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1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/42/36

Title: 25th Infantry Battalion

August 1918



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96

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

25th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

FOR

AUGUST

1918



Signature of Officer compiling

Gbarroll

Captain,

Signature of Officer Commanding

DM Davis

Lieut-colonel,

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

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Wm Davis Lieut-Colonel,
C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.

25th A. I. Battalion.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Aug. 1st 1918.	1st	Strength of Bn. 30 Off. 705 O/Rs. including detached but effective 11 Off. 251 O/Rs. Battalion in Bivouacs in trenches in Trench System south of BLANGY-TRONVILLE and dispositions as follows:-- Bn. H. Qs. in Rly. Cutting at N. 28. b. 3.5 2 Companies in N. 29. a. 2 Companies in N. 28. a. & b.	Map Ref. sheet 62D.
		2nd	Divisional Front was readjusted and Battalion moved from present position to bivouacs and trenches near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in relief of 19th A. I. Bn. Relief completed at about 9.30 p.m. Bn. disposed as follows:-- Bn. H. Qs at O. 28. b. 8.8 and 4 Companies in O. 28 a & b, O. 21. d, O. 23. c, O. 29. d. Copy of Operation Order for Relief attached. Appendix A.	
		3rd	In same positions. Weather fine.	
		4th	Bn. moved to Bivouacs and Trenches in GLISSY System. We were not relieved and left old position at 9.30 p.m. and arrived at new position at about 12 midnight. Bn. H. Qs situated at N. 26 b. 6.0. and 4 Companies disposed in N. 26 a & b., N. 27. a., and N. 32. a. Copy of Operation Order for move attached. Appendix B. Weather cloudy with odd showers.	
		5th	Bn. in GLISSY System resting. Weather: -- At varying intervals it rained heavily. Most of the Bivouacs which were hurriedly built were flooded out but otherwise than certain inconvenience did no damage.	
		6th	Bn. moved to its concentration position in O. 36. a & b. Left old position at 8.30 p.m. and arrived at new one at about 9.30 p.m. Bn. H. Qs situated at N. 36. a. 6.9, one company in Railway Cutting and 3 companies in trenches and Bivouacs close by N. 36. a & b. Weather:- Showery in morning but fine in afternoon.	
		7th	Busily engaged in making final preparation for big attack to take place on the morning of 8th. Everyone keenly interested in the preparations and plans for attack. Bn. moved to its assembly position by Platoons marching off at various times between 10 p.m. and 12 midnight. At 12 midnight Bn. H. Qs closed at N. 36. a. 6.9 and opened at O. 36. d. 70.65 at same hour.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

On Daws Lieut Colonel,
C. O. 25th A.I. Battalion.

25th A. I. Battalion

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10th (Con)		<p>further proceeded with.</p> <p>Casualties: Officers: -- Killed: Lieut. C.A. Auchterlonie (M.C.) Wounded: Lieut. W. C. McCullough (died of wounds 12.8.18) O/Ranks: - Killed 2: Wounded 12.</p> <p>Report on Operation attached. Appendix E</p> <p>Weather: Fine.</p> <p>The night was spent in consolidating line occupied. Throughout the night enemy planes flew continuously dropping a large number of bombs but doing no damage.</p>	
	11th		<p>At 2.30 a.m. relieved in front line by 26th A. I. Bn and Bn. less support and reserve coys. which remained in same position, moved to VAUXVILLERS.</p> <p>At 9.30 p.m. Bn. moved to W.10. Bn. H.Qs at W.10.d.8.0.</p> <p>Casualties: N 1 1.</p> <p>Weather: Fine.</p>	
	12th		Bn. resting in bivouacs in W.10.	
	13th		Weather: Exceptionally fine and hot.	
	14th		Bn. in same place. The whole Bn. given a hot shower bath and change of underclothes at Bie.	
	15th		Baths in HARBONNIERES.	
	16th		On 15th August Lieut. W. Harrison M.M., was wounded in head from shrapnel pellet. Weather still fine and hot. Salvage operations and burying of dead horses in vicinity of bivouacs were carried out and Companies were reorganised.	
	17th		Bn. moved from HARBONNIERES by busses at 11 p.m. and arrived in BUSSEY Area at 1.10 a.m. on 18.8.18, and bivouaced at 1.45 a.m. in No. 8 Camp at H.29.d. Bn. H.Qs situated at H.29.d.1.2	
	18th		O.O. for move. attached. Appendix F Bn. resting. Weather fine.	
	19th		Bn. reorganising and re-equipping.	
	20th		On afternoon of 20th a Cricket Match was played - Battalion v. 7th Field Coy. Engineers. and was evenly contested, Bn. team winning by 20 runs.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Wm Davis Lieut-colonel,
C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.

