

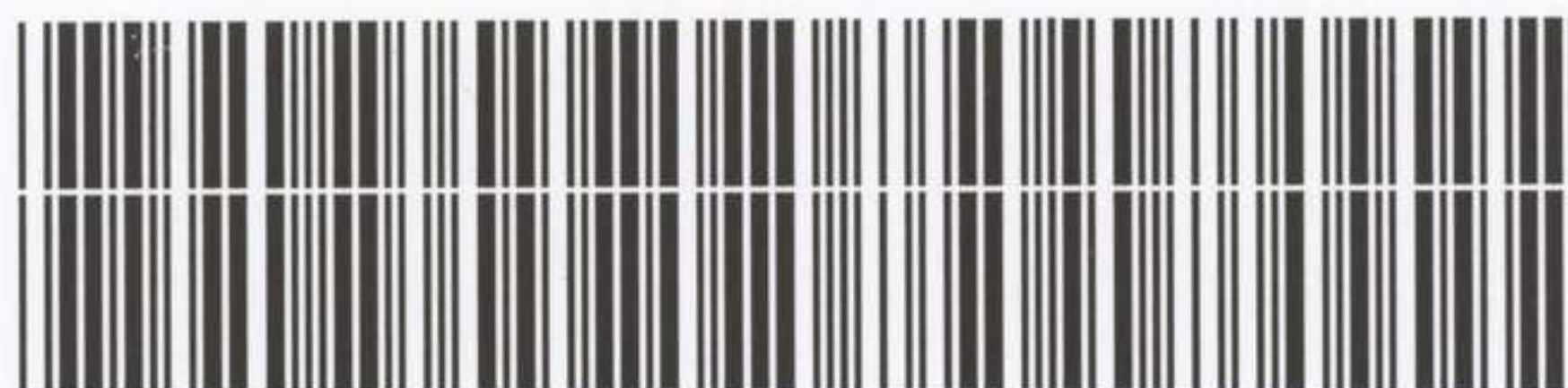
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/35/24

Title: 18th Infantry Battalion

July 1917



AWM4-23/35/24

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

18th Battalion A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME No 12 Camp	1.7.17		Church Parades near BIEFVILLERS.	
	2.7.17		List 196. Lieut W.F. JONES transferred to 63rd Battr. dated 26/5/17. Lieut. G.J.G. CLAYTON on leave to ENGLAND. Capt J.H. O'DONNELL temporarily attached to Hdqrs 5th A.I. Bde. Training for week provided for Battalion work - Specialist Training mainly.	
	3.7.17 3.7.17		Lieut E.L. DAVIES. MC. (7 bar). to 3rd Army Infantry School. Major R.M. SADLER M.C. returned from Senior Officers' School England.	
	4.7.17		List 197. Lieut. L.D. FAWCETT ceased to be seconded with A.F.C.	
	7.7.17		List 198. Lieut W.S. MOORS. seconded sick dated 1/6/17. Capt A.R. BORTON-WOOD M.C. transferred to 20th Bn A.I.F. dated 4.6.17.	

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BAPAUME No 12 Camp	8.7.17		Capt. W.L. APPLEBY on leave to ENGLAND. 1/2 Lt RD HUNTER returned from leave. Church Parades cancelled owing to wet weather.	
	9.7.17		Divisional exercise. vide Bn. Training Order No. 5. Lieut A.E. GARTRELL returned from 5th Army Sniping School. 2/Lieut J.C. HARRISON returned from Hospital conducting 27.0R from details	
	10.7.17		List 201. { Lieut L. SELLERS. seconded for duty with 5th T.B. 28/6/17. { Lieut K.G. CONNELLY to Supernumerary List dated 23/6/17. Lieut A.W. IRVINE M.C. to Lewis Gun School LE TOUQUET	
	12.7.17		Lecture to Battalion by Major CORRICK D.S.O. (AMC) & Archdeacon WARD on Venereal Diseases	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME 1st 2nd Camp	13.7.17		Brigade Exercise. vide Bn. Training Order No 6. 1 NCO reported from 5th Coy A.E. for to instruct N.COs in Rapid Wiring 3 NCOs per day detailed to attend his class Lieut BP WOODLAND returned from Hospital.	
	14.7.17		Capt J L O'DONNELL returned from attachment to 5th A.I. Bde Lieut GNG CLAYTON from leave	
	15.7.17		Church Parades on Bn Parade ground.	
	16.7.17		First Round of Bn Cricket Competition completed. leaving 18th Bn level with 20th Bn for 1st place.	
	18.7.17		Battalion Exercise vide Training Order No 7. Lieuts KAEPPLE MC & PARFITT returned from 5th T.B.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME 1st Camp	18.7.17		Plieut C. CLEARY joined Battalion from Reinforcements (Cadet Bn). 18. O.R. rejoined from hospital & details.	
	19.7.17		Lecture delivered by Major C.S. STEELE on Engineering subjects to Officers in the Mess. Baths available to the Battalion.	
	20.7.17		Night Operation conducted by 5th Bde. General Plan provided for a surprise "stand to" night march to place of assembly & deployment on a supposed support line - 18th Battalion to remain in reserve at place of assembly. Following is time table	
	10.1pm		Message recd. from 5th Bde - "Stand To & move to Place of Assembly"	
	10.6pm		A. Coy reported O.K. & moving to Battalion Assembly Point (On Parade Ground)	
	10.11pm		B. Coy, C. Coy, D. Coy & Headquarters reported O.K. & moving.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
20.7.17.	10.13pm		Battalion moving to Brigade Assembly Point.	
	11.52pm		arrived at	
21.7.17.	12.13am		Battalion remained in reserve during subsequent deployment of Bde.	
	1.12am		Ordered to return to Camp.	
			Arrived at Camp.	
21.7.17.			Attached is copy of Special & General Ideas.	
			Lieut L. REDGRAVE & Capt A. PAINE on 4 days leave to Paris.	
22.7.17.	24/7/17		Lieut R. H. WILKIS evacuated suffering from P.O.C.	
			Church Parades.	
	8.0pm		Battalion moved out to a bivouac position near RIENCOURT-les.	
			BAPAUME in anticipation of a Divisional exercise	
			Operation Order No 11 (Training) for this exercise is attached.	
23.7.17	2.0am		Battalion moved to jumping off Tape, taking up the dispositions as detailed in O.O. No 11.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24/7/17		2/Lieut J.A. HOLDSWORTH to 5 th T.B. AIF. List 208 - 4130. Sgt J. HARRIS & 4039 Sgt G.H. DUNCAN appointed 2/Lieut dated 12/5/17. 2/Lieut E.W. DANIEL to be Lieut dated	
	25/7/17		Battalion parade held & inspection by C.O. Lieut L.M. Redgrave & Capt A. PAINE from Paris leave. Administrative Memo issued in anticipation of move. (vide attached. 375 Sgt R.L. FIDGE appointed 2/Lieut dated 23/7/17.	
	26/7/17		Sports Meeting held near Camp.	
	27/7/17		A, C, D Coys. carried out bombing practice in TILLTRENCH, Bde Operation Order received providing for move of battalion on 28/7/17. Bn Operation Order ^{issued} received 9.15 pm.	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	28/7/17		Battalion struck camp at Bapaume. Transport ordered to move ahead of Battalion to Beaumont. Battalion marched to Beaumont and entrained at 5 pm. for ST OMER	
	29/7/17		Arrived entrained at ST OMER. 4.30 am. marched to tented camp (S. 3 d. 3.3) MALHOVE. Roundabout of Bde billeted at ARQUES.	
	30/7/17		Inspection by company commanders, examination by M.O. Swimming parade. Billiting party detailed by Bde to proceed to BOUVELINGHEM. Lt Parfit. billiting officer. Lt. G. H. Kaeffel reported to 5 th A.I. Bde (temp.) duty.	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31/7/17		Bth moved to BOUVELINGHEM for Training purposes.	
			Lt. R. E. Dryden reported from Hospital	
			Lt. B. P. Woodland from Le Harve.	
			Thind C. B. Greaves from Base. Thind Charles Buxton Greaves. Born 30/7/82	
			Date of appointment AIF. 30/9/16. Occupation clerk. Schools attended: Officers School, Duntroon N.S.W. Officers School, Richmond.	
			Thind Leo James Corrigan from O.T.C. born 27/9/95. Date of appointment to AIF 30/6/17. Occupation clerk. Rel. R.C. Schools attended. 2nd Div. School Flesselles No 2 O.C.B. Cambridge.	
	1/8/17		Bth Route march.	

