

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/40/10

Title: 23rd Infantry Battalion

July 1916



AWM4-23/40/10

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.)

23rd Bn. 6th Inf. Bde.

VOL. XV

Page 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUE de BOIS	1/7/16		<p>Battalion in occupation of trenches 58 to 62 inclusive. Day quiet except for intermittent shelling by our Artillery. At 9 p.m. enemy registered H.E. shells on BURNT FARM & vicinity. At midnight our Artillery created diversion from raid by 1st DIVISION by shelling enemy's front lines. French mortars cooperated. Enemy's Artillery quickly retaliated with heavy fire, causing 4 casualties & damaged parapets, SALOP AVENUE, RUE de BOIS & WILLOW AVENUE. Enemy shelling ceased at 1.38 a.m. Disposition of boys. RIGHT COY. "A" CENTRE COY. "D" LEFT COY. "C" RESERVE. "B" COY. Strength 32 OFFICERS 966 O.R. Wounded O.K. 4.</p>	<p>102</p>
RUE de BOIS	2/7/16		<p>Battalion in occupation of trenches. Day quiet. Enemy registered with Shrapnel on our entanglements opp. trench 58. Heavy fire brought to bear on enemy's trench by our Artillery & French mortars, covering raid by 14th BN, exit from trench 58. Raid unsuccessful party caught in our wire returning, assistance lent by A. Coy, bringing in wounded. R.M.O. attended to 16 cases. Enemy retaliated quickly with shells ceasing at 12.25 a.m. 8 minutes after our Artillery ceased. Strength 32 OFFICERS 966 O.R.</p>	<p>102</p>
RUE de BOIS	3/7/16		<p>Battalion in occupation of trenches. Very quiet day. Specialists 3rd N.Z. BRIGADE. 2nd BN. reported & took over duties by 11 a.m. At 10.20 p.m. enemy commenced heavy shell fire mostly concentrated at junction of A. Coy & left flank Coy</p>	

500

WAR DIARY

2nd BN. 6th INF BDE.

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOL. XV Page 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUE de BOIS	3/7/16 cont.		of 14 th BN. Front parapet at this point damaged. PARK ROW, WILLOW AVENUE + BURNT FARM damaged also support line of H. COY, other portions of our sector received isolated shelling. Enemy fire ceased at 12.50 a.m. Relief by 2 nd RIFLE BRIGADE was delayed until midnight. completed by 2.5 a.m. 4/7/16	OPERATION ORDER No 13 herewith MKD APPENDIX 1
RUE de BOIS to STEENWERCK.	4/7/16.		Casualties 5 Killed 18 Wounded O.R. Strength 32 OFFICERS 943 O.R. Battalion en route to STEENWERCK & to billets. Boys as relieved moved independtly from trenches to ERQUINGHEM BRIDGE last coy arrived at this point at 4.30 a.m. At 6.15 a.m. boys moved independently to billets vicinity of STEENWERCK. Last boy arriving at 9.30 a.m. Transport also moved to new quarters. Strength 32 OFFICERS 943 O.R.	PB
STEENWERCK	5/7/16.		Battalion billeted at district 1 mile WEST OF. STEENWERCK. Received letter of appreciation of services of the BN. from 4 th BDE. Training commenced PARADES. 7 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 p.m. till 5 p.m. Physical exercises Bayonet Fighting. Route March. Strength 32 OFFICERS 943 O.R.	APPENDIX NO 2
STEENWERCK	6/7/16		Battalion billeted vicinity STEENWERCK. Companies in training, afternoon Route March. Strength 32 OFFICERS 966 O.R.	PB

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

23rd BN. 6th INF BDE.

Army Form C. 2118.

VOL XV Page 3.

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEENWERCK	7/7/16.		Battalion billeted vicinity STEENWERCK. Company training proceeded with. Strength 32 OFFICERS 9660.R.	BB
STEENWERCK	8/7/16	7 a.m.	C.O. received instructions per phone for Battalion to move at short notice, followed by BRIGADE ORDER. Battalion S.P. CROSS ROADS SE. 47 d 3.7. passed S.P. at 2.30 pm.	BN. SP. ORDER 14 APPENDIX 3
To			passed LA BECQUE; NOOTE BOOM. - COTTERSTONE, MERRIS, passed through MERRIS &	
MERRIS			billeted BN. in farms near MOLENACKER. by 6.25 pm. Received BDE ORDER for continuance of march to EBBLINGHEM. Issued at 11 pm. BN. OPERATION NO. 15 issued.	APPENDIX 4
MERRIS	9/7/16.		Strength 30 OFFICERS 9660.R. LTS. W. J. GALBRAITH & E. MSLEOD evacuated (medically unfit).	BB
To			Battalion en route passed S.P. at 9 a.m. via PRADELLES, BOORE, HAZEBROUKE.	
RENESCURE			Halt for lunch 11.45 a.m. thence through WALLON CAPELLE, EBBLINGHEM arrived RENESCURE at 4.45 pm. BATTALION BILLETED at RENESCURE. March discipline good. Strength 30 OFFICERS 9660.R. BN. OPERATION ORDER NO 16.	APPENDIX 5
RENESCURE	10/7/16		Battalion en route passed S.P. at 11.30 a.m. via LA HOUQUET & COMPAGNE arrived	BB
To			& billeted at HOURINGHEM at 3.30 pm. Received entraining orders from BRIGADE.	
HOURINGHEM			Issued BN. OPERATION ORDER NO 17.	APPENDIX
HOURINGHEM	11/7/16		Strength 30 OFFICERS 9660.R.	NO 6
To			Battalion marched to WIZERNES & entrained with TRANSPORT. Train left WIZERNES at 8.52 a.m. via STOMER, CALAIS, BOULOGNE, AMIENS to railway	BB

