This is the 1918 war diary of Gunner H Weldon 186339, D Battery, 281 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Harry Weldon was the uncle of a friend of ours. Harry's home base was the cavalry barracks on Fulford Road, York, now known as Imphal Barracks.

This diary was written in pencil in a highly loopy cursive hand, with ascenders and descenders rising above and falling below to such an extend that they frequently merge with words on other lines. Some words remain indecipherable to me, so there are gaps; some words do not make sense but I have recorded what appears to have been written.

There is very little capitalisation, with even fewer examples of punctuation, so, to be as true as possible to the original, I have copied what Harry has written. Similarly with spellings, which I have copied. You will noticed that I have used *(sic)* in some of these cases, but not always: I am afraid I have been inconsistent in this! In order to make sense of what has been written, I have put each apparent statement on a fresh line.

I have researched the villages and towns, which, for the most part, were not easy to read. I believe them to be correct.

Transcription of 1918 war diary
of
Gunner Harry Weldon 186339
D Battery
281 Brigade RFA
(Royal Field Artillery)

This diary covers the 5th Battle of Arras

There are few capital letters and even fewer pieces of punctuation

January

Tues 1st — Left waggon at Anzin for Houchin Artillery Schod of instruction in dugouts

Wed 2nd — Started on steps of dugout so far so good am now in C.A. hut writing letters

Thurs 3rd — Have been hard at work today with pick & Shovel got no bread for breakfast spoilt water for dinner & biscuits for tea

Fri 4th Still plenty of work & no grub
Have been to the pictures in the church army hut
am now go to buy some grub with my money

Sat. 5th carried on the good work on no grub
Had a sing song in Dining Hall at night

Sun 6th Finished work at ~~12 30~~ 12 so went to Béthune
Had a look round ——, up bombs and shells

Mon 7th Upto the eyes in mud & it is still damned cold
still hard at it with pick ~~and~~ & shovel

Tues 8th Had a snow storm blizzard in front
sat around the fire at night

Wed 9th More snow & cold not half
am at top of hill & get full force of it
got a bad head so stayed over the fire.

Thurs 10th Upto the eyes in mud
snow melted
more grub today and less work Tres Bon
Had a slice of bread for supper
quids in

January Continued

Fri 11th Still up to the eyes in mud
had a slice of cake cost 2d & a
cup of tea at dinner time
went to the pictures at night to
celebrate my birthday

Sat 12th Can just walk
gun boots making my feet bad & sore
_____ are better today
Jerry is shelling 14 aprox (sic) gas
flames
can she has Time
Shrapnel bursting
cater & hear the explosions from his
H.Q. in the town

Sun 13th Finished work at 12 sowent to Bruay
had a walk round & got back by
5 o' clock
lovely day today

Mon 14th another fall of snow today
been down the mine all day
7 p.m. wind is howling hard
it is cold

Tues 15th a hell of a day
pouring with rain wind blowing umteen miles
per hour
feet dry but knees wet & on guard too

Wed 16th Had a good safe on guard got about 3 hours sleep

walked to Béthune about 7 kilos
left by train about 6pm
got to St. Pol at 9pm

Thurs 17th Reception Rest Camp
had a drink of tea at E.F.C Still
~~rotioning~~ raining
Left St Pol at 2 pm by train
into Fri 18th arrived at Aubigny
walked all over the countryside trying to find the battery
absolutely knackering
stayed the night about 4 kilos away with —— ~~Band~~
Band arrived at waggon lines at ——

Sat 19th Cleaned appointment today & went on the push lines
was on guard at camp but got ~~the~~ the parcel from home
Just came in time
made a big hole
parcel from Leethams & letters from Katie also York Press

Sun 20th Was on guard over gunner waggons
2 hours on & 4 off
relieved at 6 & want to kip

January continued.

Mon 21st — Stablemans lackey
rained hard during night
leave warrant has come through
cannot get a change of clothes
got paid

Tues 22nd into Wed. 23rd — Left Aubigny at 12.30
arrived Bologne (sic)
stayed at rest camp
good sea passage
arrived at Folkestone
arrived London at 8.20
got something to eat
~~also paid~~ pay
went in the underground to Kings Cross & then to dear old York
arrived at 3.15 a.m.

Thurs 24th — Leave started

Fri 25th — do

Then blank until

February

Sun 3rd — Getting near the end

Mon 4th — will soon be up now

February continued

Tues 5th — said goodnight to a few friends.

