



**MY EXPERIENCES & IMPRESSIONS SINCE THE
DECLARATION OF WAR (volume 1)
by Hubert Horatio Shirley Morant**

The Story of the 10th Battalion Durham Light Infantry
in the First World War
by its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Morant

PART 1: Pages 1-29

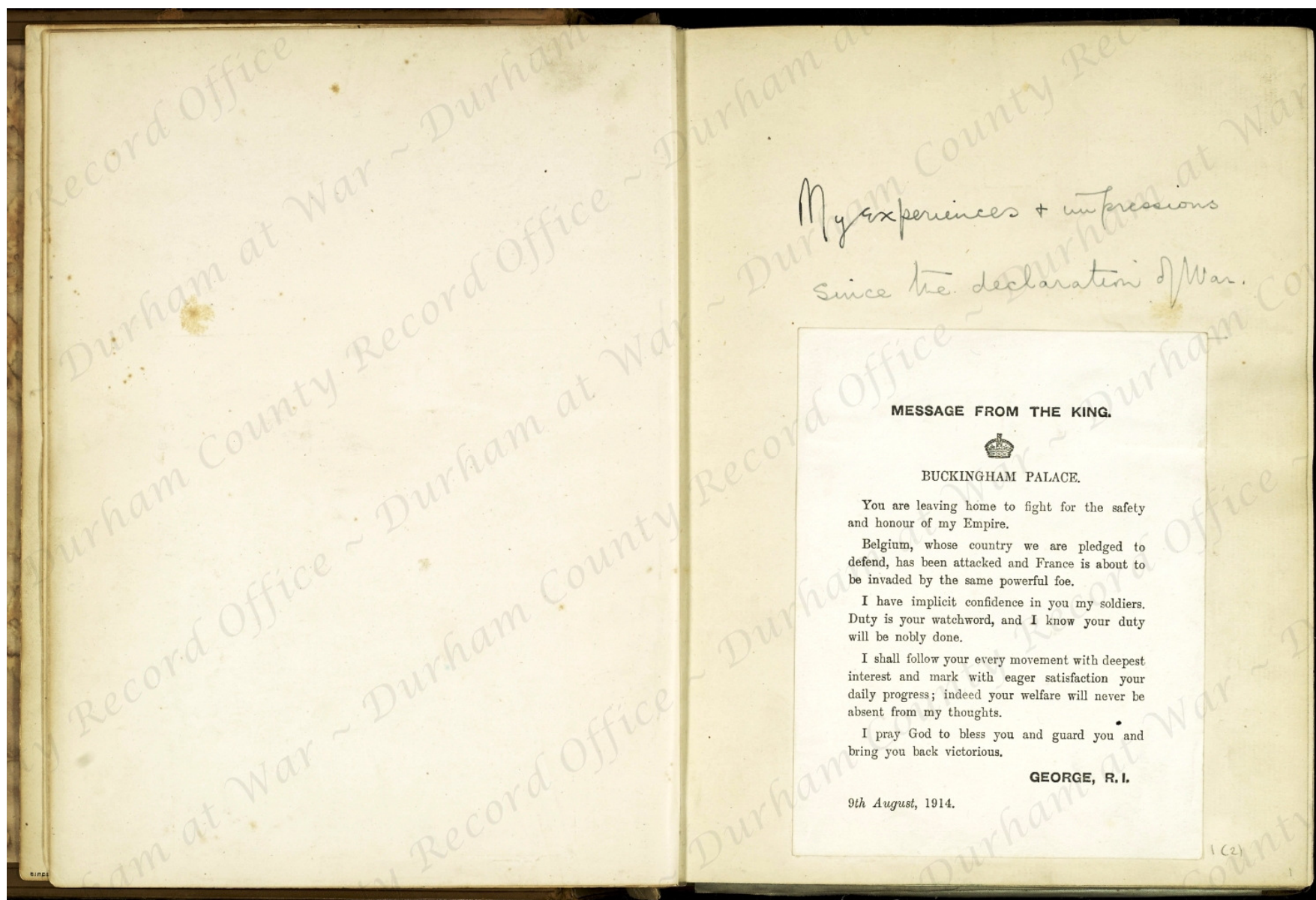
August 1914 – May 1915

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Distinguishing Badge

X-D.L.I.

Worn on the back - just below the Collar.



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This is the distinguishing badge worn by the 10th D.L.I. from Oct 1914 - The 4th Bde was the first ^{to} ~~bring~~ ^{to} the New Army to introduce these badges which afterwards became almost universal. The ~~first~~ ^{first} badge was the first badge ~~to~~ ^{to} be adopted. When Cloth became scarce in 1916 - these badges were made out of old Hunting Coats kindly sent to me by Hunting men in Northumberland Durham.

Hence: "This Badge saw many a Fox rolled o'er
In Northumberland Durham before the War
But now it finds more glorious fun
To be in at the death of the dirty Hun."

Newcastle - Mobilization.

Aug 1914.

