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1914-18 War

Infantry

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Title: 15th Infantry Battalion

July 1918



AWM4-23/32/40

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

15th Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

July 1918

Signature of Officer compiling *Compiled by Capt. J. L. Jeyar,*

Signature of Officer Commanding *M. J. Gray Major
for C.O. 15th Bn. A.I.F.*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

201

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
O.7.c. Sheet 62D Near DAOURS	July 1st.		Strength of Battalion including attached 54 Officers, 1005 Other Ranks. Training, general and specialist. Organizing the Battalion for the attack and equipping each man with 1 shovel or pick, 1 extra water bottle, 3 bombs, 220 rounds S.A.A. & 4 sand bags and also supplying a proportion of the Battalion with wire cutters etc.. Conferences with Australian Flying Corps, Artillery, Engineers, Tank Battalions and arrangements in full swing.	
	2nd.		Organizing and arranging for attack. Prime Minister Of Australia (Mr. Wm. Hughes) visited the Battalion with Corps and Divisional Commanders and spoke at a special parade. At 10 p.m. Headquarters and 2 platoons per Company moved up and relieved part of 51st. Battalion in Front and Support Lines; our frontage running from P.14.a.3.8. to P.8.Central and Headquarters being established at P.7.b.7.5.	
	3rd.		Battalion in Line, deciding frontages and assembly positions. Rear portion of Battalion completing, equipping and arranging final details. Remaining 2 platoons per Company moved out at 9 p.m. and joined Battalion in the Line.	
	4th.		Attacked enemy positions in front of ACCROCHE WOOD. See narrative and maps in appendix.	
	5th.		Consolidating and linking up front line positions. Ammunition and Bombs being carried up to Front Line and a good working supply is now built up. During the day, enemy put down fairly heavy area shoots with his artillery all over our sector and his machine guns were also very active on indirect fire. Enemy and our aircraft were very active and were up in large formations during hours of daylight. Relieved by 49th. Battalion at night - relief completed without unusual incident by 2.15 a.m. - and moved to support area with C. & B, right and left front line Coys respectively on a front from P.20.a.2.0. to P.13.d.6.9., D.Coy. in support from P.19.b.2.8. to P.13.d.2.4. and A.Coy. in reserve from P.18.d.4.0. to P.18.d.3.7. and Battalion Headquarters at O.24.a.3.7.	
	6th.		Clean up of men, arms and equipment. Specialists being reorganized and back wash of stunt being cleaned up as regards casualties etc.. Baths for half the Battalion with change of clothes.	
	7th.		Still on reorganization of Coys. Party of 28 down to Division to informally welcome the French President. Remainder of Battalion had baths with change of clothes. Party of 30 on carrying Ammunition to Front Line Battalion - the 16th. 4th. Brigade is holding this sector on a 1 Battalion frontage with 16th. in line and 15th. in support.	
	8th.		Reorganization of Battalion continues. Working party of 40 on tunnelling Headquarters for front line Battalion. One Officer & 3 O/R set off for PARIS as part of Australian Corps representative Company to take part in July 14th. celebrations. Indications of an aggressive spirit on the part of the enemy were noticed during the day so our D.Coy. were moved up to	

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15th Bn
July - Aug

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
near QUERRIEU Sheet 62D.	9th.		position running from P.14.d.7.8. to P.14.b.2.2. to support 16th. Battalion in case of necessity. Supplying carrying parties to front line Battalion. Training of specialists in rear being pushed on vigorously to fill gaps caused by casualties in recent operation.	
	10th.		Supplying carrying parties to front line Battalion.	
	11th.		Relieved at night by 38th. Battalion A.I.F. - relief complete at 1.15 a.m. without unusual incident - and moved to bivouacs in N.5 Central which were reached at 4.15 a.m. Men had breakfast and then turned in.	
	12th.		Marched out at 11.30 a.m. and proceeded to bivouacs near QUERRIEU. Headquarters and Details were in QUERRIEU and Coys were disposed as follows - A & B in H.11.c.; C in H.3.d., D in H.3. a & c in sheet 62D. Nucleus rejoined us at this spot having marched in earlier in the morning. Rest of the day spent cleaning up arms and equipment and settling the men down. They are fairly comfortably situated in tents and trench shelters. All are in good form but feeling the need of a change and some recreation after so much trench work.	
	13th.		Lewis Gun School commenced. We are training a great number of new men to meet the increased establishment of Lewis Guns and to fill gaps caused by casualties in the recent attack. The rest of the Battalion were on close order training in the morning and had swimming parades in the afternoon.	
	14th.		Church Parades in morning. Baths for all the Battalion, with clean change of clothes. Inter-Coy. cricket match in afternoon.	
	15th.		Training as per syllabus in morning and part of afternoon. Specialists classes (Lewis Gunners, Signallers, Scouts) in full swing - Cricket match between this Battalion and 4th. Field Ambulance resulted in a win for the former.	
	16th.		Training as per syllabus in morning and afternoon.	
	17th.		Battalion Athletic and Swimming sports in morning. Very successful meeting. Cricket match 15th. V 14th. Bn. in afternoon. Specialist training.	
	18th.		Training as per syllabus in morning. Box Respirators tested in gas chamber. 60 men sent in motor lorries for trip to DOULLENS. They enjoyed the change and came back well pleased with the days outing.	
	19th.		Specialists training. Ceremonial Battalion parade in the morning. Cricket match with 16th Battalion in afternoon.	
	20th.		Brigade Sports - Athletic and Swimming. The programme occupied the whole day. There was a very large attendance, including Army and Corps Commanders, and though rain interrupted the later events, the meeting was an unqualified success. This Battalion won 2nd. place in aggregate points for the Cup, the 4th. M.G. Coy. coming first.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21st		Brigade Church parade in morning with presentation of ribbons and medals and also of sports prizes, followed by march past of Brigade and Transport. Turnout was exceptionally good. Cricket match with Brigade Details in afternoon resulted in a win for our Battalion. Officers reconnoitring front line.	
	22nd		Battalion Headquarters and Details moved to bivouacs in H.10.a.1.3. Divisional Race Meeting at ALLONVILLE so training was suspended for the day.	
	23rd		Heavy rain prevented any training. Officers reconnoitring front line. Men are getting into good form again with light training and plenty of recreation in the form of cricket, and athletic sports etc. Our Band is a valuable asset, and has a wonderful effect in brightening the men up. It has been playing every few days at our Brigade Pierrots who show each night in the village drawing full houses every evening.	
	24th		Battalion less Lewis Gun classes and duties marched out at 8 a.m. to go through a gas demonstration and test at 1 mile west of ALLONVILLE. Cookers accompanied them and men had mid-day meal before returning.	
	25th		General and Specialist training in morning. Baths with clean change of clothing for all the Battalion. Clothing being deloused at a delouser constructed by our Headquarters Pioneers. Parties reconnoitring front line.	
	26th		General and Specialist training in morning. Clean up of camp in afternoon.	
	27th		Heavy rain fell during the day preventing any training or outside work. Enemy planes bombing vicinity of camp at night.	
	28th		Sunday. Church Parade in morning in grounds of QUERRIEU Chateau. Weather fine but dull.	
	29th		General and specialist training in morning. Officers reconnoitring front line. Weather fine and sunny.	
	30th		Weather warm and sunny. Parties reconnoitring forward area. Clean up of camp and dumping of packs etc. preparatory to move.	
	31st		Battalion - less Nucleus and Transport marched out at 7 a.m. to relieve 11th. Battalion of 2nd Zouave Regiment in front line. Halted at Canal near BLANGY-TRONVILLE during the heat of the day and men had mid-day meal and a swim there, marching again at 3 p.m. for TRONVILLE WOOD where the evening meal was eaten before pushing off for the trenches at 9 p.m. Relief was completed without unusual incident by 12.45 a.m. - following being the preliminary dispositions (Sheet 62 D.). Battalion Headquarters U.15 Central. "B" Coy.- right front line Coy.- two platoons in Candre Trench and Berry-au-Bac Trench from U.16.d.0.0. to U.16.a.8.5. and two platoons & Coy. Hqrs. at U.15.d.8.6. and vicinity.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31st (ctd)		<p>"C" Coy. - left front line Coy. - two platoons from U.16.a.8.5. to U.10.Central in a series of posts, and two platoons in U.10.c. in portion of TIRAILLEURS TRENCH from CONSTANTINE ALLEY SOUTH.</p> <p>"A" Coy. - right support coy. - CACHY SALIENT from U.8.c.6.7. to its junction with TAZA ALLEY and an equal length of the parallel trench in rear.</p> <p>"D" Coy. - left support coy. - CACHY SALIENT from U.8.c.6.7. to CONSTANTINE ALLEY and an equal length of parallel trench in rear.</p> <p>Nucleus are at RIVERY and Q.M.Store and Transport at S.12.b.2.8.</p> <p>Strength of Battalion including detached - 40 Officers, 778 Other Ranks.</p>	

W. J. Gray Major.
for C.O. 15th Bn A.I.P.

201

WAR DIARY

OF

15th Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

July1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Bn Order No. 42
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3.	Narrative attack on 47 th near Asmel.
4.	" " " " " " (by Officers 15 th Bn)
5.	Brigade Order No. 18.
6.	Operation Instructions Bde. Order No. 18.
7.	4 th Hd. Coy A.I.F. Op. Order No. 1.
8.	8 th Tank Bde. Order
9.	Bde. Dispositions.
10.	Bn Order No. 46.
11.	Bde. Church Parade.
12.	Bn Order 47. No.
13.	Letter from Br. U.S. Regt.
14.	Marked Map for Stunt.
15.	Operation Map.
16.	Narrative march from Neuve Eglise to Hebuterne
17.	& Aeroplane Maps.

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S E C R E T.

War Diary

APPENDIX.

Copy No. 5

6

FOJA BATTALION ORDER No. 44.

1. This Battalion, less two platoons of each Company, will occupy the front line on night of 2nd/3rd inst. from P.14.a.3.8 To P.8. central, and remaining two platoons per Company will move up and join the Battalion on the night of 3rd/4th inst.
2. (a) Battalion Headquarters will be at M. G. dug out in P.7.b.75.50.
(b) Ration Off-loading point and R.A.P. at O.12.b.9.4. (quarry where 16th Battalion Headquarters were)
3. (a) Times for moving out will be notified later.
(b) Oil sheet will be carried - no blanket or overcoat.
4. Valises of officers and gear of Americans and our men will be dumped at A. Coy. Headquarters by 11 a.m. on 3rd inst. Guards will be detailed by Assistant Adjutant. (*see also previous order*)
5. (a) Six Lewis Guns per Company and 16 Magazines per gun (together with an additional One Lewis Gun per Company, with 16 Magazines per gun, for attachment to Battalion Headquarters,) will be taken into the line.
(b) At 9 p.m. on night of 2nd inst. L. Gs. and magazines attached to Headquarters will be dumped at Headquarters, and L. Gs. of rest of Battalion going in that night will be dumped at A. Coy. Headquarters.
(c) At 9 p.m. on night of 3rd inst. remaining L. Gs. will be dumped at A. Coy. Headquarters.
(d) Each Company will detail a guard of 1 N.C.O. and 1 man on each night to act as guard, and ^{accompany} ~~a Coy.~~ Limber to off loading point.
6. When Coys. are in position in the line the following message in code will be sent. "H.44 Acknowledged."

Boeff
.....Captain.
ADJUTANT FOJA BATTALION.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. A. Company.
2. B. do
3. C. do
4. D. do
5. War Diary. ✓
6. File. .

15th BATTALION ORDER, No. 45.

REFERENCE SHEET 62 D, S.E. & S.W. 1/20,000
VAUX 1/20,000.Battalion Headquarters,
2nd JULY 1918.GENERAL SCHEME.

1. On a day and hour to be fixed, the 4th Brigade will capture VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS, and consolidate on the spur East of those woods. Simultaneously the 6th Brigade on the right and the 11th Brigade on the left will capture and consolidate a line as shown on attached maps.

TASKS.

- a. 2. The 15th Battalion, plus G. Coy. of 132nd. American Regiment will attack on the North side of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS, with their final objective on the Blue Line as shown on attached map.
- b. The 13th Battalion will attack on the South side of VAIRE Wood with final objective as shown on attached map.
- c. The 16th Battalion will deal with VAIRE WOOD and HAMEL WOOD and then be withdrawn to original front line to act as a reserve Battalion.
- d. The 14th Battalion will be a Reserve Battalion, and will carry and dump stores on a line approximately 500 yards in rear of Blue Line and then dig support line.

3. SPECIAL TASKS.

a. One Platoon of C. Coy. under Lieut. Black will go forward immediately in rear of last assaulting wave and dig a strong post in support line under supervision of engineers. Two Vickers Guns of 4th A. M. G. Coy. will go forward attached to this platoon.

b. The Battalion will be responsible for mopping up the area marked blue on attached map. A. Coy. will co-operate with three tanks for capturing "Pear shaped" trench, moving on with rest of the line when this job is completed.

c. ^{2 Sections} A. Platoon of A. Coy. under Capt. J. P. G. Toft in conjunction with a party from 44th Battalion will form a liason platoon to move along the inter Brigade boundary on the left. Capt. Toft will be responsible for keeping direction by compass bearing.

4. THE ATTACK.

a. Jumping off line will be a taped line as shown on attached map and Companies will form up on it in order from left to right, A. B. C. D. in four waves and advance in that formation.

b. Tape will be laid and Coy. frontages allotted on night of 1/2. Y/Z

5. MACHINE GUNS. Three Vickers guns will be attached to this Battalion. Two guns will go over with "A" Coy. and one will move with "D" Coy.

TRENCH MORTARS. Two trench mortars are allotted to this Battalion, and will move in rear of C. Coy.

P.T.O.

TANKS. Will co-operate. Three at Pear shaped trench, three to right of it and six along inter brigade boundary. Instructions already issued as to guides Coys. will supply.

ARTILLERY.

a. Artillery will put down normal ~~harrasing~~ harrasing ~~harrag~~ fire from Zero minus 8 minutes to Zero to drown noise of approaching tanks who will leave their forming up line 8 minutes before Zero.

b. Barrage will come down at Zero on the starting line shown on attached map, will remain thereon for four minutes and then advance by lifts of 100 yards at intervals of three minutes as shown on barrage maps (to be issued later) to the "Halt Line" shown on attached map, where there will be a pause of ten minutes. After the pause the barrage will lift one hundred yards at intervals of four minutes up to four hundred yards beyond the Blue Line where it will remain.

c. On arrival at the "Halt Line" a thick smoke screen will be built up to indicate the beginning of the 10 minutes halt. Eight minutes afterwards a thick smoke screen will again be built up to indicate that the advance is about to be resumed.

d. After passing the Blue Line the barrage will advance at a rate of one hundred yards in four minutes to a line four hundred yards beyond where it will continue as a standing barrage to cover consolidation for a period of thirty minutes.

6. WATCHES.

Watches will be synchronised at 9 p.m. and one hour before Zero.

.....Captain.

ADJUTANT 15th BATTALION.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. A. Company.
2. B. do
3. C. do
4. D. do
5. War Diary.
6. File.

APPENDIX 3 9

ATTACK ON HAMEL AND VAIRE
AND HAMEL WOODS.

4-7-18.

Dispositions, objective and plans of attack shown in orders and maps attached.

GENERAL SCHEME.

4th Aust. Infantry Brigade were ordered to capture Vaire and Hamel Woods and consolidate on the spur East of those woods. Simultaneously the 6th Brigade on the right and the 11th Brigade on the left were to capture and consolidate a line as shown on attached maps.

The 15th Battalion jumping off line was from P.14.a.5.5. to P.8.c.8.8. to P.8.b.1.1. and their final objective a line from P.15.d.9.5. to P.10.d.7.3. Tanks were to co-operate - three at Pear shaped Trench, three to the right of it and six along inter-Brigade boundary, on which our left flank rested.

Three Vickers Machine guns and two light trench mortars were to go over with the Battalion.

The attack was to be made under cover of a creeping artillery barrage, and Zero was timed for 3.10 a.m.

NARRATIVE.

