

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/38/33 PART 2

**Title:** 21st Infantry Battalion

May 1918 Appendices 46-60



AWM4-23/38/33PART2



6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Order No. 1145.

Brigade Headquarters  
19th May, 1918.

Ref. Map Sheet 62.D. N.E.

1. Tonight 21st Bn. will establish a line of Posts from K.1.b.6.6. to the ANCRE exclusive.
2. After this is established the Coy. of the 24th Bn. South of the ANCRE will be withdrawn to BUIRE RESERVE.
3. The 23rd Bn. will relieve the Coy. of the 24th Bn. North of the ANCRE tonight.  
The platoons of the 28th Bn. in old front line posts will be relieved by the 21st Bn. and will withdraw to TREUX Line.
4. Other troops stand fast.
5. The above reliefs will be completed by 4 a.m. 20th May.
6. Dispositions will then be--
 

<u>LINE RIGHT</u>	<u>22nd Bn.</u>	With 4 Coys. in the line.
<u>LINE CENTRE</u>	<u>21st Bn.</u>	With 2 Coys. in the line and two Coys. in old front line posts.
<u>LINE LEFT</u>	<u>23rd Bn.</u>	With 2 Coys. in the line, one in close support and one in support along the Railway line.
<u>SUPPORT RIGHT</u>	<u>28th Bn.</u>	2 Coys. in TREUX Line and J.12.a. (These two Coys. remain under command of 22nd Bn.) Two Coys. in BALLARAT Line.
<u>SUPPORT LEFT</u>	<u>24th Bn.</u>	2 Coys. SEYMOUR Line. 1 Coy. BUIRE Reserve. 1 " new Support Line.
<u>RESERVE</u>	<u>27th Bn.</u>	North of RIBEMONT.
7. Disposition reports in detail will be sent to Bde. Hdqrs. by 1st D.R. on 21st instant.

A c k n o w l e d g e .-

Copies to--

21st Bn.  
22nd "  
23rd "  
24th "  
6th M.G.Coy.  
6th T.M.Bty.  
2nd Aust. M.G.Bn.  
5th A.I.Bde.  
7th A.I.Bde.  
54th Inf. Bde.  
2nd Aust. Divn.  
6th Field Coy. A.E.  
File  
War Diary  
" "

W. F. N. Bridges  
Major,  
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.



Secret

Appendix No. 46a.

Copy No 1

21<sup>st</sup> Australian Battalion Order No 144Map Ref 62<sup>nd</sup> NE 1/20000

19-5-18

1. Tonight A & B Coys will establish a line of posts from H 1 b 6.6 to ANCRE exclusive - line to run approx K 1 b 6.6 to E 25 d 9.3 to E 25 d 8.9.
2. The OC B Coy will be in command of the Outpost Line & will decide final dispositions of these 2 Coys.
3. On completion of this move the Coy of the 24<sup>th</sup> Aust Bn South of ANCRE is being withdrawn.
4. C & D Coys stand fast.
5. Relief to be complete by 4 am 20<sup>th</sup> inst & to be reported to Bn Hqs immediately so as para 3 can come into operation.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Copies to:-

- 1-2 War Diary
- 3 File
- 4-7 Coys
- 8 Bde
- 9 24<sup>th</sup> Bn.

(Sgd) J L Watt

Lt Col  
21<sup>st</sup> Bn.



Scout. 24<sup>th</sup> Australian Inf Bn. 1600<sup>h</sup> 90.

Ref map Sheet 62 DNE 19<sup>th</sup> May 1918.

1. Tonight 21<sup>st</sup> BN will establish a line of posts from K166.6 to the ANCRE exclusive.
2. After this is established A Coy 24<sup>th</sup> AIBN will be withdrawn to BUIRE RESERVE D30a & D23d with Coy HQs at D20d18.
3. D Coy 23<sup>rd</sup> AIBN will relieve D Coy plus three posts of A Coy north of the ANCRE tonight. One guide post will assemble at TUNNEL in the RAVINE E25a at 10 pm. On relief D Coy will move to close support in EMU TRENCH D30b & D24b.
4. On completion of relief 24<sup>th</sup> AIBN will be in support left.
5. Rations will be dumped at GUARAY D28b31 at 11 pm. C Coy will camp

forward to D Coy and B Coy to A Coy

6 Very pistols will not be handed over on relief.

7 R & P and BN HQs as at present

8 Completion of relief to be notified & Acknowledge. BN HQs by wire in code.

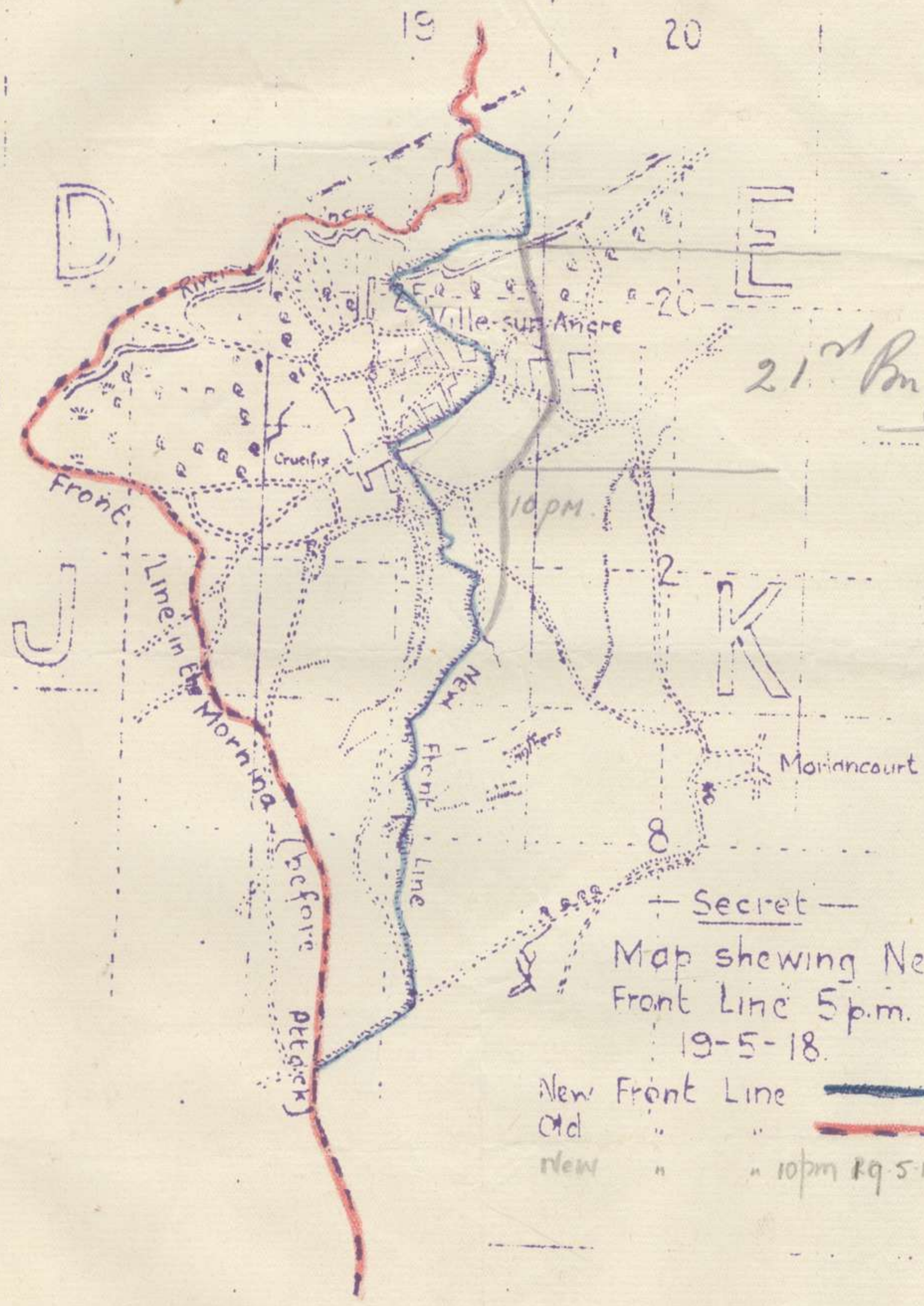
Issued by mess at 4.35 pm. J. P. S. Lick. Capt. adpt.

### Distribution

- |                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 File                  | 10 C Coy |
| 2 War Diary             | 11 D "   |
| 3 6 AIBN                | 12 RMO   |
| 4 21 <sup>st</sup> AIBN | 13 R & M |
| 5 23 <sup>rd</sup> AIBN | 14 Spare |
| 6 CO                    |          |
| 7 adpt.                 |          |
| 8 AU Coy                |          |
| 9 B "                   |          |



War Diary



21<sup>st</sup> Bon Sector

10 PM

— Secret —

Map shewing New Front Line 5 p.m. 19-5-18.

New Front Line —————  
Old " " —————  
New " " 10 PM 19-5-18 —————



Yonville  
19.5.18

Received from Sgt Gail 21 Ball  
24 gun German machine including box  
C.V. & C.

Y. Bonnelly Sgt  
2nd Aust Div C.A.C.O.

19.5.18



In the Field,

191

Received from 21st Bn  
52. P.D. W.

P.L. G. 16 Sgt.  
6th Aust Inf Bde  
H. Q.

19.5.18.

APPENDIX. 48

76



Hamvillius  
19-5-18

Received from Pt Campbell 21st Batt  
one CFB and ten other kinds of game  
prisoners

J. J. Bonnelly Sgt  
9th Aust Div on on  
19-5-18

Received from 21st Br  
(5) Live German  
Prisoners

P. L. Gibb, Sgt.  
6th Austral. Div  
Bde HQ





"B" Form Appendix No. 48  
 Army Form C 3172  
 1st issue of 1901.  
 No. 48  
 No. of Message.....  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Prefix.....Code.....m.		Received	Sent	Office Stamp
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Words	At .....	At .....	
		From .....	To .....	
		By .....	By .....	
TO { 21 <sup>st</sup> Bn				
Sender's Number	Day of Month	Is reply to Number		AAA
I O 100	20			
Received from escort 21 <sup>st</sup> Bn 1 Hawk in good order & Condition 9 am				
Oliver - B I O 100 VKR				
From				
Place				
Time				

\* This line should be crossed if not required.



1 refix. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Sent At To By (Signature of "Franklin; Officer.") Recd. at Date From By

TO CO. 21st Bn

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. A A A

Everything so far is OK  
Tapes are laid out as follows

Tape. 8 5 4 3 2 1  
10 tank. Recd 12-13 am 19/9/18

Mace & Gawler show getting  
along without Linderame.  
No MG or Artillery activity  
so far.

From Place Time R. Bayley

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

11.45 PM

Censor.

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

\* This line should be erased if not required.

100,601 Pads. W. 12093. M1217. M.C. & Co., Ltd. 1/17. (E. 764). Forms C/2121/11.

To G.O.  
21st Bn.

19/9/18

Capt. McNeil reports  
enemy moving by platoons  
with full packs, up to  
E 27 d 000. Cannot get  
you by phone or visual.  
Have men out on wire.  
Can you get artillery on  
this.  
And E 27 d 74 E K 36 33  
3.5 PM.

MOONRAKE

649 13



"C" FORM.

Army Form C, 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix <i>SM</i> Code <i>090</i> Words.....	Received. From <i>TIB</i>	Sent, or sent out. At <i>3.30</i> m.	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect	By <i>W.H.</i>	To <i>TIX</i>	
Service Instructions		By <i>W.H.</i>	

Handed in at *TITA* Office.....m. Received *3.30* m.

TO

*ET, T10, TIX*

\* Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

*A 109 19*

*Objective reached between  
19.4.40 and 20.4.40  
at 2.35 am*

*Reck 3-10 am*

FROM  
PLACE & TIME

*TITA*

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P & C. Ltd., B. (E 1213).

"C" FORM.

Army Form C, 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix <i>SM</i> Code <i>090</i> Words.....	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect	From.....	At.....m.	
Service Instructions	By.....	To.....	
		By.....	

Handed in at.....Office.....m. Received.....m.

TO

*220*

\* Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

*2K47 19*

*Wounded report objective  
reached 7.17.40 Some prisoners*

*Reck 3-10 am*

FROM  
PLACE & TIME

*B2 L (18.3m)  
3.32 AM*

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P & C. Ltd., B. (E 1213).

APPENDIX 49







Rid. 4. 20 am  
+ R. H. H. to CO  
R. H. H.

Of course still  
falling before  
Barnes & Osted  
can any thing  
be done it  
has been  
falling about  
since 1 day  
Barnes & Osted  
Barnes & Osted



We have  
had many  
casualties  
will have  
to withdraw  
if artillery does  
not lend

O. G. A. Coy







C.O.  
2nd Bn

Operations until 4.15 am went as per programme. At 3.15 am MG opened from nearest house to crucifix. This was silenced by rifle bombs & L.T.M.M.

4.17 am Received orders to mop up village & press on to A bay

4.35 am commenced advance in open order in 2 waves. Resistance on edge of village overcome by rifle fire & from then on a cake walk.

5.15 am. Got through village & tried to dig in on line about 200' in advance of last house. Ground was very marshy & could not get touch on either flank. MGs from opposite ridge made digging impossible

6 am. Decided to withdraw & reorganise with view to digging in at night. Drilled with back & reorganised near Church.

7.0 am Found Dearden, Bennie & Bayley & made up scheme of defence as at present. See map 3 plates.

7.45 am Moved to caterpillar & pushed 1 on left of village with 3 L Co on right of village. Then plane over unobserved & fired ~~at~~ white flare when we were heavily strafed losing 5 killed & 8 or more wounded. This caused me to move to my present position which is not engulfed as the main caterpillar is.

Attached is map of enemy guns

11 am  
19/5/18

W. H. C. Bayley  
O.C. Bay







# "A" Form, MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

(In pads or as  
No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:  Service.  (Signature of "Franking Officer.")	Recd. at	m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Sent	Date	
						At	m.	
						To		
						By		

TO { 54<sup>th</sup> Bde (British)

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
*	19		

Verbal message given to 54<sup>th</sup>  
Bde Signaller by Adjt  
21<sup>st</sup> Aust Bn to be sent by  
Lamp to his Bde Hqrs.  
"Consolidating on all Objectives"

From	21 <sup>st</sup> Aust Bn
Place	
Time	8-20 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)  
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (K2389.)

# MESSAGES AND

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:  Service.  (Signature of "Franking Officer.")	Recd. at	m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Sent	Date	
						At	m.	
						To		
						By		

TO { 54<sup>th</sup> Bde (CHORUS)

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 488	19		

Our attack operations  
going well - Success  
signals fired from  
Objective

From	T10
Place	
Time	3-10 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)  
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (K2389.)

APPENDIX.

49 89



# MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

(in pads of 100).  
No. of Message .....

Prefix .....	Code .....	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of: .....	Recd. at .....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.							Date .....
Sent					Service.	From .....	
At .....						By .....	
To .....					(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		
By .....							

TO

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

\*

Your note received. The following steps are being taken to protect your right flank.

1. One platoon of C Coy under Lt. Dear dock with 26 9 has been sent to reinforce you.
2. One platoon of B Coy is being sent forward under Lt. Edwards to take up a position on your right flank. They will take up a position by moving along road E25 C 90 to E 25 D 35. From this position will move S.E. & dig in on an approx line you right flank E 25 C 83 to K16 55.

From: This platoon will probably not be able to move right out to this alignment owing to observation.

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.

100.00 Pads. W. 12393. M1217. McC. & Co., Ltd. 1/17. (E. 764). Forms C/2121/11.

# "A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

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

Prefix .....	Code .....	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of: .....	Recd. at .....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.							Date .....
Sent					Service.	From .....	
At .....						By .....	
To .....					(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		
By .....							

TO

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

\*

Now will push forward  
stepping up parties into  
VILLE SUR AT N GRE at  
4.15 am. RTA when this  
has been done establish  
line of posts between  
K1666 and river at  
E 25 662 RTA. Artillery will  
be stopped and will  
lift to N & S grid  
line between E 25 and E 26  
and will cover Consolidation  
with smoke barrage

From: T10  
Place: T10  
Time: 4.7 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

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

\* This line, except **AAA**, should be erased if not required.

Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

APPENDIX

49

90



"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at	m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Sent	Date	
							At	m.
							To	
					By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By	

TO { *L. Bayley at B. Coy.*

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

*The would be a good thing to extend across and go through village back again if not wanted forward.*

From	<i>Back to H</i>
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, except AAA, should be erased if not required.

Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Mds.

