve casualties. Headquarters were at Valley Cottages

Sun, Jul 16, 1916 MOUNT SORREL, BELGIUM

Front Line 16-7-16 Day was fairly quiet. A few trench mortars. A great amount of work was in progress and great efforts were made to keep it up. At night the whole battalion was working together with large working parties from 49th Bn. Saps were pushed forward and front line strengthened and repaired. Lieut [W.H.] Morris [410512] and Capt [C.J.T.] Stewart secured valuable information from patrolling in "no Man's Land". An unoccupied old German trench in good repair was discovered.

Mon, Jul 17, 1916 MOUNT SORREL, BELGIUM

Front Line 17-7-16 The work on trenches continued. Wherever possible it was carried out during daylight. After dusk Captain Stewart took out a party to consolidate and place old German trench discovered on the previous night in good condition. A party of about nine Germans were encountered but they withdrew. At 1.30 am Considerable work was done and a garrison left under Lieut Almon.

Tue, Jul 18, 1916 MOUNT SORREL, BELGIUM

Front Line 18-7-16 At 1.30 am a minor operation was carried out by our bombers and two Stokes guns in conjunction with similar operations being carried out by two other Bns of our brigade on the left the 42nd and RCR's. Our bombers threw about 500 Mills bombs from the saps and the Stokes guns fired ~~220~~ 90 rounds.

The enemy retaliated. Our artillery also joined in the operation. Everything was quiet again before daybreak. Our casualties were light.

About 8.30 pm the enemy commenced to bombard our right trenches extending from HALIFAX trench to CANADA with trench mortars and rifle grenades. The bombardment was intense and lasted until 10. p.m. being probably in retaliation for our bombing operation in which we probably did considerable damage. Very considerable damage was done to our trenches and saps A, B & C were demolished. A few of the enemy were seen to leave their trenches after the bombardment stopped but were driven back.

Wed, Jul 19, 1916 MOUNT SORREL, BELGIUM

Front Line 19-7-16 The day was comparatively quiet. The new trench consolidated by us has been named STEWART – trench. We were relieved after dark by the 5th C.M.R. and marched to billets in YPRES – 1 & 3 companies were in Infantry Barracks, 4 Coy was in billets nearby and no 2 coy were billeted at CHATEAU BELGE [*Belgian Chateau*]. Headquarters was at RAMPARTS.

Thu, Jul 20, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

Ypres 20-7-16 YPRES received the usual complement of shells. Working parties at front line at night.

Fri, Jul 21, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

Working party of 100 men employed during day improving Infantry Barracks and supplying accommodation for more troops. Working parties at night. Following wire was received. “General Officer Commanding division wishes to congratulate PPCLI on their successful operations on the night of 17/18 July, the affair showed a good spirit of offensive enterprise on the part of the battalion. The brigadier has great pleasure in forwarding the above”.

Sat, Jul 22, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

Ypres 22-7-16 In Routine orders by Corps Commander of this date # 708. the following list of decorations for members of this battalion were announced – Capt H W. Niven D S.O; Capt A.G. Martin Military Cross and also Lieuts G.S. Currie and Philip Mackenzie-Capt. J B McGregor of CAMC and M O of the battalion also received the Military Cross – D.C.M’s were awarded to the following 53 Sergt A. Hill, 1615 Sergt S Patterson [*Paterson, S.*] and 126 Corp H. Nelson. Military Medals were given to following-1345 Sergt J E. McInnes 11080 Pte W. L. Clarke [*411080 W.L. Clark or A11080*], McG. 230 L/Cpl J W. Jeakins, 23572 Pte T Rhodes.*[Rhodes, E.]*, 1537 Pte F A Williamson. Lieut D.S. Forbes formerly of the Bn received the Military Cross. Day was quiet Working parties day and night.

Sun, Jul 23, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

Ypres 23-7-16 Working parties day and night. Party of Canadian Parliamentarians visited the town

Mon, Jul 24, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

Ypres 24-7-16 Working parties day and night.

Tue, Jul 25, 1916 YPRES, BELGIUM

YPRES 25-7-16 Working party during afternoon. Battalion was relieved by the 58th Bn and went by train from Asylum siding to B Camp. It had been published for information that Lieut. H.W. Macdonell [*Macdonnell*] was suffering from a bullet wound in the lung and a prisoner in Germany. In Class II competition for the best pair of light draught horses shown in a G.S. wagon, Pte Cadogan [*R.T. 850*] took first place with his team. The competition was open to all units of the Canadian Corps and was keenly contested. Second place was also taken by an entry from the 7th C.I. B being won by the R C R transport. 14 men reported casualties after action June 2/4 were unofficially reported Prisoners of war in Germany.

Wed, Jul 26, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

CAMP B 26-7-16 The Battalion marched to billets in area South of STEENVOORDE, headquarters were situated at 27Q 1.c.2.3. Day was hot, roads were very dusty and consequently the men were very tired.

Thu, Jul 27, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 27-7-16 Parades were held under company arrangements chiefly for inspection.

Fri, Jul 28, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 28-7-16 Parades were held on company parade grounds and a syllabus of training started. An official letter was received stating that Lt-Col. R.T. Pelly D.S O. was under orders to report to the 7th C.I.B. to take over command of the battalion.

Sat, Jul 29, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 29-7-16 A Brigade route march was held and was a success.

Sun, Jul 30, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 30-7-16 A Brigade parade was held at Q9.b.1.7. for the purpose of the presentations of medal ribbons by Brigadier General Macdonell. A demonstration was given at the Divisional bomb school bring out the following points, effectiveness of barrage of Stokes guns, destruction of wire entanglements by amonal tube & the working of a bombing and blocking party.

Mon, Jul 31, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 31-7-16 Lieutenant General Hon Sir Julian H.G. Byng K.C.B. KCMG., M V.O. Commanding the Canadian Corps inspected the battalion. The inspection was very thorough and lasted two hours and a half. The day was very warm and sultry.

[Note transcriber: during July 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Major Agar Adamson.]

Tue, Aug 1, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

In the field 1/8/16 Training in STEENVOORDE area continued.

Wed, Aug 2, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

In the field 2/9/16 Training continued according to syllabus.

Thu, Aug 3, 1916 STEENVOORDE, FRANCE

In the field 3/8/16 The battalion moved from training area to Camp A. On account of the very warm weather the battalion did not move off until 6.pm. Transportation for the mens' packs and steel helmets was provided for by motor lorry. Route followed was by the main road through ABEELE and POPERINGHE. Lieut. Col. R.T. PELLY D.S.O. resumed command of the Battalion having been posted from the 8th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles

Fri, Aug 4, 1916 CAMP A, POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

In the field 4/8/16 The Battalion relieved the 49th Bn on the night of Aug. 4/5 in ZILLEBEKE BUND and strong points 1 H and 1 K. The mens' packs were stored at the transport lines. The Battalion moved off the parade ground at 9.15 pm and marched to railway siding at sheet 28 C 11. b. 1. 9. where it entrained for the ASYLUMN siding. The relief was very satisfactory and was complete shortly after midnight.

Sat, Aug 5, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

In the field 5/8/16 Very quiet day. All the battalion out on working parties at night.

Sun, Aug 6, 1916 ZILLEBEKE , BELGIUM

In the field 6/8/16 Quiet. Usual working parties at night.

Mon, Aug 7, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

In the field 7/8/16 Quiet usual working parties at night. Capt H.W. Niven DSO returns & assumes Command of No 2 Coy.

Tue, Aug 8, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

In the field 8/8/16 Quiet during the day. At night north of the MENIN Road the enemy launched a gas attack. The gas was felt in YPRES but the battalion did not suffer. Eight horses of our Transport were slightly gassed. Advance parties were sent to the trenches to be taken over by us.

