

Triplicate

Confidential
War Diary

121/7034



of

16th Canadian Battalion 1st Canadian Division

From 1st September to 30th September 1915

Volume 5.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

5,099 — Imp. des A. C. — 24715

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Courte Druce Billits Belgium	Sept 19/15		Major C. W. Peck commanding. Rifle inspection and pay parades. The following working parties paraded. 2 officers and 200 men at 7.30 P.M. and 1 officer and 50 men at 7.30 P.M. Working party shelled by the enemy: three casualties: one killed, two wounded.	Showers at intervals
Do	Sept 20/15		Major C. W. Peck, commanding. Company parades and pay parades. Working parties 2 officers and 200 men at 7.30 P.M. and 1 officer and 50 men at 7.30 P.M. Shelling by enemy in neighbourhood of Battalion H. Quarters more persistent. Working party (night) also shelled	Morning fine rain afternoon
Do	Sept 21/15		Major C. W. Peck commanding. Order for Battalion to relieve 15 th Battalion in trenches 138-142 near Wolverghem. Relief complete 9.30 P.M. Day quiet	Heavy rain all day

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	[1915]			
Trenches 138-142 (continued)	Sept 3rd		The following are the dispositions. No 2 Company 138-9 & 140 (Capt Bell. Irving commanding.) No 1 Company 142-141 and Dragoon Alley (Capt Wood commanding) No 4 company. King Edward Terrace, Fort Osborne and part of T 12 a 4.1 (Capt Urquhart commanding) No 3 Company T 12 A 4.1. (Capt Morison D.S.O. commanding) Grenade Lt Sachs in command 139 S 1 and Dragoon Alley Machine Gun Lt. Henry (acting) in command 140-1-2. Head quarters N.of La Plus Douce. Strength 2781. Major	
2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.				

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5,000 - Imp. des A. C. - 24 7/15

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trenches 138. 142	[1915] Sept 4 th / 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. The intelligence reports show little activity on the part of the enemy. Very little sniping. Trench 140 and Ration Farm received about 6 High explosive each. There pigeons at 20 minutes interval were seen flying from our rear across Trench 140 to German lines between 5.30 and 6.30 PM. 4 casualties. Cap. Wood commanding W. 1 Company wounded. Pte Evans and Court Killed.	Cold and heavy showers at intervals
W.D.	Sept 5 th / 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Six or eight shells on trench 139 at 6.40 PM. No damage and spasms of shelling on Co. H. Q. trench 140 9.45 AM. and 5.30 PM. No apparent damage. An enemy search light was used from Messines. Day however very quiet with little of interest.	Much warmer

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trenches 138-42	[1915] Sept. 6 th 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Enemy <u>sniping active at</u> dawn on trenches 138-9 and <u>enemy patrols observed on front</u> opposite 138-9. 13 th Battalion H. & shelled at 11.30 A.M. and 4.30 P.M. Patrol party from No. 1 Co. reported sounds from small enemy <u>working party in front of trench 141 as if unrolling</u> <u>drums of wire and attaching same to steel stakes at</u> <u>9 P.M.</u> On the whole attitude of enemy quiet.	Hot-
W.D.	Sept. 7 th 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Enemy unloading steel during the night apparently where trench crosses Messines Road. About 5 P.M. German aeroplane observed above British lines. Same machine came over a second time at 5.30 P.M. about 8000 ft. ap. Believed to be signalling in Morse with his Machine Gun	Hot-

