

**1916 France**

**JUL**

Sun 23 (416-110). Arrived in lines about 4.15 a.m. Slept under wagon till 6.30 a.m. Moved off about 10 a.m. thro Saily. Slept under wagon till 6.30 a.m. Moved off before 10 a.m. thro' Saily to new wagon lines. Hot dinner..... (?) ..... Goodplace.

Mon 14 (417-111). Up at 6 a.m. Stables. Kick. Went to Div. Hqrs.....(?) to last bath.....((?)..... Ben...(?) Frisling tele wire & bike. Wrote home from Steenwerke YMCA. Parcel & paper from home.

Tue 25 (418-112). Up at 6 a.m. On the guns all day.

Wed 26 (419-113). As usual. Getting ready for inspection. At 2.30 p.m. but only drivers were inspected. More bomb \s made. Corp. Bush.

Thu 27 (420-114). As usual, Spooks rode to Steenwerke & back. Clean saddles.

Fri 28 (421-115). ..... indecipherable.....

Sat 29 (422-116). As usual. Full marching order by 9.30 a.m. Called back by S.M. to do a job for O.C.: trace 8 views of Gun Pits..... full day job (!) Merveiile, Estaires, Hazebrouck, Wallon Cappel, Lynde, Wardevecques, Blendecques, Wizernes, Hallines, Serque.

Sun 30 (423-117). Tracing. Had to water horses about ½ ml away.

Mon 31 (424-118). Director. Stables. Harness. Walk to Steenwerke. Fraser to hospital.

**AUG**

Tue 1 (425-119). Beautiful day.....(?)..... Exercise horses in afternoon. Prepare to move off & move out.

Wed 2 (426-120). Rev. at 4 a.m. Fall in 4.15 a.m. Moved off 6.30 a.m. Dropped blanket & w.proof sheet. Passed through Estaires at about 8 a.m. & Morville about 9.30 a.m. Both fine towns (like Armentières) to La Matte au Bois, small town. Pulled up & watered horses about 1.40 a.m. Passed thro' Hazebrouck about 2 p.m. Big town. Plenty of girls. Ate at billet Waloon.

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**AUG**

Cappel about 4 p.m. Very tired. (Small town). (Gandescure station in forest after..... (?))..... Eggs (cooked by Pugh) & champagne. 16 miles.

Thu 3 (427-121). Rev. 5 a.m. Hauled up late on parade. Moved off 7 a.m. through several villages. Dinner at Wizeron (?) Stopped at billets 2.30 p.m. Letique. Fixed up horses & went for stroll up hill. Very pretty scene. Rly. following canal. Sleeping out. 14 miles.

Fri 4 (428-122). Stables. Director. Giser (?), Gilligan. Wrote letters. 2 years of war.

Sat 5 (429-123). Stables. Director. Brown, Pugh. Battery out on mobile training. 18 men rattled for being adrift at tattoo Carrsamin. (?)

Sun 6 (430-124). Same as yesterday. Gilligan on Director.

Mon 7 (431-125). Director work over river all day. Stables. Sleep on hay in loft.

Tue 8 (432-126) Out at 10 a.m. Action in 2 places. Good gallop on horse. Major Bate, General & officer watching. Back about 2 p.m. Stables.

Wed 9 (433-127). Out at 9.30 a.m. near Guelines. Action. (no heads) & manoeuvres in several places. Good gallop on horse.. Back about 3.30 p.m. Swim in river. Stables. Walk to Lumbres. Champagne.

Thu 10 (434-128). Stables. Out about 9.30 a.m. Bit better today. Good gallop in manoeuvres. Parcel from Florrie. Back about 3.30 p.m.

Fri 10 (435-129). Took director to get screw. Boot & saddle 12.45 p.m. Stayed home. Horse at blacksmith..... screw. Pay 20fr. Stroll round Letique.

Sat 11 (436-130). Rev. at 4.5a.m. Boot & saddle 7 a.m. Field day with heads. Not bad. Took snap of heads sitting in fields. Back about 1 p.m. Swim. Stable. Walk to Lumbres.

Sun 12 (437-131). Stables. Fell in R.C. others went to church parade. Went to R.C. chapel but no service on. Had a couple of drinks & came home to stables. Leave for 30 O.P. Out on Gun park guard 6 p.m. 10 to 12 shift. 2 on 4 off.

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Mon 14 (438-132). Guard all day. Went to Lumbres. Champagne & cigs with Bomb. Thompson, Naughton. Corp. Mountjoy & Arthur Hicks (?) Grand opera phonograph.

Tue 15 (439-133). Stables. B.& saddle. Battery manoeuvres. Best day yet. Galloping etc. Had some grapes. Back about 2 p.m. Stables. Football 47..... 5.3 to 10.8.

Wed 16 (440-134). Stables. B. & saddle 8.30 a.m. Action in 3 places. Back 3.15 p.m. Stables. To Lumbres for tea.

