

AWM4
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1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/40/25

Title: 23rd Infantry Battalion

October 1917



AWM4-23/40/25

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

23 Battalion A.I.F.

Vol. ~~***~~

Page 1.

OCTOBER 1917
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	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE	1 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Battalion, less specialists mentioned in 30 ⁹ / ₁₇ , went forward to front line, moving at 4 pm via No 2 Mule track from YPRES. B & A Coys relieved two Coys of the 46 th BN in front & support lines respectively on the right, and C & D Coys, relieving two Coys of the 33 rd BN in front & support lines respectively on the left. Relief complete by midnight. BN H.Q. at "ANZAC" (Sheet 28 - J 3 a 2.4.) Our sector of front line ran W. of "ZONNEBEKE LAKE" between (Sheet 28), D 28 a. 1.7 and D 28 c 7.5. Casualties Officers Nil. OR's 28 Officers taken into line shown on App. "A". BN Operation order No 74, App. "B"	43.982	CD. App. "A" "B"
"	2 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Bn. was relieved by 22 nd BN and returned to area around "ANZAC", in support trenches. Operation order No 75 issued (App. "C") Operation Order No 76 issued (App. "C1") dealing with attack by 6 th I. Bde. Casualties Officers Nil OR's 18	43.960	CD. "C"
"	3 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Bn. in supports around "ANZAC". Artillery made two practice barrages. In enemy retaliation Lieut A.C. Brewster & J.O. Ethell were killed. Buried at "MUHLE". Lieut R. Gordon wounded by same shell. Lieut N.J. Moore killed. Casualties 4 Off - 32	42.898	CD.
"	4 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		6 th Bde attacked at ZONNEBEKE. 22 nd BN carried first objective "DOCILE TRENCH" & 21 st & 24 th BNS carried BROODSEINDE ridge & consolidated on E. slope. 23 rd BN supplied a party of 30 men under Lieut BRAGG to dig a man a strong post at B 22 d 7.3. (Sheet 28) they were relieved at 6 pm. Another party of 50 men under Lieut WEIR carried SAA & bombs to front line at 11.30 AM. Another party of 122 men under Lieut A. HILL, W.W. ANDERSON, W.E. GRIFFIN, & A. HEPBURN dug a communication trench over crest of ridge to new front line. Casualties 50 OR's	38.852	CD.
"	5 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		At 5.30 am. a party of 80 men under Lieut ROXBURGH and HEPBURN dug another communication trench forward to new front line. A party of 80 men under Lieut WEIR constructed a mule track forward from right of ZONNEBEKE LAKE to DE KNOET FM. Bn. moved forward and occupied old front line previously occupied on 1 ¹⁰ / ₁₇ . A & B Coys in front trench. C & D Coys in old support trench. Operation memorandum issued (App. "C2"). Casualties 2 OR's	39.843	App. "C2" CD.
"	6 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Bn under six officers, Lieut A. HILL in charge, on fatigue burying cable forward from GARTER POINT. CO. attended conference of Bn. leaders at Bde at 3 pm. Casualties 6 OR's	39.838	CD.

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WAR DIARY
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
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23rd Battalion AIF. Army Form C. 2118.
 Vol. XXX
 Page II

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	STRENGTH Off. O.R.	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE	7 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		At 6 am the Bn moved back to ANZAC area. Hot tea served to the men. Fatigue party of 120 men under Lieuts W.E. GRIFFIN & W. CLAYDON buried cable from ALBANIA forward to ridge E. of TOKIO. C.O. & I.O. went forward to reconnoitre front to be taken over from 19 th Bn. 83 men sent from Reinft camp at CHESTRE to replace men sent out of line. Only 114 of these arrived at ANZAC. C.O. agreed with Major BEIERS of 19 th Bn that we were not strong enough to take over front & support lines on front of 250 yds held by 19 th Bn. between (Sheet 28) D 23 a. b. 7 and D 23 a 7. 2. 23 rd Bn therefore relieved support line and 19 th held front line. Brigade notified. Bn. H.Q. moved forward to "pill-box" at D 28 b, 50.95. Operation order No 77 issued (app. "D") Casualties 18 OR's	39. 805	App. "D" CRJ
"	8 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Relief of 19 th Bn. in front line concluded. Operation order for attack by 6 th Bde received but on strong representations being made to Bde. by the C.O. an amended operation order was received and Bn oper ⁿ order No 78 issued. (App. "E") The right half of our front relieved by the 21 st Bn. Our frontage for the attack now lay between (Sheet 28) D 23 a b. 7 and D 23 a 6. 4. Casualties 16 OR's	39. 784	App. "E" CRJ
"	9 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		23 rd Bn attacked on above frontage of 125 yds with 19 th Bn on our left and 21 st Bn on our right. For précis of operation see app. "F". Bn attained its objectives & consolidated. At 3.50 pm advice received from Bde (B.M. 155) that 49 th Bn would relieve us. One Coy. of 49 th Bn carried out relief of our Bn which was complete at 3.30 am 10 ¹⁰ / ₁₇ . Capt. A.J. Hoall wounded, and Lieut W.O. Frost killed in action. Casualties 2 off. 65 OR's	37. 704	App. "F" CRJ
"	10 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Bn came back into old support-trench E. of MOULIN FM. On arrival of 51 st Bn the Bn was relieved, and came back to YPRES wall by LILLE Gate. Details from Transport lines rejoined Bn. Casualties 4 OR's	37. 704	CRJ
YPRES	11 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Bn. resting. Operation order No 79 issued (App. "G")	41. 707	CRJ App. "G"
"	12 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Bn entrained at YPRES for ABEELE at 8.30 am. On arrival there, marched to billets E. of STEENVOORDE.	41. 714	CRJ