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.Headquarters,
8/7/17.TRAINING ORDER No. 5.

Reference : Sketch attached.

Sheets 57.C:N.W. & S.W, 1/20000.

- i. That portion of the enemy's line through Monument Wood, BANCOURT, VILLERS-AU-FLOS, marked red in attached sketch has been captured by the 50th. Corps and is being consolidated.
The enemy is delivering local counter-attacks only and is disorganised. The second Australian Division has been detailed to push through on the BANCOURT, VILLERS-AU-FLOS line (both inclusive) to exploit the success and secure the line THILLOY-ridge in N.15.c. & d. (both inclusive).
The 6th. Brigade is attacking on the right and the 5th. Brigade on the left of the Divisional sector; with the 201 Division on the left of the second Australian Division.
- ii. Boundaries for attack :-
5th. Brigade, Right boundary: O.1. central along southern edge of RIENCOURT-lez-BAPAUME (exclusive to 6th. Brigade) road junction at N.9.d.70.30. to trees at N.9.c.20.30.
Inter. Battn. boundary. O.7.a.80.70 - N.11.d.50.00, N.16.a.00.00. to N.14.c.75.00.
5th. Brigade, Left boundary. VILLERS-AU-FLOS - BEAULENCOURT - BEAULENCOURT, GUEDEDECOURT ROAD to N.21.b.60.00 (all inclusive)
- iii. The jumping off trench is along the road in O.1.c. to junction with red line north of VILLERS-AU-FLOS, thence along red line to Brigade left boundary,.
- iv. The advance on final objective will be in three stages :-
1st. stage. by 20th. (right) and 17th. (left) battalions.-
Capture and consolidation of the remainder of the RIENCOURT - VILLERS-AU-FLOS SYSTEM INCLUDING SUNKEN ROAD in N.12.d.
2nd. stage. 18th. Battn. (right) less 2 Coys., 19th. Battn. (left),-
Capture and consolidation of BEAULENCOURT and the line of the BAPAUME-BEAULENCOURT ROAD.- 19th. Battn. sending forward strong patrols to test line in N.16.
3rd. stage. 20th. (right) and 17th. (left) battalions,-
Capture of system in N.16. and then ridge in N.15.c. & d. and N.21.b. (including STORMY and BACON TRENCHES)
- v. ACTION.:- The 18th. Battn. (less 2 Coys) will be in trench line O.2.a. & c. at zero -20 with "D" Coy. on right, "A" Coy. on left.
At zero, battalion will advance in artillery formation to jumping off line and remain there until stage 1 has been completed.
Stage 2. On receipt of information that O.G.1 & 2 have been captured, the order "move on O.G.2" will be issued from Battn. Hd. Qrs.
Coys. will then move to position between O.G.1. and O.G.2. halting behind parados (british) of O.G.2.
Coy. Commanders will reconnoitre the position and send forward patrols towards line BAPAUME-BEAULENCOURT ROAD.
The formation to be adopted and action to be taken will be determined on situation as disclosed.
The Battalion will sieze line of Sunken Road in N.11.d. and far edge of BAPAUME-BEAULENCOURT ROAD and reconnoitre road forward from N.11.c.40.00 through N.17.a.
Stage 3. 1 officer and 40 O.R. from "D" Coy.)
 2 officers and 60 O.R. from "A" Coy.) will report to tool dump at N.18.20.00 and be prepared to carry tools etc. forward during stage 3.
The remainder of the Coys. will be held in readiness to move forward during stage 3 if required.

- vi. Machine guns will move forward with Coys. to O.G.2 during 2nd. stage, and engage any enemy machine guns firing at medium or distant ranges. As soon as the situation permits, positions will be taken up to bring fire as under :-
- (a) 1 gun to fire on road from RIENCOURT through N.11.b. & d. to BEAULENCOURT.
 - (b) 1 gun to fire on road on northern side of BEAULENCOURT from BAPAUME BEAULENCOURT ROAD to BENDIT FARM, N.17.b.40.50. and road from N.11.d.30.00 to N.17.b.00.90.
 - (c) 1 gun to operate on right flank and push forward to line BAPAUME ROAD to fire on sunken road in N.11.d. and east of BEAULENCOURT.
 - (d) 1 gun in reserve with Battn.Hd.Qrs.
- vii. Each company will detail two sections to act as moppers up.
- viii. Battalion Headquarters will move with battalion to O.G.2. and will then be established at Road and trench junction N.12.a.5.1... When the battalion objective has been gained and 17th. and 20th. Battns. have crossed BEAULENCOURT ROAD, Battn.Hd.Qrs. will then move to track crossing at N.11.d.5.5.
- ix. Regimental Aid Post will be at road and trench junction N.12.a.5.1.
- x. Watches will be synchronised at 9 p.m. 8/7/17.
- xi. Signals. Success signal for the 1st. stage O.G.2., will be 2 Red Very lights in quick succession.
2nd. stage:- Alternate Red and White Very lights.
3rd. stage:- pairs of Reds and Whites alternately.
- xii. Communications. The Sig. Officer will arrange for visual signalling and runners.
- xiii. Attack will take place on 9th. instant. Zero hour will be notified later.
- xiv. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Issued at 6 p.m. on 8/7/17.

