

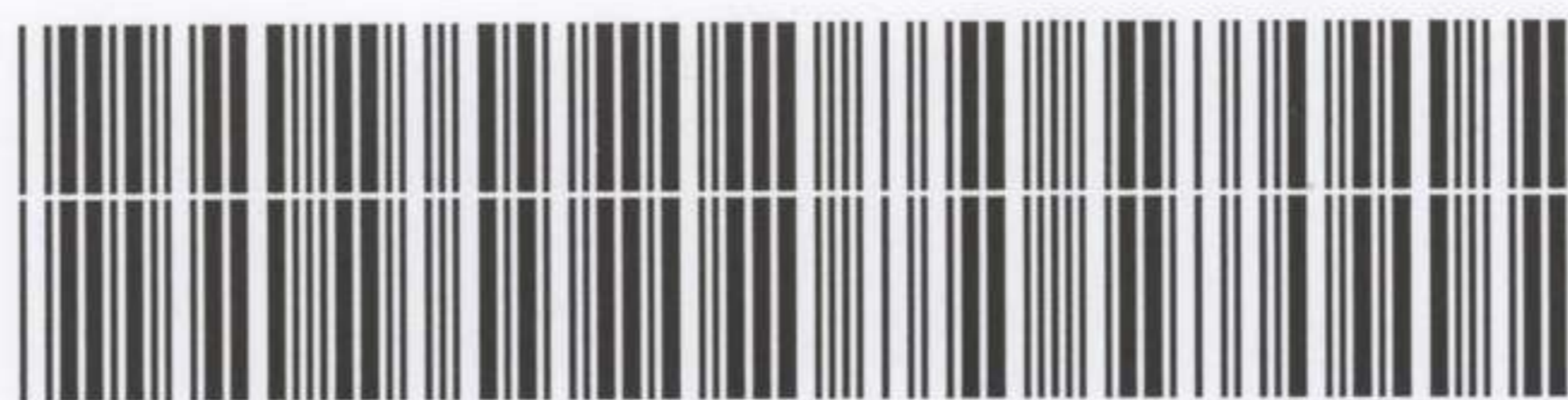
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/37/26

Title: 20th Infantry Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/37/26

WAR DIARY

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

20th B

VOLUME 21

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ARQUES.	SEPTEMBER.			
	1 st		Training and Resting. Capt. G. Morgan Jones marched out for training Battalion and Lt. G. E. Cameron marched in from base.	
	2 nd		Resting. Church Parade. Lt. W. G. L. Bain marched out to 1 st Angas Corps school as an instructor. Captain Chaplain Hope marched in from Paris leave.	
	3 rd		Training and resting. Lt. A. J. Day marched in from Training Battalion.	
	4 th		Training — lay holiday.	
	5 th		Training and resting. The following marched out to a Divisional bombing course: — Lt. R. G. M. Bell, Lt. J. Marlan, and second Lt. H. J. Bancroft and G. E. Cameron. Capt. A. Bolton Wood, and Lt. V. B. Portman marched out for Paris leave.	
	6 th		Training and resting. (Divisional Exercise).	
	7 th		Do. Do.	
	8 th		Do. Do.	
	9 th		Resting. Church Parade. 2 nd Lt. M. Greenwood marched out to 5 th A. L. I. M. B.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ARQUES.	10 th		Training and Resting. Captain A. Bolton Wood, M.C. and Lieut. J. B. Portman marched in from Paris leave. Officers mentioned on the 5 th returned from Divn. Bombing School.	
	11 th		Resting - May Holiday. The B.O. left early in the morning to visit the front line. Lt. R. G. E. Black marched in from 2 nd Angas Corps School. Lt. S. G. Calderwood, M.C. marched in from England. Lieut. J. S. Hall, M.C. appeared in orders as a captain.	
	12 th	9.7 am.	The battalion moved out for STEENVORDE, and arrived there at 5.10 pm.	
STEENVORDE	13 th		The people were found to be unfriendly, showing their spirit by a very patent disinclination to allow the troops to use water, or, in fact to assist them in any way. The battalion marched out for DICKEBUSCH area at 6.10 am, and arrived there at 4.30 pm, camping once more in a duck boarded camp.	
DICKEBUSCH WEST AREA	14 th		Rested for the morning and moved forward in the afternoon at 3 pm. to shelters in the banks of the	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 89

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES AREA.	14 th		<p>bonal that skirts the western edge of YPRES.</p> <p>During the day Lt. Lindsay took a pack train forward up the WESTHOEK Ridge. losing two horses killed and 3 wounded — horses of the 17th and 19th Bataes:</p>	
"	15 th	5 am	<p>Company commanders and I. O. went forward to the front line to reconnoitre the front line position.</p> <p>A carrying party went forward at seven p.m. to form the Brigade dump for forthcoming operations.</p> <p>Lt. Calderwood, M.C. was sent from reinforcement camp to 7th Bde to act as Liaison officer.</p>	
	16 th		<p>Resting and preparing. Administrative orders were issued by Bde: working parties went forward by night.</p>	
	17 th		<p>Resting and preparing. Working parties went forward by night.</p>	
WALLS OF YPRES.	18 th		<p>The battalion moved into the walls of YPRES, and final preparations were begun. Major W. J. R. Scott, D.S.O. left for liaison work with the 9th British Division.</p>	
	19 th	5 pm	<p>The battalion moved forward for the attack. 2nd Lt. Bonfield</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 89

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19 th		and 25 men joined a tunnelling company as a temporary attachment.	
WESTHOEK RIDGE.	20 th		The battalion attacked and took its objective. Repelled a counter attack.	
HANNABEEK WOOD.	21 st		Held the line. Repelled a second counter attack and were relieved by the 19 th Bateria by 10.42. pm. The battalion moved out to transport lines near Belgian Battery boomer.	
			<p>Appendices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Record of events." a. Brief summary submitted as an initial report. 2. Original messages received during the action. 3. Bateria: Operation Orders. 4. Brigade operation Orders and Artillery information with a list of aeroplanes. calls. 5. Aeroplanes photos and map. of the ground operated over. 6. A detailed history of the action. 	

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Belgian BATTERY CORNER	22 nd		The battalion moved out to HALIFAX Camp on the Ouderdom-VLAMERTINGE Road. Casualties were now found to have been 3 officers and other ranks killed, 9 officers and other ranks wounded, and ten other ranks missing	
HALIFAX CAMP	23 rd		Resting - Church Parade	
"	24 th	8:25 AM	The battalion moved out for DALLINGTON Camp in the ABEDE Area, arriving at 11 AM.	
DALLINGTON CAMP	25 th		Reorganising & Resting. Reinforcement Camp Party marched in	
"	26 th		do do Lt Alexander marched in from Training Battalion. 2nd Lt Lewis took forty volunteer stretcher bearers to the front line.	
"	27 th		Reorganising & Resting	
"	28 th		Training - Sudden Orders to move at 1.30 PM. Moved to MONTREAL Camp near Ouderdom. Decorations were presented by the Corps Commander (Lt Gen. Birdwood) at Dallington Camp Area (Appendix 1)	Appendix 1 List of honors awarded
MONTREAL CAMP	29 th	8 AM	Marched out for a bivouac camp east of Ypres ramparts. 2nd Lt Rainey marched out for Training Battalion. Major W. R. Scott D.S.O. Capt. McDonald M.C. and Capt. Garlon remained at Transport lines. Battalion commenced working in the forward area.	
"	30 th		Bombing during the day and night accounted for a few men. Lt. Gifford marched in from Engineers.	Lt. Gifford Lt. Col. Lt. Gifford Lt. Gifford

20TH. BATTALION, 5TH. A. I. BDE.

RECORD OF EVENTS.

Headquarters,
22nd. Sept. 1917.20th Br.
Appendix 51Record of
Events.

At 11.45 p.m. on the night 19/20th. September, the Battalion had assembled on the reverse slope of the BELLEWARDE RIDGE and sent forward guides to the tapes marking the "Jumping-off" line.

At 12.25 a.m., "D" Coy. moved forward and took up position on the "Jumping-off" line. The other Companies quickly followed, and by 4.45 a.m. the Battalion had assumed order-of-battle and lay in shell holes waiting the time for attack.

At 5.35 a.m., just before our barrage opened, the enemy was observed to open fire on the right flank Brigade, and at 5.37 a.m. he commenced shelling our front line. "D" Coy. immediately went forward and the remaining Companies followed.

At 5.40 a.m. our barrage came down just ahead of the moving Companies and the attack commenced. Up to this point there had been few casualties. The enemy barrage now closed down heavily on the WESTHOEK RIDGE, but only lightly on the forward slope.

By 6.5 a.m. the enemy barrage had died very noticeably and his light guns operated spasmodically.

At 6.11 a.m. a single set of 3 red flares was seen to go up showing that the first objective had been reached, and 4 minutes later red ground flares were seen beyond the line of the first objective.

The Companies were now seen forward of the first objective, rapidly digging in, while our barrage had halted on the crest of the ridge above.

At 6.19 a.m. the enemy barrage thickened and settled on the crest and forward slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE. The first batch of six prisoners came up the slope at 6.23 a.m., and they were rapidly followed by other ~~fellows~~ FILES. The enemy now began to send up pairs of white flares, and at 6.44 a.m. sent up white bouquets bouquets on our direct front and left flank. Three minutes later his barrage on the WESTHOEK RIDGE ceased.

At 6.54 a.m. more white bouquets were sent up by the enemy, and four minutes later his barrage re-commenced lightly lower down the forward slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE. News was now received that the Battalion had had slight casualties and was digging in forward of the objective, and also that Major A.K. Hosking M.C. had been killed early in the attack. The shelling of the forward slope and HANABEEK WOOD increased a few minutes later, and it was seen that the enemy's heavies were now falling into the wood.

The enemy barrage dropped ~~dropped~~ to intermittent shelling at 7.5 a.m. and became erratic.

By 7.24 a.m. our barrage had crept over the ridge above HANABEEK WOOD, and our men were seen to go over the ridge in excellent formation. A runner now brought word from Capt. Barlow that the objective had been gained and that he was digging in.

At 8.30 a.m. advice was received that a counter-attack Division at MOORSLEDE was on the move and preparation was made to meet it. For several hours shelling continued intermittently and heavy shelling on the slope beyond HANABEEK WOOD, from time to time, began to bring casualties, and forced the Companies to move further forward towards the crest of the hill.

At 3.45 p.m. Battalion Hd. Qrs. was moved forward to some concrete shelters near the south eastern edge of HANABEEK WOOD.

At 6.5 p.m. the enemy's shelling began to increase, and by 6.10 p.m. had developed into a heavy barrage along the HANABEEK WATER COURSE. Shortly after our S.O.S was seen above the ridge and our barrage came down in reply at 6.13 p.m. Heavy shelling continued for 45 minutes when the enemy barrage began to weaken.

From 6.45 p.m. enemy shelling became intermittent, but our barrage continued until 8.30 p.m. and died down at 8.45 p.m.

The night of the 20/21st. was quiet, and intermittent shelling throughout the following day did not prevent the work of clearing up after the operation. Relief orders were received at 4.30 p.m.

The enemy barrage came down again at 6.46 p.m. on the evening of the 21st. and 4 minutes later the S.O.S was seen above the front line. At 6.53 p.m. our artillery came into action. 10 minutes later many S.O.S signals went up on the 7th. Brigade front. By 7.7 p.m. the enemy barrage began to die and shortly after ceased.

At 10.42 p.m. the relief had been completed without casualties, the 19th. Battalion taking over the line held by the 20th.

Secret

At m. Service: Date:
 To From:
 By (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By:

TO { 17 18 19 20
 5 AMG W
 5 ALTM Bly

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* BM 117	19		AAA
Unit	will	send	an
officer	to	Post	14pm
at	night	of	19/20
at	at	10 pm	
1 am	to	Synchronise	
watch	AAA	acknowledge	
AAA	addressed	all	
unit	in	Post	

(duplicate copy)

From 5 AM Bde
 Place
 Time 1:25 A

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 (3198.) Wt. W 12952/M1294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 818.)

Secret

At m. Service: Date:
 To From:
 By (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By:

TO { 17 18 19 20
 5 AMG W
 5 ALTM Bly

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* BM 118	19		AAA
PPP	4342	7594	0020
4242	Date of zero is		
7494	Next group is an ordinal number of two figures		
(Copy + Duplicate)			
0020	=	20 th	

From 5 AM Bde
 Place
 Time 1:30 pm

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 (3198.) Wt. W 12952/M1294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 818.)

