

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/57/20

Title: 40th Infantry Battalion

November 1917



AWM4-23/57/20

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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DEC 25 1917
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BECOURT	1917 1- 11		Specialist Training, Special attention being paid to Musketry.	
	8		The 3rd Division having been transferred from the 2nd ANZAC CORPS. to the 1st ANZAC CORPS. GENERAL GODLEY G.O.C. 2nd ANZAC CORPS took farewell of the senior Officers of Brigades and Battalions in the 3rd Division at FAUQUEMBERQUES.	
	9		Battalion Parade at which results of Musketry competitions were read out, and medals distributed to winning men and teams.	
			Results were as follows.	
				Alau mitshankoff 1.0.40 Pm A.Y.F.

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 I.O. 40th Psn A.J.J.

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40th BATTALION, A.I.F.
DEC 25 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BECOURT	1917 Nov.		<p>BEST SHOT IN BATTALION :-</p> <p><u>Privates:-</u></p> <p>1st Prize Silver Medal 2105 Pte. Gill R.W. 45</p> <p>2nd Prize Bronze Medal 5775 " Stott A.A. 42</p> <p><u>N.C.O.'s.:-</u></p> <p>1st Prize Silver Medal 578 Sgt. Partridge L.T. 45</p> <p>(2311 Cpl. Cosson C.S. also secured the possible, but lost in the shoot off by 1 point).</p> <p><u>SNIPING COMPETITION:-</u></p> <p>1st Prize Silver Medal 2105 Pte. Gill R.W. 50</p> <p>2nd Prize Bronze Medal 3039 " Flint A.E. 40</p> <p><u>PATROL SHOOTING COMPETITION:-</u></p> <p>1st Prize Order for 30 francs No. 11 Platoon Team</p> <p>2nd Prize Order for 20 francs No. 9 Platoon Team</p> <p><u>OFFICERS TEAMS MATCH:-</u></p> <p>Won by "D" Company ("A" Company did not compete)</p> <p>The Commanding Officer desires to express his appreciation of the enthusiasm and efficiency displayed by:- Lieut.(Hon.Capt.) W.K. FINDLAY; Sgt. Turner; Cpl. Long; Cpl. Cook; and the men who acted as markers under what were at times very trying conditions.</p>	

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Alan Buitshant
I.D. 40th Bn A.I.F.

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DEC 25 1917
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BECOURT	1917			
		10	At 11 a.m. The Battalion left BECOURT for embussing point at SENLACQUES cross roads. Busses moved off at 1 p.m. via OUVÉ WIRQUIN, WIZERNES, WESTOVE, ARQUES, FORT ROUGE, RENESCURE, HAZEBROUCH to LA MOTTE reaching there at 6 p.m. after a considerable wait our guides came along and the Battalion route marched to billets at LETIR ANGLAIS, the Battalion being billeted by 9 p.m.	MAP HAZEBROUCH
		11	At 10.15 a.m. the Battalion route marched through PT. SEC BOIS VIEUX BERQUIN to billets from word METEREN 2000 ^x E of VIEUX BERQUIN to LE VERRIER.	
		12	At 11 a.m. Battalion route marched from LE VERRIER through STEENWERK, LA MENEGATE to Camp 300 ^x S.W. of NIEPPE STATION.	
		13	At 1.15 p.m. Battalion marched from camp via NIEPPE to camp at ROMARIN, 300 ^x N. of Cross Roads.	
		14 to 20.11.	Battalion formed Reserve Battalion and was employed on working parties, mostly on salvage and getting up R.E. stores to reserve Dump at PROWSE POINT Men not employed on working	

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40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROMARIN	1917 14-11 to 20-11		<p>parties were on specialist training. <i>Reconnoitering parties went over the new Sector</i> The Battalion was allotted the sector in front of WARNETON from R. DOUVE to the RAILWAY at 28 U 11d 65.00. about 450^x on the right of the sector was very wet and had no trench that was usable and was not held at day time, having patrols at night. The remainder of the sector was dry but required a lot of work as trenches although deep they were not traversed and in a great many cases not properly revetted.</p> <p>A Battalion Raiding party of 4 Officers and 70 other ranks was told off for special training - were not taken into the trenches.</p>	MAP WARNETON
TRENCHES 21 IN FRONT OF WARNETON	22/11		<p>Relieved 38th Battalion at 8.20 p.m. 1/ without incident. Night of 21/22 was very quiet.</p> <p>All available men put on repairing trenches which were in a bad condition and falling in after rain on the 20th. In evening a new trench was commenced from U.11.a.62 to U.11.c.88.</p> <p>During evening 170 rounds of 4.2 and gas were put over along SUBSID, GREY FARM and along the Duck-walk along DOUVE W. of GREY FARM. Sixty rounds of TRENCH MORTAR fell along front line of R. Company. Visibility during day was very poor.</p>	

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Alan Smithshaw
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 40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES IN FRONT OF WARNETON	1917		and it rained during the night.	
	22.11		<p>Cleared up during the morning and visibility was good. At 10.30 a.m. Enemy put over 30 and at 4 p.m. 40 4.2 H.E. and Gas and at 4 p.m. on Subsid and DOUVE WALK. at 9 p.m. he put over 200 4.2 H.E. and Gas and at 11 p.m. 20 H.E. and Gas on same locality.</p> <p>During the day Enemy fired about 100 T.M's on our Front Line. Enemy Balloons up all day and owing to good visibility considerable movement was observed in vicinity of WARNETON TOWER and the GASOMETER. A special Officers Patrol reconnoitred ground in gap between our Right Post and the Left Post of Battalion on our Right, about 300^x. A Patrol reports to Battalion on R. twice during night. C.P. mentioned on 22nd completed to depth of 5'.</p>	
	24.11		<p>Enemy Artillery quite during day, shelled SUNKEN FARM which is deserted. T.M's also quite.</p> <p>Observation was good and movement again noticed in neighbourhood of GASOMETER & TOWER. At 12.20 p.m. our Artillery opened on varying targets in WARNETON and along roads leading out of WARNETON. Night was very quiet.</p>	<p><i>Alaubruit-shank</i> I.O. 40^m Bn. A.I.F.</p>

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40th BATTALION, A.I.F.
DEC 25 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES IN FRONT OF WARNETON	1917 25.11		Enemy Artillery mostly on back areas. During night enemy put about 70 round near SUBSID and DOUVE WALK. Visibility good movement again noticed in WARNETON, men wearing Blue Grey Uniforms, caps with red bands. Weather fine but windy. One casualty from a pineapple. Two enemy patrols sighted and fired on by L.G.	
	26.11		Still windy at 5.45 a.m. 300 rounds of gas were fired by us from LEVIN PROJECTORS. Enemy put over about 500 rounds * 77 & 10.5 c.m. shells on our Front line and support lines. Intermittent shelling of our Support and Subsidiary lines at 8.20 p.m. Details Cookhouse in Subsid blown up, no casualties. Snipers report movement in WARNETON. A special fighting patrol of 1 Officer 10 O/R. sent out to lie up for enemy patrols but none encountered. Commenced to rain in evening and wind went down a little.	
	27.11		Cleared up during morning and visibility good. Suspected relief observed men with Red bands round hats observed going out and men with blue bands round caps observed in trenches. Artillery informed and shook them up properly. <i>inflicted casualties.</i> Enemy Artillery quite during day, shelled DOUVE WALK a couple of times.	
	28.11		At 8.30 a.m. a red smoke parachute bomb was fired from a mortar for a practice S.O.S. but owing to it not going high enough it was not seen by the artillery and message was sent	<p><i>alau...</i> 1.0.40" Bon G.9.3.</p>

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DEC 25 1917
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES IN FRONT OF WARNETON	1917 28.11		<p>through by telephone. Enemy artillery was active during the morning and evening he fired some 250 rounds 4.2 & 77 m. on Front and support lines and intermittently shelled SUNKEN FARM with 5.9" all day. Enemy planes were very active during the afternoon flying low, they were fired on by A.A., M.G. and L.G's but these only succeeded in driving him up a little. At 2.30 p.m. one of our balloons that had broken away passed low overhead and was fired on by our A.A.Guns, when last seen this balloon was over WARNETON at a great height. Enemy movement again seen near Gasometer and Tower in WARNETON.</p>	
	29.11 29.11		<p>Orders received for relief by 38th on night of 29/11/1917.</p> <p>Enemy heavily shelled sector all day, he shelled the front and support lines intermittently with 77 m shells and 4.2" H.E. once putting down a regular barrage on Support line for 10 minutes. About every half hour he shelled the DOUVE WALK between the R.A.P and Battalion H.Qrs. with 5.9" and a few 8", the duckwalk was frequently blown up as fast as mended and telephone communication to the Front line was cut a number of times. Although he shelled the DOUVE WALK, which was the only track in, during the relief. the relief was carried out without casualties. Casualties for the day :- 1 man killed and two wounded.</p>	
			<p>At 7.30 p.m. the relief by the 38th Battalion was reported complete and the 40th Battalion</p>	

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
	29.11		moved out into hutments at RED LODGE
RED LODGE	30.11		Battalion rested.
			The raiding Parties had been training for nine days and it was decided to put them both over on the same night, the 39th Party of 4 Officers and 70 O/R. to go over at 5.15 p.m. and remain in Enemy Trenches for 20 minutes. The 40th Battalion Party to go over at 1 a.m. on 1/12/1917 and remain in Enemy Trenches for 20 minutes. The second party it was hoped were to catch the enemy working parties repairing his trenches. During the afternoon an Enemy wireless was intercepted ordering patrols to operate on the Enemy Army front from 5 to 9 p.m. on 29/11/1917.
			The 39th Party went over and were quite successful bringing back 2 prisoners. Enemy shelling was very light but a M.G. was active on left flank. This was reported to the Artillery and was specially dealt with in the barrage for the second raid.
			Report on 40th Battalion Raid.
			A special duckboard track was laid along the tramline from PROWSE POINT to the Support line for out traffic after the raids, this track is known as WARNETON TRACK. A special R.A.P. was established at U 9d 7.1.

