

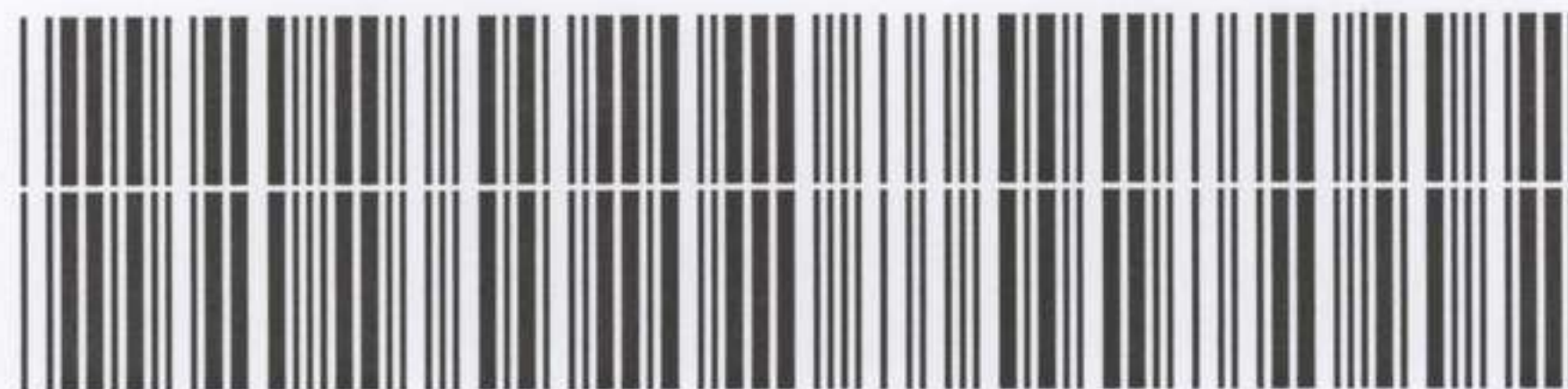
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/40/35

Title: 23rd Infantry Battalion

August 1918



AWM4-23/40/35

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93

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

23rd. Battalion A.I.F.



FOR

August 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. G. Elliott
Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

H. Brayner Lt. Col.

23rd Battalion A.I.F.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Map Sheets 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW 1-20000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Support W of VILLERS BRETONNEUX	1918 10 th August		<p>The dispositions were as follows B.H.Q. in Quarry 028 C. A Coy 033 B. Coy U.H. C Coy 034 D Coy 034. I Coy 129th Regiment U.S. were reorganized and allotted to Companies as complete platoons instead of sections as formerly; this furthering the system of training with the Australians. Baths at BLANGY TRONVILLE First occasion for thirteen days. C.O. Adjutant & Company Commanders made a reconnaissance of line east of VILLERS BRETONNEUX This sector was of great interest being ground captured by us in the memorable attack of 4th July (Battle of HAMMEL) Mutual arrangements were made with C.O 20th Battr A.I.F to relieve on the 2nd inst. During the night two hundred men were employed burying cable in the forward area. Operation Order No 127 issued for relief of 20th Battalion A.I.F. by the Battr Weather unsettled few showers.</p>		APPENDIX D
Front line East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX	2 nd August		Completed most difficult relief with 20 th Battalion A.I.F. by 3 AM. Heavy rain prior to & during relief made trenches in a very		Appendix E

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Map Sheets 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW 1/20,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.				
Front line East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX	2 nd August (continued)		has state. Units on flanks. Right 21 st Battr A.I.F. Left 39 th Battr A.I.F. Brigadier General Robertson 6 th Brigade A.I.F. interviewed C.O. regarding future operations. The dispositions in the line were as follows. D Coy on right A Coy centre C Coy left in a line running from P.38 B.O.S. P.27 C+A thence to P.21 central. B Coy in support in old German front line. Battalion H.Q.s KENT ST. O.24.d.8.2 R.A.P. P.19.d.8.6. Trenches knee deep in mud. Americans organized.		
do	3 rd August		as platoons still attached. Operation order N°128 for relief of Battalion by 24 th Battr A.I.F. issued. Officers of 8 th Brigade A.I.F. reconnoitered sector. Rumours of big stunt brewing; great secrecy being observed. During the night enemy heavily shelled front area, causing one casualty. Rumours of enemy retiring. Lieutenants Burke & Griffin with fighting patrols of fifteen OR each, endeavoured to secure identification but were unsuccessful. Important information was gained that enemy was still holding line in strength. Relief of the Battalion by 24 th Battr A.I.F. was completed by 3.40 AM without incident.	39. 740	See App "E" App "F" Casualties 1 OR killed 3 ORs wounded

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Map sheets 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW. 1/20,000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918				
Close support East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX	4 th August		B.H.Q. located in VILLERS LINE. 0.30.7, 2.3 B. Company DIGGERS SUPPORT. P19 C. A Coy VILLERS LINE. C Coy Old front line P19. d. D. Coy ALBURY TRENCH P25 a + c. Brigadier General ROBERTSON 6 th Brigade A.I.F. Called and gave definite information of forthcoming operation. Orders received appointing Captain J. PASCOE M.C. Adjutant in lieu of Lieut L.S. MADDRELL M.C. Isolated shelling mainly round VILLERS BRETONNEUX. Small fatigue parties were employed on dugout construction in front line. Weather still unsettled + showery.		
do	5 th August.		Americans were detached from the Battalion + returned to their unit Thirty nine (39) reinforcements marched in + were allotted to Companies Rained heavily again making trenches extremely bad. CO Adjutant visits Companies Casualties 3 ORs (later 1 died of wounds)		
do	6 th August		Received orders giving points of assembly for great attack on 8 th inst. CO with Lieutenants WEIR + WILTSHIRE reconnoitered same Isolated shelling over Battalion area.		

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Map Sheet 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW 1:20000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Close support East of VILLERS BRETONNEUX	7 th August	1918.	Casualties Two ORs wounded. Weather still showery. C.O. + Lieut WEIR reconnoitered to APPOLO LINE (J.O.T. for offensive). Company officers reconnoitered to points of assembly. P.M. + T.O. called at B.H.Q. and orders for their movement were issued personally by C.O. Operation Order N° 29 was issued for the attack on the morning of 8 th inst. An immense number of guns + tanks massed in rear of our position. Enemy shelled tank park close in rear of B.H.Q. destroying fifteen supply tanks five being rescued. Shelling very active. A direct hit on C Coy sig office, killing three signallers + destroying phone. Weather showery + very windy. Casualties Three ORs killed.		App G
VILLERS BRETONNEUX to WARFUSÉE ABANCOURT	8 th August	1918.	Day of great attack. Companies moved without incident to assembly positions P38 arc at zero - 3 hours (Zero hour 4.20 AM). Tremendous bombardment. Everything went well with attacking battalions. Almost stirring spectacle was witnessed on transportation of guns, tanks, cavalry + C following the		App F1.

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Map sheet 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW 20000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BRETONNEUX to WARFUSÉE ABANCOURT.	8 th August (Continued)	1918.	attacking infantry over newly acquired ground. Lieutenants LOWE + BRAGG with 40 ORs were employed collecting prisoners. Large bodies numbering hundreds each were escorted back to cage. Battalion moved forward and halted between WARFUSÉE and MARCELCAVE. V5+6. Companies ordered to be ready to move at an hour's notice. Casualties 1 OR wounded. Weather fine.		
WARFUSÉE to GUILLAUCOURT	9 th August		At 8.30 AM Companies were ordered to move in artillery formation. The move forward with mobile transport was excellently carried out, passing en route MARCELCAVE, LAMOTTE, and WEINCOURT, halting at west of GUILLAUCOURT in W8 at 2 PM. The C.O. visited 6 th Brigade A.I.F. at GUILLAUCOURT and as our move forward was held up by Battalions in front it was decided to bivouac for the night, pending further orders. Company officers reconnoitered to front line. Arranged to bivouac. Latter was carried out + mobile transport moves to this position. Weather fine hot.		

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Map sheet 62°SW 62°SE 62°SW 1/20000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
GUILLAUCOURT to VAUVILLERS to HERLEVILLE Front line.	11 th August	1918.	Operation Order No. 130 issued. Reveille 2 AM. Passed starting point at 3.30 AM. Battalion in support position X 7 C + d. X 8 C. The morning was foggy + a light concentration of Blue + gas was noticeable. Masks were worn + no casualties resulted. The CO was attached to 7 th Brigade under Brigadier General Wisdom. Returned to battalion at 2 PM. At 4 PM. a conference of Battalion Commanders was held at 6 th Brigade A.I.F. at which proposals were discussed to attack on the following morning, failing which to relieve 26 th and portion of 28 th Battalions ^{A.I.F.} in the front line + to await further orders.		0 OKs. 40 737	App "H" " "B" " "D1" " "T"
Front line		8.30 PM	Orders received to carry out relief. This was successfully accomplished without incident. Weather fine hot.			APP I Op. Order 131
HERLEVILLE	12 th August		B. H Q situated X.15.7.95.65, RAP adjacent. Dispositions of Companies from right to left D. B. C. along north + south grid from X 17 a. 0.5. to X 5. C. 0.4. A. Coy in support in bank at X.10.C. Flank units 11 th B th A.I.F. on right 22 nd B th A.I.F. left			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	12 th August (Continues)	1918.	<p>G.O. & J.O. visited front line which consisted of outposts captured on the previous morning. The position was not good owing to a dominating ridge about 1000 yards east. Upon information being received that the 11th Battri were successfully penetrating into forward territory; at 4 PM Lieutenants WEIR and GRIFFIN reconnoitered the right flank of ridge forward of our line. at X.17.C.28. On information received from Lieut WEIR one platoon of D Coy. were pushed forward and with slight opposition penetrated enemy system on ridge to X11 d 1.2. A bombing party was then organized in charge of Lieut BURKE which penetrated along trench to X11 d 7.9. inflicting five casualties on the enemy. Line Companies were then ordered to conform to the movement and a general line was made from this point through X.11 central to junction with 22nd Battri A.I.F. at X.9.d.9.4. Battle Battri H.Q.S. was established at X.11.d.24. and the R.A.P. was</p>		<p>App B1 App T1</p>

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Map sheets 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW/20,000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	12 th August (Continued)		moves forward to X.II.C.8.1. Excellent work by the Sig. enabled quick information of penetration to be wired to G.O.C and of our further intention to penetrate to the point already described. During the night our new line of posts running north east forward of X.II Central was further consolidated & the position made secure. Weather hot & fine.		App. B.I. App. T
do	13 th August		Brigadier General Robertson 6 th Brigade A.I.F Brigade I.O. C.O + Lieut WILTSHIRE visited newly captured line. The General expressed appreciation & congratulated C.O on the fine work carried out in the capture of this important ridge. The great value of this high ground was appreciated by the Artillery and some excellent shooting was carried out during the day on movement between the line & VERMANDOVILLERS, particularly in vicinity of STARRY WOOD. During the night the Battalion side stepped, taking over 500 hundred yards of 12 th Battn A.I.F front to CASTELNAU		

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Map sheets 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW 1:20,000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	13 th August (Continued)		ALLEY X 17. 7. 1. 1. 22 nd Battr A.I.F taking over our left flank to post North of X 11 central Operation Order N ^o 132 At 10 P.M. Lieut GRIFFIN & one platoon in cooperation with Stokes Mortars, bombed their way along trench to HILL 90 WORK. at X, 12, a, 14. Strong opposition was encountered here but nothing deterred our men and they established a block at this point. As a result of this action ^{and that of the previous day.} three heavy Machine Guns, seventeen light do & 1 Light Mincrowerfer were captured. On completion of block another platoon was moved forward as support. Weather fine shot. Casualties	General remarks strength App "J" " B.I. App "I"
do	14		1 killed 2 wounded.	
do	14 th August		C.O's conference at Brigade re advance. This was postponed later. Arrangements were made that Lieut GRIFFIN & party should push up trench to old maze junction at X. 12. a. 45. 55. Stokes Mortars & Artillery cooperated. The operation was quite successful & one German was killed. one	

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Map sheets 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW 1/20000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General remarks	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918				O.P.R.	
Front line HERLEVILLE	14 th August (continued)		taken prisoner + two light machine guns captured Weather still fine hot. Casualties one wounded.			
do	15 th August		At 3.55 a counter attack by the enemy was repulsed leaving three prisoners in our hands. A German L/Cpl was interrogated + identification secured. The 19 th Division in front of us in a very disorganised condition having been in the front line since the retirement from HARBONNIERES. Captures were two light Machine Guns. Casualties four ^{O.P.R.} wounded.			Morning order APP K app. T
do	16 th August		Our posts were pushed forward south to MADAME WOOD on a line running from X.12.2.3. to X.18.2.4. Casualties nil. Weather continued fine.			See marks Map App B. APP 5
do	17 th August		Acting on information from the Battr on right that their patrol had entered a trench south of MADAM WOOD it was decided to push down CASTLENAU ALLEY and FAYDHERBE ALLEY with a view to occupying SAURIEN ALLEY One platoon		42757	

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Map Sheet 62°SW 62°SE 62°SW 120800.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	17 th August (Continued)	1918.	<p>moving through CASTLENAU was enabled to link up with the 14th 13th A.I.F. at MADAM WOOD leaving one platoon in FAIDHERBE and one in CASTLENAU. The platoon in CASTLENAU immediately followed on. Leading platoon entered SAURIEN ALLEY and moved northward immediately encountering opposition. The platoon in FAIDHERBE co-operated on hearing the bombing start and pushed forward clearing the enemy from the posts at S.13.6.1.8; Entering SAURIEN ALLEY. the platoon worked north + south + connected up with platoon working from CASTLENAU ALLEY. After driving the enemy into HOCHÉ ALLEY and CASTLENAU. C.Ts. S.7.d.4.3. he immediately organized attacking parties which were reinforced overland and through C.Ts from the rear systems. Two of his machine guns were observed to come into action at close range in HOCHÉ ALLEY. at S.13.6.35.75. and one at S.17.d.5.3. The former by quick action and initiative on the part of the Lewis Gun team under personal direction of</p>		App 7 App. 5.

