

Major Thomas Everard Holland

Personal Diary Covering the Gallipoli Campaign



Part 2

November
1st Very quiet all along the line only
usual shelling going on sniper
very dull in firing line 7 hours 6 to 9 am
to 2 till 6 am

2nd Fairly quiet nothing only shelling going
on good deal of Bomb throwing during
night sniper very dull in firing line
7 hours 10 pm till 12 am & 3 pm to 6 am

3rd 12th Bn. Relieved portion of 10th
Bn. of their frontage the 12th being
Relieved of their frontage by 9th Batt
crowding more men into front giving
each Batt a smaller frontage to look
after. Fairly quiet day plenty of Bombs
being thrown during the night usual
shelling during day in firing line
4 hours 10 to 12 to 6 pm

4th getting settled down in our new
quarters fairly quiet only usual shelling
going on the snipers put up a skin
at night kept up a good heavy
shelling for 1 1/2 hours started at
8.40 pm in firing line 6 hours 12 to 6
am

4th getting settled down in new quarters
quiet during day only usual shelling going
on a little Bomb throwing Turks opened up
fairly heavy fire on right flank making
three attempts at attacking heavy firing of
Bomb throwing continued throughout night
light horse having 19 casualties 4 killed &
15 wounded in firing line 6 hours 12 till 6 pm

5th nothing doing everything quiet usual shelling
going on Bomb throwers fairly active during
night sniping dull in firing line 4 hours
10 pm to 2 am

6th enemy artillery very active during day
Turks aeroplane flew over & dropped Bomb
close to our trenches doing no damage
all ranks very busy sapping & preparing
winter quarters

7th usual shelling going on all day snipers
very busy especially during night Repairing
Loop holes during evening

8th nothing of interest only usual shelling going
on enemy snipers very busy all night Turks

throw our several Bombs some very large ones

9th

usual shelling going on had look around trench taken by light horse in front of Chatains post portion of trench was dug during Balkan war & light horse sent up Rockets as signal that Turks were attacking at 4.30 am attack did not develop on our front Turks sent over very large & powerful Bomb at 11 pm which dropped near our dug out & if caused me to be half buried by the dirt falling down top of position it blew equipment & clothing that was hanging in trench so pieces ~~none~~ nobody being hurt snipers very active repairing positions during evening

10th

nothing much doing usual shelling snipers active especially at night also Bomb throwing repairing positions during evening

11th

fairly quiet day very little shelling enemy quiet on front Bomb throwers very active during night repairing positions during evening

12th usual shelling during day otherwise fairly quiet Bomb throwers & machine gunners very active during night fixing up positions during evening

13th nothing doing only usual shelling during day machine gun & Bomb duel during night

14th shells opened up fairly heavy shell fire during day & succeeded in getting into one of our gun positions & wounding four gunners Bomb throwers & machine guns very active during night Received orders to pack up to leave next day order cancelled on account of rough weather no troops being able to embark or disembark Sunday no church parade

15th weather still rough but calmed off towards evening usual shelling throughout day Bomb throwers & machine gunners very active until midnight heavy rain during night very heavy Bombarding at the Right

16th very quiet during night day only
usual shelling going on very heavy
Bombarding on Right flank at Achi Baba
extra quiet during night very few
Bombs thrown Received packing orders
again

17th Relieved from trenches at 2 pm
by 2nd Bgde & went into Buianac
at Clark's gully where we were washed
out during the early part of the night
clothes & Blankets being washed away
the worst night that was experienced
on the peninsula rain cleared off at
about 12 midnight but wind still raging
cleared up towards morning dug Gabby trench
with all hands during day

18th weather fine & sea calm was
camped in rather exposed position
so shell fire everything out drying
usual shelling going on Blankets &
~~our~~ overcoats fished out of creek bed
covered with mud & put out to dry
also boots & clothing equipment &
etc constant shelling all day from Olive
grove & during night reported that Xmas
mail had been sunk

