

Plt J. S. Mc Intosh
No 14165 6 Coy
7th Ser. Batt
Cameron Highlanders

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On the 5th we
in Sunday July 5th we
got orders to make
Wednesday at four o'clock
we left for house camp
Wednesday for a short time
for by the same evening
we arrived at
there we camped on
a stream - ship & land
at day of each
Wednesday morning were taken
around to a red sandstone
a mile from the harbor
Wednesday forenoon we were
taken for a narrow thing
the water just to see

On the 5th we

We left the camp & march-
ed three miles to a railway
station called ~~there~~
we packed into a train
forty four in each car-
or rather horse boxes came
out at a place called Watten
& marched to a village called
Bulle were put into
billetts there for a week
our billet was a byre.
On Wed. we started to
the right flank of the
British forces first day
we did 18 miles 15 the
second then marched the
next two nights did some-
thing like fifty miles
altogether the roads were

awful on the march we
passed through St. Jomer
& Bethune landed at a
place called ~~St. Jomer~~
Houchain on the Sat night
Sunday we had a short
service left the same
night - Le Brasie we
were in billetts but
we confined to them
all day went out at
night trench digging were
under artillery fire most
of the time a lad Nelson
who was in next billet
to us was wounded
on the head with a
bit of shell on Sat
we left there

I marched back to H
for a rest. Friday, Jan.
we left there for the
trenches at Grenay, where
in them for several days
nothing startling happened
we were relieved by the
8th Seaforth's we then
acted as the brigade
reserves & were killed
in a deserted village
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the front
trenches we were there for
four days. On Tuesday Aug.
10th we left another rest-
at Mazingarbe after having
what is called eight-
days rest we went
back to the trenches.

on the Wed. night 18th Aug.
Tuesday night Archie
bockorne came visited
us he was killed
about two miles from
us. Our platoon were
in the supports all the
time & had to carry
the other three platoons
food up to them. We
received the 6th Bn.
Nothing startling happened
till 25th Sept. when we
attacked the enemy's
lines I was taken prisoner.
We the Brit. prisoners
were put in a school
room for the night -
at Lens. On the Sunday

morning. we were served
out with a mug full of
coffee & a small piece of
black bread. Then we
marched off to the station
put into goods vans &
taken to Lille. Everybody
there seemed to know of
our arrival. The streets were
littered about hundred & fifty
British prisoners & as many
more again. French were
marched through the
streets headed by some
Whites. I could see the
women crying & the taken
off their heads to us we
were kept in a old
barracks till Tuesday

morning. then we left for
Germany again in goods vans.
They only gave us coffee
& bread before leaving.
We were twenty six hours
in the train got nothing
except one plate of barley
soup half way. Landed
at the camp near the
town of Munster West-
phalia.

The food is awful.
Soup twice a day. rev.
at half past five a week
doing in the camp com-
menting. Sunday 21st Oct.

5.30 am. Revellie

6 am Breakfast 1 pint of coffee
& black bread.

10.30 am Church service in

the theatre, speaker, St. Liban
12.30 P.M. Dinner 1 pint of soup
containing potatoes &
turnips & 1/2 lb

3 P.M. Bible class

6.30 P.M. Supper 1 pint of soup
containing potatoes &
chickens 1/2 lb

7 P.M. Roll call & issuing
of Monday ration of flour

8 P.M. To bed very cold after
Monday night

5.30 am Reville

6 am Breakfast; gruel

8 to 9 am Exercise

12 am Dinner; gruel & potatoes

3 to 4 P.M. Exercise

6.30 P.M. Supper with potatoes & turnips

7 P.M. Roll call and distribution of flour

Tuesday

5.30 am Reville

6 am Breakfast: baked bread

8 to 9 am Exercise

12 am Dinner: Soup, Beans & potato

3 to 4 P.M. Exercise

6.30 P.M. Supper: Soup & potatoes

7 P.M. Distribution of green & a small
portion of cheese extra
Roll call

Wednesday

5.30 am Reville

6 " Breakfast: gruel

8 to 9 " Exercise

12 noon Dinner: Soup, potatoes & a little

beef very little

3 to 4 P.M. Shaking blankets

& bed

6 P.M. Soup: Turnips & potatoes

Thursday
 5.30 am Reveille
 6 " Coffee & bread
 8 to 9 " Exercise
 12 noon Soup, baked fish & potatoes
 3 to 4 P.M. Exercise
 6.30 " Soup, Shillig & Hare & Potatoes
 7 " Bread a little bit of
 sausage & roll ball

Friday
 5.30 am Reveille
 6 am Coffee & bread
 8 to 9 am Exercise
 12 noon Soup, Salted Fish
 3 to 4 P.M. Exercise
 6.30 P.M. Soup, Potatoes
 7 P.M. Bread & half-cooked
 salted haddock

Saturday
 5.30 am Reveille
 6 " Coffee & bread
 8 to 9 am Exercise
 12 noon Soup, Potatoes & French
 6.30 P.M. Soup, cabbage
 7 " Bread & roll call

Westphalia is the richest coal mining district in Germany. The people live greatly on vegetables & potatoes. They make us fall asleep. The land is well cultivated very little of it under grass. The cows do not go on for grazing. It is also well wooded. Münster seems to be a great railway centre. From this camp the road

working parties to pitsoche
ovens farms brickworks etc.
they have even got prisoners
of superworking in Munition
works. The room I take it
in I take to be about 50x70'
& there are 250 men in it.
there are no British making
ammunition but the work
down the pit & they get the
large sum of a mark a day.
there are also small shops
connected with the camp
a tailor's shop for the making
military uniforms a cobbler's
for the repairing of military
boots & a workshop for
making wooden clogs.

