

This is not a Diary of the war
But just the places and dates of some of the places I was in
G.B.

This is rough War time Diary of George Brew
made from notes made during the war

On the 4th Day of August in the year of our Lord
1914. Great Britain & Germany decided to
go to war to settle things. After the war had
been on about one month on the 4th day of Sept
a few of the young men in our village of
Dyisham & Hinton in the County of Gloucestershire
were gathered together in the village discussing
the war, and came to the conclusion that
it had been on long enough so there & then
we decided to do something about it, by
joining the Army and put a stop to it.

On the next day 5 of us got into the Reelors
Daimler with his Chaffeur M^t Taverne and he
drove us into Bristol to the Colston Hall to join
the Army. On the way we passed a couple of
young men with walking sticks & straw hats
so we called them to join us, which they did,
One was a steward from the Royal George
Atlantic Liner and the other worked locally
Our little party consisted of W. Wilson, George Moss
Hugh Salmon Maurice Brimble & my self.

*
Later
joined a
Battalion
Regt

We were all accepted except Maurice Brimble* who was too short. We were sent home that day and reported back on the following Monday 7th Sept. We were put into groups and our party was sent to Taunton with a man in charge of us wearing a Bowler hat and carrying a rolled Umbrella. We arrived at the Somersets Depot and hung about all the day, sometime during the day we were given a slice of Bread and 1 Blanket between 2. and went for the night to the Town Hall and slept on the floor, no sleep all night. Back to the Barracks next day and had another slice of Bread and a piece of Fat Bacon. Well, after a day or two like this, we decided to do something about it, and went into a Barbers shop in East Reach for a wash & Brush up, and they offered to put us up for a while, we slept 3 in one bed and 2 in the other and soon spent all the money we had, so I wrote to my old Boss and told him what the conditions were and he sent me out 5

which I shared among the party; After a day or two there we went back to Barracks and got a good telling off and ordered to stay in the Barracks. After a few more days we set out on the train at Taunton Stn. and went across Wales to Fishguard, put on board a ship and after a hell of a rough crossing, landed at Waterford in Ireland on the 19th Sept.

X
Smoking
a clay
Pipe

The first thing I saw before getting off the boat was an old lady ^X sitting on the pavement and a policeman carrying a rifle. We went straight on to Fermoy and stayed in Barracks there until Oct 6th Then we went on to Longford in the middle of Ireland in Barracks.

Done the usual army training there until nearly Christmas, then we all had 7 days leave for Xmas, Went back to Longford and stayed there until May 15th Had a lovely time in Longford, most of the people were very good to us., We were invited out to dinner on most Sundays, by a large provision Merchant

who also had a farm where we used to walk with him on Sunday afternoons. He had a big shop in the town, one of those that supplied nearly everything. When we left Longford all our little party were given a nice parcel full of good things to help us on our way.

In May 1915 we left Longford and came over to England into Hackwood Park Basingstoke and joined other regiments and formed the 10th Irish Division. We were reviewed by Lord Kitchener after we had done a lot of training and a week or two after by King George 5th.

Our Colonel was Master of Horse to the King
He was The Earl of Granard (He had his home in Granard Castle not far from our Barracks)

We marched from Basingstoke to Newbury where the whole Division did training together. On the 6th of July we had to do a forced march back to Basingstoke about 17 miles non-stop. We all got new equipment with gas helmets and got ready as quick as we could and went by special train to Liverpool.

This is
where
they caught
the man
who
killed
Lord
ombattion.

~~Sunk
Med
in neck
rayage
early
everyone
lost~~

Went straight on Board a large liner R.M.S.
Transylvania altogether 5,000 troops on one
ship, Left Liverpool the same evening July 7th
and arrived at Gibraltar July 10th Malta July 11th
Stayed in Valletta Harbor for 2 days while
hundreds of Black Africans filled us up with
coal. We arrived at Alexandria on the 19th July
Lesvos Island off Gallipoli July 22nd. The
Troopship Royal George was sunk in the Aegean
Sea a day or so before we were there.
Stayed on Lesvos Island until the evening
of Aug 6th when we were loaded into ships
of all sorts, Warships' Steamers and anything
that would float and moved up to Suvla
Bay, Gallipoli about 40 miles arriving there
just as it was getting light. A lot of us
managed to get ashore but a very great
number did not. The water was full of barbed
wire about 2 feet below the water level
and it was a hell of a job to walk
especially as there was so much Rifle and M. Gun
fire.

being fired at us. Once we got on land there was a fair amount of rocks where we could get a bit of shelter, but we could not carry one in front all the time.

