**Battlefield Tour 2020 – 31st Battery, Canadian Field Artillery**

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| **1** | **Plymouth, England** – 31st Battery, 8th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery disembarks from the S.S. Metagama on 14 Apr, 1916 after a 9 day voyage. Gunner BAC Snyder (unknown Battery) was buried at sea. |
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| **2** | **Bramshott** **Camp, Hants** – The Brigade encamped for training. |
| **3** | **Witley Camp, England** – In training Jul 1 – 13, 1916. Entrains at Milford Station for overseas on 13 July. |
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| **4** | **Godwaersvelde,France** - Detrained and occupied billets in Steenvoorde (France) |
| **5** | **Zillebeke, Belgium** - 31st Battery engaged enemy trenches 58-61 on 27 Jul, 1916 from 2.57 A.M. to 4.A.M. with Good effect. 133 Rounds H.E. Expended. |
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|  | **Belgium Chateau** – Moved to area around Belgium Chateau, further identification of this location is required. |
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| **6** | **Ouderdam, Belgium** - During the night of 25-26th Aug, 1916 , 8th Brigade moved to wagon lines here. |
| **7** | **Cassel, France** - 8th Brigade marched to billets in Cassel Area on 26 Aug, 1916 and remained in rest until 5 Sep 1916. |
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| **8** | **Kemmel, Belgium** – On 6th/7th Sep began relief of 87th Brigade, R.F.A. |
| **9** | **Locre, Belgium** – 1 Oct, 1916 in rest |
| **10** | **L’ecleme, France** – 8th Brigade completes a 43 miles march in 26 hours and arrives at the Somme on 7 Oct, 1916. |
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|  | On 4 Nov 1916, about 12.10 p.m. a cartridge exploded in the breech of No.2 gun of 31st Battery, blowing off the breech block and ring, and setting fire to the pit. The 300 odd rounds of ammunition in the pit started to explode and continued to do so for about 5 minutes. There were four men in the pit at the time of the explosion. Gunner Letch and Gunner Grisdale were killed in the pit, the other two being slightly wounded. Sergt. Simmons behaved most gallantly. |
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| **11** | **Tinques, France** – On 23 Nov 1916 1st Section of Batteries moved to Wagon Lines as per OO.27A in preparation for move to Tinques. |
| **12** | **Vandelicourt, France** – On 2 Dec 1916 the Brigade completed its march and billeted in the village. |
| **13** | **Camblain l’Abbe, France** - Bde H.Q. and wagon lines of 30th, 31st, 35th & 40th Batteries moved to new wagon lines. |
| **14** | **Nedon, France** – On 15th Feb 1917, 31st Battery, 1 Section of 30th, and one section of 40th Batteries, were relieved by Batteries of the 2nd C.D.A. and marched to rest area. |
| **15** | **Nedonchelle, France** – On 16th Feb 1917, H.Q. 8th Brigade, C.F.A. moved to rest area |
| **16** | **Sains-en-Gohelle, France** – On 20 Feb 1917, 8th Brigade C.F.A. marched to Wagon lines. |
| **17** | **Bully Grenay, France** - All 8th Bde Btys moved into action on the night of 21st/22nd Feb 1917. |
| **18** | **Nedon & Lieres, France** - On 17 Feb 8th Brigade, C.F.A. marched to rest area. |
| **19** | **Houdain, France** - On Mar 9th 1917, relieved the Headquarters, and remaining sections of Right Group, Reserve Divisional Artillery. |
| **20** | **Berthonval Farm, France** - moved into position behind the 3rd Canadian Division. |
| **21** | **Vimy Ridge, France** – Apr 9th 11.27 a.m. 31st Battery report lieut. Robertson F.O.O. on top of the Ridge. |
| **22** | **Vimy, France** - On the night of the 15th/16th the 31st Battery moved forward to new position in VIMY and registered the following day. |
|  | **Vimy, France** - On 28 April 1917, One gun of 31st Battery put out of action by hostile fire. |
|  | **Vimy, France** – 31st Battery comes under tactical control 9th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery. |
| **23** | **Magnicourt, France** - From 5 – 22 Feb, 1917 the Headquarters and four batteries were in rest at a small village nestling among some rolling hills. The men had a splendid rest during this time and many parties were sent for the day to ST. POL. |
