

The 1915 War Diary of Private W.H. Rouget – Stretcher Bearer, Royal Army Medical Corps

GMAG 1993.90

Feb. 9.1915 AM 10.45

Fine weather. Left Aldershot for Southampton.

PM 5.30

Left Southampton on City of London. Sea bit rough, not sick. Plenty to eat. B.Beef & biscuits, jam, tea & sugar.

(B. Beef – ‘Bully’ Beef or minced corned-beef in gelatin)

10.2.15

Arrived mouth of River at about 4 AM. Had to be escorted by Cruisers through the crossing. Steaming up river. People at Riverside cottages waving flags and cheering. Jugs(?) etc. dippers(?) flags. All in fine spirits. Enjoying ourselves a treat. ?????? splendid and lovely day.

Arrival at Rouen at 3.30. Marched to Rest Camp (Cavalry) No.5 Base General. 12 men in our tent. Had Tea, Bread, Cheese, Jam as much as required. Went to YMCA Tent, sent P.C. to Tot & May. Went to bed. Three blankets, very comfortable. Lights out 8.45.

11.2.15

Awake at 6.30. Breakfast Ham, plenty 8.30. Parade for kit required. Dinner Beef, peas, plenty to eat 1.30. Parade marching order. Inspected by Col. of Gordons. Sent P.C. to Elsie. Frank. Medical inspection. Had pleasant surprise, marched to a tent each man received seven packets of 5 fags and packet of tobacco from Weekly Dispatch. Contributor Mr Wm Bird, Lakeway, ?? Swinton. Devon. Sent P.C. of thanks. Letter to Tot. P.C. to ???? & Mrs Mann. Tea, Cheese & Jam. YMCA tent. Bedtime, starting to rain.

6.30 12.2.15

Still raining. But quite comfortable. Breakfast Faggots, Cheese, Jam. Rool (role sp.) call 9 o'clock. Visited a Farm, Cider & Bred Butter. Using some of my school French, got on fine. Weather turned out fine since breakfast.

Detailed for 5th Division

Dinner 1.30 Roast Beef vegetables.

Tea 5.30 Cheese Jam. YMCA tent. Letter Aunt Rachel. Tot. Elsie. W. Torode. Bed. Quite comfortable.

13.2.15

6.30

Raining hard.

Breakfast 8.30

Boiled bacon Jam.

No parades.

Showery.

7.30 Dinner. Sea Pie, but did not See pie.

Issued with fur coat.

Letters from Aunt Rachel, Aunt Maria, Willie and Albert Mann. Wrote to Aunt Maria, W and A Mann at YMCA.

Bed. Rain stopt (stopped - sp), flowing hard.

6.30 14th Feb.

Raining

Breakfast 8.30 Cold feet. Left Rouen at 4 PM. Arrived at Sailly.

5.30 PM 16 Feb.

Heard first shell at 10.30 Mervelle.

AM. 16 Feb.

Arrived at Fleur Baix 17th Feb. at 4 PM. Revelle at 4.45 AM. Parade at 5.15. Routine. Collect at Bois Grenier and Y..... Farm. Breakfast 8. Parade 10. Dinner 1. Parade (Message) about 2. Parade 6 PM. Collect. Lights out 9.30.

Billeted at Lagorgue on 1st March.

3rd March

New Billet at Lagorgue.

7th March

Laventie. Moved up to First Aid Post. Big attack expected, by our artillery.

March 9

Starting to snow.

March 10th.

Fine day. Our Artillery opening the attack. 7.30 AM. Old men and women clearing out of here. Very sad to see the poor old souls, with their belongings in wheel barrows. The artillery fire is terrible from here it is much more terrible even than I thought. I am writing this at 9 o'clock on the 10th the fire has now be continuous from 7.30. Reported that our armoured train is doing grand damage. There are guns all around us. But up to now the Germans have not replied. I expect they were silenced early. There has been two airoplanes of ours up in the air all the morning.

