

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/43/35

Title: 26th Infantry Battalion

June 1918



AWM4-23/43/35

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

97

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

26th BATTALION A.I.F

FOR

JUNE 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

H. F. Pearson Lt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. Robinson Major

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

26th Bn
June orig

97

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIDEMONT.	1. 6.	18	<p>Vide War Diary for 31st May, the relief being complete the Bn. moved by route march for FRANVILLERS by route march. It is possible that the enemy suspected a relief for as the last company left BUIRE the enemy commenced a very heavy gas bombardment of that village but we had no casualties. On reaching FRANVILLERS the Bn took over the same trenches in C 29 b & d (Sheet 62° N.W. 1:20,000) as occupied from 12th - 21st May. Nobody was allowed in billets in the village on account of hostile shelling so the whole of Bn. H.Q. was moved out into the trench. After resting the men during the day, the men were given an opportunity to clean up their clothing and clothing and that night working parties commenced when 200 men were sent to dig the trench and bury 300^x cable in purpose of connecting Bde HQ in ^{HEILLY} BONNAY with line Bn. H.Q. in BUIRE.</p>	
FRANVILLERS	2. 6.	18.	<p>As it was expected that 7th A. I. Bde. would relieve 5th A. I. Bde reconnoitring parties were sent up to have a look over the 5th Bde area. In the evening 200 men were sent out filling in a trench containing a water pipe, 5600^x were completed. By Pipe track ran from PONT NOYEELES to LAHOUSOYE and hence to BONNAY.</p>	114P
FRANVILLERS	3. 6.	18.	<p>Reconnoitring 5th Bde area was continued. The number of men employed on working parties was increased, 72 men were to be employed daily in three shifts making mined dugouts at HEILLY Chateau, 50 men were sent to continue burying the pipe line and 1000^x was filled in. 250 men of the Bn. together with 250 men of the 28th Bn., the party being in charge of Lieut. W. H. Suffolk, dug 8 720^x cable trench (6'x2'), continuing</p>	114P

1

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FRANVILLERS	3. 6.	19	The job started on 1. 6. 18.	H.F.P.
FRANVILLERS	4. 6.	19	Working party in the HEILLY CHATEAU was continued and in the evening 25 men were sent out to complete the job of burying the pipe line.	H.F.P.
"	5. 6.	18	All working parties were cancelled as on night of 5 th /6 th June. 7 th A. I. Bde was to relieve the 5 th A. I. Bde in right Bde sector of 'B' Division of the Corps. 26 th Bn. was reserve Bn. to Bde and received 17 th Bn (operation orders attached). The relief was completed by 11.15 pm. without casualties to us. The companies occupied bivouacs dug in a steep two tier bank. Dispositions were as follows. Plot 62° NE. 1:20000 Bn HQ and R.A.P. J 21c 4050 'B' Coy. J 27a 5050 'D' " J 21c 20.00 to J 21c 4050. 'A' " J 21c 3030 to J 21c 5050 'C' " J 21c 5050 to J 21c 7580. The direction of the gully was S. S. E. and looking right over Territory occupied by the enemy front only the bank used by 'B' Coy was under direct observation and western side of gully was under direct observation still it was necessary to cut out all unnecessary movement. There were 7 Lewis Guns mounted for anti-aircraft work.	App. I
J 21.	6. 6.	18.	Day was quiet though at times the enemy artillery made things very warm around WELLCOME WOOD Arrangements were made by Bde. for the	H.F.P.

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J 21c	6. 6. 18		<p>Planned to supply a nightly working party of 500 men to bury cable. This cable was to connect up a Bn HQ in J 22d to a Bn HQ in J 17 b (right & left front line Bns respectively). This was done in view of the attacks which was to be made in about 4 days time when Bn HQ in J 24d would be used as Bn HQ.</p> <p>These arrangements necessitated all four companies moving out as a fighting force so an operations order was issued (attached). The 800^x were completed during the first month night's work.</p>	<p>114P App. II App III</p>
"	7. 6. 18		<p>A lot of movement could always be seen in the enemy back areas such as trains etc. but it was all unfortunately out of range of any guns on this portion of the front. Hostile artillery was fairly active about J 27a but very little gas was used. On the evening 450 men were employed on the same tasks as the previous evening and 675^x were completed. Out of the 450 men, 20 were employed carrying up cable.</p>	<p>114P</p>
"	8. 6. 18		<p>During the day the enemy artillery was quieter than usual but commenced to warm up about eleven o'clock and just before midnight started to send over a large number of gas shells.</p>	
"	9. 6. 18		<p>Working party was the same as the previous night & completed 600^x. By one o'clock the gas was very thick and was rolling down the gully in thick pockets but the men had already been wearing their masks for an hour. The gas was a mixture of sneezing phagere</p>	<p>114P</p>

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J 21c	9. 6. 18		<p>and lachrymatory but owing to prompt obedience of standing orders in defence against gas there were no gas casualties in the battalion. Final orders were received for the attack which was to take place the following night and necessary orders were issued (attached). At midday the Lt. Col. called a meeting of all the officers and explained the possible ways in which Bns. might have to act if called upon. Whilst coming up to this meeting a shell burst amongst the "B" Coy officers, wounding 4 of them, Lieut's Stapleton, Brown, Rm. Fitchener & Taylor, the first two only slightly. The order of battle for the attack was: 27th Bn. on the right, 25th Bn. in the centre and 28th Bn. on the left with 26th Bn. in reserve. All Bns had to be in position by 3am 10. 6. 18 as it was to be a daylight attack.</p> <p>The Bn. moved to its new position at 11pm.</p> <p>Bn. H.Q. was at J 22d 50.00</p> <p>"B" Coy "b" Coy less 1 platoon and "A" Coy occupied ROMA LINE in that order from right to left. 3 platoons "B" Coy took up a position in sunken road in J 23d & J 24a from which at zero hour they were to push forward one platoon to the old front line of each Bn. in the attack and there form a nucleus garrison. The remaining platoons of "B" Coy and 1 platoon of "b" Coy occupied this road till zero hour when they were to report to 7th A.L.T.M.B. as a carrying party.</p> <p>All Coy's had taken up their new positions by 12.30 am 10th Bn. moved in and took up position previously occupied by the Bn.</p>	<p>App. ^{VI} _{IV}</p>
J 22d	10. 6. 18		<p>they were to report to 7th A.L.T.M.B. as a carrying party.</p> <p>All Coy's had taken up their new positions by 12.30 am 10th Bn. moved in and took up position previously occupied by the Bn.</p>	<p>M.F.P.</p> <p>4</p>

