

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/40/37

Title: 23rd Infantry Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-23/40/37

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ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

23rd Battalion

FOR

October 191*8*



Signature of Officer compiling

G. Jenkins Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*L. Beach Major
Commanding 23rd Bn*

Original

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.)

MAP. WIAMCOURT. 20000.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		Remarks and references to Appendices
TIHCOURT.	1/10/18		<p>At 0900 in accordance with verbal orders received from the 6th A.I. Brigade the 23rd Batta moved forward from TIHCOURT to G. 14. C in the vicinity of VILLERET. Owing to the congestion of wheeled traffic on the main roads the Batta proceeded overland through ROISEL.</p>		
VILLERET.			<p>HESBESCOURT and VILLERET completing the move by 1210 and resting in the trench system of the HINDENBURG LINE in G. 14. C. The transport took the main road via TEMPLEUX the cooks arriving in time to prepare a hot midday meal.</p>		
			<p>At 14.30 a message was received by phone from Bgde that the Batta would go in reserve to the 8th A.I. Bgde. and move up to the vicinity of ETREICOURT in H. 19. a 7d. 1. D. and 1 Q. B. O. per company sent forward to reconnoitre the position. The C.O. met all Coy. Commanders and explained the move & route to be taken. (B.O.O. 143)</p>		APP. I.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIANCOURT.	1/10/18		<p>Transport and Q.M.'s store and all details were left in this area. G. 14. Work was commenced at 18.30.</p> <p>On arrival at H. 13. a it was found that C. Company of 30th A.I. Batta were in reserve to the 31st Batta and it was arranged with the C.O. 31st Batta that A. Coy. 23rd would relieve this Coy. of the 30th Batta in G. 18. b. B. Company occupied sunken road in G. 18. d. D. Company dug in in sunken road G. 18. a. c. & d. B. H. Q. was established in gun pits H. 13. c. & d.</p> <p>The work was completed by 23.00. Two runners being sent to the 4th A.I. Brigade with disposition report and remaining there for duty. Telephone communication was established with the 17th A.I. B. Coy. thus enabling us to keep in touch with both the 5th & 6th A.I. Brigades. During the</p>	

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MAP. WIMM COURT. 20000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ETRICOURT.	1/10/14		<p>night the company cooks were sent for and they arrived in time to prepare breakfast next morning. Except for intermittent and well distributed enemy artillery fire the night was very calm. Weather fine with good visibility.</p>	
	2/10/14		<p>No alteration in disposition of batt. During the morning direct telephone communication was established between forward 5th Brigade. H. Q. and the 23rd Batt. At 10.00 A.M. and Transport Officer visit B.H.Q. and make arrangements for supplies. Much difficulty was found in keeping up the water supply but this was overcome by the R.M.O. sinking a well in ETRICOURT and finding the water fit for use. During the day the forward movement of artillery and transport was very marked. The cavalry came up in readiness to</p>	F.P.J.

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MAD WIAMCOURT 1/2000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ETRICOURT.	2/10/15		<p>break through. Enemy aircraft were very active, low flying and dropped several bombs on our battery positions. His balloons too were high & close up to the wire. Two of ours were brought down in flames.</p> <p>At 1800 a wire was received from Bgde. that the enemy were moving in the vicinity of BEAUREVOIR and a counter-attack was expected on the left flank of the 4th Bgde. Nothing eventuated however.</p> <p>After dusk enemy planes came over and dropped bombs on the roads in vicinity of ETRICOURT and HAUCROY.</p> <p>Weather was fine till evening when it clouded over and drizzling rain set in.</p>	<p>2/10/15</p>
	2/10/15		<p>At 10.05 verbal instructions were received from the 4th Bgde. to send one Company forward in close support and to take up a position in the</p>	

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MAP. WIAMCOURT. $\frac{1}{20000}$

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ETRICOURT.	3/10/18.		sunken road running through H. 2. d. & H. 9. a. A. Coy went forward at 10.30 & reported to the 11 th Batt. H. Qtr. at railway station TOMCOURT.	
TOMCOURT.			At 11.30 further instructions were received from Bgde. for the remainder of the Batt. to occupy the BEAUREVOIR-TOMCOURT LINE. from B. 27. d. 0. 4. to H. 4. c. 7. 6. B. and D. Companies moved into this position. A. Coy stayed in sunken road H. 2. d. & Batt. H. Qtr. remained with the 18 th B. H. Q. H. 7. c. 9. 4 in order to keep in touch with Bgde. At 15.50. instructions were received by phone from Brigade that the 23 rd Batt. would attack at 16.15 in conjunction with the 22 nd & 24 th A. I. Battns. This however was postponed till 18.30. A conference of Coy Commanders was held at A. Coy. H. Qtr. when orders & dispositions for attack were given. ZERO HOUR was 18.30. One night flank posted on a	

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MAP. WIANCOURT. 20000.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JONCOURT	2/10/18.		<p>line running through H. 4. c. 6. 6. to B. 30. a. central. Our left between us and the 22nd Batt. H. 3. 6. 6. 8. to cope in B. 28. c. central.</p> <p>Barage line where barage rested for 6 minutes to enable our troops to come up under cover of it ran through B. 18. central B. 22 central & B. 29. central. 23rd Batt. objective ran from Copse in B. 23. c. to B. 30. a. central.</p> <p>Batt. H. 2nd. would remain in pill-box in BEAUREVOIR. LINE.</p> <p>H. 3. 6. 4. 6. Report centre established H. 29. c. 0. 6.</p> <p>At 17.30 the Batt. moved to the attack B. Coy. on the right. D. Coy on the left & H. Coy in rear.</p> <p>Artillery formation was adapted until they reached a line running approximately through B. 28 central & H. 4. central when sections had to extend on account of enemy M.G. fire from direction of water road in B. 30. a. 5. 4 & B. 28. c. 2. 9. The barage opened at 18.40 and the Batt. had very little further resistance. A telephone wire</p>	

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MAP. WIAH COURT. 1/20000.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIAH COURT	9/10/18		<p>was run forward during the attack and at 19.40 word was received that all objectives had been taken. A system of sectional posts was established right along the front joining up with the 22nd BATTⁿ on the left. Two platoons of A. Company dug in about 200 yds behind the front line in support to both B & D. Coys. The other two platoons of A Coy. who had got out of touch with the rest of the BATTⁿ had worked too far to the right and conforming to the SHERWOOD BATTⁿ dug in, in sunken road. B. 29. c. During the afternoon of 3rd Oct this division on our right had been forced to withdraw from MONTBREMEN and consequently our right flank was now more or less in the air. Patrols sent several hundred yards forward and also to railway line B. 30. c. 8.9 reported no trace of the enemy. During the operation we suffered very few</p>	

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MAP. WIAMCOURT.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIAMCOURT	9/10/18		<p>casualties 4 O.R.'s being wounded.</p> <p>1 Officer & 16 O.R. were taken prisoners mostly wounded.</p> <p>Identification showed that the 21st Division was opposing us:- 80. I.R. 81st I.R. and 84. I.R. The officer & 1 man belonged to the 2nd Guards Division who strange to say were overwhelmed by the 6th A.I. Bge. at MT. ST. QUENTIN on 1st Sept. 18. Documents found on the officer proved that the enemy meant to hold on to the BEAUREVOIR LINE, and that whenever he had been pushed out he had to work back in small parties & occupy the positions. This was done on both flanks in the villages of MONTBRESHAIR and BEAUREVOIR.</p> <p>R.A.P. was established in rutted road B. 28. C. 6.1. much valuable assistance was given to all wounded men of the brigade.</p> <p>Transport arrangements were excellent. Rations 3. P.M.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIANCOURT.	3/10/18.		<p>and bombs being brought right forward to WIANCOURT. Owing to water shortage each extra water-bottle had been issued to every man before the attack.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft were very active after 18.00. Bombs were dropped in vicinity of MAUROU & ESTREES. at 21.30.</p> <p>At 22.30. the 6th A. I. Bde. took over command of the Bde. front from the 8th A. I. Brigade.</p> <p>Weather was very fine visibility good.</p>	Z.P.P.
	4/10/18.		<p>During the night 3/4 the Batts. well consolidated their position. Reconfirmation was received from 6th A. I. Bde. that the 29th Batta. would again attack in conjunction with the 22nd Batta. at 06.00. This was forwarded to all companies. Order of battle the same as before B. Company on the right D. Coy on the left & A. Coy. in support. The operation involved a slight change in direction to the right, the right company acting</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIAMCOURT	4.10.18.		<p>as a probe</p> <p>One artillery barrage rested on a line B. 30. a. 4.7 to B. 23. a. 1.6 and B. 22. b. 7.2 to B. 16. d. 6.4 for 25 minutes lifting at the rate of 100 yds every 4 minutes & finally resting as a protective barrage for 30 minutes on a line B. 24. d. 9.8 to B. 24. a. 9.9 & B. 18. d. 4.4 to B. 18. a. 6.5.</p> <p>In order to clear our troops of all danger from the start barrage they were withdrawn a distance of 300 yds prior to ZERO. hour.</p> <p>The Objective of the 29th Bn was the sunken road running from B. 30. a. 4.4.50 to B. 24. c. 2.6. The trench system in B. 24. c. and a line from there to crossroads in B. 18. a. 2.2.</p> <p>The barrage opened at 06.00 and at 04.35 word was received from the front that the right Coy. were on the objective the left being</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIMANCOURT	4/3/18.		<p>held up on main road in B. 23.6. and B. 24.a. by intense enemy machine gun fire. This line was subsequently made our main line of defence supports being pushed out to the objective as soon as it became dark. The 2nd Bn on our left also stayed on this road.</p> <p>Our right flank was still in danger the 4th LEICESTERS who had taken over from the SHERRWOODS did not push forward from road in H. 4.a. 4.9 to H 6.a. 0.4.</p> <p>The English Divisions on our left again attacked BEAUREVOIR and PONCHAUX but were driven out in the afternoon.</p> <p>Batt^{rs} forward observation post was established in B. 24.c. 4.4 and much interesting information wired through to Brigade. Enemy movement in front of our lines was extraordinary many targets being engaged by our artillery. The absence of an artillery F. D. O. was very much felt and many opportunities for inflicting</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIANCOURT.	4/10/18.		<p>casualties on the enemy were lost. One battery of enemy field guns was seen firing at Point B bank Range.</p> <p>At 2200 one patrol on right flank reported that the HVM had occupied railway line from B. 29. d. 7. 2 to B. 30 central. Units were immediately taken to clear up the situation but this was cancelled by the B.M. in view of the impending attack on MONTBRECHAM. About 2200 the 2nd Australian Pioneer Batt. relieved the LEICESTERS on our right.</p> <p>During this operation our casualties were very light. 4 O.R. K.I.A. and 14 wounded. Two officers Lieut. Maddrell & Holland were slightly wounded but remained on duty.</p> <p>Telephone communication was again excellent. The transport were able to take patients up as far as quarry in B. 27. a q. 4. Pits & shovels had been sent.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strengths	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIAMCOURT	4/10/18		forward force to the attack and assisted the men materially in digging in.	32/688	
			At 10.30 both the B.M. and I.M. visited Batt: H. Co. and viewed the situation.		
			Military cemetery was opened at CARRIERE street 62 B. G. 16. d. 4. 1 and our dead were interred there.		
			Weather was hazy during the attack but visibility was excellent during the day.		F. J. J.
	5/10/18		The 29th Batt: made no change in their disposition. At 06.05 the 21st and 24th A.I. Batt: made an attack on MONTBREHAIN. 2nd Aust: PIONEER formed a defensive flank on the southern side of the village.		
			The position of the barrage in this attack, entailed the withdrawal of one right company some 200 yds.		
			Orders were sent to B. Coy to withdraw. (P.O.O. 146)		App. 2.
			1000. Patrol sent out from one right company to get		

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M.M. WIAMCOURT. 1/20000.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIAMCOURT.	5.10.17		<p>into boats with the 24th Patter. The enemy were reported to be between us and the 24th Patter. At 11.30 10 officers & 1 man crawled out and established communication but it was decided not to put posts out till dusk.</p> <p>04.28. Word was received that the 114th AMERICAN REGT would relieve us. At 1600 guides were sent out to bring in the incoming Battalion.</p> <p>At 2200. the 29th Patter was relieved by the 2nd and 3rd Patter of the 114th AMERICAN REGIMENT. (B.O.O-147.)</p> <p>100 pounds of S.A.M. and 2 bombs per man were handed over. Lewis Guns, telephones and lamps were also handed over and receipts obtained.</p> <p>Companies moved out independently on relief to their previous position in sunken roads at ETRICOURT.</p> <p>A hot meal was awaiting their arrival and the troops slept here for the night. The weather had</p>	App. 3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ETRICOURT.	5/10/15		clouded up during the day & at night drizzling rain set in. Visibility was good.	P. J. J.
	6/10/15		Orders sent to all Coy. to move at 09.30 to HERVILLY. 29th band met the Batt. at canal G. 22. b. and were of great assistance during the march. After passing through VILLERET the Batt. had lunch and while here guides ^{directed} us to a trench system in L. 14. d 16. c. & 22. a where we bivouacked for the night. 1400. The C.O. Major Smith attends a conference at 6th A.I. Brigade HERBESCOURT. Billeking party of 1. P. C.O. per Coy. was sent to ST. VAST. to report to Lieut. Short. The weather was cold & at night it rained.	P. J. J.
	4/10/15		The Batt. on the march again en route for rest area (B.O.O. 148) at ST. VAST near AMIKHS. Passed the starting point at 09.30 and at 10.15 arrived at ROISEL station. At	APP. IV