Distribution.

Copy 1. War Diary.

2. "A" Coy.
3. "D" Coy.
4. C.O.
5. 2nd. in Command.
6. R.M.O.
7. 5th. A.M.G. Co.
8. 5th. A.I. Bde.
9. 19th. Battalion.
10. File.

Alfred Johnson 2/Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 18th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

Training

APPENDIX

Copy No.

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

12

87

Headquarters,
8/7/17.TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 3.

Reference :- Sheet 57 C. 1/40000.

- i. The Battalion will parade at 5.45 a.m. on the morning of the 9th. instant.
- ii. All ball ammunition will be taken from men and left in tents. Company Commanders will ascertain before Battn. parade that this has been done, and render a certificate to Battn. Hd. Qrs. not later than 5.45 a.m.
- iii. All ranks will have breakfast before parade. Men will carry unconsumed portion of the day's rations.
Cookers will accompany Battalion and be prepared to issue tea when battalion is in assembly position, (on road from I. 32. d. 1. 3. towards PREMICOURT)
- iv. DRESS :- Battle order, with felt hats.
The entrenching tool will be carried in front (Officers may see sketch at Battn. Hd. Qrs.) Company Commanders will report by 9 a.m. 10/7/17 on this method of carrying the entrenching tool.
"B" and "C" Coys. comply with orders issued to them by 2nd. Pioneer Battalion. They will wear steel helmets.
- v. Ten (10) rounds per man of blank S. A. A. will be carried.
Lewis Guns will carry two panniers per gun but no ammunition.
- vi. Company officers will carry one Very pistol each.
- vii. During the operation, troops of the opposing sides are not to advance to within 50 yards of each other.
All camps and horselines are out of bounds.
- viii. Sick parade to-morrow will be at 5.15 a.m.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1. File.

2. "A" Coy.
3. "B" Coy.
4. "C" Coy.
5. "D" Coy.
6. Sig. Officer.
7. R. M. O.
8. Transport Officer.
9. Q. M.
10. Spare.

Alfred Johnson
..... 2/Lieut.,
A/Adjutant, 18th. BATTALION, A. I. F.

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.Battn. Headquarters,
12th. July 1917.TRAINING ORDER No. 6.

Reference;-- Le Sars. Loupart Wood, Le Barque, 1/20000.

1. Information has been received that the enemy has attacked and captured MALT TRENCH on a general line from LE BARQUE through M.12. central M.5. c. & d., to M.4. d. 6. 3. and CAMP TRENCH, ~~MINIMISE TRENCH~~ GRUNDY TRENCH and is massing troops for an advance.
2. The battalion has been ordered forward to hold the GREVILLERS line from M.4. a. 20. 00 to M.5. b. 30. 00 on the left. Other battalions of the "X" Brigade are co-operating on either flank.
Inter battalion Boundaries.--
Right;-- M.4. a. 20. 00 to G. 28. c. 20. 00.
Left;-- M.5. b. 30. 00 to G. 29. d. 30. 00
3. Intelligence reports fix the probable strength of the attacking troops at 3 battalions with complement of machine guns, trench mortars. The enemy's artillery was recently greatly increased.
4. It is the intention of the commander to hold for at least 96 hours, ACHIET TRENCH, (b) to G. 33. b. 50. 70. on a general line through G. 28. c. 0000 to G. 29. central.
5. Dispositions. "B" Coy. less one platoon in GREVILLERS line.
1 platoon "B" Coy. edge of wood G. 35. c. 10. 20. to G. 35. c. 50. 70
"A" Coy.-- 1 platoon - LOUPART TRENCH.
1 platoon "C" Coy. to defend road from G. 35. c. 50. 70. to G. 35. b. 30. 40
"A" Coy less 1 platoon on southern edge LOUPART WOOD G. 34. a. 30. 25. by edge of wood to G. 35. c. 05. 20.
"C" Coy. less 1 platoon in supports at G. 34. b. 20. 60.
"D" Coy. -- ~~26 platoon~~ to construct and garrison Strong Points at G. 34. a. 20. 80., G. 28. d. 20. 30, G. 29. central.
Eight machine guns are assigned to assist in the defence.
Guns No. 1 and 2 will be in strong point at G. 29. central.
Gun 3 will be in G. 28. d. 20. 30.
Gun No. 4 will be at G. 34. a. 20. 80.
These guns will barrage MALT TRENCH, WARLENCOURT ROAD, M. 5. central, LOUPART ROAD and area in M. 4. central using indirect fire.
Fire will be opened immediately S.O.S. signal is observed. Heavy bursts of fire will be maintained as long as possible on advancing infantry, but to conserve ammunition, machine guns will exercise close supervision over expenditure and after first 3 minutes of launching of attack will concern themselves mainly with inflicting casualties by indirect fire on reinforcements, carrying parties etc.
These guns will be used for direct fire as soon as a favourable target presents itself. The flanks and rear edge of the wood will be kept under close observation.
Action of remaining four guns.--
1st. gun will take up position A at G. 35. d. 20. 80. and fire on troops advancing on GREVILLERS line.
2nd. gun will take up position B in G. 35. a. 80. 20.
3rd. gun in position C at G. 34. c. 90. 75.
4th. gun in position D at corner of wood G. 35. c. 05. 20.
If the enemy succeeds in gaining the GREVILLERS LINE guns will fall back to the following position from A to A, at G. 28. d. 80. 20.
B gun to B, at G. 28. d. 45. 15., C gun to C, at G. 34. a. 25. 40. and later if threatened to S.P. with No. 4 gun.
D gun will be withdrawn by road through centre of wood to be held in reserve at G. 28. c. 50. 30.
Of each pair the gun in the forward position will be withdrawn first. Infantry officer on the spot will ensure adequate protection using Lewis Guns and if necessary local counter attacks to ensure successful withdrawal.

T.O.No.6.Sheet 2.

The machine gun ^{officer} will ensure range charts are issued to all concerned.

6. Order of withdrawal.-- GREVILLERS line junction of LOUPART TRENCH to the west will withdraw and pass through LOUPART TRENCH to LOUPART WOOD, reform on road on northern edge of wood and reorganise ready for counter attack.

Left flank of GREVILLERS line, must be held at all costs until withdrawal is completed from other section of trench, a block being established with defensive flank in C.T., M.4.b.70.60 to M.4.b.70.80. Signal that withdrawal is complete-- One green flare and two white flares fired from G.34.c.90.70.

Remaining garrison of GREVILLERS line will then fall back on to line of road G.34.d.70.70. to G.35.b.30.80.