Wed 6th — Left York by 1.30 train
crowded
arrived at Folkestone
rough sea passage
arrived at Boulogne
stayed at camp

Thurs 7th — Left about midday by train
arrived Aubigny
walked Caucourt
battery still at rest

Fri 8th — Went out with team
got wet
washed harness in the noon
got souvenir picquet for being late on first parade

Sat 9th — been cleaning harness for tomorrow
been out with pal from 13 Battery (this is probably Harry's way of writing 'B') tonight
been on late feed

Sun 10th — went as gunner gun at the review
rotten weather raining + cold too + wet
harness cleaning
afternoon watched film at hall
received my first letter

February continued

Mon 11th — stableman today
more harness cleaning & grooming
been for a drink in the village tonight with _____

Tues 12th — Shall be glad when we go into action fed up all these inspections and harness cleaning

Wed 13th — Had a lovely gallop in the morning
raining again
afternoon cleaning harness
night eggs & bread

Thurs 14th — Misty today
went on exercise with horses
was on picquet until 10-30 p.m.
pitch dark & cold too

Fri 15th — Been making a wall around lines protection against bombs
am now going for somethings (sic) to put in village

Sat 16th — Left Caucourt
got fast in edge bottom/s
horses now no good
motor pulled waggon but walked to Arras at night to E.F.C.

Sun 17th — could not use my right arm so went sick

excused duty
was in kip by 6.30 p.m.

Mon 18th
Very cold but lovely
wearing arm in a sling
went to football match in afternoon
Fritz bombed at night

Tues 19th
Had my arm dressed in morn
had a walk in afternoon
went to pictures at night

Wed 20th
rotten dull day
commenced to rain
went to canteen had eggs & chips
peaches & cake

Thurs 21st
Went to see the doctor
waited from 11 AM to 1PM
went to the pictures in St. Nicholas (sic)
at night
5.30 to 8PM fine

Fri 22nd
got up at 8 AM
wrote letters & read papers
went to arras (sic)
at night
had some eggs & chips again

Sat 23rd
Battery got wind up over air raids
had a trial this morn
full out with horses

February Continued

Sun 24th
read the papers in the afternoon & at night went to try & get in the pictures but it was full up
Am about fed up of the grub we get out here
been drilling around stables as a protection against air raids

Mon 25th
Been stableman today
lovely night
moon shining ——
Kip by 8
vilvit chap next to me very good

into Tues 26th
give me some of his parcel
Had a bath today
been to the pictures
couldn't get in full up
have no money so fed up

Wed 27th
Half holiday
wrote letters
washed my clothes
—— dark at night
started to rain

Thurs 28th
Jerry as his balloons up
we can see the flashes from our heavies
lovely day
walked into arras (sic) at night

March

Fri, 1st Snowing today
was on picquet at night
was about frozen

Sat 2nd went on exercise up the line at night in cooks cart
was in kip by 8 PM

Sun 3rd Sunday got paid
went to arras (sic)
visited canteen & had cake chocolate nuts biscuits & went to pictures at night
still cold weather
pitch dark at night

Mon 4th am stable man today
rotten dull weather
was in kip by 8 o' clock

Tues 5th We are building protections against bombs in the waggon lines
been to the pictures tonight
Green band was there

Wed 6th Lovely day
had my coat off
saw enemy aeroplane come down
saw arras (sic) Cathedral in ruins also the square

Thurs 7th we are doing well for grub now
it is rice in lieu of bacon & bully beef for breakfast

Thurs 7th cont'd
went for a bath
when it was dark our aeroplanes were up Jerry's searchlights & could see bullets leaving aeroplane lights going up / (Indicating that Friday now starts)

Fri 8th
Lovely day again
got excused duty on a/c of boils
went to pictures at night

Sat 9th
another lovely Division had a raid this morning
go to the doctors every morn with boils

Sun 10th
Sunday went to church parade this morning to a football match this afternoon
write letters tonight
am on picquet
received parcel good oh
lovely day again

Mon 11th
Sun still shining
went up the line with cooks cart & mules in shafts
he was shelling just over our heads
saw an aeroplane fight also his shells bursting
was —— to see as many of our guns

Tues 12th
Lovely day
had to get up during night to fill waggons with shells

Wed. 13th bombardment on during night
filled ~~the~~ waggons ___ & shells
got half day to see football match

Thurs 14th Had a change for dinner 2 potatoes & bully & bread for tea we are doing Well

Fri 15th Been hard at it harness cleaning
lovely day but cold wind blowing
See arras (sic) well from here especially the Cathedral

Sat 16th Found some shell holes recently made
near waggon lines also smelt gas
went up lines carrying shells out
night guns everywhere
saw a convoy of shells going up road
Shell came over & dropped at the side of them

Sun. 17th Been on church parade
counted 12 enemy observation balloons up
Saw 2 men come down from one of
ours in parachutes also our fellows
into Mon 18th shelling his
received parcel & had a drink of cocoa
went to football match

Tues, 19th Heard his rubber gun at it ___
— — aeroplanes going over His lines after dark

March continued

Wed 20th
raining today
went to pictures at night
had seen them all before.
Had another bath today

Thurs 21st
Fritz started shelling heavily now on our right
at day break waggon liners coming over & exploding
in arras (sic) ——
went up line at night

There are two separately dated entries for Friday 22nd March.

