

A. S. C.



**Drvr. later Company Quarter Master Sergeant
A. S. C. (Army Service Corps.)**

Jack Powell MSM

(1894 - 1941)

Service Number : T2-12960

HIS DIARY
from the Western Front
25th July 1915 to 1st January 1919
(Transcribed as written in pencil in his Field Message Book)



18th Division



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Photograph dated 22th June 1916

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ARMY BOOK 153.

FIELD MESSAGE BOOK

**(For the use of Dismounted Regimental
Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of
Cavalry and Infantry.)**

*This Book is ruled in $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
squares.*

The waterproof cover issued for the purpose of protecting this book may be obtained on application. It should be made to outlast as many refills as possible. Special envelopes for despatching messages, Army Form C. 398, may also be obtained.

Landed in France on July
25th 1915 at Havre after
crossing on the ARCHINEDES.
After disembarking we tied
our horses up to a huge
shed on the quay.
About 3pm we were given
orders to harness up and
subsequently proceeded to a
rest camp - rain came in and
our first impression was a
dismal one of France.
Midnight we were given
orders to get ready to proceed
to the station for entraining
up line. After about two
hours we got all our horses
and wagons on and then
got into cattle trucks our-
selves, about twenty in
each truck.

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Landed in France on July 25th 1915 at HAVRE after crossing on the ARCHINEDES. After disembarking we tied our horses to a huge shed on the quay.

About 3pm we were given orders to harness up and subsequently proceeded to a rest camp - rain came in and our first impression was a dismal one of France.

Midnight we were given orders to get ready to proceed to the station for entraining up line. After about two hours we got all our horses and wagons on and then got into cattle trucks ourselves, about twenty in each truck.

We dropped off to sleep
and awoke next morning
about 5 AM, seeing for the
first time rural France -
not unlike our own country
except for the very level
country. We sat on the
side of the trucks and
were cheered by the French
people as we passed through
their villages.
We arrived at a village
near AMIENS about 5 pm
on the 26th and there
disentrained, marched through
AMIENS on our way to
MULLIENS-AU-BOIS (a distance
of 21 kilometres.
First found the disadvantage
of not being able to
speak French.
We billeted in this

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We dropped off to sleep and awoke next morning about 5AM, seeing for the first time rural France - not unlike our own country except for the very level country. We sat on the side of the trucks and were cheered by the French people as we passed through their villages.

We arrived at a village near AMIENS about 5PM on the 26th and there disentrained, marched through AMIENS on our way to MULLIENS-AU-BOIS a distance of 21 kilometres.

First found the disadvantage of not being able to speak French.

We billeted in this

village for 8 days, during
which time we had
to carry our rifles about
with us, whenever we
left camp. Great shortage
of baguettes and an abundance
of red wine - directly the
cause of one NCO losing
his rank.
On the 3rd I went on
in advance to look for
Billets at BRESLE, passing
through CONTOY and
HAVEVILLE. Arranged with
the Adj. of 51st Div. Train
for a barn, had tea, and
went down to the main
AMIENS - ALBERT road to
meet the Bgde. coming in.
A miserable wet night -
we managed to find our
way to the camp after a

Page 3

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a good deal of strong
language had now been used.
Here we first became
acquainted with lice - in
a straw barn, and
bivouaced under a wagon
cover. Bde went in the
line at Albert with the
51st Div.
Moved from Bresle to Contoy
- did my first guard on
51st Div. France Hd Qtrs.
Tim out after time and
told by Capt. H - "no more
passes in France".
Stayed here a week, afterwards
moving to BUSSY LE POULES
where the Bde were
received by the French
Premier and Gen. Munro.
Left Bussy on 22/8/15 and
marched with supply column

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good deal of strong language had been used.

Here we first became acquainted with lice - in a straw barn, and bivouaced under a wagon cover.

Bde. went in the line at ALBERT with the 51st Div.

Moved from BRESLE to CONTOY - did my first guard on 51st Div.. France Hd. Qtrs.

Tim out after time and told by Capt. H - "no more passes in France".