Signal that withdrawal is complete will be 2 green and 1 white flare fired from G.35.a.20.20. and troops garrisoning edge of wood from G.34.d.60.80. to G.35.c.05.20. and along edge of wood to G.35.b.30.40. will withdraw behind line of wood and hold line from G.34.a.20.60. to G.34.a.60.45. thence edge of wood to G.29.c.00.00. to G.29.d.30.15. Signal that this move is complete will be 2 whites at intervals of 2 secs. fired from G.28.d.20.30. and repeated from G.29.central and S.P. in G.34.a.

On completion of move all troops in LOUPART WOOD and along road to G.35.a.30.40. to G.35.b.30.80. will gradually withdraw under enemy pressure to dead ground G.29.a. in vicinity of road through G.28.a. b. G.29.a. b. and reorganise.

Strong points will hold out at all posts. Troops in rear on being reorganised will hold themselves in readiness to counter attack vigorously threatening S.P.s

7. Every effort must be made by garrisons of S.P. and M.Gunners to hold the enemy on general line of Loupart wood so that they may be confined to barrage area already registered by our guns.

8. Report centre in 1st. instance G.34.b.15.60 moving on evacuation of GREVILLERS line G.28.central.

R.A.P. at Battn.Hd.Qrs.

Sig.Officer will arrange communication by visual signalling and runners.

L. B. Robson

.....Lieut.
Adjutant 18th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

Distribution.

Copy No.1. File.

2. C.O.
3. 5th. A.I. Bde.
4. ~~Ad. in command.~~ *Major Sadler.*
5. "A" Coy.
6. "B" Coy.
7. "C" Coy.
8. "D" Coy.
9. Sig.Officer.
10. ~~Transport Officer.~~ *Chief Ampire.*
11. Adjutant.
12. 5th. A.M.G. Co.

BATTALION EXERCISE.

Battalion Headquarter ,
17th. July 1917.

Reference :- France, Sheet 57 C. N.W.

NARRATIVE.

From information received it is known that the enemy are lightly holding that part of MONUMENT WOOD from H.21.b.3.8. to H.21.b.60.950.

The 18th. Battalion moving along the SAPIGNIES - FAVREUIL ROAD are forced to deploy on ridge H.15.a.6.1. - H.15.b.1.6. and attack this position on a two company frontage. The enemy is dislodged and withdraw to another position about 500 yards away. The attacking force is held up by machine gun fire but are able, owing to the topographical conditions to send out patrols and keep touch with the enemy.

Acting on reports of the patrols who locate the enemy's new position, the attacking force is able to reorganise in the wood, the machine gun fire having ceased, and deliver a fresh attack on the new position.

On this objective being gained the attacking force consolidates and exploits success.

It is to be assumed that the advance has been so rapid that evacuation of casualties cannot be carried out immediately. Wounded shall, therefore be collected by stretcher bearers and placed in zones protected from fire

L. B. Robson

.....Lieut
Adjutant, 18th. Battalion, A.I.

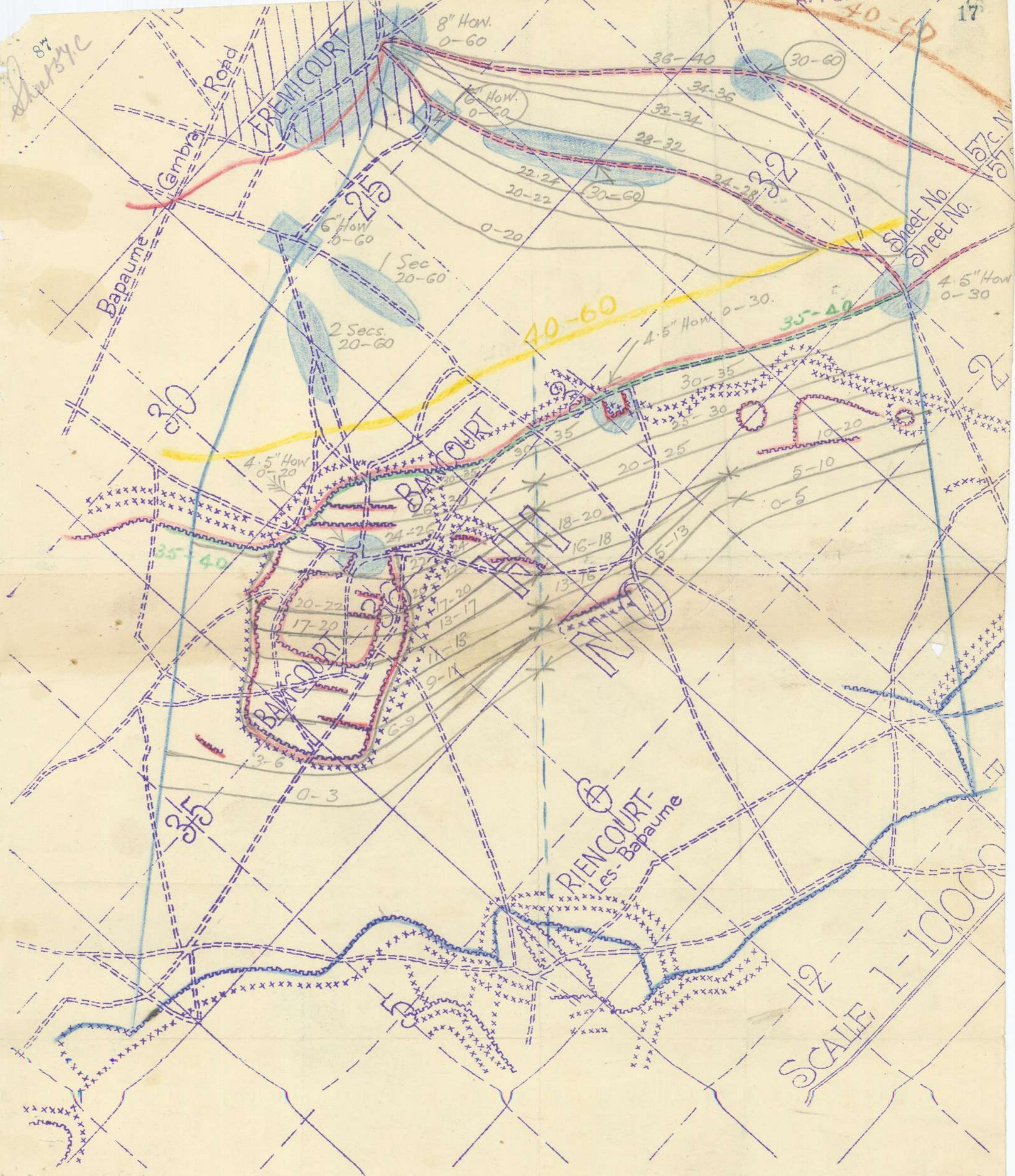
Distribution.