19th still awaiting orders to move fine night
but very cold shelling continued all day
especially on beach otherwise everything very quiet
shelling continued throughout night heavy rifle
fire & Bombing on left of low point

20th still awaiting orders Bucky Bill
very consistent shelling the beach
very cold day & night heavy rifle fire
throughout night also Bombing

21st Sunday church parade very cold
north winds blowing Turks still
shelling otherwise quiet during day
heavy Rifle fire & Bombing throughout
night

22nd ~~It~~ still very cold our guns
opened up heavy Bombardment during
day no response from Turkish guns
Bucky still shelling beach consistently
heavy rifle fire & Bombing throughout
night received orders to move during
day cancelled during evening weather so
Rifles fairly heavy firing during night

23rd No orders re moving yet weather still Rough & Bitter cold Heavy shelling going on throughout day otherwise very quiet Rifle fire very dull throughout night

24th Fairly quiet all day Turks still shelling Beach consistently weather moderate night fairly quiet throughout

25th got marching orders Turks still shelling Beach harrassing our supplies otherwise everything very quiet our guns not firing at shot left Buzonc at 8 pm for beach arrived at 9.30 & had to wait for boat to arrive left North Beach Williams pier at 2 am on Barges for Transport went ~~aboard~~ aboard Transport el-Karrar at 2.45 ~~pm~~ am

26th Left Anyac Cove at 5.45 am & called at Suvla bay ~~by~~ leaving there at 7 am for Lemnos arrived Lemnos at 11.15 am & disembarked at 3 pm arriving at camp at Sarpi at 4.30 pm very cold & miserable during night

27th nothing doing very cold & wet all day men resting & fixing up camp in general mail arrived but very small.

28th Sunday church parade during morning Bitter cold winds blowing accompanied by snow strong & cold winds blowing all night. Reverted to old Rank on the return of Lieut Bowles to duty.

29th parade morning 10 to 12 am weather fair little snow falling had look around. Pillage.

30th parade 10 to 12 am weather good afternoon sports football cricket & etc Very cold during during night.

December

1st Nothing doing weather fair parade morning
3 hours afternoon play cordon put around
camp as we were quarantined for diphtheria

2nd Morning 4 hours parade afternoon
C & D Coys played football C Coy
winning by 7 points after a very
exciting game 33 to 40

3rd Morning parade as usual afternoon 10th Batt
played 11th Batt & won scores 8 goals 6 Behinds
to 1 Behind a very interesting game

4th Morning parade as usual afternoon
football A & B Coys B Coy winning 40 points
to 13 very poor game weather good evening
concert by 12th Bn

5th Sunday Church parade 9.15 am
afternoon cricket practice

6th Morning parade as usual afternoon
Football 10th vs 12th Batt 10th Batt
winning by 7 points evening lecture

7th Morning parade as usual afternoon
soccer match D & C coys D Coy winning
5 goals to 1

8th parades as usual during morning Lt. Col
Jellibrand took over command of Regt took
over duties as Bgde Capt at 5 pm

9th on duty Bgde Capt usual parades
during morning afternoon cricket 11th & 12th
officers unfinished Relieved of Duty at
6 pm

10th parades as usual during morning
afternoon soccer 12th & 9th Batt 12th Batt
winning by 3 goals to 0

11th Parades as usual during morning
afternoon cricket & Football

12th Sunday Church Parade 9.30 am
afternoon nothing doing

13th Parades as usual confined to camp
area owing to isolation evening lecture

14th Parades as usual during morning
afternoon went for a ride on horseback
outpost scheme from 7 pm to 9 pm.