Alan Widdows
1.0. 40th Bn. A.I.F.

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40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Summary of Events and Information

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BATTALION STRENGTH FOR NOVEMBER 14 1917

Date	Strength		Increase		Casualties		Sick		Transfers		Others		Remarks
	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O. R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	
1st	35	597						2		1			
2nd	35	592						5					
3rd	35	591				1		1					
4th	36	600	1	11				2					
5th	37	599	1	1				1		1			
6th	37	597						2					
7th	37	596								1			Under Age
8th	37	591						5					
9th	37	604		14						1			
10th	37	601						3					
11th	37	601											
12th	37	600						1					
13th	37	601		1									
14th	37	599						2					
15th	37	599											
16th	37	599											
17th	41	594	4							1			4 N.C.O's promoted
18th	41	617		24				1					
19th	41	613								4			
20th	41	613											<i>Alaukrinshankat</i>
21st	41	610						3					<i>1.0.40" from A.I.F.</i>
22nd	41	608						2					
23rd	41	647		42				2		1			
24th	41	647											
25th	41	644						1		2			
26th	41	641				1		1		1			
27th	42	639	1					2					
28th	42	633						6					
29th	43	626	1	1		5		3					
30th	43	634						2					

Richard
10/10

APPENDIX.

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DEC 25 1917
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Intelligence,

First ANZAC Corps.

18th November, 1917.

DESCRIPTION of the Country opposite 1st ANZAC Corps

Front end Enemy's trench systems, together with a Review of the enemy's dispositions and History of the 3 German Divisions at present holding the line opposite our front.

1. TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

The ground occupied by the enemy opposite this Corps front is uniformly low, the only dominating feature being HILL 57 in W.a. With this one exception, the ground nowhere attains a height of 40 metres. The general tendency is that of a gradual slope down to the valley of the LYS.

The LYS pursues an irregular course past the towns of WERVICQ, COMINES, WARNETON, and DEULLEMONT, where it joins the river DEULE. The LYS is from 10 to 11 feet deep and from 32 to 38 yards wide, and is canalized throughout in this area. The current varies in velocity between 2½ miles per hour in summer and 5 in winter. In times of flood, a velocity of 9 miles per hour is attained. The bottom of the river is insecure, and the water unfit for use. During the winter, the valley is flooded to a width of some 300 yards between WRELLINGHIEN and COMINES.

The DEULE is likewise canalized. It is of an average breadth of 17 to 20 yards, and is 6½ feet deep. The valley through which this river runs, is of a marshy character.

At COMINES, the LYS is joined by the YPRES - COMINES Canal, which is of considerable tactical importance, and possesses a feed water canal on its western side. The depth of the water varies, but is never considerable. According to a captured map, the stretches between O.12.b.40.45 and P.7.c.20.25, and P.13.d.80.03 and P.25.c.63.54, can be crossed by infantry without planks. On the eastern edge of the canal runs the railway, which is for the most part of the way on an embankment. Numerous craters have been blown in this embankment by the enemy, probably with a view to filling up the canal. Prisoners state that there are numerous concrete shelters in the embankment wall.

Numerous small affluents of the LYS cross the sector, but are of minor importance, the only one making a definite valley being the KORTEBESBEEK, which rises in P.14.

The roads in the area call for no general comment, and present no outstanding features. The single line track through MENIN, WERVICQ, and COMINES is not in general use, except for H.V. guns.

WERVICQ and COMINES are towns of some importance, but damaged by shell fire. The former does not contain buildings of much importance, but COMINES has many factories and other buildings with strong cellars, which must, in some cases, have been rendered all the stronger by the damaged condition of the buildings above them. Other smaller towns, such as WARNETON and DEULEMONT, though very badly damaged by our artillery, constitute potential strong points and probably contain many fortified cellars.

2. ENEMY'S TRENCH SYSTEMS OPPOSITE THIS CORPS FRONT

The Corps front runs from approximately O.12.a.0.6 to south of FRELINGHIEN in C.18.central -- a distance of about 12,000 yards.

(i) THE ZANDVOORDE - WARNETON - FRELINGHIEN Line is intersected by the YPRES - COMINES Canal in P.13.a. (KORTEWILDE), and passes through the western outskirts of WARNETON. South of this town in U.18.a., it is cut by the River LYS, which at this point is about 32 yards wide and which continues approximately parallel with it as far as south of DEULEMONT at U.29.d. where the line and the river bifurcate, one branch of the line running in a south-westerly direction through FRELINGHIEN and continuing parallel to the western branch of the river, the other branch of the line continuing south parallel to the River DEULE.

Wire. This line is well wired all along, and although most of the wire is old and has in many places been considerably battered by our artillery fire, it still constitutes an abstacle. It varies in depth from one belt to three belts, and the enemy is reported to be continually repairing it and putting up new wire.

New wire has been put up during the month at the following places: U.11.d.95.20 (east of WARNETON) - O.23.d.1.0 to O.23.d.0.3 (north of WARNETON) - C.5.b.0.5 (south of WARNETON).

(ii) The ZANDVOORDE - COMINES Line runs from P.12.b. past the northern outskirts of COMINES to the LYS in P.35. North of COMINES, this line is single practically all the way. There is a fair amount of wire visible.

(iii) NIEUWE - KRUISSECKE - WERVICQ Line runs from J.29.d. parallel to the ZANDVOORDE - COMINES Line as far as WERVICQ and the LYS. Between OUDE-KRUISSECKE (J.36.a.) and KRUISSECKE (J.36.c.) it has only been traced. From P.6.a. it continues south as a double line as far as Q.19 and 20 (north of WERVICQ).

Two irregular lines of trenches have been dug on the western fringe of WERVICQ, with a single belt of wire in front of them.

South of the LYS, the line continues double from W.1 with apparently two belts of wire in front of each line.

3. DESCRIPTION OF NO MAN'S LAND

The ground in the northern sector of the Corps front from O.6 to south of the River WAMBEKE (O.29.b.), is very marshy, badly cut up by shell fire, and in places almost impassable for large bodies of troops, particularly in the neighbourhood of the YPRES - COMINES Canal, the ROOZEBEEK and the WAMBEKE.

- 3 -

The road running south-east of HOLLEBEKE has been practically obliterated by shell fire. From O.29 to U.17 the ground is moderately dry and quite passable. The River LYS now cuts the German trenches at U.18.a., running due South and forming a barrier across No Man's Land of an average width of 30 yards. Latest reports show that the River LYS has overflowed its banks from U.29.b. southwards, making the ground quite impassable.

Shell Hole Posts. There are a great many shell hole posts, but patrols report they are mostly unoccupied, the only occupied location being at O.6.c.85.10. Shell holes have been discovered in U.11.d. filled with barbed wire pegged down.

Wire. Loose wire is lying about in U.11.d. and U.18.a., and concertina wire has been discovered at O.11.d.35.19.

Description of Trenches. The trench in U.18 and 24 has had no work done on it, is not strong, and has apparently no dug-outs.

DEULEMONT has a trench on the southern and western sides of the village, but only the one on the south has been kept in a state of repair. There is no continuous trench to the DEULE.

North of FRELINGHIEN, there is a straight traversed trench to DURIEZ FARM (E 5. control). Some work has been done on it lately, but no attempt has been made to provide communication trenches or support trench.

Dug-Outs. A great many in the vicinity of DURIEZ FARM (C.5.d).

South of FRELINGHIEN bridge, there is no continuous trench facing the river. The front line (CELLA AVENUE) is traversed in places for use as a fire trench. The houses in the village of FRELINGHIEN are probably organized for defence. The trenches in rear of the village do not appear to have been constructed for defence.

