

KEARSE, Herbert  
1916 Nov. 19-  
1917 Apr 22

Service in y m c a tent  
and took part in the  
communion service.

Nov 20<sup>th</sup>  
dysph + cold. inspection by  
Brigadier Thomas. stood with  
packs on for 2 hours + half.  
at night spent 28 francs in  
cards + Christmas presents.  
most of the men were drunk  
after the big pay of 65 francs

Nov 21  
paraded. sick Doctor said it  
was lice, made me feel very  
cheap. concert at night  
Brigade band in attendance.

Nov 22  
marched to Gas School and  
received new helmet

also had nice bath and  
change of clothes

Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>  
physical drill A bay <sup>company</sup> attachment  
inoculated in the arm in  
afternoon

Nov 24  
did nothing all day feeling  
pretty sick

Nov 25  
first hair cut in France  
no parade raining fast.  
concert at night

Nov 26  
orders to move at 10.30 a.m.  
stormy. arrived in support  
trenches at 3 pm. in wrong  
place, left at 9 pm for  
reserve trenches, very hard  
march along a small track  
through lots of mud  
arrived 11 pm very tired

55

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Nov 24<sup>th</sup>

went on ration party at  
1 am hardly any sleep cold  
dug out. meals <sup>very</sup> scarce.  
dinner at 4.30 pm. watched  
artillery load + fire. stood tall  
to till 2 am. from 8 pm there  
being a small attack by the  
Canadians.

Nov 28

fine day. nothing doing till  
5.15 pm when we went out on  
a work party. Officer lost us,  
we came back without working

Nov 29

raw cold day. nothing doing  
till 4.30 pm went on work  
party very <sup>dark</sup> & dangerous  
walking came back midnight

Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

cold + foggy. work party at  
4.30 pm till 11 pm

Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

cold + foggy work party  
at night moon light to come  
home

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

Left  
left reserve billets at 1.30 pm  
for support trenches Fordham  
goes to hospital sick work  
party at night

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>

raw cold + damp work  
party at night front line  
very quiet.

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>

fine in morning rain.  
Towards night I am  
attached to the Batt in  
Dec. much better dug out  
+ much better than company  
no work parties, much better  
rations.

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Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

weather fine first time  
in action with alt gun

Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

Weather fine + cold  
not much doing.

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

fine + cold. again in front  
line with gun at night done  
some firing

Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

foggy + raw cold. in afternoon  
moved up into support trench  
& relieved no 4 crew - good deep  
sap. on guard with gun at night

Dec 9<sup>th</sup>

cloudy + raining, a little  
taking turns on guard 2 hrs on  
& off. can get <sup>under</sup> cover

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>

fine in morning rain in  
afternoon not much doing  
got parcel from home.

Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

Same as yesterday saw a  
battle in the air

Dec 12

rain + snow we are relieved  
at 2 pm after waiting 4 hrs  
came back to Etree Cauchie  
at night without a <sup>rest</sup> rest  
very dark we were nearly  
run down by ~~6~~ <sup>horse</sup> team  
arrived at billets 1:30 tired  
got parcel from Burlington

Dec 13<sup>th</sup>

no parade just clean up

Dec 14

no parade wet day, was paid  
30 frs

Dec 15

two hours parade clean up gun.

Dec 16<sup>th</sup>

cleaned up & inspected by  
Lieut Col. Ormand.

Dec 17

March parade in morning  
inspected by Major Tompson  
in afternoon

Dec 18<sup>th</sup>

up at 4:45 am turn in  
blankets. Leave Etree lauchie  
10 am passed through numerous  
villages & arrived at Divison<sup>Division</sup>  
at 1:30 pm. we are billeted in  
a <sup>sized</sup> good sized town

Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

instruction on Lewis gun for  
3 hours in morning - in afternoon  
George Page found me out  
was delighted, went with him  
to his billets 1<sup>st</sup> M M G. Brigade

Dec 20<sup>th</sup>

gun instruction on gun  
in afternoon, went to Bouay  
with George - quite a  
large mining town

Dec 21<sup>st</sup>

done some firing with  
Lewis gun, in morning  
in afternoon write letters.

Dec 22

instruction on bolt gun  
lecture on musketry. Splendid  
concert at night 10<sup>th</sup> Band.