Fri 22nd
Heard yesterday's attack was around Maeuvres (?)
Fritz came over bombing last night.
Had a good dinner today but no pay yet
Heard he as been shelling about ~~Steel~~ Mont St. ——
2nd entry

went up in cooks cart
Saw —— hand — shell holes everywhere
we are having it rough at present
he attacked but got — — —
our front line

March continued

Sat 23rd — behind St Pol
Shells still coming over & during the night we never heard bursts like them the artillery sent half active of round but we have been lucky so far
aeroplanes are always hovering about day & night

Sun 24th My toes are bad I've also an CT leg & a boil somewhere else
Lovely day
heavy firing going on into heard the news

Mon. 25th re German attack
It is cold & dull today
he is still shelling arras (sic) & his aeroplanes are over

Tues 26th Seen an enemy aeroplane brought down also one of our dumps go up
expected an attack this morning
guns at it all night

Wed 27th was up at three this morning
moved waggons into a little further back
Been round a cemetery tonight

Thurs 28th what a day windy
donkeys & waggons gone up line
Fritz is shelling — roads in our

Thurs 28th contd — rear said Some men buried in cemetery

Fri 29th

Sat 30th — Have plenty of cigs got boils from canteen closing up several men been recommended for bravery during hostile attack we have lost several men gassed & wounded

Sun 31st. Easter Day — It is a month today we got our last pay — — — they are burying dead in cemetery — — all day long

April 1918

Mon 1st. Jerry came over & dropped four of our balloons also paper — — — in the air

Tues 2nd Jerry as been shelling our old waggon lines in anger

Wed 3rd Went exercising horses about a dozen of our aeroplanes came over flying just over our heads

Thurs 4th Up with — med — up the line in team moving headquarters got wet

Fri 5th Went to Meadol — to get something to eat nothing doing dull day with raining — & again

Sat 6th Still raining went up the line with packs passed holes everywhere near railway cutting & not a telephone — one pole standing

Sun 7th Got parcel have got money but cannot buy anything at canteen

April continued.

Sun 7th cont'd
we are having showers
he is shelling arras (sic)
guns came out today

Mon 8th
Moved from Ansin (sic) waggon (sic) lines to Dainville
raining all day
—— infantry above

Tues 9th
what a place this is
shells have been all around alday (sic)
20 of RAMC have been put out also R9DR

Wed 10th
Shells still coming over houses —— going west
went up lines but ration waggon bombed team had gone — —

Thurs 11th
shells came over again during the night but finished about dawn
Lovely day sun shining

Fri 12th
Shells still hitting the villages
Had a feed at night chips sardines
— bread 1-60 — bad

Sat 13th
Moved Simencourt
tried to get something to eat
testify — — tanks lines

April
cont'd.

Sun 14th — Moved waggon lines again only a few pigeons away cold wind is blowing am on puquet bill with the sub Section stew so had to have bully all teams up the lines

Mon 15th — The weather is very cold & it raining one off

Tues 16th — Have had one blanket then pen ran out walked to the next village & had a tin of herrings & biscuits also eggs & chips it takes us all our time to exist on army rations

Thurs 18th — Got a draft man C2 now A1 he is about knocking unit

Fri 19th — Jerry's aeroplane came over this morning before daybreak flying very low

Sat 20th — Jerry came over three times this morning & dropped bombs on a american camp
Have had a bath & bought some Canadian biscuits at the canteen best I've had in France

April continued

Sun 21st — Jerry as been over on & off all day
started shelling after dark
saw football match between Bgde & tanks

Mon 22nd — am at present on thin lines am also on picquet
Frit3 sent about half a dozen shells over
had custard for supper

Tues 23rd — Lovely day
shells still dropping around

Wed 24th — Had another lovely day
found all my billet had it for 10+2 ——
its for supper
He is shelling Berneville tonight

Thurs 25th — Had a thunderstorm
got flooded somewhat
Had oats and custard for supper

Fri 26th — Got pulled up for not being on first parade also for having dirty ragged uniform
got paid

