

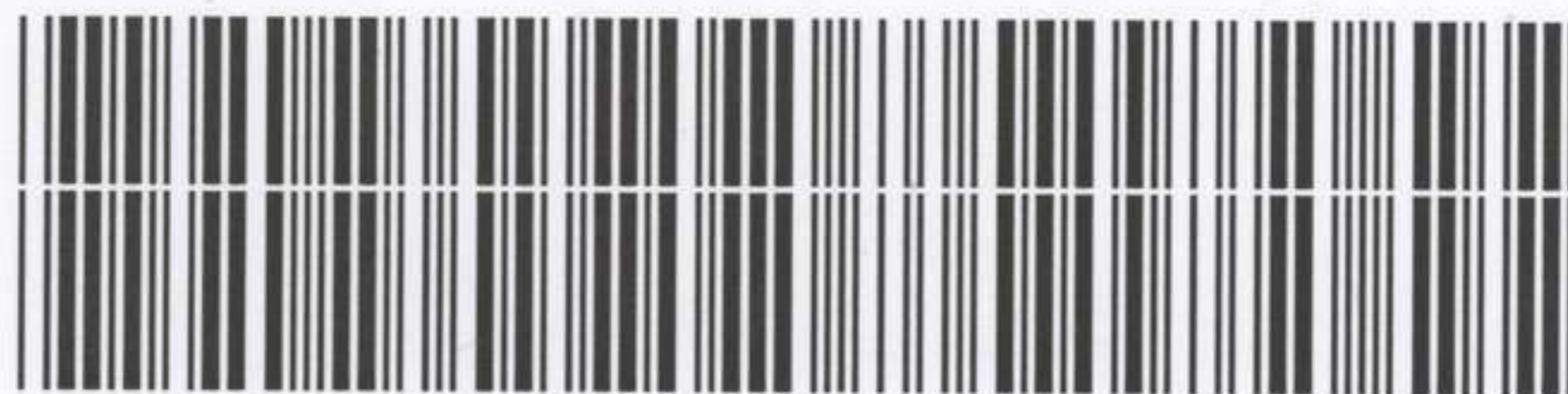
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/49/30

**Title:** 32nd Infantry Battalion

January 1918



AWM4-23/49/30

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

32<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION

FOR

JANUARY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Harvey St rapidi*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*C. S. Tratman Captain  
A/CO. 32<sup>ND</sup> Battalion*

259

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL. CONFIDENTIAL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		Remarks and references to Appendices	
Desvres (NEAR BOULOGNE)	JAN	1st	Strength	47 off. 963 pres.	The day was spent in festivities.	3 pres from hospital.
"	"	2nd	"	47 off. 963 pres.	The Bath has photo taken by official Photographer.	
"	"	3rd	"	48 off. 963 pres.	Platoon and specialist training. (Sigs. Bombers. Lewis gunners. and Intelligence) Lt. Ohlstrom from Cadet Batt.	
"	"	4th	"	48 off. 969 pres.	Platoon and specialist training.	6 pres from hospital
"	"	5th	"	48 off. 969 pres.	Platoon and specialist training	2 pres to 29th
"	"	6th	"	48 off. 969 pres.	Platoon and specialist training. There are very few facilities for training in Bath area.	2 pres from 29th
"	"	7th	"	48 off. 972 pres.	Platoon and specialist training. A Brigades Competition for Athletics, drill, field firing transports, Cookers etc has been decided on. and a Silver Cup presented by the Brigadier.	3 pres from hospital
"	"	8th	"	48 off. 950 pres.	Competition in transports and Cookers held. 32nd Battalion won both by 8 points	3 pres from hospital 5 pres to B.A.S. for medical board 19 pres to hospital 10 pres to employed
"	"	9th	"	48 off. 959 pres.	Football Competitions 32nd v 29th Australian Rules. Won by 32nd by 7 points. An excellent game.	12 pres from hospital 1 pres from T.B. 4 pres to T.B.
"	"	10th	"	48 off. 960 pres.	Rugby football 32nd v B.A.S. H.Q. Won by B.A.S. 6-NIL.	15 pres from hospital
"	"	11th	"	48 off. 965 pres.	Platoon & specialist training. Lt H.K. Bothwell joins Battalion from O.T.C.	5 pres from hospital
"	"	12th	"	49 off. 965 pres.	Platoon and specialist training	

