WAR DIARY 13th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment

1916

March
3rd – 5,6, & 7 am - Bn entrained for Southampton. 7.30pm - Bn sailed for France. Lt.-Col. Boulton and 4 Coys in the 'Marguerite', Major Wynne Willson with Transport and Details in the 'Maidan'.

4th – 6.30am – Bn arrived at Havre, unloaded the 2 ships and proceeded to Docks Rest Camp for the night.
5th – 3 & 8 am – Bn entrained in 2 trains, the 1st under Lt.-Col. Boulton, taking the Bn less 150 men & the transport, and 4 officers, who formed the 2nd train, under Major Wynne Willson. Journey via Rouen, Abbeville, St. Omer & Hasebrouck.

6th – 6 am – Bn arrived at Thiennes station, detrained and went into No. 3 Camp at Steebecque.

6th – 7th – 8th – In camp at Steebecque, draining Camp, making roads etc.

9th – 10am – Bn, less A Coy. Marched to Estaires and billeted there for the night, A Coy. (Capt. W.M. De Paula) went to La Motte, to work under HQ 3rd Army Corps, making hurdles, fascines etc. & cutting brushwood.

10th – 10am – C Coy. (Major H.R.H. Howman) marched to Sailly and went into billets there. B Coy. (Capt. H. Jones) and D Coy. (Capt. S.H. Haden) with HQ went into billets at Laventie. C Coy. Was attached for instruction to the Home Counties Field Coy. RE, B Coy. to the Field Coy. RE and D Coy to the 225th Field Coy. RE.

11th – 25th – From this date B, C, and D Coys. Were employed daily under their instructing units in constructing strong points, reclaiming old trenches, building dug-outs and making breast works in the rear of the front line.

26th – HQ, B, C and D Coys moved into billets at Belle Rive about 5 miles N of Bethune.

27th - A Coy rejoined the Bn leaving 1 officer (Lt. Saunders) to carry on work at La Motte.

28th – 11th April – Bn began construction of a barbed wire entanglement from Gorre – Le Hamel – Les Choquaux to the La Bassee Canal. This work was carried out under the direction of the Chief Engineer, Xith Corps and was supervised by the Anglesey Coy. RE.

April

7th – A Coy moved to Beuvry to work on the 3rd Line defences at Cambrin. They were attached to 18th Bn Middlesex Regt.

12th - The wiring completed.

14th – 22nd – Bn took over from the 10th Bn Welch Regt (Pioneers) of the 38th Div. HQ and all Coys billeted in Essars. The 39th Div. took over their part of the line. The work of the 13th Glos. was draining, making and reclaiming trenches in rear of line Festubert – Givenchy – La Bassee Canal. Also connecting up the 'Islands' on the same line.

23rd – The party left at La Motte under Lt. Saunders joined at Essars. 2 Lt. Callaway joined vice Lt. Hillier, wounded.

26th – 7.30 – 8.30 am – asphyxiating gas and weeping gas were experienced at Essars, but only to a slight extent. No casualties.

28th – 11pm – Night working parties were exposed to gas, without casualties.

30th – Casualties were very slight up to the end of this month, only 1 officer (Lt. G.S.D. Hillier) and 3 other ranks being wounded, none seriously except the officer.

May

1st – 27th - Work continued as last month. A Coy continued to reclaim Pioneer Road. D Coy worked on the back of Fife Rd, George St. and Loop Rd from George St. to the Islands; also on Barnton Rd from the old

German line to the Islands and on the old breastwork between. C Coy. worked on Oxford Terrace, Cambridge Terr, Glasgow St, Bayswater and the upper (east) end of Orchard Rd, also on Cheyne Walk and the Willow. B Coy worked on drainage the system of the Divisional Area.

28th – 3 pm – orders received to evacuate half Essars for the reception of the 118th Brigade, who marched in during the night 28/29 May. On this night Div. Infantry handed over the Festubert section of the line and took over the Auchy section, immediately s. of the La Bassee Canal.

1-31st casualties during the month were as follows:
Officers Killed – none. Wounded – 2nd Lt. Crockford (slightly). Other ranks killed – 1. Died of wounds – 2. Wounded – 13. Accidentally wounded – 2.
During month officers joined the Bn – 2 Lts. F.H. La Trobe, J.G. Pauling & A.O. Miles. A draft of 20 Ors arrived on 20th and one of 3 Ors on 29th. Lt. W.T. Brown RAMC relieved Lt. Angus Campbell on 28 May. Lt. Campbell was transferred to the Mining Rescue School at Bethune.

June

1st – 16th – Work continued by all Coys as last month.

16th – Bn moved into billets at La Couture. 39th Div. took over the Ferme du Bois section of the line, handing over the Givenchy section to the 33rd Div. on our right. The 61st Div. on our left. A Coy continued work on Pioneer Rd. B Coy. continued work on Suez Canal and also on the Courant de Breuve.
C Coy. took over repairs to Rope Walk and Pipe St. D Coy. continued work on the Islands and completed the breastwork mentioned last month.

25th 3 – 4.30 – La Couture bombarded by 4.2 Field Howitzer. 2 direct hits on B Coy's & transport billets. 4 men wounded. A party of 9 officers and 285 men moved to Pacaut to practice pioneer work in connection with a proposed trench attack. Capt. H.D. Hillier was in command of party, which was under orders of the GOC 116 Brigade.

29th-30th – 3.20am – The trench attack mentioned above took place on the night 29/30. The objective was a German 1st and 2nd line on either side of The Boars Head, from S.10.d.0.2 to s.16.a.7.2. The Bn furnished parties to dig out communication trenches in rear of the assaulting infantry. A Coy. with 50 men, connecting saps at s.16.a.7.2. C Coy. extending Bond St., B Coy. extending Vine St. and D Coy. making a breast at s.10.d.0.2. The infantry were the 116 Bde, consisting of 11th, 12th & 13th Sussex and 14th Hants with detachments of RE.

30th – A short report with approx. casualties is attached as appendix A.
A full report will be furnished with the diary of the month of July.
Officers killed – 2nd Lt. A.O. Miles. Wounded- Lt. R.P. Wild, 2nd Lts. N.H. Langley Smith and L.K. Collins.

Appendix A

"A" – This party reached starting point 10 mins before time and were organised into carrying parties to carry up their pickets and hurdles which I had dumped near entrance to Cadburys C.T. Carrying commenced at 12.5 am. Owing to failure of pipe pusher mine breastwork could not be constructed, so a trench was dug, but could not reach enemy saps at Boars Head owing to devil enemy wire, which was not cut. Work was made almost impossible from the beginning by parties of RE trying to get through the saps with hurdles etc. while the infantry were already using it to retire through. Party was then utilised to man fire trenches, as a counter attack was expected. There were not enough infantry to do this. At 6.15 am after consultation with the Infantry Officer i/c of that part of the line the Pioneers were withdrawn, leaving 2 Lewis Guns and team under M.G. Sergt.
Approx. Casualties – 1 officer, 10 OR.

"B" - This party arrived at starting point 2 mins before time and followed their route to position. A 3.12am this party went over into No Man's Land, laid out Communication Trench with cord and electric torch held by an NCO in the German communication trench, our trench was to join up with. Germans were holding their front line 2 bays northward from where we joined it. This party succeeded in completing this communication trench in spite of losing both its officers. Depth of digging taken out varied from 2' to 5' and gave good cover all the way. This Comm. Trench was used for ammunition supply. At times the men had to stop digging to drive off hostile bombing parties approaching from the left flank. This party was withdrawn about 6am. Casualties – Officers – 2. OR - 42.

"C" - This party arrived at starting point at 1.10am and proceeded by route to position, which owing to obstruction was not reached until 3.20am. At this time what was thought to be the 3rd wave of Infantry was retiring, and under these circumstances the officer i/c decided that work on the proposed comm.