A7092 Wt. 1128g/M1293-750,000. 1/17. D. D & I. Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
J 22 d	10.	6. 19	<p>During daylight all movement was reduced to a minimum so that the enemy would not gain any knowledge of the impending attacks. In spite of orders to this effect there was a considerable amount of movement above ground and along roads by certain units. During the day the enemy was very quiet indeed.</p> <p>At 9.45 pm. the barrage opened and the hostile reply was very feeble and right through the attacks there was very little M. G. fire or artillery fire on front line or attacking troops, most of the artillery coming onto the support areas. The objectives were reached with very little opposition except in the centre and the B. Co. was not called into action at all.</p>	
J 22 d	11.	6. 19	<p>During the day the hostile artillery was very active and shelled front support and back areas consistently using very little gas. However positions were rendered more uncomfortable by the fact that the enemy could use enfilade fire from his artillery on the right. Considering the amount of shelling done by the enemy very little damage or few casualties were caused. Enemy seemed to use a high proportion of "106" fuzes on his 7.7 + 10.5 cm. shells which rendered them far more dangerous to troops above ground as the pieces of shell flew very long distances keeping very low.</p>	L. J. P.

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J 22 d	14.	6. 18	During the day the two platoons which had been employed carrying during the attacks, reported to "C" Coy in ROMA LINE. Nothing of any further importance occurred during the day	114P
"	12.	6. 18	Hostile artillery was much less on back areas though at times would have a short violent area shoot on certain areas. Each night the Bns supplied working parties totalling 180 men as carrying parties carrying wiring material Stokes bombs, 6" Newton bombs etc to all parts of the Bde front. On 12. 6. 18 Lieut Noel Leavers O.S.O. went back to transport line with influenza command being taken by Major Robinson O.S.O. who came up from the Nuclius.	
"	13.	6. 18	On 13. 6. 18. the three platoons of "B" Coy moved back to CLERMONT LINE and were rejoined by the platoon which had been attached to "C" Coy.	114P
	14.	6. 18	Day was very quiet. Bn. was relieved by 31st Bn (oper. order attached) which commenced to arrive about 11.30 pm.	App. V 114P
	15.	6. 18	Relief was completed by 1.30 pm and Bn. moved by route march by companies to the vicinity of Freuchencourt. During the stay in the forward area the Bn. had an epidemic of influenza and altogether about 50 cases were sent either to Hospital or to the transport line about 50% of the cases came from "B" Coy.	

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FRECHEN-COURT	15	6. 18	<p>The last company arrived at their bivouac by 4.30 am. The dispositions were: (62° N.W. 1:20000)</p> <p>Bn H.Q. & R.A.P. in bank at C 190 4030 "A" Coy " " " C 25b 3085 "B" " " " " C 25d 4095 D " " Trench " C 25d 7060 C " " banks in I 1 a central</p>	
"	16	6. 19	<p>The period was spent in the usual training of all arms and there was plenty of recreational training in the form of intercompany cricket matches in which "D" Coy proved itself the strongest company. A match was played between a team picked from the officers and a team from the men. The officers won rather easily by seven wickets. Scores were:</p> <p>Officers 1st Innings 75. 2nd Innings 42 for 3 wickets. Men " 30 " 86.</p> <p>Top scores were: Officers 1st Innings: Major Robinson O.S.O. 35. 2nd Innings: Lieut. Col. R.G.A. Leavers O.S.O. 18. Men: 1st Innings: C.O. M. S. Corbett 14. 2nd Innings: C.O. M. S. McVah 25 & Pte Dixon 20. Lieut R.M. Smith carried off the bowling honours with 7 wickets for 125 runs.</p> <p>A football match was played between the Bn. and 4 Bde A.F.H. the latter winning by 7 to 3.</p> <p>On 17. 6. 19 the nucleus under Lieut. Col. Leavers rejoined the Bn. from BERTEAUCOURT & Lieut Leavers resumed command of the Bn.</p>	<p>114P</p> <p>KJP</p>

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FRECHEN-COURT	23. 6. 18	6. 18	Period was as usual. On 24. 6. 18 the L.O. took temporary command of the Bn Bde, in the absence of the G.O. C., Major Robinson D.S.O. taking command of the Bn. Early on the morning of 25. 6. 18 orders were received for a move to "A" Divisional area of the corps the next day and reconnoitring parties were immediately sent out. At midday Major Robinson left for Paris on leave and Capt. Cameron took command until the return of Col. Lavers that evening at 8 o'clock.	11.4.18															
"	25. 6. 18	6. 18																	
"	26. 6. 18.	6. 18.	<p>The advance parties moved out at 6 a.m. and Bn. moved by route march to the new area at 7.50 a.m. (oper. order attached)</p> <p>The Bn. arrived at their destination at 1 p.m. after a very hot march and relieved 39th Bn. A.I.F. Dispositions were as follows:-</p> <p>Start 62° SW. 1:20.000</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Bn. H.Q.</td> <td>in bank</td> <td>N34d 6050</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" Coy</td> <td>" trench</td> <td>T5a 4880 to N35c 5230</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"B" "</td> <td>" "</td> <td>N35c 5220 to N35c 1084.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"C" "</td> <td>" "</td> <td>N34d 4510 to N34d 7055. spots N34c 75.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"D" "</td> <td>" "</td> <td>N34d 6005 to N34d 9075</td> </tr> </table> <p>The R.A.P. and cookers were in the capes in N35c.</p> <p>In addition "A" Coy supplied a garrison of 1NCO and 6 men for an international post at T6a 8570.</p> <p>The Bn. received orders that they were to relieve the 41st Bn. in the line at VILLERS BRETONNEUX on night of 27th/28th so reconnoitring parties and advance parties moved up that night, the former to learn all about the</p>	Bn. H.Q.	in bank	N34d 6050	"A" Coy	" trench	T5a 4880 to N35c 5230	"B" "	" "	N35c 5220 to N35c 1084.	"C" "	" "	N34d 4510 to N34d 7055. spots N34c 75.70	"D" "	" "	N34d 6005 to N34d 9075	11.4.18 App. VI
Bn. H.Q.	in bank	N34d 6050																	
"A" Coy	" trench	T5a 4880 to N35c 5230																	
"B" "	" "	N35c 5220 to N35c 1084.																	
"C" "	" "	N34d 4510 to N34d 7055. spots N34c 75.70																	
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N 34 d	26. 6. 18		and the latter to do likewise and take over all trench stores etc.	17 pp.
"	27. 6. 18		The Bn. had its first casualty in this sector when one of "b" boy cooks was shot dead by a ^{chance} bullet from a German aeroplane whilst diving at a very low altitude after an English machine. The fight passed over Bn. H.Q. at a height of 300'-400' and the Lewis gunners got in some very good shooting. The German plane did not seem at all happy when going home. This was the tail end of a fight which started 3/4 hour before a long way behind the German lines between 5 British planes and 13 German machines. The fight was disastrous for the British as result was 3 shot down out of control 1 driven down in flames and 1 driven down in control, pilot of which died of wounds shortly afterwards. The fight which passed over the Bn was between three of our scouts ^{which had chipped in} and a German but our machines were no match for the heavily armed E.A. Bn. commenced to move at 9.30 p.m. (open order attached)	17 pp. VII 17 pp.
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	28. 6. 18.		Relief was completed by 12.45 am. with out casualty to us. "A" boy was in front line left and "c" boy front line right. "B" boy was in support and "d" boy in reserve. (Dispositions maps & aeroplane photos attached). 1 st Bn. 37 th Tirailleurs 37 th Division (French) were on our right and 25 th Bn A.I.F. on our left. The sector was a very quiet one and very little was ever seen of the enemy either in front of or behind his line when we took over the line from the 41 st Bn. it was a continuous line but generally very shallow and	17 pp. VIII