Copy No. 1. File.

2. "A" Coy.
3. "B" Coy.
4. "C" Coy.
5. "D" Coy.
6. Sig. Officer.
7. Transport Officer.
8. Spare.

OC

A Coy.



EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battn. Headquarters,
19th. July 1917.

TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 7.

REFERENCE: BAPAUME, Sheet 57C, N.W. 1/10000.

1. A tactical exercise will be carried out on the night of 20/21st. July in accordance with the attached General and Special Ideas.
2. The exercise will take the form of a sudden "stand to", move to positions of assembly and deployment for attack.
3. The 18th. Battalion will take part in the exercise and under orders move to position of assembly H.13.b.. There the battalion will form up in mass in rear of the 17th. Battalion, the disposition of the Brigade being as under:-

	<u>L E F T.</u>	<u>R I G H T.</u>
↓	17th. Battalion.	19th. Battalion.
	5th. A.L.T.M. Bty.	5th. A.M.G. Co.
	18th. Battalion.	20th. Battalion.
T. North.		

4. On the order "stand to" being given, units will fall in, in silence and move to Battalion Parade Ground. Reports to Battalion Hd. Qrs. immediately head of Coy. column passes "A" Coy. lines.
5. Coys. will detail 1 officer and One N.C.O. beforehand to report to Lieut. A.W. Irvine, M.C. at Battalion Hd. Qrs. immediately alarm is given. This party will move at once to Brigade assembly position and act as guides and markers for the Battalion.
6. The Q.M. will ensure that a hot drink is awaiting the men on return from the exercise.
7. Lieut. A.W. Irvine, M.C. and two runners will reconnoitre the ground over which the exercise will take place, and locate Brigade Hd. Qrs. at H.13.c.3.8.

Issued at 10 am 19th July

Distribution.

Copy No. 1. File.

2. "A" Coy.
3. "B" Coy.
4. "C" Coy.
5. "D" Coy.
6. Sig. Officer.
- 7.
- 8.

L. E. Robson
.....Lieut.
Adjutant 18th. BATTALION. A. I. F.

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
19th. July 1917.

To Accompany Training Memorandum No.7.

GENERAL IDEA.

REFERENCE: Sheet 57.C., N.W.3.

The 201st. Division is holding the ACHET-LE-GRAND - BINUCOURT - BIEVILLERS LINE.

The enemy is holding a line approximately 500 yards in advance of the ACHET-LE-PETIT - GREVILLERS ROAD.

The 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde. is in support of the 201st. Division in the left sector.

SPECIAL IDEA.

1. The enemy has by a sudden and unexpected attack broken our front line in G.24.a. and d. and has established ~~the~~ himself on the line G.18.c.5.1. - G.24.b.6.5. - G.24.d.5.7.
 2. The 501st. Brigade which originally only had 50% effectives has suffered serious casualties, and is not in a condition to carry out the counter attack.
 3. The 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde. are therefore ordered forward at short notice to a position of assembly in W.13.a. and b. and on arrival there, 19th. and 17th. Battalions, (right and left battalions respectively) are instructed to deploy for the attack approximately on the line G.18.c.7.7. - W.13.c.0.0. with 20th. Battalion in support at W.7.c.0.2.. The 18th. Battalion will remain in reserve at position of assembly. Inter Battalion boundaries will be G.18.d.4.3. to G.24.b.0.7.
 4. The exercise will not be carried beyond the deployment stage.
-

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battn. Headquarters,
22nd. July 1917.

TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 8

The Battalion will take part in a Divisional Exercise on Monday 23rd. inst.

The exercise will take the form of a trench to trench attack, where trenches are widely separated.

Practice will be afforded the battalion in :-

- (1) providing covering parties for Engineers laying out a taped jumping off line,
- (2) an advance on this line and forming up by zero hour,
- (3) an advance behind an artillery barrage, (represented by torches and horsemen.)
- (4) assault on enemy's line, work of moppers up - particularly in the village.
- (5) reorganisation - consolidation - readiness to form a defensive flank.
- (6) casualties will be practised under semi-open warfare conditions.

The scope of the exercise, the general scheme of attack, and what is required of each individual will be carefully explained to all ranks by 8 p.m. to-night.

NOTES: -

- (a) The enemy will be represented by the 2nd. Pioneer Battalion.
- (b) Fire of Machine Guns will be represented by section volleys, fired with blank.
- (c) Attacking force will NOT use any blank ammunition. - snapping only.
- (d) No ball ammunition will be carried. Coy. Commanders will render necessary certificate by 7 p.m. to-night.
Lewis Gun panniers (new type) with empty drums will be carried.
- (e) Attacking troops will wear felt hats.
The enemy will wear steel helmets.

The attached sketch shows :-

In Blue ... Advanced British trenches.

In Red ... Enemy's trenches - either existing or to be marked with flags.

GENERAL IDEA.

The British front is represented by the trenches :- West side of VILLERS-AU-FLOS - RIENCOURT-LEZ-BAPAUME - South side of BAPAUME.

The enemy's line is represented by the line of defences :- O.8.d. and b - O.2.a. - the village of BANCOURT and its defences - MONUMENT WOOD.

SPECIAL IDEA.

The British will attack on 23rd. July at zero hour (to be notified later).

The 5th. Australian Division will attack on the right and the 150th. Division on the left of the 2nd. Australian Division.

Issued at 2.25 pm

L. H. Robson Lieut.
Adjutant 18th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1. File.

2. "A" Coy.

3. "B" Coy.

4. "C" Coy.

5. Sig. Officer.

6. "D" Coy

7. Transport H.

log

18th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

Copy No. 5

Battn. Headquarters,
22nd. July 1917.

OPERATION ORDER No. 11 (Training)

Reference: (Sketch attached.
(Sheet 57 C, N.W. and S.W. 1/20000.

1. The enemy is holding a trench system O.S.d. and b, O.2.a.; the HAPLINCOURT-BANCOURT ROAD - village of BANCOURT with small detached works on south and north west sides of it, - MONUMENT WOOD. He also has a switch line, with front and support lines from HAPLINCOURT to PREMICOULT, both of which villages he holds.
2. The 2nd. Australian Division will attack within the limits shown on sketch.
The 5th. Brigade will attack in the left sector, the 400th. Brigade will be on Brigade Left and the 7th. A.I. Bde. on Brigade right.
3. The brigade will attack on a two battalion frontage, 17th. Battn. on right and 18th. Battalion on left, the 19th. Battalion later passing through 18th. Battn. on the latter gaining its objective. The 20th. Battalion will be in support.
4. Battalion Right Boundary:- H.35.b.40.60 - H.36.b.50.00 to H.36.b.70.60 (village and village defences inclusive to left Battalion).
Battalion Left Boundary:- H.35.e.10.70 to H.30.e.60.30.
Inter Company Boundary:- H.35.e.70.00 - Road junction H.35.d.95.70, (inclusive to right company) to H.36.a.60.30.
5. The Battalion objective will be H.36.d.00.80. (inclusive) to H.30.e.0.0.
6. A jumping off line is being taped out on the line H.35.b.40.60 to H.35.a.60.00 by engineers.
Covering parties will be provided by "C" and "D" Coys. and will be in position by 11.20 p.m. Engineers report centre at 11 p.m. will be at H.35.a.50.00, Covering parties will be absorbed by Coys. at zero hour.

