

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/48/37

**Title:** 31st Infantry Battalion

August 1918



AWM4-23/48/37

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

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**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

31<sup>st</sup> BATTALION. A.I.F.

FOR

August 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Spain Lieut*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*McKeenan Lieut - Col.*

1  
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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>QUERRIEU No. 8 CAMP Ref. Map Sheet 62° N.W. / 20,000</p>	August 1		<p>There was no parade during the day, but inspections were held to ascertain shortages etc. The men spent the day resting and cleaning up. Parties of 1 officer - 5 NCOs were taken to VAUX-EN-AMIENOIS by lorry leaving QUERRIEU at 7.0 AM to witness a demonstration at 5<sup>th</sup> Tank Brigade park. The demonstration consisted of the taking of a front &amp; support system of trenches by the infantry assisted by tanks. In view of projected operations the demonstration was of great value to those witnessing it. The weather continued to be gusty and showery.</p>	
	2		<p>The tank demonstrations were continued and the same number of officers &amp; NCOs were taken to witness them. The C.O. was called to Brigade H.Q. for a conference in the morning. On his return he announced that the Australian Corps in conjunction with the Canadian Corps and a French Corps would be taking part in a major operation somewhere within the next five days. The first Battle Instructions were received during the day from Brigade H.Q. giving the objectives, boundaries etc. of the attack. C.O. held a meeting of Coy. Commanders in the afternoon and informed them of the coming operations. The weather to-day was extremely showery and gusty which made the ground very slippery.</p>	
	3		<p>Preparations as regards equipment, material etc. were made during the day and a thorough kit inspection was held by Coy. Commanders. In the morning the C.O. again visited Brigade H.Q. and obtained further details of the operation which were imparted to Coy. Commanders at a meeting in the afternoon. The weather is still very unsettled with alternate showers and sunshine.</p>	
	4		<p>The day was spent in getting ready for the move forward in the evening. A Battalion parade was held at 5.0 PM with the men in fighting order with ground flares, extra ammunition and rations which are to be carried in the attack. The C.O. told the men as much as he was able about the forthcoming operation and reminded them that</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>QUERRIEU NO. 8 CAMP Ref Map Sheet 62<sup>ND</sup> NW 1/20 000</p> <p>VILLERS - BRETTONEAUX Ref Map Sheet 62<sup>OS</sup> W 1/20 000</p>	<p>AUGUST 4</p>		<p>it would be the first occasion on which the whole of the five Australian Divisions would be operating together. The nucleus was got ready during the afternoon and in the evening left for Bois de MAI prior to the Battalion moving out. At 9.30 p.m. the Battalion moved out in the following order A B C D &amp; H.Q. and proceeded by BUSSEY-LE-DAOURS VECQUEMENT, AUBIGNY and from thence to the positions allotted. Dispositions were as follows A coy in trench from 024 b.1.6. to 018d 50.25 with H.Q. at 018d 1.2. B coy 018d 6.3. to 018d 9.6 018d 6.3 to 018d 3.7 with coy H.Q. at 018d 60.35. C coy 017d 5.2 to 018d 2.9 with H.Q. at 017c 2.1 D coy in Quarry 017c 3.8 and one platoon in bank 017c 9.5. with H.Q. in Quarry 017c 3.8. Battn H.Q. &amp; R.A.P. at 024 a 30.78. At X roads 09d 00. the rear of the column - D coy &amp; H.Q. were shelled and some confusion was caused; on arrival of the Battalion in its position 15 casualties were reported as the result of the shelling, including Capt. R.B. Aland M.C. the senior bay command. at present with the Battalion.</p>	<p>Appendix A.</p>
	<p>5</p>		<p>The Battalion was finally in position at 2.50 A.M. B.O. visited Brigade H.Q. at 2.0 P.M. and the remainder of the Battalion was busy making preparation for the attack which is pending on this front. Lieut. Greeno is standing by to act as liaison officer between the 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup> Brigades during the attack; Lieut. McGill is also to act in a similar capacity between the 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; 31<sup>st</sup> Battalions.</p>	
	<p>6</p>		<p>All the men are resting and there are no fatigue parties required. The B.O. attended a conference at Brigade H.Q. in the afternoon. Visits were made by the Tank officers to see the C.O. and coy. officers. A large proportion of Battalion officers also visited the Tank Coy H.Q. at the Chateau AUBIGNY.</p>	
	<p>7</p>		<p>The work of preparation for the attack continues - the B.O. again visited Brigade H.Q. during the afternoon. B.O. has held a conference of coy. commanders each day on his return from Brigade H.Q. and gone through the various Battalion instructions as they have been received. During the evening an enemy shell set fire to a loaded supply tank which was parked in the vicinity of</p>	<p>VILLERS-BRETTONEAUX</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>VILLERS-BRETTONEAUX Ref Map Sheet 62° S.W 1/20 000</p>	<p>AUGUST 7.</p>		<p>The tank flayed up and set fire to others which were parked alongside. Altogether sixteen tanks out of nineteen were destroyed. The loss in S.A.A., T.M. ammunition etc. was considerable. There was a final conference of Coy. Commanders at Battalion H.Q. at 9.0 pm and the final details of the attack were discussed. The general outline of the attack is as follows. Three Corps are taking part. From Right to Left a French Corps, Canadian Corps &amp; Australian Corps with the 3<sup>rd</sup> English Corps moving their flank forward to conform to the left flank of the Australian Corps. The divisions of the Australian Corps to make the initial attack were the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division on the right and the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the left and their objectives were the Green line. The 5<sup>th</sup> on the right and the 4<sup>th</sup> on the left were to pass through the Green line at Zero+4 hours their objective being the Red line and then the Blue line. The plan for the capture of the latter was to bring up tanks with MG &amp; L.G. teams and guns engage and there were to be put down on the Blue line and consolidate. The disposition of the 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. are 15<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde on the right, 8<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde. on the left with the 14<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde in support. Disposition of 8<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde are 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion on the right and 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the left with 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in support and 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion in reserve. Boundaries etc are shown on map which forms Appendix B <del>is</del> available in diary.</p>	
<p>MAJOR OPERATION Ref Map Sheet 62° SE. 1/20 000</p>	<p>8.</p>		<p>At 1.0 AM. the Battalion moved by companies independently to the assembly trenches which for this Battalion was the ALBURY LINE from P20c1.2. to P25b13. approx. The Battalion was finally in position in the trenches at 2.30 AM. The night up to this <del>point</del> <sup>time</sup> had been clear, but at 3.30 AM. a mist appeared and gradually became worse as time went on. At 4.20 AM. it had developed into a fog and was very thick. Punctual to time (Zero hour was 4.20 AM) the barrage fell, but as per Battle Instruction No. (Appendix) the Battalion did not move until 5.20 AM. At 5.5 AM. the Battalion began to move out on to the tape line which ran from P20c2.3. to P25a75.10 (see Appendix B) with A Coy on the right and B Coy on the left each occupying a front of about</p>	<p>Appendix B do "B1"</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS - BRETTONAUX  Ref MAP Sheet 62 SE 120000	AUGUST 8.		<p>500 yards, C coy in support and D coy in Reserve with Batts HQ in rear of D coy. The formation which the CO laid down for the advance was as follows: In each coy. two platoons in front, two in support - all in sections in echelon. The depth of each company to be 200 yards with 100 yards between companies from front to rear. The move from the start line was made to time at 5.20 AM and the advance commenced. Owing to the thick fog the formation originally intended had to be modified somewhat and the companies all closed in. Each coy. was directed by an officer with a prismatic compass, who was marching on a magnetic bearing of 112°. The advance continued without incident, except on one occasion when a machine gun, which had been passed by the attacking Division, opened fire out of the fog - no casualties being caused however. A coy on the right found several trenches that had not been cleared and killed 30 of the enemy, capturing six and two machine guns. The trench line at P29CO.8. was reached at 6.30 AM. and at this time the sun began to appear through the mist, and it was seen that direction had been maintained accurately. Prisoners began to come through and they all seemed to be badly shaken and their moral very poor. The Battalion halted here as there was a considerable period to wait before</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAJOR OPERATION				
Ref. Map	August			
Sheet 62°SE 1/20 000	8		<p>it was due to pass the Green Line. The B.D. pushed forward to reconnoitre the position on the East side of WARFUSÉE-ABANCOURT. Whilst the Battalion was waiting in the trenches a 77mm battery opened on the area from approx Q25 - no casualties resulted however. At about 7.30 AM. the Battalion moved forward A &amp; C Coys to the Right, B, D &amp; H Co to the left of WARFUSÉE-ABANCOURT. A Coy whilst approaching the Green Line sustained a few casualties caused by a battery of 77mm guns firing over open sights. At 8.20 AM. the Battalion moved forward from the Green Line preceded by six tanks. Soon after starting the tanks and the forward infantry came under fire from a 77mm battery located at approx Q25d 23; this fire was very accurate as regards the tanks four out of six were put out of action within an hour of starting. The casualties amongst the Battalion were slight. At about this time the right Coy (A) were unable to keep up with the Battalion as the left Coy of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade were held up by a battery of 77mm guns. A Coy swung round their right flank and side slipped the whole Coy. to the right thus causing a gap between them and the left Coy (B) - the latter extended their front and maintained touch. Lewis gun fire was brought to bear on the crews of the 77mm guns which compelled them to take cover - these men later surrendered. Fire was again brought to bear</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAJOR OPERATION Ref Map Sheet 62° SE. 1/20,000	August 8		<p>on the advancing line from three guns at approx Q32a 25.20, this however was soon silenced by rifle fire and also the moral effect of the rapidly advancing line was too much for the enemy gunners who abandoned their guns when the forward men were within 500 yards of them.</p> <p>Slight trouble was experienced whilst approaching crossroads in Q30a from snipers who could not be located. These men proved to be observers in a tree at crossroads and they were promptly shot. The right coy. experienced slight machine gun and rifle fire from N. side of BAYONVILLERS, but it was in no way organised and was very desultory. After passing BAYONVILLERS the right coy. had to swing their right flank more and more back to keep in touch with the left coy. of the 15<sup>th</sup> A.I. Brigade - thus making a big gap between them and the left coy. Q.C. Coy brought his company up into line and filled the gap. Two 77mm guns were firing from road in W3 central on to 15<sup>th</sup> A.I. Brigade sector, these were engaged by Lewis Guns of centre and right companies, and forced to limber up and retire - one gun however was abandoned the teams having apparently been hit. From this point there was practically no opposition on the right of the Battalion sector; the left company were fired on from wood in Q35c at the head of the gully by machine guns, but they worked round the guns and teams and were not delayed in any way.</p>	

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MAJOR OPERATION Ref Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20000	AUGUST 8		<p>The mopping up of these teams was left to the Battalion in rear. The Red Line was reached by the left company at 10.25 AM. and a success signal was fired by Lieut. Kardaker which was, as far as can be ascertained, the only signal on the Battalion front which burst successfully into the three white lights on a parachute - others were fired but they either burst into one light only or failed to burst at all. The centre and right companies did not reach the Red line at this time, but about a quarter of an hour later. The B.O. decided to push straight on to the Blue Line as there was practically no opposition, and the tanks carrying the exploitation party were not in sight. All three companies accordingly pushed on to the Blue line and commenced the work of consolidation. This was not a difficult matter as the Blue Line consisted of a line of old trenches - relics of the old SOMME days. A coy on the right extended as far as HARBONNIERES STN. on the Blue Line thus occupying a portion of the 15<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bgde sector. This company was later relieved by the 15<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bgde. and moved into the Battalion sector taking over C coy. position - the latter moving into immediate support. B coy commenced consolidation at 10.50 AM.; no opposition or interference was experienced by them whilst so engaged and by 3.0 pm. all three companies had consolidated their positions.</p>	

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MAJOR OPERATION Ref Map Sheet 62° S.E. 1/20000	August 8.		<p>During the advance there were not a great number of prisoners captured by the Battalion between 100 &amp; 150 from the time of leaving the start line to the consolidation on the Blue Line - the majority were captured by the cavalry. The total captured by the Brigade, including those brought in by the cavalry, were 11 officers &amp; 801 OR. It was agreed before the attack that all material captured should be pooled and sent in in the name of the 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade. (The material listed in Appendix E can be said to have been captured by this Battalion. Full list of material captured by the Brigade is given in Appendix F (not available).)</p> <p>The 28 cm. Railway gun is the most important capture as it is probable that this about the first occasion in this war in which a railway gun has been captured from the enemy. The Battalion is extremely proud of itself inasmuch as it has such an interesting trophy to its credit. As there seems to be some doubt as to the claim of this Battalion to its capture, it is only right to say here that the armorer who dropped the bomb on the train was instrumental in its capture as well as the cavalry. The actual taking possession of the gun was carried out by an officer of this Battalion. The companies having consolidated their positions settled down and thought about something to eat, as by this time they were extremely hungry and also footsore and tired.</p>	Appendix E Appendix F

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MAJOR OPERATION Ref Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20 000	August 8.		<p>As will be seen (from the map (Appendix B)) the advance was to a depth of 12 000 yards, but lucky the ground was good going and firm &amp; there was an absence of deep gullies and valleys. The dress for the men was follows; Fighting order with an extra iron ration, 200 rounds of ammunition, 2 ground flares, a tin disc and an extra water bottle. The Lewis gunners of course carrying guns and magazines. The points which stand out from the attack are as follows:</p> <p><u>On our side.</u></p> <p>a) The officers and men require more practice in open warfare formations and tactics, this operation being purely open warfare, it was evident that the men were not used to fighting of this nature.</p> <p>b) That the men were exceedingly keen and did not lack any initiative or courage during the whole operation.</p> <p>c) That the preparations for the operation were thorough, in spite of the exceedingly short notice which was given by General Toke for the attack to take place.</p> <p>d) <del>That the Tanks were of very little use in really open warfare.</del></p>	

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<p>MAJOR OPERATION Ref Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20000</p>	<p>August 8</p>		<p><u>On the enemy side.</u></p> <p>a. That the morale of most of the prisoners was exceedingly poor with one or two exceptions.</p> <p>b. That the enemy had presumed that we would not dare to make an attack - thinking that this year he had the whole right to such.</p> <p>c. The total absence of rear defensive lines or general activity of any sort in his rear area.</p> <p>d. The excellent way in which some batteries of his Field Artillery were handled and limbered up and retired when our troops got in close proximity.</p> <p>e. His unpreparedness for the attack, and if he did know that it was coming, taking no thought of material in his rear area, imagining that the attack would only be to a depth of 1000 to 2000 yards as has been usual for the British Armies in France.</p> <p>f. The only troops who really showed any resistance were the machine gunners.</p> <p>The CO, Adjutant and company commanders taking part in the attack were as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">CO      Lieut. Col. N. M. Freeman D.S.O.  actg/Adj.      Lieut. J. J. Cairns.  OC A Coy      Capt. J. J. Tronson M.C.                      B      Capt. J. H. Wilson                      C      Lieut. S. Louns M.C.                      D      Lieut. K. W. Morrison</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices															
<p>MAJOR OPERATION Ref Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20,000</p>	<p>August 8 —</p>		<p>The casualties for the day were:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Officers</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Wounded</td> <td>                     Lieut. P. Strachan                      Lieut. J. H. Shaw                      Lieut. J. M. Nelson                      Lieut. H. Miller                      Lieut. L. N. Lamark (Remaining on duty)                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>O.R.s</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">42</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Died of Wounds</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Officers</u>	Killed	NIL		Wounded	Lieut. P. Strachan Lieut. J. H. Shaw Lieut. J. M. Nelson Lieut. H. Miller Lieut. L. N. Lamark (Remaining on duty)	<u>O.R.s</u>	Killed	3		Wounded	42		Died of Wounds	4	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAUVILLERS Ref Map Sheet 62 <sup>D</sup> SE 1/20000	August <u>9</u>		<p>Hostile artillery shelled the area at intervals during the night and hostile planes carried out extensive bombing in the forward area. CO visited Brigade H.Q. at 8.30 AM. and on his return at 10.30 AM immediately ordered C COY to advance our line from approx X1A 00. to X1D 00. in order to conform with the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion who were advancing on our right to occupy VAUVILLERS and also to provide a good jumping off position for an attack which was being made in the afternoon by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division. C COY advanced in open order formation and reached a line along the road running N.W. &amp; S.E. in X1 D &amp; D after heavy casualties caused by MG. fire &amp; 47mm gun fire from VAUVILLERS. The casualties were very heavy for such a small attack. The Battalion on our right also had heavy casualties mostly caused by machine gunners &amp; snipers, which seems to bear out prisoners statements that practically the only troops who were holding us up. At 4.30 P.M. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division passed through our line and captured the village of FRAMERVILLE establishing themselves on the eastern side of the village in front of RAINECOURT. In the evening at dusk C COY of this Battalion retired to their old position on the Blue Line. During the day our aeroplanes were exceedingly active as also were those of the enemy. In the afternoon one of our observation balloons was pushed forward to W12a and was doing observation work for about four hours when it had the misfortune to be brought down by one of our own planes. The mistake was evidently caused by its being so far forward. Enemy aeroplanes were again exceedingly active during the</p>	Appendix G

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WAR DIARY  
or

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1918

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
<p>VAUVILLERS Ref Map Sheet 62° SE. 1/20 000</p>	<p>August <u>9</u></p>	<p>10.</p>	<p>night dropping bombs all over the forward area. The 28cm gun which was brought in from No Mans Land was steamed out during the evening to the rear. ✱</p> <p>at 5 30 AM an order was received from Brigade H.Q. to move back to the AUBIGNY LINE (Ref. Map Sheet 62° SW.) at 6 15 AM. It was impossible to move at this hour, and the Battalion moved out at 7 15 AM in the following order: H.Q. D.C.B.A. by cross-country route to WARFUSÉE - ABANCOURT thence along WARFUSÉE - ABANCOURT - FOUILLOY road to positions in system of trenches in 014 with Battalion H.Q. at 013C 27. At WARFUSÉE - ABANCOURT the Q.M. had prepared hot tea for the men and a halt was made at 8 0 AM for one hour. Battalion arrived in its position at 1 30 PM and all ranks were exceedingly tired and footsore; for the rest of the day the men were allowed to rest and clean up.</p> <p>The men are all very elated at the success of the operations in which they had taken part and their morale is excellent - all being in high spirits in spite of their fatigue.</p> <p>The weather is still fine and not too hot. ♡</p> <p>The only parades held during the day were shot for the purpose of inspection for shortages etc. The men had the whole day to themselves to rest and clean up.</p> <p>The weather is still fine and sunny.</p>	<p>Appendix H</p>												
<p>AUBIGNY Ref Map Sheet 62° SW. 1/20 000</p>	<p>11</p>		<p>✱ Casualties for 9<sup>th</sup> August 1918.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Officers</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Lieut. W. McGill</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">L. N. Lemark (some detail of wounds)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>O.R.s</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> </tr> </table>	Officers	Wounded	Lieut. W. McGill			L. N. Lemark (some detail of wounds)	<u>O.R.s</u>	Killed	4		Wounded	25	
Officers	Wounded	Lieut. W. McGill														
		L. N. Lemark (some detail of wounds)														
<u>O.R.s</u>	Killed	4														
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUBIGNY Ref Map Sheet 62° SW 1/20000	August 12.		The Battalion is resting and refitting which is very necessary after the strenuous two or three days work through which it had passed. The weather continues to be fine with a slight wind and plenty of sun - the roads are now exceedingly dusty. At night enemy aeroplanes were very actively engaged in bombing the whole area.	
	13.		A parade of the Battalion was held at 10.30 AM in fatigued dress and a short address was given to the men by the Divisional Commander, who was accompanied by the Brigade Commander. The Divisional Commander expressed himself as being very satisfied with the work of this Battalion in the recent operations, and informed us all that the Division was shortly making another attack - the objective being CHAULNES - the 8 <sup>th</sup> AI Bde is to be in Reserve. The move order was received in the afternoon and the Battalion is leaving its present billets at 7.0 AM to-morrow (14 <sup>th</sup> )	Appendix I
	14.		The weather continues to be very fine and dry, and enemy planes are very active but dropping during the night. Early this morning word was received from Brigade HQ that the move was postponed for 24 hours, and in consequence move order was temporarily cancelled. CO visited Brigade HQ during the morning. The weather still continues fine and very pleasant. The men are resting, the only parades being a rifle inspection in the morning. Enemy bombing planes were exceedingly active during the night. The Battalion is still standing by awaiting orders to move.	
	15.		The usual morning inspection parades were held. CO visited Brigade HQ at 8.30 pm for a conference. On his return he announced that Brigade would be moving at 3.0 pm to-morrow and occupy the Reserve Brigade position in Q14 21 (Ref. Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20000)	Appendix J

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUBIGNY Ref Map Sheet 62° SW 1/20,000	August 15 16		<p>The weather is still very fine and sunny and is most enjoyable, there being brilliant sunshine all day. Enemy bombing planes still very active during the night. A meeting of company commanders was held by the C.O. at 10.0 AM and points in connection with the move forward were discussed. One blanket per man was drawn from the P.M. store during the morning, which was to be carried on the man. The starting hour was put back one hour and was therefore 4.0 pm instead of 3.0 pm. The weather is still very fine, but during the morning slightly dull; at mid day the sun came out and there was a promise of a hot afternoon. The Battalion passed the starting point in Q14b at 3.30 pm with L.G. limbers and cookers in rear of companies. The march was an exceedingly hot and dusty one and the route as laid down. The Battalion arrived at its position in Q20a at 7.45 pm and found that the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF and 39<sup>th</sup> Batta. AIF were occupying positions which had been allotted to this Battalion. The 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion however moved out at 9.30 pm and companies were able to move into the positions vacated by them in REGINALD WOOD. There was however no position for Batta H.Q. who were compelled to dig in in the vicinity of Q20b74. The night was fine and clear, but there was no night bombing. The men were making themselves comfortable during the morning by improving their shelters and where necessary constructing new ones. At about 4.0 pm a 5.9" H.V. gun commenced firing at a balloon winch which was at approx. Q20b95.95 and forced them to move along the road to approx. Q20b74. towing the balloon. From then onwards until dark the enemy continued to shell the winch and forced them on several occasions to shift their position along the road running SW through Q20ced. As far as can be ascertained no material damage was done a casualty caused.</p>	
Vicinity MORCOURT Ref Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20,000	17			

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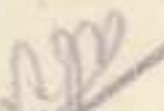

