

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/38/35 PART 1

Title: 21st Infantry Battalion

July 1918 Appendices 1-9



AWM4-23/38/35PART1

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July 1914.

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91

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

21 st BATTALION A. I. F.

FOR

..... JULY 1918.

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WAD*

Signature of Officer compiling

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21st Battalion A.I.F.

Signature of Officer Commanding

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Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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

Vol. XXIV .
Sheet No. 1.

~~CONFIDENTIAL ORIGINAL~~

By Lieut.-Colonel B.O.C. Duggan D.S.O.
Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY- TRONVILLE DEFENCE LINE.	1918. July.	1st.	Battalion in Divisional Reserve. Dispositions as on 28th June 1918. No change. Lt. G. Bailey to V Army Musketry School. 3 O.R. to Tng Bdes, England for duty. Battalion on Swimming Parade. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 2 O.R. <u>Casualties</u> .- Nil. <u>Weather</u> .- Fine.	MB
	"	2nd.	Battalion in Reserve. No change in Dispositions. Bn Order No. 156 issued Appendix No. 1. 9.15 p.m. Battalion moved forward and relieved the 17th and 18th Aust. Bns as per Order No. 156. 12 midnight Relief reported complete. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 1 O.R. <u>Casualties</u> .- Nil. <u>Weather</u> .- Fine.	MB
VILLERS- BRETONNEUX AREA.	"	3rd.	Battalion in Front Line. Dispositions as under.- Battalion Headquarters.- 0.24.c.3.2. (62D.1/40,000.). Regimental Aid Post.- 0.24.c.2.1. Line Right.- "A" Coy. Lt. W. H. Roberts O.C. P.19.d.8.0. to P.20.c.2.4. Line Left.- "D" Coy. Capt. P. T. Hurrey O.C. P.20.c.2.4. to P.20.a.3.0. Close Support.- "C" Coy. Capt. M. B. Kelly O.C. P.19.c.4.1. to P.19.b.2.1. Reserve.- "B" Coy. Lt. H. N. Garton M.C., O.C. 0.24.d.2.2. to 0.24.d.0.8. 10 a.m. Lt-Col. B.O.C. Duggan D.S.O., Commanding Officer, who had taken ill during the night went back to Rear Bn Hqrs at LAMOTTE. Major A.E. Reed took over Temporary Command of the Unit in the Forward Area. Intelligence Summary from 12 midnight 3.7.18 to 9 a.m. 3.7.18. Appendix No. 2. 12 noon. Bn Order No. 155 and notes to accompany same issued Appendix No. 3. 9.30 p.m. Bn Hqrs moved to Battle Hqrs at P.19.c.1.2. Lt. A. Peck left for Liaison duty with 13th Bn. Capt. H. C. A. Sandford, left Nucleus Bn for Liaison Duty with 4th A.I. Brigade, but was wounded on the way over, together with two runners who accompanied him. One of these men died the same night at Dressing Station. On English Leave.- 1 O.R. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 1 O.R. <u>Casualties</u> .- 1 Officer, 2 O.R. (as above). <u>Weather</u> .- Fine.	
	"	4th.	Battalion holding Line. No change in dispositions. 2.50 a.m. Lt. R. K. Bazley M.C. (Bn Intelligence Officer) reported by 'phone from Forward Report Centre that all Companies were in position on the J.O.T. 2.55 a.m. Wired Brigade "Reed" meaning "All Companies are in position on the J.O.T." 3.2 a.m. Harassing barrage opened on enemy positions by our Artillery to cover the approach of Tanks. 3.5 a.m. Observer reports enemy sending up Red Flares along the front. Up till now the situation had been normal. D. Artillery quiet. Machine Guns slight activity. 3.10 a.m. Barrage opened.	

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Vol. XXIV.
Sheet No. 2.



By Lieut.-Colonel B.O.C. Duggan D.S.O.
Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AREA.	1918.			
	July	4th.	3.18 a.m. Message received from I.O. which reads "A glorious barrage - men got away splendidly - Tanks going well."	
			3.20 a.m. The above message was repeated to Bde Forward Hqrs.	
			3.35 a.m. From Report Centre. () "One prisoner coming down."	
			3.41 a.m. From Report Centre "All seems to be going well on Second Trench System. Prisoners (12) have passed through. Retaliation was only slight, but now increasing. One or two two M.G.s still firing, but high. Light is still poor."	
			3.43 a.m. The above message was wired to Brigade.	
			3.49 a.m. From Report Centre. - "Identifications - "15" on Shoulder Strap: prisoners coming down in small batches of twos and threes. Tank patrolling from North to South in P.26.d. central. Position seems good. Slight retaliation on Battalion on left about DIGGER SUPPORT."	
			3.59 a.m. I.O. reports by telephone "Home and dried. Can be seen digging in on Final Objective. Tanks are patrolling. Retaliation still slight. Identifications confirmed."	
			4 a.m. The above message repeated to Brigade.	
			4.8 a.m. Report from "A" Coy. "On final objective - casualties slight - easy going - Tanks doing excellent work especially in P.26.b." This message was repeated from Report Centre.	
			4.16 a.m. From Report Centre. - By 'phone from "C" Company. "All C Coy Officers O.K. Very few casualties in a good trench on objective and consolidated - Am getting in touch with both flanks. Other Companies seem to be O.K."	
			4.20 a.m. The above message repeated to Bde and 23rd Bn.	
			4.25 a.m. Brigade asked if the S.O.S. was seen on our Right.	
			4.26 a.m. Reply to above message "No."	
			4.28 a.m. From Observed at Bn Hqrs. - "About 50 Prisoners have already passed here."	
			4.32 a.m. From Report Centre. - "Tank on 23rd Bn Sector coming in - our men can be seen moving about freely - Am sure things are O.K. - 2 Tanks stationary in front."	
			4.35 a.m. From Report Centre. - "Two more of our Tanks coming in - one still stationary - our left Brigade seems O.K. - their Tank can be seen patrolling on the Objective."	
			4.38 a.m. This message was reported to the G.O.C. by the C.O.	
		4.49 a.m. From Report Centre. - "A, C, & D Coys all in touch - also in touch with 23rd Bn - stationary Tank now moving in - all our Tanks now returned."		
		4.55 a.m. The above was reported to the G.O.C. by the C.O.		
		4.50 a.m. From Observer at Bn Hqrs "Over 100 Prisoners have passed through - Identifications 15th (Active) 137th R.I.R."		
		5 a.m. From Report Centre. - "R.A.P. report that very few of our troops have passed through. - We are in touch with 13th Battalion."		

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Vol. XXIV.
Sheet No. 3.



By Lieut.-Colonel B.O.C. Duggan D.S.O.
Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AREA.	1918. July	4th.	<p>5.3 a.m. From Lt. W.H. Taylor M.M. (D Coy) (by runner through Lt. A. Peck, Liaison Officer 13th Bn) "Objective taken - am digging in at P.21.c.5.9. on left sector to P.21.c.2.0. - am in touch with 13th Bn on left, C Coy, 21st Bn, on right - Casualties light - Coy Hqrs at P.21.c.2.8. - Captured 1 M.G. and took some prisoners - Timed 4.25 a.m."</p> <p>5.26 a.m. From Report Centre.- Lt. H. Edwards D.C.M., M.M. (C Coy) reports everything O.K.- a number of Americans on our Sector - we are making use of them - situation now quite normal."</p> <p>5.30 a.m. From Lt. A. Peck, Left Liaison 13th Bn report all Companies in position."</p> <p>From Report Centre.- "Capt. P. T. Hurrey O.C. "D" Coy slightly wounded. Lt. W.H. Taylor M.M. has taken over command of that Coy. Capt. M. B. Kelly, O.C. "C" Coy, reports one of our tanks career-ing about 1,000 Yards out S.E. from P.21.b.2.5. and using its guns effectively."</p> <p>6.30 a.m. From Brigade verbally. "Contact planes report enemy movement in P.21.c.&d. May be counter-attack troops. Artillery has been advised."</p> <p>6.35 a.m. Companies warned as to the above.</p> <p>7.10 a.m. Lt. R.K. Bazley M.C. (Bn I.O.) returned from a reconnaissance of our new position. He reports position strong and well consolidated. Reports sniping and M.G. fire from enemy trench system in P.26.b. Men in splendid spirits and doing excellent sniping. Remainder of the day was devoted to consolidation, reorganisation, and establishing new dumps of S.A.A., Bombs, Water, and Wire. Enemy Artillery was very active on our old defences at frequent intervals.</p> <p>4.30 p.m. Major A.E. Reed (Temp. C.O.) returned from reconnaissance of new line. Good work in consolidation had been done during the day. Situation quiet but enemy artillery persistently firing at direct tank in P.20.a. A number of captured enemy M.G.s were mounted in our line for defence purposes. Dispositions at 11 a.m. 4.7.18. as follows:-</p> <p>Battalion Headquarters.- P.19.c.1.2. Bn Report Centre.- P.19.d.9.5. Regimental Aid Post.- P.19.d.7.3. Line Left.- "D" Coy. Lt. W.H. Taylor M.M., O.C. P.21.c.2.4. to P.21.c.4.9. Coy Hqrs at P.21.c.2.8. Line Centre.. "C" Coy. Capt. M. B. Kelly O.C. P.20.d.8.1. to P.21.c.2.4. Coy Hqrs at P.20.d.9.4. Line Right.- "A" Coy. Lt. W.H. Roberts O.C. P.26.b.4.6. to P.20.d.8.1. Coy Hqrs at P.20.d.6.0. Close Support.- "B" Coy. Lt. H. N. Garton M.C., O.C. P.20.d.2.4. to P.20.d.3.8. P.20.c.6.1. to P.20.a.7.0. Coy Hqrs at P.20.c.6.5. Unit on Left Flank.- 13th Bn. A.I.F. Unit on Right Flank.- 23rd Bn A.I.F.</p>	

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Vol. XXIV.
Sheet No. 4.



By Lieut.-Colonel B.O.C. Duggan D.S.O.
Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1918.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices						
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AREA.	July	4th.	<p>Brigade Order No.160 and Addendum, Flank Bn Orders, and Tank Orders for the Operation Appendix No.4. Barrage Map showing time of Lifting and Protecting Barrages, also position of J.O.T. Appendix No.5. Heavy Artillery Barrage Map Appendix No.6. 4th Aust. Divn. Signalling arrangements for the operation Appendix No.7. Notes, Messages, and Message Maps received during the Operation Appendix No.8. Air Photograph of VAIRE WOOD SECTOR. Appendix No.8.a. C.O.'s and O.s C., Coys, Reports on the Operation Appendix No.9. Congratulatory messages received Appendix No.10.</p> <p><u>Casualties for the operation.-</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>Officers.-</u></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>Other Ranks.-</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capt. P.T. Hurrey. Wounded.</td> <td>Killed - 6. Died of Wounds - 3. Wounded - 43. Injured - 4.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lt. S.E. Roberts M.M. "</td> <td>Evacuations - 3.</td> </tr> </table> <p>1 Officer, and 10 Other Ranks were slightly wounded and remained on duty.</p> <p><u>Material captured.-</u> 1 77 mm Field Gun, 10 Machine Guns, 1 Trench Mortar, 2 Pineapple Throwers (Granatenwerfers), Quantities of Rifles, equipment, and stores of various descriptions; also large number of documents, maps, aeroplane photographs, etc.</p> <p>Estimated number of prisoners taken during engagement.- 100 to 125 All Ranks.</p> <p>2/Lt. A.L. Cope proceeded to G.H.Q., Lewis Gun School.</p> <p><u>Weather.-</u> Fine.</p>	<u>Officers.-</u>	<u>Other Ranks.-</u>	Capt. P.T. Hurrey. Wounded.	Killed - 6. Died of Wounds - 3. Wounded - 43. Injured - 4.	Lt. S.E. Roberts M.M. "	Evacuations - 3.	
<u>Officers.-</u>	<u>Other Ranks.-</u>									
Capt. P.T. Hurrey. Wounded.	Killed - 6. Died of Wounds - 3. Wounded - 43. Injured - 4.									
Lt. S.E. Roberts M.M. "	Evacuations - 3.									
"	"	5th.	<p>Battalion holding new line. Dispositions as at 11 a.m. 4.7.18.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary 10 a.m. 4.7.18. to 10 a.m. 5.7.18. Appendix No.11.</p> <p>Proposal for a Minor Operation sent to Brigade Appendix No.12.</p> <p>4 p.m. Approval given by G.O.C. to carry out minor operation.</p> <p>5.30 p.m. Lt. J.L. WATT M.C., Adjutant, who had been taken ill, was sent back to Rear Hqrs. Lt. R.H. Farndon Assistant Adjutant took over the duties of Adjutant.</p> <p>8 p.m. Bn Order No.158. issued Appendix No.13.</p> <p>9.45 p.m. An operation was carried to exploit our success and capture the enemy position in P.26.b. central. This position gives command of the ground to the South and to the East towards WARFUSEE. The Bn on our right (23rd Aust. Bn) co-operated by taking over during daylight the trench P.26.b.5.5. to the West. The position was made good and consolidated during the afternoon of the 5th. A Post was established at P.26.b.55.45. A few bombs were thrown by the enemy who then withdrew. Our line now runs as follows.-</p> <p>P.26.b.55.45.- P.26.b.6.4.- P.26.b.85.75. Posts at P.26.b.55.40., P.26.b.9.9., P.27.a.0.9., and P.21.c.1.0.</p> <p>10 p.m. Lt. F. Gawler M.C. & Lt. M. McGregor reported for duty from Nucleus Battalion. Lt. Gawler went forward and took over command of "D" Company. Lt. McGregor went forward and relieved 2/Lt. W.O. Silverlock who had been taken ill during the day. Lt. 2/Lt. Silverlock reported back to Rear Hqrs.</p>							

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Vol. XXIV.
Sheet No. 5.



By Lieut.-Colonel B.O.C. Duggan D.S.O.
Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AREA.	1918. July	5th.	<p>11.30 p.m. The enemy put down a heavy gas shell bombardment lasting about half an hour. Gas masks were worn for over an hour at Bn Hqrs.</p> <p>Lt. E.B. Mason and 1 O.R. proceeded on Paris Leave.</p> <p><u>Casualties</u>.- 1 O.R. Wounded. 1 O.R. Missing. <u>Evacuations</u>.- 5 O.R. <u>Weather</u>.- Fine.</p>	MB
"	"	6th.	<p>Battalion in Line. No change in Dispositions.</p> <p>Outposts were pushed forward about 200 Yards along our front.</p> <p>1.5 a.m. Advance party from the Relieving Unit (20th Aust. Bn) arrived at Bn Hqrs and were sent forward.</p> <p>8.10 a.m. Lt. R.K. Bazley M.C. (Bn I.O.) returned from a reconnaissance of our front line and reported that 2/Lt. R.L. Weir D.C.M. and a party from the Right Coy were bombing the enemy out of a Post in P.26.b. Some splendid sniping was going on.</p> <p>9.35 a.m. O.C. "A" Coy (Right Coy) reports that bombing party killed the garrison of the post (about 7) and captured an enemy machine gun.</p> <p>12.15 p.m. Major A.E. Reed (Temp. C.O.) returned from a Reconnaissance of our new front line with 1 Officer and 12 Other Ranks as prisoners, captured during the rushing of a further small enemy post in daylight during occupation of another portion of enemy trench by a party under 2/Lt. R.L. Weir D.C.M. Receipt for the above-mentioned prisoners Appendix No. 14.</p> <p>Battalion Intelligence Summary 10 a.m. 5.7.18. to 5 p.m. 6.7.18. Appendix No. 15.</p> <p>Brigade Intelligence Summaries from 5.30 p.m. 3.7.18. to 9 a.m. 6.7.18. Appendix No. 16.</p> <p>2nd Aust. Div. Intelligence Summaries 5.30 p.m. 1.7.18. to 5.30 p.m. 6.7.18. Appendix No. 17.</p> <p>1 p.m. Battalion Order No. 159 issued. Appendix No. 18.</p> <p>11.20 p.m. "D" Coy, 21st Bn, relieved by "D" Coy, 20th Bn.</p> <p>11.30 p.m. R.M.O. relieved by R.M.O. of incoming Unit.</p>	MB
BLANGY-TRONVILLE SYSTEM.	"	7th.	<p>1.5 a.m. "C" Coy, 21st Bn, relieved by "C" Coy, 20th Bn.</p> <p>1.25 a.m. "B" Coy, 21st Bn, relieved by "B" Coy, 20th Bn.</p> <p>1.45 a.m. "A" Coy, 21st Bn, relieved by "A" Coy, 20th Bn.</p> <p>1.50 a.m. Bn Hqrs reported to Brigade that relief by the 20th Aust. Bn was complete.</p> <p>Battalion moved back by Companies to BLANGY-TRONVILLE Trench System as reserves and took up following dispositions.-</p> <p>Battalion Headquarters. Railway Cutting. N.28.b.3.5.</p> <p>"C" Coy.- Capt. M.B. Kelly O.C. N.29.a.25.00. to N.29.a.40.40. Coy Hqrs at N.29.a.40.40.</p> <p>"A" Coy.- Lt. W.H. Roberts O.C. P.29.a.40.40. to N.29.a.40.80. Coy Hqrs at N.29.a.40.45.</p> <p>"D" Coy.- Lt. F. Gawler M.C., O.C. Trenches in N.27.a.3.3. Coy Hqrs at N.27.a.3.2.</p> <p>"B" Coy.- Lt. H.N. Garton M.C., O.C. Trenches in N.26.b.6.2. Coy Hqrs at N.26.5.2.</p> <p>3.30 a.m. "All Correct" was reported to Brigade.</p>	5

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By Lieut.-Colonel B. O. C. Duggan D.S.O.,
Commanding 21st Battalion A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date 1918.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY- TRONVILLE SYSTEM.	July.	7th.	Map showing position as handed over on relief Appendix No.19. <u>Casualties</u> for 6th inst.- Lt.H.Edwards D.C.M.,M.M.Wounded,3 O.R.Killed,4 O.R.Wounded,2 O.R.Died of Wounds. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 4 O.R. <u>Casualties</u> .- for 7th inst.- Nil <u>Evacuations</u> .- 3 O.R. Battalion rested for remainder of the day. Bde preliminary report on operations of 4th inst., issued Appendix No.19.a.2/Lt.C.W.B.Tims to Main Dressing Station for Temp.Duty.2 O.R.on English Leave. Lt.S.J.Bennie to Corps Inf.School.Lt.J.J.A.Buchanan to Corps Sig.School. <u>Weather</u> .- Fine.	
"	"	8th.	Battalion in Divisional Reserve.Dispositions - No change. Battalion bathed and issued with a clean change of clothing. Copy of Recommendations for Rewards forwarded to Brigade Appendix No.20. 5 p.m. Orders received from Brigade to have a practice manning of Battle Stations.Appendix No.21. 8.45 p.m. Received "Battle Station Practice." 8.46 p.m. "Practice acknowledged." Companies warned -"Battle Station Practice." 9 p.m. Hqrs "Position Practice" Received. 9.20 p.m. "D"Coy. " " " " 9.21 p.m. "C"Coy " " " " 9.23 p.m. "A"Coy. " " " " 9.45 p.m. "B"Coy. " " " " 9.46 p.m. Reported to Brigade "Position Practice."	<u>Casualties</u> .- Nil. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 3 O.R. <u>Weather</u> .- Fine.
"	"	9th.	R 1.31 a.m. Received from Brigade."Normal Dispositions." 1.33 a.m. All Companies notified."Normal Dispositions." Battalion in Divisional Reserve.No change in dispositions,with the exception of the following.- "D"Coy moved from previous position to new position N.28.a.8.5.to N.28.b.2.7.Coy Hqrs- N.28.a.8.5. "B"Coy moved from previous position to new position N.28.b.2.8.to N.28.b.7.8.Coy Hqrs- N.28.b.3.6. The Battalion Blankets were put through the Foden Lorry for disinfection. Lt.W.Power returned from Corps P.& B.T.School. <u>Casualties</u> .- Nil. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 5 O.R. <u>Weather</u> .- Dull and Showery.	
"	"	10th.	Battalion in Divisional Reserve. No change in Dispositions. C.O.attended conference at Brigade.2 Other Ranks proceeded to Tng Bde,England. <u>Casualties</u> .- Nil. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 5 O.R. <u>Weather</u> .- Dull and Showery.	

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By Major A.E. Reed, D.S.O.

