

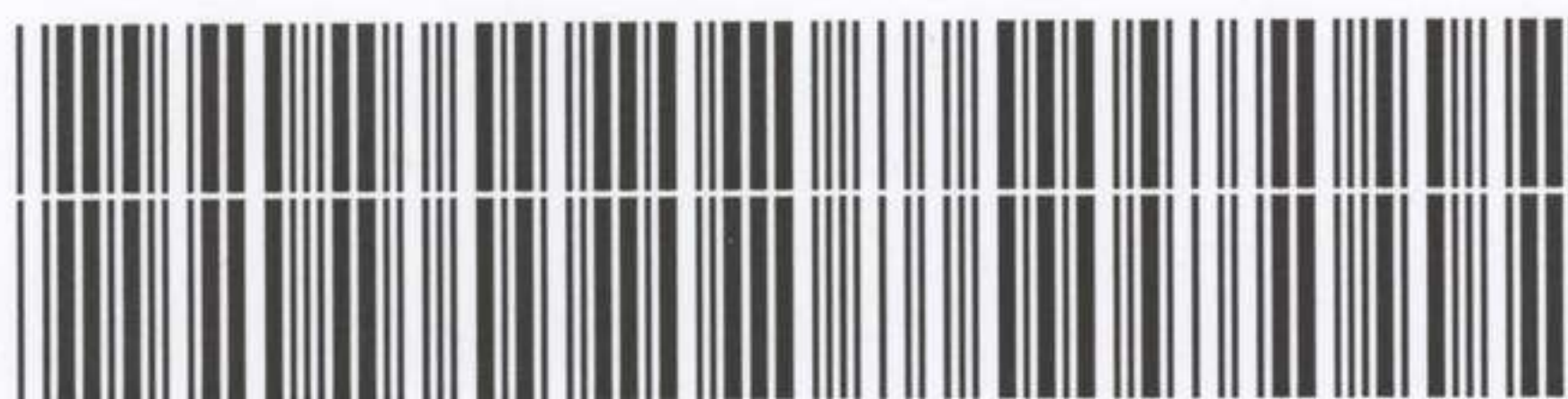
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/42/35

**Title:** 25th Infantry Battalion

July 1918



AWM4-23/42/35



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96

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

FOR

JULY 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling E. A. Henry Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding D. M. Davis Lt. Col.  
C.O., 25th. Battn., 7th. Inf. Bde.



# 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.

25th. A. I. Battalion.

C. O. 25th. A. I. Battalion.

25th BATTALION  
7 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
Army Form C. 2118.  
No.   
Lieut. Col.,

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 1st. 1918	1st.	<p>Strength 33 Off. 888 O/Rs. including detached but effective 12 Off. 237 O/Rs. Battalion holding front line in front of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Dispositions of Bn. were as follows:-</p> <p>Bn. Hd. Qtrs. 0-28-c-83-45.            "B" Company Right front line from 0-36-d-35-90 to P-31-a-65-80.            "D" " Left " " " P-31-a-45-90 to P-25 central.            "C" " Right Support line " 0-30-a-55-00 to 0-30-c-95-20            "A" " Left " " " 0-30-d-0-2 to 0-30-b-23-35.</p> <p>The two front line Companies carried on with improving and linking up front line posts and were also responsible for patrolling Bn. front. The support Coys. were carrying wire and pickets to front line and putting same up.</p>	Ref map Sheet 62-D
	2nd. 3rd.		<p>Bn. in line, work carried out deepening &amp; linking up posts and wiring the positions. "D" Coy. 27th. A.I. Bn. relieved "B" Coy. on the right to allow of them closing up to the left to get into position for an attack on the morning of the 4th. New positions as follows:-</p> <p>Bn. Hd. Qtrs. moved up to Battle Hd. Qtrs. at 0-39-b-32-15.            "D" Coy. 27th. Bn. Right front line from 0-36-d-35-90 to P-31-a-45-80            "B" Coy. 25th. Bn. Centre " " " P-31-a-45-80 to P-25-c-85-30            "D" " " Left " " " P-25-c-85-30 to P-25 central.            "C" &amp; "A" Coys. remained unchanged.</p> <p>During the night ammunition, bombs and water were carried forward and dumps established at No. 1 Dump (Right) P-25-c-80-25 No. 2 Dump (Left) P-25-c-95-55.</p>	
	4th.		<p>Operation Order for attack issued see appendix "A". Bn. in front line. At 3-10am. the Bn. carried out a successful operation. Report on operation see appendix "B". All objectives were captured. Dispositions after attack were as follows:-</p> <p>Bn. Hd. Qtrs. at 0-28-c-83-45.            "B" Coy. Right Coy. a line of posts from P-31-a-5-7 to P-25-d-50-25.            "D" " Left " Old German line from P-25-d-50-25 to P-25-d-35-90.</p>	



# WAR DIARY

or

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

C. O. 25th. A. I. Battalion.

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.

25th. A. I. Battalion.

25th BATTALION  
7 Aust. Inf. Bn.  
Army Form C. 2118.  
No. ....

*W. M. Davis* Lieut. Col.,

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 5th. 1918.		<p>Bn. holding new positions. During the night the Bn. worked on deepening &amp; improving posts. "A" Coy. dug two new posts on the left to link up with 17th. Bn. Reference of posts :- No. 1 P-25-d-50-25 No. 2 P-25-d-8-5, thus advancing our left flank 500 yards. Patrolling was carried out by front line Coys. but nothing of importance was reported. The 27th. A. I. Bn. relieved us in the front line and the Bn. moved to BOIS L'ABBE as Reserve Bn. Dispositions as follows:-</p> <p>Bn. Hd. Qtrs. O-26-c-9-3. "A" Company O-27 central "B" " O-28-c (in Railway cutting) "C" Coy. In Keeps at VILLERS BRETONNEUX. "D" " O-26- central.</p> <p>Relief complete by 2-30 am. Operation Order for relief see appendix "C". Report on work carried out by Bn. while in the line see appendix Works reports attached.</p>	Ref map Sheet 62 D
	6th.	(	Battalion at BOIS L'ABBE as Reserve Bn. During this period the Bn. was burying cable in the	
	7th.	(	forward area as per Works reports attached.	
	8th.	(		
	9th.	(		
	10th.	(		
	11th.	(		
	12th.		The Bn. relieved 27th. A. I. Bn. in the front line. Relief complete by 12-20am. Operation Order for relief see appendix "D".	
	13th.	(	The Bn in front line. Dispositions as follows. Bn. Hd. Qtrs. O-28-c-83-45.	
	14th.	(	<p>"C" Coy. Right front line from O-36-a-4-3 to P-31-a-21 "A" Coy. Left front line from P-31-a-3-1 to P-32-a-1-9. "B" Coy. Right Support line from O-36-a, to c. "D" Coy. Left Support line from O-30-a &amp; d to P-31-a.</p> <p>Patrolling was carried out by the front line companies. Work was also done in deepening, wiring and linking up front line posts.</p>	
	15th.		Bn. in line. Two bombing stunts were carried out preparatory to attack as per report in appendix "F". Operation Orders were issued see appendix "E".	



# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

C. O. 25th. A. I. Battalion.

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.

25th. A. I. Battalion.

Lieut. Col.,

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
July	16th.		Bn. in front line. "B" Coy. moved from Supp.orts into front line as centre coy. for <del>the</del> an attack. Dispositions of front line Coys. were as follows:- "C" Coy. on right 0-36-d-50-15 to 0-36-d-95 -90 "B" " centre 0-36-d-95-90 to P-31-b-1-5 "A" " left P-31-b-1-5 to P-23-a-1-9	Ref map Sheet 62D
	17th.		Bn. in front line. An operation was carried out as per report attached appendix "F". Dispositions:- Bn. Hd. Qtrs. moved forward to Battle Hd. Qtrs. at 0-30-c-80-30 "C" & "D" Coys. right from V-1-v-80-70 to P-31-d-7-3 "A" & "B" Coys. left <del>from</del> in posts No.1 P-31-d-8-4 No.2 P-31-d-8-2 No.3 P-32-a-35-40.	
	18th.		Bn. in front line system. Situation on the left of Bn. front cleared up and dispositions of left half Bn. altered to a line of posts from P-32-a-6-2 to P-31-d-8-4. Special report on counter attack see appendix "G".	
	19th.		Bn. was relieved by 22nd. A.I. Bn. in the front line, relief complete by lam. and moved to trench systems South of BLANGY TRONVILLE. Dispositions were as follows:- Bn. Hd. Qtrs. N-28-b-3-5 2 Companies in N-29-a 2 Companies in N-28-a & b. Operation Order for relief see appendix "H".	
	20th.			
	21st.		Bn. in BLANGY TRONVILLE SYSTEM.	
	22nd.		Training and Sports carried out as per syllabus appendix "I" attached.	
	23rd.		During this period the weather was hot with some resulant storms which quickly passed over	
	24th.		and the men bathed daily in the river SOMME near BLANGY TRONVILLE. Proportion of the men	
	25th.		went each afternoon to an entertainment of 7th. A.I. Bde. Concert Party at LAMOTTE.	
	26th.		Inter-Company cricket matches were played and keenly contested.	
	27th.			
	28th.		Bn. in BLANGY T RONVILLE SYSTEM	
	29th.		Supplied working parties burying cable as per Works reports attached.	
	30th.			



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

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

25th BATTALION  
7 Austn. Inf Bde.  
Army Form C. 218.  
No.

Lieut. Col,

C.O. 25th. A.I. Battalion.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 31st.		<p><i>Ground.</i></p> <p>The Bn. proceeded to a tank training, near VAUX - en - AMIENOIS and carried out tank training exercise. The embussing was map reference Sheet 62 D. S.W. N-27-d-5-4 at 7-45am. and debussing point cross roads 2 kilos. South West of (V) in VAUX (AMIENS SHEET) and about 9am. Embussing was 15 Off. 294 O/Rs.</p> <p>Commander in Chief Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig K.T. G.C.B. G.C.B.O. K.C.I.E. and Fourth Army Commander General Sir H.S. Rawlinson, Bart. G.C.B.O. K.C.B. K.C.M.G. witnessed the exercise carried out by the Battalion, and commented on the keenness and good physical condition of the men and expressed themselves as being very pleased with the manner in which the exercises were carried out. The morning very hot and sultry but the men were keen and energetic. Copy of report on exercises attached see appendix "J".</p>	
	31st.		<p>Strength of Bn. 30 Off. 705 O/Rs. including detached but effective 11 Off. 251 O/Rs.</p> <p>General Notes:- On relief from the line on the night 19/20th. July the men were exceedingly tired and worn out. having spent a strenuous three weeks in the line during which time they carried out 2 successful attacks on the 4th. -7-18 and 17-7-18 and worked exceptionally hard in preparations for and consolidations after attacks. The period 20th. to 27th. July was devoted largely to resting and short periods of training and recreation. By the end of this period the men were feeling fit. The men suffered from no special sickness during the month and their health was normal. The following is a list of casualties suffered and Decorations won during the month:-</p> <p>Casualties:- "Killed" Lieut. H.J. Ryan, 2/Lieut. C.G. Toft, 2/Lieut. C.H. Beaman &amp; 50 O/Rs. "Wounded" Capt. H.C. Foxton, Lieut. E.W. Fairlie, 2/Lieut. P.H. Rerdon, 2/Lieut. F. McComb, and 154 O/Rs.</p> <p>Decorations:- Lieut. C.A. Auchterlonie M.C., 1783 L/Sgt. Ham C.G. D.C.M., 2727a L/Cpl. Richardson R.J., M.M., 2700 Pte. Mackay A.W. M.M., 1120 Pte. Valentine W. M.M., 5319 Sgt. Denry R.J. Bar to Military Medal.</p> <p>Recommendations have been made but no decorations have yet been awarded for operations on 17th. instant.</p>	<p>2/Lt B. Beaman (D/WDS)</p>



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## WAR DIARY

OF

25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

FOR

J U L Y.