Stayed here a week, afterwards moving to BUSSY LE POULES where the Bde. were received by the French Premier and Gen. Munro. Left BUSSY on 22/8/15 and marched with supply column

to BRAY, where we first
 saw German shelling and
 planes observing - (more
 interested than afraid.
 Stayed that night with
 Bde. signals sergt. and
 following day moved back
 to VILLE-SUR-ANCRE
 24/8/15
 Joined the Coy. at VILLE
 and marched back to
 DAOURS passing through
 CORBIE.
 I was sent to RIBEMONT
 to draw supplies and
 look after ordnance stores -
 supply section at MORLANCOURT -
 30/8/15
 Coy. moved up to RIBEMONT
 and Bde. move from BRAY
 to ALBERT sector.
~~Stayed at Ribemont from~~
~~1/9/15 to 2/9/15 morning~~

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to BRAY, where we first saw German shelling and planes observing - more interested than afraid.

Stayed that night with Bde. signals sergt. and following day moved back to VILLE-SUR-ANCRE

24/8/15

Joined the Coy. at VILLE and marched back to DAOURS passing through CORBIE.

I was sent to RIBEMONT to draw supplies and look after ordnance stores - supply section at MORLANCOURT

30/8/15

Coy. moved up to RIBEMONT and Bde. move from BRAY to ALBERT sector.

at this village from
 1/9/15 to 5/3/16 and during
 that time had a fine
 time, and took over my
 section.
 6/3/15
 Moved to BEHAUCOURT - stayed
 until 13/3/16 - Miserable village.
 14/3/16
 Moved to ETEINHEM - Poor
 old Wookey drowned.
 Fritz dropped bombs first
 night and shells during
 the day. Stayed at ETEINHEM
 from 14/3/16 to 30/4/16
 Marched with Berks to
 AILLY-SUR-SOMME. Tim and I
 went to AMIENS on pass.
 Was in this village about
 a fortnight, then ordered to
 go with the Essex to
 ETEINHEM joining the 30th
 Division at ECLUSE LOCK.

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At this village from 1/9/15 to 5/3/16 and during that time had a fine time and took over my section.

6/3/15

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Marched with Berks. to AILLY-SUR-SOMME. Tim and I went to AMIENS on pass.

Was in this village about a fortnight, then ordered to go with the Essex to ETEINHEM joining the 30th Division at ECLUSE LOCK.

Wagons on ammunition carrying up
up to CARNOY - all the roads full of
transport up past BRONFAY Farm
Night and day job for
drivers.
25/6/16
Joined Coy at Chipilly
and got wind of preparations
for attack.
1st July 1916
Morning of attack - guns
been firing very heavy during
night. And went up to top
of Chipilly hill to see
them. On supplies to
Grovetown Camp and saw
reserves lying out ready to
go up, also lorry after lorry
of wounded coming down
besides walking wounded
cages full of German prisoners

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Wagons on ammunition carrying up to CARNOY - all the roads full of transport up past BRONFAY Farm.

Night and day job for drivers.

25/6/16

Joined Coy. at CHIPILLY and got wind of preparations for attack.

1st July 1916

Morning of attack - guns been firing very heavy during night - and went up to top of CHIPILLY hill to see them. On supplies to Grovetown Camp and saw reserves lying out ready to go up, also lorry after lorry of wounded coming down besides walking wounded. Cages full of German prisoners.

Bde moved from Bray about
 10th July after capturing
 Control Maison and advancing
 to Frones and Delville
 Wood. Casualties heavy
 Poor old Cook killed. Sgt
 Hinstock wounded.

~~Continued~~
 Marched from Grovetown
 to HANGEST and entrained
 with M. G. C. for North.
 Travelled all night and
 part of next day, disentraining
 about 6pm. We then
 marched to BLARINGHEM.
 Left Blaringhem on 30/7/16
 and marched to ~~the~~ Mount-
 de Cats, camped in a field
 for about 7 days, and
 marched to BAC-ST-MAUR
 near Armentieres. Units at
 ERCQUINHAM. Bde in line
 at ARMENTIERES

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Bde. moved from BRAY about 10th July after capturing CONTROL MAISON and advancing to FRONES and DELVILLE WOOD.

