

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/22/31

Title: 5th Infantry Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/22/31

WAR DIARY

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

FIFTH INF B^N A.I.F

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1917				
SEPT.	1		B ^N in training in BERQUIN AREA.	
	13		B ^N moved by road to billets at BERTHEN. Reserve of Officers and other ranks moved by road to 1 st Australian Division Reinforcement camp.	Order N ^o 32 Order N ^o 31
	15		B ^N moved by road to camp in RENVINGHELST area (Sheet 28 G 28 a 3 3.)	Order N ^o 35
	18	0920	B ^N moved by road to camp in CHAV SEGARD Area	Order N ^o 36
	18	1600	B ^N moved by road to ZILLEBEKE BUND and RAILWAY DOGOUTS	Order N ^o 36 ^A
	19	2300	B ^N moved to position of Assembly which lay in "No Man's Land" just in front of our old front line, and between JAP AVENUE near INVERNESS CORSE on the right and a line running through the centre of GLENCORSE WOOD	Order N ^o (Order N ^o 34
	20	0330	all companies were in position on taped lines. FORMATION, ADVANCE & CONSOLIDATION etc see "NARRATIVE of OPERATIONS of 5 th B ^N in attack delivered on 20 th Sept 1917" attached.	with ADDENDA and APPENDIX)
	21	2400	B ^N relieved by the 4 th B ^N 1 st A.I. Bde and moved to HOOGE SUPPORT LINE	ORDER N ^o

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FIFTH INF. Bⁿ A.I.F

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1917	SEPT 21		Casualties were 3. Officers KILLED. (CAPT F.L. MOORE, LIEUT. J.R. STOCK, 2 LIEUT. E.J. KERNAN). 6. Officers WOUNDED. (MAJOR A.R. CAUGHEY, LIEUTS. J.A. ANDERSON, W.B. GRANTHAM, J.W. MANNSELL, & 2 LIEUTS. BURLEIGH H. & N.S. MADDOX,) 2. Officers WOUNDED AT DUTY (LIEUT H.P. MOLONY, 2 LIEUT R.H. BARBER.) 67 Other ranks KILLED, 183 Other ranks WOUNDED. 12 Other ranks missing. LIEUT. E.A. WILLIAMS rejoined from 2 nd T.B ⁿ ENG.	
	22		B ⁿ moved from HOOGE LINE to camp in CHATEAU SEGARD AREA.	
	23		B ⁿ moved to camp at OUDERDOM.	Order N ^o 36 ^D
	24		B ⁿ moved to camp at STEENVORDE, where B ⁿ was reinforced by officers and other ranks who had been sent as reserve to 1 st Aust. Div. Reinforcement camp on Sept 13.	
	25		2 LIEUT. H. SINCLAIR joined up from Reinforcements.	
	29		AT STEENVORDE	
	29		Moved by bus to CHATEAU SEGARD area and accommodated in dugouts on CANAL BANK. ARRIVED at 1430.	
	30		Moved up to relieve 2 companies 16 th B ⁿ . Left Chateau Segard area at 1915.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																								
	30		<p>The following recommendations were submitted ^{on the 24/9/17} for works done in the action of the 20th inst.</p> <p><u>Officers</u></p> <p>CAPT BURKE H., MC, Lieut HF MORRISON, MC, Lieut CHANSEN MC, Lieut BARBER RH MC all for coolness and devotion to duty under heavy shell fire</p> <p>Lieut GL FINLAY MC } for new years honours list. for constant Capt. HS HAWKER MC } steady good work through Lieut RA CUFF MC } the winter and through the operations of the 20th inst</p> <p><u>ORs</u></p> <p>175788 Sgt F Farnington C VC for capturing single handed 1 MC + 9 prisoners</p> <p><u>D.C.M</u></p> <table><tr><td>3509</td><td>Sgt R. M. Hoffmann</td><td>6888</td><td>PTE Henry H Whittfield</td></tr><tr><td>3981</td><td>PTE William Pinkerton</td><td>3840</td><td>Sgt Roy Hagat</td></tr><tr><td>5465</td><td>Sgt J.P. Williams</td><td>3795</td><td>Sgt ER HARECREAVE</td></tr><tr><td>3563</td><td>CSM. H. COLLINS</td><td>3829</td><td>PTE Leopold Goldie</td></tr><tr><td>3963</td><td>LCP R WATTIE</td><td>7188</td><td>PTE G Milne</td></tr><tr><td>M.M 6476</td><td>PTE FA CAMPBELL</td><td>3867</td><td>Cpl Charles Hungerford</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>Sgt KH Cowan</td><td>3721</td><td>PTE RT Buckingham</td></tr><tr><td>3404</td><td>PTE G Sexton</td><td>1321</td><td>PTE A McPherson</td></tr><tr><td>4798</td><td>PTE CW STEVENS</td><td>2436</td><td>LCP F POWER</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>2058</td><td>PTE A.C. Fitzsimmons</td></tr></table>	3509	Sgt R. M. Hoffmann	6888	PTE Henry H Whittfield	3981	PTE William Pinkerton	3840	Sgt Roy Hagat	5465	Sgt J.P. Williams	3795	Sgt ER HARECREAVE	3563	CSM. H. COLLINS	3829	PTE Leopold Goldie	3963	LCP R WATTIE	7188	PTE G Milne	M.M 6476	PTE FA CAMPBELL	3867	Cpl Charles Hungerford	14	Sgt KH Cowan	3721	PTE RT Buckingham	3404	PTE G Sexton	1321	PTE A McPherson	4798	PTE CW STEVENS	2436	LCP F POWER			2058	PTE A.C. Fitzsimmons	
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																		
	30.		<p>Recommendation: could</p> <p>M.M. No. 150 L. C. Artherton, 1668 L. C. Gillespie 6607 PTE J. J. Day</p> <p>4850 L. C. J. G. Leslie 10627 PTE H. B. Canver 4762nd Sgt A. P. Crookell</p> <p>3760 PTE H. Daniel 3982 PTE T. Wilson, 3976 L. C. E. Cutbush</p> <p>Weekly Strengths:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Off.</th> <th>O.R.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>31-8-17.</td> <td>53</td> <td>1023.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7-9-17</td> <td>54</td> <td>1021.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14-9-17</td> <td>54</td> <td>1015</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21-9-17</td> <td>43</td> <td>861</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28-9-17</td> <td>44</td> <td>726.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Summary</p> <p>Sept 1-13 In Draining Berquin Area</p> <p>13-18 Berthen + Reninghelst</p> <p>18-23 Action</p> <p>24-29 Rest STEENVOORDE</p> <p>24-30 On move to firing line.</p>		Off.	O.R.	31-8-17.	53	1023.	7-9-17	54	1021.	14-9-17	54	1015	21-9-17	43	861	28-9-17	44	726.	
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W. L. Layman
Capt 5-13

SECRET.

5

OPERATION ORDER No. 31.

11/9/17.