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Page III

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	STRENGTH		Remarks and references to Appendices
				Off.	OR.	
STEENVOORDE	13 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Coys at disposal of Coy. Commanders. Clearing up & taking shortages. Very wet day.	40.	788	CDZ
"	14 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Church parade at 10 am. Brig. Gen. Paton attending.	40.	711	CDZ
"	15 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Reorganization of Coys, foot-inspection. Training & parade hours curtailed to two hours general work in morning and one hour specialist work in afternoon. The purpose of short parades being to allow of sports & games being indulged in. The CO. (Lt Col Brazenor) took command of 6 th Brigade temporarily, Capt. J. Pascoe taking temporary command of the Battalion.	40.	711	CDZ
"	16 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Company & specialist training. In afternoon C.O. held conference of Coy Com ^{drs} discussing strengths & reorganization of Coys on a uniform basis.	40.	712	CDZ
"	17 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Whole Batt ⁿ paraded to Baths at Steenvoorde, where bath & change of underclothing were obtained.	42	710	CDZ
"	18 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Company & specialist training.	42	710	CDZ
"	19 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Lecture & demonstration to Batt ⁿ by Divisional Gas Officers. at 9.30 am Company & specialist training following.	43	748	CDZ
"	20 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Batt ⁿ competitions on ground near "A" Coy billet. Men were smartly turned out & very keen. The competitions for the best turned out & drilled platoon were closely contested, also the Lewis Gun competition & tug-of-war	44	771	CDZ
"	21 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Church parade at 9.45 am.	44	770	CDZ
"	22 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Capt. D. Beith assumed temp. command of Batt ⁿ , vice Capt. J. Pascoe. Hours of training lengthened to three in morning & two in afternoon. Company training, including organized games in morning. Route march by Companies in afternoon with inspection of & report on feet following. N.C.O.'s class commenced.	44	769	CDZ

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page IV

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	STRENGTH	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEENVOORDE	23 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Company training in morning and finals of competitions held in afternoon.	44. 759	CSZ
"	24 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Organized games & Route march by Coy. in morning. Specialist training in afternoon	44. 776	CSZ
"	25 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Company training as usual. Lt Col Breyer resumed command of Batt ⁿ	44. 775	CSZ
"	26 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Training in morning included lecture by RMO on "French feet." Route march by Coy in afternoon.	44. 792	CSZ
"	27 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Operation order No 80 (App. H) Bn moved at 7 am to starting point. Arrived MICMAC Camp 11 am. & accommodated in huts. Transport also well accommodated. MICMAC Camp situated at (Sheet 28) H 31 b 3.5. Details for Reinforcement Camp at FLETRE moved out at 8 am under Capt Pascoe.	44. 783	App. H CSZ
Underdom Area	28 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Operation order No 81 (App. I) Bn moved at 9 am to tented Camp at (Sheet 28) H 33 a 5.1.	44. 780	App. I CSZ
Bickebusch Area	29 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Operation order No 82 (App. J) Bn moved into huts at (Sheet 28) H 27 d 8.0. taking over from the 21 st Bn.	46. 802	App. J CSZ
"	30 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Training and organized games.	46. 801	CSZ
"	31 ¹⁰ / ₁₇		Do Do C.O. Ass ^t Adj ^t & all Coy Com ^{drs} went forward to "Half Way House" (Sheet 28) I 17 c 4.8. to reconnoitre preparatory to Bn moving up.	46. 791	CSZ

B Breyer Lt Col
Cdg. 23rd Bn.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade

LIST OF OFFICERS TAKEN INTO THE LINE ON 1st OCTOBER 1917

HEADQUARTERS :-

Lt.-Col. W. Brazenor
Captain K.C.D. Dawson
Lieut. C.D. Fethers
2nd Lt. A.H. Vogler
Captain H.J. Orr R.M.O.

