



War Diaries 31st Battery Canadian Field Artillery

**A sub-unit of
8th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery
Canadian Expeditionary Force**

**Later transferred to
9th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery
Canadian Expeditionary Force**

Transcribed from Library and Archives Canada

By

Bombardier (ret) Eric Halstead

Edited by

Leon Jensen OMM CD

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***The 31st Battery CFA CEF is proudly perpetuated by the Gunners of the 15th Field Artillery
Regiment RCA in Vancouver, B.C.***



Foreword

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA perpetuates the 31st Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, Canadian Expeditionary Force. A process was put in place after the First World War to ensure that the histories of the Canadian Expeditionary Force was retained by linking their histories to that of the Non-Permanent Active Militia units.

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA was formed on 2 February 1920 with the title 15th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery and the allocated Batteries (31st, 58th, 68th, 85th, 5th) were based on Batteries that had served in France, North Russia and Siberia.

The 31st Battery was formed in Ontario in 1916 and disbanded ?

The aim of this book is to capture the daily events that took place and that are portrayed in the War Diaries that were maintained at the Brigade level. Interesting parts of the War Diaries are pasted in relevant parts of the booklet. For those that are dedicated historians or those that are looking for more detailed information, the War Diaries can be accessed at

<http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/warDiaryLac/wdLacP11.asp>

It is hoped that the current members of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA will be able to relate to the events as described in the Diaries. While images of World War I often invoke scenes of trench warfare and 'going over the top', the Diaries present a tale of technical skills brought by the artillery to assist the infantry in their battles.

A special thanks goes to former Bombardier Eric Halstead who spent hours transcribing the War Diaries from a jpeg format to a word document. Handwritten in some cases, utilizing worn typewriter ribbons or worn out carbon paper in others, it was a difficult chore to read some of the entries. Where the script was illegible, Eric has placed a ? to indicate. Should fresher copies of the Diaries become available we can revisit those entries and update them.

It is rather fitting that the last Commanding Officer of the 9th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, of which the 31st Battery was a sub-unit, was also the first Commanding Officer of the 15th Brigade, Canadian field Artillery when it was formed in 1920.

Enjoy the read!

Leon Jensen OMM CD
President
Vancouver Artillery Association
www.vancouvergunners.ca



Organization

The Battery was originally part of the 8th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery but was transferred to the 9th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery in 1917. Both these brigades were part of the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery. As part of that Division, the Battery would have been entitled to wear the French-Grey patch worn by the 3rd Division and retained by the current Regiment. The Divisional troops that the Battery was in support of included:

1st Canadian Mounted Rifles

2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles

(List to be researched further)



Battles

The 31st Battery was involved in the following battles of World War I:

1916:

Battle of Flers-Courcelette – 15–22 September

Battle of Morval – 25 September

Battle of Thiepval – 26–28 September

Battle of Le Transloy – 1–18 October

Battle of the Ancre Heights – 1–11 October

1917:

Battle of Vimy Ridge – 9–14 April

Attack on La Coulotte – 23 April

Third Battle of the Scarpe – 3–4 May

Affairs South of the Souchez River – 3–25 June

Capture of Avion – 26–29 June

Battle of Hill 70 – 15–25 August

Second Battle of Passchendaele October 26 – 10 November

1918:

Battle of Amiens – 8–11 August

Actions round Damery – 15–17 August

Battle of the Scarpe – 26–30 August (including the capture of Monchy-le-Preux)

Battle of the Canal du Nord – 27 September – 1 October (including the capture of Bourslon Wood)

Battle of Cambrai – 8–9 October (including the Capture of Cambrai)

Battle of Valenciennes – 1–2 November

Pursuit to Mons – 11 November

(List to be confirmed)



Ordnance Quick Firing 18 Pounder

The 18-pounder was a quick-firing horse-drawn field gun designed to be towed behind a limber and six horses. The gun barrel was wire bound nickel-steel with a single-motion screw breech with a cartridge extractor. It fired a fixed round of shell and cartridge fixed together, which was known as "quick firing" in British terminology. The lower carriage comprised a single hollow steel trail fixed to the centre of the axle-tree. The limited traverse saddle supported the elevating mass and a shield. Traverse controls were on the left and elevation on the right of the saddle. Recoil was by a hydraulic buffer with telescopic running-up springs to return the barrel to its firing position.

The Ordnance Quick Firing 18-pounder Mark I gun barrel was wire-wound for one-third of its length, chosen as it was lighter, stronger and cheaper to manufacture than a fully built-up barrel.

The narrow single-pole trail design of the Carriages Mk I and II were suited to towing by teams of horses, but constrained downward motion of the breech, and thus limited the gun's range to 6525 yards in normal use. The range could be increased to 7800 yards by "digging in" the end of the pole trail to increase elevation.

The 'carriage' limber, towed between the gun and horse team, carried 24 rounds of ammunition. Each gun was accompanied by a second horse team towing an ammunition wagon and wagon limber carrying the gun detachment (none were carried on the gun limber) and 38 rounds in each. In action, the wagon was placed close beside the gun; its steel body provided an extended shield to protect the detachments against small arms fire.

The towed weight of the gun and loaded limber was 40 cwt, the wagon and its limber were about 37 cwt. Each battery also held a second wagon and wagon limber per gun, giving first line ammunition stocks of 176 rounds per gun.

By the outbreak of war in 1914, 1225 guns had been produced, including 99 in India. UK production was by Armstrong Whitworth, Vickers and Woolwich Ordnance factory. During the First World War, these were joined by Beardmore, the Elswick Ordnance Company and, in the US, Bethlehem Steel. In the latter part of the war, component assemblies were produced by various other companies.

Total wartime production 1914–1918 was 9908 guns and 6926 carriages.

(Needs additional revision)



1916**Toronto, Ontario**

Jan 6th – Brigade formed. Designation 8th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery CEF (????)

Acting OIC – Major Austin B. Gillies

A/Adjutant - Lieut. EP Johnston

Brigade Orderly Officer – Lieut. Goodwin Gibson (approved 22/1/16)

Medical Officer – Capt. H.C. Hall C.A.M.C

Veterinary – Lieut. Cameron C.A.V.C

Bde Sgt Maj – Sgt. Major C Bodfish

30 Battery – Major Gillies

31 Battery - Major Peacock

40 Battery – Major Southam

41 Battery – Major Eyre?

Bde Amm Col – Capt Fletcher

Jan 11th – Inspection of 40 OS Bty C.F.A. by GOC

Jan 15th – 10 am – 8th Bde C.F.A. C.E.F. marched to High Park ? – Instructions in Review

Jan 17th – 10.30 am – 8th Bde C.F.A. C.E.F. reviewed by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught. G.G. CinC, Queens Park.

Jan 20th – Revd J.J. Callan (Wycliffe College Toronto) appointed Chaplain 8th CFA Bde (after and when Bde receives orders to proceed overseas (approved 22/1/16)

Jan 22nd – Capt. A.C. Ryft (GBty) appointed Adjutant dating from 17/1/16

Jan 26th – 8th Bde CFA CEF ordered overseas. To entrain Feb 2nd 1916 at Camp Siding. List of Officers, proceeding, published in Bde Orders.

Feb 1st – Capt. H.C. Hall, M.O. 8th CFA transferred to Camp Hospital.

Feb 2nd – 8th Bde CFA CEF entrained for St John

Sea (Atlantic)

Feb 5th – Sailed for England S.S. Metagama

Feb 10th – Gnr Snyder B.A.C buried at sea with military honours.

Feb 14th – Arrived Plymouth. Proceeded to Bramshott Camp Hants

Bramshott

Feb 17th – Major AB Gillies assumes Command of Artillery at Bramshott.

Captain Al Ryerson – provisional Staff Captain

Lieut. C Smyth “ ADC

Composition 8th Bde CFA – 31 Officers 719 Other Ranks.

Feb 19th – Medical inspection of all ranks.

General leave (6 days) granted (WOO)

Feb 22nd – G.O.C. Can. Div. inspected Artillery.

Feb 25th – Exceptionally heavy snow.

Mar 13th – Lt. Col. V.E. Eaton R.C.H.A. (from France) assumes command of 8th CFA Bde and 3rd C.D.A.

Major A.B. Gillies relinquishes command of 3rd C.D.A. & also 8th CFA.

3rd C.D.A. Staff

A/Brigade Major – Major AB Gillies

A/ADC – Lieut. G Gibson

Mar 27th – 12 noon - Inspection of all troops by Gen Sir S. Hughes K.C.G.

3 pm – meeting of Officers in Mess of 41st Batt. Address by Sir S. Hughes.

Mar 28th – Inspection by Brig. Gen Drake Inspector Gen R.H. & R.F.A. Home forces.

8th Bde CFA inspected in the morning.

No war diaries available for April, May and June 1916

Witley Camp, England

Jul 1st to 13th – In training at Witley Camp, England.



Ordnance_QF_18-pounder_RCA_MIKAN_3405482



Jul 13th P.M. – Night of 13th entrained at Milford station for Overseas.

Godwaersvelde

Jul 16th A.M. – Detrained at Godwaersvelde and occupied billets in Steenvoorde (France)

Steenvoorde

Jul 17th – First detachments from Batteries sent forward.

Jul 19th – Inspection by General Sir Julian Byng.

Jul 21st P.M. – Lt. Col. Eaton went forward to Group H.Q. I.21.b.1.4 ½

Jul 22nd A.M. – Two Casualties in 40th Battery C.F.A.

Jul 24th A.M. – Operation Order No. 8., 3rd C.D.A. made re-arrangement of Groups. Lt. Colonel V. Eaton Commanding Centre Group, Zone I.30.b.9.9 ½ to J.19.a.4.6. Group consisting of 8th Brigade H.Q.: 31st Battery, C.F.A. 8th Brigade, - 35th Battery, C.F.A. 8th Brigade, - 39th Battery, C.F.A. 10th Brigade and one section (2 guns) of the 37th Battery C.F.A. 10th Brigade.

Jul 24th A.M. – Billets moved from Steenvoorde to present position of Wagon Lines.

Zillebeke

Jul 26th 4 PM - Lieut. Colonel Eaton took over Command Centre Group. From Lt. Colonel Clarke. 31st and 35th (How) Batteries 8th Brigade, completed relief on the night of the 26th. 30th and 40th Batteries of 8th Brigade, as per 3rd C.D.A. Operation Order No/8, under Command of the Right Group Commander.

Jul 27th A.M. - 31st Battery engaged enemy trenches 58-61 from 2.57 A.M. to 4.A.M. with Good effect. 133 Rounds H.E. Expended.

11th Battery C.F.A. engaged enemy front trenches at request of infantry, 3 to 4 A.M. 26 rds shrapnel and 220 H.E.

35th Battery engaged enemy front trenches retaliation 2.35 A.M. working party J.20/d.8.7. 6.15 A.M. 60 rounds fired.

Jul 27th A.M. – 2.30 A.M. to 3.15 A.M. Enemy shelled our front trenches with trench mortars and 77 MM.

P.M. – 11th Battery engaged working party in enemy support trenches at 10/35. P.M. 46 rounds shrapnel expended.

P.M. – Vicinity of Sanctuary Wood lightly shelled at 10.15 P.M.



Jul 28th A.M. – 31st Battery registered trenches 59-61 5.20 A.M. to 6.03 A.M. with 17 rounds shrapnel. 11th Battery engaged targets J.20.b.1 ½.8. and J.19.c.0.1-1/4. From 1. A.M. to 11 A.M. Retaliation by F.O.O 75 rounds H.E. 35th Battery no firing.

Enemy Aircraft active during the day, an enemy plane flew over our trenches in the evening. Was observed to drop two white lights and returned over Hill 60. Enemy planes appear to be directing fire of enemy on Zillebeke Bund. About 12 Noon the enemy shelled our front line with Trench Mortars.

P.M. – About 7.30 P.M. Valley Cottage, Maple Copse, Verbrandenmolen & Zillebeke Bund lightly shelled. Zillebeke Ry. Cutting and Communication Trench in Sanctuary Wood also lightly shelled about 8.30 P.M.

Jul 29th A.M. – 35th Battery no firing. 31st Battery No firing.

Zillebeke Ry. Cutting and Sanctuary Wood shelled about 11 A.M. with shrapnel and minenwerfers.

Hostile planes and balloons observed from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

P.M. – The 39th battery and one section of 37th Battery completed relief of the 11th Battery C.F.A. on the night of the 29th. Our front line trenches lightly shelled by the enemy from 3 to 10 P.M. 5.9's and minenwerfers.

About 7.30 P.M. Hostile balloons observed N.E. of 39th Battery. Eleven of our planes reconnoitered due East. Enemy anti aircraft guns shelled them with no apparent effect/

Jul 30th A.M. – 31st Battery registered trenches 59-60. Good effect.

39th Battery fired 12 rnds. Shrap/ at front trenches I.19.o. 10.40 A.M. at request of infantry with good effect also at 2 P.M.

35th Battery no firing

Jul 30th A.M. – Our front trenches I.28.d. and I.29.c. lightly shelled by enemy at 11.00 A.M. with 5.9 H.E. A few whiz bangs sent into our back country from 10.00 to 11.00 A.M.

P.M. – Small Numbers of Germans seen coming down road at T.20.d.8.7. about 6.10 P.M. One whiz bang lit 20 yards to rear of 31st Battery.

Jul 31st A.M. – 39th Battery fired 50 Rds. H.E. on Clonmel Copse (9.30 A.M. with good effect enemy ceased fire on our trenches.

Fired on enemy trenches J.19.c. at 12.30 and 2 P.M. Retaliation, about 60 rounds H.E. Good effect. 31st Battery and 35th Battery no firing.

Reported by 35th Battery smoke from Gun seen at 11.05 A.M. in vicinity of J.21.c.5 ½.6. again seen at 11.20 and 11.27 A.M. Our front trenches shelled at 12.30 P.M. apparently from behind Clonmel Copse or Shrewsbury Forest.

Armagh Wood and our front line lightly shelled about 1 P.M.

1 Whiz bang dropped immediately in rear of 35th Battery about 11 A.M. also six 5.9's.

Hostile aircraft active along front from Hill 60 to Verbran denmolen and in vicinity of Dormy House.

About 1 P.M. the enemy shelled our front line and Armagh Wood with 5.9 H.E. 39th Battery retaliated with 60 Rounds H.E.

Enemy shelled Transport Farm about 8.30 P.m. with 15 rounds 5.9 H.E.

Aug 1st – An Earthwork on Hill 60, suspected Machine Gun emplacement reported by F.O.O. 39th Battery. Also suspected O.P. in tree East of Hooge.



Enemy shelled our trenches and Armagh Wood about 1 P.M. about 20 rounds H.E. all appeared to be fired from behind Clonmel Copse or Shrewesbury Forest.

One hostile aeroplane observed flying East at 1.30 P.M.

About twelve British aeroplanes were seen to be flying high toward enemys lines over Zillebeke village at 2.30 P.M. The enemy anti aircraft Guns fired on them with no apparent effect.

Enemy shelled Communication trench at Zillebeke with five rounds 77 mm. at 2.30 P.M.

39th Battery registered Targets J.19.a J.19.c and J.19.d. with good effect at 5.P.M. Ten rnds. H.E. and 23 Shrapnel.

Fokker type aeroplane observed flying in Easterly direction at 5 P.M.

Vicinity of I.22.c and I.30.a shelled by enemy with 12 heavy calibre shells about 8.30 P.M. Enemy shelled road between Sanctuary Wood and Maple Copse with about 25 whiz bangs at 8.30 P.M. At 9 P.M.

enemy shelled Railway at I. 22.c. with 30 rounds shrapnel.

Enemy snipers active on I.28.d. especially down cutting at I.28.d.6.8. They used Machine Guns occasionally otherwise quiet. Fired 55 rnds H.E. on J.19.c. and J.20/b.2.8 with good effect. Retaliation.

Enemy ceased firing on our trench

Aug 2nd – Enemy snipers active during early morning.

Enemy shelled vicinity of I.29.d and I.30.d with 8 rounds Howitzer from 9.00 to 12 A.M.

Two of our planes fired at over J.29.

Weather fine, slightly hazy. Enemy shelled Zillebeke Bund lightly about 3.30 P.M. with 77 mm. About twenty of our planes observed flying over the Bund at 3.00 P.m. toward enemy lines, they were all fired upon by the enemy Anti-aircraft guns using H.E. but with no apparent effect.

39th Battery fired 17 Shrapnel and 23 H.E. on enemy trenches at J.19.c. and J.24.d.9.0 with good effect as observed from O.P. retaliation at request of infantry.

35th Battery fired 15 rounds H.E. on enemy trenches at J.19.c.3.8. retaliation at request of infantry, 5 P.M. with satisfactory results.

Enemy shelled I.30.s with 20 rounds shrapnel at 5. P.M. and I.24.c with 16 4.1's.

From 8.30 P.M. to 9.30 P.M enemy shelled trenches at I.29.c. & d. with Minenwerfers, 5.9's, whiz bangs and 4.1's about 120 rounds in all.

31st Battery fired 50 rounds Shrapnel for registration from 9.15 P.M. to 9.45 P.M. in vicinity of J.19.c J.19.d

Weather fine and clear.

Aug 3rd – 39th Battery fired seven rounds H.E. at J.19.a.4.1. and J.24.d.9.o in retaliation, with good effect as observed from O.P.

Enemy shelled I.30.a. at 10.00 A.M. with 10 5.9's, also eight 4.1's H.E. which appeared to come from I.35.b.

Hostile plane, apparently of Fokker type circled about salient several times at 11.30 A.M. Fired upon by our A.A. guns with no apparent effect.

Enemy shelled our trenches from I.22.d. to I.29.c. from 5. P.M. to 8. P.M. with 4.1's, 5.9's, whiz bangs and Minenwerfers about 40 rounds in all. Hostile baloon observed 72 degrees magnetic from I.28.d.6.8. Enemy planes active.

Retaliation fire by 31st Battery from 8.30 P.M. to 9/30 P.M. on trenches from J.19.d/ to J.21.b. with satisfactory results 125 rounds Shrapnel.



Enemy fired five rounds 5.9 which lit within 25 yards of 31st Battery Gun pits with little effect. We blew two mines at 10.00 P.M. and a general bombardment followed. Retaliation fire at request of infantry at 11.10 P.M. of 50 rounds H.E. with satisfactory results. 35th Battery registered Targets J.19.b.6 ½.7 ½ and J.19.c.4 ½.6 with 35 rounds H.E. Good effect. Weather foggy in morning and clear in afternoon.

Aug 4th – No firing during day. Situation quiet.

Ten whiz bangs fired on I.28.d.8.5. 5.35 P.M.

31st Battery registered Targets J.19.c.4.2. to J.19.c.6.9. with good effect at 6.30 P.M. 85 rounds shrapnel. Fired 15 rounds shrapnel at J.19.b.7.8. 10.15 P.M. with good effect. 35th Battery fired 28 rounds H.E. on J.19.b.6. ½.7 ½., J.20/d.8.7. and J.21.b.3.2. at 6.30 P.M., barrage to cover our trench mortar firing. Good effect. Enemy planes observed flying N.W. direction over I.28.d.8.5. at 6.10 P.M. Enemy balloon observed 75 degrees true bearing from I.28.d.5.7.

Two Germans seen coming down road at J.20.d.8.7. at 6.35 P.M. This point having been registered 35th Battery fired one round at them. The men were completely enveloped in smoke. Nothing afterwards seen of them.

Party of six Germans seen going along road about J.19.b.8. 8 ½. About 9.30 a.m. 5-8-16.

Weather slightly hazy in morning clear in afternoon.

Aug 5th – German balloons seen at full wing magnetic bearing from I.24.d.8.4 ½.

Two hostile planes over our lines were driven off by our gunfire about 6.00 p.m.

Enemy snipers and machine guns very active over I.28.d. at 10.00 p.m. until 1.30 a.m. 6-8-16.

Weather clear and warm.

Aug 6th – Four hostile balloons observed at 8 a.m., at 96 degrees magnetic bearing from I.28.d.6.8.

Three of our planes observed flying over I.30.a. at 9.30 am

Hostile shelling of support trenches J.17.o.c.2. at 12.30 p.m.

Hostile shelling in vicinity of Zillebeke. Hostile shelling of trenches in Sanctuary Wood at 3.10 p.m.

Our planes were active from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They were shelled by the enemy A.A. Guns, but with no apparent effect.

Weather Fine.

Aug 7th – T 8.40 A.M. A PARTY OF 8 OR 10 Huns was seen in marching order near J.20.d.8.7.

Two parties of about 5 men were seen at J.20.d.8.7. at 10.20 a.m. Fired on by 31st and 35th Batteries with good effect.

A working party was seen in vicinity of J.19.b.9.1. at 4 p.m.

Enemy fired 64 rounds of 5.9's in the vicinity of 31st Battery Gun Pits between 11.20 a.m. and 2.20 p.m.

Weather fine.

Aug 8th – Hostile aeroplanes were observed flying over Zillebeke at 12.05 a.m. and were engaged by 39th Battery guns.

A working party of three or four was seen in vicinity of J.20.d.8.7. at 11.00 a.m.

Brigade moved from Zillebeke to respective wagon lines on night of 8th-9th for rest. Operation Order #10 about 11.p.m Gas alarm sounded in salient. Gas was felt slightly at the Brigade wagon lines. No



casualties caused from gas. One man wounded passing through Ypres on wagon. – Sent to Base Hospital in the brigade.

Aug 9th – At rest at wagon lines

Aug 10th – At rest at wagon lines

Aug 11th – At rest at wagon lines

Aug 12th – At rest at wagon lines

Aug 13-14 – On the night 13-14 August, 8th Brigade moved from wagon lines to take new position with the 19th Battery, C.F.A. and Two Belgian Field Artillery Batteries, with Group Headquarters at Belgian Chateau and battery positions as follows:-

19th Battery H.24.c.6.6., 30th Battery I.31.b.2.5., 31st Battery H.24.b.3.6., one Belgian Battery H.24.c.9.3., and the other at H.24.c.9.8.

This group, composed as above, relieved the Right Group 1st C.D.A. Operation Order #1 – At 9.00 p.m. 13-8-16, the enemy blew up old sap at other side of crater.

Belgian Chateau

Aug 14th – Considerable activity was noted on the right of 35th Battery at 2.00 a.m., both enemy machine guns and artillery fire being heavy.

At 10.00 a.m. the enemy fired several rounds of 4.2 or 5.9's in the direction of the Belgian Chateau. This fire was apparently coming from the direction of rear of their lines. Opposite our trenches 30 or 31.

At 3.30 p.m. there was a heavy bombardment of Grand Bois and as far as the canal bank.

between 4 and 4.15 p.m. the enemy threw Trench Mortar bombs into trenches 37 and 38, but this was stopped by retaliation from our own guns.

About 7 p.m. two enemy aeroplanes were observed flying in rear of our front line, north of the Canal.

Aug 15th – at 1.10 a.m. two planes were heard going over trench 33, flying north.

From 8 to 11 a.m. the enemy dropped four or five 5.9's in front of crater and on right bank of canal.

Snipers plate or machine gun emplacement observed situated at base of enemy parapet at I.34.b.5.2.

At 5.30 p.m. the enemy began shelling Chester Farm with shrapnel and dropped shells in this vicinity at regular intervals. Location of guns apparently opposite our trench 32.

The machine guns and rifle fire during the night was slightly below normal.

Our Batteries registered several points on the enemy line with good effect.

Aug 16th – In retaliation for Batteries registering to the left of 19th Battery, the enemy put over 10 77 M.M. towards supports on left of their zone.

At 4.30 p.m. the enemy fired 9 4.1's into back country in direction of Revine.

The 35th Battery fired 22 rounds of H.E. at J.4.b.5.8. and I.34.d.7.5. in retaliation, with good effect. Also on trenches in vicinity of above targets. The 40th Battery fired 64 rounds of H.E. in retaliation, on



Infantry request. The 31st Battery also fired 98 rounds of Shrapnel on enemy lines, in retaliation on Infantry request. Machine Guns and Snipers were quite active during the night.

Three enemy air-craft passed over 19th battery lines during the night.

Our Trench Mortars retaliated on enemy, who put over 7 large T.M.'s to right of 19th Bty. Zone.

Weather mostly fine.

About 9.32 p.m. the enemy put over 3 small shrapnel in the road in front of H.24c2.3.

Aug 17th – About 10.00 a.m. the enemy sent over 4 or 5 whizz bangs, which dropped in the rear of reserve trenches 31 and 32.

Our 18 pounders retaliated and the shelling ceased.

Between 12.45 and 1.15 p.m. some 15 or 16 enemy whizz bangs fell in the vicinity of trench 36 and in rear of same around support trench and retaliation by our 18 pdrs. Stopped this.

At 1.50 p.m. an enemy balloon was observed from path on left bank of canal, showing up right over crater.

Various other balloons appeared in the sky appeared in the sky, bearing being taken to them from outside Tunnel No.1 as follows:- 130° M.N. 116° M.N. 85.30° MN/ and 67° M.N.

About 5.15 p.m. and later at fairly regular intervals of about 1 minute, large shells, apparently coming from a gun in rear of the crater, viewed from the canal bank, XXXXXXXXX were sent over back into the country behind our lines.

At 4.30 p.m. an enemy balloon was observed at 98° magnetic from the 19th Battery, C.F.A.

A German Naval Gun in the vicinity of Wytchaete shelled Bedford House, at 5.20 p.m., making two direct hits/. Our heaviest replied at once. The 35th Howitzer Battery retaliated with a few rounds and was then ordered to stop.

The enemy at 10.00 a.m., fired several whizz bangs in the vicinity of the crater and our guns retaliated.

At 2.00 p.m. enemy Kite balloons were observed at 85°, 65° and 110° magnetic bearing from trench 30.xxxxx.

At 1.00 p.m. the enemy put over a few 77 m.m. shells in the vicinity in rear of trenches 36 and 37, and about 10 minutes previous to this 28 of these same shells were sent into our support trenches.

Our Batteries registered a number of points in the enemy line during the day.

Aug 18th - At 3.45 a.m. the enemy sent over 8 77m.m/ shells into our supports.

At 2.15 a.m. in retaliation the 40th Battery put over 26 H.E. and 12 shrapnel into enemy trenches 36, 37 and 38.

Our T/M's opened fire covered by the 31st Battery and the enemy retaliated heavily with T.M's, 5.9s and 4.1s on time on trenches 30-34, causing our T.M's to cease fire and we immediately retaliated with 18 pounders and 4.5 Howitzers with no material damage or personal damage, at 3.45 a.m.

No balloons or aircraft observed during the day.

Between 3.00 and 4.00 p.m. the enemy put over 77 m.m. , 4.1s and 5.9s to immediate right and slightly in rear of 40th Battery's centre.

At 6.55 until 9.15 p.m. at the request of the Infantry the 35th How. Btty put over 50 H.E. into support trenches at 0.4.b, I.34.d and I.35.c, opposite trenches 29, 30 and 31 in retaliation.

The 31st Battery opened fire with 94 rounds of shrapnel on enemy's support trenches between 2.45 and 3.30 p.m.



Aug 19th – Very little activity on either sides during the morning.

Early in the afternoon the enemy opened fire commencing at 1.50 p.m. by dropping approximately 20 T.M.s on supports of trenches 32-33, and at 2.15 p.m. he bombarded our front line from trenches 29 to 33 with T.Ms, 4.2s and 5.9s/ This bombardment lasted for about an hour and was replied to by our T.M.s, 18 pdrs., 4.5's and 6" guns.

At 3.45 p.m. the enemy's shelling continued on the right bank of the canal until 5.30 p.m.

At 2.00 p.m. an enemy balloon was observed at 69° magnetic from I.34.d.2.1.

An enemy plane was seen circling over his trenches at 6.00 p.m.

At 7.00 p.m. another enemy plane was noted over the crater and our anti-air craft guns opened fire and the plane withdrew in the direction of his own trenches. Between 4.55 and 5.15 p.m. the enemy put over about 10 5.9's in the close vicinity of Dickebush Road.

During the day the Batteries retaliated to the shelling of the enemy and was in each case effective.

Aug 20th – At 12.35 a.m. two red signals were noted from opposite trench 31, and at 1.00 a.m. two white signals from the same position.

The 31st Battery fired 14 rounds shrapnel registering on Bridge Pier, O.4.b.2.4. between 10.27 and 10.35 a.m. The 25th and 40th Batteries did considerable registering between 12.55 and 1.30 p.m.

At 1.15 p.m. and at 2.40 p.m. The 35th Battery retaliated to some shelling of the enemy by putting 20 H.E. rounds into trenches 29 and 30/ And at 4.00 p.m. the 40th Btty fired 30 rounds H.E. and 11 rounds shrapnel into B and C Barrages in retaliation to enemy firing. The latter part of the afternoon was very quiet. Fresh work was observed on the enemy parapet, opposite trench 37, this spot was registered. About 11.00 p.m. the enemy opened fire and put about 57 rounds over which landed in the vicinity of H.23.c.5.0., only 2 of this number exploded the others being "duds" .. they are thought to have been 4.1's.

Aug 21st – At 1.30 p.m. the enemy opened fire on the Scout Post and our 18 pdrs and 4.5's retaliated on the enemy, and the enemy firing ceased.

Day very quiet in the vicinity of trenches 29 to 32.

From about 7.10 to 7.30 p.m. two enemy planes patrolled our lines, flying low over trenches 29 to 36. Gas Alarm was heard over the wire at 8.00 p.m, reported from the right of our front, it was later cancelled.

Enemy's T.M's were active at 8.00 p.m.

A break was observed in enemy's wire and parapet at about I.35.a.5.7., opposite trench 37.

Our 18 pdrs and 4.5's retaliated to enemy shelling throughout the afternoon and evening, with good effect.

At 9.50 p.m. the enemy dropped about 40 rounds of T.Ms into trenches 29, 30 and 31.

Aug 22nd – At 2.40 a.m. the enemy dropped about 20 rounds of T.M's into trenches 29 and 30 and in retaliation our 18 pdrs fired 25 rounds.

The 40th Battery at 8.00 a.m. opened fire on some new work of the enemy opposite trench 36 by putting over 51 rounds of H.E. with good effect.

It was very quiet during the dy on our front.

At 1.45 P.M. two hostile balloons were observed, their magnetic bearings from tunnel #2 being 133° & 109°, and at 2.45 p.m. two more appeared, magnetic bearings from the same place being 70° & 45°



At 3.00 P.M. the enemy put over about 20 rounds of 77 m.m. into our front line and supports, retaliation from our guns put an end to this.

At 7.10 p.m. an enemy aeroplane flew over our lines, apparently from the direction of the Hooge. Between 9 and 10.30 p.m. the enemy put over 15 T.M.'s towards our support trenches and also about 35 4.1's, our guns retaliated with about 35 H.E. and seemably with good effect as he gave no more trouble.

At the request of the Infantry at 11.05 p.m. our Howitzer Battery retaliated with 10 rounds of H.E. with good effect on trenches 29 & 31.

As a whole enemy's activity slightly below normal, apparently caused by a relief during the night.

Aug 23rd – From 12 midnight until 2.00 a.m. the enemy shelled the support trenches in the zone of the 40th Battery with whizz-bangs.

The enemy dropped a few T.M.'s into our trenches 29-30 & 31 and our 18 pdrs and 4.5 Howitzers retaliated with about 50 rounds between 11 and 11.30 a.m.

Enemy was very quiet during the day but he had numerous balloons up during the day, bearings being taken from I.33.d.1.3. were as follows – 100°30', 120°, 79°30', 58°30' & 144° magnetic bearing, these were all down by 5.30 p.m.

The 40th Battery registered with 40 rounds of shrapnel between 12.05 and 12.30 p.m. and also between 5.30 and 6.00 p.m. fired 151 rounds shrapnel in retaliation with good effect.

Aug 24th – Observation was good all day.

At 11.00 A.M. the enemy fired two section salvos into our supports.

During the afternoon four enemy balloons were observed from I.33.d.I.9. magnetic bearings being taken were as follows:- 99°, 119°30', 142°30', & 81°30'.

At 4.05 p.m. enemy aircraft flew over our lines but was turned back by our anti-aircraft guns.

At 6.40 p.m. the enemy shelled our supports from behind the Crater and in retaliation our 18 pdrs. And 4.5 Hows fired about 16 rounds H.E. with good effect.

Between 3.30 and 4.30 p.m. the enemy shelled the Heavy Batteries in the vicinity of the Belgian Chateau with 25 or 30 rounds of 4.2's without effect, and at the same time 11 5.9's were put over in the direction of the Dickebushe Road.

At 11.30 p.m. the enemy put over about 7 5.9's into our supports.

Aug 25th – Hostile planes were up all morning and early part of afternoon, over our trenches, North of Canal. They were driven back by our planes and anti-aircraft guns.

The enemy shelled the ravine and in rear of same, with about 29 4.1's. about 12.15 p.m.

Our guns fired on the enemy's support trenches in the vicinity of J.4.b.1.7., I.34.d.7.5., H.30.a.7.7. and I.34.d.5 1/2. 2 1/2. About 1.15 to 2.30 p.m. with 43 rounds of 4.5 High explosive, at the request of the infantry.

Five pigeons flew over the 19th Battery lines towards the enemy lines at 4.40 p.m.

During the night of 25-26th, 8th Brigade moved from gun positions at Belgian Chateau, to respective wagon lines.

The 8th Brigade was relieved by the 4th British Divisional Artillery. Operations Order No. 2A.

OUDERDAM



Aug 26th – The 8th Brigade marched from Wagon lines, Ouderdam, to Cassel Area, with billets as follows:- Bde. H.Q. K.20.b.6.2., 30th Battery K.26.a.5.0. and K.26.b.3.7., 31st Battery K.15.d.9.7., 35th Battery K.14.b.3.5. and K.8.d.5.0 40th Battery K.8.d.9.9. Operation Order 4A, 5A, 6A.

CASSEL AREA

Aug 27th – In rest

Aug 28th – In rest

Aug 29th – In rest

Aug 30th – In rest

Aug 31st – In rest

Sep 2nd – In rest

Sep 3rd – In rest

Sep 4th – In rest

Sep 5th – In rest

KEMMEL

Sep 6th – On the night of 6th/7th, one section of each Battery of 8th Brigade, relieved one section of the 87th Brigade, R.F.A., in accordance with Operation Order No. 7A attached.

Sep 7th – On the night of 7th/8th, the remaining section of each Battery of 8th Brigade, C.F.A. relieved the remaining section of the 87th Brigade R.F.A.. in accordance with Operations Order No. 7A.

Sep 8th – The Batteries of Right Group 3rd C.D.A. during the day, registered their Battery Zones. The 35th Battery fired 32 rounds of H.E. opposite Trench F.4., in retaliation, at Infantry's request, with good effect.

At 3.05 p.m. the enemy shelled vicinity of N.23.d.6.6. with 3 rounds of 5.9's. About 5.10 p.m. enemy fired 10 rounds of 4.1 in Vicinity of N.23.b.5.3., but no damage was done. The enemy also shelled a few other points on our line lightly, with practically no effect.

About 8.30 p.m. Gas Alarm was sounded, and our Batteries opened fire on their Night Lines and Enemy support trenches, firing about 900 rounds, the firing lasted until about 9.15 p.m. The Infantry reported that the firing was very satisfactory.

About 6.00 p.m. enemy fired 40 rounds of 4.1 in vicinity of T.24.a. Around 9.30 p.m. enemy dropped a number of 5.9 and 4.1 around N.20.c.2.5. from line of Maedlested Farm.



Sep 9th – Batteries registered further points on their zones, during the day, and also cut the enemy wire in several places.

Tramway observed at N.24.b.2.4. to N.24.b.8.5., running from communication trench to first line, pointed out to Company Commanders, who turned machine guns on it.

The 37th Battery reported a Machine gun emplacement in enemy trenches at N.24.d.2.6., which was destroyed by our Artillery fire.

at 6 p.m. the 30th Battery fired 50 rounds of shrapnel cutting wire opposite H.2. at The Hammerhead, with good effect.

Weather mostly fine.

Sep 10th – Further points were registered by Batteries, and additional enemy wire was cut in a number of places.

At 12.05 p.m. the 35th Battery fired five rounds of H.E. at Spanbrockmolen, in retaliation at Infantry request.

The enemy fired 12 rounds of 77 m.m. in rear of H.1. about 12 noon.

At 3.15 p.m. Trench Mortars were heard on right of 31st Battery zone. It was impossible to identify report, on account of intense mist.

Visibility poor, weather very misty. On this account, observation was practically impossible.

Sep 11th – About 9.05 a.m. enemy observation balloon was observed at true bearing 61030' from N.17.a.3.5.

The 31st Battery reported a slight bombardment of front line trench on small sector of front about 1.00 p.m.

This battery retaliated for the above bombardment.

The 12th Inf. Bde. Reported 8" shell falling near Chateau at Kemmel, several other rounds were observed and thought to be 5.9.

The 43rd Battery joined the Right Group and registered a number of points during the day.

Sep 12th – It was noticed that the trenches about M.24.c.8 1/2.5. were very strong with concrete in one dugout and heavy timbers in another. The concrete with a good size loop hole was presumably a machine gun emplacement, which we damaged considerably with H.E. on Sept. 10th and 11th by our fire.

At 10.45 a.m. a white pigeon was seen flying S.E. over N.29.b.

Batteries registered a number of points on enemy front, and cut enemy wire in several places.

At 9.55 a.m. the 31st Battery fire 24 rounds of H.E. in enemy support trenches, in retaliation at Infantry request.

