

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment

Battalion War Diary, 1915-1918

This diary is transcribed from scanned copies of the original document held at the National Archives in Kew, London. Any mistakes/omissions are the responsibility of the transcriber.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) casualties are shown as recorded by that organization, sometimes conflicting with diary entries. No attempt has been made to resolve any casualty discrepancies.

For further information on the contents of this document, please use the contact details shown in the page footer.

Transcribed by Stephen Nulty, June 2014 (Updated February 2015)

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

February 1915

13th February 1915

8.30 am

Battalion sailed from Southampton aboard s.s. "King Edward" and arrived at Havre. Spent one night at No 1 camp

14th February 1915

5.30 pm

Left Havre travelled via HAZEBROUCK

15th February 1915

11:00 pm

Arrived STEENWERDE & marched to LE BIZET

2:00 pm

Arrived LE BIZET where battalion went into billets

17th February 1915

One platoon from "A" Coy under Lt Lewis took over post at LYS FARM.

18th February 1915

"C" Coy under Capt. TAYLOR went into trenches with Lancashire Fusiliers for four days instruction

20th February 1915

"A" Coy (less one platoon) under Capt. PILKINGTON & "B" Coy under Captain NASH attached to 2nd Monmouth Regt for four days trench duty

21st February 1915

2 rifleman killed, 3 wounded

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 2262 William Ernest MATHER (Killed in Action)

Pte 2006 John Francis WALKER (Killed in Action)

22nd February 1915

1 rifleman wounded

24th February 1915

1 rifleman killed, 2 wounded

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 2932 Frank SAUNDERS (Killed in Action)

25th February 1915

"D" Coy under Capt. STANNARD went into trenches with Lancashire Fusiliers for four days instruction.

27th February 1915

1 rifleman killed

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

CWGW CASUALTIES

Pte 2434 Josiah GRIFFITHS (Killed in Action)

28th February 1915

LE BIZET

"B" Coy under Capt NASH and "C" Coy (less 1 platoon) under Capt TAYLOR attached to 2nd Monmouth Regt for trench duty. 3 riflemen wounded

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

March 1915

2nd March 1915
1 rifleman wounded

3rd March 1915
1 corporal and 3 riflemen wounded

4th March 1915
1 rifleman wounded

5th March 1915
"A" Coy under Capt PILKINGTON take over right section of Brigade line from RIOU LYS to PACKEN HAMS farm
"D" Coy under Capt STANNARD provide 1 platoon for LYS FARM, 1 platoon for Blockhouses, 1 platoon for "Inniskilling" trench and 1 platoon as working party.

8th March 1915
"B" Coy under Capt NASH and "C" Coy (less 1 platoon) under Capt TAYLOR attached 2 2nd Monmouth Regt for four days trench duty. 1 rifleman killed and 1 wounded,

9th March 1915
"D" Coy under Capt STANNARD take over front line trenches from "A" Coy - no company was put into second line & "Inniskilling" trench was occupied by two sections from CARTERS FARM by night. 1 serjeant killed and 1 rifleman wounded.

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 2319 James FORD (Killed in Action)

Sgt 204 Walter JONES (Killed in Action)

10th March 1915
LE BIZET
2 riflemen killed

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 1230 Thomas SMITH (Killed in Action)

12th March 1915
1 rifleman killed & 2 wounded. 1 platoon under Lt LEWIS attached to 2nd Monmouth Regt

13th March 1915
"A" Coy take over front line trenches from "D" Coy

CWGC CASUALTIES

L/Cpl 1918 Thomas GIBSON (Killed in Action)

17th March 1915
"B" Coy relieve "A" Coy in front line trenches

18th March 1915
1 serjeant wounded

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

19th March 1915

"D" Coy under Capt STANNARD provide 1 platoon at LYS FARM, 1 platoon in North Block 1 platoon in Hoolhouse (???) and 1 in section posts from CARLTON FARM to the river. 1 rifleman killed (Accidentally)

20th March 1915

1 rifleman wounded

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 1646 John TOWERS (Died of Wounds)

21st March 1915

"C" Coy take over front line trenches. 1 rifleman killed

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 2299 Thomas TOPPING (Killed in Action)

22nd March 1915

1 rifleman killed and 1 wounded

24th March 1915

"A" Coy (less 1 platoon) under Capt PILKINGTON go into trenches with 2nd Monmouth Regt for three days.

25th March 1915

"B" Coy under Capt NASH take over 2nd line trenches

26th March 1915

1 rifleman wounded

27th March 1915

LYS FARM shelled for 40 minutes. 1 corporal and 1 rifleman wounded. "D" Coy under Capt STANNARD go into front line trenches

31st March 1915

"A" Coy under Capt PILKINGTON go into front line trenches. 1 rifleman killed and 1 wounded.

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 2157 William JONES (Killed in Action)

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

April 1915

April 1915

LE BIZET

During this month, the battalion held the same line of trenches as it had occupied during March. The line consisted of 1 company in the front line between CARTERS FARM and PACKENHAM FARM with 1 Coy in support. Supporting company placed 1 platoon in LYS FARM 1 at B BUTCHERS SHOP in support of PACKENHAM FARM. 1 platoon occupied trenches between RIVER LYS and CARTERS FARM by night only and 1 platoon as carrying and working party by night only.

1st April 1915

Draft of 54 rank and file arrived. 1 rifleman slightly wounded

2nd April 1915

1 rifleman slightly wounded

6th April 1915

Enemy airplane dropped bomb near canal bank - no damage

9th April 1915

8 am. Heavy rifle and artillery fire on enemy positions.

8.30 am Mine exploded under enemy "SNIPERS HOUSE"

9 am. Firing ceased. 1 rifleman wounded

10th April 1915

1 rifleman killed and 1 wounded

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 835 John CUNNINGHAM (Died of Wounds)

11th April 1915

1 rifleman wounded

12th April 1915

1 rifleman killed. 1 serjeant slightly wounded, 1 rifleman wounded.

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 235330 Gilbert Clayton WHITE (Killed in Action)

13th April 1915

CWGC CASUALTIES

Pte 1630 William Henry ANDERTON (Killed in Action)

20th April 1915

"BUTCHERS SHOP" platoon transferred to trenches between river and CARTERS FARM

21st April 1915

1 rifleman wounded accidentally

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

23rd April 1915
1 rifleman wounded

24th April 1915
Headquarters billet very heavily shelled by 5.9 Howitzers. 3 riflemen wounded

25th April 1915
1 rifleman wounded

During this month, no incident worth recording occurred. Work on communications trench was continued steadily - work on CARTERS FARM inner defences was commenced. Parties from 25-50 were sent from the battalion to work with mining parties at LE TOUQUET and the railway barricade.

Extended order drill and musketry was carried out. The weather during the latter part of the month was hot and dry.

27th April 1915
Received orders at 8.25 am to move next day

CWGC CASUALTIES
Pte 1503 Edward FAHEY (Died of Wounds)

28th April 1915
Relieved by 2 companies of Queens Westminsters about 9 pm and marched about 11.30 pm

29th April 1915
Arrived BAILLEUL about 2.30 am and went into billets

30th April 1915
Marched at 8 am arrived VLAMERTINGHE huts at 2 pm

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

May 1915

1st May 1915

Battalion spent the day near VLAMERTINGHE in huts

2nd May 1915

Moved up to 12th Bde HQ H.5.C. at 2:00 a.m. During the afternoon the enemy opened a very heavy bombardment on the whole of the front trenches and the ground in rear. The Bn crossed the Canal by the bridge about 7:30 p.m. and moved into LA BRIQUE to support the 2nd Monmouth Regt. During the afternoon the enemy had attacked with gas the 10th and 12th Bdes. About 8:00 p.m. a company under Capt. PILKINGTON moved up to Royal Irish trenches who were in support of the Essex Regt.

3rd May 1915

3:00 a.m.

Moved (less A Coy) into G.H.Q. line in front of WIELTJE . Heavily shelled throughout the day. Casualties – 1 officer 6 other ranks killed, 12 other ranks wounded.

7:30 p.m.

Received the order to relieve the 7th A & S Highlanders at SHELL TRAP FARM.

CWGC CASUALTIES

Rfn 1722 John ACKERS (Killed in Action)

2/Lt Eric William BROWN (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2292 Thomas BURKHILL (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2188 Joseph CALLAGHAN (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2321 William Arthur FAIRHURST (Killed in Action)

L/Cpl 1855 Richard GREENALL (Killed in Action)

Sjt 273 John HATTON (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2284 George INNES (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2363 James Thomas MYERS (Killed in Action)

Rfn 1910 William ROBINSON (Killed in Action)

4th May 1915

Relief completed by 2:00 a.m. Front line trenches found to be in good order but support trenches very poor.

4:00 a.m.

Considerable hostile movement observed and enemy seen to be moving from left to right across our front. Heavy machine gun fire opened up on the enemy line, some losses inflicted.

8:00 am

Lt BROWN and a party of Grenadiers were sent to prevent enemy working down old Lancs Fus trench running N.E from farm. This officer commenced to build up barricade close to the enemy and advanced alone close enough to throw four or five hand grenades into them.

4th May 1915

10:00 am

This officer was killed and soon afterwards a second barricade was set by Lt ACTON 150 yards from the farm.

4th May 1915

4:00 pm

By this time the enemy had advanced to within 400 yards of our front trenches and had commenced a

short trench. During the whole day a very heavy artillery fire had been kept up (both high explosive and shrapnel) on our trenches, especially upon SHELL TRAP FARM

CWGC CASUALTIES

L/Cpl 2263 William DAVIES (Killed in Action)

L/Cpl 1651 Owen Thomas ELLIS (Killed in Action)

Pte 1165 Samuel PICKAVANCE (Died of Wounds)

Sjt 414 Hugh PLATT (Killed in Action)

Capt. William Lanagan STANNARD

Rfn 396 John TEMPLE (Killed in Action)

5th May 1915

3.30 am

During the night SHELL TRAP FARM was strengthened by another 1 1/2 platoons. Touch was gained with the 1st Welsh Regt. And one platoon of Cheshire Regt was posted between farm and 1st Welsh.

At dawn enemy were observed to have dug a short length of trench 300-400 yards from our front line and to have consolidated their positions 600 yards from us.

The day passed quietly until 5:00 pm when a very heavy consolidated fire from one or more battery of 5.9 Howitzers was opened on our front line trench. A considerable amount of the trench was blown away and a number of men were buried, 2 Coys suffering heavily. This fire was maintained until 8:30 pm and intermittent field gun fire was kept up until midnight.

5th May 1915

8:00 pm

An attack was expected and very valuable artillery support was afforded by the Canadian Artillery. The support Coy ("B") was sent into the front trenches. Reserve Coy ("A") under Capt PILKINGTON arrived and was also sent into the front trenches. About the same time, Lt Col CUTHBERTSON and 2 platoons of 2nd Monmouth Regt came up shortly afterwards followed by 1 1/2 Coys of same regiment.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 2404 Walter BALL (Died of Wounds)

Sjt 423 Robert Bruce BURNS (Killed in Action)

Rfn 1669 Alfred HODGSON (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2200 William PIGOTT (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2459 Frank WISWALL (Killed in Action)

6th May 1915

2:00 am

Casualties during the day being Capt STANNARD and 2 rank and file killed, Capt MacPHAIL and 59 rank and file wounded

7th May 1915

Remained at LA BRIQUE in reserve

8th May 1915

9:00 am

A & B Coys under Major PILKINGTON sent up to support Monmouth Regt 1 Coy going straight into front trenches and one remaining in support.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Remainder of battalion under Lt Col PILKINGTON moved up to WIELTJE where it was thought the enemy might have broken through the line. The line was found to be intact.

C Coy under Capt DICKINSON being left with one Machine Gun in the defended posts around WIELTJE Hqrs, 1 Coy 2 Machine Guns returned to LA BRIQUE.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 2504 Ernest Henry COOK (Killed in Action)
Rfn 1944 Samuel HURST (Died of Wounds)
Rfn 2714 Frederick KAY (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2674 James KINSELLA (Died of Wounds)
Rfn 1969 James McCONNELL (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2388 James McMANUS (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2077 Walter MOLYNEUX (Killed in Action)
L/Cpl 565 Alfred John NAYLOR (Killed in Action)
Rfn 1819 Michael O'DONNELL (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2349 George RATHBONE (Killed in Action)
Rfn 1902 Alfred SHERWOOD (Died of Wounds)
Rfn 2378 Thomas William SMITH (Killed in Action)

9th May 1915

3:00 am

Casualties during the 8th - Capt TAYLOR & HEATON wounded, Lt ACTON wounded, subsequently died of wounds, 8 rank and file killed, 13 rank and file wounded

CWGC Casualties

2/Lt Reginald ACTON
Rfn 1587 Harold BAINES (Killed in Action)
Rfn 3260 James BILLINGE (Killed in Action)
Rfn 1954 Thomas Henry BISHOP (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2604 James BOWES (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2649 Lambert FAIRHURST (Killed in Action)
CSM 83 John GILLON (Died of Wounds)
Rfn 2655 Edward HITCHEN (Killed in Action)
Rfn 1979 Thomas Price JONES (Killed in Action)
Sjt 381 Thomas LLOYD (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2282 Thomas NEARY (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2123 Thomas POLLOCK (Killed in Action)

10th May 1915

9:00 pm

"D" Coy (under Lt EATON) relieved "C" Coy at WIELTJE. Lt MacPHAIL wounded. ? Rank and file killed, one rank and file wounded.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 1416 Henry ALLEN (Killed in Action)
Rfn 1442 John BURKE (Died of Wounds)
Rfn 1443 James BURNS (Died of Wounds)
L/Cpl 2426 Albert GASKILL (Died of Wounds)

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Rfn 2685 John McALLISTER (Died of Wounds)
Bugler 1745 Ernest Edward MORGAN (Died of Wounds)
Rfn 2998 Joseph O'NEILL (Died of Wounds)
Rfn 1727 John RONAN (Died of Wounds)
Rfn 1660 William SMALL (Died of Wounds)

11th May 1915
4:00 am
Bn less "D" Coy moved back to Canal Bank between Nos 2 & 4 bridges

11th May 1915 & 12th May 1915
Remained on Canal Bank. 2nd Machine Gun sent to WIELTJE. "D" Coy rejoining night of 11th/12th

CWGC Casualties
Capt William Aloysius TAYLOR

13th May 1915
4:00 am
Enemy opened heavy artillery fire on our whole position and ground in rear

CWGC Casualties
Rfn 3528 John ASHCROFT (Killed in Action)
Rfn 1554 Frank BURGESS (Killed in Action)
Rfn 2022 Timothy CUMMINGS (Killed in Action)
Rfn 3421 John William NIXON (Killed in Action)
Rfn 3455 Thomas RIMMER (Died of Wounds) (At Home)

13th May 1915
8:00 am
Bn moved to Divn support line in rear of WIELTJE

10:00 am
"B" Coy under Capt HAMMILL sent to support Royal Irish Regt. In Shell Trap Farm trenches

2:00 pm
Bn moved to left of Divn support line with left on road C 21 D right near King's Own Regt

8:00 pm
Sent 2 Machine Guns to Royal Irish Regt Lt DOWLING (?) wounded

14th May 1915
3:00 am
Moved 2 Coys ("A" and "D") under Capt PILKINGTON to retrenchments in rear of Shell Trap Farm at disposal of East Lancs Regt.

10:00 am
Enemy gained footing in Shell Trap Farm. Capt PILKINGTON sent one platoon under Lt WOOD to regain farm, one platoon under Lt COOK to connect up between farm and Royal Irish on the left. "D" Coy under Lt HEATON occupied shell holes in the right of the farm and dug in during the day. Platoon under

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Lt WOOD occupied the farm buildings (a few of the enemy retiring on their approach) and held them all day

10:30 am

Moved Reserve Coy ("C") to retrenchments and one Machine Gun to East Lancs trenches

8:00 pm

Capt PILKINGTON sent another platoon to Shell Trap Farm and one platoon to East Lancs breastworks. During night of 14th/15th 2nd Mon Regt relieved East Lancs. Regt

CWGC Casualties

Lt George Oliver CRIPPEN

Rfn 1774 Robert LOWE (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2722 James RYAN (Killed in Action)

Rfn 2449 Frederick Peter WALTON (Killed in Action)

15th May 1915 to 21st May 1915

Diary illegible

CWGC Casualties (15th May 1915)

Rfn 2095 James CARNEY (Died of Wounds)

Rfn 2908 William Thomas DEARDEN (Died of Wounds)

L/Sjt 1619 William KAY (Died of Wounds)

Pte 20385 Stephen POWER (Died at Home)

CWGC Casualties (20th May 1915)

Rfn 1429 Joseph COOP (Killed in Action)

22nd May 1915

11:00 am

Marched to 4th Div chateau grounds and joined 1 company and 1 machine gun section of 5th North Fus to be attached

8:00 pm

Marched to No 2 Bridge and went into Canal Bank trenches

CWGC Casualties

L/Cpl 1880 Moses CLARKE

Pte 2844 Noel Finlay WALKER

23rd May 1915

Spent quiet day on Canal Bank

24th May 1915

3:00 am

Enemy attack Divn front with gas

4:00 am

Two companies under Maj. N. PILKINGTON sent to support line

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

8:00 am

Remainder of Bn under Lt Col PILKINGTON moved to Div 2nd Line.

11:00 am

Moved up to Divn support line

1:00 pm

2 Coys under Maj. N. PILKINGTON occupy FRENCH SWITCH

3:00 pm

Lt Col PILKINGTON returned to take command of Divn Support line and FRENCH SWITCH

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 2696 James COWELL

Rfn 3010 George W WILSON

24th May 1915/25th May 1915 Night

By 2 am battalion held line from road C 21 to TORCO Farm inclusive. One French Company agreed to meet our left at small house C 15 C 6/1 where communication was established.

25th May 1915

New line held, from the left near TORCO FARM the French Switch ran to the old Divn Support Line. In places the trenches being fair but a sap for 100 yards had to be left owing to water. No part of the line could be called anything but part finished. Ledges require cutting and the line was poor. From the junction of the French Switch and Divn Support Line to the road C 21D the line was hardly dug. No wire existed and the line was commanded by the CROSS ROAD FARM enclosure. This had to be held as a forward post by one company but owing to the large content it was decided to hold the rear hedge strongly and the front lightly. On the right of the road the trenches had been half dug and the wire was poor, but field of fire good. To add to the difficulties dead point existed close up to the front hedge of CROSS ROAD FARM And to within 150 yard of the junction of Support Line and French Switch. FORWARD VOTTAGE had to be held as the enemy soon worked up to the road 50 yds N.E. of it. Long rye grass also proved a possible danger.

The men worked wonderfully during the short nights and the line quickly became stronger.

Sniper was dug in 500 yards in front of our right and bombing parties by night prevented the enemy working up too close.

These tactics served to keep the enemy at a distance and also caused him some loss.

25th May 1915

2:00 am

60 men of Lancs Fusiliers under Capt SMITH held E & N sides of CROSS ROADS FARM. 60 Lancs Fusiliers and 1 Coy of Essex Regt are in Div Support line behind French Switch. 50 men 4th NORTH Fus.

Quiet day on new line. Enemy observed moving near HAMPSHIRE FARM and towards our left.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 3113 Joseph ANDERS

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Rfn 1763 Moses BEECH
Rfn 2177 George CANNING
Sjt 437 Robert COOK
Pte 2330 Wilfred GERRARD
Sjt 1621 James GORDON
Sjt 2042 Richard Dagnall HATELIE
L/Sjt 1541 David HOPE
Pte 1375 Ernest George HUMPHREYS
Rfn 2155 William MORTON
Rfn 2721 Henry MURRAY
Rfn 2239 Albert PHILLIPS
Rfn 2787 James PICKAVANCE
Rfn 2660 Robert SOUTHWARD
Rfn 1409 Thomas WHALLEY
Cpl 1306 James WILSON

Night 25th/26th May 1915

Relieved by Kings Own on our right & Essex Regt on our left sector. Returned to Divn second line with right on IRISH FARM.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 2382 Arthur BRUCE
Rfn 1974 Frank BYRNE
Rfn 2502 Albert KENWRIGHT
Sjt 626 John PLATT
Rfn 2440 John TWIGG

26th & 27th May 1915

Remained in Divn second line.

Night 27th/28th May 1915

Relieved Kings Own with right on front 200 yds South of road C 21D and left on French Switch. Work on new line continued throughout the night assisted by working parties of Kings Own and Lancs Fus.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 1183 Matthew BYRNE
Rfn 2576 John DAVIES
Rfn 881 William MARSH

28th May 1915

Quiet day. During the night working parties of 350 assisted. Enemy shelled trenches heavily at dusk.

29th May 1915

Quiet day. Work continued hard throughout night. Enemy discovered working up towards FORWARD COTTAGE. 4 men sent to hold this post.

30th May 1915

10:00 am

2 Germans drove 2 of our men out from FORWARD COTTAGE and barn outbuilding. 10 men under a

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

sergeant sent to occupy farm.

Night 30th/31st May 1915

125 Battery shelled enemy holding factory between FORWARD COTTAGE and HAMPSHIRE FARM. Sgt TILLEY and 10 men bomb enemy factory and advance 100 yards down their trench.

31st May 1915

Line shelled a little. During night enemy working party again shelled and a party under Sgt TILLEY stopped their work with rifle grenades and rapid fire.

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 2842 John YATES

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

June 1915

1st June 1915
Quiet day. During night relieved by Seaforth Highlanders

2nd June 1915
Returned to billets in A18 where Bn permanent until 6th.

6th June 1915
Marched to Canal Bank and went into dugouts. 2 Coys ("C" & "D") under Capt DICKINSON went into front trenches on left of and attached to the Kings Own. Casualties - other ranks, 1 killed

7th June 1915
CWGC Casualties
Rfn 2258 James Colquhoun WANDS

8th June 1915
Casualties 2 killed, 5 wounded.

CWGC Casualties
Rfn 2469 Thomas Henry LEWIS
Rfn 3323 Peter TALBOT

10th & 11th June 1915
"C" & "D" Coys return to Canal Bank. 2 machine guns left in front line with Essex Regt.

12th & 13th June 1915
One platoon sent up to left of Essex and attached to them. Casualties, other ranks 1 wounded

CWGC Casualties
Rfn 2308 James DEAN
Rfn 20810 Edward RYAN

14th June 1915
Casualties - other ranks, 1 wounded

15th & 16th June 1915
Bn less one Coy relieved 3 platoons Lancs Fusiliers in front line. Casualties, other ranks, 1 wounded.

18th June 1915
Casualties - other ranks, 1 killed, 3 wounded

CWGC Casualties
Cpl 1440 William WINNEY
Rfn 2240 John E LYNN (MiD LG 01/01/1916, Died of Wounds)
Rfn 2156 Albert PHILLIPS (Died of Wounds)

19th & 20th June 1915
During 10 days on Canal Bank Bn found working and carrying parties every night. Bn relieved by Kings Own and occupied support line between BELLE ALLIANCE & FOCH FARM. Casualties - other ranks, 1 wounded

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

The trenches as taken over from the French were in very poor order. Parapet was almost invariably too high and rarely bullet proof, practically no traverse existed and parapets generally poor. A great deal of work was necessary.

Left of the Bn rested on a point 100 yards East of BIXSCHOOLE ROAD (?). 2 Coys in front line and one coy with 2 machine guns in support trenches 150 yards in rear on Canal Bank provided working parties for ESSEX REGT & 2 machine guns were also attached to ESSEX REGT.

19th /20th to 23/24th June 1915

Bn in support near BELLE ALLIANCE FARM where work on Divisional second line was continued at night.

23rd/24th June 1915

Whole Bn relieved King's Own in front line. Considerable progress was made in a new support trench 70 yards behind front line and in a new fire trench facing FURCO FARM.

CWGC Casualties

Sjt 1977 John CULSHAW

27th/28th June 1915

Bn relieved by King's Own and went into billets in A16C. Casualties 26th – Other Ranks, one wounded.

29th/30th June 1915

Remained in billets

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

July 1915

July 1st 1915 to July 2nd 1915

Relieved King's Own in front trenches on the left of ??? FARM. Spent six days on front trenches – work continued the whole time. Shelled regularly

CWGC Casualties

2nd July 1915

Rfn 2243 James GANLEY

3rd July 1915

Sjt 2228 Michael BROPHEY

4th July 1915

Rfn 2974 John R DAVIES

Rfn 2758 Michael McLOUGHLIN

5th July 1915 to 6th July 1915

Extended line one platoon to the right.

6th July 1915

11th Brigade attached on the left of the Divn. Line. We were shelled heavily during the morning – the enemy making considerable use of gas shells – a few Germans left their trenches of whom we shot four as they were retiring.

Casualties during six days – other ranks, 9 killed 27 wounded,

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 2136 William BATESON

L/Cpl 2090 Joseph ROBERTSHAW

Cpl 2435 Peter SUTTON

Sjt 2242 Ernest WINSTANLEY

7th July 1915

Relieved by 2 Companies of 7th W. York Regt.

We had considerable trouble from an enemy trench mortar throwing a shell of 200 lbs; the effect of the explosion was as great as two 6 inch howitzers and the shell swerved violently to its right first before landing. The enemy shells seem to explode with greater force than had been experienced before – Chlorine was used in the gas shells for the first time in the experience of the battalion. The enemy was working hard during night on the trenches to our front.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 1831 Joseph BIRCH

Rfn 3369 Thomas RUFFORD

8th July 1915

6:00 p.m.

Moved to billets near PROVEN

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

21st July 1915

2:00 p.m.

Matched to GODESWAERVELDE, where we bivouaced for the night.

22nd July 1915

6:00 a.m.

Entrained

2:00 p.m.

Marched & detrained at DOULLERS

8:00 p.m.

Went into billets at LOUVENCOURT

27th July 1915

7:00 p.m.

Marched to & billeted at FORCEVILLE, where we remained until the end of the month.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

August 1915

1st August 1915

FORCEVILLE

Remained in Reserve at Forceville. Continued training on drill, musketry, etc.

Night of 2nd/3rd August 1915

Relieved 2/Essex Regt. In the right sector of the Brigade line in front of Auchonvillers, with left on Auchonvillers – Beaucort Road and right touching 3/Rifle Brigade.

Remained in trenches for 8 days, which passed very quietly – practically no shelling and very little sniping.

Badly flooded out on 9th about 8:00 p.m. by a very heavy thunderstorm. Trenches consist of a wide front trench with firing step and snake traverse. Minimum Communication trench leading to large shellproof shelter. A second line & two long communications annexes leading back to Auchonvillers.

The French regiment had been in occupation since October last year had done a great deal of work – a large proportion of the trench had been paved – Officers shelters were most satisfactory. There was a marked absence, however, of good fire positions in a second line of strong posts and a new trench for a reserve company had to be started at once.

The German trenches in the edge of the valley & across Beaumont appeared to be almost empty. One or two patrols were encountered for 1 of the enemy was being accounted and before we were relieved.

10th/11th August 1915 to 18th/19th August 1915

Billeted at MAILLY and found working parties on 2nd and 3rd lines in course of construction. Very little opportunity for parade or training.

18th/19th August 1915

Relieved Essex Regt in same trenches East of Auchonvillers.

24th August 1915

Essex left 1 Coy in the village, a reserve coy. This company was relieved by a Company of the 2nd Monmouth Regt.