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tranches 138-42 1 Con 12,	[1915] Sept 7 th contd.		Continued to his artillery. Statement is born out by several men of the company on the right flank. About 6.15 P.M. a flying machine was observed over the <u>"Dolls House"</u> - believed to be Germans. It was seen to drop six white star shells. Day quiet as usual.	
Do	Sept. 8 th 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Day quiet with no incidents worthy of record. Battalion relieved and relief complete by <u>10.30</u> P.M. Battalion in huts Montepup. N.B. During this stay in the trenches i.e. 4th to 8th Sept. in- clusive the following progress work is reported. Parapet right flank Trench 140 sandbagged and strengthened. Company H.Q. dug out rebuilt and roofed. Machine gun emplacement pulled down and rebuilt. Several dug outs rebuilt and made rain proof and the usual fatigue work.	<u>Very hot.</u>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Kortepup	Sept			
Huts	9 th 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Company parades: foot and rifle inspection. Day quiet and men resting.	Brilliant sunshine
W.	10 th 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Battalion parade for promulgation of Court Martial sentence. Day without incidents	W.
W.	11 th 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Battalion parade 10 AM.: inspection by Brigadier - General Leckie C.M.G. Concert in the evening. Nothing of importance to record. Working party of 20 paraded in the morning and 20 in the evening.	W.
W.	12 th 15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Divine service 9.30 AM. Canon Scott officiating. Bathing parades. Day quiet. About 5.30 PM. four high explosives fell in neighbourhood of huts but no casualties as a result	W.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Kortepuis Huls France	[1915] Sept 13 th		Major C.W. Peck commanding. At 8 AM. observed Enemy aeroplane brought down. Day otherwise without incidents. Orders received that 16 th Battalion relieve 15 th . Trenches 138-42 near Wolverghem. Relief complete by 9.20 PM.	Fine but cloudy and slight rain evening.
Trenches 138-42	Sept 14/ 15.		Major C.W. Peck commanding. The gist of the intelligence reports sent in by Company Commanding Officers is as follows:- The enemy was fairly active until 2 AM. 3 whizzbangs were placed between old and new Co. H.Q. (141) at 12 PM. Working party of 100 in front of 141 fired on at 10.45. Six Minnie rifles over trench in front of 138-9. In hollow left of Wolverghem - Messines Road 100 yds from 140, 5 or 6 bombs were fired on as well as intermittent rifle shots. Surmised enemy imagined our patrol in that vicinity. Snipers were active on our left. Sergeant Thompson killed	Fine

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Trenches 138-42.	Sept 15/15		Major C.W. Feck commanding. Meeting of Co's at Brigade re promotions. Visited trenches afternoon. Daily intelligence summary as follows:- Trench 139-40 heavily shelled between 5 P.M. and 6 P.M. Trench 141 shelled at 7.15 A.M. Shelling intermittent throughout the day, but on the whole the attitude of the enemy was quiet. At 11 P.M. wire working party on left of Wolveringham - Messines Road were fired on. Three casualties - two of them very slight.	Brilliant sunshine
H.Q.	Sept 16/15		Major C.W. Feck commanding. Day almost without incidents. Enemy artillery fired on 140-1-2. principally in rear of old company H.Q. Bnack made in parapet 140-142. "Fathers' walk" also shelled - almost entire length. No casualties. Enemy seen working at house about 200 yds in front of extreme left of 142.	50

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Trenches	1915 Sept 14 th 1/15		Major C.W. Peck commanding. Orders that Battalion be relieved. Relieved by General Seely's Brigade and relief complete by 9 P.M. Day quiet with little shelling. Company officers intelligence summary reveals nothing. N.B. During this stay in the trenches i.e. 13th to 17th Sept. inclusive the following is the progress report. Dugouts cleaned out and strengthened as well as possible. H.Q. dug out completed. ^{and location of barricade decided upon. Excavation for Company Headquarters} Shelled. parapet restored in several places. Constructing wire work on frontage of 150 yds. ^{^^ shelter trench rebuilt and strengthened} Beginning made on proposed line trench in front of 141/142.	Brilliant sunshine
Huts	18 th Sept		Major C.W. Peck commanding. ^{Very heavy bombardment} Rifle inspection and Day parades. Quiet: men resting. Concert in the evening	Very fine

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Aldershot <u>Huts</u> France 19th Sept. 15.	Major C. W. Peck, commanding officer. Church parade 10 AM. Cols. Burland and Fisher with detachment of 14th attended. Visited Brigade Bathing parades for men. Day quiet.	Fine
Do. 20th Sept. 15.	Major C. W. Peck, Commanding officer. Orders for Battalion to march off 9.30 A. M. with Pipe band for <u>Lacrehof Farm</u>. Arrived 11 A. M. Remained there until <u>3 P. M.</u> Made trench dispositions and marched to <u>Barrier</u>. Relieved Northumberland Regt in <u>G 3.2.1.</u> and <u>F 5.4.2</u> and supports. Visited trenches with Battalion Sergeant Major after midnight	Brilliant sunshine.