WAR DIARY

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23rd BN. 6th INF. BDE.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOL. XV Page 4.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AILLY on SOMME	11/7/16		siding at SALEUX. Detrained in 1 hr. 10 mins, marched via SAVEUX, DREVIL, ST SAUVER to AILLY, arriving at 1.30 a.m. on 12/7/16. Battalion billeted here. Strength 30 OFFICERS 960 O.R.	BB
AILLY	12/7/16		Battalion in billets, morning battalion resting. Afternoon, kit inspection & swimming parade. Strength 32 OFFICERS 977 O.R. (977)	BB
AILLY	13/7/16		Battalion in billets. Morning. Route March of 8 miles. Afternoon training for Attack, wave method. Strength 32 OFFICERS 977 O.R.	BB
AILLY	14/7/16		Battalion in billets. Inspection of Battalion by C.O. then bay training. Afternoon, march to Brigade Training ground, practised the Attack under supervision of Brigadier. Strength 32 OFFICERS 977 O.R.	BB
AILLY	15/7/16		Battalion in billets. Morning bay training. Afternoon. Attack training on Brigade Training ground. Orders from Brigade for Battalion to be prepared to move 16th inst. Strength 32 OFFICERS 977 O.R.	BB
AILLY to RAINNEVILLE	16/7/16		Battalion en route, passed through ST SAVEUR, BERTANGLE, COISY arrived at RAINNEVILLE at 3 p.m. & billeted. STRENGTH 32 OFFICERS 977 O.R. BN. OP. ORDER NO 18	APPENDIX NO 7 BB 4

WAR DIARY

23rd BN. 6th INF BDE. Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOL. XV Page 5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAINNEVILLE	17/7/16		Battalion billeted morning. Route march & boys. close order drill. Afternoon company training. Weather wet. Strength 32 OFFICERS 977 O.R.	BB
RAINNEVILLE to POUCHEVILLERS	18/7/16		Battalion en route. C.O. received Brigade marching Orders at 8 p.m. Issued BN. OPERATION ORDER NO 19. Passed S.P. at 11 a.m. destination TOUTENCOURT which was altered en route to POUCEVILLERS which was reached at 3 p.m. Battalion billeted here.	APPENDIX NO. 8 BB
POUCHEVILLERS	19/7/16		Battalion in billets. MORNING. Inspection of Battalion by C.O. thence company training. AFTERNOON. Battalion Drill. Weather fine. Strength 32 OFFICERS 977 O.R.	BB APPENDIX NO. 9
POUCHEVILLERS to LEALVILLERS	20/7/16		Battalion en route to Lealvillers. Battalion Operation Order No. 20 issued. passed through TOUTENCOURT arrived & billeted at POUCHE LEALVILLERS at noon. Strength 32 Officers 977 O.R.	BB
LEALVILLERS	20/7/16		Battalion in billets. C.O. 2nd in bd. & boy boys. attended lecture at RUBEMPRE by Major CARR. boys. in training. Afternoon A. & B. boys route march of 6 miles. C & D. boy training. Strength 32 OFFICERS 977 O.R.	BB
LEALVILLERS	23/7/16		Battalion in billets. C & D. boys 6 mile route march, remainder of battalion in training. Evening Instruction to all officers in use of Lewis Gun.	BB

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

23rd BN. 6th INF BDE.
AUST. I. FORCE.

VOL. XV Page 6.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LEALVILLERS	22/7/16 (1807 7.)		Strength 35 OFFICERS. 965 O.R.	BB
LEALVILLERS	23/7/16		Battalion billeted. Morning. Companies practised attack. Afternoon Church Pde. Strength 35 OFFICERS 968 O.R.	BB
LEALVILLERS	24/7/16		Battalion billeted. Morning. C & D Coys. Route March. 6 miles. A. B. & HQRS Coy. training. G.O.C. visited Battalion AFTERNOON. C & D Coys. Training A & B Coys Route march. Strength 25 OFFICERS 955 O.R.	BB
LEALVILLERS	25/7/16		Battalion billeted. Equipping and organising unit to fighting order. AFTERNOON Battalion Route march. Strength OFFICERS. 35 O.R. 967	BB
LEALVILLERS TO POZIERES	26/7/16	6.15 am	Received more orders from Brigade. Passed S.P. VARENNES at 5 AM. via BOUZINCOURT arrived at ALBERT 8.30 AM. C.O. visited front line. Battalion moved into RESERVE TRENCHES POZIERES. 10. pm. STRENGTH 36 OFFICERS 968 O.R.	BB
POZIERES	27/7/16	2.30 pm	Battalion moved forward to CLOSE RESERVE TRENCHES C.O. received from Brigade. Battalion would attack in conjunction with Seventh Brigade. Strength OFF. 36 O.R. 968	BB
POZIERES	28/7/16		Operation Order No 23 issued. Battalion left RESERVE	BB

