28th DIVISION

83rd INFY BGDE

1st BN YORK & LANCS REGT

JAN – OCT 1915

Vol.1 page 1

8am 15th Jan 1915 WINCHESTER

The Battalion left WINCHESTER marched to SOUTHAMPTON and embarked on the S. S. LAKE MICHIGAN –

[The Battalion formed part of 83rd Brigade of 28th Division. For strength of Battalion on departure & roll of officers see appendix No.1]

The following message was received from His Majesty the King a copy of which was given to every man in the Battalion.

“Buckingham Palace

Message from the King to 28th Division –

I was very glad to have been able to inspect the 28th Division and I wish to express my entire satisfaction with the general appearance of the troops.

In spite of the bad weather and the difficulties attending concentration and training it is evident to me that no time has been lost in establishing that Esprit de Corps which counts for so much on the field of battle.

I have been unable to inspect for on the field, but from what I saw today I have carried away the impression that a resolute spirit pervades all ranks to join their comrades at the front in maintaining the glorious tradition of my army. Farewell my soldiers. May God bless you and protect you.

12 January 1915.”

Vol.1 page 2

10am 17th Jan 1915 HAVRE

The Battalion disembarked at HAVRE at 10am. Left there at 11am by troop train to HAZEBROUK

9pm 18th Jan 1915 HAZEBROUK

The Battalion arrived at HAZEBROUK at 9pm on 18th Jan – The Battalion detrained and marched to METEREN, a distance of about 9 miles, arriving there about 6am in the morning of 18th

6am 19th Jan 1915 METEREN

The Battalion went into Billets at METEREN. – On the march from HAZEBROUK to METEREN, one man\* died from heart failure. -

\* 203671 Pte J Hill ‘A’ Company

19th Jan to 1st February 1915 METEREN

The Battalion remained in billets at METEREN from 19th January 1915 till 1st February 1915, being daily exercised in route marching, entrenching and practising relieving trenches at night. –

24th January 1915

Captains G H Wedgewood & S E Palmer were sent to the trenches for one night, the former with the Northumberland Fusiliers, the latter with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. –

26th January 1915

Captain P H C Collins was sent to the trenches of the Royal Irish Fusiliers for the night. –

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.1 page 3

28th January 1915 METEREN

Captain M J East and Lieut. L E H Judkins, were sent to the trenches for one night, the former with the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the latter with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. –

The Brigade was inspected by the Commanding-in-chief of the British Army in the field. –

29th January 1915 near YPRES

Captain E S Bamford went to see the trenches to be taken over by the Battalion. –

30th January 1915 near YPRES

Lieuts. H G Gauntlett, H F Litchfield, L B Lethbridge, J K Mather & 2/lt H C M Howard with four Company Sgt Majors went to see the trenches to be taken over by the Battalion. –

7.45 pm 31st January 1915 METEREN

The transport of the Battalion with 140 2CO’s and men under the Company of Lieut. L E H Judkins left METEREN for VLAMERTINGHE. –

5 pm 31st January 1915 METEREN

The Battalion received orders to leave METEREN by motor busses for VLAMERTINGHE on 1st February 1915.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.1 page 4

Appendix No.1 by Capt. E S Bamford

Nominal roll of officers of 1st Battn York & Lancaster Regt on leaving Winchester 15th January 1915

Lieut. Colonel A J BURT (In command)

Major H. J. COLSTON

Captain G. H. WEDGWOOD (D Company)

“ A. E. PALMER (S Company)

“ H. J. EAST (B Company)

“ P. H. C. COLLINS (B Company)

“ E. S. BAMFORD (Adjutant)

Lieutenant L. E. H. JUDKINS

“ K. P. WALKER (Transport Officer)

“ H. G. GAUTLETT

“ B. C. LOUSADA (Machine guns)

“ J. K. MATHER

“ H. F. LITCHFIELD

“ N. B. LETHBRIDGE

“ A. G. LYNCH

“ A. L. KENT-LEMON

“ C. K. CHAMIER

2nd “ H. C. M. HOWARD

“ “ E. H. TAYLER

“ “ E. E. BATTLE

“ “ D. CONNORS

“ “ H. H. MOORSE

“ “ E. R. FOLKER (3rd Battn)