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt. W 1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms C2118/14

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 259

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or  
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

ORIGINAL - CONFIDENTIAL

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendices	
Desvres NEAR Boulogne	JAN.	13 <sup>th</sup>	Strength	49 off.	970 %rs.	Church Parade only	5 %rs from hospital
		14 <sup>th</sup>	Strength	49 off.	970 %rs.	Brigade Championship. Australian Football. Won by 32 <sup>nd</sup> Batt. and 31 <sup>st</sup> Batt.	
		15 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off.	984 %rs.	Brigade Sports. Running, lig of war, high jump, walking putting the shot etc. A very successful and enjoyable meeting for all ranks. Lt Pratt from O.T.C.	10 %rs from hospital
		16 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 %rs.	984 %rs.	Platoon and Specialist training.	3 %rs from T. Br.
		17 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off.	972 %rs.	" " " "	12 %rs to hospital
		18 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off.	973 %rs.	" " " "	1 %rs from hospital
		19 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off.	973 %rs.	" " " "	
		20 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off.	973 %rs.	Church parades Platoon and Specialist training.	
		21 <sup>st</sup>	"	50 off.	973 %rs.	" " " "	
		22 <sup>nd</sup>	"	50 off.	973 %rs.	" " " "	
"	"	23 <sup>rd</sup>	"	50 off.	979 %rs.	The Battalion marched past the G.O.C. Australian Corps.	
"	"	24 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off.	967 %rs.	Platoon field firing competition. Won by 30 <sup>th</sup> Batt with 32 <sup>nd</sup> second. This completes the events for the Brigade Challenge Cup. Won by 32 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion. The competition evoked great enthusiasm among all ranks of the Batt. and was an excellent way of breeding esprit de Corps.	12 %rs to hospital

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL. Confidential

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		Remarks and references to Appendices	
Desvres NEAR BOULOGNE	JAN	25 <sup>th</sup>	Strength	50 off 966 privs.	Platoon and Coy training	1 off transferred to 8 <sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy.
	"	26 <sup>th</sup>	"	49 off 970 privs.	" " " " Lt H.G. Richards to second list (Sick)	1 off from hospital
	"	27 <sup>th</sup>	"	49 off 970 privs.	Church parades.	
	"	28 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off 970 privs.	Platoon and Coy training Lt Wadden from second list (Lg Bn)	
	"	29 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off 985 privs.	Cleaning up billets, and making preparations to return to the front line.	15 off from hospital
Neuve Eglise	"	30 <sup>th</sup>	"	50 off 985 privs.	At 4 am Battalion marched to SAMER, but did not arrive until 1 pm owing to engine derailed. Detrained at De Kennabate at 7 pm and marched to Neuve Eglise billets.	
	"	31 <sup>st</sup>	"	50 off 985 privs.	All ranks greatly benefited by the long rest, and the troops returned in excellent health and morale. At 4 pm Battalion marched out to relieve 11 <sup>th</sup> Australian Battalion in Messine Sectn. at GAPARD. Right Batt-30 <sup>th</sup> Left Batt-31 <sup>st</sup> . Relief completed at 9 pm. Very dark and foggy but quiet and orderly relief. No casualties.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms, C2118/14

C. S. Tratman Captain  
a/Co 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

# WAR DIARY

OF

32<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION

FOR

JANUARY 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1.

Battalion Order No 7.

2.

" " No 8.

3.

Battalion Defence Scheme  
(GAPARD. Messines Sector)

SECRET.

ORDER No. 7.

Map Ref. Sheet 28. 1/10000 &amp; CALAIS 1/100,000.