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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23rd BATTN
AUST. I. FORCE

VOL XV PAGE 7

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Continued.	
POZEIRES	28-7-16		TRENCH at 9.30pm. and proceeded to jumping off trench at 12 AM. B & D Coys (A Coy Reserve) and Seventh Brigade were linked up jumping off position. Enemy shelled a first wave with snaphnel. ^{STRENGTH} 35 OFF 903 OR REFERENCE MAPS. POZEIRES 1/5000. FERME MOUQUET 1/5000.	APPENDIX NO 10 NO 10 ^A
POZEIRES	29-7-16		B, C & D Coys reached objective and commenced digging in at 12.30 AM. Situation reports with time of arrival Battalion Head Quarters, are as follows:- 1.15 AM. A. Coy support in N & S trenches R 34 C 12. Seventh Brigade occupy ORCHARD to CEMETERY. D Coy 24 th Bn remain in position near R 34 C 12. Movement of Seventh Brigade caused delay to 23 rd Battalion getting into position. 1.55 AM. C. Coy occupy second Objective digging in our 18 POUNDERS falling short. 2. AM. B Coy (RIGHT) joined Seventh Brigades (LEFT FLANK) 2. 2.35 AM. 26 th Battalion report that left Coy falling back repeated	APPENDIX NO 11

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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23rd BATTY
AUST. I. FORCE
VOL XV PAGE 8

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POZIERES		Continued	at 3. AM. and word passed to our line. from Seventh Brigade to fall back. 23 rd Bn ordered to hold on. Reinforced our right flank. R34 CENTRAL 1 Coy 22 nd Bn. C Coy 24 th Bn. moved up from Chalk Pit Trench to take place. 22 nd Bn. 7.20 AM. Two Lewis Gun detachments sent forward to reinforce RIGHT flank R34 CENTRAL.	
POZIERES		4.45 AM	New front line from R33 D74 to R34 C36 1/2. Engineers instructed to dig defensible trench BEITHS ROAD from PT. 36. CEMETERY. 3.0 AM. B Coy 23 rd Bn. withdrawn to protect RIGHT flank along BRINDS ROAD PT 36 to CEMETERY and here dig in. Heavy fog facilitated work and prevented observation. This trench was successfully completed.	RB
		7.45 AM	Party of GERMANS approached along BRINDS ROAD but were driven back. B	
		9.45 AM 10 AM	D Coy 24 th Bn withdrawn to head of SAUSAGE VALLEY. Enemy shelling on POZIERES & front line in vicinity of	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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25th BATTN
AUST. I. FORCE
VOL ** PAGE 9

A 268

VOL V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Continued ORCHARD & CEMETERY.	
POZIERES	29.7.16		New positions improved & consolidated. Casualties OFFICERS: Missing Major E. J. Bunn Capt J. B. Kennedy. Lieut R. G. Raws. Killed Lieut N. McDonald & R. E. Lett. Wounded Capt H. M. Coman Lieut L. Lanchcliffe. O.R. 62 Missing. 33 Killed. 231 Wounded Strength OFF 32 O.R. 645	BB
POZIERES	30.7.16		Battalion in newly consolidated line. A Coy relieved D. Coy. D Coy withdrawn to support. Received orders from brigade that 21 st Bn would relieve. Completed by 11.45 A.M. Battalion moved back into RESERVE TRENCH. STRENGTH 32 OFF 645 O.R.	APPENDIX 11012 BB
POZIERES	31.7.16		Battalion in Reserve Trench SAUSAGE VALLEY. EVENING. 200 Men moved to POZIERES to construct new pumping off trench BT 23 to 75 in R34. STRENGTH 32 OFFICERS 645 O.R.	BB
B. Brazner Major Commanding 25 th Battalion				

268

APPENDIX No. 110

SECRET.

Copy No.....

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 13.

Ref. Map. Sheet 36 N.W.
1:20,000.

3rd. July 1916.

1. The 2nd. Battalion, 3rd. New Zealand Infantry Brigade will relieve this Battalion on the night of 3rd./4th. July.
2. The following Avenues will be used:-

Company.	In	Out.
Right Company.	PARK ROW.	PARK ROW.
Centre Company.	WELLINGTON AVE.	WELLINGTON AVENUE.
Left Company.	HAYSTACK AND SALOP AVENUES.	HAYSTACK AND SALOP AVENUES.
Reserve Company.	PARK ROW.	WELLINGTON AVENUE.

Officers commanding Companies will mutually arrange for guides to meet incoming troops. Unless otherwise arranged guides will be at junction of the respective Avenues with S S Line.