Thu 17 (441-135). Full marching order at 1.30 p.m. 1 position. Not bad as far as staff. .... (?)..... Showery. Back at 6 p.m.

Fri 18 (442-136). B. & S. 8.30 a.m. 1 position. Saw 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Scot Canadians manoeuvring. 5 mls from Ypres Sallient. (As usual 23,000). Heavy rain all day. Wet through.

Sat 19 (443-137). Wet. Stables. Staff B. & S. 9.45 a.m. Open air for being late. Dinner in rain on road. Went to position with Bgde at haystacks. Back about 4.30 p.m. Played 43<sup>rd</sup>. Lost by 3 pts.

Sun 20 (444-138). Pretty walk to water horses. Orderly Room. (?) 9 a.m. (?) Admonished. (?) Wanted for guard. Allotted new horse: dark chestnut. Rode to L. 6 mem. Lunch. Strolled round. Back at 5.30p.m. Guard 5.45 p.m..

Mon 21 (445-139). Up at 7 a.m. Told to be ready for B.&S. (?) Shackled. Guns to Ord. Wagons out in afternoon. Batt. 45 at football.

Tue 22 (446-140). O.C. Johnson moved off in motor. Stables etc. All day. Card.

Wed 23 (447-141) Full marching order 9.30 a.m. Fleming took us out. 1 position messed up by Sigs. Back at 12.30 p.m. Stables getting ready to move.

Thu 24 (448-142). Up at 5.30 p.m. B.&S. 8.30 a.m. Moved out about 10 a.m. Dinner on road. Arrived at W.L. other side of Waloon Cappel about 5.30 p.m. Stroll down to estaminet. Slept in barn.

Fri 25 (449-143). Rev, 5a.m. Rode on thro' Hazebrouck. Caestre

## **1916 Belgium**

### **AUG**

passed within sight of old billet at Borre. Thro' Gide Waersvilde into BELGIUM to Wagon Line at Reninghelst. Fed horses. Had tea & left in G.S. wagon with Spooks, a few gunners & gear for pits, amm. Pit. Thro' Dickiebush near Ypres, over rough ground to r't X'n pits in old château. Slept well in bunk on ammunition.

Sat 26 (450-144). Up 7 a.m. b'fast. Then walked about 2½ mls to O.P. thro' rotten trenches & rain & mud. Saw Hill 60, Sanctuary Wood, etc. Queer dugout for O.P. 3 bunks. Went for water & looked for Inf. Hqrs with flares & machine guns buzzing about. Phone from 12 to 3.30 a.m.

Sun 27 (451-145). Up about 9 a.m. Relief about 11 a.m. Back home about 1 p.m.

Mon 28 (452-146). To Group Hqrs. Line run out . Shelling. Back 12.30. On phone till 4.20 p.m. Slept down phone pits.

Tue 29 (453-147). On 4 to 6 a.m. Gas alert 5.30 a.m. Fixed board. On 4 till 8 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> part of 1<sup>st</sup> Div. Arrives to relieve us. 14<sup>th</sup> Bty Canadians here before us. Guns were here 11 months that were replaced & when Huns came over guns were left there & they (our chaps) came back to them. Had hot bath.

Wed 30 (454-148). Messed round all day. Went to D21 Inf. HQ at 5 p.m., arr 6.10 p.m. Muddiest trenches I have ever been in. A couple of Dublin Fusiliers in dugout. We cover them; they relieved the Warwickshires two days ago & now 1<sup>st</sup> Div. Aust Art. coming. Canadians have gone to the Somme with their Inf. On 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Quiet. (Last off. Sniped trenches.)

Thu 31 (455-149). Working 4 on 4 off. Walked thro' mud & slush(sometimes to your knees) to front line.slush(sometimes to your knees) to front line. Had to keep low all the way. In front there are old mine craters occupied by us. The trench runs between the 55 & 60 contours on Hill 60. Passed place where austr officer was sniped. Finished at 6.15 p.m. & came back via Zillebeke Switch. Few shells about. Home 7.30 p.m.

### **SEP**

Fri 1 (456-150). Phone 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Mail 5 from home Phone 10 to 12 p.m. Left Section moved our guns at 11.30 p.m.

Sat 2 (457-151). Phone 6.55 a.m. to about 11 a.m. Phone taken over then. 4 men back from O.P. Guns turned up at dark & changed over about

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**SEP**

11.30 p.m. Brown, Seymour, Gillespie close to shells.

Sun 3 (458-152). Arrived at Wagon Lines about 1.30 a.m. & turned in .  
Up 7.30 a.m. Moved off at 10 a.m. thro' Reninghelst to W.L. near Boeschepe  
in **France** about 5 min. From border.

Mon 4 (459-153). Very muddy lines & was raining on & off all day.  
Sleeping in farm. Bdr went to hospital.

