

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/35/39

Title: 18th Infantry Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-23/35/39

18,000-12 1 -8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF
18th Battalion

FOR

October 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

R. H. Willis Li.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Geo. F. Murphy
Li. Col.



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

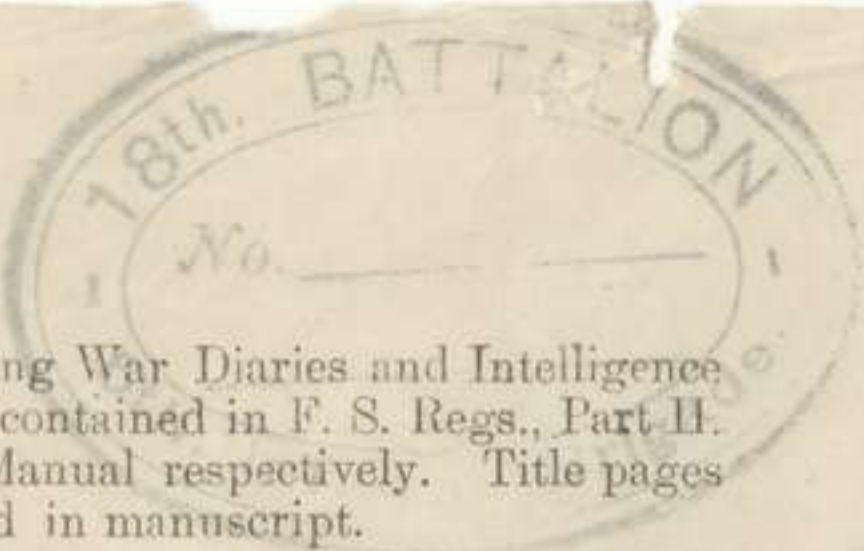
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-FAUCON.	1/10/18.		Sheet 62 C. 1/40000	
		0530	Battalion Order issued for Battalion to move forward to HARGICOURT to-day at 0830. Lieut. C.M. FAIRCLOUGH instructed to move ahead with advance party at 0700.	1/0/18
			Kitchens will be ready and Transport loaded and ready to move at 0800 - Order of march is H.Q. "A" "B" "C" Coys. and Transport - 100 yards between Companies.	
		0840	Battalion on the move - Head of column passing Headquarters.	
		0915	Battalion clear of camp.	
		1215	Guides picked up Battalion at cross roads at entrance to HARGICOURT - L.4.c. (62 C)	
VILLERET.		1330	Battalion will be bivouaced at the village of VILLERET. Arrived at VILLERET - L.12.c., no accommodation, the village being absolutely destroyed. Coys. instructed to make themselves as comfortable as possible and be prepared to move again at short notice. Midday meal to be served at 1400.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Lieut. R.E. DRYDEN, D.C.M. reported back from 4th Army Infantry School. Battalion resting throughout the afternoon.	
		1800	Orders received from Brigade instructing Battalion to move forward and take over portion of the 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade line.	
		1810	A/C.O.'s Conference with Company Commanders - Battalion to get ready to move at once. A/C.O. moved forward to 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Q. and will arrange for guides to pick Battalion up at the Canal Embankment RIQUEVAL.	
		1845	Battalion on the move across country for RIQUEVAL. Transport, with bombs, extra S.A.A. and Lewis guns moving independently.	
RIQUEVAL.		2140	H.Q., "A" & "B" Coys. reported O.K. and resting under canal bank in G.16.a. (Sheet 62 B. N.W) Owing to other Battalions moving forward and artillery moving into position the journey forward was very much delayed. Word has been received that the Battalion Transport is held up along the road owing to the bad state of the road and the congestion of the traffic. Runners sent to locate "C" Company and guide them to position here.	
		2230	"C" Company arrived and waiting with the rest of the Battalion. - No sign of arrival of Transport; Guides from 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade have reported to the Adjutant. Word has been sent back to Capt. S. BEDDIE, MC. who is moving with the Transport, to endeavour to get the limbers with the Lewis guns, bombs, S.A.A. etc. forward.	
		2320	Portion of transport arrived enabling the distribution of ammunition bombs and Lewis guns to Companies.	
		2345	Battalion now ready to move.	

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



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C, 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIQUEVAL.	1/10/18	2400	Battalion all clear and moving forward to new positions. Owing to trench systems, wire, and the darkness the going was very bad.	
	2/10/18	0410	Relief reported complete and Battalion disposed as follows :- "A" & "C" Coys. in sunken road between villages of JONCOURT & ESTREES, H.2.d., & H.9.a. (62 B) "B" Company in support in H.7.c. & d. Battalion Headquarters in dugouts and trenches at G.24.a. 80.80. Q.M. Store and Transport lines in RIQUEVAL G.16.a. R.A.P. established at G.18.c. 20.00. Telephone communication established with Brigade by 0700.	
		0800	Instructions sent down to Q.M. to send up two kitchens at once. - position at Sunken road behind ETRICOURT, G.18.d.	
ETRICOURT-JONCOURT.		1100	Pioneers instructed to dig a position for the kitchens. A/C.O. & I.O. gone forward to JONCOURT. Considerable artillery activity on our right, in front of MAGNY-la-FOSSE. An English Division was to attack at 0830 and has apparently met with considerable success as Field Guns are moving well forward now, and our Cavalry is going forward.	
		1500	C.O. gone to Brigade Headquarters.	
		1530	Sig. Officer and Asst. Adjutant have gone forward to establish new H.Q. for Bn. in vicinity of JONCOURT.	
		1800	New Bn. H.Q. established in JONCOURT Station, in a dugout. H.8.d. - Enemy shelling JONCOURT and the surrounding area heavily throughout the afternoon - H.E. and Gas shells in valley H.14. entrance to new Bn. H.Q. blown in.	
		1840	Adjutant and remainder of Headquarters Company arrived at new Bn. H.Q. - Had a very rough trip up owing to heavy enemy shelling but no casualties.	
		2000	Verbal instructions received through A/C.O. from Brigade H.Q. re an attack on the BEAUREVOIR-FONSOMME SYSTEM. Company Commanders sent for for conference with C.O.	
		2300	Brigade Order re the attack xxxx explained to Coy. Commanders and Bn. Order 1/10 issued.	1a/0/18
		2330	Lieut. SEABORN of 19th Bn. reported for liaison duties between 19th Bn. and ourselves. 2/Lt. FOOTE took out a patrol to examine the enemy system at 2100 - left our line at H.8.b. 95 95.	



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form G, 2118.

83

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JONCOURT.	3/10/18.	0110	Brigade Order No.220 received confirming verbal instructions. Attack will be at 0500 this morning. Tanks will co-operate with infantry.	
		0200	Patrol report from 2/Lt.FOOTE received.	
		0500	Bn.in position on the jumping-off tape, "A" Coy. right, "B" Coy. centre and "C" Coy. left. Bn. strength for attack 13 off. 249 O.R. Barrage opened up splendidly and will rest on opening line for 6 minutes.	2/0/18
		0545	Lieut. C.E. ETHERIDGE (Sig. Officer) instructed to move forward and establish relay post and visual station.	
		0600	Large numbers of prisoners are coming over and a few of our own wounded men have arrived. Reports from these state that the attack is going well but the tanks were evidently not in position by ZERO.	
		0610	I.O. gone forward.	
		0630	Verbal reports from our wounded - on the left of our sector the attack is held up by machine gun fire and wire - people on our left do not appear to have reached their objective. Lieut. A.W. IRVINE, MC (O.C. "B" Coy) wounded - Lieut. H.J. FLOCKART (O.C. "C" Coy) wounded. Prisoners - The regiments so far identified include 4 infantry regiments, 1 pioneer & artillery. Our wounded are coming in pretty fast now - a large number of stretcher cases. Prisoners are being utilised as bearers. Reports from wounded go to show that the enemy is fighting hard and the M.G. fire is terrific from certain strong points - artillery retaliation practically nil. No word of the action of the tanks.	
		0715	Message from Lieut. J. MAXWELL, MC, DCM. timed 0645 - now commanding "B" Coy - reads "Am held up by very heavy M.G. fire from strong point at H.3.a.80.80. cannot get through the wire".	
		0720	Tank officer reported to the C.O. that he had had to come back owing to both tanks being disabled - one is now ready again. C.O. instructed him to move forward and endeavour to clear up the position on our left flank.	
		0750	Message from O.C. "A" Coy. (our right Coy) timed 0715 reads "Both objectives taken, am now occupying trench from H.4.a.9.3. to approx. H.4.a.3.2. Have sent large numbers of prisoners back, no idea yet of own casualties, people on right appear to be going forward O.K."	
		0800	Lt. J.R. NIELD, 2/Lts. G.H. MUSGRAVE & G.L. SCOTT arrived at R.A.P. wounded. Lt. Scott seriously. Prisoners sent to the cage in the first batch totalled 2 Off. 115 O.R. also a large number of wounded prisoners arriving.	



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

83

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAUREVOIR FONSOMME SYSTEM.	3/10/18			
		0820	Message D.1. timed 0800 from Lieut. R.E. DRYDEN DCM. now O.C. "C" Coy. (left Coy) reads "Am established first objective - Bn. on left being held up. Tanks wanted - 17th. have moved through and meeting with opposition - Sent prisoners back but escort now reports that these were recaptured by Hun. My left flank is on danger owing to mopping up not being completed". Foregoing messages all repeated through to Brigade H.Q. on receipt.	
		0840	Message from Sig. Officer Relay post now established H.9.a.8.8. Impossible to pick up anything by visual. Machine gun fire very heavy Things appear to be going well forward"	
		0850	Message from I.O. reads "Tank has gone forward. M.G. fire appears to have died down. 19th Bn. position very obscure, 17th. going on well, many prisoners going down. Enemy now shelling ESTREES and our old front line position"	
		0915	Message D2 not timed from O.C. left Coy. reads "Huns attacking my left - position serious - have 19th Bn. been held up permanently - although 17th. are well out in front on centre and right, position may become serious. Large number of prisoners"	
		0920	Message sent to O.C. "A" Coy. to move and support 17th Bn.	
		0950	Message D3. from O.C. left Coy. "Our left flank did not get through wire. We need reinforcements. and L.G. Ammunition - the position improved slightly through Lt. MAXWELL bagging some more prisoners but the situation unless cleared up before dusk, on the left, will be serious as the enemy is in a position to send up unlimited reinforcements"	
		1015	Second batch of prisoners sent to the cage included Bn. Commander & his Adj. - total of 2 off. & 135 O.R.s. Interrogation of prisoners shows that in most cases the attack was expected.	
		1045	Lt. SEABORN (19th Bn. liaison) received message that left Coy. of 19th Bn. had cleared their objective but that their right Coy. was held up in B.27.c. Artillery has been directed on to strong points holding up attack.	
		1050	Message from O.C. "A" Coy. acknowledging instructions received, re moving to support 17th Bn. - stretchers badly wanted - large number of wounded and no stretchers.	
		1100	Message from O.C. "C" Coy. (left) "Am about B.27.d.00.80. and scattered about. Huns have countered and we are held up by M.G.'s - 19th. have failed on final objective and position is such that I cannot overlook them. Rifle grenades and cups needed. Stokes Mortar would be helpful. 17th. position will soon be untenable, their left flank is in the air. Am endeavouring to clear up M.G. nests"	