15th Parades as usual during morning
Lecture during evening

16th Parades during morning nothing
doing during afternoon

17th Visited Kastio the capital of the
Island where there is a fine old fort &
castle over 400 years old. evening lecture

18th Parades as usual during morning
afternoon nothing doing

19th Sunday church parade morning
afternoon nothing doing

20th Parades as usual morning afternoon
quarantine cordon strengthened nobody
allowed out evening lecture

21st C Coy duty coy all men on latrine
training hard during morning afternoon
nothing doing

22nd Parades as usual during morning afternoon
various games in & around Lewis evening
Section Trench organisation

23rd No parades during day Battalion
sports several events being won by
C Coy.

24th No parades raining during morning
Christmas eve received billie cans mine
very good

25th Church parade during morning
afternoon football splendid day

26th Sunday Church parade during
morning afternoon had sail around the
harbour went on board Monitor Roberts

27th parades as usual during morning
afternoon spent visiting hospitals

28th parades as usual during morning
afternoon went around harbour for
a ~~new~~ sail

29th parades as usual during morning
afternoon football soccer 12th 9th Batt
won by 12th Batt evening Lecture Machine
guns in Defence

30th parades as usual during morning
sick over Bgde capt of the day
at 5 pm evening operation scheme

31st Morning parades as usual afternoon
football Relieved as Capt of the day
at 5 pm Received marching orders
during evening

~~arrived~~

- 1st January 1916
Struck Camp at Sarpi at 9.15 am
& embarked on Transport A.8 Lake Michigan
very busy settling men down
- 2nd Life belt parade & telling off during
morning easy day Sunday
- 3rd Taking horses all day moved out
to outside anchorage at 4.30 pm
- 4th Left Lemnos at 2.30 am for
Alexandria men having to wear life belts
all day & sleep with them at night
life boat stations during I being C.P.
life Boats
- 5th parade during morning afternoon
Boat Station parade
- 6th Arrived Alexandria at 11.30 am
disembarked at 6 pm entraining for Tel el Kebir
arriving at 12.30 midnight disentrained &
pitched camp for the night at 2.30 am
- 7th Reveille 6.30 the day being spent fixing
up camp arrangements being made at

this place for 70,000 australians to
Camp we pitched our tents on the
ground where the Battle of Tel el Kebir
was fought in 1882 when the Rebel
Egyptians were smashed under aralia
pasha

8th Rivalier 6 am Improving & fixing
up camp all day

9th Sunday church parade 9.30 march
past column of fours after service
afternoon nothing doing

10th Morning parade as usual was member
of board for Examining Transport gear
& equipment

11th parade as usual during morning
examining equipment as members of board
during morning

12th went to Zagazig as town picket
with 30 men at 11 am

13th Very quiet in the town nothing doing this town was entirely Egyptian there being no Europeans

14th Very quiet ran down to Cairo to get Base from cooks remained at Cairo all night

15th Returned to Zagazig during morning nothing doing the town very quiet

16th the town very lively on account of the preparations for the holding of the procession & feast in honour of the prophet ~~Mohammed~~ Mohammed's birthday this being something unique since with the Governor & Mayor & the Chief of Police at the feast

17th Relieved from the picket by the 24th Batt & Returned to El Kuber during morning and night operations

18th parades as usual during day Coy & Battalion Drill also Musketry

19th parades as usual during day

20th Went to Cairo on leave for
Dental Treatment Remaining there for
2 weeks in the meantime the
Battalion moved camp to Sirapuen
on the 23rd

February

- 3rd Reported at Div. Detail camp
Remained there doing duty
nothing in particular
- 8th Returned to Batt at swamp
on arabian side of canal my Coy
being stationed few miles further
out
- 9th Joined Coy during day not
doing only usual parades
- 10th only usual parades going on
4 hours a day
- 13th had Ride over intended position
of 12th Batt few miles further out
first line defence
- 14th usual parades going on with
outposts every other night for C
Coy
- 17th Shifted Camp 8 miles further out
to Rail head usual outposts put out

18th Took Charge of Coy the Coy commander
going to camp on leave for a couple
of days

26th half the coy left during the
afternoon to join the 5th 2nd Batt at Tel
el Kebir when I afterwards took over
the command of C-Coy permanently

27th Sunday church parade this being
the anniversary of the day we left
Mena for the front

March

1st 500 Reinforcements of the 26th Batt
joined the Batt to replace those that had
left to form the 52nd.