25th A. I. Battalion.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Aug. 21st 1918		Bn. was inspected by C. O. at 9.30 a.m. and by G.O.C. Brigade at 3 p.m.	
	22nd		Bn. in Training, which consists of setting up drill and training of specialists. During day Bn. had use of BUSSY baths and received a clean change of underclothing.	
	23rd		Bn. in Training from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. The afternoon was devoted to cricket Match A. & D. Companies v. B. & C. Companies, resulting in a win for the latter by a margin of 36 runs. The weather during the day was showery.	
	24th		Bn. parade at 9.30 a.m. and Inspection by C. O., after which Bn. drill was done until 10.30 a.m. The remainder of the morning being devoted to training of specialists, setting up drill, etc. Afternoon: Cricket match between Officers and Other Ranks, the latter winning by 5 wickets. Weather fine still.	
	25th		Bn. attended Brigade Church Parade in BUSSY Chateau Ground. Afternoon: The Bn. held Aquatic Sports in canal close by to camp which was very much appreciated by all ranks. All events were keenly contested.	
	26th		Orders received from Brigade to be in readiness to move at an hour's notice. Bn. occupied in Training in morning, and afternoon was devoted to making preparations for move. Weather: Dull and showery.	
	27th		Bn. standing by ready to move. Bn. left BUSSY per busses at 7 p.m. and arrived in R.7 at 11.30 p.m. Operation Order for Move attached. Appendix G.	
	28th		Orders were received to take over from 18th A. I. Bn. at R.4.b.8.4 at 11.50 a.m. This Order was cancelled by phone message from Bde. Major at noon. At 2 p.m. Orders were received by 'phone from Bde. to be ready to move at 3.30 p.m. to take over from 20th A.I. Bn. in R.5.b.4.2. Transport and Q. M. moved to L.34 central. At 5.30 p.m. Bn. arrived at R.5.b. Dispositions were:- Bn. H.Qs R.5.b.3.5 - "A" Coy. R.5.b.8.3 - "B" Coy. R.5.b.8.1 - "C" Coy. R.6.a.2.3 "D" Coy. R.5.b.9.1. At 8.10 p.m. Colonel Davis was ordered to report at Bde. H.Qs. At 8.45 p.m. Major Page was sent for report to Bde. H.Qs.	

(A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750/600 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

25th A. I. Battaion.

