

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/6/19

Title: 6th Infantry Brigade

March 1917



AWM4-23/6/19

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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 Inf Bde

Vol 3 f1

232

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																
Shelterwood Camp.	1-3-17.		Brigade at Shelter Wood - Scots Redoubt. & 2 Mount Camps training & bathing. Brigade Order No 73 for relief of 5 th M B Coy & 2 mortar Battery by 6 th M B Coy at 7 P.M. Battery issued to Units. Weather bright & cold. Bde Order No 74 for relief of 5 th Bde in the Right Bde Sector on the night 2/3 rd issued to Units.	Bde Order 73. 7. Bde Order 74.																
do.	2-3-17.		Casualties Ltd Relief in accordance with order No 74 carried out without incident. Relief completed at 11 P.M. Dispositions as under. <table><tr><td>26th Bn</td><td>Front Line</td><td>Head Qrs</td><td>M 12 C 24</td></tr><tr><td>23rd Bn</td><td>Close Support</td><td>"</td><td>M 16 b 55</td></tr><tr><td>22nd Bn</td><td>Support</td><td>"</td><td>M 21 b 88</td></tr><tr><td>21st Bn</td><td>Reserve</td><td>"</td><td>Success Camp</td></tr></table> Weather fair & cold. Casualties Ltd	26 th Bn	Front Line	Head Qrs	M 12 C 24	23 rd Bn	Close Support	"	M 16 b 55	22 nd Bn	Support	"	M 21 b 88	21 st Bn	Reserve	"	Success Camp	
26 th Bn	Front Line	Head Qrs	M 12 C 24																	
23 rd Bn	Close Support	"	M 16 b 55																	
22 nd Bn	Support	"	M 21 b 88																	
21 st Bn	Reserve	"	Success Camp																	

A5834 Wt. W4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

232

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol 3 p 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Martinsville	3 3 17	8 30am	Command of Right Brigade Sector assumed by GOC 6th Bde	
		10-10am	Instructions sent 24th Bn to establish outpost line 200 yds in advance of present line	
		4 30pm	24th Bn reported enemy shelling front line of Potts with #2 & asked for Counter Batteries. Divisional asked for Counter Batteries assistance.	
		4 30pm	Orders sent to 24th Bn to send out strong patrols to reconnoitre Grevillers Drench as soon as possible	Instructions to 24th Bn
		5 75P	Message from Division. German Officer captured in recent operation on Corps Front states that owing to importance attached to Malt Drench by enemy an effort to recapture is likely to be made. Passed to all units.	
		6pm	24th Bn report enemy again shelling their front line Potts from direction Grevillers asking for Counter Batteries Passed to Artillery.	

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(Erase heading not required.)

Vol 3 p 3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Martinsburg	3.3.17	7.10p.	1st Aust Brigade wire. Left Battalion report much movement in enemy trenches b. 36 d 54. Passed to 24th Bn + M. C. Coy.	
		7.30p.	Party of 2200 Bn 2 officers + 800 P. O. sent to 7th Bde to clear out Emma trench.	
			AMO 24th Bn reports R. A. Post at M 12 A 48 moved to M 11 b 64.	
		9.51.0	Message as follows received Warning of Gas attack received from Quarry Gas alert at 9.30 p.m.	
		10.25p.	From 1st Anglian Cavalry warning of Gas Attack. Weather fine + cold. Enemy shelling normal Casualties. 1 O.R. wounded.	7
do.	4.3.17	4am	24th Battalion reported that Ports have been established at M 6 A 35 - M 6 A 04 - M 5 B 84 M 5 B 63 M 5 B 43. M 5 B 3 4 1/2.	

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Vol 3 p 4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Martinsburg	4-3-17		<p>Brigade Order No 75 for relief of 1st Bn issued to Units concerned Relief carried out & completed at 10.15 P.M. without incident. Bde Order No 76 issued. Weather fine with bright intervals. Casualties 2 killed, 9 wounded.</p>	<p>Bde Order 75 & 76.</p> <p>7</p>
	5-3-17		<p>In accordance with Brigade Order No 76 new front to Blue Cut inclusive taken over from 1st Brigade 1st Australian Division relief completed by 11.55 P.M. Situation unchanged. Normal shelling by enemy of Belars, vicinity of Butte & Escham Rd. some front line posts. Weather heavy fall of snow during night. Casualties 1 killed 3 wounded.</p>	<p>7</p>

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Vol 3 p 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Martinspuich	6-3-17		<p>Snow which fell during previous night quickly thawed. Weather day very warm night frost & cold. Situation unchanged, Usual Artillery activity. Hostile & our own Aircraft very active, one of our Biplanes overplanned & made a good landing vicinity of Martinspuich locality heavily shelled but without damage to plane. Casualties, 2 killed, 6 wounded.</p> <p>Brigade Order No 47 for relief of 23rd Bn issued to all units.</p>	
Lezans.	7-3-17		<p>Clear and cold. Bde HQ moved from MARTINSPUICH to LE Sars. 22nd Bn relieved 23rd in front line. 21st Bn to support & 24th Bn to reserve positions. Situation unchanged. Casualties 2 wounded.</p>	<p>Barron 77.</p> <p>7</p>

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Vol 3 p 6

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE SARS	8/3/17		Very cold and windy with intermittent snow storms. GOC. visited 5 th Bde HQ and discussed situation. Observation good. Post in LAYTON TRENCH on left flank taken over by 7 th A.I. Bde. Artillery active but situation unchanged. Scheme for construction of new front line in advance of present line of outposts commenced & 80 yards deep.	
LE SARS	9/3/17		Casualties 2 killed 2 wounded, 1 Officer (Lt A.V. Massie) missing. Clear and cold. GOC. Division visited area accompanied by A.Q. Situation normal.	Operational Plan 78 issued
LE SARS	10/3/17		Casualties 3 killed, 17 wounded. Cold & gusty with light rain & snow. Artillery engaged cutting wire along Div. front. 2 nd British Div. carried out successful operations against the GREVILLERS TRENCH on our left. Our position unchanged. 21 st Bn relieved 22 nd Bn in front line 24 th Bn - 21 st - Le Banque 23 rd Bn - 24 th - Reserve Area Casualties 1 wounded	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol 3 / 8

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE SARS	11/3/17		Cold and bright. Aeroplanes on both sides very active. Four British planes brought to earth, 1 German crashed in LOUPART WOOD. Situation unaltered. 23 rd Bn withdrawn to BAZENTIN for organising & training Casualties 3 killed, 8 wounded	
LE SARS	12/3/17		Dull, much milder with good visibility. Bde HQ shelled with 5.9s for five hours. Little damage caused. Enemy suspected of having withdrawn from line opposite our front, and patrols sent forward to ascertain facts. 21 st Bn in line report position evacuated. 22 nd & 24 th Bns ordered to "stand by" Casualties 2 wounded	Bde Order 79
LE SARS	13/3/17	1am	Foggy in early morning, growing colder. Flank Bdes advised of situation 21 st Bn patrols occupy WARFENCOURT TRENCH. 22 nd Bn & 24 th Bn moved forward to LE BARQUE SWITCH & RAVINE respectively.	
		1.15am	24 th Bn instructed to establish posts on right of 21 st Bn, with HQ at CORRE GUENE 5 th & 8 th Bdes informed of posts proposed to be established 22 nd Bn in support, ready to follow advancing Bns	
		2.15am	5 th Bde advise having entered at M 5 A 1 1/2. 6 1/2. Boundary arrange with the Bde to be at FONDS BERTIN	
		2.27am	24 th Bn moved forward on right of 21 st Bn	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol 3 18

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE SARRS	13	3.10a	22 nd Bn ordered back to Le Barque Sintel & Le Barque	
		3.30a	Vickers M. Gun Co pushing forward.	
		3.40a	Situation reported to be developing satisfactorily, advanced patrols approached GREVILLERS	
		4.15a	50C discussed situation with 50C 5 th Bde	
		5.15	24 th Bn established two posts and gained touch with 21 st Bn. Also in touch with 8 th Bde	
		7.50	Village of GREVILLERS occupied & posts established on North West.	
		8.10	Patrols passed through village & reported no enemy there	
		8.15	24 th Bn HQ to N1 C 20.	
			Total advance approx. 2000' to a depth of 1300'	
			Casualties. Nil	
LE SARRS	14		21 st Bn relieved by 17 th Bn, 5 th Bde completion of relief 5.20am 13/14	
			Dull & drizzling, cold. 50C. visited front area & 50C 8 th Bde	
			Position gained being consolidated & patrols pushing forward in NE direction	
			Rt flank of Bde resting on BAPAUME RD, left flank ^{SE} of GREVILLERS	
			Casualties 2 wounded	