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>.

very hard route march wind  
& rain soaked through

Dec 24

March parade. me & George Page  
go to Bouay. met a number  
of old 86<sup>th</sup> boys seemed  
like old times

G1

G2



No parade. splendid dinner  
turkey + plum pudding.  
concert at night cigars found  
Dec 26<sup>th</sup>

fine day good route march.  
Dec 27<sup>th</sup>

stormy + wet concert at night  
in y.m.c.a. with George  
Dec 28<sup>th</sup>

a little gun drill + instruction  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup>

half day off. spend it in y.  
Dec 30<sup>th</sup>

Mores ~~more~~ orderly lot of rain, floods  
very high, good band concert  
at night.

Dec 31<sup>st</sup>

church parade in morning  
in afternoon me + George go  
to Bruay had a feed, went

to a peters show very good  
the boys are quite merry  
raining hard. issue of rum  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1917

fine morning no parade  
except for pay. good concert  
at night, get orders to break up  
gun section going to A. Co.<sup>company</sup>  
Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>

up at 6<sup>30</sup> - roll blankets +  
start for A. Co.<sup>company</sup>. get a good  
billet, no breakfast, dont go  
on parade, inspection by  
Lord Northcliffe + General Byng.  
our landlady gives us coffee.

Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>

Brigade route march. inspected  
by Brigadier + General Byng  
went up to see George before  
he went up the line next day.

63

1916 ends  
1917

1

Jan 4<sup>th</sup>  
wet day. no parade.

Jan 5<sup>th</sup>  
instruction on Lewis gun.

Jan 6<sup>th</sup>  
Physical drill, instruction on gun.  
received parcel from Rose with  
pipe + tobacco from Mr Poolittle

Jan 7<sup>th</sup>  
firing with Lewis gun in  
the morning and afternoon  
three French children hurt.  
one badly when a bomb  
exploded in a pile of rubbish.  
one of them died.

Jan 8<sup>th</sup>  
usual parade + instruction,  
splendid concert at night  
in y.m.c.a by a London  
concert party, building packed

Jan 9<sup>th</sup>  
received parcel from Ladies  
of I.C.D.E. at Hamilton for  
86<sup>th</sup> boys.

Jan 10<sup>th</sup>  
firing with Lewis gun

Jan 11<sup>th</sup>  
inspection by 1<sup>st</sup> Army  
Boys' commander

Jan 12<sup>th</sup>  
Att tactical scheme near  
Aoudain + received new  
Imperial uniform.

Jan 13<sup>th</sup>  
usual parade, on fire  
project at night

Jan 14<sup>th</sup>  
firing Lewis gun. very  
nice service at night  
in y.m.c.a.

May parade in  
morning in  
afternoon Company  
attack.

concert at night

Jan 16

instruction on Lewis gun.  
go on billet guard at 4 pm  
snow all night

Jan 17<sup>th</sup>

snow nearly all day, received  
guard at 4 pm -- go to concert  
bought a flash lamp

Jan 18

snowing, no parade, <sup>Lewis</sup> inspection  
learned that our Landlord and  
Landlady are refugees from Lens.  
met George at night, went with him  
up on the <sup>hill</sup> to a splendid band  
concert by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt Band.

Jan 19

full pack inspection at 11,30 am  
out with George at night

Jan 20

Wakeup 5,30 breakfast at 6,00 blankets  
rolled and out at 6,30, fall in 8.15  
leave Divion 9 am, passed through  
Bouay + Berlin. arrived Tossa and  
1,15 after good march, had trouble  
getting into our billet in a house  
which is very bare + cold, can  
hear plain straffing in front lines,  
lay out of town <sup>reminds</sup> one of  
Canada, two church <sup>army</sup> Huts.  
on the way <sup>Gene</sup> ~~Gene~~ + I saw several  
old 86<sup>th</sup> boys.

Jan 21<sup>st</sup>

church parade 9 am in <sup>Army</sup> Huts  
nice night service at night

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>

fire on ranges with colt gun  
received apples from home

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>

fire on ranges with Lee Infield Rifle  
in afternoon. Fritz shelled the town  
and mine. we are all chased out  
to a place of safety.

up at 6:30 ~~threw~~ in blankets and  
leave Tasse end at 9 am go through  
Bully Grenay + enter communication  
trench arrive front line 1 pm.  
we have the Lewis gun having  
turned over our colt for reserve  
myself + Jupiel go on to hour shifts  
and sleep at night in a nap.