Wm Daws Lieut-Colonel,
C. O. 25th A. I. Battaion.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Aug. 28th (Con)		Coy. Commanders' Meeting was called at Bn. H.Qs. at 11 p.m. and verbal instructions were given re the operations for the 29th inst.	
	29th		Bn. took part in operations. Report on operations. See Appendix H. attached. Enemy activity very quiet during day. Weather fine.	
	30th		Bn. remained in supports. Dispositions were: - Bn. H.Qs. N.6.b.1.5., "A" Coy. O.1.c.5.5 to O.7.a.5.8., "B" Coy. H.36 a & c., "C" Coy. N.10.c.0.8 to N.12.a.9.3., "D" Coy. N.6. a & b. Enemy activity very quiet during day. Weather fine.	
	31st		Dull and raining. At 8.30 am. Bn. were ordered to be ready to move at 15 minutes notice. At 1.30 p.m. the Bn. were ordered to move to I.14 via OMENIECOURT-les-CLERY, but owing to congestion of troops the Bn. did not cross the River and bivouaced at H.12.c and H.14.d. Bn. H.Qs at H.12.b.1.2. At 10.20 p.m. Orders were received from Bde. to man Bridge-head and instructions were issued to Lieut. Stewart. See Appendix I. attached.	
	31st		Strength: 44 Officers, 706 O/Ranks including detached but effective 20 Off. & 196 O/Rs.	
			The following is a list of casualties suffered and decorations received during month:--	
			Casualties:-- Killed: Lieut. C.A. Auchterlonie (MC), Lieut. H. Templeman & 9 O/Rs. Wounded: Lieut. A.P.H. Adair, Lt. H.A.T. Ingram, Lt. W.C. McCullough, Lieut. W. Harrison (MM) and 64 O/Ranks.	
			Decorations: Lieut. C.A. Auchterlonie (MC) - "Bar to M.C." Lieut. S. J. Smith - "M.C." 2267 Pte. G. Cargill - "D.C.M." 3774 Sgt. C. Brooker - "D.C.M." 526 Cpl. J. Taylor, MM. - "Bar to M.M." 2700 Cpl. A.W. Mackay, MM - "Bar to M.M." 4356 Sgt. R.D. Alford - "M.M." 984 Sgt. A.E. Smith - "M.M." 5560 Pte P.J. Connole - "M.M." 5593 Pte P. O'Grady - "M.M."	

WAR DIARY

OF

25th A. I. BATTALION.

FOR

AUGUST

1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
"A"	Operation Order No. 59.
"B"	Operation Order No. 60
"C"	Operation Order No. 61
"D"	Preliminary Report on Operations 8.8.18.
"E"	Report on Operations of 9th and 10th Aug. 1918.
"F"	Operation Order No. 62
"G"	Operation Order No. 62a.
"H"	Report on Operation on 29th August 1918.
"I"	Instructions to Lieut. Stewart dated 31.8.18.

Dm Davis Lieut-colonel,
C. O. 25th A. I. Battalion.

25th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

OPERATION ORDER No. 59.

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

2-2-18.

1. The Southern and Northern Divisional boundaries will be readjusted on the night of 2/3rd. August 1918.
2. To effect this the following redistribution of troops will take place -
 - (a) The 6th. A.I. Brigade will take over the whole of the Divisional front.
 - (b) The 7th. A.I. Brigade will be Support Brigade.
 - (c) The 5th. A.I. Brigade will be Reserve Brigade.
3. The 25th. A.I. Battalion will relieve the 19th. A.I. Bn. in Support positions in O-28-a & b O-21-d O-23-c O-29-d, each Company relieving its opposite alphabetical Company.
4. Advance party of 1 N.C.O. per platoon, Company gas N.C.O. and Lieut. McCullough will be at Bn. H.Qtrs. at 5pm. and go forward to take over trench stores etc.
5. The 25th. Battalion will be relieved in its present position by the 17th. A.I. Battalion.
6. All Trench Stores trench shelters etc. will be handed over and taken over and carefully checked and receipts in duplicate will be sent to Bn. Hd. Qtrs. by noon 3rd. instant.
7. All packs and blankets will be collected and dumped at LA MOTTE.
8. Each man will carry 220 rounds S.A.A. and a Bombs.
9. Trenches, Bivouacs and Company areas are to be left in a clean and sanitary condition.
10. Lewis Guns and equipment will be carried on limbers to new Company positions.
11. Completion of relief will be notified by C.C. Coys. wiring their own name.
12. Transport & Q.M. Stores will remain in their present location.
13. R.A.P. will be situated at O-29-a-6-2
14. Bn. Hd. Qtrs. will be situated at O-28-b-8-8
15. Acknowledge.