Sat 27th — Got a new rig
unit sent Green for envelope 12 ——
have done nothing today
played 2nd — the ——

April

Cont'd. Nearly had a fight with a Best
Sat 27th — up it has — had —
cont'd custard for supper

Sun 28th am stableman
received parcel from Mam
had drink today
Saw football match
into Mon 29th Jerry came over flying very low guns going everywhere
had half day off
poured with rain all night

Tues 30th Wet today
sent about 12 4 in armour piercing shells into the village
am on ~~piquet~~ picquet

May 1918

Wed 1st Still on thin lines
Saw another football match
Had custard for supper

Thurs 2nd Lovely day + warm too
Jerry came over at daybreak + dropped a dozen bombs

Fri 3rd Lovely day again
still on thin lines
had custard for supper

Fritz sent about ½ dozen shrapnell shells into village

Sat 4th
Handed over my horses & harness & went up the line in 9 8 (could be 95/98) waggon
arrived 6-30 pm
gas shells were dropping near our billet
went on lone gun
later had to make a dash for it as heavy shells were falling somewhat near
stayed up all the night ready to fire

Sun 5th
was on lone gun
stood to at 3-30
expecting attack
got wind up properly
shelled every time we went out to fire

Mon 6th
It is fine today. Went up the line as lead in 98 waggons
Had milk when got back & some of K-pskeel. (a brand name?)

Tues 7th
Raining hard today
Saw two tanks coming over the crest of a hill
got paid again today

Wed 8th
went up the line preparing reserve position in case we have to fall back
another lovely day

May
cont'd

Thurs. 9th Lovely day again

Fri 10th am stableman today
am on piquet tonight
Had milk after dinner & custard for
into supper
Sat moved waggon lines further down the village
11th football match tonight
There are onions lettuce & peas etc
growing in the gardens also blossom
on the trees all of which go
towards making a lovely landscape

Sun Generally played about dirty harness
12th posted up the harness & got
complimented

Mon 13th Rained alday (sic)
went out for ——
got wet & harness dirty
what a game it is
Saw five tanks in a field

Tues 14th Lovely day today

Wed 15th The corn is getting a good height
am stableman & finished at 8pm
not much time to play after that

Thurs 16th Lovely day again absolutely boiling hot
went to Bow Bells at night with

my pals
had custard for supper

Fri 17th into Sat 18th — Terribly hot again
couldn't see for sweating when grooming
went up the line at night as lead in waggon
the infantry were erecting barracades
in the streets against possible attack
we took cupulos to reserve positions
Jerry was over the village alnight (sic)
trying to locate big gun

Sun 19th — I heard one of our 4.8 shells as
dropped near the gun position by Fritz
am stableman
never had such an hard day

Mon 20th — working like the devil on the harness
were told by General he would stop
leave for 6 months if we didn't
what a game it is

Tues 21st — Now today it is not saluting Generals that
is going to do it
another lovely day

Wed 22nd — Hot day again
heard Duty Band at night & our ——
& I had a sing song until 10-30
Jerry came over & dropped bombs
I saw him in the rays of the search

May
Cont'd

Wed 22nd. Cont'd — light

Thurs 23rd — There is a heavy wind blowing today & no sun
looks like rain

Fri 24th — Raining all day
have been poshing up the harness for the inspection tomorrow
General Elke was satisfied

Sat 25th — Had skeleton order inspection for the of Capt's sake in spite of the fact that the Gen had passed it
at night went to see football match between Brigade & RAMC
semi final for Divi cup
lost after playing extra time 1-0

Sun 26th — The guns have been going at it all night & day
Had a bath this morning

Mon 27th — Expected Jerry over this morning nothing happened
Have been leading manure
into — Evening aeroplanes came over after dusk & bombed the far side of the village
Tues 28th — Search lights had one in the rays.
another damned inspection tomorrow

Heard our band

Wed 29th — Fritz was over again bombing hear the offensive as started at Rheims

Thurs 30th — The harness inspection came off today everything A1 probably the generals etc will now be in a better humour

Fri 31st — 5-30 Reveille 6AM stables 6-30 water Breakfast 7-30 clean parade 9 grazing stables 11-30 dinner Parade 2PM Harness cleaning 4-15 water — stables tea 5-15

June 1918

Sat 1st — Saw Final for Cup RE3 RAMC 0

Sun 2nd — Signaller seriously wounded today am stableman

Mon 3rd — Lovely day

Tues 4th — Went up the Line as lead in 98 waggon brought a load of grass down

Wed 5th — Saw football match between battery & B Bty no score good game

June continued.