Tue 5 (460-154). Rev. 6 a.m. Stables etc. Sigs. Morse with flags.  
Bush took horse to Poperinghue. Wet all day. Paid 40Fr.

Wed 6 (461-155). Stables. Morse. Explain switchboard to O.C. Rode to  
Bailleul for electrical fittings. Back about 6.30p.m. Letter from Bob. Tea at  
cafe.

Thu 7 (462-156). O.C. made Capt. (Johnson 3 stripes). Rumour about  
move to action. Horse shod. Rt. X'n [Section] pulled out & went into action at  
6.30 a.m. Arr. 10 a.m.

Fri 8 (463-157). Turned in at 2.15 a.m. after digging phone pit. Up  
about 8 a.m. Went to O.P. Ecluse No. 7 (lock on canal). Shell landed in  
cookhouse. Killed several Canadians. Chap at m.gun pit very nervy – slight  
shell shock. O.C. went to front line & then we came back to good O.P.  
alongside Ecluse No. 8. O.C. cutting wire. Good work. Had dinner & tea  
there. Back about 6.30 a.m. Bed 10 p.m.

Sat 9 (464-158). Up 8.30 a.m. Took photos. On phone for a few hours  
during action. Mail & 600 rds amm. came up. Phone 11 to 1.20.

Sun 10 (465-159). Up 8.30 a.m. Went to Ecluse No. 7 O.P. at 11.30 a.m.  
Had a look at machine gun emplacement. There is a dugout under ridge  
(spoilbank) to hold 1,500 men. O.C. shooting after dinner. Left for home about  
4.30 p.m. Strolled back, arriving about 7.30 p.m.

Mon 11 (466-160). Up 8.30 a.m. Writing letters. Messing round. Told  
we were going to W.L. then cancelled..... (?)

Tue 12 (467-161) Up about 8.30 a.m..... Wet & foggy. Up to O.P. after  
dinner. Ecluse No. 8 for an hour or so & then on to E.7 Bad lines. I went back  
to Bty to try & fix it. Fritz nearly got us at 5.30 p.m. so we 'imshied'. Finished

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**SEP**

amm. with gunfire about 8.30 p.m. Left for W.L. in G.S. wagons about 9.15 p.m.

Wed 13        (467-161.... mis-numbered by Harold in the original).

Arr. W.L. about 2 a.m. & turned in. Rev. 6 a.m. Switchboard. After dinner rode to Reninghelst & saw Bob at 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. H.Q. Back at 6.15 p.m. & received a parcel from Bob.

Thu 14        (468-162). After lunch rode to Bailleul for more elect. gear. Back 6.30 p.m.

Fri 15        (469-163). Cold morning, Stables. Switchboard. Bought lace h'kerchiefs at Boeschepe.

Sat 16        (470-164). Stables. Went to dentist 8.15 a.m. (?) teeth all round. Back around 10.30 a.m. On board.

Sun 17        (471-165). Rev, 7 a.m. Stables. Went R.C. Service Sermon by Belgian Chaplain in Flemish, French & English. Bob came over about 2.30 p.m. Strolled round with him. Mounted guard. On board till after 12 M.N.

Mon 18        (472-166). Told to be ready to move at 11 a.m. Miserable weather. Moved out about 2 p.m. Went to rotten W.L. about halfway to Reninghelst. Handed over horses etc, & moved off about 4 p.m. to position about ¼ ml. from Dickiebush. Good place. Turned in about 10.30 p.m. We took over from 42<sup>nd</sup> Bty. 11<sup>th</sup> Bde. 4<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Nearly wet thro'.

Tue 19        (473-167). Up about 8.45 a.m. Messing round on phone.. Shooting under direction of Obs. Balloon in afternoon.

Wed 20        (474-168). As usual. Appl. For Flying Corps Had to be in at 2 p.m. I rode to W.L. then to Div. H.Q. to see about it. Back to Bty about 8 p.m. then in Cook's cart to W.L. Slept in hay in chaff-house 10.30 p.m.

Thu 21        (475-169). To D. Art. Told alteration in form. Rode back to Bty & filled in forms; then took them to D.A.; returned horses & came to Bty in Cook's cart.

Fri 22        (476-170). Up as usual. Bush sent [me] for after lunch. Seems to be fixed up for Flying Corps.

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Sat 23 (477-171). As usual on 12 – 4a.m. To Cafe Belge. A.E. dump for gear for gun. (Before that went & saw Belgian 75's. To W.L. for G.S. wagon. Saw Bob. Cafe Belge 7 p.m. Took gear to new position.

Sun 24 (478-172). As usual. Transfer through. Took a couple of photos. Pinched a couple of potatoes. Beautiful weather.

Mon 25 (479-173). As usual. Went to new position & helped to fix wire netting screen. On 8 to 12 m.n.

