



Diary No. 2.

037405

20/3/17. 4<sup>th</sup> Bde staff stayed the night + made things somewhat congested. 21<sup>st</sup> + 23<sup>rd</sup> Divs. had a stunt on early this morning to endeavour to take village held by Germans; but it proved to be held in strength + we had to fall back. Enemy M.G.s. accounted for ~~20~~ a number of casualties on our side, including several officers. <sup>(20 offrs 260 offrs)</sup> Hdqrs. moved from Bapaume on relief by 4<sup>th</sup> Bde. to Mail Support (our previous dugout). 3 Staff Offrs. stayed on at Bapaume for night. Took over our quarters from 5<sup>th</sup> Bde. Traffic very congested, guns, wagons, cars etc. in a string miles long.





21/3/17. - Staff Capt. R. M. & Brig.  
arrived about 2 am.  
Up at 8 am & found snow  
on the ground. Staff Capt.  
very much out of sorts owing  
to loss of his despatch box.

22/3/17. Went up to Bapaume  
to 7th Bde H.Q. to see if any  
trace of boxes; but nothing  
doing. Met Vern Fowler &  
later Fat George. Snowed  
again today. Prince Frederick of  
Prussia brought down in his aeroplane &  
taken prisoners.

23/3/17. - Weather fine but cold,  
Had a bit of a haircut by one of  
the boys. Rumours around of  
the relief of the Division.

25/3/17. Went across to see Jim  
Gossins & Fred Knight in the Ashley  
lines near Hdqrs. & had a  
kick of the football - the first  
for months.

26/3/17. Loaded all our gear on  
wagon & left Hdqrs. on relief  
by 13th Bde. at 10.45 am.  
Marched via Le Sars, Martinpuich  
to Mametz Camp & put up  
in huts after a 7 mile trip in  
the rain. Found the camp  
rather a decent one. Wagon  
arrived 6 p.m.; unloaded all our  
gear & settled down. Heard  
news tonight that the Germans  
had blown up the Town Hall  
& our old Hdqrs. in Bapaume after  
our troops having occupied  
the place for 8 days. We are indeed





fortunate for it was considered  
no good a place to be left  
by the wily Hun + while  
we were there we were  
most comfortable. However we  
left the dugout some 3 days  
ago + now learn that it  
has been blown up; presumably  
by some infernal 8 day clock  
arrangement as it is exactly  
8 days since our troops drove  
the Boche out of the place  
+ there was a suspicious -  
looking clock there. Good  
news is rumoured that 7th Bde  
have taken three villages  
well-beyond Dapaume.  
It is very wet tonight +  
makes one long to be  
home again around a nice  
fire.

29/3/17 Rode the Staff Capt's  
horse in to Albert to  
see Monty Boothman + had a  
long yarn; he had been to

Paris, Nîmes, Monaco, Monte Carlo  
+ Menton + had some lovely  
views of the places.  
Walked back to Mametz +  
was caught in the rain.  
After tea we had a bit of  
a spree amongst our Hags  
chops, music, cards, etc.

30/3/17 Packed up again  
left 22/8 in Mametz +  
rest of Bde. moved to  
Secourt Camp in Huts, a  
very well-laid out camp.  
Completed move by midday.  
Had the boys out for a  
parade + stir up during  
afternoon. Mick Smith  
came to see me.

1/4/17 Had all Hags. out  
this morning + marched  
them to the Bell Church Parade





at which Genl Birdwood & all  
the knuts were present, &  
conducted a presentation  
of medals & ribbons.  
A very successful swimmer.  
Weather showery.  
Elected a member of the 24<sup>th</sup> Bn  
Sgt's Mess.  
attended church service in  
M.B.A. Hut.

2/4/14 Surprised to look out  
this day & see the snow  
falling heavily & everything  
whitened over. The wind is  
blowing hard & chilly.  
Prity aeroplane visited the  
camp during the night & dropped  
a few bombs.  
Elected member of Sgt's Mess.

24/8n & have a seat near  
Horace Clough. Found the 24<sup>th</sup>  
M. B. O's. a decent lot of chaps &  
the Mess tip-top.  
24<sup>th</sup> Bn. concert this evening  
in J. M. B. A. - a huge success  
& crowded house.

3/4/17 - Cold & frosty.  
No mail arrived yet;  
expecting new Australian  
mail. A Burn plane  
destroyed one of our  
Observation Balloons this  
evening.

6/4/17 "Good Friday" today.  
Fine, but cloudy. 24<sup>th</sup> Bn  
played the M. Gunner football &  
won fairly easily. Had a great  
dinner tonight & the Hdqrs Officers  
of 24/8n. were invited to sea.





7.4.17. Inspection by Army Comdr  
(Gen. Birdwood) & the Physical Ling.  
& Bayonet Fighting Instl. Staff.  
Still showery & dull.  
Enemy planes busy tonight.  
Had a big mail from  
home today. America declared  
war.

8.4.17. Rumored that the big  
offensive starts this morning.  
Weather showery; nothing  
much doing in our line.

9.4.17. Pde. stunt on today  
with the practice attack on  
Pozières. Good news from  
all our front, 4,000 prisoners  
taken by one corps & a  
Battn of Huns taken on another  
corps front. Prisoners  
coming in very freely.  
We are in touch now all

along the Hindenburg line.  
& on our corps front the  
last three villages have been  
occupied so that we are  
up against the "H" line.  
Hope to soon break through  
as everything points to  
something big shortly.  
Luba declared war agst.  
Germany according to  
the papers today.  
Dre but cloudy.

11.4.17. Splendid news today  
on whole British front.  
 Vimy Ridge taken by Canadians  
& line advanced between Lens &  
Arras. 4<sup>th</sup> Div. on our Army  
front assisted by 12 tanks  
broke through the Hindenburg  
line & occupied three  
villages beyond. Had a bit





of bad luck today - Capt Norman  
when demonstrating with Hun  
Trench Mortar wounded in hand  
& evacuated to 9<sup>th</sup> C.B. Sn.  
thus breaking the combination.  
We are indeed sorry he has  
gone. Lt. Bolman carrying  
on. Snow fell very  
heavily again this evening  
& everything is coated with  
a white mantle.

12.4.17. Bad news from our front  
4<sup>th</sup> Div forced back by Hun  
counter-attack to their original  
position. A good number of  
prisoners taken & casualties  
inflicted by the Losche.  
However the news generally  
is very good. Move orders

issued for Sde. to proceed to  
Beugnate (beyond Bapaume)  
tomorrow. 24<sup>th</sup> Dr. N.B. Co.

mess wound up tonight very  
successfully. Packed up all  
the gear ready for move.