| **24** | **Gouy Servins, France** - Drew 18 19-pdrs 7 Sep 1917 for the batteries to go into action. |
| **22** | **Vimy, France** - Vimy has been frightfully knocked about since we pulled out some six weeks ago. This is the first of a distinct change in the Artillery plan. Heretofore it has been a case of rush in, throw up some more or less flimsy and conspicuous excrescent called a gun pit and build equally hopeless shelter for men and ammunition. All this in helter skelter haste. This time plenty of opportunity is given to build an excellent battery position, from point of both strength and concealment. |
| **25** | **Mericourt, France** – From 2-5 Oct 1917, the 31st 18 pdr Battery was in the line. |
| **26** | **Vendin-les–Bethune, France** - 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. The first stop was at Vendin-les-Bethune on 13 Oct 1917. |
| **27** | **St Venant, France** - A stop was made about noon on Oct 14 1917 to water the horses and feed the men. |
| **4** | **Godewaersvelde, France** - On Oct 15 1917, the horses were all in the open fields but the men had good billets and were quite comfortable. |
| **28** | **Watou, Belgium** - The horses were again in open fields but most of the men managed to find billets in barns and houses and were fairly comfortable. |
| **29** | **Vlamertinghe, Belgium** - We reached our new wagon lines about 3.00 pm and found there was no cover for either horses or men so tents had to be erected for the men. |
|  | Our batteries relieved the batteries of the 108th A.F.A. in the early morning of Oct 21 1917 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. |
| **30** | **PASSCHENDAELE, Belgium** - Operation Order #114 was issued on 24 Oct 1917 with reference to the first stage of the capture of PASSCHENDAELE |
|  | On 3 Nov 1917 our battery positions were very heavily shelled during the day and quite a large number of casualties inflicted. Lieut. McIlquham of the 31st Battery, C.F.A. was very severely wounded and passed away on 6 Nov 1917. He was awarded the Military Cross. |
|  | On 11 Nov 1917 Lieut. A.D. Golden of the 31st Battery C.F.A. was wounded but remained on duty. |
| **31** | **Merris, France** – On 21 Nov 1917, about an hour before daylight in pouring rain with prospects of a rather unpleasant march. The day cleared and the Brigade arrived at their destination for the first day, early in the afternoon. Accommodation in most cases was good and the batteries soon got settled for the night. |
| **27** | **St Venant, France** – On 22 Nov 1917, rain in early morning, balance of day cloudy and mild. O.O. #127 was issued on the night of 21st with March Table for the second day of Trek from MERRIS to ST. VENANT. |
| **32** | **Amettes, France** – On 23 Nov 1917, the march today was the most pleasant of all, the weather being fine and mild and the roads good. |
|  | On 30 Nov 1917 inspection, GOC 3rd Canadian Division was impressed by the splendid condition of the horses in Brigade's Headquarters and also by Lieut. McKay's Section, of the 31st Battery. This section was outstanding throughout the brigade, particularly in the quality and condition of its horses. |
|  | On 13 Dec 1917, the Brigade held a Gymkhana in a large field at the edge of the Village. |
| **33** | **Loos, France** – On 21 Dec 1917, the 31st Battery moved to the wagon lines of the 11th. Divisional Artillery and relieved one section of the A/58th. |
| **34** | **Hallicourt, France** - The relief of this Brigade by the 2nd Brigade C.F.A. was completed on 23 Jan 1918. The Wagon Lines of the Brigade moved from Noeux-les-Mines to the wagon lines previously occupied by the 2nd Brigade at Bruay area. |
| **35** | **La Targette, France** - On the 21st Feb the brigade marched to new wagon lines and were inspected by the C.R.A. |
| **32** | **Amettes, France** - The Brigade arrived at about 4.30am 5 May 1918 after an uneventful march. The day was spent by the batteries fixing up their horse lines and billets. |