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

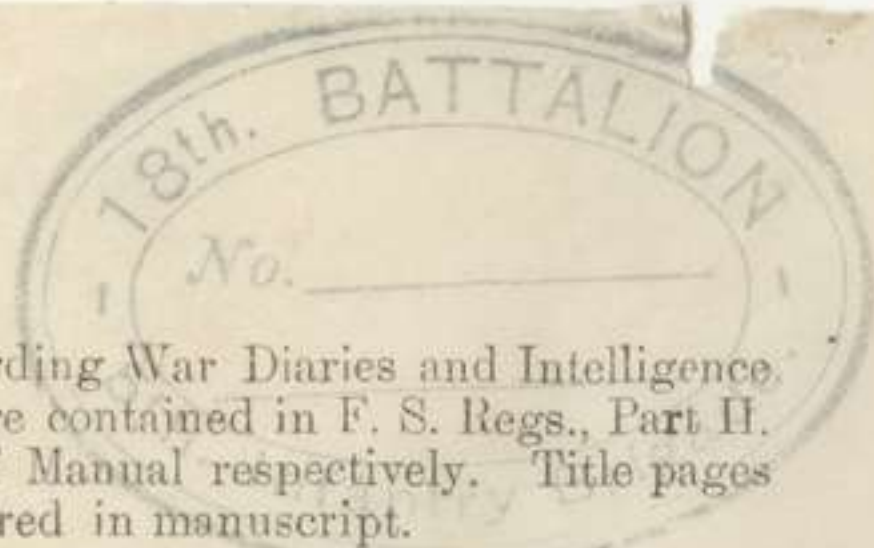
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAUREVOIR FONSOMME SYSTEM	3/10/181			
		1130	Message from O.C. "B" Coy. timed 1110 reads "17th. Bn. have gone through and forward - 19th. Bn on our left have failed. Boche came in on our right but we have now mopped up - On high ground B.27.a & c. - I am the only officer left in "B" Coy. and have with me about 20 rifles and 2 Lewis guns. Hun is holding stubbornly and appears to have plenty of men and M.G.'s."	
		1140	Party under the R.S.M. and Sgt. Kates have gone forward with bombs, and S.A.A. to "C" Coy.	
		1210	Message D.C. from left company "Am relying on 19th. Bn. to protect flanks. Have withdrawn Coy to O.C.2 and am going forward to reconnoitre WIANCOURT before moving Coy. Think "B" & "A" have moved forward"	
		1235	Message from H.Q. 19th. Bn. reads "BEAUREVOIR Line and support is now clear on whole 19th. Bn. front and right Coys. have gone forward"	
		1310	Message from O.C. "A" Coy. through Capt. McKenzie, 17th. Bn. "Company taken up position along sunken road in B.29.c. directly in rear of one company 19th. - Capt. McKenzie, 17th. is N.E. of me towards B.29.central, gap between approx. 250 yards. Another small Coy. of 17th. on point of contour 110. B.28.d. Left flank of 46th. English Division is on Railway B.30.c. with outposts in front of MONTBREHAIN. Have 38 men all told & 5 Lewis guns."	
		1400	Message from O.C. "E" Coy - "17th. Bn. are dug in about 400 yards in advance of WIANCOURT. Line approximately from B.28.a.0.0. - B.29.c.20.60. "B" Coy. is along sunken road H.4.b.00.80. to B.28.c.50.10. Have 20 men with me but believe some others are mixed with 17th. Bn. The hun is in good defensive position on ridge in front. Stretchers badly needed for wounded."	
		1430	O.C. "C" Coy. reports that after making a reconnaissance he attempted shortly after Noon to rush forward and get in touch with 20th. Bn. who were reported to be in B.21.a. & b. He was held up by heavy M.G. fire but was succeeded in establishing posts on left of Capt. Wright 17th. Bn. who with a few men was holding from B.27.b.2.3. to the road in a Northerly direction. Our artillery has been directed on trenches in B.22 & 23.	
		1600	Enemy aircraft has been consistently active throughout the afternoon over our lines - Enemy artillery has put down heavy barrages on his old front line and heavy scattered shelling round JONCOURT and ESTREES. A small percentage of gas shells being used in the valley behind JONCOURT.	
			The two kitchens kitchens from ETRICOURT have moved forward during the day and are now in position under Railway bank in H.8.d. Hot meal is being prepared and will be got forward when the position is less obscure.	



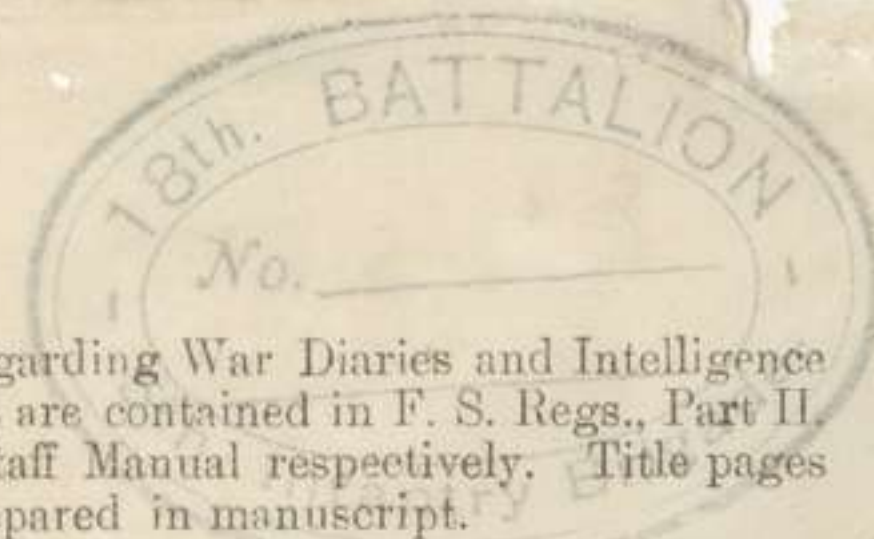
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

83

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAUREVOIR FONSOMME SYSTEM.	3/10/18.			
		1745	Message from O.C. "C" Coy. advises that the Company is establishing posts extending 275 yards left of the road approx. B.27.a.90.90. - Rations could reach this point - Water needed.	
		1810	Message from O.C. "A" Coy. reads - "17th.Bn. report a number of the enemy gathering on ridge and establishing M.G.posts. 17th.Bn. report having had a large number of gas casualties and at present only 16 men of the Bn. and 9 of M.G.Coys. in this position. I have 44 men all told. Lieut. TINDALE 17th.Bn. is on my left at some distance with about 30 men. Am in in touch with the English on the right."	
			Foregoing repeated to Brigade and 17th.Bn.	
		1845	Phone message from Brigade "The 6th. Brigade ^{BRIGADE} will continue the attack to-night, time to be notified later"	
			Telephone communication was established with our "A" Coy during the afternoon but the wires were being continually cut and it was difficult to maintain. From linesmen's reports it would appear that the wires are being deliberately cut.	
		2045	Hot meal and rations gone forward to Coys. a route having been previously reconnoitred by the I.O. and Observers - 2 Observers guiding the ration party.	
		2110	Instructions from Brigade for the Battalion to withdraw at once - 6th. Brigade reported to be going well. 18th. Battalion to move to reserve position in H.13.a. These instructions sent forward to the Coys. at once. O.C. "A" Coy, to communicate with 17th.Bn. Owing to heavy gas shelling behind us, the headquarters of 17th.Bn. have suffered heavy casualties.	
		2340	Runners reported back from Coys. "B" Coy. is now on way out. Asst. Adjutant went back to select bivouac position for Battalion to-night - Guides will pick Coys. up at Bn.H.Q.	
	4/10/18.			
		0030	O.C. "B" Coy. reported at H.Q. - Coy. now passing H.Q. to new bivouac. Strength 1 Off. 29 OR.	
		0110	Brigade advises ZERO hour for 6th. Brigade - 0600 this morning.	
		0320	O.C. "C" Coy. reported with one platoon of company - remainder following with Lt. G.F. FOOTE.	
		0330	"C" Company moving to H.13.a.	
		0600	"A" Coy. not yet reported - Adjutant 17th.Bn. advises by phone that none of 17th.Bn. have passed back yet. Barrage for 6th. Brigade attack opened.	
		0610	"A" Coy. passing Headquarters. Enemy retaliating with his artillery. While "A" Coy. was passing Headquarters a shell fell amongst them, killing one and wounding 6 O.R.	



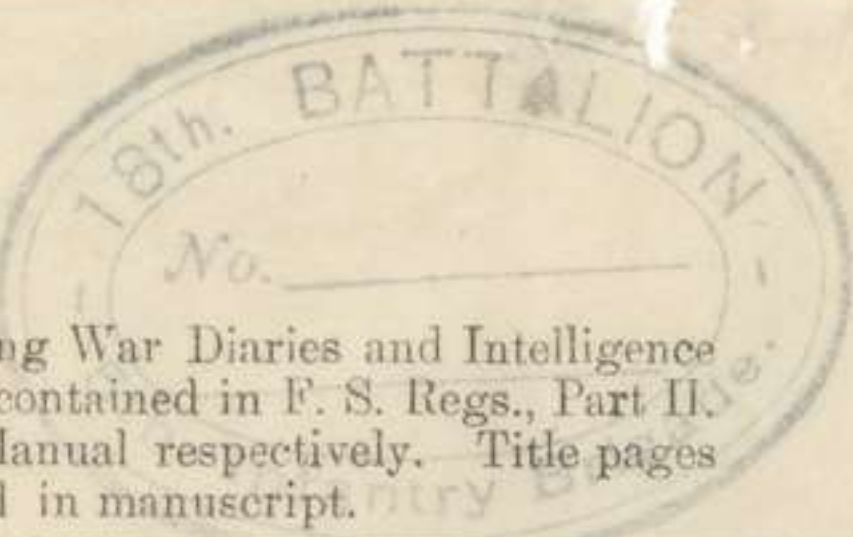
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAUREVOIR	4/10/18			
		0610	"B" & "C" Coys. reported O.K. and settled down at 0430. During the day of the 3rd. 5 Officers & 327 O.R's prisoners were passed through our own Headquarters by Bn.escorts - in addition, a large number of wounded prisoners, including 2 officers. Our approx. casualties were 11 O.R. killed and 5 officers & 87 O.R's wounded. 10 O.R's missing. In addition to prisoners three anti-tank rifles were sent down and a number of machine guns and minenwerfers have yet to be collected.	
		0830	Hot breakfast sent back by limbers to Coys. - Kitchens and Bn.H.Q. remaining as at present pending further instructions from Brigade. Casualties from 6th.Aust.Inf.Bde. and also from English regiments passing through our R.A.P. Prisoners are seen going back along the road behind JONCOURT. H.15.a. & 14.d.	
		0900	Coys. instructed to get as much rest as possible, reorganise and replenish S.A.A., bombs etc.	
		1000	Party from H.Q. sent out to bring in our dead - arrangements for burial in the vicinity of H.Q. being made with the Padre.	
			Salvage party to collect valuable trophies and other valuable salvage sent out under Sgt.KATES, D.C.M. and Sgt.OWEN.	
		1600	Phone message received from Brigade instructing the Bn. to be held in readiness to move forward again to-night. Very little information as to how the attack carried out by 22nd. & 23rd.Bns., 6th.Brigade, this morning has gone - a soldier belonging to the English Division on the right reported at these H.Q. with a civilian from MONTBREHAIN. He reported that the enemy was forming up for counter attack on the right of the village and that the English troops were withdrawn from the village.	
		1740	Instructions by phone from Brigade - 18th.Bn. is now under the tactical command of the G.O.C. 6th.Aust.Inf.Bde. The 6th.Bde. will be attacking at a time to be notified later and will take over the front line from approx. H.12.d.90.45. - B.30.a.central to-night.	
		1800	Battalion Order No.2/10 issued. ZERO hour 0605 - 18th.Bn. will be in position by Zero hour minus 45 minutes .	3/0/18
		2100	6th.Aust.Inf.Bde.Order No.184 received, confirming instructions received by phone from 5th.Aust.Inf.Bde. 18th.Bn. will be concentrated in trench system in H.10.b. and will be employed if necessary to maintain new line after attack in the event of hostile counters - Attack is to be carried out by 21st. & 24th.Bns. and 2nd.Pioneer Bn.	



