

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/37/37 PART 2

**Title:** 20th Infantry Battalion

August 1918 Appendices



AWM4-23/37/37PART2



War Diary for August 1918 -  
Compiled by L. J. McGill

Transport Officer 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1918 the weather was fine & bright. Rations were delivered to the Battalion in the line & wagons supplied for other Battalion & Bde work. nothing unusual happened. 2 p.m. the weather changed, it was exceptionally cold & heavy rain fell during the day. The Battalion were relieved at night & came back to the Village of Brangy-Tronville, where they were billeted for the three days following, during this period all ranks were paid. 6 p.m. the weather had cleared & was fine & bright. Preparations were made for the Battalion to move into the Line again. Several extra pack saddles were drawn & got ready for immediate use. 7 p.m. the weather continued to be fine. Battalion moved into the Line at Heller Epéroux Sator. Six packmen & one despatch rider, were sent forward to stand by with reserve ammunition etc. 8 p.m. The Battalion made an advance at about 4 a.m. They were very successful, & all objectives were taken, with but few casualties. Large numbers of Prisoners were seen coming through during the day. Packmen with reserve ammunition moved forward at 3 a.m. & stood by a short distance to rear of old front Line. All Bde Transport that had been billeted between "Cannon" & "Larmotte" moved forward during the afternoon. There was a big demand for Transport for forward Line, to keep up supplies for the advancing Troops. This no doubt was caused through the loss of about fifteen Supply Tanks, which were blown out on night previous to the attack. 9 p.m. The Battalion again took over front Line & advanced. Transport Section moved forward again to a couple of Hundred Yards to left of Warfusée-Abancourt. Rations etc were delivered to the Battalion at night. Teams were also supplied to bring in Captured Enemy Guns. 10 p.m. The weather was still fine & bright. The Battalion advanced again & obtained all objectives. From then to 17 p.m. the Battalion were in reserve Line near the Village of Framerville. During this period Rations were delivered to them daily, on several occasions pack Horses were sent forward with ammunition etc & Teams were sent out to bring in Captured Machine Guns, Search Mortars etc for despatch as trophies to the War Museum. On 17 p.m. The Battalion were relieved & moved back. The Transport Section also moved from near Warfusée-Abancourt & all were billeted at "Fruilley" about 5 Kilometre distance. here they remained till 24 p.m. During this period the weather was exceptionally fine & bright. Advantage was taken of this & all Wagons & Horses were given a



thorough cleaning. All shortage of stable equipment, harness etc, were made up & in a few days everything was in Reparation for Front Line work again. During the spell out arrangements were made for men to attend The Baths on several occasions, receive a clean change of clothing. Sports & Swimming Carnivals were also held. On 24/8/18 the weather was fine & Bright. During the afternoon the whole Battalion moved. The Transport Section to "Morecourt" & the Battalion into reserves. Rations etc were delivered to them & three Kitchens moved up with Battalion. 27/8/18 Weather changed light showers fell during the day. Officers Chasers, Water Cart teams, Kitchen teams, Mess & Mail Cart Horses & Drivers, moved forward to Battalion to be left handy & move with Battalion. 28/8/18 The weather was fine & Bright and early move was made about 3 Kilometres further forward. A new Camp was made, & Horse Lines etc erected. At 2pm orders were received that Section were to move again. A start was made immediately & we bivouacked that night near the Village of "Froissy" a distance of another 3 Kilometres forward. 29/8/18 The weather was fine & Bright, another move was made about 5 Kilometres distance & Transport bivouacked between the Villages of "Capry" & "Eclusier". The Battalion moved up & took over Front Line at 6.30am. Rations were delivered to them as usual. On 30/8/18 Transport moved forward another 5 Kilometres & bivouacked between the Villages of "Frise" & "Feuilleres" on banks of Canal. Here where Fritz had recently been driven back good stabling for Horses & Bunkers for men were obtained. The Battalion made an advance again during the afternoon & were again successful. On 31/8/18 the weather was dull & showery. The Battalion advanced at an early hour & were very successful a large number of prisoners were taken & a great many Machine Guns etc. During the month the Casualties of Transport Section were nil. In Horses several were wounded, four of which were evacuated.

20th Battalion Transport Coy  
31/8/18

M. Gill, Lieut.  
Transport Officer



The Advance to being evaluated tomorrow.  
31st Jan  
General Objective ANVIL WOOD MTS. QUENTIN-  
FULLACOURT.

- 1) 3<sup>rd</sup> AUS DIV will attack on left
- 2) Attack will be made by 19<sup>th</sup> Bn RIGHT. 17<sup>th</sup> Bn  
Centre & 20<sup>th</sup> Bn Left - 18<sup>th</sup> Bn in support
- 3) Objective 19<sup>th</sup> Bn UBER ALLES & GOTT MIT LINS  
TRs. - I 150 9.8  
17<sup>th</sup> Bn I 150 9.8 - I 90 5.4  
20<sup>th</sup> Bn I 90 5.4 Fullacourt (incl. wood) &  
I 3000
- 4) Bn will be in the following areas for  
jumping off by Zero  
17<sup>th</sup> Bn I 130  
20<sup>th</sup> - I 70  
19<sup>th</sup> - East Bank Comm. H 12 B 1 D not to go  
to be east of line I 14000 - I 8000  
19<sup>th</sup> Bn will start by ready to move from  
Zero onwards under Bn instructions.
- 5) Side Boundaries as advised  
Left Bn Boundary 19 & 17 Bns  
I 150 98 - AGRAM ALLEY  
17 & 20 Bns I 90 5.4 MONVILLE ALLEY  
BRASSO REDOUBT

2 Bns 5 am

- 9 Advance being covered by 5.F.A Bels  
Start line I 20000 I 14000 along GOTTLIEB  
TRENCH to 18 cent terrace remaining then  
from Zero to Zero + 30 mins. To line ANVIL WOOD  
UBER ALLES TR - MTS. QUENTIN - FULLACOURT  
When it remains from Zero + 30 to Zero + 60  
Then left to protect line ANVIL WOOD  
SUGAR FACTORY I 220 MTS QUENTIN WOOD  
I 160 TRENCH SYSTEM I 10000 I 14000  
from Zero + 60 onwards.  
Recon on situated targets
- 10 1<sup>st</sup> Chn 6 MG Coy attached to 1 to go  
own with each Bn
- 11 13 ALH will collect prisoners at  
H 15 cent & Quarry H 10 from Zero + 1  
hour onwards
- 12 19 Bn cross Bridge at H 15 cent  
at 3 am
- 13 Recon arrangement 19 Bn
- 14 Advance Bn Report Centre H 170 2.9  
Where line will be new to 8th Battalion  
along Railway at I 7000.
- Visual Start H 160 3.3



3  
71 5 ALTMB will detail 6 mortars to  
cross river in rear of 19 Bn & to be up  
position at 1700.  
2 mortars to be at disposal of 19 Bn

XVI Bde HQ will remain at present  
situation.

