

The Lonsdale Battalion, 11th (Service) Battalion of the Border Regiment

Timeline and Chronology – September 1914 to July 1918

Introduction

This timeline from September 1914 to 23 November 1915 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. It also includes historical information from 24 November 1915-July 1918 from the Lonsdale Battalion's diaries provided courtesy of Ancestry and The National Archives (reference WO 95/2403/1).

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

The numbers in [] refer to the relevant file in the Battalion archive collection (ref: DLONS/L/13/13).

4 August 1914

War is declared on Germany.

27 August 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! [47]

Poster ‘Identification of Aircraft’ [113]

3 September 1914

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

4 September 1914

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

11 September 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 September 1914

Two men recruited at The Drill Hall, Penrith.

15 September 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 September 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 September 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 September 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 September 1914

Recruitment begins with 17 enlistments, mostly to A Company. [8]

One man 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]

23 September 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]

18 men enlisted to A Company. [8]

24 September 1914 [279] [11]

4 men recruited at Silloth. 2 men recruited at **Penrith**.

3 enlistments to A Company. [8]

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 September 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 ..."

14 men enlisted to A Company. [8]

"The object was to confine the Battalion to men of a particular type as regards education and calling." [CJ]

26 September 1914

7 men enlisted to A Company. [8]

28 September 1914

2 men recruited at Wetheral. [279]

41 men enlisted to A Company. [8]

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]

29 September 1914

3 men recruited at Brampton. [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 September 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]

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 October 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. [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]

2 October 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]

4 October 1914

Recruiting Office sent 9 attestation papers. [12]

5 October 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 October 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 October 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 October 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 October 1914

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

10 October 1914

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

12 October 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. 1 man 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 October 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 Carbollic Soap ..."

14 October 1914

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

Recruiting Office sent 19 attestation papers. [12]

1 man 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 October 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 October 1915 [279], [12] [111]

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

1 man 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 October 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]

18 October 1914

“There was increased concern over the relatively slow rate of recruiting to the Lonsdale Battalion. The Citizens’ League set up meetings at Carlisle Cross on 17 and 18 October. On the first night 23 men volunteered, making the total for Carlisle up to 345 out of the 500 required. The new recruits were marched out of the city to the camp at the racecourse. The onlookers were impressed that the men were being drilled and led by Corporal Hodgkinson, the Carlisle rugby player, who had been an early volunteer.”
[CGW]

19 October 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}

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 October 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 October 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 recorded. Chest measurement varied between 32” and 40”. [12]

22 October 1914 [279] [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. Height of recruits recorded. [12]

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

Gift of blankets from Carlisle Citizens’ League.

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]

23 October 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 October 1914

Col. Machell reports to Lord Lonsdale: a football match 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. [12]

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 October 1914 [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 ..." [279]

4 men recruited at Cargo. Recruiting Office sent 11 attestations to Camp. [12]

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 October 1914

Recruiting Office sent 13 attestations to Camp. [12]

1 man recruited at Penrith. [5]

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 !!" [11]

28 October 1914

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 Hesket. Recruiting Office sent 7 attestations to Camp. [12]

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'. [81]

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 October 1914

Recruiting Office sent 2 attestations to Camp. [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]

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 roads. [66]

30 October 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. [12]

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

31 October 1914

Recruiting Office sent 4 attestations. Recruits 9. [12]

1 November 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 November 1914

Recruiting Office sent 11 attestations to Camp. Recruits 9. [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]

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 November 1914

1 man recruited at Roadhead. [279]

Recruiting Office sent 6 attestations to Camp. Recruits 4. [12]

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

4 November 1914

Machell to Lord Lonsdale: "Strength yesterday over 850, and I expect to be nearly full in 10 days ..." [279]

Despatch of stretchers. [111]

2 men recruited at Lees Hill. Recruiting Office sent 5 attestations to Camp. Recruits 4. [12]

Col. Machell to lease Blackwell Lodge. [75]

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 November 1914 [279] [5] [111] [199]

2 men recruited at Easton. 2 men recruited at Penrith. Recruiting Office sent 1 attestation to Camp. Recruits 2. [12]

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. [75]

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. [75]

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 ..."

6 November 1914

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

Office sent 8 attestations to Camp. 2 men recruited.

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]

Sat 7 November 1914

Recruiting Office sent 3 attestations to Camp. 35 men recruited. [12]

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 November 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]

9 November 1914 [279] [199]

7 men recruited at 7 Devonshire Street. Office sent 18 attestations to Camp. [12]

1 man recruited at Penrith. [5]

Provisional arrangements by the Cockermouth 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 Cockermouth to be met by band and parade through the town; leave Cockermouth 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 11th & 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]

10 November 1914 [279] [5] [199] [47] [109]

30 men recruited at Wigton hirings. Recruiting Office sent 12 attestations to Camp. [12]

8 men 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, the men looked very well & behaved like gentlemen."

Inoculations for B Company.

11 November 1914 [5] [185] [199]

Recruiting Office sent 16 attestations to Camp. [12]

2 men 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."

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

Daily Guard Report. [118]

12 November 1914

Recruiting Office sent 6 attestations to Camp. [12]

1 man recruited at Penrith. [5]

"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]

Letter from the Chief Constable recording the names of 6 recruits. [Filing]

13 November 1914

Recruiting Office sent 3 attestations to Camp. [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 November 1914 [75]

Recruiting Office sent 38 attestations to Camp. [12]

15 November 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 November 1914

Recruiting Office sent 24 attestations to Camp. [12]

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

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

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 November 1914 [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." [279]

Recruiting Office sent 4 attestations to Camp. [12].

Penrith and Wigton hirings. [7]

18 November 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 November 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 November 1914

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

22 November 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 November 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 November 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 November 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 November 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]

December 1914

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

1 December 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) begin. [102]

Nominal roll of A Company. [178]

3 December 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: 11th (Service) Bn. The Border Regiment (Lonsdale). [121]

4 December 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 December 1914

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

6 December 1914

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

7 December 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 December 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 December 1914

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

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

11 December 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 5th Company (Depot) & later a 6th. 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 29th better take them on as a separate squad to C Coy & turn them over to the 5th (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 5th (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 13th [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 December 1914

5 men enlisted. [12]

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

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

14 December 1914

Recruiting Office sent 4 attestations to Camp. [12]

2 men recruited at Penrith. [5]

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]

15 December 1914

Recruiting Office sent 5 attestations to Camp. [12]

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 December 1914

Recruiting Office sent 3 attestations to Camp. [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 buildings 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 December 1914 [278] [57]

Recruiting Office sent 1 attestation to Camp. [12]

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 December 1914 [115]

1 man enlisted. [12]

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. Donaughee 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 December 1914

2 men recruited. [12]

21 December 1914 [185] [18]

2 men recruited. [12]

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]

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

22 December 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 12th Nov he was placed under arrest for drunkenness & was released with a warning. On 28th Nov he was again very drunk, and created a considerable disturbance in Camp. He was reverted to the ranks ..." [23]

23 December 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]

7 men recruited. [12]

Arrangements for C Company to travel from Kendal to Carlisle.

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."

2 men posted to E Company

3 men discharged.

24 December 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 29th – 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.” []

“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.”

6 men posted to E Company. [135]

27 December 1914

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

28 December 1914

6 men recruited. [12]

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]

“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.

3 men posted to E. Company. [135]

29 December 1914 [246] [81] [112]

4 men recruited. [12] 1 man recruited at Penrith. [5]

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 ...”

Discharge of 6 men. [135]

21 men posted to E Company. [135]

30 December 1914

2 men recruited. [12]

1 man recruited at Penrith. [5]

1178 recruits. [185]

Letter from Machell to Rivington: “... arranging for a special train for 5th ... 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 December 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 December 1914]

5 men recruited. [12]

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.

Discharge of 1 man from A Company

6 men posted to E Company. [135]

2 January 1915

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.’

2 men posted to E. Company.

4 January 1915

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

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]

“... 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 15th 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 ...”

5 men enlisted to E Company.

5 January 1915

8 men recruited. 1 man 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]

Discharge of 4 recruits. [135]

6 January 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 8th Jan. [135]

31 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

7 January 1915

5 men recruited. [12]

Battalion incorporated in the 5th Army. [278]

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

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 January 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]

9 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

9 January 1915

“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 124th 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 6th (Depot) Company, for whom I can arrange billets in the neighbourhood as long as the Service Battalion remains in its present camp.” [219]

11 January 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]

1 man recruited at Penrith. [5]

“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 24 men to E Company. [135]

Discharge of 1 recruit. [135]

Discharge of 3 men. [135]

Promotions to Sergeant and Lance Sergeant. [135]

12 January 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[itchener] 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]

16 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

13 January 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 sand 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 5th 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]

14 January 1915

20 men recruited from Carr’s Biscuits. [12]

15 January 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]

16 men recruited to E Company. [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]

“On and after Sunday 16th ... 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. [135]

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

Discharge of 1 recruit. [135]

14 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

16 January 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]

1 man transferred from C to E. [135]

Discharge of 1 man. [135]

1 man enlisted to E Company. [135]

18 January 1915

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

Transfer of 1 man from E to A. [135]

3 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

20 January 1915

Samples of shoulder titles. [75]

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]

"... 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 2nd 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]

8 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

21 January 1915

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

22 January 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]

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

Transfer and promotion of 1 man from B to E. [135]

1 man enlisted to E. Company. [135]

Discharge of 1: recruit. [135]

23 January 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]

Discharge of 1 man on medical grounds. [135]

25 January 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 6th or second depot coy is not sanctioned. No reason given ..." [120]

Discharge of 2 men on medical grounds. [135]

27 January 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]

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 18th 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]

23 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

28 January 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]

2 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

29 January 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]

“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]

Discharge of 2 men from A Company. [135]

Transfers of 5 men. [135]

2 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

30 January 1915

Discharge of 1 recruit. [135]

4 men enlisted to E Company. [135]

4 men discharged on medical grounds. [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 January 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]

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

1 February 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 February 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]

7 men enlisted in E Company. [135]

Discharge of 1 recruit. [135]

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

Discharge of 2 men on medical grounds. [135]

3 February 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 Quartermaster, & have each N.C.O. & man properly fitted. ..." [135]

Discharge of 1 recruit. [135]

Discharge of 1 man on medical grounds. [135]

4 February 1915

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

1 man enlisted to E Company. [135]

Transfer of 1 man. [135]

Discharge of 2 men. [135]

Discharge of 1 man on medical grounds. [135]

5 February 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]

Discharge of 2 recruits. [135]

Discharge of 3 men on medical grounds. [135]

6 February 1915

Weekly clothing report. [129]

1 man enlisted to E Company. [135]

8 February 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]

Discharge of 3 men on medical grounds. [135]

9 February 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 cost 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 of 1 recruit. [135]

10 February 1915

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

11 February 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]

12 February 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]

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

13 February 1915

Discharge on medical grounds of 3 men. [135]

16 February 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 February 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]

"... 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 of 2 men. [135]

18 February 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]

"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 February 1915

General Equipment Indent: 500 sandbags. [66]

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

"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]

1 man enlisted to C Company. [135]

20 February 1915

Strength of the Companies = 1313 men. [89]

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

22 February 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 February 1915

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

24 February 1915

"... 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 February 1915

Transfer of 9 men to E Company. [137]

5 men enlisted to E Company. [137]

Discharge of 2 recruits. [137]

Machell's instructions on Outposts. [81]

"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 27th." [136]

26 February 1915

Discharge of 2 recruits. [137]

Discharge of 1 man because of conduct. [137]

27 February 1915

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

1 March 1915

Discharge of 1 man. [137]

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

2 March 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]

"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 March 1915

Bill for portable phone, £5. [75]

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 March 1915

3 men enlisted to E Company. [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 March 1915

Discharge of 2 men from D Company. [137]

6 March 1915

Detention of 2 men at Stafford Barracks. [137]

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

8 March 1915

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

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

9 March 1915

Enlistment of 1 man to E Company. [137]

Discharge of 1 recruit. [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 March 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]

1 man enlisted to E Company. [137]

"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 March 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]

"... 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 March 1915

1 man enlisted to E Company. [137]

Discharge of 13 men. [137]

13 March 1915

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 March 1915

Weekly routine of training for D Company. [47]

16 March 1915

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]

"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 is 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 March 1915

2 men enlisted to E Company. [137]

18 March 1915

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.

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]

1 man enlisted to E. Company. [137]

19 March 1915

Discharge of 7 men. [137]

Discharge of 1 recruit. [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 March 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]

Discharge of 8 men. [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 March 1915

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 March 1915

General Equipment Indent: 2000 dummy cartridges. [66]

24 March 1915

Discharge of 2 men. [137]

25 March 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]

Discharge of 7 men. [137]

"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 March 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]

Discharge of 26 men. [137]

1 man enlisted to E. Company. [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]

"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 March 1915

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]

"The Quartermaster's 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 March 1915

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

29 March 1915

Discharge of 12 men. [137]

31 March 1915

"An advance party ... will proceed by train to Grantham on Monday 5th ..." [135]

"The Battalion will probably leave Carlisle on Wednesday 7th ... 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]

2 men enlisted to E Company. [137]

1 April 1915

“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 April 1915

Private Kirkbride absent without leave in Workington. [104]

“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 April 1915

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 April 1915

“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 April 1915

“A telegram received from 112th Infantry Brigade at noon today stated that final instructions regarding date and hour of move [to Grantham] had not yet been received. [135]

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

7 April 1915

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

8 April 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 6th 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]

“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 April 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]

10 April 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 37th 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]

"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 April 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]

13 April 1915

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 4th has been lodged in the stables which have been floored and otherwise rendered habitable." [55]

14 April 1915

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 April 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]

"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]

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]

15 April 1915

Letter from J.E. Plender to Major Binning: 'I have practically got an option on the shop at the top of Botchergate under the 'Red Lion' at a rental of £1 a week and am only waiting for a confirmatory telegram from the people who have control of the building. ... I will engage the shop, get a charwoman to wash it out, arrange for furniture to be taken there and open out as soon as possible. I am most sorry that the office has hung fire so long but am really doing my utmost to get things moving. ... I know, of course, that recruiting is slow, and the cost of each man in proportion to the rent and other expenses, will seem large, but that cannot be helped.' [220]

16 April 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]

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]

17 April 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]

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 April 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[it]chener, 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 April 1915

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 April 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]

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

21 April 1915

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 April 1915

Hints to Sentries. [131]

“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 Army for employment in armament workshops. ...” [128]

24 April 1915

Programmes of work for each Company. [83]

List of fitters sent to Western Command. [128]

26 April 1915

Letter to Major Binning from Cumberland and Westmorland Constabulary: ‘I am in receipt of the Recruiting Posters you sent this morning and I have circulated them throughout Cumberland and Westmorland.’ [220] [Posters were also circulated to all railway companies.]

27 April 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 April 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]

1 man 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 11th 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 April 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]

“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

Discharge of 1 recruit. [137]

2 men enlisted and allotted to E Company. [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]

Letter from Brigadier Mackenzie to Machell: "On the departure of your battalion from the 112th 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 18th 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]

8 men enlisted and allotted to E Company. [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]

4 May 1915 Prees Heath

Capt. Dawson to Machell: "... the Camp is an admirable one as regards buildings and equipment, and a poor one as regards drill and parade ground. There is no smooth, level ground fit for formation work ... the Store people are slow and bound by little customs which make terribly for delay. ... The Camp is flat. ... There are no Sergts' bunks, and I am sure you will not like the idea ... of all Sergts sleeping together in one hut. There are no dining halls ... Men's shower baths, recreation room ... are quite excellent. (No officers' baths). Some £300,000 have been spent on the place. All rooms lined venner 3 ply; not asbestos. ... The allowance here is rather bare. ... The behaviour of all ranks in Advance Party has

been beyond reproach. Only one man tried to leave train to get beer yesterday, at Crewe, and he was a B Company waiter who has had no discipline teaching on parade....” [75]

5 May 1915

2 men enlisted to E Company. [137]

Discharge of 1 recruit. [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]

6 May 1915 Blackwell

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]

3 men enlisted and allotted to E Company. [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]

6 May 1915 Prees Heath

Telegram: ... six Medical Corps men busy fixing one hut as hospital ..." [89]

List of events of Battalion Sports. [258]

7 May 1915 Blackwell

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]

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 Blackwell

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."

9 May 1915 Prees Heath

"All Ranks are warned that the Ground across the road east of the Battalion Lines is out of bounds, also all other ground where buildings are in course of construction." [11]

Letter to Binning from Capt. Smith: "... The Camp is a rum place, a big square very rough heath surrounded by flat country, & one or two woods. 2 train Rds. running through the Camp. Everything of the very best and up to date. 8 Huts per Coy. 30 men in each. ... new wooden beds which take to pieces & pack up, and shelves above them. Everything is new & the Huts beautifully lined with 3 ply match boards which looks quite neat & pretty. The Officers' Mess Room is very nice with quaint low ceiling. There is no Parade ground, NONE. We did form up in mass somehow this morning without breaking any leggs [sic]. If

we were to take the top off the rough ground, we should be disturbing the Rabbits too much & a proper storm would be the result. The Chaplin [sic] preached on Rabbits this morning, & the Lucitania [sic], big & little things you see!! ...” [47]

10 May 1915 Prees Heath

“The O.C. has noted with satisfaction the admirable work performed by D Company as Advanced Party. The whole of the Huts have been prepared by D Company in such a manner as to leave nothing to be desired. The O.C. has been very pleased to hear of D Company’s hard work and excellent behaviour, and take the earliest opportunity of thanking them for the example they have set.” [138]

11 May 1915 Carlisle

Letter from J.E. Plender to Binning: ‘...The [recruiting] poster sent down is the damndest silly thing I have seen and you can tell Macell [sic] this if you like.’ [220]

11 May 1915 Prees Heath

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]

Discharge of 10 men. [25]

Letter to Machell from Capt. Lambert of Whitchurch: “... My wife, my sister-in-law, Lady Lowther, & Miss Godsall walked down to the end of the garden, which reaches the end of the road, to see the troops go by. A considerable number of men called out various remarks, whistled at them and made some rather objectionable noises.... One young officer was near the men who did this & made no attempt to check them ... “ [148]

J. Wilson of Whitchurch offered his services to shave the men. [148]

12 May 1915 Blackwell

Report on the state and condition of Blackwell Lodge, Machell’s former HQ. [52]

12 May 1915 Prees Heath

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]

Letter to Binning from Cuthbert (aka Johnnie) H. Walker: “We are now settling down into the ways of our new camp. The Scotties [Scottish Highlanders] have started to come in and are getting their quarters fixed up as well. This is a fine camp indeed. ... We seem to be miles from anywhere but there is always plenty of life in the mess, and our quarters especially, so we keep ourselves pretty well amused. ... I like this life very well ... banking won’t find me again ...” [47]

Letter from Whitchurch Cricket Club: ‘At the A.G.M. ... held last evening it was unanimously resolved to abandon club cricket for the ensuing season and to place the club and ground at the disposal of the troops camped at Prees Heath. ...’ [258]

13 May 1915 Prees Heath

Machell: “... my proposal that a footpath be made along the front of the Officers’ Quarters and Mess, one along the front of the Transport and Stables ... it would also be very

desirable to have a roadway leading from the Whitchurch to the Wem Road ... also I should be glad if a certain amount of filling in of deep holes, which could possibly be covered with sods, could be carried out on the Battalion Parade ground. ... the Battalion would supply the necessary working parties and transport.” [55]

Machell: “May I please be supplied with 100 1 inch Ordnance Maps of Prees Heath and neighbourhood for training purposes.” [147]

Battalion Orders: “Canes will invariably be carried by all ranks when proceeding outside the precincts of the Camp. A Soldier when walking out is not properly dressed unless carrying a cane of regulation length.” [138]

12 men enlisted to E Company. [139]

14 May 1915 Blackwell

Depot order: ‘One N.C.O. and six men will ... proceed to Carlisle for Recruiting ...’ [206]

Notice: daily attendance of the barber at Camp. [206]

Letter from Plender [Recruiting Officer] to Binning: ‘Someone smashed the plate glass of the door last night ... I am likely to get several very fine recruits from the police force, 3 or 4 have been in today. They are not very young but are drilled and trained men, and if you get them into uniform they ought to make fine recruiters, as they will know the men in the town, and are fine upstanding fellows.’ [220]

14 May 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: “... the Y.M.C.A Hut, which is being opened ... today, by the Duchess of Westminster ... will be open for the free use of the Troops from 6-0 p.m.” [138]

Rivington to all Companies: “... make economical and effective arrangements for haircutting at the Government expense. At Blackhall one penny per man per month was paid ...” [185]

15 May 1915 Blackwell

Letter from Plender to Binning: ‘... It might do good to have a couple of men down each day next week and walk up and down in front of the office.’ [220]

15 May 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: “The O.C. desires by gradual training to enable the Battalion to cover long distances without fatigue. ... [138]

2 men enlisted to E Company. [139]

16 May 1915 Prees Heath

Diggle: “Please be careful to see that all your Officers are instructed in the method of disposing of prisoners, dealing with passes, preparing the Pay and Mess Book and writing simple Memos. ...” [118]

17 May 1915 Blackwell

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

17 May 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: new daily routine: Reveille 5.45; early tea 6.15; Parade 6.45 – 7.45; Breakfast 8.0; Guard Mounting 8.45; Parade (training) 9.15 – 12.15; Dinner 1.0; Parade (training) 2.0 – 4.30; Tea 5.0; Retreat 6.0; Tattoo 9.30; Last Post 10.0; Lights Out 10.15. [138]

One man enlisted to E Company. [139]

18 May 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: 'Recruits are coming in more freely – 11 since Saturday – one of the policemen, who joined about a fortnight ago, brought in 4 on Saturday, so I sent him to Kirkby Stephen, of which he is a native, yesterday for the hirings and told him to go about the villages in that district today & tomorrow – Sergt. Davis will do the same thing at the hirings in West Cumberland, so with our efforts here & at Wigton, I am hopeful of roping in a good few within next week or two. The men are doing very well. ... I hope you have secured some decent ground for training. ...' [214]

18 May 1915 Prees Heath

Machell: "Requesting that the following may be submitted for the consideration of the Brigadier General Commanding, as being the only observations I have to offer on the excellent hutments occupied by the Battalion under my Command." Machell then continues to ask for various improvements – fire screens, water trough, drying rooms, lighting, quartermaster's stores, dust bins, cookhouse, etc. [55]

Discharge of 3 men.

