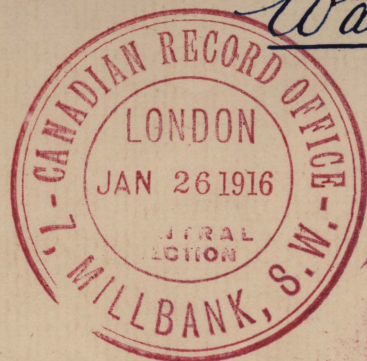


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~~Duplicate~~



War Diary.

of.

16<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division.

From 1<sup>st</sup> June, - To - 30<sup>th</sup> June. 1915.

Volume. 2.



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Army Form C. 2118.

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June 1 <sup>st</sup> 15. <u>Oblinghem</u>	Regiment rested in the morning. Interview with General Turner in afternoon at head quarters. Foot and rifle inspection at 3 P.M.	<u>Fine</u>
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 15 <u>Oblinghem.</u>	Full marching order with respirators O. Co inspection of entrenching tools, arms, packs and respirators. All men were inspected as to adjustment. General Turner had two men try relative merits of German & British entrenching tools. Once the crust is through, German tools seem preferable. British best however in hard soil. Muster parade at 3 P.M. Of whole Battalion 612 all ranks including detached men at Brigade	<u>Fine</u>



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June 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oblinghem	Bathing parade for Battalion beginning at 7.15 A.M. - 50 men and N.C.Os. every half hour to Belthune. Orderly Room at 2.30 P.M. Interview at Divisional H.Q. at 8 P.M. <u>Attacks to night by 7<sup>th</sup> Division on left of trenches held by Canadians.</u> <u>Canadians hold Givenchy from la Bassée Canal North to Shrine.</u>	<u>Delightful weather</u>
June 4 <sup>th</sup> Oblinghem	Meeting of O.Cs. at Brigade H.Q. at noon. Instructed to go to trenches with O.Cs. companies tomorrow to inspect them prior to taking them over. Inspected Pipe band in their new kilts. <u>Attack last night successful 1<sup>st</sup> line of German trenches taken but bombed out this morning.</u>	<u>Cloudy but fine.</u>



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June 5 <sup>th</sup> <u>Oblinghorn</u>	Left at 7.45 for inspection of trenches we are to occupy. Went over all trenches in B 2 Section with Lt. Col. Odum of 7 <sup>th</sup> Batt. To command 15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> Battalions and take over B 2 Subsection from 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Battalions 2 <sup>nd</sup> Canadian Brigade. Orderly Room at 4.30. Appointed Lt. Cotton <u>bombing officer</u> for Battalion and told him to organize bombing section of 40 men.	<u>Fine.</u>
June 6 <sup>th</sup> <u>Oblinghorn</u>	Orders to move at 12.30 P.M. by companies at 15 minutes interval. Went to Divisional H.Q. and handed in plan and description of gas proof dug <sup>out</sup> for machine guns which I designed. Arrived at trenches about 5.15 and relief completed about 6.45. Saw Lt. Col. Lepsett and discussed situation. Went round front trenches on right of my sub-section - especially around Ducks Bill -	<u>Very hot.</u>



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June 6 <sup>hi</sup> (Continued)	Right Coy. No. 4. Firing line 90. Support 25. Left Co. No. 1. Firing line 134 support 20. Support in Piccadilly in rear of No. 4 Co. In support of No. 1 Company 34 men across base of Ducks Bill salient and 25 men Garrison for keep. Scouting party of three sent out.	
June 7 <sup>hi</sup> <u>Givinchy</u>	General Turner and Captain Villiers arrived to see Major <del>Marshall</del> <sup>at</sup> and myself at Conference at my H.Q. The Companies of 15 <sup>th</sup> were relieved by <u>King Edward Horse</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Squadron under Major <u>Hilders</u> . Major Harding second in command stayed at my H.Q. Went up to trenches in evening and inspected Ducks Bill salient with respect to means of getting over parapet. Inspected support trench. Placed K. E. H. detachments in Gunners	



