

April 18th 1917.

18

"D" Company Diary from 8-4-17 to 16-4-17.
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The Company arrived in position along western side BETHUNE-ARRAS Road, between A.1.b.2.C, and A.1.b.1.8, approximately. (Ref. SPECIAL MAP "D") at 12 o'clock midnight, on night of 8th/9th. Weather disagreeable. Very cold and wet.

Received orders about noon on the 9th, to move forward and occupy the "P" Line, between ROSS STREET and CHASSERY. Arrived in position here about 1.30 p.m. During afternoon had three killed, and six wounded from shell fire. Men in open trench all night of 9th/10th., during a bad snow storm. On morning of 10th., found cover for men in branch of GOODMAN TUNNEL. Men very crowded, but under cover. On morning of 11th., whole Company on working party. At about 11.30 a.m., received orders to move up as soon as possible and relieve the 4th C.M.R. Sent out to cancel working party and the men did not get back from working party till about two p.m. I went forward with Lieut. Slack, and three N.C.Os. to arrange the relief. Saw Colonel Gordon of the 4th C.M.Rs., and returned to Company. Lieut. Slack and the N.C.Os. going out to take over the line. The 116th Bn. did not relieve is "P" Line till about 8.30 p.m., so relief of 4th C.M.R. was late, not being completed till about 8.30 p.m., so relief of 4th C.M.R. was late not being completed until about midnight of 11th/12th. The road up to line was in terrible condition and relief made in a snow storm. The trenches we took over, were in very bad shape, having been heavily shelled the whole afternoon of the 11th. We occupied the line from S.29.a.5-1/2.8-1/2 to S.29.b.0.4 (VIMY Sheet 36cm S.W. Ed. 8a), connecting up with 58th Canadian Battalion on left, and "B" Company on the right. At about 2 a.m. morning of the 12th., Cpl. Clark took a small patrol and went down road leading from cross roads S.29.b.15, as far as about S.29.b.3-1/2.9 and returned without having seen any signs of the enemy. About 11 a.m. on the same morning under cover of a patrol under Lieut. Slack, with Cpl. Clark and two other ranks, who pushed out to edge of wood, along road running from cross cross roads, S.29.b.15, through S.23.d.4.C, a post was established at S.29.b.1.8. The rest of day, we were heavily shelled till dark. During night of 12th/13th., a little shrapnel put over our position, on and off, during the night. On morning of 13th., Lieut. Slack and Cpl. Clark went through woods to eastern edge, and into the open beyond. They were there about one hour, finding no trace of enemy, and two deserted 5.9 guns. About 5.30 p.m. on afternoon of 13th., I received orders to advance through VIMY and take up an outpost position along railway track between T.13.d.5.5 and XXIX T.13.a.-1-1/2.1-1/2.

The Company moved off about 6.30 p.m. with No. 13 platoon, under Lieut. Goslett, as an advance guard. We occupied our position on the Railway, without encountering any opposition. We were in touch with "C" Company on right, and "B" Company on left. About 8 a.m., on morning of 14th., Lieut.