

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/49/38

Title: 32nd Infantry Battalion

September 1918



AWM4-23/49/38

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

259

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

32nd Battalion

FOR

September 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

[Signature]
Leut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Signature]

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

259

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 74

Map Reference 62° 1/40,000 (Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sq N11 | 1 | | Battn in Reserve to 14 th & 15 th Brigades - at dusk moved to square I31 nearer the Somme, the 15 th Brigade having crossed the river | |
| Square I31 | 2 | | Battn at disposal of GOC 15 th Brigade, nothing eventuated | |
| | 3 | | do do GOC 15 th Brigade until 5 a.m. Then crossed R. Somme with balance of 8 th Brigade by footbridge at HALLE moved into Reserve in Square I20 in front of HALLE | |
| | 4 | | Relieved 25 th Battn in front line on ridge E of MONT ST QUENTIN - front 1000 yards, left sector. Relief complete by 11 p.m. A.C. & D Coy in front line B. Coy in support. | |
| | 5 | | Noticed that during morning enemy movement was to rear and at 3 p.m. strong fighting patrols pushed forward towards BUSSU passed through village and occupied line 500 ⁺ east of village. Little or no opposition encountered during a total advance of about 3000 ⁺ . Battn moved forward reestablished line with two companies and two companies in support. | |
| Sq O16 | 6 | | 10.30 p.m. 5 th 42 nd Br took over sector and Battn moved to O16 west of Le MESNIL - 2 Coys arrived at 4 a.m. 2 Coys at 6 a.m. Battn in support to 29 th Battn. All ranks thoroughly exhausted. Advance continued at 7 a.m. except by 2 Coys which occupied BUSSU these moved at noon | |
| Bois de Bias | | | Final objective reached at 8.30 a.m. total advance of 4,000 ⁺ Cookers went forward to Coys. | |
| P156 | 7 | | advance continued at 6 a.m. no opposition for 3000 ⁺ when infantry came under shell fire | |

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 75

259

Map Reference 62° 1/40,000 (Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|-------------------|------|---|---|
| | 1918 September | | | |
| BERNES | 7 | | from rearward batteries. Final objective reached at 9 a.m. 1000 E of BERNES. Intermittent shelling until midday by 77 ^s and 4.2" guns few casualties | Strength Off. 38 OR. 618 |
| | 8/9 | | Battalion remained in support to 29 th Battalion on same line. | |
| | 10 | | Battn. relieved on night of 10 th /11 th by two companies of 49 th Battn. and moved back to square I 35 west of DOIGNT. From 1 st /10 th Sept. Battn. marched over 50 Kilos, advanced over 3000* against the enemy, captured BUSSU and supported 29 th Bri in an advance of 13,000* Daily sick parades were below normal, and men exhibited exceptionally fine spirit. In 14 days over 90 Kilos had been covered as well as participating in a total advance of 26,000* against the enemy in which the Battn. captured the villages of FAY, ASSEVILLERS & BUSSU Total Casualties 1/10 th Sept - Killed 3 OR, wounded 2 Officers 21 OR. | |
| DOIGNT. | 11 | | Battalion arrived at DOIGNT-I 35. M.Ms awarded to No 308 Sgt ADDISON M.S., 3539 Sgt DENSLEY A.I. | Strength 14 th Off. 40 OR. 645 |
| | 12/16 | | Battalion rested and cleaned up generally | |
| | 16/26 | | Platoons, Coy, and Battalion training carried out daily from 9 a.m. till noon. Specialist Training; Lewis Gunners, Grenadiers, Signallers and Intelligence. Training for Battalion and Brigade Sports Competition carried on. Route marches held on 21 st , 24 th 26 th | Strength 21 st Off. 43 OR. 645 |
| | | | 26 th Decorations awarded: - Bar to M.C. Capt. J. H. ALLEN; M.C. Lieut P. F. LUCAS, Lieut H. WALKER. | |