The 15th Battalion went into the attack with a strength of 21 Officers and 615 Other Ranks, and attached to them were 7 Officers and 209 Other Ranks of the 132nd. American Regiment. A jumping off tape was laid by Battalion Intelligence Officer at Dusk. Companies commenced to move forward at 1 p.m. on to the tape. This operation was carried out quietly and in perfect order. By 2.30 a.m. all were reported in Position, Companies were in four waves in column of Platoons and running from right to left D. C. B. A. with Battalion Headquarters and details in close rear of the left flank Company. The enemy evidently had no knowledge of the impending attack, for he put up few flares, and his machine guns and artillery were very quiet. At Zero minus 8 minutes our artillery put over their usual morning shoot on the enemy's front and rear systems. For a week or more this had been a daily programme, and it raised no suspicion in the enemy's mind for there was no retaliation. Under cover of the noise of this artillery fire, and two low flying aeroplanes, our tanks moved forward from their assembly positions, and were approaching the jumping off line when the barrage fell at Zero 3.10 p.m. The main part of our barrage appeared to fall accurately but a number of the guns were firing short, particularly on the left flank of our Battalion, where shells were falling fully 200 yards in rear of the main barrage. This short shooting continued right up to the final objective and was responsible for a large number of casualties, - we had 12 killed and about 30 wounded whilst lying up at the tape -. When the barrage fell the waves moved close up to it, where this was possible, and when it ~~lifted~~ lifted after 4 minutes from Zero, the whole line closely followed it. The first lift took the barrage over the Pear shaped trench in P.8.d.1. (which we found quite undamaged by our artillery fire) and allowed the enemy there to get up and man their machine guns before the first wave reached the enemy wire. This wire was found to be practically uncut, but our men went through such sally posts as were available, or scrambled through where the wire was thinnest. The enemy fought ~~with~~ his machine guns bravely, and our casualties were fairly heavy at this point. After passing the wire, the trench was rushed, the enemy putting up a spirited fight with machine guns and bombs. Our men dashed in with the bayonet and soon overcame the garrison of the front line and passed on along the rear wings of the Pear Trench and down the sunken road running through P.8.d., bombing and bayoneting the garrison who fought tenaciously. The resistance met in Pear Trench, and our shells falling heavily in rear of the main barrage on the left flank, slowed up the advance of our left Company. The other Companies pushed ahead, and attacked Trench in P.14.b. (Vaire Trench) suffering casualties from enfilade machine gun fire from the then uncaptured portion of Pear Trench. The enemy resisted at Vaire Trench with heavy machine gun fire, but the trench was rushed, and bayonets and bombs soon brought about the surrender of the garrison. Many of the enemy had gas masks on - this being due to our artillery having shelled them with gas at that hour each morning for a week past, and on the morning of the attack putting over a large number of smoke shells, with the double object of inducing the enemy to put on their masks and also of concealing our advance. After taking Vaire Trench and Pear Trench no more very determined resistance was offered by the enemy though on the right flank machine guns in a strong post in P.15.a.4.3 ^{and in} _{front of Wood} gave trouble until dealt with by tanks: whilst on the left flank machine gun nests in Basel were active until tanks were signalled to attack and mop them up. We reached the position where the 10 minutes halt took place, and Companies were here reorganised. The left flank Company was still forced by short shooting of our artillery to remain somewhat in rear of the line, but other Companies were in touch with each other and the right flank Battalion. Up to this point over 150 prisoners and many machine guns had been captured, and very heavy

casualties inflicted on such of the enemy as resisted or attempted to escape. One party of 30 enemy were wiped out attempting to escape into Hamel, and a party of 30 fleeing from the strong post at P.15.a.4.3. were also shot down by our Lewis Gun fire. At the 10 minutes halt our tanks had caught and passed the leading waves (which was the first we had seen of them) and moved to and fro between our front wave and the barrage, mopping up strong points (mainly on the flanks of our sector) and dispersing groups of the enemy. After the halt the barrage lifted and our waves followed closely after it meeting with no very determined resistance except flanking fire from M. G's. in Hamel and Hamel Wood until reaching the final objective. Here in trench from P.10.d.6.4. to P.10.d.7.8. a number of the enemy made a short stand, until our men rushed the position and cleaned it up with the assistance of a tank, taking 3 heavy and 27 light machine guns. It was found on reaching the final objective that the enemy were in strong force out in front, so whilst the rest of the line dug in and consolidated small parties and Lewis Gun teams pushed well out and in conjunction with the tanks mopped up the trenches and strong points in front of our position inflicting extremely heavy casualties on the enemy and capturing a number of machine guns. The line was well dug in by 7 a.m. and the right flank Company had its front wired by 8 a.m. with materials brought forward by a supply tank. Enemy machine guns and snipers were active all day and his heavy and light artillery shelled the captured area indiscriminately, but our casualties after reaching the final objective were light. A great deal of enemy movement was observed during the day, and our Lewis Gunners with their own and many captured German Machine Guns inflicted very heavy casualties on the closely packed groups of enemy moving about and re-establishing their line out in front. At 2 p.m. one of our M.C.Os. and 8 men rushed an enemy strong post on our left flank and captured five prisoners and one heavy and three light machine guns. Beyond rifle and machine gun fire no offensive action was taken by the enemy on our front. He appeared to be thoroughly disorganised ~~disorganised~~ and much shaken in morale. After the protective barrage ceased (30 minutes after objective was taken) our planes came over in large formations and held command of the air up till midday when their control was disputed for about an hour by a flight of up to 35 enemy planes which brought two of ours down. About 25,000 rounds of S.A.A. were dropped by parachutes in and in rear of our lines by our planes. As the result of the operation, this Battalion took over 230 prisoners, two 8 inch mortars, 1 light mortar, 10 heavy and 45 light machine guns together with large quantities of ammunition, rifles, equipment and other war materials, whilst at least 150 of the enemy were killed. Our casualties were Killed 3 Officers 32 Other ranks Died of Wounds 9 Other Ranks, Wounded 6 Officers 190 Other Ranks, and the American Company attached lost 13 Other Ranks Killed, Wounded 2 Officers 44 Other Ranks, Unaccounted for 12 Other Ranks.

NOTES ON ATTACK.

1. I was impressed with the silent and orderly way in which our Coys. formed up on the taped line, and this was due to previous practices and patient handling of men by their Platoon Commanders.
2. Our barrage was ragged and caused us many casualties, as well as rattling our men to some extent.
On account of these short shells we were not able to get closer than 200 yards to our main barrage and this delayed us and prevented our men getting on to enemy in Pear Trench quickly enough to smother their resistance.
Our barrage did little or no damage to Pear Trench or its garrison. I examined the ground and saw where our shells fell on either side of it.
3. In dry weather a percentage of smoke shells are not required because added to dust etc. it is too difficult to see what is happening on flanks.
4. I only heard one of our tanks before Zero and its noise was not very distinct.
Tanks allotted to this Battalion did not come into action with us until the 10 minutes halt. One tank was put out of action and another was not very keen, but the third tank made up for the other two and was gallantly handled and saved us a great number of casualties at the final objective. This tank gave an ideal illustration of co-operation with infantry. The dense bank of smoke did not allow of 27 smoke Grenades being used to advantage for purpose of indicating points of enemy resistance to tanks
5. We reaped the benefit of having schooled our N.C.O's. and Lewis Gunners in the use of the German Machine Gun.
6. The success of the operation after jumping off was due to the fine leadership of Platoon Commanders and the superb dash and daring of the men themselves who dealt with any situation that presented itself on their own initiative. The gallantry displayed both individually and collectively was quite up to the Australian standard.
7. The Americans attached to us deserve special mention for their part in the operation. They behaved magnificently, but were rather anxious to get too close to our barrage (a very common fault with new troops). There is not the slightest doubt that they possess all the qualities required to make first rate fighting troops.

(Sgd) J. P. Mc Sharry Lt. Col
490 15th Bn A.I.F

To Camp 1
7/7/19

F039

On 4 July 1919 I went over
to base on the left of 15 Batts
Contact with 44 B. who were in
entirely formation. As you know we got
through a sally port & so had to bunch. About
4 of our men on this sector were firing
in amongst us while the remainder was
100 yds ahead. We lost some casualties by
this fire had to stop until the Germans
were up & the barrage lifted. The next bound
brought us to near the Bear shaped trench
on our left Boundary there we came
under Machine Gun fire from 2 Bns
but which did not cause any casualties.
We were still troubled by the short
shooting. The next lap we rushed
Bear shaped trench & were met by rifle fire
Machine Gun fire & bombs. The enemy
made a good fight & it was a few minutes
had passed before they were killed
& captured. At the same time every

hang out had a bomb thrown out it. A
number of enemy about 30 strong
attempted to run to HAMEL but
Machine Gun & Rifle fire accounted for
most of them. After this we had
very little trouble except in filling
up the gaps in the line. The short
grens were still chasing us although
the main barrage had got 300 yds ahead.
However at 10 mins half line we had
time to re-organize. The Tanks were
well within our Barrage mopping up
HAMEL. There was a little Machine Gun
fire from our left front but very few
were hit. From here on to the trench
was easy as there was no opposition
although we now followed at a
fairly long distance 300 yds behind
barrage. When our Blue line the Tanks
were forward mopping up. Our men
for a time had good shooting at enemy
running away. A small gap was
opened between left & right & so

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Blackburn's Gun firing from left front
made it necessary to spread the men
out & they began to consolidate covered
by machine guns & our own ~~machine~~ Lewis
Guns. I then walked along sector & found
everybody busily consolidating & then
came back to Battery H.B.

J.H.H. Capt

APPENDIX 4

No. 7 Platoon's Experiences in The Attack
near Hamet on July 4th

We are lying out on the tape ready at 2.30
p.m. All suspect the enemy apparently knows
nothing of the surprise and dare for him,
occasional flames show his vigilance. The
sun drags slowly on towards the zero hour.
The waiting becomes unbearable. At last the
harassing fire begins & ours before zero and
repeated flames show the enemy's nervousness.

The anxiety to be off is overwhelming, curiosity
is keen. Will the enemy expect us? Will our
Barrage cut his wire and silence his G's?
Crash! The real Barrage falls; we are ready
anxious to be off, we move. Our shorts fall
among us unburied in the desire to get at
 grips with the enemy. We reach the
enemy wire which is surmounted with his
M.G.'s playing on us and a curtain of
the heaviest (by far the majority) of his
traps putting bombs among us. We
scramble through his wire or find
sally ports of his own and rush his
trenches. Bombs bayonets and Lewis Guns



soon overcame the resistance & the
 burst of our Barrage still trouble us. The
 Barrage lifted & when moved our meeting
 no more resistance before the 10' H. H. H. H.
 I collected and organized my Platoon
 and here the T.D.K.s pushed ahead. The
 rest was easy with the T.D.K.s mopping up
 the strong points doing admirable work.
 We were unable to keep close to our
 Barrage owing to the number of our
 shells falling behind so much so that the
 British Barrage lasted for only 10 min
 after reaching the objective and then the
 enemy snipers and M.G.'s started to work.
 As soon as the objective was reached we
 pushed out the G's and began to dig
 in. We had excellent sniping all that
 and the succeeding day at heavy
 messengers and counter attack troops.
 We brought in many M.G.'s, bombs etc
 which became a useful supplement
 to our defence - a supplement not indicated
 by Fritz as his casualties from that source
 proved. Our own losses were considerable.

Attack developed until our relief.

Fred Greenwood
 No. 2 Platoon

No. 4 Platoon's Experience in the Attack and Consolidation from 3.30 A.M. 4/7 to Relief on 5/7.

When the usual harassing fire began from the Guns the paramount feeling was one of expectancy-controlled excitement. White planes showed the enemy's vigilance. The 8 minutes of this fire seemed prolonged into hours with the true air of expectancy. The dominating thought in the minds of those who had already experienced hopping the bags was just a overpowering desire to get away the suspense of waiting unbearable; bayonets were fixed; the crash of the Barrage started seemingly rather ahead on our left than on our own sector. Many lit cigarettes; the 4 minutes seemed interminable. Would the enemy wire be cut? Would he get his Barrage down? The front wave moved; everybody springs forward anxious to get on to the enemy before he has risen from the Barrage; close up to the Barrage they go; our shots fall behind; among our ranks a hubbub as the desire to get on; the wire is reached in most places; men scramble through or find wally paths the while the enemy M.G. play wildly giving a

certain amount of work to the S.B's. As the Barrage passed on the banners of the enemy garrison of Lead Trench fought with bombs & M.G's; the brave were not in the majority these ^{others} preferring the Dugout & surrender. But what bravery could avail against the superior world known fighting quality of the 15th Bn. From the Rear and close up to the Barrage went the troops leaving the survivors of the garrison to be mopped up by those in rear. This was a misplaced generosity to a treacherous enemy sometimes resulted in shooting from the rear but we have unmistakable evidence of sped revenge in the shape of bayonet tonic. My Platoon met with practically no more enemy resistance after leaving the Rear until reaching the objective although from the night of Havelock enemy Strong Post looked like giving trouble until a TANK subdued it. The Barrage to us did not seem as heavy as necessary and we were further at a big disadvantage in having to keep well in rear of it owing to a

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Large number of shells falling short and causing quite a big percentage of casualties. We could keep touch alright we found in the dim light and also found a whistle which could be plainly heard above the Barrage to be instrumental in control. Owing to the thorough explanation beforehand aided by maps we had no difficulty in deciding on the objective or in keeping direction. Every man is impressed by the way the TANKS pushed on in front of the infantry often especially from the H.A. by onwards and we are of opinion that countless casualties from nests of M.G.'s were saved by these TANKS which readily responded to our signals. On our approach and that of the TANKS the enemy fled from his position around our final objective that is those who were not killed or did not surrender. Those who surrendered generally presented even in the 'indiscreet' sensation of battle a ludicrous spectacle with the hands held high, knees knocking and sometimes even going down on their knees and offering watches etc to their captors who

generally passed them on simply directing them to the rear. The objective was reached though we did not find the ground dug up by G.P.'s as expected and digging in began under cover of the S.G.'s which were pushed out. Some men were pushed straight out far in front of our objective to mop up dugouts & brought back prisoners. Most of the prisoners at this spot proved to be mostly enemy M.G.'s crews who did not attempt to fight their guns once we were on them. Our S.G. pushed out and owing to the tactical handling of the M.G. Pl. B. Colville was able to explode an enemy sap through which he was creeping to the effect that when our Barrage came off Capt. Ardill pushed out ~~captured~~ accompanied by only one of his ^{platoon} and brought in 1 part of the enemy; three M.G.'s & a dozen revolvers and ascertained that the efficiency of Colville's Gun represented about 15 dead & 1000. Such was the skillful energy of Cpl Richmond most especially in controlling and directing the over eager gradgers of the Platoon who often could ^{hardly} be restrained

APPENDIX. 18

from pushing into our own Barrage and
 from pushing out to the trapping column
 position in front that the Platoon reached
 the objective under much greater control
 than was to be expected in the counter-attack.
 The trench was soon put down beyond no
 doubt by the enemy sniping which very
 soon commenced. Much sniping to shelled
 concrete effect was made throughout the
 day by the Platoon with our own and
 the enemy's weapons. Darkness found us
 all prepared with bombing pots out
 ready for the Counter Attack which did
 not come. Next day gave us more excellent
 sniping - the wounding of a single Hun (again
 covered the evidence poured) at 2000 yds range
 perhaps being worth the mention. Our
 position was just in front of the enemy
 Strong Point at P. 16. B. 2. 8 and we
 had good shooting on the enemy behind
 the woods away to our front and to the left
 in front of the 43rd Bn. In the afternoon
 was observed a steadily

~~Platoon~~
 enemy relief behind Aquarius Wood
 which four artillery attended. A number
 of low-flying enemy planes dropped what
 was probably food or ammunition to
 those in paraded the wood who were
 cut off by our fire on his communications.
 Apparently word was taken of their plight
 to the rear by a message dog which we
 had good sniping practice on early in
 the afternoon. Practically no shells fell
 on our position though many shells
 hit our S. Post in front. Relief was
 effected quietly.

P.C. Enemy Planes
 None were visible until
 about midday of the first day of the 4th Platoon
 when they held the sky for
 some hours but on the whole the
 air superiority was well ours.

15th Bn
 J.F.

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19

Box perimeters of No 3 Plat
A Coy during the
operations near HAMMEL
on 4th July 1915.

By 2.30 AM on 4/7/15
No 3 were all lined out
on the happening off
tape a perfect quietness
prevailed. As the
light barrage fell at
3.2 AM everyone became
restless. Cigarettes were
lit & cigarettes got
ready to light. So soon
as the crash came
Down before did the
8 minutes pass shower
& numerous were the
thoughts of us all
during that period.
Foremost of them was
would his barrage
catch us before

we got clear. At
last the crash came
& with cries of "let
her go you bastards"
many made forward
but was with difficulty
they were restrained for
the prescribed four
minutes during the
barrage was on the
mine's system. Owing
to their eagerness to
get forward & to
desire of our guns
landing short casualties
occurred at this early
stage. At last the
word was given &
No 3 went forward in
one perfect wave
with Lewis gun crew
in rear. As he
he imagined this

APPENDIX. 1

order of things did not
 last long & as some
 of the heavier spirits of
 the enemy were fighting
 bitterly & we found
 the wire still intact
 confusion more or less
 prevailed. However the
 Lewis gunners quickly
 engaged the enemy
 guns & gradually our
 numbers increased & we
 moved forward at the
 enemy came to a halt
 by the next morning
 it was at this stage
 that the majority of our
 own team with the
 exception of Pvt Baker
 were wounded.
 After wearing heavy
 dog tags of the Pear
 lunch & sending
 back prisoners, many

of which displayed
 a pitiful appearance
 of abject terror, many
 going on their knees
 for mercy. But our
 troops are always
 sports & they were
 collecting a few
 souvenirs did not
 touch them.
 In again we met
 with no opposition
 but difficulty was
 experienced in keeping
 the heavy crane from
 our barrage which
 indeed was very
 costly. The outbreak
 of HAMEL was at
 last, we reached & here
 the barrage remained
 for 10 minutes.
 Very little difficulty
 was found

gathering the Platoon
 together, as only about
 250 men remained.
 Everyone calmly awaited
 the lifting of the barrage,
 employing their time
 lighting fresh cigarettes.
 The barrage lifting
 once again was toward
 west of main, this
 time tanks were very
 much in evidence,
 keeping up very close
 to the barrage.
 Approaching the
 final objective it
 was noticed that a
 gap was appearing
 in our left flank
 & men were pushed
 out to fill it. It
 was first few men
 who struck a few
 minutes sharp fighting

The trench in front of
 them being literally
 gone with M/Guns
 being however, to the
 initiative of Sgt
 Goodwin a Pk tank
 of tank was brought
 to their assistance
 & the trench soon
 cleared. The left
 flank was then
 located & digging
 in commenced.
 During the digging
 a few of the Platoon
 pushed forward into
 the Sunken road &
 accounted for a
 good number of
 the enemy killed &
 otherwise.
 The digging in was
 really wonderful.

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In a couple of
hours or so every
one was prepared
for his counter attack
which never came.
The section occupied
by No 3 there were
3 enemy light guns
& 1 Lewis gun.
Everyone was
impressed with the
work of the tanks
during the operation.
During the
disabling "they wouldn't
do them."
The work of the
A.F.C. & R.A.F. showed
that they are still
King of the air.

11/18 }
R. G. S. }
No 3 Platoon

90

On the lovely morning of July
14 in operations near Hamel
at Lyons House 3-10. B Coy
of the 15th Battalion at 2-50
shoved out of their trenches to
the jumping off. Tape some
75 yds to 100 yds ~~to the front~~ ~~tape~~
~~tape off tape~~. At Lyons minus
light the ordinary strapple
took place at Lyons down came
the Big Barrage and played
for 4 minutes then the first
second third & fourth waves
moved forward. Our first
opposition being the parashaped
trench. Which the artillery did
little or no damage to the
consequence being it was hard
to hand fighting at this point
but it was not long before the
advance was continued at this
point the Barrage was very
effective and caused a good
number of casualties on our men.

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From the Pan-shaped Trench
 down into the Hollow and up
 on to the next Ridge little opposition
 was met and the prisoners were
 coming back numerous m.c.s
 were captured here with a little
 fighting. at the Ten minute
 halt everybody collected
 themselves together and sought
 out into companies. the next
 opposition met was in the
 Sunken Road where the enemy
 had m.c. placements. these were
 soon captured and a prisoner sent
 on their way back. after passing
 the Sunken Road about 200 yds
 we reached our Objective and
 digging in + consolidation took place
 some scouts were sent out in
 front also Lewis gun. after
 digging for about half an hour
 the enemy attempted to insert
 in Acacia wood but was soon

Dispensed by Rifle Lt. G. Fine
 after consolidating and making
 position secure everything went
 O.K.