Wed, Aug 9, 1916 ZILLEBEKE, BELGIUM

In the field 9/8/16 On the night Aug 9/10th. the battalion relieved the Royal Canadian Regiment in the front line trenches left sector including trenches from the CULVERT on the MENIN road to the junction of WARRINGTON AVENUE and LOVER'S WALK. The former inclusive and the latter not inclusive. The relief was very satisfactory and was complete shortly after 11 pm.

Thu, Aug 10, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

In the field 10/8/16 Some few shells were dropped near our trenches but caused no damage. Trenches were not fully connected up and at night the battalion used as many men as could be spared upon this work.

Fri, Aug 11, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

In the field 11/8/16 Normal day with a little shelling of our trenches. Journalist visited our trenches with Staff Officer

Sat, Aug 12, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

In the field 12/8/16 In the morning the enemy heavily bombarded with shells and trench mortars MOUNT SORREL and HILL 60 doing much damage. Our right trenches were slightly shelled at the same time. 704 L/C. ELLIOTT, A of No 2 Coy was killed by shell fire. The nights are very bright and little patrol work was undertaken.

Sun, Aug 13, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

In the field 13/8/16 Normal day. Working every available man at night. Strong dugouts were being built at Battalion Headquarters at TUILERIE [TUILERIES]

Mon, Aug 14, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

In the field 14/8/16 Normal day. work progressed favorably.

Tue, Aug 15, 1916 SANCTUARY WOOD, BELGIUM

In the field 15/8/16 Day was quiet and normal. At night the battalion was relieved by the 49th Bn. Guides met the incoming battalion at ZILLEBEKE Bund. The relief was satisfactory and the battalion on relief marched to Camp "F" (MONTREAL) by way of KRUISTRAAT.

Wed, Aug 16, 1916 CAMP F, YPRES, BELGIUM

In the field 16/8/16 Bath parades and in the evening part of the battalion marched to concert given in YMCA tent RENINGHELST by our own troop. The G.O.C. 3rd Can Div was present.

Thu, Aug 17, 1916 CAMP F, YPRES, BELGIUM

In the field 17/8/16 Battalion parade was held in the morning. Parades were held for pay. The C.O. held a lecture for all Officers and Sergeants at 5. pm. The remainder of the battalion attended the concert at RENINGHELST.

Fri, Aug 18, 1916 CAMP F, YPRES, BELGIUM

In the field 18/8/16 Company parades were held and in the afternoon the battalion was inspected by the MINISTER of MILITIA [Sir Sam Hughes]

Sat, Aug 19, 1916 CAMP F, YPRES, BELGIUM

In the field 19/8/16 Company parades were held in the morning. At night the battalion relieved the Royal Canadian Regiment. No 3 Coy less one platoon and No 4 Coy were at ZILLEBEKE BUND, one platoon of [inserted: also at] 1 H and 1 K. No 1 and 2 Coys and H Q were at INFANTRY BARRACKS YPRES. H Q was in RAMPARTS. The relief was satisfactory

Sun, Aug 20, 1916 ZILLEBEKE & YPRES, BELGIUM

In the field 20/8/16 Day was quiet and normal with working parties at night. LIEUT. [W.E.] DUNTON reported at Transport Lines and was sent to hospital as a mental case.

Mon, Aug 21, 1916 ZILLEBEKE & YPRES , BELGIUM

In the field 21/8/16 The Battalion was relieved at night by the 1st Bn. Hampshire Regiment 4th Division. The tram was taken at ASYLUMN siding to siding near Camp "B" where the huts were taken over. (ERIE)

Tue, Aug 22, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

In the field 22/8/16 Bath parades were held for the Battalion at POPERINGHE

Wed, Aug 23, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

In the field 23/8/16 Company parades were held in the morning. In the afternoon the Commanding officer inspected the companies in heavy marching order. LIEUT G.W. LITTLE left in charge of billeting party for the CASSEL training area. Lieut. Col. R.T. Pelly D.S.O. proceeded on special leave to England and Major A.A. [Agar] Adamson D.S.O. took over command.

Thu, Aug 24, 1916 CAMP B, YPRES-POPERINGHE, BELGIUM

In the field 24/8/16 The Battalion marched back to CASSEL training area in heavy marching order. The 7th Brigade marched back as a unit and this battalion passed ABEELE crossroads at 10.35 am. In ABEELE was the Brigade and Corps commanders who inspected the Troops.

Fri, Aug 25, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

In the field 25/8/16 Parades were held according to syllabus of training.

Sat, Aug 26, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

In the field 26/8/16 Parades were held according to syllabus of training.

Sun, Aug 27, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

In the field 27/8/16 Church parade was held at the R.C.R. H. Quarters.

Mon, Aug 28, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

In the field 28/8/16 Rain interfered with the usual parades

Tue, Aug 29, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

In the field 29/8/16 Very wet weather

Wed, Aug 30, 1916, TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

In the field 30/8/16 Lieut Colonel R T. Pelly D.S.O. returned from special leave – Rain all day

Thu, Aug 31, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

In the field 31/8/16 Parades were held as per syllabus of training.

[Note transcriber: until August 3, 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Major Agar Adamson. Lieutenant-Colonel R.T. Pelly resumed command from that date onwards.]

Fri, Sep 1, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 1/9/16 Training in Cassel Area

Sat, Sep 2, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 2/9/16 Training. Lecture in Aeroplane Photographs in Steenvoorde

Sun, Sep 3, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 3/9/16 Bde: Church Parade in lines of 49th Bn:

Mon, Sep 4, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 4/9/16 Training

Tue, Sep 5, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 5/9/16 Training

Wed, Sep 6, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 6/9/16 Bn. in attack practice before Brigadier & Staff . Concert by party from R.F.C. at Hazebrouck.

Thu, Sep 7, 1916 TERDEGHEM, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 7/9/16 Bn: marched to Esquebec via WORMHOUT entrained at 5.30 pm for CONTEVILLE

[Note transcriber: the regiment wasn't actually in Steenvoorde at the time, but in five small farm houses in the small village of Terdegheem. The location in the War Diary given as Steenvoorde from Sep 8 through 11 , 1916 is completely off course.]

Fri, Sep 8, 1916 TROOP TRAIN TO CONTEVILLE, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 8/9/16 Arrived CONTEVILLE about 4 a.m. detrained and marched to CRAMONT.

Sat, Sep 9, 1916 CRAMONT, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 9/9/16 Coy: training & cleaning up.

Sun, Sep 10, 1916 CRAMONT, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 10/9/16 Marched at 8 a.m. for PERNOIS via DOMART & St: LEGER.

Mon, Sep 11, 1916 PERNOIS, FRANCE

STEENVOORDE 11/9/16 Marched at 7 am for TOUTENCOURT via NAOURS, TALMAS, & PUCHEVILLIERS

Tue, Sep 12, 1916 TOUTENCOURT, FRANCE

TOUTENCOURT 12/9/16 Marched from TOUTENCOURT to HARPONVILLE

Wed, Sep 13, 1916 HARPONVILLE, FRANCE

HARPONVILLE 13/9/16 Marched to BRICKFIELDS near ALBERT via WARLOY & bivouaced with rest of Bde.

Thu, Sep 14, 1916 BRICKFIELDS, ALBERT, FRANCE

ALBERT 14/9/16 In Bivouacs at Brickfields.