Visited Trenches. S. Stafford. Fine & Dry. 4 o'clock. Shells flying and hurting all around. Picked up German time fuse.

11.3.15

Our artillery, 6.30 are again at work. Our airoplanes are again up.

Gun fire is not quite so heavy from this quarter. Reported great (?) advances, a good number of prisoners take by our boys.

3.30

Shells are falling around us again but too close to be very comfortable. There second shell when it Burst covered me with mud etc. it had fallen just behind our dressing station. I quickly run back out of the way, and just as I reached the back yard another burst sending pieces of tile and ????? over us. I hope to bring home a part of the shell, part of cap, brass, which had struck so close to us. Another shell struck the roof of house just in front of us. If it had not been that the house was right in front of ours it would have burst in the room I am now in. I have the brass cap of this shell. Another shell struck the same house which went through the attic and the next floor and then buried itself in the floor, which was thick slate and bricks. It had buried itself about 18 inches deep. My word but they do whistle through the air, you do get a slight chance of dodging them, that's when we try to put a good thick wall between them & us, and crouch there waiting for it to come. But I don't think it would help us much if it realy did strike where we were. However, there is one thing which I favour that is that the Germans don't seem to fire much at night.

12th March

5.30 Our Artillery still Talking. But perhaps not quite so noisy as on the 10th. It is reported that one of our airmen was brought down yesterday between German trenches and ours, he appears to have reached land safety, but it is believed that they have got him at any rate they are covering the plane with a maxim. There are six of our planes up now. They are firing at them but a miss is as good as a mile. We saw flying in fine style. Splendid sight. Went to collect ?? about 7 oclock PM. Royal Scots. 1 killed, 7 wounded by shrapnel. On gard all night.

13.3.15

On Gard from 1.30 till 4. Heavy rifle fire. Believe our boys to be attacking right ahead of us very dark night but star shells make it as light as day. Nothing unusual about. Turned in at four. Up again at 6.30. Artillery again on the go. Germans reply with shrapnel, not so near to us as yesterday but quite close enough for my comfort. Our boys have christened our 15" Gun "Grandmother" because you can hear her coming along shuffling "Sh, Sh, Sh".

7 o'clock went for Scots wounded. Sniper at work, but he must have been going by sound only as the three shots he fired were well over our heads.

Sunday 14.3.16

Pretty quiet. Heavy firing on our left. La Bassé way. Similar to what happened over here on the 10th. Went down for Scots wounded. Sniper on the move but we got back all correct. Changing lodgings 9.30.

15.3.15

Not a bad billet in a loft over barn at La Gorgue. Went to Welsh dressing Station for wounded. Everything very quiet.

16.3.15

Weather fine. La Vantie being shelled by guns.

St. Patrick's day 17.3.15. Our Section officer gave us Shamrock. Bought us a tin of biscuits.

18th March

Germans shelling LaVantie. The church although burnt out, they have today knocked off the spire. Or rather the square tower which has four small spires three of which are completely demolished. The houses around the church are completely in ruins. The Hospital in the main street is utterly wrecked. Just below church.

19th

Fairly quiet. Shells falling near by in La Vantie and field around us. Woke up to find ourselves covered with snow. This makes two mornings following. Afternoon went for a bath to Estaires. Passed through La Vantie. Had a chat with Willie Mann and Lent(?) very pleased to meet old pals.

20th Fine weather, like summer. Pretty quiet. Had to go up near trenches, to sandbag a farm, to be used by our section as a dressing station sniper at work narrow escape, but no one hit. Got back to billet about 130(?)

Sunday 21st

Fine day. Nothing exciting. Had an open air Church Service very impressive within sound of German guns which are trying to find our Artillery. Had a Parcel of Cocoa and Sardines and fags. Cocoa was very welcome.

22nd

Fine day. Nothing exciting. Went to Scots dressing station, very quiet there. I hear that we are going on the move tomorrow. 8th Royal Scots.

