

WALKER'S

BACK-LOP

Memorandum Book



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London:  
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1914

Sept 4th: Enlisted at  
Mountain Ash in 14th  
Lancers.

Sept 24th: Ordered to  
report at Recruiting Office.

Sept 26th: Proceeded to  
Depot at Newport.

Sept 30th: Transferred to  
2nd Dragoon Guards

Oct 10th: Visited Home.

Oct 24th: " "

Oct 28th: Drafted to  
Redershot to join  
A Squadron, 2nd D.G.s.

Dec 26th: 6 days furlough  
home.

1915

Feb 9th: Inspected on  
Laffins plain by Lord  
Hitchener & M. Mallett and  
French War Minister.

April 4th: Transferred to  
Reserve Squadron.

April 10th: Admitted to  
hospital; injured by  
falling horse

April 16th: Discharged  
from Hospital.

April 24th: Home on  
2 days leave.

May 22nd: Two days leave.

May 2: Beatrice  
proceeded to Manchester  
for duty as ~~...~~

June 6th: Proceeded to Hull  
to join 3rd Battalion  
Kings Own Yorkshire L.I.

June 7th: Zeppelin raid  
over Hull at midnight;  
much damage & loss  
of life.

June 8th: Guarding shops  
against looters

June 13th: Proceeded to  
Mtn Ash on 7 days over-sea  
leave

June 16th: Left for Manchester  
to visit Beatrice.

June 19th:  
Left Manchester for Hull.

Aug 3rd: Raveille at 3.30 AM  
Left for Southampton at 6 AM  
Embarked on transport  
"Princess Victoria" at 4.30 PM  
Set sail at 6.10 P.M.

Aug 4th: Stopped at La Havre  
at 4.30 AM. Scenery along  
River Seine most beautiful.  
Arrived off Rouen at 11 AM.  
Disembarked & reached  
Badajos camp, 13th Infantry  
Brigade at 1.20 PM.  
Kit inspection at 4 P.M.

Aug 5th: Bayonet fighting  
& Rifle drill.

Aug 7th: On fatigue at  
Rouen docks

Aug 8th: Bomb practise.

Aug 11th: Rest day;  
heard Rev. R. J. Campbell  
preach at Y.M.C.A. hut in  
the evening.

Aug 12th: Escort at  
funeral of British Sergeant.  
Escort also provided by  
French Cavalry. Remains  
interred at Rouen cemetery.

Aug 13th: Entrained  
for unknown destination.  
Train stopped for  
night at Abbeville.

Aug 14th: Resumed  
journey at 6 AM.  
Reached small station at  
12 AM.  
Marched to Warloy  
Baillon. Bivouaced  
in orchard for night.

Big guns distinctly heard  
and Rain poured down

Aug 15th: Quarters secured  
at French farm. Slept with  
15 others in fowl house at  
night

Aug 16th: In trenches  
in Arras Sector. Frogs very  
numerous.

Aug 17th: Left trenches  
and entrained for Belgium  
to join 8th. Entrenching Batt

Aug 18th: Arrived at  
Stenurwich on Sunday  
4 PM. Reached camp at  
"Le Seule" at 6.45 PM.  
No food for 16 hours

Aug 19th: Carrying  
water throughout day.

Aug 20th: Water fatigue

Aug 21st: Supporting  
Seaforth's at trench digging  
near Ploegsteert.

"Jack Johnson" compelled us  
to evacuate unfinished  
trenches. White & Jones  
wounded with shrapnel.

