

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/23/27

Title: 6th Infantry Battalion

February 1918



AWM4-23/23/27

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

6th Batta A.I.F.

FOR

February 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. J. Mackinnon Lt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

A. J. Barnes Capt.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

6th Batt

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd A.I. Bde

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Map Ref. Sheet. 28. SW 1:20,000. | 1.2.18 | | <p style="text-align: right;">Sheet. 28. S.W.</p> <p>The Batts are billeted in KEMMEL SHELTERS. Map Ref. N. 19 d 8. 4.</p> <p>From 1.2.18 to 6.2.18 training was carried out as per syllabus the hours being from 9 a.m. to 12.30 a.m. & recreational training from 2 P.M. to 3.30 P.M.</p> <p>During the week the weather was fine.</p> <p>The Batt strength was 46 Off. & 884 ORs., the ration strength was 33 Offs. & 733 ORs.</p> | |
| | 6.2.18 | | <p>On the 6th 2/18 three boys less 1 platoon were detached & moved to LINDENHOEK CAMP N 27 C; Capt. H.P. Smith being in command of the detached party.</p> <p>Whilst in this area fatigue parties were supplied daily chiefly for road making & carrying material forward of MESSINES for the building of dugouts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Crosshatch Pt</p> | |

WAR DIARY

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6th Batta

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

2nd A.I. Bde

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------------------------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Map Ref Sheet 28 S.W. 1:20,000 | 13.2.18 | | <p>The 3 detached Coys at LINDENHOEK were relieved by the 8th Batta + returned to KEMMEL SHELTERS on the 13th 2.18.</p> <p>Training was carried out as per attached syllabus. The weather was fine throughout.</p> | |
| | | | <p>Whilst billeted in KEMMEL SHELTERS the 2nd A.I. Bde were known as the LOCRE BRIGADE of the Support Division + in case of warning the Batta had to take up positions as allotted in the attached defence scheme. On several occasions the Batta took up these positions + were thoroughly acquainted with their duties.</p> | |
| | 28.2.18 | | <p>On the last day of the month the Batta moved to PARRET CAMP. Map Ref. Sheet 28. S.W. N. 17 a. b.</p> | <p>COYHACK</p> |

WAR DIARY

OF

6th Batta AIF

FOR

February 1918**LIST OF APPENDICES.**

| No. | Subject. |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Football competitions |
| 2 | Table Tennis competitions |
| 3 | Kemmel South Street Competitions. |
| 4 | Transport Competitions |

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

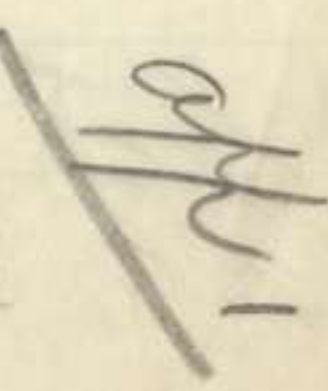
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

6th Batt

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd A.I. Bde

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------------------|----------|------|--|---|
| Map Ref. Sheet 25 SW. 10 | 1-2-18 | | While in KEMMEL SHELTERS inter-Batts football matches were played within the Bde, the winning Batts to represent the Bde in the inter-Bde matches within the Division. | |
| 1:20000 | 28-2-18. | | The 8th Batts were successful in winning the Batts competitions this Batts being runners up, having won 3 matches & lost 2. | |
| | | | <p>A cross country competition was held in the Bde, the winning Batts to represent the Bde in the Army Rifle Association competition. Each Batts in the Bde was represented also the 1st Division Pioneers. 1 platoon consisting of 16 off. 4 M.C.O's + 25 men represented each Batts. Each platoon had to advance 50 yards in extended order & point at a man in the trench, advance another 15 yards & fire 5 rounds rapid & M.Gunner 1 magazine at head & shoulders at a range of 300 yards; advance 50 yards & repeat point, advance 25 yards & repeat point in trench & jump out & fire 15 rounds & M.Gunner 2 magazines at targets at 200 yards range.</p> | <p>4 </p> |

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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6th Batts

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

2nd A/Bde

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Map Ref. Sheet 28 SW. 1:20000.</i></p> | | | <p><i>The platoon representing the 6th Batts were in an excellent winning position when 1 round exploded in the Lewis gun & disabled it; the team had scored 380 points with still 90 rounds to fire. The winning team scored 405 points the 6th Batts being 3rd with 380 points.</i></p> <p><i>While in this camp several concerts were given by officers & men of the Batts. Singing & recitation competitions were held on the ^{nights of the} 18th & 19th Feb. & much enthusiasm was maintained throughout. The 6th Batts band rendered selections each evening & programme of the competitions & a list of the winners is appended.</i></p> <p><i>The 60th Batts concert party & band visited this Batts. on the 15th of February & gave a complimentary concert.</i></p> | <p><i>[Signature]</i></p> |

6th Battalion SOUTH STREET COMPETITIONS

APPENDIX 3.