Trench was not possible. He then reported to the nearest Infantry Commander who ordered him to man the empty fire bays in front line between Vine and Bond St. and this was done. Later he was ordered to clear 2 comm. Trenches which had been blown in between Vine and Bond St. to enable wounded to be evacuated. On completion of this work he received permission from officer i/c Infantry to withdraw his men. Casualties – 1 officer, 16 OR

"D" - This party arrived at starting point 8 mins before time and followed route to position. On arrival a lot of infantry were still there and the officer i/c was informed that this was the 4th wave which had not yet gone over. Pioneers stood by in bays off Hazara and the officers in charge of party went forward to front line and found remnants of our 3rd wave coming back under heavy shelling and MG fire. The German line where the left flank breastwork was to join it was never taken by our infantry. Under these circumstances work was impossible. This party then moved into front line to man empty fire bays on an order being received from the right that this was to be done. Two Lewis Guns with this party were also placed in position here. There being no infantry officer to report to in this part of the line, the officer i/c of this party organised his men and any infantry who came under his control. On receipt of a verbal message that ammunition was urgently required by our troops holding the German line to the right he organised an ammo. Party and proceeded with it up 'B' party's continuation of Copse St and delivered 2 boxes to the infantry who had sent for it. He attempted to get up a 3rd box and some Mills Grenades but owing to the intensity of the fire on our breastwork, was unable to again cross it. This party later went over again and brought in several wounded. The party was finally withdrawn on receipt of my orders between 7 and 8 am. Some of the infantry who had come into this part of the line taking over the fire bays. Officers- nil. OR – 8.

July

1st – Quiet day. Usual working parties at night. 2 Lt. Vowles with 1 sergt. Went out to try to recover wounded reported still in No Man's Land. Unsuccessful. Heavy bombardment of Divs. on our right and left.

3rd – 9.45am – The raiding party paraded before General Haking, Comd. XI Corps and complimented on their work. 9.30pm raid by 117 Bde in Festubert section. No working parties sent up.

6th – 9.30pm - Bn less B Coy. moved to Gorre. B Coy. remained in La Couture.

7th – 9.15pm – Bn left Gorre for the line. Took over keeps and Village Line in Auchy Section from the 4th Suffolks. Relief completed at midnight. 11pm – La Couture bombarded.

8th – 3pm – C Coy. taken from Keeps to take over mining work at Auchy section. HQ moved to Beuvry, transport & C Coy. billeted there. Major Wynne Willson with A & D Coys left in line, HQ at Wimpole St.

9th – 11am – Men from Village Line put into Keeps. 8.30pm – Left Keeps and took over Village Line and Factory Trench. Handed over to 12th R. Sussex. B Coy. moved to Gorre.

10th – Working, carrying and mining working parties furnished to 116 Bde and 251 Tunnelling Coy. RE.

11th-12th – Maison Rouge heavily bombarded at 4pm 10th. Working party under 2 Lt. Latrobe engaged in support of infantry (13th Sussex) in repelling German raid near No. 11 Brickstack. Successful. No casualties.

13th – Parties as usual.

14th – 6pm – HQ and C Coy. moved to Gorre. 9.30pm – Stores in Village Line and Factory Tr. handed over to 22nd Durham L.I., 8th Div. Pioneers.

15th – 3.30am – Detachment from line moved to Gorre.

16th–20th – Bn in Div. Reserve, ready to move at an hour's notice.

21st–23rd - Each Coy. attached to a Field Coy. RE for work.
A to No. 234 Coy. Area of work – Givenchy R. & L. centre.
B – Drainage.
C to No. 227 Coy. Ferme du Bois
D to No. 225 Coy. Festubert (Cover Trench)
C moved to LaCouture.

24th – Bn concentrated at Gorre. C Coy returned from LaCouture.
2nd Lt. A.L. Crockford awarded MC.

19494 Sgt. R.A. Tresise, 18277 Pte T.G. Boulton awarded DCM (for consp. Bravery in action on night of June 29/30th. D.R.O. No. 306, 24.7.16).
18149 Sgt. H.T. Sutton, 19831 Cpl. R.W. Smiles – MM.

Officers joined the Bn – 2 Lts. S.T. Felstead, H. Starkie, P.A. Drake, C.W.J. Jervis, E.C. Halson, W.A. King, A.C. Barker, E.R.V. Collett, W.J. Bradley.

25th – Under a new scheme of work the Coys. were employed in the Keeps and trenches: C Coy continued on drainage work.

Report on Operations at Boars Head on night June 29/30 attached.
Cas. For month – OR killed – 2. Died of wounds – 1. Wounded – 12.
Cas. In attack on Boars Head – Off. Killed – 1. OR – 10 DOW – OR – 1. Off. Wounded – 4. OR – 57. Missing OR – 13.

Appendix

Notes on attack on German Front Line, north of Boars Head. Night June 29/30 1916
For the above, 285 men, with a proportion of Officers and NCOs were attached to the 116 Infantry Bde which was the Brigade selected for the work.

Main Intention – To capture and hold enemy front line trench from s.16.a.40.6. to s.10.d.17.45 and the support trench from s.16.a.65.55 to s.10.d.25.20 connecting the captured position to our present line on the left and right flanks at s.16.a.3.3 and s.10.d.08.62 respectively.

Pioneer Plan – The pioneers were organised into 4 parties, represent. Of the 4 coys and in future styled A, B, C, or D in accordance with the Coy. from which they were drawn.

Right to Left. "A" to connect Fishtall Sap with German Sap running out from Boars Head, by a breast work. In this they were to be assisted by a detachment from No. 3 Australian Mining Coy. who were to co-operate by blowing a mine by means of the Pipe Forcing Jack between.
"C" to form comm. Trench to captured position in continuation of Bond St.
"B" to form comm. Trench to captured position in continuation of Copse St.
"D" to connect our front line and the captured German trench by a breastwork.

Collection of Material – Owing to the operation having to take place at an earlier date than was expected no material had been collected in forward pioneer dumps, and permission to use RE dumps in front line obtained.

Assembly Orders – As per attached tables.

Report of work of each party –

"A" – This party got a certain number of hurdles etc up to the point of assembly on the night of the operation. The party waited until 3.10am and though under heavy shell fire, had no casualties. At about 3.5am the officer in charge of the Pipe Forcing Jack mine reported that the mine had exploded and that it was sorry that it was a failure, a crater having been formed instead of a trench. At 3.10 an officer and 8 men went up the sap and found a large crater only a few yards from the end of our sap. They crossed No Man's Land to the end of the German sap and found the wire was very thick and not destroyed. Men were at once sent to join up the saps, working from both ends. The work was made impossible almost from the beginning by parties of RE trying to get through with hurdles while the infantry were already trying to come back through the partly formed trench. A shallow trench was formed as far as the German wire. The party was ultimately withdrawn on finding that the infantry had retired and they were working with only Germans in front of them. They then manned the fire bays in our front line and reported to officer in charge of infantry who gave them instructions to withdraw about 6.15am.

"C" – Here the 4th wave of infantry never went over, and at 3.10am the 3rd wave was retiring, making it useless for the pioneers to start their work.

"B" – Went out at 3.10am. A Sergeant and one man went across and sat on German parapet directing the line for the trench with an electric torch. The trench was completed to a max. depth of 5' and a min. 2'.

"D" – On looking over the parapet at 3.10 the remnants of the 3rd infantry wave was coming back under heavy shelling and MG fire. They were also being bombed from the German front line. Under these circumstances the work was out of the question, and the officer in charge of the party reported to the

infantry commander and manned portions of our front line until ordered to get his party out of the line between 7 and 8am.

August

1st–4th - Gorre. Work as last month for all companies.

5th – B & C Coys moved to Le Hamel, taking over billets of 254 Tunneling Coy. RE, Major Wynne Willson in command of detachment.

10th – 11am – Bn relieved by 11th Bn S. Lancs Regt. (Pioneers, 30th Div.) 5pm – Bn marched to Lozinghem and billeted there the night. 2 Lt. J.L. Berry, 4th Black Watch joined the Bn pending transfer.

11th – 4.45pm – Bn marched to Ostreville and billeted there the night.
12th – 6pm – Bn marched to Le Quesnel into billets. All but 12 officers to Averdoingt.
13th – 8am - 100 men per Coy. employed on making rifle range near Monchy Le Breton.
14th – ditto
15th-20th – Bn employed digging system of trenches exact replica of a portion of the German and British line. Flammenwerfer demonstration on 20th.
21st – Rest day.
22nd – Bn on musketry at Averdoingt.
23rd – Bn marched to Rebreuve and billeted there. Under command of GOC 116 Bde.
24th – Bn marched to Baudricourt and billeted there. Under command of GOC 116 Bde.
25th – Bn marched to Warnimont Wood & bivouacked. On conclusion of march left 116 Bde.
26th – Bn marched to Mailly-Maillet Camp, Huts and tents.
27th – Rest
28th – Coys to work. A Coy Thiepval Wood building emplacements for 3rd MMG Coy.
B Coy Charles Avenue widening and duck boarding. New trench, Prospect Pt-Pottage Trench.
C Coy Charles Avenue, widening and duck boarding. Pont St. clearing.
D Coy New trench Prospect Point-Pottage Trench.
Lewis Gunners – widening and duck boarding Royal Avenue.
29th – Work as usual.
30th – ditto. Camp and vicinity bombarded at 3, 4.15 and 9pm.
31st - Camp and vicinity bombarded intermittently from 2am. Lewis Gunners only to work on line. Remainder making shelter trench at bottom of camp. Casualties for month – Killed – 3 OR. Wounded – 8 OR.