(Signed) E.W. Cleary

Lieut.,

for Adjutant 25th. A. I. Battalion.

Issued at :-

Distribution:-

- 1-4 Companies.
- 5 T.O. & Q. M.
- 6 7th. A.I. Brigade.
- 7 19th. A.I. Bn.
- 8-10 War Diary.
- 11 File.

SECRET.Copy No. 725th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.OPERATION ORDER No. 60.

Reference Map Sheet 62D. S.W. 1/20,000.

4-8-18.

1. The 25th. A.I. Battalion will move from its present positions to the GLISY SYSTEM on the 4th. instant. The move will commence at 10pm. Positions will be handed over to Units of the 5th. Australian Division.
2. All dumps trench and area stores will be checked and handed over and receipts in duplicate forwarded to Bn. Hd. Qtrs. by noon the 5th. instant.
3. Advanced party of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men per Coy. under Lieut. H.G. Webb have gone forward to arrange accommodation. They will also act as guides and meet Companies at Cross Roads at N-27-d-2-3.
4. After relief Lewis Guns, panniers etc. will be loaded on limbers North of Railway Bridge at O-27-d-7-9. No. 1's. of Lewis Guns will accompany limbers to new positions and collect guns.
5. At least 150 yards distance will be maintained between platoons during relief.
6. Location of Bn. Hd. Qtrs. and R.A.P. will be notified later.
7. Acknowledge.

E.W. Evans

Lieut.,

for Adjutant 25th. A.I. Battalion.

Issued at :-

Distribution:-

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

25th-AUSTRALIAN-INFANTRY--BATTALION.OPERATION ORDER NO. 61Reference Map Sheet 62 D. S.E. & S. W. 1/20,000In the Field 7th Aug. 1918.

1. INTENTION:

(a) On a date and hour to be notified later the 7th A.I. Brigade will carry out an attack.

(b) The Objectives have been notified verbally.

(c) The attack will be carried out by:--

(1) 26th A. I. Battalion "A" Battalion on the Right.

(11) 25th A. I. Battalion "BB" Battalion in the Centre

(111) 27th A. I. Battalion "C" Battalion on the Left.

(IV) 25th A. I. Battalion "D" Battalion in Support.

(d) The flanks of the Battalion will be:--

"A" Battalion 26th Battalion Right will be Rlwy exclusive

"B" Battalion 28th Battalion Right flank from P-31-d 7.6 Road Junction inclusive at V-3-a.00.75 Road Junction V-5-a 0.1 V-5-d.20.80.

"C" Battalion 27th Battalion Right Flank P-32-a -3.6 - P.33 Central P-36-c 0.0

Left
Right Flank a line from P-26-c - 8.3 to P-36 Central.

2. On Y/Z night the 25th A. I. Battalion will leave its present concentration position and move to assembly position as detailed in this Order.

3. Companies will be disposed of as follows:--

"A" Company will detail (a) Two Platoons as carrying Platoons to report to H.Q.'s 26th Battalion at 10.30 p.m. 7.8.18 - 30 picks and 60 shovels to be carried.

(b) One Platoon as a carrying and Escort Platoon to report to O.C. 7th A. I. T. M. Bty. at O-27-c-1.4 at 8 p.m. on 7.8.18.

"B" Company will detail:-- (a) Two Platoons as Liaison Between 27th and 19th Bns. and act as per instructions issued separately.

(b) One Platoon to 22nd M/Gun Coy. to report to Lt. FOLEY 22nd M/Gun Company at Railway Bridge at O-25-c-6.4 at 7.45 p.m. 7.8.18.

"C" Company will detail: - (a) Two Platoons as Carrying Party to 27th Battalion - to carry 30 picks and 60 shovels and be formed up behind 27th Battalion on jumping off tape at zero minus one hour.

(b) One Platoon to report to Lt. FOLEY 22nd M/Gun Company at Bridge at O-25-c 6.4 at 7.45 p.m. on 7.8.18.

