

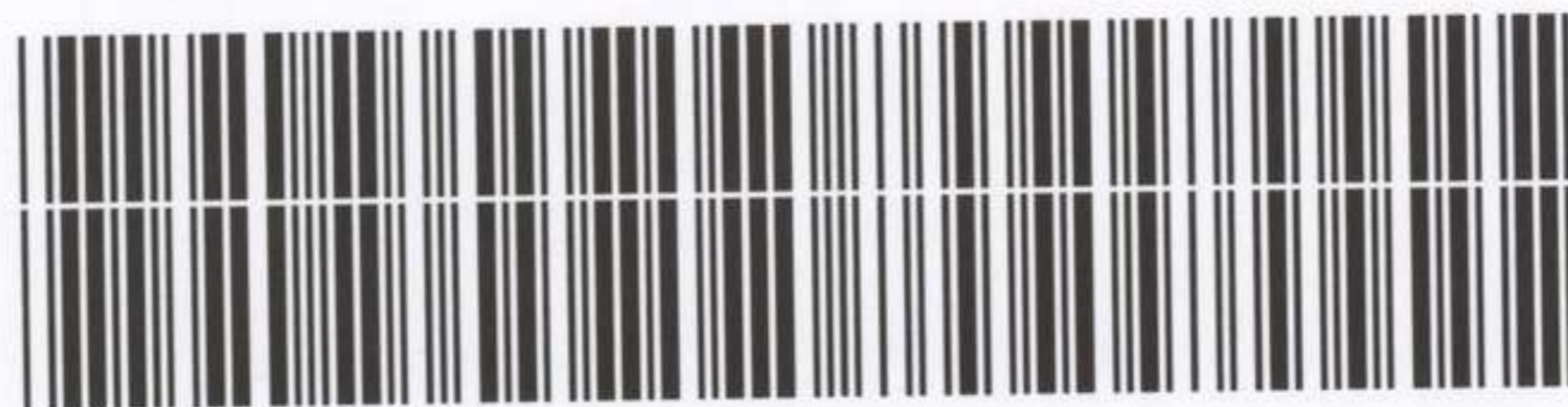
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/12/14

Title: 12th Infantry Brigade

April 1917



AWM4-23/12/14

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
BAPAUME	April 1st.		<p>The Brigade moved forward of BAPAUME. All available men used for work on Broad Gauge Railway Line from ACHIET to BAPAUME and on road repair. Weather showery, very cold wind.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 8 Other Ranks.</p>	
	2nd.		<p>Intermediate line of defence reconnoitred. No opportunity for Training on account of so many men being wanted for work on the Broad Gauge Railway and road repair in the forward area. Wet and heavy snowstorm during the evening.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 11 Other Ranks.</p>	
	3rd.		<p>Working parties continued on Broad Gauge Railway extension and road repair. Fine during the day, raining most of the night. An enemy airman brought down two of our observation balloons in flames at 7.30 p.m.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 11 Other Ranks.</p>	
	4th.		<p>The Brigade moved further forward and concentrated in the vicinity of BIEFVILLERS. Conference at Divisional Headquarters to discuss the attack on the HINDENBURG LINE. Working parties improving roads and communications. Weather very wet and cold.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 13 Other Ranks.</p>	
	5th.		<p>Work on roads and communications. Fine day. Hail and snow in the evening. Preliminary Instructions for Operations issued in Operation Memo. No. 95. Operation Memo No. 96 issued.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 3 Other Ranks. Casualties - 2 Other Ranks Killed. - 10 Other Ranks Wounded.</p>	<p><i>Appx. a</i> Appdx. I</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																
	April																			
BAPAUME	6th.		<p>Preliminary arrangements made for taking over the left subsector of 13th. Aus. Infantry Brigade Front. Preliminary instructions No.2 issued. Orders received to be ready to move into the line in relief of part of 13th. Aus. Infantry Brigade. Weather wet. Snow and Hail.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sick Evacuations - 33 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>above</i>																
NOREUIL	7th.		<p>Order No. 133 issued. 46th. and 48th Battalions and 12th. M. G. Company took over the left subsector from 52nd Battalion and 13th. M. G. Company, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade. Brigade Headquarters established at NOREUIL in old cellars. Brigadier-General ROBERTSON returned from Hospital and assumed command. Relief was completed at 2.45 a.m. with few casualties. Enemy placed a medium barrage of gas shells on the Village and immediate vicinity. One direct hit on Brigade Hqs. Mess. Situation generally quiet.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Off.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>O.R.</u></td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Casualties - Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td>Sick Evacuations - 9 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Missing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>		Casualties - Killed	-	-	Sick Evacuations - 9 Other Ranks.	Wounded	-	-		Missing	-	-		
	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>																		
Casualties - Killed	-	-	Sick Evacuations - 9 Other Ranks.																	
Wounded	-	-																		
Missing	-	-																		
	8th.		<p>Relief completed 2.45 a.m. Situation quiet. Divisional Commander visited Brigade Hqs. Three men of the Dorset Regt. taken prisoners by the Germans at BEAUMONT HAMEL on 7th. January escaped through the enemy lines and reached our lines safely. They appeared very worn and done up. Had been made to work in the forward area at SAUCY CAUCHY and SAUCY L'ESTREE. Very useful information obtained from them. Preparations continued and dumps established. Jumping Off Trench and Assembly Trenches completed.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Off.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>O.R.</u></td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Casualties - Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td>Sick Evacuations - 1 Officer</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td>22 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Missing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Intelligence report attached. Operation Memo. No.98 issued. Instructions issued re Jumping Off Trench and patrolling.</p>		<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>		Casualties - Killed	-	2	Sick Evacuations - 1 Officer	Wounded	1	18	22 Other Ranks.	Missing	-	-		<p><i>Appendix II</i> <i>" IIa</i></p>
	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.R.</u>																		
Casualties - Killed	-	2	Sick Evacuations - 1 Officer																	
Wounded	1	18	22 Other Ranks.																	
Missing	-	-																		

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																												
NOREUIL	April																															
	9th.		<p>Situation Normal. Our artillery very active on enemy front and positions in rear. Jumping Off Trench in U.28.d. improved and occupied by Strong Posts. Assembly Trenches completed. Orders received from Division by wire that one Battalion 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade would relieve the Brigade in the front line tonight. Order No. 134 issued, (Preliminary Orders for Attack). Instructions issued to 46th and 48th Battalions to send out patrols to investigate the enemy's line and wire and see whether line was occupied. Very late orders received to attack enemy line in conjunction with Tanks at 4.30 a.m. 10th inst. Intelligence Summary.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Casualties - Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Off.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">O.R.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Sick Evacuations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Missing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Casualties - Killed	-	Off.	O.R.	Sick Evacuations	-	Nil	Wounded	-	-	2				Missing	-	-	6							-				<p><i>Appendix III</i></p>
Casualties - Killed	-	Off.	O.R.	Sick Evacuations	-	Nil																										
Wounded	-	-	2																													
Missing	-	-	6																													
			-																													
	10th.		<p>Relief by 51st Battalion 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade completed at 3-0 a.m. 46th. and 48th. Battalions moved into Assembly Trenches ready to attack the HINDENBURG LINE. Orders for attack issued. Owing to faulty arrangements on the part of the Tank Commander the Tanks did not arrive until nearly daylight and too late to get into position. The attack was cancelled and troops withdrawn. A very difficult procedure in daylight under observation. A good number of casualties resulted. Orders were received in the afternoon by wire that the HINDENBURG LINE was to be attacked at dawn on the morning of 11th. Orders accordingly issued and conference of Commanding Officers held. Snowing hard. Intelligence Summary</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Casualties - Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Off.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">O.R.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Sick Evacuations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Missing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Casualties - Killed	-	Off.	O.R.	Sick Evacuations	-	9 Other Ranks.	Wounded	-	-	7				Missing	-	1	21						1	-				<p><i>Appendix IV</i></p>
Casualties - Killed	-	Off.	O.R.	Sick Evacuations	-	9 Other Ranks.																										
Wounded	-	-	7																													
Missing	-	1	21																													
		1	-																													

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 217

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																				
NOREUIL	April 11th		<p>The Brigade attacked the HINDENBURG LINE in conjunction with the 4th Aust. Infantry Brigade on our Right. Tanks were to co-operate in the attack but were put out of action before the attack commenced. Both objectives were gained but owing to an overwhelming counter-attack had to be evacuated and we returned to our original front line.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Our Casualties - Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Off.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">O.R.</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">96</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Sick evacuations - 13 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">290</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">497</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The Brigade was relieved by the 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade. Relief being completed at 11-30 p.m. Brigade Order No. 138 issued.</p>	Our Casualties - Killed	-	Off.	O.R.			-	6	96	Sick evacuations - 13 Other Ranks.		-	13	290			-	8	497		<p><i>Appex. V</i></p>
Our Casualties - Killed	-	Off.	O.R.																					
	-	6	96	Sick evacuations - 13 Other Ranks.																				
	-	13	290																					
	-	8	497																					
VAULX	12th		<p>The Brigade less 45th. Battalion moved from VAULX and back area camps to BAPAUME and entrained for ALBERT. Weather wet, snowing in the afternoon and night.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Casualties - Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Off.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">O.R.</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Sick Evacuations - 3 Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Casualties - Killed	-	Off.	O.R.			-	-	5	Sick Evacuations - 3 Other Ranks.		-	-	18			-	-	-		
Casualties - Killed	-	Off.	O.R.																					
	-	-	5	Sick Evacuations - 3 Other Ranks.																				
	-	-	18																					
	-	-	-																					
CRUCIFEX CAMP	13th		<p>Brigade arrived CRUCIFEX CAMP at 8-0 a.m. Units resting and refitting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Casualties - Wounded - 4 Other Ranks. Sick Evacuations - NIL</p>																					
CRUCIFEX CAMP	14th		<p>Brigade resting and refitting. Lieut.-General BIRDWOOD visited the Brigade at 12-30 p.m. and thanked the troops personally for their work done. Congratulatory wires received from the C. in C. and Corps Commander, also personal letter of thanks and congratulation from Divisional Commander.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Casualties - Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 Other Rank</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Wounded 2 Other Ranks.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Sick Evacuations - 13 Other Ranks</td> </tr> </table>	Casualties - Killed	-	1 Other Rank			-	Wounded 2 Other Ranks.	Sick Evacuations - 13 Other Ranks	<p><i>Appex. VI</i></p>												
Casualties - Killed	-	1 Other Rank																						
	-	Wounded 2 Other Ranks.	Sick Evacuations - 13 Other Ranks																					

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date April	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CRUCIFEX CAMP	15th.		<p>Weather very wet. Final report on operations forwarded to Division. Units reorganizing and re-equipping.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 7 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>Appsc VII</i>
	16th.		<p>Orders received to move the Brigade to BRESLE. Orders issued for the move. Very wet.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick evacuations - 12 Other Ranks. <i>Operation order memo No. 99 issued</i></p>	<i>Appsc VIII</i> <i>Appsc IX</i>
BRESLE	17th.		<p>Brigade moved to BRESLE and HENENCOURT WOODS - 2 Battalions 47th and 48th to HENENCOURT WOOD, the remainder to BRESLE. Party of 3 Officers and 230 men from 45th Battalion detailed to pitch a Brigade Camp near LE SARS. Weather showery and cold.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Casualties - 1 Other Rank Wounded. Sick Evacuations - 1 Officer 47 Other Ranks <i>Special bayonet fighting class formed</i></p>	<i>Appsc. X</i>
	18th.		<p>Very wet all day. Training and re-organization continued.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 5 Other Ranks.</p>	 <i>Appsc XI</i>

