

**WAR DIARY OF C SQUADRON, NORTH IRISH HORSE¹
1 JULY 1915 TO 30 JUNE 1916**

Divisional Mounted Troops to 3rd Division, 5rd Division, and GHQ

August 1914 to June 1915

[No diaries located]²

Divisional Mounted Troops 3rd Division

July, August & September 1915

To: Adjutant General's Office, Base
From: Officer Commanding C Squadron, [North] Irish Horse
Reference attached
Regret in error no diaries were kept for July, August and September.
Divisional Mounted Troop III Division, 1.12.15
John Grant, Captain, Command Squadron.

October 1915

1	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
2	Sanctuary Wood. 4.30pm. A party consisting of forty NCOs and men under the command of Lieutenant J Grant was furnished for the purpose of constructing defence works.
3	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
4	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
5	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
6	Sanctuary Wood. 4.30pm. A party consisting of forty NCOs and men under the command of Captain R.D Ross was furnished for the purpose of relieving

¹ Official War Diaries (Ref. WO 95/1399) signed by **Captain (later Major) Ronald Deane Ross** from 1 October to 16 November 1915, **Captain John Grant** from 17 November 1915 to 30 April 1916, and **Major Holt Waring** from 1 May to 30 June 1916.

² On 26 November 1914 **Private Alexander Blair**, North Irish Horse (No.779) and Corps of Hussars (No.71699), was discharged as medically unfit. He appears to have arrived in France with C Squadron on 22 August 1914. He died in France, aged 25 years, on 2 September 1918. Born at Ligoneil, Antrim; enlisted Antrim; residence Belfast. Son of Alexander and Mary Blair, Belfast. Buried at Varennes Military Cemetery, grave III.J.13.

	working party under Lieutenant J Grant.
7	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
8	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
9	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
10	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
11	Sanctuary Wood. 4.15pm. A party consisting of forty NCOs and men under the command of Lieutenant J Grant was furnished for the purpose of relieving working party under Captain R.D Ross.
12	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
13	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
14	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
15	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
16	Sanctuary Wood. 4.15pm. A party consisting of forty NCOs and men under the command of Captain R.D Ross was furnished for the purpose of relieving working party under Lieutenant J Grant.
17	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
18	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
19	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
20	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
21	Centuary [sic] Wood. 8.45pm. In course of the period in which party was in Sanctuary Wood, wire was put in front of the following trenches: Nottingham Road, Robb Street, Dawson Street, End of B.3, Boden Street, Junction (Rdr?) Sap, B.4.R, B.3.S, B.2.S, A.12.R, Warington Avenue. Working party getting relieved paraded at 5.30pm and returned to billets at 8.45pm. Two casualties.
22	3 rd Division. 5.30pm. The Squadron paraded at 5.30 and proceeded to billets J.16.C.9.9 in the commune of Winnezele Map 27.
23	3 rd Division. 2pm. The Squadron paraded and marched to new billets J.23.D.8.4, J.23.D.9.7, J.23.C.1.9 Map 27 in commune of Winnezele.
24	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
25	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
26	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
27	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
28	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
29	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
30	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.

31	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
November 1915	
1	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
2	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
3	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
4	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
5	3 rd Division. 1pm. The Squadron paraded at 1pm and marched to new billets at Hartiford, I.30.B Map 27.
6	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
7	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
8	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
9	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
10	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
11	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
12	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
13	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
14	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
15	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
16	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
17	3 rd Division. 10.45am. The Squadron paraded at 10.45am to be inspected with 8 th Brigade by the General Officer Commanding II Army. In the evening (?) Troop and Transport moved to new billets I.30.D.9.6 owing to outbreak of foot and mouth disease.
18	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
19	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
20	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
21	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
22	3 rd Division. 10am. The Squadron paraded at 10am and marched to new billets at Boeschepe R.10.A.3.7. One NCO and twelve men paraded at 8am and reported to Camp Commandant 5 th Corps Abeele to act as frontier zone police.
23	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
24	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.