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Place	Date 1918.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	17 th August (continued)		<p>Capt. Moss was engaged at close range, silencing the gun & killing three of the crew. The latter was also engaged at close range & gave no further trouble. A german presumably an officer was observed waving his arms for reinforcements. By this time the whole of "A" Company had been absorbed in SAURIEN ALLEY from MADAM WOOD to S.7.d.30. The intention of "A" Company was to establish on their objective (for the morning of 18th inst) in SAURIEN ALLEY. As shown in foregoing report this had practically been accomplished. "B" Company were moved into support in FAIDHERBE ALLEY. Upon enemy opposition being overcome they were established on the left flank of "A" Coy establishing a block at S.7.d.25.30. leaving "B" Coy on the left and "A" Coy on the right in SAURIEN ALLEY. Enemy persistently opposed our advance and the urgent need of Combs was made good by two platoons of "D" Coy carrying forward supplies from the Battalion Dump. These platoons were later used for Support.</p>		APP T APP J

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Map sheets 62°SW 62°SE 62°SW 3
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	17 th August	1918.	Our casualties up to this has been Lieut M. WEIR & Lieut F. HOLDSWORTH wounded (later Lieut WEIR died of wounds) four ORs killed and two wounded. In view of the fact that three Coys had been involved in the fighting on this flank & had gained such an important part of our objective, it was decided to attack frontally the MAZE X.12.F. Artillery barrage was amended & arranged personally at Battr. N. Qs with acting Brigade Major Capt SALE, with one Company only. I.O.T for 'C' Coy. was laid by Lieut OLDHAM 7 th Field Company Engineers and Lieut F. J. JENKINS. 23 rd Battr A.I.F. Comparatively quiet night followed. Casualties 5 ^{ORs} K.I.A 10 wounded Weather fine & hot.		App T App 5
do	18 th August		'C' Company formed up on I.O.T at zero - 45 minutes (Zero hour 4.15 AM) in two lines; 1 st line 3 platoons 2 nd line one platoon for mopping up; and moved forward under Barrage at 4.15 am, which did not seem to be as dense as usual		Operation order 10/133 APP L APP B1 APP T

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Map sheets. 62° SE. 62° SW. 1-20000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	18 th August		<p>The movement forward by the Company was good and they were able to closely follow the Barrage on to the objective where a combined post was established with 22nd Battr at the junction of ENGLISH ALLEY and VERMAND OVILLER ALLEY X12a. 95.80</p> <p>Mopping up of the MAZE, owing to the considerable extent of the trenches took some time. Owing to our few men on this front the taking of prisoners was a secondary consideration and a good number of the enemy were killed. This shortage of men also accounted for the escape of a good number of the enemy.</p> <p>At Zero + 5 (4.20 AM) B Coy who were in position proceeded to bomb north along SAURIAN ALLEY and linked up with "C" Company at S.7.d.39. Strong resistance encountered in this sector on the afternoon of 17th inst was not so marked. After dealing with 1 Machine Gun + crew + dispersing one bombing party connection with "C" Coy's right flank was complete. Our casualties up to this period were very</p>		App "3"

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	1918 18 th August		<p>light. Success signals were observed on our front at 4.40 AM. Closely following this an SOS. was observed to go up on our left flank opposite another unit. Artillery were then requested to continue with protective barrage. Our captures includes 1 German Officer 10 ORs + 2 heavy + 6 light Machine Guns. Close liaison with neighbouring unit enabled us to quickly ascertain that they had not reached their objective, and that the CRUCIFIX was still in the enemy's hands. Immediately defensive flank was formed along ENGLISH ALLEY, consisting of one platoon and a blocking party established in trench running north from X.12.7.3.5. to CRUCIFIX. Acting on a report received that this trench was in good order, and led direct to the CRUCIFIX. Captain SULLIVAN was instructed to organise a bombing party from the 21st Batta Company allotted to us, move speedily to this point + capture CRUCIFIX. Lieut HARDWICK personally</p>		

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Map sheets 62° SW 62° SE 62° SW

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	18 th August (continues)	1918.	<p>HARDWICK led the party and very quickly fought a way to the CRUCIFIX and established a post at X.6.C.3.4. inflicting casualties on the enemy & capturing six prisoners. This post was isolated and later was withdrawn & 2 posts established immediately south of the CRUCIFIX, covering and holding same from enemy. Reinforcements were urgently required by the platoon on ^{immediate} left and arrangements were made with Colonel WILTSHIRE for a party of 25 to move through ENGLISH ALLEY with the object of strengthening garrisons & connecting the CRUCIFIX. This was quickly & successfully carried out. The capture of the CRUCIFIX by Lieut HARDWICK & party enabled right flank "A" Company 23rd Battalion to move forward and take over posts at CRUCIFIX. Capt SULLIVAN'S party under the immediate command of Lieut HARDWICK were then withdrawn to their posts in support. Remaining portion of Capt SULLIVAN'S Company was employed in.</p>		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	General Remarks Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front line HERLEVILLE	18 th August		cutting sap through road at X.11.d.g.8. This was speedily carried out to enable direct communication to be made to our left flank, avoiding overland route. FAIDHERBE ALLEY was partially cleared of old wire, thus giving direct trench communication to right flank. Consolidation of captured enemy system was comparatively easy & consisted of half platoon posts & the establishment of blocks at enemy C.T's S.7.d.3.g. S.7.b.05.70. S.7.d.3.g. S.7.d.3.3. S.7.a.25.00. S.13.b.2.7. S.13.b.23. Estimated enemy casualties 25 killed 30 wounded.		
HERLEVILLE To DAOURS.	19 th Aug.		Relief of Battr completed by 12.20 AM. 2 nd Manchester Regt. Battr moved to point of assembly north of Harbonnières after hot dunk, embussed at 5 AM. travelling through BAYONVILLERS. MARFUSEE-LAMOTTE, FOUILLOY. debussed at YECQUEMONT. at 5 AM. Battr completed housed in CHATEAU You buildings. Men were rested & issued with clothing.		Operation Order B.I APP "M"

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MAP REF SHEETS. 62^D 8114 SE.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HERLEVILLE To	19 th Aug		Beautifully warm day. Bathing in the River. Landscape situated on river flats.	Strengths
DAOURS	20 th Aug		1 casualty died of wounds later. Battalion reorganising re-equipping. Bathing parade to Recquemont Baths Bde Gen Robertson visited Battalion with CO and inspected billets + Cookers Chatting with many of the men. Expressed himself satisfied. Bathing in the afternoon. Band played at Bde HQ in the evening Coy Cricket match in the afternoon. Weather fine + hot.	M.G.
DAOURS	22 nd Aug		Morning Reorganisation re-equipping parade. Afternoon Cricket match between 27 th Bn F.S. 125 th Bn resulting in a win for the former by 7 runs after an interesting game. Swimming in the Somme. Weather fine + hot.	M.G.
DAOURS	23 rd Aug		Reorganisation and re-equipping parade. Salvage work carried out by C. B. Coy in area Ref map sheet (Hub Hsd.) 62 ^D S.M. 120000 In the evening a concert was given by the members of Battalion which proved an unqualified success. Weather fine + hot.	M.G.

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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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

REF MAP SHEETS 62° SW SE + NW. 33

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D'AOURS	24 th Aug.		Morning reorganisation & reequipping parade. Art. Coy engaged on salvage work in Area NUB H5d. In the afternoon Coy played Transport at Luckel resulting in a win for the latter. CO attended a dinner at Bde Hdqrs. Hot with showers at night.	43 750
D'AOURS To	25 th Aug.		Bde Church parade. Padre's Buckley & Jefferys officiating. General Robertson called off Church parade. At 12 noon CO attended a conference at 6 th A & Bde	All G
PROYART			when orders were received that the 6 th A & Bde would relieve the 3 rd A & Bde in the front line on the night 26 th inst. Orders to move were received and the Bde moved from Chateau D'aours at 7pm embussing outside village at 9pm and debussing at 1 AM. 26 th Aug on the Villers Bretonneux - Talonnieres Rd.	
PROYART To	26 th Aug		Q.30.0.5.5. Present location at Q18 Central. Bde in Buvaacs in old trench system.	All G
FROILLY			CO attended conference at 6 th A & Bde 2 nd GERMAN North R 70 + R 8c. It was decided to relieve 3 rd A & Bde and attack on morning of 27 th inst. 23 rd A & Bde to be in reserve & exploit success from Q18 Central at 4.45pm to dugouts & shelters in L34 B + C. BHQ.	Order 155. APP 11
			L34 d 5.3. CO attended conference at 6 th A & Bde at 6pm. Previous decision was cancelled in view of retirement of enemy. It was then decided to peacefully penetrate. CO Coy officers Sig off. CO reconnoitred reserve.	APP. C.1.

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

REF. MAP SHEETS 62° N.W. 1/20,000

30

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26 th Aug		position in L34 Central. thence to West of CAPPY to view ground over which Bn would move.	MG
			Lieut P. Smith DSO, + McDiscon Lt Col. with party of 300s cooperating with 21 st Bn to clear up territory in G20 + 21 mopping up position TIVOLI WOOD G.21.A.	
			Weather showery. Lieut Fore party of 300s carried Stokes mortars to 22 nd Bn HQ.	
FROILLY CAPPY	27 th Aug		Conference of Coy commands at B. HQs at 10 AM. Lt Fore CO Sig Offr. Coy commands made reconnaissance forward at 10.30 AM to 21 st + 22 nd Bn HQs on G32A.	APPENDIX O
			On return to B. HQs orders were issued that more forward would commence at 2.30 pm. Operation order no 136 issued. Companies were distributed in Banks in G31B G32A. Bn HQs at G26 C.1.1. Weather showery.	MG
CAPPY To HERBECOURT	28 th Aug		Bn HQ in Bde reserve. A Coy detached at 6 AM to 21 st Bn to clear up FRISE. Lt Coy commands made reconnaissance to 21 st Bn.	APPENDIX P
			CO called to conference at Bde & received orders to move B. Coy to G33.	Operation order 137
			B. Coy CO called to Bde orders were issued that 23 rd Bn would relieve 21 st Bn from F.W. Grid through G35 + 36 Central to E.W. Grid through H19 Central.	APP 2
			Conference of Coy commands at Coy HQs at 7 pm. Orders issued.	APP V

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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MAP SHEET 62°S W 11 W 20, 100.

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHAPPY	Continued		<p>to Coys. Coys moved forward in the daylight in artillery formation and completed daylight relief by 9pm. Patrols pushed forward by front line Coys disposed as follows. On the right. C. Centre B Left. No enemy encountered. 18th Bn on left. 22nd Bn on right. Orders received at 11.30pm that HERBECOURT was to be captured before dawn when the 7th Bde would carry the attack on. Weather fine. Slight mist.</p>	<p>ME</p>
HERBECOURT	29 th Aug.		<p>at 1 AM B Co & D Coy moved forward in artillery formation on frontage from E W Grid through H31 & 32 Central to E W Grid between H19 & 25. 18th Bn on left, 22nd Bn on right. Village captured and Coys established in line through H26 AIC. E of village to H32 Cent. by 3 AM. Coys had by this time rejoined having completed the hopping at of rise. Under command of 21st Bn. and were kept in Reserve. Coys were then ordered to carry out further exploitation and established on line from H22 Central to H34 A. North edge of HERBECOURT. This was completed by 5 AM. without casualties 4 prisoners were captured. 8 AM the 7th Bde passed through</p>	<p>APPENDIX Z Operation Order 138 APP Q APP U</p>

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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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.

REF MAP SHEET 62° 51' N 11° 17' W 20000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HERBECOURT FLAUCOURT	Continued.		our Battr. Patrols had been sent forward by Coy and had reached BANDIKA WOOD. Boys remained in these positions overnight. Bn staff and Coy moved forward to hospital at HERBECOURT. Weather fine fresh.	M.C. APP. Z.
HERBECOURT.	20 th Aug.		CO called to Conference at Bde Hdqrs. at 10 AM. Scheme of attack discussed. Coy officers made reconnaissance of forward area to point BICHES Relay. Coy was moved forward. Boys were now disposed Right to Left A.D.C.B. in trench system H34A, 28 C+B. as M st Quentin was not captured by 5 th Bde it was decided that Bde would remain in present positions overnight. Weather showery. J. J. Jenkin took over B Coy.	APP. Z.
HERBECOURT. BOSCOURT HALLE M st QUENTIN.	31 st Aug.		CO called to Bde at 8 AM. Battr ordered to stand in readiness to move forward at short notice. When being reported that M st QUENTIN had been captured. Battr moved from present positions to BOS COURT H16A and assembled on the Bank of Canal. Conference of Coy Comd'rs with Co. Orders for the relief of the 5 th Bde were issued and Coy were assembled in position of readiness H10A forming up in artillery formation in the following order: right to left B. Coy - C. Coy. D + A Coy in support.	APPENDIX Z M.C. 44. 139.

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Original
PAGE 23
REF MAP SHEET 62° 51' N 111° W 1/20,000

9300

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CLERY HALLE M ST QUENTIN	21 Aug	Continued	<p>at 11 30 AM more forward was commenced passing through CLERY right Coy B. pushing through HALLE + PARK WOOD. heavy mg fire was encountered from PRAGUE TRENCH I 20 A. C Coy pushed forward along Road I 11 C + I 20 B encountering heavy mg fire from PRAGUE TRENCH. eventually both loys made a Prague trench (3pm) finding 4 heavy + 4 light mg. stands. Bombing operations were commenced by B Coy forcing the enemy back through FLORINA TRENCH. COPSE. I 14 D. O. to JOHANNIE TRENCH for 200 yds. Intense mg and artillery fire caused Corps to withdraw to FLORINA + PRAGUE TRENCHES. B Coy worked down FLORINA TRENCH I 19 D. to RADEGONDE TRENCH. proceeding down the trench to church in I 26 A. Intense enfilade mg fire placed on them causing withdrawal to junction of FLORINA TRENCH I 19 D 66. It held. 400 yds. wounded. Preparation of loys 2 Coy right I 19 D. C Coy left I 20 A. B Coy support PRAGUE TR. I 20 A. A Coy support PRAGUE TRENCH I 19 D 1 C. GOC called conference of staffs tomorrow at the Bn Hd Qs LOST RAVINE. I 13 D. 7pm. after conference it was decided to again attack MST QUENTIN. at 6 AM under artillery barrage. Coy commands called to Bn Hd Qs and orders restant issued.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Att. 23</p>

WAR DIARY

OF

23RD BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

AUGUST

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
A.	Defence Policy.
B.	Honors and Awards for Brigade.
C.	Attachment of American Troops.
D.	Warning Order - 31.7.18.
E.	Operation Order No. 127.
F.	" " " 128.
G.	" " " 129.
H.	" " " 130.
I.	" " " 131.
J.	" " " 132.
K.	Warning Order - 15.8.18.
L.	Operation Order No. 133.
M.	" " " 134.
N.	" " " 135.
O.	" " " 136.
P.	" " " 137.
Q.	" " " 138.
R.	Operation by "A" Coy.
S.	Operations from 15th to 18th August, 1918.
T.	Report on Tour of Duty, 11.8.18. to 18.8.18.
U.	Report on Operations 28th and 29th August.
V.	Quartermaster's Report.
W.	Transport Officer's Report.
X.	Commanding Officer's General Summary.
Y.	Battalion Papers, 1st and 15th August.
Z.	Map showing movements of Battalion, Area covered from 27th to 31st August.
Al.	Map showing Line held 2nd and 3rd August.
Bk.B1.	Map showing Line held 11th to 18th August.
Cl.	Aeroplane Photographs, Front Line.
Dl.	Aeroplane Photographs (2) HERLEVILLE.
El.	Aeroplane Photographs, WARFUSEE, ABANCOURT Sector.
Es.	
Fi.	<i>Aeroplane photographs showing front line of 18.8.</i>

"A" BATTALION - RIGHT BRIGADE.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENSIVE.- **APPENDIX** I

Ref. Maps.- SHEETS 62.D. S.E. & S.W. 1/20,000. 27th JULY, 1918.