Tue 26 (480-174). Aero duel. Fritz brought down & our plane also. Both men wounded – behind our lines. An “Archie” (77mm A.A.C. shell) dropped near Rt Section & burst. All heads ducked for cover.

Wed 27 (481-175). On phone 8 to 12 noon. Put wires to O.C. Clean phones in afternoon. & evening. I think Fritz brought one of our balloons down about 5 p.m. It burst into flames as it got nearer the earth. We had a fine view of it.

Thu 28 (482-176). On phone 4 to 8 a.m. A raid took place about 12.30 a.m. ----- supposed to be about 2.30 a.m. It did not seem much of a success, as we were supposed to fire, but did not. Gas balloon floating towards our trenches at 4.15 a.m. Clean phones. After dinner, went to gas school. Lecture on helmets. Then 36 of us went into a little shed in which lachrymatory gas had been sprayed.. Shut in for 3 minutes. No effect. Good helmets. We went down in G.S. wagon. Tea at W.L. & came back via the D.A.C. (where we loaded up ammunition) on limbers, etc.

Fri 29 (483-177). Up at 8 a.m. Went to O.P. to relieve others for Gas School. Good look round positions. Cooked dinner & tea. Came back on my own 7 p.m. with Intelligence Report. Jones & Tepper later. On arriving went to Group H.Q. with O.C. for a couple of hours. Back about 11 p.m. Told transfer was through. (Wed's balloon said to have been Fritz's & to have come 28 miles.

Sat 30 (484-178). As usual. O.C. said I would go to 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. H.Q. as soon as bike was available, but I had to wait till about 8.30 p.m. & go on Cook's cart. Arr. About 10 p.m. with gear. Seem a decent crowd. Coffee & cake for supper. Clocks put back an hour (end of summer). Lost 2Fr 20 centimes at 2 – up.

## OCT France

1916 (Pencil entries difficult to read).

Sun 1 (485-1.... being 1<sup>st</sup> day at 2<sup>ND</sup> DIV H.Q.) [with Bob].  
Up about 7.30 a.m. Went to Camp Com. & started in draw office. 2 other  
draftsmen: Bradley &  
Godfrey.....(?).....  
Bob played piano at store.

Mon 2 (486-2). Up about 8 a.m. Nothing much in office. French  
tracings. Altering No.s on Plans, etc.

Tue 3 (487-3). Same as yesterday.

Wed 4 (488-4). DITTO. RATHER WET.

Thu 5 (489-5). Training, etc. DITTO.

Fri 6 (490-6). On tracing till 11.30 a.m.

Sat 7 (491-7). DITTO. On enlargement map HUN TRENCHES. 12.30  
a.m.

Sun 8 (492-8). As usual. Blue-printing. Went to 46<sup>th</sup> W.L.

Mon 9 (493-9). As usual.

Tue 10 (494-10). Ditto.

Wed 11 (495-11). Ditto. Paid 1.88. Issued with trousers.

Thu 12 (496-12). As usual. 2 men have been tried out as draftsmen  
during the last few days.

Fri 13 (497-13). 3 letters arrived. Bush brought a paper, working on  
tracing & looking thro' 1<sup>st</sup> Div. maps of position of line that was handed over  
to us. Rumours about shifting.

Sat 14 (498-14). As yesterday. Walked to 46<sup>th</sup> W.L. Rumour correct.  
Shift in a few days.

Sun 15 (499-15). As usual. Cold day.



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Mon 16        (500-16). Ditto.

Tue 17        (501-17). Maps going out. Went to 46<sup>th</sup> W.L.

Wed 18        (502-18). Ditto. Wet.

Thu 19        (503-19). Packing up.

Fri 20        (504-20). Up 6 a.m. Pack gear on motor lorries. Ride about 11 a.m. on motor lorry. Went thro' Poperinghe &----- (?)----- to Steenworde. Arr. 1.30 p.m. Walked round town & church. Had chips & eggs for dinner. Town full of moving (?) troops & guns ----- (?) Wells, Dockerty & Rich in about 9.30 p.m. Billet was at a big convent. Saw Bob Donnelly, 20<sup>th</sup> Bty.

Sat 21        (505-21). Up 4.30 a.m. Fell in 5.10 a.m. & marched 6 Km to Godewaersvelde. Caught train at 7 a.m. (Men going on leave in train). Change trains at Hazebrouck. (Walked thro' town). Got out at St Omer. Walked 7 Km to Tilques château. Pretty place round town. Slept in small room on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Cold weather last few days.

Sun 22        (506-22). Up 6.30 a.m. Football & stroll round. Made small tracing of billeting area. Bed about 9.30 p.m.

Mon 23        (507-23). Up 8.30 a.m. As usual.

Tue 24        (508-24). Up 8.30 a.m. As usual.. Bob & I went to St Omer about 1.15 p.m. returned about 6.30 p.m. Visited cathedrals. Packed up.

