

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/40/31

**Title:** 23rd Infantry Battalion

April 1918



AWM4-23/40/31

Confidential Original

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

23<sup>rd</sup> Bde AIF

WAR DIARY OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME XXXY pp. 1.

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
B146 CATACOMBS. RtJN PLOEGSTEERT	1	-	Battalion which was in support to left Bde left Bde sector - WARNETON relieved by 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde Sth. Staffords - Relief was completed by 8.20 pm. after which boys moved independently to NEUVE EGLISE, arriving there about 11 pm.		mw. app. 1
NEUVE EGLISE Rt. HAZEBROUCK. Koo <sup>oo</sup>	2	-	Left NEUVE EGLISE at 11 am, Bde travelling by bus via LOCRE and METEREN to PRADELLES near STRAZELLE - Bde HQ and boys were comfortably billeted in and around village, which was reached about 3 pm. - The only duty provided was a packet into STRAZELLE.		app 2 mw.
PRADELLES.	3	-	Slight rain fell; Routine training and inspection under Coy arrangements in morning - In evening packets to STRAZELLE & PRADELLES.		mw.
	4	-	Preparations for leaving; C. Coy. proceeded under Major D Beith 6 C. as advance party at 3 pm. Transport entrained before Bde which left billets at 8.45 pm. proceeding per route march to STRAZELLE STATION which was left at 11.20 pm.		app 3 mw.
VAUX-en-AMIENOIS	5	-	Battalion proceeded South via ETAPLES; arrived at detraining point HANGEST at 11 am, thence route march through CROUY, PICQUIGNY, and ST. SAUVEUR to VAUX-en-AMIENOIS reached at 5.30 pm.		mw.
D 12651 SHEET 62 <sup>o</sup>	6	-	Battalion less details and percentage of specialists, marched out at 6 am. Then route marched through BERTANGES (where buses picked up, and carried through PONT NOYELLES to western edge of LA HOUSSOYE; thence route march via PRANVILLE to BAIZIEUX wood. C.O. Lt Col W. Branger D.S.O. and adjutant Lt L. Maddrell MC recognised forward with advance party of one officer per Coy at 4 pm. Battalion under Major D Beith moved up by platoons via HENNECOURT and LAVIEVILLE at 6.30 pm. - Relief of left sector by 12 <sup>th</sup> Bde AIF (46 <sup>th</sup> , 48 <sup>th</sup> Bns AIF) was completed by 11.30 pm. - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Bde AIF on right - NORFOLK Regt on left. Dispositions after relief: Outpost line D Coy. Capt W. J. Galbraith - PIONEER TRENCH Right - A Coy; Left B Coy (Lt R. L. Lusher - Lt R. R. R. respectively) Reserve Coy. C. Maj. Beith.	4 - OR. 43 911	app 4
100	7	-	Night passed uneventfully. Rain during night increased the discomfort caused by lack of accommodation and material to erect same, and failure of rations to come forward owing to transport movements - a medium bombardment at 4.30 am. by enemy.		mw.
100	8	-	C.O. & I.O. visited line at 5 am. - Sniping activity in evening caused two casualties - To combat trench feet which had commenced to appear (mainly in old cases) a battalion Rest Station, and foot washing centre was organised by RMO.		

Confidential Original

23<sup>rd</sup> Bn.  
A.I.F.

WAR DIARY VOLUME XXXV

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. pp 2.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 April		Capt H. J. Ross in MILLENCOURT. Initial Coy relief - C Coy relieving D in outpost line - the latter returning to reserve Lt. W. A. Martin succeeded Lt. Roxburgh (casualty) as W.C. B Coy		mw.
D12657	9	-	a rather heavy bombardment including gas shells at 4 am. - Sgt. Ellis - with B. since POZIERES killed in reserve trench Sgt. E. R. V. FOOTE shot by snipers about 7 am. while endeavouring to close with hostile patrol in outpost line, was an original man who had been through most engagements with the Battalion -		mw.
leo	10	-	another busy morning. - during which communications forward were broken down for an hour at 4.30 am. - Royal Engineers on our left. on Right 21 <sup>st</sup> Bn. A.I.F. relieved the 22 <sup>nd</sup> A.I.F. - During night a few of our posts were pushed forward to make good certain tactical points -		mw.
leo	11	-	Relieved by 24 <sup>th</sup> Bn. A.I.F. - completed without incident by 10.30 pm. Coys moved to area west of MILLENCOURT - B.H.G. remaining in village		app 5 mw. mw.
D5629	12	.	quiet day. Very little hostile shelling. - Fortwashing etc was proceeded with Lewis Gunners had some practice firing; otherwise work was confined to general improvement in accommodation of area. Baths were organised and Bn. dealt with a Coy. at a time.		app 7 mw.
leo	13			41 + 873	
leo	14		Rained slightly - 24 <sup>th</sup> Bn. forward visited by officer today in anticipation of relief on the following day. - Salvage dumps for Coys commenced.		mw. mw.
D12651	15		24 <sup>th</sup> Bn. were relieved this night - Relief complete at 10.20 pm.		
D5629	16.		Night & day were uneventful - Patrol (Lt. J. Kirkwood) reports normal.		mw.
	17-18		Routine fatigues, particularly wearing, only.		
	19		quiet night, intensely cold. Snow fell slightly in morning - Battalion relieved at 10 pm by 24 <sup>th</sup> Bn. A.I.F. - No casualties - Battalion returned to same area as before. Canteen supplies coming forward distributed to Coy representatives -		
	20		Shelling by our artillery led to fairly heavy retaliation by enemy on battery areas resulting in Coys suffering casualties.	41 + 828	
	21				mw.
	22		Fatigues by Coys. under 6 <sup>th</sup> A. Fld Coy. forward - also on Coy. H.G. - Liaison Officer 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde visited B.H.G. - Heavy enemy shelling at 6.30 pm. by which 3 men of D Coy were killed -		
	23		Spasmodic shelling of MILLENCOURT resulted in the death of Lt. V. J. W. Ross and the wounding of Lt. F. J. Jenkins. - Lt. Ross left Australia with the 9 <sup>th</sup> Reinforcements and first joined the Battalion in 1916 during the YPRES tour of duty. He was evacuated		

Companion  
Original

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23<sup>rd</sup> B<sup>n</sup>

WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOLUME XXXV

Army Form C. 2118.

pp. 3

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
D5629	1918 April		Sick from FLERS and for some months in 1917 was at Staff Captains in training depot - PERHAM-DOWN. He returned to the B <sup>n</sup> and was present in the BROUWENDE action in OCTOBER and later in the WARNETON sector period.		
			Lt. Jenkins, acting in the capacity of Works Officer is an original member of the B <sup>n</sup> . Granted a commission on July 1917. He had been wounded previously at POZIERES July 1916 - after which action he was awarded the M.C.		MW
			A fair number of sneezing shells were sent onto MILLENCOURT today. Radding party - 38 men - C. Lt. J. Lowe now formed.		
	24		Relief which was to have taken place tonight postponed for 24 hrs. Usual working parties in evening - Lt. W. J. Bonnell works officer.		MW
D12651	25		24 <sup>th</sup> B <sup>n</sup> relieved at 10.55 pm. - Dispositions - Outpost line A Coy. PIONEER TRENCH - Right C Coy - Left D Coy - Reserve B Coy - Reconnoitering patrol of 1 NCO + 3 encountered party of 20 Germans. Shots exchanged without result active patrolling by Lt Lowe & Party		MW
l.c.	26		Alteration of B <sup>n</sup> boundaries necessitate change in B <sup>n</sup> front - 21 <sup>st</sup> B <sup>n</sup> relieved & A Coy in outpost line & C Coy - Coys then moved North taking over line in MILLENCOURT valley held by 14 <sup>th</sup> Welsh Regt. - Dispositions after relief which was completed by 11.55 pm were - Front line - Right A Coy Left C Coy. Support D Coy - Reserve B Coy - Right B <sup>n</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> A.I.F. Left 21 <sup>st</sup> B <sup>n</sup> A.I.F.		MW
	27		Quiet sector - active patrolling as on previous nights - A Prisoner of 248 I.R. which identification was urgently required - captured at 10.20 pm.	41888	MW
	28		Ordinary trench routine only.		
	29		Rather lively day; but no casualties - Capt. H. G. Orr sick, relieved by Capt. Duggan In evening Lt. Pike & Lt. M. B. reconnoitered on front with Lt. Lowe with a view to action against enemy M.S. suspected at W27C03		MW
	30		Relieving unit 17 <sup>th</sup> London Regt representatives up to B.H.6 today remaining - Day & night quiet -		

# WAR DIARY

OF

23<sup>rd</sup> Batt. A.I.F.

FOR

APRIL 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Batt. 6.6. No 98 - move S. from WARNETON to ALBERT and
2	Do 99 - via NEUVE EGLISE
3	Do 100 - HANGEST
4	Do 101 - Relief of line S.W. ALBERT.
5	Do 102 - Relief by 24 <sup>th</sup> Bn. 11/12 April -
6	Do - Defence Scheme. Support Bn.
7	addendum to 6.
8	Do 103 - Relief of 24 <sup>th</sup> Bn. 15/16 April
9	Do 104 - Relief by 24 <sup>th</sup> Bn. 19/20 April
10	Map showing area of operations for April
11	air photos of above
12	Disposition Report for front line period
13	Batt. 6.6. 105 - Relief by 24 <sup>th</sup> Bn. 26/27 April
14	Defence Scheme - period 29 <sup>th</sup> April
15	General Intelligence Summary
16	6 W.S. report.
17	Transport Officers Report
18	Issue Regt. Papers

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SECRET.-

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 98.