* Killed 2 Bds
at Ypres
Sept 1915

In August I was still in command of the Depot at Newcastle - About the middle of July detailed orders for mobilization had at length been completed. Capt. H. J. Coddington* was my Adj't. It was evident towards the end of July that War was inevitable - On Sunday Aug 3rd I transferred my abode from The Leazes to the Barracks at Newcastle.

About 8 P.M. on Tuesday Aug 5th the following telegram was received by me from H. Q. Northumb.
York - "Mobilize - stop. Acknowledge". Notices were sent out to the Spec Res to join on the 4th day - though a good deal of doubt was expressed at the time as to the ^{exact} meaning of the telegram.

* I believe this was wrong. If Gen. Mobilization was ordered - The Special Res had to join on the day without notice.

Aug 6th was the First Day of Mobilization. On the night of the 5th - 6th - men were hard at work unpacking the bales of clothing & putting ^{great coats} the garments in the Reservists' pigeon-holes according to sizes. By 6 A.M. on the 6th Reservists had begun to arrive. Some 650 Reservists were required by the 2nd Bde. Of these nearly 300 left for highfield at 7 P.M. on the first day. The balance left

* I believe one S.C. Depot telegraphed "I have stopped mobilising."

On the 1st or 2nd day of Mob^l - C. E. Pumphrey & G. Bryant applied in person to me for commissions in whatever would get them out to the front quickest. I sent both their names in for 3rd D.L.I. As there was so much delay in getting commissions they joined as P^{tes} in K's First Hundred Thousand and arrived at Woking with the first draft. Though subsequently offered commissions in the Spec Res they preferred to remain in the ranks of the 10th D.L.I. in which they were appointed to commissions in the following January. They were destined to become two of the most distinguished Officers in the 10th.
Capt. Buddle Atkinson - Master of the Mobilisation Bands also applied about the 2nd day and I put him in for a Capt's Commission in the 4th D.L.I.

Aug. Newcastle - Speeders.

On the 2nd Day - and the "Duty-men" left on the 3rd Day. About 10.30 came up - the balance joining the 3rd Batt^y.
On the 3rd Day Colonel Cardiff (3rd S.R. Batt^y) and Colonel Reynn Stanley reported and handed over command of the Depot to the latter.
The Mobilization of Reservists went off very smoothly the men gave no trouble and arrangements worked well.
On the 4th Day - Saturday - the Special Reservists came up. They did not come up as well as punctually as the Army Reservists were a good deal more drunken. By 2 P.M. the Batt^y (3rd) marched off & entrained for South Shields - its War Station - held during the first 4 days of Mob^l by the Territorials & various detachments of Regulars - including 2 Companies of 2nd Batt^y from Lichfield. Some 200 Grenadiers arrived from London on the 2nd day & stayed in Barracks for one night then returned. This party came up owing to a Scare of Invasion! The 3rd Batt^y marched off some 200-300 men short - & I was left behind to bring out the stragglers - mostly drunk. All the afternoon I was hustling drunken men marching them down

About the 5th day of Mob^l: a telegram was rec^d. at the Depot saying it was intended to raise 100,000 men at once and all accommodation in Barracks was to be closed up immediately. This was the first intimation regarding the raising of K's Army.



R.S.M. R. Noble - killed & buried at Ypres - Feb^r. 1918
Beloved by every man in the Battⁿ

A number of Pitmen were provided from the adjacent collieries to assist in digging Trenches.

Aug.

South Shields

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to the Station in parties asking were dressed. In the evening (w.P.M.) I called at the Station Hotel where Genl. Burton (Comm^d. Northth Durham Terr. Divⁿ) & Staff were located. Wallace^{2/DLI} (D.A.Q.M.G.) told me the Yeomanry at Hartlepool had reported 2 suspicious ships - refusing to answer Coast Guard signals - this report was later confirmed & the ships ^{were} fired upon by the Yeomanry. He subsequently transpired that these ships were our own Colliers!

At 6 A.M. next morning (Sunday) I left Newcastle for South Shields. Here chaos reigned. The Battⁿ was finding 3 Companies to furnish posts along the Coast - Richardson - Bowers - Gibson + ? Also guards at Smith's Docks - Palmers Dock - Haslem Leslie & Tarrow - varying from 1 Co. to a small Detach^t.

The remainder of the Battⁿ was billeted in Westgate Road Schools - where men were constantly arriving. Late Reservists & Spec Reservists - Recruits & Details from 2nd Battⁿ. New Officers arrived daily. During this time I busied myself in planning & constructing trenches for the defence of the Coast. These were not up to modern standards! I had not made a trench for 25 years!



C. S. M. Donnelly - 10/D.L.I. M. C. D.C. M. R. M. + 2 Foreign
 Decor.
 Joined 10/D.L.I. in Aug 1914 as a civilian with 7 decorations
 in the War. Being detained at home on light duty in 1916
 with a "Conscript Batt." he deserted & came out to France
 on his own & made his way up to the Batt. without any
 ticket or orders of any sort from start to finish. About
 a year later rec'd. the proceedings of a Court of Inquiry
 which had struck him off as a "deserter". His excuse for
 "Deserting" was "We could not stay with a bloody
 Conscript Batt."