5th Sunday church parade during morning

12th left 12th Batt & joined up with the
1st Div pioneer Batt as adjutant at staging
Camp Serapuum details from 1st Brigade
Reported for duty to Batt

Very Busy time during the time
we were at Serapuum transferring &
selecting men for the Batt

26th struck camp at Serapuum at 5 am
& entrained for alexandria at 6.45 am leaving
Serapuum at 7 am arrived alex at Bullard
ships side at 4 pm left docks at
6 pm & anchored outside until next
morning ~~at 7 am~~ left anchorage at alex
~~at 7 am~~

27th Left anchorage at alex at
7 am Destination Unknown

30 arrived at Malta at 11.15 am &
left at 11.30 am ~~at~~ Destination unknown

~~Mar~~ April 1916

2nd Arrived Marsailles at 5-30 am &
disembarked at 1.15 pm marched to train &
entrained at 2.30 leaving there at 4.10 pm

3rd passed through some of the most
beautiful country in France

5th arrived Grosvild at 1.45 am disembarked
& bivouacked until 8 am

6th marched to Croix Rouge & went into
Billets over an area of 2 miles

7.8.9th ordinary training going on

10th sent Detachment of 100 men to trenches
for tunnelling work

11th B Coy marched out to trenches to
begin work

16th Rode out to trenches to inspect same
& make arrangements for the Batt
moving out

18th. Batt moved out from Croix Rouge
& marched out to Billits in rear of trenches
at Bac St Maur

19th. 20. 21 ordinary work going on rebuilding
the trenches

21st promoted to rank of Major

May 19.16

Nothing unusual during the month except the daily & nightly shrapnel going on & all working parties working Rebuilding trenches

30th Boches opened up heavy heavy bombardment on our front like trenches smashing them up & causing heavy ~~casualties~~ ~~casualties~~ casualties & a large amount of inconvenience

31st all working parties engaged on Repairing damage caused by bombardment previous night Boches still pitching over Bombs causing many more casualties

There were quite a number of Raids during the month of May

June 1916

5th Went to England on leave for
8 days enjoyed myself very much

14 Returned from England & started
work in the trenches again

just the usual work going on
in the trenches several Raids
being carried out some being successful
& others failures

July
rain only working half time waiting
for Relief

6th Received Orders to pack up & move
to ploestriet move not carried out

7th sent advance guard to ploestriet to
prepare Billets for Batt

8th move to ploestriet cancelled having
received orders to proceed elsewhere

9th Left Bas St Maur at 5 am & marched
to Merris a distance of 12 miles

10th Sunday men Resting all day

11th Left Merris at 4 am & marched to
Ballinac^{7 miles} in train, there destination
unknown arrived at Doullens at ~~12~~ 12.45
Left again at 1.30 pm & marched to
Carnaples 12 miles all ranks being very
tired went into Billets

12th Left Carnaples & marched to Montauvillers
7 miles & went into Billets all the officers

Billeted in the Cheatin

13th Started training Company Training &
Batt Drill

14th Route marching & Company training

15th Morning company training afternoon
Sports 6 boy bombing out on top winning
the tug of war obstacle Race & 2nd in
the official race

16th Left Montanville at 9:15 am & marched
to Harponville 8 miles went into Billets

17th Company training very wet all day

18th Company training & Route marching

19th Left Harponville & was conveyed to
Bouzeourt by motor bus about 7 miles
then marched to Albert 3 miles & went
into Billets

20th Shelled billets during day had working parties out preparing jumping off trenches near Contalmaison

