

Walter Gomm

August 1916

Somerset Light Infantry Diary

1916

August

9th  
(contd)

Total Casualties reached 12 officers (6 dead) & 150 O.R.

10th

C.O. to conference at Bde. H.Q. to meet Corps & Divisional Commanders to discuss the gas attack. Battn. was relieved at night by 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, 10th Brigade. Relief completed at 2 AM.

11th

Battn marched from Canal Bank to Elverdinghe, where Motor busses were met. "J" Camp reached about 5-30 A.M. Rested remainder of the day.

12th

A Hot day. Only quiet parades attempted, in order to avoid exhausting men & bringing out after effects of Gas poisoning. 10-30 P.M. a farm caught fire about 1 Mile from Camp. "C" Coy turned out & proceeded there to help. Nothing could be done for the farm, but the hops were saved. Unfortunately Capt. Waddy was hit on the head by a pole, and had to be evacuated.

13th

Church parade. A draft of 150 arrived, including 60 Hants Cyclists (T.F.) & 30 West Somerset Yeomanry. News received that the King was arriving tomorrow, & that the Battalion had been selected to find a guard of Honour of 1 officer & 100 O.Rs. at 4th Div. H.Q.

14th

About 11 A.M. Battn. was told that the King was not coming after all: he passed through Poperinghe, but did not come any nearer to camp. A draft of 80 arrived, a good many being Devons: nearly all had been out before.

15th

Some Showers. Ordinary Parades. Brigadier inspected 1st line Transport & afterwards came to the Camp.

16th

Ordinary Parades. A fine day, but cooler.

17th

G.O.C. 4th Division inspected the Battn in the morning.

18th

Ordinary Parades. Some rain in the morning.

19th

Ordinary Parades. Rain in the morning.

20th

Church Parade. At 5 P.M. C.O. Coy. Comms. etc. left in a Motor Bus to reconnoitre trenches in Hooge Sector, preparatory to taking over from the Canadians.