

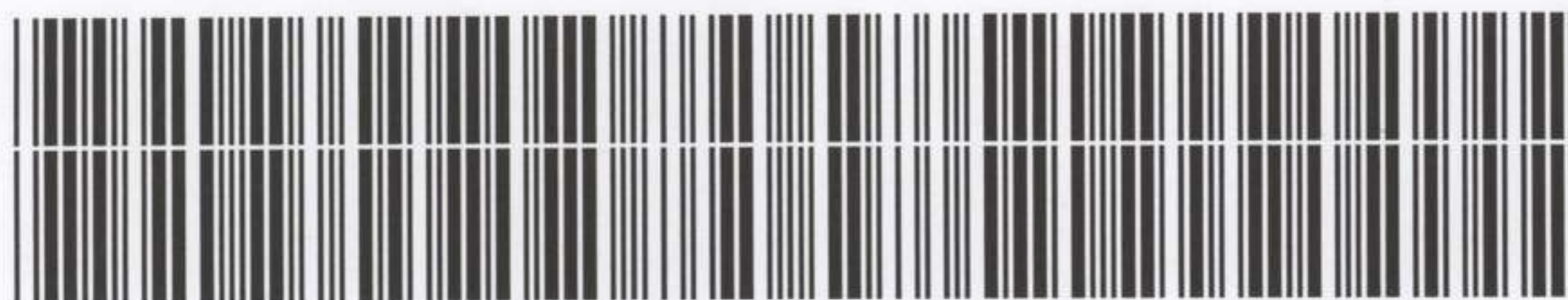
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/30/45 PART 1

Title: 13th Infantry Battalion

July 1918 Appendices



AWM4-23/30/45PART1

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~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

13th BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

JULY, 191⁸

Signature of Officer compiling

R. Howing Lieut.

A/Adjutant, 13th Bn., A.I.F.

Signature of Officer Commanding

D. M. ...

Lieut-Colonel.

C.O. 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reserve	1/7/18		Bn. in Reserve - Map Ref. Sheet 62.D. O.13.a.	
			Transport Lines do do Wood N.11.a.	
			33 1/3 % Nucleus do do Wood N.10.c.	
do	2/7/18		See Report on Operations - Page 3 - Narrative	APP. No. 1
FRONT LINE SUPPORT	3/7/18		do do do	
FRONT LINE	4/7/18		Attack on VAIRE WOOD do do	
do	5/7/18		do do Page 5 - Narrative	
do	6/7/18		do do do Relief by 16 th	APP. No. 2
			Bn. - Complete 12.10 a.m. 7-7-18.	
CLOSE SUPPORT	7/7/18		Bn at Terraces in O.12.c.10.05 (Sheet 62.D) Baths at CORBIE + Clean	
do			change of underclothing. Visit by French Prime Minister	APP 2 ^A
do	9/7/18		Bn at Terraces in O.12.c.10.05 (Sheet 62.D)	
do	10/7/18		do do	
do	11/7/18		Bn (including Nucleus + Transport) moved to bivouacs in I.2.7 + 13 (Sheet 62.D)	Bn Order 100 APP No 3
Bivouacs	12/7/18		Bn resting. Overhauling + cleaning equipment. Afternoon - Cricket	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bevrouacs	12/7/18		match - "C" Coy v. "D" Coy.	
do	13/7/18		MORNING - Coy. Drill. Lewis Gun Training. AFTERNOON - Cricket Match - H.Q. v "A" Coy.	
do	14/7/18		MORNING - Church Parade. AFTERNOON - Cricket Match - "D" Coy v "B" Coy.	
do	15/7/18		Company + Specialist Training. "A" Coy Range practice. Baths ^{in QUERRIEU} + clean change underclothes. Disinfection of Blankets. Bn. put through Gas Chamber to test Small Box Respirators	
do	16/7/18		Cricket Match 13 th Bn v 14 th Bn - 1 st match of Bde competition. Winners 14 th Bn. MORNING - Company + Specialist Training. AFTERNOON - Aquatic Sports - QUERRIEU Ponds	APP. No. 15 APP. No. 16
do	17/7/18		"B" Coy on Rifle Range MORNING - Company + Specialist Training. AFTERNOON - Practising for Sports 18-7-18 Cricket Match (2 nd of Bde competition) 13 th Bn v 16 th Bn. - winners 16 th Bn. Two motor lorries allotted Bn. To take 50 men on day's trip to one lorry to Abbeville + one to Doullens. 2 N.C.O's + 14 Men left camp at 7.30 am. for a tour of 10 days at 4 th Army Rest Camp. EU (near LE TREPORT)	

WAR DIARY

PAGE 3

Army Form C. 2118.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIVOUACS	18/7/18		Battalion Sports	APP No. 17
do	19/7/18		MORNING - C. Co. Parade. AFTERNOON - Cricket Match (3 rd of Bde. Competition) 13 th Bn v Bde. HQ. Winners 13 th Bn.	
do	20/7/18		Brigade Sports. - Morning - Aquatic - Afternoon, Athletic.	APP. No. 18
do	21/7/18		Church Parade. Medal Ribbon Presentation by General Monast. March Past. AFTERNOON - Cricket Match (4 th of Brigade Competition) 13 th Bn v 4 th Field Amb. - Winners 4 th Fld Amb.	APP. No. 19
do			All day trip to ABBEVILLE + DOULLENS. - Two Motor Lorries allotted Bn, taking 3 Officers + 45 O/Ranks.	
do	22/7/18		4 th AUST DIVNL. RACE MEETING at ALLONVILLE.	APP No. 20
do	23/7/18		A + B th Coy Baths in QUERRIEU + clean change of underclothes Cricket Match (5 th of Bde Competition) 13 th Bn v 15 th - Winners 13 th Bn	
do	24/7/18		D Coy on Rifle Range - Remainder of Bn Coy + Specialist Training C Coy + D Coy + HQ. Baths in QUERRIEU + clean change of underclothes CO's conference with Coy. Commanders 7.30 pm. Cricket Match - 13 th Bn v H.A.C. (English team) Winners - H.A.C. by 24 runs.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIVOUACS	25/7/18		Practical Gas Training - Bn. put through Gas Chamber at ALLONVILLE, marching thither from QUERRIEU at 8.45 am. Mid-day meal carried	
do	26/7/18		Coy + Specialist Training - Standard test for Lewis Gunners. "C" Coy range practice. 1 Officer + 16 of Ranks proceeded to 4 TH Army Rest Camp EU for a term of 10 days. Previous party (proceeding 17-7-18) returned, much benefitted by surfing and general change.	See Appendix No 21
do	27/7/18		Coy + Specialist Training. "A" Coy range practice. Commanding officers' conference at Bde H.Q. at 3 pm. Company Commanders' meeting Bn. H.Q. 7.30 pm.	
do	28/7/18		Church Parade. "A" + "B" Coys + H.Q. Service plateau grounds, QUERRIEU (Bde Service) 11 am. "C" + "D" Coys - at "D" Coy's lines. P. b. Service in QUERRIEU Church.	
do	29/7/18		Company + Specialist Training. "A" Coy Lewis Gunners on range. B.O. visited forward area to inspect position which Bn. will occupy on projected move forward.	
do	30/7/18		Bn. preparing for move to forward Area 31-7-18. Adjutant, with interpreter	

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WAR DIARY

OF

13th BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

JULY, 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Report on Operations - VAIRE WOOD
2	13th Bn. Order No. 99
2A	Visit of French Prime Minister to the Australian Troops
3.	13th Bn. Order No. 100
4	Orders for the Operations (one copy only)
5.	German Map & Notes (one copy only)
6.	American Personnel attached to Unit
7.	Master Map (one copy only).
8.	Operations Map (one copy only)
9.	Message map VAIRE WOOD.
10.	Situation Map (one copy only)
11.	VAIRE WOOD Sector (Aeroplane photograph)
12.	VAIRE WOOD & BAYONVILLERS (Aeroplane photograph)
13.	German Maps (one copy only)
14	Congratulatory Message (one copy only)
15.	Brigade Cricket Competition (one copy only)
16.	13th Battalion Swimming Carnival.
17.	13th Battalion Sports (one copy only)
18.	Brigade Sports.
19.	Brigade Church Parade
20.	4th Australian Divisional Race Meeting.
21.	Conduct of party at 4th Army Rest Camp EU.
22.	13th Bn. Order No. 1.
23.	Honours and Rewards
24.	Moonlight Chart (one copy only)
25.	German Documents (one copy only)
26.	The Light "MINENWERFER". (one copy only).
27.	Personal Memo from G.O.C. 4th Brigade. (one copy only)
28.	Message from General Birdwood (one copy only)
29.	Allied Aeroplanes (one copy only)
30.	Enemy Aeroplanes "
31.	Lieut. N.J. BROWNE, M.C. (two copies only)
32.	Found on the Battlefield
33.	"The Smart Set" (one copy only)
34.	Bn. Routine Orders for July, 1918.
35.	Summary of Joined, Gone, Sick evacuations, etc. for month.

SECRET.*Confidential*13th BATTALION, A. I. F.REPORT ON OPERATIONSVAIRE WOOD - 4.7.1918.

- (A) Preliminary Arrangements
- (B) Orders for Attack
- (C) Narrative.
- (D) Special Reports.
 - (1) Lewis Guns
 - (2) Enemy Machine Guns
 - (3) Barrage
 - (4) Tanks
 - (5) Signal Communications
 - (6) Ammunition and Stores.
 - (7) Mule Train
 - (8) Medical
 - (9) Artillery Liaison.
 - (10) American Troops

MAPS AND DIAGRAMS.

- "A" Task Map
- "B" Formation for Attack
- C I Field Artillery Barrage
- CII Heavy " "
- "D" Attack Diagram
- "E" Dispositions.

SecretHAMEL WOOD - 4th JULY, 1918.

Headquarters,
13th Battalion, A.I.F.,
8th July, 1918.

(A) PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS.

The Battalion was in the line facing VAIRE WOOD from June 16th to 26th, being Right Battalion, Right Brigade of "B" Division.

On 22nd June a conference was held at Brigade Headquarters, at which the impending operation was outlined. Great importance was placed on the necessity for secrecy. As the result of this the Battalion closed down on wiring parties and devoted all its attention to the improvement and extension of communications. By a judicious arrangement of the nightly patrol programme, practically every Officer was enabled to familiarise himself with "No-man's land" without having any knowledge of the proposed operation.

After relief on 26th June, we moved to Divisional reserve in the Terraces O.7.c., where much time was given to reorganising and overhaul of war equipment.

On the 28th, 29th and 30th June, parties (in the aggregate 180 Off. and O/Ranks) were taken by motor 'bus to VAUX to take part in a demonstration exercise with Tanks; while on the 30th June the Officers of the Tank Corps detailed to work with the Battalion visited our lines to become perfectly familiar with the Officers with whom they would be working.

A very welcome addition to my strength in the shape of 7 Officers and 237 O/Ranks of "A" Company, 132nd Regiment, United States Army, arrived late on the night of the 29th June. After setting aside 1 Off. and 20 O/Ranks to remain with the Nucleus, the four platoons were attached - one to each Coy. of the Battalion. My various specialist Officers took them in hand and after three days assured me that their handling of Lewis Guns, Rifle Grenades, etc., was dependable.

Nine Drivers, one Cook and nine animals were sent to the Divisional Pack Train which formed on the 28th June.

Message maps were supplied in sufficient numbers to give every man one copy, and every Officer and N.C.O. was in possession of an aeroplane photo.

Material for the operation was available in such quantities as we have never known before.

(B) ORDERS FOR ATTACK.

(i) (a) There were so many orders written by other people to be read that I adopted the following procedure instead of writing one of my own:-

(b) Company Commanders were assembled on the 1st July and full details of the operation were communicated to them.

(c) Close liasion was established with the C.O. 21st Bn., and O.C. Right Coy. 13th Bn. got in touch with the O.C. of the Left Coy. 21st Bn. Similar liasion was maintained with the 16th Battalion on left, Engineers, M.G. Coy, Fighting Tanks and Supply Tanks.

At 4 p.m. on the 2nd July a conference was held of all Officers of 13th Bn., of "A" Coy. 132nd Regiment American Army, of No.8 Section 8th Tank Bn., of the G.C. Tank Officers, two Officers of 4th M.G. Coy., C.O. 4th Field Coy. Aust. Engineers, Officer of T.M. Battery. At this conference, all details as to formation for attack, allotment of frontages, assembly positions, approach march, special tasks, material to be carried, medical arrangements, supply arrangements, etc., were discussed and

199 finally settled.

(d) The Battalion was assembled and every detail of the scheme fully explained by me. In addition, Coy. Commanders were able on the afternoon of the 2nd and morning of the 3rd July to practise their formation and certain details of their attack.

2. (a) As will be seen from attached map "A", the task of the Battalion was tantamount to an enveloping movement round VAIRE WOOD from the South. Having only a frontage of 400 yards for the initial attack, my main difficulty was in devising a formation which would carry the Companies destined for the left ^{of} with the furthest objective past VAIRE WOOD without being engaged. It was finally decided that one Company, less a Platoon detailed to dig a strong point under Engineers' supervision, should form the first wave and be allotted an ~~immediate~~ ^{intermediate} objective, as shown on attached map "A", the remaining three Coys. forming: two having each two platoons in line as second wave and each with two platoons in lines of sections following; and finally one Coy. following in section columns in rear of the left of the other two. - (See attached diagram "B").

It was considered that, with the assistance of two Tanks piloting the attack round the Southern edge of VAIRE WOOD and one Tank following the WARFUSEE- FOUILLOY Road, the above formation would prove satisfactory.

(b) It was decided to lay the tape lines between ~~P.20.a.2.2.~~, P.20.a.3.2. and P.20.a.2.9., which necessitated the removal of 250 yards of double apron wire and 400 yards of double trip wire. Tapes were to be laid from the rear to Coy. frontages, boards indicating flanks of Coys. etc. to be placed in position.

(c) One Platoon of "D" Coy. having had special training under the ~~Intelligence~~ ^{Engineers} Officer was to follow in rear of second wave and construct a strong point on the right of the Support line which the 14th Battalion proposed to dig.

(d) The Artillery programme to be as on attached map "C", but in addition harassing fire was to be put down from zero minus 8 to Zero, ^{to drown noise of advancing tanks.}

(e) One N.C.O. and 8 men of "C" Coy. to follow in rear of the left of 21st Bn. first wave as liaison party. 21st Bn. to supply similar liaison party to right of 13th Bn.

(f) In addition to two Vickers Guns working with Battalion's strong point Platoons, three Vickers Guns allotted - two to the right Coy. on final objective, one to the left Coy. on final objective.

(g) Two Stokes Mortars allotted to left Coy. on final objective.

(h) "D" Coy. (allotted the intermediate objective) to mop up all Squares 20.a. and b. South of Northern line of advance, but each of other three Coys to detail one Section as moppers up.

(i) Tanks were allotted minor tasks in concert with Coy. Commanders but their disposition to be as shown graphically on attached map "D". One Bn. Scout to ~~ride~~ ^{ride} in each of the three fighting Tanks ^{and one Scout} and two others to ride on supply Tank as unloading party.

(j) Battle Headquarters to be at P.19.b.2.3., but a Bn. forward party to follow assaulting waves and take up position in Quarry P.20.a.9.4., composition as under:-

Intelligence Officer and 2 Scouts; Signalling Officer 4 Signallers and 4 Runners; line to be laid as the party moved, by means of patent German reels taken by this Battalion after VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in April. Intelligence Officer to search dugouts and enemy dead.

(k) Three of the four Reserve Lewis Gun Crews carried on Bn. Headquarters were to be stationed in the old Support Line in P.19.b. to be available to replace casualties in guns or personnel, while the fourth accompanied the Battalion forward

199 party to be used as escort for prisoners or as otherwise required.

(1) Supplies and ammunition to be carried forward as follows:-

(i) By Supply Tank: 134 Coils Barbed Wire.
180 Long Screw Pickets.
270 Short Screw Pickets.
45 Sheets Corrugated Iron.
50 Petrol tins water.
150 T.M. Bombs.
10,000 Rounds S.A.A.
4 Boxes No. 36 Grenades.
16 Boxes No. 23 Grenades.

(ii) Each fighting tank, 2000 rounds S.A.A. and a few tins of water.

(iii) On the man:-

220 Rounds S.A.A.
1 No. 23 or No. 5 Grenade.
1 No. 34 Grenade.
1 Pick or Shovel (except Lewis Gun Nos. 1.)
Ground Flares, (18 per Company)
Message Rockets (2 per Company)
Wire Cutters: 10%
Sandbags, 3 per man.
Extra Waterbottles: one per man.

(iv) S.A.A. was also to be dropped by aeroplanes.

(m) Rations to be taken up by Mule Train on Z/A night and dumped at P. 20. a. 94.

(n) Ground Flares to be lit at Zero plus 90 minutes.

(o) "D" Coy to wear red streak on tin hats to indicate that they were being "leap-frogged" by remaining Companies. All Americans attached to have blue patch on their hats to distinguish them from the Company attached to the 15th Battalion.

(p) At 6 p.m. on the 3rd we were notified that Zero hour would be 3.10 a.m. on the 4th

(C) NARRATIVE.

On the night of 2/3rd July, 1918, the 13th Bn., less "B" and "C" Coys., relieved part of 50th Bn. as follows:-

"D" Coy. (less Player's special platoon remaining behind) front line from PIONEER SWITCH to South Divisional boundary.

"A" Coy. two platoons Support Line PIONEER SWITCH to South Divisional boundary, two platoons Reserve Line PIONEER SWITCH to South Divisional boundary.

Bn. Headquarters and R.A.P. O. 24. a. 3.8.

7-18.

a.m.

Relief complete.

1 p.m.

Bn. H.Q. moved to Battle Headquarters P. 19. b. 2.3.

midnight

"A" Coy. moved into front line with "D" Coy. and in position to move onto tapes.

4-7-18

1.45 a.m.

"C" and "B" Coys. arrived in that order at junction of PIONEER SWITCH and Reserve Line and were met by Guides to J.O.T. At the same time "D" Coy. commenced filing onto tapes.

15 a.m.

All Companies and attached details in position on tapes. Tanks at that time drawn up at assembly position in rear of crest.

3.2 a.m.

Harassing fire on VAIRE WOOD, under cover of which tanks moved.

4-7-18

3.10 a.m.
ZERO HOUR.

Barrage opened with a crash. Tanks just passing Bn. Headquarters. Immediately the barrage came down the Battalion moved forward crawling to within 60 yards of the barrage which was well timed and fairly accurate. The tanks were not heard during the preliminary 8 minutes bombardment, and no suspicion was aroused in the minds of the enemy on our sector; but away on the right, possibly in front of the 15th Battalion a rocket bursting into two reds was repeatedly thrown up and repeated by posts in back areas.

3.14 a.m.

Tanks caught the Infantry at the first lift, and enemy's first line of posts was met with on road running North through P.20.a. and 14.d. A small post had been met about 100 yards out from our tapes, but neither this nor the posts on road gave any trouble.

3.37 a.m.

Telephone message from Bn. forward party saying they had established at QUARRY P.20.a.9.4.

3.45 a.m.

Message from forward party saying all Coys. clear of Wood and shaking out under Artillery ~~hazk~~ halt.
(Note.- Artillery rested for 10 minutes from approx. 3.38 a.m.)

4.a.m.

"D" Coy. reported by 'phone that they were digging in from P.21.a.25.30 to P.21.a.00.65. and that all area in rear had been mopped up.

No serious opposition was met with by "C" Company until they arrived at the road running North through P.20.a. central. A few casualties, however, were caused by "shorts" in the barrage, and it is known that one or two Americans followed too closely. The Male Tank operating on the right received a direct hit from an 18 pounder which put it out of action for the rest of the day. No.3770Pte. T. PARRISH, the Bn. Scout was killed in the conning tower and a number of the crew were wounded.

With its right resting at approximately P.21.a.35.00., "C" Coy's left swung forward to a trench at P.21.a.85.60. A Strong Point running North from P.21.a.80.00. was mopped up and yielded a number of prisoners and three Machine Guns. "C" Coy. claims two Medium Minenwerfer, 10 Machine Guns and 80 prisoners. They claim further that after consolidation good sniping was afforded, and that patrols which pushed out later with Tanks counted over 150 dead in front of their position. The enemy made several bombing attacks up the trench running North West through P.21.b. into P.21.a., which yielded us a few more prisoners. In turning the South East corner of the Wood "A" Coy. were opened on by a concealed Machine Gun and suffered a few casualties, but a rush led by Capt. Marper took the gun and the wheel was performed without confusion. Arriving at the clearing about P.15.c.3.4. opposition was again met and most of the Company took to a well camouflaged trench not previously reported. The ~~attentive~~ attention of a Tank was quickly drawn and the advance continued with very little delay. It was at this point that the crews of two Machine Guns were trampled out by the Tank referred to. Capt. Marper wounded here and Lieut. Dwyer carried on.

"A" Coy

4.18 a.m.

"A" Coy. on final objective and in touch with 15th Bn. on their left.

"B" Coy followed in rear of "A" Coy. as arranged and were not engaged until ^{on} the final objective when two platoons were drawn in on the right of "A" Coy. and joining

- 4-7-18 up with "C" Company.
- 4.40 a.m. Ground Flare lit in answer to Klaxon from Aeroplane.
- 5.20 a.m. Sent by Power Buzzer to Brigade:- (Rear line dis.)
"Connected Right & Left".
- ~~5.25 a.m.~~
~~5.35 a.m.~~ In touch with all Companies by 'phone.
- 6 a.m. Readjustment of front involving the moving up of the remainder of "B" Company. Connected 21st Bns. Right and 15th Bn. Left on final objective.
- 4-7-18
o p.m. Test Artillery barrage on new S.O.S. line.
Total guns (estimated) 200 unwounded prisoners,
14 Machine Guns and 2 Trench Mortars.
Identification: 15th Regiment and 55th Regiment.
- 5-7-18
11 p.m. All American personnel withdrawn to rejoin their Regiment.
- 6-7-18
2.12 a.m. Valley in P.14. shelled with Blue Cross gas.
- 4 a.m. Heavy bombardment of "D" Coy's right posts. Several casualties.
- 5 a.m. "C" Coy's patrol brought in three prisoners.
- 7-6-18
12.10 a.m. Relief complete by 16th Battalion. Moved back to 0.12.c. and 18.a., and "B" Coy. in PIONEER SWITCH 0.24.a.
Disposition of Battalion on completion of operation was as shown on attached Map "E".