[Handwritten signature]
2

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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626 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Reference map 6265-1/40,000 (Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date 1918 September | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|---------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| DOIGNT. | 16/26 | | Battalion athletic sports were held on 19 th and Brigade Competitions on 23 rd - This Battalion was successful again in the aggregate. The Cup was not contested for. Results:- Won, Jug of War, Tied for PT & BF, L.G. Comp, Broad Jump, Putting Shot. Second place in High Jump, 100 yards, 1 mile, Obstacle, Putting Shot, Gas Comptn, Hurdles, Throwing Cricket Ball. | |
| HESBECOURT | 27 28 29 | | Battalion moved forward to HESBECOURT at 4:30pm and arrived there at 11pm. bivouaced Remained in bivouacs during day, arrangements made for attack the following day. Battalion moved with 1 Vickers and 2 trench mortar sections at 7am. to jumping off line in front of BELLICOURT. At 9am advance commenced to "Green line", at 9:15 heavy fog & smoke came down making visibility impossible. Pushed on to Tunnel at G15a & b, G9c & d encountered heavy mg. fire. 7 Tanks of 1 st Tank Battalion mopped up opposition. Fog lifted and Battalion moved to attack NAUROX on South side. Two Coy attacking, 1 in support and 1 in Reserve. In G17a hard fighting was encountered. Finding no Americans in this area all 4 Coys were thrown into the attack and at 11:30am junction was made with 4 th Leicesters at G30a & 74 our D Coy having successfully mopped up southern portion of NAUROX. By noon line of sunken road MAGNY-LA-FOSSE - ETRICOURT - G18 to central was reached with our left flank held up. ETRICOURT was mopped up and about 20 prisoners 4 guns & 3 MGs captured | Strength Off 39 R. 641 |

3

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 77.

259

Reference Map 626

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|-------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ETRICOURT | 1918 September 29 | | Northern half of MAGNY-LA-FOSSE cleared, but a defensive left flank had to be formed. At 2.30pm final objective was reached between FOSSE WOOD and H 21 G 23. Strong battle patrols moved towards JONCOURT and Sugar Factory and captured a few prisoners. At 5pm consolidation was commenced on line LA-FOSSE wood to ETRICOURT. Enemy counter-attacked at 5.30pm but was beaten off with Rifle and MG fire. Junction was effected with 31 st Batten at 6pm. at G 18 d 65. | |
| | 30 | | 7am. Batten attacked to conform with line of 32 nd Divn on our Right. Line advanced 1500 ⁺ and to 500 ⁺ north of ETRICOURT. Heavy shell and MG fire was met with. A few prisoners 2 machine guns and 2 minenwerfers captured. At dusk line was consolidated from JONCOURT - ETRICOURT. Total Captures for two days 250 prisoners 20 Guns (15.9", 64.2", 13 77s) 30 machine guns 5 3" minenwerfers Rifles and ammunition Total Casualties :- Killed 3 officers 18 OR.; Wounded 3 officers, 101 ORs. | |

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 35,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

[Signature]
CO. 32nd BATTN

18,000-12/17 8723

WAR DIARY

OF

32nd Battalion AIF.

FOR

September 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No:

Subject.

as attached

file
 Narrative of the operations carried out by the 32nd. Battalion, A.I.F. during the period 31st. August to 7th. September 1918. Map Sheet 62 c. 1/40,000.

On 30th. August 1918 the Battalion had been relieved from supports near BARLEUX and had marched back to CUISINE WOOD near FONTAINE where it was expected we would remain for some days resting.

On 31st. August however, orders were received that the Battalion was to move by route march to square N 11. between FLAUCOURT and BARLEUX, where, as part of the 8th. Brigade we would be in reserve to the 14th. and 15th. Brigades. We left at 3 p.m. and moved through DOMPIERRE and BECQUINCOURT to the destination, a distance of about 10 kilos. On 1st. September the Battalion remained in the position, but at dusk moved nearer the river to square I 31. as the 15th. Brigade had crossed the river SOMME and were gradually pushing through PERONNE.

