

## The Lonsdale Battalion of the Border Regiment

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### Timeline and Chronology – September 1914 to May 1915

#### Introduction

This timeline is drawn from archive material within the collection of the Lowther Family (reference DLONS) held at Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle, with kind permission of Jim Lowther.

Compiled with volunteer assistance of David M Bowcock (former Assistant County Archivist, Carlisle).

*The numbers in [] refer to the relevant file.*

#### **4 Aug 1914**

War is declared on Germany.

#### **27 Aug 1914**

Battle of Mons in Belgium where the British Expeditionary Force is routed and the need for volunteers is realised

Recruiting Poster ““You’re proud of your pals in the Army of course! But what will your pals think of YOU? THINK IT OVER!”

Poster ‘Identification of Aircraft’ [113]

#### **3 Sep 1914**

33,000 volunteers recruited in 1 day in London, men urged to “join up with your pals”

#### **4 Sep 1914**

Col. Percy Wilfred Machell of the Cumberland & Westmorland Territorial Forces’ Association [2]

#### **11 Sep 1914**

Letter from D. Morphy & Co, Kendal: “We have secured sufficient Army Grey Flannel to make 1000 men’s shirts, & can make & deliver these next week ...” [70]

#### **12 Sep 1914**

Herbert Harrison and Joseph Wood recruited at The Drill Hall, Penrith.

#### **15 Sep 1914**

Copy telegram of Lord Lonsdale: "... meeting of Cumberland & Westmorland Territorial Force Association today ... decided create special Lonsdale Battalion ... men who had already enlisted in groups for this Unit have been suddenly called Depot Carlisle and merged with others. This has proved prejudicial to recruiting. Essential that Men now enlisted for this Lonsdale Battalion being of higher class than ordinary recruits should remain together until transferred. ... Recruiting will commence on receipt of reply." [2]

#### **17 Sep 1914**

The War Office approves the recruitment of the Lonsdale Battalion of the Border Regiment following the suggestion of the 5th Earl of Lonsdale. An Executive Committee decided to raise 4 companies: A&B (from East & North Cumberland) based at Blackhall racecourse, Carlisle, C (from Westmorland) based at Kendal, D (from West Cumberland) based at Workington. [276] [4] [5]

Questions answered by [Major] Gerald Chippendale Rivington of Appleby as a candidate for a commission in the Territorial Force. [40]

#### **19 Sep 1914**

Estimate from Joseph Blain, general dealer of Blackfriars Street, Carlisle for the following "necessaries" 1000 hairbrushes at 12s per dozen, 1000 toothbrushes at 4s per dozen, 1000 dressing combs at 5s per dozen, 84 dozen knives and forks at 4s 9d per dozen, 1000 tablespoons at 6s 6d per dozen; delivery in about 7 days. [111]

Memo. From J. Fitzsimmons, hatter of Botchergate: "I have pleasure in quoting for 1000 Territorial Caps – Standard Army Pattern ... making, trimming including badge – price 2s 9d each ..."; encloses sample of material. [111]

#### **21 Sep 1914**

Machell to Recruiting Officers: "...Owing to the impossibility of obtaining at once sufficient blankets, underclothing, and necessaries, Recruiting Officers are requested to inform all recruits that they are recommended to take with them the following articles, which will be taken over if serviceable and paid for according to valuation of the prescribed government rates. Each recruit: Blankets 2 or 3. Clothing 2 pairs of boots and laces, 1 pair woollen drawers, 1 cardigan, waistcoat or jersey. Necessaries 1 pair braces, 1 hairbrush, 1 shaving and 1 toothbrush, 1 comb, 1 knife, 1 fork, 1 spoon, 1 razor, 2 flannel shirts, 3 pairs of sock, 2 towels. [2]

Recruiting Office opens at 7 Devonshire Street, Carlisle [now Le Gall restaurant]

#### **22 Sep 1914**

Recruitment begins. Thomas Bell recruited at Penrith. [279]

Major Binning's copy order to Redmayne's of Wigton: "... please book order for making up & trimming 2000 Jackets & 2000 pairs of Trousers & 8s 9d per set ...delivery to be made at 300 suits per week ... garments to be ... turned out smart & well finished ..." [111]

Attestation papers of: Michael Prendergast, 43, of Ballinrobe, Ireland; Robert Rome, 25, 14 Morley Street, Carlisle.

**23 Sep 1914** [279] [2]

16 men recruited at Dalston. Machell "The [daily] rates of pay of officers and men are as follows: Sergeant 2s 4d [12p], Corporal 1s 8d [7p] Private 1s [5p]

**24 Sep 1914** [279] [11]

4 men recruited at Silloth. George Birbeck and Edward J. Cain recruited at **Penrith**.

Letter from I.H. Mawson, solicitor of Carlisle to Lord Lonsdale "I am very glad to say that we have now got to work with Recruiting Meetings. We held our first meeting last night at Dalston and we were successful in getting 15 or 16 young fellows to come forward for your Battalion. Of these nine were passed by the Doctor. They seem to be all of the right stuff, mostly agriculturalists. We are Silloth tonight, Aspatria tomorrow, Wetheral – Monday night and Brampton on Tuesday night and I hope we shall be able to raise Your Lordship's battalion to its full strength ..."

**25 Sep 1914** [279] [12] [111] [119]

3 men recruited at Aspatria. Recruiting Office opened at 7 Devonshire Street, Carlisle

Major Binning to J.W. Barker [manager of the racecourse] "I have arranged with the Boys Scout Authority to provide 10 Scouts for orderly work in connection with the new Camp ..."

Letter from Y.M.C.A. Kendal "... we give them [Lonsdale Battalion] a most hearty welcome to use our Rooms during their stay in Kendal. We have Reading & Writing, Billiard & Smoking, Miniature Shooting & Gymnasium Rooms ..."

**28 Sep 1914**

2 men recruited at Wetheral. [279]

William Henry Wright of London Road, Carlisle offered to visit Blackhall Camp to provide shaving and haircutting services. [278]

Telegram: " Lonsdale Battalion Border being raised at three centres ... Kendal Workington Carlisle. As proper accommodation available at camp on race course Carlisle drafts will be sent and Headquarters established Carlisle. Meanwhile Battalion Headquarters Portland Place Penrith." [11]

William Richardson [111]

**29 Sep 1914**

3 men recruited at Brampton. [279]

John James Bickerstaffe. [279]

Acknowledgement of order from Thorpe's of Carlisle for "... 2000 pairs of Pants at 40s [£2] per dozen." [111]

Affiliation order granted against Private John Boadle of Southey Street, Keswick. [28]

### **30 Sep 1914**

11 men recruited at Cummersdale during the dinner hour [at Stead McAlpin?]; 3 men recruited at Kirkbride [279]

Telegram from Lord Lonsdale to Major Binning: "Have 1200 blankets and they will be at Carlisle tomorrow." [111]

Machell to the Cumberland & Westmorland Territorial Forces' Association: "... Thanks to the Executive Committee and other patriotic gentlemen at Kendal, Carlisle & Workington we have been able to start long before our central camp could be ready. One thing we will not do & that is ask a man to come to us before we are ready to make him comfortable.

When a man joins the Lonsdale Battalion he is taking a wise step. Lord Lonsdale, whose name we are proud to bear, has lent us marquees, stoves, cookers, & is helping us in every way. We are a battalion of "Pals", men from different localities in the two Counties soldiering together in sections, platoons and companies. – Officers, Non-Commissioned officers & men, we are all soldiers; badges and stripes do not imply social superiority, but merely indicate our jobs. We are all rungs upon the same ladder. Officers are no good without the rank and file, and the rank and file are no good without the officers.

If I am the Commanding Officer, it is not because I am a better man than anyone else, but because I have been a soldier, & know what I have got to do. True discipline is based on the genuine cooperation of all ranks, and we have all of us joined with the one idea. We are out for King & Country and each has got to do his best.

There will have to be a lot of drill at first, because drill means system, & we cannot do without it, but drill is not the end, it is only the beginning. On top of drill will come the big thing, the development of the soldier's sense of duty, the soldier spirit. Once we have got this, everything comes easy, hardship & danger, it is all Duty, and we will do our duty for all we are worth.

As we have written on our posters, the men of Westmorland & Cumberland will enlist together & fight together, & I look with confidence to the Lonsdale Battalion becoming one of the finest fighting regiments in the British Army." [42]

Attestation papers of John Lockhart, 34, of 1 Parker's Court, Charlotte Street, Carlisle.

D Company Book (arranged alphabetically) recording: rank, name, date of enlistment, age at enlistment, pay, qualifications, certificates, badges, medals, date and place of birth, religion, marital

status, children, boot size, head size, arms/equipment, trade/calling, date of promotion, inoculations and vaccinations. [188]

#### **1 Oct 1914**

1 man recruited at Cumwhitton. Recruiting Office sent 38 attestation papers. [279]

Machell telegram "Lord Lonsdale has obtained authority enlist five feet five instead five feet six." [12]

Letter from Carlisle Cooperative Society: "We regret our inability to procure any Cardigans, Jackets & Sweaters of any description whatsoever. We have tried all our available sources, and have found it impossible to get even a dozen..." [111]

Nominal roll for C Company based in Kendal:

Airey F., Airey H., Airey J., Atkinson, F.G., Atkinson, J., Atkinson, J.W., Atkinson R., Atkinson, R. (Colour Sergeant), Bell, Robert, Bond J., Busby W.J., Calvert, W.H., Carlos, Henry Malpas, Cherry, W.T., Close, L., Coward, J., Denny, W., Dobson, W.G., Ellwood, C., Fleming, J., Foden, H., Garnett, Robert, Gaskell, Oliver, Gibson, B., Gibson, W., Gorman, William, Hardrick, Frederick, Harrison, Herbert, Heighton, Arthur, Heslop, Frederick Edward, Hewett, J., Hird, H., Holme, H., Hudson, William, Holliday, George, James, J.T., Jopson, William Gurnal, Kirby, Sidney Walter, Kissock, J., Lamb, E., Lamb, H., Lewthwaite, George, Mallinson, J.H., Marshall, E., Martindale, J.A., Mitchinson, A., McKnight, E., Natrass, H., Parkin, T.S., Pearson, W.T., Prickett, G., Rack, Miles, Reid, Archibald, Routledge, F., Routledge, H., Rigg, G., Robinson, A.J., Rose, J., Ruddick, A.E., Sandham, J. Sandilands, E., Shaw, J., Shaw, W., Sisson, T., Shuttleworth, S.W., Smith, J., Thomas, F., Tibbs, A., Thomson, Robert, Thwaites, Christopher, Tyson, J.J., Walker, A., Walker, T., Wilkin, J., Wilkinson, William, Wilson, J., Wood, Joseph, Woodburn, S.R. [185]

Telegram Lord Lonsdale to Machell: "... have got present for each man of pair blankets if not three they will all be at Carlisle today ..." [6]

Attestation papers of William Charles Mattinson, 37, of Penrith.

#### **2 Oct 1914**

6 men recruited at Drumburgh; 2 men recruited at Wigton. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 17 attestation papers. [12]

Offer to wash and mend officers' garments at Fusehill Street Workhouse. [111]

Copy letter to Mr. Barker, Central Hotel, Carlisle: "The following are the hours for opening the Canteen 12 noon to 12-45 5.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. [46]

Medical history and attestation of Wiliam Hewer, 34, of Carlisle. [18]

#### **4 Oct 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 9 attestation papers. [12]

### **5 Oct 1914**

4 men recruited at Hallbankgate. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 14 attestation papers. [12]

Copy letter of Major Binning: "We are taking over a Miniature Range and shall be much obliged if you will kindly quote for Ammunition .22 ..." [46]

### **Tues 6 Oct 1914**

3 men recruited at Aikton. [279]

Copy letter of Major Binning to G.D. Oliver [architect] "... receipt of supply of Cigarettes and Tobacco for the men here ..." [46]

Battalion Orders include "NOTICE Smoking in the Rooms is strictly forbidden and any man caught will be severely punished." [137]

### **7 Oct 1914**

5 men recruited at Abbeytown. [279]

Letter from Carlisle Electricity Department showing the brand to be used for stamping shirts and blankets. [111]

List of clothing: 1000 greatcoats, 1000 stockingette jackets, 1000 kitbags, 900 pairs of socks, 300 pairs of puttees, 600 pairs woollen drawers, 300 caps, 440 flannel shirts, 144 pairs of boots and laces, 600 jackets and trousers. [111]

Copy letter of Major Binning to the R.A.C.: "I shall be much obliged if you have any members in Carlisle to know what arrangements could be made for the use of a Car to run between Carlisle and this Camp, which is upwards of 2 miles from the City." [64]

Copy letter of Major Binning to Carlisle Citizens' League: "Will you please convey to the Members ...who are supplying the daily papers to the Camp here the appreciation of the Officers and men for their gift." [46]

### **8 Oct 1914**

1 man recruited at Bowness-on-Solway. Recruiting Office sent 14 attestation papers. [279]

Letter from Voluntary Aid Detachment [V.A.D.] Cumberland No. 3: "... our members will relieve each other on duty at the Pavilion sick ward ..." [12]

Acknowledgement of order from Thorpe's of Carlisle for "... 1000 Stockinette Cardigan Jackets, assorted linings ..." [111]

Strength: 431 men, 10 officers. [129]

### **9 Oct 1914**

7 men recruited at Cocklakes during the dinner hour [at gypsum works?]; 7 men recruited at Ainstable. [279]

**10 Oct 1914**

Machell officially appointed with the temporary rank of Lieut-Col. [42]

Attestation papers of Robert Rutherford, 19, of 12 Balfour Road, Carlisle, born Glasgow.

**12 Oct 1914** [12] [6]

Recruiting Office to Machell: "... authorise the acceptance of recruits of a minimum height of 5' 3 ins and of a chest measurement of 34 inches if under 22 years of age, and 34 inches if over ..."

3 men recruited at Low Row. Recruiting Office sent 12 attestation papers. Edward Hine recruited at Penrith.

Copy memo from the Recruiting Officer, Carlisle: "... I must draw to your notice that the hirings in Cumberland, ... will be taking place about the first week in November ... all recruiters in the Area should take steps to obtain as many recruits as possible ..."

**13 Oct 1914** [279] [12] [111] [124] [46] [109]

12 men recruited at Burgh-by-Sands. Recruiting Office sent 4 attestation papers.

Letter to Machell: "We have decided to send our Contingent of men, between 50 & 60 to Carlisle, on Thursday, they leave here on the 1.25 train, arriving Carlisle about 3.14 p.m. and have informed Binning. We entertain them tomorrow evening at a Smoking Concert – a good send off."

Copy letter of Major Binning to Carlisle Charity Organization Society: "I require two Charwomen to scrub out a large building here tomorrow into which we have to put men ... if you would kindly provide all that is necessary in the way of Cloths Brushes and Carbolic Soap ..."

Attestation of Bertram Elliott of Appleby who almost immediately deserted.

Attestation papers of Robert Donowho, 34, of Kendal.

**14 Oct 1914**

Battalion Orders No. 1 listing names of men recruited from 22 Sep. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 19 attestation papers. [12]

Thomas Furness recruited at Penrith. [5]

Telegram from Binning to Machell: "John William Harker contractor supplies all food and is paid two shillings per head per day no profit to Battalion. So far everything satisfactory. Could not get anyone else take on contract." [57]

**15 Oct 1914**

6 men recruited at Thursby. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 18 attestation papers [12]

Letter from Major Binning: "Robert Rutherford whose Attestation papers I enclose has made a false attestation. He is an Indentured Apprentice and his employer will not let him go. I therefore recommend ... that he be discharged." [23]

**16 Oct 1915** [279], [12] [111]

3 men recruited at Wreay; 22 men recruited at St. Nicholas and Recruiting Office, Carlisle; Office sent 1 attestation. [279]

Thomas Spencer recruited at Penrith.

Letter from the Carlisle Charity Organisation Society: "... I think the women should have 3s 6d each, as they had to provide their own food. That is the regular charge when women go to clean empty houses ..." [111]

Telegram: "... stop attestation form Joseph Young find he has just finished three months imprisonment ... he will be prosecuted tomorrow ..." [23]

Telegram to Binning: "... Caravan should arrive Carlisle Friday afternoon ... Wheels had to be removed owing to height ... please send competent person to refit wheels ..." [94]

**17 Oct 1914**

4 men recruited at Warwick Bridge; 15 men recruited at Carlisle Cross and 7 Devonshire Street. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 5 attestations to [Blackhall] Camp. [12]

Bill from South End Cooperative Society: "1 pr Specials [boots] size 14 made to measure 18s 6d." [96]

Letter from Dr. Morland: "Owing to the development of varicose veins in both legs I consider Private J. Colman to be unfit for Military Service. While on duty the condition became gradually worse." [23]

**19 Oct 1914**

21 men recruited at Caldewgate [Carr's Biscuits] and 7 Devonshire Street. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 15 attestations to Camp. [12]

Equipment at Camp: 10 felling axes, 20 billhooks, 10 pickaxes, 10 shovels, 10 spades, 6 sledge hammers, 12 latrine screens, 10 brooms, 50 latrine buckets, 2 bundles latrine paper, 3200 yards of flannelette, 9 gallons of oil. [75]

Attestation papers of: Stephen Brough, 42, of 36 Grasmere Street, Currock, Carlisle; Joseph Sydney McVay, 19, of 19 Cammells Terrace, Westfield, Workington.

Copy telegram from Machell to Mr. Spedding at Lowther: "Tables for Mess and Hut urgently needed I know his Lordship wishes this to be got on with ..." [55]

**20 Oct 1914**



20 men recruited at East Nelson Street [Buck's?] and 7 Devonshire Street. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 12 attestations to Camp. [12]

Letter from Carlisle United Football Club: " ... to inform you that after Sat next ... or any cup tie permission have been given to admit any of Lonsdale army men in uniform or with Permit to Half Price to all Parts of the Ground. ..." [258]

### **21 Oct 1914**

1 man recruited at Kirkbampton; 3 men recruited at Orton; 22 men recruited at Causewayhead. Recruiting Office sent 20 attestations to Camp. [279]

Heights of recruits:

Thomas Ernest Brough 5' 7", William Byers 5' 10", Alfred James Chandler 6' 0", Robert Clark 5' 2", Alfred Davidson 5' 11"; David Douglas 5' 9, Joseph Harrison, 5' 5", William Johnston 5' 7", James Kelly 5' 2", Samuel Lakin 5' 5", James Leach 5' 9", Thomas James Nicholson 5' 6", William Nugent 5' 7", Thomas Queen 5' 6", Joseph Raine 5' 5", Charles Scales 5' 6", George Sewell 5' 5", James Wallace 5' 5", John George Wilson 5' 7";. chest measurement varied between 32" and 40". [12]

Attestation papers of John Lorimer, 34, 5' 5", of 24 Newcastle Street, Carlisle.

### **Thu 22 Oct 1914** [279] [12] [5] [58] [137] [112]

2 men recruited at Bromfield, 2 men recruited at Caldbeck; 13 men recruited at Devonshire Street. Office sent 7 attestations to Camp. Recruits: Andrew Bulman 5' 5", James Elliott 5' 6", Austin Ferguson 5' 8", William Hewson 5' 5", Percy Leonard Jones 5' 5", Thomas Taylor 5' 6."

Until today volunteering was rewarded with 2s 6d (12.5p); it was then reduced to 1s (5p)

Gift of blankets from Carlisle Citizens' League.

Battalion Orders.

Letter requesting permission to take a photograph of the church parade on 31/10/14 "I may say I have lent the Gramophone up at the camp and well known to Major Binning ..."

General Equipment Indent: 10 felling axes, 20 bill hooks, 10 pick axes, 10 general service shovels, 10 spades, 6 wedge sawyers, 12 latrine screens, 12 birch brooms, 50 latrine buckets, 2 bundles latrine paper. [66]

Attestation papers of Thomas Taylor, 43, 5' 6", of 204 Greystone Road, Carlisle, born Blackburn.

### **23 Oct 1914**

3 men recruited at Kingstown; 2 men recruited at Fir Ends; 12 men recruited at Carlisle Cross and 7 Devonshire Street. [279]

Recruits:

Richard Coulthard, married, ironmoulder, 52 Brook Street, Carlisle, 5' 5".

William Daly, married, painter, 73 Warwick Street, Rickergate, Carlisle 5' 5", 4 years' service with 4th Battalion Border Regiment volunteers.

