

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/24/42

Title: 7th Infantry Battalion

August 1918



AWM4-23/24/42

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Australian Imperial Force.



WAR DIARY

OF

Seventh Battalion

FOR

August 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling *M. J. Mill* *Lint.*

Signature of Officer Commanding *W. Herrod* *Hol*

Sheet 27 S.E.

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.

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

7th Australian
Battalion.

Army Form O 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front Line	1/8/18		Scattered shelling during the night. About 3.30 a.m. to 4 a.m. Support Coy. was shelled with mixed gas. A patrol from the right post of B. Coy. encountered one of the enemy and brought him in. Prisoner belonged to 10 K. 3 Bn. 140th. R.I.R. Shelling of the road in the vicinity of MOOLENACKER caused inconvenience to ration limbers. The R.M.O. (Capt. D. BARLOW, m.C.) left on leave to ENGLAND being relieved by Capt. ELLIS (2nd. Field Amb). Fine and quiet day. Advance parties from 2nd. Leinster Bn. came up at night. Casualties 1 o/Rank killed in action. 2/Lieut. E.C. SUMMERS rejoined from 2nd. Army Gas School; Lieut. A.G. SWIFT from XV Corps School. Lieuts. C.R. ANDERSON and W.E. SCOTT rejoined from hospital. <i>GD.</i>	
do.	2/8/18		There was a considerable amount of hostile harassing artillery fire throughout the night. As a result of the shelling of the previous night the road near MOOLENACKER was damaged, and the shelling last night set fire to a building at W.24 A.95 85 containing a Trench Mortar dump. Consequently it was not possible to utilise limbers to the same extent for carrying rations. Brig. Gen. FREYBURG, V.C., Commanding 88th. Bde. visited Front line posts last night. Battalion Order No. 55 issued. Casualties 4 other ranks wounded. Rain fell during the day. Battalion was relieved by 2nd. Battalion Leinsters at night. Relief passed off without incident and was complete by 1 a.m.. Battalion was complete in bivouacs at W.23 A.28 by 3 a.m.. Nucleus Battalion rejoined. 2/Lieut. J. MCKEE joined from Cadet Course. <i>GD.</i>	Corr. 1 CORR. 2.
C. Camp Support Brigade	3/8/18		Battalion Order No. 56 issued. Wet morning, afternoon finer. Battalion moved out at 9 p.m. by march route via WALLAN CAPPEL and LYNDE to new area. Battalion was billeted in vicinity of LE CROQUET about a kilometre North of BLARINGHEM where they arrived about 1 a.m. The billets were very scattered but comfortable. <i>GD.</i>	CORR. 3
BLARINGHEM Area	4/8/18		Fine day which was spent resting. Packs were re-issued to the men. Lieut. Col. HERROD, D.S.O., resumed command of the Battalion. <i>GD.</i>	CORR. 4.
do.	5/8/18		Light rain in morning; fine later. Light work & training carried out. <i>GD.</i>	
do.	6/8/18		Battalion order No. 57 issued. Fine day. "D" Coy. moved out at 6 a.m. to entrain at ST. OMER and act as unloading party for trains arriving at HANGEST. Remainder of Battalion moved out at 7 am. and entrained at ARQUES. Arrived at HANGEST-SUR-SOMME at 8 p.m. Men had a cup of cocoa from Y.M.C.A. on detraining. Battalion left HANGEST at 10 p.m. by march route & arrived at ST. OUEN at about 11 a.m. Billeted in ST. OUEN. <i>GD.</i>	

(A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

Sheet No. 1

WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

31

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. OUEN	7/8/18		Battalion rted by day. Battalion embussed at 8.15 p.m. Busses did not leave until 10.15 p.m. and travelled very slowly with many stoppages. Battalion arrived at debussing point near PONT CAMON at 1.45 a.m. and marched to LAMOTTE BREBIERE arriving at 4.30 a.m. a few minutes after the opening of the barrage some miles away which told of the launching of the offensive.	CORR. 5 CORR. 6 CORR. 7 CORR. 8.
LAMOTTE BREBIERE	8/8/18		Battalion remained in billets all day until 4 p.m. when we moved out by march route to AUBIGNY. Nucleus remained behind. Packs, valises and all surplus gear dumped. Capt. R.I. HILLARD, "M.C." to hospital sick. Bn. bivouaced. Bn. Headquarters at O.17 A.27. Special rations and extra S.A.A. drawn. The first news of the offensive was particularly satisfactory.	CORR. 9 CORR. 10
Front Line	9/8/18		6.25 am. Battalion warned to be ready to move at short notice. Advance parties went forward. 8.10 a.m. Battalion fell in ready to move. Moved at 8.30 a.m. Vide narrative of operations which brings events up to 8.11 on Aug. 10th. (CORR. 21) Casualties - Officers killed - Lieuts. J.H. HAMBLETT, W. POOLE, R.B. PURBRICK, J. CADDY, D.C.M., M.M., T.V. HARRIS, T.J. ROSS. Officer missing - Lieut. W.E. SCOTT. Officer's wounded - Capt. A.F. PHILLIPS, F.G. KITCHEN and T.P. O'CONNOR, Lieuts. J. FOWLER, F.J. SMEDLEY "M.C.", G.B. RUSSELL. C.P. WHALLEY and N.G. TAVERNER.	CORR. 11 CORR. 12 CORR. 13 CORR. 14 CORR. 15
	10/8/18		Other ranks - 52 killed 169 wounded 2 missing. When 3rd. Aust. Bde. passed through RED LINE at 8 a.m., Battalion came back into Support positions in X 20 D X.21 C. X.26 B, X.27 A with Battalion headquarters at X 20 C 51. Lieuts R.L. PIERCEY, A.DEAN, and C.R. ANDERSON came forward from Nucleus. Cookers provided hot meals for the troops. During the night enemy shelled with 5.9's area occupied by B. & C. Coys. Lieuts. T.R. GRANT and EC. SUMMERS (B.Coy.) were killed and Lieut. L.P. KELLY wounded. D. Coy. moved forward under Lieut. W.H.G. SMITH to co-operate with the 8th. Aust. Battalion in an operation. Narrative by Lieut. SMITH accompanies diary. (corr. 27)	CORR. 16 CORR. 17 CORR. 18 CORR. 19 CORR. 20 CORR. 21
	11/8/18		Brigade came out into reserve at night time and Battalion moved to positions in X 26 occupying trenches. Battalion Headquarters at X 26 D 86. Day quiet.	CORR. 22 CORR. 23 CORR. 24
	12/8/18		Day quiet.	CORR. 26
	13/8/18		Day quiet. Some shelling during the night in vicinity of Battalion Headquarters. Capt. R.I. HILLARD proceeded to ENGLAND to attend Senior Officers' School at ALDERSHOT. Capt. J.H. HOPKINS "M.C." returned from ENGLAND. Lieut. K.R. JARVIE from Leave ENGLAND.	CORR. 25

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	14/8/18		Day passed quietly. <i>so.</i>	
	15/8/18		Division was relieved and Battalion came back to CERISY area. The accommodation here was in trenches, sunken roads etc.; a number of trench shelters were available and troops were fairly comfortable. The locality was very dusty, and the constant traffic along the roads kept the air full of dust. <i>so.</i>	CoAR. 27 CoAR. 28 CoAR. 29
	16/8/18		Lieut. C.P. CLOWE returned from hospital; Lieut. K.J. MACKENZIE from 2nd. Army Rest Camp. Battalion spent the day resting. Swimming parades to the SOMME. Fine day. Advised of the death of Lieut. L.P. KELLY. <i>so.</i>	
	17/8/18		Fine day. Swimming parades. <i>so.</i>	CoAR. 30
	18/8/18		Battalion moved by march route via HAMEL to HAMELET and were billeted in the village. The village was until recently close to the Line and considerably damaged. The billets were poor and universally dirty. The constant traffic through the streets has caused thick dust to settle everywhere. Light rain fell in the morning, otherwise fine. <i>so.</i>	
	19/8/18		Fine day. All officers watched tank practice with 1st. Brigade. Meeting of officers at Battalion Headquarters. Capt. D.L. BARLOW "M.C." (R.M.O.) returned from Leave to ENGLAND. <i>so.</i>	CoAR. 31

W. Herrod Lieut. Col

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAMELET	21/8/18		At 3 p.m. the Nucleus Battalion under Major C.H. SWIFT left the Battalion. At 8.40 p.m. the Battalion moved out and proceeded by march route to support area (Battalion order 60 corr 32) Battalion occupied trenches in R.19.C., R.25.A. with Battalion Headquarters R.19.C.45.25. Lieut. KI K.J.D. MACKENZIE to Aust. Corps School. Lieut. A.J.WATERS from XV Corps School. <i>H.M.</i>	Corr 32
SUPPORT AREA	22/8/18		A conference of Company Commanders was held at Battalion Headquarters at 2 p.m. Cookers were brought up and a hot meal served after dark; rations were issued before the move. At 9.30 pm. G.R. 26 to Companies (corr 36) informed them that zero was fixed for 4.45 a.m. on 23rd. Aug. Battalion order 61 issued (corr. 34). AZB. 33 received from Brigade (Corr. 35) <i>H.M.</i>	Corr 36 Corr. 34-35
In ACTION	23/8/18		Vide narrative (corr. 37). Battalion went into action supporting the 5th. Battalion, advancing through a heavy enemy barrage. 7.20 a.m. G.R.27 to Brigade reported that 5th. Bn. on the left had gained objective but the right seemed slower. 7th. Bn. Headquarters at R.24.C99; at 7 a.m. 7th. Battalion had reached Western edge of ST. MARTIN'S WOOD (Corr. 38) 8.30 a.m. Battalion headquarters R.28 C.54. At 12 noon "D" Coy. was sent to take over the left post of the 8th. Battalion. Lieut. F.B. GAULMON, 2/Lieut. J. McKEE wounded by shell fire. A hot meal was sent up at night. <i>H.M.</i>	Corr. 37-38
SUPPORTS	24/8/18		G.R. 41 giving instructions for relief of 5th. Bn. at night of Aug.25/26. (Corr. 39) AZB. 970 from Brigade with Divl. Commanders congratulations (Corr 40). Gas shelling of ST. MARTIN'S WOOD during the night. AZB. 976 with General BIRDWOOD'S congratulations (corr. 42). AZB. 72 from Bde. (corr. 41) <i>H.M.</i>	Corr. 39 Corr. 40 Corr. 41-42
SUPPORTS	25/8/18		Enemy shelled ST. MARTIN'S WOOD and vicinity with gas shells during the night. AZB. 83, AZB. 87 from Brigade (corr. 43. 44) Battalion operation order 38 issued for relief of 5th. Battalion (corr. 45). Battalion relieved 5th. Battalion in Front Line at night. "C" Coy. line Left, "D" Coy. line Right, "A" support Left, "B" support Right. Battalion Headquarters at R 24 C 2. 8 The night was dark and wet and enemy shelled continuously, making relief exceedingly difficult. Sunken road behind front line was shelled heavily all night. Lieut. C.R. ANDERSON evacuated gassed. <i>H.M.</i>	Corr. 43 44 " 45.
FRONT LINE	26/8/18		AZB. 93, 97, 994 reference relief (corr. 46, 47, 48) Battalion order 62 issued (corr. 49) and instructions to companies (corr. 49) In accordance with order Battalion was relieved at night by 30th Bn. and came back to positions near HAMEL. Relief complete at 1230 a.m. Battalion were brought back in busses and were complete in new area by 6 a.m., 27th. inst. Bn. was accommodated in dugouts in a Ravine and in trench shelters. Nucleus Bn. rejoined. 2/Lieuts. L. BONNEY & W.H. BROOKSBANK joined from Officers Training School. After a hot meal the men lost no time in turning in for a rest. Capt. J.W. HOPKINS "MC" promoted Temporary Major. <i>H.M.</i>	Corr. 46 47 48 49

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near HAMEL	27/8/18		The day was spent resting. Fine, warm day. Brigade special order of the day issued (corr. 50) HM.	Corr. 50
do.	28/8/18		Fine day; troops resting: pay issued. HM.	
do.	29/8/18		Fine day except for occasional light showers. Troops resting. Lieut. H.J. WRIGHT to 4th. Army School. Training Syllabus issued (corr 51) HM.	Corr. 51
do.	30/8/18		Fine day. A commencement was made with training in accordance with syllabus. HM.	
do.	31/8/18		Training in accordance with syllabus. Lieut. W.E. LANE evacuated accidently injured. HM.	

W. Starnes Lieut. Col

W.A.

WAR DIARY

APPENDIX

5

31

OF

7th. Australian Battalion

FOR

August 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

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WAR DIARY

of

7th. Australian Battalion

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	35	AZB. 33	do.
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	44	AZB. 87	do.
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	48	AZB. 994	do.
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	50	Bde. Special Order of the DAY	27/8/18
	51	Training Syllabus	

WV

WAR DIARY AUG. 1/31.

Commanding Officer's Report

July 30th. to Aug. 2nd. Unit in the line near MOOLENACKER (S.W. of METEREN) holding the line with two Companies in the line, one in support and one in reserve. The weather was fine and the enemy quiet except for a considerable amount of harassing fire by night.

Rations: Cookers were brought up to Battalion Headquarters and hot meals were prepared here. Meals and dry rations were brought forward in limbers to a dumping point and carried from here by parties from Support and Reserve Companies.

Patrols etc. The usual patrolling activity was maintained and constant touch maintained with the enemy.

Aug. 4 to Aug. 6th. Spent in BLARINGHEM area. Troops were comfortably billeted while awaiting entrainment orders.

Aug. 6 to Aug. 8. In movement preparatory to participation in the Advance. The usual inconveniences attendant on movement was experienced, no bread or fresh meat and general unsettled conditions..

Aug. 9 to Aug. 15. In the line. A full account of the operation of Aug. 9th. will be found elsewhere. From August 10 - 11th. Battalion was Brigade Reserve, resting after the exertions of the 8th. and 9th. and reorganising. Cookers were brought up. The troops were living comfortably in trenches and apart from isolated shelling were not much troubled.. The same conditions prevailed after the relief of the Brigade on Aug. 11 when Brigade was Divisional Reserve. A great quantity of German material was collected and sent back to the rear for despatch to the War Museum. The battleground was searched for dead and all who could be located were buried.

Aug. 16 to Aug. 18. In CERISY area. Men were living in trenches and shelters in the open. The locality was very dusty and dirty. Packs and valises were brought up. The SOMME River was close to our area and swimming parades were held. The stream was shallow but the men enjoyed the opportunity of a wash. The weather throughout was very fine and warm. Conditions were very pleasant except for the prevalence of dust raised by the constant traffic.

Reorganisation was carried out with the depleted Companies. The fatigue consequent on our exertions was speedily shaken off. The gloom cast over all by the loss of comrades was gradually dispelled and the Battalion was prepared for further achievement.

Aug. 18 to 28. This period is fully covered in other parts of this Diary.

Aug. 28 to 31. This period was spent in reserve in the GAILLY area. The Battalion was bivouaced in a gully adjacent to the BOIS D'ARQUAIRE. A number of men were accommodated in dugouts and the remainder in trench shelters. The weather was fine and the troops were fairly comfortable.

For the first threedays the troops were rested. The vicinity of the camp was formerly just inside the German lines and a great deal of work was necessary to make the camp clean. A good deal of salvage was recovered.

The troops were issued with pay and the canteen was well stocked, most of the articles required having been procured. The Comforts Funds sent along 2 cricket bats and 3 balls for the use of the men.

When the month ended the Battalion was still in this area.

A

E. Howard H. Col

WAR DIARYSenior Major's Report, August 1918Canteen

Owing to the move of the Division canteen work was at a standstill for a couple of weeks. During the past fortnight goods have been bought under Divisional arrangements and a medium supply has been available. On one occasion we were able to buy beer for the men.

Sports

Owing to the present advance no time has been available for sports. It is a case of business before pleasure at the present time.

Interior Economy

The rations during the month have been excellent. The men have had good food and plenty of it. In addition to rations a fair supply of Comforts Funds goods have been distributed.

Donald A. Swift Major.
7th. Aust. Battalion.

SEN.

B.

WAR DIARYMedical Officer's Report

At the commencement of month battalion in Line at MOOLENACKER. Conditions were good and men fresh after spell in RACQUINGHEM area.

Relieved on 3rd. inst. and rested for 2 days in BLARINGHEM area prior to entraining. This enabled them to commence journey fresh, an important point, as a journey and subsequent detraining and moving to quarters always entails a good deal of fatigue.

On day of entraining there was a five mile march in early morning to the train and on arrival at HANGEST-SUR-SOMME a further 8 mile march to billets. One man failed to complete the latter march. A number of cases of diarrhoea appeared on following day, the 7th. instant.

The night following was taken up by a move per bus and a five mile march to LAMOTTE-BREBIERE. The billets here were very poor. A fair number of cases of sore and blistered feet were attended to.

Battalion moved up at 4 p.m. on 8th. to dugouts at O.16 Central (approx.) Sheet 62D. Fairly good night's sleep but unit had to march out at 8.30 a.m. at short notice, and march over 10 kilos. straight into action and advance over open country without artillery support. No communication had been established by Field Ambulance and Battalion commenced to suffer heavy casualties soon after coming into range of machine guns. Some casualties were also caused by enemy artillery.

Ambulance bearers did not arrive till 4½ hours after commencement of action and by that time a large number of stretcher cases had accumulated at R.A.P. (a house about 3 kilos. from final objective). Ambulance could not supply dressings or splints till following afternoon. R.A.P. was cleared by 2.30 a.m. on 10th. instant.

As men had no meal from 8 a.m. on 9th. until same evening after objective had been reached, the wounded were very exhausted through want of food and strain of marching.

On 10th. inst. Battalion back in reserve and on 11th. "D" Coy. again in action for a few hours. Casualties light.

On 14th. baths and change of clothing were obtained.

Condition of men on moving back to CERISY was remarkably good.

From 18th. to 21st. at HAMELET. Here living conditions were fairly comfortable and swimming was available close to billets and men were in fairly good fettle on moving up to Support positions.

On 23rd. casualties during the advance were fortunately not heavy and most of the stretcher cases were got away very promptly to Field Ambulance by use of German prisoners as bearers. Some of the cases passed through 5th. Bn. R.A.P. in sunken road in front of PROYART before the 7th. R.A.P. was established here also.

In moving up to this point a number of wounded of various units were attended to and evacuated by A.M.C. bearers attached to this unit who were sometimes assisted by German prisoners.

As soon as ~~RM~~ R.A.P. in sunken road was cleared of wounded a search was made for suitable place further forward but no really useful place could be found, so A.M.C. personnel and bearers were accommodated in trench at Bn. Headquarters and dressings etc. done there.

(2)

Medical Officer's Report (cont)

Very few wounded were dealt with here but on the 25th. a large number of gassed cases commenced to come down. A very concentrated gas shell bombardment of ST. MARTIN'S WOOD and Valley in front took place during night of 24th. and the next morning being still and hot the fumes rose in considerable concentration. The positions in which the men lived were very badly situated for avoiding effects of gas and casualties could scarcely be avoided.