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June 7 <sup>th</sup> (Continued)	<p>siding <sup>Mairis</sup> <del>Mairis</del> Redoubt. Attack by Surreys on our left to occupy mine crater in front of position - done with bombs. Engineer Officer Bomb Officer inspected support trench.</p>	
June 8 <sup>th</sup> <u>Givenchy</u>	<p>Orders that we are to be relieved to night of all our line except <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> Coy. front at Ducks Bill by 7<sup>th</sup> Division. Orders subsequently cancelled. Orders at night to start redoubt Rep. Went out with Major Hilder R. E. H. and Lt. Cotton and located site for the fort. About midnight took Lt. Harrison C.R.C. and showed him site for Redoubt. During day had reports that sounds were heard under Curzon Street (trench) about 20 yds South of Berkeley Street and in Oxford Street (front trench) as if enemy were mining. Gave instructions for examination at once by R. E. Officer who inserted listening box and put down several</p>	<p><u>Very hot forenoon. Rain and thunder storm in afternoon</u></p>



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June 8 <sup>th</sup> (Continued)	holes 10 to 15 feet deep. No results. Ordered men cleared from both sides of suspected point. Sand bags ready to block off trenches if necessary. Artillery bombardment of enemy's wire all day. Several of our shells fell into our lines. No damage however. Lines very close 40 to 100 yds. apart. Plt Tolmie investigated German wire in day time by crawling through long grass and re- -porting to Artillery.	
June 9 <sup>th</sup> Gwenchy	Got up early and started working party of R. G. H. under Major Hilder to complete Redoubt. Worked until 3 P.M. Redoubt almost completed and communication trench well under way. O. C. Queens Regiment called to see me about relief at 9 A.M.	<u>Fine but rain in</u> <u>afternoon &amp; evening.</u>



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<p>June 9<sup>th</sup> Continued</p>	<p>Attended meeting of O.Cs. at Distillery on Canal. General Turner and others present. At 3 P.M. went to see Hilder Redoubt and later on to Orchard Farm to locate dug outs. Working parties formed for dug outs &amp; redoubt and for the carrying of material. Reported that enemy was countermining at Ducks Bill. Had trench connected across base of Salient. Officers of 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Brigade visited our lines to inspect the position. Took <del>to</del> precautions re counter mine. Captain Wood went out in day light to reconnoitre in long grass and reported on condition of enemys wire. Major Cartwright in charge of Squadron in close support.</p>	



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June 10 <sup>th</sup> (Continued)	relief in firing line. Battalion marched into billets by platoons. Arrived in early morning.	
June 11 <sup>th</sup> West of Essars.	Orderly room at 11.30. Interviewed General Turner and Captain Villiers re reconnaissance of Duck's Bill approaches. Arranged programme for Regimental Aquatic sports for tomorrow afternoon. Men resting.	<u>Dull no rain</u>
12 <sup>th</sup> June West of Essars.	Meeting of O. Co. at Brigade H. Q. General Alderson informed me liked idea of gas proof dug out for machine gun. Two having one made. Regimental sports in afternoon in La Basse Canal. Quite a success. Pipe band played. Individually from 11.30. Company parades at 9 A.M.	



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June 13 <sup>th</sup> 15 West of Epsars.	Parade at 2 P. M. for all those in Regiment having Ruso Rifles. March to Obtinghem where Lee. Enfields were issued in exchange for the Ruso rifle. Orders to report at Vauxhall Bridge (Givenchy) at 3 A. M. Monday. All O. C. in the Brigade and 1 Officer per Battalion to report & to reconnoitre the enemy's position in front of La Bassée.	Fine
June 14 <sup>th</sup> 15 West of Epsars.	Left for Givenchy at 2.30 with Captain Hastings in accordance with instruction Rode to Windy Corner via S. side of Canal - from there to observation posts in Orchard and Spoil Bank. Arrived back at 6.15. Company parades as usual.	Fine



