

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/26/45

Title: 9th Infantry Battalion

September 1918



AWM4-23/26/45

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

9th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

FOR

SEPTEMBER

1918.



9th BATTALION
A.I.F.
No. Q 222
Date 5/10/18.

APPENDIX

Signature of Officer compiling

S. Chapman Captn

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. A. Cunningham Capt

9th. BATTALION.

WAR DIARY

for SEPTEMBER, 1918.

Sheet.1. Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

34

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
U.13.b.4.3.	1/9/18.		Training, including Specialist, was carried out and at 2.p.m. recreation. Companies arranged into Company cricket matches. This provided good training for the afternoon. Sanitation of the camp was still carried on with, stretcher bearers and pioneers being detailed daily for this purpose. Quoit Tennis Courts for the whole Battalion were completed and used. Officers' Training consisted of quoit tennis as it is found to be a splendid exercise.	
	2/9/18.		Training of a general character was carried on. Routine the same as the previous day. Weather getting very hot.	
	3/9/18.		Thirty Reinforcements marched in., and were allotted to Companies as follows; "H.Q." 2, "I" 8. "Y" 4 and "Z" 16. Lieut. SALISBURY returned from leave to England. Companies went to hot baths at CERISY and also had swimming in the Canal. Appearance of camp improving every day. Commanding Officer, Lieut.Col. L.M. MULLEN. D.S.O. proceeded to Divisional Headquarters to interview newspaper representatives.	
	4/9/18.		General Training and Brigade issued a Musketry, Bombing and Lewis Gun Programme to be contested for as a manner of sport between Battalions. Competition 1. - One team of 7 Other Ranks from each Battalion. Range 200 Yards, Musketry. " 2. - one team of 8 Other Ranks from each Battalion. Range 200 yards, snap shooting and disappearing targets.. " 3. - Lewis Gun Patrol Practice, Range 300 yards. " 4. - Lewis Gun fire effect on stationary target, range 200 yards. " 5. - Bombing, 1 team of 9 Other Ranks from each Battalion. " 6. - Bombing, individual fire, team of 6 Other Ranks. " 7. - Bombing Barrage fire, 1 N.C.O. and 8 Other Ranks.	
	5/9/18.		These practices were to be carried out on the 7th. inst. General training and teams from the Brigade Musketry, Lewis Gun and Bombing competitions were formed and the instructions regarding the various practices explained. Musketry party under Sgt. RANN, Lewis Gun party under Cpl. LANG and the Bombers under Lieut. SHAW. Rifle Range and Lewis Gun Range were made 200 yards from Battalion Headquarters and the whole of the Battalion was put through musketry and Lewis Gun. Assistant Adjutant and Medical Officer proceeded to CORBIE to prosecute and give evidence in four Courts Martial which concerned this Battalion. Advice was received from Brigade at 8.30.p.m. to the effect that the competitions timed to take place on the 7th inst. would take place the next morning. Everything was got well in hand and the representatives of this Battalion were excused from the general inspection by the Battalion Commander the next day. Lieut. C.H. RYAN to G.H.Q. Lewis Gun School.	

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APPENDIX
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WAR DIARY

for SEPTEMBER, 1918. Sheet. 2.

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9th. Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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U.13-b.4.3.	6/9/18.		<p>Battalion plus transport fell in in Mass for inspection by the Battalion Commander, Lieut.Col. L.M. MULLEN, D.S.O. The competitors were ordered to report on the Brigade range at 8.30.a.m. and the whole would proceed under Lieut. SHAW. The Battalion Commander was highly pleased with the condition and the appearance of the troops and transport on parade. It reflected great credit on a all Officers, N.C.Os. and every individual concerned. On completion of the inspection the Battalion marched past. It was noticed on this inspection the wonderful difference it made; a short rest in pleasant surroundings. The men looked quite refreshed and the war worn appearance of the last month had entirely disappeared. After the march past Companies were at liberty to march to the Competitions and witness the events. The following were the results of the Competitions held to-day :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>POINTS GAINED.</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Competition No.</th> <th colspan="2">Musketry.</th> <th colspan="2">Lewis Gun.</th> <th colspan="2">Bombing.</th> <th rowspan="2">Total.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th>6</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9th. Battalion.</td> <td>56½</td> <td>26</td> <td>34</td> <td>48</td> <td>18</td> <td>12</td> <td>203½</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10th. "</td> <td>66</td> <td>10</td> <td>44</td> <td>71</td> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>223</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11th. "</td> <td>57</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>35</td> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> <td>182</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12th. "</td> <td>44</td> <td>2</td> <td>25</td> <td>46</td> <td>5</td> <td>13</td> <td>144.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FINAL RESULTS.</u></p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>10th. Battalion</td> <td>223 Points Gained.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>9th. "</td> <td>203½ " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>11th. "</td> <td>182 " "</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is pleasing to note the success of the Musketry and Grenade Competitions, and the lack of success in the Lewis Gun was put down to the enormous amount of defective ammunition which is at present in use. As the arrangements for these Competitions were all so very hurried the results obtained in all competitions was highly satisfactory. At 8.p.m. the Battalion was informed the Brigade Group would embus at 10.a.m. on the 7th. inst. and move to the MONT - St.-QUENTIN area. Starting point. Cross Roads at Q.8.b.9.9., debussing point I.20.b.8.0. Twenty-one busses were allotted this Unit. Orders relative to this move were issued to Companies at 10.30.p.m.</p>	Competition No.	Musketry.		Lewis Gun.		Bombing.		Total.	1	2	3	4	5	6	9th. Battalion.	56½	26	34	48	18	12	203½	10th. "	66	10	44	71	6	8	223	11th. "	57	20	21	35	17	17	182	12th. "	44	2	25	46	5	13	144.	1.	10th. Battalion	223 Points Gained.	2.	9th. "	203½ " "	3.	11th. "	182 " "	
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9th. BATTALION.

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or

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices									
U.13.b.4.3.	7/9/18.		<p>At 9.15.a.m. the Battalion formed up in Mass and proceeded by route march to embussing point at Q.8.b.9.9. and were in position at 10.a.m. At 11.a.m. the bus column moved and reported at new area by 3.p.m. On debussing the Battalion were met by the advanced billeting party and led into the new area. Transport moved by separate route under Lieut. T. CAMERON, who was in command of all transports of the Brigade. The Battalion was then distributed as follows; Battalion Headquarters I.17.a.8.5. and Companies and Transport in the immediate vicinity. Accomodation consisted of old trenches and three old huts which were constructed by the British in their former occupation of this area. All ranks were soon busy constructing small positions giving complete cover for themselves. Major H. JAMES, M.C. and Lieut. L. BUTLER, M.C., D.C.M. proceeded on leave to U.K.</p> <table><tr><td>Fighting Strength</td><td>22 Officers</td><td>527 Other Ranks.</td></tr><tr><td>Detached.</td><td>12 "</td><td>88 " "</td></tr><tr><td>Total Strength</td><td>34 "</td><td>615 " "</td></tr></table>	Fighting Strength	22 Officers	527 Other Ranks.	Detached.	12 "	88 " "	Total Strength	34 "	615 " "	
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I.17.a.8.5. MONT St. QUENTIN.	8/9/18.		Church parade arranged to be held at 10.a.m. but owing to the rain had to be cancelled. Very cold and wet. Camp being cleaned up and made sanitary. Lieut. MEYERS and Capt. McINTYRE returned from leave to U.K.										
	9/9/18.		Cold and windy. All Companies on Burial and Salvage work. Great amount of material, especially enemy, lying about. Twenty-two dead Germans buried. Capt. DONALDSON rejoined from Base. Orders received to move on 10th. inst.										
	10/9/18.		Showery. Companies engaged on inspection of Lewis Guns, Gas Helmets, etc. in morning. Nucleus Battalion formed and proceeded to PERONNE at 11.a.m. Three Officers and 70 Other Ranks from this Unit, including personnel for Divisional Commander's Guard. Battalion moved off at 3.p.m. by route march arriving at destination at 5.p.m. Took over camp consisting of Nissen Huts from 3rd. Battalion. "X" Company detailed for Inlying Picquet. Four Anti Aircraft Guns mounted for defence.										
J.17.b.8.8. near TINCOURT.	11/9/18.		Wet. Parade ordered but had to be cancelled owing to rain and lectures held in huts instead. Commanding Officer lectured to all Officers on Advance Guard Scheme which was to be carried out next day, and carried out a regimental exercise. Lieuts. RAFF and MEYERS proceeded to CORBIE on Court Martial duty. Lieut. PICKFORD proceeded on leave to U.K.										

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9th. BATTALION.

WAR DIARY for SEPTEMBER, 1918. Sheet. 4.
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour											
J.17.b.8.8. near TINCOURT.	12/9/18.		Wet, with occasional fine intervals. Advance Guard Scheme carried out on lines of regimental exercise carried out preceding afternoon. After an hour it rained heavily which interfered with the operation. Inter Company Cricket and Football matches carried out in afternoon between showers. Lieut. W.P. WARNER returned from U.K. leave and Lieut. C.M. WRENCH proceeded on U.K. Leave. Lieuts. RAFF and MEYERS returned from CORBIE.										
	13/9/18.		Fine. Enemy shelled vicinity of camp with high velocity shells. Companies carried out tactical exercise as Companies (Advance Guard to a Battalion) in morning. One Officer from each Company proceeded to reconnoitre forward area (Support Battalion). Recreational training (Inter-Company Cricket and Football matches) in afternoon. Capt. F.J. BIGGS arrived back from leave to Paris and remained with Nucleus Battalion.										
	14/9/18.		Fine. Two Companies carried out Lewis Gun firing on range and live grenades throwing. One Company on fatigue with C.R.E. at Divisional Headquarters. Lieut. E.L. ALCOCK returned from U.K. Leave. Fifteen Other Ranks including the R.S.M. left for AUSTRALIA on special transport duty. Divisional Guard brought up from Nucleus and inspected by Brigadier. Twenty five Other Ranks rejoined Unit from Nucleus Battalion. Three Officers proceeded to forward Area on reconnaissance. <table><tr><td>Fighting Strength</td><td>19 Officers</td><td>424 Other Ranks.</td></tr><tr><td>Detached</td><td>15 "</td><td>189 " "</td></tr><tr><td>Total Strength</td><td>34 "</td><td>613 " "</td></tr></table>	Fighting Strength	19 Officers	424 Other Ranks.	Detached	15 "	189 " "	Total Strength	34 "	613 " "	
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	15/9/18.		Fine. One Company on working party at C.R.E. Division, remainder proceeded to Baths at TINCOURT. Orders for an attack at a future date issued. Commanding Officer lectured to all Officers concerning same during the morning. One Officer per Company sent forward to reconnoitre area. Lieut. L.H. BAILEY rejoined from Base. Capt. F.J. BIGGS reported to Brigade as Liaison Officer in connection with forthcoming operations. One Section Trench Mortar Battery and one Section 3rd. Machine Gun Company attached to this Unit for operation and reported to-day.										

APPENDIX

J. G. Chapman Cap. 20

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J. J. Chapman Capt. 20

9th. Battalion.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

J.17.b.8.8. 16/9/18.

Fine. One Officer and 50 Other Ranks on working party with C.R.E. at Divisional Headquarters. Commanding Officer lectured to all ranks on the coming operation with aid of enlarged map drawn by Intelligence Section. Companies on Lewis Gun Range, also practice in attacking strong points, forming up for assault and general attack practice. Recreational training (cricket and football) carried out in afternoon. Five Officers went forward on reconnaissance. Order for the attack issued.

17/9/18.

Heavy storm during the night, making ground very muddy. Companies carried out a practice attack in morning, over ground in vicinity of camp. Companies in same position as for coming attack. Movement order for moving off tonight issued. Lieut. RYAN returned from Lewis Gun School and remained at Nucleus. First Company moved off at 11.45 a.m. following in sequence by the remainder of the Battalion. By 12 midnight the camp was vacated. Lieut. L. BAILEY from Hospital. Lieut. S. SHAW from Nucleus.

18/9/18.

Marching enroute to assembly area and Sunken road in square L.19.d. it rained very heavily and made the march very heavy with the oppressive heat and mud. Enemy aeroplanes were very active flying extremely low and bombing the lines on which we were about to advance. Approaching the danger zone, that is, the roads most heavily bombed by the enemy we were fortunate in having misty and cloudy weather. Notwithstanding this an enemy plane dropped bombs adjacent to the column but we were fortunate in being in a sunken road at the time. The march on the whole was most satisfactory although Units from other Brigades were moving in the same direction. At 2.30 a.m. Companies were in position with locations as follows "X" and "Y" Companies in sunken road in square L.19.d., "Z" Company Support in trenches running from L.19.a.9.0. to L.19.b.00.50. Battalion Headquarters located at L.19.d.8.4. The section of Vickers Machine Guns and Trench mortars were located 30 yards in rear of "Z" Company. This position occupied was only for halting preparatory to the attack. It afforded little cover for the troops but it was restful. At 4 a.m. hot breakfast with a nip of rum was issued to all Companies. This was most beneficial and warming for the wet troops. Zero hour was timed for 5.30 a.m. The 11th and 12th Battalions went to the attack at the time laid down with 11th Battalion on the left and 12th Battalion on the right. As they had to advance nearly 3,000 yards the Commanding Officer decided that the Battalion would leave its present position at 6.30 a.m. and would then be in sufficient time to pass through the first objective at 8.30 a.m. At 8.30 a.m. the Battalion formed up in rear of the second objective just under the barrage and waited for it to lift.