Commanding (Temp.) 21st Battalion A.I.F

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY TRONVILLE SYSTEM.	1918. July	15th.	Battalion in Reserve. Dispositions - No change. Infantry Task - 3 Officers 156 O.R. Cable Burying for 6 Hours. 2/Lt.A.L.Cope returned from G.H.Q., L.G.School. Capt.M.B.Kelly & Lt.H.N.Garton M.C. to Bde Nucleus Bn. Lt.W.McConnochie from Bde Nucleus Bn. Casualties.- Nil. Evacuations.- Nil. Weather.- Fine.	AR
"	"	16th.	Battalion in Reserve.No change in Dispositions. Infantry Task 21 O.R.on drainage work at Bde Hqrs.Bn bathed and issued with clean change of under-clothing.Lt.E.B.Mason returned from Paris Leave. Casualties.- 1 Nil. Evacuations.- 1 O.R. Weather.- Heavy shower of rain fell at dawn.Remainder of day fine.Very warm.	AR
"	"	17th.	Battalion in Reserve. Dispositions - No change. 2/Lt.S.R.Dickson joined Bn from Rfcts.Infantry Task 3 Officers 156 O.R.cable burying for 6 hours. 4 O.R.to IV Army Rest Camp. 2 O.R.on English Leave. Casualties.- Nil. Evacuations.- Nil. Weather.- Fine.	AR
"	"	18th.	Battalion in Reserve. No change in Dispositions. 22 O.R.arrived from Base. C.O., Intelligence Officer, & Company Commanders reconnoitred Forward Positions. 4 Officers 100 O.R.were shown over the Tanks of "B" Coy, 8th Bn, Tank Corps. Evacuations.- 1 O.R. Casualties.- Weather.- Showery.	AR
"	"	19th.	Battalion in Reserve. Dispositions - same. 9 a.m. Bn Order No.160 issued Appendix No.25. 2/Lt.C.W.B.Tims returned from M.D.Station, St ACHEUL.Lt.G.Bailey returned from Army Musketry School. Lt.T.L.Brett & 3 O.R.proceeded on English Leave. 9.45 p.m. Bn moved off by Companies. Bn relieved the 27th Aust.Bn in Supports.	AR
VILLERS BRETONNEUX AREA.	"	20th.	1.43 a.m. Relief complete. Dispositions as follows.- Battalion Headquarters.- 0.28.c.8.5. "A"Company. - Lt.W.H.Roberts O.C.- Railway Cutting 0.28.c. - Coy Hqrs 0.28.c.8.7. "B"Company - Capt.A.R.MacNeil M.C., O.C. - Trenches 0.36.d.& P.31.e. -Coy Hqrs 0.36.d.8.8. "C"Company - Lt.F.Gawler M.C., O.C. - Cellars in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - Coy Hqrs 0.29.c.5.4. "D"Company - Capt.O.V.Hoad O.C. - VILLERS SWITCH.0.30.b.2.4.to 0.30.d.05.40 - Coy Hqrs 0.30.b.25.10 4 p.m. Instructions for the Defensive "D"Bn Issued.Appendix No.26.	AR

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By Major A.E. Reed D.S.O.
Commanding (Temp.) 21st Battalion
A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BRETONNEUX AREA.	1918 July	25th.	Bn Hqrs - 0.28.c.8.5. R.A.P. - 4 O.R. proceeded on English Leave. <u>Casualties</u> .- 3 O.R. Wounded. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 2 O.R. <u>Weather</u> .- Showery.	AR
"	"	26th.	Battalion in Supports. Dispositions as follows. The Village being cleared of gas "C" Coy moved back to Cellars in VILLERS BRETONNEUX. 2/Lt.R.L. Weir M.C., D.C.M. Killed in Action. Capt. O.V. Hoad proceeded to IV Army Inf. School. Lt. H.N. Garton M.C. & Lt. J. Horsburgh D.C.M., M.M. returned from Temp. Duty with Americans. <u>Casualties</u> .- <u>Evacuations</u> .- <u>Weather</u> .- Dull.	AR
"	"	27th.	Battalion in Supports. Dispositions - No change. <u>HONOURS & REWARDS</u> .- The following Decorations were awarded to the undermentioned for work on 4th July 1918.- DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER - Major A.E. Reed. MILITARY CROSS. - 2/Lt.R.L. Weir D.C.M. (Killed in Action. 26.7.18.). Lt. H. Edwards D.C.M., M.M. DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL - 1742 Cpl Torney G.W. 837 Pte Dunn A.J. 4 p.m. Battalion Order No. 161a. issued Appendix No. 30. "M" Coy, 3rd Bn, 129th Regt, U.S. Army attached to the Bn for duty and placed under the tactical disposal of the C.O. 1 Platoon of U.S. Troops were attached to each Company. Lt. R.K. Bazley M.C. returned from Temp. Duty with Americans Regt. Lt. E.B. Mason M.C. returned from Corps Gas School. Lt. W.H. Taylor M.M. proceeded to Corps Bomb School. <u>Casualties</u> .- 1 O.R. Wounded. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 1 O.R. <u>Weather</u> .- Heavy fall of rain during night.	AR
"	"	28th.	Battalion in Supports. No change in Dispositions. Lt. J. Sullivan M.M. took over command of "A" Company. Lt. W.H. Roberts took over command of "D" Coy. Lt. W. McConnochie took over command of "C" Coy. 3 O.R. on English Leave. Lieut.-Colonel B.O.C. Duggan to Corps Gas School from Rear Bn Hqrs. <u>Casualties</u> .- Nil. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 1 O.R. <u>Weather</u> .- Fine.	AR
"	"	29th.	Battalion in Supports. Dispositions - No change. 11 a.m. Bn Order No. 162. issued Appendix No. 31. Chaplain (Class IV) S.L. Buckley, C. of E., reported for duty with Unit. Lt. (T/Capt.) J.A. Gray M.C. reported for duty from G.H.Q., Stokes Mortar School, and relinquished Temp. Rank on rejoining. Works Report for 29th. Appendix No. 32. 9.30 p.m. Bn moved forward and relieved the 22nd Bn in the Left Sub-Sector. <u>Casualties</u> .- 5 O.R. Wounded. <u>Evacuations</u> .- 2 O.R. <u>Weather</u> .- Fine.	AR

WAR DIARY

OF

21st BATTALION A. I. F.

FOR

----- JULY -- 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	21st Aust. Bn Order No. 156. 2.7.18.
2.	Intelligence Summary 12 m/n 3.7.18. to 9 a.m. 3.7.18.
3.	21st Aust. Bn Order No. 155. and notes to accompany same. 1.7.18.
4.	6th Bde Order 160, Addendum, Flank Bn, & Tank Orders for operation.
5.	Barrage Map, showing J.O.T., & Times of Barrages. (Missing).
6.	Heavy Artillery Barrage Map.
7.	4th Aust. Div. Signalling arrangements for Operation.
8.	Notes, Messages, and Message Maps received during operation.
9.	O.S.C., Coys, and C.O.'s Reports on Operation.
10.	Congratulatory Messages received.
11.	Bn Intelligence Summary 10 a.m. 4.7.18. to 10 a.m. 5.7.18.
12.	Proposal to Brigade for a Minor Operation. 5th/6th July 1918.
13.	21st Aust. Bn Order No. 158. 5.7.18.
14.	Receipt for captured prisoners.
15.	Bn Intelligence Summary 10 a.m. 5.7.18. to 5 p.m. 6.7.18;
16.	Bde Intelligence Summaries. 5.30 p.m. 5.7.18. to 9 a.m. 6.7.18. (6.7.18)
17.	2nd Aust. Div. Intelligence Summaries. 5.30 p.m. 1.7.18. to 5.30 p.m.
18.	21st Aust. Bn Order No. 159. 6.7.18.
19.	Map showing positions handed over on relief.
20.	Copy of Recommendations for Rewards forwarded to Brigade.
21.	Bde Order for a practice manning of Battle Stations.
22.	Divisional Sgt Cook Inspector's Report on Bn Cooking Arrangements.
23.	Air Photograph of "A" Divisional Sector.
24.	Silhouettes of Allied Aeroplanes.
25.	21st Aust. Bn Order No. 160. 19.7.18.
26.	Instructions for the Defensive - "D" Battalion.
27.	C.O.'s Report on Casualties sustained during Enemy Gas Bombardment.
28.	Temporary Amendments to Instructions for the Defensive.
29.	21st Aust. Bn Order No. 161. 23.7.18.
30.	21st Aust. Bn Order No. 162. 29.7.18. 161a. 27.7.18.
31.	21st Aust. Bn Order No. 162. 29.7.18.
32.	Works Report for 29.7.18.
33.	Intelligence Summary 30.7.18.
34.	Patrol Reports. 30.7.18.
35.	Works Report. 30.7.18.
36.	Instructions for the Defensive - "B" Bn - Right Bde.
37.	Works Report. 31.7.18.
38.	Intelligence Summary 31.7.18.
39.	Patrol Reports. 31.7.18.
40.	Transport Officer's Report for July.
41.	Quartermaster's Report for July.
42.	Commanding Officer's Report for July.
43.	Weekly Summaries of Effective Strengths.
44.	Brigade Summaries of Intelligence for the period.
45.	Divisional Summaries of Intelligence for the period.
46.	Corps Summaries of Intelligence (Weekly).
47.	Brigade Instructions for various Infantry Tasks for month.

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APPENDIX No. 1.

Secret

Copy No 2

21st Aust Battalion Order No 156

Map Ref 62^D 44000

2-7-18

1. The 21st Aust Bn will take over the left Bde Sub Sector from the 17th + 18th Aust Bns on the night of 2/3rd July 1918. Bde Boundaries are
 North an E+W line through O 24 Cont
 South an E+W line through O 30 "
 Inter Bn Boundary
 E+W Grid line between Squares P 19 + 25.
2. A Coy 21st Bn will take over from A Coy 17th Bn in Firing line (less 2 Platoons) + 1 Platoon D Coy 17th Bn.
 D Coy 21st Bn will take over from D Coy 17th Bn less 1 Platoon
 C Coy 21st Bn will take over from C Coy 17th Bn less 2 Platoons in DIGGER SUPPORT
 B Coy 21st Bn will take over from B Coy 18th Bn (less 2 Platoons) in Villers Line
 D Coy 18th Bn in Villers line with Hqs about O 24 + 27.
 Bn Hqs will take over from 18th Bn Hqs.

- 3 Guides 1 Guide per Platoon will meet Coys at 18th Bn Hqs
- 4 Trench Maps, Defence Schemes, Trench Stores, Trench Covers, SFAA etc will be handed over before leaving this area, and receipts in Triplicate obtained. On Arrival in the new area the above mentioned will be taken over & duplicate copies of receipts obtained. These receipts are to be forward to Bn Hqs no later than 10 am 3rd inst.
- 5 Blankets and overcoats will be rolled in Bundles of 10 and dumped at Coy Hqs by 10 am 3rd inst.
- 6 Cooking Arrangements. Cooking for the Coys is done in Cook houses at Reserve Coy. Meals are sent forward at 4-30 am, 2 pm + 5 pm. Dry Rations at 4 pm. Cooking for M & Q Details is done at Bn Hqs.
- 7 Order of March Hqs A, D, C + B Coys 1 Platoon at 100 yds.

8. Starting Point N 30 0 3.5 Heard of
Column to pass this point at 9-15 pm
Route via VILLERS BRETONNEUX-AMIENS
ROAD.

9 L.G. Timbers will report to Coy Hqs at
8 pm & are allotted as follows.
ARC Coys 1. BYD Coys 1

10 Completion of Relief to be wired
priority to Br Hqs by sending Coy
Commanders name.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Distribution

1	File
2-3	War Diary
4-7	Coys
8	Hqs
9	18 th Bn
10	17 th Bn
11	6 th A/Bde
12	CO.

J. M. A.
Lieut & Adj't
21st Bn

APPENDIX No. 2.

21st Bn 1715

3/18/18

Intelligence Summary

Our operations

Relief The 21st Bn relieved the
 17th Bn in left forward sector
 and 1 Coy of 21st Bn left support
 Relief was completed by
 1.30 am without incident.

Artillery maintained a harassing fire
 during the night
 17th Bn fired indirect fire on
 enemy tracks & roads
 Patrols Standing patrols were
 out but nothing was seen
 or heard of the enemy.

Enemy Activity

Artillery Army fire normal
 during night. Harassing fire
 on our support areas 9.30 till 10.30
 and 2 till 4 am.

Infantry were passive during
 night. 17th Bn fired occasional
 bursts
 Altitude normal 1100 ft

SECRET.

APPENDIX No. 3.

COPY No.

21st AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No. 155.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Ref. Map Sheet -

1st JULY 1918.

1. ATTACK. Under the orders of the 4th Aust. Divn. an attack is being made, with the co-operation of tanks, at a time and date to be notified later with the object of improving our line between VILLERS-BRETTONEUX & the SOMME. The 6th A.I. Bde is attacking on the right with the 13th Bn, 4th A.I. Bde, next on the left. The 7th A.I. Bde is at Zero moving troops forward to occupy the bank from P.25.d.1.4. to P.25.d.1.8. and will connect this to the enemy front line at about P.25.b.2.0.
2. OBJECTIVES. Objectives will be as per Map "A" to be issued to Companies.
3. ATTACKING TROOPS. That portion of the attack allotted to the 6th A.I. Bde will be carried out by the 23rd Bn on the Right and the 21st Bn on the Left. Boundaries are shown on Map "A".
4. JUMPING-OFF-TAPES. Jumping-Off-Tapes are being laid by the 6th Field Company in the position shown on Map "A" by Zero - 3 Hours. Direction tapes will be laid forward 50 Yards on Company Flanks. Companies to be on J.O.T. by Zero - 1 Hour.
5. FORMATION & METHOD OF ATTACK. The 21st Battalion will attack on a three-Company Front - "A" Coy Right "C" Coy Centre, "D" Coy Left - in two waves fifty yards apart - Each wave consisting of 2 Platoons per Company - 1st Wave in two lines 15 Yds apart - 2nd Wave in Artillery Formation until Coy Commanders deem it necessary to extend. Both Waves to the Objective.
6. CARRYING PARTY, etc. "B" Coy will form up in lines of half platoons immediately in rear of and will follow close to the 2nd Wave as far as enemy trench system in P.20.d., carrying S.A.A., Bombs, Tools, Water, and Stretchers. At Zero plus 30 three platoons will carry their loads forward to their previously allotted Company on the objective, reporting back to their Coy Commander on completion of task. They will then consolidate their position using the tools carried by the fourth platoon.
7. DIRECTION. "D" Company will be responsible for direction and Lt. W.H. Taylor M.M. & Lt. S.E. Roberts M.M., carrying prismatic compasses, will be detailed for this purpose and will move on the left flank of the 1st & 2nd waves respectively.
8. FLANK LIAISON. "D" & "A" Companies will each detail a party of 1 N.C.O. & 8 Others who will move inside the right and left flanks of the 1st Wave of the 13th & 23rd Bns respectively. On objective being reached they will report to their Coy Commander the whereabouts of the flank of the Unit with whom they have been in liaison.
9. LIAISON OFFICER. Liaison Officer with 13th Bn - Lieut. A. Peck.
10. COVERING PARTY. Covering Parties of 2 Lewis Guns and 2 Other Posts will be provided by 24th Bn. These will be withdrawn at Zero minus 10 minutes.
11. ARTILLERY. Artillery action will be notified later.
12. TANKS. Six tanks of "C" Coy, 13th Bn. Tank Corps have been allotted to the Bde Section. These tanks will move from their positions of readiness ~~at~~ in O.23.b. at Zero - 8 minutes towards the Jumping-Off Position of the Infantry. One Section (3 Tanks) will operate in the area of each attacking Battalion. The detailed action of each tank will be arranged at a conference with Tank Section & Tank Commanders and Company Commanders in accordance with the following.-
 (a) Tanks cannot follow the barrage as closely as the Infantry. If no serious opposition is met with, the infantry following the ~~xxx~~

21st AUST. BN. ORDER 155. (Continued).

barrage closely, will precede the tanks to their objective. If the attack is held up at any point the tanks will go ahead and deal with the resistance of the enemy. When this has been done the Infantry will again move forward preceded by the tanks until the barrage has been caught up again.

(b) After the objective has been reached the tanks will clear the area between the objective and the protective barrage and, patrolling in front of the objective, cover the consolidation.

(c) One tank of the section allotted to the 23rd Bn will operate on the extreme left flank of this Battalion.

(d) One tank of the section allotted to the 21st Bn will move with "B" Company, but will move forward to replace either of the other tanks should one of them become a casualty.

13. M. GUN ACTION. (a) 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn is using 26 Guns to put down a barrage which will conform with the Field Artillery Barrage.
 (b) Two guns, moving forward to positions about P. 21. c. 0. 6., will pass our present front line at Zero plus 30 minutes. One gun will be so placed as to fire down the valley towards ACCROCHE WOOD, the other, crossing its fire with this one, will cover the road to WARFUSEE.
 (c) Two guns moving forward to positions at about P. 26. b. 4. 0. will pass our present front line at Zero plus 30 minutes. These guns are to be so placed that they will cover the front of the 23rd Bn and the right flank of the 21st Bn.
 (d) From 9.50 p.m. to 10.20 p.m. on attack day and from 2.30 a.m. to 3.30 a.m. the following morning protective barrages will be put down by the 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn along the whole Bde Front.

14. T. MORTAR ACTION. Two guns will be sent forward to positions about ~~P. 21. e. 0. 7.~~^{p. 20. d. 5. 5} to cover the valley in P. 22. a. Two guns will be sent forward to P. 26. a. 6. 9. 9. to cover the left flank of the 23rd Bn and the right flank of the 21st Bn. These four guns will move from our present front line at Zero plus 30 minutes.

15. SNIPERS. At Zero plus 30 the Bde Snipers will be sent forward from our present front line to establish five double posts in the area of each attacking Battalion.

16. CONSOLIDATION. (a) As far as possible existing trenches in the captured area are to be consolidated into posts for minimum garrisons of half a platoon.
 (b) These posts will be connected by traffic trenches as early as possible.
 (c) On the night following the attack concertina wire is to be put out along the whole front.
 (d) Each Company will have a Platoon or more in Support.

17. A. A. DEFENCE. "B" Coy will mount 4 Lewis Guns on reaching the new position for Anti-Aircraft defence.

18. COMMUNICATIONS. Communications will be by Telephone, Runner, Pigeons, Message Rockets, Power Buzzer and (if possible) Visual.

19. DRESS. Fighting Order, less Greatcoat and Blanket.
 The following will be carried on the man by the attacking Companies.
 (a) 48 Hours Rations. (b) 220 Rounds S.A.A. (c) 2 Rifle Grenades
 (d) 2 Full Water Bottles (e) 8 men in each Platoon will carry Red Ground Flares (f) 2nd Wave will carry tools in proportion of 3 Shovels to 1 Pick (g) Every Officer will carry an S.O.S. Signal and 2 extra Signals will be carried by Coy Hqrs. (h) Front wave will carry 8 wire cutters per Coy. (i) Entrenching Tools will be worn in front.

21st AUST. BN. ORDER No. 155. (Continued).-

- 20. SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES. An Officer from Bn Hqrs will synchronise watches at 4 & 2 Hours before Zero.
- 21. BATTALION DUMP: The Bn Dump will be at P.19.d.95.40. where supplies of S.A.A., Tools, Bombs, Water, Stretchers, and Wire will be kept.
- 22. BATTLE HQRS. Bn Hqrs for the operation will be at P.19.c.1.2. R.A.P. will be at P.19.d.9.5.
- 23. SILENCE. Absolute silence is to be maintained during all movements prior to Zero.
- 24. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ PRISONERS All Prisoners will be sent back and handed over to the 24th Bn in the present front line.
- 25. BAYONETS. Bayonets will be fixed at Zero.
- 26. WOUNDED. Wounded men unable to walk and lying in crops, will be marked by rifles stuck into ground, butt uppermost. These rifles will be lowered by Stretcher Bearers when casualties are removed.
- 27. SUPPLIES BY TANK. Each tank will have a case containing S.A.A. & Water fastened on its rear by wire. This will be removed, under the instructions of the nearest Officer, when the tank is on the objective.

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

Issued by Runner at p.m. 1.7.18.

Distribution.-

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. File. | 16. I.O. |
| 2/3. War Diary. | 17. 6th A.L.T.M.B. |
| 4/7. Companies. | 18. 2nd M.G. Bn. |
| 8. Hqrs. | 19. |
| 9. C.O. | 20. |
| 10. 6th A.I. Bde. | 21. |
| 11. 23rd Bn. | 22. |
| 12. 13th Bn. | 23. |
| 13. Lt. A. Peck. | 24. |
| 14. Liaison Officer. | |
| 15. Tank Section. | |

(Signed.) J.L. WATT,
Lieutenant and Adjutant,
21st Battalion A.I.F.

N O T E S.