September

1st - Camp heavily bombarded. During day, Bn dug trenches under bank below road, for shelter.
2nd – Continuous bombardment of enemy line in preparation for attack tomorrow. 4.30pm half of C Coy under Major Howman went up to take up position for attack. 7.30pm Half of C Coy under Capt. Davis went up to take up position for attack. Report of C Coys action attached.
3rd – 5am – Intense bombardment of enemy line started. Attack on enemy trenches began. Weather fine, visibility good. Bn in divisional reserve. 6pm – A, B and D Coys went up to clear our trenches where blocked by shell fire and corpses. All Coys subjected to 5 hour bombardment with gas shells and HE. Little work possible.
4th – Bn formed reserve to 118 Bde. Moved up to reserve trenches at Q27 a & b.
5th – 7pm – Ceased to be attached to 118 Bde. Returned to Mailly-Maillet Wood shelters. Wood heavily shelled during night.
6th-7th – Dug-outs constructed under road below wood.
7th – ordinary Pioneer work.
8th-10th – A Coy making dug-outs in St. Jean St. & Victoria St.
B Coy improving & trench boarding Charles Avenue, Royal Avenue, Jacob's Ladder.
D Coy improving & trench boarding Gabion Avenue and Constitution Hill.
C Coy making emplacements in Constitution Hill under 2nd R.A.R.E.
6-7pm small gas balloons sent over by Germans, which dropped pamphlets at intervals. No shelling of camp on 8th, 9th or 10th.

11th – D Coy began work on new comm. Trench along railway embankment in valley of Ancre (Iron Rd)

11th -21st – Work continued as above. On 17th D Coy (1 Platoon) employed cleaning and repairing road in Mesnil.

21st – 5pm – Bn moved into billets in Mailly-Maillet.

24th – Work of B & D Coys altered to B Coy. Improving & trench boarding Tipperary Avenue and road in Mesnil.
25th – No working parties at night.
26th – Bn in reserve to 116 & 118 Bdes. No working parties. Stood by from 7am to zero hour for feint attack by 39th Div. 12.55pm.
26th-27th – Midnight. 4 officers, 200 OR employed as carrying party for 118 Bde.
27th - 3.30pm – Stand by cancelled. Ordinary working parties resumed, except A & D Coys (less Mesnil Rd party) who were at disposal of 118 Bde for carrying. 8pm carrying parties for 118 Bde.
28th-30th – Ordinary Pioneer work and carrying parties.

The following officers left the Bn on transfer –
21st – Capt. S.H. Haden to 1/5th Glos.
27th – 2 Lts. W.A. King, S.T. Felstead, E.C.L. Callaway, E.R.V. Collett, W.J. Bradley to 1st Glos.
10th – 2 Lt. H.G. Kirk to RFC
The following officers arrived -
20th – 2 Lts. J.R. Framton and J.V. Taylor.
Casualty report for month – Killed – 3 OR. Wounded – 31 OR.
Missing – 2 Lt. Bennett. 3 OR
Gassed – 2 Lt. Starkie. 5 OR
Died of wounds – 2 OR.

Appendix

Left Half Coy. operations on Sept. 3rd

Half 'C' Coy. worked under 117 Bde. No. 11 Platoon was detailed to work from No. 1 Sap. No. 12 Platoon from No. 2 Sap. ½ Coy. HQ No.1 Sap.
The half Coy. left Camp for points of assembly in the saps at 4.30pm on Sept. 2nd. Assembly complete reported to Brigade at 8.30pm. Zero was at 5.10am Sept. 3rd. Sap exits were 70 yards out in No Man's Land.
The exit of No.2 Sap was under heavy shell fire all day and both ends were several times broken in. The exit of No.1 Sap was practically free from shell fire, and from it infantry were seen advancing and retiring almost immediately, reporting enemy holding front line. Messages asking for support were sent back by infantry through the sap.
At 7.6 message sent back to Bde HQ stating that work from the sap had not been started as infantry reported enemy holding their front line. Message from Bde HQ. Time 7.30am "Start work at once." R. Battalion is in German trenches also portion of left. Message received about 8am and duplicate about 8.30am. Message acknowledged at 8.35am as follows – "Order received. Work was put in hand on receipt of first order.My men have been bombed out of the shell holes they were connecting up. The sap head itself is completely under rifle fire from German line. I am commencing a new sap head entrance to gallery."
At 10.45am sent message to HQ 17th Notts & Derby's asking if they could tell me who was then holding German line front of No.1 Sap. Reply timed 11.30am "Give no information at all."
3pm message to Bde HQ "Am continuing No.1 Sap according to your BM/135 AAAO i/c Sap recommends that my extension should be stopped and the tunnel temporarily blocked with sandbags as long as the enemy is holding his position opposite and there are no infantry in our own front line."
Reply timed 3.45pm "You will cease work in the Saps taking care to block up the entrance in order to deny the enemy AAA. After completion of your work you may rejoin your unit." Half Coy. completed work and withdrew about 5.30pm.
H.R. Howman, Major
OC 'C' Coy. 13th Glos.

Operations 3rd Sept. Report from No.9 Platoon, 2nd Lt. Bennett in charge:

Left Mailly wood – 7.30pm on 2.9.16
Arrived No.4 Sap in Gordon Trench – 1.30am 3.9.16
Infantry attack – 5.10am. This failed
2nd infantry attack – 10.30am. This failed
Owing to failures we carried out no work.
Received order to report at Hamel about 1pm.
Left Sap about 2.30pm
Arrived Camp about 6pm
Casualties – Reported killed – 1 officer. Missing – 3 OR. Wounded – 3 OR.
John Davis, Capt. i/c Half Coy.

Report from No.10 Platoon, 'C' Coy. 13th Glouc. During operations 3rd Sept. 1916:

No.10 Platoon left camp at Mailly Wood at 6.15pm on 2nd Sept. 1916 and arrived at assembly place in valley behind Roberts Trench at 12.45am. The platoon was ready to work at the time specified but owing to the failure of the infantry attack it was not possible to commence work on the digging of a Comm. Trench acoss No Man's Land. At about 6am I communicated with the Officer commanding Pioneers in the right sector requesting further orders. I received a reply informing me that the attack was at a standstill and was to await further orders. Shortly after 2pm I received an order to withdraw immediately. This was done and with the remainder of my Platoon I arrived at camp at 5pm. The following casualties were sustained – 2 killed, 5 wounded.
S.T. Felstead, 2nd Lt.