On 2nd. September the Battalion was placed at the disposal of the G.O.C. 15th. Brigade for the purpose of ~~clearing~~ clearing up FLAMICOURT, a village on the S.W. side of PERONNE which the enemy was holding very strongly and which had caused the 15th. Brigade great trouble. During the day and until 5 a.m. on the 3rd. Sept. we remained under the 15th. Brigades orders, but as we were not required by them, in conjunction with the remainder of the 8th. Brigade the Battalion crossed the river SOMME by foot bridge at HALLE at 7 a.m. and moved into reserve in square I 20, just in front of HALLE.

On the night of the 4/5th. the 8th. Brigade took over a sector off the front line, the 32nd. taking over the left sector and the 30th. the right with a frontage of 1,000 yards each. We relieved the 25th. and 26th. Battalions, 2nd. Aust. Div., who were holding the ridge in front of MONT STOMENTIN. Relief was completed by 11 p.m., with A.C. & D. Coy in the front line and B Coy ~~in~~ support.

During the morning of the 5th. it was evident that the enemy, if forced, would retire, as all movement reported was backward and villages and dumps behind his lines ~~xxxx~~ were seen burning. Accordingly at 3 p.m. strong fighting patrols from A & C Coys. moved forward towards BUSSU passing right through the village and halting about 500 yards in front. The flanking units had also pushed on and no opposition was encountered during the advance, a distance of nearly 3,000 yards. Supporting platoons moved forward as soon as the fighting patrols reported all clear and the line was securely held by two Coys. with two Coys. in support.

At 6 p.m. on the 5th., orders were received that the Battalion would be relieved by the 42nd. Bn., 3rd. Div. and that on completion of relief the 32nd. Bn. would move by march route through PERONNE to square O 16., behind Le MESINIL and would from there continue the advance as support Bn. to the 29th. at 7 a.m. on the 6th.

The 42nd. Bn. moved into our sector but did not take over as their orders were to only move through us and advance at 12 midnight, but at 10.30 p.m. on the 5th. word was received from Brigade H.Qrs. that the 11th. Bde. assumed responsibility for the sector. Le MESINIL was reached at 4 a.m. by two Coys. but not until 6 a.m. by the remainder of the Bn. By this time all ranks were extremely ^{exhausted} through long marches and continuous duty almost without sleep for several days, and when the advance was commenced at 7 a.m. permission was obtained for the two Coys. who had advanced through BUSSU the previous day and had only reached the starting point at 6 a.m., to remain behind until mid-day.

Appendix I

(2)

The 29th and 31st. Bns commenced ~~xxxx~~ their advance at 7 a.m. supported by two Coys. of ourselves on the left and 30th.Bn. on the right. No opposition was met with and by 8.30 a.m. we were on our final objective an advance of over 4,000 yards. Cookers were taken right up to the Coys. and during the day the Bn. remained in support to the 29th.Bn.

At 6 a.m. ~~on~~ on the 7th. the advance was continued, with the 32nd. still in support to the 29th.Bn. The enemy after we had gone about 3,000 yards commenced to offer some opposition and his batteries remained close behind his rearguard and for the remainder of the advance to the objective continually shelled the advancing infantry. By 9 a.m. the objective, about a 1,000 yards in ~~front~~ front of BERNES & FLECHIN, had been reached, and the Battalion re-organised in support to the 29th.Bn. For about 2 hours the enemy still shelled the forward area fairly heavily with 77s. and 4.2. guns, but very few casualties were caused in the Bn.

Since the afternoon of the 31st. August, the Bn. had marched more than 50 kilos, had advanced 3,000 yards against the enemy, captured the village of BUSSU, and had supported the 29th.Bn. in an advance of more than 13,000 yards.