After coming out of line on 26th. men were conveyed to Reserve area in buses and accommodated partly under trench shelters and partly in old dugouts. A fair number of men had some degree of gas effects and about 10 have been evacuated up to the present, making total of nearly 100 gas casualties. Most of these are fairly slight cases.

The men were greatly in need of rest but are improving daily though slowly. A great deal of general cleaning up and improvement of camping area has been carried out. Flyproof latrines, grease traps etc. have been installed and a cook-house built. Unfortunately the ground is not very suitable for sports but swimming is obtainable at about 2 kilos. distance.

Men have had plenty of time off duty.

(sgd) D.L. BARLOW Capt.
R.M.O. 7th. Australian Battalion.

D.L.B.

WAR DIARYQUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

- Rations. Rations were of the usual good quality and sufficient though potatoes and vegetables were rather light.
- Rum. With the exception of one issue on the night of 25th. August no rum was available. Needless to say this shortage was not a welcome one.
- Tobacco, Cigarettes and Matches
This issue was much lighter than usual and matches in particular were very short, one box to four or six men being the issue on more than one occasion. The Comforts Fund quota helped us over this trouble, and this, together with the Army issue, brought us up to the average.
- Containers During the Battalion's tour in the line containers were as usual very useful but the supply was barely sufficient as the allotment for the Division was short.
- Salvage. The quantity of material collected this month was very large and included 250 sets of equipment (web), clothing of all sorts, rifles, bayonets, and blankets.
- War Trophies Enemy Field guns, Machine Guns, AMC. material including a complete field dispensary were captured by the Battalion and passed through the hands of the Q.M. Staff to be packed. Lieut. A. DEAN supervised and looked after the despatch of the goods.
- General. No. 766 Sgt. S.W. SMITH, Sgt. bootmaker, an original member of this Battalion, returned to AUSTRALIA on Transport Duty on 11th. instant.

(sgd) C.L. DOBBIN, Lieut.
Act. Q.M., 7th. Aust. Battalion.

W.H.

D

WAR DIARY Aug. 1/31

Transport Officer's Report

with

On Aug. 1 we supplied Battalion rations in the Line delivering two hot meals nightly. On Aug. 2 the Battalion were relieved and we used the usual L.G. limbers and two others for general loading.

On Aug. 3 we moved with the Battalion to BLARINGHEM. From this date until Aug. 6 we carried all rations. This always means a large amount of extra work for the first line transport.

On Aug. 6 we entrained at ARQUES, detraining at HANGEST-SUR-SOMME, moving into camp at ST. OUEN. On the following day we moved to LAMOTTE, a distance of about 15 miles across very hilly country. The following day we moved to FOUILLOY which had only recently been captured from the enemy.

On Aug. 9 we followed the Battalion which was moving to attack, going into camp at BAYONVILLERS. Our Coy. pack horses accompanied their ~~respective~~ respective Coys. These pack men stuck to their Coys. right through the attack and were constantly under heavy rifle, machine gun and artillery fire, one of the pack horses being slightly wounded. They then dumped their S.A.A. at their Coy. headquarters reporting back to wagon lines. From wagon lines we sent limbers forward carrying 50 boxes of S.A.A. and established a dump at Battalion Headquarters. That night and for each night until the Battalion was relieved we carried rations, hot meals and ammunition. During our stay at BAYONVILLERS we were heavily shelled and moved our lines some 500 yards into an open field..

The Battalion was relieved on the 15th. inst., moving to CERISY.

During the advance ~~thru~~ we had to move over exceptionally heavy country but with the exception of two broken cooker wheels nothing unforeseen happened. These wheels were replaced by spare ones carried for the purpose.

We stayed at CERISY until Aug. 17 when we moved to HAMELET. On Aug. 22 we moved back to CERISY, the Battalion going into the line near PROYART. On the following night while delivering rations and a hot meal to the Battalion we ran into some heavy shelling. Two of our best horses, one an original, were badly wounded and had to be destroyed. Fortunately the driver was unhurt..

The Battalion remained in the line until Aug. 27th. and then moved into camp near HAMEL. We supplied the necessary limbers for Lewis guns etc.

This month has been a most strenuous one, tiring for both men and horses. During our trips into the line the shelling has been extremely heavy and usually we had long distances to travel through the shelled areas. On more than one occasion the fighting men expressed astonishment on receiving their hot meals, thinking it impossible for limbers to pass through the shelling.

On two occasions our lines were heavily shelled and we only avoided casualties by moving rapidly. Enemy bombing was extremely active during night and in my opinion the revettments which we never neglected to place around the horses saved many casualties.

Taking everything into consideration we have had extraordinary luck with both men and horses during the whole month.

(sgd) R.W. SWALLOW Lieut
Transport Officer, 7th. Aust. Bn

R.W. Swallow

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION

Intelligence Summary No.2.

From 6 a.m. 31/7/18 to 6 a.m. 1/8/18.
-----A. OUR OPERATIONS.1. Infantry.

(a) Patrols. Right Coy. Active patrolling was carried out throughout the night, but movement was greatly hampered by hostile M.G. and rifle fire. At 2 a.m. a patrol of 1 Officer and 4 O/Rs. from our right post took one enemy prisoner at about F.2.A.1.3. The vicinity was searched but no more of the enemy could be located. Another patrol from the same post went out later but also failed to find any enemy. Another patrol investigated small enemy post at F.2.A.5.6.75. but found it unoccupied.

Left. Coy. From 12 midnight to 1 a.m. a party of three scouts worked across the Coy. front from X.26.D.50.65. to X.26.B.90.60. Enemy could be heard hammering wooden stakes at the BECQUE about X.27.A.4.3. A patrol of 1 Officer and 15 Other Ranks from X.26.D.65.75 moved to X.26.D.80.60. and located a large dump of 5'9 shells. movement was greatly hampered by M.G. fire from BELLE CROIX FARM. Patrol returned to X.26.A.50.55 at 2.45 a.m. having been out 1½ hours.

(b) Machine & Lewis Guns. 200 rounds Lewis Gun fire expended in covering fire for raiding party of K.O.S.B. on left. Several hundred rounds expended against E.A. Our Vickers Guns active.

(c) Stokes Mortars. Inactive.(d) Snipers and Rifle Grenades. Our snipers were active against enemy movement on the Eastern side of the METEREN BECQUE with unknown results. 6 rifle grenades fired at enemy post at X.2.A.50'65.(e) Aerial. Our aircraft very active. Large formations of our planes returning from direction of AMBENTIERES at 9 p.m. were very heavily engaged by enemy A.A. and M.G.2. Artillery. Our artillery active on back areas and enemy positions on the OUTERSTEENE RIDGE. The harassing fire during the night was particularly active.B. ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.1. Hostile Activity.(a) Attitude. The enemy remains very alert, firing many very lights and sniping actively at any movement observed. Machine Guns sweep No Man's Land and the vicinity of our posts continuously.(b) Artillery. The enemy artillery remains active particularly at night. The shooting is chiefly of a harassing nature and well distributed over the whole area. From midnight onwards a considerable amount of gas was mixed with the H.E. and shrapnel, phosgene and mustard gas being used.(c) Trench Mortars. During the fog yesterday morning 5 L.M.W. bombs fell near post at X.26.B.9.6. During the night a few H.M.W. fell about X.26.D.8.4.(d) Machine Guns. Very active.(e) Aerial. Active between 8 and 9 a.m. One E.A. flying low from METEREN to MERRIS firing on our posts and trenches with his M.G.2. Movement. One enemy seen to enter ruins at F.2.C.9.9. at 5.30 p.m. At early morning considerable movement observed on the OUTERSTEEN RIDGE.3. Defences. Posts Located at X.2.A.50.65 (Enemy flare fell in post. 5 men were distinctly seen. X.26.D.20.25.Machine Guns. BELLE CROIX FARM, X.26.D.20.25.Trench Mortars None located.4. Work. Enemy can be heard working at the BECQUE about X.27.A.4.3. the noise suggests either building a bridge or wiring.Miscellaneous. Enemy balloons up on a bearing of 132 deg. from W.19.D.9.9.Identification. One prisoner of the 10 K. 3rd Battn. 140 I.R. captured by a patrol at F.2.A.10.25.

(Sgd.) E.G.ROBB, Lieut.
I.O. 7th Battalion.

F

SUMMARY of WORK of BATTALION WHILE WITH XV CORPS, 2nd ARMY.

April 12th 1918 to August 3rd 1918 - 114 days.

During the whole of this period the Division held a sector of the front line, portion of the time with a two Brigade front, and the remainder with a one Brigade front. As far as this Battalion was concerned the 114 days were made up as follows :-

	(Battalion in Line	32 days.
Brigade in Line	(
	(Battalion in Support	30 days.
		<u>62 days.</u>
Brigade in Support		21 days.
Brigade in Reserve		31 days.
		<u>114 days.</u>

The Battalion was the first Battalion of the Division to arrive at HAZEBROUCK from the SOMME and first in action; and with the 8th Battalion was the last Battalion of the Division to be relieved.

The Battalion detrained at HAZEBROUCK on April 12th while the Germans were still pressing forward; for one night we were the only organized line behind the outpost line, and extended over a front of 7000 yards. On the night of April 14th a section of the outpost line opposite LE NIEPPE Forest was taken over, and on the morning April 16th an enemy attack was repulsed. Relieved on April 19th we moved across to LE PEUPLIER, W.7.B.1.5. (Sheet 27).

From then we occupied various ~~positions~~ portions of the line, coming out into Reserve area twice at SERCUS for a week each time, and once for a fortnight at RACQUINGHEM. The Sectors covered were from the METEREN BECQUE to about MERRIS (three times), and MONT de MERRIS to 500 yards South of STRAZEELE Station (once). While in this Southern Sector the Battalion carried the line forward about 800 yards on a 650 yards front, capturing 47 prisoners and killing probably 50 more of the enemy. The total captures for the period were 49 prisoners and 7 Machine Guns.

Casualties for the period were :-

3 Officers killed -	Lieut.A.P.F.MEYER, 2/Lieuts.G.L.S.TROTMAN, and A.F.METTAM.
1 Officer died of wounds -	Lieut.W.L.TUCKER "DCM".
6 Officers wounded -	Lieuts. K.M.PURBRICK, H.NIXON, P.L.EDGOOSE, O.G.REYNOLDS, 2/Lieut.R.ANDERSON, and Capt.R.McG.F.STEWART.
Other Ranks killed in action	31
" " Died of Wounds	13
" " Wounded.	178

Throughout the whole period in the line patrols were most active in operating in No Man's Land, gaining complete ascendancy there; in fact there was no No Man's Land, our territory ended only at the enemy line. Constant touch was kept with enemy posts and a careful watch kept on his movement.

A reference should be made also to the work done in establishing a defensive system. Numerous trenches were dug in rear of our positions when we were not actually in the line and a quantity of barbed wire erected.

7th. Australian Battalion

WAR DIARY

Return of Officers on Strength 31/8/18

Lieut. Col.	HERROD "DSO"	E.E.	Commanding
Major	SWIFT,	C.H.	2nd. in Command
T/Major	HOPKINS "MC"	J.W.	
Capt.	STEWART	R.McG.	Sec. Wounded 1.7.18
"	PHILLIPS	A.F.	do. 9.8.18
"	HILLARD "MC"	R.I.	Sen. Offr. School 15.8.18
"	D'ALTERA	W.R.	Sec. Hosp. Sick 6.7.18
H/Capt.	HOPKINSON	A.	Base
Lieut.	O'CONNOR	T.P.	Sec. Wounded 9.8.18
"	HILL	E.W.	Transferred to A.F.C.
"	YOUNG	H.H.	2nd. T.B.
"	KELLY	L.H.	Sup. wd. gas 26.3.18
"	HAMILTON	W.E.	
"	WATERS	A.J.	
"	WRIGHT	H.J.	4th. Army School
"	PIERCEY	R.L.	Wd. gas 29.8.18
"	REYNOLDS	O.G.	Sec. wd. 28.6.18
"	FOWLER	J.	do. 9.8.18
"	GORDON	J.H.G.	
"	PURBRICK	K.M.	Sup. wd. 14.4.18
"	JARDINE	T.A.	
"	SWALLOW	R.W.	
"	SMITH	W.H.G.	
"	GANDON	P.G.	ATT. A.L.T.M.Bty.
"	DICKINSON	V.R.	Sec. Bde. 26.3.18
"	LANE	W.E.	acc. inj. 31.8.18
"	ROBB	E.G.	
"	O'NEILL	H.F.	
"	HARRIS "MC"	O.J.	
"	DOBBIN	C.L.	
"	DEAN	A.	
"	SCOTT	W.E.	Missing 9.8.18
"	EDGOOSE	P.L.	Sec. Wd. 13.6.18
"	GAULTON	F.B.	Wd. 23.8.18
"	PHILLIPS "MC"	D.G.	1st. T.B.
"	ANDERSON	C.R.	Wd. gas 25.8.18
"	MACKINNON	D.C.	do.
"	BEECH	A.E.	Sec. Bde. 26.3.18
"	BANKS	K.G.	
"	MALLET	A.W.	Sup. Wd. gas 26.3.18
"	HATFIELD	P.T.	Wd. gas 25/8/18
"	CROWE	M.V.	Sec. sick
"	JARVIE	K.R.	
"	GRAHAM	R.J.	
"	HANSON	T.B.	Sec. sick 13.5.18
"	CLOWE	C.P.	
"	RUSSELL	G.B.	Sec. wd. 9.8.18
"	WISEWOULD	A.E.	
"	MACKENZIE	K.J.	
"	CARNE	P.R.	Div. 30.11.17
"	SWIFT	A.G.	
"	LYLE	J.M.	Sec. sick 11.5.18
"	WHALLEY	R.P.	Sec. Wd. 9.8.18
"	ANDERSON	R.	Supy. Wd. 19.4.18
"	TAVERNER	N.G.	
2/Lieut.	McKEE	J.	Wd. 23.8.18
"	BONNEY	L.	
"	BROOKSBANK	W.H.	

H.

W.H.

7th. Australian Battalion

WAR DIARY

Commands and Appointments

August, 1918.

Commanding Officer	Aug. 1 - 3	Major C.H. SWIFT acted.
"	3 - 31	Lieut.Col. E.E.HERROD "DSO"
2nd. in Command	Aug. 1 to 31	Major C.H. SWIFT
Adjutant	Aug. 1 to 31	Lieut. O.J.E. HARRIS "MC"
Intelligence Officer	Aug. 1 to 31	Lieut. E.G. ROBB
Signalling Officer	Aug. 1 to 31	Lieut. H.F. O'NEILL
Medical Officer	Aug. 1 to 18	Capt. O.J. ELLIS
"	19 to 31	Capt. D.L. BARLOW "MC"

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"A" Company

"B" Company

Lieut. R.L. PIERCEY,	Aug. 1 to 3	T/Capt. T.P. O'CONNOR	Aug. 1/9
Capt. A.F. PHILLIPS	" 3 to 9	Lieut. H.J. WRIGHT	" 9/16
Lieut. R.L. PIERCEY	" 9 to 29	Capt. J.H. HOPKINS "MC"	Aug. 16/31
Lieut. J.H. GORDON	" 29 to 31		

"C" Company

"D" Company

Capt. F.G. KITCHEN	AUG. 1/9	Lieut. J. FOWLER	Aug. 1/3
Lieut. W.E. LANE	Aug. 9/16	Capt. R.I. HILLARD	" 3/8
Lieut. H.J. WRIGHT	Aug. 16/29	Lieut. J. FOWLER	" 8/9
Lieut. W.E. LANE	Aug. 29/31	Lieut. W.H.G. SMITH	" 9/31

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7th. Australian Battalion

31

WAR DIARY

Changes in Officers Aug. 1/31

ARRIVALS

2/Lieut.	J. McKEE	From Cadet Bn.	2/8/18
Lieut.	C.R. ANDERSON	From Supy. sick.	1/8/18
"	W.E. SCOTT	do. wd.	do.
"	A.G. SWIFT	do. wd.-gas	do.
Capt.	O.J. ELLIS	From 2nd. Field Amb.	2/8/18
"	J.W. HOPKINS "MC"	1st. Training Bde.	15/8/18
Lieut.	K.R. JARVIE	" Leave England	do.
"	K.J. MACKENZIE	" 2nd. Army Rest Camp	16/8/18
"	C.P. CLOWE	" Hospital	16/8/18
Capt.	D.L. BARLOW "MC"	" Leave Eng.	19/8/18
Lieut.	A.J. WATERS	" 2nd. Army Musk. School	21/8/18
2/Lieut.	L. BONNEY	" Cadet Battalion	26/8/18
"	W.H. BROOKSBANK	do.	do.

DEPARTURES

Capt.	R.I. HILLARD "MC"	To Hospital sick	8/8/18
Capt.	R.I. HILLARD "MC"	From hosp. to Sen. Off. Sch.	15/8/18
Capt.	D.L. BARLOW "MC"	To Leave ENG.	2/8/18
Lieut.	E.W. HILL	To A.I.F. Hd. Qrs. pending	
		transfer to A.F.C.	20/8/18
Capt.	O.J. ELLIS	To 2nd. Field Amb.	20/8/18
Lieut.	K.J. MACKENZIE	To Aust. Corps School	23/8/18
Lieut.	H.J. WRIGHT	To 4th. Army Inf. School	29/8/18
Capt.	A.F. PHILLIPS	Wounded	9/8/18
T/Capt.	T.P. O'CONNOR	do.	do.
"	F.G. KITCHEN	do.	do.
Lieut.	R.P. WHALLEY	do.	do.
"	J. FOWLER	do.	do.
"	G.B. RUSSELL	do.	do.
"	F.J. SMEDLEY "MC"	do.	do.
"	N.G. TAVERNER	do.	do.
"	L.P. KELLY	do.	11/8/18
"	F.B. GAULTON	do.	23/8/18
2/Lieut.	J. McKEE	do.	do.
Lieut.	C.R. ANDERSON	Wd.- Gas	25/8/18
"	P.T. HATFIELD	do.	do.
"	R.L. PIERCEY	do.	29/8/18
"	W.E. SCOTT	Missing	9/8/18
"	W.E. LANE	Acc. Inj.	31/8/18
"	D.C. MACKINNON	Wd.-gas	25/8/18

PROMOTIONS and REVERSIONS

T/Capt. T.P. O'CONNOR reverted to the rank of "Lieutenant" on being evacuated wounded 9/8/18

2/Lieuts. N.G. TAVERNER, L.P. KELLY, R. ANDERSON and T.V. HARRIS were promoted to the rank of "Lieutenant" 4/8/18

J

W.H.