1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
"A"	Operation Order No. 55.
"B"	Report on Operation on 4th. July.
"C"	Operation Order No. 56.
"D"	Operation Order No. 56a.
"E"	Operation Order No. 57.
"F"	Report on Operation on 17th. July.
"G"	Special report on enemy counter attack after attack on July 17th.
"H"	Operation Order No. 58.
"I"	Training Programme from 22nd. to 27th. July.
"J"	Report on Tank Training on 31st. July.
"K"	Works Reports.

*Wm Davis L. Col.*  
S.O., 25th. Batta. Pth. Inf. Bde.



SECRET.

25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Copy No. *14*

OPERATION ORDER No. 55.

*Appendix "A"*

Ref, Map Sheet 62D S.E. &amp; S.W. 1/20,000

3-7-18.

1. (a) On a date and at an hour to be notified later the 4th. Aust. Division will make an attack with a view to capturing the spur running N.E. through P-25 central.  
(b) 6th. A.I. Bde. less 2 Bns. are placed at disposal of G.O.C. 4th. Aust. Division and is operating on the right.
2. The 25th. Bn. will assist the attack by the capture of the enemy Trench and including the enemy Strong Post at P-25-d-35-25 to approximately P-25-d-2-0 gaining and maintaining touch with the right of 6th. A.I. Bde. This line will be swung back to our present front line at about P-25-e-65-00.
3. 25th. A.I. Bn. will attack with 2 Companies "B" Coy. on the right and "D" Coy. on the left with "C" Coy. in Support and "A" VCoy. in Reserve.
4. At Zero - 40 minutes "B" & "D" Coys. will occupy present front line from P-31-a-30-75 to P-25 central.  
"C" Coy. will be in old front line with 3 platoons and one platoon in ALBERT C.T.  
"A" Coy. will be in Reserve in VILLERS SUPPORT LINE.
5. At Zero "B" & "D" Coys. will attack in two waves on a two platoon frontage with 50 yards between waves.  
"C" Coy. will move into present front line.  
"A" Coy. will detail two platoons to move forward and dig C.T. in continuation of ALBERT C.T. to new position at P-25-d-3-5.
6. "C" Coy. will detail two platoons as Carrying Party to move forward 100 yards in rear of second wave.
7. (a) Each man will carry:-, 220 rounds S.A.A., 2 No. 23 Grenades (Rifle Grenadiers will carry 6 Grenades) 24 hours rations and Iron Rations. Either pick or shovel in proportion of 1 pick to 3 shovels.  
(b) Each Officer will carry:- 1 Very Pistol & flares & 1 S.O.S. Signal.
8. Artillery Machine Gun & Trench Mortar activity will be notified later.
9. As far as possible existing systems in captured area are to be consolidated.  
All consolidation will be protected by Lewis Guns under Company arrangements.



"2".

## 10. Final Dispositions:-

"B" Coy. 3 platoons in new trench with one platoon in old front line.

"D" Coy. 3 platoons in O.G.L. & 1 platoon in old front line.

"C" Coy. 2 platoons in old front line astride ALBERT C.T.

1 platoon in old support line at P-35-c-4-2.

1 platoon in Digger Support.

"A" Coy. 4 platoons in VILLERS SUPPORT south of VILLERS Switch.

11. O.C. "A" Coy. will mount 6 Lewis Guns for Anti-Aircraft defence.

12. Contact planes will patrol front line from Zero to plus 2 hours and will have small black flag attached to lower wing. Counter attack planes will fly at 3,00 feet and will have a streamer from right plane. They will indicate location of enemy formations for counter-attack by firing smoke flares in that direction.

13. Word "RETIRE" will not be used.

14. Prisoners of war will be sent direct to Brigade H.Qtrs.

15. R.A.P. will be at O-30-b-3-3.

16. Battalion Battle Dumps are at P-25-c-75-40 & P-25-c-80-25.

17. Battalion Battle Headquarters will be at O-30-b-3-2.

18. Acknowledge.

(Signed) *G. Carroll*

Captain.

Adjutant 25th. A. I. Battalion.

## Distribution:-

- 1-4 Companies.
- 5 T.O. & Q.M.
- 6 R.M.O.
- 7 7th. A.I. Brigade.
- 8 26th. A.I. Bn.
- 9 23rd. A.I. Bn.
- 10 Capt. W. Hoskins M.C.
- 11-12 Spares.
- 13 File.
- 14-16 War Diary.



Reference Map Sheets 62d. S.W. &amp; S.E. 1/20000.

Appendix B  
7th July 1918.REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF JULY 4th 1918.

The Battalion had been holding the line of Trenches East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX from O.36.d.20.75. to P.25 Central. On the night of July 2nd/3rd 1918. "D" Company 27th Battn. took over the front line system from O.36.d.20.75. to P.25.c.25.00. the new dispositions of the Battalion being "B" and "D" Coys in the front line from P.25.c.25.00. to P.25. Central. "C" Coy in Support and "A" Coy in Reserve.

The formations adopted for the attack were Battalion to advance on a two Company front each Company having a two Platoon front. Platoons were to form a wave of two lines at 25 yards distance. "C" Coy was to move in support also acting as a Carrying Party while two platoons of "A" Company moved forward as a fourth wave to be used if necessary to support the assaulting troops and later to dig a Communication Trench from the old front line to the captured objective. In this connection it should be noted that on the night of 2nd/3rd July 1918 a Communication Trench was dug 100 yards into No-Man's Land leaving about 150 yards to be dug after the objective was captured.

Zero hour was fixed for 3.10am July 4th 1918. At 2.30am all Coys reported that they were in position ready for the "Jump Off" with necessary gaps cut in our own wire. At Zero minus 8 minutes the Artillery gave some harassing fire over the whole front. At Zero the barrage fell on the objective and the Infantry moved forward as if on the parade ground. They filed out by sections through the gaps in the wire then opened to extended order and advanced in waves towards their objective.

At 3.35am reports were received from the Left Company to say that Objectives had been reached and consolidated well in hand. They also reported that the Right Company had entered the strong Post at P.25.d.3.3. where some stiff fighting was taking place.

The Artillery barrage was excellent and and when the objective was reached it was seen that many enemy dead had been killed by our shrapnel. The effect of the Machine Gun barrage could not be judged from the objectives in our Area but it sounded most effective.