Ref. Map:- Sheet 28 S.W. 1/20,000. 1st APRIL, 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will be relieved by the 7th Inf. Brigade to-day.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will be relieved by the 4th SOUTH STAFFORDS, to-day.-  

"A" Coy.	by	"A" Coy.
"C" "	"	"C" "
"D" "	"	"B" "
- 3.- Nucleus Personnel, now at RED LODGE, will rejoin their new Camps to-night, under orders to be issued by Major BATEMAN. The Coy. of the 23rd Battn. attached to 24th Battn., A.I.F., will, on relief, come under the orders of the C.O., 23rd Battn. Coys. will move independently to ALDERSHOT CAMP, WATERLOO ROAD, near NEUVE EGLISE.
- 4.- No. Coy will vacate its Defences until the relief of its Nucleus Garrison and Defences is complete. Nucleus Garrisons will move with Coys.
- 5.- GUIDES.-  
Each Coy. will send 1 Guide per Platoon to Battn. H'Qrs. by 6 p.m. this day.  
1 Guide per Post of the Nucleus Garrison will be at Coy. H'Qrs. to meet Incoming Battalion.
- 6.- All defence Schemes, Maps, Air Photos, Trench and Area Stores, will be handed over on Relief, and duplicates of the receipts obtained forwarded to Battn. H'Qrs. by NOON on 2nd inst.
- 7.- VALISES.-  
Valises and ALL Stores for removal to Camp will be dumped at HYDE PARK CORNER on Road opposite Battn. CANTREN by 6 p.m. Each Coy. will detail 1 Batman to remain with Valises to load and guard same.
- 8.- Completion of Relief will be notified to Battn. H'Qrs. in CODE.
- 9.- Command of all Troops in the Area will pass to G.O.C., 7th Inf. Brigade, on completion of the relief.
- 10.- Billeting Party under Lieut. H. FIELD will report to Capt. HOAD at NEUVE EGLISE CHURCH at 3 p.m. this day.
- 11.- ALL Detached Parties will be warned by Coys. as to the new location of the Battalion, so that they will move to Battn. on their relief.
- 12.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

*Shadwell*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- Transport Officer.
- 14.- Q.M.
- 15.- 4th SOUTH STAFFORDS.
- 16.- Spare.

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app 2

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BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 99.

Ref. Maps. HAZEBROUCK 5A. 1/100,000.  
Sheet 28. 1/20,000.

2nd APRIL, 1918.

- 1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will move to Billets at STRAZERLE. Area to-day by Bus.
- 2.- Embussing Point.- Sheet 28. T.14.d.9.5.
- 3.- Lieut. H.C. HOLLAND will act as Embussing Officer for this Battalion, reporting to Brigade Major at T.14.d.9.5. at 11.00 a.m.
- 4.- Coys. will be told off into parties of 25 before leaving Billets.
- 5.- Starting Point at junction of Roads at T.14.d.00.50.  
Head of the column will pass the Starting Point at 11.5 a.m., in the following order.-  
  
Band, "H'Qrs", "A", "B", "C" and "D" Coys.
- 6.- Dress.- Full Marching Order.  
1 Blanket to be carried rolled in Waterproof Sheet Horseshoe fashion around the Pack.  
Felt Hats.  
Water Bottles filled.  
4 Sandbags per man, carried under the flap of the Pack.
- 7.- Valises.- Officers' Valises will be dumped at Q.M's. Store by 10.00 a.m. Coy. Mess Boxes will be carried on Coy. Cookers.
- 8.- Billets.- Usual Certificates by 10.30 a.m.
- 9.- Distance of 100 yards to be maintained between Coys.
- 10.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

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*Shaddell*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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- 15/16.- Spare.

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App 3  
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BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 100.

Appendix 3

Copy No 2

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Ref. Map. HAZEBROUCK 5A. 1/100,000.  
AMIENS 17. 1/100,000.

3rd APRIL, 1918.

- 1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will entrain to-morrow, the 4th inst.
- 2.- The Disposition of Battalion, Entraining Station, Detraining Station and time of departure is as follows.-

Coy.	Entrain.	Detrain.	Time of Departure.
"C" Coy.	STRAZEELE.	HANGEST.	5.18 p.m.
Battn. less 1 Coy.	STRAZEELE.	HANGEST.	11.18 p.m.

- 3.- "C" Coy. will move under Coy. Arrangements.  
Battalion less 1 Coy. will pass Starting Point (Cross-Roads 900 yards EAST of PRADELLES CHURCH on STRAZEELE-PRADELLE ROAD, opposite "B" Coy's. Billets.) at 8.45 p.m.

ORDER OF MARCH.- Band, "H'Qrs", "A", "B" and "D" Coys.  
200 yards distance between Coys. to be maintained.

- 4.- DRESS.- Full Marching Order.  
Blanket carried in Waterproof Sheet rolled horseshoe fashion around the pack.  
4 Sandbags per man.  
Rations for the 5th inst.  
Water Bottles filled.

- 5.- The additional Bombs will be transported <sup>to Station</sup> and will be carried by Coys. in the train in Boxes.  
On Detraining, arrangements by Battalion will be made for detonating and issuing 2 per man.

- 6.- The Lewis Gun Officer will detail 2 Lewis Guns with teams for Anti-Aircraft work throughout the journey.

- 7.- Lieut. H.C. HOLLAND will act as Entraining Officer and will report 2½ hours prior to departure of 11.18 p.m. Train.  
States to be carried.

- 8.- Detraining Officers are detailed as follows.-

Major D. BEITH, 23rd Battalion, to detrain Nos. 1, 2 and 3 trains, and part of 4 and 5 trains from STRAZEELE.

- 9.- "C" Coy. is detailed, strength 3 Officers (including Major BEITH 100 O.R's. and Cooker and Team, to proceed by the 5.18 p.m. Train from STRAZEELE.  
This Coy. will remain as Detraining Party until completion of the Divisional Detrainment at the THREE Detraining Stations.

- 10.- RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS.-

- (I) No troops or transport will be permitted to enter the station yard until permission is obtained from the R.T.O.
- (II) No personnel or stores will be allowed in the brake-vans at either end of the train or on the tops of carriages, nor allowed to sit on footboards or have doors open during journey.
- (III) No troops will move from the train without the order of the O.C. Train or Detraining Officers.
- (IV) Entrainment of all Units will be completed half-an-hour before schedule time of departure of train.

"D" Coy. will detail a guard to enforce the above arrangements.

P.T.O.



SECRET.-

Copy No 2BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 100 (Contd).

- 11.- An Advance Billeting Party consisting of Lieut. BAKER and 1 N.C.O. from each Coy., will proceed by 5.18 p.m. train. Billeting Party to report to Battalion Headquarters at 12.30 p.m. for States and Bicycles. On Detraining this party will report to Divisional Billeting Officer.
- 12.- States of Strength to be rendered to Battalion Headquarters by 11.30 a.m.
- 13.- Officers' Valises to be dumped at Coy. Headquarters at 10.00 a.m. for collection by Transport.
- 14.- O.C., Transport, will make arrangements to collect Valises and dump at Q.M.'s. Store.
- 15.- Transport will arrive at STATION three hours before time of Entraining.
- 16.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

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*Spadden*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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| 7.-    | 6th A.I. Brigade.    |
| 8.-    | Transport Officer.   |
| 9/13.- | O.C.'s., Coys.       |
| 14.-   | Q.M.                 |
| 15.-   | Lieut. H.C. HOLLAND. |
| 16.-   | Lieut. A. BAKER.     |

Ref. Map. AMIENS 17. 1/100,000.

6th APRIL, 1918.

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- 1.- The 4th Aust. Division holds the Front Line from BUIRE along the ANCRE to just S.W. of ALBERT. the 3rd Aust. Division is on its Right and the 12th Division on its Left.
  - 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., less Details, will embuss at DOULLENS-AMIENS Road at BERTANGLES-COISY Cross-Roads at 7 a.m., 6th inst., debussing at LA HOUSOYE, and then march route to BAIZIEUX.
  - 3.- The Battalion will pass Starting Point at 6.am. in the following order.-  
 "H'Qrs," "A", "B", "C" and "D" Coys.  
STARTING POINT.- AILLY-sur-Somme-BERTANGLES Road at junction of road leading to VAUX, marked "INN".  
 Distances to be maintained on the march.-  
 Between Coys: - 200 yards.  
 Transport Sections - 500 "
  - 4.- DRESS.- Fighting Order.  
 1 Blanket rolled in Waterproof Sheet and carried on the Back.  
 Iron Rations.  
 4 Sandbags.  
 2 Bombs.  
 Water Bottles filled.
  - 5.- Nucleus Personnel to be left out of the line in accordance with S.S. 135, will be left in present Billets and will move later under orders to be issued direct to them.  
 Nominal Roll of Nucleus Personnel to be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by Coys. by 5.30 a.m.
  - 6.- PACKS.- Packs of the Battalion, less Details, will be dumped in Coy. Dumps and will ~~not~~ be left in charge of the personnel referred to in para. 5.
  - 7.- Lewis Guns will be carried in the Buses.
  - 8.- 1 N.C.O. from "A", "B" and "D" Coys. & "H'Qrs" will report to Lieut. A. BAKER at Bn. H'Qrs. at 5.30 a.m. to proceed Billeting.
  - 9.- Officers' Valises will be dumped outside present Billets by 5.30 a.m.  
 Coy. Mess Boxes will be carried on Coy. Cookers.
  - 10.- First Line Transport will move under orders of the Brigade Transport Officer and will brigaded South of FRECHENCOURT.
  - 11.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

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- 14.- Q.M.
- 15.- Lieut. A. BAKER.
- 16.- Spare.

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

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2/15

SECRET.-

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 102.

Ref. Maps.- SHEET. 62.D. N.E.  
SHEET. 57.D. S.E.

10th APRIL, 1918.

1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will be relieved by the 24th Battalion, A.I.F., on the LEFT Sector on the night 11/12th inst.

2.- Coys. will be relieved as follows.-

<u>24th Battn.</u>	will relieve	<u>23rd Battn.</u>
"A" & "D" Coys.	"	"C" Coy.
"B" Coy.	" "	"A" & "B" Coys.
"C" "	" "	"D" Coy.