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Travelled all night and part of next day, disentraining about 6pm. We then marched to BLARINGHEM. Left BLARINGHEM on 30/7/16 and marched to MOUNT DE CATS, camped in a field for about 7 days, and marched to BAC-ST-MAUR near ARMENTIERES. Units at ERCQUINHAM. Bde. in line at ARMENTIERES.

Stopped here about a week
and then marched to
BAILLEUL camping just outside
the town, camped in a
field.
Entrained at BAILLEUL for
TINCQUES - marched all night
after disentraining with Berks
raining heavy. Rejoined
Coy. at TINCQUES. Coy.
camped in a muddy field
and tents and bivouacs
flooded out.
Bde. go in training for
big stint - afterwards proved
to be THIEPVAL.
At TINCQUES on main ARRAS
St. Pol road for about ten
days - went to St. Pol,
a very old fashioned place
with narrow streets.

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Stopped here about a week and then marched to BAILLEUL camping just outside the town, camped in a field.

Entrained at BAILLEUL for TINCQUES - marched all night after disentraining with Berks. raining heavy. Rejoined Coy. at TINCQUES - Coy. camped in a muddy field and tents and bivouacs flooded out.

Bde. go in training for big stint - afterwards proved to be THIEPVAL.

At TINCQUES on main ARRAS ST. POL road for about ten days - went to ST. POL, a very old fashioned place with narrow streets.

Left Tincques on 10/9/16
and passed through
BOURET - SUR - CANCHE
HALLOY, arriving at
LEAVILLERS - Somme once
more. One week at
Leavillers and moved to
FORGEVILLE - Bde going
with THIEPVAL and taking
part in the capture.
COMBLES falls on same day
Marched back to OCCUCHES
passing through ACHEUX
LOUVENCOURT, DOULLENS.
Left OCCUCHES 13/10/16 arrived
at HERRISART and eventually
came back to ALBERT.
Aveluy rail head - country
all around desolate and
mud up to knees. Camp
at amphitheatre flooded out.

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Left OCCUCHES 13/10/16 arrived at HERRISART and eventually came back to ALBERT
AVELUY rail head - country all around desolate and mud up to knees. Camp at amphitheatre flooded out.

Moved back on our way to
Le Titre passing through
many villages. Long march
Stayed at Le Titre from
about 1/12/16 till 28/12/16
had a good Xmas - after
spending a fortnight in hosp.
with Bronchitis
29/12/16
Moved to Drucot
Saw Abbeville.
10/1/17
Left Drucot, passed
through Prouville, Puchvillars
and had a rotten job
with supply wagons finding
the units.
Came back to camp about
10 pm - and found Coy
situated in mud from
a foot to 3 feet in parts
deep.

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Moved back on our way to LE TITRE passing through many villages - long march.

Stayed at LE TITRE from about 1/12/16 'til 28/12/16 had a good Xmas - after spending a fortnight in hosp. with Bronchitis

29/12/16 Moved to DRUCOT

Saw ABBEVILLE

10/1/17

Left DRUCOT, passed through PROUVILLE, PUCHVILLARS and had a rotten job with supply wagons finding the units.

Came back to camp about 10 pm - and found Coy. situated in mud from a foot to 3 feet in parts deep.

Moved to Martinsart - 16/1/17
Billeted in a cellar at
Martinsart
Aveluy warm place for
shells. The Bde. takes
part of Somme retirement.
finishing up at Miraumont.
Coy. move to CRUCIFIX
CORNER - more mud.
Tim applies for a
commission.
Leave Martinsart on 20/3/17
and arrive at Warloy where
we give old Tim a great
send off and I take over
as C.Q.M.S.
Leave Warloy on 21/3/17 - at
Mirvaux 21/3/17
22/3/17 Saleux
Stay at factory - soft
beds. 2 days.

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Moved to MARTINSART 16/1/17

Billeted in a cellar at MARTINSART

AVELUY warm place for shells. The Bde. taken part of SOMME retirement finishing up at MIRAUMONT

Coy. move to CRUCIFIX CORNER - more mud.

Tim applies for a commission.

Leave MARTINSART on 20/3/17 - and arrive at WARLOY where we give old Tim a great send off and I take over C.Q.M.S.