P36d9.9. silenced the enemy Machine Guns but owing to some faulty ammunition on the Stokes barrage along the main VILLERS - BRETONNEUX ROAD WARFUSEE Road was not excellent; several of the rounds falling short.

The Left Company had some stiff fighting in their Sector and not till our Infantry were actually in the Trench did they commence to give in. Even after the objective had been reached several hand to hand struggles took place and several enemy were killed by bayonet thrusts.

The Right Company assaulted the strong Post at P.25.d.3.3. The enemy Machine Guns and Rifle fire was so great from this point that there were only 9 other ranks from two Platoons left to make the final assault. They made it however and succeeding in displacing the enemy. The enemy were however very loath to surrender the position without further attempts to recapture it. At 4.20am. an organised effort was made by the enemy to move along the main road and along the Trench from the ORCHARD. The S.O.S. was sent up and a comparatively few of the enemy reached bombing distance. However they threw a number of bombs and it looked as if they would succeed in regaining a footing in the Strong Post. A Platoon was immediately despatched from the Left Company to re-inforce the 9 men who were defending this Post and the situation was soon cleared up and the Post firmly established. The beating off of this local counter attack seemed to be the last straw on the enemy's backs, for his morale already weakened by our Artillery completely gave way and parties of two's and three's and in one case ten came in and surrendered from



(2).

from distances up to 350 yards from our objective. Active sniping on the part of our men prevented the enemy from regaining his positions or even approaching closer than 400 to 500 yards from our new front line.

As soon as the objective was gained consolidation was commenced. The Old German Trench was in excellent condition and in a very short time fire steps were constructed in the parapets and men well established. On the Right where the pivot for the whole forward movement was; the assaulting troops constructed 3 platoon Posts connecting up with our old front line at P.31.a.20.70. At night these posts were extended and improved and two further posts dug and the whole line connected up with white tape.

On the night of 6/7th July the Company in the Old German Trench swung its left flank forward approximately 400 Yds and connected up with the 6th A.I. Brigade on the left. This peaceful penetration really making an advance approximately 500 Yards along the Divisional Front. The final dispositions being a Front Line of 7 Posts occupied by two Companies reaching from P.31.a.20.70. to P.26.c.1.6. One Company in Support in our old front line and support line with one Company in Reserve in VILLERS SUPPORT.

Throughout the operations the total number of prisoners captured was 92; while about 50 German dead were counted in the captured Sector.

The material captured consisted of 5 light Machine Guns together with a plentiful supply of ammunition. Also a large number of Granatenwerfer Grenades. A Daylight Signal Lamp was also captured.

Our Casualties were as under:-

Killed. 2 Officers & 19 Other Ranks.  
Wounded. 1 Officer & 71 Other Ranks.

(Signed) H. H. Page. Major.  
A/C.O. 25th A.I. Battalion.



SECRETCopy No. 10

## 25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

-----  
OPERATION ORDER No. 56.  
-----*Appendix "C"*

Ref, Map Sheet 62 D. S.E. &amp; S.W. 1/20,000.

5-7-18.

1. On the night 5/6th. July 1918 the 27th. A.I. Bn. will relieve the 25th. A.I. Bn. in the left Sub-Sector of the Brigade Front.
2. Aeroplane photographs, trench maps, defence schemes and all information regarding new front and trench stores will be handed over on relief. Receipts in duplicate to reach Bn. Hd. Qtrs. by 9am. 6th. inst.
3. The two front line Coys. "B" & "D", 25th. Bn. will be relieved by "A" Coy. 27th. Bn. "A" Coy. by "C" Coy. "C" Coy. by "D" Coy. 27th. Bn.
4. On completion the Bn. will be the Support Left Bn.  
The dispositions will be:-  

"A" Coy.	27	central	Railway	embankment.
"B"	28	"	"	"
"D"	"	26	"	"
"C"	"	Keeps in VILLERS BRETONNEUX 0-29-c-6-3.		
5. One guide per Coy. will meet Unit on relief at 0-29-b-8-2 and will guide Coys. to new positions.
6. All Picks and shovels will be dumped at 0-29-b-8-2 also "D" Coys. Lewis Guns.  
"A" "B" & "C" Coys. will carry Lewis Guns and paniers to new positions
7. Completion of relief will be notified to Bn. H. Qtrs in B.A.B. Code.
8. Support Bn. Hd. Qtrs. will be at 0-26-c-9-4
9. Acknowledge.

*(Signed) G. Carroll*

captain.

Adjutant 25th. A.I. Battalion.

## Distributions-

- 1-4 Companies.
- 5 T.O. & Q.M.
- 6 7th. A.I. Brigade.
- 7 26th. A.I. Bn.
- 8 27th. A.I. Bn.
- 9 File.
- 10-12 War Diary.



SECRET.copy no. *9*

## 25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

OPERATION ORDER No. 56. *A**Appendix "D"*

Ref. Map Sheet 62d S.W. &amp; S.E. 1/20,000

12-7-18.

1. On night 12/13<sup>th</sup> July the 25<sup>th</sup>. Battalion will relieve the 27<sup>th</sup>. Bn. in Left Battalion Sub-Sector.
2. All Trench Stores etc. to be handed over and receipts in duplicate forwarded to Bn. H.Qtrs. 12 hours after relief.
3. "A" Coy. 25<sup>th</sup>. Bn. will relieve "A" Coy. 27<sup>th</sup>. Bn. Left Front Line Coy.  

"C"	Do.	"C"	Do.	Right Front Line Coy.
"B"	Do.	"D"	Do.	Right Support Coy.
"D"	Do.	"B"	Do.	Left Support Coy.
4. Guides will be arranged by Company Commanders concerned.
5. Cooking arrangements will be the same as last tour in the line. Company Cooks will take over as per para 3.
6. Completion of relief will be wired to Bn. H.Qtrs. in B.A.B. Code.
7. Acknowledge.

*(Signed) G. Carroll.* Captain.  
 Adjutant 25th. A. I. Battalion.

## Distribution:-

- 1-4 Companies.
- 5 T.O. & Q.M.
- 6 7<sup>th</sup>. A.I. Brigade.
- 7 27<sup>th</sup>. A.I. Bn.
- 8 File.
- 9-11 War Diary.
- 12 Spare.