- 1.- Consequent on the increase of Troops in the Sector caused by the attachment of 1 Coy. of 3rd Battalion, 129th American Regiment, changes will be made in accordance with the following:-
- 2.- The Line will be held by three Coys. (less 1 Platoon per Coy. in SUPPORT) and 1 Coy. in Close SUPPORT.
- 3.- DISPOSITIONS.-
 - RIGHT COY.- 2 Platoons in Trench System U.5.d.5.4., U.6.d.3.8., with 2 Posts of FRENCH Regiment included.
2 platoons in SUPPORT in STAMBOUL TRENCH U.5.b. and d.
 - CENTRE COY.- SYRIA TRENCH, U.6.d.3.8. to V.1.c.3.6. - 3 Platoons.
1 Platoon in SUPPORT in Posts U.6.d.1.9. to U.6.d.5.9.
 - LEFT COY.- 3 Platoons in OUTPOST LINE running from V.1.c.3.6. to V.1.b.7.4., RAILWAY exclusive.
1 Platoon in SUPPORT.
1 Platoon, "B" Coy., in SUPPORT.
- 4.- In the event of any penetration by the Enemy, the Line will be restored by immediate counter-attack by the SUPPORT PLATOONS of each Coy. on Platoon Officers' initiative or orders from Coy. Commander.
"B" Coy., less 1 Platoon, will make Counter-attack on any portion of the Line on receipt of orders from Battalion H'qrs.
- 5.- Battalion H'qrs.- O.35.d.2.4.
R.A.P.- O.35.c.2.8.
- 6.- 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.- C.O's., Coys.
- 13.- T.O.
- 14.- G.M.
- 15.- RIGHT Battn.
- 16.- LEFT "

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

Appendix B

HONORS AND AWARDS. — SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Unit	V.C.	C.B.	C.M.G.	D.S.O.	Bar to D.S.O.	M.C.	Bar to M.C.	D.C.M	Bar to D.C.M	M.M.	Bar to M.M.	M.S.M
21st Battn.	0	0	0	5	0	20	4	24	0	93	2	4
22nd "	1	0	0	4	0	24	1	18	1	107	5	2
23rd "	0	0	0	4	1	21	1	14	0	101	3	2
24th "	0	0	0	4	0	21	2	11	0	88	4	3
T.M. Baty.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	14	1	1
xBgde. H.Q.	0	1	1	3	2	4	0	1	0	8	0	3
Total	1	1	1	20	3	92	8	70	1	411	15	15

Unit	Croix de Guerre	Medaille Militaire	Gold Medal Serbian	Silver Medal Serbian	Mention	Off. de l' Ordre de Leopold	White Eagle 5th Cl.	St. George's Cross Russian
	Fch. Blgn.							
21st Battn.	1	2	1	1	43	0	1	0
22nd "	0	3	0	3	22	1	0	1
23rd "	0	1	1	0	50	0	0	0
24th "	0	1	0	0	17	0	0	0
T.M. Bty.	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
xBgde. H.Q.	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Total	1	9	2	4	139	1	1	1

TOTAL No. OF DECORATIONS ... 657. TOTAL No. OF MENTIONS ... 139,
29.7.18. x Includes Signallers.

ATTACHMENT OF AMERICAN TROOPS.

- 1.- (A). One Company of 3rd Battalion, 129th Regiment, U.S. Army, will be attached to this Unit as from 27th July, 1918. Each Company will have one Platoon (50 strong) attached from that date.

No. 1	Platoon	to	"A"	Coy.
" 2	"	"	"B"	"
" 3	"	"	"C"	"
" 4	"	"	"D"	"

- (B). Each American Company - strength about 200 - is organised in 4 Platoons of 7 Sections. One Section will be attached to each Platoon, and surplus Sections will remain with Support Platoons. An equivalent number of men will be withdrawn from the Posts when relieved by the Americans, to Company Support Platoons. All arrangements for Relief will be mutually arranged by Coy. Commanders with American Platoon Commanders.
- (C). American Scouts will be attached to their Coys., and will be given ample opportunity by Coy. Commanders to do PATROL Work.
- (D). American Coy. H'Qrs. will be attached to Batta. H'Qrs. for a short period.
- (E). Period of Attachment.-
1st 8 days - American Sections will be allotted to our Platoons.
2nd 8 days - American Platoons will be allotted to our Companies.

During this period American Platoons will be treated as component parts of Company to which they are allotted.

- 2.- From the time of arrival in the Forward Area, the attached Americans will, for all tactical purposes, be under the command of Coy. Commander to which they are attached. For Administration and Discipline, they remain under their own Officers.

3.- RATIONS.-

Rations will be forwarded in the usual way - to the Cookers, thence to the Line.

Each Company will detail 7 Americans to report to Batta. H'Qrs. at the usual meal hours, for the handling and carrying of Rations. GUIDES will be provided until they become accustomed to the route. This will commence as from 1.30 a.m. on the morning 28th July. American Cooks will be attached to our Cookers.

- 4.- American Sick and Wounded will be evacuated through Australian Medical Channels.

- 5.- GUIDES.- Each Company will detail one Guide to report to Batta. H'Qrs. by 10.00 p.m. to-night (27th July) to guide forward the Platoon allotted to their Coy.

- 6.- On completion the word "SOP" will be wired to Batta. H'Qrs.

-----000-----

27th July, 1918.

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

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

93.

"all" Coy.Appendix D
APPENDIX 4WARNING ORDER.

1. The system of holding the Corps Front has been altered and in consequence the 2nd Australian Divisional Front will be shortened and held by one Brigade.

The other 2 Brigades will be disposed WEST of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

2. To carry this out the 6th A.I. Brigade, will be relieved on the night 2nd/3rd August, 1918, in Positions SOUTH of the RAILWAY, and will relieve the 5th A.I. Brigade, and in addition take over a further 100 yards of Line to the NORTH.

3. On the Night 2nd/3rd August, 1918, the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. will take over the Line from P.32.b.7.9. to P.21.central from the 18th and 19th A.I. Battalions, and the RIGHT Battalion of the 3rd Division.

The ROAD from P.32.b.7.9. to P.26.d.2.4., and the MAIN ROAD WEST of this point, will be inclusive to the 23rd Battn.

Reconnaissance of the positions to be taken over will be made to-morrow at a time to be notified later.

4. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10, clearly labelled and dumped at Company H'qrs. by 2.00 p.m. to-morrow, 1st prox.

Officers' Valises will be collected on the 2nd prox.

5. On the Night 3rd/4th August, the 24th Battalion, A.I.F., will relieve the 23rd Battalion in LINE left.

-----000-----

31st July, 1918.11.00 p.m.

Alfred
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Ref. Maps.- SHEETS 62.D. S.E. and S.W. 1/20,000. 1st AUGUST, 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will take over the whole of the Divisional Front on the night 2nd/3rd August, 1918. The 7th A.I. Brigade will then move into SUPPORT Positions in the AUBIGNY LINE, and the 5th A.I. Brigade will be in RESERVE in the BLANGY System.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will relieve the 20th Battalion, A.I.F., in the Front Line Sector running from P.26.d.6.0., Road inclusive (Battalion RIGHT Post P.26.d.6.2.) to P.21.central.
- 3.- DISPOSITIONS.-

RIGHT -	"D" Coy.,	23rd Bn.	will relieve	"D" Coy.,	20th Bn.
CENTRE -	"A" "	" "	" "	"B" "	" "
LEFT -	"C" "	" "	" "	"C" "	" "
SUPPORT-	"B" "	" "	" "	"A" "	" "
- 4.- Battalion will pass STARTING POINT - RAILWAY at O.28.e.1.9. - at 9.30 p.m., in the following order.-
"D", "A", "C" and "B" Coys.
Movement will be by PLATOONS at 100 yards distance.
- 5.- One GUIDE per Platoon will be met at Battn. H'Qrs. in O.24.e.1.3. at 10.10 p.m. and one GUIDE per Post at Company H'Qrs.
- 6.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet and carried on back.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Water Bottles filled.
Iron Rations.
24 hours rations.
- 7.- ADVANCE PARTY of 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. and 1 O.Rank per Company, will report to Battn. H'Qrs. at P.19.e.1.2. by 12 NOON, 2nd inst.
- 8.- Officers' VALISES will be dumped outside Coy. H'Qrs. by 2.00 p.m., 2nd inst.
"A" Coy's. BLANKETS will be rolled in Bundles of 10, securely tied and clearly labelled, and dumped at Coy. H'Qrs. by 2.00 p.m.
- 9.- LEWIS GUNS, with Panniers, will be stacked outside Coy. H'Qrs. by 3.00 p.m. and will be collected by Limbers and dumped at Battn. H'Qrs. in O.24.e.1.3., where they will be picked up by Platoons when passing.
Surplus guns will be handed to Sgt. HEATH at Battn. H'Qrs. ~~at~~ by NOON on 2nd inst.
- 10.- COOKERS will move to Transport Lines and will be ready to pull out by 5.30 p.m.
- 11.- Disposition Reports with Sketch will be rendered to Battn. H'Qrs. by 6.00 a.m., 3rd inst.
- 12.- Trench Stores, Aeroplane Maps, etc. will be taken over and receipts forwarded to Battn. H'Qrs. by 6.00 a.m., 3rd inst.
- 13.- Any details not covered by this Order will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders.
- 14.- On completion of Relief the word "PLUM" will be wired to Bn. H'Qrs.
- 15.- Battalion H'Qrs.- P.19.e.1.2.
R.A.P.- P.19.d.8.2.
Battalion Dump.- P.20.d.3.1. - near AEROPLANE.
- 16.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION - Overleaf.

A/A *Almond* adjutant, 23rd Battalion. Lient.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 147
DISTRIBUTION

- 1. The 3rd A.I. Brigade will take over the whole of the Divisional front on the night of 1918.
- 2. The 7th A.I. Brigade will move into positions in the AUBURN LINE, and the 5th A.I. Brigade will be in RESERVE in the BEANGY SYSTEM.
- 3. The 23rd Battalion will relieve the 20th Battalion, A.I.F. in the front line sector from P. 28.0.1.3. to P. 21.0.1.3. Road inclusive.
- 4. Transport Officer.
- 5. 129th Americans.

RIGHT - "D" Coy., 23rd Bn.	will relieve	"D" Coy., 20th Bn.
CENTRE - "A" Coy., 23rd Bn.	"	"A" Coy., 20th Bn.
LEFT - "C" Coy., 23rd Bn.	"	"C" Coy., 20th Bn.
SUPPORT - "B" Coy., 23rd Bn.	"	"B" Coy., 20th Bn.

- 1. Battalion will pass STARTING POINT - RAILWAY at 0.28.0.1.3. at 7.30 p.m., in the following order: "D", "A", "C" and "B" Coye.
- 2. Movement will be by PLATOONS at 100 yards distance.
- 3. One GUIDE per Platoon will be met at BATTN. H'Grs. in 0.24.0.1.3. at 10.10 p.m. and one GUIDE per Post at Company H'Grs.
- 4. Dressing Order - Goggles rolled in waterproof sheet and carried on back. 250 rounds S.A.A. per man. 2 boxes per man. Water bottles filled. Iron Rations. 24 hours rations.

- 5. ADVANCE PARTY of 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. and 1 O.Nark per Company, will report to BATTN. H'Grs. at 2.15.0.1.3. by 12 noon, and last.
- 6. Officers' VALISES will be dumped outside Coy. H'Grs. by 2.00 p.m. and last.
- 7. "A" Coy's. BLANKETS will be rolled in Bundles of 10, securely tied and clearly labelled, and dumped at Coy. H'Grs. by 2.00 p.m.
- 8. LEWIS GUNS, withammers, will be stowed outside Coy. H'Grs. by 3.00 p.m. and will be collected by limbers and dumped at BATTN. H'Grs. in 0.24.0.1.3., where they will be picked up by platoons when passing.
- 9. Machine guns will be handed to Sgt. HEATH at BATTN. H'Grs. by 12 noon on and last.

- 10. COOKERS will move to Transport lines and will be ready to pull out by 2.30 p.m.
- 11. Disposition Reports with sketch will be rendered to BATTN. H'Grs. by 6.00 a.m., 3rd inst.
- 12. French Stores, Petroleum Maps, etc., will be taken over and receipts forwarded to BATTN. H'Grs. by 6.00 a.m., 3rd inst.
- 13. Any details not covered by this Order will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders.
- 14. On completion of Relief the word "PLUM" will be wired to BATTN. H'Grs.
- 15. Battalion H'Grs. - P. 19.0.1.3.
- 16. R.A.P. - P. 19.0.1.3.
- 17. Battalion Dump - P. 20.0.1.3. - near AMROSLANE.

APPENDIX 6

Ref. Maps.- SHEETS 62.D. S.W. and S.E. 1/20,000.

3rd AUGUST, 1918.

1.- The 23rd A.I. Battalion will be relieved by the 24th A.I. Battalion in the Front Line on the night 3rd /4th August, 1918, Companies will be relieved as follows.-

"D" Coy., 23rd Bn.	will be relieved by	"B" Coy., 24th Bn.
"A" " " " " " "	" " " " " "	"A" " " " "
"C" " " " " " "	" " " " " "	"C" " " " "
"B" " " " " " "	" " " " " "	<u>N i l.</u>

2.- GUIDES.-

1 Guide per Platoon will report to Battalion H'Qrs. by 9.30 p.m., on the 3rd inst.; and 1 Guide per POST at Coy. H'Qrs.

3.- On Relief Battalion will move in to LEFT SUPPORT.
DISPOSITION of Coys. will be as follows.-

"A" Coy.	-	VILLERS LINE.
"B" "	-	DIGGERS SUPPORT, P.19.c.
"C" "	-	P.19.d. and P.20.c.
"D" "	-	P.25.b.

4.- DRESS.-

Fighting Order, Greatecoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.

5.- ADVANCE PARTIES - 1 Officer, 4 N.C.O's. and 8 O.R's. per Coy. - will proceed to their respective positions for Billeting and preparation.

6.- Receipts in DUPLICATE for all Trench Stores, Maps, Aeroplane photos., etc., will be forwarded to Battalion H'Qrs. within 12 hours of Relief

7.- Disposition Reports will be forwarded to Battalion H'Qrs. by 12 NOON, 4th inst.

8.- COOKERS will be established in VILLERS LINE near "A" Coy.

9.- RATIONS for Coys. will be ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ DUMPED at positions to be notified later.

10.- Battalion H'Qrs.- 0.24.c.2.3.
R.A.P.- 0.24.c.1.3.

11.- Completion of Relief will be notified by the word "PEAR"
Completion of move by CODE.

12.- 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 A.I. Battn.
14.-	Q.M.
15.-	Transport Officer.
16.-	Spare.

W. J. D. Smith
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

1.- The 2nd Australian Division is attacking on a date to be notified. The 7th A.I. Brigade attack on the RIGHT, the 5th A.I. Brigade on the LEFT. The 6th A.I. Brigade will be in SUPPORT. The 5th Australian Division will carry on the Attack after the 2nd Australian Division has carried the GREEN LINE, with a CANADIAN Division on its RIGHT, and the 4th Australian Division on its LEFT.

2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., moves at ZERO minus 4 hours to a position of readiness as follows.-

- "A" Coy.- APPSLEY TRENCH from 0.36.a.9.5. to 0.36.central.
- "B" " - ALAWA TRENCH 0.36.b.0.3. to 0.36.a.6.2.
- "C" " - APPSLEY TRENCH from JOHN STREET, 0.30.c.9.1. to LEFT Flank of "A" Coy, 0.36.a.9.5.
- "D" " - ASHBURTON TRENCH 0.36.b.0.3. to 0.36.b.5.6.

Coys. will move from present positions at ZERO minus 4 hours, and will be in respective positions as above by ZERO minus 3 hours.

ROUTES.-

- "A" Coy.- via VILLERS LINE.
- "B" " - direct to YORK STREET, thence Overland Track to Battn. H'Qrs. at 0.30.b.2.1.
- "C" " - via ROAD S.W. through 0.25.a. and b., "D" Coy. H'Qrs., thence Overland Track to Battn. H'Qrs.
- "D" " - From Coy. H'Qrs. to Battn. H'Qrs.

ALL Coys. from Battalion H'Qrs. will move to Ready positions SOUTH via VILLERS LINE.

3.- When all the Brigades have passed our present Front Line, Coys. will move forward on receipt of Orders from Battn. H'Qrs. to Positions as under.-

- "D" Coy.- on a line running NORTH from P.32.d.2.9. to P.32.b.2.5.
- "A" " - in rear of "D" Coy. on line running NORTH P.32.e.7.9. to P.32.a.7.5.
- "C" " - in rear of "A" Coy. on line running NORTH from P.32.c.2.9. to P.32.a.2.5.
- "B" " - APOLLO SUPPORT, P.31.d.7.5. to P.31.b.9.5.

in 4 lines of Coys. in the following order.-

"D", "A", "C" and "B" Coys.