Report
 to O.C. B Coy
 1st Bn

Narrative of operation carried
out on July 4th 1918.

About 1.30 A.M. after the men had had
a hot meal + a couple of hours rest
we began flying on to the jumping-off
tape + by 2.15 A.M. were in position
This was carried out in a very orderly
manner + with very little noise.

The night was most suitable as it
was sufficiently dark to refuse the Boche
observation of our movement, without
hindering us in any way.

The men bore the strain of waiting for
Zero + the chilly night most patiently +
after were lined up it was very
difficult to observe them lying on the
ground from any distance.

The enemy apparently did not
anticipate us attacking as he did not
display any unusual activity with
his flares or M.L's on our sector.

At Zero - 8 mins the usual morning
strafe began + continued till Zero

APPENDIX

J

without the Boche retaliating
At zero the barrage came down & I
am afraid we had a number of
casualties from our own shells before
jumping off as our shrapnel was
bursting well behind us.

At the appointed time zero + 4 mins
we moved off; the right flank moving
slightly in advance of us as the
barrage did not seem to be falling so
short in their sector.

It appeared to me that this was the
same throughout the advance as we
were well in advance of the left flank
until nearing our objective

We did not meet with any opposition
till reaching the trench running
through P14b, but this was easily
overcome & the dugouts etc. were
quickly mopped & did not in any
way interfere with the advance.

After passing this trench we were
temporarily out of touch with B & D Coy

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but joined up with them shortly afterwards in the valley running from Hamel to Hamel Wood.

It was about this place that I first saw or heard the tanks.

We were still getting a few casualties from our guns firing short although we were some distance away from the barrage.

Our progress from the valley was uninterrupted & the tanks were of great assistance in cleaning up M. G. positions in sunken road running through Pibard.

We reached our objective on time at zero + 90 mins & immediately began to consolidate & reorganise.

This was carried out without interference from the enemy as we had decent cover when he got his M. G.'s in action & I think there were only two men wounded in the C. Coy after we reached the objective.

The success of the operation after jumping off was due to the fine leadership of Platoon Commanders & WCO's & the superb dash & daring of the men, ^{themselves} who dealt with any situation that presented itself, on their own initiative & the gallantry displayed both individually & collectively was quite up to the Australian standard.

The Americans attached to us deserve special mention for their part in the operation as they behaved magnificently, but were rather anxious to get too close to our barrage (a very common fault with fresh troops). This is not the slightest doubt that they possess all the qualities ^{required} that ~~is~~ to make a good fighting soldier.

9.7.18,

R. Sharp Capt
of C. Coy.
15th Bn.

1st
20
A. G. NOZA.

In the attack made by this Battalion on 4th July 1918.

I was in charge of the 1st wave of C Coy.

At Leno - 8 the ordinary artillery chest opened.

at Leno the barrage became intense falling short, as my wave lined up on the jumping off tape inflicting casualties to my wave. Owing to the Barrage falling short I was unable to move forward for about 3 minutes.

When the Barrage lifted I followed up as close as possible a few guns were still falling short and causing casualties to my wave.

I pushed forward to first objective "VAIRE TRENCH" and was met by machine gun fire

1 2
which we dealt with and continued to advance.

No opposition was met with until we pushed on again after the few minutes halt, when machine gun fire was again met with from a small strong post on my left, which was a tank dealt with, and allowed us to continue our advance.

I then pushed forward to the final objective, and after reaching same sent out a few sentries and patrol to cover my consolidation.

Tanks pushed forward to "ACCROCHE WOOD" and fired on the retreating enemy.

17.18

bb
17.18
17.18

1. A. G. NOZA

By the attack of this Battalion on
4th July 1918.

I was in charge of 2nd wave B Coy.
At least the Baraga came down on
my wave causing casualties
and I was unable to advance
for about 3 minutes.

When the Baraga lifted and the
allowed the wave to advance a
few firms were still falling
short.

On approaching the first Objective
VAIRE TRENCH we met with
heavy machine gun fire, which
we dealt with and captured
a few prisoners and a light
Drench Motor (Triappi).

I then continued to advance
and owing to a gap between
B & C Companies I moved up
and filled the breach.

2
I met with no opposition
until after the ten minute halt
when I was held up by
Machine gun fire from a
small "Strong Post" on left of
"ACCROCHE" STREET, which a tank
immediately dealt with and
the wave to advance.

I then advanced to the first
Objective and pushed my firms
forward to cover the
consolidation.

W. Gouinon, Lieut.
1.7.18

Report on Stunt near HAMEL Wood on 9/7/1918

On the morning of the 4th June 1918, I was in charge of the rear platoon of "D" Company forming the right portion of the 4th wave. The first noticeable feature was the absence of movement and absolute quietness after 2.30 am of the waves in front and to the left as far as it was possible to see in the semi-darkness where the men were on the tape. At zero, two or three guns opened short an out sector, and fire raged into the left of "D" Company, and were responsible for about 20 casualties in the first 30 yards. The advance on the right was in perfect order, except now and again the men were a

(2)
a little bit inclined to bunch. The point that I noticed most was the splendid fire discipline of the men, at all times they looked to the officer and NCOs for instructions and all orders were promptly obeyed.

At the ten minutes halt for reorganization the section Commanders very soon had Commanders of the men that remained.

At this point the night was unbroken with the 16th Battalion, and was well in rear of the barrage, but to the left of the Battalion they appeared. As uncomfortable - about close to the barrage. When the barrage lifted the 16th Battalion pushed over to the right across

Hurts WALK, and filled a gap
 between the 13th Battalion and
 15th Battalion. On reaching the
 final objective No 16 Platoon
 engaged across to allow the
 13th Battalion to move into
 the left, and we consolidated
 on the left of "D" Company
 and joined up with "C" Company
 making a complete front line.
 "D" Company front was wired
 with a double apron belt before
 8 am. The only opposition met
 with by 16 Platoon were two
 machine guns and a party
 of riflemen near the left edge
 of the wood just before the
 the barbed wire played for ten
 minutes on the one side. Both
 tanks and aeroplanes rendered
 valuable assistance.
 Edward J. Farney, Lt
 No 16 Platoon
 7-7-1918.

No 15 Platoon jumped off from
 approx. P. 14. A. 3-8. The barage on
 left seemed to be falling short.
 On our sector a few guns were very
 slow in lifting. Platoon met no
 resistance until reaching P. 15. A. 4-3
 where they encountered a M.G.
 position and a system of dugouts.
 After feeble resistance - M.G. was put
 out of action and about 30 prisoners
 sent to the rear, some of these

APPENDIX X

were wearing their Gas masks.
Platoon encountered another post
the wire of which seemed intact
at approx. P. 15. A. 4. 3. - 1 Gun and
about 6 prisoners including an
officer were sent back from here
About 20 tried to escape into the
wood and had to be shot. - A
tank gave valuable assistance
at this point - keeping down
fire from a post in the edge of
the wood - No more enemy

was encountered until reaching
sunken road near Huns Walk
approx 16. C. 2. 1. by this there was
no fight in him, he mostly tried
to escape along Huns Walk
into ~~Assche~~ Wood. Position
was consolidated at approximately
16. C. 7. 1. The only casualties
inflicted on platoon after
reaching objective were caused
through a heavy battery of our own
falling short. B. Sloan ^{1st}
15. 1. 11

Report on recent Operations
near Hamel on 4-7-18

I was in charge of first wave of "Don"
boy 15th Battalion. On Barrage going
down, I pushed forward to first
objective. From this point we met
strong opposition in sunken road
in front of HAMEL WOOD.

We then pushed forward in touch
with 16th Battalion to far end of
Hamel Wood. At this point we
had ten minutes halt. Platoon
was reorganised. On barrage lifting
we moved across to the right
of HUNS WALK, & got in touch
with 13th Battalion. In pushing
forward we came under heavy
machine gun fire in sunken road.
We were held up for a little time
till tanks pushed through & engaged
the enemy machine guns.

We then pushed forward capturing about twenty of the enemy, & two machine guns. Then moving to final objective pushing out Lewis guns as a screen while position was consolidated.

By 8 A.M. we had a belt of double spun wire in front of our new line.

The Tanks gave us valuable assistance towards final objective.

The enemy seemed to have no fight in them after breaking through first objective.

7.7.19

J. H. M. J. J.
D. C. J. J.

Harrel Stunt

We were all out on the Taps in good time for not long afterwards darkness was creeping in.

Our barrage guns at times were dropping short in case before we started to attack. Some were dropping shells in rear of jumping off line. Was a good idea in putting down so much smoke from a shell for when we reached first objective some of the enemy had their gas masks on.

The method of attack was good, having one (Centre) Platoon responsible for the wood for the outer Platoons had no difficulty in connecting up round the opposite end.

Tanks were of great assistance especially where a strong point was seen.

Contd.

The enemy did not seem to take the idea of coming to close quarters, but when our Chaps did meet opposition they did not hesitate but got straight to work & dislodged them. On reaching objective our Chaps worked well even when they were exposed to M. G. fire.

A. Charles Capt
of C Coy

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 18

Reference Sheet 62.D. B.E. & S.W. 1/20,000.
VAUX 1/20,000.Brigade Headquarters,
1st July, 1918.

1. On a day and at an hour to be fixed the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade will capture VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and consolidate on the Spur East of those Woods.
The exact task allotted to the Brigade is shown on attached map "A".
Simultaneously the 6th Brigade on the Right will advance and capture and consolidate a line as indicated on the attached Map "A", and the 11th Brigade on the Left will capture the village of HAMEL and consolidate a position on the old British Line East of HAMEL (see attached Map "A").
2. Tasks.
(a) The 15th Battalion will deal with VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS. The 15th Battalion will attack on the North side of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS with their final objective on the BLUE LINE as indicated on the attached map marked "A".
The 13th Battalion will attack on the South side of VAIRE WOOD and will have for its final objective the BLUE LINE as indicated on the attached map marked "A".
The 14th Battalion will be the Reserve Battalion and at ZERO will move to that portion of the Front Line vacated by 15th Battalion and thereafter will move with stores and supplies to a line approximately 500 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE, dump their stores, and proceed to dig the Support Line.
The 16th Battalion when VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS have been completely mopped up will be withdrawn into the old Front Line now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade and will become Reserve Battalion.
(b) The three platoons specially trained in the construction of Strong Posts will go forward immediately in rear of the last assaulting waves. The platoons supplied by 15th Battalion moving in rear of that Battalion and platoons supplied by 13th and 14th Battalions will move in rear of 13th Battalion.
The Engineer Officers attached to these platoons will determine the localities for Strong Posts to be constructed in the Support Line to final objective.
(c) The O.C., 4th A.M.G. Company will detail 3 guns to go over with each of 13th and 15th Battalions: 2 guns will be attached to and go over with each of the special platoons mentioned in (b) above. 4 Guns will remain in Reserve. Gun Crews with Guns &c. complete will report to the respective Commanding Officers concerned at a time to be arranged mutually.
(d) Two Trench Mortars are allotted to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions. T.M. Crews with Mortars will report to the Commanding Officers concerned at a time to be arranged mutually. The remaining two Trench Mortars will be held in Reserve.
(e) The 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions will be responsible for mopping up the areas respectively coloured Red, Blue and Yellow on the attached map marked "A".
3. American Troops.
Five Companies of American Troops are allotted to the Brigade to take part in this operation - 1 Company is attached to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions and 2 Companies to the 16th Battalion.
4. Brigade Battle Headquarters will be at O.12.b.9.5. (Quarry).

Flares - when known or lights 15 min after zero
D.D. 3 guns

P.T.O.

5. Tanks. Will co-operate in these operations. The distributions of the Tanks allotted to this Brigade are as shown on attached diagram "C". Battalion Commanders concerned will make arrangements direct with Tank Unit Commanders for guiding Tanks to their positions of assembly and from there to Infantry starting point.

6. The Infantry Jumping Off Line will be a taped line as indicated on attached Map "A". This tape will be put out by Units concerned on "y"/"z" night under supervision of Brigade Intelligence Officer.

7. Artillery.

(a) The artillery will put down normal harrassing fire, (in accordance with the programme lately instituted) with the exception of gas, from Zero minus 8 minutes to Zero, to drown the noise of approaching tanks, who will leave their forming up line not less than 8 minutes before Zero. The Tank Commander will make arrangements to ensure as accurately as possible synchronisation of arrival at the Infantry Taped Line.

(b) The actual barrage will drop at Zero on the "Start Line" shown on the attached map, and after remaining thereon for four minutes will advance by lifts of 100 yards at intervals of three minutes, as shown on the barrage map, (to be issued later), to the "HALT LINE" shown on the attached map "A" where there will be a pause of 10 minutes. After the pause the barrage will lift 100 yards at intervals of 4 minutes up to 400 yards beyond the BLUE LINE.

(c) On arrival at the "HALT LINE" a thick smoke screen will be built up to indicate the beginning of the 10 minutes halt. Eight minutes afterwards a thick smoke screen will again be built up to indicate that the advance is about to be resumed.

(d) After passing the BLUE LINE the barrage will advance at a rate of 100 yards in four minutes, to a line 400 yards beyond, where it will continue as a standing barrage to cover consolidation, for a period of 30 minutes.

(e) From Zero hour on, a special programme of intense Counter-Battery action will be carried out.

8. Infantry Formations.

The 13th Battalion which is detailed for the capture and neutralisation of HAMEL and VAIRE WOODS will move in two waves supported by Tanks detailed for the purpose.

The Troops allotted for capture of final objective (13th and 15th Battalions and attached American Troops) will move in two waves and will be supported by special Tank formations which will move round the flank of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS.

The 14th Battalion will move in Artillery formation behind the assaulting troops at a sufficient distance to avoid being involved in initial fighting and will dig a Support Line in rear of BLUE LINE on a line which will be indicated by the establishment of the three Strong posts mentioned above. This Battalion will carry forward with it engineering material and ammunition. Special instructions concerning this are being prepared and will be issued later.

9. Special Task for 15th Battalion.

The Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, will detail 1 Company to co-operate with three Tanks allotted for the purpose of the capture of the "pear Shaped" Trench.

10. Flank Liaison.

Close Liaison must be maintained with the units co-operating in these operations on the right and left. The Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, will arrange with Commanding Officer, 44th Battalion, for a mixed platoon of the two Battalions to move along the inter-Brigade boundary on the left. The Commanding Officer, 13th Battalion, will arrange with Commanding Officer, 21st Battalion, for a mixed platoon of the two Battalions to move along the inter-Brigade boundary on the right. The Officers detailed to go with these parties will be responsible for keeping direction by compass bearing.

11. Synchronisation of Watches. Watches will be synchronised at 8.p.m. and 1 hour before Zero Hour on "Y"/"Z" night. Units will send an Officer to Brigade Headquarters for this purpose.
12. Signalling. Brigade Advanced Report Centre will be established at P.8.c.2.2. in the first instance. A party under Lieut. S.M.LARKINS will move forward with the Reserve Battalion (14th Battalion) and establish Brigade Forward Station at P.15.c.3.8. (approx.).
13. ACKNOWLEDGE. *ackd gH*

R.W. Fovell
Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 3 p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -


1. 4th Aust. Division.
- 2 - 4. War Diary.
5. G.O.C.
6. Brigade Major.
7. Staff Captain.
8. 13th Battalion.
9. 14th Battalion.
10. 15th Battalion. ✓
11. 15th Battalion.
12. 4th A.M.G. Company.
13. 4th A.L.T.M. Battery.
14. 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
15. 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
16. 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
17. 8th Tank Battalion.
18. 4th Field Coy. A.E.
19. 4th Aust. Div. Artillery.

~~SECRET~~

C

FINAL OBJECTIVE

LEGEND

 EXPECTED MAIN CENTRES OF RESISTANCE

 OR SINGLE TANKS

RED - TROOPS & TANKS DETAILLED FOR REDUCTION OF MAIN CENTRES OF RESISTANCE.

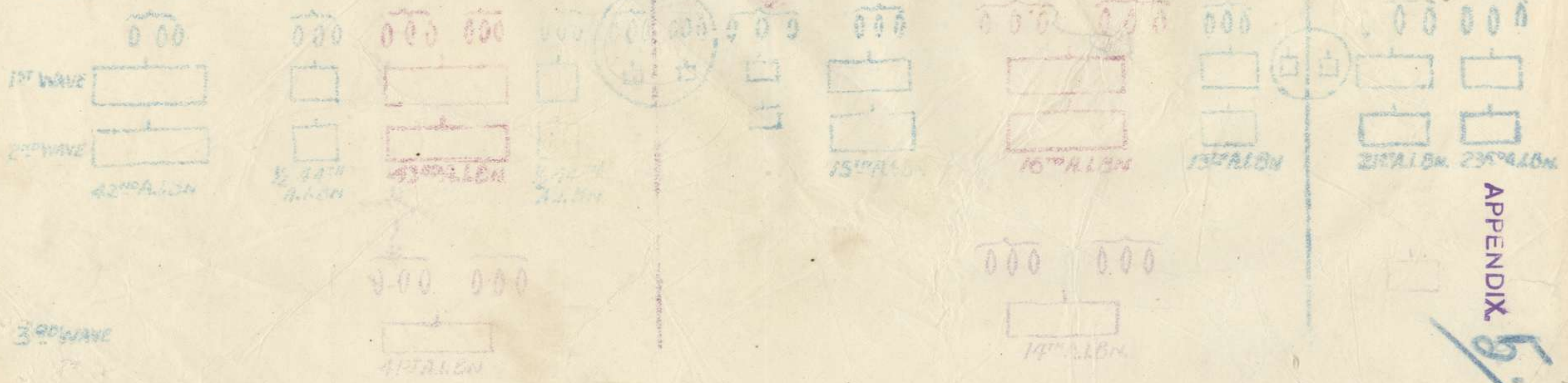
GREEN - TROOPS DETAILLED FOR CAPTURE OF FINAL OBJECTIVE

PURPLE - RESERVE'S

In Green circle, BRITISH UNITS MOVING UP TO BLUE LINE

INNER BLUE BOUNDARY

INNER BLUE BOUNDARY



APPENDIX

5

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Brigade Headquarters.
28th June, 1918.Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

The following are the preliminary arrangements and requirements in connection with the forthcoming operations, based on the conclusions arrived at at the conference on 25th/26th June :-

- (1) For the purpose of reference Zero Day will be called "Z" day, one day before Zero Day will be called "Y" Day and two days before Zero Day will be called "X" Day.
- (a) On "X"/"Y" night the Brigade will take over that portion of the Front and Support Lines now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade together with the Communication Trenches between the Reserve and Front Line systems.
- Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 15th Battalion will move into those portions of the Front and Support Lines situated between the Centre Battalion left boundary and the communication trench in P.7.a. and c.
- Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 16th Battalion will move into the Front Line between the communication trenches in P.7.a. and P.1.a.
- Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 14th Battalion will move into the Support Trench between the communication trench in P.7.c. and P.2.d.
- Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 13th Battalion will move into the Front and Support trenches between the 13th Brigade right boundary and the communication trench running through P.1.e. and a.
- The balance of the Brigade will remain in the Reserve Area until "Y"/"Z" night when the remainder of all Units will join up.
- (2) Assembly positions. Assembly positions will be a taped line parallel with and 150 yards from the Zero Barrage line already indicated in a former communication.
- The assaulting troops will be drawn up on the assembly positions by Zero Hour and on the fall of the barrage will move up under it as close as possible in order to avoid the enemy barrage.
- (3) Disposition of troops for the operations.
- The 16th Battalion will deal with VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS. The 15th Battalion will be detailed to attack on the North side of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS with their final objective on the BLUE LINE junctioning with the 11th Brigade at approximately P.10.d.5.4. and with its right at approximately P.15.d.9.5.
- The 13th Battalion will attack on the South side of VAIRE WOOD and will have for its final objective the BLUE LINE from P.21.e.9.7. to P.15.d.9.5.
- The 14th Battalion will be the Reserve Battalion and at ZERO will move to that portion of the Front Line vacated by 16th Battalion and thereafter will move with stores and supplies to a line approximately 500 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE, dump their stores, and proceed to dig the Support Line.
- The 16th Battalion when VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS have been completely mopped up will be withdrawn into the old Front Line now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade and will become Reserve Battalion.

