

“Expect to like this great as it
may be exciting.”

**The War Diary of
Sapper John Popham
Fotheringham**

June 1917 - January 1919

June 2009



Jack P. Fotheringham
587300
9th Artillery Bde. Hqtrs
C. F. A. Attached
3rd Can Div Sup.

Spr. Jack P. Fotheringham
507300
9th Art. Bde Hqtrs
C. F. A.
3rd Can Div. Art. Sigs.

Headmaster
M. ...

U.
Army ...

Sapper John Popham Fotheringham served as a driver with the 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery in France and Belgium from June 1917 to January 1919.

His diary, on its own, is not particularly detailed, except in certain small parts. However, when meshed with the War Diary of the Brigade, and the history of the Canadian Army in action in World War 1, it becomes evident that Sapper Fotheringham was involved in some of the biggest battles of the latter stages of the war - Amiens, Cambrai, Arras - only missing Passchendaele as he recovered from exposure to mustard gas in September 1917.

John Popham Fotheringham was born in Ottawa on May 19th, 1897 to John Turnbull Fotheringham and Mary Popham Fotheringham. His sister, Laura, was born two years later.

His uncle, George Beveridge Fotheringham (father of cousin Lieutenant John Beveridge Fotheringham) served with the Ottawa Field Battery during the Fenian Raid of 1866.

J.P. Fotheringham studied Applied Science at McGill University in 1915 to 1916, serving in the cadet corps with CCTC McGill.

On August 24th, 1916, at Ottawa, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a Sapper (Private) with the Canadian Engineers, being posted to the 3rd Canadian Divisional Signal Company.

Following training, he left Canada on January 16th, 1917 on the RMS Scandinavian, arriving in England on

February 6th. He arrived in Le Havre, France, on May 24th, 1917.



He marched from the Divisional Rest Camp and joined the 3rd Canadian Divisional Company on June 9th, 1917. After two weeks of sports and cleaning horse harnesses, he was attach posted to the Headquarters of the 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, where he stayed until the end of the war.

On March 17th, 1919, Sapper Fotheringham sailed from Southampton for Canada on the RMS Olympic, a sister ship of the Titanic and one of the few big liners to survive the war. He was demobilized on March 28th with his medical certificate noting that he had been gassed on September 4th, 1917 but had recovered.

John Fotheringham returned to McGill University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in 1923. He married Ruth Abbot Brooks and had three children,

John, Janet and Brooks. After working for the Northern Electric Company for his entire career, he retired in 1964.

John Popham Fotheringham died on June 28th, 1980 at 83 years of age, and is buried in the Fotheringham family plot in Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa.



JANUARY

A	.	-				y	-	.	-	-
B	-	.	.	.		Z	-	-	.	.
C	-	.	-	.						
D	-	.	.	.						
E	.									
F	.	.	.	-	.					
G	-	-	.							
H						
I	.	.								
J	.	-	-	-	-					
K	-	.	-							
L	.	-	.	.						
M	-	-								
N	-	.								
O	-	-	-							
P	.	-	-	.						
Q	-	-	.	-						
R	.	-	.							
S	.	.	.							
T	-									
U	.	.	-							
V	.	.	.	-						
W	.	-	-							
X	-	.	.	-						

Page 2 - 104720

Jerry Willoughby
Queens Ambulance Corps
Old College Barracks
Kingston

Page 3

Ella Elight
16 Sweetland Ave.
Ottawa

Watkins
266 Elgin Ave.
London W.

Miss Pinkers
Miss Smith
Tea Room
Crowborough
Sussex
England

Page 4

Miss Minnie Baker
Brooklyn Cottage
Crowborough

Robby
C.E. Cable Section
Can. Corps Signals
B.A. in Field
France

Razor # 104720 Auto Strop
Watch # Birks
10,935
Sterling Silver
3284780

Pte G. W. Willoughby
15th Field Ambulance
(Queen's) C.A.M.C.
Army P.O.
London

Page 5

Left Crowboro	May 23/17
In Southampton	May 23/17
Left Southampton	May 24/17
In Le Havre	May 24/17
Left Le Havre	May 27/17
In Etaples	May 28/17
Left Etaples	June 2/17
In Abbeyville	June 2/17
Left Abbeyville	June 5/17
In Etaples	June 5/17 11 a.m.
Left Etaples	June 6/17 4:30 a.m.

9 June 1917 - Left D. Rest and marched to 3rd Signal Divisional Headquarters about 9 or 10 miles. Close to Vimy Ridge about 2-1/2 miles. Guns pounding fairly heavily. Fairly tired but got great meal when we arrived. The chaps here say Fritz's planes drop bombs here on the camp about every night but not the last two nights. So it may not come tonight. Old French trenches and a ruined and shelled church and village

called Mt. S. Eloi. Expect to like this great as it may be exciting.

9 June 1917 (sic) - Up before Adjutant first thing this morning and spent the rest building a sleeping quarters (some quarters) and cleaned harnesses all afternoon. Wrote letters in evening. Quiet on our front nearly all night.

10 June 1917 - Cleaned harness all morning and went about 4 miles in trucks to Corps to see a game of baseball. We lost by 13 - 6. Played baseball all evening. Saw Robby.

11 June 1917 - Rainy all forenoon. Cleaned harness all day.

12 June 1917 - Rainy and partly clear. Cleaned harness all day. Laura's birthday - 18 today. Two letters from home from Dorothy H. Air battle on right above us. The British brought down 3 Huns today. Fritz bombarded very heavily tonight.

13 June 1917 - Fine and warm. Cleaned harness as usual all day and from 6 - 7:30; the Corporal is a \$?! Ball game between Horse lines and Officer Staff - H.L. 11 to 9 (O.S.)

14 June 1917 - Cleaned harness till 4:10 and our display of horses and wagon won at horse show (first prize). Paid in the morning. Quite a few Fritz's planes came over but after some good scrapping were chased back. Observation balloon (British) brought down and both observers killed. Steve came over to see us. He's in 8th Field Coy C.E.s, and I ran into Curly Hill.

Golly, it sure was good to see him again. He's in the 8th Field Coy too.

15 June 1917 - Cleaned harness till 4 and then our team won first prize (150 francs) and we didn't get a damn cent. Curly Hill came over and we spent all evening together.

16 June 1917 - Cleaned harness all day and saw Curly and Steve this evening. Curly went up the line last night building dug-outs and went up again this evening.

17 June 1917 - Peach of a day. Cleaned harness all day and Curly Hill and I went up to 9 Field Coy and saw Johnie Grew.

18 June 1917 - Cleaned harness all day and then went down with our display to Chateau de la Haie and slept there all night.

19 June 1917 - Got up at 4:30 and cleaned harness until 9:30. Then our display went up to field at 10 and didn't win anything. Came home about 5 o'clock.

20 June 1917 - Loafed around nearly all day. Saw Curly in the evening.

21 June 1917 - Loafed again. Curly, Steve and I went to a concert at the Y.M. in the evening.

22 June 1917 - Transferred to 9th Bde Artillery to look after a moth-eaten old plug because the work didn't agree with the other chap. I see where my happy days are over for a while now.

9 Canadian Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was part of the 3rd Canadian Division's Divisional Artillery. It joined the Division in July 1916, and consisted of 3 Field Batteries and 1 Howitzer Battery - 31, 33 and 45 Field Battery, and 36 Howitzer Battery.

23 June 1917 - Saw one of our own planes collapse about 1500 ft altitude. He tried a corkscrew dive and his planes broke away from body of machine and he came down head first. Me for the ground a while yet it's safer even in the Signal Coy.

24 June 1917 - Found out that R.F.C. fellow's name¹. Forrester McAllister, good friend of the Bakers. Fritz active last night.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 24 June 1917 - The enemy Artillery activity considerable above normal today, both on our trenches and points in rear. During the morning the 36th, 33rd and 43rd Battery positions in VIMY were quite heavily shelled with 5.9s.

Our Feint Barrage was laid down at 10 a.m., as per O.O. <Operation Order> No. 89 and was observed to be accurately placed and well distributed. There was no heavy retaliation, on our front, but our Left Division received a severe shelling afterwards. There were scattered bursts of trench mortar and artillery fire during the night. Our Batteries retaliated in each case.

25 June 1917 - Dorothy's birthday. Worked same as usual.

26 June 1917 - Same as ever. Infantry took Hun's front line without resistance.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 26 June 1917 - Today the enemy effected a withdrawal from his forward positions, retiring to AVION TRENCH. Our Infantry patrols kept in touch with his Rear Guard and finally consolidated in AGENT and ADEPT Trenches, their proposed objective.

27 June 1917 - Went up line with Howard Stewart (a McGill man) and just got away from Headquarters in time as Fritz sent a bunch over on the ridge right near us. We got in about 11:30. Believe me - it was some trip and my first one at that.

28 June 1917 - Rained hard in the morning. Worked hard as usual. Got Mat's parcel.

29 June 1917 - Worked hard all day and picket at night.

30 June 1917 - Rained all day. Worked as usual.

1 July 1917 - Half holiday.

2 July 1917 - Worked on lines.

3 July 1917 - Ditto.

7 July 1917 - Lieutenant John Beveridge Fotheringham (JPF's cousin) is shot down and killed near Houthem, Belgium, with his pilot, Second Lieutenant John Victor Ariel Glead, of the Royal Flying Corps. Lieutenant Fotheringham had graduated from McGill with a Bachelor of Science in 1916. He was appointed a Lieutenant with the 148th Battalion (Quebec Regiment), Canadian

Expeditionary Force and transferred to 45 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps while overseas. He has no known grave, and is commemorated in name on the Flying Services Memorial in Arras, France.



JOHN BEVERIDGE FOTHERINGHAM
B.Sc., 1916

Born at Ottawa, Ont., March 20th, 1892. Appointed Lieutenant in the 148th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, December 9th, 1915. Transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. Served in France. Killed in an encounter with enemy planes, July 7th, 1917.