25th August 1915

Our two right companies relieved by 2/Royal Sussex Regt, 11th Infy Bde. D Coy under Capt R N COOK took over section 61 & 62 from 2/Lancashire Fusiliers – C Coy under Capt Dickinson went back into reserve. Thos change was necessitated by the whole of the 12th Brigade taking over all the Divn Line West of 11th Infy Bde – who continued to relieve by Battalions.

September 1915

2nd/3rd September 1915

Relieved by Dublin Fusiliers of 10th Infy Brigade and entrained for billets in Varennes.

During this double tour a little shelling by field guns and occasional sniping took place. The enemy worked by night on their trenches and an occasional patrol was seen. Otherwise it was a very quiet period. Very few Germans were seen though 2 or 3 were shot. Our casualties amounted to 3 men slightly wounded.

We commenced several new trenches in short length. Constructed two strong posts but concentrated chiefly on the completion of the large shelters. The weather became unsettled during the last week.

9th/10th September 1915

Relieved Argylls. Batt in reserve to Brigade. Headquarters and 1 Coy at MAILLY. 1 Coy COLINCAMPOS, 1 Coy ELLES SQUARE, 1 Coy AUCHONVILLERS. Continuing chiefly on second line and communications trenches. Very little hostile shelling

16th/17th September 1915

Relieved by Argylls and marched to billets at BEAUSSART. Billets in dirty and insanitary condition. Large working parties found all week, chiefly on trenches defending BEAUSSART. No opportunity of shelling Battalion.

22nd/23rd September 1915

Relieved Royal Dublin Fusiliers in trenches. Since our last tour of trenches a great deal of work has been done. First line had been narrowed and well traversed with sandbags. Communications trench cleared and sump holed and new trenches dug. Very little work was done by us as time chiefly spent on watching enemy. Very strong patrols were sent out and bombing parties to try and estimate strength of enemy. Very little hostile shelling and enemy not very active. Rained all week. Casualties, 2 men wounded.

CWGC Casualties, 26th September 1915

Pte 2901 Peter McNALLY

29th/30th September 1915

Relieved by Royal Dublin Fusiliers and returned to billets at BEAUSSART. Large working parties found chiefly on water supplies to front line trenches.

October 1915

CWGC Casualties, 4th October 1915

Rfn 1445 William SPARKS

Rfn 3305 Matthew HEYES

6th/7th October 1915

Placed in Brigade Reserve. HQ and one Company at MAILLY-MAILLE, one Company and one Machine Gun at ELLES SQUARE, one Company AUCHONVILLERS with one Machine Gun. One Company less one Platoon at COLINCAMPS, one Platoon LA SIGNY FARM. Two Machine Guns were kept in reserve at MAILLY-MAILLET. Very quiet time except for a few 5.9 shells in COLINCAMPS.

13th/14th October 1915

Relieved by Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and Royal Dublin Fusiliers, marched to billets at VARENNES. Working parties of 200 per day supplied on Corps line. Scheme for improvement of Village drawn up and work commenced. This work should have been better and more quickly completed if carried out by Labour Battalions under RE Supervision.

21st/22nd October 1915

Relieved Royal Dublin Fusiliers in right sector (trenches in front of AUCHONVILLERS). 3 Companies in front line and D Company in support in billets. Enemy more active especially with Machine Gun fire at night. Strong patrols were sent out each night owing to increased activity on part of enemy patrols. Necessity for clear orders by patrol leader in case of inciting hostile patrols shown. One company 11th Royal Irish Rifles attached for instruction. Men appeared to be well trained and of good physique. Their chief weakness appeared to be NCO's who were not good disciplinarians. Very wet and cold weather prevailed during this tour of trenches.

Casualties: 1 Officer missing, 2 Officers wounded. Other Ranks – wounded – 4.

29th/30th October 1915

Relieved by Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and marched to billets at BEAUSSART

Orders to join 6th Division for training purposes.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

November 1915

5th November 1915

Left 4th Divn, 12th Brigade, and marched from Beaussart to RUBEMPRE. South Lancs under Lancs Fusiliers formed No 2 Column under Lt-Col PILKINGTON. Country very hilly and our Battalion troubled by fluctuation of transport in front. Spent night in billets at RUBEMPRE.

6th November 1915

Resumed march at 9:00 am and reached final destination at BERTAUCOURT at 1:30 p.m. Men stood march well, only a few cases carried in ambulances supplied.

Training under Brigade arrangements; 12th brigade split up, Essex Regt join 109 Bde, and Lancashire Fusiliers 108th Bde. 11th and 14th Royal Irish Rifles take their place in 12th Brigade. Special classes of instruction started in Bombing, Machine Gun, Transport, Signalling and Sniping. Remainder of Battalion chiefly occupied in Company Training and Brigade Field Days.

Continuity of work spoilt by having to supply working parties under R.E.'s. Much time and trouble spent in improving sanitary conditions and providing good accommodation.

CWGC Casualties, 7th November 1915

Cpl 20481 Thomas GRIMES

9th November 1915

Marched out to VIGNACOURT (about three miles) and met 11th South Lancs recruited in same district as this Battalion.

27th November 1915

Left BERTAUCOURT and marched to new billets at COULONVILLERS. Billets were poor and had been left in very unsanitary condition by previous troops. Training resumed.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

December 1915

I have been unable to locate the Battalion War Diary for December 1915.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

January 1916

6th January 1916

Left 36th Division and marched to MERELESSART to join 55th (West Lancs) Division, together with 5 King's Own, 10th Liverpool Scottish and 5 Loyal North Lancs to form 166th Inf. Bde. Training resumed, special attention being given to Musketry Instruction., Grenade Instruction and open fighting tactics.

20th January 1916

Left MERELESSART and marched to fresh billets at METIGNY and LALEU. Training resumed under Brigade arrangement.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

February 1916

4th February 1916

Marched from METIGNY to DOMART and went into billets at night.

5th February 1916

Marched to BEAUMETZ and resumed training under Brigade arrangements. Chiefly occupied with Musketry, Bayonet exercises and attack practice.

10th February 1916

Marched to AMPLIER and went into billets at night. 55 Division moving up to take over from French. Spent next day in huts

12th February 1916

Marched to BEDLES-AU-BOIS and spent night in billets.

13th February 1916

Marched at 3:00 am from billets and relieved French troops in support at BELLACOURT. Brigade disposition 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt and 1/10 L'Pool Regt in front line, 1/5 K.O.R. Lancs Regt and 1/5th South Lancs in support. Battalions going into front line previous day got shelled at BELLACOURT and lost 30 men. Our transport was sent up before us during night and relief completed without any shelling.

D Coy went to 1/10 L'Pool Regt in the front line to make them up to necessary strength. Trenches in very bad condition. No drainage system and no revetting done. Parapet too low and very thin in places.

Relieved 1/5 Loyal North Lancs Regt in front line. Trenches were deep in mud and impossible to clean in short period. Men served out with gum boots thigh which saved cases of frostbite and trench foot.

21st February 1916

Divided to hold WILLOWS and OSIERS with two Coys, 1 Coy in support in SOUTIENS and one Coy in village. Trenches still very bad and made worse by heavy falls of snow.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4208 Edward ASHCROFT

25th/27th February 1916

Line shortened by 164 Inf Bde taking over between 165 Inf Bde and 166 Inf Bde We now only hold WILLOWS with 1 Coy and 1 Coy in support. Remaining 2 Coys in BELLACOURT

March 1916

To March 14th 1916

Battalion relieved itself by Coys after 4 days in front line, 4 days in support and 8 days in village. Snow still continued and trenches became almost blocked. Men stood salvage conditions very well, only about 25 being evacuated to hospital. Lines taking over from French troops the enemy have been very inactive opposite us. Their guns being always silent except for light shelling by Field guns. No enemy patrols seen and very little enemy sniping. Our artillery much more active with good results. Patrols out each night and snipers firing whenever targets seen.

CWGC Casualties – 2nd March 1916

Pte 3916 Francis WHITTAKER

14th/15th March 1916

Relieved by 1/10 L'Pool Regt and marched 8 miles to rest billets at SAULTY.

22nd/23rd March 1916

Relieved 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt in right sub-sector. Trenches in very good condition and all boarded. Work chiefly directed on strengthening and revetting parapets.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 4071 Peter PICKERING

24th March 1916

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 2672 Joseph HIGGINS (Died at Home)

29th March 1916

CWGC Casualties

Sjt 1012 Joseph OWEN (Killed in Action)

30th/31st March 1916

Relieved by 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt and after relief relieved 1/10 L'Pool Regt in Centre Sub Sector.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

April 1916

To 15th April 1916

Held centre sub sector with one company in front line, one company in support and two companies at BELLACOURT, relieved every four days. Worked chiefly on improving fire trenches and wire. Line much strengthened, enemy very passive.

15th/16th April 1916

Relieved by 1/10th L'Pool Regt and marched to rest billets at SAULTY. D Coy left in BELLACOURT for work.

17th April 1916

B Coy went into Huts at GORY to prepare same as rest camps.

18th April 1916

CWGC Casualties

2/Lt Charles Reginald BOUE-BLANDY

21st April 1916

L/Cpl 2304 Peter CARR

23rd/24th April 1916

Relieved 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt in right sub sector.

24th/30th April 1916

Held right sub sector with two Coys in front line and two companies in support in BELLACOURT, relieved Coys in line every four days. Worked chiefly on building Lewis Gun positions, observation posts and reclaiming disused trench. Both enemy artillery and snipers very inactive, no enemy patrols seen or heard during the tour, our snipers doing very good work.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

May 1916

2nd May 1916 TALMAS

Draft arrived from base of 1e other ranks.

3rd/4th May 1916

Relieved by 1/10th L'Pool Regt in GRANGE and 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt in PARK. Battalion placed in Brigade Reserve BELLACOURT. Line re-allotted by 164 Inf Bde taking over OSIERS and 166th Inf Bde taking over LANDAFF & LANARK from 4th Div. One battalion holds WILLOW & GRANGE. One battalion PARK, LANDAFF & LANARK. One battalion in brigade reserve BELLACOURT and one battalion resting in Divisional Reserve.

6th May 1916

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 3678 Thomas HOLDEN (Died of Wounds, Home)

11th May 1916

Relieved 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt in LANARK, LANDAFF & PARK (right sub-sector). Enemy very quiet & passive, good work done by own snipers and rifle batteries.

13th May 1916

Draft of 1 Officer and 8 Other Ranks arrive from base. Officer 2/Lt DYMOND who left the Battalion at OIS|SY in January 1916 to go into hospital.

14th May 1916

Draft arrived of 2 Officers and 48 Other Ranks. Hon Lt & QM W B DOUTHWAITE and 2/Lt R F WOODROPE from England

17th May 1916

2/Lt L ROBINSON is transferred to 148/2 TM Battery from this date.

19th May 1916

Relieved by 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt and marched to rest camps GOUY. Spent week training. Attention chiefly given to smoke helmet drill, musketry and bayonet fighting.

22nd May 1916

Capt H R SMITH takes up duties of Town Mayor on NABURS and OC Divisional Salvage Section

27th May 1916

Relieved 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt in right sub-sector. Enemy slightly more active but quietened by our snipers.

28th May 1916

2/Lt B C ALLIBONE (?) joins Battalion from England

29th May 1916

7 officers names as follows, join unit on this date. 2/Lts J F MARSHALL, C H CLEGG, A F H PEAL, S DAY, J WRIGLEY, F WARING, W G STORM

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

30th May 1916

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 1770 John William SANDFORD

31st May 1916

Whole time devoted to training, attacks on trenches, consolidation of trenches, attack and defence of woods and village fighting.

Strength of Battalion:- 23 Officers, 820 Other Ranks

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

June 1916

4th June 1916

Relieved by 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt and placed in Brigade Reserve BELLACOURT. During the week the whole battalion was used for working parties each day.

12th June 1916

Relieved 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt in right sub sector. Enemy inactive but very alert, good work done by our patrols.

30th June 1916

Relieved by 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt and marched to rest camps GOUY. Training chiefly concentrated on company in attack and smoke helmet drill.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

July 1916

1st July 1916

Marched from camp at GOUY and took over billets from 6th Liverpool Regt at BEAUMETZ.

2nd July 1916

Returned to camp at GOUY. 6th Liverpool Regt returned to billets at BEAUMETZ.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 3973 Ernest ALLEN

5th July 1916

Relieved 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt in right sub sector of brigade line BELLACOURT

6th to 10th July 1916

Very active patrolling & bombing of enemy saps each night. Enemy quiet but very alert, very little hostile shelling.

9th July 1916

CWGC Casualties

Pte 14965 William Louis DUGGAN

11th/12th July 1916

Relieved by 1/6th Sherwood Foresters, 46th Div, and marched to billets at BEAUMETZ

12th/13th July 1916

Relieved 1/8th Liverpool Regt, 164th Bde in trenches in front of AGNY.

Dispositions of 166th Bde, 1/5th South Lancashire Regt in front line, right sub sector. 1/5th K O (Royal Lancaster) Regt in left sub sector. 1/10th Liverpool Regt in support in AGNY. 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt working for 165th Inf Bde in BRETENCOURT.

14th July 1916

Discharged smoke at 3:00 am and heavily bombarded enemy's lines. Retaliation was prompt but not heavy. Wind blew most of smoke back over our own lines. Casualties, 1 killed, 2 wounded.

16th/17th July 1916

Relieved by 1/6th York and Lancaster Regt, 11th Division and marched to billets at BEAUMETZ

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4204 James BRENNAN

Rfn 3535 Fred FINNEY

18th July 1916

March to billets at GRAND RULLECOURT

20th July 1916

March to fresh billets at NEVILLETTE

21st July 1916

March to fresh billets at BIBEAUCOURT

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

22nd/24th July 1916

Trained and refitted the battalion. Draft of 1 officer and 200 Other Ranks arrived. 87 OR of these belonged to 6th Cheshire Regt and were attached to 1/5th K O (Royal Lancaster) Regt

25th July 1916

Marched to CANDAS and entrained 12:20 pm. Detrained MERICOURT 5:30 pm, marched to billets at WILLE SOUS CORBIE

27th July 1916

Marched to bivouacs at SANDPIT E18D.

30th July 1916

Moved further forward to bivouacs E16B F17A

31st July 1916

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4253 Thomas EDEN

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

August 1916

1st August 1916

Moved forward from MANSEL COPSE F16b F17a to reserve trenches at OXFORD COPSE A14 A15

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4217 James GREENALL

2nd August 1916

8:00 am

Valley shelled by 8" Howitzers for 15 minutes and again at 2:00 pm. Casualties, 15 killed, 17 wounded

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4413 George AINSWORTH

L/Cpl 1833 James ATHERTON

CSM 2557 Horace ATHERTON

Rfn 4332 Edwin BELLIS

Rfn 2706 William CRITCHLEY

Rfn 3830 George GILL

Cpl 2218 Joseph GLOVER

Rfn 4105 Harry GRACE

Rfn 4217 James GREENALL

Rfn 2141 Richard W JAMES

Rfn 1699 George JOHNSON

Rfn 1806 John W JOHNSON

Rfn 3497 Harold JOHNSTON

Rfn 3791 Michael MULLIN

Rfn 4989 Timothy TABERN

Rfn 1924 Joseph TAGUE

3rd to 5th August 1916

Supplied working parties to 164 Inf Bde holding front line. Chiefly employed digging Communication Trenches and cleaning Brigade area. Casualties for 2 days, 6 killed, 21 wounded

CWGC Casualties

(4th August 1916)

Rfn 2181 Alfred BALL

Rfn 4412 Peter DUFFY

(5th August 1916)

Cpl 2118 James GARNET

Rfn 1932 Thomas SIMPSON

6th August 1916

Moved back to Bivouacs F22A near Citadel

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 2736 Ernest HUDSON

Rfn 4667 Albert SPARKES

Rfn 4695 John WEBSTER

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

7th August 1916

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4091 James FRANCE

Rfn 4685 John RIGBY

8th August 1916

55th Division attacked GUILLEMONT. 165 Brigade attack B1C 20.85 to T35 A30.20 164 Bde attack T65 b 10.15 to Railway T19 b 00.30

First wave get their objective but support unable to get across.

5:00 pm

166 Inf Bde wanted to attack morning of the 9th to relieve 164 Bde hung up in GUILLEMONT

12:00 midnight

Operation orders for attack received and Bn moved forwards to get into position for an attack. 166 Inf Bde ordered to attack as follows:-

1st Objective. Enemy front line from T65 b 25 through T25 a 3.3 to S24d 65.75

2nd Objective. The capture of GUILLEMONT and of a line on the eastern side of the village from T5 b 15 to the railway T19 b 0.3

10th Liverpool Scottish to attack on the right and 5th Loyal North Lancs Regt on the left. The boundary between being TRONES WOOD – GUILLEMONT Road as far as T25 a 0.8. Thence a straight line running North East, through the Church to the GUILLEMONT-LEOZE WOOD Road, to 5th Loyal North Lancs Regt.

5th South Lancs Regt to support the right Bn.

Zero Hour 4:30 am

In moving up valley was found blocked with troops and transport.

9th August 1916

2:00 am

Commanding Officer with Adjutant arrived at proposed Bn HQ A5d 89 and found 2 Bts 165 Inf Bde (5th and 7th King's Liverpool) in possession. Informed 166 Inf Bde HQ and were able to move up to Sunken Road T30C.

3:00 am

Established HQ in Sunken Road. Company Officers warned of change HQ and sent for to explain changed scheme of attack as issued in operation orders. No time to go into detail or for Coy Commander to explain to Coy Officers and NCO's as attack was timed for 4:30 am. Owing to all NCO's and Bn and Coy runners having no idea of the country and the Sunken Road being crowded with men of 164 Bde, great delay was caused in getting the Coys out in position.

3:55 am

North Lancs just arriving and Officer in Command said he had only just heard they were going to attack

4:15 am

Our guns opened a heavy barrage and the Germans dropped their barrage within 3 minutes. Their back barrage line being on Sunken Road. Companies not all in position had to move this barrage. Those in position moved forward behind assaulting waves but whole line was unable to make headway owing to machine gun fire and heavy barrage. Whole line fell back and manned our original front line. Coys hopelessly intermixed with men of other attacking Battalions.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

12:00 Noon

Orders to withdraw Cots from line and relieve 1/5th Loyal North Lancs in Left Sector in front of Trones Wood. Relief complete 5:00 pm. 5th Kings Own relieved 10th Liverpool Regt on our right also during afternoon.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4100 John BIRCHALL
Rfn 240971 Thomas BURROWS
Rfn 2578 James FITZGERALD
Rfn 4199 Frederick GREEN
Rfn 241093 John JOHNSON
Rfn 240238 Sydney Patrick KIERNAN
Rfn 241798 John McDONALD
Rfn 241432 Robert MORRIS
2/Lt John Oscar THOMPSON
Cpl 3540 Samuel WHITFIELD
2/Lt Wilfred Charles WILSON

10th August 1916

Battalion worked hard clearing trenches and consolidating line.

4:00 pm

Relief started by 8th West Kent Regt 72nd Bde. Relief complete 8:00 pm and Bn moved back to Bivouacs in F22. Total casualties from 12 midnight the 8th until 12 midnight the 10th, 8 Officers 130 Other Ranks.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 241250 William BECKETT
Rfn 3940 Walter BEESLEY
Rfn 3519 John William BIBBY
Rfn 4922 George BOOTH
Rfn 3262 William BROWN
Rfn 3512 James CONQUEROR
L/Sjt 2768 Hugh DEARY
L/Cpl 3450 William ELLISON
Rfn 1633 Thomas GILLIBRAND
L/Cpl 2151 Alfred GRAHAM
Rfn 2620 Henry Burrows HELSBY
Rfn 4299 Walter HEYES
Rfn 4295 Arthur HUNTER
Rfn 4281 John JONES
Rfn 240933 John William LOWCOCK
Rfn 4442 Edward LYON
Rfn 3068 Matthew NORTON
Rfn 5054 Josiah POTTER
Pte 3817 William RIGBY
Rfn 2779 John RILEY
Rfn 4227 William SCARISBRICK
Pte 2496 William TROOP
Rfn 4924 Albert WRIGHT

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

11th August 1916

Standing by ready to move up and attack again.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 4212 Harry BROOME

Rfn 1850 Michael DOYLE

12th August 1916

8:00 pm

Moved off to relieve 7th Kings Liverpool in MALTZ HORN Sector.

11:00 pm

Arrived Bn GQ. Attack on isolated enemy trench proposed.

CWGC Casualties

L/Cpl 2740 Martin DOOLEY

Pte 3597 Leo DOYLE

Rfn 3604 John ELLICOTT

Cpl 240107 William HARPER

Rfn 3533 James HARRISON

Rfn 2365 Eric JONES

Rfn 4072 Thomas MOORE

Rfn 3850 James SCULLY

Pte 3199 William John SMITH

Sjt 4462 George Henry TYLER

13th August 1916

4:35 am

Attacked with 1 Coy 6th Kings Liverpool Regt and D Coy 5th South Lancs on isolated enemy trench. Attack driven back by machine gun fire. Attack failed owing to Officers and men not knowing ground and being unable to take advantage of same.

Continued relief of 7th Kings Liverpool and completed same 1:00 pm

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 242510 John Edward ANTROBUS

Rfn 3250 Thomas WORSLEY

14th August 1916

Trenches greatly improved and consolidated and new jumping off trenches dug.

15th August 1916

Relieved by 13th Kings Liverpool Regt and 4th Royal Fusiliers. Relief complete 5:30 am. Returned to Bivouacs F22b.

3:30 pm

Marched to billets at MEAULTE,

Casualties from 8:00 pm on the 12th to 5:30 am on the 15th, 2 Officers 80 Other Ranks.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 2991 Thomas CALDWELL

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Rfn 3949 Joseph FUREY

17th August 1916

Transport marched under Brigade Transport Officer to fresh billets at FRESSENNEVILLE leaving MEAULTE at 4:15 pm.

19th August 1916

Bn marched to EDGE HILL and entrained 7:00 pm

20th August 1916

Detrained MARTAINVILLE and marched to billets at FRESSENVILLE arriving 6:00 am

21st to 28th August 1916

Training at FRESSENNEVILLE. Small proportion of Bn granted leave to AULTE

CWGC Casualties

(26th August 1916)

Sjt 2451 James JONES

28th August 1916

2:30 pm

Transport moved by road back to MERICOURT

29th August 1916

Moved at 1.5 hours notice to fresh billets et ERCOURT leaving FRESSENVILLE at 3:00 pm. Marched in thunder storm and arrived very wet.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 1532 John CAREY

30th August 1916

Resumed march and entrained PONT REMY 1:00 pm, detrained MERICOURT 5:00 pm and bivouacked in open field E7. Still raining and men very wet.

31st August 1916

1:35 pm

Moved to fresh bivouacs E13a. Standing by under short notice to move.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

September 1916

1st September 1916

In bivouac E12a, Training resumed

2nd September 1916

As above

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 5005 Harry HULME

Rfn 4719 Arthur JOHNSON

3rd September 1916

As above

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4905 John YATES

4th September 1916

As above

5th September 1916

Moved up and relieved 72nd Inf Bde in front of DELVILLE WOOD.

Bde disposition. Front line, 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt on right, 1/5th K O Royal Lancs Regt on left. 1/5th South Lancs Regt in support in CHECK LINE S32a. 1/10th Kings Liverpool Regt in reserve in front of MONTAUBAN. 1/5th South Lancs Regt relieved 8th West Kent Regt.

Relief complete 7:00 pm

6th September 1916

CHECK LINE cleaned and improved and front line visited.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 3974 James BOWIE

7th September 1916

Btn out at night digging Strong Points 300 yds in advance of front line trenches held by 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt. Four Strong Points dug and communication trench from original front line to Right Strong Point. Casualties, 4 Officers and 40 Other Ranks.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 2267 William ADAMSON

Rfn 1997 Henry ATHERTON

Cpl 1898 William EDWARDS

Rfn 241517 Walter HOLLAND

Rfn 3555 Harry JOHNSON

Rfn 4929 Joseph MORRIS

Rfn 241860 Decimus NAYLOR

Sjt 2868 James TRAVERSE

Sjt 1419 John Robert VALENTINE

Rfn 4449 Edward WAINE

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

8th September 1916

Strong Points were garrisoned by 1 Officer and 20 OR and communication trench held by 2 Officers and 60 OR. About 10:00 am an enemy 5.9 Battery heavily enfiladed new Communication Trench and badly damaged it. During the night Strong Points were completed and connected up under very accurate sniping fire. In spite of this, work was well done and fully completed.

Casualties, 4 Officers, 45 Other Ranks

CWGC Casualties

2/Lt Henry BYRON

2/Lt Frederick William DAWSON

Rfn 5143 Charles DODD

Sjt 2107 Joseph LEIGH

Lt Francis Stuart LONG

Rfn 1846 Harry MARTIN

L/Cpl 4478 William MOLYNEUX

Rfn 2770 Thomas WILLIAMS

9th September 1916

After completion of digging, relieved 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt and completed relief by 5:00 am. 164 Bde attacked ALE and HOP ALLEY on our right at 4:45 pm. Attack failed and enemy pressed our Barricade NE Corner of DELVILLE WOOD. C Coy sent up from support and barricade held. During the night, Patrols were unable to get touch along E edge of WOOD with 164 Inf Bde position not clear as enemy were reported to be bombing their way through E side of WOOD.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 1694 Joseph Thomas ABBOTT

Rfn 4166 William BURROWS

Rfn 3122 Michael CORRIGAN

Rfn 4704 Robert EVANS

Lt William Thomas FRODSHAM

Pte 5032 Harry HILL

Rfn 5160 Ernest JACKSON

Rfn 1568 William KINDER

Rfn 4926 William MACAULEY

Rfn 5012 Christopher Anthony McGOWRAN

Cpl 2467 John William NAYLOR

Lt Charles Henry ROWED

Rfn 3214 Thomas SWIFT

Rfn 240378 James Henry WADSWORTH

10th September 1916

Still trying to get in touch with 164 Bde but were unable to do so. At night Communication Trench was ready and communication trench between Strong Points deepened. Our right flank was protected at night by four posts along E side of HOOD, lying in open, with trip wire in front of them. Remainder Bde relieved by 123rd Inf Bde, 41st Divn. We were attached to 164 Inf Bde and held the same line. One officer and 15 OR captured in front of our Strong Points.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 3238 John DIXON

Rfn 5251 Edward GALLAGHER

Sjt 1879 John HULL

Rfn 5252 Joseph RUE

11th September 1916

Bomb attack by 164 Inf Bde on ALE and HOP ALLEY failed. We gained 30ft of ALE ALLEY and held same with new barricade. During the night a new line of Strong Points was dug 150 ft in advance of the first line of Strong Points in spite of the severe strain the Btn had gone through, the men dug excellently. A new Strong Point was dug midway between the Right Strong Point and ALE ALLEY.

CWGC Casualties

L/Cpl 3846 Mark BALLENTINE

Rfn 4470 John DONOGHUE

12th September 1916

Still trying to get in touch with 164 Bde along E side of wood. During the night 164 Bde established 2 Strong Points in E side of wood and at last gained touch with us.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4452 William BARBER

Rfn 1771 James FARRELL

Rfn 3399 George WHITE

12th/13th September 1916

Night. Relieved by the 8th Kings Royal Rifles, 14th Divn. Relief complete at 2:00 am. Casualties 5th to 12th inclusive, 12 officers and 150 OR.