“ “ C. E. WALES (3rd Battn)

“ “ F. BISCOE (3rd Battn)

Lieut. & R.M. W. T. GILLIARD

Lieut. W. YEO ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Strength 985 other ranks

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 1

2.30 pm 1.2.15 METEREN

The Battalion left METEREN in 38 motor busses and arrived at VLAMERTINGHE at 7.30pm. – At 7.45pm news were received that the KINGS OWN YORKSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY and 1st YORK & LANCASTER REGT would relieve the “French” 62nd Infantry Brigade, from the trenches to right. –

[Lieut. C. K. CHAMIER & 2nd Lieut. E. H. TAYLER were left in hospital in METEREN]

10.30 pm 1.2.15 YPRES

The Battn left VLAMERTINGHE at 9.30pm and marched to YPRES. – The Battn. arrived at the PONT DE LILLE, YPRES at 10.30pm. – Here ammunition, tools and trench stores were drawn. – The Battn. Marched off by Companies to take over from the French, guides being provided by the French. – Nothing of importance took place during the Relief which was completed by 2.30am. –

[See APPENDIX No.1 for position of Companies Etc.]

2.30 am 2.2.15 ST. ELOI

Description of trenches

1. The position of our trenches was on the reverse of a hill running from almost from ST. ELOI village on the right, to the canal on the left. –

[See appendix No.1]

2. On the whole the state of the trenches was bad, those of B, C & D Companies being the best, those occupied by “A” Company were bad, the parapet being very low and not bullet proof on top

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 2

In the trench held by “A” Company there was a good deal of water. –

The Germans had made a sap up towards the right of our trench

[See appendix No.1 R]

The trenches were for the most part not connected and consequently communication was very difficult by night owing to the country not being known and impossible by day. – Two telephones only the available with the communication was established with “A” Company, but none of the others could be found, also it was known from the French that B, C & D Companies had taken ones from them. –

The remainder of the night and day passed quietly. –

[Casualties from taking over to 8am 2nd were nil. -]

It commenced to rain at daybreak on 2nd, this made the trenches very uncomfortable, especially those occupied by A Company.

During the night about 40 large and small facines were brought up to A Company by the Battalion in reserve. These were used for the men to stand in. –

During the night communication was established with “B” Company by telephone and with the remainder by orderly. –

Vol.2 page 3

This was not at all satisfactory because it meant that any message took a long time to reach C or D Companies in the night & during the day. Communication, owing to the enemies fire was impossible, the fact that telephones and wire are very valuable is amply brought out. During the night the machine gun was brought from its position in B Company to A Company in order to meet any movement on the part of the enemy from the sap head they had made. –

[See appendix No.1 K & KD]

8 am 3.2.15 ST ELOI

The casualties of the Battn from 8am 2nd to 8am 3rd Feb were killed 1 wounded 2. –

10 am to 3 pm 3.2.15 ST ELOI

During the day of 3rd Feb between 10am & 1pm the enemy shelled the right trench of the Battn without doing much damage. A few shells were also directed at Battn Hd Qtrs, but no damage was done. –

9.30 to 11.30 3.2.15 ST ELOI

The Battalion was relieved from duty in the trenches, the two right Companies (A & B) by the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, the two left Companies (C & D) by the Kings Own (Royal Lancaster) Regt. –

2 am 4.2.15 YPRES

The Battalion went into billets in the Infantry Barracks YPRES. –

The casualties of the Battalion from 8am 3rd Feb to 8am 4th Feb were killed nil wounded 6 men. –

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 4

2 am to 3 pm 4.2.15 YPRES

The Battn rested until 3pm when orders were received that the Battn would hold itself in readiness to leave the Infantry Barracks at 5p and take up a position in the Reserve trenches, running from FERME to the CHATEAU LANKHOF. –

[For position of Reserve trenches see appendix No.2]

At 4.15pm orders were received to move the Battalion immediately to Brigade head quarters & on arrival there orders would be received. – The Battn did not leave YPRES until 4.30pm, the issue of rations causing a certain amount of delay. –