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at	m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Sent	Date	
							At	m.
							To	
					By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By	

TO { *OC B Coy*

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

*Have reported covering over high ground on R. 11 Centrol day send through R. 10 + R 9 - some hundreds more in valley by Hordensand*

From	<i>770</i>
Place	<i>12 am</i>
Time	<i>12 am</i>

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

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

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.

Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

APPENDIX.

*49*



FORM. APPENDIX  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.  
(In books of 100.)  
No. of Message.

Prefix	Code	Words	Received	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
			From	At	
Charges to Collect			By	To	
Service Instructions				By	
Handed in at.			Office	m.	Received

TO

Appendix No. 49.

* Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
--------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

Situation Unchanged

(Decoded) Tape out

Received 11-41

FROM  
PLACE & TIME

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P & C. Ltd., B. (E 1213).

PAGES AND SIGN

Prefix	Words	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
		From	At	
Charges to Collect		By	To	
Service Instructions			By	
Handed in at.		Office	m.	Received

TO

* Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
--------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

Situation normal

"Decoded"

Coys. in position on Tape

Recd 35

FROM  
PLACE & TIME

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P & C. Ltd., B. (E 1213).

APPENDIX.

49

92



**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.** No. of Message.....

Prefix.....Code.....m. Words. Charge.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

This message is on a/c of.....

Recd. at.....m.

Sent.....

At.....m. Service. Date.....

To.....

From.....

By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....

TO {

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

\* *over held as a Cond* *Wpt. up Inform* *half by apstahn* *copy wife Bathn*

*Handed in by 54th*

*(54th Brit. Pol.)*

From *Chorus*

Place *2.47 AM*

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.

(7981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187

**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.** No. of Message.....

Prefix.....Code.....m. Words. Charge.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

This message is on a/c of.....

Recd. at.....m.

Sent.....

At.....m. Service. Date.....

To.....

From.....

By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....

TO {

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

\* *Inform Australians* *Paid*

*a failure held up*

*by wire*

*Handed in by 54th*

*(54th British Pol.)*

From *CHORUS*

Place

Time *4.10 PM*

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.

(7981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187

APPENDIX.

49

93



**"A" Form.**  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

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

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.....	Charge.....	This message is on a/c of:  Service.  Date.....  From.....  By.....	Recd. at..... m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Sent	Date.....
						At..... m.	From.....
						To.....	By.....
					By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....

TO: *From Capt McNeil*

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

\*

*Working party in front of 22nd post. Patrol 7 1/2 2 hours out by 18 pds. 1 bd 2 miss bd Kd. by 10 OK. No sign of Hun concentration to 10 2 38.*

From.....  
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, except **AAA**, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

**"A" Form.**  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

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

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.....	Charge.....	This message is on a/c of:  Service.  Date.....  From.....  By.....	Recd. at..... m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Sent	Date.....
						At..... m.	From.....
						To.....	By.....
					By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....

TO: *From Ben McNeil*

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

\*

*Huns established line of post 250 to 300 yds from our line to it. 3 patrols out confirmed this. 2 10 3 am*

From.....  
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, except **AAA**, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

APPENDIX 49



"C" FORM.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix <i>SM</i> Code <i>FEAM</i> Words <i>z s d</i>	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect	From <i>403</i>	At <i>403</i> m.	
Service Instructions	By <i>403</i>	To <i>403</i>	
		By <i>403</i>	
Handed in at <i>AGZ</i>	Office <i>6.25 H</i>	Received <i>9.25 H</i>	

TO *710*

* Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
<i>K499</i>	<i>20</i>		

*Left Group SOS sent*  
*will be 11th Battery 8200/2000*  
*to 82087000 to 82616050*  
*to 82611000 10th Battery*  
*82611000 to K2081040 12th*  
*Battery superimposed 14th Battery*  
*Brigade front 13th Battery*  
*K2081040 to K261020 15th*  
*Battery K261020 to K8A1000*

FROM *AGZ*  
 PLACE & TIME *6.25-00*

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 (11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P. & C. Ltd., B. (E 1213).

"C" FORM.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Prefix <i>SB</i> Code <i>FEAM</i> Words <i>z s d</i>	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect	From <i>403</i>	At <i>403</i> m.	
Service Instructions	By <i>403</i>	To <i>403</i>	
		By <i>403</i>	
Handed in at <i>AGZ</i>	Office <i>6.25 H</i>	Received <i>9.25 H</i>	

TO *710*

* Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
<i>K499</i>	<i>20</i>		

*14th Battery superimposed*  
*5th Brigade front Flouitzes*  
*Battery Morlancourt Road*  
*and junction and banks*  
*826 827 K2 K3 K8 K9*  
*sketch*

FROM *AGZ*  
 PLACE & TIME *6.25-00*

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 (11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P. & C. Ltd., B. (E 1213).

91  
 APPENDIX. 49



To L.O.  
21<sup>st</sup> Bn.

(1)  
19/5/18.

18<sup>th</sup> Bn report, reaching B.H.D. at  
3.5 AM. states troops left JOT with  
only 1 casualty. Enemy damage  
not particularly heavy, but M.G.'s  
troublesome.

3.15 AM. Attacking troops reported  
reached Water Road in K 7 c.

3.35 AM.

Peck 21

1/2  
50  
CO

Appendix No. 50.

Advt 21<sup>st</sup> Bn  
Right Coy 24<sup>th</sup> have  
gone up as far as possible  
to edge of VILLE but unable  
to get right in owing to  
bad state of ground. They  
are not meeting with any  
resistance from that quarter  
Otherwise all O.K.

4.25 AM

Peck 21  
21<sup>st</sup> Bn

~~4.40 AM~~  
~~4.50 AM~~

APPENDIX

50



May 1 -  
21st Bn

G.O.  
21st Bn

MIN. 25. 3



To b O

21st Jan

19/5/75

3

Attack very successful.  
 Forward CP 15 gds on left  
 is established and consolidation  
 and sapping worked off bank  
 and S. M. is in progress.

26 Prisoners up to the front.  
 32 & 53 Regiments.

4 casualties to officers.  
 1 killed 3 wounded.

O.R. 45 wounded to date.

Bay 9 came over to 21st BHD  
 for breakfast. 3 or 4 will  
 remain here over.

Bay 10 S.O. I repairing  
 station at 15 d 9 h be  
 relieved.

6.55 AM

Week 21

Adyt 21st Bu

Dispositions of Posts Right Coy 24th

Nº1	E 25 c 65. 90
2	E 25 c 70. 90
3	E 25 a 80. 20
4	E 25 a 95. 30
5	E 25 b 05. 30
6	E 25 b 15. 35

H Coy.  
 CAPT J. M. HANONY

Left Coy.

1	E 19 d 80. 10	
2	E 25 b 80. 90	L.G.
3	E 25 b 85. 85	
4	E 25 b 80. 60	L.G.
5	E 25 b 90. 50	L.G.
6	E 25 b 70. 50	
7	E 25 b 50. 45	L.G.
8	E 25 b 40. 40	L.G.

Two Coy. B & C in Seymour Trench

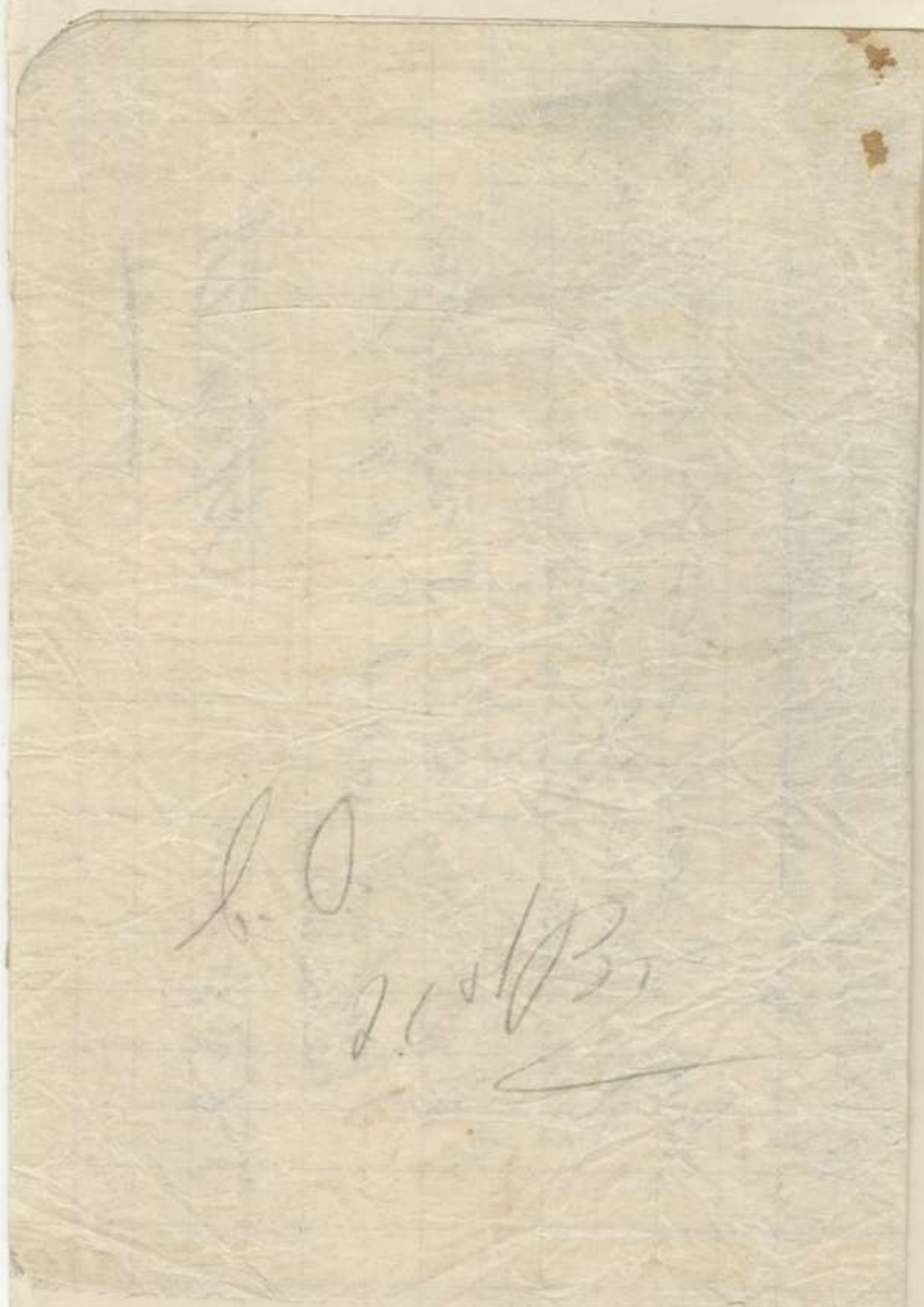
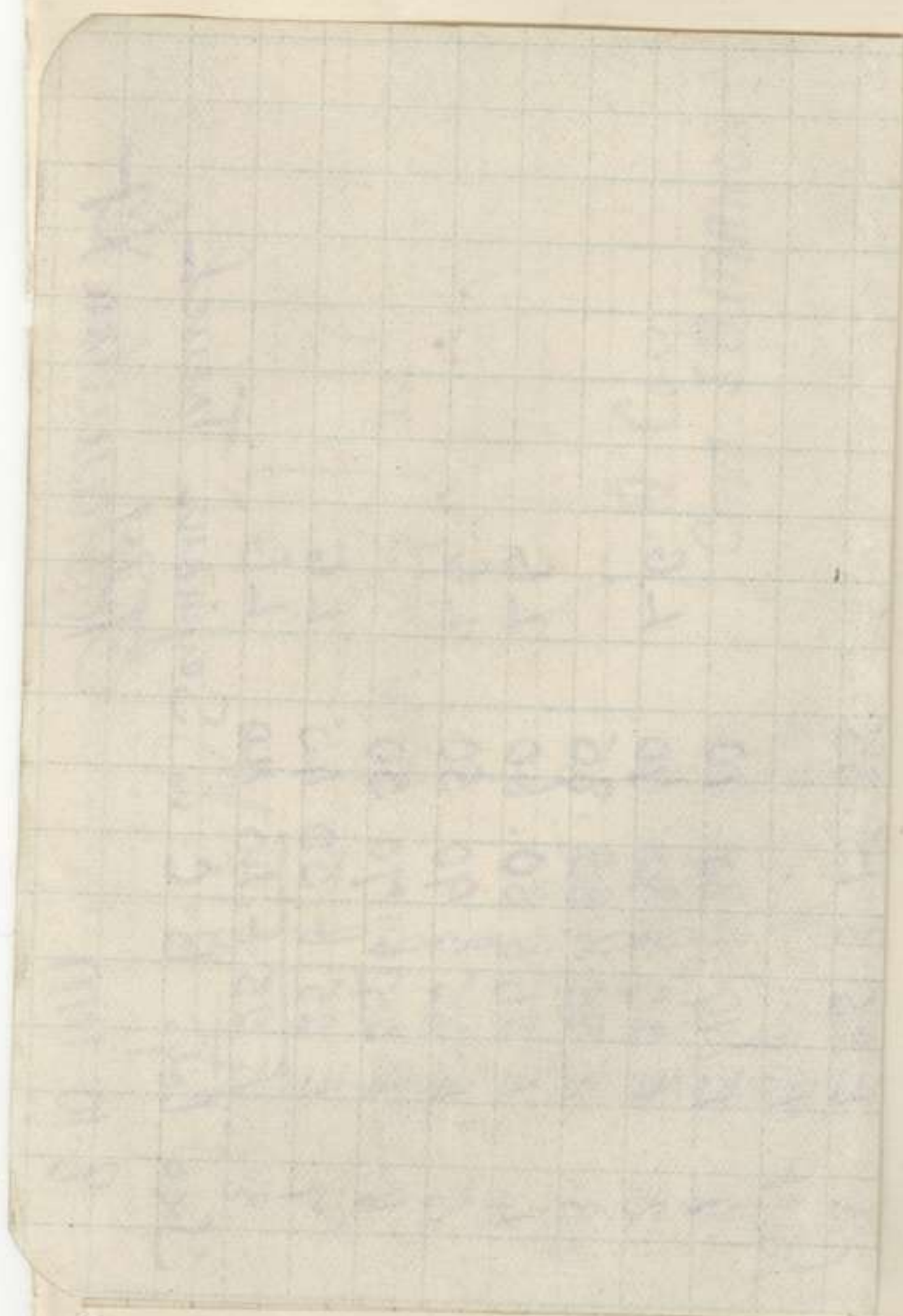
8-10 AM

Williamson Lt

APPENDIX.

50 97







The Coy on Right have just  
in rear of their posts, 2 platoons  
They also have scouts out watching  
for 21<sup>st</sup> coming through the village  
or in front of same. They will  
then get in touch. A party  
from this Coy have entered  
the Northern part of VILLE and  
had a little fighting.

Casualties slight, all O.K.

W. H. Mauden Lt  
21<sup>st</sup> Bn

8.10 AM

Right Coy 21<sup>st</sup> now report having  
seen 21<sup>st</sup> party, in VILLE who  
said they were waiting for a  
Captain, but they have not  
seen anything of our men  
whom the Bde Mjr says are  
established from E25 d 7.3 to  
E25 d 7.8.

8.30 AM

W. H. Mauden Lt  
21<sup>st</sup> Bn



91

Ady 1.2.15  
21<sup>st</sup> Bu

---



APPENDIX,

50<sup>98</sup>



# MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Reed. at	m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.							Date	
					Service.	Sent		
						At		m.
						To		
						By		
					(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By		

TO { *LT Baker*

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* <i>H90</i>	<i>19</i>		

*Attack quite successful -*  
*22<sup>nd</sup> Consolidating on their*  
*Objective - H & B have*  
*pushed off to mop up the*  
*village*  
*Calder killed - Roseman*  
*& English and - also Sullivan*  
*who is carrying on*

From	<i>4:30 pm.</i>
Place	<i>770</i>
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

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

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (H2389.)

*Adj. 21<sup>st</sup> Bn.*

*This is rough list of*  
*casualties.*

*Sending along a few*  
*wraps & papers for*  
*Bas.*

*Everything O.K.*

*Enemy plane rather*  
*troublesome.*

*A few shells on cross*  
*roads*

*Time O.I. Bennie*  
*5:40 pm H Coy.*

APPENDIX 509



Adjt

Mr. Bennie  
casualty report.

quite O.K.  
infirmary  
" 5-9"

Here with 3 Paybooks from  
and information and

Bennie says he is  
though stayed practically  
from the right with 4-2"

Garner B

6 35pm  
19 5 18

O L. C. Coy

3 45pm  
19 5 18

Adjt

Merewith effects  
of several 25<sup>mm</sup> men who  
have been killed. Also  
paybook & disc of Pte Mealey  
C L 21st Br. D Coy.

