

**ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
WAR DIARY**

**THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS
COURTRAI**

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1918

(EXCERPT)

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

IN THE LINE

YPRES

22/9/18

Enemy attacked on our left and captured some Belgian posts. Enemy using a considerable quantity of gas shells in area.

24/9-26/9/18

Holding line and patrolling actively both by day and night. Interval relief carried out on night 23-4.

27/9/18

1000 Battalion Headquarters moved from Ramparts to dugout at 1.9.a.8.4. on Menin Road. All preparations made for advance to Polygon Butt & Racecourse on 28th.

28/9/18

0530 In conjunction with Belgians on left 11 Corps attacked and captured Polygon Racecourse and established a line in front of Zonnebeke & Polygon running roughly S.W. Very heavy rain in forenoon.

29/9/18

0930 A., C., & $\frac{1}{2}$ B. Coy. advanced from Zonnebeke-Polygon Line in open country and fought their way without artillery support to E.26.c. where 26th. Bde. passed through and advanced as far as Ledeghem. B. Co. and parts of A. & C. went on with them and helped to capture Dadizeele. Rain again fell at evening.

30/9/18

At 0600 after sleeping in the open in pouring rain we got our rations and collected the scattered platoons of the battalion that had advanced with the 26th. Bde. Orders were received to advance but when Batt. reached the main Roulers-Dadizeele road orders were cancelled and Batt. spent day in farms in neighbourhood of Waterdamhoek.

Ypres

28/9/18

Orders were received for 9th. Division with the Belgians on left and 29th. Div. on right to attack and capture a line running S.W. from Zonnebeke and through Polygon. The advance was to be carried out under a barrage consisting of 2 smoke shells to one H.E. Order of troops attacking: - 86th. Bde. on right; 28th. Bde. in centre; 26th. Bde. on left; with 27th. Bde. as 9th. Divisional reserve.

0130

Battalion H.Q. moved from dugout on Menin Road to 1.10 a.4.5. (sheet 28) and companies move into assembly positions. 9th. Scottish Rifles were attacking battalions moved forward and assembled on tapes laid from Hell Fire Corner to 50 yards in front of Cork Cut. B.D. Coys. were front Coys. of this Batt. with C. in support to B. and A. in support to D. Coy. B. & D. Coys jumped off from front line trench. A. & C. with section of 9th. M.G.B. (attached to Batt.) formed up in the open 150 yards in rear.

At 0230 the Belgian barrage opened along the whole of the left of the attack while our heavies bombarded positions and batteries on British front. The Belgian barrage was terrific, Houthoult Forest seeming to get special attention. The enemy replied very lightly for about 15 minutes and then ceased altogether. The troops were all in very high spirits and the three hours bombardment kept them interested during the three hours wait before zero. 50% of the men had never been in action before. At 0530 the British artillery joined in the bombardment, the 18 pdr. barrage falling about half way between Hell Fire Corner & Rifle Farm and northwards past Boundary Farm and Thatch Barn. The barrage was good the smoke shells making it look very heavy and effective in the darkness.

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

YPRES
28/9/18

At 0503 the Batt. went over, D.Co. moving in artillery formation with its centre on Plank Road running E.& W. south of Cork Cott; and B. Coy. in direction of Rifle Farm with two platoons ordered to go south of Etang de Belle Waarde. The advance progressed steadily but about 0615 a company of 86th. Bde. crossed to left of Battn. causing some slight confusion in direction. This company however managed to get back in position. At 0630 O.C.B.Co. reported that he was just north of Wee Cott in 1.12 and in touch with front Battn. & 29th. div. 29th. Div. liason officer reported he had lost a company probably the one referred to above. About this time the rain commenced and came down very heavily for the rest of the advance. The ground became sodden and all the men got soaked through. The enemy offered very little resistance in comparison with the way he held onto this ground in 1917. The Batt. on right had a little fighting around Hooge and B. Co. had a duel with a machine gun in Chateau Wood but the pace of the advance was not interfered with.