Aug. South Shields - Aldershot.

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A big Gun (4.7?) was on its way to its position in
 Frenchman's batt. - this was being man hauled at
 the rate of a few yards per diem. It was not until
 about 15th Aug that it arrived at the Batt. but when
 it was got actually into position I do not know.

The month of the 1st year at this time was, I was told,
 not mined - 4 or 5 Destroyers used to emerge in
 the evening & proceed Southwards returning to port
 next morning. The weather about this time was
 perfect & continued so till October.

Helen Vida visited S. Shields about the 12th
 & stayed a night or two. They were much struck
 by the behaviour of the inhabitants who thought
 the Sea front in thousands & appeared to have no
 idea a European War was in progress.

Pitmen were employed to assist in the digging of
 Trenches.

On the 19th Aug - received a telegram that I was
 appointed to Command the 10th Service Batt.
 Durham Light Infantry and left at 9 P.M. for
 Aldershot. At Aldershot on arrival I was ordered to
 Woking - where I found the Barracks empty. I was
 taken in by a Capt. ^{Waitman} of the 11th Sussex Regt. who was left

When S^r John heard the XIth required an Adj^t he applied for it & got it. Then when Philipps heard that he applied for an Adj^t. Then when S^r John heard the Colonel wd be Davison he resigned & so I replaced him by Philipps. When the latter heard about the Colonel he resigned. And eventually on M^r Hank's advice I put in against his wish.

These drafts looked very imposing - marching in clad for the most part in "civilians". The old soldiers amongst them were mostly useless and celebrated their return to the Army by colossal drinks. I found an old soldier who had been a private all his service was quite useless as a N.C.O. even in the New Army. They professed to be dead keen on getting to the front which I believe was true. Later it was decided to retain only a cadre of from some 50-70 of them & to despatch the remainder to the Reserve Bateⁿ. There was great enthusiasm to form this draft imagining they were for the front. As a matter of fact before the New Army went out many of them had been despatched as drafts to the Regular Bateⁿ & had been already killed or wounded.

Colonel Davison began to form XIth D.L.I. - he had no uniform & I saw him teaching his men to right & left turn dressed in a Bowler Hat & a suit of "dittos".

Aug - Sept. Working

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behind as O.C. Details.

On the 21st Ingham - Brooke arrived to command the b/k.O.Y.L.I. - and various Officers began to appear among the first being Harter* (68⁺) - Carter V.C.* (I.A.) - and the first draft of about 500 men appeared on or about the 25th. With them arrived Wyllie* (Adj^t) & S.M. Noble* & Philipps. Drafts of 200 - 500 succeeded one another at short intervals and about the 27th Lt. J.P. Cherry - the newly appointed Q^r. M^r. arrived. On the 21st & 22nd Harter & I were busily engaged in taking over the barracks also taking also in counting numberless blankets - coir mattresses - pillows - boots - and all sorts of clothing necessaries taken over from the Sussex Details.

As the Yorks. L.I. became stronger we were turned out into Camp at the Recreation Ground - we soon reached 2,000 strong & more. I picked out of these some 11,000 ^{of the best} men to form the Xth Bateⁿ - & put aside the remainder to form the XIth to which Colonel Davison was appointed. Lincoln Elwes - was sent to me but subsequently left to command 12th Bⁿ - I distributed several of my officers to XIth, XIIth, XIIIth, XIVth, XVth - XVIth & even 17th Bateⁿ all in process of formation.

Both killed

Both killed

* Regulars - D.L.I.

- * Cartwright - invalided before we went out.
 * Untham - Second in Command - subsequently C.O. of 6th Seaforth (61st Div).
 * St. John ^{D.S.O.} - Finally commanded a Somerset Battⁿ in 37th Div.
 went home to a Staff Battⁿ.
 * Philipps - went to Welch Guards before we went out. later invalided.
 * Wyllie - Adj^t - later killed in 1916 on the Somme as Bde Major.
 * Harter - left me in Nov. 1914 for 2nd Batt. later killed as Bde Major.
 Risher - M. Gen Off. - left me in 1916 for 14th D.L.I. which he commanded
 (D.S.O. M.C. (Rising Blue)) rising to Lt. Col. D.S.O. Bar M.C. later O.C. V.I. Div. M. Gen Battⁿ.
 Brathwaite - killed at Hooze - July 1915.
 Parke - killed as bombing officer in attack on Bellewade 25.9.15
 Stobart - killed in Flying Corps
 Sewant - killed by Trench Mortar - Argy Sector 1916.
 Rogers (M.C.) Invalided from wounds - Nov. 1915.
 Jewwood (M.C.) killed 21st March 1918 when commanding 6th Som. L.I.
 (Rising Blue)
 Fairbairn - killed when doing our training at Kemmel June 1915.
 (Rising Blue)
 Couper - Commanded 14th Div. up to March 1918. Was Major Genl
 Sir Victor Couper K.C.B. - Rifle Bde.
 Morland - Commanded 10th Corps up to end of war. Lt. Genl
 Nugent - Commanded Ulster Division.
 Cockburn - Markham - Prinsep - all sent home after Hooze. 1915.