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vicinity MORCOURT Ref Map Sheet 62 <sup>D</sup> SE. 1/20,000	August 18.		Parades were held in the morning and the training comprised - 9.0 AM - 10.0 AM. Physical Training, 10.0 AM - 11.0 AM. SBR inspection and gas drill, 11.0 AM - 12.0 noon lectures by company commanders. Bay boundaries and other figures are going forward, each day to reconstitute the areas of 14 <sup>th</sup> + 15 <sup>th</sup> A.I. Brigades, who are holding the line. The weather continues to be fine and sunny. 	
	19	do	do 	
	20	do	Orders were received for the Battalion to move back to the AUBIGNY system at 2.10 pm to-morrow. Battalion order for the move was issued at 10.45 pm and forms 	Appendix 'K'
AUBIGNY Ref Map Sheet 62 <sup>D</sup> SW. 1/20,000	21		The morning was occupied in squaring and cleaning up the camp and getting it ready to hand over to the relieving Battalion. Just before noon officers of the 10 <sup>th</sup> Battalion arrived to take over the area. At 2.10 pm the Battalion passed the starting point Q20 d29 in the following order HQ, DCBA. The route taken was across country to the N side of WARFUSÉE-ABANCOURT and thence along main road to FOUILLOT and so to its position. The Battalion arrived at its destination at 6.0 pm. after an exceedingly hot and dusty march. The Battalion occupied the same positions as it did on the 10 <sup>th</sup> Inst. in 014. In the early morning there was a thick mist and later when came out, it was known that it was going to be an exceedingly hot day. A number of men fell out during the march, but these all joined up again soon after the Battalion arrived. The men's packs were distributed in the evening and after a battle in the SOMME the men were feeling quite fit again. 	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUBIGNY Ref Map Sheet 62 <sup>nd</sup> S.W. / 20 000	August 22		To-day there were no parades and the time was spent in re-organizing and resting. The day was exceedingly hot with a hot wind blowing - it was even more trying than yesterday, but as there was no movement the heat was not felt so much. Pay was drawn from Divisional Paymaster and the men were paid. Advice was received that No 797 Pte Warne R. Coy has been awarded the Military Medal in connection with the operation against enemy trenches in MORLANCOURT Sector by the 29 <sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 29 <sup>th</sup> Ult.	
	23		The only parades were for rifle inspection etc in the morning. C.O. left Battalion to go on English leave - Major R.A. Geddes MC assuming command of the Battalion in his absence. Lieut. A. Hill MC started to-day to get all men who are sports men together and is forming a camp for them near the SOMME river, where they are undergoing training. The day was not nearly so hot as yesterday.	
	24		The usual rifle inspection parades were held in the morning. At 2.0 pm & 6.0 pm the Brigade Bands played selections to the men in 014 and these were very much appreciated. Enemy planes were exceedingly active during the night bombing all over the area. The weather is still fine.	
	25		There was a voluntary O.P.D. service held at 10.0 AM by the Padre - Chaplain the Rev. Foyster and there were no other parades. At 8.30 pm the C.O. attended a conference at Brigade H.Q. and on his return informed Coy. comdrs. and H.Q. officers that the Battalion would be moving forward at 9.30 AM in the morning to take part in another attack on this front. The main points were that three Divisions would	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUBIGNY Ref Map Sheet 62° SW / 20,000	August 25.		<p>attack - 32<sup>nd</sup> English Division on the right, 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Division in centre, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Div on left. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. the attack would be made on a one Brigade front with the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade attacking, 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade in support and 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade in Reserve. An unlimited objective was being given, but the accepted objective was the Riv. SOMME on N15 21 26 (Sheet 62C). In the event of the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade being unable to advance, the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade would pass through and continue the attack with the 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion on right, 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the left, 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in support and 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion in reserve. Mens blankets and packs and officers valises were collected during the night and stored in AUBIGNY. The Battalion were warned and preparations for the move were taken in hand during the night.</p>	
	26		<p>At 9.15 AM. the Battalion passed the starting point at X roads B146 in the following order H.Q. D.C.B.A. No more order was issued, but verbal instructions were given to company commanders. At 10.50 AM. a halt was made for lunch and the Battalion did not get on the move again until 1.30 pm. On approaching the MORCOURT valley N of the E-W road the QCO. was called away to a conference at Brigade H.Q. soon after the arrival of the Battalion in the MORCOURT valley at 3.45 pm the QCO. returned, and the orders were that the projected attack was cancelled, as it was considered that the enemy would be retiring from this front. Orders were issued that the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade would take over the line from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> A.I. Brigades. The QCO. &amp; 10. moved forward at once to reconnoitre the positions of the 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Battalions in support as there were the Battalions that the Battalion would be relieving. On his return the QCO. held a meeting of company commanders, and gave them all</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
MORCOURT VALLEY Ref Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20000	August 26.		<p>the information which he could. 1 officer &amp; 4 NCOs per coy moved forward during the afternoon to take over the company positions. Verbal instructions were issued for the move and the Battalion left P 294 at 8.30pm and proceeded forward in the following order D.C. HQ. A+B with sections at 30 yards distance. The route taken was cross country to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion HQ. at R28C6.4. Here the L.G. lines were met by the companies and their guns were taken off and carried forward the remainder of the distance. The Battalion arrived at 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion HQ. at 10.30pm - guides for C &amp; D coys were waiting and these two companies proceeded to relieve the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (which was on 77 strong). A+B coys were taken by the 10. to 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion HQ. at R2867.8 where guides were waiting to take them over. There was nothing in the way of stores or ammunition to take over, as the Brigade had only captured the position 24 hours previously.</p>									
FOUCAUCOURT Ref Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20000	27.		<p>Relief was complete at 12.20 AM. with one casualty. The disposition of the Battalion is shown on Appendix L. Battalion HQ. took over the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion HQ. at R28C6.4 whilst the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion took over the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion HQ. at R2867.4. Hostile artillery were active all through the night on to R28 &amp; R29, E-W road and the valley in R29. A small percentage of gas shell was used - Yellow &amp; Blue X. The calibres of guns being used were mostly 10.5 cm &amp; 15 cm from the rear of FOUCAUCOURT. From 5.0 AM. to 10.0 PM. there was shelling at intervals with all calibres of R29, R30a &amp; c, R35, R36a &amp; c, R23c &amp; d, R29a &amp; c with special heavy shots as under:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>12.30pm - 1.5pm</td> <td>R28c</td> <td>10.5cm &amp; 15cm</td> <td>about 200 shells</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.15pm - 3.15pm</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> <td>do</td> </tr> </table>	12.30pm - 1.5pm	R28c	10.5cm & 15cm	about 200 shells	2.15pm - 3.15pm	do	do	do	Appendix "L"
12.30pm - 1.5pm	R28c	10.5cm & 15cm	about 200 shells									
2.15pm - 3.15pm	do	do	do									

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FOUCAUCOURT Ref Map Sheet 62° SE. 1/25000	August 27.		<p>3.0pm - 6.0pm R29c R34b 10.5cm 15cm &amp; 21cm Heavy bombardment                      3.30pm - 6.30pm R29d R35a 10.5cm Gas &amp; HE 200 shells                      3.30pm - 7.30pm R23cud R28ab 10.5cm 15cm &amp; 21cm HE Gas About 1000 shells.</p> <p>One EA was over the front system at 2.0 PM. &amp; 4.0 PM. and engaged by AA &amp; L.G. fire.                      Nine EA were over valley R23a &amp; R29b at 8.30pm. machine gunning the valley.                      They were engaged by AA guns, but the light was bad. - there being a misty rain at the time. The planes were also engaged by M.G. &amp; L.G., but none were apparently hit. Our planes were active all day.</p> <p>The 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion who are in line, moved forward about 600 yards during the day, but could not advance any further for the moment on account of very heavy M.G. fire from FOUCAUCOURT. In the evening the line was pushed forward behind the village and was established on M21c M27a, M27c &amp; M33a. The weather up till 2.0pm was fine but overcast, from that time onwards slight drizzling rain fell which continued well into the night.</p> <p>During the early hours of the morning there was no enemy artillery activity which suggested that the enemy was moving his guns back. The 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion could not gain touch with the enemy and accordingly pushed forward, gained touch and maintained it. The CO rang up the CO. at 8.0 AM. and informed him that this Battalion would move forward and maintain touch with the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The Battalion moved at 9.15 AM. from their present position with D Coy on the right.</p>	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>FOUCAUCOURT Ref Map Sheet 62° SE 1/20,000</p> <p>ESTREES Ref Map Sheet 62° SW 1/20,000</p>	<p>August 28.</p>		<p>A Coy on the left, C Coy in rear of D Coy + B Coy in rear of A Coy. The companies moved off in artillery formation within the Brigade boundaries and HQ in rear of D Coy on the left of the E.W. road. On moving from the HQ at R28c 6.4 Battalion HQ moved to R29d 6.4 where it remained for a short time and then moved along the main road W. of the village of FOUCAUCOURT the front companies were held up by the support companies of the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion, who had not as yet moved. The advance was continued within half an hour with two companies on the right and two on the left of the main road. The forward movement was continued without any incident when the Battalion was again held up at about 1.0 pm. by the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion halting on a line N25 central - N31 central. The 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion established themselves on this line and 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade HQ were advised. Word came through that the 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion would pass through and continue the advance. A meeting of company commanders was called and the details of the advance arranged: the same formation was to maintain with special instructions to maintain touch with units on the flanks. It was reported that left flank of right Brigade was at approx N33c 5.7 on sunken road. The advance was continued at 5.30 pm and practically the only opposition was from MGs in the vicinity of the ruins of BELLOY-EN-SANTERRE and PARK WOODS in N21d. 8 Prisoners were captured by A Coy in front of BELLOY-EN-SANTERRE and as they were in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion sector they were handed over to them.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELLOU-EN-SANTERRE Ref Map Sheet 62 SW/20000	August 28		<p>Owing to the Battalion on the left not being up most of the fire was brought to bear in enfilade on this Battalion. A small amount of 77mm &amp; 10.5cm gun fire was put down by the enemy, but it was only an area shoot and no casualties were caused.</p> <p>The coys. rallied at 8 pm. and were disposed as follows: D coy on right in IV01 ALLEY from N27c8.5 - N33b10.65 and thence to N33a9.0. where they obtained touch with Unit on the right flank. Later in the night the company moved forward and occupied ARSONNE ALLEY. A coy on left held a line from N20d5.3. approx to N29c35. approx. and reported that they were in touch with Battalion on their left who were held up by MG fire from copse in N21b. Later in the evening A coy. left flank moved forward and occupied the W outskirts of BELLOU-EN-SANTERRE. C coy were disposed in rear of D coy in HEDEVEAUX ALLEY and B coy in the same trench N of the E-W road and Battalion H.Q. in trench at N26c9.6. Patrols were sent out by the front companies and the left company found that the ruins of BELLOU-EN-SANTERRE were not occupied, but that the woods in N21d were full of MGs. The MGs were very active during the night as also was his artillery during the early part.</p> <p>Towards dawn there was every indication that the enemy had retired, and accordingly orders were issued to company commanders to send out special dawn patrols to obtain touch. Enemy could not be located and orders were issued for the Battalion to move forward, which it did at 5.20 AM. The advance was continued and BELLOU-EN-SANTERRE passed at 5.25 AM. without opposition. Great progress was made by the Battalion and also the Battalion on the left (29<sup>th</sup>). There was no opposition to</p>	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>VILLERS - CARBONNEL Ref Map Sheet 62C SW/20110</p>	<p>August 29</p>		<p>The advance - the enemy apparently had retired across the SOMME as was anticipated. Two prisoners belonging to the 161<sup>st</sup> I.R. were captured on the W outskirts of VILLERS-CARBONNEL by D Coy at 6.30 A.M. and they seemed to be exceedingly happy at being captured, and informed us that the enemy were retiring to the E bank of the SOMME and that resistance would be put up at ETERPIGNY. This proved to be correct as the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion were held up here for a time. The front companies crossed the ridge astride VILLERS-CARBONNEL and proceeded down the slope towards the SOMME. Companies established themselves in old trenches as follows: D Coy in trench from 025c 8.4. to 031b 4.0. with Coy HQ at 031a 8.1. A Coy in EGLANTINE TRENCH from 020c 58. to 025b 3.1. with Coy HQ at approx 025b 65.40, C Coy in JONAS TRENCH &amp; ARGUS TRENCH from 025a 90. to N36b 70. with HQ at approx N24d 90.15 Battalion HQ was situated in <del>any</del> Brickyard at 025c 1.6. As soon as companies had arrived in these positions, patrols were sent out and also the cyclist L.C. Section attached to the Battalion. These patrols established the fact that the wide of the SOMME was clear of the enemy, who had apparently retired to FRIBOURG and MAINE TRENCHES on the high ground E of the <del>the</del> river, with rifle pits on the lower ground near the river. His troops had not apparently settled down at this time, for very little M.G. fire was experienced by patrols and the companies were <sup>not</sup> troubled to any extent during consolidation. At 11.30 AM. orders were received from Brigade HQ. that posts were to be established on a near the river by the left company and by the right company along grid line from 026a 00. to 032a 00. The companies moved out at 12.15 pm to carry out the orders given them.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-CARRONNEL Ref Map Sheet 62C SW/20000	August 29.		<p>A Coy established posts at approx 020d 6.3. 020d 45.00 026b 30.15, leaving one platoon in vacated trench. As soon as the three platoons had left the trench to move forward they came under direct fire from 77mm guns on the high ground on the other side of the river. They however moved on and established ten posts at places as ordered. D Coy on the night also established posts at 026c 0.3. 026c 0.3. 032a 0.5. 032a 2.2. 032a 0.0 and also more advanced posts at 032a 5.3. and 026c 7.4. Coy HQ established at 031a 9.2. During the whole day there was continual M.G. fire and sniping from the E bank of the river, and also all moving targets were engaged two enemy 77mm guns from 022a 8.6. and from vicinity of 035c. The guns at 022a 8.6. were engaged by 18 pdrs. and 4 5' HOWs. and forced to limbo up and retire. During the evening enemy artillery was not so active, but his machine guns were going all night. Patrols were sent out to patrol the River Bank and also to maintain touch between posts. No enemy were seen and there was apparently no intention on his part to attempt to cross the river. During the afternoon word was received that the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade would be passing through and an attempt made to cross the river. Various officers from that Brigade came up to reconnoitre the line including the Brigadier. In the evening orders were received that the operation would not take place, and the Battalion would hold the line in the meantime.</p> <p>From the enemy attitude towards dawn it was assumed that he had not retired, as he was still holding on to the SOMME. During the morning there was constant artillery fire on the forward system and VILLERS-CARRONNEL and the Brickfield were shelled continually by 4 10.5cm &amp; 21cm. from the direction of LE MESNIL-BRUNTEL</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS - CARBONNEL Ref Map Sheet 62C SW. 120 000	August 30		<p>At 1.55 pm. D Coy on the night sent forward a platoon under Lieut. Hynes to cross the SOMME in Q26d <del>and</del> with orders to establish a post on the E side of the river 100 yards clear of the bridge. This party crossed the bridges without any fire being brought to bear on them. As soon as they had cleared the last bridge fire was brought to bear on them by M.G. &amp; 77 mm guns in FRIBOURG TR. The bridge at Q26d 14. was also engaged by the enemy with M.W and partially destroyed. The patrol moved about on the outskirts of BRIE and were under fire continuously from M.G. &amp; snipers. As it was obviously impossible to remain there orders were given to the patrol at 5.20 pm. to withdraw. Their casualties were 1 killed &amp; 5 wounded. The party had great difficulty in withdrawing owing to the damaged condition of the bridges. A Coy on the left also established a post on the E side of the river in Q20d, but as it was of no use, the ground being 'dead', orders were given to withdraw it. There were no casualties in this party. After the withdrawal of both parties the enemy shelled the river banks and our front line very heavily for half an hour. At some 6.0. the company commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dsrpts came up to get information re the area, as they were taking over the sector during the night.</p> <p>They were to take over from three of our companies and one Coy. of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion on our left. Arrangements were made for gunners etc. to beat Road in Q30c at 8 pm.</p> <p>The relieving Battalion arrived at 9.0 pm and proceeded with the relief; at about 8.15 pm C Coy moved out independently, cleared the village and struck the main road 500 yards W. of the village of VILLERS-CARBONNEL. The relief was very satisfactorily carried out and was complete by 10 pm. Each company moved out independently &amp; proceeded along the E. road at N26d 2.5. The Q.M. had prepared hot tea for the men which was very much appreciated. At M30c 35 50 the road to FAY was taken and thence to their billets in M16a.</p>	

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27A

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																														
FONTAINE-LES CAPPI Ref Map Sheet 62c SW. 120000	August 31		<p>The CO. adjt &amp; company commanders taking part in the past operations were as under:</p> <p>of B.O. Major R.A. Geddes M.C. (2<sup>nd</sup> in command)</p> <p>adjt Capt F. Drayton</p> <p>OC A Lieut G.S. Bellitt</p> <p>OC B Capt G.H. Wilson</p> <p>OC C Lieut R. Wingate</p> <p>OC D Capt R.B. Aland M.C.</p> <p>The work of the Battalion during the operations was exceedingly good and higher formations were well satisfied - especially as the Battalion had the honour of being the first Unit in the Army to reach the SOMME.</p> <p>The Battalion was settled in billets by 20 AM and the men then were given some hot stew and tea, which was greatly appreciated. The spirit of the men was excellent and on arrival at their billets were singing and whistling, and no men fell out during the march back. In the remainder of the day the men were rested and their shortages taken. Each man was issued with one mess tin of beer, which had been bought out of canteen funds and, as can be imagined, was much appreciated. It was advised to-day that the following men had been awarded the M.M. for gallantry during the operations 8/9 August.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">460</td> <td style="width: 30%;">S/Pl. O'banna D.</td> <td style="width: 10%;">BCoy</td> <td style="width: 20%;">539</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Pte. Kullmann G.</td> <td style="width: 10%;">CCoy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1600</td> <td>Sgt. McDougall N.F.</td> <td>BCoy</td> <td>850</td> <td>S/Pl. Foley J.F.</td> <td>H.Q.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>802A</td> <td>Pte. Ayres A.H.</td> <td>DCoy</td> <td>2920A</td> <td>Pte. Nicholls SA</td> <td>H.Q.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>495</td> <td>Butters J.</td> <td>H.Q.</td> <td>3613</td> <td>Pontee F.</td> <td>b</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3200</td> <td>Petrie J.</td> <td>H.Q.</td> <td>2461</td> <td>Jayler P.B.</td> <td>D</td> </tr> </table>	460	S/Pl. O'banna D.	BCoy	539	Pte. Kullmann G.	CCoy	1600	Sgt. McDougall N.F.	BCoy	850	S/Pl. Foley J.F.	H.Q.	802A	Pte. Ayres A.H.	DCoy	2920A	Pte. Nicholls SA	H.Q.	495	Butters J.	H.Q.	3613	Pontee F.	b	3200	Petrie J.	H.Q.	2461	Jayler P.B.	D	
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27

27

28  
WAR DIARY  
or

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																		
FONTAINE-LES CAPPY Ref Map Sheet 62C SW 1/20000	August 31		<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">835 Pte <del>Dennis</del> Davies J.S. D Coy</td> <td style="width: 50%;">3588A Pte Gilt J C Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3016A Davis D.B. A Coy</td> <td>3880 O'Hall HA C Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>872 Hickson A.B. D Coy</td> <td>222 Kullad J A Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>637 Dingwall HA D Coy</td> <td>2896 Dermot J A Coy</td> </tr> </table> <p>Of the above the following have become casualties - Pte Davis D.B. killed, Pte Nicholls SA died of wounds, Ptes Pontee J &amp; Dingwall HA wounded. In awarding these decorations the Corps Commander congratulates the recipients on their good work - to which are added the good wishes of the Divisional, Brigade and Battalion commanders. A conference of Battalion commanders was held at Brigade H.Q. at 12.0 noon and on his return the A/Cd announced that it was intended we should move forward to the vicinity of FLAVCOURT at 3.30 pm, but that permission had been given for the Battalion to remain in its present position until to-morrow on account of its late arrival from the front line in its present camp. The weather now is unsettled and chilly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Casualties for period 27<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> August 1918</u></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Killed</td> <td style="width: 50%;">11 OR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>Lieut. A. H. Hill MC</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lieut. A. B. Hynes and remained on duty</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>37 OR</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1 OR and remained on duty</td> </tr> </table>	835 Pte <del>Dennis</del> Davies J.S. D Coy	3588A Pte Gilt J C Coy	3016A Davis D.B. A Coy	3880 O'Hall HA C Coy	872 Hickson A.B. D Coy	222 Kullad J A Coy	637 Dingwall HA D Coy	2896 Dermot J A Coy	Killed	11 OR	Wounded	Lieut. A. H. Hill MC		Lieut. A. B. Hynes and remained on duty		37 OR		1 OR and remained on duty	
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Wounded	Lieut. A. H. Hill MC																					
	Lieut. A. B. Hynes and remained on duty																					
	37 OR																					
	1 OR and remained on duty																					



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## WAR DIARY

OF

31<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION A.I.F

FOR

August 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
A	Battalion Move Order No 149 dated 4 <sup>th</sup> August 1918
B	MAP No 1 Reference Major Operation 8 <sup>th</sup> August 1918.
B <sub>1</sub>	Battalion Order do do do
C	Map showing dispositions of Battalion do
D	List showing Enemy Identification obtained do
E	List of trophies captured by the Battalion 8/9 August 1918.
E <sub>1</sub>	Blue print photo of 28cm Pk gun captured by the Battalion.
F	Cancelled
G	Operation for main operation 9 <sup>th</sup> August 1918
H	Warning Order for main and Battalion
H <sub>1</sub>	Order No 176 dated do Brigade Order No 198 & Brigade Battle Instructions Nos. 1 - 26
H <sub>2</sub>	Corps commander's letter to the troops dated 7 <sup>th</sup> August 1918
H <sub>3</sub>	Aeroplane photos showing some of the country over which the advance was to take place.
H <sub>4</sub>	Enemy sector organization Map
- H <sub>5</sub>	Hostile batteries, smoke screens & place names map
- H <sub>6</sub>	Heavy artillery bombardment map
H <sub>7</sub>	Company Commanders Reports on operation 8/9 August 1918
H <sub>8</sub>	Wires & messages (copies) received during operation
I	Battalion Order No 176 dated 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1918. 8/9 August 1918
J	do 177 do 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1918
K	do 178 do 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1918
L	Disposition Map of Battalion as at 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1918
M	Company Commanders Reports Operations 28/30 August 1918
N	Q.M.s monthly report
O	T.O.'s do



31st Battalion Order No. 149.

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

4th August 1918.

- (1) The 3th A.I. Brigade will move to location O.17 a and b, O.18, O.21, and O. 24c 3:2 .
- (2) The 31st Battalion will move to the trench system O.17 c and d, O.18, b, and O.24 , by the following route :- BUSSY-les-DAOURS , VECQUEMONT, and AUBIGNY to the cross roads at O.9 c 95.00 .
- (3) The starting point will be approx H.22 a O.2 , near C' Coy. which will be passed in the following order at 9 pm. on the 4th Inst.
  - "A" Coy. Distances of 200 yds between Coys and
  - B. " 100 yds between Platoons will be
  - C. " maintained .
  - D. "
  - H.Q's
- (4) All precautions will be taken against hostile shelling or bombing.
- (5) Dress. Fighting Order, steel helmet, S.B.R. at "Alert", 220 rounds S.A.A., 2 ground flares , and special aeroplane disc, will be carriddon the man .
- (6) On arrival inthe new area Coys. will advise Battalion H.Q's by the code word "DONE" .

*J. J. Davis*

Lieut.  
A/Adj. 31st Battalion A.I.F.

Issued at 8.15 pm. to

- Copy No 1 . C.O.
- " 2 Adj. .
- " 3 O/C. "A" Coy.
- " 4 " B. "
- " 5 " C. "
- " 6 " D. "
- " 7 QM. and TO.
- " 8 File
- " 9.10.11. War Diary.