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VILLERS BRETONNEUX	28. 6	18	-and required a lot of work to get it down. The wire was fairly good south of the railway line, north of the railway line it was very scattered but still formed a considerable obstacle. The day was very quiet with little artillery activity on the part of the enemy. He had no M.W. on this front except a few poor pneumatic throwers which fired sometimes he let our front line garrisons alone.	H. 40.
"	29. 6	18.	Was very quiet indeed and not more than 6 men were seen behind the German front line during the day though observation was rather restricted by the formation of the ground. Hostile artillery was below normal usual protection and liaison patrols were sent out (patrol reports attached)	17 pp. IX H. 40.
"	30. 6	18	As the preceding day the enemy kept very quiet and only wakened up when Mills Grenades No 36 were sent over and then he retaliated though was easily overcome and slew little staying powers. Usual staying patrols were sent out during the night but beyond hearing working parties nothing was seen of the enemy. During the month the first serious attempt was made to have an organised collection of war souvenirs for and also of war trophies previously carried by individuals. These were for the Post. sections of the A. I. F. War Trophy Museum. The collection was in charge of Lieut Mc Donnell.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
FRANCE.	JUNE.		Return of strength —									
			@ Parade state at 31. 5. 18.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>off.</td> <td>OR.</td> <td>off.</td> <td>OR.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30.</td> <td>783.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	off.	OR.	off.	OR.	30.	783.		
off.	OR.	off.	OR.									
30.	783.											
			<u>Arrivals</u>									
			From hospital	3. 99.								
			O.T.C.	2.								
			Detached duties	4. 28 9. 127								
			<u>Departures</u>	39. 910.								
			Killed	7								
			Wounded	3. 51								
			Hospital	1. 111								
			Detached duties	5. 75. 9. 244.								
			Parade state at 30/6/18	30. 666.								
				1140								
			J. A. Robinson Major									

WAR DIARY

OF

26th BATTALION

FOR

JUNE 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I.	Operation orders of 17 th Bn A.I.F.
II.	" " for cable burying.
III.	Congratulatory letters from C.O. 2 nd Div. Sig.
IV.	Oper. orders for attacks 10. 6. 18.
V.	" " " relief by 31 st Bn A.I.F.
VI.	" " " " of 39 th Bn. A.I.F.
VII.	" " " " of 41 st " "
VIII.	Disposition Reports
IX.	Disposition maps aeroplane photos.
X.	Patrol report.
XI.	Transport officer's report.
XII.	Quartermaster's report.

ORDER NO. 82

97

June 5th 1918

Reference Map Sheet 6WD 1/20000

1. The 7th Aus. I. Brigade will relieve the 5th Aus. I. Brigade in the RIGHT SECTOR of the Front on the night of 5/6th June 1918.

2. Position of Units will be:-

RIGHT FRONT LINE	27TH BATTALION.
LEFT " "	26TH " "
SUPPORT.....	25TH " "
RESERVE.....	26TH " "

26TH
 AUSTRALIAN
 INFANTRY BATT'N.
 No. 301/-

3. The 26th Battalion will relieve the 17th Battalion in Bank at J. R. C. 40.50.

4. Order of relief will be:-

"B" Coy. 26th Battalion will relieve "B" Coy. 17th Battalion.
 "C" " " " " " " " " " "
 "A" " " " " " " " " " "
 Head Quarters.

5. Leading platoon of "B" Coy. will move out at 9.0.p.m.

6. Distance of 150 yards will be maintained between platoons.

7. DRESS will be FIGHTING ORDER.
120 rounds extra S.A.A. and two bombs per man.

8. Route will be that which has already been reconnoitered by Company Guides.

9. Advance parties from Coy's will report to 17th Battalion at 8.0.p.m. tonight.

10(a) Trench stores, Maps, Defence Schemes etc. will be taken over on relief and receipts in duplicate forwarded to Battalion H. Qrs.
 (b) All Defence schemes, duties, trench stores, shelters, etc. in present positions will be handed over to advance party of incoming unit and receipts in duplicate forwarded to Battalion Head Quarters.

11. Officers valises and all other gear for Transport Lines will be stacked in rear of Coy's trench ready to be picked up by Limber at 4.0.p.m.

12. All Lewis Guns and gear will go forward on limbers to Coy's positions. 1.N.C.O. or man per gun will accompany the limbers.

13. All men at present detached in this area will be relieved tomorrow 6th inst., LIEUT. LILLY, N.C.O. will arrange for them to rejoin their Coy's the same night.

14. Completion of relief to be notified to Battalion Head Quarters by sending Company Commanders name.

15. Acknowledge. *It transport & stores remain in their present positions.*
Issued by runner at 3.0.p.m.

Captain & Adjutant

- Copy No. 1. File
- 2. "A" Coy.
 - 3. "B" "
 - 4. "C" "
 - 5. "D" "
 - 6. H. Qrs.
 - 7. T. O. Staff
 - 8. 7th A. I. Brigade
 - 9. TT " "

97

ORDER NO 39.