During that period the daily sick parade was far smaller than during normal days and the men had shown a very fine spirit, and especially on the 6th. inst., after advancing 3,000 yards on the 5th. and marching nearly 11 kilos on the 5/6th., had resumed the advance again at 7 a.m. very cheerfully.

In all, from the 26th. August until the 7th. September we had marched more than 90 kilos, had participated in an advance of more than 26,000 yards and had captured the villages of FAY, ASSEVILLERS and BUSSU.

The total Casualties to the Battalion from the 31st. August to the 7th September were:—

| | Officers. | | | Other Ranks. | |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| | Killed | Wounded. | | Killed | Wounded. |
| | - | + | 31/8/18. | + | 2. |
| | - | - | 1/9/18. | - | - |
| | - | - | 2/9/18. | - | - |
| | - | 2. 22 | 3/9/18. | 2. | 12. |
| | - | - | 4/9/18. | - | 1. |
| | - | - | 5/9/18. | - | 3. |
| | - | - | 6/9/18. | - | - |
| | - | - | 7/9/18. | 1. | 3. |
| TOTALS. | - | 2. | | 3. | 21. |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 32ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTN. | |
| No. | 614/445 |
| Date | |

9/9/18.

[Signature]
Lieut. ~~COLONEL~~
C.O., 32nd. Battalion, A.I.F...

Appendix

Copy No. 1

32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Order No. 36.

Map Sheet 62c S.E. 62c S.W.

20th. September 1918.

1. The Battalion will carry out a march route tomorrow, 21st. inst. as under :-

Starting Point :- Quarry at Road Corner I 35 d 5 8
(Facing North).

Time of Start :- 8.50 a.m.

Order of March :- H.Q. "D" "C" "B" "A" A.M.C.

Dress :- Fighting Order, Felt Hats, S.B.Rs. slung
over right shoulder, No L.Gs.

Distances :- 100 Yards between Platoons.
200 Yards between Coys.

Halts :- Normal Halts will be observed.

2. Men actually representing the Battalion at Brigade Sports and Company Cooks and men Regimentally employed to be the only exemptions.
3. Headquarters Lewis Gunners will carry 2 Lewis Guns on limber for A.A. Defence.
4. The strictest march discipline to be observed on the march.
5. Company Commanders horses will be available at 8.30 a.m.
6. Parade States to reach R.S.M. by 8.15 a.m.

- Copy No. 1. C.O.
2. "A"
3. "B"
4. "C"
5. "D"
6. R.M.O.
7. T.O.
8/10 War Diary.
11 File.

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

Copy No.

10

2nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.Order No. 37.

Map Sheet 620 S.E. 620 S.W.

23rd. September 1918.

1. The Battalion will carry out a march route tomorrow, 24th. instant, as under :-

Starting Point:- Quarry at Road Corner I 30 d 5 8 (Facing North)
Time of Start :- 8.50 a.m.
Order of March:- H.Q. "C" "A" "B" "D" A.M.C.
Dress :- Fighting Order, Felt Hats, S.B.Bs. slung over right shoulder, No. 1.Gs.
Distances:- 100 Yards between Platoons.
 200 Yards between Coys.
Halts:- Normal Halts will be observed.

2. ~~Men~~ ~~representing~~ ~~the~~ ~~unit~~ Company Cooks and men regimentally employed to be the only exemptions.
 3. Headquarter Lewis Gunners will carry 2 Lewis Guns on licker for A.A. Defence.
 4. The strictest march discipline will be observed on the march.
 5. Company Commanders horses will be available at 8.30 a.m.
 6. Parade States to reach R.S.E. by 8.15 a.m.

Atady
 Lieutenant,
 Adjutant 2nd. Battalion A.I.F.

- Copy No. 1. C.O.
 2. "A"
 3. "B"
 4. "C"
 5. "D"
 6. R.M.C.
 7. T.O.
 8/10. War Diary.
 11. File.

Copy No. 7

32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.ORDER No. 28.

25th. September 1918.