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Map Showing  
Boundaries Objectives etc  
for Attack 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918

FRANCE

EDITION 3 C. (Local)

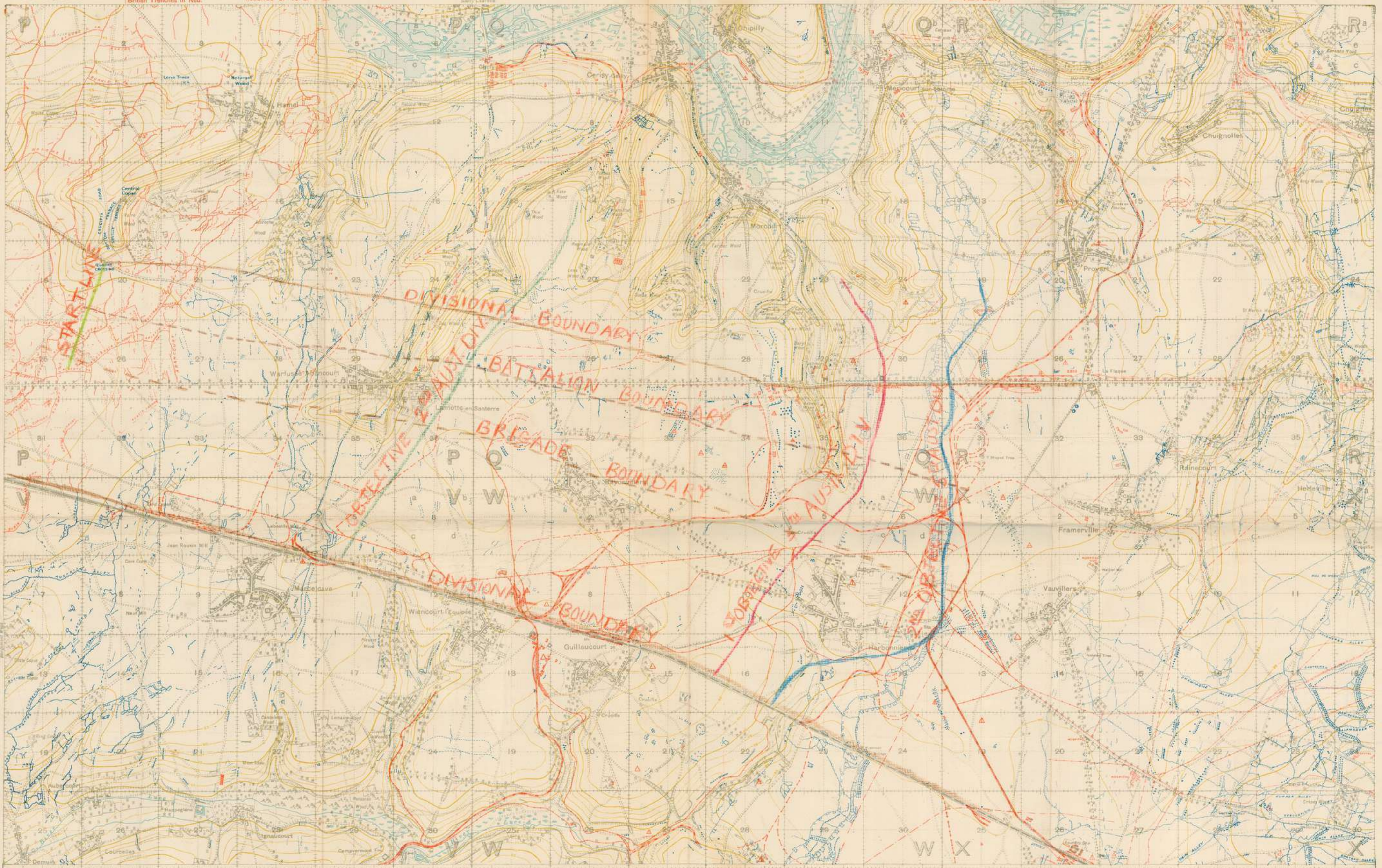
SHEET 62<sup>D</sup> S.E.

32

1:20,000

NOTE CHANGE OF COLOUR.  
Enemy Trenches in Blue.  
British Trenches in Red.

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION  
RECEIVED UP TO 31-7-18



REFERENCE

Any trench apparently organ- ized for fire	Buried Pipeline or Cable	Observation Posts	Hedge, Fence or Ditch	Normal Gauge Double
Enemy Trenches	Airline	Listening Posts	Ditch with Permanent Water	Light
Other Trenches	Supply Dumps	Mine Craters	Compassing Points	Trench Frameworks
Important ones are shown by thick line. Old or disused by dotted line.	Gun Emplacements	Fortified	(Position of post in centre of circle. Dot shows that post is trigonometrically fixed).	Metre Gauge Railways or 50cm
British Trenches	Earthworks	Organized Shell Holes	Houses	Shrine
Wires Entanglement or Other Obstacle	Dug-outs			
Enemy's Tracks	Mills			
	Works reinforced by concrete			

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METRES. ALL HEIGHTS IN METRES.

Scale 1:20,000

NOTE: The fact that an obstacle is not represented on the map does not necessarily mean that there is none there. It is often impossible to show  
irregular obstacles or to show their character. It may be assumed that  
there are obstacles in front of all the trenches (shown by thick line).

Albert Duff

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APPENDIX

B

B

31st BATTALION ORDER No.

Ref. Map 62 D. S.E.

- (1) The Australian Corps is to attack the enemy from the VILLERS -BRETONNEUX CHAULNES Railway ~~extension~~ <sup>extension</sup> to the River Somme on the 8th August 1918. The 5th Australian Division will attack within the boundaries shown on Map No. 1, copies of which have been issued. The 2nd Canadian Division is to co-operate on the right (south of the railway) and the 4th Aust. Division on the left.
- (2) The 5th Aust. Division will attack on a two Brigade front which will be carried out in two phases, the objectives being as ~~shown~~ <sup>shown</sup> on Map No. 1.  
1st Phase. 15th Brigade on the right and the 8th Brigade on the left will advance in open warfare formation from the first objective passing through the 2nd Aust. Div., the objective being shown in RED on the Map.  
2nd Phase. 15th Brigade and 8th Brigade will exploit their success and seize the old British lines of defence marked BLUE on the Map and establish themselves defensively in this line.
- (3) The 31st Battalion plus "A" Section of the 25th M.G. Coy. will advance in the formation laid down and thereafter exploit their success as laid down in Para 2.  
30
- (4) ~~59th~~ Battalion 8th Brigade ~~and~~ will be on the left and 59th Battalion ~~4th~~ Brigade on the ~~left~~ <sup>right</sup> flank.
- (5) The 31st Battalion plus M.G. Section moving by companies independently will leave their present positions not later than 1am. on 8th August 1918 and move to ALBURY LINE south of ALICE Trench at which they will arrive not later than Zero - 30 minutes.
- (6) When in position reports will be forwarded to Battalion H.Q's.
- (7) Tapes are laid in a line from P.15.b B.1. to Cross roads P.20 a which will be the starting line.
- (8) At Zero plus 45 minutes the Bn. and M.G. Section will ~~xxxxxtaxtkxxx~~ ~~starting line~~ leave ALBURY LINE and move to the starting line.
- (9) At Zero plus one hour the Bn. and M.G. Section will move forward and eventually assume the formation laid down by the C.O. on to the objective.
- (10) Zero hour will be notified later.
- (11) Watches will be synchronised at 3pm. and 9pm. on 7th August 1918.
- (12) Further instructions will be issued later.
- (13) Dress. Fighting Order with steel helmets, S.B.R's at "Alert"; Waterproof sheet, battle ration and emergency ration, Water Bottle filled S.A.A. Etc. as laid down.
- (14) ACKNOWLEDGE

Issued at 2.45 pm by runner to:-

No. 1 C.O.  
 2 Adj. Lt.  
 3 O.C. "A" Coy.  
 4 " B. "  
 5 " C. "

A/Adj. 31st Battalion A.I.F.  
 No. 6 O.C. D. Coy.  
 " 7-File  
 8/1b War Diary.

Lieut.

31st Battalion Order

- (1) As laid down by the C.O., the Bn. will move to the attack in the following order:-
  - "A" Coy. and "B" Coy. in the line
  - "C" Coy. in Support
  - "D" Coy. in Reserve

The section of the M.G Coy. will move forward with Bn. H.Q's  
 "C" Coy. will keep touch with flanking Battalions .
- (2) The starting line is as laid down . The rate of march is taken at one mile per hour including halts . The distance from the starting line to the GREEN line is 5050 yards , 2.9 Miles . Therefore to reach the GREEN line at Zero plus 4 hours the Bn. will leave the starting line at Zero plus 1 hour.
- (3) The exploiting detachments in the Mark V Tanks will move behind the Bn. at a distance of 800 yds until the RED line is reached , when they will pass through and advance to the BLUE line where detachments will dis-embark and act according to orders .
- (4) Detailed instructions have been issued to those concerned with regard to Intelligence and the Examination and Disposal of Prisoners and Captured documents . The following information is required during operations :-
  - (1) The position of our troops
  - (2) Positions and strength of enemy .
  - (3) Nature and position of enemy defences .
  - (4) Nature and direction of hostile shelling .
  - (5) Identifications of German units .

Coy. Commanders will forward to Bn. H.Q's any information as above.
- (5) Maps, photographs etc. have been issued . These should be carefully studied .
- (6) Adequate medical arrangements have been made . Each man will carry a piece of white cloth and when a man is wounded and unable to walk , a rifle with bayonet fixed will be stuck in the ground and the white cloth affixed to the butt . Crops should be searched.
- (7) Detailed signal instructions have been issued and signalling personnel advised .
- (8) Special precautions will be taken to prevent loss of direction during the advance . Special officers will be furnished with compass bearings on which to march .
- (9) Nos. 1 and 2 Sections of "A" Coy. 13th Tank Bn. will operate with 31st Battalion . They will move 200 yards in front . They will carry notice boards affixed on the back shewing the Bn. colours .  
 Supply Tanks will also move in rear of the infantry and will be denoted by yellow boards .
- (10) The following aeroplanes will be operating :-
  - 3rd Aust. Squadron
  - 8th Squadron
  - The 22nd Wing (8 Scout Squadrons)
  - 101st Bombing Squadrons (Night Bombing)
  - 43rd Squadron (Reconnaissance)

Four (4) additional Day Bombing Squadrons and 3 additional Night Bombing Squadrons will also operate .

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS

The following will be the special markings of machines .

- A. Contact. Rectangular panels 2' by 1' on both planes about 3 feet from the fuselage .
- B. Machines working with tanks - Black band on middle of right side of tail .

INDICATION OF POSITION BY FLARES .

- A. Red ground flares will be used to indicate the infantry positions to contact planes . The flares will be lit by Infantry in the most advanced positions only.
- B. A Contact plane will fly along the line of the second (RED) objective at Zero plus 6 hours 30 mins. Flares will be called for by the aeroplane sounding a succession of "A"s on the Klaxon horn and by firing a white Very light. If the aeroplane fails to mark the line accurately it will repeat its call ten minutes later . Should the infantry not have reached the line of the objective at the time laid down above , the Contact plane will return at intervals until flares are shown .
- C. A Contact plane will fly over the third objective at Zero plus 7 hours when the procedure laid down for the second objective will be followed . Other means of identifying the position of the infantry :-

- A. Rifles. Three or four rifles laid parallel across the top of the trench.
- B. Metal Discs. Metal discs will be used as reflectors by flashing , Even if the sun is not particularly bright this method is to be used .
- In the event of an enemy concentration indicating a counter-attack , the plane will signal this information to the artillery by wireless . In the case of a counter - attack actually developing a white parachute flare will be fired by the plane in the direction of the impending attack.

At least 1 L.G. will be detailed by Coys. to deal with low-flying enemy aircraft.

LIGHT SIGNALS .

S. O. S.	No. 32 Grenade	Green Green Green.
SUCCESS	do do.	White White White .

Message carrying rockets have been issued to Coys.

LEWIS GUNS .

Slings are being issued for carriage of Lewis Guns .

SUNSET	August 7th	8.20 pm.
SUNRISE	" 8th	5.24 am.

All ranks will be warned that the trajectory of the 2nd Aust. Div. barrage guns from Zero to Zero plus 45 minutes has only a very small clearance above the start line and that care will therefore have to be taken .

The enemy's lateral signal wires and signal wires running east wards from enemy's H.Q.'s should be cut.

Tanks will be moving about in front of GREEN line and troops may get the impression that they have started . Before starting (Approx Zero plus 3hrs 59 minutes ) Green and White flags will be waved from the man-hole of each tank to indicate that the infantry that the tanks are in position and are ready to start .

Contd.

No. 3

B1

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS (Contd).

Armoured Cars will be operating . All troops will be warned of the possibility of these coming into our sector from enemy territory .

British armoured cars can be recognized by the red and white markings on band markings . These cars fly the French Flag also (Tricolour).

7/8/18.

A/ Adjt. 31st Battal on A.I.F.

*Las. Davis*

Lieut.

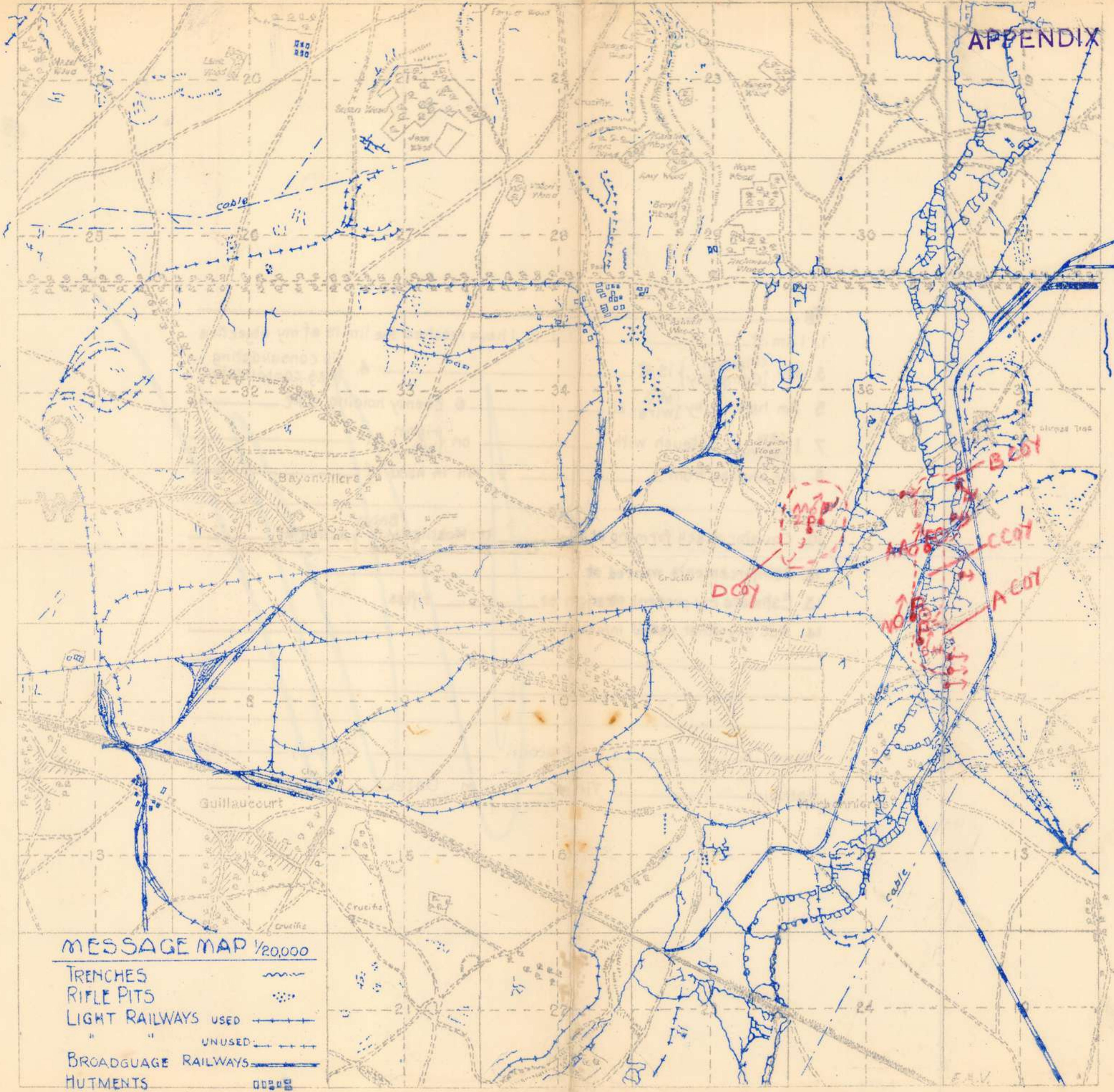
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APPENDIX

C

34

DISPOSITIONS  
31<sup>ST</sup> BATT. AIF  
3.0 PM 8<sup>TH</sup> AUG 1918



MESSAGE MAP 1/20,000

TRENCHES	
RIFLE PITS	
LIGHT RAILWAYS USED	
" " UNUSED	
BROADGAUGE RAILWAYS	
HUTMENTS	

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## APPENDIX D

13th DIV.

15th I.R.  
365th Ammunition Column .

41st DIV.

152nd I.R.  
18th I.R.  
26th Pioneer Battalion.  
79th Foot Art. Regt. Wireless Detachment .

43rd Res. DIV.

201st I.R.  
7th Foot Art. Regt.

117th DIV.

11th Grenadier Regt.  
22nd R.I.R.  
233rd Foot Art. Regt.  
379th Field Hospital .

225th Res. DIV.

217th R.I.R.  
225th Pioneer Battalion  
47th Light Art. Regt.

109th DIV.

2nd Grenadier Regt.  
376th I.R.  
163rd Foot Art. Regt.  
14th do. do.

21st DIV.

27th I.R.  
27th Foot Art. Regt.  
21st Field Art. Regt.

1004th Battery Field Art. Regt. (28 cm. Gun on rly.)  
151st Field Art. Regt.  
7th Res. Foot Art. Regt.  
332nd Searchlight Coy.  
110th Labour Battalion .  
130th Anti Air Craft Detachment .  
716th do. do. do.  
3rd Bavarian Foot Art. Regt.  
7th Railway Coy.  
259th Sanitary Coy.

LIST OF TROPHIES AND OTHER MATERIAL CAPTURED DURING MAJOR OPERATION  
 8th AUGUST 1918 AND RETURNED .

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APPENDIX E

77 m guns	15
10.5 M guns	4
M.G.	26
M.G. Belts and boxes	3
M.G. Locks	6
M.G. Spare Banelts	3
Belt filling machines	2
Model Instructional Maxim lock.	1
Lewis Guns	2
Wireless Set	1
Limbered Searchlight	1
Water Carts	3
Limber	1
Inf. Range finders and tripod C'plete	2
Gun Sight.	1
Artillery Glasses fitted with periscopes and tripod	1 pr.
Gun Sight with tripod .	1
Flare Pistols	3
Range finder for Aircraft work	1
Lines man's Signal Sets	2
Signal Batteries	6
Signal Leg irons	1 pr.
Horse Respirator	1
Runners Respirator	1
Field Tool Box	1
Signal Lamp.	1
28 cm. Gun with engine and train	1

There was numerous other material in the area , but owing to the short time in which the Battalion was there it was impossible to collect it.

*Handwritten mark*

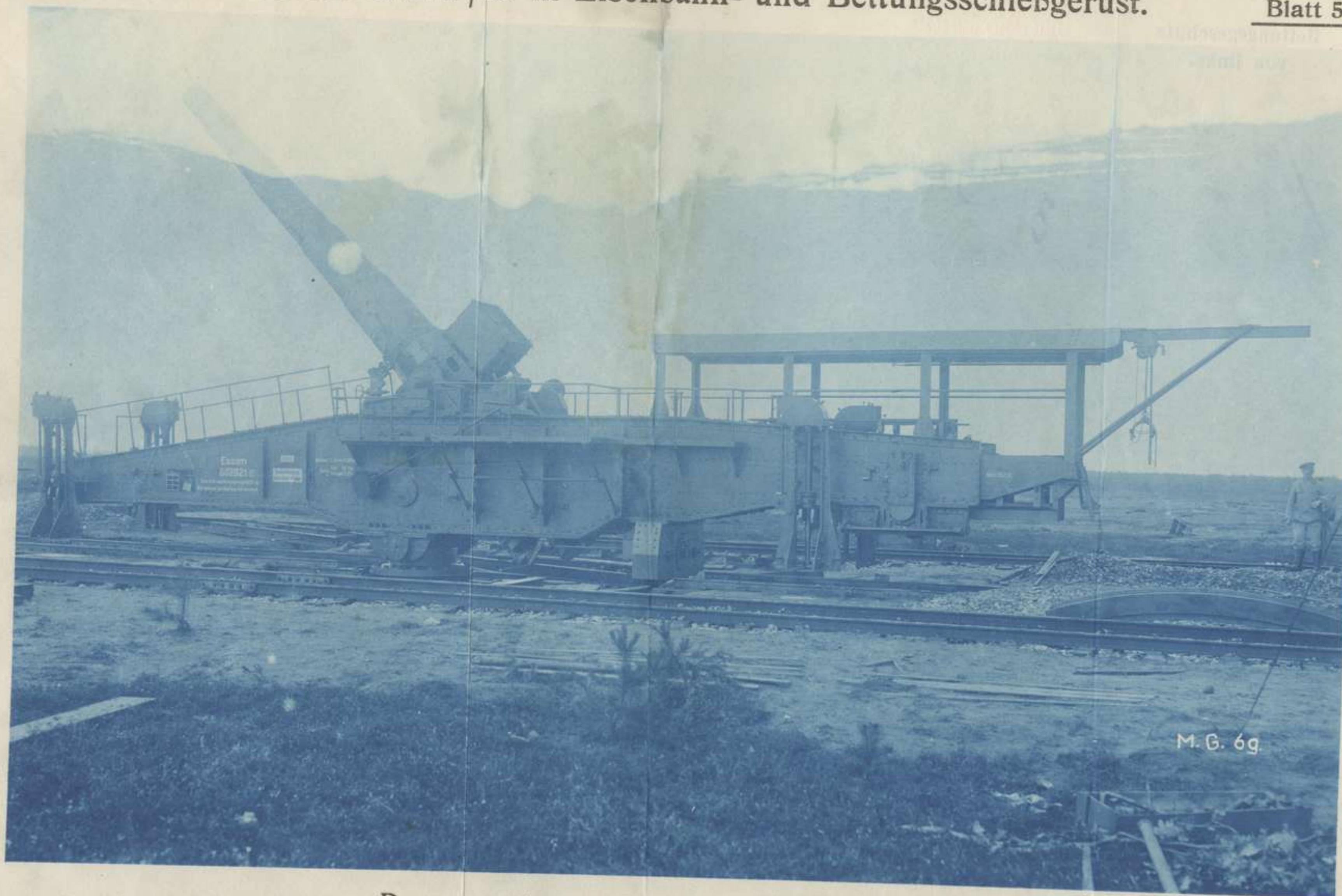
Beschreibung.

28 cm S. K. L/40 in Eisenbahn- und Bettungsschießgerüst.

Blatt 5.