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MAP AMIENS 1/100000

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROISEL.	4/10/18.		<p>1200 The Batt. entrained with the 22nd A.I. Battalion Left ROISEL at 1200 but owing to a breakdown on the line at CHAULNES and having to take the loop line we did not arrive at ST. ROCHE station AMIENS till 1800. Here the Batt. detrained and marched along the river through BILLY-sur-SOMME and ST. SAUVEUR to ST. VAST where we arrived at 21.30. The band was again of great assistance during the march & the spirit of the troops was excellent.</p> <p>The 22nd Batt. was also billeted in ST. VAST. The accommodation being then rather overtaxed.</p> <p>Weather showing and cold.</p>	P.P.
ST. VAST.	5/10/18		<p>The Batt. rested and accommodation of billets was adjusted. The transport that had come by train 2 trucks, G. S. Wagon, New Cart, Walker Cart & Water cart arrive at 10.30. Remainder bedding from ROISEL.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St. VAST.	2/10/18.		Parade and sports grounds were selected. Inter-Platoon sports held during the afternoon.	
			Weather cloudy but fine.	F. J. J.
	2/10/18		The morning parade was spent in organising and equipping. All S. A. A. collected and dumped at the A. M. Store. An inspection was made of all the books in the Batt.	
			Copies of "Standing Orders" were issued to all companies to be read on two consecutive parades.	
			100. Remainder of transport trucking from ROISEL arrive.	
			Afternoon parade from 1330 to 1430 consisted of sports carried out under Coy. arrangements.	
			The Batt. was paid and to those men whose credits would permit it an extra payment of £5. was made to enable them to buy Xmas presents.	
			29th Batt. band played a program of selections.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. VAST.	9/10/18.		in the village. Weather dull and threatening rain.	F. J. J.
	10/10/18		Companies were at the disposal of Company Commanders during the morning parade.	
			1330 to 1430 Recreational Training.	
			1400 S. O. C. 6 th A. I. Bde and I. D. visit Batta H. Qrs Staff Captain at 1400.	
			At 1600 in view of reorganising on a 4 Company basis the S. O. met all Company Commanders.	
			The band again at 1430 favour us with a program.	
			Weather misty cold and dull.	F. J. J.
	11/10/18.		In accordance with the reorganisation scheme in the Brigade the Batta reverted to the 4 Company arrangement and reorganised accordingly. A re-allotment of Officers was also effected. Platoon of C. Coy that had been attached to A. B & D. Coys were handed over	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. VAST.	11/10/18.		R. C. Coy. nominal rolls complete. Billets were also reallocated.		
			Inter-company scratch football matches were played during the afternoon. Weather showery.		F. J. J.
	12/10/18.		The usual morning and afternoon parades carried out under company arrangements.	33 659	
			Rat. M. O. Officer appointed to organise and encourage the sport of the Rat. Weather cold and showery.		F. J. J.
	13/10/18.		A combined Protestant Church Parade of 22 nd & 23 rd Batten was held by the Rev. J. Jefferys. R. C. Band held in parish church ST. VAST.		
			Beautifully fine day.		F. J. J.
	14/10/18.		Company at the disposal of Coy. Commander till 1100 for inspection games and company drill. At 1100 the C. O. took over the parade and		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. VAST	14/10/18		<p>Bill 1200 carried out ceremonial and Battⁿ drill.</p> <p>A riding school for officers was commenced under the supervision of the Transport Officer Capt. Farrell, M.C.</p> <p>Inter platoon football matches commenced in view of picking men for the Battⁿ team.</p> <p>Weather fine and bright.</p>	F. J. J.
	15/10/18		<p>The usual morning parade carried out under Coy. arrangements. Afternoon too wet for parades.</p> <p>A Battalion concert was held at 1800 in the Y.M.C.A. Weather cold & showery.</p>	F. J. J.
	16/10/18		<p>Third-monthly issue of Battⁿ paper published.</p> <p>The C.O. Major Keith met to Brigade on about 1000.</p> <p>Companies parade under Coy. arrangements.</p> <p>A series of inter-company football matches commenced for Battⁿ supremacy. D. Coy easily defeat. C. Coy 17.7. to 4.7.</p> <p>Fine day showery at night.</p>	F. J. J.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strengths	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. VAST.	17/10/18.		Batt. were allotted to the 23 rd Batt. at VIGHACOURT. the whole Batt. passing through in the day.		
			In the afternoon the football match between B. Coy & H. Coy resulted in a win for B. Coy. The hockey match B. Coy versus C. Coy proved to be keen & interesting. Weather fine but cloudy.		J. J. J.
	18/10/18		Parades as usual. At 1100 Acting Brigadier Lt. Col. Withers visited Batt. H. Coy. At 14.30 the C. O. held an inspection of the Batt. First Line Transport. Weather cold & cloudy. B. Coy succeeded in beating A. Coy in the inter company football match.		J. J. J.
	19/10/18		Company parades held during the morning. Inter. company hockey matches continued & men selected for Batt. football team taken out for special training under Lt. P. Hillier. Weather misty and rained at night.	32653	J. J. J.

Original

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOLUME XLII.

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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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. VAST.	20/10/18		<p>Owing to adverse weather conditions, church parade was not held. Voluntary services were conducted by Chaplain Jefferys in Y.M.C.A. at 07.30, 10.30 and 18.30.</p> <p>Officers & R. C. O's attend a lecture on Contact Patrols & aeroplane reconnaissance delivered by an Australian Flying Corps pilot at L.A. CHAUSSÉE.</p> <p>Weather cold & showery.</p>	<p>P.P.</p>
	21/10/18		<p>After almost a fortnight's rest and light training the Batta commenced on a new syllabus of training on the appended copy. Batta specialists resumed special training under their respective officers.</p> <p>Inter-company football match B. versus C. Coy. resulted in an easy victory for B. Coy.</p> <p>At 1100. The Brigade Major visits Batta Training Grounds.</p>	<p>APP. 5</p>
			<p>Weather extremely cold and dull.</p>	<p>P.P.</p>

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Original

WAR DIARY

PAGE 28

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOLUME XLII

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. VAST.	28/10/18		On account of the Ratts being allotted to the 23 rd Ratts the syllabus of training had to be departed from somewhat to enable the companies to proceed to the Ratts at TIRANCOURT.	
			Weather cold but fine.	F. J. J.
	29/10/18		The C.O. inspected the Ratts on Ratts Training Ground. at 0900. Training continued as per syllabus. All blankets were collected & fumigated in TODEM. LORRY. At 18.15. a concert, given by the Lena Arkwell party, was held in the Y.M.C.A. tent and much appreciated.	
			Weather fine.	F. J. J.
	24/10/18		Training was continued according to syllabus. Two motor lorries allotted to the Ratts took all leave men to ABBEVILLE & returned at 22.30. Clear sunny day.	
	25/10/18		C.O.'s inspection at 0900 & training continued.	F. J. J.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST. VAST	25/10/18		<p>The L. B. O. 2. 2nd A.I. Division & Acting G.O.C. 6th A.I. Bde. visit Batts training grounds at 10.30.</p> <p>At 17.00. a lecture on Intelligence was given in school room ST. VAST. by Lt. Denning. I.O. 2nd A.I. Division.</p> <p>Lt. Jenkins. I.O. 2nd Batts visited MILLY. sur 907ME. in view of killing the Batts in this village.</p> <p>all paybooks were collected from the men of the Bts. & new books issued.</p> <p>weather clear & bracing.</p>	Strengths
ST. VAST	26/10/18		<p>Batts training as per syllabus and recreational training being carried out. During the course of this village orders were issued that in the next few days we would be moving. Weather excellent.</p>	33 662 J. J. J. M.E.
ST. VAST	27/10/18		<p>Church parade held on Batts sports ground. Captain Jefferys officiated. Orders received that this Batts would move to billets in St. Helles. Preparations made for move. Weather dull.</p>	M.E.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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MAP AMIENS 1/100,000

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Plc	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STYAST.	28/10/18.		Billeting parties proceeded to Flesselles at 11 AM. Bde launched out training & recreational work as per syllabus. Lt J. Smith, Billeting Officer reported that accommodation in Flesselles was appalling & doubted if he could accommodate Bde. Bde advised as to MAUX EN AMIENOIS. being vacated and were asked to defer move for 24 hours. This was not granted. Weather fine.	
STYAST FLESSELLES	29/10/18.		Bde moved from Bilet to 10 AM & proceeded by march-route to Flesselles arriving at 11.40 AM. Men were billeted to Bde Hq. Men's billets were crowded and of bad class in many instances unfit for habitation. Representations made to Bde Division resulting in the Hq. Bde & Liaison visiting Flesselles. Liaison in Division asking for Maux to be allotted by Aust Corp. Acting GOC. Bde Major called it was then decided that the Bde would move to MAUX on the Divisional orders. 3rd Field Amb (Stollwether) extended great hospitality to CO & other officers of Hq. enabling them to be settled for the night. Village in a deplorable condition & influenza prevalent. Conditions. Weather exceedingly fine & ideal marching weather.	B. 10. APP 6 149
FLESSELLES TO MAUX	30/10/18.		Battalion left FLESSELLES at 10.30 AM arriving at MAUX at 11.30 AM. Ideal billets every man in a bunk. Bde Hq. at Chateau. The best accommodation the Bde has ever experienced since 15th March in France. Col Surant DAQMG. DAQMG inspected Billets weather excellent	B. 10. APP 7 150 25

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 or
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vaux en Amenois	8/10/18		Platoon commenced training as per syllabus. Good training - recreational grounds. Men well settled in their new billets Co. to Abbeville on leave. 15 men on fatigue duty.	ME

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	1.	B.O. Order No. 145
"	2.	" 146
"	3.	" 147
"	4.	" 148
"	5.	Training Syllabus
"	6.	B.O. Order No. 149
"	7.	" 150
"	8.	Training Syllabus
"	9.	C.O.'s Report
"	10.	Move of Officers
"	11.	Honours & Awards
"	12.	T.O.'s Report
"	13.	Q.M.'s Report
"	14.	Bn. Paper Oct. 1st.
"	15.	Bn. Paper (Xmas number).

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Ref. Map.- WIANCOURT. 1/20,000.

1st OCTOBER, 1918.

- 1.- The 5th A.I. Brigade is taking over the FRONT LINE now held by the 8th A.I. Brigade during Night 1st/2nd October, 1918.
Approx. Front Line now :-
JONCOURT - ESTREES - (Both inclusive) - thence in a General N.W. Direction.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will move to Square H.13.a. where it will come under the Orders of the G.O.C., 5th A.I. Brigade.
- 3.- ORDER OF MARCH.- "H'qrs"., "A", "B" and "D" Coys.
Battalion will pass STARTING POINT at 6.30 p.m.
The following Distances will be maintained throughout.-
Between Coys.- 100 yards.
Between Platoons.- 50 "
- 4.- Reconnoitring Party, under Lieut. F.J. JENKINS, M.C., M.M., of one (1) N.C.O. per Company will proceed to new Area and locate position for Battalion.
- 5.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in waterproof Sheet.
220 Rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.
24 hours Rations.
2 Water Bottles per man.
- 6.- The EXTRA Wter Bottle will not be used except at the discretion and orders of O.C's., Coys.
- 7.- BLANKETS to be rolled in sundles of 10, labelled and dumped at Coy. H'qrs. by 6.00 p.m.
- 8.- TRANSPORT LINES will remain at present location and will move to new Area on receipt of orders.
- 9.- Location of Battalion H'qrs and R.A.P. in New Area will be notified later.
- 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.
- 8/11.- O.C's., Coys.
- 12.- Transport Officer.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- Spare.

Conroy Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Ref. Map.- WIANCOURT. 1/20,000.

4th OCTOBER, 1918.

