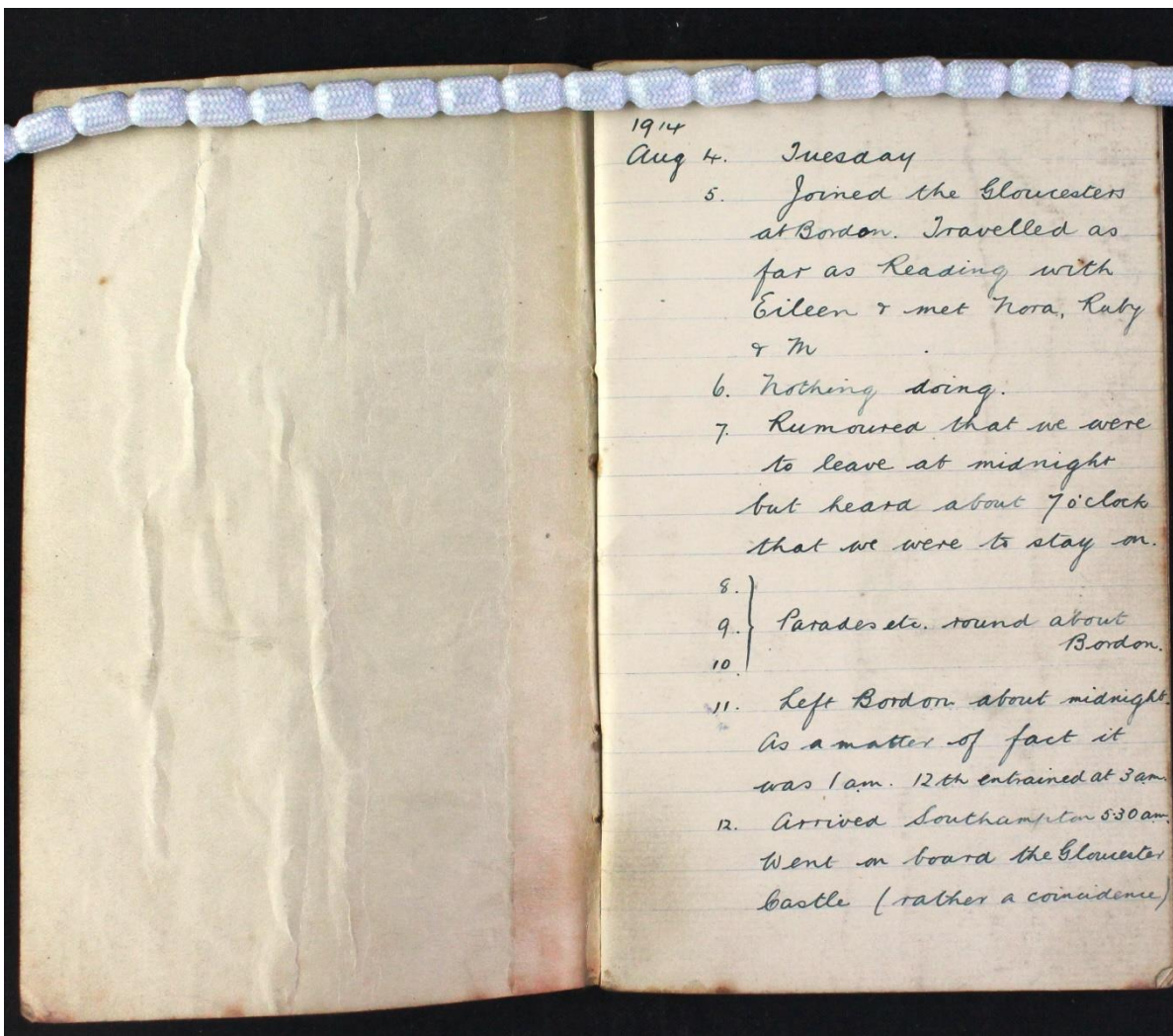


The diary kept by Second Lieutenant Milton Kershaw, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, on active service 5<sup>th</sup> August – 16<sup>th</sup> October 1914

Kershaw was killed in action 7<sup>th</sup> November 1914.



1914

Aug 4. Tuesday

5. Joined the Gloucesters at Bordon. Travelled as far as Reading with Eileen & met Nora, Ruby & M.
6. Nothing doing.
7. Rumoured that we were to leave at midnight but heard about 7 o'clock that we were to stay on.
8. )
9. ) Parades etc. round about Bordon.
10. )
11. Left Bordon about midnight. As a matter of fact it was 1 am. 12th entrained at 3 am.
12. Arrived Southampton 5:30 am. Went on board the Gloucester Castle (rather a coincidence)

about 8 o'clock & left at  
midday. The South Wales  
Borderers also on board. Very  
pleasant voyage, sea quite  
smooth - warm & most enjoyable.  
Arrived Havre at 11.30 p.m.