E1

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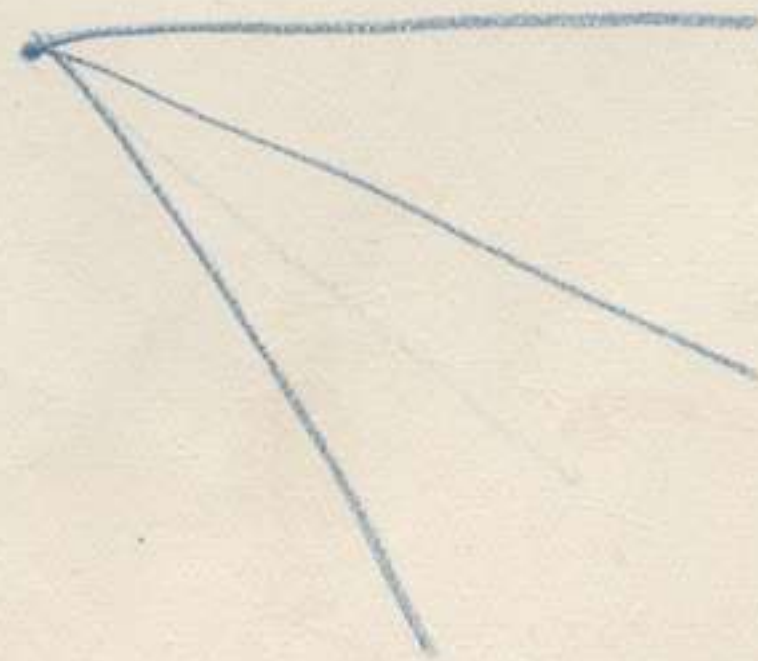
Bettungsgeschütz schußbereit in Ansicht von links.

APPENDIX

E1

40.

E1



APPENDIX

COPY  
31<sup>st</sup> Battalion Operation Order

No. 152.

G

Ref Map 62°SE

Information 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division  
will attack from S of HARBONNIERES in  
continuation of forward movement.

8<sup>th</sup> Bde. are co-operating by attacking  
with one Battalion from HARBONNIERES  
to western outskirts of VAUVILLERS

Instruction 2. b. Coy. will move at 3.00 hours  
through A Coy and establish a flank  
from approx. XIC 20.70 to XID 00.00  
(where light railway crosses grid line).  
This will be done by a process of  
dubbing men from cover to cover,  
avoiding unnecessary exposure. 2 platoons  
will form firing line with 2 in  
support. A Coy will then out their line  
sending platoon of their men to trenches  
vacated by b. If necessary a.c. b  
will establish an extra platoon in  
X76 to assist in joining up 29<sup>th</sup> Battr.  
Ob. b. Coy is responsible for informing  
Bn HQ. promptly not only of progress of his  
own advance, but also that of 29<sup>th</sup> Battr.  
(communication being bad)

Particulars. <sup>2</sup> 3 Dress. Fighting order. Zero  
approx 11.15 AM or a little later.

4 Acknowledge.

9.8.17  
11.0 AM.

Sgd. M. M. Fryer  
Lt-Col  
b.O. 31 Battr.

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APPENDIX

G

41

O/C. "A" Coy.  
 B. "  
 C. "  
 D. "

H

WARNING ORDER .

The Battalion will be prepared to move back to the AUBIGNY Line at 7 am. 10/8/18.

All technical stores to be carefully checked and deficiencies made up if possible . L.G. Limbers will report to Coys. .

Full instructions will be issued on receipt of same from Brigade.

9/8/18.

*W. Clayton*  
 Captain.  
 Adjutant 31st Battalion A.I.F.

31st Battalion Order No. 176

Ref. Map. Sheet 62 D. 1/20,000

H.Q.'s.  
9th August 1918.

- (1) The 3th Aust Inf. Brigade will move by march route from their present position to AUBIGNY Line on 10th Inst.
- (2) 31st Battalion will move to position in trench O.14 b and d.
- (3) L.G. Limbers and Transport will be met on the road .L.G. and 10 magazines per gun will be carried , the remainder will be dumped at Bn H.Q.'s and will be picked up by the Transport .
- (4) The Exploitation Party under Lieut. Thompson will be withdrawn at once .
- (5) Starting Point :- Battalion H.Q.'s Time 7.15am.  
Route . WARFUSSEE -ABANCOURT , thence by Warfusee Abancourt - Fouilly Road to P. 13 Central and thence by shortest route to billets .  
Order of March H.Q.'s D!C!B!A! Coys .
- (6) Lieut. Newall will be remaining behind to hand over all S.A.A. and Stores in the area to 19th Battn. A.I.F. . Coys. will arrange to have all such stores gathered and dumped at Coy. H.Q.'s or other convenient spot .

*W. Grayson*  
Captain .  
Adjutant 31st Battalion A.I.F.

Issued at 5.45am. To

Copy No.	1	C.O.
"	2	Adjt.
"	3	O.C. "A" Coy.
"	4	" B. "
"	5	" C. "
"	6	" Dn "
"	7	" Q.M. and T.O.
"	8	File
"	9,10,11	War Diary.

SECRET.

Ref Map. No. 1

8th AUST. INF. BRIGADE.ORDER No. 198 .Copy No. 3

7th August 1913.

- (1) The 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade will carry out an attack in accordance with Battle Instructions and Amendments thereto, and which are hereby confirmed.
- (2). ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgt. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .

Issued to all recipients of Battle Instructions.



SECRET.

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No.1

3rd August 1918.

1. The Australian Corps is to attack the enemy from the VILLERS-BRETONNUEX-CHAULNES railway exclusive to the River SOMME.  
The day and hour will be notified .  
The 5th Aust. Division will attack within the boundary shown on the attached map No.1 (Brigade Units only issued 2/8/18. )  
The 2nd Canadian Division is to co-operate on the right (South of the railway) inclusive , and the 4th Aust. Division on the left.
2. GENERAL METHOD OF ATTACK .  
Division will attack on a two Brigade front . The attack will be carried out in two phases . Brigade boundaries and objectives are as shown in Map No.1 .
  1. First Phase The Division, organized in Brigade Groups 15th I.A. Brigade on the right and 8th A.I. Brigade on the left , will advance in open warfare formation from the first objective , passing through the 2nd Aust. Div. Their objective is shown on Map No.1 in RED.
  2. Second Phase 15th and 8th A.I. Brigade groups will exploit their success and seize the old British Lines of defence marked BLUE on the Map and establish themselves defensively in this line .
  3. The 14th A.I. Brigade group will be in Divisional Reserve .
  4. A detailed programme of the action will be issued .
3. ASSEMBLY .  
Detailed orders for the Assembly will be issued later . In order to prevent troops arriving at their objectives in an exhausted condition through a long march , troops detailed to the farthest objectives are to be quartered closest to the starting line prior to Zero . To give effect to this the 8th A.I. Brigade will move from it's present position under instructions to be issued and be disposed in an area between the start line and the AUBIGNY Line by 4 am. on the 5th Inst. Area for Bns. will be allotted later
4. ARTILLERY
  - i 3 Field Artillery Brigades will be allotted to Infantry Brigades for the attack as under :-  
14th A.F.A. Brigade to 15th A.I. Brigade  
13th A.F.A. Brigade to 8th A.I. Brigade  
6th Aust. Army F.A. Brigade to 14th A.I. Brigade .
  - ii Three Brigades of Field Artillery and one battery of 60 Pdrs Heavy Artillery have been allotted to the Division for employment under the Divisional Commander defensively - to cover the consolidation of the second objective .
  - iii Heavy Artillery is to be pushed forward to protect the troops in the second objective .
5. TANKS. Instructions for the employment of tanks will be issued later .
6. ENGINEERS . The role of Engineer detachments allotted to the Brigade will be notified later .
7. Arrangements for the distribution of Medical units will be notified later .
8. Administrative Instructions will be issued separately .

Contd.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No1 (Contd). No.2

H1

9. Orders will be communicated by means of Battle Instructions which will be finalised in an Operation Order.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgd. F.A. Wisdom Captain.  
Brigade Major .  
8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued to	Copy. No.
29th Battalion	1
30th "	2
31st "	3
32nd "	4
8th L.T.M.B.	5
<u>Copies to</u>	
B.G.C. 8th A.I. Brigade	6
Staff Captain	7
8th Fld Coy. A.E.	8
8th M.G. Coy.	9
"A" Coy. 13th Tank Bn.	10
13th F.A. Brigade	11
5th Aust. Div.	12
Capt. SAVAGE	13
No. 2 Sig. Section	14
Right Flank Brigade	15
Left Flank Brigade	16
War Diary	17/19
File	20
Spare	21.

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8th AUST. INF. BRIGADE .

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 2..

Headquarters  
2nd August 1918.

1. For the purpose of the attack Brigade will be organized into Groups ,  
15th A.I. Brigade Group on the right , 8th A.I. Brigade Group on the left  
14th A.I. Brigade Group in Divisional Reserve .

2. (a) The composition of the 8th A.I. Brigade Group will be as under :-

1 Infantry Brigade  
1 Machine Gun Company  
1 Brigade Field Artillery

3 Sections Light Horse

$\frac{1}{2}$  Platoon of Cyclists

Detachment of Engineers

Detachment of Tunnellers .

( See Amendment )

(b) Exploiting Detachments - 6 Officers 210 O.R. , 10 Vickers Guns  
16 Lewis Guns .

### 3. FORMATIONS .

The 8th A.I. Brigade will move from Assembly positions on suitable formation for engaging in open warfare with advanced and flank guards and special provision for maintaining touch with adjoining bodies on the flanks .

It may ~~be~~ at any time , particularly after passing the GREEN line , be necessary for units to deploy into Artillery formation , but the guiding principle will be to avoid <sup>premature</sup> over dispersion and consequent loss of control . The actual formation to be adopted will be decided later.

### 4. PROGRAMME

Note 1 . For purpose of calculation .

(a) The line O.36 Central - Cross roads P.25 c -thence along road N.E. to QUARRY CROSSING - HAMEL is taken as a starting line for the 15th and 8th A.I. Brigade Groups (Less Artillery) .

Note 2 .

The ~~ixstance~~ rate of march is taken at one mile per hour including halts .

Note 3 .

The distance from the 8th Brigade start line to the GREEN line is 5050 Yards :- 2.9. miles .

(a) Therefore to reach the GREEN line at Zero plus 4 hours the 8th A.I. Brigade will leave 'Start' line at Zero plus 1 hour .

5.. The exploiting detachments in the Mark V<sup>\*</sup> Tanks will move behind the 8th A.I. Brigade group at a distance of 300 yds until the RED line has been reached when they will pass through the Brigade and advance to the BLUE line where detachments will disembark and act in accordance with orders previously issued by the Brigade Commander .

### 6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sgd F.A. Wisdom Captain .

Brigade Major

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .

2/8/18.

Issued to Copy No.

29th Battalion . 1

30th " 2

31st " 3

32nd " 4

8th L.T.M.B. 5.



8th AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE

August 5th 1918.

1st AMENDMENT TO BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS.  
Nos. 2 and 3a.

1. Mark V. TANKS for capture of the BLUE Line .

9 Tanks are allotted for 8th A.I. Brigade and will be used ~~for~~ to transport the special VICKERS and LEWIS Gun Personnel detailed for that objective . Detail of Vickers and Lewis Gun personnel is as follows :-

		Off.	N.C.O's	O.R.
10 Vickers Guns etc	1 N.C.O. and 4 O.R. per gun		10	40
5 Tanks	Escort 2 O.R. per gun			20
	Sub Section Commanders	5		
16 Lewis Guns	Crew of 3 O.R.			48
4 Tanks	1 N.C.O. per two guns		8	
	Officers	4		
	TOTAL	9	18	108

In addition to the officers shown above, Capt. C.D. SAVAGE, O.C. Exploitation Force, 8th A.I. Brigade, will be carried in one of the tanks. In order to make room, one man at present detailed for escort duty will be withdrawn.

Instructions No. 3a para 2 - delete para 2 and substitute :-

4 Stokes Guns together with 50 rounds of ammunition per gun will be carried by tanks of "A" Coy. 13th Tank. Bn. These tanks will be loaded under arrangements to be made by O.C. 8th L.T.M.B. such loading to be completed before the Tanks leave their present position.

Close Liason will be maintained between L.T.M.B. and Tanks. The matter of releasing the Stokes Mortars and Ammunition from Tanks will be arranged by O.C. 8th T.L.M. Battery.

4 Stokes Guns will be loaded on Supply Tanks at 0. 13 a 2.8. on 6th Inst. Lieut. E. JOHNSON will report completion of this to Brigade H.Q's.

O.C. 8th L.T.M.B. will detail 1 Officer to accompany these Tanks also for 3 men to move with each of the Tanks on which the guns are loaded : 2 men to take charge of guns and ammunition when unloaded and one man to advise O.C. 8th T.L.M. Battery of unloading point.

Any further detailed arrangements will be made by the O.C. 8th L.T.M.B.

ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgd F.A. Wisdom Captain .  
Brigade Major

Distributions as for Battle Instructions  
No. 1

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .

*MB*

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.3rd August 1918.INTELLIGENCE AND EXAMINATION AND DISPOSAL OF PRISONERS  
and CAPTURED DOCUMENTS

1. Information required. The following information is required by the Brigade during the operation.
  - (a) The position of our troops.
  - (b) Positions and strength of the enemy.
  - (c) The nature and position of enemy defences.
  - (d) The nature and direction of hostile shelling.
  - (e) Identification of German units.
2. Brigade Intelligence Officer. Brigade I.O. will establish Brigade Collecting Stations at Brigade H.Q.'s. His duty will be :-
  - (a) Forward to Div. H.Q. by priority wire all identifications of enemy units, stating approx. the position where prisoners were captured.
  - (b) Arrange for examination of certain prisoners by attached German speakers to obtain information required by G.O.C.M.
  - (c) To forward important maps and documents to Advanced Div. Collecting Stations.
3. German Speakers. A German speaker will be at each Brigade and Battalion H.Q. to check identifications, and to obtain from prisoners any information required by G.O.C. Brigade or C.O. Battalion.
4. Each Battalion will detain specially trained searchers to search H.Q. dugouts etc. for maps and documents. (Tunnellers will be attached to help in this work) These searchers will also be instructed to count German dead and report same to Bn. H.Q. Documents should be placed in bags and labelled important or un-important and stating the position where they were found.
5. Searching Prisoners. Previous instruction concerning separation of Officers, N.C.O's and men, and searching of Officers and N.C.O's will be adhered to. Paybooks and identity discs are NOT to be taken from prisoners. All documents taken from prisoners will be forwarded with the escort.
6. General Instructions for Escorts and Traffic Police.
  - (a) Special care must be taken that no documents are destroyed by prisoners. Escorts at the rear of columns should be warned about this.
  - (b) All Military Police and Traffic Police will ensure that all escorts passing them know their way to the Divl. Collecting Stations.
  - (c) Unauthorised speech or interference with prisoners must be strictly guarded against.
  - (d) Escorts should ascertain by which Brigade the prisoners have been captured.
7. Military Police Escorts. Military Police will be attached to Brigade H.Q. to take over prisoners and escort them to Advanced Div. Collecting Stations whence they will be evacuated to rear Divl. Cage.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Distribution as for Battle  
Instructions No. 1Sgd F.A. Wisdom. Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Inf. Brigade A.I.F.

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SECRETH<sub>1</sub> Copy No. 38th AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE .

August 6th 1918.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 3a.

1. A Forward Brigade Collecting Station will be established in the vicinity of road junction P.30 d. 5.3. Battalions will be advised by runner of the exact location when the station is established .

All instructions as laid down in Battle Instructions No.3 will be adhered to.

2. ESCORTS: Escorts should fully understand the following :-
- (a) That N.C.O's and officers should be kept separate and not allowed to converse.
  - (b) What Collecting Station to report to , and to report to the Brigade I.O. immediately on arrival .
  - (c) The number of prisoners in the batch and the Battalion responsible for the capture .
  - (d) Unauthorised conversation with prisoners must not be allowed .

3. SEARCHERS .  
Officers and N.C.O's only to be searched; muchtime is wasted in needless searching and questioning of men .

4. Battalion I.O's will keep Brigade informed of the movements of Bn. H.Q's. This information will be forwarded by prisoners's escort as necessary.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgd. C. Gunning *Lieut*  
for Captain .

Distribution as for Battle Instructions No. 1

Brigade Major .

8th Inf. Brigade . A.I.F.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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8th AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE .

Headquarters

August 2nd 1918.BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS NO.4 .Maps and Information regarding the enemy..

1. The following maps will be issued from Brigade :-.

62 D. ( Sufficient copies for issue to all officers concerned  
 62 D.S $\frac{1}{2}$ E. (taking into account those maps already in possession of units.

Trench Maps showing defensive works in the present 2nd Aust. Divl. area.

Message maps for all Officers and H.C.O's of Battalions .

2. Aeroplane photographs will be issued as under :-

Mosaics for all Officers and N.C.O's  
 Obliques do. do. do.

3. Copies of an organization map will be forwarded for distribution down to Company Commanders . This will show enemy organization within the area of operations .

4. A letter and map will also be issued giving a description of the enemy defences , distribution of enemy forces , and topographical description of country . Sufficient copies for H.Q's and Coy. Commanders .

This will be carefully studied and important information marked on the other maps issued .

5. ACKNOWLEDGE .

2/8/18.

F.A. Wisdom . Captain .  
 Bri gade Major 8th Inf Brigade A.I.F.

Issued to	Copy No.
29th Battalion	1
30th "	2
31st "	3
32nd "	4
8th L.T.M.B.	5

SECRET.

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .

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BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 5

August 2nd 1918.

1. Medical The A.D.M.C. will make arrangements for the clearing of all wounded from Regimental Aid Posts. Bn. Commanders will take special measures to clear the battle field. Wounded will be conveyed to the nearest road. Corps will be specially searched. Supply Tanks (denoted by a yellow board affixed in rear) will carry back the slightly wounded whom they may pick up. Special medical arrangements will be issued.
2. MOVEMENT OF RESERVES In moving Reserves Unit Commanders will <sup>use</sup> their discretion as to localities, in which halts or detours will be made in the advance to avoid shelled areas. To this end careful reconnaissance and inquiry will be made in order to ascertain the localities and areas habitually shelled or gassed. See G. 17/1415 of ~~XX~~ 3/8/18.
3. FORMING UP and ASSEMBLY. Assembly tapes will be laid under the supervision of an officer of the 8th Field Coy. A.E. Each Battalion will detail 1 Off. and 8 O.R. per Coy. to assist in tape laying and this personnel will be used to guide Bns. in to their positions. The move to the Assembly positions will be made in the following order :- 31st Bn. <sup>30th Bn.</sup> 32nd Bn. 29th Bn. L.T.M. personnel will move with the 31st Bn. Affiliated and Machine Gun sections will move with their respective Bns.
4. COMMUNICATIONS
  - (a) Detailed Signal Instructions will be issued separately.
  - (b) To enable the proper and prompt use of reserves, information from the front must be sent back. That communication by telephone etc. has broken down does not absolve subordinate Commanders from fulfilling this necessity. All subordinate Commanders must be reminded that when sending a message from a new position THE MAP LOCATION AT WHICH THE MESSAGE IS WRITTEN MUST BE INCLUDED AT THE END OF THE MESSAGE.
  - (c) Attention is directed to S.S. 148 - 'Forward Communication in Battle'. Every ~~provision~~ provision will be made for the use of alternate methods of communication.
  - (d) New Code letters will be issued and prompt measures are to be taken to see that these are adhered to.
  - (e) At Brigade H.Q. only the Brigade Commander and the Brigade Major will remain on the telephone exchange during the operations. At Battalion H.Q. only the C.O. of the Bn. or the Adjutant, and at Coy. H.Q. only the Officer Commanding will be allowed to use the telephone, no other subscribers will be accommodated on the exchange under any circumstances.
5. DIRECTION i Special precautions will be taken to prevent loss of direction during the advance.
  - ii Advanced Officers will be given a compass bearing by which to march regardless of the fact that there may be conspicuous land marks.
  - iii A bearing taken from Advanced Brigade H.Q. on O. 24 c. to the VAUVILLERS Church will give the approx. boundary between Brigades.
6. FLANK BRIGADES . The 5th Canadian Inf. Brigade, 2nd Canadian Div. (Brig. Gen. J.M. ROSS D.S.O.) will be on the right flank of the 55th A.I. Bde. during the advance to the RED Line (Brigade Major - Major A.L. WALKER D.S.O. M.C.)
7. ACKNOWLEDGE .
 

Sgd F.A. Wisdom Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution as for  
Battle Instructions No. 1.



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8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE .BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No 6Headquarters  
August 2nd 1918.SECRET

(a) It is of first importance that secrecy should be observed and the operation carried out as a surprise .

Commanders will take all possible steps to prevent the scope or date of the operation becoming known except to those taking part . Any Officer N.C.O. or man discussing the operation in public , or communicating details regarding it to any person , either soldier or civilian , not immediately concerned , will be severely dealt with.

(b) All movements of troops and transport in an easterly direction will take place by night , whether in the forward or back areas of the Australian Corps , on and after the 1st August except where absolutely necessary to move by day.

(c) O.C. No. 3 Squadron A.F.C. is to arrange for aeroplanes to fly over the Australian Corps Army area during the days when flying is possible , and to report to Corps H.Q. any abnormal movement of troops or transport within our lines .

(d) Work on back lines will be continued as at present , so that there may be no apparent change in our attitude.

(e) Commanders will ensure that the number of officers reconnoitring the enemy's positions is limited to those for whom such reconnaissance is essential . Nothing attracts attention to the offensive more than a large number of Officers with maps looking over the parapets and visiting O.P's. Commanding Officers of Units holding the front line are to report at once to higher authority any disregard of these orders .

ACKNOWLEDGE .

2/8/18.

Sgd F.A. Wisdom Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued to	Copy No.
29th Battalion	1
30th "	2
31st . "	3
32nd. "	4
8th L.T.M.B.	5.

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8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE .

3rd Aug. 1918.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 7.

1. The following Officers have been detailed for duty with flank Brigades .

Name .	Unit.	Liason with A.I.	Remarks.
Lieut. J.R. GREEVES	31st Bn.	15th Brigade (Right Bde. )	Report when ordered.
Lieut. L.S. Brown	32nd Bn.	Left Bde.	ditto.

2. Liason officers will be supplied with 2 runners and bicycle from the 31st and 32nd Bns. respectively.
3. Lieut. Colonel H.O. CADDY D. S. O. , Commanding 13th Aust. F.A. Brigade will be at Brigade H.Q's , Battalions will endeavour to ~~keep~~ get in touch and keep in touch with Artillery Commanders during the operation and give them every assistance and facility for carrying out their duties .
4. Tank Coy. Commander will be at Brigade H.Q's during the operations. One Infantry liason man will be carried in each Mark V Tank and will be selected from the affiliated Infantry Unit.
5. A Liason Officer from the Reserve Brigade will be at Brigade H.Q's .
6. Battalions will arrange for the exchange of liason Officers with the Bns. on their flank . Runners will accompany these officers .
7. Care will be taken to inform neighbouring formations and Units of changes of and locations of Headquarters .
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sgd. F.A. Wisdom . Captain .  
Brigade Major 8th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Issued to -	Copy No.
29th Battalion	1
30th "	2
31st "	3
32nd. "	4
8th L.T.M.B.	5
13th A.F.A. Brigade	6
Capt. Savage.	7
No. 2 Sig Section	8
<u>Copies to</u>	
B.G.C. 8th A.I. Bde.	9
Staff Captain.	10
5th Aust. Div.	11
15th A.I. Bde.	12
Left Flank. Bde.	13
"A" Coy. 13th Tank. Bn.	14
War Diary	15/17.
File	18.
Spare .	19.
25th M.G. Coy.	20
Capt. SUNNOCKS Tank Corps .	21.

