

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/6/25

Title: 6th Infantry Brigade

September 1917



AWM4-23/6/25

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

6th Inf Bde

Vol 9 - Page I

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WAR RECORDS	1917 22 nd Sept		Conference of all CO's + adjutants at Bde HQ at which GOC explained present German system of defence + read extracts from letters on the subject of how this should be overcome by 2 nd + 5 th Army commanders.	I WPNB
	5 th Sept		22 nd - 25 th - 26 th Bns (portions of each) carried out a tactical exercise at which Gen Plumer the Army commander was present. The exercise involved woodfight and an attack on shell hole positions. After it was over General Plumer addressed most of the officers who took part in it, dealing mainly with the general principles on which such fighting should be waged.	WPNB
	6 th Sept		The whole Bde took part in a divisional exercise very similar to the one carried out by the Bde on the 5 th . General Plumer was again present + spoke to all CO's after it - principally emphasizing the necessity for not only repulsing but annihilating a counter attack + methods of holding a captured position. General Smyth having been made a casualty early in the exercise. General Paton commented the Division did Col. Wilkshire the Brigade	WPNB
	8 th Sept		Conference of all Brigadiers, Bde Major at DHA. The general plan of the attack in which the Division is shortly to take part were laid down + the Div + Bde boundaries were laid down. The 6 th Bde is to be in reserve and will relieve the 5 th + 7 th Bdes in the captured positions soon after they have been taken. Early this morning Genl. Paton reconnoitred the front having proceeded to 25 th DHA the previous night. He found the condition of the ground comparatively good and obtained much information.	WPNB

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol. 9 - Page 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WARDRECORDS	16 ^E 11 ^E 12 ^E 13 ^E 15 ^E 16 ^E 16 ^E -24 ^E 26 ^E 27 ^E 28 ^E 29 ^E		<p>Conference of COs - Agenda paper attached Bde major and 20 officers of the Bde reconstituted front area Brigade moved to Steenvoerde area. Men marched well - very few fell out. As a test of the physical condition of the men it was very satisfactory. Brigade moved to Dominion area - Bde major reconstituted front area and it was decided to put only one Bn in the front line on westhoek ridge on the Div's front. Brigadier & Bde major attended conference at DHO. Plan of attack discussed again & it was decided that the 8th Bde in Div's Reserve will not be further forward than YPRES ^{at 2000} on the day of the attack Conference of COs - agenda paper attached 22nd moved into line relieving 17th & 19th Pns London Regt. GOC took over ^{at 11⁰⁰} command of all troops in forward Divl. area (East of Ypres) at 1.30 AM from GOC 141st (London) Brigade All operations and movements during this period are dealt with in Appendices 6 to 14 Appendix 15 is a westhoek 1/10000 map illustrating the orders issued and operations carried out. (see copy only) Appendix 14 is an account of the work of the 6th Mdn illustrated by a map (see copy only) 6th Bde in reserve for 1st Angac Corps who are attacking with the 4th & 5th and Divs The Bde stood to at 7.30 AM & the Divl Cde then inspected it. Bde stood by the whole day - none being allowed to leave camp Notified that the Bde would probably move on 1st Oct and carry on the attack on Broodseide Ridge on the 3rd Oct. Preliminary preparations being made - Bde still standing by as Corps Reserve Conference of COs to discuss the forthcoming attack. Divisional orders for relief of 4th and 5th in the line on 1st Oct received. Conference on forthcoming attack at DHO which Brigadier & Bn attended</p>	<p>II WPNB III rdn #94 WPNB IV rdn #95 WPNB V WPNB VI Bde Order No 96 WPNB WPNB WPNB WPNB</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol. 9. - Page 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30 th Sept		Bde moved to Ypres - all in at 11 AM. Conference of COs at 9 PM. at which the draft of the attach orders was read and discussed -	appendix 15 { Bde Order N° 101

J. Gairon
Brig Genl
cdg 6th ABde

Copy of Letter No. G.S.2733 dated 29.8.17

From 1st Anzac to 2nd Aust. Division.

1. A number of papers have recently been circulated regarding the change in the enemy's defensive system resultant upon our operations in FLANDERS.

Our future plans are affected broadly in two directions.-

- (i) the depth of our offensives
- (ii) the tactical dispositions for attack.

The corps commander wishes divisional commanders to give attention to (ii) and to train troops at once accordingly.

2. Instead of having to attack the enemy in definite lines of trenches, hereafter we must expect to find him irregularly disposed, but disposed to the best tactical advantage and making full use of all arms. We must not only alter our bombardment and barrage plans in consequence but troops must now advance in a fighting formation behind a barrage which will move slowly enough to allow them to fight in areas behind it - a form of semi-open warfare wherein troops in depth are protected by a slow barrage. The rifle will again become the principal weapon and this must be instilled into the troops.

It is necessary therefore to train troops at once somewhat on the lines indicated in the attached notes.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
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Brigade Headquarters
2nd Sept., 1917.



*addressed personally
to the 6 Cpt.*

Forwarded for information, guidance, and necessary action.

W. R. M. Bridges
Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

SECRET

Fifth Army

S.G.840/7

24th August, 1917.

a

MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED IN OUR ATTACK FORMATIONS TO MEET
THE ENEMY'S PRESENT SYSTEM OF DEFENCE.

1. The difference between the enemy's tactics of last year and of this are very noticeable. Last year, on the SOMME, he fought for every yard of ground and his method of doing so was to fill his trenches, both first, second and third lines with troops and Machine Guns. Once the ground was lost to him he never made any serious efforts to retake it.

2. Having learnt his lesson from these battles, where he was defeated time after time, he has now changed his method of defence. As has been conclusively proved, both by experience and by captured documents, he now relies on.-

- (a) Distribution of the defenders in depth.
- (b) Immediate local counter-attacks.
- (c) Previously prepared counter-attacks on a large scale, that is to say that the fighting is now of a much more open nature, and that trench warfare and trench to trench attacks are becoming things of the past.

3. As is well known, our system of attack which has gradually evolved from the earlier battles of the SOMME, consists in sweeping over, in a series of waves, the whole of the front to be attacked as quickly as the state of the ground will permit. These waves are protected by a moving shrapnel barrage and moppers-up are left behind in the captured trenches to prevent any interference with our troops who have already passed over the trench. This system of waves was introduced because they were thought to be the best formation to enable us to complete as quickly as possible the capture of the ground which had been prepared for us by the Artillery. Fighting in between trenches was comparatively rare.

4. This system of attack which was successful so long as we knew where the enemy were and where opposition was likely to be met, requires some modification in order to meet the new system of defence and for these two reasons.

(i) We cannot be certain where the advanced troops of the enemy will be - in front of, behind, or in his trench systems.

(ii) On what portion of the front his previously prepared, apart from local, counter-attacks are going to fall, that is to say, that in addition to the enemy's defence being more active than it was we are ourselves more ignorant of his dispositions and probable action.

5. The modifications required in our present system of attack appear to be -

(a) We must be prepared to fight the enemy ^{wherever} ~~wherever~~ met with between our starting point and our objective.

(b) We must have fresh and organised troops in hand to meet counter-attacks wherever they may fall.

This means that our formations must be more flexible and capable of greater freedom of manoeuvre.

6. To fulfill condition (a) it would appear that we should no longer attack in waves, as once the wave is launched control is lost, and without control, it is not possible to take on an unforeseen contingency.

The advance should be in small columns, in artillery formation covered by one or two lines of men at at least 5 paces interval.

The object of the waves is to draw the enemy's fire, to engage him, to locate his defences and to ensure freedom of manoeuvre to the attacking columns. They act in fact as an advance guard covering the main body. As before, they will keep very close to our barrage and will not stop their advance until their objective is reached.

The object of the columns is to deal decisively with any hostile strong point, fortified shell holes, etc, in front of which the leading wave may have been checked. Many of these strong points will, undoubtedly, have been located before hand by reconnaissance or from photographs.

When this is the case special parties will be told off to deal with them if necessary. Many other points will only be discovered by fighting, and when this happens everything will depend upon the resource and resolution of junior commanders and the way in which they handle their small column.

Behind these columns "moppers-up" will follow, also moving as small columns. They should be detailed to definite areas; not as hitherto to trench lines. In certain cases it may be wise to tell off these "mopping up" parties to garrison certain posts when cleared.

7. To fulfill condition (b) arrangements must be thought ~~up~~ out and practised beforehand to move fresh troops up to take the place of the troops who have completed their fighting but may possibly be too attenuated, too disorganised and too exhausted to hold on to the ground won in the face of a strong counter-attack.

In making plans for attack very careful calculation must be made as to.-

- (a) the number of troops necessary to ensure initial success.
- (b) the number necessary to meet counter-attacks.

Having decided on the number of troops which is necessary, care must be taken to ensure that there will be a constant flow from rear to front until the battle has been finally won.

The pre-war conception of reserves as being troops who are kept stationary and in hand in order to meet eventualities can no longer hold good. This is due to the difficulties of communications and consequent lack of knowledge of the situation and delay in issue of orders in time to put the reserve into the fight.

Moreover, even if communication happened to be perfect the distance to be covered and the hurry of any move will cause the reserves to arrive exhausted themselves.

If we are going to a depth of more than 300 yards these fresh troops must be close up at the commencement of the attack. They must advance behind the attack and really support the troops in front, but it must be clearly realised by everyone what their role is and with whom the initiative and responsibility lies. This responsibility lies quite distinctly with the O.C., Reserves (battalion or company, as the case may be) and it is his duty to deploy at once and attack the enemy when he sees our troops being pressed back, covering his own advance by rapid fire of machine guns, Lewis guns and rifles.

8. Certain modifications appear necessary in the pace of the creeping barrage.

These are -

- (a) more frequent halts of the barrage to allow of the mopping up to be completed before the advance recommences.
- (b) the further the creeping barrage proceeds from the starting point the slower must its rate of progress be since the further the infantry advance the greater the resistance they will meet with.

9. During training, troops are to practice meeting counter-attacks at various stages of the attack and re-organising after they have been successfully dealt with.

Every attack exercise should produce a counter-attack situation at some stage.

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SECRET

Appendix No. 2

II

7

Spaw

5th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE



Brigade Headquarters
10th Sept., 1917.

C.O.,
Brns/ Mbs/ Tm.

The following points were dealt with at to-day's conference.--

1. Details of impending attack.
 - (a) Division and Inter Brigade Boundaries.
 - (b) Objectives Red, Blue Green.
 - (c) 5th A.I. Brigade on 2nd Division right
27th Inf. Bde. on 2nd Division left.
 - (d) Artillery barrage movements.
 - (e) Positions of H.Q.
 - B.H.Q. HORSESHOE CAMP G.88.a.
 - " (Advanced) H.87.b.
 - 5th & 7th Bdes. H.Q. I.18.c.3.5.
 - " " " (Advanced) I.7.a.3.1.
 - (f) Divisional Dumps ... Main H.83.a.3.2.
... Advanced I.11.d.3.4.

