

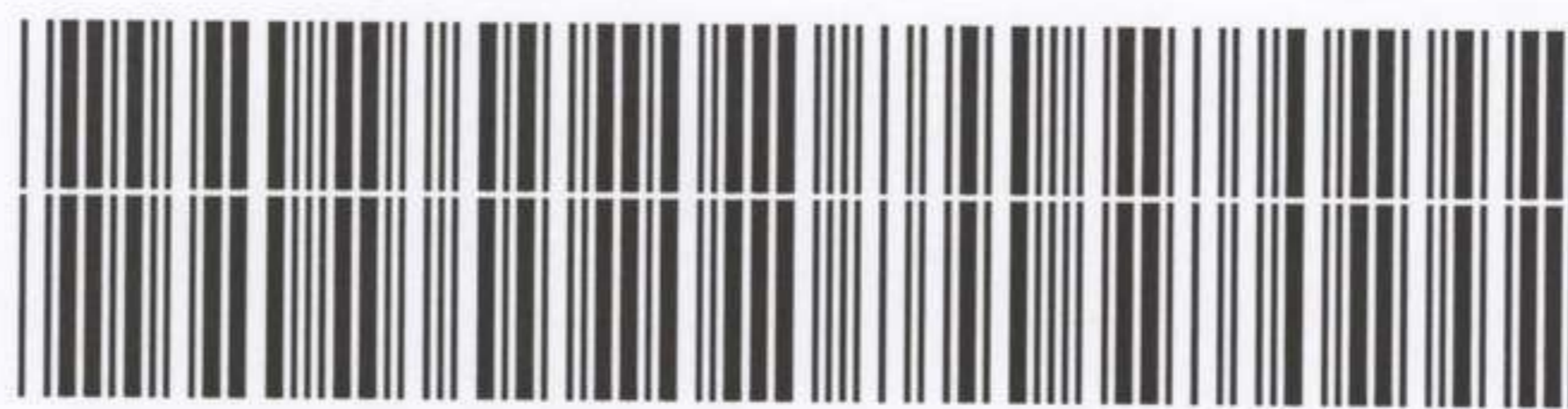
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/57/21

Title: 40th Infantry Battalion

December 1917



AWM4-23/57/21

Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

HEADQUARTERS
DEC 31 1918
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

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.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
RED LODGE	1.12		At 1 a.m. A Raid of 4 Officers and 70 O/R's. of the 40th Battalion went over the 38th Bn. front, objectives Uld 90.35 to Uld 97.75, and were very successful. The Enemy were repairing the trenches damaged by the raid of the 39th Battalion earlier in the evening and were totally unprepared for the second raid. The trenches were crowded with Pioneers and a new party of men brought up to garrison the line. 3 Prisoners were captured and a large number of the enemy were killed by the raid which stayed in the Enemy lines for 20 minutes. The party returned from the Support line by a specially laid duckwalk forming a new overland track. Casualties 1 missing 2 slightly wounded. Estimated 100 casualties inflicted upon the enemy.
	1.12 to 6.12		* Battalion supplied working parties for improving EGMONT AVENUE and WARNETON TRACK. Scouts were not sent on the parties but put on special training under the Scout Officer.
	6.12		At 8 p.m. the 40th Battalion relieved the 38th Battalion in the trenches in front of WARNETON.
	7.12		Our Artillery fired a few bursts of 18 pounders on Warneton. Enemy Artillery very active from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with 4.2" and 5.9" on Front line, Supports and Useful Lane Post 2U11 hit, and L.G. damaged. 2 direct hits on EGMONT AVENUE No Casualties. Very quite restful day. Weather fine. Visibility fair.
	8.12		Our Artillery. Intermittent shoots of 18 pounder and 4.5 from 5 to 12 p.m. Enemy heavily

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

*Raymond A. Smith
Lieut*

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HEADQUARTERS Army Form C. 2118.
DEC 31 1918
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES IN FRONT OF WARNETON	1917	8.12	shelled Front line and Support line from 12.45 to 1.30 p.m. Desultry shelling of whole Sector from 2.30 to 5 p.m. 2 casualties from M.T.M. Day clear and fine. Enemy movement reported near Gasometer and Warneton Tower and very active with Transport and working parties during night.	
		9.12	Light shelling of Supports and DOUVE WALK from 1 to 3.30 p.m. otherwise day was very quiet. Day was fine but visibility was poor. Much movement seen about TOWER in WARNETON. Wire was examined during night and found fair on left, but poor on right of Sector.	
		10.12	Artillery below normal during day but livened up at night. About 300 round of 77 m.m. and 4.2" fell on Front line and River Lane at 7-7.15 p.m.. from 11 to 1a.m. 100 round 77 and 4.2" fell in GAP on Right of sector and subsid. and DOUVE WALK. About 30 T.M's fell in rear of posts 1,2 and 3 Ull. 4 Enemy Balloons up all day and visibility good. Much movement heard in and behind WARNETON.	
		11.12	Enemy unusually quiet during day. Only 22 shells and 8 T.M'S and 30 Pineapples reported all day. Our Artillery active during evening, opening destructive fire at intervals on Enemy Front line System and WARNETON. Weather fine. Contact Patrol to 39th Battalion on our Right reports gap near Railway at 28Ulld 60.18 waist deep in mud.	

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Raymond Hunt
Lieut

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

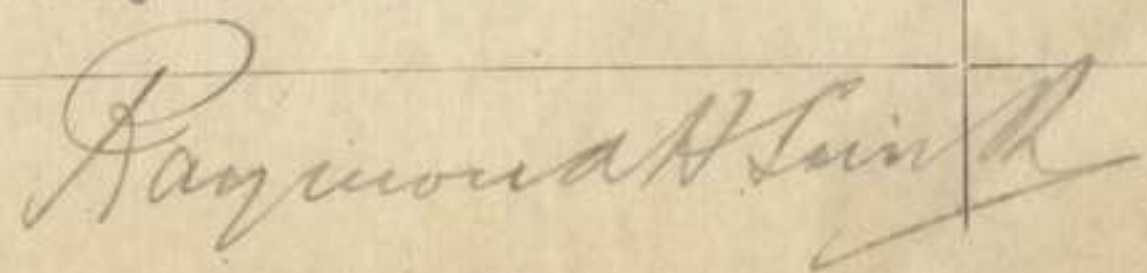
Army Form C. 2118.

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HEADQUARTERS

DEC 31 1918

40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES IN FRONT OF WARNEFON	1917			
	12.12		Our Artillery and Enemy's quiet ^{quiet} during day. From 5.30 ^{p.m.} onwards till 11 p.m. our Artillery active in bursts of short 10 minutes on Enemy Front line System and Back areas. Between 7 and 8 p.m. Enemy retaliated by a heavy shoot on Battalion whole Battalion sector, No damage was done and there were no casualties. Day very clear and 10 Gothas came over, one of which was brought down.	
	13.12		Our Artillery active from 8 to 11 p.m. Enemy heavily retaliated on Battalion on our Left (31st). Enemy M.P.M's active from 12 to 2 a.m., retaliation asked for and this effectively silenced enemy guns. Day was very misty and no observation possible.	
	14.12		Our Artillery intermittent during day, and heavy at 5.30, 6.15 and 8 p.m. Enemy retaliated with a heavy shoot from 6.40 to 7.3 p.m. on Front line system. Weather fine but very windy.	
	15.12		Our Artillery quite all day and Enemy artillery Nil. Day was clear and our Aeroplanes very active. Much movement seen in WARNEFON specially round Gasometer. Relief of 40th Battalion by 26th Battalion was complete at 8.15 p.m. Summary of Four of Duty in Trenches. The weather was mild and fine throughout, visibility on the whole was not good. Enemy very quite, only active in retaliation to our shoots which were heavy each evening.	
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	

WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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HEADQUARTERS
DEC 31 1917
40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Army Form C. 2118. 123

