

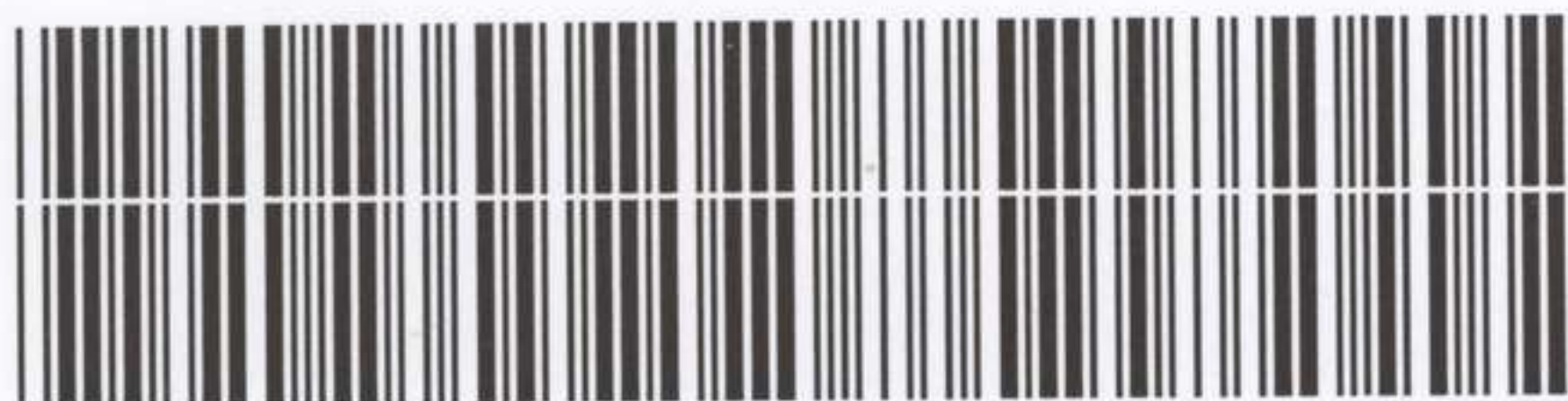
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/48/35

Title: 31st Infantry Battalion

June 1918



AWM4-23/48/35

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~~TRIPLICATE.~~

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

31ST. BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

MONTH OF JUNE 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

M. Pain

Lieutenant.

Signature of Officer Commanding

R. A. Leaver

Major.

for C.O. 31st. Battalion, A.I.F.

JUNE - 1918.

CORBIE SECTOR - Reference Maps : Sheets 62D N.E. & S.E.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Place

Date

Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
References to
Appendices

June 1st.

Lieut Larnack took out a patrol of 12 O.R. from P.2.b.93.33 at 12.45 a.m. and searched P.3.a and vicinity of Cross roads P.3.c.3. Patrol returned at 2.30 a.m. reporting no sign of enemy activity. Sgt. Leech took out a patrol of 9 men from J.33.c.4.1 at 12.30 a.m. and searched P.3.a and b and road in P.4.d. Patrol halted at various points for a few minutes, but nothing was seen or heard of the enemy. Patrol returned at 1.45 a.m.. During the day the enemy was quiet and there was nothing special to report. During the morning the C.O. proceeded to C.O.s' school at MONTIERES to the West of AMIENS. At 10.30 p.m. the first of the 50th. Battalion, who relieved the Battalion, arrived. While the relief was in progress strong covering parties were put out by the front line companies. *MP*

APPENDIX "A".

June 2nd.

Reference map : 62D S.W. - AUBIGNY.

Relief was completed by 1.30 a.m. without casualties, and Battalion moved to its position in AUBIGNY line O.8 and 14, arriving there at 4.15 a.m.. Battalion was billeted in dugouts and trench shelters. Soon after breakfast the Battalion was relieved by the 14th. Battalion and moved off at 8.25 a.m.

RIVERY.

Battalion arrived at RIVERY at 12.45 p.m. and occupied billets in the HOSPICE at M.2.a. For the rest of the day the men were left to themselves to rest after a foot inspection had been carried out. Up to the time it was relieved the Battalion had done a tour of 53 days continuously without even a company relief. A tour in the line of this length is believed to be a record for the British Army troops in France. Copy of a letter from Brigadier-General E. Tivey C.B., D.S.O., V.D. forms

APPENDIX "B". *MP*

June 3rd.

Companies were left in the hands of the Company Commanders during the day, and inspections of arms and equipment and clothing were carried out, and reorganisation of Companies ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ proceeded with. Nucleus marched in and rejoined Battalion during the afternoon. *MP*

June 4th.

Parades for the day were in the hands of Company Commanders, when reorganisation was carried on and the necessary preparations made for beginning training on the 5th. inst. A/C.O. and Company Commanders made a reconnaissance of routes forward which would be used in the event of an enemy break through. Brigade Band played a selection during the evening in the grounds of the hospital and the music was greatly appreciated by the men. *MP*

June 5th.

Training commenced today, Companies being under the supervision of the Company Commanders. Training from 9 a.m. to 12 noon consisted of musketry, bayonet fighting, gas drill and general smartening up drill. Signallers, Lewis Gunners and Observers trained under their specialist officers. In the afternoon the box respirators of the Battalion were tested in tear gas. *MP*

June 6th.

