

**THE WAR TIME DIARY OF
3615 Pte THOMAS ALEXANDER MM
No 5 Platoon 'B' Company 8th Battalion
Seaforth Highlanders
5th September 1914 – 31st October 1918**

25th Sept: Battle of Loos

About 6am went into front line. British used gas for first time. 6am all men over top, lie in no man's land. Only one gap in wire where we were and were told all Jerries wire was blown down.

Colonel Thomson gave signal, and dropped wounded. Men are getting knocked out trying to get through gap in wire. I got through gap and saw three Jerries throwing bombs. Wounded left thigh.

J Garrity of same platoon, crawling in, dresses wound – just finished dressing when he topples over, moaning "stomach wound". Many lying around, a Sergeant wounded in arm is giving drinks to wounded, asked him to get Doctor for Garrity, who is in a terrible state.

Battalion doctor came to Garrity, fixed him up and covered him from head to foot with ground sheet.

After some time, I crawled back to old front line with two others, and lay there all day.

Middle of day, Officer of the Scottish Fusiliers put his field dressing on top of my own and gave the three of us a cake of chocolate and told us he can't get stretchers.

Darkness coming on and a Padre seeing us says we would be better lying on top, where we would be seen. Short of stretchers, but if we thought we could manage he would get us two men each, to give us a help back. Gave me two Scottish Fusiliers and between them started back along Lens Road.

Going up road by side of Railway, between Quality St and Philoshope, French men and women are standing with pails giving drinks of coffee or water to wounded.

Got to hospital in vaults below Brewery in Philoshope. Doctor says explosive bullet through thigh. I thought it was a piece of bomb that had got me. So Jerry in centre of three I saw, instead of stooping to lift bomb from firing step, as I thought, must have been reloading and had just put head down to aim.