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES IN FRONT OF WARNETON	1917 7-15		A system of listening posts well out into NO MANS LAND was established instead of the usual Patrols and a strong fighting Patrol with a Lewis Gun lay up in NO MANS LAND each night.	
			No Enemy Patrols were seen.	
NEUVE EGLISE	16.12		Moved into hutments at 12.1 a.m. at 28T 15b 45.	
	16-21		Supplying working parties for loading store lorries and work on different Railway Stations. Weather fine but misty and a heavy frost all the time, ground frozen to a depth of 6". There was a fog on 19th and 20th but this cleared on 21st which was fine and clear, all trees covered with hoar frost and very pretty.	
	22-24		Still doing working parties, weather fine till 24th when it rained.	
			On 22nd and 23rd. Reconnoitring Parties sent round ARMENTIERES TOWN DEFENCES as the Brigade is in Reserve for that area. Town much damaged since we were there early in the year.	
	25.12		Men had a holiday, football matches were played and the band played. Light showers of Snow fell through the day and night. £76 from the Women Workers of the 40th Battalion Comforts Fund was spent on the Christmas dinners as well as several cases of extras from the Comforts Funds. Christmas Cards issued to men Regimentally. Sample attached.	
	26.12		Working parties commenced again after the Christmas Holiday. The day was fine and there	

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Raymond Smith
Lieut

HEADQUARTERS

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

40th BATTALION A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>HONOURS and AWARDS:</u>	
	1/12/17		Lieut. Henry Lawrence FOSTER awarded the MILITARY CROSS. West of WARNETON on the night of 30th November /1st December 1917 this Officer was in charge of a raid on the enemy trenches. He displayed fine leadership and personal bravery. He trained and fought his party with very conspicuous ability, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy with very trifling casualties to his own force.	
			2/Lieutenant Alfred Percival BROWN awarded the MILITARY CROSS. On the night of 30th November/1st December 1917 West of WARNETON during a raid on the enemy this Officer displayed conspicuous bravery and set a fine personal example to his men. He directed the advance of the Raiding Party across NO MAN'S LAND and on arriving at the enemy trenches was bombed by the enemy. This caused a dangerous check, but he got his party together on the flank and entered the trenches. He personally directed his men as he moved along the parapet and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. When the work was done he got his party out and personally went through the trenches to see that none of our wounded remained behind.	
			No. 699 Sergeant Hector Charles LONG awarded the DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL. On the night of the 30th November/1st December 1917 West of WARNETON during a raid on the enemy this Non-commissioned Officers showed conspicuous bravery and fine leadership. He forced his way through the enemy wire and killed an Officer and Man. He then got into the enemy trench, got his bombers together, and cleared it. He also personally dealt with several enemy dugouts, entering the dugouts without total disregard of personal risk. His determination and offensive spirit was a splendid example to his men, and his work during the operation was invaluable.	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

Raymond H. ...
Lieut

HEADQUARTERS

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

40th BATTALION, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
-INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY. 40th BATTALION A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>HONOURS and AWARDS.</u>	
	1/12/17.		No. 2125 Private Darcy Robert OATES awarded the MILITARY MEDAL:	
			On the night of the 30th November/1st December 1917 West of WARNETON during a raid on the enemy this man displayed conspicuous bravery. With his section he rushed a large party of the enemy with great determination and inflicted heavy casualties with bomb and bayonet. He personally accounted for at least nine of the enemy. He was a splendid example of coolness and courage.	
			No. 353 Sergeant Walter Toogood BURN awarded the MILITARY MEDAL.	
			On the night 30th November/1st December 1917 West of WARNETON during a raid on the enemy this Non-commissioned Officer showed conspicuous bravery and fine leadership. He was in charge of a storming party and led his men with great courage and judgment. Although confronted by a larger force of the enemy than his own party he did not hesitate, and inflicted heavy casualties, overcoming all opposition.	
			No. 2394 Private (now T/Corporal) Roderick O'Connor SWINDELLS awarded the MILITARY MEDAL.	
			On the night 30th November/1st December 1917 West of WARNETON during a raid on the enemy this man showed conspicuous courage as No. 1 Bayonet man, and with his bayonet overcame all opposition in the trenches in front of him. On one occasion he was seen to bayonet five of the enemy as they came out of a dugout.	
			No. 2061 Corporal Edward Arthur COOK awarded the MILITARY MEDAL.	
			On the night 30th November /1st December 1917 during a raid on the enemy this Non-commissioned Officer showed great coolness and courage. He led the party to the point of entry into the enemy trenches, and then under heavy fire while the raid was in progress he laid a tape to our own trenches to direct the raiding party back again. Prior to the raid he did valuable reconnaissance work in preparation for it.	
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	

Raymond H. Smith
Lieut

WAR DIARY

OF

40th Bn A.I.F.

FOR

December

1917

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	40 th Bn. Order no 33
2	— — — — — 33
3.	B.M./130/43 Congratulatory on raid.
4	B.M./130/43 Do.
5	3 rd Div. Intell Summary no. 17
6.	10 th Bde. " " " 162
7-8	Museum Receipts.
9	Bde Order no 83.
10	Bde — — — 84
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Alan Buntchankleyto

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(SECRET)

(COPY NO. 2)

10

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

MAP REFERENCE: FLEISCHMANN 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 6th/7th December 1917.

RELIEF.

3. The 40th Battalion will proceed to the trenches in the order:-

- Headquarters
- "B" Company
- "D" Company
- "A" Company
- "C" Company

Headquarters will move at 4.30 P.M. and Companies will follow by Platoons with 100 yards distance between Platoons.

Companies will take over as follows:-

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

PACKS, COOKERS, ETC.

4. Packs and Officers Valises will be on the Road at RED LODGE by 11 A.M. 6/12/1917. Cookers and Surplus Mess and Office Gear will be ready by 4 P.M. in the same place.

All Cooking and Office Gear to go to the Trenches will be ready by 4 P.M.

TRENCH STORES:

5. Companies will take over Gun Boots, and all Trench Stores, and will send one copy of receipts for same to Battalion Headquarters by 11 A.M. on 7/12/1917.

CHANGES IN OFFICERS.

6. During the time in the Trenches the following changes of Officers will be made temporarily:-

- Lieut. H.L. FOSTER "A" Coy. to be Acting O/C "D" Company
- Lieut. C.W. MARSHALL "A" Coy. to "D" Coy.
- Lieut. H.E. LAKIN "C" Coy. to ~~"A"~~ "B" Coy.

REPORTS:

7. Reports will be sent in by Companies in CODE to Battalion Headquarters at GREY FARM (U.9.b.8.4.) Immediately ~~1~~ on completion of relief.

Plp
..... Captain
Adjutant.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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(SECRET)

(COPY NO. 2)

11

40th BATTALION A. I. F. ORDER NO. 54

MAP REFERENCE: 1/40000 SHEET 28.

14th December 1917

INFORMATION and INTENTION.

1. The 40th Battalion will be relieved in the Sector immediately South of the RIVER DOUVE by the 26th Battalion on the night 15th/16th December 1917.

ADVANCE PARTIES.

2. Advance parties of the relieving Battalion will move in on the night 14th/15th December 1917. One Guide per Company of the 40th Battalion will report at Battalion Headquarters at 5 P.M. on the 14th December.

MAIN RELIEF.

3. Companies will be relieved in the following order:-

- "B" Coy. (Right Front Line) 40th Battalion by "D" Coy. 26th Battalion
- "D" Coy. (Left Front Line) 40th Battalion by "A" Coy. 26th Battalion
- "A" Coy. (Support Line) 40th Battalion by "B" Coy. 26th Battalion
- "C" Coy. (Reserve) 40th Battalion by "C" Coy. 26th Battalion

Companies of the 40th Battalion will not move until relieving Troops are in position. They will move out in the order "C"; "A"; "D"; "B";. On receipt of Code Word "LAMP" from Battalion Headquarters, companies will move in that order when relieved.

GUIDES FOR MAIN RELIEF.

4. Guides for Main Relief will report to Lieut. R.H. Smith at Battalion Headquarters at 4.45 P.M. on 15th December 1917. They will consist of one per post of Front Line Companies, and one per Platoon of Support and Reserve Companies. Each guide will have a slip of paper stating the post or platoon for which he is guide.

