

WAR DIARY 1/5TH NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS 18TH May to 28TH May

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs. Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.			WAR DIARY — INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Erase heading not required.)	Army Form C. 2118
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VLAMERTINGHE	18.5.15		Rained heavily early in the day. Cleared up later & companies were taken short route marches for exercise.	
VLAMERTINGHE	19.5.15		The weather to-day having improved somewhat, the men were occupied in route marching under their company commanders. The Battalion having become attached to the 4 th Division (along with 4 th , 6 th , and 7 th Battalions N.F.) was ordered to be held in Divisional Reserve. Brigadier General S.C. Fielding D.S.O. to-day proceeded on 4 days leave and the command of the 149 th Brigade, Idsworth on Col A.H. Toles C.M.G. D.S.O. who left the Battalion for HOSPITAL FARM (Hqrs 149 th Bde). The Battalion now being in Divisional Reserve (4 th Div) was ordered to be attached to the 12 th Brigade (4 th Div) for instruction in trench work and companies were detailed to the several units of this Brigade as follows: "A" Coy, Headquarters, 1 Machine Gun, & M.S. Officer to the 2 nd Bn "Mormouths" Regt. (A Territorial Battalion). "B" Coy to the 1 st Bn "King's Own" Royal North Lancashire Regt. "C" Coy, Signaller, Medical Officer & P.A.M.C. to the 2 nd Bn "The Essex Regt." "D" Coy, & 1 Machine Gun to the 2 nd Bn (10 th) Royal Irish Regt.	
VLAMERTINGHE	20.5.15		The Battalion with the exception of "A" Coy paraded at 9.0 am & the companies joined the Battalions to which they had become attached, at their respective billets. "B" Coy joining the King's Own at a bivouac, south of Road A.23 B.22 (Sheet 28) "C" Coy joining "Essex Regt" in bivouac at their Headquarters A.21a 9.9 (Sheet 28) "D" Coy joining "Royal Irish" at billets in A.16 C. Central (Sheet 28) "A" Coy left their bivouac at 11.30 am, & joined the "Mormouths" in billets at VLAMERTINGHE B.24b.1 (Sheet 28). This town was heavily shelled during the night 20-21, but no casualties occurred & little damage was done.	

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VLAMERTINGHE	21.5.15		The men of the companies were separated by sections & attached to the various platoons of the units with which they were stationed. The Mormouths (with "A" Coy attached) and the Essex (with "C" Coy attached) were engaged during the day in the ordinary routine parades. About noon, the King's Own (1 st Coy attached) and the Royal Irish (D Coy attached) moved from their respective billets to the woods adjoining the Chateau near VLAMERTINGHE (H 2.5.5.3) (Sheet 28) & bivouaced there. The King's Own moved off at 7.0 pm. across country & over the YSER CANAL to the 1 st line trenches, 2000 yds N.E. of IRISH FARM (C27a 2.5) (Sheet 28). The advance to the trenches was carried out without loss and they were taken over about 11 pm. The Royal Irish left the wood at 8.0 pm & moved up over the YSER CANAL, taking up their quarters in a line of dug-outs situated on the east bank of the CANAL between Nos 3 & 4 PONTON BRIDGES. (2.1.6 (25d) Sheet 28).	Map referred to 25000 YPRES Sheet 28
YPRES				
VLAMERTINGHE	22.5.15		owing to the O.C. of the 2 nd Mormouths being invalided home, "A" Coy & Hqrs were ordered to be attached to the 5 th South Lancs (Rifles) (A Territorial Battalion) and joined this Battalion in the Chateau woods at VLAMERTINGHE, about 11.45 am. The Essex left their bivouac & moved to these woods about the same time. The King's Own and Royal Irish spent a fairly busy day in their respective positions which they took up the previous night except for considerable activity on the part of the enemy's snipers against the King's Own trenches. At 10 pm, the Essex & 1 st Lancs moved up over the YSER CANAL, the 1 st Lancs going into dug-outs on the east bank, south of those occupied by the Royal Irish.	

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LA BRIQUE	22-5-15		The Essex continued their march & moved up to the 1 st line trenches about 2000 yds N.E. from LA BRIQUE and stretching from a farm known as TURKS FARM past a ruined Estaminet on the cross roads to a farm known as CANADIAN FARM. To the left of TURKS FARM the lines were held by the French. About midnight a severe thunder storm broke and the trenches occupied by the Essex and King's Own (who each had one company in support about 400 yds behind the firing line) were partially filled with water. On the CANAL bank the dugouts were also flooded and two or three men were injured by lightning. The Royal Irish who had left their dug-outs about 10pm, took up a line of trenches on the right of the King's Own shortly after midnight. 22nd & 23rd, three companies going into the 1 st line & the remainder in support. Casualties during the day were as follows:- "B" Coy (attached King's Own) 1 man killed, 1 man wounded. Shortly after midnight 22nd & 23rd, those portions of the firing line held by the Essex & Royal Irish Regts were subjected to a heavy bombardment, portions of the parapet being blown in. During the forenoon the Essex trenches were again shelled with shrapnel and high explosive shells, but little damage was done. The CANAL BANK was also shelled and several men of the South Lancs. were wounded and 1 man killed. The remainder of the day was fairly quiet. No casualties were reported in the Battalion.	
LA BRIQUE	23-5-15			
YPRES.				