To		From	
By		By	
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")			
TO { R U S A			
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
4	27		
Admin. Arrangements Order 213. Noted			
From			
Place			
Time			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.			
Censor.		(Z)	
Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.			
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)			



Disposition Report  
Sheet G 2d SE.

20th BNAIF  
BG. 8.18.

The 20th Bn moved from Fouilloy area to Q18k on night of 26/27 August 18. The following are new Dispositions

BN H.Q. Q18k 8.7.  
R.A.P. Q18k 8.8.  
H.Q. DETAILS. Q18k 8.7. to Q18k 8.9  
H.Q. TOTAL. 6 off. 40.0 R.

A COMPANY H.Q. Q18k 8.9.  
COMPANY. Q18k 8065 to Q18k 9045  
ACoy TOTAL. 3 off. 86.0 R.

B COMPANY H.Q. Q18k 90.45  
COMPANY. Q18k 9045 to Q18k 9540  
BCoy TOTAL. 3 off. 60.0 R.

C COMPANY H.Q. Q18k 95.75  
COMPANY. Q18k 7090 to Q18k 9.1  
CCoy TOTAL. 3. off. 74.0 R.

D COMPANY H.Q. Q18k 90.80  
COMPANY. Q18k 7090 to Q18k 9070  
TOTAL. 3. off. 44.0 R.

Beafield Ct.

HEB 4

RU. Q.A.  
all objectives taken, patrols being sent out as far as Barrage will allow.  
Casualties light.  
Good deal of clearing up yet required. Prisoners  
5.50

~~At 7.30 a.m.~~  
D.O.M.A. well up on right

D.O.P.A.  
7.30 a.m.

Appendix

479  
107



R.U. Q.A.

HEB 3

Unconfirmed report objective  
reached 500 prisoners  
made to follow.  
Casualties light.

H.O. P.A.

7.5 am.

7.15 am

Advance reported by  
company commander  
as being exceptional  
well. B.C. prisoners  
mainly officers, many  
machine guns, taken  
casualties light  
line down several places.

6.45 am

W. J. G. G. G.  
1000000



# DISPOSITION REPORT

SHEET GR C 1.40000 -

20th B N H.Q.

27.8.18

HEADQUARTERS G26C 7.7

H.Q. DETAILS IN QUARRY

COMPANY TOTAL

60ff. 44.0R.

A COMPANY H.Q. G26C 6.6

COMPANY IN QUARRY

COMPANY TOTAL

30ff. 85.0R.

B COMPANY H.Q. G26C ~~5.5~~ 5.5

COMPANY IN QUARRY

COMPANY TOTAL

30ff. 59.0R.

C COMPANY H.Q. G26C 2.6

COMPANY IN BANK OF ROAD

FROM G26C 2.6 TO G26C 4.5

COMPANY TOTAL

30ff. 68.0R.

D COMPANY H.Q. G26C 8.8

COMPANY IN QUARRY

COMPANY TOTAL

30ff. 46.0R.

COOKERS IN QUARRY

W. Panfield Lt  
10.20 AIF.

# DISPOSITION REPORT

SHEET GRASE 1.20000 -

20th B N H.Q.

27.8.18

H.QUARTERS

R5d.50.

H.Q. DETAILS. R5d.50 to R5d.6.7

H.Q. COMPANY TOTAL

60ff. 44.0R.

A COMPANY H.Q.

R5d.6.2

COMPANY IN WOOD IN R5d.

COMPANY STRENGTH. 30ff.

55.0R.

B COMPANY H.Q.

R5d.7.9

COMPANY IN WOOD

R5d.

COMPANY STRENGTH

30ff. 59.0R.

C COMPANY H.Q.

R5d.7.1

COMPANY IN WOOD

R5d.

COMPANY STRENGTH

30ff. 74.0R.

D COMPANY H.Q.

R5d.9.9

COMPANY IN WOOD

R5d.

COMPANY STRENGTH. 30ff.

46.0R.

COOKERS

R5d.7.7.

W. Panfield Lt  
10.20 AIF.

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Appendix

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To	By		From
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By	
TO	R U Q A		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* R. 5.	27		

Stone complete. 4.50pm  
 B. A. Ops. established  
 at R. 5 B. 50.

From	D O P A	
Place		
Time		
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		
Censor.	(Z)	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

To	By		From
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By	
TO	6 A. I. Bal		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* R. 6.	28	B. M. 81	

Noted

From	20th. Bn	
Place		
Time		
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		
Censor.	(Z)	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

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To		From	
By		By	
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO			
Sender's Number.			
Day of Month.			
In reply to Number.			
A A A			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)			
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			

\*This line, except A A A, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 590,0 0 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

To		From	
By		By	
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO			
Sender's Number.			
Day of Month.			
In reply to Number.			
A A A			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)			
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			

\*This line, except A A A, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 590,0 0 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)







To		By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO		17 18. 19. 1918			
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.		AAA	
* 11.16	59.				
On	N.Q.	estimated at			
H.15	C. 15.80				
From 20th. Br.					
Place 9.30 am					
Time					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				(Z)	
Censor.				Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.					
Wt. W 3253/P511. 590,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)					

To		By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO		RUBA			
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.		AAA	
* HEBI	21				
Enemy	moving	East	from		
Licq's	in	small	parties		
and	Carts	also	seen		
moving	in	same	direction		
at	2.15pm	aaa			
Enemy	parties	in	part.		
file	seen	moving	to		
lower	from	I in at	one		
I 19 h.	lat	1.40pm	50		
party	considered	of			
men	aaa				
From DOPB					
Place 2.30 pm					
Time					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				(Z)	
Censor.				Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.					
Wt. W 3253/P511. 590,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)					



TO		By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
R.V.Q.A.				
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.		AAA
KH 20	20			
Heavies shelling stopping advances in I 17 B AAA RUGA moving to right down BERLINGOT TRENCH I 1 A & C. AAA 10 fusiliers 3 M Gs 80 81 8 1/2 regts. 21st Div. Strong opposition				
From	DOPA 1.15a			
Place				
Time				
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
Censor.				

