

1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment War Diaries (August to December 1914)

Introduction:

In August 1914 the 1st Battalion was in Londonderry, Ireland. At the outbreak of War it became part of 15th Brigade, 5th Division.

The 5th Division was commanded by Major-General Sir C. Ferguson, Bt., C.B. and comprised of the 13th, 14th and 15th Infantry Brigades, plus Brigades of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers. Together with the 3rd Division this made up the 2nd Army Corps, commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir James (Jimmy) Moncrieff Grierson, until his death on 17 August 1914, of a heart attack in the train taking him to the front.



On the recommendation of Field marshal Earl Kitchener the King approved, on the 18th August, the appointment of General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien (picture left) as Commander of 2nd Corps

When war was declared in August 1914, this regular army Division (5th) was in barracks in Ireland. It moved immediately to France, following pre-war planning. The men of the original units were amongst the first to see action, at Mons on 23 August 1914.

The 15th Brigade comprised of:

1st Bn, the Norfolks

1st Bn, the Bedfords

1st Bn, the Cheshires

1st Bn, the Dorsets left December 1915

1/6th Bn, the Cheshires joined December 1914, left March 1915

1/6th Bn, the King's (Liverpool) - joined February 1915, left November 1915

16th (Service) Bn, the Royal Warwicks - joined December 1915, left October 1918

15th Brigade Machine Gun Company - formed on 27 December 1915, moved into 5 MG Bn 26 April 1918

15th Trench Mortar Battery - formed April 1916

The Battalion War Diary:

Key: Bde. = Brigade; Bn. = Battalion; Coy. = Company

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action / Comment</u>
4 th August	4.0 p.m. Received order for General Mobilisation
5 th August	1 st Day of Mobilisation
6 th August	2 nd Day of Mobilisation. 100 Reservists joined from Regimental Depot, Chester
7 th August	3 rd Day of Mobilisation. 406 Reservists joined from Regimental Depot, Chester. 3 Officers and 15 N.C.O.s proceeded to Chester in connection with formation of new units.
8 th August	4 th Day of Mobilisation. 48 Reservists joined from Regimental Depot, Chester
9 th August	5 th Day of Mobilisation
10 th August	6 th Day of Mobilisation. Mobilisation complete
11 th August	Awaiting Embarkation for active service abroad
12 th August	
13 th August	
14 th August	6.0 a.m. Lieut. Col. D C Boger, 13 other Officers & 489 other ranks entrained for Belfast at Foyle Road Station, G.N.R. 6.30 a.m. Major B H Chetwynd-Stapylton, 12 other Officers & 491 other Ranks entrained for Belfast at Foyle Road Station, G.N.R. 9.15 a.m. Arrived at Belfast, marched to York Docks awaiting embarkation 3.30 p.m. Embarked on Anchor Liner S.S. "Massilia", and put to sea under sealed orders.
15 th August	At sea on S.S. "Massilia",
16 th August	4.0 p.m. Disembarked at Havre, France and moved out to rest camp.
17 th August	11.0 p.m. Marched back to Havre and entrained. Sgt. Pilgrim and Pte Jarvis admitted to Hospital.
18 th August	8.30 p.m. Arrived at Le Cateau. Detrained and proceeded to POMMEREUIL. Lieut. C de W Woodyer remained at Le Cateau sick
19 th August	<u>AT POMMEREUIL</u> Remained in billets at Pommereuil. Route marching under Company Commanders.
20 th August	Privates G Robinson, Swindells, Wood & Armstrong admitted to Hospital
21 st August	5.45. a.m. Battalion paraded and marched to Commegries at which place Battalion was billeted. Eight N.C.O.s and men admitted to Hospital