3.- No Trench, Post or Emplacement will be vacated until taken over by relieving Unit.

4.- The following Guides will report to Lieut. WEIR at Battn. H'Qrs. at 7 p.m.  
"C" Coy's. Guides to report on the early morning of the 11th inst.

"C" Coy.	-	One Guide per Post.
"A" & "B" Coys.	-	One Guide per Post.
"D" Coy.	-	Two Guides.

5.- O.C's., Coys., will give each Guide a note stating the Post and number of men.

6.- Details of Relief NOT covered by this Order will be mutually arranged by O.C's., Coys., concerned.

7.- On completion of Relief the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will move to position vacated by the 24th Battalion, A.I.F.

8.- Coys. will take over accommodation vacated as under.-

<u>23rd Battn.</u>	-	<u>24th Battn.</u>
"A" Coy.	-	"A" Coy.
"B" "	-	"B" "
"C" "	-	"C" "
"D" "	-	"D" "
"H'Qrs"	-	"H'Qrs"

9.- Coys. will move out complete in S.A.A. and 2 Bombs per man.

10.- All Trench Stores, Dumps, S.O.S. and Tools will be handed over and receipts forwarded to Battn. H'Qrs. by 12 NOON on the 12th inst. Flare Pistols will not be handed over.

11.- On completion of Relief "MAY WE" will be sent to Battn. H'Qrs.

12.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

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

- NOTES -

- (a) W.O. WILBY will billet "C" Coy. in new position and Runner THOMPSON will guide from Battn. H'Qrs.
- (b) ALL Soeks will be salvaged and brought out by Coys.

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- 13.- 24th Battalion, A.I.F.
- 14.- Transport Officer.
- 15.- Q.M.
- 16.- Spare.

## PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME - "C" BATTN.

Appendix

Ref. Maps.- SHEET. 62.D. N.E.  
SHEET. 57.D. S.E.

13th APRIL, 1918.

- 1.- The Brigade Boundaries are as follows.-  
NORTH.- Line through:- D.4, 5, 6, central.- E.1,2,3,4.central  
SOUTH.- Line through:- D.10.d.6.4. - D.11.b.6.3. -  
D.12.central - E.7.c.2.8. - E.13.d.9.1. -  
E.20.b.4.5.
- 2.- Dispositions are as follows.-  
"A" Battn. - RIGHT FRONT LINE.  
"B" " - LEFT " "  
"C" " - SUPPORT - MILLENCOURT.  
"D" " - RESERVE - LAVIEVILLE.
- 3.- "C" Battn. may be ordered to support either "A" or "B" Battns., or to COUNTER-ATTACK and re-establish the SUPPORT LINE, if it is lost.
- 4.- In preparation for para. 3, ASSEMBLY POINT has been decided as follows.-  
Battn. in Artillery Formation WEST of MILLENCOURT-LAVIEVILLE Road.  
"A" Coy. on RIGHT.  
"B" " " LEFT.  
"C" " in rear of "A" Coy.  
"D" " " " " "B" "  
CENTRE POINT and POINT of DIRECTION to rest on the last of row of Trees from MILLENCOURT - approx. 300 yards from VILLAGE. D.S.A. 35.  
FRONTAGE of Battalion to be 250 yards.
- 5.- Officers and N.C.O's. will at once reconnoitre their positions at the Point of Assembly.
- 6.- Coys. will be prepared to move within 15 minutes of "STAND TO" Order.  
DRESS.- Fighting Order.  
120 rounds S.A.A.  
2 Bombs per man.  
Water-Bottles filled.  
Iron Rations, etc.
- 7.- Principles governing action in the event of Attack.-

*Will be used as Addendum*

8.- Battle Straggler Posts.-

ROAD JUNCTION - HENENCOURT CHATEAU.  
BAZIEUX.  
FRANVILLERS.

- 9.- Prisoners of War Cage at BAZIEUX.  
Prisoners to be handed over to A.P.M.
- 10.- Brigade Hqrs.- ~~S4~~ DUMP, HENENCOURT.
- 11.- Battalion H'qrs.- V.29.d.o.2.
- 12.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

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*Spadwell* Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C.'s., Coys.
- 13.- Transport Officer, and Q.M.
- 14.- "A" Battalion.
- 15.- "B" "
- 16.- "D" "

The following are the distribution points for the above mentioned items.

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Order.  
180 rounds S.A.A.  
3 Bombs per man.  
Water-bottles filled.  
Iron Rations, etc.

The following are the distribution points for the above mentioned items. The distribution points are as follows: 1. File. 2/4. War Diary. 5. C.O. 6. Adjutant. 7. 6th A.I. Brigade. 8/12. O.C.'s., Coys. 13. Transport Officer, and Q.M. 14. "A" Battalion. 15. "B" ". 16. "D" ". The following are the distribution points for the above mentioned items.

ROAD JUNCTION - HERRINGCOURT CHATEAU.

The following are the distribution points for the above mentioned items. The distribution points are as follows: 1. File. 2/4. War Diary. 5. C.O. 6. Adjutant. 7. 6th A.I. Brigade. 8/12. O.C.'s., Coys. 13. Transport Officer, and Q.M. 14. "A" Battalion. 15. "B" ". 16. "D" ". The following are the distribution points for the above mentioned items.

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Adjutant, 6th A.I. Brigade.

## ADDENDUM TO PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME, "C" BATTN, ISSUED 13.4.18.

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING ACTION IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK.

14th APRIL, 1918.

- 1.- In the event of an Enemy attack, the principle to be born in mind is that there will be no withdrawal without orders from higher authority; every bit of ground will be fought for. Should the Enemy succeed in making a gap in our line, troops on either flank will not fall back. Though no hard and fast rule can be laid down for dealing with every situation, the guiding principle is that it is better to strengthen the Garrisons that are still holding out and make an attack on the Enemy's flank, than to make a frontal counter-attack, on the positions he has gained.
- 2.- Should orders be received to withdraw our line to conform to the movements of Divisions on our flanks, this will not be done without precise orders from Brigade. Withdrawals will be in a WESTERLY direction to the next system in rear, or as may be ordered. They will be carried out gradually, the general principle being that troops on the threatened flank will be the first to move; and no Battalion will be withdrawn until the one immediately preceding it has reached the next line in rear. ALL withdrawals will be covered by Artillery and M.G. fire.
- 3.- The nature of the positions held by the 6th A.I. Bde. and what is known of the enemy's methods in attack since March 21st render it improbable that a frontal attack by the enemy could progress beyond the line of PIONEER TRENCH. The lines of advance on which the enemy would concentrate are the valley running North from BUIRE and the valley between ALBERT and MILLENCOURT.
- 4.- To combat an enemy advance up the latter valley "C" Bn. (bivouaced West of MILLENCOURT) would be used and it would move to the attack either North or South of MILLENCOURT and counter-attack either in a South Easterly or Easterly direction according to the situation. In addition the Reserve Company of the Left Bn. would, depending on the weight on the enemy's frontal attack, possibly be available under the Bn. Commanders Orders to attack in a Northerly direction the flank of the enemy's troops in the valley.
- 5.- While, for the reasons given in para.3 above, any necessity for reinforcing the Line Bns. in the event of an enemy attack, is not anticipated, should such a necessity arise "D" Bn. or parts of it would be used. Whether Companies of "D" Bn. used thus would be replaced in the LAVIEVILLE Defences by Companies of "C" Bn. would depend on the situation. The necessary reconnaissances will be made forthwith by Officers of "C" Bn. The most forward Company of "D" Bn. is so disposed that it could not readily be used for counter-attack. Its function is more to break up any attack which progresses beyond PIONEER TRENCH. Should the situation so develop that the senior of the Bn. Commanders in the line considered that one or two platoons from this Company must be used forward of his Bn. Hdqrs. he is at liberty to use them, informing Bde. Hdqrs. & C.O. "D" Bn. that he has done so.
- 6.- When an S.O.S. Signal goes up on our front or is notified from Bde. Hdqrs. "C" & "D" Bns. will "STAND TO", "C" Bn. at its Coy. Alarm Posts. Each Bn. will send an officer with two runners to Bde. Hdqrs. Troops of neither Bn. will be moved forward until the situation develops, but each Bn. Commander should keep himself in touch by means of Observers and Liaison Officers with the situation on the Bde. front and flanks. (Lieut. M. WEIR and 2 Scouts.)

P.T.O.

SECRET.-Appendix ~~4~~  
Copy No 2PRINCIPLES GOVERNING ACTION IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK (Contd).

- 7.- In the event of an attack the Bde. Snipers will be used as a Sniping Platoon under Lieut. GEAR, 24th Bn. He will be free to use them as he thinks best, the object of the Snipers always being to break up an enemy attack by killing off the Officers.
- 8.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

*Shaddell*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

## Copies to.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C.'s, Coys.
- 13.- Transport Offr. and Q.M.
- 14.- "A" Battalion.
- 15.- "B" "
- 16.- "D" "

93

~~SECRET~~

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. ~~102~~ 103

Ref. Maps.- SHEET. 62.D. N.E.  
SHEET. 57.D. S.E.

15th APRIL, 1918.

1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will relieve the 24th Battalion, A.I.F., in the LEFT Sector on the night of the 15/16th inst.

2.- Coys. will relieve as follows.-

<u>23rd Battn.</u>			<u>24th Battn.</u>	
"B" Coy.		will relieve	OUTPOST Coy.	
"C" "		" "	RIGHT FLANK Coy., PIONEER TR.	
"D" "		" "	LEFT FLANK Coy., " "	
"A" "		" "	Coy. at RESERVE TRENCH.	

3.- DRESS.- Fighting Order.  
120 rounds S.A.A.  
2 Bombs per man.  
Water-Bottles filled.  
3 pairs of Socks per man.  
1 Blanket per man strapped on back of Belt.  
24 hours Rations.