Outgoing. Right and Reserve Companies will move via LA VESER, GRIS PCT, RUE DE BIEZ. Left and centre Companies will move via Chapelle d'Armentieres, Rue Marie.

3. No movement of troops or transport East of Fleurie Line before 10 p.m. Platoons will move at 5 minutes interval, and 23rd. Battalion will rendezvous by Companies North of Canal near JESUS FARM. Headquarters Company rendezvous at Transport Lines.
4. No post or trench to be vacated until taken over by relieving troops.
5. Copies of Defence Scheme, Log Books, Maps, and Trench Stores, ammunition, bombs, and tools will be handed over and receipts obtained in duplicate.
6. Lewis Gunners, Snipers, Observers, Bombers and Signallers will be relieved by noon on 3rd. inst.
7. Companies will assemble Regimental Stores and blankets at their respective dumps before 9 p.m. for removal by transport. Blankets to be rolled and labelled by sections. Baggage Guard of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men per Company.
8. Cooks, 50%, will report at junction of Reserve Trench and Wellington Avenue at 6 p.m., reporting to L/c. C. Stevens and will move direct to Q.M.'s. Stores L'EpINETTE.
9. On completion of relief Unit Commanders will report to Battalion Headquarters by sending the code word "IDEAL".

J. H. ...

Lieut.
Adjutant, 23rd. Battalion.

- Copy No
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Filed. | 7. O.C. "C" Company. |
| 2. War Diary. | 8. O.C. "D" Company. |
| 3. 6th. Brigade. | 9. O.C. H.Q. Company. |
| 4. 2nd. Battn. 3rd. N.Z. Bde. | 10. M.G.O. |
| 5. O.C. "A" Company. | |
| 6. O.C. "B" Company. | |

C O P Y.6th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Brigade Headquarters,
4th. July 1916.

C.O. 23rd. Battalion.

The following is a copy of letter received from
4th. Australian Infantry Brigade, and is forwarded for your
information:-

I desire, on behalf of the 4th. Brigade and
14th. Battalion, to convey to you and the
23rd. Battalion our very sincere thanks for
the gallant co-operation which they rendered to us
last night in assisting to bring in our wounded
from No Man's Land under fire in a manner which
was the source of admiration of all concerned.

Although the raid we carried out was barren
of results sofar as prisoners are concerned,
it was really a very gallant and brilliant
affair, our party forcing their way through
uncut enemy wire in the face of heavy enemy
shrapnel and flanking machine gun fire in the
most gallant manner. I am sorry that the
break-down in all communications prevented
my keeping you advised of the course of events."

(Sgd.) John Monash."

(Sgd.) E.C.Plant, Major.
Brigade Major, 6th. A.I. Bde.

268

SECRET

Copy No. ².....

OPERATION ORDER NO 14.

Ref. Map 1:100,000,
HAZEBROUCK 5A

8th. July 1916.

1. Starting Point, "D" Company Headquarters Billet. (Map Reference Sheet 36 N.W. 1:20,000, A 21 a 3.6.)
2. Head of column will pass starting point at 2.30 p.m. on 8th. inst.
3. Order of March:- Headquarters, "D" "B" "A" "C" Companies, 1st. and 2nd. Line Transport. *one platoon "C" Coy.*
4. The Unit will move strictly on Field Service scale, and transport loaded carefully so that it can be entrained at the end of the march.
5. Route, via LE BECQUE.
6. Billets for the night of the 8th./9th. July will be provided in MERRIS and STRAZELLE.
7. Reports to Head of Battalion.

Johnson

Lieut.
Adjutant, 23rd. Battalion.

- Copy No
1. Filled
 2. War Diary
 3. 6th. Brigade.
 4. O.C. "A" Company.
 5. O.C. "B" "
 6. O.C. "C" "
 7. O.C. "D" "
 8. O.C. Hqrs. Coy.

268

APPENDIX NO 4

2

SECRET.

Copy No.....

OPERATION ORDER NO 15.

Ref. Map HAZEBROUCK 5a
1:100,000.

8th. July 1916.

1. The Battalion will continue the march on the 9th. inst. to RENESCURE - EBLINGHEM area.
2. Starting Point.- Junction of FLETRE - MERRIS ROAD with MOOLENACRE CASTRE ROAD about 800 yards South of "U" in BECQUE. Head of Battalion will pass at 9 a.m.
3. Order of March.- Headquarters Company, "C" Coy. "B" Coy. "D" Coy. "A" Coy. less 1 platoon, Transport, 1 platoon "A" Coy.
4. Route.- via BOREE, WALLON CHAPELLE. Halts will be made regularly for 15 minutes to each clock hour. Halt for lunch 11.30 a.m till 1 p.m. Watches will be sychronised at Battalion Hqrs. at 8 a.m.
5. Transport to be reloaded under supervision of Transport Officer by 8 a.m. "A" Company will supply fatigue party if required.
6. Billeting Party will rendezvous at Transport Billet at 7 a.m. and report to Capt. Parker at EBBLINGHEM CHURCH at 11 a.m. Bicycles to accompany party as detailed.

Lieut.
Adjutant, 23rd. Battalion.