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Place	Date April	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRESLE	20th.		<p>Training and re-organizing. Divisional Commander visited Brigade Headquarters. Weather fine.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 2 Officers 14 Other Ranks.</p>	
	21st.		<p>47th Battalion moved from HENENCOURT WOOD Camp to LAVIEVILLE. Units training and refitting.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 15 Other Ranks.</p>	
BRESLE - LAVIEVILLE	22nd.		<p>Divine Service. Brigade Headquarters moved to LAVIEVILLE. 48th Battalion moved into billets at MILLENCOURT from HENENCOURT Huts.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 5 Other Ranks.</p>	
	23rd.		<p>St. Georges Day. Weather fine. Units training. Conference of Commanders to discuss the Divisional Rifle Meeting and general questions of interior economy in the Brigade.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sick Evacuations - 11 Other Ranks.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LAVIEVILLE	24th.		<p>Units Field training, Bayonet Fighting, Musketry and Physical Training. Training Grounds very limited owing to the country being ploughed up for crops. Reinforcements for Units left Base Depot as follows :-</p> <p>46th. Battalion - Officers - Capt. McPherson. 2/Lt. Palstra " Carter. Other Ranks - 20.</p> <p>47th. Battalion - Other Ranks - 9.</p> <p>48th. Battalion - Officers - 2/Lt. Logan " Hendry. Other Ranks 6.</p> <p>45th. Battalion - Officers - 2/Lt. Watson. Other Ranks 21</p> <p>Weather very fine. preparations completed for ANZAC DAY Sports. Health Good.</p> <p>Sick Evacuations - 4 Other Ranks.</p>	
	25th.		<p>ANZAC DAY. Divine Service at 7 a.m. Brigade Sports held at HENENCOURT WOOD very successful. Programme attached. Captain Terry reported for duty as Acting Staff Captain vice Major Inglis evacuated sick.</p> <p>Sick Evacuations - 10 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>Appx. XII</i>
	26th		<p>Training and reorganizing. 47th. Battalion inspected in scheme. Weather fine.</p> <p>Sick Evacuations - 16 Other Ranks.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LAVIEVILLE	April 27th		Units training. Arrangements made for inspection by the Army Commander (General GOUGH). Sick Evacuations - 7 Other Ranks.	<i>Appex. XIII</i>
	28th		Units training. One Company 45th. Battalion inspected at drill by the Army Commander. 47th. Battalion inspected in a tactical scheme. The Army Commander expressed himself as satisfied. Weather fine. Sick Evacuations - 10 Other Ranks.	
	29th		Church Parades. Weather fine. Election Day. Sick Evacuations - 5 Other Ranks. Casualties - 1 Other Rankswounded (accidentally).	
	30th		Units training. Special classes of instruction in Lewis Gun, bombing, bayonet fighting, physical training and Musketry. Tactical exercise by 47th battalion to demonstrate how enemy machine guns should be dealt with. Stokes guns co-operating. Also sentry gas precautions.	
			<i>Waller</i> Captain Brigade Major 12th Aust. Infantry Brigade.	

567

Appendix a

SECRET.

APPENDIX A

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
5th April 1917.

- 45th. Battalion.
- 46th. "
- 47th. "
- 48th. "
- 12th. M. G. Coy.
- 12th. A.L.T.M.Btty.

12TH	
AUSTRALIAN	
INFANTRY BRIGADE.	
No.	95/8
Date	5-4-17

Reference Map 57c N.W. 1:20000 Edition 6 A & ECOUST St MEIN 1:10000.

In all probability the Brigade will move into the front line within the next few days, in front of LONGATTE & ECOUST St MEIN. Commanders will at once send their officers to reconnoitre the ground held by 13th Aus. Inf. Brigade, particularly the left sector in front of LONGATTE & ECOUST.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Maler
 Captain.
 Brigade Major.
 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copies to War Diary.

567

SECRET.

APPENDIX A

10

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
5th April 1917.

45th. Battalion.
46th. Battalion.
48th. Battalion.

Reference Map Sheet 57c N.W. Edition 6 A. 1:20000.

Please instruct your Intelligence Officers to at once make a reconnaissance of the Road through VEASCOURT up near C.19.central up to the cross roads E of C.13.central thence it bears at right angles to where it joins with the LOWSATTE - MORENILL Road. The road runs through C.19.d. & b. C.13.d. & b. C.14.a. S.c. S.d. & b. and then to the front.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Alhewie

Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copies to I.O's 45th., 46th., 48th. Bns.
War Diary.

CONFIDENTIAL.
=====

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

OPERATION MEMO No. 96.

5th March 1917.

The importance of not discussing future military operations or movements must be very thoroughly impressed on officers and all ranks alike.

It must also be impressed on officers not to discuss whether S. & S. made a mistake or a certain Unit suffered a reverse or had very heavy casualties. Such remarks are a source of danger and affect the general morale of Units and must be avoided.

Unit Commanders will impress these points on all concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. Baker
Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 45th. Battn.
5 - 46th. "
6 - 47th. "
7 - 48th. "
8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
10 - Staff Captain.
11 - Ede. Signal Officer
12 & 13 - Spare.

67
COPY.

SECRET.

Appendix E 7
Appendix No. 1

12

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 133.

Headquarters,
7th April 1917.

Reference Map 1:20000.

The 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve part of the 13th. Aus. Infantry Brigade in the Left Subsector of the front line tonight (7/8th. April) in accordance with table overleaf. The 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade is relieving the 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade in the Right Subsector at the same time.

2. The dividing line between the two Brigades will be approximately from C.5.a.1.4. to N.W. corner of NOREUIL Village and thence along the West edge of NOREUIL Valley. The Dividing line between Battalions will be approximately U.28.c.80.25.

3. Troops relieving will move by the cross roads C.13.b.7.3. and thence down the low ground to S.E. of LONGATTE.

4. The 45th and 47th Battalions will remain in their present Camps until further orders.

5. In addition to the iron rations, all Infantry will carry one day's preserved meat and biscuit.

6. 1st Line Transport will move to H.16.b.9.5.

7. A dump of sandbags, tools, wire, etc. is being formed at NOREUIL by The C.R.E.

8. 200 rounds S.A.A., 2 grenades, 2 sandbags per man will be carried.

9. Great care will be taken to conceal movement during relief.

10. Completion of relief to be reported to Brigade Headquarters in code and Disposition Report to follow as soon after as possible.

11. Brigade Headquarters will be in NOREUIL at approximately G.10.c.9.5.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) E.L. SALIER, Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 4th. Aus. Division
5 - 45th Battalion
6 - 46th "
7 - 47th "
8 - 48th "
9 - 12th M. G. Coy.
10 - 12th A.L.T.M. Battery
11 - Staff Captain
12 - Bde. Sig Officer
13 - 26th. A.A.S.C.
14 - 12th. Field Ambulance
15 - C.R.E.
16 - C.R.A.

Copy No. 17 - 4th. Div. Train
18 - 4th. Aus. Inf. Brigade
19 - 13th. Aus. Inf. Brigade.

567
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Appendix No. 1

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

OPERATION MEMO. No. 95.

Headquarters,
 5th April 1917.

Reference Map 57c N.W. & Trench Map ECOUST St. MEIN.

Preliminary instructions for Operations.

1. Preparations will be begun at once for driving the enemy from the HINDENBURG Line.

2. (a) The actual front to be attacked by the 4th Aus. Division will be from about U.30.a.4.4. to U.28.b.3.9.

(b) The 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade will be on the right with its left about U.29.b.2.7.

The 12th Aus. Infantry Brigade will have its right about U.29.a.3.9½.

3. The first task to be done as soon as possible is to make good the line of the Railway and having done that, to vigorously patrol the ground N.E. of it and keep it clear of the enemy.

4. (a) The 15th Aus. Infantry Brigade will tomorrow extend their present line to the left and take over from the 62nd Division as far as the line U.27.d.15.40. - C.3.Central thence along the S.E. side of LONGATTE.

(b) A day or two prior to the attack the 4th and 12th. Brigades will take over the line as follows :-
 4th. Brigade from about C.6.c.4.3. - C.5.a.0.5.
 12th. Brigade from C.5.a.0.5. to the left boundary line (see (a)).

5. Preliminary reconnaissances will be begun at once by Officers of the 12th Brigade so as to get thoroughly acquainted with their front and approaches to it.

6. The 46th. and 48th Battalions will be the first to go into the line. 46th Battalion on the Right.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) E.L. SALIER, Captain.
 Brigade Major.
 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
 2 & 3 - War Diary
 4 - 45th. Battn.
 5 - 46th. "
 6 - 47th. "
 7 - 48th. "
 8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
 9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
 10 - Bde. Signal Officer
 11 - Staff Captain
 12 & 13 - Spare.

Appendix No. 1

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.OPERATION MEMO N. 97.

6th April 1917.

Reference Map 57c N.W. & 51b S.W. 1:50000.

Preliminary Instructions N. 97.

In continuation of Operation Memo N. 95, the 46th. and 48th. Battalions will be prepared to relieve the 52nd Battalion 13th Aus. Inf. Brigade tomorrow night.

2. The front to be held by the Brigade will be from C.5.a.0.5. along the railway line to U.27.d.15.40.

3. The 46th Battalion will be on the right with Battalion Headquarters at C.10.c.7.8.

The 48th Battalion will be on the left with Battalion Headquarters at C.9.d.8.5.

The dividing line between Battalions will be C.28.e.80.25

The 45th Battalion will be in C.20.b. with Battalion Headquarters at C.20.b.5.2.

The 47th Battalion will be in C.19.c. with Battalion Headquarters about C.19.c.5.2.

M. G. Company and A.L.T.M. Battery Headquarters will be in the vicinity of MOREUIL. Definite instructions will be issued later.

4. Battalions will be distributed in depth and now that the Railway line has been secured it will be strengthened all along and machine guns emplaced along it.

5. A very vigorous offensive will be adopted immediately to the N. of the Railway. Unit Commanders will send strong fighting patrols out and clear NO MANS LAND of the enemy so that they cannot get any information as to our movements

6. Lines of approach. -

The route to be used by this Brigade moving up will be from VAUX by road through C.19.b. - 13.d. - 13.b. - 14.a. and thence down the Valley straight to the Railway and then to the front.

7. These routes must be reconnoitred at once.

Maps will be issued as soon as it becomes available but in the meantime Commanders will arrange to mark it with flags. Crossing places over the Railway will be reconnoitred and marked and if necessary improved.

8. Definite orders for the relief will be issued tomorrow also as regards administrative arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGE

J. H. Baker
Captain.
Brigade Major
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 45th. Battn.
5 - 46th. "
6 - 47th. "
7 - 48th. "

Copy No. 8 - 12th. H.G. Coy.
9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty
10 - Staff Captain
11 - Bde. Sig. Officer
12 & 13 - Spare.

567
SECRET.

Appendix No. 1

Copy No. 2

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.OPERATION MEMO No. 98.

8/4/1917.

The following notes are issued with a view to assist Battalion Commanders in their arrangements for the forthcoming Operations

1. Organization of troops; times for movement to form up in assembly trenches; guides; traffic control; ample time to be allowed; parties to be well closed up and leaders to go slow; tapes to form lines in "No Mans Land".