Fri, Sep 15, 1916 BRICKFIELDS, ALBERT, FRANCE

ALBERT 15/9/16 Standing toø from 6. a.m. received orders to move up to USNA HILL at 9.30 a.m. reached USNA HILL at 11 a.m. at 2 p.m. received orders to march to CHALK PITS in X 10.c. & make preparations to attack at 6. p.m. Left Chalk Pits at 4.30 p.m. & marched to vicinity of Sugar Trench which was to be the jumping off place for the attack. At 6 p.m. Batn reached vicinity of Sugar Trench which could not be located but marched in file through the Barage & immediately launched the attack & reached its first objective the Sunken road running South of COURCELETTE capturing 75 prisoners. Nos 1 & 3 Coys pushed on immediately to 2nd objective in which footholds were gained on either flank. The central portion of the FABECK GRABEN on either side of the communication we were unable to take immediately. The [inserted: front line] Coys [inserted: aided by supports] consolidated therefore 100 yards from German trench. The supports retired before daybreak to trench behind first objective. Communication with 25th Bn on right from 8 pm and with 49th on left from 9 pm. Shelling during night of 15/16 chiefly in rear of new trench.

In the advance at 6 pm on the 15th Major [S.F.A.] Martin [203] : O C No 4 Co'y was killed by shell fire; Lt Rosamund [A.G. [Rosamond](#)] was killed by machine gun fire in the advance on the second objective.

Sat, Sep 16, 1916 COURCELETTE, FRANCE

16/9/16 Heavy shelling all morning particularly on support line. About 4 pm took remainder of second objective by bombing attack and 62 unwounded prisoners hordes wounded.

Immediately occupied front trench. From 5 o'clock when our barrage started to aid advance of R.C.R's and 42nd Bn Germans heavily shelled Fabeck Graben our new front line. Gas alarm at 6 owing [inserted: we thought] to gas shells Details from transport lines brought up rations about 9 o'clock.

Front line co'ys and Lewis guns relieved by Support co'ys (2 & 4) about 10.30 .

Sun, Sep 17, 1916 COURCELETTE, FRANCE

17/9/16 Evacuation of wounded carried on continuously during the night. At 2 am [inserted: night 16/17] orders came that we were to be relieved by 52nd Bn. The relief was carried out just before daybreak. Regiment night patrols were sent out to search for undiscovered wounded and killed. All wounded were evacuated and all dead, as far as were known, buried. Bn had tea on way out at Sausage Valley from bn cooks and marched to Tara Hill where they bivouacked till afternoon.

Late afternoon Bn moved to another part of Tara Hill.

Total casualties just under 300.

Mon, Sep 18, 1916 TARA HILL, FRANCE

18/9/16 Bivouacked on Tara Hill. Heavy rains. Work parties. Draft of 89 men from the Entrenching Bn.

Tue, Sep 19, 1916 TARA HILL, ALBERT, FRANCE

19/9/16 Working parties- burying cable at Courcelette and building roads at Ovillers. More rain. Moved to billets in Rue de la Trairie, Albert.

Wed, Sep 20, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE

Albert 20/9/16 Moved to new billets Rue d'Amiens. Working parties.

Thu, Sep 21, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE

Albert 21/9/16 Draft of 140 arrived. Working parties.

Fri. Sep 22, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE

Albert 22/9/16 Inspection of new draft by C.O. at 2 pm. Working parties.

Sat, Sep 23, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE

23/9/16 Marched via Bouzincourt to [inserted: billets in] Warloy. Concert for new draft at 7 pm by Bn concert party.

Sun, Sep 24, 1916 WARLOY, FRANCE

24/9/16 Warloy to La Vicogne via Toutencourt, Puchevillers, Val de Maison.

Mon, Sep 25, 1916 LA VICOGNE, FRANCE

25/9/16 La Vicogne to Bonneville.

Tue, Sep 26, 1916 BONNEVILLE, FRANCE

Bonneville 26/9/16 C. O's parade at 10 am. Pay and instructional parades.

Wed, Sep 27, 1916 BONNEVILLE, FRANCE

27/9/16 Bonneville to Harponville via Val de Maison and Toutencourt.

Thu, Sep 28, 1916 HARPONVILLE, FRANCE

28/9/16 Harponville to Brickfields near Albert via Warloy and Senlis. Bivouacked at Brickfields 12 am to 3 pm; then moved to billets in Albert (Rue des Trairies and Rue d'Amiens.)

Fri, Sep 29, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE

Albert 29/9/16 Billets in Albert. Working parties – Owillers-Courcelette Rd.

Sat, Sep 30, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE

30/9/16 Billets in Albert. Working parties – Owillers-Courcelette Rd.

[*Note transcriber: during September 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant-Colonel R.T. Pelly.*]

APPENDIX

Copy

SECRET.

PRINCESS PATRICIAS CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

OPERATION ORDER No.45 By Lt. Col. R.T. Pelly, DSO
Comdg. P.P.C.L.I.

22nd Sept. 1916

In the Field.

1. MOVE. The Battalion will march to WARLOY tomorrow.
2. STARTING POINT. Rly Bridge on the BOUZINCOURT ROAD at W.27.d.7.3.
3. TIME OF START. 6.55 a.m.

4. ORDER OF MARCH: HQ., 3,4,1 and 2 Coys.
5. ROUTE: VIA BRICKFIELDS, BOUZINCOURT and SENLIS.
6. KITS & STORES. Officers kits and mess stores to be ready at 5.45 am.
7. Transport; All wgons to be loaded and sheeted down by 6.15 am.
8. COLOUR PARTY: Lieuts. McPherson and Morris will carry the Colour in reliefs. The R.S.M. will detail escort. Officers and escort will report at Bn. HQ at 6.30 am.

Sgd. A.G. MARTIN Capt. & Adjt.

Sun, Oct 1, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE

Albert 1/10/16 Billeted in Albert. Voluntary church parade at 11 am. Night of 10/11 working parties

1) on Pozières- Courcelette road (north of main road) and 2) unloading and piling pit props on railway north of Albert.

Mon, Oct 2, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE

2/10/16 The battalion left billets in Albert and marched to Tara Hill at 11. At 4 pm the battalion marched to Kay dump; then into support lines west of Courcelette to relieve a Bn of the 8th C. Brigade (2nd C.M.R's). H.Q. at R 28 c 8.2. Two companies were in CENTRE WAY and two in PICCADILLY . Rain –

Tue, Oct 3, 1916 WEST OF COURCELETTE, FRANCE

3/10/16 In supports as described under 2/10/16. Intermittent heavy shelling. Very wet.

Wed, Oct 4, 1916 WEST OF COURCELETTE, FRANCE

4/10/16 As for 2 and 3/10/16. The battalion was relieved by the 8th Bn, South Lancashire regiment at 4 pm and marched to bivouacs on TARA HILL.

Thu, Oct 5, 1916 TARA HILL, ALBERT, FRANCE

5/10/16 Cleaning up on TARA HILL. At 4 pm marched to KAY dump and from there into Supports west of COURCELETTE. Bn H.Q. in SUNKEN RD at R 29 c 9,8. No 4 co'y in FABECK TRENCH; No's 2 and 3 in MACDONNELL TRENCH; No 1 in CENTRE WAY.

Fri, Oct 6, 1916 COURCELETTE, FRANCE

6/10/16 In supports as described under 5/10/16. Intermittent shelling.

Sat, Oct 7, 1916 COURCELETTE, FRANCE

7/10/16 In supports as described under 5/10/16. Intermittent shelling.

Sun, Oct 8, 1916 COURCELETTE, FRANCE

8/10/16 About 5 am the R.C.R. and the 49th Bn attacked the German position in REGINA TRENCH between the W. MIRAUMONT and TWENTYTHREE RDS. The Patricias were in support. The first news was that the attack had been successful: according to orders.: No's 2 and 4 Co'ys moved up from Fabeck Tr. to Hessian, the jumping off trench about 6.30 am .Between 7 and 7.30 am No's 1 and 3 Co'ys moved from MACDONNELL TRENCH and CENTREWAY to FABECK TRENCH. Later news came that the wire had not been destroyed and that only parts of the objective had been entered. Also news came that the 9th Bde. had failed on our right. No's 1 and 3 co'ys moved up to SUDBURY TRENCH to reinforce and to establish communication between R.C.R's and 43rd on right. About 11, R.C.R's [inserted: were] forced to abandon their hold on Regina Trench and retired to the jumping off trench. Owing to overcrowding Major Sullivan with No's 1,2 & 3 ~~and~~ Co'ys returned to FABECK TRENCH. No 4 remained with 2 Lewis guns to and the 49th Bn on the left. At 1.30 pm under orders from Colonel Griesbach, now in charge of entire brigade firing line, No 3 Co'y moved up again to SUDBURY TRENCH. At 2.20 pm one platoon of No 1 Co'y left FABECK TR. to reinforce left flank of 49th Bn and get [inserted: into] communication with British troops on left. About 3 pm 2 platoons of No 3 Co'y moved from Sudbury trench to right of R.C.R. to take up position astride KENORA TR.