Aug-Sept. Woking - 10th D.L.I.

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My regular Officers at this time were - Cartwright -
 Untham - St. John - Philipps - Wyllie - Harter -
 The best of the New Army Officers were Risher - Brathwaite -
 Parke - Stobart - Sewant - Rogers - Jewwood - Fairbairn.
 Risher & Fairbairn were both well known Rising Blues -
 Parke was a son of the old Adjutant of the 68th
 at the time I joined was an excellent fellow in every
 way.

Our Brigade consisted of 6th Somerset L.I. - 6th D.G.L.I.
 6th K.O.R.L.I. ourselves. It was called the 43rd
 Bde of the 14th Div.* which ^{also} consisted of 41st & 42nd
 Bdes ~~separated~~. The 41st Bde consisted of the 7th & 8th
 R.B. and K.R.R. - 42nd Bde of 9th K.R.R. & 9th R.B.
 and 5th S.L.I. & 5th Ox Bucks. Our Brigadier
 was ^{Victor} Couper late R.B. Gym at Aldershot and
 the Divⁿ was commanded by Morland late K.R.R.
 We were styled the 43rd Light Bde the Divⁿ the
 14th Light Divⁿ. The other Brigadiers were Nugent and
 Markham (60th) & (R.A.) Prinsep.

The great difficulty in training was of course the lack of
 competent instructors. The Officers, N.C.O.s, Men all
 required instructing at the same time. However I had

a certain number of serving Regular N.C.O.s - a good
 * The 14th Divⁿ was originally the VIIIth Divⁿ the First Divⁿ of K's Army. Owing
 to the formation of an VIIIth Regular Divⁿ its number was changed from 8 to 14 -
 the 9th 10th 11th 12th & 13th being by that time in process of formation.

A FAITHFUL DURHAM.

HEROIC ACTION UNDER FIRE.

Through the courtesy of a widowed lady, whose husband was at one time commanding officer of the Durham Light Infantry—"the faithful Durhams"—we are enabled to publish a letter in which Private John Warwick, of that regiment, describes how he brought in a wounded officer under heavy fire, besides performing other brave deeds in the battle of the Aisne. Warwick, who has been recommended for the Victoria Cross, was badly wounded. The lady referred to writes: "I have his very reluctant permission to send you his narrative for publication. I think a soldier's story such as this should do much to stimulate recruiting."

"Please excuse me if my story is a short one," Warwick says in his letter, "as my shoulder is painful. Well, the affair happened in the battle of the Aisne on Sunday, September 20. We were ordered to charge the German trenches. In the charge Lieutenant Levist fell, shot through the neck and lungs. Private Howson and I dropped back, and, under heavy shell and rifle fire, carried him to safety. Then I saw Private Maughan wounded on the crest of the hill and shouting. I rushed out and got him back. When I got back Lieutenant Parke, machine gun officer in our trench, a very plucky officer indeed, reported that Major Robb was lying wounded close to the German trenches. I asked Lieutenant Parke for permission to go and find him. He just walked away and said nothing. So I went again on my journey, and crawled on my stomach over the hill-top. At this time the enemy's fire was terrific. I found my major within thirty yards of the German trenches, and pulled him from under some dead bodies. Then I could not get back, as I could see the Germans were waiting for me to get up with the major. I stayed there ten minutes; then the French artillery started to shell the German trenches. On their second volley I started back with the major, half carrying, half dragging him along. Private Nevison, seeing I was hard put, came out to help. Just as he reached me we were both shot down, Nevison through the brain. Poor chap, I am so sorry. He was a recruit. Lieutenant Levist and Private Maughan are still living, but Major Robb died the same night. He was such a splendid officer and brave leader. We were within fifteen yards of our own trenches when we went down."

14 (1)

Sept.

Woking - Aldershot

7

many Ex-regular M.C.O's - and a good many "old soldiers" - these ^{later} ~~with~~ exceptions were a constant source of annoyance owing to their drunken habits as a rule quite unfitted to be M.C.O's. I selected about 70 of these as "employed" men & sent the remainder away to the 3rd Batiⁿ at South Shields.

I had a good Q. M. - Serg^t. Major - and Adjutant - these were all exceptionally good.

A poor Q. M. Serg^t. (Chivers) and an Ord^r. Room Serg^t. (Richardson) whom I could not stand. However eventually the former in France - the latter at Witley were invalided. I replaced the latter by Serg^t. Arnold a very good clerk - and the former by Q. M. S. Clerk - a very good ex-~~Colon~~ Serg^t.

The Companies were commanded as follows:

A Co. - Cap^t. Carter V. C. B. Co. - Cap^t. Hon R. T. St. John.
C. Co. - Philipps D. - - - Unthank.

Early night my Second in Comm^d. did not join until November. & even then I employed him in command of a Co. He went sick in January & did not return his place being taken by Unthank.

On the 23rd Sept. we moved into Camp at Berkshire Copse^{Aldershot}. Shortly after this move Genl.