P.T.O.

- (4) Responsibility for the Defensive Line.
 (a) The 4th Brigade will assume responsibility for the defence of the area now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade on "X"/"Y" night.
 (b) All elements of the 13th Brigade should be withdrawn from the Front and Support Lines in this area on "X"/"Y" night with the exception of Vickers Machine Guns and nucleus garrisons consisting of Lewis Guns with minimum crews.
- (5) Headquarters. Brigade Headquarters will be established at O.12.b.9.5. (which is the present Headquarters for the Centre Battalion of the 13th Brigade).
 Headquarters for the Battalions are being arranged for in the Front and Support Lines. Their exact localities will be notified later.
- (6) American Troops. It is proposed to allot 1 Company to the 13th Battalion and 1 Company to the 15th Battalion to take part in the attack.
- (7) Dumps. Forward Dumps have already been established at P.13.c.8.5. and P.8.c.2.1. (both these references are approximate only) and are now being filled with the various engineer and other material that will be required in the forward area after the assault has been delivered. Forward dumps will subsequently be established in exact localities yet to be determined in P.15.b. and c.
- (8) General. Three platoons are being specially trained in the rapid construction of Strong posts. These troops will be sent forward immediately in rear of the last assaulting waves and will dig in on the forward crest of the ridge to the West of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS at approximately 400 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE and spread at equal intervals along the whole front. With each of these platoons there will be two Vickers Guns and an Engineer Officer.
 When the 14th Battalion subsequently moves up they will dig a Support Line on the general line indicated by the establishment of these three platoons.
- (9) Prisoners. 20 Military Police will be required to report at Forward Brigade Headquarters at 10.p.m. on "Y"/"Z" night for the purpose of collecting and evacuating prisoners captured.
- (10) 4th M.G. Company. Three guns will report to and go over with each of the 13th and 15th Battalions.
 Two guns will be attached to and will go over with each of the special platoons mentioned in para. 8 above.
 Four guns will remain in Reserve in the vicinity of Brigade Headquarters.
- (11) 4th T.M. Battery. Two Trench Mortars will be attached to and go over with each of the 13th and 15th Battalions. The balance will remain in Reserve.
- (12) Medical arrangements. Early information is requested concerning medical arrangements. As the carry will be very long bearer assistance will be required forward of the jumping off position.

Lieut-Colonel.
 Comdg. 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

SECRET.

Copy

28/7/18

AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY FORCE

APPENDIX

Copy No 5 43

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
29th June, 1918.

Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Further to my communication of 28/6/1918. The following additional requirements of this Brigade are now set forth:-

(1) Medical Arrangements.

In the first instance R.A.P.'s. will be established as follows :-

- 13th Battalion in *P19b 23*
- 14th Battalion) in Sunken Road at P.8.c.
- 16th Battalion)
- 15th Battalion P.8.d.central.
- 14th Battalion will subsequently move to a point clear of VAIRE WOOD in P.15.c.

The A.D.S. for Brigade will be at O.12.b.8.4. (Quarry). To assist in evacuation of casualties in later stage of operations 32 Stretcher Bearers from Field Ambulance will be required. It is requested that Officer in Charge of this party report at A.D.S. in Quarry at midnight on "Y"/"Z" night.

In addition to foregoing it is requested that 8 additional bearers be sent to each of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions to report to respective M.O.'s. by 10.30.p.m. on "Y"/"Z" night.

(2) Accommodation in forward area.

It is requested that 1 Battalion of 13th Brigade be withdrawn from forward area on "X"/"Y" night. This will relieve congestion and suits convenience of G.O.C. 13th Brigade who suggests that they be withdrawn to AUBIGNY LINES. Remaining 2 Battalions of 13th Brigade, less nucleus, as indicated in a former communication, will remain in Reserve Line and Headquarters of both these Battalions should be at O.12.d.1.1.

(3) Headquarters.

(a) It is requested that arrangements be made for Brigade Headquarters from "X"/"Y" night to completion of operations to be at O.12.b.9.5.

(b) It is requested that following Headquarters be arranged from "X"/"Y" night :-

- (i) 13th and 14th Battalions in existing Headquarters for Right Battalion of 13th Brigade at O.24.a.3.7.
- (ii) 15th Battalion in M.G. dugout in approx. P.7.b. 75.50.
- (iii) 16th Battalion in O.12.b.9.5.

(c) Battalion Headquarters which will be occupied on "Y"/"Z" night will be established as follows :-

- (i) 13th Battalion at P.10.b.2.3.
- (ii) 14th Battalion at P.10.a.central.
- (iii) 15th and 16th Battalions in P.8.c.2.2.

With regard to Battle Headquarters required by 14th Battalion it is requested that Artillery personnel who have peacefully penetrated into the dugout be reduced to a minimum.

(d) Can the Commanding Officer 4th M.G. Battalion be asked to provide a Headquarters as near as possible to Brigade Headquarters for Headquarters of 4th M.G. Company and the 4th T.M. Battery in view of the several M.G. dugouts at his disposal in this Area and notify Brigade of location of these Headquarters by Noon on 1st July.

4. Acknowledge.

Lieut-Colonel.
Comdg. 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

201

SECRET.

Copy No. 8..

Administrative instructions issued in connection with
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.
Reference Sheet G.D. 1/40,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
30/6/1918.

1. Supplies for distribution to the man.

The following will be drawn at Rear Brigade Headquarters on morning of 1st July. Grenades are at present undetonated.
Ammunition.

	13th Bn.	14th Bn.	15th Bn.	16th Bn.	T.M.Bty.
S.A.A.	75000	75000	100000	100000	-
S.A.A. (A.P.)	1000	1000	1000	1000	-
Grenades No.5 or 23	640	640	840	840	240
" " 27	450	-	450	600	-
" " 34 (Egg)	750	750	950	950	100
" " 36	600	200	600	600	-
S.O.S. Flares	12	12	12	12	-
Red Ground Flares	150	150	150	150	-
Solidified Alcohol, tins	100	100	100	100	15
Message Rockets	10	10	10	10	-
Wirecutters	30	10	30	30	-
Waterbottles	400	400	600	500	40

The following will be drawn from R.E.Dump at FOUILLOY -

Picks	200	200	250	250	-
Shovels	200	200	250	250	-
Sandbags	1500	1500	2000	2000	250
Tape, yards	750	750	750	750	-
Illuminated Signs (Bn. & Coy.H.Q.)	As provided			As prov'd.	

2. Supplies to be taken forward by Supply Tank.

One supply Tank is detailed for 13th Battalion and one for 15th Battalion. The following load will be carried by each Tank -

- 120 coils barbed wire.
- 120 long screw pickets.
- 240 short screw pickets.
- 50 sheets corrugated iron.
- 50 petrol tins filled with water.
- 150 T.M. Bombs.
- 10 boxes S.A.A.

The whole of this material (less S.A.A. and Petrol Tins) is at present in neighbourhood of Supply Tanks at N.18.d.central. 13th and 15th Battalions will each provide -

- (a) 50 petrol tins filled with water.
- (b) 10 boxes S.A.A.
- (c) Loading party of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men who will load Tanks by Noon on 1st July.
- (d) Guide to report to O.C. Supply Tanks at 51st Battalion Headquarters at O.6.b.7.2. (Square at HAMELET - opposite Church) at midnight on "Y"/"Z" night.
- (e) Unloading party of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men to meet and unload Tank at ultimate destination.
- (f) For marking of Tank with Battalion colours by noon on July 1st.

Ultimate destination of Supply Tanks will be approximately -
13th Battalion Tank - P.15.d.2.2.
15th " " " P.15.b.8.8.

Guides provided must be capable of guiding Tanks to this approximate position.

3. Supplies to be carried forward by 14th Battalion and dumped in vicinity of Support Line.

These are at present equally distributed between 2 forward dumps at P.13.d.8.6. and P.8.c.5.4. respectively :-

Handwritten: Plans zero + 90

Handwritten signature: M. Sharry

Handwritten signature: Thrice Irish

P.T.O.

- (a) Posts fitted for A.A. Defence - 12.
- (b) Chloride of Lime - 4 barrels.
- (c) Petrol tins filled with water - 150.
- (d) Sandbags - 10,000.
- (e) Barbed wire - 220 coils.
- (f) Screw Pickets, Long 500; Short 1000.
- (g) S.A.A. - 200000.
- (h) Grenades No. 36 - 1500.
No. 27 - 1000.
No. 5 - 2000.

Supplies (a), (b) and (c) will be taken in any case, and as much of balance as possible. All R.E. material is made up in one man loads. All grenades in these dumps are detonated.

4. Additional S.A.A. will be taken forward by Fighting Tanks and also by aeroplane.

5. Rations and Water.

- (a) Fighting Troops will take with them the rations for Zero day plus iron rations.
- (b) One section pack mule train is being made available for each of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions for "Z" / "Z" plus 1 night. Units will notify Brigade by Noon on "Y" day of time and place they require these to report.
- (c) Fighting Troops will each carry 2 filled waterbottles.
- (d) Waterbottles and iron rations for attached American troops will be made available.
- (e) A rum ration has been authorized for "Y"/"Z" and "Z" / "Z" plus 1 nights and will be issued at discretion of Unit Commanders.

6. Medical.

Proposed R.A.P.'s.

- 13th Battalion at p.19.b.2.3.
- 14th " " P.8.c.
- 15th " " P.8.c.
- 15th " " P.8.d.central.

14th Battalion will ultimately establish R.A.P. clear of VAIRE WOOD in P.15.c.

A.D.S. - Quarry in O.12.b.8.4.

Motor post. " " "

Stretcher Bearers - 8 additional complete with stretchers to report to R.M.O. of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions at 10.30.p.m. "Y"/"Z" night. *respectively*

- 32 complete with stretchers to report to Staff Captain Brigade Headquarters QUARRY at 10.30.p.m. "Y"/"Z" night.

Marking - Units will issue to each man a small strip of cloth or tape to be tied to rifle to draw attention to Casualties lying in crops &c.

7. Prisoners. Line of evacuation will be via Brigade Headquarters at Quarry in O.12.b.9.5. 20 Military Police will be available there to conduct to P.O.W. Cage at about O.5.c.7.7.

8. American attached Troops. Additional Sandbags, Picks and Shovels are being made available for American Troops.

9. Casualties. American casualties are to be reported separately from Australian. Units will arrange to have representatives at A.D.S. or other centres to keep records of casualties.

RMO Admin

1 additional Reserve SB.

P.T.O.

- 10. Stragglers posts are being established. Hot drinks and food are available at each. Locations will be issued later.
- 11. Cemeteries - See separate Memo.
- 12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

H. Thomson

Captain.
Staff-Captain.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through Signals at 10 p.m.

Distribution -

- 1. G.O.C.
- 2. Brigade Major.
- 3. Staff Captain.
- 4 & 5. 13th Battalion.
- 6 & 7. 14th Battalion.
- 8 & 9. 15th Battalion.
- 10 & 11. 16th Battalion.
- 12. 4th T.M. Battery.
- 13. 4th Aust. Division.
- 14. 4th M.G. Battalion.
- 15. 5th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
- 16. 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
- 17. 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
- 18. A.D.M.S.
- 19. A.P.M.
- 20. Tank Corps.
- 21. Pack Transport Troop
- 22. O.C., Supply Tanks.
- 23. Div. Train.
- 24. 4th Field Coy.
- 25 - 27 War Diary.
- 28 - 30 Spare.

SECRET.

Copy No.....

OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS NO. 2.
Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

Brigade Headquarters.
2nd July, 1918.

1. PRISONERS.

- (a) Brigade collecting Station will be established at the QUARRY (Brigade Headquarters).
- (b) Prisoners sent back by units must be properly escorted and not merely sent towards the rear as has occasionally happened on previous operations.
- (c) Officers and N.C.O's. only will be searched by a responsible Officer and all documents and maps taken from them immediately after capture. These will be sent at once to Brigade Headquarters.

X 2. DOCUMENTS.

Three, or at least two, reliable N.C.O's. or men will be detailed by each Battalion Commander for the purpose of searching dugouts, trenches and enemy dead for documents and maps, etc. All such documents, maps, etc. will be forwarded without delay to the I.C. Officer at Brigade Headquarters.

3. 16th Battalion will detail Capt. D.S.AARONS, M.C. to be stationed at A.D.S. at O.15.a.5.7.. This Officer will interrogate our own slightly wounded as to the progress of the battle, opposition met with, and any other useful information. Any information so gained will be transmitted to 4th Aust. Division, 4th, 6th and 11th Brigades by priority telegram.

X 4. AEROPLANE SIGNALS.

- (a) Counter attack aeroplanes will indicate any counter-attack spotted by dropping a parachute flare over where the counter-attack is developing. This flare remains suspended for about 15 minutes. In the daytime it emits a good deal of smoke.
- (b) In addition to the usual unit Ground sheets the Units hereunder indicated will display on the ground close to its ground sheet close to its Headquarters a number composed of white calico as under :-

	Unit.	Number.
	13th Battalion	6
	16th "	7
	15th "	8
	14th "	9

The above material will be supplied by Signals.

X 5. COMMUNICATIONS.

A Divisional Visual Station will be established at Pagoda at O.24.d.5.0. This station is for receiving messages from Brigades, Brigade Forward Parties, attacking battalions, companies or platoons after Zero. Visual Stations will be established at or near Brigade Headquarters and each Brigade Forward Station.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

P.W. Howell
Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 3.p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -
Normal.

Addendum to Administrative instructions issued with
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

201

Brigade Headquarters.
2nd July, 1918.

1. Add to para. 1.

The following may be drawn at rear Headquarters on 2/7/1918 :-

- (a) New S.O.S. Flares (3 Green).
- (b) Solidified Alcohol - 100 tins additional per Battalion.
- (c) Message Rockets - 10 to Brigade Headquarters.
- (d) Wirecutters.
- (e) Food Containers - 10 each for 13th, 14th and 15th Bns.
- (f) Iron Rations, Waterbottles, Picks, shovels and Sandbags will be available for attached American troops during afternoon and will be drawn as follows :-

	13th Bn.	14th Bn.	15th Bn.	16th Bn.
Picks	120	120	120	-
Shovels	120	120	120	-
Iron Rations	120	120	120	240
Waterbottles	120	120	120	240

- (g) 1 Box Very Lights may be drawn by each Battalion.
- (h) 300 rounds revolver ammunition per Battalion; 100 to T.M. Battery.

2. Add to para. 3.

Amended location of forward dumps is -

- Ammunition - P.13.d.15.40. and P.8.c.5.6.
- R.E. Stores - P.13.d.35.35. and P.14.a.05.90.

Load to be carried over by 14th Battalion will be as follows -

	Material.	Men required.
Chloride of Lime	4 barrels	8
Petrol tins filled	150	75
A.A. Posts	5	12
Sandbags	5000	50
S.A.A.	70000	70
Grenades No. 36	1500	63
@ " " 27	500	21
@ Note. Burstlers accompany but are not in No. 27 Grenades.		
Grenades No. 5	2000	84
Coils Wire	100	100
Long Screw Pickets	250	50
Short " "	500	50
		<u>583</u>

14th Battalion will also provide themselves with two large white "N", arms 6 feet in length, to display near dumps at P.15.b.7.7. and P.15.d.2.2. as signal to aeroplanes carrying S.A.A.

3. Add to para. 7.

Prisoners are not to be used for stretchers Bearing unless the position absolutely warrants.

4. Add to para. 10.

(a) Location of Straggler Posts -

- No. 1 I.33.b.2.2. No. 3 O.9.a.8.3.
- No. 2 O.2.b.5.3. No. 4 O.1.c.2.5.
- No. 5 N.6.a.5.5.

(b) Straggler collecting Station - N.6.c.9.5.

5. 16th Battalion will detail 18 other ranks from American Reserve Company to report to O.C. 4th A.L.T.M. Battery by 8.p.m. on "Y"/"Z" night and to be used for carrying purposes.

Issued at 7.a.m. through Signals.

Distribution -
Normal.

H. Thomson
Captain.
Staff-Captain.
4th Aust. Inf. Bde.

ackd JH

OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS NO. 1.
Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

Brigade Headquarters.
2nd July, 1918.

1. Tank Signals from Tanks to Infantry.

- (a) "Infantry come on" Green and White Flag.
- (b) "I am out of action" Red and Yellow Flag.

2. Infantry Signals to Tanks.

(a) Steel helmets on rifles held up perpendicularly mean "There is a point that the Infantry requires the Tanks to deal with".