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- 1. DIRECTION. The line of advance is due East. A double telegraph pole marks a point at the Cross Roads 200 Yards forward of the extreme left of our objective.
- 2. An aeroplane at P.20.d.10.15. is about 50 Yards in rear of the Right of the Trench System to be occupied by "B" Company.
- 3. The aeroplane at P.20.c.2.5. is 100 Yards forward of the Bn Dump & R.A.P.
- 4. The bearing on which the moon rises on morning of Operation will be notified later.

SECRET.COPY No.

NOTES TO ACCOMPANY 21st AUST. BN. ORDER No. 155.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Ref Map Sheet -

3rd June 1918.

1. ARTILLERY ACTION. (a) The normal harassing fire will be considerably increased at Zero minus 8 Minutes. Should the enemy artillery become active before Zero, counter-battery work by our artillery will commence forthwith. This increase must not be mistaken for the opening of the barrage at Zero.
(b) Should the wind be from a Westerly direction, an amount of gas will be included in the smoke barrage on the WARFUSEE - BRETONNEUX Road for 2 Hours.
(c) Intensified harassing fire will be placed on the enemy roads and approaches on the two nights following the attack to prevent the removal of guns.
(d) At Zero minus 1 Hour the S.O.S. Line will be the Artillery Start Line for the Attack.
2. AEROPLANES. (a) Our planes will fly over enemy front line trenches from 10.30 p.m. to 1 a.m. on night of the attack to drown the noise of moving tanks.
(b) Our bombing planes will commence bombing operations on enemy dumps, etc. at Zero plus 30.
(c) Counter-attack planes will fly over ~~the~~ likely enemy assembly places from Zero to dark and will notify the possibility of a counter-attack by dropping White Flares over the place where the counter-attack may come from. These planes will have a black streamer attached to lower wing.
(d) Two contact planes from Zero to Zero plus two hours and afterwards one plane throughout the day until dusk. These planes will have a small black flag projecting in rear of bottom wing. Ground flares will be lit at Zero plus 90 along the whole front for these planes, when called for.
(e) Aeroplanes with the under side of the lower plane painted black for a distance of 2½ feet from the tips will drop 2 boxes of Vickers M.G.S.A.A. at P.21.c.1..6. and four boxes of S.A.A. for rifles at P.20.d.8.5. The parachutes attached to these boxes must in all cases be salvaged and returned to Bn Hqrs.
3. LEWIS GUNS. (a) Lewis Guns destroyed in action can be replaced if the damaged gun is sent back to Bn Hqrs.
(b) A.A. Sights for 4 Guns will be taken up by "B" Company.
4. MOPPING-UP PARTIES. Each Company will detail special parties for Mopping Up.
5. COMMUNICATIONS. Bde Report Centre and Power Buzzer will be at P.19.d.8.2. Location of Bn Report Centre will be notified later. "B" Coy will provide a Relay Runner Post of 6 Runners at about P.20.d.25.50. Use will also be made of the Message Rocket for important messages. Sig. Officer will arrange to run forward a line to the Centre Coy Hqrs.
6. TANKS. Signal from Infantry to Tank :- "Tank Wanted." Signified by holding up rifle with helmet on bayonet.
Signals from Tanks to Infantry :- "All clear." Green & White Flag. "Tank broken down." - Red & Yellow Flag. "Tank returning" - Red, White, and Blue Flag. Each tank will carry fastened to the rear a case containing S.A.A. & Water. This is to be removed at the objective under the orders of the nearest Officer. As the tanks swing round very suddenly care must be taken that men are not caught in the rear horns of the tank whilst removing this case.
7. NOTICE BOARDS. Various notice boards will be supplied by the Engineers & erected where necessary.

8. SALVAGE. All parties returning from the forward area will carry back salvage.
9. SANITATION. Enemy dead must be buried as soon as possible and free use made of chloride of lime.
10. ORDERS. The word "RETIRE" must not be used.
11. COVERING PARTIES. Each Company will provide its own Covering Party for Parties putting out wire.
12. DUCKBOARDS. These will be laid across our front line trench, in front of which gaps will be cut in our wire.
13. MOVEMENT. There must be no abnormal movement in the trenches prior to the attack. N.C.O.s and men must not peer over the parapet unnecessarily.
14. WAR MUSEUM. A complete German Rifle and Equipment is required for the War Museum. All ranks are also reminded that souvenirs - either our own or the enemy's - will be gladly received at this Depot. These articles are placed to the credit of the Battalion.

(Signed.) J.L. WATT,
Lieutenant and Adjutant,
21st Battalion A.I.F.

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Appendix

20

ADDENDUM No.1 TO 6th AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 160

3rd July, 1918.

ACTION OF
A.F.C.

1. (a) One aeroplane will remain over the enemy area on the Corps front the whole of "Y"/"Z" night dropping flares as if trying to discover enemy movement.
- (b) Aeroplanes will be in the air while tanks are moving.
- (c) A contact aeroplane will call for ground flares at Zero plus 90 minutes by dropping a white flare and sounding a succession of A's on the Klaxon. The infantry in the final objective only will then light ground flares at intervals of about 15 yards.
- (d) Special counter-attack planes flying at about 3,000 feet will be in the air all day and will drop parachute and smoke flares over the centre of any impending attack.
- (e) Ammunition will be transported and dropped in the 6th Bde. Area at any point where Vickers Gunners display a white V (arms 6' long and 1' wide). The V is only to be displayed when ammunition is required.
- (f) Marking of planes.-
- (i) Contact planes ... Two small black flags 1' square on the rear edge of the lower plane.
- (ii) Counter-attack planes ... Streamer from right hand strut.
- (iii) Ammunition carrying planes ... The lower planes are painted black for a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ' from the tips.
- (g) As an aid to the contact plane each infantryman will carry a piece of white material rolled up under the back of the steel helmet. During consolidation this will be allowed to hang down the back. The necessary cloth is being issued to attacking Bns.

COLLECTION
OF WOUNDED

2. (a) Every officer and man in the attack will be provided with a piece of white tape. This will be tied round the crop or rifle (stuck in the ground) to mark wounded men.
- (b) 21st and 23rd Bns. will each detail a party of three men to accompany their reserve tank. One of these men will precede the tank to give warning of any wounded in the path. The others riding on the tail of the tank will be available to give assistance to wounded.

SYNCHRONIZATION
OF WATCHES.

3. Watches will be synchronised at Line Bn. Hdqrs. by an Officer from Bde. Hdqrs. at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on "Y" day.
- All other units will send watches to Bde. Hdqrs. at 5 p.m. and to Bde. Battle H.Q. at 10 p.m. for synchronization.
- No synchronization is to be made over the telephone.

P. T. O.

22 Appendix 4

91

ALTERATION OF S.O.S. LINES

4. The present S.O.S. lines will become inoperative at Zero - 1 hour and the Artillery start line will be substituted for them. The number of troops in the front line between Zero - 1 hour and Zero will therefore be the minimum necessary to cover the troops formed up on the Jumping-off tapes.

ACTION OF 7TH BRIGADE

5. The co-operation of the 7th A.I.Bde. will not be limited to the action stated in para. 1 of Bde. Order 240. The 25th Bn. is going to carry the enemy trench from P.25.d.3.2. to P.25.b.2.0. The formation of a block in this trench by the 23rd Bn. will therefore be unnecessary.

CONSOLIDATION

6. On the night following the attack the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. is going to dig a C.T. back from the new front line at about P.21.c.2.8. into dead ground about P.20.b.5.0.

TRENCH MORTAR ACTION

7. To enable the Trench Mortar Programme to be carried out the 5th A.I.Bde. have placed two guns and crews at the disposal of the 6th A.I.Bde. Mutual arrangements as to their use will be made between O.C's 5th and 6th A.I.Bdes.

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

Issued to Signals at.....

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

Distribution

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

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 160.

Ref. Map Attached.-

1st July, 1918.

ATTACK

- 1. Under the orders of the 4th Aust. Divn. an attack will be made on "Z" day, with the co-operation of tanks, with the object of improving our line between VILLERS BRETTONEUX and the SOMME.
The 6th A.I.Bde. will attack on the right with the 13th Bn. 4th A.I.Bde. next on the left.
The 7th A.I.Bde. is at Zero moving troops forward to occupy the bank from P.25.d.1.4. to P.25.d.1.8. and will connect this to the enemy front line at about P.25.b.2.0.

OBJECTIVES.

- 2. The objectives are shown on attached Map "A"

ATTACKING TROOPS.

- 3. That portion of the attack allotted to the 6th A.I. Bde. will be carried out by the 23rd Bn. on the Right and the 21st Bn. on the left.
The Brigade and Inter-Bn. Boundaries are shown on the attached Map.

JUMPING-OFF TAPES.-

- 4. Jumping Off tapes will be laid by the 6th Field Coy. in the position shown on the attached Map by Zero - 3 hours. Direction tapes will be laid forward 50 yds. on Company flanks.

FORMATIONS & METHOD OF ATTACK.-

- 5. (a) The 23rd Bn. will carry the enemy positions between the Right boundary and P.26.b.0.8. with two Coys advancing in two lines 20 yds. apart. A third Coy. in line of sections in file following the Right Coy. of the 21st Bn. will fill the gap between P.26.b.0.8. and the Right of the 21st Bn. at P.26.b.7.9. The fourth Coy. will be used for carrying and will subsequently take up a support position in the present front line trench South of P.19.d.8.0.
A block will be established in enemy front line trench at P.25.d.3.9.
(b) The 21st Bn., on a three Coy. front, will advance in one wave of two lines to their objective. The fourth Coy. will be used as a Carrying Coy. but will be available to form a defensive flank facing left should the attack there not make progress.
Definite parties are to be told off for Mopping up.

MAINTENANCE OF DIRECTION

- 6. The 21st Bn. will detail a party with 2 Offrs. with compasses to be responsible for the maintenance of direction on the left flank.

FLANK LIAISON.

- 7. The 21st Bn. will detail parties to maintain touch with flank Bns. throughout the advance. These parties will move inside the right and left flanks of the 13th and 23rd Bns. respectively. The 23rd Bn. will take the same action as regards their left flank.

P. T. O.

MOVEMENT TO
JUMPING OFF
TAPES.

8. The assaulting troops are to be in position on their Jumping-Off tapes by Zero - 1 hour.

MOVEMENT OF
OTHER TROOPS

9. The 24th Bn. will move into the forward system as it is vacated by troops of the 23rd and 21st Bns. The dispositions of the 24th Bn. at Zero plus 10 minutes will be one Coy. in the front line North of P.19.d.8.0., One Coy. in DIGGER SUPPORT, and two Coys. in the vicinity of VILLERS LINE. The 24th Bn. will be responsible for covering the forming up of the 21st Bn. but will not have any troops in the front line between Zero - 5 minutes and Zero plus 10 minutes where it is closer than 100 yds. to the Artillery start line. On the days prior to "Z" day there is to be no abnormal movement whatever by daylight, and everything that can be done to hide the imminence of the attack by camouflage and reduction of movement is to be thoroughly carried out.

ARTILLERY
ACTION.

10. Active harassing fire will be put down by the Artillery from Zero - 8 minutes to Zero. At Zero a barrage will be put down for four minutes on the start line shown in attached Map. The subsequent movement of this barrage is shown on the map. A maximum of counter-battery work and bombardment of communications and assembly areas will be carried out by the Heavy Artillery from Zero until the consolidation is well in hand. Should the enemy Artillery fire be heavy prior to Zero counter-battery work may commence before Zero - and this and the harassing fire of the Field Artillery must not be mistaken for the opening of the attack barrage. 4" Stokes Mortars are putting down a smoke screen along the WARFUSEE Road at Zero and are maintaining it till plus 2 hours. The artillery fire will also contain some smoke but no gas.

ACTION OF
TANKS.-

11. Six tanks of "C" Coy. 13th Bn. Tank Corps have been allotted to the Brigade. These tanks will move from their position of readiness in O.23.b. at Zero - 8 minutes towards the Jumping-Off position of the Infantry. One section (3 tanks) will operate in the area of each attacking Bn. and will come under the orders of the Bn. Commander at Zero. The detailed action of each tank will be arranged direct between Bn. Commanders and Tank Section Commanders in accordance with the following:-
- (a) Tanks cannot follow the barrage as closely as the infantry. If no serious opposition is met with, the Infantry following the barrage closely, will precede the tanks to their objective. If the attack is held up at any point the tanks will go ahead and deal with the resisting enemy. When this has been done the Infantry will move forward preceded by the tanks until the barrage has been caught up again.
 - (b) After the objective has been reached the tanks will clear the area between the objective and the protective barrage and, patrolling in front of the objective, cover the consolidation.
 - (c) One tank of the section allotted to the 23rd Bn. will operate on the extreme left flank of this Bn.
 - (d) One tank of the section allotted to the 21st Bn. will move with the Mopping Up Coy., but will go forward to replace either of the other tanks should one of them become a casualty.

MACHINE GUN ACTION

12. (a) 2nd Aust. M.G. Bn. is using ~~BA~~ guns to put down a barrage which will conform with the Field Artillery Barrage.
- (b) Two guns moving forward to positions about P.21.c.1.6. will pass our present front line by Zero plus 30 minutes. One gun will be so placed as to fire down the VALLEY towards AGCROCHE WOOD, the other towards P.27.central.
- (c) Two guns moving forward to positions at about P.26.b.3.8. will pass our present front line by Zero plus 30 minutes. These guns are to be so placed that they will cover the front of the 23rd Bn. and the right flank of the 21st Bn.

LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR ACTION

13. (a) Eight 3" Stokes Mortars will fire on the enemy front line between P.25.d.3.9. and P.25.b.7.3. from Zero to plus 4 minutes.
Rate of fire 12 rds. per gun per minute.
- (b) These eight guns will then lift to targets in P.25.b. and ~~P.25.d.~~ beyond the objective maintaining a steady rate of fire until Zero plus 30 minutes.
- (c) Two guns will be sent forward to positions about P.21.c.0.7. to cover the valley in P.22.a. *P.21.B.1*
- Two guns will be sent forward to P.26.a.6.9. to cover the left flank of the 23rd Bn. and the right flank of the 21st Bn.
- These four guns will move from our present front line by Zero plus 30 minutes.
- (d) The 24th Bn. will provide the O.C., 6th A.L.T.M. Bty. with two platoons (strength 24 O.R's each) as carrying parties.
These platoons will rejoin their Bn. as soon as the forward guns have been provided with 60 rds. per gun.

ACTION OF BDE. SNIPERS.

14. At Zero plus 30 minutes Brigade Snipers will be sent forward from our present front line to establish five double posts in the area of each attacking Bn.

CONSOLIDATION

15. (a) As far as possible existing trenches in the captured area are to be consolidated into posts for minimum garrisons of half a platoon.
The left post of the 21st Bn. is to be a post jointly held with the 13th Bn.
- (b) These posts will be connected by traffic trenches as early as possible.
- (c) On the night following the attack concertina wire is to be put out along the whole front.
- (d) On the night following the attack a C.T. will be dug by one Coy. 24th Bn. connecting YORK ST. with the present enemy front line.

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

16. After consolidation each attacking Bn. will have three Coys in the line providing their own supports and one counter-attack Coy. in reserve.
A sketch showing dispositions by Coys. will be rendered to Bde. Hdqrs. as early as possible on "Z" morning.
The 24th Bn. will have one Coy. in our present front line and one Coy. in DIGGER SUPPORT, and two Coys. in the VILLERS SYSTEM.

PROTECTIVE ACTION OF M.G'S.

17. From 9.50 p.m. to 10.20 p.m. on attack day and from 2.30 a.m. to 3.30 a.m. the following morning protective barrages will be put down by the 2nd Aust. M.G.Bn. along the whole Brigade front.

A.A. DEFENCE

18. Of the ammunition with each Stokes Gun after the objectives have been reached 10% is to be specially marked and prepared for use against hostile aircraft.
The L.G's of the Support Coys. of the 23rd & 21st Bns. and the L.G's of the 24th Bn. are to be ready from Zero plus 1 hour to engage hostile aircraft.

CONTACT AEROPLANES

19. Details of the action of the Australian Flying Corps will be notified later.

SUCCESS SIGNALS

20. Success signals will not be used.

COMMUNICATIONS.-

21. By attack day a buried cable route will have been completed to the Battle Hdqrs. of the 21st Bn. 23rd Bn. Battle Hdqrs. will be connected to Bde. Hdqrs. by three ground wires, laid by different routes. A Power Buzzer will be installed at about P.19.d.8.2. and will work to 21st Bn. Battle Hdqrs. Each attacking Bn. will lay a line into the captured ground not later than Zero plus 40 minutes. All possible alternative means of communication are to be arranged for.

BATTLE HDQRS.

22. Battle Hdqrs. will be established as under by Zero - 5 Hours.

Bde. Hdqrs.)	
6th L.T.M.Bty.))	O.24.c.1.2.
24th Battalion))	
23rd ")	O.30.b.3.7.
21st ")	P.19.c.1.2.

TO BE CARRIED ON THE MAN.

23. Each man will carry.-

- (1) 48 hours rations.
- (2) 220 rds. S.A.A. (except specialists).
- (3) 2 Rifle Grenades
- (4) 2 Water Bottles (full)
- (5) Eight men in each platoon will carry ground flares.
- (6) Half the attackers will carry tools in the proportion 3 shovels to 1 pick.
- (7) Every Officer will carry an S.O.S. Signal and two extra signals will be carried by each Coy. H.Q.

LIAISON

24. (a) Tank Section Commanders will be at Bn. Hdqrs.
 (b) A Tank Officer will be at Bde. Hdqrs.
 (c) Artillery Liaison arrangements will be notified.
 (d) Liaison Officers with flank units will be detailed by 21st and 23rd Bns.
 (e) 24th Bn. will attach Liaison Officers to the 21st and 23rd Bns. with 4th A.I.Bde.
 (f) Brigade Liaison Officer - Major A.E. REED, 21st Bn.

SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES

25. Method will be notified later.

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

Issued to Signals.....

Distribution.-

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. 21st Bn. | |
| 2. 22nd " | |
| 3. 23rd " | |
| 4. 24th " | |
| x 5. Spare | |
| 6. 6th L.T.M.Bty. | |
| 7. 6th Field Coy. A.E. | |
| x 8. 5th Fld. Amb. | |
| x 9. 4th A.I.Bde. | |
| 10. 5th A.I.Bde. | |
| 11. 7th A.I.Bde. | |
| x 12. 2nd Aust. Divn. | |
| x 13. 4th Aust. Divn. | |
| x 14. G.R.A. 4th A.Divn. | |
| x 15. " 3rd " " | |
| 16. 2nd A.M.G.En. | |
| | 17. 8th Bn. Tank Corps |
| | 18. "C" Coy. 13th Bn. Tank Corps |
| | 19. G.O.C. |
| | 20. Bde. Major |
| | 21. Staff Capt. |
| | x 22. Bde. T.O. |
| | x 23. Lde. Bomb. Offr. |
| | x 24. Offr. I/c. Bde. Snipers |
| | x 25. Bde. Gas Offr. |
| | x 26. Bde. Sig. Offr. |
| | 27. Major A.E. REED, 21st Bn. |
| | 28. File |
| | x 29. War Diary |
| | 30. " " |
| | x 31. Left Group Arty. |

W.F.N. Bridges

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

Map not attached

91 BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 123.

Ref. Maps.- SHEETS 62.D. S.W. & S.E. 1/20,000.

3rd JULY, 1918.