The Battalion will carry out a march route tomorrow 26th. instant as under :-

Starting Point :- Quarry at Road Corner I 35 & 5 G.
Time of Start :- 8.50 a.m.
Order of March :- H.Q. "B" "A" "D" "C" A.M.C. Transport.
Dress. Fighting Order, Felt Hats, 170 Rounds S.A.A., S.B.Rs. slung on right shoulder. No Lewis Guns.
Distances. 200 Yards between Companies.
Halts. Normal Halts will be observed.

2. Company Cooks and men Regimentally employed to be the only exemptions.
3. Headquarter Lewis Gunners will carry Two Lewis Guns on limber for A.A. Defence.
4. Strictest march discipline to be observed on the march.
5. Company Commanders Horses will be available at 8.30 a.m.
6. Parade States to reach R.S.M. by 8.15 a.m.

Sick parade 7.30 am. *Kearney* Lieutenant.
 Adjutant 32nd. Battalion A.I.F.

- Copy No. 1. C.O.
 2. "A"
 3. "B"
 4. "C"
 5. "D"
 6. R.M.O.
 7. T.O.
 8/10 War Diary.
 11. File.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 32ND AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTN. | |
| No. | <i>011571</i> |
| Date | |

SECRET

Copy No 2

32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.Order No. 40.

Map Sheet.

28th. September 1918.

1. The Australian Corps with the 11th. American Corps affiliated, will attack the enemy's positions in the HINDENBURG LINE in the sector NAUROY-GOUY on a date and at an hour to be notified later.
2. There will be a considerable bombardment by all available artillery lasting for a considerable period with the objective of :-
 1. Completing the demoralization of the enemy.
 2. Destroying the enemy's defences, including wire dugouts etc.

The attack will be carried out on a two Divisional Front - boundaries and objectives being as shown on maps already issued to Coy. Commanders.
3. The 30th. American Division will attack and hold the first objective (Green Line) as shown on map issued.
4. The 5th. Australian Division will advance through the 30th. American Division and capture and hold the Red Line as shown on map issued.
5. The attack by the 5th. Division will be carried out with the 8th. Brigade on the right and the 15th. Brigade on the left - the 14th. Brigade being in Reserve.
6. The 32nd. Battalion will be the Right assaulting Battalion and the 29th. Battalion will be the left assaulting Battalion with the 31st. Battalion in Support and the 30th. Battalion in Reserve.
7. The Battalion will move from its present position to the Green Line under orders to be issued later.
8. The advance from the present position to the new one will be in two columns :-

"B" Company on the Right. "D" Coy. on the left.
 "A" Company behind "D" (In Support)
 "C" Company behind "B" Coy. (in Reserve)
 Battalion Headquarters will move in the centre in rear of the Battalion.

From the Green Line to the final objective, Coys. will advance in Artillery Formation, with Sections in file, and a line of skirmishers in front, Fifty Yards behind the tanks.

"B" Company will be on the right.
 "D" Company will be on the left.
 "A" Company will be in Support 200 Yards behind the assaulting Coys.
 "C" Company will be in Reserve 200 Yards behind the Supporting Coy.
9. "B" Company will have One Platoon moving on their right flank to keep liaison with the Americans.

Order No.40 Page 2

9.
Cont'd. "D" Company will have One Platoon in Support on their left flank to keep liaison with the 29th. Battalion.
"A" Company will be ready to fill any gaps in the line and will also pay particular attention to JONCOURT.
10. As soon as the final objective is reached Coys. will consolidate in depth; "A" Coy. supporting "D" Coy. and "C" Coy. supporting "B" Coy.
11. All Commanders will be responsible for their own protection and at all halts men will lie down, but will not deploy into smaller formations than sections unless the situation demands such. The guiding principle will be to avoid premature dispersion and consequent loss of control by unit Commanders.
12. Headquarters Lewis Gun Section will ~~support~~^{supply} the A.A. protection during the advance under the control of Lieut. Crain.
13. Prisoners will be sent back to Battalion Headquarters under escort, special care must be taken that no documents are destroyed by prisoners. Paybooks and Identity discs must not be taken from prisoners.
14. The action of Artillery, Vickers Machine Guns, Tanks and Armoured Cars is issued separately.
15. The signal, Medical and Administrative arrangements are issued separately.
16. Synchronisation of watches will be carried out by an Officer from Battalion Headquarters before Zero.
17. Position of Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P., after the final objective is reached will be notified to all concerned.
18. Reports and Maps to Battalion Headquarters with all possible speed.
19. Acknowledge.

