



## Source 2

Extracts from battle reports during the second Battle of Ypres in April 1915

(Catalogue ref: CAB 45/154)



### How to use this source:

Study this source carefully. It contains information that could be useful in your presentation on life in the trenches. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- What does this tell you about the different troops fighting in the British army?
- What dangers and hazards are described?
- What does this tell you about the contrasts which could be experienced between different sections of the front line?
- Which aspects of trench warfare does this source provide information on?
- How could this source be used in your final presentation?



## Source 2a

2nd Bde to 1st Cdn. Div.  
Following message received from O.C. 8th Bn.  
Section 2.  
Beginns. Have just returned from reconaissance  
with Kirkaldy. We went along ridge to support  
48th Highlanders in S.W. corner D.1.c. 48th and  
5th Royals were holding line 700 yards in original  
front trench then bends back to L judge about  
Cross Roads in C.6.b. Houses just North and North  
West of this point must be occupied by Germans as  
we got snipers enfilade fire from that direction.  
Reserve 48th Highlanders Hqrs is in ST. JULIEN.  
7th Bn. about C.12.b. German shells were falling  
in road C.12.b. apparently coming from North.  
German line appears to be from C.6.a. to Wood  
C.10.d. All quiet in my front. Visited artillery  
observation station in North East corner D.7.d.  
is empty. Arranged disposition of 7th company in  
locality "C" in case northern flank 3rd Bde was  
pushed in. Message ends.



## Source 2b

15th Bn. to 3rd Bde.  
My reserve trenches were very heavily shelled during night and morning. I have not been able to ascertain the casualties. About 1.30 p.m. the enemy subjected my regiment to a very heavy bombardment alternating the reserve, the support and the fire trenches, the latter being submitted to howitzer fire for sometime, evidently preparing for an attack. About 2.00 p.m. enemy began throwing asphyxiating gasses. This was carried on for sometime but my men held fast and enemy showed great reluctance to attack. Finally they attacked and were repulsed easily. After being repulsed the enemy again took up the shelling but has been quiet for the last 15 minutes. My casualties in forward trenches very slight but have no figures available yet. The thirteenth I understand are falling back on our left and digging themselves in. Will help them in all possible ways. Men and officers behaved splendidly. Having been unable to ration last night instructed men to consume iron rations. I will ration tonight for two days and would ask that iron rations be supplied immediately to replace consumed one.