Training was carried on as on previous day. The Divisional Commander visited the Battalion in the morning and inspected the training and billets, and expressed himself well satisfied. The afternoon was devoted to organised games. During the day part of the Battalion was inoculated with T.A.B. Allotment of leave to ABBEVILLE for the Battalion is two officers per day. *MP*

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RIVERY : Reference map : Sheet 62D S.W. 1/20,000

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
	June 7th.		There was very little training carried out today as the men who had lately been inoculated were given 48 hours' no duty. The remainder of the Battalion was inoculated during the morning. Those men who were able participated in organised games in the afternoon - cricket, football and swimming. Two Companies of the Battalion occupied the billets vacated by the 32nd Battalion in the evening, thus distributing the Battalion over a larger area and preventing large numbers of casualties in the event of shelling or bombing of the Hospice.	
	June 8th.		There was practically no training carried out today on account of the inoculation of the men. The C.O. returned from the school at MONTIERES. The weather still remains fine and warm.	
	June 9th.		Today being Sunday there was no training carried out, and Church Parades were voluntary. In the afternoon the Battalion held an Aquatic Carnival at the baths in RIVERY. This Carnival was a try out for the Brigade Carnival which is to be held on the 12th inst. The weather continued fine today, but in the afternoon was dull.	APPENDIX "C".
	June 10th.		Training was carried out as usual today, the Signallers, Lewis Gunners and Observers reporting to their specialist officers. The Lewis Gunners went up to the Citadel, AMIENS and carried out range practices. The balance of the Companies carried out musketry, gas drill and bayonet fighting. In the evening the weather broke, and there was rain for about an hour, which kept down the dust without making the ground soft. The shelling of AMIENS continues, but they are falling away from the Hospice and in the centre of the town.	
	June 11th.		Training as usual was carried out in the morning - Lewis Gunners were on the range and Signallers and Observers were with their specialist officers. C.O. and I.O. made a reconnaissance of the country for the purpose of finding a suitable camping ground for the Battalion. It was considered by higher authority that the risk incurred by having so many men in the buildings of the Hospice was too great.	
			CAMON. Battalion moved out of the Hospice, RIVERY, at 4 p.m. and took up positions in the trenches near CAMON. The Battalion was bivouacked in trench shelters and tents.	APPENDIX "D".
			The weather continued fine and warm.	
	June 12th.		During the morning the usual training was carried out, the specialist officers took the specialists. Bishop Long, Director of Education, A.I.F., visited the Battalion during the morning and talked to the men with reference to the work of his Department which concerned itself chiefly with classes in all civil subjects which will be brought to being when hostilities cease. Forms were distributed to the men to fill up. In the afternoon the Brigade Aquatic Carnival was held at the AMIENS baths and was a great success. The following are the Battalion representatives amongst the winners : Tied with the 29th Battalion for first place in the Relay race (teams of five) ; Pte. LYDEMENT secured first place in the 45 yards race; Pte. Peakes, first in the Cigarette race and Diving Competition; and Pte. Claringbold, second in the 200 yards race.	
	June 13th.		Training was carried out as usual in the morning, and in the afternoon organised games. During the afternoon the C.O. visited the Battalion now occupying the CLERMONT and ROMA lines, prior to the Battalion taking over this sector on the night 14th/15th inst.	

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J U N E - 1 9 1 8.

Place

Reference map : Sheet 62D N.W. 1/20,000 and Sheet 62D N.E. 1/20,000

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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and the Staff Manual respectively. The pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

June 14th.

The morning was occupied in cleaning up the camp and getting ready for the move forward. At 1.45 p.m. Battalion moved from its present area and embussed for PONT NOYELLES. Arriving there at 3.30 p.m. the march was started for the trenches in I.10, which latter place was reached at 5 p.m. The Battalion halted here and had tea, which was very soon ready as the cooks had arrived at almost the same time as the men. Battalion moved off again at 9.45 p.m. in following order : H.Q., "D", "C", "B" and "A", and passed through BONNAY, across the ANCRE and up ridge to Brickworks in J.19.b. From here Battalion proceeded to Crossroads at J.14.c.5.0 where guides from 26th. Battalion were supposed to meet the Battalion at 11 p.m. They did not, however, turn up, and the C.O. decided to push on to H.Q. of 26th. Battalion where the Battalion arrived at about 12 midnight. Guides were obtained here for the Companies.

June 15th.

Relief was completed at 2 a.m. without casualties, the Battalion now being in Support to the 32nd. Battalion on Right and 30th. Battalion on left in the front line.

APPENDIX "E".

Dispositions are as follows : Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P. in Ravine at J.22.d.15.40 ; O.P. at J.22.c.60.80 ; Transport lines and Q.M. Stores at 19.a. In ROMA line "A" Coy. on right from J.22.d.6.3 to J.22.d.8.7 with H.Q. at J.22.d.7.4 ; "B" Coy. in the centre from J.22.d.8.7 to J.23.a.2.7 with H.Q. at J.22.b.95.15 ; "C" Coy. on the left from J.23.a.2.7 to BRAY-CORBIE road J.17.c.4.0 with H.Q. at J.23.a.2.8. "D" Coy. were distributed as follows : 3 Platoons in BEGA C.T. from J.23.a.9.0 to J.23.b.1.2, and 1 Platoon in the CLERMONT line from J.23.b.2.1 to J.23.b.25.15. Coy. H.Q. at J.23.a.9.2. During the day the Companies had opportunity to get the lay of the country in the vicinity, and to settle down. The enemy artillery was not very active, the chief shelling being : 7 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. 14 5.9" in WOOD in J.22.b ; 9.45 a.m. 20 4.2" in J.19.d ; 1.15 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. 42 77mm. H.E. and 5 77mm. gas, 13 4.2" on J.22.c. 1.25 p.m. to 3.35 p.m. 24 77mm. and 10 5.9" on J.22.b ; and 4.36 p.m. 9 77mm. on J.23.d. Enemy 'planes were over our lines at 1 p.m., 4.5 p.m., 5.50 p.m., 6.35 p.m. and 8.5 p.m. All were engaged by A.A. and L.G. fire. During the evening two platoons of "D" Coy. moved across road and occupied trench from J.17.c.50.25 to J.17.c.60.45, the remaining two platoons spread out and now occupy the positions formerly occupied by the whole company. The weather continues fine, but cool in the evening.