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

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Copy No.1. C.O. | No.11 29th. Battalion. |
| 2. Brigade. | 12. 30th. Battalion. |
| 3. "A" | 13. 31st. Battalion. |
| 4. "B" | 14/16. War Diary. |
| 5. "C" | 17. File. |
| 6. "D" | 18/19. Spare. |
| 7. R.Q.M. & T.O. | |
| 8. R.M.O. | |
| 9. I.O. & L.G.O. | |
| 10. R.S.M. & Sig. Sgt. | |



SECRET.

32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

ACTION OF TANKS AND ARMoured CARS.

1. 4 (Four) Mark V Tanks will operate with the Battalion during the advance from the Green Line to the Red Line.
4 (Four) Whippet Tanks will also operate with the Brigade.
2. Tanks will carry notice boards affixed on the back of the tank showing the Battalion colours.
3. One Liaison man from the Battalion will be carried in each tank.
4. The Tank Section Commander will be with Battalion Headquarters during the advance.
5. The Tanks will deploy into fighting formation on the Green Line at 11 a.m. and will signal with a Green and White Flag to the Infantry, when they move forward.
6. The Armoured Cars and Whippet Tanks will push through to exploit the success beyond the Red Line.

Stacy

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

Issued to all recipients of
Battalion Order No.40.

SECRET32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION
WITH OPERATION ORDER No.40.

28th. September 1918.

1. Dress. ~~Blanket~~ Battle Order, Blanket Rolled in W.P. Sheet on top of Haversack, S.B.Rs. at the alert, Entrenching Tool in front of the body.
2. Rations. To be carried in Haversack, 2 Iron Rations, Dry Rations; 2 Water Bottles filled.
3. Stores. The following munitions and stores will be carried :-
 - (a) S.A.A. 170 Rnds per man.
L.Gs. All Lewis Guns and 16 Magazines per gun.
1 Pack mule per Coy. carrying 32 magazines will be taken forward to Coys. as early as possible at T.Os. discretion.
 - (b) Aeroplane Flares. One per man. These will be lighted by assaulting Coys when called for by Contact Aeroplanes.
 - (c) Tin Discs. Tin Discs will be concealed under the S.B.Rs. and flashed in the sun when Contact Aeroplanes calls.
 - (d) Picks and Shovels. All available Picks and Shovels to be carried, these tools are to be carried on the back under the haversacks.
 - (e) S.O.S. Signals. Three per Company - Red over Red over Red.
 - (f) Success Signal. Ten per Company - White over White over White. These will be fired by all Coys. who reach the final objective. (Red Line).
 - (g) Wire Cutters. All available.
 - (h) No.36 Rifle Grenades. Fifty per Company.
 - (i) Webley S.A.A. 24 Rounds per Officer and Nos.1 Lewis Gun.
 - (j) Message Maps. 30 per Company. It is important when sending messages that the map location of the sender is given.
 - (k) Message Rockets. 2 per Company.
 - (l) No.27 Rifle Grenades. 36 per Company.
 - (m) Rations. The R.Q.M. will send forward Rations and Water each night.

All Officers will carry Rifle and Bayonet.

Adjutant

Lieutenant.

*Forwarded to all recipients of Opn
order No 40*

Handwritten signature

SECRET.