By Lieut-Col. D.A. LUKTON D.S.O. Commanding.

REFERENCE MAPS - SHEETS 27 and 36a. 1 in 40,000.

- MOVE. 1. (a) The parties already detailed in B.R.O. 287 of 11th inst. will move to Divisional Reinforcement Camp, South-East of ~~Caestre~~ CAESTRE on the 12th inst.
- (b) The Second Brigade Wing of the Reinforcement Camp will be established at W.4.d.5.3.
- (c) The whole of the Reinforcement Camp will be under the command of Major C.J. KIRBY.
- (d) Major T.F. ULRICH D.S.O. 8th Battalion, will be Commandant of Brigade Wing and will be in charge of the Brigade Column on the route march.

2. ASSEMBLY POINT. The parties detailed to remain behind will assemble at Cross Roads at E.4.a at ~~0700~~ ⁰⁷²⁰ and head of column will pass cross roads under the command of Major CARTER at ~~0700~~ ⁰⁷⁰⁰.

BRIGADE STARTING POINT. F.11.c.4.7. Head of Brigade column will pass starting point at ~~0830~~ ⁰⁸⁴⁵ in order as per march.-

6 Bn.

7 "

Bde. Class of Inst.

8 Bn.

5 "

ROUTE. F.11.c.4.7; Meteren, Fletre, W.d.5.7., W.d.5.3. Distances of 150 yards between units of Brigade on the march.

ADVANCE PARTY. 2nd Lt. KAY and 1 N.C.O. from "D" Coy will report to W.4.d.5.3. at 0830 on the 12th inst.

RATIONS. Q.M. will arrange to send all dioxies to Reinforcement Camp and 24 hours rations.

TRANSPORT. Transport Officer will arrange to collect officers' valises and packs of band and convey them to Reinforcement Camp, bringing back the 2 bicycles which will be used by 2nd Lieut KAY and the N.C.O. Officers valises to be available at each Company Headquarters by ~~0630~~ 0630. Band will dump packs on the road outside the billet of the Brass Band by 0630.

ROUTINE. Companies will arrange that their parties leave Company parades in sufficient time to reach position of assembly by ~~0700~~ ⁰⁷⁰⁰ and will report by runner to Battalion Headquarters when these details have marched out. Senior Officer will hand nominal rolls to Senior Major and the Companies will forward a copy of same to Battalion Headqrs.

DRESS. Marching Order with blankets and waterproofs; unexpended portion of day's rations to be carried and water-bottles full.

COMPANY CLERKS. Company Clerks will not proceed to Reinforcement Camp, but will accompany the Battalion.

(Sgd.) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. and Adjutant.

Copy No.	To whom	Method.
1	File	
2	War Diary	
3	Senior Major	Runner
4	O.C. "A" Coy	"
5	O.C. "B" "	"
6.	O.C. "C" "	"
7.	O.C. "D" "	"
8.	Q.M. & T.O.	"

Headquarters 5th Battalion A.I.F.
12/9/17.

6

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 32. BY
LIEUT.-COL. D.A. LUKTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Maps. 27, 36, 36a, and 28.

- MOVE. 1. The 5th Battalion (less personnel detailed for Reinforcement Camp) will move to BERTHEN on 13th inst. by route march.
- STARTING POINT. 2. Battalion Starting Point will be cross roads L.4.a. Head of Column will pass Starting Point at 0720. Coys. will be in position at 0715.
- ROUTE. 3. L.4.a. F.29.d.6. F.16.d.8.6. A.3. A.1.3. S. 27. A.9.3. BAILLEUL, ST. JANS CAPEL, BERTHEN.
- ORDER OF MARCH. H.Q. Sigs., Intell., Hdqtrs., "B", "D", "A", "C", Pioneers, 4. A.M.C., and Police.
- DISTANCES. 5. 100 yards between Coys.
- HALTS. 6. Of 10 minutes at 10 minutes to each clock hour.
- DRESS. 7. Marching order less blankets, waterbottles full, unexpended portion of day's rations to be carried.
- BLANKETS. 8. To be rolled in usual manner and dumped at Q.M's. Store before 0630.
- ROUTINE. 9. Coy. Comdrs. will set their own routine in order that they will arrive at Starting Point at time laid down.
- REAR PARTY. 10. Lieut. RIGG will remain to obtain certificates as to cleanliness of billets from Area Commandant.
- CERTIFICATES & STATES. 11. Cleanliness Certificates will be handed in at Starting Point. Marching Out States to be at Regimental Office by 0630.
- TRANSPORT. 12. To move in rear of column at 100 yards distance. Cookers will move with Coys.
- OFFICERS' VALISES & RECORDS. 13. Will be at Q/M's. Store as per instructions already issued.
- REPORTS. 14. Coys. will report when settled in billets. Other reports to head of column.
- SYNCHRONISATION. 15. Watches will be synchronised with Battalion Headquarters at 2200 tonight.

P 15. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Adjt.

Copy No.	To whom	Method.
1.	War Diary	-
2.	File	-
3.	Brigade	D.R.L.S.
4.	O.C. "A" Coy.	Runner
5.	O.C. "B" Coy.	"
6.	O.C. "C" Coy.	"
7.	O.C. "D" Coy.	"
8.	Q.M. & Transport Off.	"
9.	Sig. & Intell. Off.	"

Headquarters 5th Battalion A.I.F.
14/9/17.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 34.
BY LIEUT.-COL. D.A. LUXTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

(Preliminary Order).

Reference Map HOOGE 1 : 10000.

- INTENTION (1) The 2nd Aus. Inf. Bde. in conjunction with the 59th Imp. Bde. on the right and the 3rd Aus. Inf. Bde. on the left will attack the enemy on a day to be notified later. The 1st Aus. Inf. Bde. will be in reserve.
- BOUNDARIES. (2) Brigade Boundaries.-
Right.- I.24.a.00.85 - J.14.c.1.0 along JAP AVENUE -
J.14.d.2.8. - J.15.a.2.0. --along RUE TELBECK -
J.15.d.30.85.
Left.-
I.18 central to road junction Sq. J.14.a.50.55 thence through N in GLENCORSE WOOD to J.10.c.00.50.
Battalion Boundaries will correspond with Bde. Boundaries.
Inter-Coy. Boundaries.-
J.13 central - J.14.a.60.25 - J.14.b.20.20. - ~~XXXX~~
J.15.b.00.65. - J.16.a.5.7.
- FORMING UP. (3) The Battalion will be in position by 30 minutes before Zero.
The 5th Battalion will be formed up on taped lines immediately in rear of 6th Battalion, who will be 75' in front of present front line posts.
"B" Coy. on right with "D" on left will form the two front line companies and will be formed on tape line in two lines.
"A" Coy. on right with "C" Coy. on left will be in support to "B" and "D" Coys, and will be formed close up in rear in a similar formation.
- OBJECTIVES. (4) Objectives are allotted as follows :-
1st Objective. 6th Battalion line marked red.
2nd Objective. 5th Battalion line marked blue.
3rd Objective. 7th & 8th Battns. line marked green with 8th Battn. on the right.
- METHOD OF ATTACK. (5) (a) The attack will be carried in three stages on leap-frog system.-
(1) First Stage Advance to Red line - FITZCLARENCE FM. - GLENCORSE WOOD - J.14.b.80.60. - J.14.b.2.95.95.
(2) Second Stage Advance to Blue line - Sq. J.15.a.55.00 - LONE H.O. POLYGON TR. at Sq. J.9.c.80.20 excluding BLACK WATCH CORNER will be captured and consolidated.
(3) Third stage Advance to Green line - J.15.d.30.90. - CARLISLE FM. - J.15.b.30.80. - J.9.d.30.35 will be captured and consolidated.
(b)(i) At ZERO hour the barrage will be put down 150 yards in front of our present front line posts and the whole Brigade will immediately move forward, the 6th Battn. moving as close to the barrage as possible, with the 5th, 7th and 8th Battns. keeping close up until clear of our present front line.
~~At~~ AT ZERO + 4, the Barrage will move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 4 minutes for 150 yards and thereafter until it reaches the RED line at the rate of 100 yards in 6 minutes, when 6th Battn. will capture the 1st Objective and consolidate it. The barrage will halt for 3/4 of an