Has shelled all day  
with big & light stuff in  
sawmill & wood.

Have 7 captured german  
m 4's here also 1 L 4 captured.  
From Fritz. Have also salvaged  
several more Lewis guns &  
should come out with new  
establishment of 8 per Coy.  
Enemy attitude quiet.

W. Lawrence  
Capt  
O L C Coy

APPENDIX.

50  
100



10/5/18  
Wt. Batters going forward

A. Coy 10 Tins Stew 21 Tea  
1 Bag Bacon

B. Coy 10 Stew 24 Tins Tea  
2 Bags Bacon

C. Coy 9 Tins Stew 24 Tins Tea  
1 Bag Bacon

D. Coy 11 Tins Stew 22 Tea  
1 Bag Bacon

H. & D. 5 Tins Stew 10 Tins Tea  
1 Bag Bacon

At War last  
Sgt.

C. O. 21<sup>st</sup> Bn

Could do with couple of  
boxes 5. A. A.

Enemy plane very  
active

~~Heavy~~

Has shelled this  
cross road fairly heavy  
line down

Of Bernina  
H. Coy



Appendix No. 51.

SECRET

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE



Brigade Headquarters  
14th May, 1918.

C.O.  
21st Bn.

Forwarded herewith proposals for attack to take place on 17th inst.

The Brigade Order for the attack will be issued soon as these proposals have been approved.

*W. F. N. Bridges*  
Major,  
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Copies to--  
All Bns.



~~DRAFT~~

## PROPOSALS FOR AN ATTACK TO ENCIRCLE VILLE-SUR-ANCRE

OBJECTIVES.

1. (a) Southern Attack. A line from K.7.a.6.0. to K.7.a.7.2. to K.7.b.2.7. thence to Road at K.1.d.2.4. along Road to CROSS ROADS K.1.b.1.4. thence to CRUCIFIX thence to ROAD JUNCTION J.6.b.5.5. This line will be covered to the East by advanced posts formed along a general line K.1.d.6.3., K.1.d.6.7., K.1.b.8.2., K.1.b.6.4., K.1.b.6.6.  
(b) Northern Attack. Approximately a line from E.25.c.9.9. to E.25.b.7.4., E.25.b.6.7.

TROOPS FOR THE ATTACK.

2. (a) Southern Attack.-- 22nd Battalion.  
2 Companies 21st Bn. will form a defensive flank facing North between CROSS ROADS K.1.b.1.4. and ROAD JUNCTION J.6.b.5.5.  
(b) Northern Attack. 2 Companies 24th Battalion.

DATE OF ATTACK.

3. All preparations can be completed for the attack to take place on the night 16th/17th May.

ZERO TIME.

4. 2 a.m. is proposed.

JUMPING OFF LINE.

5. For 22nd Battalion.-- A line to be taped from J.12.b.7.0. to J.6.b.7.6.  
For 2 Companies 21st Bn.-- 200 yards in rear of the left flank of 22nd Bn.

ATTACK FORMATION.

6. 22nd Bn. (on a Four Company Front) a line of Sections in file behind a line of skirmishers.  
A strong patrol of 22nd Bn. will move through WOOD in J.6.a. and attack CRUCIFIX from N.W.  
21st Bn. Companies in line of platoons in file.

FIELD ARTILLERY SUPPORT.

7. (a) Standing Barrage by one Brigade on our Right flank.  
Creeping Barrage by three Brigades covering 22nd Bn. attack.  
Standing Barrage on Western & Southern outskirts of VILLE by one Brigade.  
Standing Barrage by one Brigade on a line from E.20.a.2.0. South to the River.  
4.5 Hows. on selected targets to be notified later.  
  
(b) Creeping Barrage to open on the line K.7.a.0.0. to K.1.a.0.7. at Zero, lift 100 yards at Zero plus 2 minutes thereafter lifting 100 yards every three minutes.  
Position of Protective Barrage 200 yards beyond the line of posts given in para.1 above.  
Rate of fire during Creep - 3 rounds per gun per minute.  
Rate of fire while halted on protective barrage line - one round per gun per minute.  
Cease fire - Zero plus 120 minutes.

(c) Smoke screens to be put down on high ground North of MORLANCOURT, on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE, and on approaches from BERNANCOURT to VILLE, at Zero plus one hour, and maintained for 2 hours.

HEAVY ARTILLERY SUPPORT

8. (a) Gas bombardment on VILLE and SUNKEN ROADS in K.1. about 12 hours before Zero. Gas used should be of small persistency.  
(b) Bombardment of VILLE, CRUCIFIX, and SUNKEN ROADS from Zero minus 5 minutes until forced to lift off by the approach of the Infantry.  
(NOTE.-- Similar bombardments should be carried out nightly from now onwards.)



HEAVY ARTILLERY SUPPORT (Contd.)

- (c) Maximum of counter-battery work from Zero onwards.  
(d) Annihilating fire on possible assembly points for enemy counter-attack from Zero plus 30 minutes to plus one hour and at intervals thereafter.

MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR ACTION

9. One Mortar on M.G's in E.25.d. from Zero to plus one hour.  
One Mortar from about D.30.b.7.5. co-operating with North attack by firing on targets N. & N.E. of VILLE. Remaining mortars on CRUCIFIX and SUNKEN ROAD at maximum rates from Zero till forced to lift by the advance of the Infantry.

L.T.M. ACTION

10. Two 3" Stokes firing on CRUCIFIX and SUNKEN ROAD in K.1.a. from present front line positions from Zero to plus 4 minutes.  
Rate of fire-- 10 rds. per gun per minute.  
One of these guns will then be moved forward to the CRUCIFIX and the other to about K.1.a.5.5. to cover consolidation and deal with any M.G's firing from VILLE. Two guns to fire on targets in VILLE from the Railway Embankment in E.25.a.  
Two guns co-operating with Northern attack, one of them playing on M.G's and M.W's situated at about E.20.centre from Zero.

MACHINE GUN ACTION.--

11. Such barrages as can be arranged to cover the advance and to prevent enemy guns in and around VILLE coming into action.  
Four Vickers Guns will go forward as soon as success signals are observed and of these two will be emplaced on each flank of the 22nd Bn., to cover the consolidation.

CONSOLIDATION

12. The objectives as laid down in para.1 are to be consolidated by the formation of mutually supporting posts. The construction, the following night, of a Communication Trench from about J.6.b.5.5. (the end of the communication trench now being constructed) to the CRUCIFIX. It is suggested that this be constructed by the Pioneer Battalion.  
For the Northern Attack, a line of posts along the objective.

MOPPING UP VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

13. The Artillery fire on VILLE which will have been sustained throughout the day of the attack will cease at say 10 p.m.  
Then the 24th Bn. will mop up from the N.E. up to the Northern edge of VILLE; the 23rd Bn. from the West will mop up as far as the Western edge of the village and the 21st Bn. (with Tanks if available) from the South will mop up the village and then form a line of posts between the River and the Left flank of the 22nd Bn.

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

14. The dispositions will then be--  
22nd Bn. from Bde. Southern Boundary to K.1.b.5.5. with 4 Coys. in the line.  
21st Bn. with two Coys. between the 22nd Bn. and the River and two Coys. in support in the present support trenches of the Right Bn.  
24th Bn. will hand over their positions North of the ANCRE to the 23rd Bn. and move into reserve.  
The 23rd Bn. will have two Coys. in the line North of the ANCRE, one Coy. in close support and one Coy. in Reserve at D.23.d.



FINAL DISPOSITIONS (Contd.)

This Bn. will be responsible for holding the Bridges over the ANCRE.

It is intended that, on the night 18th/19th, the 21st Bn. take over the line between the Sde. Southern Boundary and E.25.d.7.5. and that the 23rd Bn. take over the rest of the line.

The 22nd Bn. East of MARETT WOOD will be in support to the 21st Bn.

The 24th Bn. North & West of BUIRE will be in support to the 23rd Bn.

SUCCESS SIGNALS 15. A succession of GREEN Very Lights.

DISPOSAL OF PRISONERS

16. Prisoners taken will be handed over to the garrisons of the present front line posts. They will then be taken back to the QUARRY in J.S.d. where they will be taken over under Brigade arrangements.

TOOLS.

17. Half the attackers will carry tools in the proportion three shovels to one pick.

PREPARATIONS.

18. Forming up tapes will be laid with the co-operation of the 6th Field Coy. on the night of the attack.

Bridges for crossing the ANCRE will be prepared, and patrols sent out to ascertain the width of the ANCRE at the proposed crossing places.

Wire cutting (as necessary) will be carried out by the Field Artillery under arrangements to be made by the 22nd Bn. Commander through the Liaison Officer at his Hdqrs.

The present Headquarters of the Right Company of the Right Bn. will be enlarged to provide a Battle Hdqrs. for the 22nd Bn.

A Brigade Battle Hdqrs. will be constructed beside the present Right Bn. Hdqrs.

RELIEFS.

19. 21st Bn. will relieve 22nd Bn. on the night 14th/15th.  
23rd Bn. will relieve 24th Bn. on the night 15th/16th.

-----22-----



SECRET

COPY NO. |

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 143

Ref. Map Sheet 62.D. N.E. 1/20,000

17th May, 1918.

INFORMATION

1. The enemy is holding the Sunken Roads (known as the LITTLE and BIG CATERPILLARS) in K.1.a.&c. and K.1.b.&d. in strength and has a garrison in VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

INTENTION.

2. The 6th A.I.Bde. will attack the enemy on each side of VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on Z day.  
The 5th A.I.Bde. is simultaneously advancing their left flank on a front of 500 yds.  
The 18th Div. on the left will co-operate by raiding on approx. a 2,000 yards front at Zero hour.

OBJECTIVES

3. SOUTHERN ATTACK - From K.7.<sup>b.1.0.</sup> to K.7.a.7.2. to K.7.b.2.7. to K.1.d.6.3., K.1.d.6.7., K.1.b.8.2., K.1.b.6.4., K.1.b.6.6.  
A defensive flank facing North will be formed from K.1.b.6.6. through the CRUCIFIX to J.6.b.5.5.

NORTHERN ATTACK. - A line from E.25.c.9.9. to E.25.b.7.4. to E.25.b.6.7.

ATTACKING TROOPS.

4. The Southern Attack will be carried out by the 22nd Battalion.  
The defensive flank South of VILLE will be formed by two Coys. ~~21st Bn.~~ *A & B, 21st Bn.*  
The Northern Attack will be carried out by two Coys. 24th Battalion.

BRIDGING THE ANCRE.

5. Immediately prior to Zero two bridges will be thrown across the ANCRE by the 6th Field Coy. acting in co-operation with the 24th Bn.  
The attacking Coys. of the 24th Bn. will cross by these bridges, the two bridges near E.25.a.2.6., and the Enemy bridges at E.25.a.9.3. and E.25.b.6.2.

ATTACK ON CRUCIFIX.

6. A strong patrol of the 22nd Bn. will move through the Wood in J.6.b. at Zero and attack the CRUCIFIX from the North.

FORMATIONS MOPPING UP.

7. (a) The 22nd Bn., on a four company front, will attack with a line of sections in single file preceded by a line of skirmishers.  
(b) Responsibility for mopping up will rest with the former.  
(c) The attacking companies of the 21st Bn. will form up, side by side, in line of platoons in file.

JUMPING OFF TAPES.

8. The 6th Field Coy. will lay out Jumping Off tapes for the Southern attack by Zero - 2 hours.  
That for the 22nd Bn. will be due north from J.12.b. 2.0. to the right flank of the left Coy. where it will be stepped back to immediately behind our forward posts.  
That for the 21st Bn. 150 yds. behind the left flank of the 22nd Bn. tape.  
Direction tapes will be laid out on the right flank and on inter company boundaries.

P. T. O.



MOVEMENT TO  
FORMING UP  
TAPES.

9. The 22nd Bn. moving by platoons at 100 yds. distance will be in position at Zero - 60 minutes. The attacking Coys. of the 21st Bn. & 24th Bn. will be in position by Zero - 30 minutes.

MOVEMENT OF  
OTHER TROOPS.

10. (a) Troops in posts forward of the Jumping Off tape will be withdrawn at Zero - 20 minutes.  
(b) Standing patrols provided by the 21st Bn. South of the ANCRE and 23rd Bn. North of the ANCRE to cover the forming up from positions in advance of our forward posts, will be withdrawn at Zero - 20 minutes.  
(c) Movement of other troops will be in accordance with the attached table.  
(d) Ration parties and all non fighting troops are to be withdrawn West of HEILLY before Zero - 2 hours.  
(e) The absolute necessity for silence in all movements before Zero is to be impressed on all troops.

BRIGADE  
RESERVES

11. At Zero - 30 minutes the Brigade Reserve will consist of 2 Coys. 24th Bn. in SEYMOUR Trench the 27th Bn. North of RIBEMONT and the 28th Bn. with two Coys in TREUX Line and two in BALLARAT Line.

FIELD ARTILL-  
ERY & MEDIUM  
T.M. ACTION.

12. (a) A creeping barrage will be put down by nine 18 pdr. Batteries at Zero on the start line K.7.a.0.0. - E.25.c.0.0. At plus 2 minutes this barrage will jump 100 yds. and will creep forward 100 yds. every three minutes thereafter.  
(b) A standing barrage on the Southern, Western and North Western outskirts of VILLE from Zero. (Another standing barrage will be put down on the line E.20.a.2.0. to E.26.a.2.4.)  
(c) The final position of the creeping barrage (200 yds beyond the objective) and the positions of the standing barrage will be the S.O.S. lines after the operation.  
(d) The protective barrage will cease at Zero plus 2 hours. Barrage maps will be issued later.  
(e) Medium Trench Mortars will engage the objectives and targets in and near VILLE till forced to lift by the advance of the Infantry.

HEAVY  
ARTILLERY  
ACTION.

13. (a) Gas bombardment of Ville and the caterpillars at intervals up to Zero - 12 hours.  
(b) Bombardment of VILLE CRUCIFIX and the caterpillars from Zero until forced to lift by the approach of the Infantry.  
(c) A maximum of counter battery work from Zero onwards.  
(d) Annihilating fire on possible assembly places for enemy counter attack from Zero plus 30 minutes to plus 1 hour and at intervals thereafter.

MACHINE GUN  
ACTION

14. (a) The 2nd Aust. M.G.Bn. is supporting the attack with barrages between Zero & plus 2 hours on the approaches to the objectives and possible assembly areas.  
(b) Four guns of the 6th A.M.G.Coy. moving forward to positions at about K.7.a.7.5. (one pair) and about K.1.b.4.4. (one pair) will pass through our front line posts at Zero plus 30 minutes.

P. T. O.



LIGHT TRENCH  
MORTAR ACTION

15. (a) Two guns at J.6.b.4.0. and J.6.b.5.2. will fire on the LITTLE CATERPILLAR and the CRUCIFIX & CEMETERY from Zero to plus 6 minutes. Rate of fire 10 rounds per gun per minute. At Zero plus 30 minutes these guns will be moved to positions in K.1.a. from which they will be able to support the mopping up of VILLE. The 21st Bn. will supply a carrying party of one platoon to the 6th A.L.T.M.Bty. under arrangements to be made mutually.
- (b) One gun from D.30.b.2.2. will fire on known M.G. positions from Zero to plus 30 minutes.
- (c) One gun from E.19.d.3.3. will fire on M.G. positions on the railway from Zero onwards.
- (d) One gun at E.19.d.05.10. will be ready to engage any target between VILLE and the Railway.
- (e) One gun in close reserve.

BDE. SNIPERS  
ACTION

16. After the success signals have been observed Bde. Snipers will go forward and establish posts as follows:-

Right flank of 22nd Bn.	...	2
Left " " "	....	3
Right " " 21st Bn.	...	1
Forward of Left Flank of 21st Bn.		1
In forward posts of 24th Bn.		3

CONSOLIDATION

17. (a) The posts on the line of the objective are to be Lewis Gun posts.
- (b) The positions which are to be consolidated in rear of this line will be detailed by the C.O., 22nd Bn.
- (c) A smoke screen in VILLE and on the high ground North of MORLANCOURT will be put down and maintained from Zero plus 1 hour to Zero plus 2 hours to cover the consolidation.
- (d) On Z/Z plus 1 night the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. is going to dig a communication trench from K.1.b.1.4. to J.6.b.5.5.

A.A.LEWIS GUNS

18. All troops other than the attackers will from dawn on Z. day have half their Lewis Guns prepared and ready to engage hostile aircraft.