APPENDIX
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9th. Battalion.

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	18/9/18.		<p>Dispositions of Companies:- "X" Company on the right, "Y" Company on the left, "Z" Company as moppers up covering the Battalion front. The task allotted this Battalion was to pass through the Brown Line (first objective) and capture the Blue Line with Line of Exploitation. See map attached. At 8.30.a.m. the barrage lifted and the troops advanced to the attack. The formation was excellent and direction was maintained through the Intelligence Officer being detailed for that purpose alone. The ground was frightfully sticky which made the going extremely difficult. In places the enemy showed signs of resistance but was overwhelmed by the dash and initiative of our troops. The barrage as laid down by the artillery was an example of thoroughness in detail and it was a big factor in governing the advance. For sometime word did not come through as to the progress of the advance officially but wounded were loud in their praises of the advance. Not content with resting on the Red Line (2nd. objective) our troops pushed on to Line of Exploitation and were digging in and consolidating by 10.30.a.m. The line occupied was all high ground and the enemy's territory could be observed for miles. Enemy prisoners were coming in in batches of 10 to 30 and showed an extremely weak morale. They were of the best Bavarian Regiments and this Battalion had fought them before. By 3.p.m. the line was in good condition being an old Bosch trench that required a good deal of repairing. During the operation we suffered few casualties considering the amount of territory and prisoners captured and the opposition met with. Total captures, 8 Howitzers up to 8" and 3 - 77s, 40 Machine Guns and 160 unwounded and 40 wounded prisoners. Our casualties were 4 Officers and 31 other ranks. Casualties in Officers include. 2/Lieut. MADDOCK killed, Lieuts. BAILEY, ALCOCK and CHATAWAY wounded. While the advance was in progress Battalion Headquarters remained in the Sunken Road at L.19.d.8.4. but shortly after the second objective was passed Battalion Headquarters moved to trench east of FERVAQUE FARM, square L.16.d.3.8., R.A.P. at same location. At 5.p.m. Battalion Headquarters again moved to dugout in trench in G.7.d.7.3. During the night our artillery played on valleys in squares G.8.c. and G.14.b. A hot meal and rum issue was delivered to the troops at 9.15.p.m. Lieut. E.H. BARTLEY from U.K. Leave.</p>	
G.7.d.7.3.	19/9/18.		<p>Companies remained in same position and carried on with general improvements to front line. Enemy heavily shelled the front line and supports with 4.2s. and 5.9s. inflicting 10 Casualties on the garrison including 1 officer Lieut. ANDREWS. S.A.A., Bombs and Water were carried up on pack mule to within 50 yards of the line Company Headquarters. Weather was very clear which enabled aircraft of both sides to show great activity. At times there were flights of 40 planes on our sector, both enemy and our own. Commanding such a position enables good observation of the enemy.</p>	

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9th. Battalion.

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	19/9/18.		of the enemy and the enemy targets were numerous. Our light field guns were harassing enemy's lines of communication and the heavies were playing on BELLICOURT, NAROY, and ESTREES. Ten Reinforcements marched in from Base and were allotted to "Y" Company.	
	20/9/18.		Battalion still remained in garrison of the sector captured and carried on with general improvements of front line posts. S.A.A., Bombs and Stoke Mortars were sent forward. A good deal of enemy movement was observed in squares G.10. and 11 and was harassed by our field guns and heavy artillery. Enemy shelled our front line, supports and lines of communication with H.E., Shrapnel and Sneezing Gas Shells. Counter Battery work was asked for by O.C. left line company and the enemy batteries shelling our line were successfully engaged and quietened. The Battalion O.P. established in G.14.b.3.2. commanded a view for miles of the enemy country. At about 4.p.m. 42 reinforcements marched in and were allotted 13 per company and 3 for H.Q. Advice came through about 5.p.m. that personnel to proceed to Australia would at once leave the line and proceed to PERONNE reporting to O.C. 1st. Australian Divisional Wing. The list included the following members; Capt. S.L. MCINTYRE. M.C., Sgts. HOWELL, D., BROWN, D., CHALMERS, W., BRODIE, F.J., BENTLEY, J., LUCAS, S.T., C.Q.M.S. LINES, W.C., C.Q.M.S GRAY, G., L/Cpl. HILLIER, L.P., Privates THOMAS, W.H., BUCKBY, D., PITTER, R., STUBBS, C., HAYWARD, F.J., CLEARY, J.T., CLARKE, R.J., FLEMING, T., CONNELLAN, M., MASKELL, J., WILCE, H., ISAACS, H., WILSON, W., JACKSON, H.P., MATTHEWS, R.J., WELSH, H.J., CHARD, A., CHARLTON, F., CHANDLER, J., HILL, M., SMITH, P.G., CARR, F. Sgt. RANN, W., Personnel included in the above were excellent soldiers and their presence from the Unit will be sorely missed. Lieut. J.J. CHAPMAN to U.K. Leave.	
	21/9/18.		Battalion still carried on with garrison duty and the enemy remained consistent with his shelling of the front line, supports and lines of communication. A box barrage was placed down in square G.7.c. At 4.p.m. word was received from Bde. that the 11th Battalion would relieve this Battalion in the line, relief to commence at dark. Relief complete at 9.20.p.m. and the Battalion moved into squares G.7. and L.18. Battalion Headquarters located in dugouts in L.17.b.3.2. Fighting Strength 170 Offs. 414 O.Rs. - Detached 13 - 159, Total 30 Offs. 573 O.Rs. Lieut. SHEEDY to U.K. Leave. Lieut. H. WILSON from Base.	
L.17.b.3.2.	22/9/18.		Battalion remained in support and the men were rested. Enemy shelled intermittently without causing any casualties. An issue of beer and a nip of rum was issued to all troops.	

APPENDIX

J. J. Chapman

9th. Battalion.

WAR DIARY

for September. 1918.

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	22/9/18.		Weather wet and muddy. Warning Order for relief issued by Brigade by the 2nd. American Corps. Two officers including the Battalion Commander reported to this Headquarters preparative to taking over the line on the night 23rd./24th. A small party from this Unit were instructed to remain behind to be attached to this American Corps. Personnel as under :- Lieut. J.G. EARWAKER. C.Q.M.S. BRISTOL, and SGTS. PERRETT, McNALLY and MASON. Recommendations for Honours and Awards were completed for the recent operation.	
	23/9/18.		Battalion still remained in support which allowed of the men having a decent rest after the recent operations. Enemy shelling was rather slight. His aeroplanes were very active. Reconnaissance parties of Americans came to Battalion Headquarters in preparation for the relief. They were take over the ground both forward and support by the Intelligence Officer. At 7.20.p.m. five guides from this Unit reported to the 3rd. American Battalion at L.20.b.4.4. to lead them in. One Company 3rd. American Battion relieved this Battalion relief being complete by 9.20.p.m. As the American Battalion did not bring any signalling gear the Signalling Sergeant and 6 signallers were left behind to assist the Americans. On relief the Battalion moved out to TINCOURT when a hot meal and an issue of rum was served them. Battalion Headquarters located at the same positions as on the 17th. inst. The remainder of the Battalion were billeted in TINCOURT WOOD.	
TINCOURT.	24/9/18		Battalion rested and carried on with cleaning of equipment. Personnel selected for American Mission marched out at 10.a.m. Weather rainy and cold.	
	25/9/18.		Raining heavily in the morning, men being confined to their bivouacs. A warning order issued to Companies relative to the move. The American Band of the 118 Regt. played selections at 2.p.m. for the troops in the valley opposite Battalion Headquarters. The Regimental Band played for the Battalion at 5.p.m. Ten reinforcements marched in and we allotted to Companies. Orders received from Brigade that the Bde. Group would move from the TINCOURT AREA to the LONG area. Capt. F. DONALDSON and Lieuts. KOCK. THOMAS, BARTLEY, RYAN, FORWARD rejoined from Nucleus. 2/Lieut. W.A., LATHAM rejoined from Base. Lieuts. J.G. EARWAKER and B. NICHOLLS proceeded to American Army. Lieut. E.P. MARTIN from Base.	
GORENFLOS.	26/9/18.		At 8.a.m. the Battalion took up its position in the area allotted for the entrainment at TINCOURT Station and by 9.a.m. the troops were entrained. It was not until 10 o'clock that the train consisting of open trucks for all ranks moved off. At 3.p.m. the Battalion detrained at LONGPRE	

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																		
GORENFLOS.	26/9/18.		and proceeded by march route to GORENFLOS a journey of about 12 miles. The village of GORENFLOS is a most suitable place for the Battalion to rest in, being quiet and extraordinarily clean. Billets for the men are in splendid order and Battalion Headquarters are centrally situated and adjacent to all Company Headquarters. The Chateau was placed at the disposal of the Commanding Officer and Headquarters Staff with the Company Commanders in the annexe. Lieut. J.G. EARWAKER to Hospital. Lieut. W.J. THOMAS to U.K. Leave.																			
	27/9/18.		The men were allowed to rest and tidy themselves in the afternoon. Organisation in regard to the allotment of billets was completed. Lieut. PENMAN from Hospital. Lieut. BUTLER from U.K. Leave.																			
	28/9/18.		Scrubbing and blanching of equipment and haircutting by the Regimental Barbers was the order of the day. The Brigadier called and even the little time we have had at our disposal he was highly pleased with the state and condition of the men. Brigade issued orders to the effect that two days rest would be given and the training to commence on Monday 30th inst. During the Brigadier's call the Battalion Commander, Lieut.Col. L.M. MULLEN. D.S.O. was informed he would be proceeding to England en-route to Australia. The whole Battalion will sadly miss this most able Commander and it is sincerely hoped that he will rejoin to take us back to Australia. All ranks express their deepest regret in the above mentioned sentiments. The Officers of the Regiment gave the Colonel a farewell dinner ere his departure. Word came through that Major JAMES.M.C. would proceed back to Australia via America. A combined Church Parade was also ordered to take place at BRUCHAMPS and the General would be present. For the last three days the weather has been sultry in the day with intermittent showers. At night it has been extremely cold. Major H. JAMES returned from U.K. Leave. <table><tr><td>Fighting Strength</td><td>-</td><td>22</td><td>Offs.</td><td>459</td><td>Other Ranks.</td></tr><tr><td>Detached</td><td>-</td><td>10</td><td>"</td><td>99</td><td>"</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>-</td><td>32</td><td>"</td><td>558</td><td>"</td></tr></table>	Fighting Strength	-	22	Offs.	459	Other Ranks.	Detached	-	10	"	99	"	Total	-	32	"	558	"	
Fighting Strength	-	22	Offs.	459	Other Ranks.																	
Detached	-	10	"	99	"																	
Total	-	32	"	558	"																	
	29/9/18.		Church Parade was held at BRUCHAMPS, Chaplains McBAIN and CROTTY officiating. After the parade the Battalion marched passed the General in column of platoons and the men's neat and soldierly appearance was again commented on. Major H. JAMES. M.C. proceeded to LONGPRE en-route to Australia.																			

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Appendix

9

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Appendix 9

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GORENFLOS.	30.9.18.		<p>The Battalion proceeded to the Baths at BOUCHON by Companies. This was the first hot bath the Battalion had since leaving the forward area and notwithstanding the bad arrangements prevailing at the baths the issue of clean clothing, etc. was highly appreciated. The route to the baths is fairly long actual march being 8½ miles in all. At 3.p.m. the Battalion fell in in Mass in the village square for the purpose of attending a farewell lecture by the Commanding Officer. At the close of the farewell all ranks highly cheered the Commanding Officer, Lieut. Col. L.M. MULLEN. D.S.O. and expressed great regret at his departure. The Command of the Battalion then passed to Capt. N.G. ARMSTRONG pending the arrival of Major C.R. ROSS. At 6.p.m. Lieut. Col. MULLEN left for England by car supplied from Division. Lieut. C.E. PICKFORD from U.K. Leave. Lieut. J.W. KING from 4th. Army School. Major H. JAMES to Australia. Lieut. L. FRASER to Australia. Lieut. B. NICHOLLS to Hospital from American Army.</p>	

APPENDIX

J. Chapman Capt. d.d.

11

FOR

191 8.

No.	Subject.
1.	Battalion Order No. 167.
2.	Memorandum (Search Burials and Salvage)
3.	Battalion Order No. 168.
4.	4 Memorandum. (Inlying Picquet)
5.	Memorandum (Situation of 1st. Div. Front) -
6.	Memorandum. (Companies in advance guard) -
7.	Plan of Advance Guard.
8.	Defence Scheme.
9.	Battalion Order No. 169.
10.	Battalion Order No. 170.
11.	Addendum to Battalion Order No. 170.
12.	Battalion Order No. 171.
13.	Narrative of Operations 17.9.18 - 18.9.18.
14.	Battalion Order No. 172.
15.	Warning Order.
16.	Battalion Order No. 173.
17.	Battalion Order No. 174.
18.	Battalion Order No. 175.
19.	Training Programme.
20.	Transport Officer's Report.
21.	Quartermaster's Report.
22.	R.M.O's. Report.

