



# The War Diaries of Captain Oswald Felix Baerlein (MC)



**10<sup>th</sup> August 1914 to 19<sup>th</sup> November 1918**

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I

War Diary  
10/8/1914 - 17/5/1916  
ARMY BOOK 136.

Books

136

27







Handwritten notes in purple ink on a lined page. The text is highly stylized and illegible due to heavy scribbling and overlapping lines. Faintly visible words include "center" and "line".



1. left Woodwich  
 Arrived Rouen  
 left Rouen
2. Arrived Amiens  
 7. left Amiens  
 Arrived Rouen  
 9. left Rouen  
 Arrived le Plessis
14. left le Plessis  
 19. Arrived Villeneuve  
 23. left Villeneuve  
 Arrived le Plessis  
 32. left le Plessis  
 33. Arrived Bailloul  
 37. left Bailloul  
 38. Arrived le Plessis  
 left le Plessis  
 Arrived Hinges  
 31. left Hinges  
 40. Arrived le Plessis  
 42. left le Plessis  
 Arrived England  
 left London  
 Arrived Manchester  
 left Manchester
43. Arrived Fleet  
 left Fleet  
 Arrived Trowbridge  
 45. left Trowbridge  
 Arrived Havre  
 46. left Havre  
 Arrived Nianneg  
 54. left Nianneg  
 Arrived Long  
 left Long  
 Arrived Argœuvres  
 56. left Argœuvres  
 Arrived Bruay - les-Darours  
 62. left Bruay - les-Darours  
 Arrived Belloy - sur-Somme
66. left Belloy s/s.  
 Arrived Abbeville  
 67. left Abbeville  
 Arrived Valery s/s.  
 69. left Valery s/s  
 Arrived Verquin  
 71. left Verquin  
 Arrived Raimbart  
 73. left Raimbart  
 Arrived Enquin - St. Julien  
 73. left Enquin - St. Julien  
 Arrived Raimbart  
 74. left Raimbart  
 Arrived Noeux - les - Miniers  
 86. left Noeux - les - Miniers  
 87. Arrived Boulogne  
 left Boulogne  
 Arrived Manchester  
 Arrived Folkestone  
 88. left Folkestone  
 Arrived Boulogne  
 left Boulogne  
 Arrived Killers  
 89. left Killers  
 Arrived Estree Blanche  
 left Estree Blanche  
 Arrived Killers  
 92. left Killers  
 Arrived Fouquieres



21. 07/13 Baedem,  
ASC. (S.R.)

15. 07/13 Baedem  
ASC. (S.R.)

4/8/14 Mobilized with Adm. H. 1. Dept. 15<sup>th</sup> Divisional Train  
10/8/14 Had orders to leave Worwich. Destination unknown

## War Diary

1. Advanced H. 1. Dept.

2. 15<sup>th</sup> Reserve Park

3. 15<sup>th</sup> Divisional Train

11/8/14 Arrived Southampton 1 P.M. Left do. 2 A.M. on board ship.

Held up off I. J.W. Left I. J.W. 5 A.M., destination

unknown. Arrived Havre 11 A.M. Proceeded up river

to Rouen amidst great excitement. Arrived Rouen 4-30 P.M.

Disembarked & proceeded to quarters amidst immense

enthusiasm. Everything works smoothly. Have not

received horses or equipment as yet - i.e. weapons, harness etc.

12/8/14 A - easy day

13/8/14 Have taken charge of Officer's Press Laundry.

This necessitates frequent visits to the town. Am struck

by French amity, but after a time it becomes a

nuisance. Great interest taken in one's personal

appearance. Reason for England declaring war

doubtless appeals to French temperament.

14/8/14. At 8 A.M. told would probably move to - tomorrow

At 12 noon told would probably move at 5 P.M. to-day.

At 1 P.M. told would probably move to Amiens at

3 P.M. to-day. Still no horses or transport to look



after. Up till now have seen nothing of "ravages of war", except the lack of young men about, especially in the fields, where the harvest remains ungathered or uncut, left just as it is on order of mobilisation coming out. 10-day (D.O.S.) fallen sick. ~~...~~

Later. Departed Rouen 6-5 P.M., en route for Amiens. Evidently news of train arriving passed by telegraph from station to station as at every station were crowds on the platform. At Serqueux got wonderful reception. Large platform packed to suffocation. Children mounted on stools sang special verses to the tune of the Marseillaise, & choruses proper taken up by whole multitude. Effect magnificent. Showed with bouquets & signed P.O.s, with messages on them in English.

15/8/14 Slept this morning in Sch. Struck by French insubstantial arrangements. Company billeted late



by the "Hippodrome" raccourse. Went out  
buying Beer etc. all day.

16/8/14 At a moment's notice, sent to Hd. Qrs.  
& made local transport officer. This entails  
much work owing to lack of transport. Sgt.  
Gibbon detailed as my Sgt. Attended to transport  
of Mech. Trs. Depot. To-night am dosing down  
in Office. To-morrow hope to get billets

17/8/14 Requisition for removal of 150 tons of baggage for  
7<sup>th</sup> General Hospital received. Given 1 heavy motor lorry,  
5 French military double-horse wagons, 7 civilian  
double-horse wagons, 1 civilian single-horse wagon,  
1 military (English) double-horse wagon. Ordered to be  
ready at 5.30. All ready. Owing to delay on the  
part of Medical service, received no instructions  
as to where lorries to go to, although medical baggage  
partly ready. At 11 o'clock, after Staff-Colonel had  
spoken strongly to C.O. medical, instructions  
came down. One lorry taken before dejeuner. At



work all rest of day on this job.

18/8/14. Job finished by 10-45 A.M., in excellent time, since two days had been allotted for it. French military wagons dismissed, likewise English military wagon. French civilian wagons kept on. <sup>Hired</sup> motor lorry not used to-day.

Wagons kept busy with medical movements. Ordered to parade every day at 7 A.M., & remain till 6 P.M., until further notice. One wagon to be present always during meal times.

~~18/8/14. Job finished by 10-45 A.M., in excellent time, since two days had been allotted for it. French military wagons dismissed, likewise English military wagon. French civilian wagons kept on. Motor lorry not used to-day.~~

~~18/8/14. Job finished by 10-45 A.M., in excellent time, since two days had been allotted for it. French military wagons dismissed, likewise English military wagon. French civilian wagons kept on. Motor lorry not used to-day.~~ After dejeuner, only a few employed on odd jobs. Rest have nothing to do. Motor lorry used all night.

19/8/14. Only a few wagons used on odd jobs throughout the day. Not much to do. Motor lorry not used at P.O. all night, but used to meet ambulance train. Special cart detailed to P.O. for a period of four days. French arrangements to be made then.



20/8/14. Very slack day to-day. Everything seems to be on sound footing, & little need apparently for an Officer to take charge now. Hope to get shifted onto another job. Contract with civilian wagons expires to-day. Four to be retained. Two wagons necessary to handle at Ration stand every morning in addition to motor lorry.

later. All civilian transport cancelled. M.T. of 4<sup>th</sup> Div. Supply Column to be used in place of it until further notice. P.O. insisted on having motor wagon for night, much to our inconvenience, since cart specially ordered. In the end, never used motor transport required to meet 2-44 & 2-54 Ambulance trains. Stayed up for this. They arrived 21/8/14 after 5 A.M. Cleared by 6 A.M. Under instructions, were sorted in goods yard, instead of at hospital. Particularly futile, since delays transport & terrible for sufferers to wait on a cold morning for a whole hour at the station. Everything



so far worked smoothly as far as we are concerned, though likely to be a nasty mess amongst R.A.N.C. if a battle takes place immediately, or many sick arrive, since Stationary clearing houses not yet set up, though sent two days ago to Busigny. Now ordered elsewhere.

22/8/14. A lot of small jobs all day, but nothing much except that.

23/8/14. A Stationary Hospital arriving to-day at St. Roch station. 4<sup>th</sup> Divisional Supply Col. going to attend to it. Other jobs later in the day but expected that 4<sup>th</sup> Div. Supply col. will not be available, owing to its concentration preparatory to moving off. Hence quest for transport.

24/8/14 First of our wounded, & German wounded, arrive to-day. Germans hissed by populace.

To-day have 16 horse transport allotted to us. All busy. Somewhat of a nuisance in getting more transport, but believe can call upon two lots of M.T.



25/8/14. A quiet day without much incident. Have taken over a considerable number of transport. (civilian).

26/8/14. Certain amount of panic in the town. Crowded out with refugees. Gloomy outlook.

Later Have orders to move at any minute. Outlook appears very bad. Great anxiety noticeable in faces of the population.

27/8/14. Up at 4-30 to attend to transport of baggage of troops leaving Amiens. All to be out by 10 A.M.; a French Army Corps to come in. Ordered to parade at 8 A.M. at station. Left Amiens 12 noon. Arrived Rouen 7-30 P.M. Detained, & went to old quarters. Stayed at station to remove baggage. Staff Officer said would get transport as soon as possible. At 8-15 P.M. saw him again & he repeated his remark. At 9-15 P.M. saw other Staff Officer, who gave me some assistance & arranged that I should take first train to come in. This would have been arranged much earlier. At 10 P.M. got away.



28/8/14. After excitement & fatigue of past few days, great relief to get back to the peace of Rouen. Expect to get into billets to-night. Have resumed old duties of "mess President". Town crowded with Belgians. Much more hopeful outlook, as looks as if Germans will be hemmed in between Belgians on one side & British & French on the other. Have felt rather wretched to-day with a cold on my chest.

29/8/14. Felt alright again to-day. Orderly Officer for the day. Day passed without incident. Should mention that on night 28/29 about 70 men came in who had escaped from the Germans, nearly all A.S.C.. At about 11-30 P.M. a Staff Officer came in, & told me we would have to move off to-morrow, & should hold ourselves in readiness. Also had to temporarily take charge of the A.S.C. "refugees".

30/8/14. Have given orders at 6-15 A.M. to the Q.M.S. to be ready to move & also informed the C.O.  
Later have now received definite instructions



that we are to move to-night. Destination unknown. — Did not move after all to-night, but ordered to catch 8 A.M. Train to-morrow. Got this information about 10 P.M., & had been more or less standing by since 6 A.M.!

31/8/14. Got down to station at 8 A.M. Informed going to Le Mans. Entered 9 A.M. Train departed 11 A.M.

Got first class carriage, & took 7 days rations with us. Arrived Le Mans 4-30 A.M. Owing to number of refugees, some difficulty apparently in getting us away. Men & selves breakfasted in station. <sup>1/9/14</sup> left station 9 A.M., & marched to barracks. Uncertain whether had to remain, so stood by till 3 P.M. Then told would not move till next day.

2/9/14. Ordered to get up at 5-30 A.M. Received no instructions till 10 A.M., when Capt. Lucas ordered to go & find out re billets himself. At 11 A.M. returned. The Cloud, & Lts. Gale & Birch, with W.O. & other men doing transport work in town. Capt. Lucas went off



to billets with baggage party, & I moved men off, & marched them to billets in a school. First time I took command of company.

School small & none too sanitary, owing to latrines being in the middle of the small place, within 10 yards of cookhouse, & of men's quarters. School square also covered with sandy dust. Latrines were in a bad state, but sanitary squad did excellent work on them. However, hope we will not have to stay here for long, & therefore fear illness. No open ground near, & men more or less confined to barracks.

3/9/14. Capt. Lucas ordered into the town, & I left in charge. Expect this will happen a good deal. In the afternoon, on the suggestion of C.S.M. Korkeft, decided that men should be given <sup>Found large fields almost opposite school.</sup> semaphoric drill. Marched them off for an hour's drill at 5 P.M., & divided them into sections under competent instructors.

4/9/14. Order came down from C.O. that I was to go on night duty at the local Transport Office



in the station. In the morning, marched men off for an hour's drill in the field. Capt. Lucas & myself bought footballs etc. to keep men busy, as most of them still have nothing to do.

5/9/14. Slept all morning after night duty. Worked Capt. Luke to see if I could join him on another job. His job very footing & irregular.

6/9/14. Was with the company all afternoon. In the morning was on duty at L.T.O.

7/9/14. On duty all morning at L.T.O. Informed that Gale, Birch, & myself are to do this duty in turn, & Lucas is coming in to take his turn at night.

Arranged a football match this afternoon. No. 14 Coy A.S.C. v. R.E. Director of Works Troop. We won 3/1.

8/9/14. Am on duty to-night. Am getting fed to the teeth with this kind of life, with no chance of getting any distinction, & am longing to get to



the front.

9/9/14. Am once again happy, as I believe our camp is going to start, & that I am to be at the camp instead of an L.T.O. Six horses came in last night (draught horses) & are now picketed in the field. This is a start. Received instructions to bring up 40 R.F.A. to do fatigue work in the camp, which I have done. <sup>These turned out to be the famous "Bullseye" Battery.</sup> The site of the camp is chosen, & is in course of preparation. We are, apparently, going to have many artillerymen first reinforcements, & stragglers, to join us in the camp. A few wagons have been brought in from Maroc.

10/9/14. Capt. Lucas at Maroc all day, leaving me with the company. Very busy day. Have drawn nucleus of wagons for Depot, forage for horses etc. Personally arranged where to place wagons, & ground for horses, also arranged. All going on smoothly.



Later A. came in late at night, & said  
would probably have to move in a few days.  
Hence all surplus wagons have to be sent back  
to-morrow, leaving three only, as we have  
only six horses.

11/9/14. Still carrying on with arrangements in  
case remain, though surplus wagons sent  
back, in case go. Have had 50 H.T.  
details in to-day, to join us.

12/9/14. In morning, sent down to Lt. Boyce to do  
control work. Since I could not ride motor bike,  
retired. Gale went instead.

Quiet afternoon.