Disembarked & marched  
away next morning about 6 o'clock  
Aug 13. Terribly hot march - men  
falling out towards the  
end of the journey. Probably  
due to the hospitality of  
the French women, who gave  
them water, wine etc. etc.  
to drink on the way.  
Arrived in camp about  
9 o'clock very tired & dirty.  
Journeyed into the town  
of Havre in the afternoon  
& bathed in the sea. Most

X  
glorious & refreshing. Dined  
at the Cafe Moderne and  
enjoyed an excellent  
feed. Everybody here  
awfully good to us. Interpreters  
most useful and civil,  
helping one out of many  
a difficulty. Some of  
our efforts at the language  
were rather amusing, but  
we managed to converse  
with most people, a  
large number having  
quite a considerable  
knowledge of the English  
language. We were not  
allowed to write letters  
saying where we were, a  
strict censorship by  
English Officers being kept

at the Post Office. Regiments as they arrived, while we were having dinner, had a rousing reception. The French people in the Cafés all turned out to give them a welcome. We saw a regiment - the Coldstream Guards - pass through the town.

Aug 14. After an early parade on Friday, we strolled down into Havre and had a tremendous lunch at the Café Moderne. It was a terribly hot day and we drank large quantities of "vin ordinaire" and cider. After some time spent in shopping - for condensed

milk, cigarettes, rolls etc - we went down to the beach and had a most glorious bathe. The sea water was quite warm and we stayed for about an hour. We then had tea at Jortin's Café - a rather nice place - and then went up to camp. A French soldier chauffeur gave us a lift up. He was quite too excited for me to describe - shouting and gesticulating to everybody we met. I thought many a time that the car would overturn. We had supper about 8 o'clock, the meal consisting of bully

beef and bread, with jam  
to finish and cocoa to drink.

We retired to rest shortly  
after supper, but about  
midnight, we woke up to  
find a terrible thunder-  
lightening and rain storm-  
raging. We had to fix our  
tent securely - no pleasant  
task in the dark - before  
we could be sure of any  
more rest. The storm was  
Aug 15. quite close to us and I've  
never seen such vivid  
lightening. We got a little  
sleep afterwards. Up <sup>at</sup> ~~to~~  
7 4 o'clock; tea & bully beef,  
jam and bread, and then  
we packed our small  
kits and marched away

from camp at 6 o'clock to Point  
6, when we entrained at  
9 o'clock. We leave, not until  
10 o'clock, so we have four hours  
to wait. It is raining  
hard outside so I have  
decided to write up my diary  
now. I had intended to  
start it at the beginning,  
but time for writing has  
been scarce and now that  
I shall not be able to write  
many letters or say much  
of our whereabouts, I will  
try to keep up a small  
contribution day by day.

I think we are all  
glad to get away from Haare,  
although it has been a very  
pleasant couple of days. There

we are bound for I cannot say,  
probably Rouen, just, and  
then we shall see.

The train is just starting  
12:45 p.m. so I will continue to  
write now later. 3:30, train  
stopped at a station - Yvetot -  
a most enthusiastic crowd of  
people gave us flowers & cigarettes.  
Still pouring with rain.  
5 o'clock arrive at Rouen.  
Unfortunately we draw up in  
a siding and not in the  
main station. Hot coffee is  
distributed - a delicacy  
which is enjoyed very much.  
We have tea at the same  
time, which consists of fresh  
rolls and sardines, which  
we were lucky to get close by.

and then marched off due  
south until we reached  
Leschelles when different  
companies were billeted in  
different farms. We seem to  
have struck a very hospitable  
couple in the farmer and  
his wife. She gave us eggs  
for lunch and bread butter,  
which was rather kind of  
her, considering the fact  
that the only claim we  
have on them is for shelter.  
We are 5 Officers and about  
200 men; the men are  
fixed up in a huge barn  
and we, in the house. The  
horses - about 12 in the stable.  
By the way, we had a most  
glorious cup of coffee after

lunch, and she gave coffee to all the men.

The hospitality shown by the farmer's wife is beyond all expectation. For supper she gave us soup - very good - goose, and a dish of mixed vegetables, potatoes, onions etc. Wine and cider to drink, coffee and liqueurs. A guard is posted day and night at the entrance to the farm. No. 3. Platoon on Outpost duty at night.

Aug 17. Parade at 5:30 am. The good lady gave us coffee & liqueurs & rum at 6 o'clock. Breakfast at 7:30 eggs & fried potatoes & coffee again. Parade at 8:30 a.m. Route march of

about 6 or 7 miles. (Wrote to Mother, Eileen, & Mrs. Bottomley to day).

Return to find lunch of turkey etc. Sleep in the afternoon. Turkey dished up again for supper; also savoury ~~omelet~~ omelet. I seem to be writing of nothing but the food we get.

Aug 18. Same programme next day. I Tuesday am orderly officer, and so don't go out on the route march, but stay on the billets & examine the guards periodically. Roast Duck for supper which is enjoyed quite —. Brigade route

Aug 19. march - all four regiments taking part with transports etc. Have just marched men

down to Public House, where they are allowed to buy one pint of beer or cider. Still no news of the war. Just decided to write one or two letters. Am getting short of cigarettes. I wonder how much longer we shall be here. It is exactly a fortnight since I joined the regiment. It seems more like six months.