- 1.- An attack will be made on "3" Day with the co-operation of TANKS with the object of improving our Line between VILLERS BRETONNEUX and the SOMME.
The 7th A.I. Brigade is at ZERO moving troops forward to occupy Bank from P.25.d.1.4. to P.25.d.1.8., and will connect this to Enemy Front Line at P.25.b.2.0.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will carry the Enemy Positions between the RIGHT Boundary Grid Line P.25.b.2.0. to P.26.b.6.9.
- 3.- OBJECTIVES.-
- RIGHT FLANK - "D" COY.- The Enemy Trenches running from P.25.b.2.0. to P.26.a.0.5. and will establish BLOCK in Enemy Trench at P.25.b.2.0., carried out by party under Lieut. F. HOLDSWORTH.
- CENTRE - "B" COY.- Enemy Trenches running from P.26.a.0.5. to P.26.a.6.8.
- LEFT FLANK. - "A" COY.- On the RIGHT will connect up a series of Half-Platoon Posts with "B" Coy. at P.26.b.6.8. on a line running EAST to RIGHT Flank of 21st Battalion at P.26.b.6.9.
Lieut. R.P. MORRISON will direct the LEFT Flank with the RIGHT of the 21st Battalion, A.I.F.
- "C" Coy. will detail one Platoon to follow in rear of each of the Attacking Companies as CARRYING PARTY.
They will rejoin the Company in the OLD FRONT LINE from where they may be used for Counter-Attack purposes.
- 4.- JUMPING-OFF TAPES.-
Companies are to be in position on Jumping-Off Tapes by ZERO minus 1 hour.
6th Field Coy. Engineers will lay the Tapes by ZERO - 3 hours.
DIRECTION TAPES will be laid 50 yards forward on Company Flanks.
- "D" Coy. from P.25.b.20.05. to P.25.b.5.7.
"B" " " P.25.b.5.7. to RIGHT FLANK of 21st Battn., A.I.F., at P.25.b.8.9.
"A" Coy.- ~~from~~ A Jumping-Off Tape will be laid on 100 yard Front - Centre Point in rear of junction of 21st and 23rd A.I. Battalions.
- 5.- FORMATION.-
- "B" and "D" Coys.
One Wave.- 1st Line, Line of Skirmishers.
2nd Line, Line of Sections at 20 yards distance.
- "A" Coy.
2 Platoons in line of Sections. RIGHT Platoon in rear of "B" Coy. LEFT Platoon in rear of RIGHT Flank Company 21st Bn. RIGHT Platoon being responsible for connecting with "B" Coy., and LEFT Platoon with 21st Battn. on line of Objective.
Remaining 2 Platoons in rear of Forward Platoons in line of Sections at 20 yards distance and are responsible for connection between their forward Platoons on line of Objective.

P.T.O.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 123 (Contd).

6.- DRESS.- Battle Order (Entrenching Tool to be carried in front).
 220 Rounds S.A.A. per man.
 2 No.23 Grenades per man.
 2 No.34 Grenades per man.
 Rifle Grenade Sections will carry 4 No.36 Grenades.
 2 Water Bottles filled per man.
 4 Sand-bags per man.
 48 hours Rations and Iron Rations.
 50% Personnel will carry Picks and Shovels, in the proportion 1 pick to 3 shovels.
 8 men in each Platoon will carry Ground Flares.
 Every officer will carry 1 S.O.S. Signal and 2 extra signals will be carried by each Coy. H'Qrs.
 Each Lewis Gun Team will carry forward 20 Magazines.
 Reserve of 10 Magazines per Gun at Coy. Dumps.
 Further Reserve at Battalion Dump.

7.- ARTILLERY ACTION.-

Active harassing fire will be put down by the Artillery from ZERO - 8 minutes to ZERO. At ZERO a Barrage will be put down for four minutes on the Start Line shown in attached Map. *issued to O.C. Coy.*
 The subsequent movement of this Barrage is shown on the map issued to Coy. Commanders.

A maximum of counter-battery work and bombardment of communications and Assembly Areas will be carried out by the Heavy Artillery from ZERO until the consolidation is well in hand. Should the Enemy Artillery fire be heavy prior to ZERO, counter-battery work may commence before ZERO - and this and the harassing fire of the Field Artillery must not be mistaken for the opening of the Attack Barrage.

4" Stokes Mortars are putting down a Smoke screen along the WARFUSEE ROAD at ZERO and are maintaining it till plus 2 hours. The Artillery fire will also contain some Smoke but no Gas.

8.- ACTION OF TANKS.-

1 Section of "C" Coy., 13th Battalion Tank Corps will be employed on the Battalion Front after the gaining of the Objective, and also to assist the Infantry in dealing with any opposition that may be met; in this case the TANKS would precede the Infantry in continuation of the attack.

TANKS will carry 3 Flags which represent the following, and will be pushed out of the Tank as required.-

GREEN and WHITE (Diagonal)	-	"All right - come on".
RED and YELLOW (Diagonal)	-	"Broken Down".
RED, WHITE & BLUE (Vertical)	-	Denotes a British Tank coming out of action.

9.- MACHINE GUN ACTION.- using

(a) 2nd Aust. M.G.Bn. is/26 Guns to put down a Barrage which will conform with the Field Artillery Barrage.

(b) Two guns moving forward to positions at about P.25.b.3.8. will pass our present front line by ZERO plus 30 minutes. These guns will cover the front of the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., and the Right Flank of the 21st Battalion, A.I.F.

10.- LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR ACTION.-

(a) Eight 3" Stokes Mortars will fire on the Enemy front line between P.25.d.3.9. and P.25.b.7.3. and Sap running EAST from P.25.b.7.3. from ZERO to plus 4 minutes.

Rate of fire - 20 rounds per gun per minute.

(b) These eight guns will then lift to targets in P.25.b. beyond the Objective maintaining a steady rate of fire until ZERO plus 30 minutes.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 123 (contd).11.- ACTION OF BRIGADE SNIPERS.-

At ZERO plus 30 minutes Brigade Snipers will be sent forward from our present Front Line to establish five double posts in the area of each Attacking Battalion.

12.- CONSOLIDATION.-

(a) As far as possible existing Trenches in the captured area are to be consolidated into posts for minimum garrisons of half a Platoon.

(b) These Posts will be connected by Traffic Trenches as early as possible.

(c) On the night following the attack Concertina Wire is to be put out along the whole front.

(d) On the night following the attack a C.T. will be dug by one Coy. 24th Battn., A.I.F., connecting YORK STREET with the present Enemy Front Line.

All consolidation must be covered by Lewis Guns under Coy. arrangements.

13.- FINAL DISPOSITIONS.-

After Consolidation each Attacking Battalion will have three Coys. in the line providing their own Supports and one Counter-Attack Coy. in Reserve.

A Sketch showing dispositions by Coys. will be rendered to Battalion H'qrs. as early as possible on "2" Morning.

The 24th Battalion, A.I.F., will have one Coy. in our present Front Line and one Coy. in BIGGER SUPPORT, and two Coys. in the VILLERS SYSTEM.

14.- A.A. DEFENCE.-

Lewis Guns of "C" Coy. are to be ready to engage Enemy Aircraft.

15.- CONTACT PLANES.-

Contact Planes will patrol Front Line from ZERO to plus 2 hours. They will be distinguished by small BLACK FLAP which projects from wing.

COUNTER-ATTACK PLANE distinguished by STREAMER will fly at 3,000 feet and will indicate the location of a formation for Counter-attack by firing a FLARE bursting into SMOKE in that direction.

16.- Runners Relay Post will be established at "C" Coy's. H'qrs. Signalling Officer will arrange all necessary communications.

17.- The word RETIRE must on no account be used.

18.- PRISONERS OF WAR will be brought back to original Front Line by walking wounded and attacking troops, where they will be taken over by "C" Coy. and conducted to Battn. H'qrs. and thence to Brigade H'qrs.

19.- Final Synchronisation of Watches will be carried out by ZERO - 2 hours.

20.- Battalion H'qrs.- O.30.b.5.6.
R.A.P.- P.25.a.70.85.
Battalion Dump.- P.25.b.2.5.

21.- ACKNOWLEDGE.DISTRIBUTION.-

Overleaf.

[Signature]
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.-

91

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- Transport Officer and Q.M.
- 14.- 21st Battalion, A.I.F.
- 15.- 24th Battalion, A.I.F.
- 16.- "G" Coy., 13th Bn. Tank Corps.
- 17.- 25th Battalion, A.I.F.
- 18.- 2nd A.M.G. Battn.
- 19.- 6th A.L.T.M.Bty.
- 20/24.- Spares.

(c) On the night following the attack concerning the 13th Bn. Tank Corps, the 25th Battalion, A.I.F. will be sent by one Coy. 25th Bn. Tank Corps, A.I.F. connecting with the present front line. All communication must be covered by Lewis Guns under Coy. arrangements.

13.- FINAL POSITIONING

After consolidation each attacking Battalion will have three Coy. in the line providing their own supports and one Coy. in Reserve.

A sketch showing dispositions by Coy. will be rendered to Battalion H' Coy. as early as possible on 12th morning. The 25th Battalion, A.I.F. will have one Coy. in our present front line and one Coy. in Reserve. The 24th Battalion, A.I.F. will have one Coy. in Reserve.

14.- A.A. BATTERY

Lewis Guns of 70' Coy. are to be ready to engage enemy aircraft.

15.- CONTACT PLANS

Contact plans will be drawn from time to time to plus 2 hours. They will be distributed by mail under 15th which projects from line.

16.- POSITIONING

Positions will be established by 15th morning. The location of a formation for counter-attack by 15th morning will be noted in that direction.

17.- REAR AREA

Rear area will be established at 15th morning. Signaling system will ensure all necessary communication.

18.- THE WORD

The word ATTACK must on no account be used.

19.- WOUNDED

Wounded of war will be brought back to original front line by walking wounded and assisting troops, where they will be taken over by 15th Coy. and connected to Battalion H' Coy. and thence to Brigade H' Coy.

20.- FINAL DISPOSITION

Final disposition of reserves will be carried out by 15th morning.

21.- REMARKS

22.- REMARKS

23.- REMARKS

24.- REMARKS

25.- REMARKS

26.- REMARKS

27.- REMARKS

28.- REMARKS

29.- REMARKS

30.- REMARKS

Addendum to Operation Order No. 133

Liaison Lieut T.E. Lowe will act
as Liaison Officer with 31st Battalion
on LEFT, and Lieut J.E. Smith
with 35th Bn. on RIGHT.

Geno will be notified
later.

W. J. [unclear]
of captain 33rd Bn. Lieut.

7th July 1918

SECRET.

COPY No. 4.

ADDENDUM No. 1. TO 24th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 100.

1. ACTION OF
A.F.C.

- (a) One aeroplane will remain over the enemy area on the Corps front the whole of "Y"/"Z" night dropping flares as if trying to discover enemy movement.
- (b) Aeroplanes will be in the air while tanks are moving.
- (c) A contact aeroplane will call for ground flares at Zero plus 20 minutes by dropping a white flare and sounding a succession of A's on the Klaxon. The infantry in the final objective only will then light ground flares at intervals of about 15 yards.
- (d) Special counter-attack planes flying at about 3,000 feet will be in the air all day and will drop parachute and smoke flares over the centre of any impending attack.
- (e) Ammunition will be transported and dropped in the 5th Bde. Area at any point where Vickers Gunners display a white V (arms 6' long and 1' wide). The V is only to be displayed when ammunition is required.
- (f) Marking of planes:-

- (I) Contact planes.....Two small black flags 1' square on the rear edge of the lower plane.
- (II) Counter-attack planes. Streamer from right hand strut.
- (III) Ammunition carrying planes..The lower planes are painted black for a distance of 2 1/3 feet from the tip.

(E) As an aid to the contact plane each infantryman will carry a piece of white material rolled up under the back of the steel helmet. During consolidation this will be allowed to hang down the back. The necessary cloth is being issued to attacking Bns.

2. SYNCHRONIZA-
TION OF
WATCHES.

Watches will be synchronized at Coy. Hqrs. by an Officer from Bn. Hqrs. at 7. P.M. and 11. P.M. on "Y" day. No synchronization is to be made over the telephone.

3. ALTERATION
OF S.O.S.
LINES.

The present S.O.S. lines will become inoperative at Zero - 1 hour, and the artillery start line will be substituted for them.

"C" Coy. will therefore at Zero - 1 hour hold the front line with Lewis Gun posts of three men. The men withdrawn will be distributed along HUNTER STREET. At Zero - 5 minutes Lewis Gun posts will be withdrawn and distributed along HUNTER STREET. Front line will be re-occupied at Zero plus 10 minutes. PASSWORD for covering patrol "HAPPY".

4. ACTION OF
7th BRIGADE.

The co-operation of the 7th A.I. Bde. will not be limited to the action stated in para. 1. of Bn. Order 100. The 24th Bn. is going to carry the enemy trench from P.25.d.1.2. to P.25.b.2.2. The formation of a block in this trench by the 23rd Bn. will therefore be unnecessary.

SECRET.

-3-

ADDENDUM No. 1. TO 26th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 100 (Contd.)

5. CONSOLIDATION. On the night following the attack the 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. is going to dig a C.T. back from the new front line at about P.O.L.S.S. into dead ground about P.O.B.S.O.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. P. ...

Captain and Adjutant.

Distribution as for Bn. Order No. 100.

Issued by runner at.../.....P.M.

24th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 100.

Ref. Map Sheet map attached.

" 68d. S.W. 1/20,000.

" 68d. S.E. 1/20,000.

2nd July 1918.

1. **ATTACK.** Under the orders of the 4th Aust. Divn. an attack will be made on "Z" day, with the co-operation of tanks, with the object of improving our line between VILLERS Brettoneux and the SOMME. The 6th A.I.Bde. will attack on the right with the 13th Bn. 4th A.I.Bde. on the left. The 7th A.I.Bde. is at Zero moving troops forward to occupy the bank from P.25.d.1.4. to P.25.d.1.8. and will connect this to the enemy front line at about P.25.b.2.0.
2. **OBJECTIVES.** The objectives are shown on attached map "A".
3. **ATTACKING TROOPS.** That portion of the attack allotted to the 6th A.I.Bde. will be carried out by the 23rd Bn. on the Right and the 21st Bn. on the left. The Brigade and Inter-Bn. Boundaries are shown on the attached map.
4. **JUMPING-OFF TAPES.** Jumping off tapes will be laid by the 6th Field Coy. in the position shown on the attached map by Zero - 3 hours. Direction tapes will be laid forward 50 yds. on Company flanks.
5. **FORMATIONS & METHOD OF ATTACK.** (a) The 23rd Bn. will carry the enemy positions between the Right boundary and P.26.b.0.8. with two Coys. advancing in two lines 20 yds. apart. A third Coy. in line of sections in file following the Right Coy. of the 21st Bn. will fill the gap between P.26.b.0.8. and the Right of the 21st Bn. at P.26.b.7.9. The fourth Coy. will be used for carrying and will subsequently take up a support position in the front line trench South of P.19.d.8.0. A block will be established in enemy front line trench at P.25.d.3.9. (b) The 21st Bn., on a three Coy. front, will advance in one wave of two lines to their objective. The fourth Coy. will be used as a carrying Coy. but will be available to form a defensive flank facing left should the attack there not make progress. Definite parties are to be told off for mopping up.
6. **MOVEMENT TO JUMPING OFF TAPES.** The assaulting troops are to be in position on their Jumping-Off tapes by Zero - one hour.
7. **MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.** The 24th A.I.Bn. will move into the forward system as it is vacated by troops of the 23rd and 21st Bns. ROUTE. (1) "A" and "D" Coys. from bivouacs overland to O.26.b.8.5. thence overland via O.21.d. - O.22.d. - O.24.c. to VILLERS SUPPORT. (2) "B" and "C" Coys. - Bivouacs - Railway bridge - O.26.b.6.c. - overland O.21.d. - O.22.d. - O.24.c. - VILLERS SUPPORT - KENT STREET - DIGGERS SUPPORT - HUNTER STREET - FRONT LINE. "B" Coy. to DIGGERS SUPPORT - "C" Coy. to front line, boundaries being North E.W. grid line between E.19.cent. E.20 central. South. P.19.d.8.0.
8. **COVERING ACTION & TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL.** Lt. NICHOLS, M.M. will provide from Bn. Hqs. Scouts two covering patrols to protect the forming up of 21st A.I.Bn. These Scouts will move out at Zero - 3 hours, and will be withdrawn at Zero - 7 minutes. O.C., "C" Coy. will withdraw all troops from the front line at Zero - 5 minutes and occupy HUNTER STREET until Zero plus 10 minutes, when the front line between

91
94th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 100. (Contd.)PARA. 9.
(Contd.)

P.30a, 3.0. and P.18.d.8.0. will be re-occupied.

9. DISPOSITION OF BATTN. At Zero plus 10 minutes 94th A.I.Bn. will be disposed as below:-

FRONT LINE	P.12.d.80. to P.20.a.80.	"C" Coy.
DIGGER SUPPORT.		"B" Coy.
VILLERS SUPPORT	Right	"A" Coy.
	Left	"D" Coy.

On the days prior to "Z" day there is to be no abnormal movement whatever by day-light, and everything that can be to hide the imminence of the attack by camouflage and reduction of movement is to be thoroughly carried out.

10. ARTILLERY ACTION.

Active harassing fire will be put down by the Artillery from Zero- 8 minutes to Zero. At Zero a barrage will be put down for four minutes on the start line shown in attached map.

The subsequent movement of this barrage is shown on the map.

A maximum of counter-battery work and bombardment of communications and assembly areas will be carried out by the Heavy Artillery from Zero until the consolidation is well in hand.

Should the enemy Artillery fire be heavy prior to Zero counter-battery work may commence before Zero - and this and the harassing fire of the Field Artillery must not be mistaken for the opening of the attack barrage.

4" Stokes Mortars are putting down a smoke screen along the WARFUSEE Road at Zero and are maintaining it until plus 8 hours. The artillery fire will also contain some smoke but no gas.

11. ACTION OF TANKS.

Six tanks of "G" Coy. 13th Bn. Tank Corps have been allotted to the Brigade.

These tanks will move from their position of readiness in O.23.0. at Zero - 8 minutes ~~ready~~ towards the Jumping-Off position of the Infantry.

One section (3 tanks) will operate in the area of each attacking Bn. and will come under the orders of the Bn. Commander at Zero.

The detailed section of each tank will be arranged direct between Bn. Commanders and Tank Section Commanders in accordance with the following:-

(a) Tanks cannot follow the barrage as closely as the infantry.

If no serious opposition is met with, the Infantry following the barrage closely, will precede the tanks to their objective.

If the attack is held up at any point the tanks will go ahead and deal with the resisting enemy. When this has been done the Infantry will move forward preceded by the tanks until the barrage has been caught up again.

(b) After the objective has been reached the tanks will clear the area between the objective and the protective barrage and, patrolling in front of the objective cover the consolidation.

(c) One tank of the section allotted to the 93rd Bn. will operate on the extreme left flank of this Bn.

(d) One tank of the section allotted to the 91st Bn. will move with the Mopping Up Coy. but will go forward to replace either of the other tanks should one of them become a casualty.

12. MACHINE-GUN ACTION.

(a) 2nd Aust. M.G.Bn. is using 26 Guns to put down a barrage which will conform with the Field Artillery barrage.

91

24th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 100. (Contd.)

12. MACHINE-GUN ACTION. (Contd.)
- (b) Two guns moving forward to positions about P.21.c.1.0. will pass our present front line by Zero plus 30 minutes. One gun will be so placed as to fire down the VALLEY towards AGROOHE WOOD, the other towards P.27. central.
- (c) Two guns moving forward to positions at about P.26.b.3.8. will pass our present front line by Zero plus 30 minutes. These guns are to be so placed that they will cover the front of the 23rd Bn. and the right flank of the 21st Bn.
13. LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR ACTION. O.C.'s., "A" and "D" Coys. will each detail 1. Officer and 30 o/ranks to act as carrying parties for the 6th A.L.T.M.Bty. These parties will report direct to AIRCRAFT DUMP O.30.b.38.70. at an hour to be notified later on the night prior to "Z" day. *forward.* Both parties will move from present front line at Zero plus 30 minutes. "D" Coy. will carry to new position at P.21.c.0.7. "A" Coy. do. P.26.a.6.9. Parties will rejoin their respective Companies as soon as each of the forward guns have been provided with 60 rounds.
14. CONSOLIDATION. On the night following the attack a C.T. will be dug by "B" Coy., 24th A.I.Bn. connecting YORK STREET with the present enemy front line. Necessary picks and shovels will be collected from Bn. Hqs. O.24.c.1.8. en route to the relief at DIGGER SUPPORT on night 3rd/4th July. A preliminary reconnaissance under Lt. ELSUM, 6th Field Coy. A.S. will be made by Lt. H. BAXTER and two Officers from "B" Coy. at 9. a.m., 3rd July.
15. FINAL DISPOSITIONS.
- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Present front line | "C" Coy. |
| DIGGER SUPPORT | "B" Coy. |
| VI th LER SUPPORT Right | "A" Coy. |
| Left | "D" Coy. |
- O.C.'s. Coys. will render to Bn. Hqs. as early as possible on "Z" morning a sketch showing Coy. dispositions.
16. PROTECTIVE ACTION OF M.G.'s. From 9.50 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. on attack day and from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 a.m. the following morning protective barrages will be put down by the 2nd Aust. M.G.Bn. along the whole Ede. front.
17. A. A. DEFENCE. Each Coy. will mount all Lewis Guns as soon as possible after Zero hour and be ready to actively engage low flying enemy aircraft.
18. COMMUNICATION. Signal communication at present in use will be taken over by the Bn. Signal Officer.
19. BATTLE HQRS. Battle Hqs. will be established as under by Zero - 5 hours.
- | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------|
| Ede. Hqs. | } | O.24.c.1.8. |
| 6th L.T.M.Bty. | | |
| 24th Battalion | } | O.30.b.3.7. |
| 23rd Battalion | | |
| 21st Battalion | | |
20. TO BE CARRIED ON THE MAN. Fighting Order - 74 hours rations - 220 rounds S.A.A. (except Specialists) - 3 bombs - 1 iron ration.
21. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS. 24th Bn. R.A.F. O.24.c.0.1. Motor Loading Post O.24.c.3.3. Motor Relay Post O.27.d.8.7. Duaps of stretchers forward of R.A.F. established as under.-

91 24th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 100. (Contd.)

21. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS (Contd.)
- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| P.19.d.9.3. | 20 stretchers. |
| P.25.d.2.9. | 20 " |
| P.25.b.2.3. | 20 " |
22. PRISONERS OF WAR. Prisoners of War will be collected from attacking troops by "C" Coy. in present front line. Thence to Advanced Bde. Hqrs. O.24.c.1.9. where they will be taken over under arrangements of A.P.W., 4th Aust. Div.
23. BURIALS. In view of the present spell of hot weather every possible effort is to be made to effect burial of enemy dead on the night following operation. Chloride of lime is to be freely used.
24. STRAGGLERS. Straggler posts are situated at O.24.c.90.90. and O.29.b.65.15.
25. LIAISON. With 21st Bn. Lt. R.H.D. EDGERTON, D.S.O., M.M.
With 23rd Bn. Lt. G.C. BURGE.

ACKNOWLEDGE. ✓/b

J. Hellick

Captain and Adjutant.

Issued by runner at.....10.....P.M.

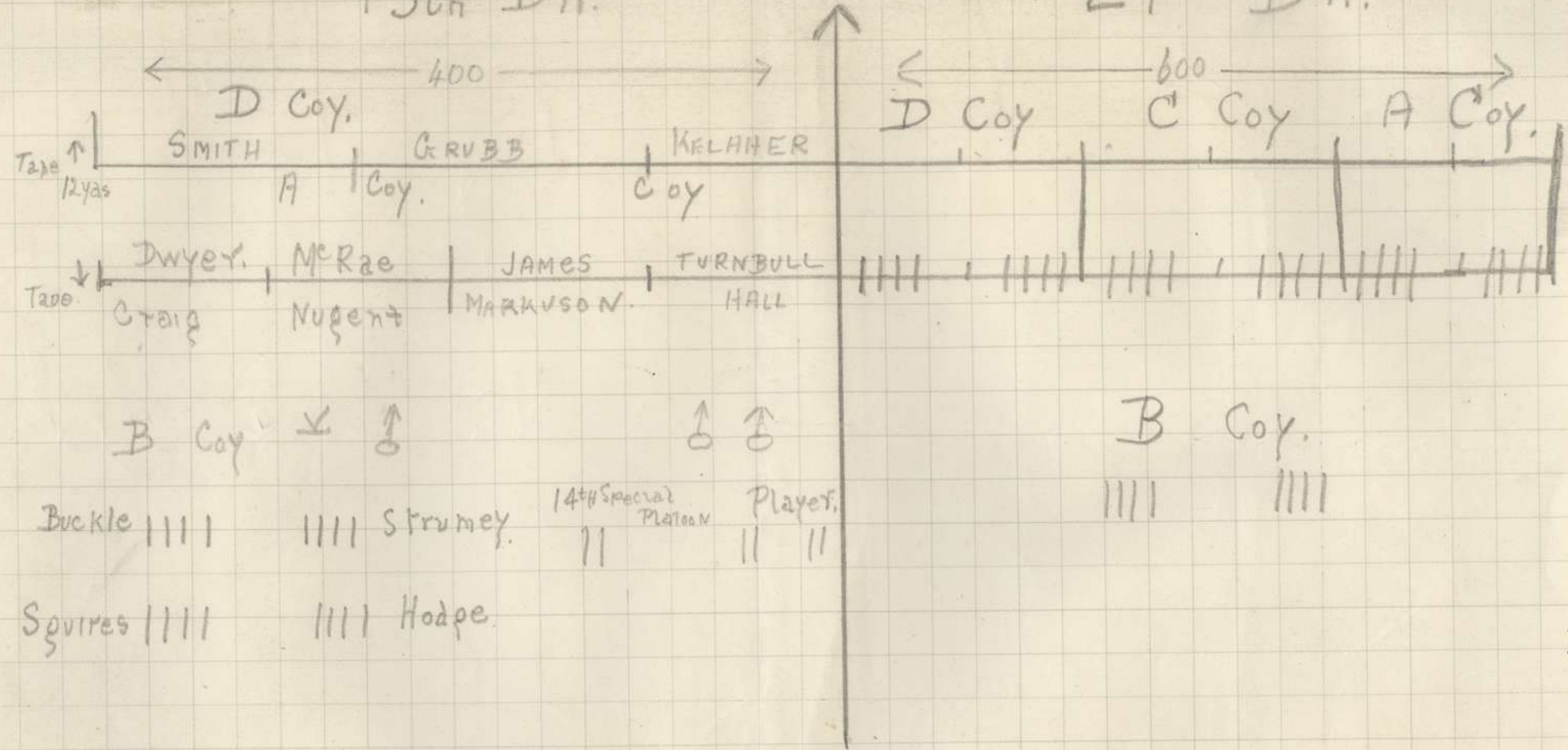
DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. File | 8. "A" Coy. |
| 2. War Diary. | 9. "B" Coy. |
| 3. 6th A.I. Bde. | 10. "C" Coy. |
| 4. 21st A.I. Bn. | 11. "D" Coy. |
| 5. 23rd A.I. Bn. | 12. R. H. O. |
| 6. C. G. | 13. Y. O. and R. Q. M. |
| 7. Adjutant. | 14. Spare. |
| | 15. Spare. |

13th Bn.

21st Bn.

16th Bn.
1 Coy
POTTS.



Legend

- Section I
- 1/2 Platoon II
- Platoon I—|
- 2.T.M. X
- M.G. B.

Appendix 4

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

2876

Brigade Headquarters
3rd July, 1918.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE

Series 4. No.1

T A N K S

1. "B" Company, 8th Tank Battalion, situated at N.32.central is co-operating with "A" Division.
2. Its assembly position is the Wood in N.34.c.
3. Its role will be:-
 - (a) If hostile tanks appear South of BOIS L'ABBE to at once attack and engage them.
 - (b) To co-operate in any counter-attack North or South of BOIS L'ABBE by the Reserve Brigade of "A" Division.
 - (c) If the Reserve Brigade of "A" Division does not counter-attack South of BOIS L'ABBE, this company will be prepared to operate independently South of BOIS L'ABBE, but the attack should be timed with any counter-attack delivered North of BOIS L'ABBE.
 - (d) Two Male tanks of this Company will be retained ready for immediate action at short notice. In the event of necessity these two tanks will be moved forward at any time that may be ordered by the G.O.C., "A" Division.
4. Orders for the employment of these tanks would normally be issued by D.H.Q. through H.Q., 8th Tank Bn. (situated at BLANGY -TRONVILLE), but in case of emergency orders would be issued by D.H.Q. direct to the Company.
5. Co-operation between tanks and infantry will be arranged between the Infantry Commanders on the spot and the Officers in command of tanks.

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

W. F. N. Bridges

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

Distribution.-

1. 21st Bn.
2. 22nd "
3. 23rd "
4. 24th "
5. 6th T.M.Bty.
6. 6th M.G.Coy.
7. "B" Coy. 8th Bn. Tanks.
8. 2nd Aust. Divn.
9. G.O.C.
10. Bde. Major
11. Staff Captain
12. Bde. T.O.
13. O.C. Bde. Snipers
14. Bde. Bomb. Officer
15. File
16. War Diary
17. " "
- 18.-19. Spares.

91

8th TANK BATTALION.

TANK BATTALION

No. HA 11636

Date.....

21st Bn



SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL.

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 5.

COPY No 22

1. OPERATION.

An operation is being undertaken by the Australian Corps to capture the high ground and spur running E of VAIRE Wood and MAHEL Village, and to establish themselves on a line running from P.25 Central on the South about 1000 yards E of VAIRE and MAHEL Woods, Trench System E of MAHEL to River SOME on the North about J.34.d.9.5.

2.

The operation is being carried out by the 6th, 4th and 11th Brigades respectively from right to left under the direction of the G.O.C 4th Australian Division, with Brigades disposed as follows:-

DISPOSITIONS.

6th Brigade. 2 Battalions from P.25 Central to FOUILLOX-WARFUSEE Road.

4th Brigade. 4 Battalions from FOUILLOX-WARFUSEE Road to a line drawn through P.8 Central to P.10.d.7.4.

11th Brigade. 4 Battalions from Centre Brigade Boundary to the River SOME.

Four Companies U.S Infantry will co-operate in the attack but dispositions are as yet unknown.

3.

The 8th Tank Battalion, plus 2 Companies from the 13th Tank Battalion, will co-operate with the Australian Brigades as follows:-

- 6th Austrn Bde. 2 Sections. "C" Coy, 13th Battalion.
- 4th -do- "B" Company. 8th Battalion.
- "A" Company. 8th Battalion.
- 11th. -do- "C" Company. 8th Battalion.
- 2 Sections. "C" Coy, 13th Battalion.

4.

All Companies will be organized into 4 Sections of 3 Tanks each.

5.

The dispositions of the Infantry Battalions and Tank Units affiliated to them are shown on attached Diagram, Appendix "A".

6.

Actual Tank tasks are as shown in Appendix "B".

7.

Tank Assembly Positions, Starting Points, Routes to same and area of Operations are shown on Attached Map "C".

8. ARTILLERY.

Tanks and Infantry will be covered by a creeping Barrage.

Prior to this the usual harassing fire will be maintained with a percentage of smoke shells to mask any movements or noise of Tanks.

/At Zero

8. ARTILLERY.

At Zero hour the Barrage will fall on the Artillery Start Line and remain there for four minutes.

It will then move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 3 minutes, maintaining this rate until it reaches the Artillery Halt Line where it will halt for 10 minutes.

Just prior to the halt a certain percentage of smoke will be mixed with the barrage as a warning.

After 8 minutes the smoke will be again used to denote that in two minutes time the barrage will creep forward again.

From the Halt Line to the Blue Line the barrage will move at 100 yards in 4 minutes.

It will continue to move forward at this rate and become stationary 400 yards in front of the Blue Line where it will remain for at least half an hour.

In addition to the above there will be a smoke barrage to the N of the River SCHE and also the to the S.E of the attack, masking MARFUSEE and MARCHELCAVE, and intense counter-battery work.

9. AEROPLANES. Aeroplanes will fly over the enemy line during Y/Z night and early Z morning, dropping Bombs, to drown the noise of Tanks.

They are also arranging to drop Ammunition Boxes for the Infantry at selected points.

10. DUMP.

A Dump will be formed at C.13.a from which the Two Companies from 13th Battalion will refill.

"A" and "B" Companies will bring their own refills.

1 Supply Tank will accompany each party to its Assembly Point for refilling purposes on X/Y night.

11. ASSEMBLY PLACES.

Assembly Places are allotted as follows:-

"C" Coy, plus 2 Sections of "C" Coy, 13th Battalion and 1 G.C Tank in O.6.d.3.7.

"A" Company and 1 G.C Tank in O.6.c.

"B" Coy, plus 2 Sections of "C" Coy, 13th Battalion and 1 G.C Tank in O.11.a.4.4.

"B" Company 13th Battn and 1 G.C Tank in O.10.a. Central. Tapo will be laid by Battalion up to X road at O.10.d.6.9., thence by Companies to their respective Assembly positions.

12. STARTING POINTS.

Starting Points will be selected by Company Commanders approximately on the 1000 yards line in conformity with the lay of the ground, and the positions of the Units to which they are affiliated.

They will tape their route to the Starting Points and for each Tank from this line to the Infantry taped line.

13. COMMUNICATIONS. By Telephone. From "A" Coy's Assembly Position to 4th Austrn Bgde H.Q. at O.5.c.6.8 on X/Y night.

From 8th Battn Report Centre in Quarry at P.7.a.0.2 on Y/Z night and Z day to 4th Austrn Bgde. H.Q.

Pigeons. 4 pairs at Battn Report Centre.

1 pair with each Section Commander.

Broken Down Tanks will not be reported by Pigeon Messag

Runners. To Quarry in P.7.a.0.2.

Para 14.

Section Commanders may ride in the Centre Tank of their Sections, where Pigeons will be carried.

15.

8th Tank Battalion Report Centre will be at Quarry in P.7.a.O.2.

16.

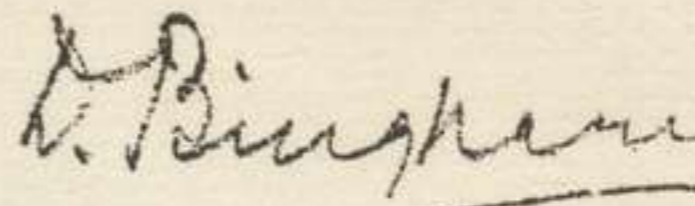
Company Commanders will establish their Headquarters with the Brigade H.Q. with whom they are affiliated.

17.

Attention is called to "Tank Corps Standing Orders for Operations" which must be read out and emphasized to all Officers and Crews.

18.

ACKNOWLEDGE.



Lieut Colonel,

30th JUNE 1918.

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

Distribution.:-

No 1.	C.C "A" Coy, 8th Tank Battn.
2.	C.C "B" " -do-
3.	C.C "C" " -do-
4.	Major. D. H. PRATT., DSO., MC.
5.	Battn Reconnaissance Officer.
6.	Battn Engineer.
7.	Battn Equip Officer.
8.	C.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn.
9.	C.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn.
10.	C.C No 1 G.C. Company.
11.	C.C No 1 G.C. Section.
12 & 13.	5th Tank Brigade
14, 15, 16)	
17 & 18.)	4th Austrn Brigade.
19, 20, 21)	
22 & 23.)	6th Austrn Brigade.
24, 25, 26)	
27 & 28.)	11th Austrn Brigade.
29.	4th Austrn Division.
30.	Retained.
31.	War Diary.

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 5.

8th TANK BATTALION

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX "A" issued only to

C.C "A" Company. 8th Tank Battalion.
C.C "B" Company. -do-
C.C "C" Company. -fo-
C.C "B" Company. 13th Tank Battalion.
C.C "C" Company. 13th Tank Battalion.

APPENDIX "B" to follow

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 5.

8th TANK BATTALION.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX "C" issued only to
5th Tank Brigade.
4th Austrn Division.

8th TANK BATTALION.
-----19.
SECRET&
CONFIDENTIAL,

CORRIGENDA

to

Preliminary Instructions No 5 & 6.
-----(a) Ref Preliminary Instructions No 5.Ref. Par 11. DELETE:-
ASSEMBLY PLACES."A" Company and 1 G.C Tank
in O.6.c."

and substitute

"A" Company and 1 G.C Tank
in O.11.a.00.50.
(Chateau Grounds)(b) Ref Preliminary Instructions No 6.APPENDIX "B":

Tank tasks allotted to "C" Company.

In Column headed "Operating with"

DELETE "45th A.I.Bn."

Distribution:- As for Prelim. Instr No 6.

8th TANK BATTALION.

8TH TANK BATTALION
No. HA/660.
Date.....

S E C R E T
&
C O N F I D E N T I A L

Copy No 23

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 6.
-----(In continuation of Preliminary Instructions No 5)

1. The following will be the action of Tanks on Z day from their Starting Line onwards.
2. Tanks will be formed up on their Starting Line by 1 a.m, in absolute silence - there will be no shouting, talking, or showing of lights.
Each Tank will be so placed as to be on it's taped line ready to advance.
O.Co Companies will arrange for Infantry guides to assist in taping.
3. Engines will be started up at 0 minus 11 minutes.-
Tanks will start forward at 0 minus 8 minutes, moving as rapidly as possible.
4. It is the primary duty of Tanks to save casualties to the Australian Infantry, and as this cannot be done so long as Tanks remain in rear of them, Tank Commanders must do their utmost to get in between the Infantry and the Artillery barrage whenever possible.
Opportunities will occur to do this, and Tank Commanders must keep a sharp look out for any point where the Infantry are held up or the barrage appears to be running away from them.
5. The main policy for the employment of Tanks is as laid down in Appendix B, arrangements in detail being made between the Brigadiers, Infantry Battalion Commanders and O.C Tank Companies and Sections concerned.
6. Tanks will come under the orders of Officers Commanding the Units to which they are attached for the operation, from the time they are formed up on their starting line until time of withdrawal.
7. All Tanks, less 1 Company, will withdraw to their Parks under Company arrangements not less than 15 minutes after the Artillery barrage has come to a halt 400 yards in front of the objective line.

The suggested lines of withdrawal are:-
"B" and "C" Coys, 13th Battalion via DAOURS Bridge to QUERRIEU Wood.
"C" Coy, 8th Battalion along line of Approach March.
"A" Coy, via BOIS L'ABBE and generally S of the BRETONNEUX-ALIENS Main road.

One gunner per Tank should be told off to engage low-flying E.A attempting to bomb the Tank.

/Para 9.

9. "B" Company, 8th Battalion will remain in the Battle area for 48 hours after the operation, and be parked under the high bank W of VAIRE Wood in P.14. Central, and be under the orders of the 4th Brigade.
Arrangements for supply etc will be made by Major D. H. PRATT, 2nd-in-Command, 8th Battalion.
It will then withdraw under orders to be issued later. Should the number of surviving Tanks of "B" Company not amount to 6, they will be made up to this number from "C" Company, 8th Battalion.
10. Each Tank Commander will have a watch correctly synchronized with Brigade time and will be given a Compass bearing to move on.
11. Belts of wire should be crossed as nearly as possible at right angles, and on no account, must Tanks be "swung" when half-way through, otherwise they may become completely enveloped.
12. In the event of Infantry being held up, and requiring assistance, they will signal to Tanks by placing a steel helmet on top of the rifle - and will then indicate the position of the strong point, by firing a phosphorous grenade in the direction.
13. Tanks carry 3 flags which represent the following, and will be pushed out of the Tank as required:-
- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Green and White (diagonal) | - | "All right - Come on" |
| Red and Yellow. (-do-) | ⊘ | "Broken down. (A reserve Tank will then replace it) |
| Red, white & blue (vertical) | - | denotes a British Tank coming out of action. |
14. Aeroplanes will co-operate during the attack.
Contact planes have Black flaps about the size of a sheet of foolscap on the under side of each plane.
Counter attack planes will denote enemy concentration for counter attack by dropping a white flare, lasting for 1½ minutes and giving out much smoke, in the direction of the concentration.
Tank Commanders must keep a look out for this signal prior to withdrawing, and if necessary remain and assist in breaking up the counter-attack.
15. Casualties should, if not too severe, be brought back in the Tanks, and dropped at Quarry in O.12.b.8.4 where there will be an A.D.S.
There will also be R.A.Ps at the following places.
P.19.b.2.3.
P.8.c.
P.3.d.central., and dressing stations at N.4.c.9.2 DACURS-AMIENS road, and at N.26.d.1.3., BRETONNEUX-AMIENS Road.
16. Casualties to Tanks will be reported at the earliest possible moment, stating map location and whether ditched, mechanical trouble, direct hit, or short of petrol.

/Para 17.

17. In the event of a Tank being put out of action during the attack, the action of the Tank Commander and Crew are very clearly defined in Tank Corps "Standing Orders for Operations", and must be carried out to the letter and in spirit.

18. Accommodation is being arranged on Y/Z night by 4th Austrn Inf Bgde at Quarry in O.12.b.8.4 for

Commdg Officer.) 8th Tank Battalion.
O.C "A" Company.	
O.C "B" Company.	
4 runners.	

19. ACKNOWLEDGE. *B.*

D. R. R. R.

Lieut Colonel,

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

1st July 1918.

Distribution:-

No 1.	O.C. "A" Company, 8th Battn.
2.	O.C "B" Company, 8th Battn.
3.	O.C "C" Company, -do-
4.	Major D. H. PRATT, DSO., MC.
5.	Battn Reconnaissance Officer.
6.	Battn Engineer.
7.	Battn Equip Officer.
8.	O.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn.
9.	O.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn.
10.	O.C No 1 G.C Company.
11.	O.C No 1 G.C Section.
12 & 13.	H.Q. 5th Tank Bgde.
14, 15, 16)	4th Austrn Bgde.
17 & 18.)	
19, 20, 21)	
22 & 23.)	6th Austrn Bgde.
24, 25, 26)	
27 & 28.)	
29.	4th Austrn Division.
30.	Retained.
31.	War Diary.
32.	O.C 13th Battn.