To replace these, two platoons of No 2 Co'y went up to SUDBURY from FABECK TRENCH. Also at 3 pm our reserve section of bombers went forward from Bn HQ to take over bombing post in KENORA TR. from R.C.R. On the evening of the 8th the Patricias were relieved by the 4th C M R's who with the 42nd Bn took over the line. The Patricias with the exception of the reserve section of bombers who remained with the 42nd Bn retired to supports in MACDONNELL TRENCH.

Mon, Oct 9, 1916 ALBERT, FRANCE


9/10/16 In support in MACDONNELL TRENCH. At 4 p.m. marched out of line to TARA HILL and bivouacked.

Tue, Oct 10, 1916 TARA HILL, ALBERT, FRANCE

10/10/16 TARA HILL to WARLOY via BOUZINCOURT. The battalion was congratulated en route by the Reserve army commander Sir Henry Gough for smart, clean appearance so soon after hard time in the trenches. P.P.C.L.I. concert party at 7.

Wed, Oct 11, 1916 WARLOY, FRANCE

WARLOY 11/10/16 Billets in WARLOY. Cleaning up. Pay parades. Concert party at 7 p.m. Turned into ordnance 1 Lewis gun, salvaged 8/10/16 from and two German 3" trench mortars taken on September 15 and salvaged from FABECK TRENCH on Monday 9/10/16. On one was the following information for identification: Manufacturers – Rheinische Metallwaaren & Maschinenfabrik, Düsseldorf, 1915. System Ehrhardt. The number 700 appeared [inserted: both] on the mortar and the stand. On the other mortar the number was 577; the number on the

plate or stand was 576. Also on the plate was a second number 1014. The date was 1914, Ehrhardt manufacture. There was also on the second mortar the mark .

Thu, Oct 12, 1916 WARLOY, FRANCE

12/10/16 WARLOY (12.25 p.m.) to La VICOGNE via HERISSART, VAL de MAISON, TALMAS.

Fri, Oct 13, 1916 LA VICOGNE, FRANCE

13/10/16 LA VICOGNE (7.00 am) to BERTEAUCOURT via TALMAS, NAOURS, HAVERNAS, HALLOY.

Sat, Oct 14, 1916 BERTEAUCOURT, FRANCE

BERTEAUCOURT 14/10/16 Billets in BERTEAUCOURT. Company Parades.

Sun, Oct 15, 1916 BERTEAUCOURT, FRANCE

BERTEAUCOURT 15/10/16 Billets in Berteaucourt.

Mon, Oct 16, 1916 BERTEAUCOURT, FRANCE

16/10/16 Berteaucourt to Gorges (H.Q.) and Vacquerie (1,2,3. 4 Co'ys) via St. Léger-les-Domart, DOMART en Ponthieu, BERNEUIL.

Tue, Oct 17, 1916 GORGES AND VACQUERIE, FRANCE

GORGES and VACQUERIE 17/10/16 Battalion parade at 10 a.m.

Wed, Oct 18, 1916 GORGES AND VACQUERIE, FRANCE

18/10/16 Billets in GORGES & VACQUERIE. Rain: Battalion parades cancelled. Company parades.

Thu, Oct 19, 1916 GORGES AND VACQUERIE, FRANCE

19/10/16 Billets in GORGES & VACQUERIE. Rain: Battalion parades cancelled. Company parades.

Fri, Oct 20, 1916 GORGES AND VACQUERIE, FRANCE

20/10/16 VACQUERIE to NÔEUX via BERNAVILLE, and WAVANS.

Sat, Oct 21, 1916 NÔEUX, FRANCE

21/10/16 NÔEUX to MONT-en-TERNOIS via VACQUÉRIE-LE-BOUCQ, LIGNY-Sur-CANCRE, NUNCQ and BONEVILLE.

Sun, Oct 22, 1916 MONT-EN-TERNOIS, FRANCE

22/10/16 The battalion marched from MONT-EN-TERNOIS via Marzeres, PENIN , SAVY & ACQ to ECOIVRES. Lt-Col. [R.T.] Pelly with Major [C.J.T.] Stewart and Major [D.F.B.] Gray, Lt [G.M.] Smith and Lt [N.D.] Dow went ahead by bus and reconnoitred the new line.

Mon, Oct 23, 1916 ECOIVRES, FRANCE

ECOIVRES 23/10/16 In huts in ECOIVRES. At 6.30 pm battalion marched to billets in NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.

Tue, Oct 24, 1916 NEUVILLE ST VAAST, FRANCE

24/10/16 During morning batt'n relieved 2/18 Regiment, London Irish in left sub-sector of divisional line, N.E. of NEUVILLE ST. VAAST

Wed, Oct 25 to Sat, Oct 28, 1916 NEUVILLE ST VAAST, FRANCE

25/10/16 through 28/10/16 Held 'P' line trenches 73-78 [inserted: Vernon [*Trench*] to Lasalle [*Trench*]] with advanced crater positions, No 1 Co'y on the right; No 2 in the centre; No 4 on the left; No 3 in support in the QUARRY LINE. Intermittent enemy activity with heavy trench mortars and rifle grenades. Our snipers active and successful; also daily activity with rifle grenades and Stokes guns. Practically no enemy shell fire. The support coy worked regularly at revetting of communication trenches.

Sun, Oct 29, 1916 NEUVILLE ST VAAST, FRANCE

29/10/16 Bn [inserted: was] relieved by 42nd Bn. Royal Highlanders during the morning and moved to NEUVILLE ST VAAST. From 5.30 pm bn moved to huts at MT. ST. ELOY by platoons.

Mon, Oct 30, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

BOIS DES ALLEUX 30/10/16 In huts at BOIS de ALLEUX (MT. ST. ELOY): Cleaning up. Guard of honour of 35 O.R. Commanded by Major Gray D.S.O met H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught at HERMAVILLE [*Hermanville*]. The C.O. and co'y officers had the honour to meet His Royal Highness.

Tue, Oct 31, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

31/10/16 Lt-Col [R.T.] Pelly D.S.O. left the battalion temporarily for instructional work in England. Major [Agar] Adamson D.S.O. assumed command.

[*Note transcriber: during October 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant-Colonel R.T. Pelly.*]

PRINCESS PATRICIAS CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY.

OPERATION ORDERS NO.

By Lt. Col. R.T. Pelly DSO Comdg. P.P.C.L.I.

In the Field.

7th Oct. 1916

1. TASK: As set forth in the attached Brigade Operation Orders.

1st OPERATION.

2. Nos. 2 and 4 Coys.

A careful look-out must be kept in the progress of the assault and as soon as it is seen that the assaulting troops (RCR & 49th) are established in REGINA TRENCH, these Coys will move at once into the 'jumping off' trenches. If crowded they will overflow into SUDBURY and KENORA Trenches.

No.2 Coy will lead and will be on the right.

The senior Officer will be prepared to support the assaulting troops if called upon, without waiting orders from Bn. HQ.