We went back to the water edge and helped unload a barge load of rifle ammunition and just dumped it on the beach, then we carried some to where our machine gunners were in front and stopped and helped to load their gun belts and returned to our starting place all safe & sound. Up and down to the front for a couple of days at a time until.

Aug 16th when we were called to support a Regt who had been nearly all killed or wounded I had a few narrow squeaks but got out safe without my helmet (Sun) only 11 of us left out of 51 when we started. On the 19th Aug we were digging a bit deeper (for safety) when a shell burst just over our heads and knocked out 6 of us and I wasn't missed that time, got one of the shrapnel balls in my right hip. and that meant the end of war for me for some time, but not altogether.

*
was cut
another

*
Platoon
was in
united
51

I was helped down to a field hospital and bandaged up and put on a stretcher and carried down to the edge of the sea and lay on the stretcher all night with the water just reaching the end of the stretcher. In the morning we were put into small boats about 4 in each and rowed out to the Hospital ship, slung up by a crane and dropped quietly on deck.

The ship was called the Delta and I think it was captured from the Germans early in the war. We were then taken to Malta and put on another Hospital Ship. (Alaenia) arrived Gibraltar Sept 3^d and Southampton. (exactly one year after joining Army)

Dent into Hospital at Eastleigh not far from Southampton for a few days, and then to Bristol Royal Infirmary where they stoned me for 2 days and then decided to leave the bullet in me as it was in a very dangerous place to get at, under the Femoral Artery, which is the main artery from the heart down the leg so I soon left there and had 10 days sick leave and went straight home

I returned to Richmond Barracks in Dublin
Sept 28th where I went through an examination
by a board of Doctors, as I had a great
difficulty in walking I was marked for Home
Service only. So I got a job looking after the
Company Officer and had quite a good time
as he was very kind to me, as I was the
very first man home from the Regt from Gallipoli
he gave me a permanent pass out of Barracks
at any time I wanted. X got 7 days leave Jan 7th 1916
and when I got back to Dublin they wanted
one man to make up a party going to
Reading to learn Bridge Building with the
Engineers. They didn't want me to go because
of my wound but in the end I went but
didn't do any Bridg. Building. I ^{was} put
in charge of the Bar in the Officers mess
but that was too good to last as when
the Rebellion broke out in Dublin Easter 1916
we all rushed back there, and got
there the next day. seemed as though everybody
was shooting at us till we got into Barracks
Had a week or so in Dublin until the
shooting got a bit quieter and then went

X

When I was in Dublin in 1916, one evening
I was in the Garrison Recreation room where some
ladies were practising Bondaging, when one was
putting a Bondage on my head, during our
conversation she asked which Battalion I had been
abroad with I told her the 5th and happened
to mention my officers name and she asked me if I
knew what happened to him, when I told her he was
killed beside me, she said would I tell his Father that I
was with him when he was killed, so she must have
told his Father as he wrote to Our Colonel and asked if
I could come into Dublin and see him. So I went
to the Bank of Ireland where he was Governor of
the Bank, so I told him all I could and he said
he always thought he was dead, but the Official
Report said he was reported missing believed
killed, but his mother thought he was still alive.
But I was sure because I was close to him for
8 hours. He thanked me ^{very} much for coming to
see him and gave me £1. He had another son
who died of wounds the same day. He was
a Captain in The Royal Fusiliers

DIED OF WOUNDS.

CAPTAIN G. G. DUGGAN.

Captain George Grant Duggan, Royal Fusiliers,
who has died of wounds, was the third son of Mr. and
Mrs. George Duggan, of College-street, Dublin, and
was 29 years of age. Whilst at Trinity College,
Dublin, he won much distinction as a long-distance
and cross-country runner. Obtaining his lieutenancy
in September last year, he was made captain in
the following month. His brother, Lieutenant
J. R. Duggan, who relinquished his medical studies
at Trinity College to join the Army on the outbreak
of war, was killed at the Dardanelles Aug. 16.

On Easter Monday when
the rebellion in Dublin
started, I was off duty
for the day, and went
down on the river in a
boat. Had not got very
far when we were all
called back to Billeth
and packed up, and caught
the train to London and
left there in the evening
and went to Holfield
and caught the boat
and arrived at North Wall Dublin by 6 AM

and we arrived at North Wall Dublin by 6 AM
on Tuesday morning not Wednesday as BBC reported (9)

X

I felt
very sorry
for them
as they
were all
well educated
men and
they were
doing what
they thought
right

This was
near
the time
when
Lord
Kitchener
was
drowned

into Barracks where all the Rebels were brought in and tried by a Judge and they were taken out & shot.