(D) SPECIAL REPORTS.1. LEWIS GUNS.

- (a) The actual strength of a Lewis Gun Section is 8:
1 Cpl., 1 L/Cpl., and 12 men, from which 2 being left as Nucleus leaves the fighting strength of each Crew as 6. In this operation the following ~~crew~~ gear was carried:-
No.1 Carried the gun
No.2 " spare parts bag (containing only necessary spare parts)
1 pannier (4 magazines).
Nos. 3 to 6 carried 1 pannier and 1 Pick or Shovel each. -
Total 20 magazines per gun.
The Section commander carried 1 Flare Pistol and 6 Flares in addition.
- (b) Each gun was fitted with a sling and we have many instances on record in which the gun was fired from the hip with great effect whilst advancing. When the gun was carried slung it was hard to distinguish the No.1 from the rest of the crew.
- (c) It is inadvisable for Nos. 1 or 2 to carry picks or shovels.
- (d) Firing from the hip was very effective when advancing through crops.
- (e) It was found that Section commanders readily appreciated minor tactical features, and that they did not require any prompting to move forward and cover the consolidation of their Companies.

- (f) There is one instance of excellent work done by co-operation of Rifle Grenadiers and Lewis Gun Section.
- (g) Company Lewis Gun Sergeants after consolidation sighted their guns for cross firing and the whole line was co-ordinated by the Bn. Lewis Gun Officer before 8 a.m.
- (h) It was found that the dust caused by bursting shells did not affect the guns in any way when the magazine was on the magazine post.
- (i) In addition to the two guns per platoon taken forward in the attack, four guns and crews were kept at Bn. Headquarters as a reserve to replace casualties or guns.
- (j) Two guns were put out of action, but were immediately replaced from those in reserve.

Casualties amongst Lewis Gunners as follows:-

	<u>With Unit</u>	<u>Casualties.</u>
"A" Company	48	12
"B" "	48	11
"C" "	48	12
"D" "	48	18
H.Q.	16	2
	<hr/> 200	<hr/> 55

2. ENEMY MACHINE GUNS.

- (a) The forward posts were held by light Machine Guns (0.8/15 pattern), and had 6 fully loaded belts but no case reserve. Echelon behind these were heavy M.G.'s which also had 6 loaded belts but in addition 6000 rounds of S.A.A. in cases.
- (b) The light gun was fired from swing bipod and the heavy from the usual cradle.
- (c) In every instance both light and heavy Machine Guns were sighted for oblique fire.
- (d) In some cases gun posts were cleverly camouflaged and did not show up on aerial photographs. Two light M.G. Posts were camouflaged as follows:- A sap was dug out 50 yards from the main line with a T head at the end. There was one light M.G. at each end of the T, and the whole system was covered with boards over which turf and crop had been placed.

3. BARRAGE.

Considering the fact that only a per-centage of the guns had registered, the barrage was excellent. One 4.5 persistently dropped 150 yards in rear of the Field Artillery barrage, and one 18 pounder was a few seconds behind at each jump.

The halt was well defined, but I do not think the smoke shell is necessary.

The new S.O.S. barrage trial was left till too late. It should be tested within one hour of the cessation of the covering barrage.

I am not in favour of increasing the proportion of H.E. in the creeping barrage and think that only a small proportion of H.E. should be used in the creeping barrage.

4. TANKS.

The tanks were not heard by this Battalion until they had practically caught up with the Infantry. They joined up at about the first lift and thereafter worked either with or in front of the Infantry. No difficulty was found in Com-

municating with the Tanks, and they even appeared to anticipate the Infantry's desires. It was found on the most part that the tendency of the Infantry was to follow or at least keep level with the Tanks. This meant that when the Tanks caught up the barrage was not followed so closely as is our custom; but no disadvantage was occasioned, and the moral and material support of the Tanks was very great.

During the work of consolidation, the Tanks patrolled our front neutralising nests of enemy Machine Guns which we mopped up and in every case remaining until the Infantry were satisfied.

I feel sure that Tanks, when so ably used, would obviate the necessity for a final protective barrage, and leave more scope for exploiting success.

We established excellent liasion between Tank and Infantry Officers, and each Tank carried one of our Bn. Scouts. ~~xxxxxx~~

I think this should be insisted on as it gives the Infantry a proprietary interest in the Tanks.

One Tank was knocked out through approaching too close to the barrage, but was removed later on under its own power.

5. SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

- x. (a) The laying of telephone cable as the forward party advanced was a feature of the operation.

Prior to the attack wire was wound onto small reels each carrying about 500 yards, and the end of the wire brought through holes in the centre of the reel, and leads attached. The reels fitted onto frames which were carried on the linesman's back and unwound as he moved. The arrangement of leads enabled the linesmen to test at any stage in the advance. (Reels and frames captured from the enemy in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in April last.)

(b) This method of laying wires was practised behind the lines, and it was found that the operator could connect and get a message through in 22 seconds from the word stop. Its practical application is demonstrated by the fact that the Bn. forward party was established at P.19. a. 9.4. and had transmitted a message 27 minutes after Zero.

Lines were run to Coys. and Brigade forward party in the same manner, and at 5.25 a.m. all Coys. were connected by 'phone.

Tanks caused more trouble with lines than Artillery fire, and each crossing meant that the line was broken in four places. In spite of this, communication was kept up almost continuously.

(c) Lucas Lamps were used when the lines were disconnected but D.D. messages only could be sent. The Lamp could not be read during a bombardment.

Message rockets were tried, but in almost every case the message was charred in transit. - Suggested that the interior of the rod be lined with asbestos.

There was no occasion to use Pigeons.

Runners were freely used, and only one casualty occurred. Power Buzzer and Amplifier were invaluable.

(d) BRIGADE FORWARD PARTY. In spite of the fact that Signallers were taken from this Unit to form the Brigade Forward Party, the task of laying line from Bn. to Brigade Forward Party devolved on the remaining personnel of the Battalion Signalling Section.

I consider that the Brigade Forward Party system has demonstrated its impracticability both in this and in

Flanders operations. On paper it looks well, but in this operation it hindered me by taking away some of my personnel without materially assisting my line of communication, and at POLYGON WOOD, on the 26th September, 1917, the Forward Party having "struck trouble" the whole weight of communications devolved on the Signal Section of the Support Battalion. Further, I maintain that only an Infantry Signaller, who understands the nature of a barrage can lay and maintain lines as we would wish. Let Battalions have ample wire for operations, and the Brigade Forward Party need never be considered.

6. AMMUNITION AND STORES.

(a) SUPPLY TANK. With a carrying capacity equal to 200 men the stores arranged for were delivered at the Dump East of VAIRE WOOD very shortly after the arrival of the rear waves. The Tank carried one Infantry Scout as Guide and two Infantry men as Unloading Party. ¶

Though one cannot depend entirely upon this method of conveying Stores I consider that this performance ~~augers~~ augers well for the future.

(b) Aeroplane. Dropped from a fair height, the ammunition in some cases landing in the enemy lines, and in other cases well in rear of ours. However, many boxes fell near the front line. This was a spectacular novelty which, with some improvements and more practice will be very useful.

The day following the operation, the enemy flew very low and dropped small boxes of rations (without parachute) onto his forward posts.

7. MULE TRAIN.

The work of the Divisional Pack Mule Troop for this Unit was very unsatisfactory. Two nights in succession the rations were from two to three hours late. I attribute this to the fact our convoy was composed of men of a number of Units; that the Officer in charge of the Convoy was drawn from another Unit; that there had been apparently no reconnaissance of routes. Further, owing to the fact that Troop would not wait for empties, nor would they take back salvage, I had to turn out just as many limbers as would have carried the whole of my rations.

It is a point of honour with the Transport Drivers of a Unit to deliver the rations to that Unit under all conditions. But with a mixed Troop this is by no means evident.

In future operations I will ask that I be given the extra Pack Saddles and be allowed to 'pack' my own rations.

8. MEDICAL.

The Medical Officer had at his disposal eight (8) Stretcher Squads of the Battalion and One American Squad attached. He, with his attached A.M.C. personnel, established his R.A.P. at P.19.b.2.2. at which point there was a small dugout, and the trench was widened and deepened for the accommodation of stretcher cases.

Two Stretcher Squads were sent with each Company, and the remaining Squad, under the S.B. Corporal, established a relay post in small QUARRY at P.20.a.50.50.

All casualties were dealt with expeditiously, and the only hitch which occurred was due to the Field Ambulance not returning stretchers. This trouble is invariably met with; due, I think, to the fact that some cases are carried back by German prisoners.

The remedy is to have men specially told off to return such stretchers from the A.D.S.

9. ARTILLERY LIASION.

An Artillery Liasion Officer was, I understand, specially detailed to me and attended a conference at D.A. H.Q. He did not report to me till late on Y/Z night, and at that time I had another Liasion Officer, who had been with me 24 hours, installed with his telephone. With the second Liasion Officer came a third and at least 5 Signallers. My accommodation was limited, and I was too busy at the time to be worried with three Liasion Officers.

I would suggest that in future operations, Artillery Liasion Officers should meet the C.O. with whom they would be working, at least 24 hours before the operation.

F.O.O's, caused me a considerable amount of inconvenience and annoyance by tapping into my telephone wires and interrupting important conversations. When they do lay telephone lines, they produce an impenetrable maze along the main communication trenches.

10. AMERICAN TROOPS.

Company "A", 132nd Regiment fought well, but with a dash that needs to be tempered ~~with~~ by experience. Their Officers were cool and capable, but apparently N.C.O's had not attained the ascendancy necessary, as when Officers became casualties the men lost their cohesion. This, of course will adjust itself when the N.C.O's have an opportunity of showing themselves in a 'stunt' of their own.

Some casualties were occasioned through approaching too close to the barrage, and there was a noticeable tendency to "bunch". The men dug willingly and seemed to have a fair knowledge of field entrenchments. Their handling of the Lewis Gun and Rifle Grenade was highly satisfactory.

The organisation of a Platoon into seven squads does not appeal to me in the least, as I consider that four subordinates are the most that any one man can control in action. This was borne out by the fact that no single American platoon arrived on its objective complete, and that one Platoon ~~Commander~~ lost five of ~~its~~ ^{his} seven squads. Of course they all turned up eventually but many of them far away on the final objective of the adjoining Battalion.

Three Signallers and some A.M.C. personnel rendered yeoman service.

D. Marks

C.O. 13th Battalion, A.I.F. Lieut.-Colonel.

APPENDIX /

CASUALTIES.

Total casualties in the operation were:-

<u>AUSTRALIAN</u>		<u>Off.</u>	<u>O/Ranks</u>	<u>Total</u>
Killed	..	2	24	26
Wounded	..	6	93	99
Missing	..	.	1	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		8	118	126
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Strength engaged: 22 Off. 488 O/Ranks = 24.7%

<u>AMERICAN.</u>		<u>Off.</u>	<u>O/Ranks</u>	<u>Total</u>
Killed	.	.	7	7
Wounded		4	42	46
Missing		.	4	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		4	53	57
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Strength engaged: 5 Off. 222 O/Ranks = 25.1%

TABLE "A"

APPENDIX No.

1.	Strength of Battalion as at Noon	2-7-18:-
	<u>Officers</u>	<u>O/Ranks.</u>
	36	681
	AMERICANS	7
		237
2.	Included in above but left at Transport Lines:-	
	<u>Officers</u>	<u>O/Ranks</u>
	4	63
	AMERICANS	.
		6
3.	Included in above but left at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % Nucleus:-	
	<u>Officers</u>	<u>O/Ranks</u>
	9	90
	AMERICANS	1
		20

		<u>AMERICANS</u>	
		<u>Off.</u>	<u>O/Rs.</u>
"A"	Company	4	106
"B"	"	4	98
"C"	"	4	109
"D"	"	4	93
G.Q.		7	122
		<u>23</u>	<u>528</u>
		6	211

APPENDIX

No.....19

TABLE "B"

1. Strength of Battalion as on night 6/7th July, 1918, including attached excluding detached:-

27 Officers 561 O/Ranks

2. Included in above but left at Transport Lines:-

4 Officers 70 O/Ranks

- 2.A. Included in above but left at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % Nucleus:-

5 Officers 97 O/Ranks.

3. Strength coming out of line night 6/7th July, 1918:-

"A" Coy.	4	Off.	67	O/Ranks
"B" "	3	"	65	"
"C" "	3	"	81	"
"D" "	1	"	53	"
H.Q.	7	"	118	"

18 " 384 "

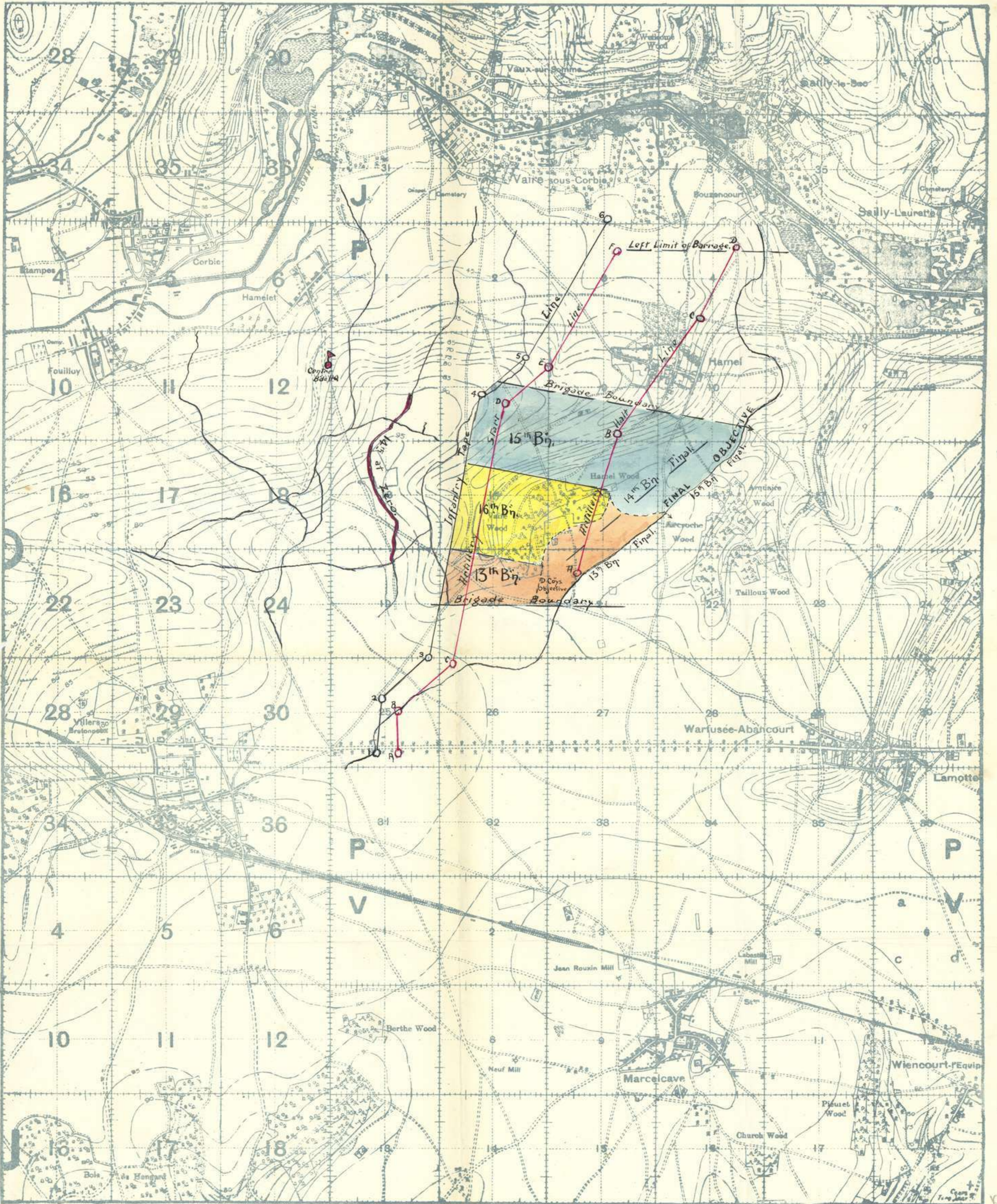
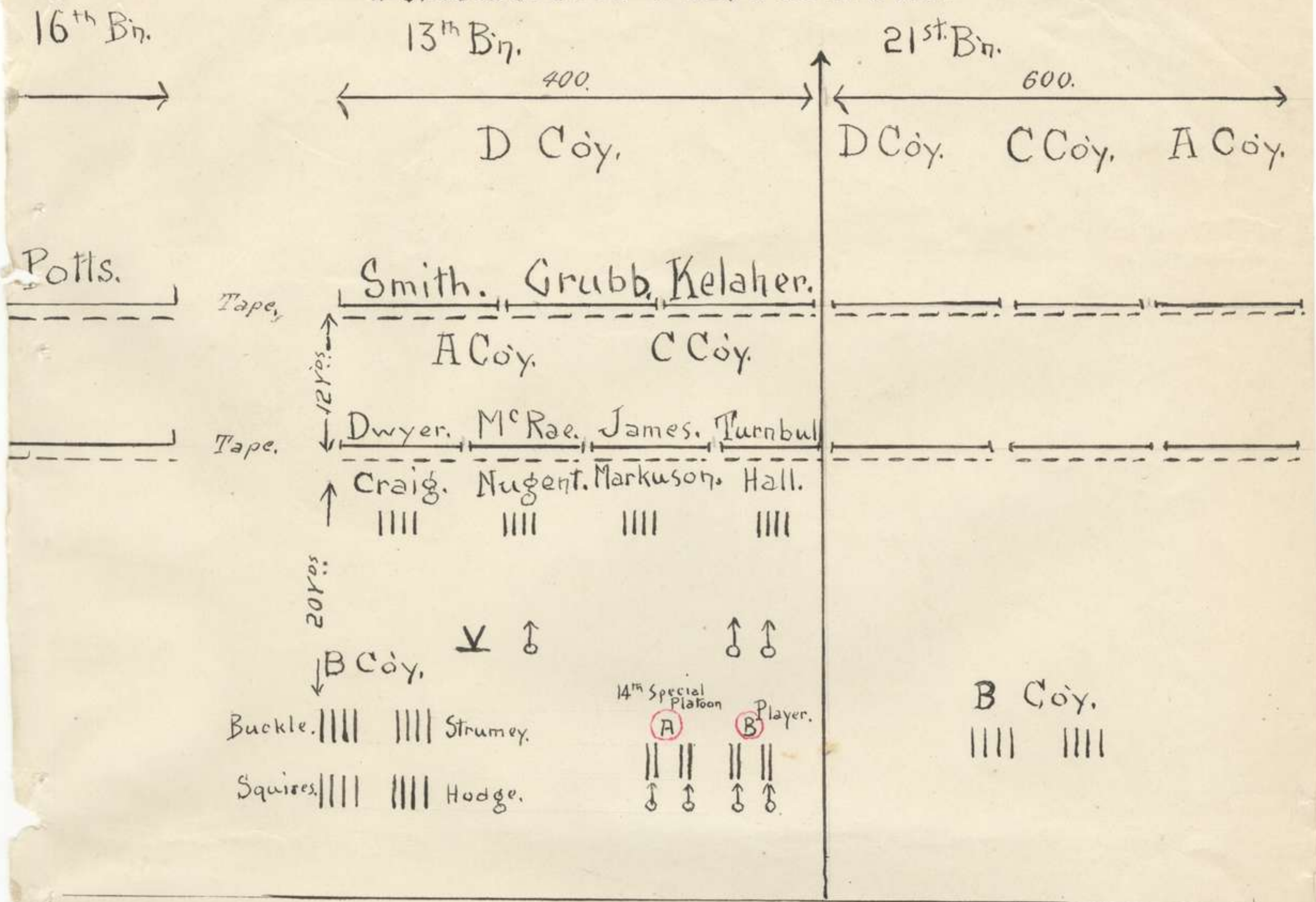


DIAGRAM B.

APPENDIX.

FORMATION FOR ATTACK.



Legend.

- Platoon in 2 Ranks, { Riflemen & Bombers in Front with L" G" Section, and Rifle Grenadiers in Rear Rank,
- | Section.
- √ 2 Stokes Mortars.
- ♂ Machine Gun.
- (A) Special Platoon 14th Bn.
- (B) D Coy. 13th Bn.

AMERICAN OFFICERS.

GRUBB. CRAIG. MARKUSON, SQUIRES.

BAYONVILLERS

Parts of 62°N.W., 62°N.E., 62°S.W. & 62°S.E.