Aug 20. Up at 4 o'clock, ordered to leave our billets & march to some other place with the rest of the Brigade. Big farewell breakfast with our host & hostess - M & M<sup>rs</sup> Bonneton - Dieu. Leave at 8 o'clock & march in hot sun to Beaupais (about 12 kilometres) due north

of Leschelles. Very trying march. Arrive at Beaupais mid day & billeted in small lots. I have a very comfortable house where farmer & his daughters are extremely good, giving us eggs etc & cooking the food for us (2000 officers here). Even better than the last billet. Tremendous supper. Rabbit & omelet, wines & beer to drink & very good coffee. Very tired & ready for bed.

Aug 21. Friday. March off early morning & reach — about 1:30. March of about 14 miles which was rather strenuous. Heard a big gun in the evening. Billet fairly comfortable.

Journey with us.  
Informed here on  
Jordan - Army  
Don, Amos & others  
at Hopsbruck

in going the other way  
 some kilometers. The  
 rest of day up to  
 N.A. Bearer will follow  
 only.  
 with a few days rest  
 from Sep 12 to Oct 16  
 been in the trenches  
 near us. We have  
 seen a few days of  
 that we haven't heard  
 Sep 12 - 5 weeks ago -  
 the first day since  
 to (2) yesterday was  
 Gordon. Intra-ego  
 17th March & Dec-08  
 16. Leave at midnight  
 in billets at night.  
 Oct 15. Still in trenches but

Aug 22 Up at 4 o'clock & on the  
 march at 5. Reach Manteuge  
 at 10 o'clock. Almost on the  
 French frontier. Dinner in a  
 big cornfield at 11 o'clock.  
 March continued in the  
 afternoon to —. British  
 aeroplanes flying about here.  
 Very hot in the sun today.  
 Arrive late evening at  
 Haukeim having done over  
 20 miles during the day.  
 Billet very quiet & lie down  
 for 3 hours sleep. Very tired <sup>very</sup>  
 Aug 23. Up at 3 am. & prepare to  
 defend the position. Dig  
 trenches all day. First  
 engagement with enemy. Alarm  
 about 5 o'clock. Just as were  
 having tea. All turned out

in going the other way  
 some kilometers. The  
 rest of day up to  
 N.A. Bearer will follow  
 only.  
 with a few days rest  
 from Sep 12 to Oct 16  
 been in the trenches  
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 Billet very quiet & lie down  
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 defend the position. Dig  
 trenches all day. First  
 engagement with enemy. Alarm  
 about 5 o'clock. Just as were  
 having tea. All turned out





Aug 28. Sunday. Left the trenches  
 early this morning 4.30  
 from our trench into village  
 of Brouilly, and hope to  
 continue the rest of  
 our capture there  
 had at Brouilly. Had  
 a letter from home  
 from Brouilly this morning  
 this evening at 5 o'clock  
 we had a short service  
 in the open - outside  
 the village church.  
 The Chaplain gave us  
 an address - not a  
 sermon but a simple  
 earnest exhortation  
 to go on & fight.

see what was the matter.  
 Nothing doing. Continued  
 our march & arrived at  
 Neuville - only two hours  
 sleep.  
 Aug 28. Friday. On outpost till  
 12 until our troops get  
 through to Rivemont &  
 onwards. It is a most  
 pitiful sight to see the  
 women & children leaving  
 their homes, nowhere to go  
 & only way to walk on foot  
 carrying what food &  
 clothes they had. Attacked  
 by enemy's guns - covering  
 cavalry - retired to  
 Beaucourt - will tell more  
 about this later. Germans  
 crushed by French, who came

Aug 30. Having a little more  
 rest this morning in  
 the same village.  
 Removed again from  
 position in trench.  
 We had  
 a short service in the  
 open at 11.15 the  
 morning Communion  
 in the Church afterwards.  
 Aug 29. Spent a day  
 morning digging out  
 our trenches.  
 Still in same trench.  
 We are in trench with  
 French troops also in  
 trench and have front  
 rather maintenance &  
 some provisions. No  
 letter now for some days.

in as we retired. Before this,  
 12th Lancers charged & inflicted  
 heavy losses. Scots B Coy  
 completed work.  
 Aug 29. Day of Rest.  
 30. Retired to Beaucourt (Sunday)  
 31. (Mon) " - Missy, Soisson (5 miles  
 south)  
 Sep 1. (Tue) " - to Bouville (near  
 Villiers sur Colens)  
 2. (Wed) " - to Meaux (Grey)  
 The above four days  
 were very strenuous in the  
 hot sun & some distance  
 was covered. Today, Wednesday  
 is the worst. We left at  
 1 a.m. & the time now is  
 3 o'clock in the afternoon  
 & we are resting outside Meaux.  
 No food except bully beef  
 & biscuits. In a disused

✓

farm - a filthy place. We are just beginning to wonder what is happening & why we are rushing back so quickly & suddenly. 30 days' march was well over 20 miles. My feet are beginning to feel the strain & I am sure I am filthy dirty. Just longing for an English cigarette. I would like to write home & to Ennise but it is quite impossible. I wonder what you know of the situation & what you are thinking. Haven't taken off my clothes for several days.