13/4/17. Up at 6am, had an  
early breakfast. Wagons reported  
6.40am & loaded up ready to  
move off. Got details ready  
& saw them off in rear of the  
Sde. column to march through  
Bapaume to Beugnate, between  
12 + 14 miles. Weather fine but  
unsettled. Asst. Capt. Frank Bury  
& self, mounted, rode out about 9am  
& along main Albert-Bapaume Rd.  
through Bapaume to Beugnate.  
I then rode back to Bapaume to  
guide the transport to Beugnate.  
Met the Major & went on to  
Vaulx to take over from 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde.





but found the 13<sup>th</sup> Bde in possession.  
He then scoured the country for  
suitable accommodation, but  
nothing doing. Rode to Div HQ.  
at Monument Wood & were directed  
to some dugouts. Finally decided  
to bivouac for night near  
old Fritz line in which  
three of our Bns. are located,  
24<sup>th</sup> Bn. M.G. Coy & I.M. Bty in  
shelters in rear.  
Put the night in alongside our  
wagons under a tarpaulin.  
Very tired & have a headache.  
owing to such a long day;  
in the saddle from 9 am to  
5 pm so am a bit sore &  
stiff. Offs. put up at the Old Amblefor  
night

14/4/17. Very much better  
this morning, set about fixing  
camp & set up an office  
temporarily to get the weekly  
returns adjusted. Had lunch  
& after clearing returns, etc.  
had orders to pack up ready  
to move forward. L.M.S. &  
details remained behind &  
a small party of us with  
the gear left for Advanced  
Hdqs. about 1 pm. After a  
long & rough march arrived  
in the evening (sunk road)  
just outside Noeuil to  
our Hdqs. dugout, which is by  
far the worst accommodation  
we have yet had. However,  
got the gear off-loaded &  
sent the lumber back to  
the Transport line. Put up





for the night in a poky dugout  
of very small dimensions -  
Brig. & B.M. in same joint -  
Left about 1 a.m.

15/4/17 Awakened by B.M. at  
6 a.m. & advised the job of  
work for later on. Just  
dozing off when the alarm  
went round that we were  
being attacked.

Dressed & went up top &  
sure enough there were the  
Dosehes coming over the ridge  
in three waves. It took  
the Artillery a considerable  
time to ascertain if they  
were Huns or our chaps.  
However, the Dosehe were  
getting too close for comfort  
so our details were issued

Ammon. & told off to guard  
some of the Artillery in  
the event of the Huns coming  
right on. 22/Dr. got their  
Lewis Gunners in good  
position & then the fun  
began. Dosehes were  
all over the place & the  
Spdis. started sniping them.  
Our Lewis Gunners did  
splendid work - one party  
of Huns 4 strong made off  
at the double but got  
one covered more than  
50 yds but that he was  
shot down. A platoon of  
Huns came forward  
with their hands up &  
taken prisoner. Our chaps  
then went out to bring  
in the wounded & stragglers.





A large number of prisoners  
were captured & our losses  
slight. Further on our  
night the 1st Div. were  
up against it for Fritz  
drove them out of Lagmours  
& took 48 guns. Our  
chaps re-took it  
shortly afterwards & also  
the guns 5 of which had  
the breeches blown out.  
It was a sight I never  
shall forget to see the  
Doches getting bowled over  
& I shouldn't have <sup>spotted</sup> ~~missed~~  
the ~~spot~~ for all the sea  
~~in China~~ in China. The Hun attack  
comprised 14 Bns, & over 270  
prisoners were taken including  
3 offrs. It is estimated the

number of enemy dead is  
approx. 2,000. Altogether  
the stunt proved indeed  
costly to Fritz. Other  
Units in support heard  
all sorts of rumours &  
expected to hear of us all  
off to Berlin. However we  
have many a kick left yet.  
Many wounded have been  
brought in & are going  
past. The rest of the  
day was normal & fine

16/4/17. Another attack  
expected this morning, but  
nothing doing. This is  
not much of a "posi" as the  
accommodation is indeed limited.  
The chaps squared things up  
a bit during the day. Rain





fell towards evening + made things sloppy + miserable again. Our guns are stirring Fritz up ceaselessly. My night up tonight so I turned in at 11.30 a for a couple of hours under the Brigadier's bunk.

17/4/17. Up at 2.25 a.m.  
rather tired but game for anything, am now about to write a few letters. Still raining. Fritz is shelling in the vicinity of our dugout + landed one right on top which blew my candle out. However lit up again + got on with my letters to home + Lil as it is a good time, all the others being asleep. Daylight came about 6 a + it is still raining. The only event out of the ordinary

was the bringing in of two 4th Div. chaps who have been cut off between Bosche outposts for 5 days. They are worn out so we fixed them up with breakfast etc. + the General questioned them regarding the Hun's dispositions after which they were sent to D.H.Q.

There is a dead Hun in the dugout next to ours + the boys collected souvenirs from him in the shape of Cigarette Case, Matchbox, corks, ring + iron cross ribbon.

24th Bn had several casualties today through enemy's shelling + one chap was killed just outside our dugout. Nothing else of interest. Am





rather tired tonight as I have  
been up since 2.30 am this  
morning. Bed at 11 p.m. on  
floor of dugout alongside the  
S.M.

18/4/17. Up at 7 a.m. & on  
looking out found it to be  
wet & miserable again &  
extremely muddy. The rain  
continued practically all  
day. Getting a bit fed up.

19.4.17. Had short notice to  
get out & back to our former  
posi for a few days' spell  
owing to the big spur being  
postponed until 26<sup>th</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> Bde  
relieved both us & 5<sup>th</sup> Bde &  
we returned to where the  
transport are in tents at  
Deughrate. Left the cutting  
near Noreuil 16 p.m. & walked  
via Vaulx to camp. Fritz shelled

Vaulx as we passed through.  
All buildings levelled & trees  
cut down. Roads inches  
deep with mud. Arrived  
in camp (tents) 8 p.m.;  
had some tea & turned in.

20.4.17: Rain kept off &  
we got on with the good  
work. Had a few kicks  
of the football. General  
Birdwood came to see the  
General & gave us the  
news that the next ten  
days would have a great  
say in the result of the  
War as both the French &  
Germans are putting all their  
reserves into a very big  
battle. Good news from  
all fronts. Rode over





Tonight to see Mick Smith  
& found him in good nick

21.4.17. A heavy enemy bombardment  
up forward during the morning &  
our "sigs." had to wear their  
Gas helmets continuously for 1½ hrs.  
owing to about 1000 Gas & Tear  
shells being sent over. Enemy  
attack expected; but nothing  
doing.

Inoculated today against  
Typhoid, all night job on big  
Operation Order.

22.4.17. Practice stunt carried  
out today for our big show.

Weather fine but cold.  
Enemy Artillery very active &  
the details coming from line  
had difficulty in getting  
through the barrage.

Our planes also very

active over our area, resulting  
in many aerial combats  
with about equal results;  
one of our planes & one enemy  
being driven down. Our  
planes attacked our Observation  
Balloons unsuccessfully.

Am feeling very much out  
of sorts today owing to the  
effects of inoculation &  
shortage of sleep; my arm  
is exceedingly painful.

24.4.17. Fine day. Our planes  
fairly active. Rode over to  
see Mick but he was out.  
Nothing startling happened.

25.4.17. "Anzac" Day observed as  
a holiday throughout the Sde.  
Cloudy but fine. Very quiet  
day.