Thurs Aug 22nd - 26th  
Entrenching between  
Kewee Eglise & Ploegsteert  
ward

Tues Aug 27: Bath &  
change of underwear at  
Canadian Baths near  
Trois Rois

Wed Aug 28: On guard  
at Quartermaster's stores

September

Thurs 29th - Mon 9th  
Constructing trenches &  
reveting; making  
mach-gun emplacements,  
snipers boxes, ect

Sept 10th Tues: Heavy  
Bombardment throughout  
day

Sept 11th: Bombardment  
continues with great  
vigour

Sept 12th: Thurs -  
Digging trenches at night  
between Wulverghem &  
Kewee Eglise

Sept 13th: Fall into  
water, logged trench  
in the darkness

Sept 14th Sat: Camp  
shelled; slight casualties

Sept 15th (Sun)  
Had a pass through Nieppe  
over bridge into Hamen-  
ties - Tea at Soldiers Club

Sept 16th: Bath & change  
of underclothes at  
Trois Rois

Sept 18th : Heard Canadian

Chaplain speak on "25  
years on the Yukon  
trail"

Sept 19th

Entrenching in front of  
Canadian Batteries at  
Steele Eglise

Sept 24 : Witnessed  
aerial duel : German tanks  
injured by fire of British  
aeroplane & finally brought  
down by a Batt of the  
K.R.R.'s. Came to ground  
at Steenwerck : Both  
German aviators killed

Sept 25th : Repairing  
communication trenches  
with Alberta dragons.  
Canadian prematures  
causing many casualties.  
Tom Steele hit,  
Canadian bombardment of  
German barbed wire

1000 shells fired by 4  
batteries between 10 AM  
& 4 PM.

26th : Heavy bombing  
shell kills 2 R.E.'s about  
2 kilos from "Hyde Park" corner

Sun 29th Sept -  
Concert at night at  
Le Soule

Mon 28th : Sandbagging  
near Wulverghem : Shells  
all dropping short

29th to 1st of Oct -  
Entrenching in front  
of Messines post.  
River Douve

2nd of Oct : Left Steenwerck  
to join 1st Batt K.O.V.S.  
Passed through Hazebrouck

3rd of Oct : Joined Batt  
at Innequin. Went into  
K-trenches at Vermelles  
on Sunday evening

4th of October

"Over the top" at 4 A.M.  
attempted charge foiled  
with machine gun fire  
& bombs. Escaped  
by crawling into shell hole.  
Crawled back to British  
trenches at nightfall.

Oct-5th Tues: left  
trenches and marched  
to Arnequin - billeted  
in shell-riddled house.

Oct 6th on guard at  
adjutant's quarters.

Oct 7th: Marched via  
Bethune to Gonnehain.

Oct 8th: Roll-call:  
13 left in 1 Platoon.

Many missing as a  
result of the attempted  
charge on the Hohenzollern  
Redoubt.

Oct 9th Bayonet fighting  
& musketry drill.

Oct 10th: Attached to  
Bombers with Tom Steele  
& Key.

Oct 11th: Bombing practice  
R.A.M. stretcher bearer  
wounded by Hale's No. 1  
grenade.

Oct 12th: Baths visited  
at Obblinghem, also change  
of clothing.

Oct 13th: Bombing  
practice - Smith &  
Went Robinson wounded  
by flying shrapnel.

Oct 14th: Marched to  
Bewery & slept in the  
street.

Oct 16th: Sunday. Went  
into trenches at Guinchy  
- Leitchfields -  
Bringing up bombs all  
the afternoon.

Oct 17. Mon: Sent  
into front-line trenches  
on bombing duty.

Oct 18: Tues.  
Sumption wounded &  
Glover killed whilst  
wiring in front of trenches.

Wed Oct 19th:  
Occasional sniping.

Thurs Oct 20:  
Relieved at 10 a.m. by  
South Staffords. Corporal  
Wells killed in next sap  
whilst being relieved.  
Marched through Bethune  
to Gonchem.

Fri Oct 21: Resting.  
Awakened at midnight  
& marched to Choques.

Sat Oct 22: Embarked  
in cattle trucks for  
Marseille at 6 A.M.

Sun Oct 23rd)

Still travelling: Very  
cramped & uncomfortable.

Mon Oct 24th:  
Reached Marseille at  
10 A.M. Marched to docks  
& embarked on Transport  
"Kiarra". Set off at  
6 P.M.

Tues: Oct 25th: Lifelboat  
& lifelbelt practice.