14 May — 14
Left Alameda 2 May old
had dinner

LOOS AND HILL 70

A GERMAN DIARIST'S ACCOUNT

The fight for Hill 70, which formed a part of the Battle of Loos, is the subject of an illuminating paper in the July issue of the "Army Quarterly," wherein are given impressions of the taking of the hill and the subsequent attacks and counter-attacks from the point of view of the writer of a German regimental diary. The British plan of attack entailed a bombardment lasting 88 hours, followed by the emission of chlorine gas and smoke for 40 minutes from the British front line trenches. The attacking British infantry were in the majority of eight to one. The task of the 15th (Scottish) Division was to carry the German defences on the rising ground west of Loos, then to storm Loos village and advance up the steep slope beyond to the summit of Hill 70. A battalion was here to entrench and form a rallying centre, when the two assaulting brigades were then to press on through Cité St. Auguste. The prime objective of the attack was to enable the 1st Division, supported by the 15th Division, to reach and establish a position on the Haute Deule Canal.

The assault took place at 6.30 a.m. on the morning of September 25, the attacking 44th and 48th Divisions suffering heavy losses while crossing No Man's Land. Nevertheless, the defences were quickly carried, and the survivors of the defending German 22nd Reserve Infantry Regiment ran down the slope to the village of Loos, followed closely by the Scots. After street fighting the five score or so surviving Germans fled. Elated with victory the Scotsmen, without reorganising leisurely, pressed on Hill 70 like a Bank Holiday crowd. Reaching the summit, the leaders stopped to rest. On the left the 48th Brigade men noticed troops running into Cité St. Auguste 800 yards away and, believing they were British, cheered. They proved later to be a reserve battalion of the German 22nd Reserve Infantry Regiment. The 44th Brigade made a similar mistake. Reaching the summit, they were facing southward rather than eastward, and seeing Cité St. Laurent ahead mistook this place for Cité St. Auguste. Here the Germans were getting into position in the front houses, some 800 Scotsmen making direct for them. The rest of the 44th and 48th Brigades were stopped in time and re-formed, but some 300 or 400 had passed beyond recall down the slopes.

THE GERMAN DEFENCE

The regimental diary of the German 22nd Reserve Infantry Regiment throws some light on the subsequent happenings. The Germans succeeded in taking up a position in Cité St. Laurent, and established communication with their second line of trenches. Here they reinforced the scattered remnants of the 22nd Reserve Infantry Regiment. In front a number of Scottish troops had worked forward to within 100 yards, and as they were being fired at heavily from both Cité St. Laurent and Cité St. Auguste they had halted, and were digging into the ground like moles. The hard chalk soil made this work slow and difficult for them in a lying position. On the other side of the new defence line the Germans established themselves on the railway embankment leading to the pithead of the coal mine, Foasse 12. Twelve to fifteen feet high at this point, the embankment gave good protection, but as the men lined up and looked over the top they saw the heads of the Scotsmen 15 yards away, already in position and entrenching on the other side of it.

A GROUP OF CAMERONS

Strong machine-gun fire forced the Scotsmen to leave cover, at first crawling, and then breaking into a run in an effort to reach the shelter of Hill 70 again. Seeing the hopelessness of their advanced position, the Scotsmen began their fruitless effort to get back over the 600 yards of open glacis slope, and were shot down. The German troops, elated, rushed across the embankment towards Hill 70. Their cheers infected the nearby German troops, who commenced a determined attack on a front of about 700 or 800 yards towards the summit, which finally they took and consolidated against a superior British force. In the early morning of September 26, the German diarist tells us, the Scotsmen attacked the right of their position, but were repulsed. A number of men, under Lieutenant Franke, moved down the hill, and reached the Bois Hugo before the attacking regiment. Corporal Dese, the first to enter it, suddenly crouched. Ten paces in front of him stood a group of six Scotsmen (probably 4th Camerons), looking anxiously about them. Some of them seeing Dese raised their rifles, but before they could aim and fire Dese, still crouching, threw his entrenching tool at the group, the axe-part hitting one of them in the forehead and blinding him. This so alarmed the others that instead of firing they ran towards cover in the undergrowth. Taking advantage of this, Dese at once rushed forward, shooting one and bayoneting another. While doing so, however, one of the Scotsmen came up behind him and hit him over the head with the rifle butt. The whole wood was gradually cleared. Our small force had achieved the apparently impossible, continues the German diarist. The advance of vastly superior numbers had been definitely checked, and our battalion justly aimed a lion's share in the victory of '98.