*Lieutenant John Beveridge Fotheringham
45 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps*

13 July 1917 - Fritz shelled woods adjacent - first time 11:15, 3 shots, 2nd time about 1:30 - 2 o'clock, 2 shots. Close enough to ... me. Mud and earth all over dug-out.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 13 July 1917 - The 36th Battery position at S.18.a.98.10 was shelled today, some ammunition being lost. A heavy shoot was also put on the 11th Battery and several casualties suffered.

14 July 1917 - Up line with rations in evening. Under shell fire.

19 July 1917 - Fritz brought down one of our balloons with shrapnel.

25 July 1917 - Moved to Brebis from Vimy - 16 kilometres. Straffe on tonight. Walked whole distance avec full kit. Sure am tired now.

3 August 1917 - Two French kids blown to hell (crossed out) by Mills bomb right behind position at Brebis.

9 August 1917 - Fritz has levelled everything from the front to Moroch with his big guns trying to get our heavies. R.F.C. got one of his balloons.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 9 August 1917 - Eight enemy balloons up this morning. One of our planes crossed the enemy lines and brought down one balloon in flames and forced two others to descend. No enemy planes up. Enemy artillery very active on counter-battery work about MAROC and the rear areas. Considerable movement observed in the rear country.

13 August 1917 - Our lines shelled last night. Got all horses out pretty quickly, believe me.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 12 August 1917 - Enemy artillery fairly active on our support trenches with all calibres and LOOS and our rear areas received considerable quantities from enemy 5.9s.

13 August 1917 (sic) - Heavy bombardment by our guns - last 4:30 this morning and have heard that our troops have captured their objective and at least 2500 Fritzes - Lens Front.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 15 August 1917 - Operation Order No. 100 was carried out today starting at 4.30 a.m. The enemy barrage was very heavy on the area to our right but later in the day became very intense on our front. The infantry reached their final objective, HUGO TRENCH on HILL 70, on schedule time. Several counterattacks against this famous hill were launched by the enemy during the day but were completely broken up by our artillery fire before they reached our new front line.

“ By 18 August, after taking nearly 20 thousand casualties, the Germans gave up their attempts to retake Hill 70. General Currie recorded that “it was altogether the toughest battle in which the Corps has participated.” There had been nearly 6000 Canadian casualties, but the Corps had clearly won yet another victory.”²

4 September 1917 - ... shelled ... move out. Bresbis. Gassed last night on way back from advanced ... and ... to be out for a few ...

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade –

4 September 1917 - They also bombarded the area between LOOS and MAROC with about 10,000 gas shells mixing in a large number of High Explosive shells. The bombardment started at 12 p.m. and continued for about two hours and was the most intense concentration of hostile artillery ever experienced by this brigade. The new German gas (mustard) was used and while we had no serious casualties, many men the next day found their eyes seriously affected and a small number developed bronchitis.

7 September 1917 - C.B.S. #18 - ... here and getting fine bonne meals. Going down to base this evening. Hospital there.

9 September 1917 - Arrive at 1st Can. Hospital Etaples last evening about 4:30. Fine place.

20 September 1917 - Left Hosp. at 1:30 for Convalescent Camp Etaples. Meals here (C.C.) are no hell (crossed out)

24 September 1917 - Left Con. Camp for Can. Generals Base.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 5 September 1917 - From this date to the 22nd inst., the Headquarters and four batteries mentioned herewith were in rest at MAGNICOURT, a small village nestled among some rolling hills. The men had a splendid rest during this time and many parties were sent for the day to ST. POL. In addition an infantry band was engaged on three different occasions which was very much appreciated. General sports for the men were held on two occasions

and some Indian Cavalry billeted near here very kindly offered to assist in the day sports. Their horsemanship and other feats were magnificent and filled our men with surprise and admiration.

1 October 1917 - Left C.G. Base for Abbeville.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 10 - 12 October 1917 - The Brigade remained at rest in ESTREE CAUCHIE completing their equipment and discarding surplus equipment, owing to the impending march to the 2nd Army area near YPRES. On the 12 October Operation Order No. 110 was issued with reference to this march which was to start at 7.30 A.M. on the 13th instant.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 21 October 1917 - Our batteries relieved the batteries of 108th A.F.A. in the early morning and found the battery positions a sea of mud and many guns hopelessly mired, while the roads leading into the battery positions were completely blocked with over-turned guns, wagons, dead horses and mules and other supplies.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 22 October 1917 - Our batteries started to move their guns forward, amid the worst conditions as to weather and mud that has ever been experienced by this brigade in FRANCE. In many cases it took from 50 to 100 men and 12 horse to pull out one gun.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 24 October 1917 - Operation Order No. 114 was issued with reference to the first stage of the capture of PASSCHENDAELE to take place on the morning of the 26th inst. The visibility was good throughout the day and many enemy aeroplanes

were observed, some of them flying very low and sweeping our forward trenches with machine gun fire. Ten GOTHAS flew across our lines and flew around the rear areas dropping many bombs. Several enemy balloons were also up in the morning. We fired about 1200 rounds during the day. Enemy artillery was very active, mainly on our communication roads, firing about 700 rounds mostly 5.9s.

25 October 1917 - Left Abbeville for Etaples.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 26 October 1917 - It rained very heavily during the night and was raining when the attack on PASSCHENDAELE started at 5.40 AM. The enemy artillery opened up one minute after our Zero Hour and during the morning his artillery fire was very heavy. Owing to the flooded and impassable state of the ground our Attacking Infantry found it almost impossible to move and the Machine Guns become clogged with mud. Very heavy machine gun fire was encountered from enemy pill-boxes and as our men could not move with rapidity to outflank these, heavy casualties were sustained and the attack was held up about the middle objective. In the afternoon by continuous hand to hand fighting we established a strong line which included a row of pill-boxes on BELLEVUE HEIGHT and the enemy have been unable to dislodge us from this line. Owing to the rain and poor visibility there was no aerial work done.

26 October 1917 - Etaples to Calonne R. guard.

27 October 1917 - Left Calonne for . . .

Sapper Fotheringham's military record indicates that he left to return to the 3rd Canadian Division Signal Company on 29 October 1917, and arrived on 4 November. His diary does not record whether he stayed with the Signal Company until he was given 14 days of leave in the U.K. in January 1918, or whether he returned to the 9th Brigade to participate in the Battle of Passchendaele.



Canadian Gunners in the Mud, Passchendaele
Lieutenant Alfred Theodore Joseph Bastien
Canadian War Museum

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 30 October 1917 - Our attack on BELLEVUE RIDGE immediately in front of the main PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE took place at 5.50 AM. The weather was fair but the smoke obscured the vision to a great extent. Our infantry appeared to get away to a good start. The enemy barrage in retaliation came down promptly a minute and a half after our Zero

hour and consisted mainly of 5.9s and 4.1s. Inside of 5 minutes it became very intense. By 6.30 AM the infantry were reported to be making good progress and keeping well up to the barrage, and small parties of the enemy could be seen running to the rear. About 7.00 AM it appeared that our infantry had met with very heavy machine gun fire and were being held up. A large M.G. emplacement concealed in FREESLAND COPSE appeared to be heavily manned with machine guns and our men were obliged to work around the flanked and sustained many casualties in doing so. At 8.00 AM the infantry appeared to be going very well except in the centre of the Divisional front where large pill-boxes were holding up the advance, and the barrage at this point had got ahead of the men. The fighting was very heavy and in many cases men had to stop to pull their comrades out of the mire. By 12 noon it was apparent that the infantry had reached their objectives except in the centre of the attack which was still held up by strong pill-boxes heavily manned with machine guns. The situation became much quieter in the afternoon until 4.50 pm when an S.O.S. was sent in and all batteries opened up at once. This, however, was soon broken up by artillery and machine gun fire.

* * *

The Battle of Passchendaele, or Third Battle of Ypres was one of the major battles of World War I. The battle consisted of a series of operations starting in June 1917 and petering out in November 1917 in which Entente troops under British command attacked the Imperial German Army. The battle was fought for control of the village of Passchendaele near the town of Ypres in West Flanders, Belgium.

The attack served several strategic purposes. A successful attack offered the British a chance of inflicting significant casualties on the German army. A breakthrough in Flanders would hinder the German submarine campaign against British shipping, and also help prevent German bombers from attacking targets in mainland Britain. Whether successful or not, the attack would prevent the German Army from exploiting the serious morale problems of the French.

During the battle, British troops launched several massive attacks, heavily supported by artillery and aircraft. However, they never managed to make a breakthrough in well-entrenched German lines. The battle consisted of a series of 'Bite and Hold' attacks to capture critical terrain and wear down the German army, lasting until the Canadian Corps took Passchendaele on 6 November 1917, ending the battle.

Passchendaele has become synonymous with the misery of fighting in thick mud. Most of the battle took place on reclaimed marshland, swampy even without rain. 1917 had an unusually cold and wet summer, and heavy artillery bombardment tore up the surface of the land. Though there were dry periods, mud nevertheless feature of the landscape; newly-developed tanks bogged down in mud, and soldiers drowned in it.

Casualty figures for the battle are still a matter of some controversy. Some accounts suggest that the Allies suffered significantly heavier losses than the Germans, while others offer an even score. However, no-one disputes that hundreds of thousands of soldiers on both sides were killed or crippled.³

IF LOST PLEASE RETURN TO 507300

**DVR J.P. FOTHERINGHAM
9TH ART. BGDE. HQTRS. (ATTACHED)
3RD CAN. DIV. SIGS.
FRANCE**

First diary ends.

3

Daily Rates of—	\$	c.
† Pay.....	1	00
† Field Allowance.....		10
Total daily rate.....	1	10
Monthly rate for 30 days at \$.....	33	00
Deduct Stoppages on account of assigned pay, amount per month.....	16	00
Difference, net rate per month of 30 days.....	17	00

Signature of Soldier..... *J.P. Fotheringham*

Paymaster..... *Coop*

Date and Station..... *15/10/18 in Belgium*

..... (if any) on page 1.