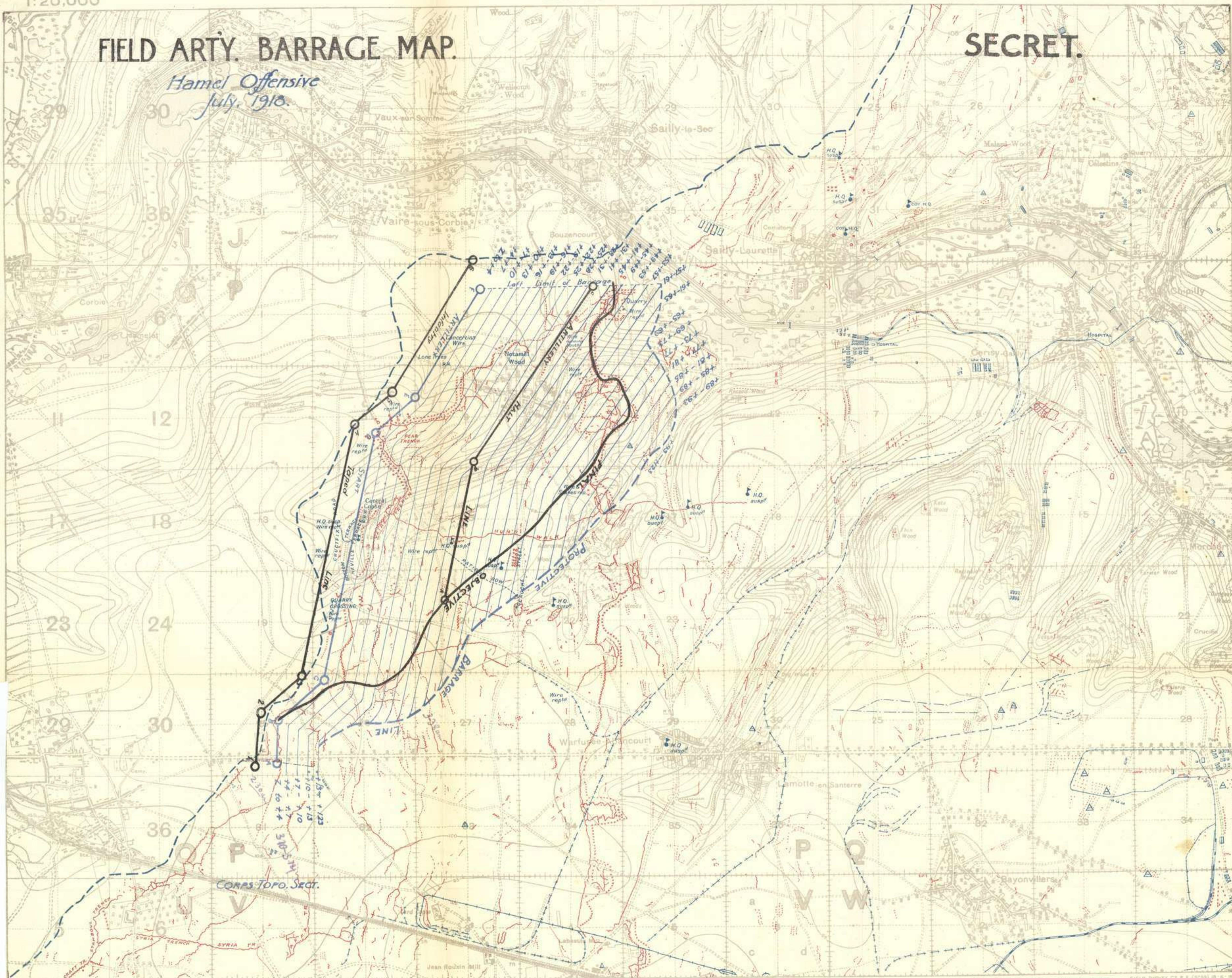
EDITION I.

1:20,000

FIELD ARTY. BARRAGE MAP.

Hamel Offensive
July, 1918.

SECRET.



Approximate British Front Line - 22-6-18

Scale - 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

199

1:20,000

BAYONVILLERS

Parts of 62°N.W, 62°N.E, 62°S.W & 62°S.E

EDITION I.

HEAVY ARTILLERY
BARRAGE MAP
HAMEL OFFENSIVE
SECRET
JULY 1918



Approximate British Front Line ——— 22-6-18

Scale - 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

23


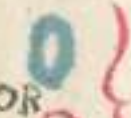
199

DIAGRAM "D."

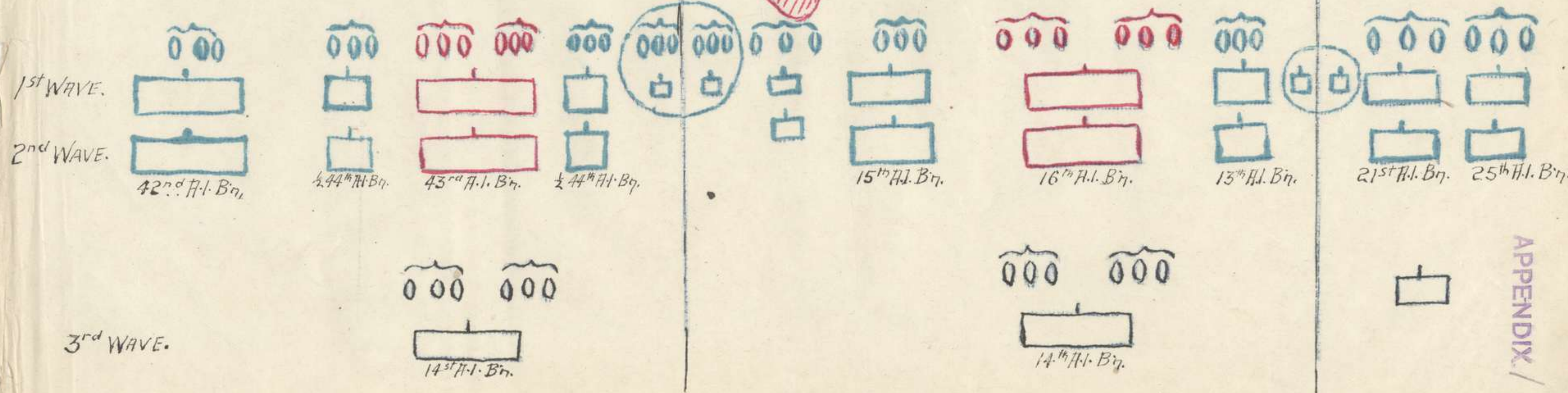
199

FINAL OBJECTIVE.

Legend.

-  Expected Main Centres of Resistance.
-  Single Tanks.
- RED** Troops & Tanks Detailed For Reduction of Main Centres of Resistance
- GREEN** Troops Detailed for Capture of Final Objective
- BLACK**, Reserves.

In Green Circle. Liaison Units Moving up to Blue Line



APPENDIX /

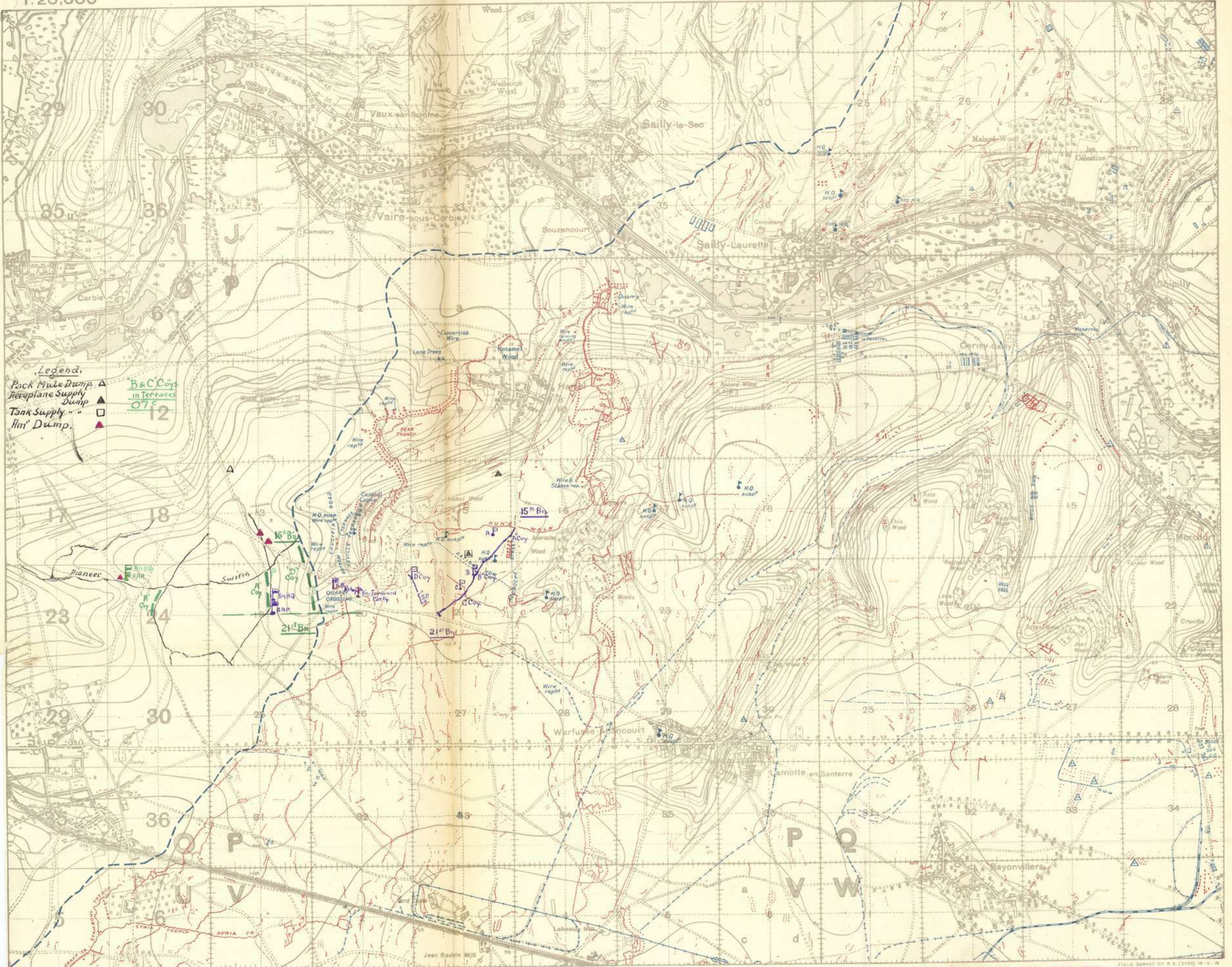
24

1:20,000

BAYONVILLERS

Parts of 62°N.W., 62°N.E., 62°S.W. & 62°S.E.

EDITION I.



Approximate British Front Line --- 22-6-18

Scale 1:20,000

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

Ref. Sheet 62. d. 1/20.000Headquarters,
6-7-18.

1. The Battalion will be relieved to-night by 16th Battalion, A.I.F. and will move back to Terraces in O.12. @ 10.05 in close Support.
2. GUIDES. One Guide per Platoon will report to present Bn. H.Q. at dusk to-night.
3. MOVEMENT. By Platoons at 50 yards interval.
4. EQUIPMENT. Every man will leave the line fully equipped, and will carry pick and shovel and second waterbottle.
Lewis guns & gear will be carried out to new position.
5. All trench stores other than above will be handed over and receipt in duplicate obtained.
6. Q.M. will arrange for dry rations, water and a hot meal to be delivered by limber to new position by 11.30 p.m. to-night.
7. Transport Officer to arrange for three limbers to report at old Bn. Headquarters O.24.a.30.80. at 9 p.m. to-night to convey gear to new position and to rear H.Q..
8. Password to-night is TYRKEY.
9. Completion of relief is to be reported by Code message "A.D. 13 notal "
10. Acknowledge.

(Sgd) A.W. DAVIS, Capt.
Adjutant, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

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APPENDIX 2

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SECRET.

Headquarters,
13th Bn. A.I.F.,
6-7-18.

- (1) Addition to Order No.99.
- (2) Relief will take place at dusk.
- (3) "B" Coy. 16th Bn. will relieve "A" 13th Bn. and that part of "B" Coy. 13th Bn N. of RATION ROW
followed by
"A" Coy. 16th Bn. which will relieve "C" Coy. 13th Bn. and remainder of "B" Coy 13th Bn.
followed by
"C" Coy. 16th Bn. which will relieve both Companies 14th Bn. "D" Coy 13th Bn. and 2 H.Q. Lewis gun crews in QUARRY will move back without being relieved half an hour after dusk.

(Sgd) A.W. DAVIS, Capt.
Adjutant, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

Visit of French Prime Minister to the Australian Troops.

It will interest members of the AUSTRALIAN Corps to know how it was that the Prime Minister of France came up to visit us the other day and what he said.

When the Supreme Council of the Allies was sitting at Versailles the other day, and the Prime Ministers of France, Italy, and England were present around the table, and all the Prime Ministers of the Dominions, it so happened that there came in, while they were deliberating there, the news of the battle of Hamel, and of the success that the Australian Troops had gained. All those present asked the Secretary to telegraph at once their congratulations to the Australians. But when it came to M. Clemenceau, the venerable Prime Minister of France, after starting to instruct the Secretary to telegraph his congratulations also, he said: "No, I will go and tell them myself."

M. Clemenceau is 78 years of age. Every Sunday he drives to some division of the French Army, goes to see them close up to the line, travelling hundreds of miles through the country in spite of his age. This Sunday he determined to come to an Australian Division. As the 4th Australian Division had been directing the operations at Hamel, he came to that. After chatting and laughing with the Officers and men who could be got together at short notice at Headquarters—as much at home amongst them as if he were a boy again—he said he would like to say a word or two to them on behalf of the French people. A number of the men were gathered into a rough semicircle, and the little Premier, "The Tiger," as he is known by the French, standing in front of them simply, without any attempt to flatter or over-do his praise of them, made them in English the following speech:—

"Gentlemen," he said, "I hope you will be kind enough to excuse my faulty English. I know only a little, but I find it very useful at this moment, this English, because it enables me to tell you what all the French people think of you. When the Australians came to France we expected a great deal of you. First, because we had heard of what you had done in war in Gallipoli; secondly, because we had heard a great deal of what you had accomplished in peace in your own country. The French people expected that when you came to France to fight in this great struggle, which, after all, is the same for the French, the English, the Australians and all those who have fought this great war out in the cause of freedom, which is the same for all, they expected a good deal of you; and I should not like to say that they have been surprised that you have fulfilled that expectation. They admired most the fact that you were capable of doing what they expected of you. The more they expected of you, the more they held it in admiration.

"Hamel—after all, that is not such a very great battle; but I am ready to hold that in a comparatively small battle the man, the fighting man, who goes in to give all he has—his home, his hopes, his life itself—in a small battle his qualities show in all the brighter light, the action of each individual man having more influence in the final result. In a very big action it is not possible to notice so well the qualities of particular men. Well, in this battle the Germans saw that they had before them men who came from far away to attest that wherever free people lived, in England, in France, in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and all free countries, these were not ready to give way to the Boche who has acted with such barbarity—who wounded and killed not only men in battle, but women and old men and little children—who ruined and destroyed our country, our houses, our fruit trees, even our gardens.

"We have all been fighting beside each other here. It is such a wonderful thing that this should happen in history on these old fields of battle which you had read of in books, hearing of wars which you had not seen and the consequences of which you had never expected to see. It is a wonderful thing that you should be fighting beside us on these old battlefields of history. Still, it has come true. The work of our fathers, which we wanted to leave unharmed to our children, they tried to rob us of. They tried to take from us all that was dearest in modern society. But the free nations of the world said that the Boche should not do this so long as they were there to come and prevent it. Men were the same in England, in France, in Italy, and all the countries which are proud of being the home of a free people. And that is what you did. And that is what made us greet you when you came. We knew that you would fight a real fight. But we did not know that from the very beginning you would astonish the whole continent.

"I have come here just for the very purpose of seeing the Australians. I am going back to-morrow to see my countrymen and tell them: 'I have seen the Australians. I have looked in their eyes. I know that these men who have fought great battles beside us in the cause of freedom will fight alongside us again until the cause of freedom for which we are battling is safe for us and for our children.'"

The Australians who had been listening to this fine speech from the Grand Old Man of France, gave three tremendous cheers for France, which affected him greatly. He then called for three cheers for Australia, and left to go back to Paris.

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SECRET.13th BATTALION, ORDER No. 100

Ref. Sheet 62 D. 1/40,000

Headquarters
10th July, 1918

- (1) The 13th Battalion will move to Bivouacs and shelters in I.2.7. and 13 near PONT NOVELLES and LAHOUSSEY, at 6.30 a.m. on 11-7-18. Move to be complete by 9 a.m.
- (2) ROUTES. Will be indicated to Company Commanders.
- (3) ROUTINE. - Reveille 4 a.m.
Breakfast 5 a.m.
- (4) BAGGAGE. Transport Officer will arrange for 5 limbers to report at 5 4.30 a.m. to load Lewis Guns, Mess gear and Officers' gear. One limber to each Company and one to Battalion Headquarters. Mess Cart to report at same time.
- (5) DRESS. Fighting Order.
- (6) Personnel at Nucleus will move to new area ~~xxxxxx~~ under ~~xxxxxx~~ instruction from O.C. Nucleus.
- (7) Transport to move to new area as early as possible on 11th inst.
- (8) Advance party of 1 Officer (Lieut. Falkiner) and 4 N.C.O's (one per Company) will leave at 1 p.m. to-day 10-7-18 and arrange billeting.
- (9) Area is to be left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition.
Lieut. R.L. GOWING will report to Adjutant at 5.30 a.m. 11-7-18 and remain behind to hand over to relieving unit.
- (10) ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) A.W. DAVIS, Capt.
Adjutant, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

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(ONE COPY ONLY)

ORDERS FOR THE OPERATION.

VAIRE WOOD 4-7-18

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters.
28th June, 1918.

Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

The following are the preliminary arrangements and requirements in connection with the forthcoming operations, based on the conclusions arrived at at the conference on 25th/26th June :-

- (1) For the purpose of reference Zero Day will be called "Z" day, one day before Zero Day will be called "Y" Day and two days before Zero Day will be called "X" Day.

(a) On "X"/"Y" night the Brigade will take over that portion of the Front and Support Lines now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade together with the Communication Trenches between the Reserve and Front Line systems.

Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 15th Battalion will move into those portions of the Front and Support Lines situated between the Centre Battalion left boundary and the communication trench in P.7.a. and c.

Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 16th Battalion will move into the Front Line between the communication trenches in P.7.a. and P.1.a.

Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 14th Battalion will move into the Support Trench between the communication trench in P.7.c. and P.2.d.

Battalion Headquarters and one half of the 13th Battalion will move into the Front and Support trenches between the 13th Brigade right boundary and the communication trench running through P.1.c. and a.

The balance of the Brigade will remain in the Reserve Area until "Y"/"Z" night when the remainder of all Units will join up.

- (2) Assembly positions. Assembly positions will be a taped line parallel with and 150 yards from the Zero Barrage line already indicated in a former communication.

The assaulting troops will be drawn up on the assembly positions by Zero Hour and on the fall of the barrage will move up under it as close as possible in order to avoid the enemy barrage.

- (3) Disposition of troops for the operations.

The 16th Battalion will deal with VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS.

The 15th Battalion will be detailed to attack on the North side of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS with their final objective on the BLUE LINE junctioning with the 11th Brigade at approximately P.10.d.5.4. and with its right at approximately P.15.d.9.5.

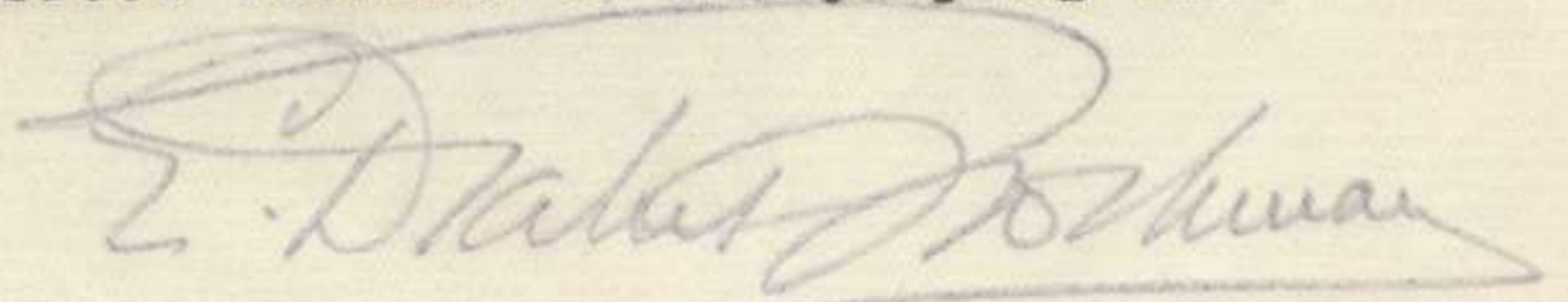
The 13th Battalion will attack on the South side of VAIRE WOOD and will have for its final objective the BLUE LINE from P.21.c.9.7. to P.15.d.9.5.

The 14th Battalion will be the Reserve Battalion and at ZERO will move to that portion of the Front Line vacated by 16th Battalion and thereafter will move with stores and supplies to a line approximately 500 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE, dump their stores, and proceed to dig the Support Line.

The 16th Battalion when VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS have been completely mopped up will be withdrawn into the old Front Line now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade and will become Reserve Battalion.

P.T.O.