an hour in front of the RED Line.

- (ii) The 5th Battalion having followed the 6th Battn. in Artillery formation with 100 yards distance between the Battalions will, when the RED line has been ~~seized~~ seized, pass through the 6th Battalion and form up as close to the Barrage as possible.

On the Barrage lifting from in front of the RED line, it will move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes till it crosses the BLUE line when the 5th Battalion will capture the 2nd Objective and consolidate it. The Barrage will halt for 1 & 1/2 hours in front of the BLUE line.

- (iii) The 7th & 8th Battalions having followed the 5th Battalion in Artillery Formation at 100 yards distance in rear of the 5th Battalion will, when the BLUE line has been seized, pass through the 5th Battalion and form up as close to the barrage as possible.

On the Barrage lifting from in front of the BLUE line; it will move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 10 minutes; till it crosses the GREEN line, when the 7th & 8th Battalions will capture the 3rd Objective and consolidate it.

The Barrage will remain stationary beyond the GREEN line for a period and will subsequently move forward when outposts will be established not more than 100 yards in front of the GREEN line.

- (iv) The 5th Battalion having followed the 6th Battn. with a screen 40 yards in front, formed by the two leading sections of each of "B" and "D" Coys., and the remainder of sections in artillery formation with 100 yards distance between Battalions and 15 yards distance between lines of sections. When the RED line has been seized the 5th Battn. will pass through 6th Battn. and form up as close to the Barrage as possible. On the Barrage lifting from in front of the RED line it will move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes till it crosses the BLUE line when the 5th Battn. will capture the 2nd Objective and consolidate. The barrage will halt for 1 & 1/2 hrs. in front of the BLUE Line, the 7th & 8th Battns. passing through the 5th Battn.

- (c) (i) Parties will be detailed for all known Strong Points. Further instructions will follow.
 (ii) Coy. Commanders will detail special parties to help adjoining forces in reduction of Strong Points close to Battalion boundaries.
 (iii) The two leading platoons of each "A" & "C" Coys. will mop up the whole of the area between RED and BLUE lines. Lieut. ANDERSON will be responsible to report to Battn. Hdqtrs. as soon as this operation has been carried out.
 (iv) The remaining two platoons of each "A" and "C" Coys. will be used as carrying parties moving forward in rear of mopping up parties, but if necessary will be pushed forward into the attack.

2nd M.G. Coy. & 6. Further particulars later.
A.L.T.M. Bty.

CONSOLIDATION. 7. After capture of objectives Companies will proceed to consolidate on following lines:-

- (a) A system of ~~detached~~ posts will be pushed out not more than 100 yards in front of objective.
 (b) Along the objective a system of strong posts of at least Platoon strength will be dug by linking shell craters on an irregular line.

- (c) "A" Coy. will establish strong posts at J.15.a.4.1. and J.14.b.95.30.
 "D" Coy. will establish strong post at J.15.a.65.75.
 "B" Coy. will establish strong post at LONE H.O.
 "C" Coy. will establish strong posts at approx. J.9.c.50.10.
- (d) After capture of the objective garrison will be organised to repel counter attacks. Flank and forward routes will be reconnoitred.

LIAISON.

8.

- (a) 2/Lt. MACKAY with 2 runners will act as Liaison Officer with 8th Battn.
 " LUCAS " " " 3rd Battn.
 " TEASDALE " " " 89th Bde.
- (b) In order to ensure that connection is maintained with flanking Battalions "D" and "D" Coys. will each detail 1 N.C.O. and 4 men who will ~~not~~ meet parties from the battalions on flanks at :-
 "B" Coy. at J.15.c.40.95.
 "D" Coy. at J.9.c.80.20.
 These parties will send back word to Headqtrs. as soon as they have gained touch.

APPENDICES.

9.

Further orders ; appendices will be issued later dealing with :-

- (a) Synchronisation of watches.
- (b) Signal Communication.
- (c) Barrage Map.
- (d) Intelligence.
- (e) Medical Arrangements.
- (f) Dumps & carrying parties.
- (g) Equipment.
- (h) Prisoners.
- (i) Map showing Boundaries and Objectives.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) G.L. FINLAY,
 Lieut. & Adjt.

Copy No.

To whom.

Method.

1.	File.	-
2.	War Diary.	-
3.	2.Aus.Inf.Bde.	Runner
4.	O.C. "A" Coy.	"
5.	" "B" "	"
6.	" "C" "	"
7.	" "D" "	"
8.	Sig. & Intell. Off.	"
9.	Q.M. & T.Ogfs.	"

(7)

Headquarters 5th Battalion A.I.F.
17/9/17.

10

ADDENDA No.1. TO BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 33 34

BY LIEUT.-COL. D.A. LUXTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map HOOGE 1 : 10000.

MACHINE GUNRS.

1. One and a half sections of 2nd M.G. Coy. will be attached to the 5th Battn. for the operations. The gunners will move forward in rear of the Battn. adopting positions in the rear of the objective, and assisting in any local counter attack. When the BLUE line is consolidated the guns will take up these positions as under:-

1. One gun at strong post J.14.b.95.30.
2. " " " J.15.a.4.1.
3. " " " LONE H.O.
4. " " " approx. J.15.a.6.6.
5. " " " J.15.a.65.75.
6. " " " J.9.c.50.10.

"B" Coy. will be responsible that the gun at J.15.a.6.6. is provided with an infantry escort.

Lieut. McFADDEN will be with 5th Battn. Hdqtrs.

Lieut. BOURKE will be in charge of Sub-section No.2.

Defence.- No barrage or indirect fire will be carried out by these guns. Their positions will be consolidated and concealed as quickly as possible and arcs of fire fixed. They will not fire unless considered necessary.