To be held in the CINEMA HALL at KEMMEL HUTS CAMP on Monday, 18th February, 1918, at 6.30 p.m. Entries open only to Other Ranks of the 6th Battalion.

SCHEDULE

----- Songs -----

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|----|-----|------|-----|-------|----|-----|
| 1 | Best Tenor Song | -- | --- | ---- | --- | prize | 50 | 00 |
| 2 | Best Baritone or Bass Song | | | --- | --- | do | 50 | 00 |
| 3 | Best Comic Song, in character or otherwise | | | | | do | 50 | 00 |
| 4 | Best Ragtime | -- | --- | ---- | --- | do | 50 | 00 |
| 5 | Best Female Impersonation | | | --- | --- | do | 50 | 000 |

----- Recitations -----

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|-----|-----|-------|----|----|
| 6 | Best Serious Recitation | | | --- | --- | prize | 50 | 00 |
| 7 | Best Rendering of any poem by C.J. DENNIS | | | | | do | 50 | 00 |
| 8 | Best Comic Recitation | | | --- | --- | do | 50 | 00 |
| 9 | Best Monologue or Character Sketch | | | | | do | 50 | 00 |
| 10. | Best Speciality Item of any kind -Dancing, Juggling, Conjuring, Comedy, Acrobat, etc. | | | | | do | 50 | 00 |

During the evening the Sergeants' Mess will provide a Burlesque Item.

Special, Open to 6th Battalion Officers Only

Best Concer or Entertainment Item of any kind prize Silver Cup presented by Sergeants' Mess

COMMITTEE Capt. CAMPBELL, C.S.M. BRENT, C.S.M. PALMER, C.S.M. HARVEY, C.S.M. FARCHER, C.Q.M.S. WRIGHT and the PADRE, Hon. Sec.

piano provided

Entries to be lodged with the padre by Sunday, 17th instant, 6 p.m.

pianist Sgt. RAYMOND, 5th Battalion.

(Signed) G. W. CARTER
Hon Sec.

APPENDIX 3.

The Competitions were held as announced at Kemmel Hut's Camp and ran for two nights, Monday and Tuesday 18th and 19th February 1918. The old hall in which they were held had once been a Cinema Hall. It was crowded to the doors and the enthusiasm was maintained throughout.

The 6th Battalion Band rendered selections each evening.

A third concert was given on Saturday 23rd February by the successful competitors, and the prizes were given out at the request of Chaplain G. W. Carter by Captain Carne acting C.O. The following were the winners: Lieut. Abson, Sgt. Weidman, Pte. Walker, Pte. Winsor, Pte. Mc Nicol, L/Cpl. Maves, Pte. Spark, Pte. George, L/Cpl. Baker, Pte. Draper, Cpl. Norris, L/Cpl. Knight.

A complimentary concert to the 6th Bn. was given at the Kemmel Hut's Camp on Friday 15th February 1918 by the 60th Bn. Concert Party and band.

WAR DIARY

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.

6th Battⁿ

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd A. I. Bde

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <p>LOCRE Map Ref. Sheet. 28. S.W. 1:20,000</p> | | | <p>On the 26/2/18 a transport competition was held between the four Battⁿs of the Bde for the best turned out 4 limbers & horses & for the best two pack horses loaded with two boxes of S. A. A. The six Battⁿs were awarded 2nd prize being 3 points behind the winning Battⁿ (5th Battⁿ).</p> | <p>4</p> |

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SECRET

COPY No *2* APPENDIX

6th Battalion OPERATION ORDER No. 96.

Ref Map :-
Sheet 28 1/40,000

Headquarters 6th Battalion A.I.F
5th February 1918.

- The 6th Battalion will relieve the 7th Battalion as Duty Battalion on 6th February, and will take over all working parties and duties now being found by that Battalion from 6 a.m. that date.
- (a) The following will relieve that portion of the 7th Battalion now located at LINDENHOEK CAMP (M. 27. c) and will be placed under the command of Capt. W. N. SMITH during the tour of duty.