The front line trenches are duck-boarded, but nevertheless are fairly wet. Splinter proof shelters are in course of construction in the parapet. There are numerous concrete dug-outs in support trenches.

The numerous concrete dug-outs built into the eastern slope of the canal and River banks and into the embankment of the WANKSTON - WERVICQ Railway, are described by prisoners as being very spacious and comfortable.

4. ATTITUDE OF THE ENEMY

The activity of the enemy opposite the Corps front is confined entirely to patrolling in strength, and to occasional raids for the purpose of securing identifications.

He holds a line well provided with concrete dug-outs and splinter proof shelters tunnelled into the eastern banks of the River and the Canal.

Artillery, machine gun, and trench mortar fire is intermittent and directed on tracks and roads, while machine-gun fire is generally active against No Man's Land during the night against patrols.

5. ENEMY'S DISPOSITIONS

The following are the dispositions of the 3 German Divisions at present holding the line opposite our front:

8th Bavarian Division. Sector, HOLLEBEKE to O.29.d.5.7, approximately 3,000 yards.

Divisional H.Q. are at COURTRAI.

153rd I.R. - HOLLEBEKE to O.17.central; 93rd I.R. - O.17.c. to O.23.central; 72nd I.R. - O.23.c. to O.29.d.5.7.

32nd Division. Sector, O.29.d.5.7 to U.18.central, approximately 3,000 yards.

Divisional Headquarters are at RONCQ.

102nd I.R. - O.29.d.5.7 to KIWI FARM (O.36.c.O.3); 177th I.R. - O.36.c.O.3 to U.12.a.4.5; 103rd I.R. - U.12.a.4.5 to U.18. central.

5th Bavarian Division. Sector, U.18.central to C.18.central, approximately 5,000 yards.

Divisional Headquarters are at LINSSELLES.

21st Bav. I.R. - U.18.central to approx. U.29.d.5.0; 19th Bav. I.R. - U.29.d.5.0 to approx. C.11 central; 7th Bav. I.R. - C.11.central to approximately C.18.central.

Support Positions. 153rd I.R. - along east bank of the YPRES - COMINES Canal (P.7); 93rd I.R. - along east bank of YPRES - COMINES Canal (south of KORBWILDE); 72nd I.R. - P.25.b. and d.

102nd I.R. - P.31; 177th I.R. - north of WARNETON - COM INES Railway (V.1); 103rd I.R. - south of WARNETON - COMINES Railway (V.2).

Support positions of the 5th Bav. Divn. have not yet been definitely fixed.

Regimental and Battalion Reserve Positions. 153rd I.R. - MENIN, also 153rd Regtl. H.Q. and Div. H.Q.; 93rd I.R. - MENIN; 72nd I.R. - HALLUIN.

102nd I.R. - WERVICQ-SUD, also Regtl. H.Q.; 177th I.R. - ROUSBECQUE; 103rd I.R. - ROUSBECQUE.

Regimental and Battalion Dispositions. The average front held by a battalion is 1,000 yards (The 32nd Division battalion front is about 1,700 yards). The average rifle strength of a battalion can be taken at 300, which would mean 1 rifle to approximately every 3 1/4 yards of the front of the 8th Bav. Divn. and 32nd Divn., and 1 rifle to every 5 1/4 yards on the front of the 5th Bav. Divn.

As far as is known, all regiments have 1 battalion in the front line, 1 in support, and 1 in reserve.

5th Bav

- 5 -

The following more detailed dispositions of regiments have been obtained from prisoners:

153rd I.R. Dispositions in the line - 1st Bn. in line with all 4 companies; 1 Bn. in support in concrete dug-outs in the railway embankment; 1 Bn. in rest in huts near MENIN.

Each company of the battalion in the line has 4 Gruppen in shell holes (Schleier Linie), 4 Gruppen in block houses (concrete dug-outs), and 4 Gruppen acting permanently as ration carriers.

The shell hole line is manned by day and night, Gruppen alternately spending 2 days in the shell hole line and then 2 days in concrete dug-outs. Shell holes have little cover -- wooden boards with earth on top, but are very wet.

The average trench strength of companies is 90.

72nd I.R. Dispositions in line - 1 Bn. in front with 3 companies, and 1 company in reserve; 1 Bn. in support; 1 Bn. in reserve.

Average battalion strength is 300 rifles; average regimental strength, 700 rifles.

177th I.R. Dispositions in line - 1 Bn. in front line with all 4 companies, of whom 6 groups of each company are in advanced shell holes, the remainder being in the WARNETON LINE (UNABLE Trench); 1 Bn. in support in concrete dug-outs; 1 Bn. in rest at BOUSBECQUE.

5th Bavarian Division

Routes. Company reliefs follow the road from LA HOULETTE (D.13.a.) to FREILINGHIEU, marching by platoons. East of the HOULETTE, they march by companies. Both sides of the road are protected by barricades, which are two to three metres high and one metre broad, and consist of boards filled with earth and stones.

This road is very little fired on (confirmed by aeroplane photographs). In bad weather, lorries sometimes take the men as far as the beginning of the village (C.11.d.7.5). The tramway running alongside this road is used at night for materials and rations. It runs inside the barricade.

153rd I.R., 8th Division.

Routes. From MENIN via WERVICQ along the HOHENZOLLERN ST RASSE (Kerentje - HOUTHEN Road) to support position near HOLLEBEKE Chateau. When going into front line, route is across Canal and along the road in O.12.b. and c.

HEADQUARTERS

DEC 25 1917

- 6 -

40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

6. HISTORY OF GERMAN DIVISIONS OPPOSITE THIS FRONT8th Division.

Commanders. Divisional - Duke Ernst of SACHSEN-ALLENBURG;
of 16th Inf. Bde. - Col. ZWINGER; Inf. Regt.

The 8th Division recruits in the IV Army Corps district, and originally consisted of the 15th Inf. Bde. (36th Fus. Regt. and 93rd I.R.), and the 16th Inf. Bde. (72nd I.R. and 153rd I.R.). In March, 1915, the 36th Fus. Regt. was sent to the 113th Divn., and the remaining three regiments were grouped under the 16th Inf. Bde.

On mobilization, the 8th Division formed part of the German First Army (von KLUCK). It took part in the following battles: Siege of LOUVAIN - Entry into BRUSSELS - Battle of MONS - Battle of the MARNE.

Sept., 1914. Battle of the AISNE (against British left wing).

End Sept., 1914. Transferred to the 6th Army (Crown Prince of Bavaria), taking up a line early in October, 1914, from south of the SCARPE to MONCHY-au-BOIS.

End May, 1915. Relieved by the 111th Divn., sent up to relieve the 117th Divn. Early June, 1915, to repel the French attack at SOUCHEZ.

Early Sept., 1915. Relieved by 123rd Divn., sent to Army reserve, from where it was rushed up to take part in the counter-attack following the battle of LOOS. The division took up its new line in the LOOS - LENS sector.

3rd July, 1916. Relieved, marched to FLERS arriving on the 16th, immediately thrown into the battle on the POZIERES - LONGUEVAL - DELVILLE WOOD front, where it suffered extraordinarily heavy losses in fruitless counter-attacks.

28th July, 1916. Relieved and sent to refit.

9th August, 1916. ARRAS front.

18th Sept., 1916. THIEPVAL - COURCELLETTE sector, where again the division suffered very heavily.

1st Oct., 1916. Relieved by the 4th Ers. Divn., returning to its old sector north-east of LOOS.

October 1916 to July 1917. No fighting on a large scale, several raids carried out against it by British troops, suffered heavily in the preliminary bombardment prior to the attack on LENS in August, 1917, but was relieved on August 6th, next appearing on the RHEIMS sector on August 9th, 1917.

Oct. 7th, 1917. BECELAERE sector.

Oct. 24th, 1917. HOUTHEN area (relieved 24th Divn.).

Moral. After the fighting in 1914, the 8th Divn. has confined itself almost entirely to the defensive. It has, however, always fought well when attacked and defended its position stubbornly. Its moral can be described as good.

Casualties. Admitted officially for the Battle of the SOMME:

153rd I.R.	3,002	Total Casualties	100	Percentage
				Establishment
72nd I.R.	2,556		85	
93rd I.R.	2,320		77	

Order of Battle. From north to south - 153rd I.R. - 93rd I.R. - 72nd I.R.

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APPENDIX

HEADQUARTERS
 DEC 25 1917 -
 40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

32nd Division

Commanders. Divisional - General von der DECKEN; of 63rd Inf. Bde. - Col. von WITZLEBEN.