On arrival at Brigade head quarters, orders were received to occupy the Reserve trenches running from LA FERME MAURICE to CHATEAU LANKHOF with 3 Companies and to send one company to the head quarters of the East Yorkshire Regt at LA FERME ST MAURICE. D Company under Captain Wedgwood was sent to the East Yorkshire Regt., A, B & C Companies being holding the reserve trenches. –

[For disposition of Companies see APPENDIX No.2]

It was ascertained on arrival at the head quarters, East Yorkshire Regt, that the Germans had captured the position of a trench and two machine guns from the East Yorkshires. –

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 5

4.30 am 5.2.15 LA FERME ST MAURICE

A, B & C Companies received orders to move to the CHATEAU ROSENTAL, D Company staying with the East Yorkshire Regt. –

[See appendix No.2]

5.30 am CHATEAU ROSENTAL 5.2.15

There was not sufficient room for the men, so the Battalion was distributed in CHATEAU ROSENTAL and LANKHOF and some dug-outs on the YPRES – MESSIMES road. –

[See appendix no.2 A, B & C]

8 am 5.2.15

The casualties during the 24 hours 8am 4 Feb to 8am 5 Feb were killed 1 NCO wounded 1 man.-

Owing to men continually moving about, they were seen by a German aeroplane with the result that the CHATEAU ROSENTAL was shelled. A lesson which should not require learning again, though the actual damage done was small. –

Vol.2 page 6

5 pm CHATEAU ROSENTAL 5.2.15

The Battn received orders to move to LA FERME ST MAURICE immediately and attack the trenches which had been captured. –

7 pm 5.2.15 FERME ST MAURICE

The Battalion arrived at LA FERME ST MAURICE at 7pm and was placed in reserve. An attacking column having been formed by the K. O. Yorkshire Light Infantry, some of the East Yorkshire Regt & D Company 1st York & Lancaster Regt. –

3.30 am 6.2.15 LE FERME ST MAURICE

The trench which it was intended to attack could not be found and the Battalion relieved the East Yorkshire Regt. from the trenches. –

[See appendix No. 3 for position of companies]

8 am 5.2.15 to 8 am 6.2.15

The casualties during previous 24 hours were killed 4 2CO’s and men wounded Captain G H WEDGWOOD (slightly in the head) and 6 men. –

The difficulties of this part of the country are worthy of note the trenches were badly made and very wet those occupied by D Company had practically no parapit and the water in most places was up to the mens knees those of the other companies were not so bad in this respect. – The woods in rear held a few snipers who were troublesome, also passage through the woods except on roads was very difficult. Artillery fire had knocked down so many branches of trees that the whole place

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 7

was turned into a most effective abbatis. – It was very difficult to get men to act as reliable guides because the country was difficult and could not be seen in day light. –

Communication was established with all Companies by orderly and with Brigade head quarters by telephone. - The lack of telephone has again been felt. –

The enemy again shelled the trenches of A Company very heavily during the day causing a great deal of damage to the parapit, in some cases men had to be dug out of the trench where the parapit had been knocked down on them. –

[See appendix No.3]

Owing to effective fire being brought on him, the O. C. B Company (Captain East) was compelled to withdraw his men to the left of his trench then re-occupied the right again as soon as it became dusk. – The Battn was relieved from the trenches by the Buffs between 1.30am and 4.30am. - The Battalion returned by Companies to the Infantry Barracks YPRES. –

Between 4am & 6.30am 7.2.15 YPRES

8 am 6.2.15 to 8 am 7.2.15

The casualties of the Battn during the previous 24 hours were killed 1 man wounded 15 NCO’s & men. –

The wastage from sick during the previous 7 days was 46 NCO’s & men sent to hospital. –

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 8

2.45 to 3.25 7.2.15 YPRES

The Battalion left YPRES by Companies at intervals of 10 minutes and went into billets in the neighbourhood of OUDERDOM. –