June 16th.

Enemy artillery was not very active during the day; the chief shelling being : J.22.c, 3 5.9", 32 4.2"; J.22.b, 10 77mm. and 14 4.2"; J.18.c, 35 4.2"; J.24.c, 40 77mm. Hostile aerial activity was not very great during the day. One 'plane was over our lines between 10 p.m. & 11 p.m. bombing. The Company in CLERMONT line (was "D" Coy.) has been seized by an epidemic of influenza, and today five men were evacuated on this account. The weather remains fine but still cool.

June 17th.

Enemy artillery showed a marked increase during the day, the chief shelling being : J.23.b. and d, and J.24, 77mm. and 4.2", H.E., shrapnel and gas - an area shoot; J.22.b, 3 77mm., 17 4.2" and 6 5.9"; J.22.d, 16 77mm., 6 4.2" and 25 77mm. shrapnel ; J.29.b, 10 77mm. and 2 4.2" ; J.22.c, 7 77mm. H.E. and 3 77mm. shrap., 13 5.9" ; J.24.d, 16 4.2" ; J.23.d, 20 77mm. gas, 13 77mm. shrap., 11 4.2" ; J.22.a, 7 77mm. H.E., 13 77mm. gas, 20 4.2" and 2 8". During the early morning hostile 'planes were fairly active over our lines, 2 over at 6.35 a.m., 4 at 6.55 a.m., 1 at 7.40 a.m., 1 at 8.10 a.m., 11 at 9 a.m. and 2 at 1.15 p.m. The Brigadier paid the C.O. a visit at 5 a.m. and discussed with him various points in connection with the defence of the sector. The outbreak of influenza in "D" Coy. has apparently obtained a hold, as 17 O. were evacuated to A.D.S. in the evening. The weather continues fine.

(3).

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

J U N E - 1 9 1 8.

Reference map : Sheet 62D N.W. 1/20,000 and Sheet 62D N.E. 1/20,000

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

June 18th.

At 1.30 a.m. 194 cylinders were fired from gas projectors in K.19.c.1.0 into ravines in K.25.d. APPENDIX "F". Field artillery co-operated. Enemy artillery was fairly active during the day, the chief shelling being : J.23.b and d, J.24, an area shoot with 77mms., 4.2" shrap., gas and H.E. ; J.22.b, 3 77mm., 17 4.2" and 6 5.9" ; J.22.c, 77 77mm.H.E., 8 77mm.shrap., 13 5.9" ; J.22d, 16 77mm.H.E. 25 77mm.shrap., 6 4.2" ; J.24.d, 19 4.2", 13 77mm.shrap. and 20 77mm. gas ; J.22.a, 20 77mm., 20 4.2" and 2 8". Enemy 'planes were over the sector at the following times : 2 at 6.35 a.m., 4 at 6.55 a.m., 1 at 7.40 a.m., 1 at 8.10 a.m., 11 at 9 a.m. and 2 at 1.15 p.m. The weather remains fine but cool. During the evening the buried cable to Brigade was broken and the Battalion was out of touch with Brigade for about two hours. Advice was received that information had been obtained from a prisoner to the effect that an attack was intended on our front between K.7.central and K.13.central during the night 18/19th June. The object was to recover the ground captured by the Second Australian Division at the beginning of the month. Up till midnight this attack had not eventuated. 17 more men from "D" Company were evacuated with influenza.

June 19th.

The attack expected during the night was not made. During the day the enemy artillery was very active, and especially so on the Brigade front between 9.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. Chief shelling was J.22.c, 24 4.2" H.E., 4 4.2" shrap., 39 5.9" ; J.22.c and d, 27 5.9" ; J.22.d, 16 4.2" and 10 5.9" ; J.29.a, 14 77mm. ; J.22 and 23, 19 4.2" ; J.23.b, 30 77mm.H.E. and gas ; J.23.c, 10 77mm. ; J.23.b and c, 20 4.2" ; J.23.d and 29.b, 38 4.2" ; J.24 and 30, 30 77mm.H.E. and gas, 87 77mm. ; J.30, 27 77mm. ; J.23 and 30, 40 77mm. During the day slight movement was observed in Q.14.c and d, Q.9.a, Q.21.c, Q.20.d ; transport movement was seen in wood in Q.14.b and d. Owing to rain in the morning and dullness during the day there was practically no aerial activity. Enemy 'plane patrolled No Man's Land at 8 p.m., engaged by A.A. and L.G. fire. At 9.30 p.m. the enemy put down a barrage along the Brigade front, but it was directed mainly against the Left Battalion, C.Ts. support and reserve lines. No action eventuated. About 15 men were evacuated sick during the day.

June 20th.

Enemy artillery was fairly active during the 24 hours, but not so active as previous day. Areas chiefly shelled were J.22.a, 8 4.2" ; J.22.b, 6 4.2", 11 5.9" ; J.22.c, 24 77mm.H.E. and gas, 15 4.2" H.E., 3 4.2" shrap., 16 4.2" H.E. and gas, and 7 5.9" ; J.22.c and d, 60 4.2" ; J.23, 104 4.2" ; J. 29.a, 20 77mm. and 10 4.2" ; J.24.c, 25 77mm. and 4 4.2" ; J.30.a, 33 77mm. General Hobbs and General Tivey visited the C.O. at 6.30 a.m. and discussed the defence of the sector. At 5 p.m. 4 hostile 'planes were over our lines, but were engaged by a formation of our own 'planes with no decisive result. 15 more men were evacuated with influenza during the day. At 11.30 p.m. 16 reinforcements arrived from 5th.A.D.Rft.Wing, and were posted to their companies. "D" Company are still evacuating on an average 15 men per night suffering from influenza.