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,0 0 Pa's 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

TO		By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
R.V.Q.A.				
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.		AAA
KH 25	30			
Heavies shelling stopping advances in I 17 B AAA RUGA moving to right down BERLINGOT TRENCH I 1 A & C. AAA 10 fusiliers 3 M Gs 80 81 8 1/2 regts. 21st Div. Strong opposition				
From	DOPA 3pm			
Place				
Time				
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
Censor.				

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,0 0 Pa's 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)



By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
TO	RUGA		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	
* M 26	30	AAA	

RUGA reports CLERY  
clear. AAA Progress  
slow. but steady.

*[Handwritten signature]*

From	Dopa 3 25 pm		
Place			
Time			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.			
(Z)		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
Censor.			

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 530,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
TO	RUGA.		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	
* M 27	30.	AAA	

Progressing steadily  
Stiff resistance AAA  
Estimated casualties

2. OR Killed  
10 OR Wounded.

*[Handwritten signature]*

From	Dopa 4 pm		
Place			
Time			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.			
(Z)		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
Censor.			

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 530,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)



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Annex 116  
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By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By	
TO		IDOPA			
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.	
KH 28		30		BM 122	
				AAA	

I 7 A. 95 OF LANT ALLEY  
BARGE ALLEY ELEV ALLEY  
H. 15/20

From		DOPA		4:15 pm	
Place					
Time					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
Censor.					

\*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 590,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By	
TO		RUGA			
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.	
KH 29		30		BM 126	
				AAA	

12<sup>th</sup> battery has been  
operating with us  
all afternoon F.O.O  
now forward

From		DOPA		5:10 pm	
Place					
Time					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
Censor.					

\*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 590,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

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To		By	
By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO		RVQR	
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* HEB3	29		
Enemy	Horramun	pieces	at
14th 9595	at	2 PM	aaa
at	3.30 PM	transport	wagon
at	1.7 a 5 8	aaa	4 PM
Enemy	in	groups	threes
at	I 3 C.	and	I 9 d
I 10 a 22	aaa	4 10 PM	Enemy
horses	grazing	at	I 9 a 10 d
aaa	4 25 PM	Enemy	moving
in	groups	at	twenty
from	road	at	H 12 h 39
towards	river		
From	J. O. J. R.		
Place			
Time	5.45 PM		
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)			
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.		

\*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 590,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
By			
TO		RVQR	
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* HEB3	30		
Order	214	and	admin
arrangement	noted		
From	J. O. J. R.		
Place			
Time			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)			
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.		

\*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 590,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)



① The Advance is being evaluated tomorrow  
31st Jan

② General Objective ANVIL WOOD MTS. QUENTIN  
FULLAN COURT.

③ 3<sup>rd</sup> Aus Div will attack on left

④ Attack will be made by 19Bn RIGHT. 17Bn  
Centre + 20Bn LEFT - 18 Bn in support

⑤ Objective 19BN UBER ALLES + GOTT MIT LINS  
TRs. - I 15d 9.8

17Bn I 15d 9.8 - I 9c 5-4

20Bn I 9c 5-4 Fullan Court (inclusive) to  
I 3c 00

⑥ Bn will be in the following areas for  
jumping off by Zero

17Bn I 13a

20 - I 7c

19 - East Bank Somme H 12B 1D no troops  
to be east of line I 14c 00 - I 8c 0.0

18Bn will stand by ready to move from  
Zero onwards under Bde Instructions

⑦ Bde Boundaries as advised

Infantry Boundaries 19 + 17Bns

I 15d 76 - AGRAM ALLEY

17 + 20Bns I 9c 5-4 MONVILLE ALLEY

BROSSO REDOUBT

68



9. Zero 5 am

9. Advance being covered by S.F.A Belis  
Start line I2000 I4000 along GOTTLIEB  
TRENCH to IS cent terrace remaining there  
from Zero to Zero+30 mins. To line ANVILWOOD  
LIBER ALLES TR- MTS. QUENTIN-FULLAUBERT  
when it remains from Zero+30 to Zero+60  
Then left to protective line ANVILWOOD  
SUGAR FACTORY I220 MTS QUENTIN WOOD  
LIBA TRENCH SYSTEM I1000 I4000  
from Zero+60 onwards.

Heavies on selected Targets

10. Section 6 MG Coy attached to 1 to go  
own with each Bat

11. 13 ALH will collect personnel  
HIS cent & Quarry H110 from Zero+1  
how onwards

12. 19 Bu cross Bridge at HIS cent  
at 3 am

13. Admarrs arrangement 1/2 para

14. Admarrs Bde Report Centre H1700  
where small to see to Embankment  
along Railway at I7000.

Visual Sit at H160 3.3

15. 5 ALTM B. will detail 6 mortars to  
cross river in rear of 19 Bu & take up  
position at I7000  
2 mortars to be at disposal of each  
Bu

16. Bde HQ will remain at present  
situation.



Adj 20<sup>th</sup> Bn

(2A)

"B" Coy advancing  
have reached position about  
H. 16.C. 5.5.

No sign of enemy.

One H. 3. Saw firing otherwise  
everything very quiet.

St McDonald Major

7.40 am

29/8/16

86 B Coy

10. 10. 9th (3) 2.7.  
20. 8.30 am

Time 7.35 Position H16 central  
18<sup>th</sup> Bn about 600 yds ahead &  
report that two main bridges  
are blown up & still have unexploded  
mines attached. There is one small  
foot-bridge there, but they are  
evidently recommending before using  
it.

Send gallopers ahead to get  
touch with 18<sup>th</sup> Bn. No horse was  
shot. No other casualties.

Am in touch with 'D' Coy on right.

Am pushing up to get in close  
support 18<sup>th</sup> Bn.

per runner J. H. B. Capt

18<sup>th</sup> had no opposition after.



To. C.O. 9 am. (4)

D. Company at about H. 17. c. 6.5.

18<sup>th</sup> meeting opposition about 500 yds east.

There is shelling about main road in H. 17. c.

Am not in touch with anybody on right &

about 500 yds forward of A. Coy.

Appears to be a fair amount of M. G. fire in

front of the left on 18<sup>th</sup> Bn.

We are too far forward to advance further &

wait on A. Coy & the 18<sup>th</sup> to advance towards

the enemy. Difficult - no - blow.