26.4.17 About 10.30p. heavy bombardment  
by our artillery commenced 10.30p

27.4.17. Fine but cloudy.  
Heard this morning Bert's  
Latter (58<sup>th</sup>) were at Mametz  
so immediately after  
lunch (stewed rabbits) Jim  
Goldsworthy & myself rode  
in on horseback through  
Bapaume & La Boisselle to  
Mametz Camp. Found the  
Latter but was informed  
Bert had been evacuated  
on 19/4/17, so our luck was  
out & we turned back  
for home, called at  
J.P.O., Bapaume, for tea &  
mail & arrived back  
in camp at 7.30p having  
covered over 20 miles.  
Our artillery again active  
tonight.

29.4.17 Packed up gear ready  
for move of Hqs. to Faverell.  
A great day - the best we've  
had for a considerable time,  
the sun shining brightly  
& making things quite  
summery. Left Buzenotte  
about 1.30p & 1<sup>st</sup> A.I. Bde  
came in to the vacated  
camp. Arrived Faverell  
2p. Pitched tents &  
Marquee for Office in a  
good posi. 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Bns. also moved down  
handy for the practice  
of the big stunt. Our  
planes busy today; there  
is a kite balloon handy &  
it sometimes goes up empty  
as regards passengers.  
Polling day today for Commonwealth  
Elections





30.4.17 Very fine today +  
the sun is quite warm.  
Got the oil about our probable  
move up to the line tonight,  
so packed up ready.  
Rode over to 21st Bn to  
investigate a record regarding  
a "Pte R Bulcay" joined front  
Reinfers. This chap came from  
Mt. Melbourne + knew Pup;  
but was not my cousin.  
Dick Smith came over tonight.  
At 9 pm we rehearsed the  
word "go", so loaded up  
the wagon + left camp  
at Tarenth with some of the  
details at 10.45 pm + arrived  
at our previous Hqrs. Dugout  
in cutting near Noreuil  
at 12.45 am. Fritz shell  
the Gully as we came along.

1/5/17 Weather still fine +  
warm. Turned in at 2.30 am  
for a few hours "fair dinkum"  
+ up at 8 a.m. Frank  
stayed up all night.  
Enemy Artillery (heavies) very  
active in the Gully + has  
dinged several dugouts, etc.  
Fritz is employing a new fuze  
+ his shells burst immediately  
they lob resulting in a  
wide spread of the pieces  
of shell. "Jenks" had difficulty  
in getting the grub up  
tonight owing to Fritz's  
barbage on the gully.  
My night on tonight.

2/5/17 A bit tired today  
owing to being up all  
night. Still fine + warm.





Our Machine Gunners brought down a Hun plane behind 23/Bris. line, the pilot was interrogated at B.D. by the General & proved quite a different type of Hun to those we have seen so much of. He was smartly dressed & looked rather intelligent. Tonight being "1/2" night the General & B.D. have left for Adv. HQ. 10 p.m.

3/5/17 at 3.30 a.m. our bombardment started & became most intense; as soon as the barrage lifted the boys went over the bags to attack the Hindenburg line; during the course of the day word was received they had attained their 2nd objective & were well in advance of the Hun line. Artillery fire on both sides very heavy &

it sounds like a continuous roar. Our casualties appear to be very heavy. I left Hdqrs dugout & went forward to the Bomb & Ammunition Dump to regulate the issue, etc. & found part of our Dump had been blown out & several chaps killed. I had many narrow escapes as Fritz was sticking 'em over hot & strong; one piece of shell hit the road & struck me on the knee. A piece caught our cook (9th Lamb) & put him out of action. Lt. Renault (our sig. offr. is a casualty) & many others. The artillery kept up throughout the day & we were busy sending Ammun etc. forward.

At about 11 p.m. Fritz counterattacked our positions





& from what I can gather  
the boys are having a hard  
time. Wounded are coming  
in a great, also the  
prisoners.

4/5/17 Up at 2 a.m. & found  
the artillery still going strong.  
Buns put over a barrage &  
made 4 counterattacks against  
our positions: but failed. We  
are established in the Hindenburg  
line on our Dde front but the  
Boche are on both flanks.  
Instructions issued to Bomb so  
right to connect up with 5<sup>th</sup>  
A.I. Dde. On left Tommies  
did not clear Bullecourt but  
have pos mixed up with  
Bun pos. Casualties very  
heavy on both sides. Ours  
estimated at 5500 vs 1530 OKs.  
Wal Spiller wounded.  
Very hot fighting Drity fighting

for every inch; some tough  
bomb encounters.

Artillery active all day.  
Our troops relieved this  
afternoon in front line by  
1<sup>st</sup> Dde & are back in  
support, exhausted, worn  
out. A few gas shells  
sent over tonight.  
Turned in for a few hours  
snore but had an  
interrupted hour or so's  
shuteye.

5/6/17 Weather fine  
Couple of Hun balloons  
up today. Situation  
generally quiet.  
Another bit of a counter  
attack by Huns this  
evening. S.O.B sent up  
in front line. Repulsed all  
attacks.





6/5/17. In bed 1.45a & up again 7a. Very little sleep lately & am feeling very tired. Genl. Birdwood came to see us.

7/5/17. Had a very lively time in our cutting today. Our howitzers have been emplaced just behind our dugouts & Fritz seems to have spotted them as he has strafed our posi. with H.E. practically all day. Our limbers reported 9.30p & we packed up & made ready to move, being relieved by 1st Sde. Went overland through Vancourt to Beugnotre & on to our old camp near Favreuil. Rain fell steadily. Turned in about midnight.

8/5/17. Up at 8a, still raining, after breakfast loaded up wagons & vacated camp at 10.45a & marched to tented camp beyond Le Sars. Capt Heath from Div. came yesterday to act as S.C. while Mr Colman is on leave. Had our office in Marquee. Slept very comfy. in a tent between Frank & self. Rained all the morning.

9/5/17. Rain cleared off & we packed up again ready for move to old camp at Favreuil Mametz Sde. camp. Left Le Sars at 10.15a & marched about 7 miles through Martinpuich Contalmaison, Tricourt Circus to Mametz, arriving about 2p.m. very tired. All Sns. in camp & handy.





Inquired for Far George but found he had been wounded. Met Frank Jackson & heard Sam McCulloch had been killed. Our Side had a terrible doing, & are going out for a rest & reorganising. Struck a decent Office in huts & had a couple of bunks in portion of it. M. Colman left on leave.

10/5/17. Rained this afternoon. Capt. Neash carrying on as Staff Capt. & doing alright. Plenty of work today squaring up records, etc.

11/5/17. Fine & warm. Still plenty of work. Joined 24/Bn. Sgt's Mess.

12/5/17. Attended 24/Bn's Concert in J. M. C. A. Hut. Heard news that Far George, Jim Spelling & Sam McCulloch had been knocked.

13/5/17. Jim Lane puts up his stairs. Sid Bates returns from leave.