George Donoghue, railway shunter (resigned), 11 Dudson's Terrace, London Road, Carlisle 5' 7".

George Goodfellow, waiter, 13 Albert Street, Penrith 5' 8".

John Wilson, labourer, 3 James Terrace, Tait Street, Botchergate, Carlisle. 5' 7". 6 years' service 3rd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, ex. N.C.O. [12]

#### **24 Oct 1914**

Col. Machell reports to Lord Lonsdale: a football match [football encouraged team spirit amongst the men] and that the players wanted to wear yellow [Lonsdale] colours; men not on duty were allowed to go home for the weekend; recruitment now over 700. [279]

5 men recruited at Holme St. Cuthbert's, 18 men recruited at 7 Devonshire Street. Office sent 3 attestations to Camp: John Davidson 5' 5"; Thomas Fehrenback 5' 2". [12]

Attestation papers of: Joseph Skinner, 41, 5' 2", of 17 Lewthwaite Square, Port Road, Carlisle; George Henry Waleworths, 34, of 90 Moss Hayton Bank Terrace, Bowness on Windermere.

Carlisle South-End Cooperative Society: "We have delivered boots ... as follows: Blackwell Camp 687 and 1 pair specials [size] 14, and to Kendal 238 pairs making 925 pairs ... leaving 125 pairs ..." [75]

#### **26 Oct 1914** [279], [12] [5]

The Earl of Lonsdale asks if the Battalion will wear the Lowther crest as their badge. Col. Machell reports to Lord Lonsdale: "The mess hut has been lengthened ... several of the new tables have been received & we can now just seat all the men together – a huge advantage. Men are also at work flooring the stables, as further accommodation is urgently required. Men are coming in well – strength yesterday 729 ... we have about 200 men in uniform now. We are organising a big parade for 7th Nov. the hiring day at Carlisle ... The health of the men is good ... their conduct is splendid ..."

4 men recruited at Cargo. Recruiting Office sent 11 attestations to Camp:

William Barnes 5' 8"; Christopher Blackburn 5' 6"; Thomas Johnston Cochrane 5' 9"; Alexander Jones 5' 6"; Percy Alexander Jones 5' 5"; Joseph McLean 5' 6"; James O'Hara 5' 8"; John Sewell 5' 6"; Irvine Gibson Topping 5' 6"; George Warwick 5' 7"; Thomas Wilson 5' 6. Alex Robinson recruited at Penrith.

Letter to Machell: "... meeting here [Appleby] was very satisfactory, several men coming forward at & after the meeting & today several have been attested here, & going on to Kendal Wednesday. I was wondering if it could be arranged that you will be able to let us have some slides of photo's taken of Lonsdale Battn. that we could throw upon the sheet." [7]

**27 Oct 1914** {12} [5] [111]

Recruiting Office sent 13 attestations to Camp including:

James Carlyle 5' 9"; Joseph Elliott 5'; Frederick Edgar Francis 5' 7"; James Kay 5' 6"; Thomas Little 5' 5"; John Smith 5' 7"; George Sowerby 5' 4"; Tom Telford 5' 6"; James Edwin Thompson 5' 9"; James White 5' 6". William Nixon recruited at Penrith.

Letter from Redmaynes, tailors of Kendal: "... my instructions are 'No alterations to be made, the tunics & trousers are to be tried on different recruits until each one receives somewhere near a' fit' as all are made in stock sizes not to measures !!"

Attestation papers of: Edward Gill, 22, of 5 Ladypit Cottages, Sunny Hill, Whitehaven; George Gill, 28, of 3 Chapel Court, Chapel Street, Whitehaven.

**28 Oct 1914** [81]

John Gibson of the Y.M.C.A. in Kendal to Lord Lonsdale about accommodating recruits at the Y.M.C.A. "... our aim is to provide a home from home for the men and to keep them out of temptation's way. We have organised sing songs, concerts, band entertainments, shooting and billiard competitions, and allow smoking throughout the place ..." [279]

3 men recruited at High Hesketh. Recruiting Office sent 7 attestations to Camp:

Thomas Bennett 5' 7"; Ernest Birrell 5' 7"; Joseph Brown 5' 9"; Jacob Walton Burns 5' 5"; John Etchells 5' 5"; Samuel Russell Irving 5' 10"; John Williams Whitfield 5' 7".

Robert Fulton of Cummersdale Mills : "We have been carrying out a good many alterations to our Range but we hope to complete them by Saturday and you would be able to commence shooting any time after that. ... You will be able at least to have 12 men shooting at once and if found necessary 18 with very little difficulty. ... we have managed to get 11 Rifles several clubs having kindly responded to our appeal. I have been fortunate in getting 20,000 Rds of Ammunition ... I take it you will be using the white target with round "bull" at first until your men get used to the sights ... But if later you wanted to use the green card with khaki man upon it ..."; encloses sample of green card; 'Points of Aim on Various Targets', 'Hints on Rifle Firing in the Field'.

Copy telegram from Machell to Mr. Spedding at Lowther: "owing to water pouring through roof compelled evacuate Bar stand and accommodation accordingly reduced by 40. Hope can make weather tight quickly." [55]

Canteen Scale Prices: Ale 3d per pint; Beer 4d per pint; Whisky ranging from 2d to 5d a measure; Port or Rum 2d or 3d a measure; soda 1d. Dry goods: pies 2d; cakes 2d; chocolate 1d; 6 boxes of matches 1d; tin of metal polish 1d; tin of boot polish 1d; twist of tobacco 2d; packet of cigarettes, 1d.

**29 Oct 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 2 attestations to Camp: Joseph Crane 5' 6"; William Dalton 5' 5". [12]

Letter: "... the men are hanging back until that day [hirings in Appleby] because the farmers are refusing to pay them their half year's wages until that date. I have had to take the Police Superintendent out to make the farmers pay up & release the man & also to write a strong letter to the farmer threatening a call from the police. Another matter to consider is this. On hiring day there are no amusements in Appleby & after the morning's business is over the great majority of the lasses & lads clear off to Carlisle by the midday train, therefore any display must take place pretty early in the day ..." [7]

Attestation papers: of Roger Casson, 27, of 13 James Street, Workington; William McVeigh, 22, of Whitehaven.

General Equipment Indent: 955 short rifles, 953 sword bayonets, 953 scabbards, 5 Webley pistols, 955 bottles of oil, 955 pull-throughs, 12 mirror reflectors, 5 pistol cleaning rods. [66]

### **30 Oct 1914**

Machell reports to Lord Lonsdale: "It is most kind of you to have ordered the football jerseys, & we shall be very pleased to wear your crest ... we have had to evacuate the tents ... as the water came through. However, they have got on well with flooring the loose boxes ... Tomorrow our numbers should be 800, and I expect a big influx after the hirings. In the Race Stand buildings we have not accommodation for more than 350. If the Bar Stand can be made habitable, we can temporarily put 40 there, but it is wanted as a canteen. In stables, say, 300, & I should like to use the Pavilion as a mess & recreation hut ... so that we shall require hutments for 450 men." [279]

Recruiting Office sent 2 attestations to Camp: Ernest Bone 5' 7"; Thomas Smith Glasson 5' 5". [12]

General Equipment Indent: 3200 yards of flannelette. [66]

### **Sun 31 Oct 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 4 attestations. Recruits:

Joseph William Armstrong 5' 5"; William Beaumont 5' 5"; Joseph Green 5' 3"; John Greenall 5' 8"; William Hayton 6'; James Hewetson 5' 5"; Joseph Moore 5' 8"; Thomas Richardson 5' 7"; Edward Salkeld 5' 5".

Attestation papers of William Bewley, 21, of Hawthorne House, Dunstone, co. Durham

### **1 Nov 1914**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "... you thought you could lend me a useful animal [horse] for Parade ... I should much like him this week – we contemplate a march round Carlisle on Saturday, the hiring day ... Total strength yesterday 814." [279]

### **2 Nov 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 11 attestations to Camp including:

Shannon George 5' 5"; Robert Glaister 5' 10"; John Lawson 5' 5"; Benjamin Lee 5' 6"; George William McCall 5' 5"; Jonathan McKenzie 5' 6"; David Rowe 5' 5"; David Skinner 5' 7"; Douglas Thompson 5' 6". [12]

Letter from Local Government Board: "... the conditions at Blackwell Camp ... the following occur to me as the most important considerations in connection with its sanitation: steps should be taken to render the drinking of water from the well impossible ... the conditions of water-carts which convey the Carlisle water to the camp should be strictly supervised and the tanks should be kept scrupulously clean ..." [89]

Attestation papers of Alfred Dempster, 19, of 272 Moss Bay Road, Workington, born Dumfries.

Letter from Y.M.C.A.: "I understand that your Battalion is to be quartered for the winter in Carlisle and ... we have been wondering whether we could offer you the use of our organisation and staff to carry on the work on the lines with which you are familiar for the benefit of your men. We have been approached by a number of our friends in the Lake District asking if we are going to do anything for the men, and of course, we are anxious to be of any possible service ..." [258]

### **3 Nov 1914**

1 man recruited at Roadhead. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 6 attestations to Camp including:

Joseph William Forster 5' 6"; William Hall 5' 5"; David Johnston 5' 6"; John William Pillans 5' 5". [12]

Letter: "About the hirings: the main hirings in Westmorland are Appleby & Kendal, both on Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> ... I propose with your leave to send a Section to Appleby (preferably of local men) under Rivington & shall make a show there. ..." [7]

Attestation papers of: Henry Crellin, 25, of Udale Street, Workington, born Maryport; Thomas Crellin, 26, of Udale Street, Workington, born Maryport. [brothers]; Ernest Wilson, 34, 5' 5", of 7 Albert Place, Stanwix.

### **4 Nov 1914 [279 [12] [75] [111]**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "Strength yesterday over 850, and I expect to be nearly full in 10 days ..."

Despatch of stretchers.

2 men recruited at Lees Hill. Recruiting Office sent 5 attestations to Camp including:

William Hall 5' 5"; Robert Rodger 5' 11"; George Sarginson 5' 9"; James Smith 5' 5".

Col. Machell to lease Blackwell Lodge.

Letter to Machell: "... We had a grand meeting here [Kirkby Stephen] last night 400 people & a great number of likely men but could not get one to put his hand up, although after the meeting several came & stated they were going into Appleby on Sat next to join the Battn. ..." [7]

Letter from Y.M.C.A.: " ... what sum we would be justified in spending for the comfort and recreation of the men in Carlisle and ... to ascertain whether it might not be possible to secure a building locally and erect it on the camp site. ..." [258]

Soldiers' Club: The Soldiers' Club will re-open tomorrow (Thursday) night at 6.0 p.m. at the new premises at 41 Bank Street. We trust your men will look upon it as a home when they are in Carlisle. ..." [258]

**5 Nov 1914** [279], [12] [5] [75] [111] [199]

2 men recruited at Easton. Recruiting Office sent 1 attestation to Camp. Recruits:

William Beadle 5' 9"; William Steele 5' 6". James Norman and William McKenzie recruited at Penrith.

Equipment ordered': 1 lifting jack, 1 Maltese cart, 3 wagons, 2 water carts. Equipment ordered for horses: 6 nose bags, 2 harness brushes, 6 horse brushes, 6 curry combs, 1 oil pan, 6 horse rubbers, 1 pair trimming scissors, 23 sponges, 1 saddle blanket, 2 harnesses, 1 pair of horse clippers, 3 saddlery packs.

Equipment ordered: 2 small lamps, 8 gas bags, 2 cases of pencils, 2 bottles cleansing gas, 2 tin cans, 4 retorts, 2 spanners, 5 message books, 106 signal flags.

Letter from G.J. Goodman of Brampton "... it would be far better if the men could get to Brampton about 9.30 in the morning and catch the youths as they come into town [for the hirings] and before they are signed on for another 6 months, and that it would be a help if a rousing speaker could accompany them, and say a word in the market place. ... I am exceedingly anxious that some should be caught not only for king and country, but for honour, righteousness and freedom."

Machell's telegram to Drill Hall, Workington: "...please send no more recruit under full five feet four in stockings have had to reject two today ..."

Attestation papers of James Smith McKie, 38, of Crown Square, Penrith.

**6 Nov 1914**

5 men recruited at Rosley; 10 men recruited at 7 Devonshire Street. [279]

Office sent 8 attestations to Camp including:

Bertie Bell 5' 8" from Alston; William Bewley 5' 5" from Alston; George William Davie 5' 8"; John Denwood 5' 6" from Alston; Isaac Newton Richardson 5' 9" from Alston; Joseph John Storey 5' 8" from Alston; Thomas Henry Warbrick 5' 10. [12]

Letter to Machell from Fred Lee of Brampton: "... I hear you propose visiting Hallbankgate on

Wednesday. This will be quite useless. It is Hiring Day at Brampton and all the young men from that

District will be here. [7]

Attestation papers of David Pilmer, 26, 5' 5", of 1 Hodgson's Lane, Church Street, Stanwix, born Hereford.

### **Sat 7 Nov 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 3 attestations to Camp. Recruits:

John William Barlow 5' 5"; James Bryson 5' 10"; William James Carpenter 5' 8"; Joseph William Charlton 5' 8"; Matthew Coulthard 5' 6"; George Dobson 5' 6"; George Elliott 5' 9"; William Ferguson 5' 6"; William John Foster 5' 6"; Joseph Ed Furness 5' 7"; William Graham 5' 10"; Thomas Haley 5' 5"; John Harrison 5' 4"; John George Heslop 5' 5"; Henry Holder 5' 5"; James Jackson 5' 5"; John Jamieson 5' 8"; John Robert Jefferson 5' 8"; Stanley Kerr 5' 11"; John James McDermott 5' 6"; James McDonald 5' 5"; George McKend 5' 9"; George Nicholson 5' 4"; John Nugent 5' 7"; Thomas Pinkney 5' 5"; Thomas Scott 5' 8"; Charles Skinner 5' 5"; Ernest Thoburn 5' 5"; Robert Thompson 5' 6"; William Thompson 5' 7"; Albert John Walton 5' 8"; George Ward 5' 2"; Richard Whitfield 5' 5"; John Whitmore 5' 5"; Isaac Wilson 5' 10". [12]

Attestation papers of Thomas Johnstone, 5' 6", of Burn Foot, West Kirk, Langholm. [8].

Attestations papers of: Ernest Aldersey, 28, 5' 3" of 1 Robson's Place, Warwick Street, Carlisle; William Black, 34, 5' 4", of 1 John's Lane, Caldewgate, Carlisle; John George Davidson, 25, 5' 6", West Silloth, born Carlisle; George Houghton, 19, of High Street, Maryport; John Robert Jefferson, 34, of 119 Union Street, Carlisle, born Annan; Hugh Stitt, 24, 5' 5", of 23 Raglan's Court, Silloth; George Walker, 23, of Whitehaven.

Route for march through Carlisle: Currock Road, James Street, Viaduct, Milbourne Street, Kendal Street, Hawick Street, Caldewgate, Annetwell Street, Castle Street, Market Place. Halt. Scotch Street, The Sands, Lowther Street, Bank Street, Crescent, Botchergate, St. Nicholas to Camp. [46]

Route march of 1 sergeant, 2 corporals and 40 men in uniform without arms: leave Cummersdale [station], arrive Maryport to be met by band and parade; march to Workington. [77]

Hirings at Carlisle, Appleby and Kendal. [7]

Conviction of Edward Salkeld of the Lonsdale Battalion for stealing a cart and harness; imprisoned for one month or to pay 23 shillings. Also includes attestation. [9]

### **8 Nov 1914**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "40 recruits sworn in at Carlisle ... yesterday." ['279]

Machell's draft letter re discharge: "... Private J. Simpson ... this man .... Is so dull witted, stupid and obstinate as to be incapable of learning his drill. He is unable to keep step or to perform the simplest of movements correctly. He is of powerful physique, and I have personally endeavoured to induce him to try & keep up with his comrades. I had almost decided he was mentally deficient ..."

[23]

**Mon 9 Nov 1914** [279] [12] [5] [199]

7 men recruited at 7 Devonshire Street. Office sent 18 attestations to Camp including:

Hugh James Bannon 5' 5"; Henry Graham 5' 6"; John William Graham 5' 8"; Frederick Maw 5' 8".  
Thomas Birbeck, William Arthur Bradley, John Donaldson; Simpson Tindal recruited at Penrith.

Provisional arrangements by the Cocker mouth Joint Political recruiting Committee: "The County Industrial School Band ... to meet contingent of West County men belonging to Lord Lonsdale's Battalion marching from Workington. This Contingent ... will march to the Railway Station ... where some half dozen of the [Westmorland & Cumberland] Yeomanry will join them – then all will proceed ... to Market Place where Col. Weston M.P. will speak ... Col. Weston will speak again at the Cinema Show ...and also at the Drill Hall ..."

Route march from Workington to Cocker mouth to be met by band and parade through the town; leave Cocker mouth for Cummersdale. [77]

Letter to Machell from T. Armstrong, vicar of Brampton: "I hear that a detachment of the Lonsdale Battn. is coming to Brampton on the Hiring Day, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> & will stay overnight in the town. As that night is the rowdiest of the year, with a lot of drinking, & worse – we should be grateful to you if you would kindly see that some officer is sent with them who will be able to exercise a fairly strong control over them. On each hiring day towards the evening may be seen numbers of half-drunken lads and girls & these would be a great temptation to your young men of whom we are justly proud. ... The hiring practically ends by one o'clock: after that there is much dancing & drinking. ..." [7]

Attestation papers of: William George Bates, 19, of 29 North Road, Kells, Whitehaven; Thomas Coates, 29, of Kirkby Stephen; Alexander Howard, 22, of Maryport; James Jardine, 21, of 30 South Marsh Street, Workington; William Moore, 22, of 94 Marsh Side, Workington; Maurice Power, 37, of Cleator Moor, Andrew Ward, 35, of Mason Arms, Rheda Terrace, Cleator Moor, born Hensingham.

**Tues 10 Nov 1914** [279 [12] [5] [199] [47] [109]

30 men recruited at Wigton hirings. Recruiting Office sent 12 attestations to Camp including:

Ernest Bewley 5' 7"; John Cowing 5' 5"; Alfred Forsyth 5' 4"; William Gerrard 5' 4"; John Robert Hind 5' 5"; John Irving 5' 9"; William McGrew 5' 8"; Joseph Martin 5' 10"; Bertie J.L. Steele 5' 6"; John Smith Waites 5' 5"; John White 5' 5". Thomas Atkinson, John W, Hunter, Joseph Sargent Noble, Philip Raine (of Southwaite), George E. Reay, Arthur Savage, George Watt, J. William Watt recruited at Penrith hirings. [7]

Workington Recruiting Office : "Recruiting is quite brisk here today, between 20 or 30 left for the Camp this afternoon ... The march out through this district did a lot of Good, then men looked very well & behaved like gentlemen."

Inoculations for B Company.

Attestation of David Flynn of Millom/Cleator Moor who was later discharged.

Attestation papers of: Joseph Scarrow Atkinson, 34, of Workington, born Harrington; Thomas Beeby, 19, of Branthwaite, Workington; Hugh Lawson Brown, 19, of Cammel's Offices, Moss Bay, Workington; Richard Goodwin, 19, of 30 Brow Street, Maryport; Richard Heskett, 31, of 16 Furnace



Road, Maryport; William McGrear, 33, of Union Street, Carlisle, born Preston; John James Monteith, 28, of 138 Senhouse Street, Workington, born Newton Stewart; Richard Newton, 24, of 32 Furnace Road, Maryport; Tom Dixon Ostle, 36, Roseville Terrace, Netherton, Maryport; Joseph William Ostle, 31, 4 Roseville Terrace, Netherton, Maryport; Joseph Ernest Penn, 20, of 5 Todhunter's Yard, Queen Street, Maryport; James Petrie, 22, of 92 Nelson Street, Maryport; William Storey, 22, of 15 Crosby Street, Maryport; Joseph Taylor, 32, of 41 Pow Street, Workington; Richard Wildman, 34, of 7 Thomas Stree, Carlisle.

**Wed 11 Nov 1914** [12] [5] [185] [199]

Recruiting Office sent 16 attestations to Camp including:

George Dockray 5' 11"; Frank Downing 5' 6"; Henry Graham 5' 6"; Thomas Haycroft 5' 11"; Harold McIntosh 5' 7"; John Robert Lawson 5' 9"; Robert Pugmire 5' 5"; Gordon Steele 5' 11"; Stanley Thompson 5' 4"; William Henry Thompson 5' 5"; Joseph Topping 5' 5"; Elias Train 5' 9"; Richard Wildman 5' 4". Thomas Edwin Spark (of Alston), Joseph William Wilkins recruited at Penrith.