Should have been about Capt  
8.25 a.m. 29/8/18 O.B.B.

### Situation Report.

9.30 a.m. 29/8/18.

5/

D & B. Coys about H. 17. c.

A. Coy reports that 18<sup>th</sup> Bn. have not yet  
crossed the canal, & I am waiting for word  
from A. Coy that the crossing has been made.

19<sup>th</sup> Batt. is in position about 500<sup>x</sup> to our East  
at about H. 17. d & in touch with 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade on  
their right.

A railway engine is reported to be running about  
on the other side of the River, <sup>N.W.</sup> of Peronne.

The enemy can be observed in numbers, near



2.  
 Wankar road H. 5. b-d

We will wait, unless other instructions come  
 along, until A & C Companies move towards  
 Omsinout ka bery, then we will follow.

As far as can be seen with glasses, the enemy is  
 still in <sup>possession</sup> ~~possession~~, north of River at about H. 5+6.

No casualties B & D.

Plutonium is up to  
 86. B boy

for broadcast kept  
 7/1 D boy

W. Bartos Capt  
 DC H G





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①  
The ad  
goth

B O C. Coy.  
moving to main  
Road running  
South from Feoillères  
in artillery formation  
Situation very quiet

7.15 am  
29/12  
1/18  
R. H. H. H.  
O. C. Coy.





The adjutant.  
2000

29  
3  
18

am at present at  
H 16 B 25. with  
Coy deployed to Right  
~~Left~~ and in touch with

B Coy waiting on

A Coy to advance.

Have just observed  
our Troop Cross

Canal forward at

H. 17 a 3.8.

No Casualties a little

artillery  
(8.40 am)

Blindfold  
as per



20<sup>th</sup> Bn HQ  
30.8.18

5 A.I. Brigade,

at about 4.30 a.m. A  
Company 18<sup>th</sup> Bn reported to the  
leading company of this Battalion  
that Causeway over River  
was blown up in two places  
and impassable, and that  
his Battalion was not able to  
get across to take up BRIDGE  
HEAD positions.

This was reported by leading  
company per phone which  
was following them at about  
4.40 a.m.

Due to congestion of troops in  
vicinity of CHANNEL and forward  
and very active enemy artillery  
in river BEND, troops of this unit  
have been recalled in order to  
save casualties pending further  
instructions.

5.10 A.M.

J. Forbes Lt Col



To  
 All Officer of 20th & paratro  
 60

We are about in  
 ELBU ALLEY about H 6  
 d 4-3 and are having  
 great trouble with MGs  
 coming in from ridge in front.  
 Lt ANTHON is trying to  
 clear position ahead but I have  
 had no report for about 10 minutes  
 if he can hear. Intend to  
 work down hollow & up trenches  
 to assault 6 or 7

2:37 pm all  
 30/8/17 Subcapt



To Major M. Donald.

Lt. Anthon sent a note (forwarded back) to say they were being held up by our Heavies & enemy M. Co. - so it can't be lack of bombs.

Enemy was disappearing in numbers over skyline, at our left & parapet. But about 20 others were just seen coming into those same skyline trenches.