Bde Order
No 80

WAR DIARY

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Vol 3 p 9

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE SARS	15		Clear & fine with good visibility. Vigorous patrolling continued with a view to ascertaining strength of garrison opposite our front. Three patrols average strength 30 in contact during night. Line considered to be normally held. Consolidating captured positions. Aeroplanes active. Casualties 1 off 5 or wounded	
LE SARS	16		Cold and misty. Trench still maintained with enemy and policy of vigorous patrolling maintained, 2nd Bn in touch throughout the night - relief received by 23rd Bn. Casualties 1 wounded	Bde Order 81
MALT TRENCH	17		Clear & cool. Energetic patrolling in early morning enabled patrols to enter hostile trench & ascertained that they were unoccupied. 23rd Bn pushed forward finally occupying GREVILLE AVESNES and establishing posts on high ground to N & NW of BAPAUME. Enemy fighting rear guard action with success in place. 5th Bde in BIEFVILLE on left flank. Casualties Nil	Advd Guard Order 1
BAPAUME	18		Clear & fine. 23rd Bn advanced in early morning after patrols had reported FAUREUIL clear of enemy & occupied same. BEUGNOTRE also captured with little opposition. An advanced guard to the Div. formed by 6th At Bde, 12 Batty AHA, 1 Squadron 13 LHA, 2 Mc-Engs & 1 Bedon sub-division. 21st Bn passed thro 23rd and became Vanguard at 4pm. Light Horse standing & reconnoitering patrols pushed out from LH. formed screen enabling	Advd Guard Order 2

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WAR DIARY

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Vol 3 p 10

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME	18 (writing)		21 st Bn to advance and secure VAULX. Posts withdrawn at dusk to watch approaches to village from South. Light Horse Sqdn return to outpost line after having been in touch with the enemy and suffered one casualty. VAULX reoccupied and posts established on Northern edge extending in westerly direction. Casualties 2 wounded	Advt Guard Operative Order 3
BAPAUME	19		Fine cool, with haze. 21 st Bn established post north of VRAUCOURT and sent out patrols. Outpost line held B 18 C central - Sugar Factory - Vancourt - Vaulse - I 4 D central. Line strengthened with 23 rd Bn on right half of line and 21 st Bn on left half. 25 th Bn relieved 22 nd in support and moved up to BEUGNATRE 26 th Bn became D Bn and posted in reserve in vicinity of AVESNES. 12 th - 13 th Batty. AFA obtained direct hits from direct on parties of the enemy. Light Horse did little patrolling. 24 th Bn to Becourt Casualties 4 wounded	Advt Guard Operative Order 4

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol 3 p11

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME	20		<p>Cold & wet gusty at intervals. Advanced Guard moved forward and attacked NOREVIL. Details of attack are contained in appendix.</p> <p>21st Bn relieved in left sector of outposts line by 25th Bn</p> <p>23rd Bn relieved in right sector by 26th Bn</p> <p>7th Bde HQ. took over from 6th Bde HQ. at midnight, latter moving to MALT Support trench, near LE BARQUE</p> <p>Casualties: Killed officers 3 ORs 28 Wounded. Off 6 ORs 192 Missing ORs 42</p>	<p>Advt Guard Order No 5</p> <p>Account of operations from 20th Mar.</p> <p>Advt Guard Order No 6</p>
LE BARQUE	21		<p>Cold with light snow falls at intervals. Bde resting and disposed as follows:</p> <p>Bde HQ M 11 B 86</p> <p>21st Bn Malt Support tented Camp</p> <p>22nd Bn -</p> <p>23rd Bn Warden Court</p> <p>24th Bn Becourt</p> <p>6th Wt Bn Warden Court</p> <p>6th M B. Warden Court.</p> <p>24th Bn ordered forward to Le Sans Area</p>	
LE BARQUE	22		<p>Casualties</p> <p>Cold with squalls of rain & snow. 6th Bde in Dv. Reserve & furnishing working parties for repairing roads</p>	

Casualties

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol 3 p 12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE BARQUE	23		Cold & bright. 6 th Bde to control administrative arrangements in the Reserve Bde Area. Area divided into sections for salvage work. Bns being employed on this and the construction of roads.	
LE BARQUE	24		24 th Bn moved forward from BECOURT	
LE BARQUE	24		Clear and cold. Salvage continued successfully. Orders received to move to Mametz but postponed at hours. Advance parties from 13 th Bde arrived.	Bde Order 82
LE BARQUE	25		Cold & clear. Salvage work continued. Instruction issued to 22 nd Bn to move to BAPAUME by 4.30 on 26 th inst.	
MAMETZ	26		Cold and wet. Sleet & snow in afternoon. Bde less 22 nd Bn. marched to MAMETZ CAMP. 22 nd Bn moved to Bapaume & came under orders of 5 th A. I. Bde.	
MAMETZ	27		Cold with intermittent squalls of sleet. 22 nd Bn returned to Mametz. Bathing and training commenced.	
MAMETZ	28		Cold & bright. Equipping, organising and training continued.	
MAMETZ	29		Cold & windy with gusts of rain & sleet. Training continued.	

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Vol 3 p 13

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAMETZ	30		Cloudy & cold. Rain squalls at intervals. Brigade less 22 nd Bn marched to Becourt Camp & were settled down by noon. 22 nd Bn move to D Camp Mametz Rd Camp. Training resumed.	
BECOURT	31		Bright at intervals and squally. Training continued. Conference held at D Camp attended by Bryddens. Medal presentation parade by Genl Birdwood postponed till 1 st April.	

SECRET

COPY No. 2

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.73
=====Map Ref. ALBERT combined 1/40,000
GUEUDECOURT 1/10,000

1st March, 1917.

1. The 6th Aust. Machine Gun Company and the 6th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery will relieve the 5th Aust. Machine Gun Company and 5th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery in the Right Brigade Sector on the night 1st/2nd March 1917.
2. All details of the relief will be mutually arranged between Company and Battery Commanders.
3. Guides from 5th Aust. Machine Gun Company and 5th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery will be at Right Brigade Headquarters MARTINPUICH, at 4 p.m. to guide incoming Units.
4. Completion of Relief to be wired to Brigade Headquarters.
5. Acknowledge.

Copies to.-

1. Filed
2. War Diary
3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
4. 6th M.G.Coy.
5. 6th L.T.M.Bty.
6. 5th A.I.Bde.
7. 7th A.I.Bde.
8. Spare.

W. J. Thomas
A/Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F. Captain,

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SECRET

APPENDIX

COPY NO. 2

15

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.74
=====

Ref. Map ALBERT combined 1/40,000
GUEUDECOURT 1/10,000

1st March, 1917.

1. The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. in the Right Brigade Sector on the nights 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd March 1917 in accordance with attached table of Moves and Reliefs.
2. All details of the relief not provided for herein will be mutually arranged between C.O's concerned.
3. All Trench Stores, Maps, Air Photographs, Ammunition Dumps, S.O.S. Rockets and all documents likely to be of value will be taken over and receipts given.
Gum Boots will be taken over at the Drying Sheds.
A list of all Stores taken over will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters within 24 hours of relief.
4. Two Mills Grenades and 2 Sandbags per man will be taken into the line.
5. Distances of 100 yards will be maintained between platoons.
No formed bodies of troops are to pass Right Brigade Headquarters before 5.30 p.m.
6. The Command of the Right Brigade Sector will pass to G.O.C. 6th Brigade at a time to be mutually arranged between G.O.C's concerned
7. Completion of relief to be wired to Brigade Headquarters.
8. Units will arrange for their Specialists not required for the Line to be quartered at PIONEER CAMP. These details will come under the orders of the Battalion in Reserve at SUSSEX CAMP.
9. Acknowledge.

Copies to.-

1. Filed
2. War Diary
3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
4. 21st Bn.
5. 22nd "
6. 23rd "
7. 24th "
8. 6th M.G.Co.
9. 6th L.T.M.Bty.
10. 5th A.I.Bde.
11. 7th A.I.Bde.
12. 1st A.I.Bde.
13. Spare.