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June 15 <sup>th</sup> 15 West of Essars	Orders to be ready to move the Battalion any time after 4 P.M. Meeting of C. Co. at Brigade H.Q. at 4 P.M. Heavy bombardment on our front Commenced 5 P.M. Ambulances full of wounded. Liable to be called into action at any time. At 1 P.M. news that the Canadians were ejected from captured positions by bombs and heavy rifle fire. All passes cancelled to-day. Company parades morning and afternoon.	Fine
June 16 <sup>th</sup> 15 West of Essars	Company parades in morning at Brigade H.Q. General Turner inspected each company in turn. Orders to "stand to" and prepare to move off any time after 4.30. 9 P.M. orders that "stand to" cancelled. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade would relieve 1 <sup>st</sup> - Heavy explosion of our mine.	Pleasant



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<p>June 17<sup>th</sup> - 15 West of Essars.</p>	<p>Battalion parade at 9 A.M. for promul- - gation of sentence on Pts. Tolmie and Nearing Tolmie 2 years. Nearing 1 year. Transport inspection by Lt. Col. Simpson at 9.30 A.M. Baseball in evening. Officers versus men - later won. Company parades as usual.</p>	<p>Fine</p>
<p>June 18<sup>th</sup> - 15 West of Essars.</p>	<p>Parade by Companies at 9 A.M. Inspection of Battalion &amp; Coy. drill by General Turner at Brigade H.Q. at 2 P.M. March past with pipe band. Regiment did well but diversity of uniforms had jarring effect.</p>	<p>Fine but cold at night.</p>



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19 <sup>th</sup> June West of Ossars.	15 Company parades: Rifle inspection swimming 1 <sup>st</sup> at 9 A.M. Serjt. Bressey Henry and Lft. Sachs. promoted to be officers. General Alderson again referred to gas proof dug outs - impressed!	Fine
20 <sup>th</sup> June West of Ossars.	15 Transport sports this evening - great success. Church parade for Battalion - Brig. H. Q. - Canon Scott officiating. Orders for trenches night of 22 <sup>nd</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> June. Given command of section B 2 in front of La Bassée. Command 15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> Battalions. Interviewed Lt Col. Armstrong re protection from mines.	Fine



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June 21 <sup>st</sup> 15 West of Epsars	Rode with officers to inspect Givenchy trenches. Saw General Currie & Lt. Col. Lipslett Odum, & Elmsley. Went along trench running out in front of our parapet close to enemy's lines. While there enemy shelled Ducks' Bill destroying two sections of parapet 5. Meeting of O Cs. at Brigade H. Q. at 3.30. Battalion Drill 2 P. M.	<u>Fine.</u>
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> 15 West of Epsars	Company parade 9 AM. Interview with General Turner & Lt. Col. Loomis at Brigade H. Q. Hear attack is probable during our period in the trenches. Battalion relieved 8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion in trenches at Givenchy leaving billets about 7 P. M. by companies 1/2 hour intervals Relief to commence 9 P. M.	<u>Warm.</u>



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<p>22<sup>nd</sup> June 15. (Continued)</p>	<p>Relief completed about 11 P.M. Saw L<sup>ieut</sup>. Col. Lipoell and discussed situation. Commanding Section B2 with 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Battalions. Col. Loomons on left commanding B3 Section with 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Batts.</p>	
<p>23<sup>rd</sup> June 15 Ywenchy.</p>	<p>Went out with Capt. Urquhart at 4 A.M. and inspected Keep, Hilders Redoubt and Mairie Redoubt. Quiet night in trenches. General Buckley L<sup>ieut</sup>. Col. Gordon. Hall &amp; Armstrong &amp; Capt. Villiers and Morrissey arrived to go through trenches. The General is C.R.C. 4<sup>th</sup> Army Corps to which we now belong. Went to left of our front line of trenches and then on to Section B3. Went with Capt. Hastings over our line to Duck's Bill. General Turner sent for me at 4 P.M. to discuss attack. Message we are to be relieved to-morrow night if nothing unforeseen happens.</p>	<p>Cloudy with occasional showers</p>