At 1.22 p.m. the 43rd Battery fired 2 rounds on house at O.19.c.10.5., obtaining two direct hits.

About 9.05 a.m. the enemy dropped 4 shells on N.23.b. calibre 4.1.

The enemy dropped 10, 4.1" and several 3" shells in Rossignol Trench, also 12 rounds of H.E. & Shrap in communication trench in vicinity of 30th Battery.

About 6.15 p.m. Trench Mortars were very active on Trench F.2

From 6.40 p.m. to 7.10 p.m. the 30th Battery fired on an Opportunity Aeroplane target, expending 49 rounds of H.E. & Shrap. With good effect.



Sep 13th – The 37th Battery partly destroyed a machine gun emplacement at N.24.c.9 1/2.5.

The 30th Battery cut the enemy's wire opposite trench G.2.

At 12.15 a.m. the enemy dropped 13, 77 m.m. shells in the vicinity of N.18.c.3.3. and N.18.c.4.6, and at 5 p.m. fired 5 rounds 77 m.m. in Trench F.2.

From 5.15 p.m. the 37th Battery fired 111 rds. Of H.E. and 60 rounds of Shrapnel, in retaliation, on N.24.a.9 1/2. To N.24.c.8.6. with good effect.

Sep 14th – Batteries registered a number of points on enemy front.

37th Battery fired 15 rounds of H.E. and 22 rounds of Shrapnel on N.24.9 1/2.5. to N.24.c.8.6., about 2.45. p.m. in retaliation, at Infantry Request, with good effect.

31st Battery retaliated on enemy at Scott Farm, O.25.a.4.6. 1/4 with 16 rounds of shrapnel, about 11.05 a.m.

43rd Battery fired on enemy front line, at Infantry Request at 1.00 p.m., expending 28 rounds of H.E., with good effect.

Enemy guns were very quiet, all day, no hostile shelling being observed in this Group.

Sep 15th – At 2.45 p.m. the enemy threw over about six minnenwerfers, apparently doing little damage at N.24.b.1.5. to N.24.a.8.7. We retaliated on the spot with our Artillery and silenced the enemy's mortars.

At 12.30 p.m. an Hostile aeroplane flew over 30th gun position in N.E. direction.

At 2.50 p.m. a German balloon was observed to go up, M.B. from N.20.d.4.6., 105°. This balloon descended at 4.55 p.m.

Batteries registered a number of points.

At 4.45 p.m. the 37th Battery fired 42 rounds of H.E. and 59 rounds of Shrapnel over N.24.b.1.5. to N.24.a.8.7., at Infantry request, with good effect.

At 5.15 p.m. the 31st Battery put over 3 rounds of H.E. into Trench F.2., in retaliation for Infantry.

About 9.30 p.m. 35th Battery retaliated on N.30.c.5.8. with 5 rounds of H.E., at Infantry request., with good effect.

The enemy put over 6 rounds of minnenwerfers in the vicinity of N.24.b.1.5.. to N.24.a.8.7., about 2.45 p.m., but no damage was done.

Sep 16th – At 12.30 p.m. enemy balloon descended from N.20.d.4.6., M.B. 104°30'

At 2.30 p.m. smoke from train observed 105° M/B. and disappeared 106° M.B. from N.20.d.4.6.

Enemy balloon observed 83° M.B. from N.20.d.4.6.. at 2.40 p.m.

Enemy balloon observed 104° M.B. from N.20.d.4.6.. at 3.03 p.m.

During the night of 16th/17th. the Right Group assisted the 12th Infantry Brigade, in a raid on the enemy's trenches, a full report of which is attached. About 1700 shells were expended by this Group. Two prisoners were brought back, and on the whole, the raid was very successful. Oper. Order 8A.

Sep 17th – At 1.24 a.m. an enemy balloon was observed at 125° M.B. from N.10.a.6.4. the balloon carried a light and gradually rose to a considerable height, remaining stationary, when last observed.

At 9.24 a.m. the 35th Battery fired 20 rounds of H.E. opposite Trench G.1., in retaliation at Infantry request.



Batteries registered various points on enemy front.

From 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon the enemy put over a few 4.1's in our support trenches.

The enemy also put over 10, 60 lb. T.M's. in the vicinity of N.24.a.6.3. about 11. A.m.

At 5.45 p.m. the enemy dropped 30, 77 m.m. shells in the vicinity of N.23.b., with very little effect.

Sep 18th – Heavy rain all day, very dull, making observation very hard.

Situation very quiet all day, no hostile shelling recorded.

37th Battery fired 26 rds. Of Shrapnel and 15 rounds of H.E. on Snipers Post, advised By F.O.O.

At 9.45 a.m. F.O.O. 37th Battery located a Machine Gun emplacement at N.24.b.1/2.3 1/4. And it was demolished by our Artillery fire, blowing in a number of sand bags from parapet of enemy's front line trench from N.24.b.0.3. to N.24.b.1/2.2 1/2. While firing on Machine gun emplacement, an enemy horn was heard blowing for stretcher bearers. Enemy's wire completely destroyed in some places and partially destroyed in others along our whole zone. Infantry Officers patrol report that they are able to get through easily on any part of our zone.

43rd Battery, Howitzer, moved from their position, to wagon lines, and ceased to be attached to Right Group.

Sep 19th – At 4.55 p.m. an enemy balloon ascended at 115° M.B. from N.20.d.3.6.

At 3.00 p.m. the F.O.O. 31st Battery reported that Heliograph was in operation in Comines.

Batteries registered numerous points on enemy lines.

From 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon the 37th Battery fired 26 rounds of H.E. N.24.d.2 1/2..9 1/2. To N.24.d.2.5., at request of Infantry

From 3 to 3.30 p.m. the 30th Battery fired 30 rounds of H.E. and 23 rounds of Shrapnel on a Battalion Headquarters at N.24.d.9.4., obtaining a direct hit.

Sep 20th – An enemy Trench Mortar was located, apparently about N.24.d.5.7.

At 12.15 p.m. the 30th Battery reported Trench Mortar Activity, with slight hostile shelling on their zone. Retaliation quickly stopped this.

At 2.15 p.m. a Motor Transport was seen moving North at D.32.d.1.8., at 2.30 p.m. a Locomotive engine at O.21.b.5.8.

At 6.15 p.m. a Party of about 50 Germans were seen going along trench at N.30.c.9 1/2 . 1 1/2. They were fired on, but results could not be seen.

At 12.15 p.m. the 30th Battery fired 97 rounds of H.E. and 2 rounds of Shrapnel opposite H.2., at Infantry Request.

At 6.12 p.m. the 31st Battery 20 rounds of H.E. R.F.C. Fleeting Opportunity Target in Vicinity of U.2.b.7.6., obtaining 3 direct hits.

Sep 21st – At 11.25 a.m. a German balloon was observed M.B. from 30th Battery O.P. 87°30'. At 11.30 a.m. this balloon pulled down and just before reaching the ground burst into flames from fire dropped by one of our Aeroplanes.

At 11.30 a.m. Smoke was seen from chimney beyond Wytschaete Ridge M.B. from 30th O.P. 102° At 3.30 p.m. smoke from Locomotive was seen behind Wytschaete Ridge travelling in a southeasterly direction, M.B. from 30th O.P. 95° 20'



At 4.00 p.m. 6 German flares were sent up from their lines falling very close to our front line in No Mans Land, in front of trench G.2. Nothing happened as a result.

Slight shelling with 13 c.m. Howitzers, was reported in the vicinity of Vierstraad road, about 9.30 a.m. Enemy's shelling was comparatively light, shelling about three points on our front.

Sep 22nd – At 10.00 a.m. dive dazzling lights were seen 110⁰ M.B. from N.20.d.4.6. these appeared to be from blast furnaces, sun was not shining at the time.

At 9 a.m. two enemy aeroplanes flew over 30th battery gun position, and were driven off with anti-aircraft fire.

About 2.00 p.m. the enemy shelled support line in rear of Trench G.4 and H.1.A. with whiz bangs.

During the morning an Engine Locomotive was seen about O.26.a.5.4?

Germans were seen working on their front line at N.24.c.8.5. at 2.00 p.m. Our trench mortars fired here and two stretcher were seen being carried the trench.

Fresh earth and sand bags observed at).25.a.9.8. Enemys works here are very strongly surrounded by wire.

At 9.30 a.m. the 35th Battery fire 8 rounds of H.E. over Trench G.1. in retaliation at Infantry request, with good effect, and and 11.50 a.m. fired 9 more at same target. Weather Fine.

Sep 23rd – At 8.15 a.m. an Enemy Aeroplane flew over Battery position of 30th Battery, fired on by Anti-aircraft guns and flew back in Easterly direction. Again observed at 1.15 p.m., and was chased by Anti-aircraft guns.

Fresh Work appeared to be done by the enemy in communication trench at N.24.a.9 1/2.4 1/2.

An enemy O.P. suspected at O.19.d.5.7. Masonry wall with small aperture visible.

At N.30.a.5.2. just behind the German front line opposite F.4. , the number of earth mounds is increasing. New work on the parapet is also apparent.

The enemy shelled the vicinity of N.24.d.3.8. with about 10 minnenwerfers about 5 p.m.

About 5.20 p.m. the enemy fired 12 rounds of smoke or gas shells, in salvos of two, behind Trenches G.1., G.4.a. and H.1. to H.3.

Batteries registered a number of points on enemy lines during the day.

At 3.15 p.m. the 31st battery fired 9 rounds of H.E. in the vicinity of Trench G.2. at infantry request, with good effect.

Weather fine, visibility good.

Sep 24th – At 11.00 a.m. an Hostile aeroplane flew over Battery position of 30th Battery. It was chased by four of our aeroplanes

At O.13.c.0.1. Ruined building 100 yards south of Black Cot near Unnamed Wood. In centre of ruins is masonry dugout with roof painted green and red. Well defined path leads to it from Unnamed Wood, and movement may be seen in that vicinity.

At N.24.d.7.6. several Huns walked across open country towards road south of that point.

Batteries shelled several points on enemy front with good results, at request of Infantry.

Hostile shelling very light. Weather fine.

Sep 25th – On the night of 24th/25th Lieut. Col.G.H. Ralston and Headquarters 10th Brigade, together with one section of the 39th and 43rd (How. Battery) relieved Lieut.Col. V.Eaton and Headquarters 8th



Brigade , together with one section of the 35th (How) Battery and one section of the 40th Battery, of the Right Group 3rd C.D.A., in accordance with Operation Order No.9A attached. The 30th and 31st Batteries remained in action under the control of Lieut.Col.Ralston.

The new sections registered their zones during the day.

The Trench Mortars fired a number of rounds on the enemy's front line, doing considerable damage to their parapets.

The enemy's Trench Mortars shelled Rosignol Trench during the day, but very little damage was done.

Sep 26th – On the night of 25th/26th the remaining section of the 39th and 43rd Batteries relieved the remaining section of the 35th and 40th Batteries, who moved to their respective wagon lines, operation order No.9A.

WESTOUTRE

Sep 27th – Headquarters, 35th and 40th Batteries, in rest.

Sep 28th – Headquarters, 35th and 40th Batteries, in rest.

Sep 29th – The 40th Battery, less one sub-section, moved into action, at N.6.a.9x1/2.4. tonight, under the command of the O.C. Left Group, 3rd C.D.A., in accordance with operation Order No.10a, attached.

Sep 30th – Headquarters and 35th and Batteries, in rest.

LOCRE

Oct 1st – In Rest

Oct 2nd – In Rest

Oct 3rd – The Brigade commenced route march to Reserve Army Area, in accordance with Operation Order No. 11A, dated 2-10-16, attached.

EN ROUTE

Oct 4th – The Brigade continued route march, in accordance with Brigade Orders No. C.F.H. 63, dated 3-10-16, attached.

Oct 5th – The Brigade continued route march, in accordance with Brigade Orders No. C.F.H. 64, dated 4-10-16, attached.

Oct 6th – The Brigade continued route march, in accordance with Brigade Orders No. C.F.H. 65, dated 5-10-16, attached.

About 9.00 p.m. on the 6th, instructions were received from 3rd Canadian Div. Artillery H.Q., for the 8th Brigade to prepare at once to go into action, and at 1 a.m. on Oct 7th, the Bde. Moved off, in accordance with Operation Order No. 12A attached.



SOMME

Oct 7th – The Brigade completed a march of 43 miles in 26 hours, and arrived in time to take part in the Operations at 4.50 a.m. The other Brigades of the 3rd C.D.A. did not arrive until the next day. Batteries took up position in line from approximately X 11.b.8.8. to X 11.b.1.9., the Bde. H.Q. situated at approximately X.11.a.7.1. The Batteries completed registration before night and opened fire on their objectives at 4.40 a.m. on the 8th, as per Lahore D.A. Orders.

Oct 8th – During the morning a slow rate of fire was maintained by the 30th Battery on their same target. About noon all Batteries fired 40 rounds with good effect, rapidly.

Oct 9th – The Brigade passed from the Command of the Lahore D.A. to 3rd C.D.A. at 2 p.m., as 3rd Canadian D.A. Operation Order 28.

Oct 10th – The Brigade had a successful days shooting. Owing to the work of the Brigade, the Infantry supported were able to carry out their operation to good effect. See report of the 1st Can. Infantry, forwarded by Brigade Major 3rd C.D.A.

Oct 11th – The Brigade carried out a normal bombardment of the enemy's trenches. The 30th Battery, while moving ammunition had four men wounded and 4 horses killed.

Oct 12th – Colonel Eaton, the Brigade Commander, having received orders to move three 18-pdr Batteries to a new position at about R.29.d.4.2., accompanied by Major Peacock, 31st Bty., he reconnoitred this position, and later in the morning working parties proceeded to dig gun pits and trench in rear, for protection. During the digging in, the position was shelled by 5.9" and whiz bangs. During the day the Brigade co-operated with all the Canadian Corps in connection with an attack on our right, in accordance with Operation Order No.13A attached. In accordance with Operation Order No.14A attached, one section each of the 30th, 31st and 40th Batteries, occupied new position at about R.29.d.4.2., and had taken up the position before daylight on the 13th inst.

Oct 13th – Work on the forward position was energetically proceeded with under fire. Owing to the danger of disclosing the position, the Brigade Commander ordered that there be no firing. After dark the remaining sections of the three 18-pdr Batteries were brought into action at the new position. Ammunition was brought up each night to keep the establishment up to 1000 rounds per gun. Ammunition wagons were shelled both going to and returning from the position.

Oct 14th – About 10 a.m. the enemy appeared to be registering the Bde. Position with 5.9 H.E. and continued bracketing until about 1 p.m. German observation balloons were up at that time. When these conditions were reported, the Brigade Commander ordered "cease fire", until the situation became normal.



About 1.45 p.m. the 40th Battery opened fire, and the Germans immediately commenced shelling this Battery, shelling with 5.9" and 8" shells, continuing until about 2 p.m. At that time the detachments were ordered into the trenches, which had been dug to a depth of 12 feet.

Major G.N. Southam, O.C. of the 40th Bty, and Sergt. Major N.J. Harvie, of the same Battery were killed by a shell, while superintending movement of the men to the trenches.

Sgt. Wilson and Gnr. Vanfleet, of the 40th Battery were wounded by shrapnel about the same time.

Orders were then received from the Corps to withdraw from the position, which was successfully done during the night.

Oct 16th – The Brigade resumed operations on its former zone.

Oct 17th – The Brigade had a normal day. Some firing on the enemy support trenches.

Oct 18th – Normal Day. A little firing on enemy support trenches.

Oct 19th – Batteries registered on new zones for special operation.

Oct 20th – The Battery zones were extended.

Oct 21st – As per Operation Order No.16A, attached, zero time was fixed for 12.6 p.m. and the Brigade carried out the operation as per this order, excepting that the Infantry sap-heads having been so far advanced and occupied that the barrage was lifted to REGINA Trench where it remained.

Oct 22nd – In accordance with Orders, the Brigade during the night of 22nd/23rd, moved forward one section of each Battery, to forward position, which had been previously selected by the Brigade Commander, in the area allotted in the vicinity of MARTIN FOUCH.

Oct 23rd – The sections already in the new position, proceeded to register and during the night the remainder of the Brigade moved up.

The whole move was carried out in good order, in spite of the very different conditions of the route available.

Oct 24th – On account of the very poor visibility, the Bde. Completed registration as accurately as possible.

Oct 25th – Quiet Day. Registering and a little general firing.

Oct 26th – Operations were carried out in accordance with Operation Order 17 A attached.

Oct 27th – The Bde. H.Q. moved forward, close to the Batteries:
A normal day. Some shelling of Enemy's support trenches.

Oct 28th – Nothing special to report. Considerable Hostile Shelling in vicinity of Battery positions and Bde. H.Q.



Oct 29th – Some shelling of suspected Enemy works, during the night.

Oct 30th – Very quiet Day. Practically no firing.

Oct 31st - Normal day. Very little firing.

Nov 1st – Quiet day. Some registration done.

Nov 2nd – Normal day. Registration and general firing. Light shelling in vicinity of Bde. H.Q.

Nov 3rd – This morning the 35th Battery had two men wounded by a premature from a 4.5” Howitzer Battery in rear of them. One man had to be evacuated, the other was returned to duty. Otherwise nothing unusual.

Nov 4th – 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. Two of these were killed in the pit, the other two being slightly wounded. Sergt. Simmons behaved most gallantly.

During the afternoon there was some shelling with 4.2” around Bde.H.Q. and 35th Battery. Lieut. Grier, 35th Bty, slightly wounded returned to duty.

Nov 5th – Operations were carried out as per Operation Order 21A attached. Maj. Fletcher, 35th Bty, slightly wounded and sent to Base Hospital.

Nov 6th – Day passed quietly. 30th Battery fired 100 rounds at BELOW and COULEE Trenches. Retaliation called for at 11.35 p.m. 30th and 31st Batteries each fired 30 rounds at REGINA Trench from Dyke Road to Farmer Road.

Nov 7th – Quiet Day. Shelling normal

Nov 8th – Quiet Day. Very little shelling.

Nov 9th – Activity normal. Registration carried out by Batteries.

Nov 10th – Day quiet, with practically no Hostile Shelling.

Aeroplanes active. Several flights, during which a Boschplane was brought down by a French plane.

Operations carried out as per OO.22A attached.

31st Battery position lightly shelled during night.

Nov 11th – Retaliation called for after the taking of Regina Trench, during early morning. Bombardment carried out as per OO.23A attached.



Nov 12th – Comparatively quiet day. O.O. 23A carried out,.
One OR, 40th Bty killed on action during night.

Nov 13th – S.E. Martinpuch shelled heavily with 5.9 during the day. A direct hit on gun pit of 31st Battery destroyed some 450 rounds of ammunition, and put the gun out of action. Gun was taken out on night of 13th/14th. Lieut. Cate slightly wounded and returned to duty.

Nov 14th – Enemy shelled S.E. Martinpuch and 8th Bde. H.Q. with 4.2 and some 8" shells. Several hostile planes were observed to fly over our front line, and turn their machine guns on our trenches. Two Hun planes flew very low over Martinpuch, travelling towards their own lines.

Nov 15th – Quiet day. Shelling normal.

Nov 16th – Three circular balloons were observed floating South and passed over Martinpuch about 500 yards from our lines, they appeared to drop pamphlets. Enemy shelled vicinity of 30th & 31st Batteries during the day. No casualties.

Nov 17th – 31st Battery was heavily shelled during the day.

Nov 18th – As per O.O.26A operations were carried out. Intermittent bursts of fire were expended by the Batteries, during the greater part of the day.

Nov 19th – 30th and 31st Batteries shelled during the day.
A great deal of aerial activity observed during the day.

Nov 20th – Batteries shelled Enemy's back country. Consitions normal. Some aerial activity.

Nov 21st – Normal day. Batteries shelled Enemy's back country.

Nov 22nd – Batteries shelled Enemy's back country heavily. Day normal. Enemy retaliated on our back country heavily during the night. No casualties in Brigade.

Nov 23rd – Day normal. On the night of 23/24th the 1st Section of Batteries moved to Wagon Lines as per OO.27A. Enemy scored direct hit on gun pit of 30th Battery. Gun destroyed.

Nov 24th – Enemy shelled Martinpuch On the night of 24/25th remaining sections of Batteries and Bde H.Q. moved to Wagon Lines.

Nov 25th – Brigade at Wagon Lines.

Nov 26th – On the morning of the 26th the Brigade moved from its wagon lines at 7 a.m. in compliance with OO 28A and Billeted in Authreule at night.

ENROUTE



Nov 27th – Brigade continued its march and billeted in Rebreuve. Battery Commanders and one other officer per Battery, with two O.R's from each Battery, met motor busses at Ampier and went forward as per OO 29A.

Nov 28th – The Brigade completed its march and billeted in the village of Vandelicourt.

Vandelicourt

Nov 29th – As per O.O. 31A, 3 guns of the 30th Battery and 3 guns of 40th Battery moved forward into action.

Nov 30th – 35th Battery and remaining guns of the 40th battery moved forward into action

Dec 1st – As per OO 30A attached to Nov War Diary, 31st Battery split up, right section going to 30th Bty and left section to 40th Bty. 30th Battery attached to 10th Brigade VFA, commanded by Lieut. Col. Ralston. 40th Battery attached to 11th Brigade CFA commanded by Lieut. Col. McNaughton. 35th Battery attached to Right Group 9th Brigade commanded by Lieut. Col Carscallen. Any notes on operations will be included in War Diary of the above Brigades. Brigade H.Q. in rest.

Acq.

Dec 2nd – Brigade H.Q. and Battery Wagon Lines moved from Vandelicourt to new wagon lines at Acqas per OO 32A attached.

Dec 3rd – Bde H.Q. in rest. Sergt Simmons awarded Military Medal (31st Battery)

Dec 4th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 5th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 6th – Bde HQ in rest. Lieut.Col.Eaton, Bde Commander, assumed command of Medium Trench Mortars of 1st and 3rd Divisions.

Dec 7th – Bde. H.Q in rest

Dec 8th – Bde. H.Q in rest

Dec 9th – Bde. H.Q in rest

Dec 10th – Bde. H.Q in rest

Dec 11th – Bde. H.Q in rest

Dec 12th – Bde. H.Q in rest



Dec 13th – Bde. H.Q in rest

Dec 14th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 15th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 16th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 17th – Bde HQ in rest. Lieut Col Eaton ceased to Command Trench Mortars.

Dec 18th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 19th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 20th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 21st – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 22nd – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 23rd – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 24th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 25th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 26th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 27th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 28th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 29th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 30th – Bde HQ in rest

Dec 31st – Bde HQ in rest

1917

Jan 1st - Bde H.Q. in rest. Battery Wagon Lines at same place. 8th Brigade Batteries in action under Group system. As reported in December War Diary



Jan 2nd - Bde H.Q. in rest. Lieut Col V. Eaton and Lieut W.O. Gibson mentioned in dispatches dated 13 November 1916

Jan 3rd - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 4th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 5th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 6th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 7th - Bde H.Q. in rest. Lieut. D.G. Robertson awarded Military Cross for bravery at Somme.

Jan 8th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 9th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 10th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 11th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 12th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 13th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 14th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 15th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 16th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 17th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 18th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 19th - Lieut. Col V. Eaton returned from temporary command of 3 CDA

Jan 20th - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 21st - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Camblain l'Abbe



Jan 22nd - Bde H.Q. and wagon lines of 30th, 31st, 35th & 40th Batteries moved to new wagon lines at Camblain l'Abbe as per 0034A attached

Jan 23rd - Bde H.Q. in rest.

Jan 24th - At 12 noon, Lieut Col Eaton and H.Q. 8th Bde CFA took over command of Right Group 3rd CDA from Lieut Col Carshallen and H.Q. 9th Bde CFA with group H.Q. at about G.9.b.3..8 (France 51BNW). The following Batteries composed the Right group: 32nd, 33rd and 45th 18-pdr Batteries and 35th and 36th 4.5 Hows.

Jan 25th - Normal Day. Observation fair. Some Aeroplane activity.

Jan 26th - Observation good. Considerable aerial activity.

Jan 27th - On the night of 27/28th, the 32nd, 33rd & 36th Bts fired on Road junctions and Communications Trenches as per OO.47 attached.

Jan 28th - The 35th and 36th How Btys bombarded Enemy Dump, as per OO.48 attached, with great effect.

Jan 29th - Visibility fair. Our aeroplanes very active all day. Several enemy working parties dispersed by our fire.

Jan 30th - Normal day. Enemy T.M's fairly active. Our batteries fired on several Enemy parties with great effect.

Jan 31st - Visibility good. Our aeroplanes active throughout the day. A German plane crossed our lines at 11.05a.m, but was driven back at 11.10 a.m.

BOURIE

Feb 1st – Very cold and bright. Considerable aeroplane activity. We dispersed working parties and shelled Trench Tramways and Dumps.

Feb 2nd – Uneventful day. Visibility Fair.

Feb 3rd – Clear and bright. Two working parties dispersed. Tramline and Dump fired on.

Feb 4th – The vicinity of 35th Battery position lightly shelled with 5.9's.

Feb 5th – Considerable aeroplane activity. A.A. Guns very active.

Feb 6th – Normal Day. Enemy trenches and suspected O.P's fired on.



Feb 7th – In accordance with O.O. No.60, attached, the 32nd, 33rd, and 35th Batteries each moved one section to new positions allotted to them, on the night of 7th/8th.

Feb 8th – In accordance with O.O. No. 50, attached, the 32nd and 45th Batteries each moved one section to new positions. The 33rd, 35th and 36th Batteries moved remaining section to new positions, on night of 8th/9th.

Feb 9th – On the night of 9th/10th, in accordance with O.O.No.50, attached, 32nd and 45th Batteries moved their remaining sections to new positions. Right Group H.Q. moved to new positions at F.30.c.5.7. Sheet FRANCE 51c N.E.

Feb 10th – Uneventful day. All registrations completed.

Feb 11th – Lieut.Col.Eaton and 8th Brigade H.Q. were relieved by Lieut.Col. Carscallen,D.S.O. and H.Q. 9th Brigade C.F.A., 8th Brigade H.Q. going to CAMBLAIN l'ABBE.

CAMBLAIN l'ABBE

Feb 12th – In rest.

Feb 13th – Bde. H.Q. in rest.

Early on the morning of the 13th, Lieut.Conn Smythe, 40th Battery, proceeded to German Trenches, with Infantry Raiding Party, and maintained communications throughout with Group H.Q. Lieut. Smythe also took an active role in the raid and is reported to have shot two Germans, with his revolver, in addition to obtaining useful information regarding Enemy Trenches, etc.

Feb 14th – Bde. H.Q. in rest.

Feb 15th – On the night of 15th/16th, in accordance with O.O. 35A Attached, 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 at NEDON.

Feb 16th – On the night of 16th/17th, the 35th Battery and one section each of the 30th and 40th Batteries were relieved by 2nd C.D.A. and moved to rest area at Nedon. Lieut.Col.Eaton and H.Q. 8th Brigade, C.F.A. moved to rest area NEDONCHELLE.

NEDON and NEDONCHELLE

Feb 17th – Brigade in rest.

Feb 18th – Lieut.Col. Eaton with 8th Brigade H.Q. and 40th Battery, moved from NEDONCHELLE to rest area LIERES, 30th, 31st, and 35th Batteries remained at NEDON.

LIERES and NEDON



Feb 19th – Brigade in rest.

Feb 20th – In accordance with O.O. 36A, attached, Lieut.Col.Eaton and 8th Brigade C.F.A. marched to Wagon lines at SAINS-en-GOHELLE. Brigade H.Q. with Col.Eaton, proceeded to Group H.Q. at BULLY GRENAY.

BULLY GRENAY

Feb 21st – In accordance with South Centre Group O.O. No. 1 attached, all 8th Brigade Batteries moved into action on the night of 21st/22nd. The South Centre Group 1st CDA., Lieut. Col.V.Eaton, Commanding, was composed of 1st and 3rd Batteries of 1st C.D.A. and all Batteries of 8th Bde. C.F.A.

Feb 22nd – Visibility poor. Batteries carried out registration and wire cutting, in preparation for operations as per O.O. No.2., attached.

Feb 23rd – Batteries proceeded with wire cutting, in accordance with O.O.No.3 and 4, attached.

Feb 24th – Wire cutting continued.

Feb 25th – Wire cutting actively carried on with, in accordance with O.O. No.5, with an extremely satisfying result.

Feb 26th – Wire cutting carried out in accordance with O.O. No.6, attached.

Feb 27th – In accordance with O.O.37A attached, Lieut.Col.Eaton and 8th Brigade, C.F.A. marched to rest area at NEDON and LIERES.

NEDON and LIERES

Feb 28th – Brigade in Rest. See attached letter from G.O.C. and C.R.A. 1st Canadian Division.

LIERES

Mar 1st – In rest.

Mar 2nd – In rest.

Mar 3rd – In rest.

Mar 4th – In rest.

Mar 5th – In rest.



Mar 6th – In rest.

Mar 7th – In accordance with Right Group, 3rd C.D.A., O.O. No.1, attached; one section each of 30th, 31st, 35th, and 45th Batteries, marched to new wagon lines, and on the night of 7/8th March, relieved Sections of Right Group, Reserve Divisional Artillery.

Mar 8th - Lieut.Col. Eaton, with Headquarters, 8th Brigade, C.F.A., and remaining sections, marched to new wagon lines, and on the night 8/9 March, relieved the Headquarters, and remaining sections of Right Group, Reserve Divisional Artillery. Right Group at x.27.d.40.25 (Sheet 36B SE 1/20,000) Registration carried out.

X.27.d.40.25

Mar 9th – Registration completed.

Mar 10th – Little firing done, owing to poor visibility.

Mar 11th – Enemy O.P's, trenches and craters, fired on with good effect. 30th Battery position, lightly shelled with 4.1 cm shells.

Mar 12th – Considerable aeroplane activity. Enemy trenches, new work, and cross roads fired on.

Mar 13th – Normal day.

Mar 14th – Visibility poor. Some firing done on enemy support and communication trenches. Considerable night firing carried out, on the night of 14/15 March.

Mar 15th – Quite day.

Mar 16th – Aeroplane activity above normal.

Mar 17th – Enemy's dugouts, trench mortar emplacements, fired on and one of his working parties dispersed.

Mar 18th – Normal Day.

Mar 19th – The usual firing on enemy works, and night firing carried out.

Mar 20th – Enemy trenches fired on, and working party dispersed.

Mar 21st – Vicinity 30th Battery position, shelled with 4.1.c.m. shells. Enemy trenches bombarded for 20 minutes, with a view to ascertaining, the nature and disposition of his retaliation.

Mar 22nd – Normal day.



Mar 23rd – Aeroplane activity above normal.

Mar 24th – On the night of the 24/25 March, in accordance with Eaton's Group, 3rd C.D.A. O.O. No. 1 one section of each Battery, was relieved by the Reserve Divisional Artillery, and moved into position behind the 3rd Canadian Division.

Mar 25 – On the night of the 25/26 March, Headquarters Eaton's Group, 3rd C.D.A., and the remaining sections moved into their new positions, behind the 3rd Canadian Division. The Group Headquarters at Berthonval Farm. The Group now consists of the 30th, 31st, 35th, and 40th Batteries all of which have been made six-gun batteries, in accordance with Eaton's Group, 3rd C.D.A. Reorganization Order attached. Registration carried out.

Berthonval Farm

Mar 26 – Registration completed.

Mar 27 – Berthonval Farm shelled with 5.9's and 4.1 C.m. shells. Batteries commenced wire cutting in accordance with Eaton's Group, 3rd C.D.A. O.O. No.2. attached.

Mar 28 – The 38th Battery, C.F.A. from Ralston's Group, is attached to Eaton's Group, from 6,00 p.m. today. A very successful minor operation was carried out with 2nd C.M.R. Battalion, in accordance with Eaton's Group, 3rd C.D.A. O.O. No.3, attached

Mar 29 – Wire cutting and night firing carried out, as usual. Berthonval Farm shelled with 5.9, and 4.2. c.m. shels.

Mar 30 – Practice Barrage carried out, in accordance with Eaton's Group, 3rd C.D.A. O.O. No.5 attached.

Mar 31 – Practice Barrage again carried out, in accordance with Eaton's Group, 3rd C.D.A., O.O. No.5, attached.

Apr 1 – Batteries of the Group continued heavy fire on enemy front and support line. There was considerable hostile fire on the front part of our zone and in the neighborhood of our Battery position.

Apr 2 – A trial barrage was carried out in accordance with Operation Order No. 5 (Attached to March Diary) At 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. all batteries of the Group bombarded VIMY in accordance with Operation Order No. 6 attached. Bombardment of enemy lines continued day and night.

Apr 3 – At 2.00 and 2.30 p.m. Batteries of the Group bombarded LA CHAUDIERE in accordance with Operation Order No. 6.

Apr 4 – At 4.00 a.m. the raid ordered Operation Order No. 7 was successfully carried out. Letter of appreciation from O.C. 52nd Battalion is attached. In continuation of bombardments ordered in



Operation Order No. 6, at 3.15 p.m. and 3.50 p.m. PETIT VIMY was bombarded at 5.20 and 5.40 p.m. LA CHAUDIERE was bombarded.

Apr 5 – At 7.25 a.m. VIMY received the general bombardment ordered in Operation Order No. 6. The bombardment at 8.05 a.m. was not carried out, but at 8.00 a.m. a feint bombardment in accordance with Operation Order No.9 replaced it.

Apr 6 – At 1.30 p.m. a feint bombardment in accordance with Operation Order No .9.

Apr 7 – Continuance of heavy fire on german position but no special demonstration.

Apr 8 – At about 6.15 p.m. Lieut-Col Eaton, R.C.H.A. the Brigade Commander, while visiting the Batteries was wounded. Lieut-Col Ralston, O.C. 10th Brigade took over command of Eaton's Group at 11 P.M.

Apr 9 – At 5.30 a.m. our attack on VIMY RIDGE commenced in accordance with Operation Order No. 8. Chronological Report. Our barrage started at 5.30 a.m. followed immediately by German flares along the whole front

5.50 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports all O.K.

5.55 a.m. 38th Battery reports all O.K.

5.57 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports our infantry passed Flapper Trench. Barrage very good. Their barrage very weak.

5.57 a.m. Lieut. Scott has gone forward.

6.06 a.m. L.O. reports Right Battalion took 9 prisoners.

6.10 a.m. L.O. reports enemy putting barrage on old front line.

6.12 a.m. One of our planes reported seen. Weather conditions very bad for flying. Snowstorms and very heavy weather, soon turning into rain.

6.20 a.m. L.O. reports Left Battalion into SWISCHEN STELLUNG. Enemy putting barrage into Pickle Trench.

6.21 a.m. 36th Battery reports 5.9s falling close to Battery position. A few dropping near 4.5" Battery position in rear.

6.24 a.m. L.O. reports the General of the 8th C.I.B. our barrage splendid.

6.35 a.m. O.C. 35th Battery reports all O.K.. No shrapnel close to Batteries. None of our flares observed.

O.C. 40th Battery reports no flare of ours observed.

6.41 a.m. 30th Battery reports no shrapnel near Battery.

6.44 a.m. L.O. reports all our infantry into SWISCHEN STELLUNG. 100 prisoners taken.

6.53 a.m. L.O. 9th C.I.B. reports both 7th and 8th Brigades reach intermediate objective on time.

Prisoners coming in from both Brigades. Everything apparently going well.

6.55 a.m. F.O.O. 30th Battery reports 100 prisoners coming over crater with their hands up.

7.04 a.m. O.C. 40th Battery reports situation good on our front. Our infantry pass SWISCHEN STELLUNG. It can be seen on the sky line.

7.09 a.m. L.O. 9th C.I.B. reports everything going nicely. Both Brigades well on time, as far as we can tell.

7.15 a.m. L.O. 9th C.I.B. reports Lieut. Scott in Spandan Haus. Right Battalion have gone forward.

7.19 a.m. O.C. 40th Battery reports no hostile shrapnel close to battery position for past 10 minutes.



7.20 a.m. L.O. 9th C.I.B. reports Left Battalion and 5th Brigade on our left have gone forward from SWISCHEN STELLUNG.

7.22 a.m. 30th, 31st, 35th, 38th and 40th Batteries report all guns O.K.

7.29 a.m. L.O. reports talking to Lieut. Scott. He is going on ahead. One thousand prisoners going down in bunches of ten and twenty.

7.33 a.m. 30th Battery reports about 100 prisoners going down the boardwalk.

7.35 a.m. L.O. reports gone about 100 yards up PRONZ ARNOLF GRABEN from SPANDAU HAUS.

7.50 a.m. 30th Battery reports everything going well.

7.54 a.m. Lieut. Scott reports Huns lining up for counter attack along FLOWER TRENCH.

7.55 a.m. About 45 prisoners passed.

8.07 a.m. Lieut Scott at S.29.d.8.2. He reports shrapnel falling short in vicinity. His station is at S.29.d.2.8. He is about 100 yards further on.

8.08 a.m. 35th Battery has telephone wire going forward with Lieut. Greer.

8.15 a.m. O.C. 40th Battery reports in touch with Scott by phone at SPANDAU HAUS.

8.19 a.m. Capt. Davidson, LO. 8th C.I.B. reports red line being consolidated all along and outposts being put out.

8.34 a.m. O.C. 38th battery reports enemy plane in front of Battery position firing on our planes.

8.40 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports infantry have stopped at red line. Lieut. Scott observed gun flashes at about S.24.b.5.3.