Thurs 6th Had watercress + bread for tea
we are doing well

Fri 7th into Sat 8th The waggon line is now absdutely posh so perhaps we shall a bit of peace
Saw Bow Bells concert party give a performance on our football ground am on puquet
The rations are getting worse the dinners are not fit for a pig
There was a raid feast night

Sun 9th Had a bath + half holiday
General came round again this morning

Mon 10th Got some Quaker oats + Bournville so had them for supper

Tues 11th Getting ready for GOC Division inspection
Went to the pictures at night

Wed 12th Lovely day
are out grazing horses writing this

Thurs 13th Had to turn out at 1 AM to take shells up the line
got back at 8 AM
everything quiet

Fri 14th — it is cold today & wind blowing like rain went to the pictures

Sat 15th — worked until 11 PM on harness for inspection by Divi General was pleased with everything so got half a day had sausage for supper & milk

Sun 16th — Got another half day went to Church parade in morning had salmon for supper

into — counted as many as 12 baloons (sic) up.

Mon 17th into — we have been trying to loose a donkey for three days & have at last succeeded MMP (could be MMA) taking it away

Tues 18th into — notice a marked in regard to the King when shown on screening or sung I never heard such a row as there was last night

Wed 19th — Fritz aeroplanes over guns of all kinds at them

Thurs 20th — No entry

Fri 21st — No entry

Sat 22nd — Received parcel from home am stableman

Sun 23rd — Had a bath was getting alive again also half day off

June continued.

Mon 24th Saw about 12 Tanks moving across the country

Tues 25th Went on exercise
Lovely country
saw big mine crater also airman looping loops & side twisting

Wed 26th Got on half holiday so had a kip
cinema closed on account of this epidemic
heard gramophone at night in recreation hut

Thurs 27th. went to bed early with two of my bed mates
all feeling rotten
I think it is influenza

Fri 28th They are having a whist drive but cannot go
have a boil on my knee
I think a slight touch of this influenza
there are hundreds down with it

Sat 29th a Bombadier & a driver have gone to hospital with this unfit complaint
am attending Doctor with a septic knee
XD so have plenty of time to myself

Sun 30th My pal with another chap into our sub as gone to hospital with this new

June continued

Sun 30th complaint

July 1918

Mon 1st Lovely day
am laid basking in the sun under a tree just outside the billet ——
leg still bad
— before went away

Tues 2nd Jerry came over last night bombing
couldn't get to sleep for the row
I hear Beaumetz Berneville & Dainville have caught it

Wed 3rd Still XD
laid in Kip reading
Purloined ——
had 2 oats for supper

Thurs 4th Got XD today so was in line for turn out inspection this afternoon

Fri 5th Blank
&
Sat 6th Blank

Memo Sunday Got a bath & half holiday

July continued

Sun 7th Got another horse in exchange today am now wheel driver

Mon 8th wedding today between one of our soldiers & a French girl

Tues 9th _____ over set of wheel harness

Wed 10th rain & thunderstorms

Thurs 11th No entry

Fri 12th Inspection of harness

Sat 13th another inspection today
F L Moving gun part

Sun 14th Gun blew up our men wounded

Mon 15th No entry

Tues 16th No entry

Wed 17th Canadians arrived today
played hell in the village at night
Drill order with waggons for us today

Thurs 18th Fritz came over & dropped bombs at Wanquin—
Killed & wounded several dozens

Inspection of Kip.

Fri 19th — Jerry as been sending Time H.E. on the other side of the village
Inspection of harness

Sat 20th — Had to report to Doctor for three days
more men down sick
wind up
Lovely day
The village is crowed (sic) with artillery canadians + AFA
there was hell to play (sic) at the beer houses
Kicked out

Sun 21st — Fritz came over + bombed just outside the village
never heard such a row

Mon 22nd — Left Simencourt
arrived at Acq ~~(this could be HQ)~~ at midday
Reporting to — Doctors every night try + detect chickenpox

Tues 23rd — absolutely poured with rain
the waggon lines + bivouacs are flooded

Wed 24th — Lovely day
was up at 4 AM

July continued

Wed 24th cont'd — the battery went on 4 hours driving drill
water horses at 8 PM
quite a short day

Thurs 25th — Went on driving drill
up early
as usual it is all work + sleep as the harness as to be clean for next time

Fri 26th. — Went on Driving drill
Gun team took gun etc for a short
[this entry was left unfinished]

Sat 27th — Rotten weather
Keeps on raining
We up at 4-30
Driving drill 7-30
came in midday
pinched some spuds + had them for supper
went through the gas chamber in the afternoon

Sun 28th — went on Church parade
nobody sang God Save the King
after got paid + cleaned my harness