157
72
2244
0251 1/11
12105
0.

PAY BOOK

FOR USE ON

ACTIVE SERVICE

(CANADIAN FORCES)

NOTE.—All questions concerning Canadian Pensions should be addressed to the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada, Ottawa, Canada.

New diary starts.

Jack P. Fotheringham
#507300
9th Artillery Bgde Hqtrs
CFA (attached)
3rd Can Div Sigs

Spr. Jack P. Fotheringham
#507300
9th Art. Bgde Hqtrs
CFA
3rd Can Div Art Sigs

Strand P.O.
Southampton St

IF LOST PLEASE RETURN
J.P. Fotheringham
9th FA Bde Hqtrs
3rd Can Div Sig Coy

27 January 1918 - London. Golden Cross Hotel.

Sapper Fotheringham was granted 14 days' leave to the U.K. on 27 January 1918.

30 January 1918 - Came down to Mary's at Stevenage, Hants. Having a peach of a time.

10 February 1918 - Left for old France once more. Darn <damn crossed over> sorry too.

11 February 1918 - Got up at 10 o'clock morning to entrain for our unit. Reached unit about 2 o'clock

afternoon.

21 February 1918 - Pulled into action at Vimy from Halicourt.

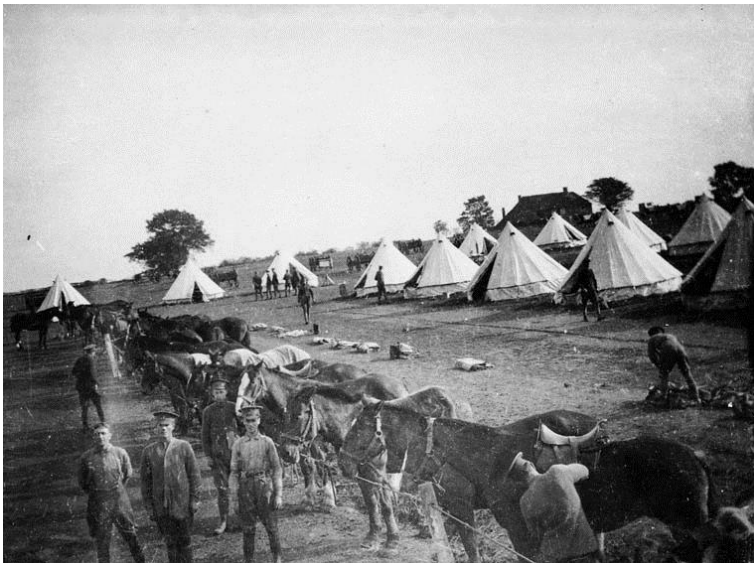
War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade –
1-22 February 1918 - The weather continued fair and mild. Batteries took advantage of the weather and were able to carry on with the Syllabus of Training. Besides the regular drills the 45th Battery had a very instructive day in open warfare. The Brigade made a creditable showing in a Route March on Wednesday afternoon February 6th, head by the Piper Band of the 42nd Canadian Battalion. The Brigade carried out map reading tests on Saturday afternoons, mounted, in which the 33rd and 36th Batteries did particularly well. The men were entertained to many very fine moving picture shows in the local Cinema Theatre, which consisted of a lofty French barn with excessive ventilation. On Thursday evening February 14th a very good concert was put on in the above Opera House by Brigade talent.

O.O. 139 was issued February 18th, with regards to the relief of the 2nd Canadian Division Artillery by the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery in the AVION-MERICOURT Sector, the 9th Brigade relieving the 5th Brigade C.F.A. on the 22nd instant.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 1 March 1918 - Visibility throughout the day was indifferent. The enemy's artillery and Trench Mortars activity was quiet with the exception of a shoot on the 31st and 36th Battery O.P.s <Observation Post> in the German concrete house in T.2.b. beside the LENS-VIMY Railroad. The enemy showed himself considerably on our front during the day

and was energetically engaged by our 18-pdrs. with good results. The enemy's planes were more active than usual patrolling our line from 6 AM until noon. Two of the enemy balloons were up observing our front. At 11.00 AM a small red propaganda balloon dropped literature on the LENS-ARRAS road.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 6 March 1918 - The visibility today was only fair and his artillery and Trench Mortars quiet, with the exception of a bombardment which he put on our front at 3.30 this morning. Under cover of this bombardment he projected gas, the wind shifting and blowing it back to his own lines, and his gas gongs and horns could be heard for a considerable time.



18 March 1918 - Vimy. Canadian mail. None for me.

19 March 1918 - Canadian Mail. Parcel #34.

20 March 1918 - Still dribbling in. None for me.

27 March 1918 - Heard today that we are to pull into the Somme area within four days (another rumor).

1 April 1918 - Fritz plane brought down 4 of our obs. Balloons. Lots of nerve.

2 April 1918 - Vimy. #89 and 90 from Dad and Laura. 10 francs. Pete also wrote.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 2 April 1918 - Visibility low today. Enemy's artillery and T.M.s have been quiet during the hours of daylight but under cover of darkness he showed considerable activity. Some 5.7 cm gas shells were fired into LA COULOTTE. Owing to the visibility, very few of the enemy have been seen today. There has been considerable aerial activity on our front today. At least 20 Enemy planes have been seen up opposite our front. Large formations of our planes have been patrolling our front. During the night our bombing machines as well as those of the enemy have been very busy. Between 4.00 and 5.00 PM today an enemy aeroplane shot down five of our observation balloons, in flames, from LA TARGETTE to the vicinity of MAROC. Although it was an enemy plane, great praise was given to the enemy's airman for his daring feat. Many of our small white propaganda balloons were observed travelling towards the enemy lines today, at a great height.

3 April 1918 - Vimy. Letter from Dot Lette and Dot W.

5 April 1918 - Parcel from Dot also Mrs J. Westman, 52 First Ave, Ottawa, Soldiers Service Club.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 9 April 1918 - FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPTURE OF VIMY RIDGE. The enemy showed a considerable amount of activity during the afternoon shelling the forward areas with high explosive and gas. The day was still and misty which was ideal for the employment of gas. His heavy howitzers and high velocity guns were active in our rear areas in the area of ABLAIN ST LAZAIRE. At 4.55PM an enemy aeroplane of odd design flew over GIVENCHY and disappeared in the direction of SOUCHEZ at about 1000 feet, evidently lost in the fog as the observer could be seen standing up and studying the ground carefully.

11 April 1918 - Ablain St Lazaire. Letter from Ella.

12 April 1918 - Went to 4th Div Concert last night at Chateau de Lattaie. Letter from Dot.

13 April 1918 - Parcel from Ladies Auxiliary Y.M.O.F. Picquet to-night. Wrote Dorothy.

14 April 1918 - Half Holiday. Jim McCaw and I beat Mac McFee and Moggie McThie 2 games to 0 of 500 this evening. Continuing game at later date.

15 April 1918 - Parcel #35 from Home, Store Easter Eggs and box of maple sugar.

18 April 1918 - Letters #93, 94 and 95 from Dad. Topsy also Muriel Everson.

19 April 1918 - Ablain St Lazaire. Snowed last night early this morning. Fairly cold. Raining snowing. Hailing. Oh we're having charming weather. Lost at

500 last night 1 to 0.

20 April 1918 - Dandy weather. No mail. Inspection + half holiday.

21 April 1918 - Parcels 35 and 36. Also box of Betty Brown's from Ella E. ... and is thrown out.

25 April 1918 - Letters from Burne, Jessie, Daintry and a parcel from Ella E.

27 April 1918 - Half holiday.

28 April 1918 - Half holiday. Went to ballgame 40 Btry - 3rd D.A.C. 5 to 0. Fritz plane over very low. Nearly everyone took cover expecting him to open up with machine gun. But he didn't. Base ball practise this evening. Received watch from Mary F. Replied thanking her.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 28 April 1918 - Visibility low. His artillery continues to harass our forward areas during the hours of darkness. During the daytime his 7.7 and 10.5 cm batteries firing from vicinity of SALLAUMINES were silenced by our 4.5 Howitzer batteries. Only two men were observed during the day, these being fired upon and forced to take cover. An enemy low flying aeroplane flew over our Headquarters today, disappearing in the vicinity of AVION.

29 April 1918 - Letter from Dot. Leave for Flanders tomorrow evening. No Bonne. (Rumor)

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 29 April 1918 - We received a Warning Order today stating that we

will shortly be relieved by Imperial troops coming from the fight on the AMIENS front.

During the past month the batteries of the Brigade have had a particularly strenuous time, during which 30,000 rounds were fired in minor operations and harassing fire. On account of the enemy's offensive operations both to the north and south of us, a considerable amount of reconnaissance work has been done in our rear areas and Artillery Tracks have been built to facilitate the withdrawal of our guns over country which is not likely to be shelled in case of an enemy attack.

3 May 1918 - 2 letters from home + 10 francs from Uncle Bob. #96 also Hardwich M. Picquet to-night 1st.



4 May 1918 - Pulling out this evening at 8.15. Destination unknown. rumoured St. Pol or Amettes. Left for Amettes at 4 o'clock got here at 10. No stables. Everything rotten. Coleman got in at 4.30 (morning). Got better stables.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 4 May 1918 - O.O. 145-3 was issued today giving instructions regarding the move of the Brigade to AMETTES. The Brigade is to march at night, leaving the Wagon Lines about 7.30 PM.

5 May 1918 - Slept in front of horses last night.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 5 May 1918 - The Brigade arrived in AMETTES about 4.30 AM after an uneventful march. The day was spent by the batteries in fixing up their horse lines and billets.