8.50 a.m. Davidson reports German counter attack developing in S.23.d. Lieut. Scott advised to watch carefully and report on result of our Heavy shooting.

9.01 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports Lieut. Scott says that the heavies shooting is good. One company of the 2nd C,M,Rs cannot reach objective owing to barrage not being far enough forward. Unconfirmed, that we are in the red line all the way along. Large number of prisoners going back, including 3 or 4 officers, one of whom is a colonel.

9.09 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports that report re Germans massing for a counter attack is not to be taken seriously as it comes from a wounded officer who appears to be excited. The infantry do not put much faith in the report.

9.10 a.m. 35th Battery report that Lieut. Grier has a phone at about S.29.d.9.9. at the head of FRINZ ARNOLF GRABEN Trench. He reports situation good. Enemy shelling fairly heavy with 77 mm.

9.22 a.m. O.C. 40th Battery reports Lieut. Clarkson has a post at S.29.d.9.9. Everything going well.

9.27 a.m. LO. 8th C.I.B. reports that Lieut. Thompson has a post to the right and this side of LA FOLIE WOOD.

9.45 a.m. Lieut. Grier reports Heavy Battery firing from S.18.d.1.8. Lieut. Grier reported wounded.

9.49 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports enemy counter attack in S.23.c. held off by R.C.Rs.

10.40 a.m. Lieut, Scott reports Hostile 77 mm batteries firing at a range of about 1,000 yards. Their flashes can be seen. He has reported this to the Heavy Artillery observer.

All of our infantry have reached final objective and are digging in. As far as can be told the Battalions are in touch with each other.

10.50 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports enemy infantry moving down the road through S.19.a. towards VIMY and massing in S.24.b. and Sunken Road. About 100 men seen on road running through T.20.d. Lieut. Reede, LO, with Right Battalion, 8th C.I.B. at 9.45 a.m., and in communication. Lieut. Clarkson, 40th Battery, reports, Hostile Battery in action, T.13.d.5.5. and also in T.14.central.



11.00 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports enemy massing behind PETIT VIMY and on road in S.24.c. Enemy Battery in action on railway line at T.B. 50°30' from S.29.d.2.9.

11.07 a.m. 35th Battery report large party of enemy seen on road T.20.d.

11.27 a.m. 31st Battery report lieut. Robertson F.O.O. on top of the Ridge.

11.36. a.m. Capt. Wilson, 40th Battery, L.O. 9th C.I.B. reports everything going well.

11.45 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports enemy guns in action as follows:- 2 Field Guns – T.20.d

1 “ “ S.24.b.5.3

1 “ “ T.13.d.6.4.

Heavy Gun T.18.d.7.8.

“ “ At M.B. 68° from
S.29.d.2.8.

11.55 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports our heavies are sweeping all roads and PETIT VIMY where Germans are seen. L.O. said we could cut down slightly on our rate of fire. Batteries advised.

Note. About 10.00 a.m. a German officer who was a prisoner, when interrogated, told Adj. Eaton's Group that at 2.00 a.m. on the 9th instant, he had received a light signal from our lines, that “the British make an attack at dawn |”. This would appear reasonable as German S.O.S. flares went up at 5.30 a.m. sharp.

12.40 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. advises that our rate of fire can be cut down on the centre and left.

12.50 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports that guns in action at T.13.a.1.6 and T.13.c.2.9.

1.10 p.m. Capt. Davidson advises that enemy are massing in VIMY and will probably use Flower and Sloater Trenches. F.O.O's watch carefully for this.

1.55 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports Lieut. Scott saw team on road in T.20.a and c, and T.19.d. and b.

2.50 p.m. L.O. Right Battalion reports enemy reported to be massing behind VIMY.

3.40 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports Phillip and Flower trenches have machine guns bothering the Left Battalion.

5.06 p.m. Enemy reported on road behind VIMY about S.24.c.4.4. to S.30.b.1.9. and in trenches S.24.d.

5.10 p.m. F.O.O. 38th Battery reports enemy infantry concentrated PETIT VIMY. 3 Companies observed marching overland in this vicinity. Movement also observed on the Ridge.

5.40 p.m. F.O.O. 38th Battery, reports 500 of the enemy marching overland towards VIMY now in the vicinity of T.24.a.

5.55 p.m. Advanced C.D.A. report numbers of enemy coming down the long railway from AVION toward VIMY.

9.55 p.m. 31st Battery report that they are in good communication with their forward station near SPANDAU HAUS.

Apr 10 – 3.54 a.m. Capt. Davidson reports P.P.C.L.I. being heavily shelled with 5.9s from VIMY or T.19 central

6.45 a.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B reports everything O.K.

12.45 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B reports at least one battalion of enemy infantry in open formation about T.21.b.0.4½ Our artillery now searching in this vicinity.

1.10 p.m. L.O. reports small parties of enemy moving south along Sunken Road in T.28.a and c.

2.15 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports large numbers of enemy troops standing and lying around in the open in T.21.a., T.20.a. and b. and on railway tracks in T.19.b.



3.00 to 4.00 p.m. We bombarded FLIT and FLOWER Trenches to protect our infantry patrols which were going out.

5.35 p.m. L.O. reports Right Battalion are forward as far as FLIRT Trench in S.30.b.

NOTE. During the latter part of the afternoon F.O.O. 38th Battery ranged one of our 60 pdr Batteries on two Hostile Batteries at T.25.b.8.4. A good registration was obtained. An ammunition dump being set on fire. Bursts of fire were kept over these batteries during the night but they advocated their positions before morning.

6.00 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports two hostile batteries in action about T.26.c..8.8½.

11.50 p.m. LO. Right Bn. Reports enemy shelling our front line about S.29.d.8.5. very heavily.

Apr 11 - 12:14 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports 6.9s firing from direction AVIONS from s.29.d.81/2.81/2.

12:55 p.m. L.O. 8th C.I.B. reports our right flank S.30 central and left flank S.29.b.81/2.,3.

1.30 p.m. " " " " left Battalion being heavily shelled by batteries along railway in T.13.d

3.46 p.m. F.O.O. 35th Battery reports enemy shelling our support line and PRINZ ARNOLF GRABEN from direction of Haus No.1.

4.15 p.m. 30th Battery report hostile 4.1 Battery at about T.21.d.3.8

Apr 12 - F4 d9.1 Sheet 5.c 12:14 p.m. Lieut. Col Eaton, who died on the 11th instant, was buried today at Row G, Barlin Military Cemetery.

On the night of the 12th/13th, one gun of the 38th Battery in the command of Lieut. Whittaker went forward to a position on the LENS-ARRAS Road S.29.d.7.2. The gun was to be used as a sniping gun.

F4 d9.1 Sheet 5.c

Apr 13 - Heavy snowstorm. Batteries did very little firing owing to our infantry patrols being out.

Apr 14 - Battery Commanders went forward to VIMY to reconnoitre positions. Lieut. Whitaker took two guns of the 38th Battery to a position in LA CHAUDIERE. Both of these were taken over the Ridge to this position on the day of April 14th. The LENS-ARRAS Road east of VIMY RIDGE was in a terrible condition and under direct observation by the enemy. It was shelled constantly. Lieut. Whittaker succeeded in getting the section in without casualties and took up his position and reported to the O.C. 43rd Battalion. The water tower at LA CHAUDIERE was used as an O.P. The night of the 14/15th the 40th Battery moved forward to new positions in VIMY. The road was in a very bad condition and constant blocks occurred the Battery being over 17 hours on the road.

Apr 15 - F4 d9.1 Sheet 5.c On the night of the 15th/16th the 31st Battery moved forward to new position in VIMY and registered the following day.

Apr 16 - F4 d9.1 Sheet 5.c The 40th Battery registered four guns and moved two guns further forward in VIMY. The other four guns being drawn for ward that day and night and registered at once. The LENS-ARRAS Road and the town of VIMY were under intermittent hostile shelling, several 40th Battery horses were lost. The Batteries kept gun limbers and teams in VIMY for a time. Horses stabled in old houses. Most of the wells have been poisoned by arsenic by the Germans.



Group Headquarters moved forward to a position S.30.c.6.1 in German dugouts below the LENS ARRAS Road.

On the night of the 16th/17th the 35th Battery moved forward to a position in the south west outskirts of VIMY and registered on the 17th. Lieut. Boyd 40th Battery went forward to Battalion Headquarters (43rd) at BOIS DE LA CHAUDIERE for Liaison Duty. Communication with infantry was established that night.

Apr 17 – F4 d9.1 Sheet 5.c On the night of 17th/18th the remaining guns of the 38th Battery and the 30th Battery moved forward to positions in the town of VIMY. Registration was carried out the following day.

Apr 18 – 30th Battery got a direct hit on one of its guns. While going out this gun was again hit on the night of 18th/19th and knocked into a shell hole where it remained for several days. Captain Kelly of 10th Brigade, C.F.A. was detailed as Liaison Officer to Infantry Bde. H.Q.

Apr 19 – 8th C.I.B. relieved the 9th C.I.B. in the line. 5th C.M.R. relieving the 43rd Battalion. Lieut. Robertson 31st Battery relieved Lieut. Boyd as L.O. Battalion H.Q.

Communications were continually being cut by shell fire and Batteries suffered some casualties.

The Battery horses at gun positions were ordered back to Wagon Lines. All ammunition is being brought up by pack animals. Carscallen's Group is on our left, 2nd C.D.A. on our right. The 31st, 38th and 40th Batteries were ordered to make reconnaissance for positions east of ARRAS-LENS Railway in case of a forward move. Work begun on these positions.

Captain Burns of 30th Battery slightly wounded.

Apr 20 – Lieut. Scott of 40th Battery killed. Lieut. Clarkson, Sgt-Major Hardy and two other ranks of 40th Battery wounded at same time. Lieut Clarkson died of wounds. On the 21st, at No. 6 C.C.S. at Barlin. 30th Battery had another gun hit.

Apr 21 – No special work today. Batteries checked registrations and continued bringing up ammunition by pack animals. Enemy shelled the roads over the Ridge and town of VIMY.

Apr 22 – Batteries doing very little shooting in daylight owing to exposed positions. A certain amount of night firing carried out by both 18-pdrs and 4.5 Hows.

Apr 23 – Intermittent hostile fire on Battery positions and Group H.Q.. A few hundred rounds of ammunition blown up.

Apr 24 – During the night the enemy fired numerous gas shells into VIMY and vicinity. Our gunners working the guns with gas masks.

Vimy

Apr 25 – – Preparation for trial barrage ordered in O.O. 17. Enemy continues to shell VIMY and vicinity.



Apr 26 – At 4.30 a.m. trial barrage as ordered in O.O. No. 17 carried out. From observers reports barrage was very well placed. Heavy shelling of Battery positions during day and night. 3 guns of 40th Battery and 2 guns of 38th Battery put out of action. Lieut. Whittaker of 38th Battery killed in action during heavy bombardment of his battery.

Apr 27 – At 10.00 a.m. 2nd trial barrage in O.O. No. 17 was carried out. Batteries not firing during the day. Some night firing by 30th and 35th Batteries. Capt. Kelly relieved at C.I.B. H.Q.

Apr 28 – At 4.25 a.m. we assisted in the operations detailed in O.O. No. 18 by putting on the trial barrage ordered. No firing after this during daylight. One gun of 31st Battery put out of action by hostile fire.

Apr 29 – Heavy shelling of VIMY during the day. The 40th Battery had two more guns put out of action by hostile fire.

Apr 30 – Feint Barrage was carried out in accordance with O.O. No. 18. During the day the usual shelling of VIMY with 5.9s, 4.1s and 8" shells.

In the Field. VIMY & LA CHAUDIERE

May 1 – At 4.20 a.m. batteries of the Group carried out a Feint Barrage, as ordered in Operation Order No.19.

During the whole of the forenoon, Headquarters was subject to a heavy bombardment. Col Ralston's dugout received a direct hit, but owing to excellent protection provided by its recent occupants, the roof only suffered.

Vimy received considerable shelling during the day.

At 9.00 p.m. heavy firing on our right. Our batteries opened up on S.O.S. Lines but nothing happened at our front.

Major L.C. Goodeve, D.S.O. reported to Brigade Headquarters Wagon Lines, Berthoval Farm, preparatory to taking over Command of the 8th Brigade (Goodeve's Group), in accordance with 3rd C.D.A. re-organization order, dated May 5th, .

May 2 – At 4.25 a.m. Batteries put on a Feint Barrage ordered in O.O. No. 19.

Nothing special happened during the day. Hostile Artillery below normal.

The day has been bright and warm.

May 3 – At 3.45 a.m. Batteries carried out another Feint Barrage in conjunction with attack on our Right, detailed in O.O. No. 20. No flares of any kind appeared on our front.

No other firing by us during the day, but the usual night firing of 70 rounds each, spread over from 9.00 p.m. to 3.00 a.m.

May 4 – A normal day. Hostile fire somewhat less. No day firing, but usual night firing. 35th Battery put over 30 gas shells during the night.



May 5 – Comparatively quiet. A little shelling of Vimy.

3rd C.D.A. re-organized into three groups. Hqrs., 8th Brigade, CFA becomes Hqrs. Of Goodeve's Brigade with – 30th Battery – 6 18 pdr. Guns, 32nd Battery, - 6 18 pdr. Guns, and 43rd How. Battery, 4-4.5" Hows. It is proposed that the Brigade be eventually completed to the Establishment of 3-6gun 18 pdr. Batteries, and 1-4.5" How. Battery. Required to complete, -1-6 gun 18 pdr. Battery, 1-6 gun 4.5" How. Battery less two sections.

The Hqrs. , and 30th Battery now come under tactical command of 10th Brigade, C.F.A.

The 32nd and 43rd Batteries remain under Tactical Command of 9th Brigade C.F.A.

***May 5** – 9th Brigade: Visibility Poor. Doubtless owing to low visibility, considerable movement was observed in the enemy forward lines during the day. Numerous parties were taken on by our Batteries, dispersed and in some cases inflicted casualties. O.O. No. 70 issued today orders a co-operation between Heavy Artillery, Field Artillery and Aeroplanes in order to carry out a concentrated offensive on hostile Batteries. By this means at least three of our Batteries will fire at the same time upon an enemy one. Corrections for the shoot will be given by Aeroplanes and it is planned to have a machine for every five hundred Square yards.*

May 6 – Headquarters and 30th Battery under tactical command of 10th Brigade, CFA.

32nd and 43rd Batteries under Tactical Command of 9th Brigade C.F.A.

***May 6th** – 9th Brigade: Visibility good. Enemy Artillery fire has been normal today. Particular attention has been paid, by him, to VIMY and roads leading to it.*

Enemy Planes were very active and numbers of them were over our lines throughout the day. One of our Scout machines was engaged by three hostile Aeroplanes at 10 A.M. Our machine was hit and although it turned over and over six or seven times, the pilot regained control and made a safe landing.

May 7th - Visibility fair. Aircraft activity on both sides but on the whole has been a very quiet day.

By an order issued today the 9th Brigade will be re-organized as follows:

The 32nd Battery will be transferred intact to Goodeve's Group (8th Brigade, C.F.A.) and we will receive in its place the 31st Battery, formerly belonging to the 8th Brigade, C.F.A.

May 8th – Visibility fair. Enemy Artillery heavily shot our Front Line between 4 and 5 P.M. today in front of LA COULETTE.

May 9th - Visibility good. Artillery on both sides active throughout the day. Smoke was seen coming from chimneys in factories in HEIN-LIETARD.

O.O. No. 71 –attached-was never issued, as immediately after writing, the changes contained in it were cancelled.

May 10th – Visibility poor. Owing to this fact both our and enemy Artillery were unusually inactive.

May 11th - Visibility very good. Our Batteries completed the registration of a number of important points in the enemy lines. Enemy activity has been sub-normal.



May 12th – Visibility good. Both our own and enemy planes unusually active, Our Scouts engaged in considerable patrol work over enemy lines. Our F.O.O's report new wire entanglements have been placed in front of trench from T.2.d.50.50 to T.a.60.30. A number of working parties observed today, were engaged and dispersed by our 18-Pdrs.

O.O. No. 72 provides for the ?? over, by our Batteries, ammunition from the A.H.A. Brigade, 242nd A.F.A. Brigade and 93rd A.F.A. Brigade, as these Batteries are being withdrawn from the corps. The receipt of this Ammunition will be of great value to the Batteries, as our horses have been taxed to the utmost in packing ammunition up to the guns.

At 7.45 P.M. a Zeppelin was observed travelling in a Northerly direction behind MERICOURT.

May 13th – Visibility fair. Enemy Artillery activity was fairly light today. The F.O.O of the 36th Battery observed 25 men digging anew trench in N.35.c.90.80 and N.35.d.30.20. They were immediately fired upon and dispersed, much damage being done to the new work.

Lieut-Col. H.G. Carscallen, D.S.O., Commanding, Major L.C. Goodeve, D.S.O., C.O. Goodeve's Group, assumes command.

May 14th - Visibility fair. Enemy Artillery was quite active today. During the morning he intermittently shelled in rear of VIMY with an 8" How. Aeroplane activity was slightly below normal today. No encounters of any importance took place.

May 15th - Visibility fair. Enemy actively engaged in shell- VIMY throughout the afternoon. Two of our new Triplanes prevented four of the enemy planes from crossing our lines.

Warning Order No. 1 issued today, gives the following new Zone Boundaries for this Group: Northern Boundary S.18.b.2.0 to S.12.d.6.4.-T.7.b.2.8. – N.32.c.8.8., Southern Boundary T.4.b.5.4. to T.9.c.5.0. The above changes in Boundaries is not to take place till a later date.

May 16th – Visibility poor. Today has been exceptionally quiet on both sides. Both enemy and our own Artillery has been below normal, doubtless due to the poor visibility.

O.O. No.75 issued today, gives the following information:- At 8.P.M. on the 17th inst., we are to cover our new zone.

May 17th – Visibility very poor. Enemy Artillery very quiet. The enemy for the first time tried out today, a 77mm shell, which upon bursting, sends out a small white parachute-flare.

O.O. No. 74 issued today orders the 31st Battery to come under tactical control of this group, 8 P.M, 18th inst.

O.O. No. 75 was also issued today and gives further instructions for the taking over of ammunition, by this Group, from 93rd and 242nd A.F.A. Brigades. This ammunition is to be taken over this afternoon.

May 18th – Visibility fair. Considerable aerial activity has been exhibited by the enemy. Our new Triplanes, however, were quite successful in driving the German machines away.

O.O. No. 76 issued today gives the information that the 49th Canadian Battalion will raid German Front Line from T.2.d.1.2 to T.2.c.2.4.. No Artillery support will be required but the 33rd Battery is detailed to stand ready to give support if needed.



May 19th – Visibility Good. The raid called for in O.O. 76 did not take place this morning and is postponed indefinitely. Our F.O.O's again report factories working in HENIN LIETARD. Artillery activity below normal.

May 20th – Visibility fair. F.O.O. of the 32nd Battery observed a heliograph being used in MERICOURT. This was immediately fired upon and the signalling ceased. Enemy Artillery less active than usual.

May 21st – Visibility fair. Several working parties observed today, were fired upon and dispersed. Large number of horses reported grazing in rear and front of HARNES.

May 22nd – Visibility poor. Activity on both sides below normal. Our F.O.O.s have been most active in locating and reporting hostile gun-flashes and some excellent Counter-battery work has been made possible by this.

O.O. No. 77 issued today contains the following information:-

(1) The 58th Battalion has instructions to consolidate German Post at T.8.a.75.95.

(2) Our support will be as follows:

(a) For one half hour before Zero we will keep up a light disturbing fire on German Front on T.2.c.

(b) Slow covering fire from 9.30 P.M (Zero hour) till 10.15 P.M.

May 23th – Visibility Fair. Enemy Heavy Artillery has been most active today. Considerable movement in the Enemy's back country has been reported by our F.O.O's. Any parties within range were taken on and dispersed. A Trench Motor located at T.13.a.1.9. became active at 2.15 this morning. Our 36th How. Battery fired upon it and obtained two direct hits.

Our infantry was successful in capturing and consolidating Post, as ordered in O.O.No.77. This necessitates the issuing of O.O.No.78, today, which slightly changes our S.O.S. barrage, in the vicinity of this Post.

May 24th – Visibility good. Considerable serial activity took place today. Artillery activity on both sides has been normal.

May 25th – Visibility fair. Factories again reported active in HENIN LIETARD and also COURRIERES. Enemy Artillery has been most active during the last twenty-four hours on roads and tracks N.W. of VIMY. O.O.No. 79 was issued at 1 A.M. this morning and gives the following information:-

(1) The 43rd Canadian Battalion will raid German Front Line Trench on May 27th.

(2) (2) The 45th Battery and 36th How. Battery will support the raid.

(3) Zero hour will be at 12.45 A.M. , May 27th.

May 26th – Enemy Artillery has been active in vicinity of VIMY and LE CHAUDIERE during the greater part of the day. Another working party was observed today., which was fired upon and dispersed by our 18-pounders.

May 27th – Visibility fair. An F.O.O. reported explosion in N.29.a. Aerial activity on both sides slightly below normal. Enemy activity generally, today, was sub-normal.



May 28th – Visibility fair. Enemy planes particularly active during morning: crossing our lines a number of times. Enemy Artillery has been active again today, shelling VIMY and back areas in the vicinity of VIMY RIDGE. Our Batteries have been engaged in registration during most of the day.

May 29th - Visibility Indifferent. Considerable movement has been observed in enemy Lines to-day, and several parties have been dispersed by our 18-pdr. Batteries.

May 30th – Visibility Poor. Enemy artillery activity has been slight during the past 24 hours. Our Batteries have been carrying on with Registration.

May 31st – Visibility Good. Enemy artillery quite active during afternoon and evening. At Noon to-day the enemy put a barrage of 5.9's and 4.1's on our Trenches in T.7.b and T.8.a to which we heavily retaliated.

Jun 1st – Visibility: Misty in the morning but improved and was fairly good in afternoon. Enemy planes very active throughout day – a number crossed our lines. One of our machines was brought down in vicinity of LA CHAUDIERE. Our Artillery was engaged in registration and trench demolition throughout the day. Enemy Artillery was unusually active, paying particular attention to our Front Line and Support Trenches.

O.O. No. 80 issued today. We are to take part in a Barrage, to cover an attack, to be made by the Division on our Left. Zero Hour will be 12 Midnight, night ofth Jun 2nd/3rd.

Jun 2nd – Visibility good. At 4.05 a.m. enemy barraged our line in T.2.c and d. We immediately retaliated and silenced him. Artillery activity on both sides normal today.



German shells bursting on Canadian positions at Lens, France in June 1917. In the foreground, a Canadian gun pit is camouflaged to avoid destructive enemy fire. (Canadian War Museum (George Metcalf Archival Collection) CWM 19920085-814)



Jun 3rd – Visibility fair. The Division on our Left attacked at 12 Midnight, last night, and our barrage was reported as good. Heavy resistance was met with and final objective was not gained. As soon as our barrage opened, enemy laid down a counter-barrage on our Group Front and it was some minutes before he realized his error and switched over to our Left. During today enemy artillery has been sub-normally quiet.

Jun 4th – Visibility: misty in morning, good in afternoon. Considerable movement was reported in the back country by our F.O.O's and Heavy Artillery took on a number of these targets with good effect. Artillery activity on both sides below normal today. Very little aerial activity was engaged in by either the enemy or ourselves.

Jun 5th – Visibility fair. At 2.35 a.m. enemy opened a heavy barrage on our Group Front. Upon an S.O.S. Signal being put up by our Infantry, we immediately opened fire and kept up a fairly intense rate until 3.05 when enemy barrage ceased. O.O. No. 81 issued today, lays down Zones for Batteries to cut wire in. This is in preparation for a large raid which will take place shortly.

Jun 6th – Visibility fair. Despite poor visibility and the time taken to get wires to forward O.P's., our Batteries succeeded in cutting a good deal of wire today. Our 36th Battery, especially, did good as considerable of the wire is so placed as to make it difficult for a Field Gun with its flat trajectory to cut wire. Enemy Artillery was below normal today – there was practically no shelling.

Jun 7th – Visibility good. Wire cutting was carried on vigorously by all Batteries today and good progress was made. Considerable movement in back country reported by our F.O.O's. Enemy Artillery has been unusually inactive.

O.O. No. 83 issued tonight. The 4th Canadian Division on our Left, in conjunction with our Division will raid enemy's trenches at 11.45 p.m.,th Jun 8th. Our objectives are:

(a) Enemy's Front and Support Lines from Railway Embankment at T.2.c.90.20. and thence to T.2.c.40.40. to T.1.d.80.90 to T.1.d.05.95.

(b) FINAL OBJECTIVE:

Enemy's Strong Point in ruined house at T.2.b.30.10., Westerly along ADEPT TRENCH from T.2.d.20.90 – T.2.a.15.40 thence North-East along AGENT TRENCH to BALSAM TRENCH at T.1.b.90.70. (BALSAM TRENCH inclusive to 3rd Canadian Division)

Our troops will remain a total of two hours in enemy's lines.

Our support will take the form of Rolling and Standing Barrages.

Jun 8th – Visibility fair. Wire cutting carried on throughout the day. Our zones now appear well cleared of wire.

Our Raid was carried out successfully tonight. In all we captured 30 prisoners, bombed a large number of dug-outs and captured several Machine Guns with their crews. Our casualties were slight.

Our Barrage opened promptly and the Infantry reports it quite effective. Enemy's Counter-barrage was weak and ineffective at the start and rapidly lessened until it became a mere scattered shelling.



Jun 9th – Visibility fair. Enemy Artillery active, special attention being paid to VIMY, probably in an effort to damage our Batteries. Aerial activity was engaged in by both sides.

Jun 10th – Visibility good. Enemy Artillery active in vicinity of VIMY and LA CHAUDIERE. Our Batteries took on several small parties of the enemy and in one instance inflicted casualties.

O.O. No. 85 issued today. The personnel of the 33rd Battery of our Group are to be relieved for ten days by the personnel of the 463rd Battery, R.F.A. The 33rd Battery men will take over the Defensive Position of the 463rd Battery and vice versa.

Jun 11th – Visibility poor in morning, fair in afternoon. Enemy Artillery has been unusually inactive. A very quiet day on both sides.

Jun 12th – Visibility good. Enemy Artillery shelled VIMY and LENS-ARRAS road, in retaliation for our Heavy Artillery bombardment of AVION today. Enemy planes very active, as many as twelve being our line at one time today.

Our A.A. Guns, however, drove them back quickly. A great deal of enemy movement reported today; any opportunity targets, within range, were taken on by our Batteries.

O.O.No. 86 issued today gives orders for preparation to be made for a series of “Concentrated Shoots” at irregular intervals. Orders will be given for one minute shootes, on a specially selected target. All Batteries will be engaged in these shoots.

O.O.No.87 also issued today, order the 45th Battery and 24th How. Battery to locate positions for a forward gun to be used as a Sniping Gun.

Jun 13th – Visibility poor. Today has been very quiet and there has been practically no enemy shelling.

Jun 14th – Visibility fair. Enemy Artillery activity below normal. Very quiet day and very little activity on either side.

Jun 15th – Visibility fair in morning and quite good in afternoon. Enemy planes very active today, a number crossing our lines. Enemy Artillery below normal.

Jun 16th – Visibility fairly good. Enemy Artillery has been inactive throughout day. Both our and the enemy’s planes active. One of our machines succeeded in bringing down and enemy plane near LENS. Activity, generally speaking, on both sides has been below normal today.

Jun 17th – Visibility fair. During the past few days the enemy artillery has been unusually inactive. Today practically not a round was fired by enemy, on our front. His planes have also been less active of late. Our Batteries are engaged principally in sniping parties of the enemy incautious enough to take overland routes.

Jun 18th – Visibility poor. A very quiet day. Enemy Artillery inactive as usual. Our Batteries took on a number of enemy parties going overland with good results.



Jun 19th – Visibility fair. Enemy Artillery is still inactive. Both enemy and our Aeroplanes were quite active today. During the night the enemy heavily shelled LENS-ARRAS Road in vicinity of PETIT VIMY, inflicting considerable casualties on Infantry parties.

Jun 20th – Visibility good. Movement of enemy in back country considerable above normal. A large number of transports were reported throughout day. Enemy Artillery inactive. Our Batteries engaged any movement within range.

Jun 21st – Visibility good. During last night the enemy Artillery was very active and fired a large number on our roads in vicinity of PETIT-VIMY. A great deal of movement reported again today. O.O.No. 88 issued today. The personnel of the 33rd Battery who have been at the Defensive Position of the 463rd Battery are ordered to return and take over their own position. One section relieves tonight and the relief is to be completed tomorrow night.

Jun 22nd – Visibility fair. All of our F.O.O's report a large amount of movement in rear of enemy lines. Enemy Artillery quiet. Aerial activity nil.

Jun 23rd – Visibility very good. Our Batteries engaged numerous parties today inflicting many casualties. Enemy movement continues; considerable above normal. O.O.No.89 issued tonight calls for a Feint Barrage to be laid down by our Batteries tomorrow.

Jun 24th – The enemy Artillery activity considerably above normal today, both on our trenches and points in rear. During the morning the 36, 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.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.

Jun 25th – Today passed quietly with very little enemy activity. Our Artillery active on enemy trenches and points in rear.

Jun 26th – 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. The Group Batteries were active in Co-operating with this move; the Group Headquarters being kept in close touch with the Infantry through Brigade and Battalion Liaison Officers.

Jun 27th – Our 4.5" How. Batteries have been kept busy today neutralizing the sniping and machine gun fire which harassed our newly taken positions, in front of AVION. The 18-pounder Batteries successfully engaged enemy parties observed in back areas. O.O.No.90 was issued today calling for a Barrage at 2.30 a.m. 28th inst., in support of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade's attack on AVION TRENCH.



Jun 28th – The 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade successfully accomplished their Operation at 2.30 a.m. The Barrage was very well timed and well-placed. Batteries kept up a protective fire until morning, covering the consolidation of the new positions. Letters of appreciation received from Lieut-Col. H.A. Genet, O.C. 58th Canadian Battalion.

O.O.s Nos.91 and 92 were issued today calling for a Barrage at 7.10 p.m., in support of further consolidation by the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade. This Operation took place as arranged. The patrols sent out by the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade were forced to stop short of their objective and finally consolidate on their original outpost line.

Jun 29th – Visibility fair. Today passed without event. The enemy artillery was generally below normal, during the day. Our own Batteries being active covering the consolidation of the infantry. Lieut. Philpott made a reconnaissance of the new enemy position on our front, submitting a full report.

Jun 30th – Today the enemy artillery was active against our newly gained positions and Group Batteries were kept active in retaliatory fire. O.O. No.93 was issued today calling for three salvoes, from all Batteries, at noon, on Dominion Day, an Operation which is to be performed by the entire Canadian Corps Artillery.

Jul 1st – The day passed normally with a fair amount of hostile shelling on our new positions in AVION. At noon three salvoes were fired by the entire Canadian Corps Artillery carefully synchronized. These salvoes were very effective and seemed to make the enemy nervous as he retaliated on certain positions of the front.

Jul 2nd – Today was quiet with the usual harassing fire on both sides. The enemy's trench mortar fire has been increasing nightly on our trenches and posts in AVION.

O.O. No. 94 was issued today providing for the change in zone consequent to the 3rd Canadian Division's taking over the line as far North as the SOUCHEE RIVER.

Jul 3rd – Day quiet – several working parties were engaged effectively by the 18-pdrs. Today the 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 36th and 43rd Batteries reconnoitred and commenced work on new positions to be taken up in T 13.b and d. and S.18.Central.

Jul 4th – Enemy Artillery was practically silent during the day but carried out the usual night firing, including a certain amount of gas shell.

Jul 5th – Our Battery positions in VIMY received a severe shelling today, as well as points in T.19.a. and T.13.c. Little damage was done. An abnormal amount of train movement was reported by F.O.O's behind LENS and SALLAUMINES.

Jul 6th – A considerable amount of Counter-Battery work and harassing fire was done during the day and night apparently in imitation of our methods. O.O.No.95 was issued today providing for a slight change of zone consequent to a redistribution of the Artillery on the Corps front. The 31st and 36th Batteries sent up a section to their new positions in the evening.



Jul 7th – The enemy's artillery was aggressive and alert today particularly on our tracks, roads, etc. His T.M's have also been increasingly active.

An Addendum to O.O. No. 95 was issued today. The 32nd Battery, C.F.A., is to hand over its guns to the 5th and 18th Brigades, R.F.A. and withdraw its personnel to the wagon lines on the night of the 7th/8th. The 33rd Battery, C.F.A., is also to take over 2 guns from the 30th Battery, C.F.A., The Batteries continued their forward move during the night.

Jul 8th – Enemy night firing has noticeably increased during last few days. Our trenches have been shelled consistently during the hours of darkness with howitzers, guns and T.M.s. Lachrymatory shell has been occasionally used.

Jul 9th – Today passed without event.

Jul 10th - Enemy Artillery intermittently active. Several working parties were engaged by our 18-pdrs and destructive shoots on three T.M's and a sniper's post were carried out successfully by our 4.5" Hows.

Jul 11th – Our new positions in T.13.b. and d. into which the Batteries have finished their move, were shelled today, a few casualties being suffered.

Jul 12th – Except for some scattered hostile shelling, today passed quietly.

Jul 13th – The 36th Battery position at S.18.a.98.10 was shelled today me ammunition being lost. A heavy shoot was also put on the 11th Battery and several casualties suffered.

Jul 14th – Day and night normal. O.O.No.96 was issued to-day providing for Artillery support for a projection of gas to be accomplished by the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade. The 36th and 43rd Batteries are to fire gas shell in five minute bursts and the 45th Battery will scatter shrapnel as suggested by G.H.Q., in order to make the enemy keep to his trenches where the gas is thickest.

Jul 15th – Some Addenda and Corrigenda to O.O.No.96 were issued today and the Code to be used published. Zero time is to be 1.00 a.m. The visibility was excellent today and several parties were engaged by our 18-pdrs.

Jul 16th – The day passed normally. Our Heavy Artillery has been active in preparation for future operations.

Jul 17th – Day Normal. Several hundred rounds of 15 c.m. were fired into VIMY between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Jul 18th – The Enemy's Artillery was practically silent during the day although his usual night firing was carried out.



Jul 19th – O.O.No. 97 was issued today. One Battalion (116th) of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade is to carry out a raid on the enemy's trenches South of AVION, penetrating as far as the Railway Embankment. This will take place about the 22nd. The day was normal.

Jul 20th – There was a considerable amount of barraging fire carried out by the enemy. It has been noticed that most of the enemy's Counter-Battery shoots, lately, seem to have been done with balloon observation.

Jul 21th – Today was quiet. In the late afternoon the enemy engaged one of our balloons with a H.V. Gun, forcing the pilot to parachute.

Jul 22nd – Today the Group Batteries completed the destruction of the enemy's wire in front of the raid. Zero time for this Operation will be 1.00 a.m. Jul 23rd.

Jul 23rd – The raid at 1.00 a.m. was completely successful. The Barrage was reported to be faultless. Fifty-one prisoners were taken, including one officer. Lieutenant Philpott went over behind the attacking parties and sent back valuable reports through the Liaison Officer.
O.O. No. 98 was issued today. The Brigade is to be withdrawn from the line and come into action in support of an Operation by the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions, against the high ground N.W. of LENS.

Jul 24th – After 9.00 p.m. the Batteries were withdrawn to the wagon lines. A March Table was issued for the move to the new sector. Wagon Lines are to be at LE BREBIS and the gun positions, which have been under preparation, are in the vicinity of LOS CRASSIER.

Jul 25th – The Brigade left the BERTHONVAL Wagon Lines at 3.30 p.m., arriving at LE BREBIS at about 8.30 p.m. The Batteries came into action during the night.

Jul 26th – The day was spent in registration and establishment of communications. The Batteries were all registered and on their S.O.S. Lines at 6.00 p.m.

Jul 27th – In accordance with a fixed policy, the Batteries have kept silent, except when calibrating. Our Siege Batteries have been active destroying the enemy's positions.
O.O. No. 100 issued today. This lays down our Artillery support in a forthcoming attack, to capture the high ground on the North of LENS. If this is accomplished the enemy may be forced, by the tactical situation, to evacuate this town.

Jul 28th – Visibility good. Enemy Artillery active against battery positions and rear areas. Our Artillery very active on enemy's defences. Aerial activity normal today.
Addenda Number One and Two, to Operation Order No. 100, issued today. Number one gives instructions in regard to the 36th How. Battery's Barrage. Number Two calls for a Practice Barrage to take place at 5.15 p.m. Jul 29th.

Jul 29th – Visibility fair. Our heavy Artillery has been very active during the past twenty-four hours. Enemy Artillery normal.



Practice Barrage took place this afternoon as ordered, proving very satisfactory.

Jul 30th – Visibility fair. Enemy Artillery carried out a short concentrated shoot this morning, lasting two minutes. Enemy Planes which appeared over our lines at 8.30 p.m. were engaged by our A.A. Guns.

Jul 31st – Visibility fair. Enemy Artillery put on a few destructive shoots on our back areas. Our Heavies carried out their usual activity on enemy's supports. Aerial activity below normal.

Aug 1st – 11 pm - Enemy planes not active today. Enemy artillery very active in the morning on counter-battery work and harassing fire.