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

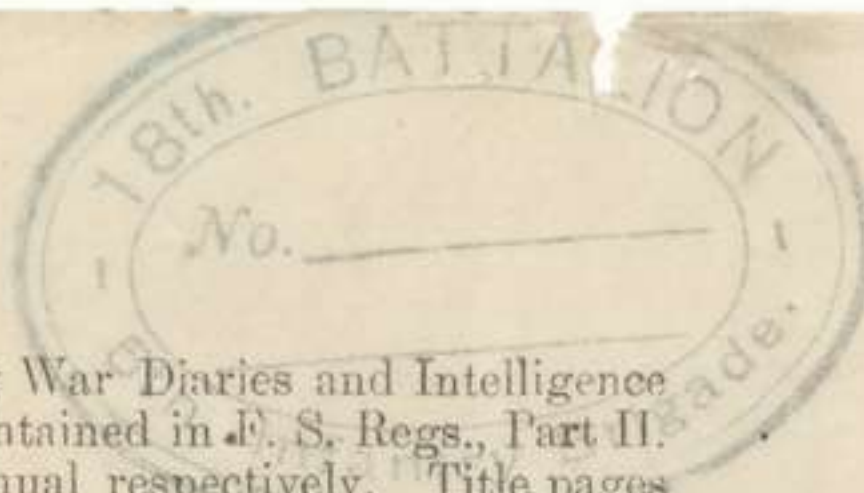
Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAUREVOIR FONSOMME SYSTEM.	4/10/18	2100	General objective is line H.18 a.5.9. - I.7.central - I.2.d.0.0. - I.2.a.5.2. - C.25.d.9.9. C.25.a.3.6. - B.30.a.9.9. Coys. have reorganised as far as possible to-day and taken advantage of the rest. Hot meal was issued at 1900 and the men will take all available rations with them forward to-night. Water bottles have been refilled.	
	5/10/18	0400	All Coys. reported as having passed Bn.H.Q. going forward to take up new position, as per instructions issued in Bn.Order No.2/10.	3/10/18
		0545	All Coys. reported in position in the BEAUREVOIR SYSTEM.	
		0605	Barrage opened - apparently no immediate artillery retaliation.	
		0800	Several wounded (6th.Bde. & Pioneers) passing through our R.A.P. - Cannot give any reliable particulars as to how the attack is progressing, having all been wounded in the initial stages of the attack. No prisoners have come through this way as yet but a large number have passed down along the road South of JONCOURT.	
		0900	Message over the phone from O.C."A" Coy. advises that the attack appears to have gone forward well to the North of the village in spite of strong opposition with M.G.nests. A large number of prisoners have been seen going back.	
		1010	6th.Bde. advise by phone that 2 Coys. of 18th.Bn. are to move forward to assist 21st.Bn. and will be under the command of C.O. 21st.Bn. One Coy. to report to 2nd.Pioneer Bn.H.Q. at H.10.b. for instructions, this Coy. to be under the command of C.O. 2nd.Pioneer Bn. Strong opposition has been met with South & East of the village, the position at present being very obscure. Enemy reported in large numbers in the vicinity of DOONE MILL, C.8.b. and establishing posts along the road in C.2.d. and C.8.b. He is also holding high ground in C.26.	
		1500	Message from O.C."C" Coy.18th.Bn. advises that he is under instructions from C.O. 2nd.Pioneer Bn. and has his company scattered with pioneers. Posts have been established along the road running south from the village in C.7.b. - position is very obscure and things on the right seem very disorganised. No casualties in his Coy. up to the present - our artillery is falling short.	
		1800	Message from O.C."B" Coy.18th.Bn. (under command of C.O.21st.Bn) "Have taken over posts at C.25.d.50.60. and C.25.d.80.60. from 21st.Bn. with one platoon - remainder of Coy. at H.6.c.50.20. Everything appears satisfactory now - no casualties."	

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

83



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAUREVOIR FONSOMME LINE.	5/10/18			
		1820	Warning Order 8/134 received from 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. - 2nd Aust. Div. (less artillery) to be relieved to-night by 30th American Division. 5th Bde. Group will route march to HERVILLY area on morning of 6th inst. The 18th Bn., still under command of G.O.C. 6th Bde. will move with 6th Bde. Group.	
		1900	6th Bde. advise by phone that 18th Bn. on relief of 6th Bde. will move to position with 23rd Bn. in H. 23.a. Asst. Adj. left to make necessary arrangements for Bn. billeting on relief, hot meal to be served on Bns. arrival in H. 14.a. Asst. Adj. instructed to proceed to 5th Bde. H.Q. on completion of arrangements for Bn. to-night. and proceed with advance party from Bde. to HERVILLY area at 0630 on 6th inst.	
		1930	Rations received and will be issued on completion of relief.	
		1940	6th Bde. Order 185 and Administrative Memo. 57 received, confirming telephone messages re relief to-night and move for to-night and to-morrow. 18th Bn. will move from this area with 6th Bde. Group.	
		2220	5th Bde. Order 221 received. Lieut. F. J. BROWN MC instructed to proceed to 5th Bde. H.Q. and proceed with Bde. advance party on morning of 6th inst. to make arrangements for billeting of Bn. in rest area VIGNACOURT	
		2310	Relief of 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. reported complete at 2140. Battalions moving down to bivouac area. 18th Bn. did not sustain any casualties during to-days operations.	
		2345	Orders issued verbally to Coy. Commanders re move to-morrow to HERVILLY AREA. Battalions will move at 0900 independently of 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. Transport minus two kitchens and limbers necessary for transportation of Lewis guns, bombs, and signalling gear etc. will move with 5th Brigade Group as per table issued with Bde. Order 221. - "A" & "B" Coy. kitchens, gun limbers etc. will move with Bn. - Bn. H.Q. will pass starting point at cross roads at H. 13.b. at 0900 followed by "A" "B" & "C" Coys. at 100 yards between Coys. Route - through ETRICOURT, NAUROY, Road through G.16.a.0.5. - G.16.b.2.5. - G.14.c.7.5. - G.13.b.2.8. thence via HESBECOURT & VILLERET.	
	6/10/18.	0900	Headquarters company passed starting point.	
		0920	Battalion all passed and en route to HERVILLY.	



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HERVILLY.	6/10/18			
		1010	Guides met Bn. at road junction E.16.b. (Sheet 62 C.1/40000)	
		1400	Bn. settled down. Bn. H.Q. along sunken road K.30.b. - "A" Coy. K.29.a - "B" & "C" Coys XX in K.29.b. - Trench shelters have been drawn from the Town Major and erected by advance party and Bn. Bandsmen and details who reported from the Div. Wing.	
		1600	Changes in officers: Lieut. S.M. CLARK returned from English leave. Lieut. E.W. SATCHELL returned from Aust. Corps School. Lieut. C.J. BROSSOIS returned from Aust. Corps H.Q.	
			Blankets and packs have arrived from the dump store.	
		1630	Hot meal served to troops.	
			Transport that moved with 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde. Group arrived in new area at 1200 - Transport lines at K.30.a.	
		1800	C.O. left for Divisional Commander's Conference.	
		2345	Bn. Order 2/10 issued, in accordance with verbal instructions received by C.O. from 5th. Bde. To be confirmed later by Brigade Order.	5/0/18
	7/10/18			
		0100	Brigade Order 922 with Administrative instructions received. 5th. Brigade Group will move to VIGNACOURT area (Map sheets LENS & AMIENS 1/100000) by train and route march to-day. Entraining station TINCOURT (Sheet 62 C.1) and detraining station ST. ROCH (AMIENS) Lieut. E.B.W. DANIEL instructed to report to Lieut. EDMONDSON (Bde. Entraining Officer) at entraining station at 0900. Lieut. SATCHELL instructed to act as Detraining officer for personnel train.	
		0500	Trench shelters collected and returned to Town Majors Dump.	
		0600	Troops breakfasted at 0600 and Bn. is now ready to move.	
		0735	Head of Column passing Bn. Starting point.	
		0805	Bn. passed Bde. starting point at K.16.d.6.3. (Sheet 62 C.1/40000)	
		0945	Bn. halted and resting at K.19.b. awaiting instructions to entrain.	
TINCOURT		1115	Entrained and en route to ST. ROCH.	
ST. ROCH.		1725	Arrived at ST. ROCH - journey uneventful.	
		1740	Bn. detrained. Will move by route march to billeting area at VIGNACOURT. Route via LONGPRE - VAUX-AMIENOIS, and VIGNACOURT.	
		2310	Guides pick up head of column at Aerodrome.	



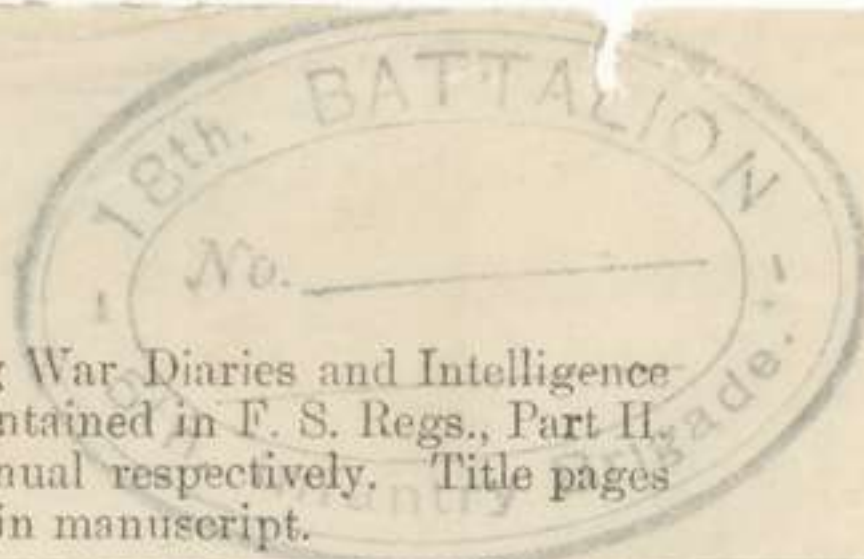
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT.	7/10/18	2345	Arrived at VIGNACOURT. Owing to the length of the march (21 kilos) and the troops carrying full packs, some were unable to keep up with the column but it is expected that all stragglers will be in by the morning. It was expected that the 2 cookers, watercart, mess cart etc. that came with the Omnibus train would have been here when the Bn. arrived but owing to the train breaking down at BERONNE it is not expected that it will arrive before midday 8th. inst. The question of a hot meal for to-night has had to be waived in consequence. The troops however were very tired and their main object was to turn-in. The Bn. is billeted in houses, barns etc. in SYDNEY & ADELAIDE Streets. On the whole, the billets are very comfortable. Transport, with the exception of 2 kitchens etc. on the Omnibus train, is moving from HERVILLY by three stages, resting to-night at CAPPY, on the 8th. at DAOURS, thence to billeting area on 9th.	
	8/10/18	2 000	The day was entirely devoted to settling in, reorganisation, billeting arrangements etc. Stragglers reported in during the morning and by mid-day no one was missing. The weather throughout the day was showery.	
	9/10/18	0900	Weather: Wet. No battalion parades will be arranged for a few days. Coys. engaged in reorganisation, completion of equipment, shortages etc. Arrangements are being made to secure sporting material and it is hoped to have a sports meeting in the near future.	
		1500	Transport arrived after an uneventful journey.	
		2000	Routine Order No. 66 issued. - The following routine will be observed until further notice :- Roll call - 0900 Duties change 1800 Sick parade 0910 Tattoo 2130 A congratulatory message from General RAWLINSON, Commanding 4th. Army was published in routine orders for the information of all :- "Please convey to General ROSENTHAL and all ranks of the 2nd. Australian Division my best thanks and sincerest congratulations in their fine performance to-day in capturing MONTBREHAIN. It has added one more to the long list of successes they have gained when they helped to save AMIENS, at VILLERS BRETONNEUX helped to break the German line on 8th. August, and later turned the SOMME defences by the capture of MONT ST QUENTIN.	