At about 6 P.M. warned by A. Armstrong to  
get ready to move off at once with small  
advance party to Villeneuve, where new base  
is to be formed. Lieut. Gale to go too, but to go  
by motor car, & meet me with party at Villeneuve.  
Took 2 Sgts, one Far Sgt, one Saddl Cpl, one Mtr. Cpl, one



1/40, 20 men (of which 2 are batmen). Told  
by W. Armstrong that Gale will probably run  
L. T., while I will find fields for camp for  
Depot, squat there, & make arrangements re  
billets, latrines, washing etc.; fix up a few  
horse lines, & lay out ground for depot, so  
that when he comes on with Coy. in a few  
days, all will be ready.

At 7-30 P.M. received orders to be at station  
at 9-45 P.M. Train to leave at 10-12 P.M., &  
to draw 4 days rations.

Sent Sgt. Gibbon with baggage party to  
draw rations at 8-45 P.M. Followed shortly after  
with party. Arrived all complete at 10 P.M.

[Should have mentioned that detachment was to be  
a self contained unit. Hence taken cooking  
materials, billeting materials etc etc.]

13/10/14 train left 12 midnight. Arrived Versailles  
8 A.M. detrained, as have to change for



Villeneuve. Told Train would leave for Villeneuve at 12-40 P.M., unless could get onto a supply train. Under these circumstances I ordered the party not to leave a certain area. I ordered breakfast etc. to be got ready.

Later in the morning I asked the sous-officier of the French guard to insist that all his men at the <sup>station</sup> gates to let none of our men out into the town. I should mention that there was another party of 50 ASC men going to the same destination as ourselves, under Lieut. King. He reported to me that they had looked like going [trouble, so he & I] joined in together. At about 10-30 we went for a stroll in the town. We saw three of our men, but they successfully bolted. We then realised that some of our men had got out into the town. On the way back I caught two of my men, & put them in arrest (Campbell & Reardon). Meanwhile Lieut. King had separated from me. He caught



another of my men in the town (Harvey). I had him put in arrest too. I then ordered Sgt. Gibbons to fall the men in. Meantime I went into the town, & caught many of Lieut. King's men, & <sup>handed</sup> gave them over to him. We searched the cafes by the station. We then spoke to the Officer of the French guard, & gave him to understand that none of our men were to be let out into the town.

I returned, & had the roll called. Three men (Walsh M, Fitzpatrick, & Cronin) were reported absent. I then addressed the men, & confined them to a certain portion of the platform, putting a guard at each end to prevent them roaming. I then returned to the town, & found the other three men in a cafe. I ordered them back, & had them put under arrest too.

Fitzpatrick asked leave to go to the latrine. Leave was given him. Meanwhile I told Lieut. King what I was doing with my men. He found



Fitzpatrick at the far end of the platform talking to some girls. The latrines were, as he knew, at the very near end, only a few yards from where we were. Lieut. King reported to me that he had ordered Fitzpatrick to return, & he had refused. I had Fitzpatrick put under close arrest. Lieut. King wrote on a piece of paper that he had found Fitzpatrick had broken his arrest, & that on being commanded by him to return, he refused. Fitzpatrick asked what he would be charged with & I told him  
① Being found outside the station without leave  
② Breaking his arrest ③ Refusing to obey an ~~order~~ order.

The men looked as though they would become troublesome, & likewise Lieut. King's party. However the train came in & we got away. We had to change again at Juvisy. We arrived there about 2-0 P.M. & were told we would



leave at 3-24 P.M. I had the men confined in a small place & a guard at each end. Crawney had been somewhat troublesome.

I had reason to suspect that the men had alcohol in their water bottles. I had an inspection & found alcohol in most. I thought it advisable to have this emptied out. Crawney was troublesome, & on speaking to him he did not seem to understand what was said to him, was confused in his talking, & was behaving in such a way that it was obvious he was drunk. He was very troublesome. I consulted my Sgts, who both said he was undoubtedly drunk. I had him placed under close arrest, & said he would be charged with being drunk. This seemed to have a good effect on the men, as they realised there was to be no nonsense. Under all circumstances I thought it would be advisable to let the <sup>other</sup> men off who were under arrest



as there were extenuating circumstances, & I really had my hands full with the others, & I felt I must make every effort to get all my men along alright. I therefore told these four that if their conduct was exemplary until we got into billets I would reconsider the question of letting them off with a caution.

We arrived at Villeneuve at about 4.15 P.M. I immediately went off to report myself & gave the Sgts. instructions to keep the men in a certain part of the platform.

On my return I was told that one man, Griffiths was absent. He had asked leave to go to the latrines & had never returned. A Cpl. was sent to find him, but he had completely disappeared.

I found Vicent Gale in the town, & he had gone off to look for billets. Shortly after this a Frenchman came to conduct me to the billets. Meantime I had received instructions from a Staff



Officers to send on Lieut. King's detachment to the  
Mater station. This I sent with Sgt. Gibbon.  
He stayed all night with the detachment, &  
returned next morning.

I reported the missing man to the Sgt. M.P.  
When we got into billets I had the two men in  
close arrest turned up for the night by the M.P.,  
& let off the men in open arrest.

14/9/14 Parade at 9 A.M. Addressed the men on the  
occurrences of yesterday. Shortly after, Griffiths  
brought in by M.P., having been found in a  
café — & handcuffed. I found a small  
cell for the prisoners. Had all three placed in it,  
under an armed guard.

Reported the charges to Lieut. Gale, who went off  
to consult a Colonel. On his return the three men  
were brought before him. Fitzpatrick sentenced  
to 7 days F.P. No. 2, Griffiths to 14 days No. 1,  
& Cooney to Field Court-Martial. Drove to A.P.M.



going away, have to punish men myself. Those  
men to remain in cell, as part of punishment  
for two men sentenced, because no other place to  
keep him for man awaiting G.M. The F.P. men  
to do all fatigues, & Griffiths in addition to be tied  
to a post for two hours daily.

Informed that will probably move out of this  
town shortly.

At night informed by Lieut. Gale that owing to  
difficulty in getting together a C.M. Company  
would probably be sentenced by a Staff Officer.

Had to supply a picket of 1 N.C.O. & 6 men for  
M.I. Park. Thus all men engaged on guard, picket,  
or police duty.

15/9/14 Easy morning. Received instructions from  
Lt. Gale to have Company sent down to be dealt  
with by the C.O.. Chl. Carmen & Dr. Carter sent  
down to be Mans with him, as escort. Easy  
afternoon. In evening a lot of refugees turned



up in my men's billets. I went to see the mayor about them, but he said he would do nothing, & if we didn't like it we must move. We accordingly moved to another cinema theatre at about 7 P.M.

16/9/14 New billets not up to much, as men live in a dark hall. Have obtained permission for them to play in an adjoining court if they desire it. Proprietor of theatre most kind. Gave the men a cinema show & his wife cooks for the Sqds. mess.

17/9/14. Told by Lieut. Gale that we might after all have to stay here, & found depot, so I am running round after a suitable ~~site~~ site. Capt. Lucas arrived here to-day. Has been ordered up to the front, to relieve another Captain there, who is to come down to take charge of No. 14 Company.

Later. Have up to present found no suitable



place for depot.

18/9/14. told no chance of advanced base coming up here.

A n easy day. Nothing to report. INCO. 26 miles farther on. Park.

19/9/14. At 8-15 A.M. heard. Gale told me I would have to return to the Plains by motor car in half-an-hour.

At 8-30 A.M. met Col. Boyce, who told me that he had brought me up to Villeneuve thinking that we should remain there for 48 hours, but that as our stay was indefinite, I should return to help Col. Armstrong, & come up later.

Arrived the Plains 5-30 P.M. Reported to Col. Armstrong. He is the only A.S.C. officer with the Depot, as Lieut. Birch is L.T.O., & Capt. Lucas has not yet been replaced. Col. Armstrong told me I would have to take Capt. Lucas' place until the relief arrives, etc.



attend to the interior economy & discipline  
of the Coy. etc.: Also to resume Ad duties of Pres  
President & to represent the Ab. when he is not  
here.

20/9/14. In the morning, went down to pick horses  
at the Remount Depot. Busy with routine in the  
afternoon.

21/9/14. Captain Alleyne arrived. In the  
morning was at the Remount Depot. In the afternoon  
& evening was busy loading to train, & unloading  
26 men, 25 waggon, 50 horses, for 1<sup>st</sup> Reserve Park.

22/9/14. A slackish day. Attended all stables as usual.

Availed myself of French hospitality in the evening, & dined  
in my billets. Many horses came in about 4.30 P.M. & were fitted out.

23/9/14. Had a parade of the horses in their harness this morning.

Afterwards took them for a trial march. Rest of day  
filled in with stables etc.:

24/9/14. Capt. Alleyne dividing up Depot into  
sections, & putting it on methodical basis. I am in



charge of "B" section, Hd. Qrs. Company, i.e.  
original No. 14. Coy. A.S.C. of artificers. I am, of  
course, orderly officer indefinitely, & hence attend all  
stables & inspect camp at 10-30 A.M. daily.

25/9/14. In the morning, fitting of harness etc.  
In the afternoon ordinary work. J.B. has now  
become similar to garrison town work, & is  
somewhat irksome, i.e. too cut & dried for active  
service. Hope to get off to the front. Found 3 guard absent.

26/9/14. Enquiry to be made into those of the guard  
being absent.

Later. Three men of picket absent remanded to  
be dealt with by C.O. Otherwise an ordinary  
day of routine.

27/9/14. Three men of picket remanded by C.O.  
for G.F.C.M. inspection by C.O. at 3 P.M. of  
all men, wagons, & horses. No horses drawn  
to-day (I think yesterday).

28/9/14. Three men of picket tried by G.F.C.M. All



Headed guilty.

In the evening 21 1<sup>st</sup> reinforcements turned up. To-day I went under canvas.

29/9/14. A customary morning. In the afternoon I disembarked 11 men, wagons, 522 horses sent complete from the Base. About 100 sent to 3 months no. F.P.

30/9/14. In the early morning, 25 G.S. wagons, 50 horses, 25 men sent to the front. Most of our light draught horses taken by the Artillery.

Heard to-day that although the big guns which were so much needed at the front had arrived they were found to be without sights.

1/10/14. A lot of fresh horses came in to-day. Very busy with ordinary routine of camp.

2/10/14. Busy all morning with routine work. Ditto afternoon.

3/10/14. A day of routine.

4/10/14. Heard to-day that would soon have a large consignment of different kinds of carts to be fitted up.



For blanket "trains", likewise heard that Govt. were  
buying 200 French vehicles, completely fitted with  
horses, - we had to store 100 of these here.

5/10/14. The first consignment of "blanket carts"  
arrived to-day from Havre, over 100 strong.

Busy all afternoon in getting them up from Epau.

Sent off 25 more G.S. waggons complete this  
evening. Had to leave some of the carts from  
Havre by the platform, to be fetched to-morrow.

6/10/14. Brought the last of the first detachment of  
carts up. Next to arrive to-day, last to-morrow.

Capt. Skilton sent with small party to Rouen to  
receive other 100 French vehicles, horsed. Went  
afternoon. In evening second detachment of carts arrived.

7/10/14. Cleared 2<sup>nd</sup> detachment of carts this  
morning. This afternoon 3<sup>rd</sup>. Last detachment  
has arrived. Cleared immediately.

8/10/14. Morning of routine. Afternoon ditto.  
Evening got inoculated against enteric.



9/10/14 Morning of routine. Felt rather ill, & very sore in my left arm, where I had been pricked. Slept in the afternoon.

10/10/14 Day of ordinary routine.

11/10/14 Do.

12/10/14 The Blanket party arrived - Lt. Heame with 154 horses & half that number of men, & Lt. Morris with 150 men. Latter to take over French carts & horses (150 former, 250 latter).

13/10/14 French carts & horses begin to arrive. Poor Lt. All harness of Lt. Heame's Lt taken away yesterday for Indian troops, & hence left stranded with no harness, & thus delivery of blanket carts delayed indefinitely.

14/10/14 An ordinary day of routine.

15/10/14 Took over entire charge of Sects 1, 2, 3, & 4, 160 men & 140 horses. Only 2 Sqts & 16 Officers N.C.O.s.

16/10/14 An ordinary day of routine.



17/10/14. An ordinary day of routine. 26 1/2 hrs.  
1<sup>st</sup> line transport ready to go to front with  
1<sup>st</sup> line vehicles at any minute. Lieut.  
Heave to go back to Maroc, Lieut. Birch to  
come up from L.T. Office to take over his  
detachment.

18/10/14. Sent away 26 1/2 hrs. 1<sup>st</sup> line transport.  
Was inoculated for second time.