"A" COMPANY :-

Lieut. E.H. Torode
" J.V. Roxburgh
" G.W. Griffin
2nd Lt. W.J. Clayden

"B" COMPANY :-

Captain J. Pascoe
Lieut. V.J.W. Ross
2nd Lt. F.J. Jenkins
" W.A.E. Bragg

"C" COMPANY :-

Lieut. J.A. Hill
" W.W. Anderson
" A. Hepburn
2nd Lt. M. Weir

"D" COMPANY :-

Lieut. A.C. Brewster
" R.A. Gordon
2nd Lt. J.O. Ethell
" N.J. Moore

SECRET

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 74

Copy No. 2

Ref. Map BECELAERE 1/10,000
Sheet 28 N.W. 1/20,000

1st October 1917.

1. On the night 1st/2nd October the 23rd Battalion will take over the Line held by part of the 46th Bn. and part of the 33rd Battalion.
2. Disposition of Companies will be:-

"B" Coy. on the Right)	in FRONT LINE
"C" " " " Left)	
"A" Coy. on the Right)	in SUPPORT LINE
"D" " " " Left)	
3. The Battalion will move from present Billets at 4.30 P.M. this afternoon by routes already notified. "A" & "B" Coys. to ANZAC HOUSE and "C" & "D" Coys. to the RECTORY respectively, arriving there by 7.30 P.M.
4. Movement East of YPRES will be by platoons at at least 2 minutes interval.
5. The 6th M.G. Coy. will emplace by 11 p.m. on 1st October one section in direct fire positions chosen in conjunction with C.O. 23 Battn.
6. Headquarters will be at ANZAC HOUSE, to which place completion of relief will be reported by wire in code.
7. DRESS :- Fighting Order, Waterproof Sheet worn on waistbelt.
Water Bottles filled.
48 hours Rations
1 Iron Ration
2 Bombs
4 Sand Bags
220 Rounds S.A.A.
"C" and "D" Coys. will carry Picks and Shovels in proportion of 1 to 4.
8. All Valises, Overcoats rolled in bundles of 10 and clearly marked. All surplus equipment, Rifles and Coy. Stores, will be dumped at Battalion Headquarters by 2 p.m.
9. Coy. Commanders will furnish a Certificate to reach Battalion Headquarters by 4 p.m. that their Billets are left in a clean and sanitary condition, and also a Certificate that every man in their Coys. is fully equipped.
10. A C K N O W L E D G E.

D. Dawson Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION :-

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|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. File | 10. 6th A.I. Bde. |
| 2. War Diary | 11. 6th M.G. Coy. |
| 3. C.O. | 12. Spare |
| 4. Adjutant | |
| 5/9 O's C. Companies. | |

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 75.

Ref. Map BECELAERE, 1/10,000

2nd October 1917.

1. The 23rd Battalion will be relieved in the Line by the 22nd Battalion on the night 2nd/3rd October.
2. Disposition of Companies will be as follows :-

"A" Coy. 23rd Battn.	will be relieved by	"C" Coy. 22nd Battn.
"B" " " " " " " " " " " " "		"D" " " " " " "
"C" " " " " " " " " " " " "		"B" " " " " " "
"D" " " " " " " " " " " " "		"A" " " " " " "
3. O's C. Coys. will each detail 4 guides to report to Battalion Headquarters by 7.15 p.m. to-night where other guides will meet them and take them to 22nd Battn. H.Qrs. Our guides will then lead the 22nd Battalion to respective Coy's positions to effect relief as in 2.
4. All Trench Stores, Dumps, S.O.S., Grenades etc. will be handed over and receipts obtained for same from incoming troops.
5. O's C. "C" and "D" Coys. will arrange to carry out a number of Picks and Shovels equal to those taken in.
6. All empty petrol tins will be brought out of the line by the guides and dumped at Battalion Headquarters.
7. R.M.O's will interchange R.A.P's mutually.
8. Battalion Headquarters will remain at ANZAC HOUSE.
9. Completion of relief will be reported to Battalion Headquarters by Runner.
10. O's C. Coys. will arrange to draw an extra 24 hours rations for Specialists who came in night 30th/1st.
11. A C K N O W L E D G E.

