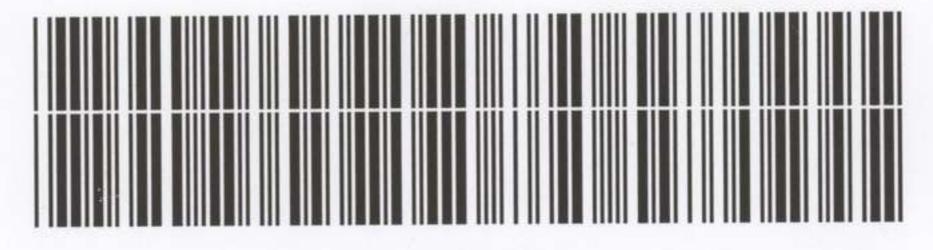
AWM4 Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/34/21

Title: 17th Infantry Battalion

April 1917



AWM4-23/34/21

A	PRIL 17432	44	
Date. Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.	
Inisonot			
		the state of the s	
left or	or right flank in the air. We is	rece	
5 20AM forced	to retire to our outpost line us	ich	
5.20 A	M. By this time the enemy we	e well	
in	he rear of our right & were alw	est down	
	Date. Place and Time. 19167 Inisoriet april 12 Inionit Left FRIC to Favi 13/14. INMA Relieved of NOR German Battalia left or	Date. Place and Time. Inismit april IV Inionit Left FRICOURT Camp, at 9 AM. + marched to FEVRIEOL arriving there at 5.30 P.M. 13/14. IDAM Relieved 16th Battolion in line in front of NOREVIL. Relief completed by 112 AM 14 Germano attacked & broke through 12th Battalion on our right at 4.55 AM. This left our right flank, in the air. We a 5 DOAM forced to retire to our outpost line 12	Date. Place and Time. 19167. Place and Time. Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. Prisonott April IV Inionit Left FRICOURT Camp, at 9 AM + marched to Favrier arming there at 5.30 PM. 13/14. 13/14. 13/14. 13/14. 15 MOREUIL. Relief completed by 112 AM 144.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Date. Place and Time. 1977 april 15. GAM. We counter attacked at 6 AM in Considerations with 19th 20th Bottalions + by 8 AM had regained all lost ground.	
apt 15. GAM. We counter attacked at 6 AM in Conjunctions with 19th 50th Battalions + by 8 AM had	
apl 15. GAM. We counter attacked at 6 AM in Conjudations with 19th 20th Battalions + by 8 AM had	
with 19th soth Battalions + by 8 AM had	
regained all lost ground.	
agained act tost ground	
We captured two machine guns and	
Our casualties ivere 5 officers wourked	
Our casualties ivere 5 officers wounded 43 b R. killed	
82 · wounded	
Officers wounded Lieut A Ellis, Lieut R.V. Sheeld, Lieux	
70. D. Smith, Lieux B. Braceford & Ind Ciant R.J. Phelps.	
16 Lient to Ellis died of wow as. 17/18 18 "Battahon relieved our D'Coy on the left	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

			46	
Date. P1	ace and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.	
Affrice 17/8		I we moved round a took over one		
		company front from 8th Battalions		
. 18	PAN	Relief completed by 2.15 Am 18th.		
		Were relieved by 18th Battalion on marched to VAULY.		
. 23				
		Were relieved by Bra Battalion for the day to allow us to practice and attack		
		scheme. We took over from them		
	AM	again At 6 P.M		
24.	9.15	18th Battalion relieved us and we took over prostions of Corps Main Line in front of BEUGNATRE.		
		over portion of Corps Main Line in		
		front of BEUGNATRE.		

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				1000
1			45	
Date.	Place and Tin	e.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.	
ape inth	Vaula 9	Were relieved by 18th Battalions +moved back to Corps main line.		
29		Were relieved by 1st Battalion & moved		
		back to tented camp near BIEFVILLERS		
		No 2044 Ple MARS.DEN. J. MM		
		No 603 " LITTLE BP do		
		Rient 2 sog alleing Willitary Gors		
O.11056.				
				4
				4

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Chopy No. 2.