CONTACT PATROL

- 19 (a) Red ground flares to mark the position of the most forward Infantry will be lit when called for by contact aeroplane.
- (b) At the same time rifles will be put out in groups of three, two feet between rifles, which are to be laid parallel to one another, and about ten yds. between groups.
- (c) Contact aeroplanes will be in the air at Zero plus 2 hours, Zero plus 4 hours and Zero plus 6 hours.

COMMUNICATION

20. The ground offers great opportunities for Visual Signalling and of this every advantage is to be taken.

SUCCESS  
SIGNALS

21. A succession of GREEN Very Lights will be the success signal. These will be carried by all Company Commanders.

CHAIN OF S.O.S.

22. The 21st Bn. will be responsible for maintaining a chain of S.O.S. Signal repeating posts between our present forward posts and Bn. Hdqrs.



-4-

TO BE CARRIED ON THE MAN.

23. (a) Each man will carry his iron ration the unconsumed portion of the days ration and 24 hours preserved ration.  
(b) Excepting specialists every man will carry 220 rds. S.A.A. and two rifle grenades  
(c) The attacking companies of the 21st Bn. will carry 4 P. bombs per section.  
(d) Ground flares will be carried by 8 men in each platoon  
(e) S.O.S. Grenades will be carried forward with each company and Platoon Hdqrs.  
(f) Tools in the proportion 3 shovels to one pick will be carried by the attackers.

SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES.

24. An Officer from Bde. Hdqrs. will synchronise watches with attacking Bns. and the 6th A.L.T.M. Bty. during the afternoon of Z - 1 day. Other units will synchronise with the Brigade Signal Section at 8 p.m. on Z - 1 day.

BATTLE HDQRS.

25. Battle Hdqrs. will be established as under:-  
Advanced Bde. Hdqrs. ... J.11.a.5.9.  
22nd Battalion QUARRY ... J.5.d.8.6.  
24th " CELLAR ... D.29.d.4.5.  
6th L.T.M.Bty. ... With 24th Bn.  
21st Bn. Stand fast.  
23rd " " "

LIAISON

26. (a) 27th & 28th Bns. will attach Liaison Officers to the 23rd and 21st Bns. respectively. In addition 1 Off. & 2 runners from each of these Bns. will report at Bde. Hdqrs. at Zero - 1 hour.  
(b) Importance is attached to effective flank liaison between Bns.  
(c) Brigade Liaison Officer with 53rd Inf. Bde. Major D. BEITH, 23rd Bn.

A c k n o w l e d g e . - *VB.*

Issued to Signals at. *8.30pm*  
Distribution

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. 21st Bn.                      |                          |
| 2. 22nd "                        |                          |
| 3. 23rd "                        |                          |
| 4. 24th "                        |                          |
| 5. 6th L.T.M.Bty.                |                          |
| 6. 6th A.M.G.Coy.                |                          |
| 7. 6th Fld. Coy. A.E.            |                          |
| 8. 6th Fld. Amb.                 |                          |
| 9. 25th Bn.                      |                          |
| 10. 27th "                       |                          |
| 11. 28th Bn.                     |                          |
| 12. 2nd Aust. Divn.              |                          |
| 13. C.R.A.                       |                          |
| 14. C.R.E.                       |                          |
| 15. Left Group Artillery         |                          |
| 16. "C" Coy. 2nd Bn. Tank Corps. |                          |
| 17. Medium T.M.Bty.              |                          |
| 18. 5th A.I.Bde.                 |                          |
| 19. 53rd Inf. Bde.               |                          |
| 20. 7th A.I.Bde.                 |                          |
| 21. 2nd Aust. M.G.Bn.            |                          |
| 22. 2nd Pioneer Bn.              |                          |
| 23. Bde. Snipers.                |                          |
| 24. Major BEITH, 23rd Bn.        |                          |
| 25. G.O.C.                       |                          |
| 26. Bde. Major                   |                          |
| 27. Staff Captain                |                          |
|                                  | 28. Bde. Transport Offr. |
|                                  | 29. " Bomb Officer       |
|                                  | 30. " Sig. Officer       |
|                                  | 31. File                 |
|                                  | 32. War Diary            |
|                                  | 33. " " "                |
|                                  | 34. - 38. Spares.        |

*W. F. N. Bridges*  
Major,  
Brigade Major 3th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.



TABLE TO ACCOMPANY 6th A. I. BDE. ORDER NO.143

Troops.-	From.-	To.-	Route.-	Remarks.-
2 Coys. 24th Bn.	BALLARAT TRENCH	SEYMOUR TRENCH	Railway Bridge J.4.b.	To clear BALLARAT LINE by Zero - 2½ hours.
2 Coys. 28th Bn.	LA HOUSOYE	TREUX LINE & banks in J.12.a.	South of MERICOURT	To reach TREUX LINE at Zero - 30 minutes.
2 Coys. 28th Bn.	-do-	BALLARAT LINE	-do-	To arrive at Zero - 2½ hours.
Headquarters 28th Bn.	-do-	QUARRY J.9.b.8.2.		To be established by Zero - 2 hours.
27th Battalion	-do-	Area North of RIBEMONT	Road Junction D.19.c.8.0.	To take over the dispositions of 22nd Bn. except that no troops are to enter RIBEMONT and one Coy. will occupy TASMANIAN Line. To arrive at Zero - 2½ hours

- NOTE.-
1. 21st Bn. will vacate TREUX LINE by Zero - 30 minutes and the two Companies not attacking will occupy our present front line posts immediately the attackers have passed over them.
  2. All movement will be by Platoons at minimum distances of 100 yds.

\*\*\*

APPENDIX.

110  
951



6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE  
=====

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO No.37  
-----

(To accompany 6th A.I.Bde. Order No.143) *to be issued on 16th*

Ref. Map Sheet 62.D. N.E. 1/20,000

16th May, 1918.

1. EVACUATION OF WOUNDED. J.5.d.7.5.

(a) RIGHT BATTLE R.A.P. (3 Squads Ambulance Bearers) thence by hand carriage to R.A.P. J.11.a.6.5. (3 squads bearers) - thence across country to Road Junction J.11.c.1.6. - thence by wheeled stretchers to Cross Roads J.16.a.90.95. - J.10.a.5.1. thence across country to Motor Post J.9.c.8.6. thence to A.D.S.

(b) LEFT BUIRE R.A.P. D.29.d.1.8. (2 squads bearers) by hand carriage to RELAY POST D.28.b.1.1. (3 squads bearers) - thence across country to ROAD FORK D.27.a.6.8. - thence by Motor Ambulance to A.D.S.

(c) Local casualties will be evacuated through RIBEMONT and MERICOURT R.A.P.'s.

(d) Dispositions of R.M.O's:-

21st Battalion	...	J.11.a.6.5.
22nd "	...	J.5.d.7.5.
23rd "	...	D.29.d.1.8.
24th "	...	D.29.d.1.8.

To be in position at Zero minus 60 minutes.

2. PRISONERS OF WAR

(a) Prisoners of War will be escorted by assaulting troops back to present trench system - thence by trench garrison to P.O.V.Cage at MERICOURT STATION J.4.c.7.6. where 4 squads of 5 Battalion bandmen will escort prisoners back to Cage at FRANVILLERS and hand same over to A.P.M. getting receipts in each case.

(b) Each Battalion will detail 1 N.C.O. and 5 men from bands to report to Staff Captain at Bde. H.Q. at 6.00 a.m. on morning of attack.  
Dress.- Belts, Rifle & Cotton Bandolier.

3. IRON RATIONS. 24 hours Iron Rations per man will be delivered to Battalions prior to the attack and each man will carry his emergency ration in addition.

Units will arrange to under-draw rations to balance those distributed.

4. AMMUNITION ETC. The following will be delivered to Battalion H.Q. on 15th & 16th instants.-

S.A.A.  
Grenades  
Flares ground  
Very Lights  
Reserve Water  
Tools.

A c k n o w l e d g e . *B.*

*Alfred Brown*  
Captain,  
Staff Captain 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

P. T. O.



-3-

D i s t r i b u t i o n

1. 21st Bn.
2. 22nd "
3. 23rd "
4. 24th "
5. 6th M.G. Coy.
6. 6th T.M. Bty.
7. 5th A.I. Bde.
8. 7th A.I. Bde.
9. 53rd Inf. Bde.
10. 2nd M.G. Bn.
11. 2nd Aust. Divn.
12. 6th Fld. Amb.
13. 6th Fld. Coy. A.E.
14. 16th Coy. A.A.S.C.
15. G.O.C.
16. Bde. Major
17. Staff Captain
18. Bde. Bomb. Offr.
19. Bde. Transport Offr.
20. Bde. Q.M.
21. Q.M., 21st Bn.
22. " 22nd "
23. " 23rd "
24. " 24th "
25. File
26. War Diary
27. " "
- 28.-30. Spares.
31. A.P.M., 2nd Aust. Divn.





21/8  
SECRET

Au Bns. 6<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
6<sup>th</sup> Con. AE. 5<sup>th</sup> AIBde.

Amend. to Bde order 143

Para 8. Lines 3 & 4

for J12 b90  
read

J12 b60.

W. F. N. Bridges

Major  
Bm 6 AIBde

18/18



SECRET

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

No. 7028  
Date.

Brigade Headquarters  
18th May, 1918.

C.O.,

21st Bn. (For information)

Interrogation of Prisoners.

1. Sgt. COHEN, 6th Field Coy. is reporting to the 22nd Bn. to-day. He speaks German fluently. He is to be used for making a quick interrogation of prisoners.

2. He might ask the following questions.--

1. How many troops are in VILLE-SUR-ANCRE ?
2. How far back is the reserve company of your Bn. ?
3. Where is the Support Bn. ?
4. Where is the Reserve Bn. ?
5. Is an attack being made on this front this morning ?

3. The first six prisoners should be sent to Bde. Hdqrs. for interrogation by the Bde. I.O.

Subsequently all Officers & N.C.O's should be sent to Bde. Hdqrs. and the remaining prisoners disposed of in accordance with Administrative Instructions issued with Bde. Order No.143.

4. The German speakers with the 24th Bn. should ask questions (similar to those set out in para.2 above) of prisoners captured N. of the River.

The first three prisoners taken by the 24th Bn. are to be sent to Bde. Hdqrs.

*W. F. M. Bridges*  
Major,  
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Copies to.--

22nd Bn.

24th "

21st " (For information)

War Diary

" "



SECRET

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

2026

Brigade Headquarters  
18th May, 1918.Reference Brigade Order No. 143

Zero hour 2 a.m. 19th.

Acknowledge--

W. F. N. Bridges

Major

Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Issued at 130 p.m.

Distribution as  
for Bde. Order No. 143less 2nd Aust Dir  
5th A.I. Bde





# "A" Form MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(In pads of 100)

Prefix.....	Code.....m.	Words.	Charge.	No. of Message.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		This message is on a/c of:		Recd. at.....m.
Sent		At.....m.		Date.....
To.....		By.....		From.....
By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By.....
TO {				
21 <sup>st</sup> Bn 22 <sup>nd</sup> Bn				
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.
* Bm 325		18		AAA
<p>The creeping barrage for attack will halt for five minutes on a line 200 yards beyond the BIG CATERPILLAR; then it will creep into final protective barrage position 200 yds beyond objectives AAA acknowledge</p>				
From				
Place				
Time				
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				
(Z) L. F. N. Bonden				
Censor.				
Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.				
* This line should be erased if not required.				
(7981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187				



SECRETAU Pms. TMB.

Heavy Artillery are  
bombarding VILLE (not gas)  
at 9 P.m. tonight

W. F. N. Briggs

185/18

Bm 6 A 1 Sde <sup>map</sup>



# "A" Form MESSAGES AND

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				
Sent				
At m.				
To				
By (Signature of "Franking Officer")				

TO: 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Bns  
TM

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 70 86	18		

Our planes will signify that every is assembling for counter-attacks by flying in direction of enemy. —  
Sounding klaxon horn and discharging a white very light aaa. Acknowledge by wire — B

From	Place	Time
	DOIVER	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Oliver

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

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253 P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

# "A" Form MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(In pads of 100)

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				
This message is on a/c of:				
Sent				
At m.				
To				
By (Signature of "Franking Officer.")				

TO: 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Bns

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* BM 330	18		

Prisoners taken this morning a very poor lot AAA 16 resistance during attack weak poor all artillery fire WEST of grid line between E 25 and E 26 would probably be stopped and the 21<sup>st</sup> Bn ordered to attack VILLE immediately and establish an outpost line East of it. AAA addressed all Bns AAA 24<sup>th</sup> Bn to inform 6<sup>th</sup> Lt Col Bally

From	Place	Time
	6 <sup>th</sup> AIBde	11-45 pm

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) W.F.N. Bridges

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

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(7981) Wt. W 493/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187

APPENDIX.

25/18



# "A" Form MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....Code.....m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions				
Sent			Service.	Date.....
At.....m.				
To.....				
By.....				
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")			By.....	

TO {	21 <sup>st</sup> Bn	
	6 <sup>th</sup> A.I.B. Bn	

Sender's Number. * 1514 526	Day of Month. 10	In reply to Number.	AAA
--------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----

Great importance is attached to thorough cooperation between the corps of the 21<sup>st</sup> Bn and the force in charge of the two 3<sup>rd</sup> Bns which are going forward at 2000 to cover the defensive flank.

From	6 <sup>th</sup> A.I.B. Bn
Place	12 1570
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.	(Z)	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
Censor.		

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(7981) Wt. W493/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187

# "A" Form MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....Code.....m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions				
Sent			Service.	Date.....
At.....m.				
To.....				
By.....				
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")			By.....	

TO {	21 <sup>st</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Bns	
------	---------------------------------------	--

Sender's Number. * BM 327	Day of Month. 18	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----

21<sup>st</sup> Bn will establish a dump of 30 boxes SAA and 30 boxes of grenades (mixed) in any of posts 7, 8 + 9 tonight by midnight AAA. This will be sent forward to captured positions when 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn make application to adv. Bde Hqs AAA to obtain the ammunition from that now in their area.

From	6 <sup>th</sup> A.I.B. Bn
Place	
Time	rec 7.30 pm

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.	(Z)	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
Censor.		

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(7981) Wt. W493/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187

APPENDIX

519



22ND BATTALION - OPERATION ORDER NO. 28/18.

REF? MAP SHEET, 62 D., H.E. 1/20,000.

PART SHEETS 62 D., H.E. &amp; S.E., 1/10,000.

18.5.18.

1. The enemy is holding the Bunken Roads (Known as the LITTLE and BIG CATERPILLARS) in K.l.a. & c. and K.l.b. & d. in strength, and has a garrison in VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.  
The 6th A.I. Bde. will attack the enemy on each side of VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on "Z" day.  
The 5th A.I. Bde is simultaneously advancing their Left flank on a front of 500 yds.  
The 18th Division on the Left will co-operate by raiding on approx. a 2,000 yds front at Zero hour.
  2. SOUTHERN ATTACK.- From K.7.b.1.0. to K.7.b.2.7. to K.l.d.6.3., K.l.d.6.7., K.l.b.8.2., K.l.b.6.4., K.l.b.6.6.  
A Defensive Flank facing North will be formed from K.l.b.6.6. through the CRUCIFIX J.6.b.5.5.  
NORTHERN ATTACK.- A line from E.25.c.9.9. to E.25.b.7.4. to E.25.b.6.7.
  3. The 22nd Batta will attack on 2 4-company frontage, in 2 waves - 20 yards between waves - each Coy on a 2-Platoon frontage.  
FIRST WAVE will consist of a line of skirmishers.  
SECOND WAVE - Line of Sections in single file.  
The Second wave will be responsible for mopping-up.
  4. BATTALION BOUNDARIES.  
SOUTHERN BOUNDARY - From a line running true East through J.12.central  
NORTHERN BOUNDARY.- A line running true East through J.6.b.0.6.  
COMPANY BOUNDARIES:-  

"D" COY.-	from	K.7.b.1.0.	to	K.7.b.2.6.
"C" "	"	K.7.b.2.6.	to	K.l.d.6.3.
"A" "	"	K.l.d.6.3.	to	K.l.b.7.0.
"B" "	"	K.l.b.7.0.	to	K.l.b.6.6.
  5. OBJECTIVE.- A line running from K.7.a.8.0. to K.7.a.95.60. to K.l.d.30.15. to K.l.b.50.70. to K.l.b.50.20. to K.l.b.40.60.  
Major J.S. DOOLEY, M.C., will be O.C., Objective.  
Objective will be consolidated immediately it has been captured, and Lewis Gun Posts established as follows :-  

"D" COY.-	One Post at	K.7.b.10.05.
	" " "	K.7.b.10.25.
	" " "	K.7.b.15.45.
"C" COY.-	" " "	K.7.b.20.70.
	" " "	K.7.b.35.95.
	" " "	K.l.d.45.15.
"A" COY.-	" " "	K.l.d.65.35.
	" " "	K.l.d.60.70.
	" " "	K.l.d.70.95.
"B" COY.-	" " "	K.l.b.80.20.
	" " "	K.l.b.60.40.
	" " "	K.l.b.60.60.
  6. O.C., "B" COY., will detail a PATROL of 1 Officer & 15 O.R.'s to move through the wood in J.6.b. at Zero, and attack the CRUCIFIX from the North. On arrival of 21st Batta., this Patrol will move forward to final Objective.
  7. The Defensive Flank South of VILLE will be formed by 2 Coys of 21st Batta.  
The NORTHERN ATTACK will be carried out by 2 Coys of 24th Batta.
  8. On capture of objective, each Coy will send out strong Patrols on their own frontage. Flank Coys will also patrol to their flanks, and maintain touch with flank Units.
- JUMPING-OFF TAPES.- The 6th Field Coy will lay out Jumping-off Tapes by Zero - 2 hours.  
J.O.T. for 22nd Batta will be due North from J.12.b.9.0. to the Right Flank of the Left Coy., where it will be stepped back to immediately behind our forward line.