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7th. Australian BattalionWAR DIARYChanges in Officers (cont)STRUCK off STRENGTH

Lieut.	J.H. HAMBLETT	Killed in Action	9.8.18
"	R.B. PURBRICK	do.	do.
"	W.J.S.G. POOLE	do.	do.
"	T.J. ROSS	do.	do.
2/Lieut.	J. CADDY	do.	do.
Lieut.	T.R. GRANT	do.	11.8.18
2/Lieut.	E.C. SUMMERS	do.	do.
"	T.V. HARRIS	do.	9.8.18
Lieut.	F.G. KITCHEN	Died of Wounds	10.8.18
"	L.9. KELLY	do.	11.8.18
"	F.H. HOOKER	To Australia	A.I.F. List 370 of 16/8/18

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M.H.

WAR DIARYMonthly Summary (August)

1. Leave During the month 1 officer and 27 other ranks proceeded on leave to ENGLAND. 4 other ranks were granted leave to PARIS. 2 other ranks returned to AUSTRALIA on Transport duty.
2. Schools 1 officer and 5 other ranks attended Army Schools and 8 other ranks attended Corps Schools.
3. Band. Until the end of the month there was no opportunity for practice; while back in the GAILLY area at the end of the month practice was resumed.
4. Weather The weather throughout the month has been the best for the year, fine and warm and admirably suited for the offensive operations in which we were engaged.
5. Canteen The canteen kept a fair supply of stores. When the troops came out of the line on August 26th. a quantity of beer, tinned fruits, biscuits, cigarettes and other lines much in demand was in stock.
6. Mail An Australian mail of June 5th. was delivered about the middle of the month, and later a mail of June 22nd.
7. Nucleus A Nucleus was left out in Reserve each time the Battalion moved into the line and rejoined when the Battalion came out.
8. War Museum During the operations a considerable quantity of German guns and stores was captured and despatched to the War Museum. These included one 7.5 c.m. field gun, 9 heavy and 40 light machine guns; a field dispensary; 4 trench mortars; 2 granatenwerfer; signalling gear, many rifles and a great many other interesting articles.
9. Sports and Games No opportunity was given during the month. While in GAILLY area from 25th. August Comforts Funds sent along 2 cricket bats and 3 balls.
10. Discipline Discipline has been exceptionally good. Three men were tried by F.G.C.M. and 3 by C.O's. orderly room during the month.
11. Morale The Battalion had exceptionally heavy losses during the operations of the month and had some very trying experiences. The very gruelling and exhaustive battle of 9th. inst. coming as it did at the conclusion of a 10 mile, dusty, heavy march, which succeeded a period of several days' travelling which was mostly done at night was enough to shake any troops and it speaks volumes for the high morale and splendid soldierly qualities of our men when the great success achieved that day was considered. The further operations of 23/28th. with its heavy shelling and severe gas shelling attack which the Battalion went through was indeed an ordeal that could only be stood by good solid troops.

Both the operations in which the unit was engaged made heavy demands upon the energy and courage of the troops but in both cases all that was undertaken was accomplished. The successes gained not only by our own troops but by British and French arms on other fronts were very cheering. Every effort was made to pass on to the men all news which came through from other fronts, and their interest in the general operation kept up with a view to encouraging them to further effort.

The strength of the Battalion at the end of the month was 28 officers and 486 other ranks.

K.

E. H. ...

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION.

31

DIET SHEET

	1st Meal.	2nd Meal.	3rd Meal.
<u>1st August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Stew & Tea.	Porridge & Cocoa.	
"B" Coy.	do	do	
"C" Coy.	do	do	
"D" Coy.	do	do	
<u>2nd August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Stew & Cocoa.) Served after relief.	
"B" Coy.	do		
"C" Coy.	do		
"D" Coy.	do		
<u>3rd August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon & Tea.	Curried Stew & Tea.	Boiled Rice & Tea.
"B" Coy.	do do	do do	do do
"C" Coy.	do do	do do	do do
"D" Coy.	do do	do do	do do
<u>4th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon & Tea.	Cold Meat & Potatoes.	Puddings.
"B" Coy.	do do	Meat & Veg. Hash.	Rice.
"C" Coy.	do do	Cold Meat & Potatoes.	Puddings.
"D" Coy.	do do	Preserved Meat Curry.	Rice.
<u>5th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon & Tea.	Stew.	Croquettes.
"B" Coy.	do do	Stew.	Puddings.
"C" Coy.	do do	Hash.	Rissoles.
"D" Coy.	do do	Hash.	Puddings.
<u>6th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon.	Bully Hash.	Rice.
"B" Coy.	do & Maconoch.	do	do
"C" Coy.	do & Bacon.	do	do
"D" Coy.	do do	do	do
<u>7th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon. Fried Bacon.	Fried Chops & Pots.	Rice.
"B" Coy.	do	Croquettes.	Hash.
"C" Coy.	do	Stew.	Rice.
"D" Coy.	do	Boiled Beef.	Rice.
<u>8th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon.	Stew.	Bacon.
"B" Coy.	do do	do	do
"C" Coy.	do do	do	do
"D" Coy.	do & Tea.	Stew.	do
<u>9th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.) Stew and Tea sent forward.		
"B" Coy.			
"C" Coy.			
"D" Coy.			
<u>10th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.) Stew & Tea sent forward.		
"B" Coy.			
"C" Coy.			
"D" Coy.			
<u>11th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon.	Stew.	Rice.
"B" Coy.	do do	do	do
"C" Coy.	do do	do	do
"D" Coy.	do do	do	do

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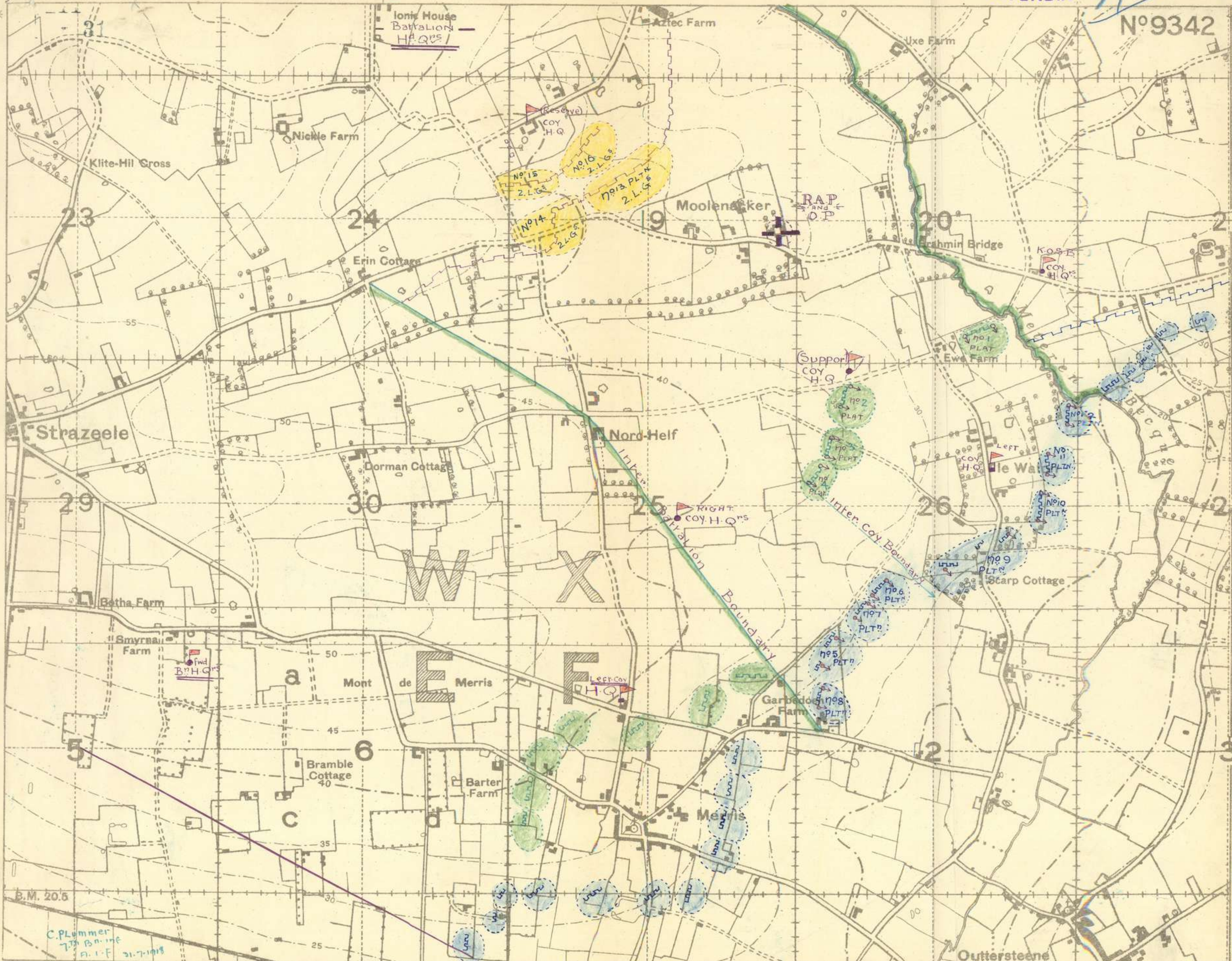
	1st Meal.	2nd Meal.	3rd Meal.
<u>12th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon.	Stew.	Tea.
"B" Coy.	do do	do	Rissoles.
"C" Coy.	do do	do	Stew.
"D" Coy.	do do	do	Rissoles.
<u>13th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon.	Stew.	Rissoles.
"B" Coy.	do do	do	Tea.
"C" Coy.	do do	do	Rissoles.
"D" Coy.	do do	do	Rice.
<u>14th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon.	Stew.	Tea.
"B" Coy.	do do	do	Rice.
"C" Coy.	do do	do	Tea.
"D" Coy.	do do	do	Tea.
<u>15th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Bacon.	Stew.	Tea.
"B" Coy.	Bacon.	do	Tea.
"C" Coy.	Bacon.	do	Tea.
"D" Coy.	Bacon.	do	Tea.
<u>16th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon.	Roast Beef & Veggies.	Rice & Fruit.
"B" Coy.	do	Boiled do	Puddings.
"C" Coy.	do	Fried Steak & Veggies.	Rice.
"D" Coy.	do	Stew.	Rice.
<u>17th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon.	Rissoles.	Raisin Roll.
"B" Coy.	do	M. & V. Croquettes.	Rissoles.
"C" Coy.	do	Curry & Rice.	Puddings.
"D" Coy.	do	Stew.	Date Roll.
<u>18th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon.	Boiled Beef & Veggies.	Rissoles.
"B" Coy.	do	Fried Steak & Veggies.	Puddings.
"C" Coy.	Fried Bacon.	M. & V. Croquettes.	Rissoles.
"D" Coy.	do	Rissoles.	Croquettes.
<u>19th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon.	Croquettes.	Rissoles.
"B" Coy.	do	Rissoles.	Croquettes.
"C" Coy.	do	Roast Beef & Veggies.	Puddings.
"D" Coy.	do	Boiled Beef & Veggies.	Puddings.
<u>20th August.</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried Bacon.	Boiled Beef & Veggies.	Puddings.
"B" Coy.	do	Rissoles.	Croquettes.
"C" Coy.	do	Roast Beef & Veggies.	Puddings.
"D" Coy.	do	Croquettes.	Rissoles.

W. Howard M.C.

	1st. Meal	2nd. Meal	3rd. Meal
<u>22nd. August</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried bacon	Rissoles	Maconachie's
"B" Coy.	do.	Croquettes	Pudding
"C" Coy.	do.	Stew	Rissoles
"D" Coy.	do.	Roast beef & Veg.	Pudding
<u>23rd. August</u>	Stew and tea sent forward to all Coys.		
<u>24th. August</u>	Stew and cocoa sent forward to all Coys.		
<u>25th. August</u>	Stew and tea sent forward to all Coys.		
<u>26th. August</u>	Stew and tea for all Coys. on coming out of line.		
<u>27th. August</u>	XXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXX
"A" Coy.	Bacon	Boiled beef	Rice
"B" Coy.	Bacon	Boiled beef	Rice
"C" Coy.	Bacon	Boiled beef	Rice
"D" Coy.	Bacon	Croquettes	Rissoles
<u>28th. August</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon	Boiled beef	Pudding
"B" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon	Fried steak	Pudding
"C" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon	Rissoles	Pudding
"D" Coy.	Porridge & Bacon	Boiled Beef	Pudding
<u>29th. August</u>			
"A" Coy.	Fried bacon	M. & V. hash	Boiled rice
"B" Coy.	Fried bacon	Rissoles, onions	Boiled rice
"C" Coy.	Fried bacon	Stew	Date pudding
"D" Coy.	Fried bacon	Roast beef & cabbage	Raisin Roll
<u>30th. August</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & bacon	Fried steak	Raisin Roll
"B" Coy.	Porridge & bacon	Stew	Pudding
"C" Coy.	Fried bacon	Roast beef & cabbage	Boiled rice
"D" Coy.	Fried bacon	Boiled ham and beans	Boiled rice
<u>31st. August</u>			
"A" Coy.	Porridge & bacon	Soup, boiled beef	Boiled rice
"B" Coy.	Porridge & bacon	Soup, boiled beef	Boiled rice
"C" Coy.	Porridge & bacon	M. & V. hash	Jam Rolls
"D" Coy.	Porridge & bacon	Soup, boiled beef	Boiled rice

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EVH.



Field Survey Batt. R.E. (9342) n.7.8

SCALE 1 : 10,000

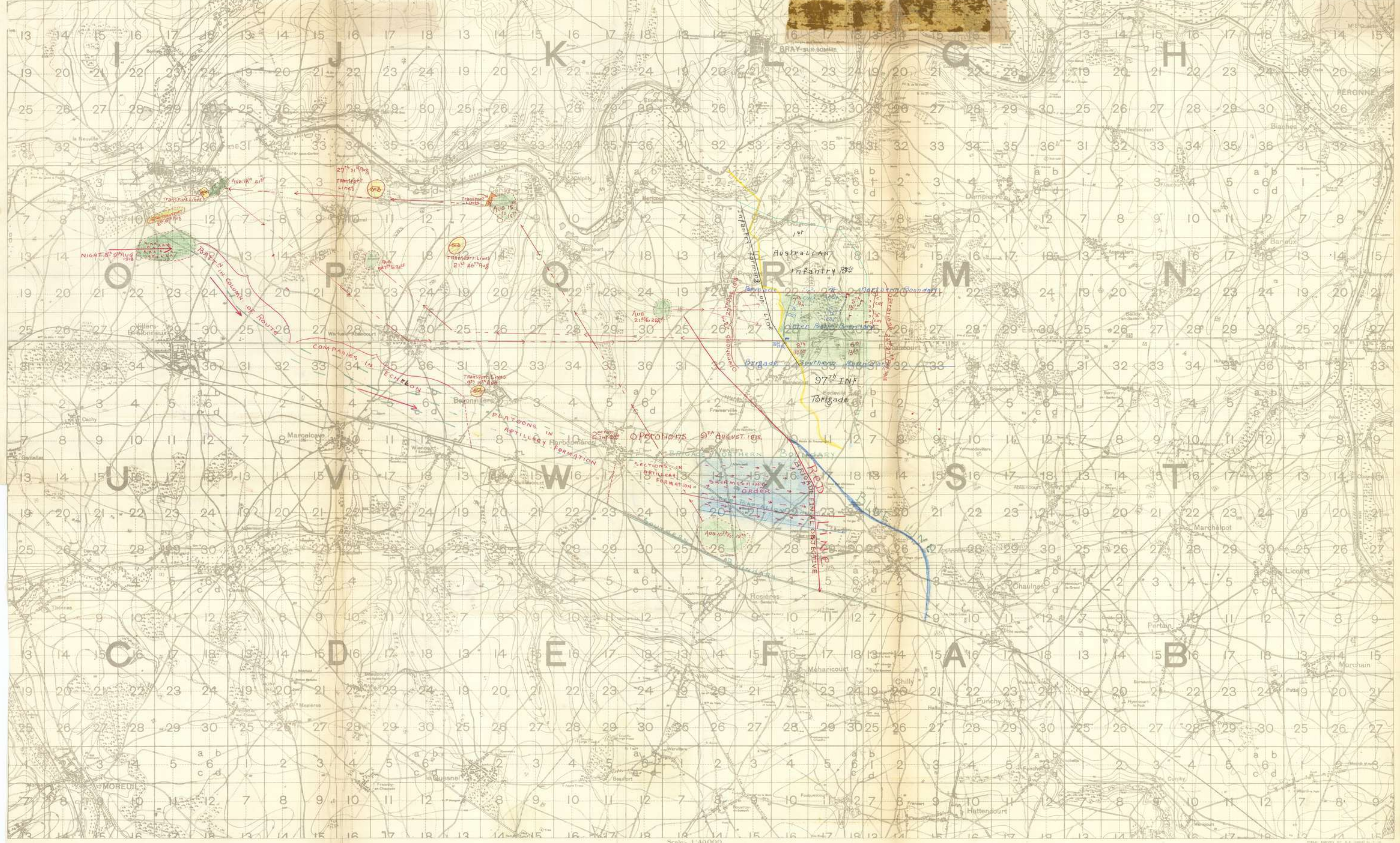
Yards 100 0 500 1000 1500 1700 Yds. 1 Mile