27th. January 1918

1. The 32nd. Battalion will move from DESVRES to the forward area in the MESSINES Sector as under :-
  - (a) Personnel by Train on 30th. instant ~~to~~ from SAMER.
  - (b) Portion of Transport by train on 30th. inst. from DESVRES.
  - (c) Remainder of Transport by Road on 29th. instant.
2. The portion of Transport in para.(b) will consist of 4 Cookers, 1 Limber 1 Water Cart, 1 Mess Cart all Bicycles and 3 Riding Horses and will report to entraining Officer (Lt. E. JOY, 31st. Bn) before 6.30 a.m. on 30th. instant.
3. The Battalion will march to SAMER on the 30th. as follows :-
 

Order of March :- Hqrs. "A" "B" "C" "D" A.M.C.  
 Starting Point :- Battalion Hqrs. Mess. (Facing Town hall).  
 Time of Start :- 3.50 a.m.  
 Dress :- Full Marching Order, Felt Hats, 1 Blanket with Waterproof Sheet around pack, Steel Helmets on Pack.  
 Lewis Guns and Three panniers per gun to be carried.  
 Reveille :- 1.45 a.m. on 30th.  
 Breakfast:- 2.15 a.m. "
4. An Advance Party for billeting, consisting of Lieut. Prockter and 1 N.C.O. from "A" & "B" Coys. will entrain at DESVRES at 8.40 a.m. on 29th. inst. They will take bikes and will report to Captain Bridgeford at NEUVE EGLISE Church at 2.30 p.m. on 29th. An Advance party for the line consisting of 1 Officer per Company, Lieut Ward & Lieut. Alexander (to take over works) and 2 N.C.O. per Company and 4 Intelligence Section will proceed by train from SAMER at 6 a.m. on 29th. and will report to Brigade Intelligence Officer (Lieut. Lacey) at 3rd. Infantry Brigade, WULVERGHEM for instructions on arrival.
5. Detrainment at BAILLEUL. Lieut. Trimmer "B" Company will report to an Officer detailed by Div. Hqrs. at BAILLEUL on arrival to act as detrainning Officer.
6. States. Complete Marching Out States to reach Bn. Orderly Room by 9 p.m. on 29th.
7. Working Party. "A" Company will supply 1 Officer and 35 O/Es. for Loading Transport at DESVRES, to report to Lieut. E. JOY 31st. Bn. at 5.30 a.m. on 30th. at DESVRES Station. This party will proceed by Transport Train and will unload at BAILLEUL. On completion the Party will rejoin the Battalion as soon as possible.
8. Baggage Stores.
  - (a) Coys. Stores and all panniers less three per gun and Officers Baggage will be stored in R.Q.M.'s. Store by 1 p.m. on 29th. and will be taken by Motor Lorry to destination.
  - (b) One Blanket per man will be rolled in section bundles, labelled and stacked at Company Orderly Room by 1 p.m. on 29th. ~~These~~ These Blankets will go by Transport Train. One man per Coy. to go with blankets.
9. Area Stores. Latrine (Buckets), Seats, Hessian etc. Palliases, Lamps and Washing Basins will be stored at R.Q.M.'s. Store by 10 a.m. on 29th. R.Q.M. to hand to Area Commandant and obtain receipts. Temporary Trench Latrines will be dug under Company arrangements and filled in before departure. All billets, latrines, cook-houses, stables etc. must be left in a clean condition. Area Stores will be taken over from 3rd. Brigade and receipts forwarded to Battalion Orderly Room by 6 p.m. on 30th.
10. "D" Company will supply 1 N.C.O. and 9 men to clean up all billets on 30th. On completion of work party to report to 2/Lieut. Ohlstrom (who will be in charge of cleaning the Brigade Area) 2/Lieut. Ohlstrom to obtain receipts for Battalion Area and hand to Battalion Orderly Room on arrival in new area.

*M. Hardy*  
 Lieutenant.  
 A/Adjutant 32nd. Battalion A.I.F.

Copy No. 1 C.O.

2. "A" Coy.

3. "B" "

4. "C" "

5. "D" "

6. R.E.O.

7. R.E.L.

8. File.

9. War Diary.

*Handwritten signature/initials*

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Adjutant General's Office



22nd. Australian Infantry Battalion.

General. Administrative Order with Battalion Order No 8.