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

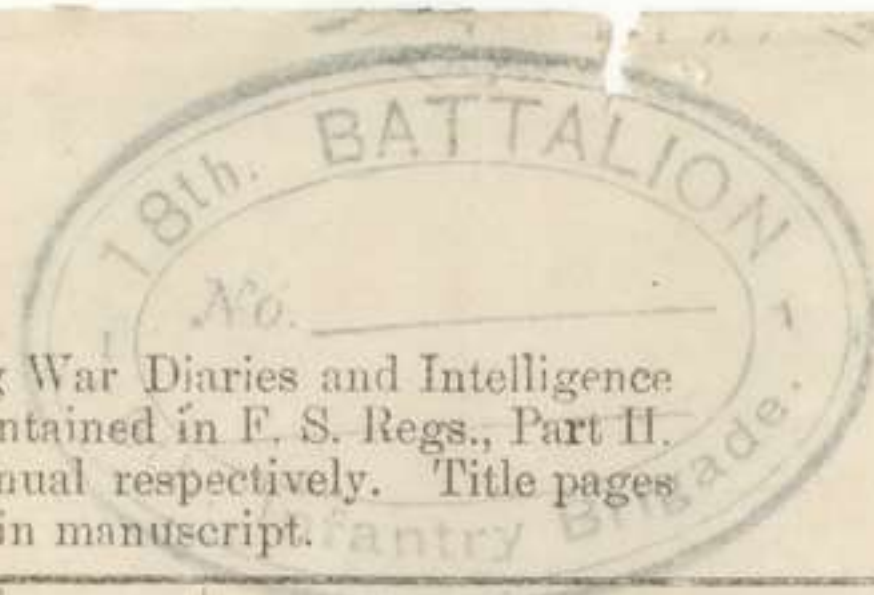
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

83

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT.	10/10/18	1800	The 19th Bn. is being split up and the personnel will be distributed among the other three Bns. of the Brigade. "B" Coy. 19th Bn. will become "D" Coy. 18th Bn. thus bringing this Bn. back to a four Coy. basis. Beyond the necessary arrangements for the marching in of 19th Bn. personnel to-morrow, the day has been uneventful.	
	11/10/18	0900	Weather dull but no rain. Roll call - Owing to the muddy condition of most of the yards of the billets Coys. have been instructed to take necessary steps to improve them.	
		1000	The a/C.O., R.M.O. and Adjutant made a general inspection of billets and area.	
		1200	"B" Coy. 19th Bn. marched in and xxxxxx is taken on strength.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Following officers marched in ex 19th Bn. :- Lieut. P. WOOD, Lieut. E. BELCHER M.C. Lieut. W.C.C. SATCHELL, 2/Lt. D.L.O. SULLIVAN, M.M. and Chaplain Rev. Father Clune M.C. Officers transferred from 19th Bn. and at present detached are :- Major S.A. MIDDLETON on leave in U.K. - Capt. G.L. SADLER on Regl. Seconded List - Capt. W.H. CULLEN at 4th Army Infantry School. - Capt. H.P. McMECKING on Regl. Seconded List. - Lieut. J.C. BROWNING on duty with Overseas Training Brigade, - Lieut. G.L. SEIL M.C. Evacuated wounded 3/10/18 - Lieut. P.D. JONES. M.C. DCM. at 4th Army S.O.S. School - Lieut. W.B.M. SUTTOR at Aust. Corps School - Lieut. W.P.C. ANDREW on Regl. Seconded List - Lieut. J. FISHER M.C. xxxxxx wounded 3/10/18 - Lieut. A.D. PERCE on Regl. Seconded List - Lieut. E.S. GORDON wounded 3/10/18 - 2/Lt. R.L. MACLEAN wounded 3/10/18 -	
		2000	Routine Order 67 issued - G.R.O's 5082 and 5128 and 2nd Aust. Div. R.O's 1848 & 1849 were republished for information :- The Corps Commander has awarded Bars to the Military Medal to the undermentioned of this Bn. :- 3814. Pte. COLLESS. W.G. "MM" 1330. Pte. SKELTON, J.B. "MM" 4241. Cpl. SHEARER, A.G. "MM" 3757. " BOWDEN, H. "MM" The following is an extract from Corps R.O's :- The Corps Commander wishes to express his appreciation of the gallant services rendered by the undermentioned during the recent operations :- 5301. Pte. BUTLER, P. 5699. Pte. STEVENSON, S.J. 1962. Sgt. MURRAY, C. 4803. " PASSLOW, D.F. 2062. Pte. JAMES, D.J. 2685. " JOHNSON, R.S.	



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

87

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	12/10/18	0900	Weather dull. Impromptu football matches between the Coys. were played during the afternoon. Hockey match was played between officers of 18th.Bn. and squadron of R.F.C. located at VIGNACOURT, resulting in a win for the R.F.C. who are "fliers" in more senses than one. The day was otherwise uneventful. Owing to the Bn.band being rather short of players and the 17th1Bn.band being in a similar position; by agreement of the C.O's of the 2 Bns. the bands have been amalgamated for the rest period and will play on alternate days at the 17th. & 18th.Bn. areas.	
	13/10/18	2000	Routine Order 68 issued :- Divine Services for to-morrow, 13th.inst.	
		0930	Sunday - Divine services.	
		1000	Roman Catholic service - Father Clune officiating.	
		1600	Church of England service - Rev. A.J.B.KING officiating.	
		2000	Changes in Officers : 2/Lt.G.F.FOOTE proceeded to Aust.Corps Gas School.	
			Routine Order No.69 issued -	
			Decorations:- The Corps Commander has awarded the Military Medal and Bars to the undermentioned other ranks :-	
			<u>BAR TO THE MILITARY MEDAL.</u>	
			2453.Pte.PROUDFOOT. P.S. "MM"	
			4644.Pte.SPEERIN. A. "MM"	
			<u>THE MILITARY MEDAL.</u>	
			5374.Pte.MAJOR. J.	
			1922.L/Sgt.FAULKS. T.F.	
			5442. " JONES. F.T.S.	
			1991. PTE. ROBERTSON. A.	
			4709. " McGUINNESS. G.	
			C.O's inspection of Coys. will take place on 14th.	
			2nd.Aust.Div.Administrative Memo.230 republished for information "AMIENS is out of bounds to all troops".	
	14/10/18	0900	Weather fine. C.O's inspection commenced with "B" Coy. at 0930. - "A" Coy. at 1015 - "C" Coy. at 1100 and "D" Coy. at 1330. The C.O. expressed himself as very pleased with the turnout of all Coys. A few minor jobs were found for the regimental Tailor and Bootmaker but it was to be noticed that in the large majority of cases the men themselves had taken great pains to ensure as smart an appearance as possible.	

(A9475) W1 W235/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.



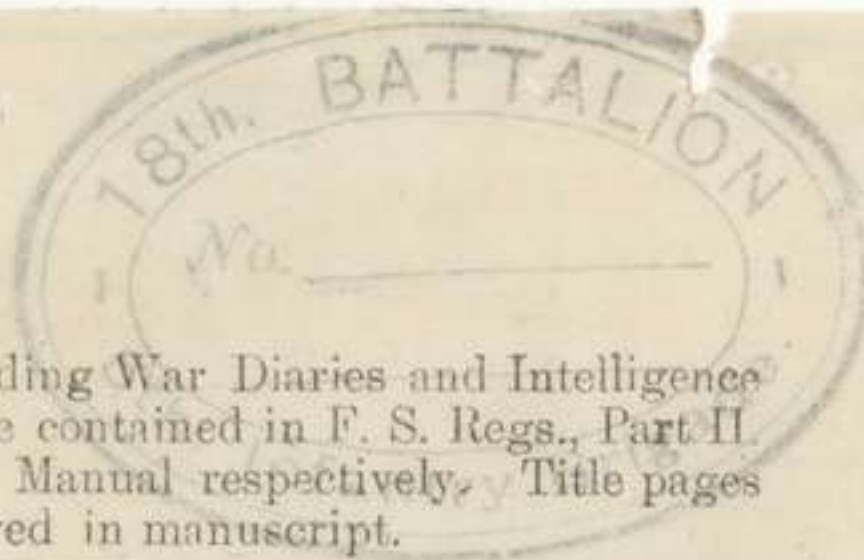
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

87

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT.	14/10/18	1600	Changes in Officers: Lieut. R.H. WILLIS proceeded on leave to PARIS.	
		1800	During the afternoon a football match was played between H.Q. & "B" Coy. resulting in a win for the latter team.	
		2000	Routine Order 70 issued :- Baths at VIGNACOURT are allotted to the Bn. to-morrow.	
	15/10/18	2000	Lt-Col. G.F. MURPHY CMG.DSO. returned to the Bn. after an absence of 10 weeks. He left the Bn. to temporarily take charge of the 7th. Aust. Inf. Brigade on 11/8/18 which command he held until 21/8/18. He then proceeded to hospital and on 30th. August proceeded to England on sick leave. Lieut. R.E. DRYDEN DCM and LIEUT. C.E. ETHERIDGE proceeded on leave to U.K.	
	16/10/18	0900	Weather fine. The Bn. has been resting since its arrival in VIGNA COURT. Parades have been reduced to a minimum. Men have all had hot baths and their clothes have been changed frequently.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: Chaplain Rev. F. CLUNE, M.C. proceeded on leave in France.	
		1800	During the past four days particular attention has been paid to the refitting and re-equipping the Bn. The absorption and organisation of the 19th. Bn. has been carried out and "B" Coy 19th. Bn. now known as "D" Coy. 18th. Bn. is commanded by Lieut. E. BELCHER, MC.	
	17/10/18	0900	Weather fine.	
		1600	Major W.R.C. ROBERTSON, M.C. proceeded on leave to England.	
		1700	A hockey match against the R.A.F. was played on the Aerodrome ground.	
	18/10/18	0900	Weather dull.	
		1800	Very little of importance to report to-day. A meeting of officers and N.C.O's was held to discuss Sports Meeting of Bn.	
	19/10/18	1300	Battalion Sports Meeting held on Aerodrome ground VIGNACOURT. 2/Lt. R. HENDY, assisted by an energetic committee had prepared the ground in fine style. There was a very good attendance and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent. Great assistance was rendered to us by the officers and men of the R.A.F. Squadron and their efforts helped in no small measure to ensure the success of the meeting.	