SECRET.

25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

copy No. 9

96

OPERATION ORDER No. 57.

*Appendix C*

Ref. Map Sheet 62D S.W. & S.E. 1/20,000.

16-7-18.

1. On the night 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>. July the 5th. A.I. Brigade established a line of posts from P-32-a-9-2 to P-26-d-6-0 and the 25th. Bn. established a post at P-31-d-1-6.  
The 5th. A.I. Bde. are holding their line as stated but post established by the 25th. Bn. as above will be with drawn on the morning of 17th. July 1918.
2. On a date and at an hour to be notified later the 7th. A.I. Bde. will advance its line in order to shorten and straighten our front. On the objective being captured it will be held and consolidated.
3. Brigade objective will be U-6-c-55-80 through U-6 central to Railway Bridge at V-1-b-5-6 both Bridge and Mound inclusive thence to 5th. A.I. Bde. flank at Road inclusive near P-32 central.
4. The inter-Battalion boundary will be the Railway Line and Railway Bridge, both inclusive to 25th. Bn., to Road near P-32 central Exclusive The Mound in the vicinity of V-1-b-25-60 is inclusive to 26th. Bn.
5. The 26th. Bn. will be operating on our Right Flank.  
There will be no operation on our Left Flank.
6. The attack will be made by "B" & "C" Coys. and one platoon of "A" Coy. Inter-Company boundaries will be as follows:-  
"C" Coy. Railway Line inclusive to a line 50 yards South of and parallel with Road running through O-36-d- & P-31-c & d.  
"B" Coy. From Line 50 yards South of & parallel with Road running through O-36-d and P-31-c & d to line from P-31-a-8-3 to P-32-c-6-7.  
"A" Coy. from a line P-31-a-8-3 to P-32-c-6-7 to inter-Bn. boundary at P-31-b-7-5 to ~~P-32-a-9-0~~ P-32-a-9-0.  
The attack will be made in two lines.  
One platoon of "D" Coy. will carry for "C" Coy. and one platoon of "A" Coy. will carry for "B" Coy.  
These two platoons will move behind attacking Coys. at a distance of 75 yards.
7. The vickers guns in the front line will remain in their present positions. In addition 2 vickers guns will move with attacking troops one each with "B" & "C" Coys.  
Time at which these guns will report to Company Commanders will be notified later.
8. Arrangements have been made with 17th. Bn. on our left flank to fire a red, a white and a green flare in that order in rapid succession every three minutes from their right post at P-32-a-9-2 from Zero hour to Zero plus 20 minutes or untill touch is established.  
On account of the nature of the advance it is improbable that touch can be maintained with 26th. Bn. during advance but O.C. "C" Coy. will detail an Officer to regain touch on gaining objective.  
O.C. "A" Coy. will be responsible for getting in touch with 17th. Bn. Artillery. M.G. & Stokes Mortar barrage arrangements will be notified later.
9. Watches will be synchronised at 6pm. by an Officer from Bn. H.Qtrs. who will visit all Companies on 17th. instant.
10. R.A.P. will be at O-36-b-7-3.
11. Bn. H.Qtrs. will be at O-36-a-7-8 where all reports & P.O.W. will be sent
12. Acknowledge.

*(Signed) L. Carroll* captain.  
Adjutant 25th. A. I. Battalion.



SECRET.copy no. 925th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.OPERATION ORDER No. 57.IN CONTINUATION OF O/O No. 57 of 16-7-18.

ZERO hour is 9-45pm. 17-7-18.

## 1. Artillery Support will be carried out as follows:-

- (a) 18 Pounders. At Zero opening on line V-1-a-55-05 - P-31-c-90-70 - P-31-b-60-20 remaining on same until plus 6 minutes then lifting eastwards in one hundred yards lifts at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minute intervals, to aline V-1-b-65-45 - P-32-c-70-65 at  $13\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. Alternate guns firing smoke shells from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes to plus 15 minutes. At plus 15 minutes lifting to enemy Support Trenches and remaining same to plus 75 minutes.
- (b) Smoke shells will not be used unless the wind is favourable i.e. between N. and S.W.
- (c) Diagrams A & B shewing barrage and selected atargets are issued herewith.

*(Signed) G. Carroll*

Captain.

Adjutant 25th. A. I. Battalion.



Appendix "F"

ON EVENING OF 17th. JULY 1918.

In order to shorten and straighten our line the Brigade was to attack and capture the following objectives:-

26th. Bn. to attack on South Side of Railway from U-6-e to V-1-b-7-5 and 25th. Bn. on North side of Railway in clussive to P-32 central.

#### PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS AND DISPOSITIONS.

With a view of assisting this attack two platoons were pushed out during the night of 15th. instant to seize two enemy Strong Posts at P-31-d-7-5 and P-31-d-1-7.

The Post at P-31-d-1-7 was occupied and held but the ~~Post~~ party attacking post at P-31-d-7-5 met with strong resistance and were finally forced back after suffering a number of casualties.

The post at P-31-d-1-7 was withdrawn during the early morning of the 17th. instant.

During the night 16th/17th. instant "C" Coy. closed to their right as far as the orchard and "B" Coy. took over part of front line from Orchard to P-31-a-7-3.

This disposed of the Battalion as follows:-

Front Line "A", "B" & "C" Coys. in that order from left to right and "D" Coy. in Reserve in what had been our outpost line before first advance on that front.

In addition to above dumps of S.A.A. & Bombs, Wiring & Engineering Material and Reserve supplies of Water were established well forawrd in convenient places. A Battale Hd. Qtrs. prepared at O-30-c-9-2 and a R.A.P. at O-36-b-6-5.

#### FORMATIONS.

Attack was made by "C" Coy. on right "B" Coy. centra and one strong platoon of "A" Coy. on left. Each company attacking in one wave of two lines. One platoon of "D" Coy. was told off to carry for "C" Coy. and one platoon of "A" Coy. to carry for "B" Coy. These two carrying platoons were to move 50 yards in rear of attacking troops and assist as mopping up parties.

#### INFANTRY ADV ANCH.

At Zero hour 9-45pm., the barrage opened. The attacking troops immediately left our trenches and closed up under the barrage. The barrage remained on the first drop for 6 minutes and just allowed nice time to close up. The barrage then lifted and the troops advanced.