Machell telegram "Enlist up to fifteen at Appleby if quite exceptionally good but tell them we are now only taking the best to replace a few undesirables. 305 should be extreme limit as A and B companies now complete and West Cumberland men pouring in for D as result march."

Machell's telegram to D Company: "Strength D Company yesterday night 219 so do not require more than 50 altogether please make certain of only sending best men and then open waiting list."

Attestation papers of: Thomas Anderson, 19, of 18 Queen Street, Maryport; Matthew Bell, 26, of Richmond Hill, Workington; Frank Clarkson, 22, of 16 Pow Street, Workington, born Bolton, Lancashire; Thomas Elliott, 34, 5' 3", of Spelter Works, Tindale Fell, Brampton, born Hexham; George Massey, 24, of 3 Lister Square, Nelson Street, Maryport; Patrick Morgan, 19, of 5 Salisbury Street, Westfield, Workington; Leslie Muir, 24, of 60 John Street, Workington, born Maryport; Thomas Pagan, 31, 5' 4", Donald's Court, Union Street, Carlisle; Thomas Paterson, 21, 5' 4", of Crown & Mitre Hotel, English Street, Carlisle; Hanley Thompson, 19, 27 Devonshire Walk, Carlisle; William Henry Thompson, 32, of Lowther House, Lowther Street, Carlisle, born Dumfries; Elias Train, 32, of Blyth.

Route march of 1 sergeant, 2 corporals and 40 privates of B Company to march through Brampton. [77]

Daily Guard Report. [118]

**12 Nov 1914** [12] [5]

Recruiting Office sent 6 attestations to Camp including:

William James Atkinson 5' 11" John Frazer 5' 8"; John Walter Johnston 5' 6". S.C. Warwick recruited at Penrith.

Attestation papers of: Robert Carruthers, 28, of Maryport; George Howard, 23, of Maryport; James Morgan, 19, of 9 King Street, Workington; Joseph William Rumney, 24, of Aspatria; George Thlomas Todhunter, 23, 5' 4", of 7 Monks' Close Road, Carlisle.

“The Committee of the Wesley House Soldiers’ Institute beg to inform Colonel Machell that a concert for Recruits (admission free) will be given in the Y.M.C.A. Hall on Saturday ...” [258]

**13 Nov 1914** [12] [199] [6] [57]

Recruiting Office sent 3 attestations to Camp:

Charles William Alford 5’ 7” ; Frank Graves 5’ 5” Joseph Whyte 5’ 8” . [12]

Telegram to Machell: “Have four single excellent fellows here [Workington] waiting regret to miss them can you possibly admit.” Machell’s reply ““Enlist these four if specially good but can take more bearing in mind men expected from you Monday.” [199]

Telegram Machell to the press: “Lonsdale Battalion strength now 1000 recruiting for this Battalion closed for the present.” [6]

Memo: “Please give orders that, in order to ensure proper supply of biscuits at early morning tea, which until further order will be served at 6.45 a.m., Company Orderly Corporals will take over biscuits for the number of men in mess in their respective Companies from the Contractor’s store at 6.40 a.m. & will be responsible for proper issue.” [57]

Machell’s draft letter recommending discharge: “... Pte. R. Johnston ... he is a constant source of trouble to his Platoon Sergeant, his comrades complain of his obscene language & low habits, and he makes little or no progress with his training. On being awarded a minor punishment ... he broke out of camp & remained absent till nearly midnight. ..” [23]

**14 Nov 1914** [12] [75]

Recruiting Office sent 38 attestations to Camp including:

William Armstrong 5’ 9” ; Thomas Bainbridge 5’ 6” ; James Brown 5’ 4” ; James Carrick 5’ 5” ; James Edmondson 5’ 6” ; John Norman Glaister 5’ 9” ; Joseph Hill 5’ 6” ; John Pearson Jopson 5’ 5” ; John William Kendall 5’ 6” ; David McKillop 5’ 5” ; Thomas Paisley 5’ 5” ; Edward Smith 5’ 10” ; Richard Walter 5’ 7” ; Joseph Watt 5’ 4” ; Richard Winter 6’ 2” .

Attestation papers of: Bryce McKend, 21, 5’ 8” , of Annan; Dennis Sullivan, 30, 5’ 4” , 44 Orchard Street, Carlisle; James Wynn, 28, 5’ 4” , of 25 Northumberland Street, Denton Holme, Carlisle.

**15 Nov 1914**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: “Lonsdales beat the great “Bighill United F.C.” Whitehaven by 5 goals to 1 yesterday, in the new shirts. 41 recruits, grand fellows, came in last night ... 1109 all ranks – I have also probably up to 70 ... and weed out undesirables as much as possible. ... I am assured by the men that we could raise another Battalion if we wanted to, but the men won’t hear of anything but the Lonsdales. After ... Parade today I told them that we had raised the Battalion with their cooperation and it was their cooperation we relied upon to enable us to run it. It occurs to me that you might like to let the W.O. [War Office] know that obviously the way to get recruits is to send the men home on weekend pass and tell their friends the facts. ... The 4 London sergeants are grand they teach their men as much and more in an hour as others do in a week. Heavy snow today....” [279]

## **16 Nov 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 24 attestations to Camp including:

Walter Dobson 5' 8"; Thomas Dufton 5' 10"; Frederick Furness 5' 6"; Alan Graham 5' 8"; Tom Graham 5' 8"; Thomas Harrison 5' 7"; Thomas William Hetherington 5' 4"; Matthew Irving 5' 4"; George William Jackson 5' 8"; David James 5' 9"; Thonas Leslie 5' 6"; Ernest Cameron McIntosh 5' 7"; Robert Moffatt 5' 7"; George Park 5' 6"; Robert Thompson Pattinson 5' 8"; Joseph Peascod 5' 6"; John Purdham 5' 6"; John Ryan 5' 6"; Richard Scott 5' 9"; Percy Wood 5' 6"; John Wren 5' 6"; John Wren 5' 7"; Joseph Wren 5' 10" [12]

Delivery of 80 second hand railway sleepers to Camp. [75]

Draft inspection report to be sent to HQ Western Command [see copy]; [6]

Attestation papers of Daniel Matthews, 28, of 8 King Street, Aspatria.

Nominal roll of B Company. [179]

Draft notice: "At the annual meeting of the Goodwin Male Voice Choir, ... it was proposed and carried that Honorary Membership of the choir be offered to all men of the Lonsdale Battalion ...who might wish to attend practices for singing. ... The National Anthems of the Allied Forces will be learnt ..." [258]

## **17 Nov 1914** [279], [12] [75]

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "urgent six hundred blankets required to give each man three owing severe cold ..." Lord Lonsdale to Machell: "Am sorry men are likely to feel the cold delighted to send more blankets 900 despatched today"

Recruiting Office sent 4 attestations to Camp:

Arthur Edwin Cartner 5' 7"; Martin Mitchinson Huddart 5' 7"; Henry Arthur Little 5' 6"; Isaac Woofe, 28, 5' 4" of Dalton House, Mealsgate, born Wigton.

Penrith and Wigton hirings. [7]

Attestation papers of Thomas Warwick Coulthard, 32, of Stoney Green, Great Salkeld.

## **18 Nov 1914**

Telegram from Machell to Recruiting Office: "... now only taking odd men who had been enlisted previously and sent home." [6]

Brampton hirings. [7]

## **19 Nov 1914**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "... the blankets have not actually arrived, but I have a notice today that a large quantity was despatched yesterday, so I expect we shall have them very soon. All going well – I had a special little parade at noon today ... which went off well." [279]

**20 Nov 1914**

Col. Machell's agreement for letting Blackwell Lodge. [52]

**22 Nov 1914**

Nether Denton Parish offered 4 belts, mufflers and 11 helmets. [75]

Letter: "Yesterday ... closed the Recruiting Office, which has sent men to join the Lonsdale Battalion... The strength of the Battalion today is 1153 officers, non-commissioned officers and men ..." [11]

Recruiting Officers in Carlisle: Capt. Bell, George Holmes, T. Hutchinson, John H. Johnson, William Luck, Hugh McQuillin, Samuel Parker, John Sanderson, H. Thornton, E. Wanless, Revd. H.B. Wilson, Tom Wilson. [6]

**25 Nov 1914**

Schedule of lights and fittings at the Grand Stand [75]

Monthly indents of personal clothing and kits issued to C Company in Kendal. [68]

Children of married men in the Lonsdale Battalion: girls under 16 312, boys under 14; information required by Canon H,D, Rawnsley so that the Mayoress of Carlisle could organise the collection and distribution of toys. [126]

**26 Nov 1914**

999 suits and caps sent to Blackhall Camp by Redmaynes of Wigton. [62]

Telegram from Mrs. Dixon of Wood View, Carlisle: "Could the Lonsdale Battn. use ½ a ton of jam. It is offered as a present from some people in Carlisle. ..."

Letter to Machell: "The Committee of the Wesley House Soldiers' Institute ... that there will be a concert for Soldiers (admission free) at the Y.M.C.A. Hall on Saturday .... The Committee are sorry to find that another Concert for Soldiers is to be given in the Bank Street institute on the same evening. They think that everyone working for these brave men who are ready to give their lives for their King and Country should work in harmony and that there should be no competition. ..." [258]

**27 Nov 1914**

Diagrams of electric and petrol lighting at Blackhall Camp showing the ranges of buildings and the number and position of lighting points. [59]

General Equipment Indent: 1100 shirts, flannel, silvery grey. [66]

**29 Nov 1914**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "... yesterday the Lonsdales beat the "Carlisle United" F.C. by 2 goals to 0 – a fine match, far the best yet. The weather is awful & there is a lot of mild sort of influenza – in fact it is just a matter of 'how bad' everyone is, but it will do us all good. I have got all up from the

Stables now except those who actually mess in the Pavilion, & hope to get the Kendal Company in the new huts by Xmas. There has been a muddle about the great coats which are now urgently required – the Committee appear not to have made a proper contract, so has been at the mercy of the contractor.... Your belts are a godsend, & the rugs ...” [279]

#### **Dec 1914**

Register of kit and personal equipment issued to named members of A Company. [63]

#### **1 Dec 1914**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: “... greatcoats ... actually received 230 ...” [279]

Telegram from Lonsdale to Machell: “... great coat difficulty was not fault of committee but fault of contract being made with company who became insolvent and could not obtain cloth to vary out contracts ...” [131]

Daily returns of rations issued to sergeants (11) and men (239) begins. [102]

Nominal roll of A Company. [178]

#### **3 Dec 1914**

General Equipment Indent: 40 fencing muskets with spring bayonet. [66]

War Office: “I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that it has been decided to number the battalions which have been raised locally by communities or individuals: 11<sup>th</sup> (Service) Bn. The Border Regiment (Lonsdale). [121]

#### **4 Dec 1914**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: “We have been issuing your coats all day & giving out the thicker ones first – they are immensely appreciated. It really was becoming very serious. The weather has been exceptionally bad, but the health of the men is not suffering as much as one would expect – the anti-typhoid inoculation laid a lot up for a day or two, but they get over it quickly. ...” [279]

Letter from Voluntary Aid Detachment of British Red Cross in Carlisle: “... I will be pleased to come up and arrange what we can do to provide a staff for your proposed Detention Room at the Camp ...” [105]

Return of Clothing and Other Necessaries issued to C Company, Kendal. [62]

12 pairs of field glasses received from the National Service League. [73]

#### **5 Dec 1914**

Telegram: “Lord Lonsdale approves of water pipe get it done at once.” [111]

#### **6 Dec 1914**

Order for the arrest of Private T. Bates of 13 Quay Street, Whitehaven, deserter. [109]

## **7 Dec 1914**

Pencil sketch of 2 soldiers in a trench. "You have to have 2 "headers" sandbags thick now, or 3'6" to 5' (wet) earth to stop Mauser bullets. Screen your loopholes when not in use – otherwise they make an excellent bulls eye at short range. (The Germans are in some places only 20 yds off or so.) I hope this infernal trench warfare is not going on to the end of the war – it gives one no scope. We sometimes have steel loophole plates which are useful against single bullets (but not when 20 or 30 come in exactly the same place.) Our trenches are all falling in, as they were not revetted in the first instance. Awful grind putting them up again." [81]

Letter from Constance Davidson, Home Food Culture of Cumberland and Westmorland: need tins in which to store the jam and make arrangements for delivery. [126]

The Lonsdale Battalion contemplates giving a special Exhibition of high-class Boxing at the Drill Hall, Swifts Lane, Carlisle, on the evening of Boxing Day ... it is hoped that the Earl of Lonsdale will be present. The Boxing Competitions recently held at Blackhall camp have shown there is a great amount of talent in the Battalion." [258]

## **8 Dec 1914**

Letter from Lord Lonsdale to Machell "I am delighted to hear that you are getting on so well, at football & all else. I fear this weather has been terribly against all proceedings, huts, etc. ... Certainly I will have a Photograph taken for your Xmas card & I will send you a Sketch of the Badge which is almost complete. How many badges do they require, one for cap 2 for shoulder, where else? I have two proper harness being stained & will have it stamped. What awful weather we had just over 8 in of rain in 6 days here, the record for Lowther for the last 50 years ..." [246]

Letter from Mrs. Trench of Workington offering to "each man in the Lonsdale Battalion who will accept it a portion of the Scriptures in small form ..." [112]

General Equipment Indent: 40 fencing gloves, 40 fencing arm guards, 40 fencing jackets, 40 bayonet fighting masks, 40 body fencing pads, 40 breast fencing pads. [66]

## **10 Dec 1914**

Lonsdale Battalion part of the 124th Infantry Brigade [278]

Notes on using a rifle, and discipline. [81]

## **11 Dec 1914**

Battalion Orders: "Authority having been received for the Lonsdale Battalion to recruit a 5th and later on a 6th (Depot) Company ... and arrangements having been made for the provision of the necessary number of billets in the vicinity of the Camp, recruiting is re-opened from this date. Mr. Plender has kindly consented to resume charge of the Recruiting Office at 7 Devonshire Street, Carlisle ... A notification is being sent to the principal recruiting officers in the two counties, and it is hoped that the N.C. Officers and men will themselves bring in recruits for our depot, as they did for the Battalion. ... the function of the depot Companies will be to provide successive drafts of Lonsdale men for the Lonsdale Battalion at the Front." [136]

Press release: "The War Office having authorised the formation of a 5th (Depot) Company, with a strength of 250 men and an establishment of Officers ..., and a 6th Depot Company later, arrangements have been pushed forward for the accommodation of men in billets in the immediate vicinity of Blackhall Camp, where the new Companies will be trained.

On Saturday the Lonsdale Recruiting Office will reopen ...and the Recruiting Officers at the principal Centres have been requested to give notice that it is once more possible for men of good physique and high character to offer themselves for enlistment in the Lonsdales.

The ranks were so rapidly filled at the time of the Hirings that bitter disappointment was caused to hundreds of splendid fellows who came forward to do their duty and soldier with their Pals in the local Battalion. Now they have their chance. They cannot join the Service Battalion at once because it is still over establishment, but the function of the Depot Companies, ... will be to provide a steady supply of Lonsdale men for the Lonsdale Battalion at the Front.

Short as has been the history of the Battalion up to date, a good tradition has already been established and its feet stand firm upon a solid foundation of right feeling and goodwill.

The Lonsdale Battalion is young, and has much to learn in a short space of time, but all are keen, and if only the weather will continue favourable, they will soon be fit for service.

C Company is coming from Kendal immediately after Christmas and they will receive a rousing reception from their comrades. ... All classes of men are soldiering side by side in the Lonsdales, ... and the clannish spirit which has been so noticeable already will become intensified when the Battalion goes abroad.

A month ago when Recruiting was stopped, and so much disappointment was caused, a number of men said "Lonsdales or nowt" and went home. Now is their chance! There is room for 250 today, and then for 250 more. The Officer Commanding does not believe in more meetings. He believes in the men. He has told the Battalion there are vacancies for 250 recruits, and he says the men will simply tell their friends.

He says "Look at the Football!" our fellows have never been beaten. They have successively defeated The Carlisle Police, the Border Depot, Bigrigg, Carlisle United, and finally our Rugby Union Team has beaten Silloth. ..." [8]

Letter from Miss Edith Annie Smith of Whitehaven: "I not having received any money from Pvt. Patrick Cannon of Lonsdale Battalion for the maintenance of my child. ..." [28]

Letter from Machell to Rivington: "We have got to raise a 5<sup>th</sup> Company (Depot) & later a 6<sup>th</sup>. I have arranged to re-open a recruiting office in Carlisle ... The Depot Companies will be 'composite' but the men from various 'localities' placed in sections together – their function will be to feed the service Battalion, & men will be posted to A B C & D according to where they come from. I am telling the men to get to work, & am putting a thing in the various newspapers – I don't believe in more meetings but let the men get to work. Only let them bring real stout fellows, we only want really good ones. If you collect any before you come here on 29<sup>th</sup> better take them on as a separate squad to C Coy & turn them over to the 5<sup>th</sup> (Depot) Coy as soon as you arrive. The Depot men will all be in lodgings 2/- a day, like at Kendal, and have got over 300 places ready for immediate occupation. ...

Will you before coming here to a certain amount every day of Company Drill, taking every para in turn, so that the Section Commander may get used to handling their sections. It is excellent practice for the young N.C.O.'s, who may know the drill, but get petrified when a long word of command is shot out - ... you will soon be as good as anyone else. I want soon to get on to Company Training." [40]

General Equipment Indent: 50 urine tubs. [66]

Machell's letter to Recruiting Officers: "The formation of a 5<sup>th</sup> (Depot) Company with a strength of 250 men and an establishment of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers ... recruiting for the Lonsdale Battalion is re-opened from this date. I hope that the popularity of the Lonsdale Battalion will not have suffered since the 13<sup>th</sup> [November], when it became necessary to stop recruiting, and that it will be possible to select men of good physique and high character to fill the ranks of our Depot Companies, whose function will be to provide a constant supply of Lonsdale men for the Service Battalion when it goes to France. ... [210]

#### **12 Dec 1914**

Enlisted: Henry Hayston 5' 10"; William Porteous 5' 7"; Simon Telford 5' 9"; William Wardle 5' 9"; James Wightman 5' 7". [12]

Strength: 19 officers, 1088 other ranks, 15 paid instructors. [129]

Nominal roll of D. Company with dates of promotion. [191]

#### **14 Dec 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 4 attestations to Camp. [12]

Joseph Herbert Barnes 5' 4"; John Carruthers 5' 3"; Albert Gate 5' 3"; Robert Graham 5' 11"; Thomas Stanley Wilson 5' 6"; George Frederick Wright 5' 5". Robert Irving, John Little, Thomas Nichol recruited at Penrith. [5]

Medical history (held over for operation) and attestation of Robert Dodd, 24, of Coanwood, Alston; medical histories (unfit) and attestations of David Raffles of Thursby and Duncan Menzies, 19, of 2 South George Street, Carlisle. [18]

Letter to Machell: "Daily News Army and Navy Xmas Pudding Fund. ... at the request of Lord Lonsdale we ... forward 10 cases each containing ten 8 lb tins and one containing five 8lb tins of Xmas Puddings ... on the basis of half-a-pound of pudding per man, this consignment will provide for 1680 men in all." [62]

Attestation papers of David Raffels, 19, of Curthwaite, Thursby.