Aug 2nd – No enemy planes or balloons up today. Enemy artillery less active than usual. Our Heavies very active all day. Visibility poor.

Aug 3rd - Visibility fair. The day was very quiet except for a hostile barrage about 4.00am on LOOS and LOOS CRASSIER. Our artillery very active against wire and enemy defences. No balloons or aeroplanes observed up.

Aug 4th - Visibility fair. Enemy artillery fairly active at irregular intervals on Loos, F ?, Maroc and the rear areas. Some movement of men was seen in the German trenches. No enemy planes or balloons up.

Aug 5th - Visibility fair. One enemy plane up in the afternoon. No balloons observed. Enemy artillery below normal. Our artillery active on enemy front line and support trenches. Large numbers of the



Canadian QF 18-pounder gun emplacements in the vicinity of Lens, France. (Library and Archives Canada Photo, PA-001876)



enemy were observed on the road in X.13.b. and 4. and were engaged by our Heavies. Considerable traffic of horsed vehicles and motor cars were observed on the A ? road n O.S.

Aug 6th - Six enemy planes were observed for a short time in the afternoon. Enemy artillery lightly shelled, at odd times, LOOS and G.36.o. ? and G.36.d. ?. Several of the enemy were seen on the road in N?.b. but quickly disappeared.

Aug 7th - No aeroplanes or balloons observed today. Hostile artillery below normal. Considerable movement of men was observed in N.31.1. and around the BOIS DE QUATORES. This movement was fired on and one man believed to have been killed.

Aug 8th - Only one enemy plane up during the day. No balloons observed. Hostile artillery inactive today. Our artillery has been very active on wire cutting in N.31. & N.32. No enemy movement observed.

Aug 9th - 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.

Aug 10th - Visibility good. Three enemy planes were up over their own lines during the day. Enemy artillery has been fairly active against our front line and communication trenches and on counter-battery work in rear areas. An unusual amount of movement was observed in the rear areas between MUERCHIN and CARVIN consisting of many motor trucks and horse drawn lorries and several trains. There was also a great deal of enemy movement around the BOIS DE QUATORES all of which was fired on and a considerable number of casualties inflicted.

Aug 11th - Visibility good. No aeroplanes up. One enemy balloon up. Considerable movement was again observed in the rear areas. Between MUERCHIN and CARVIN many trains were seen and also considerable movement of motor trucks and horse drawn vehicles. The movement of men was smaller today than usual and mostly in the rear of the BOIS QUATORES. Enemy artillery below normal today.

Aug 12th - Enemy planes fairly active all day. Seven enemy balloons up today. Enemy artillery fairly active on our support trenches with all calibres and LOOS and our rear areas received considerable attention from enemy 4.9s. An abnormal amount of enemy movement was seen today. This consisted of a very large number of men in the rear of the BOIS de QUATORES all of them were fired on and some casualties inflicted. Quite a number of men were also seen in the enemy front line. Very heavy movement of motor and horsed traffic from MUERCHIN to VERBIN and MUERCHIN to CARVIN. Farmers could be plainly seen stacking grain around PROVIN. Our batteries did a great deal of wire cutting on the German front lines today.

Aug 13th - Visibility fair. A few enemy planes patrolled their own lines during the morning. Four enemy balloons were up. The enemy appears to be working on his front line trenches which have been badly knocked about by our fire. Less enemy movement seen than usual. Considerable traffic was again



observed in the rear areas and several trains were also seen going into CARVIN. An enemy anti-aircraft battery was observed near VERDIN and our heavies took it on and caused a large explosion.

Aug 14th - Visibility fair. Enemy aeroplanes very active during the day, several indecisive combats taking place. Three balloons were also up. Enemy artillery more active than usual. Our front lines and supports were intermittently shelled all day and our rear areas with ? Several trains and considerable movement of motor trucks and horsed vehicles were again observed in rear areas around PROVIN.

Aug 15th - Visibility good. Operation Order No. 100 was carried out today starting at 4.36 am and special reports by Lieut. R.T. Macaulay, Group F.O.O. and Lieut. J.R. Jamieson, F.O.O. Bgd? Battery, C.F.A.?, are attached hereto. The enemy barrage was very heavy on the zone to our right but later in the day became very intense on our front. The infantry reached their final objective, ? on Hill 70?, on schedule time. Several counter-attacks against this famous hill were launched by the enemy during the day were completely broken up by artillery fire before they reached our new front lines. The whole 4th Guards Division attempted a counter attack from the BOIS de QUATORES and the BOIS DIN-NUIT and are known to have suffered enormous casualties. About 8.00 pm a drizzling rain set in and the situation quieted down considerably. Only a few enemy planes were up during the day.

Aug 16th - Visibility good. Enemy planes were very active throughout the day and towards the evening very large numbers were seen at times. A very large number of balloons were also observed at times during the day. Enemy artillery was very active all day shelling our old front line and support trenches from there to our new front line. Considerable movement of men were also observed during different times of the day coming from the rear to the German front line which is supposed to be about ? TRENCH. The enemy were observed to be doing considerable new work along this trench all of which movement was fired on. Our artillery opened fire on two S.O.S. Signals, one at 8?pm and one at 10.30 pm and supposed enemy counter-attack did not reach our front line.

Aug 17th - Enemy aeroplanes were very active all day, some of them crossing our front line. 3 balloons were also up. The enemy intermittently shelled our whole zone and fired about 100 rounds of 8" on the Dressing Station on the BETHUNE ROAD. At 9.42 pm an S.O.S. was sent up on our front and the enemy laid down a heavy barrage on the whole brigade ? Considerable movement of men was seen coming from VERDIN towards the BOIS DIN-NUIT.

Aug 18th - Visibility good. Enemy aeroplanes were very active all day, crossing our lines 9 times. The enemy balloons were observed during the day. Enemy artillery was very active throughout the day on our front line and supports. LOOS and the rear areas, and in the night between 1.00 am and 3.00 am several thousand gas shells were fired on our battery positions. Our heavy artillery was very active during the day, bombarding the BOIS DE QUATORES, BOIS DIX-NUIT and the enemy front line. There was a marked increase in enemy movement in the front area. Considerable traffic of motor trucks and transports were observed on the MUERCHIN-GAVEN road. During the night the enemy used three search lights at different times, trying to pick up our aeroplanes.

Aug 19th - Visibility good. Enemy aeroplanes were very active in the morning but quieter in the afternoon. There were no balloons up. Enemy artillery was quieter than usual confining his shelling to



bursts of fire over a wide area and some counter-battery work in the afternoon. At 3.25 pm an S.O.S. signal went up on our front to which all batteries responded promptly and during this time the enemy shelled our front line and supports heavily. During the morning considerable enemy movement was seen around the BOIS DE QUATORES all of which was fired on. There was also a great deal of train and transport movement between MUERCHIN and CARVIN.

Aug 20th - Visibility fair. Only one enemy aeroplane and one enemy balloon were seen all day. Very little enemy movement was seen either in the forward or rear areas. An conjunction with an attack on the right Operation Order 101 was carried out on our front at 4.36 am. The enemy did not retaliate very heavily but put on several concentrated shoots during the day on our front lines and supports. Several enemy batteries fired all day long on our battery positions in the rear.

Aug 21st - Visibility fair in the morning but good in the afternoon. Enemy aeroplanes were exceptionally active during the day, many planes crossing our lines. Two enemy balloons were also observed during the day. A great deal of enemy movement was again observed around the BOIS DE QUATORES area and roads in rear. This was all fired on and several casualties inflicted. Operation Order No. 102 was issued today changing the zone boundary of the batteries to the right and establishing a Group O.P. in the front lines.

Aug 22nd - Visibility good. Enemy planes were very active again today frequently crossing our lines. Five enemy balloons were also observed. Movement of enemy in front areas was below normal but considerable motor and horsed transport observed on the MUERCHIN-CARVIN road. Enemy artillery has been very active heavily shelling the area between LOOS and our battery positions and also during the night putting a large number of gas shells in the same area. The enemy used five search lights during the night trying to pick up our planes.

Aug 23rd - Visibility good. Enemy planes not so active today but several during the early morning flew very low over our front line. One enemy balloon was observed. Enemy artillery was much quieter today but intermittently shelled LOOS and some of our battery positions with ? During the night there was considerable artillery fire on both sides on the zone to our right.

Aug 24th - Visibility fair. Only one enemy plane was seen today and no balloons. Enemy movement in the front areas was below normal, but the motor and lorry traffic on the MUERCHIN-CARVIN road was abnormal and our heavies took on several targets at different times of the day along this road, and one lorry was seen to be damaged.

Aug 25th - Visibility good. Only one aeroplane was seen today, in the early morning, and no balloons. Very little movement of men was seen, but movement of men and transport on the MUERCHIN-CARVIN road was very heavy during the day. Several counter-attacks took place during the night on the zone to our right but our front was normal. Enemy artillery was very active during the day on counter-battery work.

Aug 26th - Visibility good. Ten enemy planes were up in the early morning, eight of them flying as far back as BOUVIRIN. Five enemy balloons were also observed today. Very little movement of men



observed but considerable traffic between MUERCHIN and CARVIN. At 11.00 am one train with forty coaches was seen to pull into CARVIN. Enemy artillery active on our support trenches and on counter-battery work during the day. The night was very quiet. Operation Order 103 was issued today extending our zone to the left. Five new guns were also borrowed from the 14th A.F.A. Brigade, R.F.A. to replace some guns damaged by shell fire during the last week.

Aug 27th - Visibility very poor on account of rain and mist. A few enemy planes were seen during the day but their activity was below normal. No balloons were seen. Enemy movement nil except for some train movement around CARVIN. Enemy artillery unusually quiet. Operation Order #104 was issued today, making a slight change in our zone boundaries and giving a new S.O.S. line.

Aug 28th - Visibility fair. No enemy planes or balloons seen today. Some enemy movement was seen in rear of the BOIS QUATORES all of which was fired on and some casualties inflicted. A stretcher party was noticed coming out to carry one of their wounded men away. The usual movement between MUERCHIN and CARVIN about normal. Enemy artillery very quiet.

Aug 29th - Visibility fair. A few enemy planes were seen during the day but their activity was below normal. No enemy balloons seen. Enemy movement below normal, except for some train movement between MUERCHIN and CARVIN. Enemy artillery below normal.

Aug 30th - Visibility fair. Only one enemy plane observed today, but no balloons. A few small parties were seen about the BOIS de QUATORES and were immediately fired on but they quickly disappeared. At 11.11 am a battalion of infantry were seen coming toward MUERCHIN from CARVIN. There was also considerable horsed traffic and motor traffic on the road between these two places. Enemy artillery was below normal except for two concentrated shoots; one during the night and the other in the afternoon on our rear areas.

Aug 31st - Visibility fair and good at intervals. Only two enemy planes were up for a short time in the morning. No enemy balloons observed today. Very little movement observed in front areas but there was the usual motor and horsed transports seen on the MUERCHIN-CARVIN road; also very heavy train movement in and out of CARVIN. Enemy artillery more active today, barraging our front line and supports at different times. During the early morning an S.O.S. was sent up on our front and the enemy tried to raid our front line. Our artillery opened up very quickly and the enemy was forced to retire.

Sep 1st - 11pm The visibility today was fair. Six enemy balloons were up in the early morning as well as a great many enemy planes, but all activity ceased after 9.00 am. Several of the enemy were seen about a mile behind the front line and they were immediately fired on and dispersed. Enemy artillery was fairly quiet during the 24 hours, but as usual he did some counter-battery work.

Sep 2nd - The visibility today was fair. No enemy balloons were observed up today, but four enemy planes patrolled their own lines in the early morning, two of which crossed our lines and flew over our rear area for about half an hour, flying very high. Enemy movement appeared to be below normal today, but a considerable number of trains were observed in the rear area between MUERCHIN and CARVIN. Enemy artillery was below normal, except for some heavy counter battery work which they carried out



in the neighborhood of the LOOS CRASSIER.

Operational Order

Number 105 was issued today relating to relief of the 9th Brigade, C.F.A. by the 6th Divisional Artillery, R.F.A., to take place on the night of the 4th/5th September.

Sep 3rd - The visibility today was good. Five enemy balloons were observed up during the day and several enemy planes were also seen, but they did not attempt to cross our lines. Enemy artillery was very active during the night on our support trenches and in the vicinity of the Town of LOOS, shooting intermittently with bursts of fire. During the night there was considerable activity on both sides on the zones to our right and left, although our front remained normal.

Sep 4th - This visibility today was fair. Five enemy balloons were again observed on our front and stayed up most of the day. Enemy planes were not so active and were only seen in the morning during which time they remained well behind their own lines. Movement of men in the enemy lines was almost nil, but considerable horse and motor movement was observed in the rear country. During the night the enemy at different times put up a spectacular display of rockets, using green, red, orange and white lights. 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 pm 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.

Operation Order Number 106 was issued today. This refers to the 31st and 36th Batteries leaving the LOOS area and going into action under RALSTON'S BRIGADE in the VIMY area. The Headquarters, 33rd and 45th Batteries with the 35th and 39th Batteries of RALSTON'S BRIGADE are to proceed to Rest Camp in the rear.

Sep 5th to 22nd - From this date to the 22nd inst., the Headquarters and four batteries mentioned herewith were in rest at MAGNICOURT, 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. 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 days sports. Their horsemanship and other feats were magnificent and filled our men with surprise and admiration.

Sep 6th - 10th Bde Pretty well settled in new lines. Hdqrs is in the Farm and undergoing the novel experience of having baths right at their door. Owing to the sudden change in orders last night the batteries going into rest had to go to Rocourt and district instead of Berthonsart. This will prove very inconvenient as it is 15 miles back at least. 3rd CDA O.O. 131 received. Rumour hath it that we are going in for another show. Probable objective Mericourt Avion, Sallaumine and high ground south of Lens, with the idea of forcing the evacuation of Lens.

Sep 7th - 10th Bde Drew 18 19-pdrs today from Gouy Servins for the batteries to go into action. Drew stores from the 2nd C.D.A.C. at Souvigny. Bde. Hdqrs. Moves up today. O.O. 131 and 132 issued—copies



attached.

A later report of the enemy's bombardment on the night of 4th/5th shows that the 39th Battery was called upon by the infantry for retaliation. This was quickly responded to in spite of the strafing. It was found impossible to serve the guns while the men wore gas masks, so these were discarded. Owing to the prompt treatment immediately after, no men were seriously affected. Unfortunately, however, the long march afterwards to the new wagon lines proved very hard on these men.

Sep 8th - 10th Bde Very misty and quiet. All the batteries, i.e. 31st, 36th, 38th and 40th came into action last night without any trouble.

40th. 3 guns, T.19.d.07 and 3 guns T.20.d.7.3.

38th. T.19.b.2.7.

36th. T.26.a.3.3.

31st. T.19.a.3.9.

The 10th and 11th Btys. Are now attached to Ralston's Brigade for tactical handling. The 10th, T.13.b.4.1; 11th, T13.b.50.65

Brigade is in the same old place, S.30.a.51.07. Vimy has been frightfully knocked about since we pulled out some six weeks ago.

Sep 9th - 10th Bde Quiet day. Capt. Davidson, M.C., visited the batteries, taking two tunneling officers with him. This attaching tunnellers is a new departure for us. 3rd CDA O.O.132 received, and Brigade OO.132 issued – copy attached.

Sep 10th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. All quiet on the front. O.O.132 Amendment 1 issued—copy attached. Visit from Lieut. Duncan, Asst. Brigade Major.

For once we appear to have plenty of time to build and properly camouflage the battery positions. The 38th is already well under way, and the tunnellers began at once to put in deep dugouts. This is the first of a distinct change in the Artillery plan. Hertofores 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.

Sep 11th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. All quiet on the front. Visit from Gen. Mitchell, D.S.O.

Capt. Davidson, M.C., and Lieut. Hamilton of 7th Field Coy. Visited the new battery positions. 39th Bty. Started work on new position, T.19.a.72.82. Work on 38th and 40th progressing favourably.

Lieut. Naismith on leave to U.K.

Tracing showed approx. divisional boundaries for attack and Artillery Brigade zones received—copy attached.

Sep 12th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. All quiet on the front. Visit from Capt. Finlayson, Paymaster. Capt. Young and Lieut. Campbell returned from leave.

Sep 13th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Very quiet on the front.



Areas allotted for building extra Brigade position. This means that we must construct

1. Our own battery positions.
2. Four additional battery positions.
3. Our own wagon lines.

But of course the Gunner's life is one of ease and luxury.

Sep 14th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Quiet throughout the day. Lieut. Chown wounded; remaining on duty.

C.D.A. O.O.133 received. Bde O.O.134 issued—copy attached. Intelligence file of Maricourt sector, 3rd C.D.A. I.G.150. received. This is excellent, showing in detail both by maps, sketches and reports all available information concerning the enemy on the front. The idea is to have all concerned using uniform maps and information.

Sep 15th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Capt. Davidson, M.C. made long tour of trenches on acheville front in attempt to find good O.P. for the show. No satisfactory point found. Heavy firing during practically whole night on Avion-Lens front. No attack developed. Quiet on Divisional front. Batteries stood to for two hours waiting a call.

Division on our right (31st) is carrying out concentrations during the night to cause casualties to the enemy and presumably to draw his attention from this front to theirs.

Sep 16th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Hdqrs. and road above lightly shelled with 4.1 H.V. gun. No damage. Battery positions coming on in good shape. Lieut. Robertson on leave to U.K.

Sep 17th - 10th Bde Fine and clear. If this weather will only continue, it spells success for the operation. The men are ready and eager if only Old Probs. Will continue his good work. 36th Battery moving all guns to Brick pile at T.26.d.4.4.

Sep 18th - 10 th Bde Fine and warm. Lt. Duncan started work on extra Brigade position.

With the idea of keeping the registrations of Battle positions from being noticed, sniping guns run well forward are to be employed. This policy may work out satisfactorily, as undoubtedly these guns will draw the enemy's attention. Of course considerable labour will be involved in continually moving these guns from place to place. Still, if this keeps the real positions from being discovered, all is well.

At 3.20 this morning, O.P. reported activity on right. All batteries stood to help "L.3". Rt. L.O. report apparent harmless straf. Lt. L.O. reported considerable shelling so How. Battery turned on in retaliation. 3.45 a.m. , forward O.P. reported shelling not very heavy. 3.46 a.m., S.O.S. on right and covering battery opened fire on retaliation. 3.48 a.m. , S.O.S cancelled by Bde. L.O. who asked for retaliation. This was given.

It now appears the enemy raided our trenches on right, captured one wounded prisoner, wounded four others, and left in our hands one unwounded man of 61st R.I.R., and one man killed. The loss of one man captured is serious.

As was foreseen, the Crème de Menthes caused trouble, for it was impossible to say whether those going up were ours or the enemy's. It now appears green and green and red were used for enemy recall signal. Bde. H.Q. shelled with 4.1 shrapnel. No damage.



Sep 19th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Two enemy planes came over very low down, and crossed to as far back as Lens-Arras Rd. Possibly prisoner captured yesterday has given away information, and the planes were seeking confirmation.

Sep 20th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Quiet on the front.

Sep 21st – 10th Bde Fine and warm. Quiet on the front. One gun of 45th Bty., CFA., attached to sniping gun.

Sep 22nd - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Quiet on the front. Incendiary shells are to be used by the sniping gun to burn the weeds amongst the enemy wire, so that a better view of the wire may be obtained.

Sep 22 Operation Order No. 107 was issued today under which this brigade moved to new wagon lines near VILLERS au BOIS. The brigade remained at rest at this point until the end of the month, most of the time being devoted to cleaning equipment and grooming horses.

Sep 23rd - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Quiet on the front. Lt.-Col. Ralston, D.S.O., returned from Dieppe.

Sep 24th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Last night 40th Battery moved two guns from forward position to Battle Position, and also turned over one gun to the 45th Battery for sniping. 40th Battery shelled heavily from noon to midnight with 5.9's and 8 inch. One gun and pit damaged, one man attached from tunnelling coy and one man from D.A.C. wounded. Gnr Robinson, 40th Battery, and Gnr Casey, 38th Battery wounded. A system of retaliation flares and artillery action was put in force today. This is a new departure, as heretofore flares have been used for S.O.S. only. This new scheme should prove of assistance to the infantry and also reduce needless ammunition expenditure. Probably "lengthen" or "shorten" and "stop S.O.S." signals will soon be used. Recommendation for V.C. for Gnr H Smith & D.C.M. for Corporal Almand, both of 39th Battery received for saving lives and 5 men during shelling of 40th Bty.

Sep 25th - 10th Bde – Fine and warm. Quiet on the front. Lieut. T.C. Wood on leave to Blighty. 40th Battery had gun loaned to 45th Battery returned last night. Lieut. Duncan took up new sniping gun to T.20. Lt. Col. Ralston D.S.O. visited Infantry Bde. H.Q. to strengthen the liaison between Infantry and Artillery.

Sep 26th - 10th Bde Dull and Cloudy. Extremely quiet on the front.

Sep 27th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Three heavy barrages laid down on our trenches in neighborhood of Avion during the night. S.O.S. sent up but no infantry section followed. Otherwise quiet on the front. Lt. Col. Ralston D.S.O. inspected the wagon lines

Sep 28th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. Enemy shelled 6 inch Howitzer battery in Vimy with 200 rounds 5.9. Otherwise quiet.



Sep 29th – 10th Bde Dull and cloudy. Few drops of rain. Unusually quiet day. No. 300975, Gnr. Arthur Smith, 35th. Bty. Recommended for the VICTORIA CROSS. Copy of recommendation attached.

Sep 30th - 10th Bde Fine and warm. At 1.00 a.m. warning of expected raid on our right sector received. All batteries warned but no action developed. All quiet.

Oct 1st - 10th Bde Fair and warm. Quiet on this front. Capt. W.H.H. Sparks. C.of E. Chaplain attached.

Oct 2nd to 5th - During this period the 31st 18 pdr. Battery and the 36th Howitzer Battery were in the line in front of MERICOURT and the Headquarters and the 33rd and 45th 18 pdr. Batteries were in rest at wagon lines near CAMBLAIN L'ABBY, with two batteries of the 10th Brigade, C.F.A., attached, also in rest.

Oct 2nd - 10th Bde Weather cloudy. Lieut-Col. G.H.Ralston, D.S.O. made reconnaissance of O.P.'s and position for the coming show. Quiet.

Oct 3rd - 10th Bde Windy and cold.. Quiet on this front. Warning order in regard to the coming show received from 3rd C.D.A.

Oct 4th - 10th Bde Rainy and cold. Heavy stuff on our front at 9.30 p.m. To retaliate for an hour. O.O. No. 135 received from 3rd C.D.A. postponing the LENS show and detailing relief by 2nd CDA. Our O.O. No. 133 issued, copy attached. 39th Battery today had one other rank killed and three other ranks wounded.

Oct 5th - 10th Bde Rainy. Addends No.1 to O.O. No.133 issued, copy attached. The 5th Brigade CFA is to relief us.

Oct 5th - Operation Order #108 was issued postponing all preparation for the coming operation with reference to the taking of MERICOURT. Our two batteries in the line are to be relieved tonight. 31 Bty 10th Bde – 6 Oct – Dull and wet. The first part of the relief by 5th Brigade CFA carried out without any unusual occurrence.

Oct 6th to 9th - In anticipation of a move to another area the brigade was very busy in completing their equipment. Two concerts were given in the evening for the benefit of the men of the batteries who had been in action, one by a Y.M.C.A. concert party and the other by the 3rd Canadian Division Concert Party. These were immensely enjoyed by the men.

Oct 7th - 10th Bde Very stormy and rainy. The relief of batteries completed and Lieut-Col.G.H. Ralston, D.S.O. with Brigade Headquarters withdrew to wagon lines near LA TARGETTE. The 36th and 31st Batteries again come under the command of the 9th Brigade CFA and 10th Brigade CFA again has its own four batteries.



Oct 9th - Operation Order #109 was issued referring to the vacation of our present wagon lines and the march to new wagon lines at ESTHE CAUCHIE. The weather was fair and the march made in good time and all batteries ? ? until down with good standings for the horses and good billets for the men, before dark.

ESTREE CAUCHIE

Oct 10th to 12th - 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 #110 was issued with reference to this march which was to start at 7.30 am on the 13th instant.

VENDIN - les - BETHUNE

Oct

13th - It rained hard during the night and also in the morning as the batteries pulled out and as this kept up until about 1.00 pm, nearly every man was soaking wet and arrived in the afternoon at our first stop in VENDIN - les - BETHUNE in a cold and miserable condition. Operation Order #110-2 was here issued referring to the continuation of the march on the next day, leaving at 7.30 am.

Near MOREBECK

Oct

14th - The brigade pulled out on time and as the weather had cleared up the march was made under better conditions and the men became more cheerful. A stop was made about noon at ST. VENANT to water the horses and feed the men after which we very little shelter for the men, tents had to be put up. Operation Order #110-3 was issued here in referring to the continuation of the march on the next day.

GODEWAERSVELDE

Oct 15th - The brigade pulled out at 8.30 am and the weather was fine. A stop was made about noon at ST. SYLVESTER to enable the horses to be watered and fed and at 2.00 pm the march was continued to the area around GODEWAERSVELDE. The horses were all in the open fields but the men had good billets and were quite comfortable. Operation Order #110-4 was issued here referring to the continuation of the march to WATOU tomorrow morning.

Oct 16th - The brigade pulled out at 9.00 am; the weather was fine and we arrived at WATOU about noon. The horses were again in open fields but most of the men managed to find billets in barns and houses and were fairly comfortable. Operation Order #110-5 was here issued referring to the continuation of the march tomorrow to the VLAMERTINGHE area.

Oct 17th - The brigade pulled out at 11 am, while passing POPERINGHE we met Colonel Carscallen the C.O. and Major Massie returning from leave in PARIS. 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.



Oct 18th - The brigade remained at rest, the batteries getting further equipment such as ration packs and pack-saddles, water carriers, etc. and some of the officers going forward to look over the new gun positions. On October 20th Operation Order #111 was issued referring to the relief by the 9th Brigade of the 108th A.F.A. Brigade R.F.A. which is to be complete by 8.00 am October 21st, 1917.

Oct 21st - Our batteries relieved the batteries of the 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. Operation Order # 112 was issued today with reference to a readjustment of zones. Operation Order #113 was also issued with reference to barrages to be put on by our batteries.

Oct 22nd - 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 - 100 men and 12 horses to pull out one gun. Operation Order #113-1 was issued with reference to further barrages to be put on by our batteries. The day was very foggy owing to the mucky ground the batteries had very much difficulty in establishing the O.Ps and very little intelligence was received. During the night the enemy heavily shelled our battery positions and aeroplanes also dropped about 25 bombs near them.

Oct 23rd - Operation Order #113-2 was issued with reference to further Preparatory Barrages by our batteries. The visibility throughout the day was very poor but one of our F.O.Os reported that one of our heavy shells dropped very close to a Hun pill-box and about 20 men were seen to run from it to the rear. One of these men, who was wounded, wandered towards our front line and was brought in by our infantry. We expended about 1000 rounds during the day. Enemy shelling was below normal.

Oct 24th - Operation Order #114 was issued with reference to the first stage of the capture of PASSCHENDAELE to take place on the morning of the 26th instant. 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 5.9's.

Oct 25th - Visibility was fair but there was an extremely high wind and enemy planes and guns were not so active. We fired about 1800 rounds.

Oct 26th - 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 their machine guns became 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 HEIGHTS 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. Special reports are attached from this brigade and from Lieuts. Manning and Livingstone, Brigade F.O.O. and Battalion Liaison Officer, respectively.

Oct 27th - The visibility was good today and seven enemy balloons were observed on our front. Enemy planes were also very active during the morning and at about 10.00 am nine enemy planes flew around WIELTJE area dropping many bombs. This activity of enemy artillery was below normal today. Our own batteries fired about 2000 rounds in the 24 hours. Operation Order #115 was issued today referring to the new preparatory barrages and harassing fire.

Oct 28th - The day was dull and the visibility poor. Three enemy balloons were observed at daybreak but descended in a short time. Enemy aeroplane activity was below normal, but at 11 am 10 Gothas flew around the area from WIELTJE to YPRES and dropped many bombs on the roads, inflicting some casualties. Enemy artillery was more active today putting heavy barrages on the main roads. Our artillery fired about 1500 rounds during the 24 hours.

Oct 29th - The visibility was poor in the morning but got better in the afternoon. No enemy balloons were observed today but a large number of enemy planes crossed our line and flew around the rear area, without, however, dropping any bombs. Enemy artillery was very active again during the day barraging the GRAFENSTAVEL and ZONNKBEKE Roads with 4.1"s and "Whizz-bangs" until dark. The enemy appeared very nervous during the night and sent up a large number of many coloured flares. Operation Order #116 was issued today with reference to the next attack tomorrow morning on the PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE.

Oct 30th - Our attack on the 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 5.9"s and 4.1"s. Inside of 5 minutes it had become 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 FRIESLAND COPSE appeared to be heavily manned with machine guns and our men were obliged to work around the flanks 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 footing was very heavy and in many cases men had to stop to pull up their comrades out of the mire. By 12 noon it was apparent that the infantry had reached their objectives except in the center of the attack which was still held up by strong pill-boxes heavily manned with machine guns. The situation become 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. Special reports are attached from Brigade Headquarters, Lieut. MacGillivray F.O.O. 33rd Battery, Lieut. A.B. Manning, F.O.O. 36th Battery and Lieut. A. Livingstone, Brigade Liaison Officer.

Oct 31st - The day was cloudy with poor visibility. There were no enemy balloons today observed and only several odd enemy aeroplanes. Three S.O.S. signals were sent up during the early morning at 4.05 am, 5.30 am and 5.40 am. Apparently there were two counter-attacks on different fronts but these were effectively broken up. Another S.O.S. was sent up at 5.40 pm in the afternoon but this counter-attack was also broken up and our infantry still held all positions taken in the attack. Operation Order #117 was issued today referring to further preparatory barrages and harassing fire.

Nov 1st - The day was very misty in the morning but fair in the afternoon. During the past 24 hours the enemy's aeroplanes have been particularly active in our rear areas and during the night of the 31st/1st enemy planes worked almost continuously from 7.00 pm to 12 pm bombing the areas around YPRES and VLAMERTINGHE. As soon as one squadron disposed of it's bombs it appeared to go back to the enemy lines and get a fresh supply. Fortunately no damage was done to any of the battery wagon lines although many of the neighboring lines suffered. Hostile artillery was very active with heavy concentrations in the rear of BELLEVUE Slope. A considerable amount of gas was also projected by the enemy. Our battery positions were heavily gassed during the night. An S.O.S. was sent up about 2.00 am and our batteries opened fire promptly but it would appear that no actual attack developed on our front. Operation Order #118 was issued today outlining preparations to be made for the next attack.

Nov 2nd - Visibility was very poor all day and the enemy quieter than usual. Very few of his planes were observed and none attempted to cross our lines. From about 8.30 pm to 3.00 am the enemy put on a concentrated gas bombardment over our forward area. Our heavies were quite active in retaliation until this gas shelling ceased. His retaliation to our morning barrage was light and scattered.

Nov 3rd - The visibility was very poor all day. His artillery has been particularly active in forward areas, and much less active in rear areas. In reply to our barrage at 3.30 am the enemy S.O.S. went up immediately and his artillery responded at once, with a very heavy barrage on our front line and supports. Our battery positions were also 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. Lieut. R.V. Macauley of the 45th Battery, was also hit but is not in danger.

Operation Order #119 was issued today giving new artillery zones to coincide with the recent advances and slight alteration in the southern Divisional Boundary.

Nov 4th - The visibility was again very poor all day. At about 7.30 am three hostile planes flew very low over our battery positions and hovered about for some time, apparently photographing. During the night a great many gas shells were fired by the enemy but as they were scattered over a very large area few casualties were inflicted. As the batteries are expending a great deal of ammunition and as all this ammunition has to be sent in on pack animals, the road through SPREE FARM and up to the battery position is terribly congested. It has been planked as far as SPREE FARM but forward of this point the footing is terrible. Pack animals are continually getting down in shell-holes and soft spots and in many cases have to be shot as it is impossible to get them out. Fortunately to date, very few casualties have occurred among the horses of this brigade, other than injuries to their feet. Operation Order #120 was issued today ordering special bursts of shrapnel fire tomorrow on the enemy defences northeast of MEETCHERLE.



Nov 5th - Visibility poor in the morning, fair for a while about midday. Enemy aircraft has been quite active although the visibility poor. A number of fights took place, in one of which an enemy plane was brought down on the right of the Divisional zone. Considerable movement was observed at about V.30.a.40.10. This target was immediately reported back to the heavies by our F.O.Os and successfully taken on. In reply to our morning barrage the enemy retaliated chiefly on the left of our Divisional front. He also scattered a good deal of gas about throughout the day but did not inflict many casualties. Operation Order #121 was issued today Attack (8) to be carried out by the 2nd Division on the Right and the 1st Canadian Division on the left.

Nov 6th - Visibility poor. Operation Order #121 was carried out today. Our barrage opened promptly and appeared to be regular and even. The enemy barrage came down two minutes after our Zero Hour and appeared heaviest along the BELLEVUE SPUR. Our infantry were reported to have reached their final objective at about 8.00 am. The enemy massed for a counter-attack on VINDICTIVE ROAD at about 9.40 am, but were caught by the fire of our batteries and the attack broken up. Lieut. Philpott, Brigade F.O.O. was wounded in the head about 10.30 am. Special reports on the operations of today from Lieut. Philpott, Brigade F.O.O., Lieut. A.B. Manning, Lieut. A. Livingstone, L.O. to RIGHT BATTALION and Major R.F. Massie who was also in the forward area throughout the day, are attached. Apparently a great many casualties were inflicted upon the enemy and on the whole the artillery support was most satisfactory.

During the operation and throughout the day our batteries were heavily shelled and a number of casualties inflicted to both personnel and equipment. The work of the R.F.C. was much appreciated by all arms. Enemy balloons were kept down and his planes were not permitted over our lines.

Nov 7th - Visibility fair at intervals. The enemy aircraft was much more active than usual, and several large flights were observed, but none of his machines ventured very low. About 9.30 am four GOTHAS flew over and dropped bombs in the vicinity of WIELTJE, causing a few casualties among the battery ammunition pack trains. A counter - attack was suspected last night at about 6.45 pm. Our batteries opened promptly and no attack developed. The enemy continues to bomb the wagon lines at night and also does considerable shelling with a long range gun, but few casualties have as yet been inflicted at our wagon line.

Operation Order #122 was issued today outlining preparation for the continuation of attack by the CANADIAN CORPS.

Nov 8th - Visibility good in the morning and fair in the afternoon. The enemy's aeroplanes were again quite active. At 7.00 am six GOTHAs were over and dropped bombs near the OXFORD DUMP and along roads approaching YPRES. At 2.00 pm another six planes flew over our battery positions in the vicinity of KANSAS CROSSROADS, and dropped a considerable number of bombs. Later in the afternoon a flight of sixteen planes crossed our lines and flew to the rear areas about YPRES, many encounters took place during the day. In reply to our morning barrage the enemy's retaliation was heavy. During the forenoon he was quite active on our batteries causing a number of casualties. Capt. E.V. Thompson of the 33rd Battery was wounded but remained on duty.

Operation Order #123 was issued today, giving details for Attack (9).

Nov 9th - Visibility good in the morning - fair in the afternoon. Enemy planes quite active. From 2.30 to 4.00 am several bombing planes flew over our wagon lines and back as far as PEPERINGHE and dropped a number of bombs. From 8.00 am to 10.00 am many planes crossed and re-crossed our lines and drove off several of our observing machines. Several of his planes also attempted to shoot down our



observation balloons but without success. The PLANK ROAD has now been completed from SPREE FARM forward to our battery positions in front of KANSAS CROSS. Although the traffic on this road is tremendous it greatly facilitates in getting up ammunition and has reduced the horse casualties considerable.

Nov 10th - Operation Order No. 123 was carried out today. The artillery support was reported to have been satisfactory and our troops reached their objectives but in places later had to withdraw chiefly on account of the Corps on our left not reaching their objective and thus leaving our left flank exposed. Special reports are attached from Lieut. M.H. McKay, Liaison Officer, also Chronological Report of the Operation. During this operation the enemy's retaliation was slightly less than usual and none of his planes were active.

Nov 11th - Visibility fair and good at intervals. Enemy planes were unusually active especially in the morning, flying very low over our trenches and machine-gunning the infantry. One of our planes was attacked by a hostile plane and forced to land near SPREE FARM. The enemy artillery was normal throughout the day but in the evening our battery positions were subjected to a concentrated shoot and several casualties were inflicted. Lieut. A.D. Golden of the 31st Battery C.F.A. was wounded but remained on duty.

Operation Order #124 giving details of preparation for attack (10) was issued today.

Nov 12th - Visibility fair at times in the morning. Very misty in the afternoon. Enemy planes were again very active today, particularly in the morning. His artillery was also active and intermittently shelled the batteries and plank road. Quite a number of casualties occurred to horses and men parking ammunition along this road. Some of the 6" batteries in advance of SPREE FARM were quite heavily shelled. Major E.F. Massie of the 33rd Battery was wounded last night and evacuated to hospital. Quite a number of the gunners of our batteries were also wounded.

Operation Order 125 was issued today giving changes in Divisional and Group Boundary.