October

1st–2nd – Work as last month.
3rd – 12 noon – Bn went into billets at Englebelmer.
4th – 1pm – Bn went into billets at Martinsart.
5th – 'A', 'B' & 'C' Coys left for work in the line. HQ and D Coy. remained.
'B' Coy. clearing dugouts in Thiepval. 'A' Coy. working on Authville-Thiepval Rd (stationed at Quarry Post).
'C' Coy. laying and repairing tramways from Passerelle de Magenta across S. Causeway. (stationed at Blighty Valley).
7th – HQ removed to dug out at Pioneer Rd.
9th – 'D' Coy. employed on HTM emplacement in Logacre, completing work begun by 'C' Coy. last month.
'A' Coy. employed on dug outs in Thiepval and clearing old German line.
11th – 'A' and 'B' Coys started communication trench from O.G.L. to Crucifix.
14th – 2.45pm – Attack by 39th Div. on Schwaben Redoubt, north face, which still remained in German hands. 'A' Coy. detailed to consolidate by night, under 234 Field Coy. RE.
15th – 6am – Attack entirely successful. 'A' Coy. returned to Quarry Post. Lt. Saunder's report attached as Appendix.
16th – 'A' Coy. employed on comm. Trench across Schwaben Redoubt. Other Coys. as before.
17-18th – Work as usual, much interrupted by shelling.
19th – 'D' Coy. detailed to consolidate ground gained in projected attack on Stuff Trench, 116 Bde in attack, D Coy. attached to this Bde, to work in conjunction with 227 Field Coy. RE. Operations postponed owing to weather. One Platoon 'B' Coy. attached 117 Bde.
20th – Further postponement till 21st.
21st – Attack took place. Weather fine and clear. Zero hour 12.6pm. D Coy. in dugouts in Thiepval till evening. C Coy. called up to assist D Coy. Attack successful. Remainder of B Coy. called on by GOC 117 Bde for carrying parties. Detailed report attached. (Appendix B)
22nd – 6.30pm – A Coy. dug trench from R19 c 9.1-8.6.
23rd – B Coy. employed in forming RE forward dump at R25 b2.9. C Coy. employed in digging trench R 19 d 3.7-9.7 (Schwaben redoubt) Very heavily shelled and dispersed.
D Coy. employed in digging trench R19 c.9.1-d.2.9-4.5.
6.30pm A Coy. attempted to dig trench R19 d.0.3-1.6-2.9. Unable to work as RE could not locate position.
During the day A and C Coys moved to bivouacks at HQ at Pioneer Rd, B Coy moved one platoon from Blighty Valley to Lancashire Dump.
24th – night - No working parties owing to wet.
25th – B Coy. took over work on Tramways. 2 Platoons moved from Wunderwerk to S. Bluffs, near Authville.
25th-26th night – A & C Coys under RE officers attempted to dig trenches near Schwaben Redoubt. Total failure as points could not be located, shell fire very heavy and state of ground made any digging impossible. C Coy. sustained heavy casualties.
26th – D Coy. employed clearing and metalling Authville-Thiepval Rd.
27th – A & C Coys employed laying duckboards from old British line to OGL under 234 Coy. RE.
30th – A Coy. worked with 225 Coy. RE carrying and laying duckboards from OGL to Schwaben.
31st – Ordinary work.
Casualties for month – Killed – 1 officer 2 Lt. P.A. Drake. 13 OR. Missing – 1 OR. Wounded – 43 OR. DOW – 3 OR.
Capt. H. Jones awarded MC on Sept. 28th for gallant conduct 3/4th Sept. (omitted in last months diary).

Appendix A

To C.R.E., 39th Div.
From OC 13th Glouc. Regt.

With reference to 39th Div. RE order No.1 of Oct. 11th 1916:

In accordance with para.2 of above order, I detailed 'A' Coy. of this Bn for the work therein mentioned. I have received the following report from Lt. P.E.H. Saunders who was in command of 'A' Coy. for these operations –

Report on Ops 6pm 14.10.16 to 6am 15.10.16. Consolidating Schwaben Redoubt.

5.45pm Coy. left Quarry Post. Nos. 1 and 2 Platoon proceeding via Pip Street to Thiepval to HQ 234 Field Coy. RE. Nos. 3 and 4 Platoons proceeded via Wood Post, Old German Line, and Authville and Thiepval Rd to point R25.c.64. I accompanied the latter party.
6.55pm I arrived with Nos. 3 and 4 Pls at R25c64 and handed over No.4 Pl. to OC No.4 Section 234 Field Coy RE and placing No.3 Pl in dugouts at this point in reserve. Enemy artillery barrage on Authville and Thiepval Rd, We got through without casualties.
7.15pm I reported personally to Capt. Wood, RE at Bn HQ Thiepval.
My orders were as follows –
1. No.2 Platoon to consolidate Point 99 in conjunction with No.2 Section RE.
2. No.1 Platoon to consolidate Point 69 in conjunction with No.1 Section RE.
3. No.4 Platoon to consolidate Point 39 in conjunction with No.4 Section RE.
4. No.3 Platoon to be in reserve.

7.20pm My runners with Nos.1 and 2 Pls reported both platoons handed over to Ocs Nos 1 and 2 Sections RE at 7pm.
7.25pm I was informed by Capt. Wood that all objectives had been taken with the exception of Point 99. No.2 received orders to proceed as far as possible and if point not taken to put in bomb stop where required.
7.30pm I received an order from Capt. Wood to dig a communication trench across the Schwaben from point 65 to near point 69. I detailed No.3 Pl. for this work under 2nd Lt. Taylor, who was accompanied by an RE officer as guide.
9pm Received info. That No.2 were held up by bombing attack on point 99 and were being heavily shelled. Was informed 2 Coys of KKR had been sent up in support and that the Cambridgeshires were in possession of 99 and that No.2 were proceeding.
9.40pm Report received that No.4 were hung up in OGL by artillery barrage. Orders were sent to party to get forward, which they did. They were informed by OC that wire was required on right section and that it was urgently required. The party got all the wire required up to the front line, carrying from Dump to the several companies.
11.10pm It was reported that all the Schwaben was captured and that covering party had pushed out 100yrds in advance of Point 99.
1.50am No.3 Pl. was withdrawn, having succeeded in digging over 80 yrds of trench across the Schwaben to a depth of 5 feet, besides making a journey to the front line with wire.
2.50am Withdrew No.4 Pl. having completed their task as described above.
3.15am Recalled No.2 Pl. This Platoon succeeded in consolidating the right section. The RE section failed to arrive (or very few of them) and RE officer was wounded at 1am. 2nd Lt. La Trobe was congratulated by OC Black Watch for the good work carried out by the Pioneers under at times very heavy fire.
4.50am Recalled No.1 Pl. This platoon consolidated the centre section very successfully and 2nd Lt. Lowe did very good work. This Pl was under heavy shell fire.
6am Coy. arrived Quarry Post, having been on duty for over 12 hours.
Capt. Wood, RE expressed his satisfaction with the work done by the Coy. and will communicate direct thereon.
I regret to report the following casualties:
Wounded – 18091 Merritt, Sergt. D.W. (slightly)
25102 Balsom, Pte W.H.
17925 Thomas, Pte I.
18059 Baigent, Cpl. O.I.
18086 Sheppard, Pte T.
19569 Fletcher, Pte H.
19468 Pedley, Pte I.
26190 Fear, Pte F.K.
17952 Hall, Pte N.
17948 Griffiths. Pte S.E.
19328 Taylor, Pte A.E.W.

Wounded (shell shock): 18662 Acton, Cpl. T.
Missing (believed wounded): 18607 Merry, Pte G.

Appendix B

Work of 'C' and 'D' Coys.

Comm. Trench from point 27 to point 62 completed to average of 6' cover. Comm. Trench on right of sector from Bainbridge Trench to Point 85 completed to average of 5' cover.

Work of 'C' Coy: Orders were received at 7.30 to be ready to move. OC Coy. reported to GOC 116 Bde. The Coy. moved up at 9pm to assist 'B' Coy. and 227 Field Coy. RE in consolidating Stuff Trench. Lt. Drummond was in command. The Coy had never worked in this area, and no guides could be furnished. However point 27 was reached, the Coy marching by compass and stars. Nos. 9 and 10 Platoons worked with 'D' Coy to Pt 62. Nos 11 and 12 Pls reported to 227 Coy RE at Bn HQ, Zollern Trench, after first going to R20d3.5. The men remained there under an officer while another officer reported to Zollern Trench, where he was told that work on the projected centre trench was impossible. These 2 pls returned to billets at 4.30am. Nos. 9 and 10 Pls returned about 6.30am having completed the trench from point 27 to 62 in conjunction with D Coy. One casualty (very slight) was sustained.

Work of No. 8 Platoon, B Coy.
In accordance with with orders from 39th Div. one platoon of B Coy. was placed at the disposal of GOC 117 Bde from zero hour (12.5) on the day of the attack (21st Oct.) No.8 Platoon was detailed under command of 2nd Lt. Ryder. At 4.45 they reported at the Bn HQ of the 16th Rifle Brigade, from where a guide took them to Coy. HQ. Thence they were directed to point 47. They reached this point, passing through a heavy barrage, and found it held by a single bomber of the R.B. The fire was too heavy to work on top, and the enemy were seen crawling about 50 yds away, 30 of the men sapped, working in shifts. Two men acted as Guard on the Bombing Post. On the NE side of Point 47, 7-8 yds were dug to a depth of between 4'6" and 5'. On the SW side 4 yds were dug to the same depth. The Pl. worked for 2 hrs 20 mins. They then reported to Bn HQ 16th RB and were told to retire, and reached billets at midnight. Casualties: 2 killed, 3 wounded. 2nd Lt. Ryder brought in a wounded officer (Lt. Clifford) of the 17th Sherwoods from the trench between the bombing blocks.