"D" Company will detail: - (a) Two Platoons to act as carrying party to 28th Battalion and to report to 28th Battalion H.Q.'s at O-32-a-8.5 at 11 p.m. on 7.8.18 carrying 30 picks and 60 shovels.

(b) One Platoon to act as Escort of P.O.W. as separately instructed.

4 TANK CO-OPERATION:

"C" Company (12 tanks) 2nd Tank Battalion will co-operate with the Brigade in the attack.

5 Assault and Supply Tanks will carry up ^{ammunition} ~~ammunition~~ water, etc. and dump same at V-5-c 5.5 - V-5-a 80.70 - P-31-d 50.60

(2)
OPERATION ORDER NO. 61

6 ARTILLERY:

The attack will be supported by Artillery Barrage as per barrage map issued separately.

7 M.G. and T. M. Co-operation will be as per attached table.

8 AIR-CRAFT:

Counter attack aeroplanes will fire a white parachute flare in direction of massing enemy troops

9 LIGHT SIGNALS:

The following Light Signals will be employed in Australian Corps area:--

- (a) S.O.S. No. 32 Grenade Green over Green over Green.
- (b) Success Signal - No. 32 Grenade White over White over White. These will be fired by the senior officer of attacking troops on the spot
- (c) The Canadian Corps on our right will use the following signals:--
S.O.S. - No. 32 Grenade Red over Red over Red. This Signal will also mean "We are held up and cannot advance without help"
- (d) "Lift your Fire" "We are going to advance" "Stop firing"
-- No. 32 Grenade Green over Green over Green.
- (e) "We have reached this point" - 3 White Very Lights fired in quick succession.

10 As soon as the various carrying and other platoons are no longer required the Battalion will reassemble in the old Amiens Line in P-34-b and d and flank defences in P-35-a.

"A", "B" and "C" Companies will be in P-34-b & d in that order from right to left and "D" Company in P-35-a.

11 Casualties to Lewis Guns will be reported to Battalion H.Q.'s as soon as possible stating whether a complete gun or parts are required.

12 ROUTES:

Line
Routes to jumping off ~~spots~~ will be as employed by Units to which Platoons are attached.

13 P. O. W:

The Divisional P. O. W. Cage is located at O-27-d 8.7. O.C, "D" Company will detail one Platoon to act as escort from forward area to P. O. W. Cage. At Zero this party will be in position at P-25-c 8.4 and at zero plus 90 minutes half the men will take up a position at Cross Roads in P-33-b. Relays will be arranged by O.C. escorts from P-33-b to P. O. W. Cage. Receipts will be given and obtained for all prisoners taken and handed over. This Platoon will carry and erect direction boards along the route.

14 BURIALS:

A Cemetery will be selected and opened by the Battalion at approximately V-4-b. Companies will arrange to bury all dead as soon as possible, taking care to identify the graves.

15 MEDICAL:

A piece of white cloth will be carried by all troops. Should a man be wounded and unable to walk back he will tie this piece of white cloth to his rifle, stick butt up, or tie it to the top of the crop to mark his position so that he may be found easily.

(3)

OPERATION ORDER NO. 61

- 16 R. A. P. will be at P-31-b 15.50 (28th Battalion H.Q's) and will move forward to ~~Box B~~ Bn H. Q, P-33-c 8.8 at zero plus 2 hours.
- 17 Bn. H. Q's will be at Q-36-d 70.65 from zero minus 3 hours until zero plus 90 minutes when it will move forward to about P-33-c 8.8.
- 18 All reports will be sent to Bn. H. Q's .
- 18 Transport and Q. M. Stores will remain in present position.
19. Synchronisation of watches:

Watches will be synchronised by Platoon Commanders with the Unit to which they are attached as near as possible to zero minus 4 hours.
20. Acknowledge.

(Sgd) E. W. Cleary, Lieut.,
for Adjutant 25th A. I. Battalion.