- "B" Coy
- "D" Coy less competing platoon under 2/Lieut. FISCHER
- "C" Coy
- (b) Advanced party of 2/Lieut. SOAD and 2 N.C.O.'s per Coy will proceed to LINDENHOEK CAMP on morning of 5th February and take over duties, etc.
- (c) The above Coys will pass the Starting point, Werdens' Hut at entrance to this Camp, at 1.30 p.m. Order of march as per margin.
- (d) Distances of 100 yards between Coys and transport will be maintained.

"E" Coy
 "C" Coy
 "D" Coy
Transport

- DRESS - Full Marching Order without blankets.
- (a) All blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 and stacked by Coys in a convenient position near road by noon. Passage Guard of 2 men per Coy and 1 N.C.O. from "B" Coy will remain with these and load and unload same.
 (b) Traverses and boxes will be dunned ready for loading at same time and place.
- Following transport will move with party :-
 3 Cookers 1 Water Cart 10 S. Timber (for Lewis Gun)
 1 1/2 Ration Timbers 2 A.S.C. Passage wagons.
- T.O. will be responsible for transport of all necessary stores.
- Battalion Headquarters and "A" Coy will remain at present location.

ACKNOWLEDGE

| No | Distribution To whom | Method | Time |
|----|----------------------|--------|------|
| 1 | File | --- | --- |
| 2 | War Diary | --- | --- |
| 3 | and A.I.F. file | Runner | |
| 4 | "A" Coy | do | |
| 5 | "B" Coy | do | |
| 6 | "C" Coy | do | |
| 7 | "D" Coy | do | |
| 8 | Q.M. & T.O. | | |

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 2/Lieut.
 A/Adjutant 6th Battalion, A.I.F.

9 2/4000 Retailer

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

Headquarters 6th Battalion A.I.F.
13th February 1918.

O.C. A. Coy
O.C. B. Coy
O.C. C. Coy
O.C. D. Coy
O.C. Wire Pts
and A.I. Bde
File
War Diary.

TRAINING.



The hours of training for the Battalion while in the present area will be :-

Morning (Military training) 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Afternoon (Recreational training) 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday afternoon in each week will be a half holiday.

Particular attention will be paid to musketry - fire discipline, fire control. Rapid loading with dummies will be practised each day.

In marches of over three miles, marching order will be worn; in all other forms of military training matters the dress will be fighting order.

All men must take part in recreational training, those who do not put sufficient energy into this will be noted and their afternoons devoted to military training.

All Signallers, including company signallers, will report to signal officer daily when on a leave route off square for private parades, but they will go on all route marches.

Lewis Gunners and Intelligence personnel will report to Specialist officers daily as above, except when attention carried out a route march, or when any tactical exercises are on the syllabus.

BOMBING - Companies will report by platoons to Bombing officer as follows :-

1st "A" Coy
2nd "B" Coy
3rd "C" Coy
4th "D" Coy

The only Coy personnel to be left off parades are :-

Sanitary men 1 per company
Coy Q.M.S. 1
Coy Clerk or
C.O.M.S.'s Asst. 1
Coy Ord. Sgt or
Coy Ord. Col 1

and men marked off parade by the S.I.C.

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Lieut.
Adjutant 6th Battalion.

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APPENDIX

5th Battalion G.I.A.R.S. OF TRAINING FOR PERIOD
17th to 23rd February 1918.

| Date | Particulars |
|-----------|--|
| Feb 17th | CHURCH PARADES |
| Feb 18th | Physical Training 1/2 hour. Platoon Drill 1/2 hour. Bayonet Fight, 1/2 hour. Gas drill 1/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Musketry 1/2 hour. Open Order Drill 1/2 hour. Quartering up drill 1/2 hour. |
| Feb. 19th | Route March |
| Feb. 20th | P.M. 1/2 hour. Company Drill 3/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Bayonet Fighting 1/2 hour. ^{SMOKE O. 1/2 hour} Platoon in attack including extensions 1/2 hour. Musketry 1/2 hour. |
| Feb. 21st | P.M. 1/2 hour. Rifle Exercises 1/2 hour. Company Drill 1/2 hour. Gas drill 1/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Advance in Open warfare with patrols. 1 hour. Quartering up Drill 1/2 hour. |
| Feb. 22nd | Route March. |
| Feb. 23rd | P.M. 1/2 hour. Musketry 1/2 hour. Coy Drill 3/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Bayonet Fighting 1/2 hour. Coy in attack - open warfare 1 hour. |

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Headquarters 6th Battalion A.I.F.
23rd February 1918

APPENDIX

C. C. A. Coy
C. C. B. Coy
C. C. C. Coy
C. C. D. Coy
C. C. Machine Guns
and A.I. Coe
War Diary



TRAINING

File

The instructions issued under this office letter 1/909 of 18th instant will apply to training for coming week, with the exception of area re-formation, which will now read:-

TRAINING - Companies will report by platoons to training officer as follows

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| 6th instant | "A" Coy |
| 7th instant | "B" Coy |
| 8th inst | "C" Coy |
| and prox. | "D" Coy |

Company commanders will arrange with Intelligence Officer for the training of one patrol per company in night scouting, infiltration and offensive work.