- 1.- At 0600 on the 5th October, 1918, the 6th A.I. Brigade will attack and capture the Village of MONTEREHAIN.
- 2.- The attack will be carried out by 21st A.I. Battalion on the RIGHT, 24th A.I. Battalion on the LEFT, and 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion will form a Defensive Flank South of the Village facing South-East.
- 3.- General OBJECTIVE LINE will run.-
H.18.a.5.9. - I.7.central. - I.2.d.0.0. - I.2.a.5.2. -
C.25.d.9.9. - C.25.a.3.6. - B.30.a.9.9.
- 4.- (a). 21st and 24th A.I. Battalions will advance under an Artillery Barrage, mop up the Village of MONTEREHAIN and consolidate on the General Line.-
I.2.d.0.0. - I.2.a.5.2. - C.25.d.9.9. - C.25.a.3.6. -
B.30.a.9.9.
(b). 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion will be withdrawn behind the 21st and 24th A.I. Battns. at ZERO minus 15 minutes, and will follow these Battalions as they move forward and gradually establish a Defensive Flank facing S.E. on General Line.- H.18.a.5.9. - I.7.central. - I.2.d.0.0.
- 5.- BOUNDARIES.-
SOUTHERN.- H.18.a.3.9. - I.7.central. - I.2.d.0.0. -
I.2.central.
INTER-BATTN. H.6.c.4.3. - H.6.a.6.7. - thence along MAIN ROAD
BOUNDARY.- through Village up to C.25.d.6.8. - MAIN ROAD
inclusive to 21st A.I. Battalion.
NORTHERN.- B.29.c.6.0. - B.30.a.5.4.
- 6.- JUMPING-OFF TAPE will be laid by 4.00 a.m., 5th October, 1918, by 6th Field Coy. A.E., from H.12.central. to H.5.b.0.6.
- 7.- "A" Coy., 23rd A.I. Battalion, will keep Enemy clear from SUNKEN ROAD and TRAMWAY TRACK from RIGHT POST. "B" Coy., to B.30.c.7.9. - B.30.c.0.5. - H.6.a.0.5.
At ZERO minus 15 minutes, "A" Coy., 23rd A.I. Battalion, will be clear of these Positions and will occupy former Positions in B.25.c. and d.
- 8.- By ZERO minus 15 minutes, RIGHT FLANK "B" Coy., 23rd A.I. Battn., will occupy former position in B.25.d.
"D" Coy., 23rd A.I. Battn., will remain in present position.
- 9.- BARRAGE START LINE will be 500 yards East of J.O.T.
- 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.
- 8/10.- C.O.'s., Coys.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- T.O.
- 15.- Spare.
- 16.- Spare.

D. B. Cooper Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Ref. Map.- WIANCOURT. 1/20,000.

5th October, 1918.

- 1.- During the Night 5th/6th October, 1918, the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will be relieved by 2 Coys., 117th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, & AMERICANS.
- 2.- "M" Coy. will relieve "B" Coy., 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. -
3 Platoons in Front Line, 1 Platoon in Support, to be placed by O.C., "B" Coy.
"L" Coy. will relieve "D" Coy., 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. -
2 Platoons in Front Line, and 2 Platoons in Support, to be placed by O.C., "D" Coy.
"A" Coy., 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will not be relieved, but will move out when "B" Coy. has been relieved and will mutually arrange with O.C., "B" Coy., to be notified when "B" Coy. has been relieved.
- 3.- GUIDES will be supplied by Battalion H'qrs. and will guide Companies from 6th A.I. Brigade H'qrs. to Front Line.
2 Extra Guides per Company will report to Battalion H'qrs. at 6.30 p.m.
- 4.- On Completion of Relief, Coys. will wire "CHERRY" to Batta. H'qrs. If Line is broken, O.C's., Coys., will send RUNNER to Battalion H'qrs. to notify Relief complete.
- 5.- On completion of Relief Coys. will move to ETRICOURT and take up former positions in this Area.
- 6.- 100 Rounds S.A.A. and 2 Bombs per man to be handed over to Incoming Coys., and Receipts, in DUPLICATE, to be furnished to Battalion H'qrs. by 9.00 a.m., 6th inst.
- 7.- ALL Marked Maps and Aeroplane Photographs, Trench Stores, etc., will be handed over and receipts, in DUPLICATE, forwarded to Battalion H'qrs. by 9.00 a.m., 6th inst.
- 8.- DRESS.- Fighting Order.
120 Rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Water Bottles per man.
- 9.- O.C's., Coys., will send back Shovels and picks to QUARRY where Rations were drawn and instruct party to proceed independently to ETRICOURT.
- 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.
- 8/11.- O.C's., Coys.
- 12.- Transport Officer.
- 13.- Q.M.
- 14.- 117th Americans.
- 15/16.- Spares.

R. Rose Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

SECRET-

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO

APPENDIX No 31

Ref. Maps.- SHEET 62.C. 1/40,000.
AMIENS. 1/100,000.

7th OCTOBER, 1918.

- 1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will move by TRAIN and MARCH ROUTE on the 7th October, 1918, to ST. VAST-en-CHAUSSEE, by TRAIN leaving ROISEL at 11.00 a.m.
- 2.- TRANSPORT, less that portion leaving by OMNIBUS TRAIN, will move under orders of the Transport Officer, and will pass STARTING POINT - L.14.c.7.8. - at 7.00 a.m.
- 3.- STARTING POINT.- L.21.c.5.5.
Coys. will pass Starting Point in the following order.-
Band, "H'qrs"., "A", "B" and "D" Coys.
HEAD OF COLUMN passing at 8.15 a.m.
Coys. will be in position by 8.05 a.m.
100 yards Distance between Coys. will be maintained on the March.
- 4.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Blanket and Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet and carried on Back.
120 rounds S.A.A. per man.
Water Bottles filled.
Iron Rations.
Unexpended portion of Day's Rations.
- 5.- VALISES.- Officers' Valises will be dumped at Q.M.'s. Store by 7.00 a.m.
MESS BOXES AND COOKING EQUIPMENT.-
"A" and "B" Coys' Mess Boxes will be carried on "B" Coy's. Cooker.
"D" Coy's. on "D" Coy's. Cooker.
"H'qrs". Material on "D" Coy's. Cooker.
PACKS and surplus Equipment in Kit Store, PERONNE, will be delivered in the new area.
BLANKETS will be issued to the Battalion before MOVE.
- 6.- TRANSPORT proceeding by OMNIBUS TRAIN will report to TINCOURT by 12.40 p.m., 7th inst.
O.C., "A" Coy., will detail a Party of 4 N.C.O.'s. and 25 O.Ranks to proceed by Omnibus Train and to act as Loading and Unloading Parties.
This Party will report to Lieut. C.B. HISLOP by 12 NOON, 7th inst., carrying unexpired portion of Rations plus 24 hours Rations.
- 7.- ENTRAINING OFFICER.-
2/Lieut. F.S. KENT will act as Entraining Officer for this Battalion and will report to Entraining Officer, ROISEL, Major. W.H. ELWOOD, M.C., by 10.00 a.m. 7th inst., reporting to this H'qrs. by 7.30 a.m.
- 8.- Completion of Move will be notified to Battalion H'qrs. immediately on arrival in Billets.

9.- DETRAINING STATION.- St. ROCH.

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.
- 8/11.- O.C.'s., Coys.
- 12.- Q.M.
- 13.- Transport Officer.

Brooke Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 26TH OCTOBER, 1918.

DATE.	TIME.					
	0900 to 0915.	0915 to 1000.	1000 to 1045.	1045 to 1100.	1100 to 1200.	1330 to 1600.
21.10.18.	C.O's. Inspection.	P.T. - Organised Games.	Saluting. Section Drill.	Smoke-O.	Platoon Drill. Rifle Exercises.	Recreat- ional Training.
22.10.18.	Gas Drill.	Physical Training	Saluting. Rifle Exercises Platoon Drill.	Smoke-O.	Company Drill.	Recreat- ional Training.
23.10.18.	C.O's. Inspection.	10 mins. Gas Drill Physical Training.	Bayonet Fighting	Smoke-O.	Battal- ion Drill.	Recreat- ional Training.
24.10.18.	Gas Drill.	Bayonet Fighting	Company Drill.	Smoke-O.	Musketry.	Recreat- ional Training.
25.10.18.	C.O's. Inspection.	10 mins. Gas Drill Physical Training.	Musketry.	Smoke-O.	Extended Order Work.	Recreat- ional Training.
26.10.18.	Battalion Route March.					

17th October, 1918.

Cascoe Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

NOTES AND APPENDICES ATTACHED.

NOTES ON ATTACHED SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - AND APPENDICES.

- 1.- Now that the Battalion has had a complete Rest for over a Week, a smart turn out is expected on ALL Parades.
- 2.- Training will be PROGRESSIVE and in accordance with attached Syllabus.
- 3.- During Battalion ROUTE MARCHES, Troops will be practised in opening out rapidly into Artillery Formations, and later in closing to Column of Route again.
Strict March Discipline will be observed throughout.
ALL Officers and N.C.O's. will give this matter their close attention.
SMOKING is NOT permitted on the March.
Troops will Fall in at the SLOPE when the March is continued from the Halt.
On MARCH AT EASE being given, ALL Rifles will be carried slung from the Right Shoulder.
CHANGE ARMS will be given by O.C., Leading Coy., and will be carried out in succession throughout the Column.
- 4.- MUSKETRY.-- Musketry Training will be carried out as per attached APPENDIX 1.
If DUMMY AMMUNITION is not available for Rapid Loading Practices, BALL Ammunition will be used. To prevent Accidents, a Cork or small piece of wood must be placed between the Trigger and Trigger Guard, of EVERY RIFLE.
- 5.- LEWIS GUNNERS.-- ALL Lewis Gunners will report to Lieut. H. DODGSHUN on the Parade Ground at 0915 DAILY.
Training to be carried out as per APPENDIX 11.
- 6.- LEWIS GUN SCHOOL.-- O.C's., Coys., will each detail 2 O.Ranks per Platoon to attend Battalion Lewis Gun Course of 15 days.
These men will NOT be detailed for other duties during this course.
Training will be carried out as per APPENDIX 111.
- 7.- SIGNALLERS.-- H'Qrs. and ALL Coy. Signallers will report to Lieut. J.A. WILTSHIRE, M.C., at 0915 DAILY.
Training to be carried out as per APPENDIX 1V.
- 8.- SIGNALLING SCHOOL.-- O.C's. Coys., will each detail 2 men per Coy. to receive instruction in Signalling, at Battalion Signalling Course of 15 days. These men will NOT be detailed for other duties during this Course, and will report to Lieut. J.A. WILTSHIRE, M.C., on Bn. Parade Ground at 0915 DAILY.
- 9.- PHYSICAL TRAINING.-- All Lewis Gunners and Signallers, including men attending Schools, will carry out 30 mins. Physical ~~training~~ DAILY under Specialist Officers.
- 10.- BAND and ALL H'Qrs. Details NOT ON DUTY, will be present on ALL Battalion Parades.
- 11.- EVERY Afternoon will be devoted to Recreational Training, from 1330 to 1600. The Battalion Sports Officer will organise Matches, etc.; This does not relieve Coy. Officers, who are expected to take a personal interest in Recreational Training and to encourage EVERY man to take part.

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23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

APPENDICES - SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 26.10.18.

APPENDIX I.

MUSKETRY TABLE.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>HARD.</u>	<u>EASY.</u>
24.10.18.	Firing Positions. Bolt Drill.	Care of Arms. Trigger Pressing.
25.10.18.	Rapid Loading.	Visual Training. Judging Distances.

APPENDIX II.

INSTRUCTION - ADVANCED LEWIS GUNNERS.

<u>1st Day.-</u>	Mechanism (Backward).
<u>2nd Day.-</u>	Mechanism (Forward).
<u>3rd Day.-</u>	Stoppages.
<u>4th Day.-</u>	Care and Cleaning. Repairs.
<u>5th Day.-</u>	Range Practice.

APPENDIX III.

LEWIS GUN INSTRUCTION - BATTALION SCHOOL.

<u>1st Day.-</u>	General Description. Naming of Parts.
<u>2nd Day.-</u>	Stripping and Assembling.
<u>3rd Day.-</u>	Mechanism (Backward).
<u>4th Day.-</u>	Mechanism (Forward).
<u>5th Day.-</u>	Stoppages.

P.T.O.

APPENDICES - SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 26.10.18. (Contd)APPENDIX IV.SIGNALLERS - INSTRUCTION

Date.	Time.				
	0900 to 0915.	0915 to 1000.	1000 to 1030.	1030 to 1100.	1100 to 1200.
Monday. 21.10.18.	C.O's Inspection.	Buzzer Practice.	Lamp Reading.	Flag.	Lecture.
Tuesday. 22.10.18.	C.O's. Inspection.	Buzzer Practice.	Shutter and Flag.	Lecture.	Lamp Reading.
Wednesday. 23.10.18.	C.O's. Inspection.	Flag Practice.	Lecture.	Shutter.	Buzzer.
Thursday. 24.10.18.	C.O's. Inspection.	Buzzer Practice.	Lamp.	Flag.	Shutter and Lamp.
Friday. 25.10.18.	C.O's. Inspection.	Station Work with Flag.	Buzzer.	Buzzer.	Cable Mending.
Saturday. 26.10.18.	C.O's. Inspection.	Test in Buzzer Read- ing and Sending.	Test in Lamp.	Test in Flag.	Test in Shutter Reading and Flag sending

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BATTALION N.C.O.'s. SCHOOL.