#### **15 Dec 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 5 attestations to Camp. Samuel Bell 5' 4". [12]

Medical history (refused to complete) of Thomas Norman, 23, of Great Orton; medical history (unfit) of Matthew Dalzell, 26, of Great Orton. [18]



Letter to Machell from Wilson, Jesper & Co. tailors of Carlisle: "We shall esteem it a favour if you will release Sergeant Jackson from his duties with the Lonsdale Battalion at the end of this week. Our wish that he may be relieved from his duty is not dictated by unpatriotic motives but it solely due to the fact that we require him to be back to business previous to the rush which we always experience during the Christmas and New Year holidays." [29]

**16 Dec 1914**

Recruiting Office sent 3 attestations to Camp. Including Thomas Edward Jackson 5' 8"; Isaac Potts 5' 4" [12]

Robinson Brothers [now House of Fraser] of Carlisle submitted the following sample articles for inspection: hand brush 8d, small scrubbing brush 3s 6d per dozen, plate brush 4d, chamois leathers 6d, wash bowls, 11d, zinc buckets 6d, painted hot water cans 2s 3d, dustpan 10d, copper crumb brush and tray 3s 2d, iron saucepans from 1s 8d to 3s 10d, desert knives 4s 9d per dozen, table knives 6s 6d per dozen, nickel silver tea spoons 1s 7d per dozen, nickel silver desert spoons 4s 2d per dozen, nickel silver table spoons 6s per dozen, nickel silver desert forks 4s 2d per dozen, nickel silver table forks 6s per dozen, case of fish knives and forks 9s 6d, case of fish carvers 9s 3d, EPNS breakfast cruet 4s 4d, E.P.N.S dinner cruet 6s 6d, EPNS toast rack and butter 3s 9d, knife cleaners 3d, knife powder 4d per tin, enamel bucket 2s, large tray 7d, green tray 2s 6d, oak tray 3s 6d. [75]

Copy letter from Machell to the War Office: "I am directed by the Earl of Lonsdale to request that the twenty chemical 'Extincteurs' ... may be supplied as early as possible. Wooden hutments for 600 men, besides officers' quarters & other buildgs have now been erected, & owing to shortage of water there is absolutely no means of dealing promptly with possible outbreak of fire." [59]

General Equipment Indent: 4 ambulance stretchers. [66]

**18 Dec 1914** [12] [278] [57]

Recruiting Office sent 1 attestation to Camp, George Miller 5' 4".

Invoice from Mrs. Haworth of Loughrigg, Ambleside for 16 x 8lb tins of 1st qual[ity] plum puddings @ 6s 9d.

Weekly denominational roll: Church of England 656, Roman Catholic 94, Wesleyan Methodists 38, Presbyterians 18, Baptists 3, Primitive Methodists 11, Congregationalists 6, Scotch Nationalists 3. Total 829. [19]

Alston route march; details of press coverage; train to Haltwhistle the march to Alston, Nenthead, Garrigill, Alston for recruiting meeting. "The Battalion Ambulance with pair of horses, all presented by the Earl of Lonsdale, will accompany ... carrying the necessary food, forage and blankets." [77]

1259 men inoculated against typhoid. [85]

**19 Dec 1914** [12] [115]

Joseph Graham 5' 8".

Letter from the City Water Engineer "... a complaint which I am bound to make with respect to the men in your Battalion who are using the Public Baths under the present arrangement. On some occasions the men do not seem to be under proper control and evidently use a large number of towels and drawers [swimming trunks] for the cleaning of their boots. This is a most improper thing to do..."

Letter from Major Harrison Officer Commanding D. Company: "I have to report that the following men are absent without leave ... S. Lowe of Whitehaven, W. Mumford of Workington, J.W. Oglethorpe of Workington, J. Donaghee of Workington, E.F. Hall of Whitehaven and J. McGee. Some of these men applied ... for leave and I refused. The absence of these men together points somewhat to a conspiracy and a defiance of the regulations. Do you think it is worthwhile to notify the Police ...?"

Letter from Recruiting Officer in Appleby to local farmers: "... at this particular moment when your Country is in the gravest danger it may appeal to your patriotism as a father, and also to the patriotism of the male members of your family between the ages of 19 and 38 years. The opportunity for the young men of Westmorland to join this splendid Regiment has occurred again and the Battalion is now open to receive 500 more Recruits. We want these men to join immediately after Christmas." [7]

Letter from Chief Constable of Carlisle: "I have to inform you that Private John Bell ... was arrested ... last night for being drunk and disorderly and creating a disturbance in the Palace Theatre [in Botchergate, Carlisle]. ... I understand that his conduct in the gallery at the Palace was disgraceful and the Artiste who was performing had to leave the stage before finishing his turn in consequence of Bell's behaviour. He would not have been locked up but for the fact that he refused to leave the building and declined to give his name." [23]

Route march from Alston to Haltwhistle then to Gilsland and train back to Carlisle. "It is hoped that a number of fine recruits will be forthcoming in various villages through which the Lonsdales will march, and a number of or private soldiers, many of whom occupy important positions in private life, intend to avail themselves of the opportunity to explain first hand what soldiering in the Lonsdales means." [77]

#### **20 Dec 1914**

Donald Macdonald 5' 7"; Frederick Robinson 5' 4". [12]

#### **21 Dec 1914** [12] [185] [18]

Tom Jackson 5' 6"; Harry Ellwood Nichol 5' 7".

Medical history (unfit) and attestation of Thomas William Irving of Carlisle.

Machell to C Company: "The proportion of 20% of N.C.O.'s & men proceeding on [Christmas] leave by train will in no case be exceeded..." [29]

Following War Office instructions fire screens to isolate burning huts were procured from Messrs. Laing & Sons, builders of Carlisle for £3 19s each. [54]

Attestation papers of Thomas William Irving, 32, of 19 Brook Street, Carlisle.

Western Command: "Kindly note that the official title of your Battalion is 11<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment, and should be used in correspondence." [121]

#### **22 Dec 1914**

Machell's draft letter recommending discharge: "Ex-Sergeant E.J. Caine ... Having been found to be useless as an Instructor he was appointed Pioneer Sergeant. On 12<sup>th</sup> Nov he was placed under arrest for drunkenness & was released with a warning. On 28<sup>th</sup> Nov he was again very drunk, and created a considerable disturbance in Camp. He was reverted to the ranks ..." [23]

#### **23 Dec 1914**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "Your magnificent present of cigars has arrived and they have been distributed. Being in boxes of 25 this was easy, and there is great excitement about it. Thank you once more for all the kind things you have done. Our Xmas card has turned out rather a poor affair. The wretch said he could not use the good photo you sent because it was not toned & substituted this bad one! ... Grand weather for work now. I hope by next Xmas the Battalion will have made a good name, & that you will never regret all that you have done for us – we will do our best." [279]

William Scott Armstrong 5' 10"; Abraham Davidson 5' 3"; William Harrison 5' 6"; Alfred Hunton 5' 6"; Thomas Macdonald 5' 7"; John Nixon Richardson 5' 8"; Frederick George Wilson 5' 8". [12]

Arrangements for C Company to travel from Kendal to Carlisle.

Battalion Orders 57 [135/136]

Mittens: Lady Valda Machell has collected from kind friends over 1200 pairs of wool mittens which have been made as Xmas presents to the Lonsdale Battalion. These mittens have been issued to Companies today – should be distributed to Officers, N.C. Officers & men forthwith."

Strength: Ptes. H.E. Nichols (17380) and Joseph Robley (17381) posted to E Company

Discharges: recruits Tom Jackson, Thomas Tremble, Robert Arnott.

#### **24 Dec 1914**

Christmas telegram from Lord Lonsdale "Christmas greeting to you and yours and all the best of wishes. It is Regiments such as yours that are going to establish the supremacy of England for-ever and sincerely trust that this will be done as speedily as possible and that next Xmas I can congratulate you upon all success and the safety of the Empire but troops are still needed so use your collective and individual help in recruiting in the interest of the King and your country." [112]

Letter from Machell to Rivington: "... I think it would be a very good thing indeed if you were to bring your small car here – I will try & see about a place for it before you come. I was sorry to have to postpone your move, but I am glad I did, because I see the contractor will probably not get the last hut finished in time for 29<sup>th</sup> – There will be delay about the ablution rooms in any case, but I know your fellows will realise that it is desirable that the Battalion should get together as soon as possible, and a shift & a shake-up is all on the way to making them helpful. I am forming up the

Battalion now in Mass, instead of cols. of Platoons. Just practice putting out the left Guide of No. 1 Platoon some 50 yards away, at odd angles, & then move your Company on to him, so that No. 1 Platoon may come exactly on him, & the left guides of the others at 7 paces in the rear – When a Battalion forms up in mass, the normal assembly formation, the Battn. S.M. is responsible for the front of the line, & each Company S.M. for dressing his guides. The Battn. S.M. dresses the left guide of each of the 4 leading platoons on the alignment required, & the Compy S.M. from the front sees his guides are covered & at right angles to the alignment. I mention it because they found it difficult at first to get square. I am sorry to say W.H. Smith has let us in over the Xmas cards, only just a few have arrived, & these are being sent to ‘benefactors’ – they are pretty bad too.” []

#### Battalion Orders

“The following Christmas presents have been received from the Earl of Lonsdale 1,600 pounds Plum Pudding and 1,300 cigars. Also: 1,000 cigarettes, 40 tins of sweetmeats, 8 geese, 100 Body Belts.”

Forfeiture of pay and punishments: Ptes. E. Hall (13738), J. Donaughee (13911), J.W. Oglethorpe (16269), W. Mumford (13856), J. McGee (15545) and S. Lowe (13871); for 3-4 days’ absence, forfeiting 2-3 days’ pay, and receiving a week’s detention.

Strength: Ptes. F. Moscrop (17382), D. Macdonald (13783), W.T. Armstrong (17384), F.G. Wilson (17385), T. Macdonald (17386), F. Robinson (17387) posted to E Company. [135]

#### **27 Dec 1914**

Col. Machell’s notes ‘Falling in in Mass for Battn Parades’. [81]

#### **28 Dec 1914**

James Barrow 5’ 6”; William Campbell 5’ 3”; Charles Gordon Craigie 5’ 8”; John Mitchinson 5’ 9”; John Newton 5’ 4”; Thomas Smith 5’ 5”. [12]

Medical history (unfit) and attestation of Frederick William Barnes of Carlisle. [18]

Letter from the Chief Constable of Carlisle: “A number of your men have been rendering most valuable assistance at a very large factory fire that has occurred in the City this afternoon. Some of them inform me that they will be late in getting into Camp, and that they are wet through to the skin, they will have to go to their homes and obtain dry underclothing before they can return to Camp. I am deeply indebted to them for their hard work, and hope you will overlook their not being in Camp at the proper time.” [115]

#### Battalion Orders 59:

“No soldier will ever be allowed to leave Camp unless properly dressed. Puttees will also be worn when walking out, and short canes carried. The latter can be obtained at the Y.M.C.A. Recreation Hut.

Punishments: Ptes. J. Harding (13906), J. Heslop (15558), J. Birkett (13910)

Forfeiture of pay: Ptes. J. Lowry (13650), A. Mattinson (13853), J. Branthwaite (13883), J. Barlow (15529), W. Goodfellow (13250), J. Bannon (15542), J. Chisholm (13368), and J. Shannon (13386).

Strength: Ptes. L.W. Tweedie (17388), J.W. Cameron (17389), and Tom Harrison (17390) posted to E. Company. [135]

**29 Dec 1914** [12] [5] [246] [81] [112]

James Carruthers 5' 5"; Joseph Elliott 5' 7"; Thomas Moses 5' 6"; William James Rose 6' 1". James Nichol recruited at Penrith.

Sketch of cap badge.

Notes on 'Bayonet Fighting' – " ... you can obtain a few sacks locally & get them filled with straw & suspend from a tree, goal post etc."

Request from the Roman Catholic chaplain "As ... New Year's Day is ... a Sunday would it be too much to ask you to allow the Catholic troops under your command to attend Divine Service on that day ..."

Battalion Orders:

Discharge: Ptes. J. Dixon (13490), B; Henry Morgan (15423), D; William Barnes (15363), B; recruits William Little, John green, William R. Harrison. [135]

Strength: Ptes. John Mitchinson (17391), A. Davidson (17392), J.N. Richardson (17393), H.C. Wortley (17394), Alf Hunter (17395), Lewis Bell (17396), John Laybourne (17397) J.W. Charters (17398), Alf Sydney (17399), P. Gilmore (17400), J.W. McEwan (17401), J.W. Shuttleworth (17402), John Harriman (17403), Angus Farragher (17404), J. Bailiff, (17405), Robert Sisson (17406), J.W. Litt (17407), V.R. Marsh (17408), John Newton (17409), T.A. Atkinson (17410), H. Dent (17411). Posted to E. Company. [135]

**30 Dec 1914** [12] [5] [185]

Thomas Bell 5' 4"; John McLaughlan 5' 6". William Wills recruited at Penrith.

1178 recruits.

Letter from Machell to Rivington: "... arranging for a special train for 5<sup>th</sup> ... Should you care to run up here ... to see where all will be? ... It won't be easy to find a good place for your car, but it would be a good thing to look round about that - ..." [40]

**31 Dec 1914**

Bedding return for A Company: blankets 828, mattresses 303 bolsters [pillows] 303. [58]

Letter from Machell: "... I consulted the Committee of the Cumberland Infirmary, who have agreed to allow men of the Battalion under my command to occupy up to thirty beds provided that the cases are suitable for admission, and that there is room. ..." [[88]

**Undated [late Dec 1914]**

William James Thoburn 5' 3"; William Henry Wilson 5' 4"; William Spencer 5' 7". [12]

Adam McCrasken Campbell 5' 6"; Murdoch McLean 5' 8". [12]

### **30 Dec 1914**

Battalion Orders: ..."complete supply of Urine tubs having now been received ... and issued to Companies, O.C. Companies are responsible that these Tubs are placed by the Orderly men in convenient positions outside the Men's quarters, each evening at Retreat. At Reveille each morning their Company Orderly Sergeant with their Orderly men will remove the Urine Tubs and empty them at the Urinals, after which they will be partially filled with clean water and stacked alongside the Urinals until required at Retreat.

Forfeiture of pay (for overstaying their Christmas leave) and punishments awarded (48 hours detention) to Ptes J. Dixon (13490), J. Finlinson (17353), H. Bannan (15542), G. Sarginson ((15506).

Discharge of Pte. John William Graham (15546), A Company

Strength: Ptes. T. Johnstone (17412), C.C. Stout (17413), T.W. Moffatt (17414), John Robson (17415), W.J.Rose (17416), Adam Brown (17417) posted to E Company. [135]

### **2 Jan 1915**

Medical histories (unfit) and attestations of Henry Kellett, 30 of Alton Street, Carlisle, Robert Pickup of Carlisle. [18]

Battalion Orders: [135/136]

"C Coy will arrive at Carlisle by special train ... The O.C. A Coy will detail one officer, one A.C.O. & 8 men to meet the Coy with the Battn Transport Cart, and 3 farm carts ... The Buglers & Drummers will attend.

Strength: enlistment of Ptes. Ernest Hymes (17418), Thomas Smith (17419) posted to E. Company.

### **3 Jan 1915**

National Insurance card of Private William James Busby of Kendal. [253]

### **4 Jan 1915**

Comic post card poking fun at the Kaiser addressed to Private T.E. Spark, 16380 A Company no. 12 Section. [47]

Medical history and attestation of John Winder<sup>19</sup>, of Y.M.C.A. Fisher Street, Carlisle; medical history (unfit) and attestation of George Reasley of Bethnal Green, London. [18]

Letter to Col. Machell: "... probably the rifles which you will eventually get are probably not yet made, ... suggested that you should number your equipment now and when get the rifles number them accordingly. I fancy the numbering is an entirely regtal affair and rifles not issued with numbers on them but done on arrival with the rgt. It's rather putting the cart before the horse to number the equipment first, but in these strenuous times there seems nothing else to be done ..." [81]

Estimate from Joseph Bell, joiner of Stanwix: "... gunracks for huts, they will cost about £2 17s 6d each per hut." [54]

Attestation papers of George Reasley, 31, of Slack's Court, Melbourne Street, Carlisle, born Bethnal Green.

"... a short lecture will be given by Brigadier General Count Gleichen, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. [Machell's brother in law] ... who has been at the front from the commencement of the War, and is in England on short leave." [135]

"... the following have been added to the list of articles to be provided for men of locally raised units who were enlisted before the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1 pair woollen gloves, 1 cap comforter, 1 holdall per man. To cover the cost of these articles, the sum of 2/9 ... per man, may be drawn ..." [135]

Promotions to Sergeant: J.E. Litt (13644), J. McMain (13892), R.B. Oliver (13687), W.W. Stevens (13641). [135]

Promotions to Corporal: J. Kennedy (15380), R. Walker (15424), J.R. Morton (16274). [135]

Appointment to Lance Sergeant: T. Burrow (13643), A. Blezard (13646), H. Davis (13642).

Appointment to Lance Corporal: W. Thompson (15381), E. Davies (15447). [135]

Enlisted to E Company: J. Thompson (17427), J.E. Robinson (17428), Thomas Moses (17429), Ernest Haycock (17430), Thomas Wannop (17431). [135]

Reversion to rank and discharge: Sergeant S. Miles (13751). [135]

### **5 Jan 1915**

John Kidd 5' 9"; Thomas Kidd 5' 8"; Henry Roberts 5' 7"; Robert Ross 5' 7"; John George Simpson 5' 8"; Frederick Stott 5' 9"; Joseph Turner 5' 3"; William Wilson 5' 3". William Little recruited at Penrith. [12]

Telegram: "706 men have two pairs boots 612 pairs expected daily." [5]

C Company arrived from Kendal. [70]

Letter from E.M. Brown: "... My object in writing to you is to know if it would be possible to make known that the Soldiers would be most heartily welcomed at our Gospel Meetings on Sunday evenings .... A number of them come into the City and we would like to see them come into the Room for an hour. The service is short and hearty and quite unsectarian." [112]

Punishments: T.J. Branthwaite (13883) [135]

Forfeiture of pay for overstaying Christmas leave: T. Robinson (13355), J.E. Allison (13890), W.W. Nicholson (13640), W.J. Bell (13725), J.A. McDonald (13535), G. Birbeck (13414), J.W. Kelton (13816), T. Telford (15393), G. Sowerby (15384), T.J. Nicholson (15328), G. Fee (13830), A. Bulman 15331), H.J. Carpenter (16370). [135]

Discharge of recruits: J. Morland, H. Bryden, H.J. Blair, Thomas Lennon. [135]

## 6 Jan 1915

Cleaning of Barrack Rooms before parade and inspection by the Brigadier. [135]

“In order to reduce the risk of fire, O.C. Companies will ensure all stoves, in Quarters and Barrack Rooms, being raked out and made safe before lights out. At least one N.C.O. per room is required to be in his quarters, from last post, each evening, and it will be one of his most important duties to see that this is enforced. Steps are being taken to provide iron plates ... outside each stove, but meanwhile the greatest care must be taken.” [135]

“The Carlisle Corporation has kindly consented to allow C Company to visit the Baths on Thursday morning each week. The O.C. C Company will take special care to see that this privilege is respected and that all instructions of the Attendant are immediately complied with.” [135]

Inoculation will be recommenced on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. [135]

Men enlisted to E Company: James Benson (17432), Henry Weighman (17433), Wilfred Pattinson (17434), William Wills (17435), Jack Nichol (17436), J.N. Rumney (17437), James Robinson (17438), T.N. Heskett (17439), Foster Bowness (17440), Thomas Dugdale (17441), John Pattinson (17442), Joseph Gamsby (17443), George Parkin (17444), George A. Clarke (17445), W.J. Little (17446), H.N. Boswell (17447), T.F. Mitchell (17448), John Cowen (17449), T. Ashbridge (17450), Henry Scott (17451), Murdoch McLean (17452), A. McCampbell (17453), James Carruthers (17454), Robert Long (17455), J.H. Burton (17456), W.P. Peacock (17457), N.J. Thorburn (17458), N.H. Wilson (17459), T.E. Bowker (17460), William Elliott (17461), William Spencer (17462). [135]

## 7 Jan 1915

Matthew Brannan 5' 3"; John Hayston 5' 8"; George Kidd 5' 9"; Henry Taylor 5' 3"; William Thompson 5' 7". [12]

Battalion incorporated in the 5th Army. [278]

Order for 148 axes, 148 pick axes and 222 shovels. [75]

Medical history (unfit) and attestation of Thomas Akitt, 21 of Green Row, Silloth. [18]

Letter from Cumberland County Council Health Department: “...enclosing ... an account for £1. 6. 4. Incurred for needles used in inoculating your men. ... We have most gladly given our services and will always be willing to do whatever we can, and I think you will agree that the Army ought to bear this cost. ...” [85]

Copy letter from Machell: “... The Cumberland Infirmary at Carlisle, ... kindly agreed to accept a limited number of our more serious cases on payment of 1/9 per day, the amount allowed for our messing. This is by far the best arrangement that can be made. Our own ambulance takes our sick from our medical detention room in the camp, straight to the Infirmary ...”