Leave WARLOY on 21/3/17 - at MIRVAUX 21/3/17

22/3/17 SALEUX

Stay at factory - soft beds two days.

23/3/17 Entrain for
BERGUETTE - camp at
Le Cornet - Brussart -
Went to AIRE with Greenway
Moved from Le Cornet - Brussart -
to outskirts of BETHUNE.
Stopped at Bethune about
a fortnight and marched
to village near ST Pol.
about 35 kilometres.
Went by train next day
with Suffolks up to Arras
and found new camp
near DAINVILLE.
Coy arrived next day.
Following day we moved
to triangle roads ARRAS -
BEURAINS - AGNY. Camped in
no mans land between our
old line and German line.
French soldiers burying
and identifying bones of
soldiers.

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23/3/17 Entrain for BERGUETTE - camp at LE CORNET BRUSSART
Went to AIRE with Greenway.
Moved from LE CORNET BRUSSART to outskirts of BETHUNE.
Stopped at BETHUNE about a fortnight and marched to village near ST. POL,
about 35 kilometres.
Went by train next day with Suffolks up to ARRAS and found new camp near
DAINVILLE.
Coy. arrived next day.
Following day we moved to triangle roads ARRAS BEURAINS - AGNY.
Camped in no mans land between our old line and German line.
French soldiers burying and identifying bones of soldiers.

Went through German
 trenches and dug outs
 Moved from this camp
 to BOISEUX AU MONT.
 20/6/17 Moved to SOUASTRE
 Left SOUASTRE on 3/7/17
 and entrained at SAULTY for
 STEENWOORDE.
 Half the Coy on road
 work and carrying R.E.
 material up around Ypres
 Shrapnel corner, Dorney House
 and Café Belge.
 Heavy casualties to Train.
 Went on leave from here
 25/7/17 to 5/8/17
 Came back and found
 Coy at DICKEBUSCH
 Rotten place for bombs and
 shells
 Moved back from Dickebusch
 to ARNEKE after having met
 Hal at POPERINGE

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Went through German trenches and dug outs

Moved from this camp to BOISEUX AU MONT

20/6/17 Moved to SOUASTRE. Left SOUASTRE on 3/7/17 and entrained at SAULTY for STEENWOORDE.

Half the Coy. on road work and carrying R.E. material up around YPRES, SHRAPNEL CORNER, DORNEY HOUSE and CAFÉ BELGE.

Heavy casualties to Train.

Went on leave from here 25/7/17 to 5/8/17

Came back and found Coy. at DICKEBUSCH

Rotten place for bombs and shells

Moved back from DICKEBUSCH to ARNEKE after having met Hal at POPERINGE

Stayed six weeks at ARNEKE and moved up to POPERINGE aerodrome camp. More bombs.
Moved from POP. 4/11/17 to PESOLHOEK - 40 Horses of previous train just being skinned and buried after being killed by bombs.
More bombs.
Moved back to HARRINGE 3/11/17 and then to HERZEELE.
Xmas at HERZEELE.
Left on 27th Dec. and marched back to ELVERDINGE - second time. Shelled out of our camp - move to another near RH. Weather miserable everybody the same.
Read Manning and I have some happy times with B. H. Q.

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Weather miserable everybody the same

Read, Manning and I have some happy times with B. H. Q.

We move from EL- to
 ROUSBRUGGE and stop
 at a french camp.
 The Bde break up and
 Barnes, Manning & Hove
 leave us.
 Stay here for about a
 week and then entrain
 for NOYON passing through
 BETHUNE, ST. POL, ARRAS
 ALBERT, AMIENS, MONTDIDIER
 COMPIEGNE and arrive at
 NOYON about 3pm.
 March from NOYON to BABOUEF.
 First English troops since
 1914 to billet there.
 Went to NOYON - place
 practically untouched all
 civilians there.
 Left BABOUEF on 16/2/18
 and marched to NIEUFLIEUX
 Left NIEUFLIEUX on 26/2/18

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 Stay here for about a week and then entrain for NOYON passing through
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 Went to NOYON - place practically untouched all civilians there.
 Left BABOUEF on 16/2/18 and marched to NIEUFLIEUX
 Left NIEUFLIEUX on 26/2/18

and marched to FLAVY - LE -
 MARTEL. Bde in line at
 FORT VENDUILE.
 14th Div. on left. 58th on right.
 Weather about the 20th had
 turned very foggy. During our
 stay at FLAVY there was
 practically no shelling or
 bombing, and spite of
 warnings and vague rumours
 no one thought of a German
 attack on our front - except
 the higher command.
 The village itself was
 situated on the eastern side
 of a long line of woods -
 the woods overlooking the
 CHAUNY - NOYON valley with
 the OISE canal running
 along it - we had received
 orders what to do in case
 of a sudden retirement
 but did not think it.