YPRES &
POLYGON

0700

By 0700 O.C.B. Co. reported from north of Bellewaarde Lake with two platoons working through Chateau Wood. D.Co. were working up the northern end of Bellewaarde Ridge. Casualties up to present were exceedingly light only two wounded having been reported. At 0730 A.Co. supporting D.Co. moved too far left and later crossed Low Remains but regained its normal position when advancing up Polygon Ridge. Westhoek Ridge was captured on time and once over the ridge the battalion had simply to walk forward to first objective which was captured and organized for defense by 1200. Batt. took up a position in support in J.12.8.1.4. as shown in Appendix D. marked in red. Fortunately the rain stopped and the sun warmed and dried the men. We were in close touch with the Scottish Rifles and R.S.F. who sent down a large number of prisoners from Polygon. Bde.H.Q. established at Dead Mule (J.9.a.0.2.) with whom we soon got in touch with visual. Casualties reported up to 1500 were 15 other ranks. No casualties to officers. At 1530 the 27th. Bde. passed through us and established a line about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Polygon Butte. At 1600 the Battn. moved slightly forward and took up a position as marked in blue in J.10.a. Appendix D. Message from Bde. warned us that enemy counter attack might be expected from Keiberg and front line Regt. was ordered to put out a single line of trip wire. By evening everything was very quiet. The main roads were blocked with traffic and rations were not delivered until daylight on 29th.

POLYGON WOOD

At 0530 on 29th. Sept. orders were received from the Brigade that the advance would be continued in conjunction with the Belgians on the left whose objective was Moorslede, and with the 36th. Division on the right whose objective was Terhand.

K 15c

E 9d

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

POLYGON WOOD
28/9/18

9
Right boundary of the 28th. Bde. - a line drawn east & west through Judge Cross Roads in J.12.a.4.6. (28 N.E.); left boundary - line east and west through Kieberg E.26.a.4.7. Battalion was to attack on the left of Brigade with 9th. Scottish Rifles on right and 2nd. Royal Scots Fusiliers in reserve. In the battalion boundary line east and west through road junction J.5.a.9.4. It was decided to attack with A. Co. on the right, C. Co. in the centre and 2 platoons of B. Co. on the left with D. Co. and remainder of B. Co. in support. Battalion was to form up in squares D.28 south of Zonnebede and J.4. by 7 o'clock.

At 0915 the advance commenced. There was little or no artillery support, but the 27th. Bde. through whom we passed endeavoured to form a smoke barrage with rifle grenades. This however proved useless. No sooner was the Broodseind Becelaere Road crossed than battalion came under machine gun fire and on the left the enemy put down a fairly heavy barrage. On the right there was a certain amount of rifle fire from Celtic Wood, but this was soon overcome. The whole advance on these forward slopes had to be carried out by rushes. The enemy put up considerable resistance at Kieberg Ridge and it was only by very determined pushing that we were able to advance across the valley.

F250
In E.25.c. and D.30.B.Co. with the Belgians on their left were held up by a six-inch gun firing with open sights and supported by machine guns. B. Co. decided to attack this gun from the south. Half a platoon worked round and succeeded to gaining superiority of fire over the machine guns, then rushed the gun killing the gunners who were there. This enabled the Belgians to get north of Kieberg. B. Co. advanced through the village where they got at close grips with the enemy. It was reported by the artillery that the road was so blocked with German dead after this fight that all traffic was held up for some considerable time.

At 1130 it was reported that 2/Lieut. Duley had been wounded. On the right A. Co. was unable to advance beyond E.26.a.b. owing to very heavy machine gun fire from the farm in E.26.d.3.8. and one gun in E.26.c.8.8. and owing to the fact that touch had been lost with the Scottish Rifles who were somewhat to the rear. At 1325 Bde. Hqrs. were established at K.1.6.9.7. and at the same time a report was received that Capt. Rendell, O.C.D. Co. had been killed near the Hangar in E.26.c. At 1400 2/Lt. Williamson took over command of D. Co. and was ordered to take 2 platoons to the front line and establish themselves on the right of C. Co. The situation at 1430 was : - B.Co. just east of Kieberg with 2 platoons of C.Co. on the right; and D.Co. in E.26.c. with A.Co. on their right and slightly to the rear.

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&
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SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

POLYGON WOOD
28/9/18
4

The advance had ceased. Touch was made on the right with supporting company of the 9th. Scottish Rifles who were actually in the firing line.

At 1500 the 26th. Brigade advanced through us and one of our field guns got two direct hits on the farm from which the enemy was firing on A. Co. The battalion followed on in support of the 26th. Brigade as did the Scottish Rifles and Royal Scots Fusiliers on our right. In the evening the 26th. Brigade with the assistance of the 28th. Brigade captured Dadizeele and at 1830 the situation of the battalion was an outpost line established by B.C. & D. Coys. east of Stroo boom-back with A. Co. in support. With them was a section of the 9th. Battalion M.G.C. The Belgians were about 800 yards to the left and about 1000 yards forward. A battalion of Camerons, 26th. Brigade, had filled in the gap between B. Co. and the Belgians and was slightly forward of us. The 9th. Scottish Rifles were on our right and forward but we were not in touch with them. We established touch with a battalion of K.O.S.B. who were in support to the Camerons. These positions were held till just before daylight when battalion reformed in E.26.d.,

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the weather changed and became intensely cold and rain set in which continued throughout the night. Rations were not delivered until 5:30 on the morning of the 30th. when Battalion re-assembled.