MOVEMENT AFTER RELIEF.

5. On completion of relief the 40th Battalion will entrain at HYDE PARK CORNER at 11 P.M. 15th December. They will detrain at CONNAUGHT SIDING and route march to SHANKHILL CAMP (P.15.b.1.8.). Lieut W.K.FINDLAY will act as entraining officer at HYDE PARK CORNER.

MAPS: TRENCH STORES: etc.

6. All Trench Stores, Maps, Sketches, and Air Photos, and Intelligence connected with the front will be handed over and receipts obtained. Copy of all receipts will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as signed by Officer taking over. Gum Boots will on no account be handed over to relieving troops They will be returned to Gum Boot Store at HYDE PARK CORNER and receipts obtained.

REPORTS:

7. Reports will be sent in by Companies in Code to Battalion Headquarters at GREY FARM (U.9.b.8.4.) immediately on completion of relief.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 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 A.I.F.
- No. 5 Copy O/C "B" Coy. ditto
- No. 6 Copy O/C "C" Coy. ditto
- No. 7 Copy O/C "D" Coy. ditto
- No. 8 Copy 26th Battalion A. I. F.

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

TENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters,
2nd December 1917.

Commanding Officer,
40th Battalion A.I.F.

In addition to the congratulatory messages sent to you yesterday, it gives me great pleasure to convey to you the following message from the Army Commander. Will you please ensure that it is made known to all officers and men of the Raiding Party:

"Following from Army Commander after receiving detailed reports begins. Please convey to 3rd Australian Division and particularly to those Officers and men who carried it out my congratulations and best thanks for the two successful raids last night. They were well imagined and well executed and reflect high credit on all concerned."

W. Ramsay McNeill

Brigadier-General

Commanding 10th Australian Inf. Brigade.

BM/130/43

McNeill
27/12/17

APPENDIX 4

TENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters
1st December 1917.

Commanding Officer,
40th Battalion.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to forward you the following messages, received this morning, and to ask you to be good enough to ensure that they are repeated to every Officer and man of your Raiding Party.

"The Army Commander has personally congratulated the Division, the 10th Brigade, and the Raiding Teams on the fine conception and brilliant execution of last night's operation!

(Sgd) GENERAL MONASH".

"Please convey to the 39th and 40th Battalions and to both Raiding Teams the warm congratulations of the whole Division as well as of the 1st ANZAC Corps and other Divisions upon the brilliantly successful operations of last night which were characterised by fine spirit and dash on the part of all ranks of the Raiding Teams, the excellent co-operation of other arms and good Staff work throughout.

(Sgd) GENERAL MONASH".

On my own behalf I desire to add that the work of your Officers and men was successful in the extreme and added fresh laurels to their Battalion and Brigade.

W. Ramsay McNeill
Brigadier-General
Commanding 10th Australian Inf. Brigade.

Copies

BM/130/43

A }
B } corps
C }
D }

etc Raid Party

Herewith copies of memo from 10th Div. Bde which please have comm^d to all ranks advt.

[Signature]
7/2/17

2519

B Return to I.O. APPENDIX 3
CONFIDENTIAL

1st December, 1917.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Intelligence Summary No.17 from 6 a.m. 30-11-17 to 6 a.m. 1-12-17.

(NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF COMPANY HEADQUARTERS).

1. OPERATIONS.

At 5.15 p.m. and again at 1 a.m. we carried out Raids against enemy front North of CROSS ROADS in U.11.b., penetrating as far as the RAILWAY EMBANKMENT in U.12.c. The operation was successful on each occasion, and besides heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy, several dugouts were destroyed and five prisoners (3 of them unwounded) were brought back. An examination of these men is attached. On the second occasion a raiding party caught the enemy entirely by surprise when his trenches were heavily manned by working parties repairing the damage done during the first raid.

Our Artillery put down most successful barrages on each occasion and the wire was well cut at several places during the preliminary bombardment in the afternoon.

Our Artillery bombarded M.G. and M.W. positions at SPINNING MILL, GASOMETR, and C.11.c.60.50, and also shelled TELEPHONE HOUSE in U.24.a.60.85.

Heavy Artillery fired on the LAUNDRY in C.5.c. between 11 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. The shooting was very accurate and a standing Infantry Patrol, which observed firing from C.5.s.20.10, reported that the Right TOWER superstructure was blown away and many holes were blown in the main building and wall on the left, revealing enemy camouflage and a dugout in rear.

Patrols. (a). Right Brigade Patrols established a daylight Post at C.5.a.20.10.

(b). Left Brigade. Patrols from Right Battalion Front reported seeing an enemy patrol of about 8 men at about U.11.d.70.60. It was dispersed by L.G. fire.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS..

As result of two raids carried out during the night on enemy trenches West of WARNETON, 7 prisoners were captured which established identification of 103rd I.R., 32nd Div., in normal Sector. Examination of prisoners is attached.

4. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery in reply to our bombardment for the first raid opened fire at ZERO plus 3 minutes and his barrage was very slow and thin. During the second raid his fire was slightly more energetic but not at any time intense.

Apart from this, enemy fire during the period on Left Brigade Front was very quiet. On Right Brigade front vicinity of GUNNER'S and DESPIERRE FARMS was shelled every half hour all day long from direction of FRELINGHIEN with 10.5 and 15 cm. H.E. and some Gas.

In the forward area enemy batteries in direction of ST. MARGUERITE and FRELINGHIEN shelled vicinity of Sqs. U.23. and U.29 in the usual fashion. Our trenches in LA BASSE VILLE were bombarded from direction of BAS WARNETON and DEULMONT during the early afternoon. Subsequent to first raid

P. T. C.

DOUVE VALLEY duck-boards were heavily shelled, from direction of COMINES.

6. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Machine Guns. M.G. reported active from WICART Farm, SPINNING MILL, SPINNEY, FRELINGHIEN, and BREWERY (C.17.a).

Minenwerfer. M.W. reported active from WARNETON (heavy and medium), SPINNING MILL, South of DEULEMONT (Pineapples) and C.11.c.60.50.

7. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Enemy aeroplanes flew over our front lines between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, and about noon one machine flew low well behind our lines taking advantage of clouds.

Five enemy balloons were up during the morning behind WARNETON and DEULEMONT.

8. MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

At 1.30 p.m. the head and shoulders of a man were observed in enemy front trench at U.11.d.95.31.

A working party of 20 men, apparently engaged with concrete, at C.5.d.35.30 was dispersed at 9 a.m. by Artillery fire. At 9.45 a.m. two men, one of them wounded were seen to leave this spot.

At 11.45 a.m. train was seen on the COMINES line in V.28.d.

Patrols reported enemy heard driving iron pegs about 50 yards South of UNKNOWN Farm (U.29.d).

Sounds of transport and hammering were also heard in FRELINGHIEN between 3 and 5 a.m.

10. SIGNALS.

When our barrage opened at 5.15 p.m. lights were fired from WARNETON bursting into a shower of Golden Stars. When the Raiders entered enemy fired Rockets which burst into two Red Stars. Right Brigade Observers report the following signals from WARNETON Front:-

At 5.18 p.m. numerous Rockets breaking into 2 Red Stars; At 5.20 p.m. numerous Rockets breaking into 2 Green then Red and Green alternately about every two minutes; At 6.40 p.m. lights ceased. The same signals were observed during the second Raid.

F. L. C. Tack

Lieut.-I.C.
for Lieut-Colonel.-G.S.

B. White

APPENDIX 5

Appendix to Third Australian Division Intelligence Summary of 1/12/1917.

EXAMINATION OF THREE UNWOUNDED PRISONERS, BELONGING TO 103rd I.R., CAPTURED ON THE NIGHT NOV. 30th/ DEC. 1st. WEST OF WARNETON.

1. IDENTIFICATION.

Two unwounded prisoners, both Privates, were captured in the First Raid, belonging to 6th Coy. II Bn. 103rd I.R.
One unwounded prisoner, a Private, was captured in the Second Raid, belonging to 11th Coy, III Bn. 103rd I.R., and two wounded prisoners were passed through C.C.S. (both Privates), belonging to 12th Pioneer Bn.

