

struck the men as being a piece of useless and very heavy furniture which it was advisable to "ditch" if possible.

It was just getting dusk as the inspection was completed. Every man hitched his pack up into a comfortable position on his back, gave a final tug at his belt and in a few minutes we were off on that long journey of seven miles, past Vlamertinghe and Ypres, right up the salient to the front line. Every man looked as though he were just going back to work after his summer holidays. We had had an eight-day rest and we were now going in to do a sixteen-day tour.

The 4th C. M. R. were taking over a new part of the line. They were usually in Sanctuary Wood in the trenches which ran south from the gap at Hooge, commencing at the Appendix, and ending about opposite the Bird Cage, that famous concrete snipers' post in the German lines which seemed to laugh at our artillery and continued to take its daily toll among our men.

But on the night of May 31st, 1916, we were going into trenches which ran in a southwesterly direction in front of Observatory Ridge and Armagh Wood. The right of our line was about 500 yards from Hill 60 and rested on a short gap which separated us from the Second Division. We had the good fortune for the first time in ages to be loaded on a train that sneaked up as far as — without a light. Here we detrained and, after some marching,