2. Matters in which we may be able to help 5th & 7th Bde.
 - (a) Siting and marking of the jumping off line.
 - (b) Places of assembly for attacking troops.
 - (c) Reducing enemy strong points close to our present front line.
 - (d) Marking tracks, training guides.
 - (e) Gaining possession of NO MAN'S LAND by very active and vigorous patrolling.

3. Impending movements of 5th A.I. Brigade.
 - (a) On 12th to STERNVOORDE.
 - (b) " 13th from STERNVOORDE after that into line either on night of 13/14th or 14/15th.
 - (c) Hold the line till day prior to attack at first with 24th Bn. on right, 22nd Bn. on left, 21st and 23rd Bns. in support.

4. Reinforcement Camp.
 - (a) Is to be at GARSTRE
 - (b) In personnel left there include specialist instructors.
 - (c) 3 Officers can be kept at Transport lines instead of at Reinforcement Camp and will be available as reliefs.
 - (d) Shading of lights in camp.

5. Points to be given attention by C.O.'s in their reconnaissance tomorrow.
 - (a) Present dispositions of units each Bn. will relieve.
 - (b) What accommodation for men is there?
 - (c) What is the number of men who should be kept forward.
 - (d) Carrying to and feeding of the most advanced troops.
 - (e) Positions of dumps, Hdqrs. R.A.P. etc.
 - (f) Gas proofing of dugouts.
 - (g) Size of advance parties present units can accommodate.
 - (h) Use of pigeons in front line.
 - (i) Signalling arrangements including the use of visual.

(Contd.)

-2-

8. General.

- (a) We want counter-attacks. We can never hope for better chances of killing the Boche than ~~than them~~ *they give*
- (b) Units can without many casualties pick their way through the Boche barrage - The men should be told this.
- (c) Germans claim comparative immunity from casualties from our barrage by lying right in the bottom of shell holes.
- (d) Use of German speaking soldiers to get immediate and quick information from any prisoners taken.
- (e) *Use of complete platoons on outpost covering consolidation of furthest objective taken.*

W. F. N. Bondy

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

Copies to.-

21st Bn.
22nd "
23rd "
24th "
6th M.G.Co.
6th L.F.M.Bty.

90 ✓
war diary

SECRET

COPY NO.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 94

Ref. Map BRITAIN & FRANCE
Sheet 27 Edition 2

11th September, 1917.

1. The 6th A.I. Bde. will move from present billeting area to EAST Area K.27.28.29.34 on 12th September, 1917.
2. Route.- REBLINGHEM - STAPLE - HONINGHEM - ST SELVESTRE - STEINVOORDE.
3. Starting Point.- U.7.b.1.3.
4. Head of column will pass starting point at 6 a.m. in following order 200 yards between Battalions.-
 6th Bde. Hdqrs.
 6th L.F.M. Bty.
 22nd Bn.
 21st "
 24th "
 23rd "
 6th Field Ambulance
5. Clock halts only will be observed. Midday halt noon to 1.30 p.m.
6. Details for Reinforcement Camp will march in rear of the Brigade Column under Major BAYMAN, 23rd Bn. and leave the line of march at V.2.c.3.2. reporting to Lieut.-Col. R.J.A. TRAVERS, D.S.O. 2nd Divisional Reinforcement Camp, CAESTRE.
7. Lorries after being loaded will report to Lieut.- WHITEAR, 24th Bn. WARDREQUES at 7.30 a.m.
8. Billeting parties will meet their respective Battalions at K.33.d.5.0. and guide them to their billets.
9. Packs and surplus gear will be dumped in STEINVOORDE by First Line Transport after the departure of the Brigade on 12th inst.
10. Battalions will render a certificate to Bde. Hdqrs. not later than 5 a.m. stating that their billets are left in a clean and sanitary condition. Special care being taken to ensure that all S.A.A. and bombs are collected.
11. Receipts required by Div. Administrative Memo. No. 173 are to reach this office by 6 p.m. on 12. 9.17.
12. Bde. Hdqrs closes at WARDREQUES at 7.30 a.m. on 12. 9.17 and re-opens at STEINVOORDE at 12 noon.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued to Signals at 6.45 p.m.

Copies to.-

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

W.F.M. Bond

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

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SECRET

COPY NO. 1

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.95Ref. Maps BELGIUM & FRANCE
Sheets 27 & 28

12th Sept., 1917.

1. The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group will move from present billeting area to DOMINION AREA by road on 13th Sept., 1917 in accordance with the attached march table.
2. Clock halts will be observed. Midday halt noon to 1 p.m.
3. On the road intervals of 200 yds. between units and between transport sections will be maintained.
4. Transport will move from DOMINION AREA to Transport Line H.22 under Brigade Transport Officer.
5. Brigade Headquarters closes at STEENVOORDE at 9 a.m. and re-opens at G.23.b.central at the same hour.

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

@

Issued to signals at p.m.

Copies to.-

1. Filed
2. War Diary
3. " "
4. G.O.O.
5. 21st Bn. ✓
6. 22nd " ✓
7. 23rd " ✓
8. 24th "
9. 6th L.T.M.Bty. ✓
10. 6th Fld. Amb. ✓
11. 16th A.A.S.C. ✓
12. 2nd Aust. Mob. Vet. Sect.
13. 2nd Aust. Divn.
14. 5th A.I.Bde.
15. 7th A.I.Bde.

Stan George Campbell
Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

MARCH TABLE TO ACCOMPANY 6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.95

190

UNIT.-	From.-	to.-	Via	To pass Starting Point 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles East of STEENVOORDE at.-	Remarks
Bde. Hdqrs.	Billets	DOMINION AREA	ABEELE & HOPOUTRE	10.00 a.m.	-
6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	"	" "	" "	10.02 "	
22nd Battalion	"	" "	" "	10.04 "	
21st "	"	" "	" "	10.13 "	
24th "	"	" "	" "	10.21 "	
23rd "	"	" "	" "	10.30 "	
6th Fld. Amb.	"	" "	" "	10.39 "	
2nd Aust. Mob. Vet. Section	"	" "	" "	10.48 "	

Appendix No. 4

SECRET

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters
18th Sept., 1917.

The following points were mentioned at to-day's conference.

1. Best hour for Zero.
Col. WILKINSON will make experiments on the next two mornings and report result.
2. Will there be any work for Stokes Guns before Zero on the day of the attack? This will be decided after 2nd Bn. patrol reports have been received.
3. 6th & 7th Brigades will probably relieve the 2nd Bn. on the night 18th/19th Sept.
4. 6th A.I. Bde. will probably supply a carrying party of 100 to 7th Brigade. Will probably be taken from 33rd Bn.
5. 6th & 7th Brigades after the attack will make dumps at J.S.S.S. and J.S.S.S.S.
6. Brigade Commander spoke of indiscreet conversations the result of which may be serious for the attack.
7. Decided to try to obtain another 40 Yukon packs for the Bde.
8. Decided that the final objective should be pointed out to officers in the miniature near WESSMERE under no. arrangements on the 19th inst.
9. 6th Brigade at Zero time will be disposed as follows:-

Bde. Hdqrs	....	HIGH CROSS ROAD
1st Battalion	....	ESPLANADE SOPS, YPRES.
2nd	"	RAMPARTS & CAVALRY BARRACK
3rd	"	SARAI ANRA
4th	"	" "
6th L.F.C. Coy.	....	YPRES.
10. When 6th Brigade relieve 6th & 7th. Bde. Hdqrs. will probably move to present Left. Battalion Hdqrs.
11. At Zero time all troops are to be ready and prepared to move forward - rations, extra B.A.A., bombs, sandbags etc. issued, water bottles full etc. routes forward reconnoitred.
12. When 6th Bde. relieves 6th & 7th, 24th Bn. will be on the right and 1st Bn. on the left. 33rd & 32nd Bns. will probably relieve them.
Plenty of oil and rifle covers to be taken in and all the telescopic sighted rifles.
13. General information as to 6th & 7th Bde. plans of attack given.
14. 2nd Bn. will take in at least two telescopic sighted rifles in its relief to-night.
15. If wires cut between WESSMERE RIDGE & Bde. Hdqrs. situation report to be sent half hourly to Bde. Hdqrs.
16. A number of L.F.'s for A.A. fire are to be mounted on BELLE-HARRE Ridge and WESSMERE Ridge to deal with B.A. which flies low over them early each morning.

W. R. N. Bridges
Major.

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SECRET

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.96

Map Ref. HOOGE 1/10,000

15th Sept., 1917.

1. AS part of the relief of the 47th Division by the 2nd Aust. Divn. the 6th A.I.Bde. (plus 19th, 25th and 27th Bns. and one section each of 5th and 7th Machine Gun Companies) will relieve the 141st (London) Brigade between 16th and 18th September.
2. METHOD OF RELIEF.- The relief will be carried out in accordance with attached table.
The 22nd Battalion relieves the 2 Bns. now in WESTHOEK RIDGE and forward posts.
The 25th Bn. with 1 Coy. on BELLEWARDE RIDGE South of J.7.c.4.9., 1 Coy. West of BELLEWARDE RIDGE and 2 Coy's. in ESPLANADE SAP, YPRES relieves part of the present support Bn.
The 19th Bn. with Headquarters and 1 Coy. on BELLEWARDE RIDGE North of J.7.c.4.9., 1 Coy. about I.12.a.4.0. and 2 Coy's. in ESPLANADE SAP, YPRES, relieves the remainder of the Support Bn.
3. COMMAND.- The G.O.C., 6th A.I. Brigade takes over command of all troops in the Divisional Area in and East of YPRES on the completion of the relief of the front and the support line troops on WESTHOEK RIDGE.
4. DISTANCES.- During movements the following distances will be maintained.-

Between Battalions and other Units	...	500 yards
" Transport of Units, horsed		
Units and other troops	...	200 "
" Companies	...	100 "
" Platoons	...	100 "
(East of YPRES)		
5. ADVANCED PARTIES.- Advanced parties of 1 Officer and 4 O.R's from 5th and 7th A.M.G. Coy's. will meet guides at BIRR CROSS ROADS at 8 p.m. on 15th September.
6. DOCUMENTS.- Duplicates of receipts given for Defence Schemes, photos, documents etc. and trench stores taken over will be forwarded to Bde. Hdqrs. on the day following the relief.
7. Completion of relief and moves will be reported to Bde. Hdqrs. by telegram in code.