22 nd August	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COMMEGRIES</u></p> <p>6.30 a.m. Marched to Bois de Boussu arriving at 2.0 p.m. Billeted in this town.</p> <p>Eleven men admitted to Hospital.</p>
23 rd August	<p>At noon 'A' & 'B' Coys moved out and entrenched a position 1½ miles East of Bois de Boussu facing North & North West under Lt Col Boger</p> <p>At 8 p.m. 'C' & 'D' Coys moved to Hornu under Major Stapylton and took up and commenced to entrench a position facing North East astride the Mons Road.</p>
24 th August	<p>At 3 a.m. 'C' & 'D' Coys rejoined 'A' & 'B' Coys</p> <p>At 8 a.m. The Manchester Regt. relieved us.</p> <p>At 10 a.m. The Battalion marched to Dour Station arriving there at 11.45 a.m.</p> <p>11.45 a.m. The G.O.C. 5th Division gave Col Ballard, Norfolk Regt, orders to take the Cheshire Regt, Norfolk Regt and 119th Battery and take up a position N. West along the Elouges – Audregnies road and act as a flank guard to the Manchesters and the troops entrenched round Wasmes in their retirement.</p> <p>1.00 p.m. In position Norfolk right on the Railway Embankment. Cheshire right on the 4th Kilo stone. 'D' Coy Cheshire left, 'D' Coy holding the village of Audregnies – Order of Coys 'B', 'A', 'C' 'D'.</p> <p>Masses of the enemy were seen moving out of Quievrain and their artillery and machine guns opened a very hot fire on the Infantry and Cavalry and R.H.A. who were operating against the German Cavalry in the valley 1¼ miles to the S.E. of Quievrain.</p> <p>2.30 p.m. I am informed Col Ballard gave orders for all troops to retire in an Easterly direction – these orders never reached the 2 front platoons of 'D' Coy under command of Capt W S Rich, who held on to the position he had reached in front of the line till 4 p.m. by which hour all troops had retired.</p> <p>Lieut W G R Elliot behaved with great gallantry in returning during the retirement and carrying away a wounded man under intensely hot fire, he being shot through ankles when within 3 yards of the sunken road to which he eventually took this man – Lt Elliot was left on the field (witness Corporal Oford, 1/Cheshire Regt)</p> <p>4.45 p.m. About 100 men were collect in Athis</p> <p>1.00 p.m. At roll call in Bivouac at Les Bavay there were 6 Officers, a Warrant Officer and 199 men – The strength marching out at 7.30 a.m. on the morning of 24th inst was 27 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 933 men – A loss of 78% most of which was caused in the withdrawal.</p> <p>Attached is Field Return A B 213 giving names of Officers Reported Killed, Wounded or Missing in the actions of Aug 24th & 26th.</p>
25 th August	<p>2.0 a.m. Left Les Bavay and marched to Le Cateau thence to bivouac at La Sotiere at 3 p.m. (24 miles). 'A' Coy in the</p>

	trenches till 3.30 a.m. 26 th inst.
26 th August	<p>3.0 a.m. Stood to arms at 3.0 a.m. – reserve Battalion to the 15th Brigade in position ½ mile East of Troisville</p> <p>6.0 a.m. Action commenced – Battalion used in reserve and covered the retirement of the remainder of the Brigade and the K.O.S.B.s – Heavily shelled in the withdrawal in the direction of Marets – shooting of the German Artillery magnificent though few casualties.</p> <p>5.0 p.m. Retirement ordered.</p>
27 th August	5.0 p.m. Reached <i>Eaucourt</i> and bivouacked – a 38 mile march from the battlefield done in hours.
28 th August	<p><u>EAUCOURT</u></p> <p>6.0 a.m. Left Eaucourt reached Pontoise at 6 p.m. (17½ miles) a very hot march</p>
29 th August	6.40 p.m. Left Pontoise halted for 2 hours at Charlepont
30 th August	10.0 a.m. Reached Crontcy at 10 a.m. 30 th inst
31 st August	7.30 a.m. Left Crontcy and marched to Crépy arriving at 6 p.m.
	J.L. SHORE Capt.
1 st September	<p><u>CRÉPY – DUVY</u></p> <p>6.0 a.m. Battalion moved off in support of the outposts of the Bedfordshire Regt in the direction of Duvy. Subsequently retired to Crépy at 7.30 a.m.</p> <p>8.0 a.m. and then marched to Duvy as advanced to the Brigade which was left Flank Guard to the 5th Div. Battalion held Duvy and sent strong reconnoitering patrols to N.W. & S.</p> <p>10.0 a.m. Battalion ordered to hold the ravine between Sery and Duvy to protect the left flank of the Division at Crépy whilst the rest of the Brigade attacked towards Sery to help the 6th Division. This movement was quickly countermanded as the Brigade about Crépy was reported hard pressed and a retirement ordered in the direction of Ormoy. The Battalion was ordered to retire as rear guard to the Brigade.</p> <p>Battalion was much scattered and a mounted Officer had to gallop from Duvy to West side of ravine opposite Sery to bring in 'D' Coy – Two messengers and a mounted Officer failed to find 'A' Coy on the East side of the ravine at Sery, and as all troops were withdrawing from under shell fire 'A' Coy were supposed to be with them.</p> <p>11.0 a.m. 15th Brigade retired to Ormoy and took up a position facing West along the railway as left flank guard to the Division.</p> <p>8.0 p.m. Reached Nanteuil-le-Handoun at 8 p.m. and bivouacked. 'A' Coy arrived at 9 p.m. 2nd Lt Lewson being slightly wounded. He had refused to retire without C.O.'s orders even when troops on his right and left had retired and when he found all had gone and in an unknown direction he went on a civilian cycle in search of information and was winged by the Uihans – 2nd Lt Lewson got his men away safely in</p>