$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$

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Loan Library
 9th. BATTALION ORDER NO. 1621

Battalion Headquarters.

6th. September. 1918.

Reference Sheets.

62D & 62C.

Reveille. - 5 a.m.
 Breakfast. - 6.30 a.m.
 Sick Parade. - 7 a.m.

1. The Brigade Group will move to MONT ST. QUENTIN Area by bus to-morrow.
 The Battalion will fall in in Mass at 9.15 a.m. One marker per Company will report to R.S.M. at 9 a.m.
 Dress. Full Marching Order. Felt hats to be worn and steel helmets to be carried under flap of pack. Water bottles to be filled and unexpanded portion of days ration to be carried.
2. Battalion will be in position at embussing point (road junction Q.8.b.9.9.) facing East, at 10 a.m.
 Bus Commander:- Lieut. Col. L.M. MULLEN. D.S.O.
 O.C. "Z" Company, will detail one Officer and one marker to report to Lieut. R.A. HOLLEY at embussing point at 9.30 a.m.
 This Officer will locate and be in a position to lead the Battalion into buses marked 7 to 27 (inclusive.)
3. All tents and trench shelters will be stacked at R.Q.M. Store at 6 a.m. R.Q.M. will arrange for return of these to Area Commandant GAILLY, and will obtain receipts for 55 trench shelters and 27 tents, in duplicate, and forward to this Office.
 Officers' Mess gear and Valises will be dumped at R.Q.M. Store at 7 a.m. R.Q.M. will arrange for the movement of all Canteen Stores.
4. Debussing point. - I.20.b.8.0.
5. TRANSPORT. Transport will be ready to move off in sufficient time to pass starting point (cross roads Q.24.b.5.8.) at 8.45 a.m.
 Transport Officer will arrange for 2 hacks and one mounted Orderly to report at Battalion Headquarters at 8 a.m.
 Packs of Band will be carried by Transport and will be dumped at Q.M. Store by 7 a.m.
6. ADVANCED BILLETING PARTY. Intelligence Officer and three Scouts and one Orderly will proceed to the Church at MONT ST. QUENTIN (I.15.b.6.7.) and report to Staff Captain there at 12 noon to-morrow. The Orderly detailed by Transport Officer, will arrange for billeting of Transport in new Area. Signalling Officer will arrange for 2 bicycles for Scouts proceeding on this party. Packs for these Scouts will be dumped at Q.M. Store at 7 a.m., and will be carried under arrangements made by the Q.M.
7. Cookers will be ready to proceed with Transport at 7 a.m.
8. Breakfast will be served to all Officers between 6 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. R.S.M. will arrange for breakfast to be served in Sergeants' Mess at the same time as the Officers.
9. Orderly Officer will report to the Adjutant by 9 a.m. as to the cleanliness of the camp. Company Commanders will ensure that sanitation is maintained up to the hour of departure.

P. T. O.

(2)

10. Rations will be drawn at Ration dump CLEARY at 4 p.m. to-morrow for consumption on the 8th. instant.

11. The following personnel for Leave, will report at Battalion Headquarters at 8.30 a.m. to-morrow for Leave passes. They will not proceed with the Unit, but will report to Australian Corps Reinforcement Camp near CORBIE Railway Station by noon to-morrow.

Major. H. JAMES. M.C.
 Lieut. L.W. BUTLER. M.C., D.C.M.
 No. 4220. Cpl. LONG. D.S. "Z" Company.
 No. 2700. Pte. HAYES. W.H. "Y" "
 No. 4592. Pte. WATTS. E.W. "H.Q." "
 494. W.O. THOMPSON. J.C. "
 No. 1038. Pte. GARDINER. T. "Y" Company.
 No. 6792. Pte. PEARSON. F. "Y" "
 No. 1787. Pte. HAINS. J. "Y" "
 No. 5326. Pte. ARMSTRONG. M. "H.Q." "
 No. 3941. Pte. TREAHER. J.M. "Z" Company.
 No. 5376. Pte. HOLLOWAY. H.S. "X" Company.

Lieut. L.W. BUTLER. M.C., D.C.M. will take charge of this part.

12. "Z" Company will detail a party of 1 N.C.O. and 7 other ranks to strike Officers' Mess tent and have same stacked at R.Q.M. Store at 7 a.m.

Lieut. Adjutant 9th. Battalion.

Battalion Headquarters,

8th. September. 1918.

MEMORANDUM.

Reference Sheet. 620.

The Brigade Group will commence Search Burial and Salvage parties.
 This Unit has been allotted an area as under:-

Square 9 East of Main Wood through A and C and squares
 I 10 and 11.

Distribution to Companies.

"X" Company square 9 East of Main Wood through A and C.

"Y" Company square I 10.

"Z" Company square I 11.

A main dump will be formed on road in I 10 central and all Salvage collected by Companies will be transported to that location.

Companies will submit to Battalion Orderly Room by 6 p.m. a report, showing -

- (1) Detail of Salvage.
- (2) British burials.
- (3) German burials.
- (4) Horses or Mules.

Transport Officer will arrange for a G.S. Limbered Waggon to report to each "X", "Y", and "Z" Companies respectively, to accompany salvage parties and help in transport of material collected, to Battalion Dump.

Limbers will report at 9 a.m. and all Companies will be prepared to move at that time to their areas.

for *A. Raff* Lieut.
 Adjutant 9th. Battalion.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 168.

Battalion Headquarters,
9th. September. 1918.

Reference Sheet-620.

1. The 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade will move in Support of Divisional Sector to-morrow 10th. inst.
2. The Battalion will fall in in Mass at 2.45 p.m. One marker per Company, will report to R.S.M. at Battalion Headquarters at 2.35 p.m. Dress. Full Marching Order. Steel helmets will be worn. Water bottles to be filled.
3. ADVANCE BILLETING PARTY. Intelligence Officer, and 1 N.C.O. per Company, will move to new Area in J.18.s.2.G. at 9 a.m. to-morrow. (Battalion Headquarters J.18.s.2.G.) This party will be prepared to meet the Battalion and lead their Companies into new Area.
4. Order of March :- "H.Q.", "Y", "Z", and "X" Companies.
5. The following distances will be maintained on the march :- 200 yards between Companies and Transport and 500 yards between Units.
6. NUCLEUS BATTALION. Personnel representing Battalion Nucleus, will report to Major A.M. PHILLIPS, 11th. Battalion, at I.22.b.3.5. at 11 a.m. to-morrow. Capt. F. DONALDSON will be in charge of this party. Lieut. E.J. FORWARD and Lieut. S. SHAW will also proceed with Nucleus. Personnel submitted by Companies to-day, will be slightly altered, as a Divisional Commander's Guard has to be selected to-morrow, and will be proceeding to Nucleus Battalion. Companies will be advised of personnel selected, who will replace corresponding number of names on nominal roll already submitted. Nucleus Battalion will be billeted in PERONNE.
7. INLYING PICQUET. On reaching the new Area, "X" Company will constitute the Inlying Picquet. This Company will be prepared to move at a moments notice fully equipped.
8. GAS & ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUARDS. Officer Commanding Inlying Picquet will mount two Lewis Guns and the remaining Company one gun each during the whole time the Battalion is in the Support Area. Gas Guard will be furnished by all Companies.
9. TRANSPORT. Transport and baggage wagons will accompany Unit to new area. Transport Officer will arrange hacks for all mounted Officers to be at Battalion Headquarters at 2.30 p.m. Officers' valises and mess gear will be stacked at R.Q.M. Store at 1 p.m.
10. RATIONS. Rations will be issued to-morrow from Supply Dump located at J.18.s.1.1. (sheet 620.) at 10 a.m. Rations for Nucleus Battalion. Personnel selected, will be rationed to and including 11th. inst. by this Unit, after which date they will be rationed by Divisional Reinforcement Camp, PERONNE. Transport Officer will arrange to notify Battalion Headquarters of completion of move, and of location of Unit Wagon Lines.

P. T. O.

APPENDIX

THE AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 100

Battalion Headquarters
2nd. September, 1918.

Reference Sheet 625.

(2)

(continues)

The 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will move in support of Divisional Sector to-morrow 10th. inst.

The Battalion will fall in at 8.45 p.m. One company will report to R.S.M. at Battalion Headquarters at 8.30 p.m. Full marching order. Staff helmets will be worn. Banners to be carried.

11. **CARE OF ANIMALS.** Care must be taken in selecting position for horse lines and in every case animals must be protected from bomb bursts. Casualties to horses or mules are to be notified to Brigade Headquarters before 12 noon daily by Transport Officer.

12. Advanced Divisional Dump is now located at K.13.c. central (near HAMEL.)

DISTRIBUTION.

1. Commanding Officer.
2. "X" Company.
3. "Y" "
4. "Z" "
5. "H.Q." "
6. R.Q.M.
7. R.M.O.
8. Transport Officer.
9. R.S.M.
10. 3rd. A.I. Bde.
11. File.
- 12/14. War Diary.
15. Intelligence Officer.

[Signature]
Adjutant 9th. Battalion.

Transport and baggage wagons will accompany units to new area. Transport Officer will arrange horses for all mounted officers to be at Battalion Headquarters at 2.30 p.m. Officers' valises and mess gear will be stacked at R.Q.M. store at 1 p.m.

10. **RATIONS.** Rations will be issued to-morrow from Supply Dump located at J.13.a.1. (Sheet 625.) at 10 a.m. Rations for 9th. Battalion. Personnel attached will be rationed to and including 11th. inst. by this Unit after which date they will be rationed by Divisional Refectory Camp, PERMANENT. Transport Officer will arrange to notify Battalion Headquarters of completion of movement of location of Unit wagon lines.

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,

11th. September 1918.

MESSAGE.

---ALARM---

In case of an alarm, the Inlying Picquet will be responsible that Battalion Headquarters and Companies are warned in the shortest possible time.

A post from this Picquet will be established in Company Line at a most central point.

In the event of a sudden attack in force by the enemy, the general line of defence to be occupied by the Inlying Picquet at once, will be as follows:-

J.12.d.4.9. - J.15.b. central.

The remainder of the Battalion, on the alarm sounding, will fall in in valley opposite Battalion Headquarters and will be distributed on the defensive line allotted this Unit.

Transport will stand to, and await further instructions from Battalion Headquarters.

A. Chapman
.....Lieut.
Adjutant 9th. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. "X" Company.
2. "Y" " "
3. "Z" " "
4. "H.Q." " "
5. Commanding Officer.
6. Transport Officer.
7. Quartermaster.
8. File.
9. 11. War Diary.

---ALARM---

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
12th, September, 1918.

Map Reference.
Sheet. 62c.N.E.

MEMORANDUM.

The Situation on the 1st. Australian Divisional Front is as follows :-

The 1st. Brigade holds the Divisional Front with 2nd. Battalion, right line Battalion; 4th. Battalion, left line Battalion; 1st. Battalion, right support Battalion; 3rd. Battalion, left support Battalion.

Line Battalions have three (3) Companies in the line and one in Reserve.

When this Unit moves forward it will act as left line support Battalion with Battalion Headquarters situated at K.23.a.2.5.

Commencing at 2.p.m. to-day one Officer per Company will go forward with the Intelligence Officer and reconnoitre the position of the left support Battalion. The Intelligence Officer will call at the left Battalion Headquarters and ascertain all the information regarding the front and the Support Battalion.

On the 13th. inst. one Officer per Company at 9.a.m. and 2.p.m. daily, will go forward and reconnoitre ground as mentioned above.

Transport Officer will arrange for Hacks to be at Battalion Headquarters at 9.a.m. and 2.p.m. daily.

On Officers dismounting in the vicinity of ROISEL every precaution will be taken in regard to the safety of horses. The Senior Officer of the party will be held responsible that this is carried out.

J. L. Chapman
.....Lieut.
Adjutant. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. O.C. "X" Company. |
| 3. O.C., "Y" Company. | 4. O.C. "Z" Company. |
| 5. Intelligence Officer. | 6. Transport Officer. |
| 7. H.S.M. | 8/10. War Diary. |
| 11. File. | 12. Spare. |

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,

12th, September, 1918.

Map Reference.
Sheet. 62c. N.E.MEMORANDUM.COMPANIES IN ADVANCE GUARD.

- "X" Company - Outpost line situated with right flank resting on road on J.11.c.8.5. and left flank on road in J.17.b.8.3. You will continue the advance as Advance Guard of the Battalion, travelling in a South Westerly direction in accordance with the locations given. Your line of advance will be bounded on the right by BUIRE WOOD and on the left by cross roads in J.17.d.2.5.
- "Y" Company - Outpost line situated with right flank in J.12.c.55.50. and left flank at J.11.d.40.65. You will act as Advance Guard of Battalion, travelling in a Northerly direction. You will be bounded on the right flank by the north-westerly point of TINCOURT WOOD and on the left by section VENTHUX WOOD in J.5.d.
- "Z" Company. Outpost line situated with right flank at J.18.a.8.1. and left flank at J.12.c.0.2. You will act as Advance Guard to the Battalion travelling in a north-easterly direction. Your right boundary will be a line drawn from J.8.a.8.1. to HAMEL COPSE in K.17.c. and left flank in line drawn from J.12.c.0.2., extreme southern point of TINCOURT WOOD, to K.7.a. Central.