2. ORDER OF BATTLE.

The Order of Battle, North to South, is 102nd I.R., 177th I.R., and 103rd I.R.; southern boundary of 103rd I.R. is on the LYS and on their left are Bavarians - Divisional No. unknown (probably 5th Bav.Div-normal).
Order of Battle from North to South of 103rd I.R., which holds front between DOUVE and LYS, is 7th Coy. 6th Coy. 5th Coy. and 3rd Coy. The III Bn. is in support; I Bn. in rest.

3. POSITION.

The Battalion in support ^{has} is probably two Coys. in neighbourhood of WARNETON; one certainly in dugouts at the western end of WARNETON, probably along trench from U.12.c.70.70 southwards. The other Coys. of Support Battalion appear to be stationed in U.12.b. and in BAS WARNETON.
Battalion in rest is in COMINES and vicinity. BOUSBECQUE is no longer occupied by troops, owing to our shelling. WERVICQ is being prepared for Winter quarters. The houses are not much good but the cellars are being strengthened.

4. APPROACH ROUTES.

Troops coming up to the Line from the rear use the main road between WARNETON and MAI CORNET, and also tracks across the fields when this road is shelled.
Mound in V.7.a. has no concrete dugout on it except one which is Coy.Commander's H.Q. (probably the dugout at V.7.c.20.98).

5. RELIEFS.

Each Battalion does five days in the line, with all four Coys. in the front. Next relief is of second Battalion by the third, and is due to take place on night of Dec. 2/3rd. Owing to heavy casualties inflicted during our two raids, however, this relief may take place tonight (Dec. 1/2nd).
Subsequent to our raid, one platoon of the 11th Coy, which was in support at the western end of WARNETON, was sent up to the front line to repair the damage done to trenches, and to reinforce the Coy. which had been attacked. It was from this platoon that the unwounded prisoner was taken in the second raid.

6. DEFENCES.

All three prisoners deny any exact knowledge of positions of enemy M.G. They say there are two on the embankment in U.12.c., and there is one in the ruined house at U.11.d.92.38. The most intelligent of the three prisoners states that each Battalion, as it comes into the line, moves positions of M.G. according to the wishes of the Battalion Commander, and that, with the relieving Battalion coming in, all M.G. are generally moved.

Prisoners say they do not know of a M.G. at the GASOMETER. WARNETON TOWER is no longer used for observation. It has had many direct hits on it, and about a month ago our bombardment caused the top of it to fall in, since when it has been impossible to get into the Tower, which was not considered worth repairing.

7. MACHINE GUNS.

Each Coy. has three light M.G., but prisoners believe a few more are either in reserve or to be supplied. One prisoner said there were 15 heavy M.G. in each M.G. Coy, and that there were in all about 80 M.G., light and heavy, at disposal for the defence of the Battalion front between DOUVE and LYS.

Two months ago the prisoner (ETZOLD) belonged to a M.G. SCHUTZGRUPPE. The idea of the SCHUTZGRUPPE is to supply a protective post of two men for each heavy M.G. in order to assist as warning of an attack on M.G. position and also as defenders of it.

ø (one of 6th. Coy).

8. GENERAL.

The most intelligent of the three prisoners, a man named ETZOLD (6th Coy.) states that the day before the raid the men in the front line were told that an attack would probably take place soon, though exactly when was not known. He said this news came through wireless. The second raid was entirely unexpected.

Questioned about the recent discharge of gas cylinders on this area, prisoners said they knew nothing definite, as their Coys. were not involved in it, but that they heard that the 8th. Coy. had had a number of casualties from the gas - the same Coy. which suffered very heavily in the gas bombardment last Sept., when there were 50 killed and wounded in that Coy. alone. Prisoners appeared to be greatly impressed with the powers of our gas.

The 32nd. Div. came from CHAMPAGNE in August, and has been in this sector ever since. Nothing has been announced of any Divisional relief and they expect to be here for the Winter.

Prisoners have heard of great victories on the Italian front, including the capture of hundreds of thousands of prisoners and 2,300 guns. They have heard of proposals for peace with Russia, but they do not think there is any stable Government in Russia with which peace can be made at present. As far as they understand politics, they believe the new Fatherland Party in Germany which has a large following, is firmly resolved to annexe Belgium, and for the defence of Belgium against our attacks they pin their faith to concrete works.

Prisoners did not know where all the concrete came from.

Appendix to 3rd. Austln. Divnl. Intelligence Summary of 2/12/1917.

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF A WOUNDED PRISONER OF THE 3rd. RESERVE COY., 12th. PIONEER BATTALION, CAPTURED NEAR WARNETON IN THE EARLY MORNING OF DECEMBER 1st.

1. METHOD OF CAPTURE.

Prisoner's company was in COMINES. They were alarmed at 8.0 p.m. on November 30th, and moved up to the line at 9.0 p.m. in front of WARNETON to make good the damage to the wire, caused by our raid of some hours previously. Prisoner was wounded by a grenade, and taken prisoner by the raiding party which came over a few hours later.

2. DISPOSITIONS.

The 12th. Pioneer Bn. probably has its headquarters in RONCQ. The companies are divided between RONCQ and COMINES. Each company in turn does 6 days working on the wire of the support lines, etc., between COMINES and WARNETON (but living in COMINES), 6 days in COMINES itself on the construction of concrete dugouts and the building of bridges over the LYS, and 6 days in rest at RONCQ. The men are billeted in concrete dugouts, erected by labour battalions and pioneers, all over COMINES; there being at least 2 companies of the battalion here continuously. COMINES is apparently fairly full of troops, chiefly artillery, (but some infantry. Prisoner states that the bridges, which are being continuously built over the LYS at COMINES and WARNETON, are usually shot to pieces before they are completed.

3. COMPANY STRENGTH AND CASUALTIES.

The company strength is about 64 men, excluding those away on leave or on command. The company had had very few casualties up till last night. They had lost 2 men on the march up owing to the explosion of one of our aeroplane bombs one day. COMINES is stated to be a dangerous place and our shelling causes a regular flow of casualties there.

4. RATIONS.

The rations are fairly good. The field kitchens come up to COMINES from RONCQ every evening at varying times.

5. PERSONAL DETAILS.

Prisoner belongs to the 1917 class, and was called up for service on 24th April, 1916. He was employed in Switzerland as a waiter.

6. INTENTIONS.

Prisoner knows nothing of a withdrawal or an attack on this front. No attack by the English is anticipated.

7. WATER IN COMINES.

There are numerous pumps in the town, but no ^{good} water, and all drinking water has to be boiled.

8. MISCELLANEOUS.

The field tramway with a petrol engine is used as far as COMINES, men on leave proceeding by it. The traffic is confined to the night time, but trains occasionally run by day. The broad gauge railway is never used.

(Corps Intelligence).

9.0
cl
2/12/17

Appendix to 3rd. Austln. Divnl. Intelligence Summary of 2/12/1917.

AEROPLANE PHOTOGRAPHS.

- 69.B. 27.) BAS WARNETON and BLANCHE FARM area.
- 35.)
- 38.)
- 32. (S.E.WARNETON). Tracks across bridge at U.18.b.00.55.
- 28. (N.E.WARNETON). Note tracks from COMINES ROAD across country to FARM strong point U.6.d.2.2; also to hedge corner (where many tracks converge) U.12.b.60.98. Tracks across fields between WARNETON and BAS WARNETON much used.
- 34.) (WAUSTINE FARM and SPINNING MILL). Tracks across
- 36.) country to SPINNING MILL from S.E. Large dugout at
- 37.) WAUSTINE FARM very plain.
- 30.) Battery position or much used dugouts on north side of
- 31.) BRICKFIELD U.30.c.5.7. Signal line through C.6.central
- 33.) very plain. Traffic evidently goes up QUESNOY ROAD as far as U.30.c.2.7, where also tramway terminus and probably dump. Double row of wire visible in front of CESSPOOL TRENCH (U.30.c. C.6.a.).
- Enemy uses bridge at U.30.a.8.9. and walks under bank of river on our side towards PONT ROUGE bridge. Track S. from U.24.d.central to dugouts U.30.b.32.65. Bridges at U.30.b.20.45 and b.22.30. much used. Dugout at U.30.a.70.46.
- WICART FARM post much damaged. Dugouts South of it at U.24.a.58.40, 24.a.56.33, and 24.a.60.25 along trench.
- 39. Vicinity of TWIN FARMS (C.12.a). Tracks up to farm at C.6.c.25.50.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

APPENDIX
APPENDIX

6

10TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 162. 1st DECEMBER 1917.