APPENDIX "B" -- "TANK TASKS", To Preliminary Instructions

No 5, enclosed herewith.

Company.	ASSEMBLY PLACE.	STARTING POINT.	OBJECTIVE.	METHOD OF ATTACK.	Operating with.
2 Sections. 13th Battn.	HAMELET. with "C" Company. 8th Battn.	About, P.1.b.central.	Final Blue Line.	To go forward level with advanced sections of other Companies, and engage any strong points or trench works met with S.E of BOUZENCOURT. - To protect the left flank of the attacking Infantry from enfilade by firing on J.35.c and d. and to cover them whilst consolidating Blue Line.	42nd Battn Austn Infy.
"C".	HAMELET.	West of Support line through P.1.d and P.7.b.	HAMEL.	2 Sections. - one to lead each $\frac{1}{2}$ Battn passing N and S of HAMEL Village, and protect them by keeping down enemy fire on inner flanks - to cut off and isolate the village, and then to move on to Trench System E of the village in conjunction with the Infantry. 2 Sections to accompany assaulting Battn, help capture and mop up HAMEL VILLAGE. These Sections on no account to move until Infantry are firmly established in the village, when they will withdraw.	44th A.I.Bn 45 -dc- 43rd A.I.Bn.
"A"	O.11.a.0.5.	P.7.a and e.	Blue Line.	1 Section to subdue Circular Post and then move on at the same rate as the Infantry to Blue Line, dealing with any M.G posts on the way. 1 Section to accompany Liaising Infantry and assist Liaising Sections in mopping-up trenches and M.G.nests. 2 Sections in close support and to amalgamate with the 2 leading sections in attack on the Blue Line. These 2 Sections will nominally be in reserve to replace casualties prior to Zero hour, but if not required, will take part in the attack.	1 Coy 15th A.I.Bn.

Company.	ASSEMBLY PLACE.	STARTING POINT.	OBJECTIVE.	METHOD OF ATTACK.	Operating with.
"B" 8th Battn.	Small wood in O.11.a.	P.7.c. P.13.a. O.18.b.	VAIRE and HAMEL Woods, and up to edge of ACCROCHIE Wood.	2 Sections. One to lead each Battn passing N and S of VAIRE Wood, and protect them by keeping down enemy fire from the wood - to cut off and isolate wood and then push on with the Infy to Blue Line. One Tank from the northern Section to work along HUN Walk and deny it's use to the enemy. Both sections to move on to and beyond Blue Line and protect the Infantry whilst consolidating on Blue Line. 2 Sections to accompany Assaulting Battn and assist in attack and mopping up of VAIRE Wood and to remain until the Infy are firmly established. They will then withdraw. These Sections should engage enemy trench system in front of VAIRE Wood by working round either flank with 2 Tanks at each end, and to get between the wood and the trench, remaining 2 Tanks to attack frontally.	13th A.I.Bn. 15th A.I.Bn. 16th A.I.Bn.
2 Sections. "C" Company. 13th Battn.	With "B" Company. O.11.a.	O.18.d.	Trench systems in squares:- P.20 c and d. P.26 a and b. P.25.d.	Advance in 2 waves, 4 in front and 2 in support ahead of the Infy when possible striking the enemy trench at intervals of about 300 yds, then each Tank to work South along it. When the Infy have taken over, to move forward in a S.E direction engaging all M.G posts and strong points met with. They will manoeuvre about in front as far as the Artillery Barrage permits, until the Infy are securely consolidated, when they will withdraw.	21st A.I.Bn. 23rd A.I.Bn.
"B" Company. 13th Battn.	O.10.a central.	2 Sections in rear of "C" 8th Bn. 2 Sections in rear of "B" 8th Bn.		To support 4th and 11th Bgdes whenever held up, and replace casualties to 1st Wave Tanks. They will advance about 300 yards behind 1st wave of Tanks.	4th Austrn Infy Bgde. 11th Austrn Infy Bgde.

Appendix 4

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8th TANK BATTALION:

TANK BATTALION
No. HA/646
Date

MOVEMENT ORDERS No 2.

Appendix 4

51

21 MB
 8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
 No. 2840
 SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL
 copy no 23

- "A" and "B" Companies, 8th Tank Battalion will move from their present locations to "C" Coy's Tankodrome on W/X night. Recon Officers of these Companies will ascertain their lying up positions from R.O "C" Company. No Tank of either Company will start before 10 p.m and only roads or dry weather tracks will be used on the journey. Necessary refill from Company Dumps will be taken in Limbers to "C" Company Tankodrome.
- The Section of G.C Tanks at present located at H.21.c will move fully loaded to "C" Coy's Tankodrome on W/X night and will be attached to Companies as follows:-

1 G.C Tank Licut. G.H. Smith, or)	"A" Company.
Sergt Tucker.)	
1 G.C Tank Licut W. Griffiths.	"B" Company.
1 G.C Tank Licut. W. Saunders.	"C" Company.
1 G.C Tank Sergt Strang.	"B" Coy, 13th Battalion.
- All Tanks of Companies and G.C Section will be so parked as to enable the move to Assembly Places on X/Y night, as laid down in para 11 of Preliminary Instructions No 5, to be carried out.

The following Route March Table will be strictly adhered to:-

"C" Coy and attached Units (11 & 12 Secs 13th Battn) leave at 10 p.m, followed by :-
 "A" Company and attached Units.
 "B" Company 8th Tank Battn and 9 & 10 Secs 13th Battalion.
 "B" Company 13th Tank Battalion.

4 G.C Tanks will move last, under Major Partington and will report to their respective Companies at the Assembly Positions.

There will be at least 25^x between Tanks and 200^x between Companies. The usual precautions as regards noise, lights, etc will be observed and every precaution will be taken against the possibility of gas shelling. Respirators will be worn in the alert position.

On arrival camouflaging of Tanks and Tracks must be most carefully done at once as low flying aeroplanes cross the forward area daily in the early hours.

- TAPING OF ROUTE. Tank Route will be taped under Battalion arrangements from C.13.c to C.10.d.60.80. The following Officers will carry out this taping:-

C.13.c to C.14.b.35.30.	2/Lt. N.J. Still.	"C" Company.
C.14.b.35.30 to C.15.b.30.70	2/Lt. B. Guy.	"A" Company.
C.15.b.30.70 to C.10.d.60.80	2/Lt. R. Grinham.	"B" Company.

 From C.10.d.60.80 Companies will be responsible for the Route to their Assembly Positions and thence to Starting Points.

/Para 5.

5. Company Commanders will report by telephone to Battalion H.Q. using the following code:-

- (a) If all Tanks have arrived safely "All C.K."
- (b) In case of Tanks not arriving through mechanical trouble or a direct hit - "C.K. -- (No) not arrived"
(Add serious or slight)

In the event of a Tank becoming disabled it will be immediately towed back to a position of security and camouflaged.

6. On Y day there will be movement whatever in, or in the vicinity of the Assembly places, as these are under direct enemy observation.

7. I/Z night. Engines will be started up at 10.30 p.m.
Companies will arrange to be in position at Starting Points by 1 a.m.

"C" Coy and 11 & 12 Secs, 13th Battn direct to S.P.

"A" Coy via track running S.E to Quarry through C.12.b and thence to S.P.

"B" Coy and 9 & 10 Secs, 13th Battn via FOUILLOY, WARFUSEE Road to S.P.

"B" Coy, 13th Battn, 15 minutes after "B" Coy, 8th Battn and form up 200' in rear of starting line as follows:-
2 Sections in rear of "B" Coy, 8th Battn.
2 " " " " "C" -do-

8. G.C Tanks will return to their own Tankodrome, H.21.c, during Zero hour and refit at once.

9. Zero hour will be notified later.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

JP

A. Bingham

Lieut Colonel,

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

5th JUNE 1918.

Distribution:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| No 1. C.C "A" Coy, 8th Battn. | 10. C.C No 1 G.C. Company. |
| 2. C.C "B" Coy, -do- | 11. C.C No 1 G.C Section. |
| 3. C.C "C" Coy, -do- | 12 & 13. 5th Tank Brigade. |
| 4. Major, D. H. PRATT., DSO., MC. | 14, 15, 16) |
| 5. Battn Reconnaissance Officer. | 17 & 18.) 4th Austrn Brigade. |
| 6. Battn Engineer. | 19, 20, 21) |
| 7. Battn Equipt Officer. | 22 & 23.) 6th Austrn Brigade. |
| 8. C.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn. | 24, 25, 26) |
| 9. C.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn. | 27 & 28.) 11th Austrn Brigade. |
| | 29. 4th Austrn Division. |
| | 30. Retained. |
| | 31. War Dia ry. |

8TH TANK BATTALION.

8TH TANK BATTALION	AUSTRALIA INFANTRY BRIGADE	Appendix 4	53
no. HA/689	2890	SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL.	
Date	Date		

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 7.

COPY No. 20

(In continuation of Preliminary Instructions No 6)

1. In the event of the enemy putting down a barrage on our lines prior to Zero hour, our Heavy Artillery will at once reply. This must not be confused with the laid down creeping barrage, which will start at Zero hour, no matter what happens. The attack will be carried out by the clock under all circumstances.
2. In order to avoid the possibility of Tanks running over wounded men in the dark, or lying in crops, the 4th Division are arranging for a party of 3 men to accompany each Tank of the Company in Reserve, i.e. "B" Coy, 13th Battalion. 1 man will precede each Tank to indicate the position of wounded, and stop the Tank if necessary. 2 men will walk close behind to help remove wounded from the path. These men will report to Major GRIFFIN Q.C. "B" Coy, 13th Battalion on the Tank forming up line 1 hour before Zero. All Drivers will keep a sharp look out to avoid running over wounded men.
3. No marked maps showing Objective Line are to be taken into action.
4. During approach march on Y/Z night and during the wait on the forming up line, as few men as possible will walk about in the open, they must keep close behind the Tank to avoid stray bullets from enemy indirect H.G. fire.
5. From experience gained during the approach march last night, Tank Commanders must ensure that Spuds are tightened up to their fullest extent and that unditching beam chains are secured and do not rattle on the tracks.
6. The H.Q. of the various Austrn Infantry Brigades from to-night will be as follows:-

4th A.I. Brigade.	P.7.a.0.2.
6th -do-	O.24.c.1.2.
11th -do-	J.25.d.2.6.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

D. Bingham

Lieut Colonel,

2nd JULY 1918.

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

Distribution:- As Prelim Instructions No 6.

8th TANK BATTALION.



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SECRET

ERRATA.

Preliminary Instructions No 6. Para 8.

"B" and "C" Companies of 13th Tank Battalion will withdraw to C.13.a and not as therein stated.

ADDENDUM.

To Preliminary Instructions No 7. Add to Para 7.

"Every Infantry Officer, N.C.O and man taking part in the advance will be provided with a strip of white material for use in case of his becoming a casualty. This is for tying to the top of the surrounding crops, or to a rifle stuck in the ground, to ensure that casualties will not be lost in the crops"

Distribution. As for Prelim Instr No 7.

2nd COM 1918.

8TH
TANK BATTALION

No. HA4689A

Date

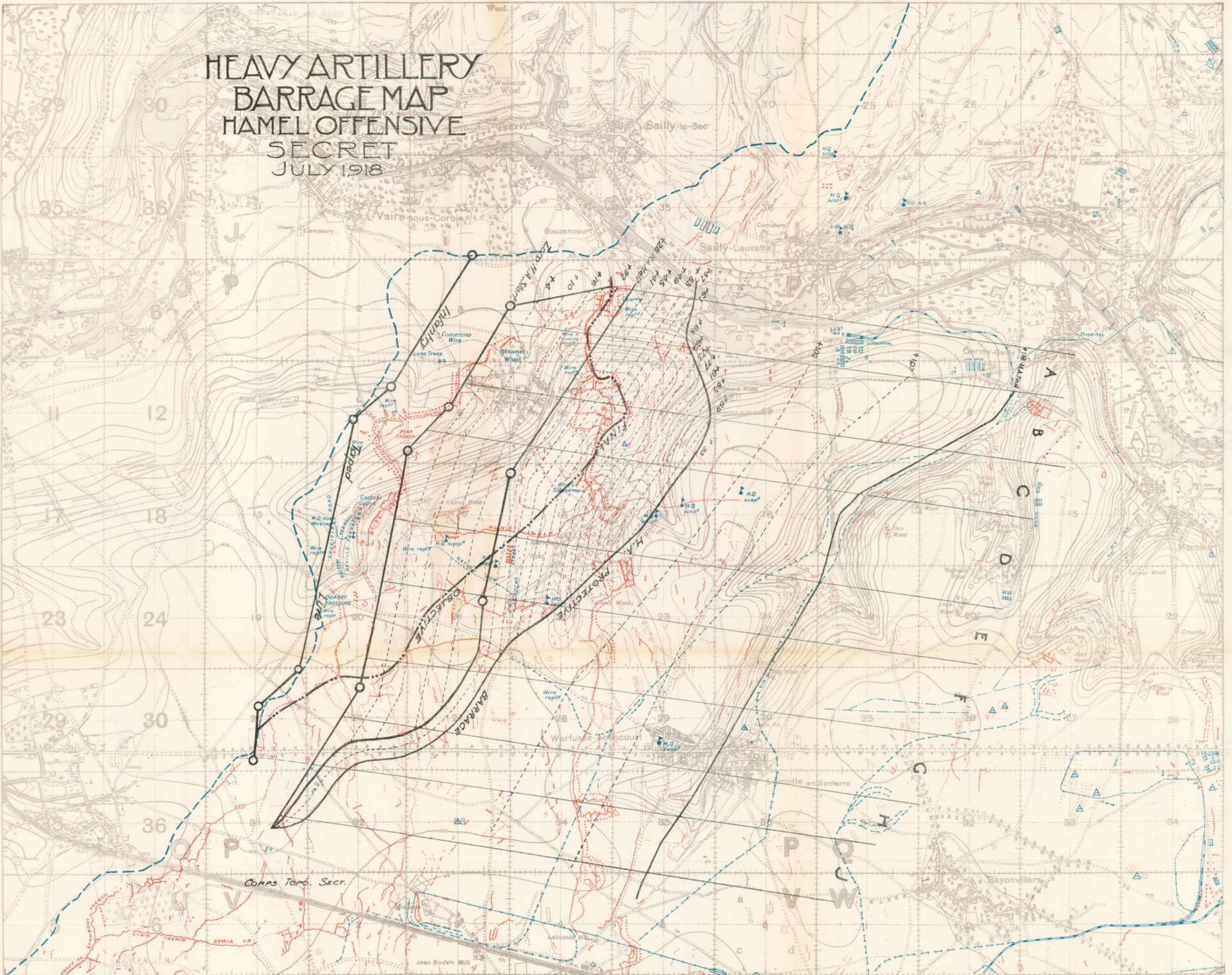
1:20,000

BAYONVILLERS

Parts of 62°N.W. 62°N.E. 62°S.W. & 62°S.E.

EDITION I.

HEAVY ARTILLERY
BARRAGE MAP
HAMEL OFFENSIVE
SECRET
JULY 1918



Approximate British Front Line 22-6-18

Scale 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

Appendix No.6.

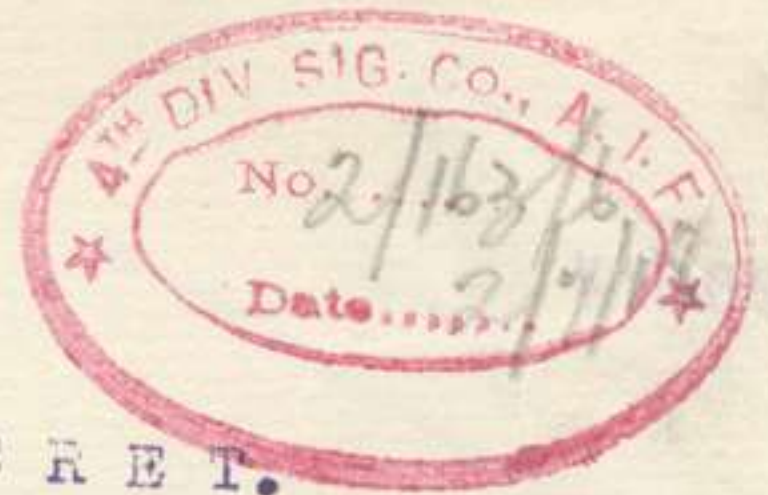
21st Bn A.I.F. War Diary. July 1918.

HEAVY ARTILLERY
BARRAGE
HAMILTON
SECTION
JULY 1918

6/

91

RECORDED ON 10 24 1918
INDEXED CORRECTED FROM ORIGINAL



SECRET.

Copy No. _____

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

INSTRUCTION No. 4 Issued under Divisional Order No. 128.

SIGNAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The following will be the means of communications:-

1. (a) Between Divisional H.Qs and Right, Left and Centre Brigade H.Qs
 - (a) Buried and Canal Cable
 - (b) Wireless
 - (c) Despatch Rider Service.
- (b) Between Divisional H.Qs. and 12th and 13th Brigades.
 - (a) Buried and Canal Cable.
 - (b) Wireless.
 - (c) Despatch Rider Service.
- ~~(c) Between Brigade H.Qs. and Cable Heads.~~
 - (a) Two pairs Cable via Communication trenches.
 - (b) Runners.

After ZERO hour: The following in addition to above :-

Between Left and Centre Bde. H.Qs. and their Brigade Forward Stations.

3 pairs Ground Cable.
80 metre loop W/T Sets.
Runners
Visual
Pigeons.

2. Wireless One loop-set will be set up permanently at Left and Centre Brigade H.Qs
One loop-set will be attached to each forward party and moved with it.
3. Action of Bde. Forward Party: At zero minus one hour, each Bde. Forward Party consisting of personnel already detailed will be assembled at its Cable Head.
The Bde. Forward Party will advance and in rear of, and close up to, the third wave of infantry. It will establish itself as under :-

Left Forward Party near P.9.A.95.20.
Centre " Party near P.15.C.15.75.
~~Right Bde. is not using a Bde. Forward Party.~~

4. VISUAL
A Divisional Visual Station will be established at Pagoda at U.24.D.5.0. This station is for receiving messages from Bdes., Brigade Forward Parties, attacking battalions, companies or platoons after zero. Visual Stations will be established at or near Bde. H.Qs. and each Bde. Forward Station.

P.T.O.
.....

5. Pigeons. Pigeons will be delivered to each attacking Bde. by D.A.
6. Runners. Relay posts for runners will be established at Cable Head and Forward Stations.
7. Aircraft. In addition to the usual Unit Ground Sheets each Headquarters will display on the ground, close to its ground sheet, a number composed of white calico as under :-

	No.
Left Bde. Forward Station	2
Centre " " "	3
23rd Aust. Inf. Battalion	4
21st " " "	5
13th " " "	6
16th " " "	7
15th " " "	8
14th " " "	9
44th " " "	10
43rd " " "	11
42nd " " "	12
41st " " "	13

The above material will be supplied by O.C. Signals.

The ordinary rules regarding the communication with aircraft will be observed. Ground sheets etc. should be rolled up if enemy aircraft are seen approaching.

8. General.
- (a) It is essential that perfect liaison between battalion commanders and Bde. Forward Stations should be established and maintained. On no account should a Bn. H.Q. establish itself or move without having warned the Bde. Forward Station of its intention. A thorough understanding beforehand of what each proposes to do should exist in order to ensure smooth working.
- (b) Battalion H.Q. should, as far as tactical situation permits, establish themselves as near as possible to Bde. Forward Station.
- (c) The positions of the Divisional and Brigade visual stations should be made known to all Bn. signal personnel.
- (d) Battalions will lay and maintain their own lines to Brigade Forward Stations. On no account will lines be run forward from Battalions to Companies until consolidation has progressed satisfactorily.
- It is left to the discretion of Commanders down to Battalion C.Os. whether messages, after Zero, need be sent in Cipher or Code. Code names of units, however, will always be employed.
9. Extra personnel for checks, carrying parties, etc., other than already supplied for Bde. Forward Stn., will be supplied by 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. and 4th Aust. Pioneer Bn. Arrangements to be made direct between 13th A.I. Bde., C.O. Pioneer Bn., and O.C. Signal Company.

Appendix 7

(3)

10. O.C., Light Horse Troop will detail
1 N.C.O. and 3 troopers to report to Left Bde.
1 N.C.O. and 6 troopers to report to Div. Signal Coy.

O.C., Cyclists Platoon will detail

1 N.C.O. and 3 cyclists to Centre Brigade.

Signal Instructions in detail will be issued by Divisional Signal Coy. to all concerned.



Headquarters,
1st July, 1918.