21st The attack was supposed to take place during the night but was cancelled had parties out preparing jumping off trenches

22nd Had large party out all day widening & deepening the assembly trenches this party being relieved by another party at 5 pm who carried on under heavy fire until 9.30 pm the attack started at 1 am our men gaining the first line of trenches & holding some on the left the pioneer Batt establishing strong points at various places

23rd Heavy artillery Bombardment still going on our 1500 working hard making good consolidation trenches taken our men attacking & capturing another trench during the night no success on the right not getting the objective

24th still carrying on consolidating trenches, captured & forming strong points

25th Forming strong points & consolidating position captured during night in vicinity of Pozieres Cemetery

26th Still improving & strengthening trenches round about Cemetery artillery line something trouble & beginning to play up with the mine columns

27th Relieved by 2nd Pioneer Batt from our work in the trenches at 1 pm & returned to Albert Deal Deal all ranks having had a strenuous week.

28th Left Albert at 1.30 pm & marched to Harponville 9 miles & went into billets

29th Left Harponville at 4 am & marched to la Vieoigne 13 miles & biv for the night in large orchard

30th Left la Vieoigne at 9.30 marched to Bonnville 6 miles went into billets

31st nothing doing all day men Resting

August

1st Nothing doing all day men Resting & getting Ridim of Shortages refitting

2nd to 6th Company Training every day & Refitting

7th Left Bonneville at 3 pm & marched to La Vicogne 6 miles camped for the night

8th Left La. Vicogne at 11 am & marched to Harponville 10 miles went into billets

9th to 12th Company Training field engineering & wiring

13th went out to trenches to have look around

14th Left Harponville at 8.30 am & marched to Albert 8 miles camping for the night in Reserve area.

15th moved from Reserve area out to trenches 3 miles at 1 pm camping in avoca gully

16th Consolidation work in front line & communication trenches night & day

17th Front line work & com trenches

18th Front line work & com trenches

19th Front line work & com trenches

20th Front line work & com trenches

21st Front line work & com trenches

22nd Relieved by 2nd Div & marched back to about 4 miles Biv for the night

23rd Marched to Warloy 7 miles Biv for the night

~~24th~~ 24th left Warloy at 8.30 & marched to Beauval 12 miles went into Billets

25th went into Doullens to Dinner 4th Casualty Hospital

26th Left Beauval at 11.30 marched to
Doullens 4 miles & entrained leaving at 14.15 pm

27th arrived at Belgium border at 3 am
disentrained at provolu & marched to ^{at Oudewron} Dominion
lines 4 miles Billeted in huts

28
29
30
31 } Company training very wet

September

1st
2nd } Company training very wet

3rd Church parade during morning afternoon
moved the boys into Ypres went into Bellis
at the old Infantry Barracks which had been
knocked about by shell fire

4th Went out to trenches & had a look
around & to plan out work to be done

5th Took party out at 3 am & started new
trenches & dugouts at Mount Sovell on the
left of Hill 60

6th
7th
8th
9th
10th

} still on front line work
at Mount Sovell

11th Started underground living tunnels
at the Bluff a very dangerous place
had 1 platoon only working

12^o put another platoon on to work at
the Bluff Tunnels

13 put Remainder of Coy on to Tunnels
at the Bluff.

14^o to 3rd nothing out of the usual run
working parties at the Bluff every day

October

- 1st to 12th The usual work going on at the Bluff had just started ~~by~~ a board of bon trench from Sunnelt to the bratis in firing line
- 13th Left office at 3 pm & marched to Patricia lines 7 miles camped for the night
- 14th Left Patricia lines at 10 am & marched to Steunorde just over the Belgian border 5 miles went into billets
- 15th Left Steunorde at 9 am & marched to Arneke 15 miles went into billets
- 16th Left Arneke at 9 am & marched to Serguis 12 miles went into billets
- 17th & 18th Company training very wet
- 19th Spent the day supervising working for the referendum on conscription
- 20th Company training