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

Issued to Signals at 9 AM for distribution.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Copy No. 1. G.O.C.
2. Filed
3. War Diary
4. " "
5. 21st Bn.
6. 22nd "
7. 23rd "
8. 24th "
9. 19th "
10. 25th "
11. 27th "
12. 5th A.M.G. Coy.
13. 6th A.M.G. Coy.
14. 7th A.M.G. Coy.
15. 6th A.L.F.M. Bty.
16. 141st Brigade
17. 2nd Aust. Divn. | Copy No. 18. 47th Division
19. 5th A.I. Bde.
20. 7th A.I. Bde.
21. Bde. on Right
22. " on Left
23. Spare
24. " | Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F. | }
}
} For Information.
}
} For Information. |
|---|--|--|---|

W. F. N. Bridges

D A T E.-	Unit.-	From.-	To.-	Route.-	R e m a r k s
15th Sept.	Adve. Parties 22nd Bn. A.I.F. 6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	DOMINION AREA	OUTPOST FARM	Embuss at Dominion Camp 3 p.m. Debuss Asylum YPRES.	Meet guides at Outpost Farm 7 p.m. and go forward
16th Sept.	22nd Bn. A.I.F.	" "	Line	Embuss at Dominion Camp 3 p.m. Debuss at Asylum YPRES	Meet guides as already arranged
16th Sept.	6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	" "	Line	Embuss with 22nd Bn.	Meet guides BIRR CROSS ROADS 7.30 p.m.
16th Sept.	1 Sect. 5th M.G. Coy.	CANAL & PIONEER Area	Line	Most direct	Meet guides BIRR CROSS ROADS at 8 p.m. and relieve the Northern 4 M.G.'s of 141st M.G.Coy.
16th Sept.	1 Sect. 7th M.G. Coy.	" "	Line	Most direct	Meet guides BIRR CROSS ROADS at 8.30 p.m. and relieve the Southern 4 M.G.'s of 141 st M.G.Coy.
17th Sept.	H.Q. 6th A.I.Bde	DOMINION AREA	BIRR CROSS ROADS	Embuss Dominion Camp 2 a.m. Debuss MENIN Crosse Roads	Arrive BIRR CROSS ROADS 5 a.m.
17th Sept.	27th Bn. A.I.F.	MONTREAL CAMP	YPRES (ramparts)	KRUISTRAAT and LILLE GATE	Reach destination 4 p.m. H.Q. at I.14.b.1.9. (Sheet 28)
17th Sept.	2 Coy's 19th Bn.	CANAL & PIONEER Area	ESPLANADE SAPS (YPRES)	Most direct	Reach destination at 2 p.m.
17th Sept.	2 Coy's 25th Bn.	WINNIPEG CAMP	-do-	Most direct	Reach destination at 3 p.m.
17th Sept.	19th Bn. less 2 Coy's.	CANAL & PIONEER Area	BELLEWARDE RIDGE & IDENTITY TR.		Meet guides at BIRR CROSS ROADS at 7.45 p.m.
17th Sept.	25th Bn. less 2 Coy's.	WINNIPEG CAMP	BELLEWARDE RIDGE		Meet guides at BIRR CROSS ROADS at 8.15 p.m. H.Q. to be established at Y WOOD Dugouts.
18th Sept.	21st Bn.	DOMINION AREA	HALIFAX AREA	Most direct	To reach destination 3 p.m.) Adv. parties
18th Sept.	23rd Bn.	" "	" "	" "	" " " 3.30 p.m.) report to
18th Sept.	24th Bn.	" "	" "	" "	" " " 4 p.m.) Capt. BROWN M.C. at Area Commandants Office, HALIFAX AREA (H.14.c.7.8.) at 1.30 p.m.

Appendix No. 6

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE A. I. F.NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONScovering period Sept. 16th - Sept. 24th 1917

WESTHOEK 1/10,000 Map attached.

PHASE IAPPENDIX 7RELIEF.-

1. On the morning of 15th Sept. Orders were issued reference taking over the line J.8.c.6.1. - J.2.c.3.4. (2nd Div. frontage) by the 6th A.I.Bde.

DISPOSITIONS.-

2. On the night of 16th/17th the 22nd Bn. moved forward from DOMINION CAMP and relieved the 17th/1st and 19th/1st London Regiment on WESTHOEK RIDGE and FRONT LINE.

1 Section each 6th & 7th M.G.Coy's. relieved those in Front Line. *and came under command of G.O.C. 6th Bde.*

1 ~~Section~~ ^{6th} Trench Mortar Bty. relieved those in Front Line. Remained at Bty. Hdqrs., Infantry Barracks, YPRES.

On the night 17th/18th the 25th Bn. moved to Supports with 2 Coys. on BELLEWARDE RIDGE and 2 Coys. ESPLANADE SAP (right).

The 19th Bn. into Support with 2 Coys. BELLEWARDE RIDGE. 1 Coy. I.12.a.4.0., 2 Coy's. ESPLANADE SAP (Left).

27th Bn. in Reserve RAMPARTS, YPRES.

Bde. Hdqrs. BIRR CROSS ROADS. Command of forward area coming under command G.O.C. 6th Brigade after completion of relief on night 17th/18th.

PATROLLING.-

3. During this period active patrolling was undertaken with a view to ascertaining as definitely as possible the exact dispositions of the Enemy, and his strength on the immediate front.

The patrols came in contact with the Enemy on two occasions, and succeeded in obtaining valuable information. One prisoner of the 19th R.I.R. was captured at J.8.a.9.3.

PRACTICE BARRAGES.-

4. Practice barrages were carried out at various times, these drew heavy retaliation from the Enemy which was noted with a view to selecting forming up places for the attack.

PHASE IIAPPENDIX 8

1. On Sept. 17th, Brigade Order No.97 was issued reference relief of 6th Brigade by 5th & 7th A.I.Briganades.

RELIEF.-

2. On the night of Sept. 18/19th 22nd Bn. & 6th T.M.Bty. were relieved in the line by 7th A.I.Bde. (Right) and 5th A.I. Bde. (Left). New inter-Bde. boundary being line J.8.b.0.8. - J.8.a.0.2. - I.12.c.3.5.

MOVEMENTS ON 18th.-

3. On Relief 22nd Bn. moved to HALIFAX CAMP, 6th A.L.T.M. Bty. to Infantry Barracks, YPRES, 21st Battalion to HALIFAX AREA, 23rd Battalion to HALIFAX AREA, 24th Battalion to WINNIPEG CAMP.

Bde. Hdqrs. remained at BIRR CROSS ROADS. Command of forward areas passing from G.O.C. 6th Brigade to G.O.C. 5th & 7th A.I.Briganades on completion of relief on night of 18th/19th Sept., 6th Brigade then becoming Divisional Reserve.

PHASE IIIAPPENDIX 9

1. At 10.15 a.m. on 19th Sept. Bde. Order No.98 was issued reference movements of Brigade while in Divisional Reserve

MOVEMENTS OF UNITS.-

2. On the night of 19th/20th Units of 6th Brigade less M.G.Coy. & T.M.Bty. moved from HALIFAX AREA to CANAL AREA.

At 11 p.m. on night of 19th/20th "B" Coy. 23rd Bn. reported to 7th Bde. Hdqrs. as Carrying Party.

That night Stokes Ammunition and water were carried to WESTHOEK RIDGE.

At Zero hour on the 20th S.A.A., Bombs, Stokes Ammunition and wire were carried to dump in rear of 2nd Objective. Later a third dump consisting of similar material was established at ALBERT REDOUBT.

On completion Company rejoined Battalion at WESTHOEK RIDGE.

5. At 3.40 a.m. on 20th Sept. the 24th Bn. moved forward to CHINA WALL being in position and in communication with Bde. Hdqrs. at 5.20 a.m.

At ~~Zero plus one and a half hours~~ ^{at 7.10 A.M.} "B" & "C" Coy's. moved via BIRR CROSS ROADS to J.7.d.9.9. to bury cable from there forward to ALBERT REDOUBT. These Coy's. continued on this work until 6 p.m. 21.9.17.

"A" & "D" Coy's. moved at Zero plus two hours to BELLEWARDE RIDGE taking up their position at ~~Zero plus two and a half hours.~~ ^{8.10 A.M.}

^{at 7.40 A.M.} At ~~Zero plus two hours~~ 21st Bn. moved from CANAL AREA to CHINA WALL.

At the same time 23rd Bn. moved forward to I.14.c. West of LILLE ROAD.

At 6.5 a.m. O.C., 6th L.T.M.Bty. verbally reported 3 guns to be in reserve at CHINA WALL and one sub-section with 21st & 24th Bns. respectively.

4. At 8.45 a.m. message time 8.25 a.m. was received from Division ordering Battalions not to move forward from present positions until further orders which was passed on to Bns. at 9 a.m.

Little information about the progress of the attack was received from Division but at 12.30 p.m. we knew that the 5th & 7th Bdes. had succeeded in capturing all objectives.

5. At 1.20 p.m. 24th Bn. ^{was} ~~were~~ placed under the orders of G.O.C. 7th A.I.Bde. being employed as Carriers, Engineers, fatigue party, Stretcher Bearers, also burying dead in rear areas.

P H A S E IVAPPENDIX. * 10

1. At 11.40 a.m. on 21st Sept. Bde. Order No.99 was issued reference Relief of 5th & 7th A.I.Bdes. in front line by 6th A.I.Bde. on night of 21st/22nd September. ^{The relief was complete without mishap by 2.30 A.M. on 22nd Sept}

DISPOSITIONS

2. (a) 23rd Bn. on right, relieving 27th & 28th Bns. with following dispositions.

Battalion H.Q. J.8.b.7.4.

Front line J.9.b.5.6. - J.3.d.0.6.

"A" Coy. Right - "D" Coy. Left.

Support Line J.9.a.7.4. - J.3.c.7.4.

"B" Coy. Right - "C" Coy. Left.

Relief completed at 12.15 a.m. on 22nd instant.

FRONT LINE.

(b) 21st Bn. on the left relieved 17th & 18th Bns. with following dispositions.-

Battalion H.Q. GARTER POINT J.3a.5.5.

Front Line J.3.d.0.5. - J.3.a.5.5.

"A" Coy. Right - "C" Coy. Left.

Support Line J.3.c.5.7. - J.3.a.5.3.

"B" Coy. Right & "D" Coy. Left.

Relief completed by 2.10 a.m. on 22nd instant.

PHASE VI (Contd)

(c) The 25th and 26th Bns. in Support on the right were relieved by the 22nd Bn. on the frontage J.8.b.7.1. - J.2.d.6.2. with following dispositions.

Battalion H.Q. J.8.b.15.55.

"B" Coy. Right "A" Coy. left on line
J. 8.b.7.1. - J.2.d.6.2.

SUPPORT LINE.

"D" Coy. less 1 platoon J.8.c.4.7. - J.8.a.6.4.
1 Platoon vicinity of Bn. Hdqrs.

"C" Coy. J.8.c.4.3. - J.8.c.1.9.

(d) The 19th Bn. which now became attached to the 6th A.I.Bde. relieved the 20th Bn. in Support on the left with following dispositions.-

Battalion H.Q. J.7.b.7.7.

"C" Coy. Right "D" Coy. left on line
J.3.c.7.5. - J.3.c.5.9.

"B" Coy. Posts in J.2.c. central

"A" Coy. Posts on line from J.7.d.9.3. - J.7.d.8.9.

RESERVE

(e) 24th Bn. in Reserve. H.Q. J.7.a.4.3.

"A", "C" & "D" Coy's. BELLEWARDE RIDGE J.7.c.5.7 - J.7.d.8.9.

"B" Coy. North ETANG de BELLEWARDE.

Bde Hqs moved from BIRRX Rds to J.7.d.6.1

TRENCH MORTARS.-

(f) Trench Mortars were placed in position along front so as to cover Infantry in case of Counter attack.