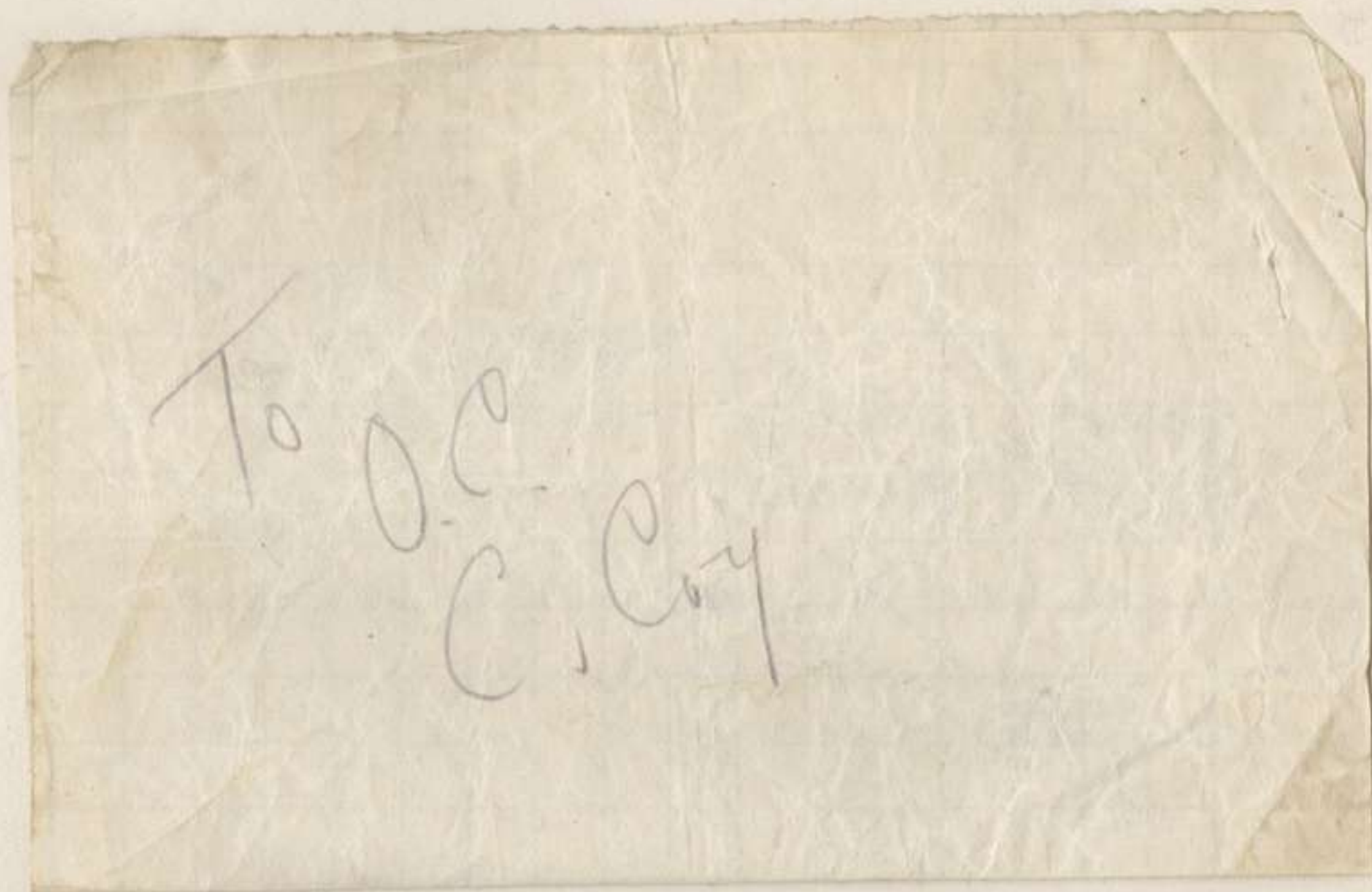
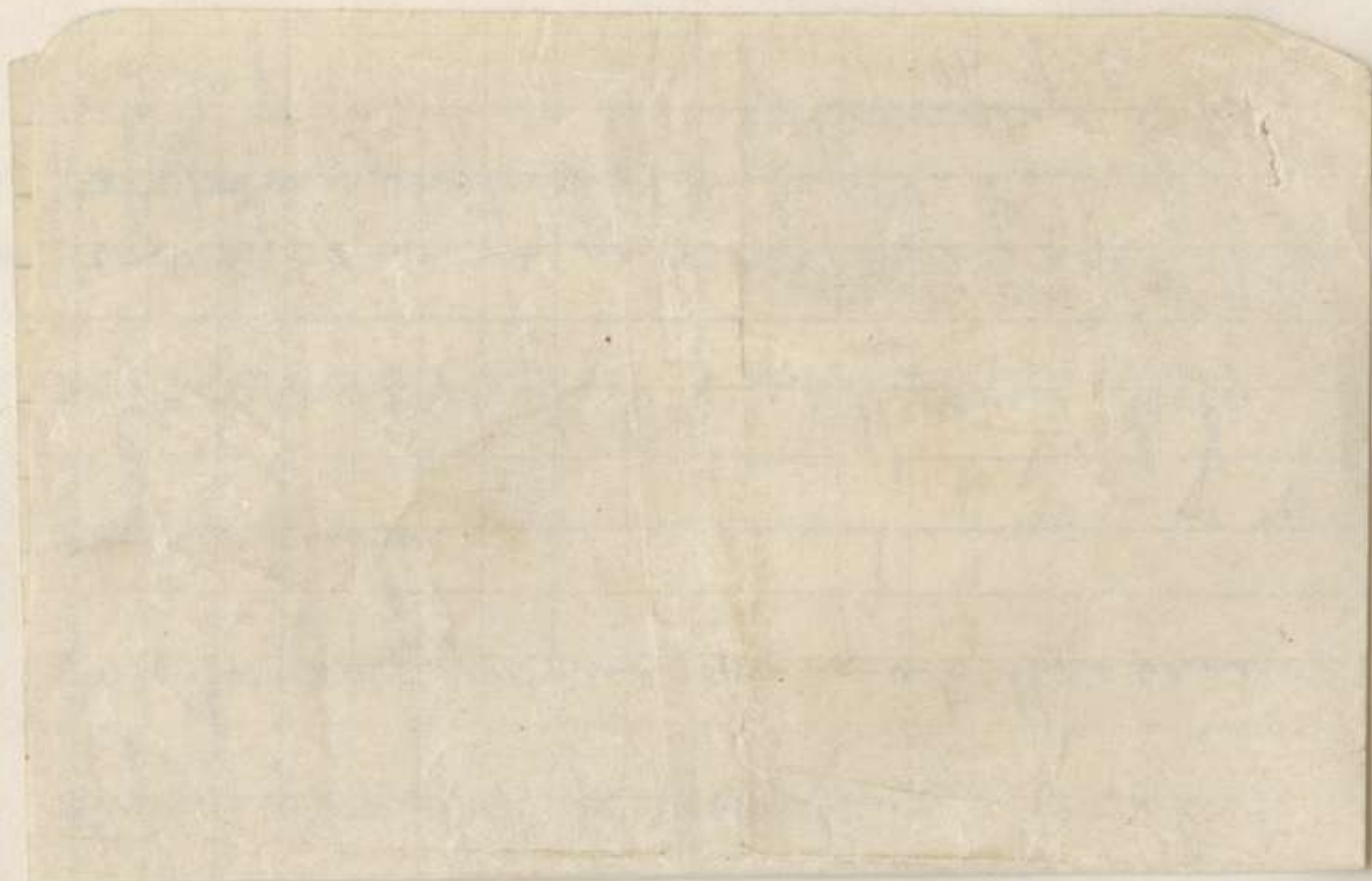
Could you come up to me. The stuns look good to have a change & adopt last night's plan of working south east on to Mt. St. Quentin. J. Broadbent Capt  
2.20 p.m. O.K. D boy

To O.C.  
C. Coy. From Kennedy  
No 9 Platoon  
Heavy artillery shelling in very close proximity to our advance in 17 ft.

Third Division observed moving to right down Berlinot Trench 2<sup>nd</sup> in 11 a.m.

127





Appendix

427  
127

127



Major M. Donald. Progress is very slow  
owing to hanging between us & the river.  
Apparently, A. boy are having difficulty,  
as I can hear Mills' bombs going off.  
The b.o. spoke about a 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. company,  
mapping up that River area. Is it worth while  
sending this back to him? Progress must be  
otherwise slow, I think.

John, we about Capt  
O/C-D. Coy.

2.6 p.m.  
30/8/18

Do All 30<sup>th</sup> Officers  
to pass to CD.

Field of 15 great  
located by M.G. in Ridge  
near Canal Bank

30/8/18

See 10<sup>th</sup> Div.



Can't advance  
on account  
of our own  
leaves

Went to a few  
Prisons

Al 25<sup>th</sup> Officer ~~do not~~  
pass to CP. ~~through~~

DKBentham



60. 20th

We are at present in  
ELEUVALLEY. Trench with the ~~3~~  
38 Bn. He is shelling it a good deal  
Barrack's note will give you an  
idea of why we are so slow.

There is one 4.2 How battery which  
annoy us the 38th Bn says that  
every time our 18 pounders engage  
it it closes up.

There seems to be a great deal of  
sniping and machine gun from  
the rear.

McDonald's map

Time 2.22 pm

~~29.30~~ 8.17.





CO 20<sup>th</sup> Bn.

We have tried to work up  
BARGE ALLEY. but it is  
directly inflamed from top of  
the hill by machine guns and  
absolutely impassable. We have  
also tried to cross ~~the~~ bank  
of the river & this is also  
impassable.