20th Jan. 1917

*App 2*

1. RATIONS :- All rations for battalion will leave H.Q. store at Daylight Corner reaching Reserve Company at 3.30 p.m. by the following method :
  - (a) By trucks taken by engines to Bell Pore Camp.
  - (b) By trucks pulled by mules to Lesmines.
  - (c) At Lesmines most rations are taken off and prepared.
  - (d) Dry Rations are now handled by Reserve Company to within 200 yards of Engineers Camp.
  - (e) Support Company will carry to front line and supports.
  - (f) Hot Rations and tea will be carried in Hot boxes by Reserve Company to "Ink Line". Support Company, will carry to front line.
2. SOCKS :- Companies will take one pair of socks in the pack. Tomorrow evening Companies will change socks and send wet socks to drying shed, by one reliable man per Company. These men will remain at drying shed until the next evening when dry socks will be taken back to Companies and wet socks returned.
3. RATIONS :- There is a reserve of 1200 Iron Rations at Battalion H.Q.
4. WATER :- Front line Companies can draw water from well at Capard. Support Company draws from the creek. Reserve Company from Lesmines.
5. ... :- ... is in same place as formerly.
6. FRENCH SHIRT :- All Companies will bathe feet before moving to-day. Each day foot powder will be issued to Companies.
7. GUM BOOTS :- Gum boots will be issued to "C" and "D" Companies before moving off to-day. Ankle boots of these Companies will be stored at Company Orderly Room by 3 p.m. "A" and "B" Companies will wear ankle boots and arrangements are being made to supply these Companies with Gum Boots in the line.
- 1a. RATIONS (continued) :-
  - (a) Hot tea in mornings will be prepared in the support line and carried by support Company to front line.
  - To enable these arrangements to be carried out Companies will send tomorrow afternoon the following Cooks.
    - 1 Cook per Company from each front line Company and 1 from support Company to Cook house in supports.
    - 2 Cooks per Company to Reserve Company.
    - 3 Cooks per Company to H.Q. at Daylight Corner.

*Hardy*

Lieutenant.

Adjutant, 22nd Battalion A.I.F.

APPENDIX 2.

*[Faint, illegible text on lined paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. A large handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'C' or '7' is visible in the upper right quadrant.]*

259  
War Diary

32nd. Australian Infantry Battalion.

Copy No. 98

SECRET.

Order No. 8.

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

30th January 1918.

*Handwritten signature/initials*

1. The 32nd. Battalion will relieve the 11th. Battalion (Right Centre Battln in the Brigade Sector) tomorrow night, 31st. January 1918.
2. The inter Battalion Boundaries and the Inter Company boundary are the same as when Battalion was formally in the sector.
3. The Battalion on the right will be the 30th. Battalion, the Battalion on the left will be the 31st. Battalion.
4. The dispositions of the Battalion will be as follows :-

Right Front Coy.	"C" Company.
Left " "	"D" "
Support Company.	"B" "
Reserve Company.	"A" "

5. The Battalion will relieve as follows :-

Order of March.	"C" "D" "B" "A" Coys.
Starting Point.	Battalion Headquarters Mess.
Time of Start.	4 p.m.
Dress.	Full marching Order, less Haversack. Steel Helmets, S.B.Rs. at the alert, packs to contain the following articles :-

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Overcoat.             | 5. Dry Rations for 1st. Febr. |
| 2. W.B. Sheet.           | 6. "                          |
| 3. Iron Rations          |                               |
| 4. Towel & Shaving Gear. |                               |

6. 21 Magazines per Gun will be taken.  
Distances :- 5 Minute intervals between Companies to Wulverghem then 100 Yards distance between platoons.

6. One Guide per Platoon will meet each Company at the wind vane.

7. Blankets will be rolled in Sections, labelled and stacked at Company Orderly Room by 1 p.m.  
Mens haversacks and Officers Kits will also be stacked at Coy. Orderly Room by 1 p.m.  
R.O.M. will arrange to store.

8. Trench Stores, dumps, Defence Schemes etc. will be taken over and copies of receipts given forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 9 a.m. 1st. February.

9. Complete dispositions maps showing Coys. dispositions with all information will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 6 p.m. 1st. February.

10. Coys. will wire relief as follows :-

"A".	Football.
"B"	Cricket.
"C"	Sports.
"D"	Running.