2. The vital importance of :-

- (i) Following close on our artillery barrage.
- (ii) Forming our attacking lines parallel with our objective so as to get a straight run.
- (iii) Bringing the men fresh and fit, ready to assault.
- (iv) Consolidation; digging fresh communication trenches forward from our front line to captured trenches; pushing forward patrols and Lewis guns; thinning out our garrisons we must be thin enough to avoid casualties and strong enough (chiefly Lewis guns) to repel attack. Consolidation includes the re-arrangement and sorting out of troops as well as strengthening selected points and the establishment of our line. A few well placed strong posts are better than several weak posts.
- (v) Pushing forward patrols and Lewis guns. The fact that limited objectives are laid down is not intended absolutely to restrict subordinate commanders, if they see a chance of making a little more ground, for our chances of success are greater if we act boldly while the enemy is disorganized. At the same time the isolated advance of detachments pushing forward beyond support must be avoided. It is essential that higher commanders be informed promptly of any advance by patrols.
- (vi) Stronuous effort is required on the part of all to ensure communication between all parts of the Brigade; this is in the interests of the troops for it enables the needs of the moment and future to be met. Runners are sure to be required in large numbers and their relief must be considered; the establishment of relays will save effort; they must be fit.

3. Supply of S.A.A., grenades, smoke bombs, P. bombs, sandbags, tools, wire, pigeons, signalling gear and ground sheets - all most important. Consider the location of various dumps to be formed and organization of "C" Bn. carrying parties and working parties.

4. Employment of bombers and Lewis guns requires consideration. Company bombers will assault to clear enemy C.T. and construct blocks; Battalion bombers to be held ready for special jobs - (co-operate with Lewis gunners to take enemy strong points or clear enemy C.T. where we are held up).

5. The Germans have on occasions caused confusion by shouting the word "retire"; all ranks will be warned against this on several occasions. The word "retire" will not be used in the Brigade and if heard, will not be obeyed.

6. Absolute silence during assembly of Battalions for attack; no talking, shouting nor lights.

Silence during assault; troops must move straight through to their own objective and do their own job - no other, unless specially detailed.

Time must not be lost by taking prisoners or searching dugouts by the first rush; special mopping up parties are detailed for this. No searching for souvenirs allowed; consolidation must be put in hand at once in order of importance.

2.

(i) Make new firestep by pulling down sandbags; men doing this can be covered by others firing from existing firestep with their backs to enemy's old parapet; destroy enemy firestop and improve our fire position.

(ii) Put out wire; even though we may get out very little, it will probably deter enemy attack.

(iii) Cut away enemy wire, clear his dugouts and use all material on spot for our own purposes.

Consolidation and cutting C.T. must be pushed on without respite at all costs.

7. It is fatal to halt under enemy barrage; better run straight through. Send back frequent messages; need to pass information right and left also.

Platoons to be inspected to ensure that men carry no papers etc. of value to enemy.

8. Keep the Brigade constantly informed as to progress by sending them frequent messages as to the situation.

Lateral communication with Units on both flanks.

9. Medical arrangements.

10. No searching for souvenirs to be allowed. special mopping up parties to deal.

11. Impress on all ranks the need for maintaining absolute silence during assembly.

12. Dumps to be as far forward as possible.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. Haller
 Captain.
 Brigade Major.
 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
 2 & 3 - War Diary
 4 - 45th. Battalion
 5 - 46th. "
 6 - 47th. "
 7 - 48th. "
 8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
 9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
 10 - G.O.C. 12th. A.I. Bde.
 11 - Brigade Major "

567

ND

Appx. 11

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE *Appendix No 7*

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No.1.

From 9-0 P.M. 7th. April to 7 A.M. 8th April 1917.

8/4/1917.

OUR ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Active at intervals on enemy's wire and work.

RELIEF. The 46th. and 48th Battalions 12th. M. G. Company relieved the Left Battalion of the 13th. Aust. Inf. Brigade in the Left Subsector relief being completed at 2.45 a.m.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Active all through the night all along the Sector. NOREUIL and vicinity was shelled with Gas Shells from 9 P.M. onwards. A direct hit was made on Brigade Headquarters - little damage done.

M.G. & RIFLE FIRE. Very brisk throughout the night.

IDENTIFICATIONS. 3 men of the 5th Dorset Regiment who were captured by the enemy at BEAUMONT HAMEL on 11th January succeeded in getting to our lines this morning. They came from SAUCY CAUCHY - SAUCY LESTREE and got through the enemy lines about U.28.b. They state that they came through four lines of trenches and very few enemy were seen in the part of the line they came through. Wire was very thick and strong in front of the HINDENBURG Line which they walked straight over, it did not appear to be cut about. There is a prisoners internment camp at SAUCY CAUCHY. Heavy guns mounted on a light railway fire from the wood in W.34.d. and W.36.a. There is a big supply dump near the Railway Station between SAUCY LESTREE and SAUCY CAUCHY.

Waller

Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 - 4th. Aust. Division
- 5 - 45th. Battalion
- 6 - 46th. "
- 7 - 47th. "
- 8 - 48th. "
- 9 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
- 10 - 12th. A.L.T.M.Btty.
- 11 - Bde. Intelligence Officer
- 12 - Liaison Officer
- 13 - Left Brigade
- 14 - Right Brigade.

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C O P Y.S E C R E T.

Appendix II

Appendix No. 7

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Headquarters,
8th April 1917.46th Battalion.

Reference trench map.

You will arrange to construct a jumping off trench from about U.29.c.0.5. to U.28.d.1.7. trench to be two feet deep untraversed and completed by daylight tomorrow. Suitable spots will be selected in this new trench and outpost positions completed. On completion of these posts they will be manned by pushing forward posts from the present position. Engineers for siting of trench have been instructed to report to you.

All necessary steps will be taken by you to afford ample cover for your working party. Report on work to reach Brigade Headquarters by 8 A.M. tomorrow.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) E.L. SALIER, Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 - 46th. Battn.
3 - 48th. "
4 & 5 - War Diary
6 - 12th. M. G. Coy. (for information)

Appendix No. 7

COPY.SECRET.12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Headquarters,
8th April 1917.48th Battalion.

Reference Trench Map.

You will arrange to construct a jumping off trench from about C.4.b.8.2. to C.4.a.9.5. trench to be two feet deep and completed by daylight tomorrow. Engineers for siting of trench have been instructed to report to you. Report on work to reach Brigade by 8 A.M. tomorrow.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) E.L. SALIER, Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 - 48th Battalion
3 - 46th "
4 & 5 - War Diary
6 - 12th M. G. Coy. (for information).

Appendix No 7

COPY.SECRET.12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Headquarters,
8th. April 1917.4th. Aus. Inf. Brigade.

Reference trench map.

A party consisting of 100 men will be at work on the construction of a jumping off trench from U.29.e.0.5. to U.28.d.1.7. this evening.

A covering party will be stationed in advance.

Will you kindly advise your front line Battalions and advise this Brigade if you propose carrying out similar work tonight.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) E.L. SALIER, Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 - 4th Aus. Inf. Brigade
3 & 4 - War Diary

Appendix 13a
Appendix N. YA

SECRET.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
8th April 1917.

Reference Trench Map ECOUST St. MEIN & Sheet 51 D.

Relative to forthcoming operations and in continuation of verbal arrangements of this morning -

The 46th. Battalion will take and hold 1st Objective from U.29.a.7.7. to U.28.b.5.9.

The 48th. Battalion will take and hold 2nd Objective from U.25.c.7.1. to U.22.d.5.4.

The 47th Battalion will pass over 1st and 2nd Objectives and occupy the 3rd Objective which will be defined later.

Proposed Barrage Table will be as under :-

Zero plus 16	Barrage lifts off 1st Objective and comes down between two Objectives.
" "	24 Barrage begins to creep back to 2nd Objective.
" "	53 Barrage lifts off 2nd Objective and comes down 200 yards beyond.
" "	38 Barrage lifts back another 200 yards.
" "	60 Barrage begins to creep forward to final Objective.

Machine Gun Company will engage specially defined targets between U.28.a.4.1. and U.28.b.2.9.

Battalion Commanders will take necessary steps to ensure a thorough reconnaissance by all Officers and forthwith make all arrangements in anticipation of early orders.

The 12th. A.L.T.H. Battery will advance after the 2nd. Objective is taken and engage prearranged targets in EULLECOURT.

Commanders have been issued with a map showing the Objective.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. Baker
Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th, Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 45th. Battalion
5 - 46th. "
6 - 47th. "
7 - 48th. "
8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
9 - 12th. A.L.T.H. Btty.
10 - G.O.C. 12th. A.I. Bde.
11 to 13 - Spare.



12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 2.

From 7-0 a.m. 8th April to 7-0 a.m. 9th. April 1917.

9/4/1917.

OUR ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Very active throughout the 24 hours on enemy's wire and positions immediately in rear. They appeared to be making good shooting.

Our concentrated bombardment during the afternoon evoked practically no retaliation.

MACHINE GUNS. Carried out indirect fire on selected targets during the night.

WORK. A jumping off trench was dug last night from about U.29.c.0.5. to U.28.d.1.7. This line is now held by posts at approximately U.29.c.0.5., U.28.c.7.3, and U.28.d.1.7. respectively.

An assembly trench has also been dug from C.4.b.8.2. to C.4.a.8.5.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Active at intervals during the day and night over whole sector. Unusually quiet between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. A few fish tail bombs were thrown into our left Sector coming apparently from about U.27.b.8.3.

At about 10.15 p.m. enemy shelled his own wire with a few shrapnel.

M.G. AND RIFLE FIRE. M. G. Fire was active at intervals during the 24 hours.

IDENTIFICATIONS. Battery flashes in Wood directly behind BULLECOURT and in direction of U.22.a.

MOVEMENT. Small parties of enemy observed moving behind BULLECOURT and REENCOURT.

An enemy working party of about 20 was observed about U.27.d.5.9. at 12-5 a.m. Artillery was informed.

AIRCRAFT & BALLOONS. 8 enemy balloons were observed at intervals during the day up along the front.

One enemy plane was driven down by our planes in the direction of REENCOURT at 3.50 p.m.

ENEMY WIRE. Reported to be still very strong. Damaged in a few places but no opening could be detected.

PATROLS. During the night strong fighting patrols were out covering working parties.

A special patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 2 scouts examined wire between 9 p.m. and midnight from U.28.b.9.7. to U.27.d.8.8.. Average thickness 30 yards; cut about in places by our artillery but no gaps yet.

Very few flares were being fired - these chiefly from flanks of BULLECOURT.

Ground in front of wire badly cut up by our own artillery.

J. H. Allen Captain.
 Brigade Major.
 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
 2 & 3 - War Diary
 4 - 4th. Aust. Division
 5 - 45th. Battrn.
 6 - 46th. "
 7 - 47th. "
 8 - 48th. "
 9 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
 10 - 12th. A.L.T.H. Btty.

Copy No. 11 - Intell. Officer
 12 - Liaison Officer
 13 - Right Brigade
 14 - Left Brigade

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Appendix III
 Appendix No. 3

SECRET.
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12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
 9th April 1917.

46th. Battalion.
 48th. Battalion.

Reference Trench Map ECOUST St. MEIN 1:10000.

Confirming verbal instructions given this afternoon.

The 46th Battalion will send out a patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 others to investigate the enemy's line at U.29.b.00.90.

The 48th Battalion will send out a similar patrol to investigate the enemy's line at U.28.a.50.30.