13th September 1916

Marched back to Transport lines about F8a, arriving 4:00 am.

11:15 am – Marched to rest camp at D18a

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4179 James PYE

14th September 1916

In camp resting

15th September 1916

In camp resting.

16th September 1916

Moved forward to Camp at Egc.

CWGC Casualties

2/Lt William Leslie PARDEY

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

17th September 1916

Moved from camp at 2:00 pm and marched to POMMIER REDOUBE arriving 5:00 pm. Divn took over line in front of FLERS and relieved 41st Divn. Moved forward from POMMIER REDOUBT at 12:00 midnight and went into support in SWITCH TRENCH 165 Bde in front line. 166 Bde in support with 1/5th South Lancs Regt in SWITCH TRENCH on Right of FLERS ROAD and 1/10 Liverpool Regt in SWITCH TRENCH on left of FLERS ROAD 1/5 K O Royal Lancaster Regt and 1/5 Loyal North Lancs Regt in BROWN and EDGE TRENCHES, North edge of DELVILLE WOOD.

Very bad weather, trenches in bad condition.

18th September 1916

Rained all day. Trenches very poor and no shelter for men. At night, 166 Inf Bde relieved 165 Bde, 1/5 K O Lancaster Regt and 1/5 Loyal North Lancs Regt in front line, 1/10th Liverpool Regt in support just S of FLERS and 1/5 South Lancs Regt in reserve and remained in SWITCH TRENCH with HQ and two Coys on the right of FLERS ROAD and two Coys on the left of FLERS ROAD>

19th September 1916

At night had 300 men digging new Communication Trench (SOUTH LANCS ALLEY) for 1/5 Loyal North Lancs Regt

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 3506 James BRADY

20th September 1916

All Coys out working improving and strengthening front lines of 1/5 K O R Lancs Regt and 1/5 L North Lancs Regt in order that they might be used as jumping off trenches.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4999 Joseph CLARKE

Rfn 4346 James ROURKE

Pte 4383 William SCOLLAN

21st September 1916

At night 300 men digging jumping off trenches in 1/5 L North Lancs Regt lines

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4116 Hugh ROBERTS

22nd September 1916

300 men digging assembly trenches, 50 yards behind front line held by 1/5 L North Lancs Regt

23rd September 1916

165 Bde relieved 166 Bde 1/5 S Lancs Regt relieved by 1/6 Kings Liverpool Regt. Relief complete 12:00 midnight.

24th September 1916

Returned to Bivouac 500 yards S E of POMMIER REDOUBT

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 5509 Wilfred James VAUGHAN

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

25th September 1916

165 Bde attacked successfully and objective was gained. GOC Divn thanks 166 Bde for their good digging which greatly helped attacking Bde.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 4234 Edward BILLINGE

26th/27th September 1916

Party of 100 men laying Light Railway from LONGUEVAL to FLERS

28th September 1916

Marched to billets at RIBEMONT. Left Bivouac 10:50 am and arrived at Billet 5:00 pm

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 1586 Ernest OWEN

29th September 1916

Transport of whole Bde moves to area round PONT REMY.

30th September 1916

Entrained EDGE HILL 3:00 pm and arrived LONGPRE about 11:30 pm where we detrained and marched to PONT REMY arriving 4:00 am. Found town occupied by 5th Divn and had to Bivouac in open field.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

October 1916

1st October, 1916
Remained at PONT REMY

2nd October 1916
4:30 am
Marched to ABBEVILLE, entrained at 7:30 am and detrained PROVEN at 6:30 pm (Transport on train),
marched to J CAMP by International Corner, arriving at 10:30 pm

3rd October 1916
Marched to POPERINGHE leaving camp at 4:30 pm. Entrained 6:30 pm, detrained TYPRE 7:00 pm.
Relieved Inniskilling Fusiliers, 29th Divn, in billets in YPRES.

CWGC Casualties
Pte 1782 James Jones

4th October 1916
Relieved 1st KOSB in right sub sector, relief completed 8:30 pm. Front line, B & C Coy, support “ Coy,
Reserve, D Coy/

5th October 1916
Enemy machine guns active. Snipers firing into backs of V Coy, 1 OR killed. A Coy shelled in support line.

CWGC Casualties
Pte 4707 Thomas Edwin EATON

6th October 1916
Enemy machine guns & snipers very active

7th October 1916
Enemy snipers got under by our snipers & Lewis guns. Enemy machine guns still very active at night.

8th October 1916
CWGC Casualties
Rfn 4376 Arthur PYE

9th October 1916
D Coy relieved by B Coy & A Coy relieved C Coy in front line.

10th October 1916
3 enemy snipers accounted for. Officer patrols out every night, 1 officer killed.

CWGC Casualties
Pte 3227 Ernest BROWN

11th October 1916
CWGC Casualties
Captain Thomas Reginald GLEAVE

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

13th October 1916

Relieved by 1/5th Kings Own R L Regt. Relief completed 8:30 pm. During our stay in trenches, much cleaning, draining & repairing of trenches was done.

Marched back to billets at YPRES.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 5282 Peter ANDERS

14th October 1916 to 21st October 1916

In brigade reserve at YPRES. Working parties of 200 daily furnished.

CWGC Casualties (17th October 1916)

Pte 5535 John Henry BENBOW

22nd October 1916

Relieved by 4th Kings Own R L Regt. 1 platoon C Coy remained to man the REIGERBURG DEFENCES & party of 100 men working under 2/2nd W Lancs Field Coy. Remained of Battalion entrained 8:30 pm and moved to O Camp.

23rd October 1916

In O Camp. Working party of 300 furnished to dig cable trenches 44a centre. Working party from YPRES returned.

24th October 1916

Cleaning up & Coy Inspections

25th October 1916

Furnished working party of 200 for digging cable trenches. Remainder of Battalion training.

26th October 1916

Working party of 200 furnished for cable trenches. Platoon D Coy relieved platoon C Coy in REIGERSBURG DEFENCES.

Reconnaissance party of 27 under Lt DRAPER moved up to YPRES on special duty. Remainder of battalion training.

27th October 1916

Special party commenced training.

28th October 1916 to 30th October 1916

Found 200 men for working party – 30th platoon in REIGENSBURG DEFENCES relieved 1/8th Liverpool Regt. Special party & remainder of Battalion training.

31st October 1916

Left O Camp 3:30 pm and entrained for YPRES. Relieved 1/5th Kings Own R L Regt. Relief completed 6:30 pm. Working party of 100 OR furnished.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

November 1916

1st November 1916 to 3rd November 1916

In billets, Ypres. Provided working parties 185/200. Working under 2/1 West Lancs Field Coy Town Major. 1/5th K O Royal Lancs Regt. Reconnaissance party for raid in Front Line. Patrols out at night, 150 officer and OR practicing raid.

4th November 1916

HRH Duke of Connaught with GIC 2nd Army visited the PRISON, YPRES. Working parties out until noon. Relieved 1/5 K O Royal Lancaster Regt in the right sub sector. Relief complete 8:00 pm. B & C Coy front line, D Coy in X line, A Coy in CONGREVE WALK. Raiding party numbering 172 left at PRISON.

5th November 1916

Raid on enemy lines. Left party very successful but no enemy encountered. Right party held up in the Gap by enemy machine guns and Trench Mortars. Result 17th Reserve Division identified. Casualties, 2 OR killed, 4 OR wounded.

6th November 1916

Relieved Coys in front line. A Coy relieved B Coy, D Coy relieved C Coy. B Coy in X Line, C Coy in CONGREVE WALK. Raiders rejoined their Coys. Period ending 6th inst work done cleaning and relaying trench boards, opening drains, putting in U framing in front line, general repairs parapet and parados.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 5538 Francis B BOFFEY

Pte 5285 Daniel JOHNSON

Pte 2305 George TAYLOR

7th November 1916

Relieved by 1/5 K O R Lancs Regt. Moved to billets YPRES. HQ bombers and C Coy PRISON, B Coy Town Billets, A & D Coy MAGAZINE. Relief complete 8:00 pm.

8th November 1916 to 11th November 1916

In billets, YPRES. Whole Battalion out in working parties.

12th November 1916

Relieved 1/5th K O R Lancs Regt in right sub sector, relief complete 8:00 pm. C and B Coy front line, A in X Line, D in CONGREVE WALK

15th November 1916

Coys relieved. Dispositions, D and A Coy in front line, C in X line, B in CONGREVE WALK. Operations by Brigades on our right and left. No shelling on our part.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 494 James GRANEY

2/Lt John STEAD

17th November 1916

Practice exercise. Hqrs Left Coy in front line blown in. Casualties, 1 OR killed, 4 OR wounded. Period ending 17th putting in U frames front line and general repairs to trenches.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

CWGC Casualties

Pte 2512 John DALTON

Pte 3229 Charles Henry NOLAN

18th November 1916

Relieved by 1/4th K O Royal Lancs Regt 164 Bde. Relief complete 8:11 pm. Entrained for O Camp.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 34067 John Stuart PHELPS

19th November 1916 to 25th November 1916

At "O" Camp. Inspected by Brig. Gen. L Green Wilkinson. Time spend cleaning up, inspections and training. Many improvements to Camp made. Test turn out of Bde on 25th inst.

CWGC Casualties (22ND November 1916)

Pte 2104 Edwin CARDWELL

26th November 1916

Entrained BRANDHOEK 5:00 pm and relieved 1/4th K O Royal Lancaster Regt, YPRES. Billets – D Coy PRISON, A Coy TOWN BILLETS, B & C Coy MAGAZINE.

27th November 1916

Relieved 1/4th Loyal North Lancs in Right Sub Sector. Relief complete 8:15 pm

28th November 1916

Raid by 1/10th Liverpool Regt on KAISER BILL. 6 prisoners taken

30th November 1916

In line

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Report on a raid carried out by the 1/5th South Lancashire Regiment, 166th Infantry Brigade, 55th Division, on night of 5th/6th November 1916 in accordance with this attached scheme.

1. During the 4th and 5th November the 55th Divisional Artillery successfully cut two gaps in the wire, each about 25 yards wide; these gaps were kept open during the night by occasional 18 pdr. and machine gun fire.
2. Zero was fixed for 12:30 am on the 6th, at which time a rolling barrage was opened on to the enemy's trenches in the locality selected for the raid and at two other points on the enemy's front. This was the signal for the raiding party to close up as near as possible to the barrage, preparatory to entering the German trenches. At Zero plus 5 the rolling barrage moved back by lifts of 50 yards per minute to a box barrage enclosing the area to be raided. This artillery barrage was continued with Heavy Artillery and Field Howitzers firing on selected points in the vicinity and sweeping the Communication trenches and approaches with 60 pdrs.

At Zero plus 5 it was intended that the raiders should enter the German trenches.

3. The raiding parties left their trenches at 12 midnight, 5th, and moved towards the gaps in enemy's wire.
4. The right party were delayed in reaching the gap in wire, the tape man could not get on, as they observed a party of Germans in the gap, and waited till the Germans disappeared.

On arrival at the gap the first group were delayed by concertina wire which had been run out across the gap.

A few of the right party succeeded in entering the German trenches but the opposition there was very strong, bombs, machine guns, trench mortars and rifle grenades being used against this party who were unable to penetrate and returned to our trenches on the signal to return.

However, the left blocking party of the right party got to, and occupied, their appointed position in front trench. The Corporal and two men were wounded but number 4099 Rifleman B. CORRIGAN remained at his post though bombed from both sides until the signal for withdrawal was given.

The right party withdrew on this signal, carrying their casualties with them.

5. The Left raising party was more successful. After penetrating the gap in the wire which was 25 yards wide, the first group formed block's in the enemy's trenches to the right and left of the gap.

The second group went straight through gap in wire, over enemy's first trench, and moved to South side of pond. Between enemy's front line, and EITEL FRITZ FARM buildings, (50 yards from front line) traces of wire were found. A path was found running from farm round S.E. of the pond to the communication trench at point I.5.b.66.46. One of the parties searching the farm were bombed and a machine gun opened fire from a communication trench about I.5.b.66.46. this party also returned at the signal to retire.

6. The party that raided the saphead at I.5.b.31.65 found it blown in and deserted.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

7. Parties report generally that the enemy's trenches are 7 to 10 feet deep, very dry and well revetted with brushwood and timber, and trench boarded. Many deep drains were made almost like communication trenches.

8. The Artillery wire-cutting was good and done with a small expenditure of ammunition.

The barrage during the raid was well placed and the shooting good.

9. The raiding parties did not find any German casualties nor did they secure any prisoners, but were rewarded by finding documents in a dugout which definite established the already suspected presence of the 17th Reserve Division on this front.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

December 1916

1st December 1916

In right sub sector. 2 Casualties, 1 OR killed, 1 OR wounded.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 5118 Samuel GOODE

Pte 4203 William GREEN

2nd December 1916

Relieved by 1/5th K O Royal Lancs Regt. Moved to billets YPRES. Hqrs Bombers and D Coy PRISON. B and C Coy MAGAZINE. Relief complete 9:15 pm. A Coy TOWN BILLETS

3rd December 1916 to 6th December 1916

In YPRES. All available men on working parties.

7th December 1916

Relieved 1/5th K O Royal Lancaster Regt in Right Sub Sector. Disposition "C" Left Section "D" Coy Right Sector. "A" Coy in X Line, B Coy in CONGREVE WALK. Relief complete 7:20 pm.

CWGC Casualties (8th December 1916)

2/Lt John Goldsmith WOOD

9th December 1916

Relieved Coys in front line. Disposition, A Coy L Sector, B Coy R Sector, D Coy in X Line C Coy in CONGREVE WALK. Coys working in trench, widening and improving,

12th December 1916

Relieved by 1/5th K O Royal Lancs Regt, moved to billets at YPRES. Hqrs Bombers C Coy PRISON, D Coy TOWN BILLETS. A & B Coys, MAGAZINE. Relief complete 7:10 pm. All available men on working parties. 1 Hours training per day done in addition.

17th December 1916

Relieved by 1/4th Loyal North Lancs Regt. 164 Brigade. Entrained 7:35 pm for A Camp.

18th December 1916

Moved to D Camp. Day spent cleaning up.

19th December 1916 to 20th December 1916

Training

21st December 1916

G O C in C visited O Camp. Inspection which should have taken place washed out due to heavy rain.

22nd December 1916 to 23rd December 1916

Training in D Camp. Working party of 100 for cable burying.

25th December 1916

Christmas Day. Holiday. "C" Coy won the Brigade Inter Coy Football Competition.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

26th December 1916

Training. Inspection of Lewis Guns by Divisional general. Working party for RE's.

27th December 1916

Moved to YPRES. Relieved the 1/4th Loyal North Lancs Regt, 164 Brigade. Hqrs Bombers C Coy PRISON, A & B MAGAZINE, D Coy TOWNB BILLETS.

28th December 1916

Relieved the 1/4th K O Royal Lancs Regt in Right Sub Sector. Dispositions D Coy L Sector, C Coy R Sector, B in X Line, A Coy in CONGREVE WALK. Relief complete 7:15 pm

30th December 1916

Coys relieved in front line. Dispositions, B Coy L Sector, A Coy R Sector, C in X Line, D Coy in CONGREVE WALK.

31st December 1916

Coys engaged cleaning up, training and improving trenches.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

January 1917

1st January 1917

Right sub sector, Special School by Gunners, 5:30 pm. L Platoons Bombers, Lewis Guns withdrawn from Right to X Line. One platoon from Right placed in MILL COTS.

2nd January 1917

Relieved by the 1/5th K O Royal Lancaster Regiment in Right Sub Sector, moved to billets in YPRES. A Coy TOWN BILLETS, Hqrs Bombers and B Coy, PRISON, C & D Coy MAGAZINE

CWGC Casualties

Pte 2927 Edward DUFFY

3rd January 1917 to 6th January 1917

In YPRES. Supplying working parties daily, also Training

CWGC Casualties (4th January 1917)

Pte 4355 Alfred JARVIS

7th January 1917

Relieved the 1/5th K O Royal Lancaster Regiment in the Right Sub Sector. Disposition D Coy Right Sector, C Coy Left Sector, A Coy X Line, B Coy CONGREVE WALK. Relief complete 6:30 pm

10th January 1917

Raid by the 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt. Portion of our line vacated during preparatory bombardment. Corps Commander visited MILLS COTS, Battn Hqrs and CONGREVE WALK. Casualties, 1 wounded

12th January 1917

Relieved by the 4/5th Black Watch., 118th Infantry Brigade in the Right Sub Sector. Relief complete 11:30 pm. Early in the day wire at C29 7 C29 6 cut by German fire. Batteries were informed. 9:00 pm in middle of relief intense bombardment commenced by enemy on our front line, mainly in the Left and also on front of Battalion on our Left. SOS was sent up from the front line and also given to the Battalion by phone. Our guns replied in under half a minute. Fire died down about 9:30 pm. After relief, Battalion entrained and moved to "A" camp.

Casualties, 4 killed, 2 wounded

CWGC Casualties

Pte 5517, Edward JENNINGS

Rfn 241862 George LAWRENSON

13th January 1917

At "A" Camp. 11:15 a.m. Transport moved forward to WORMHOUDT.

14th January 1917

Transport moved forward to MERCKEGHEM. Battalion left "A" Camp and entrained at CHEESEMARKET STN, POPERINGHE, detrained at BOLLEZEELE about 5:30 pm and marched to billets in Training Area at MERCKEGHEM.

CWGC Casualties

L/Cpl 4737 William PILKINGTON

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

15th January 1917 to 31st January 1917

In training, MERCKEGHEM. Cup presented by Brigadier L Green Wilkinson for Football Competition. Battalions in the Brigade won by 1/5th South Lancashire Regt, also cross country race. Teams of 12 open to the Brigade.

CWGC Casualties (29th January 1917)
Sjt 5337 John FILLINGHAM

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

February 1917

1st February 1917

At MERCKEGHEM Training

3rd February 1917

Transport moved forward. Btn entrained at BOLLEZEELE 8:40 am, detrained CHEESEMARKET STN, POPERINGHE, marched to E Camp and relieved 1/8th Kings Liverpool Regt 164 Inf Bde, arrived 8:15 pm

4th February 1917

Transport arrived

5th February 1917 to 8th February 1917

E Camp Training. Working parties supplied.

9th February 1917

Moved to MOUTON FARM, ELVERDINGHE, relieved 1/10th Liverpool Scottish.

10th February 1917 to 16th February 1917

At MOUTON FARM. Working parties of 10 officers and 405 OR provided, working on Cable Trench, Northern Track, Screening Roads. On 15th, enemy aeroplane brought down in flames.

17th February 1917

Relieved 4/5th Black Watch (39th Divn) in Brigade Reserve YPRES. Hqrs and C Coy PRISON, A and D MAGAZINE, B TOWN BILLETS.

18th February 1917 to 20th February 1917

In Brigade Reserve. Working parties in Swimming Baths. BLR Support Line on Cambridge Trench.

21st February 1917

Relieved 1/5 KO Royal Lancs Regt in Right Sub Sector. Dispositions, C Coy Left (Platoon Garden of Eden), B Coy Right (Platoon Cambridge Trench), A Coy X Line (Platoon Mill Cotts), D Coy CONGREVE WALK.

CWGC Casualties (23rd February 1917)

Rfn 241758 Frederick SIMPKIN (Died of Wounds at home)

24th February 1917

Changed over. A Coy Right, D Coy Left, C Coy in X Line, B Coy CONGREVE WALK

26th February 1917

Relieved in Right Sub Sector by ¼ Loyal North Lancs Regt, 164 Inf Bde. Relief complete 11:00 am. Entrained H12 Central (28 NW), detrained BRANDHOEK, marched to O Camp, arrived 1:00 am

27th February 1917 to 28th February 1917

At O Camp. Training

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

March 1917

1st March 1917
Training at O Camp

2nd March 1917
Entrained BRANDHOEK for YPRES 8:50 pm. Relieved the 1/5 K O Royal Lancs in Brigade Reserve at the ECOLE. Relief complete 11:30 pm.

3rd March 1917 to 11th March 1917
In Brigade Reserve. Working parties 5 officers 450 OR

CWGC Casualties (9th March 1917)
Pte 242762 Ernest WEAVER

12th March 1917
Relieved the 1/5th KO Royal Lancs in Right Sub Sector (Railway Wood). Relief complete 3:30 am.
Casualties: 6 OR wounded

13th March 1917 to 16th March 1917
In Right Sub Sector

CWGC Casualties
Pte 240723 Joseph CONLIN

17th March 1917
Relieved by 1/5th King's (Liverpool) Regt., 165 Brigade in Right Sub Sector. Relief complete 9:45 pm.
Returned to billets CANAL BANK

18th March 1917 to 22nd March 1917
CANAL BANK. Working parties, 5 officers, 480 OR.

23rd March 1917
Relieved 1/5th KO Royal Lancs in Left Sub Sector (WIELTJE), relief complete by 11:30 pm.

24th March 1917 to 27th March 1917
On Left Sub Sector

28th March 1917
Relieved by 1/4th KO Royal Lancs Regt, 164 Infantry Brigade. Relief complete 10:15 pm. Entrained YPRES, detrained BRANDHOEK & to billets at "O" Camp.

28th March 1917 to 31st March 1917
Training in "O" Camp

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

April 1917

1st April 1917 to 6th April 1917
In “O” Camp Training

7th April 1917
Relieved the 1/5 KO Royal Lancs Regt in Brigade Reserve (Right Sub Sector, Railway Wood) in billets at the ECOLE

8th April 1917 to 11th April 1917
In Brigade Reserve. Supplied working parties, RE's, King's Own, 4th South Lancs, 177 Tunnelling Coy.

CWGC Casualties (11th April 1917)
Second Lieutenant Charles COCKING

12th April 1917
Relieved the 1/5 KO Royal Lancs Regt in the Right Sub Sector. Relief complete 1:30 pm. Sergeant T Hallwood and 1 OR killed.

CWGC Casualties
Serjeant 240535 Thomas HALLWOOD
Pte 240443 Thomas LITHERLAND

13th April 1917 to 16th April 1917
In the Right Sub Sector, Casualties 1 killed, 5 OR wounded. Night of 15th, Hurricane bombardment of enemy lines. Rifle Grenades, Stokes Mortars, 18lb Batteries. Retaliation slight.

CWGC Casualties (13th April 1917)
Private 242477 Joseph Henry RUBERY

(17th April 1917)
Pte 241646 Patrick FLOOD

17th April 1917
Relieved by the 1/5th King's Liverpool Regiment. Entrained at YPRES for BRANDHOEK. Marched to billets at “D” Camp. Relief complete 2:00 am. Large Camouflets blown by mining Coy at 2:30 am.

18th April 1917 to 26th April 1917
In “D” Camp training. 6 officers and 200 OR left behind in billets in YPRES to supply working parties. Training of specialists carried on. Lewis Gunners, Bombers, particular attention being paid to Rifle Grenades, Snipers, Signallers. NCO Classes on Bayonet Fighting under Divisional Instructor. Lewis Gunners receiving instruction on the Technical use of gun.

Brig. Gen. LF Green Wilkinson relinquished command of the 166 Infantry Brigade (To England).

The following letter was addressed by him to the Brigade, “On being relieved of the 166th Infantry Brigade, which it has been my constant pride to command since its formation, I wish to thank Commanding Officers, Officers and Other Ranks for their very loyal cooperation and also to wish them Goodbye and Good Luck in the future. It is my very deep regret that we shall no longer serve together.”

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Brigadier General F G LEWIS, CB, CMG, assumed command of the 166th Infantry Brigade.

27th April 1917

Relieved the 1/5 K O Royal Lancs Regt. In the right sub sector. Left Section front line held trench I 5.8 Exclusive to Trench E29.4 exclusive. Dispositions, "D" Coy 2 Platoons front line, 2 platoons Hqrs in CAMBRIDGE TRENCH, "A" Coy 1 platoon MILL COTTES and GARDEN of EDEN, 3 platoons ST JAMES T and PROWSE T. B Coy and D Coy on POTIJZE ROAD. B Coy manning Strong Point

30th April 1917

Casualties 1 OR Killed, 1 OR Wounded

CWGC Casualties

Pte 241672 Harry PERCIVAL

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

May 1917

1st May 1917
WIELTJE Sector

Battalion holding the right sub-sector

Disposition:

Battalion HQ - Potijze Chateau
A Coy, less 2 platoons, FRONT LINE
A Coy, 2 platoons, CAMBRIDGE TRENCH
C Coy, 1 platoon MILL COTTES and GARDEN OF EDEN
C Coy, 3 platoons ST JAMES TRENCH and PROWSE TRENCH
HQ platoon POTIJZE DEFENCES
B & D Coys, 2 Coys BRIGADE RESERVE - POTIJZE Rd

8:00 am

The Brigadier General visited the Sub Sector and made a tour of trenches

Working Parties (provided daily)

8:00 am - 1 officer, 50 Other Ranks working on dug outs (Potijze Road) under 422 Fld Coy, RE

9:00 pm - 1 NCO & 15 men on Drainage under 1/4th South Lancs Regt.

9:30pm - 1 officer 50 other ranks on CAMBRIDGE ROAD under 410 Fld Coy, RE

In addition, the following parties are working within the Battalion daily:-

8:00 am - 4 officers 16 men on Front Line under Bn Pioneers

9:00 pm - 4 officers 32 men on Front Line under Bn Pioneers

9:30 pm - 2 parties, each 1 NCO, 5 men - Wiring

2nd May 1917

7:30/9:30

Enemy artillery shelled junction of POTIJZE and MEMIN ROADS with about 99, 10.5cm and 15cm shells. 2 other ranks, D Company, wounded.

3rd May 1917

4.5 Howitzers active against enemy positions during the day

Aeroplanes of both sides up all day

4:00 pm

A fight between our machines took place over WIELTJE without apparent results.

5:00 pm

Hostile artillery fired 100 10cm HV Shells on the SHRINE at C.28.C. As soon as this was knocked, the shelling ceased. No damage done.

11:00 pm

Hostile balloon N.E. of WIELTJE dropped several white flares.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242269 Patrick McANDREW

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

4th May 1917

3:30 am - Two of our snipers lay out in NO MANS LAND at C.29.d.00.44 to observe and report on enemy front line. They returned to our line at 9:15 pm. B Coy relieved A Coy in the FRONT LINE and CAMBRIDGE TRENCH. A Coy returned to B Coy's billets on POTIJZE ROAD. Relief complete 11:05 pm. On the afternoon, 12 77cm Shrapnel burst over POTIJZE WOOD, 6 on C.29 and 4 on HAYMARKET. YPRES was heavily shelled during the day. Both sides had aeroplanes up all day, many German machines coming over our line.

8:45 pm

A fire lasting til 9:15 pm seen towards ST JULIEN

5th May 1917

11:00am - Front line was lightly shelled about C.29.3 15.9 with 77mm shells. Our 18 pounders replied effectively.

In early morning, working party on front line when shell dropped - 2 killed, 1 died of wounds and 11 wounded.

9:00 am

2 hostile aeroplanes crossed over our lines but returned in the direction of Passchendaele and again over RAILWAY WOOD about 5:00 pm. They were attacked by our planes and one fell in flames in our line near HOOGE.