(g) The 6th A.M.G.Coy. having been under the Div. M.G. Officer since 16th Sept. and remaining so throughout. The 5th & 7th M.G.Coy's. remained in the line covering the front and under the command of the C.O.C. 6th A.I.Bde.

MACHINE GUNS (Vickers)

Their Machine Guns were placed so as to cover entire front a percentage being left in Support Lines as defensive guns others in rear firing on S.O.S. line.

3. Work of consolidation in the forward area was immediately carried on, but owing to the natural drainage of the ground having been destroyed by shell holes no great depth could be secured.

GENERAL WORK

G.T. from front line on right was connected to end at J.9.a.70.95.

Sign boards indicating routes were placed throughout sector.

Concrete shelters were cleaned out and made fit for occupation.

DUMPS.-

Immediately on taking over forward area work on establishing dumps was commenced. S.A.A., Bombs, Stokes Mortar Ammunition & water were packed during the day to WESTHOREK RIDGE and then packed to forward dumps by night.

All available pack animals were utilized and loading parties furnished by 22nd & 24th Bns.

Duckwalks were laid and Mule tracks made as shown on attached appendix. The buried cable system was pushed ahead on handing over Sector. Routes forward were completed as far as ALBERT REDOUBT.

PATROLS.-

4. Area in front was well patrolled. Area for work being limited by our Artillery Action.

PRISONERS

5. Eight Enemy prisoners were captured on our front. One on the morning of the 22nd opposite right flank Coy. Six on the morning of the 23rd at J.3.d.5.0. while a German Cpl. was captured on the same morning at J.3.d.15.70.

Illustrative

APPENDIX

map - appx 11

ENEMY ACTIVITY 6. On taking over Enemy appeared to be in a disorganised state, particularly his Artillery whose firing was erratic and irregular. This improved considerably on the afternoon and evening of the 23rd inst.

AIRCRAFT

At times his planes flew at a low altitude over our lines firing Machine Guns at our Infantry.

7. At 6.30 a.m. on the morning of the 23rd S.O.S. Signals were observed on our right flank. Communication being cut difficulty was experienced in getting touch with either Bns. forward or Division in rear. Eventually it was ascertained that Bn. of 1st Division on our right flank fired them. Night continued to be normal on our sector.

RELIEF.-APPENDIX ~~IX~~ 12

8. B.M. 628 dispatched at 2.45 p.m. 22nd to 19th Bn. re their relief by 52nd Bn., 19th Bn. returning to HALIFAX CAMP on relief on night 22nd/23rd - Relief was completed at 9.30 p.m.

APPENDIX ~~IX~~ 13

On 23rd Sept. Brigade Order 100 re relief by 4th & 13th A.I.Bdes. Relief was completed by 4.35 AM on the night 23rd/24th. Units returning to Dominion Area.

CASUALTIES.-

9. During tour in line we suffered the following Casualties.-

U N I T.-	Killed		Wounded		Missing	
	Offrs.	O.R's.	Offrs.	O.R's.	Offrs.	O.R's
Bde. Hdqrs and Signals	-	1	1	3	-	-
5th L.T.M.Bty.	-	-	-	2	-	-
6th M.G.Coy.	-	2	-	6	-	1
21st Battalion	-	12	1	18	-	-
22nd "	1	26	2	63	-	5
23rd "	-	13	4	* 78	-	4
24th "	-	14	φ 3	73	-	-
Totals.-	1	68	φ 11	* 243	-	10

* Includes 3 at duty.

φ Includes 1 Officer at duty.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.97

Ref. Map 1/10,000 HOOGE
Sheet 28 1/40,000

17th September, 1917

1. The 22nd Bn. and the 6th A.L.T.M.Bty. will be relieved in the line on the 18th/19th September, 1917.
2. (a) The 25th Bn. will take over the right sector the 19th Bn. the left. Companies of these Bns. now in ESPLANADE SAPS will be clear by 7 p.m.
(b) The inter Bn. Boundary will be the line J.8.b.0.8. - J.8.a.0.2. - I.12.c.3.5.
(c) The 23rd Bn. will relieve A.A. Lewis Guns of 19th by noon on 18th inst.

I.18.b.1.7.	...	One L.G.
BIRR CROSS ROADS	...	" "
HALFWAY HOUSE (I.17.c.)	...	Two L.G's

(d) The 7th A.L.T.M.Bty. will relieve.-		
1 Gun 6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	...	J.8.c.0.9.
-do-	...	J.8.c.2.6.
The 5th A.L.T.M.Bty. will relieve.-		
1 Gun 6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	...	J.7.b.8.7.
2 " -do-	...	J.7.b.85.85.
3. (a) On relief 22nd Bn. will move to HALIFAX CAMP embussing at the Asylum YPRES at 5 a.m. 19th Sept.
(b) On relief 6th A.L.T.M.Bty. will concentrate in the Infantry Barracks YPRES.
4. During movements the following distances will be maintained.

Between Bns. and other units	...	500 yards
" Transport, horsed units & other troops	...	200 "
" Companies	...	100 "
5. Mutual arrangements will be made by C.O's as to provision of Guides etc. advance parties etc.
6. All documents, trench stores, S.O.S. Signal Grenades, message rockets etc. will be handed over and duplicate of receipts obtained forwarded to Bde. Hdqrs. by 6 p.m. on 19th inst.
7. Relief will be completed by 6 a.m. on 19th September.
8. Completion of relief will be reported to this Office by priority wire in code.
9. On completion of relief command of the Right & Left Sectors pass to G.O.C's 7th & 5th A.I.Bdes. respectively.
10. Brigade Headquarters will remain at BIRR CROSS ROADS.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Distribution.-

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Filed | 14. 7th M.G.Coy. |
| 2. War Diary | 15. 6th A.L.T.M.Bty. |
| 3. " " | 16. 2nd Aust. Divn. |
| 4. G.O.C. | 17. 27th Brigade |
| 5. 19th Bn. | 18. 1st A.I.Bde. |
| 6. 21st " | 19. 5th " " |
| 7. 22nd " | 20. 7th " " |
| 8. 23rd " | 21. C.R.E. |
| 9. 24th " | 22. 6th Fld Coy. A.E. |
| 10. 25th " | 23. 5th Fld. Amb. |
| 11. 27th " | 24. Spare |
| 12. 5th M.G.Coy. | 25. " |
| 13. 6th " " | 26. " |

W. F. N. Bridges
Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.
For
Information

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~~APPENDIX III~~

96 Appendix 9

SECRET

COPY NO

5th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 97

Ref. Maps WESSHOEK Sheet 1/10,000
Sheet 88 N.W. 1/20,000

19th Sept., 1917

1. (a) An attack by 1st Anzac and flank corps will take place on a date to be notified -
The order of Battle is given in Appendix "A".
- (b) Objectives of 8th Aust. Divn.
1st (Red Line) including old Gun Pit positions in J.S.b. thence through J.S.b.8.7. along the Eastern edge HANNE-BEKE WOOD to J.S.b.8.1.
2nd (blue Line) J.S.a.7.3. to J.S.c.8.8. East of Anzac to J.S.a.1.8.
3rd (Green Line) Road Junction J.S.b.2.8. to J.S.d.2.9. to J.S.d.0.8. to J.S.a.7.8. to J.S.a.8.8. to J.S.a.2.9.
The Green Line will be consolidated.
- (c) Divisional Boundaries
Right. Road along N. boundary of POLYBON WOOD (inclusive) to J.S.c.8.8.
Left. J.S.a.2.9. to J.S.c.4.8.
- (d) Jumping off Line which will be taped.
J.S.c.8.8. to J.S.a.7.8. to J.S.c.4.8.
- (e) Artillery Action
(1) Field Artillery creeping barrage. The infantry follow this closely.
(2) Field and Heavy Artillery creeping barrage which moves backwards and forwards beyond barrage (1)
(3) Standing barrages on selected points.
(4) A reserve of Field Artillery is kept in the hands of the Div. Commander for use if opportunity offers.
Barrage (1) Put down at Zero 150 yds. ahead of the Jumping Off Line reaches a position protective to the Red Line at plus 85 minutes moves forward at plus 88 reaching Blue protective barrage position at plus 136, and at plus 283 moves to its final position covering the consolidation of the Green Line at plus 377.
- (f) Machine Gun Action.-
The 8th M.G. Coy. and the 7th M.G. Coy. (less 1 section) will be used as mobile guns.
The 6th and 8th M.G. Coy's and 18 guns from 8th Aust. Divn. will be employed on creeping barrages and S.O.S. barrage beyond the final objective.
- (g) Strong points are to be constructed and garrisoned as under.-
(1) J.S.a.8.8. by 7th A.I. Bde.
(2) J.S.c.2.8. by 5th A.I. Bde.
(3) J.S.b.9.8. by 5th A.I. Bde.
- (h) Communication trenches are to be dug
(1) From J.S.c.2.8. to J.S.b.8.9. to S.P. (1)
(2) WESSHOEK CROSS ROADS to J.S.d.3.1. to Garter Point.
- (i) Headquarters as in para II of Div. Order.
- (j) Administrative arrangements Appendix B.
Medical " " C.
Signal " " D.

The 5th A.I. Bde. will be in Divisional Reserve.

The 5th A.I. Bde. will move to CANAL Area in accordance with March Table I attached.

The greatest importance is attached to the concealment of all movement of troops from Aeroplane observation.
Troops will therefore move under the hedges and trees.
No movement will take place while a hostile aeroplane is in sight and troops are forbidden to look up at one.

Moves on the day of the attack will take place in accordance with March table II attached.

-2-

6. One sub-section 6th A.L.T.M.Bty. will be attached from 9 p.m. to-day to 21st and 24th Bns., who will provide the necessary carrying parties.
7. Each Battalion will detail 1 Officer to report to Advanced Divisional Hdqrs. at Zero - 15 minutes. The names of these Officers who must know where their Battalions are and the best way to them are to reach Bde. Hdqrs. to-day.
8. An Officer will be sent from Bde. Hdqrs. to all Battalions to synchronise watches at times to be notified.
9. One Officer and 100 O.R's 23rd Bn. as a special carrying party will be put at the disposal of the 7th A.I.Bde. C.O., 23rd Bn. will arrange direct with 7th A.I.Bde. as to time of reporting.
10. Brigade Headquarters will remain at BIRR CROSS ROADS.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued to Signals for Distribution at 10¹⁵ a.m.