14/5/17. Frank Dury went to Amiens today. 24/Bn. played 13<sup>th</sup> L. H. Football & caned them up a tree. Had a thunderstorm today & heavy rain. It's a treat to see some grass again & the trees beginning to sprout.

14.5.17. Up at 6am, packed up all our gear & made ready to move. Left Mametz Camp 8.20am, Dde Hqs. leading the column, marched through Mametz, Lure, Lavieville, Berencourt





to Warloy arriving at 3 p.m.  
The country is looking splendid  
all the trees are out & fields  
nice & green. It is indeed  
a change to get back to  
bills after such a lengthy period  
in the line. The interpreter  
fixed me up with a decent  
little room. Settled down in  
Headqs. in house we prevs.  
stayed at. 23 & 24 Bns are  
also here. 21st Bn, M. & Coy &  
I M. Bty at Millencourt. 22nd Bn  
at Bouzincourt. Went to  
bed at 11 p.m. & slept in  
a nice soft bed with  
sheets the first for ages  
(a bit rich I fancy)

18/5/17  
Up at 7 a.m.; the old lady at  
my bills gave me a  
drink of coffee before  
commencing the day's

routine. 24th Bn started  
the Sgt's. Mess again & of course  
Frank & I participated.

20/5/17. Church parade today at  
Warloy for 2 Bns & Bde. Hdqs.  
After dinner R. I. M. William &  
myself went for a ride on  
horseback to Contay, Beaumont  
& all round the surrounding  
country, which is looking its  
best. Spring is in full swing  
all the grass is green & green  
& trees are in blossom &  
the weather is all that could  
be desired, so that at the  
present time it is by no  
means a bad war.





23.5.17. Weather still very pleasant & we are having a good spell. Had a game of Football today with Hdqrs & the I.M. Battery, resulting in a win for Hdqrs. by 4 pts. 24/Dr. had an operatic concert in front of Hdqrs. this evening. Tipped a couple of "Sea Lions" & had a tip-top hot & cold shower.

---

24.5.17. Went all round Dr. on horseback to pay details going to Seaside. Warley to Herencourt & Millencourt, had dinner at 21/Dr. to 22/Dr. at Bouzincourt. Met Mick Smith & had a yarn. Back to Sanlis & home to Warley.

---

30/5/17. Attended the Bde. Sports near Herencourt wood & had a very enjoyable afternoon. Had tea on the ground & stayed until 7.30pm to watch the boxing. 23/Dr. won the championship. The ground was an ideal one & everything looked so nice & fresh. All the boys had a tip-top time & appreciated the diversion to no little degree.

---

1/6/17. 24<sup>th</sup> Dr. carried out a practice stunt today combining Stokes Mortar, Lewis Gun etc with live bombs. One Stokes Bomb burst when just clear of the gun & killed 5 of our chaps & wounded 12 others. A very sad & unfortunate accident. A military funeral took place this evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Dr. followed the bodies to Warley Cemetery.





8.6.17 Sunday today & it has  
turned out a glorious day.  
Plenty of work in the office  
today. Frank Dwyer's name has  
been mentioned in despatches.  
Nick Smith rode over from Bourneville  
to see me.

5/6/17 Bde football competition  
commences. 6<sup>th</sup> Div. Amb. gave  
Bde. HQ. a walk-over &  
21<sup>st</sup> Div. beat 22<sup>nd</sup> Div. by  
3 points. Went for a  
ride round the country  
today & put in a good  
afternoon. Mjr. Plant  
went on leave today  
& Genl. came back from Div.

6/6/17 Bde parade at 10.30a  
for the presentation of  
medals & ribbons by the Corps  
Commander (Genl. Biddwood).  
all the Divnl. Units sent their  
people for presentations.  
Genl. Biddwood on inspecting

The parade spoke a few  
words to me & later on  
I was one of those to be  
presented with my medal  
by the General. Andy  
Fisher was also present  
& made a speech at the  
conclusion of the presentation.  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Divs play their  
football match tonight.  
It has been a very warm  
day today & is now  
inclined to thunder

12/6/14. Visited Amiens with  
Nick & Syd Baker. Had  
to walk about 5 miles to  
get train at Meriville &  
from Meriville home





14/6/17 My birthday - not kept  
up in any way. Frank  
left for Beaulencourt - Le Transloy  
area with Advance Parties.  
Plenty of work + pay day.  
Weather fine + warm.

15/6/17. Sde marched to Varennes  
to entrain for Bapaume.  
Our train held up on a/c  
of line blown up near Bapaume.  
We were at station at 12 noon  
+ train left 7.30 p arriving  
about 10 p.m.

Detained, saw Snow Butler  
+ marched through Bapaume to  
rented Camp at Le Transloy.

16/6/17. 24/Bn started their  
sp'ies in the ruined  
Sugar Factory nearby + of  
course Frank + I attended

20/6/17. Showery + thundery  
nothing startling. Dns  
engaged in stiff round  
about, village fighting, on  
21/6/17. Rode to Bapaume  
to see Mick Smith. Found  
him well + cheery. Bonded  
a new lid from him.

31.6.17. Still at Beaulencourt  
under canvas. Weather  
changeable. Sde training.  
Nothing startling.

9.7.17 Showery + windy.  
Divisional shunt on today  
all units taking part.  
News so hard that the 22<sup>nd</sup> <sup>May</sup> <sup>May</sup>  
mail sunk from Aust.

14.7.17. Mjr. Bridges from 25/Bn  
reported for duty as a P.M.





19.7.17. Mjr. Plant left for  
duty with 4<sup>th</sup> Div. HQ as  
GSO. II

22.7.17 Brig. Genl. J. Paton reported from England

24.7.17. Packed up & struck  
Camp at Beaulencourt. Marched  
12 miles via Le Sars, Pozieres  
to Ovillers Huts. Very hot  
day. At conclusion of  
march went for a swim  
in lake near Aveluy.  
Brig. Genl. J. Gellibrand left  
for duty in England.

25.7.17 Warm again today.  
Capt Norman went to  
Boulogne per car to see the  
General off.

26.7.17 Pretty warm today.  
Went for a swim near  
Aveluy. Frank Capt. Nash left on  
advance party.

27.7.17. Busy day today on  
my own. I all the return  
also move order to  
get out. Bed about  
midnight.

28.7.17 Breakfast 5.15 a.m.;  
transport left shortly after  
for Aveluy Stn. & our  
chaps at 6.30 a.m., arriving  
at Entrainning Stn. 7 a.m.  
Train left 8.27 a.m. & had  
a good trip in trucks  
to Argues where we  
detained & marched about  
4 miles to Wardreeques.  
Found billets in a quiet  
village & settled down  
for night. Bde. also  
billeted in Campagne.





29.7.17. Up at 7a had  
breakfast + looked around  
a bit. Heavy thunderstorm  
this morning.  
After tea I walked about 4  
miles to Roquiesme (our  
first billeting place in France)  
+ renewed old acquaintances.  
Found Portuguese billeted here.  
The people were as nice as  
ever - some place - Walked  
home, arriving at midnight.