H. Dawson Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION :-

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1. File
2. War Diary
3. C.O.
4. Adjutant
5. O.C. "A" Coy.
6. " "B" "
7. " "C" "
8. " "D" "
9. 6th A.I. Bde.
10. 22nd Battalion
12. Spare
12. Spare

Ref. Map BECELAERE 1/10,000

5th October 1917.

1. The 6th A.I. Bde. will be relieved by part of the 5th A.I. Bde. to-night 5th/6th October.
2. The 23rd Battalion will occupy the OLD FRONT LINE to the S.E. of ZONNEBEKE LAKE between D.28.a.5.0. and D.28.c.6.6.
3. Disposition of Companies :-

"A" Coy. on the RIGHT)	in FRONT LINE
"B" " " " LEFT)	
"C" " " " RIGHT)	in SUPPORT LINE
"D" " " " LEFT)	

Approximate frontage 125 yards per Company.
4. Companies will move as under :-
 "A" at 2.30 p.m. "D" at 3 p.m. "B" at 3.30 p.m. "C" at 4.30 p.m.
5. Each Company will arrange to draw 250 Sandbags from Bde. Dump.
6. Movement will be by half platoons at minute intervals.
7. Coys. will take forward all Picks and Shovels available for improving accommodation.
8. Battalion Headquarters remain at ANZAC HOUSE.
R.A.P. at J.3.c.1.8.
9. A C K N O W L E D G E.

H. Dawson
 Capt.
 Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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3. C.O.
4. Adjutant
5. O.C. "A" Coy.
6. " " "B" "
7. " " "C" "
8. " " "D" "
9. 6th A.I. Bde.
10. Spare.

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Ref. Map BECELAERE 1/10,000

7th October 1917.

1. On the night 7th/8th October, the 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. will take over the present Divisional Front D.29.b.2.6. - D.23.a.55.65. from the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
2. The 23rd Battalion will relieve the 19th Bn. in the line D.23.c.7.5. - D.23.a.55.65.
3. The disposition of Companies will be :-

"A" Coy. on the RIGHT)	in FRONT LINE
"D" " " " LEFT)	
"B" " " " RIGHT)	in SUPPORT LINE
"C" " " " LEFT)	
4. Lists of Maps, Trench Stores etc. taken over, together with disposition reports will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 8 a.m. on 8th inst.
5. Completion of relief will be reported to Battalion Headquarters by wire in code.
6. Battalion Headquarters will be at D.28.b.50.95.
R.A.P. will be at D.27.b.95.00.
7. One Officer, 6 Lewis Gunners, and 3 Guns per Coy. will move at 2 p.m. and report to 19th Bn. H.Qrs.
8. One Guide per Platoon from 19th Battalion will report to ANZAC HOUSE under an Officer.
9. A C K N O W L E D G E

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1. File
2. War Diary
3. C.O.
- 4/7 O's C. Coys
8. 6th A.I. Bde.

H. Dawson Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Ref. Maps WESTHOEK and BECELAERE 1/10,000.

2nd October 1917.

- INTENTION 1. On a day to be notified 1st ANZAC simultaneously with Corps on each flank will continue its advance. On the 2nd Divl. front the 6th Brigade attack on the right, the 7th Brigade on the left. 2nd A.I. Bde. attack on the right of the 6th. Brigade boundaries, the inter-battalion boundary and the 1st (RED) and second (BLUE) objectives have been already ~~marked~~ indicated.
- MODE OF ATTACK. 2. The 22nd Battalion will carry and consolidate the RED line. The BLUE line will be captured by the 24th Battalion on the right and the 21st Battalion on the left after passing through the 22nd Battalion. The 23rd Battalion less one and a half coys. will be in Brigade Reserve.
- ASSEMBLY PLACE. 3. At Zero the Battalion will be in the vicinity of ANZAC HOUSE.
- 6th A.L.T. M.B. ACTION 4. The 23rd Battalion will detail one platoon ("A" Coy.) under 2 N.C.O's as carrying party for the guns attached to the 22nd Battalion, which will be in position at ANZAC until called for by T.M. Battery, at 3 hours before ZERO.
- CONSOLIDATION. 5. A Strong Point at D.22.d.8.2. will be dug and garrisoned by a platoon ("B" Coy.) of the 23rd Battalion under 2/Lt. BRAGG as per orders already issued. One Company ("C" Coy.) 23rd Battalion will be in position in GARTER POINT TRENCH at ZERO equipped with tools. This party will be under command of an Engineer Officer and upon receipt of orders will move forward carrying wire which will be dumped at S.E. corner of CEMETERY. They will then dig or improve communication trenches through the crest of the ridge to the BLUE line. All ranks are to be warned not to show themselves on the skyline with which the ridge provides the enemy. Completion of STRONG POINT and C.T. will be reported to Bde. H.Q. by the supervising Engineer on each task.
- S.O.S. REPEATING STATION. 6. The Signalling Officer 23rd Battalion will establish an S.O.S. Repeating Station near TOKIO. S.O.S. Signals from this Brigade only will be repeated. Station to be established at ZERO plus 2 hours.
- R.A.P. 7. At J.2.a.7.4. moving to J.3.c.7.5. upon evacuation by R.M.O. 22nd Battalion.
- SYNCHRONISATION OF WATCHES. 8. Watches will be synchronised at H. qrs. of UNITS twice during the 12 hours preceding the attack.
- DUMP 9. Bde. Forward Dump is at D.27.d.1.3.
- H. QRS. 10. Headquarters will remain at ANZAC HOUSE.
11. A C K N O W L E D G E.