- 1.- A Battalion School for Junior N.C.O.'s. will commence on MONDAY, 21st inst.
- 2.- A certain number of N.C.O.'s. will be required to attend the 6th Brigade School. Details to be notified later.
- 3.- The Battalion School will last 15 days. O.C.'s., Coys., will each detail 50% of Corporals and L/Cpls. to attend.
- 4.- N.C.O.'s. detailed to attend School will be relieved from ALL other duties.
- 5.- O.C. School.- Lieut. L.S. MADDRELL, M.C.
- 6.- N.C.O.'s. will parade with Coys. first hour. They will report to Lieut. L.S. MADDRELL, M.C., on Battalion Parade Ground at 1000 DAILY.
- 7.- The following Syllabus will be adhered to for Week ending 26th inst.-

<u>Monday.-</u>	TALK - Idea of School. Physical Training. Communication Drill.
<u>Tuesday.-</u>	Bayonet Fighting. Organised Games. Communication Drill.
<u>Wednesday.-</u>	LECTURE - Duties and Responsibilities of N.C.O. His Responsibility to the Man. Squad Drill and Detail.
<u>Thursday.-</u>	LECTURE - Map Reading, one Hour. Communication Drill. Rifle Exercises and Detail.
<u>Friday.-</u>	Physical Training. Gas Drill and Detail. Squad Drill.
<u>Saturday.-</u>	Battalion Route March.

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17th October, 1918.

Barco Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

23rd Battalion - 5th Infantry Brigade.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - OBSERVERS.

(For week ending 26th October, 1918.)

	LECTURE.		PRACTICAL WORK.
	0915 to 1000.	1000 to 1050.	1100 to 1200.
Monday. 21.10.18.	Lecture on Intelligence.	Prismatic Com- pass - Magnetic, true and back Bearings.	Bearings on all prominent Objects and finding location on Map by use of same.
Tuesday. 22.10.18.	General Map Reading.	Conventional Signs.	Setting of Map and recognition of main features on Map.
Wednesday. 23.10.18.	Scales and their con- struction.	Service Protractor.	Reconnaissance of Village and construction of suitable scale for a Map of same.
Thursday. 24.10.18.	Construction of a Map.	Contours.	Map of Village.
Friday. 25.10.18.	Map enlarging (Square Method)	Revision and Oral Exam- ination.	Enlarging Map of Village from 1/40,000 to 1/10,000.
Saturday. 26.10.18.	Field day.		

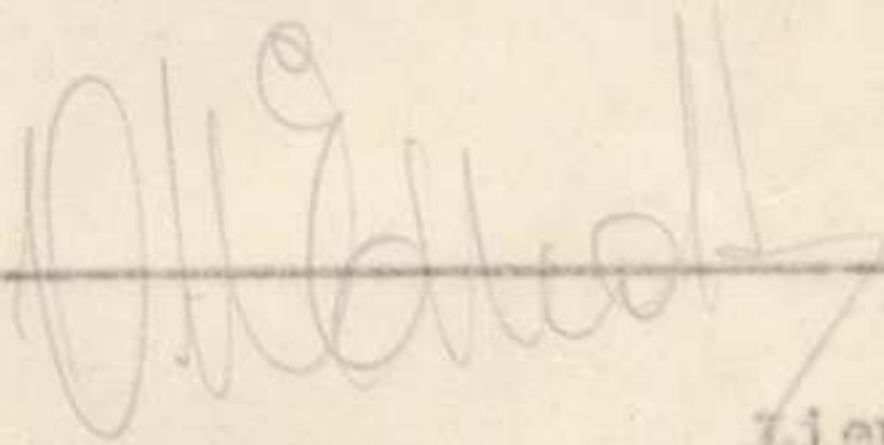
Ref. Maps - Sheet 57E and
Sheet 62E 1/40,000

28th October 1918.

1. The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. will move by march route on the 29th inst., from St.VAST-en-CHAUSSEE to FLESSELLES at 0100.
2. Transport will move under arrangements of Transport Officer at 0800.
3. STARTING POINT :- Cross Roads at E 16 & 8.7..
Coys. will pass Starting Point in the following order :-
Band, H.Qrs., "D", "A", "B" and "C" Coys.
Head of column will pass Starting point at 1000.
Coys. will be in position by 0950.
4. DRESS. Full marching order less blankets.
Steel helmets carried under supporting straps on packs.
120 rounds S.A.A. per man
Water Bottles filled
Iron rations
Unexpired portion of days ration.
5. BLANKETS. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10, securely tied and labelled and stacked as follows :-
H.Qrs., By 0800 at Q.M's store.
A.B.C. & D. Coys. By 0800 at respective Coy. H.Qrs.
6. Officers valises Valises will be dumped at Q.M. store by 0845.
Band packs will be dumped at Q.M's store by 0800
Mess boxes will be carried on Coy. Cookers.
7. Billeting party of 2 N.C.O's per Coy. will report to Lieut. J.E. SMITH at Bn. H.Qrs., at 0900 28th inst.
8. Lewis Guns will be carried on limbers and will precede the Bn.
9. CERTIFICATES Coy. Commanders will furnish certificate to Bn. Office by 0930 that Billets vacated have been left in a clean and sanitary condition.
10. Completion of move to be reported to Bn. Office immediately on arrival in billets.
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. Bde.
- 8/12 O.C. Coys.
13. Q.M.
14. T.O.


Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

NOTE CHANGE OF COLOUR.
Enemy Trenches in Blue.

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION
RECEIVED UP TO 19 11 18

WIANCOURT

EDITION 1. A

Parts of 57° S.E. 57° S.W.
62° N.E. 62° N.W.

1:20,000



Information from Captured
German Maps printed in Red.
(EXCEPT DETAIL NAMES)

- REFERENCE
- Trenches proposed
 - Vine Entanglements or other Obstacles
 - Normal Gauge, Double
 - Proposed
 - Metre Gauge
 - Lumps, Stores or Depots - Supply
 - Ammunition
 - Engineer Park
 - Signposts
 - Gun Emplacements
 - Machine Gun and direction of fire
 - Trench Mortar
 - A.A.
 - Observation Posts
 - Headquarters - Corps
 - Division
 - Other Units
 - Railhead
 - Telephone and Telegraph Centre
 - Barriers
 - Causeway
 - Signal Station
 - Divisional Boundary
 - Tunnel
 - Flange

Scale: 1:20,000

FIELD SURVEY 84 D.E. 1308 D1-9-18

FRANCE'S FETE DAY.

As everyone knows Sunday, 14th July, was France's great national day, and was not only celebrated in her own fair country, but right throughout the far-flung lands of her Allies. How gloriously and bravely she has borne herself in this fierce conflict against the Teutonic aggressor seeking to subjugate all the free people of the earth has been told over and over again. What valor at Verdun! What heroic visions that name calls up. The very trenches there cemented with France's best blood. Yet, after her bleeding and fighting, this wonderful nation is advancing against the despoilers—a veritable Goddess of Vengeance! France, with her glorious history, will again be, as she has in the past, "the gem and wonder of the earth."

The French troops were "en fete" on

that day and entertained a number of our boys with "beaucoup" of everything. On their red wine the Australians drank to "la belle France," and the French, in their polished manner, drank to our distant land, and praised us for being jolly good fellows and valiant fighters. One dusky soldier, belonging to the "Legion d'Afrique," spoke English "tres bien," and had quite an audience of the red and brown diamonds around him. He was kept plied with questions anent matters of no military importance. It was perfect how he punctuated tales told by our boys about their wonderful, sunny continent, with "Surely now; by the Lord God!" Souvenirs changed hands, and night had drawn on her sable raiment ere the "Aussies" departed to their billets, taking with them pleasant memories of many pleasant hours spent with their famous French comrades, among the tall poplars.

This space is reserved for you to write in. Do it now.



YPRES - BROODSEINDE.

No. 20.

1st AUGUST, 1918.

Price, Ten Centimes.

FRONTISPIECE.

"KAMERAD; KAMERAD!"

The cover design on the front page of this issue is the work of Lieut. G. L. Nightingale, of B Coy., and embodies all the original ideas, as well as the motto and honors of the Battalion in a new theme. We feel proud that it is altogether the idea of the artist, for we have made a practice of carrying on the little journal on lines entirely our own. Mr. Nightingale, who in private life is an art teacher of high repute, was unfortunately wounded in a recent encounter, but we wish him a speedy and complete recovery, and trust that many more specimens of his talented work will appear in these columns from time to time.

It is four years ago this week since the blare of trumpets resounded throughout the world, calling to arms the defenders of Liberty and Justice against a tyrannical foe. The tide of victory has swayed erratically, but the ultimate predominance of Right is without doubt. The beacon of Hope gleams brightly ahead.

I ought to shoot 'im where he stands—
A whinin' 'Un, with lifted 'ands—
For 'e called me "Kamerad!"
Me, wot's fought 'im clean an' fair
Played the game, and played it square;
'E crucified my pal out there—
An' 'e calls ME "Kamerad!"
You low-down, stinkin' 'ound o' 'ell,
I've seen the work you do so well;
Don't you call me "Kamerad!"
You, wot shells a 'elpless crew,
Wot rapes and murders women too;
A blasted blackguard thro' and thro'.
An' you called ME "Kamerad!"
You bloody, bleedin' blinkin' 'Un,
After wot you've been an' done,
Don't call ME "Kamerad!"
I ain't no bloomin' 'ypocrite,
There ain't no 'alo in my kit,
But when you comes to this, I quit;
Don't call ME "Kamerad!"—A.L.

Physically "Billy" Hughes weighs seven stone. An enquirer desires to know the weight of his arguments.

"Joe" Cook, who was here the other day, is not an army cook. His "stu's" are political.

HUNTING IN ONE NINE ONE EIGHT.

"Say, Digger, I hear we're going to relieve the Germans to-night." Thus one of the Anzacs in the old front line the day prior to the "glorious fourth," to our Divisional Commander, who was round "just to have a look at the boys" before the hop-over in the morning. Receiving a glance and smile for his wit, the "live" Anzac quickly saw the opening for the "hard word," and added, "what about a bit of relief for us, General?" This reminds one of another story of which the unconscious author was the well-known and admired senior officer at present attached to us. The C.O. of the "Base" was going the rounds of inspection. Halting before a party fallen in in front of their tidy tent he saw one man whose face he remembered. Like an old soldier he halted and spoke to the "digger." Moving on, these words fell from the mouth of the man next to him spoken to—"Strike me -- pink! An' 'e never put the 'ard word on for leave. Out 'e goes outer this -- tent." But this is digressing from the story of the stunt.

In the line twenty-four hours before "zero," to get a knowledge of country, the time was spent polishing bayonets, cleaning specks of dust off rifle bolts and Lewis guns, looking carefully at our precious "Mill's," and straightening the pins slightly. Time dragged slowly, especially the last hour or two, until at 1.30 a.m. came the order to file out of the trenches. This we did noiselessly and found the J.O.T. Forming up into our proper positions in the long wheat crop, we were not much troubled with enemy fire, altho' chubby Cpl. Ellis, M.M.. of B Coy., met his end "on the tape."

"Say, Bill, that's a 'dinkum' barrage," was heard amidst the roar of harrassing

fire at 3.2 a.m. It was nothing to what was to come, however. At 3.10 the noise was hellish, and over we went. It is at this moment that a man knows no sensation of danger, pain, hunger or thirst. His nerves are strung to the highest pitch of excitement, which carries him on. A short distance to go, a short sharp fight here and there, and the objective trench is ours, except for a small section in the gap between B and D Coys. Our boys are bombing along already, tho' and Fritz gets out and dashes for the crops in rear. Many never reach it, and those that do have a sorry time, for now a noise like a hundred aeroplanes thunders down on us, and over our newly-won trench glides our latest monster tanks. They put the fear of God into Fritz, and give us a feeling of security so that we can proceed to organise the captured trench against a possible counter-attack. "A" Coy., on the left, had further to go, and their duty was to establish a chain of posts between "B" Coy. left flank and the right flank of 21st Battn. This was done, and done well. It remains to be told how, later in the day, our C.O. personally reconnoitred the captured position, and also a 'possy' offering a better site some two hundred yards in advance; how we occupied this additional ground, how we found Fritz quite demoralised and forced for want of C.T., and owing to our commanding position, to send rations to his forward men per aeroplane. We shall only add that fourteen more machine guns and other trophies are now labelled "War Museums, Australia," and that many Hunnish Hocks are labelled elsewhere.