*Handwritten signature: Murray*

Lieutenant.  
A/Adjutant 32nd. Battalion A.I.F.

- Copy No. 1. C.O.  
 2. "A" Coy.  
 3. "B" Coy.  
 4. "C" Coy.  
 5. "D" Coy.  
 6. R.Q.M.  
 7. R.L.O.  
 8. File.  
 9. War Diary.  
 10 30<sup>th</sup> 1/10 Gas for information  
 11 31<sup>st</sup> 1/10 Gas for information

259

SECRET.

Copy No. 10

9

32nd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

DEFENCE SCHEME.

PROVISIONAL.

App 3.

RIGHT CENTRE BATTALION SECTOR.

CONTENTS.

- 1. DEFENCE SCHEME.
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS.

-----00000000-----

- Copy No.
- 1. C.O.
  - 2. "A"
  - 3. "B"
  - 4. "C"
  - 5. "D"
  - 6. Brigade.
  - 7. Left Battalion.
  - 8. Right Battalion.
  - 9. File.
  - 10. War Diary.

32ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTN.	
No.	66/388
Date	

259

DEFENCE SCHEME.

*App 3*

Map Reference. Sheet 28 S.W. 1/10,000.

Frontage. 1. The Battalion front extends from O 35 d 8.0. to O 29 c 59.

Boundaries. 2. Right. Grid line from O 35 d 8.0. to HUNS WALK thence west along the road.  
Left. The BLAWPOORTHEEK through O 29.c.5.0. to O.33.b.1.9. thence elbow farm.  
Inter-Company Boundary. Line running E. & W. through O.35.d.20.75.

Line of Defence. 3. (a) The line of posts nearest the enemy are known as the "front line"  
(b) The line of posts approximately 200 Yards in rear of (a) are known as the "Regimental Support Line".  
(c) The two (a) & (b) are known as "Outpost System".  
(d) The line of posts through O 34 Central are known as the "Support System".  
(e) The line of Posts through O 34 a 0.0. are known as the "Reserve System".  
Posts are given numbers from right to left.

Method of holding Outpost System. 4. (a) The "Outpost Line" is held by two Coys. The right Coy holds from Inter Battalion boundary to Inter Company Boundary. Coy. H. at O 35 c 6 6.  
The left Coy. holds from inter Coy. boundary to BLAWPOORTHEEK Coy. H. at O 35 A 53.  
Each Company has two platoon posts in front line and two in Regimental Support Line.  
(b) One Company is held in Battalion Supports in the line of posts through O 34 central. Coy. H. at O 34 b 20 25.  
(c) One Coy. is held in reserve in Messines Coy. H. at O 32 D 4 5.

Method of Defence. 5. (a) The idea is to hold in depth with rear posts covering the intervals between forward posts.  
(b) All Posts in Coy. areas will be occupied by a nucleus garrison of the Coy.  
(c) A thorough knowledge of the country and existing system of posts and trenches, used and disused, will be of great importance for counter attacks and all officers and N.C.Os. must make a thorough reconnaissance by night and where possible by day.

Action in case of attack. 6. Against a Raid. The enemy will be immediately counter-attacked by the nearest posts and by the posts on the flanks of all portion raided. Post/Commanders will without awaiting orders endeavour to enfilade enemy from No Man's Land and prevent raiding party returning to his lines.

Against a General Attack.  
(a) Front Line and Regimental Support Coys. will not give ground but will hold on at all costs.  
(b) Support Coy. will be prepared to launch a counter-attack against any part of the line or to occupy the Regimental Support line or any part thereof.  
(c) Reserve Coy. will be prepared to move forward to :-  
(1) Occupy Reserve Line.  
(2) Occupy Support Line or any posts thereof.  
(3) Launch a Counter-attack against any portion of the front.  
(4) Form a defensive flank.

The Code word for (1) is MOVE.  
The code word for (2) is COME.  
An Officer will report to Battalion Headquarters when company is in position.  
(d) As the C.T. and regular routes would be subjected to severe shellfire alternate routes must be reconnoitred.