Service. Date. At. m. To. From. By. (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO 17 18 19 20th 1917
5 AMG Coy
5th ALTM 1067

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
* 13m 122 19

PPP 4355 6628

0540

4255 Hours of zero is

6558 Next group is a time
hour and minute.

0540 5-40 am.

(copy & duplicate)

From 5A/Bcd
Place 4501
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
* This line should be erased if not required.

(3198.) Wt. W 12952/M1294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V., Ltd. (E. 818.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix. Code. m. Words. Charge. No. of Message. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. This message is on a/c of: Recd. at. m. Date. Service. From. By. (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO DRLS
Securb
JELLY

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
* 13m 134 20th

move	forward	as	soon
as	guides	report	back
AAA	phase	report	when
in	position	AAA	acknowledg

From JAY
Place
Time 12:7 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

Appendix No. 2

89

8

Received 10-7-17
To. L. V. 20/9/17

9th Battalion.

We have 1st objective - with little opposition
& we are digging in. Things are well mixed
& a lot of 6th Regt & 1st Div seem to have
wandered across to us. I am trying to
straighten things out, but am only in touch
with A Coy. There are lots of men all along
border to the right.

Gen Broadbent Capt
of B. Coy

10 6.30 a.m.

Appendix 2
Messages
Received in
Action

Received 10-7-17
To. L. V. 20/9/17

We are entrenched
just in rear of deep
ridge. I 2 d g s
Capt Broadbent
& 2 other officers
B Coy is wounded
and in touch with
other corps.

Could do with more
S.A.A. & Rifle grenades

Harlan Lt
of B Coy

8.35 a.m.

Appendix No. 2

^{P.S.}
Note from Lt the War
Lie Murphy No. 9.17
wherein is for Brigade
to Co. 20th Bn

We are
at present at approx (J.2) 95.50
Co. Murphy has
been here and states
to counter attack developing
and is expected from
Polygon wood in 2 hours
this has been communicated
to companies.

All the men of
brought are OK

We sent 2 runners
to you immediately
you arrived here -

We are in communication
with forward Brigade &
have had year ago
twice - tried to
communicate with you
but line went on each
occasion - message on now
out - We have sent
me forward to 'A' Coy
9-30 am

From Capt Barlow
29 Co

Message over phone
have consolidated on
reverse slope of hill

All Coys in touch
later Barlow

We are now
in touch with D
Coy by phone
and are updating it
Coy report Centre

10-9-17

9-31 am

Barlow states
he is OK

Received
10-7 am

CO.
W. B. L.

At the War
10-9-17

From Marlan
To Co.
per phone

Only officer in
B Coy - others wounded -
about 12/15 of Casualties.
Things are ok

Received 10-17-17
A. St. of
Mumms

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 211
(In pads of 100)

No. of Message 42

Prefix... Code... Words 35 Charge...
Office of Origin and Service Instructions
Sent
At...
To...
By...
This message is on a/c of...
Date...
From...
By...
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { JELLY
~~TO...~~

Sender's Number. * 149 Day of Month. 20 In reply to Number. AAA

Message	From	Mode	Code
counter	attack	division	ATA
on	the	move	from
MOORSLEEDS	ATA	can	
be	expedited	to reach	
Wood	in	3	POLYCON

From JAY
Place
Time 7:50 pm

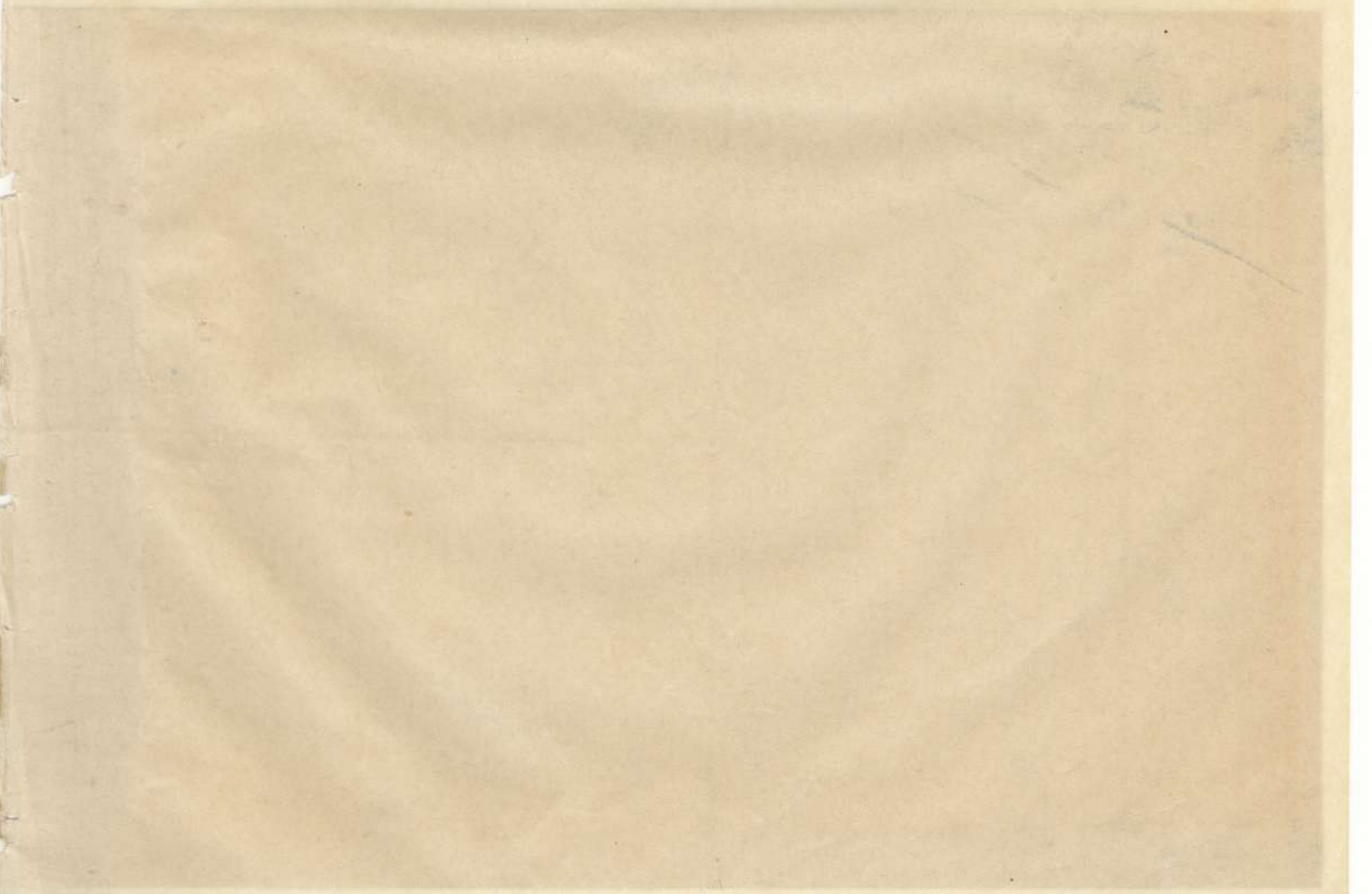
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name

89

Appendix No. 2

11

[Faint handwritten text on a piece of lined paper pasted onto the page. The text is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.]



MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121. (In pads of 100.)

Prefix..... Code..... m Words. Charge. No. of Message.....
 Office of Origin and Service Instructions. This message is on a/c of.....
 Sent..... Service. Date.....
 At..... m. From.....
 To.....
 By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")



TO All Units

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
 * 30895 20

Following from Army Commander begins aaa Please accept and convey to your Div and all your troops engaged, my hearty congratulations for the splendid success you have achieved today aaa ends

From JAY [Signature] Capt.
 Place [Signature] Captain
 Time 11 30 pm

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121. (In pads of 100.)

Prefix..... Code..... m Words. Charge. No. of Message.....
 Office of Origin and Service Instructions. This message is on a/c of.....
 Sent..... Service. Date.....
 At..... m. From.....
 To.....
 By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")



TO All Units

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
 * 30894 20

Following from Gen. Burdwood begins aaa Well done aaa we will hold this ANZAC aaa The 2nd Aust Div has done splendidly aaa ends

From JAY [Signature] Capt.
 Place [Signature] Captain
 Time 11 25 pm

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

89

Appendix No. 2

12

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. DRLS Secret		This message is on a/c of :		Recd. at m.
Sent		Service.		Date
At	By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		From
TO {				
20 th Pm				
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.		AAA
* Pm 192	21			
Reference order no 113				
AAA your Pm will				
not go into billet				
in Canal area as				
arranged will will				
halt at Bde Transport				
line for the night				
and move early tomorrow				
22 nd with to HALIFAX				
area AAA advance party				
Should report direct to				
area commandant HALIFAX				
area tomorrow morning				
AAA acknowledge				
From	D H Proch			
Place				
Time	5:15 Pm			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)	W. H. M. G. E.	
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.		
* This line should be erased if not required.				
(3198.) Wt. W 12952/M1294. 375,000 Pads. 1/17. H. W. & V., Ltd. (E. 818.)				

AND SIGNALS.

(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Service.
Sent		At..... m.		By.....		
To.....		By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By.....

TO { 17th 18th 19th 20th
5 AM G Coy
5 ALT M Bly

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* BM 184	21 st		

This brigade is being relieved by 6th Bde tonight AAA 19th Am 5th MG Coy 5th LT M Bly remaining under 6th Bde control AAA 22nd Am relieving 17th + 18th Am in port sector AAA 2 Corp 19th Am Bellwood Ridge relieving 20th Am Coy to arrange details AAA Guards from 17th + 18th Am will report outside HQ as follows 2 PM Am at 4 PM AM advance parties 2nd PM 4 PM Am at 7:30 PM Am remaining troops AAA

From	
Place	
Time	

AND SIGNALS.

(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at..... m.
Sent					Date.....
At..... m.		By.....		Service.	From.....
To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")			By.....

TO { (2)

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
*			

advance parties from 17th 18th + 20th Am will meet Capt Ruppel at Messon Sat. at 4 PM today AAA order follows AAA acknowledge

From	5 AM
Place	
Time	11:30 AM

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]

* This line should be erased if not required.

89

Appendix No. 2

14

89

Appendix No. 3 Copy No. 1815

20TH. BATTALION, A. I. F.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 18.

19th. Sept. 1917.

Reference Sheet:- WESTHORE 1,10,000

1. The enemy is holding a line of detached posts and positions as shown on attached "diagram '1'".

2. The Brigade is attacking on a one Battalion front with three objectives allotted as follows:-

1st. 20th. Batta. - 2nd. 18th. Batta - 3rd. 17th. Batta to be reached in leap frog fashion.

The 19th. Batta. will occupy the present line and will be passed through by the attacking battalions. The front line is a series of posts on a general line through:- J.2.c.2.5. J.3.a.5.9. and J.3.a.6.5.

The Seventh Brigade is attacking on our right, and a Scottish Regiment on our left. The latter are wearing "shorts".

3. The 20th. Battalion, between the following Brigade boundaries, will attack and occupy the first objective.

Right Boundary: a line through J.3.a.0.2, southern edge of road at J.3.b.2.8. and J.2.d.65.10, inclusive.

Left Boundary: a line through J.2.c.20.55. and J.2.b.2.8 inclusive

The first objective is approximately a line through J.2.b.20.15. and along eastern edge of HANABEKE WOOD to J.2.d.65.10.

4. (a) Coys. will attack in the formations shown on attached diagram "2" in order "A", "B", "C", "D" from right to left.

Company Boundaries will be:-

"A" Coy. Right:- Battalion's right boundary. Left:- A line through J.3.a.5.8. and J.2.d.55.35 (exclusive)

"B" Coy. Right:- A line through J.3.a.5.8. and J.2.d.55.35 (inclusive) Left:- A line through J.2.c.25.00 and J.2.d.40.65 (exclusive)

"C" Coy. Right:- A line through J.2.c.25.00 and J.2.d.40.65 (inclusive) Left:- A line through J.2.c.2.3. and J.2.d.3.9. (exclusive)

"D" Coy. Right:- A line through J.2.c.2.3. and J.2.d.3.9. (inclusive) Left:- Battalion's left boundary inclusive.

(b) The Battalion will move to BELLE WARDE RIDGE (rear of) where Artillery formation will be adopted for the move forward to be in position on a line from J.3.a.4.4. to J.2.c.00.45. by two hours before Zero. When this line has been reached the attack formation will be adopted, but compressed to the following distances:-

1st. wave, 15 yards. 2nd. wave, 30 yards. 3rd. wave, single line. 4th. wave, 30 yards. Total approx: 70 yards.