- Copy No 1 Filed.
2. War Diary
 - 3 6th. Brigade
 - 4 O.C. "A" Company.
 5. O.C. "B" "
 - 6 O.C. "C" "
 - 7 O.C. "D" "
 - 8 O.C. Hqrs. Coy.
 9. Transport Officer.
 10. Quartermaster.

268

S E C R E T.

APPENDIX NO. 514

Copy No. 2.....

OPERATION ORDER NO 16.

Ref. Map. HAZEBROUCK 5a
1:100,000.

10th. July 1916.

-
- 1; The Battalion will continue the march today, moving in the direction of COMPAGNE.
 2. At 10.45 a.m. Companies will rendezvous on North and South Road 1 mile West of first "E" in EBBLINGHEM.
 3. Starting point.- level crossing South of "D" Company's Billet.
 4. Order of March.- "D" Coy. "B" Coy. "C" Coy. Headquarters Coy. "A" Coy. less 1 platoon, Transport, 1 platoon "A" Coy.

Lieut.
Adjutant, 23rd. Battalion

- Copy No
1. Filed.
 2. War Diary.
 3. 6th. Brigade.
 4. "A" & "B" Coys.
 5. "C" & "D" Coys.
 6. Hqs. Coy. and Transport.

SECRET.

Copy No. 2.....

OPERATION ORDER No 17.Ref. Map HAZEBROUCH 5a
1:100,000.

10th. July 1916.

1. The Battalion will continue the march tomorrow 11th. inst. and entrain at WIZERNES.
2. Train No 3. time ready for loading 5.57 a.m. . Time of departure 8.52 a.m.
3. Detachment:- O.C. Major Brazenor, Lieut. Rossiter (Battalion Entraining Officer) "A" Company and all wheeled transport and pack animals will arrive at WIZERNES at 5.45 a.m. March will commence at 3.45 a.m. Starting Point Battalion Headquarters, HEURINGHEM.
4. Main Body:- The Battalion less the above Units. Order of march "B" "C" "D" and Headquarters Companies will pass starting point 5.45 a.m. arriving at WIZERNES 7.45 a.m.
5. The entrainment of all units to be completed by 8.20 a.m.
6. No troops or transport to enter station yards until R.T.O. is ready to receive them.
7. No personnel or stores in Brake Vans at each end of train.
8. During journey picquets consisting of 2 N.C.O's. and 4 men per Company will be posted at each halt to prevent troops leaving the train on either side.
9. Troops to leave HEURINGHEM with full water bottles and 24 hours rations.
10. "A" Company will provide baggage guards on the train as may be required.

J. Rossiter
Lieut.
Adjutant, 23rd, Battalion.

- Copy No
1. Filed
 2. War Diary.
 3. 6th. Brigade.
 4. O.C. "A" Company.
 5. O.C. "B" Company.
 6. O.C. "C" Company.
 7. O.C. "D" Company.
 8. O.C. Hqrs. Company.
 9. Quartermaster.
 10. Transport Officer.

268

APPENDIX No 7.16

S E C R E T.

Copy No ... 2 ...

OPERATION ORDER NO 18.Ref. Map. 1:100,000.
AMIENS.

16th. July 1916.

-
1. The Battalion will march in the direction of RAINNEVILLE and VILLERS BOCAGE on 16th. inst.
 2. Starting Point - LEVEL RAILWAY CROSSING at AILLY. Head of Battalion will pass at 10.30 a.m.
 3. Order of March :- "A" "B" "C" "D" Companies, less 1 platoon "D" Coy. Headquarters Company, Transport, 1 platoon "D" Company. Cookers will accompany respective Companies.

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- | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Copy No | 1. Filed. | Lieut. |
| | 2. War Diary. | & Adjutant, 23rd. Battalion. |
| | 3. 6th. Brigade. | |
| | 4. O.C. "A" Coy. | |
| | 5. O.C. "B" " | |
| | 6. O.C. "C" " | |
| | 7. O.C. "D" " | |
| | 8. Hqrs. Coy. and Transport. | |

268

SECRET.

Copy No. ².....

OPERATION ORDER NO 19.

Ref. Map. 1:100,000.
AMIENS & LENS.

18th. July 1916.

1. The Battalion will move to TOUTENCOURT via PIERREGOT, following 22nd. Battalion at 10 minutes interval.
2. Starting Point:- RAINNEVILLE CHURCH.
3. Order of March:- "D" Coy. "C" Coy. "B" Coy. Hqrs. Coy. "A" Coy. less 1 platoon, Transport, 1 platoon "A" Coy.
Pass Starting Point at 11 a.m. Company Cookers will move at head of transport in above order. Transport will not move down to Starting Point but join the column as it passes bivouac site.

[Handwritten Signature]

Lieut.
Adjutant, 23rd. Battalion.

- Copy No 1 Filed.
2. WarvDiary
 3. 6th. Bfigade.
 4. O.C. "A" Coy.
 5. O.C. "B" "
 6. O.C. "C" "
 7. O.C. "D" "
 8. O.C. Hqrs. Coy.
 - 91 Transport.