Machell to the War Office: 'The St. Stephen's Silver Band, Carlisle. During the period the Battalion ... was at Carlisle, the members of the ... Band placed their services at our disposal ..., and before we left, the bandmaster informed that the great majority of the members desired to bring their instruments and join us as our regimental and, provided that the War Office would allow them to accompany the Battalion abroad ... The members of this Band are anxious to enlist forthwith provided ... that they will be permitted to accompany the Battalion abroad, that they will be employed as Musicians, and not taken away for other duties, that a modified medical examination should be approved for Bandsmen ...' [279]

19 May 1915 Prees Heath

10 men enlisted to E Company. [139] [206]

20 May 1915 Blackwell

Gifts of 12 pairs of socks and Kendal mint cake forwarded by the ladies of St. George's parish, Kendal for the men of C Company. [126]

Discharge of 1 man. [206]

Letter to Binning from Col. Weston, M.P. 'We are holding a Recruiting Meeting at the moment & we are told you are sending a detachment of Lonsdales ... on Saturday next. I am asked to write to you and say how glad we are of the help. A M[edical] Officer will be here [Kendal] to examine all day. ...' [214]

20 May 1915 Prees Heath

1 man enlisted to E Company. [139]

Machell wrote to 9 Cumberland and Westmorland newspapers asking for sports equipment. [148]

21 May 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: "I am also sending a few men to Penrith ... for the hiring ..." [124]

Depot Order: 'Recruiting March: 2 N.C.O.'s and 20 men ... march to Carlisle, proceeding by ... train to Kendal; whence they will train to Windermere ... and thence to Ambleside ...' [206]

21 May 1915 Prees Heath

2 men enlisted to E Company. [139]

22 May 1915

Weekly diet sheet [57]

22 May 1915 Blackwell

Depot order 'Recruiting March ... 2 N.C.O.'s and 30 men will ... march to Cummersdale, proceeding by ... train to Wigton, whence they will march back by via Thursby and Dalston to Camp.' [206]

Depot weekly programme. [212]

23 May 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: "... I fear that terrible Railway accident [Qunitinshill], would stop some from joining, as dead & wounded were brought into the Station constantly from morning until late afternoon, & the Station Square was crowded with farm hands and Townsmen & the sights were very gruesome, and some of the poor fellows were terribly injured ... I had a talk with one of the slightly wounded ... & the scene must have been appalling. He himself saw 3 men take their own lives by cutting their throats as the fire approached them, & two others, pinned down by the wreckage, shot by an Officer. ... " [8]

24 May 1915 Blackwell

Enlistment of 2 men to E Company. [206]

Telegram from Sergeant Sarginson to Binning: 'plenty servants at hirings [at Shap] couldn't work them this morning taking liberty of staying overnight recruiting.' [20]

24 May 1915 Prees Heath

Binning to Machell: "... I agree to lower our standards to that of the regular army but I hope we shall get a fairly stout lot. The railway accident must have been frightful... I am not quite clear about the status of our Depot. It seems as if you are intended to be quite independent of the Battalion ... but I must get it defined. Do you see any possibility of raising a 2nd Depot Company by voluntary enlistment? Meanwhile you should take all you

can get, for I can discharge a number, & we can do with a good sized draft at any time.” [124]

25 May 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: “... you will sanction the enlisting of 5ft 2 men, when strong & sturdy – as to raising a 2nd Depot by voluntary enlistment , I cannot say until we know the results of this week’s efforts – we are sending men out daily to various places ... where there is a likelihood of our men getting Recruits ...” [8]

Gift of 23 pairs of socks, 4 packs of cigarettes and 1 packet of Kendal mint cake from the ladies of St. George’s parish, Kendal for the men of C Company. [126]

Enlistment of 1 man to E Company. Transfer of 3 men to E Company. [206]

Depot Order: ‘Khaki clothing will be worn for the remainder of this week, for walking out, and it is hoped that the men will use their best endeavours to secure good Recruits ...’ [206]

Telegram from Monkhouse to Binning: ‘Wednesday Appleby, Thursday Whitehaven, Friday Shap. Saturday Carlisle ...’ [220]

Letter from Plender to Binning: ‘ .. I have a great scheme on for Friday and Saturday if it can be arranged. It is to collect some German helmets and other trophies brought back by wounded soldiers and have them exhibited in the window with catchy slips of wording on them, and have recruiters stationed outside to tackle any men who stop to look.’ [220]

25 May 1915 Prees Heath

Discharge of 5 men. [25]

Battalion Orders: “Salt and water or boracic powder are the best preventatives of sore feet.” [138]

Machell: full strength of 1080 all ranks. [279]

26 May 1915 Blackwell

2 men enlisted to E Company [211]

26 May 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders “The Railway Line between the Camp and Whitchurch Station is out of Bounds. Men proceeding to the Station are to use the road only.” [138]

Battalion Orders: Gifts: Mrs. Diggle [the Bishop’s wife], 59 pairs of socks and 10 shirts; Lady Valda Machell 132 pairs of socks; Duchess of Westminster, 10 pairs of socks. [138]

4 men enlisted to E Company. [139]

27 May 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: “ ... I could send you 30 men next week, but only a few have been inoculated once, & none vaccinated ...” [8]

7 pairs of socks sent by Mrs. Procter of Kirkby Lonsdale. 22 pairs of socks sent by Mrs. Horrocks. [126]

6 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

27 May 1915 Prees Heath

Letter to Machell: "*I will send you off some nets I will also try & collect some more Bats, Stumps...*" [126]

28 May 1915 Blackwell

8s per day for cleansing latrines and 6s per day for carting fresh water. [53]

9 men enlisted to E Company. 3 men discharged from E Company. [211]

28 May 1915 Prees Heath

Machell to Binning: "... please ask [Dr.] Morland to get on with the inoculation and vaccination ... it is very important that this should go on automatically. ..." [124]

16 men transferred from E to A, B and C Companies. [139]

29 May 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

29 May 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: "All men wishing to cycle beyond the bounds of the camp must obtain a special cycle pass from their O.C. Companies." [138]

30 May 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Diggle: "... I will certainly go on recruiting, as there are still a lot of men hanging back, whom we ought to get – I cannot tell you the exact results of our efforts during the past week, as Cumbrians are very slow in making up their minds, & some told the Recruiters, they would join after taking a holiday ..." [8]

Letter from Lance Corporal Harding, 17465, to Binning: 'Re the recruiting at Brampton. I have got 5 recruits for the Lonsdales, ... I expect to get a few more men for the Lonsdales if leave is granted as I am going into the country.' [220]

30 May 1915 Prees Heath

Machell to Brigade Major: "It appears that drink is served in Whitchurch up to 10 p.m. and this is a temptation to many to stay on longer than they should. ... requested to authorise the closing of bars and public houses in Whitchurch and district at 9 p.m. or preferably 8.45 p.m." [148]

31 May 1915 Blackwell

8 men enlisted to E Company. 7 men discharged from E Company. [211]

Binning to Machell: '...We have had several Recruits in today, but only 8 out of the 15 Morland overhauled were fit for service ... I think I can get you 30 men at any time now ...' [214]

31 May 1915 Prees Heath

Machell: "... we find that any number of scratch games of cricket can be arranged after work is over ..." [126]

1 June 1915 Blackwell

10 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

Letter from Harding to Binning: 'I have got 11 men passed the Doctor and sworn in, I have had 5 rejected by the Doctor also, they are all for the Lonsdales ...' [220]

Memo from Binning to Lance Corporal Harding: 'I am exceedingly pleased with the result of your efforts. Please continue recruiting for another week ...' [220]

1 June 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: "Men are forbidden to go into lines which are under construction. They must not take away wood that they see lying about even if civilian workmen give them permission; this wood is all Government property." [138]

Battalion Orders: "A Soldiers' Rest has been started in the Town Hall, Wem, Books, papers and games are provided and it is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons ..." [138]

Daily Orders: 1 sergeant, 1 corporal and 3 privates from D Company proceeded to Workington and district on recruitment duty. [139]

Daily orders: Private W. Johnston, 15311, B, fined 10s for being drunk. [139]

2 June 1915 Blackwell

16 men enlisted to E Company. 4 men discharged from E Company. [211]

2 June 1915 Prees Heath

Machell: "I beg to request that I may be provided with a second riding horse ... The only horse I have at present was my private property. ... This horse has developed a weak fetlock joint, and is unfit for work. ... I am in desperate need of a horse." [92]

Letter to Machell: "*I saw that you were asking for a few cricket things for your men – our village club (Great Salkeld) asks me to forward you the following: 3 bats, 2 pairs pads, 2 pairs batting gloves, 4 balls, 1 set wickets – as a contribution....*" [126]

Letter to Machell from Carlisle Cricket Club: *In response to an appeal in the Cumberland News for Games equipment for the Lonsdale Battalion ... I am sending ... through the Carlisle Citizens' League, the following articles: 1 Cricket bag, 3 Bats, 4 Pads, 3 pairs Boots, 2 pairs Batting Gloves, 2 Sweaters, 4 Shirts, 3 Balls and a set of Stumps. ...*" [126]

3 June 1915 Blackwell

Depot Order: 'The O.C. will render ... a return showing the names of men who are Hay Cutters and Tiers by trade.' [206]

10 men enlisted to E Company. 2 men discharged from E Company. [211]

3 June 1915 Prees Heath

I am very glad to see the results of the recruiting which seem very satisfactory. ... There are still a lot of men here who will have to go – are you writing off any of those whom [Dr] Morland considers totally unfit? The line is to keep sufficient in the Depot who are fit for Home but not foreign service, so as to release the others from permanent employ – but men who are unfit for home service should not be retained. ...” [124]

Battalion Orders: “It has been observed that Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers walk out without belts on; this is irregular and must be discontinued. Side arms are to be worn with the belt by all Sergeants. All other ranks below Sergeant wear the belt without side arms.” [138]

4 June 1915 Blackwell

10 men enlisted to E Company. 2 men discharged from E Company. [211]

Draft of 30 men prepared for Prees Heath. [20]

4 June 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: “Coton Hall Cricket Club have kindly placed their ground at the disposal of the troops. ...” [138]

5 June 1915 Blackwell

2 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

5 June 1915 Prees Heath

Machell to Binning: “...We are having trouble here with the number of men who go sick, so please be very careful to send none but men who are absolutely fit. ... as you know, we have a lot of crocks who I intended to get rid of here. Please ask [Dr] Morland to be very careful to send us only men who are fit. If he can get rid of absolute crocks there, so much the better ...” [124]

6 June 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: ‘It is awful to think there are so many men being cast [aside] but I am not surprised ... I gave the men selected for your draft , with a few in reserve, weekend leave ... & have arranged for Morland to run through them ... so that those who come to you will be quite fit. ...’ [214]

6 June 1915 Prees Heath

39 pairs of socks and 1 shirt sent by Lady Valda Machell. [126]

Machell asked for 30 men to be sent to Prees Heath. [11]

7 June 1915 Blackwell

Recruiting Office to Machell: “... Captain Lee of Brampton. He is doing good work for us, sent four or five last week, four today, and the promise of eight tomorrow ...” [7]

Discharge of 1 man, considered unfit for service. [24]

Depot Order: 'The C.O. has noticed men in Carlisle without waistbelts. N.C.O.'s and men must always leave Barracks properly dressed with waistbelt and cane. Sergeants will wear their sword bayonets.' [206]

Depot Order: 'Dogs are not allowed in the Camp. All stray dogs are to be handed over to the Civil Police.' [206]

5 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

7 June 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: "... The Raven Inn is outside the bounds of the Camp. No man is to be outside these boundaries unless properly dressed. ..." [138]

Discharge of 3 men. [139]

8 June 1915 Prees Heath

Daily orders: Field Training: "*During very hot weather, after arrival at the rendezvous, packs may be removed, and the training carried out without them. The packs should be laid out neatly by units and a sentry left on them till they are put on again at the end of the day's works.*" [139]

9 June 1915 Blackwell

Discharge of 8 men. [25]

18 men enlisted to E Company. 2 men discharged from E Company. [211]

30 men moved to join the Battalion at Prees Heath. [211]

9 June 1915 Prees Heath

Letter to Machell: "*The Watermillock club is sending you a small tribute towards your amusements. ... The goods are not quite of the best or newest but will do for practice. ...*" [126]

Machell: "It appears that a number of men are continuing to fire on the Miniature range who rarely hit the target. This should not be allowed, and you should hold Platoon Commanders responsible that no such man is permitted to resume firing until he can show that he is capable of taking a proper aim and pressing the trigger. .." [147]

Press cutting from the '*Carlisle Journal*' reporting a change of routine and diet. [279]

10 June 1915 Blackwell

Order for 4 bugles and 4 bugle strings. [66]

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]]

10 June 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: "The greatest attention is attached to [foot inspection] Being most thoroughly carried out, both before and after the Parade." [138]

Battalion Orders: Cross-Country Runs: Great care is to be taken not to exceed 3 miles running and walking. Running 5 minutes, walking 10 minutes." [138]

Battalion Orders: "... if the crowding round Smith's Garage at Whitchurch in the evening continues, the Motor Service to Camp will be discontinued." [138]

Daily orders: 11 men found permanently unfit for service abroad transferred to Depot [in Carlisle]. [139]

11 June 1915 Blackwell

Depot Order: '... the Battalion will be held in readiness to proceed at short notice to Camp at Wensley ...' [206]

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

11 June 1915 Prees Heath

100 pairs of socks sent by Lady Valda Machell and Lady Lonsdale. [126]

30 men arrived from Blackwell. [139]

12 June 1915 Blackwell

Binning: "... the privilege hitherto enjoyed by the Lonsdales [of using the public baths free of charge] has been withdrawn. There are no facilities for bathing in the Camp, and it is essential for the health and cleanliness that the men should be regularly bathed...." [53]

Depot Order: 'There will be a Bathing Parade on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.' [206]

13 men transferred to E Company. [211]

1 man enlisted to E company. [211]

Letter to Major Binning from Recruiting Office: 'I am getting ... to gather up some of her friends to act as lady recruiters. She wants some pamphlets to give to the men, and know how to answer questions.'

Letter from Corporal Harding to Binning: 'I have got 2 good men for the Lonsdales passed the Doctor and sworn in ... Mr. Milburn says he will take me to Spelter Works and district this week if you think I should stay ...' [220]

14 June Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

15 June 1915 Blackwell

Suggestions as to the sanitation of Blackhall Camp: "1. The meat store should be protected from the access of flies. 2. The present method of disposal of pail contents from the latrines is unsatisfactory as a large open trench is used for the purpose, and the excrement is not covered over with earth after deposit. A much smaller trench should be used and the pail contents should be completely covered with earth ..." [53]

Depot Order: 'Every man must provide himself with Bathing Drawers, sample of which may be seen in the ... Order Board' [206]

15 June Prees Heath

Daily Orders: "*Drunk and fighting in C Company's lines after lights out*", Private R. Ashbridge, 13872, D. [139]

16 June 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: "All is going well here, & Plender is enlisting the services of some Lady Recruiters to help. Recruits are difficult to get & we are having to send men into the country districts which have not hitherto been worked. It means a little more expense, but will I hope have good results ..." [65]

2 men discharged from E Company. 8 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

Letter from Plender to Binning: 'what about sending some recruiters to the meet of the otter hounds tomorrow at Warwick Bridge. ... As a rule this is a big meeting.' [220]

Letter from Plender to Binning: '... an Appleby man tells me there is a big demonstration tomorrow there and that lads from the district will be coming ...' [220]

16 June 1915 Prees Heath

Postcard to Machell; "... *if the gift of 50 khaki sun-shields would be of any use to the Battalion, ... they have been made by the St. John's [Windermere] War Working Party.*" [126]

17 June 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

17 June 1915 Prees Heath

8 men found permanently unfit for service abroad transferred to Depot [in Carlisle]. [139]

500 cigarettes purchased with the proceeds of a charity cricket match sent by the 'Workington Star' for the men of D Company. [194]

18 June 1915 Blackwell

Stead McAlpin, Cummersdale to Binning: 'You are quite at liberty to take your merry men on to my rough ground. There is Dalston Big Wood ... please be careful not to set the wood on fire. ...' Includes sketch map. [231] [Binning wrote to several landowners requesting land to train on.]

18 June 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: Advance arrangements for the move to Wensley Camp. [138]

19 June 1915 Blackwell

8 men transferred to E Company. One man enlisted to E Company. 1 man discharged from E Company. [211]

Letter from Corporal Harding to Binning: 'I am returning ... with 4 recruits all passed the Doctor, I don't think there is any more to be got in this district at present, as have tried very hard to get more.' [220]

19 June 1915 Penrith

Cumberland & Westmorland Territorial Force Association to Recruiting Officers: "Lord Lonsdale desires me to inform you that the Army Council have authorised the raising of a second Reserve Company for the Lonsdale Battalion. This second company is required to ensure that there shall always be sufficient trained men to replace casualties killed and wounded and the wastage incidental to active campaigning. ... It is absolutely essential that the number of men required (250) be obtained at the earliest possible moment so that their training may be proceeded with at once. Unless the number of men required can be raised quickly the departure of the Battalion for the continent may be indefinitely delayed, or if not delayed, its future and county connection may be injuriously affected. His Lordship has been given to understand that unless the Reserve Companies are in a position to supply reinforcing drafts as they are required, the Battalion, if its strength falls below 400, will be amalgamated with some other Battalion in the same straits, thereby losing its individuality and to a certain extent its county connection. This, His Lordship considers, would be a deplorable calamity, seeing that the County Association, as well as his Lordship, are pledged to support the Battalion and do all that is possible to foster the County interest in it. I am therefore to request that you will make every effort to recruit for the Battalion in your district and thus shew the Commanding Officer and the men under him that you have their interests at heart and that you are prepared to do your "Bit" towards helping them maintain the glorious traditions of the two counties. I am to remind you that expenditure on recruiting for the Lonsdale Bn ... is entirely separate and distinct from that of the Regular Army, and that any necessary expenditure incurred in connection with the Lonsdales can be recovered ..."

[220]

19 June 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: further arrangements for the move to Wensley Camp, Leyburn on 22 June in two trains. [138]

Daily Orders: detailed arrangements for the move to Wensley, 21 and 22 June. [139]

Machell to Lonsdale: 'I am very sorry to say the War Office writes that it is has been decided that no further appointments to Honorary Colonelcies are to be made in the new army. We are all very sorry, but you will always be our Honorary Colonel in fact, and a great deal more. ... I got tree excellent chestnut cobs, 2 for myself and 1 for the adjutant, so I will cast the horse you kindly gave me, which has done me so well, as soon as we get to Wensley. We go there on the 22nd. I have also got 9 males, not all chestnuts ...' [279]

19 June 1915 Wensley

Arrival of advance party of 1 officer and 50 men, 11 four-wheeled vehicles, 4 two-wheeled vehicles and 1 ton of baggage. [150]

21 June 1915 Blackwell

Depot Order: 'In order to encourage soldiers on Furlough to obtain Recruits, it has been decided that men who are successful in inducing their friends to come forward and enlist should be granted an extra day's leave for every recruit they raise, provided such recruits are finally approved ... In such cases, the Recruiting Officer should enter on the Pass or Furlough Paper the number of extra days leave granted Every inducement should also be made to men who are considered likely to be of assistance in obtaining Recruits, by allowing them to proceed on Pass for the purpose of doing so ...' [206]

Letter from Recruiting Office, Appleby: ‘...Of course we will do our best in this sub area and made a start this morning by procuring the first man ... The men are about, especially along the Fellsides and it is no use sending out one or two lads to get recruits for to my knowledge instead of getting men they only get impertinence. The Lonsdales want to send out a company on a route march with a band ... viz from Gamblesby right down to Hilton. Billet them in the schools and let them stay a night or two in the key villages. The only other alternative is to give up the idea of obtaining the men in Cumberland and Westmorland and recruit for them in Wensleydale. From what I am told on good authority there are hundreds of fine, big young fellows along this dale. I believe I am right in saying that only two men have gone from Hawes and very few from the dale itself. I have recruiting sergeants billeted in the villages in this sub-area since last Wednesday, good men, natives of the county, each possessing a list of likely fellows and we have nil results up to now.’ [220]

21 June 1915 Prees Heath

Battalion Orders: “N.C.O.’s and men are reminded that, when on furlough, they are entitled to 1 day’s extra leave and 1s Reward for every recruit brought by them and attested. ...” [138]

22 June 1915 Wensley

Arrival of 29 officers, 1020 other ranks, 17 horses, 2 bicycles and 40 tons of baggage. [150]

23 June 1915 Blackwell

10 men enlisted to E Company. 1 man discharged from E Company. [211]

23 June 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: “*Bathing is permitted East of Wensley Bridge. No bathing is permitted above this point.*” [140]

Battalion Orders: “... Until a letter box can be provided there will be a sack for outgoing letters in charge of the Commander of the Guard.” [140]

24 June 1915 Blackwell

2 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

24 June 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: “*The Battalion will parade for a Route March (12 miles) ...*” [140]

24 June 1915 Penrith

Chief Constable to Lord Lonsdale; ‘1 ... enclose a summary of the enquiries made in each Police Division [Whitehaven, Workington, Wigton, Cockermouth, Carlisle, Brampton, Penrith, Appleby and Kendal] on the question of raising a Farmers’ Sons Battalion. I think there are still a good many farmers’ sons about who ought to have enlisted, but they seem to be of a class who will not join anything unless obliged to do so, and the idea of a Farmers’ Battalion for Farmers’ sons only would not appeal to them more than the Lonsdale Battalion or the local Yeomanry.’ [279]

25 June 1915 Blackwell

Medical history of Tom Blaylock of Longtown. [10]

25 June 1915 Wensley

Letter to D Company from the County Laundry, Upperby: “ ... for the present, I can do the washing for D Company at the rate of 1s 2d per dozen articles, provided the handkerchiefs and small articles are sent ...” [195]

26 June 1915 Wensley

Diggle: “2 dozen Signalling Flags were sent to you yesterday as you are now required to train Signallers. Will you please take the necessary steps. ...” [124]

3 men working on the hay harvest. [141]

27 June 1915 Blackwell

2 men enlisted to E Company. 1 man discharged from E Company. [211]

28 June 1915 Blackwell

2 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

28 June 1915 Wensley

Application for William J. Hully (15401) to have leave to help his father with the hay harvest. [29], [76 other applications]