| **36** | **Westrehem, France** - From 10-17 May 1918, all the guns of the Brigade were calibrated on the artillery range. |
|  | On the 30th and 31st May 1918, the Brigade preliminary Dumbbell Contest took place, which was won by the 31st Battery, C.F.A. |
| **37** | **Flechin, France** - On the 4th the Brigade moved to carry on further manoeuvers. |
| **38** | **Nieppe, France** – On 17 May 1918, the HQ were located in a chateau; the batteries occupying positions in the Forest. |
| **39** | **Boeseghem, France** - On 19 May 1918 the Brigade received orders to move to the wagon lines. |
| **40** | **Quiestede, France** - On the morning of 20 May 1918 the Brigade moved and remained under GHQ Reserve until the 25th. |
| **39** | **Boeseghem, France** - On the 25th the brigade moved under orders, to their old wagon lines |
| **23** | **Magincourt, France** – On 2nd Jul 1917, the brigade continued its march to Basseux, arriving in Magnicourt-sur-Chance at about 4.00pm. |
| **41** | **Basseux, France** -T he brigade arrived at 4.30pm, bivouacing on the night of 3/4th July in the staging area. Advance parties from brigade headquarters and batteries went forward by motor lorry to positions in the line of units being relieved. |
| **42** | **Blairville, France** - On the night of the 4/5th the remaining sections of the brigade moved into the line and completed the relief of the 6th Brigade 2nd C.D.A. |
| **43** | **Boisleux au Mont, France** - Received some attention from 5.9 |
| **44** | **Grosville, France** – On 26 Jul 1918, The completion of the relief took place today, the brigade moving to the wagon lines. |
| **45** | **Beaumetz, France** – On 27 Jul 1918, the brigade passed the starting point, Beaumetz at 7.00am |
| **46** | **Humbercourt, France** – 30 Jul 1918, the brigade passed the starting point near BERLES, at 8.30am, marching through Izel-lLes-Hameau-Avesnes-les-Comte - Sombrin and Warluzel to Cullemont and Humbercourt, arriving about 1.00pm. |
|  | The brigade remained in this area during the day and for the first time in the history of the brigade our final destination remained a secret. Wild rumors were in circulation throughout the brigade. |
| **47** | **Saleux, France** – On 1 Aug 1918, the brigade march from the present area to the SALEUX Area, the march to commence at 9.00pm. |
|  | On 2nd Aug 1918, the brigade marched through Amiens to the Saleux Area reaching their destination about 5.00am. |
|  | **Bacqueel, France** - 3 Aug 1918, Our troops appear to have been the first British in this neighborhood for a long time and everywhere received a warm welcome from the civilians. |
| **48** | **Boves, France** – On 4 Aug 1918, the brigade marched into Boves Wood about 1.00am. The roads in the wood area were a sea of mud and the brigade finally got into the wood and settled down before dawn, horses being tied between trees and the men sleeping under bivvies. |
| **49** | **Gentiles, France** - A HQ battle position was chosen this afternoon on the Amiens-Roye Road, 1000 yards east of Gentelles Wood. |
|  | 9 Aug 1918, Lieut. Inch, 31 Battery C.F.A., with section detailed to advance with and support the 4th CMRs, 5th CMRs. Lieut. Philpott, 33 Battery. Our infantry which had been held up between Beaucourt and Le Quesnil during the previous evening, had asked for artillery support, the guns of the brigade opening up on Le Quesnil at 4.30am. The 4th Canadian Division then rushed and took the town after sharp fighting about 6.00am. The two advanced sections followed up with the battalion commanders and greatly assisted the advance of our infantry. Lieut. Inch took up five positions during the day firing 138 rounds at close range |
|  | 10 Aug 1918, About midnight a bomb hit in the vicinity of the 31st battery killing Captain Bawden and wounding two O.Rs. |
| **50** | **Folies, France** - 12 Aug 1918, Our brigade moved forward during the afternoon and came into action on the east of Folies, supporting the 32nd Division in front of Parvillers. |
| **51** | **Cayeux, France** - 17 Aug 1918, The brigade marched to Cayeux Wood arriving about 6.00pm where they remained in reserve. |
| **52** | **Camon, France** - 19 Aug 1918, The brigade received orders to march to the Camon area near Amiens, arriving in this area at 1.00am. |