	spite of his wound. (12 miles)
2 nd September	<u>NANTEUIL-LE-HANDOUN</u> ("Haudouin" – Ed.) 3.45 a.m. Marched to Montge arriving there at 12 noon. 2 nd Lt Lewson transferred to 14 th Field Ambulance (14 miles)
3 rd September	<u>MONTGE</u> 5.30 a.m. Marched to St Germain, arriving about 4 p.m. – Battalion was the left of the 2 nd Army Outpost line and held the villages of St Germain, Couilly with a detached Post at the star roads at Dainville.
4 th September	<u>ST GERMAIN</u> 10.0 a.m. Divisional Conference 10 a.m. at Bouleurs. Orders to move reached Division at 10 a.m. Troops kept waiting to move at short notice till 10 p.m. as Rear Guard and reached Gagny at 9 a.m. Sept 5 th .
5 th September	<u>GAGNY</u> 4.0 p.m. Reinforced by Lt Hartford, 1 Ches Regt and 90 other ranks at 4 p.m.
6 th September	7-5 p.m. Marched to Villeneuve arrived 9.15 a.m. bivouacked. Left at 1.15 p.m. arrived Mortcerf 5 p.m. left 7 p.m. arrived Montlevon 8.30 p.m. Received news this day of the German General retirement in disorder.
7 th September	<u>MONTLEVON</u> 12.15 p.m. Left Montlevon and marched to Trouchet. Here 'C' & 'D' Coys were detailed to drive a wood in an easterly direction to a point at Mouroux. Pte. Hall & Pte. Woods both wounded by shells fired by our own Artillery into the wood whilst the men were being lined up to drive it. Reached Boisay-le-Chatel at 7.30 p.m. Ptes Hall & Woods transferred to Field Ambulance. I was given orders direct from a Staff Officer of the 5 th Div to execute this drive. The shells fired by our Artillery into this wood were fired by orders of Brig Gen Cuthbertson – They were fired directly against the line of advance of the 15 th Infantry Brigade Group – This wood had been searched by the Lancs. that morning. On our searching it again 6 dead men of that Regt were found and their pay books taken by Capt Rich.
8 th September	<u>BOISSY-LE-CHATEL</u> 7.53 a.m. Arrived Charnesseuil at 7 p.m. – 15 th Brigade in Reserve to 13 th & 14 th Brigade. 3 rd Div on our right seemed to be having a good fight about 4 p.m. the Grenadier Company on outposts caught a German Guardsman – he could speak English. He said we only had one Guards Battalion against the Division today and they kept us back for the whole day.
9 th September	<u>CHARNESSEUIL</u> 8.0 a.m. Left at 8 a.m. and marched via Sancy to Bezu-le-Query – Battalion shelled near Bezu and lost 3 men, I killed and 2 seriously wounded. Brigade on outposts.