Battalion Orders: “*The Wesleyan Methodists in Middleham are kindly converting their school into a reading room for the use of soldiers visiting Middleham. Light refreshments can be obtained there.*” [140]

29 June 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. 2 men discharged from E Company. [211]

Letter from Plender’s assistant to Binning: ‘...Two collieries are out on strike at Aspatria, commencing today, and a recruiting sergeant on the spot would probably make a haul. ... I think I have hit on a good idea for getting further recruits. ... At any rate, I fancy the scheme is novel.’ [220]

29 June 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: “*Bathing is allowed between WENSLEY and MIDDLEHAM bridges. ...*” [140]

Battalion Orders: “*No fishing in the RIVER URE is allowed without a pass.*” [140]

Battalion Orders: “*All tent walls, without exception, will be rolled up each morning, weather permitting.*” [140]

30 June 1915 Blackwell

Depot Order: ‘Permission to use certain portions of the Woodside Estate for training purposes having been kindly granted ...’ [206]

2 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

30 June 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: “*When manoeuvring on the adjoining moors, all smoking is strictly prohibited.*” [140]

Battalion Orders: “*... men proceeding to bathe in the river need not do so in walking out dress, but such men must proceed direct to the river, and return to Camp after bathing, and not stop in the villages unless properly dressed.*” [140]

1 July 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: ‘You will be glad to hear that Col. Wilson was very pleased with the Depot at his inspection today. The men had taken infinite pains with their buttons, putting on their puttees etc. & really looked very trim and smart. ... the Colonel went with each case of the men for discharge & those for home service ... & afterwards saw each squad at drill ... the men moved smartly & made a very creditable show – indeed Col. Wilson was kind enough to say, it is one of the best Depots he has seen. ... The numbers to be discharged are 9 & those for home service only 20. Recruits are coming in very slowly, so I am sending Recruiters out still – as we must make a special effort to get the numbers up.’ [214]

Letter to Binning: ‘... the Carlisle billposter has some [recruiting posters] for the hoardings, and 12 have been sent for exhibition in Wetheral and Heads Nook.’ [227]

Binning: ‘... I am not willing to accept Coloured men into the Depot under my command.’ [228]

1 July 1915 Wensley

Letter to Machell from Edith Diggle, wife of the Bishop of Carlisle, enclosing 29 pairs of socks. [126]

Battalion Orders: “*... those parts of the bank sheltered from view from the main road should be selected by the men, as far as possible, except for men wearing drawers.*” [140]

Battalion Orders: “The boots not in wear are to be neatly arranged inside the tents, well dubbed, and not exposed to the sun outside. Each man is to have in his possession a small tin of dubbing ... and these tins should be procurable for 1d in the dry canteen. The tin of dubbing should be shewn at kit inspections.” [140]

2 men working on hay harvest. {141}

2 July 1915 Blackwell

2 men discharged from E Company. [211]

2 July 1915 Wensley

One thousand pairs of socks received from Queen Mary's Needlework Guild. 34 pairs of socks. [126]

Battalion Orders: Results of the Machine Gun Course at Prees Heath. [140]

1 man working on hay harvest. [141]

4 July 1915 Wensley

Memo from Machell to Binning: 'I really do not think there is anything to be done in Wensleydale – I wish there was – already, before the war, the tendency was for the young men to drift to the mines and towns, and now one looks in vain for anything like a potential recruit anywhere – I have personally been all along the dale from one end to the other, and I fear cities are the only possibility now.' [220]

5 July 1915 Blackwell

1 man transferred to E Company. [211]

5 July 1915 Wensley

9 men working on the hay harvest. [141]

6 July 1915 Blackwell

10 men on hay harvesting. [211]

6 July 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: "Bathing is only allowed on the South side of the river." [140]

7 July 1915 Blackwell

5 men enlisted to E Company. 1 man discharged from E Company. [211]

9 July 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

9 July 1915 Wensley

19 men working on hay harvest. [141]

10 July 1915 Blackwell

2 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

10 July 1915 Wensley

Transfer of 32 medically unfit men back to Depot.

Battalion Orders: "Private J. Lowry, 13650 B ... 8 days confined to barracks for "Committing a nuisance in his Company's lines." The O.C. asks for the earnest cooperation of all ranks in endeavouring to maintain a high standard of sanitation in the Camp." [140]

12 July 1915 [Blackwell]

Discharge of 2 men. [24]

12 July 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: "It has been brought to notice that Troops are in the habit of trespassing on the Railway between Wensley and Leyburn. This not only causes damage but is dangerous, and the practice must cease at once." [140]

3 men working on hay harvest. [141]

Letter from Diggle to Binning: 'The C.O. has asked me ... to say that we may need as many as 63 recruits in our next draft ... Sorry to hear there is all this petty jealousy in recruiting. ...' [220]

13 July 1915 Blackwell

3 men working on hay harvest. [211]

1 man discharged from E Company. 3 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

13 July 1915 Wensley

Received from Patterdale Cricket Club: 3 bats, 2 pairs of pads, 1 set of stumps , "*all damaged and not very much use.*" [126]

Notice of Companies at Bayonet fighting, Signalling and other drills. [131]

Battalion Orders: "Strict supervision is required to see that the men keep their hair short. Many men were noticed at Camp inspection ... with long hair, which tends to neither cleanliness nor a soldier like appearance." [140]

Battalion Orders: "All blankets in excess of 2 per man, will be withdrawn ... and stored under Regimental arrangements. ..." [140]

12 men working on hay harvest. [141]

30 mules 'taken on the strength.' [141]

1 officer and 2 other ranks billeted overnight at Darlington workhouse. [197]

14 July 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: "A tent in which light refreshments can be obtained, has been started by the inhabitants of Middleham, in the Castle grounds." [140]

28 men working on the hay harvest. [141]

15 July 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

15 Jul 1915 Wensley

11 men working on the hay harvest. [141]

16 July 1915 Blackwell

Discharge of 2 men. [24]

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

17 July 1915 Blackwell

Binning: "... request that you will favour me by causing to be erected Foot & Shower Baths for 20 men at this Camp, as there are no facilities for Bathing here." [53]

7 men enlisted to E Company. 1 man discharged from E Company. [211]

17 July 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: "The Railway Station is out of bounds except for men on duty." [140]

19 July 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

20 July 1915 Blackwell

Depot Order: 'Men are requested not to use the basins in the Ablutions Room in which to wash their feet. Foot baths are provided in the room adjoining the Engine Room.' [206]

5 men working on the hay harvest. [211]

4 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

20 July 1915 Wensley

20 men working on hay harvest. [141]

21 July 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. 1 man discharged from E Company. [211]

1 man working on hay harvest. [211]

21 July 1915 Wensley

Machell: "The attention of all ranks is specially called to the importance of silence during Field manoeuvres. There is always a tendency among partially trained troops to begin to talk the moment anything unexpected occurs, and this is precisely what must be avoided. Talking is useless, because it creates confusion at the moment prompt action is required." [152]

Capt. Diggle promoted to Major. [45]

21 July 1915 Wensley

6 men working on the hay harvest. [141]

22 July 1915 Blackwell

7 men working on hay harvest. [211]

23 July 1915 Blackwell

29 men on sick leave. [211]

1 man working on hay harvest. [211]

1 man discharged from E Company. [211]

23 July 1915 Wensley

2 men working on the hay harvest. [141]

Daily Orders: The Battalion will be held in readiness to proceed to Strensall at short notice for the purpose of undergoing a course of Musketry, returning on completion. [153]

24 July 1915 Wensley

Machell to Binning: "... 500 copies of the Lonsdale Battalion Book has [sic] been duly received from Thurnams, and a large number have already been disposed of. I think it is quite excellent. ... We are "standing by" under orders to move to Strensall for 14 days musketry at any moment ..." [124]

26 July 1915 Blackwell

1 man working on hay harvest. [211]

26 July 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: "The move of the Battalion to Strensall is postponed to 3 and 4 August." [140]

27 July 1915 Blackwell

2 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

28 July 1915 Blackwell

Depot Order: 'The practice of writing and drawing on the walls of the buildings belonging to the Race Course must cease at once. ...' [206]

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

1 man working on hay harvest. [211]

Letter from Howe, Plender's assistant to Binning: '... I am going to open the office here from 6-8.15 p.m. every evening till further notice commencing on Friday July 30th ...' [220]

28 July 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: Lieut.-Col Machell, ... will be in command of the details of the Brigade left in Camp. [140]

29 July 1915 Blackwell

Depot Order: 'Commencing 30 July, the Lonsdale Recruiting Office will be open every evening from 6 to 8.15 p.m. to enable men of the Depot to take recruits for enlistment. For every recruit approved, the Introducer will get one day's leave.' [206]

3 men working on hay harvest. [211]

1 man discharged from E Company. [211]

29 July 1915 Wensley

2 men working on hay harvest. [141]

30 July 1915 Wensley

Machell to Learmont: '... I consider the question of accommodation at Blackhall Camp should be examined by competent authority. The 500 in hutments only. ... there is the main

block accommodating about 200 – one good hut to supplement this would fix up a 3rd Company. Then there are the stables, and say two huts there would provide ample accommodation for surplus from loo boxes, i.e. the 4th Company. But where 1019 men are coming from is impossible to say. I expect we go to Strensall for ... Musketry ... and possibly we may go thence to Salisbury Plain. Our new Divisional General is a thruster ... and an old friend of mine. I think we are getting on all right. Am to go over to visit the Trenches 9th to 13th August, a small personally conducted tour of “certain C.O.’s” So far I have not received the order of the “Boot”, as I fear a good many will, but one must always expect it. I have kept wonderfully fit, never off for a second, and constantly wet through – I won't be ill for anything smaller than a shell. ... ‘ [279]

31 July 1915 Blackwell

Monthly return of deserters and discharged from Blackhall. [24]

2 men working on hay harvest. [211]

31 July 1915 Wensley

268 men on weekend leave. [141]

2 August 1915 Blackwell

27 men on sick leave. [211]

2 August 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders: “The Battalion will probably leave Wensley early on Thursday 5 August ... As the Battalion will proceed direct from Strensall to Salisbury Plain, all kit, baggage etc. left at Wensley will left packed in readiness ...” [140]

3 August 1915 Blackwell

7 men working on hay harvest. [211]

4 August 1915 Blackwell

2 recruits to E Company. [205]

4 August 1915 Penrith

Learmont to Lonsdale: ‘...I think you ought to await further developments ad definite instructions before you take any action, in the matter of appointing a staff for the proposed additional Battalion. ...’ [279]

4 August 1915 Wensley

Battalion Orders including arrangements for the move to Strensall and Codford. [133]

5 August 1915 Blackwell

2 recruits to E Company. [205]

6 August 1915 Blackwell

3 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

7 August 1915 Blackwell

3 recruits to E Company. [205]

62 men on sick leave. [211]

Memo: 'Please arrange to hold a draft of 102 men in readiness to proceed to join the Battalion on its arrival in Salisbury Plain. ...' [220]

8 August 1915 Wensley

Machell: "... my application to be allowed to take to Salisbury Plain, the Regimental Mascot ... a valuable Pedigree greyhound, on condition that he is at all times kept under proper control." [127]

9 August 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

9 August 1915 Strenshall

18 men selected to join the 32nd Divisional Cyclist Company. [141]

Diggle to Binning '... if the draft arrived on the evening of the 13th it would be most convenient. About the recruiting office, I think it would be better to keep it on ... I am very sorry recruiting is so bad. Hope you will find some more likely men for our Band. ...' [220]

9 – 13 August 1915 The Western Front

Machell's 'My Visit ToThe Front.' "Leaving Victoria [Station] at 8.30 we arrived at Boulogne at 12.30 and ... to a London omnibus which was standing ready to convey us to our respective destinations.

There were 16 officers of the 32nd Division ... We started at 1.30 ... to ST. OMER ... Then on through AIRE and LILLERS to CHOQUES ... and I proceeded via BETHUNE to LOCON ... where I was provided with a motor ... and then deposit me at LOISNES ... before going on to join the 7th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, to whom I was to be attached. It was explained to me that the large ... valise [suitcase], which I had been directed to bring, was impossible in the Trenches ... and took on a very few necessary articles in a bundle. One of the men's kit-bags is the best thing to take into the Trenches for a week or longer.

At 9 p.m. I proceeded about 1.5 miles in the motor for ESTAMINET CORNER ... conducted me overland through the shattered remains of FESTUBERT to QUINQUE RUE, the last 500 yards through a Communications Trench 6'6" to 7' deep, about 2'6" below ground, and the walls above sandbagged or revetted with hurdles of rabbit wire or willow.

.... Before reaching the Communications Trench, I met the Transport of the various units returning empty after taking up rations and stores. This has to be accomplished after dark, and in case supplies cannot be taken close to the line of the Battalion Reserve owing to the noise of the traffic and the danger of drawing shell fire. Accordingly the supplies are unloaded at certain points ... The Transport is met here by fatigue parties ... who convey the supplies by hand to ... Battalion Headquarters.

As we walked there was a considerable display of activity on both sides – sniping, machine-gun fire, and exchange of artillery salvos, to which the Transport paid no attention, being

only careful to avoid the deep holes made in the road by shells on previous occasions. The rumbling of the waggons seemed to draw the enemy's fire, and our artillery replies to keep it down. It is surprising what a number of shells are fired without doing the smallest damage to anyone. ...

The Headquarters Mess was established in a dug-out 4'6" high by 7' square, with a round table and low stools. ... I occupied ... a good dug-out, much the same size as the Mess ... here seems to be very little theoretical reason for anything in the Trenches. Units just hold on if they can, and at times make good or have to give way. Principles have to be subordinated by expediency. Here we have old British, there old German Trenches, parts of some now utilised, and others abandoned, everyone busy improving the section he is actually occupying, sometimes according to the volition of superior authority, but mainly as seems best I suppose it is inevitable, the absence of any obvious guiding spirit, but as units are constantly changing, and as each new Commander naturally has different ideas it seems that a certain amount of time and work is liable to be wasted.

[10 August 1915] About midnight I turned in on a comfortable bed provided by a rabbit wire hurdle. Sniping and machine-gun fire were going on as usual in the firing line, and a constant display of brilliant flare lights by the Germans all along the front. The Field Artillery in our rear continually replied to ... the German side, while every now and then a great 6 inch shell from our Howitzer Battery concealed amongst some haystacks west of FESTURBET came hurtling overhead to burst with a big explosion in or near the German lines. From the fire trench in front rifle grenades, bombs and Trench mortars were discharged at intervals, but in the line of Battalion Reserve all is comparatively quiet. In my dug-out, unless a shell should drop on top of me, I was as safe as if I was at home, but I think most of us, when we first get out, will be struck by the complete indifference of everyone to shells, bombs and bullets unless they actually strike one or cover one with earth.

Shortly before 3 a.m. I started ... to visit the line and inspect the work done during the night. The G.O.C. [General Officer Commanding] ... has ordered that all parapets shall be strengthened to a thickness of 12ft at the top, with 18ft below, a 2ft berm and a ditch of wire entanglements.

In addition to this all dug-outs are being improved ... and an effort is being made to increase the extent of fire platform by providing dug-out accommodation in parallels in rear.

The work is endless, and the only way is for everyone to do his best at all times. ... the men do their cooking themselves in their mess-tines. Rations are issued ... to the Section Commander, who divides and personally distributes to each man. Smoke in the Reserve line does not appear to be noticeable, and the men like the change of cooking for themselves for a time. There is plenty of fuel in the shape of wood from ruined buildings, and braziers are improvised, or the mess-tins placed upon a couple of bricks. The ration is ample, and there is evidently a lot of waste, especially in tinned beef and biscuit. Bread is issued as a part ration as often as possible, and MACONCHIE'S ration is frequently provided as an alternative to bully beef, a certain amount of fresh meat being also issued. The Gordons [Highlanders] had some mincing machines, and the fresh beef was issued to Companies ready minced, so as to be readily fried or stewed in the men's canteens.

4 ozs bacon are issued for breakfast daily, and a liberal amount of jam and cheese, besides the usual groceries. Vegetables are supplied as far as possible, but I was unable to hear of any rum or lime juice.

All water for drinking purposes is sent forward ... in petrol tins, after being treated with chloride of lime in the ... water carts, the men who carry up the full tins carrying back the empties. ... There were pumps remaining from demolished houses, and the water, if boiled or heated with chloride of lime, seemed harmless.

There was *no* typhoid, and only 8 men had reported sick that morning. A certain number of men had slight scorbutic [scurvy] affections, due probably to shaving with very stagnant water ...

Everywhere in the middle of the line are graves of soldiers killed a few months ago, sometimes singly and sometimes several together, all now carefully fenced in with crosses and inscriptions on the ground of cartridge cases ... in many cases the names and regiments are carefully recorded.

Very serious attention is paid to sanitation. Latrines are constructed usually in a T [shape] leading off the Main Trench. Biscuit tins are provided as urine tubs, and deep pits are found to be best for latrines. These pits are cut with boxes cut as closets, and a closely fitting lid covered with sacking is supplied for each. Creosol prevents all smell, and, if the latrines are kept properly covered, there are no flies. Everywhere I found the sanitation excellent, and it is evidently a matter to which as much attention is paid as any other measure of protection.

In the line of Battalion Reserve the pioneers have erected wooden stands, on which biscuit tins serve as basins, ... all concealed from view.

Quite recently half-a-dozen men had stripped off their clothes, and were having a wash all over at a pump ... just in rear of the line, when a machine- gun attracted it is supposed, by their white bodies shining in the sun, opened fire and mowed them down. They were taking a liberty and paid for it with their lives.

During the night ... good work had been done on the parapet and wire entanglement, all of which has to be accomplished under cover of darkness, while the improvement of the dug-outs and sanitary accommodation proceeds during the day.

An hour before dawn, everyone "stands to" at the foot of his fire station, and as soon as it is day the word is given to "stand down."

During the night everyone is busy. Rations and water have to be brought up and distributed. Patrols, usually consisting of an officer or N.C.O. with 3 Bayonet men and 3 Bombers, creep out as near as they can to the enemy's line to intercept German scouts, to learn what work is going on, and if opportunity offers, to put a few bombs into a likely part of the front line. It would seem almost impossible that these patrols should escape detection when the flares go up, but I am assured that it is not so easy to locate them provided they remain absolutely still. They are often able to report exactly where a strong working party is engaged upon the parapet or on the wire in front, and a machine-gun laid accordingly has the effect of checking progress.

... as many men as possible are employed during the night improving the parapet and the obstacles in front, the remainder, not less than 3 or 4 if possible, per section, being detailed for sentry duty on the section line. If 4 are available, 2 watch and 2 rest, and if only 3, 2 watch and 1 rests. By night the sentries are on duty for 1 hour instead of 2, and besides the Platoon and Sections N.C.O.'s, 1 officer and 1 sergeant per Company are permanently on duty throughout the night, moving alternately and arranging to visit every sentry group one in every 15 minutes. During the night I understood that every sentry group in the firing line is

required to fire a least 10 rounds in the direction of the enemy's trenches. It is not easy to understand the "motif" of much of the firing, but it seems to me that the initiative in this, as in other respects usually comes from the "Boches" while we appeared to conform to the best of our ability. To the new arrival it is not easy to understand the reason of the salvos and artillery duels that take place at intervals.

... At about 4.30 a.m. there was a general lull, almost a temporary cessation of hostilities, and as many as could do so lay down and fell asleep.

... The Gordons' Communication Trench was about 7ft deep, 3ft below and 4ft above ground, zig-zagged and well revetted with sandbags and hurdles. In the Fire Trench I found the men were serving as long as 10 days on end, 1 man with a periscope being on watch by day, while his relief sleep in their dug-outs and others work upon the improvement of dug-outs and communications and parallels [trenches]. The general routine was to work on the parapet of the firing line and on the wire entanglement from about 9.30 p.m. to 1.30 a.m., and then, ..., to break off as far as possible until after breakfast, when the day work began.

The ... Fire Trench consisted of a solid sandbag parapet, which was being thickened daily, ... with fire platforms 1ft 6 in wide, 4ft 6in or 4ft 9in from the top. The trench was narrow, not more than 3ft wide in all.

The whole of the front parapet was honeycombed with rough and hastily constructed dug-outs, which were now being superseded by comparatively capacious retreats for 4 men each ...

In the newer Fire Trenches, which are evidently intended to be held for some time, there will soon be no dug-outs, but a parallel trench is being constructed 15ft in rear for communication, and the dug-outs are being built upon the rear face of island traverses.

During the day care has to be taken to avoid earth being thrown up above the parapet or any indication that work is proceeding, in order that the enemy's fire may not be attracted. No one seems to pay any attention to shells, but everyone I careful never to ask for trouble. Work has constantly to be checked and the trace modified when piles of corpses are met with...

There was no attempt at any scientific trace. Our firing line represents what we have gained and what we have been able to hold in the course of successive fights. It is usually 2 to 3 feet below and 4 to 5 feet above ground.

The machine-guns are, of course, carefully concealed. They are located in such a manner as to be fired in both directions, and there are numerous alternative emplacements. The great danger to the machine-gun is discovery by aircraft. Nothing but the ant-aircraft gun seems to be able to cope with aircraft; and that I observed, is by no means always successful. ..

A very important part is played by the Regimental Signallers, who are responsible for the establishment and maintenance of communications between Company and Battalion Headquarters and the Brigade. In each Company, one N.C.O. is in charge of this work. All messages are written in a Message Book ... The Buzzer is used whenever noise interferes with the transmission of spoken messages. The wires are run along the sides of the trenches in grooves ... The trouble is to keep them up overhead where they cross other trenches. The sticks on which they are supported continually give way with consequent

interruption of communication. Then the orderlies have to start carrying by hand, as rapidly as possible, while the linesmen go out to locate and repair damage done. ..

There does not seem to be an undue amount of office work in the trenches. Each Company Commander keeps a log showing articles of trench store in his charge, the work done, and the work to be done by his Platoons. ..The following reports were required daily: - Situation Report rendered by O.C. Company, 3.30 a.m., by Battalion, 4 a.m. to the Brigade, another to the Division Army Corps and G.H.Q. I understood that a precis of this Situation Report was in the hands of the Secretary of State for War early each morning. ..

A Casualty Report has to be rendered by the Battalion at 6 a.m. daily. ...

By 10 a.m. daily an indent is due for trench requirements to be supplied the same evening; and a Report of Patrols, Progress and Intelligence is rendered in a combined form.