June 21st.

Enemy artillery was active during the day. The following areas were shelled : J.22.b with 33 77mm. ; J.22.c with 29 77mm., 2 4.2" shrap., 42 4.2", 11 5.9". Of these about 20 4.2" fell in the vicinity of Battalion Headquarters, and also in the large ravine, and one of the company cookers was punctured in several places - no casualties were however caused. J.22.d with 5 minutes 77mm. area shoot and 10 4.2" ; J.23.a with 12 77mm., 68 4.2" ; J.23.b with 17 77mm., 23 4.2" ; J.23.c, 17 77mm., 36 4.2" ; J.23.d, 17 77mm. and 4 4.2".

Remarks and references to Appendices

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
References to
Appendices

Army Form C. 2118.

June 21st.(contd)

There was no hostile aerial activity during the day. C.O. visited Right Front Battalion (32nd.) Sector with C.O. of that Batta. in the afternoon. It was fine during the day, but in the evening rain set in and made the ground very slippery. Five reinforcements arrived from 5th.A.D.Rft.Wing. 13 men were evacuated sick from "D" Coy with influenza. *mp*

June 22nd.

Enemy artillery was not so ~~very~~ active during the day as on previous occasions, and then confined to the afternoon and evening. Areas chiefly shelled were J.22.c, 13 77mm.; 2 4.2" ; J.22.d, 20 77mm.; J.23.a, 16 77mm., 22 4.2" ; J.23.c, 20 77mm., 20 4.2" ; J.23.d, 50 77mm., 18 4.2" H.E., 4 4.2" shrap., 20 5.9" ; J.29.a, 30 77mm., 14 4.2" and 25 4.2" shrap. During the morning it was very dull and looked like more rain. However, at noon the clouds began to blow away, and the afternoon was clear and windy. The influenza attack on "D" Coy. has slackened and there were only three men evacuated sick. *mp*

June 23rd.

Enemy artillery was fairly active during the day. Areas chiefly shelled were J.22.c, 3 77mm. and 20 4.2" ; J.22.d, 12 77mm. & 2 4.2" ; J.23.a, 22 77mm.; J.23.b, 55 77mm. and 22 4.2" ; J.23.c, 55 77mm. and 65 4.2" ; J.23.d, 30 4.2" ; J.24.a, 41 4.2" ; J.24.b, 40 4.2" ; J.24.c, 44 4.2" ; J.24.d, 60 4.2" ; J.29.a, 57 77mm. & 35 4.2" ; J.29.b, 46 77mm. and 20 4.2". Hostile aeroplanes were over our lines at 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 9.15 p.m. All were engaged by A.A. and L.G. fire. At about 11.30 p.m. hostile 'planes dropped a bomb on 32nd. Battalion ration limbers and ration parties causing severe casualties- 18 killed and 22 wounded. A party of 1 officer and 50 O.R. was sent out from "A" Coy. to assist in removing the wounded, burying the mules, and cleaning up the vicinity. *mp*

June 24th.

Enemy artillery was not very active during the day. Areas chiefly shelled were J.22.d, 8 77mm., 7 4.2" ; J.23.b, 30 77mm., 29 4.2", 7 5.9" and 7 8" ; J.23.d, 17 4.2" ; J.24.b, 33 77mm., 4 4.2" ; J.28.b, 30 77mm., 3 4.2" ; J.29.a, 22 77mm. Hostile 'planes were over our lines at 4.30 a.m. (1), 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. (4), 7 p.m. (11). All were engaged by A.A. and L.G. fire. *mp*

June 25th.

Enemy artillery was fairly active throughout the day and night. Chief areas shelled were J.22.b with 22 77mm., 32 4.2", 29 5.9" ; J.22.c, 11 77mm. and 10 4.2" ; J.23.b, 44 77mm. and 17 4.2" ; also a 1½ hours' shoot with 77mm. H.E. and 4.2" gas was put down. J.23.c, 92 77mm. and 22 4.2" ; J.23.d, 161 77mm. and 72 4.2" ; J.24.b, 17 77mm. and 9 4.2" ; J.24.c, 19 77mm. and 72 4.2" ; J.24.d, 40 77mm. H.E., 4 77mm. shrap., 8 4.2" ; J.29.a, 10 77mm., 20 4.2" ; J.29.b, 9 77mm. and 35 4.2", also a 1½ hours' shoot was put down with 77mm. H.E. and 4.2" gas. An A.A. Battery was observed firing from Q.14.a.37.65. At 8.28 p.m. 6 parties each of 20 men observed behind FORBES WOOD. During the afternoon officers of the 56th. Battalion reconnoitred the sector from prior to 56th. Batta. relieving the Battalion during the night, 26th/27th. inst. *mp*

June 26th.

At 12.30 a.m. 32nd. Battalion (in line on right of Brigade Sector) carried out a raid on enemy trenches in K.19.c, and were successful in obtaining three prisoners who provided the necessary identification. Enemy artillery was fairly quiet throughout the day. The greater part of the day was spent in preparing to hand over to the 56th. Battalion in the evening. In the afternoon the I.O. with 1 officer and 2 N.C.Os. per Company of the 56th. Battalion arrived and took over all stores and positions. The Battalion commenced to arrive at 11 p.m.. Relief was complete at 12 midnight without casualties. APPENDIX "G". *mp*

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J U N E - 1 9 1 8.

Reference map : Sheet 62D N.W. 1/20,000.

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June 27th.