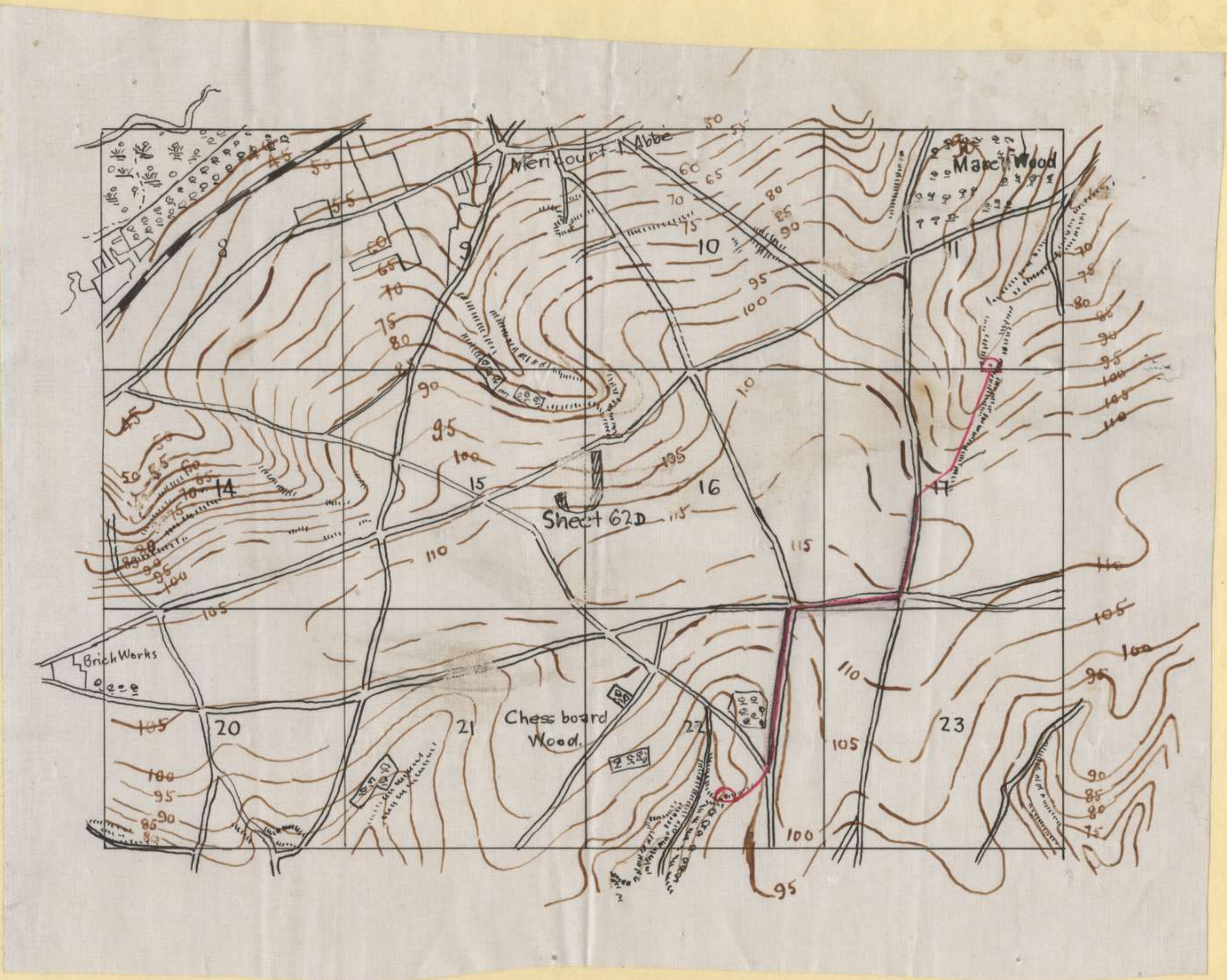
14

Reference Map 62.D. I/20,000

6/6/1918

- (I) The 26th Battalion will be employed in burying cable from Right Battalion headquarters, to Cross Roads, J.16.D.20.75. on the night of the 6th & 7th June 1918.
- (2) A trench will be dug 7feet deep, the bottom without hummocks along the Eastern side of Road running through J.22.C & D. to J.16.D.00.75.
- ~~XXX~~ When this is complete and passed by the Divisional Signall Officer, cable will be laid and the trench filled in. Every care must be taken, to conceal the work as much as possible.
- (3) All Companies will be employed, the distribution being from North to South:-
- | | | |
|-----|-----|---------|
| "C" | "A" | Company |
| "A" | "B" | do |
| "D" | "C" | do |
| "B" | "D" | do |
- (4) Officers will reconnoitre the ground, and each company's allotment marked out this afternoon 6th inst.
- (5) Lieutenant W.H.SUFFOLK. will be in charge, of the distribution of tools.
He will arrange that "C" Company be supplied with tools from Battalion dump before moving out.
All other companies will pick up their tools at Right Batt'n headquarters, these will be dumped in the vicinity of the job, in order that the work be continued next night.
- (6) Companies will move out at 10 p.m. in parties not larger than Platoons, in the following order. "D", "A", "D", & "B".
- (7) All ranks must be fully equipped and Lewis Guns will be taken.
- (8) Equipment will be removed before commencing work and laid out beside each party.
- (9) Lieutenant P.J.WHITTAKER. will arrange to have a telephone installed, at a position in ROMA TRENCH where ADELAIDE C.T. cuts the trench. Communication will be maintained with Battalion headquarters until completion of the work.
- (10) In the event of any enemy action, Companies will occupy ROMA TRENCH between BRAY-CORBIE Road and ADELAIDE C.T. and await further orders.
- (II) On completion of work Companies will return to their present position.
- (12) Acknowledge.

(Signed) F.C.Lloyd. Captain
Adjutant 26th Batt'n



Appendix No..... 26th BATTALION A.I.F.

War Diary

Copy of letter from 2nd, Aus, Div, Sig, Coy. to 26th Battalion.
dated 14th June 1918.

" I have written to the 7th Aus Inf Brigade, in the endeavour to express the appreciation of the Signal Service, for the work performed by the Officers & Men of your Battalion, upon Cable burying, whilst in the present area.

The standard of work performed, and the rapidity with which the tasks were effected, has yet to be excelled.

(Signed) S.H. Watson Major

O.C. 2nd Aus Div Sig Coympny.

16

APPENDIX III

16

ORDER NO.....