21st Left Piquin at 3 am & marched to
argues ^{9 miles} & entrained the other 3 boys entraining
at A omir arrived at St Piquin at
7.30 disentrained & marched to alies de les
clocher 5 miles went into Billets

22nd had short Route March

23rd Left alies de les clocher at 9 am & were
bonvoyed 40 miles in trench transport cars
to Bierre then marched to Dornecourt 3 miles
& Biv for the night

24th Marched to Pommiers Redoubt 5 miles & were
Banged down in a field of mud with nothing
to shelter managed to find a few tarpaulins
& etc to make shelters when two boys were
ordered back to Albert to Billets where the
men were comfortable 7 miles so Albert arrived
there at 9 pm

25th Started work on road repairs at
Montauban were taken from Albert to
the work on motor transport taking 9
hours to do the round trip with out the
time spent working

26th Returned to pommer's Redoubt by motor transport & were again dumped down in the mud with very little shelter had parties out working on the roads at 1. pm

27th

28th all the boys working on Roads

29th

30 Left pommer's Redoubt & moved over to Bernafay wood & received the 29th Div pioneers taking over there Biv's

31st Started work on front live trenches.
② Decker's Railway

November

1st Working parties on Switch trench

2nd working parties on Switch trench

3rd parties working on Switch trench

4 had all the company out at front line waiting for the attack by 1st Bde to do consolidation work the attack started at 12.20 a failure

5th Return to camp men resting all day

6
7
8
9
10
11
12 } all men working on Switch trench & light Railway

13th ~~Started~~ Hauled over to 4th Div & started work on ammunition dumps our Div going out for a spell our Batt Remained behind

14th

15th

16th

17th

18th

19th

~~20th~~

21st

22nd

23rd

24th

25th

The usual working

Parties out on
ammunition Dumps
& Light Railways
& Roads

Good

26th on Roads & Light Railways
at Highwood

24th
28th } Roads & Light Railways

29th started shaft on underground
tunnel from Bgde. Hqs to front facing
line having the section from flint
to Bulls Run

30th still on shaft sinking making
good progress rather heavy shelling in
vicinity of shaft

December

- 1st Sinking shafts during night & day artillery rather active towards evening
- 2nd Sinking & Sinking shafts work going on smoothly
- 3rd Sinking & Sinking shafts work going on smoothly Heavy shelling during night had 2 men badly wounded
- 4th very little progress weather bad Boche artillery very active during day & night started digging off from shafts
- 5th Working still going on progress slow on account of Falls heavy shelling during night
- 6th ground shawed mud bad heavy shelling going on
- 7th Raining weather miserable heavy shelling during night had 1 man killed

8th Raining. fairly cold. mud in galore
everybody cheerful very quiet night good
progress on Drums

9th... very clear day no fog Draining operation
Retarded by fine day night very miserable
Raining all night men had spell night shift
not going out progress fair

10th splendid day after the rain but
more mud than ever day so clear
for working parties shelling very heavy
all day splendid moonlight slight

11th Still working on tunnels progress
fair heavy shelling during day

12th usual daily shelling going on

13th Fairly quiet all day heavy shelling
during night

14th Tunneling work hampered by scarcity
of timber. usual shelling going on
weather beastly very wet

15th usual shelling going on Progress good on tunnels weather Mirrored very wet & muddy

16th weather bad cold & wet usual shelling during day heavy shelling during night.

17th no improvement in the weather fairly quiet day started a Band going.

18th usual shelling going on during day no improvement in weather

19th weather much better freezing & snowing usual shelling during day good progress on tunnels.

20th ground frozen good for walking no mud severe shelling of camp by H.T. gun 9 in armour piercing shells a large number of casualties also doing damage to Railway lines stopped tunnelling shortage of timber.