8 May 1918 - Pulled into new stables. Not too bad.

12 May 1918 - Parcel 37 from home.

13 May 1918 - 7 letters today. 98, 99, 100 from home, also Ella, Puddles, Miss Keys and Bill Ketchum.

19 May 1918 - Will be 21 years old. Jolly regular old grandfather. Letter from Dad 101. 10 francs.

22 May 1918 - Pulled into Flechin this evening. Rotten piquet lines.

23 May 1918 - Flechin. Raining this morning. Went out for manoeuvres but after we got out it was cancelled. Got wet. Better stables to-day.

24 May 1918 - Flechin. Went to Aire with the Boss.

25 May 1918 - Flechin. Great little place.

26 May 1918 - Flechin. Still here and muchly satisfied.

27 May 1918 - Manoeuvres on Open Action. Riding hard all day. Nearly captured by enemy. The Old Boy sure is Nuts. Sort of balled things up and got hauled up for not saluting a staff General. Sure brought him down a peg. Got back into Amettes about 11 this evening.

31 May 1918 - Amettes. Went with Boss to see Signals play 49 Battalion. Sign 3, 49 Batt 1.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 6 May to 31 May 1918 - A considerable amount of open warfare manoeuvres in conjunction with the Infantry has take place during the last three weeks, in the AUCHEL and BOMY Areas. All the batteries made a very creditable performance, gaining valuable experience in the art of open warfare. From the 10th to the 17th, all the guns of the Brigade were calibrated on the Artillery Range at WESTREHEM. A special shoot took place, during the calibration of the guns, in which the 33rd and 36th Batteries took part. A demonstration of firing at short ranges took place, which was witnessed by both Corps and Army Staffs. On the 21st instant, all the guns in the Brigade were taken by motor lorry to ALBAIN ST NAZAIRE where they were calibrated on the new electric ranges. A number of trips were taken to the XI and XIII Corps Area and reconnaissances made of the Reserve Trenches and battery areas.

On the 30th and 31st, the Brigade preliminary Dumbbell Contest took place, which was won by the 31st Battery C.F.A.

1 June 1918 - Out again this morning at 10 o'clock. Just stopped now at some town for grub for horses and ourselves.

2 June 1918 - Amettes. Started out for church at 8 o'clock this morning but didn't know the way so couldn't find it. Sports on this afternoon.

3 June 1918 - Amettes. Up at 4 this morning and out at 6:30 on manoeuvres around Estree Blanchie. Looks like rain. Saw Curly Allen and Sid Davis both in the PPCLI. Got in about 9:15 this evening. Acted as #7 behind cable wagon.

4 June 1918 - Amettes and Flechin. Pulling out for Flechin at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Put up tent right beside a peach of a little running stream. Reminds you of camping out. Southcot, McMullen, McFee, Bobby Hamilton and myself in it.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 1 June to 16 June 1918 - On the 4th, the Brigade moved to FLECHIN to carry on further manoeuvres in the BOMY AREA. The Brigade remained in this area until the 11th instant. A considerable amount of successful manoeuvres were carried out in conjunction with the infantry. Aeroplanes, cavalry and tanks co-operated with the Artillery and Infantry in these manoeuvres.

5 June 1918 - Flechin. Both my horses out. Dusty

Millar has mine. Calibrating guns shooting at dummy tanks.

7 June 1918 - Flechin. 2 letters from home. # 103 containing 5 francs.

8 June 1918 - Flechin.

10 June 1918 - Guns out calibrating. Moved back to Amettes about 5 o'clock.

12 June 1918 - Topsy's Birthday. Parcel #38 and 39 from home. Also Gerald W. and Dot L.

15 June 1918 - Letters from Jessie and parcels 38 and 39 from home.

16 June 1918 - Letters from Isabel, Muriel and Ella plus parcel #40 from home.

17 June 1918 - Pulled out of Amettes at 8 o'clock this morning and went right up near forward of new position with Sig Officer. Forward right to new position. Heavy shelling - got back at 1 o'clock in morning. McFee, Edmonds and myself built a bivy with telephone wagon tarp and it was tres bonne.

18 June 1918 - Boeseghem. Received letters from home - #106 and parcel #41, also letter from Dot Little.

19 June 1918 - Boeseghem. Up the line for Boss.

20 June 1918 - Pulled out of Quietede at 9 o'clock. Reveille at 4:30. Paid at 2:30. We're supposed to be the first Canucks to have ever been billeted in this

town.

21 June 1918 - Quietede. Parcel #40, letters 107 and 108, 10 francs, also from Dorothy and Burn. Dandy suit of underwear in parcel and chocolate cake.

22 June 1918 - Quietede.

23 June 1918 - Quietede. McFee and I took in the sights at St. Omer.

24 June 1918 - Moved from Quietede back to Boeseghem.

25 June 1918 - Dorothy's birthday.

27 June 1918 - Boeseghem. MacFee, Edmonds, Dukie Lane all up the line for the push.

28 June 1918 - Boeseghem. Letter from Ella today.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 28 June 1918 - The barrage opened at 6.00 AM, and within a few minutes afterwards, our F.O.O. <Forward Observation Officer> and L.O. <Liaison Officer> began sending in information of great value. This information continued throughout the operation and was practically the only source through which the rear formations obtained any idea as to how the operation was proceeding. About 8.00 AM all objectives were reached on our front. Many of the enemy were killed and several officers and over 100 prisoners were taken. Our casualties were light. From shortly after the final objective was gained until after midnight, our F.O.O. and L.O. sent through three S.O.S. calls to which the Batteries of the Brigade responded,

some minutes ahead of the batteries on the front.

30 June 1918 - Boeseghem. Went up the line for hurt Peebles.

1 July 1918 - First day's trek. Pulled out of Boeseghem for Amin. Stopped in Bush for lunch.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 1 July 1918 - The 9th Brigade C.F.A. commenced trek to BASSEUX to join the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery who are taking over from the 2nd Canadian Divisional Artillery in the line. On the 1st the Brigade marched to ANVIN and spend the night 1st/2nd in billets. The weather was fine and warm and the Brigade arrived in ANVIN tired and dusty. Advantage was taken of the stream flowing through ANVIN to bathe.

2 July 1918 - 2nd day. Pulled into Magnicourt about 3:30.

3 July 1918 - 3rd day. Pulled out of Magnicourt to Basseux.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 5 July 1918 - On the night of the 4th/5th the remaining sections of the Brigade moved into the line and completed the relief of the 6th Brigade 2nd C.D.A. Batteries were pleased with the turn-over and the positions on which a good deal of work had been done by the 2nd C.D.A.

Enemy's artillery was somewhat active during the afternoon on counter-battery work. No damage was done to the batteries of the Brigade. Considerable individual movement was observed from O.P.s and from Intelligence

Reports received the front appeared as if it would be an interesting one. Enemy aerial activity was above normal during the day, in all 12 machines observed over our lines.

6 July 1918 - Pulled out of Basseux to Grosville.

7 July 1918 - Parcel from Dot Little.

8 July 1918 - Went in to Avenes-le-Compte for beer. Blame old team balked four times on the road in. Ran away when we'd just got home and smashed off cart.

11 July 1918 - Shelled out of horse lines. No casualties.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 11 July 1918 - Hostile artillery quiet during the morning and the usual activity in the afternoon. The usual movement was again observed, our sniping guns claiming two hits. Visibility was fair. One E.A. <enemy aircraft> observed.

13 July 1918 - Parcel #41 and 42 from home.

14 July 1918 - Letter #110 from home, also from Ella. Hank's Birthday.

17 July 1918 - Grosville. Parcel #44.

19 July 1918 - Grosville. Inspection by Corps Officer.

20 July 1918 - Inspection by Colonel.

21 July 1918 - Up the line. Church. Also got shelled out of lines this morning.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 21 July

1918 - Artillery activity quiet during the morning and fairly active during the afternoon, in the vicinity of our O.P. His H.V. <high velocity> guns again shelled our rear areas. Visibility was good. Movement above normal, our batteries claiming several hits. 4 E.A.s and one balloon observed. Enemy's searchlights during the evening were very active.

27 July 1918 - Pulled out of Grosville for Savy at 6 o'clock. Reveille 3. Piquet 1- 3. Rained all night and most of the trip. Got there about noon.

30 July 1918 - Pulled out of Savy at 7:30 a.m. for Coullement.

31 July 1918 - Pulled out of Coullement at 9 p.m. Montrolet arriving here at 5 a.m. All moving done by night.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 31 July 1918 - The Brigade remained in the area during the day and for the first time in the history of the Brigade our final destination remained a secret. Wild rumours were in circulation throughout the Brigade. O.O. 151-1 was issued today giving details of the march from the present area to CANDAS area. The march to commence at 10.10 P.M.

1 August 1918 - Arrived at Montrolet at 5 a.m. this morning. Pulling out for destination unknown as yet.

2 August 1918 - Arrived at Saleux at 5 a.m. Raining. Pulled out at 9 p.m., arriving at Bosquel at 11 o'clock p.m.

3 August 1918 - Left Bosquel at 8:30 p.m. Arrived in

horselines 2:30 a.m. in bush. Mud Mud MUD. Slept under my wagon till 6:15 then on picquet. Bove Wood.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 3 August 1918 - Weather remains unsettled. Our troops appear to have been the first British in this neighbourhood for a long time and everywhere received a warm welcome from the civilians. Numerous French troops were billeted in the town with us. The French troops, from their appearance, do not appear to lay the same stress on "spit and polish parades" as we do. O.O. 152-4 was issued today with reference to the march of the Brigade from present billeting area to the BOVES Area, commencing at 8.30 p.m.