4.- Coys. will be prepared to pass STARTING POINT at 8 p.m.  
STARTING POINT.- ROAD JUNCTION, V.29.d.8.3.

5.- ROUTE.-  
"B" and "C" Coys.- From starting point to D.6.b.2.4., then South and proceed along road through D.6.b. & d. to main ALBERT-AMIENS Road, then on LEFT of MAIN ROAD to PIONEER TRENCH, and OUTPOSTS.  
"A" and "D" Coys.- From starting point to D.6.b.5.2. and then along road to RESERVE TRENCH. "D" Coy. to proceed along RIDGE in E.l.c. & d. to LEFT FLANK, PIONEER TRENCH.  
Guides for posts at Coy. H'Qrs.

6.- Battalion Defence Schemes, Trench Stores, Local Information and Intelligence will be carefully taken over.

7.- Arrangements not covered by this Order will be mutually arranged by O.C's., Coys., concerned.

8.- Completion of Relief will be wired to Battalion H'Qrs. in CODE.

9.- PRIMUS STOVES will be drawn before leaving this Area, and Coys. are held responsible for their safe keeping.

10.- The RESERVE Coy. will be responsible for the carrying ~~of~~ of Rations from the RATION DUMP at NORTH of RESERVE TRENCH, to ALL Coys. including H'Qrs. Coy.  
O.C., RESERVE Coy., will detail these Parties to W.O. WILBY.  
"A", "C" and "D" Coys'. Trench Q.M's. will stay at the RESERVE TRENCH and will guide Ration Parties to Coy. H'Qrs.  
"B" Coy's. Trench Q.M. will remain with Coy. and will meet the Rations at the RATION DUMP nightly.

11.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- 24th Battalion, A.I.F.
- 14.- Transport Officer.
- 15.- Q.M.
- 16.- Spare.

*Added*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.



93

SECRET.-

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 103.104

Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.D. N.E. 1/20,000. 19th APRIL, 1918.

- 1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will be relieved by the 24th Battalion, A.I.F., on night 19/20th inst.
- 2.- Coys. will be relieved as follows.-

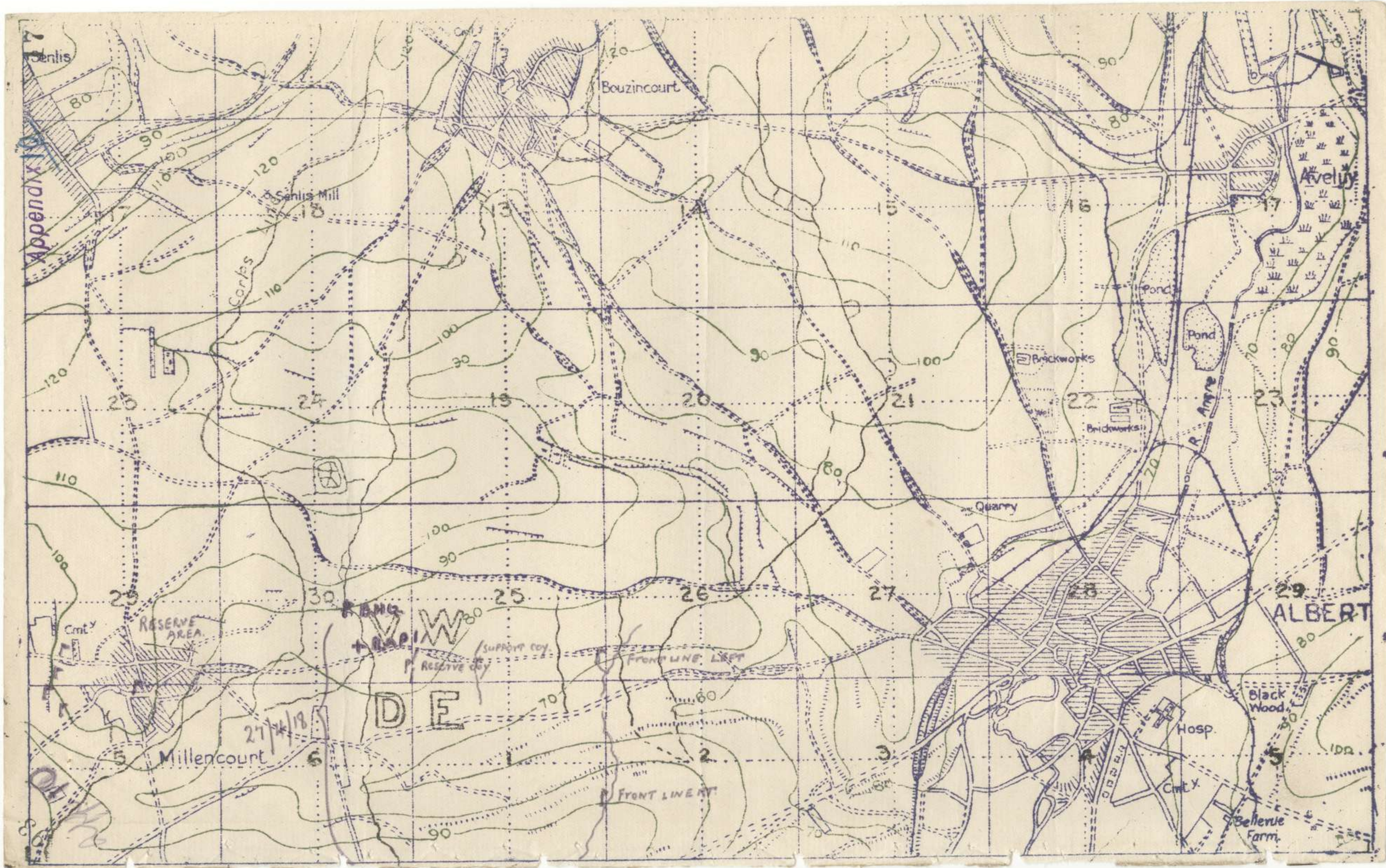
<u>23rd Battn.</u>	relieved by	<u>24th Battn.</u>
"B" Coy. (OUTPOST COY.)	"	"B" Coy.
"D" " (LEFT FLANK PIONEER TR.)	"	"D" "
"C" " (RIGHT FLANK PIONEER TR.)	"	"C" "
"A" " (RESERVE COY.)	"	"A" "

- 3.- COVERING PARTIES for the relief will be detailed by O.C's., "C" and "D" Coys - 1 Lewis Gun Team per Coy. They will be recalled by O.C., "B" Coy., after completion of relief.
- 4.- One Guide for each of the following Coys. to report to SUNKEN ROAD, D.6.d.30.40. at 8.30 p.m.- "A", "C" and "D" Coys. One Guide for each POST to be at Coy. H'Qrs.
- 5.- Men will move out with 170 rounds S.A.g. and 2 Bombs per man.
- 6.- On relief Coys. will move to "C" Battn. Area and take over the same accommodation as last occupied by them.
- 7.- 1 N.C.O. per Coy. to proceed to MILLENCOURT on the 19th inst. and take over Coy. accommodation.
- 8.- Copies of receipts for Trench Stores handed over to be at Battn. H'Qrs. by NOON 20th inst.
- 9.- Completion of relief to be wired to Battn. H'Qrs. in CODE.
- 10.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

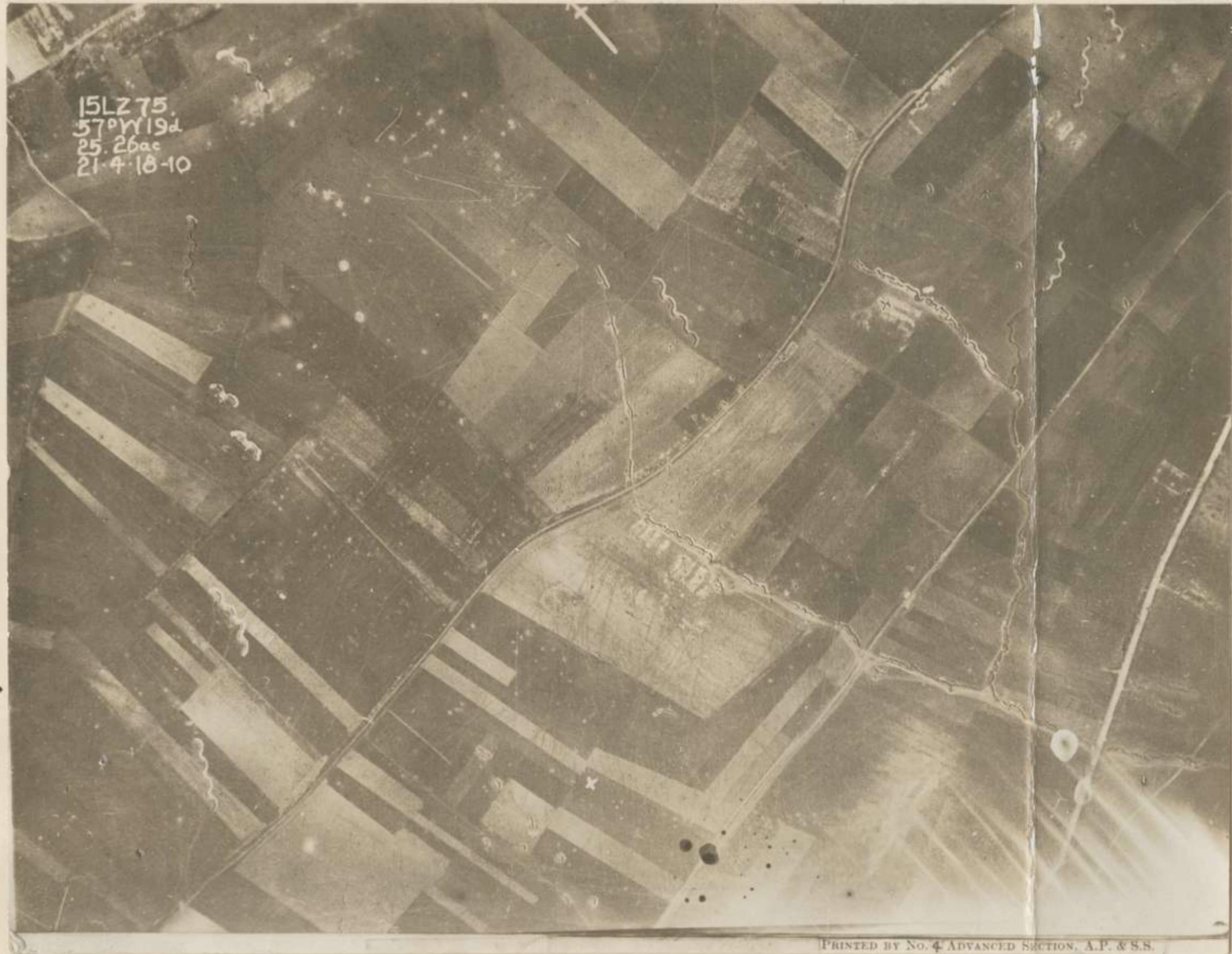
- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- 24th Battalion.
- 14.- Transport officer.
- 15.- Q.M.
- 16.- Spare.