| **53** | **Canaples, France** – 21 Aug 1918, Brigade moved off at 9.00pm marching to Canaples area, arriving at 4.ooam after a hard night's march. |
| **54** | **Rebreuvette , France** - The brigade pulled out of this area at 6.00pm marching to Rebreuvette area, arriving shortly after midnight. |
| **55** | **Wanquentin, France** – 22 Aug 1918, remained in this area during the day and marched to Wanquentin area arriving at 3.00am. |
| **56** | **Tilloy, France** - 23 Aug 1918, the battery battle positions were selected in the vicinity of Tilloy in preparation for the coming offensive on this front. |
| **57** | **Berneville, France** – 24 Aug 1918, Brigade wagon lines moved to Berneville. |
| **58** | **Boiry, France** – 28 Aug 1918, in support of the 9th C.I.B. who attacked and captured Boiry |
|  | 2 Sep 1918, at about 9.00pm during a heavy burst of harassing fire by the enemy in the vicinity of ?, a pack horse with 8 rounds of 18pdr. ammunition broke loose from a passing column and fell tail foremost down to the bottom of HQ's dugout. |
| **59** | **Oisy le Verger, France** – 9 Sep 1918, our heavies shot down the steeple of Oisy le Verger Church this afternoon at 5.00pm |
| **60** | **Saudemont, France** – 9 Sep 1918, our forward sections which have been located at 31st Battery in the chalk pits north of Saudemont |
| **61** | **Sauchy-Cauchy, France** – 14 Sep 1918, New forward Bde. O.P. established on hill sloping towards canal in front of Sauchy-Cauchy. |
| **62** | **Vise-Artois, France** - Brigade H.Q. with the exception of the C.O. and the three batteries relieved, withdrew to the wagon lines west of Visen Artois. |
| **63** | **Achicourt, France** – 22 Sep 1918, by 9.00am brigade was on the move and trekked via Neuville-Vitasse and Beaurains to Achicourt. |
| **64** | Starting at 6.00am from Agny by bus, 2 officers from each battery and the R.O. went forward to reconnoitre positions. Area allotted was in vicinity of north end of Inchy |
| **62** | **Vis-en Artois, France** - 25 Sep 1918, by 3.30am the whole brigade was on the move and proceeded to the Vis-en-Artois wagon lines. |
| **65** | **Queant, France** – 25 Sep 1918, at noon order was received to move to other wagon lines in vicinity of Queant |
| **66** | **Pronville, France** – 26 Sep 1918, 18pdr. batteries ordered to take up positions at dusk in vicinity of Pronville to cover an S.O.S. line until zero hour the following morning. |
| **67** | **Quarry Wood, France** – 27 Sep 1918, directly after the barrage was completed, reconnaissances were made and the batteries, … were moved forward to the vicinity of Quarry Wood. |
|  | 29 Sep 1918, In addition the 45th had one gun knocked out and the 31st another. |
| **68** | **Raillencourt**, **France** – 30 Sep 1918, during the morning the C.O. Brigade reconnoitred positions for the batteries in the vicinity of Raillencourt and Sailly and at dusk batteries moved their guns to that vicinity. |
|  | 3 Oct 1918, later it was learned that enemy had advanced to attack in three parties totaling some 400 men, that they had been caught in our barrage, very much cut up and many killed, leaving three prisoners in our hands. |
|  | 3 Oct 1918, Lieut. Colonel Coghlan arrived back from England today. He will stay tonight at the wagon lines and tomorrow take over from Lieut. Colonel Ralston as Group Commander |
| **69** | **Neuville St. Remy, France** – On 10 Oct 1918, 9th Brigade CFA went into rest, wagon lines moving up to last battery positions occupied near Neuville St. Remy |
| **70** | **Blecourt, France** – 11 Oct 1918 - HQ informed the O.C. that the brigade was to go into action again immediately, taking over battery positions of the 58th Brigade, RFA, in vicinity of Blecourt and Bantigny |
| **71** | **Wandignies Hamage, France** - 21 Oct 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 08-- and marched via Marquette and Somain to Wandignies Hamage which was reached at 1500 hours. |
| **72** | **Cataine, France** – 21 Oct 1918 - Shortly before midnight the 31st Battery moved forward to a position of assembly in the vicinity of Cataine. |