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

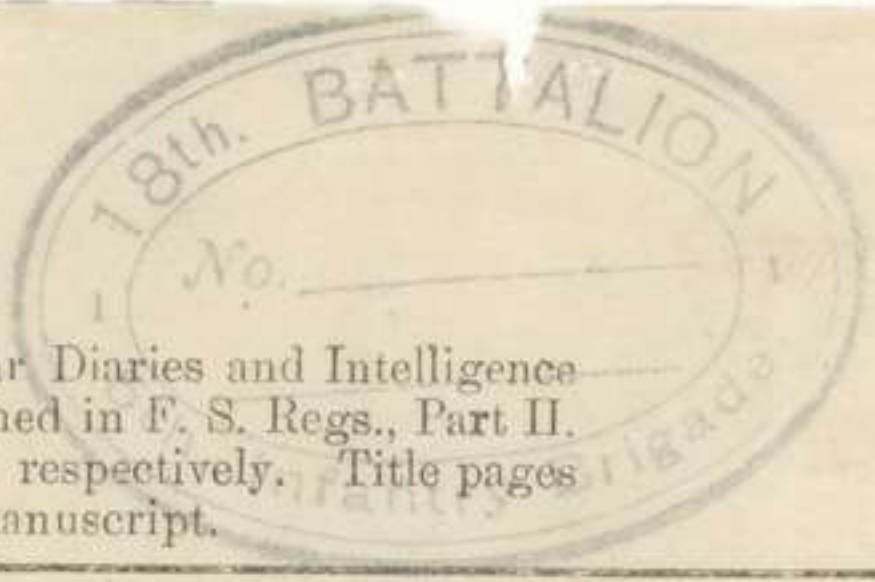
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT.	19/10/18	1800	As will be seen by the programme attached, all the various branches of athletics were catered for - The mule race for officers of the R.A.F. created quite a lot of amusement, the winning 'donk' being piloted by Lieut. BROOME.	
			Exhibition flies were given by some of the pilots who happened to be testing their engines and we were able to see some of the 'stunts' that an airman performs when fighting in mid-air.	
		1930	The officers gathered together for a dinner and social evening and a most enjoyable night was spent. Brig. Genl. E.F. MARTIN. CMG.DSO. and Major BRAND. DSO.MC.DFC. were the guests of the evening.	
			The strength of the Bn. as at Noon 19/10/18 was 35 officers & 689 O.R.	
	20/10/18	1000	Church of England parade - Rev. F. Tugwell, 17th. Bn. officiated.	
			Roman Catholic Church parade - The French Cure of the village officiated.	
		1100	Meeting of all Bn. officers to discuss details regarding Brigade parade on 21/10/18.	
			A football match was played against 13th. Bn. A.I.F. resulting in a win for 13th. Bn.	
	21/10/18	0900	Training of Bn. commenced this morning as per syllabus.	6/0/18
			Coys. were got ready and inspected prior to the review in the afternoon.	
		1300	Bn. fell in, head of column near Bn. Orderly Room and marched to Brigade parade ground near the aerodrome.	
			Lieut. E. BELCHER. M.C. was temporarily in charge of the Bn. in the absence of Lt-Col. G.F. MURPHY. CMG.DSO. who commanded the Brigade for the review.	
			The Bn. took up its position in mass formation with the Transport in rear. As each Bn. was inspected it moved independently to the starting point for the march past. Bns. moved by in column 50 yards between Bns. and afterwards re-forming in mass in their original position.	
			The Brigadier expressed himself as pleased with the turn-out of the Brigade.	
	22/10/18	0900	Training started in earnest to-day and all available men were on parade. Training was as per syllabus and good progress was made.	
			A number of Officers and N.C.O.'s attended a lecture on "The R.A.F. and its work in co-operation with the infantry" which was given by LIEUT. GARRETT, A.F.C.	
			A most interesting and instructive morning was spent by all ranks. Weather: Cold and inclined to be showery but not sufficiently inclement to hinder training.	



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

82

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	24/10/18	0900	Weather fine and clear.	
		1200	Bn. training throughout the morning according to syllabus.	
		1600	During the afternoon "A" Coy. played "D" Coy. football (soccer) resulting in a win for "D" Coy.	
			Changes in Officers: Lieut. P.H. WILLIS returned from leave in PARIS.	
		2000	Routine Order 75 issued - Baths at VIGNACOURT allotted to Bn. for 25th. inst.	
			Congratulatory - The Corps Commander wishes to express his appreciation of the gallant services rendered by the undermentioned during the recent operations :-	
			2960. Pte. NELLIGAN. T.A. 6439. L/Cpl. MACKAY. B.S.	
			(Aust. Corps R.O. 48/261 d/ 17/10/18)	
			The Bn. recreation room, recently opened, was again well patronised this evening and several minor boxing bouts took place.	
			Changes in Officers: Chaplain Rev. A.J.B. KING proceeded on leave to PARIS.	
	25/10/18	0900	Weather: Fine.	
			"A" & "D" Coys. were at the Baths during the morning - "C" Coy. training as per syllabus.	
			"B" Coy. supplying party for work on the new range.	
		1230	The G.O.C. Brigade, accompanied by Staff Captain and officer from 5th. Field Coy. Engineers visited the Bn. and inspected all billets. Particulars of necessary renovation to ensure mens comfort were taken by the Engineer Officer - provision of bunks dependent mainly on the supply of straw, which is scarce.	
			The G.O.C. expressed satisfaction and at the general cleanliness and sanitation of billets.	
		1400	"C" Coy. and H.Q. Details at the Baths.	
			"A" & "D" Coys. training until 1530.	
		1600	Changes in Officers: LIEUT W.B. MOORS. M.C. rejoined from Supernumerary List. Lieut. A.E. GARTRELL took charge of Divisional Baths. 2/Lt. J.C. COSTAIN returned from a school.	
		2000	Syllabus of training for week ending 2/11/18 issued.	
	26/10/18	0900	Weather: Fine.	
			Battalion route march during the morning training hours.	
		1500	Football match, 18th. Bn. versus 17th. Bn. played on Aerodrome ground. Win for 17th. Bn. by 12 points to 3.	

7/0/18



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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	26/10/18	1600	Changes in Officers: Major S.A.MIDDLETON returned from leave to U.K. and Lieut.P.D.JONES. MCDONNELL returned from school. Lieut.W.C.C.SATCHELL. MC marched out to 4th.Army Sig.School. Lieut.E.W.SATCHELL marched out to 4th.Army Musketry School - 2/Lt.L.J.BOTHAM marched out to course at 2nd.Aust.Div.School.	
	27/10/18	2000	Routine Order 76 issued - G.R.O.5350 reference French currency republished for information.	
		1000	Sunday - Divine services.	
		1015	Protestant denominations - Chaplain Rev.F.Tugwell, 17th.Bn. officiated.	
		1015	Roman Catholic denomination - Mass in the Church VIGNACOURT - Village Cure officiated.	
		1800	Brigade memo. 41/95 received - DECORATIONS - Under authority granted by His Majesty the King, the Field Marshall Commanding in Chief has awarded the following decorations :- BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS. Lieut.J.MAXWELL. M.C., D.C.M.	
			THE MILITARY CROSS.	
			Lieut. J.J.OWEN " S.M.CLARK. 2/Lt. G.F.FOOTE. Lieut. A.D.PEARCE.	
			Lieut. S.J.MURRAY. " F.J.BROWN. Capt. H.P.McMEEKIN.	
			THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.	
			3878.Pte.JONES. W. 3634.L/C.COCK? R. 2285.Sgt.LUCK. J.J. "MM"	
			2 06.CSM.DICKINSON. A. 6413.Pte.WILKINSON. G.E.H.W.	
			THE MILITARY MEDAL.	
			4221. Pte. PIGOTT. A.	
		1600	Changes in officers: Major S.A.MIDDLETON proceeded on duty to PARIS reference the arranging for visit of Divisional Football team.	
		2000	Routine Order 77 issued - Wire from Brigade advising that the ranges at VIGNACOURT WOOD will not now be available for training purposes as originally intended. This Bn's allotment for 28th.inst. is cancelled and the range will be available on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings only.	



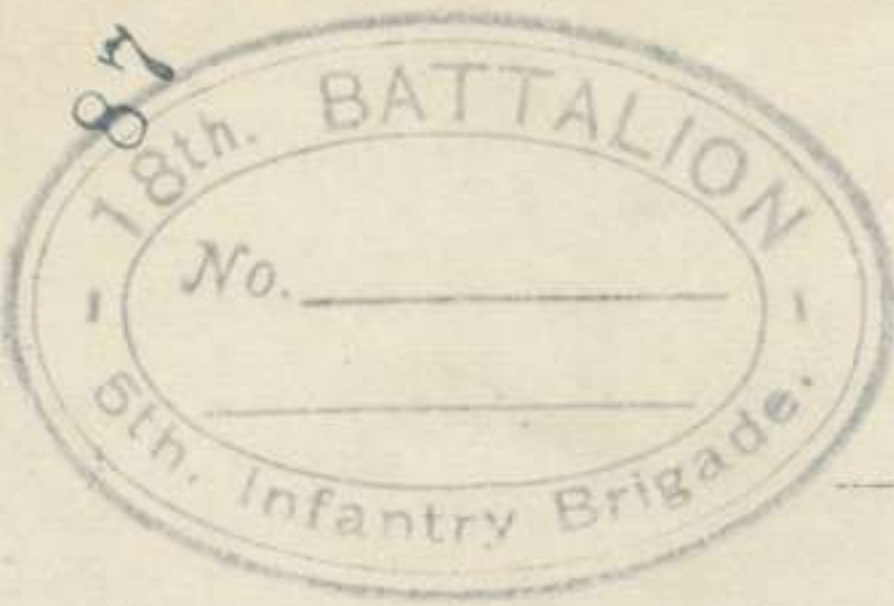
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

87

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT.	28/10/18	0900	Bn. paraded on the Aerodrome ground. Syllabus for to-day cannot be adhered to, ranges not being available.	
		1000	Bn. training on syllabus as set down for Thursday 31st inst.	
		1800	Divisional Commander visited the Training ground, accompanied by Lt-Col. G.F. MURPHY. CMG.DSO. T/Commanding 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. and remained watching the training for nearly an hour.	
			Nothing of importance took place during the remainder of the day. The late afternoon was devoted to impromptu football matches between Company teams.	
	29/10/18	0900	Bn. training on Rifle and Lewis gun ranges and Bullet & Bayonet courses through the morning. Lieut. E.S. BONHAM in charge of the Rifle range. 2/Lt. J.C. COSTAIN in charge of the Lewis gun range. Lieut. P.D. JONES. MC.DCM. in charge of the Bullet & Bayonet course.	
			The average scores at Musketry were - 17'2 with possible of 20. for Musketry Grouping. 13'2 " " " 20 for application. 10'1 " " " 20 for Rapid.	
		1430	The best shot was No. 336. Pte. WILLIAMSON. H.B. "MM"	
		1600	Meeting at the Aerodrome re Educational scheme.	
		2000	Changes in officers: Lieut. W.S. MOORS. MC. evacuated sick. - Major S.A. MIDDLETON returned from duty in PARIS. Lieut. L.M. REDGRAVE, Lieut. W.E. SANSOM & 2 /LT. M.L. WOODYATT rejoined ex Regimental Seconded List.	
	30/10/18		Routine Order 78 issued - D.R.O. 1868 republished for information.	
		0900	Bn. training in accordance with syllabus.	
		1600	Class of equitation for officers opened by Bde. Transport Officer - Capt. E.J. McNABB. MC. in charge.	
			The new paybook - No. 3 - issued to all ranks of the Battalion.	
			Changes in Officers: Chaplain Rev. F. CLUNE. M.C. returned from leave.	
	31/10/18	0900	Weather fine and clear.	
		1300	Bn. training as per syllabus of training.	
		1800	Football matches between the Companies were played during the afternoon.	
			Strength of Battalion as at 31/10/18 - 36 Officers & 702 O.R.'s.	