23rd March

Morning. Fine day. Changing lodgings again. but do not know where we are going.

3.30PM Marched to another quarter of Lagorgue through La Vantie every where in ruins.

24th

This billet is dry but very draughty. Everything fairly quiet We are now between La vantie &

6.30 went up to Sandbag dressing station, raining, uncomfortable job up to our eyes in mud and bullets flying about

Really tired out when we returned at about 2 AM

It is a very risky job as we are so near the trenches, just behind them, and with the Star shells it is as light as day snipers at work but we are returned safe.

Pte Stringer Reported Missing.

(Pte – Private)

25th

Up at 7.30

Had a route march for about an hour & half. Parade as usual 10 AM

6.30 Another march for about an hour & half. Nothing exciting.

26th

Same Routine as yesterday. Heard heavy rifle fire during the night Also shrapnels.

27th

Went to Estaires for boots. Disappointed to find that Yorks have shifted, only Canadians there now. They have just come from Fleur Baise.....

Stringer sentenced to 2 years Hard Labour Charge A to D.

(A to D – Attempting to Desert)

28th

Dry Cold Day

Pt Stringer Safe A?

Went for march at 7.30. Parade as usual 10 AM. Church service Voluntary at 4 o'clock. Good attendance. Parade at 6 o'clock. Marched to dressing station for Sandbagging Better conditions than last time roads marked by snipers, so that we walked across fields 4 men at a time, same coming back. Snipers firing at us while crossing fields coming back but although it is moonlight and as light as day bullets whistle over our heads, we are jolly glad to get clear of the field as there is no cover and it was here, so we are told, that a Major and four REs were shot by snipers yesterday. However all got back safely at about 11PM. While we were marching back we heard heavy Rifle fire and maxim fire, believe there is an attack on.

While sandbagging I went up in the loft there is no tiles left on the roof and I could see the trenches both ours **and** Germans. Big fire behind German trenches, don't know what it is.

(maxim – German Maxim Machine Gun / *Maschinengewehr* [19]08)

29th

Lovely Day

Parade 7.30

Route March.

Rumors that 1000 Germans were captured last night, near where we were sandbagging, would not be surprised if it were true, for we heard an attack while marching back last night. Parade 11.20AM drill for half an hour.

Heard Bishop of London at Estaires. C. at 6.45

Tuesday 30

Splendid day. Route March as usual.

7.30 to 8.30AM

10.30 Parade (orders for day)

11.30 to 12AM Drill

6PM March 6 to 7.45

Wednesday 31

Parade 7.30

March as usual

Parade 10.30 for orders

Drill 11 to 11.30

Parade at 6PM

Went sandbagging dressing station

All correct

Got back to Billet at about 11PM

Thursday 1st April

Route March 10.30AM to 3.30 enjoyed the march. Passed through several villages & towns I had not seen before. Such as Ville Chappale.

March ??? in Ville Chappelle

Saw Sgt. G. Osborne's Grave. Killed in April.

(Sgt. – Sergeant)

Good Friday 2 April

Fine Day.

7.30 march

10.30 Parade for orders

11.30 Drill to 12.AM

PM 4.30 to 6.30 March

Church Service 7.30

3rd April

Saturday

Parade 7.30 (orders)

“ 9.30 for baths at 10 Sub(?) Estaires

Back to Billet 4PM

Now Raining Slightly

Parade 6.30

Too wet for marching

4th April

6.30

Parade 7.30

March 7.30 – 8.30

Parade 10. For Orders

10.30 Drill – 11 oclock

6.30 march.

5th April

6.30

Parade 7.30

March 7.30 to 8.30

Parade 10.

March 7.30

6th April

Usual Routine

???? that Billet which we had been sandbagging had been wrecked. 4 shells in 3 rooms.