32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

28th. September 1918.

1. The clearing of Wounded from Front of Tanks.

Single Parties will be told off to clear wounded from the front of Tanks, to prevent them being crushed.

Every man will carry a piece of cloth. When a man is wounded and if he is able to, the cloth will be fastened to the butt of the Rifle and Rifle with Bayonet Fixed will be pushed into the ground to enable the Tanks to avoid the spot.

2. During the advance the A.M.C. will move in rear of "C" Company. After the final objective is reached the R.A.P. will be established near Battalion Headquarters at a position to be notified later.

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

Issued to all recipients of
Battalion Order No.40.

SECRET.

32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

ARTILLERY ARRANGEMENTS.

28th. September 1918.

1. 23 Brigades of Field Artillery, 10 Brigades of Heavy Artillery will comprise the barrage for the Americans.
2. The 5th.Div. Artillery will follow up the Infantry during the advance to the Red Line and will support consolidation.
3. One Section of Field Artillery will be attached to the Battalion during the advance.

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

Issued to all recipients
of Battalion Order No.40.

P.32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.SIGNAL COMMUNICATION.

28th September 1918.

1. During the advance, communication between Coys. and Battalion Headquarters will be by visual.
A Code for use by Signallers is issued herewith.
2. As soon as possible after the objective is reached communication to Coys. will be established by Telephone.
3. The Popham Panel will be used to signal messages to Contact Aeroplanes; from Battalion Headquarters Code letters are N.Z.
4. During the operation only the C.O. or Adjutant will use the Telephone at Battalion Headquarters and only the O.C.Coys. at Company Headquarters.

 6. CODE MESSAGES.

B.B.B. Enemy Retiring (at)
 F.F.F. Enemy offering resistance (at)
 G.G.G. Further bombardment wanted.
 N.N.N. S.A.A. Required.
 P.P.P. Reinforcements required.
 X.X.X. Held up by M.Gs. (at)
 Y.Y.Y. Grenades wanted.
 Z.Z.Z. Held up by Barb Wire.
 C.C.C. Am on Final objective.
 I.I.I. Am in touch on both flanks.
 L.L.L. Unit on my left held up.
 R.R.R. Unit on my Right held up.
 T.T.T. Enemy Massing (at)
 V.V.V. Enemy Counter-attacking (at)
 O.K. Everything going well.

Battalion Call

Company calls "A" Coy. Z.A. "B" Z.B. "C" Z.C. "D" Z.D.

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

Issued to all recipients of Battln.
 order no.40.

OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY 32nd. BATTALION 29th. SEPTEMBER/1st.
OCTOBER 1918.

32nd. Battalion left DOINGT at 4.30 p.m. on 27th. September 1918 and marched to bivouac area near HESBECOURT arriving at 11 p.m. Battalion remained in area until 7 a.m. on 29th. September (Zero Day) when it moved with One Section Vickers Guns and Two Trench Mortars to starting line in front of BELLICOURT..

At 9 a.m. the advance commenced to the Green Line. About 9.15 a.m. heavy fog and smoke drifted over making it impossible to see three yards ahead. Pushing on towards the tunnel in G 15 a & b & G 9 c & d heavy Machine Gun fire was met with and caused a number of casualties. Finding it impossible to advance without these guns being mopped up Seven Tanks of the 1st. Battalion Tank Corps were borrowed and these quickly accounted for the guns. A few prisoners and Two Machine Guns were captured. The fog lifted for a few minutes and the Battalion moved across the Tunnel and moved to the South of NAUROY. Two Companies attacking, 1 in Support and 1 Reserve. Heavy Machine Gun and shell fire was met with in 17 a. and hard fighting ensued. Two of our tanks being knocked out, the other two were sent to deal with enemy holding South of NAUROY and trenches South of same. These tanks did good work until knocked out near Watling Street.