WAR DIARY

OF **APPENDIX**

18th. BATTALION, A.I.F.

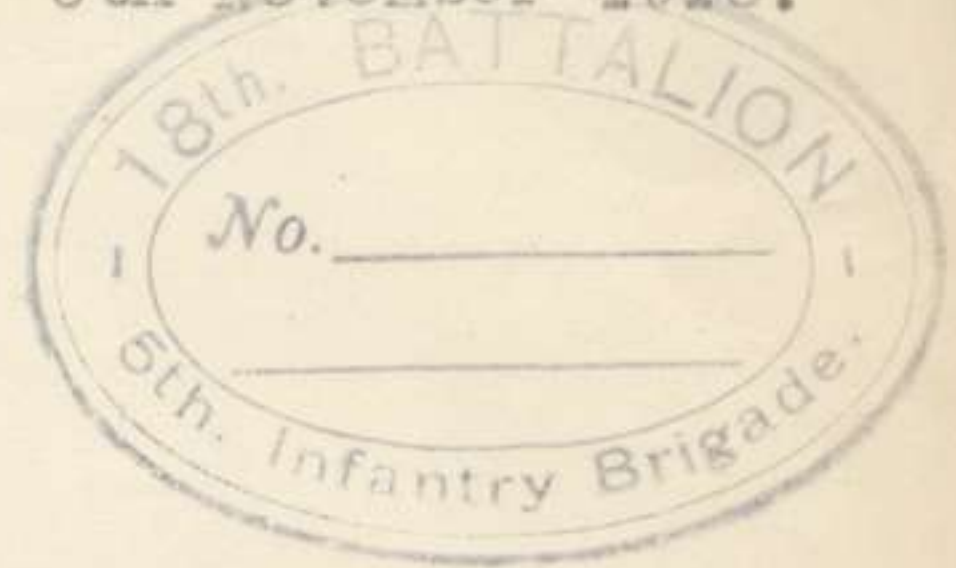
FOR

OCTOBER 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1/0/18.	Battalion Order.
1a/0/18.	Operation Order No.1/10.
2/0/18.	Patrol Report.
3/0/18.	Operation Order No.2/10.
4/0/18.	Appreciation.
5/0/18.	Battalion Order No.3/10.
6/0/18.	Syllabus of Training.
7/0/18.	Syllabus of Training.
8/0/18.	"A" & "Q" Notes.
9/0/18.	Report on Operations (24/9/18 - 4/10/18)
10/0/18.	Quartermaster's Report.

Battalion Headquarters
5th November 1918.



BATTALION ORDER

Ref Map 62 c 1/40000

- (1) 18th Battalion will march to HARGICOURT area today 18th inst.
- (2) Advance party will report to Battn H.Q. at 07.00 and proceed mounted under Lt Fairclough.
- (3) DRESS:- Fighting Order, one extra full water bottle, Blanket, bandolier fashion.
- (4) KITCHENS will be ready to move by 08.00. All transport will be loaded and ready to move at 08.00.
- (5) SICK PARADE 07.30.
- (6)
 - (a) Order of march :- H.Q. "A", "B", "C" Coys Transport.
 - (b) Kitchen, Coy Lewis Gun limber and two packs will move with each Coy.
 - (c) Head of column will move from camp at 08.30. distance between Coys 100 yds.

Issued at 5.45 a.m 1/10/18.

Signed L.C. ROBSON. Lieut.
Adjutant 18th Battalion, A.I.F.,

- 87/0/18
- APPENDIX 21
- 12/10/18
- (1) (a) The 2nd Aust Div. will attack at a time and date to be notified later.
- (b) The 32nd Div. will probably co-operate on right and 50th Div. on left.
- (2) (a) The 5th A.I. Bde will attack on the right, the 7th A.I. Bde on the left of the 2nd Aust. Div. The 6th A.I. Bde will be held in reserve in readiness to exploit.
- (b) The 5th A.I. Bde will attack on a two Battalion frontage 18th Bn on right, 19th Bn. on left, 17th Bn (right) and 20th Bn. (left) will advance and leapfrog through 18th and 19th Bns.
- (3) OBJECTIVE - (1) First - to be captured by 18th and 19th Bns. the entire BEAUREVOIR- FON-SOMME system on Brigade front. (2) Second- 17th and 20th Battalions as marked on maps.
- (4) BOUNDARIES- Area as marked on maps
- (5) FORMATION.- The battalion will attack on a three Company frontage, "A" Coy right - "B" Coy centre- "C" Coy left. One wave of two lines, distance between lines- 25 yds One Platoon in second line.
- (6) JUMPING OFF TAPE- Is marked on maps. A tape will be laid by 5th Field Coy, and guides will be arranged direct with Coy Commanders.
- (7) ARTILLERY- 6th F.A. Bde are allotted to this Brigade front. Barrage will open at ZERO on lines marked on maps. Rate of creep will be 100 yds per 4 minutes. Heavies will fire on selected targets.
- (8) TANKS- 4 Tanks are allotted to the right battalion sector of the Brigade front. They are aiming to reach J.O.T. by zero hour and will thence move behind barrage.
- On reaching first line of BEAUREVOIR system, they will patrol rear line of system until capture of first line is definite- will then cross second line assisting the 17th Bn in its capture, and thence move forward with 17th Bn.
- (9) ACTION OF INFANTRY- (a) Prior to zero companies will be in position on J.O.T. by 04.30 on zero day. (b) Troops will conform to the barrage and capture first objective. (c) First line of attack will move through to rear line of BEAUREVOIR system.- Second line will remain in first line of system- complete its mopping up and occupy it while 17th battalion moves through. (d) AFTER CAPTURE - 18th Bn. will be prepared in the event of position on right being obscure, to protect the right flank. "A" Coy will remain in BEAUREVOIR system, when 17th Bn is clear of system and mopping up is complete, "B" Coy will occupy Sunken Road in vicinity of H 4 central, and "C" Coy will occupy line of roads in B 29 c.

- 87
- (10) COMMUNICATIONS - (a) Visual - A station will be established on high ground in vicinity of H 8 d 80.90. Coys will get in touch as soon as possible. (b) Aforward report centre with telephone to Bn H.Q. and run a relay station, will be established by Sig Officer, as soon as possible after zero, in vicinity of H 4 c 10.70.
- (11) DRESS. - Fighting Order- Great coats two bombs and 170 rds of S.A.A. - 24 hrs rations and rations for zero day.
- (12) P.O.W. - Will be sent to Bn H.Q.
- (13) R.A.P. - 50yds from Bn H.Q. in vicinity cutting towards Joinecourt.
- (14) Bn.H.Q. - Railway cutting- H 8 a 80.90.
Coy's will be notified of any move.

Issued at 11 p.m. 2/10/18. to Coy Commanders.

Signed. L.C.ROBSON Lt
Adjutant Battalion.A.I.F.

2nd October 1918.



(1) Patrol consisting of:-

2/Lt	G. Foote	(9) Platoon.
Cpl	Thorpe.	
L/Cp	Leech.	
Pte	Hookway	
"	Dubois	
"	Smith	
"	Robertson	
"	Napier.	

(2) Left our line at H 8 b 95.95. at 9 p.m.

(3) Patrol moved E and investigated SUNKEN ROAD as per instructions, finding it clear of enemy as far as H 3 c central.

(4) Patrol then moved S.E. to vicinity of H 3 d 6080, where a line of enemy standing patrols or outposts was noticed. These were 50 yds from point reached. Movement further on right was also noticed, but not investigated, but probably was continuation of outposts.

(5) Patrol then moved to about H 3 c 50.90. to investigate suspected enemy post. Patrol was followed by enemy party. Enemy are digging in at H 3 c 50.90. but SUNKEN ROAD'S of this point are quite clear.

(6) Patrol then moved back to our own lines entering them at H 2 d 90.40. at 10.55 p.m. Enemy party followed to within 100 yards of our line and was dispersed by our L.Gun.fore.

(7) Summary:- Enemy has post at H 3 c 50.90 and line of sentry groups, extending to Right of this point, but in my opinion has no posts outside the wire on this right sector. Time and enemy did not permit any attempts to work right up and actually see wire, but no one ~~had~~ was heard working on it, and judging by observation today, I believe it to be in good order. SUNKEN ROAD clear S of H 3 c 50.90. Numerous old shelters in it.

12 p.m. (midnight)

Signed G. Foote 2/Lt
I/C 9 Platoon
Patrol

3/0/18



3/0/18

Ref. Map. WIANCOURT. 1/20000.

- (1) (a) The 6th Brigade is to-night taking over the front line from approx. H.12 d 90.45. to B 30 a central.
(b) On completion of the reliefs entailed 6th A.I.Bde boundaries will be :-
Southern - line through H 17 central, I 3 central.
Northern - an approximately parrallel line through B.30 a central.
(c) 18th Battalion is now under the tactical command of G.O.C. 6th Bde.
- (2) The 6th A.I.Bde is to attack at a time and date to be notified later and to capture the village of MONT-BREHAIN.
- (3) 18th Battalion will be in reserve to 6th A.I.Bde and will be in position in the BEAUREVOIR system in H 10 b by zero minus 30 minutes.
- (4) Preliminary reconnaissance will be carried out at once and a disposition arranged with Coy Commanders.
- (5) (a) Coys will move from present locations and will occupy the allotted dispositions by zero minus 45 minutes. They will report when in position.
(b) Bn H.Q. will remain in present location, Kitchens remain as at present.
- (6) DRESS - 170 rds of S.A.A. and 2 bombs per man will be carried.
- (7) COMMUNICATIONS - Sig Officer will establish a forward report centre in BEAUREVOIR system by zero minus 2 hrs. Four runners will be at this station. In addition each Coy will detail a runner to stand by at the station from zero Minus 45 minutes.
- (8) ACKNOWLEDGE

Issued at 6 p.m 4/10/18.

DISTRIBUTION

"A" Coy.
"B" Coy
"C" Coy.

Signed L.C.ROBSON Lieut.

Adjutant 18th Battalion, A.I.F.

87
To.

C.O.

5th Aust Field Ambulance.

4/0/18

APPENDIX 4/0/18
Battalion Headquarters
5th October 1918.



It is desired to bring under your notice, with appreciation the services rendered by the three bearer squads under L/Cpl BARNWICK, which have been attached to this unit for the operations now nearing conclusion.

The bearers have at all times worked willingly and conscientiously and have been most helpful to us in what was undoubtedly one of the most trying and yet one of the most successful operations we have been engaged in.

In particular it is desired to bring under your ~~next~~ notice a specific act as being deserving of special recognition. To-day 5th October the enemy threw heavy shell - probably 8 inch - onto the road 300 ~~Yds~~ from our Battalion H.Q. near JONCOURT Railway Station. A line of artillery transport was ~~on the road and~~ the first shell struck and overturned an artillery wagon. L/Cpl Barwick and Pte (?) without hesitation dashed to the spot although heavy shell continued to fall. They found that one man had been killed and two wounded.

After clearing the wounded men from the wreckage they carried them to the R.A.P.

