

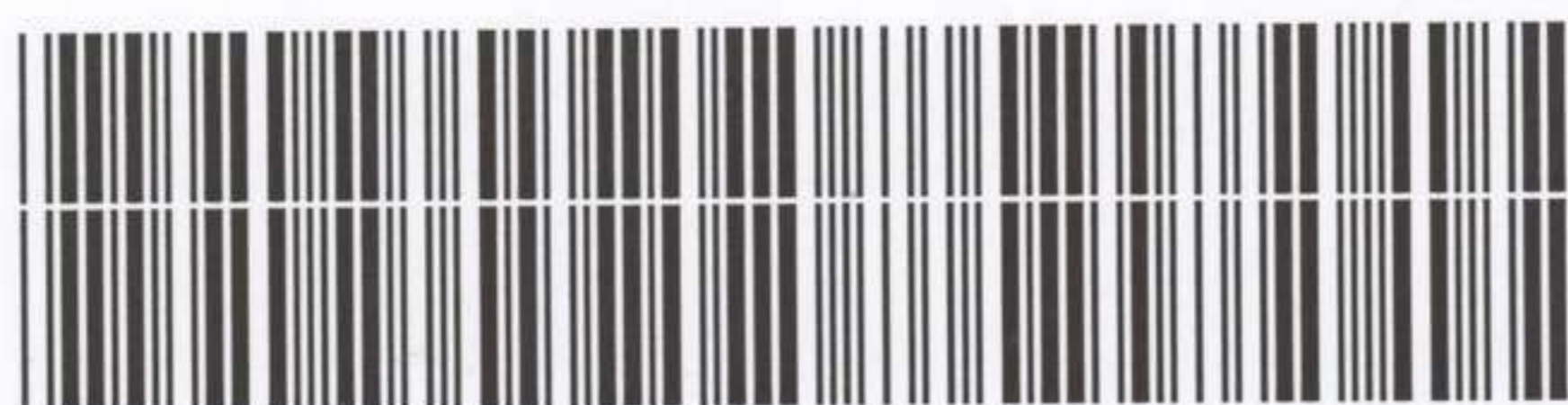
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/48/36

Title: 31st Infantry Battalion

July 1918



AWM4-23/48/36

F. 20,000-5/18-11069.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL. *Original*
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

31st Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

July 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

R. Pain Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Freeman b.w.

I

J U L Y - 1 9 1 8.

LA HOUSOYE SWITCH - Ref. Map : Sheet 62D N.W. 1/20,000.

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.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hours	Remarks and References to Appendices
	July 1st.:		As far as possible the training of Lewis Gunners and Signallers was carried out; but, owing to the large working parties which had to be supplied, the training was somewhat interfered with. Working parties were supplied as follows: 2 Officers and 100 O.R. for cable laying in the forward area; 2 officers and 100 O.R. for cable laying at 5th. Div. Headquarters at ST. GRATIEN. Both of these parties are living at Div. Headquarters. 2 Off. and 70 O.R. to construct dugouts at Div. H.Q. - this party is also living at Div. H.Q. A party of 1 N.C.O. and 30 men was also supplied to build a tennis court at 8th. Brigade Headquarters at FRESCHECOURT. Advice was received that No. 1995 - Sgt. Egerton M.W. and No. 832 - L/Cpl. Collins H. had been awarded the MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL, in the Birthday Honours for continued good work and bravery in the field. Both of these N.C.O.s had on several occasions previously been recommended for awards. The Divisional Commander visited the Battalion and inspected the Transport and expressed himself well satisfied with all that he saw. During the evening Major R.A. Geddes MC, 52nd. Battalion, arrived and assumed command of the Battalion in the absence of the C.O. on leave to PARIS.
	July 2nd.:		Training was carried on as on previous day, and the parties at Divisional Headquarters are still away on their duties. The weather continues fine without being too hot.
	July 3rd.:		Training was carried on as on previous day, and the parties at Divisional Headquarters are still at their duties. The weather continues fine without being too hot.
	July 4th.:		Training was carried out as previously and a range for L.G. training was used at I.9.a.O.2. The parties working at Divisional H.Q. returned to the Battalion. The weather continues fine, but today it was a bit cloudy and overcast.
	July 5th.:		Training was carried out as previously and the Lewis Gunners of "C" Company used the range in the morning. In the afternoon "B" Coy. Lewis Gunners used the range. A cricket match was played in the afternoon between H.Q. Details and "C" Coy., the result being a win for H.Q. by 44 runs. Scores were: H.Q. 98 runs, "C" Coy. 54 runs. Only one innings was played. The weather still remains fine, but a bit overcast.
	July 6th.:		Training was carried out as usual with "B" Coy. Lewis Gunners on the range. An Australian mail arrived today and was very welcome. The weather remains fine, but slightly overcast.
	July 7th.:		Today, being Sunday, there was no training carried out. A voluntary R.C. Church Parade was held at FRANVILLERS in the morning. In the afternoon a cricket match was played between H.Q. and "B" Coy., resulting in a win for "B" Coy. by 2 wickets and 5 runs. Scores were: H.Q. - 1st. Innings, 51; 2nd. Innings, 73 - total, 104. "B" Coy. - 1st. Innings, 45; 2nd. Innings, 64 for 8 wickets. - total, 109. The weather remains fine but still slightly overcast.
	July 8th.:		Training was carried out as usual. No. 2952 - Sgt. N.P. Damm "D" Coy. left for PARIS to take part in the 14th. July celebrations in that city. A/C.O. and I.O. visited Battalion Headquarters of 53rd. Battalion, at Present Left Front Battalion of Right Brigade, and obtained information re the sector. During the evening the weather broke, and there was a light thunderstorm with a few light showers of rain. At 8.50 p.m. an order was received from Brigade Headquarters for a practise 'Stand'. Battalion was ready for action at 9.6 p.m.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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LA HOUSOYE SECTOR - Ref. Map : Sheet 62D N.W. 1/20,000

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

July 9th. : 'Stand Down' was ordered at 1.30 a.m. Training was carried on as usual during the day. The weather continues ~~fine~~ to be unsettled with wind and light showers.

July 10th. : Training was carried out as usual during the day. The weather is still unsettled. In the afternoon the C.O. returned from leave in PARIS. "B" Coy. played "C" Coy. cricket, resulting in a win for "C" Coy. by 51. Scores : "B" Coy. 45 runs ; "C" Coy. 96 runs

July 11th. : Training was carried on as usual, but was somewhat interfered with owing to the unsettled weather - during the day it was very windy and showery. In the afternoon "C" Coy. played R. Es. cricket, resulting in a win for "C" Coy. Scores were as follows : R.E., 27 runs ; "C" Coy. 64 runs for 6 wickets (declared closed)

July 12th. : Training was carried out as usual, all new Lewis Gun teams in particular receiving continuous training. In the afternoon a cricket match was started between "C" Coy. and "D" Coy.. The game, however, was unfinished owing to the ball being damaged.. Cable laying party which has been working forward areas completed its work tonight. Weather continues to be windy and showery. A distribution of comforts from N.S.W. Comforts Fund was made to the men, consisting of cigarettss, tobacco, sweets, playing cards, etc., which were highly appreciated by the men, especially as ~~no~~ cigarettes, etc., are difficult to procure under present conditions.

July 13th. : Training was carried on as usual, Lewis Gunners receiving particular attention. C.O. and I.O. visited Left Front Battalion of Left Brigade Sector (57th. Battalion) to obtain information as to the sector and arrange details of relief which is taking place during the coming week. C.O. held a meeting of Company Commanders in the morning and discussed with them the coming relief. At 8.30 p.m. two of our observation balloons anchored in the vicinity of the Battalion area were attacked by two enemy aeroplanes and set on fire. The observers in each case escaped by parachute. The weather continues to be windy and showery.

July 14th. : Today being Sunday no training was carried out. Church services were held as follows : R.C. service in FRANVILLERS at 9.30 a.m. and at LA HOUSOYE at 10.30 a.m.; C. of E. at 29th. Battalion H.Q. at 10.30 a.m.; and in BOIS DE MADAME at 3 p.m. an O.P.D. service was held. The weather continues very windy and showery.

July 15th. : Training was carried out as usual during the day, Lewis Gunners overhauling their guns finally before the coming tour of duty in the line. During the day a cricket match was played between Headquarters and "C" Company resulting in a win by Headquarters by 77 runs. Scores were : Headquarters, 1st. innings, 31 ; 2nd. innings, 119 ; "C" Coy., 1st. innings, 28 ; 2nd. innings, 45. At 8.30 p.m. C.O. held a meeting of all officers to discuss with them the work and policy which he required carried out during the coming tour in the line. The day was extremely muggy. This was on account of the brilliant sunshine after the heavy thunderstorm at 6 a.m. 1 Officer per Company and 1 N.C.O. per platoon went forward at 9 p.m. to take over stores and make themselves familiar with their sector.

July 16th. : Companies were in the hands of Company Commanders who made use of the time in preparing to move forward. The weather continues to be thundery.

(A9175) W1 W255/P.165 609,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C.118/15

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LA HOUSSOYE SECTOR - Ref.Map. : Sheet 62D N.W. 1/20,000.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Place

Date

Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and References to Appendices

July 17th. :

There was no training carried out during the day, the Companies being entirely at the disposal of the Company Commanders. At 8.30 p.m. the men were fallen in and the roll called preparatory to moving forward. At 9.15 p.m. the Battalion passed the starting point, I.10.b.2.7, and passed through HEILLY, thence along the HEILLY - BUIRE road, reaching Battalion Headquarters at about 10.50

APPENDIX "A".

Lewis Gun limbers were unloaded here and guides from the 57th. Battalion were waiting to take on the Companies.