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

14/17.

Reference, Maps ECOUST St. MEIN. Ed. 2.1/10,000. Sheets 51. B. S.W. and S.E., and 57. C. N.W. and N.E.

1. THE FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE will attack in conjunction with the SIXTH BRIGADE and BRITISH TROOPS on the left, and break through the HINDENBURG LINE.

2. The SEVENTEENTH BATTALION will be the LEFT assaulting Battalion, with the

NINETEENTH on the right.

3. The Boundaries for the attack will be:Brigade Right Boundary, U. 29. d. 8. 0 - U. 30. d. 1. 6. along J.T. (inclusive)

to U. 30. 4. 2. 9. thence to U. 18. d. 00. 25.

Brigade Left Boundary, U. 29. c. 75.00 thence North along road (inclusive)

to cross-road at U. 23.d. 10. 75. then through U. 23.d. 5.4. - U. 23.d. 9.8

- U. 18 c. 50. 25 to U. 18 d. 00. 25. ...

Ther Battalion Boundary, U. 29.d. 45 - U. 29.c. 55.60 along O.T. (inclusive to right half wave) to U. 25.d. 60 - U. 23.d. 7.4. fork road at U. 24.d. 20.05 thence along main North and South road to U.18.c. 6.1. to U.18.c. 6.2.

4. A Jumping-off Line will be taped out on the line U. 29. c. 8. 2. -U. 29. d. 8. 0. Officers will be told off on the flanks of each wave to check the direction of the advance.

5. (1) On capture of German first line, the first wave will immediately clear and consolidate and prepare blocks at either flank, and will take all steps necessary to repel counter attack, establishing strong points at U.29.b.3.7.

on capture of German second line, the second wave will immediately do likewise and open communication to rear, and establish strong points at U.23.d.1.1/2. - U.23.d.3.0. - U.23.d.6.0.

6. The Battalion will form up for the attack as under, the first wave forming up on Jumping-off Tape with following waves at their proper distances in rear.

*B	" Coy.	2 11A#	Coy. 1)		
		-		Plateons 1	st wave.
	AL 10 M 40 M		,		
8	THE TOTAL TO	4	3)	Platoons 2	and wave.
		D) 100 00 00 00		2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	
H-7	о" соу.	HC H	Coy.		
-	13	10		Platoons :	ord wave.
		7.0	11)		
	1.6	12		Platoons	ith wave.
			218 NO DOS 560 568		

7. First Objective lst wave, enemy front line U.29.b.5.6. to road U.29.a9.7

2nd wave, enemy support line U.23.d.6.0. road U.23.c9.6

Second Objective 3rd wave, sunken road through 23.d. and because Ev W

Third Objective 4th wave, trench U.23.d.1.1/2, to U.23.b.3.1.

The 18th Battalion will move in waves through the 17th, and take up defensive position on the west of REINCOURT, i.e. after the 17th waves have gained their objectives.

Keeping touch with the flanks is the greatest importance, and it is the duty of everyone to keep touch with those on his right and left; in

the event of a gap, the Officer or N.C.O. in charge, will at once draw back a few men to cover his flank until connection is again obtained.

8. Artillery Barrages designed to cover the actual assaults on each object—
ive has already been issued. In addition, heavy artillery will be
dealing with the Village defences and approaches of REINCOURT and the

dealing with the Village defences and approaches of REINCOURT and the HINDENBURG and QUEANT LINES, East and South of the objectives.

Smoke and Gas shells will be used on the enemy trenches in U. 30.d.,
C.6.b., and D.1.a. if wind is favorable; in any case they will be kep under artillery fire.

9. (1) 8th, 14th, and 22nd M.S. Coys, are covering the advance, and supply-

attack

183.