30.7.17. Capt. Norman arrived  
early this morning.

6.8.17. Rode the mare in to  
Argues to see Mick Smith  
+ found him billeted at a  
place where there were  
three decent bits of skit who  
could parley English. Spent  
the afternoon walking  
about then rode back to  
Wardrecques.

7.8.17. Weather fine again.  
Marched to Div. B. B. B.  
Rengasme for a wash.  
Nothing startling.

8.8.17. Interpreter C. Richard  
left for 5th Div. Hdqrs.

9.8.17. Dick Richards left today  
for duty in England (Lucky  
beggan) Rode in to Argues  
again to see Mick + had tea  
with him. Caught in rain on  
way home.

11.8.17. Sent 5 of our Bde Hdqrs.  
trucks on Slightly Leave this  
morning. Had a letter from  
Bert saying he was going on Slightly  
Leave.

12.8.17. Fine Sunday. Joe Lyons turned  
up with Reinforcements for 21/8 +  
came down to see me. We went  
for a stroll + talked about all  
the folk at home, etc.





13.8.17. Rode in to Argues again  
to see Nick; had a yarn &  
then went down the village  
& had a feed. Rode home  
along the canal; a beautiful  
ride in the cool evening  
saw all the locks, &  
barges & chaps swimming  
in the Canal.

19.8.17. Rode bike to Argues;  
met Nick at 2pm & strolled  
in to St. Omer, had a look over  
the cathedral & then walked  
to the gardens where a band  
was playing. The place was  
crowded, soldiers & civilians  
a treat; saw a number of  
the Women's Aux. Corps from  
Slightly dressed in brown  
- very decent some of 'em -  
Couldn't get a feed in St. Omer

so walked back along Canal  
to Argues had tea & left  
Nick about 7 p.m. &  
proceeded along Canal on  
bike for a distance then  
stopped to listen to an  
open-air concert at which  
I picked up Joe Lyons.  
Stayed half an hour & rode  
home, tired & hungry

20.8.17. Tim Richardson & Leo  
Keagle left for Slightly Leave.  
Bud had the gloves on with  
the Staff Capt.

22.8.17. Inspection of the Divn.  
by Genl. Birdwood. Div. paraded  
in column of course & marched  
along the tow path of Canal  
from Wardrecques to Campagne  
& then back to billets.





27.8.17 - Practice for inspection  
by C.-in-C. (Sir Doug Haig) on  
ground near Campagne.

29.8.17 Sir Doug Haig. inspected  
the Div. formed up in Mass -  
a great sight. - Aquatic  
sports to be held in afternoon  
on Canal postponed, as  
inclement weather, until  
Saturday..

2/9/17 Weather ~~dark~~ ~~sho~~  
brightening up a little. We  
had an air-raid tonight  
which made things rather  
lively for a time.

3.9.17 Squared up in the office  
& proceeded on leave with  
George Jell & Pay Sgt. Walked  
about 5 kilos to Ebblesham St  
& caught leave train about  
2 hrs late, viz 2 p.m.

We hopped in an offi<sup>er</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> class  
carriage & proceeded to Boulogne,  
arriving at 7 p.m. then marched  
up the hill to Rest Camp.  
Settled down in Camp &  
visited the Institutes for  
some grub, etc.

4.9.17. Up at 7 am and filled in  
time about the Camp. Tell  
in after lunch & marched  
up another hill to St. Martin's  
Camp. Had tea & attended a  
band concert. Bed at 10 p.m.

5.9.17 Awakened early this  
morning by the guns firing at  
some Boche planes overhead 5 a.m.  
No damage. Hope to get away  
today. Paraded & marched to  
Docks, embarked & left at 11.50 am  
arrived Folkestone about 1.30 p.m.





Caught train to Victoria, arriving  
about 6 p. Marched to a 98.

Hags & got the "Oscar".

Booked room at Liffen's Hotel  
Victoria & after brush up, etc  
left for His Majesty's Theatre  
- booked stall - to see Chu Chin  
Chow. Caught bus back to  
Victoria & bed after a long day.  
~~Heavy~~ Rain at night & thunderstorm

6.9.17. Up at 7.30 a.m. had  
warm bath & breakfast.

Went round the Strand &  
dug up Miss Bright, had a yarn,  
then up to Australia House  
to see Dr. Dawson; went  
up on roof of building (quite  
the highest about) & had a  
good look round London.

Went to the British Museum  
to see Florie but found she

was on holidays. Had lunch  
then back to the Strand  
met Miss Gladys Millar & taxied  
to Kew Gardens - a lovely  
spot - went through all the  
hot houses. Had tea then  
bus to Hammersmith & taxi  
to the city. Back to  
the Victoria & booked my  
room at Wilton Hotel &  
ordered two reserved seats  
for "Cheep" at the Vanderville  
& took Miss Bright. Rain  
again this evening.

7.9.17 Weather fine but cloudy.  
After breakfast caught bus to  
Newington & called on cousin  
Kare & stayed to dinner.  
Recd Horace's letter waiting for





me there & later on in day  
wired him to come to London  
for a couple of days. Went back  
to the city about 4 p.m., had  
tea & met Horrie Clough &  
George Marshall down on Furlough,  
so we all went to the  
Hippodrome Theatre & saw  
George Robey in "zig-zag" &  
thoroughly enjoyed it.  
Supper after & then back  
home.

8.9.17 A fine day today.  
Walked about the Strand  
& met George Marshall & Horrie  
Clough at 10.30a. We then had  
our photos taken. Caught tube  
to Hyde Park; spent a little time  
there then back to dinner.  
Caught bus to Richmond & went for  
a row on the river to the Island.

Picked up two tabs. Had tea on  
island then rowed back.  
Horrie & George went to the  
Hosp. & I saw the girls home to  
the city. Took Nellie Smith in  
the car to my hotel & gathered  
a few tags; went to the  
pictures, taxied to Liverpool  
St. left Nellie, then tube to  
King's Cross where I caught the  
10.30p train to Edinburgh.

9.9.17 Spent all night in  
train, arrived Waverley  
9.15a & caught 8.35a train  
to Dunfermline. Found  
Mr. Gregor's & was made very  
welcome. Had breakfast & then  
went for a stroll with Mr. Mac  
& Jenny around the Glen &  
Park a delightful spot & good





me there & later on in day  
wired him to come to London  
for a couple of days. Went back  
to the city about 4 p.m. had  
tea & met Horrie Clough &  
George Marshall down on farlough,  
so we all went to the  
Hippodrome theatre & saw  
George Robey in "zig-zag" &  
thoroughly enjoyed it.  
Supper after & then back  
home.