... The Maltese Cart is specially assigned to the M[edical] O[fficer] and comes up at night, as required, with his medical stores. Two orderlies are at the disposal of the M.O. who is established in a fairly commodious dug-out, in which he receives the sick and wounded ... after having received First Aid from the Company Stretcher Bearers in the firing line. Stretchers cannot be used in the Fire Trenches, and the wounded are usually carried down in waterproof sheets ... as soon as the bleeding has been stopped. It is not possible for the M.O. ... to do much more than check up the work of the stretcher bearers and administer morphia, relieving pain and making patients as comfortable as possible until they can be sent down under cover of darkness to the receiving station of the Field Ambulance, where they are placed on two-wheeled stretchers and conveyed as rapidly as possible to the Motor Ambulances, which carry them to the nearest Field Hospital.

Trench Mortars seem destined to play an important part in this kind of warfare. Parties of officers and men have recently been trained by the R[oyal] A[rtilery], and when an adequate supply of shells is forthcoming, the Trench Mortars will give a good account of themselves. Rifle grenades are also being used. I found the stocks and wooden casing removed, and the rifle fitted on a stand to fire at angle, as required. The direction can be fairly well guaranteed, and an effort is always made to fire down the length of a Trench, so that an error of elevation may not negative the value of the shot.

The Bombing Officer showed me his Bomb Store; a strongly built dug-out, standing alone in the line of the Battalion Reserve. He had a number of the Hale Bombs, fitted with a wooden handle and a tape which acts as the tail of a kite, and causes the bomb to fall head downwards. There were also several German bombs, shaped like the mallet supplied with a bell tent, to be thrown in the same manner as the Hale type, but without the tail. A certain amount of space is needed to throw these bombs properly, and the small type without any handle ... is generally preferred.

It is apparent to me that the rifle does not play a very important part in the actual Trench fighting. The Machine-gun is supremely useful, and Rifle grenades, Trench Mortars, and Bombs appear to come next in importance after the Artillery. Standing in the Fire Trench one cannot see how the rifle can be effectively used without unduly exposing the firer, and inside the Trenches the rifle fixed with bayonet would be impossible. Outside on patrol, men will not carry rifles at all, but only their bayonets, as daggers, and bombs, which are carried in handy wooden boxes containing 10 each. A certain number of French-pattern helmets have been issued for experimental purposes, and it is considered they will afford valuable protection against shrapnel and splinters of all kinds.

... It is no picnic this Trench warfare, and one wonders where the end of it all can be. I do not anticipate further attacks by Infantry until the Artillery have made it possible for us to get to grips with the Boches on even terms with bomb, bayonet and dagger. When this can be guaranteed by our countrymen who prefer to do their bit at home I see no reason why we should not slowly, very slowly push them back to one after another of the successive lines they have prepared in rear, but our Infantry cannot do its work until the Artillery have done theirs, and the Artillery require immense supplies of ammunition to put us on an equal footing with the French, not to mention the Germans. We have a large force of Cavalry dispersed some miles behind the line, and it is difficult to imagine how any use can ever be found for this arm[y] in the present war.

I have endeavoured to record the points that struck me most, and the bed-rock foundation of all that I saw and all that I admired so much ... was ... real discipline. It is the discipline of men who mean business. All look tired, and many are very tired, but it is Duty first, and Duty all the time.

There are places on those parapets where the sandbags are stained dark with blood, but the sentries mount and Officers and N.C. Officers keep moving round as usual. Nobody likes it but everyone does it, because those men out there are real men, men who learned what Duty means, and mean to see it through.

... I can now make use of all I hear and all I read about much more easily than was possible before.

The booklet was published in Salisbury; the front is inscribed, not in Machell's handwriting: *'No word from this is to be communicated in any way to any person outside H.M. Forces.'* [43]

10 August 1915 Blackwell

1 recruit to E Company. [205]

10 August 1915 Strensall

Battalion Orders including arrangements for the move to Codford on 12 August 1915. [133]

11 August 1915 Blackwell

5 recruits to E Company. [205]

Depot Order: 'The Commanding Officer wishes N.C.O.'s and men to take every opportunity afforded them for practice in the various events for the sports to be held in September.' [206]

Telegram to Binning: '... please arrange draft arrive Salisbury Plain on evening 13th ...' [220]

11 August 1915 Strensall

Battalion Orders including re baggage for Codford and dental treatment. [133]

12 August 1915 Blackwell

1 recruit to E Company. [205]

Letter from Appleby Recruiting Office to Binning: 'We are arranging for a big recruiting effort on Brough Hill Fair ... we want as much military display as possible. ...' [220]

13 August 1915 Blackwell

3 recruits to E Company. [205/211]

13 August 1915 Codford

Battalion Orders: 'One pair of Regulation Boots per man will be issued shortly. These boots will not be taken into general use, but will be worn a few times and kept well dubbed. ... the boots are not worn longer than is necessary to fit to the man's feet ...' [144]

'all drinking water for the use of troops will be boiled until further notice.' [144]

'... approval ... has been obtained for the retention of "Rock" the Regimental Mascot.' [144]

14 August 1915 Blackwell

4 recruits to E Company. [205/211]

14 August 1915 Codford

Machell to Binning; ' ... I am very sorry to hear about Mr. Plender [who had suffered a nervous breakdown] and it seems that it really is unjustifiable to keep the office going at Botchergate. As far as I am concerned, and of course I leave the matter entirely in your hands, I am inclined to agree that it should be abolished. I know you will do your very best to get s recruits by some means or another. ... This is a very nice Camp and the weather is splendid.' [220]

15 August 1915 Blackwell

1 recruit to E Company. [205]

16 August 1915 Blackwell

62 men on sick leave. [211]

3 men recruited to E Company. [211]

1 officer and 103 other ranks depart Carlisle for Codford. [250]

16 August 1915 Codford

59 men recommended as bomb throwers. [170]

Diggle to Binning: ' ... I am sorry all the trouble you had in vain trying to get a Band-Master; for we are up against it, there is no doubt. I hear there has been a bombardment on the W. coast . Perhaps it will buck up recruiting.' [220]

17 August 1915 Blackwell

3 recruits to E Company. [205]

Depot Order: 'The Draft will ... march to Carlisle.

102 men moved to join the Battalion at Codford. [211]

2 men enlisted to E Company. [211]

17 August 1915 Codford

Battalion strength 1150. [166]

18 August 1915 Blackwell

2 recruits to E Company. [205]

Draft of men left for Codford. [206]

18 August 1915 Codford

Release of C. Kane (16424) to return to his trade with Ogden & Lawson, Workington. [25]

Battalion Orders: 'Whenever Units are halted for any length of time and whenever working parties are at work, a proper latrine will be marked off and filled in on departure. Each Company will always carry one shovel on the march, or on manoeuvres in future.' [144]

Daily Orders: 102 men arrived from Blackhall. [145]

20 August Blackwell

1 man discharged from E Company. [205]

56 men to form the nucleus of F Company. [211]

1 man working on hay harvest. [211]

2 men enlisted to F Company. [211]

1 man enlisted. [215]

20 August 1915 Codford

Discharge of 7 men. [25]

Major Diggle: "... could these blankets please be issued as soon as possible, as otherwise there appears every likelihood of the outbreak of Scabies running right through the Battalion. The Battalion had to take over dirty blankets on arrival as none others were available ..." [89]

21 August 1915 Blackwell

2 recruits to E Company. [205]

The move of [E] Company will take place immediately after the Barrack Rooms have been cleaned. [206]

93 men on sick leave. [211]

22 August 1915 Codford

" ... 13839 Private B. Elliot to be tried by Court Martial .. tomorrow, I regret to inform you that Private Elliot escaped from the Guard Detention Room last night. All the neighbouring military and civil police have been informed, and I hope he may soon be arrested. [106]

23 August 1915 Codford

7 men on harvest leave. [145]

24 August 1915 Codford

58 men 'will attend a Bomb Throwing Course ...' [144]

25 August 1915 Blackwell

W. Lush to Binning: 'I am willing to keep the office open from 10 to 4. ... Don't think we would have much prestige at Devonshire St. for Lonsdales. Naturally the officials there would capture all possible recruits for their own lines. ... Having had the pleasure of assisting to raise the Battalion from the first shall be pleased to continue to the end. ...' [220]

25 August 1915 Codford

Discharge of 11 men. [25]

26 August 1915 Codford

108 men on 5 days' leave. [145]

27 August 1915 Codford

Lists of volunteers for harvesting from all Companies. [29]

"... please save all old 1 and 2lb jam tins and tins of the same size and shape to be used for practising bomb throwing ..." [57]

Nomination of 7 men for telephone training. [166]

29 August 1915 Blackwell

Letter from Major Binning to Mr. Barker, Grand Central Hotel, Carlisle: 'Drunkenness [sic] in the Canteen. I regret I have to inform you that I have had to close the Canteen this evening in consequence of your Man having served Civilians out of Canteen hours. ... I cannot allow you to sell any more liquor to the Troops here. Please remove the content of the Canteen ...' [209]

30 August 1915 Carlisle

Enlistment of 3 men. [215]

31 August 1915 Blackwell

3 men enlisted to F Company. [211]

September 1915 Codford

Retail price list of goods supplied to the Regimental Institute. [99]

1 September 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to F Company. [211]

Enlistment of 1 man. [215]

1 September 1915 Codford

11 men on harvest leave. [145]

2 September 1915 Blackwell

75 men transferred from E Company to F; 1 man transferred from F Company to E. [211]

3 September 1915 Blackwell

Enlistment of 1 man. [215]

Binning: '... request that a Miniature Range for use of this Depot may be constructed at this Camp. The one now in use is more than half an hour's march from here, and much valuable time is lost in going to and fro. ...' [227]

3 September 1915 Codford

117 men on 5/6 days' leave. [145]

11 men posted to Divisional Cyclists Company. [145]

4 September 1915 Blackwell

3 men enlisted. [215]

4 September 1915 Codford

Machell to Chief Warrant Officer, York, complaining that 32 pairs of pantaloons had not been delivered. [70]

1 man on harvest leave. [145]

4 September 1915 Lowther

War Office to Lord Lonsdale: 'I am commanded by the Army Council to offer you ... their sincere thanks for having raised the 11th (Service) Battalion, the Border Regiment (Lonsdale) of which the administration has now been taken over by the Military Authorities. The Council much appreciate the spirit which prompted your offer of assistance, and they are gratified at the successful results of the time and labour devoted to this object, which has added to the armed forces of the Crown the services of a fine body of men. The Council will watch the future career of the Battalion with interest, and they feel sure that when sent to the front it will maintain the high reputation of the distinguished Regiment of which it forms part. I am to add that its success on active service will largely depend on the result of your efforts to keep the depot company constantly up to establishment with men in every way fit for service in the field.' [279]

6 September 1915 Codford

Diggle to [Binning]: "... the two bikes we left behind at the Depot. ... if you cannot indent for your establishment of bikes ... as the two we left are only loaned. If you can do this & get others will you return us the ones we left behind, as soon as replaced, as we are in urgent need of them here. How is recruiting going on now? Perhaps when we get abroad it will be better. I hear that the end of October will see us away alright." [124]

List of A and B Companies training as: bomb throwers, butchers, chiropodists, cold shoers, cooks (other ranks and officers), grooms, gym instructors, machine gunners, musketry pioneers, scouts, shoemakers, signallers, stretcher bearers, tailors, transport., water duties. [178]

7 September 1915 Blackwell

Recruitment of 1 man. [215]

9 September 1915 Codford

116 men on 5 days' leave. [145]

11 September 1915 Codford

' O.C. Companies are requested to pay special attention to seeing that all executive words of command are given as sharply as possible. The caution must be given slowly and distinctly, and the executive word very sharply ... the quality of a movement usually depends upon the quality of the word of command.' [144]

13 September 1915 Codford

3 men on harvest leave. [145]

14 September 1915 Lowther

Letter Col. George Browne to Lonsdale: 'I have just been informed that a 12th Battalion of the border Regiment is being raised by you as a Reserve to the 11th Lonsdale battalion. I write to ask if you will nominate me for the Command. [279]

14 September 1915 Codford

'On a hostile aeroplane being sighted the alarm signal will be sounded. ... Upon hearing this all ranks will either hide or remain perfectly still. ... Aeroplanes are not to be fired at without orders from a Field Officer.' [144]

15 September 1915 Blackwell

3 men enlisted to F Company. [211]

15 September 1915 Codford

108 men on 5 days' leave. [145]

16 September 1915 Blackwell

Depot sports. [217-218]

16 September 1915 Codford

Machell: "... the urgent necessity of providing a small latrine at the back of the Regimental Institute, and a drain to carry off waste water ..." [9]

17 September 1915 Blackwell

Recruitment of 1 man. [215]

18 September 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

'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.' [219]

20 September 1915 Blackwell

1 man discharged from F Company. 1 man enlisted to F Company. [211]

Enlistment of 2 men. [215]

21 September 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

22 September 1915 Blackwell

3 men enlisted to E and F Companies. [211]

Mr. Proudfoot, fruiterer, Botchergate has very kindly presented a barrel of apples ...' [219]

23 September 1915 Blackwell

1 man working on hay harvest. [211]

23 September 1915 Codford

116 men on 5 days' leave. [145]

24 September 1915 Blackwell

Recruiting Poster: 'MEN AND STILL MORE MEN WANTED to Complete the Establishment of Depot, 11th (S) BATTALION BORDER REGT. (LONSDALE). THIS BATTALION was Raised Specially for CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND MEN. It is run on the "PALS" SYSTEM and BETTER CONDITIONS could not obtain. .. [220]

Binning: '20 sets of Bayonet Fighting Kit are necessary for the training of troops under my Command. ...' [227]

25 September 1915 Blackwell

Letter from Appleby Recruiting Office to Binning: 'I hope you will be able to help our rally at Brough Hill Fair on Thursday next 30th. You would of course come along with the Depot Band and recruiters ... The men may ... mingle with the crowd until 1.40 ...' [220]

27 September 1915 Blackwell

Binning to Machell: '... notified me that ... are to go to Prees Heath on the 6th of next month ... We are sending detachments to recruiting Rallys [sic] at Brough Hill on 30th & to Carlisle on 2 Oct, 50 N.C.O.'s and men under an Officer on the first date & 100 on the second, & I hope to get some Recruits in consequence. The new munition works at Gretna are taking a lot of men, who would otherwise have joined in all probability – as against 1/-s per day, they get there 10d or 11d per hour, so it is not to be wondered at that men are flocking to Gretna.' [214]

Recruiting Rally: '1 Officer, 50 N.C.O.'s and men, will proceed to Brough Hill on Thursday 30th [September] leaving Carlisle at 10.10 a.m. They will parade ... in Khaki – with rolled coats and haversacks. Water bottles filled and haversacks to be taken with rations.' [219]

Letter from Unionist and Liberal agents for North Cumberland: 'On the instructions of the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee in London, we are ... organizing a great meeting (in conjunction with the Recruiting Rally) to be held in the Riding School, Swifts Row Carlisle on ... October 2nd. [220]

27 September 1915 Lowther

Letter to Lonsdale: 767 men required for local reserve battalion. [279]

28 September 1915 Codford

36 men selected as Battalion Bombers. [144]

Court of Enquiry into the destruction of a greatcoat which had been eaten by one of the Battalion mules. [165]

29 September 1915 Blackwell

'Coal is not to be used in the Barrack Rooms'. [219]

Binning to Lonsdale: '... we are going to Prees Heath camp next week to join the other Battalions in the Brigade. ... it is an impossible place for training, the Camp being on a heath, with ground for training 4 or 5 miles away. ... If your Lordship can do anything ... to prevent the move, I shall be very grateful. ... the Lonsdales were raised entirely as a County Battalion, and we should recruit better here if we can get a chance, than at such a distance as Prees. ...' [279]

29 September 1915 Codford

112 men on 5 days' leave. [145]

30 September 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to E Company. [211]

30 September 1915 Codford

34 men appointed to the Machine Gun Section. [144]

1 October 1915 Blackwell

Recruitment of 1 man. [215]

Mackinnon to Lonsdale: '... I am afraid for purposes of training that the Battalion must go, but I have given instructions that a small party shall be left behind for recruiting purposes. ...' [279]

2 October 1915 Blackwell

Poster for Grand Recruiting Rally in Carlisle including: physical drill, team bayonet fighting, march through the city. [220]

2 October 1915 Codford

16 men transferred to the 3rd Battalion Border Regiment as fit for home service only. [145]

5 October 1915 Blackwell

1 man enlisted to F Company. [211]

‘An advance party consisting of 2 officers and 40 other ranks will proceed by rail on ... 8th [October] and the main body on ... 13th [October]. ...The rear party will remain at Carlisle for recruiting purposes for the present.’ [223]

5 October 1915 Codford

Letter to D Company; “... we are doing several Companies’ washing in the Codford Camp and we are offering you the same terms ... 7d per bundle of soldier’s washing. We collect the dirty laundry on Saturday and deliver the same clean again on Thursday. ...” [194]

6 October 1915 Codford

7 men posted to Divisional Cyclist Company. [145]

126 men on 5 days’ leave. [145]

6 October 1915 Blackwell

Letter from General Sitwell to Lonsdale: ‘... I was greatly impressed with the excellence of the Race Course Camp at Carlisle, both in facilities for training and in comfort for the men, the latter largely due to great generosity on your part ...’ [279]

7 October 1915 Blackwell

‘... All Officers are entitled to three blankets and should retain same in their possession.’ [223]

8 October 1915 Blackwell

‘All Barrack furniture will be laid out for inspection tomorrow ... The weekly cleaning of huts will take place at the usual time. There will be a Kit and feet inspection. All brooms and brushes etc. must be laid out on the floor near the stove.’ [223]

9 October 1915 Codford

Appointment of Lance-Corporal G.A. Boyes, 15339 B as chiropodist. [145]

12 October 1916 Blackwell

Binning to Lush, Recruiting Office: ‘... I hope he will not be long in getting the authority ... for you ... to help at Devonshire Street, as I am sure it will be better for the Lonsdales to have someone there to look after their interests. I thank you ... most sincerely for the splendid service you four have rendered since the Lonsdale Battalion was started. I hope you will all feel that ... you have done just as much for your Country in a quiet way as those who have been more in the Lime Light. I am sure it will always be a source of satisfaction to each one of you that at this eventful time in History you were able to render such valuable services. ...’ [227]

14 October 1915 Codford

117 men on 5 days' leave. [145]

16 October 1915 Carlisle

Closure of Recruiting Office, 11 Botchergate. [227]

16 October 1915 Prees Heath

Diggle to Binning: "Hope you like Prees Heath. I found it to be not half a bad place." [47]

18 October 1915 Prees Heath

Binning; 'I ... have to report that 16 huts in no. 12 Camp are without steps to the doors, and as the distance from the floor to the ground is, in many case 18 inches, I would request that steps may be fitted to these huts ...' [227]

19 October 1915 Lowther

Browne to Lonsdale: '...on receiving your wire offering me the Command of the 12th Lonsdale Reserve Bn ... I am sure you will agree that I should join the Battn as soon as possible. I reads in the Carlisle paper that they are moving to Brigade Camp. ...' [279]

19 October 1915 Prees Heath

Binning to Diggle: "As regards Prees, ... I was agreeably surprised ... The Camp itself is excellent & we have quite a large field to drill in; there are any number of different Roads, by which we can vary the Route Marches, & I think we ought to do well here. ... I was very averse to leaving Blackhall ..." [47]

2 men recommended for service in France. [266]

20 October 1915 Prees Heath

Binning to Lonsdale: '... the men are settling down nicely in their new quarters, which are very comfortable, the Huts being new & quite up-to-date. ... a good sized drill field

21 October 1915 Codford

"... collect Tin Jam Pots, clean, as soon as possible ... these tins are urgently required for the manufacture of bombs." [57]

22 October 1915 Codford

9 men appointed as the Battalion Sanitary Squad. [144]

3 men transferred to 3rd Battalion Border Regiment as fit for garrison duty abroad. [145]

117 men on 5 days' leave. [145]

23 October 1915 Codford

"Eleven butchers are available in this Battalion." [57]

5 men selected as representatives of their Companies on the Advisory Messing Committee. 'This Committee will meet weekly ... all suggestions for variation or improvement in the messing will be submitted by N.C.O.'s and men of each Company ...' [144]

25 October 1915 Codford

8 men from D Company charged with stealing coal from the grounds of a military hospital. [108]

‘ ... it must be understood that every soldier is responsible for his own rifle and bayonet. ... any man whose rifle is not in satisfactory condition will be placed under arrest and charged with “dirty rifle” ... [144]

Bath Houses open 10 – 11 a.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. [144]

Notice of a 4-mile cross-country run. [144]

26 October 1915 Prees Heath

Binning to Machell: ‘ ... I should very much like to see you off & will try to manage it, but circumstances have changed since I wrote you last. A new C.O. has been appointed to this Battalion, Major G. Browne ... who is going to take over next week. Two days before the Recruiting Rally in Carlisle, on 2nd October, Lord Lonsdale wired me asking if I objected to serve under Major Browne ... I wrote that night in reply that I did not know whether or not he referred to the above, but if he did, I understood he was a very good Officer, at the same time saying I would like to see him about my own position in the Battalion if he would give me an interview at the Rally ... I thought this was as broad a hint that I would like to have the offer of the post myself as I could give His Lordship, but he neither answered my letter or came to the Rally. I saw Learmont at the latter, & he said Lord Lonsdale had consulted him about a letter he had had from Major Browne and ... Learmont had advised him to secure him at once ... and that he was sure I would have no objection to serving under a Regular Officer, & Lord Lonsdale had acted on his advice. I did not write you about it, as the subject was a delicate one, & I had every confidence that when Lord Lonsdale consulted you, as I fully expected him to do ... you would, if you considered me fit for the post, submit my name. My health has been so much better for some months that I was quite ready to take it if asked. Now it is settled, I will do all I can for you under Col. Browne. I have suggested to him that when he comes, I go to Carlisle & do my best to get Recruits ...’ [247]

27 October 12915 Codford

10 men transferred to Royal Engineers Tunnelling Section. [145]

15 men on 5 days’ leave. [145]

28 October 1915 Codford

‘N.C.O.’s and men will not take food from the dining halls to the huts on any account.’ [144]

30 October 1915 Blackwell

Recruitment of 1 man. [215]

30 October 1915 Codford

Weekly diet sheet [57]

16 men selected to attend a course of instruction in live bombing. [144]

1 November 1915 Blackwell

Letter from W. Monkhouse at Camp: ‘ Recruiting for the Lonsdales is still very bad the Border Regt. getting about ten men to each one we get. I am afraid that we will find without

an office of our own in town the Borders will have a big pull over us. Although Major Fuller promised to help us all he could, men going to Devonshire St. & wishing to join a Border Regmt are not persuaded to join the Lonsdales the same as they would be coming to our office. The Lonsdale Bn is also out of favour at present as the 11th is still in England & I think we might do much better if we could advertise that 1000 men were required for the 12th Border Regmt and open up an office under that title ... The men here have worked hard to get recruits.'