Nov 13th - Visibility poor in the morning and fair in the afternoon. In the morning a large flight of GOTHAS and protective machines flew over our rear areas for about half an hour, and dropped a number of bombs. Several times during the day heavy concentrated shoots were laid down on ZONNEBEKE, WOLF COPSE, BELLEVUE and WATERLOO areas. In the afternoon at about 4.30 the S.O.S. signal was sent up on our front. The batteries responded quickly and the intended attack apparently broken up. Shelling in the battery areas was somewhat below normal. A special report is attached from Lieut. M.H. McKay, Liaison Officer to Right Battalion.

Nov 14th - Visibility very poor today. For several days past the weather has been dull and good observation almost impossible. Very little rain has fallen however and the temperature has been comparatively mild. Our battery positions in D.14. were heavily strafed several times during the day and several casualties inflicted. The sandbag walls put up by our batteries around their guns have undoubtedly saved a number of casualties and prevented the guns on numerous occasions from being put out of action. During the night of 13/14th our forward area was subjected to heavy gas shelling but fortunately none of our men were seriously affected. Most of the gas shelling on this front line has been scattered and although a great many gas shells have been projected by the enemy, the casualties from gas have not been severe. The batteries suffered several casualties today both in gunners and drivers. A special report on counter-attack of November 13th from Lieut. McKay, 31st Battery Liaison Officer to Right Battalion, is attached.



Nov 15th - Visibility poor in the morning and good in the afternoon. the enemy aircraft was more active than usual. Ours was also active and a number of combats took place. One enemy plane was brought down in flames. Two squadrons of GOTHAS, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, crossed our lines and bombed the rear areas and wagon lines. Our battery positions in D.14. were heavily shelled about noon. The 33rd Battery completed their move to their forward position at about D.15.b.10.80. They were fortunate in getting possession of a nearby pillbox of sufficient accommodation for officers and most of the gunners. Last night the wagon lines area was heavily shelled but no casualties were inflicted to the batteries of the brigade. Lieut. C.D. Crowe, 45th Battery C.F.A., was wounded today but remained on duty. Attached is a report from Lieut. M.H. McKay, L.O. to Right Battalion.

Nov 16th - Visibility poor. Enemy planes were less active today than usual. Two GOTHAS were over our lines for a short time but were heavily engaged by machine gun and rifle fire and returned to their own lines. During the night 15th/16th the enemy did a good deal of scattered shelling, a small percentage of which were gas shells. The enemy opposite our front appears to be very nervous and frequently puts on a protective barrage for no apparent reason.

Nov 17th - Visibility poor. Very heavy mist. The enemy artillery was fairly active during the early hours of the morning but otherwise was below normal during the day. He shelled our battery positions in D.14. using a considerable amount of shrapnel and H.E. on time. During the night of 17/18th the enemy bombed the areas in the vicinity of YPRES and VLAMERTINGHE almost continuously throughout the hours of darkness. A number of casualties were inflicted to horses and personnel but our batteries again escaped.

Nov 18th - Visibility poor. Enemy planes were exceptionally active during the morning, particularly over Front Line Areas where they fired into our trenches and on moving troops, with their machine guns. One of our balloons was also brought down by a hostile plane. Another enemy plane observed fire for a 21 cm howitzer battery registering our Artillery Positions in D.14. Our heavies were particularly active during the night of 17/18th and a number of heavy explosions and fires in the enemy country were observed.

Operation Order #126 was issued today outlining the relief of the 9th Brigade by the 46th Brigade, R.F.A. This O.O. was welcomed by all our batteries, who for the past month have experienced a very tenuous time.

Nov 19th - Visibility poor. Our aeroplanes quite active. Enemy planes were below normal. The enemy again put on a fairly heavy barrage at dawn on our forward areas and still appears nervous especially to the zone on our left. He was active on our battery areas on the afternoon and evening and inflicted several casualties among the personnel of the relieving batteries and put out of action a number of our guns. The Battery Commanders of the relieving Brigade were very much pleased with the condition of our battery Positions and the way in which our ammunition had been looked after. They were much impressed by the protection which had been erected around our guns particularly in the case of the 36th Battery.

Nov 20th - Visibility poor. The relief of the brigade by the 46th Brigade, R.F.A. was completed, the last battery reporting clear at about 2.00 pm. The relieving brigade took over guns and stores complete so that nothing but personal kit had to be drawn from the positions. It was anticipated that there might be a short rest at the wagon lines before moving out of this area but about midnight word was received that the brigade had to be clear of their present wagon lines before daylight on the following morning.



Nov 21st - Heavy rain all night and most of morning. Operation Order #127 was issued today with particulars of Trek to the First Army Area. In accordance with this O.O. the brigade moved off about an hour before daylight in pouring rain with prospects of a rather unpleasant march. The day cleared, however, and the Brigade arrived at MERRIS, 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.

Nov 22nd - 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. The day's march was quiet and billets for both officers and men were obtained. The horses appeared to be standing the march very well, with practically no cases of galls or lameness. Operation Order # 127-2, with March Table for the 23rd instant, was issued tonight.

Nov 23rd - Weather fair and mild. The brigade moved off from ST. VENANT at 9.30 am; their destination being AMETTES, which would complete the Trek. The march today was the most pleasant of all, the weather being fine and mild and the roads good. AMETTES was reached at about 2.00 pm but batteries were not settled into their billets until nearly dark as certain changes were made in the billeting arrangement and the accommodation was thereby much more limited than was expected. Good quarters were secured for the officers but the horse-standing and men's billets were only fair and in most cases the horse lines had to be some distances from the men's quarters.

Nov 24th - Weather bad with rain and snow. Batteries got fairly well settled in their new quarters and were beginning to feel that the long anticipated rest had at last come when word to prepare for coming inspections arrived; one by the G.O.C. on the 30th instant and one by the D.A.D.V.S. on the 28th.

Nov 25th - Weather fair and cool. Church parades for the batteries were held in the AMETTES School in the morning. In the afternoon preparations for the coming inspections were continued.

Nov 26th & 27th - Batteries busy improving horse lines and standings and cleaning up generally for the coming inspections.

Nov 28th - Weather fair and mild. Operation Order #129 was issued with instructions that two sections from 18 pdr. batteries of the brigade, were to be attached to the 4th Canadian Divisional Artillery and go into action on the 29th instant on the 8th Corps Front. The D.A.D.V.S. made his inspection and was pleased with the general condition of the horses.

Nov 29th - Weather fair and mild. Thirty remounts were received today, from AIRE. They were generally of poor quality and condition and below the standard. Instructions and ballot-bags for the spring elections arrived.

Nov 30th - Weather fine and mild. The G.O.C., 3rd Canadian Division inspected the brigade today. Extensive preparations for this inspection were made by all batteries and through the kindness of Lieut. Col. Sharpe, Commanding Officer of the 116th Battalion, the regimental Band of 116th was loaned to the Brigade. As the G.O.C. approached the lines, battery guards were turned out and the band played, making a very impressive welcome. The general was well pleased with the condition of horses and equipment and the general appearance and smartness of the men, particularly so on account of the strenuous campaign they have recently come through. He 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.



All ranks were very pleased to have the general visit them and enjoyed his remarks and heartily cheered him as he left the lines

Dec 1st to Dec 3rd – Batteries carried on Syllabus of Training and prepared for inspection by G.O.C., R.A. Canadian Corps, to take place on the 4th instant.

Dec 4th – The weather was fine and mild. The G.O.C., R.A., Canadian Corps arrived at about 10.00 AM and inspected the Batteries of the Brigade. He was well pleased with everything and particularly complimented the 45th Battery on the good condition of their horses, horse lines and vehicles.

Dec 5th – Word was received that the Canadian Corps Commander will inspect the Brigade on the 6th? instant. Batteries all busy preparing for this inspection.

Dec 6th – The Canadian Corps Commander, accompanied by the G.O.C., R.A. and the G.O.C., 3rd Canadian Division inspected the Batteries of the Brigade today. The Brigade marched past him at a point on the AUMERVAL-AMETTES Road. All Batteries were well turned out and although the day was cold and the horses did not show up as they might have done on that account, the General was exceedingly well pleased and had few suggestions to offer.

Dec 7th to 12th – The was exceptionally good and very little rain. Batteries carried on Syllabus of Training laid down. The men got more opportunity to enjoy this long looked for rest., having no inspections to prepare for. A number of them each day were allowed passes to LILLIERS, a good sized town not far off, where considerable Christmas shopping was done.

The P.P.C.L.I. Concert Party put on several performances at FERFAY, an adjoining village, which were attended and enjoyed by our men. On the 9th instant the horses of the Brigade were inspected by the D.A.D.O.S. who made no particular comment on their condition.

Dec 13th – The Brigade held a Gymkhana in a large field at the edge of the Village. It was a great success and was much appreciated by all ranks of the Brigade as well as visitors from all surrounding Units in



9TH CANADIAN ARTILLERY BRIGADE

- GYMKHANA -

To be held on Wednesday Decr. 12th 1917

- EVENTS -

1. Artillery Driving Competition.
2. Saddling Up Race - Open to H.O.Cs and Other Ranks. Competitors to leave Starting Point on mules without saddle or bridle to a point at which saddles and bridles are laid on the ground. On reaching this point to saddle up unassisted and return to Starting Point.
3. Jumping Competition - Open to H.O.Cs. Best performance over three jumps, three feet high. Twice around the course.
4. Wrestling on horseback.
5. Jumping Competition. Open to officers mounted on mules. Over three jumps, three feet high, twice around course. Best performance.
6. Best six-horse artillery team, with limber.

Horses to count	60%
Harness do	20%
General appearance & smartness of drivers	20%
7. Jumping competition. Open to Other Ranks only. Best performance.

rest and some of the French population. The G.O.C. 3rd Canadian Division was present and seemed much pleased with the show. He took a particular interest in the Artillery team and expressed his appreciation of the splendid showing they made.

Programme of Sports attached hereto.

Event No 1 was won by the 31st Battery by a margin of one peg over the 36th. Battery.

Event No 2 was won by the 31st Battery. Second – 36th battery. Third – 31st Battery.

Event No 3. First – Brigade Headquarters. Second – Brigade Headquarters – Third, 36th Btty.

Event No 4. Won by 33rd Battery.

Event No 5. First Lieut. Fleet, 36th Battery. Second. Lieut MacGillivray, 33rd Battery.

Event No 6. Won by the 33rd Battery. This event was the most keenly contested of the day. The teams of the various batteries were so nearly equal that the judges found it impossible to make a decision and requested the assistance of the C.R.A

Event No 7. Won by 31st Battery. Second – Brigade Headquarters. Third – 36th Battery. There were a great many entries for this event and some remarkable performances were made.

Dec 14th to 19th – During this period batteries carried on training and smartening up generally. As it was understood that the brigade would have to go into the line before Christmas, all of the units held their Xmas dinner during this period, and as fowls, vegetables and other requirements could be handily procured, these dinners were almost equal to those of pre-war days.

Dec 20th – Operation Order No 129 was issued detailing a relief of the 11th Divisional Artillery by the 32d C.D.A. and preparations were made to send the advance sections from batteries on the 22nd instant.

Dec 21st – The 31st Battery moved to the wagon lines of the 11th. Divisional Artillery and relieved one section of the A/58th. Battery situated near LOOS.

Dec 22nd – The Right Sections of the 33rd. 45th. and 36th. Batteries went forward from AKETTES today to relieve the Right Sections of B/59th., C/59th., and D/59th Batteries of the 11th. D.A. respectively. All these batteries were situated near LOOS and covered practically the same front which this brigade had covered while in the LOOS Sector in August of this year.

Dec 23rd – The remaining sections of the 33rd, 45th and 36th Batteries left AMETTES at 8.00 AM and trekked to NOEUX-les-MINES, arriving shortly after 1.30 PM. Here they took over the wagon lines previously occupied by the batteries of the 59th Brigade R.F.A. The stables at these lines were in good condition and the general accommodation good. This was greatly appreciated by all ranks remembering as they did the conditions the personnel at wagon lines had to put up with last winter. The gun detachments proceeded to the guns leaving NOEUX-LES-MINES at about 3.30PM in motor busses and completed the relief of the 59th Brigade R.F.A. , in accordance with Operation Order No. 130.

Dec 24th – Visibility poor. No aeroplane activity throughout the day. Several small groups of the enemy were seen along the railway in N.3.d. and were fired on and dispersed by the 33rd. Battery. The enemy



was particularly quiet all day, practically no hostile shelling was observed. Most of the batteries got very well settled in their new quarters and found them reasonably comfortable, although a great deal of work remains yet to be done about the various positions to bring them up to standard.

Dec 25th – Visibility fair with cloudy intervals. Very little aerial activity. A great deal of enemy movement was observed today in rear enemy area; chiefly small parties in the open. Our 18-pdr. Batteries dispersed most of these parties. Considerable train movement was also observed running in a southerly direction. Enemy artillery was again quiet but his Trench Mortars were slightly active. As all of the units had held their Christmas dinner while in rest no celebrations took place.

Dec 26th – Visibility good. Planes much more active than previously. Our planes were also active and one was brought down by enemy A.A. It crashed in the vicinity of CITE ST PIERRE. A great deal of movement was again observed in enemy rear areas and our batteries were busy sniping throughout the day. The enemy's artillery was quiet, his shelling being confined to vicinity of LOOS chiefly.

Dec 27th – Visibility good. During the night of the 26/27th our planes were very active bombing the enemy rear areas. A great deal of enemy movement was again seen and engaged by our batteries. He appears to be improving his fortifications, new work having been reported at several points. The enemy seen in the open today acted as if unfamiliar with the front and it was considered by F.O.Os. that a relief had recently taken place. His artillery was again quiet but his Trench Mortars were slightly active.

Dec 28th – Operation Order No 130 was issued today and the Brigade frontage considerably decreased. A southerly portion of the brigade front being taken over by the 13th. Brigade, C.F.A. Visibility was good and again a great deal of enemy movement was observed. Enemy aerial activity was normal. During the night of 27/28th, our planes were active over the enemy's lines. His artillery was slightly below normal also his Trench Mortars. More enemy new work was reported.

Dec 29th – The visibility was poor today which prevented batteries from doing their usual sniping. The enemy's aircraft was more active than usual and crossed our lines a number of times. One hostile plane flying low, fired on the 45th. Battery position with its machine guns, but no casualties were inflicted. His artillery was fairly active particularly so in the vicinity of LOOS and LOOS CRASSIER.

Dec 30th – The day was very misty throughout observation of the enemy's lines being practically impossible. Between 4.50 and 5.00AM the enemy projected gas to the right of our brigade front in conjunction with a concentrated bombardment of H.E. and gas shells. It was estimated about 600 cylinders were fired. During the day the enemy artillery showed slightly more activity than usual, consisting chiefly of bursts of fire on our rear areas. Our artillery carried out the usual harassing fire during the night.

Dec 31st – Visibility was only fair and there was no aeroplane activity on either side. Our infantry report considerable success in sniping today. The enemy showed a disposition to move around in the open and offered numerous targets for our sniping guns., of which they took full advantage. Enemy artillery again showed increasing activity, - sniping movement in our rear areas, registering our front line and



communications and in some places he is reported to have done some wire cutting. Our artillery retaliated for his fire on our front system, with good effect. Our 4.5 Howrs continued their work of registering hostile Trench Mortars.

1918

LOOS

Jan 1st – Visibility good, with considerable aerial activity on both sides. Enemy carried out some long distance flights behind our lines during the morning, Our planes also appeared to be active in his rear areas. Our 18 pdrs fired on movement at various times throughout the day. The enemy is displaying an aggressive attitude on our right. For several mornings in succession he has placed a barrage on the front trenches in that sector at 5.00AM.

Jan 2nd – Poor visibility all day. There was a certain amount of aerial activity during the morning and one hostile plane appeared to direct fire for hostile battery firing on LOOS. At about 10.00A.M. seven E.A. patrolled over CITE ST AUGUSTE. Two of our planes attacked one of these and brought it down in flames. A certain amount of movement was again observed today and engaged by our 18-pdrs. The enemy artillery has been more active than usual and did considerable firing on LOOS. At about 8.00 P.M. the enemy attacked one of our posts. This attack was covered by a heavy bombardment of our support and communication trenches. Our S.O.S. Signal went up and artillery responded immediately. One of our men was killed; no other casualties were reported, and no identifications were obtained.

Jan 3rd – Operation Order 130-2 was issued today slightly changing the boundaries of the Group Zone and putting the 66th Battery of the 5th C.D.A., which had previously been under tactical control of this brigade, under the 10th. Brigade, C.F.A.

Visibility was good and planes were active on both sides. Considerable sniping was again done by our 18-pdrs. The enemy's artillery attempted a certain amount of counter-battery work on our Field Batteries in the vicinity of the LOOS CRASSIER and our Heavies in MAROC, practically no damage was done.

Jan 4th – Enemy planes particularly active both on forward and rear areas. One plane appeared to observe for a 5.9 battery firing on one of our Field Gun Positions in G.34.c. His artillery was active throughout the day particularly on LOOS and in the vicinity of MAROC. The 45th Battery position was heavily shelled for about two hours. No casualties were inflicted on personnel or equipment.

Jan 5th – The enemy's attitude was quiet all day. During the afternoon his planes were fairly active and crossed our lines several times flying at a very low altitude. His artillery fired considerably on LOOS, LOOS CRASSIER and the HULLOCH Road throughout the day. Visibility was poor and very little information was obtainable from O.P.s.

Jan 6th – Operation Order No 132 issued today with details of raid to be carried out by the 4th. C.M.R. Battalion at an early hour on the 7th instant. The 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade will support the raid.



Additional support will also be provided by the HULLOCH GROUP which is on our left and the 10th Brigade, C.F.A. which is on our right.

The visibility was poor all day and little information was obtained by O.P. and no targets of opportunity were engaged. The enemy's artillery was again active in the vicinity of LOOS and LOOS CRASSIER. He fires a great many rounds in this area but as most of the men are in strong cellars and dugouts few casualties are effected.

Jan 7th – Visibility poor. The enemy has been less active than usual today probably on account of the poor observation. A few of his planes were up during the early morning but none crossed our lines. His artillery fire was light and was chiefly against LOOS and the LENS-BETHUNE Road.

The raid by the 4th C.M.R. arranged to take place on the night of the 6th/7th was postponed.

The raiding party left our trenches at the time arranged and succeeded in getting to the enemy's wire unobserved. Their plan was to blow up this wire with a BANGALORE Torpedo and rush through and raid his Sap. Returning through the gap blown in the wire. The officer in charge of the raid found it impossible to set off the torpedo after having worked on it for over two hours. And the raid had to be abandoned.

Jan 8th – Although the visibility was only fair a great deal of individual movement was observed both in the vicinity of his front trenches and in his rear areas. Most of the men observed appeared to be wearing packs, and it is thought that probably an enemy relief is taking place. The enemy's artillery was quiet during the night and most of the day. His Trench Mortars did a certain amount of firing in the early morning.

Jan 9th – A large amount of enemy movement was again seen today and men seen appeared to be in marching order. Our 18pdrs did considerable sniping and one or two hits were observed. A black dog has been seen several times during the past few days at the southeast corner of BOIS DES DAMES, apparently going to and from dugouts which are suspected to be at this point. It is probably an enemy messenger dog. Enemy artillery fire has been normal and the heaviest in the vicinity of LOOS.

Jan 10th – Operation Order No 133. Was issued today with particulars of a raid to be carried out by the 2nd C.M.R. Battalion at an early hour 12.1.18. Artillery support is to be provided by the 9th Brigade C.F.A. with additional support from the HULLUCH GROUP, the 91st H.A.Group and the 10th Brigade, C.F.A., the purpose of the raid being to obtain prisoners, identification and to inflict casualties on the enemy.

The visibility was fair today and our 18pdrs did considerable sniping, dispersing many small targets and obtaining four observed hits. The enemy's artillery was a little more active than usual particularly in the vicinity of LOOS and its approaches.

Jan 11th – The visibility was poor all day except for a short interval in the morning. During this period several small parties moving overland were observed and engaged by our 18pdrs. The enemy's artillery was active on our rear areas and in the vicinity of LOOS. A good deal of smoke from enemy trains was observed most of which appeared to be between the SOCIETE METALLURGIQUE and VENDIN-le-VIEIL. Our Trench Mortars have been more active during the past few days than usual doing a good deal of



counter-mortar work. This has apparently been effective as hostile trench mortars have been doing less shelling.

Jan 12th – The 2nd C.M.R. Battalion raided the enemy's trenches shortly after two a.m.; this morning obtaining two prisoners and inflicting a number of casualties on the enemy.; in all, 15 enemy dead were reported to have been seen. The Infantry state that our Artillery barrage was very satisfactory and that they only had two slight casualties among their men. A report is attached herewith in connection with this raid by Lieut. A.D.MASON, Liaison Officer at LEFT Battalion, 2nd C.M.Rs.

Jan 13th – The enemy's attitude was quiet today. During the night 12/13th. he appeared nervous and used a great many flares. His Machine Guns were also quite active throughout the hours of darkness. There was considerable aerial activity throughout the day and enemy planes crossed our lines on one or two occasions. Enemy movement was below normal. A few targets were engaged by our 18pdrs.

Jan 14th – The visibility was poor all day and there has been little activity on either side. One working party was fired on successfully by our 18pdrs. The enemy's artillery fire was light, his chief shelling being in the vicinity of the 31st and the 66th Batteries. Operational Order No 134 in connection with a raid to be made by the 5th C.M.R. Battalion, was issued today.

Jan 15th – Visibility was poor all day and very little information was obtained by O.Ps. The 5th C.M.R. Battalion carried out a successful raid last night against the enemy trenches securing prisoners and inflicting a number of casualties. This raid was accomplished in a remarkably short time and all ranks engaged in the raid got back to our trenches practically uninjured. The infantry rate the Artillery Support as having been splendid. The enemy's artillery has been quiet today, his Trench Mortars doing most of the firing. In response to our barrage in support of last night's raid, his retaliation was slow and light.

Jan 16th – Operation Order Number 135 was issued today. According to this order the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery will probably be relieved and go into rest at an early date. While in rest the 3rd C.D.A. are to be held as Army Reserve and be ready to move at 12 hours notice to whatever Sector of the line they may be required. Visibility was good at intervals today and our 18pdrs. Fired on several movement targets. The enemy's artillery was very quiet all day.

Jan 17th – The visibility was very poor all day and both ourselves and the enemy quiet. His artillery did little firing and what was done was all on rear areas. During the night 16th/17th inst he appeared nervous and fired a great many flares.

Jan 18th – Operation Order No 136 was issued today detailing an artillery barrage to be put on by this brigade on the morning of the 19th instant in conjunction with the 3rd Canadian Divisional Trench Mortar Brigade.

Both the enemy's and our planes were active throughout the day, his planes crossing our lines on two or three occasions. More than usual movement was seen most of which was engaged by our field guns. His



artillery was quieter than usual in the forward area but was more active in the vicinity of LOOS and DOUBLE CRASSIER. The 36th Battery came in for a good deal of the shelling of this area.

Jan 19th – Operation Order No 137 was issued today re-arranging the zones of the batteries of this brigade. The visibility was good and aeroplanes were active on both sides. A good deal of enemy movement was seen and engaged by our 18pdrs. His artillery was active chiefly in the form of concentrated shoots in the vicinity of our battery positions.

Jan 20th – Operation Order No 138 with particulars of the relief of the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery by the 1st Canadian Divisional Artillery was issued today. This relief is to take place on the 22nd and 23rd instance. ON COMPLETION OF THE RELIEF THE 3RD Canadian Divisional Artillery are to be quartered in the BRUAY Area and are to be held as an Army Reserve ready to move at 12 hours notice into any part of the line required. The visibility was good and numerous targets of opportunity were engaged by our field guns. The enemy's artillery fire was normal.

Jan 21st – Visibility was good and planes were active on both sides. The usual amount of enemy movement was again seen and fired on by our batteries with good results. Hostile artillery was a little more active than previously particularly on our forward trenches. During the afternoon the enemy placed a dense smoke screen in front of HARNES and COURRIERS apparently to conceal the firing of battery or the movement of transport in that vicinity.

Jan 22nd – One section of each of the batteries of this Brigade was relieved by sections of the 5th., 6th., 7th and 48th Batteries of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Canadian Divisional Artillery. Guns were taken over as they stood, our sections taking over guns from the 2nd Brigade Batteries at the Wagon Lines. Considerable aerial activity took place on both sides. Less enemy movement than usual was observed and the enemy's artillery was quiet. Owing to poor visibility very little information as to enemy's artillery was quiet. Owing to poor visibility very little information as to enemy movement in rear areas was obtained.

Jan 23rd - The relief of this Brigade by the 2nd Brigade C.F.A. was completed this evening. The Wagon Lines of the Brigade moved from NOEUX-les-MINES to the wagon lines previously occupied by the 2nd Brigade at HALLIBOURT, BRUAY area. The C.R.A. inspected the Brigade as it moved off from NOEUX-les-MINES and was apparently pleased with the appearance of the turnout. The horses of the 33rd Battery looked particularly well. Lieut. Col. Anderson, the Commanding officer of the 2nd Brigade C.F.A. was very pleased with the condition of the lines taken over from this Unit, particularly that of Brigade Headquarters. Both officers and men of this brigade were sorry to move out of the line as both the battery positions and wagon lines were comfortable and the area to which they are moving has poor facilities for a mounted unit.

HALLICOURT

Jan 24th to 27th – Batteries busy erecting stables and cleaning up lines and billets which were left in a dirty condition by the previous occupants. As there is considerable mange among the horses of certain units in the Corps batteries are clipping all horses and taking every precaution to prevent the disease in



this unit. Stables are being built by the 31st., 33rd., and 36th Batteries. With this work in hand not much time has been available for training since arrival in this area. The weather has been mild and fair and a great deal of work has been accomplished by all batteries since arriving here.

Jan 28th to 31st – Weather fair and very mild. Batteries continuing with mange precautions and construction of stables and horse lines. Syllabus of Training including gunlaying and gun drill, signalling with buzzer, lamp and flag, and driving and riding drill has been carried out. Nights have been clear and very bright and the enemy has bombed surrounding area each night. No great damage has yet been reported.

Feb 1st to 22nd – 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 very creditable showing in a Route March on Wednesday afternoon February 6th. headed 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 pictures shown 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 AVON-MERIOURT Sector, the 9th Brigade relieving the 5th Brigade C.F.A on the 22nd instant.

On the 21st Feby the brigade marched to ne wagon lines at LA TARGETTE and were inspected by the C.R.A. The 33rd and 36th Btys made a very creditable showing.

Feb 23rd - The enemy's artillery and Trench Mortar activity slightly above normal. Considerable movement observed in N.28.34 and 35. Our low flying aeroplanes more active firing into enemy trenches in the VAION Sector. Batteries carried out considerable harassing fire throughout the night on the points where movement was observed during the day.

Feb 24th Hostile activity was slightly above normal during the past 24 hours. Movement was again observed in N.28. and 35. Our planes were very active throughout the day, and were energetically engaged by enemy A.A.s. One E.A. crossed our lines at 12.30PM.

Feb 25th - Minor Operation Order No 1 was issued today with reference to a proposed raid by the 52nd Canadian Battalion on the AVION front for the purpose of obtaining identification and destroying three dugouts. The 33rd, 45th and 31st Batteries detailed to take part. The night proved too bright and the raid was postponed.

The enemy's artillery and trench mortars were active in the forward areas. MELVILLE ROAD and the BULL-RING again show considerable movement. No enemy aerial activity. Our planes very active throughout the day. The morning was misty owing to a slight rain, clearing in the afternoon.

Feb 26th – Enemy's artillery and trench mortar activity quiet. A great deal of movement is still being observed in the BULLRING. Enemy's aeroplanes fairly active. One of our planes was brought down in the vicinity of MERICOURT.



Our patrols made daylight reconnaissance in front of AVION entering the enemy's lines and returned without being discovered. During the night the 52nd Battalion raided the enemy's trenches about the same spot meeting with considerable opposition, capturing a M.G. and causing six casualties to the enemy. We had a few slightly wounded.

Feb 27th – Enemy's artillery more active than usual, the forward areas receiving a considerable amount of scattered shelling; T.Ms. remaining quiet. Constant movement still being observed in the BULL RING. Two E.As., flying low, patrolled our lines between LENS and VIMY. Our low flying machines fired many drums into the enemy's front line between MERICOURT and AVION. Visibility in the morning – fair. Afternoon – good.

Feb 28th – Enemy's artillery quiet. Our batteries very active sniping movement on our front. Considerable train movement observed in the direction of MONTIGNY. Four E.As. attempted to cross our lines during the day but were turned back by our patrols and A.As. Our planes showed considerable activity throughout the day and night. Our bombing planes were engaged by the enemy's A.A. batteries firing chain lights and phosphorous sprays.

Visibility was indifferent, owing to sleet. Some bright spots during the day.

Mar 1st - Visibility throughout the day was indifferent. The enemy's artillery and T.Ms activity was quiet with the exception of a shoot on the 31st 36th Battery O.Ps 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 lines from 6 am until noon. Two of the enemy balloons were up observing on our front. At 11.00 am a small red propaganda balloon dropped literature on the LENS-ARRAS Road.

Mar 2nd - The visibility was good throughout the morning, only. The enemy's artillery and T.Ms firing was light and scattered. Considerable movement still being observed in the vicinity of AVION, giving our gunners good practice in sniping. A small red propaganda balloon was seen to rise from the enemy lines near HARNES and travelled in our direction. Later in the day a balloon was picked up on our right front.

Mar 3rd - Visibility today was very poor and consequently very little enemy shelling.

Mar 4th - The visibility was poor again today and with the exception of a lively enemy bombardment in front of LENS at 6 am, his attitude has been very quiet. An enemy plane flew over our trenches this morning at 6 am at about 400 feet.

Mar 5th - The visibility improved greatly and although the enemy's artillery continues to be very quiet, considerable movement was reported from our O.Ps and our sniping guns were active all day. Three enemy planes were seen during the day only one of which crossed our lines.

Mar 6th - The visibility today was only fair and his artillery and T.Ms quiet, with the exception of a bombardment which he put on our front at 3.30 am. 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.

Mar 7th - Visibility today was poor. His artillery continued quiet. For a short time in the afternoon our O.Ps reported considerable movement in the vicinity of the BULL-RING. An enemy plane crossed our lines flying very high but owing to the good shooting of our A.A. batteries was turned back in a very short time.

Mar 8th - The visibility continued poor. The enemy artillery was more active today but his shelling was light and scattered, mostly "whizz-bangs" being used. His T.Ms were active in the afternoon firing into VIMY. Movement was again reported on SALL ARMINES HILL. Both ours and the enemy's planes showed considerable activity, several of his low flying planes crossing our lines, during the afternoon.

Mar 9th - Visibility still poor. Enemy's artillery somewhat livelier today, most of his attention being directed against AVION. One of his batteries was observed to be firing close behind his front line so as to enfilade our trenches to the left of our zone, in front of MERICOURT. Very little movement was observed owing to the poor visibility. Three enemy aeroplanes were observed this morning all of which were flying very high.

Mar 10th - Visibility poor. Enemy artillery activity quiet. Little movement was again noted. Three enemy planes were observed, one of which crossed our lines. Two of our low-flying planes were firing into the enemy's trenches this morning in the vicinity of MERICOURT.

Mar 11th - Visibility today has slightly improved. The enemy's artillery still quiet. Movement observed between AVION and MERICOURT. Aeroplane activity on both sides more marked today than usual. 7 enemy machines were observed. Minor Operation Order #2 was issued today in connection with proposed raid to be carried out by the 42nd Canadian Battalion on our front for the purpose of securing identification and destroying enemy dugouts in the vicinity, all the batteries of this brigade taking part in the barrage.

Mar 12th - Visibility today was fairly good. The enemy's artillery activity was considerably increased owing to the fact probably, that we raided his trenches this morning. His guns were also active firing on our rear area. A great deal of movement was observed in the vicinity of ALLAUMINES HILL. 5 enemy aeroplanes were seen on our front today, four of which crossed our lines for a short time. Three balloons were reported up today. At 9.00 am this morning our batteries opened fire under cover of which, one officer and 15 men of the 42nd Canadian Battalion entered the enemy's trenches in the vicinity of AVION. Four minutes after we opened fire the enemy retaliated with medium T.Ms. At seven and half minutes after his batteries opened fire. No identification was secured as none of the enemy were found to be occupying their front line. Our barrage was reported to have been perfect and highly satisfactory to the infantry, who returned without having any casualties.

Mar 13th - Visibility today was again poor. His artillery was fairly quiet. His H.V. guns were firing into our rear areas again today. Some movement was observed opposite our front. The aerial activity on



both sides was considerable. 5 planes of the enemy were observed opposite our front, 3 of which attacked one of our observation planes which succeeded in getting away. Operation Order #140 was issued today with reference to a proposed raid by the 5th C.M.R. who propose to raid the enemy trenches in front of MERICOURT, for the purpose of obtaining identification, inflicting casualties and destroying dugouts and defences. 7 officers and 191 other ranks taking part. The batteries of our brigade are asked to support the raid and put up a demonstration barrage on our front so as to mislead the enemy.

Mar 14th - Visibility was poor, and as a result his artillery and T.M. activity was rather quiet. Movement still continues to be seen in the vicinity of the BULL-RING. Two enemy aeroplanes were observed, neither of which crossed our lines.

Mar 15th - The visibility today was very good and his artillery and T.M. fire, with the exception of the retaliation to our raid this morning, was quieter than usual. Considerable individual movement was again observed and train movement reported on the LILLE-DOUAI Railroad during the afternoon. 3 enemy aeroplanes were observed, two of which attempted to cross our lines but were prevented from doing so by the excellent shooting of our A.A. and intense M.G. fire. Two hostile balloons were observed, one of which was forced to descend by our H.V. gun which engaged it with creditable results. Attached is a report from Lieut. A.B. Manning 36 Battery on this morning's raid.

Mar 16th - The visibility this morning was very poor, improving in the afternoon. The enemy's artillery activity was light, being principally directed towards our front line and support trenches. Movement was again reported by our O.Ps and our sniping guns were again active. Aerial activity on both sides was more marked today than during the past few days. Three enemy planes were observed. Many of our planes crossed enemy lines one of which was brought down in NO MAN'S LAND and was immediately engaged by enemy artillery, T.Ms and M.Gs.

Mar 17th - the visibility after 9.00 am today was good. His artillery fire today appeared to be mostly the registration of trenches in the vicinity of AVION. The O.Ps of the 32 nd and 33 rd batteries were shelled this morning by a 10 am gun. Our T.Ms carried out a shoot this afternoon on the enemy's lines opposite AVION. Considerable movement was observed today in the BULL-RING and our gunners were kept busy all day long. The aerial activity on both sides continues active. Several enemy formations crossed our lines at high altitudes.

Mar 18th - Visibility continues good. The enemy's artillery continues to register our forward areas. Considerable movement is still being reported by our look-outs. A large amount of ammunition was expended by our batteries on opportunity targets. Ours and the enemy's planes continue active, the enemy contenting himself with patrolling his own lines. Three enemy balloons reported opposite our front.

Mar 19th - The visibility today is poor. The enemy's artillery continues to pay most attention to the forward areas. Very little movement was observed today owing to the rain. No enemy planes were



observed today.

Mar 20th - Visibility today improved. Enemy's artillery quiet but his T.Ms were more active today than during the past few days. The usual movement observed on SALLAUMINES HILL was engaged by our sniping guns. Two low flying enemy planes attempted to cross our lines but were prevented from going by our M.G. fire. Operation Order #109 was issued today by 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery corresponding to our Operation Order #141, giving details of a proposed raid to be carried out by the 4th Canadian Division covering the LENS sector, our batteries being required for demonstration purposes.

Mar 21st - Visibility poor. Enemy's artillery activity was light and scattered during the day. A considerable amount of movement was seen today, the enemy evidently believing they could not be observed owing to poor light. Three enemy planes observed today, one of which attempted to cross our lines.

Mar 22nd - Visibility today was only fair, the enemy's artillery activity again being confined to the forward areas. His long range H.V. guns were again firing into our back country. Some movement was observed between AVION and MERICOURT. 12 enemy aeroplanes were observed today all of which crossed our lines for a short period. Our planes were very active.

Mar 23rd - Poor visibility today. Enemy's artillery was particularly quiet with the exception of his H.V. gun which continued to shell our rear areas. Very little movement was observed. Two aeroplanes were observed today one of which crossed our lines and dropped bombs in the vicinity of SOUCHEE about noon. Operation Order #142 was issued today with reference to taking over the 42nd Division front on our right by our Division, our line being extended down to the ARLEUX SECTION. This extension is due to the big German drive which is taking place from ARRAS to below ST. QUENTIN, the first news of which was received last night.

Mar 24th - Visibility today was fair with the exception of a bombardment on our right and left flanks - enemy's artillery has been quiet. What little movement was observed today was engaged by our sniping guns. Six enemy planes were observed, all of which were heavily engaged by our A.A. batteries and M.G. fire. We are expecting an attack any day on our front. At 5.05 am today the enemy put on a heavy bombardment, first on our left and then on our right, which was followed by a raid. Our S.O.S. went up at 5.07 am. The front was quiet again at 5.50 am. It is reported that we took several prisoners, losing none. During the above bombardment two fires were observed in the enemy lines as a result of our heavy retaliation. Our zones have been changed several times and as a result Amendment to "TABLE A" has been issued to accompany O.O. #142.