22ND BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 28/18 (CONTD) 18.5.18.

9. J.O.T. (CONTD) J.O.T. for 21st Battn will be 150 yds behind the Left Flank of the 22nd Battn Tape.  
DIRECTION TAPES will be laid out on the Right flank and on inter-company Boundaries.
10. The Battalion will move to J.O.T. by Platoons at 100 yds distance, leaving present positions at Zero - 3 hours.  
Movement to J.O.T., Guides, and Positions of Assembly as per attached Table.
11. (a) A Creeping Barrage will be put down by Nine 18-pdr Batteries at Zero on the Start Line, K.7.a.0.0. to K.25.c.0.0.  
At plus 2 minutes this barrage will jump 100 yds., and will creep forward 100 yds every 3 minutes thereafter.  
(b) A standing barrage on the Southern, Western, and North-western outskirts of VILLE from Zero.  
Another standing barrage will be put down on the line K.20.a.2.0. to K.26.a.2.4.  
(c) The final position of the creeping barrage (200 yds beyond the objective) and the positions of the standing barrage will be the S.O.S. lines after the operation.  
(d) The protective barrage will cease at Zero plus 2 hours.  
Barrage Maps will be issued later.  
(e) Medium Trench Mortars will engage the objectives and targets in and near VILLE till forced to lift by the advance of the Infantry.
12. (a) Gas bombardment of VILLE and the CATERPILLARS at intervals up to Zero - 12 hours.  
(b) Bombardment of VILLE CRUCIFIX and the CATERPILLARS from Zero until forced to lift by the approach of the Infantry.  
(c) A maximum of counter-battery work from Zero onwards.  
(d) Annihilating fire on possible assembly places for enemy counter-attack from Zero plus 30 minutes to plus 1 hour, and at intervals thereafter.
13. (a) The 2nd Aust. M.G. Battn is supporting the attack with barrages between Zero and plus 2 hours on the approaches to the objectives and possible assembly Areas.  
(b) 4 Guns of the 6th A.M.G. Coy moving forward to positions at about K.7.a.7.5. (one pair) and about K.1.b.4.4. (one pair) will pass through our Front Line Posts at Zero plus 30 minutes.
14. (a) Two Light Trench Mortars at J.6.b.4.0. and J.6.b.5.2. will fire on the LITTLE CATERPILLAR and the CRUCIFIX & CEMETERY from Zero to plus 6 minutes. Rate of fire, 10 rounds per Gun per minute.  
At Zero plus 30 minutes these Guns will be moved to positions in K.1.a., from which they will be able to support the mopping up of VILLE.  
(b) One Mortar from D.30.b.2.2. will fire on known M.G. Positions from Zero to plus 30 minutes.  
(c) One Mortar from E.19.d.3.3. will fire on M.G. Positions on the Railway from Zero onwards.  
(d) One Mortar at E.19.d.05.10. will be ready to engage any target between VILLE and the Railway.  
(e) One Mortar in close reserve.
15. After the Success Signals have been observed, Edge Snipers will go forward and establish posts as follows :-  
Right flank of 22nd Battn.- 2.  
Left " " " " 3.
16. A SMOKE SCREEN in VILLE and on the high ground north of MORLARCOURT will be put down and maintained from Zero plus 1 hour to Zero plus 2 hours, to cover the consolidation.
17. (a) Red Ground Flares to mark the position of the most forward Infantry will be lit when called for by contact aeroplanes.  
(b) At the same time Rifles will be put out in groups of three, 2 feet between rifles, which are to be laid parallel to one another, and about 10 yds between groups.



- 91
17. (c) Contact Aeroplanes will be in the air at Zero plus 2 hours, Zero plus 4 hours, and Zero plus 6 hours.
  18. SUCCESS SIGNALS.- A succession of GREEN VERY LIGHTS will be the success signal. These will be carried by all Company Commanders.
  19. DRESS.- Battle Order - W.P. Sheet rolled and attached to Waistbelt. 220 rounds S.A.A., 2 Rifle Grenades, 2 Waterbottles (filled) 24 hrs Iron Rations, unconsumed portion of day's rations, and 24 hours preserved rations to be carried by each man.  
S.O.S. SIGNALS will be carried by all Officers.  
GROUND PLANES will be carried by 8 men in each Platoon.  
TOOLS in the proportion of 3 Shovels to 1 Pick will be carried by half the attackers.
  20. DIRECTION.- The following Officers, using Prismatic Compasses, will be responsible for direction.-  

Right Flank.-	Lieut. E.S. FRENCH.	"D" COY.
Centre.-	" J.P. GREENE.	"C" "
Left flank.-	" H.W. WESTAWAY.	"B" "
  21. LIAISON OFFICERS.-  

Lieut. J.A. SMITH.	With Right Battn.
" R.W. GROVES.	" Left "
  22. WATCHES will be synchronised at Battn. H.Q. at Zero - 4 hours.
  23. PRISONERS will be handed over to 21st Battn in present front line. No wounded Prisoners are to be sent to the rear until all our own wounded are cleared. Prisoners will be used for carrying wounded.
  24. S.A.A., Bombs, and Concertina Wire will be carried forward to objective by 21st Battn.
  25. VILLE-SUR-ANCRE will be mopped up by 21st Battn on "Z" day. Details will be issued later.
  26. ZERO HOUR will be notified later.
  27. BATTN. H.Q. will be established at QUARRY, J.5.d.8.6.  
R.A.P. at QUARRY, J.5.d.8.6.
  28. ACKNOWLEDGE. *B.*

*Adward*  
CAPT. & ADJT.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | Filed.             |
| 2.          | War Diary.         |
| 3.          | 6th A.I. Bde.      |
| 4.          | H.Q.               |
| 5.          | "A" COY.           |
| 6.          | "E" "              |
| 7.          | "C" "              |
| 8.          | "D" "              |
| 9.          | 21st Battn.        |
| 10.         | 23rd "             |
| 11.         | 24th "             |
| 12.         | 18th "             |
| 13.         | Q.M. & T.C.        |
| 14.         | Lieut. J.A. SMITH. |
| 15.         | " R.W. GROVES.     |





SECRET.

ADDENDUM TO 22ND BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 28/18. 18.5.18.

REF. PARA. 11 (a) - CREEPING BARRAGE.

The Creeping Barrage for attack will halt for Five Minutes on a line 200 yards beyond the BIG CATERPILLAR, then it will creep into final protective Barrage position, 200 yards beyond objective. This is to allow for the mopping up of the BIG CATERPILLAR.

18.5.18.

*Adward*  
CAPT. & ADJT.



SECRET.

COPY NO. 5

## 84th Australian Infantry Battalion Order No. 88

Ref. Map. Sheet 68d N.E. 1/50,000.

14th May 1918.

1. INFORMATION. The enemy is holding the sunken roads (known as the LITTLE & BIG CATERPILLARS) in K.1.a.8.c. and K.1.b.8.d. in strength and has a garrison in VILLE SUR ANCRE.
2. INTENTION. The 8th A.I. Bde is attacking the enemy on each side of VILLE SUR ANCRE on the 14th inst. The 8th A.I. Bde is simultaneously advancing their left flank on a front of 500 yards. The 14th Division on the left will co-operate by raiding on approx. a 3,000 yard front at Zero Hour.
3. OBJECTIVES. SOUTHERN ATTACK. From K.7.b.1.0. to K.7.b.8.7. to K.1.d.8.3. to K.1.d.8.7. to K.1.b.8.8., K.1.b.8.4. & K.1.b.8.6. A defensive flank facing North will be formed from K.1.b.8.6. through the CRUCIFIX to J.6.b.8.8. NORTHERN ATTACK. A line from E.88.c.8.8. to E.88.b.7.4 to E.88.b.8.7.
4. ATTACKING TROOPS. The Southern Attack will be carried out by the 88th Bn. The Defensive Flank South of Ville will be formed by 2 Companies ("A" & "B") of the 81st Bn. The Northern Attack will be carried out by 2 Coys, 84th Bn. who will cross the ANCRE by existing bridges and bridges specially prepared prior to the attack.
5. BRIDGING THE ANCRE. Footbridges are in position at E.88.a.10.45. and E.88.a.88.50. and posts are temporarily established about 100 yards south of each. At an hour to be notified two bridges will be thrown across the ANCRE at E.88.a.75.45. and E.88.b.10.80. by the 6th Field Coy acting in co-operation with 84th A.I. Bn. "A" Coy, from 3rd & 4th platoons, will supply parties for the launching of bridges.
6. MOVEMENT TO FORMING UP TAPES. "A" & "D" Coys of 84th A.I. Bn will be in position by Zero - 30 minutes moving from present positions at Zero - 2 hours, "A" Coy deploying at QUARRY D.30.a.8.1, "D" Coy at RAVINE E.88.a. At zero "A" Coy will have one platoon in line of sections in rear of each bridge. "D" Coy. in line of posts in front of SAM TRENCH right flank resting on HUT POST E.88.b.1.6. Each platoon will have one section as a carrying party.
7. ATTACK ON CRUCIFIX. A strong patrol of the 88th A.I. Bn will move through the wood in J.6.b. at Zero and attack the CRUCIFIX from the north.
8. MOVEMENT OF OTHER TROOPS. a) Standing patrols, provided by 88th A.I. Bn, will cover the forming up from positions in advance of our forward posts, and will be withdrawn at Zero - 30 minutes b) At Zero - 1 1/2 hours "B" & "C" Coys will vacate



(a)

HALLARAT TRENCH moving to SKXMOUR TRENCH via Railway Bridge J.4.D.

"B" Coy will take over on left from "D" Coy.

"C" " " " " " " " " right " "A" "

Platoons will move at 100 yards interval.

"B" & "C" Coys will be in brigade reserve.

c) The absolute necessity for silence in all movements is impressed on all ranks.

9. FIELD ARTILLERY  
AND MEDIUM  
T.H. ACTION.

- a) A creeping barrage will be put down by nine 18 pdr. Batteries at Zero on the start line E.7.a.0.0. to E.28.c.0.0. At plus 5 minutes this barrage will jump 100 yds and will creep forward 100 yds. every three minutes thereafter.
- b) KX A standing barrage on the Southern, Western and North Western outskirts of VILLE from zero. Another standing barrage will be put down on the line E.30.a.8.0. to E.28.a.8.4.
- c) The final position of the creeping barrage (800 yds beyond the objective) and the positions of the standing barrage will be the S.O.S. lines after the operation.
- d) The protective barrage will cease at Zero plus 8 hours. Barrage maps will be issued later.
- e) Medium Trench Mortars will engage the objectives and targets in and near VILLE till forced to lift by the advance of the Infantry.

10. HEAVY  
ARTILLERY  
ACTION.

- a) Gas bombardment of VILLE and the caterpillars at intervals up to Zero - 18 hours.
- b) Bombardment of VILLE CRUCIFIX and the caterpillars from Zero until forced to lift by the approach of the Infantry.
- c) A maximum of counter battery work from Zero onwards.
- d) Annihilating fire on possible assembly places for enemy counter attack from Zero plus 30 minutes to plus 1 hour and at intervals thereafter.

11. MACHINE  
GUN ACTION.

- a) The 2nd Aust. M.G. Bn is supporting the attack with barrages between Zero & plus 8 hours on the approaches to the objectives and possible assembly areas.
- b) Four guns of the 6th A.M.G. Coy moving forward to positions at about K.7.a.7.0. (one pair) and about K.1.b.4.4. (one pair) will pass through our front line posts at Zero plus 30 minutes.

12. LIGHT TRENCH  
MORTAR ACTION.

- a) One gun from D.30.b.8.2. will fire on known M.G. positions from Zero to plus 30 minutes.
- b) One gun from E.10.d.3.3. will fire on M.G. positions on the railway from Zero onwards.
- c) One gun at E.10.d.05.10. will be ready to engage any target between VILLE and the Railway.
- e) One gun in close reserve.

13. BDE. SNIPERS  
ACTION.

After the success signals have been observed Bde Snipers will go forward and establish posts as follows :-  
In forward posts of 24th Bn. 3.



(3)

14. CONSOLIDATION.

- a) Five posts on the line of the objective of each Coy are to be Lewis Gun Posts.  
"D" Coy will establish eight posts from E.25.b.7.4. to E.25.b.6.7.  
"A" Coy will establish five posts from E.25.c.8.11. to E.25.b.7.4.
- b) Smoke screen in MILES and on the high ground North of MORNACOURT will be put down and maintained from Zero plus 1 hour to Zero plus 2 hours to cover the consolidation.

15. A.A. LEWIS GUNS.

"B" & "C" Coys will from dawn 15th May 1918 have half their Lewis Guns prepared and ready to engage hostile aircraft.

16. CONTACT PATROL.

- a) Red ground flares to mark the position of the most forward Infantry will be lit when called for by contact aeroplanes.
- b) At the same time rifles will be put out in groups of three, two feet between rifles, which are to be laid parallel to one another, and about ten yards between groups.
- c) Contact aeroplanes will be in the air at Zero plus 2 hours, Zero plus 4 hours and Zero plus 6 hours.

17. COMMUNICATION.

The Ground offers great opportunities for visual signalling and of this every advantage is to be taken. Signal Officer will arrange for a line to be run from "A" and "D" Coys as soon as practicable after the advance.  
Each Coy will send one runner to Bn Hq when forming up on J.O.T. is complete.

18. SUCCESS SIGNALS.

A succession of GREEN Very lights will be the success signal.  
These will be carried by all Company Commanders.

19. TO BE CARRIED ON THE MAN.

- a) Each man will carry his iron ration, the unconsumed portion of the day's ration and 24 hours preserved ration.
- b) Excepting specialists every man will carry 220 rounds S.A.A. and two rifle grenades.
- c) Each Lewis Gun team will carry 20 magazines.
- d) Ground flares will be carried by 2 men in each platoon.
- e) S.O.S. grenades will be carried forward by each Coy and Platoon Hqs.
- f) Tools in proportion 3 shovels to 1 Pick will be carried by the attackers.

20. SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES.

An Officer from Bn Hqs will synchronise watches at 8 P.M. and midnight night 14/15th May.

21. LIAISON.

With 51st Bn. A.I.F. - Lt. W. Graham M.C.  
" 33rd " " - Lt. H. Baxter.



(4)

22. PRISONERS.

Prisoners will be escorted by assaulting troops to present front line system where they will be handed over to and taken back by trench garrison to Bn Hqrs. 1 N.C.O. and 5 O/Ranks from the Bn Band will report to Staff Captain at 6 a.m. on 16th May.

23. Bn. Hqrs.

Bn Hqrs. Cellar D.22.d.4.8.

24. R.A.P.

R.A.P. D.20.d.1.8.  
D.28.b.3.1.

25. ZERO HOUR.

Zero. 8 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGE

*Phillips*  
Captain & Adjutant.

Issued by runner at .....P.m.

Distribution.

No. 1	File.	No. 8.	"A" Coy.
2	War Diary	9	"B" "
3	6th A.I. Bde	10	"C" "
4	23rd A.I. Bn.	11	"D" "
5	21st A.I. Bn.	12.	R.M.O.
6	C.O.	13	S.O.
7	Adjutant.	14	Spare.



SECRET.

COPY NO. 5

84th Australian Infantry Battalion Order No. 88

Ref. Map Sheet 88d N.E. 1/80,000.