At Zero hour the Battalion will move forward in this order until the barrage is reached when it will expand to attack formation already shown.

When the objective has been taken patrols will be sent forward. "A" Coy. will garrison the houses at J.2.d.4.2. and establish a strong point there.

20th Bn
Appendix 3.
Bn: Operation
Order
No 18.

20TH. BATTALION, A.I.F.OPERATION ORDER No. 13. (continued)19th. Sept. 1917.

4. (c) Should the right Brigade be held up, a defensive flank will be established by that flank COY: approximately along the line of the road through J.2.d.5.1. with the houses at J.2.d.45.15. as the point of resistance and with a night post of 1 H.C.O. and 9 C.Rs. about J.2.d.75.15. Constant patrolling will be done from this point, East, South and laterally. If the left Coy. of the right Brigade is temporarily held up by the houses at J.3.b.2.5. until after our objective has been taken, it will then be assisted by our right flank Coy.
- If the left Brigade is held up by the wood at J.2.b.0.4. assistance will be rendered by the left flank Coy: and by "C" Coy. from beyond the creek, who will endeavour to clear the wood from a SOUTH EASTERLY direction. If a defensive flank becomes necessary on the left it will be formed on a general line through J.2.b.2.2. and J.2.a.3.3.
5. Two Vickers Guns per Coy. will accompany the right flank company and "C" Coy, and will be posted as follows:-
 Right:- About J.2.d.45.15. to sweep east up the re-entrant in J.3.c. and J.2.d.
 Left:- About J.2.d.7.5. to sweep south up the re-entrant in J.3.c.
 A Stokes Mortar will accompany each flank Coy; to be used as needed. Carrying parties, each of 1 H.C.O. and 3 men, will be supplied as follows:-
 Right Vickers Gun by "A" Coy. Left Vickers Gun by "C" Coy.
 Right Stokes Mortar by "B" Coy. Left Stokes Mortar by "D" Coy.
 Parties for Vickers Guns will report to M.G.Coy. at M.G.Coy. Headquarters at H.22.c.70.65. at 10 a.m. carrying balance of day's ration. Parties for the Stokes Mortars will be warned later.
6. A Battalion Dump will be established in the vicinity of J.2.d.2.2.
7. Battalion Headquarters 1st Phase:- At J.7.b.8.8.(approximately)
8. R.A.P:- At J.7.b.6.9.(approximately)
9. Zero Hour will be notified later.

V.B.Portman, Lieut.
 A/Adjt. 20th. Batta.

D I S T R I B U T I O N .

- 1)
- 2) Coys.
- 3)
- 4)
- 5 H. Q.
- 6 Bde. H. Q.
- 7 Right Bde.
- 8 Left Bde.
- 9 I. O.
- 10 S. O.
- 11 H. Q.
- 12 File
- 13 War Diary
- 14 Spars
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FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ORDER No. 112

Brigade Headquarters,
18th September, 1917.

Reference - Sheet 23 NE & ^{NW} SE 1/20,000
 HOOGE & WESTHOEK, 1/10,000

1. In conjunction with the Divisions to the north and south the 2nd Australian Division is attacking the enemy on

date to be notified later

The attack will be carried out by the 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the right and the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the left.

The 8th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be in Divisional Reserve.

The 27th Infantry Brigade (9th Division) is attacking on the left of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

2. Objectives:

There will be 3 stages in the operation, each stage forming one objective. These stages are shown on the attached map :-

The first stage on objective in	RED
The second " " " "	BLUE
The third " " " "	GREEN

The objectives of flank brigades are also shown.

(a) The RED objective runs through point J.8.b.8.7. along the eastern edge of HANEBEKE Wood to point J.2.b.20.15.

(b) The BLUE objective includes the capture of IRON CROSS REDOUBT and runs on line eastwards of IRON CROSS REDOUBT to points J.3.c.5.5. and J.3.c.40.85. - East side of ANZAC - point J.3.a.10.75.

(c) The GREEN objective is on the line J.3.d.0.6. - J.3.a.75.20. - J.3.a.5.5. - J.3.a.2.8.

Troops will consolidate on the GREEN line under cover of the barrage. Subsequently the barrage will be moved forward, when outposts will be established.

3. Enemy's Defensive System:

The enemy's defences embraced in the above objectives consist chiefly of detached shell holes positions, concrete positions, old gun pit positions, and defended buildings.

The western edge of HANEBEKE WOOD and the old trenches at IRON CROSS REDOUBT, and the trenches about J.2.b.8.4. may be expected to be held. Counter attacks must be expected to come during the day from the east through the wood in J.3.d. and along the north edge of the POLYGONEVELD.

During the night or a fog, counter-attacks may be expected anywhere along the Brigade front.

4. Action:

(a) The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. will attack on a 1-Battalion frontage, with 4 companies represented in the front line, extended in depth.

(b) The 1st objective will be attacked and captured by the 20th Battalion.

The 2nd objective will be attacked and captured by the 18th Battalion.

The 3rd objective will be attacked and captured by the 17th Battalion.

(b) continued.

The 19th Battalion will take over the front line on night of 18th/19th September (orders have been issued separately) and will hold the 2 companies in support on BELLEWARDE RIDGE formed up and in readiness to move forward in artillery formation (section column) to any part of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. front at some minutes' notice.

The 2 Coys. 19th Battalion garrisoning WESTHOEK RIDGE will also be prepared to move at short notice.

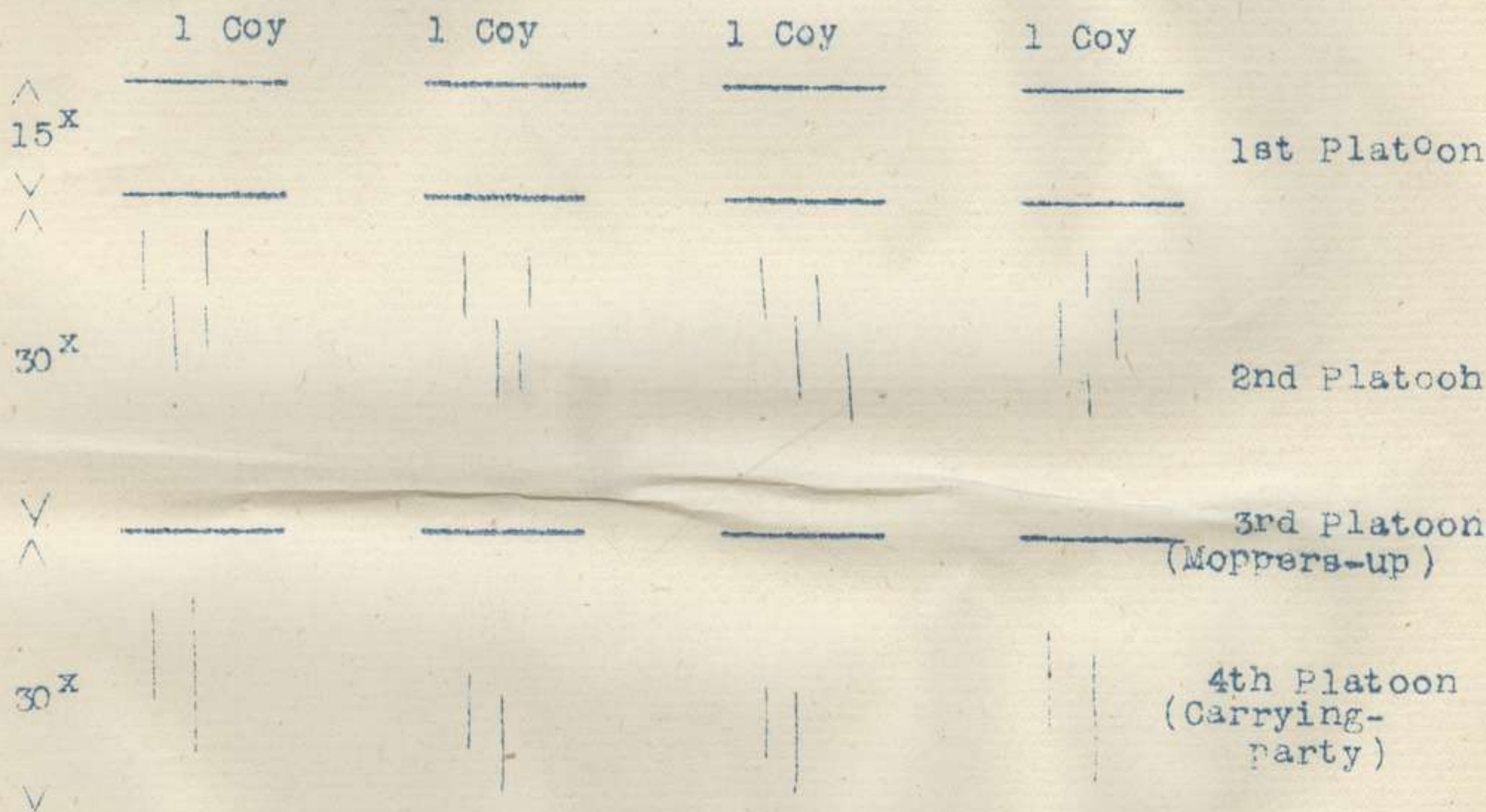
The attack by the 17th, 18th and 20th Battalions will be made in leap-frog fashion.

(c) Boundaries:

The boundaries are shown in attached Map (Appendix "B")

(d) System of Attack:

The 20th and 18th Battalions will be drawn up on forward slopes east of WESTHOEK RIDGE, the 17th Battalion west of BELLEWARDE RIDGE, in the following formation :-



Distances between waves will lengthen out to 70 yards as soon as barrage permits.

(e) Jumping-off Line:

The front jumping-off line of each of 20th and 18th Battalions will be taped out. In addition, to provide for direction forward, tapes will be laid dividing up the forming-up area into company sectors and will be produced for 50 yards ~~between~~ beyond the front jumping-off line.

The front jumping-off line will be on the line J.8.a.45.45. to J.2.c.00.35. *(approx)*

(f) Routes to places of Assembly:

Battalions will assemble by Companies on the west slope of BELLEWARDE RIDGE, moving in accordance with a March Table which will be supplied later.

In the case of the 20th and 18th Battalions, as each company assembles on BELLEWARDE RIDGE it will be sent forward to the jumping-off line by Major L.G.FUSSELL, MC, 17th Bn.

20th Battalion will dribble up small parties on the day before the attack, and assemble on BELLEWARDE RIDGE.

18th Battalion will move along MENIN ROAD to BIRR X ROADS, and thence to BELLEWARDE RIDGE.

17th Battalion will move in rear of 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. along 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. route to MENIN ROAD, thence to BELLEWARDE RIDGE. Times later.

(g) Special Marks:

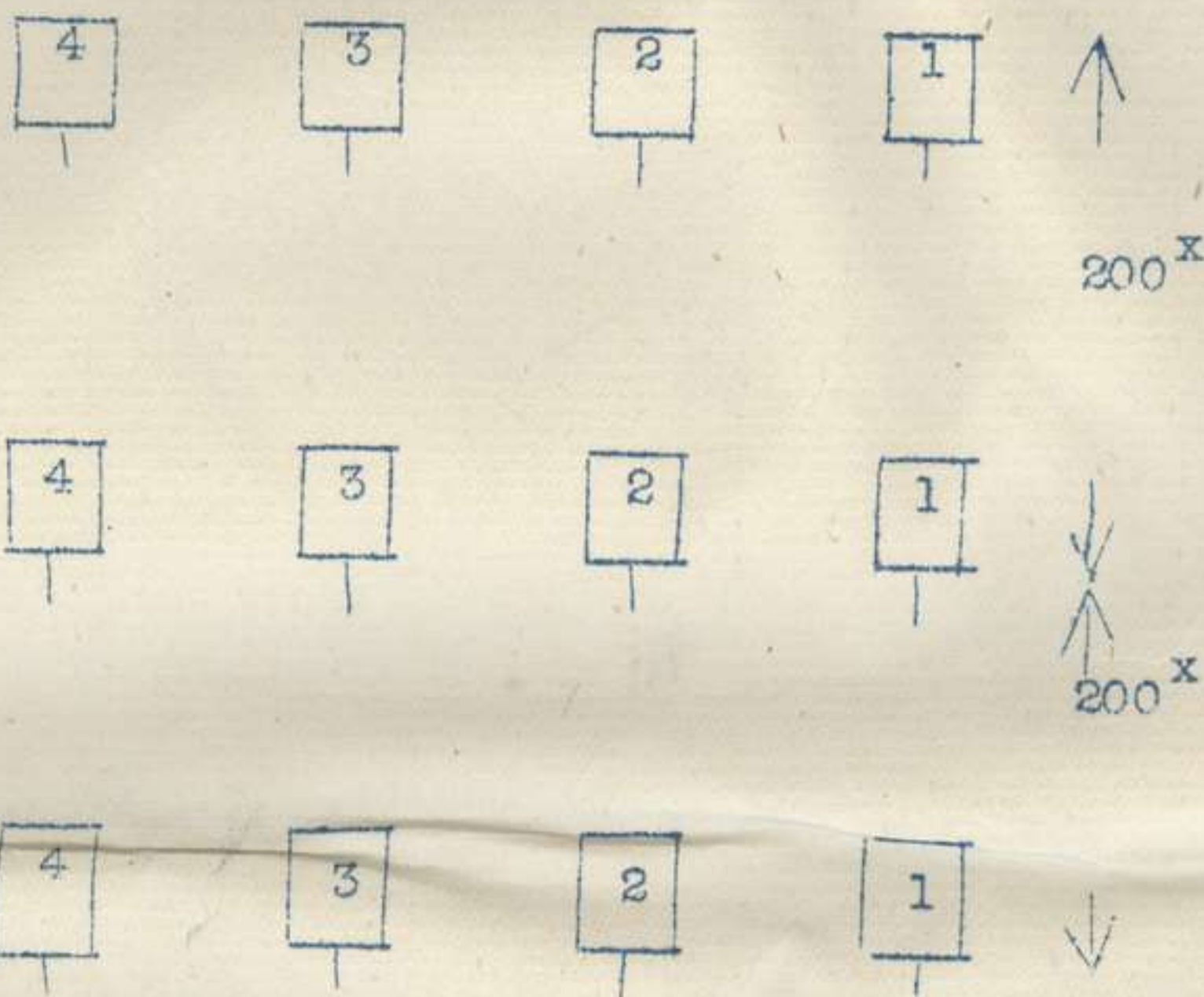
Troops allotted for the attack on the RED objective will wear a red diamond on the back of the steel helmet, those for the BLUE objective a blue diamond, and those for the GREEN objective, a green diamond.

(h) Marking Routes and Places of Assembly:

These routes will be reconnoitred and marked by notice boards at every point where men might go wrong.

At assembly places and jumping-off lines, notice boards will also be erected ^{on the night} previous to the attack, showing where the right of Companies will rest.

On the rear slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE, 3 lines of white boards marking the right of company boundaries will be put in on the day previous to the attack, at distances of 200 yards between lines, thus :-



In addition, at night the right set of posts will be marked by GREEN lamps, indicating the right boundary of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

The left boundary of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be marked by a RED Lamp, which will be observed as soon as BELLEWARDE RIDGE is passed, and which will be in position at Brigade Headquarters, J.L.d. 65+10.

17th, 18th and 20th Battalions will draw from Brigade H.Q. on afternoon of 18th instant 2 boards each, marked "TO BRIGADE H.Q.", "TO R.A.P.", "TO BDE. DUMP".

They will be responsible for placing them along the WESTHOEK - ZONNEBEKE Road in their sector.

(i) Time to be in position:

All assaulting troops are to be in position on their jumping-off line 1 hour before zero.

(j) Bayonets:

Bayonets will not be fixed until the barrage opens, to prevent them shining in the starlight, or the noise of fixing being heard.

To prevent mud clogging the handles, paper will be wrapped round them, and tied with string near the ring. No string is to be near the slot or spring.

(k) Direction:

Special arrangements will be made in each Company to ensure correct direction. The magnetic bearing will be taken for each company, and special officers will be detailed to check direction. The night previous to the attack, direction officers will visit WESTHOEK RIDGE for the purpose of picking up landmarks, stars, etc., which will assist in the advance.

(1) Principles to bear in Mind:

The troops are to be reminded -

- (1) to keep as close as they can to the artillery barrage.
- (2) to rush each post occupied by the enemy, immediately it is discovered, and envelop it.
- (3) to keep their rifles clean, and fire on every favorable target.
- (4) always to be prepared for counter attacks.
- (5) enemy aeroplanes will probably endeavour to harass the front line, which they are consolidating.

The front line will continue to consolidate, and the hostile planes will be engaged by every possible rifle and Machine gun in the support line.

(m) Moppers-up:

Each battalion sector will be divided up into 4 company sectors. Company mopping-up parties will clear these areas thoroughly. Special parties will be told off to deal with known enemy positions.

After mopping up, the mopping up parties will become supports to their companies.

(n) Touch between Brigades:

Between the 7th and the 5th Aust. Inf. Bdes. special parties will be detailed on the RED line by 20th Battalion to establish connection at J.8.b.4.9. (bend in the road); on the BLUE line by the 18th Battalion, road east of IRON CROSS REDOUBT at point J.3.c.4.4.; on the GREEN line by 17th Battalion at point J.3.c.85.55. north end of JACOBUS TRENCH.

Between the 27th Inf. Bde. and 5th Aust. Inf. Bde -
The 27th Inf. Bde. anticipate possible trouble in passing through HANEBEKE WOOD. They will probably use smoke. All ranks must understand that this is not to be mistaken for the smoke barrage put down by our artillery. (see para 6). The 20th Battalion must be prepared, if the 27th Inf. Bde. is held up, and they can cross through the wood or South east of it, to contain the wood and engage the enemy from the rear. The 27th Inf. Bde. may find it necessary to come into our area, to pass through the wood. Similarly some of the 20th Battalion may find it necessary to go into the area of the 27th Inf. Bde. to get through the wood.

Special instructions will be issued by the C.O. 20th Battalion to ensure that connection is made with the 27th Inf. Bde. on the RED line.

On the BLUE line, when ANZAC has been captured, the 18th Battalion must be prepared to assist in the capture of ZONNEBEKE REDOUBT, if such steps are necessary.

(o) Machine Guns:

The C.O. 5th Aust. M.G. Company will detail 1 Section to accompany each attacking Battalion. The remainder will be held in reserve on WESTHOEK RIDGE in the vicinity of Brigade H.Q. Their positions will be reported to Brigade H.Q. Special distribution is as follows :-

RED LINE

2 Guns in the vicinity of J.2.d.4.2. to cover the reentrant to the east in J.2.d., J.3.c. and 2 guns on the left flank to cover the approaches to ZONNEBEKE REDOUBT from the east and southeast.

BLUE LINE

2 Guns in the vicinity of house J.3.c.5.5., sweeping approaches from POLYGON WOOD and 2 guns in the vicinity of ANZAC sweeping the valley to the north in D.26.b., and D.27.c., and approaches from ZONNEBEKE.

(over)

GREEN LINE

2 Guns in vicinity of J.3.a.75.15. sweeping east and south east along valley in J.3.b. and approaches from POLYGON WOOD, and 2 guns at J.3.a.5.5. covering valley from J.4.a. to D.26.central.

Carrying parties of 8 men to each 2 guns will be furnished by the battalions to which they are attached.

(p) Stokes Mortars:

2 Mortars will be attached to each battalion. They will move in rear of the outer company ready to come into action. The remaining mortars will remain in reserve. When the final objective is reached STOKES mortars will be emplaced to command the enemy position in the vicinity of J.3.d.3.8.

Carrying parties of 8 men to each mortar will be furnished by the battalions to which they are attached.

(q) Strong Points:

In addition to the general consolidation of their respective lines, battalions will detail garrisons for, and establish strong points at approximately the following positions :-

- 20th Bn. at the buildings in the vicinity of J.2.d.4.2.
- 18th Bn. - houses at J.3.c.5.5., J.3.c.45.85. and ANZAC.
- 17th Bn. - in the vicinity of J.3.a.75.15. and J.3.a.5.5.

Vickers Machine Guns have been allotted to all these positions, except J.3.c.45.85.

(r) Divisional Strong Points:

The C.R.E. is preparing plans and detailing engineering parties as under for the following strong points, which are in addition to any others mentioned in sub-para (q).

The positions given are approximate and the work must be sited to use the ground to the best advantage.

The works must be mutually supporting and also be capable of defence from attack on their front.

A short field of fire to the front will suffice, provided the facilities for flanking fire are good.

Position	Garrison	To be furnished by	Engineering Party
J.3.c.20.55.	1 Platoon	19th Bn. from one of the 2 Coys. to be held in readiness.	6 o.r.
J.2.b.95.35.	1 Platoon	-do-	6 o.r.

(s) Engineering:

The C.R.E. is reconnoitring and preparing plans for the construction of a communication trench forward from WESTHOEK RIDGE in the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. area, along line of WESTHOEK - ZONNEBEKE road.

Twenty light portable bridges (5 for each Coy. front) suitable for throwing across the HANEBEKE stream, are being prepared. These will be in position on jumping-off line for the 20th Battalion to pick up as they go forward.

(t) Thinning Out:

After consolidation of the GREEN line by 17th Bn., the 20th Battalion will be prepared to be withdrawn, their place being taken by part of the 18th Battalion, which will then garrison the RED and BLUE lines.

(u) Move of Bn. Hdqrs:
Battalion H.Q. at the commencement of the operation will be on WESTHOEK RIDGE.

20th } Bns. Hdqrs. J.7.b.8.8. (approximately).
19th }

18th } Bns. Hdqrs. J.7.b.7.9. (approximately).
17th }

As each objective is gained, Battalion C.O's will be prepared to have another H.Q. selected for them, to which they will move forward as soon as possible after the capture of their objectives, notifying Brigade H.Q. of their movement and location of new H.Q.

(v) Carrying Parties:

Carrying parties will dump their loads in positions indicated to them on their objective and form battalion dumps. They may either be used as supports to their battalion or sent back for further supplies if required.

For loads, see administrative memo.

Appendix No. 3.

5. Dress:

Battle Order. Waterproof sheets will be carried rolled up on the back. Each man will carry 220 rounds of S.A.A., 3 Rifle Grenades and 4 sandbags. Each mopper-up will carry a tool in addition in the proportion of 3 shovels to one pick.

6. Artillery Barrage:

The artillery co-operation will include a number of separate artillery barrages by field and heavy artillery. They will be arranged to include -

- (a) A creeping barrage by field artillery, which the infantry will follow closely. Artillery Barrage Map is attached.
- (b) A creeping barrage, beyond the field artillery barrage, by heavy artillery which will not only creep forward but, during the pauses at each objective will jump back and creep forward a second time.
- (c) Certain standing barrages on known hostile concentration points and lines of approach.
- (d) In addition, counter-battery work will be carried out vigorously as long as the enemy's artillery is firing on our infantry.

Regarding (a) -

(i) The field artillery barrage will be put down 150 yards in front of the infantry jumping-off line at zero. The assaulting battalions for the Red objectives will at once move up close under it.

(ii) At Zero plus 3 minutes the barrage will commence to creep - the first 200 yards at a rate of 100 yards in four minutes, then at the rate of 100 yards in 6 minutes up to the protective barrage line 200 yards in front of the Red objective; here it will halt for 45 minutes.

(iii) It will then advance to the protective barrage line in front of the Blue objective at a rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes and will halt on this line for 2 hours.

(iv) Finally it will advance to the protective barrage line 200 yards beyond the Green objective at a rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes.

(v) The protective barrages on the Red, Blue and Green objectives will contain for the first minutes a proportion of smoke to indicate to the troops that the several objectives have been reached.

7. Patrolling:

It is essential that active patrolling be carried out each night before the attack day, to debar the enemy from moving near our advanced posts and to cover reconnaissances of that area in connection with the selection of the best jumping-off lines.

The garrison of advanced posts within 100 yards of the line on which our Artillery barrage will fall, are to be drawn back half an hour before zero to the rear of the formed up troops.

8. Headquarters:

The Advanced Headquarters of Division and Brigades are as follows :-

Advanced H.Q.	2nd. Aust. Div.	-	H.21.d.6.3.
"	"		5th. A.I. Bde.
"	"		7th. A.I. Bde.
"	"		27th. Bde.

9. (a) Communication Signals:

The signalling arrangements are given in appendix I - "Signal Instructions" - attached.

(b) Success Signals:

The following Success Signale will be used on capture of Red objective -

3 Red Flares fired in quick succession.
Blue Objective - 3 White Flares fired in quick succession.
Green " - 3 Green " " " " " " " " " " " "

Every second man in the two leading platoons of each battalion will carry one Very Light, colour according to objective.

(c) Contact Patrols:

~~CONTACT PATROL~~ Work will be carried out by No. 4. Squadron R.F.C. The front line of infantry will mark their position to contact patrols by lighting red ground flares when our patrols fly over them sounding a Klaxon Horn or firing a Very Light. Battalion and Company Commanders should arrange that as far as possible a few flares are lit at intervals of about 100 yards along the line of our most advanced troops.