Mar 25th - Visibility today was very good. Enemy artillery quiet. A great deal of movement was observed today not only individual, but train movement in the back areas as well. HARNES Church tower is observed to have been destroyed, which has been a prominent landmark in the enemy's lines since the capture of VIMY RIDGE. The 32 nd Battery C.F.A. report having read part of a German message



sent by lamp from the slag heap in the vicinity of DILLY MONTIGNY. Only one enemy plane and one balloon observed today. O.O. #143 was issued today giving details for a system of harassing fire for the purpose of vigorously interfering with his operations and demoralizing his assaulting troops.

Mar 26th - Visibility today was exceptionally good. Hostile artillery was very quiet, with the exception of a few rounds on our forward areas. Considerable individual movement was observed on SALLAUMINES HILL and the train movement in his rear area was very marked. Two enemy planes flew over our lines today. Three of his balloons were observed up opposite our front. Amendment #2 to "TABLE A" to accompany O.O. #142. This is reference to the withdrawing of our line on the right in anticipation of a German attack from MERICOURT to the south.

Mar 27th - Visibility today was only fair. His artillery has been fairly active all day long mostly the nature of registration work. His T.Ms were slightly more active than usual, apparently retaliation to the aggressive work of or 18 pdrs. on enemy movement. Movement is again observed on SALLAUMINES HILL, between MERICOURT and AVION. No enemy planes were seen today. Two balloons were observed up opposite our front. The moon has been very bright, the last few nights and both ours and the enemy's bombing planes have been most active in bombing their rear areas.

Mar 28th - Visibility today has been fair. His artillery was quieter than yesterday, with exception of his H.V. gun which has been shelling our wagon lines causing considerable consternation among our horse lines. Several enemy planes were observed patrolling his own lines. Five balloons were observed up on our front. At 6.00 pm an enemy plane was brought down by our rifle and M.G. fire in our lines in front of MERICOURT and the pilot taken prisoner.

Mar 29th - Visibility today was good. His artillery was quiet this morning but rather more active than usual this afternoon, the forward areas receiving a scattered shelling. His H.V. guns still active on our rear areas in the vicinity of SOUCHEZ and GIVENCHY. His activity on our front shows a marked increase today. Movement was also observed on our right front where we are daily expecting an attack. Ours and the enemy's planes very active during the day. At 5.15 am six planes were observed in an aerial combat over MERICOURT. No decision was reached.

Mar 30th - Visibility today was good. His artillery continues active. Shelling still has the appearance of registration. Very little movement was observed on our front. Six enemy planes crossed our lines today, penetrating as far back as the ridge, one of which was a tri-plane. His planes showed an aggressive attitude today. Four of his balloons observed up opposite our front. Numerous gun flashes observed today, showing that he has many guns opposite our front.

Mar 31st - Visibility today was very good. His artillery activity particularly quiet. As a result of the visibility a great deal of movement was observed in the usual places between AVION and MERICOURT. A good view was obtained of the enemy back country beyond where his trains appeared to be very active. Enemy planes were very aggressive. Six enemy planes crossed our lines as far back as VIMY RIDGE. One type of an unusual type was observed in the vicinity of MERICOURT resembling one of our



machines to such an extent that the enemy's A.A. guns engaged it. Three small enemy balloons were observed today between LENS and MERICOURT.

Apr 1st - Visibility today continues very good. His artillery and T.M. activity have been much below normal. Considerable movement was observed in the vicinity of SALLAUMINES HILL. The enemy shows marked activity today with his planes, several of which flying low, patrolled our lines as far back as VIMY RIDGE. Many propaganda balloons were observed today in the vicinity of LA COULOTTE and LENS to which were attached Green lights. The guns of the brigade carried out an extensive program in harassing fire, during the past 24 hours. Many targets of opportunity were engaged and dispersed.

Apr 2nd - Visibility low today. Enemy's artillery and T.Ms have been quiet during the hours of daylight but under cover of darkness he showed considerable activity. Some 16cm 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 5.00pm today an enemy aeroplane shot down 5 of our observation balloons, in flames, from LA TARBETTE 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.

Apr 3rd - Visibility was poor today. During the hours of daylight the enemy showed considerable activity shelling our forward areas. Very little movement was observed. Owing to the visibility, no enemy planes were up today.

Apr 4th - Visibility good. Enemy's artillery very quiet. From our O.Ps on VIMY RIDGE a considerable amount of movement could be seen in enemy back country. Many transports and large bodies of men were observed. Nine enemy planes were observed, three of which crossed our lines at high altitude. Our guns have been very active during the day in harassing the enemy at every opportunity.

Apr 5th - Visibility poor. His artillery showed considerable activity on our forward areas. Very little movement was observed and no aerial activity on either side, owing to visibility. A raiding party from the 42nd Battalion attempted to enter the enemy's lines this morning in the vicinity of AVION. They were discovered, however, before they had gone very far and the enemy opened rifle and machine gun fire which forced our party to throw out smoke bombs and return to our trenches. We had no casualties. The enemy on discovering our raiding party threw up many double red rockets. Nothing unusual happened probably owing to the low visibility, his signal was unobserved. The infantry state that our smoke barrage was well placed and satisfactory.

Apr 6th - Visibility today has only been fair. His artillery has been quiet, confining most of his activity to the forward areas. Six men were observed today in the vicinity of SALLAUMINES HILL. At 11.00am two enemy aeroplanes attacked one of our R.E.8s over BOIS RIAUMONT, causing it to make a forced landing



in the vicinity of AIX NOULETTE. The enemy aeroplanes then returned over LENS where they were engaged by one of our SOPWITHS which brought one of them down in flames well behind their own lines. Many of our propaganda balloons were observed today taking messages of "joy and consolation" to the enemy as they contained numerous gruesome pictures of results of our shell fire on the enemy personnel.

Apr 7th - Visibility poor throughout the day. The enemy artillery has been considerably quieter than usual. Considerable individual movement was observed in the enemy's back country during short spells of clear visibility. 26 enemy aeroplanes were observed today, 12 of which crossed our lines. Our bombing planes very active during the hours of darkness.

Apr 8th - Visibility continues low. His artillery activity light and scattered over the forward areas paying particular attention to LIEVIN and our HQ in S.10.d (near GIVENCHY). During this shelling the HQ managed to "carry on" although living in shacks, which were at least rain-proof. The situation, however, caused a considerable drain on HQ army rum issue. No movement was observed today in the enemy's country.

Apr 9th - 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 vicinity of ALBAIN 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.

Apr 10th - Visibility very poor today. Enemy activity on our front has been very quiet, but has shown marked attention to our lines on both our flanks. His high velocity guns were active shelling our back areas.

Apr 11th - Visibility continues poor. The enemy put down a concentrated shoot on the 33rd Battery detached gun in CITE des PETITES BOIS, during the afternoon, and succeeded in hitting everything but the gun. There were no casualties. Practically no movement was observed. Nine enemy aeroplanes crossed our lines today, most of which were flying low.

Apr 12th - Visibility today, good. Enemy's artillery active during the morning, putting down bursts of fire on our forward areas, our brigade HQ again receiving some attention. His T.Ms were considerably more active than usual, principally against AVION. His high velocity guns were active shooting into our back country. Movement was observed in the "BULL-RING". Several enemy aeroplanes crossed our lines during the day penetrating as far back as LIEVIN. At 11.00am from the direction of MEURCHIN (behind LENS) a large ammunition dump was observed on fire. Our bombing planes were active during the night.

Apr 13th - Visibility poor. During the early morning a heavy continuous bombardment could be heard in



the vicinity of ARRAS. His activity on our front has been confined to a light and scattered shelling of the forward areas. Minor Operation Order #2 was issued today giving the details of a proposed gas projector attack in the vicinity of HILL 70 and ST. EMILE. We propose to project 2100 gas drums in this operation. All our batteries are required to co-operate in this attack.

Apr 14th - Visibility continues poor. His artillery has been quiet but his trench mortars have been very active today, putting on a concentrated shoot on AVION, lasting over half an hour, to which our batteries retaliated vigorously.

Apr 15th - Visibility fair today. His artillery activity continues quiet. His T.Ms again showed marked activity in the vicinity of AVION. During the afternoon two concentrated shoots were put down. Our guns again retaliated. Considerable movement was observed during the morning, practically all of which was engaged by our batteries. There has been a noticeable increase in the enemy train traffic moving north.

Apr 16th - Visibility fair. Enemy artillery activity has been above normal during the day. Our O.P. on HIRONDELLE SPUR received considerable attention. AVION, LA COULOTTE, LIEVIN and our HQ in S.10.D. were also shelled. During the night there was a lively bombardment on the HILL 70 sector to our north flank. During the afternoon his T.Ms were very active on our front as well as on the front to the north of us. His activity appeared to be in the nature of prearranged shoots. Very little movement was observed during the hours of daylight.

Apr 17th - Visibility today fair. Enemy activity during the day has been confined to the forward areas. During the evening an S.O.S. was sent up on the front to our left. Our guns responded by firing on LENS. Considerable amount of individual movement observed during the day. ? enemy planes were observed during the day. During the afternoon the enemy sent up many white flares on our front, during the hours of daylight. No reason can be given for this unusual demonstration.

Apr 18th - Visibility fair. Enemy has shown considerable activity on our front during the day. At 11.30am the vicinity of the 33rd Battery was shelled with 5.9"s. Considerable individual movement was observed during the morning, in the enemy's back country. Many trains were observed moving north during the day. A heavy explosion occurred in the enemy back country behind MERICOURT. Operation Order #144 was issued today rearranging the artillery distribution on our front. The 8th Army Field Artillery Brigade come under the tactical control of the 9th Brigade C.F.A. and the whole becoming known as COGHLANS GROUP.

Apr 19th - Visibility good today with some sleet and rain showers. The enemy's artillery has been fairly quiet with the exception of a concentrated shoot on LIEVIN during the morning and afternoon. During the evening in retaliation to our 11 hours gas bombardment, in which the 36th Battery took part, commencing at 9.30pm, the enemy put down a short burst of fire in the vicinity of AVION in response to many double red flares. During the afternoon the enemy field guns retaliated. A large amount of movement was observed today in the enemy's back country a great deal of which was engaged by our



batteries. Enemy aeroplanes were very active today, many of which crossed our lines penetrating behind VIMY RIDGE. Abnormal train movement was again observed, most of which was moving north.

Apr 20th - Visibility today good. His artillery has been fairly quiet, most of the shelling being confined to the forward areas. The enemy continues to show himself at many points on our front, and has kept our sniping guns very active, in "Ye Royal Sport" of snipe-shooting. An enemy plane passed over VIMY RIDGE today at about 1500 feet. Considerable train movement observed, still going north.

Apr 21nd - Visibility today has been good. His artillery activity has been quiet with the exception of considerable attention being paid to LIEVIN. A large amount of movement was again observed today a great deal of which was engaged by our guns. The enemy aeroplanes have been very active, patrolling our lines almost continuously, at a high altitude. Our bombing planes were active during the evening.

Apr 22nd - Visib'y today continues good. Enemy artillery activity has been fairly quiet. A few scattered rounds only, fell in our forward area. Considerable movement was again observed and fired on opposite our front. Only two enemy planes observed today. At 6.00pm this evening a small paper balloon fell in the vicinity of the 33rd Battery, attached to which was a potato. We showed our gratitude to the enemy for his "unparalled generosity" by putting on a specially heavy night of harassing fire, in the form of a gas bombardment, in which the 36th Battery again took part.

Apr 23rd - Vis'y today has been fair. His artillery activity was quiet, with the exception of two concentrated shoots which he put down on a battery position recently vacated by the 45th Battery. Considerable movement was again observed during the morning in the BULL-RING. Three enemy planes observed today, one of which was an enemy artillery observation plane which assisted in the registration of the old 45th Battery position. Our HQ today moved from the vicinity of GIVENCHY to LIEVIN, where a detail of men from all the batteries assisted the HQ in building a very creditable "Home" in the "BROWN LINE". Now that our "Home" is completed, according to the rules, a move to another front may be expected.

Apr 24th - Vis'y today has been very poor and his artillery activity has been confined to scattered shelling in the forward area during the hours of darkness, as well as during the day. It has been impossible for our O.Ps to see the enemy's lines owing to the dense mist.

Apr 25th - Vis'y continues poor. His artillery activity during the day was light and scattered. Our old vacated HQ near GIVENCHY was shelled today. Very little movement has been observed.

Apr 26th - Vis'y poor. The usual light scattered shelling continues. Our O.Ps are unable to observe anything in the enemy's lines on account of the poor light.

Apr 27th - Vis'y continues low. His artillery attitude has been quiet. Very little movement was observed. Heavy firing was heard during the afternoon in the north.



Apr 28th - Vis'y low. His art'y continues to harass our forward areas during the hours of darkness. During the daytime 7.7 and 10.5cm batteries firing from the vicinity of SALLAUMINES were silenced by our 4.5" howitzer batteries.. Only two men were observed during the day, these being fired on and forced to take cover. An enemy low flying aeroplane flew over our HQ today, disappearing in the vicinity of AVION.

Apr 29th - Vis'y continues poor. The enemy's art'y attitude continues quiet on our front but has showed considerable activity on both our flanks, during the day. Owing to the visibility very little movement was reported from our O.Ps. An enemy low flying aeroplane flew over our HQ and batteries this afternoon giving our battery machine guns an exciting time for a few moments. We received a Warning Order today stating that we will shortly be relieved by Imperial troops coming from the fight on the Amiens front.

Apr 30th - Visibility poor today owing to steady rain. Enemy's art'y has been more active today than usual probably in retaliation to the active harassing fire of our batteries.

GENERAL: The following decorations have been awarded for gallant work performed by the undermentioned officers and men in connection with the operation on the 28th of March 1918 when the enemy attempted to capture ARRAS. The 31st and 36th Batteries were attached to the 10th Brigade C.F.A. during this attack, in which the right flank of the Canadians were engaged.

THE FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE	Major D.A. McKinnon, D.S.O.	O.C. 36th Battery, CFA
THE MILITARY MEDAL	301110, Sergeant CASHEN, M.	36th Battery, CFA
	301302, Bdr. MECKENZIE, R.J.O.	36th Battery, CFA
	301136, Driver LE FORT, P.	-do-
	91663, Gunner TULLY, J.T.	31st Battery, CFA
	302702, Bdr. NUNN, J.T.	-do-
	1250599, Gunner McCULLOCK, G.	-do-

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 arty'y 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. Lieut. TEED of the 36th Battery has had charge of this work, which was completed at the end of this month.

LIEVIN

May 1st - Visibility today has been poor. Throughout the day the enemy artillery harassed our forward areas with all caliber of guns. About noon today, an enemy "whizz-bang" battery was engaged and silenced by one of our batteries. Very little enemy movement was observed today on account of the low visibility.

May 2nd - Vis'y today has been fair. During the morning his artillery was very quiet. Our forward areas



received a light scattered shelling during the afternoon. A certain amount of movement was observed today in enemy country all of which was fired on by our batteries. Our planes were very active throughout the afternoon, frequently crossing the enemy lines. Only one enemy plane was observed today.

May 3rd - Vis'y continues fair. With the exception of a light scattered shelling of our forward area, enemy's artillery has been very quiet. A considerable amount of movement was observed today, mostly individual. Our batteries carried out their usual harassing fire during the night. A large explosion was caused in SALLAUMINES by our heavies at 5.15pm. Operation Order #145 was issued today detailing the relief of the 3rd Canadian Division by the XVIII Corps (Imperial); relief to take place on the 3/4th and 4/5th. The 9th Brigade C.F.A. will be relieved by the 91st Brigade R.F.A. Relief is to be of personnel only, and all guns will be handed over to relieving batteries.

May 4th - 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 7.30pm.

May 5th - The Brigade arrived at AMETTES about 4.30am after an uneventful march. The day was spent by the batteries fixing up their horse lines and billets.

May 6th to 31st - A considerable amount of open warfare manoeuvres in conjunction with the infantry has taken place during the past 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 area. On the 30th and 31st, the Brigade preliminary Dumbbell Contest took place, which was won by the 31st Battery, C.F.A.

AMETTES

Jun 1st to 16th - Batteries carried on their usual training during this period. On the 3rd June, the Brigade held sports in a field near BAILLEUL-lex-PERNES. All events were keenly contested: the HQ winning the driving contest. The 33rd Battery C.F.A. won the largest number of points in the total events. 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 number 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.

BOESEGHEM



Jun 16th - On the 16th instant the Brigade received orders from the 5th D.A. (Imperials) under whose command we had been placed, to proceed to BOESEGHEM, which is just North of AIRE. On the 17th instant the Brigade moved as per orders. Brigade HQ and one section per battery moved forward to the vicinity of LA MOTTE. The HQ were located in a chateau; the batteries occupying positions in the Forest of NIEPPE. On the 18th the batteries registered and the remaining two sections of the batteries of the Brigade were ordered to remain at their wagon lines, the operation being postponed. On the 19th the Brigade received orders to move to the wagon lines at BOESEGHEM. On the morning of the 20th the Brigade moved, under orders of the 5th D.A., to QUIESTEDE, where it remained under G.H.Q. Reserve until the 25th instant.

QUIESTEDE

Jun 20th to 25th - On the 25th the brigade moved under orders, to their old wagon lines at BOESEGHEM. HQ and the guns of the brigade moved into action during the afternoon, in their old positions.

Jun 26th - Orders were received today for the operation in which we are supporting the infantry of the 5th Division, which is to take place on the 28th instant. Batteries re-registered and completed the drawing of their ammunition.

Jun 27th - Batteries completed their registration during the day. On the evening of this day the enemy shelled the vicinity of the chateau with H.E. and a new H.E. gas shell which caused respirators to be worn off and on until after midnight. Lieut. M.H. McKay, 31st Bty. and Lieut. A.D. Mason, 33rd Battery were detailed to act as F.O.O. and Liaison Officer, respectively, to the K.O.S.Bs.

Jun 28th - The barrage opened at 6.00am and within a few minutes afterwards, our F.O.O. and L.O. 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 8.00am 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.

Jun 29th - Vis'y continues fair. Several German "whizz-bang" batteries were reported by our L.O. firing within 1000 yards of his front line. Several enemy low flying aeroplanes observed during the day.

Jun 30th - This morning at 3.30am an S.O.S. went up on our front to which our batteries immediately responded. No hostile infantry action followed. At 2.45am the batteries of the brigade carried out a counter-barrage lasting until the S.O.S. was sent up. During the morning the area about 1000 yards N.E. of the chateau was very heavily shelled with 5.9"s. During the after the C.R.A. called at Bde. HQ to bid



farewell to the Bde. and to compliment them very highly on our part in the operation. Operation orders were issued by the 5th D.A. for the brigade to move to the wagon lines at BOESEGHEM tonight at 8.00pm. On the following day the brigade will march south to join the 3rd Canadian Division. During the above operation at PLATE BECQUE the brigade had the following casualties:

One killed. 13 Wounded.

The following decorations have been awarded during the month:

Major L.V.M. Cosgrave	45th Battery	M. in D.
Lieut. E. Philpott	33rd Battery	M. in D.
Lieut. D.L. Teed	36th Battery	Military Cross
Cpl. B.L. Broughton	36th Battery	D.C.M.
Cpl. Donnely, C.H.	45th Battery	M. in D.

BOESEGHEM

Jul 1st - The 9th Brigade C.F.A. commenced trek to BASSEUX to join the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery was taking over from the 2nd Canadian Divisional Artillery in the line. On the 1st the brigade marched to ANVIN and spent 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.

Jul 2nd - The brigade continued its march to BASSEUX, arriving in MAGNICOURT-SUR-CHANCE at about 4.00pm.

BASSEUX

Jul 3rd - The brigade arrived in BASSEUX at about 4.30pm, bivouacing on the night of 3/4th July in the BASSEUX staging area. Advance parties from brigade headquarters and batteries went forward by motor lorry to positions in the line of units being relieved.

Jul 4th - During the night 3rd/4th one section per battery of the 9th Brigade C.F.A. sent their guns into the line relieving one section of the batteries of the 6th Brigade D.F.A.

Near BLAIRVILLE

Jul 5th - 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. Batteries were pleased with the turn over and the positions of which a good deal of work had been done by the 2nd C.D.A. Enemy's art'y 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.Ps and from intelligence reports received it appeared as if it would be an interesting one. Enemy aerial activity was above normal during the day, in all 12 machines observed our lines.

Jul 6th - Hostile art'y less active than usual. A good deal of individual movement was observed and taken



on by our forward sniping guns. Enemy's aeroplanes were again active crossing our lines at intervals throughout the day. Gas proofing of dugouts at various battery positions and HQs was found to be quite incomplete. Work was immediately started on the completion.

Jul 7th - Hostile art'y was quiet. The usual movement was again observed and engaged by our forward guns. Our bombing planes were active during the night and could be distinctly heard. Weather, cloudy.

Jul 8th - Enemy's art'y slightly more active today. BOISLEUX AU MONT and BLAIRVILLE received some attention from 5.9"s. Vis'y fair today. A considerable amount of movement was observed today in enemy's back country which was energetically engaged by our sniping guns. 5 E.As were observed today and two balloons.

Jul 9th - Hostil art'y fairly active. Our forward areas received a light scattered shelling throughout the day and night. Visibility was good and more than the usual amount of movement was observed and dispersed, in some cases causing casualties. Enemy's aeroplane activity below normal, considering the vis'y, only three being observed opposite our front. 5 balloons were observed during the day.

Jul 10th - Hostile art'y today, quiet during the morning, slightly active during the afternoon, being chiefly confined to harassing fire on the forward area. the enemy's light and heavy T.Ms were more active than usual. Vis'y was good. A large amount of movement was again observed in back country most of which was engaged and dispersed, our artillery causing several explosions in enemy back country. Two E.As observed today.

Jul 11th - Hostile art'y quiet during the morning and the usual activity in the afternoon. The usual movement was again observed, our sniping guns claiming two hits. Vis'y was fair. One E.A. observed.

Jul 12th - Enemy's art'y was more active than usual today, our front line and C.Ts receiving considerable attention. The batteries of the brigade retaliated on the hostile batteries within range and succeeded in neutralising his fire to a great extent. Vis'y was fair in the morning and good in the afternoon. A large amount of movement was again observed. Enemy planes showed increased activity on our front, 4 of which attempted to cross our line and were engaged by A.A. and M.G. fire and turned back. Our bombing planes were evidently very active during the night as a large number of enemy search lights were observed in action.

Jul 13th - Enemy's activity today was confined mostly to the shelling of our forward areas by a 15cm how. The usual movement was observed. Vis'y today was indifferent. Enemy's planes more active than usual, 17 E.As being observed. A large number of search lights were again observed during the evening and our O.Ps reported numerous explosions in enemy's lines caused by our art'y fire. O.O. #146 and #147 were issued today giving details of a proposed art'y shoot on NEUVILLE VITASSE which is believed to be strongly held by the enemy; the object of the shoot being to cause the enemy casualties. The 33rd, 45th and 36th Batteries are taking part in the operations.



Jul 14th - Enemy's activity was confined to long range guns firing on our back areas. Hostile T.Ms were more active than usual today and to which our guns retaliated on known T.M. emplacements. Vis'y was fair. Considerable movement was again observed, most of which was considerably beyond range of our field guns. 7 E.As and 10 balloons were observed during the day. Two explosions were caused in the enemy's rear country by our shell fire.

Jul 15th - Art'y activity today was confined to a scattered shelling of our O.Ps and intermediate areas, CHAT MAIGRE receiving some attention from a 21cm howr. A large amount of movement was observed today, many of the enemy observed to be carrying kits, which leads us to suspect a relief. Vis'y fair during the day. Our expenditure of ammunition was increased during the night in view of the above suspected relief. 6 E.As observed today, all of which crossed our lines. 3 enemy balloons observed opposite our front. Several large explosions were observed during the day; during the night 9 searchlights were observed.

Jul 16th - Hostile art'y activity was again more active on our rear areas especially during the night. Our O.Ps were shelled rather heavily about midnight. Vis'y was good, more movement than usual was observed in the enemy's lines, owing to the fact that suspected relief had taken place. 15 E.As were observed opposite our front during the day, one of which was shot down by two of our scouts. 4 balloons were up, one of which was forced to descend by our planes. 11 enemy balloons were up during the day.

Jul 17th - Hostile art'y quiet today. T.M. activity during the morning more active than usual. Visibility fair. A large amount of individual movement still observed and engaged by our forward guns. Two shoots were put on by the 35th Battery at the request of the 42nd Battalion which proved very satisfactory, to our infantry. 10 E.As observed opposite our front during the day. Two enemy balloons up. Many small explosions were again observed.

Jul 18th - Hostile art'y activity quiet during the day with the exception of a shoot at dawn, the enemy evidently suspecting an attack on our part. Vis'y was good today between showers. The usual movement was reported in his back country. 13 E.As were observed today, three of which were low flying. 3 balloons were observed.

Jul 19th - Enemy's art'y more active than usual today, 77cm, 10.5cm and 15cm being used. The MERCATEL SWITCH received attention during the afternoon and H.V. guns firing into our back country from vicinity of CROISELLES. Vis'y was fair. Movement today below normal. 22 E.As were observed opposite our front during the day. 4 balloons were observed up for a short time. Several small fires observed in enemy country during the day. Operation Order #149 was issued today with reference to small raid to be carried out on enemy post on our front, our guns putting up a box barrage for this raid. All our batteries are engaged.

Jul 20th - Enemy activity today fairly active, intermittently shelling our forward area with 7.7 and 10.5cm. Enemy's T.Ms were quiet during the day but more active during the evening. The 36th Battery



retaliating on known emplacements. Vis'y good. The usual large amount of movement was again observed during the day. 8 E.As and 4 balloons observed. Attitude of the enemy today has been very quiet.

Jul 21st - Art'y activity quiet during the morning and fairly active during the afternoon, in the vicinity of our O.P. His H.V. guns again shelled our rear areas. Visibility was good. Movement above normal, our batteries claiming several hits. 4 E.As and one balloon observed. Enemy's searchlights during the evening were very active.

Jul 22nd - Hostile art'y activity more active than usual today. One of our recently vacated battery positions was heavily shelled by a 10.5cm; estimated 200 rounds. Hostile H.V. guns shelled our rear areas. Enemy used some gas shell on our battery area during the evening. We had no casualties. Good vis'y today. The usual movement was observed. A considerable number of the enemy were observed carrying packs. 18 E.As were observed on our front. 5 balloons up.

Jul 23rd - Hostile art'y very quiet on our front today, with the exception of the usual shelling of our rear areas by H.V. guns. Vis'y was good during the morning, permitting of the usual amount of movement to be observed, batteries again claiming many hits. 8 E.As and one balloon observed up.

Jul 24th - Enemy's hostile artillery activity confined to a light scattered shelling of the forward area. Mostly of light caliber. Vis'y good. A great deal of movement was again observed which kept our forward guns active throughout the day. 16 E.As were observed during the day opposite our front; also 2 balloons. Numerous explosions also heard in enemy's lines. Operation Order #150 issued today giving details of a relief of our brigade by the 232nd A.F.A. Brigade on the nights 25/26th and 26/27th.

Jul 25th - Enemy's art'y activity active on our forward areas during the day. FISHCEUX and BOISLEUX -LE-MARC were shelled during the night with YELLOW CROSS and LACHYIDAFORY gas shell. Vis'y good. The usual large amount of movement was again observed, most of which was engaged and dispersed. The 36th Battery put on a destructive shoot at the request of the infantry. Two E.As and one balloon were observed today. Two explosions were observed in enemy's lines evidently due to our shell fire.

GROSVILLE

Jul 26th - The completion of the relief took place today, the brigade moving to the wagon lines in the GROSVILLE area, preparatory to a move to another new area.

SAVY

Jul 27th - The brigade passed the starting point, BEAUMETZ at 7.00am marching through BEAUMETZ-HERMAVILLE to SAVY, arriving at 1.30pm.

Jul 28th - The day was spent in cleaning equipment and saluting drill.



Jul 29th - The day was spent in saluting drill. O.O. #151 was issued today giving details of the brigade march from SAVY to HUMBERCOURT-CULLEMONT area.

CULLEMONT

Jul 30th - The brigade passed the starting point near BERLES, at 8.30am, marching through IZEL-LES-HAMEAU-AVESNES-LES-COMTE - SOMBRIN and WARLUZEL to CULLEMONT and HUMBERCOURT, arriving about 1.00pm.

Jul 31st - 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. O.O. #151-1 was issued today giving details of a march from the present area to CANRAS area. The march to commence at 10.10pm.

FIEFFES

Aug 1st - The brigade arrived in billeting area about 4.00am and spent most of the day resting. O.O. #152-2 was issued today giving details of brigade march from the present area to the SALEUX Area, the march to commence at 9.00pm.

BACQUEUL

Aug 2nd - The brigade marched through AMIENS to the SALEUX Area reaching their destination about 5.00am. While passing through AMIENS the town was being shelled by enemy long range gun, causing casualties in the 10th Brigade CFA which were following the 9th Brigade CFA. Rain fell throughout the day, causing considerable discomfort to the troops. O.O. #152-3 was issued today with reference to the march to the new billeting area in BACQUEUL. March started at 9.30pm and arrived at their destination at about 11.00pm. Rain still continues to fall.

Aug 3rd - Weather remains unsettled. 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. 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 8.30pm.

Aug 4th - 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. Details were sent forward from each battery to commence the hauling of ammunition to our forward dump. A reconnaissance was made during the day of our battle positions and the attitude of the enemy was quiet.



Aug 5th - Ammunition continues to be hauled, good progress being made, in spite of the heavy traffic on the roads during the hours of darkness. Days continue wet and foggy, which are ideal for the preparation of the coming offensive.

Aug 6th - 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 the other half tomorrow night. Preparations are proceeding smoothly. A HQ 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.

near GENTELLES

Aug 7th - 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. Major Cosgrave, D.S.O. was detailed for Liaison Officer with the 42nd French Division. Lieut. R. Fleet, L.O. with 8th Cdn. Infy. Bde. Lieut. Gall, L.O. with P.P.C.L.I. Lieut. Longworth, L.O. with 49th Battalion. Lieut. Harrison, L.O. 42nd Battalion (see reports Attached). Lieut. Manning, Brigade F.O.O. Lieut. Adam, officer i/c communications for Brigade F.O.O. Lieut. MacGillivray, with 30 O.Rs detailed to put captured guns in action against the enemy (see report attached). 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 to be 4.20 am 8th instant. The roads jammed with infantry going forward to jumping off trenches and tanks and cavalry moving to their forward positions continued until zero hour.

MAISON BLANCHE

Aug 8th - The battle commenced at 4.20am. The barrage was well timed and was reported by our F.O.Os 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 8.20am where it remained in divisional reserve until 11.00am 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 strings 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 transport 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 6.30pm 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 2 O.Rs 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.

MAISON BLANCHE, BEAUCOURT, WEST OF FOLIES

Aug 9th - Lieut. Inch, 31 Battery C.F.A., with section detailed to advance with and support the 4th OMRs, 5th OMRs. 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. Lieut. Philpott's report attached. About 9.00am, the brigade advanced again taking up position on the western edge of BEAUCOURT, still supporting the 12th C.I.B. where it remained until 6.00pm. BEAUCOURT and the AMIENS-ROYE Road were heavily shelled with 10.5 and 15cm. The shelling appeared to have been a few guns working at a fast rate of fire. About 10.00am our planes shot down an enemy balloon in flames in the vicinity of BEAUCOURT. The brigade advanced through LE QUESNIL and took up positions on the western edge of FOLIES, coming into action at about 10.00pm within 1500 yards of the enemy. During the evening, enemy bombing planes were very active. Enemy shelling during the night was light and scattered.

Aug 10th - Lieut. Adam, 45 Battery, with section detailed to advance with and support Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. Lieut. D.L. Teed, 36th Battery, with section detailed to advance with and support the 5th Scottish Borderers. Lieut. McKay, L.O. to 97th Brigade, 32nd Imperial Division. Lieut. O'Grady, L.O. to the 5th Scottish Borderers. Lieut. Smith, L.O. to the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. Captain Craig, L.O. to the York Regiment. The 32nd Imperial Division relieved the 3rd Canadian Division in the line, leap-frogging through our infantry to the attack in the early morning, but were held up along the line by a stout German resistance. The 36th Battery section took up a position in the vicinity of ROUVROY and the 45th Battery section just west of QUESNOY where they did a considerable amount of firing at the request of the infantry, at excellent targets at short range, causing numerous casualties. They were however, withdrawn at 4.00pm when our brigade came into Divisional Reserve. During the night 10/11th the enemy's bombing planes were extremely active, bombing and machine gunning our battery area. About midnight a bomb hit in the vicinity of the 31st battery killing Captain Bawden and wounding two O.Rs.

Aug 11th - The brigade remained in this position during the day. Numerous mounted patrols were sent forward to get in touch with our infantry and to clear up the situation.

WEST OF FOLIES

Aug 12th - 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 active. The enemy appears to be putting more art'y into the fight as his



barrages are becoming quite heavy between QUESNOY and ROUVROY.

Aug 13th - 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 communication.

Aug 14th to 17th - During this period heavy fighting continued around the village of PARVILLERS, which changed hands many times, the guns of the brigade being called upon to co-operate in these attacks. The shooting was reported by the infantry to have been very satisfactory and a great satisfaction to the gunners who have fired very little during the latter stages of the advance. On the morning of the 15th our infantry finally took PARVILLERS and DAMERY, pushing on beyond these villages, meeting with very little opposition until they reached the German defence line west of FRESNOY where the enemy evidently decided to make another stand. The brigade was ordered out of action during the late afternoon and relieved by the 1st Division. The brigade marched to CAYEUX WOOD arriving about 6.00pm where they remained in reserve.

Aug 18th to 19th - The brigade spent the time in resting and cleaning equipment. Word was received on the afternoon of the 19th that the brigade was to be ready to move at one hour's notice. The brigade received orders to march to the CAMON area near AMIENS, arriving in this area at 1.00am.

REBREUVETTE

Aug 20th to 21st - Brigade remained in the CAMON area during the day, where everyone enjoyed bathing in the SOMME River. Brigade moved off at 9.00pm marching to CANAPLES area, arriving at 4.00am 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 6.00pm marching to REBREUVETTE area, arriving shortly after midnight.

Aug 22nd - Remained in this area during the day and marched to WANQUENTIN area arriving at 3.00am.

WANQUENTIN

Aug 23rd - A reconnaissance was made of the forward area today. 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.

BERNEVILLE

Aug 24th - 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.

Aug 25th - Final arrangements were made today. A brigade O.P. was selected on TILLOY SPUR which is to be manned until we have captured ORANGE HILL. Operation orders were issued today at the wagon lines, in detail, for the coming attack, our first objective being MONCHY (RED line); second objective COJEUL RIVER (GREEN line), third objective, CANAL DU NORD (BLUE line). The following officers were detailed for special tasks during the initial stages of the fight: Captain Scott, L.O. 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade; Lieut. Smith, L.O. 5th Cdn. Mtd. Rifles; Lieut. Abbot-Smith, L.O. 1st C.M.Rs; Lieut. Fleet, Brigade O.P.; Lieuts. Devine, O'Grady, McCarter and Gall, officer's patrol; Lieut. Fleet forward section, 36th Battery; Lieut. Adam, forward section of 45th Battery.

Aug 26th - Zero Hour was 3.00am. The morning was showery with a few bright spells. The barrage opened fairly well at Zero Hour and was reported very effective, stopping at 6.13am. The attack went well. Our troops were reported to have taken MONCHY at 7.35am. Sharp fighting took place on both flanks of the division. At 10.00am the 7th C.I.B. leap-frogged through the 8th C.I.B., the 42nd RCR on the right, P.P.C.L.I. in the center and the 49th Btn. refusing our flank on the banks of the SCARPE. Our infantry encountered heavy fighting through the old trench systems beyond MONCHY. The 2nd Division held up causing our right flank considerable trouble. The P.P.C.L.I. took JIGSAW WOOD close to schedule time, pushing through to BOIS DE SART, but were unable to advance further owing to both our flanks being badly exposed. At dusk our line was withdrawn to position west of BOIS DU SART our right flank drawing back to join up with the 2nd Cdn. Division. During the afternoon the 51st Scottish Division, north of the SCARPE were observed to advance under an artillery barrage thereby considerably relieving the pressure from the north. 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.Os reported roads blocked with enemy traffic, 33rd Battery firing 400 rounds observed fire on the retreating enemy. (See attached reports).

Aug 27th - Following officers with their sections were detailed to advance in close support of the infantry. Lieuts. Gall, Mason, Kinston, and Fleet. (See attached reports). At 4.55am the brigade put down a barrage in front of our infantry which were advancing beyond MONCHY. The infantry gained their objectives and the brigade moved forward to positions reconnoitred in the vicinity of the caves at LA FOSSE FARM.

Aug 28th - Lieut. Inch, 31st Battery, detailed for Liaison Officer to 42nd Cdn. Btn. At 11.00am our guns put down a rolling barrage in support of the 9th C.I.B. who attacked and captured BOIRY and ARTILLERY HILL. (see 58th Btn. report). At 12.30pm the brigade again put down a barrage in support of the 8th C.I.B. who attacked and captured REMY and 70 RIDGE. The brigade pushed forward to position reconnoitred in vicinity of BOIS DU VERT. Lieut. Abbot-Smith and 5 O.Rs were wounded.

KNIFE TRENCH nr. CAVALRY FARM

Aug 29th - The brigade remained in divisional reserve, Lieuts. O'Grady, Longworth and Kingston going



ahead with forward sections. Lieut. Kingston, 45th Battery and the 33rd Battery, firing several hundred rounds with captured German guns.