- (4) Responsibility for the Defensive Line.
 (a) The 4th Brigade will assume responsibility for the defence of the area now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade on "X"/"Y" night.
 (b) All elements of the 13th Brigade should be withdrawn from the Front and Support Lines in this area on "X"/"Y" night with the exception of Vickers Machine Guns and nucleus garrisons consisting of Lewis Guns with minimum crews.
- (5) Headquarters. Brigade Headquarters will be established at O.12.b.9.5. (which is the present Headquarters for the Centre Battalion of the 13th Brigade).
 Headquarters for the Battalions are being arranged for in the Front and Support Lines. Their exact localities will be notified later.
- (6) American Troops. It is proposed to allot 1 Company to the 13th Battalion and 1 Company to the 15th Battalion to take part in the attack.
- (7) Dumps. Forward Dumps have already been established at P.13.c.8.5. and P.8.c.2.1. (both these references are approximate only) and are now being filled with the various engineer and other material that will be required in the forward area after the assault has been delivered. Forward dumps will subsequently be established in exact localities yet to be determined in P.15.b. and c.
- (8) General. Three platoons are being specially trained in the rapid construction of Strong posts. These troops will be sent forward immediately in rear of the last assaulting waves and will dig in on the forward crest of the ridge to the West of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS at approximately 400 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE and spread at equal intervals along the whole front. With each of these platoons there will be two Vickers Guns and an Engineer Officer.
 When the 14th Battalion subsequently moves up they will dig a Support Line on the general line indicated by the establishment of these three platoons.
- (9) Prisoners. 20 Military Police will be required to report at Forward Brigade Headquarters at 10.p.m. on "Y"/"Z" night for the purpose of collecting and evacuating prisoners captured.
- (10) 4th M.G. Company. Three guns will report to and go over with each of the 13th and 15th Battalions.
 Two guns will be attached to and will go over with each of the special platoons mentioned in para. 8 above.
 Four guns will remain in Reserve in the vicinity of Brigade Headquarters.
- (11) 4th T.M. Battery. Two Trench Mortars will be attached to and go over with each of the 13th and 15th Battalions. The balance will remain in Reserve.
- (12) Medical arrangements. Early information is requested concerning medical arrangements. As the carry will be very long bearer assistance will be required forward of the jumping off position.



Lieut-Colonel.
 Comdg. 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

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SECRET.AUSTRALIAN
IMPERIAL FORCE48/1/1
JUN 29 1918

Copy No. 333

APPENDIX 4

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.
HEADQUARTERS.
29th June, 1918.Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,

Further to my communication of 28/6/1918. The following additional requirements of this Brigade are now set forth:-

(1) Medical Arrangements.

In the first instance R.A.P.'s. will be established as follows :-

- 13th Battalion in
- 14th Battalion) in Sunken Road at P.8.c.
- 16th Battalion)
- 15th Battalion P.8.d.central.

14th Battalion will subsequently move to a point clear of VAIRE WOOD in P.15.c.

The A.D.S. for Brigade will be at O.12.b.8.4. (Quarry).

To assist in evacuation/ of casualties in later stage of operations 32 Stretcher Bearers from Field Ambulance will be required. It is requested that Officer in Charge of this party report at A.D.S. in Quarry at midnight on "Y"/"Z" night.

In addition to foregoing it is requested that 8 additional bearers be sent to each of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions to report to respective M.O's. by 10.30.p.m. on "Y"/"Z" night.

(2) Accommodation in forward area.

It is requested that 1 Battalion of 13th Brigade be withdrawn from forward area on "X"/"Y" night. This will relieve congestion and suite convenience of G.O.C. 13th Brigade who suggests that they be withdrawn to AUBIGNY LINE. Remaining 2 Battalions of 13th Brigade, less nucleus, as indicated in a former communication, will remain in Reserve Line and Headquarters of both these Battalions should be at O.12.d.1.1.

(3) Headquarters.

(a) It is requested that arrangements be made for Brigade Headquarters from "X"/"Y" night to completion of operations to be at O.12.b.9.5.

(b) It is requested that following Headquarters be arranged from "X"/"Y" night :-

- (i) 13th and 14th Battalions in existing Headquarters for Night Battalion of 13th Brigade at O.24.a.3.7.
- (ii) 15th Battalion in M.O. dugout in approx. P.7.b.75.50.
- (iii) 16th Battalion in O.12.b.9.5.

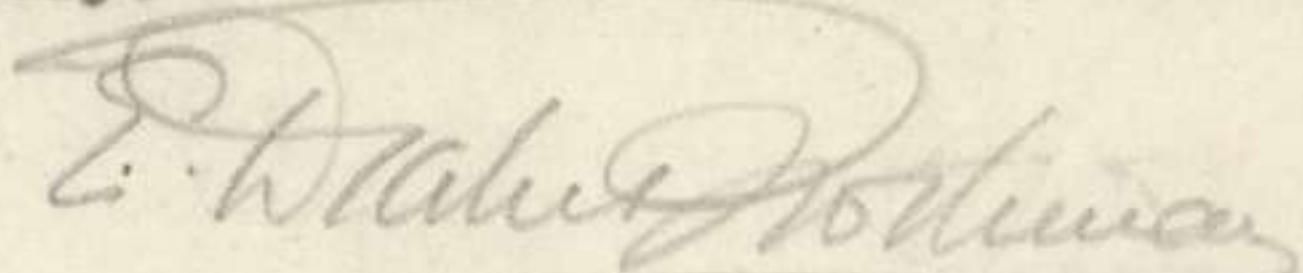
(c) Battalion Headquarters which will be occupied on "Y"/"Z" night will be established as follows :-

- (i) 13th Battalion at P.19.b.2.3.
- (ii) 14th Battalion at P.19.a.central.
- (iii) 15th and 16th Battalions in P.8.c.2.2.

With regard to Battle Headquarters required by 14th Battalion it is requested that Artillery personnel who have peacefully penetrated into the dugout be reduced to a minimum.

(d) Can the Commanding Officer 4th M.G. Battalion be asked to provide a Headquarters as near as possible to Brigade Headquarters for Headquarters of 4th M.G. Company and the 4th T.M. Battery in view of the several M.G. dugouts at his disposal in this Area and notify Brigade of location of these Headquarters by noon on 1st July.

A. Acknowledge



Lieut-Colonel.
Comdg. 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

S. C. C. - Bombs etc
to be delivered on 30/6/18.

APPENDIX

Picks	300
Shovels	300
Sandbags	2,000
S. C. C.	40,000 rounds
Granades N ^o 23	500
do 36	500
do 27	250
do 34	250
Tape	750 yards
Telephone wire	2 miles
S. O. P.	20
Flares Ground Red	150
Water bottles extra	500
Solidified Alcohol	150 tins
Electric Torches	10
Wire cutters (large)	25
Commun, chamber firing	1,000 rounds
Signal Rockets	8
Message Maps	250
Food containers	10
Luminous Boards (Bn HQ + Coy HQ)	5

SECRET.

Copy No. 4...

Administrative Instructions issued in connection with
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.
Reference Sheet G.D. 1/40,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
30/6/1918.

1. Supplies for distribution to the man.

The following will be drawn at Rear Brigade Headquarters on morning of 1st July. Grenades are at present undetoned.
Ammunition.

	13th Bn.	14th Bn.	15th Bn.	16th Bn.	T.M.Bty.
S.A.A.	75000	75000	100000	100000	-
S.A.A. (A.P.)	1000	1000	1000	1000	-
Grenades No. 5 or 23	640	640	840	840	240
" " 27	450	-	450	600	-
" " 34 (Egg)	750	750	950	950	100
" " 36	600	200	600	600	-
S.O.S. Flares	12	12	12	12	-
Red Ground Flares	150	150	150	150	-
Solidified Alcohol, tins	100	100	100	100	15
Message Rockets	10	10	10	10	-
Wirecutters	30	10	30	30	-
Waterbottles	400	400	600	560	40

The following will be drawn from R.E.Dump at FOUILLOY -

Picks	200	200	250	250	-
Shovels	200	200	250	250	-
Sandbags	1500	1500	2000	2000	250
Tape, yards	750	750	750	750	-
Illuminated Signs (Bn. & Coy.H.Q.)	As provided			As prov'd.	

2. Supplies to be taken forward by Supply Tank.

One supply Tank is detailed for 13th Battalion and one for 15th Battalion. The following load will be carried by each Tank -

- 124 ~~120~~ coils barbed wire.
- 130 120 long screw pickets.
- 300 240 short screw pickets.
- 45 50 sheets corrugated iron.
- 50 petrol tins filled with water.
- 150 T.M. Bombs.
- 10 boxes S.A.A.

Sandbags? }
Bombs? } Captain Smith

The whole of this material (less S.A.A. and Petrol Tins) is at present in neighbourhood of Supply Tanks at ~~P.13.d.~~ central.

13th and 15th Battalions will each provide - 0.13

- (a) 50 petrol tins filled with water.
- (b) 10 boxes S.A.A.
- (c) Loading party of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men who will load Tanks by Noon on 1st July.
- (d) Guide to report to O.C. Supply Tanks at 51st Battalion Headquarters at O.6.b.7.2. (Square at HAMELET - opposite Church) at midnight on "Y"/"Z" night.
- (e) Unloading party of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men to meet and unload Tank at ultimate destination.
- (f) For marking of Tank with Battalion colours by noon on July 1st.

Ultimate destination of Supply Tanks will be approximately -
 13th Battalion Tank - P.15.d.2.2.
 15th " " " P.15.b.8.8.

Guides provided must be capable of guiding Tanks to this approximate position.

3. Supplies to be carried forward by 14th Battalion and dumped in vicinity of Support Line.

These are at present equally distributed between 2 forward dumps at P.13.d.8.6. and P.8.c.5.4. respectively :-

P.T.O.

in square
near church
or supply
Tank

- (a) Posts fitted for A.A. Defence - 12.
- (b) Chloride of Lime - 4 barrels.
- (c) Petrol tins filled with water - 150.
- (d) Sandbags - 10,000.
- (e) Barbed wire - 220 coils.
- (f) Screw Pickets, Long 500; Short 1000.
- (g) S.A.A. - 200000.
- (h) Grenades No. 36 - 1500.
No. 27 - 1000.
No. 5 - 2000.

Supplies (a), (b) and (c) will be taken in any case, and as much of balance as possible. All R.E. material is made up in one man loads. All grenades in these dumps are detonated.

4. Additional S.A.A. will be taken forward by Fighting Tanks and also by aeroplane.
5. Rations and Water.
 - (a) Fighting Troops will take with them the rations for Zero day plus iron rations.
 - (b) One section pack mule train is being made available for each of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions for "Z" / "Z" plus 1 night. Units will notify Brigade by Noon on "Y" day of time and place they require these to report.
 - (c) Fighting Troops will each carry 2 filled waterbottles.
 - (d) Waterbottles and iron rations for attached American troops will be made available.
 - (e) A rum ration has been authorized for "Y"/"Z" and "Z" / "Z" plus 1 nights and will be issued at discretion of Unit Commanders.
6. Medical.
 - Proposed R.A.P.'s.
 - 13th Battalion at p.19.b.2.3.
 - 14th " " P.8.c.
 - 13th " " P.8.c.
 - 15th " " P.8.d.central.
 - 14th Battalion will ultimately establish R.A.P. clear of VAIRE WOOD in P.15.c.
 - A.D.S. - Quarry in O.12.b.8.4.
 - Motor Post. " " "
 - Stretcher Bearers - 8 additional complete with stretchers to report to R.M.O. of 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions at 10.30.p.m. "Y"/"Z" night.
 - 32 complete with stretchers to report to Staff Captain Brigade Headquarters QUARRY at 10.30.p.m. "Y"/"Z" night.
 - Marking - Units will issue to each man a small strip of cloth or tape to be tied to rifle to draw attention to Casualties lying in crops &c.
7. Prisoners. Line of evacuation will be via Brigade Headquarters at Quarry in O.12.b.9.5. 20 Military Police will be available there to conduct to P.O.W. Cage at about O.5.c.7.7.
8. American attached Troops. Additional Sandbags, Picks and Shovels are being made available for American Troops.
9. Casualties. American casualties are to be reported separately from Australian. Units will arrange to have representatives at A.D.S. or other centres to keep records of casualties.

P.T.O.

Page 3.

10. Stragglers posts are being established. Hot drinks and food are available at each. Locations will be issued later.
11. Cemeteries - See separate Memo.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

H. Thomson

Captain.
Staff-Captain.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued through signals at 10 p.m.

Distribution -

1. G.O.C.
2. Brigade Major.
3. Staff Captain.
- 4 & 5. 13th Battalion.
- 6 & 7. 14th Battalion.
- 8 & 9. 15th Battalion.
- 10 & 10 16th Battalion.
12. 4th T.M. Battery.
13. 4th Aust. Division.
14. 4th M.G. Battalion.
15. 5th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
16. 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
17. 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
18. A.D.M.S.
19. A.P.M.
20. Tank Corps.
21. Pack Transport Troop
22. O.C., Supply Tanks.
23. Div. Train.
24. 4th Field Coy.
- 25 - 27 War Diary.
- 28 - 30 Spare.

10-30 Parade of Tanks

Inferno commander responsible for Tanks.
See Edwards re signals - Bullo
Infantry Guides from Scouts - Topos if necessary.
Leave gaps for Tanks
Paint colours on Tanks
Get up & time down

100* in 3' up to 10" halt, then 100* in 4"

2-8 = ordinary raking fire.
805 = 3grens!

SECRET

C 109

Tin Hat on Helmet
Fire 27 at SP

FINAL

OBJECTIVE

160 Heavy CB.
103 foot localities

work according to clock in spite of counter preparation by enemy.

LEGEND

APPENDIX

Expected main centres of resistance

SINGLE TANKS

RED - TROOPS & TANKS DETAILED FOR REDUCTION OF MAIN CENTRES OF RESISTANCE.

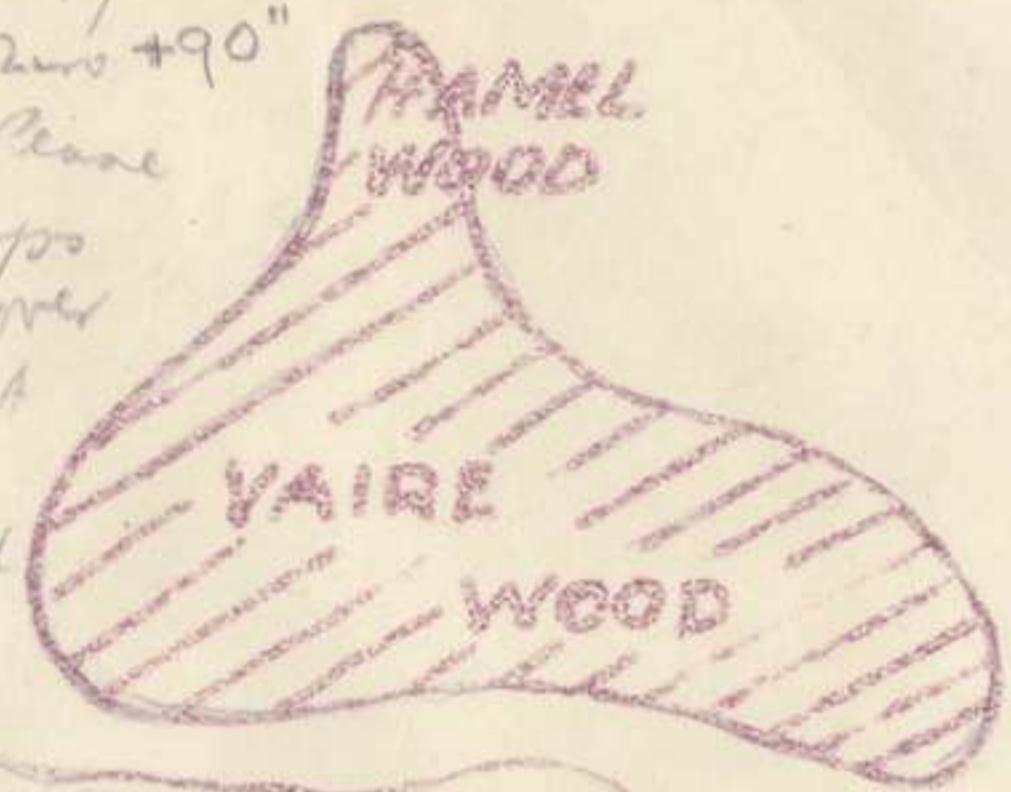
GREEN TROOPS DETAILED FOR CAPTURE OF FINAL OBJECTIVE

PURPLE RESERVES.

IN GREEN CIRCLE. LIRISON UNITS MOVING UP TO BLUE LINE.

No phosphorus Bombs in dugouts

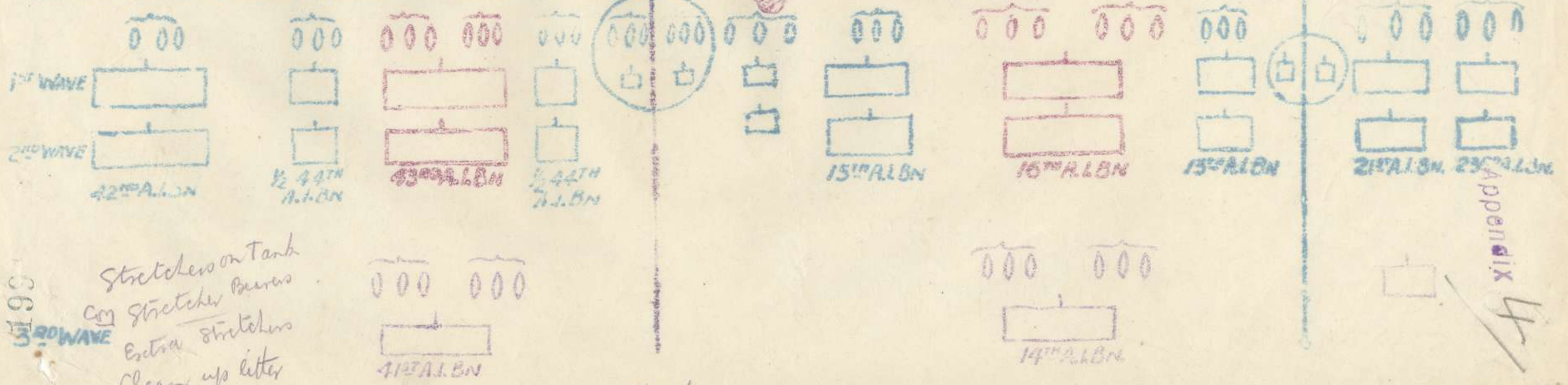
3 M.G.s for consolidation
Engineers + 2 M.G. report on 4.2. night
Smoke screen being used
Ground Flares at 200 + 90"
Counter attack Planes
White streamer drops
White & smoke flare over point of from which CA comes.
Hans carry wounded



INTER-FRONT BOUNDARY

INTER BUL BOUNDARY

DEAR SHAPED TRENCH



395
30 WAVE
Stretchers on Tank
Com stretchers
Extra stretchers
Clean up litter

Flags with Tanks

Appendix

4

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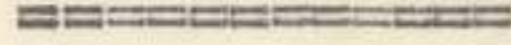
199

APPENDIX.

39

APPENDIX No. ⁵.....
(ONE COPY ONLY)

GERMAN MAP (positions as on 3-7-18) and notes on same
by Intelligence Officer, 4th Aust. Division.



C.O.
13th Bn.

Map and notes on same
by Intelligence Officer 4th Aus.
Div. are returned herewith.

19.7.18. B Saltzman Capt
for Bn. 4th Aus Inf Bde.

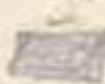
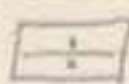
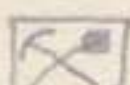

AUSTRALIAN
IMPERIAL FORCE
JUL 19 1918
4th Infantry Brigade.

German Dispositions
as per att. Sketch

The battalion holding the front system had two Coys in the front and outpost line. Two companies were in the intermediate position (the main line of resistance)

The dispositions of the support Bn are not shown but would have probably 3 Coys in the line of supporting points and the fourth Coy distributed further in rear.

REFERENCE

K.T.K.	=	FORWARD BATTALION H.Q.
B.T.K.	=	SUPPORT BN. HQ.
 L.M.G.	=	Light Machine Gun
	=	Strong point with heavy M.G.
 Rgl. P. Park.	=	Regimental R.E. park
Ka	}	a Coy
Kb		b "
Kc		c "
Kd		d "
	=	R.A.P.
H.W.L.	=	Main defence line.
W.d.V.	=	Outpost line.

Note The two front line coys are always designated A & B and the intermediate coys C & D. If a relief takes place A & B become C & D and C & D become A & B.