8:00 pm

Another hostile plane appeared over our front line, flying very low, but was driven back at 8:45pm. Our aeroplanes were up very active all day. Enemy again shelled YPRES

10:30 pm

We observed smoke behind enemy line at bearing of 22 degrees from C29.3. suggesting an ammunition dump.

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 240576 Henry ATHERTON

Pte 240638 William Henry GANDY

Pte 240502 Thomas WILKINSON

6th May 1917

Received GOC 55th Divn remarks on report of snipers who lay out in NO MANS LAND from 3:30 am to 9:15 pm on 4th May. A very useful report, shows what can be done by plucky, energetic action in the way of getting intelligence.

9:30 am

Hostile plane flying low over his lines at 9:30 was driven back over ZONNEBEKE by anti-aircraft.

5:30 pm

Hostile planes flew over this sub-sector. Our aeroplanes active all day/

YPRES was heavily shelled and ST JEAN at intervals during the day.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

11:00 pm

D Coy relieved C Coy in SUPPORT LINE (1 platoon MILLS COTTS and GARDEN OF EDEN). 3 platoons ST JAMES TRENCH and PROUSE TRENCH.

C Coy returned to D Coy's billets in Brigade Reserve.

7th May 1917

7:00 am - 2/Lt SMETHURST and 5 Other Ranks proceeded with the first party to the SECOND ARMY Rest Camps at ABMLETEUSE near BOLOUGNE for 14 days.

11:00 am

Our artillery put up a creeping barrage on hostile front from I12.a.D1 to I5.6.42.83 with 18 pounders and 4.5in Howitzers. Enemy swiftly retaliated with a few 4.2 and 77mm shells on CAMBRIDGE TRENCH and HAYMARKET - no damage was done.

8:45 pm and 11:00 pm

A heavy bombardment for five minutes was carried out along the whole SECOND ARMY FRONT against the enemy's communications and dumps. In retaliation, enemy barraged round front line but not very heavily.

8th May 1917

11:00 am

Hostile artillery shelled POTIJZE CHATEAU and POTIJZE WOOD with about 20 8" shells. No damage was done. 1 Other Rank wounded.

9:30 pm

We blew a mine at I12.C.28.91 which was seized and consolidated by the Brigade.

9th May 1917

01:25 am - Battalion relieved in the right sub-sector by 1/4th Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment, 164 Infantry Brigade, during a very quiet night. Marched to YPRES and entrained at the ASYLUM 2:45am. Detrained POPERINGHE 3:05 am. Marched to "L" Camp, L.3.d.2.6 arriving 4:40 am. Got down in billets (huts and tents) until 11:00 am.

7:30 am

The GOC Division visited the Camps and inspected the billets

2:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Was spent cleaning up and company inspections

10th May 1917, L Camp

5:00 am

Reveille. Battalion in training

7:30 am

German aeroplane passed over camp and was fired on by anti-aircraft guns.

5:00 pm

The Major General gave a lecture to all officers on PLATOON TRAINING at the Reinforcement camp.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

11th May 1917
Inspection by Brigadier General commanding

12th May 1917
5:00 am - Route march

11:00 am
Captain MILLS, Machine Gun School, lectured on a) employment of machine guns with advanced units and b) machine gun barrages, to all officers at the Reinforcement Camp

13th May 1917
Brigade CHURCH PARADE (C of E)

CWGC Casualties
Pte 242470 George MARSHALL

14th May 1917 to 16th May 1917
Proceeded with Training

18th May 1917
L Camp
3:30 pm
Relieved in Divisional Reserve by 16th Bn, Welsh Regiment, and marched to the Hop Stores, POPERINGHE where teas were served.

7:45 pm
Entrained for YPRES, detrained ASYLUM and marched to the ECOLE (Brigade Reserve). A. B and D Coys in the ECOLE, C Coy less 2 platoons in HALF MOON TRENCH on MENIN ROAD.

18th May 1917 to 24th May 1917
YPRES
Providing working parties averaging 450 - 500 daily. YPRES shelled each day with HE Shells, especially in neighbourhood of ASYLUM, the STATION RAMPARTS and MENIN DUMP.

On the night 23rd/24th, The Divisional North Boundary Brigade and Battalion Boundaries were changed.

166 Brigade (5th King's Own RL) handed over to 164 Brigade (4th King's Own RL) from 15.8 to 15.5 inclusive.

2 platoons C Coy in HALF MOON TRENCH relieved by 1/10th (Scottish) Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regiment and rejoined Company on RD

25th May 1917 to 26th May 1917
2:15 am
Relieved 5th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment and front company 1/10th Bn King's (Liverpool) Regiment in RAILWAY WOOD and became GARRISON BATTALION

Dispositions:
Headquarters
Right Front Company - D - 1 platoon front line, 2 platoons MINE DUGOUTS, 1 platoon ?????

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Centre Company - A - 1 platoon front line, 2 platoons MINE DUGOUTS, 1 platoon ?????
Left Company - C - 2 platoons front line, 2 platoons CAMBRIDGE ROAD
Reserve Company - B - BEEK TRENCH

26th May 1917

RAILWAY WOOD

Our artillery active on enemy lines all day, firing on IDENTITY TRENCH and Support IDIOT AVENUE etc with field guns and back areas with heavies.

50 10.5 cm fired by enemy on WEST LANE near junction with BEEK TRANCH at intervals during the day. 80 77mm and 12 10.5cm on CAMBRIDGE TRENCH and RIFLE FARM between 5:00 and 7:00 pm in retaliation for our Trench Mortar fire, Stokes Mortars having fired on the BARRICADE. 16 other ranks wounded.

11:30 pm

3 patrols out on Battalion front reconnoitering HORNBY, GORDON, Nos 3, 11 and No 5 Craters, but no signs of the enemy were found.

During the morning, enemy shelled YPRES, about 280 Howitzer shells fell upon the RAMPARTS and between 6:15 am and 7:30 am the ASYLUM was bombarded.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242882 John FLINT

27th May 1917

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

2/Lt C HANCOCK and 51 other ranks attached to 223rd Field Coy RE for duty.

Our heavy artillery fired 400 rounds on enemy front line and supports. Firing was very effective especially on the ICE LANE and IGUANA AVENUE both of which received direct hits. Wire was cut in many places and left edge of NORTH STATION BUILDINGS. There was no retaliation. Enemy artillery fired on CAMBRIDGE TRENCH at 2:25 pm with 16 4.2 shells.

5 enemy aeroplanes flying low passed over our lines and were fired on by deck, Lewis and Machine guns. 1 OR killed, 1 OR wounded, Patrols again out on our front, but no enemy encountered.

6:35 pm

Enemy plane up, brought down by anti-aircraft MG fire, behind enemy lines.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 241751 John BARNETT

28th May 1917

RAILWAY WOOD

6:00 am

Hostile aeroplanes flew over RAILWAY WOOD at 6:00 am for half an hour and again at 8:00 am for an hour in spite of heavy small arms fire. Hostile balloon behind BELLEWAARDE RIDGE was brought down on approach of our aeroplanes.

Our field guns again active, cutting gaps in enemy wire, also Trench Mortars. Enemy appears to be tired, mending his front line and is concentrating on his rear lines of defence. New wire 8 yards deep on two foot six inch stakes has been put out running from CAMEROON AVENUE in front of GREY RUIN and

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

joining up with main wire round FREZENBURG line.

6:00 pm

Our heavy artillery fired on IDLE SAP [from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and trenches on and behind BELLEWAARDE RIDGE.

10:00 pm

We blew a camouflet under No 12 CRATER which did not break the surface. Part of CRATER GAP TRANCH and bombing post fell in. We fired rifle bombs and Lewis guns at COTTER CRATER. No action by enemy.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242555 James HOGAN

29th May 1917

Our guns all active all day. At 2:00 am we fired 50 – 18 pounder shrapnel on IDENTITY TRENCH.

6:00 pm

Enemy retaliated on CAMBRIDGE TRENCH and WEST LANE with salvos of 77mm and 10.5 cm.

8:00 pm

Hostile plane flew over our line and fired a WHITE FLARE followed by one bursting into two red and white stars. Many searchlights were in use behind the lines at 11:30 pm

10:30 pm

We blew a large mine about 60 x 80 yards just SOUTH of LA CRATER. There was no action by enemy except a little sniping. We consolidated and wired the near lip of the CRATER. 2 men wounded. The enemy made no attempt to hinder our party or to seize his own lip. The crater formed obliterates COTTER, NEW COTTER and No 12 CRATERS. A communication trench was pushed out from the front line connecting up the SOUTHERN extremity and the trench on the lip. An existing trench was cleared making a second communication trench from the northern extremity. Our lip is very high giving a good command of enemy's lines and a view of BELLEWAARDE LAKE. The Brigade Major was at Bn HQ during operations. Patrols report enemy very quiet and no signs of any work or attempts to move his wire.

30th May 1917

Message received from Brig. General F G Lewis as follows, "Congratulations on the excellence of your arrangements last night". Our field guns proceeding with wire cutting. 6 of our aeroplanes crossed enemy lines about 6:30 am

4:30 pm

The GOC Division visited the trenches and expressed himself highly please with the previous night's work and congratulated the CO.

30th May 1917 RAILWAY WOOD

4:30 pm

Neighbourhood of BECK TRENCH and WEST LANE shelled with about 6 x 5.9's

6:00 pm

The LEFT GROUP took part in a practice barrage in conjunction with machine guns on left of RAILWAY WOOD SECTOR.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Our artillery continued their programme of harassing the enemy's approaches and communications during the night. 2 other ranks wounded.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 241617 John Charles RALPHSON

31st May 1917

9:00 am

Our 15 pounders fired on BELLEWARDE RIDGE intermittently from 9:00 am to 10:30 am

10:30 am

Hostile 5.9 battery fired about 40 rounds in the neighbourhood of SOUTH LANE and WEST LANE. Our aeroplanes brought down one hostile balloon in flames on our right flank. Our heavies again bombarded enemy support and rear positions all day and wire cutting was proceeded with. 3 other ranks wounded.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

June 1917

1st June 1917

RAILWAY WOOD

Forming GARRISON BATTALION., holding line from I5.1 to I11.1 inclusive.

3:00 am

Ender cover of machine gun and artillery fire, 500 gas bombs were discharged from projectors upon the area approximately enclosed by the YPRES-ROULERS RAILWAY and ICE LANE. Double green flares were sent up by the enemy.

3:15 am

Hostile artillery barraged the front line, CAMBRIDGE TRENCH and EAST Lane for 45 minutes – 7 other ranks in 'D' Coy wounded.

During the day our heavy artillery continued the bombardment of enemy support and reserve trenches. Our 60lb TM;s fixed on IDEA TRENCH and enemy wire at intervals. Hostile 4.2's fired in retaliation on our FRONT LINE, CAMBRIDGE TRENCH, BEEK TRENCH and WEST LANE. 2 other ranks, A Coy, wounded.

8:10 am

Hostile plane flying low over sector was driven off by A.A.

3:30 pm

A practice barrage took place from YPRES – ROULERS RAILWAY to the south.

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 241670 William GRIFFITHS

2nd June 1917

3:00 am

60 gas bombs discharged from projectors on enemy trench, action followed as on 15th inst, but artillery was not as active.

3:20 am

Enemy blew a camouflet about 40 feet due north of BLISS CRATER, this did not break the surface.

9:30 am

One of our planes brought down in flames behind enemy lines by anti-Aircraft fire and another was forced down in our own lines at 9:30 am A hostile machine flew low over RAILWAY WOOD at 8:30 am and was fired on by Lewis and Machine Guns. Our heavies continued daily bombardment, BELLEWAARDE RIDGE etc. being considerably knocked about. During the day enemy shelled FRONT LINE, CAMBRIDGE TRENCH, JUNCTION TRENCH and WEST LANE were shelled with salvos of 77mm and 10.5cm shells.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 240070 Lazarus PEEL

3rd June 1917

4:00 am

The enemy blew a mine at I.12.a.2.2, no action followed. There are two craters, one at I.12.a.12.20 – 16 yards diameter and one at I.12.a.22.16m 20 yards in diameter

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Corps Heavy Artillery bombarded selected points and a barrage was fired by the Divisional artillery on the front from CAMEL TRENCH to CAMBRAI TRENCH and barrage on enemy's lines on the left of Divn front. We discharged smoke on our front from MUD| LANE to C.29.7. Retaliation right on our front. Enemy artillery active on WEST LANE and trench mortars active. Lieut. W W ARNOLD and 7 other ranks wounded (2 died the following day).

4th June 1917

Comparatively quiet day. 4 OR's wounded

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242574 Thomas BRIGHT

Pte 242895 Joseph GREATOREX

5th June 1917

12:30 pm

A fighting patrol under 2/Lieut Vincent MAUDSLEY entered the enemy's trenches at I.12.a.05.94 and blew up the OP at that point. The enemy sent up double red flares after the explosion, and put down a barrage on our front line, support and communication trenches about the YPRES – ROULERS RAILWAY, six minutes later. The Observation Post destroyed was about 6 feet by 4 feet and composed of concrete and steel girders with timber on the top. No entrance from the outside was discovered. The enemy trench about here is badly smashed and is 4 ft deep revetted with brushwoods. 2/Lieut V Maudsley wounded and 1 OR killed. During the day our front and support trenches were shelled with 10.5 cm and 7.7cm shells. Our artillery carried on the programme of wire cutting and destructive fire.

CWGC Casualties

L/Cpl 240640 Joseph SELLERS

6th June 1917

Generally quiet day, but slight shelling during the day with 10.5 cm and 7.5cm. 75 rounds STOKES MORTARS and 100 rounds of 2" mortars were fired on enemy trenches east of MOMBER CRATER and at JAMES CRATER. 2 O/Ranks wounded.

9:00 p.m. Menin Road and all traffic roads from YPRES were bombarded with Lachrymatory and Gas Shells. This continued all night.

7th June 1917

3:10 a.m. Attack launched on the right by II ANZACS and X Corps against the MESSINES and WYSCHAETE RIDGE. Explosion of the mines could be clearly seen. At the same time enemy sent up SOS| on their front and at 3:15 a barrage of all calibres was put on our line south of the YPRES- ROULERS RAILWAY.

5:30 a.m. One of our planes brought down by hostile aircraft near HELL FIRE O.P. Hostile balloon broke away at 6:30 a.m., enemy had 3 up but these were frequently pulled down on approach of our machines.

10:00 am. Enemy shelled neighbourhood of WEST LANE, 30-77mm shells and at 3:30 p.m. dropped 40 10.5 cm round CAMBRIDGE TRENCH and PICCADILLY.

Our heavy artillery bombarded back trenches and field guns on his front positions.

8th June 1917

Quiet day except for slight shelling west of WEST LANE at 4:30 p.m., enemy inactive. 2 OR wounded, 1 died.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 240677 Walter FOGG

9th June 1917

12:30 a.m. A fighting patrol under 2/Lt W N WILLIAMS left our lines to destroy a concrete dug-out or emplacement about I. 12c 48 T3. Had difficulty in negotiating the very broken ground owing to the darkness. Enemy was very alert and opened fire with machine guns. As operation was intended to be a surprise one, it was not carried through.

2:00 a.m.

We blew a camouflet about 30 yards North of BLISS CRATER

6:45 a.m. An Unter Offizier of the 449th Infantry Regiment came into our lines at I.a6. This prisoner left his trenches North of the YPRES-ROULERS RAILWAY and said he had lost his way. He states that the order of battle of his division is from North to South 484th Inf Regt, 449th Inf Regt, 456th Inf Regt.

For remainder of the day activity on both sides was normal. 1 OR B Coy wounded.

10th June 1917

Quiet generally but enemy shelled neighbourhood of BEEK TRANCH with 9.2's and lightly shelled WEST LANE and SOUTH LANE at intervals throughout the day. 1 OR C Coy wounded. 2/Lieut T W W ARNOLD returned to duty.

11th June 1917

Some heavy shells were fired on front, support and reserve trenches and YPRES was intermittently shelled throughout the day, and quite heavily from 4:30 p.m. and through the night, gas shells being employed. 1 OR A Coy wounded.

11th June 1917 to 12th June 1917

Relieved by 1/10th (Scottish) Bn, King's (Liverpool) Regt and moved into Reserve with HQ at H.1.A.50.70 together with A Coy and 2 Platoons of D, C, B and 2 platoons of D at MACHINE GUN FARM and L.8. The latter 2.5 Coys providing working parties in forward area. 1 O/Rank killed and 3 OR Wounded (B Coy)

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242764 Frank HARVEY

13th June 1917

Bathing, cleaning up and Coy inspections. The GOC DIVN visited the Camp. At night, A Company and 2 Platoons of D changed over. C Coy and remaining platoons of D Coy remaining taking over (Map Ref).

14th June 1917

Proceeded with cleaning, completing kit, bathing, etc.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

15th June 1917

In the evening "C" Coy moved to MACHINE GUN FARM and A and D Companies relieved 1/5th (King's Own) Royal Lancaster Regt in Brigade Reserve at MENIN ROAD and DISMUDE STREET with HQ about ZILLEBEKE.

B, C Coys and HQ details at L.8 and M.G. FARM. Major W PILKINGTON, DSO< in charge of detachment. Companies moving into YPRES came under heavy shell fire from 11:30 p.m. until about 3:00 a.m. – Casualties, Nil.

16th June 1917

YPRES again heavily shelled, gas shells also being employed, nine hostile aeroplanes over YPRES. 2 Other Ranks C Coy wounded (1 died).

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242918 John Stalker BOYD

17th June 1917

1 enemy aeroplane brought down in flames in their lines. MENIN ROAD, Gate and RAMPARTS shelled also ECOLE in the afternoon. Enemy employed gas shells at night. 1 OR C Coy wounded.

18th June 1917

7:00 a.m. Enemy planes patrolled our lines, one brought down in flames on right of Divisional front. Bombardment on MENIN ROAD all day and YPRES generally. 1 OR C Coy and 1 OR D Coy wounded

19th June 1917

Shelling of YPRES continued and neighbourhood of MACHINE GUN FARM and HIGH STREET shelled by night. 1 OR wounded, D Coy

20th June 1917

2/Lieut. M FITTON and 6 O/Ranks proceeded to ZAEGERS CAPPELL billeting for Battalion and Detachment at M.G. FARM followed by 4:15 p.m. train from POPERINGHE. Whilst entraining the station was slightly shelled. Arrived ESQUELBECQ 7:20 p.m.. Shelling from heavy shells and at 7:35 p.m. marched to ZAEGERS CAPPEL where they stayed the night.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242976 Archibald COLLUM

L/Cpl 241608 William FIMISTER

Rfn 242930 Frank Charles FLETCHER

Pte 242810 John RAVENSCROFT

21st June 1917

HQ and A & D Coys relieved in YPRES by 1/8 (King's Own) Scottish Borderers and marched to MERSEY CAMP. YPRES and roads leading into it were continually shelled during relief. 2 O/Ranks A Coy killed, 8 wounded (2 died of wounds).

10:00 a.m. Detachment at ZAEGERS CAPPEL proceeded by omnibus to QUELMES AREA and took over billets for Battalion at villages of LEULINE, AUDENTHUN and ETRHEM with Headquarters at LEULINE.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

22nd June 1917

9:30 a.m. Remainder of Battalion entrained POPERINGHE for St OMER arriving 2:30 p.m. at Rest Area

23rd June 1917

Now devoted to cleaning up clothing and equipment and Coy inspections. 45 O/Rank reinforcements joined

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 242344 John William BEVAN

24th June 1917

C.O. inspected Companies on parade. 2/Lieut F PRICE joined for duty

25th June 1917

Capt. F R MORRIS] proceeded to HQ Third Army in connection with PRISONER OF WAR Coy.

26th June 1917 to 28th June 1917

In Rest Area. Training.

29th June 1917

Advance Party under 2/Lieut HARGREAVES left for new billets at ESQUERDES

30th June 1917

Battalion and Transport moved to new billets at ESQUERDES arriving 8:15 a.m.

July 1917

July 1st 1917

ESQUERDES

Battalion settled down in new rest billets on south side of RIVER.

10:00 a.m. Brigade Church Parade (C of E) at SETQUES

11:00 a.m. RC Parade at Parish Church, ESQUERDES

2nd July 1917 to 9th July 1917

TRAINING - Tactical exercise, co-operation with Aircraft. Brigade Schemes. Practicing the attack in relation to forthcoming operations with tanks, aircraft, machine guns and Trench Mortars.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 241772 Arthur JONES

8th July 1917

10:00 a.m. Church Parade - C of E at SETQUES, RC at ESQUERDES at 11:00 a.m.

10th July 1917

instructions for operations received from Brigade

10th July 1917 to 14th July 1917

Training (Battalion and Brigade) with special schemes and practice attack (semi-open warfare) carried out daily on BRIGADE TRAINING AREA.

14th July 1917

BATTALION SCHEME FOR OPERATIONS issued to OC Companies, Flank Battalions and Brigade.

15th July 1917

Attended Brigade Church Parade near SETQUES, had dinner then marched to QUELMES to attend BRIGADE SPORTS at 2:30 p.m. Fine day and good attendance. We carried off a good share of the events and won the BRIGADE trophy (bronze statues) presented to the Colonel by Brigadier General Lewis.

16th July 1917 to 19th July 1917

Proceeded with general and special training. Capt. J SHUFFLEBOTHAM accidentally wounded.

CWGC Casualties (16th July)

Rfn 5171 S PEARSON (Died at Home)

20th July 1917

7:30 a.m. Marched to ST OMER, entraining 10:00 a.m.

2:00 p.m. Arrived POPERINGHE and proceeded to B Camps where tea was served.

5:30 p.m. Companies moved to Forward Area by platoons, A and C Coys to YPRES, B and D Coys and HQ at L.4 and GOLDFISH CHATEAU. working parties to be provided daily and Brigade carrying party to work under Lieut. Plowman on dump. Our bombardment by heavies proceeded on back areas, also wire cutting and destruction of strong points and trenches, and a harassing fire kept up on enemy's communications. DEAD END was heavily shelled before midnight.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

21st July 1917

A and C Coys moved to billets in L.4. 1 other rank wounded. Our bombardment continues. Enemy sent gas shells into and heavily shelled YPRES. VLAMERTINGHE was also shelled.

22nd July 1917

Usual activity. 2 OR wounded

CWGC Casualties

Lt Sydney Francis ROBINSON

23rd July 1917

YPRES, particularly the RAMPARTS, heavily shelled with gas shells. 2nd Lt W L WILLIAMS and 5 OR wounded. (1 afterwards died)

24th July 1917

B and C Coys moved to YPRES relieving 2 Companies of 1/4th (Pioneer) Bn., South Lancs Regt. about 1.7C.70.60 for work under C.R.E.

Enemy active in counter battery work. RAMPARTS and DEAD END were shelled with 15cm shells. 2 OR wounded.

OPERATION ORDERS and ORDERS TO MOVE TO ASSEMBLY POSITIONS received from Brigade.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242795 Walter COTT

25th July 1917

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Practice barrages were carried out with Right Divisional Artillery . Wire cutting, registration and harassing fire were continued. 1 other rank wounded.

26th July 1917

Situation normal.

27th July 1917

In the afternoon, enemy guns active in counter battery work. 5 OR wounded, 1 died later.

28th July 1917

Completed equipping and arming for the assault. A and C Coys returned from YPRES to L.4.

29th July 1917

6 OR wounded, and 1 Officer

CWGC Casualties

Pte 240878 Joseph DONNELLY

Pte 240561 Robert HOSKER

30th July 1917

In the evening, companies moved into assembly positions, Headquarters being moved to WIELTJE dugout in the afternoon. The Colonel on Brigade instructions returned to Transport Lines as one of the two Battalion Commanders in Reserve. Major PILKINGTON, DSO, accompanying the Battalion into

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

action as C.O., Capt. D NISBETT, MC, as Second in Command and Adjutant. Capt A P AUBREY , 2/Lt D de PENNINGTON, Capt. L ROUGHLEY and Capt. H G WHITAKER commanding A, B, C and D Companies respectively.

31st July 1917

WIELTJE

3:50 a.m. Attack launched. Battalion was on the right of the Brigade front with the LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH on its left. Objective, the BLACK LINE. When the men formed up in artillery formation, outside it was very dark and difficult to get the proper direction. This was made much more difficult by the fact that the Battalion on the right advanced half right across our front. There was very little hostile shell fire to interfere with the advances. After crossing the BLUE LINE and getting extended, the sections got somewhat mixed but Leaders down to Section Commanders showed bravery and skill and reorganised sections as they advanced. After leaving the BLUE LINE, machine gun fire became more and more severe. the enemy had marked spots on which to concentrate such as crossing the STEENBEEK and gaps in hedges which were everywhere well wired.

The advance was made from shell hole to shell hole by section rushes. Support fire was given by Rifles and Lewis Guns until within about 200 yards of the OBJECTIVE when machine gun fire from SPREE FARM and CAPRICORN TRENCH to North of SPREE FARM held our men up. We had the help of two tanks, one of which crushed down the wire in front of CAPRICORN and then dealt with the trench itself and the other went past SPREE FARM and up to POND FARM, silenced the M.G. and enabled the men to reach and take the trench which by that time was empty except for men who were taken in dugouts.

Consolidation was immediately begun but owing to enemy aircraft flying low over the trench giving the position away, it was impossible to carry out the strong point where intended. Lewis Guns were sent forward into CAPRICORN SUPPORT on either side of the road, our trench was established on both flanks.

Casualties – 2/Lieut S H FIELD was killed whilst leading his platoon. 2/Lieuts SILCOCK, H F FALLAN, S H LOD, R G PULLEN, S W BAMBER were wounded during the attack. 2/Lieut J BEACH is missing and believed to be killed. At midnight our casualties were 1 officer 27 OR killed, 5 officers 133 OR wounded, 1 officer 11 OR missing. But the day had gone well.