Letter from General Collings to Machell: “ ... to let you know how pleased I was with all you showed me today. When you see Lord Lonsdale will you tell him how greatly I was struck with the evidence of what he has done for the Battalion and of the interest he takes in its welfare. I shall write to



Western Command informing them of my inspection & satisfaction & I shall also mention about the quality of the boots as there is a very general complaint & something should, if possible, be done in the matter..." [120]

Court of Enquiry into the circumstances under which damage was caused by fire to certain property belonging to the Race Committee, and to Government. [135]

Officer Struck Off: "... the Officer Commanding wishes to place on record his appreciation of the services rendered by Col. Haworth ... in raising and training C Company which he brought to Headquarters ... feels the Westmorland Company will never lose the impression of Colonel Haworth's personality, and thanks him for contributing this splendid contingent to the ranks of the Lonsdale Battalion." [135]

Football Match: on Saturday 9 Jan on the Camp Football Field between the Regimental Team and C Company. [135]

### **8 Jan 1915**

Battalion Orders including letter from the Brigadier General "I desire to express to you my satisfaction with the inspection of your battalion today. The men are smart, well set up and soldierly in appearance, their quarters clean and orderly and the interior economy of the Battalion is good. Although owing to the heavy rain I was unable to see the Battalion at drill, I feel sure that its training, as far as it has gone, has been well carried out with good results." [279]

Invoice from Briggs Brothers of Market Street, Carlisle: "To hire of 132 ft of Tabling for Dining Rooms from Oct. 1/14 to Dec 31/14 3 Months £2 10s." [47]

Enlisted to E Company: T.W. Hogg (17463), J. Fairlamb (17464), H.V. Harding (17465), R.E. Thompson (17466), A Brownrigg (17467), F. Scott (17468), Henry Roberts (17469), J. G. Simpson (17470), William Wilson (17471). [135]

### **9 Jan 1915**

Medical history and attestation of Thomas Lennon, 33, of 31 South John Street, Carlisle; medical history (unfit) and attestation of Edward Steel, 42, of 4 Central Place, Haltwhistle, born Brampton. [18]

"I recommend that Sgt. {John} Gardner C. Company should have a fortnight's leave. He is suffering from influenza & nervous breakdown." [183]

General Equipment Indent: 81 Infantry whistles. [66]

Copy letter from Machell to 124<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade: ... Recruits are now coming in well, and my experience of closing recruiting in November showed me that, once it is announced that recruiting is closed, it is by no means easy to begin again. I strongly recommend I may be authorised forthwith to proceed with the formation of the 6<sup>th</sup> (Depot) Company, for whom I can arrange billets in the neighbourhood as long as the Service Battalion remains in its present camp." [219]

A Court of Enquiry re the alleged illegal absence of Private Isaac Parker of C Company (16286). [135]

## 11 Jan 1915

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "Received 600 badges with 1000 thanks badges perfect for caps total with depot 1600. Unsuitable for shoulder where usual Border badge must be worn. Suggest hundred extra ... to supply officers' collars if darkened locally ..." [279]

John William Robinson recruited at Penrith. [5]

Medical history (unfit) and attestation of Edward Maughan, 25, of Ellen Villa, Aspatria, born Maryport. [18]

"An order to equalise the distribution of ... Rifles, so that each Coy may have 100. ... Rifles will be handed over clean and in good order ..." [135]

"Inoculation will be resumed tomorrow ... for primary or secondary inoculation at Blackwell Lodge for painting previous to inoculation ..." [135]

Enlistment of Ptes. John McGenn (17472), W.H. Holliday (17473), G.B. McHolm (17474), Thomas Kidd (17475), Joseph Turner (17476), Robert Ross (17477), John Kidd (17478), J.G. Westgarth (17479), A.E. Watson (17480), William Little (17481), W. Thompson (17482),

Thomas Bell (17420), McLaughlin (17421), F.W. Hogg (17422), M. Brannan (17482), T. Parkinson (17483), John Magee (17485), Jacob Walker (17486), George Beppele (17487), J.D. Nicholson (17488), John Rutherford (17489). [135]

Discharge of recruit Henry Taylor. [135]

Date ? Robert Allonby (17423), Joseph Elliott (17424), Charles G. Craigie (17426) to E Company. [135]

Discharges: William Campbell, Fred Woodburn, Pte. J. Donoghue (13911). [135]

Promotions to Sergeant: T.W. Hodgkinson (13320), W. Richardson (13326), A. Moffatt (13685), F. Coates (13247), J.B. Holgate (13446), A.E. Ruddick (13216), J. Smith (13482), S.W. Kirby (13201), G.P. McCumiskey (13277). [135]

Lance Sergeants: Corporal Green (15500), W. Waddington (13652), R. Lorimer (13712), Corporal G. Duff (15340). J. Litt (13644), J.M. Main (13892), R.B. Oliver (13687), W. Peden (13758), A. Steele (13741). [135]

## 12 Jan 1915

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "... the War Office letter authorising first 1 Depot Company which we are rapidly completing ... we have just got started again, & men are coming in splendidly – all I want is to let them go on coming in until we have got the two double companies, & then shut down – this recruiting, as far as the Lonsdale Battalion is concerned works on 'snowball' lines – the more we get the more come – I know Lord K[itcheener] wants them & propose to carry on ... Today only 65 are required to complete establishment of 1st depot Company, & over 20 recruits again will be coming in this afternoon." [279]

List of officers who had received a cardigan, scarf and mirror as gifts from Lord Lonsdale. [100]

"In future, only Civilian Instructors & Staff Sergeants will sleep in the Sergeants Room. All ... officers ... will occupy the bunks which have been specially prepared for them." [135]

Enlisted to E Company: K. MacDonald (17490), R.H. Nichol (17491), J.T. Mounsey (17492), W.L. Williams (17493), C.J. Stevenson (17494), H. Doran (17495), William Kirkbride (17496), A. Hackett (17497), T.B. Wilson (17498), Robert Dixon (17499), T.P. Millican (17500), George Kidd (17501), Isaac Irving (17502), John Haydon (17503), J.R. Anderson (17504), D. Barnes (17506). [135]

Forfeiture of pay and detention: T.J. Branthwaite (13883) for absence 8-11 Jan. [135]

### **13 Jan 1915**

Machell to E Company: "I hear that some of the recruits E Company have been wearing the same shirt for a fortnight. Please see that full allowance of shirts, socks etc for all recruits is drawn from the Quartermaster's Stores as soon as possible ..." [47]

Letter from the Local Government Board: "The accommodation provided for the military at Blackhall Farm is not ...of a satisfactory nature... The men at the farm sleep in a number of loose-boxes which differ somewhat in size & construction. None of them are efficiently ventilated, some have very imperfect means of ventilation and others no means of ventilation with the exception of the door which is probably closed in the night-time. Some 6 or 7 men generally occupy each loose-box. I roughly measured two of them and found that the entire space available for each man in one loose-box was about 200 cub ft, while in the other it only amounted to about 160 cub ft. I think that the conditions at Blackhall Farm are such as to be prejudicial to the health of the men and that no time should be lost in providing more suitable accommodation either by the erection of huts or otherwise." [89]

Progress report on huts: "C Company arrived from Kendal 5<sup>th</sup> instant and is accommodated in four huts 90' x 20' just completed. New Latrines will be ready this week. Drying rooms for 3 Companies will be ready in about 10 days. Ablution rooms for 2 Companies within 1 week. Officers' mess nearing completion. A second block of officers' quarters nearing completion." [55]

Battalion Orders:

Forfeiture of pay: Lance Corporals: A. O'Toole (13882) and G. Lister (13740); Privates J. Finlinson (17353), D. James (17312), J. Shannon ((13386), A. Brown (13319), W. Steele (15530), J. Davies ((15513), J. Housen ((15511), J. Moore (13891), J. Beattie (13327), and J. Edmondson (13858). [135]

Deprivation of Lance Corporal stripes: O'Toole (13882) D Company, G. Lister ((13740), D. [135]

Punishments: H. Weightman (15276), G. Tomlinson (13447), 7 days' detention. [135]

### **14 Jan 1915**

Recruits from Carr's Biscuits: William Davidson, William Goss, George Hart, George Henry George Henry,, Charles H. Irving, R. Jackson, Joseph Kidd, T.W. McLaughlan, George Potts, Charles Robinson,

John Roy, E. Simpson, John Stewart, Hugh Smith, John Strong, George W. Smith, Thomas Smith, William Smith, William Todhunter, James Yates. [12]

Appointments: Lance Sergeant W. Dodds (13271), B; Lance Corporal E. Smith (16350) B, J. Atkinson (13704), B. [135]

### **15 Jan 1915**

R.H. Hodgson of Workington : "... by far the best way of obtaining recruits, I feel sure if you could send a number of good men to say – Workington Maryport and Cockermouth & perhaps to a few of the larger villages, the results would be good..." [199]

H. Irving, R. Jackson, Joseph Kidd, T.W. McLaughlan, George Potts, Charles Robinson, John Roy, E. Simpson, John Stewart, Hugh Smith, John Strong, George W. Smith, Thomas Smith, William Smith, William Todhunter, James Yate. [199?]

Copy letter from Machell: "I regret to say the Engine is still giving trouble and this Camp was in darkness on Tuesday night when there was a big concert at the Y.M.C.A., last night, and again this morning. ..." [59]

Battalion Orders:

"On and after Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> ... every man leaving Camp for the purpose of proceeding to town will be required to carry a cane of regulation length." [136]

Deserter struck off: Isaac Parker (16286) C Company. [135]

Punishment: R. Rumney (13845) D Company 28 days' detention. [135]

Discharge: recruit Fred Berridge. [135]

Enlisted to E Company: H. Routledge (17506), R. Turnbull (17507), John Quinn (17508), J.W. Robinson (17509), Thomas Irving (17510), Richard Woods (17511), W.G. Kirkham (17512), Cecil Crane (17513), J.A. Bell (17514), J.H. Bragg (17515), George Sproat (17516), Gilbert Messenger (17517), J.H. Dowson (17518), N.L. Cook (17519). [135]

### **16 Jan 1915**

Garrard & Co, Crown Jewellers to Lord Lonsdale: "... we have this afternoon forwarded to Col. Machell ... 650 of the silver regimental badges, we have made to your esteemed instructions ..." [279]

Letter to Major Binning re "Water Supply to Blackwell ... we ... find that to deliver the quantity of water required, a larger Plant and Pipe will be required to meet your requirements. ... We propose to fix a 30 feet Tower ... this will give you a daily average of 4500 gallons. ... The water from the Council's main will be delivered into a 550 gallon Tank ... " [53]

Diary of work [81]

Transfers: J. Wheatman (13427) from C to E. [135]

Discharge: T. Stewart (15429), C. [135]

Enlisted to E Company: William Forsyth (17520). [135]

### **18 Jan 1915**

General Equipment Indent: 200 pick axes, 200 shovels. [66]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: T. Donaldson (13679), J. Edmondson (16366), W. Winter (13559), T. Graham (13840), T. Tinkler (13843), D. Rowe (15455). [135]

Transfer: M. Brannan (17482) from E to A. [135]

Enlisted to E Company: Frederick O'Reilly (17521), Andrew Hyslop (17522), David J. Allison (17523). [135]

### **19 Jan 1915**

Duties of C Company Sergeant-Major. [50]

Duties of: Company Quartermaster Sergeant, Orderly Officer, Battalion Orderly Sergeant, Room Orderly, Sanitary Orderly, Hints to Sentries.

Forfeiture of pay: J. Moore (13891) for 2 days' absence. [135]

Reversion to ranks: Sergeant Percy Colt (13797) B. [135]

### **20 Jan 1915**

Samples of shoulder titles. [75]

Medical history and attestation of Isaac Hetherington, 29, of Low House, Armathwaite, born Cumwhitton. [18]

Letter from Machell: "The Battalion under my command having instituted dry earth latrines ...I shall be obliged if you will ... authorise me to make a Contract for the removal of the contents of the pails. I enclose an offer from ... who is prepared to do the work up to 50 pails a day, which will meet requirements. I consider 12s per day for 1 horse and 2 men to be reasonable." [89]

Machell's letter re discharge: "... Thomas Stewart ... was discharged on account of his unsatisfactory conduct. He was not guilty of any serious crime, but on account of his slovenliness, slackness and undesirable influence it was considered desirable to discharge him ..." [23]

Battalion Orders:

" ... death of 17464 Private J. Fairlamb, E Company, which took place, through an accident, near Brampton ... A Funeral Party composed of a Firing Party of 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal and 12 men of C Company with 1 Drummer and 2 Buglers and 12 representatives of E. Company, ... under the command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Margerison ... will proceed by train to Brampton for the purpose of attending the funeral at Farlam Church ... cold luncheon to be sent by transport to the Railway Station for

consumption in the train. Great Coats will be worn or carried rolled according to the direction of the Officer in charge." [136]

Enlisted to E Company: W.E. Rooke (17524), Joseph Murphy (127525), Robert Murray (17526), Thomas Hayes (17527), James Irving (17528), Thomas Forrester (17529), R.W. Hall (17530), A. Gaughy (17531). [135]

### **21 Jan 1915**

Enlisted to A Company: Sergeant P. Crilley (17532). [135]

Punishments: N. Nixon (15458), W. Armstrong (13639), J. Moore (13891), H. Nicholson (13640), H. Baxter (13636), R. Ashbridge (13872) all D Company; 1 week's detention. [135]

### **22 Jan 1915**

Letter from the Recruiting Office, Workington: "... We are also taking steps to interest the Police in their respective areas, about the selection of men of good physique & character for admission to the Battalion. This is being done with the knowledge of the Chief Constable..." [199]

Return of 379 unsold Battalion Christmas cards to W.H. Smith in English Street, Carlisle. [100]

Battalion Orders:

"A Football Match will take place at Aspatria tomorrow, Lonsdale Battalion v. Aspatria." [136]

Transfer and promotion: D. McKillop (16375) from B to E, from private to Lance Corporal. [135]

Enlistment to E. Company: John Bell (17533). [135]

Discharge: recruit Richard James Graham. [135]

### **23 Jan 1915**

Private R. Rumney sentenced to detention barracks in Stafford for 28 days for using threatening and obscene language to an N.C.O. and striking an N.C.O. with a fork. [105]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: J. Etchells, H.C. Wortley, J. Scott, J. Birrell, J. Purdham, J. Smith, T. Queen. W. Laidlaw, J. Birkett, J. Cowing, R. Coulthard, D. Douglas, T. Graham, J. Leighton. [135]

Discharge on medical grounds: H. Hodgson (16449) E. [135]

### **24 Jan 1915**

Diary of work [81]

### **25 Jan 1915**

Letter from Machell: "Having obtained the loan of a few service rifles and a small quantity of ammunition, I wish to put each Company through a modified course of musketry as it completes its practice with the Miniature rifle. There is a range at Burgh by Sands, ... which in normal times

belongs to the Territorial Force, but has now been taken over by the War Office. I have permission from the T.F.A. to make use of their Target requisites ..." [81]

Letter to Machell from General Collings: "You will see that ... the raising of your 6<sup>th</sup> or second depot coy is not sanctioned. No reason given ..." [120]

Appointment of buglers: R. Sawyers (13266), A; M. Armstrong (13267), A; J. Mooney (13273), A; F. O'Neil (13806), B; D. Munn (13284), A; J. Edmondson (13858), D; J. Simpson (13306), A. [135]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: J. Kelly (15547). [135]

Appointments as Lance Corporals: J. Fisher (13332), A; G.A. Boyes (15339), C. [135]

Discharges on medical grounds: E. Storey (15472), C; F. Gardner (16343), C. [135]

### **26 Jan 1915**

Promotions: Lance Sergeant Duff (15340) to be sergeant; Lance Corporals W. Wilkinson (13200) and H. Clare (15283) to be corporals; Privates W. Sarginson (13791), J.W. Dawson (13406), F. Rand (17348), A. Heatherington (17349) to be lance corporals. [135]

### **27 Jan 1915**

Bedding return: blankets 807, mattresses 284, bolsters 284. [58]

The Camp and its content were insured for against fire for £3800; the premiums totalled £3 18s 1d. [47]

Medical histories (unfit) and attestations of Thomas Pearson, 30, of 3 John's Street/Melbourne Street, Carlisle, John James Percival, 25, of 29 Eden Street, Stanwix, James Porter, 19 of West Silloth. [18]

Memo. from Machell to Platoon Commanders on Attacks, Rushes, Moving to a Flank/Crossing a Gap in File, Moving as in File and Wheeling to the Front, Passing Through a Wood, Reinforcing, Mutual Fire to Cover Rushes, Passing Messages, Fixing Bayonets, the Charge, the Pursuit. [81]

Letter from Capt. Diggle to Major Binning: "The C.O. wants to know if you can possibly write ... for leave for E Coy to go to the Baths every Tuesday; as they are rapidly joining the 'great unwashed.' Some of the men have already been here for 5 weeks." [53]

"Private Connor has been off duty since the 18<sup>th</sup> on sick owing to influenza; he has not had any more attacks of rheumatism, but he has had his teeth removed, as the doctor stated that this was the root of all his trouble – He is a good soldier and works very well." [88]

Enlisted to E Company: John Scully (17534), W. green (17535), L. Davis (17536), J. Grant (17537), J.W. Glendinning (17538), F. Hetherington (17539), Adam Bell (17540), J.R. Elliot (17541), Ed. Critchley (17542), J.R. Garner (17543), John Stamp (17544), H.J. Kindleysides (17545), Robert Norman (17546), R.H. Cowper (17547), James Belcher (17548), J.E. Watson (17549), Hos. Armstrong (17550), Peter Rafferty (17551), Andrew Elliot (17552), G.H. Bartle (17753), J. Blackett (17554), Thomas C. Hartness (17555), Henry Gass (17556). [135]

Punishment: T. O'Toole (13882), 1 week's detention. [135]

## **28 Jan 1915**

Battalion Orders: "The Quartermaster has arranged ... to provide tea or coffee at 7.0 a.m. for men going to the Baths. 2 biscuits per man will be drawn by O.C. Companies the previous day and issued under Company arrangements. Hot soup and bread will be provided for Companies returning from night work on indent ... stating numbers and hour at which the meal is required." [136]

"Inoculation will be resumed tomorrow ... for primary and secondary inoculation at Blackwell Lodge ..." [135]

Enlisted to E Company: Anthony Askew (17557), Robert Carruthers (17558). [135]

Promotions to sergeant: R. Lorrimer (13712), B; L.S. Blezard (13646), D. [135]

Promotion to lance sergeant: J.W. Gibbon (13915), D. [135]

Promotions to lance corporal: J.H. Overend (13672), B; T. Ridley (13655) B; J.R. Martin (13785) D; A. Huddart (16270), D; W. Kirkham (17512) E; W.L. Marsh (17408), E; J.A. Atkinson (17410), E. [135]

Punishment: T. Carlyle (13389) 4 days' detention. [135]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: J. O'Toole (13882), J. Little (15386), N. Davison (13825), W. Johnstone (15311), J. Atkinson (13811), J. Edmondson (16366), A. Forsyth (15556), J. White (15392), R. Whitfield (16260), J. Jopson (13773), J. Moses (13657), G. Graham (13814), F., Graves (16327), J. Lowry (13650), W. Ferguson (16379), H.L. Parry (13257), J. Fairley ((13700), R. Hogg (13746), J. Bell (13756), W. Winter (13659), J. Marshall (13749), T. Carlyle (13389). [135]

## **29 Jan 1915**

Charge sheet: Private H. Allen charged with refusing to obey an order given by an N.C.O. and using improper language to an N.C.O. 48 hours detention. [108]

Battalion Orders:

"In future meals will be set out in the Cook-house in the following order: C Company, D Company, B Company and Orderlies will parade and will be marched in accordingly, so that meals of those who have furthest to go will start first. " [136]

"O.C. Companies will have the N.C.O.'s and men of their respective Companies measured by the Master Tailor without delay." [136]

"Discipline: Units returning to camp after route marching, night work, or field operations will be called to attention at least 100 yards from the entrance and will march to their private parades for dismissal by the officer or N.C.O. in command. In wet weather, or whenever it appears desirable the O.C. Company may order platoons or sections to march direct to their respective rooms where they will be properly dismissed by their Commanders." [135]

Discharges: J. Oliver (15454) A; R. Rome ((13244) A. [135]



Transfers: J. Mooney ((13275) A to B; J. Brannan (17482) A to C; J. Sewell (13321) A to D; G.W.Davie (15518), A to D; P. Colt ((13797) B to E. [135]

Punishment: A. Mattinson (13853) D, 168 hours' detention. [135]

Enlisted to E Company: Joseph Scott (17559), W.M.Black (17560) [135]

### **30 Jan 1915**

Battalion Orders 25. [137]

Forfeiture of pay: T. Tinkler (13843), 1 day.