Reference Map - Sheet 23.

OUR OPERATIONS.
MACHINE GUNS.

Indirect fire was carried out on Roads etc around WARRINGTON. Machine Guns cooperated with Artillery barrage.

PATROLS.

Patrols were sent out on the left Battalion Sector and kept NO MANS LAND clear for the assembly of Raiders at different periods. Enemy patrol consisting of 8 to 10 men were seen at approx. U.11.d.70.60.

Patrols on the right Sector went out, but nothing unusual was noticed.

RAIDS.

As a result of the two raids carried out last night, 5 prisoners were captured and no real identifications (103rd I.R., 32nd Div. SAKOR) established.

Prisoners stated that they had been told to expect an attack on this front.

Enemy bombardment during first raid opened at Zero plus 8 minutes and was very slow and thin. DOUVE VALLEY was heavily shelled, but WARRINGTON TRACK was left free from shelling. At Zero, raiders of 2nd party noticed wiring part composed of 12th Pioneer Batta & new garrison of 103rd Reg attempting to repair previously destroyed wire.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.
ARTILLERY.

From 1 p.m., to 2 p.m., enemy was very active against our Front line in U.17.a. and U.17.d. with 4.7s and 4.2s from North Easterly direction.

Enemy intermittently shelled U.16.b.3.5. with 4.2s and 5.9s from DEULMONT.

From 5.30 to 7 p.m., from various directions but mostly DEULMONT, retaliatory barrage of 4.2's and 5.9s this was generally along front and support lines.

From 7.20 to 8 a.m., enemy was very active against our front and support lines with gas, 4.2s and 5.9s. This fire was all retaliatory for our barrages, it appears to come from WIGANT FARM and DEULMONT.

DOUVE VALLEY Duckwalks and Subsidiary Line in Left Battalion Sector was subjected to heavy enemy fire between 5 and 7.30 p.m., these shells appeared to come from DEULMONT and WARRINGTON.

MINENWERFERS.

20 minenwerfer were directed against our front line in U.11.d. between 7.30 and 8 a.m. from WARRINGTON.

22 minenwerfers fell in U.17.b.6.5. from direction of SPINNING MILL.

Between 6.30 and 8 p.m., 30 minenwerfers were directed against U.17.d.60.67.

MACHINE GUNS.

Machine Guns were fairly active during the night from WIGANT FARM, SPINNING MILL and SPINNEY.

PATROLS.

No hostile patrols were encountered during this period.

SIGNALS.

During the night many white lights bursting into 2 green stars were fired along the front.

When our barrage opened, enemy fired lights from WARRINGTON, these lights burst into shower of Golden stars. Where Raiders entered, enemy fired rockets bursting into 2 red stars. On right Sector, one red star rocket was fired - no apparent result.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

OBSERVATION OF THE ENEMY.

At 12.30 p.m., a train was seen proceeding south from V.10.d.

During the morning a light Railway Train was observed on Railway near SPINDLING HILL.

Gun flashes were observed during the morning at U.13.c. and also V.8.c.

Enemy Observation balloon remained up between 1 and 2 p.m., in rear of ARGENTON.

AEROPLANES.

Between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, enemy aeroplanes flew over our lines.

VISIBILITY.

Very indifferent during the day.

CDC. F. HALL. Lieut.

For. G.O.C. 10th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

F 47

AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUMS.

Received from (Name) Col Lord (Unit) 40th Bn AIF
 for the National Collections being formed by the Australian War Records Section, Chancery Lane, London,
 W.C. 2., the following relics, etc., which have been given on behalf of UNIT
SELF **APPENDIX. 7**

No.	Article.	No.	Article.
620	Fort Bridge used at Messines		
621	" " " " " "		

H.Q. 1st ANZAC,
6.12.17 191.....

G L Bailey Cpl
 I/c Collecting Depot, Australian War Museums.

20 Bks.—10/17.—7051.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUMS.

F 37

APPENDIX

Received from (Name) Col Lord

(Unit) 40th Div A.I.F.

for the National Collections being formed by the Australian War Records Section, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. 2., the following relics, etc., which have been given on behalf of $\frac{\text{UNIT}}{\text{SELF}}$:-

No.	Article.	No.	Article.
567	German Paper Balloon		
568	Wooden shoe		

H.Q. 1st ANZAC,

30.11.17 191.....

G.L. Bailey Cpl

In Collecting Depot, Australian War Museums.

Bks.—10/17,—7051.

APPENDIX

10th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 83

18th December 1917.

MAP REFERENCE :- 1/20,000 Sheet 36.

INFORMATION 1.

(a) The Third Australian Division (less Artillery) will relieve the 38th (Welsh) Division (less Artillery) in the Area between H.20.d.50.30 and the River LYS during the period 18th/21st December 1917. Command of the Area will pass at 10.0 a.m. on 21st December, 1917.

(b) The Area is held by two Brigades in the line and one Machine Gun Company, furnishing Nucleus Garrisons in and about ARMENTIERES.

The front is covered by the 38th (Welsh) Divisional Artillery.

The Right Boundary is PARK ROW AVENUE (exclusive); I.20.a.0.5.; the road running through I.19.b.32.15, I.13.c.0.4, H.24.a.80.70, H.17.d.55.35; a straight line to H.16.b.00.53; Rue de MOULIN.

The Left Boundary follows the River LYS (inclusive) to C.15.d.0.2; thence a straight line to C.19.b.0.3; along the LYS to B.23.d.60.05; thence along the road B.23.c.64.44 to B.27.c.1.5.

The inter-Brigade boundary runs from I.16.b.20.52 in the front line to I.2.c.8.0, thence to the LYS at H.4.b.45.35.

Headquarters of the Right Brigade is at H.11.a.4.4.

Headquarters of the Left Brigade is at ERQUINGHEM.

Headquarters of the M.G.Coy. (see above) is at B.30.d.40.10.

(c)

(i) The 11th A.I.Bdo. (less M.G.Coy), with 10th Machine Gun Company attached, will take over the Right Brigade Area from 113th Brigade.

(ii) The 9th A.I.Bdo will take over the Left Brigade Area from the 115th Brigade.

(iii) The 23rd A.M.G. Coy. will take over the ARMENTIERES Nucleus Garrisons from the 176th M.G.Coy.

INTENTION 2.

The 10th Australian Infantry Brigade (less 10th M.G.Coy) with 11th Machine Gun Coy. attached (for tactical purposes) will be in Reserve in the STEINWERCK Area.

Until accommodation becomes available the 40th Battalion will remain in its present Camp.

MOVES

3. Moves will be in accordance with Table attached.

10th M.G. COMPANY

4. 10th Machine Gun Company in accordance with verbal instructions sent Advance Parties into the line on night 18th/19th December 1917, and will complete taking over on night 19th/20th December 1917.

* (and 10th A.L.T.M. Battery)

DEFENCE

The Defence of the Area will be governed by the principles laid down in existing Defence Schemes. Where necessary the details of the Schemes will be modified.

All Defence Schemes and maps will be taken over from 9th Australian Infantry Brigade and also aeroplane photos, Intelligence summaries, if available, and receipts given for same.

BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters will close at ATERLOO CAMP (S.18.d.l.l.) and open at BLUE BALL VILLA (A.17.a.o.l.) at 3 p.m. on 20th December 1917.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

In custody

Major.
Brigade Major.
10th Australian Infantry Brigade.

