

L. W. C. S. J. S.

B. Coy.

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn.

H. J. C. S. B.

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Subb. J. S. Lunt.

B. Coy. 3rd Bn.

N. J. Co. B.

2015/158-02

2015.0015.02

About January 16<sup>th</sup> I joined up  
the company in support line at  
Laventie. On 1<sup>st</sup> Feb we moved  
up into firing line which was  
very quiet with the exception  
of the last two days; when the  
German began to play on us with  
min. big guns.  
We were in this line for eight  
days and when we came out  
went into rest for about 5 days  
after that time we had a big  
march (which took 3 days) to  
Pöngsturt which is about 6 miles  
south of (Ypoo) arriving there on  
the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1917.

The Germans did not hold their  
front line at Laventie but pushed  
back about a thousand yds.

At night they would bring up a  
few machine guns fire a few  
hundred rounds and then get back  
again.

The N.Y. Division took over from  
the Australians & who by the way  
lost hundreds of men and some  
few hundred are still lying out  
in "No Man's Land," their bodies  
being partially preserved by the  
very severe frosts and snow storm.

Loos is again in very active  
it is about midway between  
Ypres and Arras; and  
the trenches in places are only  
thirty yds apart.

This place was previously held  
by an English Regiment; who  
lost very heavy in attacking the  
wood.

The villages and farm houses about  
here are all in ruins; they have  
either fallen as the result of direct  
shell hits or by concussion of the  
ground from firing and of shell  
bursting.

While walking through this wood  
the frightful nature of them was  
brought to our notice by the  
large number of graves of fallen  
Chineses. The majority of them are  
buried in a very wet spot and all  
you can see sticking up out of the  
water is a wooden cross with  
the words either carved or burnt  
out. "A fallen unknown hero."

These graves are very plentiful  
and in a lot of places very much  
knocked about by hoo-fung's shells.

Saturday 10/3/17.

We had order to move back again  
into the line; but at the last

moment the order was cancelled;  
and now we are to hold ourselves  
in readiness to move into a new  
Sector, which is only a few miles  
more open, and to the left of  
the ridge our left flank is at  
present holding.

Within the last three weeks  
the Germans have put over no  
less than five raids; of which  
three of them got into our  
trench (which was held by Tommy)  
but were driven out again with  
heavy loss; the other two were  
beaten back in "No Man's Land,"  
by the artillery.

There is no mistake our attacking  
we doing some the very good work  
which is easily seen in the Aerial  
Photographs of the narrow make of  
the enemy front line and C.I.

Sunday 11/3/17

Everything very quiet with the  
exception of the aircraft which is  
very active on both sides.

One enemy plane brought down by  
our A.C. guns during the afternoon.

Nothing of any importance happened  
until 13/3/17 when we left  
Plouzevet, Wood and took  
up a position in front of  
Messine Ridge which is very  
strongly built.

The ruin of this village afford  
a very good shelter to the enemy.  
Both front lines are down in  
a small valley with our  
attacking post in the left hand gun  
on top of the ridge over-  
looking the German front.

We were in the trench here  
for 16 days and finally moved  
out about the 21/3/17

into what is known as the  
Catacombs just behind the  
ridge.

These Catacombs are big tunnels  
leading into the hill, and are  
very extensive, the work being  
lit up with Electric light.

The weather is still very  
unsettled; and spring forces  
very active.

April 4<sup>th</sup> 1917.

Nothing of any importance happened  
since my last statement.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> we moved out of  
the Catacombs and went into  
the trenches where we came

out on the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
and marched about 3 miles into  
a small rest camp where we  
stayed the night. In the morning  
of the 3<sup>rd</sup> we moved out in  
a blinding snow storm and  
marched about 14 miles to  
a small village outside Harsbrook  
Harsbrook where we put up  
for the night in different  
farmhouses. Next morning we  
started off again and did  
another 7 miles. The weather  
at this stage of the journey  
was very mild but the roads  
were very wet and heavy.

3  
April 4<sup>th</sup> 1917

The country about this part is very good the most part being under cultivation which is mostly done by women and small boys being assisted by old men.