(b) The firing of No. 27 Grenades on to or in the direction of a point indicates to the Tanks that such is a place required by the Infantry to be dealt with by Tanks.

3. Signals to Aeroplanes.

Contact aeroplanes will call for the show of ground flares to indicate the whereabouts of Infantry at Zero plus 90 minutes. Contact aeroplanes will sound a Klaxon Horn and fire very lights to so call. Commanding Officers must ensure that all ground flares are not lighted at one time as it may be difficult for aeroplanes to pick them up in the first instance. Arrangements must therefore be made that flares issued are so used that the infantry will be able to answer a number of calls.

4. Spare Lewis Guns.

A dump of spare Lewis Guns is being arranged at Zero forward dumps. Replacements required by Battalions will be made on requisition to Brigade: it must be borne in mind however that the Brigade has to account strictly for all issues of Lewis Guns to Battalions from dumps.

5. Communications.

(a) Previous to Zero Hour two metallic overland circuits will be established from Brigade Headquarters to Advanced Report Centre. A visual station will also be established at the Advanced Report Centre to work to the Divisional Visual Station at O.30.a.9.8. (approx.) and later, to work forward. Power Buzzer and Amplifier communications will also be established between Brigade Headquarters and Advanced Report Centre. The Popham panel will also be set up at Advanced Report Centre for the purpose of communicating with contact planes. Rockets will also be used between Brigade Headquarters and Advanced Report Centre.

(b) The forward party will move with the 14th Battalion and will lay two metallic circuits from the Advanced Report Centre to the Brigade Forward Station which will probably be established at P.15.c.3.8. or in that vicinity. The site will be marked by a rectangular Blue and white flag. A Lineman and Runner relay post will be established in the hostile front line system but the exact location will depend on circumstances.

(c) When the Brigade Forward Station is established it is expected that the following communications will be available to the rear :-

- i. Two metallic message and speaking circuits to Advanced Report Centre.
- ii. Wireless (Loop set) to Brigade Headquarters.
- iii. Visual to Advanced Report Centre and Divisional Visual Station.
- iv. Rocket to Advanced Report Centre.
- v. Runner to Advanced Report Centre.

(d) When the Battalion Forward Command posts are finally established two metallic lines will be laid by Battalion personnel from their position to the Brigade Forward Station. Two linemen from the party laying the lines will be kept at the Brigade Forward Station for the maintenance of their own circuits. Each Battalion

P.T.O.

will also send in two Runners to the Forward Station who will remain there for duty.

(e) Battalions will be supplied with pigeons and Rockets. The latter must be fired to the Advanced Report Centre and not to the Brigade Forward Station.

(f) Units will also endeavour to get in touch with the Brigade Central Visual Station at P.8.c.2.2., or, failing that, the Divisional Visual Station at O.30.a.9.8. (approx.).

(g) Popham panels will be set up at Battalion Command posts for the purpose of communicating with contact planes. The code will be found in S.S.135 Appendix "B".

(h) Although every effort will be made to do so it is not expected that the telephone lines will be able to be satisfactorily maintained owing to their length and the absence of shelter for the establishing of lineman posts. The necessity for briefness, therefore, must be impressed on all concerned with the originating of messages as the alternative methods of communication, compared with speech, are necessarily slow and tedious.

(i) All lines laid must be at least 50 yards apart between test points and Signal Offices.

(j) An increased supply of pigeons may be available but is not to be counted on. If possible pigeon stations will be established at the Advanced Report Centre and the Brigade Forward Station

(k) Six visual men and eight runners will be supplied by units as under :-

13th Battalion	2 runners	1 visual man.
14th "	2 "	2 " "
15th "	2 "	1 " "
16th "	2 "	2 " "

This personnel will report to Brigade Signal Officer at 2.p.m. on the 2nd instant.

6. American Troops.

The American Companies attached to Battalions may be divided up and portions thereof attached to our Companies provided that such dividing up shall not divide the American Companies into smaller units than platoons.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE. *Actual*

R. W. Howell

Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 7 a.m. through Signals.

Distribution -
Normal.

4th Field Company. A.E. OPERATION ORDER No 1a.

(Amplification of ORDER No 1)

CONSOLIDATION PARTIES

In continuation of previous order, it is pointed out that it is desirable to have the S.P.s from 300 to 600 yards in the rear of the objective line, so as to form points of direction for the general lay-out of the SUPPORT LINE. At the same time the feasibility of selecting sites which will enable the V.G.s on the flanks of the S.P.s to direct fire over the heads of the assaulting troops must not be lost sight of. Should existing works be suitable they should be incorporated in the S.P.s, but every care should be exercised to secure the best sites both for field of fire and position as the backbone of the SUPPORT LINE.

A company of 4th PIONEERS has been detailed to cut C.T.s through the right & left S.P.s, from the rear of the crest line to the front line, on the night following the assault. ENGINEER parties must therefore take special note of existing communications & on the night following the assault provide two guides per PIONEER COY., to be available at 9 P.M. at P. 7.a. 20.45.

The 14th INF. BTN. is detailing one platoon per S.P. to carry forward wiring stores. It is hoped that sufficient stores will be available to erect a stout single apron fence across the whole frontage of the S.P.s.

MULE & LIMBER TRACKS

On having selected the sites for forward R.E. DUMPS, LT WALKER will have signboards as follows erected - "R.E. DUMP SITE". He will also detail two sapper guides per dump to return to the 4th FLD COY. A.E. back camp at 03.a. Central. They will guide the mule pack trains to the dump sites, at dusk, erecting illuminated "MULE TRACK" signs at P. 13.a. 39 & P. 13.d. 33 where the tracks leave the main road. They will also erect "R.E. DUMP" illuminated signs at the dump sites immediately the Dumps have been established.

RECONNAISSANCE

The reconnoitring party will carry a few signboards & mark any prominent points or dugouts, giving the map location on the boards.

R.E. DUMPS

The engineer mule pack transport section will assemble at 03.a. Central at 8 P.M. 2.A night & load stores already prepared for it. LT LEWIS will take a half-section composed of 12 animals from 13th FLD COY A.E. & 6 animals from 4th FLD COY. A.E. & proceed to the right forward dump at P. 20.b. & then return to established dump at P. 13.d. 35.35. reload & proceed again to forward dump. LT MINTON, M.C. will take a half-section composed of 12 animals from 12th FIELD COY. A.E. & 6 animals from 4th FLD COY. A.E. & proceed to the left forward dump in P. 15.a. & then return to established dump at P. 14.a. 05.30, reload & proceed again to forward dump. LT WALKER will provide 4 loaders at each of the established dumps.

MISCELLANEOUS

It must be distinctly understood that no one is to remain behind to stand by casualties in any of the special parties, unless the special work has been completed.

Also every man in the special parties must be thoroughly instructed re the objective of the party so that casualties to the leaders will not prevent the completion of the tasks.

H. Colley Major.

ENGINEER OPERATION ORDER, No. 1.
(See Operations Map. Part of Sheet #2D.)

CONSOLIDATING PARTIES.

Three consolidating parties will each be composed of 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O., 3 O.R.'s, 4th Field Company Engineers, 1 Infantry Officer, 1 L.G. Team, 20 diggers, and 2 V.G. Teams from 4th M.G. Battalion.

Each N.C.O. and man will carry a pick and shovel. Each Sapper party will carry in addition 400 yards tracing tape made up in 200 yard rolls.

No. 1 Party will consist of Lieut. BUCKLER, M.C., and Party, 1 Composite Platoon of 13th Battalion and 2 V.G. Teams.

No. 2 Party will consist of Lieut. CARRICK and Party, 1 Composite Platoon of 14th Battalion, and 2 V.G. Teams.

No. 3 Party will consist of Lieut. DAVIDSON and Party, 1 Composite Platoon of 15th Battalion, and 2 V.G. Teams.

The Sapper parties will attach themselves to the Infantry Battalions supplying the Platoons. On 'Z' night, parties Nos. 1 and 2 will move forward under instructions of 13th Battalion (to be mutually arranged) and No. 3 Party under instructions of 15th Battalion.

OBJECTIVE.

The parties will dig and (exclusive of Sapper party) garrison strongpoints which will be ultimately developed into the Support Line. The general idea of the layout of the S.P.'s will be as per sketch attached, four men being allotted a fire-bay only to dig. A connected trench can be made after nightfall by the garrison.

The S.P.'s should be sited at least 50 yards down the Eastern slopes of the ridge E. of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS, with 300 yards or more (if possible) field of fire, the V.G.'s providing flanking fire, and the L.G. being held in reserve. The approximate position for S.P.'s is shown on attached Operations Map. The 14th Battalion will be carrying forward wiring stores. Should hostile fire not be heavy, immediately the digging ~~has~~^{party} dug into cover, a defensive belt of wire will be pushed out; otherwise the digging will be proceeded with, and on completion the Engineer party will report back to its unit dugouts in the terrace at P.7.a.20.45. making reconnaissance of the terrain on the way.

DETAILS OF ADVANCE.

At Zero -8' a light rolling barrage will commence to cover advance of Tanks. At Zero the main barrage opens. At Zero plus 4' the barrage advances 100 yards per 3' for 1000 yards, where it will halt for 10' and 1 in every 3 shells will contain smoke to put curtain down while Storm Troops reform. This completes first phase of battle. The consolidation parties will follow close to the storm troops to escape retaliating barrage, Nos. 1 and 2 parties working around Southern outskirts of VAIRE WOOD, and No. 3 Party around Northern outskirts of HAMEL WOOD. Nos 1 and 3 parties should be able to get into position directly behind their objectives during the 10' halt. The second phase of the advance will then commence, the barrage going forward at the rate of 100 yards in 4'. No. 2 Party may have to wait until the Mopping Up parties, provided by the 16th Battalion, have advanced through the woods and cleared the Western slopes of the ridge. It will then move Northerly just under the crest of the hill until in rear of position for S.P. The digging parties should keep under cover from view until the sapper parties have set out the S.P.'s and the V.G.'s taken up positions on the flanks. The Infantry Officers of the parties will be responsible for method and rate of advance and fighting tactics, avoiding any engagements with the enemy if possible. The Engineer Officers will be responsible for direction, selection of sites for S.P.'s and setting out the work. The Infantry Officers will decide on the feasibility of putting out wire in daylight.

MULE & LIMBER TRACKS.

On 'Z' night limber tracks will be pushed forward as per map attached. After Zero hour, judging most suitable time, parties under Lieut. WALKER will stake out mule tracks in continuation of the limber tracks to skirt the N. and S. of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS to the nearest good sites to those shown on Operations Map, for R.E. Dumps. The tracks will be marked at 30 to 40 yards interval by screw pickets and white painted arrows. At dusk following 'Z' night illuminated signs will be erected at these dump sites and pack mule trains pushed forward with A.S.G., Ordnance, and R.E. Stores.

RECONNAISSANCE.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ A party under Lieut. MACLEAN, M.C., will make a thorough reconnaissance of mined dugouts on the outskirts of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS, with the view to pushing forward the Battalion Headquarters.

BATTLE HEADQUARTERS.

The 4th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be in mined dugout in quarry at P.7.a.1.3.

The 13th Inf. Bn. will be in mined dugout at P.19.b.25.40. in Support Line 160 yards S. of PIONEER SWITCH.

The 15th and 16th Inf. Bns. will be in mined dugout at P.8.c.2.1. in Front Line 50 yards N. of central C.T.

The 4th Field Coy, A.E., will be in mined dugout at P.7.a.20.45. in terrace 200 yards N. of Bde. H.Q.'rs.

R.E. DUMPS.

The established dumps will be at P.13.d.35.35. and P.14.a.05.90. The following stores will be found in these dumps, made up in man loads.

	<u>P.13.d.35.35.</u>	<u>P.14.a.05.90.</u>
Long Screw Pickets	375	375
Short " "	750	750
Medium coils Barbed Wire	190	190
Sandbags	3000	3000
Anti-Aircraft Mountings	6	6
Concertina Wire coils	10	10

The following are considered man loads, -

4 Long Screw Pickets, 8 short Screw Pickets, 1 coil Barbed Wire, 50 Sandbags

REPORTS

The consolidating parties will send back Sapper runners with preliminary reports immediately the S.P's are taped out and the digging parties distributed. Reports should contain any available information as to both our own and enemy dispositions.

1st July, 1918.

J. Jolly Major,
O.C. 4th FIELD COMPANY. A.E.

201
8th TANK BATTALION

8TH
TANK BATTALION

No. HA/646
Date

APPENDIX. 8

copy 17
SECRET

&
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MOVEMENT ORDERS No 2.

1. "A" and "B" Companies, 8th Tank Battalion will move from their present locations to "C" Coy's Tankodrome on W/X night. Recon Officers of these Companies will ascertain their lying up positions from R.O "C" Company. No Tank of either Company will start before 10 p.m and only roads or dry weather tracks will be used on the journey. Necessary refill from Company Dumps will be taken in Timbers to "C" Company Tankodrome.

2. The Section of G.C Tanks at present located at H.21.c will move fully loaded to "C" Coy's Tankodrome on W/X night and will be attached to Companies as follows:-

- 1 G.C Tank Licut, G.H. Smith, or) "A" Company.
- Sergt Tucker.)
- 1 G.C Tank Licut W. Griffiths.) "B" Company.
- 1 G.C Tank Licut, W. Saunders.) "C" Company.
- 1 G.C Tank Sergt Strang.) "B" Coy, 13th Battalion.

3. All Tanks of Companies and G.C Section will be so parked as to enable the move to Assembly Places on X/I night, as laid down in para 11 of Preliminary Instructions No 5, to be carried out.

The following Route March Table will be strictly adhered to:-

- "C" Coy and attached Units (11 & 12 Secs 13th Battn) leave at 10 p.m, followed by :-
- "A" Company and attached Units.
- "B" Company 8th Tank Battn and 9 & 10 Secs 13th Battalion.
- "B" Company 13th Tank Battalion.

4 G.C Tanks will move last, under Major Partington and will report to their respective Companies at the Assembly Position

There will be at least 25^x between Tanks and 200^x between Companies. The usual precautions as regards noise, lights, etc will be observed and every precaution will be taken against the possibility of gas shelling. Respirators will be worn in the alert position.

On arrival camouflaging of Tanks and Tracks must be most carefully done at once as low flying aeroplanes cross the forward area daily in the early hours.

4. TAPING OF ROUTE. Tank Route will be taped under Battalion arrangements from C.13.c to C.10.d.60.80. The following Officers will carry out this taping:-

- C.13.c to C.14.b.35.30. 2/Lt. M.J. Still. "C" Company.
- C.14.b.35.30 to C.15.b.30.70 2/Lt. B. Guy. "A" Company.
- C.15.b.30.70 to C.10.d.60.80 2/Lt. R. Grinham. "B" Company.

From C.10.d.60.80 Companies will be responsible for the Route to their Assembly Positions and thence to Starting Points.

/Para 5.

9/8/61

5. Company Commanders will report by telephone to Battalion H.Q. using the following code:-

- (a) If all Tanks have arrived safely "All C.K."
 (b) In case of Tanks not arriving through mechanical trouble or a direct hit - "C.K. -- (Ho) not arrived"
 (Add serious or slight)

In the event of a Tank becoming disabled it will be immediately towed back to a position of security and camouflaged.

6. On Y day there will be movement whatever in, or in the vicinity of the Assembly places, as these are under direct enemy observation.

7. I/Z night. Engines will be started up at 10.30 p.m. Companies will arrange to be in position at Starting Points by 1 a.m.

"C" Coy and 11 & 12 Secs, 13th Battn direct to S.P.

"A" Coy via track running S.E to Quarry through C.12.b and thence to S.P.

"B" Coy and 9 & 10 Secs, 13th Battn via FOUILLOUX, WAREFUSEE Road to S.P.

"B" Coy, 13th Battn, 15 minutes after "B" Coy, 8th Battn and form up 200' in rear of starting line as follows:-
 2 Sections in rear of "B" Coy, 8th Battn.
 2 " " " " "C" -do-

8. G.C Tanks will return to their own Tankodrome, H.21.c, during Zero hour and refit at once.

9. Zero hour will be notified later.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*ackd
8th*

A. Bingham

Lieut Colonel,

30th JUNE 1918.

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

Distribution:-

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| No 1. C.C "A" Coy, 8th Battn. | 10. C.C No 1 G.C. Company. |
| 2. C.C "B" Coy, -do- | 11. C.C No 1 G.C Section. |
| 3. C.C "C" Coy, -do- | 12 & 13. 5th Tank Brigade. |
| 4. Major D. H. PRATT, D.S.O., M.C. 14, 15, 16) | |
| 5. Battn Reconnaissance Officer. 17 & 18.) | 4th Austrn Brigade. |
| 6. Battn Engineer. 19, 20, 21) | |
| 7. Battn Equipt Officer. 22 & 23.) | 6th Austrn Brigade. |
| 8. C.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn. 24, 25, 26) | |
| 9. C.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn. 27 & 28.) | 11th Austrn Brigade. |
| 29. 4th Austrn Division. | |
| 30. Retained. | |
| 31. War Dia ry. | |

Banks

201

15/6

APPENDIX 8

8th TANK BATTAL ICH.

SECRET
&
CONFIDENTIAL.

TANK BATTALION	
No.	HA 1/636
Date	

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS
No 5.

COPY No 17

1. OPERATION.

An operation is being undertaken by the Australian Corps to capture the high ground and spur running E of VAIRE Wood and HAMEL Village, and to establish themselves on a line running from P.25 Central on the South, about 1000 yards E of VAIRE and HAMEL Woods, Trench System E of HAMEL to River SCHE on the North about J.34.d.9.5.

2.

The operation is being carried out by the 6th, 4th and 11th Brigades respectively from right to left under the direction of the G.O.C 4th Australian Division, with Brigades disposed as follows:-

DISPOSITIONS.

6th Brigade. 2 Battalions from P.25 Central to FOUILLOX-WARFUSEE Road.

4th Brigade. 4 Battalions from FOUILLOX-WARFUSEE Road to a line drawn through P.8 Central to P.10.d.7.4.

11th Brigade. 4 Battalions from Centre Brigade Boundary to the River SCHE.

Four Companies U.S Infantry will co-operate in the attack but dispositions are as yet unknown.

3.

The 8th Tank Battalion, plus 2 Companies from the 15th Tank Battalion, will co-operate with the Australian Brigades as follows:-

6th Austrn Bde. 2 Sections. "C" Coy, 13th Battalion.