We had to mop up part of  
C. & D.

I have now sent out a  
patrol of 1 officer and eight  
men to see what can be done  
with the machine guns ~~that~~  
which we cannot locate  
definitely but are somewhere  
on the high ground and cover  
all our approaches.

2.  
I have got all the Coy Commander  
together and they all agree. That  
if it were attempted during  
broad daylight it would only  
mean heavy casualties with  
out any good result.

If this operation must be  
carried out can we have  
a heavy barrage on the crest  
of the hill & not open the line.

W. McDonald Major  
O.C. B. Coy.

We will not be able to get on  
to the proposed jumping off  
tape and will have to work  
around from the north.

W. McDonald



All 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Officers  
Pass to C.O.

4

Send Nathan reports -

Noted three points of way  
along BARGE ALLEY (H/2 to  
4) considered enfilade fire  
from 3 MGs in trench about  
17455

There was another MG. post  
South of head end of SH  
INDIES ALLEY, also MGs  
from direction of BERLIN  
WOOD

Also MG. fire from house  
around E. of River which  
makes it impossible to move  
along road on E bank of  
river

30/8/18 J. Roberts Capt  
A Coy

Two MGs taken in  
AVION TRENCH in Hbd. but  
French too shallow for  
machine on account of MG  
fire from front

It is practically  
impossible to advance from  
our present position in  
Ravine

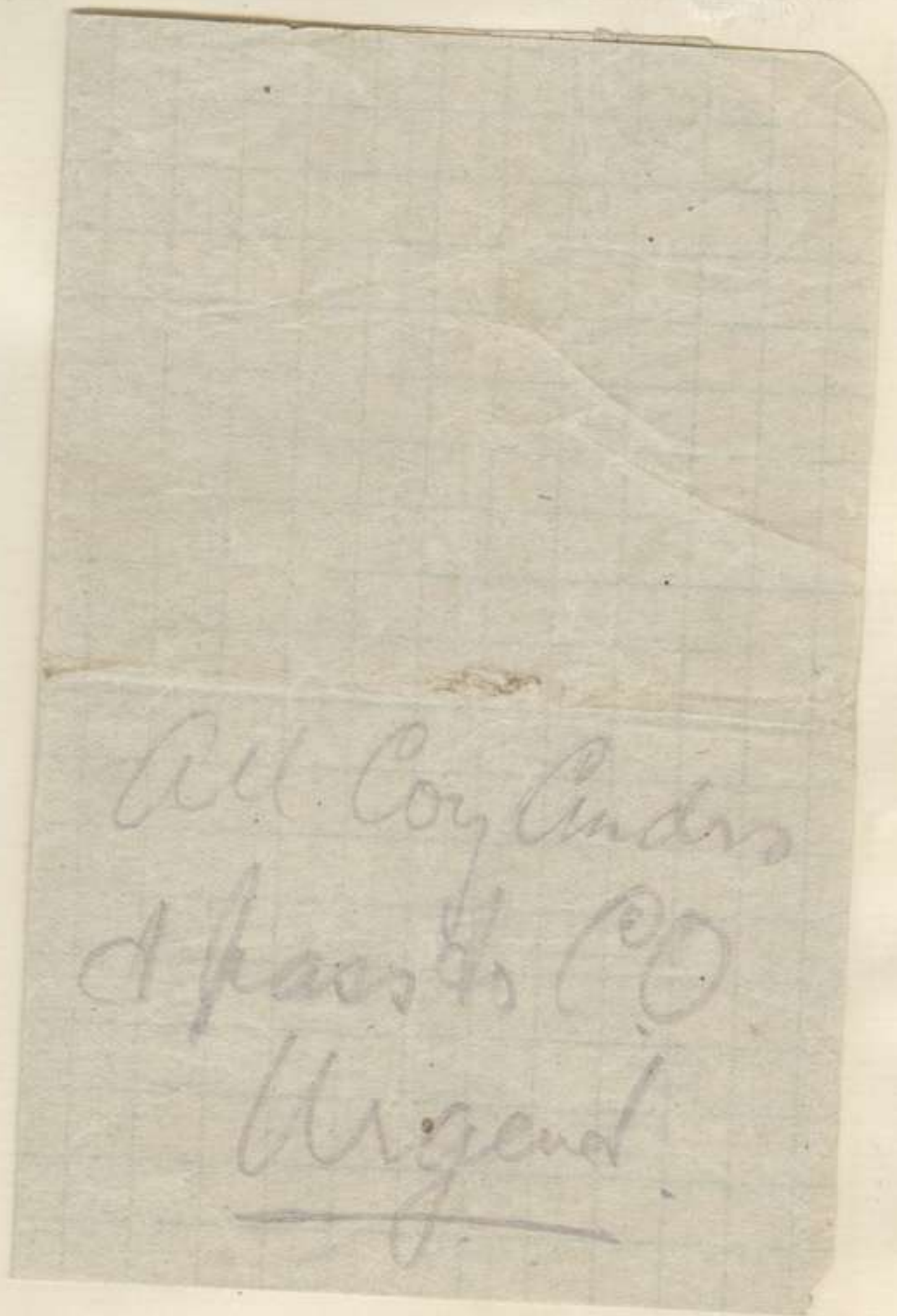
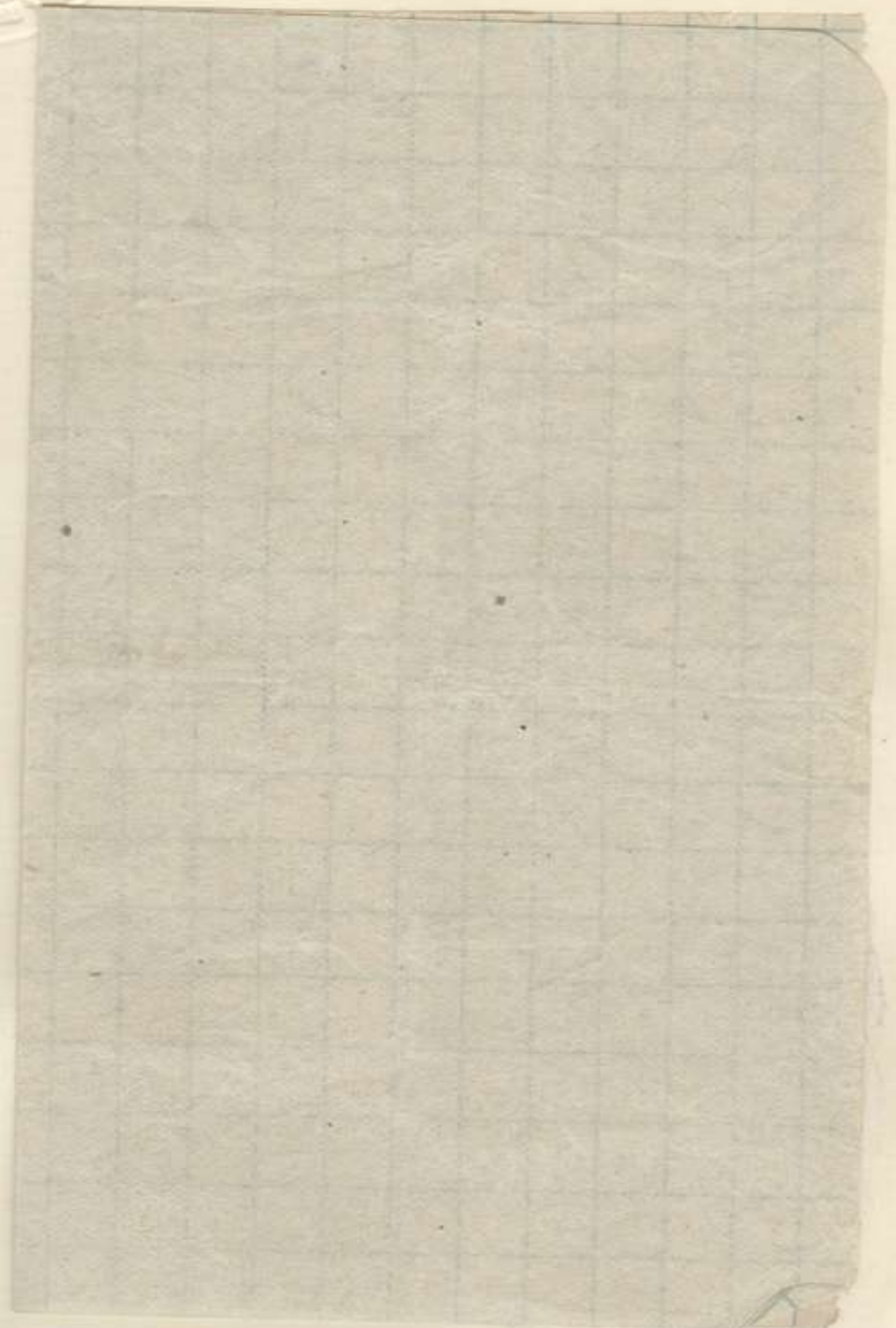
Noted position of A Coy  
SH GOND TRENCH in Hbd  
Remainder of Bn in ELEU ALLEY  
in Hbd etc