Wed 25        (509-25). On board lorry at 1 a.m. Left about 1.30 a.m. Arrived at Androcq at 4 a.m. Left about 7.30 a.m. Passed thro' Wimeux, Boulogne, Paris Plage staion. Disentrained at Pont Romy. Messing round unloading, so I left early in one of the motor lorries. We took a wrong turn & went 2 or 3 miles down a road through Ecourt & Epogne & then turned back past the station & motored about 9 miles to Saily Les Haut Clochers. Arr. About 3 p.m. Unloading gear. Had a feed. Abbeville, Etaples. Pass close to Calais. Told off to go as advance guard on part of gear at 8 a.m. tomorrow. Slept under table in office.

Thu 26        (510-26). Yup 7 a.m. 48 hrs rations. Helped to load wagon. Left on G.S. wagon with grooms. Lewis gun transports. A.M.C. about 8.20 a.m.

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We were a fairly long column. The rem. of crowd, including Inf. come on tomorrow about 10 a.m. with the lorries. There are to be 250 m. lorries av. 30 apiece. The trip was very interesting, but rather cool & drizzly. Thro' Moefer, Fliscourt, Billoy-sur-Somme, La Chaussée, Tiramont, Picquingy, Breilly, Ailly-sur-Somme, La Sauveur, & (?) Argueveuves. We pulled into wagon lines at the latter place. It was only a small village & we slept in barns. The one I was in was fitted with two layers of shelves specially made for soldiers. Had a good feed.

Fri 27            (511-27). Up about 6 a.m. Had good b'fast. Moved off about 8.15 a.m., thro' Longpre l' Amiens, then Amiens. Fine big town. We passed along near the Citadel which looked like an old brick fort. There are electric trams in the town. On thro' Querrieu, Pont Noyelle, La Houssoye, Heilly, to Ribemeont where we pulled up. Motors passed us on & off, into W.L. & prepared to turn into tents for the night when we were moved off again into the main park of the town & we joined the rem. of the staff about 6 p.m. -----  
----- (?)----- the roads were thronged with transports. Hun prisoners working on road. Turned in on tile floor in a very nice chateau, 10 p.m.

Sat 28            (512-28). Up round 8 a.m. General map work.

Sun 29            (513-29). As usual.

Mon 30           (514-30). " ". Photos.

Tue 31           (515-31). " ".

**NOV**

Wed 1            (516-32). " ".

Thu 2            (517-33). " ". Stores from B.E.F. ----- (?)-----  
for line.

Fri 3            (518-34). Adv. Party to Fricourt. Had a bath at Heilly (?)

**Notice to quit.**

Sat 4            (519-35). Packing up. Saw Majoy Buggy Booth. Went to aerodrome.

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Sun 5 (520-36). Up at 6.30 a.m. Fixed up our gear. Moved off in motors about 9.15 a.m. Very muddy. Passed in sight of Albert. Could see tower with leaning statue on top. Arr. At what used to be a château in Fricourt Wood. Only cellars & shell-holes & broken trees left. Our office is about 30 ft down in an old German dugout. You first go down a few big steps & then come to the opening which looks like a shaft & a steep stairway of 30 steps runs into the bowels of the earth. At the foot of the stairs is a passage about 100 ft long & rooms of varying sizes head off on either side.. At the end of the passage is another flight of 10 [steps] to a passage 18 ft long, leading to another dugout & then a pair of stair flights of 19 steps allowing two entrances into another room which is really a cellar having a flight of 11 steps up to the surface again.

Our (?) staff room is about ----(?)---- x ----(?)----- & has 4 bunks in it. The whole place, passages & rooms are lined with boards & the cracks between the boards covered also. The place is lit by electricity & ventilated throughout. It is very warm & dry. A few big shells came over yesterday & we could just hear the explosion[s]. We are about 7 ml behind the line. Had a bit of a job getting the gear down. Bob left about 7 p.m. to go to Advanced H'quarters about 5 mls from here. (Johan's horse bolted back with him). Turned in about 11.15p.m. Very comfortable bunks. (Gen. Paton wounded).

Mon 6 (521-37). Up about 8.30 a.m. Maps, photos, etc. Big amm. dump (French) set on fire by Zepps or Taubes about 8 p.m. Great sight. Explosions shook dugout. Anti-aircraft guns & Searchlights going. An attack yesterday morning, about 9 a.m., by Inf. was a mess-up, thro' some mistake: 7 Bde, 1,000 casualties against Prussian Guards.

Tue 7 (522-38). Bed about 12.30 a.m. Woke when electric light went up at 9 a.m. As usual. Put in application. Wet weather

Wed 8 (523-39). As usual. Wet.

Thu 9 (524-40). Ditto. Bob back. Godfrey went to A.R.C.

Fri 10 (525-41). As usual. Heavy bombardment at night.