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To show what our "Guards" were like. One day I (C.O.) passed the Guard the Sentry took no notice. The Adj't. went up to the Sentry & expostulated saying "Don't you know the Commanding Officer?" - "No" was the reply. "What! you don't know the C.O.?" - "D'y'er mean he what sits in yon white hoose (tent) and ha-a-kes our pa-a-y?" was the answer!

The 16th B.L.I. is believed to have been the first K. Battⁿ raised: so Colonel Kenyon-Stoney (O.C. Depot) informs me.

Sept.

Aldershot.

8

Moland (Divⁿ) was transferred to the Exped^t Force & Brig^d. Genl. Couper was given the Divⁿ. Brig Genl. G. Cockburn late R.B. was appointed in his place to the 43rd Bde. Numbers of men had been passed by the Doctors as medically fit ~~then~~ who had all sorts of diseases malformations - discharges on medical grounds were therefore frequent.

Drafts to replace wastage were received from the 3rd Battⁿ from time to time also from the Depot. We were led to suppose that we should be sent out before Xmas - so the initial grounding was somewhat scanty - which was a pity.

About the beginning of Nov. Hailer left to join 2nd Bⁿ. We were inspected on more than one occasion about this time by H.M. The King - but we never got ^{or even a sight of} near them as we were always in rear of the column.

I forgot to mention that Helen joined me at Woking about the 16th Sept and we took over a very nice Govt. House furnished from Solomon - however we only occupied it for a week - as we moved to Aldershot where we took "Bruno" in Alexandria Rd. It had a small garden & stable attached & was 3½ Gns per week.

Cherry my Q. M. went up to London & made a Contract with some Jews in the East End during Sept. to supply 500 Great Coats - of Military Pattern - by the end of Oct. The Govt. subsequently asked for details of all contracts privately made & we never got these Coats. Presumably the W.O. commandeered them. We were subsequently authorized to buy "necessaries" in the open market.

Oct-Nov. Equipment etc.

We remained in Camp until 23rd Nov. when we moved to Huts - brand-new ones - at Witley. We had had some very sharp frosts in Tents but no one appeared to suffer - About this time it became very wet but weather throughout the Autumn having been beautifully fine. This was most fortunate - as otherwise the men would have lived under wretched conditions.

The supply of clothing had never been very short - as regards K.I. Men were usually clothed in about a week after arrival - if they had not been already clothed at the Depot. Great Coats & Caps - however were scarce. I was well off in both these ^{compared to other Regts.} as I had taken over a good many of the R. Sussex. Civilian Great Coats & Caps were therefore we received almost at once after formation 500 Service Rifles about the same number of Sets of Equipment - but ^{a good many of} the rifles were gradually taken from us and all our Packs - so many having been lost in "the Retreat". Long Rifles were issued instead - but there was never one set of equipment or one rifle per man. This changing of rifles equip^t from man to man

Sudani had won the Army P to P in Ireland & "Swallow"
was an Inter National Polo Pony!

Decr.

Witley

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rendered the inspection of the men & their equipment difficult. Co^r. Officers seldom seemed to know who was in charge of any particular rifle or equipment ownership of them varying from day to day. This was of course a weak point in our training. First of all had a mare lent me by Mr. Shaker called "Mermaid" as Charger. ~~Soon~~ sold her to the Remounts - and got "Sudani" and a ^{pony} of Ian's called "Swallow". These rode until March when both got Pneumonia & nearly died. Then got two Remount Cobs - which I took to France with me.

To return to Witley - the huts were in a very unfinished state - there were no roads ^{or drains} through the heathery, boggy camps and the mud & water were awful. In addition to which the huts leaked spiously. As regards ourselves we were most fortunate as we got ^{an} extremely nice house - called "Lower House" - belonging to a Mr. Cave - a little over a mile from the Camp - with Stabling, Garage & everything we required.

In December Batt^y Training commenced.

About this time we were inspected by Lord Kitchener

21

LORD KITCHENER IN THE FIELD.

OPERATIONS OF TROOPS IN TRAINING.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ALDERSHOT, Saturday.
Lord Kitchener visited Aldershot to-day to see troops in training, carry out some minor tactical operations. Most of the men had never seen Lord Kitchener before and they were anxious to set eyes on the great soldier who called their army into being.

Lord Kitchener, who wore khaki, spent a very busy day, mostly in the saddle, on ground which may be regarded as the cradle and nursery of the British Army. He visited the manœuvring fields, some eight miles out of the town.

It was a bright, cold day, with brief showers of blowing snow. All arms were engaged in the operations—horse, foot, artillery, sappers, cycle detachments with machine guns, and all the rest of the apparatus of an army in the field. "White" was one army; "Brown" the other. General officers directed the operations.

Lord Kitchener observed with the eye of an expert the development of the attack. At one critical point he stopped for nearly an hour, questioning various officers, according to his habit, as to what they were doing and why. In a terrific onslaught on one part of the field White surrounded a Brown force, and a mysterious battalion, appearing from nowhere, smote the Brown forces hip and thigh. The cycle detachments did some dashing and desperate work, and the artillery pounded heavily. The horses were full of mettle, the men enthusiastic in a game which they all hope to be called upon to play in real earnest before long.