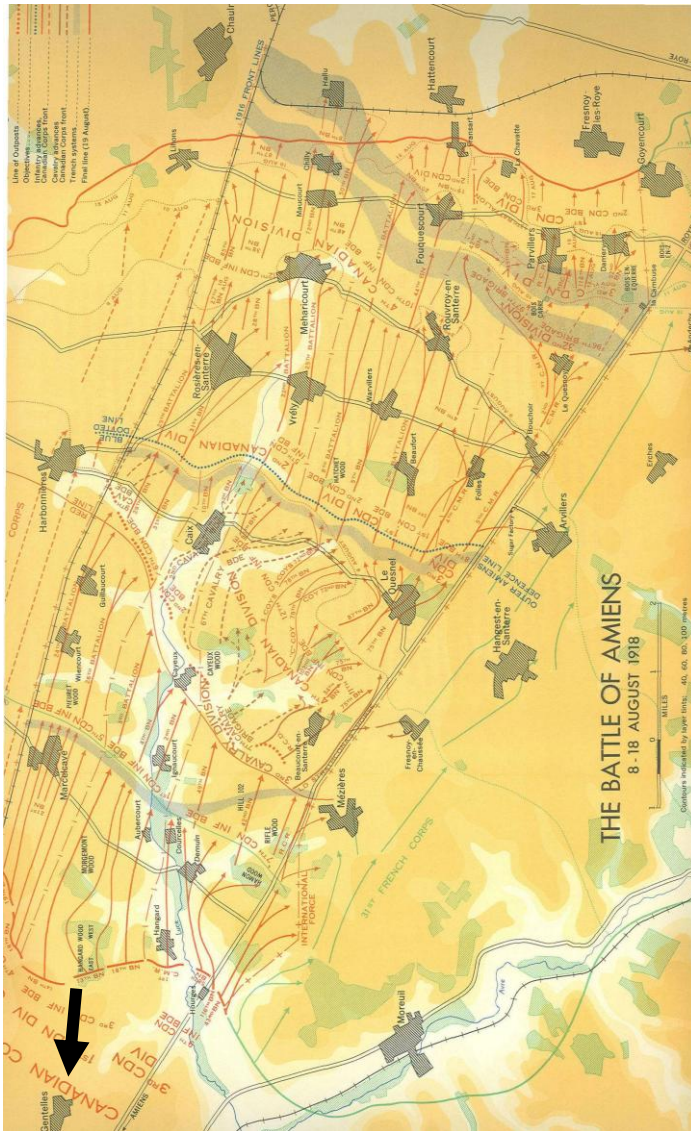
War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 6 August 1918 - The batteries finished hauling ammunition last night. Operation Orders were received today with reference to the coming offensive. Half the guns of the Brigade are to be drawn in tonight and other half tomorrow night. Preparations are proceeding smoothly. A Headquarters Battle Position was chosen this afternoon on the AMIENS-ROYE Road, 1000 yards East of GENTELLES WOOD. Our troops are using the AMIENS-ROYE Road freely, in view of the enemy, and were heavily shelled.

7 August 1918 - Pulled headquarters up forward. Left 5:30 p.m. Got lost into barb wire, laming old John. Finally found lines at 2 p.m. next morning.



Pack horses running ammunition

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 7 August 1918 - Further details of the attack came to light today. The Canadian Corps attacking on the HANGARD-DOMART Front, our right boundary being the AMIENS-ROYE Road, supported by the French on the right and the Australian Corps on our left. Our objectives, for the first time in the history of the Corps, are practically unlimited. The barrage tables for artillery fire and final arrangements for the attack were issued today. Lieut MacGillivray, with 30 O.R.s <other ranks> detailed to put captured guns in action against the enemy. The remainder of the guns of the Brigade were drawn in tonight. All lines of communication were completed, tested, but remained silent until zero hour which is 4.20 a.m. 8th instant. The roads jammed with infantry going forward for jumping-off trenches and Tanks and cavalry moving to their forward positions continued until zero hour.



“A Headquarters Battle Position was chosen this afternoon on the AMIENS-ROYE Road, 1000 yards East of GENTELLES WOOD”

8 August 1918 - Bove Wood, forward. Guns opened up at 4:20 a.m. Troops still advancing. Pulled up to where forward headquarters was before advance. Went up 6 kilos farther to try and find forward HQ but they were still going.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 8 August 1918 - The battle <of Amiens> commenced at 4.20 a.m. The barrage was well timed and reported by our Forward Observing Officers as being remarkably good. A few minutes later the tanks closely followed by our infantry pushed forward into the enemy's lines. Starting at a range of 2900 yards our guns carried forward a rolling barrage to 6500 yards, Brigade ceasing fire at 8.20 a.m. where it remained in Divisional Reserve until 11.00 a.m. when word was received that our infantry were still advancing and all was going well. Brigade was then ordered to move forward to a position of readiness in the vicinity of DODO WOOD which a few hours previous had been in the enemy's hands. Long streams of German prisoners, some of which were carrying the first of our wounded, passed down the AMIENS-ROYE ROAD all day. From DOMART forward French and British transports moved along the same road. Mounted patrols were then pushed forward, getting in touch with our infantry, and the Brigade was moved forward, coming into action in the vicinity of MAISON BLANCHE to the left of the AMIENS-ROYE Road at 6.30 p.m., to support the 12th C.I.B. then attacking in front of BEAUCOURT. While in action at this point, the 36th Battery C.F.A. was attacked by a hostile low-flying plane. Lieut Manning and two O.R.s were wounded by M.G. fire. Practically every machine gun in the Brigade opened fire causing the E.A. to beat a hasty retreat. Many German captured guns were passed during the day's advance.

“Amiens was a great tactical victory. The Canadian Corps had advanced 22 kilometres on a front of 10 thousand metres, and had captured nearly 9,000 prisoners. These gains had cost nearly 12 thousand casualties, but this time at least there had been real purpose, and very substantial results. This battle had changed the course of the war; it brought the end in sight! And, as the London *Times* wrote in August 1918, “. . . it was chiefly a Canadian battle.”⁴

9 August 1918 - Still here. Moved forward 7 kilos. Bombing very heavy last night.

10 August 1918 - Moved forward 10 kilos.

11 August 1918 - Moved forward just outside Quesnel.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 12 August 1918 - The situation continues obscure, the 32nd Division still appear to be meeting with stubborn resistance and suffering many casualties. Our brigade moved forward during the afternoon and came into action on the east of FOLIES, supporting the 32nd Division in front of PARVILLERS. Enemy bombing planes continue extremely effective. The enemy appears to be putting more artillery into the fight as his barrages are becoming quite heavy between QUESNOY and ROUVROY.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 13 August 1918 - Our Infantry relieved the 32nd Division in front of PARVILLERS and DAMERY. A Brigade O.P. was established on the forward slope between QUESNOY and PARVILLERS but was subject to shell fire so heavy that communications were very difficult and necessitated the establishing of four relay stations to maintain communications.

16 August 1918 - Pulled out of horselines near Quesnel to a bush about 10 kilos behind.

17 August 1918 - Still here.

18 August 1918 - Still here.

19 August 1918 - Pulling out tonight, time unknown. Left at 8 o'clock p.m.

20 August 1918 - Arrived outside Amiens near a place called Camon about 1:30 a.m. this morning. Distance 25 kilos. Parting this evening. Rumoured that we're going near Canaples.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 20 August 1918 - Brigade remained in the CAMON AREA during the day, where everyone enjoyed bathing in the SOMME River. Brigade moved off at 9.00 p.m. marching to the CANAPLES Area, arriving at 4.00 a.m. after a hard night's march. Remained in this area during the day, which was very hot. The Brigade pulled out of this area at 6.00 p.m. marching to the REBREUVIETTE Area, arriving shortly after midnight.

21 August 1918 - Pulled into Pernoy at 6 this morning. Had a swim. Distance 30 kilos. Pulling out about 6 o'clock this evening.

22 August 1918 - Pulled into Rebreuiviette at 2:30, about 32 kilos. Were to pull out at 6:30 p.m. but order was cancelled. But pulled out at 7:30. Reveille at 10.

23 August 1918 - Here at last. Did about 23 kilos last

night, arriving just outside (village name crossed out) about 12:30 p.m. Piquet this morning. 4 - 6:30. Reveille at 9 o'clock. WANQUETIN.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 23 August 1918 - The battery battle positions were selected in the vicinity of Tilloy in preparation for the coming offensive on this front. Guns and ammunition were drawn into prepared camouflaged positions during the evening, about 2000 yards from the front line.

24 August 1918 - Pulled out at 8 p.m. Arrived outside Berneville at 9:30. Up the line to forward position. Passed thru' Arras. 900 yds from front line. Arrived back at 3 a.m. next morning.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 24 August 1918 - Preparation continues. Brigade Wagon Lines moved to BERNEVILLE. During the afternoon we were notified that the offensive was postponed 24 hours. The remainder of the ammunition was drawn to battle positions tonight.

25 August 1918 - Loouy. Pulled up to forward wagon lines about 7 o'clock this evening, raining to beat the band.

26 August 1918 - Cable wagon up forward. Pulled into more forward horselines right in Arras near Railway Station. Sleeping in a cellar dug-out. Tres Bonne. Fritz shelling the very devil out of this end of the city but just far enough away from us to be comfortable.