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Near LA BRIQUE.	24-5-15		At 2.30 am. the Germans commenced an attack with asphyxiating gas, the wind being favourable for its use against our trenches. This gas was accompanied by heavy shrapnel & high explosive shell fire, with the result that portions of the trenches were practically demolished. The Essex who were on the left of the line held by the 12 th Brigade endeavoured to disperse the gas by rapid fire but with little effect, although no doubt it saved many men from becoming asphyxiated had they lain low in the trenches. Directly the bombardment started, the company of the Essex who had lain in support advanced to the front line, losing several men during this advance, and two companies of the 4 th Lancs, who had been held in reserve on the CANAL BANK were ordered to move up into the 2 nd line. The King's Own succeeded in holding their line, although suffering heavily from the gas and accompanying shell fire. Unfortunately however, suffered severely from the gas fumes, large numbers of men being overcome before they could take steps to put them under cover of the gas. The Germans delivered an infantry attack against the Dublin Fusiliers and Royal Irish on the right of the King's Own. The Dublins were forced to retire, with the result that the trenches occupied by the Royal Irish were inflated, large numbers of men being killed and wounded. The Irish were now compelled to evacuate their trenches, leaving many men behind suffering from gas poisoning, these men being either killed or taken prisoner by the enemy who swarmed into the trenches. From the trenches abandoned by the Royal Irish, the enemy directed their attack against the King's Own, who however repulsed it not however without losing several officers & men. C. S. M. Allan & Pte J. Scott showed conspicuous bravery whilst defending a barricade on the King's Own trenches, C. S. M. Allan gallantly defending the barricade with a revolver, when he was mortally wounded in the back with a hand grenade.	

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Ma. LA BRIQUE	24-5-15		<p>The German attack was also attempted against the line held by the Essex, but only by small numbers of the enemy, who were easily driven back. The two companies of the South Lancs. who had moved up to the First Line, had meanwhile advanced to the support line, the other two companies which had been lying in reserve on the CANAL BANK, advanced to the support line at 11.0 am. in rear of the King's Own and Essex. Heavy artillery fire was maintained by both sides till 8 pm. At 8.0 pm. the Lancs Fusiliers & the Warwick's attempted a counter attack which was directed against our trenches abandoned in the morning the King's Own and the Essex meanwhile receiving orders to stand fast. On the failure of this attack the King's Own and the Essex received orders to retire, the King's Own retiring to the CANAL BANK at 11.0 pm, their retirement being covered by the Essex, who towards midnight themselves moved back to a new line & dug themselves in 600 yds in front of IRISH FARM, one company retiring to IRISH FARM, the survivors of the Royal Irish, who had lain in some reserve trenches during the day also retired to IRISH FARM. The whole retirement was well carried out and without loss.</p>	

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Ma. LA BRIQUE	24-5-15		<p>The following casualties on the 5th Bn Northumberland Fusiliers occurred to-day.</p> <p><u>"A" Coy attached 5th L. Lancs [Rifles]</u> Officers: Nil. O. Ranks: Killed - 3, Wounded - 18, Missing 12.</p> <p><u>"B" Coy attached "King's Own"</u> Officers: Capt Lawson F. H. Killed in Action Lieut Richmond E. H. " " " O. Ranks: Killed - 5, Wounded - 31, Missing - 13. Suffering from Gas poisoning - 8.</p> <p><u>"C" Coy attached Essex Regiment.</u> Officers: Nil. O. Ranks: Killed - 5, Wounded - 15, Missing - 13</p> <p>Numbers of men reported missing are probably in hospital suffering from gas poisoning.</p>	

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<p>Mar L.A. BRIQUE 24.5.15</p>			<p>"D" Coy attached Royal Irish.</p> <p>2 Lieut Hill R.K. Killed in Action Capt. Fonet P.D. To hospital (Gas poisoning)</p> <p>2 Lieut Saunders L. " " " " 2 Lieut Bevan G.B. " " " " 2 Lieut Winfield F. Missing Lieut Hill M.C. " Lieut Patterson G.A. "</p> <p>O. Ranks: Killed - 5, Wounded - 11, Missing - 123. To hospital suffering from Gas poisoning 10. There has also been a number of men died in hospital from gas poisoning who were previously reported missing. The Machine gun section attached to the Royal Irish lost their gun 7 casualties in the section were as follows. Killed - nil, Wounded - 2, Missing - 9.</p>	