25	3 rd Division. 8am. Three NCOs and nine men paraded at 8.45am to report to Assistant Provost Marshall 3 Division for road control.
26	3 rd Division. 12 noon. Three NCOs and nine men reported today at 12 noon, having finished their duties of road control.
27	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
28	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
29	3 rd Division. 7.30am. A party of one NCO [and] twenty men paraded 7.30 and proceeded to Godewaersvelde (Station?) to load timber for 3 rd Division and returned same day.
30	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
December 1915	
1	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
2	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
3	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
4	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
5	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
6	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
7	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
8	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
9	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
10	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
11	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
12	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
13	3 rd Division. 7.30am. One NCO and ten men proceeded to Hazebroucke to load brick for Division.
14	3 rd Division. 7.30am. One NCO and ten men proceeded to Hazebroucke to load brick for Division.
15	3 rd Division. 7.30am. One NCO and ten men proceeded to Hazebroucke to load brick for Division. Also Squadron horses were malleined on this date.
16	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
17	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
18	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
19	3 rd Division. 6.45am. The Squadron stood by ready to move on orders given by the General Officer Commanding 3 Division owing to gas attack on our front.

20	3 rd Division. 12 noon. A party of fifty NCOs and men under command of Major Waring ³ paraded at 12 noon and proceeded to 76 Brigade Headquarters. This party wired in front of fire trench B.29 at the crater north of the canal bank S.33.D.8.4 sheet 28.
21	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
22	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
23	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
24	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
25	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
26	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
27	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
28	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
29	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
30	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
31	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
January 1916	
1	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
2	3 rd Division. 1.30pm. A party of two officers and sixty men paraded at 1.30pm for defence work on the Bluff I.34.C.7.7. One casualty, Private Rooney ⁴ severely wounded. (Map 28.)
3	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
4	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
5	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
6	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
7	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
8	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
9	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.

³ **Major Holt Waring** (later Lieutenant Colonel in Royal Irish Rifles), arrived in France on 1 May 1915 with D Squadron North Irish Horse before taking command of C Squadron on the 19th of that month. He died of wounds on 15 April 1918, aged 41. Husband of Margaret Waring, of Waringstown, County Down, Ireland, he is buried at Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery.

⁴ **Private William Rooney**, No.831 North Irish Horse.

10	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
11	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
12	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
13	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
14	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
15	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
16	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
17	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
18	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
19	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
20	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
21	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
22	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
23	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
24	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
25	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
26	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
27	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
28	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
29	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
30	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
31	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
February 1916	
1	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
2	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
3	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
4	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.

5	3 rd Division. Squadron paraded at 8am and marched to billets at Aneke, remaining there for the night.
6	3 rd Division. Squadron paraded at 9.15am and proceeded to new billets at St Martin in Division rest area.
7	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
8	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
9	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
10	3 rd Division. Squadron paraded at 8.30am for the purpose of flagging boundary line of Divisional training area, in Divisional rest area.
11	3 rd Division. Flagging of training area was completed by Squadron.
12	3 rd Division. Routine duties as usual.
13	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
14	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
15	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
16	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
17	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
18	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
19	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
20	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
21	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
22	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
23	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
24	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
25	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
26	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
27	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
28	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
29	3 rd Division. Squadron training.
March 1916	
1	3 rd Division. At St Martin R.33a 8.7 (Map 27A). Routine duties and Squadron training.