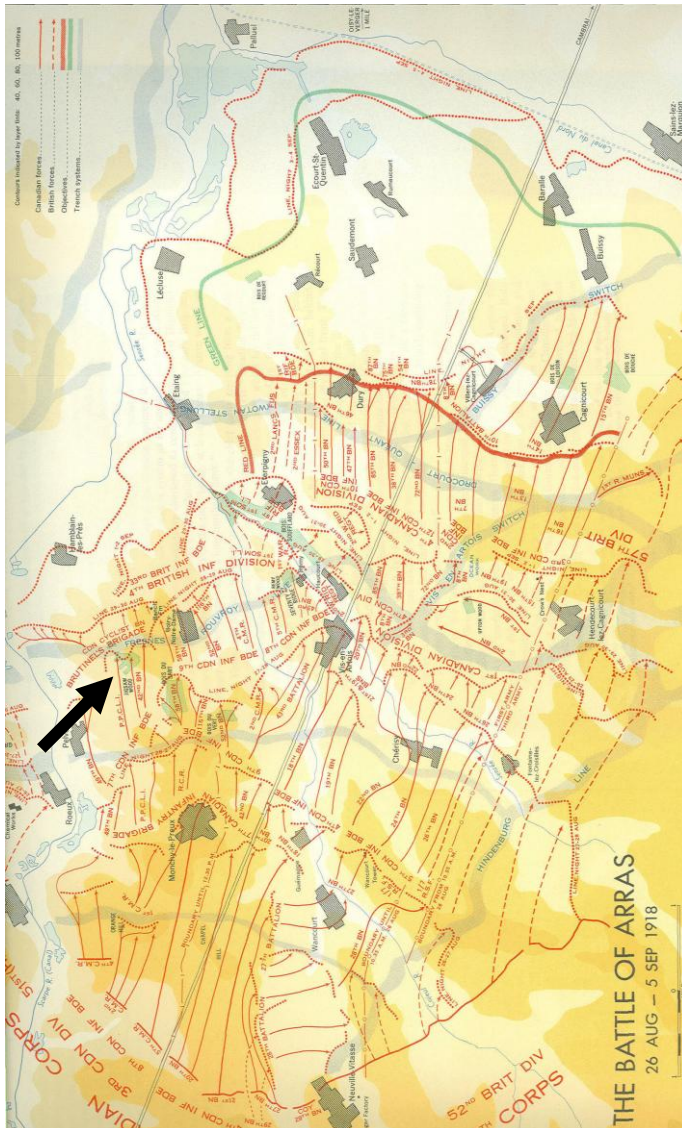


War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 26 August 1918 - Zero hour was 3.00 a.m. <Battle of the Scarpe>. The morning was showery with a few bright spells. The barrage opened fairly well at Zero Hour and was reported very effective, stopping at 6.13 a.m. The attack went well. Our troops were reported to have taken MONCHY at 7.35

a.m. Sharp fighting took place on both flanks of the Division. . . About noon the Brigade moved forward to a position of readiness on the rear slope of ORANGE HILL, batteries pushing forward, forward sections which did excellent work during the day, in the vicinity of JIGSAW WOOD, where our F.O.O.s reported roads blocked by enemy traffic, 33rd Battery firing 400 rounds observed fire on the retreating enemy.

“What came to be known as the Battle of the Scarpe began at 0300 hours - two hours before dawn - on 26 August. Behind the usual thick barrage, three divisions burst forward into the darkness, the British 51st Highland Division on the left, 3rd Canadian Division in the centre, and the 2nd Canadian Division on the right. Two strongly held hill features were both taken in flanking attacks, and for much of the day only isolated pockets of stiff resistance were encountered. The enemy for the most part seemed unwilling to make strong stands against the reckless Canadians until late in the afternoon. By nightfall, as the forward troops began to approach a trench system known as the Fresnes-Rouvroy Line, German resistance grew more resolute. Throughout the night the enemy put in one counterattack after another, but the Corps retained its gain of nearly 6000 metres, and with relatively light casualties.”⁵

27 August 1918 - Arras. Still here. Fritz shelling like Hell. Dick wounded in arm and head; Hough badly wounded in neck. Both gone to hospital. Corp. Jones slightly wounded in neck. All going up with rations. This place sure is no Bonne.



“About noon the Brigade moved forward to a position of readiness on the rear slope of ORANGE HILL, batteries pushing forward, forward sections which did excellent work during the day, in the vicinity of JIGSAW WOOD”

28 August 1918 - Arras. Still here and old Fritz keeps up his end of the shelling. Up forward with Slim Sawyer with rations. Very heavy shelling on the roads. All kinds of limbers and dead horses.

29 August 1918 - Moved our rear wagons up with forward lines. Up the line with my team with rations. Brought down dead M.G. officer and Pte in wagon on way home to cemetery. Shelled around Headquarters just as we were pulling out. Saw John Lyon on way back.

“It was, however, quite a different story over the next two days. The Germans brought in fresh divisions and many additional machine guns. As they renewed their attack, the Canadians confronted line after line of trenches and, all too often, thick uncut barbed wire, and the fighting reverted to the metre-by-metre slogging of earlier trench battles. While advances of up to 3000 metres were made in some places, casualties were extremely heavy; some units lost over half their men.

The only significant gain on 28 August was further to the north, where 9th Brigade, attacking on a narrow front, penetrated through the Fresnes-Rouvoy Line defences. By evening both 2nd and 3rd Divisions were thoroughly exhausted, and General Currie brought in the 1st Canadian and 4th British Divisions to take over.

Vicious fighting continued periodically over the last three days of August as Canadian units gradually completed the capture of the Fresnes-Rouvoy defences.”⁶

30 August 1918 - Everything jake-a-loo. Saw Dutch Dalglish this evening. He's in the 51 Battery. Picquet

tonight. Hank Leslie (1), myself (2), Jack Lane (3).

31 August 1918 - Saw Eric Olmstead and Ned Farley and Shack Crawley.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 31 August 1918 - The batteries dug in and continued drawing ammunition to the gun position. Enemy's attitude quiet and nervous.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -

1 September 1918 - Brigade remained in their present position; the day passing fairly quietly with the exception of the heavy harassing fire on REMY, 70 RIDGE, LONG WOOD. Lieut. Teed, 36th Battery, was killed by shell fire at the Battery position along with two 36th N.C.O.s.

2 September 1918 - Took wagon up forward to pull them up farther but order was cancelled. However had to go for wire twice under fairly heavy shell fire in places.

3 September 1918 - Saw Shorty Ogilvy this morning. He's in 5th D.A.C.

4 September 1918 - Up the lines with wagon - false alarm. Year ago today I got gassed.

5 September 1918 - Moved up to forward position & forward. Moved farther forward.

6 September 1918 - Forward. Pulled farther forward.

7 September 1918 - On burial party this evening. Some experience. Our horse lines are within range of

his field guns on our left flank.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -

8 September 1918 - The weather continues fair, although the visibility has not been very good on account of mist. The enemy's artillery activity has been fairly quiet during the day with the exception of a burst of fire on our forward area at dusk to which the batteries of the Brigade retaliated. Our heavies shot down the steeple of OISY LE VERGER Church this afternoon at 5.00 a.m. Enemy shows considerable aerial activity on this front with a particular dislike for our observation balloon in the vicinity of ST SERVINS FARM, which was shot down in flames today at 6.15 a.m. Shortly afterwards one of our balloons was observed to break loose and drift rapidly over the enemy's lines, the two observers leaping out, one falling in our lines and the other in the enemy's lines.

9 September 1918 - Horse lines forward of 18 pdrs.

10 September 1918 - Moved horse lines over near Div Train and 45 Battery.

17 September 1918 - Up the line with rations with Red McDonough, Very quiet. Shelled out at W.L twice. 60th Bty next us had 3 men killed and 6 wounded as well as 16 horses killed or fatally wounded.

19 September 1918 - Forward moved down to wagon lines this evening. Morrison took our wagon up.

22 September 1918 - Pulled into Achicourt on Corps Reserve.

23 September 1918 - Took rations and kits up to

forward position in Reserve Line. 600 yds from Fritz front line. About 25 kilos. Had to stop in Pronville till dark. Fuzzie and I spent the night in the wagon just outside Bullecourt. Got back Tuesday morning about 10:30.



25 September 1918 - Pulled out of Achicourt at 3:30 this morning to our old wagon lines near Vis-en-Artois. Got here about 6:30. Pulling out for Bullecourt vicinity this afternoon or evening. Pulled out to Queant vicinity.

27 September 1918 - Straff to open up at zero hour this morning. Cable wagon going forward at 10 o'clock.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -

27 September 1918 - The initial barrage in support of the 4th Canadian Division opened at 0520 <Battle of the Canal du Nord>. At about one hour after Zero, the 9th Brigade Batteries moved forward from the vicinity of PRONVILLE to take up their positions at INCHY and

carry forward the barrage. They advanced at the gallop through very heavy enemy shell fire which was falling at the time both in the rear of the Village and in the village itself. Directly after the barrage was completed, reconnaissances were made and the Batteries were moved forward to the vicinity of QUARRY WOOD, our Infantry by that time having captured the Village of BOURLON and most of BOURLON WOOD.

29 September 1918 - Pulled into Bourlon. Advanced wagon lines.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 2 October 1918 - On information from an enemy deserter that a hostile attack was imminent a counter preparation was ordered for 1830. At 1825 enemy began shelling our Battery areas rather heavily and just as our counter preparation started our S.O.S. was reported on Brigade Zone by Lieut. Harrison. Firing continued on Counter preparation and later S.O.S. at normal rate for 35 minutes, the O.P. reporting during this period, many enemy RED and GREEN lights on our front. Later it was learned that enemy had advanced to attack in three parties totalling some 400 men, that they had been caught in our barrage, very much cut up, and many killed, leaving three prisoners in our hands.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 7 October 1918 - After 4 guns had been dropped into position, and while horses were not yet clear, and the Battery personnel were on the position, three or four enemy shells dropped right amongst them. Casualties resulted as follows - Lieut. Shreve and 4 O.R.s killed; Capt. Craig, Lieut. Livingstone and 8 O.R.s wounded; 20 animals killed or of necessity shot and 6 wounded; 2 guns put out of action. Later

remaining guns were pulled back to the old position from which they were able eventually to cover the first phase of the Canadian Attack which was all that was necessary as the 2nd phase was cancelled.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 8 October 1918 - <Battle of Cambrai> The attack of the 3rd Army was successful and resulted in the capture of NIERGNIES and the high ground between that Village and AWOINGT.