10 th September	<p><u>BEZU-LE-QUERY</u> ("Guery" – Ed.)</p> <p>3.45 a.m. Left via Montreuil – (Here the Battalion took some wounded prisoners) Dhuisy, Germigny & Gandelu. On the road 1 mile S.W. of Chezy we came to the debris of a German column that had been scuppered by 'J' Battery R.H.A. at Hautevesnes. Arrived in bivouac at Louvry near St Quentin at 7 p.m. and Officers bivouacked in the deserted and burnt out kennels.</p> <p>The 2nd Army this day took 600 prisoners, 6 guns and several machine guns.</p>
11 th September	<p><u>ST QUENTIN</u></p> <p>8.15 a.m. Left for St Reny arriving at 6 p.m. wet through. Took with a starving hound which had returned to the Kennels. Christened him Louvry.</p>
12 th September	<p><u>ST RENY</u></p> <p>5.53 a.m. Left for Fe de L'Epitaphe reaching there 1 p.m. bivouacked in the farm after dark. Very wet night. A very big battle was going on to the North West along the River Aisne this day.</p>
13 th September	<p><u>FE DE L'EPITAPHE</u></p> <p>4.0 a.m. To Mont de Soissons farm leaving there at 6.30 a.m... Reached Serches high ground at 8 a.m. Found a large cave capable of containing the Battalion and horses under cover from shell fire. Off at 8 p.m. to the River Aisne.</p>
14 th September	<p><u>RIVER AISNE</u></p> <p>1:0 a.m. Crossed river in pontoons at Min des Roche & bivouacked in a field immediately to the North of it till daylight. We then marched to Ste. Marguerite which was shelled. At about 12 noon e advanced to Missy reaching it at about 2 p.m. At 4.0 p.m. about 6 Coys of Norfolks, Bedfords, East Surrey and D.C.L.(/.) were ordered to make an attack on Chivres Hill Pt. 132 to start at 4.30 p.m.</p> <p>The Cheshires were in Reserve lining the Northern edge of Missy – This attack failed though Col Longley remained in a position on the hills till he was ordered to retire by G.O.C. 14th Brigade. The Battalion held the village of Missy that night with outposts thrown out in front. Supply wagons brought right up to Missy that night i.e. within 200 yards of the enemy's position and got away safely.</p>
15 th September	<p><u>MISSY</u></p> <p>6.0 a.m. Norfolks and Bedfords reinforced us in Missy and an attack was ordered on Chivres Hill after the guns had shelled the lower slopes. Before this could take place Missy was shelled by the very heavy artillery brought up for the siege of Paris.</p> <p>The Battalion held on to all the defences of Missy till 6 p.m. when the Norfolks took over the Western half and there was a hot fire coming into the village from the woods on Chevres Hill all day. About 8.30 p.m. the East Surrey Regt arrived to take over the whole village. Whilst they were taking over one of their sentries gave the alarm which caused a good deal of confusion in the Village. A rapid fire was opened on the Wood at once and the enemy replied but from the shouts of the Germans and their throwing white lights it was clear they</p>

	were expecting an attack and the shouting was to keep the men in the trenches.
16 th September	4.0 a.m. Handed over the defences to The West Ridings and marched over the Pontoon bridge at Min des Roches to Le Mesnil Mill reaching there at 5 a.m. We were sorry to find that the hound Louvry had broken loose that morning during the shell fire. ½ Bn entrenched a position S. of River Aisne at night. The following Officers arrived at 10.45 a.m. at the Mill: Capt. F B Young; Capt F L Lloyd; Capt E R Harbord; 2 Lt J A Greenhalgh; 2 Lt J O Sidebotham; 2 Lt C W Leicester; 2 Lt J L Trevitt; 2 Lt W Thomas and their servants
17 th September	<u>LE MESNIL MILL</u> Remained at the Mill all day – The Bn finished entrenching the position S. of River Aisne.
18 th September	<u>LE MESNIL</u> Battalion moved up from the Mill to Billets in Mesnil
19 th September	6.30 p.m. 3 Coys under Capt Young occupied the line of trenches S. of the River Aisne. 'D' Coy remained in Le Mesnil.
20 th September	7.30 p.m. 'A', 'B' & 'C' Coys relieved from the trenches – 'D' & 'A' Coys moved to Serches to entrench 8.30 p.m. to 1.30 a.m. 21 st inst.
21 st September	3.30 a.m. 'B' & 'C' Coys moved to Serches to entrench returning at 8 a.m. At 8.30 p.m. 'A', 'B' & 'C' Coys occupied the trenches at Sermoise
22 nd September	7.0 a.m. ½ of Coy continued entrenching at Serches. At 9.30 p.m. the Companies on outposts were relieved.
23 rd September	11.0 a.m. 'A', 'B' & 'C' Coys were entrenching astride the Mesnil Valley
24 th September	2.0 p.m. 'A', 'C' & 'D' Coys occupied the trenches at Sermoise – 'B' Coy improved their defences astride the Mesnil Valley. The following Officers arrived today: Captain L A Forster, Res of Off.; Captain S Butterworth, 3 rd Ches; 2 Lt H S Stalker, Res of Off.; 2 Lt L B J Pogson, 1/Ches Regt and 21 men
25 th September	6.30 p.m. The Coys in the trenches were relieved by the Suffolk Regt & the Battalion marched out at 6.30 p.m. crossing the Aisne. Bivouacked on the North Bank as Battalion in reserve to 15 th Inf. Brigade. In accordance with Divisional Orders Capt J B Young was appointed Temporary Major & assumed command of the Battalion.
26 th September	<u>ST MARGUERITE</u> Improved shelter trenches and the Battalion proceeded at 8 p.m. to make entrenchments in vicinity of La Bizaie.
27 th September	'A' & 'D' Coys proceeded to put 15 th Brigade Headquarters in a state of defence at 7.30 a.m.