Lieut-Colonel,
G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Issued to all recipients of Divisional Order No. 128.



4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SIGNALLING INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCOMPANY DIV. INSTRUCTIONS No. 4

1. (a) Brigade Forward Parties:- The minimum composition of each Bde. Forward Party will be as follows:

- Bde. Signal Section Officer 1.
- " " " Sergeant 1.
- " " " lineamen 6.
- " " " clerk 1.
- Battalion runners 6.
- Loop set operators 3.
- Visual signallers 5.
- Pigeoneers 1.
- Telephonists 2.

- Material as under:-
- Lucas lamps & stands 2.
 - Telescopes & stands 2.
 - 4 x 3 Buzzer units 1.
 - Binoculars, pairs 2.
 - Telephones, D III. 3.
 - Loop Set, complete 1.
 - Pophan panel 1.
 - Ground signalling sheet 1.

Stationery, pigeon baskets and 2 half-mile drums of D 2 or D 3 cable as reserve.

(b) At each Cable Head:

- Personnel:
- Bde. Signal Section N.C.Os 1.
 - " " " Lineamen 4.
 - " " " Telephonist 1.
 - Battalion runners 4.

- Material
- 4 x 3 Buzzer unit 1.
 - Telephone D III. 3.
 - 2 miles D 2 or D 3 cable as reserve.

All the above personnel will carry 48 hrs. rations and two filled water bottles.

2. Artillery F.O.O. and Bn. lines will be led into Brigade Forward Stations and maintained by their own lineamen. The Officer i/c Forward Party will make necessary arrangements for connection, and allot, definitely one pair to Artillery. This line must remain plugged through throughout except for the purpose of testing. Should a break occur on this pair the Arty should be given another pair, and at all times be given the priority over all other calls. The Arty.

Signal Officer will arrange with the Section Officers concerned as to where the F.O.O. lines are to be plugged through.

3. The Cable Heads and Bde. Forward Stations will be approximately as follows:-

Centre Bde. Cable Head: P 8 c 4.0; Fwd. P 15 c 1575
 Left " " " P 2 c 8.1; Stn P 9 A 9520

4. Visual

The Div. Visual Station and Central Arty Visual Station will be located at I 24 d 5.0; Calls: DIV Stn: G K V
 Arty " A R T

Right Bde. Central Visual Station O 24 D 8.5 C D K

Left " Visual Stations as follows:-

Central Visual Station J 19 c 9.3 C V A
 Bde. " " J 25 D 15 L B S
 Fwd. Party " " P 9 a 9520 F P A

Centre Bde. Visual Stns. as follows:

Central Visual Station P 8 c 32 C B V
 Fwd. Party " " P 15 C 1575 F T S

The rear Div. Visual Station B Y at H 36 c 8 3 is connected by 'phone to Division.

G K V is connected through K O F I to T U T O .

Visual Officer will arrange necessary transmitting station between the two Div. Stations, and have circuit established by 5 p.m. the day before Zero.

5. Pigeons: Brigade Section Officers must endeavour to keep ahead of their Pigeon and Cable demands.

6. Motor Cyclists deliver normal traffic to Brigades. Specials from Brigades will be delivered by their attached Motor D.R.

7. Runners: From Brigade H.Qs forward runner posts will be established according to distances between Stations. Posts should never be more than 600 yds. apart.

8. Wireless: Locations at which W/T Stations are and will be erected.

4th. Aust. Div. H. Q BUSSY

4th. Aust. Div. Arty " C W

12th. A. I. Bde H. Qs J 19 c 7.4

Left and Centre Bn. H. Qs 12th. A. I. Bde. J 28 a 7.8

11th. A. I. Bde H. Qs J 25 d 1.5

" " " Fwd. Stn (about) P 9 a 95.20

4th. A. I. Bde H. Qs O 12 b 7.7

" " " Fwd. Stn (about) P 15 c 15.75.

(3)

<u>6th.A.I.Bde. Battle H.Qs</u>	O 24 c 2.2	
Left Bn H.Q. 6th.A.I.Bde	P 19 c 3.4	
<u>13th.A.I.Bde. H.Qs</u>	O 5 c 4.6	
Rt. Bn. H.Qs 13th.A.I.Bde	O 24 a 4.6	
Centre Bn. " " "	O 12 b 7.7	
Left Bn. H.Qs " " "	O 6 d 7.9	
<u>11th. A.F.A.Bde. (Arty Group)</u>	I 23 d 6.2	(C W)
Div. Arty O.P. Wellcome Wood	J 27 b	(C W)

Before Zero hour, Wilson Transmitter and Mk III Tuner Station at Div.H.Qs will work direct to 12th. and 13th. A.I. Brigades, Flank Bdes, Flank Divs, and Aust.Corps.

After Zero hour this set will work to 4th. and 11th. A.I.Bdes in addition to the above.

W/T communications for Artillery before and after Zero hour will be as follows:

Continuous wave W/T Stations at

4th.Aust.Div.Arty H.Qs BUSSY
 11th. A.F.A.Bde (Group H.Qs)
 Div. O.P. Wellcome Wood.

The last named station will be silent until Zero hour.

W/T communications for 12th.A.I.Bde before and after Zero hour.

Trench W/T Set at Bde H.Qs working direct to 4th.Aust. Div. and flank Bdes.

Rear 80 metre loop set working forward to Fwd 80 metre loop set at Left and Centre Bn. H.Qs.

W/T communications for 11th. A.I.Bde commencing at Zero hour as follows:-

Trench W/T set at Bde H.Qs working direct to 4th.Aust. Div. and flank Bdes.

A rear 80 metre loop set will be set up at Bde H.Qs ~~and~~ before Zero hour to work forward to a "forward" 80 metre loop set at Bde. Fwd.Stn. as soon as Bde.Fwd. party has established itself.

A complete High Power Buzzer and Amplifier installation with personnel will be held in reserve at Bde.H.Qs to be used at the discretion of Bde.Signal Officer during the period of consolidation.

W/T communications for 4th.A.I.Bde commencing Zero hour
 Trench W/T Set at Bde H.Qs. working direct to 4th.Aust. Div.H.Q. and flank Bdes.

A rear 80 metre loop set will be established at Bde.H.Qs before Zero hour to work forward to a "forward" 80 metre loop set as soon as Bde.Fwd. Party has established itself.

A complete High Power Buzzer and Amplifier installation with personnel will be held in reserve at Bde.H.Qs to be used at the discretion of Bde.Sig.Officer during the period of consolidation.

(4)

W/T com'ntns for 6th.A.I.Bde before and after Zero hour.

Before Zero hour a High Power Buzzer and Amplifier Stn. will be established at Adv.Bde.H.Qs working direct to 13th. A.I.Bde H.Q. (and also to rear 6th.A.I.Bde H.Q. as an alternative method)

From either 13th.A.I.Bde H.Q. or 6th.A.I.Bde rear H.Q.s messages read by amplifier from 6th.Bde battle H.Q. will be repeated direct to 4th.Aust.Div.H.Q. by Trench W/T set.

After Zero hour a High Power Buzzer and Amplifier Set will be established at Left Bn.H.Q. working back to Bde. battle H.Q.

W/T commntns for 13th.A.I.Bde before Zero hour.

Trench W/T Set at Bde H.Q. working direct to 4th.Aust.Div. and flank Bdes.

High P.B. & Amp.Set at Bde.H.Q. working direct to H.P.B. and Amp Sets at the Left, Centre and Right Bns in line.

After Zero hour H.P.B. and Amp Set at Bde.H.Q. will work direct to H.P.B. and Amp.Set at 6th.Bde.Battle H.Q. repeating all messages on to 4th.Aust.Division by Trench W/T set.

After Zero Hour H.P.B. & Amp Sets at Left and Right Bns become available for use with Bns of 4th.A.I.Bde at discretion of 4th.Bde Signal Officer, who will arrange direct with Div.W/T Officer.

Charging Arrangements

Accumulators will be charged as follows:-

Stations at 4th.Aust.Div.H.Qs and 4th.Aust.D.A.H.Q. will charge accumulators at 4th.Aust.D.H.Q.

12th. and 11th.A.I.Bde Stations, 11th.A.F.A.Bde Stn and Div.O.P.Stn. will charge accumulators at 12th.A.I.Bde H.Q.

4th. and 13th.A.I.Bde Stns will charge accumulators at 13th.A.I.Bde H.Q.

6th.A.I.Bde Stns will charge accumulators under arrangements made by W/T Officer, 2nd.Aust.Division.

General:-

The positions of Bde Forward Stations should be made known to all concerned, particularly runners, and battalion traffic for Bde H.Q. is to be delivered to Bde.Fwd.Stn for transmission, and not sent through to Bde.H.Q. by Bn.runners.

The provision of alternative means of communication, such as wireless, visual and pigeons, should ensure that, at least, one means of transmission will be left to us to transmit traffic back. Therefore, signal officers must not hesitate to switch from one means to another should the cable method fail. Cable should be given the preference as being the most rapid, but that must not prevent communication being opened with wireless and visual in anticipation of being used, should the cable become "dist".

Signal Officers must realise that it is their duty to get traffic through, and then by the most speedy method, the length of messages also becoming a governing factor as to their means of despatch.

On account of the short supply of pigeons, twenty only to each Brigade will be supplied. These will be divided at the

Appendix 7

(5)

discretion of the Brigade Signal Officer, and should only be used when all other means fail, and then only for very important messages. Attention should be drawn to the fact that if birds are kept in the line for two or more days the future supply of birds will fail and pigeon service dislocated.

2nd. July 1918.

[Signature]
Major,
O.C., SIGNALS, 4th. Aust. Division.

S E C R E T

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

6th
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE.

No. 2863

Date.....

Brigade Headquarters
1st July, 1918.

G.O.,

21st Bn.

A number of aeroplanes are being specially detailed to drop ammunition in the captured area on the morning of "Z" day.

In the 6th Bde. Area 2 boxes of M.G. ammunition will be dropped at P.21.c.1.6. and four boxes of S.A.A. for rifles at P.20.d.8.5.

The M.G. Bn. will please arrange to mark the former place with a WHITE V the arms of the V are to be 6' in length and 1' in width.

The aeroplanes doing this work will have the underside of the lower planes painted BLACK for a distance of 2½' from the tips.

W. F. N. Budge

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

Copies to.-

21st Bn. 1
22nd "
23rd "
24th "
2nd Aust. M.G.Bn.
File
War Diary
" "

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6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE. 65

Appendix 9.

Brigade Headquarters,
3rd July, 1918.C.O.,
21st Bn.

1. RELIEF. It has been suggested that instead of being relieved 48 hours after the pending operation is completed, the Brigade might, if there is little resistance met, stay in for a somewhat longer period. It is desired that in case any officers and men might have been informed that they would be relieved within 48 hours, they should be informed of the possible change.
2. PRISONERS. An officer of the 24th Bn., on the Left of the Company original front line, is to be specially detailed to be responsible that all prisoners coming back captured by the 21st Bn. shall be sent along to that Bn's. Headquarters, instead of being passed to the Headquarters of the 4th Brigade on our Left. It must be impressed upon all concerned that receipts must always be taken for all prisoners handed over to the A.P.M. 4th Brigade. Forms in duplicate should be made out in anticipation.
3. OBJECTIVE. I would specially ask that it be impressed upon all officers that the Objective Line shown on the map is merely a paper one, and in digging in in the objective, the ground which serves our purpose best is to be used, provided it is not outside of the general line. This would apply particularly in P.267a. where it might be advisable to use the German trench as a support rather than a front line.
4. NOTICE AND DIRECTION BOARDS. These are not yet in position. The finger posts for the R.A.P., Brigade Command Post, O.P's., and Signal and Runner Relay Posts must be in position before zero.
5. WIRE. There is still some wire to be cut in front of the Left Bn. This should be done after dusk and direction tapes may be run out 20 or 30 yards beyond.

[Signature]
Brigadier-General.
Commanding 6th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Copies to :-
All Bns.
6th A.L.T.M.Bty.

SECRET

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
No. 2902
Date

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters
3rd July, 1918.

C.O.,
21st Bn.

Reference 6th A.I. Bde. Order 160 dated 1st July, 1918
ZERO hour will be 3.10 A.M. on 4th July, 1918.

Please acknowledge by wire.

W. F. M. Bridges

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

Copies to:-
All Units.
6th Fld. Coy. A.E.
7th Fld. Ambulance
O.C., Bde. Snipers

*Special
Special
just run*

Appendix

8

66

S E C R E T

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters
3rd July, 1918.



C.O.,
21st Bn.

The Power Buzzer now established near the front line in your area will move forward, under the orders of Bde. Hdqrs., as soon as you can report that suitable accommodation for it has been found in the captured area.

W. F. N. Bridges

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

Copy to.-
Bde. Sig. Offr.

Appendix 8

To _____
 By _____ (Sig. of "Franking Officer.") By _____

TO { TURK APPENDIX No. 8.

Sender's Number * B99 Day of Month 4 In reply to Number AAA

Everything going well. AAA
 Insurers twelve AAA Retaliation
 increasing AAA A few MC's
 still firing but high
 AAA identifications 15 on
 shoulder straps.

From _____
 Place FOWA
 Time 3:45 am

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

(27964) Wt. W492/M1647. [E 1187]. 130,000 Pads-5/17. M.R.Co., Ltd. Forms/C.2121.

To _____
 By _____ (Sig. of "Franking Officer.") By _____

TO { TURK

Sender's Number * B100 Day of Month 4 In reply to Number AAA

By runner from front
 Objective AAA on front
 Objective AAA Casualties few
 AAA Coy going AAA Tanks
 doing excellent work
 especially in P266

From _____
 Place FOWA
 Time 4:10 am

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

(27964) Wt. W492/M1647. [E 1187]. 130,000 Pads-5/17. M.R.Co., Ltd. Forms/C.2121.

Appendix 8
 68

To _____ By _____ (Sig. of "Franking Officer.") By _____

TO { TURAH

Sender's Number * B101 Day of Month 4 In reply to Number AAA

50 Prisoners have passed here up to now

From _____ Place FOWH Time 4 27 am

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

Censor. Sig. of Addressor or person authorized to telegraph in his name.

(27964) Wt. W492/M1647. [E 1187]. 130,000 Pads-5/17. M.R.Co., Ltd. Forms/C.2121.

To _____ By _____ (Sig. of "Franking Officer.") By _____

TO { TURAH

Sender's Number * B98 Day of Month 4 In reply to Number AAA

Got away splendidly Tanks well up

From _____ Place FOWH Time 5 19 am

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

Censor. Sig. of Addressor or person authorized to telegraph in his name.

(27964) Wt. W492/M1647. [E 1187]. 130,000 Pads-5/17. M.R.Co., Ltd. Forms/C.2121.

Appendix 8

To. G. O.
21st Bn.

(1)
4/7/18.

At 3.40 message buzzed through to 13th Bn Hdqs. All companies clear of the wood. Support Coy. digging in in position.

Right Coy. believed in position as saw white flares were seen (their success signal).

1st Identification (15th Regiment)

Can't get you on line. As you end down our was fatigued & all way.

W. J. D.

To. G. O.
21st Bn.

(2)
4/7/18.

13th Bn reports all companies in position.

On Right in touch with 21st. The 13th is in advance of wood (VAIPE) with their left flank resting on HUNE WALK. So far they are not in touch with 15th Bn on their left.

Casualties fairly light. Prisoners unestimated. Judging by what I saw, I shall say a fair number.

5.10 AM.

W. J. D.

To B. O. 4/7/18 (3)

13th Bn report all boys
on final objective.

Now in touch with 15th
Bn on left.

Communications now good.

Colonel Clarke asks if you
can spare men, can you help
him evacuate wounded
from his RIGHT FLANK.

He says he is short of men
there.

5.30 A.M. CAP Ed 71

91

Appendix 8.

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MESSAGES AND SIGNS

Prefix <i>SM</i>	Code <i>FOCA</i>	ords <i>62</i>	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect			From	At _____ m.	
Service Instructions			By	To	
By					
Handed in at <i>CH</i>			Office	m.	Received _____ m.
TO <i>TOWA & PIA</i>					
*Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	A A A		
<i>BM 15</i>	<i>4</i>				
<i>2</i>	<i>tanks</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>returned</i>		
<i>AAA</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>others</i>	<i>also</i>		
<i>on</i>	<i>their</i>	<i>way</i>	<i>AAA</i>		
<i>1</i>	<i>stationary (engine</i>	<i>trouble)</i>			
<i>within</i>	<i>our</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>front</i>		
<i>line</i>	<i>AAA</i>	<i>Tank</i>	<i>to pier</i>		
<i>super's</i>	<i>left</i>	<i>coy</i>	<i>right</i>		
<i>in</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>objective</i>	<i>AAA</i>		
<i>Prisoner</i>	<i>13 yds</i>	<i>J. R</i>	<i>taken</i>		
<i>in</i>	<i>our</i>	<i>right</i>	<i>flank</i>		
<i>says</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>division</i>	<i>was</i>		
<i>about</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>relieved</i>		
<i>and</i>	<i>relieving</i>	<i>division</i>	<i>is</i>		
<i>in</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>neighbourhood</i>			
FROM	<i>TURA</i>				
PLACE & TIME	<i>5.20 AM</i>				

The 21st Bn Report Centre

Everything OK with
21st Bn. Objectives all taken,
now consolidating

W Barton Lt

B Coy

Very few casualties

FOWA

Reached final objective
Casualties very slight
Practically no opposition

Monckton Kelly Capt
DCC Coy

5.20 pm
9-7-18

Appendix 9

NO I In POWNA

objective taken.

Am digging in at P. 21. C. 5. 9,
on left sector to P. 21. C. 2. 0.

In touch with 13th Battalion
left and C. Coy 21st on right.
Casualties light.

Coy Headquarters at P. 21. C. 2. 8.

Took at least one L. M. G.
and several prisoners.

W. H. Taylor Lieut

Time 4-25 AM

C. C. Coy

91

Appendix 8. / 75

Charges to Collect		By	To
Service Instructions			
Handed in at		Office	m. Received
TO	MR. REED		
*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
Objectives apparently gained as men can be seen consolidating retaliation still slight chiefly on old support line			
FROM	R.C.		
PLACE & TIME			

* This line should be erased if not required.

[18958] W528/M1970 50m 4/17 W. & Co. Ltd. E1213

To
FOWA.

Herewith some Hun papers
We have ~~two~~² Vickers & two Becker
machine guns mounted in
front line ~~at~~ in vicinity of
P21C 0035

Cy HQ is at P20d 83

We have 6 Hun MG. There
is a 77 gun at about
P20d 97

SAA is required also bombs
at 7-18 ~~munitions~~ Capt

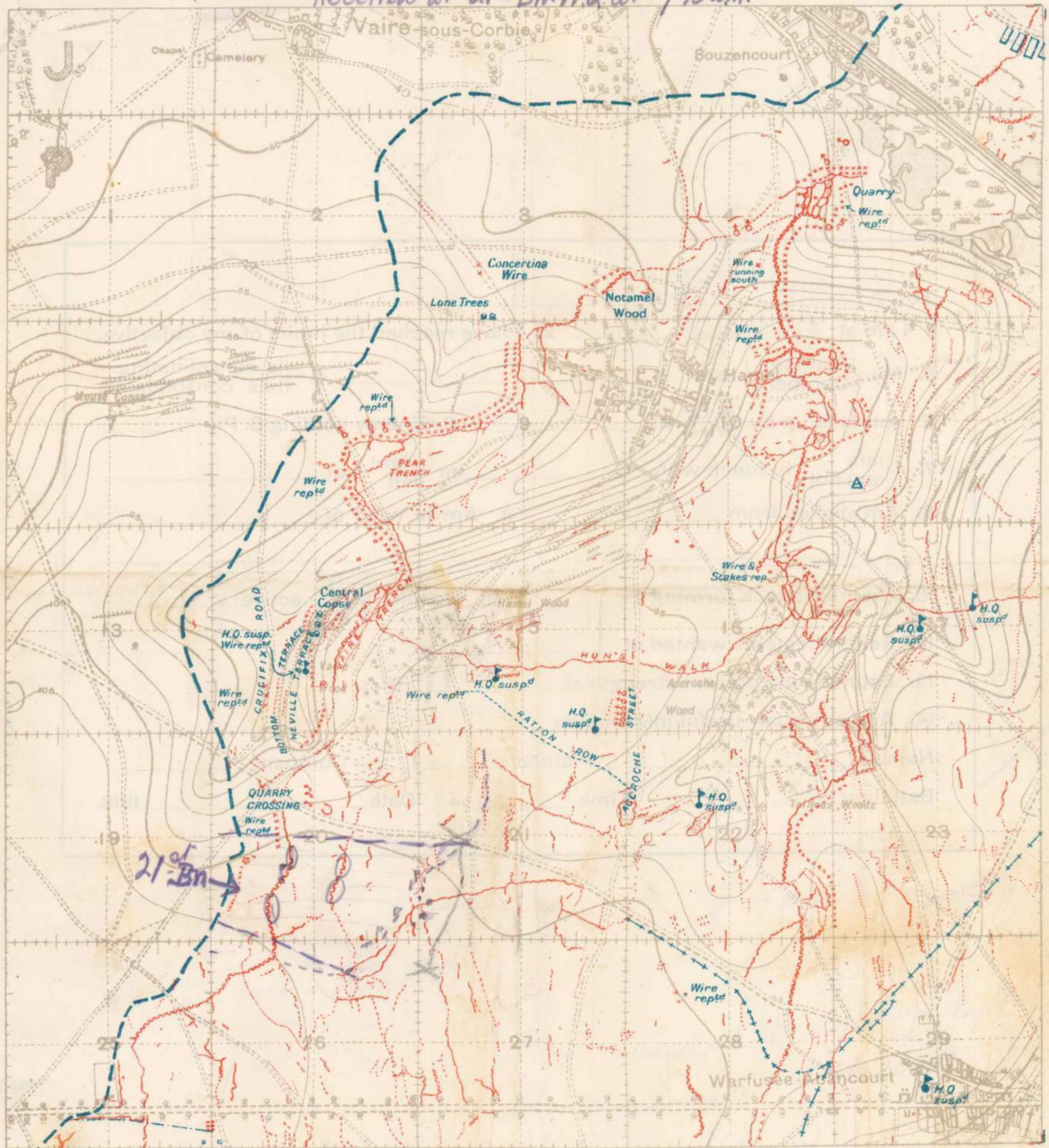
91

Annex 8.