CWGC Casualties

Sjt 24090 Thomas ABRAM

2/Lt Joseph Norman BEACH

L/Sjt 240370 Thomas BOSCOE

L/Cpl 240387 Charles BRUNT

Rfn 242291 William BUTLER

Cpl 240241 Fred CHESWORTH

Rfn 242902 George COAN

Rfn 241610 Simon CONROY

Rfn 241811 James DOLAN

Sjt 240643 Patrick James DWYER

Rfn 39387 Alfred James FLOWER

Rfn 241830 James FOLEY

Rfn 242484 John James GERRARD

Pte 40585 William GORST

Sjt 240527 Ernest GROVES

Rfn 36626 Henry Robert HARRISON

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Rfn 241270 Richard HARRISON
Rfn 242433 James William HAYES
Rfn 39339 Alfred HOPWOOD
Rfn 242093 Patrick HOWLEY
Rfn 203222 Edward HUGHES
Rfn 241469 William HUGHES
Rfn 39983 Thomas KENDALL
Cpl 26015 John Walmsley KNOWLES
Rfn 39032 Thomas McCORMACK
Rfn 243000 Frank Howard MIDDLETON
Rfn 242849 James MORRIS
Rfn 242834 Enoch OWEN
Rfn 242310 Richard RENSHALL
Rfn 27145 Albert SKEETS
Sjt 240519 Henry Stanley STOKES
Rfn 241768 Charles TAYLOR
Cpl 240621 David Henry TENCH
Rfn 240431 Michael THOMPSON
Rfn 241885 John UNDERWOOD
Sjt 240888 Richard UNDERWOOD
Rfn 242808 Thomas WALSH
Rfn 39491 John Richard WILDE
Rfn 39408 Christmas Owen WILLIAMS
L/Sjt 242542 Richard WILTON
Rfn 241730 James WINSTANLEY

August 1917

1st August 1917

CAPRICORN TRENCH

A barrage was put down on the enemy line as movement had been seen behind POND FARM but no enemy came through. Rain fell heavily throughout the night. Standing patrols were out about 50 yards from CAPRICORN SUPPORT. Our working parties were periodically swept by MG fire. An enemy sniper was active from direction of DON'T TRENCH but did little damage. Enemy fired at regular intervals with High Explosives on concrete dugouts in CAPRICORN TRENCH. Salvos were regularly placed on road behind SPREE FARM. A constant barrage was placed about 100 yards behind CAP TRENCH. Warning had come through prisoners statements that a counter attack was expected "that afternoon". Our artillery put down a barrage and no counter-attack materialized. At dark, enemy bombarded our system chiefly CAP SUPT and ground in between. 2 wounded prisoners were found in dugout in CAP SUPT. When bombardment died down, patrols were sent out 300 yards from ACP SUPT on right. There was no trace of enemy. Our left patrol saw 2 or 3 large patrols moving between POND FARM and FORT HILL> Rain still fell heavily.

Casualties: 3 OR killed, 29 wounded (3 died of wounds)

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 242807 Arthur APPLEBY

Pte 242080 Henry Edward CORLESS

Rfn 242885 Nicholas DEVANEY

Pte 241466 Michael DINGS DALE

Rfn 240288 Richard GLOVER

Rfn 240985 Frederick MOONEY

Pte 240696 Benjamin WILLETTS

2nd August 1917

The morning was fairly quiet with intermittent shelling. In the evening about "STAND TO" our artillery opened out on left in front of ST JULIEN. Enemy sent up a large number of SOS signals and his barrage fell all along the line. While this was still on we were relieved by the ROYAL IRISH RIFLES. This was carried out without many casualties and BATTALION moved into Brigade RESERVE in WIELTJE with HQ in WIELTJE DUGOUTS. 2/Lieut W M FITTON was wounded, 1 OR killed, 9 wounded. The Medical Officer remained in charge of the DRESSIGN STN at RAT FARM (a concrete emplacement) although that was subject to continuous shelling all the time of occupation and many direct hits were made.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 240340 Peter GRIFFITHS

Pte 240161 Peter HARRISON

L/Cpl 242768 Victor Gustave VIGNEROT

Pte 241754 Edward WHITLEY

3rd August 1917

Comparatively quiet day. Relieved 10:30 p.m. by the 11th Inniskilling Fusiliers, entrained YPRES pm for VLAMERTINGHE and bivouacked for the night, after being issued with rum and hot tea.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242372 Joseph HARRISON

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

4th August 1917

Entrained for POPERINGHE and marched to camp at L.15b.9.1. Tents and all ground pretty wet.

5th August 1917

CHURCH PARADE in Camp after Roll Call. The Brig. Gen, addressed the men, congratulating them on their work. Changed underclothing and cleaned up generally.

Near POPERINGHE

8:00 a.m. Billetting party of 1 Officer (2/Lieut C. O. L. LEIGH CLARE) and 5 other ranks entrained ABEELE STATION for AUDRUICQ at 9:30 a.m.

5th August 1917

Resting

CWGC Casualties

Pte 240103 John CHADWICK

6th August 1917

7:00 p.m. Marched to ABEELE STATION where we entrained at 8:00 p.m.

7th August 1917

3:15 a.m. Detrained at AUDRUICQ proceeded by motor lorries for TOURNEHEM, arriving 4:00 a.m. Bedded down. Breakfast 11:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m. Bathing, Coys & HQ

In the evening drafts - total 105 other ranks - joined from No 6 Infantry Base and 55 DIVL Reinforcement Camp.

8th August 1917

11:00 a.m. Inspection by G.O.C. Division at J.33a.8.8. Congratulated the Brigade on its share of the advance.

9th August 1917

Draft of 92 other ranks joined from Reinforcement Camp. Company route marches and training.

10th August 1917 to 22nd August 1917

Clothing and re-equipping, platoon, company and Battalion training. Route marches. Recreational training and field firing.

23rd August 1917

Company training in the morning.

In the afternoon, played the RAMC in DIVL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT final. Good game. In last 10 minutes RAMC scored 1st goal, result 1-nil. After the match Major Genl JEUDWINE, CB (Divl Cmr), presented the CROSS COUNTRY RACE CUP won by the Battalion previously also the medals (bronze) for the match.

24th August 1917 to 25th August 1917

Battalion and Company training

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

26th August 1917

Battalion SPORTS at GUEMY. Capt. J SHUFFLEBOTHAM rejoined from hospital.

27th August 1917 to 31st August 1917

Brigade and Battalion Training

During August men who had been in the recent fighting proceeded in parties of 50 daily to CALAIS and officers for 48 hours. The following officer reinforcements reported for duty on 22nd. 2/Lieuts H J LITTLE, A R STALLWORTHY, P H YOUNG, F H FRANCIS, J S JOHNSON, K MACKENZIE, L DANDRIDGE, H W HARVEY, W WINNES, all of 'THE BUFFS' and 2/Lieut K MORROW, South Lancs Regt.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

September 1917

1st September 1917

TOURNEHEM

Morning - Training. Afternoon - Recreational Training

2nd September 1917

Brigade Church Parade (C of E) at 3 Camp and distribution of ribbons awarded in recent operations.

2:30 p.m. Afterwards, Brigade rifle competition

3rd September 1917 to 8th September 1917

Platoon, Company, Battalion and Brigade Training,

CWGC Casualties (3rd September)

Rfn 242817 Richard John OWENS (Died at Home)

9th September 1917

11:00 a.m. Church Parade

10th September 1917

DIVISIONAL EXERCISE. 164 and 165 Brigades in the attack. South Lancs as skeleton enemy. The Commander in Chief (Sir DOUGLAS HAIG) was present at the exercise and expressed himself as "much pleased with the appearance of the DIVISION, and especially with the alertness and keenness shown by the younger officers", when in conversation with the GIC Division.

11th September 1917

Received warning order for move on 12th/13th

12th September 1917

7:00 a.m. Transport marched from TOURNEHEM under orders of B.T.O. to VLAMERTINGHE AREA, halting for 1 night at WORMHOUDT AREA

13th September 1917

5:00 a.m. Breakfasts. Advance party (2/Lieut DANDRIDGE and 4 O/R) left by motor lorry at 6:00 a.m.

6:30 a.m. Battalion marched to AUDRUICQ, arriving 9:00 a.m.

13th September 1917

AUDRUICQ

Entrained 10:45 a.m. for YPRES NORTH AREA

3:30 p.m. Arrived and detrained at VLAMERTINGHE. Headquarters at, and Battalion billeted in, vicinity of GOLDFISH CHATEAU.

14th September 1917 to 15th September 1917

YPRES NORTH AREA

Relieved 2/5th Gloucestershire Regt in RIGHT SUBSECTOR of Left Section of V Corps front with Headquarters at BANK FARM

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Dispositions - front line system from the GRAVENSTAFEL ROAD to a point approximately C191c.80.75. C Coy on the Right (POMMERN CASTLE), D Coy on the left (SOMME).

A & B Coys in Support under Major PILKINGTON DSO in the old GERMAN FRONT LINE SYSTEM between CAMBRAI AVENUE and CAMEROON AVENUE. 1 OR wounded

15th September 1917

4:00 a.m. Gas bombs discharged by 6" Trench Mortars at IBERIAN. Sentry groups pushed forward and patrols sent out on Company fronts for the purpose of gathering any information regarding the enemy.

9:50 a.m. Our artillery put a barrage on line running roughly from D20 C35 to D26 a 88 and HE and Shrapnel barrage put up at 11:50 on same line for half an hour. Enemy generally quiet.

15th September 1917

Received warning order from BRIGADE for night 15th/16th to extend to the SOUTH and take over positions of the front now held by 8th LANCS FUS from present RISK DIVL Boundary to ZONNEBEKE STREAM.

Two platoons of B Company were accordingly ordered up from SUPPORT and moved into line at 8:30 p.m.

Enemy machine guns active during the night, seen to fire from the GUN PITS at HILL 35 and direction of AISNE FARM

16th September 1917

Situation during night fairly quiet.

5:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. Enemy aeroplanes busy flying over our lines and firing their machine guns, dropped 2 white flares above POMMERN CASTLE and green and white flares on our right.

10:00 a.m. Practice barrage by DIVISION on right was put down on which the enemy replied by heavy bursts of fire mainly on the FREZENBERG RIDGE with all calibres up to 15cm.

7:00 p.m. Instructed by Brigade to work on preparation of forward Assembly Area for Battalions other than improvements on Battn HQ. This was communicated to Companies and work was commenced improving existing caves and linking up shell holes.

Divisional Artillery kept up harassing fire on strong points, roads and approaches paying special attention to old Battery positions. Lt Col LEIGH CLARE attached for duty to 166 Trench Mortar Bty with 2/Lt L J BAYLEY to R.F.C. as observer

CWGC Casualties

Pte 201435 David DONALDSON

17th September 1917

Generally quiet night.

In early morning our artillery shelled vicinity of HILL 35 with 4.5 in and 18 pounders.

6:00 a.m. Our artillery opened out well on the right. Enemy dropped four gas shells around POMMERN CASTLE and put down a light barrage on FRONT LINE and BANK FARM, POMMERN CASTLE line. Party of

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

100 other ranks who had returned to Transport Lines previous night under Capt E R McLEOD reported to O.C. RED FARM for duty as stretcher bearers in forthcoming operations.

10:00 a.m. Artillery cut wire on front of AISNE HOUSE. Casualties for 17th. 2/Lt H P WOLSTENORDIT wounded, 6 OR killed, 12 OR wounded. A Company, 2 Platoons B Coy and HQ details from PLUM FARM and OLD GERMAN FRONT LINE system under Major PILKINGTON were relieved by 7th KINGS LIVERPOOL REGT and moved into DIVISIONAL RESERVE in YPRES NORTH area.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 39285 William BATES

Rfn 242858 Robert BURNS

Rfn 39307 Thomas Edward GABBITAS

Rfn 26154 Robert HARDING

Rfn 50260 William JONES

Rfn 2044 William KING

Rfn 50273 Edward John LINDOW

18th September 1917

6:00 a.m. Gas Projectors discharged by N Special Coy RE on to CROSS COTTS from position at C18d to O5.

6:00 p.m. A trial artillery barrage on the BRIGADE FRONT in co-operation with 30th DIVISION on our right.

Our artillery keeps harassing fire on enemy positions and our aircraft active over enemy lines.

Night of 18th/19th September 1917

Battalion relieved by 1/9th K.L.R. and moved into DIVISIONAL RESERVE

19th September 1917

YPRES NORTH AREA

Day devoted to drawing reserve rations, re-equipping and completing deficiencies. All great coats and spare kit dumped. Operation Orders issued to all concerned in accordance with 166, dated 19/9/17.

Remaining in DIVISIONAL RESERVE, moved to OLD BRITISH LINE at WIELTJE with Headquarters at WARWICK FARMS.

20th September 1917

Attack launched by II and VI ARMIES

12 Noon Received instructions from Lt Col DREW to reinforce the 1/9th KINGS LIVERPOOL REGT by 2 Companies.

Orders were issued and B & C Companies moved up with Capt J DICKINSON, M.C.

1:30 p.m. Remaining Companies moved to shell holes round POMMERN CASTLE together with Bn HQ

4:00 p.m. HILL 37 and GALLIPOLI COPSE captured by B & C Companies and were reinforced by A & D Coys under Capt. H G WHITAKER at 4:30 p.m. Details of attack and subsequent counter attack given in Battalion Narrative (below).

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 50227 Allen BLACKWELL
Rfn 240464 George William CHESWORTH
L/Cpl 50239 Wyndham James COLDRICK
Cpl 242977 Gustave Guernsey COOK
Rfn 39340 James CORBY
Rfn 40632 James DEAGHAN
Rfn 40173 Thomas DENNETT
Cpl 241516 Hugh DEVINE
Rfn 202435 Charles ELLERSHAW
Rfn 241734 Joshua FAIRCLOUGH
Rfn 242326 Thomas FINNEY
Lt Philip Woolven FLINN
Sjt 240434 Edmund GILL
Rfn 40147 George HARRISON
Rfn 235244 Thomas HOPKINS
Rfn 203694 Arthur Ernest JONES
Rfn 241742 Jasper JONES
Rfn 40645 Thomas JONES
Rfn 242999 Joshua LAWRENSON
Rfn 241119 Henry MEEK
Rfn 242491 Charles OLDHAM
Rfn 32175 John OWEN
L/Cpl 242453 Herbert PARKER
Rfn 241857 Henry ROWLANDS
Rfn 31481 Thomas ROWLEY
Pte 34125 William Henry TAYLOR
Rfn 242363 William WALLINGER
Rfn 240987 William WALSH

21st September 1917

Remained in possession all during day and withstood counter attack. 6:30 p.m. Broken by artillery barrage and onward until night of 22nd/23rd when Battalion was relieved by the 2/5th South Staffs Regt.

Casualties from 19th up to relief 2 Officers 19 OR killed, 5 Died of Wounds. 23 wounded, 11 missing

Casualties:- 2/Lt P W FLINN, 2/Lt H J LITTLE killed, Captain J DICKINSON, MC, 2/Lts A MORROW, N PEMBERTON, F FAIRHURST, N DANDRIDGE, P H YOUNG wounded.

Many congratulatory messages received as a result of our success.

CWGC Casualties

Sjt 6396 George Henry DAVIS
Rfn 240454 John James FORREST
Sjt 241313 Henry GREEN
Rfn 240733 Herbert LANGLEY
Cpl 240518 William LATHAM
Sjt 240666 Moses SANDBACH
Rfn 240572 Joseph SEDDON

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

22nd September 1917 to 23rd September 1917

Moved into billets in YPRES NORTH AREA where hot meals, tea and rum was served.

23rd September 1917

Moved by busses from OUDERDAM – VLAMERTINGHE ROAD to WATOU No 2 AREA.

CWGC Casualties

Sjt 7899 George CLARKE

24th September 1917

9:00 a.m. Brigadier General F G LEWIS addressed the Battalion, thanking them and expressing his pleasure for the work accomplished. Capt MCLEOD rejoined with party from FIELD AMBULANCE also Lt BALDWIN with party attached 422 Field Coy, RE. Parties bathed at DIVL BATH, POPERINGHE

25th September 1917

Kit inspections and re-equipping, changing of clothing.

25th September 1917 to 26th September 1917

Marched to PROVEN where we entrained with Transport and proceeded to MIRAUMONT arriving at 4:50, detrained and marched to BARASTRE AREA, arriving in camp and taking over hutments.

CWGC Casualties

Capt Robert HEATON

Rfn 39287 John GRAHAM

27th September 1917 to 28th September 1917

Resting. Men allowed out of camp.

29th September 1917

Marched with Transport Brigade to AIZECOURT LE BAS where battalion was accommodated in tents

30th September 1917

EPEHY

Marched via AIZECOURT LE BAS, LONGEVESNES and VILLERS FACON to EPEHY into BRIGADE RESERVE. Dispositions:- Headquarters & B Coy, VAUGHANS BANK, A Coy, MEATH AND LIMNERICK POSTS, M C Coy, 14 WILLOWS, D Coy, KILDARE POST.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Narrative of Operations, 19th to 22nd September 1917

The Battalion moved forward from GOLDFISH CHATEAU on the 19th September 1917 at 10 p.m. to occupy Assembly Trenches in OB line in Divisional Reserve. Headquarters: WARWICK FARM DUGOUTS. Troops were in position at 1 a.m. Our Artillery opened at ZERO - 5:40 a.m.

About 12 Noon I was ordered to reinforce the 165 Infantry Brigade with two Companies (C & D) both under the command of Capt. J H DICKINSON, M.C., were sent forward at 12.30 p.m. with instructions to report to Colonel DREW on the 9th King's Liverpool R.

At 1 p.m. I went to brigade and received instructions to reinforce 165 Brigade with my two remaining Companies. I ordered these to move to shell holes round POMMERN CASTLE; Company Commanders to report to me immediately they arrived at BANK FARM. I moved to BANK FARM, arriving 2 p.m. Colonel DREW then informed me that my B & C Coys had been ordered to attack GALLIPLI COPSE and HILL 37. Instructions were then received from 165 Brigade that my two remaining Companies had to go in support of the 2 Attacking Companies. GALLIPLI COPSE and HILL 37 TO BE TAKEN AND HELD AT ALL COSTS. Captain H. G. Whitaker, M.C. was given the necessary instructions and placed in charge of both Companies (A & D), A Company to be in FRONT LINE. A wave of 4 Platoons in two lines. D Coy: behind in the same formation. Companies moved out at 3.30 p.m.. I went forward behind D Coy. Just as the Companies were passing SOMME, enemy dropped a heavy barrage. On passing SOMME, I met Captain DICKINSON coming back wounded, who informed me that HILL 37 had been taken at 4 p.m. I sent word back to BANK FARM. On arrival at GALLIPLI COPSE about 5 p.m. I found a number of my men in possession with 2 Lewis Guns. The enemy then commenced to shell GALLIPLI COPSE very heavily, and working backwards placed a heavy barrage round and about GALLIPLI COPSE. The men were ordered to move slightly forward in the shell holes to avoid this fire, one Lewis Gun remaining in the corner of the building to bring flanking fire to bear. At 5.30 p.m. the enemy were seen moving forward behind barrage to Counter Attack. I joined my Companies at Hill 37. The attack was repulsed by Rifle and Lewis Gun fire, the enemy on the right getting very close to within about 20 yards, on the left to within about 50 yards. At this time I sent messages back to BANK FARM explaining the situation and asking for reinforcements and ammunition as both flanks were in the air, there was a danger of the enemy enveloping us.

At 7.30 p.m. I sent my adjutant back to BANK FARM to explain the situation. By this time, with the exception of desultory shelling and short bursts of Machine Gun Fire, the line was fairly quiet. There being no communication to the rear and having received no messages, I left HILL 37 at 9 p.m. and returned to BANK FARM.

Owing to the close proximity of the enemy in the counter attack, all messages received and sent since XERO, Maps and B.A.B. Code Books were destroyed so they might not fall into enemy hands. This now interferes with giving correct sequence of times. Up to the night of the 21st inst. Things were fairly quiet. Rations, Water and Ammunition were sent forward at Dusk. Owing to Machine Gun Fire and Sniping, it was impossible for any movement to be made forward of GALLIPLI with the exception of occasional runners. Enemy again heavily countered at 6.30 p.m. night of the 21st. This attack was broken up by the excellent barn gas which our Artillery put down. The Liverpool Scottish reinforced 2 Platoons one on either flank of our position. On the night of the 22nd Inst., we were relieved by the 2/6th South Staffs. Relief was carried out quickly and without casualties. Before we left. Visual Communication was opened by us from HILL 37 to SOMME. This would simplify the difficulty of getting messages down from the Front Line,

Signed C.P. James, Lieut. Colonel, Commanding 1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

October 1917

1st October 1917 to 12th October 1917

EPEHY

Battalion in Brigade Reserve. Providing working parties approx 4 officers, 350 O/Ranks employed on widening, deepening, revetting and fire stepping front line about FAWCUS AVE. Carrying parties work on shelters, etc, under RE Supervision.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 242759 William Thomas HOWELLS (4th October)

L/Cpl 242541 George NEWCOMBE (6th October)

Rfn 29639 John BROGDEN (7th October)

Rfn 240225 James McHUGH (10th October)

12th October 1917 to 13th October 1917

Relieved by 1/5 King's Liverpool Regiment, entrained where Railway crosses road on ST EMILIE – VILLERS FAUCON RD for TINCOURT, where we took over billets in empty houses.

13th October 1917

TINCOURT

Cleaning of clothing and equipment, baths and Company inspections.

14th October 1917 to 16th October 1917

Company Drill. Working parties to be provided daily under RE supervision improving billets and shelters, pioneers running etc.

2/Lts F N CLIFFE (?) and H GALLOWAY – Leicester Regt – joined for duty.

The Colonel proceeded on 2 weeks special leave to the United Kingdom. Major W H PILKINGTON DSO took over command and Capt H G WHITAKER, MC, assumed duties of Second in Command.

17th October 1917 to 22nd October 1917

Proceeding with training, improving billets, inspections by GOC Division and Major-General WRIGHT, USA FORCES who also witnessed demonstrations of Platoon in the attack by platoon of B Coy under 2/Lt FRANCIS.

22nd October 1917

5:30 p.m. Marched out of TINCOURT, entrained at HAMEL on Light Railway for Forward Area where we relieved 1/6th (Rifle) Bn., KINGS LIVERPOOL REGT. In the RIGHT SUB_SECTOR of the LEFT BRIGADE FRONT with C and D Companies in line. A Company in Support, B Company in Reserve and Headquarters at L'EMPIRE Rd.

23rd October 1917

Quiet Day. Patrols out at night but no enemy seen or heard.

24th October 1917

7:00 a.m. 4 Aeroplanes passed over OSSUS WOOD flying very low, dropped 18 bombs on enemy trenches and then returned. Our artillery shelled enemy lines whole of morning with 18 pounders and 4.5's

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Slight Trench Mortar activity by enemy on the afternoon, our Stokes Mortar replied.

25th October 1917

Quiet day and night throughout.

26th October 1917

Our field guns shelled enemy trenches in the morning, also slight enemy artillery activity.

27th October 1917

3:20 a.m. A Concentration shoot was carried out by field guns and Howitzers on enemy trenches and communications, also 600 gas projectors discharged against enemy line.

10:15 a.m. A hostile plane crossed our lines and hovered over for 20 mins. Also enemy artillery slightly active in the afternoon.

8:00 p.m. Inter Company Relief – A relieved C Coy on LEFT FRONT, B Coy relieved D Coy on RIGHT FRONT. C Coy moved to Support and D into RESERVE.

28th October 1917

Hostile artillery from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and again in the afternoon from 1:40 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. 1 OR wounded. The following officer reinforcements reported:- 2/Lts I C PEARSON, W R SCROGGIE, H E EMBERSON, C S GILLESPIE, from Loyal North Lancs regt.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 203619 James HODGKINSON

Rfn 203702 Arthur ROWBOTHAM

29th October 1917

10:00 a.m. Enemy carried out a concentrated shoot on the sub-sector between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. using all calibers, 5.9's, 4.2's, 77mm also heavy and light Trench Mortars on our front system. A barrage was also put down on EAGLE QUARRY, SNIPE and QUAIL QUARRY with heavy Trench Mortars and BIRD LANE with 5.9 shells. 1 OR killed, 1 D of W's, 2 OR wounded.

9:00 p.m. Relieved by 1/4th Bn LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT and moved into BRIGADE RESERVE in relief of 1/5th KING'S OWN ROYAL LANCS REGT. And 7th Bn, KING'S OWN YORKSHIRE LIGHT INF. at VAUCELLETTE FARM.

30th October 1917 to 31st October 1917

Supplying working parties under RE Supervision, 6 Officers, 272 OR.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

November 1917

1st November 1917

Relieved 1/5th Loyal North Lancs Regt in Centre Sub Sector of Left Brigade Front. Dispositions – D & C Companies Front Line, B Coy Support in SHERWOOD LANE, A Company in reserve in GLOSTER ROAD.

6th November 1917

Inter Company Relief. New Dispositions, A & B Companies Front Line, C Company in Support in SHERWOOD LANE, D Company in Reserve in GLOSTER ROAD.

CWGC Casualties

2/Lt Norman Stuart CHADWICK (Seconded to)

Pte 40087 John William COTTERILL (7th November)

12th November 1917

Relieved by 1/5th Bn Loyal North Lancashire Regt and moved into Brigade Reserve. Dispositions, A Coy MEATH POST, B Coy KILDARE & LIMERICK POSTS, Battalion Headquarters together with C & D Companies at VAUCELETTE FARM.

15th November 1917

Battalion took over fresh dispositions in Brigade Reserve. Battalion Headquarters moved to 14 WILLOWS ROAD, D Company moved to HIGH STREET and came under orders of O.C. 1/5th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt., 2 Platoons C Coy moved to SHERWOOD LANE, 2 Platoons C Coy moved to 14 WILLOWS ROAD. Dispositions A & B Coys same as before.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 32490 Alfred PINKHAM (18th November)

Pte 40650 Thomas MARTIN (20th November)

25th November 1917 to 28th November 1917

Relieved 1/5th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt in Left sub sector of Brigade front. Dispositions, B & D Companies in Front Line. C Coy on support in GEORGE STREET , D Company in reserve in HIGH STREET at Battalion Headquarters.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 242994 Wilfred WILD (25th November)

Rfn 40651 Ivor TURNER (26th November)

28th November 1917

Heavy massing of enemy troops on our front reported.

30th November 1917

Enemy attacked about 7:20 a.m. in great numbers and broke through North of VILLERS-GUISLAIN. At once, large numbers worked down southwards and attacked the Battalion in rear. Not an officer of man of the Battalion came back and long after the enemy had advanced on our front were seen the fighting around Battalion Headquarters. The fighting qualities of the Regt were displayed at their best and a wonderful ?????? had been given to the new Battalion.

The approximate strength of the Battalion in the line was 21 Officers, 540 Other Ranks.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

CWGC Casualties

Pte 240520 Frank Livingstone ANDREWS
Pte 203668 Ernest APPLETON
L/Cpl 242252 Arthur ASHALL
Pte 203670 Herbert BARDSLEY
Pte 242680 George Hugh BARROW
Pte 241110 Joseph BATES
Pte 203725 Fred BEESLEY
Pte 241088 George BOARDMAN
Pte 242854 James BOYLE
Pte 50229 Frederick BUFTON
Pte 241853 Edwin BYRON
Pte 203775 Alfred CAPPER
Pte 203692 Charles CHARLETT
Pte 240178 Arthur CULLY
Pte 10530 Joseph CULSHAW
Rfn 13423 Albert DIXON
Rfn 240189 James EDINGTON
Rfn 240628 James ELLISON
Rfn 15542 Edward EMERSON
Rfn 37377 William FROST
Rfn 39271 John GREEN
Rfn 31333 Harold Samuel GRIFFITHS
Rfn 242991 John HARMSTON
Pte 31336 Joseph HAYCOX
Pte 240310 John HOLDEN
Pte 242356 John KING
Pte 242926 Robert LABAN
Sjt 240524 Joseph LEWIS
Pte 39320 William Percy Cuddon LONG
Pte 202812 Fred MAY
Pte 50279 Thomas Frederick MELLOR|
Pte 241373 Edward MOONEY
Pte 203458 Walter MORRIS
Cpl 240712 Charles Henry MOUSDEL
Rfn 241638 Wilfred NEWCOMBE
2/Lt Frank NISBETT
Rfn 200959 James NORMAN
Rfn 240568 John O'NEILL
Rfn 39430 Sydney PEARSON
Rfn 40177 Thomas Albert PENNINGTON
Rfn 241999 Patrick PHELAN
Cpl 240499 David PICKAVANCE
Rfn 40075 Frank PRESCOTT
Sjt 240912 Peter RIGBY
Rfn 203671 William RIGBY
Sjt 240326 John ROBERTS
Rfn 242522 Edgar SALISBURY
Rfn 40381 John SCONCE
Rfn 203762 William Edward SKEER

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Capt Frederick James SMETHURST
Rfn 202022 James SMITH
Rfn 39399 Bertram Harold TAYLOR
Sjt 240533 Roland WATERHOUSE
Rfn 241411 Richard WELDING
Rfn 203721 John WILD
Rfn 242805 George WILLIAMS

December 1917

1st December 1917

Reinforcing Platoon from transport lines attacked MEATH POST and ALIMERICK POST but were unable to gain ground owing to heavy enemy barrage and machine gun fire. The attacking force withdrew to its original position which was held until relieved by 21st Division during night 1st/2nd December.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 240458 Harry Simpson ASHCROFT
Cpl 240369 George BALL
Rfn 241203 David FARNEN
Rfn 240229 Harry HAMILTON
Sjt 241353 John HAND
Pte 240088 Peter HURST
Pte 240211 Charles IRELAND
L/Sjt 240562 John MISKELLA
Cpl 241579 Joseph NAYLOR
Rfn 40154 Arthur WINWOOD PENNINGTON
L/Sjt 240682 John QUIRK

2nd December 1917

Reinforcing Platoon moved back to billets at BUIRE

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 240405 James Watson JONES

3rd December 1917 to 4th December 1917

Resting at BUIRE. Capt D NISBETT assumed command of the Battalion.