During the advance taking into consideration the positions held by the enemy and the intensity of their fire our casualties were not unduly heavy. This was through the excellent way in which the men worked themselves forward by rushes under fire and were helped by accurate and well directed fire of their comrades.

Summary of Casualties for September: -

OFFICERS:-

Killed - Capt. H. Rendell MC. 29th. Sept.
2/Lt. L.T. Duley, " " .

Wounded - Capt. S. Gane 26th. Sept.
Lt. R. Postlethwaite " " .

OTHER RANKS: -

Killed 9
Wounded 92
Missing 5
Sick 38

Total 144

OPERATION ORDER NO. 37

by
Lt.Col. T.G. MATHAIS D.S.O.

Commanding 1st. Royal Newfoundland Regiment , 26/9/18.

Ref. Maps: 28 N.W. and N.E.

1. Intention. At "H" hour on "J" day the 9th. Division will attack.
2. Distribution. The 9th. Scottish Rifles will attack on the right, 2nd. Royal Scouts Fusiliers on the left, 1st. R. Newfoundland Regt. will be in reserve. C. Coy. 9th. MGB. & 107th. RMB. are attached to 28th. Bde.
3. Stokes Mortars. Two Stokes Mortars are attached to each front line Bn. to advance with Coy. H.Q. These is dealing with any M.G's. & c. will (first) fire one round at it to warn our infantry that they are going to open there. After a suitable short pause they will fire four rounds rapid at the same object, our infantry creeping up. When the fourth round has been fired infantry should at once advance, since no more will be fired at same objective without arrangement by the Co. Commanders.
4. Machine Guns. Four Machine Guns are allotted to the Bn.. Their role (being arranged) is to fire overhead on Westhoek Ridge, then Anzac Ridge, Polygon Veldt and final objective. M.G. Section attached to this Regt. will form up in rear of Bn. At the final objective they will select position to assist in repelling a by counter attack. Until other troops go through they will fire bursts overhead in the valleys about.
5. Artillery. Attack will be made under 18 Pdr. barrage of H.E. (1) and Smoke (2). At "H" hour barrage opens 300 yards E. of front assembly line and moves 100 yards in 3 minutes with 3 minutes additional halt every 500 yards. There will be one hours pause on Westhoek Ridge if troops are up to time and 15 minutes on Anzac Ridge and again at Glasgow Spur. Corps. H.A. is putting down a creeping barrage conforming with 18.pdr. barrage.
After the capture of Westhoek Ridge batteries RFA. move up and open fire.
6. Assembly. On the 1/J. night assaulting Bns. will take over advanced posts from 1st. Bn.R.Newfoundland Regt. before arrival of assaulting troops. Orders for move to assembly position will be issued when received from Bde. H.Q. Direction poles will be placed by the two leading Bns. in the present NO MANS LAND. Two poles 10 feet high at a distance of 200 yards will mark the outer flanks and the dividing line between leading Bns. Flank direction boards are round. Boards for centre line are triangular. O.C.A. & C. Coys. will cut away at once the lower strands of our wire, and after dusk on 1/J/ night the upper strands, thus making four gaps on each Coy. front about 70 yards apart. These gaps to be marked by tape on 1/J. night. Coys. must form up quietly, there must be no noise and no smoking.

1st. Bn. ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

Addendum to Operation Order No.37.

12. CO-Operation
of R.A.F.
Contract.

(1) The attacking troops will carry red flares, American cloth on Box Respirators, and Discs for the purpose of communicating with contact aeroplanes.

(11) These and every other practicable means of signalling their position will be used by attacking troops at:

H. (zero) plus 2 hrs. 12 mins. and at
H. (") " 4 hours.

and at such other times as called for by contact aeroplane.

(111) The contact aeroplane will call for signals from the attacking troops by sounding a Klaxon horn and dropping white lights.

(1v) The counter aeroplanes will be marked by two black rectangular flags (2 ft. by 1 ft. 3 in.) attached to and projecting from the lower plane on each side of the fusilage and each contact aeroplane will also have a trailing streamer. All ranks will be warned how to recognise a contact aeroplane.

