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War Diary
of.

2nd Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers.
for.

July 1916.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Vol 22

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Field	July 1 st	12.15 AM	Ref. map 57 D.S.E 20,000 The Battalion passed the starting point East of BERTRANCOURT for the Assembly trenches
		2.50 AM	Battalion was "settled-in" in Assembly trenches at G.I.A
		7.20 AM	The 11 th Bde. attacked the German front line System. (See Operation Orders by Lt. Col. G.H.B. Greeth. C.M.G. D.S.O. dated 26/6/16)
		8 AM	Battalion moved out of Assembly trenches in Artillery formation. This being done everyone lay down and awaited further Orders.
		8.30 AM	Battalion advanced, directing flank moving at 50' a minute. Nothing retarded the advance until shortly after 9 AM when the head of the Battalion passed over the line of Vallards trench. Directly the small parties crossed the above line they became subject to heavy Artillery, machine gun and rifle fire. A particularly heavy barrage had to be passed through on ~~the~~ our front line and on all "No Man's Land". However the advance was still carried on, naturally faster than the 50' a minute

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Field.	July 1 st	9.15 AM	About 9.15 AM the Head of the Battalion crossed over our front line trench. The Casualties in Officers and O.R. were by then fairly numerous. About 9.45 AM. The front companies had reached the German third line of the ^{Front Line} German System. As it was impossible to advance further, owing to the entire lack of support on either flank ~~any~~ an attempt was made to consolidate the position. The advance then began to telescope. The front two companies and parts of the rear two collected in the German lines. The remainder collected in our old front line and fed the forward line as well as possible with bombs. Owing to the Germans not being entirely driven out of their front line the ground occupied by our troops closed in round the area of the Quadrilateral. This area was successfully held by means the use of grenades, Stokes mortar, machine guns, rifles and bayonets until the order was given to evacuate the position. About 11 AM the following morning.	

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	July 2 nd		The evacuation was carried out successfully and with few casualties. During the early hours of July 2nd the P.N. collected in the ~~ELLIS~~ ELLIS SQUARE trenches, and the 10% Reinforcement rejoined us. Salvage work commenced and collection and burial of the dead.	
	July 3 rd	7 AM	The Battalion moved back into Brigade Reserve in the Assembly trenches at 12.15. Companies reorganized and all deficiencies in necessities made up. Due to large movement of troops in rear of German lines being observed during the day it was expected that the Germans might make a counterattack.	
		11.30 PM	Consequently at 11.30 PM the Battalion moved up to defensive positions. A.B and D coy under Major Blencowe to the Fort HOYSTER position and C coy and HQ under Col. Greeth to a line West of the SUCRERIE. A quiet, but very wet night.	
	4 th		Stood to until 7 AM on morning of 4th.	

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	July			
	"	4pm	Rained Hard all day. Battalion left D.I. to relieve Royal Irish Fusiliers in the trenches on either side of the Roman Road. Casualties Nil.	
	"	5"	Artillery of both sides very active. Downing to one of our gas cylinders leaking Capt Ravenscroft, P. Riley and 2 OR. were admitted to Hospital suffering from the effects.	
	"	6"	Artillery active	
	"	7"	Our Artillery bombarded German lines to create a diversion so as to help an attack on our Right. Enemy replied with a heavy barrage on our front and reserve lines. P. Lawson, however, was received wounds from which he died on the 9th. 2 OR. killed 7 OR. wounded.	
	"	8"	Short bombardment of enemies trenches. Severe retaliation.	
	"	9"	Smoke Bomb discharge on Divisional front. Heavy barrage on our front line and reserve lines.	

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	July 9 th		300. Wounded. (See Order for Raid by Lt Col G.H.B. Smith C.M.G. D.S.O. attached). The Raid was ~~commenced~~ ^{commenced} as laid down in Order. A verbal order was given to the Officer in Charge that if by any sign the Germans made it obvious that they had discovered the Raiding Party then the party was to ~~advance~~ ^{at once} return to our own trenches. When a group arrived at the German barbed wire etc for was directed on the group, so Lt Waghorn who was in charge for finding that he was discovered turned the party round and crawled back. The Raid was successful in the way that it found how and in what strength the Germans were holding the remains of their front line. 1 O.R. wounded. Usual Artillery Activity. Relieved in the evening by the Hampshire Regiment. Casualties nil.	
	10 th			

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	July			
	4-10	unknown	Throughout this period in the trenches the weather was very bad. All trenches were from ankle to knee deep and in places waist deep. The accommodation was bad. Consequently it was very difficult to dry the clothes or socks of the men. On relief the Battalion ~~was~~ marched to Camp West of BERTRAMOUNT.	
	11		In Camp	
	12	2 p.m.	Gen CO inspected Battalion	
		5.30 p.m.	Lt. General Hunter Weston inspected and spoke to the Battalion. Reorganization and Company training.	
	12.16.17		Moved to camp in Sq. P. 17.6. (Horse B.C.D. way)	
			A Coy to AVONHILLERS Battalion in Brigade Reserve.	
	18.19.20		In Camp. Working Party of 2 Officers and 120 men found night to dig a new line in front of the present front line. 1 OR killed 2 OR wounded 1 OR missing.	
	21		Released by 7th Norfolk. Marched to VAUGHAN.	