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 no one thought of a German attack on our front - except the higher command.
 The village itself was situated on the eastern side of a long line of woods - the
 woods overlooking the CHAUNY - NOYON valley with the OISE canal
 running along it - we had received orders what to do in case of a sudden
 retirement and did not think it

possible for the Germans to
push us back to any
great extent.
At the time, Italian
labour companies were working
on a second line of defence
as far as we knew, the
only second line, at the
time only in a partial state
of construction. Apart from
this, our front line - running
on a high ridge, with the
canal L'OISE running between
was believed to be impassable.
Prior to this date, patrols
had reported that knocking
- as if working parties were
constructing something - had
been heard on the
opposite side of the
canal. On the night of
the 20th the warning order

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At the time, Italian labour companies were working on a second line of defence as far as we knew, the only second line, at the time only in a partial state of construction apart from this,

our front line - running on a high ridge, with the CANAL L'OISE running between was believed to be impassable.

Prior to this date patrols had reported that knocking - as if working parties were constructing something - had been heard on the opposite side of the canal. On the night of the 20th the warning order

was received "Prepare for
attack" and certain precautionary
measures laid down, were
immediately taken. The
night was very foggy and
the mist grew thicker
and thicker. We dropped
off to sleep little thinking
of what was going to
happen on the following day.
The following morning we
were awakened about 3 AM
by a terrible bombardment
and the sound of shells
passing over, others dropping
in the village - we all
guessed it was the
preliminary bombardment before
an attack.
About midday transport
came back over the St.
Quentin canal at Jussy.

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About midday transport came back over the ST. QUENTIN canal at JUSSY

belonging to the 14th Div.
and reported all sorts
of rumours, amongst them
being that the Germans
were through REMIGNY
and advancing on JUSSY.
That Fritz was in HAM
and had cut us off
from NOYON. We were cautioned
to pay no heed to any rumours
and to carry on under orders
from our Division only.
Later on men of different units
came straggling back and
reported the capture complete
of a Bde. of the -----
At the time we had
received no news whatever of
our own Div. other than
they were holding on a
ridge just behind our
original line.

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At the time we had received no news whatever of our own Div. other than they were holding on a ridge just behind our original line.

about 3 o'clock an ammunition column lying by us, marched off with arms for their batteries - one of which was a Glamorgan RHA Bde. - and on return reported that our reserve guns were in action. During the day Fritz planes were coming over constantly flying low for observation and bombing - ours could not be seen but were subsequently said to have been bombing and m. gunning enemy reserves massed for attack. Presently the firing seemed to grow quieter and quieter and about an hour later gunners of the 14th were coming in carrying their

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breach blocks with them
- we guessed at once
that guns had been
abandoned. Still no news
of our Div. Their position
in conjunction with the
58th Div. - as far as we
could understand - was a
sort of pivotal one, they
were swinging round with
the left flank as the
advance continued.
At the time we were
expecting to be called upon
and there were very few
men who were not prepared
to volunteer had they been
called upon to do so.
The fact that none of
our people had crossed
over the canal, proved
to us that the old
Div. was keeping up.

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At the time we were expecting to be called upon and there were very few men who were not prepared to volunteer had they been called upon to do so.

