

March 1918

1st Bn 5LI

War diary

George Denny

3.

1918.

Appendix.

March.

- 21st The German offensive began South of the SCARPE on a front of 56 miles. On our sector considerable shelling during day and night, many gas shells being used. Several direct hits on our front line. 2 men were killed and 3 wounded.
- 22nd A comparatively quiet day. Fire chiefly on back areas. Work continued on our trenches.
- 23rd From dawn we evacuated our front line. During the afternoon several inquisitive German patrols attempted to reach our line. About 2-30 p.m. a party of 12 with soft caps and white arm bands entered our line, but were immediately ejected, several believed to have been hit. Later one of our patrols saw a party of Germans making for our line. They were fired on and immediately scattered. Fairly quiet during the night.
- 24th Quiet day. The Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regt. in the front line. Relief carried out successfully. After the relief Battalion Headquarters and 3 Companies went into Reserve in STIRLING CAMP. "B" Company went back to PUDDING TRENCH, 3rd System. 1 casualty on the Transport, 1 horse killed.
- 25th Quiet day. "A" Company joined "B" Company in PUDDING TRENCH, 3rd System. Orders received at night to work on Army Line, just East of the Camp on both sides of the SCARPE. Dumps of S.A.A. etc. were made in this line, and at 5 a.m. 26th the line was manned. Battalion Headquarters moved into a dug-out in the embankment just North of the River.
- 26th Troops worked on Army Line. Breakfasts were issued while "Standing-to". "Stand-down" came through about 10 a.m. A pioneer battalion of the West Yorks Regt. came under the Command of Officer Commanding Battalion., and held the centre portion of the Army Line between "Light" and "C" Companies. In the afternoon 1 shell fell into the Camp and destroyed a hut occupied by the pioneer battalion. 16 men killed, 41 wounded.