18th May 1918

1. On the completion of the operations detailed in Bn. Order No. 88 the dispositions of attacking troops will be :-
 

2nd Bn.	from A.7.b.1.0. to A.1.b.6.0.
9 Coys 1st Bn.	" A.1.b.6.0. " J.0.b.6.0.
9 " 2nd " "	" E.25.c.2.0. " E.25.b.6.7.
2. Between the following times no Artillery or Trench Mortars will fire on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE :-
 

4.15 a.m.	-	4.30 a.m.
5.15 a.m.	-	5.45 a.m.
6.30 a.m.	-	7.30 a.m.
3. Between 6.30 a.m. & 7.30 a.m. the 1st Bn will send strong patrols into VILLE-SUR-ANCRE to test the practicability of mopping it up in daylight.  
While the patrols are in VILLE the artillery will fire a few smoke shells on the line of the road MORLAING to E.25.a.4.4.
4. At 8.30 a.m. the 3rd Bn will push reconnoitring patrols towards the village from the West.
5. If the patrols of the 1st Bn report that VILLE can be mopped up in daylight :-
  - (a) A succession of GREEN Very flares will be fired from the neighbourhood of the GRANTARY between 7.15 and 7.45 a.m.
  - (b) All Artillery fire on VILLE will cease from 8 a.m. onwards and the S.O.S. line will be straightened to a line between A.1.b.2.7. and E.25.a.0.6.
  - (c) The 1st Bn will at 8 a.m. send into the village (from the two Coys forming the defensive flank) mopping up parties.  
According to circumstances the 3rd and 4th Bns will send mopping up parties to the outskirts of VILLE.
  - (d) As soon as Hqs is notified that the mopping up is complete the artillery will fire a few smoke shells into the western outskirts of VILLE-SUR-ANCRE to make the enemy believe that we have not occupied the village. The mopping up parties of the 1st Bn will therefore be concentrated in the eastern side of the village or may be withdrawn to the discretion of the C.O. 1st Bn.
6. If it is impracticable to mop up VILLE-SUR-ANCRE during daylight, artillery fire will be concentrated on the village throughout the day and the mopping up will be done at night; probably with the co-operation of tanks.  
In this eventuality special orders will be issued.
7. After the mopping up of VILLE it is intended that the 1st Bn during darkness, shall establish with their two attacking Companies a line of posts between A.1.b.6.0. and the River at E.25.b.6.0.  
When this has been done the two attacking companies of the 84th Bn will be withdrawn. Orders for this withdrawal will be issued later.



(8)

u. The final dispositions will then be :-

Line Right	K.7.b.2.0. to K.1.b.6.0.	2nd Bn with 4 Coys in line
" Centre	K.1.b.6.0. " E.25.b.6.0.	Two Coys 21st Bn.
" Left	E.25.b.6.0. " E.19.b.3.0.	Two Coys 23rd Bn.

Close Support. In Present front line	Two Coys. 21st Bn.
Right & Centre. Posts of Right Bn.	

Close Support. Along Railway Line and in.	Two Coys 23rd Bn.
Left. New Support Trench.	

Support Right. Treux Line.	Two Coys 28th Bn.
----------------------------	-------------------

Support Left. "A" & "D" Coys BUIRE	
RESERVE - "B" & "C"	24th Bn.
Coys SEYMOUR LINE.	

Reserve Right. BALLARAT LINE.	Two Coys. 28th Bn.
-------------------------------	--------------------

Reserve Left. North of RIBMONT	27th Bn.
--------------------------------	----------

ACKNOWLEDGE. *VP*

*Phu*  
Captain & Adjutant.

Issued by runner at ... 8.... P.M.

Distribution as for En. Order No. 88.



# Battery operation order for Riggs Gun Lieut W.L. Tompkins in Charge

No 1 + 2 guns at J. 6. 6. 45. 00. & J. 6. 6. 50. 15 will fire on.

No 1. Sunken Road in K. 1. a 30. 0. 0. to K. 1. a 40. 30

No 2 Crucifix & Cemetery in K. 1. a 40. 70. at the rate of 10 rounds per minute per gun, from zero to plus 6 minutes, after which they will cease fire & when the success signals have been fired will move forward to positions of opportunity near the Crucifix & Little Catipillar

A carrying party from 21<sup>st</sup> Btn will report to B Coy 21<sup>st</sup> Btn at 12 pm this will be divided into two parties of 10 each under an N.C.O., they will be used to carry bombs to the new position & if necessary to do two or more trips

These two guns will then be used as S.O.S guns & covering guns to patrols, which are to go into VILLE

## TIME LATER.

During the day of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst the artillery will cease fire on to VILLE from (1) 4.15 am to 4.30 AM (2) 5.15 AM to 5.45 AM (3) 6.30 AM to 7.30 AM

Between the (cease fire 6.30 AM to 7.30 AM) the 21<sup>st</sup> Btn will send a strong patrol into VILLE "Sur ANCRE" to test the practicality of "mopping" it up in daylight, at the same time the 23<sup>rd</sup> Btn will push patrols out from the west. If the patrols report that VILLE can be "mopped up" in DAYLIGHT a succession of GREEN flares will be fired from near Cemetery then all artillery fire will cease from 8. AM. If it is impracticable to "mop up" VILLE during DAYLIGHT, artillery & T.M.'s will concentrate on VILLAGE.





contd

The two then advanced L.T.M.'s mine with visual observation watch the progress of the mopping up parties and support ~~support~~ them in their progress & should they have to retire support their retirement.

When the VILLAGE has been "mopped up" these two guns will be lined on to S.O.S. line in front of our line & remain on the defensive.

J.P. Wagg Capt  
OC 6<sup>th</sup> ALVMB 3

18.5.19



SECRET.Ref. Map Sheet 62D. N.E.  
- 1/20,000.A U S T R A L I A N    I M P E R I A L    F O R C E .  
0000000000000000000021st Battalion Hqrs,  
22nd May 1918.

6th A.I. Brigade.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT ON OPERATIONS  
CARRIED OUT AGAINST VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on  
19th MAY 1918.

Prior to the attack the Disposition of the Battalion was:-  
In the Line from Right to Left "D", "C", & "B" Companies with "A" Company in Support.  
It was decided that the Battalion's part of the attack would be undertaken by  
"A" & "B" Companies. Accordingly early on the night of the attack "C" & "D" Companies  
took over "B" Company's frontage in the Line, "B" Company was withdrawn into  
Support, and "A" Company into Reserve, to facilitate reorganisation and the  
issuing of Ammunition, Bombs, etc.  
Companies were in position well on time - the report to this effect being  
received at Bn Hqrs at 1.35 a.m., 19th inst.  
Situation throughout this part of the night had been quiet.  
The barrage opened punctually and, save for one machine gun firing from VILLE,  
no hostile fire interfered with the advance.  
The Left Company reported "On Objective; digging in" at 2.26 a.m. Machine Gun  
mentioned above was still firing. ~~Left~~ Company Commander arranged with an Officer  
of the 6th A.L.T.M.B. to silence it. This was done after 10 Rounds had been  
fired, and a message to that effect was received at Bn Hqrs at 2.42 a.m.  
The Right Company had by this time reached their objective and were digging in  
but were being troubled by our own artillery fire, especially on the right.  
This continued until 4.15 a.m. when all Artillery Fire ceased according to  
programme.  
Meanwhile, as reports had come in that little resistance had been met with,  
orders were received from Brigade at 3.45 a.m. to mop up the Village at 4.15 a.m.  
when all Artillery on that Sector would be stopped.  
Orders were immediately issued verbally on the telephone to the Officer Com-  
manding Left Company, with instructions to inform O.C., "A" Company, with whom  
he was in touch. Written orders were sent at the same time.  
Owing to the trouble the O.C., Right Company, was having with our Artillery,  
fire orders did not reach him to time, but a Platoon from this Company was sent  
in with the third wave of the Left Company, and helped in the mopping up.  
The Left Company formed up in extended order and got away to time at 4.30 pm.  
The advance was made by Section rushes in three waves as machine-gun and rifle  
fire was being directed against us from the Village.  
Our Lewis Guns and Rifles covered the advance well, and once the attack had  
been properly launched the ~~attack~~ ceased fire ceased.  
From there on no serious opposition was met with in the Village though there  
was an abundance of targets. The Company passed through but sent a Platoon back  
to see that the Mopping Up had been completely effected. They attempted to dig  
in about 200 Yards East of the Village, but the Company Commander, finding  
that he was under heavy fire from the high ground opposite, decided to tempo-  
rarily withdraw. This was done by dribbling the men back in twos and threes  
under cover of Lewis Guns. The Left Company then formed up behind the Church  
and reorganised Platoons. The Platoon of the Right Company returned through the  
Village to the North West corner, where there was still some fighting going on.  
When this was ~~clear~~ cleared they withdrew to their defensive flank position.  
The Left Company then pushed their Lewis Guns one by one - one man at a time -  
until they had five guns in position South East of the Village covering the  
approaches and the valley.  
The remainder of the Company, under cover of these, took up positions in banks  
near the BIG CATERPILLAR (Sunken Road), where they remained until dark.  
When darkness made it possible, a reconnaissance was made by the Intelligence



- 2 -

Officer and the O.C., Left Company and a line taped out for the Companies to dig in on, with Shovels and S.A.A. which had been sent forward at dusk. This was successfully carried out without incident. Companies reported - Dug in, flanks secure, and rations issued by 1.45 a.m.

Numerous prisoners were taken, though, owing to their being handed over to different Units, as well as our Support Companies, a definite number cannot be given, though a party of fifty and another one of ten are known to have been handed over to be taken back.

In all 11 Machine Guns were sent back by this Unit, but there were others captured in and near the village, together with 2 Trench Mortars, that could not be salvaged at the time.

Lieut.-Colonel,  
Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

22nd May 1918.



SECRET.

Appendix No. 53.

## A U S T R A L I A N    I M P E R I A L    F O R C E .

\*\*\*\*\*

21st Battalion Hqrs,  
22nd May 1918.

6th A.I. Brigade.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REMARKS ON  
OPERATIONS OF 19th MAY 1918  
AGAINST VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

The arrangements for the operation were satisfactory though a few improvements could be made.

Some trouble was caused through our own artillery firing short, and once more it was shown that, to get the quickest and closest liaison between Artillery and Infantry a system of Very Light Signals should be introduced, particularly as regards to the lengthening of the barrage.

Also it is recommended that there should be one or more direct lines to each Artillery Group from the Infantry Headquarters, without using the Infantry Switch Board or Lines.

On account of the light enemy barrage the telephone wires were intact almost continuously, and in addition visual from the Forward Company Headquarters was used. From the Battalion Observation Post the progress of work was recorded every fifteen minutes.

The Mills Grenade No. 36 was used very effectively and the new Egg Bomb (No. 34) is now preferred by the men to the Mills No. 5., though the latter and the smoke bomb are preferred for clearing cellars and dugouts.

Quite a number of enemy Machine Guns were captured in the Village but as no one was trained in their use a grand opportunity in supplementing our own fire could not be availed of. Even if the enemy M.G. could have been used for A.A. Fire it would have been a considerable help.

Two enemy Machine Guns were handed over to the 6th A.M.G. Company later in the morning but not in time to be used offensively.

On account of the possibility of an enemy counter-attack the Company Commanders only fired at close and excellent targets with their L.M.G.s, as they wanted to have the maximum amount of ammunition on hand for any emergency.

A large number of good artillery targets were observed throughout the day, but though frequently reported, they were not availed of in the majority of cases. Prisoners were used in every case to carry down our wounded, but as usual the supply of stretchers ~~ran out~~ ran out.

It is recommended that just prior to an attack a substantial number of stretchers be taken as far forward as possible on the proposed line of evacuation. This would ensure that the early wounded could be evacuated with the aid of prisoners much more quickly.

This latter means of evacuation generally means that the front area is drained of stretchers as there is not the return trip of the prisoner bearers to take the stretchers back to the line.

The Officer in charge of the Trench Mortar Battery, by keeping with the Company Commander during the advance was able to deal effectively and quickly with the few enemy M.G.s that were still active after the barrage had passed them. The mopping up of the village was done effectively. Only in one or two cases did the occupants of cellars hesitate, and then the introduction of a Mills Grenade or a Smoke Bomb always effected the required result.

Had it been decided beforehand to mop up the village an hour earlier it is considered a larger number of enemy would have been taken prisoners or killed as it is reported that a large number got away before the barrage was put down in rear of the village.

Lieut.-Colonel,

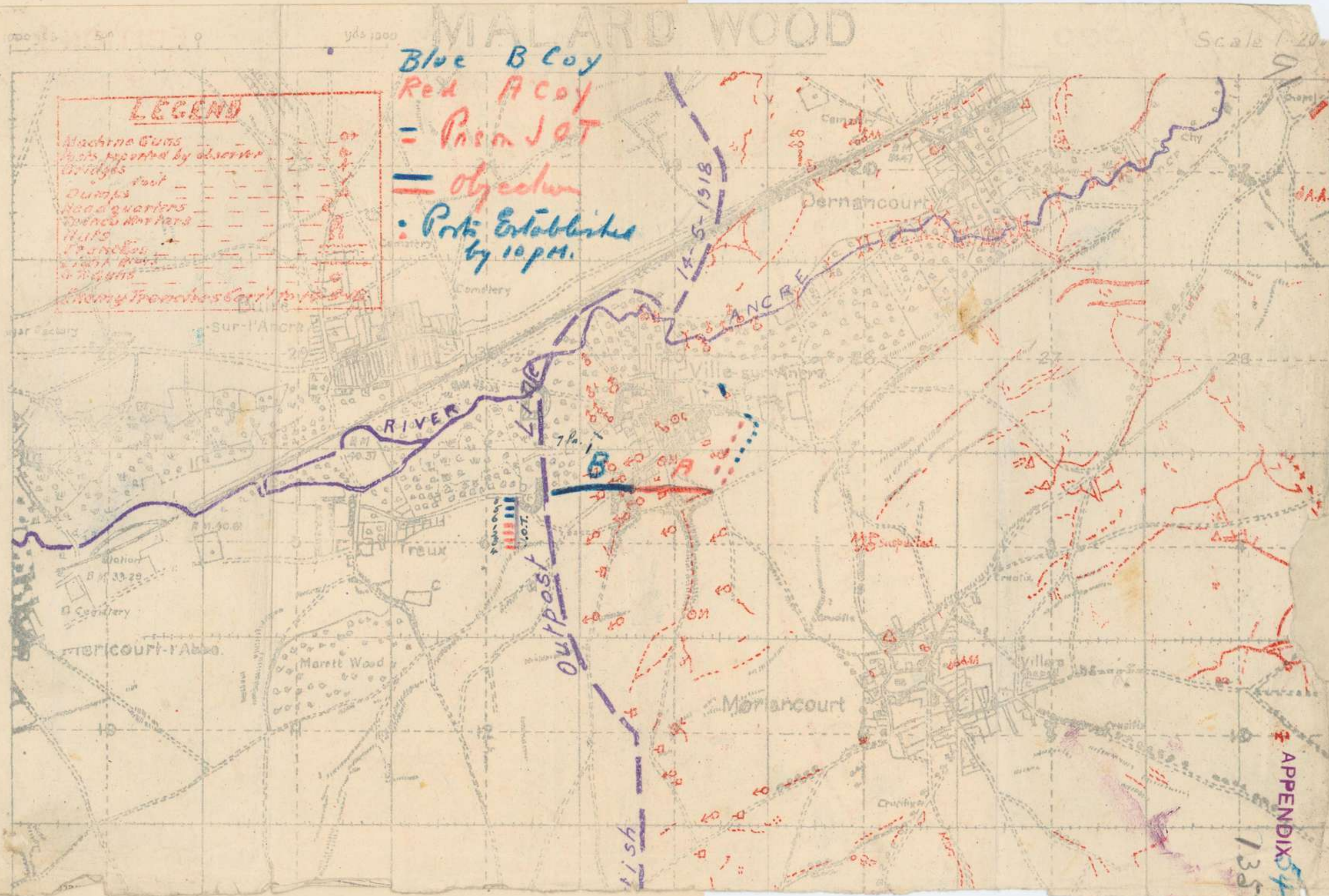
Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

22nd May 1918.



135

Appendix No. 54.



## APPENDIX 4

135



Appendix No. 55.

"C" FORM.

Army Form C, 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

## MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix <i>Gm</i>	Code <i>KMM</i>	Words <i>26</i>	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
			From <i>TIF</i>	At.....m.	<i>T10</i> <i>19/5/18</i>
			By <i>Quiver</i>	To.....m.	
Charges to Collect			By.....		
Service Instructions			By.....		

Handed in at *TIF* Office *10:5H* m. Received *10:25H* m.