Kilometre 1 0 500 1000 1500 1700 Metres 1 Kilometre

1:40,000

HARBONNIERES

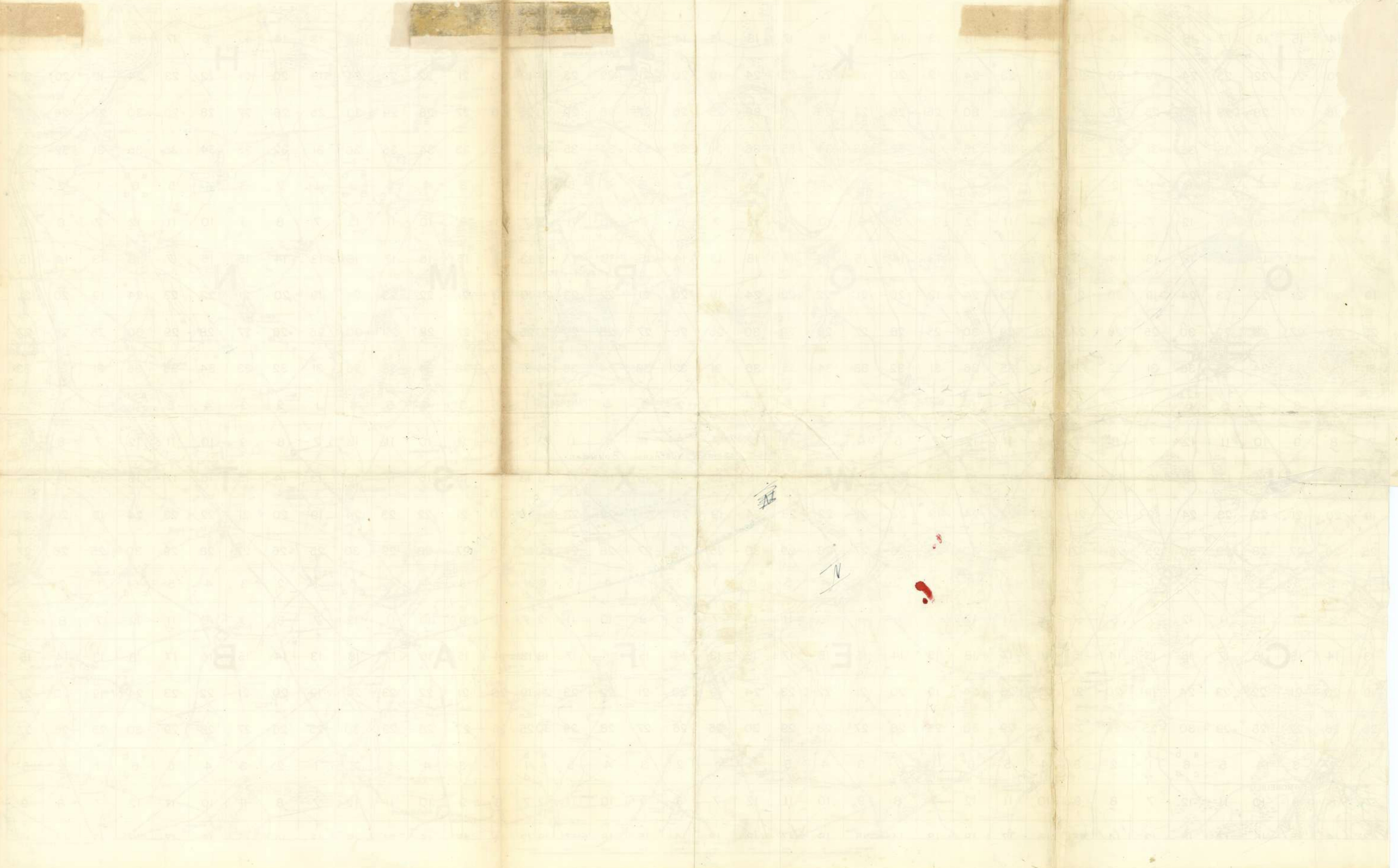
Parts of 62° 62' 66" 66"



Scale: 1:40,000

HARBOR

0000

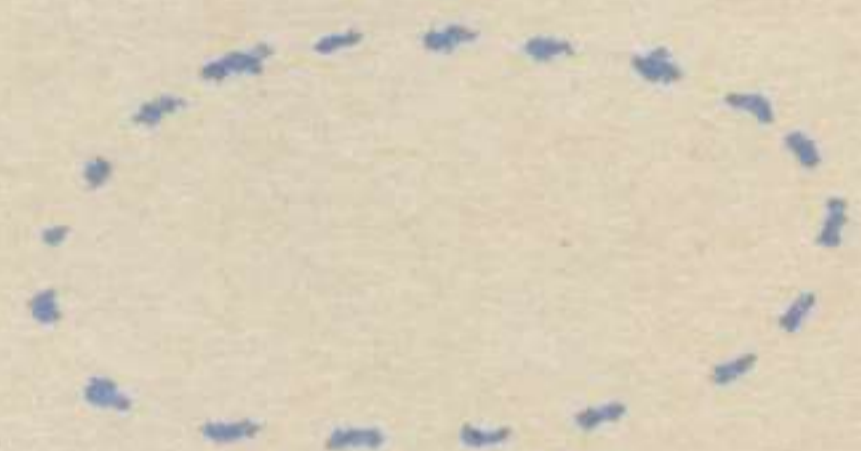


LEGEND

Operations - Aug 23rd 27th 1918

7th BN 5th BN

8th BN 6th BN



♫ Battⁿ Hd Qrs

♫ Company Hd Qrs

Ground Taken by Brigade dispersed as shown in Red Ink

Battⁿ Disposition. Aug 23rd 25th

Old front Line

New " "

Front Line posts Aug 25th 26th

WAR DIARYStrength Return for August 1918

Period August 1/7

	<u>ARRIVALS</u>	
	Off	O.R.
From hosp.	2	9
Illeg. Absentees		3
2nd. Army Gas School	1	1
XV Corps School	1	2
Div. Sig. School		5
F.P. Compound		2
Relieving M.O.	1	
Cadet Bn.	1	
Sanitary School		2
Harvest. Party		20
2nd. Army Rest Camp		6
Camp Wardens		2
Training Bn.		1
Rfcts.		1
	<u>6</u>	<u>54</u>

	<u>DEPARTURES</u>	
	OFF.	O.R.
To hosp.		8
Wounded		9
A.W.L.		2
K. in A.		1
Leave Eng.	1	4
Prison		2
Leave PARIS		3
	<u>1</u>	<u>29</u>

Strength on 7/8/18

With unit	42	off.	763	O/R.
Detached	8	"	72	"
	<u>50</u>	"	<u>835</u>	"

Period August 8/14

From Hosp.		17
	<u>25</u>	<u>524</u>
	9	62
	<u>34</u>	<u>586</u>

Strength on 14/8/18

To Hosp.	1	7
A.W.L.		1
K. in A.	7	56
Died of Wounds	1	2
Wounded	8	189
Cadet Bn.		1
	<u>17</u>	<u>256</u>

Period August 14/21

From hosp.	1	30
Rest Camp	1	7
2nd. Training Bn.	1	
Leave	2	
A.W.L.		1
Prison		1
Leave Paris		3
2nd. Army School		2
	<u>5</u>	<u>44</u>

To Hosp.		8
Aust. Corps School		4
Missing	1	2
Wounded	1	5
Died of Wounds	2	2
Sen. Officers Sch.	1	
Reg. Sec. List	1	
Training Bde.	1	
Leave Eng.		8
Rest Camp		12
Leave Paris		1
Postal Corps		1
Corps Comp.		1
Flying Corps	1	
2nd. Field Amb.	1	
	<u>9</u>	<u>44</u>

Strength on ²¹14/8/18

With Unit	28	529
Detached	3	81
	<u>31</u>	<u>610</u>

(2)

7th. Australian BattalionWAR DIARYStrength Return August 1918Period Aug. 15/31st.ARRIVALS

	OFF.	O.R.
From Hosp		12
Leave		5
Army School	1	2
Cadet Bn.	2	
Rest Camp		12
	<u>3</u>	<u>31</u>

DEPARTURES

	OFF.	O.R.
To Hosp.		10
Leave Eng.		15
XXI . Army School	1	3
Corps School		1
O.T.B.		1
1st. T.B.		1
K. in A.		12
Wounded	2	32
Wounded-gassed	3	90
Acc. Inj.	1	0
	<u>7</u>	<u>165</u>

Strength on 31/8/18

	Off.	O.R.
With Unit	24	404
Detached	4	82
	<u>28</u>	<u>486</u>

W.H.

SECRET

Copy No. 12

31

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No. 55.

Ref. Map: Sheet 27 S.E.

2/8/18.

1. 7th Aust. Battalion will be relieved on night of 2/3 August by 2nd Battalion, Leinster Regiment, and on-relief will move to location to be notified.
2. Incoming Battalion will be met by Headquarters guides at W.8.C.1.3. at 8.30 p.m., and by post and platoon guides at SHRINE at 10 p.m. Coy. Commanders will arrange for all guides to report to Sgt. SALTER at SHRINE at 9.45 p.m.
3. All trench stores, defence schemes, maps, etc., will be handed over and duplicate receipts obtained and sent to Battalion Headquarters before Coy. Commanders leave their sectors.
4. Lewis Gun limbers will meet Coys. at SHRINE or as near to it as shelling permits. Coy. Commanders' horses will be at Cross Roads W.17.D.1.2.
5. All loading for return to rear other than Lewis Guns will be sent to Bn. H/qrs. by 10 p.m.
6. On arrival at new area Coy. Commanders will report all correct or otherwise within half an hour of arrival.
7. Completion of relief to be wired Bn. H/qrs. using code word "RAT".
8. A C K N O W L E D G E.

J. H. ...
Lieut.
Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

Distribution.

Copy No.	1	2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.
"	2	C.O.
"	3	2nd In Command.
"	4	Adjutant.
"	5	"A" Coy.
"	6	"B" Coy.
"	7	"C" Coy.
"	8	"D" Coy.
"	9	Specialists.
"	10	Q.M.
"	11	T.O.
"	12/14	War Diary.

Cont 1.

SECRET

Copy No

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No.551st ANNEXURE.

2/3/18.

Ref. Map: Sheet 27 S.E.

1. On relief by 2nd Leinster Battalion on night of 2/3 August, 7th Battalion will move to LA KREULE Area, occupying camp at V.23.A.2.8.
2. During relief Coy. Commanders will ensure that front is adequately covered by patrols.
3. A C K N O W L E D G E.

J. H. ...
Lieut.
Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

Distribution.

As per Bn. Order 55.



2nd BATTALION, LEINSTER REGIMENT.

1. Battalion Headquarters - IONIC HOUSE, W.18.D.1.5.
Line Coy. Headquarters. RIGHT - X.25.D.2.9.
LEFT - X.26.B.6.5.
Close Support Coy. Headquarters. X.26.A.25.8.5.
Reserve Coy. Headquarters. X.19.A.15.55.
Wagon Lines. V.21.B. Central.
2. S.A.A. and Bomb Dumps at Bn. H/Qrs. and usual supplies with Coys.
Small R.E. Dump at Reserve Coy. H/Qrs.
Main Brigade dump at BORRE.
3. Rations. Brought from wagon lines nightly by limbers.
Limbers cannot cross ridge (STRAZEELE-COURT CROIX Road) before dark.
Road from wagon lines to ridge seldom shelled. Between Ridge and Bn. H/Qrs. shelled intermittently at night. SHRINE (close to Reserve Coy. H/Qrs.) is shelled intermittently at night.
Limbers proceed forward as under with rations.
For Line Coys. To one dump for Line Left and Close Support Coys. at about X.19.D.4.8. or as close to that point as limber can get when shelling permits. From this dump rations are picked up by carrying parties from Close Support Coy., who carry for both line Left and Close Support Coy.
For Line Right Coy., limber proceeds to dump on NORD HELF road at X.25.A.7.5. or as near to it as possible, and dumps rations there. Carrying parties from Reserve Coy. pick up rations at this point and carries to line.
Reserve Coy. rations taken to Coy. H/Qrs.
Bn. H/Qrs. rations taken to Bn. H/Qrs.

Cooking Arrangements. 2 hot meals are served nightly with hot tea and drinking water. 2 Cookers are at Bn. H/Qrs. and cook for the 4 Coys. The Reserve Coy. could with care, however, cook on open fireplace in day time.

The Reserve Coy. carries its own hot meal from Bn. H/Qrs. Line Left and Close Support hot meals are carried in hot food containers in limbers to Coy. dump, and picked up at dump by carrying party from Close Support Coy.
Line Right Coy. hot meals are sent to Coy. dump from Bn. H/Qrs. in containers by limber and picked up at dump by carrying party from Reserve Coy.

24 hours supply of water is sent with the second meal in each case. Good water supply at Bn. H/Qrs. where petrol tins are filled. Bn. H/Qrs. details can cook by daylight (with care).

This Battalion has never had any difficulty in regard to Cookers being at Bn. H/Qrs. It is fair to say, however, that no other Battalion has adopted the practice, considering it too risky. The Battalion from which we took over had 2 Cookers at W.24.A.4.6. (not very far from Bn. H/Qrs.).

The practice adopted by other Battalions has been to cook first meal at wagon lines and second meal at Cookers forward. Battalion which we relieved used pack horses to transport, containers, etc., from the dump to the line Coys. Supply of hot food containers as as under :-

50 large containers.

10 are sent to Front Line Coys. and Support Coy. with each meal.

Reserve Coy. use a set of dixies brought from one of the Cookers in rear.

GENERAL. Forward area is under enemy observation. Movement by day should be restricted as much as possible in the whole area to avoid heavy harassing fire of roads at night.

Cont 2

31

- 2 -

Phone communication to all Coys. is good and maintained without difficulty. R.A.P. is at X.19.D.9.9. where there is also a good supply of water.

Battalion O.P. at R.A.P. R.A.P. can be visited with care by day approaching from the rear.

Regarding Relief. Our practice is to move by platoons, 50 yards between platoons, breaking into platoons when within about half a mile of Ridge (STRAZEELE- COURT CROIX Road. Lewis Guns carried forward usually to about Reserve Coy., limbers moving at head of each Coy. with a N.C.O. from each platoon to facilitate quick unloading and issue to platoons as they pass unloading point. On night of relief each man carries in his own dry rations, and we serve only one hot meal, which we bring up from the rear when the Battalion moves. This meal we put in the same limber as the Lewis Guns, and after unloading the Lewis Guns, send the limber to the Coy. dump, where the meal is picked up later by the carrying parties. All hot food containers and petrol tins are brought back to the Coy. dump by carrying parties and picked up there by limbers and brought to Bn. H/Qrs. Carrying parties could of course carry empties through to Bn. H/Qrs. It is a matter of detail as to whether it is better to keep limbers waiting several hours or use the carrying parties right through. Our limbers wait at Bn. H/Qrs. until Coys. phone through that dumps are ready for clearance.

(Sgd.) O.HARRIS, Lieut.
Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

1/8/18.

31

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No. 56Ref. Map: Sheets 27 S.E., 36A N.E.
36A N.W.

3/8/18.

1. 7th Aust. Battalion moves on 3/8/18 by march route from LA KREULE Area to BLARINGHEM Area.
2. Starting Point. Battalion V.23.A.2.8. (main gate).
3. Starting Time. Head of column to pass starting point at 9.30 p.m.
4. Route. Via V.15.D.1.5. - WEKE MOULEN - WALLEN CAPPEL.
5. Order of March. "B", "C", "D", "A" Coys., H/Qrs. Details.
6. Distances. 100 yards between Coys. and between Coys. & Transport.
7. Dress. Fighting order. Steel helmets fastened on back of haversacks. Overcoat and waterproof sheet rolled and fastened on back.
8. Halts. 10 minutes at 10 minutes to each clock hour.
9. Present camp to be left in a thoroughly clean condition. Usual certificates half hour before Battalion moves.
10. Valises and all gear will be collected at an hour to be notified later.
11. Reports. On march to head of column. On arrival at new area to Bn. H/Qrs. within half an hour of arrival.
12. A C K N O W L E D G E.

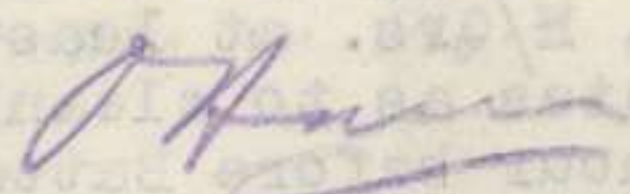
[Signature]
Lieuts.
Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

Distribution.

Copy No.	1	2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.
"	2	C.O.
"	3	2nd In Command.
"	4	Adjutant.
"	5	"A" Coy.
"	6	"B" Coy.
"	7	"C" Coy.
"	8	"D" Coy.
"	9	Specialists.
"	10	Q.M.
"	11	T.O.
"	12/14	War Diary.

Cor 2.

- 15. Lieut. ROBB and Lieut. O'NEILL with 3 H/Qrs. N.C.Os. will act as advance billeting party, and will travel on Train No. 28 leaving ST.OMER at 7.55 on 6th inst.
- 16. Reports on march to head of column; on train to H/Qrs. carriage; on arrival at new area all correct or otherwise within half an hour of arrival.
- 17. R.M.O. will travel with Bn. H/Qrs.
- 18. Valises and all gear of every description will be collected at Coy. billets at 10.30 p.m. on 5th inst. for loading on baggage wagon. No loading will be collected on morning of 6th inst.
- 19. A C K N O W L E D G E.


 Lieut.
 Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

Distribution.

- | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------------|
| Copy No. | 1 | 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| " | 2 | C.O. |
| " | 3 | 2nd In Command. |
| " | 4 | Adjutant. |
| " | 5 | "A" Coy. |
| " | 6 | "B" Coy. |
| " | 7 | "C" Coy. |
| " | 8 | "D" Coy. |
| " | 9 | Specialists. |
| " | 10 | Q.M. |
| " | 11 | T.O. |
| " | 12/14 | War Diary. |

COR
H

11. "A", "B" and "C" Coy. will each detail one platoon each of a strength of 1 Officer and 12 Other ranks to ensure compliance with para. (10). "A" Coy. will also detail one platoon strength 1 Officer and 12 Other ranks to prevent unauthorised entrance to any billet.

12. L.G.O. will arrange to mount Lewis guns on train for use if necessary against hostile aircraft. 4 guns to be mounted. "B" Coy. to supply guns and crews.

13. Plans, WRIGHT and DEAN will act as Bn. entertaining Officers and will report to Major HASTIE "MC" at 10 a.m. on 6th inst. for any instructions.

14. "D" Coy. is detailed as unloading party at HANBERT, and will travel by train No. 29 from ARGUS leaving at 8.49 a.m. on 6th inst. "B" Coy. will arrive at ARGUS Railway Station at 7.19 a.m. on 6th inst. when G.C. "D" Coy. will report to Capt. T.K. MARRY, L.G.O. Train No. 29. Coy. Cooker must be sent on ahead arriving at ARGUS STATION at 5.49 a.m.

31

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No. 58

Ref. Maps: LENS 1/100,000.
AMIENS 1/100,000.

7/8/18.

1. 7th Aust. Battalion will move by bus on 7/8/18 to CAMONS (Camp A).
2. Companies will assemble in front of their respective Coy. billets or as near thereto as convenient for forming up, and will await orders to ~~move~~ form up in column of route in main Street ST. OUEEN facing North with head of column at Starting Point, Battalion Headquarters billet.
3. Coys. to assemble at 8.15 p.m. Order of march to embussing point and from debussing point, H/Qrs. Details, "A", "B", "C", "D" Coys.
4. Battalion will be told off in groups of 25. Lieuts. WRIGHT and DEAN to arrange.
5. Dress: Full marching order.
6. All billets to be left in a thoroughly clean condition and must be inspected by an Officer before Coy. moves out.
7. Embussing and debussing will be carried out in silence.
8. Distances on the march: 100 yards between Companies.
9. Reports: All correct or otherwise within half an hour of arrival at new area.
10. Transport moves under separate orders.
11. A C K N O W L E D G E.

(Sgd.) O. HARRIS, Lieut.
Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	1	2nd A.I. Bde.
"	2	C.O.
"	3	2nd In Command.
"	4	Adjutant.
"	5	"A" Coy.
"	6	"B" Coy.
"	7	"C" Coy.
"	8	"D" Coy.
"	9	Specialists.
"	10	Q.M.
"	11	T.O.
"	12/14	War Diary.

CORR
5.

XV CORPS. NO. 128/28.G.

Major-General T.W. GLASGOW. CB. OMC. DSO.

Commanding 1st Australian Division.