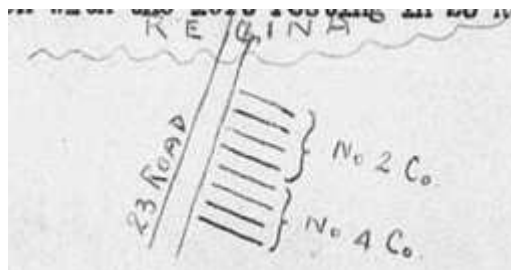
A report will be immediately sent to Bn. HQ if this is done.

3. Nos. 1 and 3 Coys.

Will move into the FABECK GRABEN as soon as Nos 2 and 4 have moved off and wait orders.

4. 2nd OPERATION.

At an hour to be notified later Nos. 2 and 4 Coys will leave the assembly trenches and form up in column of platoons just south of REGINA TRENCH with the left resting in 23 Road as in sketch:-



Preceded by a bombing section they will work up the 23 Road to the road junction with the WEST MIRAUMONT Road at R.17.b.3.1.

Having cleared the road (23) they will establish a series of posts facing North West joining up the road junction at R.17.b.3.1 with the REGINA TRENCH thus forming a defensive flank left flank.

Touch will be obtained with the 9th Brigade at the road junction R.17.b.3.1. and with the 49th Bn. in REGINA TRENCH.

No 1 Coy will follow the advance of 2 and 4 carrying wire and stakes and will assist in the work of consolidation.

No. 3 Coy will move to the 'jumping off' trench and remain there in reserve.

5. COLT AND LEWIS GUNS.

The Lewis Guns of 1, 2 and 4 Coys will form part of the garrison of the strong points and gun to each of six of these posts.

One Colt gun will be established near the road junction R.17.b.3.1 to command the WEST MIRAUMONT ROAD.

Two Colt guns will be established at REGINA TRENCH at about R.23.a.3.5. to enfilade 23 ROAD to the North.

The remaining Colt guns will remain in reserve in F.G.

6. CONSOLIDATION. The posts will be established EAST of 23 Road and an entanglement erected under the bank. The wire will thus be concealed and protected.

APPENDIX B

PRINCESS PATRICIAS CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY.

Narrative of Operations.

7th to 9th October 1916.
.....

7th October.

On 7th October 1916 I was in support to the R.C.R. and 49th Bn. , with No.4 Co. in FABECK TRENCH, No.1 Coy. in CENTRE WAY and 2 and 3 Coys in MCDONNELL ROAD.

11 am Received Operation Orders No.55 covering details of an assault to be made at an hour to be notified later by the 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde., in conjunction with 9th Cdn. Inf. Bde. on our right, against REGINA TRENCH.

Task of the 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. to capture and consolidate the following line :- WEST MIRAUMONT ROAD from junction R.17.b.3.1to REGINA Trench, to be consolidated as a left flank facing west to the advanced objective, thence along REGINA TRENCH to the junction of the communication trench at R.23.a.2.5. with flanks turned back to the HESSIAN Trench.

4.30 p.m. Received Operation Order No.56 ordering me to remain in support in position then occupied and to arrange to have two Companies in close support to 'jumping off' trench as soon as first objective taken. Bn. HQ. at R.29.c.9.8.

5.30 pm. Issued verbal instructions to O.C. No.2 Co. to move his Company from MCDONNELL ROAD to reinforce No.4 Co. in FABECK TRENCH.

6. p.m. Called Company Commanders together, went over Brigade Operation Orders and Bn. Operation Orders (see below) explaining fully the task of each Company. Nos. 2 and 4 Companies detailed to move up to 'jumping off' trench when attack proved successful. Nos.1 and 3 Coys to move up to FABECK Trench, when 2 and 4 Coys went forward.

8th October.

- 3.20 am. Advised zero hour was 4.50 a.m. (?)
- 6.45 am. Received verbal information from Capt. Wallis that attacking Battalions had reached REGINA Trench and my two support Coys were then moving up.
- 7 am. Message (No.1) received from Lieut. Morris dated 6.35 am states that Scouts report most of REGINA Trench held by us but enemy still holding isolated parts. Also reports Nos.2 and 4 Coys moving to 'jumping off' trench.
- 7.45 am Message received (No.2) from O.C. No.1 Co. and No.3 Co. stating both established in FABECK Trench.
- 7.45 am. Received messages (Nos. 3 and 4) from R.C.R. and 49th Bns stating that their last Companies were being ordered into assault and requesting me to leave garrison of at least two platoons per Company in 'jumping off' trench. I accordingly issued instructions to my Coys that should they be requested to go into assault this garrison must be left.
- 8.45 am. Received messages (Nos.7 and 8) from O.C. No.2 Coy, dated 7.25 a.m. stating they were established in 'jumping off' trench.
- 9.40 am. Message (No.9) received from 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. advises 43rd Bn on my left failed to reach objective and ordering me to send out strong patrol to join up right of R.C.R. and left of 43rd Bn. Second message (No.10) received from Cdn. Inf. Bde. (7th) at same hour, ordered ground captured by 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. to be held at all costs. Following interview with Col. Hill, Comdg. R.C.R. and Col. GRIESBACH Comdg 49th Bn., instructions were issued at once to Nos.1 and 3 Coys to move up from FABECK Trench to SUDBURY Trench and if sufficient room No.3 Co. to reinforce (jumping off' trench. Major Sullivan ordered, when Nos.1 and 3 Coys established in new position to ascertain whether assaulting units required further assistance to establish REGINA Trench and also to send out patrol to connect R.C.R. right with 43rd Bn left.
- 11.30 a.m. Message (No.12) received from Major Sullivan stating that RCRs driven out of REGINA Trench and falling back on 'jumping off' trench. This overcrowded the trench and Major Sullivan retired with his Coy to FABECK TRENCH. This also necessitated the withdrawal of Nos.1 and 3 Coys to FABECK Trench. No.4 Coy remained in close support to SUDBURY Trench.
- 1.30 pm. Message (No.14) received from 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. advising Col. Griesbach in command of Brigade frontage.
- 1.30 pm. Verbal instructions received from Col. Griesbach to reinforce SUDBURY Trench with one Company. No.3 Co was sent up.
- 2.20 pm. Order received to take over, with one platoon, the left flank of 49th Bn to: (a) watch sap to German line west of TWENTY THREE ROAD: (b) connect up with patrol with troops on our left. This platoon supplied by No.1 Co. Message (No.17)
- 2.40 pm. In accordance with order from Col. Griesbach two platoons of No.3 Co. sent from SUDBURY Trench to right of R.C.R. to take up position astride KENORA Trench. Two platoons from No.2 Co. sent up from FABECK Trench to replace two platoons No.No.3 Co. taken from SUDBURY Trench. (Message No.19)
- 2.50 pm. Verbal order received to send our reserve section of bombers to take over bombing post in KENORA Trench which R.C.R. held.
- 7.15 pm. Operation Order received ordering men 4th C.M.R. Bn. to relive me in support on night of 8/9th October 1916. I withdrew my whole Bn. to MCDONNELL ROAD with exception of Reserve Bombing section which was left at disposal of 42nd Bn who relieved R.C.R. and 49th Bn. in front line.

9th October.

1.40 pm. Operation Order No.57 covering relief of Brigade received.

4.35 pm. Relief complete and Bn. march to bivouacs as TARA HILL.

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CASUALTIES.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>O.R.</u>
Killed	-	9
Wounded	-	60
Missing	-	-
<hr/>		
TOTAL	-	69
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	6	
<hr/>		

Lieut. Col.
Comdg. P.P.C.L.I.

PRINCESS PATRICIAS CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY.

Messages received and sent re Operations of 7th to 9th October 1916.