The Battalion remained in OUDERDOM from 7.2.15 till 11.2.15

10.2.15 OUDERDOM

News were received from 83rd Brigade to form two Platoons of picked men into a “Grenadier Company”. - 20 men per Company under the command of Captain L. E. H. Judkins were selected for this. –

4pm 11.2.15 OUDERDOM

6.15 pm 11.2.15 YPRES

The Battalion, having been ????? for duty in the trenches left OUDERDOM at 4pm and arrived at YPRES at 6.15pm. - B & C Companies, and the machine gun, under the command of Major H.K. COLSTON went to BLAUWE POORT FARM in support of THE KINGS OWN ROYAL LIGHT INFANTRY. – A & D Companies, under the commanding officers, went into the Infantry Barracks at YPRES. - It had rained a lot in the night which made the roads difficult for transport, but the day was fine tho’ cold and raw. –

[See appendix No.5]

12.15 12.2.15 YPRES

The following message was received from 83rd by telephone – “Left of eighty fifth Brigade being heavily attacked, please hold your Battalion in readiness and stand by. Have informed Coys at TUILLERIE and BLAUWEPORT FARM. - The Battalion stood too till 3.30pm, when orders were received that the Battalion need not stand by any longer. -

6.30 pm 12.2.15 YPRES

Rations & water were sent up to the two companies in support at 6.30pm – the day was wet and cold.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 9

6.45 pm 13/2/15 YPRES

The Battalion (i.e.) ??? D Company and the Grenadier Company left the Infantry Barracks at YPRES at 6.45pm to take over trenches from the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. –

The following is the detail of line of trenches that were taken over – P1, P2, Q, R1 & R2 by 3 Companies and the Grenadier Company. - The Company to be placed under orders of the officer Commanding the Kings Own Regiment, and occupies S2 trench. –

[See appendix No.5]

9.45 pm 13/2/15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

Head quarters and D Company arrived at VERBRANDEN MOLEN at about 9.45pm and proceeded to take over the trenches. - The Grenadier Company and B and C Companies and the machine guns arrived from BLAUWEPORT FARM at 10.20pm. (The Grenadier Company have been carrying rations up for the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. –

[See appendix No.5]

2 am 14/2/15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

The relief was reported complete by 2am. –

8 pm 13/2/15 YPRES

A Company left YPRES with the Kings Own Regt at 8pm on 13.2.15

DESCRIPTION OF LINE TAKEN OVER AND DETAIL

P1 & p2 “C” Company “Q” B Company and one Platoon Grenadier company. - R1 D Company R2 1 platoon Grenadier Company. –

Machine guns were placed in P1, Q and R1. –

The trenches are fairly good but require constant attention. Part of R2 and Q are very wet – Practically no obstacles in front at present

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 10

of a really permanent nature tho’ there were remains of old barbed wire entanglements & lengths of loose barbed wire had been thrown out in front. –

Special points Railway cutting on the left of R2 and centre of Q where the enemy are very close it is estimated that they are only about 25x away – Room on the right between P1 and P2, this re-entrant badly wants blocking up with barbed wire. –

P1 is directly in touch with the trenched held by 85th Brigade. -

In places along the trenches the parapit is low. The present loopholes are well known by the German Marksmen, and men of the K. O. Y. L. I. ????? were wounded. –

Communication by telephone is established with P1 and R1 trenches. –

[See appendix No.4]

During the night it rained at intervals ??? Nothing unusual occurred. -

8 am 14/2/15

Casualties for the previous 24 hours were five NCO’s and men wounded – Capt L. E. H. JUDKINS was brought in sick from the trenches and sent to hospital, -

5 pm 14/2/15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

The day of 14th passed quietly. At 5pm an artillery observation officer came and warned us that the Germans were expected to attack to right. Companies were so informed. –

All Company Commanders reported great many sandbags and many

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 11

rivetting materials are required.