TO

*All Brothers.*

\* Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

AAA

*Gm 95**19*

Message from "Joe" begins  
Capt. Cmdt sends hearty  
congratulations to Brig + Commanding  
Officers on fine achievement  
ends

FROM

PLACE &amp; TIME

*Quiver 10:5Am*

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P.

213.

"C" FORM.

Army Form C, 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

## MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix <i>lin</i>	Code <i>1440</i>	Words <i>18</i>	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
			From <i>TIF</i>	At.....m.	<i>T10</i> <i>19/5</i>
			By <i>Quiver</i>	To.....m.	
Charges to Collect			By.....		
Service Instructions			By.....		

Handed in at *TIF* Office.....m. Received *2:30p* m.

TO

*T10*

\* Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

AAA

*FB40**19th*

Following message from *STW*  
Capt. *LDW* aaa hearty  
congratulations on splendid results  
achieved this morning

FROM

PLACE &amp; TIME

*Quiver*

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P. &amp; C. Ltd., B. (E 1213).

APPENDIX.

*186*  
*25-1*



**"C" FORM.**  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Army Form C, 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix <i>8m</i>	Code <i>ECR</i>	Words <i>43</i>	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.  <i>T10</i> <i>19/5/18</i>
<p align="center">£      s.      d.</p>			From <i>TIF</i>	At .....m.	
Charges to Collect			By <i>Quinn</i>	To .....	
Service Instructions			By .....	By .....	

Handed in at *TIF* Office .....m. Received *5:30 P* m.

TO

*T10 and T1X*

\* Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

AAA

*FB.17*

*19*

From Gen Rawlinson AAA  
Convey to 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Div congratulations  
and best thanks for capture of VILLE  
A very well arranged and carried  
out enterprise reflecting great  
credit on all concerned. "Well  
done 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Div" Good  
luck to you

FROM

PLACE & TIME

*Quinn*

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(11201.) W528/M1970. 25,000 Pads. 10/5/17. P. & C. Ltd., B. (E 1213).



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
 -----  
 Divisional Headquarters,  
 19th May 1918.

C.R.A.  
 C.R.E.  
 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.  
 5th Aust. Inf. Brigade  
 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade  
 7th Aust. Inf. Brigade  
 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
 2nd Aust. Div. Train  
 2nd A.M.G. Bn.  
 A.D.M.S.  
 D.A.D.V.S.  
 Camp Commandant  
 -----

98/451

The following congratulatory wire received by  
 Australian Corps from General Sir H.S. RAWLINSON, Bart.,  
 G.C.V.O., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Commanding 4th Army is promulgated  
 for the information of all concerned : -

"Please convey to 2nd Australian Division congratulations  
 and best thanks for the capture of VILLE SUR ANCRE village  
 this morning. It was a very well arranged and boldly  
 carried out enterprise which reflects great credit on all  
 concerned, especially the Infantry, and not least on the  
 Artillery which carried out the preparations and the  
 barrages. Well done the 2nd Australian Division. Good  
 luck to you."

*Imasman*

Lieut-Colonel,  
for G.O.C. 2nd Australian Division



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
-----

Divisional Headquarters,  
21st May 1918.

C.R.A.  
C.R.E.  
2nd Aust.Div.Sig.Coy.  
5th Aust.Inf.Brigade  
6th Aust.Inf.Brigade  
7th Aust.Inf.Brigade  
2nd Aust.Pioneer Bn.  
2nd Aust.Div.Train  
2nd A.M.G. Bn.  
A.D.M.S.  
D.A.D.V.S.  
Camp Commandant  
-----

98/653

The following wire received from Field Marshal Sir DOUGLAS HAIG, K.T., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E. is published for the information of the Division : -

*order.* "Congratulate 2nd Australian Division on complete success of operations carried out yesterday morning which resulted in the capture of VILLE SUR ANCRE as well as other gains."

*Imadman*

Lieut-Colonel,  
A.A. & Q.M.G.  
2nd Australian Division





Intelligence,  
AUSTRALIAN Corps.



I.G.68.

Intelligence,  
FOURTH ARMY,

The Army Commander desires me to send his congratulations to the 2nd Australian Division on the good work carried out by them in the collection, and rapid transmission to Headquarters, of documents and maps obtained from the battlefield on the 19th instant.

These documents have been of great value in ascertaining the Order of Battle of the German Higher Command, from the front extending from North of BEAUMONT HAMEL to the SOMME, thus clearing up several points which have been in doubt for a considerable time.

A map has also been secured which shows the line of a possible attack from BEAUMONT HAMEL towards COLINCAMPS, MAILLY-MAILLET, ENGLEBELMER and BOUZINCOURT. Numerous other documents of value have also been secured.

The Army Commander thinks that the troops may like to know that their good work is recognised.

The maps in question will, as far as possible, be returned when they are no longer required by G.H.Q.

Fourth Army (Intelligence),  
23rd May, 1918.

(Signed)

V. VIVIAN, Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff.

- 2 -

2nd Aust. Division.

126/71.

The attached I.G.68 of 23rd instant from Fourth Army is forwarded for your information.

The Corps Commander fully realises the importance and value of the work carried out in the collection of these documents.

(Signed) S. A. HUNN, Major,  
for Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
Australian Corps.

Australian Corps H.Q.,  
25th May, 1918.

- 3 -

C.R.A. C.R.E.  
5th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
6th do.  
7th do.  
2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.  
2nd Aust. M. G. Bn.

HEADQUARTERS,  
2ND  
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.  
(GENERAL STAFF.)

G.24/1/336.

Forwarded for your information.

The Divisional Commander desires to add his congratulations to those of the Army and Corps Commanders.

Sufficient copies are enclosed for distribution down to Bns.

2nd Aust. Div. H.Q.,  
26th May, 1918.

*J. H. M. Gace* Lieut-Colonel,  
General Staff,  
Second Australian Division.



COPY.

APPENDIX No. 56

I N T E L L I G E N C E  
S U M M A R Y.

\*\*\*\*\*

21st Battalion A.I.F.

2 a.m. 19.5.18. to 4 p.m. 19.5.18.

## OUR OPERATIONS.

At 2 a.m. in conjunction with 22nd Battalion on right and 24th Battalion on left our troops launched an attack on enemy positions of VILLE & Southwards. The attack was entirely successful and objectives gained without much opposition by the enemy. Numerous prisoners of 184th Reg. passed through our hands; several M.G.s and 2 Minenwerfer were captured.

Our artillery barrage opened to time and effectively covered our advance, neutralising hostile MiG. and artillery activity, but unfortunately when consolidating on final objective, our artillery (18 pdrs chiefly) fell short; necessitating our line being withdrawn 150 Yards.

The Right Company consolidated a line of posts as follows -

K.1.b.4.5., K.1.b.3.5., K.1.b.2.5., K.1.b.1.5., K.1.b.0.5., K.1.a.8.6., K.1.a.7.6., K.1.a.5.5.

Left Company had consolidated a line from CRUCIFIX to K.1.a.0.8.

At 4.30 a.m. mopping up parties proceeded to mop up VILLE, from which sniping & M.G. fire still came. The left Company organised as a line of skirmishers and advanced towards the village S.W. edge of the village. After a sharp fight the Hun surrendered freely while others bolted. This Company proceeded right through the village (leaving it to be mopped up by the 23rd Bn Party) and attempted to dig in along row of trees at E.26.c.05.30. but owing to heavy M.G. Fire from Ridge to the East this was not possible.

Right Company attempted to link up with this Company but it was not possible to do so during daylight, so the Left Coy withdrew to the Village and reorganised and then established L.G. Outposts well out on the East and South East outskirts, by L.G. Teams crawling out to shell holes. The remainder of the Company occupied the BIG CATERPILLAR. These dispositions were maintained during daylight but at dusk a line of posts was consolidated from K.1.a.8.6. to E.26.e.0.5 E.26.c.05.30. to E.25.d.90.45., and occupied by 2 Companies having two Platoons in reserve.

On our barrage opening Hun fired usual whites, greens, and double reds, and M.G.s opened but soon ceased. His artillery fire was exceptionally feeble until late in the day, when our positions were heavily shelled by all calibres. VILLE & BIG CATERPILLAR in K.1.a. being chief targets.

Our casualties were slight compared with results gained. Many dead Huns lie on the battlefield whilst our killed amount to only eight. Throughout the day our activity was confined to improving and consolidating our positions.

## ENEMY OPERATIONS.-

ARTILLERY. Very poor support to his Infantry during the attack, practically inactive till about a.m. when VILLE & CATERPILLARS, TRUCK & MARRETT WOOD were shelled periodically.

M.GUNS. Fired for a few minutes, but soon ceased. From a reconnaissance of the captured positions it was found that all enemy M.G. positions had been correctly located. This reflects great credit on scouts and observers.

FLARES. Greens and then Reds were fired by him on our barrage opening - apparently his call for artillery support.

AERIAL. Hun was over at times but our planes were most active.

MOVEMENT. A great deal on ridge in K.2.b. & E.27.c. Fired on by Heavies

(Signed.) R. Bazley, Lieutenant,  
Intelligence Officer,  
21st Battalion A.I.F.



"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						
					Sent	Date
					At..... m.	Service.
					To	From
					By	By

TO VUMA (6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde)

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* IO 16	20	-	

Situation satisfactory AAA  
Line consolidated without  
hindrance in touch both Flanks  
Patrols report that Hun has established  
a line of Posts 250 yds out  
parallel to our line AAA Attitude  
quiet. Artillery confined chiefly  
to supports J 5 b a J 11 b AAA  
Also a few gas shells (unidentified)  
on this area

From	Place	Time
	ZOSA (21 <sup>st</sup> Bn)	3-55 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Sgt R. H. Bagley Lieut  
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						
					Sent	Date
					At..... m.	Service.
					To	From
					By	By

TO VUMA (6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde)

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* IO 17	20		

Situation quiet AAA No  
infantry activity AAA No  
Shelling AAA Observation Good +  
movement of ones & twos seen on  
Hidge E27 c K 3a aaa. Our  
planes active AAA 2 Huns over MARRETT  
Wood at 8 am when engaged by  
our plane turned for home.

From	Place	Time
	ZOSA (21 <sup>st</sup> Bn)	9-45 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Sgt R. H. Bagley Lieut  
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

APPENDIX.

142  
69



**"A" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Army Form C. 2121.  
(In pads of 100.)

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	No. of Message.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent		This message is on a/c of:
			At..... m.		Recd. at..... m.
			To		Date.....
			By		From.....
			(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By.....

TO VUMA (6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde)

Sender's Number. * <u>B190</u>	Day of Month. <u>20</u>	In reply to Number.	<b>AAA</b>
-----------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------	------------

Situation Satisfactory

From	<u>ZOSA</u>
Place	<u>(21<sup>st</sup> Bn)</u>
Time	<u>5-0 pm</u>

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

Censor.	(Z) <u>Sgt J. H. Hart</u>
Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	

\* This line, except **AAA**, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)



Secret

APPENDIX No. 58.

Copy No 1

## 21st Aust Battalion Move Order No 145

Map Sheet 62<sup>D</sup> 120000

20-5-18

1. The 21st Aust Bn will be relieved by the 28th Aust Bn & 27th Aust Bn on night of 20/21st inst.
2. A, C & D Coy will be relieved by Coys from the 28th Bn. B Coy by a Coy from 27th Bn. A Coys 2 Support Platoons will be withdrawn when their Pine Posts are relieved.
3. Guides 1 Guide per Platoon from C & D Coys will be at Bn Hqs at 9 pm. In addition C Coy will send 2 Guides to guide A Coys relief to CRUCIFIX K/a central. 1 Guide from each of A Coys Front Line Posts will be at CRUCIFIX at 9-30 pm. 1 Guide per Platoon under a NCO from B Coy will be at CRUCIFIX at 9-30 pm.
4. On relief the 21st Aust Bn will take over duties & dispositions of 28th Aust Bn. Bn Hqs will be at I 3 C 3 2.

5. Coys will rendezvous at Cookers (D 27 d 1-4) where hot meal will be served.

6. Lewis Gun limbers will meet Coys as follows:-

D Coy at Bn Hqs at 11 pm

C Coy " J 6 b 5 5 " midnight

A+B Coys " CRUCIFIX " "

Coys to arrange to have a Lewis Gunner at above places to meet their limber.

7. All Trench Maps & Stores & S.A.A etc to be handed over and duplicate receipts obtained same to be forwarded to Bn Hqs by 2 pm 21st inst.

8. Each man will carry out 120 Rounds of S.A.A. All bandoliers & bombs will be placed in Platoon Dumps & handed over & receipts obtained.

9. Completion of Relief will be reported to Bn Hqs by priority wire by stating Coy Commanders name.

ACKNOWLEDGE Issued to Runner at pm 20<sup>5</sup>/<sub>18</sub>

1-2 War Diary	11 ✓ 27th Bn.
3 File	12 28th Bn.
4-7 Coys	13 ✓ 8 M + T.O.
8 Hqs	14 ✓ Rear.
9 ✓ Pde	15 ✓ 23rd Bn.
10 ✓ 28th Bn	16 ✓ 24th Bn.

*[Signature]*  
Lt Col  
21st Bn

APPENDIX.

144  
28



SECRET

# 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F

Move Order No 71

Refce Map 62 DNE 1/20000

Para 1 The 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade will relieve the 6<sup>th</sup> Bde on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> May 1918

2 The 28<sup>th</sup> Bn ("A" Bn) will relieve the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn and 2 coys of 21<sup>st</sup> Bn in line Right

3 The Boundary between "A" Bn & B ("B" Bn) will be an East & West line along Grid line between E25 and K1. The Right Boundary of this Bn will be a K7 contour.

4 On completion of Relief this Bn will be disposed as follows:-

"A" coy in front line Right, taking over Posts 1 to 9 inclusive from 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn

"C" front line Left, taking over Posts 10-12 inclusive from 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn and Right Coy. post. of 21<sup>st</sup> Bn

"B" coy. in close support in old front line.

"D" coy in Reserve in TRIENX area

5. Movement forward. - "A" coy will move forward at 9.15 pm

②

"C" coy at 9.30 pm and B coy at 9.30 pm - 100 yds interval being observed between Posts & Platoons.

6. Guides will be provided at times & places already arranged mutually between Bn Commanders.

7. Aeroplane photographs, French Maps, Defence Schemes and all information regarding new front - French Stores (including S.O.S. Signal Rockets and Area Stores) will be taken over. Copies of Receipts given will be forwarded to Bn Headquarters by 9 am on 21<sup>st</sup>

8. "A" coy will carry a proportion of tools. "C" coy will not take in tools but will take over from 21<sup>st</sup> Bn giving receipt.

9. Lewis Guns & Panniers will be carried. Bn H.Q. will close at Quarry J968 and open at cutting J11259 at 9.45 pm

10. Completion of Relief will be done to Bn H.Q. promptly by giving Bay 6's Christian name

11. Acknowledge.

Issued to runner  
6 pm 20/5/18

*Reddy*  
agad

APPENDIX  
see under

145  
28



91

# DISTRIBUTION

- 1 Bde
- 2 C.O.
- 3 File
- 4-7 Companies
- 8 Rear H Q
- 9 21st Bn
- 10 22nd Bn
- 11 27th Bn
- 12 Q.M.
- 13 T.O.
- 14-16 War Diary

146



COPY.

APPENDIX No. 59.

INTELLIGENCE  
SUMMARY,

@@@@@@@@@@

21st BATTALION A.I.F.

20th May 1918.

OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Quiet during afternoon and evening but at night harassing fire was maintained on enemy positions. Heavies should have had a harvert firing at Huns on forward slopes of ridge in E.27.c., K.3.a., & K.2.b.

M.G.s & T.M.s. No activity.

OUR DEFENCES. Our line was consolidated as follows - K.1.b.8.6., E.26.c.05.30., E.25.d.90.45. A series of posts were dug along this alignment.

PATROLS. 3 Reconnoitring patrols were sent out during night and all ~~pe~~ reported that Hun had occupied a line of posts about 250 Yards out and parallel to our own line. Our right flank would require advancing another 200 yards to gain command and field of fire into gully in K.2.a.central.

AERIAL. Our planes were in the air constantly harassing the Hun. Patrolling, reconnaissance, and bombing flights were carried out.

WORK. Consolidation of posts along new line. Pioneers constructed C.T. forward.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Quiet during morning until 10 a.m. when forward positions were subjected to heavy fire especially VILLE & THE CATERPILLARS.

5.9 S.B.139° from J.5.d.9.4. 4.2 S.B.105° from J.5.d.9.4. were most active.

No 77 mm fire at all. TREUX & MARRETT Wood received attention constantly.