28 th September	7.0 p.m. 'B' Coy digging trenches.
29 th September	11.0 a.m. 'B' Coy preparing Bomb proofs at Brigade Headquarters. 7.0 p.m. 'A', 'C' & 'D' Coys digging trenches East of bivouac.
30 th September	Parades under O.C. Coys. <p style="text-align: right;">F. B. YOUNG Major Comdg. 1st Cheshire Regt.</p>
1 st October	<u>ST MARGUERITE</u> 11.0 p.m. Remained in Billets. Company Parades, etc
2 nd October	<u>JURY</u> Arrived in Jury at 1 a.m. having crossed by Pontoon Bridge and went into original billets. 7.0 p.m. Left for DROIZY where we went into Billets.
3 rd October	<u>BROIZY</u> 6.15 p.m. Marched to LONGPONT. Billeted at LA GRILLE Farm
4 th October	<u>LONGPONT</u> 7.15 p.m. Marched via COURCY to PONTDRUN
5 th October	<u>PONTDRUN</u> Remained in Billets. Major C B Vandeleur, 1 st Battn. The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) joined the Battalion and assumed Command
6 th October	2.40 p.m. Marched at 2.40 p.m. & reached billets in VERBERIE at 11 p.m.
7 th October	<u>VERBERIE</u> 5.30 a.m. Marched at 5.30 a.m. Reached PONT ST. MEXENCEAT 8.0 a.m. Commenced training with Hdqrs. Of Bde. & Hdqrs. No. 4. train at 9.0 a.m. and completed 10.30 a.m. Train left at 12.40 p.m. and arrived ABBEVILLE about 8.30 p.m. Commenced to detrain at 10.30 completed 12.45 a.m. and marched to billets in NEUILLY-L'HOSPITAL arriving about 3.30 a.m.
8 th October	<u>NEUILLY-L'HOSPITAL</u> 6.30 p.m. Marched to BOUFFLERS and billeted about midnight.
9 th October	<u>BOUFFLERS</u> 4.40 p.m. Marched to HARAVESNES and billeted about 8 p.m.
10 th October	<u>HARAVESNES</u> 2.0 p.m. Embussed at FILLIEVRES and proceeded at LA THIEULOYE to billet at 6.0 p.m. Light entrenching tools completed to 48 per Coy.
11 th October	7.5 <u>THIEULOYE</u> Marched to BETHUNE and went into billets about 8 p.m. 1 horse (absolutely necessary) requisitioned for 1200 francs at OURTON
12 th October	<u>BETHUNE</u>

	7.30 A.m. Advanced guard as far as FESTUBERT where took up a position 3 Coys. in firing line, one in support. Battalion on outpost duty at night. Captain Butterworth missing, 1 N.C.O. 5 men wounded.
13 th October	<p>FESTUBERT</p> <p>4.45 a.m. 'A' Coy made dawn attack on RUE D'OUVERT without success, casualties Major Vandeleur, 2nd Scottish Rifles, Major Young, Captain Harbord, D.S.O., Lieut. Harrington, 2nd Lieut Thomas, 55 N.C.O.s & men missing, 8 N.C.O.s & men wounded.</p> <p>Took up position with remainder of Battalion on the FESTUBERT – LAQUINQUE Road and entrenched. Battalion on outpost duty at night – captured 2 Uhlans.</p> <p>CAPTAIN SHORE took over command of the Battalion.</p>
14 th October	Remained in same position – 2 men wounded – Battalion on outpost duty at night – Enemy's night attack repulsed.
15 th October	Remained in same position – Enemy shelled position, especially machine guns, and 'B' Company's trenches – 12 N.C.O.s & men wounded.
16 th October	<p>3.0 p.m. Battalion advanced in direction o RUE D'OUVERT, found village unoccupied. At 8 p.m. advanced to RUE DU MARAIS. ½ 'A' Company advanced along VIOLAINES ROAD & came into touch with enemy patrol. Enemy opened fire which was returned.</p> <p>CAPTAIN MAHONY took over command of Battalion and brought up 2/Lieuts Napier, May, Woodhead, Carr, Anderson and 248 reinforcements.</p>
17 th October	<p>FESTUBERT – RUE DU MARAIS - VOILAINES</p> <p>12.30 a.m. 'A' Company returned to billets in RUE DU MARAIS 12.30 a.m. 3 platoons of 'C' Company under Captain Lloyd advanced along LORGIES ROAD to obtain touch with D.C.L.I. 400 yds down road met strong German Patrol. Enemy opened fire which was returned. Captain Lloyd with his men turned German patrol out of their trenches.</p> <p>1.30 a.m. One Company ('A' Company) sent out in support to 'C' Company but could not obtain communication with them. Captain Lloyd (wounded) with 3 wounded men returned about 6 a.m. made an attack with D.C.L.I. in direction of VOILAINES twice, but were repulsed on each occasion. Held RUE DY MARAIS for remainder of the day.</p> <p>Casualties: Captain Lloyd wounded, 2/LIEUT NAPIER missing, 1 man killed and 3 men wounded.</p> <p>6.15 p.m. Occupied VOILAINES and entrenched NORTH and EAST and SOUTH EAST.</p>
18 th October	<p>VOILAINES</p> <p>Held VOILAINES with D.C.L.I. on left and NORFOLKS on right were heavily shelled. 1 man killed, 17 wounded. 2/Lieut NAPIER rejoined. Battalion on outposts</p>
19 th October	10.0 a.m. Attempted to occupy LA BASSEE, and came under heavy