Mon 29th — was going on manoeuvres artillery

infantry engineers etc but all is cancelled
get moving shortly

Tues 30th — Fritz was bombing & shelling all through the night

Wed 31st — Centre Section left today for the home got our photos taken

Hugust 1918

Thurs 1st. Left acq (sic) at 3-30 — to Simencourt at night + was on piquet for 8 to 14-30
pinched some apples

Fri 2nd Raining most of the day
went up the line for breakfast standings
got back after dusk
into raining hard + mud up to the eyes
Sat 3rd have left the waggon line in a fine state
we have been working today repairing the standings

Sun 4th 10 AM two teams went up the line for more bricks
got back 5 PM
was ordered to groom our horses without any dinner so refused + were put under arrest by the captain
tried by him + all refused his punishment

Mon 5th Jerry was shelling round the village during the night
absolutely nothing in the canteens, not
into even a cig
Tues 6th was up before the BC + was let off with a caution owing to my previous good character
have got 7 days CB

August continued

Wed 7th — Half holiday had a sleep & at night went to try & buy something absolutely nothing to be had

Thurs. 8th — Heard a bombardment going off south of here

Fri. 9th — I heard the good news a team got Killed near our long gun last night

Sat 10th — I have heard the good news hear we are going down South shortly However at present they are packing ready for the horse show

Sun 11th into Mon 12th — Jerry came over about 10pm & dropped 3 bombs in the village made a mess of things cows hens pigs rabbits etc

Tues 13th — Jerry came over just after tea & made two of our fellows come out of a baloon (sic)

Wed 14th — Got a half holiday for the sports read & had a sleep instead

Thurs 15th — Getting ready to move the Division from Soissons taking over

August 1918 continued

Fri 16th moved from old waggon line
gone further up the road
15th Division taken over
Horse show on this afternoon

Sat 17th we were moving tonight now it is cancelled
what a game it is
we were having fatigues tonight for having a dirty billet
now that is cancelled

Sun 18th into Mon 19th Got an afternoon off
going up line with shells for forward position for the 16th Division
now that is cancelled
went about 35 Kilos today with a pair of wheels & chaff —— passed our infantry coming up in reserve to the 15th

into Tues 20th into Wed 21st we are still at Simencourt
a battalion of tanks came into the village at night & bombs were all round the village & a Jerry was brought down in flames so Fritz shelled mess & the horse lines

Thurs 22nd went up with ammunition
never saw so many infantry & artillery
the attack is certain now
saw the bombardment start along

the NER Batt
moved the waggons further up
during the afternoon & overnight moved
the guns forward
had an accident my horse went
down & me with it & dislocated my
finger

Sat 24th went sick & got ex Riding so did
stableman & stayed in at night
Jerry was over dropping bombs
set a dump on fire & dropped two
about 150 yds away from the
horse lines

Sun 25th Teams went up again but didnt
go
still ex Riding
it poured with rain so was lucky
for once
Smelt tear gas about

Mon 26th Moved up to the forward waggon wheels
is amongst the heavies & is in
into no mans land
relieved the other six teams
moved the guns at night & had to
race for it

Tues 27th there is nothing but desolation around
here
there is rotten weather

into Wed 28th Keeps on raining
we stood to at 4.15 AM ready to
move up ammunition teams already up

August 1918 continued

Thurs 29th — what a day
we moved the guns forward also ammunition & lost horses & men in doing it
blown up by shells & tin boxes on the road

Fri 30th — It is raining today
am on piquet
Jerry is over bombing the camps
Have been cleaning my harness

Sat 31st — Went up to Croisilles with ammunition
Jerry's shelling St Léger which is already a mass of ruins
there is a gun of his knocked out
our battery are using his dugouts
there is doubt as to who holds Bullecourt

September 1918

Sun 1st — Have been out all night moving guns etc
got stopped dozens of times
Jerry kept coming over dropping into souvenirs
one killed our officer

Mon 2nd — Ive seen several of our balloons brought down in flames

Tues 3rd
Moved guns up to Queant (sic)
Fritz bombing in all directions
We have to wait hours to water horses
water is scarce

Wed 4th
Moved waggon lines from St. Leger (sic) to Queant (sic)
Later took guns into action
Fritz was counter — King at the time & got out up.
Later we moved horse lines further back

Thurs 5th
moved waggon lines further back
Shells were dropping too near
Left at night for St Leger (sic)
we are still being shelled

Fri 6th
arrived in the early hours of Sat the morning.
He Knocked out about 74 horses of our B Battery just behind us