Distribution:

1 - 4	Companies
5	T.O. & Q. M.
6	7th A. I. Bde
7	File
8 - 10	War Diary.

96

appendix D
25TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON OPERATIONS -- 8 8 18

The 26th and 28th Bns. 7th A. L. T. M. Bty. and 22nd M. G. Coy. asked for parties attached to them to report to their respective H. Qs at various hours before Zero. This was done.

The two Platoons for 27th Bn., two for left flank liaison and one for P. O. W. escort marched independently to rendezvous.

All troops were in position on Jumping Off Tape in good time.

At Zero an exceptionally thick fog enveloped our area and it was impossible to see more than 10 yards. This continued until Zero plus 100 minutes when it gradually cleared.

The enemy evidently heard either the infantry or tanks getting into position. At 3.40 a.m. he opened a fairly heavy barrage of H. E. on at least 26th Bn. assembly line. This was also accompanied by a fair amount of Machine gun fire. The shelling ceased about 4.10 a.m. and almost ceased by zero hour.

It would be impossible to state exactly how the line advanced at zero as the fog was so thick but all wounded and escorts for prisoners reported progress going ahead exactly as to table.

At Zero plus 100 minutes Bn. H. Qs moved forward to P.33.c.8.8 and re-assembled the Bn. in P.34.b and d and P.35.a. This was all completed by 10.30 a.m.

At 2 p.m. Bn. H. Qs. moved forward to present position at P.34.d.6.0 and companies remained in their positions.

Companies were all re-organised and all arrangements for an immediate move made.

The men were fed and rested and are now ready for whatever eventualities may occur.

about 100 yds forward of jump off line

(Sgd.) W. M. Davis, Lt-Colonel,

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

8.8 18.

Appendix

D

12.

25TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

REPORT ON OPERATIONS ON 9th and 10th AUGUST 1918

Reference Map Sheet 62D.S.E.

On morning of 9.8.18 we received instructions re attack, Bn. were then bivouaced at P.34.b and d.

Bn. marched to Jumping Off Line "Old FRENCH LINE" in W.12.b and d where we assembled at 4.15 p.m.

At 4.30 p.m. (zero hour) attack was commenced.

No enemy were encountered in VAUVILLERS but on reaching Eastern side of Village a fairly large number of enemy were met. These showed a certain amount of fight firing their machine guns until our troops were near them when they would drop back.

The attack was carried out with two companies in front line one in support and one in reserve, all in Artillery formations.

After passing through VAUVILLERS the attack edged off to the right a little and by the time the objective was reached the whole Battalion was off our own frontage and on that of 1st Division. This was caused by the fact that we were not in touch with 1st Division on our right and the 27th Bn. on our left (with whom we were in close touch) were also feeling in to their flank.

On reaching X.16 Central very considerable enemy resistance was met with (heavy M.G. and rifle fire). This was thought at the time to be our final objective (we were really 500 yards short of it) and we consolidated this line. We were still in touch with 27th Bn. but touch was not gained with 1st Division until about 8 p.m. who were a considerable distance to our right.

The line we held from X.16.a.5.5 to X.16.c.8.6 was taken up about 6 p.m. *The advance from the jumping off line being 3500 yds.*

Our casualties were:--

Killed:	1 Officer	20 Ranks
Wounded	2 "	15 "

No. of prisoners captured:--

Unwounded	3 Officers	90 Ranks
Wounded	1 Officer	18 Ranks

Captures: 1 - .77 gun and about 18 Light Machine Guns.

Estimated enemy killed: 25 to 30.

During the whole advance we were subjected to a fair amount of Artillery fire, 4.2 and 5.9 H.E.; although the fire was fairly accurate not many casualties resulted.

The tanks allotted to this Bn. did excellent work but unfortunately all were put out of action three by accident ^{to their machinery} and two by enemy fire.

On 10.8.18 we were to advance our line to Blue line in conformity with troops on our right. The 27th Bn. were then holding practically our part of the blue line.