Discharge: recruit John Milligan. [135]

Enlisted to E Company: Randolph Cameron (17561), D. Henderson (17562), G. Jamieson (17563), John Sisson (17564). [135]

Discharged on medical grounds: Corporal W. Pickering ((13731), C; A. Robinson (13441), C; W. Bell (13642), C; N.H. McKenzie (13859), D. [135]

Punishments in detention: W. Johnstone (15311) B ; H. Allen (13749), C. [135]

Appointment of buglers: J. Brannan (17482), C; J. Sewell (13321), D; D.W. Davies ((15518), D; P. Bainbridge (13680), B. [135]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: W. Bell (16441), T. Minshaw (16417), G. Fawcett (15417), G. Irving (13367), A. Ferguson (15336), T. Cape (13873). [135]

Charge sheet: Private H. Airey absent without leave from tattoo for 30 minutes ... 2 days confined to barracks. [108]

Letter to Major Binning: "Free Bathing at the Public Baths. ... I do not see how it is possible for the Corporation to increase the facilities for this Battalion bathing. We are now providing accommodation for 856 of your men to attend the swimming baths per week and if this does not provide for each man having a bath say once in seven days, I think the only way to meet the increased numbers will be for you to arrange for them to go say once in eight days or possibly nine." [53]

### **31 Jan 1915**

Memo: "... fire broke out ... this morning in no. 2 Barrack Room ... The damage is very slight being confined to the woodwork of the window sill. ... There is a danger of fire arising from all the stoves ... because they are fixed too near to the woodwork." [268]

Diary of work. [81]

Pay and Mess book and cash account for C Company. [186]

### **1 Feb 1915**

Routine Saturdays: “ ... in future the lecture 9.15-9.45 a.m. will be at the option of O.C. Companies who are expected to make the best use they can of this time, according to their discretion.”

## **2 Feb 1915**

Letter from Marie Fox of Carlisle: “I beg to offer you my services as French Teacher to your men ... I could arrange to come during the day. Having coached many officers & men for the Army it would give me great pleasure to continue my work.” [124] [57]

List of men discharged from D Company [until 6 Apr 1915] [191]

Enlisted in E Company: W.G. Harding (17565), G. Studholme (17566), R.W. Wilkinson (17567), J. Smith (17568), J. Sinclair (17569), Ernest Graham (17570), G.C. Hopkins (17571). [135]

Discharge: recruit A. Swanborough. [135]

Appointment and attachment: John Armstrong (17352), D, appointed Lance Corporal in A and responsible for Battalion Transport. [135]

Discharge on medical grounds: H.C. Wortley (17394), A; G.B. Robinson (15468), C. [135]

## **3 Feb 1915**

Order from the Quartermaster “All latrine buckets, or urine tubs used in barrack rooms for coke, to be returned to the Quartermaster’s store at once. Coke scuttles will be issued on requisition, one per barrack room.” [75]

Letter from “An Old Soldier & Reservist” Langdale: “Just a line regarding the Langdale Recruits that have been on leave this week-end. Most of the men are married men with wives & large families & they have all sacrificed good homes & good situations. The men, no doubt would be very glad to see their homes again, but we think you have done them a great injustice by inflicting punishment in not returning on Friday. The weather was abominable & I suppose you do not consider the distance they have to walk to Windermere 10 miles through rain & snow, ... We think you might consider their cases & extend their leave until Monday hoping you will look on their cases” [29]

“Equipment: O.C. Companies will arrange to issue their equipment, as received from the Quatermaster, & have each N.C.O. & man properly fitted. ...” [135]

Punishments in detention: J. McGee (15454), D; J. Moses (13637), B. [135]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: F. Dixon (15498), J. McGee (13657). [135]

Discharge: recruit Hugh Welsh. [135]

Discharge on medical grounds: H. Graham (16265). [135]

Promotion to sergeant: W. Dodd (13271), B. [135]

Promotion to corporal: J. Ruddick (13745), B; . Holmes (13717), B. [135]

## **4 Feb 1915**

Strength: 22 officers, 35 sergeants, 39 corporals, other ranks 1207; total 1303. [129]

Enlisted to E Company: Robert Irving (17572). [135]

Transfer: F. Allison (13890) D to A. [135]

Discharge: recruit M. Prendergast, J.J. Lockhart (133710). [135]

Discharge on medical grounds: A. Mattinson 913371). [135]

Punishment: J. Edmondson (13858). [135]

### **5 Feb 1915**

Medical Officer recommends "... that Pte. W. Hully ... should have leave ... so that he may have new sets of teeth fitted." [183]

"The Officer commanding E Company will arrange to borrow rifles, for the instruction of his men, on Saturdays, in Rifle Exercise & Aiming Drill ..." [135]

Discharges: recruit Thomas Wilson, recruit J.R. Lee. [135]

Discharge on medical grounds: W. Peden (13758), D; J.P. Castlehow (13362), A; A. Mattinson 13853), D. [135]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: J. Edmondson (13858). [135]

Promotions to sergeant: J.C. Wyles (13339), A; E. Nixon (13393), A; J Green (15500), A. [135]

Promotions to lance sergeant: S.T. Bryan (13294), A; J.C. McDivitt (13249), A; W. Beattie (13274), A. [135]

### **6 Feb 1915**

Weekly clothing report. [129]

Enlisted to E Company: James Steel (17573). [135]

### **7 Feb 1915**

Diary of work. [18]

### **8 Feb 1915**

"Cases have been brought to notice where Officers & Soldiers on certain duties at night have been ordered to carry lights on the vehicles or bicycles by which they are travelling. While recognising the necessity of such orders in connection with the performance of certain duties, instructions should be issued to all concerned that such orders shall be confined to cases where justification for the order is afforded by military necessity and should only be given by an officer. In order to avoid difficulties with the police, the orders should if possible be in writing. Officers & Soldiers in such cases should take every precaution to avoid accidents that is consistent with the proper performance of the duty on which they are engaged." [135]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: J. Hughes (13744), J. McGee (15545), T. Bates (15425), W. groves (15487). [135]

Discharge on medical grounds: A.C. Adamson (15293), C; G. Skelton (13391), A; W.F. Atkinson (13286), A. [135]

Promotion to corporal: W.C. Mattinson (13418), C. [135]

Punishment: J. McGee (15545), D, 4 days' detention. [135]

Deprivation of stripe: W. Hughes (13774). [135]

### **9 Feb 1915**

Inventory of kit belonging to Private J. Hewitt of C Company who was sentenced to 28 days' detention. [70]

"Equipment: N.C.O.'s and men of Companies in possession of equipment will wear waisbelts [sic] Intrenching tool & helve, frogs & one pouch on right-hand side, I.E. "Drill Order", on all duties except when specially ordered to approach in "Marching Order" or otherwise. Guards invariably mount in "Marching Order" the equipment being worn over the great coat in inclement weather and as soon as they have mounted they will change from "Marching Order" to "Drill Order", sentries being relieved for this purpose. The old guard including sentries will await the arrival of the new guard in "Marching Order." N.C.O.'s and men on Orderly Duty will wear belts and bayonets. ..." [135]

Discharge: recruit J. Clarke. [135]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: F. Gunnion (15446), W. Johnstone (15311), W. Steel (15530). [135]

Punishment in detention: J. Hewitt (136223), C; W. Johnstone (15311), B. [135]

Reversion to rank: G. Lennon (15270), B. [135]

### **10 Feb 1915**

Order for the arrest of Private O'Toole of 229 Harrington Road, Workington for desertion. [109]

### **Thurs 11 Feb 1915**

Scale of diet for men in detention undergoing sentences of over 168 hours [i.e. 1 week]. [105]

General Equipment Indent: 70 urine tubs. [66]

Battalion Orders: "The Officer Commanding is glad to be able to announce that the percentage of Officers, N.C. Officers and men of the Lonsdale Battalion who have been inoculated is today over 95 per cent." [136]

### **Fri 12 Feb 1915**

Physical training inspection "expressed himself satisfied – far better than any other Battalion ..." [81]

Memo. from Major Binning: "Alterations at Stables ... 1. Make boxes 59 and 60 into a Detention Room for 8 prisoners ... and fitting up with Guard Room beds. ... 2. Transfer stove and fittings from present Harness Room ... provide 6 extra saddle racks, 2 extra saddle horses ... there is ample accommodation in the compartments on either side ... for 55 transport horses. 3. Transfer the men occupying box 53 to empty boxes which can be made fit for use by boarding up (with cavity) the back walls which are now damp." [54]

Details: "The Battalion will parade as strong as possible at 11-15 a.m. and at 2-15 pm. on Monday. The buglers and Drummers will attend both occasions and Staff and Battalion Transport will attend the 2-15 p.m. parade. Rifles will be carried by leading Platoons and by the right half of the second Platoons of Companies. Platoons will be equalised. The Recruits will fall in separately as directed for the General's Inspection. There will be no Miniature Practice on the range on Saturday and on Monday. The Parade will be dismissed early on Monday afternoon and O.C. Companies will arrange to have their lines thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the Brigadier on Tuesday. ..." [131]

Battalion Orders:

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. B.C. Harrison B Company and 13641 Sergeant W. Stephens D [Company] ... have been selected to attend the Course assembling at the School of Musketry, Altcar ..." [136]

"A football match will take place at Greysouthern [*sic*] on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.2 [136]

### **Sat 13 Feb 1915**

Diary of work. [18]

Discharge on medical grounds: W.J. Crook(13789), C; J.W. Taylor (13362), C; T. Sisson (13483), C. [135]

### **16 Feb 1915**

Programme for a concert to be held in the Y.M.C.A. Pavilion including 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary'. [278]

### **17 Feb 1915**

Letter to Machell: "The Brigadier-General desires me to notify you of his satisfaction with his inspection of your Battalion yesterday. He was struck by the intelligent interest shown by Officers and men in the work they were performing and considers that the training is proceeding on sound lines in every branch. The appearance and bearing of the Battalion merit commendation. [120]

Battalion Orders:

"... on Saturdays the Canteen will be open for the sale of intoxicating liquors from 2 p.m. till 9.15 p.m." [136]

Discharge on medical grounds: J. Walker (13477), C; A. Reed (13209), C. [135]

### **18 Feb 1915**

Machell's draft letter to the local press: "By the courtesy of the Cummersdale Miniature Rifle Club, the Battalion under my command has already been able to obtain a good grounding in elementary musketry on the Miniature ranges situated within twenty minutes' march of our Camp, with the result that the Musketry Staff Officer of the Western Command, after his recent inspection of the Lonsdales, reported that he was well satisfied with the progress we had made. Having passed through the 'grouping' practice stage, we now feel the urgent need of field glasses for the use of our Non Commissioned Officers; if good results are to be obtained, it is necessary for these N.C.O.'s to be able to observe the effect of each shot fired in the 'Application' and 'Disappearing Target' practices. Further, as we now proceed with training in Outpost work, and other Minor Tactical Exercises, we feel more keenly than ever the necessity of providing our Section Commanders with reliable field glasses, in the efficient use of which they need careful practice before going to the front. There are many keenly patriotic people in these counties who, while not able to enter upon active service themselves, are anxious to help on the training of the New Army in every way they can. They have done much for us already, and it has been suggested that, in this matter of providing field glasses for our non Commissioned Officers, they will be generous enough to give us further assistance, by lending or giving a sufficient number of glasses, either for the period of our training or (and this would be far better for the Battalion, of course) for the duration of the War. The Lonsdale Battalion is now over 1300 strong. We are all Westmorland and Cumberland men, bent upon doing credit to the Border Counties, if we can, during the present national crisis. It is this that emboldens us to ask the patriotic men and women of these counties to give us their generous assistance in a matter of great practical importance. Every one of our non Commissioned Officers needs a pair of Field Glasses, in order that he may be placed on even terms with the enemy he will presently have to face. I venture to think the people of Westmorland and Cumberland will help us to supply this need. As is generally known, there are 16 section commanders in each Company besides other N.C.O.'s, and four Platoon Sergeants. There are, of course, four Companies in every Service battalion. Officers provide their own glasses, but we should be very grateful for one hundred pairs, or even fifty pairs for our N.C.O.'s. Glasses are urgently required now, and later they will be indispensable. Glasses may be sent to this Camp ... Each pair received will be properly listed, with the name and address of the sender, and every effort will be made to return them in due course, where that is desired." [73]

Battalion Orders:

"The Brigadier-General promised to make an urgent representation on the subject of the necessity for the immediate issue of service rifles and ammunition. The Officer Commanding observed that all ranks did their best throughout, and takes this opportunity of expressing his satisfaction with the progress the Battalion has made." [136]

**19 Feb 1915**

General Equipment Indent: 500 sandbags. [66]

Quarter Masters Stores: storeman's stock book accounting for stores received and issued. [67]

Battalion Orders:

“The Miniature Range will be at the disposal of Companies for application Practice, one sighting shot and five rounds per officer, N.C.O. and man ...” [136]

Enlisted to C Company: J. Styles (17603). [135]

Promotions: H. Harrop (17604). [135]

### **20 Feb 1915**

Diary of work. [18]

Strength of the Companies = 1313 men. [89]

Copy telegram from Major Binning: “[oil] Engine completely broken down send man immediately ...” [59]

### **22 Feb 1915**

Letter from Brigadier Collings to Machell: “I wrote to Sir. H. Mackinnon asking him if your B attn. could not be pushed on to musketry, & and he replies that he regrets very much he cannot get rifles for you to do so. ...” [120]

### **23 Feb 1915**

Monthly indents of personal clothing and necessaries issued to D. Company. [68]

### **24 Feb 1915**

Battalion Orders:

“ ... great Coats will always be worn or carried by N.C.O.’s and men proceeding to Musketry, for the purpose of protection in the case of rain and to lie upon when firing.” [136]

### **25 Feb 1915**

Battalion Orders 46. [137]

Transfers: R. Rodgers (15509), A to E; R. Clark (13719), B to E; J. Morton (16274) D to E; W. Mattinson (13418), C to E; T. Duncan (13384), A to E; J. Kelly (15326), B to E; J. Whitfield (15411), A to E; W. Sarginson (13791), C to E; A. Huddart (16270), D to E. [137]

Promotion to sergeant: E. Marshall (13432), C.

Promotions to corporal: T. Duncan (13384), E; H.W. Humphries (13866), C; W. Shaw (13485), C. [137]

Appointment to lance corporal: T. Marshall (16288), C. [137]

Enlisted to E Company: E. Graves (19425), J. Young (19426), H. Simpson (19427), H. Flynn (19428), J. Lewis (19429). [137]

Discharge: recruits George Glendinning, W.J. Lannaghan. [137]

Machell's instructions on Outposts. [81]

Battalion Orders:

"O.C Companies will be careful to make complete arrangements regarding targets, target requisites and ammunition at least one day before they proceed to the Ranges, and an advanced party should always be sent to have all ready for practice to commence as soon as the Platoon or Company arrives." [136]

"... the barber attends Camp daily ... the barber is not entitled to make any charge for hair-cutting either in Camp or Town." [136]

"A Football Match will take place at Brunton Park, Carlisle, on Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup>." [136]

## **26 Feb 1915**

Battalion Orders 47. [137]

Appointment to corporal: W. Council (13804), B. [137]

Appointments to lance sergeant: J.D. Dougall (13711), B; J. Cook (13736), C; B. Gibson (13455), C. [137]

Discharges: recruits Isaac Martin, Arnold Jervis. [137]

Discharge because of conduct: John Stewart (17607), E. [137]

## **27 Feb 1915**

Battalion Orders 48. [137]

Acting Company Quarter Master Sergeants G.P. McCumisky (13277) E; I. Kennedy (15380), D. [137]

Promotion to sergeant: J.C. McDivitt (913249), A. [137]

Promotions to corporal: W.S. Hunter (13300), A; W. Dixon ((13259), A; J. Raven 13373), A; E.C. Tinnion (13256), A; R. Ritchie (13723). A. [137]

Appointments to lance corporal: E. Brockbank (13269), A; P. Bryan (13270), A; J. Moore (13308), A; J.J. McSkimmings (13379), A; J. Peacher (13335), A. [137]

Progress report: "The 5<sup>th</sup> (Depot) Company is billeted in the neighbourhood." [55]

## **28 Feb 1915**

Diary of work. [18]



### **1 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 49. [137]

Punishments: W. Robinson (15284), C, deprived of 7 days' pay; H.J. Bannon (15542), A, 4 days' detention. [137]

Discharge of J. Finlinson (17353), A. [137]

Return of arms, accoutrements, saddlery, ammunition, public clothing in possession of D Company. [192]

### **2 Mar 1915**

Letter from Charles Thurnam & Sons, printers of Carlisle, asking for the return of their loaned typewriter unless the Battalion wished to purchase it. [48]

Battalion Orders 50. [137]

School of Musketry: G.T. Hogg (13625), C; T. Dobinson (13341), A. [137]

Appointments as lance corporal: J.W. Dunstan (13916), D; A. Ewan (15438), C; S. Bacon (15492), D; R.B. Maynard (16340), C; I.S. Smith (16395), D; G. Davidson (16430), D; R. Skelton (16439), D; R.V. Burns (16444), D. [137]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: J. Winter (13817), W. Winter (13659), J. Shannon (13386). [137]

Battalion Orders:

"A drying-room having been provided for each Company, O.C. Companies will see that this is accessible to their men at all times and that suitable fires are maintained as required." [136]

"The Officers commanding B and C Companies will satisfy themselves that all ranks know how to act promptly in case of fire. The occupants of the hut in which a fire has occurred will endeavour to isolate the actual fire and to extinguish it by means of blankets and water. The occupants of the adjacent huts down wind instantly endeavouring to protect them by setting up sufficient numbers of screens to windward. ..." [136]

### **3 Mar 1915**

Bill for portable phone, £5. [75]

Battalion Orders 51. [137]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: J. Turner (17476), J. Marshall (13749), W. Skinner (13684), J. Shannon (13386). [137]

Capt. Diggle's order to officers: "Until further orders the usual brown leather belts will be worn by Officers on all ordinary duty. Swords will not be worn under any circumstances. Every officer must provide himself with a Service revolver and pouch for ammunition, which will not be worn at present, but which will be shortly required. ..." [189]

#### **4 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 52 [137]

School of Musketry: B.C. Harrison, B; W.W. Stephens (13641), D. [137]

Enlisted to E Company: M. Morgan (19430), William Scott (19431), Alexander Coulthard (19432). [137]

Punishments: W. Smith (13662), B; T. Kidd (13787), B; J. Oglethorpe (16269), D. [137]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: W. Gerrard (15549). [137]

“Parades and training tomorrow will be at the discretion of Officers Commanding Companies, having due regard to the effects of vaccination.” [135]

Machell to General Gaisford, Western Command: “... over 75 per cent laid up effects vaccination request postpone inspection until after middle next week ...”. [114]

#### **5 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 53. [137]

Discharges: J.M.Main (13892), D; R.B. Oliver (13687), D. [137]

#### **6 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 54. [137]

Detention at Stafford Barracks: R. Rumney (13845), ; J. Hewitt (13632), C. [137]

General Equipment Indent: 600 rifles, 600 sword bayonets, 600 sword scabbards. [66]

#### **8 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 55. [137]

Punishments and forfeiture of pay: J.W. Kendall (16355, D; J. Birkett (13910), B; J. Smith (15385), B; W. Johnstone (15311), B; T. Richardson (13908), B; T. Cape (13873), D; T.W. Watters (13351). [137]

Transfer: Acting C.S.M.R. Oliver (13245) D to E. [137]

Enlisted: A.J. Matthews (19433, promoted to sergeant, posted to D; Joseph Marrs (19434) to E. [137]

Promotions to sergeant: H. Davies (13642), D; J.W. Gibbons (13915), D. [137]

Tender from John Hewitson, St. Nicholas slate works: “to point up and repair to prevent snow etc. drifting on to the beds at the above [racing stables] so help to make the place more comfortable for the sum of three pounds ...” [54]

Battalion Orders:

"All Officers, N.C. Officers and men who have not been vaccinated will parade for vaccination ... tomorrow." [136]