Sat 7th
Got half day
Left in the afternoon for Herin (sic) Hill
went mates at night & at last found a MCa Canadian naturally
our will still be in Bologne (sic)

Sun 8th
Went up the line with the guns.
first it was miles & miles away
2nd it poured with rain

September continued

Sun 8th cont'd. into Mon 9th — 3rd Fritz shelled like hell when we got to the position 4th the tracks were in a awful state & we got fast in a shell hole

Tues 10th — We moved the waggon lines further up near Cherisy (sic)
rigged a bivy up
it poured with rain
Got wet

Wed 11th — went to arras (sic) for ordanance goods
Saw several of our Tanks smashed up also guns captured from Fritz

Thurs 12th — It is raining hard
we got some potatoes dried veg & bully from the Canadians so had them for supper

Fri 13th — It is fine today
have just seen Fritz bring down one of our 6 baloons

Sat 14th — Fritz came over after one of our baloons which our people had put explosives.
It went off but he escaped.
He as been shelling round about today

Sun 15th
Fritz as been over & brought one of our baloons down & then there was an air fight afterwards he started shelling the waggon lines

Mon 16th
Saw a dump go up
he put two very near during the night
then we had thunder & lightning

Tues 17th
Have seen Fritz searching & sweeping the waggon line
he as Knocked several men & horses out

Wed 18th
Jerry as just been over & brought another baloon down
I got wet during the night
into Thurs 19th
rain came through the roof.
Went up the line to move the guns forward to Saudemont ~~set~~.
relieved the Canadians
rotten tracks on the way back

Fri 20th
Jerry came over after the baloon but our lot put up a barrage & brought our aeroplane up as he cleared off

Sat 21st
Old Fritz as got the Cambrai Rd well in line
He as been shelling the teams just gone up
Knocked several horses & men belonging

September 1918 continued

Sat 21st cont'd into Sun 22nd. to another battery out but fortunately missed ours

Mon 23rd We are at the apex of a Salient & last night there was a hell of bombardment on each side

Tues 24th Went up the line with ammunition
Had to race for it
He was shelling the trail
He also bombed near the waggon lines

Wed 25th The roads are ~~tonight~~ tonight cramed with transport
the do will not be long now

Thurs 26th He started shelling after tea dropping the other side of the waggon line

Fri 27th The bombardment was on most of the night but have heard no news yet

Sat 28th into Sun 29th Jerry came over & bombed Near Wancourt
Went up the line at 5-30AM
got to Saudemont
One of our planes crashed to earth near us

September continued

Sunday 29th cont'd — had to get out of village quick as he started to shell
Jerry as retired so took the guns to the canal

into Mon 30th — coming back on the Cambrai he shelled again set the dump on fire & Killed one of our men & a horse
later moved the waggon lines to

into Tues Oct 1st — Buissy
Big attack at daybreak
Saw an aeroplane come down in flames

October 1918

Wed 2nd — hear we are — K — D — & Cambrai
He as been after the gun on the railway

into Thurs 3rd — Saw more prisoners come down
also captured guns
went up the line over the Canal into a village
1700 from the trenches
Sauchy-Cauchy is the name
Knocked to bits by our shells

Fri 4th — S_____ lights are out
Jerry dropped bomb — here then dropping
Went up line again

October 1918 continued

Sat 5th worst night I've had for bombs & shells they have been dropping all night.
Had a slight accident
B & C Waggons went over the
into position bridge into the Canal
Sun two horses drowned
6th Fritz is after the big gun on the railway again
this time H.E was exploding on the far side of the horse lines
nobody hurt

Mon 7th went up the line again with ammunition went to the rear position
nothing doing

Tues 8th old Fritz still dropping shells somewhat near
one near the horse water point & one near our horse lines

Wed 9th There is a bomb —— going off on the right towards Cambrai
Later I hear Fritz is 10 miles beyond Cambrai
into There is a reflection in the sky
~~the~~ I hear it is Dury burning
Thurs 10th The 49th Division passed through here on the way to Cambrai
into the Canadians have come back here
Fri 11th

Sat 12th Went upto the line again with ammunition
our Engineers have built a dummy bridge over the Canal to Draw Fritz's bombers from the main bridge

Sun 13th went to the Bon Bills at night
there are all Kinds of rumours about regarding place

Mon 14th Fritz is firing over infantry
— — time of it around aubigny (sic)
my horses have just come in
into they have have a narrow go
Tues 15th he was sending gas & HE over

Wed 16th My horse are properly windy
into are started this morning & it took all my
Thurs 17th strength to hold him
saw a cluster of birds this morn
there must have been thousands of them

