

## APPENDIX 'A'

Sheet  
LACOUTURE 1/30,000

Entrained at ST ROCH ALIENS having marched from SAISSEVAL.  
retrained at BERGUETTE at 5.30 p.m. orders from G.S.C. 111 3rd  
Corps to bus to MT BERNIECHON and come into Corps Reserve.  
Embussed at 7.45 p.m. reached MT BERNIECHON about 9.30 p.m. transport  
marching. Troops no food since breakfast at 2.15 a.m. No orders  
and no Infantry Commander at MT BERNIECHON. I reported to Hdqrs  
51st Div: at ROBEQU and was ordered to move to LE CORNET MALE Q.28.d  
where Battalion would come under orders of G.O.C. 153rd Inf: Bde:  
Battalion reached LE CORNET MALE at 2.30 a.m. G.O.C. 153rd Bde  
ordered preparation for a counter-attack on approximate front R.15  
March Central - R.21.c.9.5. with possible alternative of holding  
a defensive position from Q.23.d. central (PACAUT) to Q.35.d. central  
The situation at that time was not sufficiently clear to  
enable reconnaissance to be made. Battalion concentrated in Q.28.d.  
central with Hdqrs at Q.29.c.0.3. ready for counter-attack if  
ordered. At 7.30 a.m. orders were received to hold a defensive  
position from Q.23.central to Q.29 central. Battalion was in posit-  
ion at 8.15 a.m. with 'A' Coy on left, 'C' Coy centre, 'D' Coy  
right and 'B' Coy in reserve about Q.29-c.3.7.  
A number of M.G.'s of 38th Batt: M.G.C. moved forward with the  
Battalion and took up a position 200-300 yards in advance of  
position held by Batt: Patrols were pushed forward and  
detachments of infantry went forward to support of M.G.'s.  
At 11.30 a.m. orders were received to readjust the line with our  
left at Q.11.d.3.0. and our right at the present right of 'A' Coy  
Q.29 central. Orders were issued for Reserve Company to move at  
once with its left at Q.11.d.0.2. and right on the ditch at  
Q.23.b.2.9. and for 'D' Coy to move into gap between 'B' & 'A' Coy  
and for 'C' Coy to move into Reserve near Q.22.b. and d. central.  
There were a certain number of reorganised troops of 51st Div: h-  
ing a line parallel with our new line and with a switch running  
S.E. towards Q.23.b.7.2.  
At 3 p.m. 11th April dispositions were as shown on attached map "A"  
Touch was lost with 5th D.C.L.I. during afternoon and a unit of  
troops from 51st Div: came in on our left.  
At about 12 midnight touch was lost with units on our left.  
153rd Bde were informed and at once issued orders to move up a  
detachment of 100-150 men. Pending their arrival a strong patrol  
was moved into this gap from Reserve Coy and later into outskirts  
of PARADIS. They reported no signs of enemy.  
Disposition about 2 a.m. on 12th April were as shown on Map "B".  
Patrols were out on Battalion front but did not return.  
About 6.0 p.m. on 12th I drew attention of 153rd Bde to the  
extended front held by the Battalion and the weakness of the  
defensive dispositions of the right flank.

At about 5 a.m. Artillery fire noticeably increased in the South.  
5.15 - 5.20 Capt. B.K. PARSONS reported our troops retiring past  
Batt: Hdqrs. I went to investigate and found a large number  
going backwards, did my best to stem the retreat, and succeeded  
in throwing a few into trenches with some men of 'C' Coy.  
Enemy Very Lights were falling between Hdqrs and the nearer  
buildings of PACAUT and were some 500yds distant on the left.  
M.G. fire opened from general direction of PACAUT - well in  
enfilade and sweeping our men retiring. I went into Hd  
burned my maps and papers and attempted to send warning  
153rd Bde but found lines gone. Enemy fire was com-  
House from both flanks. I went out again and found  
disappeared. This was about 5.30. Enemy infantry  
buildings on my return. With the Adjutant and Ca-  
decided to withdraw. Soon after this we came up  
'D' Coy with Lt. V.H. TRIPP, 2/Lt. C.C. HARPER and 2/  
2/Lt. F.B. GORE. Enemy were at this time firing 11  
outskirts of LA PIERRE AU BEURE and rifle and M.G.

from that direction. A party under 2/Lt. C.C. HARPER  
now  
from that direction. An attempt was made to effect an orderly  
withdrawal to railway line which runs about Q.15. central in a N.E.  
direction. A party under 2/Lt. C.C. HARPER and 2/Lt. F.B. GORE was  
sent to hold farm buildings at Q.21.a.C.6. and a party under  
2/Lt. F.G. LEE to line Railway Embankment about 15 central, to cover  
withdrawal of main body (some 50 men in all) to line of railway and  
there to farm buildings and orchard Q.14.d.8.3. Here were found  
some forward posts of 2/7th Warwicks. Some stragglers of THE ROYAL  
SCOTS and 1 M.G. were found about Q.15.c.5.8. At this time quite  
an accurate M.G. fire was being brought to bear on area between  
railway bank and road from LES RUEES DES VACHES southwards, party from  
Q.21.a.C.6. withdrew in good order to our posts at Q.14.a.9.3. losing  
2 Officers and several men. Party under 2/Lt. F.G. LEE also withdrew  
in good order to orchard where they dug in. When all were in touch  
with 2/7th WARWICKS with my Adjutant I went to find 2/7th WARWICK  
Hdqs going by road in Q.14.d. towards BAQUEROLLES farm at road  
junction Q.14.c.9.1. Heavy patrol with L.M.G. opened fire at short  
range from BAQUEROLLES farm buildings. We withdrew, runner being  
killed en-route. At this time this flank was entirely exposed.  
I warned 2/7th WARWICK platoon in Q.14.d.9.3. and withdrew remnants  
of 2/8th WARWICKS from orchard and formed a line from farm at  
Q.14.c.9.3. N.E. across CLARENCE towards 1 platoon of 2/7th WARWICKS  
which were dug in about Q.14.c.4.3. I left 2/8th WARWICKS under  
command of 2/Lt. H.A. TEELEY and placed him under orders of Coy  
Commander. of 2/7th WARWICKS. He was subsequently killed with 15  
or 20 men in this position. With my Adjutant I went towards  
2/7th WARWICK Hdqs and from there to Hdqs 182nd Inf: Bde: then  
at P.11.d.1.2. and reported the situation. I was then ordered to  
come under orders of the Bde and take up a position on right of  
2/8th WORCESTERS from P.12.d.8.4. to FARM buildings at LES AMUSOIRES.  
At 3 p.m. commenced digging in with some 63 men who had been  
collected. Remained in this position with Hdqs at P.11 central  
until night of 13/14th. At this time Battalion was organised  
into 2 Coys.

On 13th/14th Battalion relieved 2/7th WARWICKS in right sector.

The casualties of the Battalion between 10th and 14th April inclusive  
were 9 Officers and 133 other ranks.

*W. Phelan*  
Major,  
Commanding 2/8th Bttn. R. War. R.