It is very difficult to describe the exact conditions. It seemed at the time however that the act would not be possible owing to the size of the shells and the extent of the fire. The two stretcher bearers were not called upon to help and keen sense of duty was the only incentive for their prompt action. The distance was so great and there were so many artillery men in the vicinity that it might reasonably been expected that the cases would have been adequately dealt with.

Should you care to submit a recommendation in the case. I will be very glad to support it.

I would be glad if the men might be informed of our appreciation of their help.

? name not in diary

Signed

W.R.C. ROBERTSON.

Major.

T/Commanding 18th Battalion, A.I.F.

Ref.Map. 62 c 1/40000

Battalion Headquarters
6th October 1918.

Amiens 1/100000

Lens 1/100000

5/10/18



- (1) (a) 18th Battalion will move by train on 7th inst to Rest Area - VIGNACOURT Sub Area, entraining at TINCOURT and detraining at ST ROCK.
(b) Battalion will march to entraining station and from detraining station.
- (2) DRESS - Fighting Order Blankets will be carried bandolier fashion.
- (3) (a) Officers blankets and kits will be loaded on transport by 5 a.m. (Transport is to leave by 5.15 a.m.)
(b) "B" and "C" Coys kitchens will travel by omnibus train and will leave at 7 a.m.
Coy Officers mess gear will be loaded on "B" & "C" Coys Kitchens by 6.30 a.m.
- (4) Breakfast will be served on "B" & "C" Coys kitchens at 6 a.m. Kitchens are to be clear by 6.30 a.m.
- (5) Sick parade will be at 6.10 a.m.
- (6) March to entraining station (TINCOURT) - Coys will pass Road junction K 29 b 8 7 in following order:-
H.Q. "A". "B". "C" Coys.
Head of column to pass Road junction at 7.35 a.m.
- (7) ~~Entrainment~~ will be arranged by Lieut. DANIEL.
- (8) As kitchens will be travelling to VIGNACOURT it will be impossible to provide a hot meal until arrival at billet.
- (9) All trench shelters will be at Q.M. Store by 5 a.m on 7th inst.

Issued at 11.45 p.m. 6/10/18.

Signed L.C. ROBSON. Lieut.

Adjutant 18th Battalion, A.I.F.

..... BATTALION - SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - Week ending 26/10/18



Day and Date.	Hours of Parade.					Place of Parade and Remarks
	9 - 9.30am	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 - 11.30	1pm - 2pm	2 - 3pm	
MONDAY 21/10/18	Platoon & Coy Inspection	Battalion Parade		Inspection of Brigade by Brigade Commander (Details in Orders)		
TUESDAY 22/10/18	Platoon Inspection Rapid Loading	Close Order Drill Gas Training	Lewis Gun Training	Open Order Drill Artillery Formations	Platoon Scheme	
WEDNESDAY 23/10/18	Inspection Gas Drill	Lewis Gun Training	Bayonet Fighting Musketry	Battalion Route March (Battle Order)		
THURSDAY 24/10/18	Inspection Rapid Loading	Gas Training Close Order Drill	Platoon Scheme	Open Order Drill Artillery Formations	P+B.T.	Close Order Drill
FRIDAY 25/10/18	Inspection Gas Drill	Lewis Gun Training	Company Drill	Musketry Bayonet Fighting	Organised Games	Close Order Drill
SATURDAY 26/10/18	Inspection Musketry	Bayonet Fighting	Battalion Drill	Games		

APPENDIX

6/18

6/10/18
 War Diary

14

Willis } welcome
 Snyder }
 Elhendge }

15

Col Murphy returned

16

~~Col Murphy returned~~

~~Lt. Elhendge returned~~

Major Robertson absent

17

~~Letter~~
 Hockey against R.A.F.

18

19

Bn Sports meeting

Strength

Dinner

20

Church Parade

Match against 18th

Equipment Repeating
 Reorganisation
 Absorption & reorganisation of 19th
 S.D. Coy.

18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

Week ending 2nd. November 1918.

7/10/18

Day and date.	0900 to 0930	0930 to 1030	1030 to 1130	1300 to 1400	1400 to 1500	Place of Parade and remarks.
Monday 28/10/18						1430-1500.
Tuesday 29/10/18.	Ranges are allotted as shewn on back hereof. When not employed on ranges, men will receive training in Musketry (rapid loading etc), mechanism etc. of Lewis guns with intervals of P. & B.T., Gas drill, and some close order work.					March to
Wednesday 30/10/18.						Billets
Thursday 31/10/18.	P. & B.T.	Close order drill: Rapid loading etc.	Gas drill.	Lewis gun mechanism etc.	SPORTS.	AERODROME GROUND.
Friday 1/11/18.	P. & B.T.	Rapid loading. Bolt manipulation: Gas drill.	Lewis gun training:	Company Exercise.		
Saturday 2/11/18.	P. & B.T.	Lewis gun training.	Close and Open order drill.	S P O R T S.		

NOTES: Additional training provided as follows :-

- Brigade Map Reading class for N.C.O's
- Signallers under Signalling Officer.
- Intelligence personnel under Brigade arrangements.
- Stretcher bearers under the R.M.O.
- Demonstration platoon, under 2/Lieut. G.F. Foote will work independently.



ALLOTMENT OF RANGES etc.

Day & date	MORNING	AFTERNOON.	Remarks.
Monday 28/10/18	"B" Company - No.1 Range. "C" Company - No.2 Range.	"C" Company - No.1 Range. "D" Company - No.2 Range.	No.1 Range is a Miniature Range.
Tuesday 29/10/18	"C" Company - No.3 Range. "D" Company - No.1 Range.	"D" Company - No.3 Range. "A" Company - No.1 Range.	No.2 Range is a Bullet & Bayonet Course.
Wednesday 30/10/18	"B" Company - No.2 Range. "A" Company - No.3 Range.	"B" Company - No.3 Range. "A" Company - No.2 Range.	No.3 Range is a 300 yards Range.

NOTES: Mid-day meal will be taken at the ground, except by the two companies changing Battalion duties on the day.

Battalion will form up in column of route facing towards the church, with head of column at Battalion Orderly Room at 0850 daily and will march to the range or parade ground as the case may be.

NOTES: Additional training provided as follows:-

- Brigade War Reading class for W.O.s
- Signaller's under Signalling Officer.
- Intelligence personnel under Brigade arrangements.
- Stretcher bearers under the R.M.O.
- Demonstration platoon under E/Adjutant G.F. Roote will work independently.

APPENDIX 6/10/18

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
26th October 1918

"A" & "Q" NOTES.

DECORATIONS etc.

The following table shews the total number of awards won by personnel of this Battalion since its inception -

C.M.G.	1.	-	M.S.M.	3.
BAR to D.S.O.	1.	-	French Croix de Guerre.	2.
D.S.O.	4.	-	Belgian " " "	2.
BAR to M.C.	3.	-	Medaille Militaire	1.
M.C.	33.	-	Italian Bronze Medal.	1 ¹ / ₈
D.C.M.	11.	-	Mentioned in Despatches)	15.Off.
BAR to M.M.	8.	-	or Corps Orders.) 14.O.R.
M.M.	120.	-		

CANTEEN.

Following are some particulars of Transactions of the Regimental Canteen for Quarter ending September 30th.1918.

	FRANCS.
(a) Cash in hand, 1/7/18.	1440'00
(b) Total sales for Quarter.	69748'05
(c) Cash in hand, 30/9/18.	4469'00
(d) Amount transferred to Regl.Trust A/C,) for purchase of Comforts.	1545'50

SUMMARY OF CRIMES AND OFFENCES from 1st.September to 23rd.October 1918.

Company	Absence.	Sec.40 -A.A.	Desertion.	TOTAL.
"A"	6	-	1	7
"B"	8	-	-	8
"C"	9	-	-	9
"D"	8	1	-	9
H.Q.	3	-	-	3
TOTAL	34	1	1	36.

NOTE: "D" Company has undergone two changes in reorganisation during this period.

SALVAGE etc.

The approximate value of salvage returned to Railhead by the Battalion during the Quarter ending September 30th.1918 is -
£ 15877...

The following are the returns of items shewn, for Quarter ending September 30th.1918. :-

JAM CARTONS	-	3369
PAPER	-	597 lbs.
CARDBOARD	-	293 lbs.
FAT	-	717 lbs.

CAPTURES.

Since August 8th.1918 the following enemy material has been captured by the Battalion and removed for ultimate allotment to the AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUMS :-
German Heavy Machine Guns - 13

8/10/18 32

87

German Light Machine Guns	- 29
77mm Field Guns	- 3
Minenwerfers	- 6
Light Trench Mortars	- 2
Medium Trench Mortars	- 1
Heavy Trench Mortars	- 3
Granatenweffer	- 1
Anti-tank Rifles	- 3

✓ 20

In addition, a great many trophies of a minor nature have been forwarded direct to the AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUMS, some of the more important and interesting being -

Range Finder, complete, German telephone set, complete,
 Telescopic Periscopes, Types of shells, equipment,
 rifles, bayonets, swords, badges, hats, etc.
 Machine gun equipment and spare parts,
 Anti-tank rifle accessories, Medicine chest,
 German maps showing our positions before the advance,
 Telescopic Night sight for sniper's rifle,
 German amplifier, etc. etc.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

POSTAL.

The following approximate figures shew the amount of mail handled by the Battalion Postal Orderly during Quarter ended 30th. September 1918.

LETTERS from AUSTRALIA	25000
LETTERS from ENGLAND	10000
OUTWARD Letters,	20000
PARCELS Received	3500
PARCELS Despatched	750

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Ledohan
 Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F. Lieut.

War Diary

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

APPENDIX 9/10/18

Battalion Headquarters,
5th. October 1918.

Headquarters,
5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Report on operations of 27th. Sept. to 4th. Oct. 1918.

The Battalion with Transport moved on night of 27/28th. Sept. 1918 from hutments at FRISE to bivouac position in BUSSU Area (Sheet 62 C J.20.a.) The Band, personnel proceeding to schools, and on leave etc. were sent to Div. Reinf. Camp.

Move was completed by 2 a.m. 28/9/18 and Battalion established in fair bivouacs.

On the night of 28/29th. September the Battalion moved to the vicinity of LONGAVESNES, arriving in bivouac area Sheet 62 C. - E.20.c. at 9'50 p.m. 28th. Sept.

There was practically no accommodation in the area but shelters were improvised and good rest obtained during 29th. and night of 29/30th.

On the 30th. September the Battalion moved in accordance with orders from 5th. A.I. Brigade to HARGICOURT Area, being on the road by 9'15 a.m. VILLERET was reached at 1'30 p.m. and Battalion bivouaced at eastern end of the village - Sheet 62 C. - L.12.c.

By 6 p.m. orders had been received to move forward and take over a portion of the 8th. Aust. Inf. Brigade line. The a/C.O. accordingly moved forward to 8th. Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Q.

The Battalion moved at 6'45 p.m. to the Canal embankment at S.E. end of RIQUEVAL.

The Transport, with Lewis guns, extra S.A.A. and bombs moved independently by road and encountered very great difficulties. The roads were very crowded and in bad condition. It was not until 23'45 that the Lewis guns etc. were available for distribution.

The Battalion moved from RIQUEVAL at midnight with guides from 31st. Battalion. The going was very bad in many places owing to the darkness and trench system but relief was completed by 04'10 on 2nd. inst.

The Battalion was then disposed as follows :-

2 Coys. ("A" & "C") in sunken road between villages of JONCOURT and ESTREES - H.2.d., H.9.a.

1 Coy. in support in H.7.c. & d.

Battalion Headquarters at G.24.a.80.80.