Both patrols will go out at 8 p.m. tonight.

2. If the enemy's line is found not to be held in strength, each Battalion will push forward two platoons and occupy the enemy's 1st Line from U.28.a.50.30. to U.29.a.00.70. The O.C. 46th Battalion will delay his advance until receipt of favourable information relative to 48th Battalion and 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade Patrols.

3. The 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade is carrying out a similar operation on our Right.

4. As soon as the Line is occupied 46th Battalion will move one Company forward to the present line along the Railway embankment in C.4.b.

(Sgd) E.L. SALIER, Captain.
 Brigade Major.
 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
 2 - 46th. Bat tn.
 3 - 48th. "
 4 & 5 - War Diary

567

Appendix III a

Appendix No: 3A

COPY.
SECRET.

Copy No.

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 134.

9-4-17.

Reference Map 1: 10000.
ECOUST St. MEIN.

1. The 51st Battalion 12th Aust. Inf. Brigade will relieve the 46th and 48th Battalions in the front line tonight.
2. On relief the 46th Battalion will move into position in the jumping off trench in U.28.d.29.b. and form up in readiness to attack and hold the 1st Objective in the HINDENBURG Line from U.29.a.7.7. to U.29.b.5.9.
The 48th Battalion will form up in the assembly trenches in G.4.a. & b. in readiness to attack and hold the 2nd Objective from U.23.c.7.1. to U.22.d.5.4.
3. The trenches will be attacked at dawn.
4. Zero hour will be 4.30 a.m.
5. The attack will be carried out under a barrage which will be issued later.
6. Tanks will co-operate and the Infantry will not advance until Tanks have reached the trenches.
7. The Special Coy. R.E. will bombard BULLCOURT with Gas Shells.
Instructions laid down in Fifth Army instructions for Gas Alert and action during a gas attack, Section 4 page 7, will be carried out.
8. The 4th. Aus. Inf. Brigade will co-operate on our Right and the 62nd Division on our Left.
9. Further orders for the attack will be issued later.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) E.L. Lalie, Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
 2 & 3 - War Diary
 4 - 46th. Battalion.
 5 - 48th. "
 6 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
 7 - 4th. Aus. Inf. Brigade

567

Appendix IV
Appendix No. 4

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No.3.

From 8-0 a.m. 9th. April to 6-0 a.m. 10th. April 1917.

10/4/1917.

OUR ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Very active throughout the day on enemy wire and defences. Active during our withdrawal between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. and caused some casualties.

MACHINE GUNS. Considerable activity on cross roads in U.22.a. & b. and communications in rear of BULLECOURT.

TRENCH MORTARS. Nothing to report.

PATROLS. Strong patrols investigated the wire and endeavoured to establish how strongly the HINDENBURG front line was being held. One patrol was fired on in U.28.a. and the other heard voices, whistling and clapping of hands in U.28.b. Both patrols believe trench held in some strength.

WIRE. This S.E. of BULLECOURT and not cut. Well cut for stretches of 20 yards in U.28.b. About 120 yards in front of enemy wire a very fine trip wire was found - 2'6" high.

ATTACK. The attack planned for this morning could not materialize owing to lateness in arrival of Tanks which were to assist.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY. Active at intervals on NOREUIL and Batteries in rear of Village. Patrols report 7.7 Batteries (reported as 2 of 6 guns each) put a barrage on enemy wire in response to white flares.

TRENCH MORTARS. Our Patrol in U.28.a. was fired on by Trench Mortars from a point about U.28.a.5.5.

SICK EVACUATIONS. 1 Officer 5 Other Ranks.

CASUALTIES. 2 Other Ranks - Killed
6 " " - Wounded

W. L. ...
Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 - 4th. Aust. Division
- 5 - 45th. Battn.
- 6 - 46th. "
- 7 - 47th. "
- 8 - 48th. "
- 9 - 12th. L. G. Coy.
- 10 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
- 11 - Right Brigade
- 12 - Left Brigade
- 13 - Liaison Officer
- 14 - Bde. Intelligence Officer

SECRET.

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 135.

10/4/1917.

Reference Map 1:10000.

In continuation of Order No. 134.

The 12th Aus. Infantry Brigade (less 2 Battalions) will attack and take part of the HINDENBURG Line this morning.

2. The 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade will co-operate on our Right and the 62nd Division on our Left.

The 51st Battalion 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade will occupy the present front line along the Railway embankment and be in Support.

3. The 46th Battalion will take and hold the 1st objective which will be from U.29.a.7.7. to U.29.b.5.9.

The 48th Battalion will take and hold the 2nd objective which will be from U.23.c.7.1. to U.22.d.5.4.

4. Troops will be formed up in their assembly trenches at half an hour before Zero..

5. The attack will be carried out under an artillery barrage supported by Tanks as shown on attached Map.

6. Zero hour will be 4.30 a.m.

7. At Zero hour the artillery will put down a flank barrage and the Tanks will advance flattening the wire and at the same time form a lateral barrage.

8. On reaching the trenches, and as soon as they have occupied them, the Tanks will display a green disc meaning "COME ON". As soon as the signal is given the Infantry will advance and seize their objective. Subsequently two Tanks will deal with BULLECOURT.

9. As soon as the trenches are made good the 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade will move forward and occupy REINCOURT.

10. Each objective gained will be consolidated at once. Lewis guns will be pushed forward past the 2nd objective and Strong Points established to protect the left flank of the 4th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

11. The 12th. Aus. M. G. Coy. and 4 guns of the 7th Aus. M.G. Coy. will barrage BULLECOURT and the left flank continuously from Zero hour. They will also watch for and engage any special targets.

12. Contact aeroplanes will fly over the area captured at 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. at which hours flares and contact signals will be shown.

13. Watches will be synchronised at 3 a.m. and 4 a.m.

14. Reports must be sent in as frequently as possible.

15. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) E.L. SALIER, Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 12-40 a.m.

Copy No. 1 - Office

2 & 3 - War Diary

4 - 45th. Battn.

5 - 46th. "

6 - 47th. "

7 - 48th. "

8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.

9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.

Copy No. 10 - 4th. Aus. Division

11 - 4th Aus. Inf. Brigade

12 - Left Brigade

13 - BRIGADE BRIGADES Staff Captain

14 - Bde. Sig. Officer

SECRET.

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No.138.

11th April 1917.

Reference Map 1:20000.

1. The 13th. Aus. Infantry Brigade will relieve the 12th. Aus. Infantry Brigade (less 45th Battalion) in the Left Sector of the Divisional Front tonight.

2. The 45th Battalion will relieve the 46th., 47th. and 48th Battalions in the Left Subsector of the Brigade front at once.

The 13th. Aus. M.G. Company will relieve the 12th Aus. M. G. Company and the 13th A.L.T.M. Battery will relieve the 12th A.L.T.M. Battery.

3. On relief the 45th Battalion will come under the Command of G.O.C. 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade.

The Brigade (less 45th Battalion) will move into Back Area Camps to be notified later.

4. Brigade Headquarters will be in VAULX at I.1.b.8.5.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

[Signature]
Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No, 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
- 4 - 45th. Battalion
- 5 - 46th. "
- 6 - 47th. "
- 7 - 48th. "
- 8 - 13th. M. G. Company
- 9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Battery
- 10 - 13th. Aus. Inf. Bde.
- 11 - 4th. Aus. Inf. Bde.
- 12 - Bde. Sig. Officer
- 13 - 4th. Aus. Division
- 14 - Left Brigade

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 136.

10th April 1917.

Reference Map 1:10000 ECOUST St. HEIN
& Map 1:20000.

Our Armies in the North have broken through the enemy's line and gained all Objectives. Over 10000 prisoners and seventy guns have been captured. The 1st ANZAC Corps will attack and break through the HINDENBURG Line on the 4th Aus. Divisional Front in order to let the Cavalry through.

2. The 12th. Aus. Infantry Brigade will attack and take part of the HINDENBURG Line tomorrow morning 11^h. April.

3. The 4th. Aus. Infantry Brigade on our Right and the 185th. Infantry Brigade on our Left will attack at the same time.

4. Twelve Tanks will co-operate in the attack.

5. The 46th Battalion will take and hold the 1st. Objective from U.29.a.7.7. to U.20.b.5.9.

28 The 48th Battalion will take and hold the 2nd. Objective from U.23.c.7.1. to U.22.d.5.4.

6. Troops will be formed up in the Assembly Trenches 1 hour before Zero hour.

7. The 51st Battalion 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade will occupy the present front line.

The 47th Battalion will hold itself in readiness at C.19.c. to move forward when ordered.

8. Zero hour will be 4.30 a.m.

At Zero hour the Artillery will put down a ~~xxxxxx~~ Flanking Barrage.

At Zero hour the Tanks will advance to the enemy trenches flatten the wire and form a lateral barrage (Artillery Programme and Tank Map will be issued later.).

9. When the Tanks have occupied the enemy trenches, they will display a green disc meaning COME ON (Special Observers will be detailed to watch for this Signal).

Immediately the signal is given the Infantry will advance and seize their Objectives.

The Troops detailed for the 2nd Objective will move forward as close as possible behind the Troops for the 1st. Objective.

10. As soon as the 2nd Objective has been made good, the 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade on our Right will move forward supported by Tanks and occupy RIENCOURT. Simultaneously the 48th Battalion will push Lewis Guns forward and establish Strong Points approximately along the Line of the Sunken Road running from U.22.d.0.3. to U.22.b.8.5. in order to protect the Left flank of the 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade

11. Each Objective gained will be consolidated at once.

12. The 12th Aus. M. G. Company and 4 Guns of the 7th Aus. M. G. Company will barrage BULLECOURT and search and sweep the Sunken Road to the N. of BULLECOURT in U.22. & U.16 squares continuously from Zero hour., and will engage any special targets that offer.

2.

13. Contact aeroplanes will fly over the captured area at 6 A.M. and 8 A.M. at which hours flares will be lit and contact signals shown.

14. Prisoners will be sent to Brigade Headquarters as soon as the situation admits.

15. All documents, maps etc. taken from prisoners or found in the enemy trenches will be despatched to Brigade Headquarters without delay.

16. Watches will be synchronised at 11 P.M. tonight and 3 A.M. tomorrow 11th instant under arrangements made by the Brigade Signalling Officer.

17. Reports must be sent as frequently as possible regarding the situation

18. ACKNOWLEDGE.

E. Haber

Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at *7 p.m.*

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 45th. Battalion
5 - 46th. "
6 - 47th. "
7 - 48th. "
8 - 12th. Li. G. Coy.
9 - 12th. A.L.T.H. Battery
10 - 4th. Aust. Division
11 - Right Brigade
12 - Left Brigade
13 - O.C. Tanks
14 - G.O.C. 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade
15 - Brigade Sig. Officer
16 - Staff Captain
17 - Intelligence Officer
18 - 21 - Spare

567

Appendix VI

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE. *Appendix No 6*

Headquarters,
13th April 1917.

- 45th. Battalion.
- 46th. "
- 47th. "
- 48th. "
- 12th. M. G. Coy.
- 12th. A.L.T.M. Battery.
-

The following is a copy of wire from the Commander-in-Chief to 1st ANZAC :-

"Please convey to 4th Australian Division my appreciation of the great gallantry shown by them in their operations on the 11th. instant. Please convey this to all concerned."

Haller
 Captain.
 Brigade Major.
 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

C O P Y.

No. G.10/282/1

Headquarters,

4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

12th. April 1917.