4th -do- "B" Company, 8th Battalion.
"A" Company, 8th Battalion.

11th. -do- "C" Company, 8th Battalion.
2 Sections. "C" Coy, 13th Battalion.

4. All Companies will be organized into 4 Sections of 3 Tanks each.

5. The dispositions of the Infantry Battalions and Tank Units affiliated to them are shown on attached Diagram, Appendix "A".

6. Actual Tank tasks are as shown in Appendix "B".

7. Tank Assembly Positions, Starting Points, Routes to same and area of Operations are shown on Attached Map "C".

8. ARTILLERY.

Tanks and Infantry will be covered by a creeping Barrage.

Prior to this the usual harassing fire will be maintained with a percentage of smoke shells to mask any movements or noise of Tanks.

/At Zero

1/8/6

201 At Zero hour the Barrage will fall on the Artillery Start Line and remain there for four minutes.

It will then move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 3 minutes, maintaining this rate until it reaches the Artillery Halt Line where it will halt for 10 minutes.

Just prior to the halt a certain percentage of smoke will be mixed with the barrage as a warning.

After 8 minutes the smoke will be again used to denote that in two minute's time the barrage will creep forward again.

From the Halt Line to the Blue Line the barrage will move at 100 yards in 4 minutes.

It will continue to move forward at this rate and become stationary 400 yards in front of the Blue Line where it will remain for at least half an hour.

In addition to the above there will be a smoke barrage to the N of the River SCHE and also to the S.E of the attack, masking MARFUSEE and MARCELCAVE, and intense counter-battery work.

9. AEROPLAINES. Aeroplanes will fly over the enemy line during Y/Z night and early Z morning, dropping Bombs, to drown the noise of Tanks.

They are also arranging to drop Ammunition Boxes for the Infantry at selected points.

10. DUMP. A Dump will be formed at C.13.a from which the Two Companies from 13th Battalion will refill.

"A" and "B" Companies will bring their own refills.

1 Supply Tank will accompany each party to its Assembly Point for refilling purposes on X/Y night.

11. ASSEMBLY PLACES.

Assembly Places are allotted as follows:-

"C" Coy, plus 2 Sections of "C" Coy, 13th Battalion and 1 G.C Tank in O.6.d.3.7.

"A" Company and 1 G.C Tank in O.6.c.

"B" Coy, plus 2 Sections of "C" Coy, 13th Battalion and 1 G.C Tank in O.11.a.4.4.

"B" Company 13th Battn and 1 G.C Tank in O.10.a. Central.

Tape will be laid by Battalion up to X road at O.10.d.6.9., thence by Companies to their respective Assembly positions.

12. STARTING POINTS.

Starting Points will be selected by Company Commanders approximately on the 1000 yards line in conformity with the lay of the ground, and the positions of the Units to which they are affiliated.

They will tape their route to the Starting Points and for each Tank from this line to the Infantry taped line.

13. COMMUNICATIONS. By Telephone. From "A" Coy's Assembly Position to 4th Austrn Bgde H.Q. at O.5.c.6.8 on X/Y night.

From 8th Battn Report Centre in Quarry at P.7.a.0.2 on Y/Z night and Z day to 4th Austrn Bgde. H.Q.

Pigeons. 4 pairs at Battn Report Centre.

1 pair with each Section Commander.

Broken Down Tanks will not be reported by Pigeon Messengers.

Runners. To Quarry in P.7.a.0.2.

/Para 14.

Para 14.

Section Commanders may ride in the Centre Tank of their Sections, where Pigeons will be carried.

15.

8th Tank Battalion Report Centre will be at Quarry in P.7.a.O.2.

16.

Company Commanders will establish their Headquarter with the Brigade H.Q. with whom they are affiliated.

17.

Attention is called to "Tank Corps Standing Orders for Operations" which must be read out and emphasized to all Officers and Crews.

18.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*ackd
8th*

H. Bingham

Lieut Colonel

30th JUNE 1918.

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

Distribution. :-

No 1.	C.C "A" Coy, 8th Tank Battn.
2.	C.C "B" " " -do-
3.	C.C "C" " " -do-
4.	Major, D. H. PRATT., D.S.O., M.C.
5.	Battn Reconnaissance Officer.
6.	Battn Engineer.
7.	Battn Equip Officer.
8.	C.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn.
9.	C.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn.
10.	C.C No 1 G.C. Company.
11.	C.C No 1 G.C. Section.
12 & 13.	5th Tank Brigade
14, 15, 16)	
17 & 18.)	4th Austrn Brigade. <i>with map ①</i>
19, 20, 21)	
22 & 23.)	6th Austrn Brigade.
24, 25, 26)	
27 & 28.)	11th Austrn Brigade.
29.	4th Austrn Division.
30.	Retained.
31.	War Diary.

201

APPENDIX. 8

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 5.

8th TANK BATTALION.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX "C" issued only to
5th Tank Brigade.
4th Austrn Division.

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 5.

8th TANK BATTALION.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX "A" issued only to
C.C "A" Company. 8th Tank Battalion.
C.C "B" Company. -do-
C.C "C" Company. -fo-
C.C "B" Company. 13th Tank Battalion.
C.C "C" Company. 13th Tank Battalion.

APPENDIX "B" to follow

B. Coy 8th Tank Bn.

Copy No 13

Operation Order No 1.Secret & Confidential1. Operation.

An operation is being carried out by 6th 4th & 11th Aust Inf Bdes respectively from right to left approx P 25 Central to L bank of SOMME RIVER at J 34 d 9.5.

2. Disposition

B Coy will operate in the attack with 4th Aust Bde

3. Boundaries.

N and S of VAIRE WOOD and HAMEL WOOD is final BLUE LINE running from P 31 a 60.60 to P 166 10.50.

A Coy operating on LEFT flank
C Coy 13th Bn " " RIGHT "
as per map attached "A"

4. Objectives

No 5 Section LC I.C.A.
Glanville M.C. will operate with

201

2

with 15th Aust Inf Bn N of HAMEL WOOD to Blue line.

No 6 and 7 Sections Capt W. H. Viveash and Capt E. A. H. James will operate with 16th A. I Bn in front of VAIRE WOOD and HAMEL WOOD to Blue line

No 8 Section Capt W. H. Edwards will operate with 13th Bn A.I.F S of HAMEL WOOD to Blue line.

5. move.

B Coy will move from C Coy's Tankodrome X-Y night at 10 pm to Assembly position Y.Z night from Assembly position to Startline point guides will be allotted to each Section from infantry for Y.Z night. Tanks to be in position by 1 AM.

6. ASSEMBLY Position O 11 to 40.30

7. Startline Points

Approx on line from
O 18 to 50.10 to O 18 to 50.85

3

8. Rallying Points.

Immediately tanks are released by rally infantry they will proceed to O 316. Capt J. E. Reilly will meet tanks there.

9. Communication

By Section Runner to Coy HQ in QUARRY P 7 and O. 2.

Pigeons - one pair to each Section Cmdr to be carried in centre tank. Broken down tanks will not be reported by Pigeon message.

Inf tank bell pull in ^{life} rear of tank.

Section Cmdrs may ride in centre tank.

10. Artillery

as per instructions issued

11. Supplies

1 S.C Tank

~~H~~
 commanded by Lt W Griffiths
 is allotted to B Coy all
 tanks will refill from above
 on Y-Z night.

12. Routes.

Lt T. D. Kennedy
 will be responsible for routes
 from Assembly point to
 starting point. Guides will
 report from Inf Bns concerned
 Tapes will be laid from
 starting point to Inf lying up
 positions. Inf guides will assist
 Section Commanders will be
 responsible for own tape route.

13 Distribution of H.Q.

8th Bn Report centre
 QUARRY P 7 a 02
 O.C B Coy at Hth Inf
 Bde H.Q. P 7 a 02.

14 Codes.

Infantry to Tank.
 Steel helmet on bayonet
 denotes Inf held up followed
 by smoke grenade in
 direction of strong point

5

Codes. Tank to Infantry.

Flags. red & white - Broken down
green & white - come on
red white & blue - going home

15. ~~all off~~ No movement on
y day whatever as Tanks
are under direct observation
of enemy's aircraft.

16. Personnel.

Each Section will
be composed as under:-
1 officer and 5 OR's per female
and 1 officer and 6 OR's per
male.

Sect Sgt. and 2 OR's for guard
2 OR's for runners.
Gurr Kelly and Dick will
accompany as cooks with
cooking utensils.

17. Tank Corps Standing
orders for operations will
strictly be adhered to.
Attention is drawn to F.S.R
part 1 Sect 12 para 13.

18.

b/

Camouflage nets to be
dumped at assembly position
Horn covers to be
carried inside tank during
action.

19.

If tank after receiving
direct hit catches fire Tank
commander will make
every endeavour to get
gunotton box thrown
outside tank and the
detonator and primer through
front window. If necessary
the tank can be destroyed
after if likely to fall into
enemy hands.

20 Liaison

Sections will keep
in touch with all tanks
and infantry operating on
their flanks.

21. Zero to be notified later.22. Acknowledged. Lafronst. Major

1-7-18

OC B Coy
8 Tank Bn

201

APPENDIX

8

I

Copies to

- | | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Retained |
| 203. | War diary |
| 4 | } Sections |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | Cape Reilly |
| 9 | Lt Kennedy |
| 10 | Coy Engineer |
| 11 | O.C. 8 th Tank Bn |
| 12 | 13 th A.I.F. Bn |
| 13 | 15 th A.I.F. " |
| 14 | 16 th A.I.F. " |

Secret

Appendix A to operation
Order No 1 Copy No 12

B" Coy.

- 1 Ref operation order No 1 of today's date. delete Para 8 & substitute B Coy will rally & be parked under high bank WEST of VAIRE WOOD in P 14 central
- 2 Engines will be started at 2:00 minus 11 minutes. Tanks will move forward at 2:00 minus 8 minutes moving as rapidly as possible
- 3 Communications. Aeroplanes will cooperate during attack. Contact planes have black flaps about size of sheet of foolscap on underside of each plane. Counter attack planes will denote enemy's concentration for counter attack by dropping a white flare lasting for 1 1/2 minutes & giving out much smoke in direction of concentration. Tank commanders must keep a look out for this signal prior to withdrawing if necessary remain to assist in

II

- in breaking up the counter attack
- 4 Casualties If not too severe will be brought back on the tanks & dropped at QUARRY in O 12 G. 8. 4. where there will be an A. D. S.
- 5 Casualties to tanks will be reported at earliest possible moment stating map location & whether ditched mechanical trouble direct hit or shot off petrol
- 6 Synchronization Watches will be synchronized at P 7 a.m. Section commanders will report personally to VC Bloy here for that purpose on 4-2 night
- 7 Acknowledges
1-7-18

W. Brown
Maj
VC Bloy

Copies to No 1 Retained

- 2-3 War diary
4-7 Section leaders
8. Capt J. Reilly
9. Major J. Kennedy
10. Coy Engineer
11. 5th Tank
12 13 AIF Bn
13 15 AIF Bn
14 16 AIF Bn

8th TANK BATTALION.

8TH TANK BATTALION	
No.....	1/660
Date.....	

APPENDIX 8

SECRET
&
CONFIDENTIAL.
-----*copy no 17.*PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 6.
-----(In continuation of Preliminary Instructions No 5)

1. The following will be the action of Tanks on Z day from their Starting Line onwards.
2. Tanks will be formed up on their Starting Line by 1 a.m, in absolute silence - there will be no shouting, talking, or showing of lights.
Each Tank will be so placed as to be on it's taped line ready to advance.
O.Cs Companies will arrange for Infantry guides to assist in taping.
3. Engines will be started up at 0 minus 11 minutes.-
Tanks will start forward at 0 minus 8 minutes, moving as rapidly as possible.
4. It is the primary duty of Tanks to save casualties to the Australian Infantry, and as this cannot be done so long as Tanks remain in rear of them, Tank Commanders must do their utmost to get in between the Infantry and the Artillery barrage whenever possible.
Opportunities will occur to do this, and Tank Commanders must keep a sharp look out for any point where the Infantry are held up or the barrage appears to be running away from them.
5. The main policy for the employment of Tanks is as laid down in Appendix B, arrangements in detail being made between the Brigadiers, Infantry Battalion Commanders and O.C Tank Companies and Sections concerned.
6. Tanks will come under the orders of Officers Commanding the Units to which they are attached for the operation, from the time they are formed up on their starting line until time of withdrawal.
7. All Tanks, less 1 Company, will withdraw to their Parks under Company arrangements not less than 15 minutes after the Artillery barrage has come to a halt 400 yards in front of the objective line.
8. The suggested lines of withdrawal are:-
"B" and "C" Coys, 13th Battalion via DACOURS Bridge to QUERRIEU Wood.
"C" Coy, 8th Battalion along line of Approach March.
"A" Coy, via BCIS L'ABBE and generally S of the BRETONNEUX-ALIENS Main road.

One gunner per Tank should be told off to engage low-flying E.A attempting to bomb the Tank.

/Para 9.

Shoot 2.

9. "B" Company, 8th Battalion will remain in the Battle area for 48 hours after the operation, and be parked under the high bank W of VAIRE Wood in P.14. Central, and be under the orders of the 4th Brigade.
Arrangements for supply etc will be made by Major. D. H. PRATT, 2nd-in-Command, 8th Battalion.
It will then withdraw under orders to be issued later. Should the number of surviving Tanks of "B" Company not amount to 6, they will be made up to this number from "C" Company, 8th Battalion.
10. Each Tank Commander will have a watch correctly synchronized with Brigade time and will be given a Compass bearing to move on.
11. Bolts of wire should be crossed as nearly as possible at right angles, and on no account, must Tanks be "swung" when half-way through, otherwise they may become completely enveloped.
12. In the event of Infantry being held up, and requiring assistance, they will signal to Tanks by placing a steel helmet on top of the rifle - and will then indicate the position of the strong point, by firing a phosphorous grenade in the direction.
13. Tanks carry 3 flags which represent the following, and will be pushed out of the Tank as required:-
Green and White (diagonal) - "All right - Come on"
Red and Yellow. (-do-) - "Broken down. (A reserve Tank will then replace it)"
Red, white & blue (vertical) - denotes a British Tank coming out of action.
14. Aeroplanes will co-operate during the attack.
Contact planes have Black flaps about the size of a sheet of foolscap on the under side of each plane.
Counter attack planes will denote enemy concentration for counter attack by dropping a white flare, lasting for 1½ minutes and giving out much smoke, in the direction of the concentration.
Tank Commanders must keep a look out for this signal prior to withdrawing, and if necessary remain and assist in breaking up the counter-attack
15. Casualties should, if not too severe, be brought back in the Tanks, and dropped at Quarry in O.12.b.8.4 where there will be an A.D.S.
There will also be R.A.Ps at the following places.
P.19.b.2.3.
P.8.c.
P.8.d. central., and dressing stations at N.4.c.9.2 DAGURS-AMIENS road, and at N.26.d.1.3., BRETOINNEUX-AMIENS Road.
16. Casualties to Tanks will be reported at the earliest possible moment, stating map location and whether ditched, mechanical trouble, direct hit, or short of petrol.

/Para 17.

17. In the event of a Tank being put out of action during the attack, the action of the Tank Commander and Crew are very clearly defined in Tank Corps "Standing Orders for Operations", and must be carried out to the letter and in spirit.

18. Accommodation is being arranged on Y/Z night by 4th Austrn Inf Bgde at Quarry in C.12.b.8.4 for

Comdng Officer.) 8th Tank Battalion.
O.C "A" Company.	
O.C "B" Company.	
4 runners.	

19. ACKNOWLEDGE.

D. Bingham

Lieut Colonel,

1st July 1918.

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

Distribution:-

No 1.	O.C. "A" Company, 8th Battn.
2.	O.C "B" Company, 8th Battn.
3.	O.C "C" Company, -do-
4.	Major D.H. PRATT, DSO., MC.
5.	Battn Reconnaissance Officer.
6.	Battn Engineer.
7.	Battn Equip Officer.
8.	O.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn.
9.	O.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn.
10.	O.C No 1 G.C Company.
11.	O.C No 1 G.C Section.
12 & 13.	H.Q 5th Tank Bgde.
14, 15, 16)	4th Austrn Brgde.
17 & 18.)	
19, 20, 21)	
22 & 23.)	6th Austrn Bgde.
24, 25, 26)	
27 & 28.)	11th Austrn Bgde.
29.	
30.	4th Austrn Division.
31.	Retained.
32.	War Diary.
	O.C 13th Battn.

APPENDIX "B" -- "TANK TASKS", To Preliminary Instructions

No 5, enclosed herewith.

Company.	ASSEMBLY PLACE.	STARTING POINT.	OBJECTIVE.	METHOD OF ATTACK.	Operating with.
2 Sections. 13th Battn.	HAMELET. with "C" Company. 8th Battn.	About, P.1.b.central.	Final Blue Line.	To go forward level with advanced sections of other Companies, and engage any strong points or trench works not with S.E of BOUZENCOURT. - To protect the left flank of the attacking Infantry from enfilade by firing on J.35.c and d. and to cover them whilst consolidating Blue Line.	42nd Battn Australn Infy.
"C".	HAMELET.	West of Support line through P.1.d and P.7.b.	HAMEL.	2 Sections. - one to lead each $\frac{1}{2}$ Battn passing N and S of HAMEL Village, and protect them by keeping down enemy fire on inner flanks - to cut off and isolate the village, and then to move on to Trench System E of the village in conjunction with the Infantry. 2 Sections to accompany assaulting Battn, help capture and mop up HAMEL VILLAGE. These Sections on no account to move until Infantry are firmly established in the village, when they will withdraw.	44th A.I.Bn 45 -dc- 43rd A.I.Bn.
"A"	O.11.a.6.5.	P.7.a and c.	Blue Line.	1 Section to subdue Circular Post and then move on at the same rate as the Infantry to Blue Line, dealing with any H.G posts on the way. 1 Section to accompany liaising Infantry and assist Liaising Sections in mopping-up trenches and H.G.nests. 2 Sections in close support and to amalgamate with the 2 leading sections in attack on the Blue Line. These 2 Sections will nominally be in reserve to replace casualties prior to Zero hour, but if not required, will take part in the attack.	1 Coy 15th A.I.Bn.