7. Coys. will form up on the tape line as under :-

"D" Coy.		"C" Coy.
15'	_____	_____
10'	_____	_____
15'	X X X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X X X
15'	_____	_____
10'	_____	_____
25'	X X X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X X X
15'	_____	_____
10'	_____	_____
15'	X X X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X X X
15'	_____	_____
10'	_____	_____
15'	X X X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X X X

↑
200'
↓
19th. Battalion.

19th. BATTALION. OPERATION ORDER No. 11. Sheet 2. (Training)

8. Coys. will adhere to the HMM normal formation for attack.
 25 yards between Coys. (distance only) 15 yards between lines,
 25 yards waves with moppers up 10 yards behind each wave.
 "C" and "D" Coys. will be in position at zero -45.
 "B" and "A" Coys. will move to position from bivouac at zero -45.
 Dispositions will be completed by zero -30

8. One section per platoon will act as moppers up.

9. Coy. Objectives.

"D" and "C" Coys. to line of road H.35.b.60.75 to Cross roads
 H.36.a.10.20 (exclusive) to enemy's line H.36.a.30.00 - H.36.d.00.00
 to Battalion right boundary.
 "A" and "B" Coys. to Battalion objective.

10. The 19th. Battalion will pass through the 19th. Battalion when the latter obtains its objective.

11. "C" Coy. will provide 1 officer and 50 O.R. to act as carrying party. They will report to Brigade Bomb Officer at Battle Dump N.4.b.50.30 at zero -30.

"D" Coy. will detail 1 Sgt. and 32 O.R. as carrying party for Stokes Mortar Ammunition.

12. The Battalion Sig. Officer will arrange for communications by visual and runner.

13. The Brigade Battle Dump is at N.4.b.50.30. Mobile echelon will move in accordance with special orders already communicated.

14. Regimental Aid Post will be at N.5.a.90.70.

"A" Coy. will detail 1 platoon as extra stretcher bearers to report to R.A.P. at zero -30.

15. Watches will be synchronised at 6'5 p.m. and at 12'5 a.m. night of 22/23rd. July.

Battalion Headquarters will be at H.35.c.50.40.

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

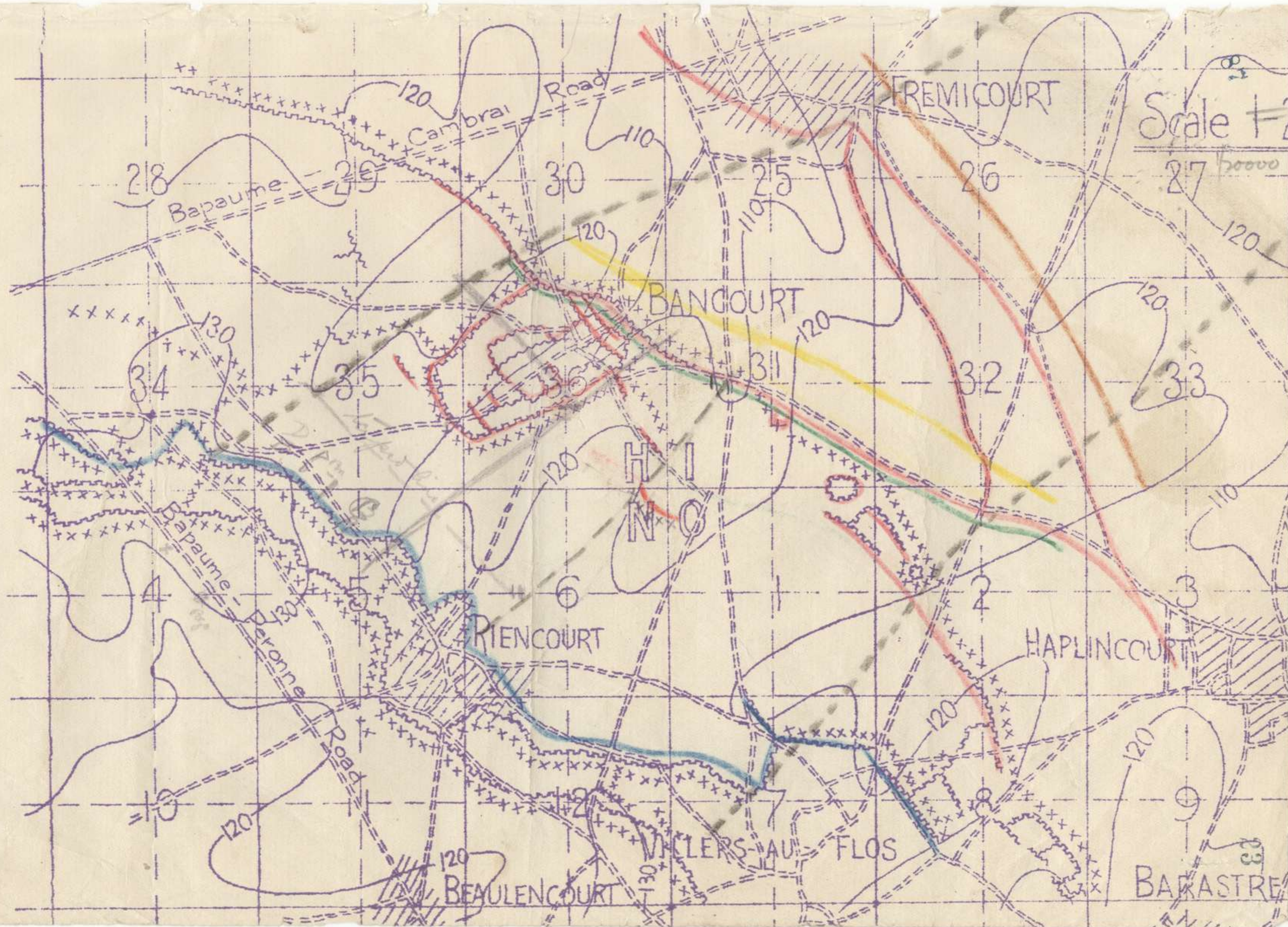
L. Robinson

.....Lieut.
 Adjutant 19th. BATTALION, A. I. P.