All Units,

4th. Australian Division.

The following is a copy of message received from General Birdwood, Commander 1st ANZAC Corps, dated 11th April 1917 :-

"The following message has been received from the Army Commander -

'The Army Commander fully appreciates the splendid effort made this morning by the 4th Australian Division, which so nearly achieved a great and very important success. Even though we have not gained any ground locally, the Army Commander is satisfied that the effect upon the whole situation by the ANZAC attack has been of great assistance.'

I am sure you all know how fully I appreciate the really good work done by every man who took part in this morning's operations. We have no cause to be disheartened at having failed to retain our footing in the face of overwhelming odds. Rather can we feel proud of the magnificent bravery displayed. Please convey my feelings of gratitude to all."

(Sgd) L. CRAIG, Captain.

For Lieut.-Colonel.

G.S. 4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
13th April 1917.

45th. Battalion.
46th. " .
47th. " .
48th. " .
12th. M. G. Coy.
12th. A.L.T.M.Btty.

The following is a copy of letter received from
G.O.C., 4th. Australian Division :-

"Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,
12th April 1917.

My Dear General Robertson,

Will you please accept yourself, and convey to the Officers and Other Ranks of the Units under your Command who took part in yesterday's operations, my sincere thanks for their gallant services, and my congratulations on the success achieved in breaking the formidable HINDENBURG Line, notwithstanding the failure of the Tanks from which so much was expected in the direction of preparing the way.

The fact that we could not "stick it" in the Line, was due to bad luck, and cannot be regarded in any way as a reflection on your Brigade, which fought magnificently, and in my opinion performed, under all the circumstances, a herculean task in getting there at all and staying as long as it did.

I deeply regret the loss of so many brave and gallant Officers and Men, but unfortunately in War this cannot be avoided.

The Brigade has well maintained its previous high reputation.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd) WILLIAM HOLMES, Major-General."

W. Holmes

Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Appendix VI
Appendix No 6

567
SECRET.

Copy No.

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 137.

10th April 1917

Reference Map 1:10000 ECOUST St. HEIN
& Map 1:20000.

1. (a) The 4th Australian Division will attack the HINDENBURG Line and push on to RIENCOURT tomorrow morning, on the front U.30.a.1.5. to U.28.b.5.9.

(b) When these objectives have been captured the 4th Cavalry Division will send at least one Regiment through our lines.

2. The 12th. Aus. Infantry Brigade will attack and take the enemy line on the front U.29.a.7.7. to U.28.b.5.9.

3. The 4th Aus. Inf. Brigade on our Right and the 185th Infantry Brigade on our Left will attack at the same time.

4. The 46th Battalion will take and hold the 1st Objective from U.29.a.7.7. to U.28.b.5.9.

The 48th Battalion will take and hold the 2nd. Objective from U.23.c.7.1. - U.22.d.5.4.

5. Troops will be formed up in the Assembly trenches 1 hour before Zero hour.

6. The 51st Battalion 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade will occupy the present front line.

The 47th Battalion will move into a position of readiness in the LONGATTE NOREUIL Road.

7. Artillery Programme will be as under -

At 4.30 a.m. the Heavy Artillery continue to shell BULLECOURT, RIENCOURT and QUEANT Salient. (No increase of night rate).

At 4.45 a.m. Field Artillery barrage will be placed on each flank.

5 a.m. All artillery fire in BULLECOURT ceases to let four Tanks followed by the 46th Battalion enter BULLECOURT and mop it up.

5.15 a.m. Heavy artillery fire on RIENCOURT ceases and begins to creep back.

5.15 a.m. Field Artillery barrage on QUEANT switches back to permit two tanks to go along.

5.30 a.m. A barrage will be put down on RIENCOURT.

There will be no barrage beyond the captured position but an S.O.S. Line will be fired on upon a S.O.S. Signal being sent. Tanks will act as in three sketches attached.

8. At 4.30 a.m. the Tanks will move forward as in Sketch 1.

At 4.45 a.m. the 46th and 48th Battalions will move forward and occupy the 1st and 2nd Objectives.

Two Companies 47th Battalion will move into the Railway cutting in C.4.b. at 5 a.m. and be in readiness to move into the 1st. Objective under orders of the O.C. 46th Battalion.

(1)

Appendix No. 6

2.

9. As soon as the 2nd Objective has been taken the 4th. Aus. Infantry Brigade will advance on RIENCOURT. Simultaneously the 48th Battalion will push forward Lewis Guns and establish Strong Points approximately along the line of the Sunken Road running from U.22.d.0.3. to U.22.b.8.5. in order to protect the Left flank of the 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade.

10. At 5 a.m. Four Tanks will enter BULLECOURT. The 46th. Battalion will follow these and mop up the Village.

11. As soon as the 46th Battalion enters the Village Three Green Flares will be sent up to inform the Brigade on our Left so that it may come forward.

12. The 12th. Aus. M. G. Company and 4 Guns of the 7th. Aus. M. G. Company will cover the advance of the Tanks as far as possible and barrage BULLECOURT and search ^{and sweep} the Sunken Road to the N. of BULLECOURT in U.22. & U.16. squares until 5 a.m. and afterwards engage any hostile targets that may offer.

13. Contact aeroplanes will fly over the captured area at 6.30 a.m. and 8 a.m. when flares will be lit.

14. Watches will be ~~sunken~~ synchronised at 3 a.m.

15. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. A. H. H. H.
 Captain.
 Brigade Major.
 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
 2 & 3 - War Diary
 4 - 45th. Battn.
 5 - 46th. "
 6 - 47th. "
 7 - 48th. "
 8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
 9 - 12th. A.L.T.L. Ety.
 10 - 4th. Aust. Division
 11 - Right Brigade
 12 - Left Brigade
 13 - O.C. Tanks
 14 - G.O.C. 12th. Aus. Inf. Brigade
 15 - Brigade Sig. Officer
 16 - Staff Captain
 17 - Intelligence Officer
 18 - 21 - Spare

Appendix No 7

CASUALTIES.

UNIT	KILLED		WOUNDED		MISSING		WOUNDED & MISSING	
	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.
46th. Battn.	2	35	5	133	1	149	1	47
47th. Battn.	1	19	3	56	-	37	-	11
48th. Battn.	3	40	5	91	3	175	3	75
12th. M.G. Coy.	-	2	-	9	-	3	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	6	96	13	289	4	364	4	133

TOTAL CASUALTIES.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>
46th. Battalion	9	364
47th. Battalion	4	123
48th. Battalion	14	381
12th. M. G. Company	-	14
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>882</u>

appendix 7



Headquarters,
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade,
15th April 1917.

4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS IN THE LEFT BRIGADE

(BULLECOURT) Sector 4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL FRONT.

Reference Map 57c N.W., 51 b S.W. 1:20000.
& Trench Map ECOUST St. MEIN 1:10000.

1. On 6th April I received orders to hold my Brigade in readiness to move forward and relieve part of the 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade in the Left Sector of the Divisional Front and on the morning of the 7th instant orders were received to take over the line from C.5.a.1.4. to the cross roads U.27.d.2.5. Accordingly I issued orders for the 46th and 48th Battalions to relieve the 52nd Battalion, 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade, which was then holding that sector. The 46th Battalion on the Right and the 48th Battalion on the Left.

The Battalions were distributed in depth, each with one Company in the front line, one Company in Support and two Companies in Reserve.

The 12th. M. G. Company was distributed along the Railway embankment in U.27.d., U.28.c. and in positions in C.3.d. for indirect fire and to barrage the enemy's wire at night in order to prevent their working parties from repairing any damage done to it by our Artillery.

8 Guns were held in Reserve in the vicinity of Brigade Hqrs. Brigade Headquarters was established in NOREUIL about C.9.c.9.2. The relief was completed at 2.45 a.m. on the 8th instant with few casualties under a normal enemy barrage which consisted chiefly of Gas and Lachrymatory Shells.

Shortly after the relief was completed, two N.C.Os. and one Private of the 5th Dorset Regt. who had been taken prisoners by the enemy at BEAUMONT HAMEL on 7th January, escaped through the enemy lines N.E. of BULLECOURT and came into our Left Subsector in a very exhausted condition.

2. Preparations were at once commenced for an attack on the HINDENBURG LINE. A jumping off trench was completed from U.28.c.9.8. to U.28.d.9.9. and assembly trenches in C.4.a. and C.4.b. were completed on the night of the 8th instant and the Jumping Off Trench garrisoned and held by three Strong Posts with Lewis Guns and a fourth Post established about U.28.c.70.65. Advanced Battalion Hqrs. were established in the Railway embankment in the vicinity of C.4.b.2.9. and advanced dumps formed in the Railway embankment in each Battalion Sector.

Direct telephonic communication was established between Brigade and each Forward Battalion Hqrs. with an advanced exchange at C.4.c.3.1.

A Forward Brigade Dump for ammunition etc. was also established at C.4.c.3.1.

All arrangements were completed by midnight 8/9th. instant.

-(2)-

3. On the 9th instant in accordance with orders received patrols were sent out in conjunction with the Brigades on the Right and Left to ascertain whether the enemy line was occupied, and if found unoccupied, troops were to be sent forward at once to hold it. The patrols moved out at 8 p.m. and in each case found the line strongly held: the wire which was exceptionally strong, was practically undamaged.

Appdx.
III

Orders were then received that the HINDENBURG LINE would be attacked at dawn on 10th instant.

Appdx.
IIIa.

A warning order (No. 134) was accordingly issued. The 51st Battalion, 13th Aus. Infantry Brigade, relieved the 46th and 48th Battalions in the front line and the 46th and 48th Battalions were moved into the Jumping Off and Assembly Trenches respectively.

Appdx.
IV.

I then held a conference with the Commanders concerned and issued final orders for the attack (No. 135) at 12-40 a.m. on 10th instant. The attack was to be made supported by Tanks, but owing to the lateness of their arrival it did not materialize and the troops were withdrawn. A good number of casualties were caused owing to the withdrawal having to be made partially in daylight.

4. At 3.42 p.m. on 10th instant I received orders by wire that the operation would take place on the morning of 11th instant on the same general lines.

Appdx.
V.

I accordingly issued a warning order (No. 136) and held a conference of Commanders concerned; The Tank Commander was also present and explained the co-operation of the Tanks.

Appdx.
VI.

Final Orders were received at 9 p.m. and I issued my final orders (No. 137) at 10-30 p.m.

5. At 3-30 a.m. on the 11th instant, my dispositions were as follows :-

46th. Battalion. Assaulting Troops for 1st objective in the Jumping Off Trenches in U.28.c. & d.

48th. Battalion. Assaulting Troops for 2nd objective in the Assembly Trenches in C.4.a. & b.

47th. Battalion. In Support in the NOPEUIL-LONGATTE Sunken Road.

45th. Battalion. In Reserve near FAVREUIL ready to move up at a moments notice.

51st. Battalion. 13th. Aus. Inf. Brigade, holding the Front Line.

12th. M. G. Coy. (a) 6 Guns located on the Railway Line in U.28.c. to assist in covering the advance of the Tanks, barrage the Right (E) of BULLECOURT and engage any Special Targets that might offer.

(b) Three Guns about C.3.d.8.4. to search and sweep with indirect fire the roads between BULLECOURT and RIENCOURT in U.22. and U.23.

Fire from these Guns was also used to drown the noise of the Tanks when moving forward to their starting point.