	<p>fire of each arm. Finally entrenched 450 yds in front of former positions.</p> <p>Casualties: 2/Lieut. Andrews, 2/Lieut. Sidebotham, 2/Lieut Napier wounded, 9 men killed, 20 wounded. Battalion on outposts.</p>
20 th October	<p>Held VOILAINES, artillery shelled LA BASSEE. Battalion on outposts. 2/Lieut MAY, 2/Lieut ADDISON wounded, 3 men killed, 24 men wounded. 3 p.m. German attack repulsed. Battalion on outposts.</p>
21 st October	<p>9.30 a.m. Again attacked LA BASSEE without success. Came under heavy shell fire. 1 machine gun out of action. Battalion on outposts.</p> <p>Casualties: CAPTAIN MAHONY wounded, 3 men killed, 6 wounded. Battalion on outposts. 'B' Company went into billets. Captain Shore took over command of the Battalion.</p>
22 nd October	<p>5.10 a.m. Enemy made heavy attack, and took the trenches at the point of the bayonet. Battalion retired to RUE DU MARAIS under very heavy fire. Manchesters came up in support.</p> <p>8.0 p.m. Battalion withdrawn and went in bivouac at last <u>E</u> of RUE DE BETHUNE.</p> <p>Casualties: Captains Shore, Rich, Hartford, 2/Lieuts Atkinson, Leicester, Greenhalgh missing, Captain Forster, 18 N.C.O.s & men wounded, 200 N.C.O.s & men missing including Sergeant Major. CAPTAIN MAHONY died in hospital. Lieut. T L Frost took over command of the Battalion.</p>
23 rd October	<p style="text-align: center;">RUE DE BETHUNE</p> <p>Battalion went into billets about 3 p.m. Battalion went into reserve at 5 p.m. in second E of BETHUNE.</p>
24 th October	<p>Returned to billets at dawn. Came into reserve to Brigade at second <u>E</u> of Bethune at 6 p.m.</p>
25 th October	<p>Returned to billets at dawn. At 5.30 p.m. went into reserve to the Brigade returned to billets about 12.30 a.m.</p> <p>CAPTAIN WOODS, Munster Fusiliers, took over command of Battalion.</p>
26 th October	<p>Battalion on working parties digging trenches at RUE DE BETHUNE.</p>
27 th October	<p style="text-align: center;">LE TOURET</p> <p>Battalion went into billets at LE TOURET. 'B' & 'C' Companies working parties digging trenches at RUE DE BETHUNE. At 7 p.m. Battalion marched to RICHEBOURG ST VAAST, from thence to ST VAAST.</p>
28 th October	<p style="text-align: center;">NEUVE CHAPELLE</p> <p>5.0 a.m. Battalion in support to attack on NEUVE CHAPELLE, came into firing line at 3 p.m. Entrenches on East side of ESTAIRES – NEUVE CHAPELLE road at PONT LOGY. Battalion on outposts with 'B' Company in reserve.</p> <p>Casualties: 2/Lieut. Woodhead wounded, 1 Sgt, 1 Private killed, 4 wounded, 5 missing. Enemy opened fire, which was returned about 9 p.m.</p>
29 th October	<p>Battalion in trenches, sniping and artillery fire. Battalion on outposts.</p>