2 November 1915 Codford

Weekly programme of work for Machine Gun Section. [177]

4 November 1915 Blackwell

Recruitment of 1 man. [215]

5 November 1915 Codford

5 men transferred to 3rd Battalion Border Regiment as fit for home service only. [145]

6 November 1915 Prees Heath

Browne to Machell: '... I hope I shall be able to keep you supplied with a good lot of well trained men. It will, of course, be my main anxiety. ... The local recruiting for the Lonsdales, as you say, seems to have come to an end. One would have liked to have kept it up, but I think it would be folly to rely on it. I might find myself unable to meet your requirements. Lord knows how soon you may require drafts. I have sent Binning to Carlisle to stir things up, & later I shall go myself. We are now to get one third of the recruits enlisting in the counties, until we are full up. [214]

7 November 1915 Codford

Machell: "we are practically certain to leave about the 16th ... The new mobilisation Khaki and boots will be issued at once. Any N.C.O. or soldier who can carry one extra pair of serviceable boots in his pack may do so ..." [75]

List of officers to proceed abroad with the Battalion. [144]

'...every N.C.O. and soldier shall provide himself with an old sock to be used as a rifle case, to protect the body of his rifle whenever desirable. ...' [144]

8 November 1915 Codford

Instructions for entraining. [144]

8 November 1915 Workington

Letter from the Hon. Sec. of the Local Recruiting Committee to Machell: "We have had a book prepared as a souvenir of "Lonsdale" recruiting containing the names & addresses of the men enlisted here...." [199]

10 November 1915 Codford

'The Battalion will parade tomorrow ... for the Earl of Lonsdale.' [144]

'The Battalion being under orders to proceed on active service at short notice, the C.O. calls the attention of all ranks to the special importance of returning punctually from leave. In the event of any men being absent it will probably be necessary to post them to the Reserve Battalion and replace them by men selected for the First Draft.' [144]

11 November 1915 Blackwell

Recruitment of 1 man. [215]

11 November 1915 Codford

Lord Lonsdale travelled to Codford to bid farewell to the Battalion, which had been ordered to France. He spoke to the men, inspected a march past and ate a celebratory lunch. [CGW]

12 November 1915 Press Heath

"Owing to the uncertainty of the lighting arrangements in Camp will you please indent at once for Candles?"

13 November 1915 Codford

More than 250 men granted 3 days' leave. [145]

15 November 1915 Codford

'The undermentioned men had sore feet yesterday caused by wearing one pair of socks in boots intended for two pairs. It is obvious that boots intended for two pairs of socks will rub if worn with only pair ... any man who is unable to obtain a sufficient number of pairs of socks will ask to see the O.C. of his Company ...' [144]

Instructions on the care of arms and the cleaning of rifles. [144]

Machell: '... The badge approved by the Army Council and presented by the Earl of Lonsdale was in silver & cost 3/6. As men realised that the time of their departure was approaching they sent these badges home as souvenirs, and I arranged for the supply from a private source, of a bronze replica ... which has now been issued and which I beg to request may be adopted as a free issue to this Battalion in future. ...' [246]

17 November 1915 Codford

Embarkation: 27 officers and 893 other ranks at Folkestone; 3 officers, 103 other ranks, 64 horses, 15 4-wheeled and 4 2-wheeled vehicles at Southampton.. [144]

18 November 1915 Codford

'The attention of all ranks is called to the necessity of leaving barracks in a clean condition, and thus avoid the heavy expense entailed by having rooms scrubbed by civilian labour after our departure.' [144]

19 November 1915 Codford

'It is possible that Battalions disembarking at Boulogne may remain in the Rest Camp for any period up to 24 hours. Battalions leaving Boulogne take the unconsumed portion of the current day's ration with them. The following day's ration is loaded in bulk on the train from [Le] Havre with the Transport portion.' [144]

'Troops embarking at Folkestone will take nothing with them but what is carried on the person viz: arms, clothing, equipment, ammunition in pouches, blankets, waterproof sheets. ... No bicycles will be taken via Folkestone.... [144]

'Ammunition will be issued by Companies the evening before departure from Codford: 120 rounds per rifle and 12 rounds per revolver.' [144]

20 November 1915 Codford

'The following message has been received ... from His Majesty the King: "... on the eve of your departure for Active Service I send you my heartfelt good wishes. It is a bitter disappointment to me, owing to an unfortunate accident, I am unable to see the Division on Parade before it leaves England, but I can assure you that my thoughts are with you all. Your period of training has been long and arduous, but the time has now come for you to prove on the Field of Battle the results of your instruction. From the good accounts I have received of the Division, I am confident that the high traditions of the British Army are safe in your hands, and that with your comrades now in the Field you will maintain the unceasing efforts necessary to bring this War to a victorious ending. ...' [144]

22 November 1915 Codford

Machell: ... Take it for what it may be worth, but I believe the first & most important desideratum in our drafts is smartness and discipline. have just received some miserable drafts, utterly different from the fine body of men who came to us in our last draft, and wholly untrained in Musketry. ... Besides the 2 Machine Guns, there is a quantity of sand-bags of sorts, various articles in the Dining-Hall & cook-house equipment, and a number of books and pamphlets ... we are sending all the games things we have ..." [133]

Transport and baggage with 2 officers and 101 other parties proceeded under Major Diggle to Havre.

23 November 1915 Codford

Battalion proceeded in two trains to Folkestone for Boulogne, strength 23 officers 896 other ranks.

The following entries, edited by David Bowcock, are taken from the Lonsdale Battalion's War Diaries. The original diaries are in the custody of The National Archives at Kew which have been digitised by Ancestry and made available to their subscription members. The editor gratefully acknowledges the historical information courtesy of Ancestry.

24 November 1915 Boulogne, city in northern France, department of Pas de Calais

Leaving ... by train for Long Pre, [Ardennes]. Interpreter attached.

25 November 1915 Gorenflos, commune in the Somme department

Marched from Long Pre to Gorenflos.

27 November 1915 Picquigny, commune in the Somme department

Marched to Picquigny.

28 November – 1 December 1915 Villers-Bocage, commune in the Somme department

Marched to Villers Bocage. Close Order drill. Short route marches and inspections.

2-11 December 1915 Molliens au Bois, commune in the Somme department, east of Villers Bocage

Battalion unable to do much work on account of very wet weather. Inspections, lectures, physical exercises. 8 men per platoon practised in the use of light hand grenades. Remainder of Battalion occupied with inspections, close order drill and route marches.

12-18 December 1915 Bouzincourt, commune in the Somme department

12 Left half of the Battalion under Major ... Diggle proceeded to camp at Millencourt. Right half of the Battalion with Headquarters and Transport proceeded to camp at Bouzincourt. **13** Eight platoons instructed in the trenches. One other rank wounded. **14** Right half of Battalion returned. Officers and N.C.O.'s of the left half of the Battalion attached for instruction in the trenches. One other rank wounded and died. **15** Nine platoons of left half of the Battalion attached for instruction in the trenches. Two other ranks wounded. **18** Battalion relieved 4 companies in F1 and F2 sub-sectors.

19-23 December 1915 F1 sub-sector

19 Battalion took over F1 sub-sector. **20** One other rank wounded. **23** Battalion relieved and proceeded to camp in Bouzincourt.

24-26 December 1915 Bouzincourt and Aveluy, communes in the Somme department

1 officer and 50 other ranks erecting huts. Remainder of the Battalion cleaning rifles and equipment. **25** A Company proceeded to Aveluy, accommodated in billets, to find guards, fatigues etc. for 97th Brigade HQ.

27 December 1915 – 1 January 1916 F1 sub-sector

27 Battalion relieved 17th Highland Light Infantry. Special attention was paid to the repairing of trenches and construction of dug-outs. Two other ranks wounded. One other rank sustained self-inflicted wound in the foot. **31** Relieved by 17th Highland Light Infantry. Battalion proceeded to Aveluy.

1-6 January 1916 Aveluy

Fatigues, [i.e. routine work done by soldiers].

7-14 January 1916 F1 sector

7 Battalion relieved 17th Highland Light Infantry. 1 man wounded **8-10** Quiet days. **11** 1 man wounded. **12** Day quiet. **13** 1 man wounded. **14** Front quiet. Battalion relieved. Battalion returned to rest billets at Bouzincourt. C Company rest billets at Aveluy.

15-20 January 1916 Bouzincourt

Battalion in rest billets.

21-28 January 1916 F1 sector

21 Battalion returned to F1 sector. **22** Enemy artillery active. Wounded 1 officer. Killed 1 man, Private Isaac Henry McQuire. Days very quiet. **25** Our artillery bombarded the Mound with good results. One man wounded, self inflicted. **26** Quiet day. **27** Our artillery bombard new gun emplacement. **28** Battalion relieved and returned to billets at Aveluy. 1 man killed.

29 January – 4 February 1916 Aveluy

29-3 Battalion in reserve. Fatigues. 8 shells fell on Aveluy. **4** Relief of 17th Highland Light Infantry postponed owing to a bombardment by our artillery.

5-8 February 1916 F1 sector

5 Battalion relieved 17th Highland Light Infantry. Draft of 28 other ranks received. 2 wounded. **6-8** Front very quiet. 1 wounded. 1 shell shock. **9** Heavy bombardment. 1 killed. 1 wounded. **10** 1 killed, 1 wounded, 2 shell shock.

11-16 February 1916 Albert, commune in the Somme department

Front fairly quiet. Battalion returned to billets in Albert. 1 killed. Working parties.

17-23 February 1916 Henencourt, near Albert

Battalion billeted in huts in Henencourt wood. **22** Moved into reserve duty.

24 February – 1 March 1916 Millencourt, east of Henencourt

Battalion billeted in Millencourt. Battalion on duty. Fatigues.

2-10 March 1916 F1 sector

2-6 Battalion took over the F1 sector. Front very quiet due to bad weather, snow, frost and thaw alternating. Trenches falling in and very wet. **7** Trenches improving. 1 shell shock. 2 killed. 1 N.C.O. wounded by fire of high explosive shells. **8** Front quiet. **9** Enemy artillery shelled working party, killing 1 N.C.O. and wounded 1 man. 1 man wounded by rifle grenade.

11-16 March 1916 Albert

Working parties.

17-22 March 1916 E1 sector

17 Battalion to trenches. 1 other rank wounded. **18** Front very quiet. **19** Leave commenced. **21-22** Front very quiet. 2 other ranks slightly wounded (shrapnel). 2 other ranks killed (rifle grenade). 3 other ranks wounded (rifle grenade).

23-28 March 1916 Dernancourt, commune in the Somme department

Battalion billeted in Dernancourt. 1 Company left as garrison in Becourt woods [east of Albert] defences. Rest billets.

29 March – 3 April 1916 E1 sector

29 Battalion to E1 sector. Draft: 2 officers. 2 privates. Sector very quiet. **30** Draft of 20 men arrived. **2** Raid on German salient [projection in battle line] postponed owing to brightness of night. **3** 1 other rank, bruised.

4-11 April 1916 Senlis, in the department of Oise

4 Battalion returned to billets in Senlis. **5** Resting and cleaning up. **6** Started Company training and musketry etc. **7** Company training. **8** Company training. Draft of 20 other ranks received. **9-11** Training.

12-16 April 1916 Aveluy

12 Battalion moved into support at Aveluy. **13** Working parties. **14** A Company proceeded to isolation camp at Senlis (measles). **15** 2 Lieut. Taylor accidentally killed.

17 April – 16 May 1916 Contry Wood

17 Battalion went to isolation camp in Contry Wood. **18-19** Battalion training. Small working parties. **20** Draft of 21 other ranks arrived. **24** Draft of 2 officers. **25-30, 1-4** Divisional and brigade manoeuvres. Battalion training. Small daily working parties. **5** Draft of 21 other ranks. **9** Draft of 50 other ranks. **13** Battalion out of isolation. **14-16** Battalion training.

17 May 1916 Contay Wood, commune in the Somme department

Battalion moved from Contay Wood to Bouzincourt.

18-21 May 1916 Authuille sector

18 Battalion took over the Authuille sector. Party under Lieut. Barnes remained in billets at Bouzincourt. **19** Artillery salvo in the night otherwise quiet. 2 other ranks wounded. 1 other rank killed. **20** Artillery salvo in the night. 1 other rank killed. 2 other ranks wounded. **21** Front quiet.

22-29 May 1916 Crucifix Corner

22 Battalion relieved and billeted at Crucifix Corner and D Company billeted in Aveluy. **23** Working parties supplied to work in Authuille sector. 2 other ranks wounded. **24-25** Supplied working parties in Authuille sector. **26** Battalion relieved the 17th Highland Light Infantry. Lieut. Gerald Spring-Rice killed. **27** Fairly quiet. Slight amount of trench mortar activity. **28** Trench mortar and artillery activity. **29** Trench mortar and artillery activity. 7 other ranks wounded.

30 May – 5 June 1916 Bouzincourt

30 Fairly quiet. 1 other rank killed. 4 other ranks wounded. Battalion relieved. Left half of Battalion billeted in Bouzincourt. Right half of Battalion bivouac in Aveluy Wood. **31** Working parties. **1-4** Battalion in Divisional reserve. Working parties. **5** Party under Lieut. Barnes raided German trenches. Barnes and 5 other ranks killed. 27 other ranks wounded. 1 other rank wounded and missing. 11 German prisoners captured.

6-11 June 1916 Senlis

6 Battalion moved to billets in Senlis. **8** Divisional exercise. Battalion bivouacked the night 7/8th in Bavelincourt Wood. **9-11** Battalion training.

10 June 1916 France

This letter from [Assistant Adjutant J. Black to Capt. Smith is the only item from the Lonsdale Battalion written from the Western Front:

‘... I am now with the 11th ... and joined the Battalion just two days after it came out of the trenches where they had been twelve days. We are now about 6 miles behind the front line, but I fancy we are going further back in a day or two. The particular sector of line held by the Battalion last was a very rough one being constantly hammered by all sorts of explosives by the Huns, not the least of which was what is called an oil can, this does tremendous havoc

when it explodes but it has a redeeming feature & that is, it travels slowly enough for the boys to see where it is likely to land & so gives them a chance of getting out of its way, this shell is about 2 to 3 ft high & is just shaped like an oil can hence its name. ... Perhaps you have seen in the papers a certain battalion of the Border Regiment had made a very successful raid on the German trenches one night this week; it was by a party of raiders belonging to this Battalion, & everybody connected with the Brigade to which we belong are very well satisfied with the work done, it was very unfortunate that the officer in charge was killed especially as he carried everything out in such a brilliant manner and was not hit until he was almost back into our own trenches. I believe the officer 2nd in command of the raiders has been recommended for the Military Cross and a number of other ranks for other decorations ... [Gerald] Spring-Rice was killed two days before we joined up, and it was more from heart shock than the bullet which hit him. You need not be in any hurry to get here ... because when out of the trenches the men have to do various tedious jobs for the Royal Engineers & Pioneer Battalions & then we have to do Field operations about twice a week, for example we left our billets last Wednesday about 5.45 p.m. and marched a distance of 7 or 8 miles where we halted & bivouacked for the night in an open field where shelter of no description was to be found & we had not been on the ground long when it started to rain and did not cease until about 1.30 or 2 a.m. & I can assure you it was not pleasant lying on the cold, cold ground with only a ground sheet over you in the pelting rain, then we were up and had breakfast by 4 a.m. & off again to the scene of operation where we had to tramp through crops which were filled with water waist high, consequently everybody was wet to the skin up to their middle & had to remain so until the clothes dried on them, the fellows are in fine bodily condition or they could never stick it But it is no use grousing when one has put the hand to the plough stick to and keep smiling. ... I am glad to learn you will be able to send us some good recruits next time, see they get plenty of bayonet fighting. Bombing, and if possible, gas helmet drill, this is one thing they are very particular about ... the men have to be able to fling off their caps and take the gas helmets out of its satchell and over the head for 1st protection in about 5 to 10 seconds and then have the thing properly in position tucked inside the collar of the jacket ready to use their rifle with it on if necessary inside 25 seconds, this as you will understand needs a good bit of practice and they should have it at the Depot if at all possible, and regarding bayonet fighting, let whoever has it in hand now, keep at the fellows even more than I did if possible to put all their strength into the point, withdrawal and parry, because if they don't they will have a rough time ... when they come out; and they have to be able to throw a bomb from trench to trench with skeleton equipment on 30 yards apart and this must be done accurately not wide to the right or left but straight to the front; and they want to know all about it before joining the Battalion because there is very little time to practise here. ... The Battalion here has the same reputation for sports and football as the Depot has got, we have played two games of rugby since I came out against the battalions in the Brigade and beat one by 35 points and the other 23 points, not bad eh? Now I must shut up, the others have all gone to a concert in the village but I being orderly dog had to stop away. ... it is impossible ever to forget the good time I had at Prees Heath ...' [269]

12-22 June 1916 Contay

Divisional exercise. Battalion returned to billets in Contay. **13-14** Battalion training. **15** Divisional exercise. **16-18** Battalion training. **19** Brigade exercise. **20** Draft of 5 other ranks. **21** Divisional exercise. 1 other rank wounded (self-inflicted). **22** Battalion moved to billets in Bouzincourt.

23-26 June 1916 Authuille section

23 Battalion left Bouzincourt for the trenches. **24** Our 18-pounders commenced to cut the enemy wire at 5.30 a.m. and continued during the day. Enemy retaliation practically nil. Gas raid on night of 24/25 did not come off owing to unfavourable wind. **25** Our guns bombarded the German lines continuously. German retaliation very heavy during the afternoon. 1 other rank wounded. 2 other ranks shell shock. **26** Continuous bombardment by both sides. We let off gas with apparent success. Battalion relieved. 2 other ranks killed. 30 other ranks wounded. 9 other ranks shell shock.

27-30 June 1916 Crucifix Corner

27 Bombardment continued. Battalion issuing grenades. **28** Zero time postponed for 48 hours. Our artillery bombardment less intense. **29** Our artillery bombardment less intense. German retaliation slight. **30** Battalion moved up to assembly trenches at 10 p.m.

1-3 July 1916 Authuille Wood, Battle of the Somme

The first day of the Battle of the Somme was the most disastrous in the history of the British Army when 20,000 men were killed.

1 Zero time 7.30 a.m. Battalion advanced from assembly trenches at 8 a.m. and came under very heavy machine gun fire suffering over 500 casualties. The following officers were killed. Col. Machell [and 9 other s]. Officers wounded. Major Diggle [and 14 others].

2 Battalion assisted in holding the line and found fatigues for carrying up grenades from Authuille dump. **3** Battalion withdrawn to Crucifix dug outs.

4 July 1916 Crucifix Corner

Battalion found fatigues for detonating and carrying up bombs to front line. Night of the 4/5 Battalion attached to 2nd [King's Own Royal Light Infantry?] and marched to Contay Wood.

5-7 July 1916 Contay Wood

Reorganising into 2 companies in Contay Wood. Battalion strength 11 officers and 480 other ranks.

8 July 1916 Senlis

Battalion marched to Senlis and took over billets.

9-11 July 1916 F1 sub sector

9 Battalion packed and marched to trenches taking over part of F1 sub sector one day in front line and one in reserve. **10-11** Battalion remained in line.

10 July 1916 Lowther

Press cutting from The Times: '... a heartfelt tribute to death's latest victim. Colonel Machell has been numbered amongst those who have lain down their lives in the service both of their country and of the civilization of the world. Like so many who have done invaluable but unostentatious work, his name was but little known to the mass of his countrymen. ...' [279]

12-15 July 1916 Crucifix Corner

12 Battalion withdrawn to Crucifix dug outs. **13-15** Battalion found fatigues for the line.

16 July 1916 Braglacourt, Pas-de-Calais department

Battalion withdrawn to Braglacourt and billeted in huts. Battalion marched to Ampliers, [Arras] and took over huts.

17-18 July 1916 Sos-St-Leger

17 Divisional Commander addressed Brigade congratulating them on their achievements. Battalion marched to Sos-St-Leger and took [over billets.] **18** Battalion remained resting. **19** Battalion marched to Neuville-au-Cornet, commune in Pas-de-Calais

19 July 1916 Neuville-au-Cornet, commune in Pas-de-Calais department

Battalion marched to Neuville.

20 July 1916 Conteville, commune in Calvados department

Battalion marched to Conteville and took over billets. 8 officers arrived.

21-25 July 1916 Allouagne, commune in Pas-de-Calais department

21 Battalion marched to Allouagne and took over billets. **22** Battalion remained in billet - baths and clean clothing. 7 Officers arrived. **24** Battalion parade for foot and rifle drill. Battalion paraded for kit inspection. **25** Battalion paraded for drill under Company arrangements, and for gas helmet and ration inspections.

26-28 July 1916 Bethune, city in Pas-de-Calais department

26 The Battalion marched to Bethune and took over billets. **27** Battalion paraded for physical drill and rifle exercises and the afternoon was devoted to the cleaning up of equipment. **28** Battalion marched for inspection. Battalion was congratulated by the Army Commander on its smart appearance and steadiness on parade and marched back to billets in Bethune.

29 July – 4 August 1916 Noyelles-sur-Mer, commune in Somme department

29 Battalion was attached to the 8th Division and found surveying duties. H. Q. of Battalion being billeted in huts in Noyelles. **30-31** Carrying parties for mines. **1** 8 officers and 218 other ranks doing mining fatigues at Hohenzollern redoubt and the Hairpin mines. Draft of 80 other ranks joined the Battalion. **2** Parties still doing mining fatigues. **3** All working parties were relieved. They proceeded to Noyelle for rest. A party of 4 officers and 100 other ranks proceeded to Annequin, (commune in Pas-de-Calais) to form working parties. **4** Kit inspection.