The 32nd Divn. is recruited in the XII Army Corps district (Saxony), and originally consisted of the 63rd Inf. Bde. (the 102nd I.R. and the 103rd I.R.), and the 64th Inf. Bde. (the 177th I.R. and the 178th I.R.). In April, 1915, the 178th I.R. was sent to join the 123rd Division, the remaining 3 regiments being grouped under the 63rd Inf. Bde.

On mobilization, the division formed part of the Third Army, operating on the right bank of the MEUSE, and in the battle of the MARNE. It was then transferred to the 7th Army, taking part in the fighting near RHEIMS.

October 1914 to July 1916. BERRY-au-BAC sector (near RHEIMS).
 July 20th, 1916. Withdrawn, 102nd I.R. and 103rd I.R. sent to a composite division and transferred to the SOMME - DENICOURT sector, south-west of PERONNE, where it saw heavy fighting.

Sept. 4th, 1916. 177th I.R. rejoins division.

Sept. 7th, 1916. Relieved, transferred to the ARGONNE.

Nov. 13th, 1916. Return to the SOMME - BOUCHAVESNE sector (south-east of COMBLES).

End March, 1917. Retreat from the SOMME, relieved and sent to rest.

April 18th, 1917. Rushed up to meet French offensive in CHAMPAGNE northwest of AUBERIVE (east of RHEIMS), withdrawn the following day.

End April. TAHURE.

Middle June. Withdrawn to rest.

August 10th, 1917. Transferred to GHELuwe, becoming the counter-attack division for the REBELLAERE sector.

August 24th 1917. Partly successful counter-attack on INVERNESS COPSE, after which it relieved the 34th Divn. in line.

September 2nd, 1917. Withdrawn.

November, 1917. WARNETON sector.

Moral. Fairly good. Nearly always passive, but counter-attack with plenty of vigour.

Casualties. For battle of the SOMME -- 6,218 (62 per cent.).

Order of Battle. From north to south - 102nd I.R. - 177th I.R. - 103rd I.R.

5th Bavarian Division.

Commanders. Divisional - Major-General Freiherr von GODIN; of 10th Bav. Inf. Bde. - Lieutenant-General JAGER.

The 5th Bavarian Division is recruited in the III Bavarian Army Corps District.

From almost the beginning of the war to June, 1916, the division occupied the ST. MIHIEL sector, being withdrawn only once for a short while to meet the French offensive in CHAMPAGNE.

July, 1916. LENS - VIMY sector.
End August, 1916. Transferred to the SOMME.
Sept. 8th, 1916. DELVILLE WOOD - GINCHY sector, where it
 was heavily engaged on September 15th during the attack on
 GINCHY.
Sept. 20th, 1916. Relieved and transferred to NEUVE
 CHAPELLE.
3rd May, 1917. Transferred to ARRAS sector. It took
 part in a successful counter-attack on FRESNOY.
5th July, 1917. Withdrawn to rest near ANTWERP.
9th August, 1917. ST. JULIEN.
23rd August, 1917. Withdrawn.
5th September, 1917. DEULEMONT sector.

Moral. Good.

Order of Battle. From north to south - 21st Bav. I.R. -
19th Bav. I.R. - 7th Bav. I.R.

40th Bn

(COPY NO. 2)

Headquarters.
40th Battalion, A.I.F.
20th November 1917.

HEADQUARTERS
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

40th BATTALION ORDER NO. 31

Reference Maps (BELGUIM 36 N.W. 1/20000
(PLOEGSTEERT 1/10000

INFORMATION. 1. The 38th Battalion is at present holding the line immediately South of the RIVER DOUVE

INTENTION: 2. The 40th Battalion will relieve the 38th Battalion on the night of the 21/22 November 1917. Advance Parties ~~g~~ have already proceeded in accordance with 10th Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 76

TRAINS: 3. Two Trains will pick up the 40th Battalion as follows at ROMARIN Siding.

1st Train will take Headquarters; "A" and "C" Companies at 3.45 P.M. 21/11/1917

2nd Train will take "B" and "D" Companies at 4.15 P.M. 21/11/1917

Lieut. L.K. SWANN will be entraining Officer

The Battalion will detrain at HYDE PARK CORNER

RELIEF: 4. The Battalion will proceed to the Trenches in the order of Headquarters; "A" Coy. "C" Coy. "B" Coy. and "D" Coy. Guides from the ~~g~~ 38th Battalion (1 per platoon) will be at HYDE PARK CORNER at 4.30 P.M.

100 yards distance will be maintained between Platoons

Company Companies will take over as follows:-

"A" Company	-	Right Company in Front Line
"C" "	-	Left Company in Front Line
"B" "	-	Company in Support
"D" "	-	Company in Reserve

PACKS:
COOKERS ETC. 5. The Transport Officer will take Cookers, and Watercarts to Transport Lines by 3 P.M. 21st instant. Companies will have Cooking gear required in the trenches at Q.M. Store by 2 P.M. accompanied by 1 Cook per Coy. who will remain with it. "D" Company will be responsible for conveying this gear from point where duck-walks meet MESSINES ROAD to the Companies. Companies will be responsible for conveying the remainder of their own stores. Packs and surplus gear will be taken to Q.M.'s. Pack Store by 2.30 P.M. under Company arrangements.

Band and Other Details not going into the line will move to Q.M.'s. Store by 2 P.M.

TRENCH STORES: 6. Companies will take over all Maps, Trench Stores, Dumps, etc., and will send one copy of receipts to Battalion Headquarters by 11 A.M. on 22/11/1917.

GUM BOOTS: 7. A few pairs of Gum Boots will be allotted to Coys. at HYDE PARK CORNER GUM BOOT STORE. The remainder will be taken over from 38th Battalion.

PRECAUTIONS: 8. All precaution will be taken to prevent unnecessary noise during the relief, and to prevent any casualties in the event of hostile Gas Shelling.

REPORTS: 9. Reports will be sent in by Companies in code to

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APPENDIX.

REPORTS: 9. Battalion Headquarters at GREY FARM (U 96.8.4)
immediately on completion of their relief.

A C K N O W L E D G E

.....
.....Captain
.....Adjutant.
40th Battalion A. I. F.

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

- | | | |
|--------|------|------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | Copy | Filed. |
| No. 2. | Copy | War Diary. |
| No. 3. | Copy | 10th. Australian Infantry Brigade. |
| No. 4. | Copy | O/C "A" Coy. 40th. Battalion. |
| No. 5. | Copy | O/C "B" Coy. 40th. do |
| No. 6. | Copy | O/C "C" Coy. 40th. do. |
| No. 7. | Copy | O/C "D" Coy. 40th. do. |
| No. 8. | Copy | 38th. Battalion A. I. F. |

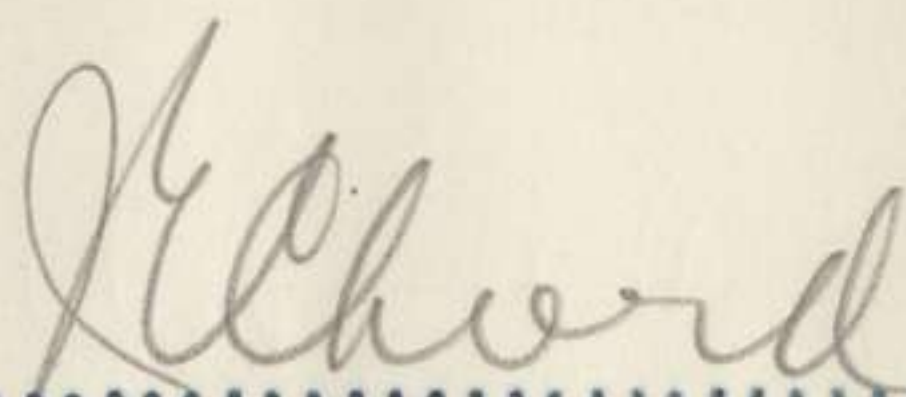
M.D. 19.11.17

DATE	PARTY	9 A.M. to 10 A.M.	10.15 to 11.15 A.M.	11.30 A.M.-12.30 P.M.	2 P.M.- 3 P.M.	3.15- 4.15 P.M.
20/11/17	1	Bombing	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Route March	Recreational
	2	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Bombing	ditto	Training
21/11/17	1	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Bombing	Recreational	Night Work
	2	Bombing	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Training	do
22/11/17	1	Bombing	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Route March	Recreational
	2	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Bombing	ditto	Training
23/11/17	1	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Bombing	Recreational	Night Work
	2	Bombing	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Training	do
24/11/17	1	Bombing	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Half Holiday	
	2	Bayonet Fighting	Close Order Drill	Bombing	ditto	
25/11/17	1	Church Parades and Kit Inspections				
	2	ditto				

NOTES:-

- The following will be responsible under the supervision of O/C Raid for specialist training:-
 Bombing:- Lieut. R.A. Swan
 Drill:- Lieut. G.E.H. Moon
 Bayonet Fighting:- P.T. and B.F. Instructor
- Bombing will include work with dummy Grenades, throwing into trenches and shell holes from the open and from trenches, followed by similar work with live Grenades. A high trajectory must be insisted on. The use of "P" Bombs for clearing dug-outs will also be explained and practiced. Instruction will also be given in construction of bombing blocks.
- Bayonet Fighting will include fighting in the open in shell holes and in trenches, in the latter case special attention will be given to methods of working round traverses.
- In close order drill absolute precision will be aimed at.
- It will be noted that, Physical exercises as such have been omitted. In order to get the men fit and to keep them so every man during recreational training must be occupied for at least half an hour in organised work such as, football, hockey, wrestling, cross country running, Victoria cross races etc.