Company.	STARTING PLACE.	STARTING POINT.	OBJECTIVE.	METHOD OF ATTACK.	Cooperating with.
"B" 8th Battn.	Small wood in O.11.a.	P.7.c. P.13.a. O.18.b.	VAIRE and HAEL Woods, and up to edge of ACCROCHE Wood.	2 Sections. One to lead each Battn passing N and S of VAIRE Wood, and protect them by keeping down enemy fire from the wood - to cut off and isolate wood and then push on with the Infy to Blue Line. One Tank from the northern Section to work along HUN Walk and deny it's use to the enemy. Both sections to move on to and beyond Blue Line and protect the Infantry whilst consolidating on Blue Line. 2 Sections to accompany Assaulting Battn and assist in attack and mopping up of VAIRE Wood and to remain until the Infy are firmly established. They will then withdraw. These Sections should engage enemy trench system in front of VAIRE Wood by working round either flank with 2 Tanks at each end, and to get between the wood and the trench, remaining 2 Tanks to attack frontally.	13th A.I.Bn. 15th A.I.Bn. 16th A.I.Bn.
2 Sections, "C" Company. 13th Battn.	With "B" Company. O.11.a.	O.18.d.	Trench systems in squares:- P.20 c and d. P.26 a and b. P.25.d.	Advance in 2 waves, 4 in front and 2 in support ahead of the Infy when possible striking the enemy trench at intervals of about 300 yds, then each Tank to work South along it. When the Infy have taken over, to move forward in a S.E direction engaging all I.G posts and strong points met with. They will manoeuvre about in front as far as the Artillery Barrage permits, until the Infy are securely consolidated. when they will withdraw.	21st A.I.Bn. 23rd A.I.Bn.
"B" Company, 13th Battn.	O.10.a central.	2 Sections in rear of "C" 8th Bn. 2 Sections in rear of "B" 8th Bn.		To support 4th and 11th Bgdes whenever held up, and replace casualties to 1st Wave Tanks. They will advance about 300 yards behind 1st wave of Tanks.	4th Austrn Infy Bgde. 11th Austrn Infy Bgdes.

APPENDIX
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War Diary Appendix

Danks - Orders

201

SECRET.

War Diary
 APPENDIX
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FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Disposition Report as at 12 noon 4th July, 1918.Reference Sheet 62.D. N.E. & S.E. 1/20,000.

Brigade Headquarters 0.12.b.9.4.
 " " (Rear) W.11.a.2.0.

FRONT LINE.

Right Bn. (13th) H.Qrs. P.19.b.30.30.
 R.A.P. P.19.central.
 1 Company from P.21.c.50.95. to P.21.a.95.50.
 1 " " P.21.a.95.50- P.15.d.60.00.
 1 " " P.15.d.60.00. to P.16.c.10.70.
 1 " in Support from P.20.b.90.10. to P.20.b.95.65.

Left Bn. (15th) H.Qrs. P.8.d.4.6.
 R.A.P. P.8.d.4.6.
 Right Coy. H.Qrs. P.16.c.1.8.
 Company from P.16.c.1.7. to P.16.a.6.2.
 Right Centre Coy. H.Qrs. P.16.c.1.e.
 Company from P.16.a.6.2. to P.16.b.c.5.
 Left Centre Coy.
 Company from P.16.b.0.5. to P.16.b.4.9.
 Left Coy.
 Company from P.16.b.4.9. to P.10.d.5.3.

SUPPORT LINE.

14th Bn. H.Qrs. P.19.a.60.50.
 R.A.P. P.14.c.70.80.
 Report centre P.15.c.30.00.
 1 Company from P.21.a.30.30. to P.21.a.80.70.
 1 Company (less 1 Platoon) from P.15.d.00.00. to P.15.d.40.50
 1 Company from P.15.d.40.65. to P.15.b.90.10.
 1 Company from P.16.a.00.15. to P.16.a.60.70.
 1 Platoon in Front Line from P.21.b.30.70. to P.21.b.40.90.

RESERVE LINE.

16th Bn. H.Qrs. 0.12.b.9.2.
 R.A.P. 0.12.b.9.2.
 1 Company in old Front Line between PIONEER SWITCH & PERTH C.T.
 1 " " " " " from PERTH C.T. to P.8.b.1.1.
 1 " " " Support Line between PIONEER SWITCH and PERTH C.T.
 1 Company between PERTH C.T. and P.7.b.6.2. (approx.) Old Support Line.

Lieut.
 for Brigade-Major.
 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Stunt
(no action)

APPENDIX 10.

Secret.

Noza Battalion Order No. 46.

Copy No. 6

Reference Sheet 62D.

Bn H. Qrs.

10-7-18.

1. This Battalion will be relieved on night of 11th/12th July 1918 by the 40th Bn A.I.F. and will move to bivouacs at (approx) N.5. Central, moving to shelters in H.10 & 11 after 9am on 12th July 1918.
2. Details of relief (including guides) will be arranged direct between Coy Commanders concerned.
3. One Limber per Coy will report at Coy Ration dumps at 11 pm and each Coy's Lewis Guns, Magazines and valises will go down under a guard of 1 L.G. N.C.O. and 1 O/R to be detailed by O. C. Coy.
- 4(a) A summarised list of Trench Stores handed over will be sent into Battalion H.Qrs. by 9am on day following relief.
- (b) Separate receipts for Reserve Rations showing ^{number of cases of each class of ration and} in detail number of tins of water will be taken and handed in with Trench Store receipts.
5. Completion of relief will be notified to Bn H.Qrs by code message - "H. 46 acknowledged."
6. Acknowledge.
7. Evening meal tomorrow will not be brought up to the trenches but will be ready on arrival at N.5. Central.

Distribution

- 1 A Coy
- 2 B "
- 3 C "
- 4 D "
- 5 File
- 6 War Diary

Capt.
Adjt Noza

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A Brigade Church Parade will be held in the CHATEAU GROUNDS, QUERRIEU, on Sunday 21st instant, after which the Corps Commander, Lieut-General Sir JOHN MONASH, K.C.B., V.D., will present medals and medal ribbons.

MARKERS. One marker per Company, together with all medal and ribbon recipients, other than Roman Catholic, will report to Battalion Headquarters at 9.15 a.m., each marker to bring with him a parade state which must also show the frontage of the strongest platoon. This state will include Roman Catholics.

TIME OF ASSEMBLY. Companies (less Roman Catholics) will move off independently and assemble at 9.30 a.m. in order, Headquarters, A. B. C. D., with rear of column at junction of CANNON STREET and CHARING CROSS ROAD. (H.16.b.9.9.)

ROMAN CATHOLICS. Mass will be celebrated at QUERRIEU CHURCH at 9 a.m. Each Coy. will proceed independently to B. Coy. Hqtrs., and assemble there at 8.30 a.m. and will then be marched to the Church under Lieut. J. T. Hynes, M.M. At conclusion of Mass, Lieut. Hynes will march them to rejoin the Battalion. They will split into four platoons, each of which will form a fifth platoon in rear of its respective Company until conclusion of medal and ribbon parade, when the men will rejoin their own platoons.

DRESS. Drill order with rifles. Hats to be worn. Overcoats will be worn if day is wet. All box respirators over right shoulder. Officers will wear web equipment and hats, but will not carry revolvers.

BANDS. Will be massed under Bandmaster COPP. Each Band will play its own Battalion past.

MARCH PAST. At conclusion of parade Units will march past the Corps Commander in the following order:-

- 16th Battalion
- 14th Battalion
- 13th Battalion
- 15th Battalion
- 4th A. M. G. Company
- 4th A. L. T. M. Battery
- 4th Field Ambulance.

TRANSPORT. Will march past with Battalions and will be drawn up under the command of Major B. SAMPSON by 9.30 a.m. as indicated in sketch.

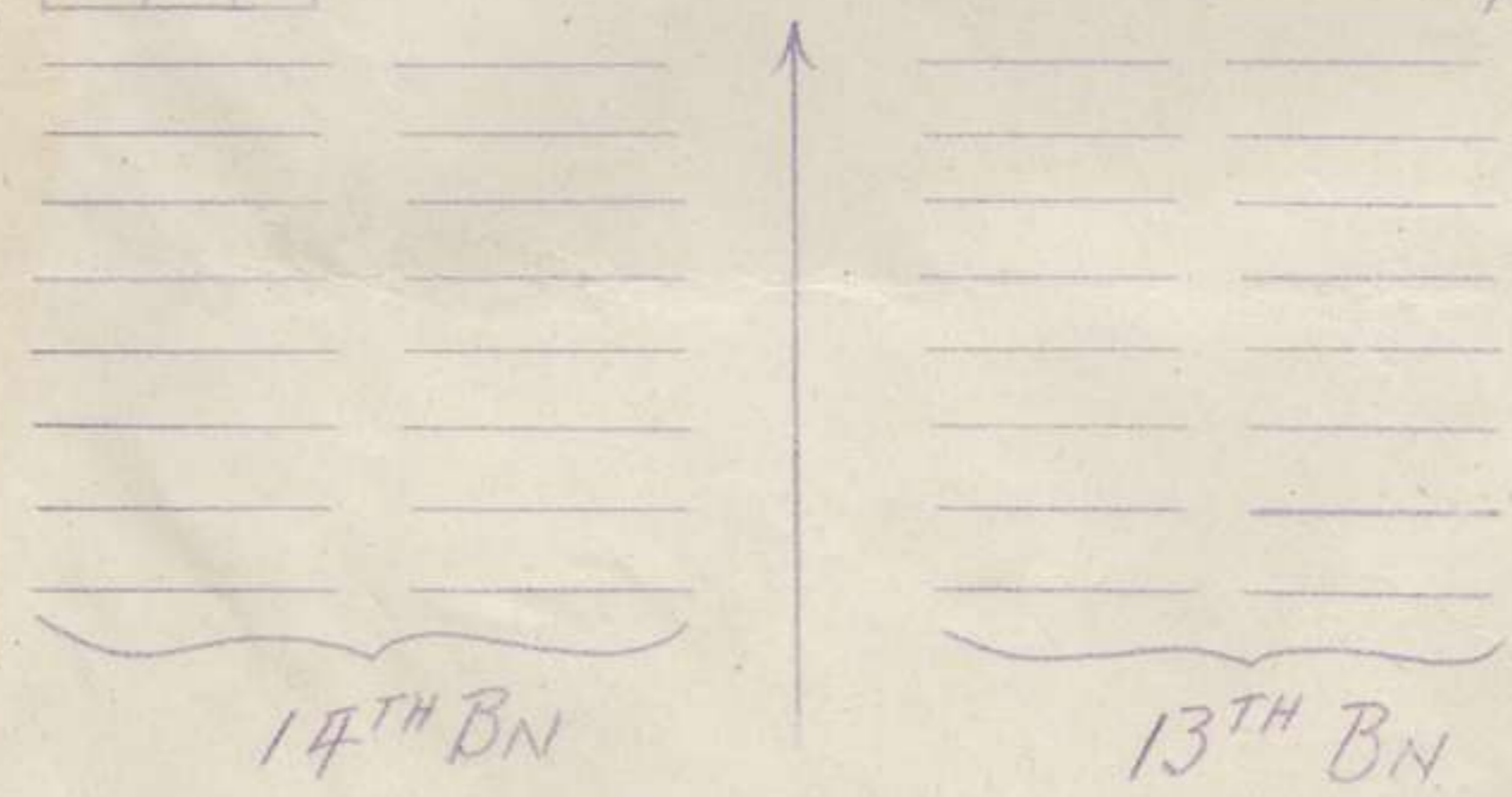
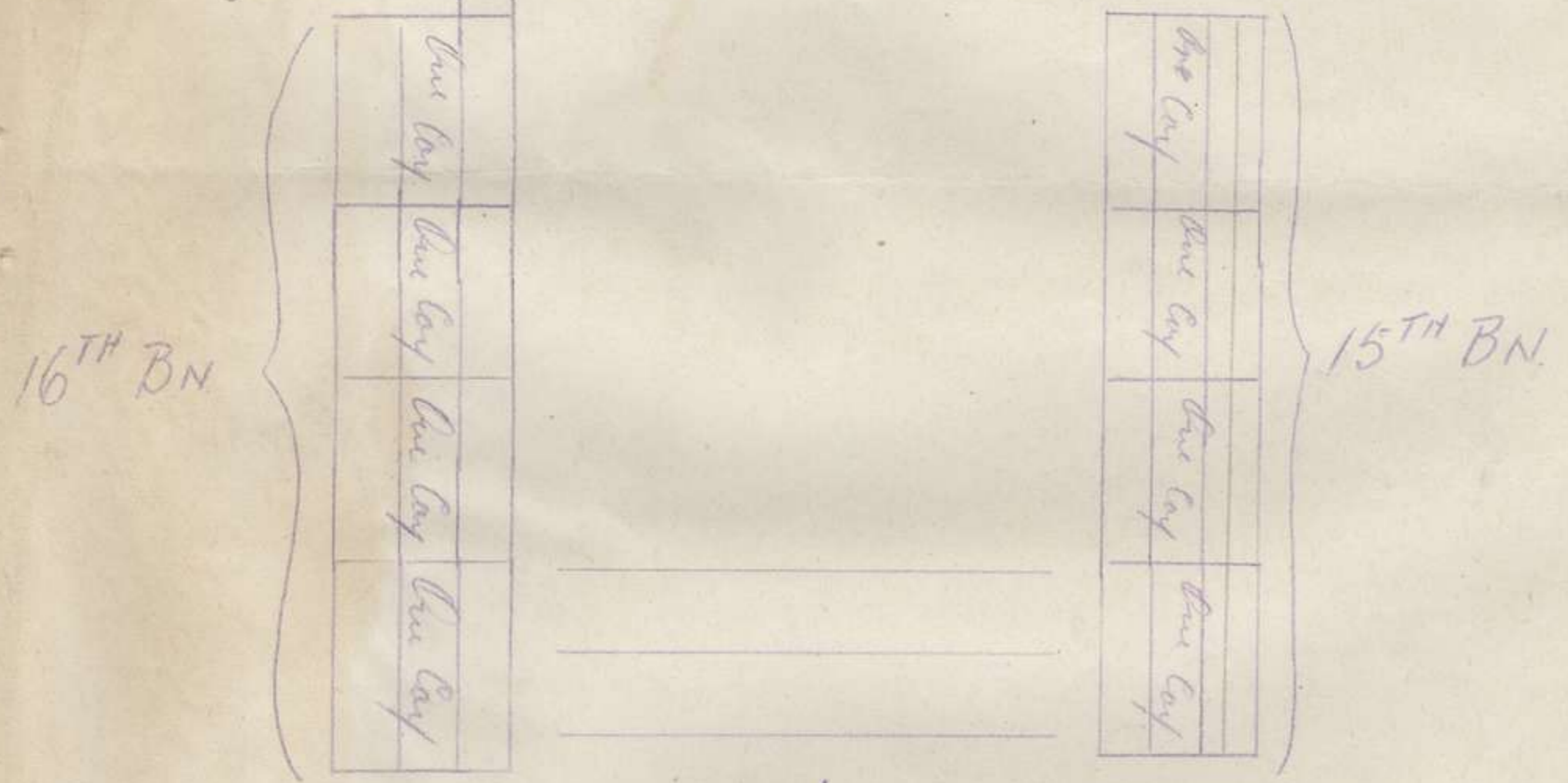
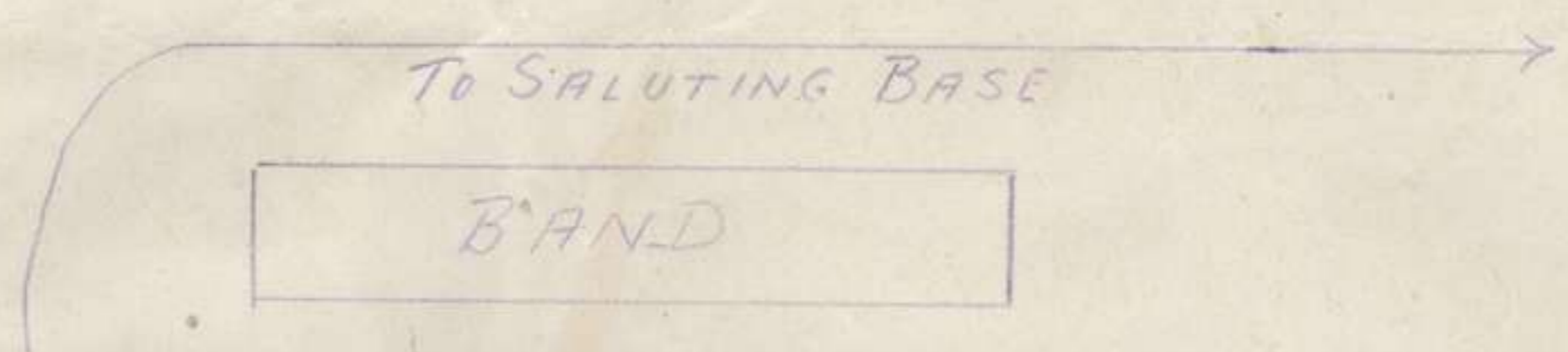
100 yards interval between Battalions will be maintained in march past.

[Signature]
.....Captain.
ADJUTANT 15th BATTALION.

19th July 1918.

APPENDIX. II

TRANSPORT	TM BTRY	
	15 TH BN	QUERRIEU CHATEAU
	13 TH	
	14 TH	
	16 TH	



RECIPIENTS

PARADE WILL BE FACING DUE EAST

15th BATTALION ORDER No. 47.

APPENDIX.

Reference Sheet 62D. and 62D. S.W.

1. RELIEF. 15th BATTALION will relieve the 11th ZOUAVE (French) REGIMENT in the front line on night of 31st July/ 1st August 1918.

2. DISPOSITIONS will be:-

Battalion Headquarters U-15 central.

B. Coy. right front line Coy., two platoons in CANDRE Trench and BERRY-AU-Bac Trench from U.16.d.0.0. to U.16.a.8.5. and two platoons and Coy. Headquarters at U.15.d.8.6. and vicinity.

C. Coy., Left front line Coy. - two platoons from U.16.a.8.5. to U.10.central in series of posts, and two platoons in U.10.c. in portion of TRAILLEURS Trench from CONSTANTINE ALLEY south. Coy. Headquarters near cross roads in U.15.b.

A. Coy.- Right support Coy.- CACHY salient from U.8.c.6.7. to its junction with TAZA ALLEY and an equal length of the parallel trench immediately in rear of this section of CACHY Salient.