[Signature]
A/Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Captain,

232 TABLE OF MOVES & RELIEFS

To accompany Brigade Order No.74

Date.-	Relieving Unit.-	Unit being Relieved.-	G U I D E S			Destination of Units.-	Remarks.-
			Number	Time	Place		
2/3rd March	24th Bn.	17th Bn.	1 Off. I/c. 1 Guide per Coy. H.Q's 1 Guide per Platoon 1 Guide per Bn. H.Q's	5.30 p.m.	Junction of CHALK PIT WALK - LE SARS WALK, duckboard tracks South end of MARTINPUICH	Front Line	Bn. H.Q's Dugout M.11.d.8.5 $\frac{1}{2}$.
-do-	23rd Bn.	20th Bn.	-do-	5.45 p.m.	-do-	SUPPORT	Bn. H.Q's Dugout M.16.b.5.5 (approx.)
-do-	22nd Bn.	18th Bn.	-do-	6.00 p.m.	-do-	-do-	Old Right Bn. H.Q's M.28.b.8.8.
-do-	21st Bn.	19th Bn.	-	-	-	SUSSEX CAMP Route & Times to be arranged Mutually so that move is completed in daylight.	
1/2nd March	6th M.G.Co.	5th M.G.Co) Mutually arranged				
-do-	6th L.T.M.Bty.	5th L.T.M.Bty.					

APPENDIX

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters
3rd March, 1917.

C.O.,

24th Battalion.

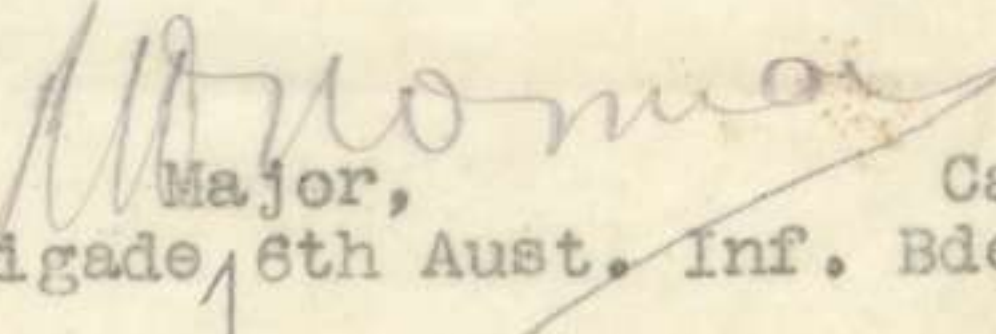
Three Strong Fighting Patrols are to be sent out as soon as possible to ascertain the following.-

1. Whether GRENVILLERS TRENCH is held and in what strength.
2. Condition of wire and places of possible entry.
3. If Trench is found by Patrols unoccupied or lightly held Posts are to be established immediately at the following points.- reinforcing patrols from line of posts now held.-

G.35.d.2.0	Post
G.35.d.2.2	BLOCK
M.5.b.1.9 $\frac{1}{2}$	BLOCK
G.35.d.6.1.	POST
G.35.d.8.2	POST
G.35.d.8.3.	BLOCK
G.36.c.1.3.	POST
G.36.c.1.4.	BLOCK
G.36.c.2.4.	BLOCK

It is suggested that both flanks be reinforced with strong parties of ~~Reif~~ Rifle Grenadiers

4. To facilitate communication the following suggestions are forwarded.-
 - (a) That patrol take forward telephones with the necessary personnel.
 - (b) Tracing Tapes taken forward and laid back by runners returning with information.
 - (c) The use of Very Lights and Flash Lamps with a pre-arranged Signal.
5. The Company in MALT TRENCH to be held in readiness to move forward and occupy line of posts at present held.
6. Artillery and Machine Gun Company will lift their normal barrage until reports are received.
7. Programme for the Trench Mortars is being prepared and will be communicated direct to you by Trench Mortar Officer.
8. It is essential that reports be received at Brigade Headquarters from time to time regarding progress made by patrols.


 Major, Captain,
 A/Brigade, 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Please advise by wire what time you propose sending these Patrols out to enable me to arrange with Artillery.

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APPENDIX

18

SECRET

COPY No.

2

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.75

Ref. Map ALBERT combined 1/40,000
 GUEUDECOURT 1/10,000

4th March, 1917.

1. The 24th Battalion will be relieved in the Front Line by the 23rd Battalion and will move on completion of relief to SUSSEX CAMP. The 22nd Battalion will move forward to close Support and the 21st Battalion to Support in accordance with attached table of Moves. The above move to be carried out on the night 4th/5th March.
2. All details of the relief will be arranged mutually between C.O's concerned.
3. All stores etc. Ammunition Dumps and papers likely to be of value will be handed over.
4. Completion of relief to be wired to Brigade Headquarters.
5. Acknowledge

Copies to.-

1. Filed
2. War Diary
3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
4. 21st Bn.
5. 22nd "
6. 23rd "
7. 24th "
8. 6th M.G.Co.
9. 6th L.T.M.Bty.
10. 1st A.I.Bde.
11. 7th A.I.Bde.
12. Spare.

A. W. Womman
 Captain,
 A/Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

232 TABLE OF MOVES AND RELIEF

To accompany Brigade Order No.75

Date.-	Unit to be Relieved	Unit Relieving	Destination of Unit Relieved	Destination of Reliving Units	Remarks.-
4/5th Mch.	24th Bn. "A"	23rd Bn.	SUSSEX CAMP Reserve	FRONT LINE POSTS Battalion H.Q.'s M.12.c.2.4.	Guides and times of moving forward will be arranged mutually between C.O.'s concerned.
-do-	23rd Bn. "B"	22nd Bn.	FRONT LINE POSTS	CLOSE SUPPORTS 1 Coy. GIRD TR. 1 " GALLWITZ TR. 1 " MAXWELL TR. 1 " HEXHAM RD. Bn. H.Q.'s M.16.b.5.5.	Battalion Headquarters -do-
-do-	22nd Bn. "C"	21st Bn.	CLOSE SUPPORTS	SUPPORT 1 Coy. SEVEN ELMS 2 Coy's FLERS TR. 1 Coy. FLERS SWITCH Bn. H.Q.'s M.28.b.	-do-

APPENDIX

19

SECRET.

6TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 76.

Copy No. 13

Reference - LE SARRS, LE BARQUE, 1/10,000.

4th March 1918.

1. The 6th Australian Infantry Brigade front from the present Left boundary (exclusive of LAYTON ALLEY, M.S.B. & d., to LE SARRS,) will be extended to the East to a line running through BAUCOURT L'ABBAYE to LE BARQUE Road (BLUE CUT) Northwards along RED CUT, N.1. a. & c. to N.1. a.8.9., inclusive. The new front to be taken over by the 6th Australian Infantry Brigade is at present held by the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade.
2. The method of holding the front allotted to the Brigade will be as follows :-
 - (a) One Battalion in Front Line System of Posts,
 - (b) One Battalion in Support,
 - (c) One Battalion in Reserve,
 - (d) One Battalion to be known as the Relief Battalion.
3. The redistribution of fronts will be carried out in accordance with the attached Table of Moves & Reliefs on night 5/6th March.
4. All details of the relief not provided for herein to be arranged mutually by C.O's. concerned.
5. All Trench Stores, Maps, Ammunition Dumps and papers likely to be of value will be taken over and receipts given. Copies of these receipts will be forwarded to Bde. Hdqrs. within 24 hours after relief.
7. Completion of relief to be wired to Brigade Headquarters.
8. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Copies to.-

1. Filed.
2. War Diary.
3. 2nd Aust. Div.
4. 31st Bn.
5. 32nd Bn.
6. 33rd Bn.
7. 34th Bn.
8. 6th Aus.M.G.Coy.
9. 6th L.T.M.Bty.
10. 1st A.I.Bde.
11. 7th A.I.Bde.
12. 6th A.I.Bde.

[Signature]
 Captain,
 A/Bde. Major, 6th Australian Infantry Bde.

TABLE OF MOVES AND RELIEFS.
(To accompany Bde. Order No.76)

Date.-	Relieving Unit.-	Unit to be relieved.-	Disposition after relief.-	Remarks.-
March.- 5/6th.	23rd Bn.	4th Bn. 2 Coys. 1st Bn. 2 Posts.	3 Coys. F.L. Posts. 1 Coy. MALT TR. Bn. Hdqrs. M.11.b.8.8.	23rd Bn. will relieve 2 Coys., 4th Bn., in Front Line Posts, and 2 Posts of the 1st Bn. Relief not to commence before 7 p.m.
- do.-	22nd Bn.	4th Bn. 1 Coy.	2 Coys. LE MARQUE SWITCH. 2 Coys. GIRD TRENCH. Bn. Hdqrs. M.12.c.2 $\frac{1}{2}$.4.	22nd Bn. will relieve 1 Coy. 4th Bn. in GIRD TRENCH. Relief not to commence before 7 p.m.
- do.-	21st Bn.	4th Bn. 1 Coy.	1 Coy. HEXHAM ROAD. 1 Coy. FLERS LINE. 1 Coy. M.17.d.central. 1 Coy. FLERS SWITCH. Bn. Hdqrs. M.28.b.7.9 $\frac{1}{2}$.	21st Bn. will relieve 1 Coy., 4th Bn., in M.17.d.central. Relief not to commence before 7 p.m.
- do.-	24th Bn.	Remains at	SUSSEX CAMP	until further orders.
- do.-	6th Aust.M.G.Coy.	1st M.G. Coy. 4 Guns.	Under mutual arrangements.	
- do.-	6th Aust. L.T.M.Bty.	1st L.T.M.Bty. 2 Guns.	Under mutual arrangements.	