No.1

To: Adjutant PPCLI Recd. 7 am 8.10.16
From: Lieut. W.H. Morris, PPCLI
 ZOLLERN TRENCH Sent 6.35 am 8.10.16

The two scouts have returned from the right sector. They report most of REGINA TRENCH 1 held by us but enemy holds isolated parts. Officer i/c Reinforcing Co. left parapet to go over at 6.10 am. He said that "reinforcements were needed urgently". I have advised Major Sullivan of the fact and report just reached me that he is leaving at once with both 2 and 4 Coys.

Scouts from left sector now here. No 49th men returned to 'jumping off' for half hour after they went over. Scouts reached enemy wire in front of REGINA TRENCH slightly to the right of 49th Bn. centre. Few wounded or dead were seen up to this point. None of our troops were seen hung up in the wire. Our troops reported to be digging in and consolidating.

Sgd Liuet. W.H. MORRIS

No.2.

To: 7th. Can. Inf. Bde.
From: Major A.A. Adamson PPCLI
8.10.16 7.20 am

The following message forwarded for your information:
Time 6.35 am Place ZOLLERN TRENCH

The two scouts have returned from Right sector. They report most of REGINA Trench is held by us but enemy still holds isolated parts. Officer i/c R.C.R. reinforcing Co. left parapet to go over at 6.10 a.m. He said that 'reinforcements were needed urgently'. I have advised Major Sullivan of this fact and report just reached me that he is leaving at once with both 2 and 4 Coys. Scouts from Left sector now here. No 49th men returned to 'jumping off' trench for half an hour after they went over. Scouts reached enemy wire in front of REGINA Trench slightly to right of 49th Bn. centre. Few wounded or dead were seen up to this point. None of our troops were seen hung up in the wire. Our troops reported to be digging in and consolidating.

Sgd A.A. ADAMSON Major PPCLI

No.3.

To: O.C. PPCLI Recd. 7.40 am 8.10.16
From: O.C. 49th Bn. Sent 7.17 am 8.10.16

Have ordered my last Company into the assault. I rely on you to garrison my 'Jumping off' trench with at least (2) platoons per Co.

No.4.

To: PPCLI Recd. 7.40 am 8.10.16
From: Lt. Snider R.C.R. Sent 7.20 am 8.10.16.

My support Company ordered to move forward to attack. Would you please assure that 2 of your platoons remain as garrison in our 'jumping off' trench between W.MIRAUMONT ROAD and R.23.b.2.1. Major Hodson is there.

Sgd Lt. E.C. Snider

No.5.

Major Sullivan, O.C. No.2 Co. Sent 8.10.16.
From: PPCLI Sent 8.10.16

Understand last Companies of R.C.R. and 49th have gone into assault. Should you be required to go forward you will leave a garrison in 'jumping off' trench of at least two platoons per Co. In the event of your going into the assault word must be sent back at once to Bn. HQ and reinforcements from 1 and 3 Coys will be sent up to strengthen garrison of (jumping off' trench.

Sgd L.V. DRUMMOND HAY Lieut. & Asst. Adjt.

No.6.

To Lt. Morris PPCLI Recd. 7.45 am 8.10.16
From PPCLI Sent 7.45 am 8.10.16

Understand last Companies of RCR and 49th have gone into assault. In the vent of Major Sullivan being required to go into assault he has been instructed to leave garrison of at least two platoons per Company in 'jumping off' trench. He has also been instructed to communicate with Bn. HQ if he goes forward and the 'jumping off' trench will then be reinforced from 1 and 3 Coys. If he goes forward will you please endeavour to assist in g tting word to Bn. HQ. Major Sullivan has written orders.

Sgd L.V. DRUMMOND HAY Lt. & Asst. Adjt.

No.7.

To: Adjutamt PPCLI Recd. 8.25 am 8.10.16
From: Lieut. E.P. Cloran No.4 Co. Sent 7.45 am 8.10.16

No.4 Coy has arrived in the 'jumping off' trench and are improving it. There were no casualties.

Sgd. E.P. CLORAN Lt.

No.8.

To: Adjutant PPCLI Recd. 8.25 am 8.10.16
From: Major H.G. Sullivan OC No.2 Co. Sent 7.25 am 8.10.16

Have just arrived with Nos.1 and 4 Coys in the 'jumping off' trench. R.C.Rs appear to hold only parts of REGINA Trench. They were held up in places. 49th I believe were held up here and there but gained most of the first objective. Casualties coming in few but the shelling here is very bad.

Sgd H.E. SULIVAN Major OC No.2 Co.

No.9.

To: RCR & PPCLI Recd 8.50 am 8.10.16
From: 7th Can. Inf. Bde. Sent 8.30 am 8.10.16

Following received from 3rd Cdn. Division begins. It s reported that 43rd Bn on your right have pushed forward beyond REGINA Trench to high ground there. You will push out along WEST MIRAUMONT ROAD and establish block with 43rd Bn PPCLI will send out strong party to join up right of RCR and 43rd Bn left. Acknowledge.

Sgd 7th C.I.B.

No.10.

To: R.C.R., PPCLI, 49th Bn. Recd. 9.50 am 8.10.16
From: 7th Can. Inf. Bde. Sent 9.10 am 8.10.16

Latest report shows that 43rd Bn. does not hold REGINA Trench on our right. You will push out to flank and block REGINA TRENCH and hold all ground taken. Also clean out KENORA TRENCH and attack junction of KENORA and REGINA Trenches and take it. Ground captured must be held at all cost and whole Brigade may be used to accomplish this.

Sgd 7th C.I.B.

No.11.

To: O.C. Coys 8.10.16
From: PPCLI Sent 9.45 am 8.10.16

There seems to be some doubt as to whether the 9th Bde has reached objective. The Brigadier wishes our portion of REGINA TRENCH assured. The following operations will be carried out at once. Nos.1 and 3 Coys will move up to SUDBURY Trench. On arrival it will be ascertained if there is room in 'jumping off' trench for No.3 Co. If so No.3 Coy will move up and join Nos 2 and 4 Coys No.1 will remain in SUDBURY Trench.

If there is no room in jumping off trench for No.3 Co they will remain in SUDBURY Trench. When this has been done Major Sullivan will send out a reconnoitering patrol to REGINA TRENCH to ascertain whether R.C.R. and 49th are properly established in REGINA Trench and whether block has been established up WEST MIRAUMONT ROAD and in REGINA TRENCH east of junction of WEST MIRAUMONT and REGINA TRENCH. If this has not been done Major Sullivan will have officer i/c reconnoitering party interview officer i/c REGINA TRENCH and find out if this can be done without assistance of PPCLI. If assistance of PPCLI required number to be sent forward will be ascertained and will be supplied by Nos.2 and 4 Coys Please report fully when these instructions have been carried out. Two scouts will report at once to Major Sullivan to act as guides.

Sgd L.V. DRUMMOND HAY Lieut & Asst. Adjt..

No.12.

To: Adjutant PPCLI Recd. 11.30 am 8.10.16
From: Major H.E. Sullivan OC No.2 Co. Sent 10 am 8.10.16.

The R.C.Rs have just been driven out of REGINA TRENCH. They are falling back on the 'jumping off ' trench which is getting crowded. I am withdrawing No.2 Co and if the 49th fall back also No.4 Co. to the FABECK Trench. The rain had made another attack absolutely impracticable.

Sgd H.E. Sullivan Major OC No.2 Co.

No.13.

To Adjutant PPCLI Recd 12.30 pm 8.10.16
From: Major E.H. Sullivan Sent 12 noon. 8.10.16.