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

July 18th. :

Relief proceeded satisfactorily and was completed by 1.00 a.m. without casualty. The disposition of the Battalion is now as follows : "D" Coy. Right front line company holding a line of 7 posts from E.26.c.25.25 to E.26.a.40.55 with Coy.H.Q. at E.26.c.30.35. "C" Coy. Left front line company in CULCAIRN TRENCH from E.25.b.72.50 to Corps Boundary, E.19.b.50.00 with Company H.Q. at E.19.c.8.0. "B" Coy. Support - 3 platoons in trench from E.25.b.10.45 to the point where it joins EMU TRENCH, E.19.d.50.15, and 1 platoon in trench from E.25.a.15.9 to E.19.c.40.20. Coy.H.Q. at E.25.a.5.8. "A" Company is in Reserve in EMU SUPPORT from D.30.b.10.20 to D.24.d.65.21 with Coy.H.Q. at D.30.b.10.29.b.2.5. R.A.P. is situated in BUIRE in a deep dugout at

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Left Battalion sector in WELCH TRENCH, D.24.b.5.4. APPENDIX "B" is therefore are still at WOOD in I.9.a (Sheet 62D N.W. 1/20,000). The hot food and dry rations are then brought up by Limber to Reserve Coy.H.Q. The sector is a good sector for the three companies North of the River ANCRE, but the Right front line company's conditions are bad. Their posts are very shallow and wet on account of the marshy nature of

of the ground, added to which the enemy has the extreme satisfaction of being able to look directly into the posts from the top of the high ground in K.2.b. During the day our artillery was active and fired successfully on parties moving about the country. Enemy artillery was not very active on the sector, there being intermittent shelling during the day, VILLE - SUR - ANCRE and its vicinity receiving most of the attention. Enemy is fairly quiet, but at night he is very vigilant. His aerial activity today was very slight. At 9.45 p.m. an S.O.S. signal was sent up on our right. A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men patrolled the whole of the right company front from 12 midnight until 1.15 a.m. at an average distance of 120 yards from our posts. Patrolling is extremely difficult here on account of the swampy nature of the ground.

July 19th. :

A patrol of 1 officer and 16 O.R. left E.19.d.8.7 at 12.15 a.m. proceeding along road and approached enemy post at about E.19.d.7.9. This post was found to be unoccupied. In the post two overcoats were found and in one a number of papers and other articles including half a loaf of black bread, a tin of solidified alcohol, a piece of soap, and a candle. The owner of the coat belonged to 3rd. Company 247th.R.I.R., 54th.Res.Div. The shoulder strap on the other coat bore the number 122 which would seem to indicate that it had been there some time. A patrol of 1 officer and 16 O.R. left E.26.a.05.80 at 2.20 a.m. and proceeded to examine the ground N. of the ANCRE. At E.26.a.25.80 the patrol passed from the cover of high crop and ran into a covering party of the enemy. The party was rushed, but they retired to their working party who had M.Gs with them. Whilst this fight was proceeding another party of the enemy approached from the left, and these were engaged by a portion of our patrol. The patrol had to withdraw, however, as it was in danger of being surrounded.

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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DERNANCOURT SECTOR : Ref. Map - Sheet 62D N.E. 1/20,000

July 19th. (contd.)

Working party was estimated to have a strength of 60 and a number of casualties were inflicted on them with Mills grenades and rifle fire. The patrol leader (Lieut. A.R. Sime) and 2 O.R. were wounded but were brought back. Our artillery was active during the day and night. Harassing fire was carried out during the night by Vickers guns on to various targets. Stokes Mortars fired 40 rounds into enemy posts E.20.c.4.6, E.20.c.3.7. M.T.M. fired 40 rounds on enemy trench and wire E.20.a.6.6 - E.20.c.80.95; 10 rounds on E.20.c.25.90, E.30.c.20.70 (new work) and enemy trenches at E.20.c.10.40, E.20.c.25.90 and E.20.c.10.40 were engaged. Enemy artillery was not very active during the day.. Area E.19.d received 14 77mm. and 5 4.2"; Ravine E.19.d, 31 77mm.; area E.25.b, 22 77mm. and 40 4.2". Between 10 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. all posts were subjected to a heavy concentration of front line, supports and reserves. This was neutralizing fire in connection with a raid which the enemy carried out on our right. Enemy posts from E.20.c.2.0 to E.20.c.1.5 are being connected up. A M.G. position was located at K.2.c.2.5. Opposite the Battalion sector the enemy is extremely nervous and keeps a special watch for our patrols. At intervals throughout the night his posts throw bombs out in front of them into the crop. Our 'planes were very active all day over his lines. Between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. his 'planes were over our lines and engaged by A.A.guns. Bombs were dropped on old C.C.S. at E.19.a by enemy 'planes at 4.50 a.m., 8.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. A patrol of 1 officer and 36 O.R. left E.25.a.9.7 at 11.15 p.m. and endeavoured to annihilate working party which was encountered last night. Apparently patrol was heard leaving the trench as the enemy started to bombard the crop in front of his posts with grenades. On reaching night post at E.26.a.1.7 the working party could be heard but the party returned to the enemy lines and did not come out again during the night. Patrol returned at 1.50 a.m.

July 20th.

A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men left E.26.a.4.6 at 12.15 a.m. and patrolled along road towards DERNANCOURT. As far as possible the ground was searched on either side of the road, but was too swampy to move far. Patrol returned at 1.30 a.m. reporting that nothing was seen of the enemy. A patrol of 1 officer and 7 O.R. left E.19.d.7.3 at 12 midnight and proceeded direct to enemy post at E.19.b.7.0. When patrol was within 30 yards of post, it was observed by the enemy and was engaged by rifle and grenade fire. Patrol retired a short distance and fired No.36 grenades into post. Our artillery was extremely active all day and night. Enemy artillery was not very active during the day or night. Areas receiving most attention were E.25.a, 20 4.2" and 5.9"; E.25.b, 30 4.2"; D.29.b, 35 5.9". Our T.M. carried out harassing fire on posts at E.20.c.2.0, E.20.c.10.50 and E.20.c.3.8. A gun was taken forward to E.25.b.7.8 and 10 rounds fired at enemy working party in E.26.a.1.9. J.12.a also received 12 77mm. during enemy shelling. Enemy post at E.19.d.2.9 is apparently only occupied at night. Enemy is working on posts at E.26.a.2.9 to E.20.c.1.5. Enemy's forward posts are extremely nervous as they continually bomb the crops in front of their posts during the night. Our 'planes were very active during the morning and evening. One of our 'planes brought down a hostile Observation Balloon in flames at 9.10 a.m. Enemy aerial activity was slight. The weather was fine until 4.30 p.m. when there was a slight thunderstorm. A patrol of 1 officer and 25 O.R. left E.23.d.7.7 at 11.55 p.m. and proceeded to investigate enemy trench at E.19.d.3.9. When patrol, which was divided into two parties, was within 50 yards of enemy the enemy opened fire and threw bombs. Patrol withdrew to our line with one casualty.

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Remarks and References to Appendices

(1917/23) Wt. W335/1/360 600,000 12/7 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Form C. 2118/15

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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DERNANCOURT SECTOR : Ref. Map. - Sheet 62D N.E. 1/20,000.

July 21st.

A patrol of 1 Sgt. and 6 men left E.25.a.3.7 at 12 midnight to reconnoitre in front of our listening posts. When patrol was outside our listening post it was fired on from an enemy listening post from approx. E.26.a.20.95. The hostile post promptly retreated to their lines. Our patrol replied with rifle grenade fire, but did not succeed in hitting the enemy. Patrol returned at 1.20 a.m. with one man slightly wounded. A patrol of 1 officer and 12 O.R. left E.26.c.4.6 at 12.45 a.m. and proceeded along road as far as E.26.b.2.0, where a belt of concertina wire (barbed) was found, but no enemy post could be located. Patrol returned at 2.45 a.m. having seen nothing of the enemy. Our artillery was active during the day on ~~maximum~~ opportunity targets, and at night carried out programme shoots. L.T.M. fired 45 rounds on enemy posts in E.20.c. Enemy artillery was fairly active, the areas receiving most attention being E.19.d, 35 4.2" H.E.; E.25.c, 32 77mm. H.E.; E.26.c.2.4, 10 minutes bombardment with 5.9". New enemy work was seen at E.19.d.8.8, E.20.c.1.1, E.20.c.1.4, E.27.c.7.4, M.G.s firing from approx. K.3.a.3.9, E.26.a.16.90 and E.14.c.5.7. Light minewarfers from K.2.a.6.8. Observation Posts located at E.27.c.70.34 and K.2.b.45.05. Aerial activity was very slight all day on account of the very high wind. Two wagons were observed being loaded with hay at E.28.b and E.28.a. One travelling kitchen seen at K.2.a.80.86 - it was painted field grey. Enemy is still very nervous in his forward posts, in fact it is thought that he 'Stands To' all night, and at frequent intervals bombs the crops in front of his posts. During the night the Left Company is continually bombing him with No.36 rifle grenades and No.27 phosphorous.

July 22nd.