On being relieved Companies moved out independently to the LA HOUSSE Switch in I.4.a and d, I.10.b, with Battalion Headquarters at I.4.a.45.35. Transport and Q.M.Store remained in their old position in WOOD in 19.a. On arrival in their new positions the men were given a hot cup of tea. The remainder of the day was in the hands of the Coy. Commanders who allowed the men to rest and clean up and generally make themselves comfortable. A memo. was received from O.C."Z" Special Coy. through 8th.A.I.Brigade in reference to carrying parties supplied to the Company during the tour in the lines. A copy of same forms APPENDIX "H"

June 28th.

Owing to the exposed position of the Battalion ordinary training cannot be carried out above ground. Training of all men in Lewis Gun work was laid down under Company arrangements. It is very essential now that all men should be trained in the use of this weapon seeing that the scale of issue is now 36 guns per Battalion. The weather still remains fine, but during the day it is not too hot.

June 29th.

A large number of the Battalion are employed on fatigue duties away from the Unit, mostly employed on cable burying. Training in Lewis Gun is, as far as possible, carried out. C.O. proceeded on leave to PARIS

June 30th.

Training was carried out as usual, but owing to the large fatigue parties it was not possible to do a great deal. Lieut-Colonel Clark, A/G.O.C.Brigade visited the Battalion in the evening and informed the A/C.O. that Major R.A.Geddes, 32nd.Battalion, would be arriving in the evening as Second in Command of the Battalion, Monthly Report of Transport Officer, see APPENDIX "I". Monthly Report of Quartermaster, see APPENDIX "J".

	Off.	O.R.
Total Effective Strength	42	911
Attached:		
A.A.M.C.	1	-
A.A.P.C.		1
A.A.O.C.		1
32nd.Battalion	1	1
	44	914
Detached : Nucleus, at schools,		
Div., Bde., in Fd.Amblyce.	23	406
Ration Strength as at 30/6/18.	21	508
COURTS MARTIAL during month	7.	
ORDERLY ROOM CASES during month	33.	
REINFORCEMENTS during month	-2 Officers and 13 O.R.	
CASUALTIES during month :		
Killed in Action	- 1 O.R.	
Died of Wounds	- 1 O.R.	
Wounded	- 9 O.R.	
Wounded & at duty	- 3 O.R.	

Proceeded to line on 14th/15th.inst. : 24 Off. and 681 O.R.

Major.
for C.O. 31st.Battalion, A.I.F.

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

WAR DIARY

OF

31ST. BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

MONTH OF JUNE 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
A.	Battalion Order re relief on night, 1st/2nd. June 1918.
B.	Copy of letter from Brig-Genl. E. Tivey, C.B., D.S.O., V.D.
C.	Programme for Battalion Swimming Carnival held on 9/6/18.
D.	Battalion Order re move from RIVERY to CAMON on 11/6/18.
E.	Battalion Order re taking over line on 14th/15th. June 1918.
F.	Order re Gas Projector operation on 17th/18th. June 1918.
G.	Battalion Order re relief in line by 56th. Battalion on 26th/27th. June 1918.
H.	Copy of memo. received from O.C. "Z" Special Company.
I.	Monthly Report of Transport Officer.
J.	Monthly Report of Quartermaster.

SECRET.

Copy No. 10

31ST. BATTALION, A.I.F. ORDER NO. 163.

Reference Map :

Sheet 62D 1/40,000

31st. May 1918.

1. The 8th. Australian Infantry Brigade will be relieved by the line on night of 1st./2nd. June by 3 Battalions of the 13th. Australian Infantry Brigade.
2. The 31st. Battalion will be relieved in the line by the 50th. Battalion.
3. Companies in the line will put out strong covering parties to cover the relief, and in addition all protective precautions will be taken.
4. All trench stores, defence schemes, maps, works policies, aeroplane photographs, and any information relative to the sector will be handed over, and receipts being entered on receipts which will be forwarded in duplicate to Battalion Headquarters as soon after relief as possible.
5. (a). All technical stores will be carried out by Companies.
(b). Lewis Gun Magazines will be carried out filled.
(c). Each man will carry out 120 rounds S.A.A. and 5 rounds A.P. S.A.A.
Loose bandoliers will be placed in ammunition recesses and handed over.
6. GUIDES:
One guide per post will report to Battalion H.Q. before dawn on morning of 1st. June. These guides will be given definite instructions as to the number of the post they occupy.
7. Administrative Order will be issued separately.
8. Subject to the terms of this order, arrangements for the relief will be made between Company Commanders concerned.
9. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion H.Q. by code word "WHISTLE".
10. (a). On completion of relief Companies will assemble at the following assembly points, care being taken not to bunch up unnecessarily :-
"A" Coy. on Tow-path in vicinity of Battalion H.Q.
"B" Coy. - as for "A" Coy.
"C" Coy. in vicinity of Battalion H.Q.
"D" Coy. will move off as a Company from their position.
Companies will then move along Tow-path on North bank of the river, crossing either of the two bridges at CORBIE, thence along South bank of the river to junction of Tow-path and road at O.3.c.70.15 (AUBIGNY) where guides will meet Companies and lead them to their positions in AUBIGNY Line.
(b). Moves will then be vide Table "A" attached.
Battalion Headquarters will be situated at O.13.a.3.9.
(c). Battalion Transport will move independently to starting point, reaching there at 4.15 a.m.
11. Lewis Gun limbers will meet Companies at Foot-bridge at Battalion H.Q. for transport of L.G. equipment and technical stores.