*Handwritten initials: S.O.S. and a large scribble.*

(e) If front system is forced Battalion H.Q. will move to R.A.P. and Battalion H. Details under the I.O. will man the fire positions on either side of present H.Q.

- 7. (a) The present S.O.S. is a Rifle Grenade bursting into Red over Green over Yellow. This applies by night and day.
- (b) The Signal - two Reds and two Whites - will be fired by front line Coys. to call for a barrage on a particular front in case of an attempted raid.
- (c) Signals will not be repeated laterally.
- (d) The lengthen range signal - a 1 1/2" Very Light changing from White to Green - is used by Artillery Liason Officer only.

Machine Guns. 8. Vickers Machine Guns for defence only are emplaced at O 35 c 55 55. O 35 a 2.2. O 34 d 6 6 and O 34 d 6.5. and open fire in case of attack. All Guns are available for anti aircraft defence.

L.T.M. Battery. 7. Defence Mortars are emplaced at O 35 d 2 8 and O 35 A 4 4. and only fires from these positions in case of attack. Alternate emplacements for normal firing are used.

Working. 9. Working and Carrying Parties will carry fighting order. All Parties forward of the Reserve Line come under orders of Battalion Commander and will form up in case of attack in convenient formation and immediately inform Battalion H.Q.

*Handwritten signature: A. Kaidy*  
Lieutenant.  
A/Adjutant 32nd Battalion A.I.F.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS.Dumps.

(a) Brigade Dump is at MOULIN de l'Hospice U 2 a 7 9, containing

S.A.A.	200000 rounds.
Mills No.3 Rifle	
Grenades.	1500.
Stokes 3" Shells.	500.
" Cartridges	500
(green)	
"P" Bombs.	240.
Males No.24 Rifle	
Grenades.	500.
Very Lights 1"	10 Boxes.
" " 1 1/2"	5 "

Each platoon post in the front, support and Regimental lines contains and will maintain :-

6000 rounds S.A.A.      50 Mills No.5 bombs.

(b) R.E. Dump. Main Divisional Dump is at P 3 d 2.9.  
Bell Farm Dump at Q 31 c 1 0  
Swaynes Dump at Q 32 d 3 1.

(c) Ration supply. Rations are loaded on to DECAUVILLE RAILWAY at DAYLIGHT CORNER at 2 p.m. daily, taken to BELL FARM Dump from which point they are conveyed by Tramway to tramhead at Q 34 a 1 4.

(d) Cooking. Cookhouses are located at  
(1) Messines. Q 34 d 4 6.  
(2) Support Line Q 34 c 9 7.

Hot food is prepared at MESSINES and taken forward by Reserve Company to front lines and Support Coys. All Cooking for Reserve Coy. is done at MESSINES.

Hot Tea is prepared twice nightly at Support Line for front line and supports.

(e) Water Supply. Water is drawn from well at MESSINES Q 32 d 8 1 for Reserve Coy. - from running stream at Q 34 b 2 2 for Support Coy. and from well at GAPARD Q 35 a 26 20 for front line Coy.

(f) Medical Arrangements.

(a) R.A.P. is established at Q 34 a 9 1.

Bearer relay posts are at Q 33 b 4 4 and at Q 32 d 45 60.

(b) Method of evacuation.

From R.A.P. by hand carriages via Relay Posts to BOYLES Farm U 1 a 2 1 thence by car to A.D.S.

Walking wounded by same route to A.D.S.

S.O.S.Signals.

Front Line posts each	1.
Company Hqs.	" 1.
Battln. Hqs.	3.

ReserveRations.

Battalion Headquarters	1,500.
Moulin Dump.	600 Tins Meat.
	500 lbs biscuits.

H.Q. Locations. Brigade. North Midland Farm (T 6 c 7 8).

Rear Brigade. Iylo Farm (T 9 d 3 3).

Front Zone.

Battalion Headquarters.	Q 34 b 2 3.
Right Forward Company.	Q 35 c 6 6.
Left " "	Q 35 a 5 3.
Support Company.	Q 34 b 20 25.
Reserve Company.	Q 32 d 4 5.

*A. Hardy.* Lieutenant.  
A/Adjutant 2nd. Battalion A.I.F.