9th JUNE 1918

Reference Map. 62 D. N.E. I/20,000

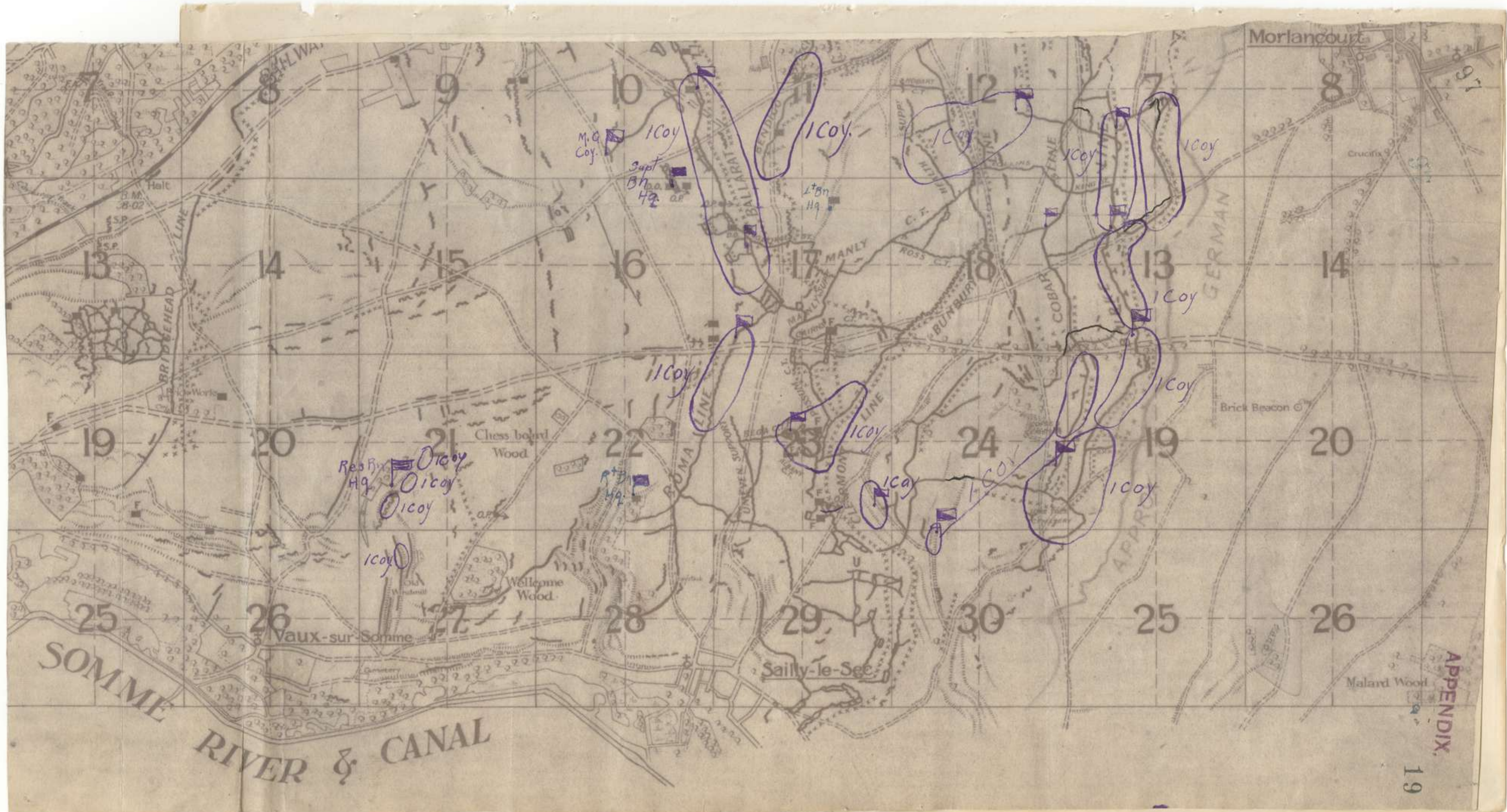
1. The 7th Brigade in conjunction with the 13th Brigade on our Right under cover of Artillery and Machine Gun ~~Fire~~ barrage will make an attack on the enemy at a date and hour to be notified later.
2. The attack will be carried out by the 25th, 27th, & 28th Battalions, the 26th Battalions being in reserve.
3. The Objectives for the attacking Battalions will be as follows:-
 - (A Bn) 27th K.25.C.00.50. to K.19.D.30.20.
 - (B Bn) 25th K.19.D.30.20. to K.13.D.70.20.
 - (C Bn) 28th K.13.D.70.20. to K.13.B.20.75.
4. The 26th Battalion less parties detailed below will occupy ROMA TRENCH tonight 9/6/1918 from BRAY-CORBIE Road to ADELAIDE C.T. at J.22D.60.30.
Position of Companies will be "A" Coy North; "C" Coy less I Platoon Centre "D" Coy South.
5. O/C "B" Coy will detail the following parties :-
 - (a) I platoon under the command of Lieut BRUFORD with Extra L.G. as a Nucleus for Present Front Line held by 27th Battalion
 - (b) Lieut SUFFOLK and one platoon with extra Lewis Gun for Nucleus for present front line of 25th Battalion.
 - (c) Lieut KERR and one platoon with extra Lewis Gun as Nucleus for present Front Line of 28th Battalion.
 - (d) Lieut McDONNELL and one platoon less Lewis Gun as carrying Party for 7th A.L.T.M.B.
 - (e) O/C/ "C" Coy will detail Lieut WATTS and one Platoon less Lewis Gun as carrying Party for 7th A.L.T.M.B.
 - (f) Captain LANYON to take charge of both Carrying parties (d) & (e).
6.
 - (a) The parties detailed in para (5) will detail PIONEER TRENCH tonight 9/6/1918 and will be under the Command of O/C "B" Coy.
 - (b) At Zero hour, parties mentioned in para(5), sub para's (A) (B) & (C) will move into Front Line Nucleus Positions using SINGLETON STREET, KIWI C.T., and URALLA C.T. respectively
The Officer in charge of each Platoon will carry Very Flares and One S.O.S.
 - (c) Parties mentioned in Sub Para's D, E & F. will move forward at Zero Hour to Headquarters 7th A.L.T.M.B. and will carry forward as Mutually arranged with O.C. Battery.
7. The following Officers each with Two Runners will act as Liaison Officers. They will report to their respective Batt'n Headquarters one hour before Zero.
 - Lieut S.R.HOCKINGS with 27th Battalion
 - Lieut H.H.P.HAMILTON with 25th Battalion.
 - Lieut A.H.BROWN. with 28th Battalion.
8. Dress will be Battle Order, 220 rounds S.A.A. and Two Bombs per Man.
9. Water Bottles will be Filled and 24hours Rations will be Carried.