Work of Nos 6 and 7 Platoons, B Coy.
These 2 Pls under 2nd Lt. Crockford carried bombs and ammunition to Market Trench. There the guides furnished could not find the way to Point 65. 2nd Lt. Crockford spent 2½ hrs trying to find the point but failed. He then deposited the bombs and informed the Brigade Bombing Officer.

Work of No.5 Pl. (Lt. Vowles)
Pl arrived at Paisley Dump about 9.30pm and was kept till 11.30. The guides provided had no idea of the way. Two new guides were provided and an officer of the Sherwood Foresters who had been to Schwaben Redoubt before. The Staff Capt. 117 Bde put the officer in charge of 25 machine gunners, as well as his own men. Reached Schwaben via Martins Lane about 1am. Martins Lane was very heavily shelled and the shelling grew more intense towards the Schwaben. The men had to lie down in the bottom of the trench. Lt. Vowles got about a dozen men into a dugout, but found they had lost touch with the rear party. Lt. Vowles since found that these men being unable to regain touch and having found no guide, deposited their bombs at the end of Martins Lane. Lt. Vowles went to Bn HQ in the Schwaben and was told to take what stores he had left to Coy. HQ which he did. The Machine Gunners who were in front of the Gloucesters, lost touch. I delivered the bombs at 5am.

Work of D Coy. At 5.30pm Capt. Hillier was instructed by GOC 115 Bde to send his Coy to Bainbridge Trench and redig comms between this trench and Stuff trench. Instructions were given to each platoon to leave a runner at the nearest Bn HQ in the line and that messages should frequently be sent stating progress. The 4 Pls started shortly before 9pm.
13 & 14 Pls reached their work at midnight and were able to finish by 4.45am, shell fire being moderate.
15 & 16 Pls reached their work at 2am, being held up by a Bn of infantry ahead of them. They completed their work by 5am without any very heavy shelling. All Pls were in billets by 9am 22.10.16. Casualties: 5 wounded.

November

1st–4th - Work as last month.
5th – A Coy worked with 227 Coy RE on Authville-Thiepval Rd, also erecting huts, repairing screens on road etc. B Coy continued working on tramways. C Coy worked with 234 Coy RE repairing dugouts, making CT across Schwaben redoubt, trenchboarding etc. D Coy worked with 225 Coy RE clearing extension of Inniskilling Avenue across Pt91 in OGL.
6th-11th – Work continued as above for Nov. 5th.
12th – All working parties withdrawn by noon "Y" Day.

13th – 4.15am "Z" Day
Bn moved out to assembly position in Aveluy Wood.
5.15 – Bn in position.
5.45 Zero hour 39th Div. attacked Hansa Line. Attacking troops were 118th Bde plus one Bn each from 115th and 117th.
10am – Bn moved up for work repairing road from Hamel to St. Pierre Divion, by Coys in the order B,A,D,C, the last Coy moving off at 11.50am. B Coy started work at 1pm.
1.30pm – D & C Coys started work but heavily shelled and obliged to take cover. When the shelling slackened the road was cleared. A,D,C Coys returned to billets. B Coy ordered to report to 1/6th Cheshire Regt at St. Pierre Divion, to dig trenches. B Coy returned to billets at midnight.

14th – A Coy worked on St.P. Divion Rd 9am-1pm.
15th – 12.15pm Bn moved to Warloy.
16th – 10am – Bn moved to Longuevillette via Contay and Candas.
17th – 10.30am – Bn moved to Autheux.
18th – 9.30am – Bn moved to Doullens to entrain to Poperinghe. Arrived 12mn and went into billets.
19th – 7am – Bn entrained for Esquelbecq and marched from there to Zeggers Cappel and went into billets.
20th-1st Dec. – Bn rest and training at Zeggers Cappel.
The following officers were evacuated during the month:
18th – Lt.Col. A.H. Boulton, accidentally injured.
25th – Lt. M.D.C. Drummond sick.
Casualty report for month – wounded 5 OR.

December

2nd – 12 noon – Bn moved into the Ypres area and took over Pioneer billets. HQ and A & D Coys went into billets in the Canal Bank. B & C went into billets of Les Trois Tours.
2nd-18th – Bn relieved 19th Welsh (Pioneers) continued their work as follows:
A Coy. Extension of Costhorpe Rd and new trench Coney St. to Cowthorpe and dugouts in Canal Bank.
B Coy. Making new front line between Skipton CT and Ealing CT. Repairing Colne Valley CT. Improving billets at Trois Tours.
C Coy. Repairing Essex Trench. Reclaiming X Line in L Bde Section. Patrolling drains in L. Bde Sector.
D Coy. Cleaning and repairing Cavan trench.
19th – B Coy. handed over part of their work on Ealing to C Coy and took over the trams on Div. front. C Coy began repairs to Avenue to Les Trois Tours.
27th – A Coy started work on Dawson City Drain. C Coy started a dugout at Trois Tours for the APM and a cage for prisoners.
Casualties for month: 1 OR DOW.
2nd Lt. H. Haton joined the Bn from No. 55 I.B.D. 23.12.16

1917

January

1st – Bn continued work begun in December.
7th – A Coy deepening Boar Lane.
9th – D Coy reclaiming and draining old CT from Hilltop Farm to Bilge Trench.
10th – 2pm – Poperinghe shelled for first time in some months. The billets of the detachment (B & C Coys) at Les Trois Tours were shelled for the first time. One shell fell close to the hut occupied by 'B' Coy. Signallers responsible for 13 casualties (2 killed and 11 wounded).
11th – Orders received that the Bn would move into 55th Div. Area on Jan. 14th. Coy. officers made a reconnaissance of the work of the 1/4 S. Lancs (Pioneers) and advance parties of C and D Coys went over that night to occupy billets vacated by 1/4 S. Lancs.
12th – 7pm – Two Coys of 19th Welsh (Pioneers) arrived without warning from Trois Tours.
13th – Strong advance parties of A and B Coys sent to occupy billets vacated by 1/4 S. Lancs.
14th – HQ and remainder of Bn moved to billets as follows – HQ & D Coy. at Brandhoek. A,B, C in the town of Ypres.
15th – Work started as follows:
A Coy repairing Picadilly, West Lane & Mud Lane CTs.
B Coy draining Divisional Area leaving 2 Platoons for work on Haymarket CT.
C Coy work on Garden City, New St. John & Strand CTs.
D Coy repairing billets at Brandhoek

Casualties for month:
OR – 3 killed. 1 Missing. 2 DOW. 16 wounded.

Honours and Awards appeared in New Years Honours

DSO – LtCol. A.H. Boulton
MID – Capt. W.M. de Paula, 2nd Lt. S. Harryman, LtCol. A.H. Boulton, DSO
MM:
19426 Cpl. W. Chant (D Coy)
20255 Pte J. Smith (C Coy)

The following officers joined the Bn:
9th – 2 Lts. E.G. Richards, J. Close, W. Remington
16th – 2 Lts. A.V. Birch, W.L. Taylor
23rd – 2 Lt. E.W. Kenward
24th – 2 Lt. A.F. Hall, G. Wrighton.
2nd Lt. S. Harrymam was transferred to the RFC on the 11th.

February

17th Feb – Handed over to 1/4 S. Lancs.
17-18th - Bn marched to billets in Poperinghe
18th – 10.30am - Bn entrained at Cheese Market for Zeggers Cappel – detrained at about 1.30pm
23rd – CO and Adjutant to Ypres to arrange take over from 9th S. Staffords 23rd Div.
24th – Advance parties from B, C, and D Coys to Ypres by lorry.
25th – B and C Coys entrained at Zeggers Cappel for Ypres relieved B and C Coys 9th S. Staffs.
26th – A & D Coys entrained for Ypres to relieve remainder of 9th S. Staffs. A Coy attached to 2nd Canadian Tunnelling Coy. 39th Div transferred to X Corps.

Officers joined:
2nd Lt. Quinton O.P. 6th Feb.
2nd Lts Beel W.D. and Farr L.C. 20th
Lt. Dewe C.D.E. & Hillier G.S.D. 20th.
2nd Lt. Pawsey J.C. 26th

Casualties for month: Wounded 3 OR. Wounded (gassed) 6 OR. DOW 1 OR.