268

APPENDIX NO 9¹⁸SECRET.

Copy No. 2.....

OPERATION ORDER NO 20.

Ref. Map. 1:100,000, LENS.

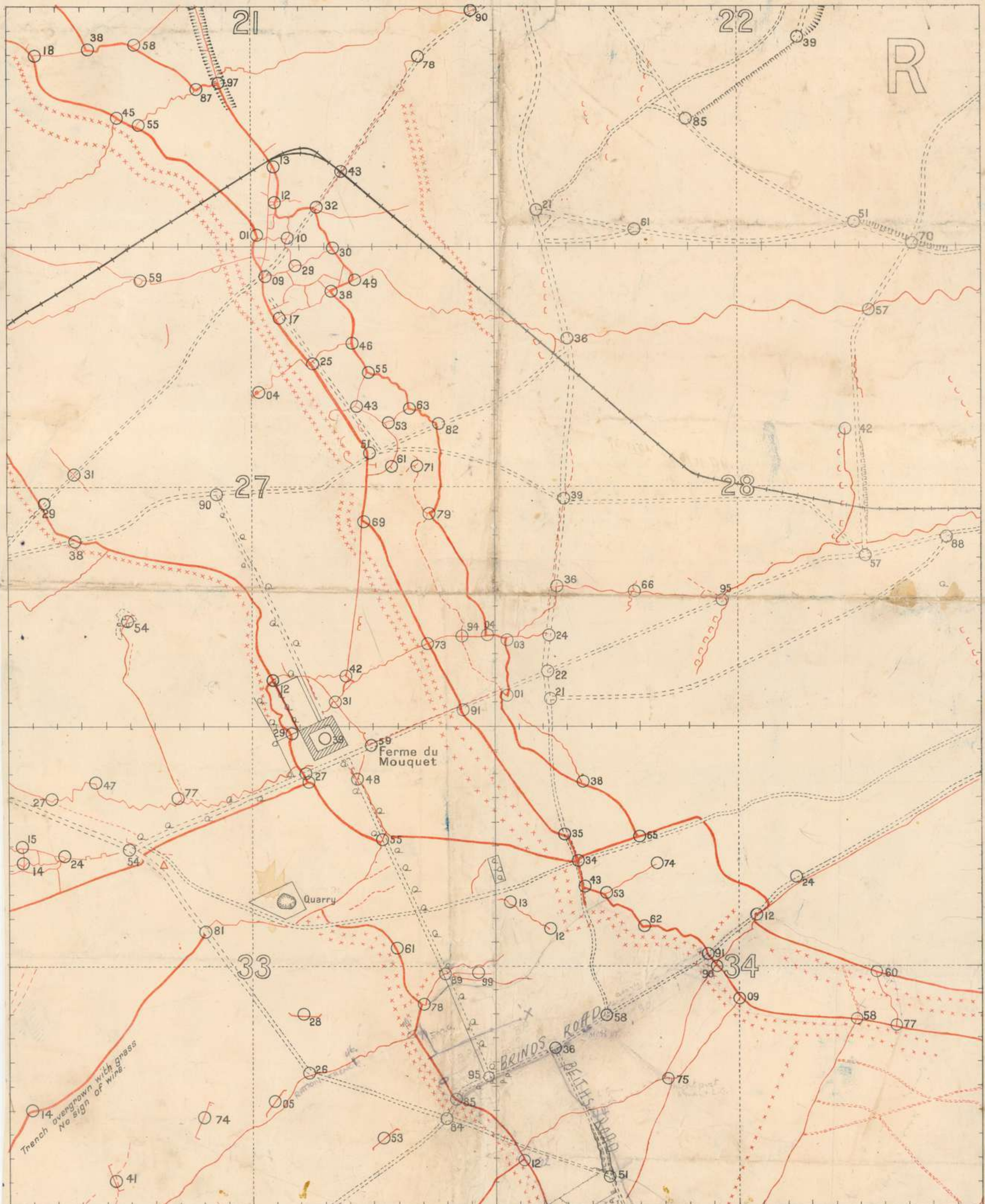
20th. July 1946.

1. The Battalion will move today ~~to~~ to LILLEVILLERS.
2. Starting Point:- Church at BUCHEVILLERS. Head of Column will pass at 9.15 a.m.
3. Order of March:- "C" "D" Headquarters Coy. "A" "B" less 1 platoon, Transport, 1 platoon "B" Coy.

[Signature]
Lieut.
Adjutant, 23rd. Battalion.

- Copy No
1. Filed.
 2. War Diary.
 3. 6th. Brigade.
 4. O.C. "A" Coy.
 5. O.C. "B" "
 6. O.C. "C" "
 7. O.C. "D" "
 8. O.C. Hqrs. Coy.
 9. Transport Officer.
 10. Quartermaster.

FERME DU MOUQUET .



1st PRINTING COY. R.E. 5th SECTION (46)

Scale 1:5,000

24th July, 1916.