12.(b) Counter-
Attack
Aeroplanes.

A counter attack aeroplane will be in the air on QQ. Corps front from "H" plus one hour onwards for the purpose of giving warning of an impending hostile attack. On perceiving hostile infantry moving up to the attack the counter attack aeroplane will call for annihilating artillery fire by the wireless "LL" or "GF" call and will also signal the fact that a hostile attack is impending by dropping a red Parachute Bery Light.

12.(c) Dropping of
Amm. From
Aeroplanes.

(111) Infantry will signal that ammunition is wanted as follows: -

N. Machine gun post requiring M.G. Ammunition Bundle packed ammunition required.

13. Bns. will report when the attack is launched by sending a priority wire which should be written beforehand.
Code word "OFF".

14. Intelligence. Escorts to prisoners will ensure that officer prisoners are searched for documents at once and that documents are handed over with the prisoners. Care should be taken that no opportunity is afforded other prisoners for disposing of documents before they are handed over.

15. Light Signals. Red Smoke R.G. - Artillery support wanted/
Blue Smoke R.G.- Objective gained.
Green over Green)
over Red) - S. O. S.
Red Ground Flare - Infantry to contact patrol
White Very Light - Infantry to RAF, SAA.
Carriers.

16. Synchronization
of Watches. Action of, and liason with flank Bdes. will be issued later.

(Sgd.) A. Raley,

Capt. & Adjt.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 1.

FOR

THE FORTHCOMING OPERATIONS.

24/9/18

May Ref. 28 NW. & 28 NE. 1/20000.1. Equipment.Tools.

- (a) Each platoon will carry 4 shovels and each Coy. H/Q. 2, and in addition this Bn. will carry forward to J.7.b. as many shovels and picks from dumps in present line as possible.
- (b) 16 rifle wire cutters will be issued to each Coy. in addition to Regtl. property.
- (c) Vigilant periscopes or tin discs for flashing to contact aeroplanes when called upon Klaxon horn will be carried.
- (d) Ground flares have been issued.

RAF

2/Supplies

(i) Rations.

The unexpired portion of Z Days Rations together with biscuit rations for Z plus 1 day will be carried on the man.

(b) An ordinary fresh ration will be delivered early on Y day for consumption on Z day.

(c) A p.m. ration will be consumed on Z plus 1 day.

(ii) Rum.

A full ration of rum for all troops in trenches will be delivered for consumption on X/Y and Y/Z nights.

(iii)

Solidified Alcohol.

The normal ration per day is at present about 25 tins per Bn. In addition to this the Bn. will be issued 450 ozs. This will be proportionately issued to Coys.

(iv) Chewing Gum.

600 pieces will be issued to the Bn. Q.M. will issue to Cos.

3. Water.

(a) Each man will carry his water bottle filled.

(b) Water supply will be maintained by means of pack transport.

(c) Q.M. will draw a supply of sterilizing tablets from 9th. Div. train.

(d) Unless every available water tin is returned for refilling the supply will break down.

4. Storage of Barrage & c.

All officers kilts & c. will be sent down to transport lines on Y/Z night. T.O. will arrange transport.

5. Prisoners of War.

All prisoners will be taken to the advanced collecting post at 1.8.b.6.4. (opposite Menin X Roads) which will move forward to Mill Cott 1.5.a.0/7. Receipts must always be obtained for p's of war. The numbers of prisoners for whom receipts have been obtained must be notified to Bn. H.Q. by 1900 daily.

6. Special Stores.

All special stores will be withdrawn as soon as the situation permits. Care must therefore be taken of them.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 1.

FOR

THE FORTHCOMING OPERATIONS.

24/9/18

7. Casualties. (a) Estimated Casualty returns must be rendered at the earliest possible moment. It is only by prompt rendering of this return that the necessary indent for reinforcements can be wired to Division.
- (b) Names and natures of all officer casualties must be forwarded as early as possible after they occur.

(Sgd.) A. Raley,

Capt. & Adjt.

28th. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

B.M. 289

2nd. Royal Scots. Fus.
9th. Sco. Rifles.
1st. Ry. Nfld. Regt.

ALL RANKS 28th. INFANTRY BRIGADE, 27/9/18.

Brigadier has heard of your gallantry, has seen your smartness, and prays you use your wits.

Keep as close as you can to 18-pdr. (Pipsqueek) barrage. Its there, so don't go into it. Never mind your dressing.

Reply at once to an enemy small arm fire. Fire at once at an enemy you see in range. - slowly and accurately from the quickest position, lying, standing or kneeling.