PAGE 2.

- 97
- I0. Lieut P. J. WHITTAKER will arrange all signal Communications between A.C. & D. Coys and Battalion Headquarters.
 - II. The Greatest precautions must be taken that all movement in the vicinity of positions occupied by the Battalion is reduced to a Minimum
 - I2. Contact Patrols flying the usual Black Streamer will operate over Front Line between 4-0 a.m. And 6-0 a.m.
 - I3. Counter Attack Patrols will fly Over Front Line From 6-0 a.m. (Red yellow and Blue streamers) and will signify Enemy assembling by Firing White Very Light and sounding Klaxon Horn.
 - I4. R.A.P. will be at J.22.D.30.40.
 - I5. Reports to Battalion Headquarters at J.22.D.00.35.
 - I6. Acknowledge.

Signed F.C.Lloyd. Captain
Adjutant 26th Battalion

Issued by Runner At 5-0 p.m.



ORDER NO.....

14th JUNE 1918

Reference Map 62.D. I/40,000

1. The 7th Brigade will be relieved in the Right Brigade Sub-Sector by The 8th A.I. Brigade on the Night 14th & 15th June
2. The 31st Battalion will relieve the 26th Battalion in support (ROMA TRENCH & CLERMONT LINE)
3. Order of Relief will be:-

"A" Coy 31st Battalion will relieve	"D" Coy 26th Battalion.
"B" Coy do do	"C" Coy do do
"C" Coy do do	"A" Coy do do
"D" Coy do do	"B" Coy do do
4. Guides for incoming Unit at the rate of One per Company from each "A", "C" & "D" Company's and One per Platoon from "B" Coy. will report to Battalion Headquarters at 8-30 p.m; 14/6/1918
5. O/C/ "C" Coy will detail an Officer to take charge of Guides He will report to Battalion Headquarters at 8-30 p.m. for instructions.
6. Advance Party. Lieut G.W. FRANCIS and representatives of all Coy's and Headquarters at present at Transport Lines will proceed to Headquarters 59th Battalion at C.19.C.90.10. and take over positions at present occupied by them. All area stores etc, will also be taken over and receipts given.
7. All Trench Stores, Defence Schemes, Maps, etc, will be handed over to incoming Unit, and in addition the 100 Rounds extra S.A.A. and Two Bombs now carried on the Man will be collected and handed over also.
Receipts to be obtained in duplicate and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as early as possible.
8. All Ranks must leave the Line fully equipped.
9. Lewis Guns and gear will be picked up by Limbers near present cooker positions. One man per Gun will accompany the limber
10. All cooks gear (dixies petrol tins etc) must be returned to cookers by 8-0 p.m.
11. O/C "A" Coy will detail a party of 4 O/R, as a Loading party to report to C.S.M. Ford at Battalion Headquarters at 9-0 p.m. This Party will move out with the Last Limber.
12. All trenches at present occupied by the Battalion must be left in a perfectly clean condition.
13. On completion of relief companies will move out independently to new Area Location FRESH SWITCH C.19 & C.25. in the vicinity of FRESCHENCOURT
14. Distance will be maintained between Platoons as the Situation demands.
15. Lieut G.W. FRANCIS will arrange to have Guides to meet companies at Cross Roads in I.E.D. LAHOUSOYE.
16. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters by sending through Company commanders Name.

Issued by Runner at 12-0 Noon.

Signed F.C. Lloyd Captain

26TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

PRELIMINARY
ORDER NO. 30.

APPENDIX. VI 21

26TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
Head Quarters.
June 25th. 1918

Reference Map Sheet 62 D. 1/40000.

1. The 26th Battalion will relieve the 39th Battalion, 10th Brigade on the 26th inst., - and the 41st Battalion on the Right Sector of the Right Brigade Front on the night 27th/28th June 1918.
2. The Order of march on the 26th inst., will be :-
Head Quarters, "C", "D", "B", "A" Coys.
3. Starting Point will be X Roads H.12.a.8.7.
Time -----7.50.a.m.
Route-----QUERRIEU X Roads H.34.d.7.6.- X Roads N.2.c.1.8.
LA MOTTE, Bridge in N.14.d. GLISY to Trenches in N.34.d.
4. Distances will be maintained as follows:-
North of the River Somme.....Between Coys 100x
South " " " " " " " 300x
" " " " " " " " Platoons 100x
5. All Defensive Instructions, Defence Schemes and marked maps concerning the Reserve Brigade, and trench stores, will be taken over from Units of the 10th A.I. Brigade and receipts given.
All Orders and instructions regarding the role of the Division and this Brigade whilst in Corps Reserve, will be handed over to units of the 10th A.I. Brigade and receipts obtained.
6. An extra 100 rounds S.A.A. and 1 bomb per man will be issued forthwith.
7. Mens kits will be packed and stacked ready for removal
Nucleus personnel (as per nominal rolls supplied) will retain packs and blankets.
8. Advance parties consisting of 1. Officer per Coy and 1. N.C.O. per Platoon (including N.C.O.'s who have already reconnoitred new position) will report to Lieut. H.F. Pearson, M.C. at B.O.R. at 6.0.a.m. on 26th inst.
9. Completion of relief on 26th inst., to be wired to Battalion Head Quarters.
10. Acknowledge.

NOTE

Further instructions in detail will be issued later.
Issued by runner 11.30.a.m.

H. F. Pearson
Lieutenant A/Adjutant

- Copy NO. 1. File
2. "A" Coy.
 3. "B" "
 4. "C" "
 5. "D" "
 6. H. Qrs"
 7. 7th Brigade. H. Q.
 8. T.O. & Q.M.
 9.)
 10.) War Diary.
 11.)

ORDER NO 31.

26th June 1918

REFERENCE MAP 62.D.S.W. I/20,000

- I. The 7th Brigade will relieve the 11th Brigade in the Right Brigade sub Sector on the 27th/28th June 1918
2. The 26th Battalion will relieve the 41st Battalion in the Right Front Line.
3. Order of relief will be:-

"A" Company	Front Line	Left
"C" Company	do do	Right.
"B" Company		Support
"D" Company		Reserve.
4. Guides at the rate of One per Platoon will meet Companies at Cross Roads at O.27.D.3.4.
5. (a) No movement will take place forward of O.27.D.3.4. before 10-0 p.m.
 (b) All movement forward of this point will be by section at 100 ft interval.
6. Machine Guns and gear to go forward will be stacked for transport by 6-0 p.m.
 All gear for Transport Lines to be stacked at Battalion Headquarters by 7-0 p.m.
7. Lieut W.J. McDONNELL will arrange to hand over all Trench stores, Defence Schemes etc, at Present position and obtain receipts in duplicate.
8. Officers in charge of Advance Parties proceeding on night of 26th & 27th, to the Line will take over all Trench stores etc, from 41st Battalion and will forward receipts in duplicate to Battalion Headquarters on completion of relief.
9. Transport Lines and Q.M. Stores will remain in their present position
10. R.A.P. will be at small quarry in O.27.D.50.80. approx,
11. Battalion headquarters at quarry in O.28/C.80.50.
12. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion H.Q. in code
13. Acknowledge.