(c) Two Mobile gun crews were held in readiness at the Railway embankment to move forward to assist in the consolidation as soon as the objective had been reached.

(d) Five guns were held in Reserve.

The Stokes Guns of the 12th. A.L.T.B. Battery were held in Reserve and in readiness to move forward as soon as circumstances would admit.

6. At 4.30 a.m. (Zero hour) the Tanks moved forward slowly towards the objectives.

Being easily visible in the snow by the light from the enemy flares, they formed an easy target for the enemy guns and were put out of action before reaching the objectives allotted to my Brigade. Notwithstanding the failure of the Tanks, the 46th. and 48th Battalions moved forward to their objectives under heavy enemy artillery barrage and were at the same time subjected to heavy enfilade Machine Gun fire from the trenches to the N.E. of BULLECOURT and from BULLECOURT itself. The 1st Objective was gained by the 46th Battalion at 5.50 a.m. and the 2nd objective by the 48th Battalion at 6.18 a.m. - both after very severe fighting.

Heavy casualties were suffered on reaching the enemy's wire which was found practically uncut and exceptionally strong. Blocks were at once established at U.29.a.2.9. and U.28.b.5.9. in the 1st Objective and U.23.c.85.05. and U.23.c.0.4. in the 2nd objective.

At 6.30 a.m. I sent forward one Company of the 47th Battalion to reinforce the attacking troops, (half a Company to each the 46th. and 48th Battalions), and at 7.20 a.m. two Vickers Guns were sent forward to the 2nd objective and established in positions at U.28.b.2.9. and U.28.b.5.9.

Immediately the exact location of the limits of the fronts held by the Battalions in the 1st and 2nd Objectives was ascertained an artillery barrage was placed along enemy's trench from S.E. corner of BULLECOURT to a safe spot on the left of our positions. Owing to the indefinite situation on the right flank the artillery was not asked to barrage that Sector.

Every endeavour was made to gain touch with the Brigade on my Right between whom there was a gap of approximately 400 yards which was very strongly held by the enemy with Trench Mortars and machine Guns, the gap resulting through the Tanks having failed to reach their objective which was allotted to them. The Brigade on my Right was asked to make a similar effort to join up from their left.

Heavy and continuous counter-attacks were delivered by the enemy on both flanks during the whole period supported by Trench mortars and Machine Guns from BULLECOURT.

At 7.0 a.m. the enemy made a determined counter-attack on our left flank from the Sunken Road in U.23.c. which broke down under our Lewis Gun Fire.

At 7.35 a.m. the enemy was observed concentrating rapidly and in large numbers in U.22.d.

Artillery support was at once called for.

At the same time the enemy was seen concentrating in force in U.16.d. & U.17.c.

From 7.35 to 10.0 a.m. enemy troops continued to mass on the road in U.16.d. and moved rapidly towards BULLECOURT.

During the same period several large bodies of men entered the Sunken Road at U.22.d.

A strong attack now developed on the left flank of the 1st objective and also on the right flank of the 2nd objective. The garrison in both trenches had been greatly depleted and in the 1st objective bombs had been exhausted. Although provision had been made at the advanced Battalion Dumps: it was found impossible to get supplies up owing to NO MANS LAND being dominated by the Machine Guns of the enemy from the region of BULLECOURT.

A message was sent to the 48th Battalion in the 2nd objective that it was impossible to hold the position and it was proposed to retire.

The 46th Battalion was gradually pushed out and the 48th Battalion from the 2nd Objective on its retirement found the 1st objective held by the enemy.

-(4)-

The 48th Battalion forced the enemy back from the positions he had regained in the 1st objective and gradually the remainder of this Battalion moved back to its original Jumping Off Trench.

At 11.40 a.m. a message was received from 46th Battalion to say that the Brigade on our Right was retiring and both the 46th and 48th Battalions had been forced out of their objectives and were retiring on our original front line. Accordingly the artillery was asked to place a barrage behind the 2nd objective to help our troops in the retirement which was successfully carried out.

The enemy counter attack was cleverly organized and well carried out, evidently by specially trained troops. They moved with great rapidity in large numbers and each attacking party appeared to have their objective allotted to them.

7. I am of the opinion that the failure to hold the objectives was due chiefly to

(1) Complete failure in the co-operation of the Tanks in the Sector allotted to this Brigade through their being disabled before reaching the objectives and flattening the wire on both flanks; consequently the Infantry suffered such heavy casualties in crossing the enemy wire (which was practically uncut), that they were only sufficiently strong enough to gain part of both objectives. There was a gap of approximately 400 yards between the Right Flank of my Brigade and the Left of the 4th Aus. Infantry Brigade which was held very strongly by the enemy. Two Tanks were to have dealt with this part of the enemy trench in U.29.a. & b. but only one reached the wire in U.29.b. where it was disabled. The two Tanks which were to deal with my centre and left and finally go into BULLECOURT, did not get more than 20 yards beyond the Jumping Off Trenches in U.28.d. before being disabled. The fifth Tank after losing direction subsequently entered BULLECOURT between 9 and 10 a.m. and became a casualty in a mine crater. While this Tank was in BULLECOURT the artillery was not able to put so complete a barrage on the Left Flank and keep down the heavy fire from enemy Machine Guns and Trench Mortars which were there.

(2) The attack by the Brigade on our Left which was expected did not eventuate and consequently the enemy was able to pay full attention to my Left Flank.

C. Ammunition Dumps were established on the night of 9th. instant as follows :-

A Forward Brigade Dump in the Sunken Road at C.4.c.3.2. and contained

188500 rounds S.A.A.
7520 Mills Grenades No. 5
1000 No.23 Mills Rifle Grenades.

Two Forward Battalion Dumps at U.28.d.3.0. and C.4.b.5.9. each contained

4500 No.5 Mills Hand Grenades
1000 Mills No.23 Rifle Grenades
50000 rounds S.A.A.

Dumps for Vickers Guns were established at U.28.c.3.4. with

350000 rounds S.A.A. in belts
10000 " " in bulk

and at C.3.d.3.4. with

13000 rounds S.A.A. in belts
28000 " " in bulk.

567

-(5)-

9. Each man in the attack carried 220 rounds of S.A.A. 2 grenades per man. Each Company Bomber carried 6 Mills No.5 Grenades and each Company had 72 No. 23 Rifle Grenades. In addition 500 Mills Grenades were carried with each attacking party.

10. The enemy trenches are very well dug with bays about 12 yards with traverses of about the same width. 3 to 9 feet wide at the top, 3 ft. 6 in. at the bottom. Those in the 1st objective were duckboarded but those in the 2nd were not. The dugouts are large and about 30 ft. deep with two exits, the entrances are in the corners of the traverses looking laterally along the trench and would be exposed to enemy Trench Mortar and Bombing attacks in the event of our occupying them.

11. My Brigade was relieved on the night of 11/12th. instant by the 13th. Aus. Infantry Brigade, relief being completed at 11.30 p.m.

12. Appendices of copies of orders and Maps etc., in connection with the operations are attached hereto.

13. I am forwarding under separate cover a list of those Officers and Others whom I wish to bring especially to the notice of the Divisional Commander, whom I consider worthy of Immediate Reward for their gallantry and devotion to duty.

J. Robertson

Brigadier-General.
Commanding 12th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

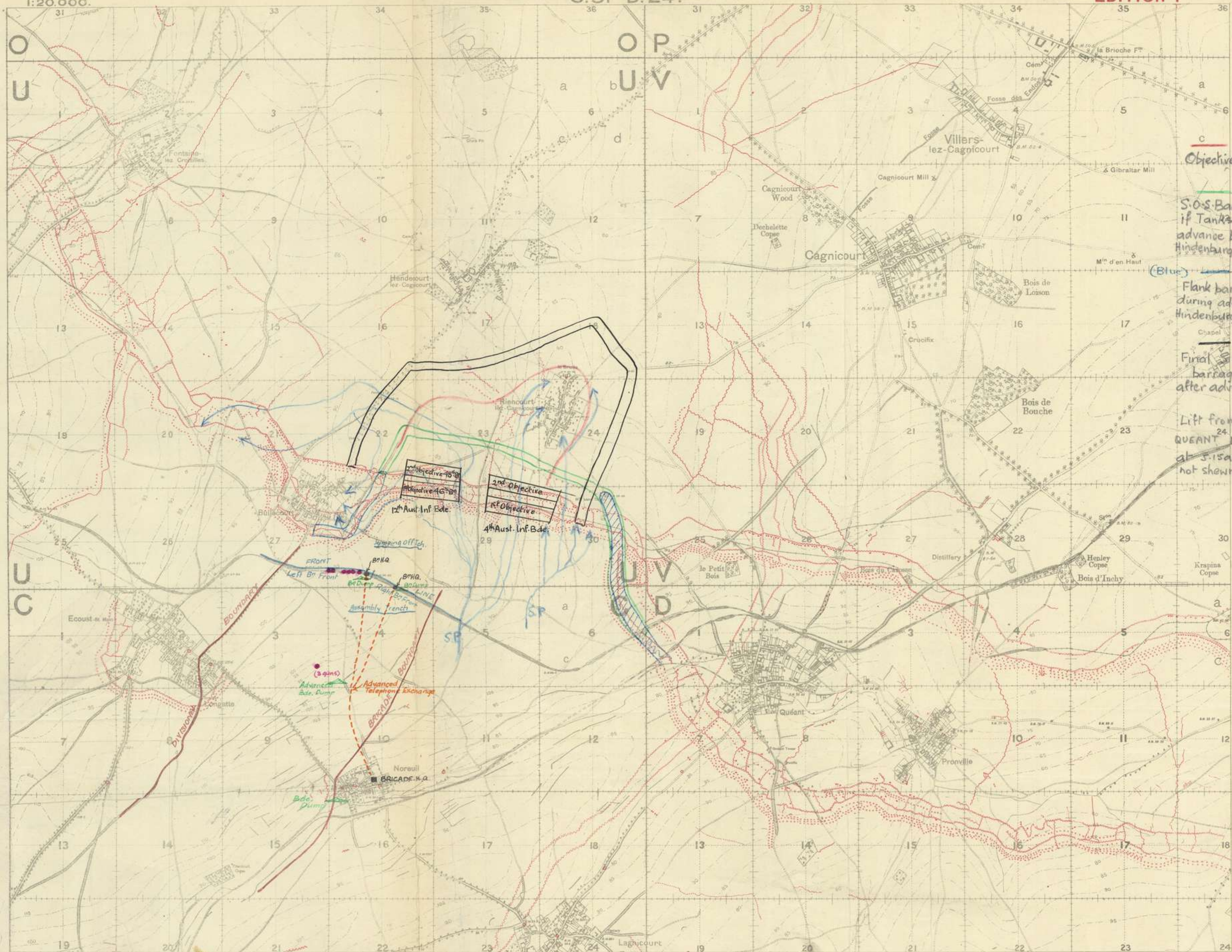
0.3

1:20,000.

O.31-D.24.

EDITION I

41



Objective

S.O.S. Barrage if Tanks fail to advance beyond Hindenburg Line

(Blue) Flank barrage during advance to Hindenburg Line

Final S.O.S. barrage after advance

Lift from QUEANT LINE at 3.15am not shown.

1st Objective

2nd Objective

3rd Objective

4th Aust. Inf. Bde

12th Aust. Inf. Ede.

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 4-4-17.

Machine Gun Positions

SCALE 1:20,000.

APPENDIX VII Appendix No. 7



RECEIVED UP TO 4-17
TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION

567

SECRET.

Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 139.

16th April 1917.

Reference Map 1:40000.

The 12th. Aus. Infantry Brigade will move to the BRESLE Area tomorrow 17th instant, in accordance with Table overleaf.

2. 1 Section 13th Field Ambulance will move with the Brigade.

3. On arrival the Brigade will be disposed as follows :-

- 12th. Brigade Hqs
 - 45th. Battalion
 - 46th. Battalion
 - 12th. M. G. Company
 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Battery
- } BRESLE
- 47th. Battalion
 - 48th. Battalion
 - Sec. 13th. Fld. Ambulance)
- } HENENCOURT WOOD
BRESLE

4. During the March the following intervals will be maintained :-

- 200 Yards between Battalions.
- 100 " " Companies.
- 100 " " Transport of Units.

5. The 6 Anti-Aircraft Machine Guns furnished by the 12th. Aus. M. G. Company in ALBERT, VIVIER MILL and MEAULTE will be relieved at 10-0 a.m. tomorrow 17th instant by the 13th. Aus. M. G. Coy. Arrangements will be made between M.G. Coy. Commanders direct.

6. Brigade Headquarters will close at 10-0 a.m. and re-open at BRESLE on arrival there.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

M. Allen
Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 - Office
- 2 & 3 - War Diary
 - 4 - 45th. Battn.
 - 5 - 46th. "
 - 6 - 47th. "
 - 7 - 48th. "
 - 8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
 - 9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
 - 10 - Staff Captain
 - 11 - Brigade Sig. Officer
 - 12 - 13th. Aus. Inf. Bde.
 - 13 - 13th. Field Ambulance
 - 14 - 4th Aust. Div.

TIME TABLE.

UNIT	Starting Point	Time	ROUTE	DESTINATION	REMARKS
12th. Ede. Hqrs.	Cross Roads S.W. of CRUCIFEX CAMP.	10 a.m.	ALBERT-MILLEN COURT	BRESLE	Halt at BRICKFIELDS for Dinner.
45th. Battalion.	"	10 a.m.	"	BRESLE	
46th. Battalion.	"	10-15 a.m.	"	BRESLE	
47th. Battalion	"	10-30 a.m.	"	HENENCOURT WOOD	
48th. Battalion	"	10-45 a.m.	"	HENENCOURT WOOD	
12th. M. G. Coy.	"	11-0 a.m.	"	BRESLE	
12th. A.L.T.M.By.	"	11-5 a.m.	"	BRESLE	
Section 13th. Field Ambulance					

Appoc. IX
Appendix No. 9
Copy No.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

OPERATION MEMO No. 99.

16th April 1917.

TRAINING.

1. Training will begin at once and the principles laid down in SMS.135 (Instructions for the training of Divisions for Offensive Action) and S.S.143 (Instructions for the training of Platoons for Offensive action). Cases where neglect to observe the principles therein laid down has led to failure will be used to exemplify these principles.
2. Special attention will be paid to the training of Specialists, Machine Gunners, Lewis Gunners and Bombers, also to Discipline, Drill, Guards and Sentries.
3. A Special Divisional Signalling School will open at SHELTER WOOD CAMP on 17th instant. 50 Candidates will attend from this Brigade as follows - 25 will join the advanced class (capable of reading 5 words a minute. 25 will join the beginners class (men who have not had a certain amount of training as Signallers must not be sent to the beginners class). Further details regarding this will be issued.
4. An Instructor of the Army Gymnastic Staff is attached to the Brigade to assist in Bayonet Fighting and Physical Training.
5. The Brigade will move to BRESLE tomorrow and will be there for about a week and all training must be pushed on with as much as possible.
6. Miniature ranges are available at BRESLE and advantage will be taken to at once train Lewis Gunners and carry out Musketry.
7. Training programmes will be submitted at once for the week ending 21st instant and a further programme for the following week will be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. Salier
Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No. 1 - Office
2 & 3 - War Diary
4 - 45th. Battn.
5 - 46th. "
6 - 47th. "
7 - 48th. "
8 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
9 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Btty.
10 - G.O.C.
11 - Staff Captain
12 - Bde. Sig. Officer

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
17th April 1917.

- 45th. Battalion.
 - 46th. Battalion.
 - 47th. Battalion.
 - 48th. Battalion.
-

Commencing on 19th instant each Battalion will detail daily 1 Officer per Battalion and 1 N.C.O. per Company for instruction in Bayonet Fighting and Physical Training, under Staff Sergt-Major PEACH.

The hours of parade will be -

9-0 a.m. - 12 noon.

2-0 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A fresh class will commence each morning at 9 a.m. The Class will assemble at Brigade Headquarters at

8-45 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

M. M. M.

Captain.
Brigade Major.
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copies to War Diary
File
S/S.M. Peach

12th
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE.
9/1/33
17-4-17

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Secret

Appx XV

Headquarters,
12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade,
19th April 1917.

4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

The attached reports of the O.C.'s. 46th. and 48th. Battalions deal with the action of the Tanks detailed to assist in the attack on the Left Sector. Both these Officers had their Headquarters in the Railway embankment immediately in front of our objectives and were in a position to see what actually took place.

The failure of the Tanks to carry out the programme set down completely upset the attack. The attacking forces ^{were} reduced 50% before reaching their objectives and when the objectives were reached it was impossible to assist the garrisons with artillery barrage because it was thought that the Tanks were carrying out the programme on the Left Flank.

The space between the two Brigades which was to have been dealt with by Tanks was untouched and the result was that we were counter attacked from both Flanks and the enemy dominated the approach to the two objectives from BULLECOURT and the untouched trench East of BULLECOURT.

I consider that the tactics of the Tanks in opening fire so early in the operation and the reason of the diversion from the programme laid down requires an enquiry.

The heavy casualties occasioned in my Brigade and finally our inability to hold the positions taken were to a great extent due to the failure of the Tanks. This failure has occasioned a loss of confidence in the Tanks by all ranks.

Robertson

Brigadier-General.
Commanding 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade

4TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE	
No.	<i>42/13</i>
Date	<i>19.4.17</i>

12th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Re Operation of April 11th 1917.

Paras 4 and 5 of the preliminary report of the Officer Commanding D Battery, Heavy Branch, Machine Gun Corps, is in my opinion absolutely misleading.

From these two paragraphs one would infer that the Tanks had carried out their allotted task. As far as I can ascertain no Tank on the 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. front arrived on the front line breaking lanes in the wire and allowing the Infantry to pass through. I believe one Tank did reach the wire somewhere on our extreme right but was at once disabled and rendered no assistance to the Infantry. I understand one Tank did go into BULLECOURT, proceeding there direct and not in the manner described, namely, having crossed the 2nd objective it was then to proceed along the trenches, skirting the Eastern side of BULLECOURT and thence from the S.E. corner to proceed in the same manner towards the S.W. corner of BULLECOURT. This Tank failed absolutely to carry out any such manoeuvre.

In my opinion the Tanks - probably through no fault of their Officers - failed absolutely to render any assistance whatsoever to the Infantry of the 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade, in fact their effect was exactly the opposite as they drew very heavy enfilade and frontal machine gun fire on the advancing troops who would probably otherwise have surprised the enemy in the objectives.

(Signed) H.K. DENHAM, Lt.Col.

C.O. 46th. Battalion A.I.F.

19/4/1917.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

From Commanding Officer
48th Battalion.

To Headquarters
12th Aus. Inf. Brigade.

Report on Operations of TANKS April 11th. 1917.

The Tanks on the left sector were not in position at 4 a.m. in fact at that time I saw several behind Railway embankment.

All the Tanks did not advance on our front, only two reached Sunken Road near "Jumping Off" Trench. These went forward to about U.28.d.8.1. U.28.d.8.1. and opened machine gun fire and six pounder fire on the Boche Trenches. They did not arrive at this point until after 5 a.m. and remained there for some time firing.

Our advance commenced at 5.16 not 4.45 a.m. as stated by C.O. Tanks, and the men were exposed to heavy Flank fire from 5 a.m. at which time barrage lifted off trenches East of BULLECOURT.

The Two Tanks mentioned only went forward about 100 yards and stopped again about U.29.c.2.5., at this point the Infantry left them and they were not seen again on our front by the attackers. They certainly did not reach the HINDENBURG LINE for the stakes were still standing and the wire strong. In fact my opinion is that they never tried to do so.

The statement that they captured the HINDENBURG LINE Front and Support Trench is not correct. They were never near it on the left Sector. The only Tank to go near his lines was the one that went into the South East corner of BULLECOURT but that was some hours after.

At about 6.30 a.m. I saw a Tank near my Headquarters on Railway Track, and told the Officer in charge of it to go to the North East Corner of BULLECOURT and assist my Battalion to clear up their left. We were being strongly counter attacked at this time. It was a male Tank and went forward firing its six pounders as it moved. I watched this Tank and after going about 300 yards it turned, and returned. When about 20 yards from my Headquarters the crew left it and rushed to the Embankment. I enquired from the N.C.O. why he had left it, and he said they had a direct hit, and I believe one man was slightly wounded by the door blowing in. He said it was going all right and could be driven away but declined to try and the crew left for the rear. The enemy put a heavy fire on to the Tank and about 7.30 a.m. it caught on fire. I believe this Tank could have been salvaged had the crew possessed the necessary pluck. They were absolutely panic stricken when they reached my Headquarters.

What was achieved by this Battalion was in no way due to the assistance given by the Tanks. In fact they were a hindrance not a help. The men would have gone forward at once under cover of darkness, instead of having to wait in the open from 4 a.m. until 5.16 a.m. by which time it was daylight, for Tanks that never advanced. Had we been able to get forward half the casualties would have been saved.

Why the Tanks stopped and opened fire from the "Jumping Off" Trench perhaps is best known to the O.C. Tanks. It was certainly bad tactics because it promptly brought a barrage right on the men waiting to advance.

I am of the opinion that the Tanks absolutely failed to carry out their part in the attack. I consider had they shown more dash and initiative things would have been better and perhaps we might have been still holding the line captured today.

In the Field.

19/4/1917.

(Sgd) RAYMOND L. LEANE, Lieut.-Col.
Commanding 48th. Battalion.

12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
20th April 1917.

 === ANZAC DAY 1917,===
 *===== ** ===== * =====*

A Sports Meeting will be held near HENENCOURT WOOD on ANZAC DAY, April 25th. 1917 which will be observed as a Brigade Holiday.

All Battalions, 12th. M. G. Company and 12th. A.L.T.M. Battery will take part.

All entries free.

£100 Prize Money will be donated by the 12th. Australian Infantry Brigade.

The following will constitute the Committee:-

Captain DIBBS	45th. Battalion.
Lieut. BREARLEY	46th. Battalion.
Lieut. SCOTT	47th. Battalion.
Lieut. GARLAND	48th. Battalion.
Lieut. FOX	12th. M. G. Company.
Lieut. CHERRY	12th. A.L.T.M. Battery.

Battalion Representatives will form Committees and will arrange for all entries to be in the Secretary's hands by 12 Noon on 23rd. April 1917.

Battalion Cookers will prepare lunch on the Sports Ground for Units from 12 Noon to 1 P.M.

Judge of DRILL Lt. Col. LEANE and Capt. JOHNSTONE.
 Judge of BOMBING Brigade Bombing Officer.

Judges - Major PERRY, Major EDGLEY and Captain BREARLEY.
 Clerk of Course - Lieut. KIRMAN.
 Treasurer - Major IMLAY.
 Secretary - Lieut. G.N.H. GOODE.