6. Night Training will be carried out on the days laid down from 7 P.M. to 8 P.M. and will include crossing rough ground, passing obstacles, bayonet fighting, in shell holes and trenches.
7. In the event of any member of the party proving unsuitable for the type of work in hand, O/C Raid will submit early reports with a view to having him replaced ~~at~~ without delay.
8. Throughout the whole training all Instructors will foster and develop the offensive spirit and the desire to kill Germans.



.....Lieut-Colonel.
Commanding 40th Battalion A. I. F.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

Observation Report U.N. 2.87.06.

Visibility morning ~~Dark~~ Afternoon clear

9 AM ~~Two~~ Enemy seen going from trench near Gasometer across ~~to the left~~ ^{to the right} no rifles or equipment

DEC 23 1917
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

11-30 One enemy appeared from near the tower & went about 40 yds to the left & disappeared wearing steel hat, no equipment or rifle

12.15 Nine of enemy seen to go out of trench, looked very muddy & wearing full equipment & rifles from trench right of gasometer & turned around to the right or right of gasometer & one of the enemy came from the same direction as the other disappeared, he was smartly dressed & carried a walking stick which he was turning very freely & had blue bands around each.

APPENDIX.

continued

1-30 Three enemy went out of trench right of gasometer wearing full equipment & rifles

1-35 Two of the enemy seen ~~seen~~ looking over the parapet & having a look at no mans land They looked very young & could not be more than 18 years of age & had blue bands around their caps

2.30 & 3.15 Eight Germans were seen to go out of trench with full equipment & rifles hat right of gasometer & disappeared to the right, the same track as enemy at 9 AM & 12.15 PM.

27. 11. 17

[Signature]
Sighting Officer

APPENDIX.

"C" FORM.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 10.)

Prefix.....Code.....Words.....
l s. d.
 Received. Sent, or sent out. Office Stamp.
 From..... At.....m.
 By..... To.....
 By.....
 Handed in at.....Office.....m. Received.....m.

TO 9867

* Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
50184 28 — **AAA**

The Divisional Commander
 wishes to convey his
 warmest congratulations & upon
 award of Victoria Cross
 to the late Sergeant
 Lewis T. G. G.

FROM 619
 PLACE & TIME H.M.S.

"C" FORM.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 10.)

152

Prefix.....Code.....Words.....
l s. d.
 Received. Sent, or sent out. Office Stamp.
 From..... At.....m.
 By..... To.....
 By.....
 Handed in at.....Office.....m. Received.....m.

TO 9867

* Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
50184 28 — **AAA**

General Godley has sent
 you a message of
 hearty congratulations
 on M. G. E. Victoria Cross

FROM 619
 PLACE & TIME 4 PM

APPENDIX,

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J.J.C.

Headquarters,
10th Australian Inf. Brigade.
28th Nov. 1917.

C.O. 40th Battalion.

Please accept my very hearty congratulations upon the award of the Victoria Cross to the late Sergeant Lewis McGEE - the first Victoria Cross won by your Battalion.

My great regret is that this gallant soldier has not lived to enjoy his honour. I should be glad if you could convey my sympathies to his relatives.

W. Ramsay MacColl
Brigadier-General

Commanding 10th Australian Inf. Brigade.

BM/71/20

ll
28/11/17 *ll*

Victoria Cross. Notification

has been received of the award of the Victoria Cross to Lewis Duffee B Co. 40th BATTALION, A.I.F. The Serjeant Duffee has been recommended for the award of the Victoria Cross by the Divisional Commandant (Major Genl J. Monash C.B. V.D.) conveying their warmest congratulations to the unit upon the award of the Victoria Cross to the gallant soldier. To these messages the Brigade Commandant (Brig Genl G. Ramsay M.C. D.S.O.) adds his hearty congratulations.

DEC 25 1917
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

The death in action of the soldier to whom the award is made is very deeply lamented by all ranks. * of Serjeant Duffee

28th NOVEMBER 1917

40th BATTALION A. I. F. ORDER NO. 32

MAP REFERENCE : PLOEGSTEERT 1/10000

INFORMATION.

1. Inter-Battalion Reliefs will take place on night of 29/30th instant.

INTENTION:

2. The 40th Battalion will be relieved by the 38th Battalion and will become "C" Battalion with Headquarters at RED LODGE T.18.D.7.3.

DETAILS OF RELIEF:

- 3. "A". Company 40th Battalion will be relieved by "A" Company 38th Battalion
- "B". Company 40th Battalion will be relieved by "D" Company 38th Battalion
- "C". Company 40th Battalion will be relieved by "B" Company 38th Battalion
- "D". Company 40th Battalion will be relieved by "C" Company 38th Battalion

HEADQUARTERS
 DEC 25 1917
 40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Advance parties of the 38th Battalion will relieve tonight in accordance with 10th Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 79 para. 4

GUIDES:

- 4. (a) For Front Line Companies, one guide per post.
- (b) For Support and Reserve Companies, one guide per Platoon.

All guides will report at HYDE PARK CORNER to Captain H.L. BARCLAY at 4 P.M. Captain H.L. BARCLAY will control traffic at HYDE PARK CORNER and Lieut. H.R. TRETHERWIE will control traffic at junction of Duck-walk and MESSINES ROAD. Each guide will be given a chit by his Company Commander showing the Post or Platoon for which he is guide.

MOVING OUT:

- 5. No movement of the 40th Battalion will take place until the whole of the 38th Battalion is in position. In moving out an interval of 100 yards will be maintained between Platoons.

TRENCH STORES:

- 6. All trench stores will be handed over to the 38th Battalion and receipts obtained. A copy of receipt will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 10 A.M. on 30/11/1917.

REPORTS:

- 7. Immediately on completion of relief reports in code will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by each Company Commander.

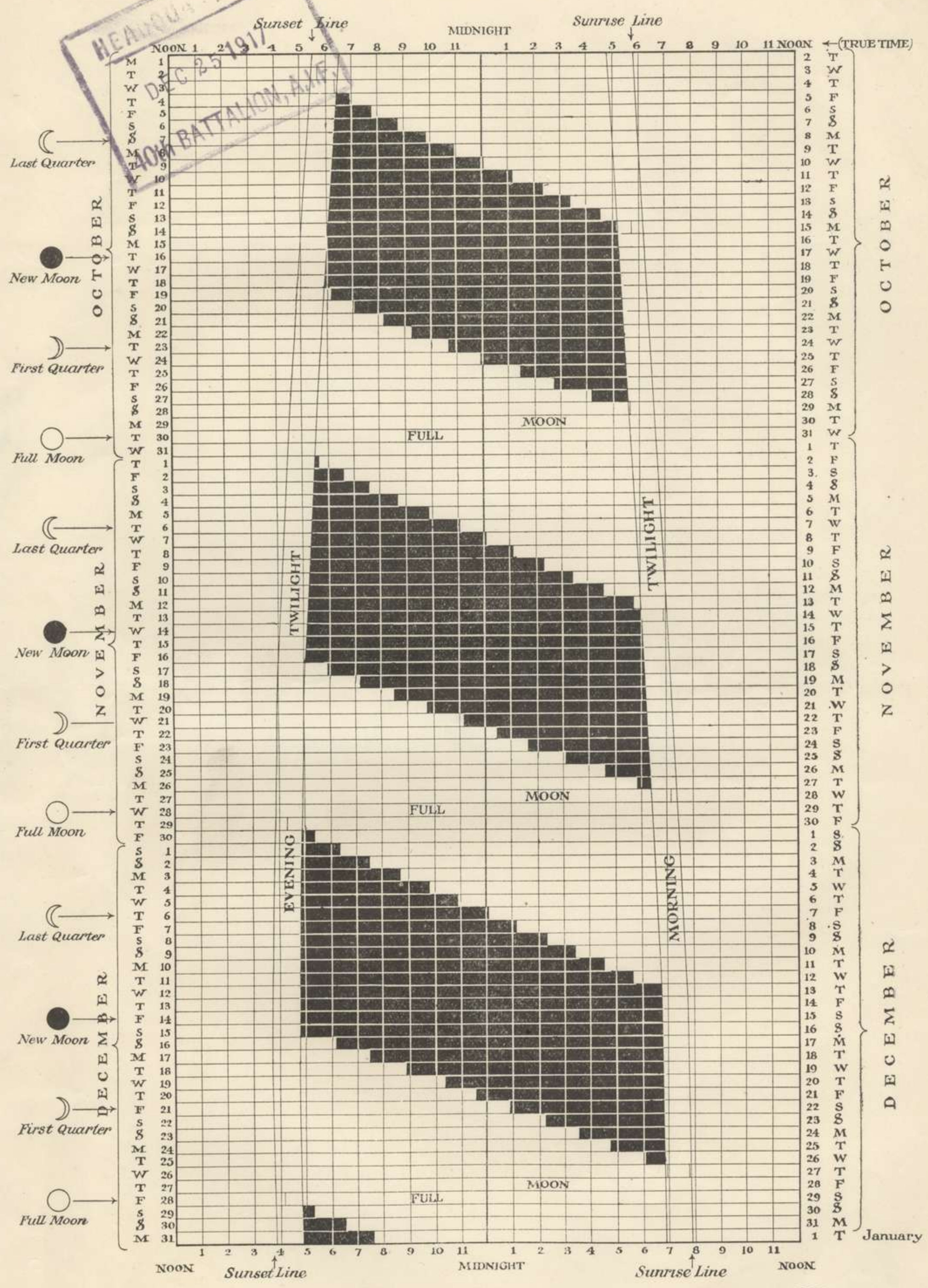
[Handwritten Signature]