I have just retired with my Company to FABECK Trench ~~with my Co.~~ This has caused Nos.1 and 3 Coys to withdraw to the same trench. No.4 Co. is still supporting 49th in the front trench but they have their orders that if the 49th fall back as the RCR have done they must retire to FABECK Trench. The whole of the RCR have been driven out of the REGINA Trench and what is left of them have fallen back to the 'jumping off ' trench. This has become very crowded and dangerous and according to my instructions I have withdrawn No.2 Co to the FABECK Trench. I have given instructions to No.4 Co. that if the 49th fall back as they obviously must ne must bring his Co back to FABECH Trench. The artillery evidently did not do his work and neither the RCR or 49th gained and held their first objective. Before I withdrew my Co I talked the matter over with Major Hudson of the RCR and he and his junior officers agreed with me that the trench was too crowded and that I should withdraw. While I was up there my men worked hard consolidating the jumping off trench and they are now very tired and quite unfitted for any further operations. My casualties are unknown at present but fairly heavy, including Sgt. Major Paterson, wounded,

Sgd H.E. Sullivan Major OC No.2 Co.

No.14

To: RCR., PPCLI and 49th Bn. Recd. 1.30 pm 8.10.16
From: 7th Can. Inf. Bde. Sent 1.05 pm 8.10.16

Lieut. Col. Griedbach, 49th Bn., will take command of the front held by this Brigade and will be responsible for its defence O.C. R.C.R. will co-operate with him and O.C. PPCLI will render necessary assistance.

Sgd 7th C.I.B.

No.15

Same as message No.14

No.16.

To: O.C. No.4 Co. 8.10.16
From: PPCLI Sent 1.30 pm 8.10.16

Instructions have now been received that you are to retire and take up position in the left of SUDBURY TRENCH. No.3 Co. will come up and occupy right of SUDBURY TRENCH. The remainder of the R.C.R. and 49th Bn will hold the 'jumping off' trench. You will hold out [inserted: in] this trench, in close support until you receive further orders. Great care must be exercised in carrying out this retirement. The enemy must not be able to distinguish movement. Col. Griesbach is acting forward Brigadier.

Sgd. J.V. DRUMMOND HAY Lt. & Asst. Adjt.

No.17.

To: O.C. PPCLI Recd. 2.20 pm 8.10.16
From: O.C. 49th Bn. Sent 2 pm. 8.10.16.

Will you be good enough to take over with one platoon the left flank of 49th for these purposes:-

- (a) Watch sap to German line west of 23 Road.
- (b) Connect with patrol with troops on our left.

Sgd. O.C. 49th Bn.

No.18.

To: O.C. No.1 Co. Recd. 8.10.16
From: PPCLI Sent 2.30 pm 8.10.16

Will you please detail a platoon of one Officer and 20 Other Ranks to move up at once and take over left flank of 49th Bn. in 'jumping off' trench for these purposes:-

- (a) Watch sap to German line west of 23 Road.
- (b) Connect with small patrol with troops British on out left.

This was formerly held by No.4 Co, who are now in close support in SUDBURY TRENCH.

Sgd L.V. DRUMMOND HAY Lieut & Actg. Adj

No.19

To: O.C. PPCLI Recd. 2.40 pm 8.10.16
From: O.C. 49th Bn. Sent 2.25 pm. 8.10.16.

Send at once two platoons to jumping off trench astride KENORA. These from SUDBURY. Complete SUDBURY to FABECK. Bombers in KENORA need rifle grenades. Urgent.

Sgd O.C. 49th Bn.

No.20.

To: O.C. No.3 Co. Recd 8.10.16
From: PPCLI Sent 2.35 pm 8.10.16.

Please send at once two platoons to 'jumping off ' trench to take up a position astride KENORA TRENCH. Remainder will be reinforced in SUDBURY TRENCH from No.2 Co.
Sgd L.V. DRUMMONG HAY Lt. & Asst. Adj

No.21.

To: O.C. No.2 Co. Recd. 8.10.16
From: PPCLI Sent 2.40 pm 8.10.16

Please send two platoons to reinforce No.3 Co. in right of SUDBURY TRENCH at once.

Sgd L.V. DRUMMOND HAY Lt. & Asst. Adj

No.22.

To: PPCLI Recd. 7.15 pm 8.10.16.
From: 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. Sent 6.05 pm 8.10.16.

42nd Bn. will tonight relieve RCR and 49th Bns in front line and KENORA TRENCH under arrangements to be made by Bns concerned. PPCLI bombers will remain at the disposal of the 42nd Bn. On relief the RCR and 49th Bns will be formed into a composite Bn. under Lt. Col. Griesbach and will move to trenches in vicinity of CENTRE WAY. 4th CMR Bn has been placed under orders of this Bde. and will tonight relive PPCLI in close support., with two Coys in SUDBURY TRENCH and two Coys in FABECK TRENCH. On relief PPCLI will move into MCDONNELL ROAD. Bn. Hqrs will be established as follows: HQ. 42nd and Hq. CMR in dugout in R.29.g.1.8 now occupied by HQ 49th and RCR Bns. H.Q. will remain in present location. HQ Composite Bn will be R.29.c.9.8. in same dugout as HQ PPCLI. Acknowledge by wire addressed RCR PPCLI 42nd Bn. 49th Bn 4th CMR Bn.

Sgd 7th C.I.B.

No.23.

To: O.C. Coys Recd. 8.10.16
From: PPCLI. Sent 7.40 pm 8.10.16.

The Bn. will be relieved tonight by 4th CMR Bn. The 4th CMR will be in close support with two Coys [inserted: in SUDBURY Trench & two Coys] in FABECK GRABEN. Coys will report Bn. HQ when they are relieved when a guide to new position in MCDONNELL Trench will be obtained. Details in other trenches with RCR and 49th will come out when 'jumping off ' trench is relieved by 42nd Bn. The senior Officer or NCO in charge of these details will report to Bn. HQ where guides to new positions will be obtained. This does not include the Bombers. Bombers in charge of Sgt. Burns will remain at disposal of 42nd Bn Lieut. J.A. Allen will be responsible that this is carried out. O.C. Coys will be responsible that any detail they have in any other part of the line fully understand all orders concerning relief. Only the reserve section of bombers now in KENORA Trench will be re[qu]ired to remain at disposal of 42nd Bn.

Sgd. L.V. DRUMMOND HAY Lt. & Asst. Adjt.

Wed, Nov 1, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE
MT. ST. ELOI 1/11/16 Battalion in rest billets at MT. ST. ELOI.

Thu, Nov 2, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE
2/11/16 Battalion in rest billets at MT. ST. ELOI.

Fri, Nov 3, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE
3/11/16 Battalion relieved 42nd Battalion R.H.C. in left sub-sector of 7th Brigade line during evening.

Sat, Nov 4, to Tue, Nov 7, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE
4/11/16 through 7/11/16 In trenches left sub-sector, LA FOLIE. Situation quiet.

Wed, Nov 8, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE
8/11/16 Relieved during afternoon by 42nd Batt'n. Marched to billets in NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, relieving R.C.R.

Thu, Nov 9 to Sun, Nov 12, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE
9/11/16 through 12/11/16 In brigade reserve in NEUVILLE ST. VAAST. WORKING parties on brigade front.

Mon, Nov 13, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

13/11/16 Relieved 42nd Batt'n in left sub-sector during afternoon.

Tue, Nov 14 to Fri, Nov 17, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

14/11/16 through 17/11/16 In trenches, left sub-sector, LA FOLIE. Enemy more active than during previous tours in this sector. Our snipers, Lewis guns, Stokes mortars active daily. In general. situation quiet.

Work of repairing and revetting trenches actively continued.

Sat, Nov 18, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, FRANCE

18/11/16 Relieved during evening by 42nd Batt'n. On relief companies marched to rest billets at MT.ST. ELOI.

Sun, Nov 19 to Wed, Nov 22, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

ST. MT. ELOI 19/11/16 through 22/11/16 Rest billets MT.ST.ELOI. Co'y parades for pay, baths, instruction in use of new gas helmets &c. Bombing and Lewis Gun classes. P.P.C.L.I. Comedy Co'y played for the batt'n on the evenings of the 19th, 20th and 21st. On Wednesday 22/11/16 battalion route marched to AUBIGNY.