A.L.T.M.BTY.

2. One Sub-section of the 2nd A.L.T.M. Bty. will be attached to the Battn. and will move forward in rear of the mopping up platoons. Both guns will cover the area in front of "D" Coy. and will be established in strong points at J.9.c.50.10. and J.15.a.65.75. The Sub-section of 2nd A.L.T.M. Bty. allotted to 6th Battn. will on capture of BLUE line come under orders of C.O. 5th Battn. and will be emplaced in second objective.

STRONG POINTS.

3. RIGHT.-

An enemy S.P. is located at J.15.a.05.30 and is connected by a communication to the remains of a trench line which it joins at J.15. 45.30.

"B" Coy. will detail one platoon to capture this S.P. A platoon of "A" Coy. will be in support and will mop up and consolidate this S.P.

LEFT.-

A S.P. is located at VIRBEEK Fm. J.14.b.95.50.

"D" Coy. will detail 1 platoon to capture this S.P.

O.C. "C" Coy. will mop up and move forward.

A small lake exists at J.15.a.2.8. This may be used by the Left Company for direction as it is 150 yards to the right of our left boundary.

POINTS AFFECTING FLANKS.

4. RIGHT.-

A machine gun is located at J.14.d.80.42. (200 yards) There are a number of dugouts in a destroyed trench running past a farm at J.14.90.75 (150 yards). Remains of a trench at J.15.c.1.9. crosses our right boundary.

A concrete dugout is just to the right of our right at J.15.c.25.90.

LEFT.-

There are a number of Strong Posts and concrete dugouts in the sector on our left situated on the destroyed tramline, the nearest being two concrete dugouts at J.9.c.28.28 and J.9.c.5.3. (150 yards).

A group of 8 Strong Posts 250 yds. from our left boundary may influence our attack if Brigade on left

2.
left are unsuccessful.

5. (a) The route to be followed by the Battn. in moving to the position of Assembly will be as shewn marked RED on map as issued.
- (b) It is essential that a thorough reconnaissance of this route should be made by all officers, both by day and by night.
- (c) At all track junctions and other places where troops might go astray, the Brigade will establish traffic control posts. Men employed on these posts will wear a white arm band. From where this track joins the MENIN Road, a taped line will be laid by Brigade to the centre of the taped line on which the most forward troops will form up.
- (d) The forming up will be done in perfect silence. As soon as troops are in position, they will lie down and await orders. Fifteen minutes before ZERO hour, Platoon Commanders will see that all men are awake. Bayonets will not be fixed until the barrage has opened.
- (e) The two leading Coys. will form up in two lines 10 yards between lines on tape line to be laid by Battn. Intell. Officer 45 yds. in rear of the line laid for 6th Battn. The two rear Coys. will form up in two lines 10 yards apart and 10 yards in rear of "B" and "D" Coys. These lines will be pegged out the night prior to the attack and the laying of the tapes will be complete four hours before ZERO. Machine gunners and trench mortars will follow on from front line trench.

ATTACK.

6. At ZERO hour, the 6th Battalion will move up as close under the barrage as possible and the three Battalions in rear of it will move forward in conformity. At ZERO+3 the 6th Battalion will commence to Advance, keeping close under the barrage and the remaining three battalions will follow keeping distances as in the Assembly position, until the rear of the 7th and 8th Battalions are well clear of our present Front line, when the three rear Battalions and the rear of the 6th Battalion will halt and lie down until distances have been adjusted.

DIRECTION,
GUIDES? ETC.

7. Special precautions will be taken to prevent loss of direction. A taped line will be run out as the Advance progresses from the centre of the Brigade front of Departure to the centre of the GREEN line. The 6th Battn. will be responsible for the laying of same as far as the RED line. Finger posts will be erected as soon as possible after a position has been captured indicating the route to Battn. Hdqtrs., Regtl. Aid Posts, Dumps, etc. Two men from Hdqtrs. Intell. Sect. with compass will lay tape line from centre of RED line to centre of BLUE line. Coys. will arrange for Advanced Officers to be given a compass bearing on which to advance and they will frequently check their direction. Three Intell. men from each Coy. will be detailed to check the direction of the Coy., one being on each flank and one in the centre. Officers and other ranks acting as guides, including men laying tape, will wear a white patch on their backs. This marking will be made known to all ranks before hand. Troops for each objective will be distinguished by patches painted on steel helmets as follows :-

RED line	-	RED
BLUE line	-	BLUE

DRESS & EQUIPMENT. 8. The dress and equipment of attacking troops will be as laid down in S.S.135 Sec.XXXI with the following modifications:-
Troops to the 1st and 2nd Objectives 120 rounds S.A.A.
All troops to carry 48 hours rations and full water bottles.

INFORMATION. 9. (a) The importance of getting back information at all stages must be impressed on all ranks in order that successes may be exploited and adequate artillery support given.

(b) ~~Field Coy. will be allotted to the Brigade~~
(b) The capture of the RED, BLUE and GREEN lines will be announced by the Battalions capturing these positions showing the colours RED, ORANGE and WHITE respectively on the Lucas lamp. Sig. Officer to arrange.

PRISONERS.

10. Prisoners will be sent back to Brigade Headqtrs. under an escort which should not exceed ten per cent of the prisoners in each batch. Where possible; carrying parties returning for stores and slightly wounded walking cases should be used as an escort.

SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES.

11. Sig. Officer will each day meet Brigade representative at 1100 and 1900 at Battn. Hdqtrs. and synchronize reliable watches. All Coys. will be responsible to send a signaller to the Signal Office for a similar purpose at same times.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

12. Each leading Coy. Commander will detail three scouts as patrol and search men to search objective when taken for the purpose of obtaining identifications, and searching of dead.
One Headqtrs.' man will be in charge of each party.

OBSERVATION.

13. Coys. will arrange for Out-Posts to be established so as to report progress and also to give warning in case of counter attack.

BRIGADE HDQTRS.

14. Brigade Headqtrs. will be established at HOOGE I.18.b.1.5.

BATTALION HDQTRS.

15. Battalion Headqtrs. will be situated in present line approx. at J.14.a. centre, and will move forward after capture and consolidation of BLUE line to J.14.b.77.68.

A C K N O W L E D G E.

(Sgd) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Adjt.

17

Headquarters 5th Battalion A.I.F.
17/9/17.

13

APPENDIX TO BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 34. BY
LIEUT.-COL. D.A. LUXTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

WATER SUPPLY.

1. CLAPHAM JUNCTION Tank Supply.
I.22.b.7.5. Water Point.
I.17.d.7.7. "

DUMPS.

2. The following dumps will be established.-

Main Bde. Dump in vicinity of CLAPHAM JUNCTION. Officer in charge Lieut. FOWLER.

2 Battalion dumps will be established in present front line.

1000 reserve rations will be established at CLAPHAM JUNCTION and 1000 at HALFWAY HOUSE.