I hear of an amusing illustration of this. At the foot of a hill a sharp conflict raged between a handful of Browns and a handful of Whites. Brown declared that all the Whites were shot dead. White replied, on the contrary, that it was the Browns who had found soldiers' graves.

Dusty and tired, the regiments—endless columns of them—marched back to barracks in the late afternoon, trim, healthy young fellows of whom the nation may well feel proud.

"They are a fine lot," remarked a competent observer. "Good character, good education, keen about their work, learning as much in three months as we used to allow a year for in peace times. And the proportion of crime—that is, military offences—is scarcely a twentieth of what it used to be, allowing for the difference in numbers."

Lord Kitchener paid a visit to the Royal Aircraft Factory. Aeroplanes climbed above the clouds.

10/D.L.I.

22(1)

Dec.

Xmas - Witley

11

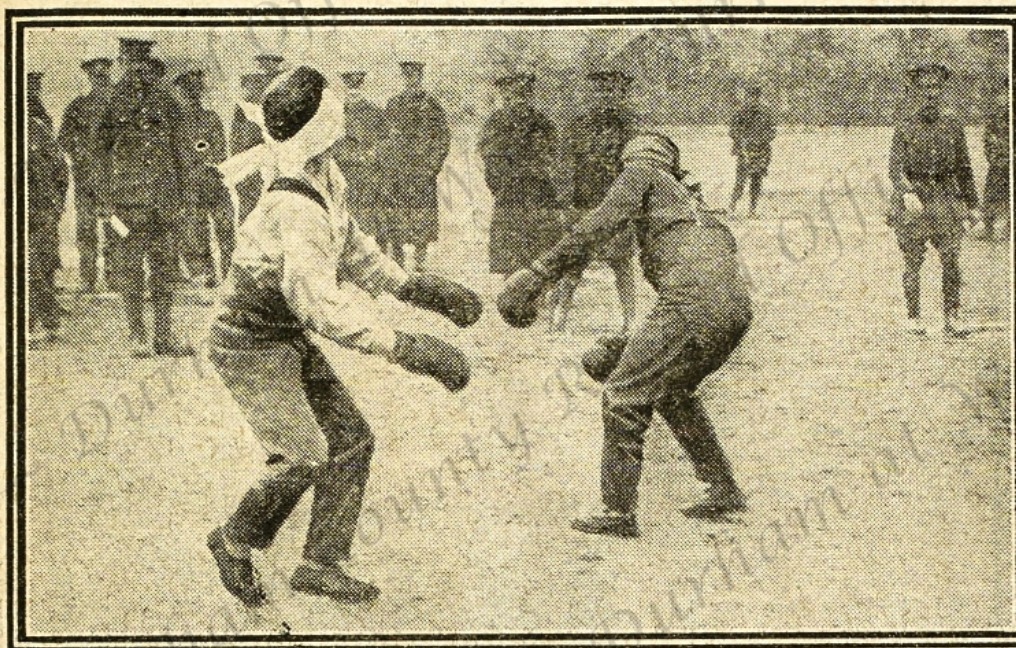
The French Minister of War. We were ordered not to wear greatcoats - owing to some men having civilian greatcoats - however much it rained. As a matter of fact it began to snow as we paraded at 9 A.M. continued to snow heavily until our return about 2.30 pm. We had to wait about 2-3 hours at the rendezvous the cold was intense. The tips of my fingers remained numb for a month afterwards. None of our men were however ^{for this exposure} worse.

In Dec. 400 men in each Batt^y in the Bde were told off to be in readiness to move at an hour's notice - and two composite Batt^ys were formed. Som L.I & D.C.L.I. and K.O.Y.L.I. & D.L.I. We had no packsaddles for pack animals ^{& no transport except farm carts} the equipment arrangements were otherwise sketchy. ^{We were to concentrate at Aldershot.} We were of course for use in case of invasion. Composite Batt^ys were not detailed owing to lack of arms & equipment.

At Xmas the men were given 6 days leave by Companies - nearly every company had well over 100 absentees on the day they should have returned. This absence was general throughout K's Army I believe.

23

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF BOXING: AMUSING EVENTS AT SOLDIERS' SPORTS.



There was plenty of fun at the sports organised by the Durham Light Infantry. The small pictures show an unofficial competitor in a race and the apple and banana race. In this event the men had to get an apple out of a bucket of water and a banana out

of a bucket of flour. The competitors were not allowed to use their hands and this man has smothered himself in his efforts to unearth the fruit. The large picture shows blindfold boxing.—(*Daily Mirror* photographs.)



Jan^y - Feb^y

Witley - Aldershot

12.