Sep 3. Still marching - middle day. Had several letters

Had a good night's sleep. I was relieved by Black Water. I became sick & vomited. Sleeping on a mattress on the floor of a house - a real luxury. Moved from Bony to Fargues - only a couple of miles & again killed. Had a good night's sleep.

Sep 25. I'm tired. Had a letter from you & from Daisy & Eileen in her. I have written a lot & reach home & Eileen. I wonder if all my letters. Battalion in Bradford.

from home etc which pleased me very much. Wrote home & to Eileen. Billed for night in a field at Signet. We appear to be going due East now.

Sep 4. March to Mourveaux - where we arrive at 11 am. Rest all day & march off at 7:30 to —. We have now marched over 200 miles since we started at Le Houveaux on Aug. 16. or really since we left Leschelles on Aug. 20. 200 miles in 14 days isn't bad marching.

Sep 5. March to Rozoy - first reinforcement.

Sep 6. Important day - change

Had a good night's sleep. I was relieved by Black Water. I became sick & vomited. Sleeping on a mattress on the floor of a house - a real luxury. Moved from Bony to Fargues - only a couple of miles & again killed. Had a good night's sleep.

Sep 27. A few shells dropped only damage. Had a good night's sleep. I was relieved by Black Water. I became sick & vomited. Sleeping on a mattress on the floor of a house - a real luxury. Moved from Bony to Fargues - only a couple of miles & again killed. Had a good night's sleep.

Had a good  
 night's rest last night.  
 Letter from Alonzo  
 this morning. Have  
 written a regulation for  
 home & to Eileen today.  
 Packed 2 letters & 2 P.C.s  
 yesterday.  
 Saturday. Fairly good  
 night. Still in trench  
 of course. We seem to  
 have been in there one  
 spot for ages. Rather  
 smart attack of  
 neuralgia this morning.  
 The letter from Eileen.  
 We are being shelled  
 again today. Also  
 machine gun played  
 on us this morning.

of plans. March from Rozy  
 & Bironac due East at  
 Waudon.

- Sep 7. Choisy.  
 8 Basseville.  
 9. Only go as far as he thought  
 West of Chateaux Thierry.  
 I have not been able to  
 write in my diary the last  
 few days. We have been  
 rushed about tremendously.  
 We were (A Company) on  
 outpost duty last night  
 & nine men & one officer  
 (German) came through  
 my picket were captured.
- Sep 10. Thursday. Set as far as  
 Courchamps at midday.  
 Our second (?) Brigade  
 came in contact with

Sep 25. Still in same  
 letter from Eileen.  
 a very nice letter &  
 long letters received  
 our trench. Write two  
 still we remain in  
 day. Big engagement  
 came on the last two  
 they must be  
 night rest.  
 the afternoon. Good  
 under cover for all  
 nearly a fortnight.  
 work the first for  
 this morning. Had a  
 get hold of some water  
 reading. Managed to  
 Sep 9 & 9. Very interesting  
 part etc. all dated about  
 English - French - morning

the enemy this morning  
 but what damage was  
 done I don't yet know.  
 We are following (3rd Brigade)  
 behind them. General Jindlay  
 commanding the R.A. first  
 division was killed by a  
 shell this morning. Heavy  
 gun fire is now heard in  
 the distance. I think the  
 German retirement is being  
 shelled heavily by our  
 guns. Rain all morning  
 and a heavy storm just  
 over. A lot of wounded in  
 Courchamps - Brisolles - Coisy -  
 Villeneuve-sur-Eure - Bironac  
 at latter place.

Sep 11. Horrible stories about  
 German outrages on inhabitants

The first being played on  
 the east side of our  
 right. Wounded by my  
 company captain's other  
 We are getting plenty of  
 food for now. One man  
 in my platoon wounded  
 in an arm yesterday - only  
 slight - letter from Helen  
 my letter to C. Parker today  
 I think. I have just seen  
 a paper with a list of  
 casualties. Charlie  
 those 1500 were killed.  
 It seems as if we have  
 played for my team  
 against enemy tanks  
 eleven in July. Also  
 some young but of  
 Wellington, reported

musing - also & better  
 Saturday. Another  
 day. I had to  
 make a list out in  
 front to guard the  
 company & consequently  
 my night rest was  
 rather disturbed. Some  
 day at present pending  
 up rest in the  
 night, waiting from  
 from absence in the  
 evening. Today is  
 generally sunny and  
 hot. Just had a heat  
 of paper, both these

our wounded - Bivouac at  
 Priey. We had 1300 prisoners  
 & some machine guns  
 amongst yesterday's capture.  
 Very good rabbit stew for  
 supper. Rain all day.  
 Horribly wet.

Sep. 12. Long March to Vauxier.  
 Rain most day. Bivouac  
 night. Rain soaking  
 wet - the wettest & coldest  
 & most uncomfortable night  
 I ever experienced.  
 (I believe it is Marian's  
 birthday today). Shall  
 never forget how wretched  
 we all were.