9. (2) The 5th A.M.G.Coy. will place 3 guns each at the disposal of Battalion Commanders for consolidation of gains, and will hold remainder in reserve at the Railway Cutting.

10. Two mortars, 5th L.T.M. Bty. will accompany each of the right and left halves of the 4th wave in the 3rd line as far as the sunken road in U.23.d. and U.24.c. where they will be at the call of Battalions to deal with any strong points in REINCOURT or vicinity. 20th and 17th Battalions will each provide carrying parties for amountaion at the rate of 18 per gum.

Smoke mortars for discharge of smoke, will be established at

C. 6. C. O. 4. for use if necessary.

11. Zero minus 15 minutes.

All units to be in position formed up as in para, 6 (a) with front wave on jumping-off line.

Zero minus 13 minutes.

The whole begins to move forward, waves maintaining their relative positions, 1st wave lying down when close up to the barrage.

Zozo

Barrage begins to lift, and 1st wave moves forward with it, other waves conforming.

Zero plus 6.

Barrage is clear of wire, and lst wave passes through, getting into position to rush trench.

Zero plus 16.

Barrage lifts from enemy first line, and first wave rushes and captures it, and mops up; successive waves follow, jumping over trench, and 2nd wave creeping up close under barrage.

Zero plus 33.

Barrage lifts, and 2nd wave rushes enemy support line, captures it, and commences mopping up.

The 3rd wave, followed by the 4th wave, pass 2nd wave, and creep up under barrage.

Zero plus la hour 40 minutes.

Barrage lifts from second objective, and the 3rd wave rushes, captures, and more up.

The 4th wave moving on under barrage to line U.23.d.9.6. to U.23.b. 3.5.

The 5th wave (that is, the 1st wave of the 18th Battalion) will pass through them, followed in succession by the 6th, 7th, and 8th waves. As soon as these have passed, they will swing back their right flank, and join up with 3rd wave; also, if not already in touch with Mine 6th Brigade on the left, will bring back that flank slightly to prevent enemy getting behind them.

The position at this stage will be:-

1st wave consolidating enemy front trench.
2nd wave consolidating enemy support trench.
3rd wave consolidating sunken road in 23.d.

When the 18th and 20th Battalions have gained their objectives, and commenced consolidating, the 1st wave will occupy the communication trenches as follows:-

"A" coy. from U. 29.b. 6.6. to U. 23.d. 6.0.

taking over any strong points.

"B" Coy. from U. 29.b. 3.7. to U. 23.d. 3.0.

The 2nd wave will act likewise:
"A" Coy, extending from U.23.d. 5.0. North to sunken mad, connecting with 3rd wave, and "B" Coy, occupying the C.T. running North from U.23.d.1.1/2, to sunken road.

The 3rd wave will remain in sunken road.

The 4th wave remains where they are, throwing back their right to connect with 3rd wave at U.23.d.7.4.