Usual Routine from April 4th to 24th

Our Officer Commanding awarded DSO

25th

Wrote to Harry, Tot PC. Letter from E.F.T

26th

Letter to Tot. Hiliary. PC to Elsie Mable. Orders to stand to. Blanket taken away.

Standing to. Afterwards heard of Gas attack Disasterous for Canadians.

Orders to move. Longest march I have done up to now. La Vantie to Merris.

Flying Column.

2nd Green Howards in Front, just ahead of us.

27th

Up at 6. AM

Roll call 6.30

Parade 10.30

Marching Order

28th

Up 6AM

Roll Call 6.30

Parade M.O. 10.30

29th

Up 6AM

Roll Call 6.30

Parade M.O. 10.30

Route March 3.35PM to 7.30 (PM)

Saturday May 1st

Sunday 2

6.30

Church Parade 10.30

In a field with RWF

Monday 3rd May

????? March 7.30A. 11.30

Tuesday 4th May

Parade 6.30

Sports in Afternoon

Fourth in the 100 yds trial. Also run in C Section Relay race

May 5th

Merris

Up at 6.30AM

Parade 10.30AM

Left Merris 10.30AM

Arrived Estaires 2.45AM all whistling to keep ourselves awake very tired.

May 6th

Arrived at Estaires

Went to bed 3.15AM

Up at 6

Duties at Hospital

7th

On duty at Hospital

Under orders for Trenches

Postponed for 24 hours

8th

Mer Flur Baix(?)

On Duty at Hospital

Morning

Over coats and blankets taken from us.

Left for Dressing Station at 8PM

Arrived at 9PM

Slept in fowl house.

Sunday 9th May

Up at 5AM. Fine dry day.

Now in trenches with RWF reported capture of 2 lines of trenches. Now 7.30AM.

Carrying all day. V. busy helping 24th FA.

Slept in Fowl House.

Monday 10th

Up at 4 o'clock.

Still in Reserve.

Reserve Trenches move back owing to Airoplain having taken our position.

2.30PM Marched to Vin Estaires

2AM French Barracks

Tuesday 11th

Up at 7AM

Met Bougourd & Browning ? chaps from Guernsey in 21st Fld Amb.

2.50PM march through town. Splendid place to Hospital (Big Ladies College).

Wed 12th

5AM

Parade 7AM for duties in Hospital.

Guard 4 o'clock.

On from 6 – 8 AM & 12 to 2AM on ??

Thurs 13th

Guard. On from 6 – 8 & 12 – 2. Allowed out for 2 hours 6 to 8 PM. Had a good look around, walked sharp Fine buildings Quaint Church 1 Belfry ????? Road I passed through Victor Hugo Bulvord. Bought Dainties(?) Tin of Salmon & Bread Butter with T(?) Brown (killed 3 days later).

Friday 14th

Shells fell quite near us during the night.

Killed 4 women and children just up the street.

Up on parade 6. AM

Duty in Hospital in Dispensary, preperas(?) respirators. B. Carbonate of Soda.

Standing to. Not allowed out PM.

(.....respirators. B. Carbonate of Soda – reference to one of the earliest British respirators used to combat the new threat of German chlorine gas attacks in the trenches during WW1. The British Army Black Veil Respirator was a wide fabric pouch containing wool which was crudely tied over the mouth and nose. The wool was impregnated with chemicals like Sodium Carbonate, Sodium Hyposulphite and Glycerine. It had to be wet in order for the chemicals to absorb any of the poisonous gas and prevent it being breathed in by the soldier. It was often worn with a separate pair of goggles to protect the eyes).

Saturday 15th

Duty 6AM to 11AM in Hospital

Orders to take rest

3PM Filling blankets with straw for bedding for patients.

156 beds in our room.

8.30PM marching away arrived at First Aid Post at Richborge about 12 PM got down to it 1AM
Patients arrived 2AM

Sunday 16

Festubert

First Patient Lt. Stewart RAMC Shot in leg, and Yorks. On duty in Hospital, very busy time of it
Hundreds of wounded worked all day without stop at all.