268
19

Secret.APPENDIX No 10A
Copy No. 1

operation order No 28

Ref Map MARTINPUICH
1/20,000

28. 7. 16

1. The Battalion will attack portion of German line. 1st objective - communication trench R 34 Central. R 34 C 22. 2nd objective ridge from R 34 a 90 1/2 to R 33 d 84 1/2 inclusive. Frontage approx 650 yds.
2. Assault will take place night 28/29 July at a time to be notified in following form
"Issue ration at ----" time stated being zero time.
- 3 order of attack will be as follows.
"B" Coy right bay. "C" Coy center bays
"D" Coy left bay. 100 yards per bay as jumping-off point. Right flank will be second 'E' in CEMETERY. (point 80). The right is the directing flank which must maintain communication with 7th Airborne Bde who are attacking simultaneously on our right.

4. Frontages at second objectives
will be as follows:

RIGHT COY. from R 34 A 90' 200 yds

S.W. along BRIND'S RD.

CENTRE COY from RAW'S RD inclusive
S.W. 250 yards.

LEFT COY from and including
a point 50 yds NE of SMITH'S RD to
R 33 d 8 1/2 = 150 yds.

5. Battle Dump will be established
at about junction of BEITH'S RD
& KENNEDY'S RD

Battle Aid Post will be at
X 10 a 4 1/2

Battle Hqs in POSIERES X 4 c 75.

6. Ground gained to be consolidated
and occupied with a view to
meeting counter attacks. Strong
points will be constructed by
Engineers & Pioneers at.

R 34 central R 34 c 4 1/2 & R 33 d 8 1/2 4 1/2

R 34 c 66.

7. Abay will send Lewis Gun Section to
'D' Coy & 'C' Coy's section to 'B' Coy.

Innovation
17. ady.
23. ady.

Copy not filed

2. 2500 many

3. 2100 many

Decided by Coy Command. at 5.30 p.m. 28.7.11.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes on a grid background, possibly detailing military operations or administrative matters.]

*War diary*APPENDIX No 11.AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

23rd. Battalion, 6th. Infantry Brigade.

6th. Infantry Brigade.

In connection with the operations at POZIERES on the 28th., 29th., 30th. July 1916 in which this Battalion took part, I beg to bring the following names under your notice and trust that higher authority will be pleased to make some recognition of the services rendered.:-

Captain ROBERT FREDERICK MABERLY SMITH, ("C" Coy.

During the advance and subsequent consolidation of the position won, Capt. Smith displayed great energy and judgement and the success attending our efforts to dig in under artillery and machine gun fire, was largely due to his untiring energy and skill.

2nd. Lieut. PERCY WILLIAM PEARCE, ("B" Coy.)

Owing to casualties this young officer suddenly found himself in charge of a Company on our right flank, which became exposed, owing to the withdrawal of another unit on that flank. He was informed of their retirement but he held on to the ground won and dug in, refusing to conform to the action of the troops on his right. His courage and example to his men under fire were very conspicuous.

Lieut. GEORGE ELMO BLIGHT, ("D" Coy.)

After heavy losses Lieut. Blight stuck bravely to the ground won by his Company and successfully dug in.

(2)

He kept me well informed of the situation from time to time, and displayed skill and bravery of a very high order.

Lieut. FRANK HENRY DUNN. (Hors.)

This Officer is my Adjutant, and I would like to bring to notice his devotion to duty during a very trying period. On one occasion during a bombardment when the enemy were reported to be entering our trenches at one point he went to the supports and organised and led up a bombing party to the threatened trench.

No 946 Sgt. ROBERT LLOYD TREMAINE. ("B" Coy.)

A giant in the attack. He performed very conspicuously in consolidating the position won, and in reorganising the Company under heavy fire.

No 395 Sgt. FREDERICK JOHN JENKINS.)

No 393 Cpl. FREDERICK ARTHUR LANE.) ("B" Coy.)

No 948 Pte. THOMAS LOUDEN.)

These men advanced to the enemy trenches under machine gun fire and having located the gun bombed and killed the crew, and blew up the gun which had been responsible for a number of our casualties. Jenkins and Lane were both wounded in attacking the gun

No 2233 Pte. ARTHUR UNDERWOOD. (Hors.)

This Stretcher Bearer showed conspicuous bravery in ~~receiving~~ ^{rescuing} wounded from German wire in daylight and under observation from the Germans. He also made more trips with wounded under fire than anyone else. I might mention that the Germans as soon as they saw that our men were out collecting wounded only withheld their fire, but opened fire immediately when

(3)

any attempt was made to pick up or collect material. Underwood, himself, was wounded during the removal of the wounded.

No 498 Pte. William BROWN, ("C" Coy.)

This man was out as an observer during the attack. He discovered an observation post in front of the position in which there were three Germans. He bombed two and bayoneted one. He also assisted in bringing in and dressing wounded men, whilst new fire trench was under construction.

No 625 Pte. CHARLES OWENS. ("C" Coy.)

This man volunteered as a runner, being on duty continuously for two days carrying messages backwards and forwards between the firing line and Battalion Headquarters. Whilst the Companies were digging in he bombed a German trench by himself, his bravery under all conditions was conspicuous.