Don't crowd, the loose order will save you casualties if you use your wits.

Watch your flanks and draw them back if necessary.

If held up reply steadily to the fire whilst your comrades get around.

If necessary help your comrades on flank by cross fire.

Surround pill-boxes and machine guns. They can only fire one or two ways.

Don't have more than 100x between sections. Don't scatter from your sections, file is best for advancing, a few paces interval for firing.

Push steadily forward in your little groups, using slow covering fire where necessary, and stick roughly to your own line of advance.

Good Luck.

(Sgd.) James JACK,

Brigadier-General,
Commanding 28th. Infantry Brigade.

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

STRONBOOMHOEK

1/10/18 0700

Battalion assembled in K.4.b. prior to advancing to the Lys in reserve behind 26 & 27 Bdes. Attack on 9th. Div. front went well at the start and proceeded through Ledeghem, but touch was lost on right where 36th. Div. failed to make progress and 9th. Div. were under heavy enfilade fire from the right. This compelled the two Bdes. of 9th. Div. to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties.

0800

Bde. ordered this Batt. to proceed to front line and relieve the portions of 26 and 27 Bde. near Ledeghem. No information could be given as to situation except that we were holding the station at Ledeghem. After some searching the H.Q. of 10 Royal Scots were located and orders were issued to the Batt. to take over from them. The line we took over was from about 300 yards north of Ledeghem Station along the railway to about 200 yards south, then swinging back facing S.E. with the right resting on stream Woldambeke. Relief was complete at 2230. Batt. H.Q. established in station yard.

LEDEGHEM.

2/10/18

Orders were received to prepare to continue the advance but final orders were never received. At 1630 the enemy put down a short but heavy barrage which fortunately passed over our line. A few minutes later he was observed from many points to be trying to form up for a counter attack. The enemy did not look keen and never seemed dangerous. He was observed from time to time until dusk when things quietened down.

3/10/18

Holding line at Ledeghem.. Very quiet except for an enemy field gun at close range (600 yards) which caused some casualties. The enemy planes were very persistent in flying low over our lines.

4/10/18 0500

Moved Batt. H.Q. from station to Telford farm in L.I.D. Our artillery did periodical shoots on Ledeghem. At 1630 our guns managed to hit the church which was believed to be used by enemy as an observation post.

1830

A barrage moving 200 yards per 5 minutes was dropped on the village to enable our patrols to ascertain if village was held in strength by the enemy. It was. At 2240. Batt. was relieved by 2nd. R.S.F. and went into reserve at K.6.o. & K.12. b., Sheet 28 N.E., with Batt. H.Q. in pill box K.12.a. On march out Batt. H.Q. were caught in a very heavy area shoot at cross roads in L.1.c. and suffered 12 casualties.

5/10/18

Uneventful day. Relieved at night by 2nd. Royal Fusiliers (29th. Div.).

6/10/18 0220

Relief complete and marched to reserve billets in E.26. Very dark night and all Coys. got lost for a time but managed to report before daylight. On march out Batt. H.Q. suffered further casualties through enemy shell fire.

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

LEDGEHEM

7/10/18 1800
8/10/18

Batt. moved to E.25.f. and d. in bivouacs.
Batt. did a little drill & cleaning up. Rainy.
Relieved by 12 Royal Scots and 28th. Bde.
again proceeded to the line. Batt. in Bde.
reserve in E.26. Heavily shelled and bombed at
night.

9/10/18

A/RSM. Burns appointed 2/Lieut. to date from
June 28/18.

KEIBERG

11/10/18
12/10-13/10/18
14/10/18 0530

Moved to Keiberg area E.25. *See next page*

In rest at Keiberg.

Neerhof - Lys
Attacked from north of Ledeghem. Captured
many prisoners, 8 guns & 94 machine guns. Smoke
barrage & fog combined made it impossible to see
two yards until Neerhof was reached where fog
lifted and Batt. was found to be in touch and in
position. Lt. F.M. Burke was killed just after
advancing over heights in A.1. and 2/Lt. Taylor
M.C. DCM fatally wounded. Enemy held up Bde.
from wood in G.3.a.

15/10/18 0900

Advance was resumed and very little opposition
was met with until the Lys was reached. Bde.
was in reserve and advance in column of route
all day. At night Batt. was in billets in G.5.a.

16-17-18/10/18

Batt. remained in reserve in G.5. Strength
9 officers 374 o.r.

19/10/18

Batt. drilled and practised crossing narrow
foot bridges and deploying. C.O. forward
reconnoitering. At 1830 Bde. marched to position
near west bank of Lys.