Flares must be collected from casualties, and must be kept as dry as possible. Every second man in the two leading platoons of each company will carry a ground flare.

(d) S.O.S.

The S.O.S. signal to indicate an hostile infantry attack will be sent by telephone if the lines are holding and by rifle grenades, rockets and ~~rockets~~ *flares*. When our aeroplanes are over it should be sent by signal panel. All Officers and sergeants to be provided with an S.O.S. Signal which will be collected by the Senior Commander on the spot on each company front, ready for use.

10. Medical:

Arrangements for dealing with wounded are issued as Appendix 2, with this Order.

11. Administration:

Administrative arrangements are issued as Appendix 3 with this Order.

12. Prisoner of War and Straggler Posts:

The arrangements for the disposal of prisoners of war and for the establishment of Straggler Posts are given in Appendix 4, (to be issued later). The Div. Intelligence Officer 4th. Aust. Division will be attached to the 5th. A.I. Bde. during the operations. All prisoners of war will first be taken to Advanced Brigade H.Q., where the Intelligence Officer will select those whom he wishes to examine. From Advanced Bde. H.Q. they will be escorted under Battalion arrangements to the Cage at SHRAPNEL CORNER.

P. O. W.

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13. Liaison:

Lieut. S.C. CALDERWOOD, M.C., 20th. Bn., is detailed as Liaison Officer to the 7th. A.I. Bde. Capt. M.K. READFORD, 18th. Bn., to 27th. Inf. Bde. Major W.J.R. SCOTT, D.S.O., 20th. Bn. is detailed as Liaison Officer from 2nd. Aust. Division to the 9th. Division. Adjoining Battalions in the attack will send a Liaison Officer to each other when their Headquarters are not together. These Officers will make themselves fully acquainted with all details of the attack, especially of the unit which they represent.

14. ZERO Hour:

The day of the attack and Zero hour will be notified later. Watches will be synchronized with 5th. A.I. Bde. Signal Section at times to be notified later on the day and night previous to the attack.

15. Report Centre:

Reports to Advanced Brigade H.Q. at J.1.d.65.10. On the capture of the Green Line an advanced Bde. Report Centre will be established in the vicinity of J.2.b.95.35.

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

C. P. MacCallum.

Captain,
Actg./Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 10.a.m. on 18/9/17 through signals.

Distribution:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. G.O.C. | 18. 6th. A.I. Bde. |
| 2. Brigade Major. | 19. 7th. A.I. Bde. |
| 3. Staff Captain | 20. 27th. Inf. Bde. |
| 4. Brigade Sig. Officer. | 21. Major SCOTT, D.S.O. 20th. Bn. |
| 5. Brigade I.O. | 22. Capt. M.K. READFORD, 20th. Bn. |
| 6. Bde. Bomb Officer | 23. Lieut. S.C. CALDERWOOD, M.C.,
20th. Bn. |
| 7. Bde. Transport Officer | 24. Capt. ROYDHOUSE, M.C., 28th. Bn. |
| 8. 17th. Battalion | 25. Major A.R. INNES-SCOWEN 6th. KOSB. |
| 9. 18th. Battalion | 26. C. R. E. |
| 10. 19th. Battalion | 27. A. D. M. S. |
| 11. 20th. Battalion | 28. File |
| 12. 5th. A.M.G. Coy. | 29/31 War Diary. |
| 13. 5th. A.L.T.M. Bty. | 32/36 spare |
| 14. 5th. Fld. Coy. A.E. | |
| 15. 5th. Aust. Fld. Amb. | |
| 16/17 2nd. Aust. Divn. | |

SECRET.

APPENDIX No. 1 - 5th A.I. Bde. Order No. 118

SIGNAL INSTRUCTIONSZERO DAY.1. Means of Communication:

- (a) Cable.
- (b) Despatch runner.
- (c) Visual.
- (d) Power Buzzer and Amplifier.
- (e) Pigeons.
- (f) Aeroplane signals.

2. Scheme of Communication:

(a) Battalion Commanders in rear Battalion H.Q. will be in touch with Bde. H.Q. by ground cable, visual and runners.

(b) Following the attack, and moving with it, the Brigade Signal Section will establish a forward Brigade Station in a central position and as close as possible behind the newly captured position.

(c) After the capture of the 1st objective this Bde. Forward Station will be established in dugouts or shelters at about J.2.d.2.2. and will be fixed here until ZERO plus 3½ hours, when it will move to J.2.b.95.35.

(d) The Bde. Forward Station will be in touch with Brigade Advanced Headquarters at ~~J.7.b.65.95.~~ by Power Buzzer, Cable, Visual and Runners. *J.1.d.65.10.*

(e) The function of a Bde. Forward Station is to collect and distribute information and messages from front and rear, and uses one central route for passing this traffic backwards and forwards. The route to be followed will be through relay posts at J.8.a.25.90. - J.2.d.2.2. and J.2.d.65.70. Messages will be accepted at any of these relay posts and passed back by runners.

3. Battalions Forward Command Posts will be established on similar lines to Bde. Forward Station, at points chosen by Bn. Commanders.

Bn. Forward Command Posts are collecting points for information from Companies and front line units. Their position will be made known to all Company and Platoon Commanders, Runners and Signallers.

4. Officer in charge of Bn. Forward Command Post. is responsible for the laying and maintenance of a line to Bde. Forward Station. He will also have a power buzzer which will work normally to Bde. Forward Station, but under extreme circumstances, to Advanced Bde. H.Q.

5. A central Bde. Visual Station at J.7.b.7.9. will accept messages from any point in the Bde. Forward Area. All messages from forward will be DD DD.

6. Pigeons will be supplied to 2nd and 3rd attacking battalions - 8 to each.

Birds will not be used except in cases of extreme necessity.

7. Power Buzzers, if available, will be issued to each attacking battalion. Messages sent by Power Buzzer can be picked up by the enemy, and therefore up to zero, must be sent in code or cypher. After Zero hour, it is desirable that all messages shall be sent in code, but the tactical situation or urgency of the message will decide whether cypher, code, or clear, is to be used.

- 2 -

Appendix No. 8

Power Buzzers with Battalions should send only when the station is out of touch by all other means, and then for short and very important messages only.

8. For a considerable time after the attack, it will not be possible to maintain more than 2 lines across NO MAN'S LAND - 1 for artillery and 1 for infantry.

In consequence -

- (a) all messages must be curtailed.
- (b) telephone conversation except in cases of extreme urgency or importance, is forbidden.

Attention is drawn to the fact that telephone calls take time to get through and always tend to become protracted. The line therefore, is blocked, and precludes perhaps the sending of 3 or more important messages.

Information from captured documents shows that conversation on the telephone in connection with fatigue parties, stores, etc, has given the enemy reliable information of our intended movements. All such messages should be sent by telegraph and Fullerphone, or by runner.

Unless an acknowledgment can be obtained, all messages should be sent by alternative means.

9. Fullerphones will be used on all lines with D III superimposed.

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APPENDIX NO. 2. to O.O. 112.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The forward area will be cleared by the 5th. Aust. Field Ambulance together with Bearer Divisions of 6th. and 7th Field Ambulances.

The Medical disposition will be as follows :-

R.A.P. Left Battalion	-	J.7.b.6.9.
R.A.P. Right	"	J.7.d.9.9.
Advanced Collecting Station	-	J.7.a.4.3.
Simons Relay Post	-	I.12.c.3.7.
Chateau Wood Relay Post	-	I.18.b.5.8.
Culvert	Ambulance Loading Post	- I.18.a.2.8.
Birr Cross Roads	Loading Post	- I.17.b.2.8.
Corps Advanced Dressing Station, Menin Road	-	I.9.c.8.6.
H.Q. 5th. Aust. Fld. Amb., Belgian Battery Corner	-	H.24.a.5.9.
Corps Main Dressing Station	-	H.27.c.2.9.
Div. Rest Station	-	G.15.c.2.9.

R.M.O's will arrange to establish R.A.P's in vicinity of Bn. Hdqrs. as the advance progresses, notifying Bde. H.Q. and the Field Ambulance of the location.

APPENDIX No. 3 - to accompany 5th A.I.Bde.
Order No. 112.

Administrative Arrangements:

BDE. BATTLE DUMP is situated at Sheet 27 NE, J.7.b.65.50. and will be under the charge of Lieut R.P.LITTLE, 17th Battalion, who will have attached to him 1 N.C.O. and 8 men to assist on the dump. The amount of ammunition etc on the dump is as follows :-

S.A.A.	480,000	GROUND FLARES, RED	200
23 MILLS	4,000	VERY FLARES, 1" RED	200
5 MILLS	4,000	" WHITE	1000
REVOLVER AMM.	5,000	STOKES SHELLS	1200
VERY FLARES 1" GREEN	200	" CARTRIDGES	1200
SANDBAGS	10,000	" RING CHARGES	2600
IRON RATIONS	800	WATER IN PETROL TINS	500
100-gall. TANKS	5		

SYSTEM OF SUPPLY:

FOUR platoons from each of 17th, 18th and 20th Battalions will act as carrying party, and will carry forward the following loads when their battalions move forward :- The material carried forward by these platoons will be dumped in specially selected spots and will form a Battalion battle dump in the vicinity of each Bn. objective; location to be notified to Bde. H.Q. immediately on formation of dump. In the event of more material being required, party from these platoons will be sent back to Brigade Battle Dump to collect.

1 Platoon per Coy. will carry forward the following stores, etc. which will be collected at Bde. H.Q.s. at a time to be notified later, with the exception of S.A.A. and water. S.A.A. will be picked up by units at BELLEWARDE RIDGE, I.12.d.50.95. when moving up. Units will supply their own petrol tins for water.

No. 23 MILLS	10 boxes
S.A.A.	8000 rounds
WATER	20 tins
PICKS	24
SHOVELS	12

Units to which M.G.'s are attached will detail 8 men per gun to act as carriers.

These men are to carry 4000 rounds of S.A.A. which will be collected at I.12.d.50.95.

Units to which Stokes Mortars are attached will detail 8 men per gun to act as carriers. These men will each carry 4 Stokes Shells which will be drawn from Bde. Dump, J.7.b.65.50.

(b) Each battalion will have as a reserve, mobile echelon of S.A.A. and grenades at their transport lines. It is not necessary for limbers to be loaded until orders are received from Bde. H.Q. The whole of the mobile echelon will be under the orders of Captain McNABB, Bde. Transport Officer.

Transport Officers are to reconnoitre alternative routes forward of transport lines.

Units will apply to Bde. Battle Dump for any stores or ammunition they require. The Officer i/c Dump will notify Bde.H.Q. immediately S.A.A. etc that is sent forward.

of any

SUPPLIES: Supplies for the troops forward will be drawn from the Railhead to Refilling Point by Divisional Train. Refilling Point is at 1st Line Transport Lines, H.22.b.

Thence by 1st Line Transport via WARRINGTON ROAD to GORDON HOUSE, to MENIN ROAD at I.10.d.9.1. - BIRR X ROADS, I.12.d.50.95. - thence by carrying party under arrangements made by Bde. H.Q.

- 2 - Appendix 3.

EMERGENCY RATIONS:

On the man - 1 iron ration,
1 emergency ration,
Unexpended portion of current day's
ration.

500 emergency rations for the Brigade are held at Bde. Battle
Dump.

WATER:

500 water bottles per attacking battalion will be available at
Brigade H.Q. on 17th instant. These are to be issued to the men so
that they will move forward with 2 full water-bottles.

Water for troops will be drawn from water points at I.11.d.5.4.
and I.18.b.1.7.

At I.11.d.5.4. 10 100-gallon tanks and 500 water tins (filled)
will be stored,

At Bde. Battle dump 5 1-100 gallon tanks and 500 water tins
(filled) will be stored.

R E. MATERIAL

Will be supplied from Bde. Dump on application to Brigade H.Q.
19th Battalion will place at the disposal of 5th Field Coy. A.E.
2 N.C.C's and 12 men to report at Bde. Dump to Engineer Officer
at 8.30 p.m. on "Y" night, for placing infantry bridges, etc, on
jumping-off line of 20th Battalion. The attention of all concerned
is drawn to the following paras. in 2nd Aust. Div. Memo. No. 174
of the 15th September, issued to all units :-

- (i) Communications and tracks available for the
Division in the forward area.
- (ii) Prisoners of War.
- (iii) Salvage.

With regard to salvage, the Main Bde. Salvage Dump will be
situated at I.12.d.50.95.