The Battalion was specially complimented on its marching during the 24 miles march we only had 1 man fall out which is very good considering the men were all soft on coming out of the trenches.

April 5<sup>th</sup>

There is no change in the weather and of course

in the small village there is nothing to do outside of parade hours. There is only a limited number given leave daily to go into St Omer which is about a good hours walk and then every body must be clear of the town by 8.30 of an evening.

Easter Sunday and good Friday were very quiet in fact one did not know what time of the year it was unless he gets an occasional outside paper.



174/17

Some of the towns we marched through in the beginning of the month were Bailhul, Strages, Baumbrunch, St Omer. The best named place was easily St. Omer and but the most striking feature of St Omer is the large <sup>number</sup> of churches which are no doubt the best I have so far seen.

April 12<sup>th</sup> (91).

Nothing doing today; the weather being very cold, with an exceedingly bitter wind blowing down a small rut valley off the thin coating of snow which fell

during the night. The sun is beginning to melt a little warmer now and the snow does not last very long on the ground.

The chief games here in football and up to date my company have not been beaten but somehow I do not think that record will last very long so we have to meet some of the best teams yet. Myself I have had some queer old bumps but I cannot get a good enough smack to take me out of France.

April 15<sup>th</sup> 1919

The day on still passing  
by very slowly but every thing  
points to an early movement  
as this afternoon the men had  
order to sharpen up their  
bayonets and tomorrow 16<sup>th</sup>  
the Battle is going through  
a practice in attacking the  
German trenches.

There was a very steady rain  
falling all day making things  
wet and sloppy after they were  
new and dry on account of  
about four days sunshine and  
warm winds.

18<sup>th</sup> April 1917

On the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> we  
marched out of Commette  
and arrived at Lynb about  
6 P.M. that night; (the same 14 hrs)

19<sup>th</sup> April 1917

Wednesday of the 19<sup>th</sup> we left  
Lynb and marched to  
Hartzbrouck a distance of  
about 9 miles. The weather  
about this time was very  
dull with an occasional  
shower of rain.

20<sup>th</sup> April 1917

We left Hartzbrouck early  
in the morning 7 A.M. and  
arrived at our destination

about 2 in the afternoon after  
a very hot march. We are  
likely to be stationed here  
now for a few days. (Dellin's  
Camp). During the day we  
supply the fatigue parties  
to the front line.

21<sup>st</sup> April 1917

Still in camp and the  
usual working parties  
up to the front line keep  
us employed.

On both sides the fighting  
is pretty quiet

14<sup>th</sup> (May 1917)

Must

Nothing of very importance  
happened until the 1/5/17.  
When I was sent to a  
Brigade School of Instruction  
for the period of 15 days.  
Everything went well until  
our second night when  
we were shelled out of  
it. The total casualties  
numbered roughly 10 killed  
and about 60 wounded.  
Nevertheless the course was  
very instructive and we  
came back again to our  
companies on the 11<sup>th</sup>.


May 27<sup>th</sup> 1915

from 14<sup>th</sup> May till 26<sup>th</sup> above  
date there has been some  
very heavy shooting by our  
heavy guns and the German  
reply was in all cases  
very feeble.  
The night of the 26<sup>th</sup> the  
Germans put over gas on  
the right of our sector.  
That is north of Stomontiers,  
result not known yet.  
Our aircraft have been  
very busy of late flying  
well over behind the  
enemy's line.