Collected from trenches in Afternoon & Evening. Very dangerous. F(?) Brown killed near trenches.
Morning.

Afternoon. Had terribly narrow escapes all along(?) the roads from shrapnel. As I was engaged
carrying a man on stretcher we all had very narrow escape, shells falling near us all the time. The
Germans can see us quite distinctly and it really seems as if they were trying to knock us over, for as
we come along each shell draws nearer, when we were within a 100 yds of F Aid Post one burst and
we had to crowd down, we were covered with flying earth & stones. We quickly got up on the way
again when another shell came right up by us, but I am sure we owe our lives to the shell not
bursting, we had been carrying the stretcher on our shoulder, at last when 50 yds from Billid(?) we
could stand it no longer so we lowered the stretcher, each holding handle and run for it. We had just
reached and handed our patient over to doctor when a shell fell just outside among a crowd of our
own chaps wounding about 14(?) and killing four. It was the most terrible sight a man could see. I
hear moaning & shoutes so I ran out to them. I shall never forget the sight, its too awfull to describe.
Went up to trenches again carrying all night. Felt terribly shaken & tired.
Lie down for not more than an hour.

(Billid – Billet, a lodging where soldiers were temporarily housed)

Monday 17

3.AM Collecting again. No time for food or wash first patient a German big fellow. I really felt quite
knocked up could hardly walk for want of food & rest. He could speak a bit of English Although a
German I felt sorry for him, he was badly wounded, gave him a drink said he had nothing to eat for 2
days gave him bit of bread he could not thank me enough he was so surprised he gave me a button.
We were relieved at about 5 oclock PM. by the 21st Saw Bougourd. Went to Billit for rest in an open
barn at Rue de Bois. 6 oclock Saw Gurkas, ready for trenches

May Tuesday 18th

Resting. Feet and shoulders very sore. Had a sound sleep last night. Slept all day. Good news by
everyone. In the morning, went to the funeral of our chaps 3 RAMC and one A.S.C. attached to us.
Vergo(?), N(?)ailer, Stapelton RAMC, Jackson ASC all Ptes.

(Ptes - Privates)

Wednesday 19th

Had a Beef stew, first we have had for some time left for Bethune about 2.30. Arrived at Bethune,
orders to move again, packed up had tea, and marched to Lilliers arrived 7.30. Slept in loft over flour
mills.

Thursday 20th

Resting

Visited Lillers from 2?5

Friday 21st

Paraded at 12.30

Brgd General Lawford complimented us on our work of Sunday and Monday for discipline and Gallantry under heavy shell fire. Thanks bearers for devotion to 22 Brigade through the Campaign. We do not think so much of what we have done, we only did our best. But we are proud of being recognised by Brg Ge Lawford 22 Brigade. Mounted night duty 8.PM.

Met Cpl Bott of A.S.C. managed a chat for few minutes, he is not from here.

(Brgd – Brigadier)

(Cpl – Corporal)

Saturday 22nd

Heard news of Mily Volins(?) for war. greatly excited. Jolly handy hear for papers receive this only 1 day old.

11.30

Parade in marching order

Squads Reinforced.

Mounted night duty 8PM

In town from 5 to 8PM

Had one case brought in during the night. We have heard a Big Battle going on day and night from the direction of

Whit Sunday 23rd May

Church parade 9.30 in the open.

New Chaplain, Rev Peel(?)

Having been wounded in our last attack it is said while the WP(?) were charging he was running up with them waving his stick. The chief cry at this charge was. Remember the Lusitania Boys.

Wht Monday 24th

Night Duty in Ward

Tuesday 25th

Night Duty Ward

Parade, 11th(?) Stretcher work.

Very warm weather this week.