This training must be systematic and aggressive and will include the use of rifle grenades for offensive action at night.

Situations are to be prepared by company commanders with the object of developing the patrol leaders initiative, and situations will also be prepared by platoon commanders in which action by company commanders will be necessary, after patrol has returned.

Special attention will be paid to buckskin and rifle loading. Copy of training syllabus enclosed.

Mabson

Lieutenant 6th Battalion A.I.F.

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SECRET

1/40,000

- 1 The 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade will relieve the 1st Infantry Brigade in the Divisional Reserve Area of "C" or Northern Sector of the Corps front on 28th February.
- 2 The 8th Battalion will relieve Unit occupying BARRET CAMP N. 17. a. 1. 7 on above date.
- 3 Head of column will pass starting point, Road Junction N. 20. D. central at 9.30 a.m. Order of march as per margin.
- 4 Following distances will be maintained on the march :-
 100 yards between Companies
 100 " " " Transport of units and cars of 25 yards between each group of 6 vehicles.
- 5 DRESS - Full marching order - one blanket to be carried on man.
- 6 Blankets not carried on men will be rolled in bundles of ten and dumped by Companies near road by 9.30 a.m together with valises, boxes, etc.
- 7 Huts and orserines will be left in a clean condition. Companies will furnish certificates to Asst Adjutant that this has been done by 9 a.m.
- 8 Advance parties of 1 officer per Company will reconnoitre new Camp, position of assembly and route thereto on morning of 27th instant.
- 9 Quartermaster will be responsible for transport of all baggage and stores belonging to the Battalion.
- 10 ACKNOWLEDGE

"C" Coy
"D" Coy
"A & B" Coy.
Transport

Distribution

| No | To whom | Method | Time |
|----|--------------|----------|------|
| 1 | File | ----- | |
| 2 | War Diary | ----- | |
| 3 | 2nd A.I. Sds | D. R. S. | |
| 4 | A Coy | Runner | |
| 5 | B Coy | Runner | |
| 6 | C Coy | Runner | |
| 7 | D Coy | Runner | |
| 8 | Hqs Dtls | Runner | |
| 9 | Q.M. & S.C. | Runner | |

(Signed) H. ARSON Lieut
Adjutant 8th Battalion
A. I. F.

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APPENDIX

6th Battalion TRAINING STATUS
 Period 24th February - 2nd March 1918



| Date | Particulars |
|-----------|---|
| Feb. 24th | Church parade |
| Feb. 25th | 8 A.M. 1/2 hour. Platoon Drill 1/2 hour. P.M. 1/2 hour. Rapid loading 1/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Gas Drill 1 hour. Platoon tactical Exercise 1/2 hour. |
| Feb. 26th | Company Route March 1 hour. P.M. and assault practice 1/2 hour. Rapid loading 1/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Musketry 1/2 hour. Platoon Tactical Exercise 1 hour. |
| Feb. 27th | P.M. 1/2 hour. Open Order Drill 1/2 hour. Bayonet Drill 1/2 hour. Gas Drill 1/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Tactical Exercise (Advance in open warfare with smoke) 1 hour. Musketry 1/2 hr. |
| Feb. 28th | P.M. 1/2 hour. Musketry (including rapid loading) 1/2 hour. P.M. and assault practice 1/2 hour. Gas Drill 1/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Bayonet in attack 1 hour. Rifle Ex. 1/2 hour. |
| 1st Mch. | Route March. |
| Mch 2nd | P.M. 1/2 hour. Open Order Drill 1/2 hour. Platoon and Company Drill (including Artillery Formations) 1/2 hour. Rapid loading 1/4 hour. "Smoke O" 1/4 hour. Musketry 1/2 hour. Gas Drill 1/2 hour. Platoon Tactical Exercise 1 hour. |

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APPENDIX

Headquarters 6th Battalion A.I.F.

14th February 1918


- O.C. A. Coy
- O.C. B. Coy
- O.C. C. Coy
- O.C. D. Coy
- O.C. Hqs Details ✓
- Quartermaster
- R.M.O.
- R.S.M.

