

July

1d).

International Sap was fired on with Trench Mortars and Machine Guns and had to cease work. Blanket wagons returned to Train today.

3rd

It was decided to have a small party working day and night on the new fire trench. The work to be done by sapping; as there was a lot of fire on a party extended across the open. Our guns were registering this afternoon; particularly the 9.2's on Fortin 17 and Ferme 14. About 7 p.m. the enemy commenced to retaliate with a very heavy bombardment with gas shells; the wind having shifted round to the North and slightly East. Our guns replied but did not silence the enemy, and from 7 to 9 there was a very heavy hostile bombardment. Some men were gassed and a few wounded. All the working parties arrived very late. 300 had been detailed. A large party being required for making steps against the parapets to enable men to get out of the trenches for the attack which we are shortly going to make. ~~The~~ ~~is~~ ~~today~~ The hostile sniping tonight was very heavy and the Territorial working parties would not face it; and this combined with their late arrival resulted in practically no work at all being done. Very hot day. 2/Lts. Edwards and Danbury joined the Bn. from West Ridings.

4th

Capt. Fleming went to Bde. Hdqrs. this morning to report the bad work done by our parties last night, and also to meet Col. Seymour to discuss final arrangements about the forthcoming attack. Our Howitzers bombarded an enemy sap this afternoon and practically destroyed it. It was then attacked by bombers of the Seaforths who found most of the garrison dead. The enemy retaliated vigorously for some hours. A party of 300 Northampton and 100 West