Before your magnificent Division leaves my Corps, I wish to thank you and all ranks under your command for the exceptional services rendered during the past four months.

Joining this Corps on April 12th during the Battle of the LYS, the Division selected and prepared a position to defend the HAZEBROUCK Front, and a few days later repulsed two heavy attacks with severe losses to the enemy. This action brought the enemys advance to a standstill.

Since then, the Division has held the most important sector of this front continuously, and by skilful raiding and minor operations has advanced the line over a mile on a front of 5,000 yards, capturing just short of 1,000 prisoners, and causing such damage to the troops of the enemy that nine Divisions have been replaced.

The complete success of all minor operations; the skill displayed by the patrols by day as well as by night; the gallantry and determination of the troops; and their high state of training and discipline have excited the admiration and emulation of all, and I desire that you will convey to all ranks my high appreciation of their fine work and my regret that the Division is leaving my Command.

(sgd) Beauvoir de Lisle.

XV Corps Headquarters.
4th. August. 1918.

Lieutenant-General.
Commanding XV Corps.

CORR G.

EW.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS

Corps Headquarters,

August 7, 1918.

To the Soldiers of the Australian Army Corps.-

For the first time in the history of this Corps all five Australian Divisions will tomorrow engage in the largest and most important battle operation ever undertaken by the Corps.-

They will be supported by an exceptionally powerful Artillery, and by Tanks and Aeroplanes on a scale never previously attempted.- The full resources of our sister Dominion, the Canadian Corps, will also operate on our right, while two British Divisions will guard our left flank.

The many successful offensives which the Brigades and Battalions of this Corps have so brilliantly executed during the past four months have been but the prelude to, and the preparation for, this greatest and culminating effort.-

Because of the completeness of our plans and dispositions, of the magnitude of the operations, of the number of troops employed, and of the depth to which we intend to overrun the enemy's positions, this battle will be one of the most memorable of the whole war; and there can be no doubt that, by capturing our objectives, we shall inflict blows upon the enemy which will make him stagger, and will bring the end appreciably nearer.-

I entertain no sort of doubt that every Australian soldier will worthily rise to so great an occasion, and that every man, imbued with the spirit of victory, will, in spite of every difficulty that may confront him, be animated by no other resolve than a grim determination to see through, to a clean finish, whatever his task may be.-

The work to be done tomorrow will perhaps make heavy demands upon the endurance and staying powers of many of you; but I am confident that, in spite of excitement, fatigue, and physical strain, every man will carry on to the utmost of his powers until his goal is won; for the sake of AUSTRALIA, the Empire, and our cause.

I earnestly wish every soldier of the Corps the best of good fortune and a glorious and decisive victory, the story of which will re-echo throughout the world, and will live forever in the history of our home land.-

John Monash

Lieut.-General,
Commanding Australian Corps.

CORR 7

mm

APR 1918

August 7, 1918

Ambigny.

4 P.M.

3.45 Paaks etc

M. Dean

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION

Copies of Messages - August 7th - 13th.

31

(originals attached)

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.157. 7/8/18.

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. and 2nd M.G. Coy. will be held in readiness to move at two hours notice. In the event of to-morrow's attack proving successful it is probable that the Bde. will be required to move forward tomorrow evening to an area around VILLERS BRETONNEUX with a view to exploiting the success gained. This area will be reconnoitred tomorrow by all units. Orders as regards this are being issued separately. Should this move be ordered the Nucleus Battalion will be reformed and will remain in rear. Personnel to form same will be selected forthwith. Bands will accompany units and be used as carriers. No more than authorised number will be left out.

CORR. 8

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.163. 8/8/18.

Brigade Group consisting of 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Bns., 2nd A.L.T.M.Bty. 2nd M.G. Coy., 2nd Field Coy., 2nd Field Amb., 3rd Coy. A.S.C., and Bde. H/Qrs. will move this afternoon to the AUBIGNY Area. Units billeted in CAMON Area will move as under, passing Starting Point - The Bridge in M.16.D. (Sh.62D) at times stated - 5th Bn. 4.10 pm., 2nd M.G. Coy. 4.20 pm., 2nd A.L.T.M.Bty. 4.30 pm., Bde. Hqrs. 4.35 pm., 2nd Field Coy. 4.40 pm., 2nd Field Ambulance 5.5 pm., 3rd Coy. A.S.C. will move independently route via LONGUEAU - BLANGY - TRONVILLE. 7th Bn. will move independently via VECQUEMENT but must not interfere with 6th and 8th Bns. who will pass a line running E and W through BUSSY at 3.45 pm. and 4.10 pm. respectively. Usual distances will be maintained on march. On arrival in AUBIGNY Area, units will be met and allotted definite areas. Transport will accompany units. Packs, blankets and all surplus gear will be dumped at respective camps. Fighting order as laid down at this morning's conference will be worn. Personnel to form Nucleus Bn. will remain at respective camps for the present. Orders as regards drawing extra S.A.A., Iron rations etc. will be issued later. 2nd Fld.Amb. less tent sub-division will accompany Brigade group. Tent sub-division will remain at PT. CAMON. On arrival in AUBIGNY Area, Brigade group will be held in readiness to move forward at very short notice. Bde. Hqrs. will close at CAMON at 4 pm. and reopen at CORBIE at the same hour. Acknowledge.

CORR. 9

2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.164. 8/8/18.

Reference A.Z.B.163. Double distances will be observed on the march until reaching the new area when troops will move in small parties. In consequence of this, starting times will now read for CAMON Group 5th Bn. 4.10, 2nd M.G. Coy. 4.40, 2nd A.L.T.M.Bty. 4.55, Bde. Hqrs. 5.0, 2nd Field Amb. 5.10. Arrival of units will be reported to Brigade Headquarters.

2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

CORR. 10

11-12-13 } 38.
14-15 }

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.170. 9/8/18.

You will be prepared to move at 6 a.m. to position about HARBONNIERS (Square W.11) with a view to continuing the advance to-day. Move will be by small parties, with 8th Bn. on right, 7th Bn. on left, and 5th and 6th Bns. in rear with 6th Bn. on right. One section of 2nd M.G. Coy. will move with each 7th and 8th Bns., remainder of Coy. following in rear of 6th and 5th Bns. Ammunition limbers and water carts will move to BAYONVILLERS. Should this move be ordered confirming orders will be sent later.

CORR. 11

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.171. 9/8/18.

You will move at once in accordance with instructions given in A.Z.B.170. You will receive further orders whilst on the march. Report to this Office time of leaving present location.

7.30 a.m.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

CORR. 12

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.183. 9/8/18.

On capture of RED LINE 7th and 8th Bns. will consolidate same. Patrols will be pushed out in front to protect the line. Should the capture of the BLUE LINE be ordered 5th and 6th Bns. will attack with 6th Bn. on right. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. will be on the left of 5th Bn. On 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. moving up 7th Bn. will move back into reserve in rear of 8th Bn. Inter-Brigade boundar for the attack will be X.23.C.3.6. - S.25.D.8.8. along road (inclusive to 5th Bn.) - S.27.C.0.5. Inter-Battalion boundary will be X.19.C.5.5. - A.2.C.3.8. - A.3.C.2.7. Acknowledge.

5.25 p.m.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

CORR. 13

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.187. 9/8/18.

7th and 8th Bns. will consolidate on the line they are now on but touch must be maintained with units on either flank.

7.5 p.m.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

CORR. 14

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.193. 9/8/18.

The "C" Phase, the capture of the BLUE LINE will be carried out tomorrow 10th inst. 5th and 6th Bns. will carry out the attack on the Brigade front with 6th Bn. on the right. A Canadian Brigade will be on the right of 6th Bn. and the 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. on the left of 5th Bn. The Right boundary of the Brigade will be the Railway line, the Left boundary the road (inclusive to the 3rd Bde.) from X.29.A.5.3. to S.25.D.0.8. to S.27.C.0.6. The indet-Bn. boundary will be the line from F.5.A.5.5. to A.3.C.3.5. One of each of the sections of 2nd M.G. Coy. now in reserve will be attached to each 5th and 6th Bns. The attack will be under an artillery barrage, particulars of which will be forwarded later. Zero hour will be 8 a.m. Acknowledge.

11.55 p.m.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

CORR. 15

31

Lieut. WRIGHT. G.R.76. 10/8/18.

5th Bn. has to withdraw in order to take part in attack on BLUE LINE. "D" Coy. has been instructed to move across at once from our RIGHT flank to fill the gap. 3rd Aust.Bde. will pass through you to attack BLUE LINE at 8 a.m.

CORR.17

3.20 a.m.

7th Aust. Battalion.

"D" Company. G.R.75. 10/8/18.

You are in 8th Bn. area. You will move at once to the LEFT of Lieut.WRIGHT, whose right flank is at X.23.C.3.8. in order to fill the gap caused by the withdrawal of a Coy. of 5th Bn. BLUE LINE is being attacked at 8 a.m. by 3rd Aust.Bde.

CORR.16

3.20 a.m.

7th Aust. Battalion.

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.196. 10/8/18.

Reference A.Z.B.193. The jumping off line will be the RED LINE. A creeping barrage will be put down 700 yards clear of the RED LINE at zero, -- 15 minutes, moving forward by lifts of 100 yards in two minutes. On reaching the BLUE LINE a protective barrage will be put down. Fire will cease at request of G.O.C. the Brigade. Heavy artillery will co-operate preparatory to and during the operation. Acknowledge.

3.20 a.m.

2nd Aust.Inf.Brigade.

CORR.18

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.209. 10/8/18.

On the night of 10/11th August the 8th Battalion with one Company of the 7th Battalion attached will attack and capture the BLUE LINE. The 3rd Aust.Inf.Bde. will co-operate on the left. The Bde. boundaries to the attack will be as laid down for this mornings attack. The operation will be assisted by artillery and tanks. Six tanks will operate on this Bde.'s and four on the front of the 3rd Aust.Inf.Bde. Prior to zero hour ~~that~~ the attacking troops will be formed up immediately in rear of our present front line, and at zero hour will advance in rear of the tanks and capture and consolidate the position. The action of the tanks will be as follows :- At zero minus 5 minutes they will pass through our present front line, and at zero will proceed in rear of the barrage working towards LIHONS and the woods in the vicinity thereof. On the capture of the objective they will patrol in front of same in order to reduce any hostile positions on the immediate front. The action of the artillery will be as follows :- At zero a creeping barrage will be put down on the grid line running from A.8.A.0.5. to S.26.C.0.8. At zero plus 2 minutes it will advance at the rate of 100 yards in three minutes until it reaches a line 700 yards beyond the objective, when it will remain stationary in order to protect the consolidation. The Heavies will fire during the operation on CHAULNES and BOIS DE TRIANOULAIRE in accordance with instructions issued. Two sections of the 2nd M.G. Coy. are placed at the disposal of C.O. 8th Bn. to assist in the operation. zero hour will be 4 a.m. Acknowledge.

10.30 p.m.

2nd Aust.Inf.Brigade.

CORR.19

10/8/18.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

7th Aust. Bn. moved on morning of 9/8/18 from vicinity FOUILLOY to forward area and at 1.25 p.m. was in position just SOUTH of HARBONNIERS ready to attack in conjunction with Tanks. Tanks were ready and Tanks Officer said he would move to the attack immediately the tanks supporting 8th Aust. Bn. on our right began to move. 8th Bn. position could be clearly seen from 7th Bn. position.

At 1.50 p.m. Tanks moved to the attack, and 7th and 8th Bns. moved with the Tanks.

Considerable artillery fire was encountered before GREEN Line reached, and a number of casualties sustained. Before GREEN Line passed enemy also opened heavy M.G. fire and the whole advance to RED Line was made under M.G. fire, which at times was of terrible severity and caused us heavy losses. Much of this fire came from our left which was left exposed because on our left no troops moved forward from the GREEN Line to the RED Line until after the capture and consolidation of RED line by us.

The enemy was not slow to perceive from his commanding position on Hill that our left flank was exposed, and he quickly moved troops into position enfilading all movement forward. Snipers on the flank were particularly active and caused numerous casualties amongst our Officers and N.C.Os.

At 6 p.m. 7th Bn. was able to report definitely that RED Line captured, and shortly afterwards Lieut. Col. LUXTON C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 5th Aust. Bn., moved a Company on to our left flank to form a defensive flank, and to frustrate the evident intention of the enemy to attempt to attack us on left flank. This Coy. of 5th Bn. came very smartly into action on the left and drove the enemy off with severe losses to him.

All 4 Coy. Commanders of 7th Bn. were wounded fairly early in the action and 50% of the Officers were casualties by the time RED Line consolidated.

The courage of our men in pressing forward under such exceptionally severe difficulties cannot be too highly commended.

Immediately in front of the objective the enemy had field guns in action firing point blank at advancing troops, and supported by M.Gs. placed in commanding positions.

It was only by rushing M.G. positions under heavy fire and with severe losses to ourselves that the advance could be continued. Considerable bombing was also necessary in long lengths of trench held by the enemy. There was practically no fire from our artillery during the attack.

Late on the night of 9th August touch was gained with 25th Bn. on the left. This Bn. had moved through troops holding GREEN Line and had pressed forward towards RED Line. Touch was maintained without difficulty with 8th Aust. Bn.

Tanks were not a success as far as this Bn. was concerned. At the outset their pace was much too fast, and just when the really difficult positions were being approached, Tanks not out of action changed direction to the right and all the Tanks which should have been with 7th Bn. troops moved over into 8th Bn. area with the result that the enemy M.G. opposition had to be overcome by infantry only.

*CORR
20*

The ground over which advance was made was remarkably difficult, being much broken up, affording excellent Machine Gun positions to the enemy, and of which he took full advantage. Many short lengths of trench were also encountered as well as several long communication trenches, out of which the enemy had to be bombed, and in which he made a stubborn resistance.

Apart from the difficulties on the left the enemy made several bold and prompt counter attacks, which were met and broken by steady fire from our Lewis Guns.

A large number of prisoners were taken and passed to rear. Owing to casualties and shortage of men as escorts it was not possible to check all before they went through, but at least 100 are known to have gone through from Bn. sector.

Our casualties approximately -

13 Officers, 200 Other Ranks, including 5 Officers killed.

(Sgd.) E.E.HERROD, Lieut.Col.
Commanding 7th Aust. Battalion.

NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT

ON AUGUST 9th 1918.

Ref. Map: Sheet 62D, 1:40,000.

At 8.30 a.m. the Battalion moved by march route from bivouac positions in O.17. (South of CORBIE) towards BAYONVILLERS.

At 10.45 a.m. at P.26.C.9.3. on receipt of verbal message to report to Brigade Headquarters, I left the Battalion with instructions to proceed to W.2.C. across country in echelon of Companies and wait there for further instructions.

I reported to Brigade Headquarters at W.9.C.1.3. at 11.30 a.m. and received instructions to carry out an operation against the enemy and continue the advance from the GREEN Line to the RED Line in conjunction with the 8th Aust. Battalion. The Left boundary being the Northern grid line of squares X.13., 14, 15, 16, and 17 and the Right boundary the GUILLAUCOURT - ROSIERES - CHAULNES Railway Line, the inter-Battalion boundary being a line through X.13.D.0.0., the Cross Roads at X.20.B.7.5. and the Cross Roads at X.22.0.9.8. - the 7th Battalion being on the Left.

1 Section of the 2nd M.G. Coy., 6 Tanks (2nd Tank Bn.) and 2 18 pdr. Field Guns ("C" Battery 189th Army Bde. R.F.A.) were allotted to the Battalion to assist in carrying out the operation.

I rejoined the Battalion at 12.15 p.m. at W.2.C., at which place the Transport was parked, after each Company drew and distributed its Lewis Guns and ammunition.

At 12.30 p.m. the advance was continued towards W.17. (South of HARBONNIERS) in artillery formation, "B" and "A" Coys. in front and "D" and "C" 800 yards in rear ("B" and "D" Coys. being on the Right) the ammunition pack animals in rear of each Company. During this stage a few shells fell amongst the Battalion, but no casualties were sustained.

ASSEMBLY. On arriving at the assembly position in W.17., at which place the Tanks were waiting, and the Field Guns joined us, I halted and held a meeting of Company, Artillery, and Tank Commanders, explained the situation and pointed out the boundaries and objectives. I gave definite instructions to the Artillery Liaison Officer to stay with me till I could give him further orders which would be at our next halt. To the Officer in charge of the guns I gave instructions to advance about 1000 yards in rear of the Battalion till we halted when further instructions would be given through the Liaison Officer; but after moving off, nothing more was seen of these Officers. Touch was gained with 8th Battalion on our Right, and at 1.50 p.m. the advance to the RED Line commenced.

FORMATION. "B" and "A" Coys. in the line with "D" and "C" Coys. in Support. The two line Companies each had a line of scouts extended across the front at 100 yards interval, being followed at 150 yards distance by a line of four Tanks (two on each Coy. front) these in turn being followed by the remaining two Tanks. The two line Coys. followed the Tanks at a distance of 150 yards, in artillery formation, having two platoons each in the line in artillery formation of sections - and two platoons each in Support.

CORR 21

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The two Supporting Companies ("D" and "C") followed at a distance of 500 yards in artillery formation of platoons echeloned outwards from the centre.

Battalion Headquarters moved forward between the two supporting Companies. The artillery Liaison Officer disappeared as soon as we advanced and was not seen again. The Tanks Officer stayed with me until it was definitely established that all the Tanks were out of action.

TOPOGRAPHY. From the cover afforded by the sunken roads at the assembly position the ground rose in a gentle slope from 70 metres in W.17. to 85 in W.18.A. & C., from thence for nearly 4000 yards the ground was quite flat, rising sharply on the RED Line to 95 metres on the Right, 85 in the centre and 90 on the Left. The most important feature was this hill on the objective. Looking from here the enemy had an interrupted view of the whole Battalion during its advance.

ACTION. Immediately on clearing the rising ground in W.18.A. and C. the Battalion came under artillery fire from approximately 2 batteries, one "77" m.m. battery from the hill in X.23. firing direct, and one 4'2 battery firing indirect from approximately the same direction but at longer range. Shells dropped continuously but the Battalion was well spread over a large area and very few casualties were sustained.

6 enemy aircraft were also in the air and hovered for 30 minutes above the Battalion at a height varying from 1000 to 500 feet. We were subjected to a considerable amount of M.G. fire and 4 bombs from these planes, but casualties were not severe from them.

Our Left flank tank had capsized in a sunken road in W.17.B., and already the remainder were working too far to the Right.

On reaching the road running N. and S. along grid line between squares X.13. and 14 we passed through the troops of the 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade and immediately came under very heavy enemy M.G. fire, frontal from trenches in X.14.B. & D. and enfilade from the Southern outskirts of VAUVILLERS. The ground being quite open and flat, and the volume of enemy fire terrific, the line took cover.

I hurried forward and established Battalion Headquarters in a small cellar of the house at X.13.D.9.5. at 2.40 p.m.