Sep. 13. Not so bad this morning.  
 Sunshine. Good news about  
 beam on columns retiring.

The first being played on  
 the east side of our  
 right. Wounded by my  
 company captain's other  
 We are getting plenty of  
 food for now. One man  
 in my platoon wounded  
 in an arm yesterday - only  
 slight - letter from Helen  
 my letter to C. Parker today  
 I think. I have just seen  
 a paper with a list of  
 casualties. Charlie  
 those 1500 were killed.  
 It seems as if we have  
 played for my team  
 against enemy tanks  
 eleven in July. Also  
 some young but of  
 Wellington, reported

Haven't taken off my boots for  
 more than a week. The  
 Germans are being pushed  
 back pretty hard. We hear  
 of prisoners being taken  
 every day. A very unfortunate  
 thing has happened. All  
 my envelopes have stuck  
 down & so are useless. The  
 rain got into my case &  
 consequently I haven't one  
 to send. I shall have to  
 try to get some. Other officers  
 are without for the same  
 reason. Billeted in house.  
 Good night's rest at Bourg.  
 Sep. 14. Monday. Slated about  
 7.30 am. about 9 o'clock  
 came up with advance  
 troops who were in action.

by - Jagers. We are being  
 shelled by the enemy  
 again today. Fighting  
 started night. Fighting  
 started to arm  
 repeatedly. Attack  
 going on most of the  
 night. Better from  
 Islander Eileen.  
 Sep 21. There are the same  
 on yesterday. Shell fire  
 and rifle fire on our  
 right. A new reinforcement  
 came in last night. We  
 hear that Russian have  
 captured a large number  
 of German troops. We  
 hope it is true. We  
 German abuse the  
 White flag again yesterday.

Big engagement now on.  
 Heavy shell fire both sides.  
 I think we are getting the  
 advantage. Time now 12:30.  
 Engagement lasts all day.  
 Terrible shell fire all the  
 time. We hear that poor  
 Swannick was killed today  
 by shell & we had several  
 casualties. Such days as  
 this make one realize the  
 terrible nature of this  
 war. It is too awful to  
 write about. The German  
 abused the White flag  
 this morning. When  
 some of them surrendered  
 shell fire was opened  
 from another position by  
 their guns. In the

Sep 19. Saturday. Just had a  
 made in. Better from  
 Home Eileen - Captain  
 chocolate, etc. No one  
 could possibly imagine the  
 pleasure in receiving  
 the above. It was news  
 life into me. Stay here  
 until dark when we are  
 released by the R. F. I.  
 We move to new position  
 on left arriving about  
 11 pm. Sleep out in the  
 open.  
 Sep 20. Got into our trenches  
 this morning. They making  
 improvements in them.  
 Swannick was probably  
 & decidedly killed yesterday  
 in a small village, close

morning we had 4 officers  
 150 men & 12 guns (German)  
 as a capture.  
 Sep 15. Bivouac last night  
 near Bourg again. Under  
 big gun fire again this  
 morning beginning  
 about 8 o'clock. Two more  
 batches of German prisoners  
 captured by Welch party  
 about 100 in each. By  
 the way, last night we  
 were escort to Divisional  
 Head Quarters.  
 4 o'clock. Today has been  
 terrible & we have suffered  
 some loss, but to what  
 extent I cannot say. Just  
 outside a village - Chivy.  
 We have been in the

man late on Wednesday  
 night, who had been  
 lying there since Sunday  
 The most unpleasant  
 feature was having to  
 sleep in the trench  
 with these dead bodies  
 scattered all around. It  
 was one of the most  
 distressing sights we  
 could possibly witness.  
 I hope by now that they  
 have all been properly  
 buried. I don't know  
 whether I mentioned  
 the fact that five of  
 our stretcher bearers  
 were shot down on  
 Monday, as they were  
 bringing in the wounded.

village all the afternoon &  
 two companies of ours  
 outside. Heavy shellfire  
 has done most of the damage.  
 The Germans are brutes -  
 deliberately killing the  
 wounded as they come across.  
 Graphic account from  
 Officer Cameron Highlander  
 who had a terrible experience  
 last night.

Sep 14 & 15. The days we here will  
 never forget.

Sep 16. We left the village at  
 dusk last night & came  
 up to the trenches where  
 we slept. This morning  
 at dawn we went forward  
 to our trenches. Most of  
 the wounded had been

Sunday. I wonder how  
 much longer it will  
 continue. It is something  
 of a strain being under  
 fire for day after day,  
 all day long. One  
 never goes to pieces entirely.  
 It hasn't rained much lately  
 we are getting more or less  
 dry after yesterday's <sup>soak</sup>  
 I think we are all pleased  
 we came away from the  
 other place yesterday. The  
 sight of so many dead  
 bodies lying about was  
 rather distressing. It was  
 impossible to bury them or  
 to see under fire. We  
 picked up one wounded

sent on, but several more  
 were found this morning  
 & sent back. It is a terrible  
 sight - all the ground  
 literally covered with dead  
 both British & German. The  
 Black Watch & Cameron  
 Highlanders must have  
 suffered heavily as the  
 ground is covered with  
 their dead. This is the  
 place where the White Flag  
 incident occurred & the  
 inhuman German brutes  
 must have shot them  
 down at very close range.  
 A horrible slaughter.  
 Heavy artillery fire is  
 going on all day so far.  
 2 o'clock. By the way I