Considerable M.G. fire was encountered from the very beginning, for example in one small post at P-32-d-20-15<sup>where</sup> five light machine Guns were captured lying side by side on the parapet.

The enemy's system of defence was a number of mutually supported posts disposed in depth. Against each of these small attacks had to be organised, which took some little time and caused us to loose the barrage about half way over.

This of course allowed enemy Machine Gunners more freedom during remainder of advance.

The right Company finally took the Western fork of the Y shaped JAFFA TRENCH on the North side of the Railway at about 10-10pm. which fortunately they mistook for their final objective as by this time they had two officers and 22 O/Rs. only.

During their advance the enemy had gone back from post to post and it is estimated that 150 to 200 of the enemy had congregated in the Eastern fork of JAFFA TRENCH and had we attempted to take this we would have proba bly been wiped out.

Part of the Centre Coy. reached their final objective about 10-10 but were subected to murderous M.G. fire and Bombing.

They held on for some time but being unable to get into touch with either flank and fire becoming exceptionally heavy they dropped back to Moon Shaped Trench.



**BARRAGE.**

The Artillery barrage was light but the shooting accurate on our front. It is a pity that the barrage wasn't greater in volume as the enemy fought his way back most of the way and to do so had to go through the places where our barrage was playing.

The number of enemy casualties from our barrage appear to have been very light.

Light Trench Mortars fired successfully on the pre-arranged targets.

Heavy T.M's. were unable to fire as they were too far back being out of range.

**ENEMY RESISTANCE.**

In every case the enemy put up some show of fight. In two cases as we approached his posts, the garrisons left the trench and came out to meet us, a hand to hand struggle ensuing.

The machine gunners fought to the last man in every case. The remainder after the exchange of a few shots would withdraw to the next post behind and continue firing.

**CONSOLIDATION.**

When it was known that the centre Coy. were not on their objective arrangements were at once made to push on and a line of outposts were pushed out 250 yards in front. Early the following evening a line was taped out from P-31-d-35-40 to P-32-a-8-2 and a line of posts established and dug in there with touch with the 5th. Brigade on our left and 26th. Bn. on our right by patrol.

**FINAL DISPOSITIONS.**

Owing to the casualties in the attacking troops being heavy, the right Coy. had to be reinforced by the platoon carrying for it and finally by the two remaining platoons of "D" Coy. "B" Coy. in centre was reinforced by the platoon carrying for it and the platoon of "A" Coy. on left was reinforced by the remaining platoons of "A" Coy. This disposed of the whole Battalion in front line working as 3 Companies.

Two Coys. of 27th. Bn. were moved forward, one to our old front line and one to VILLERS LINE as Supports.

**PRISONERS.** *taken*

Wounded.  
1 Off. and 7 O/Rs.

Unwounded.  
20 O/Rs.

**ESTIMATED ENEMY DEAD.**

Killed in Action evening of 17th. inst.	60
" " Counter Attack (as per special report)	200
	<u>260</u>

**CAPTURED MATERIAL.**

2 Heavy Machine Guns.  
2 Light " "

**OUR CASUALTIES.**

Killed.  
1 Off. 23 O/Rs.

Wounded.  
2 Off. 66 O/Rs.

Missing.  
3 O/Rs.

TOTAL CASUALTIES. 3 Off. 92 O/Rs.

-----CCCC-----CCCC-----CCCC-----CCCC-----

(Signed) W.M.DAVIS Major Lieut Col.,  
C. O. 25th. A. I. Battalion.



**SPECIAL REPORT ON ENEMY ATTACK.**

**AFTER ATTACK ON 17th. JULY 1918.**

About 4-30am. on morning of 18th. instant, enemy opened a heavy barrage on our old front line and behind what had been our old outpost line before advance and considerable movement of enemy infantry was seen.

About 250 enemy were seen moving along JAFFA TRENCH in direction of mound and some number of men were seen in crops.

The S.O.S. was sent up and the Lewis Guns and Rifle got to work at very short range. In spite of this the movement continued backward and forward towards the mound for about 10 or 15 minutes. We estimated about 100-150 casualties were inflicted on the enemy. No counter attack developed on our front.

Again about 9pm. on 18-7-18 a heavy barrage was dropped on same places as morning. Large parties of enemy infantry had been seen ever since 6-30pm. moving towards our line and about 8-30pm. started dripping out into the crops across our whole front.

By 9pm. there were 500-600 enemy estimated in front of our position. The S.O.S. was sent up and barrage dropped on them. In addition our Lewis Gun and Rifle fire was brought to bear on them with excellent result. The range was short, 50 to 100 yards, the light was good and the fullest advantage of these two facts was taken with result that another 100-150 enemy casualties resulted and no counter-attack developed.

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21-7-18.

(Signed) W.M.DAVIS      Lieut.Col.,  
C. O. 25th. A. I. Battalion.



SECRET.

25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Copy No. 6

OPERATION ORDER No. 58.

*Appendix "K"*

Ref. Map Sheet 62d. S.E. &amp; S.W. 1/20,000.

19-7-18.

1. On the night 19/20th. July 1918 the 6th. A.I. Brigade will relieve the 7th. A.I. Bde. in Right Sub-Sector.  
On being relieved the 7th. Bde. will be Reserve Brigade.
2. The 25th. A.I. Bn. will be relieved by the 22nd. A.I. Bn. and will relieve 21st. A.I. Bn. in N-28-b and N-29-a.  
"A" & "C" Coys. will on relief take over and occupy positions in N-29-a previously occupied by them on 26/27-6-18.  
"B" & "D" Coys. will take over and occupy Trenches in N-28-b.  
Guides will meet these Coys. at New Bn. H. Qtrs. at N-28-b-3-5.
3. All aeroplane photographs, information regarding new front, marked maps and trench stores will be handed and taken over, special attention paid to S.O.S. Signals. Receipts in duplicate to reach Bn. Hd. Qtrs. by noon 20-7-18.
4. The minimum distance to be maintained between platoons is 200 yds.
5. Lewis Guns and paniers will be dumped at side of Road where VILLERS LINE crosses same at O-30-c-2-3. From here they will be carried by limber.
6. The trenches must be handed over in a clean and sanitary condition. All scattered ammunition and ammunition in un-occupied trenches is to be collected into positions in occupied trenches.
7. Transport Lines and Q.M. Store will remain in present positions.
8. Battalion Hd. Qtrs. will be situated at N-28-b-3-5.
9. Completion of relief will be wired in B.A.B. Code to Bn. Hd. Qtrs.
10. Acknowledge.