Finding no American Troops in front (except for about 50 to 100 in road at 17 b) and having no touch with troops on Battalion right the whole four Coys. were thrown into the assault. At 11.30 a.m. a junction was made with 4th. Leicesters on right (about G 3 0 a 7 4) and the Battalion with left Company swung back moved forward. "D" Company mopped up the Southern half of NAUROY at 11.15 a.m. and pushed forward with a flank guard. At 12 noon the line of Sunken road from MAGNY-LA-FOSSE - ETRICOURT - G 18 b Central had been reached. Enemy was still holding out on our front and left flank. The Battalion again advanced mopped up ETRICOURT capturing 4 Guns and 3 Machine Guns with about 20 prisoners. The Northern half of MAGNY-LA-FOSSE was cleared and progress became quicker. No troops had up to this time come up on the left flank.

At 2.30 p.m. the final objective had been reached between FOSSE Wood (junction with English Division) to H 21 b 2 3. As left was still open 2 Companies were swung back towards ETRICOURT to form a defensive flank.

Strong Battle Patrols were pushed out towards JONCOURT and SUGAR FACTORY to endeavour to mop up these places. A few prisoners were captured.

At 5 p.m. it was decided to consolidate on line LA-FOSSE Wood - ETRICOURT. Battalion was then withdrawn to this line and dug in.

At 5.30 p.m. enemy commenced to Counter Attack from MILL RIDGE towards ETRICOURT. The attack was beaten off with Rifle and Lewis Gun fire.

Junction with 31st Battalion was effected at 6 p.m. at G 18 d 6 5.

At 7 a.m. on 30th. the Battalion attacked to conform with 32nd.

(2)

Division on our Right. The line was advanced about 1500 yards on Right and about 500 Yards North of ETRICOURT. Heavy Shell and Machine Gun fire was met with. The line JONCOURT-ETRICOURT was then held and consolidated. A few prisoners, 2 Machine Guns and 2 Minenwerfers were captured.

At dusk the line was pushed forward about 400 Yards to cover a further advance next morning but at 5.45 a.m. was withdrawn to clear our barrage.

At 6 a.m. October 1st. the Battalion plus "D" Company 30th. Battalion attacked MILL RIDGE. Barrage was good and progress quick. Heavy Machine Gun and Shell fire encountered but few casualties occurred. Patrols were immediately pushed into JONCOURT and found little resistance. Seven Prisoners, One 4.2" gun (with horses complete) were captured and a Company pushed through to the East of the village. The line H 15 b 3 6 - H 9 b 8 1 to H 9 a 2 2 was then held and patrols pushed on to BEAUREVOIR LINE but could make little progress as it was strongly held.

At 9 a.m. the Lanc. Fusiliers took over line from right flank to H 9 b 8 1.

Heavy shelling all day with Machine Gun fire stopped all chance of further progress.

At midnight the Battalion was relieved by 17th. Battalion A.I.F.

Total captures during three days by Battalion :-

20 Guns (One 5.9., Six 4.2., and 13 77)
 Over 30 Machine Guns.
 Five 3" Minenwerfers.
 250 Prisoners.
 Rifles and ammunition.

Battalion casualties :- 3 Officers ~~xxxxxxx~~ 18 O/Ranks
 Killed, 3 Officers 101 Other Ranks wounded, 1 O/Rank Missing, 15 O/Ranks evacuated Sick.

Incident of attack.

At G 9 c 9 1 about 200 Americans of 117th. Regiment were found and attached to the Battalion, these remained for some hours with the Company but eventually they returned having located their Regiment.

Near NAUROY Lieuts. Lucas & Crain did excellent work by bringing into action an enemy Field Gun. About 30 rounds were fired and One Hostile Tank Gun was silenced. Their good work was stopped suddenly by a direct hit on the position.

On 1st. October members of the Battalion again brought into action Two 4.2 Guns, 50 rounds were fired on enemy rear positions but no results could be seen.

Major.
 A/C.O. 32nd. Battalion A.I.F.