These not seen. 3:30 pm.  
Still in trenches, have  
been ordered most of the  
day, but no casualties  
so far in my platoon,  
(Quarter of the company).  
Don't know what for  
happened in the rest of  
the line of trenches. By  
the way, we are still in  
the neighborhood of the  
village of Chery. We  
hear that a large number  
of German prisoners were  
taken yesterday. There  
then was by me. The  
the North American.  
The battle has been  
going on for nearly a  
week now, some lost

had a parcel of cigarettes  
from Ditzel which has  
been most welcome. I also  
wrote off two short letters  
that evening - one home  
& one to Eileen (Sunday).  
This big engagement started  
that afternoon. Sleep in  
trenches at night.

Sep. 7. Still hold trenches - wet  
and rain hard all day.  
Got thoroughly soaked.  
Artillery fire all day.  
At dusk we are marched  
off toward the right flank  
a few miles away - to join  
with the Queens. There  
has been a big fight  
here to-day & we are coming  
over to reinforce the Queens.

The Germans were driven  
back & suffered heavy loss.  
The British losses were rather  
big. Sleep in trenches  
behind Queens lines. Soaked  
& wet & miserably cold.

Sep. 18. Join up to Queens in  
their trenches at dawn.  
Germans are believed to be  
about to attack the  
position. Heavy artillery  
fire on both sides. I  
am writing this in the  
trenches. It is raining  
again - 11 a.m. By the way -  
we had several casualties  
from shell fire (shrapnel)  
yesterday & Wednesday in  
the Gloucesters, but  
mainly wounded most of



had a parcel of cigarettes  
from Digger which has  
been most welcome. I also  
sent off two short letters  
that evening - one home  
one to Eileen (Sunday).  
The big engagement started  
that afternoon. Slept in  
trenches at night.  
Sept 17. Still held trenches - not  
and rain had all day.  
but thoroughly soaked.  
Artillery fire all day.  
At dusk we are ordered  
off toward the right flank  
a few miles away - to join  
with the Queens. There  
has been a big fight  
here to day we are coming  
over to reinforce the Queens.

these not serious. 3:30 pm.  
Still in trenches, have  
been shelled most of the  
day but no casualties  
so far in my platoon,  
(Quarters of the company). I  
don't know what has  
happened in the rest of  
the line of trenches. By  
the way, we are still in  
the neighbourhood of the  
village of Chivy. We  
hear that a large number  
of German prisoners were  
taken yesterday. More  
than 1000 by me by  
the North Lancs. This battle has been  
going on for nearly a  
week now, since last

sent in, but several more  
were found this morning  
went back. It is a terrible  
night - all the ground  
literally covered with dead  
both British & German. The  
Blackbirds & Bombers  
Highlanders must have  
suffered heavily on the  
ground so covered with  
their dead. There is the  
place where the tank dug  
incident occurred & the  
unknown German tanks  
must have shot them  
down at very close range.  
A terrific slaughter.  
Heavy artillery fire is  
going on all day & for  
20:00 clock. By the way!

Sunday. I wonder how  
much longer it will  
continue. It is something  
of a strain being under  
shrapnel & percussion  
shell fire day after day  
& all day long. One's  
nerves go to pieces entirely.  
It hasn't rained much today  
& we are getting more or less  
dry after yesterday's <sup>soak</sup> ~~soak~~.  
I think we are all pleased  
we came away from the  
other place yesterday. The  
sight of so many dead  
bodies lying about was  
rather distressing. It was  
impossible to bury them as  
we were under fire. We  
picked up one wounded

morning we had 4 officers  
 150 men & 12 guns (German)  
 as a capture.  
 Sep 15. Because last night  
 near Boulogne again. Under  
 big gun fire again this  
 morning beginning  
 about 8 o'clock. German  
 tanks of German formation  
 captured by British probably  
 about 100 in each. By  
 the way, last night we  
 were sent to Boulogne  
 Near Quator.  
 40 each. 30 day ago from  
 terrible we have suffered  
 some loss, but to what  
 extent I cannot say. But  
 outside a village - very  
 we have been in the

man late on Wednesday  
 night, who had been  
 lying there since Sunday.  
 The most unpleasant  
 feature was having to  
 sleep in the trenches  
 with these dead bodies  
 scattered all around. It  
 was one of the most  
 distressing sights we  
 could possibly witness.  
 I hope by now that they  
 have all been properly  
 buried. I don't know  
 whether I mentioned  
 the fact that five of  
 our stretcher bearers  
 were shot down on  
 Tuesday, as they were  
 bringing in the wounded.