*(Signed) G. Carroll*

captain.

Adjutant 25th. A. I. Battalion.

Distribution:-

- 1-4 Companies.
- 5 T.O. & Q.M.
- 6-8 War Diary.
- 9-10 Spare.



Appendix I

25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION PROGRAMME OF TRAINING FOR PERIOD ENDING 27th. JULY 1918.

Date.	Time.	"A" Coy.	"B" Coy.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy.
Monday 22-7-18.	9-30-11-30am.	Reorganisation and cleaning equipment.	Do.	Do.	Do.
	2-30pm.	Cricket Match "A" Company V "B" Company.			
Tuesday 23-7-18.	9-30-10-30am.	Setting up Drill.		Training of Lewis Gun Sections under Officer Remainder Musketry.	
	10-30-11-30am.	Training of Lewis Gun Sects. under officer. Remainder Musketry.	Do.	Setting up Drill.	Do.
	2-30pm.	Cricket Match "C" Company V "D" Company.			
Wednesday 24-7-18.	9-30-10-30am.	Inspection of Box Respirators. Lecture on Gas Discipline ½ hour Gas Drill.	Do.	Training of Lewis gun sections. Remainder Musketry special attention being paid to rapid loading.	Do.
	10-30-11-30am.	Training of Lewis Gun Sects. Remainder R. Grenade practice.		Inspection of Box Respirators Lecture on Gas Discipline. ½ hour Gas Drill.	
	2-30pm.	Cricket Match and Swimming.			
Thursday 25-7-18.	9-30-10am.	Bayonet Fighting		Musketry Rapid Loading & Aiming.	
	10-10-30am.	Lecture by Coy. Officers on Giving information to enemy.	Do.	10-11am. Training of Lewis gun Sections. Remainder Musketry.	Do.
	10-30-11-30am.	Training of Lewis Gun Sects. Remainder Musketry.		11-11-30am. Lecture by Coy. Officers on Giving information to enemy.	
	2-30pm.	Cricket Match Winner of "A" & "B" Coy. V Winner of "C" & "D" Coys.			
Friday 26th.	9-30-10-30am.	Setting up Drill. ½ hour will be carried out with Box Respirators on.	Do.	Bombing Dummy Throwing competition between platoons for distance and accuracy.	Do.
	10-30-11-30am.	Rifle Grenades, competition between sections for accuracy.		Setting up Drill ½ hour to be carried out with Box Respirators on.	
	2-30pm.	Cricket Match to be arranged.		25th. Bn. V.	



TRAINING PROGRAMME (CONTINUED)  
 ++++++

Date.	Time.	"A" Coy.	"B" Coy.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy.
Saturday 27-7-18.	9-30-10-30am.	Lecture and Practice of Platoon in Trench Clearing.	Do.	Rifle Grenade competition between sections for accuracy.	Do. 96
	10-30-11-30am.	Bombing Dummy Throwing competition between sections.		Lecture and Practice of platoon in Trench Clearing.	
	2-30pm.	S P O R T S.			

Specialists:-

All H.Qtrs. and Company Signallers to report to Signal Officer at 9-30am.  
 Lewis Gun Officer will supervise Lewis Gun Training.  
 Bn. Bombing Officer will supervise Bombing and Grenade Practices.

(Signed) G. Carroll

Captain.

Adjutant 25th. A. I. Battalion.

Appendix 1



Appendix

Headquarters.,  
7th. A. I. Brigade.

Report on training in "Methods of co-operation between Infantry and Tanks".

Battalion arrived at training ground at Jan. 31-7-18.

Company Commanders met Company Commander of Demonstration Company and Platoon Commanders and Platoon Sergeants the Platoon Commanders of Demonstration Company, who took them over the ground, explained the object of and all points of the exercise.

After watching the Demonstration Company carry out the first exercise, the Battalion went through the same exercise. "A" & "B" Companies combined forming one Company and "C" & "D" Companies combined forming another. Companies carrying out exercise at separate times.

The exercise was an attack by a Company of Infantry on two trench systems each of firing line and supports and three strong posts. The attack being made by two platoons assisted by two tanks in the first wave and two platoons assisted by one tank forming second wave.

Barrage was represented by flags, barrage to be shrapnel only as tanks can move right up under shrapnel barrage and assist in keeping enemy down during advance.

Formations:- Sections in single file with Lewis Gun sections on flanks.

Signals from tanks to infantry were as follows:-

Green and White flag	-	"Come on".
Red & Yellow flag	-	"Out of Action".
Tricolour flag	-	"Coming back".

Flags waved from back of tanks.

Signals from infantry to tanks:-

Steel helmets (or hats) raised on rifles - "Tank assistance Required" and smoke grenades fired into strong point gave location of same to tanks.

These signals were found to work very satisfactorily.

The attack was carried out very well the men being interested and putting plenty of energy into their work. Sections lent covering fire to other sections advancing and Lewis Guns on flanks rendered valuable covering fire.

The main points brought out were -

- (1) That the infantry were inclined to think they had to keep a regulation distance behind the tanks. Rather as if they were assisting the tanks in the attack instead of the tanks assisting them.
- (2) That the formation of sections in single file was not a good one for the first wave. An extended line would have been more suitable.
- (3) That the tanks are of very valuable assistance to the infantry especially in dealing with enemy strong points that are giving trouble to our advancing infantry.
- (4) One tank demonstrated the very valuable assistance they can lend the infantry by bringing up supplies of S.A.A., bombs, water and engineering material with the attack itself.
- (5) That the training was very valuable to all concerned and taught us a great deal of the methods and possibilities of the employment of tanks.

Wm Davis

Lieut. Col.,

5-8-18.

