

HMS Diary 1918

Sunday 10 th March	Bruay. Saw a Small Tortoiseshell
Monday 11 th March	Bruay. Saw a Brimstone and a Small Tortoiseshell. Hooded Crows and Redwings still about.
Tuesday 12 th March	Many Small Tortoiseshells out. Saw Hooded Crows but no redwings.
Friday 15 th March	Some Hooded Crows about. Saw two mobbing a large hawk [followed by an outline sketch of hawk], possibly a buzzard.
Monday 18 th March	Many Large & Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks out. No Hooded Crows seen. Caught a Brimstone.
Wednesday 20 th March	Saw one Hooded Crow. Heard & saw one Chiffchaff. Caught a Large Tortoiseshell.
Thursday 21 st March	Many Large & Small Tortoiseshells & Peacocks out. Saw & heard several Chiffchaffs.
Friday 29 th March	Saw Small Blue butterfly. Species not known is flying round tops of small spruce trees
Tuesday 2 nd April	Heard Chiffchaffs only.
Thursday 4 th April	Saw & heard Willow warblers, several.
Saturday 6 th April	Found Thrush's nest about half built. Saw Goldcrests.
Monday 8 th April	Saw Corn Bunting.
Wednesday 10 th April	Saw a Slow Worm – another Thrush nest just started. Oak Eggar caterpillars.
Friday 12 th April	Some Whitethroats & about 12 Swallows.
Thursday 18 th April	Snail
Friday 19 th April	Many swallows & one House Martin. Saw Mistle Thrush & nest.
Saturday 20 th April	Boche commenced to shell Bruay.
Sunday 21 st April	Letters to Mother, K & Harry
Tuesday 23 rd April	Carrions Crows nest & eggs smashed. Saw Small Blue butterfly among fir trees. Could not identify Green veined White. Heard Blackcap.
Wednesday 24 th April	Saw Moorhen with young only a couple of days old. Found Hedgesparrows nest 4 eggs.
Thursday 25 th April	Saw Cuckoo. Several Green veined Whites. Moved to Rebreuve.
Friday 26 th April	Wet & foggy. Many magpies nests here. Rooks xxx dently hatched.
Saturday 27 th April	Carrion Crow & Magpies sitting. Saw male Blackcap. Yellow Hammer building. Magpies nest practically finished in low fir tree. Very many hares here. Picked Fragrant Orchis. Large hawk (? Peregrine) stooped at Partridge. Orchis seen – Early Purple, Fragrant, Spotted & Twayblade.
Sunday 28 th April	Heard Nightingale. Another Carrion Crow sitting. Wren's nest in cow shed on rafters.
Monday 29 th April	Saw pair Little Owl fly from old willows. Jay's nest partly built. Two Blackbirds nests but no eggs in either. Wrens nest.
Tuesday 30 th April	Saw one Little Owl. Found several Song Thrushes nests finished but no eggs. Blackbirds nest with 4 young about 3 /4 days old.
Wednesday 1 st May	Mole home (?).
Thursday 2 nd May	Saw Wheatear. Heard Grasshopper Warbler.
Saturday 4 th May	Wren's nest 1 egg. Saw male Orange Tip.
Sunday 5 th May	Magpie's nest 2 eggs. See 27 & 18. Male Large White butterfly. Saw pair Little Owls from old willows.
Monday 6 th May	Female Orange Tip.
Tuesday 7 th May	Yellow Hammer's nest 3 eggs. Wrote home & K.