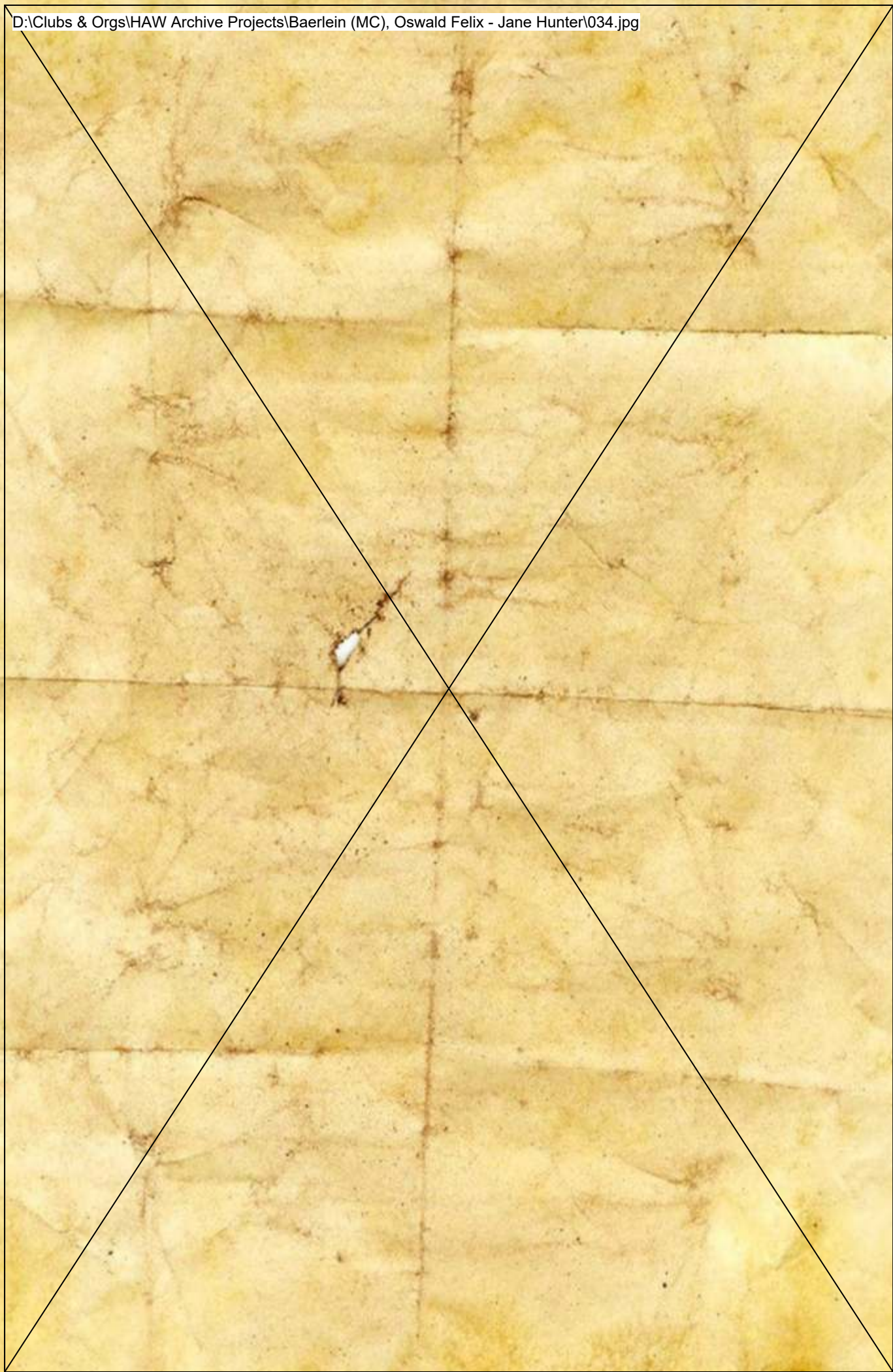
At night, before 12 midnight, Lt. Birch's  
section "raided" by about 6 civilians. Latter  
escaped. One was fired on, but missed  
being hit. Inquiry instituted.

19/10/14. A bit seedy to-day. Rode round for  
three hours paying isolated detachments.

20/10/14. In the morning had a parade &  
fetched wagons from Maroc. In afternoon  
drove over to Maroc in Campbell's car.

21/10/14. A bit of a cold on my chest to-day (22<sup>nd</sup>).  
Parade of 1<sup>st</sup> line vehicles in morning (23 1/2 hrs). All







24/10/14. Practically all havers in No. 1 Camp (Hd. Qrs.) harnessed up ready to leave with 1<sup>st</sup> line vehicles. A day of routine in my camp.

25/10/14. A day of ordinary routine. In afternoon, a "suspect" detained & spotted to me. I reported to C.O.. Suspect has home here, whether he was taken, but the French authorities are to be communicated with.

26/10/14. A day of ordinary routine. Orders Officer from to-morrow. One of my horses died to-day when on command at S.V.H.

27/10/14. Got covers for all carts, & turns-out reported complete by to-morrow.

28/10/14. A pouring wet day all day, & cold — the first real soaker we have had. Three mares in my camp slipped foals to-day — a record. Capt. Lucas is to rejoin at once — likewise 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Boxall. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Knight brought up 100 reinforcements from the rear, but returns to-morrow.



29/10/14. This afternoon paid out my men.

30/10/14. A day "sans incident".

31/10/14. Do.

1/11/14. I might note that my commando is the first lot of "troops" of Kitchener's Army to be sent to this country.

2/11/14. Suggested that perhaps my lot will be turned into hay casts.

3/11/14. At 11 A.M. told by C.O. that 60 casts, 60 men, & 96 horses would have to proceed at once to the front. Myself ordered to take company to railhead. This is at least a two days journey. Ordered to extrain my men in two portions, first at 3-30 P.M., second at 5-30 P.M.. 30 casts for 1<sup>st</sup> Corps, other 30 for Indian troops.

∴ left Le Havre 10-12 P.M. Accompanied to Boulogne by Censor.

4/11/14. At dawn arrived Liercée. There two men missed the train. Arrived Rouen 11-30 A.M.



Noone appeared, & did not dare to leave the train. At 1-30 P.M. found an R.T.O., who told me train would leave 3-5 P.M. First portion of train was for Indian Corps, second for 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps. Asked where train would split, but this was not known by R.T.O.

At 3 P.M. Train moved off without any notice. Found we had split in half, & as no notice was given, was unable to give parting instructions to N.C.O. of Indian Corps. Train halted a short way out. Curiously enough at this instant train arrived from Limerick with my men on board, who rejoined. Had a great fright. I had already wired Limerick to send them on to Redhead 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps.

Proceed now to Redhead 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Divisions.

5/1/44. Arrived St. Omer 6 A.M., via Boulogne & Calais. Sent on to Hazebrouck, where arrived 8 A.M. Aeroplanes flying about



continuously. 12-30 P.M. Still awaiting at Hazebrouck for orders of Staff. 1-15 P.M. Received orders from R.I.O. to dismount here, & at once proceed by road with carts, dropping half at Neteen for 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. & half at Bailloul for 5<sup>th</sup> Div. 2-30 P.M. Train hunted into siding, & R.I.O. took charge of disembarkation. Attention attracted by German aeroplane over French aviation camp. This fired at by quick fire & Mess. & French aeroplane went in pursuit. Interesting chase in mid act. This aeroplane brought down, I believe, at Bailloul, & found to be British pilot in disguised machine. Arriving to haste in disembarkation a half of R.I.O., one horse fell out of truck, but fortunately was pulled out without much damage being done.

Was just able to form up & march in correct order, & make out feeds for horses & men before dusk. Started on way in the dark. Much handicapped owing to having no horse & hence being unimpaired. N.C.O. likewise, & not very fresh & healthy. Proceeded very slowly, & continually halted, & passed word down to N.C.O. in rear if all right, & got reply in the affirmative. At 8 P.M. halted to water & feed horses.



4 mounted wagons, found two missing. Appeared that contrary to my  
instructions, two drivers in station had dismounted  
themselves a motor lorry. When when moved were late in starting,  
took wrong turning. After, the carts following decided rightly  
by bystanders, & shouted to two wrong carts, whom, they thought,  
lead & joined on in rear. When N:CO. in rear arrived carts  
out of sight, hence incorrect reports of "all correct". Mistake  
occurred solely through negligence of drivers. Carts labelled.  
Left messages along route in case carts proceeded. Arrived  
Nelson U.P.D., handed over section (two missing). Reported loss  
message sent to Hazebrough. Convey particularly difficult owing  
to thick mist that had settled. Arrived ~~at~~ <sup>Bailical</sup> 12 midnight. Searched  
for 5<sup>th</sup> Div. train without success. Found all 5<sup>th</sup> Div. Staffed  
Horses men done, hence halted in line, unhooked, &  
attached horses to carts & fed, & placed picket. By this time 1 A.M.  
About 3 A.M. went round picket, & discovered V. looks man  
who knew when 5<sup>th</sup> Div. train was situated. I therefore  
went to see this place, & at 5 A.M. had the horses harnessed up, &  
marched in. Am now awaiting orders when to return. Then is







were to be sent from Div. Staff as he had had no reply. Gathred then had been complications. It was sent off. Later went to Staff asked if I could beg written instructions from C.O. they replied if I received no further instructions till morning, I could return but thought there might be complications.

7/1/14. At 8 A.M. got on motor lorry at refilling point, to go to Railhead. Arrived 11 A.M. Tried to wire Indian Div. re Lpl. Viggins but again told wire too busy. Had wished to wire him to join train at Hazebrouck, i.e. if he had not been sent back sooner. I'd he would have doubtless been wired about already between Indian Div. & Le Mans if any difficulty. Left Railhead

5 P.M. (Verbal instructions to Lpl. Viggins were that he was to go to Railhead, <sup>with me</sup> then return Le Mans, but according to my instructions Railhead was ~~the same~~ the same for both). ~~Passed~~ Passed numbers of graves on way to Railhead. Passed many new graves, entrenched villages, & shelled buildings on way to railhead.

7/1/14. Returning Rouen via Amiens, then big detour via Montdidier, Beauvais → Serqueux, so as to escape broken viaduct on direct line. Pass many French transport parks en route.



Arrived Sotteville-les-Rouen 11 P.M. - Went to R.T.O., & found that if went to Le Mans by goods train would take 48 hours, & that quickest way was via Paris. Therefore got ticket via Paris.

9/10/14. Left Sotteville 5 A.M. Arrived St. Lazaire 9-30 A.M.

Left Montfermeuse 11-30 A.M., & arrived Le Mans 7-30 P.M.

Was fed all along this line by generosity of inhabitants.

10/11/14. Had just nicely settled down again when ordered at short notice to take up another train of French vehicles for same destination. This time am conducting Indian section personally. Kizzie all right again, & I rode her up to the extramurment. Left Le Mans 5-45 P.M.

11/11/14 We did not go into Rouen station to-day, but went straight through via Sotteville. Had an hour's wait there, & left at 8-30 A.M.

12/10/14. This N.E. France is a delightful country. Struck by peasants three-wheeled carts. All the roads are cobbled in the centre, & very bad. Inns here called "Estaminets". Arrived Hazebrouck 8 A.M. Left Hazebrouck 8-40 A.M. en route for Choques, with Indian contingent. II A.C.



contingent left at Hazebrouck. Arrived Choques  
10-30 A.M. - Detrained 2-30 P.M., but detrainment took  
long time owing to limited accommodation. Ordered  
by R.T.O. to take on <sup>detachments</sup> ~~trains~~ to Meerut & Lahore divisions.  
Capt. arrived to take over Meerut detachment. Meerut  
was at Hinges, Lahore at Estaires. Hinges about 2 1/2  
miles — Estaires 12, & Hinges on way. Hence went with whole  
detachment to Hinges. Arrived there 6 P.M.. Owing to  
darkness, & distance to go, decided to stay night.

<sup>13/12/14</sup>  
Proceeded at 7-30 A.M. Arrived Estaires 11 A.M., where handed  
over, & proceeded by M.T. straight back to Choques.  
Arrived 12-30 P.M., & boarded empty Supply train. Left  
Choques 7-30 P.M.

~~reference~~ Should mention that on journey to Estaires passed  
one village almost destroyed by shell fire. Also passed  
trenches cut ready for use. Nearly all churches on route  
had been shelled.  $\searrow$  by Bethune.

14/1/14. Going to Orleans via Boulogne, Creil etc. Had  
long stop at Amiens, where had tea & dinner. Here found  
Cpl. Clarke, & Cpl. Gardner, who had lost their train.



15/11/14. Arrived La Chappelle 5-30 A.M.. Did not leave till 9-30 A.M. Arrived Austerlitz 11 A.M. Train to leave 2-40 P.M. About 2-30 P.M. found could not get to the Maus before midday to-morrow if went on to Orleans. Accordingly changed over Montparnasse & caught 5-23 to the Maus.

16/11/14 Arrived Le Mans 1-30 A.M. left men at station till dawn, & walked up to billets. This morning ordered to take over Ad Hd. Qrs. section, as French Camp nearly closed. Have two subbattons under me.

17/11/14. One of the Subbattons (Belgium) arrived to-day. Day of routine. Hauled over the coals for being up later than 6 A.M. <sup>1 To-day a Sgt. reduced to the ranks for drunkenness. Had stripes cut off before whole depot.</sup>

18/11/14. A day of ordinary routine.

19/11/14. A day of ordinary routine.

20/11/14 A day of ordinary routine.

21/11/14 A day of ordinary routine.

22/11/14 A day of ordinary routine.

23/11/14. Orderly Offices to-day under new system. This afternoon was suddenly informed that had



been "selected" to return to England "for duty with the new formations".

24/11/14. A day of ordinary routine.

25/11/14. A day of ordinary routine.

26/11/14. A day of ordinary routine. <sup>Gilmour left for</sup> ~~Have~~ duty today.

27/11/14. To-day the Colonel left to inspect ground at Abbeville, whether depot is to move.

28/11/14. A day of ordinary routine.

29/11/14. Heard to-day that I am to proceed to England for duty with the new formations on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Further wire came in to effect that after relinquishing my duty here I must make my own arrangements for reporting to Base Command. Boulogne, <sup>on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup></sup> en route for London, where I am to report to the War Office.

30/11/14. A day of ordinary routine.

1/12/14. A day of ordinary routine.

2/12/14. Out to <sup>from Maroc</sup> all day to fetch wagons.

3/12/14. Out to <sup>from Maroc</sup> all day to fetch wagons. Due to leave this depot tomorrow.



4/12/14. Left Depot for Paris, departing Le Mans 3-25. Arrived Paris 7-30 P.M., & stayed in Hotel Terminus du Nord. Went to Olympia & Maxam's.

5/12/14. Left Paris 7-30 A.M. en route for Boulogne, where due 2 P.M. Arrived Abbeville 11-30 A.M., but then held up as accident further down the line. Discovered accident due to a collision of goods trains. Eventually left Abbeville 6 P.M. Arrived Boulogne 10-30 P.M., after passing accident, which was of interest. Stayed night in basement of hotel by the docks.