*F. Haddrell*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.





Appendix 18



20

11/1/1918



5LB120  
57°W26.  
62°E2ab.  
21.4.18.10

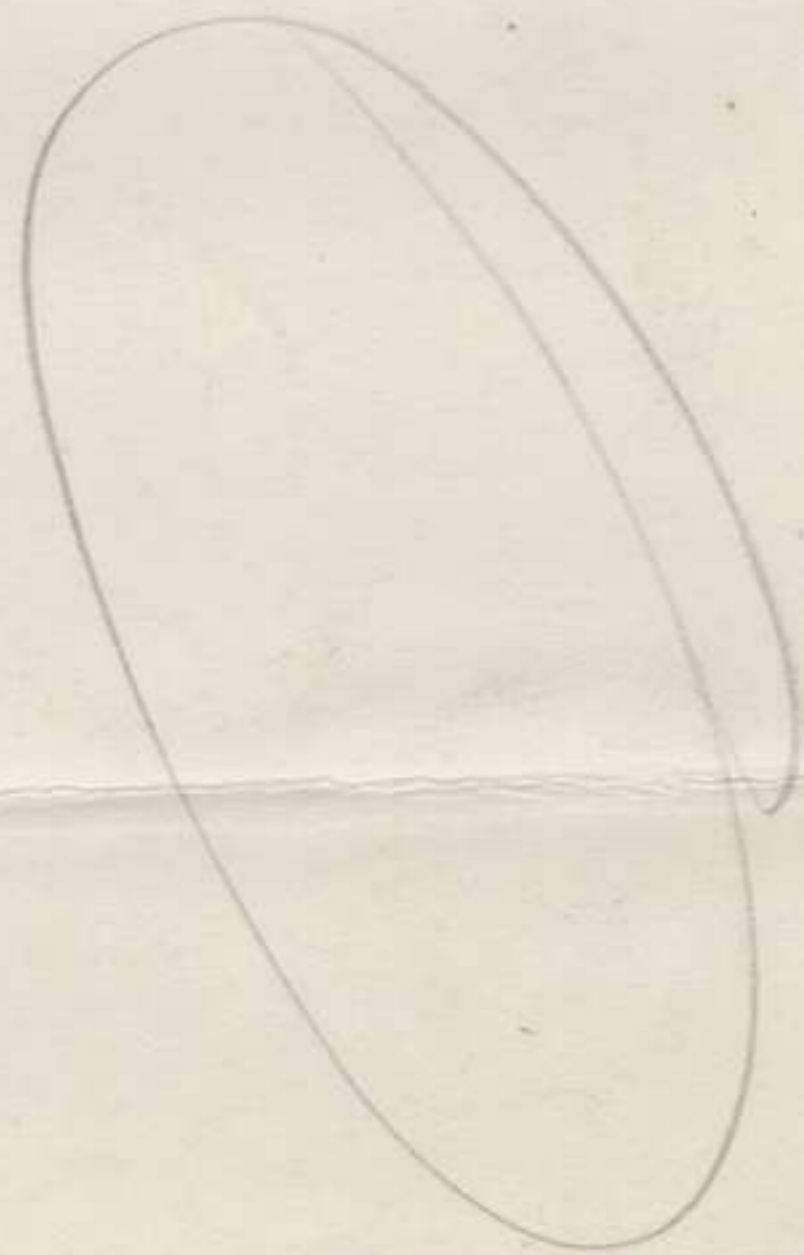
PRINTED BY NO. 4 ADVANCED SECTION, A.P. & S.S.

Appendix II

BOCA

Right Coy Section

A Coy





Appendix. 11



23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Appendix 12

Disposition of Coy. 6<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> April -  
Front Line.

6<sup>th</sup> April to 11<sup>th</sup> April (inches) - B.H.6 D12 to 51  
+ 16<sup>th</sup> " " 21<sup>st</sup> " " " " " " " " " " " "

Coy 46<sup>th</sup> - Front line (outpost)  
E8a10 changed afterwards to E2c01.

Regt Coy. PIONEER TRENCH -

E7 to 77.

Left Coy. E2c05.

Reserve Coy. E7a28

26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April (inches)

B.H.6. V.30 d 29.

Coy 46<sup>th</sup> - Front line

W25d 92

+ E2c05.

Support Coy. W25c 23.

Reserve Coy. V30d 12.

30. 4. 18.

M. Weir Lt.

Flanking units were

6. 4. 18

11. 4. 18

15. 4. 18

25. 4. 18

26. 4. 18

Right 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn. AIF - Left - Suffolk Regt

" 21<sup>st</sup> " " - Left R. Fusiliers

" 22<sup>nd</sup> P<sup>th</sup> AIF - Left 15<sup>th</sup> Welch Regt

" 21<sup>st</sup> P<sup>th</sup> AIF - Left 14<sup>th</sup> Welch Regt

" 21<sup>st</sup> Bn. AIF - Left 19<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> AIF.

93

SECRET.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 105

Ref. Maps.- SHEET 52.D. N.E. 1/20,000.  
SHEET 57.D. S.E. 1/20,000. 26th April, 1918.

- 1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will be relieved by the 21st Battalion, A.I.F., on the night 26/27th inst.
- 2.- Coys. will be relieved as follows.-
 

"A" Coy., 23rd Battn.	-	"A" Coy., 21st Battn.
"B" " " "	-	"C" " " "
"C" " " "	-	"B" " " "
- 3.- All Tools, S.O.S., Petrol Tins, will be carried by Coys. to the new position.
- 4.- All Intelligence, Stores, to be handed over and receipts in TRIPPLICATE forwarded to Battn. H'Qrs. by morning Runner.
- 5.- Guides as follows.-  
Runners will guide Coys. to JUNCTION of C.T. and PIONEER TRENCH. One Guide per platoon of "C" Coy. and one Guide per Post of "A" Coy., to be at JUNCTION of C.T. and PIONEER TRENCH at 9 p.m.
- 6.- Completion of relief to be wired to Battn. H'Qrs. in CODE.
- 7.- On completion of relief Battalion Operation Order No. 105 will come into force.
- 8.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.

*J. J. Addell* Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- 21st Battalion, A.I.F.
- 14.- 14th Welsh Battalion.
- 15.- Q.M.
- 16.- Transport Officer.

Ref Maps.- SHEET 62.D. N.E. 1/20,000.  
SHEET 57.D. S.E. 1/20,000.

29th APRIL, 1918.

1.- Brigade Boundaries are as follows.-

SOUTH - E.W. Line through E.7.d.0.8.  
NORTH - E.W. Line through W.26.d.0.6.

2.- "B" Battalion Boundaries are as follows.-

SOUTH - E.W. Line through E.2.c.0.5.  
NORTH - E.W. Line through W.26.d.0.6.

3.- Dispositions are as follows.-

No.1 Coy. - RIGHT FRONT (E.2.c.0.5. - E.2.a.1.7.)  
No.2 " - LEFT FRONT. (E.2.a.1.7. - W.26.c.4.6.)  
No.3 " - SUPPORT. (W.25.c. and E.1.a.)  
No.4 "" - RESERVE. (W.25.c., V.30.d., and E.1.a.)

4.- In the event of Attack.-

- (a) LISTENING POSTS will hold until sufficient warning has been given to the MAIN LINE OF DEFENCE (PIONEER TRENCH).  
(b) MAIN LINE OF DEFENCE will be held at ALL COSTS.  
(c) No. 3 Coy. will "STAND TO", and will move forward on orders from Battn. H'qrs., or on initiative of Coy. Commander.  
(d) No. 4 Coy. will "STAND TO", and will move to COUNTER-ATTACK on orders from Battalion H'qrs.

## 5.- ALL Officers will reconnoitre the FRONT LINE and COUNTER-ATTACK Routes.

## 6.- Coy. Commander of No. 4 Coy. will issue a Scheme for COUNTER-ATTACK.

## 7.- Should the enemy succeed in making a lodgement in any part of our line, a BOMBING PARTY will be organised immediately by the Senior Officer on the spot, to bomb the enemy out, with the co-operation of Stokes Mortars.

## 8.- VICKERS GUNS will be moved where necessary, to protect the exposed flank of the Bombers.

9.- Brigade H'qrs.- HENENCOURT CHATEAU.  
Battalion H'qrs.- Y.30.d.2.9.  
R.A.P.- Y.30.d.5.6.

## 10.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

1.- File.  
2/4.- War Diary.  
5.- G.O.  
6.- Adjutant.  
7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.  
8/12.- O.C's., Coys.  
13.- 21st Battalion.  
14.- 22nd "  
15.- 24th "  
16.- Transport Officer & Q.M.  
17.- LEFT Ba. (19th Ba., A.I.F.)  
18/20.- LIAISON OFFICERS.