Fri 18th Moved in the early hours to aubigny (sic)
Fritz as evacuated
the village is in ruin
our guns have done it

Sat 19th our infantry caught out here,
Took the guns about 4 kilos further up & are still out of range
we are reserve ———
Moved at night
it was raining
Stopped the night in another village

October 1918 continued

Sun 20th — Moved from ——— (sic) to the Cambrai raining hard

Mon 21st — No entry

Tues 22nd — a big bombardment is going on up the line

Wed 23rd — The bombardment is still on
I hear we are nearing Valenciennes

Thurs 24th into Fri 25th — Have been to Cambrai
there are thousands of troops also civilians pouring in
saw hundreds of prisoners of very poor quality

Sat 26th — What a game it is / we are out of action & could easily have an easy time instead it is a case of harness cleaning & grooming all day long
there is just time to swallow your meals

Sun 27th — Well we have been on the inspection but the govt General think they must be getting ready

Mon 28th — fit the reviews
after the war
there is another big —— on Wed

into Tues 29th — so are hard at it again poshing up
There are a lot of dead around here including 2 civilians

Wed 30th — went on review order before the Colonel & now we ___ to ___ ___ before the General tomorrow

Thurs 31st — moved off 12-30 AM to THIANT (sic)
he his shelling heavily
2 of our ___ are knocked out
Went up the line with shells at night

November 1918

Fri 1st — The attack came off this morning
I hear they are doing well
went up the line at night

Sat 2nd — again awful journey
stopped dozens of times in a Sunken road
Thousands of prisoners — passed through
one woman tried to strangle one of them but was stopped

Sun 3rd — Left Thiant & went forward to the 6 ml ___
valenciennes (sic) we had a royal welcome

November 1918 continued

Mon 4th — Left at 9AM for Saultain the place smacked about & a big — crater at the crossroads

Tues 5th — Took two lots of shells up & moved further up
Fritz shelled the village soon as we arrived

Wed 6th — 6 ar infantry went five kilos & have got up reserves so have had to come back damn it

Thurs 7th — all the — — one at 8.30AM find later on he as gone back the 49th & 63rd are up here

Fri 8th. — Moved again
it is raining hard today
bridge blown up
had a royal time in the village of Athies

Sat 9th — Moved again
I hear the peace delegates have crossed the line
it is a lovely day
Got a good billet in a farm
Had new bread & some cakes

Sun 10th — Moved again today
never saw as many mines in

the road & trees too

Mon 11th Have just heard the good news armistice.
a barn got afire in the horse lines & burnt seven horses also
into Tues 12th through a Fritz we are about 11 miles from Mons
we are pushing up again
into Wed 13th we can hear dumps going up

Thurs 14th There are mines laid everywhere some have not gone off & there are —— on all the roads around here
through to Sat 16th I hear one as just now blown up Cambrai Rly Station & leave train with it causing 400 casualties

Sun 17th It is a bon army is ours
all work & no grub
our days work now starts with exercising horses then breakfast which consists of ⅓ of a loaf tea & boiled bacon
continues through to Tues 26th posh parade ~~then~~ then brush down pair of horses afterward harness cleaning still work as to be Kept free from rust
leather scrubbed & polished
brakes polished
then an hours grooming
Dinner consists of a mixture of

continuing through to Tues 26th pieces of carrots onions & pieces of meat & very little of each when they get to the sub-sections. after dinner harness cleaning again, wisping of horses & then tea jam & 1 biscuit

Wed 27th into The village is lit up with electric light

Thurs 28th I saw the 9th West Yorks pass here two days ago

Fri 29th into Moved to a village on the border of France 9 Kilo from Maubeuge we are billeted at a farm am told several of our prisoners are buried in the cemetery

Sat 30th our troops were through here in 1914 & got a cutting up

December 1918

Sun 1st Went for some ammunition three Teams from our battery were on the road three days it rained 1st & 2nd days got a bit wet

continuing to had two nights in Barai (probably Baraya) there are many French Motor lorries on the road with flour furniture & _____ on board there are thousands of our troops

↓	going into Belgium went to the pictures & a concert had a row on our return with the 2nd – master
Sat 7th	got a slice on bread & after being on ——— rations on the road
Sun 8th	The troops are fed up
↓	we get the election addresses but
continues to	——— voting cards it is nothing but a damned swindle ah it as come at last so lost
Tues 10th	no time in getting it off
Wed 11th	I hear there is a town near here it is in Belgium
↓	the station is crowded with trains
to	packed with loot by Jerry & all have been bombed by our airmen
Sun 15th	I have been away three days for ammunition to Barai (probably Baray) it rained nearly all the time

No further entries.