

1916AppendixMarchCORBIE - ETINEHEM.

17th Orders issued and Battalion moved off 8.30 a.m. for ETINEHAM CAMP - Route CORBIE BRAY ROAD turning to right at K.18.D.65. into Camp. Advance party sent to ETINEHAM to take over Camp. Battalion arrived ETINEHAM CAMP 1 p.m.

ETINEHEM.

18th Battalion under Co.Commanders for kit inspections, physical drill, and Platoon and Co.Drill.

Y.I. SUB SECTOR.

19th Three Platoons left ETINEHEM CAMP 9.30 a.m. to proceed to Y.I. Sub-Sector to take over advanced posts at dusk. Capt.Clare and Lieut.Musgrove went on to Y.I. Headquarters in the afternoon to take over. The Battalion left ETINEHEM CAMP at 5 p.m. and proceeded to Y.I. Subsector and relieved 18/Manchr.Regt.relief being completed about midnight. On the march only one man fell out Sergt.Leckwood who fainted.

20th The enemy shelled KNOWLES POINT at irregular intervals during the whole 24 hours at a rate of about six shells an hour nearly all of which were shrapnel. A Patrol consisting of L/Corpl.Webster and three men guided by the French Guide Scolari left about 2.30 p.m. to reconnoitre LODGE WOOD as far as G.5.B.8055. At point G.5.B.4045 they found black cotton stretched from tree to tree eighteen inches above the ground and 50 yards further through the Wood found a quantity of enamelled telephone wire from tree to tree about the height of a man's chest. Having made a good deal of noise they did not proceed further.

21st Desultory shelling of KNOWLES POINT increased somewhat in violence. At 2.20 a.m. KNOWLES WOOD was subjected to intense Artillery bombardment lasting about fifteen minutes. S.O.S.was telephoned from DUCKS POST but decided not to act on this until information had been received that our advanced posts were in.

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2.35 a.m. shelling lifted to the BRIDGE HEAD Village and the direct wires of both the Artillery and Brigade were broken by one of the first shells. A message was received that the Germans were attacking KNOWLES POINT and DUCKS POST and fighting was taking place. Capt. Paul reported at Bn. H.Q. and was sent forward to reinforce DUCKS POST with two sections. A Platoon of C.Co. was ordered to hold the Redoubt at the BRIDGE HEAD and a Platoon of A Co. at VAUX WOOD ordered to be in readiness to reinforce. The other men in VAUX WOOD and VILLAGE standing to. Germans apparently came along Avenue from FRISE to KNOWLES POINT close under their artillery lift and rushed or got through the small advanced posts outside KNOWLES WOOD. With the exception of five men all got back into KNOWLES WOOD and to their supports at DUCKS POST where an effective defence greatly assisted by a Lewis Gun prevented the Germans from advancing further and caused the greater number of them to retire. Capt. Pearce organised and ordered a counter-attack just before Dawn which was able to clear KNOWLES WOOD without meeting any great opposition, taking one unwounded prisoner and finding two dead Germans. According to the Prisoners statements about 180 Germans were concerned in the attack the object of which was to blow up the Bridges of the Causeway 130 of the party being of the 1/6th Pioneer Battn. remainder Infantry. They left behind 9 rifles a quantity of hand Grenades two land mines and a number of steel loophole plates. Our casualties amounted to 1 Killed Pte. Baker 11 wounded ten of the men being wounded by artillery fire and of these five were wounded in the village. Recommendations in connection with the operation were as under :- CAPTAIN CHARLES STANLEY PEARCE. On the night of the 20/21st March 1916 near FRISE when in command of his Co. his picquet was attacked by about 140 Germans and he displayed the greatest coolness and resource in the command of his men. The Germans temporarily occupied KNOWLES POINT and there was considerable hand to hand fighting going on for about an hour and a half. He organised an excellent counter-attack and

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drove the Germans out. He has commanded a Company in the Field for the last nine months and on many occasions has proved his quickness of decision and ability under critical conditions.

2/LIEUT. ALPHONSE EDWARD ALVAIO JACOBS.

On the night of the 20/21st March 1916 near FRISE he was in command of the picquet which was attacked by about 140 Germans. He gallantly and efficiently rallied his men and personally directed and led them in the counter-attack. It was undoubtedly largely due to his initiative and coolness that the Germans were turned out of the Wood at dawn. He has on several previous occasions shown the greatest courage in the execution of dangerous tasks.

G.5235 SERGEANT JOHN HOWARD.

Near Frise on the night of 20/21st Mar. 1916 when our picquet was attacked by about 140 Germans he shewed great bravery and when it was decided to counter attack. The Germans were in a wood within 40 yards of the position taken up at the DUCK POST at the end of VAUX CAUSEWAY he was first to cross the stream by a single plank. He was fired at by a German Sentry at a range of 15 yards shot the sentry dead and dispersed the rest of the group; got his men over the Bridge and advanced through the wood against the enemy. His fine example undoubtedly had the effect of carrying the men forward at a most critical moment. He personally captured an unwounded prisoner.