Issued by Runner AT 5-0 p.m.

Signed F.C. Lloyd Captain
 Adjutant 26th Battalion.

Disposition Report

26th Bn.Sheet 62^d S.W. 1:20000

28. 6. 18.

Bn. H.Q. O 28c 80.45.
 R.A.P. O 35c 05.47.
 O.P. chateau O 34b 95.87.
 A.A.C. Lewis guns. O 28c 72.45.

Rt. Front Coy. "C" Coy.

Coy H.Q.

U 5b 9080.

1 platoon + 1 section (International U 5b 1020 - U 5b 3248
 post)

1 "

U 5b 4760 - U 5b 65.95.

1 "

U 5b 7098 - O 35d 95.05.

1 " less 1 section.

U 5b 0575.

Left Front Coy. "A" Coy.

Coy H.Q.

O 36^c 4070.

1 platoon

O 35d 95.05 - O 36c 42.18.

1 "

O 36c 5010 - O 36c 85.22.

1 "

O 36d 0027 - O 36d 2055.

1 " BRETT SWITCH

O 36c 6080.

Support Coy "B" Coy.

Coy H.Q.

O 35d 18.43.

1 platoon

O 35d 20.00 - O 35d 3524.

1 "

O 35d 3524 - O 35d 7030.

1 " banks

O 35d 1843.

1 "

O 35c 9030.

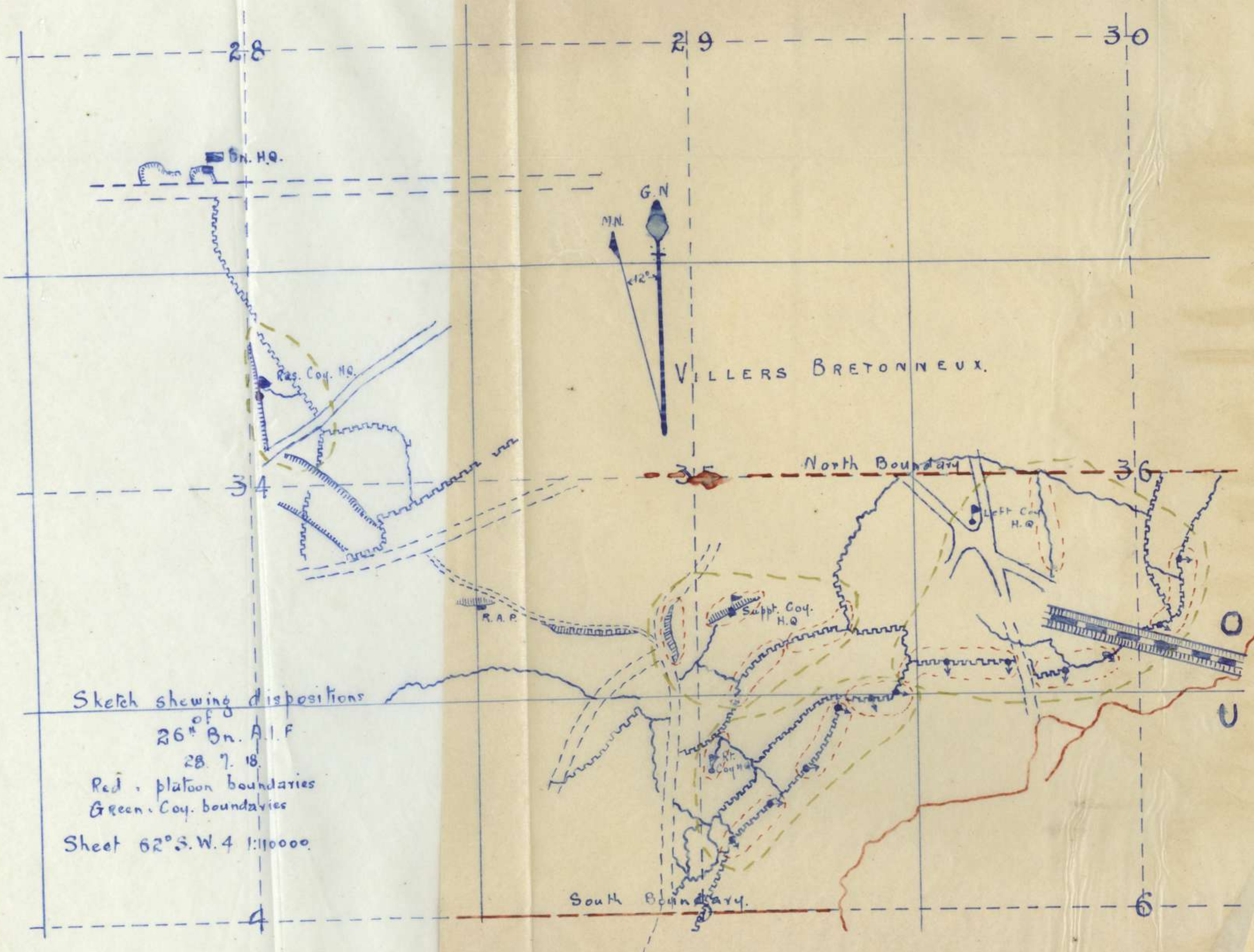
Reserve Coy "D" Coy.

Coy H.Q.

O 34b 1250.