.....Captain
Adjutant.
40th Battalion A.I. F.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No.	1	File
do	2	War Diary
do	3	10th Australian Infantry Brigade
do	4	"A" Company 40th Battalion A.I.F.
do	5	"B" do ditto
do	6	"C" do ditto
do	7	"D" do ditto
do	8	Quarter Master and Transport Officer.

MOONLIGHT CHART FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



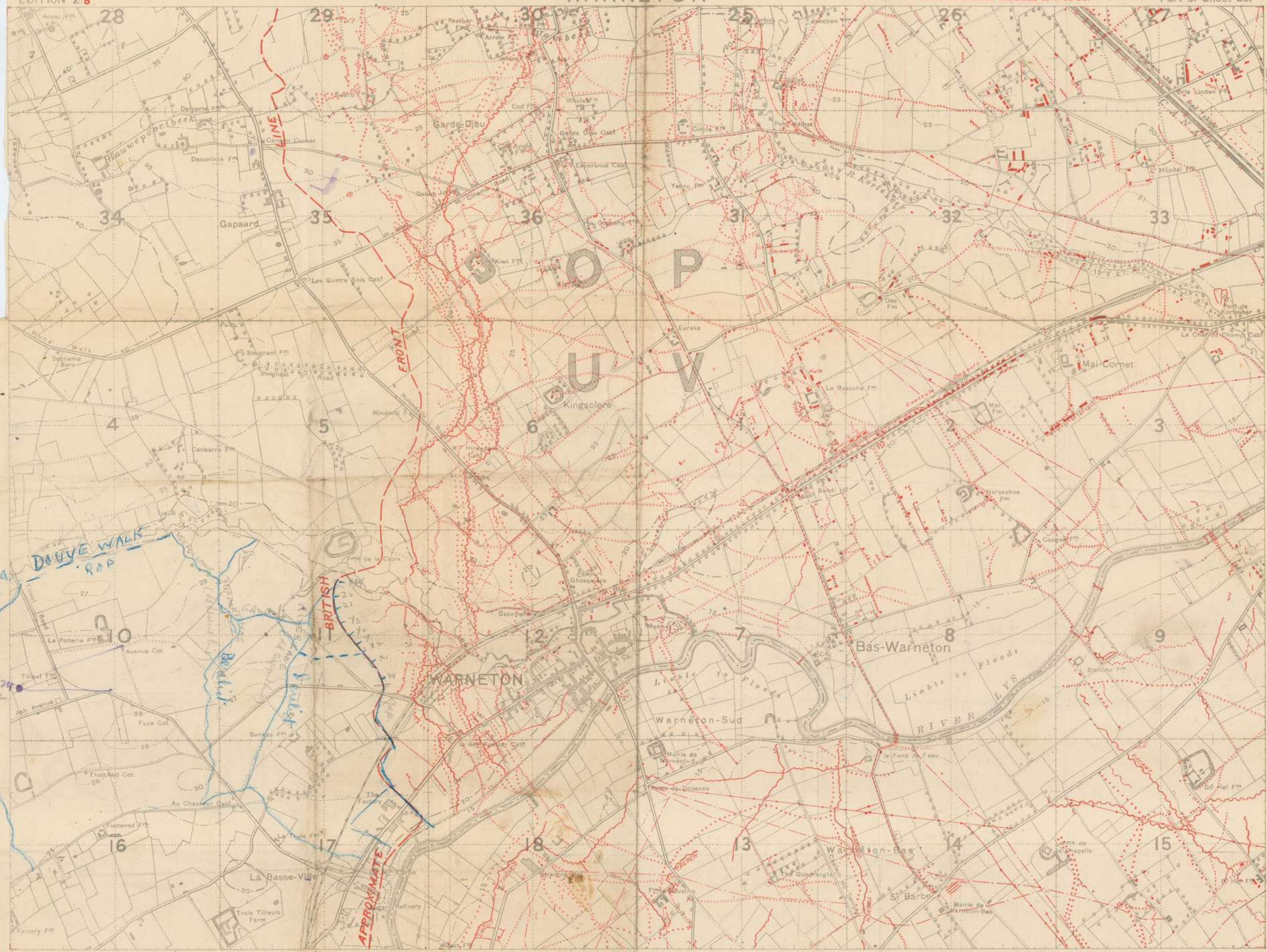
Times of sunrise are taken from Field Almanac, and computed for a point in the neighbourhood of Bethune.



PRESS A-10/17-5038W-18,600

WARNETON

HEADQUARTERS
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.
DEC 26 1917



S.C.F. 1240 5-10-17. Battery Positions (possible strongpoints) Probably Timber or Camouflage Probably Concrete

Minor corrections to outline made 5-9-17 and 4-10-17.



Concrete Structures w.C. Organized Shell Holes etc.

Managers

HEADING T.R.S.
DEC 25 1917
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

SECRET.Copy No. ¹⁰

Reference. 10TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
ORDER NO. 80.

29th November 1917.

ZERO HOUR for the Operations mentioned
 will be 5.15 p.m. for the First, and 1 a.m. for the
 Second.

ACKNOWLEDGES.

BM/151/10.

R. Lambie Captain.
 A/Brigade Major.
 10th Australian Inf. Brigade.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	1.	G.O.C.	
	2.	Bde. Major.	
	3.	Staff Captain.	
	4.)		
	5.)	3rd Aus.Div. by D.R. at 6 p.m. on 29/11/17.	
	6.)		
	7.	37th Battn.)
	8.	38th Battn.)
	9.	39th Battn.)
	10.	40th Battn.)
	11.	10th Aus.M.G.Coy.)
	12.	10th A.L.T.M.Battery)	
	13.	10th P.Coy. Engrs.)
	14.	10th Field Ambulance)
	15.	11th Field Ambulance.)
	16.	8th Aus.Inf.Bde.)
	17.	9th Aus.Inf. Bde.)
	18.	Captain M.C. BOOTH.)
	19.	Lieut. N.L. FOSTER)
	20.	11th Aus. Inf. Bde.)
	21.	C.R.A.)
	22.	C.R.I.)
	23.	8th Aus.P.A. Bde.)
	24.	A. P. M.)
	25.	23rd M. G. Coy.)
	26.	3rd Aus. Pioneer Batt.)	
	27.	FILED.	
	28.)		
	29.)	WAR DIARY.	
	30.)		

By runner at 6.30 pm
29/11/17.

By D.R. at 6 p.m.
29/11/17.

By runner at 6.30 pm
29/11/17.

By D. R. at 6 pm
29/11/17.

add

TENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

AMENDMENT TO BRIGADE ORDER No. 80

Brigade Headquarters
29th November 1917.

Page 1. para. 3

For U.11.d.97.85

Read U.11.d.97.75

Page 1. para 5.

After line 6 " by 39th Batta"

insert line 7 to read " 4 runners attached from
38th Battalion".

Page 2. para.5 (Cont'd)

Party No. 2 line 6.

Before "Battalion

Insert "38th"

Insert line 7 to read "8 stretcher bearers
attached from 40th
Battalion".

Page 6 MEDICAL

Add the following.-

A regimental aid post has been constructed alongside
WARRETON TRACK (on tramline running North and East of PROUSE
POINT) at its junction with Subsidiary Line at about
U.9.d.80.19. This will be called WARRETON R.A.P.