7 pm 14/2/15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

The Brigade informed us that Alsation deserter reported that a general attack was arranged for 15th or 16th Feb. -

The night passed quietly except for heavy firing on our right at intervals. –

9.15 pm “ “

Fatigue parties of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry arrived with trench stores and took them p to the trenches. –

Night of 14th 15th

The night of 14th 15th was very wet. –

8 am 15/2/15 “

Casualties during the last 24 hours to 8am were killed one man bombed trenches. –

[See appendix No.4]

8.30 am “ “

News were received that the Battalion would be relieved from duty in the trenches at 9pm. - 2 Companies to go to Infantry Barracks YPRES and 2 Companies to BLAUWERPORT FARM in support. –

A, B and the Grenadier Company were ordered to return to YPRES, C D Companies and the machine guns were ordered to go to BLAUWERPORT after relief. –

11 am “ “

During day of 15th it was very wet. –

G. O. C. asked “What possibilities are there for listening patrols

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 12

In front of trenches, especially P1 & P2” ? –

The O. C. P1 and P2 considered that the last place for this, in fact the only place is the ravine between P1 and P2.

6 pm 15/2/15

The O. C. “C” Company reported that the rain had damaged the parapit of trenches P1 and P2 considerably, the other Companies sent in similar information. –

9 pm to 9.15 pm 15/2/15

Very heavy fire was opened by our artillery for a period of 1/4hour. –

9 to 10 pm “

The machine guns of K. O. Y. L. I. arrived and proceeded to take over their trenches. –

9.45 pm to 11.45 pm 15/2/15

Companies of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry arrived to take over & proceeded at once on arrival to take over our trenches. –

12.45 am 16/2/15

The relief of the Battalion by the K. O. Y. L. I. was completed, B Company and the Grenadier Company marched to YPRES. C and D Companies to BLAUWPORT FARM. –

2 am 16/2/15 YPRES

A Company arrived in YPRES at 2am from the left

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 13

Section. –

[See appendix 5]

8 am 16/2/15 YPRES

The casualties reported in the previous 24 hours were W.1.

[See appendix 4]

9 pm 16/2/15 YPRES

Information was received that the left of 84th Brigade was being heavily attacked, & that the Battalion was to stand too. –

3.15 pm 17.2.15 YPRES

The orders to stand too were cancelled. –

10 am 17.2.15 YPRES

Orders were received to march immediately to the TUILERIE, the Battn (i.e. A & B Coys & Grenadier Coy) fell in, left YPRES and arrived in TUILERIE at 11.45am, here it was found that trench occupied by the East Yorkshire had been blown up by the enemy, who had occupied it, and that 2 Companies of the Kings Own Regt, in support at TUILERIE, had been ordered to Re-take it. –

At 12.45pm news was received that the Kings Own Regt had Re-taken the trench in ?????. –

3 pm 17.2.15 TUILERIE

B Coy & Grenadier Coy returned to YPRES arriving there at 4pm. –

6 pm 17.2.15 YPRES

B Coy & Grenadier Coy left YPRES BARRACKS at 6pm and arrived at Brigade Headquarters at 7pm and moved up by Companies to VERBRANDEN MOLEN to take over trenches from the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. - Arriving there between 9pm and 10pm by Companies. –

10 am 17.2.15 BLAUWE POORT FARM

Major COLSTON in charge of the Battalion at BLAUWEPOORT FARM was ordered to send up 3 platoons to support the K.O.Y.L.I. – Capt COLLINS with 3 platoons C Company was sent. – 2 platoons under Lt GAUNTLETT going to R1 trench, the other platoon to some dug-outs in rear of P1. –

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 14

12.10 am 18.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

Relief of trenches occupied by K.O.Y.L.I. completed by the Battalion. –

12.30 am 18.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

The following is a copy of a telegram received from G.O.C. 27th Division. Begins to O.C. KOYLI & Y&L, Congratulations on excellent work. Result as I always expected from BULFIN Ends. –

Following is a copy of a telegram received from Commander 5th Corps to G.O.C. 83rd Brigade. Begins Very glad to hear your message BM262. I am sure you and your Brigade have done very well today. Ends. –

A Company K. O. Y. L. I. had been placed in support, in some dug-outs behind P1 trench, but owing to heavy rain, it was many of them were so full of water that they could not be occupied, and that there was only room for ½ a Company, the other half Coy was sent back to YPRES.-

[See appendix 5]