The Tanks had all worked away to the Right and from now onwards were of no assistance to us. But in doing so the tendency was to carry the troops with them; I therefore deployed "C" Coy. into the line on the Left Flank.

At this stage, instead of the heavy enemy fire we got, we were expecting covering fire from the troops on the GREEN Line. (It now transpired that the troops we had already passed through along the road running N. and S. along the Eastern grid line of squares X.13. were those purporting to be on the GREEN Line. They undoubtedly thought they were, for later at 3.30 p.m. I saw the C.O. of the 59th Aust. Bn. at the Cross Roads at X.13.D.9.5. and he told me that we were then standing on the scissors cross roads at X.20.B.7.4. I knew this to be wrong, for I had already established my Headquarters and verified the position both then and since. A certain number of men of the 58th or 59th Battalion moved forward later in rear of my men.)

"C" Coy. came into action on the Left flank covered by the fire from the Centre Coy.

On this move taking place the enemy vacated the Left and retired towards X.9. Central pursued by our Lewis Gun fire; this enabled my Left Coy. to get well forward and occupy a position in old trenches in X.15.A. at 3.30 p.m.

The centre then pushed forward and encountered heavy fire from the copse in X.15.C. The enemy put up a very stout resistance at this position, assisted by fire from the '77 battery on the hill and by M.G. fire from old ~~Mx~~ gun positions in X.21.B., and by engaging my left Coy. from position in X.9.C. He eventually commenced to evacuate the position round the copse by dribbling a few men and guns away at short intervals along old C.T's running N.E. and S.E.. The copse ^{was} then assaulted and 1 heavy and 3 light M.Gs. and 15 prisoners captured. The advance was then continued at about 4 p.m. by short ~~sharp~~ rushes under an incessant and heavy volume of M.G. fire particularly from the Left flank, until held up by a mass of trenches and gun positions very strongly manned in the N.W. portion of square X.22.A.

The Right Coy. which was operating along either side of the road running S.E. through X.21.C. and D., captured 2 Heavy Trench Mortars and 16 men at X.20.B.7.3., mopped up and captured 10 men (most of whom were wearing Red Cross brassards) at the hospital in X.21.C., moved on to the bend in the road at X.28.A.1.9. at 3.35 p.m.

Enemy was holding with considerable strength, both in men and machine guns, a line of old gun positions and trenches at X.22.C.4.4. - X.22.C.5.2. & 6.3.

Great difficulty was experienced in dealing with this position on account of the ample cover afforded the enemy, and the open nature of the ground our men had to use, to get in a position that would render it possible to kill him. This Company had suffered heavily and had expended their stock of Rifle Grenades. "D" Coy., my only remaining Coy., was therefore pushed forward to clear this position.

At 4 p.m. "D" Coy. (Lieut. J. FOWLER) joined up with "B" Coy. and carried on the good work. With the skilful use of a volley of rifle grenades, we got a footing in the old gun pits. M.G. fire was still too heavy, particularly from vicinity of X.22.D.9.9., to allow of any movement by us over the open ground.

3 M.G's. and a further 20 prisoners were taken in these old gun positions.

By working bombing teams along old trenches we were able to gain the Cross Roads at X.22.B.1.4. at 4.35 p.m.

On gaining the position at X.22.B.1.4., which is a very strong one and ideally situated for defence, the pressure on the centre Coy. was immediately relieved and enemy who was holding on stubbornly in the N.W. portion of X.22.A. suddenly took fright and gave way. A large number were shot down (approx. 50) 3 or 4 M.G's. and about 30 prisoners captured; a number of others got away N. towards X.10. pursued by our fire.

The three Coys. then pushed on towards the Red Line, portion of which was gained 5t 5.5. p.m. Our right flank was now at X.29.A.1.9. and a post was established at X.23.C.5.1. in an old trench near a small clump of trees. Other posts were established at X.23.C.4.6. - X.23.C.1.7. - X.23.A.5.3. - X.17.C.1.3. When these positions were gained the gun crews of the '77 m.m. were sniped by us. Huns were thick in trench running N. and S. through Copse in X.23.A. who poured a continuous heavy volume of M.G. fire at our positions which rendered it well-nigh impossible to move,

Our Left flanking Coy. (C) was suffering very severely from enfilade fire and considerable enemy movement could be seen in X.9. and X.10. By working along an old trench through X.16.C.

(marked Champagne Alley on some maps) they eventually reached the Red Line, much weakened in numbers and with exhausted men; and aided by covering fire from the troops already on the Red Line, but still hampered by enemy fire from the Left, established positions at X.16.B.7.5. and X.16.B.5.8. across the N.E. of a knoll, which although very low is yet a distinct topographical feature.

On reconnoitring the position and considering the situation generally, I was a little apprehensive regarding the Left flank which was exposed and open to a depth of about 3000 yards, with considerable enemy movement to be seen in X.9., X.10., and X.11., I therefore decided not to move Battalion Headquarters forward, so re-established at X.13.D.9.5. where I had a good command and observation post on the roof of the house. I had visual signal communication with the front line and was in touch with the 5th (Support) Battalion also, and was in a position to deal with any hostile move from the Left.

At 6 p.m. my "G.R.62" was despatched to 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade stating that Red Line was in our hands.

At 6.30 p.m. enemy counter-attacked the Centre with about 100 men. This was easily dealt with by Lewis Gun fire and the attack just withered.

We were still kept busy and our snipers and Lewis Gunners had many fleeting opportunities, which were not lost. At one time under cover of a heavy burst of M.G. fire the enemy brought horses forward and tried to limber up the 77 m.m. guns in X.23., but we shot the horses and continued shooting any Huns who approached the guns.

By 7 p.m. the Coys. had been reorganized in the line, and the 4 Vickers Guns distributed along the front, and touch had been gained with the 8th Aust. Battalion on the Right.

Considering the open state of my Left and the frequent moves of enemy parties, added to the fact that my 4 Coys. were deployed, that the front was too wide and enemy too strongly entrenched within 500 yards of my Right and Right Centre to render it safe to withdraw a Coy. from the line - that the men were exhausted, having marched a distance of 12 miles - having fought a bitter grueling and exhaustive struggle for 4 hours - that my numbers were greatly reduced, I considered it inadvisable to withdraw any men from the line to form the very necessary defensive flank.

Also, as the 5th Aust. Battalion had in the meantime moved up into Support, and the left still being exposed and it being necessary for them to protect their own flank, I called on the C.O. 5th Battalion for a Company to form a defensive flank, which was done; the Coy. had casualties inflicted on them during this movement. The 5th Battalion also moved one Coy. forward to X.15.D. and X.16.C. in close support to the Red Line.

At 7.25 p.m. my "G.R.67" advised 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade that one Coy. of the 5th Aust. Battalion had been used by me.

At 8.45 p.m. the Coy. of the 5th Aust. Battalion reported the 25th Aust. Battalion as having moved forward and gained touch with them.

The position was now fairly secure, excepting that the Left flank was thrown well back, the 25th Battalion being in touch only with the turned flank instead of being forward on the Red Line.

The hours of darkness passed quietly. The enemy showed signs of nervousness and threw flares and fired bursts of M.G. fire continuously.

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I pushed forward hot food and tea to the front line during the night.

At about 5 a.m. I withdrew 1 Coy. from the Right flank and placed it on the Left, to allow the 5th Aust. Bn. to withdraw.

The morning of the 10th August broke fine, but with a light ground mist.

At 8 a.m. the 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. passed through us to take the Blue line, supported by an artillery barrage and the covering fire of our Lewis Guns.

The Battalion was then withdrawn and at 10 a.m. took up a position in X.20.D. - X.21.C. - X.26.B. - X.27.A. - with Battalion Headquarters at X.20.C.5.1.

DRESS. Fighting order, with 48 hours rations, 220 rounds S.A.A., 2 rifle grenades.

AMMUNITION. In addition to the above each Coy. took forward their ammunition mule carrying 2 boxes S.A.A. each; all 8 boxes reached the Red Line. This proved sufficient, but a reserve of 25 boxes was kept at Battalion Headquarters.

MEDICAL. At 3.30 p.m. my G.R.51 asked that ambulances be sent to X.13.D.9.5. - 2 motor and 4 horsed ambulances arrived at about 8 p.m. All wounded were cleared by 2 am. Owing to the long distance to be carried the Battalion Stretcher Bearers were not sufficient - it would have helped considerably if Bearer sections could have been made available early in the afternoon to assist the Regimental Stretcher Bearers.

PRISONERS. About 100 prisoners were captured. Receipts are held for 61 - , about 40 others were sent down assisting our wounded. Enemy units represented being 18 R.I.R., 26 R.I.R., 376 I.R., 2nd Ersatz, 256 R.I.R., 2nd Grenadiere Regt.

<u>BOOTY.</u>	2	9" Trench Howitzers.
	1	6" " "
	1	3" " "
	2	Granatenwerfers.
	4	Heavy Machine Guns.
	14	Light " "
	1	Hospital or C.C.S. and a quantity of smaller items, rifles, etc. were taken.

<u>CASUALTIES.</u>		<u>Officers.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
	Killed	-	6
	Wounded	-	8
	Missing	-	1
			52
			169
			2
	Total.		15
			223.

The missing personnel are not in enemy hands, but are probably killed, and their bodies not yet recovered. 47 dead were collected and buried by us at X.21.A.1.9. at Southern corner of Copse. 4 dead were buried by other units.

GENERAL. The map coordinates quoted have all been checked and verified on the ground since.

Weather was fine and clear but very hot.

The distance from our starting off position S. of CORBIE to the Red Line is about 12 miles. This was covered without a halt other than the usual 10 minutes each hour and those occasioned by heavy traffic.

The mere statement of facts on paper, does not convey any idea of the severity of our task. The position assailed overlooked the whole field of battle, the Battalion advanced and fought over the field in broad daylight, without assistance from other arms of the service, against an enemy who fought determinedly, an enemy in strongly entrenched positions, with enemy field guns firing over open sights; fought and advanced with an open and exposed flank, against M.G. fire of fierce intensity, on a hot day and at the conclusion of a long, tiring, dusty march.

The 9th of August is sacred to the men of the 7th Battalion as the anniversary of their famous Lone Pine fight, and the deeds of that day were worthily emulated by the men of the present 7th Battalion.

Lieut.Col.
Commanding 7th Aust. Battalion.

All Companies. G.R.77. 10/8/18.

As soon as the 3rd Aust.Bde. has passed through you to attack the RED LINE you will withdraw (bringing all your Lewis guns etc. dixies etc.) and take up a position in Bde. Reserve in Squares X.21. and X.27. "A" and "D" Coys. in square X.27. and "B" and "C" Coys. in square X.21. (approx.) making use of all available cover. Bn. H/Qrs. will be at about X.20.D.8.1. near road. Zero hour for BLUE LINE attack is 8 a.m.

4.55 a.m.

7th Aust. Battalion.

CORR. 22

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.221. 11/8/18.

The 4th Canadian Division will carry out an operation this afternoon with tanks and artillery with a view to advancing to the line POZEAUX - CHAULNES. The inter-Divisional boundary for the operation will run A.7.B.2.7. to T.21.Central. The 2nd Aust.Inf.Bde. will assist in the operation if necessary with covering fire. Should the operation be successful and the tanks succeed in clearing BOIS DE TRIANGOIN and the vicinity our left Battalion to line to that of the Canadians. Zero hour is expected to be early this afternoon.

CORR. 23.

2nd Aust.Inf. Brigade.

7th Aust. Battalion. A.Z.B.223. 11/8/18.

On the night of 11/12 August the 2nd Aust.Inf.Bde. will be relieved in the line by the 1st Aust.Inf.Bde. On relief the 2nd Aust.Inf. Bde. will move back into Divisional reserve. On completion of relief units of the incoming Bde. will be disposed as follows :- 2nd and 3rd Bns. in the line, 1st and 4th Bns. in support. 2nd A.M.G. Coy. will be relieved by 1st Aust.M.G. Coy. On relief units will move to the following locations, 5th Bn. to square X.28. 6th Bn. to square X.14., 8th Bn. to square X.20., 2nd M.G. Coy. to square X.25.B. 7th Bn. will move to X.27. Details of relief will be arranged between C.Os. concerned. Usual procedure of reliefs will be carried out. Completion of reliefs will be notified to Bde. H/Qrs. by wire. On completion of reliefs Bde. H/Qrs. will close at X.26.D.5.2. and re-open at X.18.C.8.4. Command of the Bde. sub-sector will pass to G.O.C. 1st Aust.Inf.Bde. on completion of relief. Acknowledge.

CORR. 24

3.15 p.m.

2nd Aust.Inf. Brigade.

Transport Officer. G.R.110. 13/8/18.

Battalion will be moving tomorrow to CERISY. Transport will move under orders of the Bde. T.O. during the afternoon. The two Cookers at present here will accompany the Bn. The L.G. limbers will be required to report to their Coys. here at 5 p.m. Hacks at 5 p.m. also. One limber will report here as early as possible to carry back any gear etc. that may be here. If there is too much gear at your line to move try to get it moved to new area during the morning.

11.30 p.m.

7th Aust. Battalion.

CORR 25

7th Aust. Battalion.A.Z.B.236.12/8/18.

It is expected that the Brigade will be in Divisional Reserve for at least 3 days. This period will be spent in reorganising cleaning up and resting. Reorganisation should be put in hand forthwith. Personnel now at Nucleus Bn. (at BLANGY TRONVILLE) should be interchanged with those with the Bn. needing a rest. Application has been made to Division to reduce the number left with the Nucleus. If this is permitted units will be notified. Supplies will be drawn to equip each man with 220 rounds S.A.A. and two rifle grenades.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

CORR. 26

REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF "D" COY. 7th AUST. BN.

ON AUGUST 11th, 1918.

On evening of 10th August I received orders that "D" Coy. of the 7th Bn. was to be attached to the 8th Bn. to assist in carrying out an operation.

After consultation with Col. MITCHELL D.S.O., I called the platoon commanders and platoon sergeants together, and gave them all available information. Our orders were clear and were readily understood.

The men were called together and each man understood in general what we had to do. The objective was named, viz., 500 yards beyond the village of LIHONS along the BLUE LINE. Our position was to be 200 yards in rear of centre of the 8th Bn. and we were to move in small groups in artillery formation. Zero hour was 4 a.m. and we would be supported by an artillery barrage. At 1.30 a.m. on 11/8/18, I moved the Company to 8th Bn. H/Qrs. where a guide led it to the assembly position.

I arranged the Coy. behind the 8th Bn. and we were in position well on time and without having casualties. My right platoon was in rear of the left of "B" Coy. of 8th Bn. When all was ready the 8th Bn. moved forward and I kept in touch with them. We were in position when the barrage opened and followed them forward in artillery formation, passing through the 6th Bn. in trenches. Direction was difficult to maintain on account of the fog and the early hour. We had to cross several very deep trenches and ditches and other obstacles, but by the aid of stars managed to keep on the general line of the advance. "B" Coy. of the 8th Bn. I kept on my right flank, and was in touch with them the whole way forward.

After passing the 6th Bn. the enemy opened up a sustained fire with many M.Gs. from both flanks, and one of my men was made a casualty. The Coy. broke down from artillery formation into a line of skirmishes. Lieut. ANDERSON was on the left with 15 and 16 platoons, and Lieut. WISEWOULD on the right with 13 and 14 platoons. Coy. H/Qrs. was in front and stretcher bearers and C.S.M. in the rear. Advancing quickly by sections across the open we kept touch and direction and ready to move forward to assist if required.

"A" and "C" Coys. of 8th Bn. took up their line with "A" Coy. of 8th Bn. resting on the railway; "B" next and I placed "D" Coy. of 7th Bn. to the left of them in a trench. It was extremely foggy and difficult to locate my exact position. Heavy gas came down the trench and we were forced to wear Respirators for about an hour. When dawn broke I worked the Coy. along the trench to the left and endeavoured to get into touch with "C" Coy. of the 8th Bn. We met opposition, but an organised bombing attack cleared it. Huns could be heard firing and shouting on our left rear. Pushing further round when the light was better I could not find trace of "C" Coy. I pushed on for 400 yards and met Col. MITCHELL coming in my direction. I extended my men round the trench and "C" Coy. moved to the right and connection was made between "C" Coy. and "B" Coy. of 8th Bn. The Coys. were then disposed from right to left, "A" and "B" of 8th, "D" of 7th., and "C" and "D" of 8th. I visited "A" and "B" Coys. and found their dispositions and position of Coy. H/Qrs. I placed men on all communication trenches to and from the trench, and made five posts each with a machine gun, and used a German Gun captured during the advance for one of them. Sgt. BURROWS and 20 other volunteers mopped up the village of LIHONS at about 9 a.m. No troops were seen in the village, and the only sign of our troops having passed through were a few dead of the 8th Bn.

CORR.
27

31

We spent an eventful day. The Lewis Gunners had many targets and were sniping all day. The enemy could be seen retiring in the direction of CHAULNES with full packs up and carrying out heavy machine guns. No attack was made until about 4.30 p.m., when a most determined attack was made by about 80 Germans. They had a number of M.G.'s firing at our parapet and men posted at different points of their trench sniping. He worked up to within 10 yards of our position and we exchanged bombs with him and kept him out. Our Lewis Guns kept a continuous fire to bear on the least sign of movement, and with the men posted on the parapet accounted for at least 50 Huns. We unfortunately had 2 men killed and 4 wounded by snipers and bombs. The 8th Bn. on our left had 2 guns knocked out, but hung on well. It lasted 2 hours when the enemy retired to a trench 100 yards off. We did everything possible to keep him away and on account of the long sector of trench we were holding and our limited ~~supply~~ number of men against much superior numbers, I thought it better to hang on than attempt an offensive bombing attack against him. It was extremely dangerous to show your head for a second on account of his most accurate sniping and heavy M.G. traversing fire. Later on he attacked "B" Coy. of the 8th. on our right and was repelled. Our bomb supply was getting low and every bomb had to be carefully guarded. Lieut. YOUNG of the 8th Bn. gave me every assistance by supplying bombs. After a few hours we were relieved by a Bn. from the 1st Bde., and I moved the Coy. back and rejoined the 7th Bn. at X.26.B. at about 5.30 a.m. on 12/8/18.

CASUALTIES.

Killed	2	Other ranks.
--------	---	--------------

Wounded	7	" "
---------	---	-----

Gassed	7	" "
--------	---	-----

Missing	2	" "
---------	---	-----

Wounded but remaining on duty,	1	Other Rank.
--------------------------------	---	-------------

BOOTY TAKEN.

4 Light Machine Guns.

(Sgd.) W.H.G. SMITH, Lieut.
O.C. "D" Company,
7th Aust. Bn.

To:-
 Commanding Officer,
 7th Battalion, A.I.F.

HEADQUARTERS,
 8th BATTALION, A.I.F.
 14th August 1918.

I am desirous of conveying to you my appreciation of the splendid work done by your 'D' Coy. under command of Lieut. Smith during the recent operation in which the Coy. was attached to this Battalion.