*Haddell* Lieut.  
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

## 15 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. Appendix 15

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.  
-----INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR MONTH ENDING 30.4.18.OPERATIONS.-

Only six days elapsed between the relief on the WARNETON Front, and the taking over of the ALBERT Front. This in conjunction with the fact that the ensuing twenty-five days were spent in the forward area, including three terms of 15 days in the Front Line, made the month a particularly arduous one for all ranks. The Front, which had been the scene of an unsuccessful attack on the 5th April, 1918, against the 12th A.I. Brigade, was found to be comparatively quiet - and this inactivity continued right throughout our stay. The role of the Battalion was one of active defence - a task rendered comparatively easy by the natural strength of the position, and the good observation afforded over the enemy lines.

Front periods were as under :-

- (a) From the 6th/7th April to the 11th/13th April.
- (b) " " 16th/17th " " " 20th/21st "
- (c) " " 25th/26th " " " 1st/2nd May.

PERIOD "A"-.-

This period was generally one of consolidation - Trenches for the most part were in a bad state of repair and practically no shelters had been built. Headquarters were wholly inadequate, and defensive organisation - wire, communications, etc. - rather weak. Information regarding the enemy's position, etc., was also very indefinite.

Great difficulty was experienced during the first few days in obtaining material for the Dug-outs, shelters, etc., so urgently required. Eventually recourse was made to old hutments and buildings around, and the iron and timber thus procured limbered up to Battalion H'Qrs. and distributed to Coys. In the same way, old fencing supplied the material for entanglements.

A few days saw a great improvement - trenches deepened and renewed, dumps established, communications improved, and definite schemes of defence laid down.

Towards the end of the period existent Posts were pushed out slightly to secure certain tactical advantages on points already made good by our patrols.

PERIOD "B"-.-

This period was similar to the first and much the same routine was followed, save that conditions in every way were much more favorable.

PERIOD "C"-.-

For the first days the old frontage was occupied. *after which* Brigade ~~xxxxxxx~~ boundaries were moved North - approx. 1000 yards - which necessitated a double relief to allow Battalion to conform.

This was successfully carried out on night 26/27th inst. The new Frontage was found in much the same state as the one South.

Trenches however were good and under the excellent supervision of the 6th Field Coy. Australian Engrs. material came forward plentifully and promptly, and shelters and Headquarters were erected without any delay.

The work of the Battalion in this Area included digging of new trench 180 yards, construction of Battalion H'Qrs. and R.A.P., construction of 3 Coy. H'Qrs.,

P.T.O.

OPERATIONS.-  
(Contd).-

Wiring along the whole front, and general improvement of Garrison Areas.

REST PERIOD.-

Rest period was spent in MILLENCOURT Area. Proximity to Battery positions occasioned fairly heavy casualties from hostile artillery fire directed at our guns. Coys. were bathed in improvised Baths in the Village. Salvage work, in which the men were extremely keen, and fatigues forward constituted the only activities in this Area.

LIAISON.-

Liaison, through Special Officers detailed, was featured throughout the period, and for artillery co-operation, a Battery Officer was constantly at Battalion H'Qrs. - with as satisfactory results as in the past. Artillery support, 4th Div. Artillery, was always cordial and prompt and the usual close co-operation was maintained with the Machine Gun Coy. and Trench Mortar Coy.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL.-

Heavy Gas shelling caused a few Gas Casualties which were low considering the number of shells which fell in the Battalion Area. Trench Feet was successfully combated by the treatment in MILLENCOURT of all incipient cases. Sanitary arrangements received full consideration under the Consolidation Programme, and the usual precautions were taken with regard to water supplies, which were reflected in the low percentage of the Sick Evacuations.

CANTEEN.-

Supplies, which had been rather difficult to procure, were sent forward on the 15th April, 1918, and distributed to Coys. under usual supervision of Major Cleverdon.

COMFORTS.-

Comforts from the 6th A.I. Brigade Fund came to hand as usual and Y.M.C.A. Gifts also made welcome gifts of writing paper, etc. During the month liberal supplies of cigareetes were purchased and distributed in the line.

REGT. PAPER.-

Regimental Paper was published on the 15th April, 1918. The following issue was cancelled to enable type being fully utilised on production of Battn. Souvenir.

DISCIPLINE.-

During the month Orderly Room Cases were 2. and F.G.C.Ms. totalled. 12.

MOVEMENTS OF OFFICERS.-

Casualties and Evacuations.-

Lieut. G.W..GRIFFIN.	Evacuated to Hospital.	6.4.18.
" J.V. ROXBURGH.	Wounded.	7.4.18.
" W.J.W. ROSS.	Killed in Action.	23.4.18.
" F.J. JENKINS.	Wounded.	23.4.18.

Joined during Month.-

Lieut. L.G. ADDISON.	Joined from Reinforcements.	26.4.18
2/Lt. G.L. NIGHTINGALE.	" " "	" "

(Cadet Battalion.)

Detachments.-

Lieut. W.W. ANDERSON.	Detached as Museum Offr.	13.4.18
	Aust. War Records Section, Attached Corps Headquarters.	
Lieut. W.A.E. BRAGG.	Dtd. Area Commandant, VAUX.	12.4.18

Promotions.

2/Lieut. H. LONG.	Promoted Lieutenant.	dated 31.3.18
2/Lieut. J.E. SMITH.	" " "	" "
2/Lieut. P.L. HARRIS.	" " "	" 1.4.18

1.5.18

*W. Brazenor*  
Lt Col. Comd. 23rd B.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

*Appendix 16*

*16*

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.  
-----

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF APRIL, 1918.

On the night 1st April, 1918, the Battalion was relieved from SUPPORT at the "CATACOMBS" and moved to NEUVE EGLISE, the Transport and Q.M's. Store moved from "CODFORD LINES", ROMARIN, and joined the Battalion.

On the 2nd April, 1918, the Battalion moved by Motor Bus from NEUVE EGLISE and debussed at STRAZEELE and marched to Billets at PRADELLES. Seventy two hours rations, in addition to Iron Ration, were carried by troops and transport and no rations were drawn at NEUVE EGLISE or the first day at PRADELLES.

On the 3rd April, 1918, rations were dumped at METEREN and drawn by Second Line Transport at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

On the 4th April, 1918, another 24 hours rations were drawn at METEREN at 10 a.m., and at 3 p.m. "C" Coy. moved from PRADELLES to entrain at STRAZEELE, carrying the unconsumed portion of the day's rations and twenty four hours ration with the Iron Ration. At 8 p.m. the remainder of the Battalion moved out and entrained at STRAZEELE, detraining the next morning at HANGEST, and moved by march route to VAUX-en-AMIENNOIS where they billeted for the night. The next morning, at 6 a.m., the Battalion, less Transport, marched out to the Embussing point at the BERTANGLES-COISY Cross-roads and debussed at LA HOUSOYE and marched to BAIZIEUX. The Transport moved by road to FRECHENCOURT, picking up rations on the way at BERTANGLES, and were then ordered to move to MONTIGNY.

The rations were taken forward at night to BAIZIEUX, but as the Battalion was unexpectedly ordered forward the rations were not delivered as we were unable to locate the Battalion. The Field Kitchens were taken to HENENCOURT WOOD.

The next day I went to Battalion Headquarters and received instructions that the Rations were to be sent up after dark as the place was under observation.

On the night of the 7th April, 1918, the rations and Tea and water were taken to the Company Headquarters on Pack Horses and to Battalion Headquarters by Limber.

On subsequent nights the same method was adopted until the 11th April, 1918, when the Battalion was relieved by the 24th Battalion, A.I.F., and came back to support at MILLENCOURT. The rations were delivered to MILLENCOURT by day in Limbers and Dixies were taken up and cooking was done on open fires.

On the 15th April, 1918, the Battalion again went into the line and the Field Kitchens were brought from HENENCOURT WOOD to MONTIGNY and rations were delivered as previously, except that hot Tea was sent up in the fore-part of the Field Kitchens.

On the 19th April, 1918, the Battalion again came back to MILLENCOURT and the rations were delivered as previously.

On the 25th April, 1918, the Battalion again went into the line in the same sector as before, but changed over to the left of this sector on the night 26/27th April, 1918. Rations were delivered to Battalion Headquarters, and for the Companies to a Sunken Road in front of MILLENCOURT about 200 yards from Bn. H'Qrs.

ORDNANCE.

D.A.D.O.S. was situated at VILLERS BOCAGE with a forward dump for Anti-Gas Appliances at BEAUCOURT. With the exception of a little clothing and the weekly supplies of oil, soap, etc. very little was required from Ordnance.

RATIONS.

On arrival at MONTIGNY the Ration Dump was first situated at PONT NOYELLES and then at ESBART FARM, BEAUCOURT. Rations have been GOOD throughout the Month.

30th April, 1918.

*H. C. Jones*  
Capt.  
Quartermaster, 23rd Battalion.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Appendix 14

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.  
-----TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF APRIL, 1918.

The Transport moved from "CODFORD LINES" near ROMARIN to HILLSIDE CAMP on the 1st April, 1918, and on the 2nd April, 1918, to PRADELLES, stopping there for two days. Then entrained for HANGEST at 11 p.m. on the 4th April, 1918, and arrived there at 10 a.m. on the 5th April, 1918. Trekked from there to VAUX arriving at 5 p.m. and left next morning, on the 6th, at 9 a.m. for MONTIGNY, which was reached at 3 p.m. - the distance covered being 25 miles by road.

The horses stood the road and train journey excellently, showing that they were in a hard and fit condition.

During the month we were kept busy carting Rations, Ammunition, and Engineers' Material forward. The fore-portions of the Cookers were used for carting Rations forward - Hot Tea in Petrol Tins being carried in the asbestos compartments and Dry Rations in the Frames on top, thus saving extra Limbers for the Dry Rations.

The Rations were carted forward to RESERVE COY. TRENCHES and Battalion Headquarters.

Casualties.- One Heavy Draught Horse on the night of the 7th April, 1918.