APPENDIX



6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters
5th March, 1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM

(issued in conjunction with Brigade Order No.76)

With reference to Brigade Order No.76 the following are the supply arrangements etc.--

1. Quarters

Q.M's Stores at LA BOISELLE will be vacated on the 7th inst. and those of the 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. at S.14.a.8.4 taken over.

(b) Q.M's will arrange mutually with Q.M's of the 2nd Brigade details as to time etc.

Transport

Transport lines will remain as at present.

2 Supplies.--

(a) Up to and including the 6th inst. supplies will be drawn from ALBERT RAILHEAD and delivered to 1st Line Transport at LA BOISELLE.
Rations for this Brigade will continue up to, and including the 7th inst. to be delivered as at present by Decauville from Bailiff Wood Station.

(b) From and including the 7th inst. supplies will be drawn from BAZENTIN Railhead (S.14.a.8.4.) by 1st Line Transport.
On the 8th inst. rations will be forwarded to the line by Decauville from BAZENTIN via VILLA and MARTINPUICH to CENTRE BRIGADE (M.27.c.3.3.).
Trains are despatched from BAZENTIN between 1 and 5 p.m. daily.

Water.--

There are water points in the New Area at S.8.d., S.5.c. and S.3.d.

Ammunition.--

The Main Divisional Dump is now situated at MARTINPUICH M.32.c.5.2 and is known as "B" Dump.
Brigade Dumps are as follows.--

"E" Dump M.28.a.4.6.
Battle Quarry Dump M.16.b.9.6.
Barrier Dump M.22.b.4.7.

Other small Dumps in the area are being cleaned up and an advanced Dump established at M.11.b.4.3.

Johnston
Lieutenant,
A/Staff Captain 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Copies to.--

1. Filed
2. 31st Bn.
3. 22nd "
4. 23rd "
5. 24th "
6. 6th M.G.Co.
7. 6th L.T.M.Bty.
8. Q.M., 31st Bn.
9. " 22nd "
10. " 23rd "
11. " 24th "
12. " 6th M.G.Co.

232.
SECRET

COPY No. 2

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.77
=====

Reference LE SARS, 1/10,000

6th March, 1917

1. The 22nd Battalion will relieve the 23rd Battalion in the Front Line on the night 7th/8th March.
The 21st Battalion and 24th Battalion moving forward in accordance with attached table of Moves and Reliefs.
2. All details of the relief will be arranged mutually between C.O's concerned.
3. All Trench Stores, Maps, Ammunition Dumps will be taken over and receipts given. Copies of these receipts will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters within 24 hours.
4. Completion of Relief to be wired to Brigade Headquarters.
5. Acknowledge.

Copies to.-

1. Filed
2. War Diary
3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
4. 21st Bn.
5. 22nd "
6. 23rd "
7. 24th "
8. 6th M.G.Co.
9. 6th L.T.M.Bty.
10. 2nd A.I.Bde.
11. 7th A.I.Bde.
12. 5th A.I.Bde.

A. Brown
A/Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F. Captain,

TABLE OF MOVES AND RELIEFS

To accompany Brigade Order No.77

Date.-	Relieving Unit.-	Unit to be Relieved.-	Disposition.- After relief	Remarks.-
7th/8th	22nd Bn.	23rd Bn.	3 Coys. F.L. Posts 1 Coy. MALT TRENCH Bn. Hdqrs. M.11.b.8.8.	Relief not to commence before 7 p.m.
-do-	21st Bn.	22nd Bn.	2 Coys. LE BARQUE SWITCH 2 " GIRD TRENCH Bn. Hdqrs. M.12.c.2½.4.	-do-
-do-	24th Bn.	21st Bn.	1 Coy. EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE 1 " FLERS LINE 1 " M.17.d. central 1 " FLERS SWITCH Bn. Hdqrs. M.28.b.7.9½.	-do-

23rd Battalion on relief from Front Line moves to SUSSEX CAMP.

APPENDIX

232

SECRET

APPENDIX

25

COPY No. 2

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.78
=====

Map Reference - LE SARS 1/10,000

9th March, 1917.

1. Reliefs as under will take place on night 10th/11th March.
 21st Bn. to relieve 22nd Bn. in Front Line.
 24th " " " 21st " " LE BARQUE SWITCH & GIRD TRS.
 23rd " " " 24th " " RESERVE POSITION
 22nd " on relief will move to BAZENTIN, site 6 Camp, S.8.
 central.
2. No movement to take place before 7 p.m.
3. Details of reliefs, including guides, will be arranged mutually by C.O's concerned.
4. Completion of relief to be wired to Brigade Headquarters in Code.
5. Details not required in forward area will be quartered in PIONEER CAMP.
6. Acknowledge.

Copies to.-

1. Filed
2. War Diary
3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
4. 21st Bn.
5. 22nd "
6. 23rd "
7. 24th "
8. 6th M.G.Co.
9. 6th L.T.M.Bty.
10. 5th A.I.Bde.
11. 7th A.I.Bde.

Edwards Major,
 Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 79
=====

Ref. THILLOY Sheet 1/10,000 Ed. I

12th March, 1917.

1. The 2nd Imp. Divn. attacks the LOUPART LINE and WOOD from the S.W. whilst 2nd Aust. Divn. attacks the GREVILLERS Lines from the S. with the 7th Brigade on the Left and the 6th Brigade on the Right at ZERO on the
2. The 6th Brigade is allotted the following objectives.--
 - 1st - Trench from G.35.d.9 $\frac{1}{2}$.2. to M.5.b.2.9. cutting included
 - 2nd - Trench line from G.35.d.9 $\frac{1}{2}$.5. along road to G.35.d.6.3. then along Trench to G.35.d.1.4.
 - 3rd - Trench from G.35.d.9 $\frac{1}{2}$.7. N.W. to Road, thence through G.35.c. central to the Right of the 7th Brigade at
3. The above objectives will be carried in succession by the 23rd Bn. in 3 waves, movements to be regulated by Artillery lifts in accordance with attached schedule. The troops in the authorised organisation will be in position in the Jumping - Off (J.O.) Trench and Picquet Trench by 1 hour before ZERO.
4. The 22nd Bn. will at EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE furnish the garrisons of the posts to move with the 23rd Bn. (para.7), and a carrying party of 2 Officers 60 men (5 parties) to join the L.T.M. Battery by 4 a.m. th. The 21st Bn. in LE BARQUE SWITCH and GIRD TRENCH will form the Brigade Reserve.
The 24th Bn., H.Q.'s at LE BARQUE South Dugout, will hold the present Outpost Line with 2 Companies, the frontage for 400 yards East of LAYTON ALLEY will be vacated by 3 hours before ZERO except for 2 detached posts to be withdrawn on arrival of the 23rd Bn. Remaining 2 Companies will move as Support to 23rd to WARLENCOURT RD., M.12.a., by 4 a.m.
5. The 6th Aust. Machine Gun Company will barrage with 10 Guns the area attacked so as to give a clear 300 yards margin in front of the Infantry. Rate of fire 2000 rounds per gun for 1st hour after ZERO, thereafter 1000 rounds per hour.
2 Guns on the right of J.O. Trench will sweep the parapet in G.36.d. as occasion serves until required in the captured works.
4 Guns remain in Reserve at MALT RESERVE Trench.
3 parties of 4 Machine Gunners will accompany 23rd 2nd Wave to serve any hostile guns taken.
6. The 6th L.T.M. Battery will engage as follows.--
 - 1 Gun in J.O. Trench against G.35.d.9.5. and 6.3. - and G.36.c.2.3. from ZERO to plus 5, and will then remain in reserve at the junction with LAYTON ALLEY.
 - 2 Guns in J.O. Trench to traverse WARLENCOURT Trench from G.36.c.2.3. to the Copse in d.4.3. till 20 minutes after ZERO.
 - 2 Guns in LAYTON ALLEY to engage G.35.d.6.3. and d.4.0 $\frac{1}{2}$. from ZERO till 6 minutes after ZERO when they will move to G.35.d.6.3. to co-operate against any bomb counter-attacks from the East.
 - 1 Gun in reserve at MALT Trench.
 - 2 Guns in Ravine, M.6.c., against Salient in G.36.d.
Forward Bomb Dump in LAYTON ALLEY.