March

1st – HQ billeted in Ramparts near Lille Gate.
A Coy. at Reninghelst attached to 2nd Canadian Tunneling Coy.
B Coy. at Infantry Barracks. Working on Divisonal Tramways
C & D Coys at Cavalry Barracks (heavily shelled causing casualties)
C Coy protecting billets, D Coy new CT.

6th – A Coy left Tunneling Coy and billeted at Divisional Reinforcement Camp.
7th – A Coy work new CT Stafford St. to Halifax.
12th – A Coy moved to Ypres & billeted at Infantry Barracks.
14th – HQ heavily shelled, casualties caused.
22nd – 6.30-8pm – HQ heavily shelled.
24th – 5.30-6pm – HQ heavily shelled, one deep dugout damaged.
26th – 1-2pm – HQ heavily shelled, main gallery blown in. 10.30pm moved to transport lines.
29th – HQ moved into Cavalry Barracks, Ypres.
Capt. E.T. Burr appointed Staff Capt. to 4th Army, transf. to General List
Capt. J.F. Davis to England sick 13.3.17.
LtCol. A.H. Boulton rejoined Bn 4.3.17

Casualties for month: Killed 7 OR. DOW 4 OR. Wounded 27 OR.

April

9th – A & C Coys started work on Wall of China digging 3 drains and cutting new CT called Oxford St.
Remains of Tower of Cathedral, Ypres removed by RE.
7.30 Bn stood to in billets for an hour during enemy attack on R. Sector.

12th – D Coy moved to D Camp to build new Div. HQ.
17th – HQ moved to D Camp. A & C Coys moved to Canal Bank and took over work from 19th Welsh. B Coy moved into billets at Rubrouck for training.
20th – A Coy constructing new trench behind Bilge Tr.

26th – A Coy constructing new CT between Gowthorpe & Coney St.
29th – A and B Coys changed billets and work.

Casualties for month:
Wounded in action – 6 OR

2nd Lt. R.V. Ryder transf. to RFC. 18th.
Major Wynne-Willson period of leave extended being found unfit to return. Struck off strength of Bn.
2 Lt. J. Close to England 27.3.17 (21 days sick leave)

May

1-31st – Work carried on.

12th – A Coy back from Rubrouck relieved C Coy.
18-20th – A and B Coys dug, revetted and sandbagged Bellingham Trench.
24th – C Coy moved to D Camp & D Coy to Canal Bank.
26-27th – A,B & D Coys dug Armytage Trench. C Coy dug Garden St.
27-28th – C & D Coys revetted & trench boarded Armytage Tr.
Casualties for month – Nil.

June

During month new trenches and CTs were dug and completed.

6-7th – B,C & D Coys joined up posts making it possible to move along front line in daylight.
16th – C Coy and HQ moved to Canal Bank from D Camp.
23rd – D Coy moved to C Camp, C Coy taking over their dugouts in E. bank of Canal.
26-30th – A & C Coys dug Hornby Tr to junction of Gillson St. Work delayed by heavy rain.
All work was much delayed during the month by continuous shell fire in CTs and also on the work.
Our working parties were fired on by enemy aircraft. Canal Bank was frequently shelled and caused heavy damage to dugouts and casualties. Our guns did not appear to make any reply.

Casualties for month:
Killed: 3 OR
Wounded: 1 officer, 24 OR (Capt. H. Jones wounded in action 26.6.18)
DOW: 1 OR

2nd Lt. R.P.H. West joined Bn 15.6.17
2nd Lt. L.C. Dennis joined Bn 18.6.17

July

1st-29th – Bn employed on completion of assembly trenches, maintenance of CTs and fire trenches, construction of tramways and dugouts in preparation for offensive operations.

11th – B Coy detached for instruction in railway construction.
29th – Bn (less B Coy) withdrawn to C. Brigade Group of Camps.
30-31st night - Bn (less B Coy) returned to Canal Bank arriving about 2am (Zero hr at 3.50am)

31st (Z Day) Bn (less B Coy) detailed to repair Buffs Rd.
5.45am Bn ordered to move forward and first shift (13 off. 324 OR) was clear of Canal Bank at 6.57am.
12 noon - Buffs Rd reported fit for field guns.
2pm – 2nd shift relieving first shift 2.45pm.
4pm – 1st shift returned Canal bank. 11pm – 2nd shift returned.
Parties experienced considerable shelling during the day and a mine blew up in road about 60 yrds w. of road junction killing 2 men.
Casualties: 1 off. 4 OR.
Wounded 23 OR
B Coy employed on light railways under ADLR reported casualties 23 OR.

31st – Casualties for month:
Killed – 2 off. (2Lt. J.R. Frampton 3.7.17 and 2 Lt. H. Eaton 31.7.17) 14 OR
Missing believed wounded: 2 OR
Missing bld. Killed 2 OR
Wounded 68 OR

DOW: 2 OR
Gassed: 4 OR
Died from shell gas: 2 OR.

10th - 2Lt. Farndell (RofO) joined Bn.
Greatly increased activity on part of hostile artillery during the month especially in the use of a new type of gas shell containing Mustard Oil.

12th – LtCol. A.H. Boulton admitted 134 FA.
2nd Lts. H(?) W. Kenward to England 13.7.17 sick
F.H. LaTrobe to England 12.7.17 sick
G. Wrighton to England 18.7.17 sick
S.G. Dennis classified as neurasthenia & struck off strength 27.7.17

Awards
19396 Sgt. J.W. Buffrey
25220 Pte G. Stevens
17901 Pte L.A. Avery
Awarded MM by GOC XVIII Corps for gallantry and devotion to duty.

August

1-4th – Bn less one Coy. employed repairing and widening Buffs Rd.
5th – Bn less 1 Coy moved back into bivouacks near Vlamertinghe and handed over work to 6th R. Sussex (Pioneers).
8th – noon – Bn less 1 Coy entrained at Vlamertinghe for Caistre, thence by lorry to Bethen to rest.
15th – Bn less 1 Coy moved by lorry from Bethen to Vierstraat and took over bivs and work from 19th Bn Middlesex (Pioneers).
17th – B Coy rejoined Bn.
15-31st – Coys employed: A repairing Oaf Avenue CT
B repairing mule track
C building plank road under X Corps
D repairing Optic Avenue CT and start digging Imperial Avenue CT
Casualties: Wounded 11 OR. DOW 2 OR.
Awards:
18126 Sgt. H. Vaughan
17927 Sgt. T. Dorrington
17896 Pte F. Clifton
17913 Pte W.E. Brown
MM by GOC XVIII Corps
9th – H.L.D. Gill, MC joined the Bn

September

A,C,D Coys employed on road repairs and formation of mule tracks in conjunction with active operations in Shrewsbury Forest on Sept. 20th and capture of Tower Hamlets on Sept. 26th. B Coy laying and maintaining trench tramways in same area.

29th – Bn withdrawn to IX Corps Area for rest on the Div. being withdrawn from the line.
Casualties for month:
KIA 7 OR
DOW 1 OR
Wounded 35 OR

Awards:
T/Capt. P.E.H. Saunders awarded MC (DRO 4.9.17)
T/Capt. W.T. Brown, RAMC awarded MC (DRO 4.9.17)
Lt-Col. A.H. Boulton, DSO struck off strength (Medical Board ordered)
2Lt. J.G. Pauling to England 11.9.17 (accidentally injured)

October
2nd – Bn less 'A' Coy. moved into huts at Locre and worked on Horse Standings. A Coy went into camp near Brasserie and worked under X Corps on Morland Avenue.
16th – Bn moved to Godezonne Farm.
17th – commenced work on Northern Track.
22nd – Stopped work on NT and began on Plumers Drive under X Corps.

17th – Training Coy formed at Godezonne Farm for new draft (Ex Res.)
28th – Bn less Training Coy. moved to camp between Voormezeele and Lock 8.
30th – again started work on Northern Track.

Casualties for month:
Killed 1 OR. Wounded 7 OR

Lt-Col. A.H. Boulton joined 17.10.17 from sick leave.
2Lt. A.H. Richie joined 1.10.17 on appointment
2Lt. H.B. Harvey joined 29.10.17 on app.
Capt. H.D. Hillier & 2 Lt. F.B. Whittall proceeded to England for 6 months rest 4.10.17
Lt. C.W.J. Jervis proceeded to England 22.10.17 pending embarkation to India for transfer to Indian Reserve.