Copies to.-

1. G.O.C. ✓ -
2. War Diary -
3. " " -
4. 21st Bn. ✓ -
5. 22nd " ✓
6. 23rd " ✓
7. 24th " ✓
8. 6th M.G.Coy. ✓
9. 6th A.L.T.M.Bty ✓
10. 2nd Aust. Divn. -
11. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. * } for information.
12. 5th " " " -
13. 7th " " " -
14. 27th Inf. Bde. }
15. G.R.E. }
16. Major GROWMER D.S.O., 21st Bn.
17. " SCOTT D.S.O. 20th Bn. ✓
18. Spare Capt Brown -
19. " File -
20. " -
21. " -
22. " -
23. " -
24. " -
25. " -
26. " -

W. A. M. Bridges
Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

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MARCH TABLE I
OPERATIONS IN THE CANAL AREA

Date.-	Unit.-	From.-	To.-	Moves from Camp at.-	Remarks.-
19th Sept.	24th Bn.	HALIFAX CAMP	CANAL Area	3 p.m.	Moves by half platoons at one minute intervals
"	"	-do-	-do-	3.40 p.m.	-do-
"	"	-do-	-do-	4.20 p.m.	-do-
"	"	-do-	-do-	5.00 p.m.	-do-
"	"	6th A.L.F.M. Battery	-do-	5.00 p.m.	Move by sections at 5 minutes interval.

1. Advance parties report to Capt. BROWN, H.Q. at 2 p.m. at Area Commandants Office, Canal Area (H.33.b.6.0.).
2. Units will not move into camps till accommodation sufficient for them has been vacated by 5th and 7th Brigades
3. No restrictions as to route.

MARCH TABLE II (Date to be notified)

Unit.-	From.-	Time of Departure.-	To.-	Time of Departure.-	Thence to.-	Time of Departure.-	Thence to	Remarks.-
24th Bn.	CANAL Area		Railway Cutting (I.13.a.) & Great China Wall (I.13.b.)	Zero plus 2 hours	BELLEWARDE RIDGE	Zero plus 4 hours	WESTROCK RIDGE	To arrive at Great China Wall & Railway Cutting at Zero.
21st Bn.	-do-	Zero plus 2 hours	-do-	Zero plus 4 hours	-do-			
23rd Bn.	-do-	plus 2 hours	West of LITTLE RD. in I.14.c.	plus 4 hours	GREAT CHINA WALL			
22nd Bn.	-do-	plus 4 hours	-do-					
6th A.L.F.H. Bty. (Less 1 section.)	-do-	Zero	GREAT CHINA WALL					On arrival C.O. to report to Bde. H.Q. bringing a runner.

- NOTES.-**
1. Trench accommodation in 5th Brigade Area east of BELLEWARDE RIDGE (inclusive) may be occupied throughout by the 19th Bn.
 2. Minimum intervals of 100 yards between platoons to be maintained.
 3. All movements to be along the tracks I.13.d.0.6., I.20.a.8.8., I.14.c.8.9., I.13.b.0.7. along Duckwalk to GORDON HOUSE to I.17.b.2.6. to MENIN ROAD at OUTPOST FARM to THE CULVERT thence by Duckwalk south of BELLEWARDE LAKE.

Appendix No. 9

APPENDIX "A"

Order of Battle

5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

7th Aust. Inf. Bde.

37th Highland - 30th Bn. A.I.F. (Red Line)	35th Bn. - 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.
Brigade.	28th " " (Blue ")
28th " " " (Blue ")	37th " "
17th " " " (Green ")	38th " "
19th " " "In Bde. Reserve	38th " (Moves in close supports)

3th Aust. Inf. Bde. (In Divisional Reserve)

APPENDIX "B"MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The forward area will be cleared by the 5th Aust. Field Ambulance together with bearer Divisions of the 6th & 7th Field Ambulance.

The Medical dispositions will be as follows.-

R.A.P. Left Brigade	....	J.7.b.6.9.
R.A.P. Right "	....	J.7.d.9.9.
Advanced Collecting Post	....	J.7.a.4.3.
Simons Relay Post	....	I.12.c.6.7.
Chateau Wood Post	....	I.18.b.5.8.
Culvert Loading Post	....	I.18.a.2.8.
BIRR CROSS ROADS Loading Post		I.17.b.2.8.
Corps Advanced Dressing Station		I.9.c.8.6.
MENIN ROAD		
Corps Main Dressing Station		H.27.c.2.9.
Divisional Rest Station	....	G.15.c.2.9.
Hdgrs. 5th Fld. Amb. Belgian		H.24.a.5.9.
Battery Corner		

WALKING WOUNDED POSTS.-

Adv. Dressing Station MENIN ROAD		I.9.c.8.6.
Ambulance Post The BUND		I.21.b.2.5.
Ambulance Post Sharapnel Corner		I.20.a.3.7.

As the advance progresses 5th & 7th Brigades will establish R.A.P. in vicinity of Battalion Hdgrs.

APPENDIX "C"

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTSBRIGADE BATTLE DUMPS.-

The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. (Left Brigade) is established at J.7.b.88.89. under Lieut. R.P. LITTLE, 17th Bn. The 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. (Right Brigade) is established at J.7.d.9.9. under Lieut. BOYLE.

As the advance progresses 5th and 7th Brigades are establishing Forward Dumps locations of which will be notified later.

Special carrying parties of 1 Officer 100 G.R's, 23rd Bn. will report to 7th Brigade Bomb Officer Lieut BOYLE at 11 p.m. on day before Zero.

ROUTES.-

Attention is drawn to Divisional Adminis. Memo 174.

SUPPLIES.-

Units will move forward from Canal Area carrying an extra 100 rounds S.A.A. per man - this can be drawn from "K" Dump H.82.b.

Rations to be carried.-

1 Iron Ration

1 Emergency Ration

and water bottles full. Unexpended portion of current days ration.

500 Emergency rations at each the 5th & 7th Brigades are dumped at Brigade Battle Dumps.

WATER.-

Water for troops will be drawn from Water Points at I.11.d. 6.4. and I.12.b.1.7.

At I.11.d.6.4. 10, 1. 100 gallon tanks and 500 water tins filled will be stored.

At both 5th and 7th Bde. Battle Dumps 5, 1. 100 gallon tanks and 500 water tins filled are stored.

Attention is drawn to following paras of Adminis. Memo 174.
Communication and tracks available for the Division
in forward area.

R.E.Stores

Protection of Wounded against Gas.

Prisoners of War.

Straggler Posts

SALVAGE.-

As regards Salvage the Brigade Salvage Dump will be established at I.12.d.89.96.

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADEINSTRUCTIONS ISSUED UNDER 6th A.I. BRIGADE ORDER NO. 98

19th September, 1917.

1. The attack will take place on the early morning of tomorrow Thursday 20th September 1917.
2. Telescopic Rifles will not be taken forward tomorrow. They can be sent up subsequently.
3. Immediately the BLUE LINE is captured a buried cable route from Right Brigade Headquarters J.7.d.9.9. to J.9.a.5.9. will be commenced.
4. For this the 24th Battalion will detail a party of 300 men with a suitable proportion of Officers (a number of complete platoons to be detailed).
The Officer in charge of this party will report with it to a Divisional Signal Officer at J.7.d.9.9. at Zero plus 3 hours. This party will carry 50 picks and 250 shovels. As far as possible these tools will be provided by the Battalion the balance being obtained from the Brigade Tool Echelon at Brigade Transport Lines H.22.b.
5. A Tank Wireless Station will be established at the South East Corner of GLENCORSE WOOD at Zero plus 2½ hours and will accept any messages, transmitting to Advanced Divisional Headquarters.

Distribution as for Bde. Order No. 98
 Additional Copies to.-
 Divisional Signal Officer
 Brigade Transport Officer

W. F. M. Budgin
 Major,
 Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
-----Brigade Headquarters,
19th Sept. 1917.

----- APPENDIX "D" TO BRIGADE ORDER NO. 98. -----

1. Dispositions of Brigades and Advance Brigade Headquarters at Zero.-
 - 6th Bde. at I.17.b.3.8. (BIRR X ROADS).
 - 6th Bde. Advance Report Centre J.7.a.5.2. (BELLAWAADE RIDGE).
 - 5th Bde. H.Q. - MURIEL GROUP Dugouts, I.12. c.3.5.
 - 7th Bde. H.Q. - MURIEL GROUP Dugouts, I.12. c.3.5.
 - 5th Bde. Advance H.Q. (Left) J.7. b.7.9.
 - 7th Bde. Advance H.Q. (Right) WESTHOEK.
 - 5th Bde. Forward Station - J.3. a.0.2.
 - 7th Bde. Forward Station - J.9. b.5.8.

2. Signal arrangements for attack.-
 - From Brigades to rear :-
 - Buried cable, wireless and D.R.
 - Forward to Advance Bde. H.Q. :-
 - Buried cable, power buzzer, amplifier, runner and visual.

3. Advance Bde. H.Q. to Forward stations.- Power Buzzer and Amplifier, Visual and Runner. For the 1st phase lines will be laid later.

4. Forward party will move from their respective Advance Bde. H.Q., which is end of buried cable to stations indicated in para. 1.

5. 6th Brigade.- The Battalions of this Brigade in reserve at CHATEAU BELGE will send 4 Runners to Div. Advance H.Q. at H.21.d., where traffic will be sent to and from this Brigade.

6. Battalions in reserve at CHINA WALL and in vicinity of 1st Bde. H.Q. (I.17.c.3.7.) will lay a line to 1st Bde., who can then switch them on direct to this Brigade. Line should be labelled and left for the next Battalion.

7. Battalions in support at BELLAWAADE RIDGE will have communication through the Report Centre of this Brigade at that point.

8. Battalions at WESTHOEK will take lines in to Cable-head there to us (office and route plainly marked).

9. Communications beyond WESTHOEK for this Brigade will be advised later.

10. Brigade Visual Station at I.17.b.3.8.

11. 21st, 23rd and 24th Bns. will each detail 6 Runners to report to Brigade H.Q., I.17.b.3.8., at 5 a.m. tomorrow, 20th inst., with 48 hours' rations.

90

SECRET

Appendix No. 9

COPY No. 2

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 98.

W.D.

AGENDA TO PARAGRAPH 1, SUB PARA. (I).

Para 1 sub para (i) is cancelled and amended to read as follows:-

Headquarters. The Headquarters of Divisions and Brigades are as follows:-

Advanced Head Qrs.	1st Aust. Div.	H 27 B 77
" " "	2nd " "	H 21 D 62
" " "	9th Division	I 8 Central (S side MEVINGATE)
" " "	3rd A.I. Bde	HOOGE
Head Quarters	5th & 7th A.I. Bdes	I 12 C 3 5
Advanced Head Qrs	5th A.I. Bde	J 1 D 75 10
B " "	7th "	J 7 D 9 9
Head Quarters	27th Brigade	I 11 B 5 3
Advanced Head Qrs	B "	KIT & KAT J 1 D 3 6.

W. F. M. Bridges

Major.

Brigade Major 6th Aust Inf Brigade.

SECRET

Copy No. 2

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 99.

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

Ref. Map WESTHOEK 1/10,000.

21st Sept., 1917.