5-9 August 1916 Cambrin sector, Pas-de-Calais department

5 Battalion left Noyelle for support trenches in the Cambrin sector. Battalion strength in the trenches 20 officers (including Medical Officer) and 280 other ranks. Hostile observation balloons were up, they were taken down. **6** Day spent in improving trenches. Artillery on both sides was quiet. Our aeroplanes were continually over the German lines observing. Hostile aeroplanes made several attempts to cross our lines but quickly driven back by our artillery. The Commanding Officer visited Sims Keep and Arthur's Keep and found both in good order. Machine guns on both sides were very active. Enemy's trench mortars were active along our line doing no material damage. Our trench mortars replied effectively. **7** The Commanding Officer visited the right of the sub sector (portion of line Battalion takes

over). In High Street the enemy were very active with trench mortars, there was no retaliation from our guns. The engineers exploded a mine in the left sub sector, there was considerable artillery activity for about an hour.

10-13 August 1916 Front Line Trenches, Railway Keep, Battalion HQ

10 Battalion took over the front line trenches in the right of the sub-sector. The relief of the trenches was carried out successfully without any casualties. During the day trench mortars were very active both hostile and our own. A machine gun was buried by a trench mortar just by a mine near Boyan 4, it was not damaged. **11** Day was comparatively quiet. A few hostile trench mortars were sent over during the day doing no material damage, our trench mortars replied with good success. **12** Early this morning, 1 N.C.O. and 1 other rank were hit by an explosive bullet. The machine gun man was killed. Hostile artillery was very quiet during the morning. Our artillery bombarded for 15 minutes the German lines. The Germans started a bombardment which lasted an hour; our artillery replied very effectively causing the enemy to cease their fire. There were 3 other ranks wounded in the bombardment. **13** Day quiet. The enemy exploded a mine near the Hohenzollern Redoubt; clouds of dust were seen to rise. A bombing group heard movement when 6 men (Germans) appeared and one of them threw a bomb amongst our men who at once replied driving the enemy away.

14-16 August 1916 Annequin (Reserve)

14 Battalion was relieved successfully. The Battalion retired to Annequin to billets. 37 other ranks joined the Battalion. **15** 14 other ranks joined the Battalion. Half the Battalion had baths and clean clothes were issued. The Commanding Officer delivered a lecture on intelligence. **16** Half the Battalion had baths and clean clothes were issued.

17-20 August 1916 Cambrin Sector (Front Line Trenches) Railway Keep (Battalion HQ)

17 Battalion left Annequin for front line trenches in the Cambrin sector. Enemy comparatively quiet. **18** In the morning it was very quiet along the whole Sector. Trench mortars were active in the afternoon (hostile) and evening. **19** Day comparatively quiet. Weather wet and trenches in bad condition. **20** Day comparatively quiet but for a few trench mortars fired from both sides also rifle grenades.

21-22 August 1916 Bethune

21 Battalion relieved in the trenches and took over billets at Bethune. **22** Kit inspection.

23 August 1916 Philosophe

Battalion left Bethune to take over billets at Philosophe. Men bathed. Trench strength 305 other ranks, 15 officers.

24-27 August 1916 Hulloch Sector (Support Trenches)

24 Battalion left Philosophe for support trenches in Hulloch Sector. Our aeroplanes very active during the afternoon and evening over German lines. A raid was carried out on the

left of the sector. Artillery bombarded for an hour. **25** Day comparatively quiet. **26-27** Days very quiet.

28-30 August 1916 Front Line Trenches, Hulloch Sector

28 Battalion relieved 17th Highland Light Infantry in the front line trenches (left of Hulloch Sector). Day very quiet. **29** A bombardment of the enemy's lines was carried out by our field guns, 4.5 Howitzers. Medium and light trench mortars and rifle grenades, batteries lasted for 30 minutes. There was very little retaliation. The enemy's trenches were badly damaged. It rained very heavily causing some damage to our trenches and dug-outs. **30** Day comparatively quiet.

31 August – 7 September 1916 Bethune

31 Battalion was relieved and proceeded to Bethune to rest billets. **1** Battalion in billets in Bethune. All men had a bath and clean clothes. There was a lecture for officers and N.C.O.'s on bayonet fighting. **2** Battalion marched to the Champs de Tir for a day's training. **3** Battalion were taken by bus to the Cambrin Sector for work on the communication trenches. **4** Inspections. **6** Battalion paraded for a route march. Doctors' medical inspection.

8-10 September 1916 Reserve Billets at Quesnoy, Nord, (Cuinchy Sector)

8 Battalion left Bethune for Quesnoy to take up reserve position in the Cuinchy Sector. **9** Company Commanders visited the front line trenches before taking over.

12-15 September 1916 Front Line Trenches (Cuinchy Sector)

12 Battalion in the front line trenches. **13** Day was comparatively quiet and few hostile trench mortars fell near our front line and brickstacks doing no damage. [The brickstacks was an area like no other on the front line in World War 1. The front line did not move for most of the war. Both sides were fully entrenched. It sat on a flat piece of land. The trenches were often filled with water.] Hostile machine guns very active during the evening. **14** Day comparatively quiet. Hostile aerial darts were fired in the direction of brickstacks searching for Stokes gun positions. **15** Day comparatively quiet.

16-19 September 1916 Reserve Line (Harley Street) (Billets)

16 Day quiet. Battalion relieved in front line trenches and returned to reserve line (billets) Harley Street. **17-19** Battalion found working parties.

20-23 September 1916 Front Line Trenches (Cuinchy Sector)

20 Battalion relieved the front line trenches. Germans bombarded our lines damaging our trenches. **21** Day comparatively quiet. Our Stokes guns bombarded enemy trenches for 1 hour. Very little retaliation. **22** Day comparatively quiet. **23** The enemy fired a number of aerial darts and a few trench mortars in the direction of Brickstacks doing no material damage. Enemy artillery (77mm) fired a number of rounds in the direction of Cuinchy Church.

24-25 September 1916 Le Quesnoy Reserve

24 Battalion was relieved in the front line trenches and proceeded to Le Quesnoy to be in Reserve. **25** Battalion found working parties for front line trenches.

26 September – 3 October 1916 Annezin, commune in Pas de Calas department near Bethune

26 Battalion was relieved from Le Quesnoy and proceeded to take over billets at Annezin.

27 Examining kits and cleaning equipment. **28** Battalion found working parties for front line trenches in the Cambrin Sector. 11th Border Regiment consisting of 1 officer and 2 signallers per Company proceeded to take up a position in Saily La Bourse line (Beuvry), all took part in the [signalling] practice. **29** Companies went for an hour's route march. **30** Battalion had baths at Bethune. **1-2** Battalion practised crossing craters. **3** Battalion found fatigues. Battalion practised crossing craters.

4-7 October 1916 Cambrin Sector (Front Line Trenches)

4 Battalion left Annezin for front line trenches in Cambrin Sector . A combined shoot of Stokes guns, rifle fire and machine gun fire was carried out lasting 5 minutes (each shoot). Battalion cooperated with rifle and machine gun fire. Enemy retaliated with a few oil cans. **5** A strafe on the enemy's trenches was carried out, gas and smoke being sent out at intervals and short bombardments by our trench mortars, machine gun and rifle fire. **6** Day comparatively quiet. A bombardment of the enemy's trenches was carried out by our Stokes [guns] and 2 trench mortars. Enemy's trenches were damaged considerably. No retaliation. **7** Day very quiet.

8-13 October 1916 Cambrin Sector (Support Line)

8 Battalion was relieved and proceeded to take up a position in support. (Village Line). **9** Battalion found working parties. Battalion in the line during the day. **10** Battalion found working parties. Draft of 20 men arrived as reinforcements for the Battalion. **11** Reinforcement of 212 other ranks arrived for the Battalion.

14 October 1916 Bethune

Battalion left trenches for Bethune.

15 October 1916 Labeuvriere, commune in Pas de Calais department

Battalion left Bethune and arrived Labeuvriere and billeted there.

16 October 1916 Monchy Breton, commune in Pas-de-Calais department

Battalion left Labeuvriere and arrived Monchy Breton. Remained there overnight.

17 October 1916 Mncheaux, commune in the Nord department

Battalion left Monchy Breton and arrived at Moncheaux.

18-20 October 1916 Longueville

18 Battalion left Moncheaux and arrived Longueville. **19** Battalion left Longueville for Herissat. Marched for two hours and returned to Longueville. **20** Battalion remained in billets. Battalion parade and bombing and grenade throwing.

21-22 October 1916 Herissat

21 Battalion left Longueville and arrived Herissat. Parade of bombers for live grenade throwing. **22** Battalion parade. Bombing and live grenade throwing. Reinforcement of 6 men arrived.

23-29 October 1916 Bouzincourt

23 Battalion left Herissat for Bouzincourt. **24-27** General parades of instruction. **28** General Officer Commanding, General Haig, visited billets and congratulated the Commanding Officer of the 11th Border on the state of his Battalion. **29** General parades.

30 October 1916 Herissat

Battalion left Bouzincourt and arrived in Herissat.

31 October – 13 November 1916 La Vicogne, commune in the Somme department

31 Battalion left Herissat and arrived at La Vicogne. **1** General parades of instruction. **2** Battalion took part in Brigade Field Day. **3-4** General parades of instruction. **5** General parades of instruction. Extended order drill. **6** Battalion took part in Brigade Field Day. **7-8** General parades of instruction. **9** Battalion went for a route march. **10-12** General parades. **13** Orders received to march. Battalion left La Vicogne and arrived at Contay.

14 November 1916 Black Horse Bridge, near Authuille

Battalion left Contay and arrived at Black Horse Bridge. Tiring march for Battalion and little accommodation for men.

15-16 November 1916 Englebelmer, commune in the Somme department

15 Orders received to dump packs etc. Men paraded in Battle order and marched to Englebelmer. **16** Battalion remained in Englebelmer fitting out with bombs for action.

17 November 1916 Trenches Redan Sector, [Redan is a French word for V-shaped fortifications.]

Battalion left Englebelmer in full fighting order for trenches. Marched through Mailly Mallet and passed through 'White City', having formed into single file some time before. From this point, the Battalion went across the open, headed by the Commanding Officer towards trenches opposite a wagon road ... occupying any trench back and front. The Battalion on the way to these trenches passed under shellfire and casualties were caused. The behaviour of the men was good and after some difficulty the relief was completed. The ground was very bad with wire and much cut about by shellfire. Hostile shelling continued throughout and while in trenches the Battalion suffered a few more casualties. The Battalion was in a position where there was more or less reserve with the exception of one Company which occupied a portion of front line. The positions for the Companies to take up on the top and beyond was also gone over; the tops on which the Battalion was to form for the attack. A heavy barrage from our artillery was opened on to enemy lines opposite us which lasted for about a quarter of an hour. Half an hour afterwards, enemy artillery replied over ground held by us with heavy fire. This fire continued well after dark. Enemy artillery bombardment still continued to play on to our line ... and on the area back towards White City. Men of various Companies who had got separated in the relief and lost in the dark were collected together and got in readiness for the Battalion to take up position for attack.

18-19 November 1916 Wagon Road

18 At midnight, the Commanding Officer and Adjutant laid a tape as they went in the direction of Wagon Road. Troops followed and were marched into position along wagon road. By 4 a.m. all were in readiness. At 4.20 a.m. Companies moved into position on the tape. At zero time, 6 a.m. our artillery barrage opened and the Regiment advanced in perfect order to attack. The spirit of the men being a fine sight to see in spite of the intense cold and what they had to see. The Companies got well away and it is certain that the leading platoons got well over Munick Trench. The Germans put over a heavy bombardment. They sent up several rockets which burst into 4 red stars. There was considerable hostile machine gun fire some of which seemed to come from a gun well in the rear of Frankfort Trench doing indirect fire onto the ground over which the attack was delivered. Sharp fighting occurred and bombing attacks were delivered. In the trench a bombing post was established and a little behind 2 Lewis guns were placed in position commanding both flanks. After dark, several men, returned after having held shell holes opposite the German line. During the day and up till 10 p.m. stretcher bearers were continuously over the top and about attending to and bringing in wounded men. Those that were left of the Battalion were reorganised at Wagon Road and placed in a state of defence. From accounts it is believed that several men got right through Munick Trench. Wounded men crawling back were continuously sniped at by enemy. **19** Battalion in same position. No action taken by Germans except for heavy shrapnel and barrage causing several casualties. During attack and after when men were holding onto ground taken, enemy adapted several cowardly devices, such as some coming out unarmed with their hands up and when our men showed themselves to get enemy prisoners, they (the enemy with hands up) would suddenly drop arms, men were shot by concealed Germans further on. The Battalion was relieved.

20-22 November 1916 Mailly Maillet, commune in the Somme department

20 Battalion remained in billets. **21** Battalion in billets. Two men reported having broken through German line at Munick Trench from Frankfort Trench, said that some of the Border officers and men were still holding a portion of Frankfort Trench. A rescue or raiding party was formed from the Borders to assist Capt. Welch and his cut off party in returning. The party went up after dark but were unable to do anything, conditions being against them. **22** Party returned. Two other men from cut off party managed to get through and reported that party were still holding out. Another rescue party was formed from Borders. This went to trenches near Wagon Road to hold itself in readiness to give assistance in case the men tried to break through.

23-24 November 1915 Arqueves, commune in the Somme department

23 Rescue party remained in trenches but no result. Battalion received orders to march to Arqueves. Draft of 12 men reported for duty. **24** Battalion remained in billets.

25 November 1916 Gezaincourt, commune in the Somme department

Battalion left Arqueves arriving at Gezaincourt Draft of 40 men reported as reinforcements.

26 November – 16 December 1916 Berteaucourt, village in the Somme department

26 Battalion left Gezaincourt arriving Berteaucourt . **27** Company parades for inspections. **28** Company parades for instructions. **29-30** General parades of instruction and training. **1** Company training. **2** Inspection of billets by Commanding Officer. **3** Company training. **4** Battalion proceeded to route march. **5** Training in sniping and Lewis guns. One company employed in constructing bayoneting fighting course. Remainder under Company arrangements. **6** Training. One Company under Physical Training instructor. Afternoon practising for cross country running. **7** Map reading course, 2 N.C.O.'s per Company. Battalion paraded for practice inspection. **8** Battalion parades for Aeroplane Scheme – cancelled owing to rain. **9** Inspection of billets by Commanding Officer. **10** Battalion parades and inspection. **11** Battalion parades. **12** Bombing under Battalion Bombing Officer. Battalion route march. All officers attended tactical exercise without troops under Commanding Officer. **13-14** Bombing and Lewis guns under Battalion instructors. Company parades for range, physical drill. **15** Battalion route march. **16** Battalion moved to billets in Pushvillers. Inspected by Divisional Commander on the march.

17 December 1916 – 7 January 1917 Puchevillers, commune in the Somme department

17 Inspection of billets by Commanding Officer. **18** Battalion bomber parade under Battalion Bombing Officer. Remainder of Battalion preparing new training ground. **19** One officer per Company attended gas school for one day. **20-21** Sniping and Lewis Gun course. Remainder of Battalion paraded for Battalion drill and Company training. **22** Battalion route march postponed owing to rain. **23** Company training. **24** Inspection of billets. **25** Holy Communion at 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Games for remainder of the day. **26** Battalion paraded for route march. Inspected on the march. **27-28** Battalion parade for drill. Company training and Battalion bombing and Lewis Gun classes. Accident on bombing ground. Acting Bombing Officer wounded and 5 other ranks, all slight. **29** Sniping and map reading courses. Company training. **30** Battalion parade for tactical scheme – practising new formation for attack. Afternoon bombing etc. **31** 150 other ranks working parties – railhead etc. Fixing and testing of small box respirators. **1** Battalion carried out general training and bombing. **2-3** Working parties supplied and general training. **4** Brigade Field Day. Battalion carried out practice 'stunt' through Puchevillers attacking a supposed position. **5** General training and bombing. **6** A Company left Puchevillers in lorries to Bus and marched from there to Corcele and proceeded to trenches .

7-10 January 1917 Corcele

7 Battalion left in lorries for Bus and marched to Corcele. **8** Battalion in billets. Supplied working parties in trenches. **9** Battalion supplied carrying and working parties in trenches. **10** Battalion left billets by companies relieving 17th Highland Light Infantry in trenches C3 Sector (Serre).

11 January 1917 Trenches Sub-Sector C3, Serre. [Village 5 miles north of Albert held by the Germans at the beginning of their Battle of the Somme.]

Battalion occupying the front line with 3 companies and 1 in support. Enemy actively shelled system of trenches.

12 January 1917 Corcele

Battalion in line. Enemy artillery very active. Our front line systematically bombarded. Heaviest on rear areas. Communication with Companies and Brigade cut. Enemy barrage opened up. During the evening enemy quietened down. Our artillery effectively replying. Battalion was relieved and went to billets in Corcele.

13 January 1917 Corcele

Battalion in billets. Supplied working parties and ration carrying in trenches. One Company remained at Colincamps, [village north of Albert], for working party and one Company in trenches, outpost dugouts.

14-18 January 1917 Bus

14 Battalion marched to Bus except one Company at Colincamps. **15-16** Supplied working parties. **17** Supplied working parties. Operation orders received. **18** Battalion left Bus and arrived at Maily Maillet and went into billets.

19-23 January 1917 Maily Maillet, commune in the Somme department

19 Battalion in billets. One officer per Company went to trenches and remained in line. **20** Battalion relieved 2nd Gordons in Sector R1 (Beaumont Hamel). **21** Battalion in trenches. **22** Battalion in trenches. One Company in reserve, one in support and two in the front line. **23** Battalion in trenches. Point 28 was occupied and a post established there. Patrols sent out during the night.

24-26 January 1917 Lythan Camp, Beaussart, near Maily Maillet

Battalion was relieved and proceeded to Lythan Camp.

27-28 January 1917 Sector R2

27 Battalion proceeded to Beaumont Hamel and relieved King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. **28** Battalion in trenches. During the previous evening patrols sent out reporting enemy.

29-30 January 1917 Beaumont Hamel, commune in the Somme department, east of Maily Maillet and north of Thiepval

29 Battalion in line. Relieved and went to dug outs in Beaumont Hamel. Working parties. Commanding Officer and officers went over works (defences at Beaumont Hamel.) **30** Battalion in dug outs.

31 January – 2 February 1917 R1 Sector, Beaumont Hamel

31 Battalion in dug outs. Took over Sector R1. **1** Battalion in line. Two Companies in front line, one in support, one in reserve. **2** Two patrols sent out enemy being discovered active.

3-9 February 1917 Lythan Camp, Beaussart

3 Battalion received orders to withdraw to Lythan Camp, near Beaussart. **4** Battalion practised drill for an attack to take place. Commanding Officer explained general practice scheme to officers. Practice ground laid out to correspond to actual. **5** Battalion had practice drill for attack. Commanding Officer supervised practices making necessary alterations in the scheme. **6** Practice 'stunt'. Commanding Officer took all officers and platoon commanders up to the front line explaining to each the way, direction and place the Battalion would attack from. The jumping off tape also laid. **7** Practice parades by the Battalion for the attack. **8** Operations received. Tape on actual ground re-laid and pegged. **9** Battalion spent the day in making necessary preparations for an attack, re-equipping, drawing of bombs etc. Operation orders read and discussed with Company commanders and officers.

10-11 February 1917 Sub Sector R1 Beaumont Hamel

Battalion paraded in full fighting order and marched to Beaumont Hamel. The 97th Infantry Brigade being detailed to drive the enemy off the ridge and out of Ten Tree Alley on the night of 10/11th. The Battalion halted at Quarry in Beaumont Hamel where tea and a ration of rum was issued. Bombs and Lewis gun ammunition was also issued. The first platoon being one of D Company moved off from the Quarry. From this, guides were left along the route to be followed up to the tape viz. Wagon Road – Walker Quarry – top of Walker Avenue – across it to Gough Post – to Frankfort Post. Platoons followed at an interval of 100 yards along this route. C Company being the first to move along taking up their positions on the tape on the right flank in four waves viz 2 platoons in front forming first and second waves, two sections of each platoon being in extended order in front and two in rear 20 yards distance. One platoon 40 yards in rear again extended right across Company front making third wave. One platoon 70 yards in the rear making fourth wave in sections and in file. B Company followed C and took up their position on the tape in the same formation as Battalion Centre. A Company followed B and took up their position on the left in different formation. One platoon being in front to form first and second waves. Two platoons in rear of left flank to deal with hostile posts. One platoon in reserve in artillery formation. D Company with two platoons close up in rear of right flank of C Company to deal with enemy posts on bank and 2 platoons as Battalion reserve. The Battalion was in position and H.Q. being established at Frankfort Post. Battalion frontage being 350 yards. Zero time 8.30 p.m. on which the artillery barrage opened up. On the barrage commencing, the Battalion advanced from their position being a line running from a point south of Frankfort Post to Kyle and closely followed the barrage towards their objective ... hostile posts along the rear and front of that line. The men behaved splendidly and kept well up with the barrage and right on to their objective. The first message was sent back from the reserve Company D at 9.30 to say all objectives had been captured and consolidation begun. Our left flank was exposed and had to be strengthened. At the time of advance commencing, Battalion moved off with this flank exposed. The first batch of 35 prisoners was sent back soon after positions being taken. The Commanding Officer sent two platoons of the reserve Company D across to the exposed left flank. Posts were established in front of captured line Gun Pit trench and work carried out to put position won into a state of defence. Two officers and approximately 100 other ranks were captured by the Battalion and sent back as prisoners of war. One dug-out in which the enemy had refused to come out was bombed and unfortunately caught fire, the enemy inside perishing. Patrols from Companies were pushed out and also patrols sent to try to and establish communications. A strongly held enemy position was discovered on the Battalion's left flank. Two Vickers [guns] were sent along by the Commanding Officer and under his orders Stokes mortar detachment were sent along to that flank. The Stokes mortar opening up on to hostile post. The enemy delivered a counter-attack. Rapid rifle fire was brought. Remainder of the day quiet with the exception of hostile sniping and occasional active artillery fire. When it became dark two attempts by the Company on the left were made to capture the strong hostile post near that flank. Both attempts were unsuccessful owing to the post being too strongly held. Orders were received that the Battalion must act in conjunction with the Naval Division on our right in another advance to be made along the Puisieux Ridge. C Company and two platoons of D Company were detailed. They took up their position on the left flank of the Naval Division and on the barrage opening up the advance started; some 300 yards of ground being taken. The advance was at right angles to the line the Battalion held. A new line of posts was established connecting up with the Naval Division in conjunction with Lewis and Vickers gun fire, onto the enemy. The hostile attack wavered and was held up with the exception of our left flank. Under cover of the smoke from the burning dug-out the enemy managed to get

up to our lines. A fight mainly with bombs ensued in which the enemy were repulsed. The area covered by the smoke was swept by rifle and Lewis gunfire and barraged with all available rifle grenades. The S.O.S. signal for artillery was sent up. Soon after the artillery opened up a barrage and the attack was completely broken. The enemy retired into a valley and away up the opposite slope. Observation was hampered owing to heavy mist. At daylight a patrol went out and found the enemy still in numbers on the left flank and holding a post with their machine guns. When the mist cleared and visibility was good several of the enemy were shot who could be seen retiring up the opposite slopes. Both rifle and Lewis gun fire with good effect being brought onto parties moving away.