6/12/14. Embarked this morning on passenger boat at 10-45 A.M. Due to leave 11-30 A.M. Found that in all 100 A.S.C. officers are to return for new army, - a good lot of men. Arrived Folkestone 10 P.M., & was nearly ill. Great pleasure to be back in England. Proceeded to Town, & reported at War Office. Given leave till 11<sup>th</sup>. Stayed at N.L.C.

7/12/14 Proceeded home till 10/12/14. Left Manchester by 2-10 train. Ordered to proceed to 15<sup>th</sup> Reserve Park, Fleet, on



11<sup>th</sup> Spent evening at N.L.C. with Arthur & Coke.

11/12/14. Left Waterloo at 11-20 A.M. Arrived Fleet 12-45 P.M.

Reserve Park under Captain Neenan as O.C., with three other subalterns (1 full) - all temporary, & a month old. All men only, trained for a month, with no rifles as yet, & practically no horses.

12/12/14. Given charge of No. 4 section. Men I find extremely smart considering. Shall have to train them from almost the beginning.

13/12/14. Sunday. Nothing to do.

14/12/14. General Handon came down to inspect Park.

According to Capt., he was satisfied with what he saw.

15/12/14 — 23/12/14. Nothing of note.

23/12/14 — 28/12/14. Leave.

28/12/14 — 22/2/15. Nothing of note, except new

C.O. 27/1/15 — Major O'Flynn.

23/2/15. Left Fleet with Advance Party for Trowbridge.

2/4/15. Have taken more or less entire control



A equipment & clothing of this Park. Go frequently over to Tidworth to draw stores. Sometimes go by road, more frequently by train. Stay the night usually bivouacked. Once went to hedges hall for night. Expect to get out to the War again in mid May.

7/5/15. Promoted temporary lieutenant. Heavily

18/5/15. Promoted to permanent rank of lieutenant in S.R.

4/7/15. Phone message came to-day that "embarkation starts for France Wednesday". Presume this refers to us, 9th Division as such. Mobilization began

27/7/15. Heard definitely to-day that we are to go any time after August 1<sup>st</sup>.

28/7/15. To-day got 92 new horses from 18<sup>th</sup> Reserve Park, to make up our establishment.

29/7/15. Loaded Studebaker wagons to-day, to be sent back to Ordnance. Probably date of our departure 2/8/15.



30/7/15. It rid of 25 more H.D. to-day.

later. We are due out Sunday - Monday night & morning. My train is to leave 1-55 A.M.

Monday. Preparations till then.

1/8/15. Left Trowbridge Barracks 11-15 P.M. Small crowd gave us send off.

2/8/15. Left Trowbridge 1-30 A.M. Arrived Southampton at dawn. Proceeded on board Rethelam. Left Southampton 4-30 P.M.

3/8/15. After rough voyage, arrived Haere at dawn. Disembarked at 9-0 A.M., & proceeded to No. 2. Rest Camp, arriving midday. Forgot to mention that we came over in two ships, second one under Capt. Hanson. Latter did not get in till afternoon, & Hanson turned up about 6 P.M.

4/8/15. Morning in camp, finding out deficiencies.

Afternoon drew same from Ordnance at Docks.

Am struck by one or two changes in the French since last year. The soldiers are now marching in



step, & have given up their red breeches for a light blue suiting. The feeling between British & French seems to be one of suppression on both sides. "Allies are enemies united by a common danger." However, I don't desire to harp on this aspect.

In evening got orders to take command of No. 2 Troop for proceeding north.

5/8/15. Left camp at Samou at 7 A.M. Went straight to Supply Depot, & got wagons loaded with their freight. Arrived No. 5 Camp about midday. Was busy all afternoon & evening receiving the sections. Had Reveille 11-30 P.M. X Left

6/8/15. Left No. 5 Camp 3 A.M. Went to Gare des Marchandises, & entrained, & left Havre 8 A.M. Arrived Abbeville 7 P.M. Disentraining very difficult. Had finished 12 midnight, & moved out of station yard.

7/8/15. Had wagon in ditch on way to Rendezvous, but extricated it without any damage. Left



Rendezvous 4 A.M. for Lambercoast Camp at  
Mianmay, & arrived there after 9 1/2 Kilo. took at  
7 A.M. Had them to water & feed all horses, make  
extra-long by C.O. sending for a fatigue party  
of 50 men, & then being ordered to send them  
back again, having no real need of them. Then  
pitched up tents. All finished by about midday,  
men being dead beat.

8/8/15. Camp is very small. Mianmay is a tiny  
place with no Cafe's worthy of the name, or shops  
either. This to be our H.Q., & if wanted will  
work from here, otherwise God help us.

Find nearly all my friends in the Corps are in  
Abbeville, including C.O. & Ad. Company. C.O.  
won't let me go in, on pretext of might have  
something for me to do here. Informed that D.D.T.  
knows of the deadliness of existence for us, & if we  
do well when required has promised recognition  
for all of us.



To-day have been appointed "President of the Games Fund".

9/8/15 Went into Abbeville, & visited Ad Horse Transport Dept, now stationed there. Saw Stanley, & the elder Edgington, - also Hamilton of Tennis acquaintance. Took 80 francs off Stanley in 1/4 hour. Hope to be able to pay him back Sunday, when he may visit here.

10/8/15. Went on horse exercise round the country. Quite pretty, but wholly agricultural. Rather weary this evening as get up 5-0 every morning.

11/8/15. Took out wagons to-day, & did not experience any difficulties. Country distinctly tedious - pretty, but much of a mudness.

Heard from Rome. Turquet that British troops were again in le Mans. Hope there is no truth in this rumour. Outlook at present far from satisfactory.

12/8/15. Went into Abbeville. Came across Gale, who is now a Capt. with the Military Cross. Also came across chief clerk at Base Commandant's Office.



the last of the Ad crew left. Asked Gale if any chance of a move (he is assistant to D.D.I.), & he said that there was a tremendous amount of shifting at present, & did not expect I would have a prolonged stay here.

13/8/15. A Veterinary Officer arrived to-day, a Canadian by name MacDonald. He is staying with us, but is V.O. to 14<sup>th</sup> Path also.

14/8/15. To-day brought out the "Lambertcourt" tail-board supports. Fear nothing will come of it, though.

15/8/15. A day of rest - literally - Sunday.

16/8/15. Went into Abbotsville to-day. Took on bet with Hanson 5/3 against any four A.S.C. Officers being transferred within the next three weeks, & 3/1 against the Major in particular. Fully expect to lose both bets.

17/8/15. A day of routine - unrelieved.

18/8/15. To-day was on a Board of Inquiry at Abbotsville to enquire into the unfitness of supplies of various kinds



to be issued.

19/8/15. Wagons "drill" in morning. Slept in afternoon.

20/8/15. Went into Abbeville to-day. G. Adney, O.C. neighbouring Park, is getting a transfer. Wonder if same for our men is due.

21/8/15. To-day two of our men were absent from evening stables, & were later arrested by the R.M.P. drunk in the street. First trouble since landing in this country.

22/8/15. Sunday —

23/8/15. Went into Abbeville to-day.

24/8/15. Wagon "drill" — In evening I should have to prosecute to-morrow in case of Dodds & Marsden.

25/8/15. Found that Stanley was President of F.C.N. Have taken over entire supervision of men's feeding. Bought section Goat to-day.

26/8/15. Went into Abbeville to-day. handed A.H.D.



Goat a great success. Dobb & Marsden 28 days No. 1.

27/8/15. Aeroplane dropped a bomb near A.H.T.D. to-day, without doing any damage. Sgt. Groom returned drunk off Convoy in afternoon, when 1/2 of same. Fear he will get severe sentence.

28/8/15. Went into Abbeville to-day. Very hot. Wretched cold in my head.

29/8/15. Cold better to-day - Sunday.

30/8/15. ABBEVILLE to-day. Met Palmer to-day. Sgt. Groom remanded F.G.C.M.

31/8/15. ABBEVILLE again. Ald on return an junior member of F.A.P. to-morrow, & Finch is to prosecute.

1/9/15. F.C.M. on Groom to-day. My first as member of Court.

2/9/15. Hanson on F.C.M. to-day. Armstrong came round in afternoon - also Dodgson.

3/9/15. Into Abbeville to-day. A pouring wet day. Do not expect to remain here much longer, as ground



quite unfit for horses - dry soil, & a severe slope.  
Consequence after rain horses slipping down all  
over the place.

4/9/15. A wet day of no interest.

5/9/15. Sunday - walked to the N outant.

6/9/15. ABBEVILLE to-day.

7/9/15. ABBEVILLE to-day. Return to be rendered  
monthly of temporary officers considered fit by  
O.C.'s for promotion. Where do we come in?

8/9/15. Raced Joe against Tony to-day, with  
Hanson up. lost, though Joe made good  
effort, but star too big for him.

9/9/15. Ryder & Appleton got dead drunk  
to-day, with cognac I believe.

10/9/15. Magnon "dill" -

11/9/15. Abbeville - shall probably be stationed  
for winter alone in Lambercourt.

12/9/15. Sunday -

13/9/15. Decided that I am to billet with my



section alone, completed as a unit, at  
Lambert. Remainder of Company  
going to Cambon.

14/9/15. Heard that Major Stanley was going to  
take command of a new Blauket section. Went  
to see him & he said he would be very pleased  
to have me, & I should put in application through  
C.O. Saw Gale, who told me might be a chance.  
Wrote out application, but C.O. refused to forward  
it. Was going to see Stanley when message  
arrived from Base Comdnt. to my <sup>Path</sup> would have  
to move into 3<sup>rd</sup> Army area at short notice.  
Decided to let matter drop, therefore. Understand  
will probably go to Doullens. Herrah!

15/9/15. To-day Major went on leave. Heard of  
Newman's "resigning" his commission.

16/9/15. Abbeville —

17/9/15. Heard this morning that on Sunday we are  
to leave for Argennes, close to Amiens, by road —



stopping at Long for the night.

18/9/15. Major came back off leave to-day.

My section is to lead Park to-morrow. Got tents away, & slept in my clothes in the open.

19/9/15. Left LAMBERCOURT 7-00 A.M., too late in my opinion. Arrived LONG, when we halted for the night, at 4-30 P.M. During the road being perfectly level, rather unexpectedly had no stops. Found the road quite simple to make out.

20/9/15. Left LONG 7-A.M. Arrived ARGOUVES 4-P.M. Again road was flat, & had no difficulties. This trip was more interesting. Passed over a bridge which was only temporary, the other one having been blown up by the French in their retreat. Passed through Indian Cavalry Corps - reminded me of my experiences in Flanders. Found way rather difficult to make out.

Wagons are "billeted" in a wood, to hide them,



from aeroplanes! Men are sleeping in ten tents & under the wagons. Five of us are billeted in a big empty house. Fruit plentiful in the garden. Rather curious being in a furnished house again though furniture is distinctly poor, & all carpets are up. Possessors of house fled during retreat, leaving old man & wife as caretakers, & have not returned. Cows have beautiful buckers stable.

About 7 P.M. heard unofficially we are moving in a couple of days.

21/9/15. Slept like a top in a bed. We caught no hay, & tried to purchase some in village, but are cleared out. Heard definitely that we were going to Bressay-les-Daours to-morrow.

Eventually had to requisition hay, much to the people's annoyance. The Mayor seemed to me to be making a corner in hay, & then trying to hide it, so took 1000 lbs. out of him as a lesson. He was very annoyed.



Went into neighbouring village & found French transport there. Tried to get hold of officer, whom I was eventually led to & found playing cards with his sergeant & corporal!

22/9/15. Left Argennes 6 AM. Arrived Bussy-les-Daours about 11 A.M., After lunch went into Corbie to see about getting rations & also completing our iron rations etc. Was there directed to Querrieu, where 5<sup>th</sup> Corps Supply Co. was. Rode over - terribly hot - & found had to draw own rations from Méricourt - l' Abbé (5<sup>th</sup> Corps railhead) & probably had to draw iron rations from canal transport in Corbie. Rode over on motor bike to Méricourt, & tried to draw rations to-morrow morning. Arrived back about 8-30 P.M.. A heavy day.

23/9/15 Took convey to Méricourt for rations. Saw nothing exciting. The French are building a new line of trenches there. On returning, heard there had been two air fights over our camp. Men are all billeted in barns. Dropped gold stopping out of tooth, so shall have to go to Amiens to get it put back.



24/9/15. Went into Amiens to-day to have a tooth  
stuffed. Was sorry I could only stay for an hour or  
two. Nice to get into a town again.

25/9/15. A day "sans incident".

26/9/15. Good news of advance elsewhere along the line.  
Sunday.

27/9/15. Good news continues. Heard rumour  
to-night that we are to move Wednesday.

28/9/15. Rumour of yesterday unconfirmed. A day  
"sans incident".

29/9/15. Nothing doing.

30/9/15. Quiet. Curtis joined the Park to-day.

20 some officer will be going. Wonder who it will  
be!

1/10/15. No news.

2/10/15. Nothing doing!

3/10/15. Sunday

4/10/15. Nothing doing.

5/10/15. Nothing doing.



- 6/10/15. 22 to-day! —————
- 7/10/15. Heard to-day that the C.O. is to go to No. 2 (G.H.Q.) Ammunition Park. Shall be glad to see the last of him.
- 8/10/15. No incident, except that the Major intends to go on Monday.
- 9/10/15. Went into Amiens to-day to fix the Major's train. Was sorry not to be able to stay. It is a nice little town.
- 10/10/15. Sunday —————
- 11/10/15. Hanson is C.O. to-day, as Major goes. I am now "Adjutant", & am taking over H.Q. Section, & handing No. 2 Section over to Custis.
- 12/10/15. New duties most interesting.
- 13/10/15. Nothing doing. Heard rumour that we are to move South for the winter.
- 14/10/15. Nothing doing.
- 15/10/15. do. do.
- 16/10/15. " " S.S.M., CSM. 2 Sept. late in Parade



Ran 'em all up to C.O. In evening found a Ferrari roaring  
dround in the street, & had that a Ferrari N.C.O. in next.