21st ground thawing making everything muddy again also rain very quiet day very little shelling

22nd Fine day mud very bad very heavy shelling during day especially in forward lines

23rd Raining all day fairly quiet all round foraging job finished in 4 hrs

24 Started tunnelling again fairly heavy shelling especially at night our side were making things warm for subs finished work at 11pm

25th Xmas day on mud but shelling going on all day men had fairly good Xmas dinner but immediate to dine with Sgt's men had a very good meal weather fair

26th out to work again shelling going on all the time Raining some mud

27th fairly quiet day little shelling forward lines weather fair

28 splendid day had to attend
court martial at Namet, very heavy
shelling of camp during night also
raining & still sunnelling - an aeroplane
flew over during morning very low
down using a machine gun &
dropping bombs.

29th Went to London on leave for
10 days glad to get away from
mud for few days left camp at
12 am by road to Amiens stayed
there for the night

30 left Amiens from St. Roch's station at
7 am arrived Rouen 3 pm changed trains
left Rouen at 4 pm arrived Le Harve
9 pm stayed at Hotel Anglaise

31st Reported at ~~St~~ Docks Rest camp
11 am left Le Harve 11 pm on steamship
Dougal

Finis 1916

January 19 17

1st arrived Southampton Docks 8 am
left by Train 8.25 arrived Waterloo
Station 10.30 - went to Revue High Jinks
evening

2nd not feeling well during day went to
Revue Bing boys evening

3rd nothing doing during day Revue Little Bit
of fluff evening

4th shopping all day evening Revue
Theodore & Co

5th Left London 10 am Kings cross for
Edinburgh arrived there 7.30 put up at
British Hotel

6th Left British Hotel & put up at
Baledonair visited Edinburgh Castle
& Pantomime Red Riding Hood evening

7th Visited Carlton Hill weather very
foggy snowing during night visited
Forth Bridge Cruiser Squadron going off

also had Run through Hopetoun
grounds & Palace

8th Snow everywhere Visited Holyrood Palace
during morning afternoon Visited Glasgow
& had look around shipyards at the
Clyde Returned to Glasgow evening Visited
Queen Theatre Revue Oh Beaver

9th Left Edinburgh 1.45 pm arrived
London Kings cross 11.30 pm

10th nothing doing Revue evening three
Cheers

11th Left Waterloo 4 pm to Return
left Southampton by H.M.S. Donegal at
8.30 pm arrived Le Harve 7 am
~~Went out to Dock Rest camp visited
French Revue evening Rotten~~

12th arrived Le Harve 7 am went out
to Docks Rest Camp visited French
Revue evening Rotten

- 13^o Left Le Harve 10 30 am ~~arrived~~
 24
- 14 arrived amins 6 am got off train
 went on by motor to camp
- 15^o very quiet nothing doing all working.
 Parties knocking off
- 16th Left Perth Camp at 9 am & marched to
 Link Rd Tricourt 5 miles taken from there
 to Frankvillers by motor Bus went
 into Billits
- ~~17^o~~ +
- 17^o Took over S.I.C.^o duties company
 parades Heavy fall of snow during night
- 18^o everything going smoothly comp para m.
- 19^o ditto
- 20 Batt Route march 5 miles
- 21
- 22 Comp Parades
- 23

24th Left Frankvillers 9.30 am &
marched to Tricourt 13 miles went into
Billets

25th

26th

27th

28th

29th

30th

31st

Parading under bay
arrangements weather very
cold but dry under foot
snow lying on ground

~~22~~

February

1st Shifted Camp nearer to firing line from Tre-court to mammy wood

2nd nothing doing fixing up camp during day

3rd Started work sinking Tunnels shafts for living quarters on 2nd line of defence

4th very quiet day Heavy shelling during night
Raid by 4th Div. 600 Prisoners taken

5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th } nothing Unusual happened
usual shelling during day & night.
weather still good ground frozen &
snow lying about