Each Coy. in line of Half-Platoons, 30 yards interval.
Distance between Coys.- 200 yards.

4.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.
Unexpended portion of days Rations.
Water Bottles filled.
50% Personnel will carry TOOLS - proportion of 1 Pick to 3 Shovels.

5.- REAR H'QRS, TRANSPORT and Q.M's. STORES.-

These will remain as at present, but in the event of Orders being issued for them to move, all surplus gear will be dumped at NUCLEUS who will supply the necessary Guards. WATER CARTS will be filled on night of 7th inst. and together with COOKER TEAMS will be ready to move forward on the 8th inst.

6.- PRISONERS OF WAR.-

(a). The 6th A.I. Brigade, will be responsible for collection of Prisoners of War. A Screen of Scouts of 20 to 25 Brigade Snipers and Lieut. GEAR will be spread over the Divisional Sector and will direct Prisoners to POSTS.

APPENDIX 7

6.- PRISONERS OF WAR (Contd).-

"B" Coy. will detail 1 Officer, 2 N.C.O's. and 10 men to take Post at Road Junction P.26.c.85.35. This will be known as No.2 Post. Officer i/c will take over all Prisoners, giving a receipt to the Escort showing on it the Battalion who took the Prisoners. Escorts will be sent back to the Firing Line and when a number of Prisoners have been collected, they will be sent back to MAIN COLLECTING POST.

(b) MAIN COLLECTING POST.-

Situated at DOLLS HOUSE, O.30.c.

"B" Coy. will detail 1 Officer, 2 N.C.O's. and 12 men for this Post, and will be in position by ZERO plus 30.

ALL POSTS will be withdrawn at ZERO plus 4 hours.

Prisoners will be taken to Prisoners of War Cage, O.27.d.8.7., where necessary receipts will be obtained.

Post detailed in (a) will move beyond OLD FRONT LINE by ZERO plus 30. Prisoners carrying Wounded will be checked by A.D.S., O.27.d.

7.- BATTLE STRAGGLERS.-

Parties as detailed in para. 6. will stop ALL BATTLE STRAGGLERS and ~~send~~ send them back immediately to the Firing Line.

Lists of all such men to be forwarded to Battalion H'Qrs. on withdrawal of Posts.

8.- Signalling Officer will arrange necessary communications.

9.- Completion of Moves will be wired in CODE to Battn. H'Qrs. or sent by RUNNER.

10.- Watches will be SYNCHRONISED at 7.00 p.m., 7th inst.

11.- ZERO Hour will be notified later.

12.- BATTALION H'Qrs.- O.30.b.2.1. until 5th Aust. Division pass through, and then will be established at Junction of ASHFIELD AVENUE and APOLLO SUPPORT.

R.A.P.- Building, O.36.a.7.8.

13.- 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.- | Q.M. |
| 14.- | Transport Officer. |
| 15/16.- | Spares. |

Alfred Smith
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

SECRET.-

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 130.

Copy No

2

APPENDIX

Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.D. S.E. 1/20,000.

10th AUGUST, 1918.

- 1.- The 3rd and 4th Australian Divisions are carrying the Line - R.28.c.5.4., CHUIGNOLLES, L.33.c.0.7. - to-night, 10th inst. The Attack commences at 9.30 p.m.
- 2.- The 5th and 7th A.I. Brigades are going forward to approximately the Line X.11.c.0.0., R.35.c.0.0., R.28.c.5.4., later in the night. This Attack will be supported by an Artillery Barrage.
- 3.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will from 5.00 a.m., 11th August, 1918, be under the Tactical Command of the G.O.C., 7th A.I. Brigade, and will be in position on the Line between X.7. and X.8.
- 4.- Coys. will move from their present locations at 3.25 a.m. and will pass Starting Point - Junction of Road and RAILWAY - in the following order.-
 "H'Qrs", "D", "C", "A" and "B" Coys.
 "H'Qrs." passing at 3.30 a.m.
 Movement will be by $\frac{1}{2}$ Coys. at 100 yards distance, with Connecting Files.
- 5.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet.
 220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
 2 Bombs per man.
 Iron Rations.
 Unexpended portion of days Rations.
 Water Bottles filled.
- 6.- COOKERS will move under arrangements of Transport Officer.
- 7.- LEWIS GUNS will move with "D" and "A" Coys., and will be collected by Coys. on arrival at Positions.
- 8.- Battalion H'Qrs.- X.13.b.9.9.
 R.A.P.- X.13.b.9.9.
- 9.- 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.- 7th A.I. Brigade.
- 14.- Q.M.
- 15.- Transport Officer.
- 16.- Spare.

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

SECRET.-

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 131

Copy No 2

35

APPENDIX 9

11th AUGUST, 1918.

Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.D. S.E. 1/20,000.

- 1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will relieve the 26th Battalion, A.I.F., in the Front Line to-night, 11th/12th August, 1918.
- 2.- DISPOSITIONS.--
 - LINE RIGHT.-- "D" Coy., 23rd Bn. will relieve "B" Coy. and $\frac{1}{2}$ "A" Coy., 26th Bn.
 - LINE LEFT.-- "C" Coy., 23rd Bn. will relieve "C" Coy. and $\frac{1}{2}$ "A" 26th Bn. and 28th Bn. to Road X.5.c.0.4.
 - SUPPORT.-- "A" Coy. - X.10.c.1.1. to X.10.c.4.6.
 - RESERVE.-- "B" Coy. - X.15.b.7.4.
- 3.- STARTING POINT.-- CEMETERY.
Coys. will pass Starting Point in the following order.-
"H'Qrs", "D", "C", "A" and "B" Coys.
H'Qrs, passing at 9.00 p.m.
Movement will be by Platoons at 100 yards distance, with Connecting Files. - 200 yards between Coys.
- 4.- GUIDES.--
One Guide per Coy. will report to Battalion H'Qrs. at 9.00 p.m. and 4 Guides per Coy. will be met at 26th Battn. H'Qrs.
- 5.- LEWIS GUNS will be carried by "A" Coy. and dumped at Battn. H'Qrs. where they will be collected as Coys. pass.
- 6.- DRESS.-- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Water Bottles filled.
Iron Rations.
24 hours Rations.
- 7.- COOKERS will remain at present location.
- 8.- Completion of Relief will be wired to Battn. H'Qrs. in CODE.
- 9.- Battalion H'Qrs.- X.15.b.9.8.
R.A.P.- X.15.b.9.5.
- 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.- C.O.'s., Coys.
- 13.- 26th Battn., A.I.F.
- 14.- 28th " "
- 15.- Q.M.
- 16.- Transport Officer.

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

- 1.- The Brigade Boundaries are to be altered to-night 13th/14th August, 1918, as follows.-
 Southern Boundary.- E. & W. Grid Line through X.18.a.0.0.
 Northern Boundary.- E. & W. " " " R.35.a.0.0.
- 2.- The Inter-Battalion Boundary will be altered at the same time as under.-
 (a) Between 23rd & 22nd Bns. E. & W. Line through X.11.b.1.6.
 (b) Between 22nd & 24th Bns. E. & W. Line through X.4.central.
- 3.- (a) "D" Coy. will take over the 5 RIGHT Posts of "B" Coy.
 "C" " " " " " 2 LEFT Posts " "B" "
 "B" Coy. will then move into SUPPORTING Posts running from X.11.c.0.9. to X.17.a.04.01.
 (b) "A" Coy. will take over that portion of the Line between OLD and NEW Brigade SOUTHERN Boundaries - E. & W. Grid between X.11. and X.17. to E. & W. Grid X.17.central.
 "C" Coy. will be relieved by one Coy., 22nd Battn., A.I.F. and will then move into RESERVE Position at present occupied by "A" Coy. (ROAD running from X.10.c.4.5. to X.10.c.6.9.)
- 4.- Mutual Arrangements will be made between Coy. Commanders concerned.
- 5.- "C" Coy. will send an ADVANCE PARTY of 1 N.C.O. per Platoon to RESERVE Position, to arrange accommodation.
- 6.- All marked Maps, Local Intelligence, Trench Stores, will be taken over on relief, and receipts forward to Battalion H'Qrs. by 6.00 a.m., 14th inst.
- 7.- ALL TOOLS will be carried by Coys. to their new Positions.
- 8.- Completion of Relief to wired to Battalion H'Qrs. in CODE.
- 9.- DISPOSITION REPORTS to be forwarded to Batta. H'Qrs. by 6.00 a.m. 14th inst.
- 10.- Battalion H'Qrs.- X.15.b.9.8.
 R.A.P.- X.15.b.9.5.
- 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.- 22nd Battn., A.I.F.
- 14.- Q.M.
- 15.- Transport Officer.
- 16.- Spars.

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

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Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.C. S.W. 1/20,000.

15th AUGUST, 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade in co-operation with the 4th Australian Division (14th Battalion on RIGHT) will attack and capture Enemy System.-

CRUCIFIX.
MAZE.
SAURIEN ALLEY.
MADAM WOOD, and
Enemy Line SOUTH of MADAM WOOD.

2.- OBJECTIVES.-

The Objectives allotted to the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., are.-

Junction ENGLISH ALLEY, SAURIEN ALLEY - X.12.a.9.8.
EASTERN Edge of MAZE - X.12.a.9.3.
Thence SAURIEN ALLEY to MADAM WOOD.

- 3.- RIGHT COY.- "A" Coy. MADAM WOOD.
I Platoon of "D" Coy. in SUPPORT: Right Flank of "A" Coy.

CENTRE COY.- "B" Coy.

SAURIEN TRENCH S.7.c.30.25. to S.7.d.30.90.

LEFT COY.- S.7.d.30.90. to X.12.a.9.8.

I Platoon of "D" Coy. in Support with I Platoon of "C" Coy.
to assist in Mopping-up MAZE.

- 4.- Particulars of Artillery Barrage and J.C.T. will be arranged and notified later.

- 5.- It is essential that BAIDHERBE ALLEY be cleared as far as possible for use as a C.T.

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

15th August, 1918.

Ally
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Ref. Maps.- SHEETS 62.D. S.E. and 62.C. S.W. 1/20,000. 17th AUGUST, 1918.

1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade in co-operation with the 4th Aust. Division (14th Battalion on RIGHT) will attack and capture Enemy System CRUCIFIX, MAZE, SAURIEN ALLEY, MADAM WOOD and Enemy Line SOUTH of MADAM WOOD, on the morning of the 18th inst.

2.- OBJECTIVES.-

The Objectives allotted to 23rd A.I. Battalion are Junction ENGLISH ALLEY, SAURIEN ALLEY X.12.a.9.8., EASTERN EDGE of MAZE X.12.a.9.3., thence SAURIEN ALLEY to MADAM WOOD.

RIGHT COY.- "A" Coy.

RIGHT Flank. MOUND at S.13.b.2.1. North. • ALL SAURIEN ALLEY to S.7.d.30.25.

The establishment of this Line will be carried out by peaceful penetration. *by 4.15 a.m. 18th inst*

LIAISON.- Close co-operation and Liaison to 14th Battalion post at North-East Corner of MADAM WOOD S.13.b.20.15. will be established with 14th Battalion.

CENTRE COY.- "B" Coy. and 2 Platoons of "D" Coy.

SAURIEN ALLEY S.7.d.30.25. to S.7.d.30.90.

"B" Coy. will move forward to establish this system at ZERO plus 5 minutes.

LEFT COY.- "C" Coy.

OBJECTIVE.- S.7.d.30.90. to X.12.a.95.80.

Close co-operation and combined Post to be established at X.12.a.95.80. with 22nd Battalion.

Precautions will be taken to clear system in X.12.c.9.6. to X.12.c.9.9.

Lieut. A. BAKER with 1 Platoon "C" Coy. will be responsible for direction along ENGLISH ALLEY and will in conjunction with Lieut. MADDEN, 22nd Battn., establish a Composite Post at X.12.a.95.95.

"D" COY.- 1 Platoon in SUPPORT Position at Junction FAIDHERBE ALLEY and Trench System at X.11.d.60.15.

Lieut. J.E. SMITH'S Platoon will be withdrawn from present position to FAIDHERBE ALLEY at ZERO minus 45 mins. and will pass to the command of O.C., "A" Coy., as SUPPORT Platoon.

"A" Coy., 21st Battalion, passes to command of C.O., 23rd Battn., at 6.00 p.m. and will occupy position as follows.-

2 Platoons in Trench System X.11.d.9.8. to X.12.a.2.2.

2 Platoons in Trench System near Coy. H'Qrs. at X.11.d.4.4.

3.- J.O.T. will be laid by the 7th Field Engineers as follows.-

"C" Coy.- X.11.b.95.45. to X.12.c.3.8.

4.- FORMATION.-

"C" Coy.- 1st Line - 3 Platoons.

2nd Line - 1 Platoon (Mopping up).

and will form up on J.O.T. by ZERO minus 45 minutes.

PROTECTIVE POSTS to cover forming up on J.O.T. to be established and will be withdrawn by ZERO minus 15 mins.

5.- ARTILLERY BARRAGE.-

At ZERO an intense Barrage will be placed down on Sections of the Enemy Defences corresponding to the points of entry, and from "W" in "WOOD" to S.7.a.6.4., "E" in "ALLEY", NORTH along SAURIEN ALLEY from ZERO to plus 5, then lift to Protective Barrage Line.

At ZERO plus 2 mins. it will lift at rate of 50 yards every minute until it reaches the Protective Line where it will remain for 5 minutes when it gradually ceases.

P.T.O.

6.- SUCCESS SIGNALS.-

3 WHITE VERY LIGHTS will be fired in quick succession by Coys. on reaching Objective.

If necessary to continue the Artillery Fire on the Protective Line, after the Schedule time for it to cease or to recommence firing on the protective line, 1 RED and 1 GREEN VERY LIGHT will be fired by Companies.

On receipt of this signal, 5 minutes intense fire on the protective line will be put down when it will cease unless signals are repeated.

7.- DRESS.-

Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet.

220 rounds S.A.A. per man.

2 Bombs per man.

2 Sandbags per man.

50% personnel to carry tools in proportion of 1 pick to three shovels.

Iron Rations.

24 hours Rations.

Water Bottles filled.

8.- ZERO HOUR.- 4.15 a.m.9.- Watches will SYNCHRONISED at MIDNIGHT.

10.- Signalling Officer will establish necessary communication with Coys. Should communication be disconnected, Coys. will immediately establish communication by RUNNER.

RUNNER RELAY STATION is established at "C" Coy. H'qrs. X.11.d.3.4.

11.- Battn. H'qrs.- As at present.

R.A.P.- " " "

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

Lieut.

A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- 22nd Battn.
- 14.- 24th Battn.
- 15.- Transport Offr.
- 16.- Q.M.

Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.D. 1/20,000.

18th AUGUST, 1918.