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8th AUSTRALIAN INF. BRIGADE.BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 8.3rd August 1918.

Sections 1 and 2 ) Amended . (8a)

3. For tactical purposes Tanks are placed under the command of Infantry Commanders to whose command they are allotted.
4. 30th and 31st Battalions will supply 2 men (1 liason and 1 scout) for each Mark V. Tank operating with them . The liason man will belong to the unit platoon , etc. with which the tank is operating and it will be his duty to ensure that the tank gets into position with it's affiliated infantry unit and to carry out liason between them generally.
5. Boards of a similar device bearing the Battalion colours will be prepared by units for the purpose of marking the tanks operating with them. The board is to be displayed so that it can be seen by the infantry.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM. Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .

Issued to	- Copy No.
29th Battalion	1
30th. "	2
31st . "	3
32nd. "	4
8th T.L.M.B.	5
<u>Copies to.</u>	
B.G.C. 8th A.I. Bde.	6
Staff Captain.	7
13th A.F.A. Brigade	8
Capt. Savage.	9
No. 2 Sig Section	10
5th Aust. Div.	11
15th A.I. Bde.	12
Left Blank Bde.	13
25th M.G. Coy.	14
War Diary	15/17.
File	18
Spare	19.

SECRET.Copy No. 38th Aust. Inf. Brigade .  
1st Amendment to Battle Instructions No. 8.TANKS.

- (1). A Green and Black Flag waved from a tank is a private signal between Tanks asking for assistance from one another .

This signal does not concern the Infantry and is not to be confused with other signals by flag .

- (2) Re ASSEMBLY . As soon as the Blue Line has been reached and all enemy resistance has ceased , C.O's of Bns. involved will be responsible for the release of Tanks .

On no account are Tanks to be kept any longer than is necessary.

- (3). ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for  
Battle Inst. No. 21.

SECRET.Copy No. 38th AUSTRALIAN INF. BRIGADE.3rd August 1918.BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 8a.

1. (a) A. Coy. 13th Tank Bn. is operating with the 8th A.I. Brigade— Company Commander — Major H. PAPE.  
 (b) The Coy. consists of 4 sections each of 3 Tanks .  
 After passing the GREEN LINE Nos. 1 and 2 Sections will operate on the right in front of 31st Battalion . Nos. 3 and 4 Sections will operate on the left in front of 30th Battalion . Tanks will move 200 yds in front of foremost infantry .
  2. Stokes Guns together with 50 rds. of ammunition per gun , will be carried by these tanks . Arrangements for this will be made by O.C. 8th T.L.M.B. and O.C. "A" Coy. 13th Tank. Bn.
  3. 30th and 31st Battalions will send a percentage <sup>of officers</sup> to the CHATEAU , AUBIGNY on the 5th Inst. to meet officers of "A" Coy. ~~Coy.~~ 13th Tank. Bn. and discuss matters with them .
  4. Tanks will carry notice boards affixed on the back of the tank showing the colours of the affiliated Infantry Bn.
  5. Supply Tanks. 5 are allotted to this Brigade and details of material to be carried have been issued. These Tanks will move in rear of infantry and will be denoted by a yellow notice board affixed to the rear of the Tank. 2 will be allotted to the 31st Battalion , 2 to the 30th Battalion, and 1 to the 32nd Battalion . Battalions will specially detail an N.C.O. to watch for these Tanks and guide them to the sites for dumps previously selected. Supply Tanks will load at 0.13 a. 2.8. *on 5th Inst.*
- Lieut. E.H. JOHNSON. will be responsible for guiding the supply tanks to a position in rear of the Brigade at the point of assembly , and, unless otherwise ordered , these tanks will move off at Zero plus 1 hour.


Sgd F.A. WISDOM      Captain.  
 Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .

Distribution as for Battle Instructions No. 1.

SECRETH/ Copy No. 38th AUSTRALIAN INF. BRIGADE .3rd August 1918.BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 9.Signal Instructions

1. TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE communication will be established between advanced Divl. H.Q. and Brigade H.Q. in their first positions . O. 24 c.3.3. No. 2 Signal Section will lay 2 pair of ground lines D.3 Twist buried cable head at P.25 b.7.7. These ground lines will lead into Advanced Brigade H.Q. and then on to the forward Brigade Forward Stations .  
Brigade Forward Station will as far as possible be centrally situated between the H.Q. of attacking Bns.
2. WIRELESS 2 Trench set - one for Advanced Brigade H.Q. and one for Brigade Forward Station .
3. VISUAL 2 Visual Stations will be established by the Brigade Signal Section one approx. Q.25 d. and at Brigade Forward Station.
4. PIGEONS Pigeons will be carried ~~by~~ forward by assaulting Bns.
5. AEROPLANE CONTACT. The Popham Panel will be used for signalling messages to Contact Aeroplanes and will be set with unit Code letter on ground signalling sheet , ~~signifying~~ identifying formation as laid down in Appendix B.S.S. 135. Further instruction will be issued.
6. RUNNER RELAY POSTS. A runner relay post will be established at a convenient position approx. P.30 d.  
3 horse D.R's will be used under instructions of Brigade Signal Officer , to be supplemented by Troopers detailed from the attached Light Horse.

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM. Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.




SECRET8th AUSTRALIAN INF. BRIGADE .H, Copy No. 3  
3rd August 1918 .BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 10

- (1) ARTILLERY The 13th Aust. F.A. Brigade - 3 18 pdrs. batteries and 1 4.5. How. Battery. - is allotted to the 8th A.I. Brigade for the operations. The action of the artillery will be decided by the Brigade Commander in consultation with the Artillery Brigade Commdr.
- (2) For the information of Bns. the order in which the batteries will be disposed will be as follows :-  
 18 pdr batteries Right 49th Btty. Major Gatliff  
 Centre 50th " " Retchford  
 Left. 51st " " Lister.  
 4.5. Howr. Btty. Position most suitable according to ground .  
 Major Leschen
- (3) To provide for emergency 1 Coy. of 29th Bn. is to be warned to be prepared to act as escort for the guns .  
 position
- (4) When the captured <sup>is</sup> made secure , liason officers from batteries will report to Bn. Commanders
- (5) Machine Guns The 25th M.G. Coy. is grouped with the Brigade for the operation .  
 A. Section 2 Off. 26 O.R. is allotted to 31st Battalion .  
 C. " do. do. do. 30th Battalion.  
 B. and D. Sections will be with the 29th Bn. and form part of the Brigade Reserve . M.G. sections so attached will, for tactical purposes come under the orders of the Bn. Commander to whom they are allotted.  
 Captain Barker D. C. M. O.C. 25th M.G. Coy. will be with the C.O. 29th Bn. to give any technical advice that may be necessary.

Sgd. F A. WISDOM Captain .  
 Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution as for Battle Instructions No. 1.



SECRET 258

Copy No. 38th Australian Infantry Brigade .

Further ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS issued in conjunction with Battle Instructions 1 to 10.

Headquarters  
4th August 1918.

- (1) CARRYING TANKS will be used for transport of ammunition etc. They will be formed up for loading at about 0.15 a.m. Sheet 62 D. early on the morning of the 5th Inst. Tanks will be loaded as under .

Two (2) Tanks each carrying -

- 1 6" Newton T.M. with 30 rounds of ammunition with charges .
- 6 Boxes of M.G. Ammunition
- 4 boxes of S.A.A.
- 50 Petrol tins filled with water .
- 2 boxes of Preserved Meat .
- 10 S.O.S. Signals
- 200 Shovels
- 100 Picks
- 5 Bales of Sandbags
- 10 Bundles of French Wire
- 150 Long screw pickets
- 150 Short screw pickets
- 40 Coils barbed wire
- 2 Boxes of biscuits .

Three (3) Tanks each carrying -

- 100 rds L.T.M. ammunition
- 26 boxes M.G. ammunition
- 14 boxes S.A.A.
- 2 boxes No. 36 Grenades
- 50 Petrol tins filled with water
- 2 boxes Preserved Meat
- 2 boxes Biscuits
- 10 S.O.S. Signals
- 200 Shovels
- 100 Picks
- 5 bales Sandbags
- 10 bundles French wire
- 150 long screw pickets
- 150 short screw pickets
- 40 coils barbed wire .

- (2) Tanks will be formed up as under , the first numbered tank being on the right of it's group .

116	DUBLIN	
122	DARLINGTON	Lt. W. Ashford
120	ELSWICK	2/Lt. T. Scott.
125	FLY	
104	FOLKSTONE	Capt. G. Sunnocks .

(Contd).



No2.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS (Contd).


- (3) In the 8th Brigade Group Tanks No. 116 DUBLIN and 120 ELSWICK will each carry the loads of which the 6" Newton T.M. form part. Tanks will each carry a board painted yellow as distinguishing mark. These will be delivered by the C.R.E. at the loading place.
- (4) Battalions will arrange to communicate with their Officers with the tanks as to locality for dumping material.
- (5) In addition to the 2 Iron Rations to be carried by all personnel proceeding with tanks, 24 hours rations should be arranged to be carried on each tank for the personnel accompanying it.
- (6) Further supplies of ammunition etc. to be carried by tanks will be obtained at Advanced Divisional Dump, at O. 23. c. 4.3. being loaded by personnel at the dump.
- (7) The ammunition will be delivered by the O.C. S.A.A. Section who will arrange for necessary men to remain in charge until loaded on tanks.
- (8) SUPPLIES Railhead will be at LA MOTTE BREBIERE, and supplies will be taken to Refilling Points by Divisional Train.
- (9) VETERINARY The Mobile Veterinary Section will be at BLANGY TRONVILLE and the Veterinary Evacuating Station at POULAINVILLE. All units will evacuate to the Mobile Veterinary Section. Conducting parties will hand over the animals there, and return to their units.
- (10) SALVAGE The Main Salvage Dump will be established in the Square at BLANGY TRONVILLE. An Advanced Salvage Dump will be near the Advanced Divisional Dump. O.C. 5th Divisional Salvage Co. will detail necessary personnel to take charge. He will also detail 6 men for duty at the Advd. Salvage Dump, to be under the orders of Captain KEEN Div. Bombing Officer. Every effort will be made to bring back salvage.
- (11) ADVANCED ORDNANCE DEPOT D.A.D.O.S. will select a site for an advanced Ordnance Depot in the vicinity of GLISY, notifying the exact location later.
- (12) AMMUNITION. Supplies of S.A.A., Grenades etc. will be maintained at Advanced Div. Dump at O. 23 c. 4.3. In addition 2nd Aust. Div. Dump at O. 23 d may be used in case of urgent necessity. Capt. KEEN Div. Bombing Officer will be in charge of Advanced Div Dump. Units will move with full echelons.

Contd.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS (Contd)H1  
No. 3.

- (13) SANITATION In view of the prevalence of Dysentery, the greatest care must be taken regarding sanitation in the new area taken over. Particularly as regards latrines and the protection of food from flies.
- (14) Each Battalion will detail two men for each tank allotted to the Brigade to proceed with tanks and act as unloading parties, and to form Brigade Dumps. The above party will come under Lieut. E.H. Johncock, Brigade Bombing Officer, who will proceed forward with the tanks.
- (15) 30th Battalion will detail a party of 1 N.C.O. and 36 O.R. (Furnished from Nucleus) for purpose of loading Tanks of both Brigades. This party will also come under Lieut. JOHNCOCK. The personnel as set out in paras 14 & 15 above will report to Lieut. JOHNCOCK at 0. 15 a 2.9. on the morning of the 5th Inst. at 7.45 am. 2 Iron Rations to be carried per man, loading to commence at 8 am.
- (16) PACK TRANSPORT. For the first trip forward transport will come under Battalions, after the first trip a RENDEZVOUS will be arranged by Brigade Transport Officer, under whom the transport will be then Brigaded.

Sgd. HARRY W. CUMING Captain.  
Staff Captain 8th Aust. Inf Brigade.



258

SECRET.

H1

Copy No. 38th AUST. INF. BRIGADE.4th August 1918.BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 11.

- (1) 8th Field Coy. A.E. will work in the 8th A.I. Brigade Area assisting the Brigade, exploiting wells, distributing R.E. Stores, marking out tracks and general reconnaissance work.
- (2) 2 Sections of 8th Fld Coy. will be allotted for work directly with the Brigade. 1 section will operate under 31st Bn. and 1 section under 30th Bn. Lieut. R.M. ISAACS will be the officer in charge and the personnel attached will assist infantry in the work of consolidation, supervising and allotting tasks. 1 Sapper will be carried in each Supply Tank, when these Tanks are unloaded the Sapper will get in touch with the nearest Infantry Commander and advise him of the location of the dump. The Sapper will also arrange to have this information conveyed to Lieut. ISAACS who will be with the O.C. 30th Bn.
- (3) A detachment of Tunnellers - 1 Off. and 10 O.R. will work under the orders of C.R.E. searching the Brigade area for dugouts, and report at the earliest moment to Brigade H.Q. and C.R.E. the location, nature and accomodation of each dugout.
- (4) Pioneer. One Coy. of 4th Aust. Div. Pnr Bn. will work directly under the C.R.E. in the Brigade area to make good the following roads :-  
P. 36 b 1.9., Q. 32 c 4.6., Q. 32 d.0.1., (Avoiding BAYON- VILLERS )  
Cross roads at Q. 33 c 9.1. W.5 c 2.6.

Distribution as for  
Battle Instrns. No. 1

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

MR

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 12

(1) CONTACT AEROPLANES.

i. Indication of position by flares :-

(a) Red ground flares will be used to indicate ~~xx~~ the infantry positions to contact aeroplanes . The flares will be lit by Infantry in the most advanced positions only.

(b) A contact aeroplane will fly along the line of the second RED objective at Zero plus 6hrs 30 minutes. Flares will be called for by the aeroplane sounding a succession of "A" s on the Klaxon Horn and by firing a White Very Light . If the aeroplane fails to mark the line accurately it will repeat its call ten minutes later .

Should the infantry not have reached the line of the objective at the time laid down above , the contact aeroplane will return at half hour intervals until flares are shown .

(c) A contact aeroplane will fly over the third objective at Zero plus 7 hrs 30 minutes when the procedure laid down for the second objective will be observed until the flares are shown.

(d) Divisional dropping ground will be located at 0.25.c.3.3.

ii. Other means of identifying the position of the Infantry

(a) Rifles . Three or four rifles laid parallel across the top of the trench

(b) Metal Discs . Metal discs will be used as reflectors by flashing in the sun . This method has been successful even on days which have not been particularly bright. The disc is most easily carried on the inside of the flap of the Small Box Respirator .

(2) COUNTER ATTACK PLANES.

(a) From Zero , counter attack planes will be constantly in the air with the object of observing hostile concentrations or abnormal movement.

(b) In the event of an enemy concentration indicating a counter attack , the counter attack plane will signal this information to the artillery by wireless. In the case of a counter attack actually developing a White Parachute flare will be fired by the plane in the direction of the troops moving for the impending counter attack , for the information of the infantry.

(3) AMMUNITION CARRYING PLANES .

(a) Aeroplanes will be detailed to transport ammunition from Zero plus 7 hours .

(b) Vickers Guns will display a White "V" ~~to~~ point towards the enemy where ammunition is to be dropped . The arms of the "V" to be 6 feet in length and 1 foot in width . The apex of the "V" to point towards the enemy

(c) Ammunition aeroplanes will have the underside of the plane (lower) painted black for a distance of 2 1/2 feet from the tips .

4) AMENDED.

5) LOW FLYING E.A. Arrangements must be made by units to deal with low flying enemy aircraft . At least 1 Lewis Gun per Coy. will be specially detailed for this work .

(6) ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgd F.A. WISDOM . Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for  
Batt. Instns. No.1

*Handwritten initials*

SECRETH1 Copy No. 3

8th AUST. INF BRIGADE .  
1st Amendment to  
BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 12.

August 6th 1918.

Cancel Para 4 and substitute the following :-

(4) COMMUNICATION BY POPHAM PANEL

The following Brigade and Bn. code calls will come into operation in the 5th Aust. Div. from noon 7th August, for communicating between infantry and aeroplanes .12

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Q.	N.
29th Battalion	N.W.
30th "	N.X.
31st. "	N.Y.
32nd "	N.Z.

Brigade and Bn. H.Q. indicate their position by means of ground signal sheets laid on the ground near the H.Q.'s concerned, whilst their identity is disclosed by the above code letters made by ground signal strips laid alongside the sheet.

ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgd F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for Battle Instructions No. 1

112

Light Signals, Message Rockets, Smoke.(1) LIGHT SIGNALS

## (a) Australian Corps.

The following light signals will be employed in the Aust. Corps.  
 S.O.S. Signal - No. 32 grenade showing GREEN over GREEN over GREEN.  
 Success Signal No. 32 grenade showing WHITE over WHITE over WHITE  
 No other ~~signals~~ Light Signal will be laid down by the Corps. There is no objection to the use ~~of~~ within Divisions of a Very Light for the local indication of targets between Infantry and Tanks.

## (b) Other formations: Light Signals of other Formations are as follows :-

<u>Formation.</u>	<u>Signal.</u>	<u>Meaning.</u>
(i) Cavalry Corps	White Star turning to red on a parachute fired from 1 1/2" Very Pistol.	'Advanced troops of Cavalry are here.
(ii) III Corps.	No. 32 Grenade GREEN over GREEN No. 32 Grenade WHITE over WHITE <i>One white Very Light</i>	S.O.S. 'Success Signal i.e. We have reached objective. Barrage is about to lift.
(iii) Canadian Corps.	No. 32 Grenade RED over RED over Red.  No. 32 Grenade GREEN over GREEN over GREEN.  Three WHITE Very Lights in quick succession	* S.O.S. Will also mean (a) We are held up and cannot advance without help. (b) Enemy is counter attacking. (a) Lift your fire. We are going to advance. (b) Stop firing. 'We have reached this point.'

\* Remarks. - In the case of (a) a smoke rocket (No. 27 grenade) will also be fired in the direction of the obstruction to indicate its position.

(c) Special care must be taken by the Artillery on the right flank of the Division, that all officers and N.C.O's are acquainted with these signals so that no mistake may arise as regards the difference in the S.O.S. Signals of the Australian and Canadian Corps.

(2) MESSAGE CARRYING ROCKETS

Allotment of message carrying rockets is 30 for the Brigade.

(3) SMOKE. Screening beyond the first Objective.

15th Wing R.A.F. will arrange to screen the advance of the Tanks and Infantry from special localities in advance of their first objective by dropping phosphorous bombs. A map will be issued showing times at which it is anticipated that the infantry will make good certain zones.

Phosphorous bombs will not be dropped within these zones at any time after it is anticipated that the infantry will have occupied them.

(4) Allotment of above Signals will be made by the Staff Captain. Smoke rifle grenades to screen ~~the~~ disabled Tanks will be required.

(5) ACKNOWLEDGE

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
 Brigade Major 8th Ass. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for  
 Batt. Instrns No. 1

5th August 1918.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 14.

- (1) COMMAND At Zero plus 4 hours Command of Battle Front will pass to G.O.C. 5th Aust. Div.
- (2) HEAVY ARTILLERY.  
 (a) Throughout the advance beyond the GREEN line, enemy centres of resistance will be kept under fire as under. All troops will be warned accordingly.
- |                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BAYONVILLERS .          | FIRE LIFTS at Zero plus 4 ½ Hours . |
| <u>EASTERN MORCOURT</u> | do. do. do. 5½ "                    |
| VALLEY Q. 35            | do. do. do. 6 "                     |
| HARBONNIERES .          |                                     |
- (b) Special measures are to be concerted to deal with a deliberate Gas Bombardment of VILLERS BRETONNEUX on Zero Night.
- (3) CARRIAGE OF LEWIS GUNS etc.  
 Slings will be prepared by 8th Fld Coy. and delivered to units on the 7th Inst.
- (4) ASSEMBLY POSITION .  
 A preliminary reconnaissance of Assembly positions will be made on the morning of ~~the~~ the 6th Inst.  
 Capt. A.C. WHITE M. C. , Lt. R.M. ISAACS and 1 Officer per Bn. will leave Brigade H.Q. at 7 a.m.
- (5) ROADS .  
 (a) Two roads will be developed by the C.R.E. in the area East of the GREEN Line .  
 Right road through V.8 a and b. W. 1 a and b passing South of and avoiding BAYONVILLERS W.3 c - W.9 b.  
 Left - Q. 31 a and d. - Q.32 a passing North and avoiding BAYONVILLERS Q. 33 c and d. - W.4 a and b.  
 (b) THE AMIENS -VILLERS BRETONNEUX MAIN ROAD AS FAR EAST AS THE CROSS ROADS IN H.26c WILL BE RESERVED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE CAVALRY CORPS FROM 9.30 p.m. on "~~X~~ XX"Y/Z" NIGHT UNTIL 8 a.m. on "Z" DAY. AFTER 8 a.m. on "Z" DAY IT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR AUSTRALIAN CORPS AND CANADIAN CORPS. A.P.M. AUSTRALIAN CORPS IS TO ARRANGE TRAFFIC ON THIS ROAD THROUGHOUT .
- (6) ACKNOWLEDGE.  
 Dis. as for Batt. Instrs.No.1
- Sgd. F.A. WISDOM      Captain.  
 Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

(1) LIASON

(a) The 12th A.I. Brigade, 4th Aust. Div. will be on the left of the 8th A.I. Brigade; approx H.Q. P.7 at 00.30.

The 48th Bn. 12th A.I. Brigade will be on the left of the 30th Bn. 8th A.I. Brigade after passing the GREEN Line. H.Q. 48th Bn. 0.12 d 00.

(b) The 12th A.I. Brigade is to supply a liaison party on the right to keep touch with the 8th A.I. Brigade. The 30th Bn. will detail a liaison platoon to move on their right flank to keep touch with 48th Bn. and fill any gaps that may occur.

(c) (b) will be in addition to instructions as set out in para 6 BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 7.

(2) TANKS. Tanks will be moving into position on Y/Z Night. To cover this movement the air service will ~~over the forward~~ maintain machines over the forward area from 9.30 pm. to 12 Midnight on Y. day, and from Zero minus one hour on Z day during which time tanks will be on the move.

(3) SMOKE. The air service will drop bombs as under :-

On BAYONVILLERS AT about Zero plus 4 hours.

On O. 35 EASTERN MORCOURT VALLEY at about Zero plus 5 hours

On HARBONNIERES at about Zero plus 6 hours.

(4) APPROACH. Detailed instructions for the approach march of units will be issued after consultation with 5th A.I. Brigade and Tank Coys. Tracks forward from present areas will be marked under arrangements of 8th Field Coy.

(5) RESTING TROOPS. on "Y" Day troops are to be rested. One officer per Battalion will be detailed to see that this order is observed. No. swimming, football, etc. will be permitted. Men are to have a complete rest.

(6) SUNSET AND SUNRISE.

Sunset August 7th. 8.20 pm.

Sunrise August 8th 5.24 am.