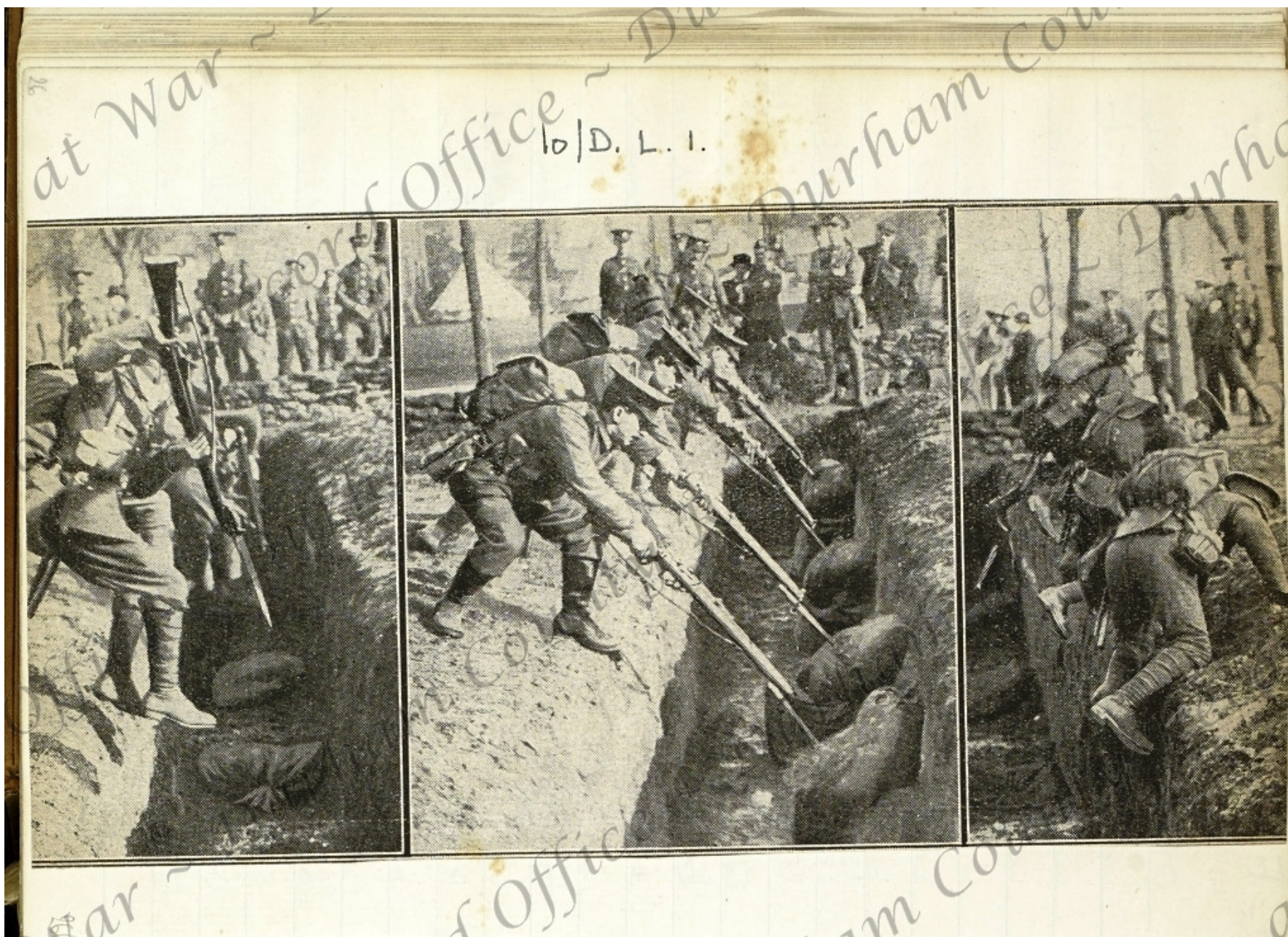
Owing to the dampness of the Huts and generally wet surroundings there were at times 15% of the men sick - chiefly with tonsillitis, colds, rheumatism.

Lord Pirrie, the radical Peer, whose park adjoined the Camp and our house, was very good in permitting troops to use his park properly for training purposes. Lord Middleton - however - on the contrary would allow no digging on the Camp Common of which he was only Lord of the Manor. He was furious with the tank - whom he found one day "desecrating" one of the most beautiful commons in Surrey!