Aug 30th - The 3rd Canadian Division was relieved by the 4th Imperial Division. Lieut. Harrison detailed as L.O. to the Hampshires (4th British Division). At 3.45am the brigade put on a concentrated shoot on ENTERPIGNY. At 4.00pm a creeping barrage was put down by the guns of the brigade in support of the infantry who attacked and took ENTERPIGNY pushing outposts beyond the town. The barrage was reported to be both good and effective, all objectives being taken. Casualties were light. The 33rd and 45th Batteries moved guns to COJEUL River and did excellent work in support of the attack beyond HAUCOURT, the remainder of the brigade moving forward at 6.00pm. Brigade HQ occupying a dugout in vicinity of BOIRY. Enemy long range guns were very active enfilading in the vicinity of our battery positions from the north of the SCARPE.

31 Aug - The batteries dug in and continued drawing ammunition to the gun position. Enemy's attitude quiet and nervous.

PACK HORSE DUGOUT NEAR BOIRY

Sep 1st - 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.Os.

Sep 2nd - 3rd C.D.A., O.O. #3 was issued today giving details of the attack on the DROCOURT-QUEANT Line tomorrow. Lieut. Philpott, 33rd Battery, detailed an F.O.O.; Lieut. Devine 45th Battery Brigade O.P., and Lieut. McKay 31st Battery, Liaison Officer to King's Own, 1st Btn. The day passed fairly quietly. At about 9.00pm during a heavy burst of harrassing 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. After considerable difficulty he was picqueted in the passage-way for the night.

Sep 3rd - At 5 o'clock our barrage opened up. Reports on the progress soon came in from brigade O.P. and L.O. The attack appeared to be going favorably. On the completion of the barrage, brigade ceased firing and remained in divisional reserve. Lieut. Philpott was wounded before leaving brigade O.P. but carried on and succeeded in laying a wire to chalk pits in BOIRY where he established brigade forward O.P. Being wounded however a second time he was relieved by Lieut. Smith of the 33rd Battery. Signaller Climo of the 36th Battery took charge of the party and continued to send information back until Lieut. Smith arrived. During the afternoon the enemy shell fire practically ceased. Lieut. Smith made a reconnaissance forward and succeeding in entering the reclus ahead of the infantry captured 11 prisoners. Lieut. R.V. Maccaulay 45th Battery who had been detailed with a party to put in action enemy's guns when captured succeeded in reaching the DROCOURT QUEANT Line shortly after the infantry located the 2-7.7cm guns but was unable to fire these owing to the objections of the infantry.

Sep 4th - Day passed fairly quietly with the exception of considerable amount of shell fire from the north



where the enemy enfiladed our positions using H.V. guns. During the afternoon the brigade was relieved by the R.F.A., the brigade remaining in their positions in corps reserve.

Sep 5th - The weather continued fine and bright the enemy harassing our battery areas with long range H.V. guns. Instructions were issued today with reference to the relief of the 8th Army Field Art'y Brigade by our brigade. At 3.00pm the batteries pulled out independently and moved forward to the vicinity of ST. SERVINS FARM the relief being completed about 6.00pm. Instructions were issued today giving details of the relief of the 3rd Brigade, C.F.A. by our brigade the relief to take place tomorrow.

ST. SERVINS FARM

Sep 6th - During the night it rained very hard causing considerable inconvenience and discomfort to the troops cleaning up during the day; the day passing quietly with occasional bursts of fire in the vicinity of ST. SERVINS FARM. A reconnaissance was made of the forward area and at dusk the 9th Brigade moved forward coming into action in the vicinity of BRIOCHE FARM the relief being completed about 9 o'clock. Here were located in a German gun position at P.ZX34.B.25.80.

Sep 7th - The brigade spent the day in familiarising themselves with the front working on gun positions. The enemy shelling light and scattered over the battery areas. The attitude of the enemy appears to be fairly quiet and nervous.

Sep 8th - The weather continues fair, although the vis'y has not been very good on account of mist. The enemy's art'y 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 5.00pm. 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 observed to break loose and drift rapidly over the enemy's; 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.

Sep 9th - Fair weather today. Enemy continues quiet; his art'y activity being confined to a scattered shelling in the forward area. Little or no movement was observed on this front owing to the location of our O.Ps and the difficult nature of the ground. 8 E.As were observed over our lines today. Our guns carried on a harassing fire throughout the day with our forward sections which have been located at 31st Battery in the chalk pits north of SAUDEMONT; 45th Battery east of RUMAUCOURT; 36th Battery on the south western edge of ECOURT SQUEANT. The 31st, 33rd and 45th Batteries manned enemy's guns and firing same from the following locations: 31st -7.7cm at Q.26.b.05.35; 33rd Battery 7.7cm gun at P.29.d90.00; 45th Battery 10.5cm gun at P.29.B.50.90. 2242 rounds of 7.7 and 372 rounds of 10.5 being fired during our tour in the line at towns in the enemy's lines beyond the range of our field guns.

Sep 10th - Fair today. Enemy's art'y continuing active in harassing our forward areas. A considerable amount of movement was reported by our O.Ps today on the CAMBRAI DOUAI Road. Enemy's aerial



activity continues to be above normal, many E.As crossing our lines today.

Sep 11th - The visibility today has not been so good and the enemy's shelling has been below normal probably due to this fact. Only 5 E.As were observed today.

Sep 12th - Fair weather again today. Enemy's art'y more active than usual all day putting down many concentrated area shoots in the forward areas. Considerable amount of movement has been observed again today some of which was engaged by our forward sections.

Sep 13th - Vis'y very good today. Forward areas were harassed with light caliber guns. A great deal of movement is still being reported in the enemy's rear country beyond the range of our guns. E.A. activity continues above normal many planes crossing our lines during the day, one of which shot down one of our balloons at ST. SERVINS FARM. Last night our infantry were attacked by a hostile bombing raid and forced to withdraw from our post in the brick kiln (see detail of raid in L.Os report).

Sep 14th - New forward Bde. O.P. established on hill sloping towards canal in front of SAUCHY-CAUCHY. Enemy art'y on forward areas all day active. Our art'y very active. Vis'y being good, our heavies executed several aeroplane shoots. Aerial activity very great. Enemy planes crossed our lines constantly and succeeded in bringing down three of our balloons in the morning and three in the afternoon. Enemy appeared very nervous as though he were anticipating an attack by us. Our infantry retook the post in the brick kiln.

Sep 15th - Vis'y fair. Enemy shelled various portions of our forward area with bursts of fire and paid special attention to the CAMBRAI Road. Enemy succeeded in reoccupying the brick kiln west of canal bank opposite SAUCHY CAUCHY and brigade batteries were called upon to put on a shoot as a result. One burst of fire from the enemy at 1815 induced our infantry to put up a S.O.S. signal and for 20 minutes the brigade fired on the S.O.S. 1st C.M.R. Battalion were relieved by the 5th C.M.R. Battalion which brigade C.F.A. continues to supprt.

Sep 16th - Enemy attitude still continued to be nervous and he did considerable scattered shelling. Our guns very active during the whole 24 hours. At 6.45pm a heavy barrage opened on the right of our front seemingly about a mile south. Our front continues quiet. Enemy aircraft showed great activity all day.

Sep 17th - Enemy attitude rather more quiet than yesterday. His planes were active as usual and as many as 14 of his balloons were counted from the O.P. Our 4.5" hows. co-operated with the heavies in a gas shoot on Q.30.b, c & d at 7.30pm and in all fired 150 rounds.

Sep 18th - Both our art'y and enemy art'y active throughout the day. The enemy still continued his scattered and nervous shelling. At night he was subjected to a heavy bombardment by our heavies and our field guns. The infantry reported considerable short shooting during the period of the bombardment. This was investigated by the L.O. who found that no more than 8 or 10 rounds had fallen short and that these were heavies. No casualties occurred.



Sep 19th - Our guns active all day. At dusk both the 5th C.M.Rs and the 9th Brigade were relieved by Imperials. All except the 33rd Battery which remained for the night under the tactical control of the 10 Brigade, CFA. Batteries of the 281st Brigade RFA relieved the other batteries of the 9th Brigade taking over the zone, O.P. and liaison duties, maps etc. Brigade H.Q. with the exception of the C.O. and the three batteries relieved, withdrew to the wagon lines west of VISEN ARTOIS.

Sep 20th - C.O. Bde. left forward area at 10am. At dusk 33rd Battery came out of action and withdrew to its wagon lines west of VIS EN ARTOIS.

Sep 21st - All day spent quietly by brigade at wagon lines. In the evening order was received from 3rd C.D.A. that brigade would move next morning to AGNY area.

ACHICOURT

Sep 22nd - By 9.00am brigade was on the move and trekked via NEUVILLE-VITASSE and BEAURAINS to ACHICOURT. Brigade HQ billeted in a dilapidated house in the village and batteries in the open fields between ACHICOURT and AGNY. That afternoon C.O. brigade was informed that 3rd C.D.A. would be used shortly to support an attack to capture BOURLON WOOD and advance towards CAMBRAI. The C.O. rode forward accompanied by the R.O. to reconnoitre area where 9th batteries were to take up positions in vicinity of INCHY-EN-ARTOIS to carry forward a barrage in support of 4th Canadian Division battalions which were to attack.

Sep 23rd - 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. At the time our outpost line ran just in front of the west half of the area allotted. Enemy was shelling the village heavily at the time. Positions were picked out in what seemed to be the most advantageous spots. 31st and 45th Batteries choosing spots between INCHY and the canal which could only be viewed at the time by crawling along under cover of hedges in front of our outposts. 33rd and 36th chose positions close together in an enclosure surrounded by a brick wall at extreme northern corner of village.

Sep 24th - The day occupied in consultations between C.O. and battery commanders and general preparations for the coming offensive. Enemy aircraft flew on several occasions during the day over our rear areas. One of these in the afternoon dropped three bombs in ACHICOURT and AGNY. Orders received late at night that brigade would move before dawn to wagon lines lately vacated in vicinity of VIS-EN-ARTOIS. Detail of Major MacKinnon as L.O. in the show with infantry brigade was cancelled.

Sep 25th - By 3.30am the whole brigade was on the move and proceeded to the VIS-EN-ARTOIS wagon lines. At noon order was received to move to other wagon lines in vicinity of QUEANT. C.O. brigade went ahead at 3 o'clock and HQ and batteries followed independently, as per instructions, at dusk. New wagon lies located close beside New 3rd, C.D.A.C. dump just established on light railway between NOREUIL and QUEANT.



INCHY

Sep 26th - All day occupied in preparations. Major MacKinnon detailed once again as L.O. with 12th C.I.B. 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. By dusk these batteries were on the road and were in action and laid on S.O.S. near northern edge of PRONVILLE by 7.00pm. HQ 9th C.F.A. moved up to a dugout west of INCHY at D.6.a.50.25 (Sheet 570) at 6.00pm Two hours zero 36th Battery was waiting in the assembly area allotted close beside the 18pdr. battery positions and where likewise limbers and wagons of the 18pdr. batteries were in readiness.

INCHY-EN-ARTOIS

Sep 27th - The initial barrage in support of the 4th Canadian Division opened at 0520. 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 the village itself. By 0816 the hour at which they were to start firing they were in position with lines laid and ammunition to hand. The further supply of ammunition during the three hours of firing was greatly facilitated by the excellent work which the 3rd C.D.A.C. had done prior to that in establishing a forward dump in INCHY. Our barrage supported the 12th Brigade which had gone through. Directly after the barrage was completed, reconnaissances were made and the batteries, with the exception of the 33rd Battery which came under the tactical control of the 10th Brigade, 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. The 7th C.I.B. went through the 12th C.I.B. at this time. In these new positions the batteries did considerable firing during the afternoon both on S.O.S and various targets given to them by the infantry. At about 1530 orders were received to take a further forward move. Reconnaissances were made and at dusk, Brigade HQ was moved to BOURLON, and the batteries, to the same vicinity, in order to be able to cover another attack of the 3rd Division infantry. Lieut. O'Grady and Lieut. McCarter were F.O.Os during the above operations. In the later afternoon Lieut. McCarter was unfortunately killed by a M.G. bullet. Lieut. Jones was wounded in the head and evacuated. Captain Scott was wounded slightly and remained on duty. In all among O.Rs there were 19 casualties, 1 killed and 18 wounded. Capt. McKaye the brigade chaplain was likewise wounded.

BOURLON

Sep 28th - At 6.00am the barrage opened and a further advance was made by our infantry who were eventually held up at the MARCOING line in front of ST. OLLE. Orders were received by batteries to reconnoitre positions further forward. This was done but it was found that they could not move up as far as had been anticipated. The 33rd and 36th moved up a short distance, the others being already far enough up. Another barrage was fired at 3.00pm. Lieut. Harris replaced Lieut. McCarter as F.O.O. and Lieut. O'Grady remained with him. Various targets were engaged on the request of Major MacKinnon



who remained L.O. with the 7th C.I.B. Casualties today 20 O.Rs wounded.

Sep 29th - Just before midnight 28th/29th batteries were ordered to move to positions just west of ST. OLLE to be prepared to fire a barrage at 0600. Reconnaissance was made by Lieut. Davies and as a result a new area in F.4. Sheet 57C was allotted. Here, they had only very little flash covers from CAMBRAI and were in full view from the left. They pulled in before dawn without a hitch and were ready before 6.00am. In spite of scattered shelling of the whole area and more especially of the road of approach from the top of the crest. Long after daybreak their ammunition wagons passed to and fro at the gallop between the crest and the guns in full view of the enemy for about 1200 yards occasionally sniped at by enemy field guns. The barrage opened at 8.00am and lasted till 9.45am. Enemy shelling of the area was heavy throughout. The brigade M.O., Capt. Blakeley, was wounded while attending to three wounded 45th Battery gunners. In addition the 45th had one gun knocked out and the 31st another. The 42nd Battalion advancing towards the railway in S.20.d. Sheet 51A suffered heavily by M.G. fire, likewise the 49th Battalion and the 9th C.I.B. Eventually positions were consolidated in vicinity of ROUAI-CAMBRAI Road. The village of ST. OLLE was not captured till the afternoon. The enemy fought all day very hard to retain the approaches to CAMBRAI. All day big fires could be seen blazing in the city itself. Total casualties in the Bde. today: 9 wounded. Lieut. Doiron acted as F.O.O. during the day. Lt. Col. Ralston relieved Major McKinnon as L.O. with the 7th C.I.B.

Sep 30th - At 6.00am the batteries commenced to fire on a barrage to support our infantry in an advance towards RAMILLIES. The troops on the left of the division met with strong opposition and were not able to establish a line beyond the railway passing through S.14 (sheet 51A); consequently the 3rd Division could not advance beyond TILLOY. 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. Brigade HQ moved at dusk likewise to the quarry in BAILLY where good quarters had been found in a old German dugout. By 7.30pm telephone communications had been established between HQ and batteries and to the 7th C.I.B. HQ where Col. Ralston remained at L.O.

RAILLENCOURT & SAILLY

Oct 1st - For three hours commencing at 0600 the batteries fired a barrage to support another advance of the 3rd Canadian Division infantry towards RAMILLIES. By 1000 infantry had advanced as far as wood in S.17.c & d, but later in the day pressed by a counter attack had to retire and establish their line in rear of this, holding a system of trenches in S.22.c & d, east of TILLOY. At 1700 Lieut. Devine L.O. with 43rd Battalion came to Brigade HQ with the news that enemy had retaken BLECOURT and SANCOURT from our 2nd Division on our left and that the 29th Battalion was advancing to retake SANCOURT. He also reported that infantry had had very heavy casualties and the enemy putting up a stiff fight. In the morning C.O. Brigade and O.Cs. batteries reconnoitred forward areas with a view to selecting new positions in the event of a move forward. 36th Battery sent out a forward section under Lieut. Alexander which took up a position near the CAMBRAI-DOUAI Road in 8.26.b, and keeping in close touch with 43rd, 58th and 2nd; C.M.R. Battalions fired in all 186 rounds, on various targets. The batteries fired a great deal during the day on a request of the L.O. at the infantry brigade and at 1915 laid down a counter



preparation. Lieut. Harrison was at brigade O.P. and with him Lieut. Neville worked, keeping in touch with battalion HQ and 7th C.I.B. Report Center. A great deal of ammunition was hauled during the day by the batteries and the D.A.C. hauled to their positions in all 3000 rounds 18pdr. and 600 rounds 4.5" howitzer. During the night battery limbers and teams harnessed "stood to" in case of emergency, as the situation on the left seemed very uncertain. 31st Battery had one gunner wounded.

Oct 2nd - Counter preparation was fired by the brigade at three separate times 0430, 0500 and 0530. The day proved rather quieter than had been anticipated. Lieut. Harrison at Brigade O.P. at 1610 observed a hostile how. battery firing. Through the L.O. at infantry brigade he got a 60pdr. battery on to it and a direct hit on one of the guns was obtained. Lieut. Neville established a forward O.P. in the vicinity of TILLOY to which a wire was run. Major MacKinnon relieved Lieut. Colonel Ralston as L.O. with infantry brigade at 1400. 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 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. 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; Lt. Col. Ralston will become A/C.R.A.; in place of Brig. General Stewart who goes on leave. 5th C.I.B. took over tonight; Major MacKinnon remains as L.O. with them.

Oct 3rd - Lieut. Col. Coghlan arrived at Brigade HQ at 0930. He now commands Ralston's Group which consists of the 9th and 10th Brigades, C.F.A. and 147th Army Brigade R.F.A., under 2nd C.D.A. The reconnoitred and established separate O.Ps to be manned during the hours of daylight. Observation of enemy forward areas is difficult owing to low ground and trees along the Canal DE ST. QUENTIN. Arrangement were made for the establishment of a composite battery consisting of one gun from each of the 18pdr. batteries and one how. from the 36th Battery to be pushed forward to do the bulk of the firing for the brigade. Lieut. Harris will be in command of this composite battery and will be connected by telephone to O.Ps and Brigade HQ. Two counter preparations were laid down in the early hours of this morning. The day has been rather quiet except for enemy's scattered shelling of our forward areas and some fire from his heavies on battery areas. At 2310 a bombardment of our guns started up away in the south and continued for an hour. Our front remained quiet. Lieut. Alexander at Brigade O.P. Lieut. Gall, L.O. with 24th Battalion. Major Cosgrave returned this morning to the 45th Battery.

Oct 4th - The composite battery came into position last night in front of sunken road in A.I.b. north of ST. OLLE, Lieut. Harris in charge with Lieut. Case assisting him. The attitude of the enemy seems very nervous as though he anticipated an attack by us. He has done considerable scattered shelling of battery areas and put an occasional burst of fire on TILLOY and various other points up forward. Lieut. Alexander at Brigade O.P. Brig. General Panet C.R.A. 2nd; C.D.A. paid Lt. Col. Coghlan a visit today.



Oct 5th - Enemy's attitude has been increasingly nervous during the day. He has put many bursts of fire from 7.7cm guns and 10.5cm hows. on the forward areas. Brig. General Panet paid Col. Coghlan another visit this morning and informed him that it was likely that several more brigades would be brought into the group, and that a further forward move would probably take place in the near future. He requested that forward area should be reconnoitred with a view to the pushing up if necessary of four whole brigades. Accordingly the O.C. Brigades reconnoitred the ground in the vicinity of the CAMBRAI-DOUAI Road near ST. NEUVILLE-ST.-REMY, and found that there was sufficient room for positions for the four brigades, though he noted at the time that the area was heavily shelled. Lieut. Devine at Brigade O.P. today. Order received at 1730 that 9th Brigade was to relieve 26th Brigade RFA the next night, and that advanced parties would go forward in the morning to look over the battery positions which were located south of OISY LE VERGER, the relief to be mutual.

Oct 6th - Advanced parties consisting of an officer and N.C.O. from each battery, and A.R.O. and an NCO from Bde. HQ, proceeded in the morning to 26th Bde. RFA, HQ in Q,30.b south of OISY-LE-VERGER. The three 18pdr. positions proved to be good. No howitzer position existed and the 36th officer reconnoitred for one. The order for this relief had been cancelled by 1600, after the C.O. 26th Brigade had been over to 9th Brigade HQ and the 9th Brigade was to stand fast in its present positions. Lieut. Devine Brigade O.P. Lieut. Neville L.O. 25th Battalion. At 2140 an S.O.S. on brigade zone was reported by one of the 10th Brigade batteries and our guns fired for about 20 minutes at slow rate and then stopped as there was no confirmation of an S.O.S. from brigade O.P. and our front was reported to be quiet.

7 Oct - The enemy art'y was increasingly active all day shelling both forward and rear areas with many bursts of fire. The composite battery received considerable attention from him during the morning but succeeded in doing a great deal of firing in spite of that fact. Three new brigades, namely, the 6th. Brigade CFA, the 29th and 32nd Brigades, RFA, have come into Ralston's Group. These three have been forced into a sub-group under the command of Lieut. Col. McParland, O.C. 6th Brigade. Tomorrow morning the 3rd Army is to attack and capture high ground south east of CAMBRAI. This to be followed, if successful, by an attack of the Canadians to the north of the city. Lieut. Longworth at Brigade O.P. and Lieut. Neville remained as L.O. with 25th Btn. of our infantry's advance after the Third Army attack, the 36th Battery under charge of Capt. Craig, moved at 1930 to a new position just to the right of the ARRAS-CAMBRAI Road, and immediately in rear of ST. OLLE. After 4 guns had been dropped into position, three or four enemy shells dropped right amongst them. Casualties resulted as follows: Lieut. Shreve and 4 O.Rs killed ; Captain Craig, Lieut. Livingstone and 8 O.Rs wounded, 20 animals killed or of necessity shot and 5 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. Major MacKinnon was relieved as L.O. with the 5th C.I.B. by Major Young of the 10th Brigade and returned to 36th Battery. The composite battery was discontinued in the evening.

Oct 8th - The attack of the 3rd Army was successful and resulted in the capture of NIERGNIES and the high ground between that village and AWOINGT. Our batteries fired on their zones as a demonstration in connection with this attack, which began 0430. Vis'y was good and Lieut. Case at Brigade O.P. in



S.25.d (sheet 51A) saw a great deal of movement along roads in enemy rear areas. Where possible our 18pdrs. were used on opportunity targets with good effect, and in other cases, Lieut. Case was able through the L.O. line to get in touch with the heavies and observe their fire. The attack of the 5th C.I.B. was stated at first to be taking place at 2130, 2nd phase including a joining up on the east side of CAMBRAI with the 3rd Army being scheduled for 0530 the morning of the 9th. In the evening, the 2nd phase was cancelled and the 1st phase postponed till 0130 9th inst.

Oct 9th - At 0130 our barrage opened, the heavies in the rear commencing about 20 seconds too soon. It was a complete success but there was evidence that the enemy had intended to evacuate. After the barrage, the batteries moved up to a new position well forward, in the neighborhood of NEUVILLE-ST.-REMY. The 5th C.I.B. HQ was early moved to MORENCHIES Chateau and HQ Ralston's Group at noon moved to TILLOY where good quarters had been located in a furnished house and several cellars. The other brigades of the group also moved forward and were distributed in depth between DOUAI-CAMBRAI Road and RAMILLIES. In the afternoon O.C. Brigade was informed that the 9th Brigade would go into rest the following day at 1200 - that he could either trek back to an area near INCHEY-EN-ARTOIS or remain in the vicinity of CAMBRAI. At about 2315 O.C. Group was informed by telephone that there was to be an attack the following morning by the 4th C.I.B. and was requested to proceed immediately to MORENCHIES Chateau to confer with the O.C. 4th C.I.B. concerning a barrage to be fired in support of the attack.

Oct 10th - O.C. Group met the O.C. 4th C.I.B. and O.C. 6th C.F.A. at midnight at MORENCHIES Chateau; later with O.C. 6th Brigade he spent four hours at 6th Brigade HQ across the canal working on Operation Order and barrage tracings for the attack which took place at 0600. In all, 21 copies of each were prepared and despatched in time to the batteries of the 29th, 32nd and 147th Brigades RFA and the 6th Brigade, CFA. The 5th C.I.B. succeeded in capturing its objectives namely, the high ground just west of the river ERCLIN, but the 6th Brigade on its left did not succeed in capturing IWAY. 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 last battery positions occupied near NEUVILLE ST. REMY, and Brigade HQ wagon lines moving to TILLOY. Lieut. Neville returned from Btn.

Oct 11th - The morning was passed quietly, HQ and batteries arranging their quarters in prospect of some days out of the line. At noon Lt. Col. Ralston A/C.R.A. called at 9th Bde. HQ and 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 and HQ of the 26th Brigade, RFA at BLECOURT. O.C. Brigade visited 26th Brigade HQ and battery officers the battery positions they were to take over. One section from each battery was to relieve one section of a battery of the 18th Brigade at night, but through some mistake in the orders received by the 26th Brigade, the 45th section was the only one which was able to be put into action.

Oct 12th - The batteries moved by day to their new positions. A good new Brigade HQ was located in BANTIGNY at the north corner of the village. By 1700 telephone connections had been established between this HQ and all batteries, also with division and the HQ of the 26th Btn. which is in the line and



being covered by both 9th and 10th Bde. CFA. The 33rd Battery is in position between BLECOURT and the railroad at 8.8.b.10.40, the other three batteries are distributed along the RAVIN DE BATIGNY in north east of BATIGNY village. Lieut. Smith at Bde. O.P.; Lieut. Case L.O.

Oct 13th - In the morning O.C. Bde. visited batteries and O.Ps; a new Bde. O.P. has been established in a house in ABANCOURT. 26th Btn. moved back their HQ to BANTIGNY about 200 yards away from 9th Bde. HQ to which a wire has been run. O.C. Bde. visited O.C. 26th Btn. with reference to S.O.S. 26th is being relieved in the line tomorrow night by 27th Btn. which will cover a frontage of something over 5000 yards. Each battery is putting out a detached gun to do some of the firing. The main battery positions in the RAVIN have barely flash cover from WAVRECHAIN-SOUS-FAULX. The front is quiet save for some scattered shelling by enemy of forward areas and a certain amount of shooting on ABANCOURT, BATIGNY and BLECOURT. The enemy has good observation from the crest running through FRESBAIN north of the Canal DE LA SENSEE. Some movement is seen in his back areas. Bde. O.P. Lieut. Smith. A harassing fire program received from 3rd C.D.A. calls for fire every hour day and night.

Oct 14th - Quiet day. Enemy shelled forward areas a little and also CUVILLERS and BANIGNY. Lieut. Harris at Bde. O.P. Batteries manned their own O.Ps. Batteries fired on road leading south from WASNES-AU-BAC in an endeavour to prevent the destruction by mine of road and bridge, but without success. An infantry patrol reconnoitred the bridge at 1400 hours and reported it blown up and impassible. The C.O. and adjutant visited the batteries and brigade O.P.. Lieut. H.M. McKay arrived back from leave and was attached to Bde. HQ.

Oct 15th - C.O. visited Btn. HQ. BANTIGNY was shelled with bursts of gas and H.E. Lieut. was at Bde. O.P.

Oct 16th - Vis'y was poor all day and enemy art'y was quiet except for bursts of fire on ABANCOURT and one on BANTIGNY. Lt. Col. Coghlan visited Corps. HQ regarding preparations for starting the Canadian Corps Art'y School which he is to command. Bde. Major visited Bde. HQ and went up to HEWLENCLET with Lieut. Smith. It was decided to place a 6" Newton in the village. 27th Btn. was relieved in the line by the 26th Btn.. Lieut. A.E.C. Knight was posted to 31st Battery. Lieutenant A.B. Manning was at Bde. O.P.

Oct 17th - Quiet day with very little enemy shelling. Our batteries were ordered to stop firing except on special orders as the infantry were putting out patrols. A temporary S.O.S. line was laid out east and west through M3.4 and 5 central. In the evening batteries were ordered to reconnoitre positions in M.17 18 at dawn as a move was anticipated. Lieut. Col. Coghlan visited HABAGUE south west of ARRAS where the art'y school is to be located and they returned at 1930. Major Cosgrave in command of Bde. during the C.Os absence. Lieut. Stearns was on duty at Bde. O.P. Lieut. H.B. Devine reported to 29th Btn. as L.O. to go forward with them in proposed advance.

Oct 18th - 29th Btn. moved forward at 0130 crossed the canal and worked up to the high ground in M.5 and 6 and M.1 without opposition. During the morning they pushed over the crest into the valley in G.35 and 36 and M.31 and 32 meeting with M.G. fire from the ridge to the north and some art'y fire. Shortly after dawn batteries of the Bde. moved forward. to cover the advance of the 29th Btn. 33rd Battery



moved to M23 central and later in the day moved again to M.16.b.6.6. close to PONT RADE where they were subjected to considerable harassing fire. 45th Battery took up a position at M.18.d.1.7. Bde. HQ moved to M.16.c.95.95 in HE LENGLET. By 1030 hours telephone communication was established with Division, with all the batteries and with Lieut. Devine, L.O. with 29th Btn. at their HQ in VASNES-AU-BAC. Lieut. Knight at forward O.P. was connected with Bde. and he and Lt. Devine sent back much useful information. At 1500 hours the Bde. fired a barrage of 18 minutes duration to support further advance of the 29th Btn. toward the BOUCHAIN - ABUBERCHICOURT Road. The infantry met with heavy M.G. fire and a good deal of shell fire and did not succeed in taking all the high ground south west of the road. During the day the enemy paid much attention to roads and probable battery positions and the 31st Battery had 6 horses killed and 2 men wounded. Bde. HQ also suffered the loss of driver McCoy who died on the way to the dressing station. The batteries fired some harassing fire during the night but it was stopped in the early morning as infantry patrols reported that they were meeting with no opposition and would endeavour to push forward. Orders were received that Bde. would come out of action at 1200 hours 19th October and would later take over from the 51st Divisional Artillery covering the LIEU-ST.-AMAND front, but the Bde. was not to move until word was received that the front was covered by the 5th C.D.A. Lt. Col. Coghlan left the Brigade for Canadian Corps Art'y School at 0800 and Major Cosgrave took over command of the Bde.

Oct 19th - Our infantry and divisions on the right and left worked forward during the day meeting with no opposition and owing to the changed situation and the possibility of the 51st Division being pinched out and the bde. moving north instead of taking over from the 51st Division the bde. remained in the HEWLENCLET area out of action. By 2130 news came that the infantry had passed through DENAIN.

Oct 20th - Orders were received in the evening that the bde. would move on the following day to WANDIGNIES-HAMAGE (sheet 44, t.11.a). Bde. would then move east and take over the front from the 1st Bde. C.F.A. and would come under direct orders of 7th C.I.B. who were relieving 1st C.I.B.

WANDIGNIES -HAMAGE

Oct 21th - 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. Here the bde. was received with open arms by civilians who could not do enough for Canadians. The C.O. reported to G.O.C. 7th C.I.B. and arrangements were made for two forward batteries, the 31st and 45th to work directly with the 42nd and R.C.Rs Btns. respectively in the further advance through FORET DE VICOIGNE and the FORET DE RAISHES. Lieut. Knight from the 31st Battery and Lieut. Doiron 45th Battery reported as L.Os to 42nd Btn. and R.C.Rs Btn. at CATAINE. Shortly before midnight the 31st Battery moved forward to a position of assembly in the vicinity of CATAINE.

Oct 22nd - At 0230 the 45th Battery moved forward to a position of assembly at CATAINE and later moved on with the R.C.Rs and came into action at 0.36.b.00.10 (sheet 44) at 0530. The 31st Battery moved with the 42nd Btn. at 0730 and took up a position of readiness in 0.36.a. Bde. HQ moved to 7th



C.I.B. HQ at HASNON arriving at 0700. Forward sections under Lieuts. Gall and Devine from the 31st and 45th Batteries accompanied the support companies of the btns. throughout the day. Great difficulty was experienced in finding passable roads eastwards on account of mines blown by the enemy and almost every cross road. Finally a good route of approach was located through 0.36.VI.a, P.31.d, P.32.c. The main 31st Battery moved forward at 1000 to a position of readiness in P.27. c. The 45th Battery moved at 1030 to a position of readiness in P.32.c and was in touch by phone with R.C.R. at P.32.d.50.80 and Bde. Report Center at same place. Forward sections from these batteries took up positions at this time along the ST. AMAND, RAISMES Road. The 33rd and 36th Batteries leaving WANDIGNIES at 0730 and followed to CATAINE with the two support btns. and at 1400 they moved up to a position of readiness near LES CORBETS. Our infantry met with very slight resistance in the woods and the R.C.R. on the right made very rapid progress. The 42nd Btn. however, on the left, were held up at intervals, as the 8th Imperial Division on their left was having a good deal of difficulty in their advance. By the later afternoon the R.C.R. had advanced from 9 to 10 000 yards and were emerging at the eastern side of the FORET DE RAISMES and at 1700 batteries moved forward to cover the front. The 33rd and 36th Batteries to P.36.d the 45th to P.34.c with a forward section at P.30.c and the 31st Battery to P.20.b.80.20. At dusk Bde. HQ moved to P.27.a. 90.40 close to 7th C.I.B.HQ which moved at the same time to P.27.a.6.6.

Oct 23rd - The 33rd and 36th Batteries took over the woods with R.C.R. and 42nd Btns. respectively the remaining two batteries standing fast in their positions. 36th Battery moved to Q.20.d.10.30 with a forward section at Q.14.c.30.20. The 33rd Battery forward section took up a position at Q.21.d.20.00 both forward sections were located near the HQ of the btns. which they were supporting. Both forward sections did a small amount of firing on targets of opportunity and targets given them by the infantry. At 1700 the 45th Battery moved forward to P.30.b.40.40 and the 31st Battery to Q.20.c.50.40.

NOTRE DAME D'AMOUR

Oct 24th - By 0800 main 33rd Battery had moved to P.35.d.50.00 and the 45th Battery had moved a section forward to Q.20.b.60.10. Late in the afternoon the 33rd forward section under Lieut. McGillivray moved forward to Q.23.d.5.3. 36th forward section under Lieut. Longworth moved forward to Q.14.c.60.30. All forward sections engaged many targets of opportunity throughout the day and did harassing fire during the night, and Bde. Report Center was established at foresters house Q.14.d and was in communication with all batteries. The C.R.A. and the Bde. Major visited the battery positions.

Oct 25th - Our infantry had succeeded in establishing an OP line along the railway in Q.9 , Q.4, 11, 12 and 13 and held the villages of FRESNES and ESCAUTPONT with the enemy holding the canal line in considerable strength. The low lying ground in the vicinity of the canal up to the 20 meter contour was under water due to dams placed across the canal at various points by the enemy and gave him a very strong position as all bridges were destroyed. 45th Battery forward section in charge of Lieut. Doiron moved in the early morning to Q.23.d close to R.C.Rs HQ and established an O.P. in the outpost line in FRESNES and engaged many targets of opportunity and M.G. posts during the day. Lieut. R. Fleet left to take up position of adjutant at Canadian Corps Art'y School at HABARCQ under Lt. Col. Coghlan. The bde. S.O.S. line was laid along L'ESCAUT FLEUVE and LA HAISNE from R.26.d.60.10 to Q.6.c.60.40 a distance of



6 000 yards divided equally between the batteries.

Oct 26th - Readjustments of the batteries were made as follows - 31st Battery remained at Q.27.c.70.60. The 33rd main battery to P.30.b.40.40 with a forward section at Q.17.d.80.20. The 45th main battery moved to Q.26.b.50.80 with a forward section at Q.23.d.55.40. The 36th main battery to Q.14.c.70.30 with a forward section at Q.9.b.30.05. This kept the batteries well spread out and distributed in depth, as the forward sections would do all the firing except in case of operations or S.O.S. O.Ps were established at R.19.b.90.50, and R.13.a.05.25 from which good observation was obtained of the front to the north east and east. Battery wagon lines were along the RAISMES-ST. AMAND Road but forward sections had their horses well up towards the east of the forest. The 3rd section of the 3rd C.D.A.C. which was attached to the bde. was at P.31.c.70.20 and all ammunition for the bde. was drawn from it. The forward sections did considerable firing on enemy movement and M.G. posts but enemy art'y was not very active.

NOTRE DAME D'AMOUR

Oct 27th - Fairly quiet day with little firing done by forward sections. The 8th C.I.B. relieved the 7th C.I.B. during the afternoon and night; the 2nd C.M.Rs taking over from the R.C.R. on the right and the 1st C.M.Rs from the 42nd Btn. on the left. Roads and approaches to the canal were reconnoitred by battery officers in case of a further advance on this front.

Oct 28th - 8th C.I.B. extended to the south and took over part of the front held by the 9th C.I.B. 9th Art'y Bde. area was also extended south to the grid line between Q and W and our S.O.S. lines at 1200 hours now ran from R.31.c.50.00 along LESCAUT FLEUVE to Q.5.d.5.95. All the ground for a considerable distance on both sides of the canal being flooded except R.14.b and d, where the enemy still had a number of posts.

Oct 29th - At 1200 hours the bde. reverted to control of C.R.A. and 3rd section of 3rd C.D.A.C. reverted to control of 3rd C.D.A.C. Enemy artillery was fairly active on forward areas and our forward sections engaged enemy trench mortars and M.G. posts and working parties. The C.R.A. visited the Bde. HQ and batteries.

Oct 30th - The C.O. visited battery wagon lines during the morning. At 1400 Bde. HQ moved to ETO LE 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.