The Limbers were back-loaded each night with war material salvage. (A quantity of Oats and Hay being brought out, due to the excellent salving work of Lieut. WILTSHIRE and his men, this was a valuable asset to us and the result is shown in the horses which have never been in better fettle.)

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30th April, 1918.

*W. J. ...*  
*H. ...*  
Lieut.  
Transport Officer, 23rd Battn., A.I.F.

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No. 13.

APRIL 15, 1918.

Price, Ten Centimes.

THE WAY OF WAR.

AN INVITATION.

Since last publication the venue of operations has changed. A long, long trek per motor lorry, train, and foot has been accomplished successfully, although it was a weary battalion when the first part of the movement was completed. It is just over eight months since saying au revoir to this area, and, it is almost safe to state candidly, wishing never to again see it, except under peaceful conditions. However, here we are again, and it is not for us to reason why, but to "carry on," adding leaf upon leaf to the crown of laurels already won, and making the Australian people prouder and prouder of their young manhood in so illustriously assisting the Motherland in her hour of greatest need. "Carry on," lads, Australia is watching you, and holds her head high amongst the nations for what you have already accomplished. It has often been said that it is a long lane that has no turning, and so far we have trudged manfully along, and the turning should not be so very far off now. The indomitable spirit will help us on the way, and when normal times come back again we will look back and say "Ours were deeds—not words."

Have you heard them drone in the crisp, clear air,  
 When the day is calm and the weather is fair?  
 Have you seen them glide o'er the enemy's lair,  
 Gracefully, the Battleplanes?  
 Have you seen them soar in the cloud-flecked sky,  
 Amid snowy fleece and blue—ever so high—  
 Mastered by men afraid not to die,  
 The men and the Battleplanes?  
 Have you heard the sound of spluttering guns  
 Pouring wound and death on barbaric Huns  
 Whom free men loathe—an honest nation shuns?  
 "Carry on," ye Battleplanes!  
 Have you seen spreading shrapnel bursting around  
 In desperate attempt that billet may be found,  
 To bring frail structures crashing to the ground,  
 The Pilots and the Battleplanes?  
 These sights you will see—these, and many more  
 Amid the grim music of the cannon's roar,  
 So come along and help them—help them win the war,  
 The heroes of the Battleplanes.



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WHERE WE ARE.

IV.

Between two cities, the names of which have been discussed broadcast throughout the world. Billeted in almost deserted villages, or bivouacing in woods. The fighting force is well forward stemming the attempted rush of enemy hordes. Theirs is not an enviable position, with occasional weeping sky for roof, and the soaking ploughed fields underfoot. Sometimes a ray of sunshine breaks through a barrage of murky clouds, but not long enough to warm the atmosphere for any length of time. The nights are cold, and the little shelter afforded does not alleviate the dampness of the air. But it is warfare—war to the bitter end—and valiant hearts cling staunchly in unison for the common cause, and thwart the designs of a cunning enemy. The ruined city in the centre of the turmoil has borne the brunt of clashing armies for years now, and was not so long ago freed from the destructive shell and bomb, but the vicissitudes of combat have decreed that it shall suffer once more the force of opposing armies. The peaceful villages of last year, which nestle on the outskirts, have been deserted by most of the civilian population, although there are some whose homes are dear to them, and refuse to leave, preferring to brave the risks of stray shells sent on an errand of spiteful intimidation by enemy long range guns.

There is also a wonderful display of military activity on highway and by roadside. Transports, mounted troops, infantry, move steadily and surely to positions allotted in the great game, and the organ-

sation of the various branches of the service seems astounding to the layman. It is certainly a gigantic undertaking, and each individual has his task to perform, as a cleat in the cog wheel of a huge machine. Overhead aeroplanes glide hither and thither, cleaving their way through the air when conditions allow, and the swishing or long-drawn sigh of shells intermingle with the hum of the engines. A loud explosion and a fountain of debris on the right or left, as the case may be, denotes the arrival of a tabloid earthquake, but as a rule they merely fall in ploughed field or lonely wood. The enemy's objective remains well protected by this apparently confused conglomeration, as he knows by costly experience.

It is to be regretted that the hard labor of the peasants during the winter months, in the area of bloodshed, is to come to nought. The result of their tilling, furrowing and sowing has been nipped in the bud by merciless claws of the war monster and they suffer silently and stoically for their beloved country, in the full knowledge that there are others sacrificing their all—life and limb—to the god of wars.

AMBITION.

I'd love to paint some pictures of scenes  
'midst battle's hell ;  
I'd love to put on canvas deeds performed  
'midst crash of shell.  
I'd love to forever perpetuate—if with  
artistic gift endowed—  
The deeds of young Australia's lads in  
sunshine and in cloud.  
Of many hues, could I but choose, and  
pictures true unfold,  
My choice would be but only one—an  
embellishment of gold !—"Dad."

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GRAVE AND GAY.

A thought for the period :—May every morning have to say something happy on its way.

Capt. Noall and Lieut. W. Simpson are now passengers to Austral Land, as the result of wounds at Ypres and Ploegstreete respectively.

Lt. Anderson has been appointed to the collecting staff of the War Records Museum.

Lieut. Dodgshun is prepared to repeat the offer of Richard III, and give the whole of France, trenches and all, for a horse when allotting scattered billets after a long march.

The detail, transport and Q.M. officers have been doing it grand in a magnificent chateau, left by a kind and indulgent aristocrat with the "wind up."—and the address is Rotten Row!

Capt. Call, one time Sergeant in C Coy., and later Scout Officer, severely wounded and taken prisoner at Baupaume, is now in London. He has been exchanged permanently disabled.

Sgt. E. R. W. Foote, who made the supreme sacrifice, was one of the "originals." His number was 342.

Some of the battalion cooks have struck hard times (or, rather, been struck by hard things). C Coy.'s stopped some shrapnel fore and aft, and A Coy.'s had the nerve endeavor to ram a tank. The cooker lost its main boom, and the tank metaphorically just winked.

"Un"-grateful.—For the "little" he has received at our hands.

Five most important words an officer must commit to memory :—"All right, Sergeant-Major, carry on."

The Admired of all Admirers.—Billy and his band at the reinforcement camp.

The zeal of Jack Pine, Joe Ward and Bob Hamstead was somewhat misplaced the other day. An engineer officer aroused their suspicions as to his bona-fides. After discussion it was decided to keep him under surveillance. The result was that the first-mentioned eventually placed hands on the suspect's shoulders and dramatically commanded another officer to "Detain this man!" The officer appealed to recognised the supposed Hun as a Major in his unit. Better luck next time, digger.

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The officer appealed to recognised the supposed Hun as a Major in his unit. Better luck next time, digger.

Col. G. H. Knox, C.M.G. is now ploughing the deep towards Kangaroo Land.

The late Sgt. Jack Ellis received his baptism at Pozieres, where he was slightly wounded.

A Message :—  
May your travail soon end;  
And happiness follow  
Yet with honorable victory.

The following promotions have recently been made in the battalion :— To Lieuts. — 2nd Lieuts. H. Long, J. E. Smith, P. L. Harris. To Sergeant—Cpl. D. McPhee. To Corporal—L-cpl. S. Holman, Pte. C. G. Nelson.



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A LONG TREK.

There is one redeeming feature in moving. That is it is much more pleasurable when patches of blue are in the sky, and the weather is fair, than when mists hang heavily in a damp atmosphere, slushy roads are to be waded along, and the keen chilly air penetrates to the bone when necessary delays occur.

Favorable conditions were with us in the movement just completed, and although tiring and trying at times, it was accomplished successfully and without mishap.

The first stage was from a comparatively quiet part of the line, albeit lively enough at times. On the way out there were one or two narrow escapes, but "all's well that ends well," and before one o'clock on Tuesday morning the battalion were resting in a half-ruined town, some distance from the duckboards and Fritz's "minneuerfers."

It was 11.30 the same morning when we again got under way, this time per motor lorry, and a delightful journey it certainly proved to be, notwithstanding the dusty roads. Magnificent scenery was viewed as the motor climbed steep hills or raced down the inclines. At places could almost be seen the trenches in the distance. There was also discernable in the clear atmosphere skeletons of ragged walls and smokeless chimney stacks of a large deserted city standing gaunt and grim. When well away from the scenes of destruction quaint villages and old-fashioned towns are passed as we whizz merrily along the highway. Ploughed field, sprouting with delightfully fresh greenness just peeping out of the ground, and cultivated hillside also appeared before the eye in beautiful panorama. The sounds of the guns were left far behind when the journey came

to an end, and the Coys. were allotted to billets in scattered farmhouses, where peace and contentment reigned. It was good to be among the simple, homely folk for a day, although our resting place was but barnhouses and haylofts.

Well rested, another move was made, per train for a change. It is probably the first occasion we knew for certain the area we were bound for. The farmers' dogs seemed to be barking it, the farmyard cocks crowing it, the pigs squealing it, and the young skylarks singing it. "Furphies" were having a well-earned rest, and hard facts stared us in the face. However, we moved out under an enveloping cloak of darkness, and most inspiring was the march through a fair-sized town. The band was fresh, and in the inky blackness of the night the crashing of the harmonious brass instruments in the narrow streets, confined by buildings on both sides, aroused the martial spirit to the highest pitch as the troops swung steadily along.

An all night trip in covered trucks, with barely enough room to meditate, was the next phase, and a nod or two between the bumps (as only a French enginedriver knows how to deal out these bone-shaking operations) left us at daybreak somewhat seedy, with that washed-out feeling such as is felt in civvy life the morning after the "annual ball." Again the countryside is viewed for five or six hours, and glimpses of big towns in full industrial swing are obtained. Eventually detraining, the end of another stage is reached with a general sigh of relief, stiff limbs stretched and loosened, and the body re-harnessed with equipment, blanket and pack. A refreshing panniken of tea and a snack awaits us in the village, and after a spell a march is undertaken, which is duly recorded on another page.

