

## Copy of Captain Stormouth-Darling's letter, adjt The Cameronians

Well, we embarked and went to Harve. Had a day there in a very wet and muddy camp. On 17<sup>th</sup> Aug we entrained in one troop train (we had four at home) and went to Marez. Had a great reception there from country people. Were there till about the 22<sup>nd</sup> when we went to Valenciennes. We were there formed into a Brigade and were showed right up and held a bit of the Conde-Mons position. We at once withdrew and were very lucky to get away without loss. Started that day at 8 a.m. got to position at about 6 p.m. Withdrew at 4 a.m. and marched hard till about 4 p.m. (very little to eat) to Jenlain. Dug trenches till later. Very little to eat. Again withdrew at 4 a.m. and had a very long march.

During this march I saw Gough and we were under shell fire. Did not get in that night till 12 midnight. Started next morning at 4 a.m. and no sooner were we clear of the town of Le Cateau than the battle began. We were in reserve on the right; got orders to march to the left; did so 6 miles, marched about there and got orders to go back to the right, did so Our people then began to retire though we thought we were winning easily and we were rearguard to the Army. The Retreat was rather awful. We left as rearguard at 9.30 p.m. from our old place Marez and marched solidly all night till 8.30 a.m. next morning. Were all absolutely done up as had no food day of battle. We marched to St Quentin. After 2 hours rest we did another 16 miles halting at 5.30 p.m. Very tired, sleepy and hungry and notwithstanding what had happened the Staff said they were very pleased.

I believe now we held up very superior numbers of Germans at Le Cateau, and won a strategic victory but suffered a tactical defeat. Any way Germans did not pursue or follow up at once. Next day again trekked about 20 miles and then had a day but moved in the evening at 6 p.m.. Marched till 1 a.m. Halted 3 hours and went on till about 5.30 p.m. next afternoon. Again trekked next day at 5.30 a.m. and went on till about 7 p.m. when we were on outpost. Next day had some fun, as the Cavalry got into trouble, and we got them out, getting guns and prisoners. Went on marching till about 5 p.m. and were again on outpost. Started next day at about 5 a.m. and marched till about 6 p.m. halted till 1 a.m. and went on again in the dark and got into bivouac at 1 p.m. Were there all that day and next which was yesterday till 1 a.m. today when we came here. So you see we must have covered an extraordinary distance. No other army could have done it with a huge enemy on our tails all the way. We are told we are to rest now for a bit, and I see Russia is doing well. I believe we absolutely saved the French army which was not ready, by being thrust right up, then gradually coming back, have drawn them on. Well must stop and have a sleep. All very fit and well. We sleep in the open just now, no tents.

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