77

Prefix <u>SM</u> Code <u>1H</u> Words <u>48</u>	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect	From <u>TURA</u>	At _____ m.	
Service Instructions	By <u>Mussey</u>	To _____	
		By _____	
Handed in at <u>CH</u>	Office <u>9:40^{AM}</u>	Received <u>9:52^{AM}</u>	
TO	<u>FOWA + FOQA</u>		
*Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	A A A
<u>BM23</u>	<u>4</u>		
Reports well in whole captured 3 30 Centre offr. 11/11 120 more	now in front now offrs wounded Brig 604 Brig 11/11 11 To	indicate hand 11 24 130 prisoners captures 10 ORs report all follow	consolidation along Cur M G. unwounded unwounded over say
FROM	<u>TURA 9:38 AM</u>		
PLACE & TIME			

91
First disposition map received at Bn.H.Q. after attack on enemy defences E of VILLERS BRETONNEUX 8
1:20,000 on 4/7/18 - Information obtained by Lt. R. K. BAZLEY M.C. by reconnaissance of front line
Received at 21st Bn. H.Q. at 7-10 am. Parts of 62° N.E. & 62° S.E.



FIELD SURVEY CO., R.E. (5902) 22-6-18

YARDS 1000

Scale: 1:20,000

1000 YARDS

Approximate British Front Line ——— 22-6-18

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

To 66 21st 15th

1. I am at Marked on Map 2. I have reached the limits of my objective.

3. My Platoon Company is at _____ 4. is consolidating.
has consolidated.

5. Am held up by M.G. Wire at _____ 6. Enemy holding S. Pt. _____

7. I am am not in touch with _____ on right left at _____

8. Am shelled from _____ 9. Am in need of _____

10. Counter-attack forming at _____ 11. Hostile Baty. M.G. T.M. active at _____

12. Reinforcements wanted at _____

13. Estimate my present strength at _____ rifles.

14. Add any other useful information _____

Name _____ Platoon _____ Company _____

Battalion _____ Time _____ m. Date _____ 1918.

8

Am digging in.

Spring Submachine Gun

H.K. Peterson H.T.

D. Coy

Capt. Haining
Lt. Roberts

I believe are
concealed

4.30 AM

4.7.18

91

Appendix 8 79

VAIRE WOOD SECTOR.

Grid Lines Approximate.

Scale 1:20,000.



Appendix *B*

B APPENDIX No. 8.a.

21st Bn. A.I.F. War Diary. July 1918.

8th
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE
No. *278*
Date: *2/8*

ARMY
AZI-4-VIII
SIGNALS

21 *31*
May

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B

B

APPENDIX No. 9.

Report on Offensive Operation
carried out on 4.7.1918

Move to J.O.T. The system adopted of each platoon supplying one guide & one marker to report on the J.O.T. at Zero - 3 hours proved quite satisfactory & the Assembly was well carried out.

Barrage. This was all that can be desired and all ranks were enthusiastic about it. Some anxiety was felt when the Artillery intensified their harassing fire at Zero - 8 to the extent they did, and it is doubtful whether it would be wise to adopt this system in future operations.

Advance from J.O.T. Sharp on time the waves got away in splendid style, lateral tapes running forward for 50/60 yards were of great assistance & too much praise cannot be given to the Engineers for the excellence of their preparatory work. In this connection the work done by Lieut R. H. Bagley M.C. is deserving of mention.

Duckboards were laid over our front line, over which the waves passed and our wire was negotiated without causing any hindrance.

The Advance The two leading waves did not encounter any serious opposition when passing the enemy trenches in P20 c & d. Some prisoners were taken, also a few M.C.'s. The Lewis gunners

9.

2

did some useful work and some good targets were availed of by snipers. Very little enemy mine was encountered.

The Final Objective. Some opposition was encountered in places here & the centre company encountered an Enemy M.G. manned by a crew wearing gas masks. They were easily dealt with and nowhere was the opposition in any way stubborn. There was a certain amount of enemy M.G. fire, but it caused few casualties. Some men in their eagerness overran the objective but were easily brought back.

The second wave got easily to their objective & were about to consolidate when a party of about 14 Germans, who had been missed by the first wave, commenced bombing towards them. After a fairly strenuous fight, they were surrounded and they surrendered.

Consolidation. On arrival at the objective posts were at once formed and the work of consolidation was put in hand. On the right, this consisted principally of deepening the existing trench but on the left practically a complete line had to be dug. This work is now well in hand. Blocks have been established in enemy C.T.s at P26 635 7.6 P21 00 25 & P21 05 35.

Flank liaisons were carried out their work satisfactorily & although slight gaps occurred once

3

or twice these parties were instrumental in soon correcting the mistake.

Direction. This was maintained without difficulty but the right Battalion bore away slightly to their right. To correct this, we have established our right Flank at P26 b 38.75.

Enemy Actions. The resistance on the whole was feeble. It was noticed that numbers of the enemy retiring before our right & centre companies moved towards our right. Our Right Company were troubled at first by snipers in the small enemy trench systems in P26 b. Later these were not in evidence. Early this afternoon a wounded Officer & man (German) were found beyond our block at P26 b 35.75 & brought in. The enemy artillery retaliation was not heavy and caused very few casualties in the support areas.

M.G's. Two Vickers are in position respectively at P210 06.40 & P21 C 00.50.

L.T.M's. Two Stokes are established at approx P21 C 00.50.

Communications held throughout and reports come to hand well. A line had been run out and communication established with final objectives a few minutes after 4 am.

At 3.2 am we were able to report that our men were digging in on final objectives.

Tanks. On all sides glowing opinions were expressed

91



H

of the work done by the Tanks. They got away well, were soon up with the Infantry & were in the barrage and were of great value in covering the consolidation. They were cleverly handled and one of them made an excursion in the direction of WARFUSEE of about 1000 yards beyond the objective. Apparently he enjoyed himself thoroughly out there and ultimately returned safely. All but one returned safely and that one was stranded to the right of VAIRE WOOD outside our sector. It was not one of those allotted tons.

Aircraft. Our planes co-operated vigorously with the enemy, frequently machine gunning the enemy trenches. A quantity of BAA was dropped from planes by means of parachutes & was of great assistance. Possibly this form of assistance could be increased & the possibility of rations being delivered in the same fashion in case of emergency does not seem to be out of the question.

Enemy planes made their appearance about 8am & were for sometime very aggressive. This activity soon decreased.

American Troops A party of about 20 American became separated from the Battalion on our left & arrived on the objective mixed up with

91v



5

our left company. They assisted in the work of consolidation and later in the day returned to their unit.

Prisoners A number of the prisoners taken appeared to be very young. They belonged to the following units:-

15th Infantry Regiment

13th " " "

137 " " (Reserve?)

A considerable number were captured and used considerably for carrying stretcher cases to the rear. Some of the prisoners captured on this sector, while returning unescorted, wandered to the right & became mixed up with prisoners taken by the 4th Bde. Several instances of this were seen by lieuts RK Bagley & N Peck, but they were not in a position at the time to prevent it.

Casualties.

Killed 6 other ranks

Wounded 2 officers 32 other ranks.

Unaccounted for 8 other ranks.

Captures:-

Machine Guns 14

Tank gun 1

Heavy mortar 1

14 Munitions were discovered at about P400.

91 ✓

6

A party went forward to get them. They took 15 Prisoners but intense sniping prevented them from getting the "seawives". Later on a party crept out & brought back one of them.

Dispositions. These are as shown on map sent in this morning.

Stores. Supplies of Wine, SAA Bombs & Water were sent forward to Companies during the day.

(Sgdt) Alf. E. Reet Major
 T/Commanding
 21st Aust Bn

Later. During the morning an enemy plane without markings was noticed over our lines flying low.

A number of the MG's captured by us have been mounted in our trenches for defence.

APPENDIX No. 9.

2
A.C.
21st. Batta.

The following is the history of
A company in the attack this morning.

A company had completed
forming up on the T.O.T. at about
2.40 a.m. The men were very quiet,
and took up their positions respectively.

The company's right flank
connected up with the left flank of the
23rd. Batta., and on the left of the
company was 'C' Coy. 21st.

On the barrage opening, a
fair start was made, and we got
over our old front line and through our
mine without any bother.

From then on, the attack
simply developed into following up
the barrage and clearing up the
two German trenches between us and

2
our objective, and a few odd, small
shelters - most of which proved to be
full of Germans. Excepting for slight
machine gun fire, A company met
with no resistance.

On reaching the objective,
the men were so keen that the majority of
them went past it, and had excellent
sniping of the enemy as he moved back.

The Lewis Gunners made good
use of their guns, and used every
opportunity.

The men were brought back on
to the objective and, after covering posts
had been arranged, consolidation was
proceeded with.

The 23rd. Batta's left
flank did not reach to the extreme left
of their objective and arrangements
had to be made with them to adjust
this. The result of this is that the
junction of the two Battalions is now at
P264. 38.75.

Appendix

9

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(3)

Enemy snipers now became very troublesome on our right flank and continued so until trench mortar was called on to deal with a couple of points.

The small trench system in P26 b was occupied by the enemy on our reaching our objective, but was vacated after about 1/2 an hour.

A stop was put in the German C.T. leading to the system, & the 23rd. Bata. also mounted a bombing post there.

In these trenches are a number of German dead, and a few fair-sized dugouts.

Early this afternoon, Hunt, when proceeded along the system, he found a wounded German officer & a German soldier, whom he brought back & sent to the rear.

Between 30 and 35 prisoners were sent back from 'A' company, and also 3 German machine guns.

The barrage was an excellent

(4)

one, and all ranks are enthusiastic about it.

Hunt has also heard of the work of the tanks, when liaison was good.

The casualties suffered by the company was: - Killed 4
wounded 10
missing 4

10.153. Com. Hunt Lt. was killed after the objective had been reached.

W. Hunt Lt
of 'A' Coy.

4/7/18.

Appendix

9

[Faint handwritten text on a grid background, possibly including the word "Baths" and some illegible numbers or names.]

[Faint handwritten text on a grid background, mostly illegible.]

APPENDIX No. 9.

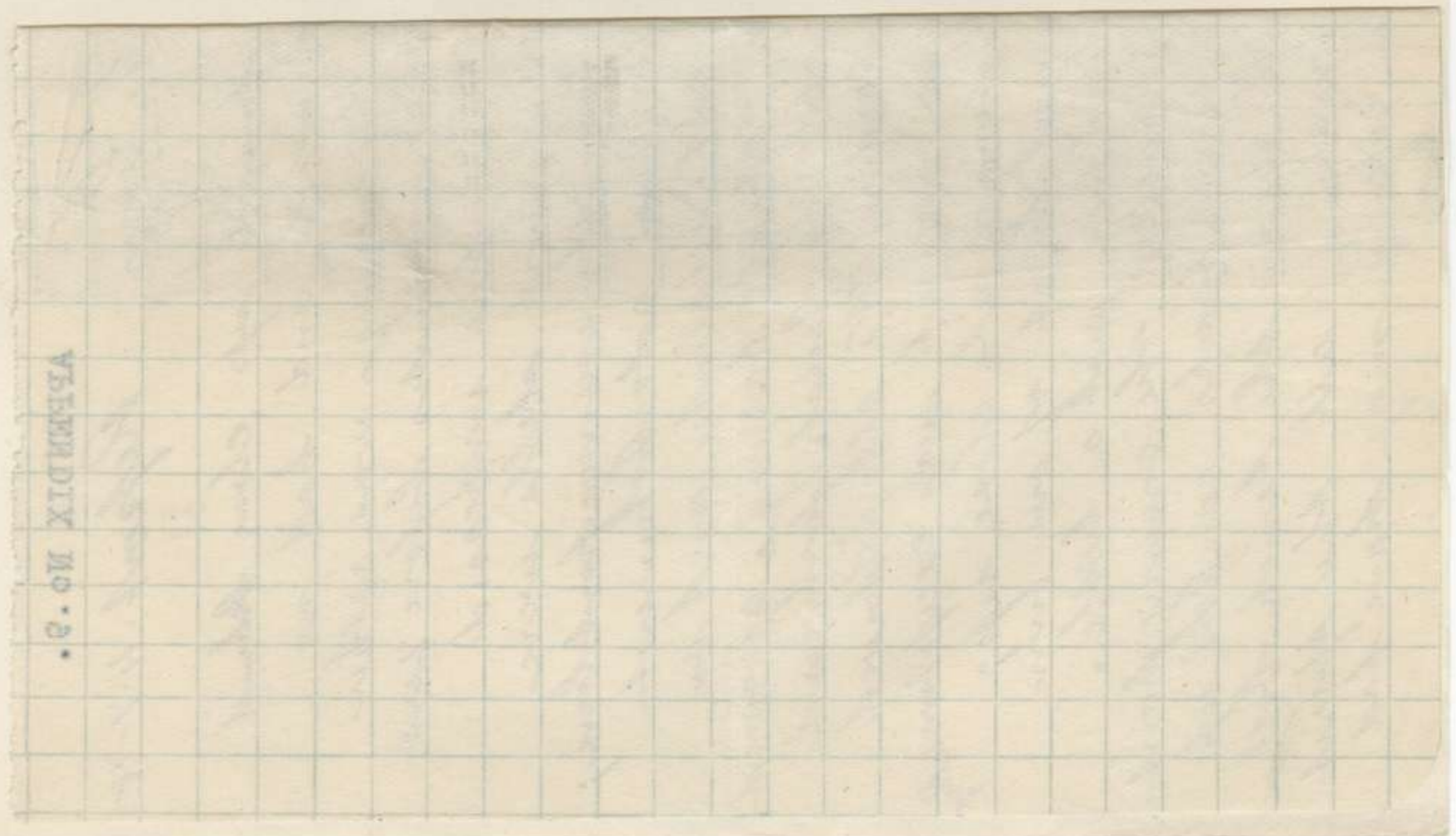
1st B. Coy Report 4-7-18

The Coy formed up close behind the second wave, and had no trouble, as the enemy was rather quiet. At 10 minutes before zero our harassing fire increased immensely & hand shells were dropped on the enemy front line; much to our astonishment he did not retaliate, and so when the actual barrage opened we were able to push forward in good order. We all followed the barrage, which was exceptionally good, keeping quite close up; the wire in front of our line was hindered us just a little. As we approached the enemy front line the first tanks caught up and fired down the trench both ways, crushing all the spirit that the enemy may have had

to fight. As soon as we got into the trench, 8 platoons got to work mounting guns and consolidating the other three going on with the other companies, at this stage about twelve or fourteen men who had been missed by our left parties started to bomb and snipe at us, after a scrap which lasted about ten minutes, we got round him and he surrendered. I then went forward and found the carrying platoons had taken their loads up to the front line and had returned to their objective, and were starting to dig in. Everybody was quite happy and the casualties were very light. Later in the day the enemy shelled our positions sporadically.

W. G. B. Coy

Appendix 9



APPENDIX No. 9.

C Coy

21st Bn

Report on Attack
4-7-18

Dispositions on J.O.T were complete at zero - 45 minutes. Moved off from J.O.T at zero. Small amount of enemy wire was encountered in front of system in P20c. No opposition was met with in this system. A few prisoners were made. Another band of thin wire was encountered before enemy system in P20d. No opposition was met with here. A few machine-guns were passed in systems above.

Some opposition was met with in front of final objective from one enemy machine gun. As the

gunners were wearing gas masks it was not very effective and was soon overcome. One gunner was killed two wounded & three captured.

Final objective was then occupied and consolidation begun. Block was placed in enemy CT in P21c which runs E & W. This CT was afterwards patrolled for distance of about 500 yds. Some enemy posts were engaged. At about P21c central a mine-thrower post was found containing 4 guns. About 15 prisoners were also taken here. The above guns could not be brought in in safety owing to sniping. One gun was brought in later.

3

2 Vickers guns are established
 at P21C 00.35 + P21C 00.45
 2 Stokes 3" are established
 near P21C 00.50
 Dropping of ammunition
 from aeroplanes was
 successfully carried out
 during morning
 Tanks patrolled in front
 after reaching final
 objective. One proceeded
 later about 3000 yds in
 direction of Warfubie and
 engaged the enemy
 Ammunition water bombs
 and wire were brought up
 during day from rear
 My dispositions are
 three platoons in front
 line from P21C 00.55 to
 P20d 85.15
 1 Platoon at P20d 70.35
 Coy HQ at P20d 90.35

Casualties

Six wounded
 Three missing

Present strength

Off	O.R.
4	89

Thurston Kelly
 Capt

5.40 pm
 7-7-18

Addendum. Enemy appears
 to be re-establishing his
 defence by small parties on
 our right
 M Kelly

Appendix

D

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APPENDIX No. 9.

Report on the Attack by 21st Bn. A.I.F.
on H. Y. 1918.

Barrage

At the opening of the barrage several light H.C.'s fell short, just in rear of the carrying parties, otherwise the barrage was excellent, all the troops declare it the best they has seen.

The smoke barrage was very effective giving good cover to both troops and tanks.

The Advance

The formation at the earlier part of the advance was very regular, but broke somewhat after striking wire and a small M. Gun post.

The Americans attached to the 4th Brigade closed to the right a good deal and caused a

2
certain amount of crowding. The men had a tendency to follow the tanks in their wanderings and so lose direction.

At the end of the operation the units were safely placed in their proper positions.

Tanks

The tanks did very good work and were a great help.

Immediately the Barrage moved forward the Tanks advanced in front of the troops and close up to, and in the barrage.

They were of very great help during the consolidation, pushing forward and silencing strong points in front while the new line was taken up.

The tanks allotted to D. Coy did its work in a very efficient manner, almost carrying out to the wood

3

The instructions of the boy commander
One tank was reported, manoeuvring
about 1 kilometre beyond the objective.
This I did not witness.

Aircraft

The idea of supplying the
front line with ammunition by
parachutes worked excellently,
probably ration could be delivered
in the same manner.
A good deal of ground targets were
engaged.

Moral

The moral of the men is
as high as ever and they showed
great dash and spirit, ever wanting
to come to grips with the enemy
himself.

4

Enemy Action and Attitude.

No doubt the enemy was taken
by complete surprise and very
soon called for artillery.

During the advance the enemy
savage was hardly noticeable on
my sector.

The enemy put up a very
poor fight, numerous posts being
found deserted. In one case the
enemy stayed behind his gun until
the last moment, naturally he
came the proverbial.

What enemy we did encounter
very easily surrendered and ^{were} only
too eager to go to the rear.

A number of the prisoners appeared
very young.

Appendix

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5

Artillery

During the actual advance the artillery fire was confined chiefly to old front line and back area.

Relieving the position was lost he very soon turned his fire onto Vaire Wood and our immediate rear, using chiefly, '77. and, 4.2.

Enemy Aeroplanes

No planes were to be seen in the early morning, but they arrived in great numbers about 8 o'clock. They were very aggressive and flew at a low altitude.

W. H. Taylor Lieut
C. C. P. Coy.