4/7/18

Dear Stewart,

If you have a moment
to spare can you translate
some of this for 13th Bom. It is
the dispositions of the Bosch
as at 3/7/18 but not at

4/7/18

Yours sincerely

Provoce7th A.I. Bde

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APPENDIX 5

44

Received from 13th BATTALION, A.I.F. :-

(1) ~~Prisoner of War by Regiment~~
(inter)

(11) Enemy documents as follows... Sketch map - Claimed
BN & would like map returned with
translation if possible

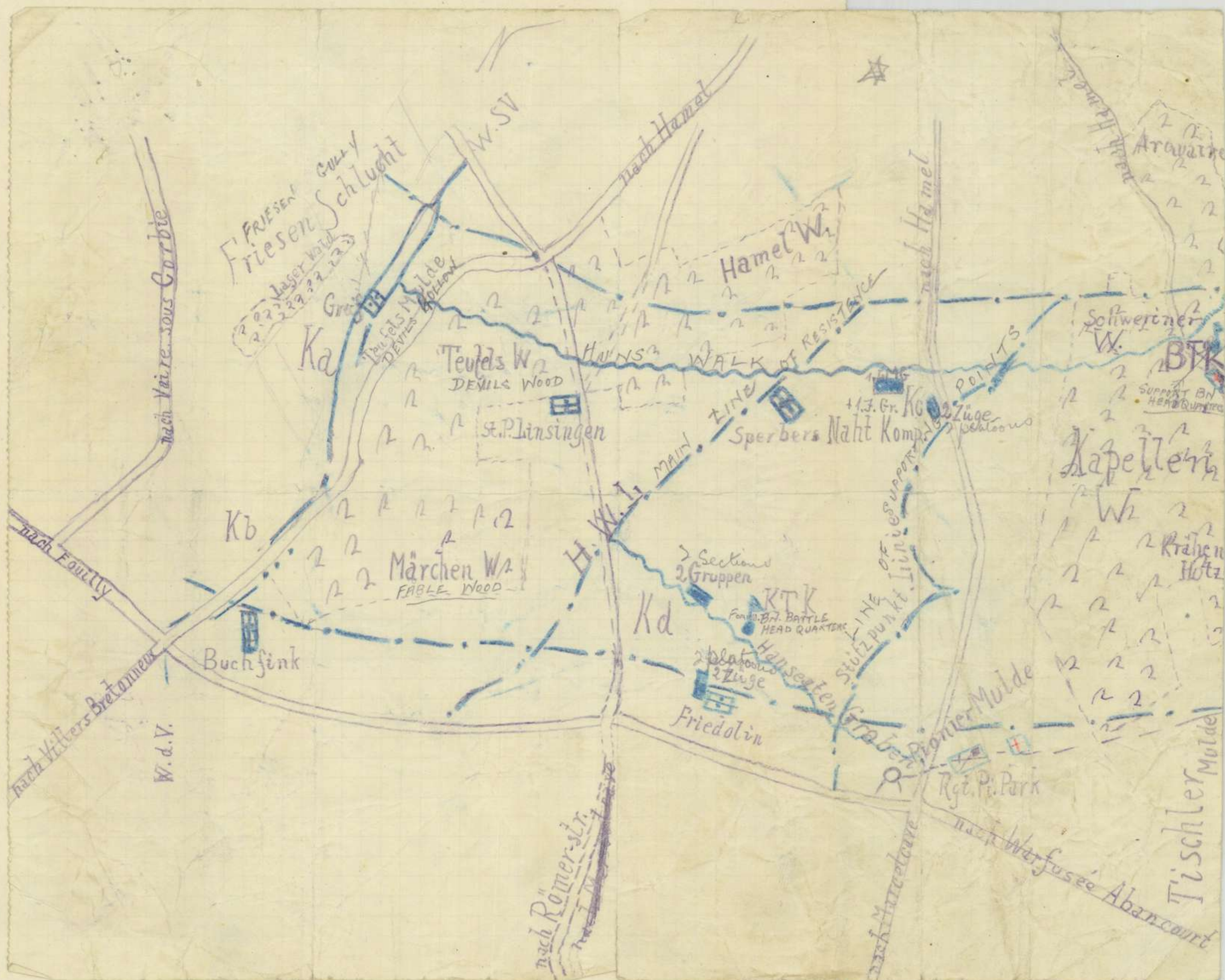
Date... 4/7/1918
Time... 3:45 p.m.

J. H. Clarke for
Mjt. 13th B. St. Kian, C.O.

Received the above.

[Signature]

Date... 4/7/18
Time... 5/15/18



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8th TANK BATTALION.

8TH
TANK BATTALION

No. HA/646.

Date

MOVEMENT ORDERS No 2.

APPENDIX 6

copy no 15 46

SECRET

&

CONFIDENTIAL.

- "A" and "B" Companies, 8th Tank Battalion will move from their present locations to "C" Coy's Tankodrome on W/X night. Recon Officers of these Companies will ascertain their lying up positions from R.O "C" Company. No Tank of either Company will start before 10 p.m and only roads or dry weather tracks will be used on the journey. Necessary refill from Company Dumps will be taken in Limbers to "C" Company Tankodrome.
- The Section of G.C Tanks at present located at H.21.c will move fully loaded to "C" Coy's Tankodrome on W/X night and will be attached to Companies as follows:-

1 G.C Tank Lieut. G.H. Smith, or)	"A" Company.
Sergt Tucker.)	"B" Company.
1 G.C Tank Lieut W. Griffiths.	"C" Company.
1 G.C Tank Lieut. W. Saunders.	"B" Coy, 13th Battalion.
1 G.C Tank Sergt Strang.	
- All Tanks of Companies and G.C Section will be so parked as to enable the move to Assembly Places on X/Y night, as laid down in para 11 of Preliminary Instructions No 5, to be carried out.

The following Route March Table will be strictly adhered to:-

"C" Coy and attached Units (11 & 12 Secs 13th Battn) leave at 10 p.m, followed by :-

"A" Company and attached Units.

"B" Company 8th Tank Battn and 9 & 10 Secs 13th Battalion.

"E" Company 13th Tank Battalion.

4 G.C Tanks will move last, under Major Partington and will report to their respective Companies at the Assembly Positions.

There will be at least 25^X between Tanks and 200^X between Companies. The usual precautions as regards noise, lights, etc will be observed and every precaution will be taken against the possibility of gas shelling. Respirators will be worn in the alert position.

On arrival camouflaging of Tanks and Tracks must be most carefully done at once as low flying aeroplanes cross the forward area daily in the early hours.

- TAPING OF ROUTE. Tank Route will be taped under Battalion arrangements from C.13.c to C.10.d.60.80. The following Officers will carry out this taping:-

C.13.c to C.14.b.35.30.	2/Lt. N.J. Still.	"C" Company.
C.14.b.35.30 to C.15.b.30.70	2/Lt. B. Guy.	"A" Company.
C.15.b.30.70 to C.10.d.60.80	2/Lt. R. Grinham.	"B" Company.

 From C.10.d.60.80 Companies will be responsible for the Route to their Assembly Positions and thence to Starting Points.

/Para 5.

9/8/6

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APPENDIX 6
47Sheet 2,

5. Company Commanders will report by telephone to Battalion H.Q. using the following code:-

- (a) If all Tanks have arrived safely "All O.K."
 (b) In case of Tanks not arriving through mechanical trouble or a direct hit - "O.K. -- (No) not arrived"
 (Add serious or slight)

In the event of a Tank becoming disabled it will be immediately towed back to a position of security and camouflaged.

6. On Y day there will be movement whatever in, or in the vicinity of the Assembly places, as these are under direct enemy observation.

7. 1/2 night. Engines will be started up at 10.30 p.m.
 Companies will arrange to be in position at Starting Points by 1 a.m.

"C" Coy and 11 & 12 Secs, 13th Battn direct to S.P.

"A" Coy via track running S.E to Quarry through C.12.b and thence to S.P.

"B" Coy and 9 & 10 Secs, 13th Battn via FOUILLOX, WAREFUSEE Road to S.P.

"B" Coy, 13th Battn, 15 minutes after "B" Coy, 8th Battn and form up 200² in rear of starting line as follows:-
 2 Sections in rear of "B" Coy, 8th Battn.
 2 " " " " "C" -do-

8. G.C Tanks will return to their own Tankodrome, H.21.c, during Zero hour and refit at once.

9. Zero hour will be notified later.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

H. Bingham

Lieut Colonel,

30th JUNE 1918.

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

Distribution:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| No 1. C.C "A" Coy, 8th Battn. | 10. C.C No 1 G.C. Company. |
| 2. C.C "B" Coy, -do- | 11. C.C No 1 G.C Section. |
| 3. C.C "C" Coy, -do- | 12 & 13. 5th Tank Brigade. |
| 4. Major, D. H. PRATT., D.S.O., M.C. | 14, 15, 16) |
| 5. Battn Reconnaissance Officer. | 17 & 18.) 4th Austrn Brigade. |
| 6. Battn Engineer. | 19, 20, 21) |
| 7. Battn Equipt Officer. | 22 & 23.) 6th Austrn Brigade. |
| 8. C.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn. | 24, 25, 26) |
| 9. C.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn. | 27 & 28.) 11th Austrn Brigade. |
| | 29. 4th Austrn Division. |
| | 30. Retained. |
| | 31. War Dia ry. |

8th TANK BATTALION.

TANK BATTALION

No. 11A 1/636

Date

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS
No 5.SECRET
&
CONFIDENTIAL.

COPY No. 15

1. OPERATION.

An operation is being undertaken by the Australian Corps to capture the high ground and spur running E of VAIRE Wood and HANEL Village, and to establish themselves on a line running from P.25 Central on the South, about 1000 yards E of VAIRE and HANEL Woods, Trench System E of HANEL to River SOTTE on the North about J.34.d.9.5.

2.

The operation is being carried out by the 6th, 4th and 11th Brigades respectively from right to left under the direction of the G.O.C 4th Australian Division, with Brigades disposed as follows:-

DISPOSITIONS. 6th Brigade. 2 Battalions from P.25 Central to FOUILLOX-WARFUSEE Road.

4th Brigade. 4 Battalions from FOUILLOX-WARFUSEE Road to a line drawn through P.8 Central to P.10.d.7.4.

11th Brigade. 4 Battalions from Centre Brigade Boundary to the River SOTTE.

Four Companies U.S Infantry will co-operate in the attack but dispositions are as yet unknown.

3.

The 8th Tank Battalion, plus 2 Companies from the 13th Tank Battalion, will co-operate with the Australian Brigades as follows:-

6th Austrn Brgde. 2 Sections. "C" Coy, 13th Battalion.

4th -do- "D" Company, 8th Battalion.
"A" Company, 8th Battalion.

11th. -do- "C" Company, 8th Battalion.
2 Sections. "C" Coy, 13th Battalion.

4. All Companies will be organized into 4 Sections of 3 Tanks each.

5. The dispositions of the Infantry Battalions and Tank Units affiliated to them are shown on attached Diagram, Appendix "A".

6. Actual Tank tasks are as shown in Appendix "B".

7. Tank Assembly Positions, Starting Points, Routes to same and area of Operations are shown on Attached Map "C".

8. ARTILLERY. Tanks and Infantry will be covered by a creeping Barrage.

Prior to this the usual harassing fire will be maintained with a percentage of smoke shells to mask any movements or noise of Tanks.

/At Zero

2/8/6/11.

At Zero hour the Barrage will fall on the Artillery Start Line and remain there for four minutes.

It will then move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 3 minutes, maintaining this rate until it reaches the Artillery Halt Line where it will halt for 10 minutes.

Just prior to the halt a certain percentage of smoke will be mixed with the barrage as a warning.

After 3 minutes the smoke will be again used to denote that in two minutes time the barrage will creep forward again.

From the Halt Line to the Blue Line the barrage will move at 100 yards in 4 minutes.

It will continue to move forward at this rate and become stationary 400 yards in front of the Blue Line where it will remain for at least half an hour.

In addition to the above there will be a smoke barrage to the N of the River SCHE and also to the S.E of the attack, masking MARFUSEE and MARCELCAVE, and intense counter-battery work.

9. AEROPLANES. Aeroplanes will fly over the enemy line during Y/Z night and early Z morning dropping Bombs, to drown the noise of Tanks.

They are also arranging to drop Ammunition Boxes for the Infantry at selected points.

10. DUMP. A Dump will be formed at C.13.a from which the Two Companies from 13th Battalion will refill.

"A" and "B" Companies will bring their own refills.

1 Supply Tank will accompany each party to its Assembly Point for refilling purposes on X/Y night.

11. ASSEMBLY PLACES. Assembly Places are allotted as follows:-

"C" Coy, plus 2 Sections of "C" Coy, 13th Battalion and 1 G.C Tank in O.6.d.3.7.

"A" Company and 1 G.C Tank in O.6.c.

"B" Coy, plus 2 Sections of "C" Coy, 13th Battalion and 1 G.C Tank in O.11.a.4.4.

"B" Company 13th Battn and 1 G.C Tank in O.10.a. Central.

Tape will be laid by Battalion up to X road at O.10.d.6.9, thence by Companies to their respective Assembly positions.

12. STARTING POINTS. Starting Points will be selected by Company Commanders approximately on the 1000 yards line in conformity with the lay of the ground, and the positions of the Units to which they are affiliated.

They will tape their route to the Starting Points and for each Tank from this line to the Infantry taped line.

13. COMMUNICATIONS. By Telephone. From "A" Coy's Assembly Position to 4th Austrn Bgde H.Q. at O.5.c.6.8 on X/Y night.

From 8th Battn Report Centre in Quarry at P.7.a.0.2 on Y/Z night and Z day to 4th Austrn Bgde. H.Q.

Pigeons. 4 pairs at Battn Report Centre.

1 pair with each Section Commander.

Broken Down Tanks will not be reported by Pigeon Message

Runners. To Quarry in P.7.a.0.2.

Para 14.

Section Commanders may ride in the Centre Tank of their Sections, where Pigeons will be carried.

15.

8th Tank Battalion Report Centre will be at Quarry in P.7.a.C.2.

16.

Company Commanders will establish their Headquarters with the Brigade H.Q. with whom they are affiliated.

17.

Attention is called to "Tank Corps Standing Orders for Operations" which must be read out and emphasized to all Officers and Crews.

18.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. Bingham

Lieut Colonel,

30th JUNE 1918.

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

Distribution.:-

No 1.	C.C "A" Coy, 8th Tank Battn.
2.	C.C "B" " -do-
3.	C.C "C" " -do-
4.	Major D.H. PRATT., DSO., MC.
5.	Battn Reconnaissance Officer.
6.	Battn Engineer.
7.	Battn Equip Officer.
8.	C.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn.
9.	C.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn.
10.	C.C No 1 G.C. Company.
11.	C.C No 1 G.C. Section.
12 & 13.	5th Tank Brigade
14, 15, 16)	
17 & 18.)	4th Austrn Brigade. <i>With maps 2</i>
19, 20, 21)	
22 & 23.)	6th Austrn Brigade.
24, 25, 26)	
27 & 28.)	11th Austrn Brigade.
29.	4th Austrn Division.
30.	Retained.
31.	War Diary.

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 5.

8th TANK BATTALION.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX "C" issued only to
5th Tank Brigade.
4th Austrn Division.

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 5.

8th TANK BATTALION

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX "A" issued only to

C.C "A" Company. 8th Tank Battalion.
C.C "B" Company. -do-
C.C "C" Company. -fo-
C.C "B" Company. 13th Tank Battalion.
C.C "C" Company. 13th Tank Battalion.

APPENDIX "B" to follow

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 18

APPENDIX 6

Reference Sheet 62.D. B.E. & S.W. 1/20,000.
VAUX 1/20,000.

Brigade Headquarters,
 1st July, 1918.

1. On a day and at an hour to be fixed the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade will capture VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and consolidate on the Spur East of those Woods.
 The exact task allotted to the Brigade is shown on attached map "A".
 Simultaneously the 6th Brigade on the Right will advance and capture and consolidate a line as indicated on the attached Map "A", and the 11th Brigade on the Left will capture the village of HAMEL and consolidate a position on the old British Line East of HAMEL (see attached Map "A").
2. Tasks.
 - (a) The 15th Battalion will deal with VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS. The 15th Battalion will attack on the North side of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS with their final objective on the BLUE LINE as indicated on the attached map marked "A".
 The 13th Battalion will attack on the South side of VAIRE WOOD and will have for its final objective the BLUE LINE as indicated on the attached map marked "A".
 The 14th Battalion will be the Reserve Battalion and at ZERO will move to that portion of the Front Line vacated by 15th Battalion and thereafter will move with stores and supplies to a line approximately 500 yards in rear of the BLUE LINE, dump their stores, and proceed to dig the Support Line.
 The 16th Battalion when VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS have been completely mopped up will be withdrawn into the old Front Line now occupied by the Right and Centre Battalions of the 13th Brigade and will become Reserve Battalion.
 - (b) The three platoons specially trained in the construction of Strong Posts will go forward immediately in rear of the last assaulting waves. The platoons supplied by 15th Battalion moving in rear of that Battalion and platoons supplied by 13th and 14th Battalions will move in rear of 13th Battalion.
 The Engineer Officers attached to these platoons will determine the localities for Strong Posts to be constructed in the Support Line to final objective.
 - (c) The O.C., 4th A.M.G. Company will detail 3 guns to go over with each of 13th and 15th Battalions: 2 guns will be attached to and go over with each of the special platoons mentioned in (b) above. 4 Guns will remain in Reserve. Gun Crews with Guns &c. complete will report to the respective Commanding Officers concerned at a time to be arranged mutually.
 - (d) Two Trench Mortars are allotted to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions. T.M. Crews with Mortars will report to the Commanding Officers concerned at a time to be arranged mutually. The remaining two Trench Mortars will be held in Reserve.
 - (e) The 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions will be responsible for mopping up the areas respectively coloured Red, Blue and Yellow on the attached map marked "A".
3. American Troops.
 Five Companies of American Troops are allotted to the Brigade to take part in this operation - 1 Company is attached to each of the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions and 2 Companies to the 16th Battalion.
4. Brigade Battle Headquarters will be at O.12.b.9.5. (Quarry).

P.T.O.

5. Tanks. Will co-operate in these operations. The distributions of the Tanks allotted to this Brigade are as shown on attached diagram "C". Battalion Commanders concerned will make arrangements direct with Tank Unit Commanders for guiding Tanks to their positions of assembly and from there to infantry starting point.

6. The Infantry Jumping Off Line will be a taped line as indicated on attached Map "A". This tape will be put out by Units concerned on "Y"/"Z" night under supervision of Brigade Intelligence Officer.

7. Artillery.

(a) The artillery will put down normal harassing fire, (in accordance with the programme lately instituted) with the exception of gas, from Zero minus 8 minutes to Zero, to drown the noise of approaching tanks, who will leave their forming up line not less than 8 minutes before Zero. The Tank Commander will make arrangements to ensure as accurately as possible synchronisation of arrival at the Infantry Taped Line.

(b) The actual barrage will drop at Zero on the "Start Line" shown on the attached map, and after remaining thereon for four minutes will advance by lifts of 100 yards at intervals of three minutes, as shown on the barrage map, (to be issued later), to the "HALT LINE" shown on the attached map "A" where there will be a pause of 10 minutes. After the pause the barrage will lift 100 yards at intervals of 4 minutes up to 400 yards beyond the BLUE LINE.

(c) On arrival at the "HALT LINE" a thick smoke screen will be built up to indicate the beginning of the 10 minutes halt. Eight minutes afterwards a thick smoke screen will again be built up to indicate that the advance is about to be resumed.

(d) After passing the BLUE LINE the barrage will advance at a rate of 100 yards in four minutes, to a line 400 yards beyond, where it will continue as a standing barrage to cover consolidation, for a period of 30 minutes.

(e) From Zero hour on, a special programme of intense Counter-Battery action will be carried out.

8. Infantry Formations.

The 16th Battalion which is detailed for the capture and neutralisation of HAMEL and VAIRE WOODS will move in two waves supported by Tanks detailed for the purpose.

The Troops allotted for capture of final objective (13th and 15th Battalions and attached American Troops) will move in two waves and will be supported by special Tank formations which will move round the flank of VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS.

The 14th Battalion will move in Artillery formation behind the assaulting troops at a sufficient distance to avoid being involved in initial fighting and will dig a Support Line in rear of BLUE LINE on a line which will be indicated by the establishment of the three Strong posts mentioned above. This Battalion will carry forward with it engineering material and ammunition. Special instructions concerning this are being prepared and will be issued later.

9. Special Task for 15th Battalion.

The Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, will detail 1 Company to co-operate with three Tanks allotted for the purpose of the capture of the "pear Shaped" Trench.

10. Flank Liaison.

Close Liaison must be maintained with the units co-operating in these operations on the right and left. The Commanding Officer, 15th Battalion, will arrange with Commanding Officer, 44th Battalion, for a mixed platoon of the two Battalions to move along the inter-Brigade boundary on the left. The Commanding Officer, 13th Battalion, will arrange with Commanding Officer, 21st Battalion, for a mixed platoon of the two Battalions to move along the inter-Brigade boundary on the right. The Officers detailed to go with these parties will be responsible for keeping direction by compass bearing.

55
6

11. Synchronisation of Watches. Watches will be synchronised at 8.p.m. and 1 hour before Zero Hour on "Y"/"Z" night. Units will send an Officer to Brigade Headquarters for this purpose.
12. * Signalling. Brigade Advanced Report Centre will be established at P.8.c.2.2. in the first instance. A party under Lieut. S.M.LARKINS will move forward with the Reserve Battalion (14th Battalion) and establish Brigade Forward Station at P.15.c.3.8. (approx.).
13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A.D. 31

R.W. Lovell

Major.
Brigade-Major.
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Issued at 3 p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -

1. 4th Aust. Division.
- 2 - 4. War Diary.
5. G.O.C.
6. Brigade Major.
7. Staff Captain.
8. 13th Battalion. ✓
9. 14th Battalion.
10. 15th Battalion.
11. 16th Battalion.
12. 4th A.M.G. Company.
13. 4th A.L.T.M. Battery.
14. 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
15. 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
16. 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade.
17. 8th Tank Battalion.
18. 4th Field Coy. A.E.
19. 4th Aust. Div. Artillery.

199
Rev
2/7/18
8th TANK BATTALION.

8TH TANK BATTALION	
No.....	1100
Date.....	

S E C R E T
&
CONFIDENTIAL.

Copy No 15

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No 6.
-----(In continuation of Preliminary Instructions No 5)

1. The following will be the action of Tanks on Z day from their Starting Line onwards.
2. Tanks will be formed up on their Starting Line by 1 a.m, in absolute silence - there will be no shouting, talking, or showing of lights.
Each Tank will be so placed as to be on it's taped line ready to advance.
O.Cs Companies will arrange for Infantry guides to assist in taping.
3. Engines will be started up at O minus 11 minutes.-
Tanks will start forward at O minus 8 minutes, moving as rapidly as possible.
4. It is the primary duty of Tanks to save casualties to the Australian Infantry, and as this cannot be done so long as Tanks remain in rear of them, Tank Commanders must do their utmost to get in between the Infantry and the Artillery barrage whenever possible.
Opportunities will occur to do this, and Tank Commanders must keep a sharp look out for any point where the Infantry are held up or the barrage appears to be running away from them.
5. The main policy for the employment of Tanks is as laid down in Appendix B, arrangements in detail being made between the Brigadiers, Infantry Battalion Commanders and O.C Tank Companies and Sections concerned.
6. Tanks will come under the orders of Officers Commanding the Units to which they are attached for the operation, from the time they are formed up on their starting line until time of withdrawal.
7. All Tanks, less 1 Company, will withdraw to their Parks under Company arrangements not less than 15 minutes after the Artillery barrage has come to a halt 400 yards in front of the objective line.
8. The suggested lines of withdrawal are:-
"B" and "C" Coys, 13th Battalion via DACOURS Bridge to QUERRIEU Wood.
"C" Coy, 8th Battalion along line of Approach March.
"A" Coy, via BOIS L'ABBE and generally S of the BRETONNEUX-ALIENS Main road.