Jan 25<sup>th</sup>

weather fine + cold saw quite  
a heavy bombardment on our right.  
Fritz sent up coloured lights it was  
quite a pretty sight only too real

Jan 26<sup>th</sup>

fine + cold, Fritz stopped our front  
support trenches for half an hour.  
trying to find the stakes our  
artillery soon quietened him down  
ration's very short for some reason

Jan 27<sup>th</sup>

relieved at 9 am from Lewis gun

take over our colt in support.

Jan 28<sup>th</sup>

on guard with gun 2 hrs on 4 off  
fine but cold

Jan 29

heavy bombardment on our right  
our artillery opened up and soon  
stopped it

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>

we are relieved by the 7<sup>th</sup> at  
noon, Fritz threw over some  
heavy shells causing some loss  
3 killed + 3 wounded in the 7<sup>th</sup>  
2 wounded in the 10<sup>th</sup> we go  
back to Bully Grenay in billets

Jan 31<sup>st</sup>

go on work party on small trench

Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

same work party. warned for  
another at night but got off

X  
6

5

7



Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>

paid in morning. warned for work party 4:15. 3 men too many. drew matches and was lucky to get off, Dave was on. weather still fine + cold.

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>

in afternoon walked round town with Wakefield, quite a large town has been considerably shelled. soldiers saw a large number of imperial <sup>soldiers</sup> holding + transport lines, + good church <sup>very</sup> but. go on first <sup>working</sup> party at night in front of support <sup>front</sup> trenches.

Feb 4<sup>th</sup>

fine + cold. go on billet guard at night, boots fixed in morning.

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>

Call up <sup>eight</sup> cooks + <sup>company</sup> at 5 + 6 am. leave belly <sup>grahny</sup>

at 8.30 am for front line. take in Lewis gun. arrive 10.15.

Feb. 6 + 7<sup>th</sup> on guard with gun 2 hrs on 4<sup>th</sup>. weather fine. line fairly quiet. nice moonlight nights not too cold <sup>very</sup> impressive scene looking over <sup>Fritz</sup> trenches <sup>with</sup> shells bursting here + there.

Feb 8<sup>th</sup>

relieved at 10 am + go back. we receive <sup>relieve</sup> billeted in house. one in a long row which has been heavily shelled weather still fine

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> + 10<sup>th</sup>

no parade no work party for gun <sup>section</sup> section. weather still fine + cold. big guns <sup>firing</sup> near by shake our house.

Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

weather fine + milder. relieved at 10 am by 7<sup>th</sup> arrive at Forses lnd at 11 am

8

9

As soon as possible went to  
Y.M.C.A + met Jim Kiven had  
some tea + cake with him he told  
me all he knew about Bob.

in afternoon walked round the  
Towers, since we were here last  
Friday has ~~smashed~~<sup>smashed</sup> down the smoke  
stacks at the mine <sup>also</sup> houses.  
went to church Army but then  
met Bill Fallis and Ed 86<sup>th</sup> Regt  
Had supper with Jim Kiven

Feb 12

Muster ~~parade~~<sup>parade</sup>, occupation put down  
in pay book. supper with Jim

Feb 13<sup>d</sup>

on ranges all day. fire with bolt  
gun + Rifle + go through gas

Feb 14<sup>th</sup>

shine up all equipment, parade  
at 12 o'clock. march to Heaven and  
Dart is inspected by Sir Douglas

Dart is inspected by Sir Douglas Haig,  
Commander in Chief of B.E.F. Dart  
is complimented by him on their  
appearance makes me feel proud  
<sup>look</sup> looks splendid on march. weather fine  
go on Billet Guard at night very  
heavy bombardment at midnight.

Feb 15

pay parade at 9 am. weather fine  
Red Photo taken with Percy Brown.  
saw Pictures at night in Y.M.C.A.

Feb 16<sup>d</sup>

Field maneuvers at Bayfelle with  
aeroplane overhead, church service  
in afternoon. weather fine.  
supper with Jim Kiven till 10 pm.