Advanced Bde. Dump will be established at J.14.b.8.6. as soon as RED line has been captured and a second position will be selected later. Officer in charge - Lieut. ANDREWARTHA.

Advanced Battalion Dump will be in the vicinity of VIRBECK Fm.

CARRYING PARTIES.

3. As soon as the BLUE line has been captured and consolidated Os.C., "A" and "C" Coys. will each detail 1 Officer and 50 men who will be ready to report when asked for to Lieut. ANDREWARTHA at the Forward Bde. Dump J.14.b.8.6. This party will carry from Adv.Bde. Dump to all troops forward of the RED line.

STOKES AMMUNITION.- 25 men of the Mining Platoon will carry ammunition for Stokes guns allotted to this Battn. Each man will carry 4 shells in sandbags and will report to Lieut. GRANT in the present Front line before ZERO hour.

S.A.A., etc.- The two rear platoons of the rear Coys. will act as Carrying parties during the advance and will carry the following stores :-

S.A.A. 25,000
Picks 25
Shovels 200
No.23 Gren. 480.

These stores will form the Companies' Dumps of "B" and "D" Coys. Extra S.A.A., bombs, sandbags, picks, shovels, ground flares, Verrey lights, & extra water-bottles will be picked up at CHATEAU SEGARD. Lieut. MAUNSELL will be responsible for distribution of stores.

A C K N O W L E D G E.

(Sgd) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Adjt.

Copy No.	To whom.	Method.
1.	War Diary.	-
2.	File	-
3.	Brigade	Runner
4.	O.C. "A" Coy.	"
5.	O.C. "B" Coy.	"
6.	O.C. "C" Coy.	"
7.	O.C. "D" Coy.	"
8.	2nd A.E.T.M.Bty.	"
9.	2nd M.G. Coy.	"
10.	Comd Officer G.M.T.O.	"

OPERATION ORDER NO. 35.
LIEUT.-COL. D.A. LUXTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map Shts. 27 & 28 1: 4000.

MOVE.

1. The Battalion will continue march today as under, and move to camp at G.28.a.3.3.

STARTING PT.

2. Battalion Starting Pt. will be Cross roads R.22.a.5.0. Head of column will pass starting point at 1400.

ROUTE.

3. Cross roads R.22.a.5.0. - BOESCHER - Cross roads Nth. of LAPPE at L.34. d.0.4. due east to G.33.c.1.3. Guides will meet Coys. G.33.c.1.3.

ORDER OF MARCH.

4. Hdqtrs. Sigs., Intell., Hdqtrs., "D", "A", "B", "C"; Pioneers, A.M.C. and Police.

DISTANCES.

5. 100 yards between Coys. 100 yds between Transport.

HALTS.

6. Of 10 minutes to each clock hour.

DRESS.

7. Marching order less blankets, unexpended portion of days rations to be carried.

BLANKETS.

8. To be rolled in usual manner and dumped at Q.M. store before 1200.

ROUTINE.

9. aCoy. Commdrs. will arrange their own routine in order to reach starting point at the time laid down;

TRANSPORT.

10. Cookers will move in rear of Coys. with evening meal in preparation.

OFFICERS Vls.

11. As per verbal instructions.

COY. MESS STORES.

12. To be returned to Mess cart before 1300.

TENTS.

13. Tents will be issued by Area Commandant and also brown staining paint with which tents will be stained at once. Care will be taken that no light is visible from outside and overhead after dark.

RATIONS.

14. Q.M. will draw rations at G.34.b.5.4. on arrival in new area.

REPORTS.

15. Coys. will report when settled in billets. Other reports to head of column.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd.) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Adjt.

Copy No.

To whom/

Method.

1	File	-
2	War diary	-
3	2nd Aus. Inf. Bde	Runner
4	O.C. "A" Coy.	"
5.	" "B" "	"
6.	" "C" "	"
7.	" "D" "	"
8.	Sigs. & Intell.	"
9.	Q.M. & T. Offs.	"

2

SECRET.

Copy No. / *Appendix*
Headquarters 5th Battalion A.I.F.
17/9/17.

15

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 36.
BY LIEUT.-COL. D.A. LUTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Sheet 28 N.W. 1 : 20000.

- MOVE. 1. The Battalion will continue march tomorrow, 18th inst., as under, and move to camp at CHAU SEGARD area.
- STARTING POINT. 2. Battalion Starting Point will be cross roads G.28.a.5.6. Head of column will pass Starting Point at 0910.
- ROUTE. 3. G.28.a.5.6. - cross roads G.22.b. - OUDERDOM - H.32.b. - DICKEBUSCH. Guides will meet Unit at E. end of Dickebusch.
- ORDER OF MARCH. 4. Hdqtrs. Sigs., Intell., Hdqtrs., "A", "B", "C" & "D" Coys., Pioneers, AMC, Police and Transport.
- DISTANCES. 5. 100 yards between Coys., 200 yards between Transport and rear Coy.
- HALTS. 6. Of 10 minutes to each clock hour.
- DRESS. 7. Marching Order, blankets to be rolled in horseshoe method, waterproof sheet on top of pack. Steel helmets will be worn.
- TRANSPORT. 8. Cookers with midday meal in preparation will move with the Transport.
- OFFICERS' VALISES. 19. To be at Q.M. Store by 0800.
- COY. RECORDS & MESS STORES. 10. To be at Q.M. Store by 0830.
- TENTS. 11. Tents will be left standing.
- CERTIFICATES & STATES. 12. Cleanliness Certificates and Marching Out States to be at B.O.R. by 0815.
- BILLIETTING PARTY. 13. Lieut. ANDERSON and one other rank will report to Brigade Officer at H.29.c.3.9. at 0930 on the 18th inst.
- REPORTS. 14. Units will report when settled in billets; other reports to head of column.

A C K N O W L E D G E M.

(Sgd.) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Adjt.

Copy No.	To whom.	Method.
1.	War Diary	-
2.	File	-
3.	Brigade	Runner
4.	O.C. "A" Coy.	Runner
5.	" " "B" "	"
6.	" " "C" "	"
7.	" " "D" "	"
8.	Sig. & Intell. Off.	"
9.	Q.M. & T. Offs.	"

(2)

SECRET.

Copy No. /

Appendix

Headquarters 5th Battalion A.I.F.
18/9/17.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 36. A

BY LIEUT.-COL. D.A. LUTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

REF. SHEET 28. N.W.

MOVE.

1. The 5th Battalion will move from present location to ZILLEBEKE BUND and RAILWAY DUGOUTS this afternoon. The first party will not move until after 1600.

ORDER OF MARCH.

2. H.Q. Sigs., Intell., "B", "D"; "A", "C" Coys., A.M.C. First party will move at 1615 and no party will be larger than 15. 200 yards distance between parties will be maintained.

ROUTE.

3. Cross roads Sq.H. 30.c. - Cross roads Sq.H.30.D. - I.1.9.d.6.8. to EGG TRACK and thence along Brigade route to I.21.a.4.4. where guides will be met.