11th Raid by 1st Div. no success owing
to wire not being cut by artillery

12th
13th
14th
15th } nothing doing usual shelling
weather good

16th Boche plane dropped Bomb on ammunition
Dump causing big explosion snow setting in
ground getting sloppy

17th ground Thawing very fast plenty of
mud & slush

18th Fairly quiet day usual shelling
heavy shelling during night
weather fair

19th extra quiet day very little
shelling day or night very foggy
& raining

20th usual daily shelling raining plenty
of mud & slush

21st very quiet during day only
usual shelling going on

22nd
23
24 } on only usual shelling going
Daily

25^o The Huns evacuated his front line trenches during the night & fell back 2000 yds where he was very difficult to get at owing to his machine gun fire. He also had a number of traps set in the way of mines & etc standing by during the day.

26^o owing to the Boche falling back started on forward system of light Railway pushing them on to front line to get stores up. very heavy artillery fired during night.

~~27^o~~ 27^o on Light Railway construction work

28^o Boche still falling back pushing light lines ahead

March

- 1st Boche gaining up ground gradually
very heavy shelling front line
also machine gun fire weather good
- 2nd
3rd Nothing out of the ordinary
- 4th Things fairly usual daily shelling
going on also night snowing during
night
- 5th
6th usual shelling only except front
7th line machine gun fire going on
still snowing & raining
- 8th
9th usual daily Routine still on
- 10th Railway work usual shelling going
11th on
- 12th Fairly quiet during day
Boche ~~fall~~ fell back 1200 yards
during night
- 13th very quiet day owing to the
artillery being shifted no doubt

Raining - ☉ Shelling going on during
night

14th ☉
15th } Boche dug destroying Buildings dugouts
16th ☉ Dumped in ☉ around Bapume before
Retiring to the line further back
Shelling well below normal during these
days our troops occupied Bapume &
the outskirts during the day of 17th there
were also many fires observed in the
villages around about - the sky being
all aglow during the night - this
being the quietest night known
in the trenches no artillery fire
going on either sides -

18th Very quiet pushing on communication
as fast as possible the Boche having
fallen well back leaving everything
in ruins in his tracks also many
mines

19th Thus still Retiring they being
6 miles beyond Bapume & still going

Visited Bapume the town burning
& everything in Ruins reaching on
Deckerbill lines as fast as
possible Raining & snowing during
during night

20th Hours still retreating all
Camps deserted all troops on the
move forward Raining all day

21st Shifted Camp to High wood
east pushing on Communications
as fast as possible

22nd nothing doing

23 } Same work going on
24 } Communications the Boche
25 } still being driven slowly
Back

26th Look over Command of
Batt the C.O. being on leave
Raining all the time

24th Returned to Mamety Camp
to Headquarters Raining & snowing

28th Three boys on communications
The Boche still fallen back slowly

29th B.C. Returned from leave
Raining all night & day

30th B.C. & myself went out to
front line & walked through
the outpost line well into the
German lines & were driven
back by H.C. shells Raining
all the time coming home

31st nothing doing Rain &
snow -

1st Went out to front line
to select site for new camp
caught in snow storm coming
home a fall of about 6 inches

April

2nd nothing Doing

3rd Heavy Snow Storm

4th nothing doing Snowing

5th shifted Camp to forward area at Bancourt

6th A Coy moved from Le Barque to Frenyebert in forward area

7th A Coy on forward communication
13 Coy on S.H.Q. Raining & Snowing

8th all available men on filling
Breaches & Repairing Roads heavy Bombardment

9th on left Vimy Ridge captured during
morning heavy fighting still going
on on left Homes Burns & Dolans
captured by Austrians Snowing &
Rain

10th nothing doing Snowing during
day

11th got the assistance of 1200
infantry for road Repairs

12 Ⓟ } nothing Doing Snowing
13 Ⓟ } Snowing & Rain
14 Ⓟ } Splendid day the Best for
a long time