Tuesday 25th May

Parade Drill Order

Town 5 to 8PM

11PM Night Duty

Wed. 26th

Parade 11 o'clock

Drill

Town 5 to 8. Swimming Baths

Night Duty

Thurs 27th

Inspection by General Joffre G.C. Allied Forces 2.30PM

Night Duty

Friday 28

Parade 11.30

Night Duty

Saturday 29

Town 5 to 8

Night Duty

Sunday 30

Night Duty

31 Monday

Town 5 to 8

Night Duty

Tues 1st June

Night Duty

Wed. 2nd June

Marched to Robeck about 8K. School. Small Village. On gard 4 to 8PM

3rd June Th

Gard 4AM – 8.

4th June Friday

Bathes in Canal

Saturday 5th

Run(?) 6.30AM

7.20 Baths

2PM Route M
5-6.30

6 Sunday
Dressing Station Givenchy
Shell Falling near

June Monday 7th
Advanced dressing station.
Villages in ruins
Big fire over German side 8.45 to 11.30

Tuesday 9th
75s deafening all the afternoon & Thunderstorm.
75s ???ing(?)

Wed 9th
Collected at Dr St 5.30AM

(Dr St. – Dressing Station)

Thursday 10th
Collected at Dr Stn 6.30AM had been sleeping in Barn simpley roof over us, woke up to find that the place was flooded, Raining very hard. Every thing very wet.

(Dr Stn. – Dressing Station).

Friday 11th
With squad up at Royal Scots (8th) Dressing Station. Cpl Angus Rescues Lt. Martin during the night (VC) R Scots.

Saturday 12th
Left Scots Dr Stn 8.3 AM
Mounted Gard 4 PM at our own Dr Stn.

(Dr Stn - Dressing Station)

Sunday 13th
On Gard
Collection from Scots 8.30PM

Monday 14th
Moveing day.
Up at 4.30AM. Sandbaged First Aid Post 4.30 to 8.30AM

Saw Yorks pass just before we moved off from Dr Stn. Saw W. Man(?) and had a word with several I knew, they relieved our Brigade
had a two hour march to Hinges Billited in Barn for the night.
(Dr Stn. - Dressing Station).

Tuesday 5th
Left Hinges 8.45AM
Billited in Barn at Beth(une)
Bathing Parade 2.30PM

Wednesday
Bethune. Bathing in Canal.

17 Thursday
Bathed 10AM – 3PM
Left at 6PM for the line. Reserve. Shells falling near billit. Squads called out for Advanced Dr Stn.
Nothing doing, but heavy firing. Returned at 7.30PM on 18th

(Dr Stn. - Dressing Station)

18 Fri
Gard
Parade as usual 10AM

19 Sat
Parade 10AM
Left for Farm near Hinges at 6.30PM

20 Sun
Narrow escape from drowning trying to help another fellow.
Church Service 8PM

21 Monday
Marched to Robecq for di???????? in kit

22 Tuesday
Left for Givenchy 2.30AM

Wednesday 23
Collected 6.30AM & 8.45 (PM)

24 Thursday
“ “ “

25th

Collected 6.30AM

“ 8.45PM

Ditto up to 30th

30th

With Squad up at First Aid Post

Trenches at 8.30PM

Roads utterly wrecked.

Willow Rd. the worst I've seen still job carrying

11.30 Sniper firing across road quite near. Returned to Dr Stn. 8PM

(Dr Stn. – Dressing Station)

1st July

Marched to ?? H via Bethune & Lilliers stiff march, full order, about 18 miles.

2nd July

Roll call 6.30AM

Parade 8 & 10 AM

Marching order 2PM

Respirator 8.15

3rd July

Run 6.30AM

Parade 8 & 10

March 5.PM

Resp. 8.15

4th Sunday

Parade 6.30. 8. 10.AM

Church 7.45 PM.

Resp. 8.

July 5th Monday

Parade 6.30. 9. AM

2. 5PM Route March.