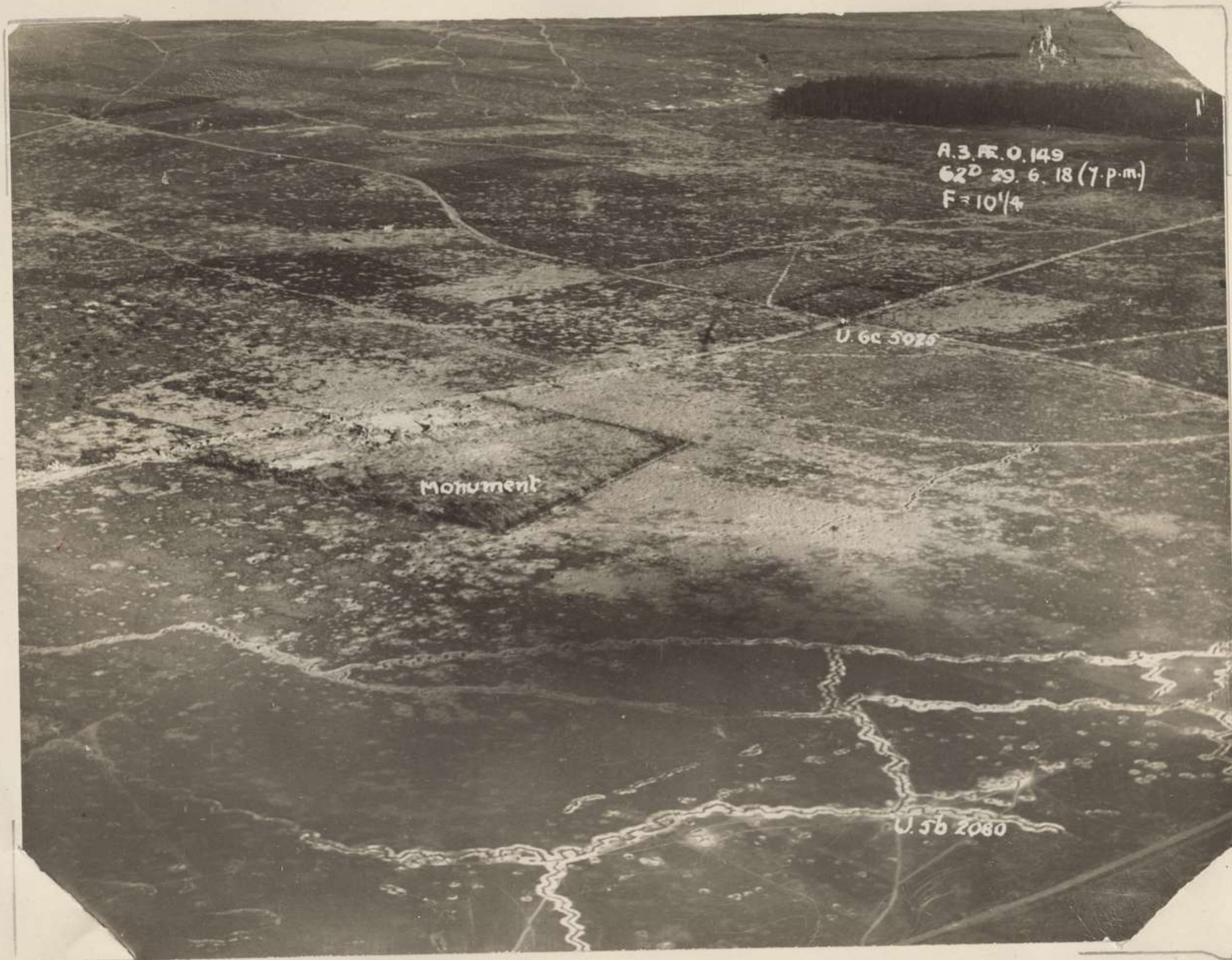
Coy in bivouac in banks

O 34b 1520 - O 34b 1075.



Sketch shewing dispositions
 of
 26th Bn. A.I.F.
 28. 7. 18.
 Red - platoon boundaries
 Green - Coy. boundaries
 Sheet 62° S.W. 4 1:110000.

VIII APPENDIX



97

APPENDIX
25
VIII

87





97



APPENDIX. VIII

28

Patrol Report

30. 6. 18.

A patrol of 1 officer and 5 O/R. left our line at U5b 2530 at 10.45 p.m. for the purpose of bombing enemy listening post at approx. U5b 8545.

As the patrol approached the L.P. one man was seen to move back to the trench. Soon afterwards 8 of the enemy left their line and keeping very low tried to work round the patrol which had taken up its position and was waiting. When both parties got to within 20' our patrol opened fire with bombs and 15 were thrown in all. Casualties were inflicted. The enemy party took cover in shell holes, and before this success could be followed up our artillery shooting on front line fell in amongst our patrol forcing them to withdraw to our lines. Three of the enemy were seen being carried in to the enemy lines. Owing to artillery no identification could be obtained.

97

APPENDIX IX

29

Transport Officer's Report.

June 1918.

1st - 15th June. Rations were delivered to Bn HQ (Morlancourt sector) daily by limbers. Shrapnel fire on back areas and roads leading to line was at times heavy and the losses in Bde were 30 horses of which this Bn lost one H.Q. one L.D. and had one man killed.

The Bn. had two limbers and six pack horses slightly forward with Bde mobile echelon - these were mainly used for carting and packing Stokes shells and ammunition to the gun posts and for forming an advanced Bde dump. Two limbers were detailed nightly for engineers work.

Cookers were used at forward Bn. HQ and water drawn from the Somme. Other transport was used as usual on routine work i.e. carting coal and general work.

16th - 26th June. The transport were at Frelancourt camped about one mile from the Bn and only usual routine work was carried out. The Bde. command held an inspection of the transport which was satisfactory.

27th - 30th June. Transport camped about 1/2 mile from Lamotte. Rations were taken forward to Bn HQ (Villers Butonney) and water was brought from Blangy Trévillie. About 3 limbers were required nightly for carting gas projectors to the line and other limbers for ammunition and engineers work. No pack horses were used in this area.

Gaswalkers 1 H.D. + 1 L.D. killed + 2 L.D. wounded + 1 man wounded. Horses throughout the month have been in very good condition.

(sgt) J. C. Little capt.
T.O. 26th Bn.

Quartmaster's Report for June 1918

During the month under review rations have been well up to the average, bread has not been under one loaf to three ~~days~~ men & occasionally has even been two loaves to five men, the meat ration has been good averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ ~~lb~~ lbs per man. Tea has been light and the present issue is not sufficient for Battalions, including a drink for working parties on their return, we find it barely sufficient for the three meals a day. The clothing has been of Imperial pattern which is not appreciated by the men and they much prefer to retain their Australian issue though it may be badly worn to the issue of new Imperial clothing. Other Ordnance supplies still continue to arrive on time & no indents are outstanding except those dated within the last few days. During the month we have had two cookers overhauled at I.O.M. and now only one remains requiring attention, this will be sent down as soon as "C" bay cooker is returned.

June 1918.

W. Morris
Quart. Mstr.

91

APPENDIX

31