

BERN'S DIARY

Tuesday 2nd of October

The boys came out of the line for a few days spell. We ducked out early Tuesday morning we have six days.

Wednesday 3rd

In camp behind the line had a warm bath in the evening to finish us up.

Thursday 4th

Left camp early in the morning for billets. Was taken about twelve miles in motor transport to a town named Stienvoorde where we were put in billets.

Sunday 7th

Went to Mass in a big church in Stienvoorde.

Monday 15th of October

Relieved another company in the firing line was on S.O.S. work.

Tuesday 16th

Corporal Heathcot was killed by a shell about midnight, he lived about a quarter of an hour.

Wednesday 17th

My poor darling brother was killed in action by a shell along with two of his mates in his gun team, besides one of our officers. May his dear soul rest in peace.
Amen.

Thursday 18th

Was marched away for a bath was sent out of the firing line back to camp for a rest, was given a good feed, a drink of hot rum and then went to bed.

Each evening they carried their mates wrapped in their grey army blankets to the area set aside for the dead. The padre read the burial service while living friends 'tried not to think too much' as they shovelled the wet mud over the mound.