OVERCOATS:

Units will arrange to dump in their transport lines, all
overcoats before moving into forward area. Overcoats are to be
done up in section bundles, and marked with man's name and section.

RETURNS, ETC

Units will arrange for their orderly rooms to remain in
transport lines.

Rear Bde. H.Q. will be in Brigade Transport Lines and all
ordinary routine matters will be dealt with there by Captain
C.H. KAEPPEL, MC. 18th Battalion (attached 5th A.I. Bde. H.Q.)
The following returns are required at Advanced Bde. H.Q. -

Estimated Casualties	5 a.m.	For 12 hours
	5 p.m.	For 12 hours

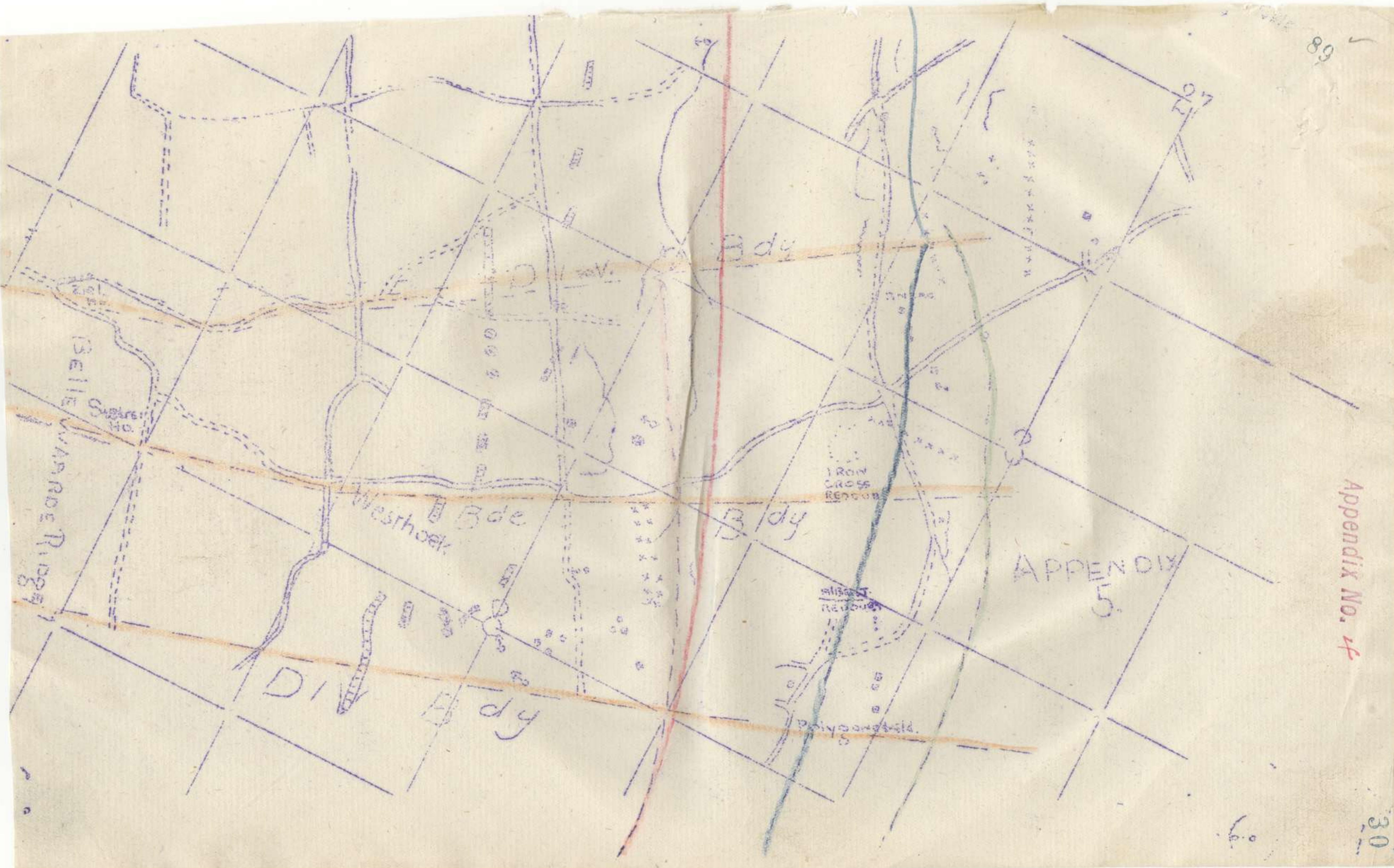
Accurate Casualties	11 a.m.	For 24 hours
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(These are ~~amen~~ CASUALTY RETURNS asked for
in this office list 49/75 of 11/9/17).

S.A.A. Return, showing amount
received, expended and on
hand.

9 a.m.

In the event of any M.G's and Stokes Mortars being destroyed
application will be made to Bde. H.Q. immediately and
indents submitted later in the usual manner.



Appendix No. 4

APPENDIX
5

SECRET

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

OPERATION MEMO No.8

Issued in Connection with 5th A.I.Bde. Order No. 112.

Reference - Sheet 28 NW, 1/20,000
HOOGHE - 1/10,000

1. Reference para 4 (b). The attached table provides for moves and times mentioned therein.
2. The 20th Battalion will move forward in sections at five minutes intervals. The 17th and 18th Battalions will move forward by platoons at 100 yards distance between platoons.
3. 20th Battalion will start ^{moving} forward from ^{rear of} WESTHOEK RIDGE to jumping off line at 2.30 a.m. 19th/20th instant.
18th Battalion will start moving forward to jumping off line from rear of BELLEWARDE RIDGE at 3. a.m. 19th/20th instant.
17th Battalion will move forward from BELLEWARDE RIDGE at ZERO plus 2 1/2 hours.
4. The above information and attached table will be issued in amendment to Order No. 112 when Divisional Order is received.
5. A C K N O W L E D G E D.

W. P. MacCallum
Captain,

Issued at 11.30 p.m.
through Signals.

Actg/Brigade Major, 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution -

- 17th Battalion
- 18th Battalion
- 19th Battalion
- 20th Battalion ✓
- 5th A.M.G. Coy.
- 5th A.L.T.M. Bty.
- G.O.C.
- Staff Captain
- Brigade Major
- War Diary (3)
- File.

M A R C H T A B L E

Date	Unit	From	To	Route	Remarks
19th	20th Bn	ESPLANADE SAP	West Slope BELLEWARDE Ridge	Most direct	To leave present position at 4 p.m.
19/20th	20th Bn	West slope BELLEWARDE Ridge	West slope WESTHOEK Ridge	Most direct	To move forward from BELLEWARDE RIDGE at 8 p.m. Move forward to jumping off trench at 2.30 am. on 19/20th. ^{from} WEST slope WESTHOEK RIDGE
19/20th	18th Bn	H.17.d.8.2.	West slope BELLEWARDE Ridge.	MENIN GATE along YPRES - MENIN Rd. to I.9.c.9.6., thence by over- land track runn- ing through I.9.d., I.10.c. and d., I.11.c. and d.	Rear of column to pass MENIN GATE by 8.30 pm., move forward from BELLEWARDE RIDGE to jumping off line at 3 a.m.
19/20th	17th Bn	H.24.a.2.9.	West slope BELLEWARDE Ridge	KEUISSTRAAT - I.13.c.0.6. - GORDON HOUSE - OUTPOST FARM - MENIN Rd., thence by over- land track of BELLEWARDE LAKE RIDGE.	Will move in rear of 7th A.I.Bde.: not to pass KEUISSTRAAT Cross Roads, I.13.c.0.6. before 12.45 a.m. on 19/20th. To be in position an BELLEWARDE RIDGE to BELLEWARDE by 5.30 a.m.

SECRET.

MEMORANDUM for

Fifth Australian Infantry Brigade Order No. 113Headquarters,
19th September, 1917.

4. (a) Separate instructions have been issued by D.H.Q. to the 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. regarding their functions as Div. Reserve

(e) Routes to places of assembly issued in appendix No. 6 attached. 20th Battalion will move forward in sections at 5 minutes interval. 17th and 18th Battalions will move forward by platoons at 100 yards distance.

(g) Addenda - Special garrison will rendezvous at CHINA WALL at ZERO. The C.N.M. is detailing an Engineer officer and runners to remain at Rear Hdqrs. I-12-c-3-5 to convey instructions to the parties from G.O.C. 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. as to when they shall move forward.

(t) Amend to read:-

After consolidation of the GREEN line by 17th Bn., the 20th Bn. will be prepared to be withdrawn, their place being taken by the 18th Bn., which will then garrison the RED line and area up to but exclusive of the BLUE line. G.O. 17th Battalion will then be responsible for the GREEN line and line which will form new first line system. Before withdrawing the 20th Battalion will be prepared to dig a communication trench where necessary and lay duckboards on the line. Instructions will be issued later regarding this.

6. Artillery Barrage: - Corrigenda

(a) Barrage map is not attached.

(d) (v) When each gun reaches the protective barrage on the RED, BLUE and GREEN objectives, it will fire one round of smoke to indicate to the troops that the several objectives have been reached.

Addendum:

(vi) During the first 4 minutes (i.e. Zero to Zero plus 4) also for 3 minutes before advancing after each pause, the rate of fire of 18-pdr guns will be 4 rounds per gun per minute. At other times the rate will be 2 rounds per gun per minute.

Appendix 2: - Addendum

The evacuation of stretcher cases will be by hand carriage from R.A.P.'s to ambulance loading post at BIRN X Roads of the CULVERT.

Main route for walking wounded will be as follows:-
From BIRN X roads and the CULVERT via track to GORDON junction and on to meet C. track about I.15-b-1.7. thence by C. track to A.D.S. MENIN ROAD I.9.c-8.5.

Alternative Routes will be as follows:-

(a) From BIRN X Roads via I.16-b-1.4 by WARRINGTON Road or via ZILMER Road to the BUND I.21-b-2.5.
(b) From I.15-b-1.7 overlap to the BUND. From the BUND cases will be cleared by train at I.21-b-2.5 or by bus from Road angle at I.21-a-5.5.

(8) From 1.15.6.1.7 via U. trac. and ^{Little} Gate or via ambulance post at 1.20.6.7.

Appendix 3 - Addendum

Position of Brigade Battle Dump is J.7.b.65.50; Sheet 28 H.4.

Appendix 4 - Addenda

(10) Prisoners of War

- (a) Pages: Divisional Page SHARAF JAGAR
- Advd. Corps Page DICAMUSOR.
- Corps Main Page MAMLIHESY.

(b) Prisoners will be sent back under escort to the Div. Page where they will be delivered and receipts obtained.

(c) Officers and A.C. will be searched as soon as possible. Prisoners sent with escort. Other ranks will be searched in the first place for concealed arms only, unless seen to be destroying documents.

(d) Escorts will be instructed to allow no communication between troops and prisoners, and to prevent any destruction of documents en route.

Straggler posts are being arranged by A.P.M. Cartridges to Appendix 4 will not be issued.

4. (w) 2 Guides per Company 18th and 20th Battalions will report to Brigade H.Q. at 11.30 p.m. 19th instant when sappers will take them forward to jumping off line. One man will remain to act as right marker, the other will return to his company to guide them forward. Companies will form up in succession from the right, and move forward in that order.

Appendix 6 - Order No. 112

Date	Unit	From	To	Route	Remarks
19th Sept.	20th Bn.	ESPLANADE SARS	West Slope BELLEWARDE RIDGE	Most direct	To start from present position at 4 p.m.
19th/20th Sept.	20th Bn.	West Slopes BELLEWARDE RIDGE	West Slope WESTINGH RIDGE	do.	To start from BELLEWARDE RIDGE at 8 pm 19/20th inst, move forward to jumping-off line at 2 a.m. 20th inst from west slope of WESTINGH RIDGE.
do	18th Bn.	H. 17. d. 8. 2.	West slopes of BELLEWARDE RIDGE.	MENIN GATE YPPAS - MENIN RD. to I. 9. c. 9. 6.	Rear of column to pass MENIN GATE by 8.30 p.m. To move forward to thence by overjumping-off line land route at 2.30 a.m. 20th inst. Running through I. 9. d. I. 10. c. 2 d., I. 11. c & d.
do	17th Bn.	H. 24. a. 2. 9.	West slopes of BELLEWARDE RIDGE	KRUISRAAT X Rds I. 13. c. 0. 6. GORDON HOUSE OUTPOST FARM thence by overland route N. of BELLEWARDE LAKE.	To follow in rear of 7th Bde troops. Rear of column not pass KRUISRAAT Rds before 12.45 am 20th inst. To be in position on BELLEWARDE at 3.30 am 20th inst. To move forward ZERO plus 2 1/2 hours

NOTE: The times for 18th and 20th Battalions to move forward to jumping off line have been made 30 minutes earlier than stated in Memo. No. 8 issued to units.