L. Dawson Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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| 3. 6th A.I. Bde. | 11. | 6th T.M.B. |
| 4. C.O. | 12. | 6th Field Coy. Engineers |
| 5. Adjutant | 13. | Signalling Officer. |

Ref. Map BECELAERE 1/10,000

8th October 1917.

1. The advance will be continued on a date to be notified.
2. Boundaries and Objectives are shown on the attached map.
3. The attack by the 23rd Battalion will be carried out on a platoon frontage of 125 yards.
"D" and "A" Coys. will carry and consolidate RED LINE.
"C" Coy. will mop up DAIRY WOOD.
"B" Coy. will carry the BLUE LINE.
4. Jumping off tapes will be laid by midnight on the 8th/9th October two hundred yards behind our present front line and roughly parallel to the objective.
Direction tapes on the flanks of the leading company will be laid as far forward as possible. Two markers per Coy. will be posted on the flanks of each Company.
5. Companies will be in position on their tapes by ZERO - 1 hour.
The front line will be held by two Lewis Guns of "D" Coy. from ZERO - 1½ hours till ZERO - 30 mins.
6. The attack will be covered by an Artillery Barrage provided by Groups "c" and "c i." which will be shown on a barrage map already issued.
The barrage, after ZERO plus 4 minutes, will move at the uniform rate of 100 yards every 6 minutes to the protective position for the RED LINE, thence it moves at the same rate at ZERO plus 100 minutes to the protective position for the BLUE LINE.
Other barrages in depth, and a Machine Gun barrage will also cover the advance.
7. The two Vickers Guns at present in the Front Line will be withdrawn at ZERO - 1½ hours to Support Line, and will move forward to original Front Line on capture of RED LINE.
Two Vickers Guns will be held at Battalion Headquarters in reserve.
8. Cpl. Hatt and 50 O.R's will move on the left flank of "D" Coy. and will be responsible for maintaining touch with the 5th A.I. Bde.
Cpl. Hawse and 5 other ranks will perform similar duty on right flank with 21st Battalion. Compasses will be used for checking direction.
Cpl. Hatt and his party will also be responsible for securing touch with 5th A.I. Bde. at RHEINE HOUSE.
9. "C" Coy. will be responsible for the complete mopping up of DAIRY WOOD and dugouts in the vicinity.
"D" Coy. will be responsible for area between DAIRY WOOD and RED LINE.
10. "B" Coy. will take forward 2 Signal Rockets and "A" Coy. will carry 4 Pigeons.
11. "B" Coy. will establish 4 strong posts of one section strength on the line D.18.c.45.00. to D.18.c.6.4.
12. Headquarters will be at D.28.b.50.95.
R.A.P. at BRICK KILN.
13. Points to pay special attention to :-
 - (a) Bayonets will not be fixed before ZERO.
 - (b) Keep close to barrage.
 - (c) Rush enemy Strong Posts as soon as discovered.
 - (d) Keep rifles clean and fire on all enemy seen.
 - (e) Be prepared for counter-attacks.
 - (f) Direction is everything - Keeping up to barrage will ensure satisfactory dressing.

(Contd.)

14. ACKNOWLEDGE.

H. H. H. H. Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION :-

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1. File
2. War Diary
3. 6th A.I. Bde.
4. O.C. Attack
5. 21st Battalion
6. Right Battalion, 5th Bde.
7. 22nd Battalion
8. 24th Battalion.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade

REPORT OF OPERATIONS OF 23rd BATTALION ON MORNING 9th OCTOBER 1917

Ref. Map BECELAERE 1/10,000.