2	3 rd Division. At St Martin. Routine duties and Squadron training.
3	3 rd Division. At St Martin. Routine duties and Squadron training.
4	3 rd Division. At St Martin. Routine duties and Squadron training.
5	3 rd Division. At St Martin. Routine duties and Squadron training.
6	3 rd Division. At St Martin. Routine duties and Squadron training.
7	3 rd Division. 1pm. At Bayenghem. The Squadron marched to new billets at Bayenghem – K31a (Map 27A).
8	3 rd Division. At Bayenghem. Routine duties.
9	3 rd Division. At Bayenghem. Routine duties.
10	3 rd Division. At Bayenghem. One NCO and twelve men proceeded to Assistant Provost Marshall V Corps for frontier control post duty.
11	3 rd Division. 8.30am. At Bayenghem. The Squadron marched from Bayinghem to new billets at Hartiford I.30b (Map 27).
12	3 rd Division. 9am. At Hartiford. The Squadron marched to new billets at Boeschepe.
13	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. R.10a 2.5 (Map 27). Routine duties.
14	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. Routine duties.
15	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. Routine duties.
16	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. Routine duties.
17	3 rd Division. 4.30pm. At Boeschepe. A party of 75 NCOs and men under the command of Major Holt Waring proceeded to Voormezele (H.36.O Map 28) to dig cable trenches for 76 Brigade 3 rd Division. The party returned at 3.30am.
18	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. Routine duties.
19	3 rd Division. 3.45pm. At Boeschepe. A party of forty NCOs and men under the command of Captain J Grant proceeded to 76 th Brigade Headquarters (I.20c 6.2 Map 28) as a working party, returning at 3am.
20	3 rd Division. 5.30pm. At Boeschepe. A party of forty NCOs and men under the command of Major Waring proceeded to Voormezele as a working party, returning at 4am.
21	3 rd Division. 5.15pm. At Boeschepe. Forty NCOs and men proceeded to Voormezele under the command of Captain R.A.B Henry ⁵ , as a working party, returning at 4.30am.
22	3 rd Division. 5.30pm. Forty NCOs and men under the command of Captain J Grant proceeded to Voormezele as a working party, returning at 3.45am.
23	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. Routine duties.
24	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. Routine duties.

⁵ **Captain Richard Alexander Baitlee Henry**, North Irish Horse. The records also show a NIH Captain Richard Alexander Baillie Filgate (arrived France 16 July 1915).

25	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. Routine duties.
26	3 rd Division. 9pm. At Boeschepe. Nos 1, 2, 3 Troops under the command of Major Waring proceeded to Dickebusche ⁶ (H.33.B Map 28) for the purpose of escort to prisoners.
27	3 rd Division. At Boeschepe. Nos 1, 2, 3 Troops under the command of Major Waring proceeded to Dickebusche for the purpose of escort to prisoners.
28	3 rd Division. This party was retained to clear communication trenches and battlefield: - The Mound - O B.C.10.9 Map 28.
29	3 rd Division. The party still at Dickebusche for the purpose of clearing battlefield O.b.C 10.9 Map 28.
30	3 rd Division. The party still at Dickebusche for the purpose of clearing battlefield.
31	3 rd Division. The party still at Dickebusche for the purpose of clearing battlefield.

Divisional Mounted Troops 3rd Division, and 2nd Cavalry Division

April 1916

1	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
2	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
3	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
4	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
5	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
6	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
7	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
8	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
9	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
10	3 rd Division. The Squadron marched to new billets at Hartiford, I.30b Sheet 27.
11	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
12	2 nd Cavalry Division. The Squadron marched to new billets at Alquines for the purpose of training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
13	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
14	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
15	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.

⁶ Dikkebus.

16	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
17	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
18	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
19	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
20	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
21	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
22	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
23	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
24	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
25	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
26	2 nd Cavalry Division. Training with 2 nd Cavalry Division.
27	3 rd Division. The Squadron marched to billets at Hartiford.
28	3 rd Division. The Squadron marched to new billets at Westoutre (M 14 Central sheet 28).
29	3 rd Division. One sergeant and twelve men took over observation duties at Kemmel (N.21 Central) from Yorkshire Hussars. No.4 Troop (Captain Uprichard) ⁷ proceeded to 24 Division Headquarters at Bailleul S.14 (Sheet 28) to relieve Division mounted troops.
30	Routine duties.

Divisional Mounted Troops 3rd and 49th Divisions

May 1916

1	3 rd Division. Westoutre. Captain R.A.B Henry and eighteen Other Ranks attached to V Corps Headquarters for duty.
2	3 rd Division. Westoutre. Lieutenant T.H.M Leader ⁸ and working party proceeded to Kemmel for the purpose of constructing defence works.
3	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
4	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
5	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
6	3 rd Division. Routine duties.
7	3 rd Division. Routine duties.