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<p>24<sup>th</sup> June 15. Yvenchy. (Trenches)</p>	<p>Quiet night. Left at 4.30 A.M. with Capt. Urquhart for firing line. Went over all the trenches. To be relieved by 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gordons - 3<sup>rd</sup> <sup>h. Bde</sup> Heavy rifle fire on our right about 5 P.M. Big cloud of white smoke observed to rise about 5 minutes after firing started. Guns on both sides active, but our immediate front active. Germans were observed to be wearing caps in morning but helmets in afternoon. Relief commenced at 7.30 complete by 9 P.M. Arrangements made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordons to hold assigned line were quite inadequate and I kept No 4 and 1 companies in firing line until more troops were moved up. Everything complete 11 P.M. Returned to billets West of Cassaro.</p>	<p><u>Showers.</u></p>



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<p>25<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p>West of Cassaro</p>	<p>24<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>The following names of Officers and men appeared in the London Daily papers as having been mentioned in dispatches:- Lt. Col. R. G. Edwards Leckie; Major G. Godson. Godson; Capt. C. M. Merritt; Corp. G. C. Heath; Lt. A. W. Minchin, Motor cyclist; and Private J. Bizley.</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> June →</p> <p>The following honours according to Daily News papers are gazetted:- Lt. Col. R. G. Edwards. Leckie to be Companion of the Order of St. Michael &amp; St. George - order to date from 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Major G. Godson. Godson - Distinguished Service Order.</p> <p>No parades today - men resting!</p>	<p>Heavy rain.</p>



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<p>June 26<sup>th</sup> 15 West of Epsoars.</p>	<p>Brigade Head quarters in morning. Saw Colonel Romer and went out with General Turner to watch the bombers at work. German high explosive shell fire caused French observation balloon E. of Bethune to descend. Germans bombarded road S.E. of Bethune and killed 4. Billeting party sent to Neuf Berquin. Company parades in the morning. Battalion to march out at 10.15. Marching out state. 26 Officers and 660 other ranks. Passed canal bridge 3/4 mile N.E. of orderly room at 11.30 P.M. Order of march 13<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at billets Neuf Berquin 3.30 A.M. Rest 10 minutes every hour. Slight rain en route Capt. Morison went on leave this morning.</p>	<p><u>Fine.</u></p>



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June 27 <sup>th</sup> Neuf Berquin	Foot and rifle inspection by companies. Billieing party sent out at 2.30 to Nooté Boon. Column to move off at 9 P.M. Parade of Regiment called for at 8.15 about 1 1/2 miles to starting point. Orders of march same as 26 <sup>th</sup> . Arrived at our old billets at La Maison Blanche about 10.30 P.M. Did not go to Nooté Boon.	Cloudy with occasional showers.
June 28 <sup>th</sup> a Maison Blanche	Company parades and inspection at 11. A.M. Meeting of representatives from the different companies to form an advisory recreation committee to look after purchase of comforts for the men and organization of concerts and games. Capt. Marshall T. Forge to be executive Committee. The Advisory Committee all N. Cos. and men - two from each company and staff.	



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<p>June 29<sup>th</sup> 15. Maison Blanche</p>	<p>Interview at Brigade Head Quarters. Saw Generals. Turner and Campbell. Company parades 9. to 11. 30. Went to see Gas proof Machine gun dug out. Chambers had made for me. Baseball games in afternoon and concert in evening. Private Nearing sentenced to one years imprisonment sent away with Provost Marshal.</p>	<p>Cloudy. Rain in evening.</p>



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June 30 <sup>th</sup> La Maison Blanche	<p>Battalion Parade 9.30 A.M. Inspected men with smoke helmets on: then short route march. Baseball and football matches in afternoon. Finals of baseball tournament played in evening. 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion moved out towards Belgium line. 15<sup>th</sup> somewhere in Belgium. Orders that 5 N.C.D. and men per week to be granted 7 days leave. Captain Hastings on leave. Troops will be ordered to help farmers get in <u>crops</u>.</p>	<p>Cloudy with occasional showers.</p>