The work of the Company, Officers, N.C.O's and men alike, was of the very highest order, and I consider it an honour to take such a fine company into action.

Their dash combined with the skilful leading of their officers was of tremendous assistance to the Battalion during the advance and the courage and determination which they displayed in repelling the enemy counter-attacks was well in keeping with the traditions of your grand old Battalion.

If at any time in the future, operations render it necessary for other troops to be attached to this Battalion, I sincerely hope that we will again have the good fortune to have such troops as these with us.

J. Mitchell.....Lieut-Colonel.
 Commanding, 8th Battalion, A.I.F.

COAA.25

9

AMERICAN ...

you men
proceed
the ...
in ...
that
W.H.H.

operation in which the ...
order, and I ...
company, ...
to ...

John ...

... Battalion, ...

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No.59.

Ref.Map: Sheet 62D.

14/8/18.

1. 7th Aust. Battalion will move on 15/8/18, from vicinity of ROSIERES to CERISY Area.
2. Starting Time. Head of Bn. will pass starting point at 5 pm.
3. Starting Point. X.13.D.9.5.
4. Route. X.13.D.9.5. - X.7.D.8.3. - W.11.B.6.6. - W.11.D.3.9. - MORCOURT - CERISY.
5. Order of March. H/Qrs., "A", "B", "C", "D" Coys. 100 yards between platoons.
6. Dress. Battle order.
7. Transport will move independently from BAYONVILLERS Area.
8. Nucleus will move independently from BLANGY TRONVILLE Area, rejoining Coys. at CERISY Area.
9. One Cooker will move in rear of "A" Coy. and 1 Cooker in rear of "C" Coy. Maltese cart in rear of "D" Coy. One L.G. limber at head of "B" Coy. and one at head of "D" Coy.
10. One limber for Lewis Guns "A" and "B" Coys., one limber for Lewis Guns "C" and "D" Coys., one limber for general loading, Maltese cart will report from Transport lines at 3.30 p.m. on 15th inst. Hacks at 4.30 p.m. Q.M. will arrange independently for removal of Officers valises, etc. from LA MOTTE. Instructions will issue later regarding mens packs now at LA MOTTE.
11. Each Coy. will ensure that its Coy. area is thoroughly clean before moving out.
12. Reports on march to head of column. On arrival at new area all correct or otherwise within half an hour of arrival.
13. Billeting Parties. Lieuts. ROBB and 1 N.C.O. per Coy., 1 N.C.O. from Transport, 1 N.C.O. from Q.M. Store. Separate instructions will issue.
14. A C K N O W L E D G E.

(Sgd.) O.HARRIS, Lieut.
Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

All Coys.
Q.M.
T.O.

CORR.
29

(original attached)

2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade Order No. 123.

HEADQUARTERS,
17th AUGUST, 1918.

Reference Sheet 62D.

1. The 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade Group (less 2nd A.M.C. Coy. and 2nd Field Ambulance) will move by march route on 18th instant to HAMELET Area in accordance with the Move Table overleaf.
2. Advance parties of 1 Officer and 4 N.C.Cs per Battalion and 1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. from each the 2nd A.L.T.M. Bty and 2nd Field Coy. will report to Captain MALBY at the Area Commandant's office HAMELET at 8 A.M. on 18th instant.
3. The following distances will be maintained on the march :-

Between Battalions	500 yards
Between Platoons	100 yards
4. Transport will move independently under orders of the Brigade Transport Officer.
5. Usual halts will take place on the march.
6. All tents and trench shelters will be handed into the Area Commandant, GAILLY prior to the move.
7. Completion of moves will be notified to Brigade Headquarters.
8. Brigade Headquarters will close at CERISY at 10 A.M. on 18th instant and re-open at CORBIE (exact location will be notified later) at the same hour.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

H. F. G. T. ...
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.Captain,
Brigade Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Copy No.	To Whom.	Time	Method.
1	File		
2/4	War Diary		
5	5th Battalion	10 P.M.	D.R.
6	6th Battalion	"	"
7	7th Battalion	"	"
8	8th Battalion	"	"
9	2nd A.L.T.M. Bty.	"	"
10	2nd M.G. Coy.	"	"
11	2nd Field Coy.	"	"
12	2nd Field Amb.	"	"
13	1st Aust. Divn.	"	"
14	1st Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
15	3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
16	1st M.G. Bn.	"	"
17	Area Comdt. GAILLY	"	"
18	" " HAMELET	"	"
19	Bde. Transport Off.	"	"
20	G.O.C.		
21	Brigade Major		
22	Staff Captain		
23	Bde. Intel. Off.		
24	Camp Commandant		
25-27	Spares.		

Copy 30

H. H. H.

MOVE TABLE.

Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Starting Point.	Time of passing S.F.	Route.
August 18th.	7th Battalion.	Q.8.B.0.9.	HAMELET Area	Q.8.B.2.8.	8 A.M.	Q.8.B.2.8. - Q.7.A.3.7. -
do	5th Battalion	Q.3.D.1.1.	do	do	8-30 A.M.	P.4.D.1.2. - P.2.C.6.7. - HAMELET.
do	2nd A.L.T. Bty.	Q.6.D.4.4.	do	do	9-10 A.M.	do
do	2nd A.L.T.M. Bty.	Q.8.D.5.6.	do	do	9-30 A.M.	do
do	Hde. Egrs.	Q.3.D.2.4.	COORIE	do	9-35 A.M.	do
do	6th Battalion	Q.8.D.2.4.	HAMELET Area	do	9-40 A.M.	do
do	8th Battalion	Q.14.A.5.8.	do	do	10-20 A.M.	do

APPENDIX

30

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION

Meeting of Officers - 19/8/18.

Lessons learnt from our recent Operation.

Map reading and field sketching - necessity for quoting correct co-ordinates - sketches however rough of great value.

Attack formation - the right moment to deploy - movement of supports - danger of crowding.

Method of attacking strong points etc. - cohesion - covering fire - local protection and the responsibility for.

Ammunition - the conserving of - collection from casualties - be careful when ordering rapid fire.

Co-operation with Tanks - signals to and from tanks - direction and pace of tanks - danger of crowding towards.

Field dressings - steel helmets - necessity of covering with sacking or otherwise dulling.

Shortages in equipment etc. - is everything being done to make good by salvage etc.

Con 31.

Returned to Lt. Col.

31

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No.60.

Ref. Map: HARBONNIERS Sheet.

21/8/18.

1. 7th Aust. Battalion will move by march route to Support Area of 14th Aust. Inf. Bde. on night of 21/22 August 1918.
2. Starting Point. Cemetery HAMELET.
3. Route. HAMEL thence WARFUSEE - FOUCA COURT ROAD - Q.29. - Q.30.
4. Head of column will pass starting point at 8.40 p.m.
5. Order of March. H/Qrs., "A", "B", "C", "D" Coys.
6. Distances. 100 yards between platoons.
7. Dress. Battle order; 220 rounds S.A.A.; 2 bombs; water bottles filled.
8. Billets to be left in a clean condition.
9. Transport will move independently under orders of Brigade T.O.
10. One limber per Coy. will report at each Coy. H/Qrs. for Lewis Gun loading, bombs, S.A.A., etc., and each Coy. Cooker and Coy. limber will move with its respective Coy. Mess cart will call at all Coy. H/Qrs. between 7.45 and 8.30 p.m., and will move in rear of H/Qrs. Coy.
11. Reports on march to head of column. All correct as soon as possible on arrival in new area.
12. A C K N O W L E D G E.

[Signature]
Lieut.
Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	1	2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
"	2	C.O.
"	3	2nd In Command.
"	4	Adjutant.
"	5	"A" Coy.
"	6	"B" Coy.
"	7	"C" Coy.
"	8	"D" Coy.
"	9	Specialists.
"	10	Q.M.
"	11	T.O.
"	12/14	War Diary.

Cor. 32

Fourth Army No. G.S.2/8.

Australian Corps.

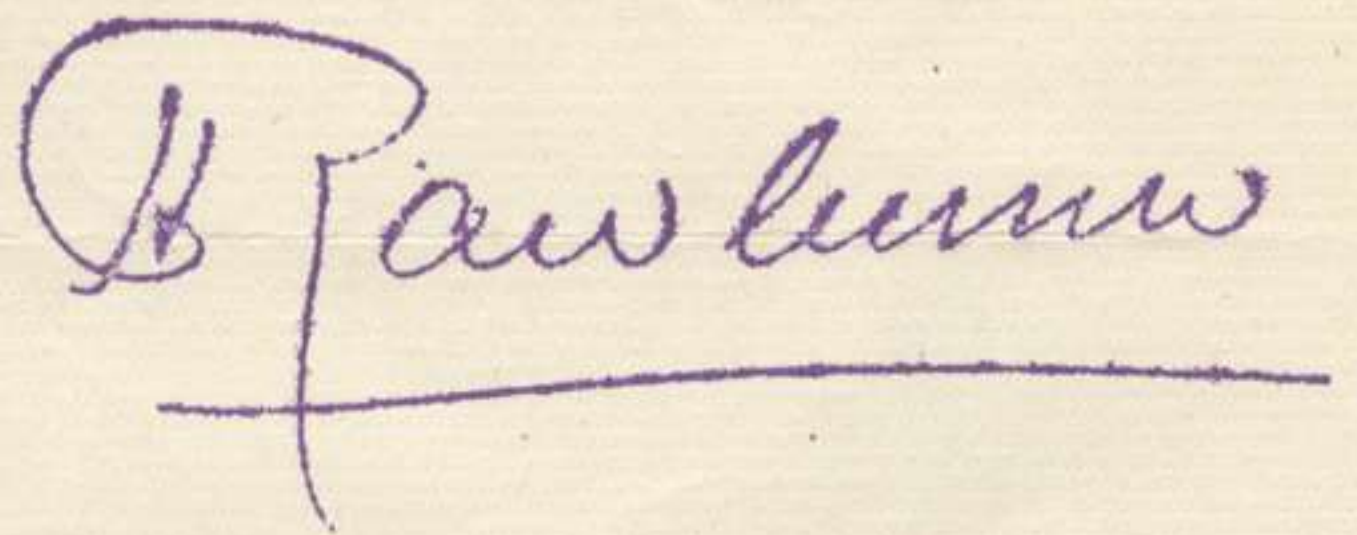
I desire to express officially to all ranks of the Australian Corps my sincere appreciation of their splendid victory over the enemy on August 8th and the succeeding days.

The task that was allotted to them depended largely for its success on the element of surprise. The care that was taken prior to August 8th to camouflage the arrival of the Canadian Corps interfered to some extent with the Australian Corps' dispositions. In spite of this and other difficulties, the assembly of the Corps, the distribution of the tanks, and the disposition of a large force of heavy and field artillery, were accomplished by night without attracting attention.

From zero onwards everything went according to programme and without a hitch. It was no ordinary feat to win all the objectives allotted, to effect a penetration of 10 miles into the hostile position, and to reach the most distant objective half an hour before scheduled time.

The three points which I desire specially to eulogize are (1) the splendid gallantry and drive of the infantry; (2) the thoroughness and precision of the Staff work of the Corps, Divisions, and Brigades, and (3) the skill and rapidity with which the mobile artillery were brought forward in close support of the infantry for the attack of the more distant objectives.

I offer my heartiest congratulations and warm thanks to all ranks of the Australian Corps, though I feel that whatever words I may use all Australians realize that "Victory is her own reward". It was a splendid performance and as fine a feat of arms as any that even this war can produce.



H.Q., Fourth Army,
16th August, 1918.

General,
Commanding Fourth Army.

CORR. 33.

1000
1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

7th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No.61.

Ref. Map: HARBONNIERS.

22/8/18.

1. On "Z" day at a zero hour to be notified 2nd Aust.Inf.Bde. will attack and capture enemy positions as far as Green line (marked on maps issued). The attack will be on a 2 Battalion front, the 6th Bn. on the Right and 5th Bn. on the Left, 7th and 8th Bns. in Support, with 8th Bn. on the Right, with Inter-Battalion boundary as marked on maps issued.
2. Battle Instruction No.1 of 2nd Aust.Inf.Bde. as far as affects Companies is issued herewith and forms part of this order.
3. Order of Battle 7th Bn. "D" and "A" Coys. in front line with "D" Coy. on the Right, "B" and "C" Coys. in Support with "B" Coy. on the Right, with Inter-Company boundary as marked on maps issued.
4. Posts will be dug by "A" and "D" Coys. on the approximate general Support line laid down in Brigade Battle Instruction No.1. "B" and "C" Coys. will dig posts in rear to conform.
5. Liaison. Sgt.BURROWS and 3 H/Qrs. Scouts with 5th Bn. Sgt.ROBINSON with 8th Bn.
6. R.A.P. location will be notified.
7. Battalion Headquarters will move with Bn. until position is definitely clear, and will be about centre of Bn. If 7th Bn. not called into battle, Bn. H/Qrs. will be R.28.C.5.4.
8. Supplies. Flares, discs, tools, etc., as laid down in Brigade Battle Instruction will issue prior to moving into assembly position.
9. Hour of move to assembly position will be notified.
10. A C K N O W L E D G E.

(Sgd.) O.HARRIS, Lieut.
Adjutant 7th Aust. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	1	2nd Aust.Inf.Bde.
"	2	C.O.
"	3	2nd In Command.
"	4	Adjutant.
"	5	"A" Coy.
"	6	"B" Coy.
"	7	"C" Coy.
"	8	"D" Coy.
"	9	Specialists.
"	10	Q.M.
"	11	T.O.
"	12/14	War Diary.

CORR. 3⁴

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 1

Issued with Battalion Order No. 61

22/8/18

1. Synchronisation of Watches. An officer will leave Brigade ~~Headquarters~~ Headquarters at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on "Y" day and will synchronise watches with all Brigade units.
2. S.O.S. Signal. The S.O.S. signal for the operation will be that at present in use, viz., a rifle grenade bursting into red over red over red. The S.O.S. signal will be inoperative on the Divl. front for 15 minutes before zero.
3. Assembly of Troops.
 - (a) The 5th. and 6th. Battalions will form up on a taped line laid under Brigade arrangements and shown on barrage map issued to all concerned and not on the line as shown on the map issued with Brigade order No. 125.
 - (b) From this taped forming up line tapes will be run to the road defining the Brigade and inter-battalion boundaries and forward giving the directing line.
 - (c) The 7th. and 8th. Bns. will form up on a line 500 yards in rear of and approx. parallel with the FRAMERVILLE - PROYART Road.
 - (d) In moving to the forming up positions cross country routes will be used. The WARFUSEE - FOUGAUCOURT Road will be avoided.
 - (e) All troops will be in position by zero minus 60 minutes.
4. Tanks.
 - (a) In order to drown the noise of tanks moving up aeroplanes will fly continuously, but should weather conditions prevent this, F.A. and M.G.'s. will carry out harassing fire of normal volume, but all artillery fire will stop at zero minus 15 minutes.
 - (b) Unless the situation urgently demands their ^{immediate} employment tanks will be released automatically 2½ hours after zero, and will re-assemble in the valley north of PROYART.
5. Smoke. Artillery smoke screen will be placed on BRAY SPUR in L.23. and across the mouth of the CHUINOLLES VALLEY. In addition aircraft will drop smoke bombs on selected positions. No special percentage of smoke will be put down to define the fall of the creeping barrage, the barrage halt of 15 minutes or the final protective barrage.
6. LIAISON.
 - (a) 5th. Bn. will detail liaison parties to meet parties from the 1st. Aust. Inf. Bde. at:-
 - (i) H.23. Central
 - (ii) H24.B. 1.0.
 - (b) Bns. will detail Officers or senior N.C.O.'s to keep liaison with flanking battalions and Coys. with flanking Coys.
7. Aeroplanes.
 - (a) Contact Aeroplanes.
 - (i) Red ground flares will be lit to indicate infantry positions. Flares will be lit by the most advanced line of infantry only. Not the whole of the flares will be lit at the first call, a proportion will be kept back and lit on subsequent calls.
 - (ii) A contact plane will fly along the line of the objective at zero plus two hours. Call for flares is a succession of "A's" on the Claxton Horn and the firing of a white very light. If the aeroplane fails to mark the line accurately it will call again after 10 minutes. If it fails to obtain a reply it will repeat its call at half hour intervals. These aeroplanes are distinguished by rectangular panels two feet by one foot on both lower planes about 3 feet from the fuselage.

- (iii) O.C. Divl. Signal Coy. will arrange for a message dropping station near advanced D.H.Q.
- (iv) Metal discs will be flashed to indicate position of most advanced infantry. Positions will also be indicated by laying three or four rifles parallel to one another at regular intervals across the top of the trench

(b) Counter attack aeroplanes. From zero hour counter attack aeroplanes will be constantly in the air. The signal to infantry when enemy troops are preparing for a counter attack is a white parachute flare fired in the direction of the impending counter attack.

(c) Ammunition Carrying Aeroplanes.

- (i) These machines have the underside of the lower planes painted black for a distance of 2½ feet from the tips.
- (ii) Ammunition will be dropped for Vickers guns. O/C. 1st. M.G. Bn. will arrange for white "V's" to be displayed at points where ammunition is to be dropped. The arms of the "V" will be six feet long and 1 foot wide, the apex of the "V" to point towards the enemy.

8. Intelligence and Disposal of Prisoners of War.

It is essential that the locality where documents are found or prisoners captured be reported. The number of the Battalion making the capture is a useful indication, though if possible the actual location should be stated.

9. Success Signal This signal will be a rifle grenade bursting into white over white over white. A proportion of these signals will be carried by each platoon.

10. Consolidation.

- (a) The final objective will be that shown on the barrage map issued to all concerned, and not that shown on the map issued with Brigade order No.125.
- (b) Consolidation will be carried out on this line and in depth in rear but every effort must be made to exploit success and to push out posts at least 300 yards in front of the objective as laid down. This will be done under cover of a protective barrage and later under cover of the heavies.
- (c) ~~TWO SECTIONS OF THE 2ND. FIELD COY.~~ Two sections of the 2nd. Field Coy. are detailed to assist in the consolidation of the line on the final objective and will move up immediately that objective is reported to have been captured.
- (d) 7th. and 8th. Bns. will each detail carrying parties of 50 men for the purpose of carrying R.E. material to the final objective. These parties will be placed on the left flank of the 8th. Bn. and the right flank of the 7th. Bn. and will be accompanied each by an officer from the 2nd. Field Coy. during the advance. Each party will be told off into detachments of 25 each under an officer or senior N.C.O. Should the 7th. and 8th. Bns. become engaged in the fighting and the C.O.'s. consider that these parties cannot be spared the Field Coy. officers accompanying them will be informed.
- (e) A Support Line will be constructed on the general line ~~R.35.B.~~ R.35.B.- R.29.D.- R.29.B.- R.23.D. One Company of the First Pioneer Bn. will assist the 7th. and 8th. Bns. in the construction of this Line.
- (f) All lines and posts will be wired as rapidly as possible. In addition to the carrying parties detailed above three supply tanks will carry R.E. material forward.
- (g) Joint posts will be established by units concerned at the following locations (approx.);- R.23. Central- R.24.B.1.0.- ~~R.36.A.4.0.~~ R.36.A.4.0.- M.31.B.5.0.- R.35. Central- R.30. Central- R.29. Central.