Weather Report.—Back to summer, after numerous downfalls of rain for a day or two. "Beaucoup" mud, but drying quickly. Ariel warfare "non est."

59 May 25

— AMONGST THE BOYS. —

"Ever Forward!" stoutly maintained. An 'Orrible 'Eat.—Pork and Beans.
A hint for slow old England.—Hughes it. It's a long "line" that has no turning.—Soldier's proverb.
A man who sees a lot of the Seamy Side.—The Tailor. It is whispered that a certain Transport officer was recently seen working under heavy shell fire with a pick and shovel—stars and tunic removed. Hum! good. Doing his bit with the boys.

Military Terms.

NO 5



A returned leavite says while in England he was teaching some of the girls how to swim. It's about the only thing they don't know.

"Beer" is the subject of contention in another column. Give us more. Not of controversy.—Beer.

Pte. F. Locke, suffering from a shell wound in his hip, writes to say he has passed through a successful operation. He sends his regards to all the boys, specially D Coy.

Cricket.—Our Details met those of the 26th, and were defeated by two runs.

few of them set to work and quickly dug an alternative track to the front line that shortened the route by a quarter of an hour's travel, as well as made the trip safer. Among the best were burly Jim Rayner, and our old friend "Gouge" Clark.

A cook's "understudy" lately received a parcel from home containing tea, sugar and milk—and after four years of war, too.

Australians only know "retreat" as a bugle call in way back camps.

Angling ought to come easy to those swinging the lead.

The men of the transport have just done well. In the absence of an engineer's fatigue, a

“HOME SWEET HOME.”

How sweet are these words among the wide-spread people of the English speaking world. How fondly memory of “Home” lingers in the thoughts, be it on boundless ocean or in foreign land. To the French the meaning is a hundred-fold dearer, and the scenes as presented in their earth-scarred, shattered, bleeding land should be recorded to the eternal shame of a vicious and inhuman foe. Picture the humble habitations of a thrifty, hard-working folk, cheerless and deserted, in village and city. Once cosy dwellings snuggling in picturesque spots by riverside or in valley; in hamlet, on hillside, or by highway, where nought reigned but peace, industry and contentment. Built much more solid and compact than in Australia, to contend with sterner weather conditions, they are certainly not so inviting as in our own fair land, and the interior is somewhat cramped. The roofs are low, and cooking and heating stove almost in the centre of the room, with massive, old-fashioned bedstead in the corner, and

generous proportioned sideboard, with inevitable crucifix in globular glass encasing, and numerous dainty nic-nacs, does not leave much spare room in the limited space. But, nevertheless, it is the dearly-loved home of the peasant or artisan, left to the tender mercies of all and sundry, while the clash of arms and the booming of the guns goes on. But all are not deserted, e'en tho' the screech of shell or crash of bomb resounds around. There are many of the old folks to whom the scenes of childhood and maturity are sweeter than life, and should the scythe of devastation sweep these from their sight, nothing is left to make life worth living, as the aged “madam” will convey to you by language or sign, as you sip her coffee, and she shuffles over the stone-flagged floor or bends her silvery-locked head over the stove. “Monsieur” sits stolidly in the corner, with tolded arms and vacant look, nodding now again, and occasionally emitting “oui oui” from his toothless mouth and slowly shaking his old grey head. They are explaining that their sons are beyond recall, and made the supreme sacrifice in defence of their beloved country—and Home.

This space is reserved for you to write in. Do it now.

63 Appendix 25



THE VOICE OF THE BATTALION

YPRES — BROODSEINDE.

No. 21 15th AUGUST, 1918, Price. Ten Centimes.

HOPE.

“Hope springs eternal,” are the words of one of our poets in effort to define that extraordinary feeling of expectancy of good things near at hand that takes possession of one—even when clouds are blackest and all is dark around. As we enter the fifth year of this fight for the freedom of peoples, our star, which until two or three weeks ago, was (if we had allowed ourselves to believe so) on the wane, is now brightly in the ascendant, and our hearts leap at the prospect of developments full of the promise of peace and prosperity for all lands. The leading lights in the world of statesmen are convinced that the victories of recent dates have brought peace nearer the skyline, and we, in common with the rest of the fighters feel confident, although we haven't yet succeeded—that the end is near.

AT SIX BOB A DAY.

We're the six bob a day tourists,
 Launched on a world-wide tour;
 No fighting did we want to do,
 'Twas just the lucre lure.

We've been at Gallipoli, Ypres, and
 Pozieres,
 At Broodseinde and Bullecourt sure;
 England's little island too,
 Which makes us love her all the more

The gates of hell have opened wide.
 A glimpse of that we've seen;
 Our blood flows red and our bones lay
 bare
 Wherever we have been.

We're the six bob a day tourists,
 Visiting our kith and kin.
 There's another little place we'd like to
 see;
 We're anxious to visit Berlin.

DEPARTURE OF THE PADRE.

Major Cleverden, the battalion padre and spiritual adviser, left us a few days ago after nineteen months' service with the unit, wherein he succeeded that beloved of the boys, Chaplain Bladen, in January, 1917, at "C" Camp, Trones Wood. His was a difficult succession, following one who had become a veritable father to us all. Padre Cleverden carried on (his financial ability and management of funds making him very valuable indeed in canteen, Comforts Funds, and other matters) until the granting of his Majority. This was the hint that he would soon leave for England. His loyalty to the Battalion and his regard for its personnel was undoubted, and in a few parting words to the writer he remarked that he always had and would still look upon it as his military home. He had found the officers and men of the highest type in the A.I.F. To him it was the best unit. He was proud to have belonged to it, and would always cherish memories of the good-fellowship, the comradeship, and the happy times he had spent with it. He felt quite sorry that he could not take all to England with him for a good spell, but perhaps that would be hard to take! At all events the Battalion would always have premier place in his regards, and he would watch it closely all the time, feeling confident it would do deeds to make us all proud.

The padre, on leaving, wished the Battalion, its officers, N.C.O.s and men continued success, a long spell and a safe return home, and would be glad to hear from any of the boys at any time, and would bespeak some measure of kindly consideration for his successor, Padre Jeffreys.

RUNNING SHOTS.

The late padre's English address is—Chaplain Cleverden, R.B.B.A., Heytesbury, Wilts.

Lieut. Dodgshun paddles Blighty wards en fete.

A short school course is occupying Lieut. Short's time just now.

Lieut. Holland has returned to the fold.

In brief, the stunt, as far as we were concerned, was a thorough success. Further particulars later.

It was a plucky act of "Dan" the other day, when two lads got out of their depth while swimming. He took seriously the calls for help, that others thought were play, and succeeded in bringing the pair to safety. Two was a tough job and risky.

The following appeared in the Melbourne papers:—"Returned Soldiers, 23rd Battalion. A meeting of members interested in forming a Social Club will be held at Sargent's Cafe, Elizabeth street, on Friday evening. Members desirous of attending kindly notify promptly.—R. F. Maberly Smith, 97 Elizabeth street, City." Evidently "Mab" still retains his interest in the old battalion.

Says the "Herald" anent a recent procession.—"Special interest was centred in the returned members of the 6th Brigade, who wore between their shoulders the purple diamond that denotes the award of the King's colors, being the first of all the British fighting forces to gain their objective in the attack on the Hindenburg line at Bullecourt. The award of the King's colors had not been officially confirmed, but no one denies that the men are heroes, and they were treated to rousing volleys of applause."

AMONGST THE BOYS.

The Land of Promise.—Germany.

Exit Padre Cleverden. Entree Padre Jeffreys.

"Un"-inhabited Places.—Round Belgium, etc.

Nucleus wants to know—"Where, oh where has the Battal-i-o-n gone?"

Next issue will contain a full account of our recent exploits.

Pte. Geo. Gardiner should help to make things hum in Australia, now that he has got back. He is an apiarist and has some sting.

How to attract wasps we know. For the information of those who do not we suggest that they leave the jam issue uncovered for two seconds only, and the finest apiary ever will appear. This advice is given gratis with each copy purchased.

Pte. Arthur Green, of the Band, is at the 16th General. He is under the watchful eye of the U.S. "quacks" with gastritis. Regards.

Ptes. Darcy and "Bill" Morgan are going strong at the Corps School.

You can't flee from gas. This is proved by the way it effected several runners.

Tank Motto.—"What ho! she bumps!"

Sgt. Robinson re-appears after a long illness. He is "B" Coy. "Robbie."

Bugler "Yank" Lorimer will answer to his name at roll-call, too.

Jack Blyth accompanied our late 2nd in command to the 19th. "Jack" will have soon done the whole A.I.F.

The moon is at full half, and casts a shimmery light over the land. Who cares?

Are we here to die for our country? No; we are here to to make Fritz die for his.

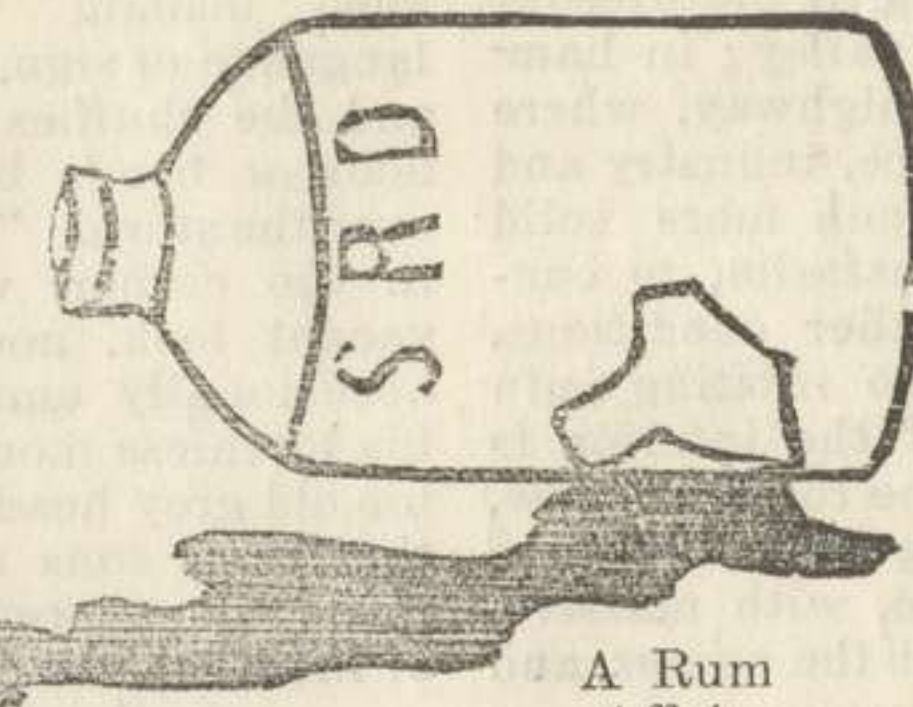
Major Bateman, or rather now Lt.-Col. Bateman, has joined the 19th Bn. Good luck to him in his new command.

Sgt. W. Wilson, of the Battalion tootlers, is on leave.

"Fat," Charlie Davis, of the musicians, is at Sutton Veny. He wants to get back "toute suite."

"Dad" Spaul, once of A Coy., will soon take the same track as the 240 English wives.

The "Bulletin" refers to Lieut. P. Harris, once of ours, now editor of "Aussie":—"Went to France early in 1915 with M.T.C. but transferred to infantry in 1917, and has now blossomed into the editor of a real, live Australian soldiers' magazine."



A Rum Affair.

APPENDIX 25
62

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 150.Ref. Maps. Sheet 57 E. and
Sheet 62 B. 1/40,000

29th October 1918.

1. The 23rd Battalion A.I.F. will move from FLESSHELLES to VAUX-en-AMENONIS at 1030 29th October 1918.
2. Transport will move under arrangements of Transport Officer at 0900.
3. Starting Point. "D" Coys. H.qrs. Billet No. 149.
Coys. will pass starting point in the following order :-
Band., H.qrs., D. A. B. and "C" Coys.
Head of Column will pass Starting Point at 1030.
Coys. will be in position by 1025.
4. DRESS. Full marching order less blankets.
Steel helmets carried under supporting straps on packs.
Iron rations
Unexpired portion of days ration.
5. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10, securely tied and dumped at Q.M.'s store by 0830.
6. Officers valises will be dumped at Q.M.'s store by 0830.
Band packs will be dumped at Q.M.'s store by 0830.
7. Billeting party of 4 H.Q.O.'s per Coy. & 2 from H.qrs., will report to Lieut. W.A.E. BRAGG at Chateau. VAUX by 0900.
8. Lewis Guns will be carried on Limbers and will precede Bn.
9. Coy. Commanders will furnish certificates to Bn. H.qrs. by 0930 that Billets vacated have been left in a clean and sanitary condition.
10. Completion of move to be reported to Bn. H.qrs. immediately on arrival in billets.
11. A C K N O W L E D G E S

W.A.E. Bragg
Lieut.
A/adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Distribution. :-

- | | |
|------|---------------|
| 1. | File |
| 2/4 | War Diary |
| 5. | C.O. |
| 6. | Adjutant |
| 7. | 6th A.I. Bde. |
| 8/12 | C.O. Coys. |
| 13 | Q.M. |
| 14 | T.O. |

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 2ND NOVEMBER, 1918.