R.M.O's of 39th and 40th Battalions will use this
as their Aid Post instead of R.A.P. in DOUVE VALLEY. Cases
will be sent from forward areas via WARRETON TRACK, using
trolleys on tram track as much as possible, to WARRETON R.A.P.

C.O. 11th Field Ambulance will arrange to clear
cases from here via tramline.

There will probably be some cases of wounded
evacuated via DOUVE VALLEY duckwalks and IRSSING'S ROAD, so that
provision will still be required for bearers and ambulances
by this route as well.

R.M.Os 39th and 40th Battalions will arrange details
with C.O. 11th Field Ambulance on morning of 30th instant.
The R.M.O. 38th Battalion will arrange for treatment of cases
passing through DOUVE VALLEY R.A.P.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Ackd

P. Lambert Captain
A/Brigade Major
10th Australian Infantry Brigade.

EM/131/88

DISTRIBUTION

3rd Aus. Div.
37th Batta
38th Batta
39th Batta
40th Batta
C.P.E.
A.P.M.

10th Aus. M.G.Coy.
10th A.L.T.M.Btty
10th P.Coy. Engrs
10th P.Amb.
11th P.Amb.
6th Aus. P.A.Bde
23rd M.G.Coy.

8th Aus. Inf.Bde.
9th Aus. Inf.Bde.
Capt.N.C. BOOTH
Lieut.K.L. FOSTER
11th Aus. Inf.Bde.
C.R.A.
3rd Aus. Pioneer Batta

52

10th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 80

28th November 1917.

REFERENCE MAP:- Special WARWENTON SHEET Ed. 26 b. 1/10,000

- INTENTION 1. Two raids will be carried out on German trenches on night 30th Nov./ 1st Dec. The first will be carried out by the 39th Battalion Party. The second by the 40th Battalion Party.
- ZERO HOUR will be notified later.
Left
- ARTILLERY 2. The Artillery Group, 3rd Australian Divisional Artillery assisted by portion of 5th Australian Divisional Artillery will co-operate. 23rd Australian Machine Gun Coy.; 10th Aus. Light Trench Mortar Battery will also assist. Special attention will be given to certain localities known to contain M.Gs and Minenwerfer. Counter battery work will be carried out to fullest extent possible, commencing at ZERO.
- OBJECTIVE 3. Enemy front line from U.11.d.90.35 to U.11.d.97.85, penetrating to U.12.c.25.70
- OBJECT OF RAID 4. The objects of the raid are to,
- (i) Inflict casualties.
 - (ii) Obtain identifications
 - (iii) Destroy materiel.
- COMPOSITION OF PARTIES 5. PARTY NO. 1
- O.C. RAID - Captain N.C. BOOTH, 39th Battalion, who will have with him - 2 Signallers
2 runners
8 stretcher bearers (supplied by 39th Battn)
- PARAPET PARTY - O.C. - Lieut. C.J.A. RAMSAY, 39th Bn.
- 4 Scouts.
 - 2 Signallers
 - 3 runners
 - 2 stretcher bearers
- Mopping up Party 1 N.C.O.
2 Bayonet men
1 bomber
1 carrier.
- Right & Left Flanking Party Each 1 Lewis Gun and 4 Other Rnls.
- RIGHT PARTY - O.C. Lieut. A.J.B. LEE, 39th Battn
- Storming Party 1 N.C.O.
2 Bayonet men
2 Bombers
1 Carrier
1 spare man
 - Demolition Party 1 N.C.O.
2 Searchers
3 demolition men.

COMPOSITION
OF
PARTIES
(Cont'd) 5.

Right
Blocking
Party 1 N.C.O.
2 Bayonet men
1 bomber
1 carrier

LEFT PARTY - O.C. 2/Lieut. J.S. BLAVIS, 39th Bn.

Storming
Party 1 N.C.O.
2 Bayonet men
2 Bombers
1 carrier
1 spare man.

Left
Blocking
Party 1 N.C.O.
1 bayonet man
1 thrower
1 carrier

Left rear
Blocking
Party 1 N.C.O.
1 Bayonet man
1 Bomber
1 carrier.

Demolition
Party 1 N.C.O.
2 Searchers
2 demolition men.

SPECIAL LEFT
PARTY FOR
MACHINE GUN 1 N.C.O.
2 bayonet men
1 bomber
1 carrier
1 spare man

PARTY No. 2

O.C. RAID - Lieut. H.L. FOSTER, 40th Battn, who will have with him-

2 Signallers
3 runners
4 runners (attached from Battalion)

PARAPET
PARTY - O.C. - 2/Lt. G.E.H. MOON, 40th Battn

2 Signallers
3 Scouts
4 runners.

RIGHT
PARTY - O.C. 2/Lt. R.A. SWAN, 40th Battn
2 runners.

Storming
Party 1 N.C.O.
4 Bayonet men
2 Bombers
2 Carriers

Demoli-
tion
Party 4 Searchers
3 Demolition men.

Blocking
Party 1 N.C.O.
4 men.

Left
fighting
Party 1 N.C.O.
4 men (to mop up
front line between
points of entry)

COMPOSITION
PARTIES
Cont'd)

LEFT
PARTY - O.C. - 2/Lt. A.P. BROWN, 40th Battn -
2 runners.

5.

Storming
Party

1 N.C.O.
4 Bayonet men
2 Bombers
2 carriers

Demolition
PARTY

4 Searchers
3 demolition men.

Right
Blocking
Party

1 N.C.O.
4 men.

Left
Blocking
Party

1 N.C.O.
3 men.

6. At least two gaps will be cut in enemy wire by Artillery using 106 Fuze, on day of the raid. Gaps will be in vicinity of U.11.d.85.68 and U.11.d.85.50. Our Front Line will be cleared between limits to be notified later, during progress of this shoot. Os.C. Raids will arrange for observation of the results.

7. At ZERO MINUS 10 MINUTES raiders will enter NO MAN'S LAND and will be up clear of our wire at point of assembly - U.11.d.45.80.

8. At ZERO Artillery will put down a barrage on lines laid down in Artillery Order 38.

At ZERO PLUS 3 MINUTES barrage lifts and forms a box 100 yards on flanks of Front Line objectives and 200 yards in rear of furthest objectives.

At ZERO assaulting troops will move out from assembly position and get as close as possible to the barrage. On the lift of barrage, parties will rush forward through gaps in enemy wire.

39th Battn Party

In first raid Special Left Party will attack Machine Gun at U.11.d.85.87.

On entering trenches Right Party will move to right to dugout - U.11.d.90.35 - where block will be left. Right Party will then move along trench running N.E. along railway embankment to furthest point of objectives. Demolition Party will deal with dugouts and Machine Gun emplacements. Left Party will move N. to trench junction at U.11.d.97.72; Blocking Party will form a block 25 yards along trench to North of this junction. Remainder of Party move Eastward along communication trench to dugout U.12.c.21.70, leaving a block at U.12.c.10.75. Demolition Party deals with dugouts and emplacements.

RE

ASSEMBLY

DETAILS

DETAILS8.39th Batta Party

Parapet Party will move to enemy front line and establish telephone communication with O.C. RAID.

Mopping up Party will deal with enemy front line trench between points of entry of Right and Left Parties.

Flanking Parties will take up suitable positions on flanks of assembly positions and cover advance of remaining parties by Lewis Gun fire.

At ZERO PLUS 23 MINUTES withdrawal will commence on command "OUT" shouted by O.C. Parapet Party and repeated by all who hear. Watches will have to be relied on very largely to decide time of withdrawal.

At ZERO PLUS 40 MINUTES barrage will commence to slacken.

At ZERO PLUS 45 MINUTES barrage ceases.

Counter battery will cease at ZERO PLUS 50 MINUTES.

40th Battalion Party

In second raid, it will be assumed, unless 1st Party have failed to deal with it, that Machine Gun at U.11.d.85.87 requires no attention.

Right Party on entering trenches will detach 1 N.C.O. and 4 men (Left Fighting Party) to mop up enemy front line between two points of entry.

Remainder of Right Party will move Southwards along front line trench to U.11.d.90.35, where a block will be placed, thence along trench running N.E. along railway embankment to furthest point of objective.

Demolition Party and Searchers will deal with any dugouts on the way.

Left Party will move Northwards to trench junction U.11.d.97.72; 25 yards along trench to North of this junction a block will be placed.

Remainder of party will move Eastwards along communication trench to dugout U.12.c.21.70 leaving a block at U.12.c.10.75.

Demolition Party and Searchers will deal with dugouts.

Parapet Party will move to enemy parapet; signallers carrying out wires and telephone so that O.C. Raid may keep in touch by phone as long as possible.

At ZERO PLUS 23 MINUTES withdrawal will commence on command "OUT" shouted by O.C. Parapet Party and repeated by all who hear.