### **9 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 56. [137]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: R. Slater (13278), H. Pettitt (13919), W. Dornan (15451), J. Irving (15554), R. Fairley (13700), J. Marshall (13749). [137]

Deprivation of lance stripe: A. Ferguson (15386), B. [137]

Enlistment of W.E. Roberts (19435) to E. [137]

Discharge of recruit W.A. Peake [137]

Letter from Chief Constable of Carlisle: "... a report against Lance Corporal Austin Ferguson for driving a motor bicycle without a licence ... shall be glad to know whether you will deal with it yourself or prefer it to come before the Justices in the ordinary way ..." [115]

### **10 Mar 1915**

Letter from H.E.P. Welch, Kirkby Lonsdale "I hope the Cornet may be of some use to the "Lonsdale" Band. I shall be glad to have the [field] glasses back again at the end of the war." [278]

Battalion Orders 57. [137]

Punishments in detention and forfeiture of pay for absence: J. Lowry (13650), B; R. Hogg (13746) B. [137]

Enlisted to E Company: G. Irwin (19436). [137]

Battalion Orders:

"Arrangements having been made for 4 Officers and 16 N.C.O.'s per ... Company to undergo a modified preliminary course of musketry at Burgh-on-Sands ... cold luncheon to be carried in haversacks, Great coats carried in packs or worn ... will arrange for the 10 Service Rifles to be handed over ... and for 15 rounds per man to be issued . Preference will be given ... who have never previously fired any course of Musketry." [136]

"The Miniature Range will be at the disposal of ... for the purpose of firing any casuals or bad shots in application practice ..." [136]

### **11 Mar 1915**

Revised programme of work: daily: 0745-0945 physical drill, 1000-1215 and 1400-1700 training including: entrenchments, musketry, rifle exercises, bayonet fighting, company, platoon and section drills, outposts, map reading, scouting, night operations. [185]

Battalion Orders

“... a scheme of distribution of the Field Glasses presented or lent for the use of N.C.O.’s ... In addition to the 13 pairs of Glasses originally provided by the National Service League, 50 pairs have now been received, besides £26 6s in cash, with which it is hoped to purchase glasses if any can be procured ...” [136]

“Captain Rivington has very kindly assumed responsibility for providing field glasses for the N.C.O.’s of his own Company.” [135]

### **12 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 59. [137]

Forfeiture of pay: J. Cunningham (16422). [137]

Enlisted to E Company: Tom Teasdaler (19437). [137]

Discharges: M.R. Watson (17480), E; W.S. Maxwell (13757), D; J. Baxter (13258), A; W. Lofthouse (13765), D; C. Austin (13343), A; T. Brennand (13777), C; H.H. Weightman (15276), B; H. Hine (13735), C; W.J. bell (13725), A; J. Purdham (17329), A; D. Rowe (15455), A; A.E. Jackson (15480), C, T. Graham (17311), A. [137]

### **13 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 60. [137]

Promotions to sergeant: W. Waddington (13652), B; W. Shaw (13485), C. [137]

Promotions to corporal: J.A. Martindale (13433), C; J. Armsgrong (17352), D. [137]

Appointment to lance sergeant: J.C. Ruddick (13745), B. [137]

Appointments to lance corporal: J. Cherry (13681), B; G. Hay (13799), B; J.R. Hind (15550), B; J. Isles (13654), B; A. Mitchinson (13865), B. [137]

Diary of work. [114]

Memo. from Machell: “from this time onwards should make every endeavour to get their men together and smarten them up after the prolonged rest entailed by vaccination. ... The immediate destiny of the Battalion will largely depend upon the impression formed of its merits by the Inspecting General Officer.” [85]

### **15 Mar 1915**

Weekly routine of training for D Company. [47]

Battalion Orders 61. [137]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: H. McIntosh (16266), W. Kelton (13816), J. Winter (13817). [137]

### **16 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 62. [137]

Transfers and acting appointments: G. McCumisky (13277), E to D; S. Kirby (13201), C to E. [137]

Promotion to sergeant: S. Bryan (13294), A. [137]

Appointment as lance sergeant: E. Sykes ((13366), A. [137]

Sergeant Peter Crilley was convicted of being drunk and disorderly in Carlisle and fined 10s [50p] and asked to revert to the rank of corporal; Private Robert Carruthers was convicted of being drunk and capable and fined 5s. [25p] [108]

Battalion Orders:

“The Miniature Range this week will be at the disposal of Companies for snapshooting ... practice will be carried out lying down over sand-bags, 5 seconds allowed. ...” [136]

“Officers Commanding Companies must be very particular to see that no alterations are made in the new Khaki Clothing ... There is always a tendency for young soldiers to desire to have their clothing made so tight as to make it impossible for them to move their limbs freely. This s harmless if it is merely “Walking-out dress”, but it is absolutely fatal to attempt to make “Service dress” fit closely. Very real soldier endeavours to have his Service dress as easy and comfortable as possible, and Service dress made too tight only makes the wearer look ridiculous.” [136]

### **17 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 63. [137]

Punishments: W. Johnstone ( 15311) B; J. Kidd (17478), E; J. Branthwaite (13883), D; G. Kidd (17501), E; T. Kidd (17475), E; by detention/forfeiture of pay. [137]

Forfeiture of pay: G. Fawcett (15417). [137]

Enlisted to E Company: John Hill (19438), F.W. Hodgson (19439) [137]

### **18 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 64. [137]

Letter from Brigadier Collings to Machell: “ ... Your men are accommodated in huts and the Racecourse building. Please let me know how many in each, and if the accommodation is sufficient for your requirements, also terms you hold the buildings on that is tied or free & when hiring terminates – I see ... your depot remains at the Racecourse on the battalion proceeding to a training centre -. If congestion is the reason you could I suppose easily camp out a company - ...” [120]

Copy of Machell’s reply: “ ... One company is located in the various rooms of the Grand Stand, one in the Stables, which have been specially adapted, and two Companies are in hutments which have been constructed for the purpose. The Camp is situated at a distance of 2 miles from Carlisle. We have no telephone. ...” [120]

Letter from B.L. Montgomery to Machell: "I was talking to General Caunter at Command Hd qrs today on the telephone and he said that from now on we were to consider you as belonging to our [112th] Brigade.

Battalion Orders:

The attention of all ranks ... is called to the urgent necessity of keeping all Gates on the race-course closed, in order to avoid damage to the cattle and sheep of the grazing tenant." [136]

"The new Khaki Uniforms will be taken into wear for walking out and otherwise when specially ordered and the clothing of each N.C.O. and soldier is passed ..." [135]

Enlisted to E. Company: F. Bradshaw (19440). [137]

### **19 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 65. [137]

Discharges: W. Maleney (13239), A; J. Beattie (13254), D; J.B. Cuthill (15373), D; J. Wood (16428), D; W. Rooke (17524), E; J.S. Richardson (13329), A; I. Graham (13241) A. [137]

Discharge of recruit Frederick Heard. [137]

Provision appointment as Lance-Sergeant: J.Else (6473), E. [137]

Proposed programme of training for E Company. [83]

Machell's draft letter to Henry Mackinnon, Western Command: "... I hear ... that we are probably to assemble at Grantham early in April. ... As regards strength ... almost up to 1350, all ranks, but we are now weeding steadily & recruiting has checked since we had to close our private recruiting office. Today our strength is 29 officers 1302 NCO's & men. I am collecting officers gradually, and I think I can get the men. ... When I resume recruiting in earnest ... It did us so much harm before having to turn men back. I am sorry to say we still have only our 400 old ... rifles, and 10 new Miniature, but I have borrowed ... 10 Service rifles & collected 2500 rds of ammn ..." [114]

"The Miniature Range will be at the disposal of Companies ... who have not yet completed the group shooting practice will do so and will then fire the Timed Application Practice ..." [135]

### **20 Mar 1915**

"... my medical inspector of recruits reports the Lonsdale Battalion under your command is being very much overcrowded. Is it possible to arrange to billet your depot company and prevent this overcrowding?" [58]

"Depot Company already billeted. If remaining longer would possibly recommend building additional accommodation but under circumstances useless. Cubic space is some cases technically inadequate but men perfectly fit and happy, but men perfectly fit and happy. Also several being discharged unlikely become efficient soldiers." [58]

Battalion Orders 66. [137]

Confirmation of ranks: C.S.M. R. Atkinson (13222), C; C.S.M.A Payne (13390), A; C.Q.M.S. W. Ridley (13242), A; C.Q.M.S.M.A.G. Brotherhood (13215), B. [137]

Discharges: W. Kane (13647), D; J. Moses (13657), B; R. Slee (13863), C; T. Bates (15425), D; T. Smith (13662), B; T. Paisley (16372), B; T. Kidd (13787), B; J. Carlyle (15388), B. [137]

Punishments: T. Telford (125393), B; T. Richardson (13908), B [137]

Deprivation of Lance Stripe: J. Thompson (13702), B; 'neglect of duty while on Guard.' [137]

Instructions for route marching received from Capt. B[ernard] Montgomery. [183]

"I beg to report that two prisoners have broken out of cells ... Private J. Telford and Private T. Richardson both of B Company. These two men were placed in cells at 9.40 a.m. ... charged with being drunk. They were visited at 2.30 p.m. ... and were then taken to the latrines ... At 3.30 p.m. the prisoners shouted to the guard that they wanted to go to the latrines ... did not take the prisoners to the latrines because the Sergt. considered that they had no real need to go. They were at this time using foul and abusive language ... At 4.45 p.m. the Corporal of the Guard took tea to the cells, and found that the louvers in lower part of the door had been broken out and that both prisoners were gone ... The Sergeant of the Guard has been relieved of his duties and placed in open arrest ..." [105]

" ... it should be understood that, as the new clothing of each soldier is mark [sic] and fitted, it will at once be taken into wear by him without further order for walking out. From tomorrow inclusive Khaki will be worn on guard. For the present the grey caps will continue to be worn with either the grey or the Khaki uniform." [135]

### **22 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 67. [137]

Letter from Gen. Sir Henry Mackinnon to Machell: "... hope to "fetch up" at the Station Hotel, Carlisle. I shall have my Motor with me and shall come out to Camp on Friday morning for an hour or two, and should like if possible, to see a little digging, some physical drill, and other Company work. Don't have any Parade for me. I may ask them to march past in fours. I shall be glad to see you for I know you have done your training well, although you have been handicapped by want of rifles etc. ..." [114]

Register of returned kit. [76]

### **23 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 68. [137]

General Equipment Indent: 2000 dummy cartridges. [66]

### **24 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 69. [137]

Forfeiture of pay [for absence]: T. Carlyle (13389), D; T. Little (15386), J. Shannon (13386), T. Gouge (13909), A; J. Edmondson (13858), D. [137]

Punishment: R. Ashbridge (13872), D. [137]

Discharges: T. Donaldson (13679), A; F.R. Blenkinsop (13253), A. [137]

Proficiency pay: H. Harrop (17604), B; W. Maleney (13239), A; W. Wilson (13742), D; S. Gregg (16399), D; R. Rodgers (15509), E; W.S. Hunter (13300), A; W. Armstrong (13224), A; W. Holmes (13717), B; J. Cook (13736), C; W. Doherty (13897), B; J. Michell (15294), C; J.J. McSkimmings (13379), A; F. O'Neill (13806), B; M. Brannan (17482), C; T. Donaldson (13679), A; M. Coulthard (15534), A; T. Newton (13775), A; H. Harkness (15389), B; T. Queen (15329), B; G. Sowerby (15384), B; R. Davis (13629), C; J. Bell (17533), E; A. McLean (17583), E. [137]

### **25 Mar 1915**

Letter to Machell from Y.M.C.A. Carlisle: "... may I ...thank you, and the other officers, for the kind way they have supported the Y.M.C.A. at Blackhall ... the way our buildings in the Camp have "taken on" with the men, has been in no small measure due to your valuable cooperation..." [119]

Battalion Orders 70. [137]

Punishments: J. Kendall (16355), D; W. Nixon (15458), D. [137]

Discharges: T. Kidd (17475), E; j. Kidd (17478), E; G. Kidd (17501), E; J. Turner (17476), E; R. Ross (17477), E; R. Carruthers (17558), E; W. Spencer (17462), E. [137]

Proficiency pay: T.F. Pattinson (19423), E; W.E. Rooke (17524), E; J. Denwood (15522), A; W.T. Pearson (13438), C; A.G. Brotherhood (13215), B; H.A. Hunter (13268), B; F. Coates (13247), B; A.E. Ruddick (13216), C; G. Hogg (13625), C; G. Duff (15340), C; G. Lennon (152780), B; P. Creilly (17532), A; P. Colt (13797), E. [137]

Battalion Orders:

"O.C. Companies should ... satisfy themselves that all papers and other combustible refuse from their quarters is placed in the incinerators, and not in the hole which is needed for the ashes." [136]

### **26 Mar 1915**

Inspection by the General Officer Commanding in Chief: "was very much pleased with his inspection ...He is well aware of the difficulties under which you formed the Battalion, and he considers very great credit is due to you for the efficient training and administration of which he saw such evident proof. He is confident that, wherever you go, you will sustain the credit of the Western Command ... he will watch ... military career with the greatest interest ..." [279]

"... it is probable that all men in billets will be moved into Camp during the month of April. Any claims for alleged damages should be submitted forthwith, as no subsequent claims can be considered." [58]

Battalion Orders 71. [137]



Discharges: Samuel Noble (13780), C; John Wren (17336), A; Joseph Moore (13891), D; William Holmes (16408); William Henry Harper (15367), D; George Minnis (16306), D; James O'Hara (15358), B; Robert Pugmire (16279), B; Michael Kelly (15443), D; James McGee (15545), D; Percy Asquith (13651), B; William James Atkinson (16383), B; James Henry Overend (13672), B; John Halliday ((15486), C; Austin Ferguson (15336), B; Peter Kane (15453), D; George Sarginson (15506), A; Henry Arthur Little (17337), A; Ernest SWilliam Moore ((16433), D; William Steele (13772), B; Francis Moscrop (17382), E; W.R. Little (17602), E; Fred Robinson (17387), E; Thomas Wilkinson |(17342), C; Ernest Wilkinson (13847), C; John Pearson Jopson (16357), B. [137] 26 discharges!

Enlisted to E. Company: J. McCluskey (19441). [137]

Machell: "...the special modified course of Musketry with 10 Service Rifles at Burgh-by-Sands is now concluded ..." [83]

Letter from Alfred Hall, head teacher of Seaton: "... seeing that the Battalion is one raised in Sporting Counties with one of our greatest sportsmen at its head, and also that Coursing appeals to the majority of men of Cumberland & Westmorland, I shall be pleased to make the Battalion the present of the pure bred red Greyhound dog "Hayes Gaffer" ..." [127]

Battalion Orders:

"Until further orders, besides being worn on guard & when walking out, Khaki uniforms, as fitted to each soldier, will be worn by him on leave, & on Saturdays & Sundays at all times, except on Fatigues & dirty work of any kind ..." [135]

"The Commanding Officer has received the following gifts of socks: St. Stephen's Church Sewing Guild ... 110 prs; Queen Mary's Needlework Guild (through Lady Valda Machell) 10000 prs; Lady Valda Machell 41 prs." [136]

## **27 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 72. [137]

Forfeiture of pay and punishment: D. Nunn (13284), D. [137]

Following 26 discharges the previous day, 65 privates were transferred from E to A, C and D Companies. [137]

Charge sheet: J. Berry 13 minutes late at tattoo, 1 day confined to barracks. [108]

Battalion Orders:

"The Quartermasters Store will be closed for issues ... for the Annual Stock Taking." [136]

"The Miniature Range ... next week ... Companies will finish the Snapshooting Practice and, if possible, complete the Timed Application." [135]

"All men who after Medical examination are found permanently unfit for service abroad, but fit for home service will be posted to Depot Company. ..." [135]

### **28 Mar 1915**

Proposal to proceed to Grantham by train on 7 Apr. [279]

### **29 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 73. [137]

Appointment of buglers: R. Woodward (13733), C; J. Nicholson (17488), E. [137]

Reversion to rank at own request: L.C. J. Litt (17407), E; [137]

Discharges: G. Goodfellow (15345), B; G. Ward (15540), A; J. Pattinson (17442), E; R. Harrison (17589), E; J. Watson (17549), E; J. Atkinson (13698), B; T. Cape (13873), D; J. Nicholson (13693), B; J. Story (13768), B; J.W. Simpson (13710), B; T. Dufton (17332), A; J. Kelly (15547), D. [137]

Forfeiture of pay and punishment: W. Nugent (15314), B. [137]

### **30 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 74. [137]

Forfeiture of pay: E. Wheadon (13246), J. Frazer (16384). [137]

### **31 Mar 1915**

Battalion Orders 75. [137]

“An advance party ... will proceed by train to Grantham on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> ...” [135]

“The Battalion will probably leave Carlisle on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> ... by special train for Grantham. Dress. Khaki. Marching Order. Luncheon will be carried in haversacks. Water Bottles will be filled. All baggage of Headquarters and Companies will be prepared the previous evening and will be stacked as directed by the Quartermaster, in readiness for removal to the railway station early on Wednesday. A fatigue party of 1 N.C.O. and 5 men per Company under the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant will load the baggage on the hired transport wagons and accompany to the Carlisle Railway Station, where they will unload and pack it in the train. A special label for each article will be supplied by the Quartermaster to O.C. Companies. Breakfast will be provided in Carlisle for this party ...” [135]

Deprivation of Lance Stripe and forfeiture of pay: P. Colt (13797), E; absent without leave. [137]

Enlisted to E Company: J. Simpson (19442), F. Graham (19443). [137]

### **1 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 76. [137]

“All Barracks Room and lines to be scrupulously clean. N.C.O. and men on duty will be permitted to quit Barracks after 11 a.m. “ [135]

"The advance party ... on Monday and will proceed by 7.33 a.m. Train from Carlisle, arriving Grantham 9.19 p.m. ... Breakfast for the Advance party will be served at 5.45 a.m. and cold luncheon will be carried in Haversacks." [135]

## **2 Apr 1915**

Private Kirkbride absent without leave in Workington. [104]

Battalion Orders:

"The Battalion will parade at 9.30 A.M. on Tuesday for a route March through Carlisle. Dress, Khaki (as far as possible), Marching order. The transport will not attend." [135]

## **4 Apr 1915**

Attestation papers of William Grisdale, 39 of Warcop.