1. The 6th A.I. Bde. (less 6th M.G. Co.) will relieve the 5th and 7th A.I. Bdes. in the line on the night 21st/22nd Sept.
2. On completion of relief of other Units the 5th & 7th A.M.G. Coys. and the 19th Bn. will come under the command of the G.O.C., 6th A.I. Bde.
3. Relief will be carried out in accordance with the attached Table.
4. Advance parties of 23rd & 21st Bns. will consist of a proportion of Specialists and 50% of the Officers of each Bn. & will meet guides at 4 p.m. today at 5th & 7th Bde. Hdqrs.
5. 6th A.L.T.M. Battery will concentrate today. G.O. will reconnoitre suitable positions for 4 guns in vicinity of Green line and report to Bde. Hdqrs. These guns are to be in position by 9 p.m. Three guns will be kept in reserve on WESTHOEK RIDGE.
6. Receipts for all stores, supplies, S.O.S. Signals and documents taken over will be given and duplicates forwarded to Bde. Hdqrs.
7. Completion of moves and reliefs will be reported to Bde. Hdqrs. by "priority" wire.
8. Bde. Hdqrs. will close at DIRR CROSS ROADS at 9 p.m. and reopen at J.l.d.75.15 (now 5th Bde. Hdqrs.) at 9.30 p.m.

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

Issued at 11.40 a.m.

Distribution.-

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. G.O.C. | 12. 2nd Aus.Div. |) |
| 2-3. War Diary. | 13. 5th A.I.Bde. | |
| 4. File. | 14. 7th A.I.Bde. | |
| 5. 21st Bn. | 15. 27th Bde. | |
| 6. 22nd Bn. | 16. 3rd A.I.Bde. | |
| 7. 23rd Bn. | 17. 5th M.G.Co. | |
| 8. 24th Bn. | 18. 7th M.G. Co. | |
| 9. 6th M.G.Co. | 19. 5th L.T.M.Bty.) | |
| 10. 6th L.T.M.Bty. | 20-24. Spare. | |
| 11. Bde. T.O. | | |

W. F. N. Bridges
 Major,
 Ede. Major, 6th Aust. Inf. Bde.
For information.

----- RELIEF TABLE - TO ACCOMPANY 6TH A.I. BDE. ORDER NO. 99. -----

90

Date.-	Unit.-	From.-	To.-	Relieving.-	Route.-	Meet Guides. H.Q. to Now at.- at.- be at.- occupied by.-	Remarks.-
21/22nd Sept.	23rd Bn.	CANAL AREA.	Front line (Right sector)	23rd Bn. (Green line) 27th Bn. (Blue line).	S. of BELLEWARDE LAKE.	8 pm. 7th B.H.Q. (To be notified later).	4 guides from 27th Bn. 4 " " 23rd Bn. Two days' rations & an Iron ration to be taken into the line.
	21st Bn.	GREAT CHINA WALL.	Front line (Left Sector)	18th Bn. (Right) 17th Bn. (Left)	N. of BELLEWARDE LAKE.	7.30 5th p.m. B.H.Q. GARTER 17th Bn. (J.3.a. central)	4 guides from 18th Bn. 4 " " 17th Bn. Two days' rations & an Iron ration to be taken into the line.
	22nd Bn.	CANAL AREA.	Red line & WESTHOEK RIDGE in Right sector	25th Bn. (Red line). 26th Bn. ^{LIVE} (WESTHOEK).	S. of BELLEWARDE RIDGE. Not to reach WESTHOEK before 8.30 p.m.	J.7.d. 7th A.I. 9.9. Bde.H.Q.	Guides & Advance parties will be arranged mutually between C.O's. concerned.
	24th Bn.	Forward Area.	BELLEWARDE R. and IDENTITY TRENCH.			J.7. a.4.1.	Move to be completed by 10 p.m.
	19th Bn.	Forward Area.	Red line and WESTHOEK RIDGE in Left Sector.	20th Bn.		Unchanged.	Move to be completed by 10 p.m.
	6th A.I. T.M.Bty.	YPRES. Forward Area.				WESTHOEK RIDGE.	Move to be completed by 9 p.m.

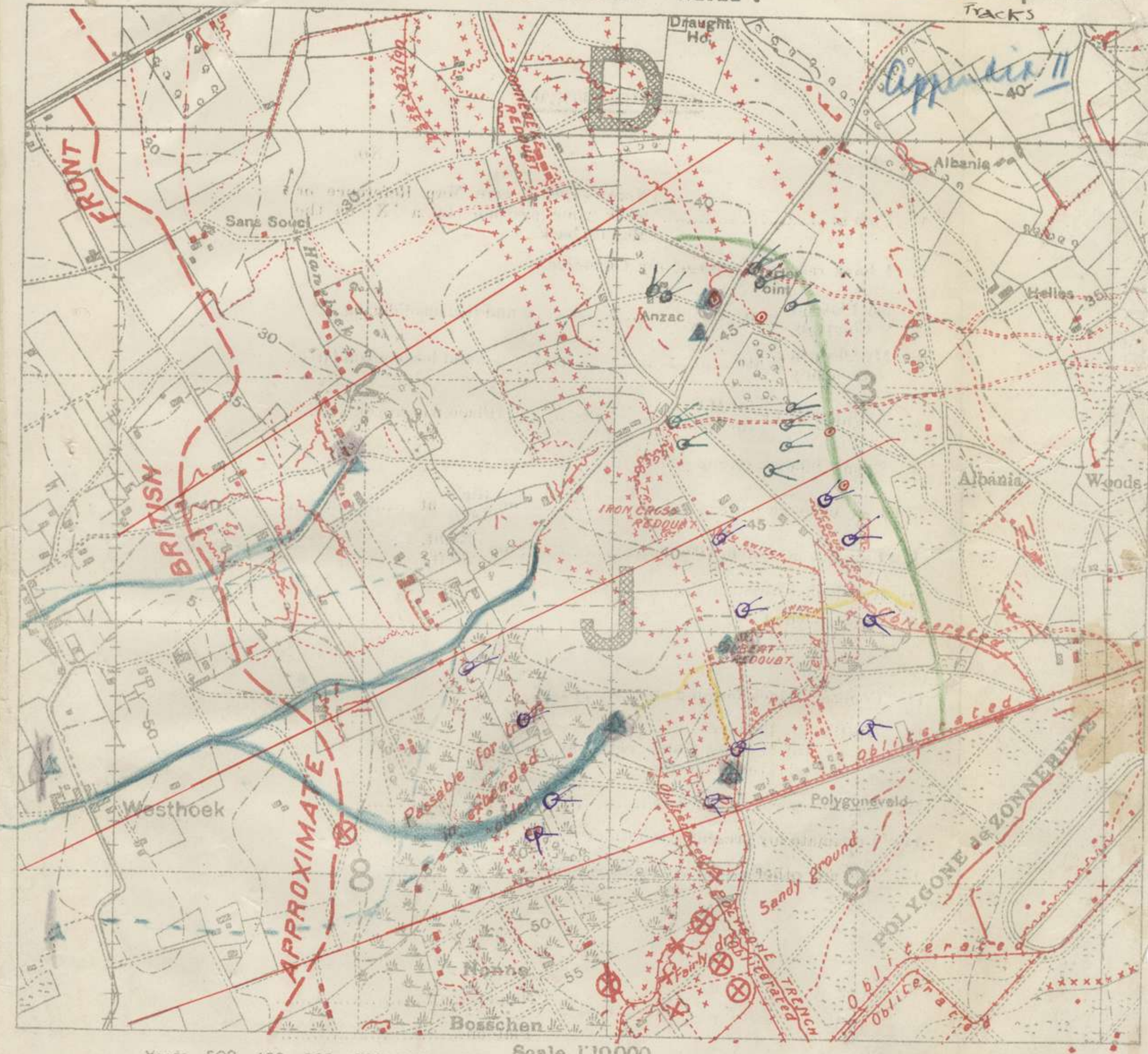
- NOTES.-
- Distances of 100 yds. between Platoons to be maintained.
 - Advance parties to move in small groups at at least 100 yds. interval.
 - Present Hdqrs. of 25th Bn. is J.8.b.7.5. and 20th Bn. J.2.d.1 $\frac{1}{2}$.3.

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

Appendix No. 10

31

450
 No. 3. 6th L.T.M. Bty. 7th M.G. Coy.
 5th M.G. Coy. APPENDIX **MESSAGE MAP.** TRENCH DUMPS MULE PADS Sept: 1917. TRACKS



Yards 500 400 300 200 100 0 Scale 1:10,000 500 1000

Sunken Road in Glencorse Wood—Bank on Western side, 20ft. high—Slight, gradually sloping bank on East. Impassable at North end—Very bad at South end.

Strong Points Probably unoccupied. X
 " occupied ... ⊗
 Dug-outs believed to be concrete ... ■

NOTE.—Air Photographs show practically no signs of wire anywhere in this area.

F.S. CP 1052 11.9.17.

Printed by No. 2 Advanced Section, A.P. & S.S.

J 90

28

MESSAGE FORM.

To:—

No.

- (Note:—Either give Map Reference or mark your position by a 'X' on the Map on back.)
1. I am at.....
 2. I have reached limits of my Objective.
 3. My Platoon Company is at.....and is consolidating.
 4. My Platoon Company is at.....and has consolidated.
 5. Am held up by (a) M.G. (b) Wire at..... (Place where you are).
 6. Enemy holding strong point.....
 7. I am in touch with..... on Right Left. at.....
 8. I am not in touch with.....on Right. Left.
 9. Am shelled from.....
 10. Am in need of:—
 11. Counter Attack forming at.....
 12. Hostile (a) Battery (b) Machine Gun (c) Trench Mortar } active at.....
 13. Reinforcements wanted at.....
 14. I estimate my present strength at..... rifles.
 15. Add any other useful information here:—

Name.....

Platoon.....

Time..... m.

Company.....

Date..... 1917.

Battalion.....

- (A). Carry no maps or papers which may be of value to the Enemy.
- (B). Give no information if captured, except the following, which you are bound to give:—
Name, Rank, (Number) and Regiment.
- (C). Collect all captured maps and papers and send them in at once.

90

Instructions	This message is on a/c of:		Recd. at..... m.
	Sent		Date.....
	At..... m.	..... Service.	From.....
	To.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer")	By.....
By.....			

TO { APPENDIX # 12

Sender's Number. * 676	Day of Month. 22	In reply to Number.	AAA
---------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----

The 52nd Bn. will relieve the 19th Bn. in support in the left sector tonight AAA All details of the relief will be arranged mutually between C.O's. AAA Relief to commence at 7.30 p.m. and be completed by 3 a.m. tomorrow AAA 19th Bn. on relief move to HALIFAX area where accommodation will be available at 7 a.m. AAA Movement East of YPRES is to be by Platoons at at least 100 yds. distance AAA Acknowledge AAA Addressed 19th & 52nd Bns. repeated all concerned

From	QUAIL
Place	
Time	8.45 p.m.

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

SIXTH AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 100.

SECRET

Ref. Map. WESTMOOR 1/10,000.

23rd Sept. 1917.

1. The 6th A.I. Bde. and attached units will be relieved in the line on the night 23rd/24th Sept., and will march to DOMINION Area.

The 4th A.I. Bde. take over the right sector, having Hdqrs. at J.7.d.9.9., and 15th A.I. Bde. the left with Hdqrs. at J.1.d.8.1. *Advance*

2. The relief will be carried out in accordance with the attached table. *Advised*
Subject to the terms of this order, all arrangements for the relief and the provision of guides will be made direct between C.O.'s. concerned.