village all the afternoon &  
 two companies of our  
 outside. Heavy machine  
 has done most of the damage.  
 The Germans are trying  
 deliberately killing the  
 wounded as they come  
 British account from  
 Officer Cameron Highlanders  
 who had a terrible experience  
 last night.  
 Sep 14/15. One day we have will  
 never forget.  
 We left the village at  
 dusk last night some  
 up to the trenches where  
 we slept. This morning  
 at dawn we went forward  
 to our trenches. Most of  
 the wounded had been

Sep 19. Saturday. Just had a  
 mail in. Letters from  
 home & Ellen - Cigarettes,  
 chocolates, socks. No one  
 could possibly imagine the  
 pleasure in receiving  
 the above. It puts new  
 life into me. Stay here  
 until dusk when we are  
 relieved by the D.L.I.  
 We move to new position  
 or left arriving about  
 11 pm. Sleep out in the  
 open.  
 Sep 20. Got into our trenches  
 this morning & busy making  
 improvements in them.  
 Swannick was properly  
 & decently buried yesterday  
 in a small village, close

Heavy shell fire till noon.  
Many engagements now on.  
I think we are getting the  
advantage. Some men 12:30.  
Engagement last all day.  
I think shell fire all the  
time. We hear that from  
the front was killed today  
by shell fire had several  
casualties. Much danger  
than make me realize the  
terrible nature of the  
war. It is too awful to  
write about. The Germans  
threw the White flag  
this morning. When  
some of them surrendered  
shell fire was opened by  
their guns. In the

by - Troops. We are being  
shelled by the enemy  
again today. A very  
disturbed night. Having  
to stand to arms  
repeatedly. Attack  
going on most of the  
night. Letters from  
Blanche Eileen.

Sep 21. More or less the same  
as yesterday. Shell fire  
and rifle fire on our  
right. A new reinforcement  
came in last night. We  
hear that Russians have  
captured a large number  
of German troops. We  
hope it is true. The  
Germans abused the  
White flag again yesterday.

Have taken off my boots for  
more than a week. The  
Germans are being pushed  
back pretty hard. We hear  
of prisoners being taken  
every day. A very unfortunate  
thing has happened. All  
my muskets have stuck  
down 100 or more. The  
rain got into my case &  
consequently I haven't one  
known. I shall have to  
try to get some. Other officers  
are without for the same  
reason. Battered in heavy  
losses night at Bony.  
Monday. Started about  
7:30 am. about 9 o'clock  
came up with advance  
troops who were in action.

The trick being played on  
the East Yorks Regt on our  
right. Witnessed by my  
company captain & others.  
We are getting plenty of  
food just now. One man  
in my platoon wounded  
in arm yesterday - only  
slight. Letters from Eileen.  
My letters to P.C. posted today  
I think. I have just seen  
a paper with a list of  
casualties. Charlie  
Hoare 15th Hussars killed.  
It seems ages since he  
played for my team  
against Tommy Miller's  
eleven in July. Also  
Marcus Young, Duke of  
Wellington, reported

9 our wounded - Arrived at  
Friday. We had 1300/Inch  
some machine guns  
amongst yesterday's capture.  
Very good result also for  
after. Rain all day.  
Monday rest.  
Sept 12. Long march to Davao.  
Rain most day. Davao  
night. Rain ceasing  
rest - the wettest rest  
great uncomfortable night  
best experience.  
(Believe it or not)  
Friday (today). Still  
never forget how wetted  
we all were.  
Sept 13. Had no food this morning  
Davao. Good news about  
German columns coming

missing - also B. Leathers,  
Pathfinder.

Sept 22. Tuesday. Another  
disturbed night. Fine  
& sunny this morning.  
Shelling still continues.

Sept 23. Wednesday. I had to  
provide a post out in  
front to guard the  
company & consequently  
my night's rest was  
rather disturbed. Germans  
play at fireworks sending  
up rockets in the  
night, & dropping them  
from aeroplanes in the  
evening. Today is  
gloriously sunny and  
hot. Just had a heap  
of papers, Daily News-

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up rockets in the  
night, & dropping them  
from aeroplanes in the  
evening. Today is  
gloriously sunny and  
hot. Just had a heap  
of papers, Daily News-

Express - Mirror - Morning Post etc. all dated about Sep 7 or 9. Very interesting reading. Managed to get hold of some water this morning. Had a wash, the first for nearly a fortnight. Under shell fire all the afternoon. Good night's rest.

Sep 24. Very much the same as the last two days. Big engagement still on remain in our trenches. Wrote two long letters & received a woolly waistcoat & letter from Eileen.

Sep 25. Still in same

trenches. Had a good night's rest last night. Letter from Blanche this morning & have written a regulation P.C. home & to Eileen today. Posted 2 letters & 2 P.C.s yesterday.