Orders were issued for the Battalion to attack on a frontage of 125 yards - the objectives being RED LINE from D.18.c.15.20 to D.24.a.30.90 and BLUE LINE D.18.c.6.4. to D.24.a.45.95

The Battalion was organised in the following formations :-

<u>Coy.</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Formation</u>	<u>Objective</u>
"D"	31	Extended Line) Line of Sec-) tions.)	Capture RED LINE and consoli- date pending standing barrage
"A"	36		
"C"	20	do	Moppers-up.
"B"	36	do	Capture BLUE LINE and consoli- date by series of Strong Posts

The Battalion formed up on J.O.T. at 4.20 a.m. and up to Zero hour, 5.20 a.m., had no casualties.

Little frontal opposition was experienced in the advance, but heavy M.G. and Rifle Fire was encountered from direction of DAISY and BUSY WOODS, causing approximately 50% casualties. The mopping up of DAIRY WOOD was satisfactorily carried out. On arriving at RED LINE it was seen that direction had been lost by the Unit moving too far to the left. This was corrected at RED LINE, where waves occupied old enemy trench for 61 minutes, pending stationary barrage. At this time nothing was seen of right flank Units, who were evidently held up by enemy in DAISY WOOD, but the Battalion was in touch with 17th Battalion on left.

On barrage lifting the Battalion moved forward and consolidated on a line running from RHINE HOUSE to a point about 150 yards south.

The casualties up to this time had been heavy (60%).

As right flank unit had not moved up, it was decided to form a defensive flank with left of line on RHINE HOUSE. This was carried out at dusk by establishing a series of 5 strong posts on a semi circle from RHINE D.18.c.30.35 - D.18.c.15.15 to D.18.c.00.15. (Included with the Battalion at this stage was a party of about 10 men and a Sergeant of the 21st Battalion who had become detached from their Unit.) *12 prisoners were captured.*

Connection was maintained with 17th Battalion and arrangements made to reinforce if necessary.

One Vickers Gun of 5th Bde. was placed in position about D.17.d.8.3. to cover gap between right flank post and DAIRY WOOD, in which left flank post of 21st Battalion had been established.

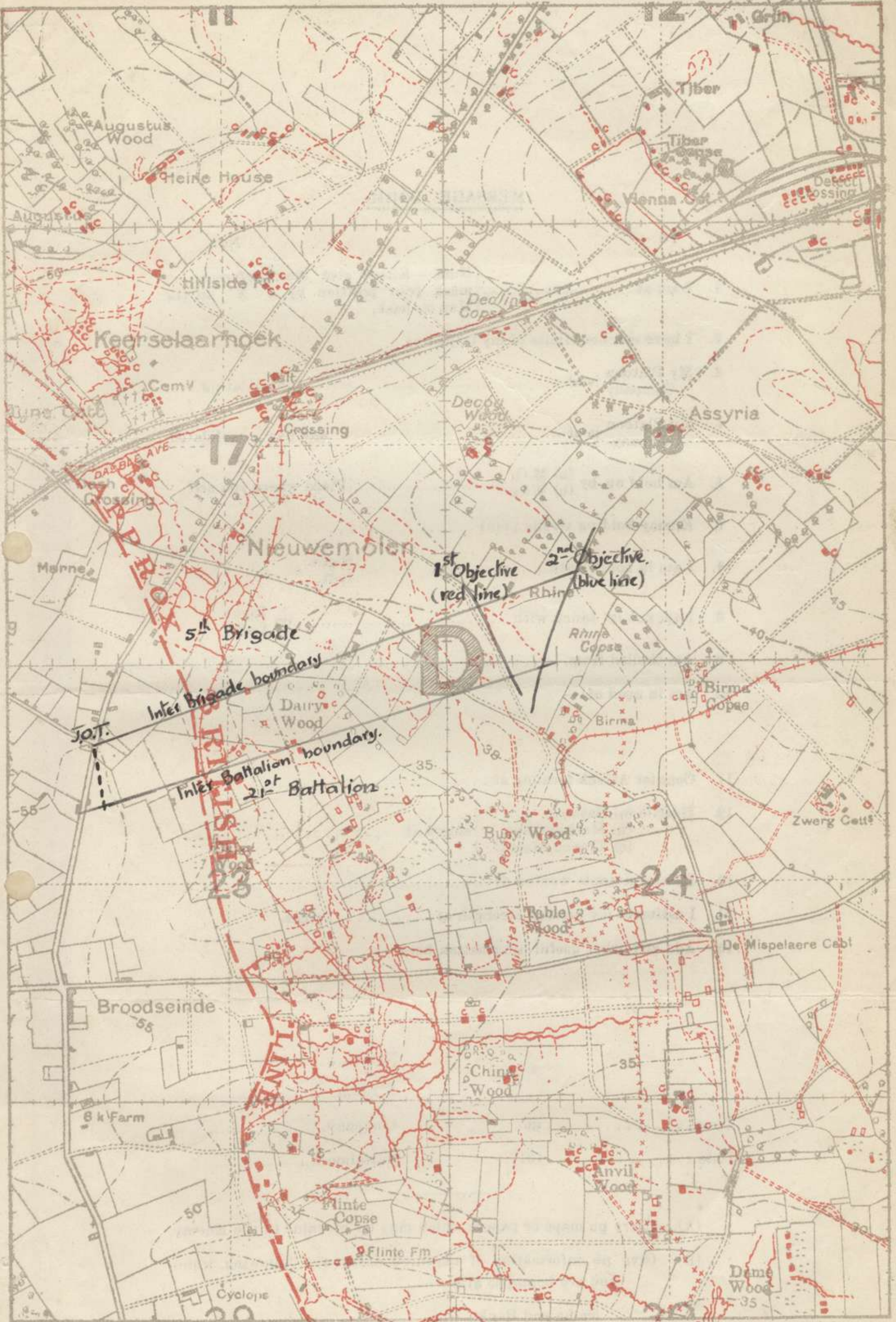
At about 1 p.m., 1 N.C.O. and 7 O.R's moved out to patrol BUSY WOOD. They got to edge of wood (casualties 2) and saw two deserted Machine Gun positions; enemy appeared to be on opposite side of wood. At this stage the party were compelled to withdraw owing to a barrage of our own Artillery and Machine Guns being placed on wood.