Date.	Time.					
	0900 to 0915.	0915 to 1000.	1000 to 1045.	1045 to 1100.	1100 to 1200.	1200 to 1330 to 1330 to 1600.
28.10.18.	C.O.'s. Inspection	Physical Training	Musketry	Smoke-O.	Platoon Attack on Strong Point S.S.143.	Recreat- ional Training
29.10.18.	Gas Drill.	Bayonet Fighting	Musketry	Smoke-O.	Coy. in Attack. Semi-open Warfare.	Recreat- ional Training
30.10.18.	C.O.'s. Inspection	Physical Training Bayonet Fighting	Musketry	Smoke-O.	Attack on Wood. Consolid- ation.	Recreat- ional Training
31.10.18.	Gas Drill.	Physical Training Bayonet Fighting	Musketry	Smoke-O.	Battalion Drill.	Recreat- ional Training
1.11.18.	C.O.'s. Inspection	Physical Training Bayonet Fighting	Musketry	Smoke-O.	Advance Guards. Outposts.	Recreat- ional Training
2.11.18.		Battalion Route March.				Recreat- ional Training

24th October, 1918.Capt.
Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.NOTES AND APPENDICES ATTACHED.-

NOTES ON ATTACHED SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - AND APPENDICES

- 1.- TACTICAL EXERCISES.- The attention of All Coy. Officers is drawn to the principles set out in S.S.143., S.S.197.
- It is recognised that suitable ground within the precincts of the Battalion Parade Ground is limited. Definite schemes will be prepared in accordance with Training Syllabus.
- Strong Posts - Machine Guns - will be represented by FLAGS, or by utilising a few men. Again, one Platoon can take up a Defensive Position; change over and the exercise repeated.
- O.C's., Coys., will make ~~KIX~~ arrangements with the Battalion Lewis Gun Officer for 1 Lewis Gun Section (Advanced Gunners) to parade with Coy. for ALL Tactical Exercises.
- CONSOLIDATION OF WOODS.- Attention is drawn to the following.-
- (a) Firing Line 200 yards beyond edge.
 - (b) Supports 100 yards inside Edge.
 - (c) Lewis Gun Cross-fire on Front and Flanks.
 - (d) Observation up a Tree.
- ALL men to be impressed with such essentials as Discipline, Keeping direction, the value of the Bullet and Bayonet, Fire and Movement, Use of Ground, etc. This ~~is~~ coupled with Efficiency, Training and Keeness, must result in good achievements.
- 2.- MUSKETRY.- Musketry Training will be carried out as per attached APPENDIX 5.
- ALL movement to and from Batta. 50 yards Musketry Range will be along ST. VAST - ST. SAUVEUR ROAD.
- Movement along Gully to Firing Point will be in Single File, along Right Embankment. On no account will Ploughed Fields or Plots under cultivation be crossed.
- Range Practices will be conducted personally by Acting Battalion Musketry Officer, Lieut. W.O. SUMMERS, M.C.
- This Officer will be responsible that the necessary Sentries are posted during Firing Practices, in compliance with Brigade Memo. No. 1298.
- REVOLVER PRACTICES.- Revolver Practice for Officers and No. 1 Lewis Gunners will be notified later.
- Such will always be under the direct supervision of the Acting Battalion Musketry Officer.
- 3.- LEWIS GUNNERS.- Training will be carried out as per APPENDIX 6.
- 4.- SIGNALLERS.- Training will be carried out as per APPENDIX 7.
- 5.- BATTN. OBSERVERS.- The Training of Battalion Observers to be carried out as per APPENDIX 8.
- 6.- BATTALION N.C.O's. SCHOOL.- Syllabus of Training as set out in APPENDIX 9. to be adhered to for Week ending 2nd November, 1918.
- 7.- PHYSICAL TRAINING.- All Lewis Gunners and Signallers, including men attending Schools, will carry out 30 mins. Physical Training DAILY under Specialist Officers.
- 8.- BAND and ALL H'Qrs. Details not on duty, will be present on ALL Battalion Parades.
- 9.- EVERY Afternoon will be devoted to Recreational Training, from 1330 to 1600. The Battalion Sports Officer will organise Matches, etc., This does not relieve Coy. Officers, who are expected to take a personal interest in Recreational Training and to encourage EVERY man to take part.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

APPENDICES - SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 2.11.18.

APPENDIX 5.

MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION

Date.	1000 to 1200.	1100 to 1200.
28.10.18.	"A" Coy.- 30 yards Range. Waiting Details, Firing Positions and Bolt Drill.	"B", "C" & "D" Coys.- Firing Positions. Bolt Drill. (Bn. Parade Ground).
29.10.18.	"B" Coy.- 30 yards Range. Details, Trigger Pressing, Aiming.	"A", "C" & "D" Coys.- (Bn. Parade Ground) Trigger Pressing, Aiming, Rapid Loading.
30.10.18.	"C" Coy.- 30 yards Range. Details. Aiming and Aiming Off.	"A", "B" & "D" Coys.- (Bn. Parade Ground) Aiming and Aiming Off. Bolt Drill.
31.10.18.	"D" Coy.- 30 yards Range. Details. Rapid Loading.	"A", "B" & "C" Coys.- (Bn. Parade Ground) Rapid Loading. Bolt Drill.
1.11.18.	1100 to 1200	
	"A", "B", "C" and "D" Coys.-	Fire Disc. 3rd Stage.

APPENDIX 6.LEWIS GUN INSTRUCTION - ADVANCED GUNNERS.

- 6th Day.- Gas Drill. Physical Training.
Firing & Positions.
- 7th Day.- Range.
- 8th Day.- Gas Drill. Physical Training.
Sighting and Points. "B", "D" and "A" Coys. firing
- 9th Day.- Gun Drill.
- 10th Day.- Range (Gas Masks).

LEWIS GUN INSTRUCTION - BATTALION SCHOOL

- 6th Day.- Gas Drill. Physical Training.
Mechanism (Backward).
- 7th Day.- Gas Drill. Physical Training.
Mechanism (Forward).
- 8th Day.- Gas Drill. Physical Training.
Sighting and Firing Positions.
- 9th Day.- Gas Drill. Physical Training.
Points. "D", "B" and "A" Coys. firing.
- 10th Day.- Gun Drill.

))))))-----(((((((

APPENDIX 7.SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - BATTALION SIGNALLERS

Date.	Time.				
	0900 to 0915.	0915 to 1000.	1000 to 1030.	10.30 to 1100.	1100 to 1200.
28.10.18.	Inspect- ion.	Flag Drill.	Lamp.	Shutter.	Lecture.
29.10.18.	Inspect- ion.	Buzzer.	Station work with Flag.	Lecture.	Flag Reading.
30.10.18.	Inspect- ion.	Lamp.	Lecture.	Shutter.	Cable Mending.
31.10.18.	Inspect- ion.	Buzzer.	Lamp Reading.	Station work with Lamp.	Flag Reading.
1.11.18.	Inspect- ion.	Flag Drill.	Shutter.	Lecture.	Buzzer.
2.11.18.	Inspect- ion.	Tests in Buzzer - Reading and Sending.	Tests in Lamp Reading.	Tests in Shutter Sending and Reading.	Tests in Flag - Sending and Reading.

APPENDIX 8

APPENDIX 8.SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - BATTALION OBSERVERS

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Lecture.</u>	<u>Practical Work.</u>
28.10.18.	Map Reading. Hill Features.	Outdoor study of Contours and Hill Features.
29.10.18.	Observation. Observers Reports.	Practice in Observation and writing of Reports.
30.10.18.	Scouting and Patrolling. Scouts and Patrol Reports.	Night Work. Laying of J.O. Tapes and marching on Compass Bearings.
31.10.18.	Aerial Photographs. (Lesson 1.) Camouflage.	Judging distances. Finding Ranges by means of Compass Bearings from 2 O.Ps.
1.11.18.	Aerial Photographs. Recapitulation of Week's Work.	Field sketching.
2.11.18.	Field Day - Reconnaissance.	

APPENDIX 9.SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - BATTN. N.C.O.'s. SCHOOL

<u>28.10.18.-</u>	Physical Training. Bayonet Fighting. Communication Drill. Platoon Drill.
<u>29.10.18.-</u>	Organised Games. Gas Drill. Musketry Instruction.
<u>30.10.18.-</u>	Map Reading. Bayonet Fighting. Sentries Drill.
<u>31.10.18.-</u>	Lewis Gun Instruction.
<u>1.11.18.-</u>	Rifle Exercises and detail. Lecture - Guards and Sentries Duties. Bombing Instruction.
<u>2.11.18.-</u>	Battalion Route March.

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C.O's report - month ending 31st October 1918.

Moving up from rest at CAPPY during last few days of September the Battalion was located on 1st October at TINCOURT.

The Battalion moved into the line on evening of 3rd October, when in conjunction with other battalions of the Brigade, it took part in an attack near BEAUREVOIR. On the early morning of 4th October a further attack was made. In neither of these attacks did the battalion suffer very heavy casualties. Battalion was relieved by the AMERICANS on the night 5th/6th October. On 7th October the Battalion entrained at ROISEL for St.ROCH. Train was about 2 hours late leaving ROISEL, consequently did not arrive at St.ROCH till about 1800, at which hour route march to St.VAST was commenced. Battalion reached St.VAST at about 2200. Billets for the men were fair but crowded, but Officers' billets were very poor.

After a week's spell, during which reorganisation, re-equipping only was carried out, training commenced in accordance with a Syllabus laid down on 21st inst..

Battalion remained at St.VAST till 29th October, on which date it moved by march route to FLESSELLES arriving there at 1130. The idea of the change was to give each Battalion more accommodation. In our case however the change placed the Battln. in a worse position than at St.VAST. The Billets for men were very poor, and there was no accommodation at all for Bn. H.Qrs. After consultation with Brigade and Division, authority was given for Battalion, to move to VAUX-en-AMIENOIS on the 30th October. This move was a decided improvement. All men are accommodated on "bunks". In fact the billets and conveniences in this village are the best the Battalion has yet had.

The health of the Troops has been fair during the greater portion of the month. Three cases of Influenza have been sent to Field Ambulance within last two or three days.

Moral of troops during the month has been good. The tour of duty in the line was short and not severe.

Rations have been up to standard.

Second blanket and winter clothing were issued during the month.

Transport has been kept busy carting rations, and special trips for firewood etc. At St.VAST horses were all in billets. At VAUX they are accommodated in a large stable, specially built for Military purposes, and which provide splendid shelter.

The Battalion was favoured with a visit from a LENA ASHWELL Concert Party. The entertainment was short, but was much appreciated by the men. In addition two concerts have been given by members of the Battalion.

31st October 1918.

L. Beish Major.

T/Commanding 23rd Battalion.

MOVEMENT OF OFFICERS - OCTOBER 1918.

REJOINED UNIT

Lieut. F.J. Kirkwood M.M. From Supy. List 5.10.18.
2nd Lt. P.J.L. Foley from Hospt. sick 27.10.18.

TAKEN ON STRENGTH

2nd Lt. W. Whitbread On tfr. from 21st Bn. 13.10.18.
Capt. J.P.W. Hogg MC " " " " and to remain Sec. injured.
Lieut. R.A. Ball) On tfr. from 21st Bn. 13.10.18.
" W.C. Tomkin) and to remain Seconded Wounded.
" W.R. Finlayson MC)
" (Hon. Capt. & Q.M.) A.M. Boothman On tfr. from 21st Bn. and to remain Sec. with Aust. Corps Reinf. Camp.

Captain J.P.W. Hogg M C Rejoined from Sec. List 19.10.18.
Lieut. W.C. Tomkin M C " " " 24.10.18.

DEPARTURES

Major L.T.O. Pedler M C To England for return to A/ia. 1.10.18.
Lieut. C.D. Fethers M C Sec. as I.O. 6th A.I. Bde. 12.9.18.
2nd Lt. P.L.J. Foley To Hosp. Sick. 15.10.18.
Capt. J.P.W. Hogg M C Attd. 6th A.L.T.M.B. 21.10.18.
Lieut. W.C. Tomkin M C do 25.10.18.

PROMOTIONS

Lieut. (T.Capt.) W.A. Martin M C to be Captain 21.10.18.
Capt. J. Pascoe M.C. to be T/Major and relinquishes appointment of Adjutant 19.10.18.
2nd Lieut. P.J. Smith D S O to be Lieut. 1. 10.18.
" W.D. Campbell " "
" F.S. Kent " "
" F. Holdsworth " "

WOUNDED (Remaining at duty)

Lieut. L.S. Maddrell M C 4.10.18.
" H.C. Holland M C "

HONOURS and AWARDS, October 1918.