These practices will be carried out in accordance with the instructions laid down by the Commanding Officer and will commence at 9.a.m. 13th. inst.

L. Chapman
.....Lieut.

Adjutant. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

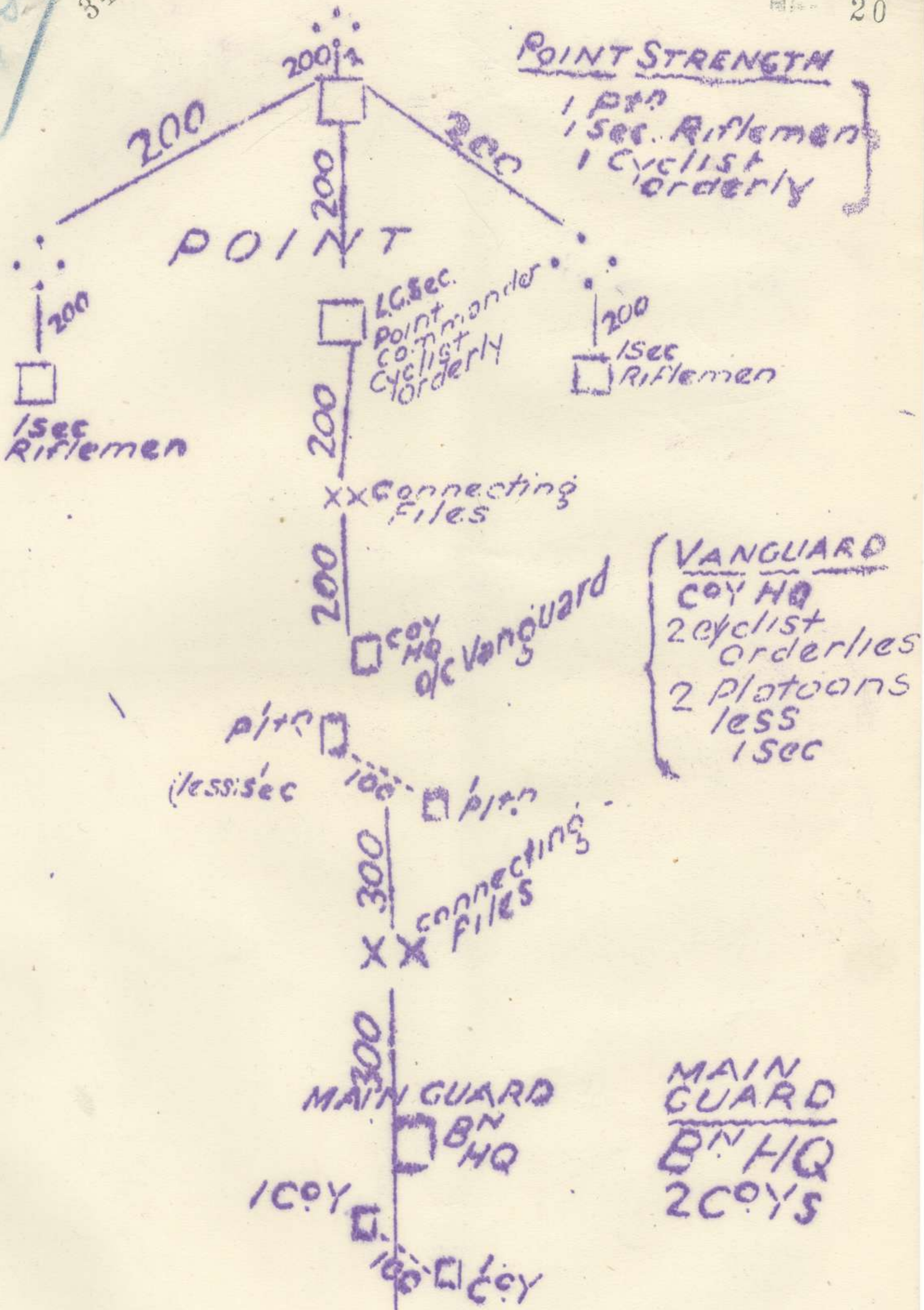
DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. O.C. "X" Company. |
| 3. O.C. "Y" Company. | 4. O.C. "Z" Company. |
| 5. Intelligence Officer. | 6. File. |
| 7/9. War Diary. | 10. R.S.M. |
| 11. Spare. | |

Battalion Advance Column

APPENDIX

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12/9/18

APPENDIX

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,

12th. September, 1918.

Map Reference.
Sheet. 62c.N.E.

DEFENCE SCHEME.

1. GENERAL IDEA. In the event of a sudden attack in force by the enemy, the general lines of defence to be occupied by Units of the 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade are as follows:-
 - 9th. Bn. J.12.d.4.9. - J.18.b. Central.
 - 10th. Bn. J.18.b. Sector, HAMEL.
 - 11th. Bn. High Ground, K.9.d. and K.15.b.
 - 12th. Bn. Trench System, K.25.b. & d. - K.32.a. & b. - KK33.a. & c.

O.C., 3rd. A.L.T.M.B. will send one Section to each Battalion and O.C., 3rd. M.G. Company will also send one Section to each Battalion.
3rd. Field Company Engineers will remain in Reserve.
2. DISPOSITIONS. On receipt of message "Battle Positions" from Battalion Headquarters, in the event of an alarm being given, the following dispositions will be taken up by the 9th. Battalion.
 - "Z" Company - Left line Company in trench running from J.12.d.4.9. to J.12.d.5.2.
 - "Y" Company - In trench running from J.12.d.5.2. to J.18.b. Central.
 - "X" Company - will be in support in trench running from J.12.c.7.7. to J.18.a.9.7.

Battalion Headquarters will remain in the present location, J.18.a.9.7.
Regimental Aid Post in present location.
3. VICKERS MACHINE GUNS. Two Vickers Machine Guns will be emplaced in trench at J.12.d.4.7. approximately. The actual positions will be selected by the Machine Gun Officer attached to the Battalion. The remaining two guns will be at support company headquarters.
4. STOKES MORTARS. These will be located at Battalion Headquarters and sent forward in accordance with the development of the situation.
5. FORWARD COMPANIES. Company Commanders of line companies will take all precautions by establishing listening posts and carrying out a vigorous patrol policy of the sector to be defended by this Battalion.
6. RESERVE S.A.A. & GRENADES. Transport Officer will arrange for the reserve of S.A.A. and Grenades to be in readiness in limbers to be moved forward to Company Headquarters immediately on the Alarm being given.

P.T.O.

APPENDIX 8

(2)

7. COMMUNICATIONS. Signalling Officer will arrange for all Companies to be linked up with Battalion Headquarters by telephone when in position. Companies will at once notify Battalion Headquarters of their locations and dispositions.
8. RECONNAISSANCE OF AREA TO BE OCCUPIED BY COMPANIES. Officers commanding line and support companies would ensure that every Officer, N.C.O., and man knows the actual position he will take up in the event of an Alarm. This will include a reconnaissance of the flank Units.
9. GENERAL. O.C., Companies, will ensure that their men are at all times ready to occupy their Battle positions detailed for the Companies. Water Bottles will always be filled.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

L. J. P. ...
.....Lieut.

Adjutant. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. 3rd. A.I. Brigade. |
| 3. O.C. "X" Company. | 4. O.C. "Y" Company. |
| 5. O.C. "Z" Company. | 6. O.C. "H.Q." Company. |
| 7. Transport Officer. | 8. 10th. Battalion. |
| 9. Intelligence Officer. | 10. 1st. M.G. Battalion. |
| 11. 3rd. A.L.T.M. Battery. | 12. R.Q.M. |
| 13. R.H.O. | 14. R.S.M. |
| 15. File. | 16/18. War Diary. |
| 19. Spare. | |

Issued by Runner at

34 War Diary

Copy No. 14

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO.169.

Battalion Headquarters,

15th, September, 1918.

Map Reference.

Sheet 62a.N.E. - 62b.N.W.

1/20,000.

INTENTION.

- I. The 1st. Australian Division will advance the line, at a time and date, to be notified later, to RED LINE as per attached Map.
3rd. Brigade will attack on right, 1st. Brigade on left.
The 4th. Australian Division will attack on right of 3rd. Brigade.
The 2nd. Australian Infantry Brigade will be in Divisional Reserve and will be in present front line.

BOUNDARIES.

2. Brigade right, a line from L.27.a.4.0. - L.27.b.99.80. - L.22.b.8.8. - L.23. Central - L.24.a.5.2. - G.19.b.99.40. - G.20.a.99.60.
Left Boundary, a line from L.14.d.3.6. - L.15. Central - L.16.a.99.999 - L.10.d.99.50. - L.11. Central, thence along grid line to L.12. to G.7. - G.8. Central - G.9. Central.
Inter Battalion Boundary, a line from L.20.b.7.0. - L.21.b.99.80. - L.16.d.99.50. - L.17. Central - L.17.b.99.30. - L.18.a.90.30. - G.13.b.20.30. - G.14.b.90.30. - G.15.b.90.30.
Inter Company Boundary, left Company "Y" :- right boundary L.20.b.5.8. - Left boundary L.14.d.3.6.
Right Company "X" :- Right Boundary L.20.b.8.0. - Left boundary L.20.b.5.8.

OBJECTIVES.

3. Objectives are allotted as follows:-
First objective line marked GREEN, to be taken by 11th. and 12th. Battalions, with 12th. Battalion on right.
Second objective, line marked RED, will be captured by 9th. and 10th. Battalions, 10th. Battalion on right.
Third objective, Line of Exploitation, marked BLUE, will be exploited by 9th. and 10th. Battalions, acting in close co-operation.

ASSEMBLY POSITIONS.

4. The Battalion will assemble on tape lines and be in position at ZERO minus 30 minutes, as per attached plan.
Tape Lines will be laid under Battalion arrangements
Battalion tape lines will be coordinated by Brigade Intelligence Officer.
The flanks of the Assembly Position for each Company by an arrow marked with the Company and flank.
Companies will arrange for one guide per platoon to reconnoitre the route to Assembly Position.

METHOD OF
ATTACK.

5. (a) The attack will be carried out on the Leap Frog principal, each Battalion deploying two Companies in the front line and one in support.
 9th. Battalion will attack with "X" Company on right and "Y" Company on left; each Company deploying with two platoons in front line and one in support.
 "Z" Company will move forward in rear of "X" and "Y" Companies, covering their respective fronts, and on reaching the first objective will commence mopping up the whole of the Battalion area between the first and second objectives and when complete will become the Battalion Reserve. On reaching the second objective consolidation will commence at once.
 Strong patrols will be sent forward by "Z" Company to LINE OF EXPLOITATION, followed by supports, unless enemy opposition is very strong.
 Line of Exploitation will be occupied by 9th. and 10th. Battalions and consolidated.
 One Section of Vickers Machine Guns and one Section of Light Trench Mortars, will move forward in rear of Support Company. The Section of Vickers Guns will not be used until first objective is passed, as they are Brigade Reserve up to that point.
- (b) All Companies will advance in lines of sections in file at 50 yards distance, until first objective is reached. The formation to be adopted then will be; "X" and "Y" Companies' Screen of Scouts, remainder in lines of sections with 50 yards between lines.
 "Z" Company lines of sections with 50 yards between lines.
- (c) At ZERO hour all troops will move forward and endeavour to push forward to ground between jumping off trench and first objective, to escape enemy barrage.
 On no account will Companies use existing Trenches when consolidating but will go forward, as the enemy has all existing trenches well ranged.
- (d) Stages of the attack are as follows:-
 At ZERO, Artillery and Machine Gun barrage will be put down in front of jumping off trench for three minutes. Attacking troops will then move forward as close to the barrage as possible.
 Barrage then moves forward 100 yards every three minutes for two lifts, then 100 yards every two minutes, resting one hour on first objective; when 1st. objective will be captured and consolidated.
 During this period Companies will endeavour to get forward of old trench system and re-organize their Companies in order to push on to the second objective, when the barrage moves forward again.
 If the troops detailed for the first objective are unable to capture the first objective, the troops detailed for the second objective will be ready to help if necessary.

APPENDIX

(3)

METHOD OF
ATTACK. Cont.

5. (a) Tanks. Instructions as laid down in S.S. 214, (issued to Companies), relative to tanks, will be duly promulgated to all ranks. One Tank will assist in attack and will move under the barrage on following routes:-

"A" Tank South of Trench in L.21.a. and L.15.d. thence FERVAGUE Trench - thence Sunken Roads in L.16.b. - KAFFIR COPSE and ZULU COPSE and sunken roads in L.11.a. and thence through VILLARET and will specially deal with following points - Sunken roads - L.16.b. and VILLARET.

CONSOLIDATION.

6. Each Company after having consolidated its objective, will be re-organized with a view to prompt action for delivering local counter-attacks should the occasion demand. To this end flank and forward routes will be reconnoitred.

BATTALION
HEADQUARTERS.