Routine for 15th instant will be as follows :-

Reveille 7.30 a.m.
 Sick parade 7.45 a.m.
 Breakfast 8 a.m.
 Form up on Battalion parade ground 9 a.m.
 DRESS, Full marching order without blankets

Battalion will carry out a route march - route KILMER - TA CRYTT
 BENTINGHEYST - WESTDYRE - TOCRE - BLYRTS. Cookers, Mess Cart and
 Water cart will accompany Battalion. Headquarters Details will march
 with Company to which they belong.

All Batmen will parade, also all C.O.M. Spts Assistants, 1 Orderly
 N.C.O. per Company, all Company Runners and Signallers, all Headquarter
 Runners except 4, and Headquarters Signallers except 8. If any more
 Runners are required for use within the camp, night duty men will be
 employed.


 Lieut.

Adjutant 6th Battalion,
 A. I. F.

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16th February 1918.

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- O.C. A. Coy
- O.C. B. Coy
- O.C. C. Coy
- O.C. D. Coy
- O.C. Hqrs Details
- Q.M. and T.O.
- 2nd A.I. Bde
- File
- War Diary

Defence Scheme issued on 13.2.18 is cancelled and the following substituted -

Ref Map :- Sheet 28.N.W. 1/20,000

1. Whilst in the present area the 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde will be known as the LOCRE Brigade of the Support Division.
2. In the event of a hostile attack the Brigade may be employed :-
 - (a) To counter attack and regain any losses in the 1st zone or follow any successes against the enemy, or
 - (b) To aid in the defence of the 2nd zone, or
 - (c) To hold the 3rd zone in the case of an attack by the enemy which may deny the opportunity of employing the Brigade in the 1st or 2nd zone. The Battalion is responsible for a portion of the 3rd zone of Defence as in Appendix A 1.
3. Orders may be issued as under :-
 - (i) Warning Order
 - (ii) Orders to take Up position of Readiness
 - (iii) Orders to act under para 2 c
4. In the case of :-
 - (i) Companies will fall in on Battalion Parade Ground
 - (ii) "A" Coy will move via GORDON ROAD to position of Readiness in rear of 3rd zone (N. 20. a. 7.9) HASTINGS STREET, starting point N.19.d.9.4. Time allowed the Battalion from time of issue of order from Brigade to time of arrival in new position of Readiness is 35 minutes.
 - (iii) The disposition of the Battalion will be as follows and Companies will move into positions on receipt of orders under para 2 (c) "A" Coy N.15.c. 4. 2 to and exclusive of ROAD in N.21. a. - "B" Coy from and including ROAD in N.21 a to junction of HASTINGS STREET with KEMMEL -LOCRE Road in N. 20. d. - C Coy will be known as number 1 Support Coy and will occupy HASTINGS STREET. - "D" Coy will be known as No. 2 Support Coy and will occupy line about 100 yards in rear of and parallel to HASTINGS STREET.
5. In the event of the Battalion being employed in advance of the 3rd zone the Company occupying HASTINGS STREET will be withdrawn, less 4 Lewis Gun sections which will remain as nucleus garrison for the line.
6. Coy Commanders will make adequate arrangements for the rapid assembling of their men on the warning order being received.
7. Dress will be as in S. S. 135 para XXXI less 1 bomb
8. On receipt of the warning order Transport will harness up and make ready to move but will not hook in until ordered to do so. Transport Officer will at once send a horse to Battalion Headquarters for use of Battalion second in Command.
9. Battalion Headquarters will remain as at present.
10. Company Commanders will at once take steps to reconnoitre position of Readiness and 3rd zone of Defence and the route thereto and will ensure that all officers and N.C.O's under their command are familiar with position and route also.
11. Coy Commanders will see that water bottles of all men under their command are kept filled, and that the iron ration is always carried in the haversack.

A C K N O W L E D G E

(Signed) M. W. BSON Lieut Adjutant 6th Bn

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1

3rd zone of defence.

A trench system with belts of defensive wire, comprising the 3rd zone of defence, located as follows :-

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| H.15.c.4.2 | H.21.a.5.0 | H.20.d.7.5 | H.20.d.4.2 |
| H.27.a.0.1 | H.27.c.7.9 | H.27.d.2.8 | H.27.d.7.0 |
| H.28.b.4.0 | H.28.d.8.5 | H.24.c.0.0 | H.28.b.7.0 |

Battalion Boundary is as follows :-

On North, Brigade Northern Boundary, a straight line drawn from H.20. a. 2.8. to H.16.d.0.4.

On South, a straight line drawn from H.20.c.2.0 to H.28.b.M.O. 4.