Lieut. Larnach took out a patrol of 10 O.R. from E.19.d.7.5 at 12.30 a.m. and followed north side of railway for a distance of 150 yards. Nothing was seen of the enemy and the patrol returned by the same route. This was necessary on account of the bright moonlight. It was extremely difficult for any patrols to move as they were continually sniped and Machine gunned whilst above ground. Lieut. Miller took out a patrol of 10 O.R. from E.26.c.7.0 at 2 a.m. and proceeded along road for only about 50 yards as the visibility was too good. At 2 a.m. Lieut. Neville reported to Lieut. Skinner, Left Platoon Commander of Left Front line Company, that he intended taking out a patrol with the intention of raiding an enemy post in E.19.b. opposite the 54th. Division front. He was taking out a mixed patrol of Australians, English and Americans who were under instructions in patrolling at 3rd. Corps School. Lieut. Skinner pointed out to him where an enemy post was and warned him not to bear too far to the right, otherwise he would run against one of our listening posts near the railway embankment. The patrol had not been out on this ground before, neither had Lieut. Neville reconnoitred previously. The patrol duly went out and were lost sight of in a slight mist which was hanging about at the time. About half an hour later, Lieut. Skinner heard rifle fire and bombing going on opposite his right flank. It appears that patrol had lost direction in the mist and had run across our listening post. The two men manning the ~~listening post~~ ^{listening post} challenged the party as soon as they were seen and receiving no answer challenged again. After the second challenge the two men manning the listening post heard the order 'Prepare to rush', and shortly after the command 'Rush'. Fire was immediately opened by the listening post and the patrol also opened and started throwing bombs. The garrison of the trench in rear, hearing the firing and seeing the dim outline of figures, immediately opened fire with rifles and L.G. and threw bombs. The enemy also took part with M.G.s. and grenades.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

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(19175) Wt. VAS35/P365 600,000 19/7 D. D. & L. Sch. 5th. Forms/Cat18/15

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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.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERNANCOURT SECTOR : Ref. Map. - Sheet 62D N.E. 1/20,000.				
July 22nd. (contd.)			<p>By this time Lieut. Skinner arrived on the scene and had 'cease fire'. Our casualties were No. 5639 - Pte. E. Taylor, killed, and No. 3414 - Pte. J. Standish, wounded - both of these men were manning the listening post. The patrol's casualties were 5 privates killed, 9 O.R. (including 2 Sergeants) wounded, and Lieut. Neville was also very seriously wounded in the legs. It was certainly a very regrettable incident, but this Battalion is in no way to blame for the occurrence. It shows that the front line garrison was very much on the alert. At 2.30 a.m. 120 Gas Cylinders were discharged from K.7.c.2.6 into enemy defences and shelters in K.8.c.2.7. This is in our Right Battalion's sector. APPENDIX "C"</p> <p>Our artillery was active during the day and night. L.T.M.B. fired 20 rounds on enemy posts at E.20.c.2.2 during the night. M.T.M.B. fired 60 rounds at enemy posts in E.20.c.5.3 and E.20.c.4.6 during the night. M.G. harassing fire was put down on following targets during the night : Cross roads at E.20.b.60.60, E.20.b.35.45, tracks from E.21.g.60.35, E.21.c.80.25, Railway and area E.20.b. An enemy sniper in xxxxx at E.20.c.5.9 was engaged by a Lewis Gun and killed. Enemy artillery was not very active during the day, chief areas shelled being E.19.d, 49 4.2", 9 77mm.; E.25.c, 15 77mm & 4 19 4.2"; E.25.d, 13 4.2" and 12 77mm. L.M.W. fired 20 rounds in the vicinity of Right Company Headquarters during the night. All trees on road in E.23.a were cut down during the night, 21/22nd. inst. Approx. 50 yards of white tape was laid in front of enemy wire at K.2.c.45. M.G. was observed at K.2.a.3.7 and K.2.c.6.3. Minenwerfer was seen firing from E.20.b.3.4, E.20.b.35.80, E.14.c.2.7, E.20.b.05.95. The enemy seems to be much quieter than he was and not nearly so nervous. Our 'planes were very active during the day and the low flying artillery machines carried out extensive bombing of the enemy support and reserve lines. Enemy 'planes were over between 5.30 a.m. and 7.30 a.m. in the morning and from 6 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. in the evening. A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 8 men left E.19.d.8.7 at 10.30 p.m. and followed along North side of road for a distance of about 150 yards. Nothing was seen of the enemy. A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 8 men left E.25.d.3.5 at 11.45 p.m. and proceeded along North side of road for a distance of about 90 yards. The only enemy movement seen was in one of the enemy posts. Patrol returned at 1.15 a.m.</p>	
	July 23rd.		<p>A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 8 men left E.26.a.3.3 at 12.30 a.m. and reconnoitred ground in the vicinity of the road. Patrol returned at 1.30 a.m. reporting that no enemy activity was seen. A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men left E.19.d.35.10 at 1 a.m. and patrolled to the left at a distance of 100 yards from our line, returning at 2 a.m. An enemy party could be heard at approx. E.20.c.2.4. Our artillery was not very active during the day, and at night programme shoot was carried out. L.T.M.B. fired 60 rounds on enemy works at E.20.c.1.5, E.20.c.1.2 and E.26.a.2.9. Vickers guns fired on the following targets at intervals during the night : E.20.b.60.60, E.20.b.35.45, E.21.c.60.35, E.21.c.80.25, Railway and entrances to DERNANCOURT. Enemy artillery was fairly active during the day. Areas chiefly shelled were : D.29.c, 10 4.2"; BUIRE, D.30.a, 12 5.9"; E.19.d, 27 77mm and 27 4.2"; E.25.a, 20 4.2"; E.25.b, 17 77mm. and 37 4.2"; E.25.d, 19 77mm. Between 9.45 p.m. and 10 p.m. there was a bombardment of area E.25.b by 4.2" and 5.9". Enemy's attitude is quiet, but alert. Artillery not very active during the day, but livens up towards evening and during the night. M.Gs. active on forward posts during the night.</p>	

(1917S) Wt. Wa35S/P36s 600,000 12/7 D.D. & L. Sol. Sta. Forms/C2118/15

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Ref Map Sheet 62 D. NE 1:20,000

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dernancourt Sector	Conto July 23 1918		<p>There was no aerial activity during the day on account of the wet and windy weather. As soon as it was possible, and inter-company relief took place, which was completed by 12.25 a.m. without casualty. A Coy relieved D Coy (right front line) B Coy relieved (left front line). On relief D Coy moved to Reserve line, and C Coy to the Support line.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appendix D</p>	
	July 24 1918		<p>Sgt. Fitzpatrick took out a patrol of 8 men from E. 25 687 at 12.45 a.m. At about E 26 a 28 a M.G. opened fire on the patrol and caused them to retire with two casualties. C.S.M. Stewart took out a patrol of 10 O.R. from E. 19 d 85 at 12.45 a.m. and crossing railway and saw an enemy carrying party coming towards enemy post. The patrol waited here, in the hopes of another party appearing, but none came. The light was too good to allow the patrol to approach the post. Patrol returned at 2 a.m. Our artillery was active during the day and at night a programme shoot was carried out. 6" Newton's fired 30 rounds on to E 20 d 05.90, E 20 a 70.80 and 5 rounds on</p>	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Ref Trap Sheet 62 DNE 1/20,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERNACOURT SECTOR.	July 24	(Contd)	<p>suspected H.Q. at E 20 c 3.9. A harassing fire was carried out by Dickers guns on to the following targets:- E 20 b 35.45, E 21. c 80.80 E 26 d 75.40, E 27 c 00.50. Roads and railway in E 20 A and B.</p> <p>Enemy shelling was not very active during the day. Chief areas shelled were, E 19 d, 101. 77 mm, 5" 4.2", K1a, 70 47 mm, in E 25 a, 11. 5.9". D 28 control, 34-5.9". 14 rounds M M W were fired at E 19 d, and 4 L M W gas, at E 26 c. A M.G. was firing from approx, E 26 c 30.75.</p> <p>The enemy in his front posts was extremely quiet. One low-flying enemy plane was over our lines between 5 pm and 6 pm and was engaged by A.A. and L.G. fire. A patrol of 1 Sgt and 8 men left E 19 d 9.5. at 10 pm and proceeded to E 20 c 0.0. and returned to our lines at E 25 b 8.6. at 12 midnight. Enemy working party was heard at E 20 c 2.2.</p>	250
	July 25		<p>A patrol of 1 Officer and 10 O.R. left E 26 c 5.2. at 12-30 AM and proceeded along road in a N.E. direction. At approx. E 2 c 75.75 an occupied enemy post was found, who were out.</p>	

(A9475) Wt W2358/P367 600,000 12/7 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15

(Contd.)

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(9)

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Ref. Map. Sheet 62 D. NE 1/20000

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERNHAMCOURT	Conto		<p>evening. The patrol was on the point of engaging enemy party when 18 par shells landed in the centre of them and dispersed them. Patrol returned at 1.30 a.m. with nothing further to report. A patrol of 1 officer and 10 O.R. left E 26 a 25.25, at 2.30 a.m. and proceeded along the side of the road in a N.E. direction. Patrol returned at 3 a.m. having seen no sign of the enemy. A patrol of 1 Sgt and 8 men left E 19 d.s. 7 at 12 midnight and proceeded to E 19 B 9.0, and returned to our line at E 19 B 25.40 at 12.30 a.m. reporting that nothing had been seen of the enemy. This patrol was out again at 2 a.m. and followed the same route. The same patrol that was out at 11 p.m. on 21st inst. went out again at 12.30 a.m. and heard work going on in the same place (E 20 c 2.2). Working party was engaged by No 36 grenades and worked ceased. At 1 a.m. 170 gas projections were fired from E 19 B 45.15 at enemy trenches and shelters at E 20 central. As will be seen from sketch, a portion of the front line occupied by B Coy had to be evacuated during the projection.</p>	25 25 3