7. Battalion Headquarters will be prepared by 3rd. Field Coy. A.E. as follows;
 Brigade Headquarters - K.30.a.3.3.
 Forward Report Centre - L.26.a.
 9th. & 11th. Battns. - L.19.d.
 10th. & 12th. Battns. - L.26.a.
 Field Company will assist in construction of Battalion Headquarters for 9th. and 10th. Battalions for final objective in positions to be selected.

COMMUNICATIONS.

8. Signalling Officer will arrange for Telephone communication between Battalion Headquarters and Brigade and Companies.
 3rd. Field Company will construct overland track (which will be taped) for pack transport and later for wagons. Trenches will be bridged and there will be one track on each Battalion front.

DIRECTION.

9. The line of advance will be practically due East. Intelligence Officer will be responsible that the direction is maintained and will wear a distinguishing badge consisting of a piece of calico. Incendiary Shells will be fired one a minute on Inter-Battalion boundary beyond shrapnel barrage to assist in maintaining direction.

MACHINE GUNS.

10. Artillery barrage will be supplemented with machine gun barrage of one Battalion and 2 Companies of M.Gs. 3rd. Machine Gun Company will detail a section to each of the attacking Battalions. Until first objective is captured the section allotted to 9th. and 10th. Battalions will be Brigade Reserve and will not be used by those Battalions. When first objective is captured the two sections allotted to 11th. and 12th. Battalions will become Brigade Reserve for use in assisting 9th. and 10th. Battalions should Brigade Headquarters order it. Sections will move with Battalions to whom allotted until ordered by Brigade Headquarters to go elsewhere.

(4)

BIGHT TRENCH
MORTARS.

11. Two guns will be allotted to each Battalion. Battalions will be responsible for carrying of ammunition for Stokes guns. These guns will move with Battalions and act under orders of C.Os. concerned.

DRESS.

12. Fighting Order. All men except Signallers, Lewis Gunners and Runners will carry 170 rounds S.A.A., 2 Grenades and one Ground Flare per man. Sixteen Magazines per Lewis Gun will be carried. Company Officers will be dressed in all respects the same as the men. Proportion of tools will be carried by each platoon. Quantity will be notified later.

TRANSPORT.

13. Transport Officer will arrange for pack horses to carry forward S.A.A. and tools to forward dumps to be selected. Location of dumps will be submitted to Transport Officer through Battalion Headquarters.

GENERAL.

14. Reconnaissance. Reconnaissances of the front will be made by all Officers commencing at 2.p.m. 15th. inst.

O.P.S. Intelligence Officer will select a likely O.P. beforehand.

Souveniring. Men must be forbidden to neglect their duty for souveniring.

Warning. Troops will be warned against Booby-traps. 3rd. Field Coy. will detail an Officer and party to inspect captured territory for booby-traps.

INFORMATION.

15. Officers will keep in close touch with Battalion Headquarters by sending back all information of importance. Negative information is of the utmost value.
16. ACKNOWLEDGE.

S. J. Chapman
.....Lieut.

Adjutant. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. 3rd. A.I. Brigade. |
| 3. 10th. Battalion. | 4. "X" Company. |
| 5. "Y" Company. | 6. "Z" Company. |
| 7. "H.QRS." Company | 8. R.Q.M. |
| 9. R.S.M. | 10. Transport Officer. |
| 11. Intelligence Officer. | 12. R.M.O. |
| 13/15. War Diary. | 16. File. |
| 17/19. Spares. | |

Issued by Runner at.....

34
SECRET.

Copy No. 15

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 170.

Battalion Headquarters,

16th, September, 1918.

Map Reference.)
 Sheet 62a.N.E.) 1/20,000.
 Sheet 62b.N.W.)

INFORMATION.

1. The 4th. Army in conjunction with the 1st. French Army on the Right and the 3rd. Army on the Left, is to attack the enemy's defensive positions in front of the Hindenburg Line.

INTENTION.

2. The 1st. Australian Division will advance the line at a time and date to be notified later to RED Line as per attached Map.
 3rd. Brigade will attack on Right, 1st. Brigade on left.
 The 4th. Australian Division will attack on Right of 3rd. Brigade.
 The 2nd. Australian Infantry Brigade will be in Divisional Reserve and will be in present Front Line.

DETAIL OF TROOPS.

3. (i) The 3rd. A.I. Bde. will attack on the right of Divisional Sector.
 (ii) One half section (2 tanks) is allotted to the Brigade.
 (iii) One troop of 13th. Light Horse Regiment is allotted to the Brigade.

BOUNDARIES.

4. Brigade right, a line from L.27.a.4.0. - L.27.b.99.80. - L.22.b.8.8. - L.23. Central - L.24.a.5.2. - G.19.b.99.40. - G.20.a.99.60. Left Boundary, A line from L.14.d.3.6. - L.15. Central. - L.16.a.99.99. - L.10.d.99.50. - L.11. Central, thence along grid line to L.12. to G.7. - G.8. Central - G.9. Central. Inter Battalion Boundary, A line from L.20.b.7.0. - L.21.b.99.80. - L.16.d.99.50. - L.17. Central. - L.17.b.99.30. - L.18.a.90.30. - G.13.b.20.30. - G.14.b.90.30. - G.15.b.90.30. Inter Company Boundary, left Company "Y" :- Right Boundary L.20.b.5.8. - Left Boundary L.14.d.3.6. Right Company "X" :- Right Boundary L.20.b.8.0. - Left Boundary L.20.b.5.8.

ARTILLERY.

5. 8 Field Artillery Brigades will be available to cover the Divisional Front.
 The Field Artillery to cover the 3rd. A.I. Bde. advance is to be grouped as under :-

Group Commander - Lieut.Col.E.T. DEAN. D.S.O.
 4 Brigades Field Artillery.

A proportion of heavy artillery has been allotted to the Brigade and will deal with the following targets prior to attack day, and will assist by destructive and counter-battery shoots during the attack.

(2)

APPENDIX 10

ARTILLERY (Cont)

3. All trench systems on map.
 Sunken roads in L.27.a. - L.21.d. - L.27.a. -
 L.21.a.
 L.22.a.
 L.16.b. and d.
 L.11.c. and d.
 L.17.b. and d.
 L.23.b.
 L.18.a.
 Village of VILLARET.
 Woods -- BROSSE WOOD -- L.21.
 ZULU and KAFFIR COPSE -- L.17.a.
 CHATEAU -- L.23.a.
 FERVAGUE FARM -- L.16.c.8.8.
 QUARRIES -- Squares L.8. and 14.

MACHINE GUNS.

6. The Artillery barrage on the Divisional Front is to be supplemented with machine gun barrage of 1 Battalion and 2 Companies of Machine Guns. The 3rd. M.G. Company, will detail a section to each of attacking Battalions. Until first objective is captured the section allotted to 9th. and 10th. Battalions will be Brigade Reserve, and will not be used by these Battalions. When 1st. objective is captured the two sections allotted to 11th. and 12th. Battalions will become Brigade Reserve for use in assisting 9th. and 10th. Battalions if ordered to do so by Brigade Headquarters.
 Sections will move with Battalions to whom allotted unless ordered by Brigade Headquarters to go elsewhere.
 The 11th. Machine Gun Company, will move forward in rear of the 11th. and 12th. Battalions and will carry out the following tasks :-
 (a) Cover the consolidation of the first objective by direct fire.
 (b) Engage the eastern edge of the village of VILLARET and trenches in L.12.c. -- Trench system in G.7.d. -- Quarries in G.14.b.

TRENCH MORTARS.

7. Medium Trench Mortars will also co-operate in the attack and will place smoke barrage on CARPEZA COPSE and BROSSE WOOD, No.2.

Light Trench Mortars. Two guns will be allotted to each Battalion -- Battalions will be responsible for carrying of ammunition for the guns. These guns will move with Battalions and act under orders of Commanding Officers.

OBJECTIVES.

8. Objectives are allotted as follows :-
 First objective line marked GREEN, to be taken by 11th. and 12th. Battalions, with 12th Battalion on right.
 Second objective, line marked RED, will be captured by 9th. and 10th. Battalions, 10th. Battalion on right.
 Third objective, Line of Exploitation, marked BLUE, will be exploited by 9th. and 10th. Battalions acting in close co-operation.

APPENDIX 10

(3)

ASSEMBLY POSITIONS.

9. The Battalion will assemble on tape lines and be in position at ZERO minus 60 minutes, as per attached plan. Tape lines will be laid under Battalion arrangements. Battalion tape lines will be coordinated by Bde. Intelligence Officer. The flanks of the assembly position for each Company, by an arrow marked with the Company and flank. Companies will arrange for one guide per platoon to reconnoitre the route to assembly position.

METHOD OF ATTACK.

10. (a) The attack will be carried out on the Leap Frog principle, each Battalion deploying two companies in the front line and one in support. 9th. Battalion will attack with "X" Company on the right and "Y" Company on the left; each Company deploying with two platoons in front line and one in support. "Z" Company will move forward in rear of "X" and "Y" Companies, covering their respective fronts, and on reaching the first objective will commence mapping up the whole of the Battalion area between the first and second objectives, and when complete, will become the Battalion reserve. On reaching the second objective consolidation will commence at once. Strong patrols will be sent forward by "Z" Company to LINE OF EXPLOITATION, followed by supports. Unless enemy opposition is very strong Line of Exploitation will be occupied by 9th. and 10th. Battalions and consolidated. The 11th. and 12th. Battalions will in this case move to the line of 2nd. objective. One section of Vickers Machine Guns and one section of Light Trench Mortars will move forward in rear of support company. The section of Vickers Guns will not be used until first objective is passed, as they are Brigade Reserve up to that point.
- (b) All Companies will advance in lines of section in file at 50 yards distance, until first objective is reached. The formation to be adopted then will be 3- "X" and "Y" Companies' Screen of Scouts, remainder in lines of sections with 50 yards between lines. "Z" Company lines of sections with 50 yards between lines.
- (c) At ZERO hour all troops will move forward and endeavour to push forward to ground between jumping off trench and first objective, to escape enemy barrage. On no account will Companies use existing trenches when consolidating but will go forward, as the enemy has all existing trenches well ranged.

(4).

METHOD OF
ATTACK (Cont.) 20.

(d) Stages of the attack are as follows :-
At ZERO hour, artillery and machine gun barrages open on line 200 yards forward of Brigade tape line, while attackers move forward as close as possible to the barrage.
The first barrage lift will be at ZERO plus 3 minutes.
The second lift will be at ZERO plus 5 minutes.
The next and succeeding lifts up to and including the eleventh lift will be at intervals of 3 minutes.
The twelfth and following lifts will be made at intervals of 4 minutes.
All lifts will be of 100 yards measured along the Inter-Corps boundary.

(e) The attacking Battalions for the second objective (9th. and 10th.) will remain on the halt line (1st. objective) until ZERO plus 3 hours 10 minutes when the advance will be continued to the RED line. During this period Companies will endeavour to get forward of old trench system and re-organise their Companies in order to push on to the second objective, when the barrage moves forward again.
If the troops detailed for the first objective are unable to capture the first objective, the troops detailed for the second objective will be ready to help if necessary. During advance first waves must keep going and leave the mopping up to the troops moving in rear that have been specially detailed for the work. Companies will adhere to the principal of advancing along the high ground and avoiding valleys as far as possible, but must take steps to deal with enemy pockets left in gaps as soon as possible.
Vickers and Lewis Machine Guns emplaced on the high ground will command enemy positions in the valleys and on the lower slopes of the hills and will assist the moppers-up in giving covering fire from these commanding positions.

(f) Right Line Company will make good the ridge L.17.b., L.18.a. and G.13.b.
In exploitation, G.14.a.

Left Line Company in exploitation G.8.c.
In making good these pronounced ridges line companies will act in close co-operation with Units on their flanks.
O.C. right line company will keep in close touch with O.C. left line company 10th Battalion while ridge in L.17.b., L.18.a. and G.13.b. is being made good.

(g) Tanks. Instructions as laid down in S.5.224 issued to Companies relative to Tanks will be duly promulgated to all ranks. One tank will assist in the attack and will move under the barrage on following routes :-

APPENDIX

(5)

METHOD OF
ATTACK. (Cont.)

10. (g) "A" Tank south of trench in L.21.a. and L.15.d. thence FERTAGUE trench - thence sunken roads in L.16.b. - KAFFIR COPSE and ZULU COPSE and sunken roads in L.11.c. and thence through VILLERET and will specially deal with the following points. - Sunken roads - L.16.b. and VILLERET.

CONSOLIDATION.

11. Each Company after having consolidated its objective, will be reorganised with a view to prompt action for delivering local counter-attacks should the occasion demand. To this end, flank and forward routes will be reconnoitred.

BATTLE
HEADQUARTERS.

12. Battle Headquarters will be prepared by 3rd. Field Coy. A.M. as follows :-
Brigade Headquarters - L.26.c.5-7.
9th. Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P. L.19.d.
11th. Battalion Headquarters L.19.d.
10th. Battalion Headquarters L.26.a. and c.
12th. Battalion Headquarters L.26.a. and c.
Field Coy. will assist in construction of Battalion Headquarters for 9th. and 10th. Battalions for final objective at a position to be selected in consultation with Commanding Officers concerned.

COMMUNICATIONS.