D. Coy.- Left support Coy. - CACHY salient from U.8.c.6.7. to CONSTANTINE ALLEY and an equal length of parallel trench immediately in rear of this section of CACHY Salient.

3. DETAILS OF RELIEF, including guides will be arranged direct between Coy. Commanders concerned.

4. LEWIS GUNS.

- Each Coy. will take in 8 Lewis Guns and 16 Magazines per gun.
- In addition each Coy. will supply to Battalion Headquarters 1 L.G. team of 3 with L.G., and 16 Magazines to be at Battalion Headquarters at 6.30 a.m. on 31st inst.
- Each Coy. will dump at Battalion Headquarters on afternoon of 30th inst., 8 extra magazines per gun as Battalion reserve.

5. TRANSPORT. One limber will report to each Coy. Headquarters at 6 a.m. on 31st inst., for L.G's. etc, and will move with Coy.

6. VALISES will be dumped by 6 a.m. on 31st., under a guard at each Coy. Headquarters, and will be picked up by Transport later in day.

7. PACKS AND HATS. Coys. will march down with them to Q.M., Store on 30th inst., and dump them there - C. & D. in morning and A. & B. in afternoon.

8. STARTING POINT. Head of Column will reach junction of CANNON STREET and CHARING CROSS ROAD at 7 a.m. on 31st., order of march being Battalion Headquarters A. B. C. D.

9. COOKERS will move out under Q.M..

10. TENTS AND SHELTERS in this area will be handed over by nucleus.

P.T.O.

79

- 11. a. Receipts for trench stores taken over in line will be handed to B.O.R., by first runner on 1st AUGUST.
- b. Separate receipts will be taken for reserve rations, and will show in detail number of cases of each class of ration and number of tins of water.

12. COMPLETION OF RELIEF, will be notified to BATTALION HEADQUARTERS by code message H.47 received.

B. Coy. right front line Coy. two platoons in GARDNER trench and BARRY-AU-BAC trench from U.I.B.O. to U.I.B.S.S. and two platoons and Coy. Headquarters at U.I.B.S.S. and vicinity.

C. Coy. left front line Coy. - two platoons from U.I.B.S.S. to U.I.O. central in series of posts, and two platoons in U.I.O. in portion of TERRILLIERS trench from CONSTANTIN.

A. Coy. - right support Coy. - CACHY salient from U.S.S.V. to the junction with LARA ALBY and an equal length of the parallel trench in rear of this section of

[Signature]
.....Captain.

Adjutant 15th BATTALION

DISTRIBUTION.

1. A. Coy.
2. B. Coy.
3. C. Coy.
4. D. Coy.
5. War Diary
6. File.

One limber will report to each Coy. Headquarters at 8 a.m. on 1st inst. For B.O.R. etc. and will move with Coy.

Stores will be dumped by 8 a.m. on 1st inst. under a guard at each Coy. Headquarters, and will be picked up by transport later in day.

Stores will march down with them to 8 a.m. on 1st inst. and dump them there - C. & D. in morning and A. & B. in afternoon.

Head of Column will reach junction of CANNON STREET and CHARLES CROSS ROAD at 7 a.m. on 1st inst. order of march being Battalion Headquarters A. B. C. D.

Stores will move out under 8 a.m.

Receipts and receipts in this area will be handed over by nucleus.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS.

(Reference Battalion Order No. 47).

APPENDIX

NUCLEUS to consist of 20 per Coy. including Rest Camp personnel, but excluding leave men. Rolls to Battalion Headquarters by 6 p. m. on 30th.

ADVANCE PARTY. Leave CHATEAU, QUERRIEU at 6 p. m. on 30th in two busses. Will comprise :-

Coy. Commander
 1 L.G., N.C.O., per Coy:
 1 N.C.O., per platoon.
 1 Guide do (to act in conjunction with French guide).
 1 Sig., N.C.O.)
 4 Runners) from Battalion Headquarters
 R. S. M.)

MEALS on 31st Breakfast 5.30 a.m. Dinner and Tea at TRONVILLE WOOD.

RATIONS IN LINE Tea to arrive at 10 p. m.
 Breakfast do 2.30 a.m.

RATION POINTS.
 C. Coy. at C. Coy. Headquarters
 B. Coy. and Headquarters Details at Battalion Hqrs.
 D. Coy. at D. Coy. Headquarters.
 A. Coy. and T. O., to mutually arrange place and guides.

WATER BOTTLES
 A. & B. fill at 11 a. m.)
 C. & D. do 3.30 p. m.) on 30th.

RECONNAISSANCE. One Platoon Commander per Company at QUERRIEU CHATEAU at 5 a. m. on 30th.

SCOUTS One per Coy.)
OBSERVERS One per Coy.)
RUNNERS Three per Coy.) report after tea on 31st one hour before we move into the line.

FOOD CONTAINERS
PETROL TINS get them back promptly.

RETURNS. By 8 a.m. each day.

.....
Captain.
ADJUTANT 15th BATTALION.

29th July 1918.

GUIDES. - time and place of meeting.

TRENCH STORES. Advance Officer to take over.

APPENDIX.

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APPENDIX.

Headquarters 132nd Infantry
American Expeditionary Forces

France, July 19th, 1918.

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force,
Australian Expeditionary Forces.
Subject: 4th July Operations at Vaire and Hamel Woods.

1. I acknowledge receipt of two copies of Battalion Orders No. 45 and two marked maps, Bayonvillers 1:20,000 and narrative of attack. I am transmitting one copy to C.O. Co.G., and am retaining the other for my own use.

2. I am exceedingly thankful to you for your kindness in sending the data to me and appreciative of the treatment which the officers and men of my regiment received while cooperating with your troops on the morning of July 4th, 1918.

Abel Davis

Abel Davis
Colonel.

F

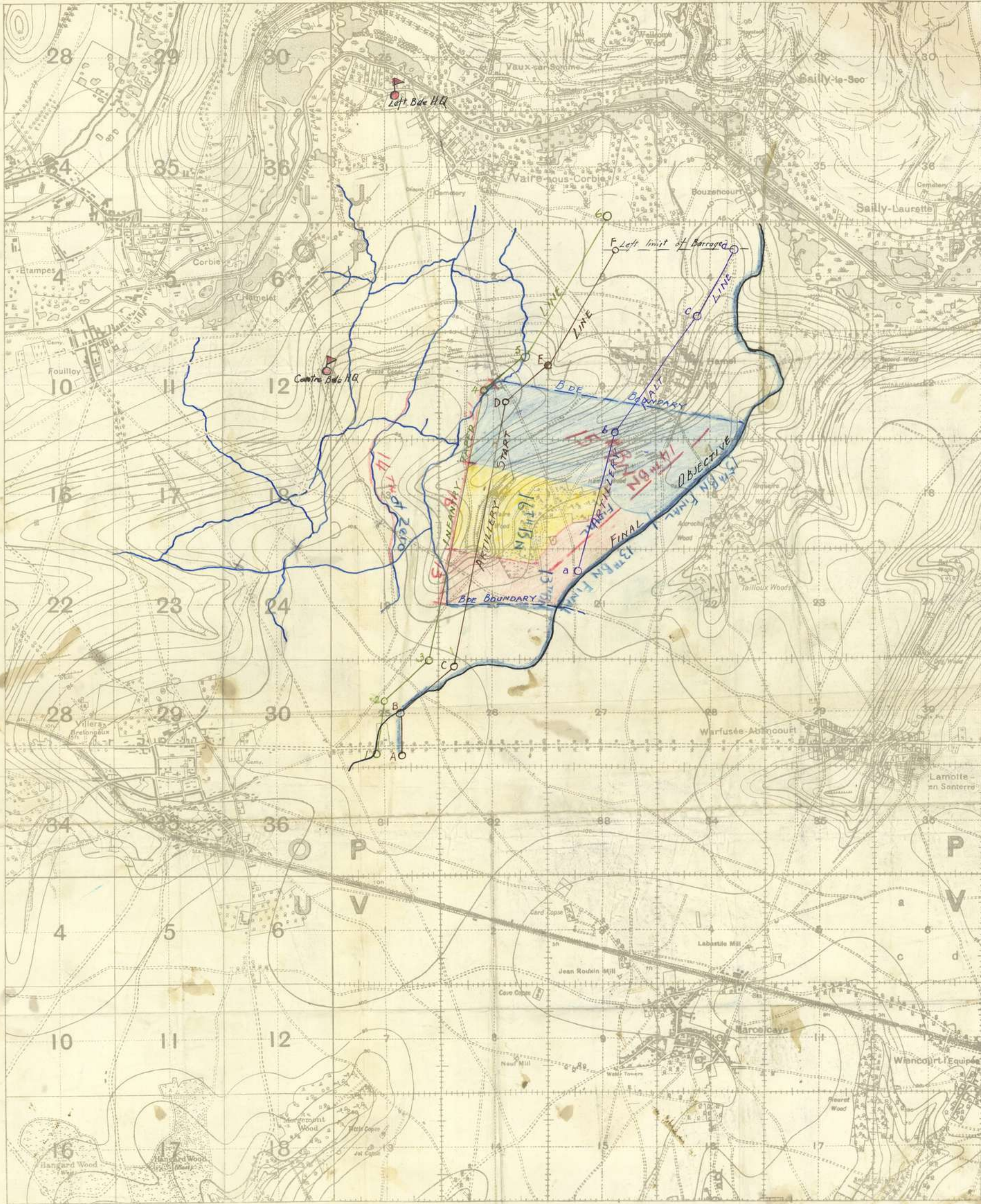
Colonel Mc Sharry bmg, 1010, Me.

201

1:20,000

VAUX

Parts of 62° NW 62° NE
62° SW 62° SE



Scale 1:20,000

201

OPERATIONS MAP

SECRET

Parts of Sheets 62^N NW, NE, SW & S

Not to be taken forward of Battalion Hq²



15th A.I. Battalion

Secret



Manning

- Mar. 25. Moved by motor bus from SHANKHILL CAMP, NEUVE EGLISE, to BAVINCOURT, and went into Billets for the night. 16
26. Received message from Brigade H.Q., at 11.30 a.m. that enemy had broken through HEBUTERNE with armoured cars, and this Battalion was ordered to move forward and occupy a position to the east of BIENVILLERS.
- Moved from BAVINCOURT at 12 noon after obtaining picks and shovels at an R. E. Dump. Roads to BIENVILLERS heavily congested with traffic and troops moving back. Found British Regiments occupying position in front of BIENVILLERS. A Yorkshire regiment had dug quite good posts with their entrenching tools. Another regiment was merely lying in the open with small heaps of grass in front of each man. We sent out Officers patrols towards FONQUEVILLERS.
- G.O.C., 4th Brigade called a conference of C. O's. and we received orders at 3 p.m. to move forward at dusk and occupy a line N.E. of HEBUTERNE.
- Patrols sent out to reconnoitre found enemy had pushed M.G's. up into S.E. outskirts of village. North Eastern corner of village was held by a Coy. of 9th Welsh Regiment.
- G.O.C., 4th Brigade made a personal reconnaissance of HEBUTERNE and returned to where Brigade was assembled and at 8 p.m. we moved forward and this Battalion occupied an old trench line (N.E. of village) running from K.16.a.7.3. to K.10.d.4.2. with 13th Battalion A.I.F. on right and K.O.Y.L.I. on left. An enemy M.G. was captured at K.16.b.4.3. The crew made off on approach of our patrols. Enemy M.G's. fire heavy and continuous throughout night. No enemy artillery fire. Battalion Headquarters established at K.9.d.9.0.
27. Enemy shelled village throughout the day. Battalion H.Q., blown out and moved to trench at K.16.a.9.6. Enemy aircraft very active flying low over our position. Abnormal enemy movement on our front; our Lewis and Vickers Guns took advantage of exceptional targets.
28. About 9 a.m. enemy put down a heavy barrage on our front and communications and attempted with 50 men to raid one of our advanced posts at K.16.b. He was beaten off and lost the greater part of his raiding party to our Lewis Guns.
- At 5 p.m. under cover of a smoke screen an enemy party of about 30 tried to raid our right post in K.16.a. but was driven off after suffering heavy casualties.
- Battalion H.Q., again moved to K.9.d.9.1. on account of being in barrage zone and the extreme difficulty of keeping telephonic communication.
29. Enemy artillery and T. M's. active on our front and support lines. His M.G's. fairly quiet.
- Two Coys. of 16th Battalion under Major Parks moved around to our left to attack an enemy position on our left, but owing

APPENDIX 16

Page 2.

- Mar. 29. to erratic artillery barrage attack did not eventuate.
30. Quiet day, only a few enemy shells. Our snipers had a good days shooting, and inflicted a number of casualties.
31. Enemy artillery fairly active. Our line advanced on left on a front of 300 yards to a depth of 200 yards. Enemy had evacuated this position leaving his packs and other gear behind.
- Apl. 1st/
4th. Situation normal.
- 5th 37th Div. attacked ROSSIGNOL WOOD at 5.30 a.m. One Coy. of this Battalion were detailed to occupy the POPLARS and join our line with British new line.
Enemy put down a heavy barrage at 5 a.m. with the evident intention of afterwards attacking, but our attack anticipated and interfered with his intentions on our immediate front. (See attachment Marked "A").
Enemy heavily attacked on our right and our Right Coy's. Lewis Gunners moved out into NO MANS LAND and got splendid targets in enfilade of enemy waves attacking.
- 6th/8th. Wet weather, trenches very muddy. Enemy quiet.
- 9th. Still raining and muddy. Relieved at 11 p.m. by 10th Royal Fusiliers.
- 10th/12th. At ROSSIGNOL FARM in Reserve.
- 12th. Moved at 10 p.m. into valley in J.12.d. north of SAILLY au BOIS.
- 13th. Moved up into Purple Line into support.
- 14th. Digging and Wiring at the Purple Support and Reserve Lines in rear of HEBUTERNE.
- 20th. Relieved 16th Battalion A.I.F., at 9.30 p.m. and took over Right of Brigade Sector.
- 24th. Relieved at 9.30 p.m. by 2nd Wellingtons, and marched to COIGNEAUX and thence by Bus to RAINNEVILLE and route march to ALLONVILLE.
- 28th. Moved from PONT NOYELLES into Support at VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
- 28th/30th. In support at VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

On the 5th April, information was received from our Brigade that British Troops would attack ROSSIGNOL WOOD, and enemy positions N. E. of HEBUTERNE, and this Battalion was instructed to act in conformity and establish a post at THE POPLARS and connect up with British right at K.17.b.05. Lieut. Fewster and one Platoon of "C" Company was detailed to carry out this job.

During the night of 4th/5th April, Patrols were sent out from "C" Company down the trench running from K. 17.a.1.8. to the POPLARS, and it was found that this place was held by two small posts about 15 yards apart, and it was possible for a small party to move along this trench and bomb them out. "C" Company held the line from K.10.d.8.2. to K.11.c.1.5. and two posts K.11.c.1.3. and K.11.c.15.30. which overlooked the villages to the East and South.

We were required to establish a post at the POPLARS and patrol laterally to K.17.b.0.5. where the 8th LINCOLNS right flank would rest. The barrage was timed at 5.30 a.m. and at 5 a.m. on the 5th April we pushed down the trench to K.17.a.1.8. and established a post close up to where our barrage would fall. At 5 a.m. the enemy placed a heavy barrage on our back area and it was noticed that they were pushing along numerous saps not shown on the map south of and leading into the Sunken Road. We detailed one platoon consisting of 27 men under Lieut. Fewster to establish this post at THE POPLARS. At 5.30 a.m. 1 N.C.O. and 8 men were sent down the sap to establish the required post and were within 30 yards when they were held up by hand grenades and Machine Gun Fire from high ground overlooking the POPLARS. A large number of enemy were seen in the saps opposite the SUNKEN ROAD and it was seen it would be a difficult job to get down to the POPLARS until the British pushed the Boscne from high ground on our left which commanded the POPLARS. A party of about 20 enemy came across the ROAD and worked up a small sap attempting to cut off our advanced party who were held up. Lieut. Fewster with a few men worked around to the enemy rear and by sniping and bombing forced the Huns to retire. Capt. TOFT went out to find what was checking our advance and was surprised to find that enemy was in strength. We then pushed out small Sniping and Lewis Gun Posts and some good shooting was obtained. Capt. TOFT then reported to Battalion H. Q., that we had decided to wait until the English had got nearer their objective when the enemy in the valley between us would have to retire and we could then occupy the POPLARS. It was not possible to occupy the POPLARS until enemy Strong Point on high ground at K.11.c.5 was dealt with as from there enemy Machine gun fire made the low ground at the POPLARS untenable. Capt. Toft sent 14th Battalion officers to find out where exactly the English had advanced to and found that they had been stopped at a strong point at K.11.c.6.5. From this point we were being enfiladed by Machine Gun Fire and Trench Mortars in Trench K.10.d.4.0. to K.11.c.1.3. A heavy Trench Mortar was also opening from K.17.a.6.6. and firing at trenches in K.16.a. We pushed forward two snipers who killed three of the carrying and silenced this mortar. We were subjected to heavy Machine Gun Fire from the East which made it only possible to move in the saps by crawling along. We also fired a considerable number of rifle grenades into the saps across the ROAD with visible good results. We established a post at K.17.a.38.75 and placed the remaining men in the same trench with a bombing block at K.17.a.1.8. From 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. the enemy attempted to bomb us out, and at 4.30 p.m. he came over in three parties

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each about 15 men and moved across the road up saps to within bombing range. However we held them back with bombs and Lewis Gun fire, and as many as twenty casualties were claimed. The enemy then made a counter attack on our left and a good deal of bombing was observed. At 5 p.m. word came through that the English troops ~~had retired~~ were retiring. We sent an Officer to find out how far they had gone back and found they had gone back to K.11.a.4.0. The 14th Battalion Company then re-occupied (having withdrawn during the barrage) their posts running from K.11.c.25.30. to K.11.c.5.8. and their left troops pushed forward and occupied their original line.

We were holding the Company of the 14th Battalion in reserve to do the lateral patrolling when 8th Lincolns had reached their objective. In addition they acted as LIAISON with the English troops and formed carrying parties sending over bombs and rifle grenades to the British which they drew from our dump-

My impressions were that the Hun had meant to attack us on the left as he was in considerable strength, but his attack was anticipated by ours and he must have suffered very heavy casualties.

We inflicted about forty casualties while ours were 2 Killed and 4 wounded.

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