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VEREY-LIGHTS.

Not hard to take.--W.A.A.C.s.!

The question of the day.--Have you got the bread rash?

We hear that one soldier has been discharged because he had quite a lot of "asparagus" veins.

A paper says that the "elastic recoil" spoken of by the Kaiser means that he has lost the rubber.

The restrictions on such as coal and gas in England hardly allow a number of people to "keep the home fires burning."

Her Majesty the Queen recently fired one or two shots at a factory during some gun making ceremonial. Her aim is not quite as good as Fritz's, for there appears to be no hits recorded.

An Australian retort to the American boast about a wonderful new rifle.--"Yes, but we've just got one that the harder you pull the trigger the further the bullet goes."

The Second in Command is not a bit "swank," and does not mind joining the boys when bathing. He is a hefty individual and proportionately built, but it was with something of a shock, when attired as Adam before Eve stole the apple, "one of the boys" playfully dug a finger in his ribs and ejaculated "Say, digger, bet you're a cook!"

Leave is not half such a sweet thing as it was. Two causes--Fritz and the sugar ration.

"Santoi," one of the transport horses has passed to the Great Beyond, per medium of a shell while on rationing duty forward.

Congratulations to our little contemporary, "The 22nd Echo," on its first two issues. We welcome its entry into the "inky way," and wish it every success.

Diamond Cut Diamond. --When our transport officer "built up" a lame horse for the purpose of securing a sound one in exchange, he was very pleased when the deal came off. Next day, however, his new moke broke down. He had received a Roland for his Oliver.

A new gun in the course of construction is designed not only to annihilate those in the trenches, but when a soldier is hit his next of kin drop dead at the same moment.

Jot that laughable incident down and address it to the Editor, "23rd."

IN SHADOWLAND.



"Where I go, my dorg goes."

Potting Huns on the wing is the latest recreation in the twilight. It is mostly the twilight that is hit.

The world on me may darkly frown,  
I do not care a "cuss,"  
I love thee still, my Margarine,  
For better or for "wuss."

### AMONGST THE BOYS.

How we are.—“ZomΞe”-qo Ξ.

The “Pip-Ess” had some revolver practise the other night. Rain now comes in through a hole in the roof.

“Kelly” is a soldier who thinks deeply and long. While sleeping in a loft, it was not until the tenth shell landed near him that he decided to “coushy” on the ground. It was too far to fall, he decided, should he receive a direct hit.

Exhibitions of diving have been in vogue lately. A prominent cornet soloist in the band opened the programme by taking a header into an unclean channel one night while —er—resting. The cornet under his arm got very wet and (to be continued).

Q.M. Assistant “Tiny” went one better. While returning from the line he rode the pack horse into a deep and slimy trench, rudder skywards. In four hours several units dug him out, and the language was as lurid as the flares.

Twelve little ducklets went for a run, The Q.M.s were hungry, then there was one.



A gracious act was that of General Birdwood the other day. While passing through the detail billets he had his car stopped and distributed a bundle of papers, including latest cables from Australia. A few members of the band were the fortunate recipients. Good old “Birdy.”



Noticed “Tock” Tehan at No. 1 Command Depot, Blighty, looking blithe and gay.

Sgt. Dick Richards was doing the Strand one day with all his glad rags on.

Sgts. “Sandy” Capp and Dixon are acting as instructors at the reinforcement camp.

Cpl. Jack Lee, late of the 22nd, and a prominent member of the recently disbanded concert party, has died.

—Hey, digger, is that loaded?

“Bill,” who distributes the jam, etc., chose a light looking valise when assisting in loading for the long journey. When he at last managed to get it on the limber he was too weak to note the name of the owner. Souvenirs, Bill?

An N.C.O. “out for experience” in active service clerical work for the Defence Dept. got nearly scared to death in O.R. recently when the practical joker of the Batt. roared “Gas.” The P.B. soldier rushed madly for his “gaspinator” and covered his noble head until he suddenly woke up to the stunt. The amusement to the boys was great.

Note our first attempt at silhouette. Forgive faults. We will improve as we go. And there is no offence meant to anybody we might portray.

After the big promenade from up above “Dad” Brooks” was called upon to perform the loaves and fishes miracle. He fed 30 out of fragments.



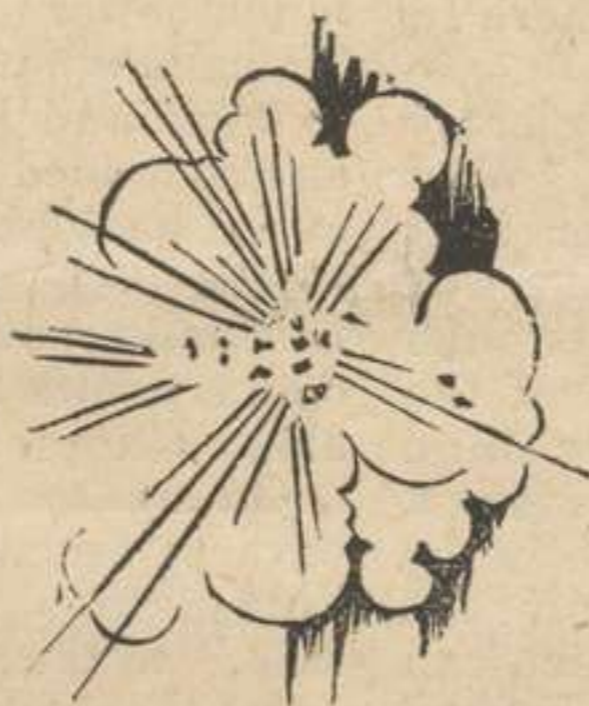
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## ON THE MARCH.

Much speculation is rife while a snack and a spell is indulged in, as to the distance to be covered on the "foot slogging" caper. It is evidently a long, long trail. The first intimation duly arrives, and quickly spreads from man to man. "Eighteen kilos," causes an outburst of indignation and pent up feelings, but there are optimists who suggest that it must only be about five kilos. However, the column forms up and steps out briskly at the start with the aid of the band. When getting on the move minds are made up for the eighteen kilo stunt, and at the first halt for a rest it is positively asserted that half the journey is completed, but on inquiries it is found that not a quarter of the distance is traversed. When the packs become heavy, the gait slow, and limbs are beginning to creak another halt is made, and it is a common idea that we are nearly "there." Further inquiries elicit the information that we have probably been doing a two-step—one forward and one backward—as our objective seems as far off as when a start was made. However, a long trudge through village and hamlet, on winding, corkscrew roads, eventually comes to an end towards eventide. A typical village is the bivouacing point, where tired feet are bathed and weary limbs rested for a few hours. Daybreak next morning sees the previously quiet village dotted with khaki-clad figures moving briskly in preparation for another day's march, and before night falls the troops reach a point from where operations can be carried out in the serious manoeuvres.



## HOSPITAL NOTES.

Pte. T. O'Connor writes to say that he is in Blighty. Gassed and influenza was his diagnosis. A lady doctor attends him and he says he has not been able to get a word in for ten days.

Word has been received from Bruce Godfrey that a successful operation was performed in France. He has orders to pack for a journey across the channel.

Lc-cpl. Hunter has also received a buckshee trip to the Motherland where he is doing well.

Sgt. Mounier only got as far as the 35th General Hospital, where he is making good. He evidently did not know the ropes for the Blighty stunt.

W. O. Davis is at No. 40 Stationary Hospital. An operation performed leaves him weak enough to anticipate a long period away from the battalion.

Sgt. J. Robertson has had a relapse, and is now in the clutches of bronchitis and trench fever.

Pte. Geo. Gardiner is to be boarded at an early date.

We are led to believe that Pioneer Tom Prentice has hopped off with a Fritz bullet—in his leg.

Let us know how your pal is. For the sake of comradeship drop us a line as to his whereabouts and condition. Address it to Editor "23rd."

## "LEST WE FORGET."

Before leaving last area of operations crosses were erected in memory of C.S.M. J. W. Cox, Sgt. W. King, L.-cpl. I. Jones, Ptes. W. Tilley, C. Allen, E. Devitt, E. W. Masterson, W. Heard. H. J. Edwards, W. G. Wallman.

## HOW TO WIN THE WAR.

By H. W. Gells.

As this subject is a deep one, it becomes necessary to logically sift the question from all points of view. Firstly, the interrogation arises: "Are we at war?" Deductions from facts presented during the last three and a half years convinces us that such is the case. Were we not at war most of the population of the world would not be garbed in soldier's toggery, nor would nearly half the people on earth be throwing bung-bungs, and such like, at one another, while the others shy "gas" shells. Thus it is clearly proved by this simple process of reasoning that there IS a war on.

The second phase asserts itself clearly and plainly in the direct query: "Why are we at war? Is it because, or is it becausen't?" The average woman will maintain it is because, but often enough it is found that there are those of the same sex who disagree, and stoutly stand by their opinion that it is becausen't. The man in the street (or principally the man at the private bar) reels off rolls of doubtful language, amongst which can be heard such expressions as "the Huns,"

"We're winnin' easy," "L'yd George," etc., between drinks. When the point of exhilaration is reached he demonstrates how he would fight for his country, and if he was there the whole thing would have been settled, and the world at peace. His head is too sore next morning to think of volunteering, so we are left to pursue our blundering way—those who are doing "their bit." It is, of course, necessary, in this brilliant article, to dissect the question from all points of view, so thus the "secondly" is disposed of easily.

At the third stage the politician enters the arena. He is stripped for combat in loin cloth or leopard skin. (It would be much better if he were dressed in khaki.) He calls upon the people to stand back to back, and listen to words of wisdom as expounded by him. He glares fiercely at the heckler who informs him that he would be doing his country a turn by having his brains boiled to supply the country with food, thus saving some poor sheep's life for a time.

Owing to the allotted space being covered for this article, it must be concluded in a nutshell. To "talk, talk, talk," is the only way to win the war—for the enemy.