13. Signalling Officer will arrange for telephonic communication between Battalion Headquarters and Brigade and Companies.
Runner-relay post will be formed at a location to be notified later between front line Companies and Battalion Headquarters. Runners from front line will carry to relay post and personnel of relay post will carry to Battalion Headquarters and vice-versa.
O.C. Companies will attach two runners to Signalling Officer for this duty. They will report to Battalion Headquarters in battle location at L.19.d.
Companies will draw from Signalling Officer, 2 reels of cable, one Lucas Lamp, and one D5 Telephone each. They will be responsible that all communication gear proceeds with Company Headquarters during the advance.
3rd. Field Company A.M. will prepare tracks and build bridges over trenches for transport to dumps at L.19.d.1-3.

DIRECTION.

14. The line of advance will be practically due East. Intelligence Officer will be responsible that the direction is maintained and will wear a distinguishing badge consisting of a piece of calico.
Incendiary shells will be fired one a minute on Inter-Battalion boundary beyond chrapnel barrage to assist in maintaining direction.

APPENDIX

(6)

DRESS.

15. **Fighting Orders.** All men except Signallers, Lewis Gunners and Runners will carry 170 rounds S.A.A., 2 Grenades and one Ground Flare per man. Sixteen magazines per Lewis Gun will be carried. Company Officers will be dressed in all respects the same as the men. Proportion of tools will be carried by each platoon. Quantity will be notified later. Proportion of Wire Cutters will be issued to all Companies and additional 24 hours rations will be carried. Packs and Valises will be dumped at Battalion wagon lines.

TRANSPORT.

16. Transport Officer will arrange for pack horses to carry forward S.A.A. and tools to forward dump to be selected. Location of dumps will be submitted to Transport Officer through Battalion Headquarters. Baggage wagons will remain with Unit transport.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

17. The 1st. Australian Division P.O.W. Cage will be established on forward slope of hill in K.27.b. The D.A.P.M. will have screen of M.M. Policemen stationed along the Divisional front, ~~and~~ at an approximate distance of 1 mile from the front line. This screen will cover all routes from the front line in the Divisional area. Adjacent flanks in flank areas will also be watched. Company escorts will be instructed to take prisoners of war to the rear and to deliver them to the first 1st. Australian Division M.M. Policemen they meet, who will hand the escort a typed receipt. Escorts will be instructed that in the unlikely event of missing members of the M.M.P. screen they will proceed to the Divisional P.O.W. Cage in K.27.b. The D.A.P.M. will keep a close check of the number of prisoners taken by particular Units.

RATION SUPPLY.

18. Until further orders the Brigade Ration REF-filling point will remain at present location - J.23.c.9.9. The Brigade Q.M. - Capt. G. EGG, 11th. Battalion, will act for the Staff Captain and determine the location of the supply dump, in consultation with the Brigade supply Officer. Battalions will deliver rations to the M.G. and T.M. personnel attached, M.G. Company and T.M. Battery, will deliver rations to Battalion Q.M. Stores.

DUMPS.

19. The Left Battalion dump is situated at L.19.d.1.3. will contain the following stores :-

40,000 rounds S.A.A.
 144 L.G. Magazines.
 2,000 No.36 Grenades.
 250 No.23 Grenades.
 5 Boxes Verey Lights White 1"
 500 Stokes 3" shells, complete.
 100 tins water.
 300 shovels
 150 picks
 72 S.O.S. Grenades.
 500 No.27 Grenades.

(2)

BRIGADE AMMUNITION REPAIRING POINT.

20. This refilling point and mobile reserve of S.A.A. and tools will be formed by withdrawing two G.S. Limbers from each Battalion and 3rd. M.G. Coy., and one G.S. Wagon for tools from Brigade Headquarters.

These Limbers will report loaded with S.A.A. and Mills Rifle Grenades as laid down at the last meeting of Q.Mr. and T.Os.

Each Limber will be accompanied by one brakesman. O.C. "Z" Company will detail two men as overhauling and detonating party to report to Transport Officer at a time and place to be notified later. This personnel will be rationed by Brigade Headquarters, but animals will be rationed by Battalions, as Brigade Headquarters transport is insufficient to transport fodder.

WATER SUPPLY.

21. As the supply of petrol tins for sending forward water is very limited, salvage of petrol tins must be carried out at all times during and after the operations.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

22. Three squads and one N.C.O. from the Bearer Division, 3rd. Field Ambulance, will report to the R.M.O. on the afternoon of the 17th. inst. They will be rationed by this Battalion. A.D.S. will be located at TINCOURT but will move forward to K.15.c.1.8. when the situation permits. W.L.P. will be at sheet 62.c. N.E. - K.29.d.8.8. Alterations in location will be notified direct to R.A.P. The R.M.O. will be responsible for keeping the A.D.S. advised of the location of the R.A.P. and any changes must be notified at once both to A.D.S. and to Brigade Headquarters by R.M.O. The Y.M.C.A. will establish coffee stalls in the vicinity of K.29.d.8.8. and K.30.a.3.3. to meet walking wounded cases.

GENERAL.

23. O.P.s. Intelligence Officer will select likely O.P. beforehand. This Officer will also detail one scout as an observer to report to Brigade Headquarters at once to receive instructions and a map. This observer will accompany tank operating on our front.

Souvenirizing. Men must be forbidden to neglect their duty for souvenirizing.

Warning. Troops will be warned against Booby-Traps. 3rd. Field Company A.E. will detail an Officer and party to inspect captured territory for booby-traps.

LIAISON OFFICERS.

Lieut. S. SHAW will act as Liaison Officer between flank Battalions Headquarters. One Artillery Liaison Officer will be attached to this Battalion Headquarters.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,

17th, September, 1918.

ADDENDUM TO BATTALION ORDER NO.170.COUNTER-ATTACK
MACHINES.

1. (i) From Zero onwards counter-attack machines will be constantly in the air with the object of observing hostile concentrations or abnormal movement.
(ii) In the event of an enemy concentration indicating a counter attack, the counter-attack aeroplanes will signal this information to the artillery by wireless. In the case of a counter-attack actually developing a WHITE parachute flare will be fired by the aeroplane in the direction of the troops moving for the impending counter-attack, for the information of the infantry.

TANK LIASION
MACHINES.

2. The 8th. Squadron R.A.F. will work with the Tanks and will carry out the following roles :-
(1) (a) Machines detailed to watch and report on the progress of the Tanks.
(b) Machines detailed to bomb and bring Machine gun fire to bear on hostile anti-tank guns.
(ii) Machines carrying out the above will be marked by a black band on the tail plane.

TELEPHONE
PRECAUTIONS.

3. In view of the fact that the enemy has an organised defensive system in the HINDENBURG Line, and that he has probably completed his arrangements for its occupation in case of necessity, it may be taken that his listening sets have been installed. Every precaution will, therefore, be taken to prevent unauthorised telephone conversations either in our present forward area or at a later date when we are occupying positions in close contact with the HINDENBURG Line.

POPHAM PANELS.

4. Code Calls at present in use for the Popham Panel will obtain during the forthcoming operations.

LINE OF
EXPLOITATION.

5. It is to be clearly understood that the BLUE line is to be attained solely by means of Exploitation. It is not intended that anything in the nature of a set-piece attack is to be made or that the operation shall be costly.
The RED line is to be consolidated as a main line of resistance, and the main object of EXPLOITATION is to secure observation over the valleys running Eastward from the line of Squares G.17. & 14.

War Diary
SECRET.

APPENDIX 12

37

Copy No. 11.....

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 171.

Battalion Headquarters,
17th, September, 1918.

1. Companies will move off independantly to Assembly Positions at times mentioned hereunder:-

"X" Company - 11.45.p.m.
"Y" " - 11.50.p.m.
"Z" " - 11.55.p.m.
Headquarters)
M.G. Section)
L.T.M.B.
Section)- 12 (midnight)
2. Distances to be maintained - 50 yards between platoons, 100 yards between Companies.
3. Lewis Guns will be parked at Transport Lines at 5.30.p.m.
Signalling Gear will be dumped at Transport Lines at 5.30.p.m.
Vickers Machine Guns and Stokes Mortars will be carried by M.G. Company Limber and will proceed with Battalion Transport.
Blankets rolled in bundles of ten and Packs will be dumped at Q.M. Store by 11.p.m.
Officers' Valises will be stacked at Q.M. Store by 6.p.m.
Felt Hats will be placed in sand bags clearly marked and stacked at Q.M. Store by 11.p.m.
4. Transport will move independantly.
5. R.Q.M. will arrange for hot meal to be served to the Battalion at 5.a.m. in the new area.
6. Battalion Headquarters will be located at L.19.d.8.4.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. Raff
.....Lieut.

for Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. "X" Company. |
| 3. "Y" Company. | 4. "Z" Company. |
| 5. "H.Q." Company. | 6. R.Q.M. |
| 7. R.S.M. | 8. Transport Officer. |
| 9. Intelligence Officer. | 10. R.M.O. |
| 11. File. | 12/14. War Diary. |
| 15/17. Spare. | |

34
War Diary
FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,

20th. September. 1918.

Map Reference.
Sheet 62C. N.E. 62D.N.W.

NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS FROM 12 MID-NIGHT 12/9/'18. till 5 p.m. 18/9/'18.

1. Battalion moved off from TINGOURT camp by Companies at 12 mid-night, and proceeded by march route to area previously chosen preparatory to the barrage opening. Enemy aeroplanes were active but did not interfere with the movements of the column.
2. At 2.30 a.m. the Battalion was located as follows :-
 "Y" Company Left, in sunken road in square L.19.D.
 "X" Company Right, sunken road in L.19.D.
 "Z" Company, in trenches running from L.19.a.8.0 to L.19.d.00.50.
 Vickers Machine Gun Section and Trench Mortar Battery attached, were located slightly in rear of "Z" Company.
 Battalion Headquarters located in sunken road in L.19.d.8.4
 Battalion then rested and a hot meal was issued to all ranks before moving off at 6.20 a.m.
3. Order of Battle. - "Y" Company on Left, "X" Company on Right, "Z" Company in Supports and covering the Front. Machine Gun Section and Trench Mortar Battery in rear of centre of "Z" Company.
4. Zero hour - 5.20 a.m.
5. Objectives First objective, Line marked BROWN, to be taken by 11th. & 12th. Battalions, 12th. Battalion on right.
 Second objective, Line marked RED, to be captured by 9th. and 10th. Battalions, 10th. Battalion on right.
 Third objective, Line of Exploitation, marked BLUE, to be exploited by 9th. and 10th. Battalions.
6. Method of Advance. Battalion moved off at 6.20 a.m. to first objective from the Assembly Positions in lines of sections in file with 50 yards distance. That formation was adopted till the barrage lifted at 8.30 a.m., when the Battalion went to the Attack to capture the second objective.
 The formation then adopted was :-
 "X" and "Y" Companies in lines of sections in file with 50 yards distance, covered by screen of riflemen, "Z" Coy. moving in lines of sections with 50 yards between lines.
 At 9.30 a.m. the RED LINE was captured and patrols pushed forward to capture BLUE LINE.
 At 10 a.m. BLUE LINE was captured and consolidation commenced. Frontal patrols dispatched to gain contact with the enemy, and flank patrols to gain connection with flank Units.

J. A. Muller

.....Lieut.Col.

Commanding 9th. Battalion.

STORY OF THE BATTLE.

Preparative to the advance and during the period between the capture of the first objective and before moving to the attack on the second objective, the M.C.O. in charge of the Trench Mortar Battery showed great initiative by bringing into action a captured Minenwerfer, thereby assisting the Artillery barrage, which at that time was slowing down, owing to the guns being on the move. Every available round of ammunition was fired.

At 8.30 a.m. Battalion advanced close to the barrage, "Y" Company on the left, "X" Company on the right, "Z" Company in Support covering the whole Battalion front, with the Vickers Machine Gun Section and Trench Mortar Battery following in rear.

Strong opposition was met with in VILLERET and sunken roads in squares L.17.b. and d and L.18.a. with strong points in the village of VILLERET and in rear.

The Tank allotted to this Unit preceded the attacking troops with great determination and materially assisted in the clearing of the village of VILLERET. Strong opposition was met with in the sunken road in square L.17.d. but was overcome by Sgt. BENTLEY with the assistance of other platoons. The dash displayed by all ranks was the means of overwhelming the enemy and they surrendered freely. The enemy resisted then in scattered machine gun posts adjacent to the RED LINE. These were similarly dealt with.

At 9.30 a.m. the RED LINE was captured.

Up to this point, the enemy's Artillery fire consisting of H.E., Shrapnel and gas, was diminishing. Whilst the barrage was resting in the front of the RED LINE, Lieuts. MEYERS and GALISBURY, Officers commanding the Right and Left Line Companies, reorganized and prepared for a further advance. These Officers succeeded in collecting those who had lost direct ion and organized patrols which pushed out immediately the barrage lifted and secured the BLUE LINE, capturing prisoners in the vicinity of QUARRY WOOD. At this point an enemy Officer with his men were attempting to make a stand and Sgt. BENTLEY who was a leader of one of the patrols immediately charged, and the enemy fled in disorder leaving prisoners and dead on the field. Proceeding further to the Southern edge of QUARRY WOOD, this M.C.O. again came in contact with another enemy Officer who was attempting to rally his men. This Officer was immediately shot by Sgt. BENTLEY, who continued to advance and succeeded in capturing the whole of the enemy numbering about seventeen.