CARRYING PARTIES.

4. Rear platoons of "A" and "C" Coys. will move with Coys. but will report to Lieut. MAUNSELL beforehand for their loads.

BATTALION HEADQTRS.

5. Battalion Hdqtrs. will move in advance of Signallers & Intelligence.

(Sgd) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Adjt.

Copy.No.	To whom.	Method.
1.	War Diary	-
2.	File	-
3.	Brigade	Runner
4.	Spare	-

19

Recd

Copy 172

5th 13th 148th 19/9/17Bn Operation Order No 36^B
by Lieut Colonel D A Luxton DSORef Map 28 NW 12000
HOOGE 1:10000

Assembly ① (a) The assembly for the forthcoming operations will be carried out on the night 19/20

(b) The 6th B² will be on assembly position by 0130. It will be responsible for patrolling the area on front of the assembly position prior to the commencement of the assembly and until Zero hour.

Route ③ (a) The route will be as shown on marked map.
(b) Coy's will arrange for 1 guide per platoon to accompany the route.

- 2 -

Route (a) (a) At all track junction and other places where troops might go astray, the PCs will establish traffic posts. Men on these posts will wear white arm bands.

(a) From where the track mentioned in (a) joins the ~~main~~ MEXICO RR a taped line will be laid by Brigade to the centre of the taped line on which the most forward troops will form up.

Distances (3) The 5th Bn will march from Zillebeke Bund. to the assembly position with platoons in file with 100' distance between platoons.

Starting Pt. (4) I 21 d 4.5. First party will pass the starting point at 2300 hours. Cdr will personally report when they are ready to move.

- 3 -

to the present Bn HQ by
2230

Order of March (5) See end of order

Forming up: (6) All troops will be formed
up on assembly position
by 2.00 minus 30 minutes.
Cops will report by runner
to Bn HQ when in position
using the code word YARRA

Artillery

Barrage
in forming up

(7) Consequent on the capture
of the enemy's posts at
Ditch b. & c. arrangements
have been made for an
alteration in barrage
as laid down. The
initial barrage will
now be put down 150
yards E of this post.
This will enable the Bn
to form up with the right
of the leading Bc resting
on this post and in
touch with the 69th Bn.

Communications (8)

(9) Arrangements have
been made to issue
carrier pigeons to
party detailed to

in touch with the 4th Yorks.
There will be used for reporting
the position or failure to effect
junction at the party's order
to that. Sig Officer will arrange
for the issue of these pigeons
(the 1st B2 1180 & 1181 only)
only the OC will be allowed
to use the telephone. No
other person will be allowed
to use the telephone.

1st Plan (a) Contact planes will
fly at approx. the
following times:-
at Zero + 75 over the Red
Line
at Zero + 150 minutes over
Blue Line
at Zero + 380 over Green
Line
(b) Flares will be lit
by the leading companies
when called for by
Station Horn or a
white very light from
the plane when the
Blue line has

- 5 -

been captured irrespective of
other Bns passing through.

Watchers Bns (10) Three Watchers
Bns with detachments
will be allotted to the
Bn. There will be companies
for anti aircraft work
as follows.

Detachments will move
to the assembly position
~~and~~ with this Bn as far
as Red line where they
will halt and take up
positions to deal with
low flying E. A.

Strong Point (11) The 2nd F Coy will
construct strong point
at Lone Hq Black Wall
corner 115th B.O.G. Bank
from 1st B.S.G. - 1st B.S.G.
There will be known as
A B C D

Order of March (12) 1st Bn. 1st Bn. 1st Bn.
D B C A moving
Platoons with Stokes
Mortars, 2nd Bn G. Coy.

-6-

Princess of Wales and Hotchkiss
Guns.

ACKNOWLEDGE

W. H. M. L. L. L.
May 2nd 1918.

Copy No 3
11/9/17.Operation Order No 36^e

Relief D 13th will be relieved tonight. A, B Coy will be relieved by one Company of 1st Bde.
C & D Coys will also be relieved by one company of 1st Bde.

By track
held on night
of 19/10

2nd ALTM Bde will be relieved and move back to DICKIE BUSH.
Battalions of 2nd ALB Coy will not be relieved.

As soon as platoons are relieved they will move back to HOOBE crater independently where Platoon Cuzens, Ent. Section will meet them on the track.

Reports

One runner per platoon will report to present status ~~for~~ ^{at} ~~each~~ when companies are passing.

- 2 -

SAA Bombs + Stores All extra
SAA ^{all} Bombs picks + shovels
etc will be handed over
to incoming units and
receipts in duplicate obtained

Guides

6 + D Coy will ca hand
and three guides per
platoon to report to B-128s
at 1900 tonight.

These guides will be chosen
by companies with a
view to assist incoming
company in taking over.

Captured MB will be brought
back including two at
present used by MB Coy.

Rations Hot coffee will be
available at MOORE +
ZILLEBEKE.

Personnel Each company will
be responsible for the
personnel at, ...

-3-

on this sector irrespective
of which company these
men may be attached. O.C.s
will arrange this the best
possible way.

W. H. M. Lay
Capt 5430

Operation Plan 17036^D
by Lt Col W A Harrison GSO

Notes The Bⁿ will move to OUDERPOORT
today 23rd inst

Pt. Rone X Roads H 30 c - X Roads High
DICKERUSCH - H 33 & 30.75
ST. HUBERTS RD. - OUDERPOORT
Head of Column to pass
P.T. at 0900

Quar will meet companies at
X roads 0900

Evening march Hqs Sups Int & Detach
under main Camp A B
C & D

Assessors 200 y between companies

Checkers Back rear of companies

Rolls 0/10 min at 10 min to
each clock time

W A Harrison
Capt 54/18 P.M.

SECRET.

Copy No. I
Headquarters 5th Battalion A.I.F.
28/9/17

27

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 38
BY LIEUT.-COLONEL D.A. LUXTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map Sheet 1 : 40,000.