One gunner per Tank should be told off to engage low-flying E.A attempting to bomb the Tank.

/Para 9.

Sheet 2.

9. "B" Company, 8th Battalion will remain in the Battle area for 48 hours after the operation, and be parked under the high bank W of VAIRE Wood in P.14. Central, and be under the orders of the 4th Brigade.
Arrangements for supply etc will be made by Major. D. H. PRATT, 2nd-in-Command, 8th Battalion.
It will then withdraw under orders to be issued later. Should the number of surviving Tanks of "B" Company not amount to 6, they will be made up to this number from "C" Company, 8th Battalion.
10. Each Tank Commander will have a watch correctly synchronized with Brigade time and will be given a Compass bearing to move on.
11. Belts of wire should be crossed as nearly as possible at right angles, and on no account, must Tanks be "swung" when half-way through, otherwise they may become completely enveloped.
12. In the event of Infantry being held up, and requiring assistance, they will signal to Tanks by placing a steel helmet on top of the rifle - and will then indicate the position of the strong point, by firing a phosphorous grenade in the direction.
13. Tanks carry 3 flags which represent the following, and will be pushed out of the Tank as required:-
- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Green and White (diagonal) | - | "All right - Come on" |
| Red and Yellow. (-do-) | ⊘ | "Broken down. (A reserve Tank will then replace it)" |
| Red, white & blue (vertical) | - | denotes a British Tank coming out of action. |
14. Aeroplanes will co-operate during the attack.
Contact planes have Black flaps about the size of a sheet of foolscap on the under side of each plane.
Counter attack planes will denote enemy concentration for counter attack by dropping a white flare, lasting for 1½ minutes and giving out much smoke, in the direction of the concentration.
Tank Commanders must keep a look out for this signal prior to withdrawing, and if necessary remain and assist in breaking up the counter-attack
15. Casualties should, if not too severe, be brought back in the Tanks, and dropped at Quarry in O.12.b.8.4 where there will be an A.D.S.
There will also be R.A.Ps at the following places.
P.19.b.2.3.
P.8.c.
P.8.d.central., and dressing stations at H.4.c.9:2 DACURS-AMIENS road, and at H.26.d.1.3., BRETONNEUX-AMIENS Road.
16. Casualties to Tanks will be reported at the earliest possible moment, stating map location and whether ditched, mechanical trouble, direct hit, or short of petrol.

/Para 17.

17. In the event of a Tank being put out of action during the attack, the action of the Tank Commander and Crew are very clearly defined in Tank Corps "Standing Orders for Operations", and must be carried out to the letter and in spirit.

18. Accommodation is being arranged on Y/Z night by 4th Austrn Inf Bgde at Quarry in O.12.b.8.4 for

Commdg Officer.)	
O.C "A" Company.)	
O.C "B" Company.)	8th Tank Battalion.
4 runners.)	

19. ACKNOWLEDGE.

D. Bingham

Lieut Colonel,

1st July 1918.

Commanding 8th TANK BATTALION.

Distribution:-

No 1.	O.C. "A" Company, 8th Battn.
2.	O.C "B" Company, 8th Battn.
3.	O.C "C" Company, -do-
4.	Major D.H. PRATT, DSO., MC.
5.	Battn Reconnaissance Officer.
6.	Battn Engineer.
7.	Battn Equip Officer.
8.	O.C "B" Coy, 13th Battn.
9.	O.C "C" Coy, 13th Battn.
10.	O.C No 1 G.C Company.
11.	O.C No 1 G.C Section.
12 & 13.	H.Q 5th Tank Bgde.
14, 15, 16)	
17 & 18.)	4th Austrn Brgde.
19, 20, 21)	
22 & 23.)	6th Austrn Bgde.
24, 25, 26)	
27 & 28.)	11th Austrn Bgde.
29.	4th Austrn Division.
30.	Retained.
31.	War Diary.
32.	O.C 13th Battn.

APPENDIX "B" -- "TANK TASKS", To Preliminary Instructions

No 5, enclosed herewith.

SECRET.

21st AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER No. 155.

Ref. Map Sheet -

1st JULY 1918.

1. ATTACK. Under the orders of the 4th Aust. Divn. an attack is being made, with the co-operation of tanks, at a time and date to be verified later with the object of improving our line between VILLERS-BRETTONEUX & the SOMME. The 6th A.I. Bde is attacking on the right with the 13th Bn 4th A.I. Bde, next on the left. The 7th A.I. Bde is at Zero moving forward to occupy the bank from P.25.d.1.4. to P.25.d.1.8. and will connect this to the enemy front line at about P.25.b.2.0.
2. OBJECTIVES. Objectives will be as per Map "A" to be issued to Companies.
3. ATTACKING TROOPS. That portion of the attack allotted to the 6th A.I. Bde will be carried out by the 23rd Bn on the Right and the 21st Bn on the Left. Boundaries are shown on Map "A".
4. JUMPING-OFF-TAPES. Jumping-off-Tapes are being laid by the 6th Field Company in the position shown on Map "A" by Zero - 3 Hours. Direction tapes will be laid forward 50 Yards on Company Flanks. Companies to be on J.O.T. by Zero - 1 Hour.
5. FORMATION & METHOD OF ATTACK. The 21st Battalion will attack on a three-Company Front - "A" Coy Right, "C" Coy Centre, "D" Coy Left - in two waves fifty yards apart - Each wave consisting of 2 Platoons per Company - 1st Wave in two lines 15 Yds apart - 2nd Wave in Artillery Formation until Coy Commanders deem it necessary to extend. Both Waves to the Objective.
6. CARRYING PARTY, etc. "D" Coy will form up in lines of half platoons immediately in rear and will follow close to the 2nd Wave as far as enemy trench system in P.20.d., carrying S.A.A., Bombs, Tools, Water, and Stretchers. At Zero plus 30 three platoons will carry their loads forward to their previously allotted Company on the objective, reporting back to their Coy Commander on completion of task. They will then consolidate their position using the tools carried by the fourth platoon.
7. DIRECTION. "D" Company will be responsible for direction and Lt. W.H. Taylor M.B. & Lt. S.E. Roberts M.M., carrying prismatic compasses, will be detailed for this purpose and will move on the left flank of the 1st & 2nd waves respectively.
8. FLANK LIAISON. "D" & "A" Companies will each detail a party of 1 M.C.O. & 8 Others who will move inside the right and left flanks of the 1st Wave of the 13th & 23rd Bns respectively. On objective being reached they will report to their Coy Commander the whereabouts of the flank of the Unit with whom they have been in liaison.
9. LIAISON OFFICER. Liaison Officer with 13th Bn - Lieut. A. Peck.
10. COVERING PARTY. Covering Parties of 2 Lewis Guns and 2 Other Posts will be provided by 24th Bn. These will be withdrawn at Zero minus 10 minutes.
11. ARTILLERY. Artillery action will be notified later.
12. TANKS. Six tanks of "C" Coy, 13th Bn. Tank Corps have been allotted to the Bde Section. These tanks will move from their positions of readiness in Q.23.b. at Zero - 8 minutes towards the Jumping-Off Position of the Infantry. One Section (3 Tanks) will operate in the area of each attacking Battalion. The detailed action of each tank will be arranged at a conference with Tank Section & Tank Commanders and Company Commanders in accordance with the following:-
(a) Tanks cannot follow the barrage as closely as the Infantry. If no serious opposition is met with, the infantry following the xxx

21st AUST. BN. ORDER 155. (Continued).-

barrage closely, will precede the tanks to their objective. If the attack is held up at any point the tanks will go ahead and deal with the resistance of the enemy. When this has been done the Infantry will again move forward preceded by the tanks until the barrage has been caught up again.

(b) After the objective has been reached the tanks will clear the area between the objective and the protective barrage and, patrolling in front of the objective, cover the consolidation.

(c) One tank of the section allotted to the 23rd Bn will operate on the extreme left flank of this Battalion.

(d) One tank of the section allotted to the 21st Bn will move with "B" Company, but will move forward to replace either of the other tanks should one of them become a casualty.

13. M. GUN ACTION. (a) 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn is using 26 Guns to put down a barrage which will conform with the Field Artillery Barrage.

(b) Two guns, moving forward to positions about P. 21. e. 0. 8., will pass our present front line at Zero plus 30 minutes. One gun will be so placed as to fire down the valley towards ACCROCHE WOOD, the other, crossing its fire with this one, will cover the road to WARFUSSEN.

(c) Two guns moving forward to positions at about P. 25. b. 4. 9. will pass our present front line at Zero plus 30 minutes. These guns are to be so placed that they will cover the front of the 23rd Bn and the right flank of the 21st Bn.

(d) From 9.50 p.m. to 10.20 p.m. on attack day and from 2.30 a.m. to 3.30 a.m. the following morning protective barrages will be put down by the 2nd Aust. M. G. Bn along the whole Bde Front.

14. T. MORTAR ACTION. Two guns will be sent forward to positions about P. 20. d. 5. 5. to cover the valley in P. 22. a. Two guns will be sent forward to P. 26. a. 6. 9. to cover the left flank of the 23rd Bn and the right flank of the 21st Bn. These four guns will move from our present front line at Zero plus 30 minutes.

15. SNIPERS. At Zero plus 30 the Bde Snipers will be sent forward from our present front line to establish five double posts in the area of each attacking Battalion.

16. CONSOLIDATION. (a) As far as possible existing trenches in the captured area are to be consolidated into posts for minimum garrisons of half a platoon.

(b) These posts will be connected by traffic trenches as early as possible.

(c) On the night following the attack concertina wire is to be put out along the whole front.

(d) Each Company will have a Platoon or more in Support.

17. A. A. DEFENCE. "B" Coy will mount 4 Lewis Guns on reaching the new position for Anti-Aircraft defence.

18. COMMUNICATIONS. Communications will be by Telephone, Runner, Pigeons, Message Rockets, Power Buzzer and (if possible) Visual.

19. DRESS. Fighting Order, less Greatcoat and Blanket. The following will be carried on the man by the attacking Companies.

(a) 48 Hours Rations. (b) 220 Rounds S.A.A. (c) 2 Rifle Grenades
 (d) 2 Full Water Bottles (e) 8 men in each Platoon will carry Red Ground Flares (f) 2nd Wave will carry tools in proportion of 3 Shovels to 1 Pick (g) Every Officer will carry an S.O.S. Signal and 2 extra Signals will be carried by Coy Hqs. (h) Front wave will carry 8 wire cutters per Coy. (i) Entrenching Tools will be worn in front.

- 3 -

21st ANST. BN. ORDER No.155.(Continued).-

20. SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES. An Officer from Bn Hqrs will synchronise watches at 4 & 2 Hours before Zero.
21. BATTALION DUMP: The Bn Dump will be at P.19.d.95.40. where supplies of S.A.A., Tools Bombs, Water, Stretchers, and Wire will be kept.
22. BATTLE HQRS. Bn Hqrs for the operation will be at P.19.c.1.2. R.A.P. will be at P.19.d.9.5.
23. SILENCE. Absolute silence is to be maintained during all movements prior to Zero.
24. PRISONERS. All Prisoners will be sent back and handed over to the 24th Bn in the present front line.
25. BAYONETS. Bayonets will be fixed at Zero.
26. WOUNDED. Wounded men unable to walk and lying in crops, will be marked by rifles stuck into ground, butt uppermost. These rifles will be lowered by Stretcher Bearers when casualties are removed.
27. SUPPLIES BY TANK. Each tank will have a case containing S.A.A. & Water fastened on it rear by wire. This will be removed, under the instructions of the nearest Officer, when the tank is on the objective.

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

Issued by Runner at p.m.1.7.18.

Distribution.-

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. File. | 16. I.O. |
| 2/3. War Diary. | 17. 6th A.L.T.M.B. |
| 4/7. Companies. | 18. 2nd M.G. Bn. |
| 8. Hqrs. | 19. <i>24th Bn</i> |
| 9. C.O. | 20. |
| 10. 6th A.I. Bde. | 21. |
| 11. 23rd Bn. | 22. |
| 12. 13th Bn. | 23. |
| 13. Lt. A. Peck. | 24. |
| 14. Liaison Officer. | |
| 15. Tank Section. | |