(Continued)

7. Posts will be established as under.-

- (1 - at G.36.c.2.3. - facing E.
- (2 - at G.36.c.2.6. - " E. and N.
- (3 - at G.35.d.8.7. - Facing N.E.
- (4 - at G.35.d.4.8. - " N.E. in Trench (RAT ALLEY)
- (5 - at G.35. central - Facing N.
- (6 - at G.35.c.8.9. - " N.W. in Trench with 7th Brigade.

Posts 2, 4 and 6 will be Officers' Posts and will each have a Lewis Gun and team in addition to the normal garrison of 1 N.C.O. & 10 men. 4 Sappers will be attached to each post to assist in laying and constructing the works and will be withdrawn on completion. Posts will be furnished by 22nd Bn. and will move immediately in rear of 2nd Wave of 23rd Bn.

8. The capture of the objectives will be signalled by VERY Lights as under, being fired towards the East at 10 second intervals.-

- 1st Objective - 5 White Very Lights.
- 2nd " - 5 Red " "
- 3rd " - 5 Green " "

Special precautions to be taken to ensure that the flares and ground sheets for aeroplane communication are available and used when required.

The "S.O.S." Signal is only to be used by order of the Senior Officer present to call for re-establishment of Artillery and M.G. barrages. Visual signal communication will be established by Brigade Signal Section between J.O.Trench and the BUTTE to supplement telephonic communication.

9. Dumps for ammunition, bombs, tools and stores will be formed in COUPE GUEULE and MALT TRENCH, M.5.d.5.2.

10. Wounded will be evacuated through Aid Post, COUPE GUEULE, and down POZIERES Road.

11. Prisoners will be collected and sent to J.O.Trench, from where they will be escorted by the 24th Bn. to Brigade Headquarters.

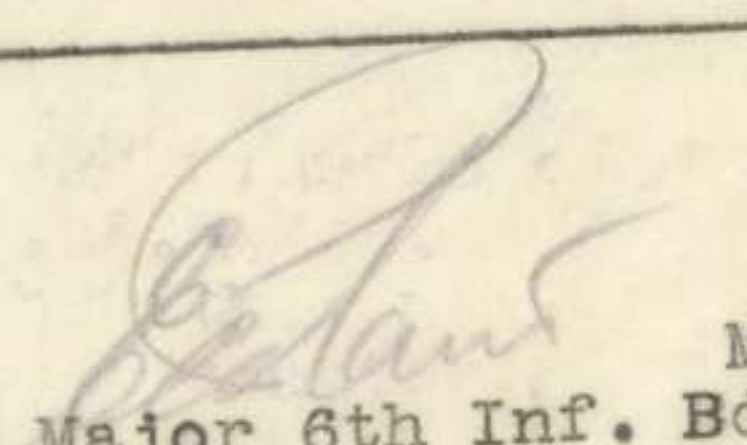
12. Dress.- Battle order without Greatcoats; sheepskin jackets may be worn or carried; waterproof sheet and 4 sandbags to be carried.

13. Advanced Brigade Headquarters will be established at COUPE GUEULE from

14. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Copies to.-

- 1. Filed
- 2. War Diary
- 3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
- 4. 21st Bn.
- 5. 22nd "
- 6. 23rd "
- 7. 24th "
- 8. 6th M.G.Co.
- 9. 6th L.T.M.Bty.
- 10. G.O.C.
- 11. 5th A.I.Bde.
- 12. 7th A.I.Bde.
- 13. Spare
- 14. "

 Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.80

Ref. Map THILLOY 1/10,000

13th March, 1917

1. The Boundary between 5th and 6th Brigades runs approximately from the head of LAYTON TRENCH to the line of trees in H.25.b. central.
The frontage allotted to the Brigade extends from the BAPAUME ROAD at H.31.d. central on the right, via Trench junctions at H.31.a.7.2., the Trench and Road junction at H.31.a.8.9., the Trench and Road junction H.25.c.6.4. thence along the sunk road to G.30.d.8.5.
2. The above frontage will be held by 2 Companies of 24th Battalion as an outpost line of 4 piquets the remaining 2 Companies in Battalion Reserve in WARLENCOURT TRENCH. Battalion H.Q's in LE BARQUE at N.1.c.2.0.
3. 5th A.I. Brigade will relieve the Advanced Posts of 21st Bn. on night 13th/14th March. Guides for the Posts will be assembled at Post G.30.c.3.5. at 8 p.m. under an Officer, and will conduct incoming troops to their positions.
21st Bn. less garrisons in Posts will withdraw to Reserve Area with H.Q's at EAU COURT L'ABBAYE as soon as darkness permits and will be followed by remainder of garrisons on completion of relief.
Posts to be taken over by 5th A.I. Brigade extend round North and East side of GREVILLERS as far as G.30.d.8.5.
4. 6th T.M. Battery H.Q's to LE BARQUE South.
5. 6th M.G. Company H.Q's to LE BARQUE North.
6. Brigade Headquarters to COUPE GUEULE from 8 a.m. 14th instant.
7. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Copies to.-

1. Filed
2. War Diary
3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
4. 21st Bn.
5. 22nd "
6. 23rd "
7. 24th "
8. 6th M.G. Co.
9. 6th L.T.M. Bty.
10. G.O.C.
11. 5th A.I. Bde.
12. 7th A.I. Bde.
13. 8th A.I. Bde.

[Signature] Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 81

Ref. Map THILLOY 1/10,000

16th March, 1917

1. The 23rd Bn. will attack the enemy positions from BAPAUME RD. to RAILWAY LINE and grove of trees in H.25.b. at 3 a.m. on the 17th inst.
2. 1st Objective.- Railway Line from BAPAUME RD. to Embankment, H.25.b.5.5.
2nd Objective.- AVESNES LES BAPAUME and line of trench NORTH and N.W. of this village.
3. These objectives will be carried in succession, but troops will reform on Railway Line prior to carrying 2nd Objective, and left Coy. will immediately establish a post at EMBANKMENT, H.25.b.5.5., and gain touch with 5th A.I. Brigade.
4. The attacking troops will consist of 3 Companies with 1 Coy. in Support in trench H.31.d., and will be organised into four assaulting columns, preceded by wire-cutters, consisting of 1 Officer and 25 O.R's, each with 5 men in rear for "mopping up" duty. On the flanks of each assaulting column and about 150 yds in advance will be a "fire party" composed of 1 Lewis Gun and team of 3, 4 rifle bombers, 2 carriers and 3 bombers, making a total of 8 parties.
5. The Jumping Off position will be Road running almost East and West through H.25.c. & d. Assaulting columns will be established at H.26.c.1.1., H.25.d.5.4., H.25.d.0.5 and H.25.c.5.6., with fire parties in line on their flanks.
6. The advance will commence at 3 a.m., exact signal for same being the opening of our Artillery fire on the Railway Cutting in the centre of the Brigade frontage. The fire parties will open fire on this signal and continue to push forward to enemy wire and sweep the parapets. The assaulting columns will advance quietly to the gaps and lie down while wire-cutters clear a passage, when they will follow and carry 1st line.
7. Patrols will be sent forward at dusk with tape and will inspect enemy wire and lay a track towards our line from any portions of the wire found to be cut.
8. O.C., 6th M.G. Coy. will arrange for four guns to engage the AVESNES from 3 a.m. to 4 a.m. at rate of 1 belt per gun per 15 minutes.
9. A standing patrol will be established in the vicinity of Gun pits, H.32.a.5.9, strength 1 Officer 12 O.R's with 2 Lewis Guns and teams as a right flank guard.
10. The following "Success Signals" will be used on carrying first trench H.25.a. & d., H.26.c., ... 2 red Very Lights,
1st Objective ... 4 " " "
2nd " ... 6 " " "
Lights will be fired in an Easterly direction only and at intervals of 10 seconds between each.
11. 22nd Bn. in LE BARQUE will be in support and ready to move on receipt of orders.-
12. 23rd Bn. will establish report centres at H.31.b.5.95 and H.31.a.8.8.

A C K N O W L E D G E.

(Signed) E. C. P. PLANT, Major,
Bde. Mjr., 6th A.I. Bde.

SECRET. *W. A. Murray*

Copy No. 2.

2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ADVANCE GUARD ORDER NO.1.

Map Ref. Sheet 57c. N.W., 1/20,000.

17th March, 1917.