6

(10)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

Ref. Map Sheet 42 D. N. E. 1/20,000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERNA COURT SECTOR	July 25 th		<p style="text-align: center;">APPENDIX E</p> <p>Defence Scheme for this sector forms APPENDIX F.</p> <p>Our artillery was active during the day, and at night at 10 A.M. our artillery put down a barrage in connection with a raid which was by a Battalion of the 5th Division on the Quarry E 14 c. 3" Stokes mortars fired 90 rounds on enemy trench E 19 b 40.00, and 40 rounds on E 26 a 25.90. Harassing fire was carried out during the night on the following targets:-</p> <p>Cross roads E 20 b 35.45, Cross roads E 21 c 80.80, trenches E 26 d 45.40 E 24 c 10.50, roads and railway in E 20 a and b. Enemy artillery was not very active during the day except battery positions areas receiving chief attention were:- D 29 a 91.4.2" and 5.9", and 11-5.9" shrap. in the the morning, and 54-4.2" and 5.9" in the afternoon, D 30 a, 12 47mm HE and 5-4.2" E 19 d 12.47 mm 91-4.2" 21-5.9" E 25 a 20-47mm, E 25 b 18-47mm and 4-4.2" L M W fired 4 rounds on E 19 a, 5 rounds in E 19 d. An enemy MG is located at E 26 i 45.45.</p>	

(Contd)

(11)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

Ref Map Sheet 62D NE 1/20000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERNACOURT SECTOR	Conte July 25		Enemy aerial activity was slight during the day. During the raid in the morning enemy fired numerous message rockets from E 19 B 6.0 to railway embankment E 20 a 8.2. A Patrol of 1 NCO and eight men left E 19 d 80.65 at 10 30 p.m. and patrolled in front of our line about 120 yds from it, returning to E 19 B 5.2 at 12 15 a.m. Patrol reports no sign of enemy activity.	258
	26		A patrol of 1 NCO and 4 men left E 26 C 6.3 at 12 midnight and patrolled the area in the vicinity of X Roads. Patrol returned at 2 15 a.m. reporting no sign of enemy activity. A patrol of 1 NCO and 4 men left E 26 C 4.6 at 12 midnight and proceeded to E 26 C 75.75 where one of the enemy was seen leaving a post in that vicinity. Patrol returned at 1.15 a.m. A patrol of 1 Officer and 12 O.R.'s left E 19 d 80.60 at 2 15 a.m. patrol worked round in rear of E 19 B 5.0. The posts however did not appear to be occupied, as none of the enemy was seen. The post was considerably damaged by our J.M. fire. Patrol returned at 3.20 a.m. Our artillery was active during the day. (Contd)	

(12)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

Ref Top Skel 62 DNE 1/20,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERNA COURT SECTOR.	July 26 th	(Contd.)	<p>and at night carried out the usual programme shoots, 6" howitzers fired 30 rounds on E 20605.0.5; E 20c 30.15; and 30 rounds on track E 20c 2.7 to E 20a 05.45. Harassing fire was carried out by Dickers guns on the following targets during the night:- Cross roads E 20600.60, road A 2d 05.10 to H 8 0 22-90. Track E 21c 60-35 to E 21c 80-35, Quarry and road E 14c. C.O., adjt, and company commanders of the 2/2 London Reg. visited Headquarters and were shown round the sector which they are taking over tomorrow night. 1 officer and 4 O.R. from A Company 2/2 London Reg. went up to right company during the night in order to take over stores and obtain dispositions. Enemy artillery was fairly active during the day and night, chief areas shelled were D 29d 14-4.2", D 30a 4.4-44mm, 8-4.2", D 30d 11-44mm, 6-4.2", 9-4.2" gas. D 24d 4.8-44mm, 6-5.9", E 19c 22-44mm, E 19d 2.9-44mm, 14-4.2", E 25a, 6.8-44mm, E 25b 8-44mm, 15-44mm gas.</p>	258
			(Contd.)	12

(A9175) Wt W235/P160 600,000 12/7 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15

(13)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Ref. Map 62 DNE 1/20000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERNACOUT Sector	Conte July 26		<p>E 25c 33-77 mm. MG were also active on the front line, E 19d received 25 heavy and E 26a 19 medium. New earth was seen at E 27d 8.5 and a MG heard firing at our planes from K 2C 55.50. Enemy planes were over our lines at 12.25 pm. 2 pm and 5 am. all engaged by AA guns + LG guns. A patrol of 1 officer and 6 OR's left E 26a 30.35 at 11 pm and proceeded along road in a NE direction for about 200 yds where patrol halted and listened for about 30 minutes. Slight movement was heard from approx. E 26 central. Patrol returned at 12.45 am. A patrol of 1 NCO and 8 men left E 19d 8.5 at 11.15 pm and patrolled 100 yds in front of our line returning to our line at E 25a 8.7 at 1. am reporting no sign of the enemy, whose posts were extremely quiet.</p>	258
	Lugy		<p>A patrol of 1 officer and 6 OR's left E 26a 35.55 at 1.30 am and moved along south bank of the river Anore to within sight of a doused bridge at E 26a 6.9. Here the patrol stopped and listened for a period. 3 men were seen on the north side of the river near the bridge. 3 men were also seen moving about E 26a 30.95. Patrol returned to our lines (Conte)</p>	13

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

Ref. Zap Shot 420 NE 1/20,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERVACORT SECTOR.	July 27	(Contd)	at 2.50 AM. at 2.40 AM. 170 gas Projectors were discharged from E 19 d 4.0. into shelters etc in E 20 central	258
			<u>APPENDIX G</u>	
			During the day enemy artillery activity was very slight. Patrol of 1 Coy & 4 N.C.O.s per company except right front Coy 2/2 London Reg. arrived at Bn. P.O. and were sent to their respective companies to take over stencos, positions, and to obtain information re the sector, preparatory to taking over.	
			The weather during the day was very inclement, there being numerous rain-storms. at 11.45 p.m. the first bay of the relieving Batt. arrived, and were met by guides and taken to their positions.	
			<u>APPENDIX H</u>	
	July 28		Relief was completed at 1.25 AM, and the Battalion moved out and occupied the Boudigo and BAHARAT lines in J 5 c, J 4 d, and J 10 b. with Bn HQ. at J 9 b 8.2.	

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15

(Contd)

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(15)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

Ref Map 62D NE 1/20000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERRA COURT SECTOR	29 July 78		<p>A Coy occupies BALLART LINE from TREUX-MERRICOURT Road to J10 B 4.9 with HQ at J 4.1 3.0 B Coy occupy the system of trenches forming strong point in J10 B 5.5 HQ at J10 B 4.5, C Coy occupy the BALLARAT LINE J10 B 4.9 to J10 B 6.4 with HQ at J10 B 5.5 D Coy in BENDIGO LINE from TREUX-MERRICOURT ROAD to J5C 25.35 (two platoons) and shelters in the vicinity of J5C 8.5 (two platoons) with HQ in BENGIDO line at J5C 30.47. Battalion was finally in position at 3.30 a.m. and the men immediately proceeded to make themselves shelters where necessary, the trench line had very little accommodation for troops. During the day the troops remained in the trench lines and rested, in the evening A Coy was used for carrying Stokes Mortar ammunition forward to front line for use in the attack which was taking place at 12.30 a.m. against. This party was able to get clear of the forward system before Zero hour.</p>	258
	29 July		<p>At 12.30 a.m. the barrage opened and four Batt HQ's seemed to be well placed. The Battalions taking part in the operation were (Contd)</p>	(Contd)

(16)

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Ref. Map Sheet 620. N.E. 1/20,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERNACOURT SECTOR	July 29 th	(Contd)	<p>29th, 32nd Battalion, and one company of 30th Battalion attached to each of these Battalions. At 1-25 AM a further barrage was put down on the right and the 53rd Battalion attacked. The objectives were enemy trench system in H4d, H8c, H13A, H14a, H13d, H14c, H20a, H20c, all were attained and consolidated. Enemy artillery retaliation to the attack was slight. The Battalion was inactive during the day, but at night there were carrying parties required for rations, Stokes shells etc. There was slight shelling during the day and night of battery positions in the vicinity of Battalion area.</p>	258
	July 30 th		<p>From 2-45 AM to 3-30 AM, enemy artillery put down a concentration gas shell shot on the whole of the Brigade area, using Yellow X & Phosgene shells, it is estimated that 1500 shells were used. During the day 10 O.R. from "D" bay reported as casualties suffering from sore eyes, the effects of Yellow X gas. The C.O. I.O. and bay</p>	(Contd)

(A9475) Wt W235/P360 600,000 12/7 D. D. & L. Sch. 82a Forms/Cart8/15

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

(17)

OR
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Ref. Map Sheet 62DNW 1/30000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices					
DERND ^N COURT SECTOR	Conto July 31		Commanders of 7th Queens visited B HQs to gain information re the area, preparatory to taking over the area night 31st July.	258					
			<u>Casualties for July</u>						
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Officers</td> <td>O'Ranks</td> <td>Orderly Room Cases</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Officers	O'Ranks	Orderly Room Cases		
	Officers	O'Ranks	Orderly Room Cases						
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>killed</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>Lewis Markal</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </table>	killed	1	4	Lewis Markal	14	
killed	1	4	Lewis Markal	14					
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>1</td> <td>41</td> <td></td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	Wounded	1	41		4	
Wounded	1	41		4					
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Lacks</td> <td>4</td> <td>35</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Lacks	4	35			
Lacks	4	35							
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Died of Wounds</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Died of Wounds		1			
Died of Wounds		1							
			Strength taken into line 17, 18 th July 24 Off. 641 O'R's						
			Total Strength 31st July 44 Off. 920 O'Ranks						
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Attached</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Attached	2	2			
Attached	2	2							
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>46</td> <td>922</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Total	46	922			
Total	46	922							
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Detached</td> <td>17</td> <td>204</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Detached	17	204			
Detached	17	204							
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td>With Unit</td> <td>29</td> <td>718</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	With Unit	29	718			
With Unit	29	718							
			<p style="text-align: right;">Mr Freeman 60. 31st Battalion. A.I.F.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lieut.-Col.</p>						

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WAR DIARY

OF

31st Battalion A.I.F

FOR

July 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
A.	Order No. 168 for Relief of 57 th Battn. in line dated 15 th July 1918.
B.	Map showing Battalion dispositions as at 23 rd July 1918.
C.	Order No. 169 for Gas projector attack dated 21 st July 1918.
D.	Order No. 170 for Inter. company Relief dated 22 nd July 1918.
E.	Order No. 171 for Gas projector attack dated 24 th July 1918.
F.	Defence Scheme dated 20 th July 1918
G.	Order No. 173 for Gas projector attack dated 26 th July 1918.
H.	Order No. 174 for relief by 2/2 nd London Regt. dated
I.	Order No. 174 for relief by 7 th Queen's dated 26 th July 1918.
J.	Quartermaster's report for Month. 30 th July 1918.
K.	Transport Officers report for Month.