- 1.- The 2nd Australian Division is being relieved by the 32nd Division between 17th and 19th August, 1918.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will be relieved by the 2nd Manchester Regiment on the night 18th/19th August, 1918.
On Relief, Battalion will move by BUS from W.11.c.8.7. to VECQUEMONT Area Debussing at N.6.d.5.4.
- 3.- DISPOSITIONS.-
"C" Coy., 23rd Bn., will be relieved by "C" Coy., 2nd Manchester Regt.
"A" & "B" " " " " " " " " "D" Coy., " " "
"D" Coy., " " " " " " " " "A" Coy., " " "
"B" Coy., 2nd Manchester Regiment, will occupy System running from X.11.d.6.1. to X.17.b.2.5.
- 4.- GUIDES.-
"C" Coy. will send 1 Guide per Platoon, "A", "B" and "D" Coys., will send 2 Guides, to report to R.S.M. at Battalion H'Qrs. by 8.30 p.m., to-night, 18th inst.
- 5.- STANDING PATROLS.-
"A", "B" and "C" Coys. will each detail Standing Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men with Lewis Gun to cover Relief, and will be withdrawn on completion of Relief.
- 6.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet and carried on Back.
120 rounds S.A.A. per man.
Iron Rations.
- 7.- LEWIS GUNS will be dumped at Battalion H'Qrs. as each Company passes and will be conveyed to BUSES where they will be taken over by Coys. and carried with them on the Busses.
Sgt. T. HEATH will be in charge.
- 8.- Transport will move on the 18th inst. under arrangements of T.O.
- 9.- 100 rounds S.A.A. and 2 Bombs per man will be handed over to the incoming Unit.
- 10.- Area and Trench Stores, Air Photos, Marked Maps only, Intelligence, etc., will be handed over and receipts in TRIPLICATE forwarded to Battalion H'Qrs. by 12 NOON, 19th inst.
Map Reference of Coy. Dumps to be shown on receipts.
- 11.- Lieut. F.J. JENKINS, M.C., M.M., will act as EMBUSSING OFFICER and will report to Lieut. C.D. FETHERS, M.C., Brigade Embussing Officer, at 10.30 p.m., 18th inst., at W.11.c.8.7.
- 12.- On completion of relief the word "WINNER" will be wired to Battalion H'Qrs.

13.- 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.- 2nd Manchester Regt.
- 14.- Q.M.
- 15.- T.O.
- 16.- Spare.

M. G. G. G.
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.D. 1/20,000.

26th AUGUST, 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will take over the Front of the 3rd A.I. Brigade and portion of the 1st A.I. Brigade.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will move into RESERVE in L.34.c. to-night, 26th inst.
- 3.- STARTING POINT.- Battalion H'Qrs.
Coys. will pass Starting Point in the following order at 4.15 p.m.-
"H'Qrs", "A", "B", "C" and "D" Coys.
Movement will be by PLATOONS at 100 yards distance, with Connecting Files.
- 4.- GUIDES.- Guides will be met on route.
- 5.- LEWIS GUNS will be carried forward on Limbers.
- 6.- COOKERS and LEWIS GUN LIMBERS will move with Coys.
- 7.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet and carried on Back.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.
Water Bottles filled.
- 8.- Battalion H'Qrs.- L.34.b.3.C.
R.A.P.- L.34.b.3.C.
- 9.- 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.- | C.O.'s., Coys. | |
| 13.- | Q.M. | |
| 14.- | Transport Officer. | |
| 15/16.- | Spares. | |

Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

SECRET.-

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 136.

Copy No 2
APPENDIX 15

Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.D. 1/40,000.

27th AUGUST, 1918.

- 1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will move forward and take up position in the vicinity of G.31. and G.32., on the Afternoon of the 27th August, 1918.
- 2.- Battalion will pass STARTING POINT - "D" Coy's. H'Qrs. - at 2.30 p.m., as follows.-

ORDER OF MARCH.-

- "D" Coy. - 2.30 p.m.
- "H'Qrs". - 3.00 p.m.
- "A" Coy. - 3.30 p.m.
- "B" " - 4.00 p.m.
- "C" " - 4.30 p.m.

Movement will be by SECTIONS at 50 yards distance.

- 3.- LIMBERS with Lewis Guns and panniers and Coy. COOKERS will move in rear of Companies.
- 4.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.
Water Bottles filled.
- 5.- Battalion H'Qrs.- G.32.a.2.8.
R.A.P.- G.32.a.2.8.
- 6.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File. Capt.
- 2/4.- War Diary. Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- C.O's., Coys.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- Transport Officer.
- 15/16.- Spares.

SECRET.-

93

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 1

Copy No

2

APPENDIX 16

Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.D. 1/40,000.

28th AUGUST, 1918.

- 1.- To conform with the movements of the 21st, 22nd and 24th A.I. Battalions, the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., (less "A" Coy. attached to 21st Battalion) will move forward to position in G.33.b. and d., as reconnoitred by Coy. Commanders this morning.
- 2.- Coys. will move indepentently from present positions as soon as Lewis Gun Limbers and Cookers are ready to move.
MOVEMENT will be by PLATOONS at 100 yards distance.
- 3.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.
Water Bottles filled.
- 4.- LEWIS GUNS will be carried forward on Limbers.
- 5.- COOKERS will move to position of Coys. and sited under Coy. arrangements.
- 6.- Battalion H'Qrs.- AS at present. -
R.A.P.- G.33.c.8.2.
- 7.- 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.- C.C's., Coys.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- Transport Officer.
- 15/16.- Spares.

Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

SECRET.-BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. **APPENDIX**Copy No 2

Ref. Map.- SHEET 62.C. N.W. 1/20,000.

28th AUGUST, 1918.

- 1.- The 7th A.I. Brigade is continuing to advance at DAWN to-morrow, 29th August, 1918.
- 2.- To-night, 28th/29th insts, every effort will be made to secure System from H.20.d.b.O. to H.32.central, including Enemy System EAST of HERBECOURT.
- 3.- Each Coy. will advance by system of STRONG FIGHTING PATROLS, on its respective front as taken over from the 21st Battalion at 1.00 a.m. to-night, and make good the Objective above mentioned.
ZERO Hour.- 1.00 a.m.
- 4.- Arrangements are being made with 4.5 Howitzers to shell HERBECOURT from 1.00 a.m. to 1.10 a.m., thence lifting to NORTH and SOUTH Grid through H.27. and H.33.
- 5.- "D" Coy. will have one STOKES to move forward and co-operate. They will provide CARRYING PARTY.
"B" and "C" Coys. will also have one STOKES for similar purpose.
- 6.- The Area in H.19.e. and d. and H.20.e. and d., is not provided for in Brigade Order, but C.C., "B" Coy., will be prepared to deal with any opposition by moving his Fighting Patrols on Southern Boundary of this Area.
This Order does not prevent Companies using their own initiative in securing Objective before the specified time. If such is attained, they must immediately notify Battalion H'Qrs. for purpose of Artillery Lifts.
- 7.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.- | File. | |
| 2/4.- | War Diary. | Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion. |
| 5.- | C.O. | |
| 6.- | Adjutant. | |
| 7.- | 6th A.I. Brigade. | |
| 8/12.- | C.C.'s., Coys. | |
| 13.- | Q.M. | |
| 14.- | T.O. | |
| 15/16.- | Spares. | |

45
18
Appendix R

REPORT on Operation carried out by "A" Coy., 23rd Battn.,
attached to 21st Battn., on 28th August, 1918.

- 1.- On receipt of Orders from 6th A.I. Brigade, "A" Coy. was ordered to move forward at 8.40 a.m. from its location at G.32.a.50.95. to 21st Battn's. H'Qrs. at NAMELESS WOOD, and passed to the tactical command of the C.O., 21st Battalion.
- 2.- Company Officers made a Reconnaissance of the Forward Area near FRISE and after consultation with C.O., 21st Battn., it was decided that the Mopping Up of the Village of FRISE, be carried out by "A" Coy, 23rd Battn., in conjunction with 3 Bombing Parties of 21st Battn., with one STOKES MORTAR attached, to bomb forward through Enemy Systems H.19.a., H.13.c. and a.
- 3.- Artillery preparation for period of 15 minutes was to be placed on the Northern edges of Village of FRISE.
- 4.- Formation.- 2 Platoons on Eastern side of Village. 1 Platoon on W. side and 1 Platoon in Support at G.24.b.4.1.
- 5.- At 4.35 p.m. Platoons proceeded in a Northerly direction along the E. and W. outskirts of the Village. No enemy opposition was encountered. Platoons joined forces at the BRIDGE in G.18.b.3.0.
- 6.- Lewis Gun Post was established on BRIDGE G.18.b.5.0. Post was established on CANAL BANK at H.13.a.2.5. 2 Lewis Gun Posts at G.18.b.3.1. were established in a position commanding Enemy Trench Systems in H.13.a. and c., and were able to cover the advance of the 21st Battn. parties.
- 7.- Heavy Machine Gun fire was experienced from Trenches in H.13.a. This was effectively silenced by the Lewis Gun Posts established in G.18.b.8.1. Enemy were then seen to be moving SOUTH through Trenches towards 21st Battn. Bombing Parties to avoid fire of our Lewis Guns. A number of enemy were also seen running towards CANAL BANK. VICKERS and Lewis Gun Fire was directed on them, inflicting casualties. It is thought that these men were Engineers as on arrival of our men it was found that the LOCKS in the Canal had newly laid charges in them. These were removed by Sappers of 6th Field Coy. Engineers attached to "A" Coy.
- 8.- Patrol proceeded through area in G.12.c. and found same to be clear of Enemy, and at the same time established Liaison with the 38th Bn. on the LEFT.
- 9.- No strong Enemy opposition was encountered during this operation.
- 10.- Company was relieved at about 8.30 p.m. on the 18th Battalion passing through the 21st Battalion in continuation of the advance.
- 11.- Estimated Enemy Casualties.-

Killed.-	2.
Wounded.-	2.
- 12.- Our Casualties.-

Killed.-	1 O.R.
Wounded.-	4 O.Rs.
- 13.- One Lewis Gun was blown out by Shell Fire.

-----000-----

29th August, 1918.

B. Brazner
Lt.-Col.
Commanding, 23rd Battalion.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

OPERATIONS FROM THE 15TH to 18TH AUGUST, 1918. (INCLUSIVE).

In conformity with Brigade Order regarding peaceful penetration, the line was further advanced on the night of the 15th inst., by a Bombing Attack North towards CRUCIFIX and the establishment of a Block at ROAD X.12.a.20.45 - During this encounter Enemy put up a stubborn resistance.

On the night of the 16th/17th, our Posts were pushed forward South towards MADAM WOOD on a line running from X.12.d.2.8. to X.18.a.7.4.

On the 17th inst. acting on information of the Battalion on the Right that their patrol had entered a Trench South of MADAM WOOD, it was decided to push down CASTLENAU ALLEY and FAIDHERBE ALLEY with a view to occupying SAURIEN ALLEY.

One Platoon moving through CASTLENAU was enabled to link up with the 14th Battalion at MADAM WOOD leaving one Platoon in FAIDHERBE and one in CASTLENAU. The Platoon in CASTLENAU immediately followed on. Leading Platoon entered SAURIEN ALLEY and moved Northward immediately encountering opposition. The Platoon in FAIDHERBE co-operated on hearing the Bombing start and pushed forward clearing the Enemy from the Posts at S.13.b.1.8.; entering SAURIEN ALLEY the Platoon worked North and South and connected up with Platoon working from CASTLENAU ALLEY. After driving the Enemy into ROCHE ALLEY and CASTLENAU C.T.'s. - S.7.d.4.3. - he immediately organised attacking Parties which were reinforced overland and through C.T.'s. from the Rear Systems. Two of his Machine Guns were observed to come into action at close range in ROCHE ALLEY at S.13.b.35.75. and one at S.7.d.5.3. The former, by quick action and initiative on the part of the Lewis Gun Team under personal direction of Captain R.G. MOSS, was engaged at close range, silencing the gun and killing the crew of 3. The latter was engaged also at close range and gave no further trouble. A GERMAN, presumably an Officer, was observed waving his arms for Reinforcements.

By this time the whole of "A" Coy. had been absorbed in SAURIEN ALLEY from MADAM WOOD to S.7.d.3.0.

The intention for "A" Coy. was to establish on their Objective (for the morning of the 18th inst.) in SAURIEN ALLEY.

As shown in the foregoing report, this had practically been accomplished.

"B" Coy. were moved into SUPPORT in FAIDHERBE ALLEY.

Upon Enemy opposition being overcome, ~~XXXXXX~~ they were established on the Left Flank of "A" Coy. establishing a Block - S.7.d.25.30., leaving "B" Coy. on the LEFT and "A" Coy. on the RIGHT in SAURIEN ALLEY. Enemy persistently opposed our advance and the urgent need for Bombs was made good by 2 Platoons of "D" Coy. carrying forward supplies from the Battalion Dump. These Platoons were later used for Support.

An Artillery Barrage was requested at points of Enemy debauchment. This was quickly and accurately placed. Artillery also silenced an enemy Minenwerfer which had come into action.

Simultaneously with the fighting, Enemy put up the "S.C.S." Flare which brought considerable Artillery Fire on our ~~XXXXXX~~ Sector extending to the Left of the Brigade Front. We suffered some Casualties from this in our Outpost Line.

We inflicted a number of Casualties on the Enemy and secured identification of the 65th and 161st Regiments.

One Machine Gun was captured.

P.T.O.

OPERATIONS FROM THE 15TH TO 18TH AUGUST, 1918 (INCLUSIVE) - (Contd).

Our Casualties up to this had been Lieut. M. WHIR and Lieut. P. HOLDSWORTH wounded, 4 O.Ranks killed and 9 wounded.

In view of the fact that 3 Companies had become involved in the fighting on this Flank and had gained such an important part of our Objective, it was decided to attack frontally the Mass - X.12.b.

Artillery Barrage was amended and arranged personally at Battalion H'qrs. with the acting Brigade Major, Captain SALE, with one Company only.

J.O.T. for "C" Coy. was laid by Lieut. OLDFHAM of the 7th Field Coy. Engineers and Lieut. F.J. JENKINS, 23rd Batta., A.I.F.

Comparatively quiet night followed.

On the morning of the 18th, "C" Coy. formed up on the J.O.T. at Zero minus 45 minutes in 2 lines; 1st line 3 platoons, 2nd line one platoon, mopping-up; and moved forward under Barrage (at 4.15 a.m.) which did not seem to be as dense as usual.

The movement forward of the Company was good and they were able to closely follow the Barrage on to Objective where a combined Post was established with the 22nd Battalion at the junction on ENGLISH ALLEY and VERMAND OUVILLER ALLEY - X.12.a.95.90.

Mopping-up of the Mass, owing to the considerable extent of the Trenches, took some time.

Owing to our few men on this front the taking of prisoners was a secondary consideration and a good number were killed. This shortage of men also accounted for the escape of a good number of the Enemy.

"B" Coy.

At ZERO plus 5 (4.20 a.m.) the ~~troops~~ who were in position proceeded to bomb North along SAURIEN ALLEY and linked up with "C" Coy. at S.7.d.3.9.

Strong resistance encountered in this Sector on the Afternoon of the 17th inst. was not so marked. After dealing with 1 Machine Gun and crew and dispersing one Bombing Party in SAURIEN ALLEY, connection with "C" Coy's. Right Flank was completed.

Our Casualties up to this period were very light and our captures included 1 German Officer, 10 O.Ranks and 4 Machine Guns.

Success Signals were observed on our Front at 4.40 a.m. Closely following this an S.O.S. was observed to go up on our Left Flank opposite another Unit. Artillery were then requested to continue with protective Barrage.

Close Liaison with neighbouring Unit enabled us to quickly ascertain that they had not reached their Objective and that the CRUCIFIX was still in the Enemy's hands. Immediately Defensive Flank was formed along ENGLISH ALLEY consisting of one platoon and a Blocking Party established in Trench running North from X.12.b.3.5. to the CRUCIFIX. A report received that this Trench was in good order and led direct to the CRUCIFIX. I instructed Captain SULLIVAN to organise a Bombing Party from 21st Company allotted to me, move speedily to this point and capture the CRUCIFIX. Lieut. HARDWICK personally led the party and very quickly fought a way to the CRUCIFIX and established a Post at X.6.e.3.4., inflicting casualties on the Enemy and capturing 6 Prisoners. This Post was isolated and later was withdrawn and 2 Posts established immediately South of the CRUCIFIX, covering and holding same from Enemy.

Reinforcements urgently required by the Platoon on my immediate Left and I arranged with Colonel WILTSHIRE for a party of 25 to move through ENGLISH ALLEY with the object of strengthening the Garrisons and connecting the CRUCIFIX. This was quickly and successfully carried out.