At 10 a.m. the BLUE LINE was captured, and consolidation commenced. Frontal patrols were despatched to gain contact with the enemy and flank patrols to gain connection with Units on the flanks.

Companies were then disposed as follows :-

Left Line Company left flank G.8.a.1.0. thence along trench G.8.c.1.0.

Right Line Company from G.8.c.1.0. to G.14.c.3.3. to G.14.a.9.2. with one platoon strong point on knoll running from G.14.b.1.3. to G.14.b.2.0.

Support Company in trenches running from G.13.b.9.5. to G.14.a.3.1.

M.C. Left Line Company established two posts at G.8.c.4.3. and G.8.c.4.3.

Other Arms. Greatest praise is due to the Vickers Machine Gun Section and Trench Mortar section attached to this Unit for the operation. The manner in which they carried out their duties and the assistance rendered at all times was worthy of the highest commendation. The assistance rendered by the Tank in clearing the village of VILLERET and adjacent strong points was of the utmost value and received the highest praise from all ranks.

The highly efficient Artillery barrage was a governing factor and the means whereby such a successful operation was attained. The enemy suffered a great number of casualties by the Artillery barrage. Particular thanks are due to the Battery attached to the Battalion for the efficient and painstaking manner in which co-operation was maintained. Before the RED LINE was captured, the Battery Commander had reported at FERVAGUE FARM to notify Battalion Headquarters

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of the location of his Battery and to render every assistance. At all times he was most willing to render every assistance.

Supplies. The use of pack horses during the operation was highly successful, enabling the front line garrisons to receive S.A.A. Bombs etc. half an hour after the BLUE LINE was captured. The work of the Transport details in this work was worthy of the highest praise.

The captures in this operation resulted as follows :-

1	-	8" Howitzer.
3	-	5.7" "
4	-	4.2" "
3	-	77m.m. "
40	-	Heavy and Light Machine Guns.
Prisoners.	-	160 Unwounded.
		40 Wounded.

Identifications. - 5th. Bavarian, 1st. Reserve and 150th. Divisions.

Lessons Learnt. The urgent necessity in regard to co-operation between Artillery and Infantry was most marked.

Targets innumerable presented themselves and the connection by going through Brigade (Infantry) took far too long. A direct line from the Line Battalions to the Artillery Brigade would save hours of time and opportunities of inflicting casualties on the enemy would not be missed. It is also suggested that an F.O.C. from the Heavy Artillery be sent forward to the Front Line Battalions, immediately the final objective is reached. This Officer should also have a direct line with his Brigade Headquarters.

The need for Relay Runner Posts throughout the recent operation was most marked, as Runners from the Front line Battalions had to deliver messages for a distance of three miles.

J. M. Mullen

.....Lieut. Col.

Commanding 9th. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- No. 1 Commanding Officer.
- No. 2 3rd. A.I. Bie.
- No. 3 3rd. Machine Gun Company.
- No. 4 3rd. A.L.T.M. Battery.
- No. 5 1st. Bie. Div. Artillery.
- Nos. 6/8 War Diary.
- No. 9 File.

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APPENDIX 41
NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO.172.

Battalion Headquarters,

21st. September, 1918.

1. The 11th. Aust. Inf. Battalion will relieve the 9th. Aust. Inf. Battalion in the line tonight 21/22nd. inst.
2. Detail of Reliefs "C" Company 11th. Battalion will relieve right line Company, "A" Company 11th. Battalion will relieve left line Company, "D" Company 11th. Battalion will relieve Support Company.
3. Relief will commence as soon as light will permit.
4. Companies will detail one guide per platoon to report to Battalion Headquarters at 7.30.p.m. to-night. These guides will be known as left line, right line and support company guides.
In addition to the above, Companies will send one Other Rank per platoon to reconnoitre the area to be occupied on relief reporting at Battalion Headquarters at 4.p.m. for instructions.
On completion of reconnaissance these guides will report to Battalion Headquarters at 8.p.m. to lead companies out.
5. All Trench Stores, Maps, etc. and information regarding the front will be handed over to the incoming unit. Receipts for stores and maps will be received in triplicate.
6. A hot meal will be issued after relief is complete.
7. Receipts in triplicate will be received from incoming Unit for all German Machine Guns handed over.
8. Relief complete will be wired to Battalion Headquarters using Code Words - "Rations Issued."
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A.L. Raff
.....Lieut.

for Adjutant. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

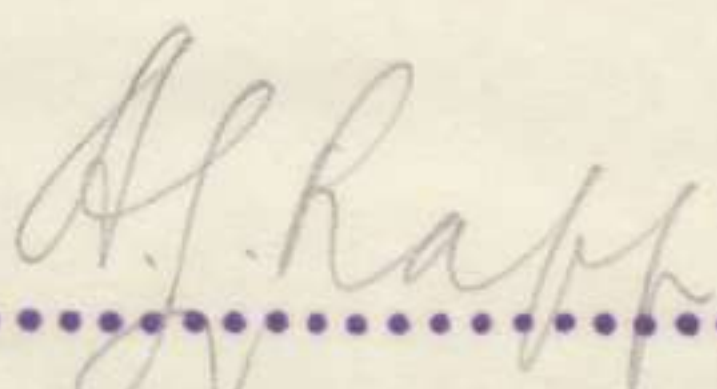
Battalion Headquarters,

22nd. September, 1918.

WARNING ORDER.

1. The Brigade will be relieved on the 23rd and night 23rd./24th inst. by a portion of an American Regiment.
2. On relief the Brigade will stage in the TINCOURT Area.
3. Advance parties of relieving troops will arrive to-day and proceed to the line to-night. The proposed dispositions are at present unknown, advance parties will therefore be allotted equally to Battalions.
4. Machine Gun relief will be carried out on the night 24th/25th inst.
5. The following personnel will remain behind and be attached to this Regiment. Length of stay will be notified later.

Lieut. J.G. EARWAKER.
 C.Q.M.S. BRISTOL, M.
 Sgt. PERRETT, C.A.
 Sgt. McNALLY, C.
 Sgt. MASON, B.G.


Lieut.
 Asst. Adjutant. 9th. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. "X" Company. |
| 3. "Y" Company. | 4. "Z" Company. |
| 5. "H.G." Company. | 6. R.Q.M. |
| 7. Transport Officer. | 8/10. War Diary. |
| 11. File. | |

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SECRET

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NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 174

APPENDIX 16

Battalion Headquarters,
22nd. September, 1918.

1. On the night 23rd/24th September at an hour to be notified later, and weather conditions being favourable, an operation with Gas Projectors will be carried out by "Z" Special Company R.E.
2. 100 Projectors will be fired into the Sunken Road at G.9.c.0.8. and surrounding defences.
3. Projectors will be emplaced at G.7.d.7.3.
4. It is not proposed to carry out the operations if the wind at ZERO hour is more than 12 m.p.h.
5. The following Codes will be used ;

Operation will take place	-	R SERGEANT.
" postponed	-	CALEB
" completed	-	HAWKER.
6. Zero hour will be notified by the Code word SERGEANT followed by the time at which the projectors will be fired.
7. Should the operation be postponed owing to unfavourable weather, until after the Brigade has been relieved in this Sector, these instructions will be handed over on relief to incoming Units and receipts obtained.

A. J. Raff
.....Lieut.
Asst. Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO.174.

Battalion Headquarters,

23rd. September, 1918.

1. The 3rd. A.I. Brigade will be relieved by the 3rd. and portion of the 2nd Battalion "A" Regiment, 59th. American Bie. tonight 23/24th. inst.
2. 9th. Battalion will be relieved by one Company 3rd. American Battalion.
3. GUIDES. One guide per Company and two from Headquarters including one scout and one runner will report to Battalion Headquarters at 5.p.m. and will proceed to L.20.d.8.5. and guide in the incoming Unit.
4. Personnel selected for attachment to American Corps will march out with their Companies and will not remain in with troops relieving.
5. Lewis Guns, etc. will be parked at Battalion Headquarters by 6.p.m.
6. All Battale Stores including Hot Food Containers. and Petrol Tins will be dumped at Battalion Headquarters by 5.p.m.
7. On relief Companies will move independantly and rendezvous at HERVILLY where hot tea will be given them. Further instructions relative to the rendezvous will be issued later.
8. Hot meal will be served on reaching new area.
9. R.Q.M. will arrange to have all Valises, Packs, Blankets, etc. transported to the new area before the arrival of the troops.
10. Completion of relief will be notified in code to Battalion Headquarters.

Code Words. - "SILVERY SEA".

A.L. Raff
.....Lieut.
Asst. Adjutant. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 125.

Ref. Map 62.c.
1/40,000.

Battalion Headquarters,
25th, September, 1918.

1. The 3rd. Aust. Inf. Bde, Group less Transport will move from TINCOURT area to GAURENFLOS area by train on the 26th. September. For the purpose of the move Brigade Group will be divided into two trains;

1st. Train - C.O. Train - LIEUT. COL. L.M. MULLEN. D.S.O.

3rd. Bde. Headquarters)	Time for troops for first train to be in position in entraining areas - 8.a.m.
H.Q. 1st. M.G. Bde.)	
3rd. M.G. Company)	
9th. Battalion)	
11th Battalion)	
13th Battalion.)	
Escort and Prisoners.)	

No Officers Coaches will be attached to these trains.

2. Companies will march to TINCOURT Station commencing at the following hours;

"X" Company	7.25.a.m.
"Y" Company	7.30.a.m.
"Z" Company	7.35 a.m.
"H.Q." Company	7.40.a.m.

3. Battalion Entraining Officer Lieut. C.H. RYAN.

4. One Officer per Company and Intelligence Sergeant will report to Lieut. RYAN at "Y" Company's Headquarters at 7.a.m. They will proceed with this Officer to TINCOURT railway station and ascertain actual area allotted to their Companies. They will then return and meet Companies at road junction at bottom of valley, and guide them to their respective areas.

5. Battalion Entraining Officer and party will report to Brigade Entraining Officer (Lieut. HOLLEY) at 7.30.a.m.

6. DRESS :- Full marching order plus one blanket.
Felt hats to be worn.

7. Companies on reaching TINCOURT entraining area will be divided into parties of 30 for purpose of entrainment.

8. Escorts and prisoners will move by first train and will form up in area marked "D", where an Officer from 12th. Battalion will take charge of the whole party. Quarter Guard at present mounted will march in rear of "Z" Company with prisoners. On detrainment escort & prisoners will rejoin Unit.

9.

Reveille	-	5.a.m.
Breakfast	-	5.30.a.m.
Sick Parade	-	6.30.a.m.

(2)

10. All trench shelters must be stacked ready to move by 5.30.a.m. "X", "Y", and "Z" Companies will dump theirs on road near corner of wood, H.Q.RS. Company at Headquarters Company Cooker. Officers valises, dixies, mess gear, and band boxes will be dumped at above location ready to move at 6.a.m. The above times will be strictly adhered to.
11. "Z" Company will detail four men to report to Lieut. HOLLEY at 6.30.a.m. at Brigade Headquarters.
Dress :- Full marching order.
They will rejoin this Unit at Railway Station.

.....*S. J. Chapman*.....Lieut.
Adjutant. 9th. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. 3rd. A.I. Brigade. |
| 3. "X" Company. | 4. "Y" Company. |
| 5. "Z" Company. | 6. "H.Q." Company. |
| 7. Lieut. C.H. RYAN. | 8. Orderly Officer. |
| 9. R.Q.M. | 10. R.M.O. |
| 11. R.S.M. | 12. Bandmaster. |
| 13. File. | 14/16. War Diary. |

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NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR WEEK 30th. SEPTEMBER to 5th. OCTOBER. 1918.Mon. 30th.-

9.a.m. to 9.45.a.m. Battalion Inspection and Drill.
 9.45.a.m. to 10.a.m. Company under Company Commanders.
 10.a.m. to 10.30.a.m. Squad Drill.
 10.30.a.m. to 10.45.a.m. - Smoke and Lecturette by Platoon Commanders on Conduct and bearing in rear areas, discipline generally.
 10.45.a.m. to 11.a.m. Rifle Exercises.
 11.a.m. to 11.40.a.m. Guards and Sentries.
 11.40.a.m. to 12 noon. Battalion March Past in Column of Route.

Tues. 1st.

9.a.m. to 9.30.a.m. Battalion Inspection and Drill.
 9.30.a.m. to 9.45.a.m. Companies under Company Commanders.
 9.45.a.m. to 10.15.a.m. Squad Drill and Rifle Exercises.
 10.15.a.m. to 10.30.a.m. Smoke and Lecturette by Platoon Commanders on "March Discipline."
 10.30.a.m. to 10.55.a.m. Guards and Sentries.
 11 am. to 12 noon. Route March.

Wed. 2nd.

9.a.m. to 9.30.a.m. Battalion Inspection and Drill.
 9.55.a.m. to 10.a.m. Section and Platoon Drill.
 10.a.m. to 10.15.a.m. Smoke and Lecturette by Company Commanders on "Present Military Situation".
 10.15.a.m. to 10.45.a.m. Guards and Sentries.
 10.45.a.m. to 12 noon. Route March.