258
1st Battalion Order No. 103.Headquarters
15th July 1918.

Ref. Map. - Sheet 63.D. N.E. 1/30,000

1. The 9th Aust. Inf. Brigade will relieve the 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade in the left sector of 'C' Division on the night 17/18th July 1918.
2. The 51st Battalion will relieve the 57th Battalion on the left of the left Brigade. Advance party of the 50th Battalion will take over positions at present occupied by the 51st Battalion.

3. Dispositions:-

'D' Coy.	- - -	Line Right
C "	- - -	Line Left.
B "	- - -	Support.
A "	- - -	Reserve.

4. The 51st Battalion will move in the following order:-

H.Q.)	
'D' Coy.)	
C ")	An interval of 33 yds between sections will be maintained throughout the march.
B ")	
A ")	

Starting Point - I.10.b.2.7.
Time 8.15. p.m.
Route . Through HEILLY thence along the HEILLY-BUINE Road. Coys. will meet 1 guide per platoon at En. H.Q's.

5. Battalion H.Q's. will be established at D.20.b.2.2.

6. No movement will take place East of a N. & S. line through J.7. Central before 10 p.m.

Each company will send forward 1 officer and 1 N.C.O. per platoon on night of 16/17th July, to take over the positions, stores, etc.

7. Maps, defence schemes, air photographs, and all information relative to the sector will be handed and taken over, and receipts forwarded to En. H.Q's. before dawn on the 18th Inst.

Existing dispositions will be taken over as they stand. Coys. will forward sketches showing dispositions to reach En. H.Q's. by 11. p.m. on the 17th Inst.

8. All Technical stores, L. Guns and 24 magazines per gun (Filled) will be carried on limbers as far as D. 30.a.2.1. Guns to be unloaded as quickly as possible.

Limbers will report to Coys. at 3.45 p.m.

9. Dress

Fighting Order. Every man to carry 170 rounds S.A.A. Greatcoats and water proof sheets.

10. Completion of relief will be wired to En. H.Q's by the Code word "FIXED".

Issued by runner to:-

'A' Coy.	No. 1
B. "	" 2
C. "	" 3
D. "	" 4
Q.M. and T.O.	" 5
Copies to C.O.	" 6
Adj't.	" 7
War Diary	" 8/10
File	" 11.

Wrayton
Adj't. 51st Battalion A.I.F. Captain.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM.
Issued in conjunction with
31st BATTALION ORDER NO. 168.

258

18th July. 1918.

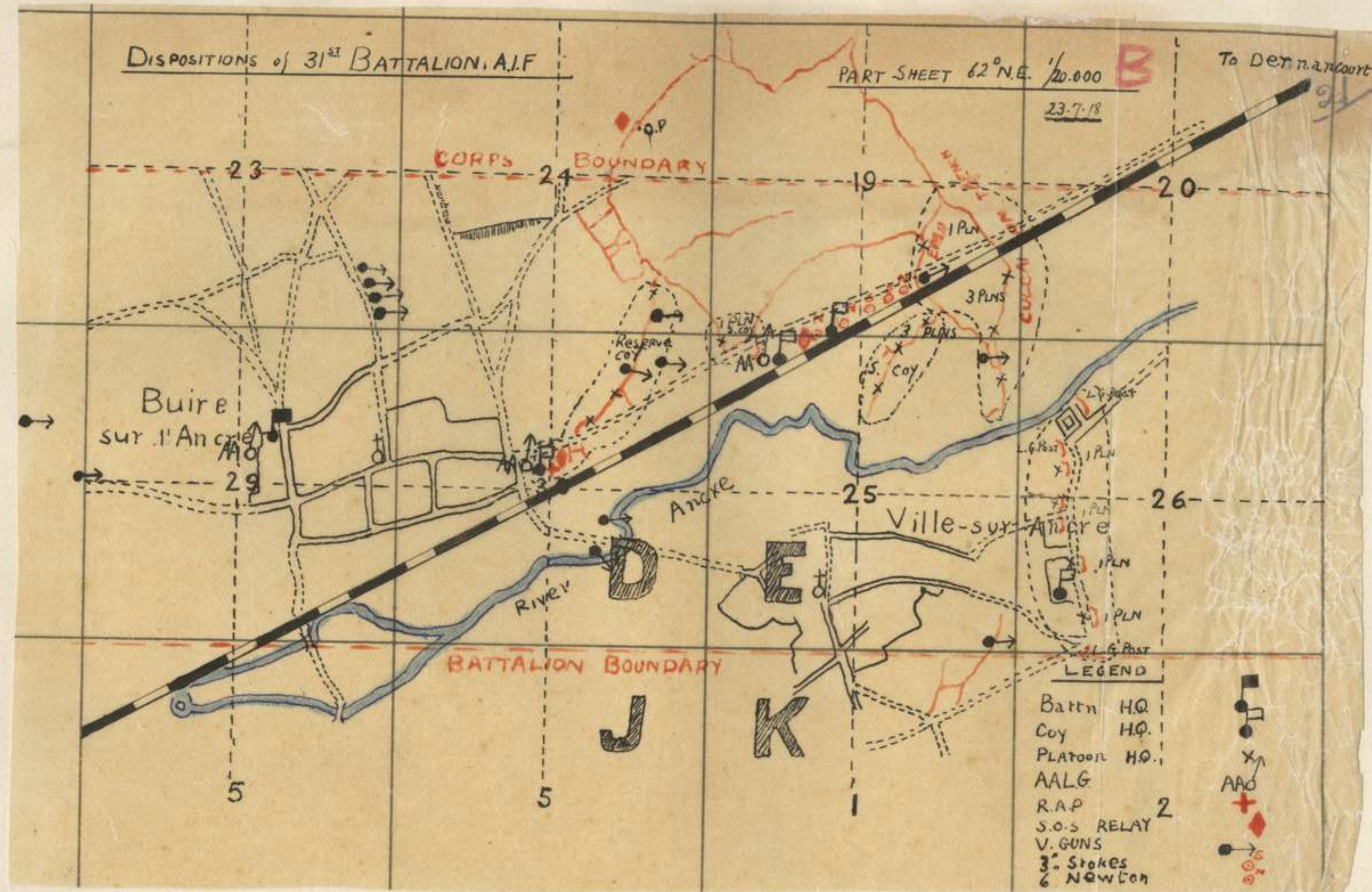
1. Transport lines and Q.M.'s Stores will remain as at present.
2. All General purpose reserve and Supporting Points rations, trench and area stores will be taken and handed over in situ.
3. Supply dump will be at present location.
4. Ammunition. Brigade dump is at present at I.10.d.3.2.
5. Cooking. Cooking for the 31st Battalion will be done at transport lines, and sent forward in Hot Food Containers until arrangements can be made for cooking forward.
6. Water. Water Points are situated at :-
LA HOUSSEY.
FRANVILLERS.
HEILLY.
All water drawn from wells in villages must be chlorinated before use.
7. G.P.R. Rations will be taken over at D.39.b.4.3.
A careful check should be made and guards posted immediately they are taken over.
8. R.E. Material. Requirements for R.E. Material will be demanded on daily works records.
9. Medical. Motor posts are established at :-
J.5.c.9.4.
J.9.b.3.3.
D.30.b.3.2.
D.27.c.3.5.
A.D.S. I.4.b.3.0.
M.D.S. H.10.a.9.4.
Evacuations - by hand carriage to Motor posts.
Dental. - A dental unit is attached to A.D.S. at I.4.b.3.0
10. Baths. The Reserve Bn. will take over the baths at BUIRE for the use of the left and Reserve Battalions.
11. Y.M.C.A. Depot at FRANVILLERS. Stall at D.27.a.2.4.
12. Cleanliness and Sanitation. Before handing over, all trenches will be sprayed with 5% of solution of Crescol. A certificate that this has been done, and that the area, trenches, and dugouts have been handed over in a clean and sanitary condition will be signed in duplicate by the officer concerned.

Receipts and certificates to reach Bn. H.Q.'s before dawn on the 18th Inst.

- Issued by runner to :-
- 'A' Coy. No. 1
 - B. " " 2
 - C. " " 3
 - D. " " 4
 - Q.M. and T.O. " 5
 - Copies to C.O. " 6
 - Adj't. " 7

Brayton
Captain.
Adj't. 31st Battalion A.I.F.

War Diary No. 2/10
File " 11.



APPENDIX

B.

21

SECRET.51ST. BATTALION ORDER NO. 169.

C Copy No. 6

Headquarters.
21st. July 1918.

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

- (1). During night 21st/22nd. July 1918 it is proposed to project 120 Gas Cylinders into enemy defences and shelters about K.8.c.8.7.
- (2). Projectors will be emplaced at K.7.c.2.6.
- (3). The areas to be cleared of troops from Zero minus 15 to Zero plus 30, and precautionary zones in which S.B.Rs will be worn from Zero minus 5 to Zero plus 30 are as shown on sketch attached. All precautions against surprise by the enemy will be taken.
- (4). The limits of direction of wind for safe discharge are from S.S.W. through W. to N. by W.
- (5). Code words as follows will be used in connection with this operation :

Operation will take place	-	WHISTLE.
Operation cancelled	-	WHINE.
Operation complete	-	WRECK.
- (6). Zero hour will be 2.30 a.m., night ~~22nd/23rd~~ July 1918.
21st/22nd.