The capture of the CRUCIFIX by Lieut. HARDWICK and Party enabled Right Flank, "A" Coy., 22nd Battalion, to move forward and to take over posts at CRUCIFIX. I was then able to withdraw Opt. SULLIVAN'S Party under the immediate command of Lieut. HARDWICK, to their posts in support.

I cannot speak too highly of the valuable work, the quick response of instructions and initiative shown by these Officers of the 21st Battalion.

Remaining portion of Captain SULLIVAN'S Company was employed in cutting Sap through through ROAD at X.11.d.9.8. This was

speedily carried out to enable direct Trench Communication to be made to our Left Flank avoiding Overland Route.

CONSOLIDATION of captured Enemy System was comparatively easy and consisted of establishing Half-Platoon Posts and the establishment of BLOCKS at Enemy C.T.'s. - A.V.d.S.9., S.V.b.05.70.

IDENTIFICATIONS of the 65th and 161st Regiments, 109th Division and 25th Regiment of the 185th Division, were made.

R.I.

PRISONERS OF WAR.-

1 Officer.
15 C.Ranks.

BOMBS.- A great number of Grenades, No.5, 23 and 36, were sent forward during the Bombing Operations of the 17th and 18th insts. supplies being well maintained by Mobile Echelon.

OUR CASUALTIES.-

WOUNDED.-

2 Officers.
28 C.Ranks.

KILLED.-

5 C.Ranks.

WOUNDED (Remaining at Duty).-

1 C.Rank.

ESTIMATED ENEMY CASUALTIES.-

25 Killed.
30 Wounded.

BOOTY.-

5 Enemy H.Q.'s. were captured.

-----000-----

19th August, 1918.

W. Brazenor

It.-Col.
Commanding, 23rd Battalion.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

Appendix T

REPORT ON TOUR OF DUTY - 11th to 18th AUGUST, 1918.PRELIMINARIES,
AND RELIEF.-

A Conference of Battalion Commanders was held at 6th A.I. Brigade Hqrs at 4.00 p.m. on 11th August, at which proposals were discussed to attack on the following morning failing which to relieve the 26th Battalion, A.I.F. and portion of the 28th Battalion, A.I.F., in the Front Line South-West of HERLEVILLE.

At 8.30 p.m. orders were received to carry out relief, which was successfully accomplished without incident.

DISPOSITIONS.-

The Line was held by a system of disconnected posts of one Platoon Strength each. Three Coys. were in the Front Line, in the order "D", "B", and "C" Coy. from RIGHT to LEFT, from X.17.a.0.5. along North and South Grid to X.5.c.0.4. "A" Coy. being in SUPPORT at BANK in X.10.c. BATTN. H'Qrs. was situated at X.15.b.95.65. but was subsequently moved to X.10.a.8.2. on account of heavy shelling. R.A.P. at X.15.b.95.65., but afterwards moved to X.11.c.8.1. when the Line was pushed forward.

FLANKS.- 11th Battalion, A.I.F. on RIGHT.
22nd " " " LEFT.

DESCRIPTION
OF SECTOR.-

The Line taken over was in a depression and dominated by a Ridge about 1000 yards in front, from which the Enemy could observe all our movements.

Later, when we had taken this Ridge the position was reversed and we had an excellent view of the Enemy Country and his lines of approach.

After the first move forward we occupied part of an old French Trench System. These Trenches were very much out of repair, shallow and wide, but after a little work had been expended on them afforded ample protection. From this Ridge a good view was obtained of the Eastern portion of Battlefield.

ENEMY
OBSERVATION.-

For the first day Enemy Observation was good as he held a Commanding Position but when we had taken this, his view of our approaches was restricted to the LEFT FLANK about HERLEVILLE from which he could see along the Valley in which our first O.P. Line was situated.

OFFENSIVE
OPERATIONS.-

A notable feature of the tour was the number of aggressive Stunts made by us, hardly a day passing without a brush with the Enemy in the form of Bombing Raids, finally finishing up with an attack on the MAZE, a system of Trenches situated in X.12.a. and c., by "C" Coy. By this means an average of 1600 yards along the whole Battalion Front was made good.

DEFENSIVE
OPERATIONS.-

SNIPING.- Quite a lot of Sniping was done by the Troops in the line, especially after we had acquired the High Ground and observation was improved.

HOSTILE SHELLING.-

Was as a whole active, at times reaching a high intensity especially in Areas X.10.a. and b., X.18.c. and X.17.b.

When any movement was observed behind our Lines, Artillery Action was almost invariably taken.

ENEMY M.G.'s.-

Active during the nights, intermittently playing over Posts.

MINENWERFERS.-

Inactive. Only two were seen to open on the last day of our tour. The position was located and Artillery brought to bear, which had the immediate effect of silencing it.

ENEMY
ATTITUDE.-

Purely DEFENSIVE. Strong opposition was encountered during the Bombing Operations and the Attack on 18th inst.

19th August, 1918.

Henry Mor...
Commanding, 23rd Battalion.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

Appendix U

REPORT on Operations carried out by 23rd Battalion, A.I.F.
on 28th/29th August, 1918.

At 2.00 p.m. on the 28th August, 1918, the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. was moved into Forward Positions in G.34.b. and d.

At Brigade Conference at 5.00 p.m. orders were received that the 18th Battalion would take over portion of the Front E. and W. Grid H.19.c., NORTH to RIVER SOMME, and continue the movement forward; and that the 23rd Battalion would relieve the 21st Battalion from E. and W. Grid through H.35. and H.36.central to E. and W. Grid in H.19.c.

At 6.00 p.m. orders were issued to Coy. Commanders at Conference by me, and "B", "C" and "D" Coys. moved forward in Artillery Formation. Daylight Relief being completed by 9.00 p.m.

DISPOSITIONS as follows.-

RIGHT.- "D" Coy. Trench System E. and W. Grid through H.36.c. to ROAD in G.30.d.6.4.
CENTRE.- "C" Coy. From ROAD G.30.d.6.4. to WOLF ALLEY in G.30.b.9.6.
LEFT.- "B" Coy. WOLF ALLEY G.30.b.9.6. to SOUTH edge of BOUCHER WOOD.

Strong PATROLS were pushed forward from each Company, and, excepting for slight enemy machine gun fire, no opposition from the Enemy was encountered. One Patrol, reached as far as H.26.c.0.7.

At 11.30 p.m. orders were issued that HERBECOURT was to be captured before dawn, when the 7th A.I. Brigade would continue the attack towards the RIVER SOMME. Artillery fire was directed on to the Village of HERBECOURT for a short period at 12 Midnight.

At 1.00 a.m. the Battalion, less one Company, moved forward in Artillery formation on the Frontage through E. and W. Grid from H.31. and H.32.central. to E. and W. Grid at H.19.c.0.0. By this time enemy machine gun and shell fire had completely ceased, indicating further withdrawal by him. The advance continued without hindrance.

The RIGHT Coy. entered the Western edge of the village at 2.25 a.m. and passing SOUTH occupied Trench System in H.32.c. At 1.30 a.m., CENTRE Coy. passed through Village and reported same clear of all enemy. LEFT Coy. then established in Trenches in H.26.b., all Coys. being in communication.

At 4.45 a.m. orders were issued that Coys. were to move forward and occupy the Trench System H.28.c. and that RIGHT Coy. would patrol to NORTH Edge of FLOUCOURT and LEFT Coy. to H.22.c. This movement was carried out without any opposition, and Coys. were established in their Objectives by 6.30 a.m. 3 Prisoners were taken without any Casualties.

The Patrol from ROAD continued to move forward to NORTH Edge of FLOUCOURT and proceeded EAST to EMBANKMENT in H.34.d.5.7. CENTRE Coy. pushing forward to crest of HILL in H.29.c.5.6. This country was absolutely clear of all enemy.

At 8.00 a.m. 7th Brigade passed through in continuation of the advance and Coys. were then established in Trench System running from H.34.a.4.3. to H.26.b.9.8. "A" Coy. having completed its task with the 21st Battalion, passed to my command at 12 Midnight and was held in Reserve at Bn. H'Qrs. in G.30.a.1.2. This Coy. was then moved forward to Support in H.26.c.7.2.

IDENTIFICATIONS.-

2nd Prussian Regiment.
27th Field Artillery.
25th Bavarian Regiment.

OUR CASUALTIES.-

N i l.

30th August, 1918.

W. Craig
Commanding, 23rd Battalion: Lt. Col.

APPENDIX 22

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

Appendix V

QUARTERMASTER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF AUGUST, 1918.

The month was one of activity.-

1st to 8th August, 1918.

During the first few days Cooking was done at Transport Lines and the cooked rations were despatched to the Line in Food Containers, Petrol Tins being used for hot Tea, etc., per Limbers.

When Battalion moved back to Support, the Cooks with utensils moved to Support Line and Meals were cooked on open fires, and taken forward to Companies per Limbers. They arrived in a hot condition and were appreciated by the Troops.

8th to 18th August, 1918.

On the 8th August, the advance began. A Mobile store was organised, the main store remaining at LAMOTTE. This Mobile portion of the store kept in touch with the Battalion throughout the operations. On the 11th August, main store moved from LAMOTTE to a position near GUILLAUCOURT, surplus material being stored at the Nucleus, LAMOTTE.

On the 18th August, 1918, the Battalion was relieved and proceeded by Motor Busses to DACOURS. The following few days were spent in re-equipping the Troops. A quantity of Australian pattern Clothing was secured from Ordnance and the men were refitted. The stay at DACOURS was very short.

At very short notice, on the 25th August, all surplus stores were packed up and sent to Kit Store at LA NEUVILLE. The Mobile portion moved to a point between MORCOURT and MERICOURT-sur-SOMME, moving again on the 27th to FROISSY, thence to FRISE on the 29th August. During this period the Rations were sent to Cookers, which were attached to mobile portion of the Transport, and bagged and forwarded per Limbers by the Company Q.M.Sergts.

RATIONS.- Rations during the Month were GOOD.

ORDNANCE.- With the exception of Clothing and expendable stores, very little business was done with Ordnance.

Numerous Trophies of War, including Machine Guns and Minenwerfers, were collected. These were labelled and forwarded to the War Museum Collecting Depot.

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H. Clues
Q.M. 23 Bn. Capt.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

Appendix W

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF AUGUST, 1918.

1.- On the 8th August, 1918, the Transport moved from "LAMOTTE" to near "BLANGY-TRONVILLE", a distance of 5 miles, bivouacing there for the night: proceeded next morning, 9th August, to a Sunken Road near "WARFUSEE"; the Machine Gun Limbers, Cookers and Water Carts following up the Battalion stayed that night at "GUILLAUCOURT STATION".

On the 10th August, 1918, the Transport moved to GUILLAUCOURT STATION.

On the 11th August, 1918, the Machine Gun Limbers, Cookers and Water Cart Horses moved forward to HARBONNIERES, forming a Mobile Transport. Entrenchments were widened there for the Horses, making them entirely secure.

On the 18th August, 1918, the Transport assembled at GUILLAUCOURT and trekked back to VECQUEMONT, where all repairs needed were effected to the Limbers and the Transport thoroughly overhauled.

On the 25th August, 1918, the Transport moved to MORCOURT, arriving at Midnight, moving again on the 27th August, to CROISSY.

On the 28th August, 1918, Machine Gun Limbers, Water Carts and Cookers moved forward to CAPPY and remained there as Mobile Transport until the 29th August, 1918., then moving on to HERBECOURT. The remainder of the Transport moved to FRISE on the same day.

2.- The work during the Month consisted of carting Ammunition and Engineers Material and delivering the Rations Forward.

3.- Casualties.- One Driver blown off his Horses and injured on the 17th August, 1918.

One Light Draught Horse was drawn from Remount on the 2nd August, 1918, being of very poor quality.

One Heavy Draught was drawn on the 18th August, 1918; a fair stamp of horse.

-----000-----

31st August, 1918.

A. B. Farrell Capt.
Transport Officer, 23rd Battalion.

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

The month of August, 1918, possibly ranks as one of the most notable in the history of the Battalion. Continually in the Forward Area, the Battalion has participated consistently in the successes which have been attained by the Division as part of the Fourth Army.

On the 8th August, when the great offensive took place, Battalion moved as part of Brigade Reserve and came into its share of the Advance on the 11th August at VAUVILLERS, supporting the 26th Battalion, A.I.F., in their attack South of FRAMERVILLE.

On the 12th August, Battalion relieved the 26th Battalion and portion of the 28th Battalion. Tactical situation was not satisfactory. Penetration into Enemy System enabled us to secure the dominating Ridge South of HERLEVILLE.

From the 13th to the 17th August, inclusive, we were in close contact with the Enemy established in the old French Systems of 1915. During this period continual Bombing attacks took place which were of tactical importance to the Unit. The use of the Hand Grenade (No. 23) and the Rifle Grenade (No. 36) was much amplified, and for training, it is important that the use of this weapon of warfare should not be neglected as we have lately been inclined to do.

From morning of the 18th August, the gaining of ground in conjunction with Flank Divisions was attained by an attack at Dawn. The Battalion was entirely successful in gaining its Objectives with a minimum of Casualties.

On the night of the attack (18th) we were relieved by the 2nd Manchester Regiment, and a welcome change from other Reliefs, was the Embussing of the Battalion to VECQUEMONT. At this Village the Battalion was well housed at the Chateau and delightful grounds surrounding it. Re-equipping and Re-organisation was at once proceeded with, and the men quickly lost their Trench Fatigue, being helped by sport, including Swimming which they were able to indulge in as the SOMME River ran at the foot of the Grounds.

Here the Battalion rested for 7 days and at short notice on the Afternoon of the 25th August, we were embussed at 9.30 p.m. to the Front, spending one night at PROYART. The Battalion was utilised as Reserve to Brigade near CAPPY. In view of the Enemy retirement Units were advanced quickly.

"A" Coy, on the 28th August, was detailed to capture FRISE. This was successfully accomplished, 21st Battalion being on the RIGHT Flank.

21st Battalion were relieved by us on the 28th August. On this night Enemy retreated to PERONNE.

The 7th A.I. Brigade passing through us on the morning of the 29th August, Battalion remained at HERBECOURT until morning of 31st August, when Battalion moved forward to Battle of MONT. St. QUENTIN.

As can be seen these movements demanded great mobility on the part of the Battalion. In this respect every move forward went through without a hitch; Transport and Q.M.'s. Department being kept in close liaison by taking a representative forward with the Battalion to its unknown (in many cases) destination. These two departments, as usual, did all that was desired of them.

P.T.O.

The Feeding of the men during the month, and in many times under adverse conditions, was well attended to.

RATIONS for the month were very Good.

The question of replacing HORSES with MULES in order to supply Artillery with Horses was raised at Divisional Conference. This I strongly opposed, and Infantry Unit Commanders were unanimous in their disapproval of the scheme.

MORALE.- Grit and determination of the men throughout was of a very high order and individual acts of gallantry were well brought out.

DECORATIONS.- During the month Decorations were awarded as per attached List.

CLOTHING.- Supply of AUSTRALIAN PATTERN CLOTHING is still lamentable and conspicuous by its absence.

CASUALTIES for the month are as follows.-

Killed.-	16 O.Ranks.
Died of Wounds.	1 Officer.
" " "	3 O.Ranks.
Wounded.-	2 Officers.
"	52 O.Ranks.
Wounded (At Duty).-	1 Officer.
" " "	2 O.Ranks.

HEALTH of Troops has been excellent during the Month, Sick Evacuations being very low.

DISCIPLINE.- GOOD.

Orderly Room Cases.-	6.
F.G.C.M's.-	4.