Issued by runner at 9.30 p.m. to

"A" Coy	No. 1	copy.
"B" "	" 2	"
"C" "	" 3	"
"D" "	" 4	"

Copies to :

C.O.	" 5	"
Adjutant	" 6	"
Bde. H.Q.	" 7	"
50th. Battalion	" 8	"
T.O. & Q.M.	" 9	"
War Diary	" 10/12	"
File	" 13	"

P. H. Taylor
Captain.
Adjutant, 31st. Battalion, A.I.F.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
issued in conjunction with
31st. BATTALION ORDER NO. 163.

1. All area stores will be handed over in Situ. No trench shelters will be removed from the area.

Care must be taken that no limber covers are left in the area.
Receipts must be obtained for every trench shelter handed over.

2. GAS STORES : All Gas Stores will be handed over in situ.

3. G.P.R. and S.P. RATIONS: The following will be handed over :

General Purpose Reserve :

J.34.a.44 4 - "A" Coy. H.Q. - 300

J.34.c.65.45 - "B" Coy. H.Q. - 300

J.32.d.1.8 - "C" Coy. H.Q. - 300

Supporting Point :

J.25.d.2.5 - Batta. H.Q. - 240

The greatest care must be taken in handing over these rations. The attached receipts will be signed by officers handing and taking over.

4. Ammunition Dumps on charge to Companies or Platoons will be carefully checked before handing over, special attention being paid to S.O.S. grenades.

5. Transport Lines and Q.M. Store will be handed over in a clean and sanitary condition, every endeavour being made to complete bomb-proof revetments round horse standings before relief.

6. Mechanical Transport:

Two motor borries will be available for use to carry packs, surplus equipment, etc. Lieut. Cairns will detail one guide per lorry to report to the Staff Captain or his representative at Church, DAOURS, at 9 a.m. 2nd. June.

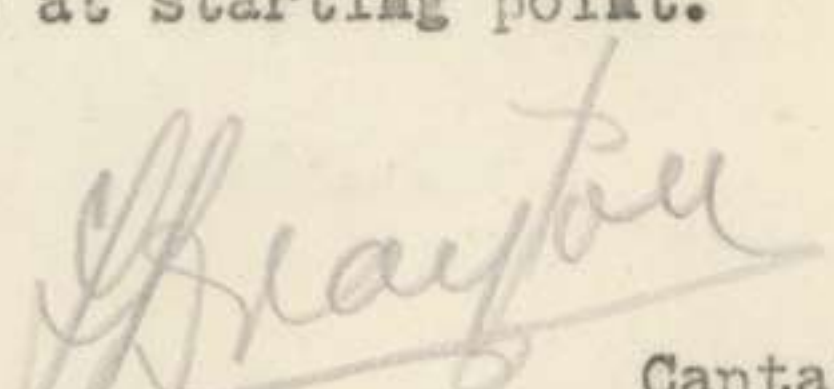
7. Billeting Parties:

Each Company will detail one N.C.O. to report to Battalion H.Q. at 1 a.m. 1st. June to go forward under Lieut. Newall as Billeting Party.

They will report to the Staff Captain at the HOSPICE, RIVERY, at 10 a.m. 1st. June.

8. Company Commanders will receive their horses at starting point.

Issued to all recipients of
Battalion Order No. 163.


Captain.
Adjutant, 31st. Battalion, A.I.F.

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A

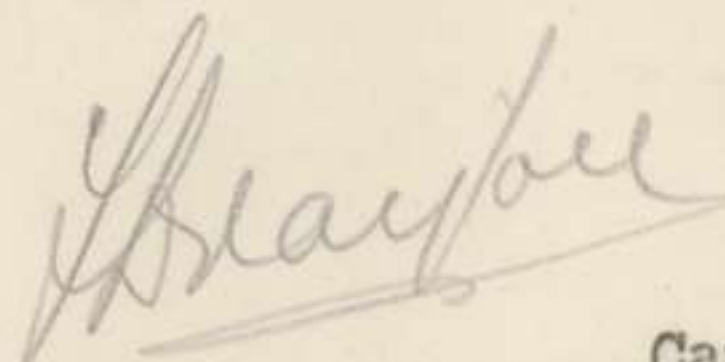
TABLE "A".
To Accompany 31ST. BATTALION ORDER NO. 163.

Serial No.	Date	Unit	From	To	Starting Point	Time.
2	2nd. June	31st. Battn.	AUBIGNY RIVERY Line		0.13.d.0.0	4.25 a.m.

ROUTE: BLANGY TRONVILLE - GLISY - LAMOTTE-BREBRIERE - CROSS ROADS, M.11.a.4.0 - to Billets.

REMARKS: Intervals of 50 yards between platoons, 100 yards between Companies, and 100 yards between Battalion and Transport will be maintained.
Halts will be regulated from head of column.

Note: Strict attention will be paid to march discipline. Usual precautions will be taken against hostile aircraft. One Lewis Gun per Company to be ready for immediate action.


Captain.
Adjutant, 31st. Battalion, A.I.F.

SPECIAL ORDER

by

Brigadier General E. TIVEY, C.B., D.S.O., V.D.COMMANDING 8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Headquarters

3rd June 1918.

The Brigade Commander desires to place on record his appreciation of the fine work done by all ranks of the Brigade during the recent tour in the line.

Although no heavy fighting was experienced, the Brigade held an important sector for fifty-three days, and much hard work was done in consolidating the line, and constant vigilance was required to guard against surprise attacks. One enemy attack and several attempts to approach our line were successfully repulsed, while active patrolling was carried out during the whole period and a number of valuable identifications obtained.

The relief and the march from the line reflect the greatest credit on Commanding Officers and all concerned.

While we are out of the line it is to be hoped that every effort will be made to keep Officers, N. C. Os. and Men fit and well, and also that the high standard of discipline and training of the Brigade will be maintained.

1918

31ST. BATTALION , A.I.F. SWIMMING CARNIVAL .