| **73** | **Notre Dame d’Amour**, France – 24 Oct 1918, the 31st Battery moved with the 42nd Btn. at 0730 and took up a position of readiness in 0.36.a. |
|  | 26 Oct 1918 - The forward sections did considerable firing on enemy movement and M.G. posts but enemy artillery was not very active. |
| **74** | **Escautpont, France** – On 5 Nov 1918, at noon the C.R.A. phoned and ordered batteries to move forward. |
| **75** | **Qubrouble, France** – On 6 Nov 1918, the three batteries moved via Bruay and St Saulve, and were in position at 1630 |
| **76** | **Quievrain, Belgium** – On 7 Nov 1918, at 1000 orders were received for C.O. and B.Cs to go forward to reconnoitre and that batteries would move on their return. |
| **77** | **Thulin, Belgium** – On 8 Nov 1918, the forward section took up a position in N.27.c.7. from which they were able to do good shooting on two nests of enemy M.Gs in N.24.c. killing some men and forcing the remainder to evacuate the position. The Main Battery took a position in N.26.d. |
| **78** | **Jemappes, Belgium** – on 9 Nov 1918, this village is not damaged at all and the difference in the treatment of places in France and in Belgium is very noticeable, factories are working here and many horses and cattle are still on the farms |
| **79** | **Cuesmes, Belgium** – On 11th Nov 1918, At 0900 bde. moved forward to positions reconnoitred on the 10th Nov. and went into action in the vicinity of the village of CUESMES at the following locations. |
|  | On 11th Nov 1918, Rumours of an armistice were heard in the early morning and at 0900 orders were received that hostilities would cease at 1100 today. |
| **80** | **Nimy, Belgium** – On 12th Nov 1918, At 0800 the bde. moved through MONS to NIMY about a mile north of the city |
|  | 20 Nov 1918, HQ mess entertained their Belgian lady friends to tea. C.R.As attended and a very pleasant time was had by all. Conversation was in our best table-manner French, assisted by forty year old Burgundy and Scottish wine of the 1918 vintage. |
| **81** | **Houdeng-Almeries, Belgium** - 10 Dec 1918, 10:00 Bde. marched to Houdeng-Almeries arriving at 14:00. |
| **82** | **Seneffe, Belgium** - Dec 12th - 09:30 Bde. marched to Seneffe, arriving at 12:00. |
| **83** | **Genappe, Belgium** - Dec 14th - Bde. marched from Seneffe to Genappe |
| **84** | **Limal , Belgium** - Dec 15th - At 09:15 Bde. marched from Genappe to Limal arriving at 12:00 |
| **85** | **Hoeyleart , Belgium** - Dec 29th - Bde. moved from Limal to Hoeyleart arriving there at 12:00 hours, |
| **86** | **Vlesenbeek, Belgium** - Dec 30rd - Bde. resumed its march to the entraining area and reached Vlesenbeek at 15:00. |
| **87** | **Denderwindeke , Belgium** - Jan 1st - Bde. Continued the march from Velsenbeek to Denderwindeke arriving at the latter place at 12:30. |
| **88** | **Nederbrackel, Belgium** - Jan 2nd - Bde. resumed its march to the entraining area and arrived at Nederbrackel at 13:00. |
| **89** | **Renaix, Belgium** - Jan 3rd - The Bde. continued the march and reached Renaix at 11:30. |
| **90** | **Kain la Tombe, Belgium** - Jan 4th - In accordance with orders received Bde. marched to Kain la Tombe area |
| **89** | **Renaix, Belgium** - Jan 10th - 3rd C.D.A. moved from Kain La Tombe area to Renaix. |
| **90** | **Kain la Tombe, Belgium** - Jan 30th - At about 09:00 batteries marched independently to Kain area where they were billeted for the night. |
| **91** | **Lehavre, France** - Feb 14th - Bde. on train en route for Lehavre. |
| **92** | **Weymouth, England** - Feb 18th - Embarked at 21:00 and sailed at midnight for Weymouth |
| **93** | **Wiley Camp, England** - Feb 19th - Arrived Weymouth 09:00 and entrained for MILFORD Station at 11:00. Arrived at MILFORD Station at 16:30 and marched to Witley Camp. |
|  | Mar 12th - Word received to have drafts for Halifax, St. John, Kingston and Hamilton ready to sail via S.S. "Olympic" on 15th inst. Football match, 31st Battery vs 33rd Battery. |
|  | Mar 17th - Drafts for Halifax, Kingston and Ottawa sailing by S.S. "Olympic" entrained at Liphook for Southhampton. |
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