1. The enemy on retiring have occupied the line YTRES BEUGNY - BEHAGNIES.
2. The 5th A.I.Bde. will support the ADVANCE GUARD of the 2nd Aust. Division and act as Left Flank Guard.
The 5th Aust. Divisional Advance Guard move forward on our right towards FREMICOURT and BANCOURT.
3. The Advance Guard is composed as under.-
 Commander .. G.O.C., 6th A.I.Bde.
 1 troop, 13th Light Horse.
 12th Battery, A.F.A.
 2 Sections, 6th Fld. Coy., Engrs.
 6th Aust. Infantry Brigade.
 Bearers, Sub-division 5th Fld. Ambice.
 The forward dividing lines of the 2nd Aust. Divisional advance are.-
Right - H.27.central (exclusive) to I.4.central.
Left - G.24.central - H.9.central - B.28.central - B.13.central.
4. The ADVANCE GUARD will capture FAVREUIL and establish a strong Advanced Post there, sending patrols to BEUGNATRE & SAPIGNIES.
5. "B" Squadron, 13th Light Horse, will send out patrols at dawn to reconnoitre to East and West of BEUGNATRE and ascertain whether village is held by enemy. A patrol will leave at same hour and gain connection with the 2nd Division on our left.
6. 23rd Bn. will at once move to the SUNKEN RD. running through H.21. central from the Divisional Boundary to the SAPIGNIES RD. From this position patrols will reconnoitre SAPIGNIES FAVREUIL and BEUGNATRE.
The Battalion will move on FAVREUIL as soon as the situation has been cleared by patrols, and secure the general line H.16.central - H.22.central.
H.Q. of ADVANCE GUARD will be at M.6.c.6.1.

Issued at 10.30 p.m.
to Units concerned
by telephone.

(Sgd) E.C.P. Plant, Major,
Bde. Major, Advance Guard.

-----***-----

SECRET.Copy No. ²2ND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ADVANCED GUARD ORDER NO. 2.

Map Ref. Sheet 57c N.W., 1/20,000.

18th March 1918.

In accordance with instructions the ADVANCED GUARD POSITION will be held and consolidated as under.-

1. Strong Posts will be established to the East, North, and N.W. of BEUGNATRE by the 21st Bn. with H.Q. at BEUGNATRE. Inter-Regimental boundary line N.W. through H.10.b.central.
The 21st Bn. as VANGUARD BN. will also furnish Outposts on the general line of the Divisional front through H.6.c.3.1. with Advanced Posts watching the VAULX- VRAUCOURT approaches.
2. Similar posts will be established to the East, North and N.W. of FAVREUIL by the 23rd Bn. with H.Q. at H.16.a.3.6. The SUNKEN RD in H.15.b. will be utilised for this purpose.
3. Gaps between the posts will be closed with wire salvaged from enemy dumps, and this wire will be extended from the S.E. post of BEUGNATRE towards FREMICOURT (held by 5th A. Division), and also from the H.16.b. SUNK RD. towards SAPIGNIES (held by 2nd Division).
4. 24th Bn. from BAZENTIN will move to EAUCOURT L'ABBAYE by 2 p.m. tomorrow.
5. 13th Light Horse Squadron will reconnoitre to the line ECOUST NOREUIL - LAGNICOURT so as to regain contact with the enemy, patrols moving out by 4 a.m. daily and reporting by via. Bn. H.Q. at BEUGNATRE. The Squadron will also furnish two patrols to maintain communication with the Advanced Guard Cavalry of the Division on each flank reporting to Brigade Headquarters by 9 a.m. daily on completion of the duty. A detail of four mounted orderlies will be furnished daily with Bn. H.Q. at BEUGNATRE mounting at 5 p.m.
6. 6th M.G. Coy. will remain in FAVREUIL less details attached to Battalions.
6th A.L.T.M. Battery will remain at AVESNES.
7. The 12th Battery will remain for the present with 4th A.F.A. Bde., West of BAPAUME.
8. 2 Sections 6th Field Coy., Engrs., remain at FACTORY, S. of Railway Fork in H.27.b., and will allot 6 Sappers to each of the two leading Battalions for duty.
9. Bearers, Sub-division 5th F. Amblee., remain for the present at H.31.b. central.
10. Representatives from Units, except Battalions, M.G.Coy., and T.M.Bty., will report to ADVANCED GUARD H.Q., at H.27.b.8.2., at 8.30 p.m. daily.

11. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Copies to.-

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Filed. | | |
| 2. War Diary. | | |
| 3. 2nd Aust. Div. | | |
| 4. 21st Bn. | 11. 12th Bty., 4th A.F.A. | Major,
Bde. Mjr., Advanced Guard. |
| 5. 22nd Bn. | 12. Details, 5th Fld. Amb. | |
| 6. 23rd Bn. | 13. " 6th Fld. Coy. Engrs. | |
| 7. 24th Bn. | 14. 5th A.I.Bde. | |
| 8. 6th M.G. Coy. | 15. 8th A.I.Bde. | |
| 9. 6th T.M.Bty. | 16. G.O.C. | |
| 10. "B" Sqdn., 13th L.H. | | |

2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ADVANCE GUARD ORDER NO.3

Ref. Map 57c 1/40,000 & 57c N.W. 1/20,000

19th March, 1917

1. 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be relived in the Advanced Guard by 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. on 19th & 20th March, completion to be made by 8 a.m. on 21st inst. at which hour command of Advance Guard passes to Brig.-General E.A. WISDOM, D.S.O.
2. Composition of Adv. Guard will not be otherwise affected.
3. Reliefs will be carried out as under.-
 19th March .. 26th Bn. will relieve 22nd Bn. (H.Q., H.26.c.3.3.)
 .. 25th Bn. will occupy "D" position H.26.c.3.3.
 .. $\frac{1}{2}$ 7th M.G.Coy. will relieve $\frac{1}{2}$ 6th M.G.Coy. H.Q. at
 .. FAVREUIL H.16.a.4.7.

 20th March .. 25th Bn. will relieve 23rd Bn. H.Q., at H.16.a.4.7.
 .. $\frac{1}{2}$ 7th M.G.Co. will relieve $\frac{1}{2}$ 6th M.G.Co.
 .. 7th L.T.M.Bty. will relieve 6th L.T.M.Bty.
 .. 26th Bn. will relieve 21st Bn. in Outpost Line,
 .. Unless in close touch with the enemy when relief will
 .. be carried out during night 20th/21st March.
 .. 27th Bn. will relieve 26th Bn.
 .. 28th " " " 25th "
4. On relief 6th A.I.Bde. will move into Divisional Reserve at BECOURT Camp and ACID DROP CAMP with Bde. H.Q's at BECOURT, less 22nd Bn. to ACID DROP CAMP.
 24th Bn. now at BAZENTIN CAMP will move to BECOURT CAMP on 19th clearing BAZENTIN by 2 p.m.
5. Units when marching out will spend first night at BAZENTIN CAMP, Site 6 & 8, and resume march to destination next day.
 On night 20th/21st, 21st Bn. will occupy site 6 and 23rd Bn. & M.G.Co. site 8.
6. Route for relief will be BAPAUME -NALBERT ROAD.
 Distances of 200 yds. will be maintained between Battalions and Companies and Transport.
7. Details of relief will be arranged between C.O's concerned.
8. All instructions, information, Maps and documents likely to be of value will be handed over to incoming Unit.
9. Rations for consumption of 6th A.I.Bde. on 21st inst. will be drawn at BAZENTIN. Q.M.Stores and accommodation will be taken over from 7th A.I.Bde.
10. 6th A.I.Bde. will move back with full Mobile Echelons of S.A.A. & Bombs
11. Units of 6th A.I.Bde. will retain Gum boots on issue to them, returning same to Ordnance on relief.
12. Units will report relief to this Office by Code.
13. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Copies to.-

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Filed | 10. B.Sqdn. L.H. |
| 2. War Diary | 11. 12th Bty. A.F.A. |
| 3. 2nd Aust. Divn. | 12. 13th " " |
| 4. 21st Bn. | 13. Details 5th Fld. Amb. |
| 5. 22nd " | 14. " 6th " Coy. |
| 6. 23rd " | 15. 5th A.I.Bde. |
| 7. 24th " | 16. 6th A.I.Bde. 15th |
| 8. 6th M.G.Co. | 17. 7th " " |
| 9. 6th T.M.Bty. | 18. G.O.C. |

Major,
Brigade Major Advanced Guard.

2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ADVANCED GUARD ORDER NO.4

Map Ref. Sheet 57c N.W. 1/20,000

19th March, 1917.