12. The Contact Patrol Aeroplane will be over at the following times+

1. Zero plus 1 hour.

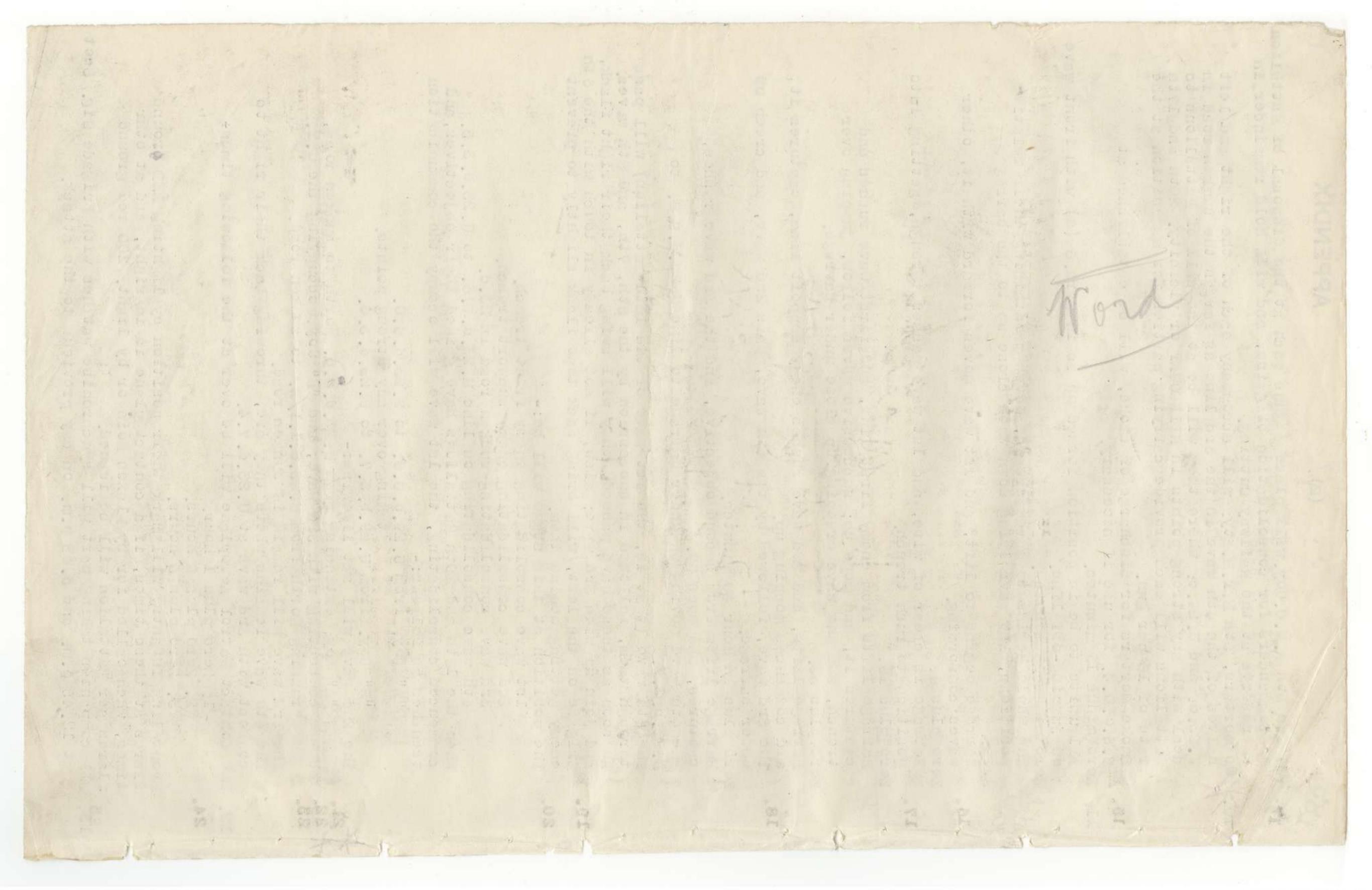
2. Zero plus 2 hours,

3. Zero plus 3 hours.

flares at these times, if a contact plane is in sight, and at other times, when called for by Klazon Horn or by light. 200 red ground flares per Battalion will be issued.

13. All companies taking part will synchronise watches with Brigade Sig. Sect

at 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. on day previous to the attack.



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(a) The following signals will be used to indicate success:
1st Trench, 2 red flares fired simultaneously, at intervals of

10 seconds.

2nd Tranch, 3 red flares in quick succession.

2nd Objective, 1 red and 2 white alternately in quick succession, All signals to be fired in a Wester ly direction.

(b) Bombing squads will be provided with small yellow and black flags to indicate their position when bombing along a trench; theseflags are to be waved for this purpose.

or cardigan jacket to be worn, Officers dress similar to men, and carry a rifle.