(Signed.) J.L. WATT,

Lieutenant and Adjutant,
21st Battalion A.I.F.N O T E S.

~~~~~

- DIRECTION. The line of advance is due East. A double telegraph pole marks a point at the Cross Roads 200 Yards forward of the extreme left of our objective.
- An aeroplane at P.20.d.10.15. is about 50 Yards in rear of the Right of the Trench System to be occupied by "B" Company.
- The aeroplane at P.20.c.2.5. is 100 Yards forward of the Bn Dump & R.A.P.
- The bearing on which the moon rises on morning of Operation will be notified later.

*10° right of East*

-----

1. At ZERO day and hour the 4th. A.I. Brigade will capture VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and consolidate the high ground to the EAST of these woods. The 11th. A.I. Brigade is attacking on our left and the 6th. A.I. Brigade on our right.  
The final objective will be known as the BLUE LINE (see attached map)
2. Tasks within the Brigade are as follows:-
  - (a) 13th. Battalion attack SOUTH of VAIRE WOOD and go through to BLUE LINE.
  - (b) 15th. Battalion attack North of HAMEL WOOD and go through to BLUE LINE.
  - (c) 16th. Battalion deal with VAIRE and HAMEL WOODS and on completion of these tasks become Reserve Battalion in present front line.
  - (d) 14th. Battalion move off as RESERVE Battalion, establish two forward dumps of supplies and stores, and thence move to crest and dig support line approx 400 yards in rear of BLUE LINE.
  - (e) Three specially detailed platoons will move in rear of the assaulting Battalions and establish Strong Points which will indicate the general position of the support line.  
13th. Battalion will dig No. 1 S.P. at approx P. 21. a. central.  
14th. Battalion will dig No. 2 S.P. at approx P. 15. d. 3. 5.  
15th. Battalion will dig No. 3 S.P. at approx P. 16. a. 4. 5.  
2 (Two) Vickers Guns will accompany platoons.
  - (f) Two T.M.'s will go over with each Battalion.  
Those with 14th. Battalion will move in rear of "A" Coy and establish in new support line.
3. On X/Y night "B" and "D" Coys will move to RESERVE LINE and take up allotted positions.  
By midnight on X/Z night all Coys will be in RESERVE LINE as allotted and the small dumps in the present support line will be complete.
4. At ZERO Coys will be in present support line (as attached map) and move in artillery formations behind assaulting troops at sufficient distance to avoid becoming involved in actual fighting but at the same time with a view to avoiding enemy back-lash in the early stages.  
"C" Coy (Right) and "A" Coy (Left) will move behind 13th. Battalion, establish dump at P. 20. b. 9. 5. and dig support line between No. 1 and No. 2 S.P.'s..  
O.C. "C" Coy will detail 1 platoon to carry wire and pickets to No. 1 S.P. Direct.  
O.C. "A" Coy will detail 1 platoon to carry wire and pickets to No. 2 S.P. Direct.  
"B" Coy (right) and "D" Coy (left) will move behind 15th. Battalion, establish dump at P. 15. a. 9. 7. and dig new support line between No. 2 and No. 3 S.P.'s.  
O.C. "D" Coy will detail 1 platoon to carry wire and pickets to No. 3 S.P. direct.  
Final Coy dispositions on new Support line will then be:- right to left-  
"C" Coy, "A" Coy, "B" Coy, "D" Coy.
5. J.C.T. of assaulting Battalions as attached map.  
J.C.T. of TANKS behind reserve line.
6. Tank and Artillery table:- (See map)  
ZERO - 8: Tanks move under ordinary morning barrage.  
ZERO : Artillery crash on "START LINE".  
ZERO + 4 : Artillery moves 100 yards every 3 minutes to "HALT LINE".  
ZERO + 35: Artillery builds up thick smoke screen to indicate commencement of halt.  
ZERO + 43: Further smoke screen to advise barrage about to advance.  
ZERO + 45: Barrage moves 100 yards every 4 minutes to BLUE LINE, + 400 yds
7. Dress:- Fighting order-two waterbottles-220 S.A.A.-a minimum of 5 bombs- 5 sandbags- one pick to one shovel- iron rations- 24 hours rations- waterproof sheet( no blanket or overcoat)



8. Battalion H.Q. on Y/Z night at PIONEER O.P.  
Forward Battalion H.Q. will be established in vicinity of P.15.c central at approx ZERO 60 minutes.  
Battalion Flag will be flown.
9. R.A.P. on Y/Z night at O.18.d.3.0. moving immediately after ZERO to ledge at P.14.C.6.6..  
Main Dressing station with Brigade H.Q. at P.7.a.1.2.(QUARRY)
10. Prisoners will be despatched to Battalion Headquarters.
11. Watches will be synchronized by an officer from Battalion H.Q. twice during Y/Z night.
12. Regular information of situation and immediate reports on dispositions are essential.
13. Coys will provide each man with a piece of white cloth on tape which tied to a rifle will mark a casualty lying in cops etc.
14. Over-the-top states and a copy of coy nominal rolls will be furnished to Battalion H.Q. by 6 p.m. Y/Z night.  
Separate rolls to be furnished for attached American Troops.
15. ACKNOWLEDGE.

## Distribution:-

1. War Diary.
2. G.O.
3. Adjutant.
4. Adjutant.
5. O.C. "A" Coy.
6. O.C. "B" Coy.
7. O.C. "C" Coy.
8. O.C. "D" Coy.
9. 4th. A.I. Brigade.
10. 4th. M.G. Coy.
11. 4th. A.L.F.M. Bty.
12. 13th. Battalion.
13. 15th. Battalion.
14. 16th. Battalion.
15. O.C. American Troops.
16. 4th. Field Coy. Engrs.
17. Medical Officer.

*Jamie Hill*  
.....Captain.  
Adjutant 14th. Battalion A.I.F.

Recd 11 45 AM  
3/7/11

| Company.                   | ASSEMBLY PLACE.                                | STARTING POINT.                                           | OBJECTIVE.                     | METHOD OF ATTACK.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Operating with.                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 2 Sections.<br>13th Battn. | HAMELET.<br>with<br>"C" Company.<br>8th Battn. | About,<br>P.1.b.central.                                  | <del>Final</del><br>Blue Line. | To go forward level with advanced sections of other Companies, and engage any strong points or trench works met with S.E of BOUZENCOURT. - To protect the left flank of the attacking Infantry from enfilade by firing on J.35.c and d. and to cover them whilst consolidating Blue Line.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 42nd Battn<br>Austn<br>Infy.               |
| "C"                        | HAMELET.                                       | West of<br>Support line<br>through<br>P.1.d and<br>P.7.b. | HAMEL.                         | 2 Sections. - one to load each $\frac{1}{2}$ Battn passing N and S of HAMEL Village, and protect them by keeping down enemy fire on inner flanks- to cut off and isolate the village, and then to move on to Trench System E of the village in conjunction with the Infantry.<br><br>2 Sections to accompany assaulting Battn, help capture and mop up HAMEL VILLAGE. These Sections on no account to move until Infantry are firmly established in the village, when they will withdraw.                   | 44th A.I.Bn<br>45 -dc-<br><br>43rd A.I.Bn. |
| "A"                        | O.11.a.C.5.                                    | P.7.a and c.                                              | Blue Line.                     | 1 Section to subdue Circular Post and then move on at the same rate as the Infantry to Blue Line, dealing with any H.G posts on the way.<br>1 Section to accompany liaising Infantry and assist Liaising Sections in mopping-up trenches and H.G.nests.<br>2 Sections in close support and to amalgamate with the 2 leading sections in attack on the Blue Line. These 2 Sections will nominally be in reserve to replace casualties prior to Zero hour, but if not required, will take part in the attack. | 1 Coy<br>15th A.I.Bn.                      |

| Company.                                   | ASSEMBLY PLACE.                 | STARTING POINT.                                                                    | OBJECTIVE.                                                                  | METHOD OF ATTACK.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Cooperating with.                                         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| "B"<br>9th Battn.                          | Small wood<br>in O.11.a.        | P.7.c.<br>P.13.a.<br>O.18.b.                                                       | VAIRE and<br>HAEL Woods,<br>and up to edge<br>of ACCROCHE Wood.             | 2 Sections. One to lead each Battn passing H and S<br>of VAIRE Wood, and protect them by keeping down<br>enemy fire from the wood - to cut off and isolate<br>wood and then push on with the Infy to Blue Line.<br>One Tank from the northern Section to work along<br>HUN Walk and deny it's use to the enemy. Both<br>sections to move on to and beyond Blue Line and<br>protect the Infantry whilst consolidating on Blue Line.<br>2 Sections to accompany Assaulting Battn and assist<br>in attack and mopping up of VAIRE Wood and to remain<br>until the Infy are firmly established. They will<br>then withdraw. These Sections should engage enemy<br>trench system in front of VAIRE Wood by working round<br>either flank with 2 Tanks at each end, and to get<br>between the wood and the trench, remaining 2 Tanks to<br>attack frontally. | 13th<br>A.I.Bn.<br>15th<br>A.I.Bn.<br><br>16th<br>A.I.Bn. |
| 2 Sections.<br>"C" Company.<br>13th Battn. | With "B"<br>Company.<br>O.11.a. | O.18.d.                                                                            | Trench systems in<br>squares:-<br>P.20 c and d.<br>P.26 a and b.<br>P.25.d. | Advance in 2 waves, 4 in front and 2 in support ahead<br>of the Infy when possible striking the enemy trench<br>at intervals of about 300 yds, then each Tank to<br>work South along it. When the Infy have taken over,<br>to move forward in a S.E direction engaging all H.G<br>posts and strong points met with. They will<br>manoeuvre about in front as far as the Artillery<br>Barrage permits, until the Infy are securely consolidated,<br>when they will withdraw.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 21st<br>A.I.Bn.<br>23rd<br>A.I.Bn.                        |
| "B" Company.<br>13th Battn.                | O.10.a central.                 | 2 Sections<br>in rear of<br>"C" 8th Bn.<br>2 Sections<br>in rear of<br>"B" 8th Bn. |                                                                             | To support 4th and 11th Bgdes whenever held up, and<br>replace casualties to 1st Wave Tanks.<br>They will advance about 300 yards behind 1st<br>wave of Tanks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 4th Austri<br>Infy Bgde.<br>11th Austri<br>Infy Bgdes.    |

APPENDIX

6.

65

Conference of All Officers 13th Bn., American  
Officers, Tank Officers, R.A.F. Officers, and  
M.G. Coy. Officers. *of Engineers*

APPENDIX

To be held at Battalion Headquarters (O.7.c.5.1.)  
At 4 p.m. 2-7-18.

AGENDA PAPER.

- (1) Preliminary action of 9.2's and gas bombardments.
- (2) Discussion of objectives and Artillery time-tables
- (3) Method of Attack
- (4) Allotment of frontages
- (5) Formations for attack
- (6) Assembly positions
- (7) Approach march
- (8) Patrol policy prior to zero

## APPENDIX 6

- (9) Tanks
  - (a) Special ~~tanks~~ *tasks* ✓
  - (b) Signals with infantry
  - (c) Guides
  - (d) Colours on Tanks
  
- (10) H'qrs - forward party and Signal arrangements.
  
- (11) Prisoners & Identification.
  
- (12) Material in and location of dumps.
  
- (13) To be carried on the man
  
- (14) Supply Tanks.
  
- (15) Special Platoon
  
- (16) Vickers Guns
  
- (17) Trench Mortars

(18) Medical arrangements

(a) Huns carry wounded

(b) Indication of wounded by tapes

(19) Supply aeroplanes

(20) Contact aeroplanes

(21) Counter attack 'plane

(22) Liaison parties

(23) Moppers up

(24) Runners' Bands

(25) War Trophies

(26) Work according to clock

(27) Approximate number of guns

(28) New S.O.S.

(29) White Paint on "D" Coy. tin hats

(30) Extra waterbottles and carrying tools

(31) Ground flares Zero + ~~4~~ 90°

(32) Rations before and after.

(33) Messages and Reports

(~~ER~~ 34) Returns required

(35) Use of No. 27 grenade

(36) *Liaison*

13 Btr

APPENDIX

SECRET  
\*\*\*\*\*

Copy No. \_\_\_\_\_

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.INSTRUCTION NO. 4 ISSUED UNDER DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 128.SIGNAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The following will be the means of communications:-

1. (a) Between Divisional H.Qs and Right, Left and Centre Brigade H.Qs
  - (a) Buried and Canal Cable
  - (b) Wireless
  - (c) Despatch Rider Service.
- (b) Between Divisional H.Qs. and 12th and 13th Brigades.
  - (a) Buried and Canal Cable.
  - (b) Wireless.
  - (c) Despatch Rider Service.
- (c) Between Brigade H.Qs. and Cable Heads.
  - (a) Two pairs Cable via Communication trenches.
  - (b) Runners.

After ZERO hour: The following in addition to above :-

Between Left and Centre Bde. H.Qs. and their Brigade Forward Stations.

3 pairs Ground Cable.

~~80 metre loop W/T sets.~~

Runners

Visual

Pigeons.

2. Wireless One loop-set will be set up permanently at Left and Centre Brigade H.Qs  
One loop-set will be attached to each forward party and moved with it.
3. Action of Bde. Forward Party: At zero minus one hour, each Bde. Forward Party consisting of personnel already detailed will be assembled at its Cable Head.  
The Bde. Forward Party will advance and in rear of, and close up to, the third wave of infantry. It will establish itself as under :-
  - Left Forward Party near P.9.A.95.20.
  - Centre " Party near P.15.C.15.75.
  - Right Bde. is not using a Bde. Forward Party.
4. VISUAL A Divisional Visual Station will be established at Pagoda at I.24.D.5.0. This station is for receiving messages from Bdes., Brigade Forward Parties, attacking battalions, companies or platoons after zero. Visual Stations will be established at or near Bde. H.Qs. and each Bde. Forward Station.

P.T.O.

\*\*\*\*\*



- 5. Pigeons. Pigeons will be delivered to each attacking Bde. by D.R.
- 6. Runners. Relay posts for runners will be established at Cable Head and Forward Stations.
- 7. Aircraft. In addition to the usual Unit Ground Sheets each Headquarters will display on the ground, close to its ground sheet, a number composed of white calico as under :-

|                           | No. |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Left Bde. Forward Station | 2   |
| Centre " " "              | 3   |
| 23rd Aust. Inf. Battalion | 4   |
| 21st " " "                | 5   |
| 13th " " "                | 6   |
| 16th " " "                | 7   |
| 15th " " "                | 8   |
| 14th " " "                | 9   |
| 44th " " "                | 10  |
| 43rd " " "                | 11  |
| 42nd " " "                | 12  |
| 41st " " "                | 13  |

The above material will be supplied by O.C. Signals.

The ordinary rules regarding the communication with aircraft will be observed. Ground sheets etc. should be rolled up if enemy aircraft are seen approaching.

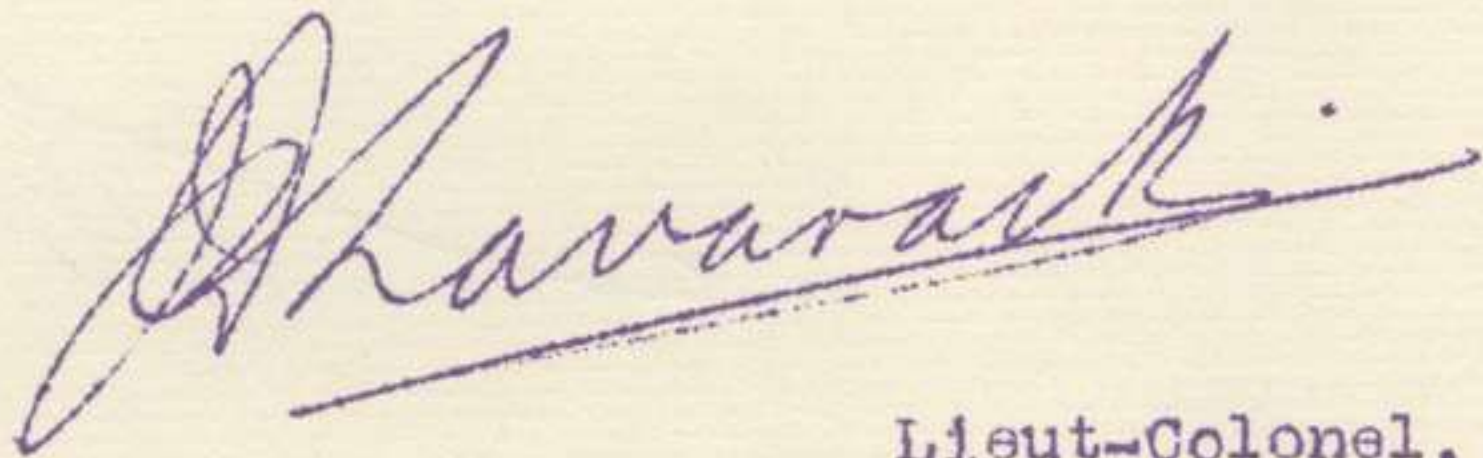
- 8. General.
  - (a) It is essential that perfect liaison between battalion commanders and Bde. Forward Stations should be established and maintained. On no account should a Bn. H.Q. establish itself or move without having warned the Bde. Forward Station of its intention. A thorough understanding beforehand of what each proposes to do should exist in order to ensure smooth working.
  - (b) Battalion H.Q. should, as far as tactical situation permits, establish themselves as near as possible to Bde. Forward Station.
  - (c) The positions of the Divisional and Brigade visual stations should be made known to all Bn. signal personnel.
  - (d) Battalions will lay and maintain their own lines to Brigade Forward Stations. On no account will lines be run forward from Battalions to Companies until consolidation has progressed satisfactorily.

It is left to the discretion of Commanders down to Battalion C.Os. whether messages, after Zero, need be sent in Cipher or Code. Code names of units, however, will always be employed.

- 9. Extra personnel for checks, carrying parties, etc. other than already supplied for Bde. Forward Stn., will be supplied by 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. and 4th Aust. Pioneer Bn. Arrangements to be made direct between 13th A.I. Bde., C.O. Pioneer Bn., and O.C. Signal Company.

( 3 )

10. O.C., Light Horse Troop will detail
- 1 N.C.O. and 3 troopers to report to Left Bde.
  - 1 N.C.O. and 6 troopers to report to Div. Signal Coy.
- O.C., Cyclists Platoon will detail
- 1 N.C.O. and 3 cyclists to Centre Brigade.
- Signal Instructions in detail will be issued by Divisional Signal Coy. to all concerned.



Headquarters,  
1st July, 1918.

Lieut-Colonel,  
G.S., 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Issued to all recipients of Divisional Order No. 128.

1st Lt. J. H. ...  
1st Lt. J. H. ...

1st Lt. J. H. ...  
1st Lt. J. H. ...

*Signe*

1st Lt. J. H. ...  
1st Lt. J. H. ...

1st Lt. J. H. ...  
1st Lt. J. H. ...

1st Lt. J. H. ...  
1st Lt. J. H. ...

1st Lt. J. H. ...  
1st Lt. J. H. ...

1st Lt. J. H. ...  
1st Lt. J. H. ...

( 2 )

OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS NO. 1.  
Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

Brigade Headquarters.  
2nd July, 1918.

1. Tank Signals from Tanks to Infantry.

- (a) "Infantry come on" Green and White Flag.  
(b) "I am out of action" Red and yellow Flag.

2. Infantry Signals to Tanks.

- (a) Steel helmets on rifles held up perpendicularly mean "There is a point that the Infantry requires the Tanks to deal with".  
(b) The firing of No. 27 Grenades on to or in the direction of a point indicates to the Tanks that such is a place required by the Infantry to be dealt with by Tanks.

3. Signals to Aeroplanes.

Contact aeroplanes will call for the show of ground flares to indicate the whereabouts of Infantry at Zero plus 90 minutes. Contact aeroplanes will sound a Klaxon Horn and fire very lights to so call. Commanding Officers must ensure that all ground flares are not lighted at one time as it may be difficult for aeroplanes to pick them up in the first instance. Arrangements must therefore be made that flares issued are so used that the infantry will be able to answer a number of calls.

4. Spare Lewis Guns.

A dump of spare Lewis Guns is being arranged at Zero forward dumps. Replacements required by Battalions will be made on requisition to Brigade: it must be borne in mind however that the Brigade has to account strictly for all issues of Lewis Guns to Battalions from dumps.

5. Communications.

(a) Previous to Zero Hour two metallic overland circuits will be established from Brigade Headquarters to Advanced Report Centre. A visual station will also be established at the Advanced Report Centre to work to the Divisional Visual Station at O.30.a.9.8. (approx.) and later, to work forward. Power Buzzer and Amplifier communications will also be established between Brigade Headquarters and Advanced Report Centre. The Popham panel will also be set up at Advanced Report Centre for the purpose of communicating with contact planes. Rockets will also be used between Brigade Headquarters and Advanced Report Centre.

(b) The forward party will move with the 14th Battalion and will lay two metallic circuits from the Advanced Report Centre to the Brigade Forward Station which will probably be established at P.15.c.3.8. or in that vicinity. The site will be marked by a rectangular Blue and white flag. A Lineman and Runner relay post will be established in the hostile front line system but the exact location will depend on circumstances.

(c) When the Brigade Forward Station is established it is expected that the following communications will be available to the rear :-

- i. Two metallic message and speaking circuits to Advanced Report Centre.
- ii. Wireless (Loop set) to Brigade Headquarters.
- iii. Visual to Advanced Report Centre and Divisional Visual Station.
- iv. Rocket to Advanced Report Centre.
- v. Runner to Advanced Report Centre.

(d) When the Battalion Forward Command Posts are finally established two metallic lines will be laid by Battalion personnel from their position to the Brigade Forward Station. Two linemen from the party laying the lines will be kept at the Brigade Forward Station for the maintenance of their own circuits. Each Battalion

P.T.O.

will also send in two Runners to the Forward Station who will remain there for duty.

(e) Battalions will be supplied with pigeons and Rockets. The latter must be fired to the Advanced Report Centre and not to the Brigade Forward Station.

(f) Units will also endeavour to get in touch with the Brigade Central Visual Station at P.8.c.2.2., or, failing that, the Divisional Visual Station at O.30.a.9.8. (approx.).

(g) Popham panels will be set up at Battalion Command posts for the purpose of communicating with contact planes. The code will be found in S.S.135 Appendix "B".

(h) Although every effort will be made to do so it is not expected that the telephone lines will be able to be satisfactorily maintained owing to their length and the absence of shelter for the establishing of lineman posts. The necessity for briefness, therefore, must be impressed on all concerned with the originating of messages as the alternative methods of communication, compared with speech, are necessarily slow and tedious.

(i) All lines laid must be at least 50 yards apart between test points and Signal Offices.

(j) An increased supply of pigeons may be available but is not to be counted on. If possible pigeon stations will be established at the Advanced Report Centre and the Brigade Forward Station

(k) Six visual men and eight runners will be supplied by Units as under :-

|                |           |               |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| 13th Battalion | 2 runners | 1 visual man. |
| 14th "         | 2 "       | 2 " "         |
| 15th "         | 2 "       | 1 " "         |
| 16th "         | 2 "       | 2 " "         |

This personnel will report to Brigade Signal Officer at 2.p.m. on the 2nd instant.

#### 6. American Troops.

The American Companies attached to Battalions may be divided up and portions thereof attached to our Companies provided that such dividing up shall not divide the American Companies into smaller Units than platoons.

#### 7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 7 a.m. through Signals.

*R. F. Lovell*  
Major.  
Brigade-Major.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution -  
Normal.

*Rec'd 7.50 AM  
2/7/18*

SECRET.

Copy No.....

OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS NO. 2.  
Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18.

Brigade Headquarters.  
2nd July, 1918.

1. PRISONERS.

- (a) Brigade Collecting Station will be established at the QUARRY (Brigade Headquarters).
- (b) Prisoners sent back by Units must be properly escorted and not merely sent towards the rear as has occasionally happened on previous operations.
- (c) Officers and N.C.O's. only will be searched by a responsible Officer and all documents and maps taken from them immediately after capture. These will be sent at once to Brigade Headquarters.

2. DOCUMENTS.

Three, or at least two, reliable N.C.O's. or men will be detailed by each Battalion Commander for the purpose of searching dugouts, trenches and enemy dead for documents and maps, etc. All such documents, maps, etc. will be forwarded without delay to the I.C. Officer at Brigade Headquarters.

3. 16th Battalion will detail Capt. D.S.AARONS, M.C. to be stationed at A.D.S. at O.15.a.5.7.. This Officer will interrogate our own slightly wounded as to the progress of the battle, opposition met with, and any other useful information. Any information so gained will be transmitted to 4th Aust. Division, 4th, 6th and 11th Brigades by priority telegram.

4. AEROPLANE SIGNALS.

(a) Counter attack aeroplanes will indicate any counter-attack spotted by dropping a parachute flare over where the counter-attack is developing. This flare remains suspended for about 15 minutes. In the daytime it emits a good deal of smoke.

(b) In addition to the usual unit Ground sheets the Units hereunder indicated will display on the ground close to its ground sheet close to its Headquarters a number composed of white calico as under :-

|  | <u>Unit.</u>   | <u>Number.</u> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | 13th Battalion | 6              |
|  | 16th "         | 7              |
|  | 15th "         | 8              |
|  | 14th "         | 9              |

The above material will be supplied by Signals.

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

A Divisional Visual Station will be established at Pagoda at O.24.d.5.0. This station is for receiving messages from Brigades, Brigade Forward Parties, attacking battalions, companies or platoons after Zero. Visual Stations will be established at or near Brigade Headquarters and each Brigade Forward Station.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

AD 70

Issued at 3.p.m. through Signals.

Distribution -  
Normal.

*W. Lovell*  
Major.  
Brigade-Major.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.



4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

SIGNALLING INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCOMPANY DIV. INSTRUCTIONS No. 4

1. (a) Brigade Forward Parties:- The minimum composition of each Bde. Forward Party will be as follows:

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Bde. Signal Section Officer | 1. |
| " " " Sergeant              | 1. |
| " " " linesmen              | 6. |
| " " " clerk                 | 1. |
| Battalion runners           | 6. |
| Loop set operators          | 3. |
| Visual signallers           | 5. |
| Pigeoneers                  | 1. |
| Telephonists                | 2. |

Material as under:-

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Lucas lamps & stands    | 2. |
| Telescopes & stands     | 2. |
| 4 x 3 Buzzer units      | 1. |
| Binoculars, pairs       | 2. |
| Telephones, D III.      | 3. |
| Loop Set, complete      | 1. |
| Pophan panel            | 1. |
| Ground signalling sheet | 1. |

Stationery, pigeon baskets and 2 half-mile drums of D 2 or D 3 cable as reserve.

- (b) At each Cable Head:

Personnel:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Bde. Signal Section N.C.Os | 1. |
| " " " Lineamen             | 4. |
| " " " Telephonist          | 1. |
| Battalion runners          | 4. |

Material

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| 4 x 3 Buzzer unit                    | 1. |
| Telephone D III.                     | 3. |
| 2 miles D 2 or D 3 cable as reserve. |    |

All the above personnel will carry 48 hrs. rations and two filled water bottles.

2. Artillery F.O.O. and Bn. lines will be led into Brigade Forward Stations and maintained by their own linesmen. The Officer i/c Forward Party will make necessary arrangements for connection, and allot, definitely one pair to Artillery. This line must remain plugged through throughout except for the purpose of testing. Should a break occur on this pair the Artty should be given another pair, and at all times be given the priority over all other calls. The Artty.

Signal Officer will arrange with the Section Officers concerned as to where the F.O.O. lines are to be plugged through.

3. The Cable Heads and Bde. Forward Stations will be approximately as follow:-

Centre Bde. Cable Head; P 8 c 4.0; Fwd. P 15 c 1575  
Left " " " P 2 c 8.1; Stn P 9 A 9520

4. Visual

The Div. Visual Station and Central Arty Visual Station will be located at I 24 d 5.0; Calls: DIV Stn: G K V  
Arty " A R T

Right Bde. Central Visual Station O 24 D 8.5 C D K

Left " Visual Stations as follows:-

Central Visual Station J 19 c 9.3 C V A  
Bde. " " J 25 D 15 L B S  
Fwd. Party " " P 9 a 9520 F P A

Centre Bde. Visual Stns. as follows:

Central Visual Station P 8 c 32 C B V  
Fwd. Party " " P 15 C 1575 F T S

The rear Div. Visual Station B Y at H 36 c 8 3 is connected by 'phone to Division.

G K V is connected through K O F I to T U T O .

Visual Officer will arrange necessary transmitting station between the two Div. Stations, and have circuit established by 5 p.m. the day before Zero.

5. Pigeons: Brigade Section Officers must endeavour to keep ahead of their Pigeon and Cable demands.

6. Motor Cyclists deliver normal traffic to Brigades. Specials from Brigades will be delivered by their attached Motor D.R.

7. Runners: From Brigade H.Qs forward runner posts will be established according to distances between Stations. Posts should never be more than 600 yds. apart.

8. Wireless: Locations at which W/T Stations are and will be erected.

4th. Aust. Div. H. Q BUSSY

4th. Aust. Div. Arty " C W

12th. A. I. Bde H. Qs J 19 c 7.4

Left and Centre Bn. H. Qs 12th. A. I. Bde. J 28 a 7.8

11th. A. I. Bde H. Qs J 25 d 1.5

" " " Fwd. Stn (about) P 9 a 95.20

4th. A. I. Bde H. Qs O 12 b 7.7

" " " Fwd. Stn (about) P 15 c 15.75.



(5)

|                               |            |         |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------|
| 6th.A.I.Bde. Battle H.Qs      | O 24 c 2.2 |         |
| Left Bn H.Q. 6th.A.I.Bde      | P 19 c 3.4 |         |
| 13th.A.I.Bde. H.Qs            | O 5 c 4.6  |         |
| Rt. Bn. H.Qs 13th.A.I.Bde     | O 24 a 4.6 |         |
| Centre Bn. " " "              | O 12 b 7.7 |         |
| Left Bn. H.Qs " " "           | O 6 d 7.9  |         |
| 11th. A.F.A.Bde. (Arty Group) | I 23 d 6.2 | ( C W ) |
| Div. Arty O.P.Welloome Wood   | J 27 b     | ( C W ) |

Before Zero hour, Wilson Transmitter and Mk III Tuner Station at Div.H.Qs will work direct to 12th. and 13th. A.I. Brigades, Flank Bdes, Flank Divs, and Aust.Corps.

After Zero hour this set will work to 4th. and 11th. A.I.Bdes in addition to the above.

W/T communications for Artillery before and after Zero hour will be as follows:

Continuous wave W/T Stations at

4th.Aust.Div.Arty H.Qs BUSSY  
 11th. A.F.A.Bde (Group H.Qs)  
 Div. O.P. Wellcome Wood.

The last named station will be silent until Zero hour.

W/T communications for 12th.A.I.Bde before and after Zero hour.

Trench W/T Set at Bde H.Qs working direct to 4th.Aust. Div. and flank Bdes.

Rear 80 metre loop set working forward to Fwd 80 metre loop set at Left and Centre Bn. H.Qs.

W/T communications for 11th. A.I.Bde commencing at Zero hour as follows:-

Trench W/T set at Bde H.Qs working direct to 4th.Aust. Div. and flank Bdes.

A rear 80 metre loop set will be set up at Bde H.Qs ~~max~~ before Zero hour to work forward to a "forward" 80 metre loop set at Bde. Fwd.Stn. as soon as Bde.Fwd. party has established itself.

A complete High Power Buzzer and Amplifier installation with personnel will be held in reserve at Bde.H.Qs to be used at the discretion of Bde.Signal Officer during the period of consolidation.

W/T communications for 4th.A.I.Bde commencing Zero hour  
 Trench W/T Set at Bde.H.Qs. working direct to 4th.Aust. Div.H.Q. and flank Bdes.

A rear 80 metre loop set will be established at Bde.H.Qs before Zero hour to work forward to a "forward" 80 metre loop set as soon as Bde.Fwd. Party has established itself.

A complete High Power Buzzer and Amplifier installation with personnel will be held in reserve at Bde.H.Qs to be used at the discretion of Bde.Sig.Officer during the period of consolidation.

(4)

W/T com'ntns for 6th.A.I.Bde before and after Zero hour.

Before Zero hour a High Power Buzzer and Amplifier Stn. will be established at Adv.Bde.H.Qs working direct to 13th. A.I.Bde H.Q. (and also to rear 6th.A.I.Bde H.Q. as an alternative method)

From either 13th.A.I.Bde H.Q. or 6th.A.I.Bde rear H.Q.s messages read by amplifier from 6th.Bde battle H.Q. will be repeated direct to 4th.Aust.Div.H.Q. by Trench W/T set.

After Zero hour a High Power Buzzer and Amplifier Set will be established at Left Bn.H.Q. working back to Bde. battle H.Q.

W/T commntns for 13th.A.I.Bde before Zero hour.

Trench W/T Set at Bde H.Q. working direct to 4th.Aust.Div. and flank Bdes.

High P.B. & Amp.Set at Bde.H.Q. working direct to H.P.B. and Amp Sets at the Left, Centre and Right Bns in line.

After Zero hour H.P.B. and Amp Set at Bde.H.Q. will work direct to H.P.B. and Amp.Set at 6th.Bde.Battle H.Q. repeating all messages on to 4th.Aust.Division by Trench W/T set.

After Zero Hour H.P.B. & Amp Sets at Left and Right Bns become available for use with Bns of 4th.A.I.Bde at discretion of 4th.Bde Signal Officer, who will arrange direct with Div.W/T Officer.

Charging Arrangements

Accumulators will be charged as follows:-

Stations at 4th.Aust.Div.H.Qs and 4th.Aust.D.A.H.Q. will charge accumulators at 4th.Aust.D.H.Q.

12th.and 11th.A.I.Bde Stations, 11th.A.F.A.Bde Stn and Div.O.P.Stn. will charge accumulators at 12th.A.I.Bde H.Q.

4th.and 13th.A.I.Bde Stns will charge accumulators at 13th.A.I.Bde H.Q.

6th.A.I.Bde Stns will charge accumulators under arrangements made by W/T Officer, 2nd.Aust.Division.

General:-

The positions of Bde Forward Stations should be made known to all concerned, particularly runners, and battalion traffic for Bde H.Q. is to be delivered to Bde.Fwd.Stn for transmission, and not sent through to Bde.H.Q. by Bn.runners.

The provision of alternative means of communication, such as wireless, visual and pigeons, should ensure that, at least, one means of transmission will be left to us to transmit traffic back. Therefore, signal officers must not hesitate to switch from one means to another should the cable method fail. Cable should be given the preference as being the most rapid, but that must not prevent communication being opened with wireless and visual in anticipation of being used, should the cable become "dist".

Signal Officers must realise that it is their duty to get traffic through, and then by the most speedy method, the length of messages also becoming a governing factor as to their means of despatch.

On account of the short supply of pigeons, twenty only to each Brigade will be supplied. These will be divided at the

(2)

discretion of the Brigade Signal Officer, and should only be used when all other means fail, and then only for very important messages. Attention should be drawn to the fact that if birds are kept in the line for two or more days the future supply of birds will fail and pigeon service dislocated.

2nd. July 1918.

*[Signature]*  
Major,  
O.C., SIGNALS, 4th. Aust. Division.

## FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 19.

Reference Sheet 62.D. S.E. & S.W. 1/20,000.  
VAUX 1/20,000.

1. The 4th Aust. Infantry Brigade will relieve the Right and Centre Battalions of 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade in the Front Line area on night 2nd/3rd July and 3rd/4th July as under :-

| Date.         | Unit.          | Relieves.                     | Location after relief.                                                                            | Route.                             | Remarks.                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd/3rd July. | 4th Bde.H.Q.   | 13th Bde.H.Q.                 | O.12.b.9.5. (Quarry.)                                                                             | Any route                          | On completion of relief 49th Bn. will move into area at present occupied by two Companies of 14th Bn. with H.Q. at O.12.d.1.1 |
| "             | 13th Bn.       | portion of 50th Bn.           | Front, Support & Reserve lines between Bde. Right boundary & PIONEER SWITCH (H.Q. at O.24.a.3.7.) | South of E. & W. grid line through |                                                                                                                               |
| "             | 15th Bn.       | portion of 49th Bn.           | Front, Support & Reserve Lines between PERTH C.T. & 49th Bn. North boundary (H.Q. at P.7.d.4.5.)  | P.8.central                        |                                                                                                                               |
| "             | 16th Bn.       | portion of 49th and 50th Bns. | Front & Support Lines between PIONEER SWITCH & PERTH C.T. (H.Q. at O.12.b.9.5.)                   |                                    |                                                                                                                               |
| "             | 4th T.M. Btty. | 13th T.M. Btty.               | Front Line Area.                                                                                  |                                    |                                                                                                                               |
| "             | 14th Bn.       | Portion of 49th Bn.           | Reserve Line between PIONEER SWITCH & PERTH AVENUE. (H.Q. at O24a3.7)                             |                                    |                                                                                                                               |

2. All details of relief, except where provided in this order, will be arranged mutually between Commanding Officers concerned.

3. On completion of relief Brigade boundaries will be as follows :-  
Southern Boundary - Present Divisional Boundary.  
Northern Boundary - Line P.8.central - P.1.c.0.0. - CANAL at O.6.a.5.0. - thence along the CANAL.

The 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade will be on the Right and the 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade on the Left.

4. Battalions of 5th Aust. Infantry Brigade will leave certain details in their present areas until night 3rd/4th July when they will move into the forward area, but these details must close up to provide accommodation for 50th and 51st Battalions who will move back on night 2nd/3rd July.

5. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigade Headquarters by Code Message "B.M. 6 Noted".

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 9.p.m. through Signals.

Distribution.  
Normal.

*R. J. P. Howell*  
Major.  
Brigade-Major.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

*Recd 12.40 am  
2/4/18.*

CONFIDENTIAL.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
From 6.a.m. 3/7/18 to 6.a.m. 4/7/1918.

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO THE FRONT TRENCHES.

OUR OPERATIONS.

SPECIAL OPERATION. 3.10.a.m. this morning the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade advanced its positions to a line running along ~~xxxxxx~~ crest of ridge East of HAMEL. The 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade and 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade co-operated in the attack. By 1.a.m. Infantry jumping off tape was in position and direction tapes had also been laid. By 2.a.m. the Brigade was lined up in waves in readiness for Zero Hour. All Tanks were in position by 1.a.m. The barrage was excellent and all troops were clear of the old Front Line before the enemy counter barrage came down which was 7 minutes after Zero. All objectives were gained in accordance with time table. Over 700 prisoners passed through this Brigade.

Considerable war material was captured and many casualties were inflicted on the enemy during the attack.

ARTILLERY. Our artillery was excellent and everyone was well satisfied with the barrage.

TRENCH MORTARS. Between Zero and Zero plus 4 minutes our Trench Mortars engaged enemy positions along our Sector.

MACHINE GUNS. Our Machine Guns were used to good advantage both prior to and during the attack.

AIRCRAFT. Our aircraft was active during the morning and also throughout the night. Ammunition was supplied by aeroplane to the Machine Gunners. This worked satisfactorily.

TANKS. The Tanks were very successful and proved of great assistance to the Infantry. Supply Tanks delivered their material as arranged.

PRISONERS AND IDENTIFICATIONS. Over 700 prisoners were collected and the following Regiments were identified :- 13th Division, 202nd R.I.R., 13th M.W.Company, 11th Foot Artillery Regt., 58th F.A.R.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Enemy artillery retaliation in response to our barrage was not considered to be heavy. Seven minutes elapsed before counter barrage was put down.

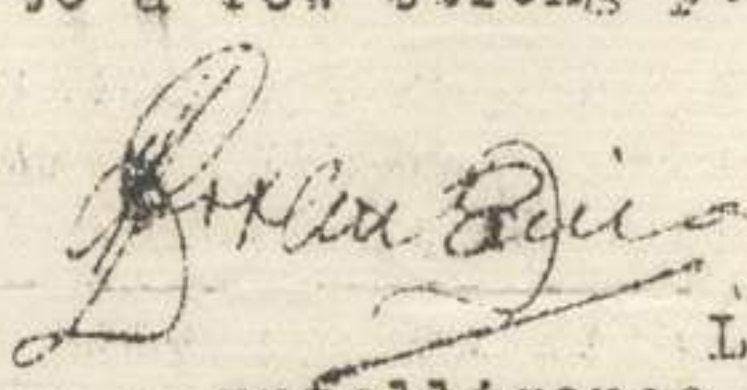
TRENCH MORTARS. Our barrage effectively dealt with all Mortars.

MACHINE GUNS. A few Machine Guns succeeded in putting up a defence but were effectively dealt with.

SNIPERS. Were troublesome from Trench System in P.8.d. and P.9.c. These were dealt with by our Lewis Gunners and Bombers.

FLARES AND SIGNALS. When our barrage commenced double red flares were fired and in a couple of instances double greens were observed.

GENERAL. Enemy's resistance was limited to a few strong points which were very strongly held.

  
 Lieut.  
 Intelligence Officer.  
 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

FO HA



B. Coy 8<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn.

Operation Order No. 1. Copy No 12

Secret & Confidential

1. Operation.

An operation is being carried out by 6<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bdes respectively from right to left approx P. 25 Central to L bank of SOMME RIVER at J 34 d 9.5.

2. Disposition

B Coy will operate in the attack with 4<sup>th</sup> Aust Bde

3. Boundaries.

N and S of VAIRE WOOD and HAMEL WOOD is final BLUE LINE running from P 21 a 60.60 to P 166 10.50.

A. Coy operating on LEFT flank  
C Coy 13<sup>th</sup> Bn " " RIGHT "  
as per map attached "A".

4. Objectives

No 5 Section LE J.C.A.  
Glanville M.C. will operate with

2

with 15<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bn N of HAMEL WOOD to Blue line.

No 6 and 7 Sections Capt W. H. Viveash and Capt E. A. H. James will operate with 16<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bn in front of VAIRE WOOD and HAMEL WOOD to Blue line

No 8 Section Capt W. H. Edwards will operate with 13<sup>th</sup> Bn A.I.F S of HAMEL WOOD to Blue line.

5. move.

B Coy will move from C Coy's Tankodrome X-Y night at 10 pm to Assembly position Y.Z night from Assembly position to Startline point guides will be allotted to each Section from infantry for Y.Z night. Tanks to be in position by 1 AM.

6. ASSEMBLY Position

O 11 a 40.30

7. Startline Points

approx on line from  
O 18 to 50.10 to O 18 to 50.85



3

8. Rallying Points.

Immediately tanks are released by infantry they will proceed to O 316. Capt J. E. Reilly will meet tanks there.

9. Communication

By Section Runner to Coy H-Q in QUERRY P 7 a 0.2.

Pigeons - one pair to each Section Cmdr to be carried in centre tank. Broken down tanks will not be reported by Pigeon message.

Inf tank bell pull in <sup>left</sup> rear of tank.

Section Cmdrs may ride in centre tank.

10. Artillery

as per instructions issued

11. Supplies

1 S.C Tank

## APPENDIX 6.

4  
 commanded by Lt W Griffiths  
 is allotted to B Coy all  
 tanks will refill from above  
 on Y-Z night.

12. Routes.

Lt T. D. Kennedy  
 will be responsible for routes  
 from Assembly point to  
 starting point. Guides will  
 report from Inf Bns concerned  
 Tapes will be laid from  
 starting point to Inf lying up  
 positions. Inf guides will assist  
 Section Commanders will be  
 responsible for own tape route.

13 Distribution of H.Q.

8<sup>th</sup> Bn Report centre  
 QUARRY P 7 a 02  
 O.C B Coy at 4<sup>th</sup> Inf  
 Bde H.Q. P 7 a 02.

14 Codes.

Infantry to Tank  
 Steel helmet on bayonet  
 denotes Inf held up followed  
 by smoke grenade in  
 direction of strong point

## APPENDIX 6.

Codes <sup>5</sup> Tank & Infantry.  
 Flags. red & white - Broken down  
 green & white - come on  
 red white & blue - going home

15 No movement on  
 y day whatever as tanks  
 are under direct observation  
 of enemy's aircraft

16. Personnel.

Each Section will  
 be composed as under:-  
 1 officer and 5 OR's per female  
 and 1 officer and 6 OR's per  
 male.

Sgt-Sgt and 2 OR's for guard  
 2 OR's for runners.  
 Cms Kelly and Dick will  
 accompany as cooks with  
 cooking utensils.

17 Tank Corps Standing  
 orders for operations will  
 strictly be adhered to.  
 Attention is drawn to F.S.R  
 part 1 Sect 12 para 13

## APPENDIX 6.

18.

6/

Camouflage nets to be  
dumped at assembly position  
Horn covers to be  
carried inside tank during  
action.

19.

If tank after receiving  
direct hit catches fire Tank  
commander will make  
every endeavour to get  
gun cotton box thrown  
outside tank and the  
detonator and primer through  
front window. If necessary  
the tank can be destroyed  
after if likely to fall into  
enemy hands.

20 Liaison

Sections will keep  
in touch with all tanks  
and infantry operating on  
their flanks.

21. Zero to be notified later.

22 Acknowledge Approved Major  
1-7-18 OC B Coy Tank Regt

I

Copies to .

|      |                            |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1.   | Retained                   |
| 283. | War diary                  |
| 4    | } Sections                 |
| 5    |                            |
| 6    |                            |
| 7    |                            |
| 8    | Cape Reilly                |
| 9    | Ht Kennedy                 |
| 10   | Coy Engineers              |
| 11   | of 8 <sup>th</sup> Tank Bn |
| 12   | 13 <sup>th</sup> A I F Bn  |
| 13   | 15 <sup>th</sup> A I F     |
| 14   | 16 <sup>th</sup> A I F     |

## APPENDIX. 6.

Rec'd 9:30 AM  
2/17/18

SECRET

Copy 10/12

B. Company P. Tank Batt

APPENDIX "A" 6

OPERATION ORDER NO 1

1. Ref. Operation Order No 1. of  
Today's date. delete para 8 and  
substitute "B. Coy. will rally  
and be parked under high  
bank W. of VAIRE WOOD in  
P. 14. Central.

2. Engine will be started  
at ZERO minus 11 minutes.  
Tanks will move  
forward at ZERO minus 8 minutes  
moving as rapidly as possible.

3. COMMUNICATIONS.  
Aeroplanes will cooperate  
during attack.  
Contact planes have  
beach jeeps about size  
of that of ~~foo-escape~~ on  
under side of each jeep.  
Counter attack planes  
will denote enemy's concentration  
for counter attack by dropping  
a white flare casting for

- 2 -

1 1/2 minutes and giving out  
much smoke in direction of  
concentration.

Tank Commanders must  
keep a look out for this  
signal prior to withdrawing  
and if necessary remain  
and assist in

199

92

APPENDIX 6

SECRET.

Fourth Australian Infantry Brigade.  
HEADQUARTERS.  
3rd July, 1918.

C. O., *13<sup>th</sup> Bn*

Reference 4th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 18 of 1st July, "Zero" hour will be 3.10.a.m. on 4th July.

*28/7/19*

*Rowd 5.10*

Major.  
Brigade-Major.  
4th Aust. Inf. Brigade.





199

APPENDIX 6

93

Copy.

10<sup>th</sup> July, 1918

Dear Colonel Davis,

I am forwarding herewith recommendations for two of the men of Company "A" of the Regiment under your command.

I very much regret that the Company was taken from me before having an opportunity of expressing my appreciation of its splendid work.

I think that one or two experiences such as this last will make them the equal of the finest fighting material we know. Certainly there was nothing wrong with the raw material, but there are just one or two little points of inexperience which I should like to draw your attention to personally should I ever have the chance.

Finally, I feel sure that these are not the only two men worthy of recommendation as others were handicapped by the loss of their Officers and it was not possible for me to make full investigation in the short space of time.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) D.G. MARKS

No. 1390307 Cpl. MILLER, R. Coy. A. 132nd Inf. U.S.N.G.

On 4th July, 1918 in the operation against VAIRE WOOD East of CORBIE, Corporal MILLER displayed great gallantry and devotion to duty. During the advance he kept admirable control of his men inspiring them with his example and encouraging them to the attack.

On reaching the final objective his men dug in with incredible speed and were ready for any emergency. When an intense hostile bombardment fell upon a new front line Corporal MILLER was cool and cheerful and succeeded in keeping up the spirits of his men (who were all inexperienced) under specially adverse circumstances.

---

No. 1390351 Pte SHELLEY Coy. A 132 Inf. U.S.N.G.

---

On 4th July, 1918 in the operation against VAIRE WOOD East of CORBIE, Pte SHELLEY displayed the greatest gallantry and dash. During the advance his keenness and bravery had a marked effect on his comrades who were all facing fire for the first time, and in the subsequent enemy bombardment his coolness and cheerfulness again set a splendid example.

He was one of the first to volunteer for the task of mopping up enemy posts in front of the final objective, which duty he performed with great courage, assisting to bring back several prisoners.

His work throughout merits the highest praise.

---



No. 1390351 Pte SHELLEY Coy. A 132 Inf. U.S.N.G.

On 4th July, 1918 in the operation against VAIRE WOOD East of CORBIE, Pte SHELLEY displayed the greatest gallantry and dash. During the advance his keenness and bravery had a marked effect on his comrades who were all facing fire for the first time. In the subsequent enemy bombardment his coolness and courage set a splendid example.

He was one of the first to storm up enemy posts in front of the front line. He was killed while performing with great courage, as a result of his gallantry.

His work throughout the

Headquarters,



199  
APPENDIX 6  
96  
COPY

Somewhere in France,  
July 15th 1918.

Lieut. Col. D.G. MARKS,  
13th Bn. A.I.F.  
Aust. Expeditionary Forces.

Dear Colonel,

Your recommendations for decorations of the two men of Co. A, of my regiment have been received and forwarded to Commanding General, 33rd Division.

Please accept my thanks for the kindness shown by you on behalf of my men who have had the opportunity of fighting alongside of your troops. They brought with them praise and admiration for your men.

I would, of course, be glad of an early opportunity to meet with you to hear your suggestions for improving the fighting qualities of my men. For fear that such opportunity may be delayed, may I ask that you reduce your suggestions to writing in order that I may take advantage of them.

I assure you of my appreciation of the manner in which my men were treated by your officers and men.

Sincerely yours,  
(Sgd) ABEL DAVIS,  
Colonel.

18th July, 1918.

Dear Colonel Davis,

1. I trust you did not misunderstand my reference to friendly criticism. Do not for a moment suppose that we considered your men fell short in any way, but there were just these few small points which one can only learn by bitter experience and which I thought you would be interested to hear.

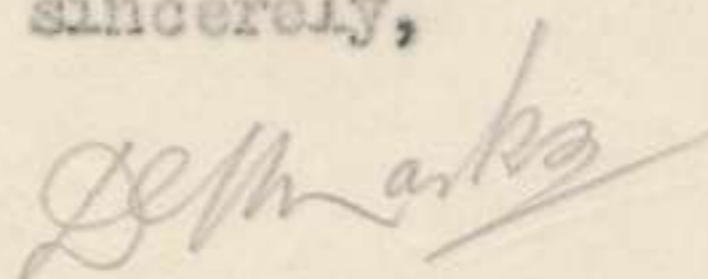
2. Some men were a little too eager, and approached too close to the barrage. This of course can only be adjusted by experience as it is very hard to strike the happy medium. On the other hand, there was a noticeable tendency to "bunch" under the barrage, and I know of one case in which almost a whole squad became casualties both from this cause and that first mentioned. A number of my Officers and N.C.O's remarked that your fellows seemed to cluster together.

3. Perhaps I am wrong, but I fancy that the men have learnt to rely too much on their Officers and not sufficiently on their N.C.O's. All the Officers with me were cool, capable fellows, but the trouble was that when they became casualties it almost crippled their Platoons. This may not be fair criticism when one takes into account that each Platoon was fighting with a different one of our Companies.

4. Quite a number of men found their way onto the final objective of adjoining Battalions and, possibly because they were strange, did not immediately search out their own Platoon. In one or two cases whole squads became detached in this way and stayed on thinking they were all that remained of their Platoon. I am sure that the confidence they have gained is the remedy.

5. We fitted all the Lewis Guns with slings and found that they were thus admirable for hip firing, and that when carried slung the Nos. 1 could not be distinguished from the remainder of the crew. I mention this as it may be new to you.

Yours sincerely,



Col. Davis  
Comd. 132 Inf Regt.  
U.S. Army.