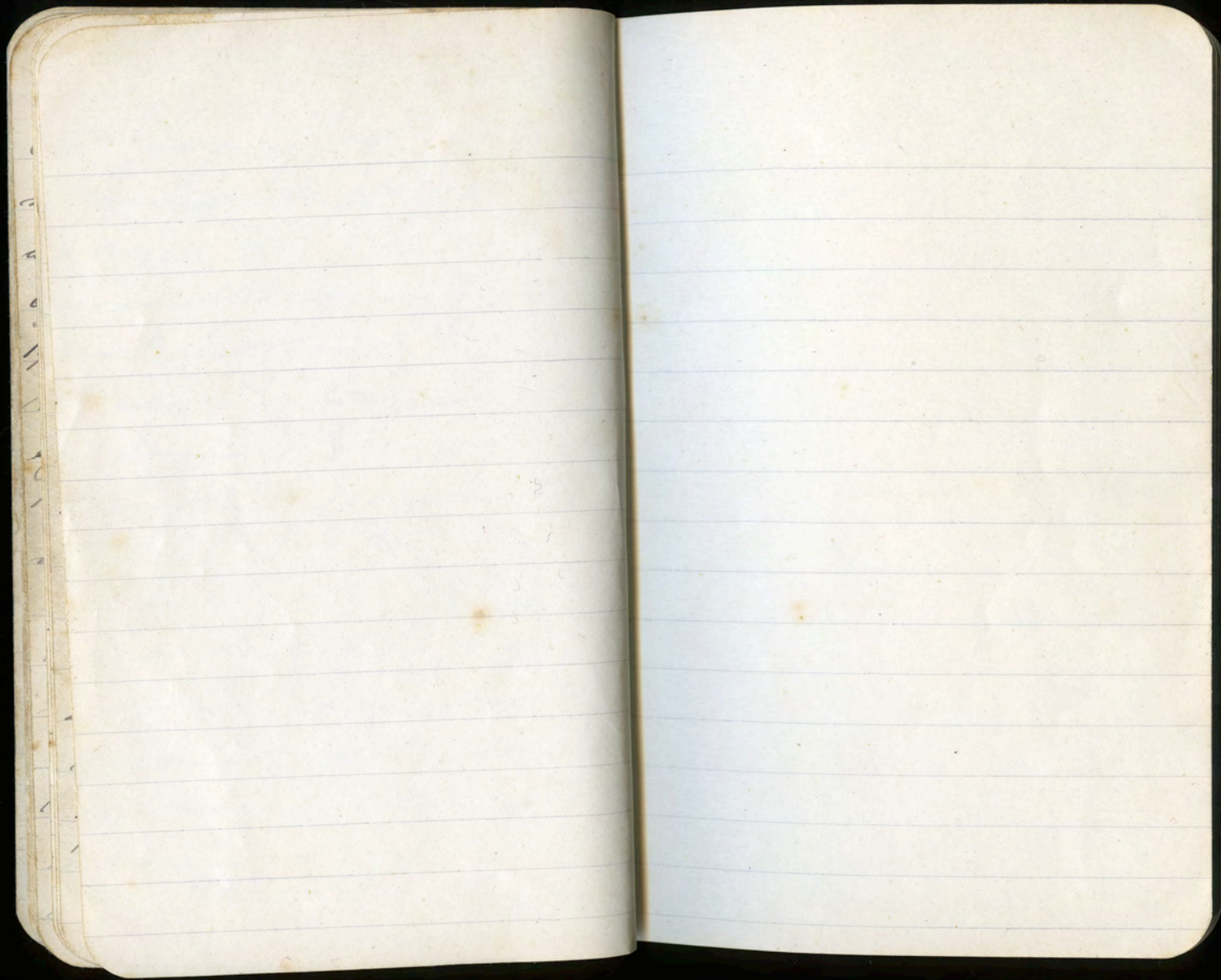
Wounded 7<sup>th</sup> June at  
Messines removed off  
Battle field about 2 P.M.  
after lying out in shell  
hole for about 3 hours.  
Arrived Baillan Hospit  
about 7 P.M. Morphine  
injected and placed on  
Hospit train for Caillan  
arriving 6 am 8<sup>th</sup> unconscious  
removed to England 27<sup>th</sup>  
Watton on Thames and  
sent to Brighton about  
10<sup>th</sup> July.

Given leave on 7<sup>th</sup> August  
with orders to report

at Lorguay 30<sup>th</sup>  
managed to get up  
6 days.  
Travelled over England  
and Scotland  
Given 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command Coy  
at Lorguay 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1917.  
everything going well.

9<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Went to bed for two  
or three days on  
account of the cold  
affecting my lungs and  
arms



Remainder (at least two-thirds of the notebook)

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