----- 00 -----

BAR TO MILITARY CROSS

Lieut. J.A. Wiltshire M.C.
 " F.J. Jenkins M.C. M.M.

MILITARY CROSS

Lieut. O.M. Elliott
 " G.W. Griffin
 Capt. W.A. Martin
 Lieut. H.C. Holland
 " L.G. Short
 " L.G. Addison
 2nd Lt. W.R. Finlayson
 Exp

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

5407 Pte. A.A. Moore
 1268 Cpl. J. Ryan
 982 Sgt. G. Warren
 334 " T.A. Dykes
 1758 " J.A. McClure

BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL

3951 Sgt. V. Vains M.M.
 711 Pte. J.G. Engel M.M.
 5466 L/c W.R. Bear M.M.
 2160 " J.D. Harney M.M.
 1205 Pte S.B. Hancock M.M.
 5877 Cpl. J.A. Schmidt M.M.
 2450 Sgt. W. Stevens M.M.

MILITARY MEDAL

189 Cpl. G.C. McCombe	4129 Pte. A.L. Langley
1087 L/c. P.C. Plunkett	7268 " M.J. Martin
2450 Sgt. W. Stevens	7353a " G.A. Young
703 Pte. W. Dafter	2141 " T. Delahunty
2592 L/c. W.T. Carter	5708 " R. Comb
934 Dvr W. Martin	4790 " H.P. Yeomans
6767 Pte. A. Adams	3193 L/c J.H. Morton
2160 L/c J.D. Harvey	5357 " H.C. Green
1205 Pte. S.B. Hancock	6127 Pte. G.T. Vanevery
5448 L/c H.C. Taylor	6361 " J. Mackie
6887 Pte. P.H. Scott	5536 " A.F. Brakey
961 " G.E. Barnard	2408 " F.V. Matthews
6051 Cpl. A.B. Ellem	5859 Sgt. D.G. McDonald
5877 Cpl. J.A. Schmidt	1181 " G. Stewart
90 Sgt. A.B. Brown	4454 Pte. R.P. McIntyre
77 CSM A.V. Bertuch	2080 " J. Lacey
4707 Cpl. D. Gorrie	2841 " H.T. Houson
5954 Pte. J. Pearce	

----- 0000 -----

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1918. *App. 12*

On the 1st. of the month the transport moved from TINCOURT to VILLERET remaining there two days, moving forward at 2.30 p.m. on the 3rd. to behind Canal Bank in the vicinity of BELLICOURT and remained there till the 7th. Then moved back on completion of relief of the Battalion to JEANCOURT. On the 8th. at 6 a.m. started to trek to StVAST, a distance roughly of 60 miles. The trip occupied two nights and three days, arriving at StVAST at 12.20 p.m. on the 9th. On the 29th. moved from StVAST to FLESSELLERS, remaining there one night, thence to VAUX, arriving there at 10.30 a.m. on 30th., taking over excellent stables and accomodation for men. In addition to the usual four train wagons, four motor lorries were utilised for this move.

During the tour in the line the Transport were kept busy carting rations and water forward, the latter being a stiff job to keep the supply going, having to go back six miles for same. On the 2nd. inst. one mule was wounded by bomb and evacuated. One heavy draught died on the 9th. inst.

The horses stood the trip well, but the mules arrived in an exhausted condition, showing that they are of an inferior condition and stamina.

31st. October 1918.

T. B. Farrell Capt
Lieut.
T.O. 23rd. Battalion.

Q.M.'s Report - October 1918.

On the 1st October '18 the Battalion was camped in a trench system outside the village of HAMEL and moved on the same day to VILLERET for a short time, and received orders to move forward as Support Battalion, to the 5th Brigade. The next morning the Cookers moved to the Battalion at H 13 a. near ETRICOURT. Transport Lines and Q.M.'s store established near the canal at BELLICOURT.

On the 2nd October '18 the Battalion was in Reserve to the 5th Brigade in the JONCOURT - ESTREES line, and moved up to attack on the 3rd with Battalion H.Qrs. in the BEAUVEVOIR Line. Cookers moved to a position under the ridge behind JONCOURT and hot meals were sent up to a quarry within 500 yards of the companies by means of the limber portion of the cookers.

On the night 5/6th Oct. the Battalion was relieved by AMERICAN TROOPS and moved back to Reserve for the night. The next morning Bn. proceeded to JEANCOURT where a night was spent in a trench system on the HARGICOURT - JEANCOURT ROAD. Transport and Q.M.'s store moving to same place independently.

On the morning of 7th the Battalion marched to ROISEL and entrained for St.ROCH and then marched to St.Vast - en - Chaussee. Portion of the Transport moved by Road, and the Cookers and Ration wagons by Omnibus train from TINCOURT to VIGNACOURT. Owing to the Omnibus Train being delayed the Cookers and ration wagons did not reach the Billets until 11 30 a.m. on the 8th, with the result that the Battalion had no rations until lunch time that day.

On arrival at St.VAST the village was found to be very crowded, and scarcely able to accommodate the two Battalions which were billeted there.

The following days were spent in taking shortage lists and preparing indents for the refitting of the Battalion, and also for the additional clothing which was authorised for winter use.

D.A.D.O.S. was situated at AILLY-sur-SOMME but being unable to find suitable accommodation there, shifted to MONTIERES and established a refilling point at LA CHAUSSEE. Most of the demands for Regimental stores and winter clothing were promptly supplied by Ordnance, but up to the end of the month little clothing has come to hand.

Owing to the crowded state of the billets at StVAST the Battalion was moved to FLESSELLES on the 29th inst., but found the Billets there in a worse condition than St.VAST, and moved to VAUX-en-AMIENOIS on the 30th. where the accommodation is excellent.

The ration refilling point is situated at TIRAN-COURT and throughout the month rations have been excellent, and have been well supplemented by local purchase of vegetables etc. from Bn. funds.

H. Chiles

Captain.

R.Q.M. 23rd Battalion.

31st October 1918.

Oct. 1,

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

5

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
 — AMONGST THE BOYS —
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Booked for Sunland—Ptes. Merrick, Theodore, Sidebottom and Gardiner.
 * * *

In a certain School appeared a sign which indicated that the apartment was for "Servants." This was too English for some of the boys, who immediately altered it to read:—Not Servants, but Dinkum Aussie "Dingbats."
 * * *

The previous course at the Australian Corps School left the 2nd Division with the Cups for aggregate points and musketry. We have now added the Sports Cup to our collection. Now it's up to officers and men to keep up the 2nd Division's fine record.
 * * *

The French Mission to Australia, under General Pau, has arrived.
 * * *

A party of British journalists visited the Battalion Printing office last week and were full of admiration at the work done by such primitive methods, etc.
 * * *

Is it true that "Rammy" was offered the position of "Soubrette" in a Brigade show, which he daintily refused.
 * * *

A commendable spirit of rivalry is noticeable among the companies doing guard, and the turn-outs generally have been splendid. Perhaps "B" Coy's last was a little more admired than the rest. There is a prize, we believe.
 * * *

Word has been received of Ptes. D. R. Potter and T. L. Smith. The former is at the Infirmary, Salisbury, and the latter somewhere in Blighty.
 * * *

L.-Cpl. Waddell is in No. 11 Stationary at Rouen with a head wound. He is expecting Blighty.

This issue of our little journal should prove a little more interesting than others for the cover is printed on paper "made in Germany," which was secured in a Divisional H.Q.'s. during the recent big advance.
 * * *

"Dad" Brooks, of H.Q., is one of the grittiest in the battalion and plods along through fair weather and foul with never a whimper. Writer knows a lot of young fellows who twist and scheme to get out of it, while old "Dad" sticks to it like a brick.
 * * *

At Weymouth—Cpl. Secombe, Ptes. Richards, Asling, Bob Davies, Paddy Louton, Turner, Adams, Hoban, A Coy.
 * * *

Most prominent among the "Two-ton-bar-vons" at the Division sports was "Dutchy" Keenan, who held his own against all the bunch of odds-layers.
 * * *

For the Tattersall-sur-Somme sweeps, the first of which were drawn on Division sports day, three of the boys, viz: Cpls. Ward and Huntley, and Pte. McKinnon, were lucky prize-winners.
 * * *

From the Australian War Records Section comes the information that photos of the 23rd. Printing Office, inside and outside, may be obtained on application to Lieut. McKenzie, Publicity Department, Australia House, Strand, London. The size is eight and a half by six and a half inches, and the price one shilling.
 * * *

Everybody saw stars the other night when the Hun plane came down in flames. Hundreds of flares fell out of the burning machine.

—
GENERALITIES
—

—
TO THE BOYS.
—

"Jack" Phillips is back with us again with a star that will soon twinkle in the sphere of football, we hope.

Soldiers, who have sufficient to their credit can draw up to 175 francs on next pay day. This is to provide for Xmas contingencies.

It is a pity the Div. Concert Party can't keep away from questionable jokes, especially when some of our nurses are present. A good show spoilt by suggestiveness.

At Melbourne's welcome to Lieut. Col. G. H. Knox, which was an enthusiastic one, there were present Chaplain-Col. Macrae-Stewart, Major M. Smith, Major Baird, Lieut. McIndoe, and many others of the old boys of the 23rd Battalion. The Colonel was very pronounced in his denunciation of the public house loungers and race course habitues who stayed at home and watched their comrades fight for them. "The man who had not done his job, should be ostracised," he said.

At the Div. sports meeting three officers that were once our own, Capt. T. Miller, E. T. Bazeley, M.C., and Lieut. C. B. Hislop were prominent. We were directly represented on the committee by Lieuts. P. J. Foley and Serg. Porter.

The President and Committee of 6th A.I. Brigade Sports have asked me to tender to you their thanks for your generous assistance in connection with the above sports. The success of the day was due in no small degree to your efforts. On behalf of the Committee, yours faithfully, C. B. Hislop, Lieut., Hon Secretary 6th A.I. Brigade Sports. Brigade's recognition of our work in printing their programmes.

The following few lines from our very own Miss Dorothy Brunton, whose affection for the boys is only equalled by their love for her, will no doubt be appreciated as all such messages are :—

Harewood House,
Hanover Square

Dear Brother Aussies,

Ever so many thanks for your dear old letter and paper. The latter I have read through and through.

I want to tell you how much I appreciated your letter to me—your loyalty is too wonderful for words. Never a night goes by at the theatre, but there is a Coo-ee or a cheery cry from somewhere in the house. You are all just great and I love you boys more than anything in the world. This may sound a very sweeping statement, but it's true.

My love to the boys of the 23rd Battn.,
Ever Sincerely,

DOT BRUNTON

(The letter was addressed to Pte. L. Hyndman, A Coy.)

Promotions.—Lc. cpl. Lauder to be Temp. Cpl.; Lc. cpl. Leviston, to be Temp. Cpl.

Lance Corp. Fitzpatrick writes to say he is progressing slowly towards recovery. It will be a couple of months before he is able to take his position on a homeward bound transport. He is, however, a sure thing for Aussie, eventually.

MORE BOUQUETS

The "Rochester Irrigator" says "The Voice of the Battalion is bright and breezy and breathes the indomitable spirit of our boys."

"We wish to express our appreciation of your brave little paper, and to tell you how much it helps us, and cheers all who have dear ones "Away." Thus the wife of a soldier with six children.

Mr. Duncan McDougall, director of Sands and McDougall writes — "Considering the difficulties and conditions, it is a great undertaking, and an excellent production."

The Melbourne Age — "We acknowledge receipt of the souvenir of the Voice of the Battalion, printed on the field.

The red-capped British Army Staff officer accompanying the visiting English journalists said, — "It proves there is nothing impossible if the will is there.

Mr. Mascord, chief of mechanical staff of the "Daily Chronicle" is astonished at the production of this journal under the circumstances. His assistance will receive due recognition in our next issue.

FOOTBALL

The winter game has commenced, and already some interesting matches have been played between companies. Competition is keen, as will be seen by the following close results:—

B Coy 7 goals 12 behinds v. D Coy 4 goals 3 behinds.

D Coy 7 goals 11 behinds v. H.Q. 6 goals 12 behinds.

B Coy 6 goals 4 behinds v. D Coy 4 goals 12 behinds.

H.Q. 6 goals 17 behinds v. C Coy 4 behinds.

The individual players in the teams show great promise, and with the return of two or three more of last year's "top-notchers" the battalion combination will, no doubt, uphold the soldier's premier-ship of Winter 1917.

Cheerio! Lieut. Baker left us about three days ago for six months furlough in the land of sun, after wading thro' the war and the winter of four years.

Lieut. Love looked very cheerful in Victoria Street, "Blighty," notwithstanding the fact that his right flank is held up. He desires to be back with the boys, but cannot do so until the right is relieved, which will take some time.