Issued at 5³⁰ p.m. on 22/7/17 to

Copy. No. 1. File.

2. C. O.
3. 2nd. in Command.
4. War Diary.
5. "A" Coy.
6. "B" Coy.
7. "C" Coy.
8. 5th. A. I. Bde.
9. "D" Coy.
10. Sig. Officer.
11. 5th. A. M. G. Co.
12. 5th. A. I. T. M. Bty.
13. 17th. Battalion.
14. 19th. Battalion.
15. Transport Officer.



EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
22nd. July 1917.

Reference Operation Order No. 11. (Training)

1. Zero hour will be 3'30 a.m. on 23rd. instant.
2. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Issued at 6'45 p.m. 22/7/17.

Lt. Robson
.....Lieut.
Adjutant 18th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1. File.

2. 2nd. in Command.
3. War Diary.
4. "A" Coy.
5. "B" Coy.
7. "D" Coy.
6. "C" Coy.
8. Sig. Officer.
9. Transport Office

87

A⁵ Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message _____

Prefix	Code	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.		Sent	Service.	Date	
					At.....m.	From
					To	By
					By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")
TO {						
22nd						
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.		A A A		
<p>Reference 5 Bde. TO. NO 14</p> <p>104. Will you please arrange to have covering parties for the taking of the line from H. 35 A 66 to N 5 B 46 in position by 11 30 pm. on 22nd 104.</p> <p>Will you please instruct OC party to notify Lt. Dumas 5th Field Coy. who will be at N. 5 A 50. from 11 pm. till 11 15 pm. that the is moving out 104.</p> <p>Please acknowledge if this arrangement is convenient or other wise</p> <p>C & D Coy. to note</p>						
From	5th Field Coy. A E					
Place						
Time						

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
750,000. W 2123-M 502. H. W. & V., Ltd. 5/16.

Battalion Headquarters,
22nd July 1917.

Reference Sheet 57c N.W. and S.W. 1/36,600.

1. The enemy is holding HAWLINGCOURT-BANCOURT - villages of Bancourt with small detached works on south and north-west sides of it - to MONUMENT WOOD.
2. 5th A.I. Bde. will attack the sector from CROSS ROADS - I.31.a.6.C (inclusive) to H.36.c.5.3, on 23rd July 1917.
3. Zero hour will be 3.30 a.m.
4. The 19th Bn., in conjunction with 18th Bn., will attack the left brigade sector. The 17th Bn. will attack on our right, and the 400th Bde. on our left, at the same time.
 - (a) Boundaries.
 - Right Bn. Boundary - H.35.b.4.6 - H.36.b.5.C to H.36.b.7.6 (village and its defences inclusive).
 - Left Bn. Boundary - H.36.c.1.7 to H.36.c.5.3.
 - Inter-Company Boundary - H.35.c.8.C to H.36.a.9.6.
 - (b)(i) Battalion Objectives:
 - 19th Bn. - H.36.b.7.3 - H.36.a.9.6 - H.36.c.5.3.
 - 18th " H.36.a.6.8 to H.36.c.6.C.
 - (ii) Company Objectives:
 - "A" Coy. - H.36.b.5.C to H.36.a.9.6
 - "B" " H.36.a.9.6 to H.36.c.5.3
 - "C" " H.36.b.7.3 to H.36.a.9.6.
 - (c) Jumping-off Line. 300 yards in rear of a line, which will be taped out on the line H.6.a.4.C - H.36.a.6.C. (18th Bn. Jumping-off line).
5. Companies will be formed up at zero - 40, as under :-

4-Coy.	4-Coy.	
- - - - -	- - - - -	1st wave
"C"	"A"	
- - - - -	- - - - -	2nd "
	- - - - -	3rd "
	"D"	
	- - - - -	4th "
- Each Wave in two lines; 70 yards distance between waves.
6. Action. The Battalion will advance at ZERO. When "C" Coy. has captured its objective, "D" Coy. will pass through in "leap-frog" method to its objective.

Immediately on capture of objectives, Companies will re-organise and commence consolidation. On capture of final objective, C.C. "D" Coy. will put in a S.P. approximately at fork road H.36.b.6.7. (Prisoners report that there is an enemy tool dump at H.36.b.40.55.)
7. Each Company will detail one section per platoon, to act as "moppers-up."
8. 3th, 6th and 22nd Machine Gun Companies are providing Machine Gun barrages and covering fire.

Machine guns will be available for consolidation.
9. Two Stokes Mortars will move in rear of 18th and 19th Battalions. These will rendezvous at H.36.d.9.7, where they will be available to deal with strong points in the village.

C.C. "B" Coy. will detail carrying party of 32 C.R. for Stokes Mortar Ammunition.
10. Leading waves will conform to artillery barrage.

- 87
- 11 (i) Signalling Officer will make necessary signalling arrangements.
 (ii) C.S.C. Companies will detail two runners to report to Bn. Headqrs. at Zero - 30.

Dress. Fighting Order, with Felt Hats. Equipment as in P.S.135 Sect. XXXI, except that no ammunition or sandbags will be carried.

12. Dump. Brigade Battle Dump is situated at W.4.d.6.3.
 C.C. "A" Coy. will detail one Officer and 50 G.P. to report to Brigade Bomb Officer at this Dump, at Zero - 30.
13. Bttn. Transport Officer, with S.A.A. and Grenade Limbers, loaded, will report to Capt. McNAB, 16th Bn., at W.2.c.2.8, and to be in position at zero hour. Bn. T.O. will reconnoitre alternate routes from W.2.c.2.8 to Battle Dump.
14. R.A.P. will be at W.6.a.9.7.
 C.C. "D" Coy. will detail one platoon as extra stretcher-bearers, to report to R.A.P. at Zero - 30.
15. Watches will be synchronized with Signalling Officer at 7 p.m. on 22nd inst, and 12.30 a.m. on 23rd inst.
16. Bttn. Headquarters will be at W.5.a.9.7. On capture of Bancourt it will move to W.36.c.4.9.
17. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Layton-Smith

Lieut. & Adjutant,
 19th Bn., A.I.F.

Issued at 9 a.m.

Distribution :-

Nos. 1 and 2	War Diary	✓
3	"A" Coy.	✓
4	"B" "	✓
5	"C" "	✓
6	"D" "	✓
7	Signal Officer	
8	Transport Officer	
9	R.M.C.	
10	6th A.I. Bde.	✓
11	18th Bn.	✓
12	Spare	

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battn. Headquarters,
22/7/17.

TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 9.

Reference: Operation Order No. 11.