(J.5.b.9., J.11.a.).

M.G.s & T.M.s. No activity on our front.

DEFENCES. Patrols report that Hun has established a line of posts approx. K.2.a.2.7. to K.26.c.5.5.

MOVEMENT. A great deal of movement on forward slope of ridge in K.27.c. & K.3.a. Our heavies did not take advantage of securing a harvest.

A good O.P. is at J.5.d.9.4.

ATTITUDE. Very docile. No infantry activity at all. Artillery active when they recovered their wind. Particularly 5.9 & 4.2. 77 mm noted by their absence, apparently they deemed it wise to move.

Situation very satisfactory.

(Signed.) R. Bazley, Lieutenant,  
Intelligence Officer,  
21st Battalion.



WAR DIARY COPY.APPENDIX No. 60

## A U S T R A L I A N    I M P E R I A L    F O R C E .

----- ooo -----

21st Battalion Headquarters,  
22nd May 1918.The G.O.C.,  
6th A.I. Brigade.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring before your notice the names  
of the following Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men for good  
and gallant conduct in action and devotion to duty.

I am,

Yours obediently,

Lieut.-Colonel,  
Commanding 21st Battalion.



21st BATTALION A. I. F.

22nd May 1918.

Captain Alexander Rowan MacNEIL M.C.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

During the operations at VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on the 19th May, this Officer was in command of "B" Company.

Early in the morning, having reached his final objective, and hearing that two of his Platoon Commanders were casualties, he went to his Company Flank and personally supervised the digging in.

Later, having received orders to mop up VILLE he reorganised his Company and advanced into the village. His men were admirably arranged, so that each section was able to cover the advance of the others. Having passed through the village a Platoon was sent back to mop up VILLE thoroughly. Captain MacNeil personally supervised all the positions taken by his men. He was always at hand when most needed directing and encouraging his men under heavy fire. Owing to heavy machine gun and sniping fire his advance platoons were unable to dig in, so he skilfully withdrew his men to the rear of the village where he supervised reorganisation, and then sent out Lewis Gun Posts in front to defend the Village.

Again in the evening, he took the remainder of his Company to a more suitable place, and advanced his Lewis Gun Posts. Here his men finally dug in.

As on many previous occasions Captain MacNeil's coolness, courage, and good judgement under most trying and difficult circumstances was superb.

His tactical dispositions were such that the best possible effect was always obtainable with the least amount of effort, and with few casualties.

His untiring devotion to duty, bravery, and soldierly spirit acted as an unfailing incentive to his men, by whom he is greatly admired,

Lieutenant Robert Kenneth BAZLEY M.C.

On the morning of the 19th inst., during the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE, this Officer was stationed at the Forward Report Centre.

On receipt of orders for the mopping up of the village, he at once went forward and assisted the two Companies in their organisation for that purpose.

Again throughout the day at frequent intervals he went forward, and, on return, rendered an accurate account of the attack and the situation in general to his Commanding Officer.

On his own initiative, he sent a platoon from supports up to act as supports to the Companies engaged in the mopping up of the village.

Later in the evening Lieut. Bazley satisfactorily arranged the dispositions of these Companies, and himself laid out a tape for the Companies to dig in on.

Throughout the operation his assistance was invaluable and his marked judgement and tactical skill in his selection of positions were largely responsible for bringing the operation to such a successful issue.

Lieutenant Harry Neville GARTON.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

Whilst digging in between VILLE-SUR-ANCRE and the CRUCIFIX, during the operations of the 19th May, two of the Platoon Commanders of his Company became casualties, leaving in his Company only this Officer beside his Company Commander. He at once took command of the other Platoons and proceeded to mop up the near corner of the village, thus effectively silencing the machine guns which were giving trouble at this point.

Later, at only five minutes notice, he formed up two Platoons as a second wave to assist in mopping up the village. He displayed remarkable coolness and initiative during this operation.

After clearing the village, his skilful selection of a position for his Platoon and the manner in which he linked up with the left flank battalion were both worthy of the highest praise.

During the day, under heavy fire, he personally assisted in carrying back wounded to a place of safety.

Later he reorganised two platoons and led them to their positions in the Sunken Road on the Right of the Village under heavy shell fire.

Lieutenant Garton's energetic handling of his men under difficult and trying circumstances cannot be too highly commended, whilst his extreme coolness and personal bravery proved an excellent example to his men.



Lieutenant Stanley James BENNIE.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

During the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on the 19th May 1918 this Officer commanded No.4. Platoon which reached the furthest point of the objective and there dug in. Owing however to this position coming under heavy artillery fire he decided to withdraw to a flank. This he did very skilfully, thereby saving many lives without sacrificing any of the advantages gained by the capture of the objectives.

Throughout he maintained touch with the Units on his flanks.

Later, when his Company Commander who had been wounded earlier in the action was unable to carry on any longer, Lieutenant Bennie took command of the Company.

He sited new trenches and supervised the digging and manning of them in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

On the evening of the twentieth, in company with two other Officers, he carried out a reconnaissance of a new forward position and displayed much initiative in the manner in which he led the Company forward and manned the position during the night.

At all times cool and resourceful his manner of handling the Company during an anxious period was instrumental in preventing many casualties, and is deserving of the highest possible praise.



706a Private Robert Clifford DOWNING.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 19th May during the attack at VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

This soldier, though alone, followed some of the enemy into a cellar, and, by means of his great personal daring, succeeded in driving them, at the point of the bayonet, to another entrance, where they were met by his Platoon Sergeant. This Sergeant was thus able to send 1 Officer and 30 Other Ranks to the rear as Prisoners.

Pte Downing then used his Lewis Gun very successfully on the enemy between the Sunken Road, known as the CATERPILLAR, and VILLE-SUR-ANCRE, thus accounting for many enemy casualties.

His bravery and soldierly devotion to duty, to the utter disregard of self, was exceptional.

702a Private Ralph Lucas BROWN.

For Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

During the operations on the 19th inst., this soldier displayed great initiative. He played a prominent part in the mopping up of VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

Pte Brown is a Lewis Gunner, and carried many magazines for his gun, which he was able to use with great success throughout the attack.

Whilst his gun was located in the open, he, under heavy machine gun fire, crawled back to the Sunken Road, known as the CATERPILLAR, which at the time was being heavily shelled by the enemy, and brought back magazines and ammunition from a dump which, a few minutes later, was blown up by enemy fire. On return, with the help of another man, he kept back the enemy with his gun, making great carnage in the process. His example was magnificent.

718a Private John Malcolm STEWART.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, during the attack on VILLE - SUR - ANCRE on the 19th May 1918.

This soldier, who is a Lewis Gunner, was a member of the mopping up party which went through the village. Whilst consolidation was in progress, he, with the aid of another Private, advanced his gun into the open, and held on to his position in spite of heavy sniping and machine-gun fire.

His work in covering his comrades was excellent, and, without doubt, the execution he performed with his gun was the means of saving many casualties. His devotion to duty, at great personal risk, and soldierly courage were of the highest order.

2857 Lance Sergeant Thomas James ALLEN.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on the 19th inst.

This N.C.O. is the Company Lewis Gun Sergeant, and, in the execution of his duties, he displayed exceptional gallantry and zeal for his work, providing a wonderful example for his men.

He supervised, located, and assisted in making sure the positions of three gun teams, between the Sunken Road, known as the CATERPILLAR, and the Village.

All this was done under heavy enemy fire of all descriptions. His courage at all times spurred his men on to greater efforts, whilst his sound judgement in the placing of his teams was largely responsible for the harvest of Huns they were able to reap, and for the slight casualties sustained by his teams.

6865 Company Sergeant Major Charles OLIVER. (W.O. Class II.).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 19th May during the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

This Warrant Officer was very quick to grasp the tactical opportunities offered, and, on the first platoons entering VILLE, he led them through the Village and out on the Eastern side, where he started and supervised consolidation.

He rallied this Platoon which was under very severe fire from enemy machine guns and never remained idle for a moment, but worked till on the point of exhaustion.

As all the Officers, except two, belonging to his Company were casualties, his assistance during this critical period was invaluable, and his untiring efforts and valuable personal example contributed greatly to the success of the undertaking.



535 Corporal Stephen TOGNOLINI.M.M.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on the 19th May 1918.

This N.C.O. was everywhere where the enemy happened to be. He did excellent work in mopping up cellars and recesses, where he accounted for numbers of the enemy.

Later he encountered a number of the enemy at a post on the Left of the Village. With a few bombs he cleared this post which had been giving his comrades much trouble. His party killed many of the enemy.

This N.C.O.'s capabilities as a leader have again proved themselves. His coolness, courage, and daring have built up for him, amongst his comrades, a reputation which it would be hard to excel. In action his many soldierly qualities act as an incentive to his comrades to perform acts of daring.

1581 Lance Corporal Henry Charles FINNIS.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the morning of 19th May during the operations at VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

This Non-Commissioned Officer went forward with the attacking troops and laid a telephone wire to a position taken up by the assault Company.

During the enemy retaliation the wire was broken on several occasions. L/Cpl Finnis succeeded in repairing these lines, and supervised communications throughout the attack.

This N.C.O. was later wounded but remained on duty until ordered to the Aid Post, where he was evacuated.

His determination and endurance were of the highest order.

1789 Private John James CRAIGIE.

For Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

During the operations against VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on the morning of 19th May, this man attended to the telephone switchboard for eight hours continuously, dealing rapidly and effectively with messages and reports.

Later during the enemy retaliation, when telephone wires became cut, Pte Craigie displayed exceptional bravery in attending to the lines in the village of TREUX under heavy fire of all descriptions.

He re-established communications and continued all that day in maintaining communications, although he had been severely shaken by exploding shells. Continuous communications were maintained owing to the resource and courage of this man. All the Signal Section speak in the highest terms of the work he performed.

186 Sergeant James IRWIN.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the morning of 19th May at VILLE-SUR-ANCRE. Whilst acting in the capacity of Company Sergeant Major this N.C.O. cheered his men and visited all the Company Posts during consolidation, sending back valuable and accurate reports of the work in progress to his Company Commander. His assistance and example were invaluable and largely tended to the success of his Company.

During recent tours of duty in the line, covering the last two months, Sgt Irwin has performed service of a consistently good character.

~~He is an original member of this Unit, and has always displayed a most commendable devotion to duty.~~

4381 Private David Thomas CAMERON.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the operations at VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on the 19th May.

This Private displayed great coolness, bravery, and eagerness in the execution of his duty. He was always at hand as a volunteer whenever work was to be done. He appeared to be indefatigable under all conditions no matter what the task or heavy the shell fire. His assistance, both during the attack and during consolidation, was of the utmost value, and his Company Commander speaks in glowing terms of his general work.



21st BATTALION A.I.F.

22nd May 1918.

286 Sergeant John Sydney SEMPLE.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 19th May during the operations at VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

This N.C.O. is an original member of the Battalion, and has, on many previous occasions displayed great bravery and untiring energy in the performance of his duty.

At VILLE-SUR-ANCRE this N.C.O., after his Platoon Commander had been severely wounded, ~~this N.C.O.~~ took charge of the Platoon and led them gallantly forward. He showed courage, initiative, and judgement of a high order.

His men, encouraged by his example, fought with such a spirited offensiveness that the enemy suffered heavy casualties, and, their morale being broken, surrendered freely.

Many prisoners and machine guns were captured.

His conduct at all times was superb and worthy of the highest possible praise

2252 Private Vernon Jack ROCKLIFF.

4227 Private Richard SCOTT.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 19th May 1918.

During the operations against VILLE-SUR-ANCRE these men acted as Stretcher Bearers. They worked unceasingly during the whole of the action, with total disregard for their own personal danger.

They attended to and carried in many wounded from the most advanced positions under heavy shell, machine-gun, and rifle fire.

In their anxiety to alleviate the sufferings of their less fortunate comrades they many times risked their own lives.

These men worked for hours, with never ceasing effort, and undoubtedly did much towards the successful evacuation of the wounded.

536 Private William John WEST.

4825 Private Henry Richardson STAFFORD.

6857 Private John Shawe McGRATH.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 19th May 1918.

These men acted as Stretcher Bearers during the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE.

They did yeoman service in carrying in wounded under all kinds of enemy fire. In spite of all difficulties and dangers they continued cheerfully with their work, and, by their own brightness and disregard of danger, succeeded in cheering up the casualties who came within their scope of action. Their fearlessness and keen desire to aid helped in a most capable manner the successful evacuation of the wounded.

Their example of self-sacrifice ~~xxx~~ and devotion to duty were superb.

425 Temporary Sergeant Percy MORTIMER M.V.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

This Platoon Sergeant during the attack on VILLE-SUR-SOMME on the 19th inst., handled his Platoon, after his Officer had become a casualty, with great determination and tact. His men were dispersed by an exploding shell, but he rallied them very quickly and led them to assist with the mopping up of the Village. By his timely action he was instrumental in capturing sixty prisoners (two of whom were Officers), also several machine guns and one light Trench Mortar.

His contempt for danger and proved ability were of great value under trying circumstances.

All his men speak in glowing terms of his actions.

2116 Private Albert Henry BLACKMORE.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 19th May 1918.

This man was of the greatest assistance to his Platoon Commander in getting the first wave through VILLE-SUR-ANCRE as expeditiously as possible, and in maintaining direction.

He took charge of a Section when the N.C.O. was killed and led his men forward to an advanced position where they were able to inflict many casualties on the enemy.

His prompt action and ready grasp of the situation mark him as a thorough soldier, and by his work he inspired and helped all around him.



21st BATTALION A.I.F.

22nd May 1918.

291 Private John TAYLOR.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

On the 19th May this man acted as a Company Runner during the operations against VILLE-SUR-ANCRE. His O.C. speaks in glowing terms of his conduct. His services and unostentatious devotion to duty, combined with coolness to an exceptional degree, were invaluable. Whenever required he was there ready. Not on one single occasion did he fail to accomplish the task set him.

On one occasion, having received a despatch from his Platoon Commander, he carried it to the Company Commander through an almost impassable barrage of machine gun fire. The despatch contained valuable information, thus rendering his work of double importance.

His disregard of danger and superb conduct at all times under the most difficult conditions were the best possible example and incentive to the men with whom he came in contact.

5873 Lance Corporal Arthur Faulkner LYNAS.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on the 19th May.

This N.C.O. was detailed to carry boxes of bombs to the forward positions. He was carrying a full load of bombs, when suddenly he came across two German snipers. Immediately he rushed them without waiting to get his rifle ready, and, after a sharp tussle, took both prisoners without the aid of any weapon.

His soldierly action and great personal bravery in this action undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades, whilst his example is much talked of amongst his comrades.

5876 Lance Corporal Reginald Marr MURRAY.5413 Lance Corporal Gustaf William Oscar STAAF.6401 Lance Corporal Samuel Charles WEST.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

These three Machine Gun N.C.O.s, during the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE on 19th May worked in conjunction for a period during the operations.

L/Cpl Murray kept the enemy quiet with his L.G. during consolidation at the CRUCIFIX and later was one of a team which covered the gaps between the Sunken Road and the Village.

L/Cpl West caught the enemy patrols entering the Village on the East side during the afternoon and effectively stopped their further advance.

L/Cpl Staaf covered the withdrawal of our troops from the East side of the Village. These three men caused great slaughter amongst the enemy and by their timely action were instrumental in saving many casualties to our troops. Their bravery and coolness, combined with great initiative, were superb.

20a ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Sergeant John Alva Sturgess LYON.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the morning of the 19th May. During the attack on VILLE-SUR-ANCRE, whilst acting in the capacity of Platoon Commander (his Officer having become a casualty) this N.C.O. led his men forward with great gallantry to the objective. His display of leadership inspired all with confidence.

Having supervised consolidation, he took out a patrol with the purpose of getting in touch with the enemy. This patrol encountered a number of the enemy who opened up with machine gun fire, resulting in himself and two others becoming casualties. He however remained at his post, encouraging his men, who accounted for a number of the Huns. By his determination and the aggressive character of his actions, he was able to successfully lead his men to all their objectives; they being inspired by his gallant and fearless example. After two and a half hours, although himself wounded, he managed to bring in another man, more severely wounded, over a distance of ~~xxx~~ three hundred yards under heavy machine gun and sniping fire.

He then reported to Company Headquarters and rendered valuable information both as to our own movements and dispositions, and also those of the enemy. He gave definite reports as to the establishment of four enemy posts.

On the way out he was again severely shaken by an exploding shell.

His conduct at all times has been of the highest standard, and all his comrades in the Company speak in very high terms of his conduct in this action. By them he is regarded as being of an ability and courage far above the average.