Equipment. Fighting Order, 2 bandoliers in addition to 120 rounds S.A.A. 6 Mills bombs, 4 sandbags, 48 hours rations, and full water bottles.

4 "P" bombs will be carried per platoon by moppers up.

Every 4th man carries a ground flare.

Every Officer carries a "Very" pistol on lanyard, with 1 set S.O.S. 2 picks and 5 shovels to accompany 3rd line of each wave.

.16. Wire cutte rs and mats will be carried by the 1st, 2nd and 4th waves.

Mats will be drawn from Forward Battle Dump (C.10.c.7.7.) at the
rate of 20 for each 1st and 2nd wave, and 5 for the 4th wave.

17. Eight men per platoon will be detailed as carriers. These will be the 3rd line in each wave, and assist in mopping up. A reserve of 50 men will be detailed as a Brigade Carrying Party under lieut. T.L. Adam

1 N.C.O. and 12 men from "A" Coy.

1 N.C.O. and 12 men from "D" Coy.

1 N.C.O. and 12 men from "D" Coy.

and will report to Brigade Bumps Officer at the Forward Battle Dump.

18. (a) Brigade Dumps are situated as follows:-

Forward Battle Lump, C. 10 fc. 7. 7. Lieut. Graham in charge. Rear Battle Dump, C. 5. Central, Capt. Christie in charge.

(b) In addition to the 5 bombs carried on the man, Battalions will take forward 100 buckets of Mills Bombs, leaving the remainder of their buckets at the Forward Battle Dump.

(c) In addition to the 20 grenades per platoon now in possession of rifle grenadiers, each platoon will carry forward 1 box Mo. 23 grenades.

(d) on capturing an objective, bombs and rifle grenades will be collected in sandbags, and dumped where likely to be required.

19. Regimental Aid Post will be established in sunken road running East and West in C. 5.b.

20. Communications will be maintained as far as possible by telephone. 2 wires per Battalion will be run forward to keep touch with the front line.

A central visual station and will be established at C.9.d.5.9.

to receive messages from any new positions.

Brigade Signalling Officer will arrange to make known its exact locality. Each message to this station must be sent once in its entirety, and then twice again.

Pigeons will be allotted by Brigade Signalling Officer.

The procedure laid down in S.S. 135, regarding communications with aircraft will be followed.

A Trench Wireless Set will be installed in REINCOURT on its capture.
21. All prisoners of war to Brigade Headquarters. Escorts not to exceed 10%.
22. Advanced Battalion Headquarters will be at Railway Gutting C. 5. 6.

23. A counter attack; possibly several are sure to follow our occupation of enemy line, therefore all ranks are called upon to meet it with the utmost determination and coolness, and use all means in their power to utterly smash it. The next best friend an infantry soldier has besides his rifle, is a spade, and it behoves him to use it as soon as he gains any enemy trench.

24. All ranks are reminded of the great difficulty of getting formard water and rations, and every care must be taken to see that water botthes are filled before leaving camp, and that they are want used most a paringly, as relief may not be possible the night following the attack, and carrying parties may have great trouble in getting water up to the front line.

25. All wounded are to be left to the stretcher bearers until all the objectives have been gained, and danger from counter attack passed, then extra men may be told off be Companies, to assist in removal

of same.

(4).

Also parties will be told off to bury those killed, after collecting all papers, discs, etc.

26. Officers are reminded that all maps and papers likely to be of use to the enemy are to be left behind.

27. Reports are to be sent in promptly, and in case of "Nothing to Report" a "Nil" report will be sent in at least once an hour, such as "nothing to report; all quiet".

Captain.

Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F.

COPIES: -

1. File.

3. War Diary.

"A" Coy.

10/12. "C" Coy. 13/15. "D" Coy. "C" Coy.

16. 18th Battalion.

17. 5th A.M.G. Coy.

18. 5th A. L. T. M. Bty.

19. 6th A. I. Brigade.

20/21. Spare.

APPENDIX

00