20/10/18

T. d.
At 0430 Batt. in Bde. reserve followed remaind-
er of Bde. across the Lys. At 0600 under barrage
the advance was resumed. At 0800 B. Co. were
sent to form a defensive flank on the left where
there was no touch. Shortly after 1100 we had
captured all objectives and orders were issued for
this Batt. to push on through the other Batts.
and advance on the Scheldt. These orders however
were not received until the barrage had ceased.
At this time the Batt. was dug in facing S.E. at
I.16. During the afternoon the advance was continu-
ed and we pushed on a few hundred yards and reach-
ed the railway at Vichte, where we had some hard
fighting. 2/Lt. Burns was wounded. At night we
drew back our line on the left making it face due
east from the station at Vichte to main road in l.
23.b.6.7. Our left was out of touch and a gap
of 600 yards separated us from 26th. Bde. on right.

21/10/18

The 36th. Division & French on our left advanced
but made but little progress, and it was not until
evening that we were able to get a patrol through
to 36th. Div. who had one isolated Batt. due north
of our left about 600 yards away. At 2300. we were
relieved by 12 Royal Scots and marched back to
Harlebeke.

22/10/18

Arrived in Harlebeke between 0100 and 0300.
Arrangements for billets & C. were exceedingly bad.

23/10/18 1000

Marched past B.G.C. in file. Strength 256.

24/10/18 1800

Batt. moved to position of assembly at 1800
arriving about 2200 in l.30 d. Draft of 25 arrived.

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

KEIBERG

25/10/18

0115 D. Co. billet was hit by a shell and set on fire causing 7 casualties. Area where Batt. was assembled was heavily shelled all night. Four out of five farms occupied by Batt. were hit.

0900 Batt. advanced in Bde. reserve under good barrage. The enemy put down an accurate barrage but not heavy. Advance continued until Ingoyghem was reached where enemy put up a strong resistance from hills in P.12 & P.5. Sheet 29 SE 1/20000.

INGOYGHEM

25/10/18

At dusk the advance had stopped and Batt. which had gone forward into the firing line was withdrawn to J.26.c. & J.31. b. Sheet 29 NE.

26/10/18

A. B. & C. Coys. again went forward to patrol the front - the enemy was reported to have gone back on the right. These Coys. brought down heavy fire from artillery & M.G's. The enemy had not withdrawn on our front. Coys. got back at 1830 and at 1930 without a relief Batt. marched to billets in Harlebeke where all arrangements were made to receive them.

28/10/18

Marched past Brigadier.

29/10/18

Marched from Harlebeke to billets in Bavichove, distance $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Heavily bombed all night.

30/10-31/10/18

Training in Bavichove. Enemy bombed billets heavily on 30th. but only caused 1 casualty. 2/Lt. Wornell rejoined.

On the night of Oct. 13. the Batt. marched from Keiberg (Map ref. E. ~~25~~ 25.b.) to the front line holding railway north of Ledeghem. On the way up the battalion had to pass through a considerable amount of shelling; fortunately in this unit only a few casualties were sustained. At 5:30 a.m. on Oct. 14th. the battalion attached (with the 2nd. Royal Scots Fusiliers on the left) under a smoke & H.E. barrage, with B. Coy on the right and D. Coy. on the left in front, A. & C. Coys in support. The whole advance up to Neerhof in L.4. Central was made under most extraordinary circumstances owing to a thick ground mist rising and combining with the smoke. It was impossible to see two yards, but Headquarters managed to get in touch with A. Coy., C. & D. Coys. by shouting, and also running to the left Coy. of the Dublin Fusiliers who were advancing on the left of the 29th. Division on our right. The advance was done entirely by compass bearing and a large number of prisoners were captured in cellars and pill boxes without showing any fight. One platoon alone captured 34 machine guns and in one case a Coy. Commander walked right on to and fell over an enemy machine gun and gunners. As the Battalion neared Neerhof a slight breeze sprang up and dispersed the fog and smoke.

