

Triplicate

Confidential
War Diary



of

16th Canadian Battalion 1st Canadian Division

CANADIAN WAR RECORDS OFFICE,
LONDON, ENG.
COPIED.....
CHECKED *pm*

From 1st July to 31st July 1915

Volume 3.

CANADIAN WAR RECORDS OFFICE,
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CHECKED *July 5th 1916. N.W. ROBERTS...* P. Pilon.

WAR DIARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
July 1 st 15 Maison Blanche Billetts	Company parades 9 to 11.30 A.M. Examined gas proof machine gun emplacement. Dominion day celebrated - sports in the afternoon, concert in evening: great success.	Cloudy but fine. hot yet completed but looks favourable
July 2 nd 15 Do. Do.	Company parades 9 to 11.30 A.M. Interview with Brigadier General Turner and examined with him gas proof emplacement. 3 rd Brigade to relieve 1 st Brigade in trenches on Monday next. 14 th and 15 th Battalions in firing line. 13 th support. 16 th reserve.	Fine.
July 3 rd 15 Do. Do.	Orders to be at 1 st Brigade H.Q. on Flogsturt Road at 2.30. All O.Cs. companies and M.G. officers to be present. The line to be taken over by us on Monday is in Flogsturt Wood. The 16 th Batt. relieves Col. Rennie's Battalion	Fine: hot.

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July 4 th 15. Maison Blanche Billets	Church parade 11 A.M. Canon Scott officiating. Day quiet and men resting!	<u>Fine: very warm.</u>
July 5 th 15. D. D.	Company parades 9 to 11 A.M. Orderly Room 10 A.M. Marched off 5.45 P.M. Arrived at <u>Pigperies Ploegsteert</u> about 9.15 P.M.	Cloudy.
July 6 th Pigperies Ploegsteert (In local reserve)	General Turner called in morning and afternoon. Message received that <u>Lieut. Chambers</u> was <u>wounded</u> while examining Machine gun emplacement at 11 P.M. Died at Nijmegen hospital at 4.30 AM. Majors Leckie and Peck and Capt. Morison arrived tonight. Attack by 12 th Division on our left at 6.30 P.M. Working party of 320 men and 7 officers sent out.	<u>Fine but cloudy.</u>

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7th July 15 The Figgeries	Officer commanding Lt Colonel Leckie C.M.G. ^{OF ABSENCE} left on leave this morning. Major Leckie D.S.O. to be acting commanding officer. Brigadier General Turner called in afternoon. Major Leckie and Major Peck inspected trenches 16th are to occupy. At 3 A.M. party of 268 returned from fatigue and at 6.30 A.M. working party of 92 went out. Returned at 4 P.M. At 7.45 night working party of 260 paraded. Of the day fatigue party there were three casualties. One since reported fatal. Other-wise day quiet with no bombardment to speak of.	Very windy with occasional showers.

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8 th July 15. <u>The Figgeries.</u>	Major Leckie, D.S.O. acting Commanding officer. Working party of 260 officers N.C.O.s and men returned at 2 A.M. At 7.30 A.M. working party of 141 went out. Returned at 4.15 P.M. 7.45 P.M. night working party of 200 went out. Orders were received to prepare Machine gun Emplacement for gas test. Day quiet.	<u>Windy but fine.</u>
9 th July 15. <u>The Figgeries</u>	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting Commanding officer. Night working party of 200 returned at 2.30 A.M. Quiet in the forenoon. No Parades. Men resting. At 3.45 message from head quarters for 16 th Battalion to relieve 15 th Battalion in the trenches. Battalion marched off within 40 minutes - 15 minutes interval between companies. Relief complete by 6 P.M.	<u>Cloudy with rain in afternoon.</u>

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9 th July 15 (Continued)	No. 1 Company Captain Morison commanding on right occupying trenches Nos. 126-7. No. 4 Company in centre Captain Urquhart commanding occupying trenches 128-9. No. 2 Company on left Captain Bell-Irving commanding occupying remainder of trench 129 and 130. Nothing of any importance to record. Practically no rifle or artillery fire and snipers have been quiet. Head quarters established in house on Messines Road. close to "Hyde Park" corner. Fighting strength 540 men and 20 officers.	
10 th July 15 Trenches 126-30	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting Commanding officer. Party of 11 men selected from the Pipe band working on Head quarters dug outs. 11 AM meeting at the	Fine but cloudy.