YPRES — BROODSEINDE.

24.

1st OCTOBER, 1918.

Price, Ten Centimes.

OUT OF EVIL.

When we think of the great world war it is difficult to find anything but hideous horror, ruin, desolation, death and that moral suffering that is perhaps even worse. But against all the devilish misdeeds which have brought about these terrors is the sublime spectacle of human heroism; of a noble duty carried out; of selfishness conquered and the practise of self-sacrifice made the law of life. Certainly the price paid by humanity for a glimpse of those developed qualities is appalling, and yet the benefits is almost beyond price. Surely, in the future, it will prove its worth. Generations to come will truly benefit by the general bettering of mankind, and ours and our children's children reap the golden goodness of a harvest of bloodiness, thus proving the truth of the old Biblical quotation "Out of evil cometh good things."

Lieut.-Col. Brazenor, our C.O., is at present ill in No. 4 Australian Auxillary Hospital, Welwyn, Herts. He sends regards and hopes to be soon with us. His heart is with the Battalion.

TO AN AIRMAN.

Swift as an eagle wheeling in its flight,
We saw him mount the sky—held our breath—
A speck upon the blue he passed from sight
Into the realms of death.
An English boy with frank and fearless eyes,
He stood foursquare to all the winds that blow,
Holding his honor fast, despising ties,
And we who loved him know,
That as a lark imprisoned on the sod
Freed from its trammels, sudden upwards springs
His radiant soul went circling up to God
With sunshine on its wings.

—J. Cuthbert Scott.

Australians are not used to the round, smooth-running wheels of the railway carriages in Blighty after travelling on the apparently oval or square wheels of France. Where's the difference? Is it the spring or the Spirit?

SPORTS.

BATTALION.

The above were as successful as possible under the circumstances, and in many events competition was keen. As will be seen in the following table of events, the name of J. Engel figured prominently, and so did that of D. Appleyard, as H.Q. and D. Coy. were well ahead in the aggregate:—

- 100 yds.—Ptes. Engel, 1; Bass, 2; Godfrey, 3.
 120 Hurdles—Ptes. Higgins, 1; Rimes, 2; Wellington, 3.
 220 yds.—Ptes. Engel, 1; Higgins, 2; Secombe, 3.
 440 yds.—Ptes. Engel, 1; Rimes, 2; Bass, 3.
 830 yds.—Ptes. Higgs, 1; Brakey, 2.
 Relay Race.—H.Q. Coy, 1; C. Coy, 2; D. Coy, 3.
 Three Mile—Pte. Gray, 1; L-Cpl. Holmes, 2; Pte. Higgs, 3.
 Long Jump—Ptes. Appleyard, 1; Secombe, 2; Higgins, 3.
 High Jump—Ptes. Appleyard, 1; Carroll, 2; Secombe, 3.
 Hop, Step and Jump—Pte. Appleyard, 1; Sgt. Vains, 2; Pte. Carroll, 3.
 Three Legged Race—Sgt. Vains and Pte. Houston, 1; Sgt. Wilson and Pte. Dawson, 2.
 Tug of War—C. Coy., 1.
 Points per Coy.—H.Q. Coy., 36½; D. Coy., 26½; C. Coy., 16; B. Coy., 1; A. Coy., 0.

BRIGADE.

Fine weather favored the Brigade event, and an excellent programme was carried out. The arrangements for comfort and convenience were complete in almost every detail, and Lieut. C. B. Hislop and his band are to be

complimented on the whole day's proceedings. The Battalion was represented by the following:—Major Beith, Lieuts. F. Jenkins, M.C., Holland, Foley, R.S.M. Osborn, D.C.M., Sergs. C. Wright and Porter.

Despite the absence of the majority of our best athletes the Battalion did remarkably well in almost everything, Pte. Jack Engel being the mainstay in the foot events. His determination and grit are something the unit feels proud of, and when our sprits were at a low ebb Jack "came to light," saving the situation, with the result that at the end of the day the Battalion finished 10 points ahead of the other three, and, for the third time winners of the Brigade Cup. Following are the results so far as the 23rd are concerned:—

- 100 yds. Flat Race—J. G. Engel, 1.
 440 yds. Flat Race—J. G. Engel, 2.
 Sack Race—Driver H. J. McMennamin, 1.
 Hop, Step and Jump—D. J. Appleyard, 1. V. Vains, 2.
 120 yds. Hurdle—H. Rimes, 1; H. Wellington, 3.
 Long Jump—V. Vains, 3.
 220 yds. Flat Race—J. G. Engel, 1.
 880 yds. Flat Race—Brakey, 2.
 High Jump—D. J. Appleyard and S. W. Holman divide 1st and 2nd.
 Relay Race—23rd Battn, 2.
 Wrestling on Horseback—23rd Battn, 1.
 Best Sustained Character ("Charlie Chaplin") S. J. Beattie, 1.
 The Cup was purchased and presented to the 23rd Battn., and a Balance Sheet has been forwarded to all units.

(Continued on Page 7.)

DIVISION

POINTS ALLOTTED

A blue sky, and bright sunshine tempered by a lovely cool breeze favored Division on their day out. The programme was a large one, and each Brigade had some "hot stuff," either in horseflesh or man-power, representing them, so that speculation was rife and the tote and commission agents were well supported. There was a canteen (certainly much too small for the occasion), and the Y.M.C.A. provided the familiar cocoa and biscuits. Perhaps the most important event of the day was the Band Contest, an innovation in military sports, and 12 bands faced the adjudicators for the quick step. In this the Sixth brigade scored a decisive victory, for the 24th Battalion band finished first, with the 21st a good second. Nobody was surprised and the general expression was that "the best band won." Our own musical combination evidently fell far short in proficiency, for its position was only eighth on the list. We all felt a little disappointed, but perhaps defeat will act as an incentive to greater things next time. General Birdwood showed by his presence that we are still first in his thoughts, and during the day he could be seen in conversation with many of the "old brigade." It was a big event, and everybody enjoyed the outing.

Following are the events in which we scored:—

- Wrestling on Horseback—6th Brigade Team, 1.
 Relay Race.—6th Brigade Team, 1.
 Lagnicourt Stakes [100 yds.]—Lieut. Painter, 3.
 Peronne Hop, Step and Jump.—Pte. Appleyard, 3.
 Sack Race.—Driver McMennamin, 3.
 Total points scored by the Brigade, 15.

The allotment of points in the Brigade Sports was as follows:—

23rd Battalion	—	31	points
21st "	—	19	"
22nd "	—	17	"
24th "	—	10	"
T.M.B.	—	1	"

BAND CONTEST.

Competition amongst the bands of the "Diamond" Division roused much enthusiasm, and the interest displayed by all ranks indicates that Orpheus will surely play a prominent part in the future life of the Australian when the world is again free of war's tentacles.

Included in the conditions of the contest were superiority in drill, marching; cleanliness of uniform and equipment, etc., which entailed much cheerful activity and anticipation on the part of the various battalions for the right and honor of saying "Ours is the best."

Following were the points gained in the main items:

Pos.	Pts.	Drill and			
		Music.	Insp'tn.	M'ch'ng. Ttl.	
		120	40	80	240
Points Awarded.					
24th Battn.	103	36	62	201	
21st "	99	36	59	194	
28th "	88	36	63	187	
18th "	92	33	56	181	
27th "	92	30	49	171	
2nd P'neer.	83	31	55	169	
23rd Battn.	85	34	46	165	
20th "	90	26	49	165	
26th "	79	32	50	161	
22nd "	69	32	52	153	
19th "	65	31	56	152	

APPENDIX 55



X X
 X REFLECTIONS. X
 X X



Printed and Published on the Battle
 Field, by Cpl. H. Ford.

app. 14

The Voice of THE Battalion

"FORWARD"

"UNDETERRED"

1st
 OCT.
 1918

23

PRICE
 10
 CENTS

IN THE AIR

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

"Fight on! Be not
 cast down with
 sorrow;
 For where our van-
 guard fights to-day
 Our rear will rest to-
 morrow."
 —Will Crooks.

25-5-18

GLN

33

57

THE SERGEANT'S ALPHABET

A stands for Anderson, he is the first
Of the Sergeants who stand for a won-
derful thirst.

B is for Brown, for Baker and Booth,
Also Bagnall, who collects medals,
forsooth.

C stands for Cockburn, be soft on the K
And Cameron too, who football can play
D is for Dwyer, who answers to Din.
Also for Dykes, which is Holland for Gin

E is quite empty like the Canteen.
F is a dud, or what might have been.

G is for Gar-
den, who likes
Summer show-
ers,

Also for Gar-
diner, who wat-
ers the flowers.

H is for Hume
who fixes our pay
And Home-
wood means
Aussie, we long
for the day.

I is for Isaacs
we've none of
that name.

J is for jam that is always the same.

K is for Keating, a slayer of Chats,
Kidd is the man who chases the Cats.

L stands for Law, for Laffan and Lear
Suggesting the "Beaks," some laugh-
ter and beer.

M is for Morrison all on his own,

A nice quiet worker who weighs just
ten stone.

Mc. is for McLure and McDonald you
see,

If you want to smash windows you'll
meet our McPhee.

N is for Nobody without any name,

When things go wrong he's the one
that they blame.

O is for Osborne, a hefty young Aussie
Who no one disputes when he pinches

their "possie."

P is for Parsons who has stood the test.
A red-headed blighter, but one of the best

Q with an M means Geordie Grant
He missed in the G's but here, well he
can't.

R is for Rammy, for Richards and Ray
Two dispense sunlight and one assists
"pay."

There's also Robertson and Robinson too
When their letters get mixed they make
the air blue.

S is for Sangar, Schultz, and for Stevens,
Stewart, who plays House and mixes the
"evens."

T is the time
that we'll have
on our spell.

If we come a
"G." we'll drive
Fritz to Hell.

U is a part of
the backsight we
know,

And it's "L"
teaching mus-
ketry out in the
snow.

V stands for
Vains, he pro-

nounces it Vines.

He sees that the sergeants look after
their lines.

W is Wilson who keeps the band tuneful
And Warren and Wright make up the
last spoonfull.

Wallace the Gunner and Gunner Tom
Heath

Slipped in the aitches and lost one of
his teeth.

X is an extra, it's a rotten old letter.

Y is the next, but it is'nt much better.

Z is the gentle Zephyrs that blow
On a coast down in Aussie, where we
hope to go.

"The first touch of frost makes all the
world shiver."



TO AMIENS CATHEDRAL.

Ameins Cathedral! You will remain
for Australian soldiers one of the war's
most potent memories. Long after hard-
ships and dangers are forgotten in the
return to normal comfort your soothing
beauty during many months of tragedy
will remain fresh and sweet. It is
strange how your loveliness meets the
eye at every turn near the front line.
You stand with your town in a hollow
at your feet. Beside you the close-
surrounding houses dwarf your giant
greatness. But ascend to the hills that
stretch far on every side and your
grandeur rises high above the huddled
homes.

Supreme in your unique adaptation to
the sky and country against which you
are set, to many weary eyes you have
been a beckoning picture of repose. It
is this completeness that gives, in a
large measure, the fascination that we
feel. If at any time or from any angle
you feel harsh or unkind we should
associate you with some of the terrible
moments of our lives. And we might
come to hate you. But so admirably do
you fit your natural surroundings that
we are moved to dream our highest
ideals before such perfect dignity.

We have seen you under all conditions
of sun and rain. In the early morning
you rise in tenderness from a sea of
downy mist. No monument of stone,
but soft in all the charm of feminine
outline. The risen sun has changed

you to a rock of strength, whose granite
base is edged with foam where the sun's
rays catch your flying buttresses. In
the summer evening you have been a
jewel of deepest blue in a setting of gold
mingling with the poppies' brilliant red.
Sometimes the clouds have sent their
shadows chasing in sheer delight across
your face, while the sun, shooting thro'
them, has brightened it with purest light.

And there have been the varying moods
of war. Tired from the line you have
wooded us to rest. In desperate thoughts
of further hardships you have spoken
with unfaltering beauty of the transitory
nature of our troubles. In moments of
ease you have won us to serenity by the
sheer charm of your unforgettable outline.
We have been in many sectors, in many
parts of Northern France, but nowhere
has such nobility urged us to our best.

Amiens owes much to the Australian
soldier, who has saved you from the
desecrating hand of the enemy. But
we owe more to the men who in the early
days built such a symbol of eternal
beauty. Your creators were faced with
the same troubles that burden our minds
to-day. They knew strife—in peace and
war. And they have shown if suffering
has to be endured it can be conquered by
beauty. Your town is deserted, a city
of silence and death. But you, in your
loveliness, tell us that in the heart of
suffering lies beauty. The beauty that
is truth. And here you have been before
our eyes these many months, whence all
who run may read.—L.G.S.

This space is reserved for you to write in. Do it now.