ACKNOWLEDGE-----

Issued at 11.45 Am.

Distributed as per
Order 112.

W. P. Lee
Captain
Actg Bde - Major
2nd Aust Inf. Bde

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

20

Headquarters,
19th. September, 17.

- 17th. Battalion
- 18th. Battalion
- 19th. Battalion
- ✓ 20th. Battalion
- 5th. ALM. G. Coy.
- 5th. A. L. T. M. BTy.

Following from Second Australian Division is forwarded for your information and necessary action -

INSTRUCTIONS No. 2.
Issued under Second Australian Division Order No. 138

1. (1) On arrival at the GREEN LINE, which is the final objective a protective barrage will be put down 200 yds. in advance of the line gained, and a special programme of searching barrages will be carried out by the artillery.

(ii) Posts will be pushed out to a distance of about 100 yds. in advance of the line that is being consolidated.

(iii) When the final protective barrage ceases at 0 plus 500 minutes patrols properly supported will be pushed forward all along the Corps front. Tactical points found to be unoccupied by the enemy will be occupied and consolidated.

2. (i) O.C. No. 4 Squadron R.F.C. will have one contact patrol at a time over the front from ZERO hour till the final objective is reached.

(ii) Red flares will be lit by infantry 20 minutes after reaching each the RED, BLUE and GREEN objectives, i.e. at the following times approximately -

RED LINE	-	0 plus 60 minutes.
BLUE LINE	-	0 plus 164 minutes
GREEN LINE	-	0 plus 285 minutes.

at which times, a contact patrol will call for them by a white VERY light or a succession of A's on the KLAXON horn.

In addition to the above, infantry will light red flares whenever a contact aeroplane calls for them.

Contact aeroplanes will be distinguished by a black square shaped streamer on the rear edge of the left wing.

(iii) In addition to the contact aeroplane working directly with the infantry, one counter-attack aeroplane will patrol from ZERO onwards to watch for any signs of the enemy massing for counter-attack.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE

(Sgd) C.G. MILES, Lt. Colonel
General Staff,
Second Australian Division.

William Cal
Captain,
Actg. Brigade Major, 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Contact plan

Following code will be used for reporting enemy movement.

Enemy collected at -----
= Success of Q's

Enemy advancing from
= Success of R's

more than a for LN
less than a for S.N

Map reference will be given in clear eg B6a
no attempt being made to pin down the location by figure.

Thus message to say "Enemy collected at B6a more than a for" would be sent Q Q Q B6a LN



Appendix No. 5



601



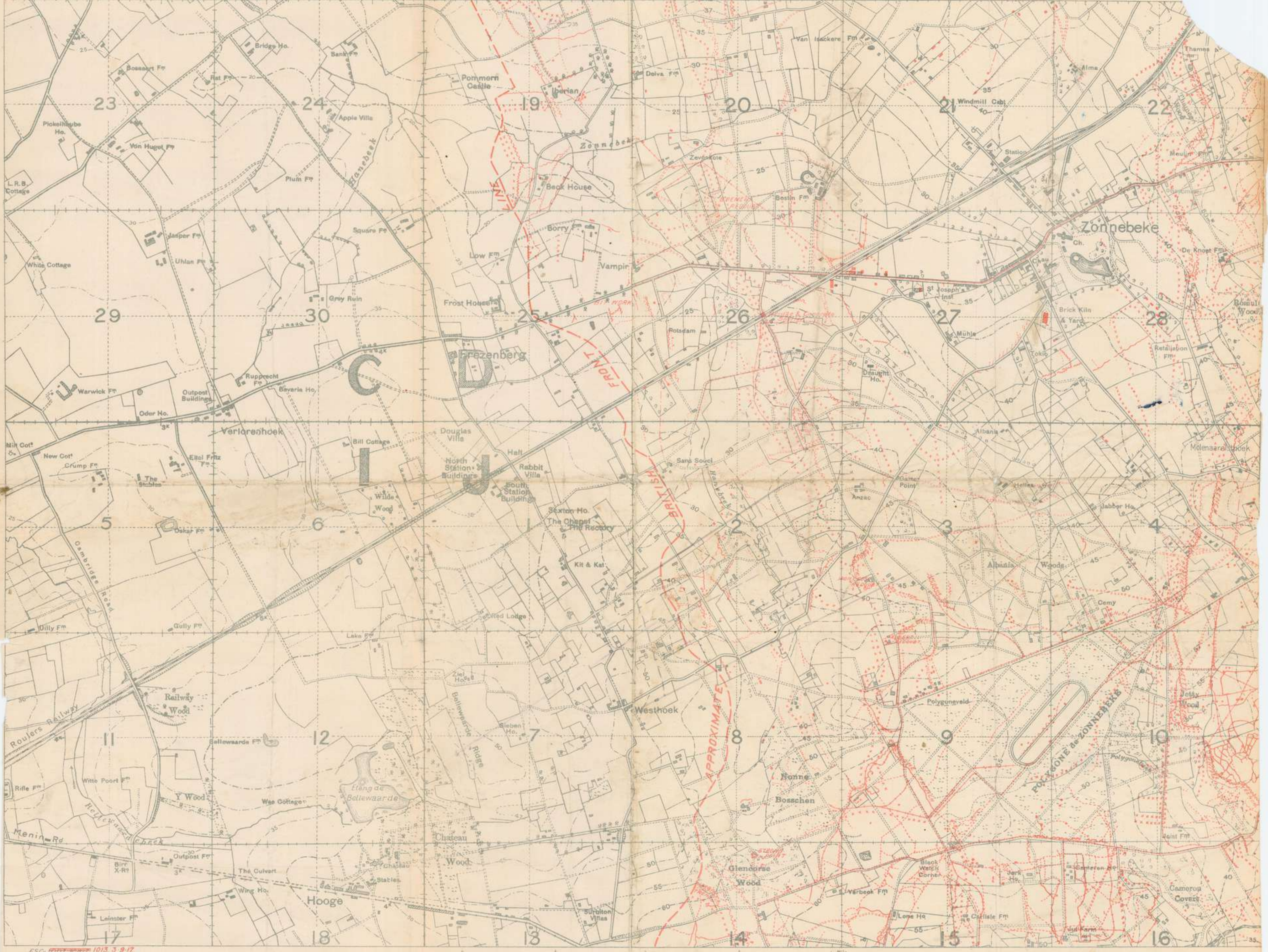
Appendix No. 5

EDITION I. A

WESTHOEK

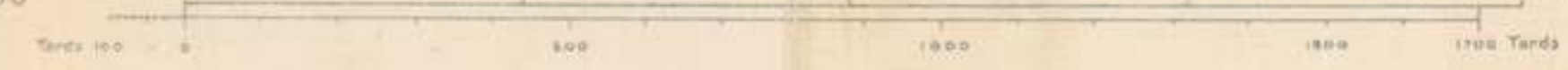
German Trenches corrected to 1-9-17.

Part



F.S. Co. 1007 1013.3.9.17

Scale 1:10,000



Minor corrections to outline made 7.9.17

No 2 Advanced Section, A.P. & S.S.

17-2-28

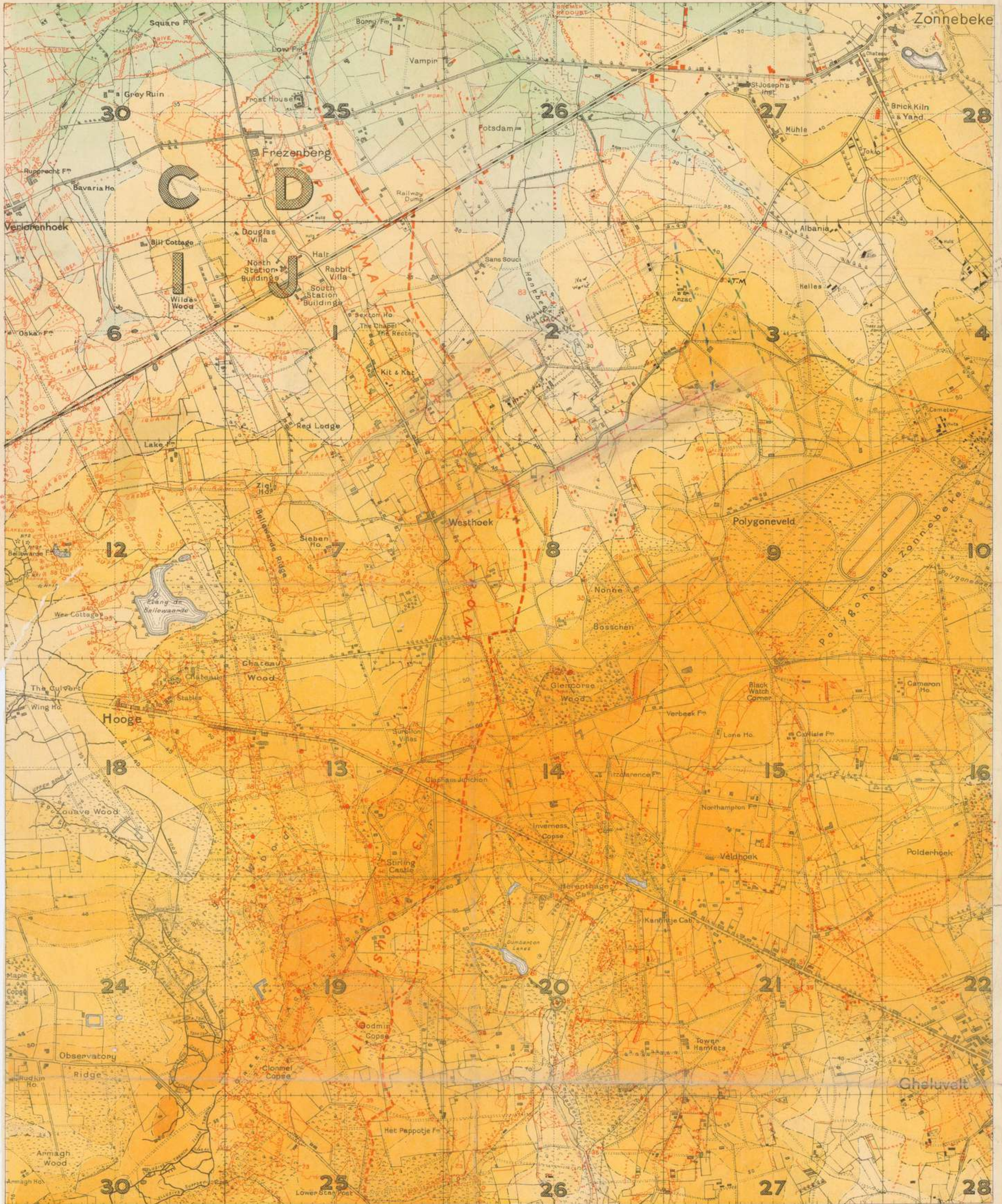
40

1:10,000

Battery Positions (Possible strong points) Probably Timber or Camouflage Probably Concrete

HOOGE

EDITION 3

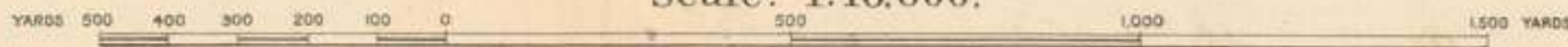


1:10,000 Scale

Scale: 1:10,000.

GERMAN TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 13-8-17.

- Machine Gun δ
- Trench Mortar \square
- Ammunition Dump \triangle
- Supply Dump \triangle
- Listening Post \bullet
- Observation Post \bullet
- Buried Cable \bullet



20TH. BATTALION, A. I. F.

Headquarters,
25th. September, 1917.

SECOND PHASE OF THE BATTLE OF FLANDERS."HANNABEEK WOOD"

The Battalion, after ^a considerable rest in the BAPAUME and AMIENS Areas, moved to ARQUES near ST. OMER and entered into heavy training, evidently in anticipation of an action.

About 9th. Sept. the first intimation of an approaching action was received in the form of various maps and detailed intelligence which came to hand from G.H.Q. These were the forerunners of a flood of intelligence communications consisting of skilfully prepared maps showing enemy dispositions, enemy order of battle and defensive preparations, and aeroplane photographs of the whole front taken from all angles and very carefully marked to show all enemy positions.