1. Small parties of the enemy have been seen near BOIS de VAUX - VRAUCOURT COPSE, and on the ridge between MORY and NOREUIL. Our troops are holding the hollow road in B.18.d. and also BEUGNY.
2. The Advanced Guard will take over outpost duties from to-night on the general line:-
B.18.c. central - SUGAR FACTORY - VRAUCOURT - VAULX - I.4.d. central.
3. 21st Battalion will take over by 5.30 p.m. the Left Sector from B.18.c. central to C.20.c. central, inclusive. Reserve half Bn. at C.25. central with H.Q's in C.25.b.1.9.
23rd Battalion will take the Right Sector from 1 Company 21st Bn. from C.20.c. via CRUCIFIX SPUR to I.4. central. Reserve Half Bn. near SUNK ROAD in I.1.d. H.Q's at S. entrance to VAULX in I.2.d.1.9. by 6.30 p.m.
25th Battalion on arrival will move to BEUGNATRE in readiness to support the outpost line.
26th Battalion occupies H.26.d.2.7. in relief of 22nd Bn. as Reserve.
4. "B" Squadron Light Horse will furnish patrols to reconnoitre LAGNICOURT - NOREUIL - LONGATTE at 4.45 a.m. tomorrow, 20th, and on return will bivouac at FAVREUIL - 1 N.C.O. & 4 Orderlies to be placed at disposal of each Battalion on outpost duty.
5. 2 Sections 12th Battery, A.F.A., move to C.25. central, remainder of Battery at H.17.a. central. 13th Battery remain at H.15.b. central.
Both Batteries in readiness to support outpost line with direct fire.
6. M.G. Company places 3 Vickers Guns with each Battalion and 2 guns with each Battery for A.A. work. H.Q's at BEUGNATRE.
1 Vickers Gun will be mounted at bivouac of "B" Squadron, 13th Light Horse, at FAVREUIL for A.A. work.
Light Trench Mortar Battery at FAVREUIL.
7. Headquarters of Advanced Guard move to BEUGNATRE at 8 a.m. on 20th instant.
8. A C K N O W L E D G E

Copies to.-

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Filed | 11. 12th Bty. A.F.A. |
| 2. War Diary | 12. 13th " " |
| 3. 2nd Aust. Divn. | 13. Details 5th F.Amb. (Signed) E.C.P. PLANT, Bde. Major |
| 4. 21st Bn. | 14. " 6th F.Coy. 2nd Aust. Divn. Advanced Guard. |
| 5. 22nd " " | 15. 5th A.I. Bde. |
| 6. 23rd " " | 16. 7th A.I. Bde. |
| 7. 24th " " | 17. 15th A.I. Bde. |
| 8. 6th M.G. Coy. | 18. 5th British Inf. Bde. |
| 9. 6th L.T.M. Bty. | 19. G.O.C. |
| 10. "B" Sqdn. L.H. | |

SECRET

COPY No. 2

2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ADVANCED BRIGADE ORDER NO. 5

Ref. Map 1/20,000 57c N.W.

20th March, 1915.

1. The Advanced Guard will move forward to-day towards the line running N.W. & S.E. through NOREUIL in co-operation with the troops on our flanks and in support to patrols of 13th Light Horse Regiment.
2. The left column (21st Bn. and 3 guns 6th M.G.Coy.) will move via Square 13.c. & d. to 7.d.8.2. thence along S. boundary of Sq.8 to positions commanding NOREUIL on the N.W. and N. linking up with 23rd Battalion.
3. The Right Column (23rd Bn. and 3 guns 6th M.G.Coy.) will move so as to clear BOIS de VAULX with 2 Companies before advancing on a front of 2 Companies along the SPUR running through C.2.1. central. The high ground in C.17.c. will be occupied so as to hold NOREUIL against the S.E. and E. linking up with 21st Battalion. Detached posts will hold the C.28.a. and C.28.c. as well as I.4.c. central.
4. Squadron 13th Light Horse Regiment will carry out the patrol duties allotted by order No.4.
5. 12th Battery will come into action at C.25. central to prevent enemy movement East of the line C.8. central to C.3. central. 13th Battery will cover the front North of a line through C.9.a. central to C.11.a. central.
6. 25th Battalion will move at 4 a.m. to picquet the general line SUNK ROAD B.18.c. - C.20. central-SUNK ROAD C.27.a. & I.3.a. central with 2 Companies. Remaining 2 Companies will rendezvous by 5 a.m. at the BEUGNIERE to Brigade Reserve.
7. Report centre; VRAUCOURT I.9.c.8.2. Brigade Headquarters on road at B.30.c.6.1. from 5 a.m. onwards.

Issued by Telephone
to Units.

Beland
Major,
Brigade Major Advance Guard

Copy No. 2

Advance Guard Order No 5 (Issued by phone)
 Ref Map 57 NIV 1/20,000 19th March 1917

1. 25th Pn will relieve 21st Pn on night 20/21 March in outpost line from B12 (central, B13 (central, B14 (central, to + including road at B15 (
- 26th Pn will relieve 23 Pn on night 20/21 in outpost line from Road B15 (B11 (central along a line to L4 (central Relief to be completed by 8 AM 21st inst.
2. The 27th Pn will occupy REUGNATRE as soon as possible vacated by 26th Pn. The 28th Pn with H.Q. at H26 C33 will occupy trenches in that vicinity.
3. Details of reliefs will be arranged mutually between CO's concerned and completion reported to this Office when Command of Advanced Guard will pass to Brig Genl E.A. Wisdom D.S.O.
4. Units of 6 A Bde on relief will return to tented camp MALT TRENCH. Brigade H.Q. at MALT SUPPORT
5. Acknowledge -

Sgt J. E. Plant M.G. A
 B.M. 1 A Bde.

Distribution overleaf

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters,
22nd March 1917.

Headquarters,
2nd Australian Division.

The following report on the operations of the Advanced Guard on 20th March, 1917, near NOREUIL, is submitted:-

1. In accordance with general instructions from Divisional Headquarters Advanced Guard Order No. 4 was issued at 9.30 p.m. on 19th March, the details being dealt with verbally with O.C., Light Horse, and Battalions.

2. Telephonic instructions reached me shortly after 11 p.m. 19th from General Staff of Division that the Corps Commander desired the line LONGATTE - NOREUIL - LAGNICOURT to be occupied, and that the general instructions from Divisional Headquarters would be modified in accordance with a memo. to be received by me during the night of the 19/20th.

3. I issued Advanced Guard Order No. 5. between 12.50 a.m. and 1.20 a.m. in order to give effect to the change of views by occupying the village of NOREUIL if only small numbers were encountered, or to force the enemy to disclose his dispositions if his line was held in strength. My first intention was to start the Infantry off ahead of the mounted patrols at 3 a.m. on 20th so as to bring them into action in support of the Light Horse as near as possible to the villages. Time however did not permit of the necessary concentration being made before 4 a.m.

The general situation and the method of carrying out the reconnaissance in force and occupation were fully discussed with Battalion and Squadron Commanders on the lines laid down by G.1/380. Definite instructions were given by me to both Battalion Commanders as to the method of breaking off any action and of ensuring the cooperation of the two wings in so doing.

4. Movements on the 20th were delayed by heavy rain and snow, and the troops were not clear of the original Outpost line till approximately 4.30 a.m.

A more serious delay took place in the movement of the Light Horse patrols. On my way forward to VAULX at 5.25 a.m. I met a party of the 13th Light Horse this side of BEUGNATRE, and had to order the Officer in command to move forward at a trot.

As already reported to Div. H.Q. no reports were received and the Squadron took no part in the reconnaissance.

5. The method of advance on our right was affected by the necessity of clearing the BOIS DE VAULX, where considerable enemy activity had been noticed during the 19th. This wood was cleared by 2 Companies of the 23rd Bn. who completed their task by about 3.45 a.m.

The leading Company of the 23rd advanced at this time in line of platoons in file, protected by patrols, and moved direct on the NOREUIL, the far side of which was reached about 4.45 a.m., no opposition was encountered.

The second Company of the 23rd lost its way and did not arrive in support to the leading Company, which in the meantime had fallen back being unsupported, till towards 6 a.m. when the first of the Companies from the BOIS DE VAULX also reinforced the front line. The second of the BOIS companies after furnishing

unusually
last day
had to be
one before
law of
one at all.
by 2.30 p.m.
the end
every point

after furnishing two posts to the N. and E. of the BOIS de VAULX came up about the same time and formed a right flank guard against the village of LAGNICOURT.

The action of the leading company had followed the instructions given and a position had been taken up guarding the approaches from the N.E. and E. in readiness to join up with the 21st Bn. on the left and the supporting company's of the 23rd on the right.