12-14 February 1917 Beaumont Hamel

The Battalion was relieved and withdrew to dug-outs at Station Road, Beaumont Hamel and dug-outs in Y ravine.

15-17 February 1917 Acheux, commune in the Somme department

18 Battalion withdrew to Acheux. **16-17** Battalion stayed in huts. **18** Battalion left Acheux.

19-20 February 1917 Murvaux, commune

Battalion remained in Murvaux. General parades for training and inspection.

21-22 February 1917 Camon, commune

Battalion marched to Camon. **22** Battalion marched to Weincourt.

23-25 February 1917 Weincourt

23-24 Battalion remained in Weincourt. General parades for training. **25** Battalion left for Le Quesnel.

26 February – 1 March 1917 Le Quesnel, commune in the Somme department

26 Battalion remained in Le Quesnel. General parades for inspection and improvement of billets. **27** General parades for training and instruction. **28** Battalion paraded for Brigade inspection. **1** Battalion in billets in Le Quesnel as Brigade reserve. Preparations being made prior to marching for Line. Battalion moved off by Companies and relieved in support line Kuropatkin.

2-4 March 1917 Kuropatkin

2 Battalion as support in the Intermediate Line; working parties on trenches. **3-4** Working parties supplied, also improvement and cleaning out of trenches.

5-8 March 1917 Ney Sector

5 Battalion went into front line system and relieved. Slight activity of enemy with aerial darts. **6-7** Battalion in line. Patrols sent out. Clearing of trenches carried on. **8** Battalion in line and relieved and withdrew to Kuropatkin as support.

9-11 March 1917 Kuropatkin

9 Battalion in support Intermediate Line. Working parties. Discussion for proposed raid on enemy trench. **10** Raid decided on and a party of volunteers chosen. Party withdrew out of line to Beaucourt to practise for raid. **11** Battalion working parties in trenches.

12-14 March 1917 Ney Sector

12 Battalion working parties during the day. Battalion relieved Highland Light Infantry in front line trenches. **13** Battalion holding the front line. Patrols sent out. Preparations made for raid. **14** Raid was cancelled. Battalion relieved. Battalion lost one patrol of 1 sergeant and 2 men taken prisoners.

15-16 March 1917 Le Quesnel, commune in the Somme department

15 Working parties supplied. Battalion spent the day in a general clean up. **16** Battalion Brigade in reserve. Parades of training and working parties.

17 March 1917 Rouvroy, commune in Pas-de-Calais department

Retirement of German army. The Division moved forward and Battalion paraded in fighting order and marched to Rouvroy and remained there the night.

18 March 1917 Hattencourt, commune in the Somme department

The German continued his retirement followed by French on Division's right. Division moved forward, two Brigades in front and one in reserve. Battalion moved to old German front line south of Fouguescourt; worked on roads and bridged trenches to allow artillery and transport to pass. Battalion moved forward to Hattencourt and remained overnight.

19 March 1917 Herley

Division continued its advance and Battalion marched to Herley which was completely destroyed by retiring enemy. Battalion remained there overnight.

20-27 March 1917 Nesle, commune in the Somme department

20 Battalion marched to Nesle and billeted there. **21** Battalion remained in Nesle. Working parties on roads and bridges destroyed by enemy. Craters on crossroads filled in. **22** Working parties on bridges and roads etc. Guards and pickets supplied. Remainder of Battalion bathed. **23** Battalion marched to points west of Rouy and there dug strong posts, i.e. the ground for such was marked out. **24** Battalion marched to ground west of Rouy and there dug strong posts. Each Company digging one of the fire bays. **25-26** Battalion all but one Company marched to check on strong posts. **27** Battalion supplied working parties on roads and bridges.

28-31 March 1917 Foreste, commune in the Aisne department

28 Battalion marched east to ground north of Germaine and dug trenches 700 yards frontage facing eastwards. **29** Battalion rested during the day and continued digging during the night. One Company dug outposts at Vaux and another at Etreillers. **30** Battalion remained in billets during the day. Orders received that Battalion would attack the village of Savy. **31** Operation orders received for attack.

1-6 April 1917 Savy

1 On the night of 31/1 the Battalion moved forward from Foreste on to the Roupy-Etreillers road in fighting order. Battalion halted there and a ration of rum was issued. At 3.30 a.m. the Battalion moved forward 1700 yards to a position 500 yards south-west of the village of Savy, there it extended into attacking formation and took up a position along previously laid tape. At 5 a.m. the artillery barrage opened up and the Battalion moved forward to the

attack on Savy. The Battalion moved forward with all possible speed behind the barrage and drove the enemy through and out of the village and dug in on the opposite side with the exception of one Company which remained in the village to mop it up of any concealed enemy. Several prisoners were taken and a number of the enemy killed. The capture of the village was secured and consolidation started. By 6.30 a.m. all consolidation was practically complete and the village put in a state of defence. From 2.30 to 3.30 p.m. the enemy heavily shelled our positions. Later on the Battalion took over the line held by the 17th Highland Light Infantry. Battalion worked on defences all day. **2** Battalion remained in defences around Savy. Working parties all day on the village. Salvage of material, collecting of dead, etc. Clearing and cleaning of road through the village. Improvement of defences. **3** Salvage and collection of the dead. Working parties on the village. Cleaning of road. Working parties also supplied. Two Companies out in Bois de Holnon digging outposts. **4** Working parties in Etreillers; also working parties during the night. Commanding Officer and Company Commanders went forward and reconnoitred ground and enemy lines near village of Holnon. **5-6** Battalion remained in Savy. Working parties also during the night.

7-14 April 1917 Holnon, commune in Aisne department

7 Battalion left Savy arriving Holnon. Dug shelters and remained as support to two Battalions in front. **8** Work done on shelters and position. **9** Remained in support to two Battalions in the front line. One Company immediate support to 17th Highland Light Infantry. Work done on shelters etc. **10** Battalion (less one Company) remained in support to two Battalions in the front line. Improving shelters etc. Commenced relief of the 17th Highland Light Infantry in front line. **11** Battalion in front line. Improving trenches, fire positions and communication trenches. Reconnaissance of ground in front. **12-13** Battalion remained in front line. Improving positions etc. **14** Battalion remained in line ready to concentrate if necessary. Battalion was ordered to attack Twin Copses. Artillery opened up a barrage and Battalion advanced upon objective in extended order. Battalion reached terraced road, opened fire from left front and inflicted several casualties to the left flank of the leading Company. Two platoons of the Reserve Company were ordered up to deal with it. In this they were successful and captured the gun complete. A telephone line was run out to Battalion [HQ] and communication established. A report was received to the effect that the right Company had obtained their objectives and were consolidating. All Companies were consolidating their line. Except for slight shelling, the situation remained quiet. Work was carried on all night on defences.

15 April 1917 North of Fayet

Battalion remained in line, strengthening defences etc. Relief of Battalion.

16-19 April 1917 Germaine

16 Battalion marched to Germaine. Cleaning equipment etc. Baths etc. **17-18** Cleaning up generally. Issuing new clothing etc. **19** Battalion moved to Hombleux.

20-23 April 1917 Hombleux, commune in the Somme department

20 Battalion occupied the day by physical, platoon and Company drill. Training of specialists. **21** Battalion training. **23** Battalion route march towards Ham, also tactical exercise. Musketry.

24 April – 14 May 1917 Offoy, commune in Oise department

24 Battalion moved to Offoy. **25** Battalion training and smartening up generally. Draft of 91 other ranks arrived. **26** Gas demonstration. 12 Military Medals awarded for operations north-east of Fayet on 14 April. **27** Baths at Voyennes for Battalion. **28** Parades. Training. **29** Parades. Training. 3 Military Crosses awarded for operations at Savy 1 April. **30** Brigade parade for inspection ... compliments for good work in recent operations. **1** Company and Battalion drill. **2** Brigade praised for good work in recent operations. Exceptionally smart turn-out. **3** Battalion drill – attack formation. **4** Route march to Toule and Duuilly with advance and flank guards. Demonstration by trench mortar batteries. All officers and a large percentage of men attended. **5** Battalion drill – outpost scheme. Drill and training generally. **7** Battalion drill. **8** Parades cancelled owing to rain. Training continued in billets – musketry, bayonet fighting, physical training etc. **9** Battalion drill and training. **10** Battalion route march and tactical scheme towards Matigny. **11** Battalion drill – attack formation. **12** Battalion in attack formation for inspection. **14** Brigade attack scheme. 3 objectives. This objective taken. Afternoon spent in preparations for tomorrow's march.

15 May 1917 Puzeaux, commune in the Somme department

Marched to Puzeaux.

16 May 1917 Caix, commune in the Somme department

Marched to Caix. Resting.

17-29 May 1917 Domart, commune

17 Marched to Domart. Resting. **18** Cleaning up billets and making improvements. **19** Battalion training. **20** Presentation of military medals. **21-25** Battalion training. **26-27** Battalion training, route march. **28-29** Battalion training.

30 May – 1 June 1917 Villers Bretonneux, commune in the Somme department

30 Marched to Villers and took over billets. **31** Preparing for training. **1** Battalion (less one Company) commenced entraining. Train to Steenbeque. Commenced to march to Neuf Berquin – Doulieu area.

2-14 June 1917 Neuf Berquin, north France, close to Belgian border

2-3 Battalion remained in billets, resting and cleaning up generally. **4** Battalion on physical exercise. Training in musketry, fire control etc. **5** Battalion on physical exercise. Inspection in billets. **6** Battalion on physical exercise. General training in musketry, fire control and handling of mines. **7** Battalion stood to in billets ready to move up to reinforce 2nd Anzac in attack on Oosterhuvén line. **8** Battalion standing to. **9** Battalion continued training near billets. Musketry competition. **11** Battalion training. **12** Battalion route march of 8 miles. **13** Battalion training. **14** Battalion moved off to Godwaersvelot near Caestre.

15-16 June 1917 Godwaersvelde, commune in the Nord department near the Belgian border

15 Company inspections. **16** Battalion marched to buses and embussed to St. Pol, near Dunkirk.

18 June 1917 St. Pol, commune

Battalion marched to sands north of Maedyck for attack practice and bathing.

19 June 1917 Coxyde, town in Belgium

Battalion entrained at Dunkirk. Detrained at Coxyde. Marched to camp Jean Bart in sand dunes.

20-30 June 1917 East Dunkirk

21 Battalion marched from Coxyde to East Dunkirk arriving at Camp Callimard. **21-23** Company training. **25** Working parties totalling 137 found for various works. Remainder of day spent in training. Moved from Camp Callimard to Camp Ribaillet. **26** Moved from Camp Ribaillet to new trench. Nieuport. **27** Working parties up to line during the night. Strengthening and improving trenchworks. **28** Working parties in line during the night. Commenced to build outposts. **29** Relieved 17th Highland Light Infantry. **30** Patrol examined wire. Day exceptionally quiet.

1-4 July 1917 Nieuport Lambartzyde Sector, Belgium

Battalion remained in occupation of the C sub-sector. Two Companies holding the first, second and third lines. Two Companies in support. The day was moderately quiet. Pont Pentic was shelled during the morning. Rose Loire was also smashed about. Enemy very inactive except for shelling. **2** Battalion remained in occupation of C Sector. Day fairly quiet – not much shelling. **3** Battalion still in line. Fairly heavy shelling of left communication trench and Pont Pastre which was hit in two or three places. Remainder of day quiet. **4** Battalion in line and relieved.

5-11 July 1917 Nieuport

5 Battalion moved back to dug-outs in New Parade and Walk. (Reserve). We launched a raid on the enemy line consisting of 3 N.C.O.'s and 38 other ranks. A Bangalore torpedo was fired and upon the party rushing forward they were met by a heavy barrage of bombs from the enemy. Finding the trench held too strongly and the party being weakened by casualties they had to withdraw. This was done successfully, all the party returning except one killed and wounded (believed killed.) Our artillery opened up a covering barrage, one and a quarter minutes after asking for support. Communication to battery was by lamp (Lucas Daylight) from front line to outpost and thence by phone. Battalion in reserve. **3** Companies and 3 Platoons on work forward. One platoon as garrison. **6** 2nd Lieut. Bishop killed in working party by indirect machine gun fire. Back areas being rather heavily shelled with 8" naval shells. Retaliation from our machine guns. Enemy aeroplanes active all day. **7** Slight shelling of our area. Enemy aerial activity in the early hours of the morning. Shelling slightly heavier during the afternoon and evening. Several casualties. About 5 per minute, 8" shells. Night much quieter. **8** Battalion moved into line to relieve 17th Highland Light Infantry. Night quiet. **9** Day fairly quiet. The bombardment of our left commenced and lasted for about an hour. Our line signalled all O.K. **10** A heavy bombardment of our sector commenced. The first and second lines were heavily strafed. Casualties last night 3 wounded. This morning 1 killed. Communication broken with both Companies in front line. Message from O.C. C Company holding first and second lines right half of Battalion front: "We have been continually strafed this morning with "Heavies". Please put punishment scheme X into operation at once." An officer was sent to the front line (Companies C and D) in order to determine the exact state of officers and the condition of the front line. The shelling was gradually getting heavier. "I have reached and examined the second line. On the right the trench is somewhat bashed about but is not in really bad condition. There has been a continuous bombardment. 5 casualties are reported at present. Our 18lb shells are dropping short. 18lbbers have just smashed into a machine gun dug-out in our second line.'

The bombardment increased in intensity. All communications were broken. Message sent by 2 pigeons. Report by runner whether first and support lines are intact and whether supporting companies are all right. Also state of Putney and Vauxhall bridges. Cannot get any information as to first and second line. They are being very heavily strafed. Hostile fire slackening. Casualties here. Heavy trench mortar bombardment of front line. Keep your visual open. The slightest sign of action on the part of enemy infantry send S.O.S. Enemy fire slackened and plane flew over very low apparently to examine extent of damage. This machine was engaged by our machine guns and Lewis guns. During this lull, a new kind of gas shell was used causing everyone to sneeze – it also affected the eyes and throat – and in some cases was followed by violent sickness. Bombardment increased to original intensity. Enemy barraging between third and second lines with heavies. The whole three lines are under a deadly barrage. Battle patrol must hold the front line whether demolished or not. Lull in bombardment. Enemy plane again flew over very low to reconnoitre. Gas shells used. Front line very badly smashed now. Right half completely wiped out. Second line very badly knocked about. Third line receiving particular attention and badly knocked about. Communication trenches – many blown in and always shelled. Casualties about 40. The shelling is very heavy throughout and continually on first, second and third lines and communication trenches. He has only about 15 men left out of the 2 platoons which went forward. There is very little shelter of any kind. The first and second lines are perfectly flattened. The other part very badly knocked about and untenable at present. Both Lewis Guns are out of action, useless. Impossible to reckon casualties yet. Lull in shelling. Gas shells being used again. Enemy plane flying low overhead. Shelling increased to original intensity. Your instructions are to hold on to the front line at all costs. Reinforcements are being sent up gradually. Shelling slackened considerably. Enemy reported as having gained a footing in the second line and part of third. Enemy patrols reported in left front line. Line must be established at once and every effort made to send patrols of fresh troops over to enemy line. Dig in and remain until further reinforcements. All lines to be held by small posts which must be dug in at once. Be careful not to use your water bottles tonight as you will probably be there all tomorrow. Dig hard and don't move about in daylight. **11** Your guns will proceed to cover the left flanks of the 11th Borders. As soon as the 11th Borders have reconstituted a line they will be relieved. The 11th Borders will return to Near Parade.

12-14 July 1917 Coxyde

Battalion arrived at Coxyde. **13-14** Battalion in rest. Ordered to stand to.

16-19 July 1917 Ghyvelde, second most northern commune in France

16 Battalion marched to Ghyvelde. **17-19** Battalion training in dunes. Also practising attacks.

20-25 July 1917 Bray-Dunes, most northern commune in France

20 Battalion marched to Bray-Dunes. Sea bathing. **21** Training. **22** Bathing in the sea. **23** Presentation of military medals. **24** Practise attack on strong point with live ammunition. **25** Working party laying pipe lines.

26 July – 9 August 1917 Coxyde

26 Battalion moved to Coxyde. Two Companies on working party. **27** Two Companies on working party digging cable trenches. Battalion moved to camp Jean Bart. **28-29** Working parties day and night. **30** Move to La Panne cancelled. **31** Battalion training specialists. **1** Work impossible owing to heavy rain all day. **2** Heavy rain continued. Outdoor work

impossible. Indoor training carried on. **3** Heavy rain still continued. Indoor work and lectures carried on. **4** Rain. Training. **5-9** Company training.

10-27 August 1917 East Dunkirk, Bray-Dunes

10 Battalion moved to East Dunkirk. **11** Company Training. **13** Cleaning billets ready for inspection. **14** Battalion marched to Bray-Dunes. **15-17** Company training. **18** Battalion moved to Ghyvelde. **20** Battalion training in Divisional attack and consolidation. **21** Battalion went to Bray-Dunes for range practice and bathing and returned to billets in Ghyvelde. **22** Battalion training in 32nd Divisional attack scheme. **23** A and C Companies practised rapid consolidation; B and D Companies musketry and firing. **24** A and C Companies practised musketry and firing; B and D Companies rapid consolidation. **25** 97th Brigade sports. **26** Battalion bathed at Divisional Baths at Pont de Ghyvelde. **27** Battalion moved to Canada Camp.

28 August 1917 Canada Camp

Battalion moved to East Dunkirk as Divisional Reserve.

29 August – 3 September 1917 East Dunkirk

29 Cleaning up billets. **30-31** Company training. Working parties at night. **1** The village was shelled considerably with long-distance high velocity guns. Transport lines were hit and 4 officers' chargers killed. **2** Battalion finding working parties. Operation orders received from Brigade. **3** Battalion relieved 17th Highland Light Infantry in the left sub-sector, St. George's sector. Disposition of Battalion as follows. A Company on the right, B Company on the left, C Company in support, garrisoning 2 farms on the Polders, D Company in Brigade Reserve, acting as carrying parties for the front line Companies.

4-10 September 1917 In the Line

4 Front comparatively quiet. Trenches consist of breast work only and not in a very good state of repair. There is an absolute break between the left Company Front and the right Company Front, caused by a bridge over a large dyke being broken down. 7 men wounded. **5** Comparatively quiet. Slight shelling on left Company front. 1 man killed, 2 wounded. **6** Some 'Minnies' troublesome on left Company front. 1 officer killed and 3 other ranks wounded. **7** Fairly quiet. Gas put over on the Front. Enemy made practically no retaliation. 2 other ranks wounded. **8** Some shelling on the brickworks and left Company front. 2 other ranks killed, 3 other ranks wounded. Operation orders received from Brigade. **9** Quiet. 1 man wounded. **10** Battalion relieved in the line and proceeded to billets in Wulpen.

11-20 September 1917 Wulpen, village in Belgium

11 No one allowed on the streets during the day, owing to enemy balloon observation. Time spent in cleaning billets and working parties by night. **12** Everything quiet. **13-14** Working parties. **15** Battalion relieved 17th Highland Light Infantry in the right sub-sector, St. George's sector. Disposition of Battalion: C Company on the right. D Company on the left. A Company in support at White House and B Company in reserve at Groote Labour Farm. **16** Front quiet. **17** Raid on C Company's lines. Loss 1 other rank killed, 1 other rank wounded. Heavy hostile bombardment on left sub-sector (St. George's and Lombartzyde). A Bosche wounded during raid on C Company was brought into our lines. **18** Germans used megaphone from Alpha Post to C Company post. **19** Germans came out of Alpha Post

towards C Company post. Officer went out from C Company post to meet German who came out of Alpha Post. There was no result from these advances. **20** Battalion relieved by 15th Highland Light Infantry and went into billets at Coxyde.

21 September 1917 Coxyde

Left Coxyde and marched to La Panne in Divisional reserve.

22 September 1917 La Panne, Belgium on the border with France

Left La Panne by sea route for Zudycoote and took over from 14th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

23-24 September 1917 Zudycoote, Nord, west of Bray-Dunes

24 Marched to La Panne by sea route.

25-28 September 1917 La Panne

25-27 Working parties. Companies practised apron fence wiring. **28** Battalion relieved 15th Lancashire Fusiliers as Reserve Battalion in the Lombardtzyde sector.

29 September – 5 October 1917 In the Line

29 Working parties for front line Battalion. B Company carrying party led astray by Highland Light Infantry guide which resulted in 1 other rank being wounded and missing and 1 other rank wounded. 1 other rank killed at Battalion H.Q. **30** Battalion finding working parties. 1 officer and 3 other ranks wounded. 2 other ranks killed, 1 died of wounds. **1** Battalion held left sub-sector of Lombardtzyde sector comprising. 1 officer wounded. 5 other ranks killed. 5 other ranks wounded. **2** 14 other ranks wounded. 1 other rank killed. **3** 2 other ranks killed. 8 other ranks wounded. **4** 1 other rank wounded. **5** 4 other ranks wounded. Battalion relieved and withdrew to Canada Camp.

6 October 1917 Coxyde

Battalion marched to Teteghem.

7-23 October 1917 Teteghem, commune in Nord near Dunkirk

7 Cleaning of equipment and improvement of billets. **8** Selection of training grounds. **9** Company training. Specialist training carried out. **10** Company training for physical drill and rifle firing practices and specialist training. **11-12** Companies practising platoons in the attack and deploying for the attack. **13** Companies at the disposal of Company commanders. Specialist training. **15-17** Companies' physical drill and musketry. Companies on 6-mile route marches. **18** Battalion marched to Fort des Dumes and carried out practice attack, returning to billets. **19-22** Companies carried out 6-mile route marches in full marching order and Company training. **23** Companies training. **24** Battalion marched to Zegers Cappel.

25 October 1917 Zegers Cappel, commune in the Nord Department

Battalion marched to Roubrouck, arriving in billets.