- MOVE. 1. The 5th Battalion, less details for Reinforcement Camp, will move by bus from STEENWOORDE area to the CHATEAU SEGARD area tomorrow, 29th inst.
- ORDER OF MOVE. 2. Battalion will be in position as under with head of column at road junction K.33.d.7.2. at 1040.- Headquarters, Details, "A", "B", "C", "D".
- ARRANGEMENTS. 3. Companies will be organised in parties of 1 officer or senior N.C.O. and 25 other ranks. Headquarters will be organised in above manner by Lieut. R.A. CUFF.
- DRESS. 4. Full marching order with blankets as per B.S.O., water bottles filled, and unexpended portion of day's rations.
- REINFORCE-
MENT CAMP 5. Bugle band and all reinforcement details will report, to Major Carter at present Battalion Headquarters at 1000. *with full kit*
- DETAILS & ENGINEER
CARRYING PARTY. Men detailed to be attached to the Field Coy. during the next operation will also report to Major Carter at present Battalion headqtrs. at 1000.
- TENTS. 6. All tents and trench shelters are to be struck by 0800. and dumped outside "B" Coy's. billets under guard supplied by the Bugle band.
- OFFICERS'
VALISES, COY.
RECORDS, &c. 7. Valises, etc., of "C" and "D" Coys. will be available at respective Coy. Headquarters at 0830. Valises, etc., of Headquarters, "A" and "B" Coys. will be available at Battalion Headquarters at 0845.
- BICYCLES. 8. Bicycles will be returned to Q.M. by 0830.
- CERTIFICATES. 9. Certificates as to cleanliness will be handed to the Adjutant at Starting Point. *Marching-Out-states*
- MARCHING OUT
STATES. 10. Marching Out States to be at Regtl. Office by 0900.
- TRANSPORT. 11. Transport will move independently under T.O. All riding horses and cookers will accompany transport. Cookers will be at Transport lines by 0830 and will have evening meal in preparation on the move. Head of Transport to pass starting point K.33.d.7.2. at 0945.

(Sgd) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Adjt.

Copy No.	To whom.	Method.
1	File	-
2	War Diary	-
3	Brigade	Runner
4.	O.C. "A" Coy.	"
5.	" "B" "	"
6.	" "C" "	"
7.	" "D" "	"
8.	Sig. & Int. Offs.	"
9.	Q.M. & T.O.	"

Headquarters 5th Battalion A.I.F.

25/9/17.

To Headquarters 2nd A.I. Brigade.

[illegible]

At 2300 on the night of the 19/20th, the Battalion left ZILLEBEKE and moved up to the Assembly position which lay in "No man's land" just in front of our old front line, and between JAP AVENUE (near INVERNESS COPSE) on the right, and a line running through the approximate centre of GLENCORSE WOOD.

Very little shelling took place on the march up, and only very few casualties were sustained.

The enemy started to shell in a desultory manner on and around

around the assembly position at about 0345 - 0400 and continued until ZERO hour. - Very few casualties were sustained. At a late hour it was ascertained that the sections of the Machine Gun Coy. and the section of the Hotchkiss guns which were attached to the Battalion were not complete, the Hotchkiss guns being completely lost, and failing to rejoin. The machine guns came up very little later to the Blue line and were in position in ample time.

FORMATION.-

The formation decided on for the advance was as follows:- Two companies formed the front line companies with two in supports. A screen was formed by the two leading sections of the leading platoons of the front line companies. The remainder followed in rear at a distance of 45 yds in artillery formation of sections. The support companies were in artillery formation at 15 to 20 yards distance between lines of sections. The four rear platoons acted as carrying platoons, and the four in front of them acted as moppers up.

THE ADVANCE.-

The barrage opened punctually at 0540 and the men immediately moved forward, the rear battalions in their possible anxiety to escape the possible enemy barrage crowding into the 5th Battalion, who in turn pushed forward slightly into the 6th Battalion. As mentioned above, sections had to be split but the men were well disciplined and on the barrage opening, immediately rejoined their sections. Dugouts seemed to be the goal of most men on the left flank, and a number moved over to the dugouts they knew were situated in the S.E. corner of GLENCORSE WOOD. This led to a slight loss of direction which was later corrected.

On the lifting of the barrage from the front line the men immediately moved forward, adopting their formation as though they were on the parade ground, and in their desire to get forward and deal with the enemy, were inclined to move too near the barrage, and so suffered casualties.

The right flank proceeded steadily until opposition came from the Block House on the extreme right flank in the right Division's sector. This opposition was dealt with by the right support company, and the leading company rushed forward. They met with opposition from block houses in the LONE HOUSE, and it was here that one M.C.O. captured a machine gun and nine prisoners singlehanded.

The left flank moved forward steadily and met with little opposition until the objective was reached. Expected opposition from the VERBECK FARM did not come owing to the efficacy of our artillery. Heavy machine gun fire came from the extreme left flank and caused casualties, but the shooting was not good, the gunners apparently being badly shaken.

CONSOLIDATION.-

As consolidation was proceeding the barrage lifted slightly from BLACK WATCH CORNER and immediately heavy machine gun fire was opened. It was realised that the rear Battalion could not advance immediately and we could not consolidate unless this point was captured. It was immediately rushed by a platoon under an Officer and Company Sergeant Major. They succeeded in flanking the blockhouses and capturing the position which contained two machine guns, one Officer and about 25 men who were sent back to the rear. An attempt was made to consolidate this position but the barrage again fell on it and we were forced to withdraw to the Blue line 150 - 200 yards behind. Our rifle grenadiers were pushed forward to cover the approaches to this position and also to fire upon positions in rear to prevent the enemy reoccupying.

On the lifting of the barrage the 7th Battalion were able to go forward without opposition from this point. It was here that Capt. F.L. MOORE was mortally wounded by a man who had surrendered and who, when he saw an Officer, dropped for the gun, fired a burst and put his hands up again. A sergeant on the spot immediately dealt with this man and two others effectively.

In the meantime the front line company had suffered very heavy casualties in officers (Major Caughey (who had done good work) being wounded, one other Officer being killed, and the others, with the exception of one, wounded. Men were therefore slightly generalise disorganised but on the left Company Commander, Lieut. H.F. MORRISON, hearing of the position two Officers were sent by him to assist this Company. Capt. BURKE,

25 Capt. BURKE, O.C., right support company, took charge of the right flank companies and reorganised. He had instructions to establish a strong point on the right rear of the Battalion, but owing to direct observation and heavy shelling he moved further up the line towards the centre. A trench 4'6" was quickly dug on the left, but on the right it was impossible to dig more than 2' owing to water.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS.-

Communication with the Blue line was maintained by wire and runners, but wire did not last long owing to heavy barrages put down by the enemy. Runners, as always, worked wonderfully, and their work in bringing and taking messages was without doubt remarkable. Reports were slow in coming to hand and the first message received from the advancing troops was carried by a wounded officer who reported that touch had been established with the 12th Battalion near lake at J.15.a.3.8. This reached us at 0810. The next report was received at 0810 from the right support company; stating that the strong point on the REUTELBECK was being established, and that casualties were slight. Four officers up to this time had been wounded. At 0850 we were able to report the capture of the left portion of the Blue line and that touch on both flanks of the company had been gained. This was timed about 0810, and at the same time a message to the effect that a strong point was being established at J.9.c.9.2. At 0940 all Companies had reported capture and consolidation of the Blue line and that touch had been gained on both flanks. This message was sent from Battalion at the above time and was delayed on account of the lateness of the despatch from one company. A message was received from the 12th Battalion on the right at 1000 stating that they had captured their objective, were consolidating, and were in touch on the right with this Battalion.

Wire communications were very difficult to maintain owing to heavy shelling, despite the efforts of heroic linesmen. All the wire issued was 6000 yards, and was blown out and smashed to such an extent that repair was impossible. Wire was salvaged, however, and fresh touch was obtained only to be broken again. Visual signalling was impossible.