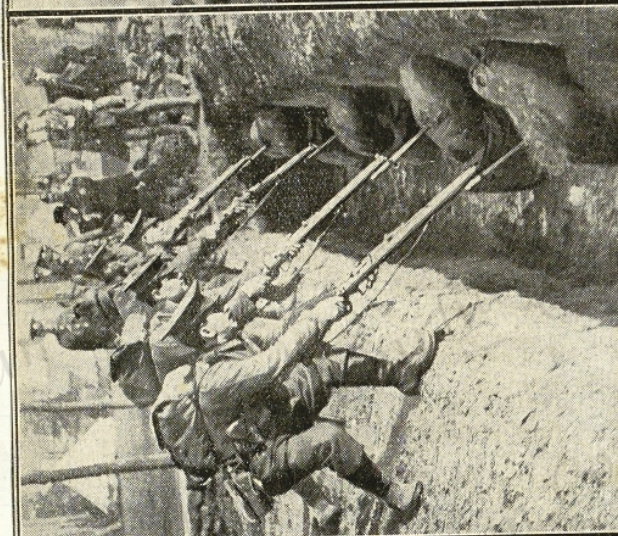
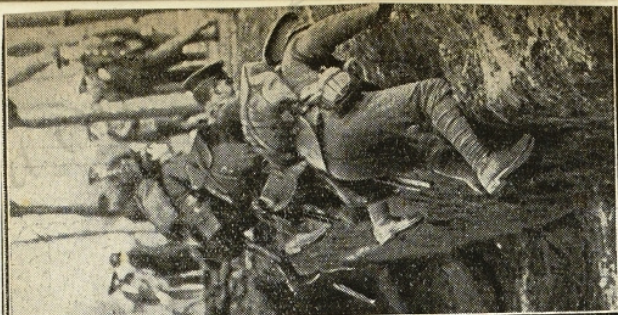
Helen & I took our 6 days leave at Xmas which we spent happily at the Leas - where we met Charles Holroyd-Smith who was on leave from War.
 Killed 1918.
 About the middle of February our transport was practically complete and new Leather Equipment (made in Canada) was issued to everyman. By this time also practically every man had a service rifle.

On the 21 February we marched to Aldershot & took over Comuna Barracks - which we shared

25



10/D. L. I.



March - May Aldershot.

13

with the K.O.T.L.I. They were in a very dirty condition but we soon had them cleaned up and the move into barracks did the Bath: an immense amount of good - it was possible to insist on men's barracks being clean & discipline was accordingly improved. We took a house in Farnborough - a better one than Bruno - 5 Gs a week - no stabling but a Garage. It was called "Cahernmoyle".

Our Training was nearing completion - Co's Training began about the end of October - Batt's Training about Xmas - Brigade Tr's about 1st of Feb: - and Divisional in March & April. During April we went out for 2 nights Div. Exercise - Bill-etting at Alton & Greywell. At the latter place Genl. Sir Carleton & Lady Dorchester put up about 4 or 5 of us for the night. Her Ladyship disappeared after dinner, as is her wont & believe, to converse with her former husband - she having spiritualistic instincts. We had new service rifles issued to us in March immediately before firing our T.S. Musketry Course. The shooting was not good - the Batt: only averaging just under 2nd Class. However we were I think the best in the Brigade.

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Officers Xth B.L.I. - May 1915.

Lieut Col H. H. S. Mount	D.S.O. W W W W	Offrs. who joined in France late
2 nd in Com. Maj. S. Uthman	W W (Transf. 1916)	2/Lt. Whittle (W) K.
Adj. Capt. W. T. Lyllie	W K (Staff)	Donnell (W) K.
Op. M. Lieut J. P. Cherry	M.C. W W W	Kelham (Shk ^d) Hon
Doctor Lieut Stewart	W (Home 1915)	Fitzgerald (W)
M. G. Off. Lieut J. B. Rooker	W W (Transf. 1916)	Parr (W)
Bomb Off. E. Pumphrey	D.S.O. Bar. M.C. W (Home 1916)	Stewart K
A Co. Major C. Chapman	K	Stewart K
Capt. Martin	K	Todd K
Lt. A. Parke	K	
Lt. Marchant	W (Home)	
2/Lt. J. Newwood	W K (S. Ind. 2.1.3.18)	
2/Lt. C. E. Stewart	W K.	
B Co. Capt. H. R. T. St. John	(d. Col. B. L. W. Home 1915)	
Capt. H. Atkin	W W (Home)	
Lt. Peate	W (Home)	
" Batey	W W (Transf. 1916)	
" Stobart	W K (R.F.C. 1916)	
C Co. Capt. Braithwaite	K	D. Co. Capt. Saunders W
" James	K	" Delaney Base
Lt. Rogers	M.C. W (Home)	Lt. Bryant W W
2/Lt. Ritchie	W (Home)	2/Lt. Fairbairn K
2/Lt. Orde	Mining Section (R.F.C. Home)	2/Lt. Jordan W
Transport Off. 2/Lt. Long	W Dischd	

March - May. Training New Army.

Our Training had lasted for 9 months - and I believe the men were as well trained by the end of it as an ordinary regular Batt^y. We had had two Musk^y Courses - a Short Recruits Course and a T.S. Course - but the men could not shoot anything like as well as the average regular Batt^y. Owing to inferior grounding in Squad drill the men did not appear so smart and did not perform Guard Duties as smartly - as they should have. The N.C.O's taken as a whole were a good lot. Some of the older Sergeants were more useless and some of the younger N.C.O's were not much good as disciplinarians. There had been little crime during the training except drunkenness & absence of leave. Neither of these were the Company Commanders were fairly satisfied. The young Officers had by this time assumed command of their Platoons & were a very good lot. At first in fact for some time - they relied to a great extent on their Platoon Sergeants who practically commanded the Platoons for them. They found it rather difficult to recover the command when they felt competent to do so. The Officers who accompanied the Batt^y abroad are given on the opposite page.

regarded seriously the men!