REGIMENTAL PAPER.- Two issues were maintained. Copies attached.

MOVEMENTS OF OFFICERS.-

REJOINED UNIT.-

Lieut. H.C. Holland.	From Hospital.	7.8.18.
2/Lieut P.J. Smith D.S.O.	" "	12.8.18.
Lieut. M.J. O'Connell	" "	14.8.18.
" L.G. Addison	" "	18.8.18.
" H.G. Field	" "	25.8.18.

JOINED UNIT.-

2/Lieut. V. Dixon D.C.M., M.M.	On Appointment,	1.8.18.
" C.H. Ledward	to Commissioned Rank.	
" A.D. Glendenning	From Reinforcements.	18.8.18.
" A.F.H. Gabriel M.M.	" Rfts. (Cadet Bn).	25.8.18.
Chaplain J.A. Jeffreys	" " " "	"
	From England.	7.8.18.

LEFT UNIT.-

Lieut. M. Weir	Wounded.	17.8.18.	D. of Ws.	18.8.18
2/Lt. F. Holdsworth	"			17.8.18.
Lieut. G.H. Morrell	To 2nd Training Bde.	30.8.18.		
" H.G. Field	Wounded.	31.8.18.		
Chaplain F.T. Cleverdon	To England for duty.	8.8.18.		

An outstanding feature of the Month's Operations has been the close Liaison maintained by C.O's. of the Brigade.

In my opinion, this has been of great value in the successes gained, on many occasions the close proximity of the 4 Battalion Headquarters has enabled the C.O's. to confer and help materially in the tactical control of their Units.

Such close liaison has not been possible or made use of in the previous history of the Brigade.

-----000-----

31st August, 1918.

W. Brazenor Lt.-Col.
Commanding, 23rd Battalion.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. *Appendix K*

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

LIST OF DECORATIONS AWARDED DURING MONTH OF AUGUST, 1918.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

No. 6099 Pte. J.J. O'MEARA M.M.

BAR TO THE MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 1669 Sgt. S.R. BAGNALL. M.M.

MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 6436 L/c. J. DONOHUE.
" 1980 Pte. C. UTTING.
" 4119 Sgt. R.F. JAKES.
" 4693 Pte. J. FEATHERSTONE.
" 4154 " R.W. NICHOLLS.
" 6721 " W.G.T. BAKER.

MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. A. BAKER.

-----000-----

31st August, 1918.

Appendix 4

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The Voice of THE The Battalion
"FORWARD" "UNDETERRED"



GALLIPOLI · LONE PINE · ARMENTIERES
POZIERES · BAPAUME · BULLECOURT
YPRES · BROODSEINDE · PLOEGSTEERT

FOR HOME :
Oh, how my heart is yearning
(And oft it's near despair)
For those who're fondly waiting
These earthly trials to share.

25-5-18

GLN

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

WHERE WE ARE.

VI.

On guard. Before a great city—the enemy's objective of but a short time ago in a spasmodic rush for the goal so much desired, but never will it be realised. Although metaphorically "on guard," and assisting in acting as a buffer previously between a peaceful populace and hordes of ambitious and merciless invaders, we are not stationary by any means. The tables have turned, and the object of protection recedes gradually to the rear and ominous sound of the guns are less heard by those plying their peaceful vocations. The national motto, "Advance Australia," is maintained valiantly and truly by harrassing, persistent and determined tenacity, shattering the aims of the Bosch, and forcing him slowly and surely from whence he came at tremendous sacrifice. Although gaining ground and inflicting punishment consistently, it is pleasurable to note the remarkable low ebb of casualties, notwithstanding a trip "over the bags" and other strenuous duties.

The weather has been favorable lately, and necessary work is carried on in circumstances much more pleasanter than at certain periods of the year. The numerous woods surrounding are beautifully green and delightful to the eye, despite the ferocious despoilers' daily attempts at destruction from long range. Ridge and valley slumbers under blue skies and snow-white flitting clouds. The deserted villages bear silent testimony that the

dread, ravaging monster—War—has cruelly descended in their midst, but the effort of complete devastation frustrated. The trenches are dry and easy of perambulation, thereby assisting in the work of consolidation, etc.; roads are more pleasant on the march; bivouacs are comparatively comfortable, and there is water in abundance in most parts for ablution and domestic use. The great boon of river bathing is indulged in and greatly appreciated by the boys when relieved for a spell from trench vigil and fatigue.

Our trans-atlantic cousins having joined in the fray, intermingle occasionally in splendid comradeship, and confidences are exchanged as only mutual admiration allows. The newcomers have been tried, and have already set a standard of courage and efficiency worthy of the world's greatest Republic.

THE BADGE OF "HONOR."

I knew a man of industry,
Who made big bombs for the R.F.C.,
And pocketed lots of £ s. d.—
And he (thank God) is an O.B.E.

I knew a woman of pedigree,
Who asked some soldiers out to tea,
And said "Dear me," and "Yes, I see,"
And she (thank God) is an O.B.E.

I knew a fellow of twenty-three,
Who got a job with a fat M.P.,
Not caring much for the infantry—
And he (thank God) is an O.B.E.

I had a friend, a friend and he
Just held the line for you and me,
And kept the Germans from the sea,
And died—without the O.B.E.
Thank God he died without the O.B.E.

—London Typo. Journal.

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

"TOMMY."

"Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life," etc. How often can the old Biblical quotation be applied to those who have gallantly fought and faced death—for a pal, for an officer, for King and country—and died as only a soldier can.—His duty done. "Tommy" was a soldier with an accent on the first and last syllable. As good a lad as ever donned a uniform, or carried a pack thro' France and Flanders. A sunny son of a sunny country—a comrade in every possible sense of the word. When "Tommy" wasn't cheerful, well, there wasn't anything left to be cheerful about. In the height of summer or the depth of Europe's snowy winter it was almost a tonic to hear his "tres bien" in reply to the customary "How are you, Tom?"

As "factotum" to a popular platoon commander he appeared to be his pride and joy, and they were more like brothers than officer and man, for in times of stress, the same funk-hole in the trench often accommodated the two, with the remark jocularly passed that it was with them like "the babes in the wood." It seemed that one was as "mascot" to the other.

He was one of the early enlistments, and came away with the Battalion when it set out on its since completed thousand days fighting enterprise. He weathered the stormy times of the Peninsula and the Pine. His anecdotes of those days were told with a truthful simplicity that was pleasing to reinforcements of later dates. Even in France his lucky star was in the ascendant, and altho' taking a proud and prominent part

in almost every stunt of note, he escaped the serious attention of Fritz's artillery again and again.

There came a time, when in action during one of the Battalion's most strenuous northern periods, it happened that a large portion of the trench was blown in, and a number of officers and men buried 'neath the earth. "Tommy" was the first to extricate himself, and it was his diligent work in gallantly digging (altho' badly shaken) that was responsible for the lives of those who were saved, his officer amongst them, but badly wounded.

Recognition came in the shape of a medal militaire from the Belgian government for gallant conduct—a decoration deservedly awarded.

The exigencies of war brought about the officer's evacuation, and caused a change in the routine of Tommy's life. The same manner, but settled into a quiet reserve, and he faced the line with a cheerful resignation to anything that Fate might bring him. And so he passed this life—until—one morning, "sniped," we heard. With that bullet went the life of "Tommy."

Along with thousands of others he lies, the spot marked only by the regulation cross, but if there is room in Heaven for those who have fought, then surely there will be a place reserved in its brightest corner for a soldier known and loved by us all.

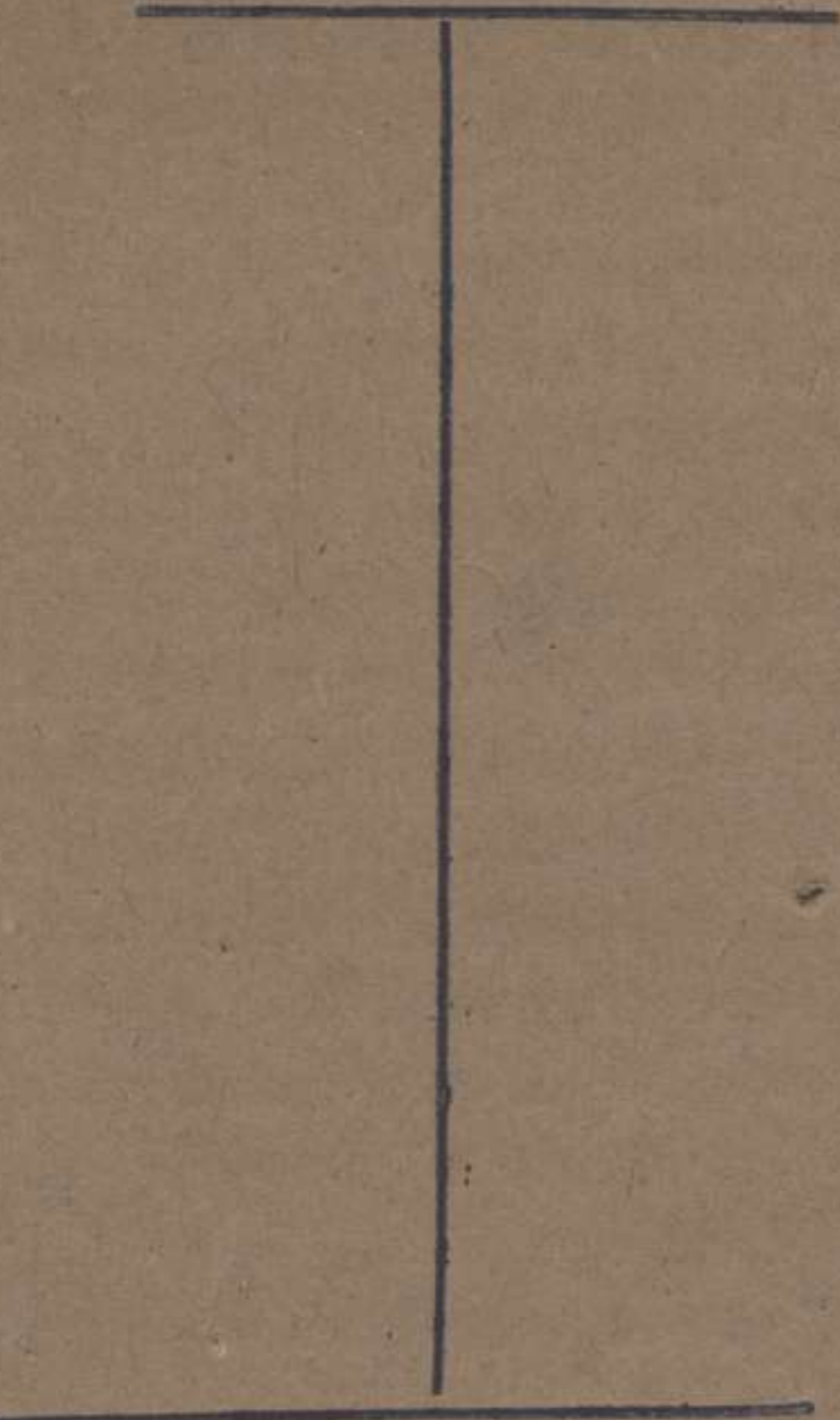
A "Bulletin" writer says:—"I was standing in the Strand awaiting a friend when a Queenslander walked up and asked, "Are you doing anything?" After my explaining, he said, "Oh, it doesn't matter. I only wanted a witness to my wedding. That's her over there waiting on me."

APPENDIX 25

90



"BEAUTY"



and "THE BEAST."



Printed and
Published by
Cpl. H. Ford,
in the Field.

57
Munday 26

The Voice of THE The Battalion

"FORWARD"

"UNDETERRED"

15th
AUG.
1918.

23

PRICE
10
Cents

LINE-ACT

GALLIPOLI · LONE PINE · ARMENTIERES
POZIERES · BAPAUME · BULLECOURT
YPRES · BROODSEINDE · PLOEGSTEERT

Yea, everything that
is and will be free,
Bear witness for me,
wherso'er ye be,
With what great wor-
ship I have still a-
adored,
The spirit of divinest
Liberty.

— Ode to France.

25-5-18

GLN

HONORS AND AWARDS. — SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Unit	V.C.	C.B.	C.M.G.	D.S.O.	Bar to D.S.O.	M.C.	Bar to M.C.	D.C.M.	Bar to D.C.M.	M.M.	Bar to M.M.	M.S.M.
21st Battn.	0	0	0	5	0	20	4	24	0	93	2	4
22nd "	1	0	0	4	0	24	1	18	1	107	5	2
23rd "	0	0	0	4	1	21	1	14	0	101	3	2
24th "	0	0	0	4	0	21	2	11	0	88	4	3
T.M. Bty.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	14	1	1
x Bgde. H.Q.	0	1	1	3	2	4	0	1	0	8	0	3
Total	1	1	1	20	3	92	8	70	1	411	15	13

Unit	Croix de Guerre	Medaille Militaire	Gold Medal Serbian	Silver Medal Serbian	Mention	Off. de l' Ordre de Leopold	White Eagle 5th Cl.	St. George's Cross Russian
	Fch. Blgn.							
21st Battn.	1	2	1	1	43	0	1	0
22nd "	0	3	0	0	22	1	0	1
23rd "	0	1	1	0	50	0	0	0
24th "	0	1	0	0	17	0	0	0
T.M. Bty.	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
x Bgde. H.Q.	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Total	1	9	2	1	139	1	1	1

TOTAL No. OF DECORATIONS ... 657. TOTAL No. OF MENTIONS ... 139,

29.7.18.

x Includes Signallers.

CRICKET.

RESULTS IN BRIEF.

Brigade Nucleus v. Battery, Aus. F. A.

The match was played on the latter's ground last month.

The game proved interesting, and resulted in a win for the Nucleus team by 23 runs on the first innings.

The battery team batted first, and could only manage to make 28, the only double figure scorer being Barnett, who made 11 in quick time.

The bowling honors were divided between Horton and Milligan—capturing 6 for 10, 4 for 14 respectively.

The Nucleus team compiled 51, the principal scorer being Potter, who made 20 by good cricket. Horman came next with 12.

Four bowlers were tried, and the two most successful were Odgers, 5 for 27; and Walker, 3 for 5.

The battery team in their second attempt did much better, and lost 7 for 70 when the bad light put a stop to the game.

The chief run getters were Anderson, 20; Sandy, 12; Odgers, 10.

The star bowler was Milligan, who captured 2 for 10.

Brigade Nucleus v. Another Battery,
Aus. F. A.

This match was played the day after the one reported above, and resulted in a win for the battery by 18 runs.

The Nucleus batted first and only managed 27, Appleton being top scorer

making 9. The bowling successes were shared by Kyle, 5 for 14; Hannan, 4 for 11.

The battery scored 45. Twenty of these were made by one player who batted well.

The bowling averages worked out—Maskell 3 for 17, Milligan 5 for 11, and Horton 2 for 11.

Brigade Nucleus (2nd Eleven) v. Our Transport.

This match was played about the end of last month at the transport lines.

The "Nucs" won by 4 wickets and one run, the scores being 54 and 6 for 22, against 39 and 36.

For the winners, Mildean headed the batting with 18 by good cricket.

The transport trundlers of note were White 4 for 20, Ward 2 for 20, Milne 2 for 12, and McKenzie and Pollock tied with 3 for 5 (bowling well these two).

The chief scorers for the transport—Jeff 13 and 11, and Patience 12.

Maskell served the visitors best by securing 9 stumps for 19 runs. The other bowlers were Prior, 7 for 32, and Barnard 3 for 16.

Brigade Nucleus v. First-mentioned Battery, Aus. F. A. (Return Match).