Sep 26. Saturday. Fairly good night. Still in trenches of course. We seem to have been in the one spot for ages. Rather smart attack of neuralgia this morning. Two letters from Eileen. We are being shelled again today. Also machine gun played on us this morning.

the enemy this morning but what damage was done I don't yet know. We are following (in France) behind them. General Dunder commanding the R.A. first division was killed by a shell this morning. Heavy gun fire is now heard in the distance. Think the German retirement is being checked nearly by our guns. Rain all morning and a heavy storm just over. A lot of wounded in Constant - Gravelles - Cony. 11th Reserve - our own - German attacks there. Think the German entrenchment on the left.

of them. News from Royce & Reeves due 2 out at Warden. 7. Chary. 8. Baccinelle. 9. Only go on for so the 10th West of Chateau Thierry. I have not been able to write in my diary the last few days. We have been much about temporarily. We were (A Company) on outpost duty last night & five men & one officer (German) came through my fragment vest capture. Thursday. Got on for so Bourdeaux at midday. Our second (?) brigade come in contact with

but I don't think it did  
 any damage.  
 Sep 27. A few shells dropped  
 near our trenches yesterday  
 & did some little damage.  
 Two killed & several injured.  
 Sunday is here again &  
 so the engagement  
 has been in progress for  
 a fortnight. I wonder  
 how much longer it will  
 last. We have been in  
 these trenches now for  
 a week exactly. I had  
 a letter from Fitzger this  
 morning & a small  
 parcel of chocolates  
 from Eileen. I am  
 pleased to hear that  
 Fitzger has joined the

from home etc which pleased  
 me very much. I will come  
 & to Eileen. I received for  
 night in a tent at night  
 We appear to be going due  
 East now.  
 Sep 24. Thanks to the rain -  
 when we arrive at 11 am. Rest  
 all day & move off at 7:30  
 to \_\_\_\_\_. We have now  
 marched over 200 miles  
 since we started at Le  
 Havre on Aug. 16. &  
 really more we left  
 200 miles in 14 days & not  
 had marching.  
 Sep 5. Thanks to the rain - first  
 reinforcement.  
 Sep 6. Important day - change

Battalion in Bradford.  
 I wonder if all my letters  
 reach home & Eileen.  
 I have written a lot  
 lately & Blanche in her  
 letter said you at home  
 had not heard for some  
 time.  
 Sep 28. Left trenches last night  
 and were relieved by  
 Black Watch. We come  
 back to Bourq where we  
 killed. Sleeping on  
 a mattress on the  
 floor of a house - a real  
 luxurious sleep.  
 Sep 29. Moved from Bourq to  
 Parguan - only a couple  
 of miles & again killed.  
 Had a good night's rest.

farm - a pretty place. We  
 are just beginning to wonder  
 what is happening & why we  
 are making back so quickly  
 & suddenly. 10 days march  
 we will cover 20 miles. My  
 feet are beginning to feel  
 the strain of an over  
 am terribly dirty. Just  
 longing for an English  
 cigarette. I would like to  
 write home to Emma but  
 it is quite impossible. I  
 wonder what you know of  
 the situation what you  
 are thinking. I don't know  
 if my clothes for several  
 days. Still marching - make  
 day. Had several letters



attacked Tuesday night  
 nothing much at the Grand Day  
 thanked to divine when we  
 had a sharp encounter with  
 Germans who were outside  
 trenches. Under artillery  
 fire - controlled German  
 positions - for 2 hours.  
 Aug 27. Several injuries - one  
 officer killed - related to  
 being in Wednesday night.  
 Left out in the open.  
 Rained all night. Had a  
 good sleep of 4 hours &  
~~reached~~ off next morning  
 about 10 o'clock. Front  
 very clear - pouring rain -  
 rear of column attacked  
 on passing through  
 dense. That day back to

and many of them to  
 wounds and death. His  
 sincerity of speech was  
~~not~~ not to be doubted.  
 Wrote letter No 1 to Eileen  
 & one to mother.

- Oct 5. Parcel letter from Amy  
 Ellis. Chocolate from home  
 letter from mother.  
 Marion. O.S. 4. 13. I am  
 sure most of my letters  
 do not reach home.
- Oct 6. Still in billets. Huge  
 bundle of parcels this  
 morning. Two from home,  
 one Eileen one Mrs Christie  
 one Mrs Bottomley & Margaret.  
 Wrote letter No 2 to  
 mother & to Eileen.
- Oct 7. Go up to trenches -

into trenches. Artillery engaged  
 about 5:30. Heat under dark.  
 Slept in our trenches. During  
 continued with intervals during  
 night & began in earnest about  
 dawn 4:30 am.  
 Aug 28. First airbourne one of our  
 aeroplanes coming through  
 enemy position. Shells came  
 get near enough to it & it  
 got through safely. Don  
 working then in the trenches.  
 sent knew must go to British  
 raised force in position.  
 that enemy guns are common.  
 had mostly on our left.  
 We are probably in for a  
 big fight today.  
 Aug 29. Retire in the early morning  
 and retreat to next morning

- saw chucks demolished  
 by German shells (Paris).
- Oct 8. Still in trenches. Was  
 on duty in firing  
 trenches last night.  
 letter from mother today.
9. Still in trenches.  
 letter from Eileen.
10. Back in billets at  
 Moulin. No 3 to mother  
 & Eileen. Parcel from  
 home today.
11. In Billets.
12. In Billets. letter  
 from mother, Eileen,  
 Mrs. B. Mary. Letter  
 from Noah.
13. Back in trenches.
14. Still in trenches but  
 in billets at night.