(7) ENEMY GUN POSITIONS. To facilitate capture of enemy guns, a map showing positions of these will be issued. Units will carry tie-on labels to attach to trophies captured.

(8) CABLE BURIES. Cable in new area will be buried commencing at Bn. H.Q. backwards - a reversal of the former procedure.

(9) CLEARING WOUNDED FROM FRONT OF TANKS

SMALL PARTIES WILL BE TOLD OFF BY BATTALIONS TO CLEAR OUR WOUNDED FROM THE FRONT OF THE TANKS AND THUS PREVENT THEM FROM BEING CRUSHED. Battalions will make arrangements for each man to carry a piece of white cloth, handkerchief etc. When a man is wounded and if he is able to, the cloth will be fastened to the butt of the rifle and rifle with bayonet fixed will be pushed into the ground. Tank personnel will be notified of this and Tanks will make a detour to avoid the particular spot.

Crops will be specially searched; great care will be taken in the assembly area when tanks are passing through the Infantry in the dark. Sentries will be detailed to warn men in shelters.

(10) ACKNOWLEDGE

Sgd F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Dis. as for Batt. Instrns No. 1



Medical Arrangements

- (1). BEARER DIVISIONS . 8th Field Ambulance will detail 1 complete bearer Div. (3 Officers and 114 O.R's ) to go forward in rear of the 29th Battalion in extended order , and will evacuate wounded from Regimental Aid Posts.  
The Division will get into touch with Brigade on "YZ" night , and on "Z" day will accompany the Brigade until arrival upon the GREEN Line , one bearer squad being attached to each R.M.O. with flag for contact duty work in liaison with bearer Captains.
- (2). The Bearer Division will remain upon the GREEN Line until capture of RED Line and will then go forward under the orders of the O.C. Forward Evacuations (Lt. Colonel WALSH ) and get into touch with ~~RYAN~~'s R.A.P's.
- (3). The O.C. Forward Evacuations , will form motor posts in vicinity of GREEN Line and bearers Relay Posts between GREEN Line and R.A.P's.
- (4) As soon as practicable Ford Ambulance Cars will be run forward from Motor Posts to Advanced Motor Posts .
- (5). Base of Operations for O.C. Forward Evacuations will be at the A.D.S. WARFUSEE - ABANCOURT.
- (6) EVACUATION OF SICK. Sick will be evacuated to C.C.S. by Motor Ambulance convoy. Walking wounded will be evacuated from Walking wounded station to C.C.S. by motor lorries and, of necessary, by any returning empty transport.
- (7). The following will be the locations of Medical Stores .

	On "Y" Day.	After capture of GREEN Line.	After Capture of RED Line.
A.D.S.	N. 26 d. 1.3.	VILLERS - BRETONNEUX. (Vicinity )	WARFUSEE- ABANCOURT (Vicinity ).
M.D.S.	STACHEUL M. 14 d 2 2.	M. 14 d 2 2.	VILLERS - BRETONNEUX ( Vicinity )
D.C.S.	M. 18 a 5 6.	N. 26 d 1 3.	N. 26 d 1 3.

- (8). Every care will be taken to see that all crops etc. are thoroughly searched for wounded.
- (9). ACKNOWLEDGE.

Dish. as for Battle Instr. No. 1.

Sgd Harry W. Cuming. Captain.  
Staff Captain. 8th Aust Inf. Brigade .



SECRET

8th AUSTRALIAN INF. BRIGADE

H,

Copy No. 3

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 17

6th August 1918.

- 
- (1) Wednesday, August 7th will be "Y" Day.
  - (2) ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgd F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for Battle Instructions No. 1



SECRET8th AUST. Inf. Brigade.

H,

Copy No. 3

6th August 1918.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 18.(1) ARTILLERY

All ranks will be warned that the trajectory of the 2nd Aust. Division barrage guns from Zero to Zero plus 45 minutes has only a very small clearance above the 8th and 15th Brigades "Start Line".

This will be taken into account when selecting routes for the approach march to the "Start line".

(2) HEADQUARTERS

Headquarters of the 5th Canadian Brigade will be established at N. 35 b 2 2 . approximately by noon 5/8/18.

(3) ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th AUST. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for  
Battle Instructions No. 1.

SECRET

8th AUSTRALIAN INF. BRIGADE

6th August 1918.

258

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 19

(1) The Air Force which will operate on the Australian Corps Front during the battle will be as follows :-

- (a) Corps Squadron - 3rd Aust. Squadron
- (b) 5th Tank Brigade 8th Squadron .
- (c) Working under Army Orders - The 22nd Wing (3 Scout Squadrons) will be exclusively employed in engaging ground targets and machine gunning along the ~~xxxx~~ whole Army Front.
- (d) One night Bombing Squadron 101st Bombing Squadron
- (e) One Reconnaissance Squadron 40th Squadron .

Four additional Day Bombing Squadrons and three additional Night Bombing Squadrons are being obtained from other Wings for co-operation .

(2) LOW FLYING SCOUTS.

The low-flying scouts of the 22nd Wing are being detailed on an even distribution to each Corps front . This distribution will be changed later , if necessary , to meet special circumstances . They will operate in two phases , viz.

- (a) From zero to Zero plus 4 hrs eastwards from the GREEN Line .
  - (b) ~~Contact~~ From Zero ~~to~~ Zero plus 4 hrs onwards eastwards from the RED Line .
- In each phase very favourable targets will be engaged in addition to the targets marked by the GREEN and RED Lines .

(3) MARKINGS ON PLANES

The following will be the special markings of machines allotted to special duties :-

- (a) Contact patrol machines - Rectangular panels 2' by 1' on both lower planes about three feet from the fuselage .
- (b) Machines working with Tanks - Black band on middle of right side of tail .

(4) AMMUNITION CARRYING SQUADRON .

Aeroplanes carrying S.A.A. will drop it at points as laid down in Battle Instructions No. 12 Para 3 (b) .

(5) The contact aeroplanes will fly over the 3rd Objective at Zero plus seven (7) hours not at Zero plus eight (8) hours 30 minutes as laid down in Battle Inst. No. 12 Para 1 (c) .

## (6) ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgd F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for Battle Inst. No. 1

6th August 1918.

258

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 20.(1) AMMUNITION

Divisional Dumps will be formed as follows :-

Forward Dump. O. 29 d 3 6  
Rear Dump O. 23 c 6 5 .

After the RED Line has been taken, S.A.A. section will deliver Ammunition, Fireworks, etc. to a point in the vicinity of WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT, location will be given later. This point will be used as a refilling point for Bn. transport pack mules etc. which will be Brigaded after the first trip.

The rendezvous for Bn. transport after the first trip will be at Q. 32-d 9 7 when same will come under Lieut. BULL Brigade Transport officer.

All requirements for ammunition etc. will be passed through to the Staff Captain as soon as possible.

- (2) STORE TANKS The two tanks numbered 116 and 120 carrying the 6" Newton F.M's will dump their loads on the BLUE Line carrying in addition to load already specified, 126 rounds of L.T.M. Ammunition. The remaining tanks will dump their stores on the RED Line. After dumping stores all 5 tanks will come under the orders of the 5th Aust. Div. and will return to a point at P. 29 c S.W. Corner.

- (3) WATER In addition to two water carts per Bn., the Brigade will have attached  
1 G.S. Water wagon  
1 Water cart.

Lieut. BULL, Bde. T.O., will be instructed re the disposal of this water. In addition there will be a motor lorry containing water at P. 29 c 2 2.

Water from this lorry is only to be used for immediate requirements. Every advantage will be taken of wells etc. on WARFUSEE ABANCOURT after they have been exploited and found fit for consumption. A pipe <sup>line</sup> is being laid to a point approx. O. 29 b 5 0.

- (4) TRANSPORT On "XYZ" night, Brigade transport will move to the railway bank at O. 27 d 7 2. Route forward from this point will be along WARFUSEE ABANCOURT road through VILLERS BRETONNEUX to road junction at O. 30 d 95 30. and then N.E. along road to P. 29 a 30 70. thence along road S.E. towards WARFUSEE ABANCOURT.

- (5) ACKNOWLEDGE .

Distribution as for Batt. Isst No. 1

Sgd. Harry Cuning Captain,  
Staff Captain.  
3th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

3th AUST. INF. BRIGADE

6th August 1918.

258

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 21.

- (1) ZERO hour will be notified in writing to all concerned by 5 p.m. on "Y" Day.
- (2) Officers from Divisional H.Q. will synchronise watches with units as under. These Officers will leave 5th Div. H.Q. at approx 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Y day.

H.Q. 3th Inf. Brigade - Capt. F.L. KRINKS, - 32nd Battalion.

- (3) Capt. A.C. WHITE M. C. 3th A.I. Brigade H.Q. will synchronise watches with representatives of the under mentioned units at 3th Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Q. at 2.30 p.m. on "Y" Day.

29th Battalion.  
 30th " "  
 31st " "  
 32nd " "  
 3th L.T.M.B.  
 3th Fld. Coy. A.E.  
 25th Machine Gun Coy.  
 "A" Coy. 13th Tank Battalion.  
 15th Tank Bn.  
 Bearer Division, 3th Fld. Amb.  
 13th A.F.A. Brigade.

- (4) ACKNOWLEDGE

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
 Brigade Major 3th Aust Inf. Brigade.

## Distribution :

	Copy No.
29th Battalion	1
30th. "	2
31st. "	3
32nd "	4
3th L.T.M.B.	5
No. 2 Sig. Section.	6
Copies To. -	
B.G.C. 3th A.I. Bde.	7
Staff Capt.	8
Capt. A.C. WHITE M. C.	9
3th Fld Coy. A.E.M	10
25th M.G. Coy.	11
"A" Coy. 13th Tank. Bn.	12
15th Tank Bn.	13
13th A.F.A. Brigade	14
5th Aust. Div.	15
15th A.I. Bde.	16
12th A.I. Bde.	17
Capt. Brown, Bearer Div. attached 3th Bde.	18
15th Fld Amb.	19
War Diary	20/22
File	23
Capt. SAVAGE	24.

- 
- (1) ENEMY'S WIRE Enemy's lateral signal wires and signal wires running eastwards from enemy's Headquarters will be cut.
- (2) ENEMY'S AMMUNITION DUMPS Great care should be exercised in destroying enemy's ammunition dumps in order to avoid loss from Gas shells which may be on the dump.
- (3) MARK V. STAR TANKS Capt. A.C. MACFARLANE M. C. will supervise the loading of the Mark V. Star Tanks for the 8th Brigade (A.I.)  
Tanks will be loaded and manned at O. 4 d 5 2. When loading and manning is complete report will be rendered to Brigade H.Q. by Capt. MACFARLANE to this effect.  
All ranks are to warned to keep clear of Mark V. Star Tanks as they swing rapidly when starting and when in motion, and are thus liable to crush men who are close to them.
- (4) DIVISIONAL COLLECTING STATION  
(a) Divl. Collecting Station will be located at O. 24 c 3 2 from Zero hour where Division I.O. will be in touch with Brigades.  
(b) Any civilians encountered will be sent back to Brigade H.Q.
- (5) A.P.M. ARRANGEMENTS.  
(a) Military Police will be attached to 8th A.I. Brigade to escort prisoners from Bde. Collecting Station to Divisional Collecting Station.  
Police will report to Brigade I.O. at or in the vicinity of P.30 d 5 8. by Zero plus 4 hours.
- (6) O.P.'s  
(a) Division O.P. will be located at O. 29 d 5 9 from Noon 7th Inst.  
(b) Brigade I.O. will arrange to man an O.P. in a suitable position beyond the GREEN Line after Zero plus 5 hours.
- (7) ACKNOWLEDGE.

Distribution as for  
Battle Instructions No. 21

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- MB

## BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 25.

- (1) APPROACH MARCH. ROUTES FORWARD FROM VILLERS Line will be reconnoitred by all Battalions. No definite route will be laid down, units taking care to avoid roads and other localities likely to be shelled.
- HUNTER St. will be used by 30th Battalion, KENT and YORK Sts. by 31st Batt. Troops will be moved in small parties with 50 paces interval, and touch will be maintained throughout.
- Attention is drawn to Battle Instructions No. 13 para 1. Reconnoitring parties will note gun positions and arrange routes accordingly.
- (2) ASSEMBLY 8th A.I. Brigade and attached units will leave their present position at times and in the order stated below, and arrive in the areas as shown by Zero - 30 minutes.
- 31st Battalion, 1 am. 'YZ' night, move to ALBURY LINE - South of ALICE Trench within the Brigade boundary.
- 30th Battalion 12.45 pm. 'YZ' night, move to ALBURY LINE North of ALICE Trench within the Brigade boundary.
- 1/2 8th L.T.M. Battery 12.30 pm. 'YZ' night, move to HUNTER St.
- 32nd Battalion 12.30 pm. 'YZ' night, Move to HUNTER ST and YORK St.
- 29th Battalion. )  
1/2 8th L.T.M.B. ) 12. Midnight. Move to DIGGERS SUPPORT.  
Bearer Division )
- M.G. Sections and other attached troops will move with the units to which they are affiliated.
- "A" Coy. 13 Tank Bn. will leave their present position at Zero - 1/2 of an hour and rendezvous at QUARRY CROSSING\* by Zero plus 1 hour.
- When Brigade moves forward those tanks will follow the general line of the road to WARFUSEE ABANCOURT and rendezvous in approx P. 30 b.
- \*(P. 20 a.)
- Mark V. Star Tanks (Capt. UNWIN) will rendezvous in P. 13 c. by 12 Midnight on 'YZ' night. When Brigade move forward they will be approx 300 yds in rear of 29th Bn.
- (3) When units are in position reports will be sent to Test Box P. 25 b 7 7 where they will be picked up by Bde. H.Q. runners and brought on to Bde. H.Q. at O. 24 c 3 2.
- Tank Coys. will advise Bde. H.Q. by runner direct from their rendezvous.
- (4) Tapes will be laid on a line from P. 25 b 8 1 to Cross Roads P. 20 a. Work of laying tapes will be supervised by Capt. A.C. WHITE M. C. and Lieut. R.M. ISAACS. Bns. will detail 1 officer and 8 N.C.O's per Coy. to report to Capt. WHITE at a place and time to be arranged by him of which units will be notified.
- (5) At Zero plus 45 minutes 30th and 31st Bns. and 1/2 of the 8th L.T.M.B. and attached troops will leave their trenches and move on to the tapes. Remaining Units will prepare to move forward.
- At Zero plus 1 hour the Brigade and affiliated units will move forward and eventually assume the formation as arranged at Conference 3/3/18. (Diagrammatic sketch attached).
- (6) The bearer Division of 8th Fld. Amb. will be disposed in rear in accordance with instructions as laid down by O.C. 15th Fld Amb.

P.T.O.



7. O.C. 25th M.G. Coy. will arrange for pack mules carrying machine guns and ammunition to be in a covered position on left flank of Brigade approx P.18 b or P.20 a by Zero - 30 minutes. When Brigade moves forward pack mules will be sent forward to join with their respective Bns.

8. 5th A.I. Brigade will be in their assembly positions by Zero - 2 1/2 hours.

- 9. Routes for Tanks operating with 8th A. I. Brigade will be -
  - (a) O. 11 d - O. 18 c - O. 24 b - P. 19 c - P. 25 B - P. 26 b to P. 26 d 3 6
  - (b) O. 11 d - O. 18 b - P. 13 d - P. 20 a - P. 21 c Central.

These tanks should be clear before the Brigade begins to move on 'YZ' night.

10 ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sgd. F.A. Wisdom Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aist. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for  
Battle Instructions No. 1

*[Handwritten mark]*

SECRET.8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .

Correction to

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS. No. 23.H1 Copy No. 3

7th August. 1918.

(1). CORRECTION .In Para 2 ASSEMBLY - For p.m. wherever it occurs  
READ - a.m.Dis. as for Battle Instr.  
No. 21.Sgd F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust Inf. Brigade.

MP

SECRET8th AUST. INF. BRIGADE .H, Copy No. 3BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 246th August 1918.ASSEMBLY AND ACTION OF TANKS

1. PRELIMINARY MOVEMENT Tanks will be assembled in concealed positions in the forward area under the orders of 5th Tank Brigade prior to night 'YZ'.
2. Advance to Start Line. On night 'YZ' the Tanks allotted to troops attacking the first objective will commence to move forward at 9.30 pm. to the Tank Start Line. They will ~~start~~ <sup>move out</sup> full engines to a line not nearer to the Tank Start Line than 3,000 yds. From there they will continue the movement forward to the Tank Start Line moving at a slow rate and as quietly as possible. The Tank Start Line will be approx 1,000 yds in rear of the infantry taped line. Tanks will leave the Tank Start Line at such times as will allow them to catch up to the Infantry as the barrage lifts at Zero plus three minutes.
3. Tanks allotted to the Second Objective. The Tanks allotted to the Second Objective operating with 8th A.I. Bde. will form up as laid down in Battle Instructions No. 23. Those Tanks will be formed up when the aeroplanes are in the air during the hours as laid down on Battle Instructions No. 15 Para 2.
4. Liaison Coy. The Coy. of 8th Tank Bn. detailed to act in support and to ensure liaison in the battle line at the junction of divisions will detail 1/2 Coy. to each wave of Tanks vide para 2 and 3 above. The liaison platoon supplied by 30th Bn. operating on the left flank of the Brigade will work in co-operation with this Coy.
5. 6 Liaison men from each of 30th and 31st Bns. will report to "A" Coy. 13 Tank Bn. at CHATEAU, AUBIGNY at 6 pm. on the 7th Inst. These men will accompany the Tanks to the GREEN Line and on reaching there will establish touch ~~with~~ <sup>between</sup> tanks and infantry co operating with them.
6. Tanks will be moving about in front of GREEN Line arranging their position and troops may get the impression that they have started. Before starting (approx Zero plus 3 hrs 59 minutes.) GREEN and WHITE flags will be waved from the man-hole of each Tank to indicate to infantry that tanks are in position and are ready to start.

ACKNOWLEDGE .

Sgd F.A. Wisdom Captain.  
 Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

D's . as For Batt. Inst. No.21.

M

SECRET.8th Aust. Inf. Brigade .H1 Copy No. 37th August. 1918.BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 25..ARMoured CAR BATTALION

- (1). The 17th Armoured Car Battalion is being given definite roles , details of which will be published later .  
The roles assigned to this Battalion may carry the cars forward for a considerable distance into enemy territory and may necessitate their returning through other Divisional Sectors than that of the 5th Aust. Division.
- (2). British Armoured Cars can be recognized by the Red and White band markings which are similar to those of the British Tanks . This Batt. will also fly the French flag. ( Tricolour ).
- (3). All troops will be warned of the possibility of our armoured cars coming into our own sector , and of the way in which they will be marked .
- (4). ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major . 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution as for Battle Instructions No. 21.

SECRET.

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 3

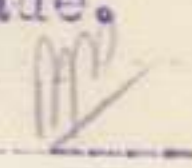
7th August . 1918.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 26.

- (1). With reference to Battle Instructions No. 1, Zero hour will be ?-  
4.20. a.m. on 8th Inst.
- (2) ACKNOWLEDGE.

Distribution as for  
Battle Instr. No. 21.

Sgd. F.A. WISDOM Captain.  
Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.



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Corps Headquarters .

August 7th 1918.To the Soldiers of the Australian Army Corps .

For the first time in the history of the Corps all five Australian Divisions will tomorrow engage in the largest and most important battle operation ever under-taken by the Corps.

They will be supported by an exceptionally powerful Artillery , and by Tanks and Aeroplanes on a scale never previously attempted . The full resources of our sister Dominion , The Canadian Corps , will also operate on our right , while two British Divisions will guard the left flank .

The many successful offensives which the Brigades and Battalions of this Corps have so brilliantly executed during the past four months have been but the prelude to, and the preparation for, this greatest and culminating effort.

Because of the completeness of our plans and dispositions , of the magnitude of the operations , of the number of troops employed , and of the depth to which we intend to over-run the enemy's positions , this battle will be one of the most memorable of the whole war ; and there can be no doubt that, by capturing our objectives , we shall inflict blows upon the enemy which will make him stagger , and will bring the end appreciably nearer .

I entertain no sort of doubt that every Australian soldier will worthily rise to so great an occasion , and that every man , imbued with the heroic spirit of victory , will, in spite of every difficulty that may confront him, be animated by no other resolve than a grim determination to see through , to a clean finish , what ever his task may be .

The work to be done tomorrow will perhaps make heavy demands upon the endurance and staying powers of many of you , but I am confident that, in spite of excitement, fatigue, and physical strain , every man will carry on to the utmost of his powers until his goal is won ; for the sake of AUSTRALIA , the Empire and our cause.

I earnestly wish every soldier of the Corps the best of good fortune , and a glorious and decisive victory , the story of which will re-echo through-out the world , and will live for ever in the history of our Home land.

Sgd. John MONASH.      Lieut. General .  
Commanding Australian Corps.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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A. 3. AE. A. 8GG  
G20 P. 21 b. d 22. C  
1-8-18-10-30  
F = B 1/4



APPENDIX H3

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APPENDIX *H-3*

84



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APPENDIX H3 85-

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APPENDIX

H3

86.