DISTRIBUTION

- Copy No. 1 G.O.C.
- 2 Brigade Major
- 3 Staff Captain
- 4)
- 5) 3rd Aus. Div. by D.R. at 8 a.m. on 19/12/17
- 6)
- 7 37th Battn
- 8 38th Battn
- 9 39th Battn
- 10 40th Battn
- 11 10th M.C.Coy.
- 12 10th A.L.T. Battery
- 13 9th Aus. Inf. Bde.
- 14 11th Aus. Inf. Bde.
- 15 10th F.Amb.
- 16 10th F.Coy. Engrs.
- 17 88th Coy. Div. Train
- 18 Bde. Sec. Div. Sigs.
- 19)
- 20) WAR DIARY
- 21)
- 22 FILE

By D.R. at 8 a.m.
on 19/12/17

By D.R. at 8 a.m.
on 19/12/17

Adm

152

APPENDIX 10

26

SECRET

Copy No. 11

10th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 84

19th December 1917.

MAP REFERENCE:- 1/20,000 Sheet 36.

APPENDIX 10

INFORMATION

This order will be read in conjunction with 10th Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 83.

INTENTION

1.

MOVE.

2.

The 11th Aust. Machine Gun Company will move from T.14.d.6.4. to B.13.b.2.5. on 20th December 1917; head of column to pass junction of WATERLOO ROAD and NOUVE EGLISE - DE SEULE ROAD T.20.e.9.0. at 1.45 p.m.

RECONNAISSANCE

3.

Parties of 37th and 38th Battalions consisting

- (a) Either the C.O. or 2nd in Command.
- (b) 2 Officers per Company.
- (c) 1 N.C.O. per Platoon
- (d) 5 Runners.

and a party of 11th Aus. M.G. Coy. consisting of

- (a) Commanding Officer.
- (b) Two other Officers.
- (c) 1 N.C.O. per Section
- (d) 3 Runners.

will report at 10 a. m. on 20th December 1917 to Staff Officer ARMENTIERES DEFENCES at 78 Rue de SADI CARNOT, ARMENTIERES, who will provide guides to enable such parties to reconnoitre the ARMENTIERES DEFENCES.

Similar parties of 39th and 40th Battalions will report at same time and place on 21st December 1917 and 22nd December 1917 respectively for the same purpose.

After preliminary reconnaissances, reconnaissances by small parties must be continued until units are thoroughly conversant with the area.

4.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Continued by
 Major.
 Brigade Major.
 10th Australian Infantry Brigade.

DISTRIBUTION

- Copy No. 1 C.O.C.
- 2 Bde. Major
- 3 Staff Captain
- 4)
- 5) 3rd Aus. Div. by D.R. at 11 p.m. 19/12/17
- 6)
- 7 37 Battn)
- 8 38th Battn) By D.R. at 11 p.m.
- 9 11th Aus. M.G. Coy.) 19/12/17.
- 10 39th Battn)
- 11 40th Battn)
- 12 10th A.M.G. Coy.) By D.R. at
- 13 10th A.L.P.L. Battery) 8 a.m.
- 14 9th Aus. Inf. B. Co.) 20/12/17
- 15 11th " Div. Brigade.)
- 16 Staff Officer ARMENTIERES Defences) By D.R. at 11 p.m.
- 17)
- 18) WAR DIARY
- 19)
- 20) FILE

Coy's
2 M.G.
1 M.G. Coy. platoon
1 Runner.

H.Q.
C.O.
S.O.
4-80
1 Runner.

Added AA. 15

ck

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX

Aug.

Dec. 1917

SECRET
10th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 85.

RELIEF TABLE.

SERIAL No.	DATE	UNIT	FROM	TO	RELIEVED BY	STARTING POINT	TIME TO PASS S.P.	ROUTE	REMARKS.
1	31/10/17	37th Bn.	B.19.a. 4.1.	NEUVE EGLISE	2/7th K.L.R.	Railway crossing at TROIS ARBRES	10 a. m.	MONT d'ACHELLES MOMARIN, LEINSTER road.	(a) 1st and 2nd Line Transport of 37th and 38th Bns will move with units, and 1st line transport will proceed to lines at HILLSIDE SOUTH T.14.c. Transport of 11th A.M.G.Coy. will move with the Company.
2	-do-	39th Bn.	B.1.a. 5.3.	-do-	2/8th K.L.R.	DE SEULE road, junc. B.1.Cent.	10 a. m.	DE SEULE -- NEUVE EGLISE Road.	
3	-do-	38th Bn.	B.19.b. 5.7.	ALDERSHOT CAMP.	2/6th K.L.R.	-do-	10.15 a.m.	-do-	(b) Throughout march units will maintain 100 yds. distance between Coys and between units and their transport, and 500 yards between units.
4	-do-	11th Aus. M.G.Co.	B.13.b. 2.8	M.23.c. 3.7	171st M.G.Co.	-do-	10.30 a.m.	-do-	(c) Advance Parties as under will report to units on 30th December 1917... 1 officer, 2 O.R. per Battn (except 40th Bn.) 1 O.R. to 11th M.G.Coy.

W. J. Connelly Major.
Brigade Major.
10th Australian Infantry Brigade.

APPENDIX 10

APPENDIX. 11 10

SECRET

Copy No.....

TENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 85

29th December 1917.

MAP REFERENCE :- 1/20,000 Sheets, 36 N.W. and 28 S.W.INFORMATION

1. The 3rd Australian Division (less Artillery) will be relieved by the 57th Division (less Artillery) accompanied by the Divisional Supply Column, in the present area of the COMB Front between 31st December 1917 and 4th January 1918.

On relief the 3rd Australian Division will be located in the METELEN - RAVELSBERG - LOCHE Area, with Divisional Headquarters at MERRIS.

INTENTION

2. The 10th Australian Infantry Brigade (less the 10th Aus. M.G. Coy and 10th Aus. L.F.M. Battery) and the 11th Aus. M.G. Coy will be relieved by the 171st Infantry Brigade in accordance with the attached Relief Table.

Each Battalion (except the 40th Battn) will detail 1 Officer, for Hdqrs, and 1 N.C.O. per Company to act as guides, and the 11th Aus. M.G. Coy will detail 1 N.C.O. for the same purpose. The 37th Battalion will at once send an N.C.O. to reconnoitre the Light Trench Mortar Battery Camp (at present unoccupied) at A.18.d.6.3. and this N.C.O. will meet the 171st Light Trench Mortar Battery and guide it to this Camp.

All the above guides must be at the BAILLEUL WEST Siding at 12 Noon on 31st December, 1917, where they will meet incoming units detaining, and after guiding them to their Camps will report back to their units.

The 42nd Battalion is providing guides for WATERLANDS CAMP.

DEFENCE
SCHEMES
ETC.

2. Defence Schemes relating to this Area together with any maps &c., will be handed over to relieving units and receipts obtained therefor. The 40th Battalion will send an Officer to WATERLANDS CAMP at 3 p.m. on 31st December who will wait there for the 2/5 K.L.R. and will hand over their copy of the ARMENTIERES Defence Scheme and obtain a receipt.

AS soon as relief is complete defence schemes &c., relating to the RAVELSBERG - NEUVE EGLISE Area including Anti Aircraft measures which were taken over in accordance with Para. 8 of 10th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 82, will at once become operative. (This applies also to 10th Aus. M.G. Coy., and 10th A.L.F.M. Battery).

Handwritten signature and date:
20/12/17

HANDING OVER
OF BILLETS.

4. Commanding Officers will arrange for the handing over of billets in a clean and satisfactory condition and certificates of their 2nds in Command that this has been done will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters within 24 hours of such handing over.

In the case of Battalions the certificates of the 2nds in Command will be countersigned by the R.M.O.'s.

Attention is directed to para. 29 of 3rd Aust. Divisional Standing Orders for War, Page 19.

TAKING OVER
CAMPS.

5. Units will take earliest opportunity of sending ^{advances} Advance to the Camps and billets to which they will move, so that such Camps and Billets will be ready for occupation.