2 am 18.2.15 “

The following Report was sent to 83rd Brigade “Nothing to report all is quiet”.-

5.30 am 18.2.15 “

The following Report was sent to 83rd Brigade “Nothing to report all is quiet”.-

9 am 18.2.15 “

All was reported quiet to Brigade Hdqrs. –

11.20 am 18.2.15 “

The O. C. D Company in R1 reported as follows “About 8 or 9 common shell burst over R1, they appeared to be coming from guns rather close in front”. – This was reported to Brigade hdqrs.-

[See appendix 5]

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 15

11.30 am 18.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

Lieutenant N.B. LETHBRIDGE was reported slightly wounded in the ear. –

11.45 18.2.15 “

2/Lieut BATTLE reported from R1 trench that as nearly as it was possible to tell the position of the Enemy’s guns shelling R1 was at an angle of 1370 and at a distance of from 800x to 1500x. This was reported to Brigade Head Quarters. –

1 pm 18.2.15 “

2/Lieut BATTLE reported that the first three shells fired by our guns seem to be very close to the spot where the Enemy’s guns were firing from. -

2 pm 18.2.15 “

All was reported quiet to Brigade hdqrs. –

2.15 pm 18.2.15 “

As there were only 3 machine guns with the Battn, the Commanding Officer ordered one to be brought up from the support at BLAUWEPORT FARM, at dark. –

3.35 pm 18.2.15 “

The O.C. B Company commanding Q trench reported that they were being shelled, and also that they were having mortars used against them, and that an attack seemed probable. –

[See appendix 5]

3.50 pm 18.2.15 “

One Company of the K.O.Y.L.I. in support at BLAUWEPORT FARM was ordered to move to Battalion head quarters at once, this action was reported to Brigade head quarters. -

4.30 pm 18.2.15 “

Lieut H. F. LITCHFIELD was wounded by a shell in Q trench in the arm. –

1 officer k 1 22 w

4.55 pm 18.2.15 “

Lieut J. K. MATHER was killed in S1 trench, the report was received from the O. C. Kings Own Regt to whom A Company was attached. –

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 16

Between 3.30 pm & 4.30 pm 18.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

Company Sgt Mjr ELUIDGE with much difficulty went down ? trench and got within 20x of a house in which some Germans were signalling from, in an endeavour to see a sniper who had been shooting at men in Y1 trench, when he got up to the house, he discovered a man signalling who he shot. This caused a considerable outburst of fire. –

4 pm 18.2.15 “

About 15x to 20x of a trench was blown down and totally destroyed by German mortars. As soon as this was done, a party of 30 to 40 of the Enemy rushed out of their trench unarmed (as far as could be ascertained, with the idea of throwing Bombs) “C” Company in P2 trench under Lieut GAUNTLETT at once opened rapid fire on them, from what could be seen, only 2 men escaped. – The order to the O. C. support, to send one Company to Battn head quarters was cancelled. –

[See appendix 5 for Reference Map]

4.40 pm 18.2.15 “

The O.C. B Company reported that everything was alright but wished to have some Royal Engineers to help repair the Breaches that had been made. -

5.30 pm 18.2.15 “

All was Reported quiet to Brigade head quarters. –

8.30 pm 18.2.15 “

Fatigue parties belonging to the K.O.Y.L.I. arrived at Battalion headquarters bringing barbed wire, sand bags, very lights, gabions etc. These were sent up to the Companies. –

9.30 pm 18.2.15 “

All was Reported quiet to Brigade headquarters. –

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 17

11.35 18.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

All was Reported quiet to Brigade headquarters. –

12 mid night 18.2.15 to 19.2.15 “

Company Commanders reported that during the previous 24 hours, the following work had to be done. Improving parapits, communication trenches, and damage. –

2 am 19.2.15 “

All was Reported quiet to Brigade headquarters. –

8 am 19.2.15 “

Casualties of the Battalion, excluding A Company during the previous 24 hours were, officers killed J. K. MATHER, wounded Lieuts H. F. LITCHFIELD and N. B. LETHBRIDGE. Other ranks killed 1 wounded 11 missing none. –

[See appendix No. 4]