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

INGOYGHEN

30/10-31/10/18

D. Coy. was at this time within a few yards of an enemy battery of field guns who opened fire at point blank range killing and wounding many men. Here the Brigade halted and reorganized on line north and south in front of Neerhof in L.4.b. & d. After reorganizing the advance was continued. The battalion came under machine gun fire while crossing the Weilfbameke, but after overcoming this position advance was continued to the high ground in G.1.a. & c. in which line Brigade had orders to hold until further orders were received from Division. While holding the hill the enemy bombarded us with a battery of field guns & trench mortars, but one platoon of B. Coy. having gone south of the ridge continued to advance towards Drie-Masten in G.8.a. They encountered a battery of four guns supported by machine guns. These they outflanked and captured bayoneting one gunner and turning their machine guns on the men who were trying to escape. The advance was then continued through G.2. towards Laaga-Kapel where considerable opposition was met from direction of cross in G.3.a. and Steenbeek, here the enemy held up the advance and the fighting continued until dusk. No further advance was made. In the advance from the heights in G.1. Lieut. Burke commanding A. Co. was hit through the head and died shortly after, and within a few minutes Lieut. Taylor of B. Coy was also fatally wounded.

During the advance the Regiment captured about 500 prisoners and over 100 machine guns. At 6 p.m. Battalion dug in and occupied a line from G.3.a.22 to G.3.c.10 and during the night sent out patrols who also took in as far as G.3.b.42. Between 4 and 6 they shelled our line heavily with field guns and trench mortars but casualties were fortunately slight. At 9 o'clock in the morning of the 15th. the advance was continued by the 9th. Division with the 28th. Brigade in reserve. Very little opposition was met with and Battalion marched in column of route as far as G.5.a. where we billeted for the night.

On Oct. 19th. at 11 p.m. under a good barrage the 26th. & 28th. crossed the Lys with this battalion in support to the 28th. Brigade and moved to a position in B.28.d. and 29.e. The 26th. Brigade on the right crossed by a narrow foot bridge at B.30.d.0.4. and also had a pontoon on one side of the bridge and a raft on the other, each taking ten men a trip. The 28th. Brigade crossed at B.30.c.7.6. but at 11 p.m. the footbridge was not built and Regiment had to cross on pontoon and raft. The footbridge however was built shortly after. The crossing was carried with very few casualties.

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

INGOYGHM

30/10-31/10/18

At 4.30a.m. on Oct. 20th. Battn. moved off and crossed the Lys by 5.30 with only one casualty and formed up about 300 yards in rear of the R.S.F. and S.R. At 6 a.m. the advance was continued under a barrage. The 36th. Division on the left did not advance as quickly as the 9th. Division, and the R.S.F. left was exposed and suffered rather heavy casualties. At about 8 o'clock B. Coy. was sent forward to form a defensive flank to protect left of the Brigade. About 11 a.m. Brigade gained all its objectives including the valley of Deerlyck in I.9. and Cycle Battalion pushed forward in front of us and reported that they had reached the railway at Vichte. Battalion was withdrawn and ordered to dig in at I.16 facing south east but at 12.10 we received orders to advance under a barrage from Vichte at 12.35 p.m. This was quite impossible to do as Battn. was over a mile from the barrage and Company Commanders had to be informed of the scheme. The barrage was all over before the Battn. moved. At 12.40 p.m. O.C.C.Coy. reported sick and 2/Lt. Burns took over C. Coy. During the evening we advanced and crossed the railway at Vichte, A. & C. Coys. in front with D. & B. Coys. in close support. It was hoped we would be able to push on to the Scheldt but the enemy was holding the high ground in J.3.1. & 2. very strongly and also our left was exposed to very heavy enfilade fire from machine guns and field guns from the direction of Knock in I.24. We had suffered very heavy casualties, and the men were dead beat. At 4 p.m. A. & C. Coys. tried to push on but only got a short distance under very heavy machine gun fire. C. Coy. managed to withdraw to their original line, but A. Coy. could not withdraw till dusk. At dusk we withdrew our line on the left and dug in posts from Vichte Station in I.30 to main road at I.23.b.67. Batt. Hqrs. were established at I.23.b.13. On our extreme left we posted two sections of the 9th. Machine Gun Batt. but were quite unable to obtain touch with anybody on the left. During the evening 2/Lt. Burns was wounded and 2/Lt. Newman took over C. Coy. After dark the enemy in front quietened down and towards evening of the 21st. we managed to obtain touch with the 36th. Division who were about 600 yards away on the left having advanced during the morning.

At 1800 on Oct. 24th. Battalion moved from Harlebeke to I.30 d. where they assembled prior to advancing in the morning. Strength 382 other ranks and 8 officers. At 0115 on Oct. 25th. a shell struck the farm in which D. Coy. were billeted and set it on fire causing 8 casualties. All night the enemy shelled heavily. At 9 o'clock under a barrage 9th. Division advanced.