⁷ **Captain Forster Green Uprichard**, arrived France 3 October 1915 (as Lieutenant, North Irish Horse).

⁸ **Lieutenant Thomas Henry Mowbrey Leader**, arrived France 18 November 1915, later Captain, Tank Battalion.

8	3 rd Division. The Squadron marched out from Westoutre at 6am and halted for the night at Busnes.
9	3 rd Division. Marched out from Busnes at 6am and rested for the night at Herlin-le-Sec.
10	3 rd Division. Left Herlin-le-Sec at 6am and marched to new billets at Val-de-Maison. Attached to 49 th (West Riding) Division.
11-17	49 th Division. The Squadron to form part of X Corps Cavalry Regiment. Routine duties at Val-de-Maison.
18	49 th Division. Captain F.G Uprichard, Lieutenant T.H.M Leader and fifteen NCOs and men attached to 153 rd and 143 rd Brigades Royal Field Artillery for a tour of the observation posts of 36 th Division artillery front.
19	49 th Division. Routine duties.
20	49 th Division. Captain J Grant and a working party proceeded to Martinsart for duty in connection with 36 th (Ulster) Division.
21	49 th Division. Captain R.A.B Henry and party of NCOs and men relieved Captain F.G Uprichard and party at 36 th Division observation posts.
22-24	49 th Division. Routine duty. Captain Henry and party returned to camp from observation (..?..).
25-26	49 th Division. Routine duties.
27	49 th Division. Captain F.S Uprichard and 25 NCOs and men relieved Captain J Grant and party at Martinsart.
28-31	49 th Division. Routine duties.

Divisional Mounted Troops 36th Division, and 2nd Regiment North Irish Horse X Corps Cavalry

June 1916

1	The Squadron marched out from Val-de-Maison (M 36a Sheet 57D) at 6am and proceeded to Hedauville (P 34d Sheet 57D) for duty with 36 th (Ulster) Division. Billeted at Hedauville Wood.
2	Routine duties.
3	Routine duties. Captain F.G Uprichard and party of 25 NCOs and men returned from working duties at Martinsart (W 3a Sheet 57D).
4	Routine duties at Hedauville.
5	Routine duties at Hedauville.
6	Routine duties at Hedauville.
7	Routine duties at Hedauville.
8	Routine duties at Hedauville.
9	The Squadron took part in 36 th Division manoeuvres.
10-15	Routine duties. The Squadron found a number of working parties for 36 th Division, in connection with defence works and burying cables.
16	Marched to billets in Forceville (P 21 Central sheet 57D).

17	Routine duties and working parties.
18	Routine duties and working parties.
19	Routine duties and working parties.
20	Routine duties and working parties.
21 ⁹	Marched to Regimental Headquarters at Toutencourt and were there joined by 6 th Inniskilling Dragoons (Service Squadron) and B Squadron North Irish Horse – units of X Corps Cavalry Regiment.
22	Routine duties.
23	Routine duties.
24	Routine duties.
25	Routine duties.
26	Routine duties.
27	Routine duties.
28	Routine duties.
29	Routine duties.
30	Routine duties.

⁹ On this day, B and C Squadrons and the Service Squadron of the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons from the 36th Division become the 2nd North Irish Horse at Toutencourt as the X Corps Cavalry Regiment. The Regiment is attached to the 36th (Ulster) Division. The 36th (Ulster) Division comprised the 107th Brigade (8, 9, 10 and 15 Royal Irish Rifles [East, West, South and North Belfast Volunteers]), the 108th Brigade (11, 12, 13 Royal Irish Rifles, 9 Royal Irish Fusiliers [South Antrim, Central Antrim, Down, and County Armagh Volunteers]), and the 109th Brigade (9, 10, 11 Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers [Tyrone, Derry, Donegal and Fermanagh Volunteers], 14 Royal Irish Rifles [Young Citizens Volunteers of Belfast]). On 27 April 1915 the Division was allocated to the Fifth New Army. In July the Division left Ireland and concentrated at Seaford. On 26 September it began its move to France and by 9 October concentration was completed around Flesselles.