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Trenches. Bervier 21 st Sept 15.	Major C. W. Peck, Commanding Officer. Visited and inspected trenches in afternoon. Day extremely quiet with no incidents of importance.	<u>Bright.</u>
Do. 22 nd Sept 15.	Major C. W. Peck commanding officer. Reconnoitred Battle Head Quarters and new routes. Went to Artillery O. P. viewed our position and positions on the left as far as Ypres. Daily intelligence summary is as follows. Enemy shelled front trenches between 5 and 6. During the day we accounted for 3 periscopes and two of the enemy. Nothing however worthy of record.	<u>Cloudy.</u>
Do. 23 rd Sept 15.	Major C. W. Peck Commanding officer. Visited trenches in afternoon. Made report to Brigade on	<u>Colder Train</u>

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23rd Sept. (Cont'd) Tranches Barrier 24th Sept. 15.	wiring in front of our positions as of no value whatever. Also reported on bombing, recommending bomb proof shelters in craters. Considerable activity with bombs and grenades in front of G, between b and 7. Two enemy aeroplanes, believed to be Albatross type busy at 12 noon. Enemy planes again heard using machine guns for signalling. Major C. W. Peck commanding officer Made inspection of trenches - forenoon. Attended meeting of C.O.s at Brigade. Intelligence summary reveals little of importance. Day quiet. Relieved by 15th Battalion 7 to 9 P.M.	Rain.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Kermund Shelters 25th Sept 15	Major C. W. Peck commanding officer. Occupied 2nd by H. Q. lines at 4.30 A.M. to support 15th in case of attack. The enemy lines was to be attacked at certain points and a general fight took place over a very extensive front. Returned to Kermund Shelters at 7.30 A.M.	Rain
W. 26th Sept 15	Major C. W. Peck commanding officer. Left Kermund Shelters at 1 A.M. Marched in companies to Alders Lt. Huts. Arrived between 4 and 5 A.M. At 5.30 P.M. ordered to support 14th Battalion near Floysteert relieving 7th Norfolk.	Foggy in morning but bright later.
In support near Floysteert Sept 27th 15	Major C. W. Peck, commanding. Visited companies in the morning. In afternoon Major Nutrie & Lt. Grant called. Went with them and Capt. Urquhart.	Bright but much colder

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27th Sept. (Contd.)	to front line and went over whole Brigade frontage. Really nothing of importance to record. Major C.W. Peck, commanding. Visited Companies morning and Brigade H.Q. afternoon.	Rain
28th Sept. 15.	Day very quiet with us.	
29th Sept. 15	Major C.W. Peck commanding. For us quiet but heavy bombardment to the North in the evening. Visited Companies in the morning. Brigade in the afternoon.	Heavy rain & very cold.
30th Sept. 15.	Major C.W. Peck commanding. Visited Companies in forenoon. Aeroplane activity at night and heavy bombardment North of us. 6.30-7.30 Little to record from this Battalion	Raw and cold: rain in evening.

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Hour, Date, Place [1915]	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
19th Sept. 10 30th Sept. 15.	Observations. During the period from 19th Sept. to 30th Sept. there was in addition to details recorded from day to day the usual Progress work. i.e. Parapet repairing, repairing of dug outs, pulling down old dug outs and replacing with new, excavating for new shell proof dug out. <u>General feeling of excitement</u> owing to <u>increased activity on both sides</u> but men <u>very cheery and greatly encouraged</u> by <u>Allies successes.</u>	

Compared by H. Byrnes
July 1916.