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10 th July 15 (Continued)	Figures of Officers Commanding Battalions. General Turner presiding. In forenoon Major Leckie made inspection of trenches. Very quiet in the trenches. Practically no rifle or artillery fire. Captain Markham went on 7 days leave.	
11 th July 15. Trenches 126 - 30	Major Leckie, D.O. acting Commanding officer. About 6 A.M. enemy shelled but not to any extent Messines Road. Fragments struck Head quarters wounding Battalion Sergeant Major Nelson. W.O. Party of 10 men selected from Pipe band working on Head quarters dug out. Chateau de la Hutte shelled at 10.30	<u>Windy and Chilly.</u>

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11 ^h July 15. (Continued)	Interview with Brigadier General Turner in afternoon. Extremely quiet in the trenches with nothing of importance to record. Intermittent sniping all day. L/Cpl. Long killed by sniper at 11.30. Buried in the evening off Messines Road. Party of five from pipe band sent out to trenches with sand bags at 9 P.M.	
12 ^h July 15 Trenches 126 - 30	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting Commanding officer. Party of 10 from pipe band at work on Head Quarters. Party of 20 men from Transport reported at Head Quarters and proceeded to the trenches. Brigadier General Turner takes the place of General Alderson pro tem and Colonel Poornis	Cloudy with slight showers in the morning <u>Fine later.</u>

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12 th July 15. (Continued)	takes the place of Brigadier General Turner also <u>pro tem</u> . Major Leckie made inspection of trenches in the forenoon. Movement of Enemy's transport was heard in direction of Messines. Enemy busy with wire in front of us. Day very quiet with nothing of importance to record from the trenches. No casualties.	
13 th July 15. <u>Trenches</u> <u>126. 30.</u>	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting Commanding officer. Party of 10 men from pipe band finish dug out at Head quarters. Slight shelling of Messines Road and near to H.Q. in the forenoon. No damage. Cathedral at Ploegsteert shelled in the forenoon. Colonel Loomis called at H.Q. in	<u>Fine Cloudy.</u>

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13 th July 15 (Continued)	the afternoon. Interview with Major Leckie Inspection of trenches was made in the after- noon by Major Leckie. Orders were issued for all ranks to "stand to" at <u>8.50</u> on account of the <u>blowing up of mine at 9 P.M.</u> in front of trench <u>121</u>. Orders to "stand down" to come from H.Q. 9.40 orders to "stand down" were issued. Blowing up of mine brought about bombardment but nothing worthy of record. From 9.30 to 11 P.M. there was some heavy <u>movement of enemy's transport</u> <u>proceeding from Messines Road</u>: believed to be guns and metal beams. Enemy busy driving stakes for wiring especially in new works on left front. <u>130</u>. Hostile aeroplane hovered over Ploegsteert wood and disappeared eastward <u>H. 40</u>. Battalion was to be relieved to night. Cancelled. Trenches very quiet on our front. No casualties.	

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14th July 15. <u>Trenches.</u> 126. 30	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting Commanding Officer. Quiet day. No bombardments and extremely quiet in trenches. Relieved in afternoon. 8th Battalion took over trenches 130-129 from 16th Battalion. 15th Battalion took trenches 128-127 and 126 from 16th Battalion and trench 125 and left half of 124 from 13th Battalion. Relief complete by 6 P.M. No. 1 Co, Grenade section and Machine gun section took up various points in support close to firing line. Billeted in farm <u>La Grande Manque</u> close to <u>Pifferius</u>. Working party of 22 paraded at 8 P.M. and returned at 2.20 P.M. No casualties.	<u>Fine morning but</u>

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July 15th 15 <i>La Grande Marque</i> close to Piggeries (in support)	Major Leckie D.O. Acting commanding officer. Working party of 22 men returned at 2.30 in heavy rain. Quiet: men resting. Rifle inspection in forenoon. Bombardment again of Hoogstert Cathedral. In afternoon bombardment of Neuve Eglise with some effect. Tower blown off and later on was seen to be in flames. Otherwise quiet. Comfortable billets!	<u>Fine but windy.</u>
July 16th 15 <i>Do. Do.</i>	Major Leckie D.O. Acting commanding officer. At 8.30 A.M. working party of 106 paraded. Returned at 3 P.M. one casualty. Plé Hamilton wounded. At 8 P.M. working party of 11 went out and returned at 11 P.M. Also working party of 23 paraded at 8 P.M. and returned at 1 A.M. Two platoons from N°1 Company left in support returned to billets in afternoon! Day very quiet with no incidents of importance.	<u>Fire in the morning.</u> <u>Rain late in the afternoon and evening.</u>