From now onward to the date of the attack, the Intelligence Corps seems to have devoted every effort to clearly defining the nature of any opposition and the probable employment of the enemy forces during an attack. Thus it was that every man in the Battalion was enabled to study thoroughly the ground to be operated over, and to gauge the weight of the task that lay before the Battalion. So far did the intelligence efforts go that a complete model of the battle front was made beforehand to scale and Officers and N.C.Os. were enabled to see and study the ground over which they were going to move. The value of this unique type of training was afterwards demonstrated when, in the actual attack, leaders state that they knew exactly their positions without having to make laborious reference to maps and bearings, on the battle field.

On the morning of the 11th. Sept. 1917 the C.O., Lieut. Col. A.W. Ralston, D.S.O., proceeded to the front line to look over the position. The Battalion battle front was then definitely

known to be immediately east of YPRES.

On the morning of the 12th. Sept. the Battalion proceeded to STEENVOORDE, and next day went on to the DICKEBUSCH area, camping there for a night, and proceeding the following day to shelters in the canal bank that skirts the western edge of YPRES. This area showed that immense preparations were being made for action and the artillery, present in force, was exceedingly active. Working parties were now sent into the forward area, and the first casualties that the Battalion had had for some months were registered in the next few days.

Early on the morning of the 15th inst. the four Coy. Commanders and the Intelligence Officer went forward to the front line and reconnoitred the position, and preparation of Brigade Dumps was begun. On the 17th. intelligence data became a ~~deluge~~ deluge and first orders were received preparatory to moving into the line. The following day the Battalion moved into the Walls of YPRES and final preparations were made. Major W.J.R. Scott, D.S.O. left for liaison work with the ^{9th British Division} ~~9th British Division~~ on our left, and Lieut. S.C. Calderwood, M.C. took up a similar position with the 7th. Bgde. on our right. Considerable satisfaction was evinced by the troops when they learned that the left flank Regiment was Scottish.

At 5 p.m. on the 19th. the Battalion began to move forward by sections and deployed into attack formation on the rear slope of the WESTHOEK Ridge. Battalion H. Q. moved into a Blockhouse on the crest of the WESTHOEK Ridge, where 19th. Battn. H.Q. were already established. About 8 p.m. the weather broke and it was feared that rain might mar the attack. By 11.45 p.m. the Battalion, cold and wet, but in high spirits was ready to move forward to the "jumping-off" line which had been taped some 300 yards forward on the forward slope of the WESTHOEK Ridge. A few minutes later they quietly moved forward by companies and took up their position. This was done without discovery, and the Battalion lay down in shell holes and pieces of shattered trench waiting for the eventful moment to come. How quietly this movement was conducted is shown by the fact that a strong enemy patrol moved along the line of outposts, only 150 yards distant, without detecting any unusual proceeding.

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The weather now cleared considerably and any fears of rain handicapping our efforts were dissipated. The order of battle, reading from right to left, was A. B. C. and D. companies. Zero hour was 5.40 a.m.

At 5.35 a.m. the enemy began to shell the right Bgde., having evidently detected some movement ~~of~~ there. Two minutes later he began to shell our front line position causing some casualties in D. Coy. Capt. H.B.Barlow, O.C. of D.Coy. immediately moved forward and was quickly followed by ^{the} other companies. It was now that Lieut. R.S.Evatt M.C. was killed. His popularity was demonstrated by the immediate gravitation of his men towards the point at which he led.

At 5.40 a.m. our barrage came down just ahead of the moving companies. From Battn. H.Q. on the ridge behind a perfect panorama of the whole battle was seen, every movement of the advancing waves being closely watched. The enemy barrage now came down very heavily on the WESTHOEK Ridge, but the advancing troops moving down towards HANNABEEK water course were being only lightly shelled. A few casualties occurred, and short work was made of the Blockhouses before reaching the marshy ground in and about HANABEEK wood. Several machine guns that might have impeded progress were dealt ^{with} in fine style by our men who were much too quick on the tail of the barrage to allow these to be brought into action. One gun indeed, in a concrete dressing station near the south eastern corner of HANABEEK wood, was brought into play, notwithstanding the fact that a red cross flag was shown at the door. The crew succeeded in riddling one of our corporals who was rushing the position, but they were quickly despatched by the men in rear. To the left a few machine guns had already fallen into our hands, being in Blockhouses together with their crews who had not ventured out in face of our barrage.

As the barrage moved across the HANNABEEK water course, machine guns in HANNABEEK wood came into ~~our~~ action and our front wave became slightly disorganised. Major A.K.Hosking, M.C. quickly rallied the men in his immediate vicinity and was moving forward with them towards the wood when he was killed by a piece of shell.

Many stirring deeds were the order of the moment, but the berserk spirit of Sergt. D. Poole, D.C.M. appears to have stood out alone, no less than 5 machine guns in HANABEEK wood falling to him.

He was the leading spirit in the clearing of the wood and it was unfortunate that shortly afterwards a wound sent him from the line.

After clearing HANABEEK Wood the Battalion was scattered and considerably mixed, but was quickly taken in hand by the Officers remaining and consolidation was commenced on the line of the first objective, about 80 yards forward of HANABEEK Wood. It was now found

that the melee in the water course had cost us the following Officers:-

Capt. Broadbent M.C.
~~Capt. Broadbent M.C.~~
 Lieut. Browning, M.C.
 " C.E. Cameron
 " McColl
 2. Lieut. Anthon
 " Wilkins
 " Low

Capt. Broadbent, 2/Lt. Anthon and Lieut. Browning very gallantly carried on with the consolidation, but shortly after Capt. Broadbent had to retire. ~~He was wounded with a bullet in the chest.~~ This was shortly after 6 a.m. when a set of 3 red flares showing that the first objective had fallen into our hands was seen about that line.

In the meantime our artillery had begun to have its effect and by 6.5 a.m. the enemy barrage had died very noticeably and the light guns operated spasmodically. At 6.19 a.m., however, the enemy barrage again thickened and settled on the crest and forward slope of WESTHOEK Ridge. Through this barrage came the first batch of half a dozen dejected and very badly scared prisoners. They were rapidly followed by others who brought with them the first trophies of the action. They carried the machine guns which they had such a short time before been operating.

At 6.44 a.m. the enemy began to send up white bouquets and a few minutes later his barrage ceased. At 6.54, however, his barrage recommenced lightly down the forward slope of WESTHOEK Ridge, and it was observed that his heavies were falling in HANNABEEK Wood and on the first objective. It was here that Capt. Belton Wood was badly wounded and put out of action. Capt. Barlow now took command of the forward line. Casualties were coming very quickly and it was imperative that the Battalion should be moved out of a very destructive fire. His quick action and intuitive grasp of the needs of the situation saved the Battalion ~~very heavily~~ from an exceedingly heavy casualty list. The casualties up to this point were slight, but this heavy shelling had added considerably to them.

At 7.5 a.m. the enemy barrage again dropped and his

89
shelling became intermittent and appeared to have lost its precision. By 7.24 a.m. our barrage had crept over the ridge above the HANABEEK Wood and the 18th. Battn. was seen to go over the ridge in excellent formation, taking not only the 2nd. objective, but also the 3rd. - that allotted to the 17th. Battn. With them went many of the 20th. Battn, and it was Sergt. Bateson of D. Coy. who made for ANZAC HOUSE and planted the Battalion flag thereon.

At 8.30 a.m. advice was received that a counter attack division at MOORSLEDE was on the move and immediately preparations were made to meet it. The counter attack, however, did not develop until evening. *a couple of hours later 2nd Lt. Arthur had to retire.*

At 3.45 p.m. Battn. H.C. moved forward to the enemy aid post near the southern edge of HANABEEK Wood. It was now found that the Battalion had taken in the course of its operations a 10 centimetre Howitzer, which had become bogged in the HANABEEK water course, 16 machine guns, 2 "Granatenwerfer", a trench search light, 2 spring rocket throwers, and 30 sets of armour, something in the nature of body shields in one piece to protect the shoulders and front of the body. Also, a large store of "pine-apple" bombs and many rifles, flares, and other trench stores were captured.

At 6.5 p.m. the enemy's shelling which had been scattered and not continuous began to increase and developed into a heavy barrage heralding the expected counter attack. Shortly after our S.O.S. was seen above the ridge and by 6.13 p.m. our artillery had begun to pour destruction into the German territory. Huge clouds of smoke and dust rapidly filled the air forward of our position, and the flashes of our bursting shells only served to make the maelstrom behind the enemy lines more terrible. After 35 minutes the enemy barrage began to rapidly weaken, but our guns continued to pour a tremendous weight of metal over until 8.30 p.m. when the continuous bellowing of our guns died down to the growl and mutter of the ordinary night's occasional shelling. This counter attack failed to develop.

The enemy now evidently began to move his guns into new positions for the night was quiet and an occasional burst of shelling through the following day seemed to denote that some of his guns had been moved, but did not effect the work of clearing up which was busily carried on all that day. At about 10 a.m. 2/Lieut. G.C. Cameron was wounded in the head and had to retire from the lines.

89 All through the operations the conduct of the stretcher bearers, runners and signallers was pre-eminent and the intrepid style in which they carried out their work proved that the calibre of these men had not deteriorated. No praise could be too high for the men who went through those heavy barrages time and time again without thought for rest or sustenance.

Relief orders were received at 4.30 p.m. on the 21st. Sept. The enemy barrage came down again at 6.46 p.m. on the evening of the 21st. and the efficiency of his gunners was proved by a very cleverly controlled barrage playing on the forward slope of the WESTHOEK Ridge, and also on our front positions. Four minutes later the S.O.S. was again seen above the front line, not however before many such signals had travelled from the extreme right down to our position. At 6.53 p.m. our artillery came into action, making a tremendous bass for the racketting clatter of our Vickers Guns. 10 minutes later many S.O.S. rockets were sent up from the 7th. Bgde front and it was seen that a general counter attack had developed right along the line. This, however, received the same fate as the first for our lines were not touched and shortly after 7 p.m. the enemy guns began to slacken their shelling, and then ceased.

Away to the right however some enemy troops had managed to get over to our line, and for some little time there was considerable suspense as a lamp message was intercepted reading "The enemy has broken through." This, however, was shortly amended, the message then reading "Think the enemy has penetrated our front line." The shelling also on that sector presently ceased, and evidently the might of any German counter attack had been broken.

At about 9 o'clock the first relief party arrived and the relief was carried through in a very quiet and orderly manner, being completed by 10.42 p.m. when the Battalion was in course of moving back to the Transport lines near KRUISTRAAT.

.....Lieut.

A/Adjt, 20th. Battalion.

Appendix No. 7

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Capt. J.A. Broadbent. M.C.
 Capt. H.E. Barlow
 2/Lieut. G.C. Cameron.
 Lieut. R.F. Marland
 Lieut. D.H. Anthon
 Lieut. L.K. Browning. M.C.
 1422 Sergeant. Poole. D.
 *2383 " Howes. E.H.
 *2461 " Wilson. F.H.C.
 1576 " Verazoni. L.E.
 †252 " Robinson. A.
 1155 " Carson. A.
 1700 " Edwards. C.C. M.M.
 †1168 " Christian. F.M.
 *838 Corporal Carnegie R.M.
 †4232 " Wynn. G.F.
 *1662a L/Corporal Lill. J.
 *4729 " Makin. E.H.
 *991 Private. Shuttlewood. J.C.
 *†5556 " Clancy. F.G.
 †6170 " Roy. L.A.
 152 " Acton. W.
 536 " Evans. E.
 *5581 " Flanagan. A.A.J.
 2135 " Cooper. C.L. M.M.
 658 " Ross. C.A.
 4061 " Bates. J.J.
 †57a " Doyle. T.
 6401 " Parker. R.J.
 1720 " Hawke. W.J.

Recommendation
for honours.

Received. Decoration * = 7
 Hospital. (Wounded) † = 4
 ON LEAVE. x = 1 } = 12

Appendix 7
List of Honours Awarded

2383	Sgt	Moore E. M.	MM	*
2461	Sgt	Wilson J. M. C.	"	*
252	Sgt	Robinson A.	"	+
1168	Sgt	Christian J. C.	"	+
838	Cpl	Carnegie R. M.	"	*
4232	Cpl	Stumm G. J.	"	+
1662A	L/Cpl	Lill J.	"	*
4729	L/Cpl	Wakin E. R.	"	*
991	Pte	Shuttlewood J. C.	"	⊕
5556	Pte	Blancy J. G.	"	*
5581	Pte	Flanagan A. A.	"	*
57A	Pte	Doyle J.	"	+
	*	Received decoration	7	
	+	Hospital Wounded	4	
	⊕	on leave	1	

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