Issued by runner at 10 p.m. to :

"A" Coy.	No. 1	copy.
"B" "	" 2	"
"C" "	" 3	"
"D" "	" 4	"
War Diary	" 5/7	"
File	" 8	"

Blayton
Captain.
Adjutant "N.O.H.O."

"GOVO" BATTALION ORDER NO. 170.

Headquarters,
22nd. July 1918.

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

- 258
- (1). The 31st. Battalion will carry out an inter-company relief on night 23rd/24th. July 1918. as follows :
 "A" Coy. will relieve "D" Coy. in line Right.
 "B" Coy. will relieve "C" Coy. in line Left.
 After relief "C" Coy. will move to Supports and "D" Coy. to Reserves.
 Companies will not move before 10.30 p.m.
 - (2). "A" and "B" Companies will arrange to send Platoon Commanders forward to take over the position 24 hours before relief.
 "C" and "D" Companies will send 1 N.C.O. per platoon to take over Support and Reserve positions respectively.
 - (3). Lewis Gun Magazines will be carried filled.
 All technical stores on charge to companies will be carried.
 - (4). Fullerphones and telephones will be handed over in situ.. Line Companies will exchange snipers' rifles for ordinary rifles on relief.
 All trench stores, air photos and informations, etc., relative to the Sector will be handed and taken over.
 - (5). "A" and "B" Companies will hand over all information relative to working and carrying parties to "C" and "D" Companies who will supply same without further orders from Battalion Headquarters.
 - (6). "A" and "B" Companies will have evening meal before moving off and will carry their dry rations forward.
 "C" and "D" Companies will have evening meal after relief.
 - (7). The Quartermaster will arrange to have rations forward by 9.15 p.m. if possible.
 - (8). Relieving Companies will carry on with the salving of material in the sector, articles of equipment, etc., receiving first attention.
 - (9). Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters by the code word "SET".
 - (10). ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued by runner at 10 p.m. to :

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

Copies to :

C.O.	" 5	"
Adjutant	" 6	"
Q.M. & T.O.	" 7	"
Ration N.C.O.	" 8	"
War Diary	" 9/1	"
File	" 12	"

W. Blayfoll
 Captain.
 Adjutant "GOVO".

SECRET.

31ST. BATTALION ORDER NO. 171.

E Copy No. 6

Ref. Map. : Sheet 62D N.E. 1/20,000 24th. July 1918.

- (1). During the night 24th/25th. July 1918 200 Gas Projectors will be fired from Left Battalion front into enemy trenches and shelters at E.20. central and 200 Projectors from Centre Battalion front into enemy trenches and shelters N.E. of MORLANCOURT., K.2.d.9.4.
- (2). Projectors will be fired from :
 - Left Battalion Sector E.19.d.45.15.
 - Centre Battalion Sector K.1.d.0.3.
- (3). Precautionary measures will be adopted as follows :
 - "B" and "C" Companies will move all troops in DANGER ZONE as per attached sketch. The area to be cleared of troops from Zero minus 15 to Zero plus 30. S.B.Rs. will be worn in CAUTIONARY ZONES from Zero minus 5 to Zero plus 30 as per attached sketch.
- (4). Code words as follows will be used in connection with the operation:
 - (a). Operation will take place FORTY
 - (b). Operation postponed SEVEN
 - (c). Operation completed. THOUSAND.
- (5). ZERO HOUR will be 1.00 a.m.
- (6). O/C. "B" Company will ensure that vacated portion of front line is patrolled before re-occupation.

Issued at 10 p.m. by runner to

O/C. "A" Coy.	Np.1	copy.
" " "B" "	" 2	"
" " "C" "	" 3	"
" " "D" "	" 4	"

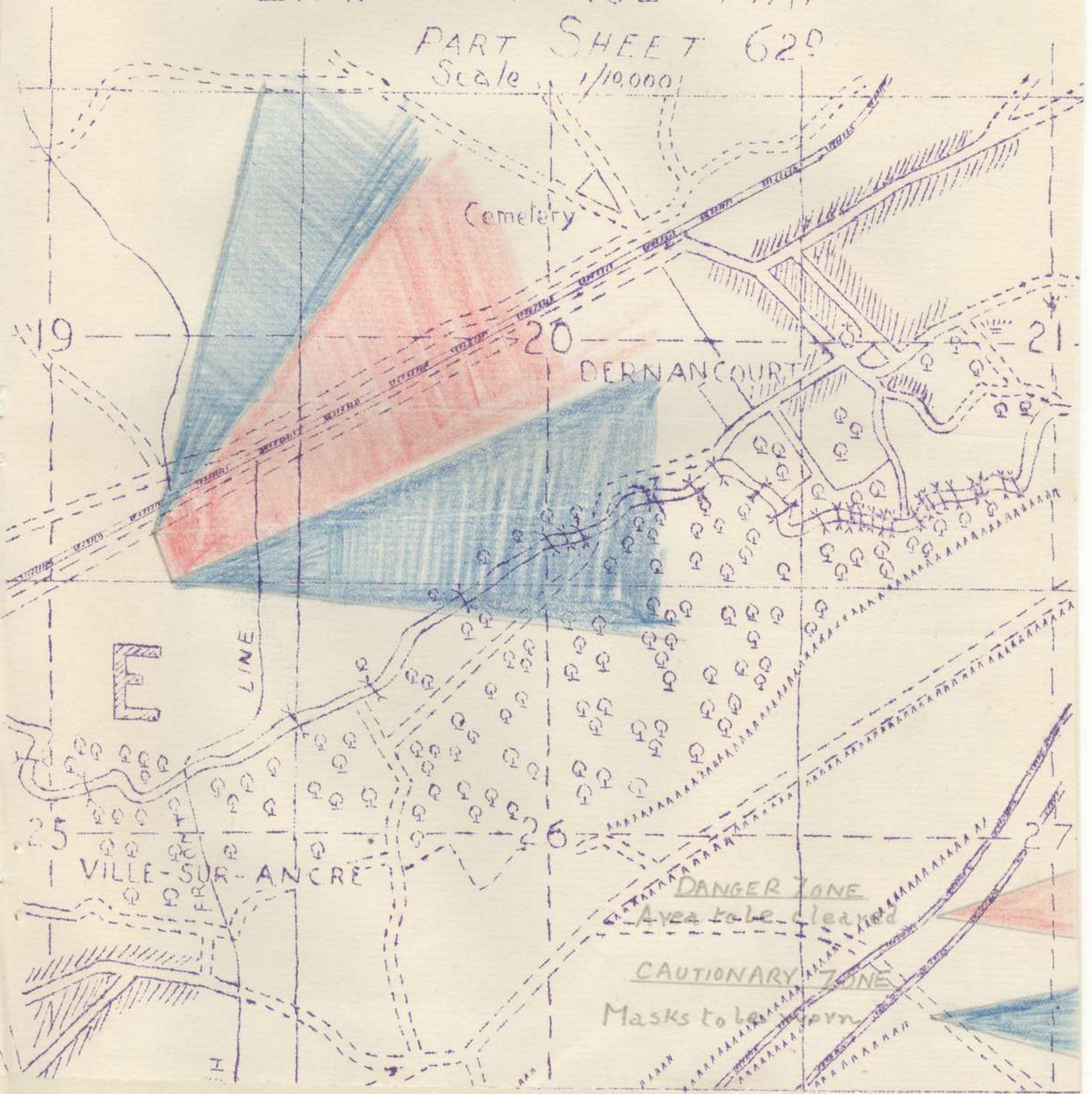
Copies to :

War Diary	"5/7	"
File	" 8	"

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

E.A.V. PATROL MAP

PART SHEET 620
Scale 1/10,000



F

258

SECRET.

Copy No. 111

Ref. : 62D N.E.
1/20,000

20th. JULY 1918.

DEFENCE SCHEME.
(PROVISIONAL)

LEFT BATTALION

LEFT BRIGADE.

"C" DIVISION.

Issued by runner at p.m.

DISTRIBUTION :-

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

COPIES TO :-

8th. A.I. Brigade	" 5	"
29th. A.I. Battalion	" 6	"
1st. Bn., 132nd. I. Regt.,)		
U.S. Army)	" 7	"
Q.M. & T.O.	" 8	"
File	" 9	"
War Diary	"10/12	"
Adjutant	" 13	"

(1).

1. BATTALION BOUNDARIES.

NORTH : East and West line through E.19.central.

SOUTH : Grid line between K.2 and E.26.

2. DISPOSITIONS.

The Front Line is held with 2 Companies, the inter-Company boundary being the RIVER ANCRE.

- (a). The Right Front Line Company occupies a series of posts on the general line of the road running North and South through E.26.a and c.
- (b). The Left Front Line Company has 3 platoons in a continuous trench from E.19.d.45.95 to E.19.d.85.00 and 1 platoon disposed in 3 small posts between E.19.d.85.00 and E.26.a.15.60.
- (c). Support Company is disposed with 3 platoons in EMU TRENCH and 1 platoon in CAIRNS SWITCH.
- (d). Reserve Company with 3 platoons in EMU TRENCH and 1 platoon in new posts in D.30.d.8.9 and E.25.a.2.3.

Battalion Headquarters in deep dugouts at D.29.b.20.30

3. PRINCIPLES OF DEFENCE.

- (a). The Front Line will be held as thinly as is consistent with security and remainder of Battalion distributed in depth.
- (b). Active patrolling to retain control of NO MAN'S LAND and to gain information as to the intentions of the enemy.
- (c). Troops will not fall back from any one line to another even if their flanks are turned.

4. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

- (a). There will be no withdrawal from the front line, but Companies will hold on to the last.
- (b). Should any part of our front line be penetrated by the enemy, an immediate counter-attack will be launched. The O.C. Support Company will prepare plans for counter-attack to restore our line or any part of the Battalion front.
- (c). In the event of the enemy securing a lodgement in the Battalion sector immediately North of our line, a defensive flank facing North will be formed. 3 platoons of the Support Company will occupy Communication trench from D.19.d.40.60 to D.19.c.30.10 and 1 platoon in EMU TRENCH South of the railway. The Reserve Company will occupy CAIRNS SWITCH from D.24.d.55.95 to D.24.d.6.6 with 2 platoons, remaining 2 platoons to be held in reserve in EMU SUPPORT and new posts West of VILLE - SUR - ANCRE.
- (d). In the event of the enemy penetrating VILLE - SUR - ANCRE or on the South side of the river the Support Company will form a defensive flank along the NORTH Bank of the River from E.25.b.50.50 to E.25.a.20.50, and the platoon on South Bank of River ANCRE will provide 1 Section to garrison breastwork in D.30.d.4.7. This platoon will guard the Bridge across the River ANCRE. Company Commanders will prepare schemes for the defence of their sectors (copies to be sent to Battalion Headquarters) and will ensure that a thorough reconnaissance is made by all officers and N.C.Os.

5. VICKERS MACHINE GUNS for the defence of the Sector are emplaced as under :

E.19.d.40.35
 E.25.b.80.90
 E.25.d.70.10
 D.24.d.70.15
 D.30.b.70.85
 D.30.b.50.80
 D.30.d.35.80
 D.30.d.30.60
 D.28.b.60.40
 D.29.b.95.05

Battery of 4 M.Gs. - D.25.d.80.40 to D.25.d.90.15

6. 6" NEWTON MORTARS .

Emplacements at :

E.25.c.50.40
 E.25.d.40.40
 E.25.a.30.70
 E.19.d.10.20
 E.19.d.20.25
 E.19.c.80.00 (2).
 D.30.a.90.05

7. 3" STOKES MORTAR POSITIONS.

E.19.d.05.25
 E.19.d.20.30

8. R.A.P. in QUARRY - D.30.a.90.00

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

APPENDIX NO. 1.

to

PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.1. AMMUNITION.

Dumps are maintained as under :

	<u>S.A.A.</u>	<u>BOMBS.</u>
Headquarters	15,000	10 boxes.
Left Company	30,000	80 "
Right Company	30,000	100 "
Support Company	30,000	45 "
Reserve Company	30,000	30 "
Battalion Reserve	50,000	50 "

2. RATIONS.

(a). Cookers are stationed at Transport Lines where all cooking is done. Cooked food and dry rations come forward by first line transport to the Ration Dump at Reserve Company Headquarters. The Reserve Company carry all rations forward to line and Support Companies. Rations are dumped at Ration Dump as under :

10.30 p.m. First hot meal.
1.30 a.m. Second hot meal.

(b). Water is drawn from well at D.30.a.9.2 and is carried forward by Reserve Company.

(c). Reserve Rations as under are held at Battalion Headquarters :

600 Iron Rations.
150 Gallons of Water.

3. MEDICAL.

The R.A.P. is at D.30.a.9.1. Wounded are carried to Motor post at D.29.d.1.9. Evacuations by hand carriage to Motor post.

DENTAL.

A Dental Unit is attached to A.D.M.S. at I.4.b.8.0.

4. CANTEEN.

A Battalion Canteen is established in a cellar in BUIRE near Battalion Headquarters.

5. Y.M.C.A.

Depot at FRANVILLERS. Stall at Support Company Headquarters.

6. SALVAGE.

All Companies must keep their areas clear of Salvage. Empty tins, for treatment at the Brigade Soldier Kilns, and all salvage paper and cardboard must be sent to the ration dump nightly for removal to Q.M.Store by returning ration limbers.

Grayson

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

258

APPENDIX NO. 2.

to

PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.
WORKS POLICY.

1. The order of importance is

- (a). Completion of wiring of CULCAIRN SWITCH and CULCAIRN TRENCH.
- (b). Construction of fire bays and fire steps in CULCAIRN SWITCH.
- (c). Strengthening of wire in front of Right Company Sector.
- (d). Strengthening of wire in front of Support line.
- (e). Widening and deepening Communication Trench between CULCAIRN TRENCH and EMU TRENCH.
- (f). Construction of splinter proof shelters in Right Company sector.

The Battalion Works Officer is responsible that all work is properly carried out and that the Works Report is rendered to Brigade Headquarters by first run daily. He will detail the necessary working parties through the Adjutant and he will advise Brigade daily of any parties required outside the Battalion.

Edward Todd

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

SECRET.

APPENDIX ^G

Copy No. 7

31

31ST. BATTALION ORDER NO. 173.

Headquarters,
26th. July 1918.

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

1. It is proposed to project 200 Gas Cylinders into enemy defences round and about E.20. central on night 26th/27th. July 1918.
2. Projectors will be emplaced in E.19.d.4.0.
3. Areas to be clear of troops from Zero minus 15 to Zero plus 30, and areas in which S.B.Rs. are to be worn from Zero minus 5 to Zero plus 30 are as shown on attached sketch.
4. Limits of wind for a safe discharge of gas are from S.S.W. through W. to N.N.W. of a velocity not exceeding 10 m.p.h.
5. ZERO HOUR will be 2.40 a.m. night 26th/27th. July 1918. All working parties will be clear of the Battalion forward area by 2.30 a.m.
6. All trenches and posts evacuated will be patrolled before being re-occupied by their garrisons.
7. 2/Lt. Austin will be in charge of the operation. This officer will call at Left Company Headquarters.
8. The following code words will be used in connection with the operation :
Operation will take place LOVED
Operation postponed HUSBAND
Operation completed. PASSION.
9. The Left Line Company will advise Battalion Headquarters immediately the operation is completed.

Issued at 10.45 p.m. by runner to

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

Copies to :

Adjutant	" 5 "
War Diary	" 6/8 "
File	" 9 "

W. Clayton
Captain.
Adjutant, 31st. Battalion, AIF.

GAS OPERATION.