11. Dress. Fighting order with ground sheet; 220 rounds S.A.A., 2 rifle grenades; 1 ground flare; 1 iron ration and filled water bottle. A proportion of men will carry S.O.S. Signals and success flares. 25% of the Support Coys. of the attacking Bns. will carry picks and shovels in the proportion of 1 pick to four shovels.
12. General.
- (a) The 7th. and 8thB Bns. will maintain a distance of 1000 yards in rear of the 5th. and 6th. Bns. during the advance and will not become engaged in the fighting unless the attack is held up. Should the necessity for the assistance of the Support Bns. arise C.O's. of those Bns. will act on their own initiative, but will immediately notify Brigade Hd. Qrs. of the action taken.
- (b) C.O's. will move forward in touch with their battalions as the advance progresses, and will establish their Headquarters at locations from which the progress of the operation can be observed and controlled.
- (c) Attacking battalions will not delay the advance by thoroughly mopping up all dugouts, but must push on, the clearing up being left to the rear troops.

(sgd) O. HARRIS Lieut.
Adjutant, 7th. Aust. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION

As per Bn. Order No.61.

31

(6)

7th. Aust. BattalionA.Z.B. 3322/8/18

Reference Bde. Order 125. The operation will take place on Aug. 23rd. Zero hour will be 4.45 a.m. Battle Headquarters of 1st. and 3rd. Aust. Inf. Bdes. will be at Q.18 C Central and Q.20 B.3.0. respectively.

2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde.

CORR. 35

All CompaniesG.R. 2622/8/18

Zero hour is 4.45 a.m. Companies will move to Assembly positions, "A" and "D" Coys. at 2.45 a.m. followed by "C" and "B" Coys. as soon as leading Companies are clear.

9.30 p.m.

7th. Aust. Battalion

CORR. 36



Operations of 23rd. to 27th. August, 1918.

Ref. Map: Sheet HARBONNIERS 1/40,000
Ref. 2nd.Aust. Inf.Bde. Order No.125.

At 8.40 pm. on 21st. August the Battalion moved by march route from HAMELET to Support trenches in R.19.C. and R.25.A, and relieved 2 Coys.of 53rd. Aust. Bn, relief being complete at 1.30 am. on 22nd. August.

At 3 a.m.on 23rd.the Battalion commenced to move to assembly position, about 1000 yards in rear of the 5th. Aust. Bn., the 7th.Bn. being the LEFT Supporting Battalion.

At 3.45 a.m. the Battalion was in position, in artillery formation, with "D" and "A" Coys.in front, "B" and "C" Coys. in rear ("D" and "B" Coys. being on the Right), occupying a frontage of 1000 and a depth of 1500 yards, the leading platoons of the forward Coys. being on a line about 500 yards in rear of PROYART-FRAMERVILLE Road. Touch was gained with 8th. Bn. on the Right and 2nd. Battalion on the Left.

At zero hour (4.45 a.m.) the Battalion moved forward keeping 1000 yards in rear of the 5th. Bn. At 4.55 a.m. the enemy put a heavy barrage down on the line of the PROYARY-FRAMERVILLE Road. By careful manouvering the Battalion managed to get through this barrage with only about 9 casualties.

Battalion Headquarters moved to ~~R21~~ R.21.C.9.9. at 5 a.m. Following the barrage time table the Battalion continued to advance in artillery formation. It was impossible to see more than 100 yards ahead, owing to smoke fumes and dust. Touch was kept with the flanking units throughout the advance. A few shells fell amongst the Battalion, but no casualties were caused.

On the Right Coy. reaching the edge of ST.MARTIN'S WOOD, it came under M.G.fire from the right flank - three casualties caused. Scouts were sent through the woods to gain touch with the 5th.Bn.

The leading platoons of the forward Coys. followed through the woods and the rear platoons were detailed as mopping up parties. These parties mopped up a large number of enemy and Machine Guns.

Strong Posts were dug at R.23 Central (in conjunction with 2nd.Aust.Bn.), R.23.D.7.8.- R.23.D.2.1.- ~~R.29.B.3.3~~ R.29.D.49 - by the two forward Coys.assisted by wiring parties from the 1st. Pioneer Battalion.

The two rear Coys.dug Strong Points as follows - R.28.A.5.1. - R.28.B2.2.- R.28. A.7.8 - R.22.D.8.5.- R.22. Central. At 7.30 am. Battalion Headquarters moved to R.28.C.5.4.

At 8 a.m. the enemy shelled the gully forward of the Wood heavily, and I ordered all the men in the gully to occupy the ground on the EASTERN side of the valley.

CORR. 37

During the night 23/24th. the enemy shelled the area very heavily, also during the night of 24/25th. From about 1 am. to 3 a.m. on the 25th. the enemy put down a heavy gas shelling with "77" and "4'2"". At 3 am. the shelling ceased on the WESTERN side of ST MARTIN'S WOOD but continued on the EASTERN side till 5.30 a.m. Approx. 3,500 shells fell in square R.22.D.- R.23.- R.28.B.- R.29. Few casualties were caused during the actual bombardment by shells falling within a few feet of the men. At sunrise a slight breeze carried the gas to the NORTHWARD, but a change in the wind brought it back to the vicinity of the woods, where it drifted around all day, becoming intensified when the heat of the sun warmed the ground.

On the night 25/26th. the Battalion relieved the 5th. Aust. Bn. in the Line Left, and posts established along the Line M.25.B.3.2.- M.25.B.4.2.- M.25.B.8.2.- M.19.D.4.1.- M.19.D.7.8.- M.19.B.5.1.

Heavy rain fell, which rendered it almost impossible to move owing to the slippery nature of the chalky ground. In addition the enemy shelled the whole position heavily.

Great difficulty was therefore experienced in digging new posts.

On the night of 26/27th. the Battalion was relieved by two Companies of 30th. Battalion, relief being complete at 12.30 a.m. Battalion moved on relief by Bus to bivouac position near HAMEL, the Battalion being complete in bivouac by DAWN.

GENERAL. Although the Battalion was not on this occasion Line Battalion, it had a heavy task. Once the attack developed the bulk of the enemy shelling fell on the Support Areas. The mopping up of ST. MARTIN'S WOODS was a difficult and dangerous job, and was performed by "D" and "A" Coys. thoroughly and quickly.

CASUALTIES.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>O.Ranks</u>
Killed	-	12
Wounded	2	31
Wounded (Gassed)	2	88
Missing		2
	<hr/>	
TOTAL	4	133
	<hr/>	

PRISONERS. Receipts obtained for 3 Officers and 65 Other Ranks taken during mopping up of the Woods.

BOOTY.

5 Heavy Machine Guns.
24 Light " "
1 7'5 cent. Field Gun.

(sgd) E.E. HERROD Lieut. Col.
Commanding 7th. Aust. Battalion.

APPENDIXLESSONS LEARNED

Assembly position was too far to the rear of the forward Battalion, which necessitated the Battalion passing through the enemy barrage.

Pioneers and Engineers attached were of great value. The quick and good digging and wiring of the Pioneers being particularly noticeable.

The work of the Tanks and Artillery was so good that practically no opposition was left for the infantry to overcome.

CORR 38

2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde.G.R. 2723/8/18

At 7.15 a.m. a message through from "C" Coy. 5th. Battalion (front line left) that objective gained but progress on right seemed slow. 5th. Battalion Headquarters at ~~XXXXXX~~ R.28. B.87 (approx.). 7th. Battalion Headquarters at R.21 C.97. 7th. Battalion troops rear Coys. at 7 p.m. had reached western edge of ST. MARTINS WOOD.

7.20 a.m.

7th. Aust. Battalion

CORR 38

All CompaniesG.R. 4124/8/18

7th. Bn. relieves 5th. Bn. in line on night of 25/26 Aug. two Companies in the line and two in support.

"D" Coy. will be line Coy. Right.

"A" Coy. will be line Coy. Left.

"B" Coy. will be support Right

"C" Coy. will be support Left.

Coy. Commanders will arrange for all officers & proportion of N.C.O's to reconnoitre the line to-night. Two officers only to be away from Coy. lines at any one time.

Dispositions as held by 5th. Bn. will not necessarily be taken over by us as only two Companies must be in the front line. Arrange direct with the Coys. you will be relieving for any guides you will require but do without 5th. Bn. guides if you can as our disposition will be different.

As soon as 5th. Bn. disposition is received to-morrow morning a full order will issue giving details of our Coy. boundaries etc.

7 p.m.

7th. Aust. Battalion

CORR 39

7th. Aust. BattalionA.Z.B. 97024/8/18

The following from 1st. Aust. Div. dated 23rd. instant;- I desire to thank you and the 1st. Aust. Div. and all attached troops and services most warmly upon the brilliant and decisive victory which you have won to-day. Both in territory and prisoners captured and in damage inflicted upon the enemy to-day's performance has not been excelled. The greatest credit is due to all leaders and staff for their effective preparations and dispositions and to the troops for their gallantry, high spirit, and determination.

CORR 40

2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde.



Battalion Operation Order No. 38

Ref. Message Map as issued

1. Relief 7th. Battalion will relieve 5th. Battalion on the 25/8/18 as follows:-

"C" Coy. 5th. Battalion (line left) will be relieved by "A" Coy. 7th. Battalion.

"A" and "B" Coys. (line Right) 5th. Battalion will be relieved by "D" Coy. of 7th. Battalion.

"D" Coy. 5th. Battalion will remain at present location but O/C. "D" will hand over Coy. Headquarters to C.O. 7th. Battalion for Battalion Headquarters.

5th. Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P. will not move from present location.
2. Method of Relief Line Coys. of 5th. Battalion will be relieved by small parties of 7th. Battalion moving forward and small parties of 5th. Battalion moving back on relief. Communication Trench must be used and all movement must be concealed from the enemy. If possible, new posts established on Road this afternoon will be relieved but relief must not take place till dark if there is any chance of the enemy observing the relief.
3. Details of Relief Coy. Commanders of 5th. Battalion concerned will arrange details of relief with Coy. Commanders of 7th. Battalion.
4. Completion of Relief Relief to be notified to Battalion Headquarters by sending the code word "FRED-ERIC".
5. Acknowledge.

(sgd) *O'Harris*

Adjutant 5th. Aust. Battalion.

CORR 45
Original attached.

W.H.

7th. Aust. BattalionAZB. 9326/8/18

The 2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde. Group will be relieved in the line on the 26th. Aug. and night 26/27th. Aug. by the 14th. Aust. Inf. Bde. On relief the 2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde. Group (less 2nd. Field Coy. and 2nd. Field Amb.) will move back by bus to the GAILLY area.

56th. Bn. will relieve 8th. Bn.

54th. Bn. will relieve 7th. and portion of 4th. Bn.

53rd. Bn. will relieve 5th. & 6th. Bns. and portion of 3rd.

14th. A.L.T.M.Bty. will relieve 2nd. A.L.T.M. Bty.

14th. A.M.G. Coy. will relieve 2nd. A.M.G. Coy.

Details of relief will be arranged between C.O.'s concerned.

Completion of relief will be ~~XXXXXXXX~~ notified by wire in code to Bde. H.Q. Command of the Bde. sub-sector will pass to G.O.C. 14th. Aust. Inf. Bde. on completion of relief.

on relief units will move to R.25 C.O.4. where they will embus. Lieut. McINTOSH, 6th. Bn. will be in charge of embussing arrangements. Busses will arrive at R.25 C.O.4. between 9.30 and 10.30 p.m. Units will as far as possible move by bus as units but should portion of a unit be delayed in arriving at the embussing point it need not be waited for. Busses will move off as soon as any one unit is embussed or in columns of not less than five as ordered.

The leading bus conveying a unit or portion of a unit will carry a guide familiar with the route. C.O.'s will arrange to notify Lieut McINTOSH when the whole of a unit is embussed and for this purpose will leave an officer to travel in the last bus conveying the Bde. Group in order to prevent stragglers being left behind.

Route R.25 C.O.4. to Q.27 C 3.4. to MORCOURT to CERISY to GAILLY to P.S.M.C. A coffee stall will be established at R.25 C O.4. for the use of troops of the Bde. group. 2nd. Field Coy. will move to the GAILLY area by march route. Bde. Headquarters will close at R.26 D.1.5. on completion of relief and reopen at a location to be notified later.

2 p.m.

2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde.

7th. Aust. BattalionAZB.9726/8/18

Reference AZB.93 the 2nd. Bde Group will be relieved by 8th. Aust. Inf. Bde. Group and not 14th. Aust. Inf. Bde. Group as stated therein. Particulars as to whom respective units of 2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde. are to be relieved by will be notified as soon as possible. Bde. headquarters will reopen at CORBIE on completion of relief.

2.45 p.m.

2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde.

7th. Aust. BattalionAZB.99426/8/18

Ref. A.Z.B. 97.

30th. Battalion will relieve 7th. and 8th. Bns.

31st. do. do. 5th. and 6th. Bns.

2 subsections

8th. A.L.T.M.Bty. do. 2nd. A.L.T.M.Bty.

8th. M.G. Coy. 2nd. M.G. Coy.

low 46.

low 47.

low 48.

7th. Aust. Battalion Order No. 62

26/8/28

1. 7th. Australian Battalion will be relieved on night of 26/27th. August by 54th. Battalion.
2. Company Commanders will arrange direct all necessary details
3. Duplicate receipts to be obtained for all trench stores etc. handed over.
4. All trenches to be left in a clean condition.
5. On relief Battalion moves to GAILLY area (near CERISY) and probably by bus. Further particulars later.
6. Lewis guns will be carried out by Coy. crews and on relief will be dumped at "B" Coy. old Headquarters before Battalion relieved 5th. Battalion. Two limbers will be available to pick up the Lewis guns. One N.C.O. per Coy. will remain and see that the guns are loaded on the limbers and will accompany limbers. These limbers report at midnight at "B" Coy. old Headquarters.
7. Coy. Commanders hacks will be available at "B" old Headquarters from 11 p.m. onwards.
8. Relief complete to be advised Bn. Headquarters by wiring "PEN"
9. On arrival in new area "all correct" to be reported and trench store receipts handed in.

(sgd.) O. HARRIS Lieut.
Adjutant, 7th. Aust. Battalion.

To all Coys. by
runner
5 p.m.

Copy 49.

All Coys.

Ref. Relief Orders

1. Two Companies of 30th. Battalion will relieve 7th. Bn. instead of as previously notified. One Company will take over front line from "C" and "B" Coys. and one Company support line from "A" and "D" Coys. Coy. Commanders to arrange details.
2. On completion of relief Coys. will move to R.25 C 0.4. where they will embuss.
3. Lieut McINTOSH "MC" of 6th. Battalion will be in charge of embussing arrangements.
4. Coy. Commanders to arrange for busses to move as soon as possible instead of waiting for whole Battalion to move and no portion of a Coy. is to move off until whole Coy. embussed and Coy. Commander reports to Lieut. O'NEILL, embussing officer, that Coy. is complete.
5. Route - R.25 C.0.4. - Q.27 C.3.4. - MORCOURT - CERISY - GAILLY - P.5 L, and Company Commander is responsible that a guide familiar with the route travels with Coy. group of busses. Buses will travel in groups of five.
6. A coffee stall will be at R 25 C 0.4. for use of troops.
7. Arrangements for Lewis guns stand but arrangements regarding Coy. Commanders horses cancelled

(sgd) O. HARRIS Lt.
Adjutant 7th. Aust. Battalion.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

by

Brig-General J. HEANE C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Commanding

Headquarters
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade
27th August 1918

At the conclusion of the two highly successful operations of LIHONS (9-11th Aug) and HEELEVILLE WOOD (23rd-26th Aug), in addition to the congratulations that have been sent by Army Corps and Divisional Commanders, I desire to thank the C.O.'s of units, Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men for the gallant manner and loyal co-operation of all ranks in these attacks and for the initiative displayed by all.

The number of prisoners captured in the last attack, viz 37 Officers 1259 O'Ranks, in addition to a large number of wounded and the territory regained by heavy fighting, is a record which the Brigade may well be proud.

The Brigade has suffered heavily and has done a lot of work and fighting, but despite this, during the big operations now in progress along the British and French fronts, we must expect to be called upon to do more hard work in the future if we want to keep the enemy on the move, inflict casualties on him and lower his moral.

To this end, our training while at rest must be sincere and applied to the latest tactics, so that, when our turn comes again for the line, we may inflict bigger blows on the enemy than ever.

J. Heane
Brig-General
Cmdg. 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade

Cor 50

W. H. ...

INDEX

Training Syllabus

Period - First 7 days

Training hours - Morning 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
 Afternoon 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Dress - Fighting order.

1st. day.	Battalion assembly	
Morning	Platoon drill	Afternoon
	Rifle exercises	
	Saluting	
	Gas helmet inspections & gas drill instructions	Recreational
	Specialist Training -	
	1. Lewis gun	
	2. Rifle grenades	
	3. Musketry	
2nd. day	Battalion assembly	
	Coy. drill	do.
	Specialist Training-	
	1. Lewis gun	
	2. Rifle grenades	
	3. Musketry	
	Gas drill instruction	
	Bayonet fighting	
	Short route march by Coys.	
3rd. day	Battalion assembly	
	Platoon in attack on strong point	do.
	Specialist Training	
	1. Lewis gun	
	2. Rifle grenades	
	3. Musketry	
4th. day	Battalion assembly	
	Coy. in attack (advancing in artillery formation and in open order to be practised)	do.
	Guards and sentries	
	Saluting	
	Specialist Training -	
	1. Lewis gun	
	2. Rifle grenades	
	3. Musketry	
5th. day	As per 3rd. day	
6th. day	As per 4th. day	
7th. day	Battalion in attack	
	Battalion route march.	

Specialist classes as under will be formed -

Lewis gun

Supervised by LG. officer and L.G. Hd. Qrs. N.C.O. INSE
 instructors.
 2 N.C.O's or gunners per platoon to be detailed.

Grenades

Supervised by Bombing officer and
 Bn. bomb N.C.O.
 2 N.C.O's or bombers per platoon.

CORR. 51

P.T.O.

45

Musketry Under Bn. Musk. N.C.O.
2 N.C.O's or riflemen per platoon

Signalling All Coy. Sigs. to be given special instruction by Bn. sig. officer.

Scouts All Coy. scouts to be given special instruction by Bn. I.O.

H.Q. sigs. and scouts will receive daily training during above hours set apart for Bn. training.

Specialist officers and N.C.O's are available to assist Coy. Commanders.

As gunners become proficient in Lewis gun, arrangements will be made for instruction in German Machine Gun.

W. Robb

[Signature]
Lieut.
Adjutant 7th. Aust. Battalion.