CWGC Casualties (4th December)

Rfn 241651 Bernard CORRIGAN

5th December 1917

Moved by march route to FLAMICOURT and were billeted in Armstrong Huts.

6th December 1917 to 7th December 1917

Devoted to the cleaning of the men's' clothes and equipment.

CWGC Casualties (6th December)

Rfn 241663 Thomas CULSHAW
Rfn 242072 Frank Edgar HARCOT
Rfn 242524 Samuel LATHAM
Sjt 240162 Thomas POVEY

8th December 1917

The Battalion fell in at 6:00 a.m., marched to FLAMICOURT station and entrained at 8:00 a.m. Detrained at AUBIGNY at 4:30 p.m. and marched seven kilometers to IZEL-LES-HAMEAU where we took over billets.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

9th December 1917 to 10th December 1917
Carried out ordinary training

CWGC Casualties (9th December)
Rfn 50299 Edward Herd THOMAS

11th December 1917

The Battalion paraded at 9:45 a.m. and marched to BETHENCOURT, a distance of three miles. On the march, the Battalion was inspected by Brig. Gen KENTISH & GIC 55th Divn. Men smartly turned out and marching very good. Landed BATHANCOURT 11:30 a.m. and took over billets.

12th December 1917

Moved by march route to VALHOUN commencing at 9:30 a.m., arriving at destination 1:40 p.m. Distance 9 miles. Weather Good.

13th December 1917

Moved by march route at 10:00 a.m. to PALFART and LIVOSSART. Distance 9 miles. Marching heavy and weather unsettled.

14th December 1917

Moved by march route to LAIRES, distance 5 kilometers. Marching very heavy and weather very bad.

15th December 1917 to 16th December 1917

Devoted to improving billets and cleaning of the men's kits

17th December 1917

Heavy snow fell, which cancelled all parades

18th December 1917 to 24th December 1917

Training under Brig. General KENTISH on Brigade Parade Ground

25th December 1917

Church parades. Remainder of day devoted to the men's comfort. Dinner served to the men in village estaminets at noon.

26th December 1917 to 31st December 1917

Devoted to training. On 31st, Major W N PILKINGTON, DSO, returned from one month's leave and assumed command of the Battalion.

CWGC Casualties (30th December)
2/Lt Harold Walter BARNETT
Rfn 202737 Frederick DAVIS

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

January 1918

1st January 1918

Holiday. Football league games. The Battalion had a dinner in Estaminets

2nd January 1918 to 4th January 1918

Training

4th January 1918

Lt Col J McCARTHY O'LEARY took over command of the Battalion

5th January 1918 to 8th January 1918

Training

CWGC Casualties

Pte 32613 Edwin TOWNSEND

8th January 1918

Draft of 300 OR arrived. Not sufficient billets in LAIRES for the whole Bn. D Coy on detachment to LIVOSSART

8th January 1918 to 21st January 1918

Training

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

February 1918

1st February 1918

On the breaking up of the 2nd Line, 4 Officers and 100 OR were posted to this unit.

2nd February 1918 to 8th February 1918

Training

9th February 1918

The Bn left LAIRES at 10:00 a.m. and marched to FLECHIN where they took over billets for the night.

10th February 1918

Left FLECHING at 8:35 a.m. and marched to BURBURE and took over billets

11th February 1918

Rest at BURBURE

12th February 1918

Left BURBURE at 11:30 a.m. and marched to BUSNETTES and took over billets

13th February 1918

Third anniversary of the landing in France. General Holiday

14th February 1918

Left BUSNETTES at 11:15 a.m. and marched to FERME DU ROI near BETHUNE. Here the Bn was in Divisional Reserve

15th February 1918 to 23rd February 1918

Training & Reconnaissance by parties of Officers & NCO's of defences

24th February 1918

Stood by to take up position in rear defences at short notice

25th February 1918

Moved up and relieved the 6th KLR in support of left Brigade. Relief complete at 4:00 p.m.

26th February 1918 to 28th February 1918

Bn HQ at WINDY CORNER

A Coy in OB LINE

B Coy in GIVENCHY REDOUBT

C Coy in VILLAGE LINE

D Coy in HERTS REDOUBT and WINDY CORNER KEEP

March 1918

1st March 1918
Battalion in support

CWGC Casualties (3rd March)

Sjt 240953 John LONG (Died as Prisoner of War, buried in Hamburg Cemetery)

4th March 1918

Bn took over Right Sub Sector of Brigade front. Dispositions D Coy PRINCES ISLAND, B Coy BARNTON TEE, A Coy ob line, C Coy LE PLANTIN N & S, BN HQ A8a5.b

5th March 1918 to 6th March 1918

B Coy heavily shelled & gap made in the breastwork

7th March 1918

5:00 a.m. Heavy bombardment opened on whole Divisional front and a box barrage around BARNTON TEE. A raiding party of 3 Officers and 120 OR entered out line at BARNTON TEE. No 3 Post (Lt F BURGESS) repulsed them and took two wounded prisoners. No 1 Post (2/Lt J A FORBES) also repulsed then but lost 7 men missing. No 2 Post under Sergeant W BOX was captured. C Coy relieved B Coy

CWGC Casualties

Pte 32520 William BARBER

Pte 32531 Percy CARRUTHERS

Pte 32534 Sam DIGGLE

Rfn 32550 John Lester JONES

8th March 1918

A quiet day

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 11340 John GREEN

Pte 235370 Herbert Alfred LOWE

9th March 1918

Heavy firing on left from 4:10 a.m. Heavy firing on right from 4:45 a.m., at 6:15 a.m. all quiet

CWGC Casualties

2/Lt Henry Earlam PICKERING

10th March 1918

German attack expected on Portuguese front. Heavy firing heard from 5:30 a.m. to 6:15 a.m.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 21750 James McNICHOL

11th March 1918

Usual artillery activity. A Coy relieved D Coy in PRINCES ISLAND. D Coy took over OB Line

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

12th March 1918 to 13th March 1918
Enemy artillery active

CWGC Casualties (12th March)

Pte 32616 Frederick Joseph ENTWISTLE

Pte 32515 Charles HUMPHREYS

CWGC Casualties (13th March)

Pte 235213 Christopher WAINMAN

14th March 1918

B Coy relieved 3 Platoons C Coy in BARNTON LOCALITY. C Coy occupied LE PLANTIN N & S

15th March 1918

D Coy relieved A Coy in PRINCES ISLAND

16th March 1918

Usual artillery activity

CWGC Casualties

Pte 36627 Ernest GREENWOOD

17th March 1918

Battalion on our left carried out a raid at 5:00 a.m. HQ, A, B and C Coys relieved by 1/6th KLR at 10:00 a.m. D Coy relieved 7:30 p.m. Took over billets HQ, B & D Coys at ESSARS, A & C at LES CHOQUAUX.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 18809 Hugh Edwin EVANS

Cpl 242822 William GORSE

18th March 1918

Cleaning up and inspections

19th March 1918

Inspection by BGC

20th March 1918

Working parties, cable burying

21st March 1918

Working parties. Capt J D LEE reported for duty. 2/Lt K MacKENZIE to England on six months tour of duty

22nd March 1918

Inspection by Lt-Gen HAKING, Cmdg XI Corps. GOC Division & BGC present

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 37245 Frederick BATSON

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

23rd March 1918
Training. CO's Inspection.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 32585 Richard BURTON

Rfn 32633 Enoch Harold KINGS

24th March 1918
Moved up to BUSTLE positions at GORRE with BN HQ at the Chateau. Returned to billets at ESSARS at 11:00 a.m.

25th March 1918
166 Inf Bde took over the front south of LA BASSEE CANAL from 137 Inf Bde and 2 ½ Coys 139 Inf Bde. Dispositions: Right Bn, 1/5 King's Own & B & D Coy 1/5 South Lancs Regt attached. Left Bn, 1/10th King's Liverpool regt. Support Bn 1/5th South Lancs (less 2 Coys) at LE PREOL.

26th March 1918
Battalion moved up to CAMBRIN LOCALITY in close support. C & D Coys rejoined on redistribution of Bde front.

27th March 1918
A & B Coys moved up to the reserve line
A Coy attached to 1/10th King's Liverpool Regt
B Coy attached to 1/5th King's Own (R. L.) Regt

28th March 1918 to 31st March 1918
Battalion engaged each night on wiring in front of Reserve Line. Work also carried on improving the CAMBRIN defences.

Enemy very quiet.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

April 1918

1st April 1918

No 2 and 4 Coy Commanders attended lecture at Bde Hqrs by M.G.C. 4 of our observation balloons brought down.

3rd April 1918

Relieved 1/5 King's Own in CA<BRIN N. Sector. Relief quiet and completed by 5:30 p.m.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 40356 Eric DAVIES

4th April 1918

XI Corps Commander visited our trenches. Quiet Day.

5th April 1918

Quiet day

6th April 1918

Gas projectors discharged by Battn on Left 164 Inf Bde at 1:00 a.m. C.O. & Coy Commanders of relieving Bde (2nd Inf Bde) viewed trenches

7th April 1918

Shoot on enemy trenches at 5:00 a.m., very little retaliation. Battn relieved by 1st Northants Regt and moved back to billets at BEUVRY

8th April 1918

Played 1/5 KLR in Divisional Final and lost. Battn moved to billets at ESSARS

9th April 1918

At 4:15 a.m. a very heavy bombardment and at 5:30 a.m. the order BUSTLE arrived. A & C Coys under Major Pilkington, DCO, moved to an assembly position N.W. of GORRE and the remainder of the Battn took up positions on the LE PREOL N. locality. Both parties had casualties when moving to the new positions, Shell fire all day. A & C Coys came under the command of 165 Bde and B & D Coys under the command of 164 Bde. A & C Coys moved up practically to LOISNE CENTAL which was occupied by 1 ½ Coys of the 1/10 KLR. C Coy reinforced them and & Coy dug in in rear in support. HQ for these Coys were at LOISNE CHATEAU. At 5:30 a.m. B Coy were ordered to reinforce 1/4th L.N.L. (the Left Bn), D Coy reinforced 4 K.O.R.L with 2 platoons in DEATH OR GLORY SAP & CHEYNE WALK. The other 2 platoons reinforced 1/4 L.N.L.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 22315 Arthur COOKE

Pte 203140 Edwin CRABTREE

Rfn 242609 Ernest DAWES

Rfn 32448 Henry Dale FULLER

Rfn 31710 William GODDARD

Pte 242185 James INNES

Rfn 39442 George WORSENCROFT

Rfn 43867 Edward Bain Rogers YORKE

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

10th April 1918

Boche attempted to surround LOISNE CENTRAL held by C Coy & 1/10 KLR, a counter attack arranged by Major PILKINGTON, DSO, led to the capture of 21 prisoners & 2 M.G.'s leaving many enemy dead. 2nd Lt DYMOND who led the platoon was killed.

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 242547 Richard BYROM
Rfn 11452 Thomas GERRARD
Rfn 20853 George GREENALL
Rfn 235285 Frances Luther HAKEN
Pte 32738 Cecil Albert HART
Rfn 240871 Archibald HENDY
Rfn 43058 George Reginald SMITH
Rfn 34279 Alfred Isaac WILLIAMS
Rfn 32701 John William WOOD

11th April 1918

2 Platoons of V Coy relieved 2 Platoons Lancs Fusiliers & a line of trench taken over from NEWCOT EXTENSION down GRENADIER ROAD to WINDY CORNER

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 36208 John DAVIES
Rfn 242673 David DAVIES
Sjt 240611 Thomas FINNIGAN
Cpl 15464 Albert HARRISON
Rfn 43040 Lionel Alfred HICKS
Cpl 40244 John Yeomans KING
Rfn 242962 Terris SEYMOUR

12TH April 1918

On night of 12th/13th B Coy took over defences of LE PLANTIN S and GRENADIER ROAD as far as its junction with NEWCOT EXTENSION. This line was held intact under heavy shell fire until relieved by the 1st Bn., BLACK WATCH on night of 16th/17th April.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 32681 Leslie Valie COCKERILL
Rfn 32528 Alban Davy CROMPTON
Pte 43857 George Frederick Charles DIFFORD
2/Lt John Jordon DYMOND
Rfn 242179 Henry FOSTER
Pte 242933 Mungo Gillespie THOMSON
Rfn 235330 Gilbert Clayton WHITE

13th April 1918

C Coy took over defence of the LOISNE CENTRAL from the 1 1/1 Coys 1/10 KLR with A Coy in support, held it intact until relieved by the 1st Bn., S.W.B on the night of 15th/ 16th April

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 50261 Edgar Victor JONES
Rfn 50620 George MAUNDER

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Sjt 14505 Thomas TAYLOR
Pte 32737 Fred WHITELEY

14th April 1918

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242355 James STEVENSON
Rfn 21550 James WILDE

15th April 1918

Battalion Hqrs, A & C Coys went into billets at BURBURE on night of 15th/16th April and B & D Coys on night 16th /17th April

16th April 1918

Re-organisation & refitting at BURBURE

CWGC Casualties

Pte 32705 James CORNFORTH

17th April 1918

CWGC Casualties

Pte 31537 Reginald SMITH

20th April 1918

Moved on sudden orders to VERQUIN where Battn. Went into billets

21st April 1918

The Battn went into the Right Sector of Bde front taken over from 2nd Welsh Regt., 3rd Bde, leaving behind 4 officers and 150 OR detailed under Major PILKINGTON, DSO. These details moved to FOUQUIERIES-BURBURE ALLOUAGNE and rejoined the Battn. When it came out at VERQUIGNEUL. Relief complete 2:00 a.m. Dispositions, FESTBUERT SECTOR:-

Front Line D Coy – LE PLANTIN NORTH

A Coy – FESTUBERT

B Coy – CAILLOUX

C Coy – In support by Battn. Hqrs.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 34036 William DAVIES

Pte 28746 Fred LEIGH

Cpl 18523 George STUBBS

22nd April 1918

Route A held by 1/5 K.O.R.L. on our left retaken by the enemy. Normal day on Battn. Front.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 54049 Edward James SLADE

L/Sjt 235385 William Walter WHITE

23rd April 1918

Normal day with usual shelling on Village line. At night C Coy moved up to form a defensive flank between CAILLOUX N & 1/5 K.O.R.L.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Unsuccessful attempt by 1/5 K.O. to retake ROUTE A.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 32677 William ADAMS

Pte 34153 William Llewellyn THOMAS

Rfn 18371 Charles WATERS

24th April 1918

Normal day, usual heavy shelling on Village line.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 14736 Solomon BROWN

Rfn 242077 George GARNER

Rfn 12181 Frederick PAGE

Pte 241882 Frank TOLSON

25th April 1918

ROUTE A retaken at 4:00 a.m. by 1.10 LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH. At night, Brigade frontage was reduced by 137 Inf Bde, 46th Divn, taking over from 1/5 K.O.R.L. on our Left. Battn. Frontage reduced by 1/10 LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH taking over LE PLANTIN NORTH from D Coy. D Coy took up new positions between FESTUBERT & CAILLOUX with 2 platoons in line & 2 platoons in close support. 1/5 KINGS OWN were south of CANAL in Bde Reserve.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 203724 John Joseph GREGORY

Pte 11584 Henry HOWARTH

Pte 32152 Harold TOOLE

26th April 1918

ROUTE A retaken by the enemy from 137 Inf Bde at 11:00 p.m.

27th April 1918

Heavy enemy shelling in FESTUBERT at 2:30 p.m. & continued until about 4:00 p.m. Our guns fired on SOS Lines but no infantry action followed. Bde relieved at night by 165 Bde. 1/5 LIVERPOOL REGT taking over Left Sub Sector from 1/5 SOUTH LANCS.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 242196 Arthur Frederick HUMPHREY

Pte 40252 Joseph LOWE

L/Cpl 32594 Harry WALMSLEY

28th April 1918

Relief complete 2:00 a.m. Battn. Moved back to billets at VERQUIGNEUL on arrival coming into Div. Reserve

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 242853 Frank COOPER

Pte 43625 Harry Shaw KAY

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

29th April 1918
In Div. Reserve

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 241872 Joseph DENNING

Pte 50246 Frederick Robert FEARNLEY

30th April 1918
In Div. Reserve

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 243013 James DUNSTAN

Cpl 241105 Thomas PICKAVANCE

Operational Narrative

1/5th Bn., South Lancashire Regiment

On the night of 8th/9th April 1918, the Battalion was billeted in ESSARS and adjoining villages.

A bombardment opened over the whole area at about 4.15 am on the 9th.

The order BUSTLE was received at 5.15 am and by 6.15 am all Coys. were on the move to their positions. A & C Coys, under Major W. N. PILKINGTON, D.S.O. to an assembly position N.W. of GORRE. Battn. H.Q., B & D Coys to LE PREOL Locality North.

At 1 pm A & C Coys were placed under orders of G.O.C. 165 Bde, (See report from Major PILKINGTON, D.S.O.)

Battn. H.Q., B & D Coys moved forward and held the line of breastworks from the CANAL to TUNING FORK. They were heavily shelled on the way and suffered some 20 casualties.

This line was heavily shelled until about 3 pm when the fore slackened.

At 5 pm Battn. H.Q., B & D Coys were placed at disposal of G.O.C. 164 Bde. Battn. H.Q. was ordered to join 164 Bde. H.Q. and was used for carrying ammunition and rations to the front line. B & D Coys were ordered to move, carrying bombs and ammunition to GIVENCHY to reinforce 1/4th LOYAL NORTH LANS and 1/4th K.O. ROYAL LACASTERS.

B Coy (with 1/4th LOYAL NORTH LANCS) was located as follows:-

3 Platoons in PICCADILLY and UPPER CUT under orders of C.C. D Coy 1/4th L.N. LANCS
1 Platoon in GRENADIER ROAD under Capt. LEE (C.C. B Coy, 1.5th S. LANCS) who, reinforced by 2 platoons LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS, had command of this locality.

On the 10th inst. 2 of his platoons from PICCADILLY relieved the LANCASHIRE FULILIERS in GRENADIER ROAD.

From 3 am on 14th inst. B Coy held –
LE PLANTIN SOUTH
GRENADIER ROAD
NEW CUT EXTENSION

Until relieved on the night of the 16th by the 1st Battn. BLACK WATCH.

During this period (9th to 16th) the Company was heavily shelled at intervals suffering –
1 Officer and 35 O.R.'s casualties

D Coy was located as follows:-

13 & 14 Platoons in DEATH OR GLORY SAP & CHEYNE WALK
15 Platoon CAMBRIDGE TERRACE
16 Platoon OXFORD TERRACE

On 10th inst. 15 Platoon was moved to OCFORD TERRACE

On 11th inst. 15 Platoon occupied original front line exploring WARLINGHAM CRATER

On 13th inst. 13 & 14 Platoons under Capt. FILL held PONT FIXE, 15 & 16 Platoons WINDY CORNER.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

From 14th inst., the whole of D Coy (under Capt HILL) held WINDY CORNER until relieved on the night of the 16th by 1 Bn. Camerons.

From 9th inst. To 16th inst. D Coy suffered 42 casualties.

The Band, Pioneers and Concert Party were sent from ESSARS to reinforced GIVENCHY on the morning of the 9th. They did duty in the trenches there until th1 19th inst. suffering 4 casualties.

(Signed) J. MACARTHY O'LEARY

Commanding 1/5th Bn., South Lancashire Regiment
18th April 1918

Operations April 9th to 14th/15th

A & C Coys, 1/5th Bn. S. LANCS after assembling in field behind GORRE were ordered up to LOISNE CHATEAU to help 1/10th L'Pools who were holding LOISNE CENTRAL. The companies took up positions astride the road in front of the CHATEAU up towards the KEEP. Shelling had been going on all day but eased up at night. At 6.15 pm Lt. FRODSHAM went up to see dispositions of 1/10th L'Pool R. A report came round that the enemy were in dugout in left rear.

FRODSHAM and I crawled out through the houses and got back to supporting platoon which was sent up at once under 2/Lt DYMOND.

Taking the enemy in rear the attack was at once successful and most of the enemy were taken prisoners. The attack was brilliantly led by DYMOND and his Platoon Sergeant who took on his men firing from the hip in face of heavy M.G. fire. Rfn. HOLCROFT single handed captured an M.G. killing two and capturing four of the crew. The remainder of the Company were driven back and it was during this that DYMOND was killed.

The enemy had wadded down the drain on the S. side of the KEEP and were quickly establishing themselves in a gunpit and ruined houses. Many of them were storm troops and evidently it was a determined attempt to cut off the KEEP. That night ditch was blocked with wire and a night and day L.G. post placed to command it. It was reported that enemy were cutting our wire. Bursts of L.G. fire were directed in it. At 8 am on 11th barrage was put down on front and supports and an attack towards LOISNE N. was dissipated by artillery. Enemy artillery very active in afternoon. A prisoner captured on our wire said attack was to be launched next morning. Steps were taken at once to get artillery to fire on farms where enemy was expected to mass.

The morning broke misty but there was no attack. Enemy shelling more intermittently in short bursts.

13th 1/10 were taken out of the garrison which was No 1 Company in KEEP and one in support. Wire was put out to flank towards LOISNE N. Nothing further happened until relieved night 14th/15th.

During the tour a large amount of sniping was done towards TOURET. One Sgt. (CARR) claiming 55 hits, and gaining very valuable information for artillery targets.

(Signed) W.N. Pilkington, Major
1/5th S. LANCASHIRE REGT.
In command of A & C Coys

April 17th 1918

**NARRATIVE OF EVENTS AFFECTING A COMPANY OF THE 5TH BATTN. SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGT.
DURING THE OPERATIONS 9TH TO 16TH APRIL 1918**

On the morning of the 9th April 1918, A Coy was billeted at LES CHOQUAUX in Divisional Reserve.

At about 4 am a warning order was received to prepare to “BUSLTE” and about ¾ of an hour later, one to “BUSTLE”

The Coy moved off about 5:30 am with C Coy, under the command of Major N. Pilkington, D.S.O.

Route followed to positions of assembly at X.27.c.60.25.

From LES CHOQUAUX past ROBY DUMP on main road towards LOCON until turning to right at MANCHESTER ROAD (came under shell fire at about X.13.d.4.9 and then broke up into artillery formation by sections), crossed CANAL DE LA LAWE at bridge X.13.d.7.8. and proceeded in diamond formation between LOISNE Stream, and road running from LES GLATIGNIES to LE HAMEL, clearing LE HAMEL on the N.E. side to cross fields in X.27.a. thence to BUSTLE point.

ACTION TAKEN ON ARRIVAL AT BUSTLE POINT

We took up temporary positions in shell holes about 7 am, issued picks and shovels, and dispatched two patrols, one through GORRE and one towards LOISNE to get in touch with the situation.

At about 9.30 am the fog lifted a little and we moved in a N.E. direction taking up a position and digging in about X.27.d.05.85 to X.27.d.20.50 with two platoons, keeping the other two platoons in reserve at X.27.c.40.60. AT about 2 pm I had orders to report to Brigade H.Q. LOISNE CHATEAU and received instructions to take up a positions covering the CHATEAU from the N.E.

I reconnoitered the ground and had the Company in position by about 4.20 pm, and proceeded to dig in (as per sketch map). These positions were held until the night of 13th/14th April, during which time we consolidated positions and wired the front facing N.E. and around the posts.

On the night of 13th/14th we sent 3 Platoons forward and relieved our C Coy. In shell hole positions running from X.22.a.90.10 to X.22.d.3.4. with Coy H.Q. at post at X.22.d.25.15. These positions were held until relieved by A Coy, 2nd Battn. S.W. Bords. (1st Division) on the night of 15th/16th, and on relief proceeded to BURBURE.

Trench strength of A Copy about 136.

Casualties: 9 killed, 28 wounded.

(Signed) Naylor, Capt.
O.C. A Coy (9th – 16th April)

C.M. Stafford, 2/Lt
O.C. No 4 Platoon (9th – 16th April)

1st August 1918

**BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE PART TAKEN BY B COY., 5TH SOUTH LANCS. REGT. IN OPERATIONS
9TH – 16TH APRIL, 1918**

On the night of 8th/9th April the Battalion was billeted at ESSARS.

At 4.30 am on the 9th April the enemy bombardment opened and the billets of the Coy came under shell fire. The Coy fell in and on receipt of the order to proceed to "BUSTLE" positions, moved off to LE PREOL N Defences, taking the route LA CROIX DE FER – LA BASSEE CANAL, and being under shell fire of varying intensity all the way. On arrival at the wood the defences from |ROUTE 20 to the CANAL BAMNK at F.11.c.5.7 were occupied and touch was obtained with GLOUCESTERS on S. of the CANAL and with D Coy of 5th South Lancs. N of ROUTE 20. About noon, the shell fire and M.G. fire which had been coming from the N. slackened in intensity. During the morning a Straggler's Post on the CANAL BANK had guided a large number of men mostly T.M. Battery into the defences which were then very fully manned.

About 5.30 I received orders to withdraw the Coy from the defences and report to 164 Bde H.Q. to which B Coy was to be attached, and acting on further orders received from G.O.C., 164 Bde, took my C|oy up to GIVENCHY to reinforce 1/4th L.N. Lancs. I was instructed to hand over three platoons to Company Commanders of his Battn. As reinforcements for duty in NEW CUT – PICCADILLY etc., and to take the remaining platoon to GRENADIER ROAD to form along with 2 platoons of the Lancashire Fusiliers a defensive flank from the top of NEW CUT EXTENSION down GRENADIER ROAD to WINDY CORNER. I was placed in charge of all the troops on this defensive flank.

The night was quiet, but next day the trenches were steadily shelled. There were no shelters or dugouts for the men, who were compelled to live in the trenches day and night, but they behaved magnificently and showed a splendid spirit.