Our attack was timed for 8 a.m. but troops on our right (1st Division) jumped off at 7.45 a.m.; our troops went with them and immediately came under heavy and accurate machine gun and rifle fire.

As we had absolutely no Artillery or tank assistance the attack was not pushed on with the vigour it should have, had we artillery support. I was with the attacking troops and saw that our advance of a few hundred yards would cost us very heavy casualties if pushed on. As we were already out of touch with 1st Division who had gone off nearly 1000 yards to our right

the attack was stopped after we had advanced our line 500 yards on to line X.16.b.3.7 to X.16.d.7.5 and arrangements were made to get Trench Mortar co-operation before continuing.

A large number of the enemy were moving backwards and forwards and Lewis Gun fire was brought to bear on these accounting for a good number.

(2)

The arrangements for continuing the attack later in the day were cancelled owing to preparations for further operations on following day.

Casualties:

Killed	1 Officer	20/Ranks
Wounded	1 "	14 "

No prisoners were captured except one Officer who fought to the last and refused to surrender - he was killed, and it is estimated about 100 other casualties were inflicted on enemy.

Three Light Machine guns were captured and one of our own tanks which had been put out of action the previous day by an enemy shell and had been occupied by enemy as a post was retaken.

(Signed) W. M. Davis, Lieut-colonel,

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

12.8.18.

Appendix

E

14

Appendix "F"

Appendix

F

15

SECRET

Copy No. 8

25TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

OPERATION ORDER NO 62

Reference Map Sheet 62-D 1/40,000.

August 17th 1918

1. The 7th A. I. Brigade will be relieved by the 96th Infantry Brigade at 10 p.m. tonight.
2. On relief the 7th Brigade will move to the BUSSY AREA by bus.
3. The 25th Battalion will embuss at ~~W-3-a 6.3~~ ^{W-3-a 6.3} at 10.40 p.m. tonight 17th instant and debuss at N-4-c 7.3 where guides will meet the Unit.
4. The Battalion will move from present position at 10.20 p.m. tonight.
 (b) Order of march: Bn. H.Q's, "A", "B", "C" and "D" Companies
 (c) The Battalion will move in Half Companies at 200 yds. distance.
 (d) All precautions will be taken regarding lights, etc. to prevent enemy night bombing planes from discovering infantry movement.
5. Lt. CAULFIELD will report to the Brigade embussing Officer Captain TRUNDLES at Brigade embussing point (W-3-a 6.3) at 10 p.m. tonight.
6. Transport less Lewis Gun Limber will move by road during daylight
 (b) The T.O. will detail the Lewis Gun Limber to report to Bn. H.Q's at 6 p.m. for instructions also maltese cart. The cooker and maltese cart will leave Bn. H.Q's at 6 p.m. ~~the~~ remainder of transport can move when ready.
7. Movement of troops or transport must be made in small bodies EAST of VILLIERS-BRETONNEUX.
8. ROUTE for TRANSPORT: - BAYONVILLERS - WARTUSEE - FOUILLEY - AUBIGNY - DACURS - BUSSY.
9. Companies will notify Bn. H. Q's of their location on arrival in new areas.
10. Acknowledge.

(Sgd) E. W. Cleary Lieut.,

for Adjutant 25th A. I. Battalion.

Distribution:

1	-	4	Companies
5			T.O. & Q.M.
6			7th A. I. Bde
8	-	10	War Diary.
7			File.

SECRET.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 62a.

August 27, 1918.