1. The battalion will parade on battalion parade ground ready to move to assembly point at 7'45 p.m.
The sanitary squad will accompany the battalion.
2. Dress. Battle order with greatcoats.
Before moving to jumping off position, greatcoats will be rolled and fastened to belts in rear.
3. Kitchens and watercarts will accompany battalion and arrange to give men a hot drink at 1'30 a.m.
4. Distinguishing colours for Scouts, runners, regimental and Coy. signallers, carrying and mopping up parties will be worn.
(S. S. 135. Training of Divisions for offensive Action/para 32).
5. Sig. officer will detail 2 runners to report to Brigade Sig. Officer at H. 4. b. 5. 3. at 2 a.m.
6. Wire cutters will be carried.
7. Whistle signals. Reveille: Two long blasts to be repeated by Coy. orderly Sgts.
Parade and warning: One long blast.
Meals: Three long blasts.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1. File.

2. "A" Coy.
3. "B" Coy.
4. "C" Coy.
5. "D" Coy.
6. Sig. Officer.
7. Transport Officer.
8. Q.M.

L. B. Robson
.....Lieut.
Adjutant 18th. BATTALION, A. I. F.

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.Headquarters
25/7/17.ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM.

1. Steps will be taken at once to clear all surplus clothing, equipment, etc. from the lines to the Salvage Dump. The clearance will be completed by noon 27th inst. and certificate to the effect that no salvageable material is in the vicinity of the Company lines forwarded by 1.p.m 27th inst. to Battalion Headquarters.
2. Coy.dumps of grenades will be de~~I~~ detonated on 27th ~~xxx~~ inst. before noon and return forwarded to Bn.H.Q. by noon 27th inst, shewing number of grenades in Coy dump and certify that all are de-detonated.
The Transport Officer will arrange to remove Coy. dumps and any surplus grenades to the dump at BEAULENCOURT by 3.p.m 27th inst. Receipt will be forwarded to B.O.R. by 6.p.m 27th inst.
3. Officers kits, Coy. boxes etc will be overhauled and reduced in bulk at once. Unless Officers co-operate in every possible way in this direction it is most probable that it will be found impossible to cope with the demands on the transport.
4. All ranks will be impressed ~~xxxxxxxx~~ with the necessity of clearing the camp of all surplus~~xxx~~ and ~~salvageable~~ material by noon 27th inst.

Issued to:-

A. Coy	Transport Off.
B. "	Sig. "
C. "	War Diary. (3)
D. "	File.
O.M.	

L. E. Robson
.....Lieut.,
Adjutant 18th Battalion.A.I.F.

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

SECRET

(2)

OPERATION ORDER. No 12

Headquarters,
27th July 1917.

by.

Reference:
Sheet LENS 11.

LIEUT. COLONEL G. F. MURPHY, D. S. 303

1. The Bn., less one Coy. will entrain at BEAUCOURT sur ANCRE on 28th inst. One Coy. ("A" Coy.) will entrain on 29th inst.
2. On 28th inst. Reveille will be at 4.15am.
3. Coys. will form up on Bn. Parade Ground, pile arms and stack equipment (less mess tins) by 4.45am.
Blankets will be rolled in bundles of ten (10), with wooden label distinctly marked, and stacked near Q.M. Store by 5.45 am.
Q.M. will arrange for loading.
Tents will be struck at 6.0 am and Officers lines at 8.0 am., on whistle blast from Bn Orderly Room. Tents will then be loaded on motor lorries at Q.M. Store. Coys. will take their own tents to the Store. "A" Coy. will provide loading and unloading party.
"B" Coy. will detail Officer and party to demolish shelters, Officers Mess, Orderly Room etc., and dump material at spot already selected. Work will commence at 7.45 am.
"C" Coy. will fill in latrines, grease pits and drains not in Coy. lines.
"D" Coy. will demolish prisoners compound and carry loose stones etc. to central spot. "D" Coy. will also demolish structures in Transport lines.

Sheet 2.

4. Breakfast hour will be 7.0 am.
5. All baggage, stores etc. will be loaded by 8.30am.
Kitchens will be handed over to Transport Officer at 8.55 am.
6. "D" Coy. will detail a Baggage Guard of 1 N.C.O and 6. o.r. to march with 1st line transport. Party will report to Capt. McNabb at 9.0am.
7. Coys. are responsible for cleanliness of lines etc.
8. Coys. will fall in on rifles at 10.45 am. Rolls will be checked and Bn. will move at 11.0 am.
9. Route: Via BIEFVILLERS, GREVILLERS, IRLES, MIRAUMONT and BEAUCOURT.
1st line Transport will move via ACHIET to MIRAUMONT.
10. Dress: Marching order - hats.
11. Guard and prisoners will march in rear of "B" Coy.
12. No man is to leave the ranks without written permission of an officer.
Any man given permission to fall out will be ordered to report to the senior officer at rear of Bn. who will endorse or cancel permit as he considers fit.
13. On arrival at entraining point position of latrines etc. will be pointed out to the men.
14. Train discipline: The Standing Orders re movement by rail will be made known to the men.
Regtl. Police will provide the necessary train picquet. No personnel or stores will be allowed in brake van.

Sheet No. 3.

- Asst. Adjutant will move with 1st line transport and act as Battalion Entraining Officer.

- ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 9.15 pm.
27/7/17.

Distribution:

Copy No. 1.	File.
2	War Diary.
3	O.C. "A" Coy.
4	" "B" "
5	" "C" "
6	" "D" "
7	Transport Officer.
8	Q.M.

L. Hobson

Adjutant 18th Battalion A.I.F. Lieut.

Sig. Off.

To note & return pls.

*L. R. Lt
adjt 18th Bn.*

No 2 D.

84

APPENDIX

33

OPERATION ORDER No. 13

by

Lieut. Colonel G.F. Murphy, D. S. O.
Commanding, 18th Battalion, A.I.F.

Headquarters,
1st August 1917

1. The Bn. is holding a line of outposts to east of road QUERCAMP - LA BOUSSIN - HARLETES.
2. The 18th Bn. is responsible for the right sector of the Bde. frontage.
Bn. boundaries:
RIGHT - Road junction U.21.a.80.20. thence on true bearing 113°
LEFT - Road junction U.15.c.40.40. thence on true bearing 113°
3. The picquet line will be the line of resistance, and will be held at all costs.
The picquet line will be the line of hedge in U.22.a, U.21.b., to U.21.b.70.30. thence South to Bn. right boundary.
4. "A" Coy will dig necessary strong points and provide garrison for same
"B" and "C" Coys will be in supports at U.21.b.40.30., "D" Coy at U.21.a.60.80.
Tool echelon will be at U.21.b.00.20.
S.A.A. Domp will be formed at U.21.a. 60.80. "D" Coy will supply unloading parties as required.
5. R.A.P. will be at U.21.b.40.35.
6. Battalion Headquarters will be at U.21.b.40.35.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 4.35.p.m.

L. Robson Lieut.,
Adjutant 18th Battalion. A.I.F.