On the evening of the 10th the 2 platoons of Lancashire Fusiliers in GRENADIER ROAD were withdrawn and replaced by 2 of the other platoons of B Coy and on the 12th, the 4th platoon also rejoined the Coy on the defensive flank referred to above.

On the night of 13th/14th B Coy was relieved of the section of NEW CUT EXTENSION that we had been holding and too over LE PLANTIN S. instead, and dispositions remained there until relief by 1st Black Watch on night of 16th/17th.

Of the behavior of all ranks I cannot speak too highly. In a trench where they were without shelter, even from the weather, under almost constant shell fire, often unable to get their meals or food of any sort for considerable periods, and without the satisfaction of being able to retaliate since they were so placed as to have no view of the enemy, they were one and all cheerful and ready for any emergency at all times. The behavior of the stretcher-bearers in particular was beyond all praise and doubtless saved many lives by the promptitude which they attended to all casualties under shell fire.

(Signed) J. D. Lee, Capt.
O.C. B Coy, 5th S. Lancs. R.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

May 1918

1st May 1918
In The Field
In Divisional Reserve

2nd May 1918
Moved from VERQUIGNEUL to support position for Left Brigade. Bn HW in LE PREOL WOOD. A & D Coy in LE PREOL N defences, B & C Coy in TUNING FORK SWITCH. Relieved the 1/6th KLR

3rd May 1918
Quiet Day

4th May 1918
Nos 6 & 7 Platoons reinforced the 1/5 KORL

5th May 1918
Quiet Day

6th May 1918
Nos 6 & 7 Platoons returned and the Battn relieved the 1/10th KLR in the Left sub sector with Battn HQ in MARPAIS E. B & D Coy in Front Line, A & C in support

CWGC Casualties
Pte 31818 Ernest ANKER

7th May 1918
Quiet Day

CWGC Casualties
Pte 204087 Thomas TURNER

8th May 1918
Warned that a big hostile attack was expected on night 9th or 10th. Thinned out B & D Coys in front line.

9th May 1918
Further thinned out the Coys in front line.

10th May 1918
Bn HQ @ MARPAIS handed over to the 1/10 KLR & removed to TUNING FORK S. ROAD

CWGC Casualties
Pte 39031 William Thomas JONES

11th May 1918 to 13th May 1918
Quiet Days

14th May 1918
Relieved by 1.6th KLR & the Battn took up "BUSTLE" (alarm) positions till 7:30 a.m. after which they moved to billets in VERQUIGNEUL

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

15th May 1918
Divisional Reserve

16th May 1918
Divisional Reserve

CWGC Casualties
Rfn 34283 Samuel CLEWORTH

17th May 1918
Divisional Reserve

CWGC Casualties
L/Cpl George Harold HODGKINSON

18th May 1918
Divisional Reserve

19th May 1918
Divisional Reserve

20th May 1918
In The Field
Moved into support positions of Right Brigade & took over from 1/5 KLR. D Coy has 12 casualties by one shell when leaving VERQUIGNEUL.

CWGC Casualties
Pte 242468 Thomas BAYLEY
Rfn 242173 Peter George BOARDMAN

21st May 1918
Quiet day in support

CWGC Casualties
Pte 54066 Gilbert William Frank GRIFFIN

22nd May 1918
Quiet day in support

CWGC Casualties
Pte 32461 Walter HEYS
Sjt 235394 Frederick James LAW
Pte 31306 Joseph WINN

23rd May 1918
Quiet day in support

CWGC Casualties
Pte 22183 Thomas DERBYSHIRE

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

24th May 1918

Moved forward & relieved the 1/10 KLR (Scottish) in the Left Sub Sector. BN HQ in SOUTH TUNING FORK ROAD with A & C Coys in Front Line, D in support & B in reserve

25th May 1918

Consistently shelled from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. round Bn HQ

CWGC Casualties

L/Cpl 50233 Philip CARTRIDGE

Pte 242192 Thomas GARRITY

Pte 241052 John PEARCE

Sjt 241269 Harry WILLIAMS

26th May 1918

A & D Coys, HQ shelled with Heavies

CWGC Casualties

Pte 54050 Charles Fletcher SMART

27th May 1918

B & HQ moved to ADDISON RD & MARAIS E.

CWGC Casualties

2/Lt Ernest HAYWOOD

28th May 1918

D Coy relieved A Coy. A Coy taking over D Coy's positions. B Coy relieved C Coy, C Coy taking over B Coy's position

29th May 1918

Quiet day

30th May 1918

At 2:25 a.m. heavy hostile barrage in CAILLOUX & our artillery replied to SOS. Enemy attempted raid on Battn on our left but got caught up by wire leaving 1 prisoner & many dead. Our casualties, 1 dead, 3 wounded,

CWGC Casualties

Pte 21188 John Wales PENDLETON

Pte 54084 Francis Leonard TINLEY

31st May 1918

No change. Quiet day

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

June 1918

1st June 1918

In the Field

Quiet day, but several casualties through GAS. Relieved by 1/7 KLR.

2nd June 1918

The Battalion proceeded to "BUSTLE" (alarm) positions till 5:00 a.m. and then to No 2 Camp at VAUDRICOURT in Divisional Reserve.

3rd June 1918

Divisional reserve

4th June 1918

Divisional reserve

5th June 1918

Divisional reserve

6th June 1918

Divisional reserve

7th June 1918

Divisional reserve

8th June 1918

Divisional reserve. The Battalion left VAUDRICOURT CA<P & relieved the 1/7th KLR in support, LE PLANTIN SUB SECTOR.

9th June 1918

Bn Head Quarters. Gas shelled in early morning

10th June 1918

Quiet Day

11th June 1918

Quiet Day

12th June 1918

Relieved the 1/10 KLR in Right Sub Sector. A & C Coys with 2 platoons in front line & 2 in support. B & D in Reserve line. Lt-Col C E THOMSON, DSO, MC, took over command of Battalion

13th June 1918

Quiet Day

14th June 1916

Quiet Day

15th June 1918

Quiet Day

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

16th June 1918

Inter Company Relief. B & C Coys exchanged dispositions A & D Coys exchanged dispositions

17th June 1918

Quiet Day

18th June 1918 to 19th June 1918

A Battalion raiding party of 2 Officers (Lt R L LEAKE & 2/Lt FRIGHT) & 61 OR's carried out a raid on a portion of the enemy front line system at 1:10 a.m. The party was covered by a heavy artillery & machine gun barrage & reached its objective. No Germans were found and the party returned to our lines.

CWGC Casualties (19th June)

Pte 54015 Herbert Augustus BENCE

Rfn 32680 Hugh BOYLE

Pte 201966 William JACKSON

19th June 1918

A Battalion of the Division on our left carried out a raid at 12:35 a.m. the same night and captured 3 prisoners.

20th June 1918

The Battalion on our right (2/5th Lancs Fusiliers, 164 Bde) made a raid on the enemy front line at 11:50 p.m. under a heavy artillery barrage.

Relieved by the 5th KLR. The Battalion occupied alarm posting till 5:00 a.m. and then marched to camp at DROUVIN. 2 Platoons of A Coy were left as garrison to VAUXHALL Bridgehead, 2 Platoons of C Coy were left behind as garrison to WESTMINSTER Bridgehead.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 18989 Edward DIXON

Pte 50635 Reginald John RAWNSLEY

Pte 241337 Arthur Haselden THOMPSON

21st June 1918 to 25th June 1918

In Divisional Reserve

CWGC Casualties

Pte 235288 Donald HARRISON (21st June)

Pte 235397 William Edward FORD (22nd June)

26th June 1918

The Battalion relieved the 1/7th KLR in the Left Sub Sector, B & D Coy in the Front Line, A & C in Support, FESTUBERT Sector

27th June 1918

A Quiet Day. No Change

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 19817 John Robert HOWITT

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

28th June 1918

A Quiet Day. No Change

29th June 1918

A Quiet Day. No Change

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 204148 Charles CLEGG

30th June 1918

A Coy relieved D Coy in FESTUBERT and C Coy relieved B Coy in CAILLOUX

ACCOUNT OF MINOR OPERATION BY 1/5TH S.LAN.R. 19TH JUNE 1918

AT 1:10 a.m. a party of 2 Officers and 60 O.R. under command of Lieut R L LEAKE from the Right Battalion (1/5th S.LAN.R.) raided the O.B.L. between WILLOW ROAD and YELLOW ROAD under cover of an Artillery, T.M. and M.G. Barrage

The party succeeded in entering the O.B.L. but found the trench badly knocked about and no enemy there.

The enemy fired a very large number of lights – white, double green, double red, and double orange – the majority of which were fired from behind the O.B.L. The hostile artillery reply was slight, being chiefly directed against A.7.b.8.7 and A.8.a.2.8. An enemy M.G. firing from A.2.b.9.8. (Approx) was active throughout the operation; fortunately the majority of the bullets were high.

Our casualties were 1 killed, 3 missing and 5 wounded, including 2nd Lieut H W FRIGHT, who although hit in the thigh stayed with Lieut LEAKE until the end of the operation.

All was quiet by 1:40 a.m.

Two Germans seen by left flanking party in a shell-hole post close to LLOYD'S AVENUE. They threw a bomb wounding 4 of our men and then made off, our men being prevented from following them by a belt of apron wire reinforced by trip wire.

The wire in front of O.B.L. seemed to have been neglected and no signs of recent work were seen in the breastworks.

The support given by the Heavy and Field Artillery was excellent.

[Signed] R McDonald
Lieut., Intelligence Officer, 166th Infantry Bde.

19th June 1918

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

55th DIVISION

The return showing the casualties received in the Raid this morning has since turned out to be incorrect. The OC 1/5th S.Lancs. Regt. reported at 4:30 p.m. that the total number of casualties is 20 and not 12 as previously reported, and that included in the number are 4 missing and not 1 as previously reported. That this number of men should have been missing unbeknown to the Commanding Officer and to the Officers who took part in the Raid, for the best part of a day, is inexplicable.

I have ordered the Officer Commanding the Battalion to make every endeavour to recover the bodies, and so to remove what must, if they are left in NO MAN'S LAND' remain a slur on the good name of his Battalion.

[Signed] M. J. Kentish
Brigadier General
Commanding 166th Infantry Brigade

19th June 1918

55th DIVISION

I forward herewith for the information of the Major General the statement of the Officer Commanding the 1/5th South Lancashire regt. regarding the discrepancies in his casualty return submitted after the Raid carried out by his Battalion, and also certain details regarding the missing men.

a) I am ordering a further enquiry into the reason why, when the Stretcher Bearers were told by the wounded men where one of the other two wounded was lying, they failed to find him and bring him in.

b) The circumstances surrounding the leaving out of the body of Rifleman JONES through not creditable in the way that no credit can ever be attached to a Unit which leaves its dead or wounded behind in a minor enterprise, are explained and the circumstances being as reported by the O.C. Party, I feel that he was justified in leaving the dead man and bringing in the wounded man, is as he states it was not possible to bring them both in.

c) I have nothing to state regarding the fourth man who was reported last seen going forward.

The facts as brought out are as a whole, of an unsatisfactory nature, but the most unsatisfactory of all is the failure on the part of the Battalion Commander and of the O.C. Raid to ensure the roll being called on the return of the party and consequently no one knowing until 12 hours afterwards that there were four, and not one man missing. It is not one of the details I went into with the Commanding Officer because that Officer has been planning and carrying out raids for a very long time and ought better than anyone else to have known of the importance of arranging for the calling of the Roll, and that he did not do so is both unthinkable and inexplicable.

I have nothing further to add except to state that I have ordered the Battalion to send out another search party tonight and have made known my dissatisfaction with the facts as disclosed, to the Officer Commanding the Battalion.

[Signed] M.J. KENTISH
Brigadier General, Commanding 166th Infantry Brigade

20th June 1918

166th INFANTRY BRIGADE

Search parties working in NO MAN'S LAND last night found no trace of men missing from Raiding Party. The Search Party contained a Sergeant and 3 Privets from the detachment the men were missing from; they had immediately volunteered for the work.

I have no wish to make excuses for regrettable incidents which no one feels more keenly than the Officers and Men of the Raiding Party, but in justice to the latter I would ask permission to draw the attention of the Brigadier General Commanding to the following points:-

(a) it is pretty definitely established that the two Men missing from the Left Section did not go forward at all. A shell which landed amongst three of this party wounded one man in the hand; this wounded man saw one of the other two lying in a shellhole saying he was wounded. The wounded man told the Stretcher Bearers where the man was.

(b) The dead man left close to the O.B. Line – His body was being brought in by a Stretcher Bearer who did exceptionally good work throughout the night. When a man was wounded beside him, the man's body was left (after taking his Paybook) and the wounded man was brought in.

(c) The fourth man missing was last seen crossing the wire of the O.B. Line going forward

The point which I wish to make is that with the exception of the body left close to the O.B. Line all the casualties missing occurred on the way forward whereas most of the wounded casualties occurred on the way back and they were brought in.

The fact that the area raised comprised about 7,000 sq. yards of ground covered with long grass and several old tranches, plus ditches and shell holes, helps to explain why the missing were not collected on the return journey.

[Signed] C. E. THOMPSON
Lieut-Colonel
Commanding 5th S. Lan. R.

20th June 1918

July 1918

1st July 1918
In The Field
Quiet Day

2nd July 1918
Quiet Day

3rd July 1918
Quiet Day

CWGC Casualties
Pte 12995 James McKEOWN

4th July 1918
Relieved by 1.5th KING'S OWN and took over support positions. A Coy at LONE FARM. B, C D Coys in LE PREOL DEFENCES

5th July 1918
Quiet Day

6th July 1918
Quiet Day

7th July 1918
Quiet Day

8th July 1918
Quiet Day

9th July 1918
Relieved by 1/6th KLR and moved to "A" Battn "BUSTLE" (Alarm) positions until 5:00 a.m. on 10th when the Battn moved into camp at No 1 VAUDRICOURT

10th July 1918
Day devoted to cleaning of clothes and equipment and re-fitting

11th July 1918
Training

12th July 1918
166 Brigade Horse Show

13th July 1918
VAUDRICOURT shelled by 5.9 HV Guns at about 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. 2 O/R's killed. Battn spent night in trenches in vicinity of Camp

CWGC Casualties
Pte 26456 Michael FLAHERTY

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

Pte 34040 Edwin George FRY
Pte 235332 Herbert WILLIAMS

14th July 1918

Presentation of medals by GOC 55 Division for awards since April 1st 1918. Honours received by this Battalion attached

15th July 1918

Battalion relieved 1/6th KLR in the Left Subsector, FESTUBERT subsector. Relief complete 3:00 a.m. 16th. B and D Coys in Front Line, A & C in Support.

16th July 1918

Notification received of expected enemy raid on CAILLOUX KEEP. Companies alteration in dispositions made leaving only 1 NCO, 16 men in KEEP, remainder withdrawn to position in rear.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 240384 Harry ROBINSON

17th July 1918

Normal routine. Quiet period.

18th July 1918

Normal routine. Quiet period.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 13905 Henry Samuel HOWELLS

19th July 1918

Enemy artillery more active.

20th July 1918

Minor operation carried out by party of D Coy under 2/Lt K DEWHURST under short artillery barrage. No enemy were encountered.

Battn relieved by 1/10 KLR (Scottish) and went into support. Relief complete 1:00 a.m. Support positions all taken over by 3:00 a.m.

CWGC Casualties

Pte 34038 Thomas Henry EVANS

21st July 1918 to 23rd July 1918

No special features. Usual working parties found

CWGC Casualties

Pte 28157 John TRAVIS (22nd July)

24th July 1918

Relieved the KOR LAN R in the Right subsector. A & C in Front Line, B & D in Support.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

25th July 1918
Normal day

26th July 1918 to 27th July 1918
Normal Day

28th July 1918
Relieved by 6th KLR and Battalion moved back to camp No 2 VAUDRICOURT after taking up “B” Battn
“BUSTLE” (alarm) positions til 5:00 a.m.

29th July 1918
Devoted to cleaning up and refitting

30th July 1918
Training

31st July 1918
Training

Patrol Operation, 2:00 a.m., 20th July 1918

The patrol (1 officer and 13 OR) assembled apparently unobserved by the enemy about 150 yards E.N.E. of the Northern end of CAILLOUX KEEP. The fall of the shells of flank guns of barrage had been carefully observed and the best line of assembly definitely located.

The artillery barrage came down accurately at 2:00 a.m. and immediately it lifted the patrol formed in pairs at intervals of 5 to 10 yards, moved quickly forward and thoroughly searched the ground within the area of the objective. No enemy were found except one or two dead – not recently killed. The patrol (illegible) until all artillery fire had ceased. The protective barrage had been well defined and was very effective.

Wire was encountered just about the assembly position but it wasn't a serious obstacle.

It is considered that the enemy (a) anticipated attack owing to recent artillery fire and had withdrawn from posts or (b) the relative shortness of the dark portion of the night prevented him from putting out the wiring and covering parties located the night before.

[Signed] C S Thompson
Lt-Col, Commanding
5 S Lan R

August 1918

1st August 1918 to 3rd August 1918
Training in Divisional Reserve

3rd August 1918
Relieved the 6th KLR in Right Subsector (LE PLANTIN)

4th August 1918
Normal Day

5th August 1918
Normal Day

6th August 1918
2/Lt F C WALLINGTON led a successful fighting patrol into O.B.L. He was killed when returning to our lines.

7th August 1918
Normal Day

CWGC Casualties
Pte 56019 John Charles PREECE

8th August 1918
Normal Day

9th August 1918
Normal Day

10th August 1918
Normal Day

11th August 1918
Relieved by 1/10th KLR and Battalion moved back into Support

CWGC Casualties
Rfn 203664 Walter WIDDICOMBE

12th August 1918
Brigade Reserve

13th August 1918
Brigade Reserve

14th August 1918
Brigade Reserve

15th August 1918
Relieved by 1/7th KLR and Battalion moved back to DROUVIN CAMP

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

CWGC Casualties

Pte 32527 John Herbert BROADLEY

Pte 34278 Arthur Frederick William SPENCER

16th August 1918

Training in Divisional Reserve

17th August 1918

Training in Divisional Reserve

18th August 1918

Training in Divisional Reserve

19th August 1918

Training in Divisional Reserve

20th August 1918

Relieved the 1/7th KLR in Left Subsector (FESTUBERT)

21st August 1918

Normal Day

CWGC Casualties

L/Cpl 204100 Arthur Edward LAWRENSON

22nd August 1918

Normal Day

23rd August 1918

Normal Day

CWGC Casualties

Pte 32310 Joseph WALTON

24th August 1918

164 Brigade on the RIGHT took the craters and 1/5 KORL on Battn RIGHT confirmed

25th August 1918

Normal Day

26th August 1918

Normal Day

27th August 1918

Normal Day

CWGC Casualties

Pte 21673 Ernest PENKETH

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

28th August 1918

FESTUBERT EAST KEEP occupied by A Coy and posts advanced to conform with the straightening of the line from CAILLOUX to OBL where the RIGHT Brigade are established.

29th August 1918

Took over BARNTON RD from the Battalion on the RIGHT

CWGC Casualties

Pte 45252 John Robert BELL

L/Cpl 26041 Richard FLASBY

Pte 32541 William Henry GATES

Pte 43878 Joseph George HOEY

30th August 1918

Two large fighting patrols from B & D Coys went out at 3:00 a.m. and were engaged by snipers and machine gun fire locating enemy as still holding advanced line of posts.

Relieved by 1/KORL and Battalion moved back into Brigade Support

CWGC Casualties

Pte 40215 Martin KNAVESEY

Rfn 240852 William MOORE

L/Cpl 37702 George TOZER

31st August 1918

Normal Day in support.

SECRET
PATROL ORDER

On August 6th, as soon after 8:00 a.m. as possible a Fighting Patrol consisting of 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON and four Other Ranks will enter the O.B.L. about its junction with LLOYD'S AVENUE and search Northwards for any enemy post. Any enemy encountered will be killed or captured and every effort made to secure an identification. Patrol will not search further Northward than A.2.b.32.40

Patrol will have an immediate Supporting Party consisting of one Officer and with Other Ranks (with a Lewis Gun). This party will take up a position about A.2.d.10.90 and will be prepared to either move to the assistance of the Patrol or to cover its withdrawal. Great care must be taken to keep this party screened from the enemy's view, but the Officer must take up a position so that he can follow the movements of the Patrol.

In addition two parties will take up positions, one about A.2.d.10.35 and the other about A.2.a.50.55. The function of these parties will be to cover the flanks of the Patrol. They will each consist of one N.C.O. and four Men with a Lewis Gun. If necessary they will open flanking fire to cover the withdrawal of the Patrol. The exact limits of their fire will be pointed out to them on the ground.

The two flanking parties will not withdraw until the Patrol with its immediate support has returned to our lines.

The Supporting Party and Flanking Parties will take up their positions just before dawn breaks. The Patrol will move out with the supporting party and will remain with it about A.2.d.10.90. As soon after 8:00 a.m. as the Patrol Commander decides, the patrol will crawl forward and enter the O.B.L.

If the O.B.L. is found to be unoccupied, patrol plus the immediate supporting party, will occupy O.B.L. about A.2.b.43.15 and will lie in wait for enemy moving forward at dusk to occupy his forward posts.

In this event, the Lewis Gun at A.2.a.50.55 will move across to A.2.d.10.90 and replace the immediate supporting party which is to move forward.

"Z" House O.P. will be in direct communication by wire to the immediate supporting party at A.2.d.10.190

In the event of the fighting patrol being heavily attacked the artillery will barrage according to the barrage lines marked on attached map. The signal for the barrage will be ONE WHITE VERY LIGHT fired from the O.B.L. due East over enemy lines. On this signal the Signaller with the immediate supporting party will send "COD" to "Z" HOUSE O.P. and gunner will transmit to the batteries.

If enemy do not come forward after dusk, the patrol will return to our lines at 11:00 p.m.

Any prisoners secured will be sent down at once under escort to Battalion Headquarters.

DRESS FOR PATROL. Rile with bayonet fixed and dimmed with mud, 30 rounds of ammunition in pocket and soft cap worn. The Officer and two Sergeants will carry two bombs each.

Password for patrol – "Luck"

Headquarters, 166th Infantry Brigade

Attached are narratives from Sergeant CARR with 2nd Lt. WALLINGTON'S patrol and the Officer in command of the immediate support.

Our casualties were 2nd Lieut. WALLINGTON killed and two other ranks wounded, all of whom have been brought into our lines.

From speaking personally to both the Patrol and Supporting Party it is evident that considerable damage was done to the enemy, as he deliberately came over the top bunched, and had no idea that supporting party with a Lewis Gun was in the vicinity.

The patrol and supporting party are being sent down to the Divisional Reception Camp tonight for a rest.

MAJOR

Comdg: 5th. S. LAN. R.

REPORT BY SERGEANT CARR

The part consisted of 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON, myself and three men.

We left the supporting party at 8:00 a.m. and entered the O.B.L. at its junction with LLOYD'S AVENUE at 8:15 a.m. and moved North-wards 150 yards examining shelters. The shelters had the remains of British kit in them, but there were no signs of any German kit.

At about 8:40 a.m. a German bomb dropped six yards ahead of me. I was at the head of the party and 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON was behind me looking towards Boscheland. More bombs fell at 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON gave the order to go back.

We went back along the O.B.L. and got out where the wire was poor to a shell hole at about A.2.b.46.00. Here we stayed five minutes and saw two parties of Bosche, 10 or 12 strong each, come over the O.B.L. While here 2nd. Lieut. DODDS' party on our left opened out with Lewis Gun and Rifle fire. The fire must have had good effect as the Bosche were coming over the top and presented a good target.

We retired again to the end of hedge on LLOYD'S AVENUE. As we retired another party appeared from South of LLOYD'S AVENUE and O.B.L. We opened fire from here also and after 10 minutes moved back to the post in LLOYD'S AVENUE. 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON was leading and was hit when near the right covering post about 120 yards from LE PLANTIN Breastworks. A sniper was also slightly wounded. 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON was brought in to the Bombing Post.

2nd. Lieut. DODDS Report

At 4:00 a.m. I took up my position. I had with me Sergt. BAKER and six other ranks with a Lewis Gun. There was no sign or sound in the O.B.L.

2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON and party moved forward at 8:00 a.m. I saw them enter the O.B.L. at its junction with LLOYD'S AVENUE and saw them work Northwards about 120 yards.

At 8:40 a.m. I saw a good number of Stick Bombs come over where 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON'S party had reached. I then saw the party work its way back and out of the O.B.L. to a shell-hole.

As they came out I saw two parties of Bosche, about 10 or 12 each, come over the top – one party from WILLOW ROAD and the other from midway between WILLOW ROAD and LLOYD'S AVENUE.

We opened fire with Lewis Gun and Rifles on the left party and then when 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON'S party had cleared we fired at both parties alternatively. The left party was completely dispersed and as we concentrated on the 2nd party, which was chasing WALLINGTON, a third party of Bosche then came over the O.B.L. and fired on us.

When I saw that 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON and party had got well behind us I withdrew my party. I found Sgt. CARR and all the party except 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON in the breastworks and heard that 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON had been killed about 100 yards from our lines.

I sent out two stretchers, one for 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON and one for Rifleman ANDERTON of my party who had been wounded. 2nd. Lieut. WALLINGTON must have been killed by Machine Gun Fire.

The Lewis Gun did great execution, especially amongst the first party of enemy fired on.

From the time of going out until 8:40 a.m. we received messages from O.P. that no movement was observed in or behind the O.B.L.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

The following congratulatory telegrams have been received by the Battalion:-

Major General Sir H S JEUDWINE, KCB, 20.09.18

“Well done 5th SOUTH LANCASHIRES”

5TH S.LAN.R. to 166th Infantry Brigade, 20.09.18

“Many thanks for the General’s message. Please thank the Major General for his kind message”.

From 1/10th LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH 20/09/18

“Hearty congratulations on your splendid success. Good old 5th”.

From 5th S.LAN.R. to 1/10th LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH 20/09/18

“Many thanks for your message”

From 1/5th K.O.R.L. Regt. 20/09/18

“Hearty congratulations”

From 1/5th S.LAN.R. to 1/5th K.O.R.L. Regt. 20.09.18

“Many thanks for your message”

To 275 Bde. R.F.A. and 166th Infantry Brigade from 5th S.LAN.R. 20/09/18

“Everyone engaged today is very appreciative of fine artillery support aaa Assaulting Companies say it was wonderful”.

From 275 Bde. R.F.A. and 166th Infantry Brigade to 5th S.LAN.R. 20/09/18

“Gunners very much bucked by your appreciative message aaa Congratulations on obtaining all objects and holding them”.

September 1918

1st September 1918

In The Field

Normal day in Support

2nd September 1918

Relieved by 5th K.L.R. and Battn moved back to VAUDRICOURT No 1 CAMP

3rd September 1918 to 8th September 1918

In Corps Reserve. Normal Day

8th September 1918

Relieved the 5th K.L.R. in the left subsection – B and D Coys in the front line, C Coy in Support and A Coy in Reserve

9th September 1918

Re-disposing the two forward companies

10th September 1918

Normal Day

11th September 1918

Normal Day

12th September 1918

Relieved by the 1/5th K.O.(R. Lan. R.) and Battn moved into Support, i.e. VILLAGE LINE

13th September 1918

Normal Day

14th September 1918

Normal Day

15th September 1915

Normal Day

16th September 1918

Relieved 1/5 K.O. (R. Lan. R.) in Outpost Line

17th September 1918

Normal Day

CWGC Casualties

Pte 22319 John BENNETT

Rfn 54063 Henry Arthur Packer DUNN

Rfn 54065 Reginald Arthur EVANS

18th September 1918

Normal Day

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

19th September 1918
Normal Day. Preparing for attack.