10 October 1918 - Pulled into Tilloy on the left of Cambrai.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 10 October 1918 - At Noon RALSTON'S GROUP ceased to exist as it had been, and the 9th Brigade CFA went into rest, wagon lines moving up to the last Battery positions occupied, near NEUVILLE ST. REMY, and Brigade HQ wagon lines moving to Tilloy.

18 October 1918 - Pulled out of Tilloy to Bantigny.

21 October 1918 - Reveille at 3:45. Pulled out of Bantigny arriving at our destination Wattignies at 3:30. All the villages we passed tho' had civvies in them who saw English troops for the first time 3 days ago. They sure are tickled to death. Can't buy anything - get it free. Picquet 9-12.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 21 October 1918 - Brigade moved in the morning ahead of the Column passing the starting point, the bridge over CANAL DE LA SENSEE, South of WASNES AU BAC, at 0800 and marched via MARQUETTE and SOMAIN to WANDIGNIES HAMAGE, which was reached at 1500

hours. Here the Brigade received with open arms who could not do enough for Canadians.

22 October 1918 - Reveille 3 o'clock. Pulled out. Pulled into St. Amand this evening about 5:30. No civvies here at all. Houses in good condition. Have a fine billet.

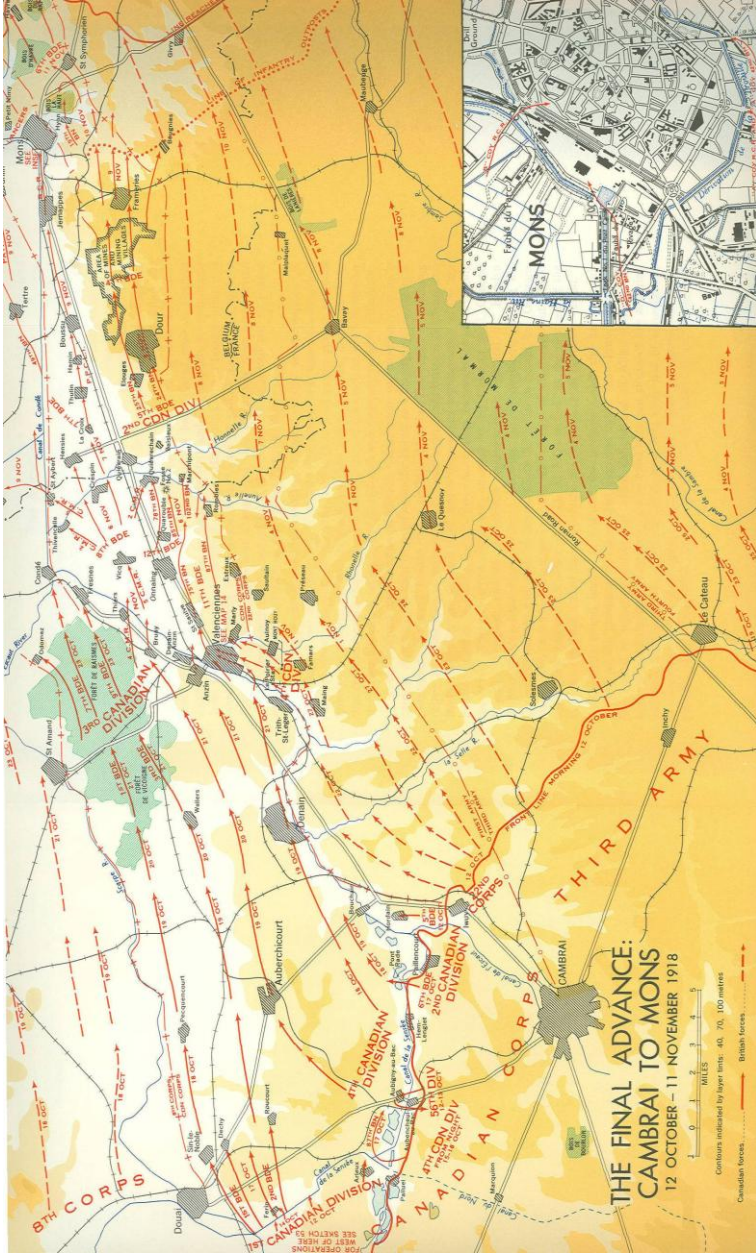
24 October 1918 - St Armand. Had a trip back to WALLERS to Div for wire.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 30 October 1918 - The C.O. visited Battery wagon lines during the morning. At 1400 hours Brigade H.Q. moved to ETOILE DE CERNAY (Q.31.b.90.60) in order to be closer to the Batteries. Enemy artillery fairly active with harassing fire on forward areas and roads near Batteries. Our forward sections engaged movement and did harassing fire.

31 October 1918 - Pulled forward to Report Centre.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 31 October 1918 - The enemy appeared nervous and did a good deal of harassing fire during the day on approaches and during the night on possible concentration areas. Our forward sections engaged M.G. Posts and Trench Mortars which were more active than usual. The enemy had apparently learned of our proposed attack south of VALENCIENNES and feared that an attack was also to be made on our front.

1 November 1918 - Report Centre. Heavy shelling. Don killed and Bones and Cribber badly wounded last night about 9 o'clock. Pulled our Forward Headquarters back farther and took our horses to horselines in Raismies.



War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -

1 November 1918 - Enemy alert and somewhat nervous due to our attack south of VALENCIENNES. Forward sections engaged M.G.s and T.M.s <trench mortars>, and did night harassing fire. In view of the shelling it was decided to move Brigade Headquarters to houses at FONTAINE BOUILLON at P.30a.60.60, and the move was made at 1600 hours.

2 November 1918 - Ella's Birthday.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -

2 November 1918 - The day passed very quietly with very little enemy fire. VALENCIENNES was reported to be entirely in our hands at 1000 hours.

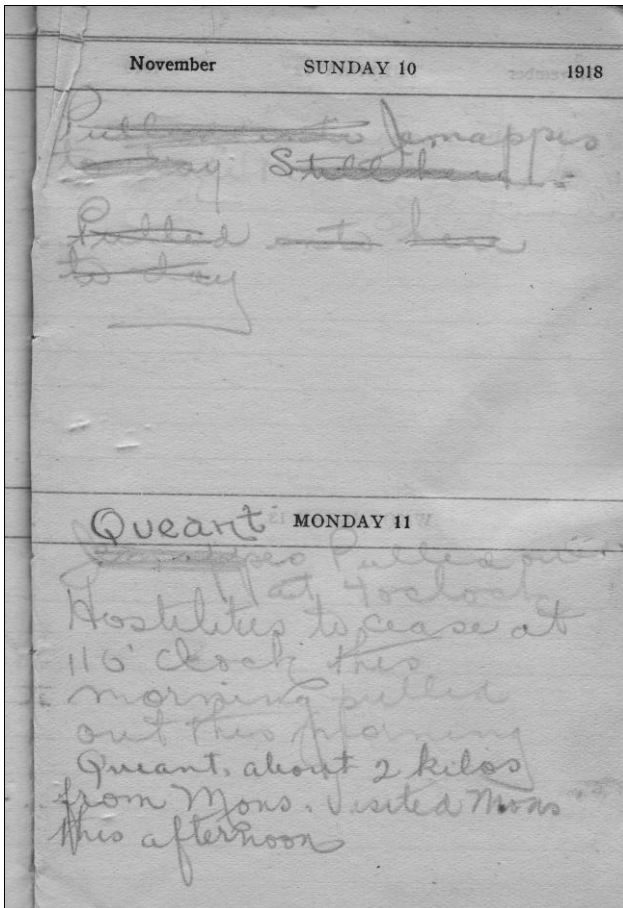
9 November 1918 - Arrived in Jemappes today.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -

9 November 1918 - Enemy fell back during the night and at 0800 our patrols were on outskirts of JEMAPPE and meeting with no opposition.

“The Germans were now reeling back all along the front, but everywhere they left behind a screen of snipers and machine guns who periodically still put up a stiff fight. It rained continually as the Canadian pressed forward cautiously into Belgium, still well in advance of the British, and by 10 November the Corps reached the outskirts of Mons. Here there were a number of heavy skirmishes, but by daybreak Mons had been secured without a single Canadian casualty. The streets of the city were soon filled with jubilant citizens celebrating their liberation when word was received that an armistice would come into effect at 1100 hours.”⁷

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -
10 November 1918 - At 1540 a shell burst on the 36th
Battery position wounding Lieut. F.J. Longworth very
badly and he died a short while later at the dressing
station. Three men were also wounded but not
dangerously.



11 November 1918 - Queant. Pulled out at 4 o'clock. Hostilities to cease at 11 o'clock this morning. Pulled out this morning. Queant, about 2 kilos from Mons. Visited Mons this afternoon.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 11 November 1918 - Rumours of an armistice were heard in the early morning and at 09.00 orders were received that hostilities would cease at 11.00 today.

12 November 1918 - Left this morning at 8 and arrived in Nimy about 9:30.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 12 November 1918 - At 0.800 the Brigade moved through MONS to NIMY about a mile north of the city and batteries took up positions of observation. C.R.A. visited Brigade and reported that Corps was to march to Germany in easy stages after five days to rest and clean up and refit. No signs of any enemy on the front.

18 November 1918 - Nimy. First snowfall this morning.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 18 November 1918 - Lieutenant Pepler manned Brigade O.P. for the last time. 14.00 hours C.R.A. and A.D.V.S. visited Brigade headquarters and spoke to a meeting of the Brigade Officers regarding March to the RHINE. 17.00 hours received orders from 3rd C.D.A. HQ to withdraw our F.O.O. and cease to be in action. 17.30 hours Brigade party of 350 O.R.s in charge of Captain Scott attended "Dumbbells" concert in MONS theatre.

25 November 1918 - Left Nimy this morning at 9

o'clock for Raismes - 3 kilos outside of Valenciennes. Dolly cast a shoe on the way. Arrived there at 6:15. Distance 40 kilos.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 25 November 1918 - A conference of Brigade and Battery Commanders was held at Brigade HQ for the purpose of discussing athletic and other arrangements for the welfare of the men during this period of the Armistice.