The fact that none of our people had crossed over the canal, proved to us that the old Div. was keeping up

its records, which was subsequently confirmed by hard and terse official reports, and messages from our Commander.
At 12 o'clock that night we received our orders to move back to BABOUEF and field guns were firing in the open at FLAVY at the time.
We got to BABOUEF about 6 o'clock on the morning of the 22nd and found the few people there making preparations to get away.
On the road from CHAUNY I saw some sad sights - old men and women pushing their few belongings on a wheelbarrow to where -

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On the road from CHAUNY I saw some sad sights - old men and women pushing their few belongings on a wheelbarrow to where -

They did not know.
Women and little children
tramping along driving
before them a cow and
dragging some poor old
horse. How I wished
that some of our people
could have witnessed their
hopeless expressions and
tired faces.
On the 22nd the French
reserves began to come
up - men over 45 years of
age who had been
marching at a great speed
for hours, being urged
on by the seriousness
of the situation.
That day Boche planes
flew back over and
machine gunned the top
roads leading to
Guiscard.

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Women and little children tramping along driving before them a cow and dragging some poor old horse. How I wished that some of our people could have witnessed their hopeless expressions and tired faces.

On the 22nd the French reserves began to come up - men over 45 years of age who had been marching at a great speed for hours, being urged on by the seriousness of the situation.

That day Boche planes flew back over and machine gunned the top roads leading to GUISCARD.

23rd
 We heard the Boche had captured Flavy, Ham and was on the outskirts of Chauny. Later he was reported to have captured Neufleux and Cailloel our chaps being outside Bethancourt and Marest. Transport pouring down from Guiscard and Grandru French 75's coming up as fast as possible and English Cavalry. Horses of the latter coming back about an hour later. The 1st Cav. Division came in that night and proceeded into action dismounted. The roads were full of poor civilians driving

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The 1st Cav. Division came in that night and proceeded into action dismounted. The roads were full of poor civilians driving

their stock and pushing barrows intermingled with Chinese tramping along with huge bundles swung on bamboo sticks over their shoulders. We moved that night to DIVES LE FRANCE arriving about midnight and passing through NOYON - the road from the town to COMPEIGNE being full of refugees. The following day all roads were closed to Eastward traffic other supply wagons and amm. etc. etc.

25th
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The town believed to
have commenced to burn
26th
We moved off about 6AM
to an unknown destination
after having considerable
difficulty in finding a
bridge over the river - most
of the bridges having
been blown up by French
engineers and roads blocked
by felled trees.
After crossing we passed
through the old French
line held prior to the
French advance. We
crossed R. Oise, passing
through TRACY LE MONT
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roads in this part being
cut up and almost
impassable in parts.

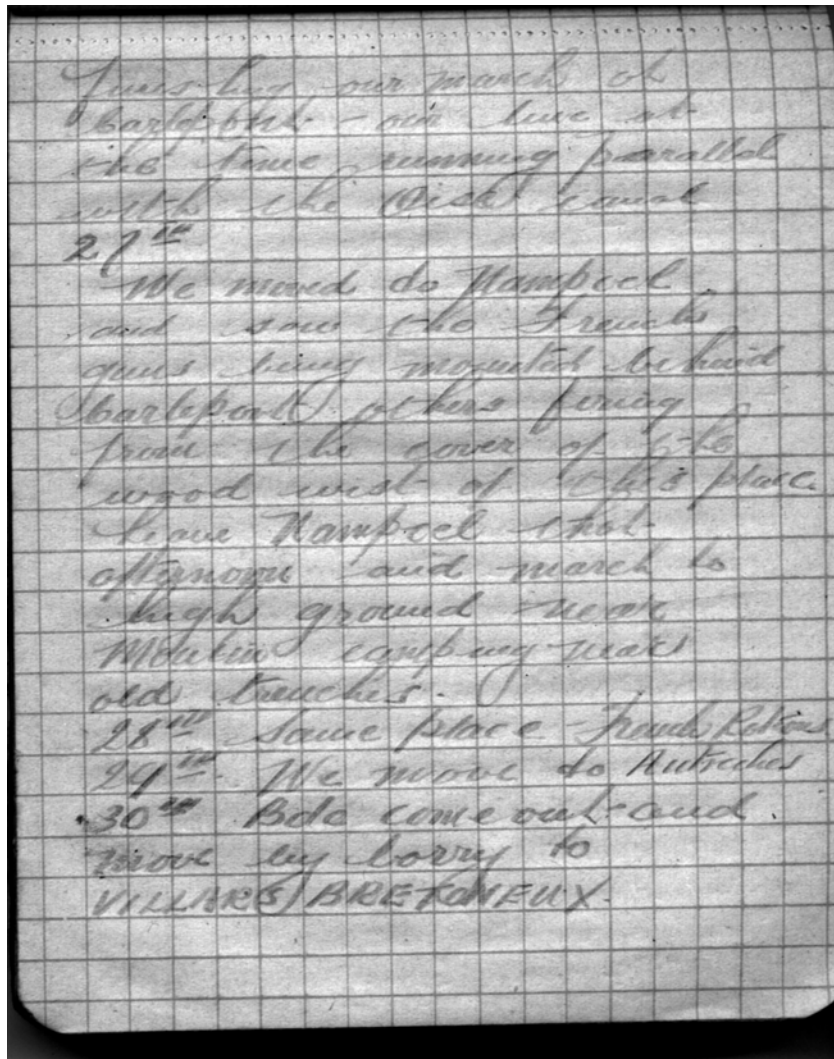
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Finishing our march at CARLEPONT - our line at the time running parallel with the OISE canal.