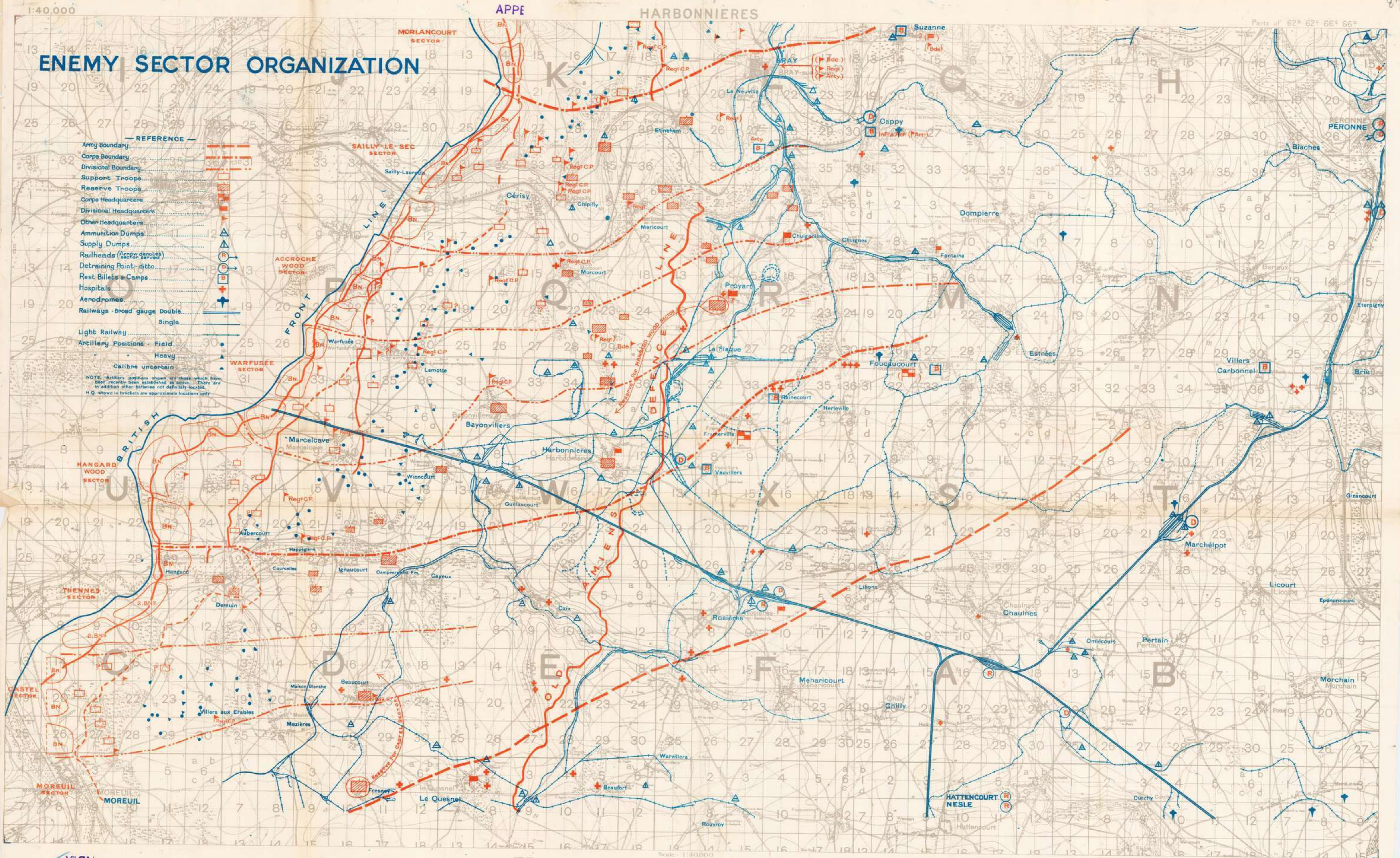
1:40,000

# ENEMY SECTOR ORGANIZATION

**REFERENCE**

- Army Boundary
- Corps Boundary
- Divisional Boundary
- Support Troops
- Reserve Troops
- Corps Headquarters
- Divisional Headquarters
- Other Headquarters
- Ammunition Dumps
- Supply Dumps
- Railheads (Arrow denotes direction of service)
- Detraining Point - ditto
- Rest Biliets & Camps
- Hospitals
- Aerodromes
- Railways - Broad gauge Double
- Single
- Light Railway
- Artillery Positions - Field
- Heavy
- Calibre uncertain

NOTE: Artillery positions shown are those which have been recently established as above. There are in addition other batteries not definitely located. H.Q. shown in brackets are approximate locations only.



Scale: 1:40,000

ENEMY ORGANIZATION

H4

ENEMY SECTOR ORGANIZATION

АББЕ

НАВРОНИКІВІС

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Sent At.....m. Service. Date.....

To..... From.....

By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....

TO { 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. Hq.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

\*T6 8

Hereunto rough report on operation carried out today. H Coy 31<sup>st</sup> Bn, detached for the night op. in the south sector reached its assembly benches without casualties, Rtd Hq being informed at 2 am. At 4.30 plus 45 mins the Coy deployed from the assembly benches in the attack formation but on account of the dense fog the intervals between the sections was decreased. During the march to the Green

line jumping off places. A great deal of confusion

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

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Sent At.....m. Service. Date.....

To..... From.....

By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....

TO {

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

\*Telms

was caused by all kinds of units losing direction + by the people in rear moving at too great a pace. Although under normal conditions H Coy should not have been drawn into the fighting till after the Green line had been crossed. The fog had caused various benches to be left handed by them. We hopped up 3 benches killed at least 30 of the enemy captured 6 or 7 hoes + took 2 machine guns.

Unfortunately the fog began to clear at about 6.30 am

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

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name

\* This line should be erased if not required. 407. W. & Co. Ltd. (E. 1187.)

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APPENDIX H 17

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At.....m.	Service.....	Date.....
To.....		From.....
By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....

TO { 3172

Sender's Number. * 16010	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
-----------------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

Consequently better attempts at direction were made. The Coy. reached the village of WARFESSE well only one casualty - Lt Shackleton who had been hit practically at the start. From 6.45 am till 7.30 am was spent in resting & organization. At 7.30 am a plot was made for the Green line. At 8.10 am the line was abandoned but slightly to the right. Three 77 mm. guns out in the open were firing at point

From blank range & launching of  
Place a good many casualties  
Time

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

At.....m.	Service.....	Date.....
To.....		From.....
By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....

TO {

Sender's Number. * 16010	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
-----------------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

The force on our right fell back & accordingly when the tanks appeared at 8.20 am & we were able to proceed we had to extend our flank in the attempt to maintain touch. The Coy. on my right did not come up till the red line had been reached.

After passing BAYONVILLERS we saw some enemy guns unlimbered & firing on the right side. Lewis guns were opened

From & one gun was abandoned  
Place  
Time

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

APPENDIX 47 89

"A" Form  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121  
(in pads of 100).

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words	Charge.	This message is on a/c of	Recd. at.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.
			At.....		By.....	
			To.....			(Signature of "Franking Officer.")
			By.....			

TO { 372 Hq.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 16			

From BAYONNETTERS to the  
 front Objective Resistance  
 has shifted only isolated  
 posts being re-established  
 encountered.

The front line has consolidated  
 by 3 pm posts established  
 & trench maintained with  
 the flanks.

Total estimated Casualties  
 3 off. 2100 wounded  
 6 unaccounted for.

From	
Place	8/8/18
Time	10:00 AM

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

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W492/M1647 100,000 pads. 4/17. W. & Co., Ltd. (E. 1187.)

✓ Report on Operation of 9 Aug 18.  
(Commencing from Albaumking)

The Company moved out on  
to the tapes at 5.5 am & were  
in position at 5.30 a.m.

The visibility was nil owing  
to a thick mist. I issued  
instructions that sections

keep in sight of each  
other from the centre to  
the flank. ~~By the aid of~~

~~prismatic compasses direction~~  
~~was kept. It shows the~~  
~~direction.~~

Coy. arrived on the Green  
Line complete. The first  
opposition that was

met with was from a  
house on the west of Warfusse.  
About fifty prisoners were  
obtained from there. The

Coy moved round the  
left of Warfusse according  
to instructions & on the

way met the tanks. I had  
a consultation with the  
Tank officer & we decided

that the infantry would  
get into position <sup>on deep line</sup> but  
that the tanks would

not come up until  
time to advance. On  
moving round Warfusse

we met a few Germans  
in the chalk pit but  
they gave little opposition.

Several machine guns  
& field guns were  
passed here, also

a couple of G. S. waggons  
with horses already  
harnessed up.

The Company arrived  
on the Green Line at 7 a.m.  
Our intentions were to

form up 600 yds <sup>to East of</sup>  
the village but owing to our  
own covering barrage

APPENDIX

H 7

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3/ falling short we were forced to hold back - as it was a few casualties were incurred. The dispositions for the advance were that <sup>the 6th</sup> platoon on left of road to right flank of 30th Bn. The 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon on the right of the road + the 8 (Lt. How) in support + the 4 (Lt. How) in reserve. Practically the tanks came up into position waved the green & white flag & the advance commenced. Almost immediately Fritz opened up with Anti Tank guns but his shooting was of poor quality. The infantry were receiving the back wash from this fire. About ten mins after the advance the

4/ Three tanks attacked by my Coy. were knocked out. The Company on my right had not come up into position at the commencement of the advance so I ordered part of my Coy to fill the gap. This had the effect of my Company occupying a larger front & being in St Kay's sector but it preserved my flanks. Machine Gun fire was brought to bear on the Anti tank guns (Three 4.2's) & the crews immediately took refuge in dugouts & were effectively dealt with when the advance reached them. (Posn. of Anti Tank Guns Q. 32. a. 25. 20.)

5/ A little opposition was met with from Bayonvillers but ~~once~~ we passed round the flanks & left the mopping up party to deal with the town.

Shortly afterwards we met with a little "over the sight" shooting from some hostile batteries to our right front but they were apparently "windy" & pulled out. M. G. fire was <sup>unsuccessfully</sup> brought to bear on two guns which were being drawn out by teams from near Harbournieres.

6/ In this <sup>area</sup> ~~sector~~ two snipers were dealt with, in trees. The advance continued & no further opposition was met with until close upon the wood at (Q. 35. C) ~~o~~. Here <sup>several</sup> machine guns gave a good deal of trouble but on our attempting to work round them departed. A poor type of sniping was occasionally indulged in by Fritz from this wood. We left the mopping up for the troops coming in rear. My left platoon passed through this wood. No opposition was met with from Buchanan Wood. On reaching the red line I instructed the Coy to

Volig in & joined Lt Col.  
 s. Steiman P.S.O. who had  
 advanced to reconnoitre.  
 About this time, the Red  
 Line was reached at  
 10.22 a.m. The Cavalry  
 now began to appear  
 on the scene. The C.O.  
 ordered me to advance  
 my Company to the  
 Blue Line & occupy it.  
 I did this reaching  
 the Blue line at 10.45 a.m.  
 On the <sup>road</sup> ~~road~~ in front of  
 our sector was a complete  
 train loaded with stores.  
 An aeroplane had  
 previously set the train  
 on fire & it was still  
 burning. A huge 2.8 in.  
 gun was part of this  
 train. When the 8<sup>th</sup> Engrs.  
 arrived a driver was  
 obtained who brought the

gun to the rear of our  
 lines. Major Bilton of  
 the 30<sup>th</sup> advanced some  
 time afterwards & occupied  
 the left sector. C. Coy & A  
 Coy of our Batt<sup>n</sup> also  
 came up. My orders  
 were to occupy 1000  
 yds of the Blue line <sup>from the</sup>  
 this was afterwards <sup>railroad</sup>  
 reduced to 500 yds  
 on A Coy arriving.  
 These dispositions were  
 nos. 5 & 7 platoons in  
 the front line & nos 6 &  
 8 in close support.  
 While on the Blue line  
 the cavalry brought in  
 several hundreds of  
 prisoners including  
 the gun teams of the  
 11 in. gun. A number of  
 machine guns were <sup>MAUVILLE</sup>  
 firing from ~~the~~

9/50 to the cavalry & across our sectors.

A number of Germans were reported to be advancing in open order on to our lines at 9 pm. but no active demonstration was made nor were any attempts made by the enemy to dig in during the night.

12/8/18.

Geo St. Wilson  
Capt.  
O.C. Band.

I wish to leave permanent records the excellent work done by the officers of my Coy. during the operations  
W.S.W.  
Geo St. Wilson Capt  
O.C. Band.

Report -  
Operations 8-9 August 18

Tuckers 5:30 am. from  
The START LINE to trenches  
P28 B Co. was harassed  
without any opposition,  
maintenance of direction  
was difficult owing to the  
dense fog. arrived at  
trenches considerably in advance  
of time. acting under  
instructions from CO remained  
in trenches P28 B Co. by NMI  
battery. harassed Coy. firing  
from E of WARFUSEE - BRANCOURT  
vicinity of E-W Road.  
shelling continued for  
roughly 12 hours. then ceased.  
experienced no further trouble  
at this stage.

Continued advance  
to Green Line moving around  
S side of village. 150 m N of

2/2  
A Co. in reaching high ground  
S of village. Company  
came under direct fire  
from NMI's firing from  
E-W road. arrived  
in rear of GREEN LINE  
at least 1/2 hr. ahead of time  
owing to destructive fire.  
I considered it advisable  
not to move any closer to  
S side of village. despatched  
runners to B. H. B. stating  
position intentions. runners  
eventually rejoined Coy.  
after leaving Green Line  
unsuccessful in locating B. H. B.  
Lost a little ground owing  
to the converging of the 15th Bde  
left Coy. picking up  
stragglers of the Battr. shrapnel  
fire from hostile artillery.  
The advance from the GREEN LINE  
to the RED LINE was  
covered without any resistance

3  
 When within 1000<sup>+</sup> roughly  
 of railway Q34 b/d W46  
 experienced a little harassing  
 fire from mobility battery  
 firing from road S of  
 HARBONNIERES arrived  
 on RED LINE having  
 filled the gap between B + H  
 Cos. Exploited success  
 on to BLUE LINE following  
 the CAVALRY no resistance  
 encountered. The cavalry  
 when rounding VACVILLERS  
 came under infiltrate fire  
 from the 15<sup>th</sup> Bde sector suffering  
 casualties ultimately  
 gained connection with  
 A + B Co. assisted the  
 cavalry to bring in wounded  
 dispatched patrols on to  
 railway with instructions  
 to search. One to Lt  
 SKINNER had already  
 been seen I found out.

4  
 later. eventually took  
 up position on SUPPORT LINE  
 W6 b/d

Operation 9<sup>th</sup> August 11

Received instructions per  
 phone 10<sup>30</sup> am operation  
 order 10<sup>50</sup> am. The 29<sup>th</sup> Bn  
 were then assembling in  
 my trench. The tanks  
 were passing over.

Owing to the short time  
 to get Company ready  
 I dispatched Lt Mompeth  
 with Lewis Gun Teams  
 for advance of Company  
 advanced lay in artillery  
 formation immediately.  
 Left Support line. Coy  
 came under cross MG fire  
 from VACVILLERS & heavy  
 artillery fire from locality  
 SE of VACVILLERS

APPENDIX #7 97

5  
 The tanks were knocked out early in the advance. The enemy concentrated heavy armor. At end of success moving out to the left to avoid area. Machine gun fire was again experienced on passing. Tanks arrived at objective ahead of left Coy of 29<sup>th</sup> Bn owing to all the opposition in the early stages of advance coming from the right flank it was impossible for me to assist their advance.

The left flank of the 29<sup>th</sup> Bn advanced on to road X1d & advanced my right in order to conform undoubtably same was a better defensive line. When advancing from original objective to advanced position experienced a great deal of trouble.

6  
 Hostile Snipers in well concealed positions. M.G. fire from the right opened on Company & pushed L.G. of Co. forward to cover forward advance. The L.G. succeeded in silencing advanced sniper. M.G. was eventually silenced by 214<sup>th</sup> arrived at advanced objective ultimately. I found it was impossible to reorganize the position or manoeuvre the Coy. Intercommunication was difficult owing to the increase activity of the hostile snipers. M.G. traversing fire from the E.W. Road. I located three snipers in trees roughly 400 yds from objective these were dropped by advanced.

2 Gunners <sup>1</sup>

For at least 1/2 hrs  
after reaching final  
objective it was not  
possible to dispatch  
messengers for permit and  
reorganization without  
incurring casualties.  
from hostile sniping which  
was very deadly.

Parties of the enemy  
were frequently seen  
in skirmishing formation  
some 800\* in front  
gradually retreating under  
cover of the snipers.

Sniping gradually died  
out, enemy attention  
was turned to the advance  
of the battalion on our  
left (probably the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion).  
eventually the 2nd Div passed  
thru. roughly at 30 pm

8  
Even if the opinion the  
advance was expected  
the snipers undoubtedly  
were very well placed.  
The hostile artillery engaged  
the advancing columns  
from the very beginning  
& machine gun fire was  
experienced in a plade.  
hostile snipers eventually  
took up the resistance.

Owing to my message  
being blown up,  
I cannot give times  
of arrival at the respective  
objectives.

J. J. J. J.  
O.C.

11 8 18



Office of Origin and Service Instructions. *This message is on a/c of:* Recd. at ..... m.  
 Sent Date **H 8**  
 At ..... m. Service.  
 To .....  
 By ..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { **RUFA**

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**  
 \* **A 1** **8**

*Left starting line  
 zero plus one hour*

From **DOJO**  
 Place  
 Time

*The above may be forwarded as now corrected.* (Z) *[Signature]*  
 Censor. Signature of Addressee or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. *This message is on a/c of:* Recd. at ..... m.  
 Sent Date .....  
 At ..... m. Service.  
 To .....  
 By ..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { **RUFA**

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**  
 \* **A 2** **8**

*Reached outskirts of WARFVSEE  
 ABANCOURT at B. 28 d. 2.3  
 AAA No opposition AAA  
 No casualties AAA men  
 in great haste*

From **DOJO**  
 Place  
 Time **640 am**

*The above may be forwarded as now corrected.* (Z) *[Signature]*  
 Censor. Signature of Addressee or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

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APPENDIX #4 150

Charges to Collect		By	To
Service Instructions		By	To
Handed in at		Office	m. Received
TO		31 Balm	
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
BM295	8		
13 <sup>th</sup> AAA Brigade moving forward			
7.20 AM AAA Left Brigade report AAA			
First objective Balm held up at			
ACCROCHE WOOD but now			
moving forward AAA Brigade forward			
status reestablished in vicinity of			
P29 c63.			
FROM PLACE & TIME		RUFA	

Charges to Collect		By	To
Service Instructions		By	To
Handed in at		Office	m. Received
TO		DOJO	
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
BM289	8		
5 <sup>th</sup> Brigade report right bay on			
objective AAA some prisoners captured AAA			
FROM PLACE & TIME		RUFA	

APPENDIX H 8 101

258

Charges to Collect		From	
Service Instructions		By	
Handed in at		Office	m. Received m.
TO	31 <sup>st</sup> BATTN		
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
B.M. 310	8		AAA
Right Brigade on Blue Line now barabaly operating east of line left Brigade captured Red line 10.30 AM and report 48 <sup>th</sup> Battr moving forward to Blue Line Att			
FROM	RUFA		
PLACE & TIME			

Charges to Collect		From	
Service Instructions		By	
Handed in at		Office	m. Received m.
TO	31 <sup>st</sup> Battr		
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
			AAA
Get in touch with people on flanks and wire location of ground H.Q.			
FROM	RUFA		
PLACE & TIME			

APPENDIX

H 8

102

Charges to Collect	By	To
Service Instructions	By	To
Handed in at <u>COPI</u> Office m. Received m.		
TO <u>DOJO</u>		
* Sender's Number <u>B.M. 315</u>	Day of Month. <u>8</u>	In reply to Number <u>AAA</u>
Right Brigade reports considerable number of men pushing forward on their front AAA. Probable same strength on our front AAA. Main all concerned AAA.		
FROM	<u>RUFA</u>	
PLACE & TIME		

Prefix	Code	From	At
Charges to Collect	By	To	
Service Instructions	By	To	
Handed in at <u>COPI</u> Office m. Received m.			
TO <u>31<sup>st</sup> BATTN</u>			
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
Left Brigade report advanced troops 15 <sup>th</sup> 41 <sup>st</sup> Bn now in HOPE WOOD and roads on east side prisoners stating to one division entrenched 2 1/2 miles from their AAA. This report is unconfirmed AAA 30 <sup>th</sup> Bn will send out patrols to get in touch with Left Brigade on Blue Line and report by when their town is gained AAA.			
FROM	<u>RUFA</u>		
PLACE & TIME			



Sent		Service.	Date
At	m.		From
To		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
By			

TO { RUFA

Sender's Number. * 1079	Day of Month. 8	In reply to Number.	AAA
----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	-----

Situation quiet AAA Enemy not very active AAA  
 Slight MG firing from  
 No indication of counter-attack to date AAA  
 Slight enemy shelling AAA

From DOJO  
 Place  
 Time 3.40 PM

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

Headquarters  
 8th Infantry Brigade.

2500

An officers patrol of 1 Off.  
 + 10 O.P. at 11.15 pm tonight.  
 They will leave our lines at  
 X.7. a. 10.25 and will patrol along  
 road to railway line, turn left  
 and reach our lines at X.7. a. 15.50  
 Time of return 1.15 am.

Could Artillery be advised  
 please.

[Signature]  
 for CO. 31st Bn.

8/8/18

APPENDIX H 105

Charges to Collect		By	To
Service Instructions		By	
Handed in at		Office	m. Received m
TO		CO. 31 <sup>st</sup> BATT	
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
An in position on left flank having filled a gap. AAA No position encountered so far. AAA Very slight casualties. AAA			
FROM		C70	
PLACE & TIME		9.25 AM	

Charges to Collect		By	To
Service Instructions		By	
Handed in at		Office	m. Received m
TO		H.Q. 31 <sup>st</sup> BATT.	
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
T9			
We intend sending out an officers patrol of 1000 at 11.15 pm. They will leave our lines at X7010.15 and will patrol along road to Railway line turn left and reach our lines at X7015.50. Time of return 1.15 AM. Please advise artillery. AAA			
FROM		Sgt J. J. Jones Lieut	
PLACE & TIME		8.8.18 oc. A Coy	

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TO		DOJO	
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
B11 333	9		
We are holding a line Eastern outskirts			
of VAUVILLERS to roads Xid 58 AAA			
2 <sup>nd</sup> DIV. in position ready to move through			
11 prisoners passed Brigade HQ 376 IR			
109 DIV NARR.			
FROM		RUFA	
PLACE & TIME			

\* This line should be erased if not required.



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copy

8<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

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Report from front coy. on right states that  
 c. Coy. moved forward as per orders and  
 are holding a line a little in advance of the  
 green line with their right post approx. at  
 X1.d.g.1. Jan Lang this location confirmed.  
 Fairly heavy M.G. fire 77mm gun met with.  
 29<sup>th</sup> had moved through and appear to  
 be progressing satisfactorily. 2 Tanks out of action  
 in No. 10's Land. My orders to c. Coy are  
 to conform with left of 29<sup>th</sup> wherever it goes.

9.8.17  
12.32pm

Sgt. N.M. Freeman Lieut. Col.  
31<sup>st</sup> Battalion

Service Instructions To \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handed in at \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ m. Received \_\_\_\_\_ m.

TO DOJO

* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	A A A
T2	9		AAA

Dispositions now AAA from Xid 59 to approx. Xia 55 by 140 slightly in rear right flank AAA.

FROM CZO  
 PLACE & TIME

Service Instructions To \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handed in at \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ m. Received \_\_\_\_\_ m.

TO DOJO

* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	A A A
	9		AAA

Am at Xid 58. AAA 29<sup>th</sup> Battr. left flank held up at above reference by M.G. fire from VAUVILLERS AAA. Some tanks been out of action 29<sup>th</sup> Battr right flank seen to advance alright AAA MG fire from VAUVILLERS heavy AAA. Dist 62° SE 1/20.00 AAA.

FROM CZO  
 PLACE & TIME 12.10h

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APPENDIX #8 109

Charges to Collect		By	To
Service Instructions		By	
Handed in at		Office	m. Received
TO		31 <sup>st</sup> BATTN.	
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
<p>Trinity arriving from direction of  X/4020 fairly large numbers AAA</p>			
FROM	C70		
PLACE & TIME	12.55 PM		

Charges to Collect		By	To
Service Instructions		By	
Handed in at		Office	m. Received
TO		DOJO	
* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	AAA
B.M. 327	9		
<p>Detail one man to report to  Lieut Johncock to-day AAA Man will  be used to collect and load war  material on account of Battalions AAA</p>			
FROM	RUF A		
PLACE & TIME			

At.....m. From.....  
 To..... By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { RUFA

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA  
 \* 1080 9

Situation quiet	AAA	Enemy shelling
very slight	AAA	Very little M. G.
fire	AAA	

From D050  
 Place  
 Time 3.15 a.m.

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) M. J. Powell Lt  
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

At.....m. From.....  
 To..... By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { R. J. O'Connell

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA  
 \* 1080 10

Situation quiet	AAA	
Enemy artillery not very active		

From D050  
 Place  
 Time 8.45 AM

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) M. J. Powell Lt  
 Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

31st Battalion Order No. 176.Ref. Maps Sheets 62 D. ROSIERES 1/40,000H.Q'S .  
August 13th 1918.