3. Immediately subsequent to relief the 4th A.I. Bde. is going to readjust the right boundary so that the area held shall be bounded -

On the right - J.8.c.5.5. - J.8.d.2.8. - J.8.d.6.9. - J.9.a.5.5. (inclusive) - J.9.b.25.60., thence due North for 100 yards, thence parallel to the POLYBONVELD ROAD at a distance of 100 yards.

On the left - A North-East line from J.1.d.6.2. to TOKIO (D.27.d.9.7.) to BROODSENDE (exclusive).

Inter-Brigade boundary - J.8.a.00.25 - J.3.d.0.7.

4. Movement east of YPRES-COMINES CANAL will be by Platoons at a minimum distance of 100 yards; further West distances will be maintained of -

- 200 yards between Battalions and other units.
- 400 yards between transport of units, horsed units and other troops.
- 200 yards between companies.

5. All trench maps, air photos and Sn. Dumps will be handed over and duplicates of the receipts obtained and forwarded to Bde. Hdqrs. by 9 a.m. on 25th inst.

6. Relief is to be completed by 5 a.m. on 24th inst. Completion of relief will be reported by "priority" code wire.

7. On completion of relief Bde. Hdqrs. will move to DOMINION CAMP, the office opening there at 9 a.m. on 24th inst.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at a.m.
Distribution.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. G.O.C. | 15. 2nd Aus. Div. | } Major,
Bde. Major, 6th A. I. Bde.

For information. |
| 2. File. | 16. 4th A.I. Bde. | |
| 3-4. War Diary. | 17. 15th A.I. Bde. | |
| 5. 21st Bn. | 18. 14th A.I. Bde. | |
| 6. 22nd Bn. | 19. 3rd A.I. Bde. | |
| 7. 23rd Bn. | 20. 5th A.I. Bde. | |
| 8. 24th Bn. | 21. 7th A.I. Bde. | |
| 9. 52nd A.I. Bn. | 22. 27th Bde. | |
| 10. 5th M.G. Coy. | 23. C.R.E. | |
| 11. 7th M.G. Coy. | 24. C.R.A. | |
| 12. 5th A.L.T.M. Bty. | 25-26. Spare. | |
| 13. 6th " " | 27. Capt. Brown, M.G., 21st Bn. | |
| 14. 7th " " | | |

W.F.N. Bridges
Major,
Bde. Major, 6th A. I. Bde.

For information.

----- RELIEF TABLE TO ACCOMPANY BDE. ORDER NO. 100. -----

SECRET.

90

Date.-	Unit.-	From.-	To.-	Route.-	Relieved by.-	Remarks.-
23rd Sept.	24th Bn.	BELLEWARDE RIDGE & IDENTITY TRENCH.	DOMINION AREA.	North of BELLEWARDE LAKE.		Movement to commence at 7 p.m.
	22nd Bn.	Support, Right Sector.	- do.-	South of BELLEWARDE LAKE.	15th Bn.	
	23rd Bn.	Line, Right Sector.	- do.-	- do.-	15th Bn.	Head of 15th Bn. to reach WESTHOEK RIDGE at 7.30 p.m.
	22nd Bn.	Support, Left Sector.	Line, Left sector.	-	50th Bn.	As seen as relieved by 50th Bn., 22nd Bn. moves forward and relieves 21st Bn.
	21st Bn.	Line, Left Sector.	DOMINION AREA.	North of BELLEWARDE LAKE.	22nd Bn.	
	7th M.G.Co. 7th A.L.T. M. Bty.	Right sector. -do.-	REININGHELSL, -do.-	-	4th M.G.Co. 4th A.L.T. M. Bty.	Rejoins 7th Bde.
	5th M.G.Co. 5th A.L.T. M. Bty.	Left sector. -do.-	LIPPERHOEK, -do.-	-	15th M.G.Co. 15th A.L.T. M. Bty.	Rejoins 5th Bde.
	6th A.L.T. M. Bty.	Line.	DOMINION AREA.	-	Part 4th A.L. T.M. Bty. Part 15th A.L. T.M. Bty.	

Notes.- 1. Advance parties of 21st, 22nd, 23rd & 24th Bns., and 6th A.L.T.M. Bty. will report to Capt. Brown, M.G., 21st Bn., at 4 p.m. on 23rd inst. at the Area Commandant's Office, DOMINION AREA.

Appendix No. 13

Report on preparation of 6th Machine Gun Co for attack on morning of 20th Sept by 2nd Aust Division. and attack.



On the morning of the 12th of Sept a reconnaissance was made in conjunction with the Battery commanders for the selection of battery positions.

It was decided to establish a battery at each of the following points: J7a 8.4., J7a 85.58 and J7a 85.78. called E, F and G batteries respectively.

In the evening preparation work commenced under arrangements with the Engineers, tools and material were carted by them to Birn Cross Roads; from this place they were picked up by the batteries and carried to their positions. E and F batteries almost completed their gun pits that evening. Owing to G battery losing their way little work was done on their position.

On the morning of the 13th at 5 P.M. 84,000 rounds of S.F.A. were carried to a dump at Bellward Ridge by pack horses from Birn Cross Roads. One driver was wounded, the wound was not severe enough for his evacuation. Work continued during the evening on gun pits and belt filling positions. E battery had 4 men wounded but only one was evacuated.

On the morning of the 14th 600,000 rounds were moved from Hell Fire Corner - 250,000 to Bellward Ridge, 110,000 to corduroy track (J12c 4.5) and 240,000 to commencement of corduroy track from Birn Cross Roads I11d30. In the evening 450,000 rounds were moved from Hell Fire Corner to Bellward Ridge. Work went on at belt filling positions and ammunition was

90
2
- carried from Bellevue dump to battery positions.

Ammunition was still being carried to battery positions on the 15th inst.

During the evening of the 16th G battery and half of E battery received the 239th Machine Gun Co. to do harassing fire and practice barrages. Eight guns were situated at Idiot Reserve and four guns at Lill House.

At 8.30 pm on the 17th practice barrage was fired in conjunction with the artillery.

Preparation of gun positions was continued.

Practice barrage was carried on in conjunction with the artillery at 3 PM on the 18th. E and F batteries carried up guns and material and placed same at Lill House.

On the evening of the 19th half of E and F batteries moved in and took up positions and laid on first barrage - E battery on B barrage and F battery on C barrage and took over from S.O.S. guns at Lill House and Idiot Reserve. Batteries were in position by 8.15 pm. This was done so as to maintain a Machine Gun S.O.S. barrage.

Eight guns of G Battery and four guns of E battery then moved and took up positions for attack and laid on their first barrage. F battery on C barrage and G battery on D barrage.

Batteries reported all correct by 9.30 pm.

Telephone communication was laid between Batteries and Group, and Group with Brigade Signal Station (R.A.) Batteries reported O.K. every hour.

At 12.27 am on the 20th a message was received from the D.M.C.O. giving zero time and a watch giving correct time. All batteries were notified.

E, F and G battery lines were broken once before zero hour. Batteries opened at time given and continued at given rate.

3

G group had one gun put out of action just before zero hour.

At 9.45 AM a message from D.M.G.O. ordered F battery to stand by on N barrage for S.O.S.

At 12.15 pm a message from D.M.G.O. ordered G battery to stand by on Switch target 21 for S.O.S. Amashed gun was replaced at 12.45 pm.

At 12.50 pm Capt W.E. Peters of E battery was slightly wounded.

A message was received at 2.47 pm from D.M.G.O. ordering F battery to lift barrage 100 yards and when done to fire. This was carried out.

At 3.5 pm a message was intercepted from a F.O.O. of Heavy Artillery Group, stating that Germans were massing the other side of ZONNEBEKE - batteries were warned.

At 3.17 pm a message was intercepted from F.O.O. of M.A.G. that Germans were advancing from South of Zonnebeke. F and G batteries were ordered to open fire.

At 3.50 pm I spoke to the D.M.G.O. about target and then received orders to cease fire and stand by.

A message was received from D.M.G.O. at 6.27 pm. S.O.S. called for from Brigade - F and G batteries opened fire.

A message was received at 7.17 pm from Brigade with orders to stand off S.O.S.

S.O.S. signal was noticed at 7.24 pm F and G batteries opened fire.

I ordered F and G batteries, that if they required filled belts, to get them from E battery, which was not an action.

At 8.24 pm batteries ceased fire.

At 5.15 am on the morning of the 21st a message was received from D.M.G.O. for F battery to open at 5 am for 2 hours at

90
4
- 50 rounds per minute.

E and F batteries were ordered to cut out at 4.35 PM and get all gear ready and await further orders. G battery were ordered to cut out and get as much rest as possible.

What date H
E and F batteries moved back to Transport lines at 5 pm. At 6.5 pm E and F batteries (14th M.G.C.) were all clear of Belluardi Ridge.

At 9 am on the 22nd a Lewis Gun was salvaged and used against enemy aircraft.

A message was received from D.M.G.O. for Group Commander to come and see him.

Future movements were discussed and the anti-aircraft positions of the 13th Light Horse were visited.

At 2.20 pm G battery was ordered to move out and return to Transport Lines.

H
entire duties
near there H

Summing up.

The work was carried out well by all ranks. The positions of Lieut Montague, 14th M.G.C.; O.C.E. Battery were excellent and are deserving of Special Mention.

The greatest problem was the getting of the ammunition to the battery positions. The first orders were that 200,000 rounds were to be taken to each battery and an extra 40,000 for each battery for harassing fire. This meant that 760,000 rounds had to be taken from Hell Fire Corner to Belleward Ridge. This work was finished on the night of the 14th inst due to the excellent work of Lieut J. D. Campbell, Transport Officer of the 6th M.G.C.

The fire was carried out according to instructions and everything went well.

The casualties were extremely light there being only 3 wounded in the group; two were evacuated and one remained on duty.

It was found that the present establishment of Signallers is not sufficient to maintain the necessary communications and I suggest that it be increased to eight signallers per Company.