Thu, Nov 23, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

23/11/16 During evening batt'n relieved 42nd Batt'n in left sub-sector, LA FOLIE.

Fri, Nov 24 to Mon, Nov 27, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

24/11/16 through 27/11/16 Trenches. Left Sub-sector, LA FOLIE. Enemy fairly active. Our snipers, Lewis Guns, Stokes Guns and rifle grenade batteries active. Work of repairing and revetting trenches actively continued.

Tue, Nov 28, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

28/11/16 During afternoon relieved by 42nd Battn. Marched to billets in NEUVILLE ST VAAST vacated by 42nd.

Wed, Nov 29 & Thu., Nov 30, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

NEUVILLE ST VAAST 29/11/16 through 30/11/16 In Brigade Reserve at NEUVILLE ST VAAST. Working parties on Brigade front.

[Note transcriber: during November 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant-Colonel Agar Adamson.]

Fri, Dec 1, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

NEUVILLE ST VAAST 1-12-16 Brigade Reserve NEUVILLE ST VAAST. Working parties on Brigade front.

Sat, Dec 2, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

2-12-16 Brigade Reserve NEUVILLE ST VAAST. Working parties on Brigade front.

Sun, Dec 3, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

3-12-16 During afternoon relieved 42nd R.H.C. in left subsector LA FOLIE sector.

Mon, Dec 4, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

LA FOLIE, LEFT SUB-SECTOR 4-12-16 Situation quiet. Continuation of repair and revetting of Trenches.

Tue, Dec 5, 1916 LA FOLIE, SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

LA FOLIE, LEFT SUB-SECTOR 5-12-16 At 5 am a GERMAN patrol of 2 men approached our trench at the junction of CRATER LINE and VERNON SAP from the right of VERNON CRATER. When within our wire they were fired on by our sentry and retired; they were also fired on and bombed from VERNON CRATER.

At 8.30 am LIEUTS. [G.G.] REYNOLDS and [K.C.] BURNES [McG 144] left DURAND CRATER to reconnoitre enemy post between DURAND and DUFFIELD CRATERS, but were observed by enemy patrol who retired. Our patrol returned to starting point and at 8.50 am accompanied by SNIPER LOPSTON [[Loptson](#) S. McG 227] went out again. They made a gap in the enemy wire by removing several frames and entered the post at 9.20 am finding it empty. They damaged the sniping posts destroyed a number of bombs and returned with a pump at 9.30 am.

At 8.23 pm SNIPER LOPSTON [[Loptson](#)] and 2 N.C.O.'s raided this post again and shot the sentry on duty. An enemy patrol of 12 men then approached and our patrol withdrew.

The Divisional Commander sent his congratulations to the officers and O.R. engaged in these raids and special leave was granted to them all.

Wed, Dec 6, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

6-12-16 Situation quiet. Work on trenches continued.

Thu, Dec 7, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

7-12-16 Situation quiet. Work on trenches continued.

Fri, Dec 8, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

8-12-16 At 3.20 am LIEUT. A.A. McDOUGALL [411055] and SGT DOW [N.D. 411006] with 8 O.R. left COMMON No 1 POST to raid enemy post on north side of opposite lip of the crater. LIEUT McDOUGALL and PTE MULLEN [G.H. 51339] advanced to within 6 ft of the post and remained listening. PTE MULLEN then crawled up and discovered 2 enemy sentries. LIEUT McDOUGALL decided to rush the post and secure identification if possible. The enemy sentries were covered with revolvers and ordered to surrender. One fired his rifle and the other threw out a bomb which wounded the officer. The sentries were both killed with revolver fire. Four men carried LIEUT McDOUGALL [inserted: out] the others forming a

covering party. When all was clear SGT DOW destroyed the post with a Stokes shell and the party returned to our trench at 3.35 am. The Divisional Commander sent his congratulations to LIEUT McDOUGALL and SGT DOW and all O.R. who took part in this raid. The Battalion was relieved by the 42nd R.H.C. in the afternoon and marched to MOUNT ST ELOY.

Sat, Dec 9, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

9-12-16 Divisional Reserve MOUNT ST ELOY. General cleaning up and parades for pay and inspection of clothing, arms, feet etc.

Sun, Dec 10, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

10-12-16 Divisional Reserve MOUNT ST ELOY. Church parade at 10 am.

Mon, Dec 11, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

11-12-16 Divisional Reserve MOUNT ST ELOY. Syllabus of training in P.T., musketry, bombing bayonet fighting, drill, Lewis Guns and Signals. P.P.C.L.I. Concert Party at 6 pm.

Tue, Dec 12, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

12-12-16 Divisional Reserve MOUNT ST ELOY. Inspection by Brigadier ordered, but cancelled through bad weather. Concert Party.

Wed, Dec 13, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

13-12-16 Divisional Reserve MOUNT ST ELOY. Training continued during morning. In the evening the Battalion relieved the 42nd R.H.C. in the left subsector LA FOLIE sector.

Thu, Dec 14, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

14-12-16 Situation quiet. Work continued on repair and revetting of Trenches.

Fri, Dec 15, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

15-12-16 Situation quiet. Work on trenches continued.

Sat, Dec 16, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

16-12-16 LA FOLIE LEFT SUB-SECTOR Situation quiet. Work on trenches continued.

Sun, Dec 17, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

17-12-16 Situation quiet. Work on trenches continued.

Mon, Dec 18, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

18-12-16 Situation quiet. Work on trenches continued. Operation orders issued for the blowing of a mine during the night of the 18th/19th

Tue, Dec 19, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

19-12-16 Between the hours of 1.30 and 1.45 a.m. three mines were blown in the vicinity of the GRANGE, BIRKIN, TIDZA groups. The near lips were successfully consolidated with few casualties. Lieut Pearson ([A.G.] PEARSON [51383]) was in charge of the operation in the front line. The new crater has been named PATRICIA The 42nd B'n relieved during the evening and the regiment moved back to reserve at NEUVILLE-ST-VAAST.

Wed, Dec 20, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

NEUVILLE ST.VAAST 20-12-16 Usual working parties furnished to the front line.

Thu, Dec 21, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

21-12-16 Usual working parties furnished to the front line.

Fri, Dec 22, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

22-12-16 Usual working parties furnished to the front line.

Sat, Dec 23, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

23-12-16 Usual working parties furnished to the front line.

Sun, Dec 24, 1916 NEUVILLE ST. VAAST, FRANCE

24-12-16 The Battalion moved up to the front line – LEFT SUB-SECTOR LA FOLIE SECTOR.

Mon, Dec 25, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

LA FOLIE LEFT SUB SECTOR 25-12-16 Situation quiet throughout the day. Numbers of the enemy showed signs of wishing to fraternize and appeared in NO MANS LAND. They were not fired on – every opportunity was given that some of them might come in to our lines – none of them did so however

Tue, Dec 26, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

26-12-16 Situation quiet. Work being carried on in the trenches constantly.

Wed, Dec 27, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

27-12-16 Situation quiet. Work being carried on in the trenches constantly.

Thu, Dec 28, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

28-12-16 Situation quiet. Work being carried on in the trenches constantly.

Fri, Dec 29, 1916 LA FOLIE SECTOR, VIMY, FRANCE

29-12-16 Relieved today by the 42nd Bn and moved to DIVISIONAL RESERVE in the huts at MONT ST. ELOY.

Sat, Dec 30, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

30-12-16 Cleaning up and bath and pay parades.

Sun, Dec 31, 1916 MONT ST. ELOI (ELOY), FRANCE

31-12-16 Church parade in the morning. Company dinners for all ranks in the late afternoon.

[Note transcriber: during December 1916 the Commanding Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. was Lieutenant-Colonel Agar Adamson.]