

Account of Action
March 1918 by A C Cook

Diary of Lt Col A C Cook

1st Bn 5LI

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Museums Trust

(1918)

III

early attack on our front but nothing happened.

Mar. 28th. A heavy bombardment commenced about 3 a.m. gas shells being used, re-inforced by C. and Light Coys. about 5-30 a.m. The Germans attacked at 7-30 a.m. but were easily held in spite of their mass attacks. We inflicted terrible casualties but got off very lightly ourselves. Nightfall found the Btn. still holding on.

Mar. 29th. The Germans attacked again about 7 a.m. when they were reported to have occupied Stoke Trench which lies east of our trench, and were bombing their way down Camel which connected up Pudding Trench with Stoke Trench. A Pln. of A. Coy. under Lieut. P. Irince, successfully counter attacked across the open and re-captured Stoke Trench. 2/Lt. King and 27 other Ranks were wounded. Capt. Parsons was unfortunately killed whilst trying to bring in some wounded. Pudding Trench came in for some heavy shelling in the afternoon and our casualties were fairly heavy.

Mar. 30th. Heavy shelling again which went on all day, and our not too good trenches are looking very sad from direct hits.

Mar. 31st. Heavy shelling again to-day which seems to come from advanced batteries near Monchy.

April 1st. Was relieved by the Hampshires and then went forward and relieved the R.Bs. in the front line. Rain has made things very uncomfortable. My Coy. (B) are occupying Stoke Trench near the river Scarpe. No attack took place on our front although we came in for some frequent heavy shelling, which caused us much work repairing the trenches, but fortunately our casualties were light.

April 5th. Battalion relieved by the Hampshires and went back in reserve near Athies.

April 7th. No celebrations today. Relieved by the 10th Canadian Batta and marched to St. Laurent Blangy; from here we were conveyed in busses to "Y" Trenches near the Arras- St. Pol road.

April 8th. General clean up.