No 562 Pte.	FRANK BROWN,)
3787 "	CHARLES W. COOK.)
1034 "	EDWARD S. McPHEE,) (Attached Hqs.)
524 "	JAMES H. CHILD,)
1026 "	LESTER E. FARNDON.)

These men were runners attached to Battalion Headquarters and for more than 48 hours *by they were* carrying messages to the firing line and leading troops and officers from place to place under heavy fire. Of these men and their work I cannot speak too highly, their courage being most conspicuous.

(4)

No 736 Pte. F.J.HAMILTON. ()
 882 " STEPHEN HOLMAN,) Hqrs.)
 137 " PHILLIP HARRIS,)
 2136 " CHARLES DAVIS,)
 1210 " CHARLES E. TOOVEY. ("C" Coy.)

These Stretcher Bearers were conspicuous during the whole period of the attack, and afterwards in attending to and carrying the wounded, whilst under fire. Their task was very difficult and most dangerous. The last name being particularly conspicuous inasmuch as he remained on duty after the Battalion had been relieved.

No 337 CHARLES EDWARD EDWARDS, ("B" Coy.)

One amongst many who went out into No Man's Land under machine gun fire and brought back wounded. He also ~~brought~~ did brave work in bombing ^{an} enemy communication saps single handed and remained in the sap all day, covering a working party. He also carried out patrol work during consolidation.

No 3751 Pte. CHARLES C. APPLEYARD, ("C" Coy.)

Information was required about a certain portion of the enemy's line and this man essayed the task. He crawled out in daylight to a position about 30 yards from the enemy's lines and safely returned with the necessary information and a sketch.

No 1246 L/Sgt. JOSEPH W. OSBORNE, ("D" Coy.)

Showed conspicuous gallantry in rallying ~~patrol~~ portion of his platoon whilst in the open under fire. He was twice wounded, but would not leave his post until finally taken away exhausted.

(5)

No 223	Pte.	HARRY RAYNER,)	
189	"	GEORGE McCOMBE,)	("A" Coy.)
1033	"	CHARLES H. JOHNSON,)	
114	"	R. DODDS.)	

These men, not Stretcher Bearers, volunteered and went out into No Man's Land in broad daylight to bring in wounded, which they did successfully, although challenged from the Germans from their parapet, Johnson sustaining a wound himself.

No 2637 Pte. ALBERT L. FOLEY, ("D" Coy.)

Company Runner who carried despatches backwards and forwards under heavy fire for over two days continuously.

No 1553 Sgt. CHARLES W. SMITH, ("D" Coy.)

Displayed great resource and bravery in leading his men to the attack, and skill and coolness in consolidating a new position under fire.

No 523 Sgt. MELVILLE ROBERT CUTHBERTSON, ("C" Coy.)

This N.C.O. stood out above the majority for his coolness and bravery in supervising the construction of new trenches in the captured ground. He also organised and personally conducted rescue parties to bring in wounded.

No 2275 Pte. WILLIAM JACKSON, ("C" Coy.)

Volunteered as a runner and was continuously on duty as such for two days and nights carrying messages over the shell swept area.

No 2577 L/c. Bradford Norman, ("D" Coy.)

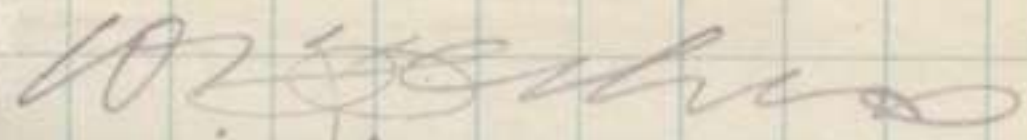
Volunteered and went out into No Man's Land and dressed and brought in wounded.

(6)

No 1942 Pte. ERNEST WALTER HARGREAVES, ("B" Coy.)

Did splendid work as Company messenger continuously for over two days and nights under fire by carrying messages by day and night to and from Battalion Headquarters.

I would like to add that the Battalion was under heavy fire for fifty hours before being relieved, during which time the casualties amounted to 7 Officers and 500 other ranks. The above list may appear to be a long one, but it is only a selection of a portion of the names of men who have been recommended to me by their officers, and who came under my personal notice.



Lt. Col.

31.7.16.

Commanding 23rd. Batta.

APPENDIX No. 12
Copy No. 1

Operation Order No. 2
By Major MARTIN RICHMOND, O.S.M.,

1. The 21st Bn. will relieve 28th Bn.
This day 30/7/16.

2. At 5 p.m. 06 "C" Coy will
commence moving his Coy out
in small parties to report to
RESERVE TRENCH head of SAUSAGE
VALLEY.

As "C" Coy move out "A" Coy
will follow on & occupy
"C" Coy's trench in addition
to their own until relieved
by "B" Coy 21st Bn. The "A" Coy
Reserve platoon will be
utilized in manning the
trench left by "C" Coy.
"A" Coy after relief will move to
position in reserve in CHALK
PIT TRENCHES, approx time of relief 7.30 p.m.

3. Lewis Gunners will not be
relieved until further
orders are issued.

2
4. Two guides from A Coy
will report to the HQs at Opun

Howan
Lieutnant