26 October – 9 November 1917 Roubrouck, Belgium

26 Companies cleaning and indoor work. Specialists carried out specialist training. **27** Battalion carried out attack practice. **28** Battalion carried out practice attack. **29** Companies at the disposal of Company commanders. **30-31** Company training. **1-2** Companies training. **4-9** Battalion training.

10-11 November 1917 Winnezeele, commune in the Nord department

10 Battalion marched to Winnezeele. **11** Battalion marched to Road Camp.

12-21 November 1917 Road Camp

12 Inspections and general cleaning up of Camp. **13-21** Battalion training.

22-23 November 1917 Hill Top Farm

22 Battalion marched and entrained to Hill Top Farm. **23** Preparing battle stores and equipment.

24-26 November 1917 Belle Vue

24 Battalion moved up to Belle Vue . A and B Companies relieved the reserve and support companies of the 2nd King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. C Company relieved one Company of the 3rd Middlesex at Miselmack. D Company relieved one Company of the 2nd West Yorkshire. 4 other ranks wounded. **25** A and C Companies withdrew without relief onto B and D Companies at dusk. C and A Companies lost heavily owing to a heavy barrage being put down in the front line. **26** Battalion relieved by the 15th Highland Light Infantry. Battalion then moved to relieve the 17th Highland Light Infantry in the left sub-sector. 3 officers wounded. 12 other ranks killed. 35 other ranks wounded. 7 other ranks missing.

26 November 1917 Westroostbeeke, village in Belgium

Held the line. Situation quiet. B Company captured one prisoner. 8 other ranks wounded. 2 other ranks missing.

27 November 1917 Left sub-sector

Situation quiet. Battalion relieved in the left sub-sector. Battalion moved to Hill Top Farm. 1 other rank killed. 2 other ranks missing.

28-29 November 1917 Hill Top Farm

28 Preparing battle equipment and stores. **29** Preparing battle equipment and stores. Enemy shelled the camp with 4.2 shrapnel at the rate of 6 shells a minute. 2 other ranks wounded.

30 November 1917 Wurst Farm

Battalion left Hill Top Farm. Hostile artillery quiet.

1-3 December 1917 Wesroosebecke, Belgium

1 Forming up positions on the tape prior to the attack. **2** The Battalion made a night attack on the German positions. The Battalion took its objectives until the enemy launched a counter attack and the Battalion fell back onto the old line. **3** Activity normal throughout the day on both sides. The Battalion was relieved. Casualties for the whole action were 4 officers killed, 5 officers missing, 3 officers wounded.

4-8 December 1917 Brake Camp

4 Battalion moved to Brake Camp. **5-8** Reorganisation. Companies at the disposal of Company commanders.

9-17 December 1917 Dambre Camp, Vlamertinghe, west of Leper, Belgium

9 Battalion moved to Dambre Camp. **10-15** Battalion training. **16** Completing of equipment. **17** Battalion moved to Wurst Farm. Relieved 2nd Battalion Enniskillen Fusiliers.

18-20 December 1917 Wurst Farm

18 Battalion on working parties. 2 other ranks wounded. **19** Battalion on working parties. **20** Battalion moved into the front line. 4 other ranks wounded.

21-23 December 1917 In the Line

21 Situation quiet. **22** Situation quiet. 1 officer killed. 1 other rank killed. **23** Situation quiet. 1 officer wounded. Battalion relieved. Battalion proceeded to Siege Camp.

24-29 December 1917 Siege Camp

24 Battalion cleaning up. **25** Companies at the disposal of Company commanders. **26** Physical training and musketry. Companies at the disposal of Company commanders. **27** Battalion bathed. Companies at the disposal of Company commanders. **28** Battalion training. **29** 3 Companies on working parties in forward area. Remaining Company improving and cleaning the camp. **30** Battalion moved to Tournehem.

30 December 1917 – 20 January 1918 Tournehem , commune in Pas-de-Calais department

30 Companies at the disposal of Company commanders. Cleaning of billets, and reconnoitring of training grounds. **1** Physical training. Companies at the disposal of Company commanders. **2** Battalion and specialist training. **3** Brigade holiday. **4-5** Battalion and specialist training. **7** Battalion training and inspection. **8** Battalion inspection cancelled because of snow. **9, 11-12** Battalion carried out defensive training, Lewis guns on range. **10** Battalion carried out defensive training, wiring. **14-16** Battalion marched to B Range and carried out firing practice. **17** All officers and N.C.O.'s marking out defensive positions, special attention being paid to outpost line defence. **18** Battalion took up positions as marked out. **19** All Companies on the Range. Transport moved by road for Langemarck. **20** Battalion proceeded to Caribou Camp.

21-25 January 1918 Caribou Camp

21 Cleaning and improvement of Camp. **22** Battalion training. **23-24** Companies each reorganized into 4 platoons. **25** Battalion left for La Bergerie Camp.

26-27 January 1918 La Bergerie Camp

26 A Company moved to Wood 16 and C Company moved to Tilleul Wood and relieved 2 Companies of the 8th Battalion Royal Berkshires as Brigade Reserve. **27** A and C Companies moved forward and relieved the remaining 2 Companies of the 8th Battalion Royal Berkshires in the front line. B and D Companies left La Bergerie Camp and took over the Reserve positions vacated by A and C Companies. Night very quiet.

28-31 January – 1 February 1918 In the Line

28 Our artillery strafed the enemy positions with gas shells for half an hour, retaliation very slight, remainder of day quiet. **29** Quiet, slight shelling around Catinat and Mondoy Farm. **30** Quiet. Shelling very slight. **31** Very quiet. **1** Battalion in the line on the right of the Belgians. Outpost line consists of series of posts. By day no movement possible in forward area. By night, all men possible work on wire, improving posts, remainder carry food and material. **2** Battalion relieved and moved into Bosinge Camp. No work, general cleaning and parade for foot treatment.

3-4 February 1918 Boezinge Camp, Belgium

4 Baths for half the Battalion. Battalion moved forward into the line in the same sector as before.

5-18 February 1918 In the field

5 Sector has been quiet. Wiring has been carried on by night very difficult as nights are so dark. Patrolling also very difficult on account of darkness and bad condition of ground. **6** Enemy were active with artillery and machine guns. C Company relieved left Company of King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. **7** Sector quiet as usual. Hot meals served at night. Front post shelled. **8** Everything quiet by day. Wiring and working by night. Battalion complimented on improvements in defences generally. **9** Battalion moved back into Brigade Reserve near Canal Bank. Billets scattered and small. Day spent in cleaning up. Large draft of officers and men joined from our 6th Battalion. **10** Companies at disposal of Commanding Officers. Specialist training. **11** Companies spent the day working in reserve area on machine gun emplacements and shelters. Kit inspection. **12** Billets improved. Lewis gunners, signallers and observers on specialist training. **13** Men work about 6 hours per day while specialists continue training. **14** Work on fortifications in the neighbourhood of our billets. **15** Very little during the day. At night, Companies working in forward area, building posts, laying tracks and wiring. Specialists carried on training. **16** Working parties by night as usual. Cleaning up and kit inspection by day. Specialist training as usual. **17** By night all Companies worked in forward area, except 60 men of C Company who had volunteered for raid tomorrow night. **18** Nothing done all day except specialist training. At night raiding party of 2 officers and 60 other ranks carried out raid on enemy posts in three parties. Heavy artillery barrage for eight minutes preparatory to advance. Right and left parties reached objective and penetrated 150 yards behind enemy's front system. Centre party unfortunately struck machine gun unscathed by barrage, and had 1 officer killed and 1 N.C.O. wounded. 12 of the enemy ascertained to be dead, one machine gun bombed and put out of action, one wounded prisoner brought in.

19 February – 3 March 1918 Woeston, [Belgium]

19 Battalion moved to Vandamme Camp. **20** Cleaning up, improvements of billets. Camp scattered, consisting of old shelters and a few huts. **21** Companies working in battle zone. Took over 4 A.A. Lewis gun positions. Congratulated on account of recent raid. **22** Companies working on Army line repairing pillboxes and making other defences. Specialist training as usual. **23** Men are working well on railways and shelters. Specialist training as usual. **24** Local cinemas etc. patronised in the afternoon. Men have been bathed, de-loused and issued with straw, palliases and an extra blanket. **25** Companies at the disposal of Company commanders for musketry, bombing and Lewis gun training. Battalion played football and lost by one goal. **26** Companies working again in battle zone. Officers reconnoitred the part which we would occupy in case of attack. **28** Battalion working in battle zone. **1** Companies training on the range, and in open fighting. Signallers, snipers, Lewis gun gunners carry on independently. **2** Advance parties leave for the trenches. **3** Preparations before going into line. Relieved 15 L.F. in no. 1 sector of no. 1 Boulevard. A and D Companies in line, B and C Companies in support.

4-13 March 1918 In the Line

4 Quiet, except for machine guns in track by night, and trench mortars. Officers' patrols located wire and machine guns. **5** Artillery active. B Company moved into line. B, A and D Companies hold line in depth. C is in reserve. B, A and D Companies each have 6 posts. Wiring and working by night. **6** Quiet except for artillery on main line posts. No movement possible in front area by day. **7** Artillery active. Relieved at night. Battalion moved into Brigade Reserve. **8** Battalion stood to in consequence of a raid. Preparations to move forward tomorrow. **9** Preparations and conferences. Battalion relieved 17th R.S. B and C Companies hold line of posts. **10** Listening post in front of no. 6 post raided. 1 man captured and 1 man wounded. Enemy quiet by day. Machine guns active by night. **10/11** A party of 15 of the enemy armed with revolvers rushed no 15 post. Covered by machine gun barrage, they crept into the first taking 4 prisoners. One man escaped with Lewis gun. **11** Enemy quiet by day. Active on tracks with machine guns by night. 3 officers' patrols left posts 19, 15 and 11 and obtained useful information regarding enemy wire and machine guns. Aircraft very active. Enemy shelled and our artillery retaliated effectively on enemy machine guns by night. **12** Artillery activity above normal. Enemy shelled and our artillery retaliated effectively on enemy machine guns by night. 2 officers' patrols left posts 11 and 19 and gained valuable information. Another officers' patrol left post 3, proceeded along the railway and obtained useful intelligence. **13** Quiet by day. Enemy put down a heavy trench mortar and machine gun barrage on front line of posts. A party of the enemy attempted to raid our posts. Posts 17, 18 and 19 were heavily shelled but none of the raiders reached them. 1 officer wounded and missing. 1 other rank killed. 12 other ranks wounded and missing. 6 other ranks wounded.

14-17 March 1918 Brigade Reserve

14 Battalion moved into Brigade Reserve and Companies scattered in shelters. Men resting by day and working in Army Zone by night. **15** 2 Companies bathed and 2 Companies working in Army Zone. Working parties cancelled owing to heavy bombardment. **16** 2 Companies worked on Corps line by day – the other 2 Companies bathed and worked in Corps line by night. Conferences held regarding projected raid. **17** Men resting by day and preparing to move forward into the line again. 4 officers and 60 other ranks chosen to carry out raid in the near future. **17/18** Battalion relieved 10th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in no. 1 sector of no. 1 Brigade. Raiding officers did patrols over the area to be covered by raiders.

18-21 March 1918 In the Line

18 Quiet except for trench mortars and machine gun fire on tracks by night. A and D Companies hold outpost line, C Company in support and B Company in reserve. Each post is held by 1 N.C.O. and 6 men. No movement by day. Wiring and working by night. Hot food carried up twice nightly to all posts by B Company. **19** Quiet. Wiring and work by night. Patrol reconnoitred ground between posts 15 and 17. Aircraft active. **20** Hostile artillery active. Raid carried out on enemy posts by 3 officers and 60 other ranks. Party was divided into 3 sections. Raiders advanced under heavy barrage but met with stubborn machine gun resistance. They pushed forward to within bombing distance of the machine guns which were unscathed by barrage, but had to withdraw after accounting for a few of the enemy. 1 officer and 1 other rank wounded and missing, 1 other rank killed and 1 other rank wounded. **21** Quiet except for gas bombardment of back areas. Battalion relieved and marched back to Canal Bank and Brigade moved into Divisional Reserve. Raiders rejoined the rest of the Battalion.

22-25 March 1918 Divisional Reserve, Canal Bank

22 Cleaning up after tour in line. Battalion concentrated in shelters along Canal Bank. 1 Company working party. 2 Companies bathed. **23** 2 Companies in range. 1 Company bathing and 1 on working party. **24** Warning of move. Shelling in vicinity of billets. **25** Training recommenced. Companies at the disposal of Company commanders. 1 Company working.

26 March 1918 Wanquetin, commune in Pas-de-Calais department

Battalion moved to Wanquetin and encamped in huts. Battle stores issued before departure from Canal Bank.

27 March 1918 Ransart, commune in Pas-de-Calais department

Practised attack. Marched by night to Ransart, where Battalion rested in sunken road until morning.

28 March – 3 April 1918 In the Field

28 Battalion moved to occupy old trenches, 2 Companies in reserve, 2 Companies on right flank. Rear Companies moved forward. Men dug shelters in the side of old trenches. **29** Brigade in reserve. Trenches improved. **30** Brigade relieved. Battalion moved forward to advanced positions and relieved Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scots Guards in line. D, B and C Companies are forward and A in reserve. **31** Quiet except for snipers and machine guns at night. Our snipers claim to have killed at least [half the] enemy. Identifications of 466 [Germans] received. **1** The Battalion is holding the line. D, B and C Companies in the front line; each holds 3-5 outposts and a length of old German trench behind to accommodate their supports. A Company in reserve along a sunken road behind the front line. Day quiet except for shelling. Enemy planes active. Wiring by night. Wounded prisoner captured by B Company and numerous identifications brought in from dead Germans. **2** Heavy shelling of C Company's lines causing a few casualties. Day otherwise quiet. Snipers very active, numerous hits observed. Aeroplanes active. Patrols report on various enemy posts. A Company relieved C Company who moved into reserve. Wiring by night. **3** Enemy reported massing in front of B Company. Later 500-600 seen leaving trench in small parties; they were probably reinforcements rushed up to hold up expected attack. Day quiet. **3/4** Battalion relieved and moved to Purple Line.

4-7 April 1918 Purple Line

4 B, C and D Companies in trenches. A Company in shelters. Day wet, spent in improving trenches and shelters. Wiring by night. **5** Another wet, miserable day. Trenches in bad condition. Shelling of valley. Wiring by night. **6** Weather brighter. Men clean up and have a chance to recuperate after a long spell in the line. Officers look round the new sector. **7** Day quiet. Advance parties proceed to take over from 2nd King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Transport heavily shelled and 7 other ranks wounded. **7/8** A and B Companies in line, C in support and D in reserve.

8-16 April 1918 In the Line

8 Work in hand during the whole tour, wiring in front of posts by night cutting old Boche wire by day and waiting in readiness for an enemy attack any hour. Day quiet. Patrols at night located various enemy posts. **9** Enemy patrol surprised outside our wire and fired on. Party retired, but came on again and gave themselves up. Battalion got 4 prisoners. Hostile artillery active. **10** Day quiet. Enemy appeared to be regathering in tracks and roads. Patrols located enemy posts. Good results obtained from outposts. 90 coils of wire put out by night. **11** Day quiet except for shelling of front line. Protective and reconnoitring patrols were out as usual. From outposts movement and working was seen in enemy outposts. D Company relieved A Company and C Company relieved B Company. C Company's old positions in support were abandoned. B Company occupied old reserve positions and A Company moved into Brigade Reserve and dug themselves in. **12** Artillery active on both sides. Much enemy movement seen and various posts and trenches reported to Brigade and artillery. Aeroplanes and snipers active. Usual patrols and wiring by night. **13** Visibility poor, and little activity on either side. Men occupied by day bathing in Nissen huts, carrying forward material and improving shelters. Little wiring by night on account of intense darkness. A Company commenced wiring in front of their reserve posts. **14** Our artillery active, but many rounds of shrapnel falling short of enemy posts. Slight retaliation. Visibility good and various posts and parties of enemy reported. Wiring. **15** Artillery active on both sides. Posts fired on by artillery. Patrols out as usual and wiring continued at night. Companies continued bathing. Wiring. **16** Visibility poor. Day quiet. Battalion Reserve Company dug fire positions in front of their bank. **16/17** Battalion relieved and moved back into Brigade reserve.

17-20 April 1918 Brigade Reserve

17 C and D Companies in trenches and embankments, B Company in Purple Line and A Company with the Brigade. Companies resting and cleaning up. Battalion is in reserve ready to man Purple Line in case of enemy attack. Other ranks established at Adinfer, commune in Pas-de-Calais department. **18-19** Rain interfered with training. Bathing commenced. Men are getting new clothing and boots repaired and are greatly benefitted by rest. No shelling. **20** Day spent quietly in preparation for going into line tonight. Officers and advanced parties reconnoitred the line. No shelling. Battalion finished bathing. Battalion relieved 2nd King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in the left sub-sector. A and B Companies going into the front line, D into support and C into reserve.

21-25 April 1918 In the Line

21 Battalion holding the line comprising 11 outposts and 10 pickets. Enemy quiet but aircraft active. Our patrols were very active by night. Forward and Reserve Companies moved very little by day but spent the night wiring. Support Company engaged in carrying. **22** Enemy quiet by day but seen moving about by day in the distance. Our patrol and wiring parties

active by night. **23** Heavy shelling, day otherwise quiet. Enemy found close to no. 10 post. At night, C and D Companies relieved B and A Companies respectively. **24** Hostile artillery more active by day. Attempted raid on enemy post in front of no. 10 [post] failed because Stokes [gun] barrage overshot the post and enemy saw the party in the moonlight. **25** Preparations for relief. Guards reconnoitred the line. Enemy quiet. **25/26** Guards relieved Battalion at night. Battalion marched and embussed to Lahertie.

26-30 April 1918 Lahertie

26 Battalion is billeted in a scattered village about 10 miles from the line and is at 1 hour's notice to move. Men are billeted in barns and huts, officers in houses. Cleaning up, reclothing and replacing deficiencies. Assembly position reconnoitred. **27** Training commenced. Football competition arranged. **28** First round of the football competition, four teams of our Battalion all lost. **29-30** Company training. Concert held in B Company billet.

11th Border Regiment will be in Brigade Reserve at Rendezvous A. (Valley south-west of Berles, commune in Pas-de-Calais department). 25 April 1918.

27 April 1918 Order from Col. R.L. Beasley

'The 11th Battalion the Border Regiment in Brigade Reserve will be formed up in 2 lines. 2 Companies in the first line and 2 Companies in the second line behind the crest of the hill. Each Company in artillery formations by platoons at 40 yards intervals. 50 yards distance between first and second lines.'

1-3 May 1918 La Herliere, commune in Pas-de-Calais department

1 Battalion and Company training. **2** Battalion and Company training. Night operations **3** Battalion moved from La Herliere.

4-9 May 1918 Berles-au-Bois, commune in Pas-de-Calais department

4 Battalion billeted in barns. Company training. **5-6** Company training. **7** Company training. Presentation of medals. **8** Company training. **9** Company training. WE CEASE TO BE KNOWN AS THE 11TH BORDER REGIMENT AND ARE NOW 1/5TH BORDER REGIMENT. 10 officers and 123 other ranks joined.

9/10 May 1918 L'Arbret, north east of L'Herliere in Pas-de-Calais department

At midnight the 5th and 11th Battalions of the Border Regiment were amalgamated and after amalgamation, a training cadre of 10 officers and 51 other ranks was joined and designated 11th Battalion the Border Regiment.

12 May 1918 Feuquieres, commune in the Oise department

Cadre left 32nd Division and proceeded by train to Feuquieres to join the 66th Division.

13-20 May 1918 Maisinieres, commune in the Somme department

13 Marched to billets. **14-19** Training the cadre in their duties waiting for 328th U.S. Infantry Regiment to arrive. **13-19** The 11th Battalion of the Border Regiment was under the administration of 198 Infantry Brigade. **20** Transferred to 199 Infantry Brigade.

22-29 May 1918 Buigny, commune in the Somme department

22 Cadre moved to Buigny. Training commenced and continued daily on training area in very fine weather indeed. **29** Cadre of 11th Battalion inspected by General Pershing and Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig on training area. Progress satisfactory.

1-18 June 1918 Pende

1 Cadre moved to Pende with 1st Battalion 328 Infantry Regiment (American). 1 Company of the cadre proceeded to Sellenelle to 320 American Machine Gun Battalion. 1 Company cadre proceeded to Estreboeuf, (commune in the Somme department) to 320 American Machine Gun Battalion. Training continued, chiefly musketry. **5** One Company cadre rejoined Battalion cadre. Training continued in glorious weather and good progress made. **16-18** Cadre continued its own training – refresher courses.

18 June 1918 Mons –Boubert, commune in the Somme department

4 officers and 2 Company cadres proceeded to Mons-Boubert.

19 June 1918 Franleu and Miannay, communes in the Somme department

The cadre moved to Franleu. 4 officers and 2 Company cadres to Miannay. Training proceeded in glorious weather.

22 June 1918 Doullens, commune in the Somme department

The cadre marched to Doullens.

22/23 June 1918 Oneux, Belgium and Coulor Villers

2 Companies to Oneux, (Belgium); 2 Companies to Coulor Villers.

23/24 June 1918

2 Companies to Heuzecourt, (commune in the Somme department); 2 Companies to Le Meillard, commune in the Somme department).

24 June 1918 Doullens

24 Arrived; billets in the town. **25-26** Training continued – weather good.

27 June – 18 July 1918 Ailly Le Haut Clocher, commune in the Somme department

27 The whole cadre left Doullens and marched to Ailly Le Haut Clocher. **29** Training proceeded. **1-18** Training with 1st Battalion 130th Infantry, U.S.A.

20-21 July 1918 Epagne, commune in the Aube department

20 Moved to Epagne. **21** Received orders to move to Abancourt – Serquex area.

22-31 July 1918 Abancourt, commune in the Somme department

Entrained for Abancourt. Marched to camp. **24** Orders received for 11th Battalion of the Border Regiment to be disbanded and to proceed to base. **25** Orders for disbandment cancelled. **26-29** Training. **29** Orders received for Warrant Officers, N.C.O.'s, some of the cadres to proceed to join the 1/5th Battalion, Border Regiment and for the Battalion to be disbanded from 26 July 1918, date of departure. **31** 11th Battalion Border Regiment proceeded by train to join the 1/5th Border Regiment.

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