17/10/15. Sunday — Nothing doing.

18/10/15. Nothing doing.

19/10/15. Received instructions to reconnoitre Belly-  
sur-Somme & Yzeux with a view to billeting  
our Park in one of these places, & to see if a Park  
could also be billeted in the other place. Went over  
on motor bike, & decided that 70% of a Park only  
could be billeted in former, & 30% only in latter  
place.

20/10/15. Result of reconnoitre sent through to D.D.S.O.

21/10/15. Nothing doing.

22/10/15. When I saw C.O. first thing, was shown two  
wires from D.D.S.O., first saying 13000 Iron Rations  
were to be delivered to-day at Longueau, & locality  
had to be reconnoitred in advance. Second wire  
which arrived at same time as first, but was  
despatched twenty minutes later, said that Rations



had to be delivered to-morrow instead of to-day, & that car was being sent to show Officer locality - of a place 6 1/2 miles away!

In afternoon wire came from O/C Supply Base Corbie, asking for ten G.S. wagons to-morrow for transport work. C.O. immediately wrote that six only were available. Shortly after, wire came from D.D.S. & T. that ten wagons were to be sent to Corbie & actually put in wire that route & place should be ascertained from O.C. 14<sup>th</sup> R.P.C.O. immediately sent motor cyclist to Corbie to say ten wagons would be sent - made full arrangements, which necessitated dumping two wagon loads. In evening wire came cancelling Iron Ration business & Corbie transport! Was ever such a muddle-headed H.Q. ever known?

Heard that we were giving up all our line of trenches, taking over from French this







No one came to rescue, so left it by road, & went on foot. Met with greatest kindness & assistance from Mayor of Yzeux, who is a sportsman.

Pushed by the 3 miles to Picquigny!!! There had to leave it with O.C. Lechnow Field Amb, as it had "seized". No Supply Depot here, & will probably have to fetch everything from Longpre. O.C. Amb. kind enough to run me in an Amb. to Amiens. There went to S.M.D. Cas. Clearing Hosp. to see if Amb. running in to Corbe. Now going, but was shown by M.O.s. when I could hire a car, & ran in on this to Bussy.

28/10/15. Busy packing up to-day. Heard of our first death, that of Dr. Childs, who died without regaining consciousness from a fractured skull, caused by a horsekick.

29/10/15. Left Bussy 10 AM. after taking two hours to pull wagons out of side of road. Halted at Angouevres at 1 P.M. for lunch. Arrived Bellay-



22nd-Somme 3-30 P.M. Trinch with Section went  
on & billeted in Yzeux. We parked wagons in  
Square, & camped horses for the night in a  
field, & proceeded to billet the men. Latter will  
billeted, officers do. Latter scattered over village.  
Captain, Doctor, & myself billeted at Chateau  
A Comtesse de la Rochefoucauld.

30/10/15. Billeted horses in town. Just got them  
in. Have not visited Yzeux yet. Called on  
Countess this afternoon. Dues Ad stick.

31/10/15. Went over to Yzeux to-day. No. 1 Section  
more comfortable there than we.

1/11/15. Found a suitable Officers Mess. Are now  
comfortably settled down, & prepared to remain  
here till next Spring.

2/11/15. A day of routine, but life is very pleasant  
& easy.

3/11/15. Nothing to note.

4/11/15. Went to Bozelles to-day to draw money. Found



it right up in the hills, head quarters of the 27<sup>th</sup> Div.  
5/11/15. Paying out all day either to our men or to  
French from whom we had requisitioned.

6/11/15. A day of routine. Finch at Yzeux. Old  
Artillery were coming in. Wonders if he will have to  
move.

7/11/15. Staff Officers came with Finch to say that  
latter would have to move out of Yzeux, as this  
village allotted to 38<sup>th</sup> Division. CO. refused to  
move without authority of D.D. S.O.T. Both  
communicated with him. Went to Vignacourt to-day.

Supply Column & Div. Train creaked  
through Belloy back to-day.

8/11/15. Visit from D.D. S.O.T. (M. Long) to-day.  
Seemed pleased with all he saw. Told us 12<sup>th</sup> Corps  
had left Army, & new Corps coming in. Said we  
would probably be moved further back to make  
room for these troops. To reconnoitre villages  
on other side of Somme, Finch to stay in Yzeux



pro. tempo. Battalion of Princess Patricia L.I.  
marched through to-day en route to Abbeville.

9/11/15. Reconnoitred Bourdon to-day. Found  
would easily hold a section. Also saw farm at  
St. Acaart, but would not hold many.

10/11/15. Nothing occurred worth mentioning.

11/11/15. do. do.

12/11/15. do. do.

13/11/15. Lt. Anderson came to relieve the P.O. while  
he goes on leave.

14/11/15. Heard to-day we are to move to St. Valery  
on the L. of C. Am going to reconnoitre same  
to-morrow.

15/11/15. Reconnoitred St. Valery & district. Found  
unsuitable for billeting a Reserve Park owing  
to billets being very scattered, & lack of good  
watering arrangements.

left for St. Valery in snowstorm, first snow  
of the year.



Found that Major L. H. Thornton was A. Q. M. G.  
at H. Q., I. G. C.!

16/11/15. Left for Boisimont on motorcycle in  
snowstorm, to meet representative of I. G. C., &  
V. O. then, as there were cases of stranglers  
there. After Flixecourt up in the hills, snow  
was so deep that as there was no necessity  
to go to Boisimont, decided to return.

Bateman went on leave to-day.

Got orders to proceed to Valery district on 18<sup>th</sup>

17/11/15. Busy getting money from Luverien, & paying  
out all day.

18/11/15. Park left Belloy about 9 AM. in frost.  
Roads very difficult. Personally left Conroy at  
Flixecourt, & proceeded on motor bike to Abbeville.  
Reported at H. Q., I. G. C., & received billeting  
instructions for Boisimont & Puchefelise. Also told  
that Lanchères would hold one section, & Pende &  
district another. Arranged for rations to be delivered



on 19<sup>th</sup> by motor bus, & also for H.Q. to be situated  
at Valley S/s. Proceeded on motor by the Valley,  
& told Nagor requirements. Slept night at Abbeville.  
19/11/15. Left Abbeville before dawn to billet Park in  
Valley district. Billeted H.Q. in Valley, No. 3 S.  
in Lanchères, No. 1. S. in Boismont - Pucellefleur.  
Arranged for billeting as much of No. 2. S. as possible  
in Peudé, remainder of horses to stay out for night.  
Met Park at Boismont about 3 P.M.

20/11/15. Went round billets of unit. All settling  
down nicely.

20/11/15. All settled down now over our area. To ride  
round is 25 Kilometres, & the CO. & I take all  
morning, & part of the afternoon to visit billets.

21/11/15. Lt. Col. Moore inspected to-day. Fairly satisfied  
with unit. Nothing of note occurred. Finish is being used  
as sort of Regulation Station. Ration wagons are  
sent in to him by Sections. He rehorses them, &  
sends them to Abbeville to draw supplies. On their



return he divides out these supplies between sections, & section horses, which have been resting all day, hook in again, & take wagons home.

23/11/15. Nothing of note occurred.

24/11/15. do, do.

25/11/15. Drew cart from Abbeville to-day.

26/11/15. Paged out sections all day.

27/11/15. Bateman returned to-day. Came back a Captain!

28/11/15. Anderson went back to 97<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance to-day. I motor-cycled to Belloy & Bussy to settle claims. Passed division on the track between Abbeville & Flixecourt. Believe was 36<sup>th</sup> Division.

29/11/15. A day of routine.

30/11/15. Moved out of Hotel into Villa des Roses.

1/12/15. To-day saw one of the most disgusting sights I have ever seen in France. A woman in a busy roadway relieved herself by the side of the road.



as we rode up, wiped her bottom with her  
petticoat, got up, & began to redress herself.  
Probable outbreak of Rouge in the Park to-day!  
Efficient. All day arrived this evening. Later orders  
received for me to go to XV<sup>th</sup> Div. Train. Am off  
to-morrow.

2/2/15 left St. Valery 8 A.M. Dreadfully sorry  
to leave everyone. Arrived Abbeville 10-30 A.M.  
old could not leave till 2-17 A.M. on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Got Movement Orders from Base Commandant.  
Trained to Etaples, reaching there 4 P.M. Got  
ticket from R.T.O. for Noeux-les-Pines. Arrived  
St. P. 8-P.M.. Remained in Railway carriage for  
night.

3/12/15. left St. P. 4 A.M., arriving Bethune  
6-30 A.M.. left Bethune in French "train de  
marchandise", & reached Noeux-les-Pines 7-30 A.M.  
Went to Verquin on motor lorry, & reported to OC.  
15<sup>th</sup> Div. Train; who turned out to be Lieut. Col.



Johnson. I have been "attached" to No. 5 Sect.  
of H. Q. Coy., & treated like an infant.

4/12/15. Went to Refilling Point to-day. Then  
visited Saily-labourse, & went down main  
road to Noyelles, & saw numbers of shell holes.  
Later went into Bethune. Wonderful town, absolutely  
devoted to soldiers.

5/12/15. Orderly Officer. Fairly miserable. Nothing to note.

6/12/15. This morning went to Philoche & Nazingabe.  
In former place gun went off quite close to me. Saw  
Yermelles a mass of ruins. Any amount of dug-  
outs etc... Most interesting morning.

In afternoon went to Bethune.

Baggage section in view. Admirable prospect!

7/12/15. Aeroplanes get continually shelled. Most  
interesting to watch. Men returning continually from  
trenches by motor bus. Also most interesting.

8/12/15. Nothing of note to report.

9/12/15. Went up to Noyelles with Stuart to-day. Curious



meeting him. Guns firing continually close by. Shells could be heard whizzing through the air. Thirteen in the village yesterday - two town boys being killed.

10/12/15. Met Snow to-day, who recognised me. Dull day. Burton posted to a Coy. Poor me left out in the cold.

11/12/15. Heard curious yarns about the 21<sup>st</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Divisions in "the advance". Nothing to report.

12/12/15. Dull day.

13/12/15. Up in Vermelles to-day. Anti-aircraft busy at Philoippe - German aeroplanes overhead. Took Adjutant's place this afternoon.

14/12/15. Dull day.

15/12/15. Nothing doing.

16/12/15. Tracked to-day back to Reimbert via Nalles-les-Nines. Arrived Reimbert at dusk. Got two shell cases from "B" Battery, 70<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

17/12/15. Out all day with straw convoy to Heudignies & back via Barbure. Very wet.



- 18/12/15. Detailed for Court-martial this afternoon.
- 19/12/15. Nothing to report — Colhard left on leave to-night, in the hopes of getting rid of his pyorrhea, & not leaving Train. Took over his job of 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of Coy, Q.P.M.C. Found good new Mess with electric light.
- 20/12/15. Nothing doing.
- 21/12/15. Went to Dentist in Killers to-day, to get tooth stopped. Bustard went on leave.
- 22/12/15. Fairly busy doing nothing in particular.
- 23/12/15. Sat on F.G.C.M. to-day.
- 24/12/15. Nothing doing.
- 25/12/15. Xmas day. Feeding —
- 26/12/15. Heard confidentially I was to take on Adjutant's duties during the present one's absence on leave.
- 27/12/15. Nothing doing.
- 28/12/15. do. do.
- 29/12/15. Rode to Labrousse for pay to-day, & got tooth filled at Killers. Capt. Colhard not yet



returned.

30/12/15. Capt. Collard reported as Absentee. Took over Adjutant's job to-night, pending Capt. Abbott's leave.

31/12/15. Busy with Adjutant's duties.

1/1/16. Chiefly occupied with Remounts.

2/1/16. Very busy with Routine.

3/1/16. More so — Preparing for Trek on 5<sup>th</sup>.

4/1/16. do. do.

5/1/16. Started off 8 A.M. Handed in 9 P.M. at Enqueni-St-Julien. Trekked through Lequedecques, Hieros & Auchy-au-Bois. Fine weather.

6/1/16. Remained at Enqueni-St-Julien all day.

7/1/16. Trekked back to Raisabert. Started about 9 A.M. Rode on with CO. after passing Auchy au Bois & got in about 2 P.M.

8/1/16. Nothing of note. Busy all day in office.

9/1/16. Abbotts has not turned up to-night.



10/1/16. Heard that Abbotts has been given three weeks extension of leave on account of dental trouble. Asked by C.O. to take on job for another three weeks. Delighted. Heard that Collard was also given three weeks extension of leave. We move to NOEUX LES MINES at end of week. Shall be glad to get up to front again.

11/1/16. Pretty busy. Nothing special to report.

12/1/16. C.O. told me to-day, much to my surprise, that he was going to make an application for my Captaincy.

13/1/16. First Company of Train moved up to-day.

14/1/16. Settling ready to go.

15/1/16. Left Reimbert about 10 A.M., go to Noeux les-Mines about 2 P.M.. Had great trouble in getting Train Office owing to Colonel of 13<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rifles being disagreeable.

16/1/16. Very busy day.

17/1/16. Settling down. Nothing doing.



18/1/16. Do.

19/1/16. Went up with CO. to inspect 1<sup>st</sup> line. Afterwards went up to Philosophie, & rode down Lualaba St. till we came into the open this side of the ridge, & saw lines & lines of trenches, but never a German. Weird & interesting. Returned through ruined Yemmelles & Nazunigarbe. In latter place got shelled with Shrapnell. Two fell ahead of us, one I think wounding a man about twenty yards in front. One fell just behind. Then as we moved on three more fell where we had been, & after leaving the village another three in the same place. Most interesting.

20/1/16. Nothing of any note to-day.