20th September 1918
B & D Coys attacked (Narrative attached). Relieved by 1/10th K.L.R. and moved back into Brigade Reserve.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 241362 Thomas BOLTON
Rfn 20551 William BRACKEN
Rfn 265036 Edgar BURGHALL
Pte 32530 John William CAMERON
2/Lt Peter Tyre DUFF
Rfn 235028 James HANKINSON
Rfn 34005 Lawrence HANLEY
Pte 22624 Frank LEE
L/Cpl 32578 George PARKER
Pte 265267 Thomas TAPPER
Cpl 32131 Henry Thomas WILLIAMS
Pte 28581 James Henry WILSON

21st September 1918
Normal Day in Reserve

22nd September 1918
Normal Day in Reserve

23rd September 1918
Relieved by 7th K.L.R. and Brigade moved back to BETHUNE (RUE FE LILLE AREA)

24th September 1918
Refitting

CWGC Casualties
L/Cpl 21172 James COLE

25th September 1918
Training

26th September 1918
Training

CWGC Casualties
Pte 45256 Percy CANNELL

27th September 1918.
Training. A & B Coys attended Tank Demonstration at AIX NOULETTE

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

CWGC Casualties

Pte 241515 William BALMER

Pte 39330 John HAMMOND

28th September 1918

Training

29th September 1918

Relieved by 6th K.L.R. (C Battn) in Brigade Reserve

30th September 1918

Normal Day in Reserve

**5th SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT
OPERATION OF 20TH SEPTEMBER 1918**

On the night of 16th/17th September 1918 the Battalion took over the outpost line of the Brigade on a frontage of 1 mile. At 6:30 a.m. on the 20th September the Battalion attacked the enemy's outpost system on a frontage of 1,250 yards, advanced to an average depth of 400 yards, captured 39 unwounded and 4 wounded prisoners. A fair number of enemy were killed in the assault (20 is a conservative estimate) and many more casualties were caused him by active sniping and Lewis Gun fire after the objectives were gained.

The attack was made with the object of covering the right flank of the 10th Royal Warwicks (10th Div.) who were simultaneously attacking THE DISTILLERY (S.17 Central) and SHEPHERD'S REDOUBT. The Battalion was informed early on the morning of the 18th September that the attack was to be made and objectives were indicated.

The assault was carried out by 2 Companies plus 1 Section ("B" Company on right, "D" Company plus 1 Section of "C" Company on left) directly supported by 275 Bde. R.F.A and a6 guns of 166 L.T.M.B. 276 Bde R.F.A. and Heavy artillery co-operated in protection of right flank of the attack. The position of assaulting troops at ZERO, the objectives of platoons and the line gained are shown on the accompanying map. Machine Guns of 55th M.G. Battn. Co-operated by putting down a protective barrage and maintaining harassing overhead fire on enemy's lines for several hours during the day. "A" Company (with one sub-section of M.G.'s attached) were given the task of protecting the right flank of the attack. This company had its attached M.G.'s and six Lewis Guns, disposed on the line S.28.d.9.1 to Cemetery in S.29.a.

The action resolved itself into six separate platoon attacks, each assaulting Company having 1 platoon in hand. The artillery and Stokes mortars opened at ZERO and lifted from the different objectives at times varying from Z plus 3' to z plus 7', thereafter creeping forward at the rate of 100 yards in 3 minutes. The infantry advanced at ZERO and closed up to the barrage. The Right Company (B) secured its objectives with little difficulty. The plan of taking the pumping stations from the south worked successfully. Very thorough reconnaissance had been made in the short time available and the assault was carried out with coolness and precision under personal observation of the O.C. Company. 15 prisoners were taken by this Company and at least two enemy were killed. 1 Light M.G. was captured, used against the enemy (3 belts were fired) and brought out of action. The right Company's casualties were 1 Officer and 9 O.R. wounded and 1 man (Stretcher bearer) missing. The latter had gone over to help right platoon of "D" Company and wither got lost and captured, or was killed by hostile M.G. fire which was considerable.

The left Company (with the exception of its right platoon) had considerable fighting. The right platoon crossed SPOOK TRENCH and SPOOK DRAIN (120 yards E. of the trench) without opposition, found its PILLBOX objective did not exist, the construction of the PILLBOX having only been begun. They then occupied the line of old emplacements along ditch S. of 23 Central. They previously lost direction through not recognizing objective, moved to the right on PILLBOX S.23.d.1.4. which was the left objective of the right Company. They shot down 2 Germans who were observing from the top of this pillbox. They suffered severe casualties from hostile M.G. fire.

The centre platoon, followed by O.C. Company with his reserve platoon reached SPOOK DRAIN about PILLBOX S.23.a.5.o. Considerable fighting took place here, about 7 or 8 Germans being killed and about a dozen prisoners taken. O.C. Company was severely wounded immediately afterwards, but not before he had personally accounted for more than one German. The centre platoon had pushed on quickly, seized the old shelters N. of S.23.Central and crossed the track S.W. of PIONEER DUMP. They captured

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

the first pillbox in PIONEER DUMP with 4 prisoners. This platoon was now reduced to 11, two of whom were wounded but carrying on. A Lewis Gun was posted on the side of the moat but the No. 1 was shot dead and the platoon came under heavy M.G. fire at close range from another pillbox s short distance in front. Having seen the platoon on his right being rather held up, the O.C. platoon withdrew his men on to the old gun positions North of S.23.Centra. He crawled back to the pillbox with 3 men to look for a German machine gun, which he thought he would find useful. He could not find a machine gun but found two Trench Mortars on mountings; they destroyed these with Mills bombs.

The left platoon of "D" Company (with 1 section of "C" Company attached) moved quickly up SERPENT TRENCH close behind our barrage which, excellent throughout, was particularly effective on this flank. The enemy resisted stoutly and bombed vigorously but the assault was made with a dash and determination which carried it well beyond the junction of SERPENT and NORA TRENCHES. Touch was gained with the platoon on the right and with the 10th Royal Warwicks on the left. The O.C. Platoon was wounded shortly after reaching his objective. Machine Gun fire along SERPENT TRENCH was heavy. O.C. "C" Company, who had supported the advance of this platoon with Lewis Gun fire from the top of dugouts at junction of SERPENT and SOLACE TRENCHES as long as it was possible, took over command of "D" Company when O.C. of that Company was wounded. Owing to Officer casualties definite information from "D" Company's left platoon had been lacking, Reconnaissance showed that the position at junction of SERPENT and NORA TRENCHES was fairly secure although touch had temporarily been lost with the platoon on the right. Seven men from this platoon are missing. They were last seen in shell holes East of NORA TRENCH. Considerable enemy movement was seen in front and was heavily fired on by our own. Shortly before 10:00 a.m. the enemy heavily shelled SERPENT TRENCH and the Battalion on the left. Our artillery were asked to shell PIONEER DUMP. No attack developed against the Battalion's front but it is not unlikely that one was prevented from developing by the artillery, rifle fire and heavy indirect M.G. fire on to the area N.E. of PIONEER DUMP.

At dusk connection was gained between the two left platoons of "D" Company and an intermediate post established about S.23.b.10.50.

The enemy's artillery retaliation was only moderately heavy. His first S.O.S. signal was seen at ZERO plus 3' and generally along the line at ZERO plus 5'. His artillery responded quickly and his barrage was down by ZERO + 6' to 7'. The Division on the left put a smoke screen on the left of their objective at ZERO plus 3'. Machine guns of 19th Division opened fire at this time – our machine guns opened at ZERO minus 1 ½ ' but this did not appear to matter. The enemy barrage was heaviest on the right and left of our line and along the RUE DU MARAIS which he enfiladed. The Right Company's Headquarters 100 yards E. of the junction of the EITEL ALLEYS was subjected to rather heavy harassing fire at intervals throughout the day, as was also the area about junction of SPOOK DRAIN and SERPENT TRENCH.

As soon as SERPENT TRENCH WAS GAINED 166 t.m. Battery rushed up two Stokes Mortars to SPOOK DRAIN, the teams carrying forward their ammunition. This was done under considerable machine gun fire.

The Battalion was relieved by 1/10th LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH on the night of 20th/21st September – completed at 12:20 a.,. 21st September.

SUMMARY OF CAPTURE

PRISONERS

43

MACHINE GUNS

2 Light
(brought out of action)

TRENCH MORTARS

2
(destroyed)

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

The Battalion's casualties in the operation were:-

<u>KILLED</u>	<u>WOUNDED</u>	<u>MISSING</u>
Officers – 0	3	0
O.R. - 6	37	8

[Signed] Lieut. Col
Commanding 5th Bn., S.Lan.R.

22 September 1918

ADDENDUM TO NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS 20TH SEPTEMBER 1918

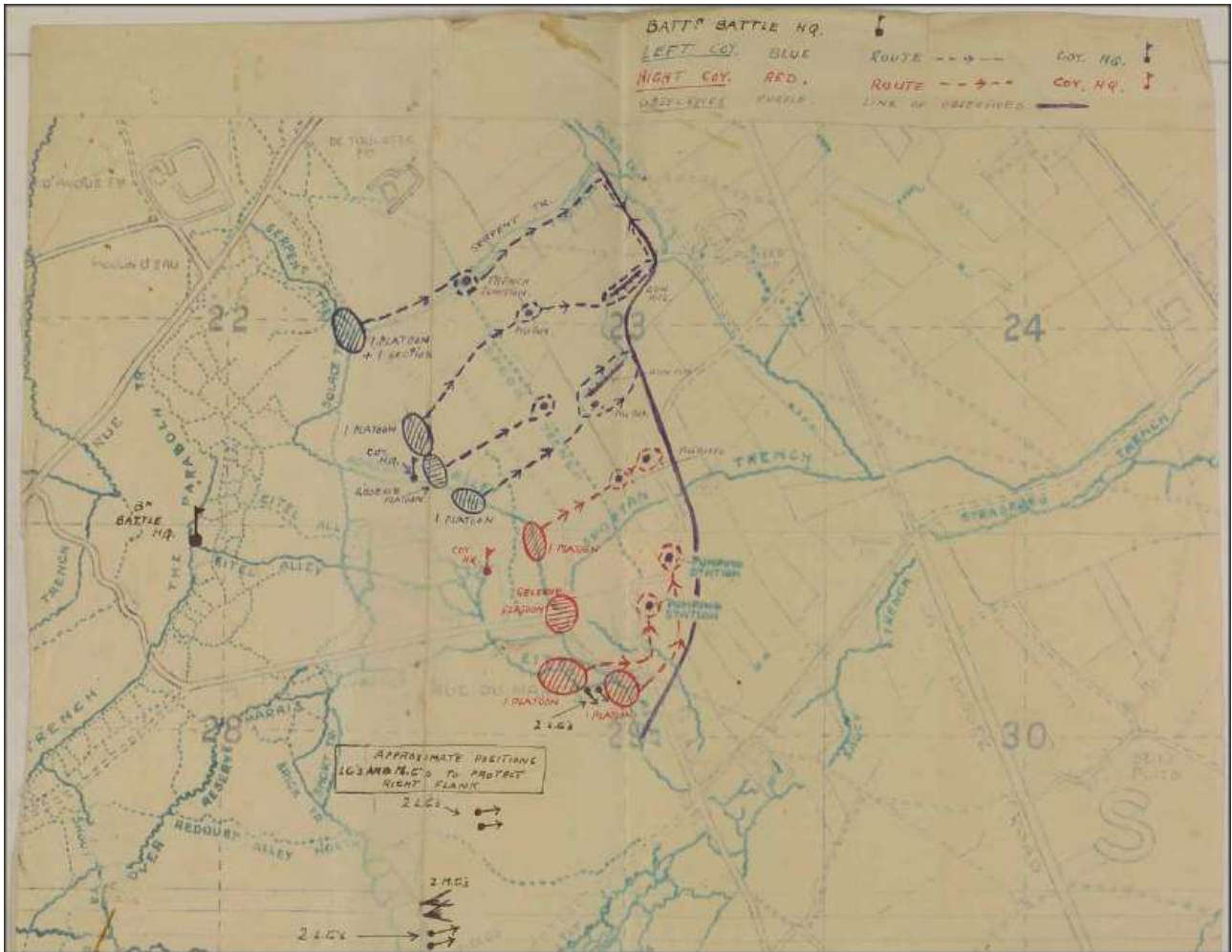
In addition to furnishing 1 section (attached to "D" Company) to garrison the junction of SPOOK DRAIN and SERPENT TRENCH, "C" Company had the remainder of this platoon at the disposal of "D" Company for carrying ammunition etc. up SERPENT TRENCH. They made three journeys under considerable machine gun fire and formed a dump at the junction of SERPENT TRENCH and SPOOK DRAIN.

Another platoon of "C" Company was employed in reinforcing the two left platoons of "D" Company and giving covering L.G. fire from the top of PILLBOXES in SERPENT TRENCH.

A third platoon of "C" Company was employed – 2 Sections joining the remainder of "D" Company's reserve platoon to form a close support in SPOOK DRAIN – 2 Sections in escorting prisoners to Bde. H. Qrs. The latter two sections were subsequently used to link up between the two left platoons of "D" Company.

Consequently there was only one platoon of "C" Company (disposed in ADALBERT ALLEY) which did not become involved in the operation.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919



October 1918

1st October 1918
Normal Day in Reserve

2nd October 1918
Enemy reported withdrawing. Battn moved forward at 18:00 and occupied O.B.L. from INDIAN VILLAGE to YELLOW ROAD.

CWGC Casualties **Rfn 39292 Samuel CRITCHLEY**

3rd October 1918
At 6:30 a.m. Battn advanced and occupied old German line from BRICKFIELDS to DE TOULOT FARM with B.H.Q. at PARABOLA TRANCH. At 13:00 again moved forward to LA BASSEE – FROMELLS line from LA BOUCHAIRE to DISTILLERY A.6.b. B.H.Q. at LE TILGUT REDOUBT

CWGC Casualties **2/Lt Frank Tysoe CHARLTON**

4th October 1918
Occupied the line SALOME GRAVELIN, B.H.Q. at MORQUETTE FARM

5th October 1918
Relieved "A" Battn., (1/10th KLR) in our line LA BOURSE – FONTAINE and proceeded to consolidate positions.

6th October 1918
General consolidation

7th October 1918
General consolidation

8th October 1918
(Illegible) raid by 3 sections of A Coy unsuccessful owing to (illegible) enemy wire.

9th October 1918
No change

CWGC Casualties **Rfn 240201 Thomas M TOPPING** **Rfn 22302 Joseph Saxon WAINWRIGHT**

10th October 1918
Heavy shelling during night and day. Brigade side-stepping our line taken over by 7th KLR (165 Bde). Battn took up position from Road Junction GRANDE RUE to Point above U.g.a.6.4 the left sub sector of Brigade's new line of resistance.

CWGC Casualties **Lt William Stephen HALL**

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

11th October 1918

Improving positions. Heavy bursts of enemy shelling during day on Battn area

12th October 1918

Relieved by 2/5th LANCS FUS and go into Divn Reserve billets at BEUVRY

13th October 1918

Reorganising Battn, etc.

14th October 1918

Route March

CWGC Casualties

Pte 265869 Herbert HALL

15th October 1918

Firing on range (400x). Orders received to be in readiness to move at one hours notice.

16th October 1918

00:15 a.m., received orders to “BUSTLE” and moved forward to FREMAUX FARM at 11:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m. again moved to LA PLACE-HOCRON. BASSEE RUE with B.H.Q. at HOCRON

17th October 1918

Battn crossed CANAL at DON leaving HOCRON at 4:40 p.m. and arriving at HERRIN at 6:00 p.m. B.H.Q at CURE’S HOUSE

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 3485 William TINSLEY

18th October 1918

Again moved forward at 8:45 a.m. to SECLIN containing about 100 civilians, B.H.Q in RUE LILLE

19th October 1918

Moved to FRETNE 6:00 p.m. B.H.Q. in Square

20th October 1918

Again advanced to CYSOING at 8:30 a.m. where Battn awaited orders til 2:00 p.m. then proceeded to WANNEHEIN. B.H.Q. at T.23.b.17.25

CWGC Casualties

Pte 241745 Robert McCULLY

21st October 1918

At 11:00 a.m. moved to ESPLEGGIN and at 5:30 p.m. again moved forward and relieved 5th K.L.R in OUTPOST LINE (St MAUR – V10 CENTRAL TO V4 CENTRAL – O33 and at X ROADS o.27.c). A Coy right front B Coy right support C Coy left front D Coy left support. B.H.Q at WILLEMEAUX in BREWERY. Enemy stiffening and shelling briskly.

22nd October 1918

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

At 4:30 a.m. A Coy attacked BARGES CHATEAU, C Coy co-operating. Attack unsuccessful.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 32689 James Richard BARR
Sjt 240569 John CARR
Rfn 39265 Joseph FLETCHER
Rfn 240630 James KELLY
Rfn 34061 John Llewellyn MATTHEWS
Rfn 242743 Cornelius MORRIS
Rfn 32676 Thomas Albert PINDER
Rfn 32622 Harry SLADE
Rfn 235935 Edward Reginald WADE
L/Cpl 42047 John WALSH
Rfn 17510 William WILD
Sjt 20978 Harold WILDE
Lt Noel Dyson WILLIAMS

23rd October 1918

Less enemy shelling during day except on ST MAUR where it was very heavy.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 32537 Thomas FINCH

24th October 1918

B.H.Q. moved from WILLEMEAUX to MONASTERY at ERE.

25th October 1918

A good deal of enemy shelling during day. Barrage put down on outpost line at 4:15 p.m. , no enemy attack. B.H.Q. shelled heavily between 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 45265 Jesse HARMER

26th October 1918

Battn relieved in the outpost line by the 1/10th L/Pool Scottish Regt. Battn moved down to ESPLECHIN in billets and became "C" Battn.

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 241061 George Ernest SWIFT

27th October 1918

Normal Day in Reserve

CWGC Casualties

Pte 241863 Edward Lewis DYKINS

28th October 1918

Normal Day in Reserve. Reorganisation of Coys

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

29th October 1918

Normal Day in Reserve. Training under Coy arrangements

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 32519 Arthur James Allen

30th October 1918

Normal Day in Reserve. Battn played Brigade at Football, result 2-2. Range completed at X ROADS near CUSTOMS HOUSE.

31st October 1918

Normal Day in Reserve. Battn moved into Support at FROIDMONT relieving 1/5th K.O.R.L. Very slight shelling of new B.H.Q.

November 1918

1st November 1918

In The Field

Battn paraded under the B.G.C on field in Western outskirt of ESPLECHIN

CWGC Casualties

Pte 17285 James O'DONNELL

2nd November 1918

Normal day in support. Training under Company arrangements

3rd November 1918

Normal day in support. Training under Company arrangements

4th November 1918

Slight shelling of guns in rear of CHATEAU WOOD during the morning. Training under Coy arrangements. Normal day in reserve.

CWGC Casualties

2/Lt Herbert JONES

5th November 1918

Relieved 1/5 K.O.R.L.R. in the outpost line

6th November 1918

Heavy enemy gas shelling of St MAUR during afternoon. Few shells fired on Battn H.Q. & vicinity about 11:30 p.m.

7th November 1918

One platoon of "b Coy attacked MYSTERY HOUSE at 8:40 a.m. in accordance with attached A/476 and A/480. 5 prisoners - wounded – captured.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 16225 George HOLLAND

Rfn 32513 John HUGHES

8th November 1918

Enemy withdrawal commences. Battn moved forward. BHQ move to BEAU REGARD FARM – thence to ST MAUR, thence to CHERCQ. Coys take up positions on West side of River ESCAUT. Heavy enemy M.G. fire met with at this point. During night rafts and foot bridge thrown across river.

CWGC Casualties

L/Cpl 242094 Willie Arthur JOHNSON

Sjt 240192 John LOWCOCK

9th November 1918

Battn crosses ESCAUT and pushes on to first objective. Battn continues the advance and pushes on to second objective. Both objectives gained.

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

10th November 1918

Battn again marches forward to TOURNAI-LEUZE Road, enters LEUZE & pushes forward to EASTERN OUTSKIRTS. Relieved by 1/10th L'Pool Scottish R. Battn marches back to LEUZE and spends night in billets. Becomes C Battn.

11th November 1918

Marches forward to MOULBAIX – received word that armistice takes effect from 11:00 a.m. Battn continues to march to LORETTE. Bn HQ and C & D Coys billet the night at this place. A & B Coys on Eastern outskirts.

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 241662 Samuel GREEN (Died as Prisoner of War and buried in Hamburg)

12th November 1918

A & B Coys marched to billets at LORETTE. General cleaning up

13th November 1918

Battn route march. Officers & Sgts football match in afternoon. Sgts win.

14th November 1918

Normal day in billets

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 235362 Albert HARWOOD

15th November 1918

Route march in the morning. Street in ATH entered by first British troops named by the Belgians RUE DE LA GRANDE BRETAGNE.

CWGC Casualties

Cpl 242205 Henry SMITH

16th November 1918

Officers dance – huge success

17th November

Normal day in billets

18th November 1918

Work on railways commenced

19th November 1918

Normal day in billets

20th November 1918

Sgts Dance

21st November 1918

Played the 1/10th L'Pool Scottish at football. Score 1-5

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

22nd November 1918

C.O. & 2nd In Command proceed to BRUSSELS to see King of Belgium enter

23rd November 1918

Normal day in billets

24th November 1918

Div. massed band performance in the square at ATH

25th November 1918

Played 422 Field Coy RE at Football. Won 6-1

26th November 1918

Normal day in billets

27th November 1918

Novice Boxing Tournament at Brigade

28th November 1918

Novice Boxing Tournament at Brigade

CWGC Casualties

Pte 40464 John NICHOLSON

29th November 1918

No 20 Platoon played No 8 – Result – draw 1-1

30th November 1918

Normal day in billets

December 1918

In The Field

1st December 1918 to 12th December 1918
Normal days in billets at ATH (BELGIUM)

13th December 1918
Advanced Billetting party leaves for new area

14th December 1918
Normal day in billets

15th December 1918
Battalion moved by march route for new area. Arrived BASSILY staying night there.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 37157 William WOODRUFF (Died as Prisoner of War and buried at Hamburg)

16th December 1918
Resumed march. Arrived HONSTAD staying night there

17th December 1918
Battalion arrived new area at 14:15 hours – St JOB – BRUSSELS

18th December 1918 to 22nd December 1918
Normal day in billets

23rd December 1918
166 Inf Bde played a Belgian Team at Football. Result 166 Bde 5, Belgians 4.

24th December 1918 to 28th December 1918
Normal day in billets

29th December 1918
Division played BRUSSELS at Football. Result 55 Divn 3, BRUSSELS 2

30th December 1918
Normal day in billets

31st December 1918
Brigade Cross Country Run

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

January 1919

FORT JACKO, BRUSSELS

1st January 1919 to 10th January 1919

Normal days in billets

11th January 1919

55th Dib. Cross Country Run. Gained 4th place out of 13 teams

12th January 1919 to 16th January 1918

Normal days in billets

17th January 1919 to 18th January 1919

55th Div. Boxing Tournament held at 'Palais D'Ete' Brussels

19th January 1919

Normal day in billets

20th January 1919

Finals of 55th Div. Boxing Tournament

21st January 1919 to 25th January 1919

Normal days in billets

26th January 1919

Review of III Corps by S.M. King Albert of the Belgians

27th January 1919

Normal day in billets

28th January 1919

Final of Divisional Association Football Competition, 7th Kings L/Pool 4 goals, 166 Inf Bde H Qrs 2 goals.

29th January 1919

Normal day in billets

30th January 1919

Football Match. Runners up of Divl. Competition, 2/5th K.F.'s 4 goals, 166 Inf. Bde H Qrs Nil

31st January 1919

Normal day in billets

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 34117 Joseph Henry WILLIAMS (15th January)

Rfn 21396 John James ROBINSON (18th January)

Rfn 54030 Thomas James BLAGDEN (19th January)

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

February 1919

BRUSSELS

1st February 1919 to 11th February 1919
Normal days in billets

12th February 1919 to 14th February 1919
5th Army Boxing Competition

15th February 1919
Major Marshall took over command of Battalion

16th February 1919
3rd Crops Cross Country Run won by Sgt Dwerryhouse

17th February 1919 to 20th February 1919
Normal days in billets

21st February 1919
Company knock out competition won by "D" Coy. Runners up HQ and Transport

22nd February 1919 to 26th February 1919
Normal days in billets

27th February 1919
5th Army Run. Winners, 6th Camerons, 2nd 1/5 R.L.R., 3rd Liverpool Scottish
Liverpool Scottish V 6th Camerons, 3rd Match. Scottish 3, Camerons 2

28th February 1919
Normal day in billets

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

March 1919

BRUSSELS

1st March 1919 to 2nd March 1919

Normal days in billets

3rd March 1919

166 Infantry Brigade leaves – Bn under command of 165 Infantry Brigade

4th March 1919 to 11th March 1919

Normal days in billets

12th March 1919

Cup Final 8th Bn M.G.C. V 159 Bde R.F.A Signals

13th March 1919 to 28th March 1919

Normal days in billets

29th March 1919

Battn moved to BOULOGNE – entrained at RUYSBROECK

30th March 1919

On train to BOULOGNE

31st March 1919

Battn arrived at BOULOGNE

CWGC Casualties

L/sjt 484 Thomas BRISCOE (24th March)

April 1919

The Battalion War Diary for April 1919 shows that they were based at Ostrohove Camp BOULOGNE under the command of Lt-Col LITTLE, D.S.O.

Immediately, groups of men were dispatched to the UK for demobilization, starting with 190 Officers and 220 Other Ranks on 1st April.

Diary entries continue until 31st July 1919 showing numbers of men embarking for the UK, but these were clearly passing through the Battalion and did not form part of the unit which had served in France since February 1915.

Men who had served with the Battalion continued to die from illness and wounds received. CWGC registers record details of those who died up to and including 31st August 1921, and these are listed below.

CWGC Casualties

Rfn 40264 John FAIRHURST (13th September 1919)

Capt. William Doudney KNOWLES (22nd December 1919)

Rfn 3970 Lawrence GRANEY (21st December 1919)

Rfn 242520 Arthur McCOURT (9th January 1920)

Capt. Harry Garratt WHITAKER (15th January 1920)

Rfn 32514 John HARVEY (20th September 1920)

1/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment
War Diary 1915 – 1919

CWGC Summary

The table below is a summary of deaths within the Battalion by month throughout the war years

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1914													0
1915	0	4	6	3	98	9	10	0	1	2	1	0	134
1916	0	1	4	2	2	0	5	79	55	7	9	3	167
1917	6	1	2	6	9	13	48	18	48	6	62	20	239
1918	1	0	18	64	20	10	8	14	19	27	10	1	192
1919	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	12	17
1920	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3