27th

We move to NAMPCEL and saw the French guns being mounted behind CARLEPONT others firing from the cover of the wood west of this place. Leave NAMPCEL that afternoon and march to high ground near MOULIN camping near old trenches.

28th Same place - French rations

29th We move to AUTRECHES

30th Bde. come out and move by lorry to VILLERS BRETONEUX

We then commenced our march from this front to the AMIENS front moving as a division the transport extending for miles along the road, and during this period heard a possible solution to the working parties heard by our patrols. The morning of the attack, patrols reported that the canal was being drained and it was subsequently stated that the Germans had constructed submerged bridges, which by the lowering of the water level - were passable for men and transport.

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On our way from the NOYON
 front to the AMIENS sector
 we passed through some
 very pretty country following
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 GENTELLES and CACHY.

We arrived at SALEUX about ^{the} 7th of April and then ^{later}
 a detachment was formed
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We stopped at this village
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 moving up to BOVES where
 Jones was struck with a piece
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On April 26th we moved back
to WARLUS - the first rest-
our Bde had since
leaving NIEUFLIEUX.
Nothing of interest to write
of in this village.
Apr 28th Move to SOUXES
and meet some of who
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from that place.
May 4th
Move from SOUXES to
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May 5th
Move from AMIENS up to
BEHENCOURT.
May 7th Move to wood near
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We stayed here for about
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Afterwards move to MALHUIS-
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 Regt. Impressed by their
 physique and eagerness to
 to learn.
 July 14th
 We move to BREILLY and
 billet at Middle Gaudois home.
 Mr. H. Read and I
 My first experience of contact
 with really good class French
 people. I don't during our
 stay there we looked after
 in a most kind way and
 received every thing like at
 home.
 We held our third Anniv.
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Page 32

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We left Breilly on July 3rd
 morning to Pont Noyelles.
 From here, Read and
 I went to Paris on leave,
 had an enjoyable time
 and rejoined the Coy at
 Daily Mail Wood near
 Coutay, where we met
 Mr. Nicholas of Pontypool
 acting as a YMC A
 Manager.
 At this time the turn
 of the battle had begun,
 our Div being on the
 left of Bray. We then
 commenced to move forward
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 afterwards HEILLY, then BURES,
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Page 33

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 The Div. come out at
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 We leave Allonville on the
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 about 12 kilos from Peronne.
 Move from Lieramont to
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Page 34

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Move from Vendhuile to
AVELU near Premont, Bde
in line at Le Cateau.
Following advance, we move
to Le Cateau and here
get into very comfortable
billets. The town at the
time was practically empty,
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On our way up, we saw a
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At Le Cateau were
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At LE CATEAU were gathered the guns the

Division captured before
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- about 65 all together,
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On the morning of the
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took it very calmly.
There were no demonstrations
of shouting of any kind.
That night we had
a little concert.
13th We move back to
PREMONT - where I've
written this from memory
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Nobby and Dai left
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Edgar has just come
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Moved to Serain on
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Page 37

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(Special)? Leave on 2 / 1 / 19



front & rear of a Christmas card sent by Jack from the front 1918



Inside the same card

Front and inside of a Christmas Card
sent home by Jack Christmas 1917
(not to scale)



CQMS Powell J. (T2-12960) His Medals



Meritorious Service Medal MSM FOR GALLANTRY

In 1916, the MSM was awarded to all ranks:

duly recommended for the grant in respect of gallant conduct in the performance of military duty otherwise than in action against the enemy, or in saving, or attempting to save the life of an officer or soldier, or for devotion to duty in a theatre of war.