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July 17th - 15. Grande Manque Floegstert. (In support)	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting commanding officer. Night party of 23 returned at 1 A.M. Working party of 56 paraded at 9 A.M. and returned at 3 P.M. 162 officers and men went out at 8 P.M. and returned at 3 A.M. one casualty. Colonel Loomis acting Brigadier called in afternoon. Interview with Major Leckie. Lieut. Henry left for Machine gun training at St. Omar. Parade for foot and rifle inspection. Little bombardment and day extremely quiet.	Windy showery & cold.
July 18th - 15. W.D. D.O.	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting commanding officer. Working party of 162 returned at 3 A.M. At 8.30 A.M. working party of 56 paraded and returned at 4 P.M. 11.30 Church parade. Canon Scott officiating. Orders were received for 16th Battalion to	Windy but fine.

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July 18^h - (Continued)	relieve 15^h Battalion in the trenches. Battalions moved off in companies - half-an-hour interval between each and relief was complete by 7 P.M. N^o. 1 Company Capt. Morison commanding on right occupying trenches N^o. 126-7. N^o. 4 Company in centre Capt. Urquhart commanding, occupying trenches 128-9. N^o. 2 on left Capt. Bell. Irving commanding occupying remainder of trench 129 and 130. Head quarters on Messines Road near to Hyde Park corner. Fighting strength 565. The usual inter-mittent bombarding, but nothing of importance to record.	
July 19^h - Trenches 126-30. Ploegsteert.	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting commanding officer. Enemy shelled hill immediately about	Slight wind and much warmer.
	Hyde	

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July 19 th (Continued)	Park corner off and on all day. Several casualties but none as a result from 16th Battalion. Company commanders report trenches very quiet with situation unchanged. Patrols reported enemy driving stakes and sawing timber as if strengthening of barbed wire. Shortly after 7 P.M. our artillery opened fire on Le Petit Douve - 8th Howitzers: excellent shooting! Germans retaliated slightly! Major Leckie examined all trenches in the evening. 7.30 two shells burst on right of 126. One man wounded. On the whole no incidents of importance. Capt. Urquhart went on leave of absence.	
July 20 th Trenches 126. 30 Floegoteert	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting Commanding Officer. Slight shelling of Hyde Park corner in early morning. But for this extremely quiet all day. Inspection of trenches by Major Leckie. Apart from usual fatigue work on support trenches, wiring, entrenching P. company commanders report little of importance. Day monotonous with no episodes. Capt. Markham reported for duty after leave of absence.	Warm: Light wind S.W.

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July 21st
Trenches
126-30
Flogstert.

15. Major Leckie D.S.O. acting commanding officer. Company commanders report quiet day. Battalion relieved by 3rd Battalion and relief complete by 8.45 P.M. Major Leckie examined trenches in the forenoon. Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada paid a visit to the Canadian Contingent. In the course of an address he paid tribute to the courage, bravery and endurance of the first contingent and inter alia observed that 150 thousand Canadians were in arms either at the front, in England or in the Dominion. Battalion billeted in Huts, Bulford Camp France. Huts comfortable. Day free from Bombardment.

Fine

July 22nd
Huts: Bulford Camp.
France.

15. Major Leckie D.S.O. acting commanding officer. Company parades 11 A.M.: foot and rifle inspection late in afternoon and No Battalion parade: men resting. Eight men wounded evening. returned from hospital and reported for duty. 11 P.M. Windy but fine. Rain

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July 22nd (Continued)	386 reinforcements from 43rd Battalion arrived. They were accompanied by five officers who made examination of trenches and who return to England this afternoon (Friday 23rd). Reinforcements met by Pipe band. All Camerons: fine healthy lot of men. An unfortunate accident occurred to the 3rd Brigade Grenade Company. As a result of experimenting on new bomb 1 officer and 2 men were wounded - one man since died of wounds. Lieut. Rochfort of the 16th was the officer wounded. Heavy bombardment during evening could be heard in the distance.	
July 23rd Huts Bulford Camp.	Major Leckie D.S.O. acting commanding officer. New draft posted to companies. No. 1 - 121. No. 2 - 72. 3 - 117. 4 - 76: Total of 386. Company parades in the forenoon. Working party of 1 officer and 53 N.C.Os.	Windy and cold with heavy showers at intervals.