Oct 31st - 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 T.Ms 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. At 2200 hours he put a burst of fire on the 45th Battery and Capt. B.N. McCallum was wounded in the arm and



leg. Shortly after report center at Q.20.d.25.35 was hit, but only one horse killed and two wounded.

ETOILE DE CERNAY

Nov 1st - 8th C.I.B. still in line with 2nd C.N.R. on right and 2nd C.M.R. on left. Enemy alert and somewhat nervous due to our attack south of VALENCIENNES. Forward sections engaged M.Gs and T.Ms and did night harassing fire. In view of the shelling it was decided to move Bde. HQ to house at MONTAINE BOUILLON at P.30.a.60.60 and the move was made at 1600 hours. C.R.A. inspected the wagon lines all except 45th Battery being very satisfactory. Capt. J.H. McLaren of 31st Battery took command of 45th Battery.

FONTAINE BOUILLON

Nov 2nd - The day passed very quietly with very little enemy fire. Orders were received in the evening that the 8th Imperial Division would sideslip south and take over the northern part of our front between B.15.a.2.8. and Q.5.d.7.5. and that our S.O.S. line would be shifted accordingly. VALENCIENNES was reported to be entirely in our hands at 1000 hours.

Nov 3rd to 8th - 8th Imperial Division took over the 2nd C.M.R. front on the left as described above 0600 and the Bde. S.O.S. line now ran from R.31.c.50 along canal to 4.20.d.20.80. thence R.14. .80.60. At 1200 it was extended south to an east and west line through W.6.d.00.50 at 1600 hours our patrols were reported working forward and across the canal in B.12. and X.1. and S.O.S. was lifted from these squares. C.O. and Lieut. MacAdams of the 7th C.I.B. visited VALENCIENNES reconnoitring routes forward as it was believed bridges north of the city would not be built by the time the bde. would have to cross the canal.

Nov 4th - Major L.V. Cosgrave proceeded on 14 days leave to Paris and Major C.A. McKinnon of the 36th Battery took command of the bde., Capt. A.L. Anderson taking the battery. Our infantry (4th C.R. Battalion) worked north east in the early morning to road in N.8.d. and a. and to railway in X.1.a. and b and X.2. central but were held up by M.Gs on railway in X.3.c. and X.9.a. and the 45th forward fired on them but did not dispose of all of the them as M.G. fire still came from this vicinity. At noon the C.R.A. phoned and ordered batteries to move forward to vicinity of ESCAUTPONT. By 1800 hours Bde. HQ had moved to Q.29.b.50.65.; 31st Battery to Q.29.c.20.80. 33rd Battery to Q.29.c.20.00. 45th Battery to Q.23.d.60.30 and 4 hows. of the 36th to Q.29.b.45.85. with a detached section of this battery still at Q.24.a.05.20. 1st C.M.R. had crossed canal at PONT DES MARAIS but were held up by stray M.G. posts at R.25.d.70.10 in ry. embankment which 45th engaged but did not put out of action. At 2200 hours our line ran from X.15.b.7.7. to X.2. central along railway to R.31.b.O.O. thence as before and S.O.S. line was laid accordingly from right boundary between X.2. and X.8. to left divisional boundary at R.14.b.9.6. Enemy art'y inactive on bde. front. Lieut. Christopherson reported to bde. and was posted to 33rd Battery.

ESCAUTPONT



Nov 5th - At 0630 hours the 33rd Battery fired a barrage of 65 minutes duration rolling from X.11.b. and X.12.a. At 0800 the bde. O.P. was established in W.6.b. and Lieut. Knight had reported as L.O. with the 4th C.M.Rs at their HQ at W.19.b. and shortly after had wire through to bde. At 1100 the reported 4th C.M.R. patrols on ry. to north of VICQ and opposition not heavy. 36th Battery established O.P. at Q.30.d.9.9. and Lieut. A.B. Manning fired 80 rounds during the day on M.G. post at R.25.d.7.1. effectually putting it out of action it was captured by 1st C.M.R. in the evening. Orders received in the afternoon that bde. would take up position in vicinity of ONNAING on the 6th and C.O. and battery commanders reconnoitred roads and bridges. At 2200 hours our line ran quadruple inclusive to ry. in X.5.a. along ry. to canal at R.25.d.7.1. thence to change to north boundary and the bde. S.O.S. line extended from R.38.c.5.2. along this line to MONS CONDE Canal.

QUBROUBLE

Nov 6th – Operation Order 209 & 209-1 received at 0500 hours ordering three Batteries of Brigade to take up positions within 6000 yards of road in .22-23-29-30 sheet 45 C.O. & O.Cs. 31st 33rd & 36th Batteries started forward at 0800 and Headquarters and batteries followed 0830 & 0900. The 45th Battery remained in the ESCAMTPONT area attached to the 1st C.M.R. Battalion which was ordered to take the enemy bridgehead south of CONDE in R.14. and the Railway in R.26. & 21. The three batteries moved via BRUAY, ST SAULVE, QUBROUBLE and were in position at 1630 at following locations:- Headquarters in QUBROUBLE Sheet 44 X.17.a.1.5. 31st X.11.d.2.8. 33rd per 4.5" how. The 1st section 3rd C.D.A.C. came under orders of this HQ and moved to ONNAING and dumped ammunition for batteries there. At 0700 4th C.M.R. Btn. had reached QUIEVRAIN, east of the Grand Konelle river which it had been thought the enemy would strongly defend.

QUIEVRAIN

Nov 7th - Orders for the barrage were received by phone at 0500. Zero hour 0850. The Bde. fired in enfilade opening on the line, sheet 45.M.35.b.20.70. - M.30.c.60.10. and advancing in 100 yard lifts northwards to the final line M.22.b.60.60. - M.17.d.00.20. Lieut. Harris of the 31st Battery laid a wire and reported to 4th C.R. at 5.8.b.8.8. in the early morning. Lieut. Manning of the 36th Battery went as F.O.O. with the same Btn. Both these officers got back useful information during the day regarding the advance of the infantry but in the morning owing to distance, communications were difficult to maintain. At 1000 orders were received for C.O. and B.Cs to go forward to reconnoitre and that batteries would move on their return. Positions were selected as follows in Quievrain. Sheet 45. HQ S.5.c.3.6.; 31st S.5.0.9.7.; 33rd S.5.b.8.2; 36th S.5.c.8.9. Batteries moved between 1200 and 1400 along MONS Road but owing to crowded traffic and mine craters on road, batteries were not all in to position until 1630. The 33rd Battery had sent forward a section under Lieut. Mason and Christopherson at 1000. It took up a position in S.6.b. but had to withdraw to S.5.b. when the mist cleared in the afternoon. Observation was difficult and they were unable to do much shooting. Our infantry had gone forward with the barrage and exploited beyond it and in the evening held a line north of HENSIES AND ONTROEUL-SUR-HAINE and east of the latter place and ST. CROIX. The bde. S.O.S. was laid from



N.21.d.O.O. to N.19.b.8.0. to N.14.d.5.3. Lieut. Depencier reported to bde. and was posted to 36th Battery. O.O. #211 was received at 2300 hours ordering bde. to fire in a barrage at 0700 beginning on N.26.d.1.9. - N.26.a.2.7. and finishing on N.22.d.3.5. to N.22.a.0.5.

THULIN

Nov 8th - O.O. #211 was cancelled at 0200 as our patrols had gone through THULIN and well beyond it without meeting any opposition. The 7th C.I.B. had relieved the 8th C.I.B. during the night and the 33rd Battery went forward with the P.P.C.L.I. 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. The C.O. and B.Cs reconnoitred positions in morning and between 1200 and 1300 the bde. moved and 1500 were in action with HQ at N.27.a.4.5. the 33rd moved later to N.26.b.9.5. all in the village of THULIN. This village had never been shelled and except for two or three mine craters of the roads was undamaged and the inhabitants still had many of their cattle and horses and were very nervous of gun fire. It was reported by Lieut. Stearns I.O. with P.P.C.L.I. at 2100 that their patrols were through HOUSSU and our S.O.S. line was laid on N. & S. line through 0.9.c.O.O. from MONS road to CONDE canal.

Nov 9th - Enemy fell back during the night and at 0800 our patrols were on outskirts of JEMAPPE and meeting with no opposition. At 0900 C.O. and B.Cs went forward to reconnoitre positions in P.7. and 13. The 49th Btn. had pushed across the canal in N.8. and N.9. during the night and C.E. were repairing bridge in N.8.a. and a section of the 31st Battery was ordered to go with them. At 1130 the complete 31st Battery received orders to proceed with the 49th Btn. At 1200 Bde. were ordered to move forward to P.15. & P.9. All were on the road by 1300. B.Cs going ahead. By 1700 hours Bde. was in position as follows in HQ P.9.c.7.3. 33rd P.14.b.9.6. 45th P.14.d.9.6. 36th P.15.a.4.4. just south of the JE APPES. Our lines ran from Q.13.d to the canal in P.9.b. along the canal to the west. At 2200 a shoot by three guns each of 33rd and 36th Btys. was put on M.G. posts on road in P.12.c and lasted for 15 minutes. No report of the results of the following attack was received. 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. Major E.V. Thompson reported back from hospital and Lieut. Harrison and Lieut. O'Grady from leave. 45th Battery reported back to bde. today. Lieut. A.B. Manning established O.P. by D. Coy. R.C.R. HQ at 2200 in P.9. and later moved up to J.34.d.5.5.

Nov 10th - The infantry had succeeded in pushing forward somewhat during the night and at 0900 held points in OHLIN. J.28.s. & d.8.2. 3.4 which the 49th btn. was holding. The R.C.R. were in the center in P.18. and Q.13. Enemy M.Gs and field guns were very active on forward ? and a good deal of firing was done by the bde. on M.G. nests. Beginning at 0945 three guns from 33rd and 3 hows. from 36th fired for 10 minutes on P.12.d. and b. and at 12.10 for 10 minutes on P.12.d. and P.6.d. At 1325 the 45th and 36th fired for 15 minutes on Q.14.a and at 1530 the bde. fired for 20 minutes on canal from Q.13.a.4.8. to Q.13.b.4.4. Lieut. Manning reported M.G. on slag heap in J.24.d. holding up our advance and he got a line in and observed shooting on it. At 1910 and 1945 the 33rd and 45th put bursts of fire on railway in



K.31.b. and d. and at 2030 orders came back for no more firing into K.19. or 25. at 2200 our line was reported on road in K.19. K.26.a and c. K.32.a. and c. and Q.2. central and apparently the infantry had not had very heavy opposition. Lieut. Neville relieved Lieut. Manning at O.P. J.34.d.5.5. in the afternoon. 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. Lieut. Christopher went to D.A.C. in exchange for Lieut. De Pencier.

CUESMES

Nov 11th - 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. HQ P.17.c.80.35; 33rd P.17.d.30.50.; 45th P.17.c.70.00.; 36th P.17.c.70.30. The 31st Bty. rejoined the bde. and at 1200 took up a position of observation at Q.13.d.10.90. Rumours of an armistice were heard in the early morning and at 0900 orders were received that hostilities would cease at 1100 today. At 1130 Brig. General Clark reviewed detachments of the 7th C.I.B. btns. , some engineers and a section from 10th Bde. C.F.A. and 8th Art'y Bde. C.F.A. At 1530 Lieut. General Currie reviewed detachments from all 3rd Div. troops at the same place in one. A last great enthusiasm of the civilians. At 1500 orders were received from Bde. to reconnoitre positions in K.26. and K.32. to cover the left half of the divisional front which extended from K20.c.2.2. along road through L.19. K.18. K12. to K.11. a.8.8. and officers were sent forward at once. Orders to move however were received at 2300 Bde. was ordered to cover the resistance line canal du center from K.22.d.O.O. to K.19.d.7.8. and S.O.S. line was placed in advance of this. The 9th C.I.B. had in the early morning relieved the 7th C.I.B. in the line. The 58th Btn. taking over from the P.P.C.L.I. on the right and the 116th from the R.C.R. on left.

NIMY

Nov 12th - At 0800 the bde. moved through MONS to NIMY about a mile north of the city and batteries took up positions of observation at the following locations: HQ K.32.a.7.8.; 31st Bty. K.26.d.3.7.; 33rd Bty. k.26.d.2.9.; 45th Bty. K26.d.1.3. 36th Bty. K.26.a.3.2. to cover the divisional front which ran from L.20.c.2.2. along road to K.11.a.8.8. thence south westerly along road to K.19.d.8.8. and the bde. covered from K.18.d.5.6. to K.11.a.8.8. S.O.S. lines were laid out for this front and Lieut. Harrison of the 33rd Bty. established an O.P. at K.15.c.5.3. C.R.A. visited Bde. 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 enemy on the front.

Nov 13th - C.O. and B.Cs attended a conference at 3rd Division regarding preparations for the march to Germany. All surplus and unnecessary equipment is to be turned in and smartness and discipline insisted upon. Divisional front was modified somewhat and now runs L.20.d.2.1. L.20.b.2.2. L.13.a.1.1. K.1.1.a.8.8. K.15 central where it joins up with 8th Division front which now runs to K.8. central. Bde. zone runs from L.13.a.1.1.to K.11.a.8.8. S.O.S. lines were altered accordingly. There is no evidence of any enemy force in the country in front of us. Capt. R. MacDougall joined the bde. as Paymaster. Lieut. Jones 31st Battery manned Bde. O.P.



Nov 14th - Batteries busy cleaning and painting. The "DUMBELLS" the divisional concert party played an excellent performance of Pinafore in the theater at MONS, proceeded by a divisional tea. Lieut. Case at O.P.

Nov 15th - A composite battery made up of guns and wagons from 33rd Battery and teams from 31st and 45th Batteries under command of Major A.C. Ryerson took part in the review by Lt. Gen. Horne in MONS at 1030.

Nov 16th - A party of 90 O.Rs under Lieut. Mason of the 33rd Bty. attended thanksgiving service in MONS theater at 1100; 3rd C.D.T.M.B. was disbanded and 57 O.R. posted to this Bde. A/Capt. Loy was posted to this HQ. Lieut. Pepler to 45th Lieut. P. Sandhurst to 36th Battery; P.B. Grey to 33rd Bty. Lieut. Inch 31st Bty. at O.P.

Nov 17th - Corps church parade at 1030 hours attended by Capt. Loy and 10 O.Rs from Bde. HQ. Div. Art'y church parade attended by 100 men per battery and all officers was held at 1430. Lieut. Mason 33rd Bty. at O.P.

Nov 18th - Lieut. Pepler manned Bde. O.P. for the last time. 1400 C.R.A. and A.D.V.S. visited bde. HQ and spoke of a meeting of the bde. officers regarding march to the RHINE. 1700 received orders from 3rd C.D.A. HQ to withdraw our F.O.O. and cease to be in action. 1730 bde. Party of 350 O.Rs in charge of Capt. Scott attended "DUMBELLS" concert in MONS theater.

Nov 19th - Batteries busy painting vehicles, grooming, exercising horses and harness cleaning. Lieut. Sharp relieved Lieut. Pryde as bde. signalling officer owing to latter proceeding leave.

Nov 20th - Major L.V.M. Cosgrave D.S.O. returned from PARIS leave and resumed duties as C.O. 1500 to 1700 bde. 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.

Nov 21st - Major D.A. McKinnon D.S.O. proceeded to Canada. Lt. H.Pryde proceeded to England on leave. 1500 the C.O. and one officer and 2 O.Rs per Battery reconnoitred route for assembling for prospective divisional march past in MONS.

Nov 22nd - 0630 Major A.C. Ryerson 31st Bty. proceeded to BRUSSELS to represent 9th Bde. C.F.A. in an official entry to the city. Lieut. Harrison 33rd Bty. suffering from arthritis was evacuated to 9th Canadian Field Ambulance.

Nov 23rd - Bde. HQ and batteries busy harness cleaning, polishing, grooming and exercising horses. Capt. J.A. Loy MO posted to 36th Battery.

Nov 24th - 0900 church parade of battery officers and 300 O.Rs marched to MONS theater but the



service was cancelled. RC parade at 1000 hours and NIJN Parish Church. 1400 anti typhoid parade held by Capt. Adams.

Nov 25th - 1130 A conference of bde. and bty. commanders was held at bde. HQ 10th Bde. C.F.A. for the purpose of discussing athletic and other arrangements for the welfare of the men during this period of armistice.

Nov 26th - 0700 7 officers and 7 N.C.Os from bde. proceeded to BRUSSELS by bus to see the city, returning at 2200. 1730 a conference was held at 3rd C.D.A. HQ to discuss educational schemes for the men while awaiting demobilization. Major Cosgrave, DSO attended .

Nov 27th - A detail of 35 O.Rs under command of Lieut. Neville 45th Battery was furnished by the bde. at 1000 and 1400 to line streets at MONS for reception of King Albert of Belgium.

Nov 28th - 0700 7 officers and 21 O.Rs from the Bde. proceeded to BRUSSELS returning 2200. 0830 9th Bde. proceeded to Drill Ground N.E. of MASIERES where bty. and bde. manouvers were to be carried out during the morning. 1730 10 officers of the 9th Bde. entertained 10 officers of the 4th C.F.A. Bde., 4th Canadian Division at a theater party, followed by a dinner at the Bde. and bty. mess.

Nov 29th - 0700 7 N.C.Os from bde. proceeded to BRUSSELS returning 2200. 0830 to 1200 bde. and bty. manouvers were held at drill grounds MASIERES. 1600 a conference of Bde. and Bty. commanders was held at Bde. HQ to discuss the educational scheme.

Nov 30th - Batteries busy polishing harness and cleaning vehicles in preparation for review by the G.O.C. on December 2nd.

Dec 1st - 09:30 a brigade church parade was held in the town hall of NIMY. Capt. Watts officiated. 09:30 R.C. church parade was held in NIMY Parish Church.

Dec 2nd - At 12:00 the 9th Bde. was reviewed by the G.O.C. Division marching past in column of batteries, in the following order: 33st, 33rd, 45th and 36th Batteries.

Dec 3rd - At 10:00 hours an educational meeting was held at 3rd C.D.A. HQ. Lt. Wright 31st Battery represented 9th Bde. 15:00 a sports meeting was held at 3rd C.D.A. HQ, Lt. McKay attended. Lt. Alexander 36th Battery returned from U.K. leave.

Dec 4th - Major L.V. M. Cosgrave, DSO and Capt. A.L. Anderson, MO proceeded to BRUSSELS. Capt. M.H. Scott 33rd Battery took command of 45th Battery vice Capt. T.H. MacLaren who returned to 31st Battery.

Dec 5th - Orders were received from 3rd C.D.A. HQ to be prepared to march from NIMY on December 7th to HOUDENG-ALMERIES area. 31st Battery gave a dance for the men, 20:00 in the NIMY Dance Hall.



Dec 6th - Major L.V.M. Cosgrave DSO and Capt. A.L. Anderson returned from BRUSSELS. Divisional Dance at BRUSSELS cancelled. Move to HOUDENG-ALMERIES also cancelled.

Dec 7th - A quiet day. Batteries carried on with harness cleaning, etc.

Dec 8th - Church parade at 09:30 in NIMY Town Hall; Capt. Watts officiated. R.C. parade in NIMY Parish Church at 09:30.

Dec 9th - 09:00 to 11:00 educational classes were held in NIMY; 253 O.Rs attended and the scheme got off to a good start. 14:00 to 16:00 the opening game of the Bde. Football League was played at NIMY; 31st Bty. defeated 33rd Bty. by a score of 4-0. C.O. and 13 officers from Bde. attended 3rd Canadian Division Dance at BRUSSELS where an exceedingly pleasant evening was had by all. Major Ryerson C.R.A. at 3rd Cdn. Div. Warrant Officers and Sergeants Dance in Hotel de Ville MONS. Lts. O'Grady, Livingstone and Smith awarded the M.C. and Lt. C.D. Crowe awarded a bar to the M.C.

Dec 10th - At 09:30 orders were received from 3rd C.D.A. HQ that Bde. would march to the HOUDENG-ALMERIES area on the 11th instant. 11:00 Major Durkes, 38th Battery, reported to Bde. and took over duties of O.C. 12:00 Major L.V.M. Cosgrave DSO proceeded to 1st Brigade C.F.A. to take over duties of C.O.

HOUDENG-ALMERIES

Dec 11th - 10:00 Bde. marched to HOUDENG-ALMERIES arriving at 14:00. Bde. marched in the following order: Bde. HQ, 45th Bty., 36th Bty., 31st Bty. and 33rd Bty.

SENEFFE

Dec 12th - 09:30 Bde. marched to SENEFFE, arriving at 12:00. Bde. marched in the following order: Bde. HQ, 36th Bty., 31st Bty., 33rd Bty. and 45th Bty. Lt. H. Pryde Bde. HQ returned from UK leave.

Dec 13th - Bde. remained in SENEFFE throughout the day and night of 13th/14th.

Dec 14th - Major Gordon reported to 36th Bty. from 43rd Bty. 8th A.F.A. Bde. and took over duties of O.C. At 09:00 Bde. marched from SENEFFE to GENAPPE, arriving at 14:00. At NIVELLES Bde. was inspected by G.O.C. Bde. marched in the following order: Bde. HQ, 31st, 33rd, 45th and 36th Batteries.

LIMAL

Dec 15th - At 09:15 Bde. marched from GENAPPE to LIMAL arriving at 12:00, Bde. marched in the following order to Bde. HQ, 33rd, 45th, 36th and 31st Btys. Bde was inspected by C.R.A. at BOUSVAL. 31st, 33rd, 36th Btys. billeted at LIMAL. 45th Battery billeted at PROFONSART.



Dec 16th - Batteries busy rearranging billets, changing horse lines and settling down. 14:00 a meeting of the Bde. sports committee was held at Bde. HQ and a schedule of sports was drawn up.

Dec 17th - The educational program was resumed in the Ecole Communale at 09:00. 200 O.Rs attending the classes. The classes will be carried on daily, excluding sundays, from 09:00 to 11:00.

Dec 18th - Tuesday's football game between 36th and 45th Batteries postponed on account of unfavorable weather and ground conditions. Major Durkes attended conference at Division.

LIMAL

Dec 19th - 36th Battery defeated 45th Battery in a football game by 3-0. Lts. Neville and Pepler attached to 3rd C.D.A.C. Lt. Kingston proceeded to BRUSSELS. Lt. Jones proceeded on U.K. Special Leave.

Dec 20th - Lts. O'Grady, Manning, Mason and Case attended fete at BRUSSELS. Lts. Gall, Clark and Devine returned from Cdn. Corps Artillery School, HABARG. Lt. Kingston returned from Brussels. 31st Battery defeated Bde. HQ at football 12-2.

Dec 21st - 45th Battery defeated 33rd Battery at football 2-1. Mr. Beaugrand, French interpreter proceeded to CALAIS.

Dec 22nd - Church parade held at 09:45 in Y.M.C.A. recreation room. Capt. Watts officiated. R.C. parade was held at 10:00 in LIMAL Parish Church.

Dec 23rd - A meeting of Divisional Sports Committee was held at 3rd C.D.A. HQ at 14:00 to discuss arrangements for the IVth Corps Sports. It was decided to take part in the majority of events.

Dec 24th - C.R.A. inspected the 8th Bde. batteries in the morning. 36th Battery defeated Bde. HQ in a football match by 11-4.

Dec 25th - 33rd Battery held a dance at 19:00. Christmas Dinner was held by all the batteries. Turkeys and supplies being supplied through the Y.M.C.A.

Dec 26th - In a football match in the afternoon 31st Battery defeated 45th Battery 5-1.

Dec 27th - Quiet day.

Dec 28th - Lt. Col. F.M. Coghlan returned to Bde. from Canadian Corps. Artillery School, HABARG.

HOEYLEART

Dec 29th - Bde. moved from LIMAL to HOEYLEART arriving there at 12:00 hours, and Bde. marched in



the following order: Bde. HQ, 45th, 36th, 31st, 33rd Batteries. Lt. Col. Coghlan proceeded to Cologne.

VLESENBEEK

Dec 30rd - Bde. resumed its march to the entraining area and reached VLESENBEEK at 15:00. Batteries marched in the following order: Bde. HQ, 31st, 33rd, 45th and 36th Battery. Orders were received that Bde. would resume its march on the 31st, but later this order was cancelled.

Dec 31rd - In accordance with orders received, Bde. remained in this area and will continue the march to the entraining area on the 1st January, 1919.

1919

Jan 1st - Bde. continued the march to the LILLE - TOURNAI area from VLESENBEEK to DENDERWINDEKE arriving at the latter place at 12:30.

NEDERBRACKEL

Jan 2nd - Bde. resumed its march to the entraining area and arrived at NEDERBRACKEL at 13:00.

RENAIX

Jan 3rd - The Bde. continued the march and reached RENAIX at 11:30.

KAIN LA TOMBE

Jan 4th - In accordance with orders received Bde. marched to KAIN LA TOMBE area. HQ, the 33rd and 45th Batteries were billeted in LA TOMBE, and the 31st and 36th Batteries were billeted in KAIN.

Jan 5th - Parades of all the Batteries were addressed by Brig. General Stewart, DSO, C.R.A., prior to his leaving for CANADA. Lt. Col. Coghlan and Capt. Fleet returned from Corps HQ in Germany. Col. Coghlan proceeded on leave to U.K. and Capt. Fleet was attached to the Bde.

Jan 6th - Batteries busy settling down, fixing up billets and wagon lines.

Jan 7th - Bath parades for all batteries, the baths being located in TOURNAI.

Jan 8th - The regular routine of training was carried on. Lt. Inch, 31st Battery CFA proceeded on leave to U.K.

Jan 9th - A Field General Courts Martial was held at 3rd C.D.A.C. HQ. A meeting of the sports committee was held and field selected for football games. Orders were received that the 3rd C.D.A. would probably



move back to RENAIX on account of the difficulty of obtaining billets for all the 3rd C.D.A.

RENAIX

Jan 10th - 3rd C.D.A. moved from KAIN LA TOMBE area to RENAIX.

Jan 11th - Batteries were occupied in arranging billets and horse lines.

Jan 12th - Church parades were held for protestants at 09:15 and for R.Cs at 10:00 in the RENAIX church. Meeting of sports committee was held at Bde. HQ and schedule for week drawn up.

Jan 13th - Lt. Kingston proceeded on leave to PARIS. Football match between 33rd and 36th Batteries which resulted in a win for the 36th Battery by 6-0.

Jan 14th - Bath parade for all batteries during the morning. The C.R.A. inspected the wagon lines between 09:00 and 10:00.

Jan 15th - Batteries carried on with the regular routine. Physical training, exercise rides, harness cleaning etc. Dentist who was to be attached to the Bde. reported and began inspection of men's teeth.

Jan 16th - The G.O.C. 3rd Canadian Division addressed the officers of the 3rd C.D.A. during the morning. A football team selected from the 9th Bde. played the Labour Corps, the latter losing by 3-1.

Jan 17th - Medical Board arrived at noon and about 150 men of the different batteries were examined during the afternoon. 31st Battery won the Championship of the Bde. Football League defeating the 36th Battery by 1-0.

Jan 18th - The C.R.A. inspected the wagon lines of the batteries. The proposed inspection by the Corps Commander was cancelled. Medical inspection of all ranks was carried on. Lt. Col. Coghlan returned from U.K. leave and Major Durkee reported back to the 10th Bde.

Jan 19th - Church parades for some of the batteries. Medical examination was carried on.

Jan 20th - Usual routine. Educational classes were recommenced. The following supernumerary officers left the Bde. to proceed to CANADA: Lts. A.B. Manning, A.B.C. Knight, M.H. Neville, W.E. Grassie and H.E. Pepler.

Jan 21st - The regular routine, harness cleaning, exercise rides & P.T. etc. was carried on.

Jan 22nd - The 9th Bde. C.F.A. defeated the 10th Bde. C.F.A. in a game of football by a score of 5-0. Educational classes were discontinued owing to the difficulty of obtaining coal for the class rooms.



Jan 23rd - Capt. R. Fleet who had been attached to the 36th Battery reported to the 38th Battery. Nothing of importance outside the regular routine.

Jan 24th - the "Dumbells" concert party arrived in town and at night put on the first of the intended three performance. 36th Battery held a dance in one of the school rooms.

Jan 25th - During the morning all the horses and mules of the Bde. were inoculated by the A.D.V.S. for Glanders. Lt. C.D. Crowe MC, proceeded to report to the 48th Battery, 1st C.D.A. to take up duties of captain. Staff Captain "Q", 3rd C.D.A. held a conference with all the battery commanders and adjutants, for the purpose of discussing the handing over of equipment and stores. The "Dumbells" concert party gave another performance.

Jan 26th - Church parade for "other denominations" at 09:15 in the Harmonie Hall and for R.Cs in the stone church at 10:00. In accordance with the demobilization scheme, the first party, to return to CANADA with their families, proceeded to ENGLAND on 14 days leave at the expiration of which they will report to C.A.R.D. WITLEY.

Jan 27th - Capt. MacKinnon of the Canadian Chaplain Services delivered a lecture in the morning on "SAFEGUARDS OF CIVILIZATION". The Dumbells Concert Party gave another performance in the evening.

Jan 28th - Bdes. turned in all special stores which were taken to the base. Another lecture was given by Capt. MacKinnon in the morning and also one in the afternoon. The "Dumbells" Concert Party gave their last performance in RENAIX. In the evening the officers of the 3rd C.D.A. held a dance in Harmonie Hall.

Jan 29th - Auditors visited Bde. and inspected all books, accounts, etc. of the Batteries Orders were received that the Bde. would turn in all stores, vehicles, equipment etc. on the morrow consequently batteries were busy packing stores, equipment etc. Elementary classes recommenced in the morning.

Jan 30th - At about 09:00 batteries marched independently to KAIN area where they were billeted for the night. Lt. Kingston returned from "On leave."

Jan 31st - Batteries continued their march to BAISEUX, where they will turn in all equipment, stores, vehicles etc., after which they returned to KAIN area for the night. Boxing bouts took place in the recreation room next to the baths

Feb 1st - Batteries having turned guns, technical stores and vehicles at BAISEAUX returned to RENAIX with horses and harness leaving KAIN at 09:00 and arriving at RENAIX at 13:30.

Feb 2nd - Church parade for R.Cs in RENAIX stone church at 10:00 and for other denominations in Harmonie Hall, Gran de Place, at the same hour. 9th Bde. CFA supplies town picquet for four days commencing today.



Feb 3rd - Preliminary inspection of all harness and saddlery by commanding officer preparatory to handing in at 14:00.

Feb 4th - Central store room for all Bde. harness and saddlery selected in 31st Battery CFA lines, 955 Rue Jean Na Seau. Batteries all busy cleaning and oiling harness for turning in to Bde. store room.

Feb 5th - Final inspection by commanding officer of all harness at 10:00. In afternoon batteries turned in all harness to the store room. Lt. C.A. Smith was put in charge of all harness until called for by lorries.

Feb 6th - Staff captain "Q" inspected harness in Bde. store room this morning. The Y.M.C.A. held a cinema show in Harmonie Hall this evening. First lot of fifty horses under Lt. F.W. Case and Lt. G.B. Alexander were sent to GHENT to be handed over to the Belgian authorities.

Feb 7th - Part of the harness in the Bde. store room was taken away by two lorries at 09:00 ;9th Bde. concert party under Lt. H.B. Devine gave first performance in Harmonie Hall at 18:00.

Feb 8th - Balance of harness was taken away in lorries today. 9th Bde. concert party gave second performance in Harmonie Hall at 19:00. Second batch of fifty horses were sent to ALOST under Lt. R.A. Gall and Lt. A.D. Mason to be handed over to the Belgian authorities.

Feb 9th - Church parade for R.Cs in Renaix stone church at 10:00 and other denominations at Harmonie Hall at same hour.

Feb 10th - 9th Bde. concert party gave a third performance in Harmonie Hall this afternoon at 14:00. Y.M.C.A. gave a cinema show in the same hall this evening.

Feb 11th - Details for the demobilization of balance of Bde. arrived today. Everybody busy packing and getting documents ready for the move.

Feb 12th - First draft consisting of 1 officer and 56 men per battery and 2 men from HQ left RENAIX at 06:30 by lorry to entrain at BAISEAUX for LE HAVRE. 190 all ranks left RENAIX by lorry at 13:00 for KAIN where they will stay for the night and march to BAISEAUX tomorrow morning.

Feb 13th - Leave party of 3 officers and 104 O.Rs left RENAIX for BAISEAUX by lorry at 06:30 ; party at KAIN left there at 07:30 to march to BAISEAUX. Demobilization train arrived six hours late. Finally left BAISEAUX en route for LE HAVRE at 17:00. Party of 1 officer and 40 O.Rs per battery left in RENAIX to look after the balance of horses until handed over. They will proceed on leave when horses are finally disposed of.

Feb 14th - Bde. on train en route for LEHAVRE.

Feb 15th - Arrive at LE HAVRE at 06:00, 22 hours late. The trip was made in box cars but each car was



supplied with plenty of straw and fuel. The Y.M.C.A. had a box car in which they installed a canteen, so that in addition to rations the unit was able to enjoy Canadian fruit and biscuits on the way down.

Feb 16th - Day was spent in getting ready for embarkation. Bath parades were held, and documents completed for embarkation.

Feb 17th - Bde. was warned for embarkation tonight but no boat was available.

Feb 18th - Embarked at 21:00 and sailed at midnight for WEYMOUTH.

WEYMOUTH

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.

WITLEY CAMP

Feb 20th - First batch of documents received from area records clearing house this morning. Documentation commenced and men got ready for medical board.

Feb 21st - First lot of 260 men ready for medical board.

Feb 22nd - First 260 men medically boarded this morning.

Feb 23rd - Second lot of 45 men medically boarded this morning.

Feb 24th - First 300 men boarded were sent on eight day embarkation leave. Documents for 13 officers completed and 10 officers medically boarded.

Feb 25th - Large batch of documents arrive from Area Records Clearing House. Documentation of Bde. now almost complete.

Feb 26th - Balance of men available sent on eight days leave today.

Feb 27th - Last of men left at Horse Demobilization Camp RENAIX reported back from eight days leave.

Feb 28th - Usual routine. Documentation proceeding satisfactorily.

WITLEY

Mar 1st - Received orders to have documents for 33rd Battery ready as early as possible, as they are likely to proceed first.



Mar 2nd - Church parade at 10:00. Documents of 33rd Battery almost complete.

Mar 3rd - Lt. Col. Coghlan, proceeded on eight days leave. Major E.V. Thompson, acting as C.O.

Mar 4th to 8th – Usual routine. Carrying on with documentation and medical boards.

BRAMSHOTT

Mar 8th - Moved to BRAMSHOTT camp in morning, attached to "C" Wing, C.C.C. Church parade at 10:00 in Y.M.C.A. Hall.

Mar 10th to 11th - Usual routine. Carrying on with documentation and medical boards.

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 13th - Sailing of "OLYMPIC" postponed to March 17th.

Mar 14th - Documents for drafts sailing 17th all complete and checked.

Mar 15th - Received orders to have all the bde. left after sailing of S.S. "OLYMPIC" ready to sail by S.S. "CEDRIC" sailing on 19th. Drafts for ST. JOHN and HAMILTON struck off list for sailing on S.S. "OLYMPIC".

Mar 16th - Church parade at 09:30 in Y.M.C.A. Divisional artillery paraded at 11:00 for farewell address from Major-General F.O.W. Loomis.

Mar 17th - Drafts for HALIFAX, KINGSTON and OTTAWA sailing by S.S. "OLYMPIC" entrained at LIPHOOK for SOUTHAMPTON.

Mar 18th - Drafts as follows left the bde. today to report to other wings for entraining to go to Canada on S.S. "CEDRIC".

Place	Officers	Sargeants	O.Rs
ST. JOHN	--	--	18
MONTREAL	1	--	30
CHARLOTTETOWN	1	--	4
HALIFAX	--	--	3
MONCTON	1	--	2
QUEBEC	--	--	1
WINNIPEG	1	--	--

TORONTO and HAMILTON drafts remained in present lines.



Mar 19th - Draft 10 02-J HAMILTON of 3 officers and 94 O.Rs under Major Ryerson left LIPHOOK for LIVERPOOL at 03:25. Draft 1004-1, for TORONTO of 10 officers and 177 O.Rs left LIPHOOK at 08:50 under Major E.V. Thompson. All these drafts reached LIVERPOOL in the afternoon of March 19th and at once embarked on S.S. "CEDRIC".

The Bde. no longer has any existence as a unit of the O.M.F. of C.
Lt. Col. Coghlan, 9th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.



COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

A.F.A – Australian Field Artillery

Art'y – Artillery

Bde. – Brigade

Btn. - Battalion

C.D.A. – Commander Divisional Artillery

C.D.A.C. – Canadian Divisional Ammunition Column

C.F.A. – Canadian Field Artillery

C.O. – Commanding Officer

C.R.A. – Commander Royal Artillery

C.I.B. – Canadian Infantry Brigade

C.M.R. – Canadian Mounted Rifles

Col. - Colonel

E.A. – Enemy Aircraft

F.O.O. – Forward Observation Officer

H.Q. - Headquarters

L.O. – Liaison Officer

Lieut - Lieutenant

M.B. – Magnetic Bearing

M.G. – Machine Gun

M.O. – Medical Officer

O.C. – Officer Commanding

O.O. – Operations Order

O.R. – Other Rank

R.C.R. – Royal Canadian Regiment

R.F.A. – Royal Field Artillery

R.O. – Reconnaissance Officer

T.M. – Trench Mortar

Vis'y – Visibility