10.5 am 19.2.15 “

The following message regarding work done was Reported to Birgade hdqtrs. P1 & P2 trenches parapits all repaired with sandbags, communication trench drained. - Q trench repair of parapit and putting out wire entanglement. R1 & R2 repair to parapit and improvement of drains. -

9 am 19.2.15 “

Nothing to report to Brigade head quarters all quiet. –

11.30 am 19.2.15 “

Nothing to report to Brigade head quarters all quiet. –

2.30 pm 19.2.15 “

Orders were received to the effect that the Battalion would remain in the trenches for another day. –

5.30 pm 19.2.15 “

Nothing to report to Brigade head quarters all quiet. –

Between daybreak and sunset the trenches were shelled at intervals. –

During the afternoon the parapit of Q trench was again knocked down

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 18

by the Enemy’s mortars

11.15 18.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

The following message was sent to the O.C. B Coy (Q trench), “The artillery are going to try to demolish the house where the observation officer says he thinks he has located the Enemy’s mortar a.a.a at 8.45 am tomorrow morning. You will clear the right end of Q trench for 50 or 60 yards keeping the men to the left. The artillery will open fire at 9 am”. –

The same message was sent to the O.C. “C” Company, telling him to clear the men in P2 trench to the right. –

11 pm 19.2.15 “

The following Report was received from the O.C. A Company who was with the left section. - “2nd Lieut FOLKER killed, he crept down an old sap near S1 and was poisoned by foul air. –

2 am 20.2.15 “

Nothing to report to Brigade head quarters all quiet. –

5.20 am 20.2.15 “

Nothing to report to Brigade head quarters all quiet. –

8 am 20.2.15 “

Statement of casualties received by the Battalion during the previous 24 hours was, Officer killed 2nd Lieut E. R. FAULKER other

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 19

Ranks excluding A Company, killed 2, wounded 13, missing none. –

[See appendix No.4]

9.45 20.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

Report of work done in trenches to Brigade headquarters was as follows. –

P1 and P2 trenches made and all rest line re-sandbagged, communication trench was almost dug. – Improved parapit, repaired breach, communication trenches dug at back of houses. – R1 and R2 trenches made, telephone dug-out, made more secure, drainage and parapit improved. –

[For position of trenches and Companies re-occupying them see appendix No.5]

10 am 20.2.15 “

The following Report was received from the O.C. P1 (Capt COLLINS) Received a report that Germans have broken through beyond our right. I am taking ½ Company of Kings Own Regt in support to try and clear the wood. Will report progress. –

The following is an extract taken from a Report sent by Capt P.H.C. COLLINS on arrival at OODERDOM. –

At 9 am it was reported to me by Lieut LOUSADA that the Germans had broken through our line beyond our right, in some trenches held by the Welsh Regt. – I called for a dozen volunteers to come with Lieut LOUSADA and my self to drive them back. – I ordered the ½ Company Kings Own Regt in support to stand to and advanced through the wood. – I met the Officers commanding the Welsh Regt in the

[See appendix No.6 for Reference Map]

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 20

wood, and asked him what was going to be done as my right was exposed, and that until the Germans were driven out, my position was seriously threatened. –

At 11 am I received an order from Colonel Burt to send an officers patrol to clear up the situation. I sent 2nd Lieutenant H. C. M. HOWARD, who returned at about 12.30 pm and reported as follows. – He had been to within 20x of the left of Y trench where he had seen a German sentry. He was also told by a Sergeant of the Welsh Regt who was on the observation point, that he had counted 50 Germans going into Y trench. –

At 4 pm 1½ Cos of the Kings Own Regt advanced to attack Y trench, they had first cleared the right rear of P1 trench, when a machine gun in front opened fire. – Lieutenant LOUSADA’s ????? immediately pit it out of action, my Company fired on the trenches opposite but there was practically nothing to fire at. –

[See appendix No.6 for Reference Map]

9.45 20.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

Nothing to report to Brigade head quarters all quiet. –

9.45 20.2.15 “

The Commanding Officers and Company Commanders of the Kings Own Scottish

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 21

8.30 20.2.15 VERBRANDEN MOLEN

Borderers arrived to take over the trenches occupied by the Battalion. –

9.30 pm to 10.30 pm 20.2.15 “

The K. O. S. B’s arrived by Company and proceeded straight to the trenches to take over . –

10.30 pm to 11.30 pm 20.2.15 “ YPRES

Companies of the Battalion arrived at Battalion headquarters as Relieved, and marched to YPRES Town Hall where a hot meal had been prepared.