Feb 17<sup>th</sup>

Leave force end 9.30, am band  
played us off. arrive front line  
11 am. same <sup>position</sup> position with Lewis gun  
weather mild trenches getting in  
bad shape.

4 off. send up flares first. time <sup>on your own with gun</sup>  
weather mild very dark & misty  
at night. line fairly quiet

Feb 20

rain all day. turned over Lewis  
gun. to 2 platoons at 10 am. go back  
to supports in forest alley. take over  
 Colt gun much better <sup>position</sup>  
& better dug out. on guard the same

Feb 21

weather fine, go on work party at  
night, should not have been out

Levy got a calling down for it  
~~in the trench~~ Feb 22 ~~the trench~~ off

Rain a little all morning, on guard  
the same.

Feb 23.

a 10th Patrol got lost in no <sup>mans</sup> land  
wandered into Fritz's line & killed 2.

relieved at 8 pm leave gun at  
Batt stores trenches in awful state  
saw Wakefield stuck in the mud

Feb 24

on work party 6 hours, cleaning  
out Devil trench. saw Billy, Buss  
weather fine.

Sunday. 25<sup>th</sup>

got orders to go up & bring down  
the gun. at night go to Sacred  
Band concert in Cinema Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 14<sup>th</sup> Band. which is  
a good one splendid address by  
the Chaplin, J. Watron goes to <sup>transport</sup>  
I am now belt loader. saw <sup>two</sup> Duffys.

Feb 26

weather fine stay at billet  
& clean belt loader also the gun.

Feb 27

work party in Devil trench  
for 6 hours.

Fritz came over  
on the 5th Bar.  
Easy replied left,  
Some dead.

13

leave Bully, Gravelly 8 am. with  
platoon taking <sup>colt</sup> colt gun. arrived in  
support trenches Forest Alley. 10:30 am  
on guard 2 on 4 ft.

March 1<sup>st</sup>

12 till 2 am on guard at 2 am  
combined gas + <sup>artillery</sup> artillery attack  
on Fritz. by 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade on <sup>our</sup> left  
& 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. at Vimy Ridge lots  
of red & green lights going up  
very pretty & impressive sight

Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>

on guard 2 till 4 am. Iden & Ritchie  
took our midnight shift. at 2 am  
very heavy bombardment when 2<sup>nd</sup>  
<sup>brigade</sup> Brigade went over.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

weather fine on guard same  
at 3 am terrific bombardment  
when 2<sup>nd</sup> <sup>brigade</sup> Brigade went over a very  
impressive sight & satisfying to know

we can put it all <sup>over</sup> them

relieved

March 4<sup>th</sup>

returned 10 am march back to  
force 10 trenches in very good shape  
<sup>see</sup> see gun given at night

March 5<sup>th</sup>

leave  
leave force 10 at 10 am. march  
through Heverin & Barlin to  
Houdain. where stay and are  
billeted in a barn with benches 4  
high not a very good place  
did not get blankets till 3 am  
very cold get rum issue.

March 6<sup>th</sup>

pay  
pay parade <sup>at</sup> 12 noon  
go to Division in afternoon to see  
George & found he was out on  
anti air craft <sup>work</sup> work. weather  
snow & rain.

Mar 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>

Lewis gun instruction. no parade  
in afternoon. band concert at night  
Weather much colder.



Kept Houdain 7 am - passed through  
Entree barely. to Mount St. Elie  
But is killed in 3 huts. Bunks 3 high  
saw Jack Rogers + J Hacks in 20<sup>th</sup>  
on our march we saw several 15 inch  
guns + shells. <sup>also noticed</sup> great activity  
everywhere piles of ammunition of all  
calibres looks rather suspicious. weather  
cold + snow storms saw first Lot. Hut  
March 10<sup>th</sup>

Lewis gun intonation in morning,  
in afternoon explored town <sup>which</sup>  
<sup>has</sup> been heavily shelled, went in a  
church <sup>which</sup> had been beautiful before  
it was shelled. saw high tower  
<sup>ruins</sup> of 1870. at night listened to  
a splendid address by Rev. Cameron  
from St Baptist Church Toronto, <sup>but packed</sup>  
<sup>saw</sup> Harold, Barrie + several 86<sup>th</sup> <sup>boys</sup>  
<sup>also</sup> saw two heavy caterpillar engines  
<sup>hauling</sup> hauling large guns.