Casualties for Battalion amounted to 2 Officers and about 65% O.R's. No casualties were experienced after consolidation.

The Battalion was relieved night 9th/10th by 49th Bn., it being advised to C.O. 49th Bn. to consolidate on a line running from RHINE to S.E. edge of DAIRY WOOD.

A. Brazenor Lt.-Col.
Commanding 23rd Battalion.

11.10.17.



DUGOUTS or STRUCTURES } verified by Air Photographs
 Supposed to be Concrete }
 Do Dugouts not Concrete }
 Machine Guns. }
 ←○ Headquarters.

Old Gun Positions }
 Trenches in good repair }
 Do damaged or apparently not used }

Printed by HQ2 Advanced Section, A.P. & S.S.

Trenches Corrected to 4-10-17.

MESSAGE FORM.

To:—

No.

(Note:—Either give Map Reference or mark your position by a 'X' on the Map on back.

- 1. I am at.....
- 2. I have reached limits of my Objective.
- 3. My Platoon is at..... and is consolidating.
Company
- 4. My Platoon is at..... and has consolidated.
Company
- 5. Am held up by (a) M.G. at..... (Place where you are).
(b) Wire
- 6. Enemy holding strong point
- 7. I am in touch with..... Right Left at.....
- 8. I am not in touch with..... on Right Left.
- 9. Am shelled from.
- 10. Am in need of:—
- 11. Counter Attack forming at
- 12. Hostile (a) Battery
(b) Machine Gun } active at
- (c) Trench Mortar
- 13. Reinforcements wanted at
- 14. I estimate my present strength at rifles.
- 15. Add any other useful information here:—

Time m.
Date 1917.

Name.....
Platoon.....
Company.....
Battalion.....

- (A). Carry no maps or papers which may be of value to the Enemy.
- (B). Give no information if captured, except the following, which you are bound to give:—

Name and Rank.

- (C). Collect all captured maps and papers and send them in at once.

Trenches Connected to 4-10-17

Ref. Map Sheet 28 N.W. 1/20,000
do 27 1/40,000

11th October 1917.

1. The 23rd Battalion will entrain at YPRES on the 12th inst. for ABEELE, and proceed thence by road to Billets in STEENVOORDE Area.
2. Officers' Valises, Mess Boxes and Band packs will be dumped at junction of roads near Motor Lorries at 8 a.m.
3. O.C. "A" Coy. will detail guard of 1 N.C.O. and 3 O.R's to report to R.S.M. at 7.45 a.m.
4. Routine :-

Reveille	6.45 a.m.
Breakfast	7.00 a.m.
Sick Parade	7.15 a.m.
Fall in	8.00 a.m.
5. Coys. will be clear of Billets at 7.30 a.m. The time between 7.30 a.m. and 8 a.m. to be utilised in cleaning Billets and billeting area.
O's C. Coys. will render certificate to Bn. Headquarters at 8 a.m. that Billets have been left in a clean and sanitary condition.
6. A C K N O W L E D G E.

B. Dawson Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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- 5/9 O's C. Coys.
10. Q.M.
11. Transport
12. Spare

93
Ref. Map Sheets 27 & 28 1/40,000

26th October 1917.