At ZERO PLUS 40 MINUTES barrage will commence to slacken.

At ZERO PLUS 45 MINUTES barrage ceases.

Counter Battery will cease at ZERO PLUS 50 MINUTES.

MACHINE GUNS

9. Divisional Machine Gun Officer will arrange for Machine Gun barrage firing 250 rounds per minute as under:-

ZERO PLUS 3 MINUTES to PLUS 10	Fire
ZERO PLUS 10 MINUTES to PLUS 13	stop
ZERO PLUS 13 MINUTES to PLUS 20	fire
ZERO PLUS 20 MINUTES to PLUS 23	stop
ZERO PLUS 23 MINUTES to PLUS 30	fire

At ZERO PLUS 30 MINUTES Machine Guns will cease.

STOKES MORTARS

10.

10th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery will engage the following targets. Details to be arranged by Captain R.C.H. ANDERSON and Lieut. R. VARLEY of the 9th Aust. L.T.M. Battery.

Emplacements about U.17.b.80.60
Machine Guns " U.18.a.05.65
Machine guns &c., about IN DEN FOOSTER CABT.

Smoke from ZERO TO ZERO PLUS 3 MINUTES will, if weather conditions allow, be used against Machine Gun near U.11.d.90.35 but smoke bombs must be ~~sent~~ of such a nature that smoke must have cleared before ZERO PLUS 3.

Smoke Screen will be maintained along the line from SPINNEY along WARRETON ROAD to U.12.c.6.2. from ZERO PLUS 3 to ZERO PLUS 30.

EQUIPMENT

11.

No web equipment except belts to be worn. Steel helmets will be worn. Respirators at the alert. No identifications, colour patches, maps, papers, diaries &c., will be carried by any member of the raiding parties.

Nos. 1 Lewis Guns, Scouts, Searchers, Demolition men, signallers, bombers, will carry revolvers. Bayonet men, searchers, and demolition men carry electric torches. All men not armed with a rifle carry a nut cracker.

DISCS

12.

Each member of the raiding parties will wear a special disc, containing only letters and numbers.

No. 1 Party (39th Battn) will have discs allotted with numbers $\frac{H}{40001}$ to $\frac{H}{40075}$
 $\frac{K}{K}$ $\frac{K}{K}$

No. 2 Party (40th Battn),

numbers $\frac{H}{40076}$ to $\frac{H}{40150}$
 $\frac{K}{K}$ $\frac{K}{K}$

The 2 ordinary discs of each member will be collected prior to leaving billets and special disc given in exchange. The duplicate special disc will be tied to the 2 ordinary discs and retained at billets.

On returning from the raid the two ordinary discs will be handed back to the owner in exchange for his special disc.

Instructions re disposal of discs of missing will be issued to Os C. Raids in a separate memo.

CHECKING

13.

Lieut. J. R. FRYER, 39th Battn will check 39th Battn raiders on return at junction EGMONT AVENUE and Support Line. A second check will be made at CATACOMBS by an officer detailed by 39th Battn.

Lieut. L.K. SWAN, 40th Battn will check 40th Battn party at same places as above.

- ARM BANDS 14. Every member of raiding parties will wear a white arm band on left arm. This will be kept covered by a piece of sand bagging till ZERO HOUR.
- PRISONERS 15. Prisoners who may be taken will be disarmed and will be sent under escort to CATACOMBS where A.P.M. will take charge. Care is to be taken that they do not converse with each other nor dispose of any papers &c., which should be collected by searchers.
C.O. 38th Battn will provide necessary escort at request of O.C. RAID.
- TRANSPORT 16. 39th Battalion will be transported by train from CONNAUGHT SIDING to HYDE PARK CORNER, and will return by same means after raid.
40th Battalion will be carried to end of DOUVE WALK by motor lorries from billets and will return by the same means.
- HOT DRINKS 17. Hot drinks and food will be provided at CATACOMBS Soup Kitchen for each party on return.
- TAPES 18. Tapes will be laid by 1st Raiding Party from our trenches to points of entrance in enemy line so as to facilitate passage of second party. First Party will also try and improve gaps in enemy wire.
- SYNCHRONISATION 19. Watches will be synchronised by an Officer of Raiders at Brigade Headquarters at 1 p.m. on day of the raid.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND SIGNALS 20. Brigade Signal Officer has arranged to lay a duplicate line direct to position of O.C. RAID in front line. code of
The following/signals will be used by raiding parties :-
B.B.B - ready at assembly point
R.I.- Right Party in
L.I.- Left Party in.
O.K. - All out.
BIRDS- prisoners
Sick - casualties.
- MEDICAL 21. C.O. 39th Battalion will arrange for R.M.O. 39th Battn in consultation with Captain N.O. BOOTH to carry out all arrangements for treatment of wounded of 1st Party.
C.O. 40th will make similar arrangements for R.M.O. 40th Battn to treat members of 2nd Party.
C.O. 38th Battn will arrange for R.A.P. Left Sector to be used as Dressing Station.
C.O. 11th Field Ambulance will arrange under instructions of A.D.M.S. for relays of bearers from R.A.P. to end of DOUVE WALK and MESSINES-HYDE PARK CORNER Road and for ambulances to clear from this spot.
- S.O.S. 22. The S.O.S. Signal will be inoperative on 10th Aus. Inf. Bde. front from ZERO MINUS 15 MINUTES to ZERO PLUS 45 MINUTES in each raid.
On 9th Aus. Inf. Bde. front it will be operative throughout.
- DIVERSIONS 23. Diversions will be arranged by Artillery and Trench Mortars on both 9th and 8th Brigade fronts

RUNNERS 24. C.O. 38th Battn will arrange for 4 runners to be with O.C. each raid to carry messages back to Battalion Headquarters if required.

PRECAUTIONS 25. This order will not be taken forward of Battalion Headquarters.

POSSIBLE CANCELLATION 26. If it is thought advisable to cancel the second raid, the code word "HOBART" will be wired to all concerned.

REPORTS 27. Progress of raid to be reported by wire to Brigade Headquarters. Further reports will be collected at CATACOMBS where all members of raiding parties - Officers and Other Ranks/prisoners, will report on returning from trenches.

28. *ack* A C K N O W L E D G E.

R. Lambie

Captain
A/Brigade Major
10th Australian Infantry Brigade.

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No. 1 G.O.C.
2 Bde. Major
3 Staff Captain
4)
5) 3rd Aus. Div. by D.R. at 9 p.m. on 29/11/'17
6)
7 37th Battn)
8 38th Battn) By runner at 8 a. m.
9 39th Battn) 29/11/17
10 40th Battn)
11 10th A.s. M.G.Coy.)
12 10th A.L.T.M. Battery)
13 10th F.Coy. Engrs.)
14 10th Field Ambulance) By D.R. at 9 a. m.
15 11th Field Ambulance) 29/11/'17
16 8th Aus. Inf. Bde.)
17 9th Aus. Inf. Bde.)
18 Captain H.G. BOOTH) by runner at 8 a. m.
19. Lieut. N.L. FOSTER) 29/11/'17
20. 11th Aus. Inf. Bde.)
21. C.R.A.)
22. C.R.E.) By D.R. at 9 a. m.
23. 8th Aus. F.A. Bde.) 29/11/'17
24. A.P.M.)
25. 23rd M.G.Coy.)
26. 3rd Aus. Pioneer Battn)
27. FILED
28)
29) A R D I A N
30)

Headquarters,
40th Battalion A.I.F.
30th November 1917

40th BATTALION A.I.F. ORDER NO. 33

REFERENCE MAP : PLOEGSTEERT 1/10000

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In accordance with 10th Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 80 the following instructions are issued:-

(a) OFFICERS:

LAISON OFFICER. Lieut. L.W. BARNETT will report at HYDE PARK CORNER at 4.30 P.M.

CHECKING OFFICER. (In) Lieut. V.C. SMITH to check Raiding Party at HYDE PARK CORNER at 6.45 P.M. Nominal Roll and Instructions have been handed him.

CHECKING OFFICER. (Out) Lieut. L.K. SWANN will report to O/C Raid today. He will receive Nominal Roll of Party and will act as checking out Officer at the Junction of EGMONT AVENUE and the SUPPORT LINE.

(b) MEDICAL:

The R.M.O. will arrange for the treatment and evacuation of Wounded. He will be stationed ~~in~~ at New R.A.P. in accordance with Brigade Order quoted.

Six Stretcher Bearers per Company will be detailed for duty. Two per Company to report to R.M.O. at RED LODGE at 6.30 P.M. to act as Relay Post between R.A.P. and F.L. and two per company to report to O/C Raid at HYDE PARK CORNER at 6.45 P.M. and will be allotted positions in FRONT LINE TRENCH under his orders.



.....Captain
Adjutant.
40th Battalion A.I.F.