Reference Map Sheet 62C. & 62D. 1/40,000:

1. (a) The 7th A. I. Brigade Group will take over the Area Squares Q.12 and 18 and R.7 and 13 at present occupied by the 5th A. I. Brigade Group which will have vacated the area by 3 p.m. 27th instant.
(b) The 25th Battalion will take over from 17th Battalion.
2. Advance parties will meet the Unit at debussing point at Cross Roads Q.22.d.O.6 and act as guides to Battalion Area.
3. (a) This Unit will arrive at Embussing point at N.5.d.7.0 at 6.25 p.m.
(b) Troops proceeding to Embussing point will avoid main roads near the Road Junction at N.5.d.7.0 and use Dry Weather tracks to their appointed positions in the bus column.
4. (a) The Battalion will fall in on Battalion Parade ground ready to move at 5.35 p.m.
(b) Tea will be at 4.30 p.m.
5. (a) Transport -- The 4 Cookers and 2 Water Carts will move from present position to Q.22.d.O.6 under Sgt. Best. A guide will meet them at this point.
(b) Transport less 4 Cookers and Water Carts will move Brigaded as per Special Order.
6. The present Camp must be left in a clean and sanitary condition.
7. Acknowledge.

Distribution:--

(Sgd.) G. Carroll,

Captain,

Adjutant 25th A. I. Battalion.

- | | |
|------|-------------|
| 1-4. | Coys. |
| 5. | Q.M. & T.O. |
| 6. | Bde. |
| 7-9. | War Diary. |

REPORT ON OPERATION ON 29th AUGUST, 1918. 17

Reference Map Sheet 62C. 1/4 0,000.

On the night of 28th August the Battalion were bivouaced in I.5.b., Bn. H. Qs at R.5.b.9.1.

At 8.10 p.m. the C. O. was called to a conference at Brigade.

At 11 p.m. a meeting of Company Commanders was called and verbal instructions issued re the 7th A. I. Brigade attack on morning of 29th instant.

The attack was made by three Battalions in the line:

26th Bn. on the Right
28th Bn. in the Centre
27th Bn. on the Left
25th Bn. in Reserve.

The objective was the River SOMME. Boundaries:- The Right boundary of the Brigade was the East and West grid line running between Squares M.12 and M.18.

The Left boundary was East and West grid line between Squares H.19 and H.25.

Zero hour was fixed at 7.30 a.m.

Dispositions for the attack were:-

"A" Company on the Right)	In Artillery Formation.
"B" Company on the Left)	
"C" Company on the Left)	In Artillery Formation.
"C" Company on the Right)	
"D" Company on the Left)	

Echeloned to the two front companies.

The Battalion moved from I.5.b. at 5.20 a.m. Route:--
"B" and "D" Coys. moved along the CAPPY-HERBECOURT Road; H. Qs
"A" and "C" Coys. along CAPPY-BECQUINCOURT Road. At 7.20 a.m.
all Companies reported in position and ready to jump off.
Bn. H. Qs was at M.6.b Central. At 7.30 a.m. the Battalion advanced without incident.

At 8.45 a.m. Bn. H. Qs was established at sugar Mill in FLANCOURT and the Bn. could be seen advancing over high ground in N.5 and H.35.

At 9 a.m. received a message that all objectives were gained and the C. O. decided upon the following dispositions:--

Bn. Headquarters N.6.b.5.5.	
"A" Coy. O.1.c.5.5.	"C" Coy. N.12.c.0.8 to N.12.a.9.3
"B" Coy. H.36.a	"D" Coy. N.6.a and b.
In Trench.	

The advance was uneventful from our point of view.

Our Casualties: - Killed - 20/Rs. Wounded: 50/Rs.

(Signed) J L Fletcher, capt.,

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

Appendix "I"

25th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Instructions to Lieut. Stewart:

You will take charge of Platoon to proceed along Western bank of Canal to find three bridgeheads at following places:--

I.19.c.5.0 over canal and river
I.19.c.3.0 and I.19.c.0.8 over canal du NORD.

The situation in I.20 and I.26 is not yet cleared up so Platoon will move along Western side of Canal.

Platoon will take 3 Lewis guns and will if possible defend bridges on Eastern side - one gun to each bridge-head.

If however it appears that bridges are likely to be destroyed by shell fire the Platoon will return to Western side and guard the bridges by patrol.

This Platoon will move at once and the runners shall bring back word as to time platoon left present position.

31.8.18.

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