6th & 7th Tues

Parade 6.30. 9. AM

2. 5PM Route March.

8th Thursday

Lined road for Lord Kitchner & Prince of Wales. 10AM

Friday 9th

Parade AM 6.30 9

PM 2

10.7.15 Saturday 10 July

Parade as usual

Sunday 11.7.15

Roll call

Church 5PM

12 Monday

To wet for run 6.30

March 10 to 11AM

Marching Order Parade 2 PM

13th Tuesday

Parade as usual but no Route March. Moving tomorrow.

14 Wednesday

Parade 4.45

Marched off 8AM

Arrived at Ville Chapple at about 2.20

Saw Guernsey RGA and John Moody(?) RE

Saw ?? of La mare from the Forest. Killed soon afterwards.

Gard 4PM

15 Thursday

On Gard.

Friday 16th

Running 6.30

Parade 10AM

Sat 17th

Running 6.30

Parade 10AM

Sun 18th

Church service 9.30

Monday 19th

Duty Officers Mess 8 AM

Parade 7.45 PM

Tuesday

Parade.

Went up to trenches collecting. Very warm time. Rifle fire chiefly.

Wednesday

Parades at 6.30 10AM

Route march 4.30PM

Saw Adj. J.(?) Osbornes grave.

Thursday

Running Parade 6.30AM

Running Parade 10AM

Respirator 7.15PM

Ditto until 1st August

1st August

Marched to Bures(?) CCH

Canvas camp.

Parades 6.30AM, 2 & 8PM

Had a couple of Route Marches

Left Bures on 17th Aug.

Had had a nice time, cricket & football.

17th Aug

CBH

Marched to Bois de, near Hinges.

Bags of fatigues

30th August

Gard

Marched to Ham en etrais.

Bivouaced in Field surrounding church.

(Ham en etrais – Ham en Artois)

31st Aug

Transferred into C 4 Squad.

Comic(?) Cricket

3rd Sept.

Marched to Fouquet les Bethune

(Fouquet les Bethune - Fouquières les Béthune).

Friday 24th Sept.

Marched to F. Loos

Saturday morning 6 AM

Had splendid view of Attack, clear open ground. Saw gas for first time. Made fine advance. Had to carry wounded over tops of trenches very hard work owing to rain and shell holes. Had gas experience 1st time, Stightly(?), but unpleasant could easily dectict it my eyes felt it first. Not much shell fire compared with Fest? N. Chp. but they are using gas shells, snipers very busy, wounding several of our bearers but no one killed, we were very lucky as we were in the open all the time. Saw P of W Car wrecked. We carried from German Trenches (captured on 25) to Dug out (First Aid Post) then placed on trolleys and run them down to villiage o/f(?) then carried them to C. Villiage shelled during the night. while standing in doorway shell struck roof. Luckily only tipping it, smothering us with dirt. Came out of Action on the 30th at 2.30AM

Marched back to F Les Bethune Half(?) drowned.

(P of W – Prince of Wales)

(N. Chp. – probably Neuve Chapelle)

31st Oct

Shifted to Bethune until 18.

18th

Marched to Bures(?)

In Bures(?) until 24th Oct.

From Bures to Bethune

Went up to (near Windy Corner) for four days

Back to Annezin. Went up to Harley St.. Cambrin, three nights in succession, sandbagging 2 dug outs.

Nevill killed at Cambrin on 15 Nov. by shell. Left Annezin 5PM

5 Dec. and

Arrived at Amienois at 8.30 6th Dec.

Left Amienois 21st Dec.

Left for Leave

30 franks

Xmas Eve 24th No Grub left. Ambulance. Morning of 24th In Tent No blankets. Very Cold.

Xmas Day Train All day on Railway Carriages without Windows. Very Cold.

Havre French soldiers gave us coffee.

Xmas Day 25 On Board for Home.

Happy Xmas.

Had just three clear days at Home.
Left Home Jan. 1st.

DIARY END