8.9.17 A fine day today  
Walked about the Strand  
& met George Marshall & Horrie  
Clough at 10.30a. We then had  
our photos taken. Caught tube  
to Hyde Park; spent a little time  
there then back to dinner.  
Caught bus to Richmond & went for  
a row on the river to the Islands

Picked up two tabs. Had tea on  
island then rowed back.  
Horrie & George went to the  
Hosp. & I saw the girls home to  
the city. Took Nellie Smith in  
the car to my hotel & gathered  
a few tags; went to the  
pictures, taxied to Liverpool  
St. left Nellie, then tube to  
King's Cross where I caught the  
10.30p train to Edinburgh

9.9.17 Spent all night in  
train, arrived Waverley  
8.15a & caught 8.35a train  
to Dunfermline. Found  
McGregor's & was made very  
welcome. Had breakfast then  
went for a stroll with the Mac  
& Jenny around the Glen &  
Park a delightful spot & good





weather. a good many sailors  
about but only one or two  
Aust. soldiers, back to lunch  
at 1p. Went to Church  
(Sophist) in evening with  
Mrs M + Jennie, then strolled  
around the Abbey grounds.  
Home about 8.30p. Had  
supper, sang a few hymns  
Bed at 11p in a lovely  
room, very convenient  
in this home.

10.9.17. Up at 8.15a - hazy  
but dry today - Went out  
shopping in Dunfermline.  
Met Lt Andrew Robertson RN  
& wife & with Jenny went  
to hear the band in the  
park. Met Wal's Uncle Sam

Later went over Abbey &  
wrote in Visitor's book  
Saw Carnegie's stone &  
burial place & grave of  
King Robert the Bruce.

In the evening had  
gramophone & piano going.  
Had supper 8p and left  
for train. The Mac family  
came to see me off.  
Train left 8.50p changed  
at Waverley & on to B. Lighty.  
Had a couple of trips  
across the to Dork Bdg.  
Dull & wet in England

11.9.17 Still Wellona  
Arrived King's cross  
Cross about 7.30p am.  
~~Walked about about 10p~~  
~~he had not yet~~  
Dined up at pub & went





for a stroll round; had  
dinner + met Horrie  
Clough. Went to cousin  
Katie's early this morning  
+ found a letter from  
Horrie saying he couldn't  
get down. Had dinner  
with H.C. + went to  
Hyde Park met two girls  
Weedon (sisters). Look in  
to see gathered Horrie's  
port + baggage; walked  
through Hyde Park,  
then back to the city.  
for tea; then back to  
Hyde Park ~~had to~~  
~~leave~~

Saw Horrie Goff in  
train at night so am  
on my way. Bed 11/2.  
Weather showery in evening.

12.9.17. Had bath + breakfast  
then did some shopping.  
Had a look at the photos.  
Bought a ring. Called on Miss  
Bright. Met "Boofy" McMurray +  
had dinner. Walked around  
St James Park then back  
to Victoria. Had tea, went  
to Pictures, then supper +  
home. Recd. telegram from  
Horrie saying nothing doing  
re leave.

13.9.17 Up at 8 am, had break  
caught bus to N. Grew goodby  
cousin - back to city.  
~~dinner~~ By tube from  
Charing Cross to Victoria +  
met Mr. Park who took me  
to dinner at Trafalgar  
Army + Navy Stores. After  
dinner had shave and met





Alvie + Bella Weeden at Vic.  
It started raining so taxied  
to Marble Arch Picture Pav. then  
by tube to Trafalgar Sq. Had  
Leat Corner House then  
taxied to Hippodrome to see  
zig zag, caught bus to  
Vic. saw girls on  
tram. then to bed with the  
jaw ache.

Weather fine.  
14.9.17 Up at 8 am. Went round  
Strand collected photos then  
visited Mrs. Dawson at  
Aunt. House. While there met  
Mr. Leacock Y.M.C.A. had yarn + he  
had just read a wife re Alf's  
death. He took me to the Y.M.C.A.  
nearby + collected a party  
then showed us some interesting  
places in the vicinity, viz.  
St. Clements Church in Strand, The

Temple Bar Law Courts, etc.  
then back to Y.M.C.A. for dinner.  
Went down + said goodbye

to Miss S. Morrison  
Oliver Bright 41 St. Bernards Row  
caught bus Stock Bridge  
to Victoria. Edinburgh

Had shave, etc.  
met Alvie + Bella Weeden  
at 2.30 pm. Bus to Charing  
Cross then changed to  
Richmond. Hired boat  
rowed up Thames to Lea  
Gardens on Island. Had tea  
then rowed back by 8 pm.  
Caught bus to city. Saw  
girls on train + said  
goodbye. then back to  
Wilton Hotel 10p after  
supper. Busted a gymbail +  
eased pain a little.  
Bed 11 pm Last night of leave





15.9.17. Up 5a. Till 11.6a.

Caught 1st train out at 6.15a.  
Detained Thorncliffe about  
9a & marched to Dolkestone  
rest billets in big mansions on  
sea front. Marched out 11.30a  
along promenade to Quay &  
boarded boat about midday.  
On arrival at Boulogne, marched  
up hill to Rest Camp. Paraded  
10p & marched to train.

16.9.17  
Untrained & proceeded to  
Caestre, arrived 9a & marched  
to Reinfer Camp, saw Monty  
Dookman got movement order  
& went to Station, nothing  
doing in train line for some  
hours so got a motor wagon  
to near Reningheldt & walked  
to Bde Hdqs. at Bueseborn.  
Drank was just on his way

up forward & the staff following.  
I packed up rest of gear, loaded  
on wagons & rode horse about  
11p to transport lines at  
Chapau Belle. Put up for  
night at 2 Mj. store. Lfd &  
Jeks went forward with  
trations to D.H.O. at Din  
Cross Rds. & arrived home  
3a 17.9.17

17.9.17 Up about 9a, had  
wash, wrote a few letters &  
took things easy. Went to  
see Mick Smith & stayed to  
tea.

18.9.17 Rode round Bns. at  
Dominion Camp & then to  
D.P.O.; back to Transport lfe.  
Went over to Mick.  
Nothing much doing here.  
Capt. Helath & Mjr. Donnelly red. from leave





19.9.17 Had word to go forward  
to Sde. Hdqrs. Parked up after  
dinner & left at 2 pm on bike  
rode through Ypres & Menin Gate  
along Menin Rd to Hell Fire Corner  
very appropriately named as it  
is a terrible place. Shells were  
rained on road here a treat &  
got several mules. Dead horses  
& debris everywhere. Got a move  
on to Dier Cross Rds & found B.H.Q.  
dugout. The surrounding country  
in an awful state holes & debris  
everywhere. Hdqrs. in a deep  
& large tunnel with water  
continually running in & having  
to be pumped out. Very hot  
& smelly down below. Elec.  
light throughout generated by  
a little motor which stops  
occasionally to cool off.  
Rich left for transport lines as  
not enough room for us both

Had a snooze at 11 pm

20/9/17 Big attack on today,  
commencing at 5.40 am. The  
incessant roar of artillery is  
astounding. Numerous planes &  
tanks assisting.  
Up at 7 am. Prisoners &  
wounded coming in a treat  
& artillery going to some  
tune. Things believed to be  
going well & our objectives  
taken.