Sat 11 (526-42). -----Do. -----. Bomb. Continued all night & day.

Sun 12 (527-43). ----- Do -----.

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Mon 13        (528-44). Crowd went to A.R.C. again. Bomb. Still continues. Big advance to be made by 5<sup>th</sup> Army today.

Tue 14        (529-45) Bomb. still going. Rumours that we have gained our 2 objectives. Orderlies at H.Q. slept in their office all night. French advance 2 a.m.

Wed 15        (530-46). On maps, etc. Word from Carlton Trench about 4 p.m. that d'outs had been shelled & Wilson killed. Owner of château came. Dug up tin of 2,000 Francs in Bank Notes. Had fellows digging everywhere. H.Q. office in afternoon.

Thu 16        (531-47). As usual. Crowd came back from Carlton Trench. Told to shift out of dugout for 12<sup>th</sup> Art.

Fri 17        (532-48). Shifted most of gear out & then told we needn't move. Passed medical exam by Capt. Muirhead for A.F.C. [Australian Flying Corps].

Sat 18        (533-49). Snow on the ground this morning. Have to be at Fricourt Circus at 7.30 a.m. tomorrow for A.F.C.

Sun 19        (534-50). Up ¼ to 6. Went in bus to Heilly. Mud everywhere. Before Flying Corps Major, but turned down for weight. Had dinner. Drink with (?) H. Thompson. Back in bus. Arr. About 4.30 p.m.

Mon 20        (535-51). Shifted into Armytage Hut. Rather cold.

Tue 21        (536-52). As yesterday.

Wed 22        (537-53). Gear on motors about 8.30 a.m. Shifted off thro' Albert. (Saw Virgin & Child statue). Becourt. Arr. Ribemont 10 to 1 p.m. Lunch at Madame's Billet in hut behind A9. Went to B.E.F. Canteen

Thu 23        (538-54). Up at 9.30 a.m. Rather cold but fine. B'fast Madame's. Went to Canteen. Paid. Tea at M. (Emp. of Austria's DEATH.)

Fri 24        (539-55). Up at 8.30 a.m. As usual. Went to Heilly for bath & change. (Booth back as W.O. (?) Art. training school.)

Sat 25        (540-56) To Heilly with Gilchrist. Saw Col. Reynolds G.S.O. 2 Anzac [Corps] re Flying Corps. No information. (Maj. Edge interviewing

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officer for F.C. from England.) Raining nearly all day.

Sun 26            (541-57). Rained nearly all night. Business as usual. Saw Capt. McCallum about going back to Bty. Jack went to Amiens. Cold night.

Mon 27            (542-58). Told by Capt. Brown to go to unit tomorrow morning. Map work.

Tue 28            (543-1..... being **1<sup>st</sup> day back with Artillery.**) Up about 8 a.m. Capt. McCallum rang up Capt. Wellington 4<sup>th</sup> Div. about me but no vacancy. Took name & number. Packed up & moved off about 10 a.m. Caught motor lorry at cross roads & went to Albert, where I got another which took me half way to Fricourt. I strolled on a bit & jumped on a 3<sup>rd</sup> lorry & went to the terminus Fricourt Circus (? Fox service.) I here managed to get on a G.S. wagon going to Mametz & I had to walk to Pommiers Redoubt where I reported to 4<sup>th</sup> Div. H.Q. Saw Capt. Wellington (nice chap) & Frank Thompson. D.A. told me to report at 46<sup>th</sup> W.L. so on I went again thro' the mud along Montauban Rd. Turned to the left & at last found the 46<sup>th</sup> in a sea of slush. Good welcome. Slept in hut with Thompson & Naughton & 5 others. Good fire. So I didn't do too badly for a start. My old horse is missing.

Wed 29            (544-2). Up about 7.15 a.m. Not a bad b' fast. Rather cold. Watched the fire & chopped wood. Had a concert round the fire as there was a rum issue

Thu 30            (545-3). Up around 7 a.m. Not so cold. Walk round in morning to find boots. No luck. Saw Indians working on roads. Church & graveyards shelled to blazes. Bell & a few graves, open vaults & statue of V. Mary left. Walked ¾ mile to see tank. Great affair. Two six pounder naval guns. H.M.L.S. Campania. Loopholes. Prisms to act as periscopes. A.P. shells. Before going put new pole in limber.

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Fri 1              (546-4). Up 7.30 a.m. Walk to tank. Brought back wood. Greased Cook's cart. Thompson & I went to see tank again & pinched tin [of] petrol & got some firewood. Wind sprung up & blew a fog over.

Sat 2              (547-5). Wind kept on all night & this morning ground was frozen hard. Went to D.A.C. to try to get springs for B Sub's gun 2<sup>nd</sup> outer broken

Sun 3              (548-6). Up 7.156 a.m. S,M. Found me in bed. Told me to fall

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in, in future. Went out for wood. Caught by Engs. Jones, Taylor, Robertson names given. Back to grease water cart. Went to D.A.C. again

Mon 4 (549-7). Saw sun for first time for a week today. Grease w.cart & fix brake. Stroll round. Have to go to D.A.C. for new handle of buffer apparatus first thing in the morning. Mail.