1. The 2nd Austl Division will relieve the 5th Aust. Division between the 26th and 28th October 1917 and become responsible for the front line J.5.b.4.2. to D.23.a.4.7.
The 7th A.I. Bde. will hold the line and the 5th A.I. Bde. in Supports and the 6th A.I. Bde. in Divisional Reserve in DICKEBUSCH AREA.
2. The 23rd Battalion, less Details for Reinforcement Camp will move from present Billets to OUDERDOM AREA on the 27th inst.
3. Starting Point the junction of STEENVOORDE ROAD and ROAD leading to BATTALION HEADQUARTERS at K.35.c.8.5.
Head of column will pass the Starting Point at 7 a.m. in the following order - Band, H.Qrs. "B", "D", "C", "A" Coys.
The following distances will be maintained on the march :-
Between Companies 200 yards
" Transport section and other troops 400 "
4. DRESS :- Full Marching Order less Blanket.
Felt Hats will be worn.
Water Bottles filled.
5. Officers' Valises and Mess Boxes to be stacked at each Coy. Billets by 6 a.m.
Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10, clearly labelled, and stacked at Coy. Billets by 6 a.m.
Tents and Shelters will be struck at Reveille and stacked by 6 a.m. with Blankets at Coy. Billets.
Band Packs will be dumped at junction of Roads near Transport lines at 6.30 a.m.
6. BILLETS :- Coy. Commanders will furnish to Battalion Headquarters by 6.30 a.m. a certificate that Billets occupied by their Coys. have been left in a clean and sanitary condition, also a certificate signed by the owners of the Billets to the effect that no damage has been done to property by the troops billeted therein.
7. Officers and O.R's for Reinforcement Camp, FLETRE, will not move out with the Battalion, but will assemble at "D" Coy's Billet at 7.45 a.m. on the 27th inst., and proceed by route march to Reinforcement Camp, under Baptaian J. Pascoe.
8. DRESS :- Full Marching Order and Blanket.
Felt Hats to be worn.
Water Bottles filled.
9. The O.C. "B" Coy. will arrange for "B" Coy's Cooker and Coy. Cooks to accompany party for Reinforcement Camp.
10. After the Battalion has moved out the senior Officer in charge of each Coys. reinforcements will personally inspect the Billets and have any necessary cleaning completed.
11. Valises of Officers proceeding to Reinforcement Camp will be dumped separately at Coy. Billets.
12. A C K N O W L E D G E.

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| 6. | Adjutant | 15. | R.S.M. |
| 7/11 | O's C. Coys. | 16. | Spare |

S. Dawson Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion

Ref. Map Sheet 28 N.W. 1/20,000

27th October 1917

1. The 6th A.I. Brigade, less 6th M.G. Coy. will move to DICKEBUSCH AREA on 28th October 1917.
2. The 23rd Battalion will move from Micmac Camp at 9 A.M.
3. Order of march, - Band, H.Qrs., "D", "C", "A", "B" Coys.
The following distance will be maintained on the march -
Between Companies 200 yards
" Transport Section and other Troops 400 yards.
4. DRESS :- Full Marching Order with one Blanket
Felt Hats will be worn.
Water Bottles filled.
5. Officers' Valises and Mess Boxes will be stacked at Q.M's Store by 8.30 a.m.
One Blanket per man will be rolled in bundles of 10, clearly labelled, and stacked at Q.M's Store by 8 a.m.
Band Packs will be dumped at Q.M's Store at 8 a.m.
6. BILLETS :- Coy. Commanders will furnish to Battalion Headquarters by 8.30 a.m., a Certificate that Huts occupied by their Coys. have been left in a clean and sanitary condition.
7. A C K N O W L E D G E

W. E. ...
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion

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14. T.O.
15. R.S.M.
16. Spare

Ref. Map 28 N.W. 1/20,000

28th October 1917

1. The 21st Battalion will take over from the 19th Battalion the whole of their duties as from the 29th inst.
2. The 23rd Battalion will take over Camp H.27.b.3.6. now occupied by the 21st Battalion, on 29th October, by 12 NOON.
3. ORDER OF MARCH :- Band, H.Qrs., "C", "A", "B", "D" Coys.
The following distance will be maintained on the march -
Between Coys. .. 200 yards
"
4. DRESS :- Full Marching Order with two Blankets
Felt Hats will be worn
Water Bottles filled.
5. Officers' Valises will be stacked near Brick building at 9.30 a.m.
Mess Boxes on Company Cookers.
Band packs will be dumped at brick building at 9.30 a.m.
6. Coy. Commanders will furnish a Certificate that Tents occupied by their Companies have been left in a clean and sanitary condition.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

M. Lewis
Lient.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion

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