21.9.17. Our troops advanced  
about a mile in the attack.  
Sde Hdqrs moved to a German  
Pill-box up in supports in  
full view of both ours & Dutch  
front line. This was a concrete  
& rail blockhouse & had been  
knocked about a little by our  
guns but still afforded cover  
in a couple of rooms underneath  
for our staff & signs. We took  
very little gear up on pack <sup>horses</sup>





one horse with the typewriter + staty. box on board fell in a shell-hole + the staty. box got half-full of water. The ground hereabouts the same as the Somme, holes + debris everywhere. Arrived at Hdqrs. just at dusk. 5th Bde staff still there so not much room + no sleep the first night. Our Bde. relieves the 5th + 7th in the line. Saw Fritz plane brought down in flames.

22.9.17. Settled down as best we could; no room to sling your arms about. Plenty of shells + debris about. Fritz planes active + flying low. Capt. Heath got knocked today at 19th Bn. Not much chance of a wash + things anyhow. Turned in at 11p on floor of joins.

23.9.17 Awoke on the S.O.S. signal going up at 5am. Artillery put up barrage + kicked up a terrible row. Started on a Bde Order re reliefs.

Relvd. by 13th Bde. + we got out with pack horses to Bir Cross Roads, shells following us down, packed gear on to litters + started off down Menin Rd to Ypres. Had a drink of tea at a YMCA. joint + started again for Vlamertinghe, had a lift part of the way in a 'Motor Wagon', then

walked to our old camp at Russeboom, arrived tired out at 10p. Knocked up YMCA + bought some biscuits etc. + had a feed. Found our camp still occupied by 12th Bde, so we put up in the YMCA. hut + after a whole Coy. of 24th Bn troops in. Things only middling.

24/9/17 Up 7am. 12th Bde vacated our camp. 9am. Got gear in huts + settled down. Transport + D.P.O. moved up to the camp. Found it good to be in rest again with plenty of room + able to get a wash. Bed 11p.

25/9/17 Had a great sleep. Up at 8am, plenty doing today squaring up back records, etc. Went to Div. Baths. Met Joe Lyons. Bed at 11p. Weather fine.

26.9.17. Sig. shot by 4/5th Div. in hop. over line near Polygon Wood. 4th Div. gained objectives, but 5th Div. held up near Butte de Polygone. Our Bde in reserve still at Russeboom, but standing to for the 4/5th Div.

27.9.17. Weather still good. Fritz planes very hostile, dropping eggs in vicinity of camp, etc.





28.9.17. Another tip-top day, +  
our crowd standing so in the  
Camps. Expect to push up ourselves  
+ do a stunt in a day or so.  
Moonlight night tonight + the  
Bosch planes busy over our  
Camps. Our searchlights got  
onto a couple + it was great fun  
to see them in the limelight with  
the guns at 'em. Only one casualty  
in 23/Bn.

29.9.17. Weather still good - oh  
we expect to move tomorrow  
morning so paid a visit to  
YMCA + got in a few stores.  
Packed up most of gear +  
had our last decent snooze.

30.9.17. Pushed off from Camp at  
Dusseldoon with our Tigers +  
marched through Ouderdom,  
Flaneringhe to Ypres, where we found  
our billets in the what was once  
a big Infantry Barracks, but well-  
pounded for 3 yrs. + just furnishing  
a little cover. Very dirty +  
verminous joint. Our plane  
dropped an egg just outside our  
window + brought all the plaster  
+ dirt down all over us + blew out  
the lights.  
Pushing off tomorrow but had an  
order to get out. I worked till 2 am  
+ Tim till 4 am.

1.10.17. Packed up + left Ypres about  
6 p.m., caught on with the tide  
through the village via Menin Gate  
out to the noise, dust + traffic  
of guns etc along the Menin Rd.  
Well-fine corner to Bir Cross Rds.  
arriving at dusk made enquiries  
for 'N' Wood dugouts as no guide for  
us. Pushed on along the timber  
track, shells falling around +  
our guns kicking up a terrible  
row. Got up to the Water P.  
+ saw our baggage off-loaded  
so left the boys + went overland  
over shell-holes + past the heavy  
howitzers all going for their life  
+ asked several chaps for the  
posi.: no wood there just about  
two tree stumps + a broken bench  
with hundreds of shell-holes.  
Struck the 'N' dugout + went  
back for our chaps + gear.  
Put my foot into a tank sunk in  
the ground + got wet through to the  
waist. Got all the stuff up +  
inspected the dugout which turned  
out to be wet + dirty + contained  
people from nearly all Units in the  
29B. In my part of the joint we  
had Sigs. + our chaps like  
sardines.

2.10.17. Weather still fine. Ourty got  
one of our Ammn. dumps nearby +  
blew a Jamania rigger into the middle  
where the poor blighter got burned to death.





Left Y. Wood about 8 p.m. in company with the Staff Capt. & dodged a few on our way to Adv. S.N.D. in a battered pillbox at SANS. SOOC, which placed received some attention during night in the way of two direct hits & some wide ones. But Fritz knew how to build these joints for which we are grateful as the solid reinforced concrete walls hardly show the marks of 5.9's.

3.8.17. Had a doss on the floor of a poky little dugout with several others. Had some grub from Offs. Mess very acceptable indeed. Our artillery chucking over the iron rations to Fritz a treat.

4.8.17. Zero 6 a.m. Fritz put down a barrage at 5.25 a.m. & we found Fritz intended attacking on our front at exactly the same hour as our stunt; but our barrage got in amongst him & chopped them up to some order. Our troops 22nd & 23rd Bns gained RED line by 7.40 a.m. & prisoners & wounded commenced coming through. 21st & 24th Bns passed through & captured Blue line by 10 a.m. a great success for our 2ae. all objectives taken & being consolidated the Units on right & left flanks also did well. Our Casualties heavy; but Fritz must be considerably more. S.O.S. up along front in evening but our ally dispersed the Huns & broke counter-attack.

5.8.17. A good view of the line from H.Q. & our chaps are on the highest ridge & got Fritz well down the other side. One group of Offs. sent in prisoners are a Hun Bn. Commander & staff & 3 arty. Offs. Captured two guns, M.G.s, etc. Our guns going forward & plenty of business carting amm. etc. Very dirty weather now rain, cold & mud, so things are not of the best. However we are better off than the poor chaps in front. Plenty of arty. activity tonight.

6.8.17. Still raining, cold & wet. a chap has the blues as we are not being relieved. Our chaps are on a burying cable job today after their stunt (briff luck) & we expect to do another hop over before going out. Jim came up to Adv. N.D. Turned in on the floor about 10 p.m. Awakened about midnight by a loud explosion on roof, which extinguished our light & gave us a bump. It was a direct hit by 15 cm. Fritz & dug a big hole just above my head into the brickwork & earth but did not penetrate through the concrete. Lucky for us Fritz built these solid joints as otherwise we would all have gone South.





7.8.17. Still wet & muddy.  
Position quiet around Sans Souci  
with except of the noise of our  
own arty. It is  
getting cold & bleak & this is really  
a touch of winter. Will not be  
sorry when we get out so that we  
can have a change of logs & a decent  
wash.