November

1-23rd – Work on mole track called Gloucester Drive was continued and practically completed.
11th – C & D Coys started work on Plumers Drive
16th – C & D Coys started to revet CT to Menin Rd
24th – HQ, A & C Coys moved to Salvation Corner.
25th – B & D Coys moved to Salvation Corner
26th – Bn started work under VIII Corps repairing and maintaining roads toward Passchendaele & A Coy provided the patrol for Spree Farm water point.

Casualties for month: 1 OR killed, 29 OR wounded.

December

1-7th – A,B and 7 Coys employed on construction of new plank road from Zonnebeke to Seine, and D Coy on road repairs between Frezenberg and Zonnebeke.

8th – Bn entrained at Ypres – Asylum Station – for Steenvoorde area.
10th – Bn entrained at Godesvaervelde for Desvres, thence to billets at Bournonville for rest and training.
29th – Bn proceeded by march route to Harlettes.
30th – Bn proceeded by march route to Wizernes and entrained for Elverdinghe with 116 Bde Group - thence by march to Siege Camp.

23rd – Lt. J.L. Berrie to England for duty with Tank Corps 18-12-17
2/Lt. W. Remington released from military duty to resume medical study 15-12-17
MID – Major H.R. Howman, Capt. G.S.D. Hillier, Lt. QMS J.T. Rowlinson.

Casualties: Killed 1 OR
Officers Joining: 2Lt. G.W. Farrington 13-12-17 posted to B Coy
2Lt. D.D. Herring 19-12-17 posted to B Coy.

1918

January

1-20th – Bn in huts and tents at Siege Camp. BHQ at Fantasio Farm. Bn worked on Corps Line, NE of St. Julien.
21st – Bn moved by march into huts and tents at Pompey Camp, Proven.
26th – Bn entrained for Mericourt L'Abbe and marched thence to Marley Camp, Chignolles (Somme)
30th – Bn marched to camp at Haut Allaines.
Casualties for month: Killed 1 OR. Missing 2. Wounded 5.
Officers joined Bn: Major M.E.G.R. Wingfield, 2nd Lts. L. Hague, S.J.V. Roach, A. Taplin.
2Lt. F.W. Wilkinson rejoined 15-1-18
Capt. P.E.H. Saunders, MC ordered to England for duty with Tank Corps.
Lt-Col. A.H. Boulton, DSO to England

February

1st – Bn moved to camp in Sorel Le Grand and took over from Pioneer Bn 9th Div.
2nd – Bn started work on Main Line (Red Line) from Post R.1 to R.14.

2-3rd –night - Half Bn assisted 117 Inf. Bde in construction of Methuen Trench.
10th-11th – night – 150 OR assisted 118 Bde by constucting a trench
27th – Bn started work on Yellow Line (outpost and support)
27-28th – night – Bn started and completed both digging and wiring new trench from Chapel Crossing to Cavalry Trench.

1-28th – During the month Bn undertook supervision of the defences of Nurlu, Sorel Le Grand, and Heudecourt.
Casualties: Wounded 1 OR
Following officers have been posted to the Bn from 14th Bn Glos R. 11.2.18 in accordance with DAG's Auth.
T/Capt. F.J.L. Shufflebotham, MC
T/Capt. F.E.A. Berger-Wheeler
Lt. A.W.B. Danne
2Lts. E.J. Rundle, MC, DCM
F.J. Lovell
A.C. Holborow
E.N.H. Rust
R.N. Anderson
R.G. Lee
L.A. Wilmott
W.H.C. Hoper, MC
A.B. Calcutt

The following officers joined the Bn: Lt-Col. A.H. Boulton, DSO from sick leave. 10-2-18
2 Lt. F.S. Smith from IBD 22-2-18

Admitted to hospital: 2Lt. E.J. Runder, MC, DCM 15-2-18 GSW foot received in action whilst serving with 14th Glos.

London Gazette Jan. 9
Capt. P.E.H. Saunders awarded MC
Jan. 1: T/Capts. H.D. Hillier & J.C. Procter awarded MC.

March

1-12th – Bn carried on work on the Yellow and Brown Lines of defences.
12th – Bn moved to Beaumetz & started work in the Green Line.
21-22nd – Bn moved to Templeux La Fosse to concentrate with 30th Div. Reserve and on same night dug and wired with other troops the line Longavesnes-Saulcourt.
22-24th – Bn moved to & occupied as infantry, the Green Line E. of Templeux La Fosse and fought a rear guard action retiring thro' Peronne & Clery & taking up position near Herbecourt.
24th – Bn occupied reserve trench line Dompiere-Frise & that night prepared a line for occupation as front line Herbecourt-Frise. Relieved at 1am and marched to Cappy.
25-26th – Bn moved to Bois Olimpe near Cappy.
26th – Occupied line s. of Cappy and having fought rear guard action retired on the Proyart-Framerville line.
26-27th – Occupied the Proyart-Framerville line.
27th – Bn moved to Norcourt and occupied ridge between Norcourt and Proyart, heavily attacked and as right flank exposed was ordered to retire on reaching a position some 500x to the rear were reformed and counter-attacked retaking the ridge Morcourt-Proyart which we held all night, until practically surrounded when orders received to fight way back to Harbonnieres.
28th – Ordered to take up a fresh position in a wood SE of Marcel Cave where heavily attacked twice but drove off enemy killing many and taking 1 prisoner.
28-29th – Bn moved to trenches n of Demuin on line Aubercourt-Marcel Cave.
30th – Bn moved to a wood NW of last position and occupied a line n of Hangard. During day Bn was involved in 1 attack and 1 counter-attack and held line until relieved on morning of 31st when it assembled at Longueau and marched thence to Bovelles.

Casualties for the month:
Killed: Officers 1. OR 47
Wounded: Off. 5. OR 164
Missing: Off. 4. OR 105.

Killed: Lt. A.W.B. Danne 30-3-18
Missing: T/Capt. G.S.D. Hillier 30-3-18
T/2Lt. H.E. Harvey 30-3-18

T2Lt. B.B. Calcutt 30-3-18
T/Lt. F.C. Bright 23-3-18

Wounded: T/Capt. H. Jones, MC 23-3-18
T/Capt. D.E. Mozeley 30-3-18
T/Lt. H.L.C. Gill, MC date unknown
T/2Lt. W.L. Taylor 30-3-18
T/2Lt. R.H. Anderson 28-3-18

April

1st – Bn marched from Bovelles to Fresnoy Au Vale and billeted for night.
2nd – Bn marched to Lincheux and billeted for night.
3rd – Bn marched to Fresneville and billeted. Refitting commenced.
6th - Bn marched to Nestle Le Hopital and billeted for night.
7th - Bn marched to Nonchaux and billeted for night.
8th - Bn marched to Friaucourt and billeted.
9th – Bn entrained at Woincourt for St. Omer.
10th – Bn arrived at St. Omer and billeted at St. Martin-Au-Laert. About 10pm message received that 13th Glosters would furnish 3 Coys each 150 strong with 3 officers to make up with 13th Bn Sussex Regt. No.2 Composite Bn of 39th Division Composite Bde and at the same time furnish 9 officers for No.1 Composite Bn of the same Bde. No.2 Bn to entrain at St. Omer at 2am 11-4-18. Bn HQ 13th Glosters to form a cadre Bn for training American troops belonging to 17th Div. AEF.
11th – Comp. Bns entrained destination unknown. 13th Glosters HQ moved to Zudrove. No.2 Comp. Bn marched from Vlamertinghe where they had detrained to Ottawa Camp.
12th – No.2 Comp. Bn marched to Maida Camp.
13th – No.2 Comp. Bn marched to Ridge Wood heavily shelled – several casualties.
16th – No.2 Bn handed over to 62nd Bde 9th Div. and marched to Rossignol Wood and later forward to line Vandamme Farm-Lagaghe Fm-Store Fm. In evening took part in counter-attack to re-occupy Medelstede Fm and Wytschaete Wood.
21st – No.2 Bn rejoined 39th Div. Comp. Bde and moved to Dominion Camp.
24-25th – No.2 Bn relieved 16 Manchester Rgt, later, other troops having been forced back, No.2 Bn formed a defensive flank to Shelly Farm to conform. Later it was ordered to hold the line Bus House-The Bluff.
26th – At 5am enemy were massing opposite No.2 Bn but report failed to reach Bde HQ & SOS owing to fog was not seen by Artillery. Enemy penetrated into our line, rushed the Spoil Bank and attacked the Bluff, very few officers and men escaped and the survivors withdrew on N. Bank of the Canal to 110 Inf. Bde line, a post just w of the Bluff held by Lt. A.F. Hall with 1 Platoon of 13th Glosters held out from 7.30am to 8pm and was surrounded by the enemy during the whole time; at 8pm they fought their way out to our lines the officer and 17 Ors reaching safety.
Survivors of No.2 Bn were amalgamated with No.4 Comp. Bn of 39th Div. Comp. Bde.