BRIGADE
HEADQUARTERS

6. 10th Australian Infantry Brigade Hqs. will close at its present location at BLUE BALL VILLA (A.17.a.O.1.) and will open at WATERLOO CAMP (S.18.d.1.1) at 11 a. m. on 31st December 1917

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*ackd
R.C.*

James Connelly

Major.
Brigade Major.
10th Australian Infantry Brigade.

DISTRIBUTION

- | | | | |
|----------|-----|--|------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1 | G.O.C. | |
| | 2 | Brigade Major. | |
| | 3 | Staff Captain | |
| | 4 |) | |
| | 5 |) 3rd Aus. Division. by D.R. at 9 a. m. 30/12/17 | |
| | 6 |) | |
| | 7 | 37th Battn |) |
| | 8 | 38th Battn |) |
| | 9 | 39th Battn |) By Runner at |
| | 10 | 40th Battn |) |
| | 11 | 10th Aus. M.G. Coy. |) 8 a. m. on 30/12/17. |
| | 12 | 10th A.L.C.M. Battery |) |
| | 13 | 11th Aus. M.G. Coy. |) |
| | 14 | 171st Inf. Brigade. |) |
| | 15 | 9th Aus. Inf. Brigade. |) By D.R. at |
| | 16 | 11th Aus. Inf. Brigade. |) 9 a. m. on |
| | 17 | O.C. 3rd Aus. Div. Sig. Coy. |) 30/12/17. |
| | 18 | Bde. Sec. Div. Sigs. |) |
| | 19. |) | |
| | 20 |) WAR DIARY | |
| | 21 |) | |
| | 22 | FILE. | |

40th BATTALION A.I.F. HEADQUARTERS OFFICERS MESS

CHRISTMAS DINNER SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM 1917

M E N U

SOUP
(Une Verre de Vin)

ENTREE

Grilled Mutton Bird
(Encore une petite verre de Vin)

JOINTS

Roast Turkey

Ham
(Encore une petite verre de Vin) /

SWEETS

Plum Pudding

Jellies

BEER

WHISKY

WINE

COFFEE

"Oh, it's good is the grub when your'e feeling hollow,
But the best of a meal is the smoke to follow."

ITEMS OF ENTERTAINMENT

1. The Padre will relate the pathetic story of how the "Cloth" failed to protect him.
2. The Sig. Officer will sing "SHINING SARAH".
3. By this time it is expected that any programme would not be strictly adhered to.

" TOASTMASTER"

Captain A. la Touche Cruickshank

"TOASTS"

1. THE KING

2. AUSTRALIA


3. OUR BATTALION

4. A SILENT TOAST (Proposed by Nobody and drunk by everybody. To the "BOYS" who took the "COUNT".)

5. A NOISY TOAST (Proposed by ANYBODY and drunk by Nobody. "To the "BOYS" who stayed at HOME".)

(A receptacle will be provided into which the Wine for this Toast will be emptied.)


A MERRY XMAS!



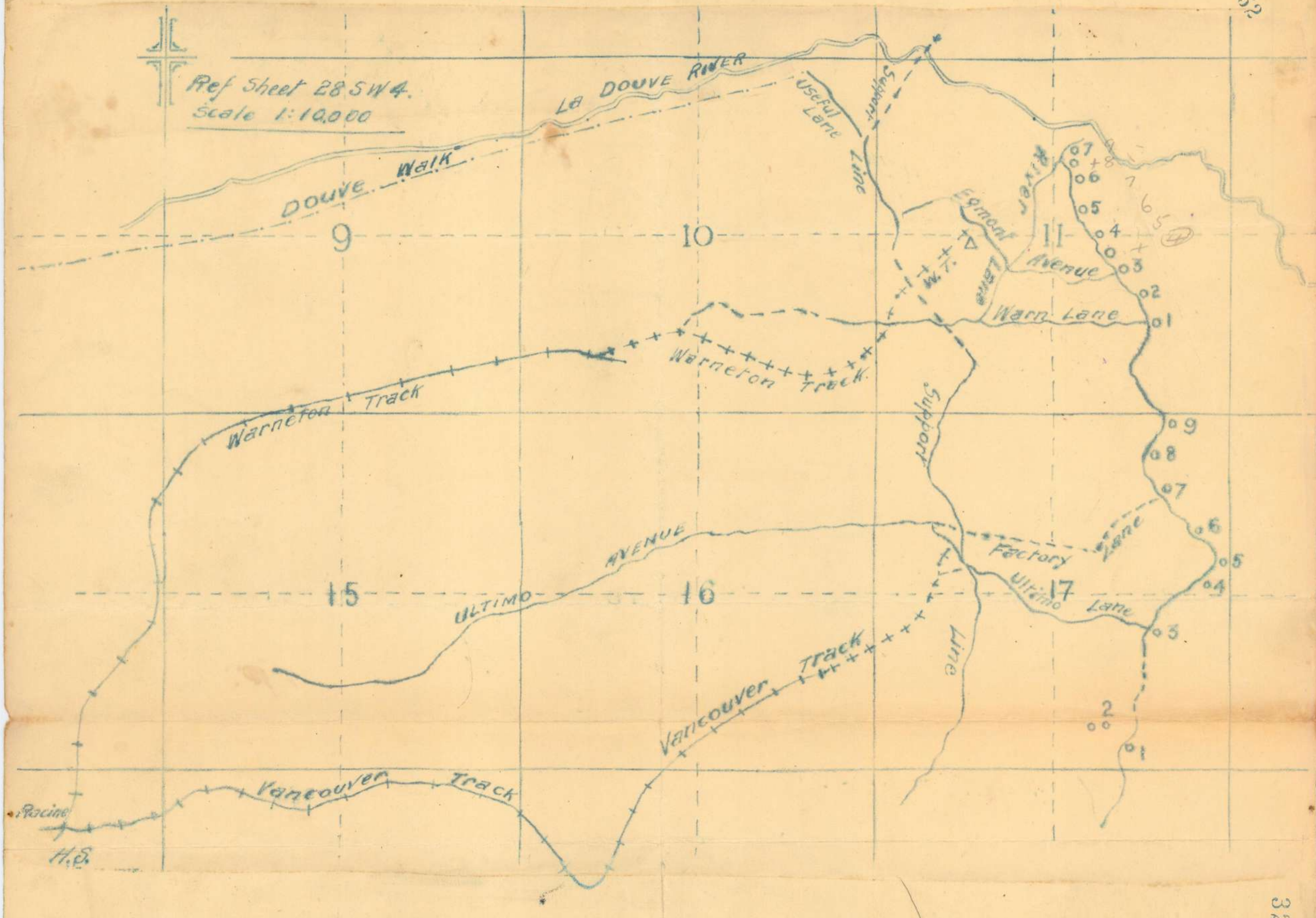
This CARD is issued Regimentally
 Notifying that £76 has been
 Received by Cable from the
 WOMEN WORKERS of the 40th
 BATTALION COMFORTS FUND.
 (through 10th Brigade Depot)
 for
 "CHRISTMAS CHEER"

"Extras" issued this day are the
 proceeds of this
 Gift.

25/12/1917.



Ref Sheet 28 SW 4.
Scale 1:10,000





Headquarters.
3rd Australian Division.

REPORT ON TWO RAIDS CARRIED OUT BY 10th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ON NIGHT OF 30th NOVEMBER and 1st DECEMBER 1917.

In order to effect surprise, it was planned to carry out two raids on the same portion of the enemy's trenches at different times on the same night.

Nothing was done to attract attention to this spot until the last day when the wire was cut by 4.5 Howitzers using 106 fuzes, this shoot being combined by a bombardment on other portions of the front.

The objective of the two raids was a triangular portion of the enemy's front line between the points U.11.d.90.35, U.11.90.85 and U.12.c.25.70.

FIRST RAID.

Captain N.G. BOOTH, 3 Officers, and 70 Other Ranks of the 39th Battalion.

At ZERO HOUR 5.15 P.M. on 30th November the 18 pdr. barrage opened. The heavy artillery engaged special targets and enemy batteries. The Stokes Mortars covered the flanks with smoke, and a Machine Gun barrage was opened.