Transport Lines and Q.M. Store at RIQUEVAL (g.16.a.)

It was quite impossible to provide a hot meal on arrival but kitchens were brought during the day to ETRICOURT and hot meal provided at nightfall on 2nd. inst.

Battalion Headquarters moved at 7 p.m. to dugout near JONCOURT station - H.8.d.70.80. - Orders were received verbally by Battalion C.O. at Brigade H.Q. and confirmed in Brigade Order No.220. These orders were given to Company Commanders at 11 p.m. and a written order issued at the same time. Brigade Order No.220 was received at 04'10 3rd. inst.

Reconnoitring patrols were out throughout the night and met M.G. fire from the enemy in No Man's Land.

By 5 a.m. 3rd. inst. Coys. were in position - "A" Coy. on right, "B" Coy. in centre and "C" Coy. on left of Jumping-off tape which had been laid without incident by 5th. Field Coy., Aust. Engineers.

The strength of the Battalion on the tape was 13 Officers, 249 O.R. organised in three Coys. each of 3 platoons. Thus the first line was very weak - one man per 10 yards.

The barrage opened well. It has been consistently confirmed that 2 or more guns were short and caused casualties on the left. However no information had been received as to the "wait" of the barrage on the opening line. Considering that this was unusually long - 6 mins. - it is quite possible that some portions of the line had moved too close at the start.

Heavy M.G. fire was encountered on approaching the wire. Artillery fire was feeble except at certain points. A great deal of artillery fire fell in JONCOURT Village and H.2.d. but nothing in the nature of a barrage was encountered.

The right Company entered the objective to time and succeeded in mopping up and establishing a second line of the system by 07'15

They were then in touch with the 46th. Division in the first objective on their right. The 17th. Battalion and British troops moved through well on this flank. On the left however from H.3. central northwards heavy M.G. fire was encountered and the wire could not be penetrated. No tanks had up to this time appeared on the Battalion front and the wire was practically untouched.

On the left, trouble was encountered and Lieut. Flockart (O.C. "C" Coy) was wounded in approaching O.G.1. The line was held up by M.G. fire and by the wire which was uncut by our artillery. No tanks arrived with the infantry. It is understood that several tanks were put out of action on the left of the road but ~~this~~ is not certain when this occurred as the ground was out of our sight.

The only course for infantry was to climb over the wire. Lieut. Dryden and about 12 men of "C" Coy. succeeded in doing this almost behind the barrage and worked to a position at about B.27.c.9.7. He was unable to do much more as he then had no Lewis gun or rifle grenades. The majority of the troops on the left flank were for some time unable to get past the sunken road (H.3.a.) but "B" (centre) Coy. soon after worked through suffering considerable casualties in ~~the~~ doing so. Lieut. Dryden was unable to see a great number of huns in front and second lines, North of the road (through 27. central). They strayed back and rallied by officers and others who had held firm formed a considerable force on our side of the barrage. 2/Lt. Foote and a few men with a Lewis gun joined Lieut. Dryden who then went back and brought forward more troops and Lewis guns. Thus a force was collected in the second line of the system towards 27. central. While Lieut. Dryden was away, 2/Lt. Foote with 5 men and a Lewis gun went out and captured 70 prisoners, apparently by fine bluff. He sent them back under escort but was at once attacked by at least 100 under an officer, with bombs. He was driven back to the trench system but held his ground there.

Our men continued to work round from the South in small parties but there was nothing to prevent the enemy from continually reorganising and advancing southwards. As no progress was evident north of the road Lieut. Dryden, by now senior officer on the spot, aimed at establishing a flank fronting Northwest towards the road. Lieut. Maxwell and what was left of "B" Coy. realising that all the trouble centred on this flank and that nothing was to be feared North east came to the assistance of "C" Company. The fight was very involved and fluctuated continually. Owing to the smallness of our force and the scattered defences (which are described later) it was quite impossible to mop up any definite area and then deal with another, while ensuring that the first area would remain clear. Eventually at about 11'30 the 19th. Battalion and 1 company of 17th. Battalion came through on the left of the road and in the right. This practically settled the position and the mopping up was soon completed.

Our officers affirm that 200 is an under-estimate of prisoners captured by this Battalion in this small area. This opinion is supported by the consideration that of the 327 who came to our Battalion.

H.Q. under our own escorts, only 50 were from the right company.

"A" Coy. were sent at 08'40, although the position in the trench system was obscure, to the support of the 17th. Battalion. They were in position in sunken road in B.29.c. and H.5.a. by 11'00. The 17th. Battalion were about 250 yards in front and to the right - both Battalions being in touch with British troops on the right. "A" Coy's strength was then 3 officers and 45 O.R.

After the capture of O.G.1. "B" Coy. moved to sunken road in H.4.a.70.80. It was impossible for them to move forward or to the left owing to heavy M.G. fire from trenches B.22.b. and B.23. central. Strength of Company was then 1 officer (Lieut. Maxwell) and 20 O.R.

"C" Company at the same time endeavoured to move forward and pick up and connect with troops on the right and left of the gap. They were met by heavy M.G. fire as soon as they showed themselves. Their left flank was able to ~~obtain~~ obtain touch with only a few troops of the 19th. Battalion in trench system on North of main road B.27.c. and b. These troops were quite inadequate to secure the position while the left was so obscure. The company Commander (Lieut. Dryden) at Noon after a reconnaissance decided to attempt to rush forward

to meet the 20th. Battalion who were reported to be in B.21a. and B.21.b. As he started he was met by heavy M.G. fire and established a line of posts on the left of Capt. Wright. (17th. Battn.) B.27.b.2.3. to the road, in a Northerly direction. He was able to connect with Capt. Wright and also with some troops of 19th Battalion who stated they were aiming to get touch with 20th. Battalion in vicinity of LAMOTTE FARM.

From about 14'30 onwards artillery was directed on trenches in B.22. and 23. but the fire remained very heavy until the 6th. A.I. Bde. advance took place at 18'30.

The disposition of this battalion did not change until orders were received to withdraw. The withdrawal commenced at 20'45 and moved was completed by 04'30. A hot meal was ~~xxxxxxxx~~ carried forward to all Coys. at 21'00 on 3rd. inst.

Subsequent inspection of the captured ground showed that the majority of the trench system in the BEAUREVOIR Line is not deep trenches Average 4'6" in width and 1'3" deep with occasional pot-holes and emplacements for field artillery. The wire however is extremely thick. Along this Battalion's front it averages 6 belts in thickness - each belt being 25 - 30 feet wide. It is still in good condition. The country in B.27.b. and all of B.28. provides no cover and is in the uninterrupted field of fire of any guns from trenches in ~~Bx2x2x2x~~ B.22.b. Four field guns were observed to be mounted in this trench and were responsible for putting the majority of the tanks out of action. They were also firing point-blank at troops advancing in H.4.b. and B.28.d. during the morning and early afternoon.

The number of prisoners captured by the Battalion is indefinite. Three officers and 327 O.R. were sent back from this Battalion H.Q. after being received from escorts of this unit. Some may have been captured by other units whereas some of our prisoners undoubtedly went elsewhere.

The Battalion Commander of the 2nd. Battalion, 80th. I.R. and his Adjutant were among those sent back.

Identifications obtained were 80th. I.R. - 81st. F.R. - 472nd. I.R. - 474th. I.R. - 116th. I.R. - 27th. F.A.R. - and various minor units.

Casualties were 5 officers 86 O.R. wounded, and 11 O.R. killed. 10 O.R. are still unaccounted for but will probably be traced in hospital TOTAL - 112 all ranks. Thus prisoners were three times the number of casualties and almost half as many again as the number of attacking troops.

Twelve captured machine guns, one light Minenwerfer, and three anti-tank rifles have so far been traced. Undoubtedly many others were captured but it has not been possible to collect them so far. Many other units have passed over the ground since the operation.

Communications were fair during the operations; the tremendous amount of transport, tanks etc. moving in immediate rear of the front line was constantly responsible for cutting the overland lines. There was very little trouble from enemy shell fire. In addition there are several definite instances of active wires having been deliberately cut and removed. It is impossible to say who was responsible for this but the nature of the cuts leaves no room for doubt.

From ZERO onwards when artillery etc. were in position things greatly improved. A report centre was established at H.9.a.4.5. Throughout the operation but was not of very great use as phones could not be pushed further forward while the position was so fluctuated in vicinity of B.27. central. As soon as the situation cleared a line was run to "B" Company H.Q. in H.4.a.8.9. This line held well.

Runners did very fine work in carrying messages during the morning to and from companies in B.27.

~~Visual~~ Visual communication to the Coys. was impossible owing to the nature of the ground. In several cases when the line to Brigade failed it was found impossible to obtain any touch by visual although calls were repeatedly sent.

The mounted D.R.'s were used on only one occasion but it is considered that they provided a very valuable reserve of communication power. Had the operation extended they would have been invaluable.

With regard to Allied Arms, there is very little comment to make.

Tanks as previously noted were not of any assistance in the capture of the first objective. Had they been in close attendance behind the barrage the wire would have been made passable and the problem greatly

87

30

ry

ed.

.b.

in

atic
of

of

s th

ore
fie

rom

Heaton

18th Bn

10/0/18

Quartermasters report for month
of October 1918.

Rations. Kitchen moved with Bn
to VILLARET and on evening of 1st Oct.
moved to RINGVILL with Transport.
Owing to the bad condition of the
road & the exceptionally large quantity
of Transport on the road. Kitchens
were unable to reach Bn near
TON COURT until the afternoon of 2nd.
After delivering hot meal Kitchens
returned to near ETRICOURT for
2 days. Hot meals being taken
forward from there by limbers.
On 4th Kitchen moved to near Bn
Hdqs outside TON COURT & hot meals
for period until Bn was relieved
were taken forward from Kitchen
by limbers.

When the Battalion was relieved
Kitchen moved back with Companies
to HERVILLY. The Battalion entrained

on 7th October at TIN COURT. Kitchen
& Transport entrained on Omnibus
Train at 6.30 pm the same day.
Owing to lateness of entraining the
Omnibus ^{Train} did not reach VIGNA COURT
until 5.30 AM on 8th inst. but were
able to prepare a good breakfast
for the troops.

From 8th to 31st October Kitchens
have been with Companies in billets
at VIGNA COURT.

COMFORTS consisting of Tobacco
Cigarettes, Cocoa & Milk, Writing Paper,
Playing Cards & small items were received
on 15th October from Australian
Comforts Fund, 2nd Division, also
Socks from Mrs BARR SMITH, ADELAIDE
& 18th Bn Comforts Fund SYDNEY.

These were issued to the troops.
Vegetables were purchased from Remy's
Garden. 300 Kilos of Potatoes at 25 Francs/100
& 300 Kilos at 40 Francs per 100 Kilos & issued
with Rations. Field Ovens have
been built at Company Billets and

APPENDIX

10/0/18

10/10/18 35

36



A good variety
was maintained in cooking
ORDNANCE. Refitting & Reequipping
was proceeded with upon reaching
VIGNACOURT and incidents submitted.
These have practically all been
supplied. Losses during operations
not having been very heavy.
Winter clothing has been drawn
together with 2nd Blanket &
issued. Palliasses & Straws were
also issued making the billets
fairly comfortable.
Telescopic Rifles were returned to
DADOS & Snipers Rifles 1914 Pattern
indented for in lieu of Telescopic Rifle.



S. P. Redman Capt

Q.M.

18/10/18