To be held at Amiens Baths - River Somme on Sunday, 9th June 1918.

OFFICIALSREFEREE

Lieut. Colonel N.M. Freeman. D.S.O.

JUDGESCaptain C.Read.
(29th Battalion).Lieut. C. Brady.
(Brigade H.Q.)Starter
Lieut. A.R.Sime .Timekeeper
Lieut.W.K.Morpeth.Stewards

Lieut. A.G.Corrie

Lieut.E.Knowles .

Lieut. H.Elton .

M M M M M M

M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M

PROGRAMME

Event No.	Time	Event	Prizes.						A Coy.	B Coy.	C Coy.	D Coy.	B.H.Q.
			1.	2.	3.								
(1)	2.00P.M.	45 Yds Championship	70	35	15	Pte. Hynd	Pte. box						Pte. Davies
(2)	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ 15pm	Walking Greasey Pole	50	-	-								Pte. Vickers
(3)	2.30 pm	200 Yds. Championship	30	45	20						Pte. Blarighd		Sgt. Lockitt
(4)	2.45 p.m	90 Yds. Officers Championship .	-	-	-	Lieut. Corrie							Lieut. Doherty
(5)	3.00.p.m.	45 Yds. Novelty Race	50	-	-								Pte. Peakes
(6)	3.15 p.m.	220Yds. Flying Squadron Championship. Teams of 5. Each man to swim a lap .	200	-	-								
(7)	3.30 p.m.	Diving Championship Each competitor to do 3 dives-Standing header, Running header, and fancy Acrobatic Dive .	70.	40						Pte. Smith		Pte. Smith	Pte. Peakes
(8)	4.00 p.m.	90 Yds. Championship	30	45	20	Pte. Campbell					Pte. Blarighd	Pte. Davies	
(9)	4.30 p.m.	880Yds. Championship Swum in River Somme Finish at Rivery Bridge .				Pte. Lorch					Pte. Blarighd		Sgt. Lockitt

M

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APPENDIX D. 13

Secret

31st BATTALION ORDER 164

Copy No 8

Reference Map 62 D 1/40,000

11th June 1918

- (1) The 31st Battalion will move from present billets to trenches in M10 c and d. N.W. of CAMON .
- (2) Coys will detail 1N.C.O. and 4 guides per Coy to report to Mr Spain at Bn. H.Q. at 1.45 p.m. These guides will report to Coys at 0.3.d.67
- (3) Head of column will pass starting point ~~at~~ in following order :-

H.Q.

A. Coy.

B "

C "

D "

An interval of 50 yds between platoons
and 100 yds per Coy will be maintained .

TIME 4. P.M.

Starting pointMain Gate

- (4) L.G. Limbers will report to Coys at 3.30 p.m.
G.S. Waggon to Bn. H.Q. at 3.30 for guns and technical stores .
Mess cart to H.Q. Mess at 2.30 p.m.
Coy chargers to report to Coys at 3.45 p.m.
- (5) Q.M. stores and Transport to remain in present position .
Rations will be delivered to Coys under arrangements of Q.M.

Issued at 2.p.m. to

A. Coy.	No 1 Copy
B "	" 2 "
C "	" 3 "
D "	" 4 "
Q.M. and T.O.	" 5 "
Copy to C.O.	" 6 "
Adjnt.	" 7 "
War diary	" 8/10
File	" 11 "

Blayton
Captain
Adjutant 31st Battalion A.I.F.

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SECRET.

31ST. BATTALION, A.I.F. ORDER NO. 166.

APPENDIX. E

14

Copy No. 8

Reference map : Sheet 62D.

14th. June 1918.

1. The 8th. Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve the 7th. Australian Infantry Brigade in Right Brigade sector of "C" Divisional front on night of 14th/15th. June, staging through Reserve Brigade area. 5th. Australian Infantry Brigade will move into position vacated by 8th. Australian Infantry Brigade.

1ST. STAGE.

2. The 31st. Battalion will move by bus and march route from present locality, embussing at 2 p.m. Head of Column to be at M.9.b.0.8 facing N.E.
STARTING POINT : Battalion Headquarters.
STARTING TIME : 1.45 p.m.
3. Battalion will de-bus at PONT NOVELLES and proceed to FRAN Sector, I.10 and 11.
4. "C" Company will detail one officer to act as embussing officer to report to Captain McFarlane at embussing point at 1.30 p.m.. This officer to have Coy. states.
5. After debussing the Battalion will move to FRANVILLERS line on right of main road, relieving the 16th. Battalion. Cookers to be there by 6 p.m. and to have hot meal ready before moving to the forward area.
6. When in this position Battalion Headquarters will be at I.10.6.8.8.

2ND. STAGE.

7. The Battalion will then move forward passing through BONNAY, crossing the ANCRE thence to Support in CLERMONT and ROMA lines.
8. Dispositions :-
"D" Coy. in CLERMONT LINE running through J.23.b and d.
"A" Coy Right)
"B" " Centre) ROMA LINE.
"C" " Left)
9. Guides will be met at Cross roads in J.14.c.4.0, one per Company for "A", "B" & "C" Coys., one per platoon for "D" Company.
10. Battalion Headquarters will be situated at J.24.d.2.4
11. Lewis Gun Limbers will go as far forward as possible.
12. Existing dispositions will be taken over, receipts for stores, etc., will be handed into Battalion Headquarters on morning after relief.
13. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters by code word "C 1 a 17 "

Issued at 9.45 a.m. to :

"A" Coy.	No. 1 copy.
"B" "	" 2 "
"C" "	" 3 "
"D" "	" 4 "
Q.M. & T.O.	" 5 "

(sgd). F. Drayton Captain.
Adjutant 31st. Battalion, A.I.F.