As there were no signs of either flank being reinforced the leading Company was withdrawn about 5.15 a.m. to South of Village and formed up in a fire position about 400 yards from the edge of the village. On being reinforced towards 6 a.m. an advance was made to occupy NOREUIL but the enemy now brought heavy Machine Gun fire to bear from LONGATTE and NOREUIL, as well as a warm fire by 77's and 4.2" Howitzers and the advance was cancelled.

The 23rd Battalion maintained their fire position until ordered by me to withdraw to the newly selected outpost position at 9.30 a.m.

6. The advance of the 21st Battalion on our left was made in column of route covered by patrols until point C.13.c.1.1. was reached. From this point 1 Company moved against LONGATTE whilst the remainder of the Battalion deployed against NOREUIL; 2 Companies moved via the cross roads at C.13.b.7.2. whilst the 4th Company moved in reserve via 14 central and 15 central. This advance, however, was carried out with the left too far from the North, and losses were incurred from Machine Gun fire from LONGATTE as well as from Machine Gun posted between that village and NOREUIL (the contours on the 57c Map are reported to be incorrect).

The left Company established itself in a line through 8 central and maintained a severe sniping fight with the garrison and M.G. of LONGATTE. One party rushed an advanced hostile M.G., bombed the dug-out in SUNK ROAD (C.8.a.3.0.) whilst the Lewis Guns succeeded in silencing an enemy M.G. in the village.

The Company on the left practically formed a left flank against LONGATTE for the 2 companies moving to co-operate with the 23rd against NOREUIL. This Company as well as the one next on the right suffered considerably from the shelling which came from both flanks.

By 7 a.m. the 3rd Company established itself about 700 yds from the NOREUIL Road with its right about 15 central the 4th Company being in support in echelon to the right rear with orders to link up with the 23rd. The forward movement of these 2 companies was stopped by heavy M.G. fire from a trench in front of the S.E. face of NOREUIL.

7. The strength displayed by the enemy, whom I estimate at
 1 Battalion 4 M.G. in LAGNICOURT
 1 Company 4 " in NOREUIL
 2 Companies 4 " in LONGATTE no less than the Artillery brought into action i.e.

4 to 6 .. 77 guns) On our front line
 4 .. 4.2 Hows.)
 and 4 .. 5.9 " On VAULX and VRAUCOURT

proved in my opinion that the occupation of any position on the line of the NOREUIL Road was not desirable until effective co-operation was available on both flanks. I therefore ordered the 2 Battalions to withdraw at 9.30 a.m. and hold an advanced outpost line about 1000 yds. South of the enemy line.

This was carried out in good order by 1.15 p.m. the only attempt at interference being an advance of about 50 men with M.G. from LAGNICOURT to C.17 central which was severely punished by our Artillery.

The advanced outpost positions were dug in during the afternoon under intermittent shell fire.

-3-

8. The work of the 3 Vickers M.G. attached to each of the Battalions was hampered by the absence of cover for their advance as well as by the paucity of targets. Good work was however done in smothering the hostile M.G.

9. My orders for the artillery placed the 12th Battery to fire on the S. & S.E. exits from LONGATTE whilst the 13th Battery was allotted the village of NOREUIL and the approaches from LAGNICOURT.

Observation was favourable and a number of objectives were engaged by our guns without direct orders from me. The initiative displayed by both batteries was admirable and their fire was extremely useful especially during the retirement of the 23rd Bn.

10. Both Battalions ran telephone lines forward to report centres from which communication with Companies was effected by means of visual and runners.

The line from the 23rd was cut early by shell fire and was not repaired until shortly before the withdrawal.

11. So far as the results of the reconnaissance are concerned I have no doubt that he was forced to disclose a considerably greater strength than the Intelligence summaries infer - further that he was prepared to evacuate the villages of NOREUIL and part of LIGNACOURT which were set on fire shortly after the action commenced - and lastly that his casualties in dead were considerably greater than ours (probably not less than 30).

Our casualty list augmented by the retaliation by 5.9" which continued throughout the afternoon as well as by the opportunity given to the hostile M.G. and Artillery of enfilading portions of our line.

Considering that the greater part of the action was fought at close range and that our troops broke off the action on receipt of orders the total casualties, though I deplore the number, is not so high as I expected. A number of cases are slight arm and leg wounds.

<u>21st Battalion</u>	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>	<u>Total</u>
Officers	1	5	-	6
Other Ranks	20	118	17	155
<u>23rd Battalion</u>				
Officers	2	2	-	4
Other Ranks	8	74	33	115
	<u>51</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>280</u>

12 I attach copies of orders issued and reports received as well as sketch showing the important movements of the troops.

Brig.-General,
Commanding 6th Aust. Infantry Brigade

RESUME OF TELEPHONIC REPORTS

20th March, 1917

4.50 a.m.	23rd	Report BOIS de VAULX clear
5.15 a.m.	"	" NOREUIL is reached
5.40 a.m.	21st	" Not yet in touch with 23rd
5.57 a.m.	23rd	" 2 small parties of enemy behind leading Company.
6.00 a.m.	23rd	" Leading Company has withdrawn to S. of Village no signs of support on either flank or from rear.
6.10 a.m.	23rd	" H.Q.'s at VRAUCOURT COPSE. 2 Companies about to reinforce S. of NOREUIL.
6.40 a.m.	23rd	" That opposition has been encountered and touch gained with 21st.
7.30 a.m.	23rd	" Line established S. of village in good fire position - estimate strength at 2 M.G.'s and 2 Companies. Enemy Artillery effective.
8.00 a.m.	23rd	" Propose to push forward into NOREUIL.
8.30 a.m.	21st	" Shelling heavier on both sectors.
9.20 a.m.	23rd	" Advance likely to prove costly.
9.30 a.m.		Orders to both Battalions to fall back to new positions and report made to H.Q.

NOTE.-- During part of this period the line to the 23rd was down.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 82

Map Ref. Sheet 57c 1/20,000

24th March, 1917

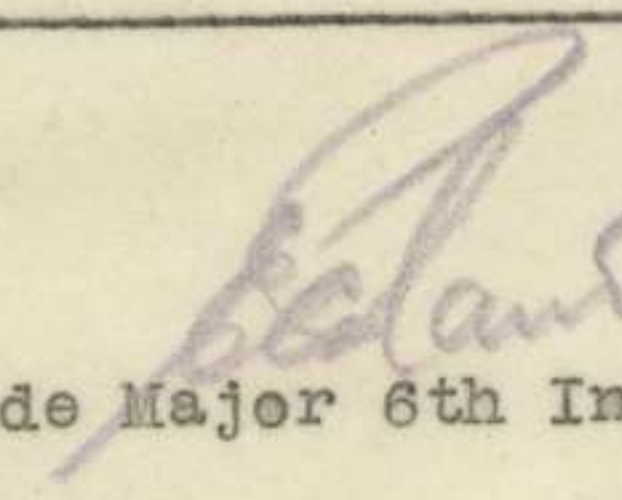
1. The 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. in the WARLENCOURT - LE SARS area on March 25th. On being relieved units will march to MAMETZ CAMP.
2. 6th Aust. M.G. Company, less four guns with personnel on A.A. duty, 6th L.T.M. Battery, and Advance parties from all companies will reach MAMETZ CAMP by 10.30 a.m. Representatives from units will report to Staff Captain at Town Major's office at this hour.
3. Battalions, and guns on A.A. duty will not move until relieved by incoming units of 13th Brigade.
4. Infantry will use all suitable duckbeard tracks, transport only using the BAPAUME - ALBERT RD. South of LE SARS. 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. transport will move via LE SARS - La BOISELLE - CONTALMAISON.
5. Following distances will be maintained on roads.-

Between Battalions	200 yds.
" Transport & Troops	200 yds.
" Companies	100 yds.

 All troops marching on roads E. of FRICOURT will march in file.
6. Baggage waggons will report to units at 9 a.m. on 25th. 1st Line Transport with full echelon of Bombs and S.A.A. will move to CHAPES SPUR.
7. Supplies.- Railhead until 25th inst. will be BAZENTIN; from 26th, ALBERT.
 On 24th inst. Train Supply Waggons will draw from Railhead and deliver to Units at La BOISELLE.
 On the 25th Train Supply Waggons will draw from Railhead in the morning and afternoon and each afternoon from the 27th.
8. Units will report arrival at MAMETZ CAMP to Brigade Headquarters.
9. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Copies to.-

1. Filed
2. War Diary
3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
4. 21st Bn.
5. 22nd "
6. 23rd "
7. 24th "
8. 6th M.G. Coy.
9. 6th L.T.M. Bty.
10. 13th A.I. Bde.
11. G.O.C.
12. Spare.


 Major,
 Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.