Casualties for month:
Killed – 1 Off. 3 Ors
Wounded – 5 Offs. 79 Ors
Missing – 10 Offs. 201 Ors
Killed – Lt. W.H.C. Homer 26-4-18
Wounded – Lt. C.D.E. Dewe 16-4-18
E.G. Richards 25-4-18
R. Henderson Bland 26-4-18
2Lt. A. Taplin 26-4-18
A.L. Wilmott 29-4-18
Missing: All 26-4-18
Major H.R. Howman
Capt. F.E.A. Berger-Wheler & G.M. Hele
Lt. F.B. Whittall & A.C. Baker
2Lts. L.C. Farr, J.S. Pawsey, O.O. Herring, F.S. Smith, L. Hague.

30th – Officers rejoined from England:
Capt. H.D. Hillier, MC 22-4-18
Lt. F.B. Whittall 22-4-18

Awards:
19393 L.Cpl. V.J. Lonergen – MM

Letter 30-4-18

Dear Boulton,

I thought you and the Regiment would like to know the following, which occurs in a private letter I have received from Marr, and shown to the G.O.C.:-

"A Gloucester Officer, named Hall, with No. 2 Bn, put up a remarkably fine show on the 26th. He was surrounded by the Bosche (and his platoon) near the Bluff about 7.30am, and maintained his position until 8pm, when he fought his way through, and rejoined the remnants of No.2 Bn with 17 men. The Gloucesters have fought magnificently throughout."

May I offer you and the Regiment my heartiest congratulations? A general message has also been received by the Composite Brigade, which is being issued as a "Special Order of the Day" by the G.O.C.s instructions.

Yours,
F.W. Gosset.

May

5-6th – Survivors of 13th Glosters 67 OR from No.2 Comp. Bn & 8 officers from No.1 Comp. Bn rejoined their unit at Ruminghem 39th Div. Comp. Bde being disbanded. From these survivors the Cadre Bn was completed also a demonstration platoon was selected. Demonstration Platoon eventually disallowed and a demonstration section only permitted, remainder of officers, NCOs and men being sent to Etaples for drafting to other units, demonstration section to 39th Div. Demonstration Platoon.
11th – Training Cadre Bn (referred to as 13th Gloucesters) moved to La Montaire from where remaining men and transport over and above establishment authorised for a training cadre Bn left for Etaples the last draft being dispatched on 15-5-18 completing the disbandment, as a fighting unit of the Bn, all stores returned also.
23rd – Moved to Sanghen to organise area for training Americans.
31st – Moved to Belle to organise area for training Americans.

Officers reposted to other Bns:
Lt. A.V. Birch to 1st Glos. 23-5-18
2Lt. R.G. Lee to 1st Glos. 23-5-18
Lt. O.P. Quinton to 1st Glos. 28-5-18
2Lt. R.P.H. West to 1st Glos. 28-5-18
2Lt. R.M. Anderson to 2/5th Glos. 28-5-18
2Lt. G.W. Farrington to 12 Glos. 11-5-18
Evacuated sick to England: 2Lt. R.E.F. Hall 9-5-18

Awards:
Mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch 7-4-18
Capt. G.M. Hele
Lt. M. Smith
2758 RSM C. Priday
Awarded DCM:
38703 Pte W. Edwards
267425 Sgt. F. Joyner
28667 L/Cpl. F. Preece
Awarded MM:
18012 Cpl. A.E. Powell
19376 L/Cpl. C.W. Haymes
13076 Pte L.G. Nicholson

June

8th – 13th Glos. moved to Alembom and prepared area for reception of the 105th Engineer Regt. 30th Div. A.E.F.
13th – Regtl. HQ and 1 Coy. American Engineers arrived.
18th – Remainder of 105th Eng. Regt. arrived. Training commenced.
28th – 13th Glos. accompanied 105 Eng. Regt. in an 'advisory capacity.' Moved to Inglinghen.
29th – Move to Arques
30th – Move to Cassel area where 105th Eng. Rgt. Continued training and also work on Winnizeele line of defence.

Nil casualties
Officers reported to 1st Bn Glos Rgt.
Capt. H.H. Vowles, Lt. M. Smith, Lt. H.G. Preece, Lt. F.J. Lovell, 2Lt. W.D. Beel, 2Lt. F.W. Wilkinson, 2Lt. S.J.V. Roach, 2Lt. A.C. Holborow.

July

10th – 105 Eng. Rgt. Accompanied by OC and 2 senior Coy. Commanders of 13th Glos. moved to forward area. Remainder of 13th Glos. moved to Watten.
11th – Bn moved to Louches. OC and 2 senior Coy. Commanders rejoined in evening.
27th – Bn moved to Yeuse.
Nil casualties

August

15th – Bn moved by march and entrained at Nordrerque at 6pm. Bn transferred from 39th Div. to 66th Div.
16th – Arrived at Abancourt 9am
23rd – Moved to encampment at Haudricourt.
Nil casualties

September

18th – Preparing camp at Haudricourt for reception of malaria reinforcements. First malaria reinf. Arrived and administration of begun.
Nil casualties

October

Training Malarial Reinforcements in camp.

24th – First draft of 142 ORs proceeded to line of reinforcements.
Casualties: 1 OR died in hospital

November

11th – Administering Malaria reinf. At Haudricourt.
Armistice signed.
Nil casualties

December

4th – Under orders from 197 Inf. Bde handed over Malarial Personnel (365 ORs) to 10th Bn Lincloln Regt.
10th – Entrained at Aumale for Havre under orders from 116 Inf. Bde.
18th – Commenced demobilisation of P&D men and Miners at No.1 Camp Section B.
Nil casualties

30th – Awards: Mentions:
Capt. G.M. Hele
Capt. B.J. Lamplugh
Capt. & QM S.J.T. Rowlinson
18323 CSM H. Kilby

1919

January

1-31st – Cadre employed at No.1 Despatching Camp on demobilisation.
Nil casualties
Rejoined: Lt. J.H. Marshall attached from A&S 8-1-19
Lt. W.H.G. Parr att. From Gordons 3-1-19
Lt. H.R. Lowe, MC posted from 2/5th Glos. 4-1-19
To England demobilised:
Capt. J.C. Proctor, MC 20-1-19
Capt. H.D. Hillier, MC 28-1-19
Lt. W.H.G. Parr-Gordons 29-1-19

February

1-28th - Cadre employed at No.1 Despatching Camp on demobilisation.
Nil casualties
Rejoined from leave to UK:
Capt. B.J. Lamplugh 5-2-19
Lt. A.J. Radley 8-2-19
Lt. P.E. Gardiner 17-2-19
To England demobilised:
Lt-Col. W.M. de Paula, MC 27-2-19
Capt. C.G. Elkington, DSO 3-2-19
To England sick:
Lt. H.R. Lowe, MC 21-2-19

March

1-31st - Cadre employed at No.1 Despatching Camp on demobilisation.

26th – Received the Colours from 116th Infantry Bde.

April

1-30th - Cadre employed at No.1 Despatching Camp on demobilisation.

15th – Rehearsal for Consecration of the Colours in presence of GOC 39th Div.
25th – Under orders received from 116th Inf. Bde HQ duties in connection with demobilisation handed over to 18th Bn Middlesex Regt.
Capt. B.J. Lamplugh to hospital 23-4-19

May

2nd - Presentation of King's Colour by Maj-Gen. H.C.C. Uniacke, CB, CMG
3rd – Cadre transferred from administration of 116 Inf. Bde to 197 Inf. Bde.
13th – Rejoined from hospital: Capt. B.J. Lamplugh

END of DIARY