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

INGOYGHEN
1918

Battalion was in Brigade reserve with D. Coy. on the right, C. Coy. on the left, and A. Coy. in support. B. Coy. was lent to the S.R. to guard their left flank in case the 36th. Division did not progress and had orders to attack the high land around Beryinjck in P.5.c. from the south. Our barrage was good as also was the machine gun barrage, but the enemy put down a very accurate barrage doing some accurate shooting from farm houses. On the left they chiefly used H.E. but on the right there seemed to be more gas. The enemy held on for a short time to the left on Hill 50 in J.32.c. & d. but was eventually driven off the hill; there progress became much slower than in previous offensives. The advance stopped in the outskirts of Ingoyghem which was west of our first objective. After two hours rest in J.17 & P.2. advance was resumed and Brigade pushed through Ingoyghem. In our going from Ingoyghem Brigade had to advance down a forward slope with high land on their left front and Hill 44 in P.9. P. on their right, both strongly held by the enemy with machine guns also under direct observation of the enemy battery from the high land south east of Scheldt. A. & C. Coys. were ordered up and tried to advance, but could not make much progress. At 1510 2/Lt. Newman was wounded in attempting to push forward and 2/Lt. Cooper took over C. Coy. The enemy was holding an extremely strong position with perfect field of fire for machine guns and any movement on the part of troops was received with very heavy fire from their guns. At 1600 it was decided to hold the line then occupied, our Battn. withdrew into support in J.26.c. and J.31.b. Though there was some hard fighting during the day, the men did not appear so fatigued as they did after the fight on Oct. 20th. Casualties had not been heavy.

SUMMARY OF CASUALTIES.

Lieut. F. M. Burke	Killed in Action	Oct. 14/18
2/Lt. A. E. Taylor, MC DCM	Died of Wounds	" 17 "
Capt. R. G. Patterson, MC	Wounded	" 14 "
2/Lt. A. F. Power	"	" " "
" M. J. Penny	"	" " "
" W. Burns	"	" 20 "
" A. S. Newman	"	" 25 "

Other Ranks: -

Killed	39
Wounded	171
Missing	15
Sick	<u>102</u>
Total	327

DISTINCTIONS GAINED

Military Cross	2
Bar to "	1
D.C.M.	7
M.M.	16
Bar to M.M.	2

Downing Street,
3rd October, 1925.

NEWFOUNDLAND

No. 97.

Sir:

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Great War Battle Honours claimed on behalf of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, I have the honour to request you to inform your Ministers that His Majesty has been pleased to approve the award to the Regiment of the Honours shewn in the enclosed list.

The Honours underlined are those which have been selected to be borne on the Colours or appointments of the Regiment.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant,

(Sgd.) L.S. Amery.

Governor
Sir W.L. Allardyce, K.C.M.G.,
etc. etc. etc.

ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

The Great War.

"Somme, 1916" "Albert (Beaumont Hamel) 1916"
"Le Transloy", "Arras, 1917" "Scarpe, 1917"
"Ypres, 1917, '18", "Langemarck, 1917"
"Poelcappelle", "Cambrai, 1917" "Lys", "Bailleul",
"Kemmel", "Courtrai", "France and Flanders, 1916-18"
"Gallipoli, 1915-16" "Egypt, 1915-16".

PLACE
&
DATE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

HARLEBEKE 22111 / G152
3/11/18 0830 Batt. moved from Harlebeke to Gullegghem
distance about 7 miles. Draft of 200 o.r.
joined. Rainy.

GULLEGHEM
4/11/18 0530 Batt. marched from Gullegghem to Harlebeke
for Divisional ceremonial drill on aerodrome.
Rainy.
5/11/18 0730 Batt. marched from Gullegghem to Harlebeke
where Division was inspected by H.M. the
King and Queen of Belgium after which
Division marched past and returned to billets
at 1500. Very wet all day.
6/11/18 Capt. J.R. Stick, Lieut. E.R.A. Chafe and
2/Lt. Forsey rejoined Batt. from leave to
Newfoundland.
7/11-8/11/18 Parades under O.C. Coys.
9/11/18 The following appointed 2/Lieuts: -
1939 CSM. Mew, 1436 Sergt. Cornick, F.,
3601 Sergt. Chafe, R., 1826 Sergt. Rose,
A.S., DCM. MM., 1308 Sergt. Stanford DCM.,
1814 CQMS. Haynes. Lieut J. Williams rejoined
Batt.

CUERNE
10/11/18 Batt. marched from present billets to
Cuerne, distance 4 miles.
11/11/18 No parade owing Germans signing Armistice.
2/Lt. E. Ellis & Lt. Janes joined Batt.