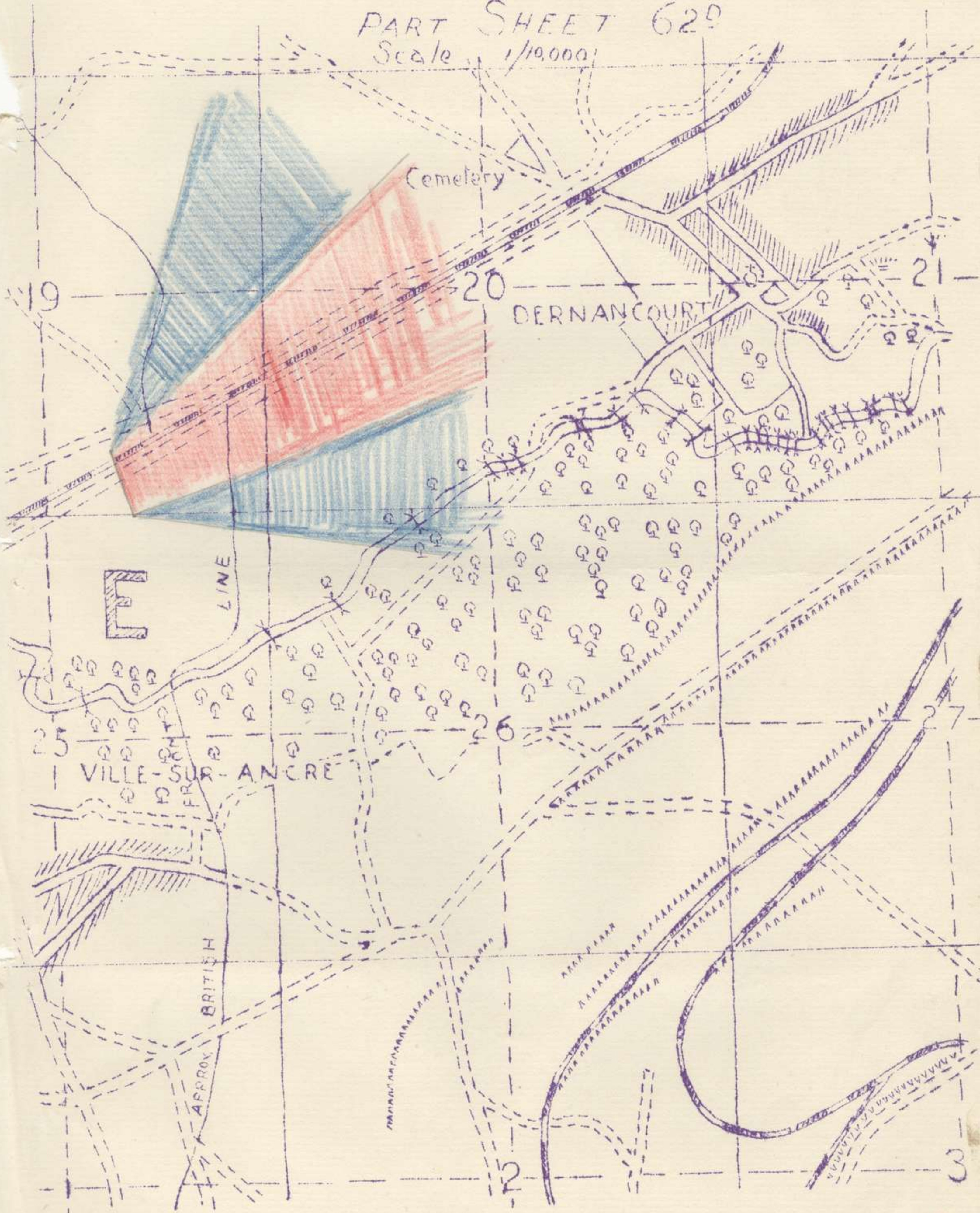
NIGHT 26/27th JULY 1918

258

APPENDIX G

E.A.V. PATROL MAP

PART SHEET 629
Scale 1/10,000

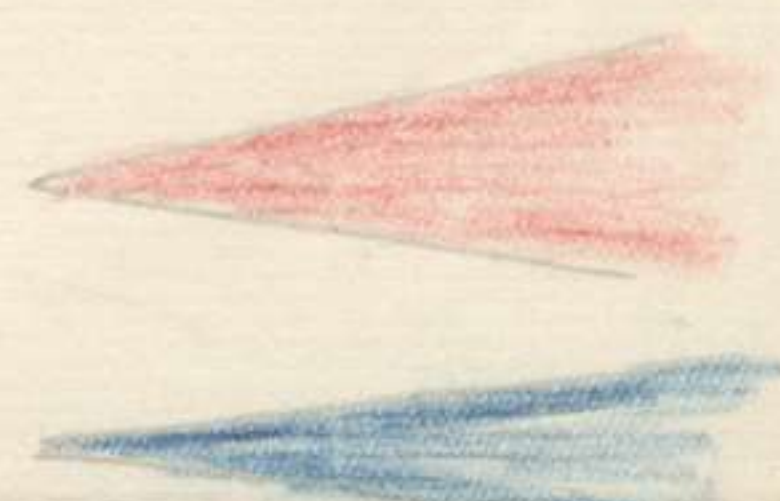


DANGER ZONE

Area to be cleared
of troops

CAUTIONARY ZONE

Masks to be worn



SECRET.

258

31ST. BATTALION ORDER NO. 174

Copy No. 10

Ref. Map : Sheet 62D 1/40,000

Headquarters,
26th. July 1918.

1. On night 27th/28th. July 1918 the 31st. Battalion will be relieved by "B" Battalion of 173rd. Infantry Brigade.
2. On completion of relief Companies will move to BALLARAT and BENDOGO Lines. with Battalion Headquarters at QUARRY at J.9.b.9.2.
3. 3 N.C.Os per Company will report to Battalion Headquarters at 10 a.m. ("A" Company before dawn) to reconnoitre new positions. These N.C.Os will meet Companies at street corner at D.29.d.3.6 and guide Companies to their new positions.
4. Companies will detail one guide per platoon and one for Company H .J. to report to R.S.M. at Battalion Headquarters at 10 p.m. on 27th. inst. ("A" Company's guides to report before dawn on 27th. inst.) to guide incoming unit to their positions.
5. A percentage of officers and N.C.Os of 173rd. Infantry Brigade will report to Companies during night 26th/27th. inst. to take over positions and stores. Local maps, defence schemes, air photos, and all information relative to the sector and trench stores, etc., will be handed over and receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters in duplicate immediately they are complete.
6. All Hot boxes, petrol tins, picks and shovels will be returned to ration dump immediately after dark on 27th. inst. ("A" Company will hand over picks and shovels.)
7. Hot meal will be available on arrival at new position.
8. All technical stores will be ~~hand~~ carried out. Lewis Gun magazines will be carried filled. 170 rounds S.A.A. per man will be carried.
9. Front Line Companies will put out strong covering parties for the relief. All precautions against hostile shelling will be taken.
10. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters by the code word "SET". The same code word will be used when Companies are settled in new positions.

Issued at 11 p.m. by runner to :

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

Copies to :

Adjutant	" 5 "
C.O.	" 6 "
Q.M. & T.O.	" 7 "
"B" En., 173rd. L. Rgt.	" 8 "
War Diary	" 9/11 "
File	" 12 "

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

31ST. BATTALION ORDER NO. 174.

Ref. Map : Sheet 62D

Headquarters,
30th. JULY 1918.

1. The 8th. A.I. Brigade will be relieved by the 55th. Infantry Brigade in Left Sub-Sector, "C" Divisional front on night 31st. July/1st. August 1918, and on completion of relief will move to QUERRIEU - ALLONVILLE area.
2. The area occupied by 31st. Battalion will be taken over by Headquarters, 7th. Queen's. The Battalion will move out when the relieving troops march into the area.
3. After relief the Battalion will move by march route to QUERRIEU Camp, No. 3 at H.21.c.6.1

Order of march :

Headquarters.	
"C" Company.	An interval of 50 yards between
"B" "	platoons and 100 yards between
"A" "	Companies will be maintained
"D" "	throughout the march.

Starting Point : J.9.b.7.7, Entrance to Village.Starting Time : To be notified later. Approx. 9.45 p.m.Route : Through MERICOURT, crossing the ANCRE at J.8.c.9.9, along 3rd. class road to HULLY, thence along main ALBERE - AMIENS road to point where guides will be met. Guides will then lead Companies to their positions.

4. 1 N.C.O. per Company will report to Battalion Headquarters to Lieut. Newall at 10 a.m. 31st. July 1918 to reconnoitre new positions. These N.C.Os. will meet Companies at Cross roads on Eastern outskirts of PONT NOYELLES at I.12.c.5.2 at 12.30 a.m. 1st. August 1918. Lieut CAIRNS will arrange to post guides on all corners West of LA HOUSSEYE to direct stragglers.
5. DRESS : Fighting Order as laid down.
6. Lewis Gun limbers will be at QUARRY at 9.30 p.m. Companies will arrange to have guns and technical equipment ready for loading at that time. Limbers to follow the Companies. Two Lewis Gunners to accompany each limber, and one Lewis Gun to be kept in readiness as A.A. defence.
7. Mess cart and 1 limber to report to Battalion Headquarters at 9.30 p.m. to carry Headquarters gear. Spring cart to follow in rear of column with men who are slightly gassed. Company Commanders' and H.Q. Officers' chargers will report at 9.30 p.m. and 10 p.m. respectively.
8. Company Commanders will take steps to ensure that all trenches, dugouts, etc, are sprayed with a solution of creosol and ~~is~~ left thoroughly clean, special attention being paid to latrines.
9. Reinforcements and Rear Headquarters will proceed to new position at 2 p.m. 31st. inst.
10. Companies will forward Marching In states to Battalion H.Q. immediately on arrival in camp.

Issued at 11 p.m. by runner to

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

Copies to :

Adjutant	" 5 "	War Diary	No. 2/10 copy.
C.O.	" 6 "	File	" 11.
T.O. & Q.M.	7 "		

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

QUARTER-MASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF JUNE 1918.

The Battalion being out at rest for the first two weeks of the month all Technical Stores were checked and any shortages indented for . Good supplies of clothing were available and all men requiring new clothing were equipped , the unserviceable being returned to Ordnance . Cookers were painted and overhauled . Inspection of Transport was carried out and any shortages indented for . Good supplies of boots were available and all men requiring same were fixed up . Fat return for the month 1650 lbs. Great attention was paid to the Cooking . Salvage Returns were ~~withheld~~ of the previous month . All Technical Stores on charge to were called in and overhauled by Armourer Sergeant . Blankets were furnished and a good proportion of the men's clothing . Paper Return for the month which is a record for the Division. Rations excellent.

Place
Date
Hour

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

P. G. Sparks Captain.
Q.M. 31st Battalion. A.I.F.

QUARTER-MASTER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1918.

The Battalion being in the line the whole month, no equipping was possible. All cooking for the line was done at the Transport Lines and taken forward after dark in Hot Boxes, it being only possible to give the men one hot meal. Rissoles and Puddings were sent up every day and were much appreciated. Salvage Returns were very good and constituted a record for the Battalion. Owing to the great numbers of Rissoles and Puddings made, the Fat Returns for the month show a slight falling off, amount returned 1550 lbs. Great trouble has been experienced in getting Boots, especially Australian Pattern and the position still remains rather acute. Rations from A.S.C. have been excellent. Good supplies of clothing are on hand to equip the Battalion when it is relieved. When the Battalion Reserve Line the cookers were taken up to Bn. H.Q.'s and all cooking was done there, which enabled all Coys. to have three hot meals per day.

Summary of Events and Information

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(These headings not required)

WAR DIARY

P. G. Sparks Captain.
Q.M. 31st Battalion. A.I.F.

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1918.

On the 9th Inst. the Transport was inspected by the Brigade Commander who congratulated the T.O. on the excellent turnout. While camped in "Bois de Madame" the Boche was very active dropping bombs in the vicinity. One bomb which turned out to be a 'Dud', dropped close to the lines and would have done considerable damage had it exploded. The camp was also shelled with a 5.9 H.V. Gun but no damage was done. Owing to the increase in leave three drivers obtained furlough to U.Kingdom, these being the first since leaving KEMEL in March. Many hairbreadth escapes took place while carting Gas Cylinders to the front line. Z. Special Coy. R.E. the following being the most interesting :-
No. 2962 Dvr. Lauman A.M. having arrived near the front line and it not being dark enough to proceed "He halted in a sunken road." The Boche started to shell us. My off side horse being wounded in the neck, the team started to bolt but were stopped by a steep bank which they could not get up. If the shell had been a few yards closer all the 12 Limbers and horses would have been smothered with our own deadly gas.
No. 2914 Dvr. Hosking A.M. was standing alongside his team when the shelling started. Being unable to hold them I attempted to mount but at that moment a shell landed behind my limber, the horses bolted up a steep bank and dragged me for about a 100 yards when I managed to get into the saddle and pulled them up. The Officer in charge (A Tommy) then roused me for getting up the bank showing that what he knew about horses was not much. The team that I was in charge of included a horse which we got from the Tommies as they could not handle it."

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

Remarks and references to Appendices

Army Form C. 2118.

1918/18 W. Wa355/256 60000 14/7 D

1918/18 W. Wa355/256 60000 14/7 D