	Casualties: 4 wounded, 5 missing.
30 th October	<p style="text-align: center;">NEUVE CHAPELLE – LE TOURET</p> <p>1.30 a.m. Relieved by Seaforths & Jats. Marched back to billets in LE TOURET.</p> <p>3.0 p.m. Battalion marched to CALONNE & billeted for night Lieut. T L Frost took over command of Battalion.</p>
31 st October	<p style="text-align: center;">CALONNE</p> <p>Battalion marched to BORRE & billeted at 8 p.m. Lieut. & Qr. Mr. J C Sproule took over duties of A/Adjt. 31.10.14</p> <p style="text-align: right;">T. L. FROST Lieut. O.C. 1ST Cheshire Regt.</p>
1 st November	Battalion in reserve 1½ miles SOUTH of DRANOUTRE.
2 nd November	Battalion in reserve 1½ miles SOUTH of DRANOUTRE.
3 rd November	Battalion in reserve 1½ miles SOUTH of DRANOUTRE.
4 th November	<p>Battalion in reserve 1½ miles SOUTH of DRANOUTRE.</p> <p>Captain J A Busfield, Cheshire Regt., took over command of Battalion. Lt. T L Frost took over duties of Adjutant. Capt. G P Pollock-Hodsoll, 3/Suffolk Regt attached for duty.</p>
5 th November	7.15 a.m. Battalion marched to YPRES and took up position about 4 miles E S E holding 350 yards of trenches (relieving 2 nd Bedfordshire Regt). These trenches were just South of the 6 th Kilometre stone on the MENIN ROAD.
6 th November	<p style="text-align: center;">YPRES</p> <p>Battalion in trenches heavy artillery fire & some rifle fire.</p>
7 th November	<p>Battalion in trenches. Very heavy shell fire in the morning, enemy's infantry attacked at 2.30 p.m. 'C' Company went to reinforce regiment on our left. Enemy repulsed, 25 captured.</p> <p>Captain Pollock-Hodsoll & 2/Lieut. G R L Anderson killed. N.CO.s & men 4 killed, 22 wounded, 8 missing.</p>
8 th November	<p>Battalion in trenches. Shelling commenced later owing to morning mist. No infantry attack.</p> <p>2 men wounded by our shells falling short.</p> <p>2/Lieut Hands joined on promotion from Sergeant 1/East Surrey Regt.</p>
9 th November	Battalion in trenches – shelling light. Night attack expected so a good deal of rifle fire at night.
10 th November	Battalion in trenches. Enemy shelled heavily in the morning. A certain amount of night firing.
11 th November	Battalion in trenches. Heavy shell fire in morning & evening. Enemy appeared to massing in a wood S of our position but our shells scattered them & they were easily repulsed by our rifle fire, with heavy casualties to them.
12 th November	Battalion in trenches. Enemy kept up shell fire most of the day otherwise quiet.

	2/Lieut Skeates } transferred to 2/Lieut Dampier } 1/Bedfordshire Regt.
13 th November	Battalion in trenches. Heavy shell fire on our trenches and also on supports in dugouts. Small infantry attack easily repulsed.
14 th November	Battalion in trenches. To conform with the Division on our right, an order was given to retire from the advance line of trenches & take up another line about 150 yds in rear, this was commenced at midday and completed by 4 p.m. when the final line was held. The enemy were pressing on all the time & consequently our casualties were rather heavy. 2/Lieut H R Stables, 5/Royal Fusiliers, killed. 2/Lieut E G Carr wounded & 30 N.C.O.s and men killed, wounded & missing. Two German patrols of 15 & 7 men were shot down just outside our trenches.
15 th November	Battalion in trenches. A quiet day. Some shelling & sniping. Enemy digging into new position.
16 th November	Battalion in trenches. Our guns kept up heavy shell fire some sniping.
17 th November	Battalion in trenches, started with exceptionally heavy shell fire followed by an infantry attack which however was easily repulsed.
18 th November	Battalion in trenches. Heavy shell fire no infantry attack. Heavy rain.
19 th November	Battalion in trenches. A little shell fire & sniping. Started to snow and freeze. Relieved by the Worcester Regiment at 8 p.m. & went into reserve dugouts.
20 th November	Battalion in reserve dugouts. Some shelling. Total casualties since going into trenches, killed 35, wounded 99, Missing ____
21 st November	1.0 a.m. Battalion marched & arrived at billets near LOCRE at 7 a.m. roads bad for transport owing to hard frost.
22 nd November	LOCRE Battalion in billets. Wet & frost caused much rheumatism & a certain amount of frost bite which caused bad marching among many.
23 rd November	Battalion in billets.
24 th November	BAILLEUL 11.45 a.m. Battalion marched to BAILLEUL, billeted there to act as Corps troops.
25 th November	Battalion in billets:- Refitting & inspecting (Attached 2 nd Army Corps Troops)
26 th November	Battalion in billets: - Refitting & inspecting. Furnished a guard for H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
27 th November	Battalion in billets: - Inspected & congratulated on their work by Field Marshall Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief.
28 th November	Battalion in billets: - Inspected & congratulated on their work by General Sir H. Smith-Dorrien, Commanding 2 nd Army Corps.
29 th November	Battalion in billets: - Church parade.