Wednesday 8 th May	Song Thrushes nest 5 eggs.
Thursday 9 th May	Saw Skippers, probably Chequered & Grizzled (many about). Three Swallow Tails.
Friday 10 th May	Saw Robins building. Yellow Hammers sitting on 3 eggs only. Four Willow Warblers building & carrying feathers.
Sunday 12 th May	Robins had 2 eggs. Picked Spider? Orchis. Heard Corn Bunting.
Tuesday 14 th May	Saw Wall butterfly. Found two Whitethroats nests 2 eggs each. Blackcaps 3 eggs brown type. Blackcap half built. Two Yellow Hammers nests 4 eggs each, one on ground, other in bush. Female seemed hard set. Second were fresh. Also found ?Yellow Hammers nearly finished, high in bush. Xxxx found Wren's nest near the one found May 14 which has now been destroyed.
Thursday 16 th May	Maggie's nest (see May 5) had 7 eggs and found a Yellowhammers nest with 1 dead young one. Saw a number of Linnets in the wood. Blackbirds nest finished.
Saturday 18 th May	Saw Small Copper. Heard Turtle Dove.
Sunday 19 th May	Heard & saw ?Wryneck.
Monday 20 th May	Col went.
Thursday 23 rd May	Small Heath. Painted Lady.
Monday 27 th May	Found Nightingale nest. Garden Warbler 5 eggs. Blackcaps & Whitethroats found 4 th all hatched. One of Whitethroats 2 young only, other 1 young & 4 eggs.
Monday 17 th June	Left Rebreuve. Spent night Abbeville.
Tuesday 18 th June	Abbeville 10.55 Le Trepot 12.40 Sxx (12.48 (12.51 Alancourt 15.18 15.22 Beauvais 17.17 17.22 Paris 20.25
Wednesday 19 th June	Romilly -sur-Seine Connantre Marains
Thursday 20 th June	Marains to Connantre. Saw large xxxx plover. Had large pearl bordered fritillary
Friday 21 st June	Connantre to Black veined, Marbled, Bath White. Pale Clouded, female large blue, S [Small] Pearl Bordered. Swallowtail. Saw family of Cirl Buntings. Bee orchis.
Saturday 22 nd June	Formed 9 Welch. Broussy le Grande
Monday 1 st July	Left Broussy le Grande
Wednesday 3 rd July	Anvin. Fauquembergues.
Thursday 4 th July	Ledinghem
Sunday 28 th July	Rob, 264 High St, Connahs Quay
Saturday 7 th September	76738 Sgt GCS Ingram, D Coy [Company?] 14 Welch
Saturday 19 th October	Wrote Q from (London or Loudun).
Monday 28 th October	Wrote Q in reply letter need today
Tuesday 29 th October	Wrote Q

Saturday 2 nd November	Rien xx to Haussy. Haussy to Vendegies
Sunday 3 rd November	Vendegies to assembly w of Jenlain
Monday 4 th November	Attack right of Jenlain over. Petit Aunelle River 6.0am. Attack on BRY 4.30pm
Tuesday 5 th November	Attack from BRY 6.25 – 7.30am. Battle patrol in afternoon. Back to BRY.
Wednesday 6 th November	BRY to Bettrechies
Thursday 7 th November	Bry to Bettrechies to Brang xxx then to Taisnieres
Friday 8 th November	2.0am Taisnieres to Malplaquet Bettrechies to Taisnieres. 7.30am in reserve attack from Malplaquet
Saturday 9 th November	2.0am Taisnieres to Malplaquet. 7.30am in reserve. Attack from Foret de Lan xxxx , Malplaquet.
Sunday 10 th November	Malplaquet to Houdain
Monday 11 th November	Houdain to Wargniers le Grande
Sunday 17 th November	Letter from Q
Wednesday 20 th November	Wrote Q
Tuesday 5 th December	Baths (?)
Saturday 7 th December	Lecture Doc
Monday 9 th December	Elem [Elementary] Arith [Arithmetic]
Tuesday 31 st December	Letter from Q
Friday 3 rd January 1919	Wrote Q

French places mentioned in diary:

Abbeville, Somme

Alancourt: Probably Hallencourt, Sommes

Anvin, Pas de Calais (west of Bruay-la-Buissière)

Beauvais, Oise

Bettrechies, Nord (east of Bry)

Broussy le Grande: Broussy-le-Grande, Marne (northwest of Connatre)

Bruay: Probably Bruay-la-Buissière, Pas de Calais

Bry, Nord (northeast of Jenlain)

Connatre, Marne (northeast of Romilly-sur-Seine)

Fauquembergues, Pas de Calais (north-northwest of Anvin)

Haussy, Nord (east of Cambrai)

Houdain, Pas de Calais (south of Bruay-la-Buissière)

Jenlain, Nord (northeast of Haussy)

Ledinghem, Pas de Calais (northwest of Fauquembergues)

Le Trépot, Seine Maritime

Malplaquet, Nord (east of Taisnières-sur-Hons)

Marains, Marne (northeast of Connatre)

Paris

Rebreuve: Probably Rebreuve- Ranchicourt, Pas de Calais, which is near Bruay-la- Buissière

Rien

Romilly-sur-Seine, Aude

Taisnieres: Probably Taisnières-sur-Hons, Nord (east of Bettrechies)

Vendegies: Probably Vendegies -sur-Écaillon or Vendegies-au-Bois, Nord (northeast/east of Cambrai)

Wargniers le Grande: Wargniers-le-Grande, Nord (east of Jenlain)