**War Diary 2/4 Battalion Ox and Bucks Light Infantry**

Fresno Quarry. 1st March 1918

In front line improvement to trenches. Fighting patrols sent out in front of line of resistance. D company`s Headquarters wheeled intermittently

Fresno Quarry. 2nd March

In front line Battalion relieved at night by 2/5th Gloucester Regiment to reserve billet at Ugny

Ugny 3rd March

In reserve billets. Battalion resting and cleaning up

Ugny 4th March

In reserve billets Company and specialist training

Ugny 5th March

In reserve billets Company and specialist training

Ugny 6th March

In reserve billets D coy moved to dug outs in battle zone for work on burying cable ABC companies Company and specialist training

Ugny 7th March

In reserve billets work as for 6th

Ugny 8th March

In reserve billets Battalion and company training D company digging

Ugny 9th March In reserve billets. Demonstration given of the use of new Mortar S.O.S signals given by a Brigade Bombing Officer. Summertime came into use. Lieut.WH Enoch took over duties as A adjutant Ugny 10th March Battalion relieved by 2/4th Royal Berks in battle zone. Disposition Right front company D, left front company A, counter attack company C. strong point company D Before taking over billets in Attilly Huts battle positions were manned.

Attilly 11th March

In battle zone. Working parties day and night found by A,B,C Companies for improvement of trenches burying cable under R.E.s D company carried out company training.

Attilly 12th March

Ditto. ditto

Attilly 13th March.

Ditto. Ditto

Attilly 14th March

Ditto. Ditto Major HJ Bennett assumed temporary command of the battalion vice Lt.Col. HE de R Wetheral DSO MC temporarily commanding 184 Infantry Brigade.

Attilly 15th March.

Ditto Work and training as above. Lieut.WH Enoch left unit to take up appointment as Adjutant of 1/4 Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.

Attilly 16th March

Work and training as above

Attilly 17th March

Ditto

Attilly 18th March

Battalion relieved by2/4h Royal Berks in the forward zone. Dispositions C Right Front Coy B Left front coy, 2 platoons A in sunken road near the Needle Counterattack company, HQ and 2 platoon at The Willows, M28 C 1.5 (REF MAP 62BSW) D Coy and battalion Headquarters at Enghien Redoubt.

NB in the first 18 days of March the Battalion did not suffer any casualties

Fayet. 19th March

In forward zone wiring and improvement of trenches Fighting patrols sent out Casualties Nil

Fayet 20th March

In forward zone wiring and improvement to trenches Fighting patrols sent out casualties nil

Fayet 21st March

In forward zone Our positions were subjected to a severe enemy bombardment commencing at 4.30 am, gas shells being freely used on our back areas and keeps. At 9.00am under a heavy smoke barrage a strong hostile attack was launched penetrating to the forward zone and surrounding Enghien Redoubt. The garrison of the latter D coy and Battn. Headquarters held out to 4.00 pm at which time owing to casualties they attempted to fight their way out. the reminder of the battalion attached itself to 2/5 Gloucester Casualties Officers: Missing Capt.KE Brown MC Capt. CEP Foreshow MC Capt. FJ Cahill MCRC USA 2/lieutenant R Ostler, T Pett, CH Wallington MC, VC Gray JC Cunningham TW Mallett FA Naylor G Shelley GV Rowbottam MC CH Leach PT Simms. Missing believed killed 2 Lieut.WH GE Bassett 2/Leinster RGH Gough WH Flory OC hall Wounded and missing 2/Lieut.WH E Little Other Ranks Killed 5 wounded 32 Wounded and missing 31 Missing 494 During the day the battalion held one of the keeps in the battle zone until they were driven out by a strong enemy attack. At about 1.30 pm when it withdrew in good order to a prepared position in from of Beauvois At night an enemy attack penetrated the positions on our right, our position remained intact. Casualties. Other ranks Missing 5 wounded 1 wounded and missing 1

Beauvois. 23rd March 1918

The Battalion withdrew at 3am to billets at Billancourt where it was reinforced by details of 61st Divisional Battalion. At night marched to billets at Languevoisin in reserve to 20th Division. Casualties 2/Lt G Gefeal Killed in action 6 OR wounded.

Languevoisin. 24th

The Battalion moved at 11am and occupied high ground in front of Hombleuxat. 3 pm, it withdrew to a position along canal bank from Breual-Quiquewhich was held during the night Casualties OR killed 1 Missing 1 Wounded 7

Hombleux 25th

The Battalion were relieved at night by French troops after withdrawing slightly during the day. Casualties Capt. WH Moberly DSO wounded. 2/Lt GA Rowlerson Missing. OR 2 Killed 2 wounded.

Fresno La Chaussee 26th

The Battalion marched to billets at Fresno La Chaussee in the morning and to Mezieres in the afternoon which village was placed in a state of defence. At 11. Pm moved forward to billets at Le Quesnil for the purpose of counterattack. Casualties 2 OR wounded

Le Quesnil. 27th

Prepared defences at Le Quesnil and took up as position at 3 pm. At 11 pm the battalion was relieved by French troops embussing at Mezniers and being rushed up to Marcelcave at 4.00am. Casualties Lt Col HE De Wetherall DSO

Marcelcave 28th

The Battalion took part in a counterattack on La Motte en Sancerre but owing to heavy hostile machine gun and rifle fire objective was not gained. Battalion occupied reserve position to north of Marcelcave but withdrew at 8.00 pm to west of Marcelcave and dug in. Casualties wounded 2 l/TS AH Lewis and SA Garrard OR 2 wounded

Marcelcave. 29th

Quiet day casualties. Nil

Marcelcave. 30th

Enemy attack on our front in the afternoon was beaten off with rifle fire with severe losses to the enemy. Casualties Missing Major HJ Bennett OR wounded 20

Marcelcave 31st

The Battalion was relieved at 4.00 am by Australian troops and moved back to billets at Gentelles.