16

March 11<sup>th</sup>

no parade. left Mount St Elie  
5:20 pm for support lines arrive 8:30  
saw very long ammunition column.

March 12

weather fine saw several fights  
in the air 4 machines down. 2 ours  
+ 2 enemy very awe-inspiring, <sup>night</sup>  
no work party.

Mar 13<sup>th</sup>

work party at night <sup>burying</sup> burying cable

Mar 14<sup>th</sup>

Leave at 4:30 for first line <sup>support</sup>  
<sup>heavy</sup> carry full <sup>loads</sup> + spare <sup>barrel</sup>  
trenches in terrible condition <sup>knee</sup>  
deep in <sup>mud</sup> mud, while platoons in an  
A.L. Supt. very poor place  
go on ration party. also gas <sup>guard</sup> guard

17

March 15<sup>th</sup>

weather fine <sup>truly</sup> shell us heavy  
stood tall all afternoon <sup>in first</sup> expect attack  
<sup>still</sup>  
Still on gas guard.

weather fine. shells drop very close to us

March 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's day.

weather fine + drying. a raid at 6.15 am. by imperials on our right quite a heavy bombardment. saw two aeroplanes come down one in flames.

March 18

Weather stormy go on ration party at night + still on gas guard.

March 19<sup>th</sup>

A boy relieves B. Coy 2 platoons in front line we are in support, at 11 pm I am warned to go up + <sup>reinforce</sup> ~~reinforce~~ no 2 gun crew done one shift 1 to 3 am

March 20

got no rations. rain + snow we are relieved by the <sup>8<sup>th</sup></sup> Batt at 4 o'clock <sup>or 10<sup>th</sup></sup> carry belt loaders + <sup>spare</sup> Barrel out to manual very hard going in the mud came part of the

way on corduroy road which helped us out quite a lot

March 21.

no parade just clean up. saw Joe black. + found out Harold was at Estree Bauschie went to see him he looks well, saw his B.P.M. + ask him to put in a requisition for me. got back at 8.45.

March 22.

both parade in morning, given instruction + company attack in afternoon cold + snow flurries

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

receive instruction on a German gun which is a good one blunder parade in afternoon packed in a large tent

March 24

go back up to the support trenches along <sup>corduroy</sup> ~~corduroy~~ road, get good dugout. go on gas guard. saw a very remarkable aeroplane. First by Fritz and <sup>then</sup> our Scouts.

weathers fine Fritz shells every  
heavy land all round & <sup>on</sup> top of  
our dug out wounded 3 men.

March 26<sup>th</sup>

A boy move to front line. our gun  
Sec. stay in supports with ~~10~~ 4 platoon  
set up the gun & go on guard, snow  
& rain, not feeling very good  
old trouble again with my back.

March 27<sup>th</sup>

remained in afternoon, as we are  
pulling out Fritz shells as very  
~~heavily~~ some came very close  
go back to <sup>sunken</sup> ~~water~~ road in support.

March 28<sup>th</sup>

weather fine feeling little better  
great activity in the air, go on  
ration party at night

March 29<sup>th</sup>

rain & cold, relieved at 2 pm by  
2<sup>nd</sup> Batt very hard going out, go

back to same billets, saw Harold

March 30<sup>th</sup>

clean up in morning, Bit & rifle  
inspection in afternoon, go with  
Harold at night to see 2 tanks  
begin to look like something doing.

March 31<sup>st</sup>

Batt go to Lestre Bauchy to practice  
going over Fritz trenches which  
are all marked out by tape  
rain hail & thunder.

April 1<sup>st</sup>

Sunday church parade & no chapel  
parade in afternoon service  
and band concert at night in YMCA

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

go to Lestre Bauchy on Brigade  
maneuvers cold stormy day

both parade when we got <sup>back</sup>

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lestre Bauchy again  
saw new Fritz plane,  
Very fast.

April 7  
set out to go to Extra <sup>bauchie</sup>  
get to Bamblain <sup>le</sup> <sup>adble</sup> and  
turn back. saw Harold at  
night, go to concert where news  
comes that U.S.A. has declared  
war on Germany.