30/8/18 J. Roberts Capt  
A Coy

Appendix 421

132





All Coy Orders  
A pass to CO  
Urgent

Appendix 42  
132

69



No all  
Advance progressing  
well. Enemy M.C. and  
Snipers giving most  
trouble.

A heavy (gun (6 inch ?)  
has been falling short—  
and situated near  
Road in H.B. d. 05.  
FLEU ALLES

Casualties Nil.

Our artillery has been  
badly bluffed.

38m

20/9/17

W. J. J.

Chloe



Col. 20th Bn

I sent a message back to  
you some little time ago about  
our ~~the~~ heavies ~~for~~ holding us up  
will push on & see Broadhurst  
and if workable I will put  
his ~~for~~ ~~road~~ into a position  
and let you know our  
movements

Ameloun  
my

3.45 pm

30.10.17







In the Field,

30.8.191

6.30 PM

Have already  
sent you a message  
through Major McDonald  
to say we are on  
our objective  
but the Barrage for  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Div advance  
has caused us to thin  
out a little at junction  
of Canal and Road.  
(our left flank). The  
3<sup>rd</sup> Div will be up  
in line with us



In the Field,

191

Soon. They are  
advancing with little  
resistance

Our artillery has  
absolutely demolished  
them and he is  
retreating very  
little.

M.G.s are fairly active.  
Contact planes have  
picked us up.  
The Bank on the road  
affords good protection.  
7.20 am. Ward  
etc.



on hand ~~by~~. If possible please  
send very quick planes  
The line is held very thick and  
any decent organized attack by  
the enemy would break it if artillery  
line is not ~~ready~~ arranged for.  
The men are absolutely done and  
have practically no returns or  
more.

### Qualitative Map

Capt Barlow is now in  
and there is no stretcher here  
he is wounded in both legs.  
The enemy are bringing field guns  
into C 27 B & D.

B.O.  
20th Bn

The situation at present is  
we are holding a line from the  
road in I 7c 08 to I 7a 63.  
"B" Coy has been detailed to make  
a defensive flank from I 7a 63  
towards the 3rd Div. in VFN trench  
(if they are holding it.)

A Coy is on right.

B. Coy " " left

D have a post on river bank  
on right and the area there remains  
with A & C Coy.

might I suggest that 17th Bn  
be detailed to mop up I 13a  
and b. on their way to their pumping  
off shot. But that would be  
impossible unless HALL  
and PARK wood were also destroyed  
daylight appears we would



(2)

be in a more precarious position until these places are mopped up than we were today. I am sending out patrols to deal with posts and small parties while waiting for the orders.

I trust you have seen the prisoners about 60 that have been sent down.

If the right flank is not mopped up by morning I do not think we could hold out against anything in force.

I think you can see that we could not possibly do this with the men at our disposal. If we are to hold the line we shall want picks and shovels to deepen the posts.

Our casualties have been roughly 20 during the day.

3

We require bombs about (4 boxes) 1 Box S.A.P. and two boxes of Rifle bombs with blanks and discs.)

J. McDonald Mayo

Flares appear to be moving back ~~and~~ to right.

10.15 pm.

30.8.18

Appendix

48  
131



60.  
20th Bn

I am moving the Batt  
on to the jumping off line  
I had two patrols out who  
noted up a few posts and  
repositioned them for a shift  
on to the jumping off line.

Major Donald Craig

30.8.15.

8.20 pm.

Adj 20th Bn.

The Batt (60 men strong) is  
holding ODER trench I & II  
with 100 men of 18th Bn  
have joined us in the same trench  
on our right. 17th Bn are on the  
right of 18th. This gives us a fairly  
good line, except for our left flank  
which rests on the canal. I do not know  
if there are any of our troops on the  
left of the canal. Would arrange  
ments be made to have troops brought  
up in line with us there.