See
refer

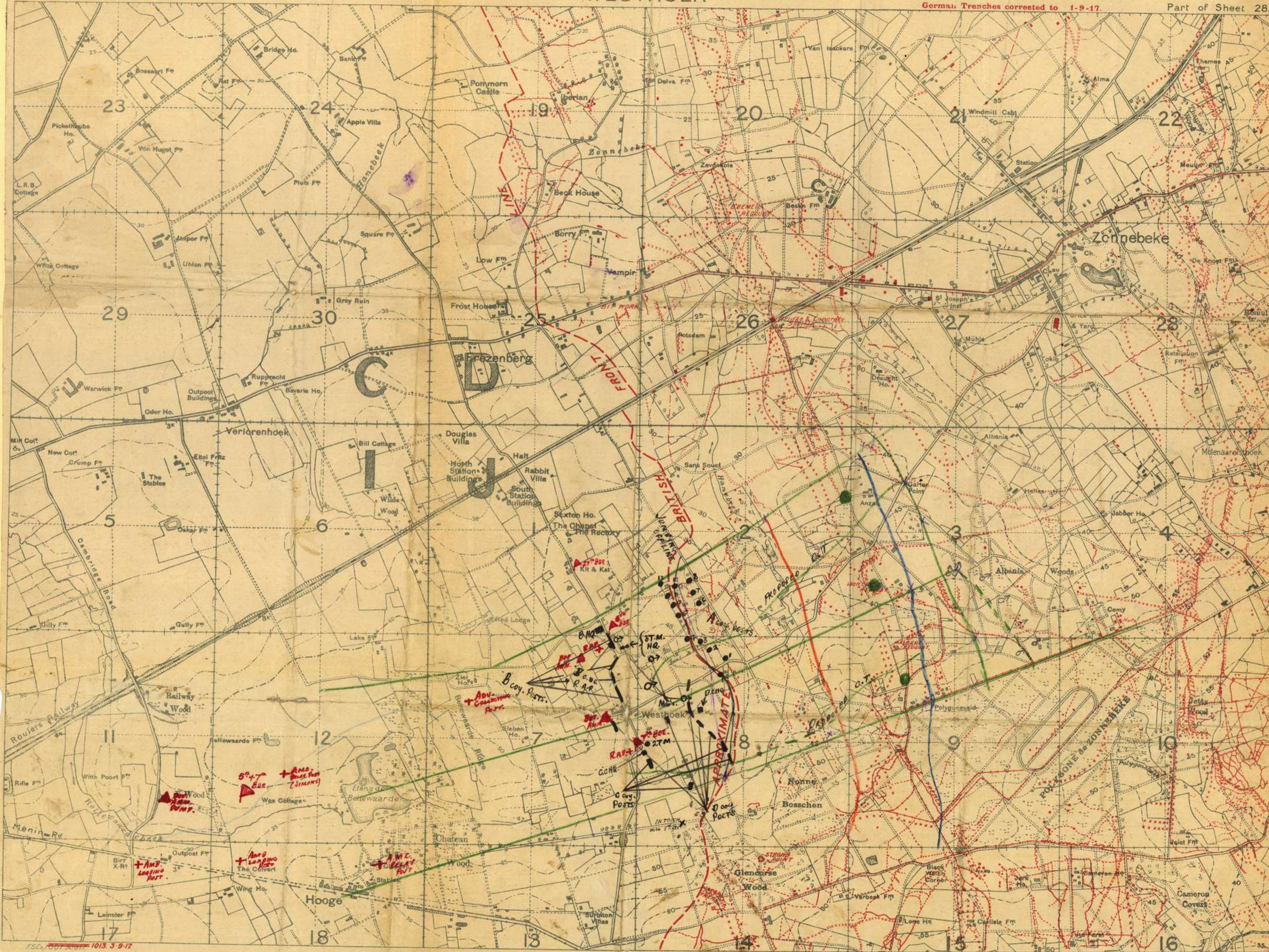
O.C. M.G.C. to
attach a man standing
the Battery for each
Battery. Also S.O.S. names of
does he wish to stand
mention any one?
H

EDITION I. A

WESTHOEK

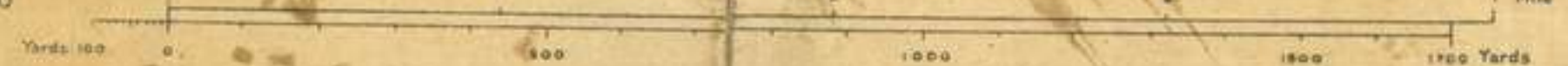
German Trenches corrected to 1-9-17.

Part of Sheet 28.



F.S.C. 1013. 3. 9. 12

Scale 1:10,000



Minor corrections to outline made 7.9.17

No. 2 Advanced Section, A.P. & S.S.

6th
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE
1159
1197

Nest Hoek

6 Bt + Q.

30 Pms (Each)

9 M8

4 Tm

139 Comps

90

appendix 15

SECRET

COPY NO. 2

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.101
=====

Ref. Sheet 28 N.W. 1/20,000

29th Sept., 1917.

1. The 6th A.I.Bde. will march to CANAL AREA, tomorrow in accordance with the attached March Table. Advance parties will report to Capt. BROWN, M.C. at Area Commandant's office, CANAL AREA at 7.30 a.m.
2. The personnel to be left out of the line will remain in present camps until moved by orders which will be issued separately.
3. Orders for the move of Transport sections will be issued separately.
4. The following distances will be maintained on the march.

Between Battalions & other units	...	800 yards
" Transport & other troops	...	400 "
" Companies	...	200 "
5. Completion of the move will be reported to Bde. Hdqrs.
6. Bde. Hdqrs. closes at present location at 8.30 a.m. and re-opens at RUE de TREFLES, I.14.a.4.8. at 9.30 a.m.

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

Issued at 4-30 p.m.

Distribution.--

1. G.O.C.
2. War Diary
3. " "
4. Filed
5. 21st Bn.
6. 22nd "
7. 23rd "
8. 24th "
9. 6th M.G.Coy.
10. 6th T.M.Bty.
11. Area Commdt. Dominion Area)
12. " " Canal Area)
13. 2nd Aust. Divn.) For information.
14. 5th A.I.Bde.)
15. 7th A.I.Bde.)

W. F. N. Budge
Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

90

MARCH TABLE ISSUED WITH BRIGADE ORDER NO.101

U N I T.-	From.-	To.-	Route.-	Pass Starting Point Road Junction H.14.c.0.2. at.-	R e m a r k s.-
21st Battalion	DOMINION CAMP	INFANTRY BARRACKS I.7.d.	H.14.a. & b.	7.15 a.m.	Clock halts only.
24th Battalion	DEVONSHIRE CAMP	CAVALRY BARRACKS I.14.a.	-do-	7.45 a.m.	-do-
22nd Battalion	DOMINION CAMP	ESPLANADE SAPS I.7.d., I.13.b.	-do-	8.15 a.m.	-do-
23rd Battalion	MIDDLESEX CAMP	CANAL BANK I.13.a. & c.	-do-	8.45 a.m.	-do-
6th A.L.T.M.Bty.	SCOTTISH LINES	ESPLANADE SAPS	-do-	9.10 a.m.	-do-
Ede. Hdqrs.	G.22.b.	I.14.a.4.8.	-do-	9.15 a.m.	-do-

Appendix No. 15

45

Sept 1917

OPERATIONS.

(i)

Seq. No.	Date	Time of		From	To	Senders No.	Precis.
		Despatch	Receipt				
1.	20 th	5.20 AM	5.45 AM	24 th		SI	Reporting being in position on great China wall and by cutting.
2.		6.5 AM	6.0 AM		2 nd Aust Div	Bomb	Reported 5 Div Capt Hogg reported personally that he had 2 guns on China wall + one subsection attached each of 21 st and 23 rd Bns.
3.		7.45	7.55		2 nd Aust Div	Bomb 6510	Report 5 th 7 th 3 rd Bns on Red line - little resistance - 130 prisoners - Counter attack Div Expected about 10 AM.
4.						BM601	Repeated 5 Bns.
5.		8.25	8.45	do		GA15	Ordering Bns not to move forward at 2200 + 4 hours This means that they will remain at 24 th Bellevue Ridge 23 rd China wall 23 rd I 14c and 22 nd in Canal area bivouac.
6.		9 AM				BM602	Remain at China wall till further orders CO. 21 st Bn reported arrival at China wall by telephone
		9.10 AM					24 th Bn (less 2 coys on cable burying) reported arrival in Bellevue Ridge - Col James came in + reported the 2 coys on cable burying were on the west slope of Bellevue Ridge + were allowed to go forward to their work by the big officer in charge then. Ordered Col James to take them onto Bellevue ridge if better accommodation available there + inform signal officer in charge of the work.
		10.5 AM					
7.		10.10 AM			2 nd Aust Div	BM603	On information received reported to JAG that mores of 21 st 23 rd 24 th wh. commenced at + 2 hours and complete

APPENDIX 16

Appendix No. 16

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OPERATIONS.

(2)

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Seq. No.	Date	Time of		From	To	Senders No.	Precis.
		Despatch	Receipt				
8	20 th	10.25 AM			2 nd Aust Div	BM 604	Reported to Div that cable burying party not allowed to go forward of Bellewarde Ridge by sig officer in charge of them + had had 10% casualties.
9	-		11 AM	2 nd Aust Div	- - - - -	- - - - -	3 rd Bde + 9 th Div definitely on blue line (Reported to Div BM 606)
10		11.35 AM			2 nd Aust Div	BM 606	Adj. 24 th Bn by telephone gave gist of situation regarding cable burying party - one Coy had at 10.30 nearly buried 400 yds, the other which had been wire carrying was starting on a further section. Casualties 2 nd Lt. K. 3 rd Lt. + 22 nd Lt. wounded on the Bn. This report that last report based on what Col. James reported personally was inaccurate notified to Div.
11		11.25	12.12 PM	do		GA 26	Putting 24 24 th Bn less cable burying party under 7 th Bde
12		12.15 PM			24 th Bn 7 th Bde	BM 607	do and asking 7 th Bde to advise 24 th Bn's movements.
13		12 p.m.	12.20 p.m.	do	6 th Bg de	GA 28	Div. on night definitely reported on green line + two of their Bns. moving up in support.
14		12.30 p.m.	12.30 p.m.	24 th Bn			24 th Bn report by telephone that cable burying is going well + may be finished by 6 pm. or 6 pm.
15		12.10 p.m.	1 p.m.	2 nd Aust Div		GA 30	Cops commanders congratulations to all units on success. Infer that 2 nd Aust Div objectives have been gained especially as artillery message overheard saying that infantry were consolidating green line + counter attack expected from Zonnebeke + Polygon Wood. All Bns informed accordingly.
16			2.20 p.m.	7 th Bde		BM 608	General information as to situation obtained from GOC 7 th Bde by telephone and sent to 21 st 22 nd 23 rd Bns.
17		3.5 p.m.	3 p.m.	5 th Bde		BM 609	do do from 5 th Bde sent to 21 st 22 nd 23 rd Bns.
18			5.5 p.m.	2 nd Aust Div		GA 34	Warning of counter attacks preparing.

Appendix No. 16

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OPERATIONS.

(3)

90

Seq. No.	Date	Time of		From	To	Senders No.	Precis.
		Despatch	Receipt				
19	20 th		3.30pm				General Smyth says up & said that Green line was taken all along the front & that this Bde would not move up as the artillery is doing so & with the pioneers then the forward area will be rather congested. Ans notified -
20			6.30pm	2 nd - last Bde		GA 41	Dispositions for tonight etc. 21 st Bn China Wall 22 nd Bn & 23 rd Bn in shelter in Canal area 24 th Bn under 7 th Bde in Bullewarde & Westrock Ridges.
21			6.45pm				Indication from artillery fire from connection with reserve Bn 6 th Bde that a German counter attack is developing - Ordered 21 st Bn to be alert, but not to stand to yet.
22			7 pm	7 th Bde		BM 14	Situation report. Very satisfactory. Have a practically continuous trench line about 100 yds east of Green line. Capt Savage returned from reconnaissance with very satisfactory report of what the 24 th Bn have done in carrying and in buying cable. 24 th Bn probably done though