April 5<sup>th</sup>  
no parade officer, round with  
Aeroplane Photos of attack,  
ham & eggs for breakfast  
write in y m c a in afternoon.  
go to a splendid concert in  
y m c a with Harold, saw George  
Smith when I came back. found  
that he belongs to the 10<sup>th</sup> B. Coy

April 6<sup>th</sup>  
Good Friday lunch parade.  
order to go up the line, roll  
blankets, then order is cancelled  
for 24 hours. found out that  
Bert Sandham dead of tuberculosis

April 7<sup>th</sup>  
fall in 9 am. & go up to support  
lines.

April 8<sup>th</sup>  
we pulled off a Bomber raid on  
Tritz trench at 4 am. Sunday  
it was a very <sup>hot</sup> ~~hot~~ corner. Bombs  
flying in all directions & shells &  
flares make it a grand sight. we  
lose a number of men Capt. Fisher  
& Bell. & Lieut McDonald & others.

April 9<sup>th</sup> Easter Monday  
we all go up to front line & jumping  
of trenches we are shelled rather heavy  
at 5,30 am our artillery and M guns  
opened up a terrific barrage on Tritz  
& our lines advanced, the first  
waves run into our own barrage  
and we lose heavily, but keep  
going, it was very hot for a time  
rain a little the flares be sent up  
flares are

and shells bursting make it  
a marvellous sight.



and prisoners start to come in.  
I am carrying the belt loader we  
killed 4 men on start line killed, the  
rest are separated but keep going.  
saw a large number of dead fritz  
and very scared looking prisoners  
we reach our <sup>objective</sup> ~~point~~ alright  
and other companies & Batts go  
through and keep on going, the  
advance is <sup>just</sup> splendid, the  
artillery is deafening, we get  
straightened out & join our platoon.  
The first Brigade go through and  
reach their final objective easy  
some guns and m.guns are  
captured a ~~major~~ <sup>major</sup> is wounded  
we ~~lose~~ <sup>lose</sup> a ~~large~~ <sup>large</sup> number of  
officers & N.C.O.s at night we  
come back to our old front line  
had hard time finding a billet  
April 10<sup>th</sup>

23

we go back up to a reserve  
line behind 1st Brigade pass  
places to stay rain & cold, I am  
now Lieut. (pl.) of first 11  
heavy snow. Blizzard in morning  
& rain, do trench duty, a few shells  
fly around.

April 12.

move again farther up. the 8th  
has made an advance. we support  
them saw cavalry come off at  
night, I am in charge of ration  
party, our dug out occupied when  
we get <sup>back</sup> ~~back~~

April 13<sup>th</sup>

weather finer the guns are being  
brought up. go on work party  
at night not enough shovels, help  
to pull out gun from shell hole

April 14<sup>th</sup>

we go up in support to railway  
8th. Batt, heavily shelled, At night  
we go back to Woods and stay  
in support.

24

nothing doing all day, we are near  
some captured enemy guns, at 6 pm  
we are relieved. Tuby shells us close.  
got hit on forehead, move back  
to black line, just get turned in  
had to move again to old Brigade & a  
guide got lost, after 11 before we  
find our dug out. everybody is  
worn out. and all in...

April 16.

we get a blanket but no mail.  
ration is poor. everybody is carrying  
on about it. we are safe from  
shells anyway. great changes  
have taken place with the  
advance.

April 17th

rather parade in morning.  
rain + cold + show. 2am in charge  
of my first squad at night.

April 18th

cold + stormy, relieved guard  
at 1,30 pm not much doing.

April 19th

a little finer. both parade to  
E. group, the changes that has  
taken place since we were  
there is marvellous

April 20

fine day, drying up now, parade  
for inspection in afternoon,  
platoons are reorganised.

April 21st

fine day. pack up in afternoon  
and move back to Huts in front St Elai

April 22nd

Sunday. + anniversary of Battle of  
Ypres. when the Canadian made their  
name famous. weather fine  
beach parade at 11am on the Hill  
near the old Victoria houses. most  
beautiful view, see for many  
miles, two weeks ago enemy shelled it  
now out of range. Hymn "O GOD  
OUR HELP IN AGES PAST AND  
FOREVER WITH THE LORD."