The Infantry advanced from their positions as assembly close to the barrage at ZERO PLUS 3 the 18 Pounders lifted and the Raiders entered the enemy's trenches. The enemy wire was found to have been well cut and offered practically no resistance.

DAMAGE DONE TO THE ENEMY.

Many small dugouts containing the enemy were bombed, and two larger ones were set alight with "P" Bombs. Others of the enemy were shot with revolver and rifle and some were bayoneted; the total killed by the raiders were 30. In addition to this, the Raiders on arrival at the trenches found some who had been killed by the preliminary barrage.

PRISONERS.

Two prisoners were brought back belonging to the 6th Coy. of the 103rd Infantry Regiment (normal). They stated they had been told to expect an attack on this front, but that no exact time had been mentioned.

<u>OUR CASUALTIES:</u>	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Died of Wounds</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	-	1	-
O. Ranks	1	1	11

The bodies of the three killed were brought back into our lines. Only one of the eleven wounded was severely wounded.

ENEMY ACTION:

It was ZERO PLUS 8 MINUTES before the enemy fire opened, and even then it was very slow and thin. Later on, however, the DOUVE Valley was heavily shelled throughout.

RETURN OF RAIDERS:

On account of the Shelling of the DOUVE Track, the raiding party returned by the newly constructed WARNETON Track, which had been finished only the night before and being unknown to the enemy, was left free from shelling. No casualties were suffered during the evacuation.

SECOND RAID:

Lieut. H.L. FOSTER; 3 Officers; and 73 Other Ranks of the 40th Battalion.

ZERO HOUR was 1 A.M. on 1st December, Objectives and Artillery arrangements were the same as in the case of the First Raid.

AT ZERO the raiders noticed a wiring party attempting to repair the previously destroyed wire, and on entering the ~~tr~~ trenches discovered a very big working party composed of the 12th Pioneer Battalion and a new garrison of the 103rd Regiment.

The attack seemed to be entirely unexpected and the enemy was in no prepared to receive it.

DAMAGE DONE TO THE ENEMY:

Our men killed large numbers of the Germans, the rifle being used a great deal. The left party killed 50 and the Right Party 20. It is also considered that the barrage accounted for considerable numbers as well as the above.

PRISONERS:

Three prisoners were captured, two of whom were wounded. (Identification normal).

OUR CASUALTIES.

One man Missing
Two men slightly wounded

ENEMY ACTION:

Enemy fired RED LIGHTS at ZERO PLUS 3, and at ZERO PLUS 6 a barrage opened on our support line. It was at no time at all heavy. Machine Gun fire seemed to be heavier and more energetic than on previous occasion, but did no damage

RETURN OF RAIDERS:

The party was evacuated by the WARNETON track without suffering further casualties. Telephone communication worked well throughout both raids, on only one occasion was one line cut and communication disconnected for a short period.

Both raiding parties speak in the highest praise of the excellence of the 18 pdr. barrage.

W. RAMSAY McNICOLL; Brigadier-General

Commanding 10th Australian Infantry Brde.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 25

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

or INTELLIGENCE - SUMMARY.

40th BATTALION A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	STRENGTH FOR DECEMBER 1917										Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices						
			<u>Strength</u>		<u>Reinfts.</u>		<u>Rejoined</u>		<u>Sick</u>		<u>Killed</u>				<u>Wounded</u>		<u>Missing</u>		<u>Others</u>	
			Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.			Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.
	1917																			
	Dec.																			
	1		43	631																
	2		45	630				2												
	3		45	623																
	4		45	625																
	5		45	627																
	6		45	625																
	7		45	636																
	8		45	633																
	9		45	640																
	10		45	635																
	11		45	630																
	12		45	631																
	13		45	629																
	14		47	631																
	15		47	624																
	16		47	639																
	17		47	653																
	18		47	665																
	19		47	673																
	20		47	675																
	21		48	675																
	22		48	673																
	23		48	671																
	24		48	671																
	25		48	701																
	26		48	702																
	27		47	705																
	28		46	705																
	29		46	703																
	30		46	701																
	31		46	701																

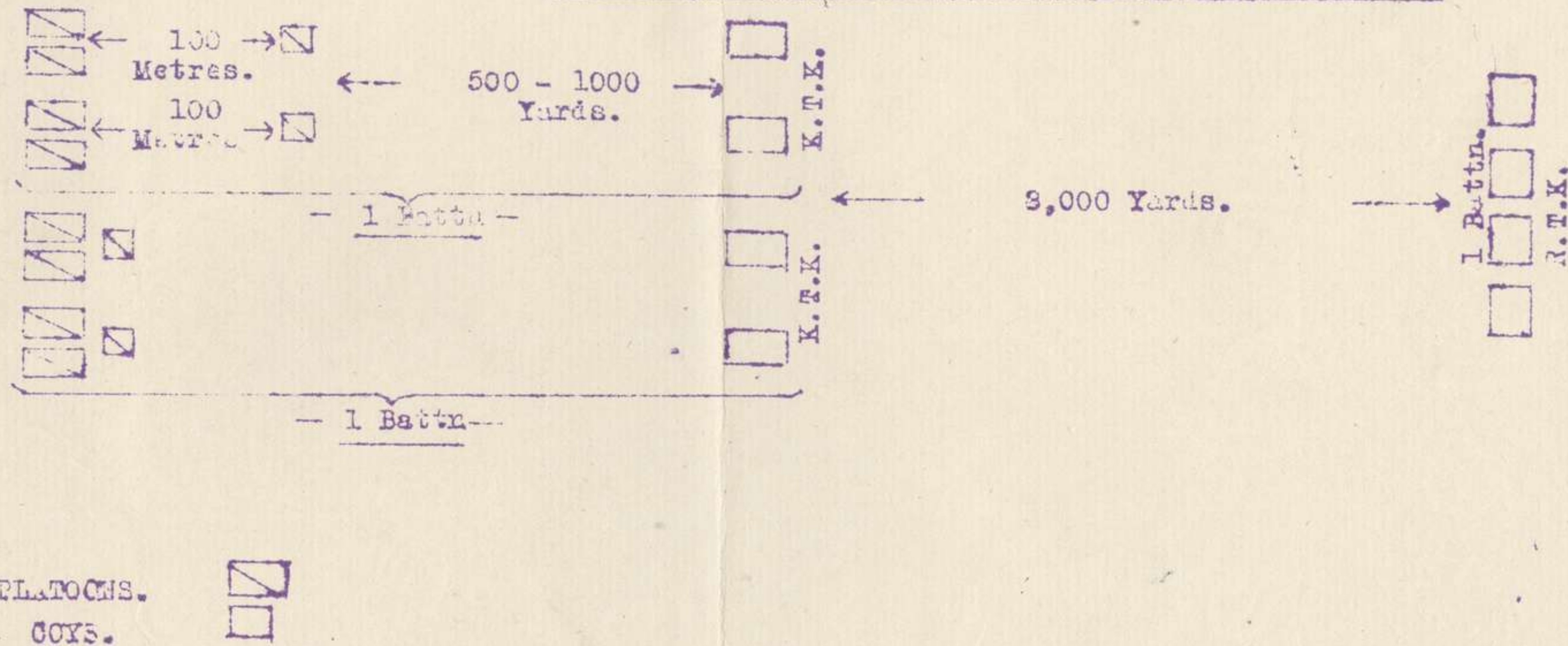
Wanderlust

Annex to Third Austln. Divn. Intelligence Summary dated 27/12/1917.

- 1b -

No. 115.

PROBABLE DISPOSITIONS OF 14th. I.R., 4th. DIVISION.



28/12/17

- 2b -

No. 115.

PROBABLE RELIEF TABLE FOR 14th. I.R., 4th. DIVISION.

	<u>December.</u>		<u>January.</u>	
BE.	24.	31.	7.	14.
I.	F.L.	Rest.	F.L.	I.C.R.
II.	Rest.	F.L.	F.L. (I.C.R.)	Rest.
III.	F.L.	(F.L. & I.C.R.)	Rest.	F.L.

H.B. - These dates are purely tentative, as the period in the line is not always constant.