Tue 5 (550-8). Went to D.A.C. in the mud. No luck. Messing round. Letters. Wrote a couple of letters.

Wed 6 (551-9). Sorting out Specialists's gear vall day.

[The entry for day no. 552 omitted in original, but days & dates are correct.]

Thu 7 (553-10). Missed from stables but was working on Spec. gear. After b'fast, told to go with Thompson & Barbour to pits re removing wood from road. Very muddy track but we arrived safely & reported but were remanded till next day as O.C. was away. Ret. around dinner time. After dinner, sent out with 3 other drivers with sledge for firewood.. Very muddy. Heavy going (not as bad as pits but up to horses' knees in parts.) Had two trips & back for tea. Rum punch. Has been very cold since I came here but it is a trifle milder tonight.

Fri 8 (554-11). As usual. Messed round in stables. Till b'fast, then saddled up & went to pits.. Up before O.C. & Capt. Ellis (Acting O.C. 12<sup>th</sup> Bde.) Treated us fairly well but said it was out of his hands as note had come from C.R.E. So we were remanded for G.C.M. [General Court Martial]. Back around 1 p.m. & went to D.A.C. about 2.30 p.m. about springs & handle. Not there. Had some rum. Had tea which was bread & cheese & rum. Felt well. Went on gun-park guard 9 p.m. (4 on 8 off) turned in about 10.30 p.m.

Sat 9 (555-12). Up about 8 a.m. Guard 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat by fire in P.C. Smith's hut. Wrote note for F.[ield] G.C.M.

Sun 10 (556-13). Rt. Section to pits to bring back shell cases. Took horses to water & exercise. Jimmy bit me. Told to get ready to see Col. Elliot R.E. re F.G.C.M. to hear his evidence (so we can't leave camp).

Mon 11 (557-14). Digging pit in morning. Fixing up rest of it in afternoon. Saw sun, aeroplanes & balloons.

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Tue 12 (558-15). Up as usual. Rev. 6.30 a.m. Parade 7 a.m. Heavy snow storm, then rain, then snow again & everything got sloppy. Horses to water. O'Brien's greys ('pas bon'). Fix officers' lat.[rine]. Rt X'n to pits today. Left yesterday. Shells from Fritz early in morning not far away.

Wed 13 (559-16). As usual. Fix up limbers. Dig rubbish pit in afternoon. Water O'Brien's greys in morning.

Thu 14 (560-17). As usual. Assist food house. Water greys. To D.A.C. in afternoon but could get no springs, etc. All available horses to pits.

Fri 15 (561-18). As usual. Water up 9 horses with Forder, as all available horses -----?----- went to pits with amm. & brought back empties.

Sat 16 (562-19). As yesterday. Told at dinner time to go to pits by 2 p.m. re F.G.C.M. also to stay there. Sleety snow storm nearly all day. Had dinner & tea with spooks & C. sub. [section]. Rotten place to move about in the dark as there (?) are no paths or anything to guide you. Someone is always getting lost. You hear coots bawling out names of men, batteries, etc. Trying to locate themselves at night or in the fog. Slept in phone pit.

Sun 17 (563-20) Up about 9.30 a.m. Fix dugouts, etc. To 10<sup>th</sup> Bde H.Q. No. 3 Group H.Q. (We are under them). Paid 30 Fr. Turned in about 9.30 p.m. in old phone pit (with a floor of cartridge cases). We shifted lines to new dugout.

Mon 18 (564-21). On phone 6 to 8 p.m. Note came last night saying Carpenter died on 9<sup>th</sup> of appendicitis. Patrol line (with T. Seymour) from O.P. to FLERS. (Shelled town to blazes) along valley in sight of FRITZ front line to left of Guedecourt. Saw several disabled tanks & dead Huns. Back to dinner about 4 p.m. Colder tonight & beginning to freeze. Made bunks.

Tue 19 (565-22). On phone 6 to 7 p.m. Left for Liaison Office. (Inf. H.Q. in supports other side of FLERS) about 8.30 a.m. with Mr Hay. Rotten little dugout (cispolas). Met Arthur Everson & Don Kennedy (of Poly Dept.) in 8<sup>th</sup> Batt. Snow storm about dinner time. Mr Hay in dugout about 15 ft under ground at entrance to tunnel (being made). Metal from heavies asked for about 11 p.m. Cold night ----- not much sleep. Shells all day. Took message to Hqrs in morning ----- line down.

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Wed 20 (566-23). Relieved about 10 a.m. & got back about 11 a.m. Shells. To 10<sup>th</sup> Bde H.Q. afternoon. H.E. all around me. Phone 4.30 to 7.30, then to bed.