We were then sent to Guard the Vice Regal Lodge in Phoenix Park, the Residence of Lord Wimborne who was the Governor General of Ireland at the time soon afterwards I was put into a draft to go abroad again so we left Dublin of June 15th 1916 Boarded a Troopship at Folkestone and left for France, about half way over, one of the 2 destroyers that were escorting us, got in the way of our ship and was cut in two the rear half sank but the front kept afloat and was later towed back to England and a new stern was added to it. The ship was H.M.S. EDEN we got to La Havre several hours late as we tried to save a lot of the men from the Destroyer, we threw everything that would float overboard, but we only saved 30 out of 80 that was on the ship. Went to Rown on the Somme, onto the Racecourse and met an old school mate of mine who had just arrived from Egypt in the 29th Division Had a few days with him and then moved up nearer the war. We went to Béthune and then joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers at Marengarbe July 5th In and out of trenches around Loos, La Basse, Bullock, and some of the worst places in France, we thought it was, but we hadn't seen anything up to then only two or three killed and a few wounded each time we spent 8 days up in the front line until Aug 25th 1916

We left Soos on August 25th and went down to the Somme where the big Battle had been raging since the 1st of July, when we lost about 40,000 in the first few minutes of the battle. Our Division was moved in with a Scotch Division to take 2 small places which we did and held them but we had a bad time, like all the rest that were there. We went in with 2 Battalions and came out with about half of one so as we were no good there we were moved up into Belgium and relieved some Canadians who then went to the Somme Sept 20th.
Usual trench warfare at Messines and round about that area, working under Hill 62 taking out earth, and carrying back explosives until it was blown up in the spring of 1917.

Messines Ridge & Passendale June 7th went out for 3 weeks to have a rest and get patched up ready for the next lot which was the ~~#3~~^{4th} Battle of Ypres Aug 20th as I had been in France for the best part of 2 years I was entitled to 10 days home leave, so I had 10 days

until Sept 10th. Rejoined the Regiment at St Omile just in time to see liquid fire used for the first time. (By us)

Our Battalion the 8th Irish Fus and the 7th Batt were got so small that we were joined together and called The 7/8 Irish Fusiliers.

In March 1918 the Bullet which I still had in me, started to cause me a lot of pain so I was sent to Hospital at Rouen, only a few hundred yards, from where I started in 1916. It was the 1st Australian General Hospital and in 1915 they were with the Australian & New Zealand on Gallipoli. So an Australian Surgeon took it out for me, after all the Hospitals in England & Ireland had all refused to touch it. It went in my right hip in Aug 1915 and was taken out of my right groin on March 10th 1918.

Left Rouen on St Patricks Day and was taken to Cardiff till April 18th, Then went to a V.A.D hospital in Bridgend Glamorgan, left there May 15 Home for 10 days sick leave, and reported back to Randalstown 20 miles from Belfast. Met one of my army pals whose home was at Kilrea on the road to Londonderry and went to his home one week end without a pass and to Belfast the other week end with a pass having treatment every day in the week except week ends Electric Massage for my leg. Finished this on Sept 18th 1918 and left there and reported to

Greatham just outside Middlesboro

We were just getting ready to go into the town on the Saturday afternoon when a Sergeant came and asked us if we would like to go to Malta guarding German prisoners, and we all said yes. So we went home again for 7 days leave returning on Sept 25th. Next day we left Greatham and found ourselves in Dover. Went to Boulogne Oct 2nd and on to Etaples until Oct 11th. Was sent with about 20 more to Bawdon Wood near Cambria Oct 13th.

Went to a small ruined town called Arenes-le-Aubert and stayed there until the war ended. Some men were killed up to 10.30 on the 11th Nov. On the evening of the 10th Nov we had not heard anything about the war ending. But we saw one of our lorries with a load of Germans going into Cambria. We were told the same day that they had been to Cambria Station and took out a big land mine that was due to explode next day.

Met my Brother a day or so later. We moved to Bawdon court Jan 10th and on to Bawdon where we saw 2,000 new German Planes hand over in perfect condition. Went to Dieppe Feb 21st till 26th crossed over to Lovent near Salisbury and was demobbed on Feb 27th 1919

"The End of a Perfect Day"

All 7 of us who started out 1914

Returned safely, some had been

Gibney

kicked about a bit but all were alive

Got into Bristol
11th night
no trains running
so I walked
from Bristol
Station to my
home about
12 miles