26 November 1918 - Left Raismes this morning at 9:30 with R.E. Limber. Got home at 5:30.

11 December 1918 - Pulled out of Nimy to Houdeng-Aimeries. Great people here.

12 December 1918 - Arrived in Seneffe.

14 December 1918 - Left Seneffe at 10 this morning and pulled out for Genappe arriving here at 3 this afternoon.

15 December 1918 - Pulled out of Genappe for Limal. The people here are no good. Just like Fritz. Living in a Baron's Chateau on a floor.

25 December 1918 - Not much like Xmas. Had a swell feed this evening.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -
25 December 1918 - 33rd Battery held a dance at 19.00 hours. Christmas Dinner was held by all the Batteries. Turkeys and supplies being supplied through the Y.M.C.A.

29 December 1918 - Hoyleart. Pulled into here today about noon - people jake.

30 December 1918 - (Romance --- Lyric) Crossed out. (Bubbly) Crossed out. Vlesenbeek. Farmer caught us pinching hay and raised an awful row.

31 December 1918 - Still here.

1 January 1919 - Pulled out of Vlesenbeek at 8:30 this morning to Denderwindeke.

2 January 1919 - Pulled out of Denderwindeke at 8:15, arriving at Oprokel at 1:30 or 2 o'clock. Nice people.

3 January 1919 - Pulled out of Oprokel at 8:15 a.m., arriving in Renaix about noon.

4 January 1919 - Pulled out of Renaix at 8 a.m., arriving in Tournai about 1:30 p.m. Fine people. People simply great.

10 January 1919 - Pulled out of Tournai for Renaix.

Second diary ends.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 27 January 1919 - Capt MacKinnon of the Canadian Chaplain Services delivered a lecture in the morning on "Safeguards of Civilization".

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 29 January 1919 - Auditors visited Brigade and inspected all Books, Accounts, etc. of the Batteries. Orders were received that

the Brigade would turn in all Stores, Vehicles, Equipment, etc. on the morrow. Consequently, Batteries were busy packing Stores, Equipment, etc.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 5 February 1919 - Final inspection by Commanding Officer of all harness at 10.00 hours. In afternoon batteries turned in all harness to the stores room.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -
12 February 1919 - First draft consisting of 1 officer and 56 men per battery and 2 men from Headquarters left RENAIX at 06.30 hours by lorry to entrain at BAISEAUX for LE HAVRE. 190 All Ranks left RENAIX by lorry at 13.00 hours for KAIN where they will stay for the night and march to BAISEAUX tomorrow morning.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -
18 February 1919 - Embarked at 21.00 hours and sailed at midnight for WEYMOUTH.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade -
19 February 1919 - Arrived WEYMOUTH 09.00 hours and entrained for MILFORD Station at 11.00 hours. Arrived at MILFORD Station at 16.30 hours and marched to Witley Camp.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 17 March 1919 - Drafts for HALIFAX, KINGSTON and OTTAWA sailing by S.S. "OLYMPIC" entrained at LIPHOOK for SOUTHAMPTON.

War Diary of 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade - 19 March 1919 - The Brigade no longer has any existence as a unit of the O.M.F. of C.





R.M.S. "OLYMPIC" CAMOUFLAGED



J.P. Fotheringham, front row, fourth from right

7-1

OPERATIONS

by

45th Battery? C. F. A.

During the first phase of the AMIENS Offensive.

The 45th Battery was withdrawn from the line S. of ARRAS to the SAVY area on July 28th. Orders were received to move South by rapid night marches remaining under cover by day. The move south was accomplished on the nights 30th/31st, 31st/1st August, 1st/2nd, 2nd/3rd, via COULLEMONT, MONTRÉLÉ, PONT DE LETZ, BACQUEL to BOVES wood.

Preparation of Battle position S. E. of GENTELLES was commenced on the night of arrival and continued on the nights 3rd/4th, 4th/5th; 5th/6th, and 6th/7th. August, 3600 rounds being delivered at position; positions prepared, telephone lines laid and reconnaissance of area completed without detection or casualties. All guns were in position by the morning of the 7th inst. and all preparations for the battle completed by midnight 7th/8th.

Major Cosgrave was acting as Artillery Liaison Officer with the 42nd French Division on the right. Lieut. L. B. Kingston was in charge of the battery. Lieut. Ralph Adams was in charge of the Brigade Observing Party in position to advance with the infantry on the HANGARD Sector and Lieut. Abbott-Smith was established as F.O.O. for the initial advance.

All preparations were completed without detection or casualties.

The battle commenced at 4.20 A.M., the Zero hour for the artillery barrage. This barrage was laid down on the exact minute and was described by Observers as magnificent, well spaced and an excellent height, this is particularly creditable to the Gunner Officer responsible for the correct lines, range and Angle of sight. The guns opening without having fired a single ranging round, and illustrating the accuracy of the 18 Pdr. Q.F. Gun under experienced Officers. The barrage of this battery opened at 2900 yards and was carried to 6500 yards, when battery limbered up and was placed in Divisional Reserve prepared to move forward as the situation developed. At 1 P.M. the battery was ordered forward via the main AMIENS - ROYE Road to MAISON BLANCHE. Roads were in excellent condition and comparatively little shelling was experienced. Battery remained at this point in a position of observation during the night 8th/9th. At 10 A.M. the 10th Inst. reports were received that the advance was continuing rapidly and encountering little resistance. The battery was then ordered to a position N.W. of BEAUCOURT and took up a defensive position to cover forward artillery positions. At 8 P.M. orders were received to move forward in close support of the infantry who were consolidating East of FOLIES preparatory to an advance by the 32nd Imperial Division across the AMIENS defensive position. This position was rapidly reconnoitred and the battery was quickly placed in action on the forward S.O.S. Line covering our infantry at 2000 yards. The advance was continued early on the morning of the 10th, but as situation was obscure an Officer patrol under LIEUT. L. B. KINGSTON was pushed forward to ascertain the situation and an auxiliary relay Observation Post established by LIEUT. R. V. MACAULEY East of FOLIES to maintain contact with LIEUT. KINGSTON. In addition LIEUT. O'GRADY accompanied the Infantry as Liaison Officer, Despite heavy hostile artillery and M.G. fire. LIEUT. KINGSTON reconnoitred the whole of the advanced area and sent back concise and accurate reports of the situation which were confirmed in the evening by LIEUT. O'GRADY who had remained in the exposed forward lines in close touch with the infantry. A Forward Section under LIEUT. RALPH ADAMS was then ordered forward in close support of the infantry to the vicinity of

(2)


PARVILLERS. Reports were later received that the enemy was holding their old AMIENS Line in force and orders were received to consolidate the present line. Battery remained on defensive S.O.S. Lines during the 10., 11th., and 12th. August and were then ordered to a position on the night of the 12th/13th. on the Eastern outskirts of FOLIES to cover the enemy front line. Hostile fire had increased and batteries were subjected to heavy harassing fire by 15 c.m. Hows, without result.

On the 13th. Inst. forward O.P. line was located by LIEUTENANTS KINGSTON and MADS through the heavily barraged area West of FOUQUESCOURT and complete observation of the enemy country obtained. On the night 13th/14th. the battery was ordered to prepare forward positions for the 179th. A.F.A. Brigade and take forward 2400 rounds of ammunition. This was successfully accomplished by I A.M. despite heavy harassing fire.

The above covers the operations of the 45th Battery during the first phase of the AMIENS battle.

All ranks worked cheerfully, efficiently and rapidly throughout the operations, displaying great devotion to duty. All orders were carried out to the letter and proved a well-disciplined, well-trained Unit in all stages of the advance.

Finally the supply of ammunition, rations and stores by the Wagon Lines under LIEUT. C. KING worked smoothly and rapidly, excellent contact being maintained at all times, displaying good organization and appreciation of the various situations that arose.


Major
Commanding 45th Battery C.F.A.

In the Field
AUGUST 14th. 1918

9TH. CANADIAN ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

APPENDIX

WAR DIARY

NOVEMBER 1918

STRENGTH DECREASE.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
Killed in Action	1	
Wounded		3
Transferred to CARD.	1	
Hospital over 7 days		31
Transferred		2
Posted in out	<u>2</u>	
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>36</u>

STRENGTH INCREASE.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>
Reinforce/ents	2	9 (CCRC) 2 (CGBD)
Transferred		1
Posted	<u>4 (From T.Ms)</u>	<u>57 (from T.Ms)</u>
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>69</u>

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>
EFFECTIVE STRENGTH November 1st.	<u>33</u>	<u>748.</u>
Decrease	<u>6</u>	<u>36</u>
Total	<u>27</u>	<u>712</u>
Reinforce/ents etc	<u>6</u>	<u>69</u>
	<u>33</u>	<u>781</u>
EFFECTIVE STRENGTH November 30th.	<u>33</u>	<u>781.</u>

Footnotes

¹ Commonwealth War Graves Commission records indicate that, on 23 June 1917, Flight Sub-Lieutenant John Norquay McAllister, Royal Naval Air Service attached to the Royal Flying Corps, was killed at age 20. He was from St. Andrew's, Manitoba, and is buried at La Targette British Cemetery, Neuville-St. Vaast, a village 6.5 kilometres north of Arras.

² *We Stand On Guard - An Illustrated History of the Canadian Army*, John Marteinson, 1992

³http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Passchendaele#First_Battle_of_Passchendaele

⁴ *We Stand On Guard - An Illustrated History of the Canadian Army*, John Marteinson, 1992

⁵ *We Stand On Guard - An Illustrated History of the Canadian Army*, John Marteinson, 1992

⁶ *We Stand On Guard - An Illustrated History of the Canadian Army*, John Marteinson, 1992

⁷ *We Stand On Guard - An Illustrated History of the Canadian Army*, John Marteinson, 1992