Thurs. 3rd.

9.a.m. to 9.30.a.m. Battalion Inspection and Drill.
 9.55.a.m. to 10.a.m. Section and Platoon Drill. Platoon
 10.a.m. to 10.15.a.m. Smoke and Lecturette by ~~Company~~ Commanders on "Sanitation in Billets ~~and~~ on March."
 10.15.a.m. to 10.45.a.m. Guards and Sentries.
 10.45.a.m. to 12 noon. Route March.

Fri. 4th.

9.a.m. to 9.30.a.m. Battalion Inspection and march past in Column of Platoons.
 9.30.a.m. to 10.a.m. Platoon and Company Drill.
 10.a.m. to 10.30.a.m. Guards and Sentries, Rifle Exercises.
 10.20.a.m. to 10.45.a.m. - Smoke and Lecturette by Company Commanders on "Esprit de Corps".
 10.45.a.m. to 12 noon. Route March.

Sat. 5th.

9.a.m. to 9.30.a.m. Battalion Inspection and march past in Column of Platoons.
 9.30.a.m. to 10.a.m. Platoon and Company Drill.
 10.a.m. to 10.30.a.m. Guards and Sentries, Rifle Exercises.
 10.30.a.m. to 10.45.a.m. Smoke and Lecturette by Platoon Commanders on "The Theory of Mutual Support, Fire and movement, etc".
 10.45.a.m. to 12 noon. Route March.

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(2)

DRESS.

Belts will be worn by all ranks when "walking out" and also when moving about the streets of the village in which they are billeted.

Hats will at all times be worn turned up at the left side and chin straps on point of chin.

Kit to be blanked and brass portion of equipment kept shining.

For Parade.— Drill Order.

ROUTE MARCHES. Route as laid down in attached sketch.

RECREATIONAL TRAINING. From 2.p.m. to 3.30.p.m. Daily.
All men to participate and to be marched to ground.

APPENDIX 20

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1918.

The beginning of the month found us at CERISY-GAILLY, where we stayed until the 7th. September. At CERISY the quantity of work done was small and consequently the horses were able to have a decent spell and the best part of the time was spent in grazing and when we moved, the horses were all very fit. On the 6th. September the Commanding Officer made an inspection. on parade, of the transport and was quite satisfied. The men were very keen on this turnout and it was quite a good show. From CERISY we moved forward to the MONT ST. QUENTIN area, this move taking place on the 7th. and it was quite an easy move more or less independant and consequently no strain or fatigue on the Section. We stayed from the 7th. until the 10th. at MONT ST. QUENTIN and had an easy time. On the 10th. we moved further up to BUIRE WOOD and here we also had an easy time, the horses again getting the opportunity to graze. On the 18th. we moved a small portion of the section up to HERVILLY for the purpose of working with the Battalion in pushing forward supplies during the advance on the Hindenburg Line on the 18th.

This was the first time that a Battalion pack train worked in conjunction with the Battalion and it proved very successful, more so, seeing that there were no casualties in animals at all - a very remarkable thing indeed. The drivers were in excellent form and all worked with the greatest keenness and courage. Drivers JAMES, STAPLETON, CLARK, H., PATERSON, COLES and L/Cpl. HORTON all doing very fine work. During the period the Battalion occupied the front line the rations went forward by pack animals - 2 trips being made, one in the evening and the other in the early morning. Owing to the departure on leave to Australia of all the 1914 men it was found necessary to bring forward to HERVILLY the whole section less the Officers' Chargers and this move was effected on the 21st. With reference to the departure to Australia of the 1914 men it may be said that the section lost some of its premier men, notably Drivers PARRY, PAINTER, WILCE, JACKSON, CONNELLAN and Sgt. CHALMERS who had an unbroken run of service since embarking in 1914. The Battalion's tour of duty in the line finished on the 23rd. and we moved back that day to our old lines in BUIRE WOOD. We stayed at BUIRE WOOD for 24 hours and then moved off out to the rest area. The first day the 25th we travelled to MORGECOURT, the second day to ALLONVILLE and the balance of the trip to MORGECOURT Area was completed on the third day which was by far the biggest trip undertaken up to date. The distance covered was about 36 miles but fortunately the route was the best that could possibly have been selected and during the whole trip only one hill had to be negotiated. The three days trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the horses each evening were able to graze until dark. Nothing of any note happened during the remainder of the month.

The fodder throughout the month was fairly plentiful, hay was a little short on one or two occasions. The water was of the best mostly obtained from the Rivers SOMME and COLOYNE.

One remount, a mule, was received during the month thus completing the establishment of animals. No casualties other than small injuries to two horses occurred during the month.

Taken right through the month's work was considerable and it is pleasing to record that it was done with exceptional keenness and in a most satisfactory manner by the Section.

(Sgd) T.W. CAMERON. Lt.
Transport Officer.

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT for MONTH of SEPTEMBER 1918.

RATIONS. The ration issue for the past month has remained good and at all times the Battalion has been well fed. The scale of issue of fresh meat was reduced towards the latter part of the month and the quality of the food served to the men is perhaps lessened to a small extent on that account. This reduction is, however, made up by preserved meat and the quantity remains the same. Since our arrival in GORENFLOS on 26th. inst. it has been possible to purchase an ample supply of vegetables which has greatly augmented the issue and added immensely to the health and well being of the Battalion.

ORDNANCE SUPPLIES. No trouble has been experienced in keeping up the supply of clothing, and the appearance of the men has been well attended to. During the attack on the 18th. inst. a great quantity of barbed wire was encountered and on relief the clothing and equipment of the men presented a somewhat ragged appearance. The Regimental Tailors are, however, busy re-equipping and repairing and in a very short time this will be completed.

BATHING. Bathing has been indulged in on several occasions both at Divisional Baths and in the River SOMME. Clean underclothing has been issued four times during the month.

COMFORTS. We are indeed grateful to the Australian Comforts Fund for the help they have extended to the Battalion during the month. An ample supply of cocoa and milk has been received from this Fund and many other luxuries which it is impossible to obtain elsewhere.

GENERAL. During the Battalion's tour in the line rations were sent up by means of limbers and pack horses. Stew and tea in the evening and bacon and tea in the early morning were sent forward to the front line on pack horses who never once failed to reach their destination. Cooking during this period was carried out at HERVILLY where the Quartermaster Store was established. During the month several members of the Regimental Quartermaster's Staff have left the Battalion on Leave to Australia. Capt. S.L. MCINTYRE, M.C. who has held the position of R.Q.M. since February 1916 was one of the number. Other included R.Q.M.S. BULL, C.Q.M.S. GRAY, C.Q.M.S. GARVIN, C.Q.M.S. LINES, R.Q.M.S. WOODCROFT and Pte. R.J. CLARKE. Their absence will be sorely felt. The Battalion is now comfortably settled in Billets at GORENFLOS and every effort is being made to make the men as comfortable as possible.

Sgd. - T.A.L. GOWARD. Lieut.

R.Q.M. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

MEDICAL WAR DIARY for SEPTEMBER 1918.

1st. to 7th.
Sept.
U.13.b.4.3.

During the early part of the month the Battalion were bivouaced near CERISY. Here accomodation consisted of tents trench shelters and small dugouts. The health of the men improved daily while in this locality, for we enjoyed splendid weather. The routine consisted of specialist and recreational training. A series of inter-company cricket matches were arranged and keen interest was displayed. The men were bathed at CERISY and clean underclothing was issued. Thirty reinforcements marched in.

7.9.18.

Battalion embussed at Q.8.b.9.9. and proceeded to MONT ST. QUENTIN. Debussed at I.20.b.8.0. and marched from there to their destination at I.17.a. Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P. were situated in huts at I.17.a.8.3. Accomodation here consisted of three old huts and several trenches. The men however soon made themselves comfortable. The sanitation of this camp was far from satisfactory but this was soon rectified.

9.9.18.
I.17.a.8.5.

R.M.O. proceeded on Leave to U.K. and was relieved by Capt. BRUCE, 3rd. Field Ambulance.

10.9.18.
to
17.9.18.
I.17.a.8.5.

Battalion proceeded to J.17.b.8.9. near TINCOURT. This was a splendid camp and consisted of a series of NISSEN huts, in which all the men were accomodated. The camp and its environs were fairly clean and all necessary improvements in the way of sanitary appliances were immediately instituted. On account of the dry accomodation, the rest and the fine weather while in this camp the health of the men materially improved as evidenced by the decrease of the number of cases of diarrhoea and furunculosis, which had been rather prevalent before. The Battalion spent a most enjoyable seven days in this locality. Tactical exercises, specialist and recreational training received a great deal of attention. Inter-company cricket matches were instituted and the men were in excellent spirits.

17.9.18.
18.9.18.
L.19.d.

On the evening of the 17th/18th the Battalion moved forward to JEANCOURT. Three squads of 3rd. Field Ambulance bearers were attached and in the early A.M. the Battalion moved to the assembly point in a sunken road in square L.19.d. At 4.a.m. the men were issued a hot breakfast and a ration of rum. As the weather was wet and conditions were most miserable this was greatly appreciated. Zero hour was 5.30.a.m. and at that time the 11th and 12th Battalions moved forward to the first objective. The 9th Battalion passed through them at 8.30.a.m. and by 10.30.a.m. were digging in and consolidating. During the advance Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P. were established at L.19.d.8.4. and we sustained 35 Casualties, 4 Officers and 31 Other Ranks. This list included Lieut. MADDOCK (killed), Lieuts. CHATAWAY, BAILEY and ALCOCK (slightly wounded). The carry for the regimental stretcher bearers to this aid post was a very difficult one for the line was about 1500 yards away and the ground was very heavy. Having cleared the wounded, Capt. BRUCE moved forward to L.16.d.3.8. The R.A.P. was situated in a trench close to Battalion Headquarters. This greatly diminished the carry for the bearers. Suitable relay posts were established by the ambulance. Later in the evening R.A.P. again moved to G.7.d.7.3. to conform with Battalion Headquarters. Casualties were light for the rest of the

tour in the line., although front line and supports were heavily shelled. Our total casualties were five Officers and 60 Other Ranks. During the whole operation the stretcher bearers, both regimental and ambulance did excellent work under adverse conditions. Nevertheless there was no hitch in the evacuation of wounded. Cpl. LYNCH, medical orderly was indefatigable and did excellent work. The following bearers deserve special mention. :- Ptes. JONES, BURGON, O'REILLY from "X" Company; SCRIVENER (wounded), DAVIES, BOYLE, DARLINGTON from "Z" Company; CLOUGH, MURPHY, CARR, DANSON from "Y" Company and Pte. ARCHDALE'S squad of ambulance bearers.

- 19.9.18.
G.7.d.7.3. Enemy shelled front line and supports heavily. We sustained 10 casualties, including 1 Officer, Lieut. ANDREWS.
- 20.9.18. A fairly quiet day.
- 21.9.18. Relieved by the 11th Battalion and Battalion moved back to squares G.7. and L.18. Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P. were situated at L.17.b.3.2. Fighting strength was now 17 Officers and 414 Other Ranks.
- 22.9.18.
L.17.b.3.2. In support. Beer and rum issued to men.
- 23.9.18.
to
26.9.18.
TINCOURT. Relieved by Americans and moved back to TINCOURT. Entrained for LONGPRE and on arrival there marched to GORENFLOS. This was a fine clean little village and the men were very comfortably billeted. Sanitary appliances however were hopelessly inadequate and it was extremely difficult to obtain material.
- 27.9.18. R.M.O. rejoined Unit. Capt. BRUCE returned to 3rd. Field Ambulance. The men are in excellent spirits and look very fit. A scheme of training has been drawn up and the afternoons have been devoted to recreational training. A series of inter-company matches is to be played.

General Health and matter pertaining thereto:-

The health of the men has been excellent throughout the month. Sick parades have been light and most of the cases very minor. This month's "graph" is the most satisfactory for the last twelve months and there were only nine evacuations from sickness to the Field Ambulance.

Furunculosis. Still a number of cases. Most of them are responding to treatment. Vaccine therapy is adopted as a routine.

Diarrhoea. The number of cases has subsided considerably for there were only a few isolated cases, which responded readily.

Venereal Diseases. Several cases of Gonorrhoea(3), all of which were contracted while at a rest camp at Le TREPORT.

Scabies. Only one case.

Bathing. The men were bathed several times during the month and were issued with clean underclothing.

Water. Supply has been satisfactory although the carts have in some instances, had to travel long distances. The water in this area, GORENFLOS, is very satisfactory.

Food. Excellent throughout and have been able to maintain plenty of

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(3)

APPENDIX

variety. The meat supply has been very good.

Comforts. The Battalion were able to obtain cocoa and milk, etc. while in the line. The Rum issue was most acceptable, for the weather during the Battalion's tour in the line was very wet. It bucked the men up wonderfully.

Sanitation. Satisfactory throughout. This was especially so at CERISY. The Sanitary Section under Sgt. BRODIE have worked excellently. At present the sanitation of GORENFLOS is very unsatisfactory for we are ~~xxxx~~ handicapped by lack of material.

.....*J. Greave*.....Capt.

R.M.O. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

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5/10/15.