21/1/16. Went into Nazunigarbe again this <sup>afternoon</sup> ~~evening~~ to inspect 1<sup>st</sup> line transport. Saw it was being shelled before we went in, as could see the clouds of black smoke & hear the explosions. After we got in, two Jack Johnsons fell quite nearby. Three men



were standing at cross roads about 30 yds away, & ~~earth~~ bits of shell rained down on them. Casualties

one sparrow. No more shells fortunately fell afterwards. Horses most pathetic. Shelling distinctly unpleasant.

22/1/16. Colonel ~~the~~ <sup>went on leave this</sup> morning.

23/1/16. Nothing to note.

24/1/16. A Lt. of ours got killed in Nagaijaka yesterday.

25/1/16. A lot of German aeroplanes over Refilling to-day. Expect to get shelled there to-morrow.

26/1/16. Nothing of note. Abbott granted leave to 14/2/16.

27/1/16. Allan, the R.O., left the train to-day. A good job too.

28/1/16. Shelled in our billets to-day. Six!

Later. Ten came over altogether, but 4 were "duds".

No casualties: One shell nearly buried ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> ~~horses~~. Another smashed an out house & conservatory.

29/1/16. Nothing to note.

30/1/16. Ret. Bateman to-day. He is now R.O. to 7<sup>th</sup>



Cameron. In evening my recommendation for promotion was returned with note that S.R. only promoted according to seniority with regulars, & not by recommendation. Utter nonsense.

3/1/16. Nothing to note.

1/2/16. C.O. came back to-day. Buzzed back my recommendation with appropriate comments.

2/2/16. Got bombed to-day. Was in the Orderly Room at the time. Only one shock Orderly Room.

3/2/16. Nothing to date.

4/2/16. Greasely went rich to-day.

5/2/16. O'Hard came back to-day. Nothing else to note. Prosecuted in F.C.C.R.

6/2/16. Had most enjoyable ride this afternoon into French territory, & right up to the only hill in the district. Pretty little toy railway along the ridge, going up to trenches. Heard magnificent band in Coigny.



7/2/16. My recommendation returned again on absurd grounds.

Later. Recommendation buzzed back by CO.

8/2/16. Heard Skrapnel for the first time to-day when I went with CO. to Magnigarde they were shelling Le Brevis. Magnigarde has been made an awful mess of since I last saw it.

9/2/16. Aeroplanes over Noeux again to-day.

Will get over shelling, I expect. Grenade returned to-day.

10/2/16. Nothing of particular interest.

11/2/16. Present craze is "Gas attacks". We & the local inhabitants are making all sorts of preparations. At present we are "Gas alert".

12/2/16. Hewitt went on leave to-day.

13/2/16. Nothing to note.

14/2/16. Allen struck off strength to-day, as invalided to England.

15/2/16. Went up to trenches this evening with



Co. Arnold, & Robertson. Went up by car to Victoria  
Station. Walked with trolleys past old British  
line, & a few graves, & many shell holes to  
Posen Station. There trolley rail stops, & rations  
are taken along trenches by hand. Went  
into trenches, & visited support line. On the  
way back, guide told us might as well get  
out of trenches, which we did, & got sniped  
accordingly, one bullet passing just in  
front of us, one falling about 5 yards in  
rear of me. Then guide lost his way! After  
getting caught up in wire a little, got  
back to Posen station, & returned sans <sup>with</sup> ~~with~~  
Car broke down just before end of trip,  
owing to rear axle breaking.

16/2/16. Fearful wind to-day. Two chimneys  
fell down just in front of Train Office. One  
of our G.S. wagons blown over at refilling Drives  
sinkent, but wagon broken.



- 17/2/16. Nothing of interest to note. CO. on G.C.P.
- 18/2/16. Nothing to note.
- 19/2/16. Abbott returned to-day. Much to my surprise he was made R.O., & I was made a /Adj't.
- 20/2/16. CO. out at Mueskety to-day.
- 21/2/16. Was prosecuting a F.C.P. to-day. Another case. This afternoon our guns were heavily bombarding the German line. Jeds to go home.
- 22/2/16. Another F.C.P. to-day. N.C.O. found guilty of disobedience, & sentenced to — a Severe Reprimand! Jeds went to-day.
- 23/2/16. CO. told me to-night I could go on leave in two days. Hanna to take my place. <sup>Woolton came</sup> ~~Jeds went~~ to-day.
- 24/2/16. Arranged that I could go on leave to-day. <sup>Later</sup> All leave cancelled!
- 25/2/16. Seems to be plenty going on at present. Great fight, I believe, round Verdun. Said



to be Germany's last effort. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division  
has to-day moved into French territory,  
immediately on our right, & 7<sup>th</sup> also, I  
think. 1/4<sup>th</sup> Supplies are to leave us in two  
days time.

26/2/16. Cold — Nothing doing.

27/2/16. 7<sup>th</sup> Division has not moved up  
here.

28/2/16. F6-OT. on Sgt. CURTIS. Shelled this  
afternoon. Only heard one whizzing, but  
believe there came.

29/2/16. Rode over to see Neuchâtoy at GOSNAY.  
Saw many air fights. On returning met  
12<sup>th</sup> Division, which is supporting us in rear,  
I believe. On getting back to NOEUX saw  
two anti-aircraft shells which had fallen  
& partially embedded itself in the  
'pave'. Had not exploded. It could not  
be got out, but I believe was eventually



without casualty. Heard to-day that a big gun had moved up, to a new position behind our lines. If this is true we are in for some shelling.

While at GOSNAY I saw a German chased by three of our machines. After a fight he glided downwards. Heard later that he was in fact brought down in our lines.

1/3/16. To-day heard we are to be transferred from 4<sup>th</sup> Corps to 1<sup>st</sup> Corps, but that it will make no difference to our position. We are to form Corps with 1<sup>st</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup> Divisions. 47<sup>th</sup> Division are thus dropping out. We probably go to rest at Rainbolt about 20<sup>th</sup>.

1/3/16. A day sans "incident".

2/3/16. Beginning of Boxing Tournament.

3/3/16. Good fun in Boxing Show.

4/3/16. Great night at Boxing Tournament, finishing up. Sat with General's Staff.



5/3/16. Head out for rest for <sup>some time</sup> a few days.

6/3/16. Nothing doing.

7/3/16. Do.

8/3/16. Like a bolt from the blue, Col. Parker came down this afternoon with a Captain who had been working at Army Headquarters, & said he was to be over S.S.O. Arnold had already been appointed in Jech's place. Also this officer, Bustershaw, was junior to him. Neither the Co. nor the Division had been consulted. For pure effrontery this is the limit! Co. junior, a Division taking the matter up. Meantime Arnold carries on. Later. Fees has been granted 3 months sick leave, & is struck off the strength. Perhaps solution of difficulty will be for Bustershaw to be S.O. of Div. Troop Group.

9/3/16. My recommendation for promotion came back to-day. It had been reforwarded by



Gen. MacLachlan to 4<sup>th</sup> Corps, asking for decision of 1<sup>st</sup> Army. 4<sup>th</sup> Corps forwarded it "as 15<sup>th</sup> Division are not satisfied with the ruling of this office". Replied held up on return, pending amendment to orders on this subject by which S.R. officers of Supplementary list can be recommended for promotion (temporary) with temporary officers (i.e. monthly). So that's that.

Thing came through about Burtenshaw to-day, with as "Senior Supply Officer" erased. Parker's little game didn't work. Did it quite on his own without Gibb's authority! Burtenshaw is to get next S.S.O. in Army, & no more appointments to S.S.O. in future without Parker's permission.

Heard we are to be moved "for tactical reasons" from here, probably to Yarradine 10/3/16. Started Refilling at coal to-day.



11/3/16. Heard to-day we are to be relieved  
by 16<sup>th</sup> Division on 21<sup>st</sup>.

12/3/16. To-day was exciting after its kind.  
We got bombed by aeroplanes at Refilling  
at about 11-30 A.M. Only one bomb fell  
anywhere near. I went back for lunch, &  
just when I had finished, at about 1 P.M.,  
we had another attack. One bomb fell  
about a hundred yards away, & fairly  
shook the place where I was having lunch.  
This bomb made a mess of a couple of  
houses, & wounded four men, one Scotie  
mortally, two of our men severely, & one  
of our men slightly. I helped to get 'em off  
to hospital. Rather bloody business.

Heard Abbott was to leave us, going to  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reserve Park.

13/3/16. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. C.E. Clarke joined to-day from  
4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Park, to which Abbott is going.



not 2<sup>nd</sup>. Went to Naginagar to-day  
where they were dropping shells like hot  
bricks, though none were very near. All  
this business makes one feel a bit jumpy  
when one is cooped up in an office most  
of the day. Heard definitely we are to go on  
the 21<sup>st</sup> to make way for 16<sup>th</sup> Div. coming in.  
A good job too! We are going to leave our  
guns behind.

14/3/16. Went to Naginagar this morning.  
They were shelling all round Naginagar,  
but fortunately not in it while I was there.  
Our move postponed till 25<sup>th</sup>.

15/3/16. Four bombs dropped by the station this  
evening. What a life!

16/3/16. Nothing to note.

17/3/16. Ditto.

18/3/16. Got leave quite suddenly & went  
on leave at 4 P.M. Bosch's aeroplanes had



us good-bye. Dined at Hazebrouck.

19/3/16. Arrived Boulogne after midnight.  
After a sleep, went & got shaved.

Boarded our boat about 10 A.M., & left  
at 10-30 A.M.. We all had to put life belts

on. Met Agnew on board, now A.D.C.  
to Genl. Allenby. Lord Northcliffe crossed  
on our boat, returned from Verdun.

Escorted across by Destroyer which  
kept changing over to either flank, &  
also by two airships. Leave is to begin

in a few days. Arrived Folkestone  
about 12-30 P.M., & went on to London,

where arrived about 3 P.M. Wired home  
& went to have a Turkish bath. Left  
London 6 P.M., Reached home 11 P.M.

26/3/16. Reached Folkestone about 4 P.M., & boarded  
steamer. Five minutes before boat sailed, all  
turned off, as boat was not to go, owing to



mines in the channel. Stayed at the Pavillon Hotel for night. Folkestone is nice little town.

27/3/16. After lunch, were shaken by a mine explosion at sea. Went out, & found a <sup>small</sup> steamer probably a mine sweeper, whistling hard. Do not know if it was hit, but it steamed to Dover. Did not expect to go in view of this, but we went all right, & landed sans incident at Boulogne, where I stayed the night as there was no train before 12-50 P.M. next day.

28/3/16. Left Boulogne 1-30 P.M. Arrived Hillers 6-30 P.M. Found Hd. Qrs. of Train there. CO. & I mess alone, & two alone. One Company is on the other side of Hillers, two in Nainbat, & Hd. Qrs. Coy. with all officers in Noeux still. Artillery having been left behind. Billets are exceptionally comfortable.

29/3/16. Nothing much doing.



30/3/16. Very busy with returns, as I do them all now.

31/3/16. Nothing much doing, but a wholly delightful place.

1/4/16. Rumours of a mysterious "move".

2/4/16. Nothing doing.

3/4/16. do. do.

4/4/16. We are to have a Divisional Exercise on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup>. Joy! Our Pioneers & 2 Coy. A.R.E. are going into the line with the Divisions. Looks like business!

5/4/16. Very busy for Div. Exercise.

6/4/16. Do.

7/4/16. Left Killers on Div. Exercise, & trekked to Estroée Blanche. Nothing of note occurred.

8/4/16. Spent day in Estroée Blanche.

9/4/16. Trekked back to Killers. Heard that Noeux had had a bad shelling near where the Train Office had been, cutting up the



main road so much as to make it impassable for motors, & doing a lot of damage. 60 8" shells flung in in one day round about Forse de Braquemont. 2 Men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. ~~Wain~~ killed.

10/4/16. Went to see Hewitt at Vaudricourt to-day, where they are well lodged.

They seem to be giving Noeux a bad time. Heard the Huns had dropped a note from an aeroplane yesterday that the whole town would be razed to the ground by the 20<sup>th</sup> April. Rather a tall order!

11/4/16. Nothing much doing.

12/4/16. CO. went on leave this morning.

13/4/16. Wire came through that all had to be recalled off leave by 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Had to recall the CO.

14/4/16. To-day heard suddenly all our gunners were coming back on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Very



busy making preparations. Believe there is chance of a "push". Went over to Vaudoucourt to settle about H.Q. Coy. coming back.

15/4/16. Quiet but busy day.

16/4/16. H.Q. Coy. came back to FERFAY. Got big scheme re "G.H.Q. Reserve", in which we are till 21<sup>st</sup>.

17/4/16. To-day find we are to relieve 12<sup>th</sup> Div. as previously arranged, starting on 25<sup>th</sup>. <sup>7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Div. R.E.</sup> Pioneers returned to Div.

18/4/16. Went over to see 12<sup>th</sup> Div. train billets to-day. Very good - in Fouquières.

19/4/16. Nothing doing of note.

20/4/16. Do. do.

21/4/16. Do. do.

22/4/16. Settled that we go to FOUQUIERES, & 2 Coy. to VERQUIGNEUL.

23/4/16. Had a train competition for tomorrow to-day. Wonderful show.



24/4/16. Very busy. 4 Coy. moved to Fouquieres to-day.

25/4/16. Do. 2 Coy. moved to Verquigneul to-day.

26/4/16. We are to move to Fouquieres to-morrow.

27/4/16. There was a Gas attack along our front just now. Believe Verquin is full of gas. Good thing we're not in Noeux. Just got a whiff myself.

Left Lillers midday, & arrived Fouquieres about 3 P.M. Glorious ride in glorious weather. Found Clark left Verquigneul & in Fouquereuil. He had a bad time with gas, though no one injured. All people here had gas cloud. No damage.

Gas alarm at ten P.M. Later cancelled.

28/4/16. Gas alarm at 4-30 A.M. Later cancelled. Heard afterwards 9<sup>th</sup> Black Watch had a bad time.



Fouquieres is very nice little country place, much appreciated after Noeuse, & Hillers, which were both busy towns, & we situated on the highway too.

