

# APPENDIX B

## WAR DIARY.

28

October 11th 1916.

Having received orders on the evening of the 7th October 1916, to go up to support the 43rd Can. Bn. in their attacks. I waited according to orders till almost 3 a.m., 8/10/16 for guides. I had 'phoned previous to 3 a.m., several times to our Battalion Headquarters re the guides, as I was anxious to get away. When the guides at last arrived, I left the Company with Lieut. Slack, with orders for them to bring them up to 43rd Headquarters and I then went up to report to 43rd Headquarters in COURCELLETTE. The Adjutant was there but only could tell me that I was to follow "D" Company 43rd. I asked him for a copy of their operation orders, but he had none for me. I then waited for my Company to come up, which they did about 3.20 a.m., We then proceeded up as far as Trench 22 where I found "D" Company 43rd. Bn. They did not know where I was to go, but suggested that I remain in the W. MIRAUMONT ROAD and then follow them when they went forward. They asked me what hour was zero hour, so on this account I decided not to wait for them but to push on, which I did as far as the trench which commences at R.24.a.0.2 and runs north to R.24.a.0.4, and there along VANCOUVER TRENCH. As this was empty, I told Lieutenant Slack to get the Company into it while I went to report to 43rd. Advanced Battalion Headquarters which was in a dugout on west side of Road just opposite the entrance to the above mentioned trench. I found the Officer Commanding 43rd Can. Bn. here and he gave me instructions that I was to remain as I was till their "D" Company left the jumping off trench, and then I was to go up and occupy the jumping off trench. I was to man this and await orders from him. If necessary, he said he would send up to reinforce their HER "D" Coy., who were to occupy REGINA TRENCH when their first three waves had left it, to advance further. It was 4.40 a.m. as I left the O.C. 43rd Battalion and therefore only had ten minutes to get the Company distributed. I hurried as much as possible, spread them out at about 2 yards. I had just about finished when the barrage started. From the times of the Riffs, I figured that "D" Coy. 43rd Bn. would vacate the jumping off trench about 5.10 a.m. I ordered the men to keep well down until 5.08 a.m. (about), At about 5.08 a.m. we started looking over to find out what "D" Coy. 43rd Bn. were doing. They still appeared to be a garrison in the jumping off trench so I stayed where I was. About 5.20 a.m., I received an order from the 43rd Bn. to man the trench and to hold where I was. By this time, I had lost nearly all the N.C.Os. and nearly one half the men, besides one Machine Gun was out of action and the other only had two men left of the crew. This left about 30 men with me and 9 Battalion Bombers. I then started to move over to cover the whole line when "D" Company of 43rd., came into the trench from direction of COURCELLETTE TRENCH. So, together with "D" Company 43rd., we occupied the trench and started to dig ourselves in. The trench was only about 1-1/2 to 2 ft. deep at the start and we were able to get it down to 3-1/2 ft. when we received an order from the 43rd. Battalion to stop digging and remain quiet. The jumping off trench was now occupied by the remains of "A", "B" and "C" Coys of the 43rd Bn. We remained in this trench all day under very heavy shellings. At night, "D" Coy. 43rd Bn. received orders to go up to occupy the jumping off trench and I was to care for and occupy the ~~jumping off trench~~ whole of VANCOUVER TRENCH. Later, I received orders to go up to relieve the jumping off trench but at same time, Major Chandler sent me orders to remain where I was and that he would let Bn. Headquarters know that we were still in VANCOUVER TRENCH. As my orders were that I was Under Major Chandler, I remained where I was.