C. O. 25th. A. I. Battalion.



# 25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

## WORKS REPORT.

Date	Hours Worked.	No. of men employed.	Location.	Nature of Work and Amount.	Remarks.
1-7-18	3 hrs.	34 0/Rs.	P-25-e-8-3 -	Deepening connection between posts. Width 3'	
	3½	6	P-25-e-7-1	average depth 5'.	
	3½	23	P-25-d-1-7	Digging L.G. Post, 15' of trench with fire step. Width 3' depth 5'.	
	3½	23	P31-a-45-80	Deepening front line trench 3' wide average depth 4'6".	
	3½	23	P31-a-40-80	115 yds. Double Apron wire.	
	2	4	P-25-e-90-28	24 yds. "	
	2	4	P-25-e-99-50	Digging new latrine.	
	3½	34	0-30-b-3-1	Improving fire steps.	
	4	5	0-30-b-3-2	Connecting up front line 75 yds. of trench 2'6" x 3'.	
	3	40	0-36-b-5-2	Improving fire trench.	
			0-36-b-7-3	C.T. 60 yds. x 3' x 2'6".	
2-7-18	3½	34	0-36-d-35-90	Connecting up front line posts 70 yds. x 3' x 2'6" x 1'6".	
	4	5	0-36-d-5-2	Deepening front line.	
	3½	30	P-25-e-8-3	" " " 110 yds. x 5' x 3'.	
	2½	11	P-25-e-8-1	40 yds. Double Apron Wire.	
	2	10		Carrying wire & pickets from 0-29-b-1-2 to P-25-e-8-3.	
	3½	23	P-31-a-3-7	90 yds. trench deepened from 3'6" to 4'6".	
	3½	17	P-25-e-8-5	Cleaning out & deepening sap 110 yds. average 5'3".	
3-7-18	4½	21	0-30-e-9-3	Carrying Trench Mortar Ammunition 250 Rds.	
	6	5	0-36-a-9-7	Making new Company H. Qtrs.	
	4	4	Support Line	Improving & Deepening trench.	
	3	22	P-25-d-0-5	Sap 70 yds. x 2'6" x 2'6". Dug.	
	2	10	P-25-e-7-6	Carrying 25 coils wire. to P-25-e-88-28.	
	2	4	0-30-b-30-25	3 yds. trench dug 4'6" x 3'. Sap for new R.A.P.	
	4	2	0-30-b-3-1	Construsting new dug-out.	

Appendix



Date.	Hours Worked.	No. of men employed.	Location.	Nature of Work and Amount.	Remarks.
5-7-18	3½ hours. 1	17 0/Rs. 5	P-25-d-10-55 P-25-e-8-6	100 yds. trench deepened to average depth of 3'6". Carrying 1000 rds. S.A.A. & 60 Grenades.	
7-7-18	3½	1 off. 39 0/Rs.	0-30-a-0-3	Carrying <del>300</del> 2Lo 3" Stokes shells. to 0-36-d-6-3.	80
8-7-18	5 2 6½ 6	190 0/Rs. 10 18 3	0-28-e-85-60 " Keeps 0-34-e-85-75	Digging and burying cable 5' deep to 0-28-d-25-25. Carrying cable along trench. Working on cellars of billets with engineers. 30 yds. Double Apron Wire.	
9-7-18.	4½ 3	223 10	0-28-d-25-25 "	Digging and burying cable 5' deep to 0-28-d-5-2. Carrying cable along trench.	
	2½	20	0-36-b-9-4	Dug C.T. 20 yds. 3' x 2'6".	
10-7-18	4½ 2	127 20	0-34-b-9-8 "	Digging and burying cable 5' deep to 0-35-a-0-5. Carrying cable along trench.	
11-7-18	4½ 3	100 10	0-35-e-8-7 "	Digging and burying cable 5' deep to 0-35-d-0-5-65. Carrying cable along trench.	
12-7-18	4 4	100 10	0-35-d-25-40 "	Digging trench & burying cable 5' deep to 0-35-d-45-45. Carrying cable.	
14-7-18	3½ 2 2 1 2½ 1½ 3	28 4 2 3 4 17 8	P-31-a-90-25 P-31-b-80-35 P-32-a-1-9 P-31-b-07-20 0-36-d-9-0 P-31-e-3-9 P-31-e-0-9	220 yds. Double Apron Wire put up. Block constructed & wire laid beyond for 18 yds. 5 yds. trench deepened to 3'6". Block placed in trench & 4 coils wire laid beyond. 40 yds. Double Apron wire. 50 yds. Single Apron Wire. 26 yds. trench deepened.	
15-7-18	3½ 2 2 4 2	30 2 2 2 24	P-31-b-35-30 to P-31-b-6-5 P-31-b-9-6 P-31-b-9-6 P-31-a-5-2 P-31-e-0-7 to 0-36-d-9-8	150 yds. Double Apron wire. Gaps every 50 yds. Carried 200 Screw pickets from 0-30-b-2-3 & 31 coils wire from 0-30-d-0-4. 4 yds. trench dug to 2' towards No.9 Post. Cutting 12' fire-stepping. Deepening & widening sap 15 yds. 2'x 1½' Single Apron wire. Carried 120 pickets & 14 coils wire from 0-29-e-8-4	

Appendix K 22



Date.	Hours Worked.	No. of men employed.	Location.	Nature of Work and Amount	Remarks.
15-7-18	2 hrs. 2½	30/Rs. 14	0-36-d-988- 0-36-d-3-2	Deepened 4 yds. trench 2'. 30 yds. new trench dug 3'x 2'.	
17-7-18.	3	32	P-31-a-6-3	Carrying 20,000 rds. S.A.A. & 120 Bombs to front line.	
28-7-18	5	4 Off. 160 0/Rs.	0-15-d-2-3 to 0-15-d-6-3	Cable burying. 190 yds. trench excavated 6'x 3'x 1' and filled in.	
29-7-18	4½	4 Off. 160 0/Rs.	0-15-d & 0-15-e	Cable burying. 186 yds. trench excavated 6'x 3'x 1' and filled in.	

(Signed) *E. W. Cleary*

Lieut.,

for C. O. 25th. A. I. Battalion.

Appendix K

23