This match was played a fortnight ago, and resulted in another victory for the Nucleus, their score being 73 and 56. The chief bats were Cox 25, Milligan 10, and Potter 9 and 30 not out. Best bowlers for the battery were Odgers 6 for 9, Ransford 3 for 34, and Hayes 4 for 20, including the hat trick. Battery's score—27 and 30. The Nucleus bowling was done by Milligan 12 for 26, and Horton 7 for 21.

APPENDIX

25

64

98

"Home Service"—Sure



"Active Service"
—Perhaps.

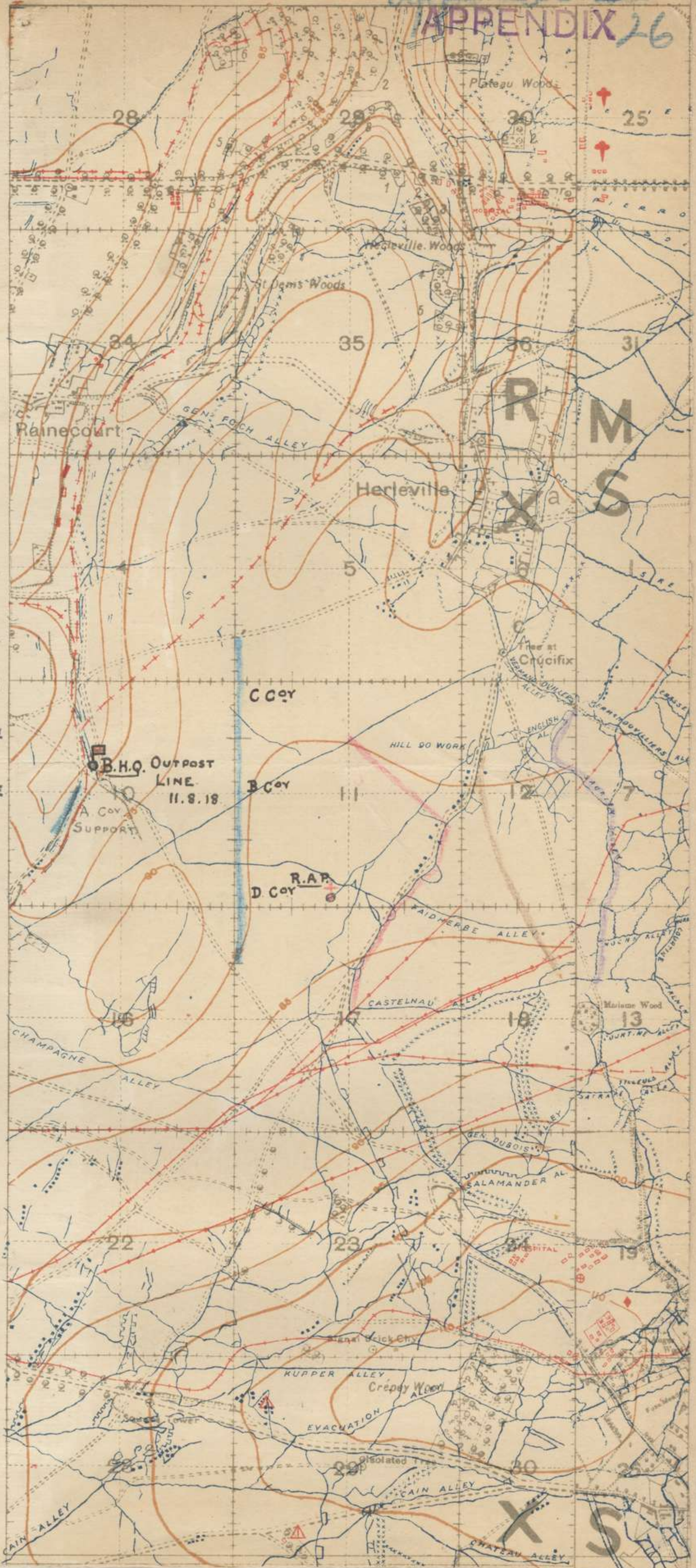


Apprentice 25

Printed and Published by Cpl. H. Ford,
in the Field.

APPENDIX 26

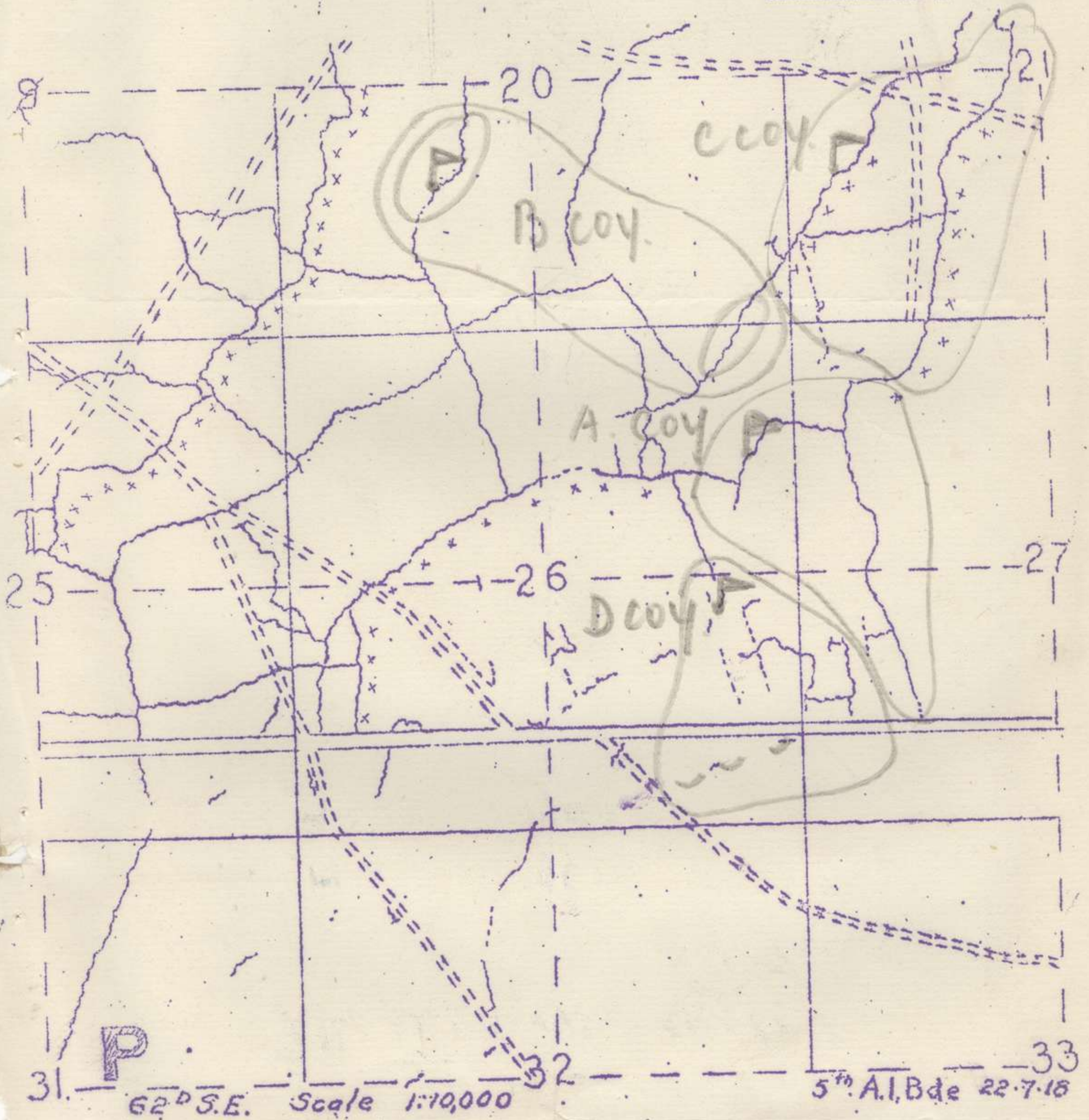
- █ LINE 11.8.18
- █ 1ST MOVE
- █ 2ND MOVE
- █ 3RD MOVE



Dispositions - right APPENDIX 27
2/3 August 1918

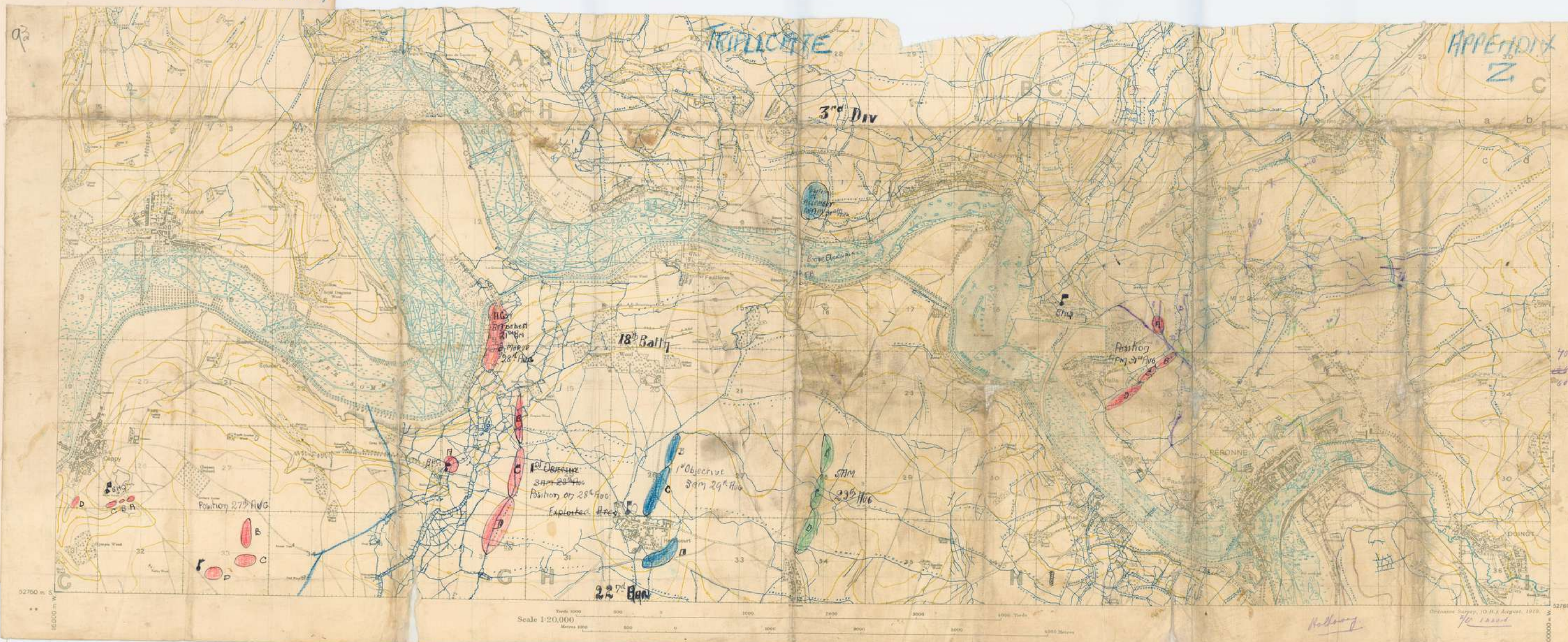
Bⁿ HQ - P19012
R.A.P. - P19d82.

Works officer



TRIPPLICATE

3rd Div



Appendix A1 69

MORSEMONT WOOD

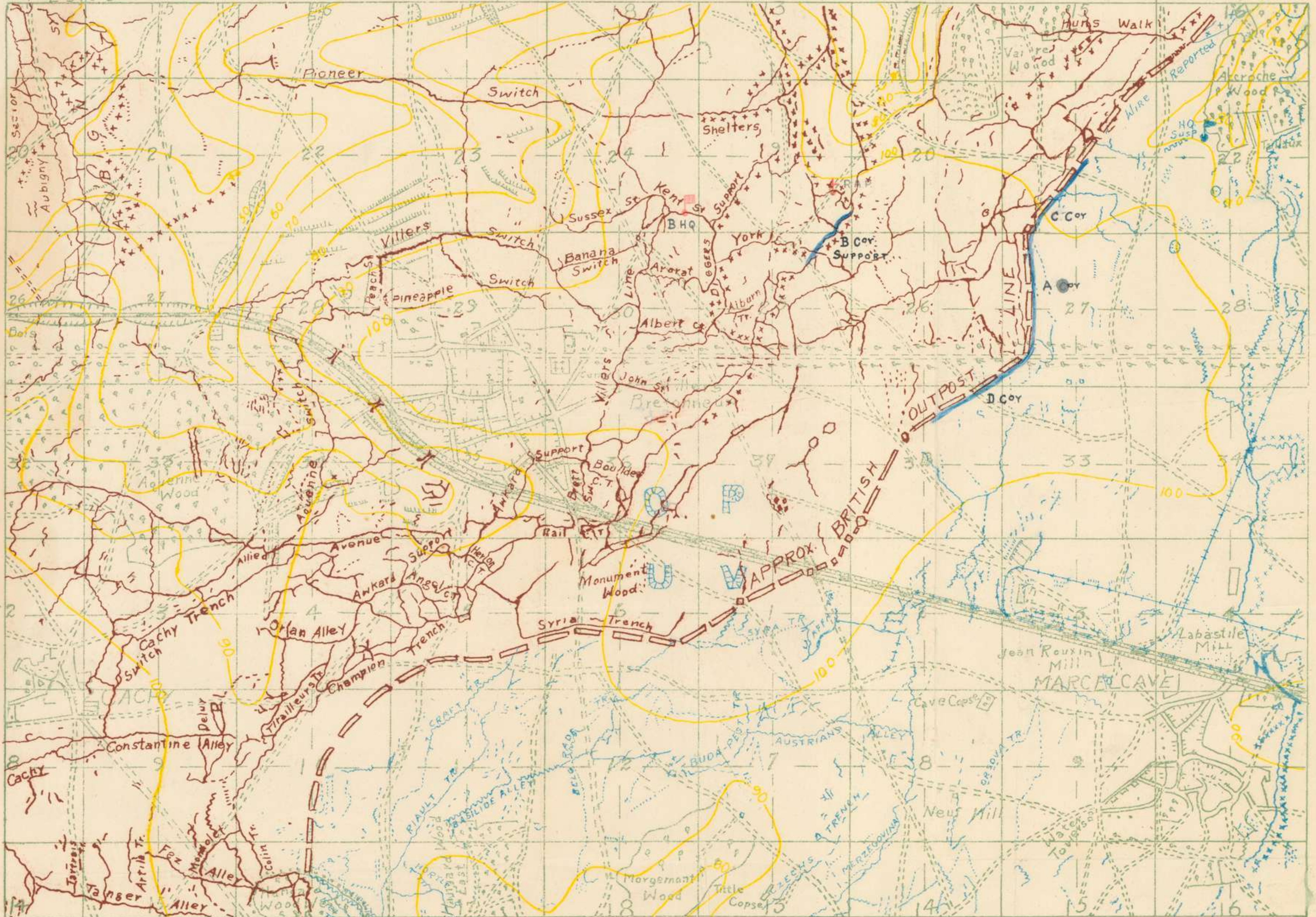
LINE HELD BY BATTALION
FOR 24 HOURS 2ND + 3RD AUGUST 1918

SCALE OF YARDS

Yards 1000 500 0 500 1000

93

1:20,000



Enemy Trenches - Blue
British "

TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 19-7-18

CORPS TOPO Sect



APPENDIX

30

70

93



A.3. AE. O. 170
628

WARFUSEE.

ACCROCHE WOOD

HAMEL Wo.

APPENDIX

31

71

93



APPENDIX

31

72



APPENDIX

93

74

Shp...



WARFUSEE ABANCOURT SECTOR.

APPENDIX

33

W