	The following Officers arrived today: Capt H S Hodgkin, 1/Cheshire Regt, & took over command. Capt. A E Harry, 3/Cheshire Regt.
30 th November	Battalion in billets. Parades, drill & Musketry instruction. I.A. BURFIELD, Capn. 1/Cheshire Regt.
	To be summed up, Dec 1 st – 7 th Corps Troops at BAILLEUL: 1 + 64 joined Dec 6 th .
1 st December	BAILLEUL Battalion in billets. Parades, drill & Musketry instruction.
2 nd December	Battalion in billets. Parades, drill & Musketry instruction. Received news that Lt. Elliott & 2/Lt. Atkinson had been given D.S.O.
3 rd December	Battalion paraded & was received by H.M. King George V.
4 th December	Battalion in billets. Parades, drill & Musketry instruction.
5 th December	Battalion in billets. Parades, drill & Musketry instruction.
6 th December	Battalion paraded for divine service Reinforcements of 64 N.C.O.s & men under 2/Lt. Vance arrived.
7 th December	Battalion in billets. Parades, drill & Musketry instruction.
8 th December	Battalion marched from Bailleul to DRANOUTRE & formed Brigade Reserve.
9 th December	DRANOUTRE Battalion inspected by Brigadr. Gen. Count Gleichen, K.C.V.O., etc
10 th December	Batt. Marched from Dranoutre to St Jans Cappel (Brigade in Divn. Reserve)
11 th December	ST. JANS CAPPEL Battalion in billets. Route march. Capt. W Martin Leake (Res. Off.) joined in.
12 th December	Bn. in billets. Route march.
13 th December	Bn. paraded for divine service.
14 th December	Bn. marched to DRANOUTRE in reserve. Returned to billets 1½ miles E. of BAILLEUL.
15 th December	Bn. Parade.
16 th December	Bn. Parade.
17 th December	Bn. parades morning. Marched to NEUVE EGLISE ½ Bn. in trenches.
18 th December	NEUVE EGLISE 'A' & 'C' Coys in trenches, H.Qtrs. & 'B' & 'D' Coys in billets Party of 5 th Bn. Cheshire Regt. (Territorials) accompanied Bn. in trenches.
19 th December	'B' & 'D' Coys in trenches at WULVERGHAN. 'A' & 'C' Coys in billets.
20 th December	'B' & 'D' Coys in trenches at WULVERGHAN. 'A' & 'C' Coys in billets.

21 st December	'A' & 'C' Coys in trenches at WULVERGHAN. 'B' & 'D' Coys in billets. 3 men wounded.
22 nd December	'A' & 'C' Coys in trenches at WULVERGHAN. 'B' & 'D' Coys in billets.
23 rd December	'B' & 'D' Coys in trenches at WULVERGHAN. 'A' & 'C' Coys in billets.
24 th December	'B' & 'D' Coys in trenches at WULVERGHAN. 'A' & 'C' Coys in billets. Capt. Lloyd, Lt. Mares, 2/Lt. Hazeon' 2/Lt. Rhodes & 2/Lt. Michener & 444 N.C.O.s & men joined from England. 1 man wounded.
25 th December	Brigadr. Gen. Count Gleichen, K.C.V.O., etc. inspected draft. Their Majesties Presents & Xmas Card issued. Bn. in trenches at WULVERGHAN
26 th December	Bn. in trenches at WULVERGHAN.
27 th December	Bn. in trenches at WULVERGHAN.
28 th December	Bn. in trenches at WULVERGHAN.
29 th December	BAILLEUL Bn. in billets at BAILLEUL. (Marched in from WOLVERGHAN).
30 th December	Bn. in billets at BAILLEUL.
31 st December	Bn. in billets at BAILLEUL. Went for a route march. J. A. BUSFIELD, Capt.