8.8.17. Conditions much the same.  
Got out orders for attack tomorrow  
morning. Hostile aircraft very  
active over our lines this morning  
about 8 of them came in a bunch after  
some of our scouts who easily  
evaded them. Am thankful a chap  
is under cover for today & towards  
evening it is raining a treat & poor  
chaps come in up to the waists in  
mud. Capt Saultge left to assist in  
laying out the J.O. Tapes

9.8.17. Attack commenced at 5.20 a.m.  
with our usual arty. barrage.  
Red line (1st obj.) gained about 7.30 a.m. &  
5th Bde. on left advised they have also  
gained their obj. (9th) so everything  
seems O.K. up to present. Rain has  
ceased now, but it is still cloudy  
& unsettled & muddy under foot.  
Great aerial activity this afternoon  
both our planes & Tripps not far  
short of 100 up at a time.  
an exciting scrap took place  
between two resulting in  
a Tripps machine being set alight  
by our plane's M.G. fire. The observer  
jumped out & fell to the ground from a  
great height followed by the burning  
machine. One of our planes came  
down heavily in our lines as the

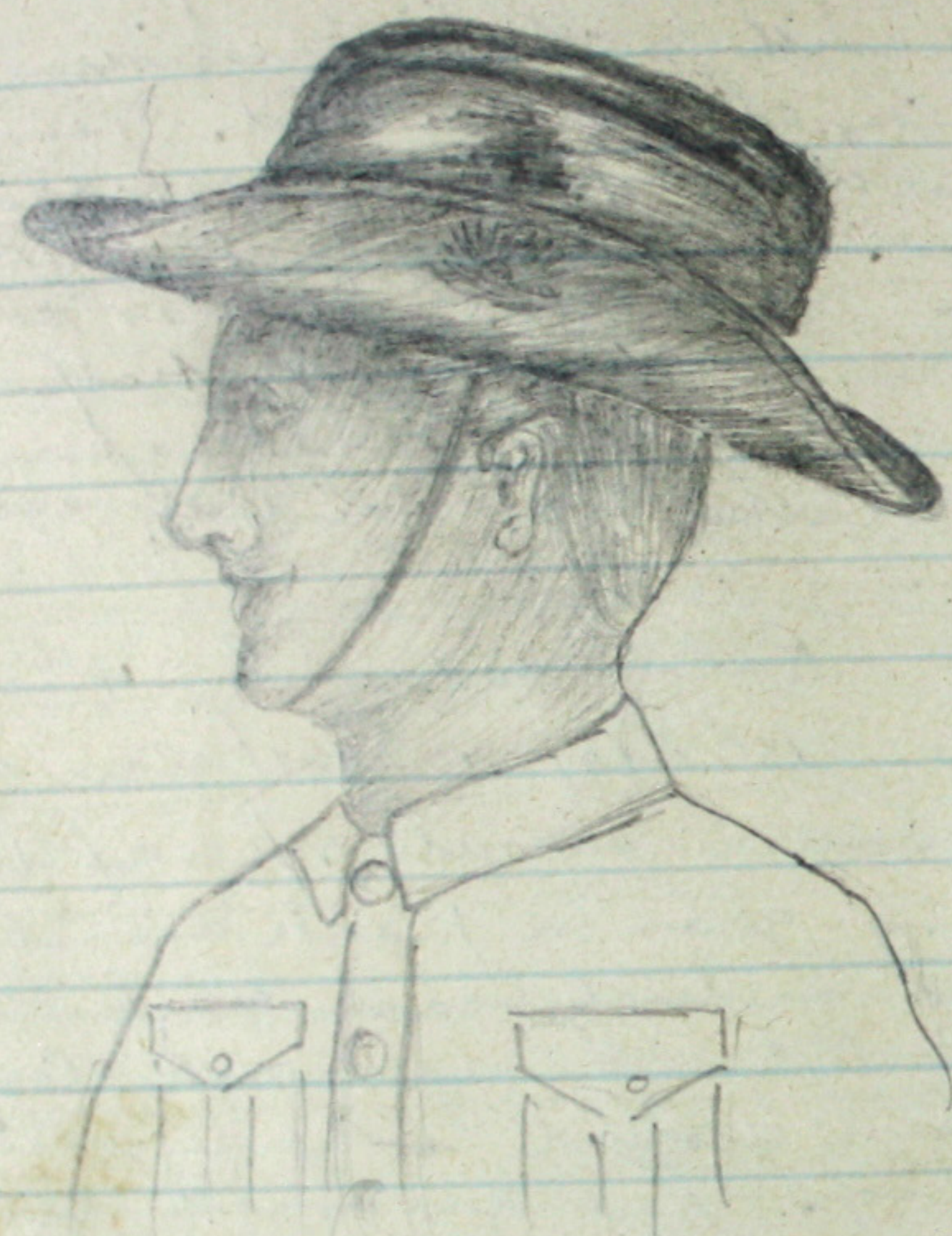
pilot had been shot in arm & on  
landing he broke both legs.  
about 5.45 p.m. 5.0.5. along the front  
followed by our barrage.  
Our troops gained their first objective  
& met with a severe resistance in  
vicinity of Daisy Wood. Very heavy  
casualties especially regarding  
officers. Poor old 24th Dr also 21st Dr got  
it in the neck. It was not  
much to expect of the troops after  
the hard time they had experienced  
& the weather was decidedly against  
them.

10.10.17 Relvd today by 4th Aus.  
Div, (13th Bde) & got clear of  
Sans Souci about 5 p.m. after  
loading gear on pack animals.  
Walked on duck board track to  
Merin Rd. through water-logged  
& broken ground not over which  
our troops had advanced earlier  
in the month. Reached Hell Fire  
corner in time to run up against  
some heavy stuff Tripps was sending  
over. It was dark then so pushed  
on to press & had a hot drink at  
Comforts then through village  
& on to Chateau Belge where we  
arrived 9 p.m. Headquarters in what  
was once a decent Chateau.  
Went over to see Mick who was  
camped nearby & found him in bed.  
Back to the Chateau, squared up.





This work is licensed under Creative Commons  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/au/deed.en>  
You may use this work for any Non-Commercial Use with attribution to Museum Victoria and the creator.



& settled down for night.

11.10.17 Spent the coldest night for months as had only one blanket & no windows in the room, door left open & breeze blowing in a heat. Up at 7am and got well into our back work. Frank went on with advance party to Steenwoode. Saw Mith again & had a yarn. Got orders out for move tomorrow. Made a more comfortable bed & turned in.

12.10.17 Up 6am, packed up & left Hdqrs. with all details at 8am marched to Ypres, & entrained in trucks for Abeele (whole 2de or what was left of 'em) in one train. Transport went via road. Detrained at Abeele 12 noon & marched to Steenwoode 5 miles, arriving about 2pm. Found Hdqrs. in old posi. & settled down; had decent billets & bed & a tip-top sleep. Still raining.

13.10.17 Up at 8am, spruced up & put in a hard day on back work. Decent place this plenty of shops. Still raining. Bed 10pm





This work is licensed under Creative Commons  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/au/deed.en>  
You may use this work for any Non-Commercial Use with attribution to Museum Victoria and the creator.