DIRECTION.-

Many careful compass bearings were taken from the map prior to the operations and these proved of great assistance to officers, direction being maintained excellently, a slight loss only occurring in the early stages of the advance from the Red to the Blue line, owing to the left company bearing to their left too much. This error was corrected quickly. The centre tape line was run out by a reliable man without an error. As a result the line was quickly organised.

About 0800 it was reported by a Battalion Commander that they had passed through our line and found no one there. This was found to be incorrect as in reality our men were much farther in advance. In order to make sure that there were no stragglers the Intelligence Officer and Intelligence Sgt. were sent out to make a thorough search of the ground in the vicinity of the Red line, and between the Red line and the ~~far~~ ^{rearmost} troops for men of this battalion. They both reported seeing no one straggling.

BARRAGE.-

The barrage put down by our artillery was excellent. The inevitable "shorts" fell amongst our men and made casualties. It was perhaps too slow to meet the desires of our men, some of whom got into the barrage in their eagerness to make use of an opportunity for a chance of using their rifles..

The wait on the Blue line was too long, and the protection barrage of 18 prs. on the Red and Blue lines too light, as when the men saw the "heavies" move forward they disregarded the light barrage of 18 prs. thinking that it too was moving. On the return journey of the "heavies" men were consequently caught. Perhaps as many as 100 casualties were caused by our own barrage and "shorts".

The use of smoke for showing the objective was an excellent idea and showed the line very clearly, though perhaps more smoke shells might have been used with advantage.

CAPTURES.-

It is estimated that 150 - 200 prisoners were captured and sent to the rear, amongst whom was a battalion commander. Five German machine guns in good order were taken, and five others captured which were in a damaged

25 damaged condition. These sound guns had to be left in the line as there was ample ammunition and as several Vickers guns had been ^{blown} out. The damaged guns were unfortunately left up there as being of no use. Two men carrying what appeared to be a Flamminwerter were seen lying dead on our right flank close to the boundary.

CARRYING PARTIES.--

The first carrying parties were made up by the two rear platoons of each of the support companies. These had to carry heavy loads right from ZILLEBEKE to the Blue line, but notwithstanding their fatigue each platoon brought its full load.

The system which had been decided upon prior to the engagement whereby the 6th Battalion were to carry from the CLAPHAM JUNCTION dump to the forward Brigade dump, and we were to carry from that dump to the 7th and 8th Battalions seemed to fail. The forward dump was not established until late in the morning with the result that the parties we had sent back from the consolidation had to carry from CLAPHAM JUNCTION to the 7th and 8th Battalions, a distance of 1500 yards, making a total distance of about 2200 yards. This was too far and men soon became fatigued.

STOKES MORTARS.--

These did excellent work. The guns attached to this Battalion were allotted a position to the left rear of our left company, and they soon established themselves and harassed the approaches to BLACK WATCH CORNER. The carrying of ammunition to these guns was again a difficult question, but they were kept fairly well supplied by our special carrying party which also had to make many trips to CLAPHAM JUNCTION instead of the forward dump as arranged.

MACHINE GUNS.--

These sections lost their way on the march to the assembly position and half the section only went over with the Battalion. These were organised very quickly by their Officers and were soon established in the Blue line. They also made use of captured German guns and thanks to the work of Lieut. THOMAS, 2nd M.G.Coy., the front was soon well protected.

OUR MORALE AND DISCIPLINE.--

Our morale and discipline was excellent right through. The march to the Assembly position and the assembly were severe tests of discipline, and both were carried out without the slightest avoidable noise. Men were keen to get ahead and not the slightest hesitation was shown by them. The subsequent heavy shelling shook them slightly.

RELIEF.--

Relief was effected by the 4th Battalion on the night of the 21st inst. and here again discipline and initiative was shown by the section commanders, who successfully led their men on to rendezvous well in rear of the battalion over ground which they only passed over in daylight.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.--

RESISTANCE.--

Not a great deal of resistance was offered to our advance by the enemy, all of them surrendering very freely. Two or three incidents similar to the one mentioned before occurred and were dealt with in a similar manner. Valuable assistance was rendered by the prisoners in bearing wounded, all of them being only too willing to assist. Numbers of them when captured were quite ready to move to the rear unescorted, and although a 10% escort was permitted, it was rarely ever more than a 5% and some times not as much as that.

SHELLING.--

The enemy barrage was slow in coming down and fell well in rear of the brigade, most of it appearing to fall just in rear of the old front line. The first serious shelling of the Blue line took place at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and continued till about 2130 when it ceased altogether

altogether except for an odd shell directed at the batteries. During this time it was erratic. The following morning a German plane flew over our lines at a very low altitude with the result that from 0800 right through the day until 2100 at night extremely heavy and very accurate fire was directed at the Blue and Red lines. Heavy calibres were used but the 5.9 was most in evidence, and many casualties were suffered.

COUNTER-ATTACKS.-

On the nights of the 20th and 21st S.O.S. signals were sent up from the front line and were carried right along the whole front. On the 20th our guns were firing slowly when the S.O.S. rose and 10 seconds after the signal was fired and before it had started to descend our guns were firing at top speed. Apparently it was an attempt at a counter attack, but no men reached the green line. On the 21st nothing definite could be obtained as to why the S.O.S. had been fired and it cannot be said by this battalion that the enemy counter-attacked.

At 1210 on the 20th a message was received from the 7th Battalion asking for the support of one company as the enemy were counter-attacking, but as our orders were to hold the line we had captured and allow the Red line troops act for counter-attacks, we could not respond except to give a barrage with Stokes shells and indirect machine gun fire. This attack was apparently successfully driven off.

The enemy was twice seen massing towards the left front of the Green line and in each case the artillery apparently smashed any effort on their part to retake their lost positions.

A message from Brigade was received at about 1200 saying that an enemy division was on its way from the rest area to deliver a counter-attack. This did not develop on any scale, and it is possible that the troops observed massing were those referred to in that message.

ENEMY DEAD.-

The enemy suffered fairly heavily from our barrage but no accurate estimate can be given. Perhaps 200 enemy dead were lying between the Red and Blue lines but it is difficult to say.

ENEMY MORALE.-

The enemy morale seems to be poor. As already stated they seemed only too willing to surrender.

FOOD.-

All prisoners taken had coffee in their bottles and a great amount of spirits and cake was discovered in the "pill boxes". They do not seem to be starved.

GENERAL REMARKS.-

The whole advance was most successful and reflected great credit on all ranks engaged in it. Greatest heroism was shown at times and cases of strict devotion to duty, disregard of self were particularly noticeable amongst all Officers and N.C.Os. Each man's behaviour was excellent and each man showed a great desire to engage the enemy.

Casualties were -	3 Officers killed	6 wounded
	67 O.R.	183 "
	12 O.R.	missing.

Lieut.-Colonel,

Commanding 5th Battalion A.I.F.