

187 Bugler A.T. Falla

Bugler Albert Thomas Falla of St. Sampson was only just 18 when he was enlisted in the RGLI. He kept a notebook in which he wrote down all the locations the Battalion visited, the kit he carried, insignia he wore, parts of the Lewis Gun and dates on which he received letters from home. He survived the war. These extracts come from his notebook.

My 19 Birthday. October 14th 1917

I was in France O.A.S.(On Active Service) I heard Revele at 6 o'clock and layed in bed sleeping till Breakfast call went at 8 o'clock. I dressed and had my breakfast which was bread and cheese and a mug of tea. The drummers call was blown and I did not go out it went again about 10 minutes after. I went out and we had to blow half hour dress for church parade the whole of the Buglers had their names taken for not turning out when the first call was sounded however. I went on church parade which lasted half an hour. After about an hour doing nothing we had our fag issue 4pkts and only one box of matches then at one o'clock we had our dinner which was stew there was an air raid as we were drawing our dinner. I could see the B(ritish) and the G(erman) airoplanes fighting a few miles off our camp they were a good height in the air about 3 o'clock I had to put up a tent after I had 3 letters which were 1 from Dad a Birthday Card from Mother and a Birthday card from a friend Miss Muriel Le Huray. At halfpast 4 we had Biscuits and tea about 8 o'clock we had an air raid which lasted all night he kept on raiding every hour at 9-30 I turned in bed.

That is what happened on my 19 Birthday Oct 14th 1917.

From Bugler A.T. Falla's Notebook

List of Kit

<i>Rifle</i>	1		
<i>Rifle sling</i>	1		
<i>Pull through</i>	1		
<i>Oil bottle</i>	1		
<i>Bayonet</i>	1	<i>and scabbard</i>	1
<i>Belt</i>	1	<i>Bayonet frog</i>	1
<i>Braces</i>	2		
<i>Pouches</i>	2		
<i>Trenching tool</i>	1	<i>and Pouch</i>	1
<i>handle</i>	1	<i>and straps</i>	1
<i>Valice</i>	1	<i>straps</i>	2
<i>Haversack</i>	1		
<i>Water bottle</i>	1	<i>and straps</i>	1
<i>Valve Bugle</i>	1	<i>Bugle</i>	1
<i>Hair Brush</i>	1	<i>Clothes brush</i>	1
<i>Shining brush</i>	1		
<i>Button stick</i>	1		
<i>Shirts</i>	3	<i>Puttees</i>	1pair
<i>Socks. Pairs</i>	2	<i>Braces</i>	1
<i>Tunic</i>	2		
<i>Buglers walking out cord</i>	1		
<i>Trousers</i>	2		
<i>Cap</i>	1	<i>Jack knife</i>	1
<i>Drawers</i>	2	<i>Gas helmet</i>	
<i>Boots</i>	2	<i>Goggles</i>	
<i>Cardigan</i>	1	<i>Ration bag</i>	
<i>Scarf</i>	1	<i>Pair Gloves</i>	1
<i>Towels</i>	2		
<i>Kit bag</i>	1	<i>Hold all</i>	1
<i>House wife</i>	1		
<i>Spoon</i>	1	<i>Knife 1</i>	<i>Fork 1</i>
<i>Tooth Brush</i>	1	<i>Comb</i>	1
<i>Razor</i>	1	<i>Boot Brushes</i>	2
<i>Steel helmet</i>	1		
<i>gas respirator</i>	1		
<i>Mess tin</i>	1		