Letter from the Earl of Lonsdale re proposed move to Grantham: "... Obviously, I have no wish to express any opinion as to where the Battalion is sent, and I entirely agree with anything that Colonel Machell desires, my one object being to further the interest of the Regiment, and am only anxious to agree with whatever he wishes." [116]

Lieut. Hodgkinson's report on Belton Park Camp, Grantham. [116]

## **5 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 78. [137]

Battalion Orders:

"In the afternoon baggage will be packed & barracks & lines cleaned under Company arrangements." [135]

"N.C.O.'s & men who are unfit to march with their Companies on Wednesday but who are pronounced by the M.O. fit to proceed to Grantham, ... will be marched to the Station & entrained in a separate Compartment." [135]

## **6 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders: "A telegram received from 112<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade at noon today stated that final instructions regarding date and hour of move [to Grantham] had not yet been received. [135]

Battalion Orders 79. [137]

"A syringe for anti-typhoid inoculations has been forwarded to you today, on temporary loan to be returned ... when no longer required." [89]

## **7 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 80. [137]

Private T. Carlyle charged with quitting barracks whilst on sick and absent from retreat. [104]

## 8 Apr 1915

Height restriction reduced to 5'1" for the Border Regiment. [8]

Letter to Major Binning: "... there will be no objection to your Company continuing to use the Baths during this month, on Friday mornings, and if a 6<sup>th</sup> Company is raised there will be no objection to them attending the Baths on any morning other than Tuesday or Saturday. After this month fresh arrangements will have to be made ..." [53]

Battalion Orders 81. [137]

Battalion Orders: "Latest instructions from Headquarters state that the concentration of the 112th Infantry Brigade is still in abeyance. Orders will be issued as soon as received." [135]

## 9 Apr 1915

Copy memo. of Major Binning: "It has been suggested that an album of photos of the Lonsdale Batt. for sale in a cheap form, would be of considerable assistance to recruiting ..." [47]

Baths "As long as the Battalion remains at Carilsle, Companies will attend Baths as usual." [135]

Battalion Orders 82. [137]

## 10 Apr 1915

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "... we did not leave on 7th – the move ... is in abeyance – I believe the reason is the filthy condition of the Camp at Grantham – our advanced party is busy cleaning our part & I hope we may be able to go soon. It is time we got into Brigade so as to go ahead with our training exactly on proper lines ..." [279]

Lieut. Harrison's lengthy report on and plan of Belton Park, Grantham. [116]

Letter to Machell from B.L. Montgomery: "" ... The move is hung up for the present; they are talking about reconstituting the 37<sup>th</sup> Division and until they have finished arguing about [that] we shall have to sit where we are. This is private. Meanwhile, the General does not want any time to be wasted, but training to go on as usual. I will wire you as soon as ever I know any definite re the move. If they do reconstitute the Division they may move battalions about into different brigades, but your battalion will remain anyhow, for which I am glad. ... I hope you are going on well." [116]

Battalion Orders:

"Next week the Miniature Range will be allotted as follows:

Each morning for the instruction of recruits recently transferred from E Company .... Each afternoon ...collective fire practices ..." [135]

## 11 Apr 1915

Charge sheet: Private F.G. Atkinson 25 minutes late at tattoo; 3 days confined to barracks. [108]

Letter to Machell from B.L. Montgomery: “ ... you should always PUT “Bangor, N. Wales” on the envelope as there is another Bangor somewhere [Ireland]. As the move is put off for at least two weeks I hardly think it necessary to send a section from each company to Grantham. Your advance party will have plenty of time to get things straight, while we go on with the training. You can if you like bring back one of the two officers you sent down there. One officer at Grantham would be quite enough; however that is as you like.” [116]

#### **12 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 84. [137]

#### **13 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 85. [137]

Instructions ‘Attack First Stage.’ [83]

Progress report on huts: “2 Companies have been accommodated in W.O. pattern huts, the buildings of Grand Stands have been adapted for another, and the 4<sup>th</sup> has been lodged in the stables which have been floored and otherwise rendered habitable.” [55]

#### **14 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 86. [137]

Letter from E Company written on Y.M.C.A. paper: “After parade today ... the Coy held a meeting, to ask you whether Sergeant Major Oliver has to stay with E Coy or the boys have to be bullied to death through him as the company have no heart to work when he is in sight and we also agreed not to do fatigue work after five o'clock as all the Battalions were to blame and not us only as was stated. We understood that when we enlisted in the Lonsdale Battalion that we would be trained to be soldiers not slaves and would be very pleased if you would do something for us. This letter is instead of that Post Card which you will very likely receive.” [131] Y..M.C.A. post card reads: “We think it is time that Sergeant Major Oliver was shifted as we have no heart to work through his bullying.” [131]

#### **15 Apr 1915**

Capt. Diggle’s order “No breakfasts will under any circumstances be taken to a Barrack-room unless by special order of the Medical Officer.” [278]

Battalion Orders: “All Officers, N.C. Officers & men who have not yet been inoculated for the first or second time will attend at the Medical Inspection Room ...” [135]

Battalion Orders 87. [137]

2 Lance Corporals and 30 Privates transferred from E to B and D Companies. [137]

Capt. Stanley’s detailed report on progress at Belton Park Camp, Grantham. [116]

#### **16 Apr 1915**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "When we go to Grantham our Depot here has got to come under the Border Regiment at Carlisle. ... I ... am advised to ask you to be so kind as to write to Sir H. Mackinnon to tell him that you desire the Lonsdale Depot to remain under me, as long as we are in England, for all purposes ... otherwise our recruiting will be completely killed. ... My Brigadier asks if I can get a couple of Dummy Machine Guns made for training purposes. It is evidently impossible to obtain real machine guns, but dummies are equally good for training purposes. Could you ask Vickers Maxim or other firms if they will supply?" [279]

Battalion Orders 88. [137]

Copy letter from Machell: "... I have succeeded in obtaining the loan of 14 more service rifles, making 24 in all, and another 2000 rounds of ammunition ..." [83]

Machell on Ceremonial Parade: "The Battalion will parade at 7 a.m. tomorrow to Ceremonial ... Dress Dill Order, Khaki. Companies will fall in on their private parades at 6.45 and after being sized from the flanks to centre will be told off into platoons of equal strength, before marching on to their right markers in Battalion. Early tea will be served at 6.20. There will be no Kit inspection tomorrow. Companies will devote such time as may be necessary to satisfying themselves that the method of softening new leather is thoroughly understood and regularly put into practice. Through Platoon and Section Commanders they must also satisfy themselves as to the condition of socks, shirts and boots. There will be no saluting drill tomorrow. ..." [118]

Telegram to Machell: "... instructions from Western Command your battalion will not proceed to Grantham ... your advance party at present at Grantham will be relieved ... when relieved they will return Carlisle by ordinary train service ..." [116]

### **Sat 17 Apr 1915**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "... now that Grantham is cancelled & advanced party ordered back here I am anxious about our fate it is important we should make a move & I don't see why we should not be transferred fifth to third army now that we are not to go with 112th Brigade. Could you ascertain somehow what War Office intends to do with us?" [279]

Lease of 11 Botchergate as a Sub-Recruiting Office for Blackhall Camp [6]

Battalion Orders 89. [137]

Programmes of work for each Company. [83]

Weekly training programme.

Letter to Machell from B.L. Montgomery: "You haven't lost the general and myself yet. ... So my general & myself are left with you ... I hate all these changes as it unsettles one, but both the general and myself are very glad that you ... are still with us; ,... Anyhow at present you are still with us, and we don't go to Grantham. I am afraid that neither of us can come up to you on Monday now; ... But when it is all settled, one of us will come and see you. You can be assured of one thing, that wherever the general and myself go we shall do our very best to keep you with us; we both know a good battalion when we see one." [116]

Telegram from Lonsdale to Machell: "Have machine gun Lowther superannuated pattern but have harness and everything complete you are welcome to have it for instruction think ammunition could be got for it but not certain will see what else I can do."

#### **18 Apr 1915**

General Sir Henry Mackinnon (Commander in Chief, Western Command) to Lord Lonsdale: "I am much distressed about the W[ar] O[ffice] plans for your Battalion. I did hear that the Battalion were going to be put in the Highland Division. That would not be so bad if it were the 1st Highland, which I understand is going abroad soon. If, however, it is the 2nd Highland, I should be sorry ... If you ever come across Lord K[itcheener], you might mention the Battalion to him, and you certainly have my authority to say how very highly I think of the material and training." [279]

Telegram: "... fitters six ... are desirous of employment in armament workshops ..." [22]

#### **19 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 90. [137]

Telegram from Machell to Lonsdale: "... can you entreat General Mackinnon push us forward with present Brigadier and Brigade Major [Montgomery] if possible disastrous leave us here."

#### **20 Apr 1915**

"... there has been a great amount of overcrowding in the horse boxes used as billets in the ... Camp. Please inform me if this has been remedied." [58]

"... if it had been intended continue occupation horse boxes I would have recommended building huts but these boxes will not be re-occupied when Battalion leaves. Expect order leaving Carlisle daily. Meanwhile average daily sick Company occupy boxes six out of strength 262 which is far better than that of any other company." [58]

Battalion Orders 91. [137]

Copy letter from Machell: "...I have no longer any properly qualified [gym] instructors." [83]

#### **21 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 92. [137]

Naval Coast Watching by civilians at St. Bees, Whitehaven, Maryport and Kirkbride. [130]

Memo. from Capt., Rivington: "Please send entrenching tools to Quarter Master's Stores, so that ... can use them this morning." [128]

#### **22 Apr 1915**

Hints to Sentries. [131]

Battalion Orders:

"B Company, with the Drummers and Buglers, will parade on Saturday ... for a route march through Carlisle. ..." [136]

### **23 April 1915**

Copy letter: "... the names of any men in their Companies who are specially skilled millwrights, fitters, tool-makers, turners, drillers, gear-planers, grinders, capstan hands, millers, profile universal and vertical planers, slotters, crossmillers, rifling machinists, lapping machinists, reamering machinists and chambering machinists desiring temporary release from the Amry for employment in armament workshops. ..." [128]

### **24 Apr 1915**

Battalion Orders 95 [137]

Programmes of work for each Company. [83]

List of fitters sent to Western Command. [128]

### **27 Apr 1915**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "...One thing is certain, viz. that we ought to move on from here with Brigade as soon as possible – people are mocking at our men & they hate it – recruits say it is no good joining a Battalion which does not get out further than Blackhall ... I expect things near Ypres are so bad that Kitchener is thinking seriously about Home Defence, & this is probably his reason for creating local armies. Anyway what we ought to have is a move sometime soon ... the men are getting rather stale here, comfortable as we are ..." [279]

Monthly indents of personal clothing and kits issued to E Company. []

### **28 Apr 1915**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "Today received orders appointing Lonsdale to 97th Brigade with three battalions Highland Light Infantry to assemble at Prees Heath [near Whitchurch in Shropshire] and advanced party to be held in readiness proceed early so all is well. I expect we have to thank you and am deeply grateful." [279]

Mock attack by D Company on C Company. [185]

Battalion Orders 98. [137]

Strength and enlisted and allotted to E Company: T.W. Harker, 19453. [137]

Copy letter of Machell: "... The original 'fields' [leased] have of late been merged to a great extent, and there is no doubt that the troops use practically the entire area ... though of course part of the ground, immediately in front of the Stand is used most. I suppose Mr. Irving's claim for £57 10s represents something a little over 25% of his rent, and, having regard to everything, especially the fact that it has been impossible for him to turn out more than perhaps 1/3 of the usual number of ewes this spring, I am inclined to consider his claim to be reasonable." [55]



Copy telegram from Western Command: “ ... hold 11<sup>th</sup> Bn Border Regt. (Lonsdale) ... in readiness to proceed shortly to Prees Heath. Please arrange for despatch of an advance party 4 officers 200 other ranks required at Prees Heath early to prepare camp. ...” [120]

### **29 Apr 1915**

Carlisle Citizens' League to Lord Lonsdale: “...may we point out to your lordship that the League has been mainly the instrument of collecting and forwarding to the Lonsdale Battalion over 4000 articles – overcoats, shirts, socks, blankets, pillows, razors, tobacco, pipes etc....” [279]

Machell's instructions for “C Company occupying intrenched [sic] position facing West, D Company attacking from Blackhall Wood ...” [83]

Letter from Carlisle United Football Club: “ ... thank you for allowing Private Winter, Harkness & Kirkpatrick taking Part in several of our matches of the N.E. League and they have done splendid, on Sat next we are playing our Last Match this Season at Sunderland ... I should very much like to take them through I think that is the least I can do, if they fight as Good as they Play of which feel sure they will, you have some champion Lads ...” [258]

Battalion Orders:

“A special recruiting party consisting of 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal and 3 selected privates from D Company will proceed to Workington today ...” [136]

### **1 May 1915**

Battalion Orders 101. [137]

Discharge: recruit Robert Kirkbride. [137]

Strength: enlisted allotted to E Company: W.H. Pattinson (19459), R. Jefferson (19460). [137]

Copy of pay and mess book recording name and rank. Roll of N.C.O.'s. [17]

Letter from R. Sewell, saddler and harness maker of Carlisle: “Before the Battalion leaves the Blackhall Camp ... I should like to have the pleasure of presenting your Mascot ... for when he leads the Regiment ... as to colour and as a suggestion I would either say Lord Lonsdale's colours, blue, trimmed with yellow with a monogram L.B. in the hind corners ...” [127]

Letter from Brigadier Mackenzie to Machell: “Before a battalion leaves its present station the horses are to be examined by a veterinary surgeon. Should any be found unfit to travel, and found to be suffering from contagious or infectious diseases, local arrangements are to be made for their care until they are able to rejoin their units ... Officers Commanding Battalions will be most particular to ascertain from householders and damages to billets during the stay of their men in the town, and if possible they should be made to sign a form together with the last payment, that no liabilities for damage are outstanding. If there is any possibility of complaints from any farmers, or any other people who have lent ground for manoeuvring purposes, they should be investigated before the battalion leaves. ... Any unused Ordnance maps in the possession of units should be returned ... “ [120]

### 3 May 1915

Machell to Lonsdale "...Our Advanced Party, 4 officers, and 200 N.C.O.'s and men, left this morning 9.30 for Prees Heath ... all in excellent form & very pleased with the move." [279]

Col. Machell: "March round Silloth – halt and fall out at Silloth short time before starting march [to] Wigton. Halt about 6-7 minutes before each clock hour. Halt for luncheon near, but just outside of Wigton, about ½ or ¾ mile, and go in with Bugles – smartly – Halt, pile arms, take off packs, mount guard & sentry (relieve) & let men fall out until ½ an hour before time to fall in ... and march to station – will give you a blank warrant of any [who] want to come in, otherwise takes names – take few posters warn station" [278]

Battalion Orders 102. [137]

Punishment by detention/forfeiture of pay: M. Armstrong (13267), A; R. Graham (13360), A; J.W. Kelton (13816), B; J.W. Hunter (16345), B; L.G. Jackson (13833), B; W. Shannon (13836), B; J.W. Wilkins (16282), B; J. Leighton (15274), B; J.H. Porter (15271), B. [137]

Letter from Brigadier Mackenzie to Machell: "On the departure of your battalion from the 112<sup>th</sup> Brigade, I should like to express to you, and all ranks under your command, my grateful thanks for the energy and ability that has been displayed in training in the battalion since the 18<sup>th</sup> March ... It is a great regret to me that the battalion will no longer be in my Brigade. I wish all of you every luck and prosperity for the future, and I shall watch your movements with interest, knowing that whatever you are asked to do in the future, you will uphold the honour and credit of the British Army." [120]

### 4 May 1915

Machell to Lonsdale: "... D Company has gone to Prees, & as one camp is now ready, I have wired to ask sanction for us to go on Friday or Saturday ... [279]

Letter to Machell from Y.M.C.A., Carlisle: "... the retention of the Y.M.C.A. Hut at Blackhall ...retain charge of the higher Camp Hut at Blackhall ... and that we close down the Lower Camp Hut entirely ..." [119]

Battalion Orders 103. [137]

Strength: enlisted and allotted to E Company: H. Massey (19461), W.J. Thompson (19462), J. Tait (19463), G.K.Knight (19464), Thomas Robinson (19465), A. Sawyer (19466), J. Scott (19467), J.W. Valentine (19467). [137]

Forfeiture of pay for absence: T. Fletcher (15470), C; E. Fletcher (15471), C. [137]

Letter from Alice Coulthard of Carlisle: "... I have applied for a grant for a little boy five years old of course I cannot get it without the father's sanction. He is a private in your battalion. He has promised to see it, but he keeps hanging back perhaps he does not care to broach the subject. We have received nothing since he enlisted. ... Private James Kay ..." [28]

### 5 May 1915

Battalion Orders 104 [137]

Promotion to sergeant: E. Sykes (13366), A. [137]

Appointment to lance sergeant: P. Crilley (17532), A. [137]

- Appointments to lance corporal: H.M. Carlos (13214), C; C. Robinson (13658), B; W. Ferguson (13776), C; G. Douthwaite (13809), C; J. Ellwood (13820), C; T. Gibson (13902), B; H. Newton (17345), C; A.K. Lister (17576), B. [137]
- Strength: enlisted to E Company: James Lyon (19469), J. Paisley (19470). [137]
- Discharge: recruit Thomas Credie [137]
- Forfeiture of pay for absence: J. White (15551), B. [137]
- 

Telegram to Machell "Rail conveyance required about 9 a.m. Saturday 8th May from Carlisle to Whitchurch Salop for Prees Heath Camp for 11th Battalion Border Regt strength about 25 officers 900 other ranks 14 horses 5 four wheel vehicles 2 two wheeled vehicles 40 tons Baggage and stores please inform me ... if the heavy baggage can be offloaded from light railway which runs into the Camp. .... I hope to come along at 3.40 & march up to Camp with B & C. ... There is no hurry about tea. ... I have had a busy day but it is a pleasure to work with these people. ..."  
[57]

Letter from William Johnson, member of the Recruiting Staff: "The residents of Botchergate were very much disappointed ... when the advance party of your Battalion was taken by James Street to the Station. I have been asked by a deputation of wives & friends of the men to ask if you will be kind enough to march the men by way of Botchergate, when they leave the City. The Station Authorities will not allow either wife or other relative in the Station, & it will be the only chance of seeing their dear ones who are going to fight for us, on their march to the Station, by doing so you will be doing a graceful act, & will earn the thanks of the many friends who look upon the "Lonsdales" as their particular Battalion. ... wishing you good luck." [117]

#### **Thur 6 May 1915**

General Mackinnon, (Western Command) to Lord Lonsdale: "...I take the opportunity of expressing to you my very high appreciation of your patriotic action in raising the battalion, and of congratulating you on the success which has attended your efforts." [279]

Battalion Orders 105. [137]

Strength: enlisted and allotted to E Company: Wkwilliam Hume (19471), A. Lynn (19472), J. Dalton (19473). [137]

Copy letter from Machell ""You will think me unreasonable about the rations for Saturday, but it is one of those things that is impossible – we draw on 1/9d per head here & have to live on it – it is not possible to calculate the value of the various 'ingredients' of the tea meal & pay for them – But it is quite easy as it is – we have breakfast here, dinner in the train, & take tea sugar milk, cheese etc, asking you to have the bread bought locally & all ready, because it is bulky – then on Sunday we get no 1/9 & simply draw the usual army ration and the 4d per man grocery ration. ... The Battn is being paid today ... There is the usual excitement, of course, & they tell me we shall have a job to get

down Botchergate on Saturday morning – No detail yet about hour of departure but it will be 2 trains – The 1st probably taking heavy baggage & 1 Company, The other kitbags etc & 2 Companies. I wish Lord Lonsdale could have seen D Company too. I am so glad all are doing so well. ... I think all is straight here – It is lucky I don't want to go away myself! Clart has been North & gathers that our Scotch friends are not wonderful. I wish they were – it would lift us along to get with good people.” [57]

List of events of Battalion Sports. [258]

### **7 May 1915** [278] [42] [137] [57]

Col. Machell: “The Battalion will parade for inspection by the Earl of Lonsdale ... Dress khaki, Marching Order – the Battalion will be formed in Mass and, after being inspected, will rank past in forms from the right hand and dismiss by Companies.” [278]

Copy letter from Machell: “... arrival. A & detachment D with all baggage & transport horses, 2.20 p.m. ... Baggage to go up to Camp by Contractor's line – B & C & Horses 3.40 p.m. - Nothing in this train but men and officers' horses. ... All well here ... Lord Lonsdale has been and inspected us today & made a good speech which I hope will be published – There were some reports present. All cut and dried now for tomorrow & I expect a big crush in the town this time. ...” [42]

Letter to Machell from GDS, High Wray Bank, Ambleside: “Welcome to your new camp. I hope you will find it really comfortable.... We were very glad we came [to Carlisle] ... and were in time to say goodbye to the first lot ... I was very sorry you had such a mob at the end as I should like to have seen you march on but it was a wonderful sight the thin stream of khaki filtering through the two gates [The Courts] and then a sudden admixture of black coats and then the great rush coming through like a dam bursting. Well, it shows what a hold you had got on Carlisle and must surely make every man there wish he had been in your lines to have got such a send off. You deserve it too you have nursed those men and trained them and they must have often been a sore trial on your (hereditary) temper but it has been worth it all and now you can feel you have given the Empire a real tool shaped properly ... out of what was at the beginning most unpromising material ...” [57]

Battalion Orders 106. [137]

Letter from the Chief Constable of Carlisle: “ ... will make the necessary arrangements for dealing with the traffic in the vicinity of the Railway Station tomorrow morning. I shall be glad if the 2 Sergeants and 30 men of E Company can be at the Viaduct entrance ... not later than 7.45 a.m.” [94]

Equipment ledger of the Depot Company. [216]

### **8 May 1915**

Report from the School of Instruction, Stirling on Lieut. Davidson. “A very hard working officer who has had very little previous experience. He should make a very good officer. His conduct was Exemplary.”

### **11 May 1915**

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "... We had a tremendous crowd to see us off, but got here [Prees Heath] all right. It is a good camp but I am worried about ground for training..." [279]

**12 May 1915**

Copy telegram Machell to Lonsdale: "O.C. Preston district wires Lonsdale Depot under Preston direct for all purposes all previous orders cancelled thank you so much." [210]

**17 May 1915**

By this date 84 pairs of field glasses had been received. [74]

