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WAR DIARY.

Place.	Date.	Particulars.	Reference to Appdx.
	21 May.	Mortars and the Battalion suffered numerous casualties. Bn. HQ. was established in a large Chateau and it was here that the C.O. Lt. Col. N.P. Charlton, Major F.R. Marshall and 2/Lt. P.S. Buckingham were all wounded by a Mortar Shell which fell in the porchway of the House. All were evacuated. Subsequently Captain F.P. Barclay MC. was wounded and evacuated. The enemy continued to put over heavy Mortar, Arty. and M.G. fire. The Bn. had difficulty in getting Amn. and food supplies.	
	22 May.	There had been close fighting during the night and owing to casualties the C.O. Major L.C.D. Ryder decided to put in his reserve Coy. "B" Coy., commanded by Capt. G.M. Allen. This Officer was wounded and evacuated almost immediately. Twice during the night the enemy broke through; Bn. H.Q. manned its position. In the evening orders were received to withdraw to BACHY. This Sector had originally been prepared by 6 Inf. Bde. some months before. The withdrawal was carried out successfully, Coys. gradually thinning out and moving to a R/V.	
BACHY.	23 May.	During the morning The C.O. and Coy. Comdrs. carried out a recce. and Coys. took up positions at approx. 1100hrs. With the exception of enemy air activity the day was quiet and the Bn. were relieved by the French at about 2030hrs. and moved via AUBERS to the BETHUNE Sector where the Bde. were ostensibly to be in B.E.F. reserve. The weather had been beautiful up till this time but that night it was pitch dark with a thick mist, and the move by M.T. was a nightmare. There was also a shortage of G.M.P. and great congestion on the route.	
AUBERS	24 May.	In the area of AUBERS were found terrible scenes of destruction amongst refugees. Hundreds were laying about dead, houses and property had been destroyed, also the Indian War Memorial was demolished. After no more than a few hours rest the Battalion was ordered to take up a position on the BETHUNE-ESTAIRES Canal. The C.Os. recce. party was heavily fired on at PARADIS and the recce. was not completed until	

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Place. . . . . Date. . . . . Particulars. . . . . Ref. to Appendices.

until after dark. There was only one map per Battalion. The Battalion took up position with "A", "B" and "D" Coys., forward. "G" Coy. in reserve.

PARADIS. 25 May.

Early in the morning O.C. 4 A/TK. Coy. reported 100% casualties of his Guns in the Bois de Paquet and stated that he did not think there were any of our Inf. in the area and that the wood was full of enemy. At this time the Bn. was experiencing great difficulty in getting news of forward Coys. Conflicting reports were arriving and in an effort to re-establish communication the Commanding Officer himself went out to discover the location of the forward Coys. A report was also received that Major J.C.C. Richardson (D. Coy.) had gone to put a Pl. into position and had not been seen since. Fierce fighting was in progress, and in the confusion and darkness the Bn. HQ. found itself in the wrong posn. practically in front of its forward Coys. A hurried move was made and a new HQ. established in a large Farmhouse about 1/2 mile back.

-do- 26 May.

The Commanding Officer, Major L.C.D. Ryder returned during the morning. The Bn. was then holding a front of 5000x. Orders were received to counter attack together with a Company of the 1/8 L.F. This cleared the North end of the wood of the enemy. Fierce fighting still continued and the Battalion suffered very heavy casualties. Amongst these were Capt. C.E. Wallop and 2/Lieut. C.A. Elson. The latter was killed whilst leading his Carriers against an enemy M.G. nest. In the meantime Major J.C.C. Richardson returned having spent some 24 hours amongst the enemy unable to move until darkness. The enemy was still using Mortars with great effect whilst what mortar ammunition the Battalion had was 100% smoke. No H.E. could be brought up.

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WAR DIARY.

Place.	Date.	Particulars.	Ref. to Appendices.
PARADIS.	27 May.	The remnants of the Brigade continued in action. Bn. HQ. wireless set failed. Bn. HQ. was set on fire, the instrument was smashed and it was reported that the HQ. was practically surrounded. No further news from anyone was heard from this time. ✓	
	28 May.	B. Ech. and Stragglers were ordered to proceed via POPERINGHE to the Sea. The road was jammed with traffic from 3 Corps and French Horses Transport, plus refugees. Several dive bombing attacks were suffered, these apparently being directed particularly at ambulance convoys.	
	29 May.	Embarkation at DUNKERK commenced and it is impossible to get dates and times fixed, most men having completely forgotten the passage of time by then. Movement to the waiting vessels took anything from 4 hours to the best part of a day and was carried out from the long jetty or from the beaches. During the course of the embarkations, the enemy made repeated bombing attacks, during which waiting ships were hit and several sunk with the loss of numerous lives of which it is not known how many belonged to the Battalion. ✓	
		Attached to this Diary are 2 Maps. Sheet No. 2 LILLE and GHENT. Sheet 51 HAZEBROUCK.	
		Stirring addresses to all ranks, by the Comdr. 2 Div. Major-General W.M.S. Irwin, dated 5 Jun. 40. and the Comdr. 4 Inf. Bde. Brigadier E.G. Warren, dated 15 Jun. 40. are given at Appendices.	1 and 2 resp'y.

/Sheet 8.

G.H.L.

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The following extracts from Lists of Immediate awards authorised by The Commander-in-Chief are included.

M.C. Lieut. A/Capt. P.H.L. Straghan.

He fought his remaining guns until all his ammunition was finished and he was surrounded. He then destroyed his guns and extricated his crews through the enemy lines. He was certainly responsible for the destruction of two or three enemy tanks.

D.C.M. G.S.M. W. Haverson, 2 R. Norfolk R.

This Warrant Officer got his Platoon into position on Aire Bridge under sniping and machine gun fire, and during the night when the detachment of French troops with light machine guns withdrew, reorganised his Pln. to cover the left flank of the Coy. which was exposed. Although his Platoon suffered casualties they never wavered, mostly due to his fine example and leadership. Later when acting as CSM. to his Coy., he was of great assistance when various withdrawals under pressure had to be effected. Throughout the period he showed a high standard of leadership in very trying circumstances.

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