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July 23 rd (Continued)	and men paraded at 7.30 A.M. and returned at 4 P.M. 1 officer and 26 N.C.Os. and men paraded at 7 A.M. and returned at 4 P.M. and 1 officer and 52 N.C.Os. and men paraded at 6 A.M. and returned at 3 P.M. A supply of sun curtains ordered. Men enjoying change and rest!	
July 24 th Huts: Bayford Camp. France.	Lt. Colonel Leckie C.M.G. returned from England. Company parades 9 to 11.30. Working party of 200 paraded at 7 P.M. Day quiet!	Windy with occasional showers.
July 25 th Do Do	Lt. Colonel Leckie, C.M.G. commanding officer. The following services were held. Roman Catholics: Mass and Communion 10 A.M. Church of England 11 A.M. Presbyterians: Communion service after Church of England Service. Major the Rev R. H. Steacy and Capt. R. F. John Pringle officiating. Musketry party of 50 ^{PARADED AT} returned at 5.30. Interview at D.H.Q. in afternoon. Sports for men in the afternoon!	Fine.

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July 26th 15. Huts: Bulford Camp.	Lt Col. Leckie C.M.G. commanding Company drill for one hour in morning. Muster parades extending over greater part of the day. Two working parties of 1 officer and 50 men each paraded at 6.40 and returned at 3.30. Musketry party of 1 officer and 50 men from new draft paraded at 8 A.M. - returned at 1 P.M. Also musketry party from N° 1 Co. 1 officer and 150 men paraded in the afternoon. Staff Officer of 83rd Brigade called in afternoon in order to look over billets. Every precaution is being taken against outbreak of typhoid. Day peaceful!	Time: very warm.
July 27th Do. Do.	Lt Col. Leckie, C.M.G. commanding Company parades 9.11.30 A.M. Working party of 200 paraded at 6.40. Returned at 5.30. No incidents to record. Lt Col. Leckie addressed reinforcements.	Time

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<i>July 28th '15.</i> <i>Huts: Bulford Camp</i> <i>France.</i>	<i>Major Leckie D.S.O. acting Commanding Officer.</i> <i>Bathing parades for the whole Battalion extending over the whole day. The following working parties</i> <i>Paraded:- 4 officers and 200 N.C.O.'s and men. at 6.40 A.M. RETURNED AT 4 P.M.</i> <i>Musketry 50 paraded at 8 A.M. and 50 at 1.30. RETURNED AT 5.30.</i> <i>Working party of 22 paraded to assist Engineers at Baths. For distinguished conduct in the field Captain F. Morison has been honoured with the D.S.O.</i> <i>As usual day extremely quiet!</i>	<i>Time: Cold wind in the evening.</i>

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July 29th 15.

Huts Bulford Camp.
France.

Lt Colonel Leckie C.M.G. Commanding Officer.
Pay parades extending over whole day. No Battalion
parades. Battalion relieved 3rd Battalion: Frost's
reserve. Moved off in companies 6.45 and relief complete
by 9 P.M. The companies were posted as follows:-
No 1 Company Major Peck commanding: in support La
Grand Manque. No 2 company Capt. Bell. Irving commanding
in reserve Chateau de la Hutte; W. 14. 5 W 14 C. Barrier;
Breastwork N. of Barrier. No 3 Company Capt. Morrison com-
manding. Moat Farm; Dead horse corner; Hunter's avenue
N. of Strand; Bunkhill Row; Face de la Barre; Berke's Fort and
Oxford Fort. No 4 Company Capt. Urquhart commanding:
Wood U 19 A 1. 3. Total fighting strength: 851. No
casualties and little of interest to record.

Hot during day: chilly
at night.

Head quarters La Grand Manque.

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July 30¹⁵ Reserve and support tranches: Ploegsteert. For disposition see July 29¹⁵	Lt. Colonel Leckie C.M.G. Commanding Officer. The following fatigue parties from No. 1 Company paraded: 8.10 A.M. 50 N.C.O.s & men and 35 N.C.O.s. and men. 8.25 A.M. 1 Officer and 100 N.C.O.s and men. Orderly Room 2.30. Heavy bombardment could be heard in the distance early in the morning, other- wise day extremely quiet.	Warm.
July 31¹⁵ Do. Do.	Lt. Colonel Leckie C.M.G. Commanding Officer Company officers report everything quiet. The following are the usual party parades:- 21 at 8 A.M. 1 Officer and 50 at 8.10 A.M. 21 at 8 A.M. and 1 Officer and 50 at 8 A.M. 2 Officers and 100 at 8.10 P.M. Airplane extremely active all day and bombardment at intervals	Fine.