- (1.) (A) The 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade will move from the AUBIGNY System to the vicinity of squares W. 22 and W.23 on the 14th Inst.
- (B) On arrival in the above mentioned areas the Bde. will take over positions vacated by Bns. of the 2nd Aust. Bde. and 4th Canadian Division.
- (2) Lieut. Spain will go forward and make a reconnaissance of the route etc.
- (3) The 31st Battalion will move out in the following order
- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| H.Q'S.   | An interval of 100 yds between Coys. and 50 yds |
| "A" Coy. | between platoons will be maintained throughout  |
| B. "     | the march.                                      |
| C. "     |   |
| D. "     |   |
- Starting Point X Roads 0.15 Central.
- Time 7.30 am.
- Dress Fighting Order, 170 rounds S.A.A., per man, and 48 hrs rations will be carried. 20 magazines per gun will be carried.
- Route.. From starting point to railway crossing at 0.27 d.6.7., thence across country S.E. of VILLERS - BRETONNEUX, to cross roads in U.5 c. thence by road to MARCELCAVE and moving south of railway through WIENCOURT GUILLAUCOURT crossing railway at W.15 a 3.6. thence to position in W. 16 b and d. Midday meal in wood in V.11 d.
- (4) Halts will be made at 10 minutes to the clock hour. Cookers and water carts will meet the Bn. at wood in V.11 d.
- (5) Bn. Transport will move under Bde. arrangements except cookers and water carts.  
L.G. limbers will move with transport and will be sent forward on arrival of Bn. in new area.
- (6) Rear Bn. H.Q's will be established near Bde. H.Q's near GUILLAUCOURT.
- (7) All packs, blankets, officers kits and surplus gear will be stored in present 32nd Bn. Q.M's store by 7.30 pm. 13th Inst.
- (8) "C" Coy. will detail 1 man to report to Staff Captain at 7.30 pm. this evening to act as guard. 48 hrs rations will be carried. Commencing from 13th Inst. the guard will be rationed by the Town Major.
- (9) All tents and trench shelters to be returned to the Area Commdt. AUBIGNY by 8 pm. 13th Inst. and receipts obtained for same.

(Contd).

- (10) All echelons will be full and ready to move forward at a moments notice .
- (11) Refilling Point on and after the 14th Inst. will be P.25 c.3.3.
- (12) Coys. will ensure that the lines are clean and sanitary and all latrines emptied or filled before moving out .
- (13) "D" Coy. will detail stragglers party to move in rear of the Bn.
- (14) Coys. will notify Bn. H.Q's immediately they are in position . Two Coy. runners will remain at Bn. H.Q's to guide Bn. runners to Coy. H.Q's

*Gray*

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

Issued at 9 pm.  
by runner to

"A"	Coy.	Copy No.	1
B.	"	"	2
C.	"	"	5
D.	"	"	4

Copies to:	No.
Co.	" 5
Adjt.	" 6
Q.M. and T.O.	7
War Diary	" 8/10
File	11.

SECRET

Copy. No. 9 114

31st Battalion Order No. 177.

## Ref. Maps .

ROSIERES 1/40,000  
and Sheet 32 D. 1/40,000.

Bn. H.Q.'s

August 15th 1918.

- (1). The 8th A.I. Brigade will relieve units of the 17th Div. in Q. 14 & 21. .
- (2) One N.CO. will report to Lieut. Newall at Q.M. Store at 9 am. on 16th Inst. to reconnoitre new positions . These N.C.O's will act as guides . They will meet Coys at X roads in Q.20 b.
- (3). Coy. Commanders will report to Bn. H.Q's at 10 am. 16th Inst.
- (4). Coys. Will arrange to draw blankets from the Kit Store before noon on the 16th Inst.. Lieut. Searle will arrange to have same carted to Coys. lines .
- (5) L.G. limbers and cookers will follow the Coys. Water carts and mess cart will follow the Bn. Remainder of transport will move under Bde. arrangements .
- (6) Order of march
- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| H.Q's    | A distance of <sup>100</sup> <del>50</del> yds between platoons         |
| "A" Coy. | and <sup>100</sup> <del>300</del> yds between Coys will be maintained . |
| B. "     | One L.G. per Coy. will be prepared                                      |
| C. "     | for A.A. defence .  |
| D. "     |   |
- Dress. Fighting Order , blankets rolled in W.P. Sheet
- Starting Point . X. roads in Q.14 b.
- Time . 3 pm. 16/8/18.
- Route. The same route as when marching to present position as far as Crucifix at P.28 b. 5.5. thence in an easterly direction North of WARFUSEE- ABANCOURT to road at Q.26 a. 8.4. thence to X roads in Q.20 b. where guides will be met.
- (7). Coys will report to Bn. H.Q's immediately they are in position , and send two runners to Bn. H.Q's to guide Bn. runners to Coy. H.Q's .

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

Issued by runner at 11.30 pm.

To "A" Coy.	No. 1
B. "	" 2
C. "	" 3
D. "	" 4
Copies to C.O.	No. 5
Adjt.	" 6
Q.M. & T.O.	" 7
8th L.T.M.B.	" 8
War Diary	9/11.
File	12.

31st BATTALION ORDER NO 173

Headquarters

August 20th 1918

Ref. Maps ROSTERES 1/40,000  
and Sheet 63 d. 1/40,000

- (1) The 8th A.I. Brigade will be relieved by the 3rd A.I. Brigade in C. Div Sector on the 21st Aug. 1918.
- (2) After relief the Bn. will move back to the AUBIGNY ZONE and will occupy the same area as held before coming into the present position on the night of the 16th Inst.
- (3) The Bn. will move in the following order :-
- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| H.Q.     | An interval of 100 yds between platoons and   |
| "D" Coy. | 200 yds between Coys. will be maintained.     |
| C. "     | All precautions will be taken against hostile |
| B. "     | shelling and bombing. Halts will be made at   |
| A. "     | 10 minutes to the clock hour.                 |
- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <u>Starting Point</u> | Bde. H.Q.'s Q. 20 d. 2.9.  |
| <u>Time.</u>          | 8.10 pm. 21/8/18.  |
| <u>Route.</u>         | Same as when moving forward to present position and will keep clear of all villages. |
- (4) Coys. will detail 1. M.C.O. to report to Lieut. Spain at Bn. H.Q.'s at 9.30 am. This party will report to Capt. E.A.C. McFarlane M. C. at Area Commandants' office at AUBIGNY at 11.30 am. 21st Inst.
- (5) L.G. limbers will report to Coys. at 1 pm. 1 limber for Bn. H.Q.'s will report at same time. Remainder of transport will move under Bde. arrangements.
- (6) All stores will be collected for handing over. Trench Shelters etc. will be handed over by Bn. H.Q. as they stand.
- (7) Coys will ensure that their areas are left scrupulously clean and sanitary. All latrines will be filled in or emptied and area disinfected prior to moving out.
- (8) Coys. will notify Bn. H.Q. immediately they are settled in new positions.

*J. Blaylock*  
Captain.  
Adjutant 31st Battalion. A.I.F.

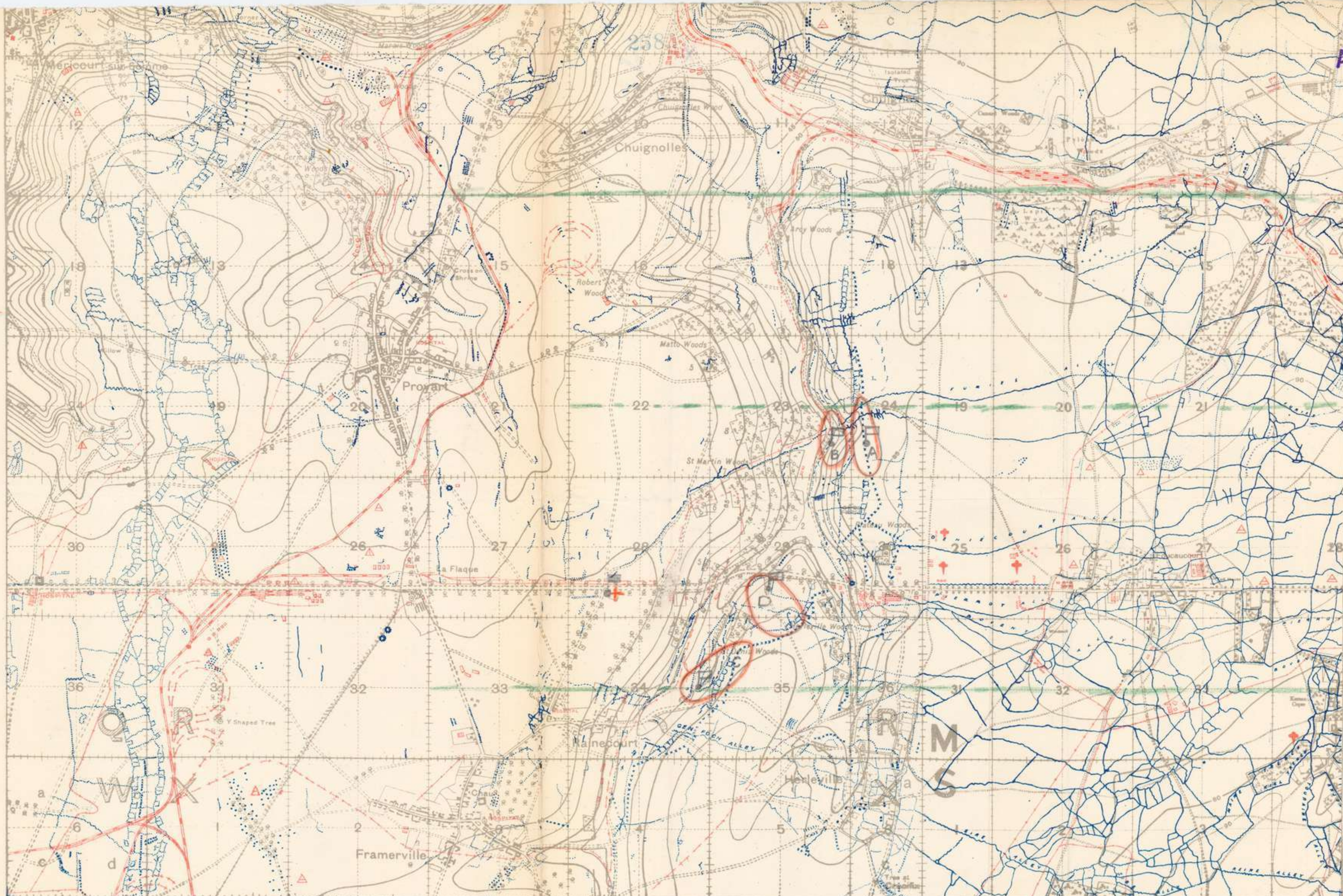
Issued by runner at 10.30 pm. to

	Copy No.
"A" Coy.	1
B. "	2
C. "	3
D. "	4
Copies to	C.O. No. 5
	Adjt. 6
	Q.M. & T.O. 7
War Diary	8/10
File	11.



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APPENDIX



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APPEND

X



X



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Report on Operations. **M**  
To C.O. 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. from 9.45 AM 28/8/18. to 9.30 PM 30/8/18

At 9.15 AM on 28/8/18 under Orders from Bn. Hd. Qrs. I advanced in Support of the Left Company of the Right Bn. keeping 800<sup>x</sup> behind. I advanced from a position R 24 C 04 + arrived at a position in N 25 a. 2.7 at 12 noon 28/8/18.

I then received Orders from Bn. Hd. Qrs. to advance through the left Coy of the Right Bn at 5.30 P.M. Same day.

I moved through C Coy 30<sup>th</sup> Bn with Scouts out in front. + Company distributed - three

(2)  
Platoons in line of sections in file with one Platoon in Support. Slight opposition was met with on the left from about N 20 b. 9.1. A Flanking movement of my left Platoon resulted in the Capture of eight Prisoners who were handed over to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Bn on my left.

The advance was continued to a Position running from N 21 C 4.6 to N 27 a 3.6. where we remained for the night forming an Outpost line.

(3)

At 5.0 AM 29/8/18 with Orders from B.H.2 The Advance was continued. Slight opposition was met with on Wood at N 21 d. which was dispersed by Lewis Gun fire. Continuing the Advance, without opposition we reached EGLANTINE TRENCH running through U 20 + 25.

On receiving further orders from B.H.2. I sent three Platoons forward + Established Posts on the Canal Bank  
till 1.30 P.M. 29/8/18

(4)

Throughout the Advance the <sup>200</sup> general attitude of the Enemy was to withdraw. when we came within 600 yds of him after firing a few shots. On reaching the final Stage when advancing to establish Posts on the Canal bank, we came under Heavy Machine Gun + 77<sup>th</sup> Gun fire from the Ridge on the Eastern side of the Canal.

Our Casualties were very light.  
I was relieved at 9.30 P.M. 30/8/18 by a Bn of 32<sup>nd</sup> Division.  
31/8/18  
G. S. Dellet Lieut  
Lt. A Coy  
31<sup>st</sup> B. A.I.F.

APPENDIX

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## Report of Advance 18/19 Aug.

On 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 9.15 am the  
 Coy moved out in artillery  
 formation but were held  
 up for followed 300 yds in  
 rear of B Coy. Progress was  
 uninterrupted until  
 N. 15 or 0.5 was reached.  
 The front line Batt<sup>n</sup>  
 (30<sup>th</sup>) were held up in  
 advance of this. The men  
 rested. At 4.30 pm  
 a meeting of Coy Commanders  
 was held at which  
 instructions were issued  
 that the 31<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> would  
 continue the advance through the 30<sup>th</sup>  
 with the same dispositions.  
 The advance commenced at  
 5.30 pm. The left Batt<sup>n</sup>  
 who were to advance  
 with the 31<sup>st</sup> were late  
 in passing the starting  
 point with the result

Information to this effect  
 was sent to B Coy &  
 instructions were issued  
 to remain in the present  
 positions for the night  
 & prepare to advance at  
 dawn. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>  
 about this time came up  
 on the left & B Coy's two  
 platoons were then  
 withdrawn to their  
 original positions in  
 support. B Coy's position  
 for the night was at  
 N. 10. d.

At 5 a.m. the following  
 morning the advance  
 continued unbroken until  
 N. 24 b was reached when  
 heavy machine fire from  
 O. 8 held up the front Coy.  
 During this advance the  
 29<sup>th</sup> Bn had not

After passing the 30<sup>th</sup> R  
N.G. fire was immediately  
opened from the flanks.  
B Coy were instructed  
to send two platoons to  
form a defensive flank  
Lt Knowles took charge  
of two 5.7.7 platoons  
moved to the flank &  
engaged the enemy  
machine guns preventing  
interference by the enemy  
from the left rear with  
the front line Coy. This  
covering fire also allowed  
B Coy to make some  
headway but machine  
gun fire became so  
heavy from flanks &  
rear that the front line  
Coy became held up

was exposed. We  
remained in this position  
for some time & then  
orders were received to  
occupy ISAR TRENCH  
in O. 19. C. During the  
advance to this position  
the enemy opened fire  
with his artillery from  
the opposite bank of the  
canal but no casualties  
were caused thereby &  
the position was successfully  
occupied & held until  
relieved by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Div  
Geo H Wilson  
Capt  
T.C. Band.

31/8/18

CO 31<sup>st</sup> Bn.

31-8-18.

Report on operations commencing  
9.15 am on 28/8/18 + terminating  
30/8/18. Ref to map. Sheet 62 C S W.

At ZERO Hour 9.15 am on morning  
of 28-8-18 31<sup>st</sup> Bn moved forward  
from ravine at R 35 a 12. to R 23  
642.

"C" Coy was Right Support Coy +  
supported "D" Coy.

The advance was made in art  
illery formation touch being kept  
with the left flank.

At 10.30 am the advance halted  
as the forward Bn (30<sup>th</sup>) had not  
gone on. A line was taken up  
in trench. M 26 d 36 to M 24 d 5, 9.

+ M 26 d 1, 4. to M 32 a 6 5.

Dispositions to 12 platoon on left  
of road to 11. 10. 9 platoons on  
right of road (MAIN E. W. ROAD)  
these dispositions were kept

throughout the operations. At 10.55 am  
the advance again started + forming  
into artillery formation again the  
advance continued until a line  
2.30 PM when the advance halted again  
+ "C" Coy organized into a line of  
shell holes in advance of ESTREE.

The line running approx N 25 c 7, 8. to  
N 31 a 7, 3. No 9 Platoon here  
formed a defensive flank. from  
N 31 a 7, 3 to N 31 a 2, 3.

The advance continued again at  
5.30 pm + from this time on we  
encountered enemy shelling + 200 yds  
fire rather solidly. We got to a  
line approx N 27 c 4, 8 to N 33  
a 33. At this time our Right flank  
had lost touch; but left flank  
was intact. After machine gun  
fire died down the advance  
continued to a line running  
N 27 d 8, 9. along road to N  
33 a 9, 3.

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APPENDIX

M

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the idea being to get on the flank of village of BELLOY & assist the left flank who were being held up. We arrived at this line at 7pm & as the left flank appeared to be held up I went forward to front Coy Cntr & it was decided to stay there & await orders. I got touch with Highland Light Infantry on my right at 8.40pm their left resting on N33 a 8.2. As this left the flank of the front Coy not in touch I placed 2nd Platoon on a line N 33 b 8.4 to N 33 a 8.2 & thus kept touch for the night Coy HQ was established at N 33 d 4.8.

At 4.30 am on 29th we stood by ready to move forward again & moved at 5.15 when light got good. We encountered no opposition at all &

established a line along the front of VILLERS. CARBONNEL running approx. O 25 C 3.8 to N 36 b 0.5. During this advance we were in touch on left but no one on our right. We arrived at this line at 6.35 am. At 7.40 am Highland Light Infantry (15th) came up on flank & appeared to be going to right. I signalled our position to them by flag & they came up & we got touch at 8 am. At 9.15 am on orders from Bde HQ I moved into JONAS. TR. & SYNTAXE. TR. The dispositions were as follows.

No 1 Post No 10 Pl. JONAS. TR. O 25 C 9.1.  
to O 25 C 9.6.

No 2 Post No 12 Pl. SYNTAXE. TR. O 25 C 9.6  
to O 31 a 8.9.

No 3 Post No 11 Pl. SYNTAXE. TR. O 31 a 7.8  
to O 31 b 3.6.

25.8.

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No 4 Post. Owing to the H.L.I. not advancing I made a defensive flank from 031 d 99 to 031 c 77 with two Vickers guns to cover the valley on the right. Later the H.L.I. came up & we got touch with them at 031 c 55.

We had small patrols on our exposed flank during the whole of the operations when necessary & nothing of any consequence was seen on flank. We stayed in this position until relieved on night of 30-31<sup>st</sup> Aug. 8.30 PM. as Right Support Coy. When I heard of the platoon from 'D' Coy being over the Somme & having trouble I pushed out 2 Lewis Guns to 026 c 27 to give them covering fire but this was not necessary as they were already on the way back & no target was showing.

R. B. W. Langford Lieut  
oc c 07 31

Sheet 62c SW 1/20,000  
60 31<sup>st</sup> Bn

D Coy

Following is the report on this company's action in the recent operation.

At 9:15 am on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> Aug. the company moved forward from its position in support to the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion in ~~lines~~ lines of platoons at 400' intervals, keeping in touch with the company on the left.

At 12:30 pm the halt was made in N 25 d as the front line had been established on the rising ground 900' in front.

Later on receipt of orders the company advanced in extended order through the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn with ~~the~~ C Company in close support.

Enemy shelling commenced on passing through the front line.

Word was then passed up that the left flank was held up; so the advance was pushed forward vigorously with the idea of threatening the flank of BELLOY & weakening the pressure on the left.

Strong machine gun fire was experienced from the old trenches in front, but the advance was continued, finally stopping at IVOI ALLEY in N 33 a N 27 C. touch being established with H L I on right. Under cover of darkness, the line was advanced some three hundred yards to ARGONNE ALLEY. Throughout the night shelling on line & support's areas was fairly constant.

At 5:20 am 29<sup>th</sup> inst the advance was continued without opposition through HERGNY & VILLERS

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AUSTRALIAN  
  
RED CROSS.

APPENDIX M

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- CARBONNEL, two prisoners being taken at the latter. The line was established in JONAS & ARCAUS trenches at 6.35 am.

Patrols of half platoon strength were immediately sent forward to search the river bank & also the area on the right which was open, owing to the right units on right not having come up.

These patrols returned at 11 am with the information that no enemy were on this side of the SOMME & that one portion of the bridge across the marsh in O26 C had been blown up by a party of the enemy, who were dispersed by L.G. fire.

At ~~12.30~~ 1.15 pm. in accordance with fresh orders the Company advanced to the forward slopes & dug in on the line O26 a 00. - O32 a 00.

with posts forward covering the two bridges.

This was done under heavy artillery fire from the eastern bank. Shelling was continuous throughout the afternoon & night 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> on front line & supports & village of VILLERS-C.

No indication of an enemy withdrawal could be noticed.

At 4.55 pm 30<sup>th</sup> inst. Co 13 platoon crossed the bridge & marshes in O26 d to establish a post holding the bridge head & to get in contact with the enemy.

③  
 No fire was brought to bear on them until they had crossed the marshes & had reached the northern outskirts of BRIE. A heavy concentration of artillery fire was then brought to bear on the party, the bridge & the our forward area.

Parties of enemy were engaged & it is estimated that twenty casualties were inflicted on them.

Our party had several casualties one being killed. The officer in command sent word back of his progress & battalion was informed.

Orders <sup>were</sup> ~~being~~ received to withdraw the platoon, a message <sup>was</sup> sent across.

They finally withdrew at 5.20pm. Casualties 1 Killed & 5 wounded.

The party had great difficulty in returning over the marshes owing to the damage the bridges had incurred from enemy shelling.

After the withdrawal of our party our forward area especially the river bank was heavily shelled.

Company casualties in the operations  
 4 Killed 13 wounded

P. B. Aland Capt  
 ofc D Company

10.20pm 31/8/18

AUSTRALIAN



RED CROSS

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Q.M. REPORT FOR AUGUST 1918 .

During the past month the Battalion was taking part in the great offensive . No equipping was possible , but during the short period they were out all Shortages in Technical Stores were Indented for . Great attention was paid to the cooking and the Battalion was supplied with two Hot Meas̄s while they were on the offensive . The Fat Returns were 1500 lbs. which was highly creditable , as the moving from place to place was against a big return.

An Issue of Cigarettes by the Comforts Fund was much appreciated by the men . The Salvage Returns were up to last month . *Rations were excellent.*

1/9/18.

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

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1918

August was noticeable for its fine weather and also for the many moves in a short space of time. We moved close to VILLERS BRETONNEUX on Sunday the 4th Inst. one mule and one man wounded.

On the morning of the 6th we moved to WARFUSEE which was constantly shelled, we had one horse killed and one wounded.

On the 10th we returned to AUBIGNY. On the 16th we again moved near to WARFUSEE and on the 18th the Boche was very active bombing, but missed our wagon lines. On the 26th we moved to the MORCOURT valley, on the 28th to FOUCA COURT, on the 30th to near BELLOY-SANTERE, and on the 31st to FONTAINE les CAPPY.

*L. B. W. P. C.* Lieut.

Transport Officer 51st Battalion A.I.F.

1/9/18.