

To Adjutant General

Base Headqrs.

British Expeditionary Force.

Herewith War Diary of 1st Bn. East Surrey Regt, from date of Mobilization to 31st August inclusive in accordance with F.S.R. Part II, sect. 140.

H.S. TEW,

Major

Commanding 1/2 Bn. East Surrey Regt.

1-10-14

1ST Battalion East Surrey regiment

1914

August

Dublin

4th August 1914

6pm. Order received to Mobilize and necessary action at once taken.

5th August 1914

1st day of Mobilisation
Order received to embark on 9th inst. Program for day completed

6th August 1914

2nd day of mobilization.
402 Reservist arrived from depot about 4pm. Posted to cadres, and instructed in fitting equipment and Fire Discipline at once begun. About half these men had left the Colours as long as 6 and 8 years, many having only done 3 years with the colours.
Programme for the day completed.

7th August

3rd day of Mobilization.
242 reservist arrived from Depot about 6am. Most of these men having left the Colours more recently were better trained and as far as possible replaced the 3 year men posted to Colours the previous day. Training of Reservists continued throughout day and programme for day completed, except harness for heavy draft horses and I RAMC orderly.

8th August 1914

4th Day Mobilization.
30 Reservist arrived from Depot about 10am. These men had only recently left the Colours and with the inclusion of them enabled the Battn. to mobilize with but few 3 years men in the ranks. The 1st Re-enforcements however which were formed today under Capt. J.K.T. Whish with 99 other ranks were chiefly composed of these men. Commdg. Officer's inspection of Battn. parading in 2 Train loads as per

Irish Command Instructions for Embarkation. Colours brought on Parade uncased, and speech made by Lt. Colonel J.R. Longley, Commdg, who referring to the Battle Honours inscribed on these Colours said he felt sure that the good fighting spirit shown by those who gained these honours would animate those now about to fight for their country.

Order for embarkation postponed till 13th inst., and completion of mobilisation reported to Brigadier.

- 9th August 1914 5th Day of Mobilization.
Platoon Musketry & Drill parades for Reservist.
- 10th August 1914 Battn. Paraded at 9.15 a.m. in Phoenix Park with 13th Infy. Brigade for inspection by Br. Genl. C. J. Cuthbert CB Commdg. who complimented the Commdg. Officer on the appearance and steadiness of the men. During afternoon Reservists firing on 30 yds. Range
- 11th August 1914 Battn. Marched by train Loads about 10 miles. Many Reservist found to have badly fitting boots probably due to submission of incorrect returns to OC records on transfer to Army Reserve. As far as possible these boots were changed. Reservist again firing on 30 yd. range.
War Establishment of officers reduced by 1 Captain & 2 Subs. Who, together with 15 NCOs' had been sent to the Depot for training new units. The Officers were Captain G.C. Farrington, 2nd Lts. W.H. Martin and G.H. Henson, Capt. P.C. Wynter also proceeded to the Depot vice Capt. J.P. Benson Reserve of Officers , taken on the Establishment of the Battalion.
- 12th August 1914 Reservist under instruction. Battn. Ordered to pass O'Connell's Bridge en route to Northwall for embarkation at 6.10 am. Tomorrow.
- 13th August 1914 About 5 am. Instructions received putting back departure at least 3 hours. Battn. Finally reached Alexandra Basin about 11 am. Commenced embarkation at 1 pm. But ship did not cast off finally till 6.30 pm. Before which hour the ship S.S. Botanist could not be got ready as she only came in that morning. Destination unknown. Many Dublin friends turned out both in streets and at the Dock to give the Battn. A send off and placed on board a packet of fruit, cake & cigarettes for each man.

AT SEA

- 14th August 1914 Physical Training by Coys,
Cooking arrangements inadequate, no facilities for making boiling water. Weather fine but misty.

AT SEA & HARVE.

- 15th August 1914 Arrived berthed in Harve Docks about 12 noon and at once commenced disembarking; arrangements for same very good. After coffee and rest in shed alongside, marched off to rest camp No 1 at