Rode over to SAILLY LABOURSE to-day. Good ride. Frantic chase after empty 2-gallon petrol tins for liquid for vermoreal sprayers. None to be got.

29/4/16. Nothing of note.

30/4/16. Got inoculated this evening.

1/5/16. Felt very seedy all day. In the morning went into Bethune, & the man fell on the floor, & I got rather shaken up after my inoculation. No material damage done except a broken stirrup iron.

Lucky escape. In the afternoon slept, & in the evening went to bed early.

2/5/16. Feel better to-day.



3/5/16. A day of peace. Burtenshaw is, however, going to-morrow as SSO. 16<sup>th</sup> Division. Kind, who arrived on 1<sup>st</sup>, is going to-day to 16<sup>th</sup> Division also. Burtenshaw is a great loss.

4/5/16. Heavy guns were very busy yesterday afternoon, & at it again this morning. Wonder what all the troubles about.

5/5/16. Nothing doing to-day.

6/5/16. Carlson was invalided rich to-day. Went to a lecture by A.P.M. I help at Saitly Labourse on Traffic Control.

Lorries are all as far as possible to be laid up, & horse transport substituted. A good thing too, as it is silly to let horses eat their heads off & do nothing, & lorries use up a lot of unnecessary petrol.

7/5/15. Heard to-day from Taylor that he had been instructed where to report in case of "fighting"



taking place. Bow-wow!

8/5/16 Saw "Minnie" to-day at the head of her Battalion, the 6<sup>th</sup> R.S.F.! The 6<sup>th</sup> R.S.F. & 8<sup>th</sup> Gordons have joined the Division, for amalgamation to the 7<sup>th</sup> R.S.F. & 10<sup>th</sup> Gordons respectively. The 8<sup>th</sup> Gordons are a fine body of men.

9/5/16 Nothing of note to-day. Went out billeting for some Gunners who are coming to Fouquereuil (86<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery). They are bringing a Battery of 12" to her Brebis.

Heard to-day we are to lose the Cavalry & Cyclists on the 12<sup>th</sup> - going to ~~the~~ Corps.

10/5/16. Had a game of Tennis to-day on a hard court. What a luxury!

11/5/16. 44<sup>th</sup> Bde. went up this evening suddenly after had only just got back. Evidently something on.

12/5/16. The Boches made an attack last



night in the region of the Hohenzollern on our front.  
We lost a few trenches, & 300 casualties. One  
of our downers was wounded in Vermelles.

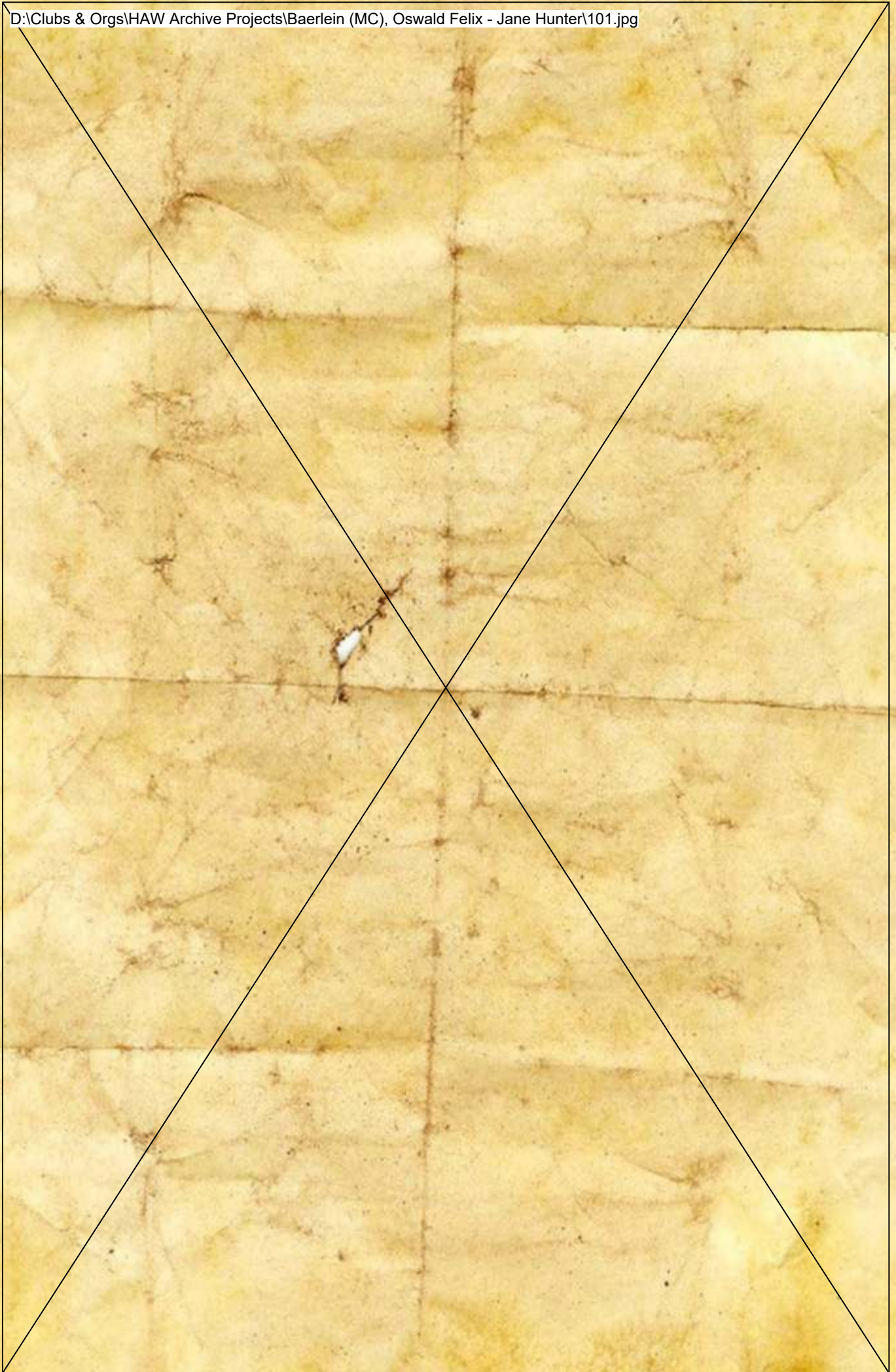
13/5/16. The 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> H.L.I. are to join us to-morrow.

14/5/16. There must have been some strafing  
to-day as the Cyclists & Bombing School  
were suddenly ordered up the line - a bad  
sign.

15/5/16. Heard we made two unsuccessful attacks  
last night. The unfortunate K.O.S.B. suffered.

16/5/16. Heard that with the Lt. of the 13<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots  
who was killed, there were also killed the two  
Major's & the P.O., & that Francis, the Adjutant  
was badly wounded. It was said they were all  
in a dug-out, when a shell actually entered  
the dug-out, & exploded inside. A man was  
said to have been just coming out when the shell  
whizzed in past him, doing no damage except  
burning all the hair off his body, & him also a little.







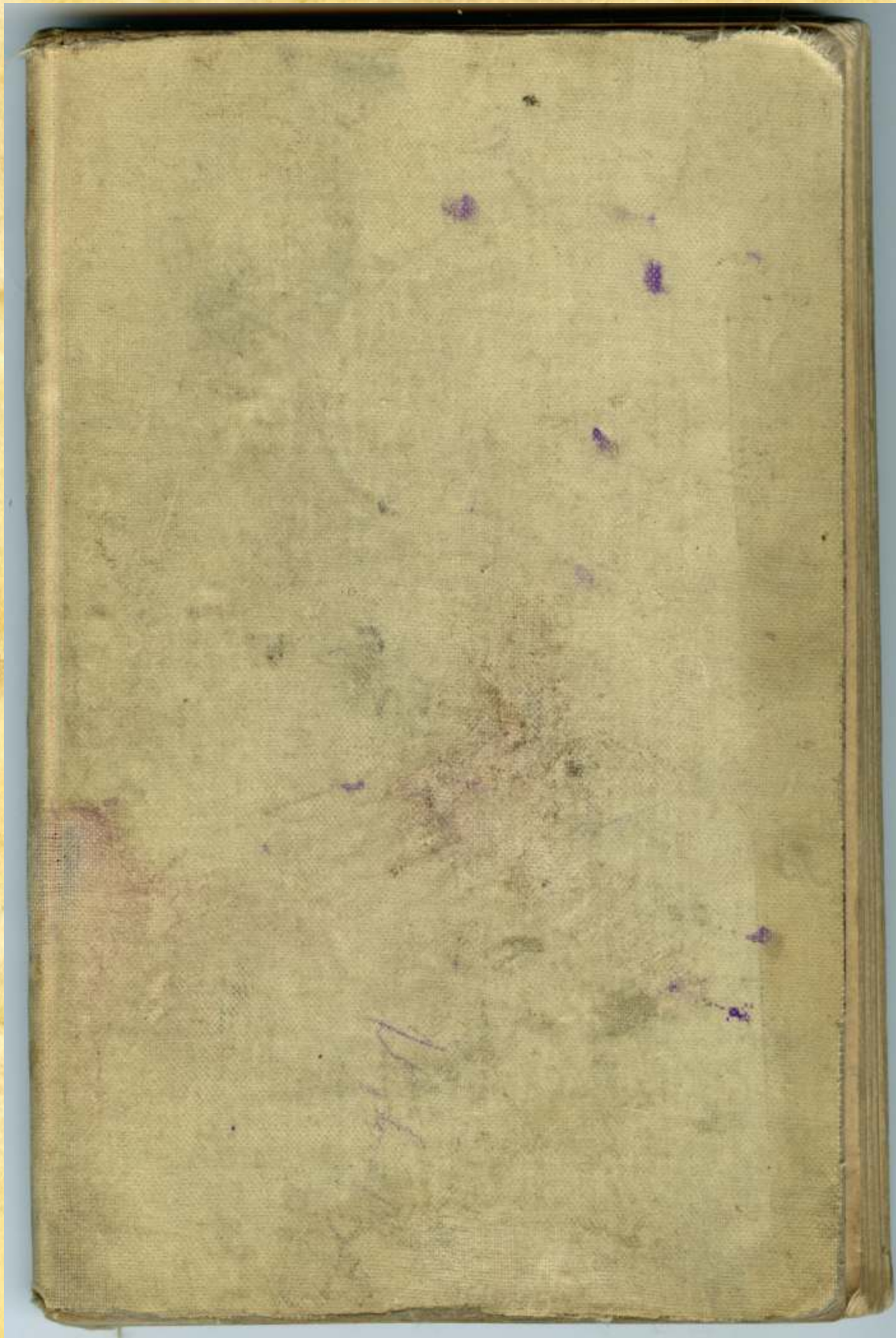
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III

WAR DIARY

17/5/16 - 16/9/17

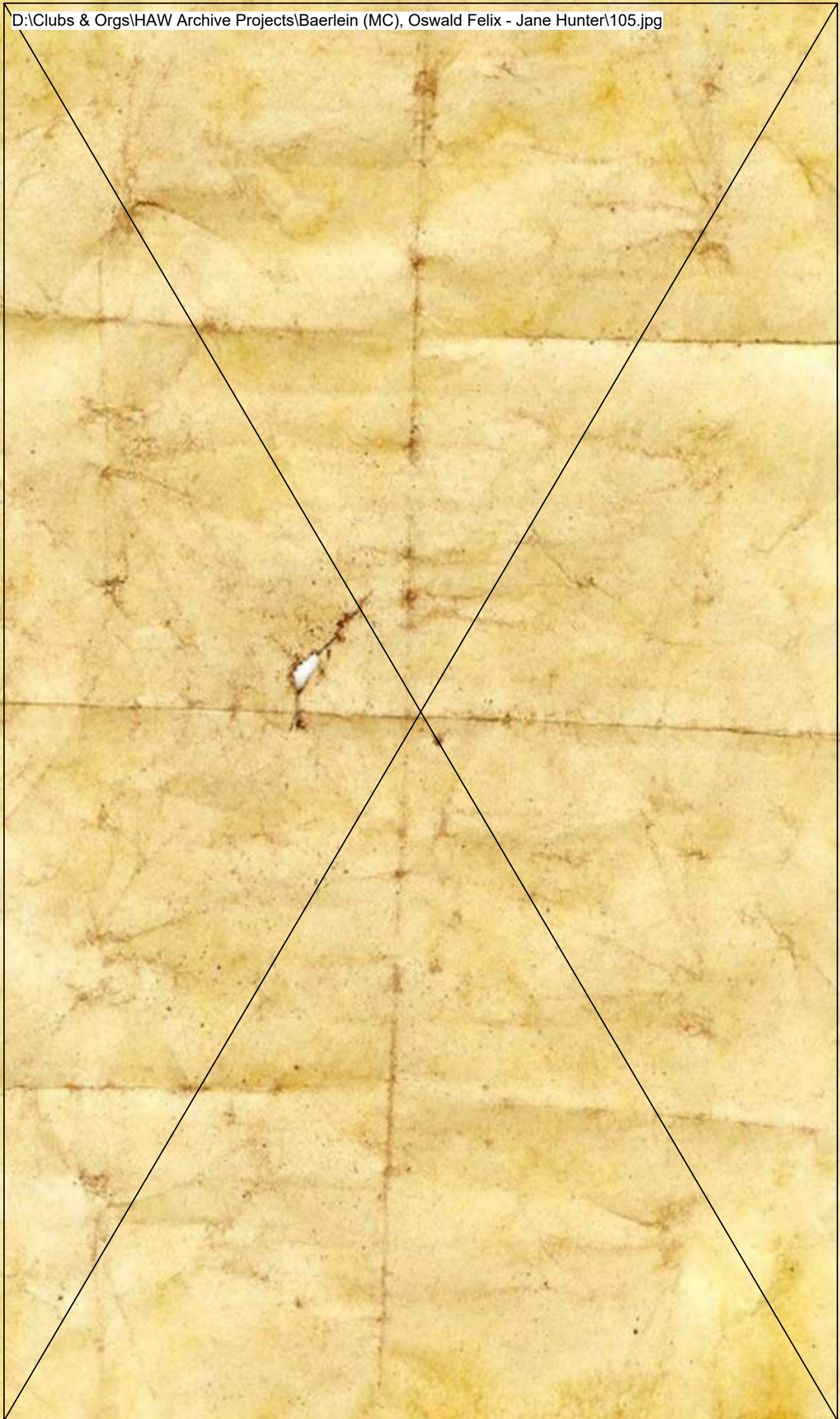
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Books.