 ===== E V E N T S. =====
 =====

No.	EVENT	PRIZES		
		1st. Frcs.	2nd. Frcs.	3rd. Frcs.
1.	100 Metres Flat Race. Brigade Championship. 2 Entries per Unit	50	20	10
2.	100 Metres Officers Flat Race. Prize Value £1-1-0.			
3.	440 Metres Race. 2 Entries per Unit.	50	20	10
4.	Obstacle Race (Open Entry)	30	20	
5.	SIAMESE RACE (Open Entry)	40	20	
6.	RELAY RACE of 8 per Unit. 1 Team per Battalion.	240	80	
7.	HOP, STEP and JUMP (2 per Unit).	20	10	

--(2)--

No.	EVENTS	PRIZES.		
		1st. Frcs.	2nd. Frcs.	3rd. Frcs.
8.	SQUAD DRILL - 1 Sgt. 2 Cpls. 19 10 RANKS Dress - Full Marching Order. Hats. Pack Equipment minus accessories. Ammunition as pertains to Unit. COMFORTS FUND OUP for winning squad	220	110	
9.	TUG OF WAR. 1 Team of 10 per Battalion. 1st. Prize - 1 case of beer value	110	50	
10.	CLEANEST OF COOKER ON GROUND. (Cleanliness of Cooks to be taken into account)	60	40	20
11.	OFFICERS HACK RACE	30		
12.	OPEN HACK RACE (Entries Unlimited).	20	10	5
13.	MULE RACE	20	10	5
14.	WRESTLING ON HORSE OR MULE BACK.	20	10	
15.	SIGNALLERS RACE with Despatches on bicycles along Road (2 entries per Battalion).	30	20	
16.	BATTALION RUNNERS RACE (2 per Unit)	30	20	
17.	STRETCHER BEARERS COMPETITION. Judged by M.O. 1 Team of 3 from each Unit. - Run out to Patient 75 yds. bandage and carry back.	75	30	
18.	FOOTBALL KICKING (2 entries per Unit).	20	10	5
19.	GRENADE THROWING. (2 entries per Battn.).	20	10	5
20.	LEWIS GUN COMPETITION. Assembling Lewis Gun. (2 entries per Battn.).	20	10	5
21.	VICKERS GUN ACTION TEST.	50	25	
22.	12th. A.L.T.M. BATTERY. - Johnstone Assembly and Range Patented Test.	75		
23.	INDIVIDUEL ASSAULT PRACTICE. (4 per Unit).	100	40	20
24.	BEST TURNED OUT BAND. Turnout, Drill and Marching. Prizo 1 Case Boer Value	100		
25.	GREASY PIG. The Pigs The PRIZE.			
26.	FANCY EVENTS. Most realistic WOMAN (To be examined by Judge).	30	10	
27.	BEST JLOWN ON GROUND	30	10	
28.	BEST CARICATURE OF ANY WELL KNOWN CHARACTER or BAIRNSFATHER SKETCH.	30	20	10
29.	BANDSMAN'S RACE (Must play Band Instrument)	20	10	5
30.	PILLOW FIGHT (Entries Unlimited).	20	10	5

PRIZES in Individual Events will be either Medals or Money value
as Winner wishes.

G.N.M. GOODE, Lt.
Secretary.

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12th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

*** A N Z A C * D A Y * 1917.***
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PROGRAMME OF SPORTS - 25th. April 1917.

No.	EVENT	TIME
20	LEWIS GUN	
19	GRENADE THROWING	10-0 a.m.
7	HOP, STEP AND JUMP	
5	SIAMESE RACE	10-15 a.m.
31	OFFICERS' TUG OF WAR	
10	COOKERS	10-30 a.m.
21	VICKERS GUN	
22	12th. A. L. T. BATTERY	10-35 a.m.
18	FOOTBALL KICKING	10-45 a.m.
9	TUG OF WAR	
15	SIGNALLERS RAJE	11-0 a.m.
30	PILLOW FIGHT	
3	440 Metres Race	11-30 a.m.
32	RIFLE GRENADE FIRING	
2	OFFICERS 100 METRES RACE	11-40 a.m.
23	Individual Assault Practice	

L U N C H		12-0 noon to 1-0 p.m.

8	SQUAD DRILL	
26	BEST WOMAN, BEST CLOWN and BEST SKETCH	1-0 p.m.
27		
28		
17		
24	BEST TURNED OUT BAND	2-0 p.m.
6	RELAY RACE	
1	100 METRES RACE	3-0 p.m.
14	WRESTLING ON HORSEBACK	
16	BATTALION RUNNERS RACE	3-15 p.m.
20	BANDSMAN'S RACE	3-30 p.m.
4	OBSTACLE RACE	
25	GREASY PIG	4-0 p.m.
11	OFFICERS HACK RACE	4-15 p.m.
13	MULE RACE	4-30 p.m.
12	OPEN HACK RACE	4-40 p.m.

G.N.M. GOODE, Lieut.
 SECRETARY. 12th. AJS. BDE. SPORTS.

12th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Headquarters,
27th April 1917.

- 45th. Battalion.
 - 46th. "
 - 47th. "
 - 48th. "
 - 12th. M. G. Coy.
 - 12th. A.L.T.M. Battery.
-

The Army Commander will inspect part of the Brigade tomorrow as follows -

- 10-0 a.m. One Company 45th Battalion at Drill on the High Ground W. of BRESLE.
- 11-0 a.m. 47th Battalion in a tactical scheme as attached.

Battalion and Company Commanders other than those concerned will attend to witness the Tactical Scheme.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. Hall
 Captain.
 Brigade Major.
 12th. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

12TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.	
No.	413/2
Date	27.4.17

TACTICAL SCHEME 28th April 1917.

GENERAL IDEA.

The situation at 9 A.M. on the 28th April was as shown on the attached sketch.

At 10 A.M. the British attacked and captured the whole of the German Trench System.

At Zero plus 1 hour the 4th Australian Division, which was in reserve, commenced its advance from the original British Line, through the captured German Line, its final objective being the Line LAVIEVILLE - CIM^{re} (D.2.d.) - Windmill (D.1.a.).

SPECIAL IDEA.

The final objective mentioned in the General Idea has been allotted to the 13th and 12th Aus. Infantry Brigades of the 4th Australian Division. The dividing line between the two Brigades is Road junction D.15.a.O.2. - S.E. corner Wood in D.8 - CIM^{re} D.2.d. (inclusive to 12th Brigade) - Company, 47th Battalion, is on the right of the 12th Aus. Infantry Brigade, and its final objective is the CIM^{re}.

First Situation

Company advances from original British Line preceded by Scouts. When the Scouts advance over the ridge in D.8.d. and 14.b. they are fired at by hostile machine guns from the Wood in D.8. and from the open in D.9.a.

The Company Commander receives this information whilst his Company is still West of the ridge in D.14.b.

First Problem

The Company Commander to issue orders for the advance of his Company for the capture of the SE corner of the Wood - and to make arrangements for the co-operation of the troops now holding the German trenches in D.8.d.

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Second Situation

The attack on the Wood is successful and the Company is reorganised in the Valley in D.S.d.

Second Problem

Company Commander to issue orders for the further advance to
CIM^{re}.

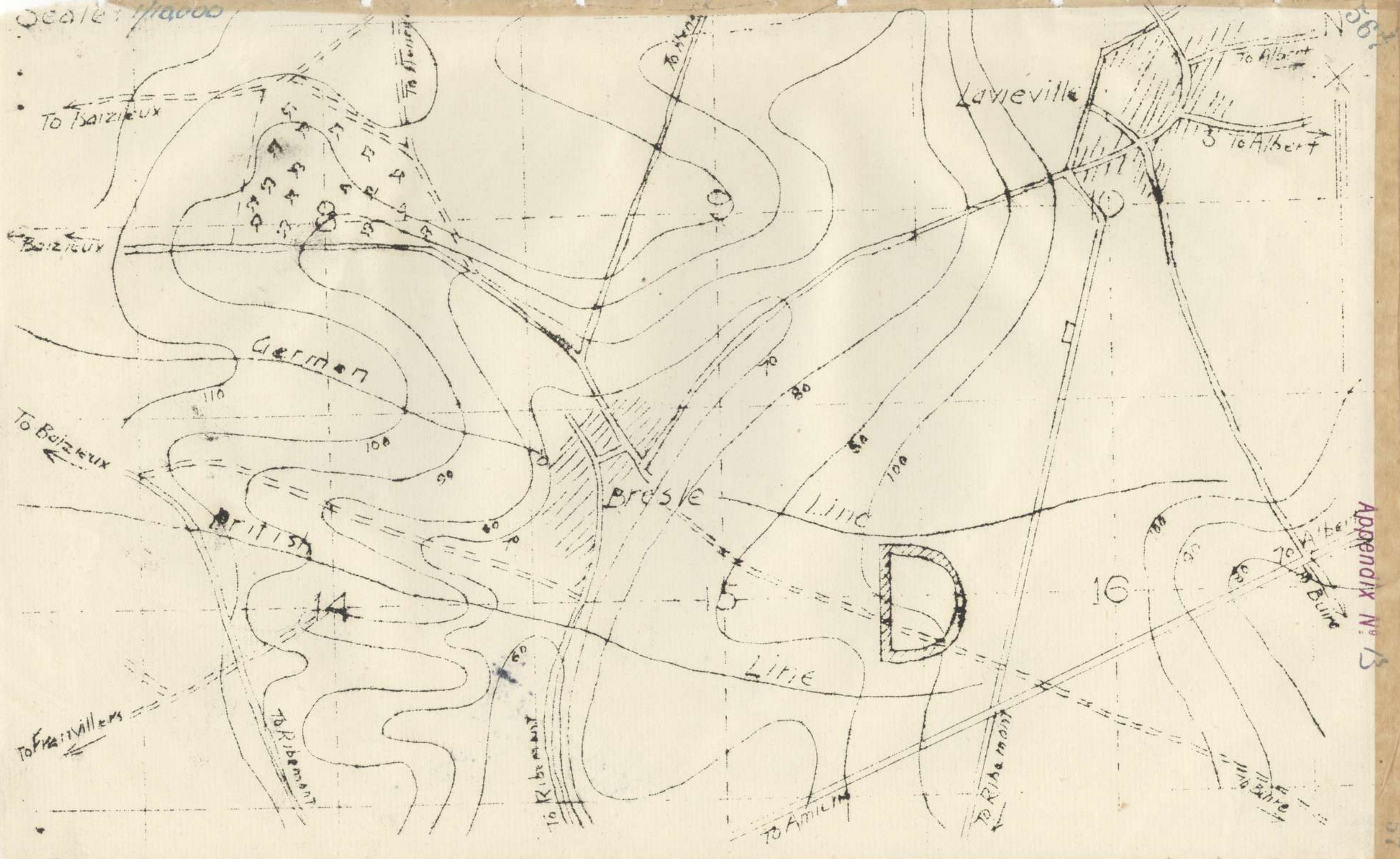
Third Situation

Whilst the Company is advancing across the open between the Wood and the CIM^{re} a signal message is received from the ridge in D.14.d. that the enemy can be seen moving S.W. from HENENCOURT, about two Companies strong.

Third Problem

Company Commander to take necessary steps to meet a hostile Counter-attack from the direction of HENENCOURT.

Scale: 1/10000



Appendix No 13