Copies to :

C.O.	" 6 "
Adjt.	" 7 "
War Diary	" 8/10 "
File	" 11.

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E

Secret.31st. BATTALION, A.I.F.Copy No. 8ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER TO ACCOMPANY BATTALION ORDER NO. 166.

1. Transport will move independently under the Battalion Transport Officer.
2. Transport lines and Q.M. Store will be in WOOD in I.9.a
3. Cooking will be done in positions dug into bank near Battalion H.Q. at night time only.
4. Rations will be brought forward by limber after dark and delivered to front line under Q.M.'s arrangements.
4. R.A.P. will be at Battn. H.Q.
5. Present camp will be left scrupulously clean. All latrines to be filled in and marked "Foul Ground". Tents and shelters will be handed over as they stand to incoming unit.
6. Water in forward area may be obtained from wells in villages and from water points. All water must be chlorinated before using. Shell hole water must not be used.
7. Particular care must be taken over general purpose reserve and supporting point rations.

Issued at 9.45 a.m. to all
recipients of Battn. Order No. 166.

(sgd) F. Drayton Captain.
Adjutant, 31st. Battalion, A.I.F.

SECRET.31ST. BATTALION ORDER NO. 166.Copy No. 5 ^F17th. June 1918.

1. Gas Projectors are now installed at K.19.c.1.0, and it is proposed to load and discharge 200 drums against ravines in K.25.d at 1.30 a.m. on night 17th./18th June, weather conditions being favorable.
2. Wind limits for the operation are S.W. through W. to N.N.W.
3. RIGHT Group artillery will cooperate.
4. The following code words will be used in connection with this operation :
 - HUM - Operation will take place.
 - HUSH - Operation cancelled.
 - HOAX - Operation did not take place.
 - HELL - Operation completed.
5. A special Gas alert will be maintained in the sector from 11 p.m. night 17th./18th. Inst. until operation is completed.

Issued at 10.30 p.m. to

"A" Coy.	No. 1	Copy.
"B" "	" 2	"
"C" "	" 3	"
"D" "	" 4	"

Copies to :

War Diary	" 5/7	"
File	" 8	"

[Signature]
 Captain.
 Adjutant, 31st. Battalion, A.I.F.

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SECRET.

APPENDIX. G.

Copy No. 9 17

31ST. BATTALION, A.I.F. ORDER NO. 167.

Reference Sheet : 62D N.E. Local

25th. June 1918.

1. (a). The 8th. Australian Infantry Brigade will be relieved by the 14th. A.I. Brigade in the Right Sub-sector "C" Divisional Front on night 26th/27th. June 1918.
(b). The 56th. Battalion will relieve the 31st. Battalion in Support.
Q.M. and Transport will remain in present position.
2. On completion of relief 31st. Battalion will move by companies to positions vacated by 56th. Battalion in LA HOUSSE Switch in I.4.a and d.
3. All maps, photographs, trench stores, etc., will be handed over and receipts (attached) in triplicate will be signed and returned to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible. Trench shelters and latrine seats will be entered on receipts.
4. Lewis Gun magazines will be carried out filled. All ranks will carry out 170 rounds per man (S.A.A.)
5. Lewis Gun limbers will be drawn up on road at J.22.d.6.8 at 11.30 p.m. with 150 yards interval facing North, "A" Company's limber leading.
Officers' chargers will be at BONNAY Bridge at midnight.
6. All technical stores will be carried out and may be carried on L.G. limbers.
7. One Officer per Company and one N.C.O. per platoon will report to Lieut. Cairns at Rear Battalion H.Q. at 8 a.m. on 26th. inst. to take over new positions. These N.C.Os. will act as guides for their respective platoons, and will meet Companies at BONNAY Bridge (Main Bridge), being in position at midnight 26th/27th. inst.
8. Companies will take ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ particular care to ensure that latrine pits are covered but not filled, and that trenches are left scrupulously clean and sanitary.
9. Evening meal will be ready for companies at 9.30 p.m. on 26th. inst. Companies will ensure that dixies are returned to cooks as early as possible to allow the cooks to move off. Hot tea will be available on arrival at new position.
10. 56th. Battalion will send advance party of 1 Officer per Company and 1 N.C.O. per platoon. This party will act as guides under their own arrangements.
11. Companies will report by runner when Companies are settled in new positions.
12. Relief complete will be wired to Battalion Headquarters by the code word, "FIXED"

Issued at 9.30 p.m. to

"A" Coy.	No. 1	copy.
"B" "	" 2	"
"C" "	" 3	"
"D" "	" 4	"

Copies to :

Adjutant	" 5	"
C.O.	" 6	"
Q.M.	" 7	"
T.O.	" 8	"
War Diary	" 9/11	"
File	" 12	"

W. Blayton
Captain.
Adjutant, 31st. Battalion, A.I.F.

I.O.
COPY

31st Battalion .

The following is copy of memoreceived from O.C."Z" Special Coy. R.E.

"May I express my appreciation of the magnificent behaviour of the carrying party detailed to assist Lieut. S.J.White . M.C. of this unit in last night's Projector operation on the right Battalion front . There was a hitch in the arrival of the material which was 1½ hours late but the majority of the shoot was successfully completed , thanks to the splendid work of this party .

25/6/18

Signed , F.A.Wisdom . Captain.
Brigade Major 8th Inf. Brigade. A.I.F.

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MONTHLY REPORT OF TRANSPORT OFFICER.

The month has been very dry, but the horses have had plenty of green feed, therefore are in good condition.

There is nothing of further interest to report.

P. L. Seawle

Lieutenant.

T.O., 31st. Battalion, A. I. F.

30-6-18