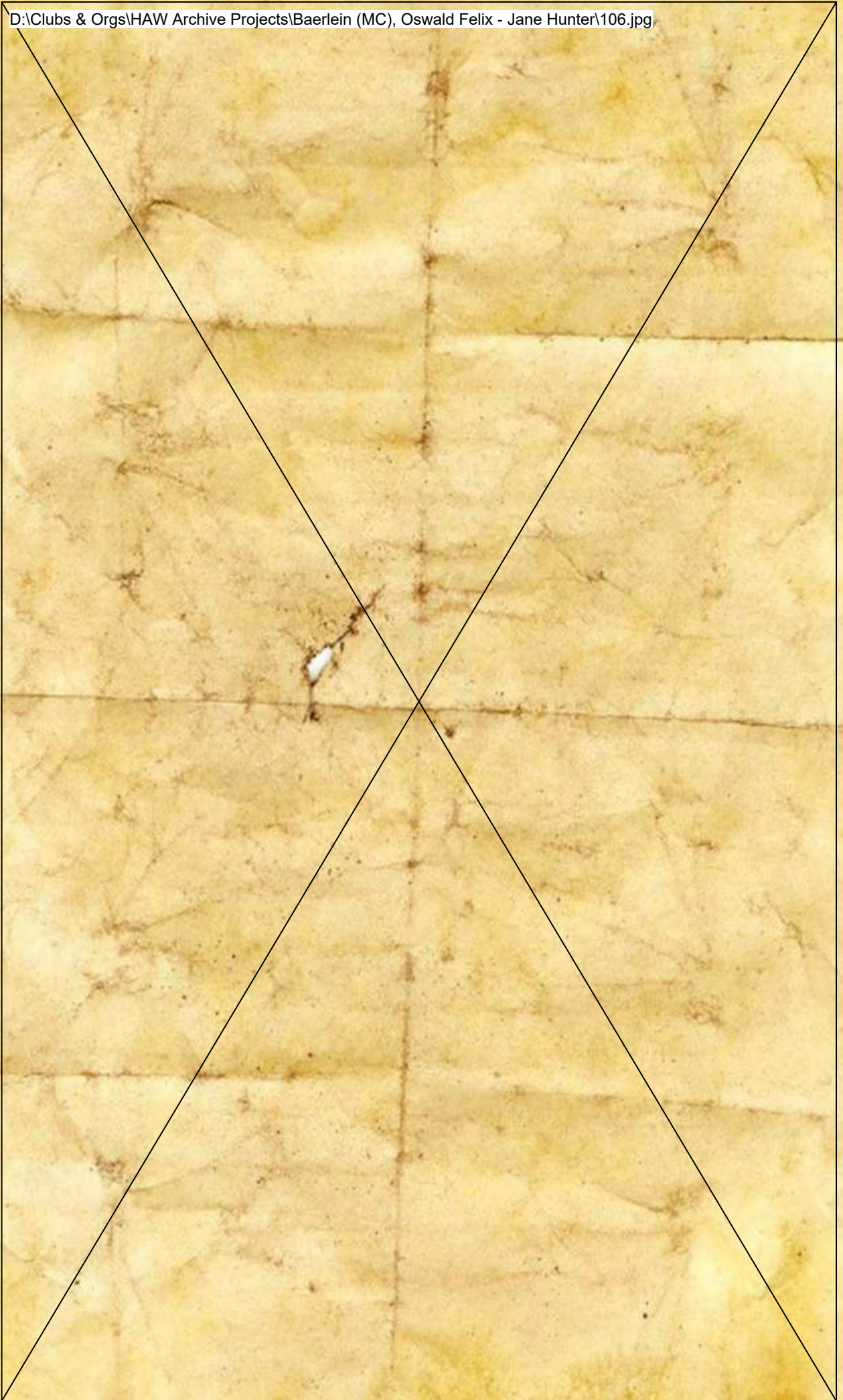
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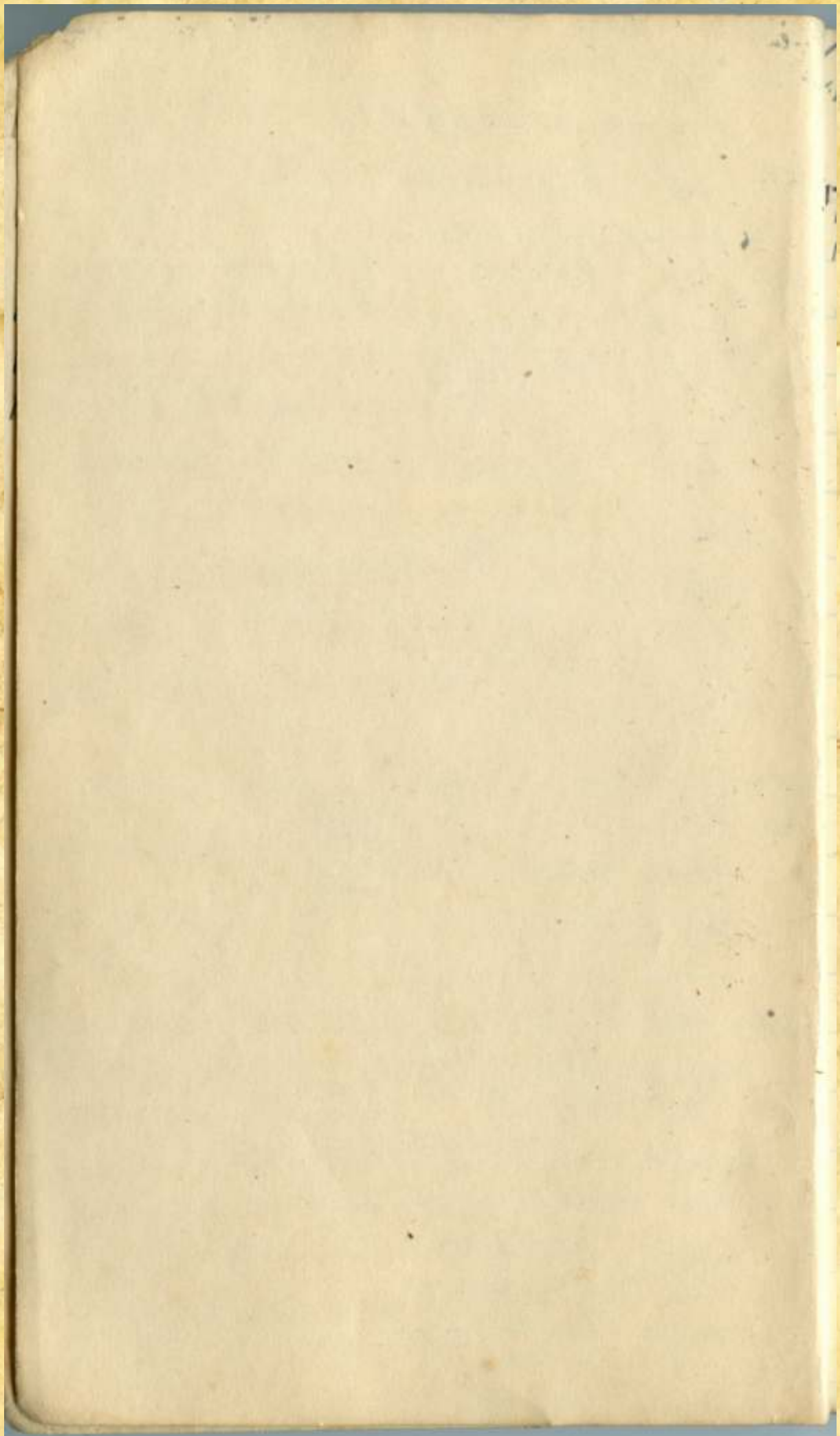














Lieut. O.F. Baulein A.S.C. (S.R.)

15<sup>th</sup> Divisional Train.

Lieut. (Capt.) O.F. Baulein A.S.C. (S.R.)

## War Diary.

17/5/16. Nothing to report to-day.

18/5/16. Nothing doing.

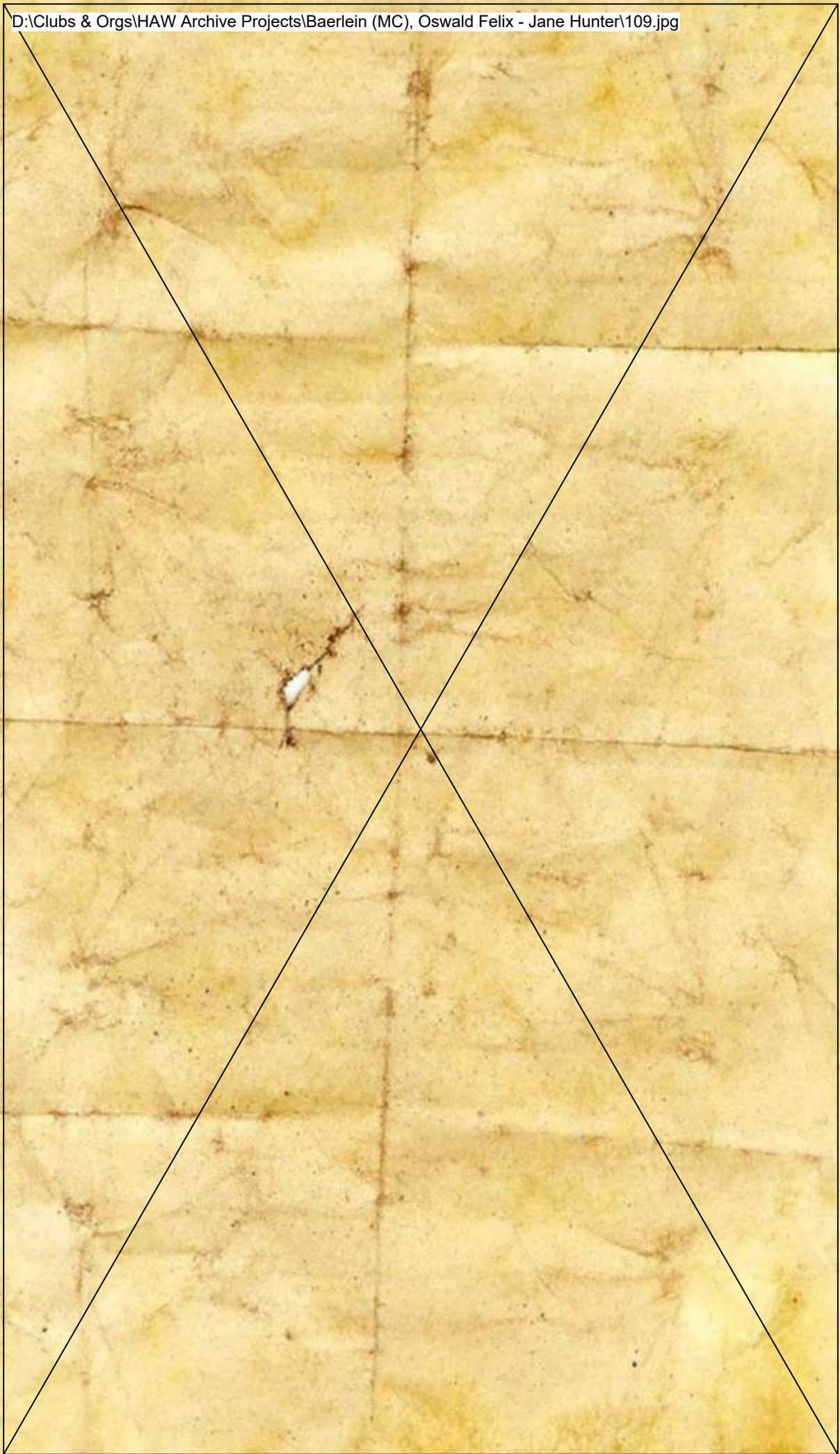
19/5/16. Same.

20/5/16. Yet again!

21/5/16. To my great joy, saw I was promoted to rank of Capt., dated 30<sup>th</sup>/4/16. Hurrah!

Went out to Yverquient to-day, & then on to Nouex. Saw all the mess that had been made after the heavy shelling of Forcé de Braquemont. Most interesting. All the shells seem to have dropped in an area of 200 square yards, & razed many houses to the ground. After this we went onto the ridge to the East of Nouex, from where we had a view over Magnifay & Les Brebis way. It was a stretch of about 3 miles, semi-circular in the sun, scattered with houses. It was getting heavily shelled with shrapnel & H.E., & it was most interesting.







mike. they were not shrapnel, & need have  
been the new shells which explode either in  
the air or on percussion.

22/5/16. R.S.M. Smith went to Noosa this afternoon.

Saw the damage done by the shelling. While we  
were there, policeman on point duty caught a  
sitar which was loose near by house I ran  
to. House facing this at corner of square  
R.S.M. sent was razed, & this policeman was  
killed, together with nine other men. This shell  
must have come in after we left. Windows  
of Nainic were also broken. We were only just  
out in time. Two houses hit were within  
10 yards of Nainic's when we had our drink.

23/5/16. Quiet day.

24/5/16. There has been a bit of fighting last  
night on our right. Heard later that it was  
the 47<sup>th</sup> Division who were in action.

25/5/16. Nothing of note.