3 am to 3.30 am 21.2.15

3 Companies between 3 am and 3.30 am and marched to some huts which had been put up half way between VLAMERTINGHE and OUDERDOM. –

Report recieved from the D.A.A and from G 5th Army Corps that 2/Lieutenant P. H. TAYLER had died in hospital from pneumonia. –

The casualties of the Battalion from 8 am 20th Feb to 8 am 21st February were killed 6 wounded 4 missing nil. –

8 pm 22.2.15 near VLAMERTINGHE

A draft consisting of 50 N.C.O.’s and men under the command of 2/Lieutenant A. C. BRICKWOOD joined the Battalion. –

21.2.15 to 26.2.15 huts near VLAMERTINGHE

The Battalion remained in the huts between VLAMERTINGHE and OUDERDOM resting. –

4.55 pm 26.2.15 VLAMERTINGHE

The Battalion left the huts for YPRES and arrived there at 6.30 pm, -

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 22

7.15 pm 26.2.15 YPRES

The Battalion left YPRES by Companies at 7.15 pm, at intervals of ten minutes, for VERBRANDEMOLEN in the following order C Coy B Coy D Coy. –

A Company going with Kings Own Regt to TUILERIE. –

The relief of trenches from P1 to R2 inclusive from the K. O. S. B.’s was completed at 10.25 pm. – Trenches, instead of being given letters, are now numbered from Right to left. Numbers of trenches P1 to R2 were now P1 33, P2 34, Q 35, R1 36, R2 37. –

The night was clear cold and frosty with a bright moon. –

11.30 pm 26.2.15 VERBRANDEMOLEN

All was reported quiet to Brigade head quarters. –

11.35 pm “ “

The Company K. O. Y. L. I. under the command of Lieut LAN (K.O.Y.L.I.) Reported having taken their sapper adjacent in rear of 33 and 35 trenches. –

Owing to losses in the Battalion from Battle Casualties and sickness the line from the right of trench 33 to the left of trench was not securely held – the lengths of trench and the number of rifles holding them was as follows

\*\* Trench Length in Yds No of rifles

33 110 61

34 205 50

35 280 135

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 23

Trench Length in Yds No of rifles

36 290 102

37 61 30

33 34 35 595 246

Shown in detail on page 21

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

946 378

K.O.Y.L.I. in Support = 107

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

946 485

In Companies with the Royal Artillery the following arrangement for support had been arranged by K. O. S. B.’s – The Code word Short Range would direct the 75th Battery R.F.A. to fire on a German Battery located about 1500x (approx.) in front of 36 trench – The Code word Shell would direct the 75th R.F.A. to fire on a German “?????”

5.30 am 27.2.15 VERBRANDED MOLEN

Following message sent to Brigade headquarters “All quiet nothing to report

8 am “ “

Casualties during previous 24 hours one man wounded –

11.30 am “ “

Following message sent to Brigade headquarters “All quiet nothing to report -

8.50 pm “ “

Report. – Owing to the length of the Connecting trench between 36 & 37 ...

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vol.2 page 24

VERBRANDED MOLEN

… trenches, one machine gun was brought up from Supporting Company K.O.Y.L.I., and placed on left of trench number 36. –

5.30 am 28.2.15 “

Following message sent to Brigade head quarters. All quiet nothing to report. –

Almost as soon as the message had been sent, a very heavy burst of rapid fire on our right (in which several machine guns were firing) this was Reported to Brigade head quarters. –

The following work and improvements were done to the trenches during the previous 24 hours. –

33 trench – Fours rolls of barbed wire were put up in front. Two ??? made ??? of parapit front and rear improved. –

34 trench – Seven knife post entanglement