G.4703 SERGEANT CHARLES BEAMISH

On the night of the 20/21st Mar. 1916 near FRISE he displayed the very greatest gallantry and devotion to duty when attacked by Germans. When the advanced sentry groups were rushed he rallied his men in a Wood behind and carefully directed their retirement to DUCK POST. He was the last to retire by a single plank over the stream guarding DUCK POST. As he was crossing he saw one of his wounded men being pursued by Germans. He turned back pulled up the Bridge so that the Germans could not cross picked up the wounded man and waded back across the stream, bringing the man safely in although severely wounded himself.

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(ctd.)G.5350 L. Corporal WILLIAM WRIGHT.

On the night of 20/21st Mar. 1916 near FRISE he shewed great coolness and disregard of danger when in charge of an advanced Sentry group behind which a number of Germans had pushed following on the lift of a heavy artillery bombardment. He was on the point of going out to assist two men of his group who had been wounded when he was captured. He was taken by two Germans towards CURLU but they did not take his rifle away. After going some distance with them he noticed that the man who had been marching behind him was no longer there. Thereupon Cpl. Wright shot the guard who was preceding him, escaped through LODGE WOOD towards CURLU and found himself within calling distance of the Island Post at Fargny Mill. He talked to a N.C.O. there and then proceeded to cross the streams and marshes where he had to swim, and rejoined at DUCK POST after about four hours.

G.5038 PRIVATE JOHN KENYON.

On the night of 20/21st Mar. 1916. near FRISE when a Platoon of his Company was attacked by Germans he was in charge of a Lewis Gun and displayed great bravery and initiative. When the Germans occupied KNOWLES POINT and advanced on DUCK POST he served his Machine Gun with marked coolness firing from the open in preparation for our counter-attack without any protection against the Germans. He advanced with his Lewis Gun in the counter-attack and his fine display of bravery contributed to a very large degree to the success of the enterprise. The Germans were forced to evacuate the Wood and his Company were enabled to reoccupy the positions previously held. The prisoners name was Joseph Adler 1st 6th Pioneer Bn. The afternoon passed quietly. The two dead Germans were buried in the morning by Father Aveling. Their names were: ALOIS PANNECK - 3 PL.6 MAK - No.838. F.P. KOMP - P.B.6. No.466. The prisoner Joseph Adler was sent down to the Brigade with the M.G. Section of the 7/Queens which had come up with two guns to reinforce on our reporting that two of our

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(Ctd.) M.Guns had broken down. Between 7.30 p.m. and 11 p.m. about 30 Shrapnel shells at intervals varying fell round about Knowles Point.
- 22nd Between 11 and 11.30 A.M. 16 shrapnel shells were fired over the Causeway traversing from end to end enemy appeared to be ranging. Two casualties both slightly wounded. 10.30 a.m. about 20 Howr.Shells on Vaux School. 11 a.m. mixed H.E. shells (shrapnel) in and round Dragon Wood. 3 p.m. Whizz-bangs Vaux and Dragon Wood at rate of about 1½ minute interval until 3.30 p.m. Quiet night.
- 23rd It was reported that at least one gun had been brought into FRISE. In the morning between 9 and 9.30 a.m. and again between 1.30 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. enemy shelled VAUX VILLAGE with heavy Howr. making a particular set at Battn.H.Qrs. and just to the North of it. One of the Battn. Orderlies Pte.Clark was killed on the road just outside H.Qrs. and a certain amount of damage done to the Building.
- 24th In the afternoon A Co.relieved C Co. in VAUX Village. At 2.15 p.m. Germans shelled VAUX SCHOOL and again at 4.40 p.m. and in the evening shelled VAUX VILLAGE again. All quiet during the night.
- 25th Battalion H.Q. moved from VAUX VILLAGE to Battle Dugouts. Quiet morning. About 4.30 a.m. about 100 rounds of shrapnel into Vaux Village also a few heavier shells doing no damage. 5 p.m. Artillery Duel between Guns at the Suzanne end of Suzanne Avenue with the Germans, who obtained two or three direct hits on the Avenue but very little damage was done to the trench. In the afternoon Capt. Bowen and C.Q.M.S. Wells left for 4th Army School. A patrol under Sgt.Hayes and the French Soldier Scolari with six men left Knowles Point 11.30 p.m. and went to about 500 yards of FRISE from which point they heard work going on in the German trench N.of FRISE. They returned on the FRISE FARGNY MILL ROAD to within 400 yards of KNOWLES POINT finding six snipers shields on their way which they brought in.