1914 Star and 1914-15 Star. (Became known as "PIP")

Both medals took the form of a bronze star with a central scroll bearing either Aug - Nov 1914 or 1914 - 15. The 1914 Star was issued to members of the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) who had served in France and Belgium during the period 5th August 1914 and 22nd November 1914. The majority issued were to members of the Regular and Territorial Army but some naval personnel serving ashore were eligible



British War Medal 1914 - 1920 (Became known as "Squeak")

This medal takes the form of a solid silver medal with an image of a mounted figure of St George trampling the shield of the central powers with the dates 1914 and 1918 thereon. The reverse has the coinage head of George V.

The qualification for the award was service within the three armed services or within any Commonwealth or Imperial unit or within certain recognised voluntary organisations. No bars were issued and applied to all theatres of war and certain categories of service within England. The award is usually found with the Victory medal but was awarded singly.



Victory Medal 1914 - 1918 (Became known as "Wilfred")

It was decided amongst the Allies that a common theme would be adopted and that each country would produce a medal to commemorate the Victory. This medal took various forms according to the country but a common item was the rainbow coloured ribbon. The British medal shows the winged victory on the front holding a palm branch with the words "The Great War for Civilisation" on the reverse.

The British medal was produced in bronze and was awarded to those who had received the 1914 or 1914-15 Star and to most of those who received the War Medal and could not be awarded alone. The main qualification was those having any service in a war theatre.



Jack Powell (Cpl.). 5th from left. -
Photograph by Horace G. Pike of Halstead, Essex.
date unknown



Somewhere in France. Photograph dated
29th September 1917. Censor had obliterated place name
CQMS. Jack Powell- 4th from left seated.

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1914 - 15 Star



1914 Star



British War Medal
1914 - 1920



Victory Medal
1914 - 1919

British Service Medals of the First World War

Click on the image for detailed information.

British and Commonwealth servicemen and servicewomen were awarded a wide variety of orders, medals and decorations for their service in the First World War. These included medals for gallantry, distinguished service and those bestowed by Allied governments. General service during the First World War was recognised by the issue of the 1914 Star (or the 1914-15 Star), the British War Medal 1914-1920 and the Victory Medal 1914-1919. These medals were issued in unprecedented numbers. Virtually all service personnel, and those civilians who served in an officially recognised organisation qualified for one or more of these medals.

The usual trio of awards, the 1914 Star (or the 1914-15 Star if appropriate) together with the two service medals became popularly known as '*Pip, Squeak and Wilfred*' after characters in a *Daily Mail* cartoon of the period.

General Summary: Nature and number of awards

Please see individual awards for often complex eligibility criteria.

The 1914 Star was awarded to members of the British and Indian Expeditionary Forces, serving in France or Belgium on the establishment of a unit between 5 August 1914 and midnight on 22/23 November 1914.

● **1914 Stars** 365,622

● **1914 Star Clasps** 145,000

The 1914-15 Star was awarded to those who saw service in any theatre of war against the central powers between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915 except those eligible for the 1914 Star.

● **1914-15 Stars** 2,078,183

The British War Medal 1914-20 was issued to commemorate the successful conclusion of the war and awarded to those who had served in a theatre of war up to and including the official end of the war in 1920.

● **British War Medals (silver)** 6,500,000

● **British War Medals (bronze)** 110,000

The Victory Medal 1914-19 was issued in commemoration of the Allied victory, mostly to those who served on the establishment of a unit in a theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918 (with some exceptions for later service).

● **Victory Medal** 5,725,000

Further Information

The Imperial War Museum does not hold the Medal Rolls for the First World War or the personal Service Records of members of HM Forces. For the availability of this material, you are advised to consult the information contained on the [Public Record Office](#) website.