Thu 21 (567-24). On phone 2 to 4 a.m. Slept in till 10.30 a.m. Not so cold today. On phone during day. Charlie Brandon back from Blighty. Very funny relating his experiences as he was 3 days in rattle for missing train. Fired 11 rds on C sub gun. On phone from 10.30 to.....(?)

Fri 22 (568-25). Up 1.15 p.m. & went on phone. Nothing doing much. Took a couple of naps. Fritz put some shells near us. One knocked Mc Comack's dugout in on top of him. Very lucky to escape with bruise & shock. Turned in about 10 p.m.

Sat 23 (569-26). On phone 4 to 6 a.m. Rather cool. Raining. (Off phone about 6.45 a.m.) Went to W.L. on Les Parker's horse re F.G.C.M. to hear Col's evidence. Mess-up. Shouldn't have gone. Bought 3 puddings & walked back. Celebrate X'mas dinner. Talked all night.

Sun 24 (570-27). On phone 2 to about 5 a.m. Up about 10 a.m. Bty in action several times on various t'gts. Out on Forward O.P. line with Salotti. Only had to go about ½ way then back. (T.S. blottoh). Back about 12.

Mon 25 (571-28). Down to L. O. (?) about 10 a.m. with Mr Hays. Fritz as usual put shells over especially at meal-time. Had beans, pudding, jam, etc for dinner. Scottie McDonald N.B.T. other crowd slept in dugout. (?) Lock S. Arr. About 4 p.m. 2 MIN heavy art. stunt 11.30 a.m.

Tue 26 (572-29). On phone 1 to 5 a.m. Left for home about 10.15 a.m. Aero activity. Saw plane brought down in flames. Fritz I think. O.C. returned.

Wed 27 (573-30). Phone 2 to 4 a.m. McMahan to dentist. Fine day. To O.P. Fixed entrance to phone dugout. After lunch on F.L.T. with T.S. In tanks (?) Diehard. Back at dusk. Aero duels in morn. Bits of shell dropping.

Thu 28 (574-31) On phone 2 to 5 a.m. Messing round all day. O.C. roared Corp. W.). Bon tea out of Pugh's & Walker's parcels. On phone 10 to 12 MN.

Fri 29 (575-32). Up about 8.30 a.m. & went to O.P. Mr Hays & T.S. Not a bad job. On phone 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. O.C. up firing morn & afternoon.



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Sat 30            (576-33). Up about 7.30 a.m. as dugout was leaking. Nothing doing. Rec. 3 parcels & 5 letters. Fire all day. Baling water out of dugout. Had X'mas pudding of Florrie's for tea. Goodo. On phone till 3 a.m. on 31<sup>st</sup>. Saw (?) Hars during day.

Sun 31            (577-34). Packed up & went back to Bty about 9.30 a.m. went to W.L. after dinner, on Young's pack-horse, re F.G.C.M. Saw Bob who is going on leave about 11/1/17. Walked up road with him. Went to 4<sup>th</sup> Div. Art. Pommier's Redoubt for F.G.C.M. papers. Not there. Back to W.L. about 5.30 p.m. Slept there the night. Received X'mas parcel from home. Lost watch trotting to W.L. without stirrups.

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Mon 1            (578-35). Up about 7.30 a.m. Went to 12<sup>th</sup> A.F.A. Bde & got F.G.C.M. papers. Getting worse as Traffic Trooper's evidence has come to light with the wrong names on it. Gr. Newmarch wrote out summary of evidence & the papers will go on again. Back to pits after dinner. Night off telephone. Wrote letters. All heavy guns in action as I was coming from W.L.

Tue 2            (579-36). Up 9.30 a.m. On O.C.'s phone in action in afternoon.

Wed 3            (580-37). On phone 12 to 2 a.m. Runner to Q.P. Group HQrs. 3 trips. Phone 8 to 10.30 p.m. Brownie didn't.

Thu 4            (581-38). Up 7.45 a.m. Met Mr Hay, Mr Pugh at O.P. Proceeded to L.D. Separate dugout now. Fritz shelling on & off all day. Yesterday shell killed 10 & wounded others. Moonlight night. McM & I to O.P. Despatch.

Fri 5            (582-39). On phone 12 to 2 a.m. Also 6 to 8 a.m. then came up with Pugh to Q.P. -10<sup>th</sup> B.H.Q. with despatch. At battery at 11 a.m. 4.2 shells landing behind bty. Row about spooks. Message given as 'Bty fire'. Instead of 2 rds, 100 rds fired.

Sat 6            (583-40). On phone 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nothing doing. Sketch of tele lines for O.C. Rumour about moving on.

Sun 7            (584-41). Phone 12 to 4 a.m. as McM was crook & Mc C was "off phones". As usual. Turned in M.M. No phone shift.