Please arrange to get S.O.S. Artillery  
Barrage line immediately  
Every thing points to further operations  
by the evening after dark.  
We fired two S.O.S. rockets high  
the road without getting any reply from  
our Artillery.

We have no S.O.S. rockets here.



appendix no 4 2

30/8/18

OC Day

We appear to be making progress, but painfully slow.

Can you get Capt Broadbent to assist A. Coy by moving along trench parallel to

ELEV ALLEY

CERY is reported by 40<sup>th</sup> Bn to be clear of enemy. Endeavour to span up a trench. So that whole objective may be gained before dusk.

2.55

John R

5<sup>th</sup> A.I.B.O.E.

30/8/18

20<sup>th</sup> Bn BARGE ALLEY, COND. TRENCH.

ELEV ALLEY.

At present there heavy enemy damage in valley. I.D. and 7A. Strong resistance has been met with in all trenches.

Instructions issued to Coy Coms. 1 hour ago to be most vigorous in advance.

ELEV VALLEY yielded 3 M.G.s and 25 wounded and unaccounted prisoners. 2 M.G.s taken in AVION TRENCH. This trench is too shallow to occupy.

3<sup>rd</sup> Div reported being in VAN TRENC to I.I.B. 9.0 but this is doubted. 17<sup>th</sup> Bn situation in ELEV ALLEY.

C.O. has ordered independent action towards S.E.

18<sup>th</sup> Bn in H.I.A. X H.S.C. CAPT

139



2  
HEPPELL in charge C.O. med.  
having reported that.

W. J. Cal  
Cndg. 70th A.I.F.

Since about 10<sup>th</sup> A.I.F. had  
reported their night coy in  
touch at H. 6. 7 & held  
up by H.C. fire.

W. J. Cal

H. 50pm

140

30/8/18

1500y.

After receiving report  
from Lt Banfield and  
your own. I am quite  
satisfied it is waste of  
man power to attempt to  
rush our objective in  
daylight. If you will  
agree to push forward  
after dark I consider the  
gains will be won most  
cheaply.

If the morning guns can  
be located and sent here  
immediate action can  
be taken to knock out same.  
If you will arrange for 2 men  
from each coy to report that  
at 8pm. to action guide to nation  
party. Same will be got forward  
under cover of darkness.

Appendix

490  
140



By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
TO	R U Q A		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
K 30.	31		

Estimated casualties  
 since 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>  
 1 off 10 o/r Killed  
 2 " 30 o/r Wounded

From	DOP A		
Place	10.24 pm		
Time			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
Censor.			

\*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
TO	R U Q A		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
K 35.	31		

Continued artillery  
 support on our  
 front.

From	DOP A		
Place	10.24 pm		
Time			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
Censor.			

\*This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
 Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)



To	By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
TO			
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 30	31		

brewny bringing field  
guns into C of B  
and D.

From	Dopa
Place	
Time	
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.	
(Z)	
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

142

To	By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
TO			
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 31	31		

Situation quiet  
AAA Blue cross  
chells on CLERY

From	Dopa
Place	
Time	
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.	
(Z)	
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,0 0 Pads 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)



To Capt Barlow  
A Coy.

14.5.4

Artillery advised of snipers  
and machine guns in  
RIVER RIDGE target now  
being engaged. No make progress  
faster.

If you are on any ridge  
you can get VISUAL with us  
we are at HUA 5.6 in old  
quarry  
H4 Coy report having  
cleared up CLERY

for Panfield Lt  
for 0.20 1715

143

To Lt Cohen

20th Bn HQ  
31.8.18

Letter move up. Where the  
hell is R.M.C. and staff.  
Adverse. Brigade companies  
were impossible for  
the present.  
all objectives gained  
550 prisoners.  
in touch with 17th on right.  
we are in touch with  
14th on their right.  
Casualties very light

7.40 AM

Johns

Appendix

423  
143



"C" FORM.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words.....	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
		£ s. d.	From.....	At..... m.	
Charges to Collect			By.....	To.....	
Service Instructions				By.....	

Handed in at..... Office..... m. Received..... m.

TO.....

* Sender's Number	Day of Month.	In reply to Number	A A A
143	31		

Further	objective	for	Bde
line	from	CARDINAL Wood	I 24 a
I 16 Central	- 1st	SZ QUENTIN Wood	
aaa	18th Bn	will	move
to position	CARDINAL Wood	- ROAD	
I 17c	19th Bn	will	swing
forward	and	Conform	19th Bn
high	flank	will	also
Conform	aaa	6th	A 1 Bde
will	pass	through	no
about	2 pm	today	Bde
will	remain	in	its
position	at	that	time
as	subord	to	6 A 1 Bde
aaa	address	Bn	

FROM.....

PLACE & TIME.....



C.O.  
20<sup>th</sup> Bn.

B. Coy  
N. G. S.

Everything going exceptionally  
well. 19<sup>th</sup> Bn ~~passed~~  
connected up.

Casualties appear to  
be almost nil.

Apparently 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. did not  
start at zero hour - hence my  
last message.

Fuller particulars later.

5-33 A.M.  
31/8/18

MacDonald



I have not the time  
 to send you a letter  
 but I am thinking of  
 doing so soon.  
 I am very much  
 interested in the  
 progress of the  
 war.

49  
 145  
 Appendix



20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>  
 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>  
 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>

We are on our objective  
 all OK. Casualties  
 practically nil.

Am sending patrol out  
 in front as far as  
 barrage will allow.

11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> well up on right  
 but don't think they have  
 cleaned up yet.  
 Haven't seen Capt Broadbent  
 or Guard but think they are OK  
 their boys are anyway. H. B. B.

CO. 20<sup>th</sup> Bn.

The Batt all on objective  
 casualties very slight.  
 The guns are still going.  
 Then requires a good deal of  
 clearing up as frontage  
 was so large that a good many  
 individuals were missed.

Am sending out Major  
 This includes a similar  
 report from Guard.

Time 6.25 ~~pm~~ am  
 31. 8. 18.







The Brigadier has expressed his satisfaction that what has been accomplished so far. Will you please see that all arrangements are made to deal with enemy should he counter-attack through the night. SAA and bombs can be forwarded with rations if required and would can be sent down by guides. When reporting there.

J. H. B. Col  
Cndy. 20<sup>th</sup> Bn A.I.F.

5<sup>th</sup> A.I. BDE

31/8/18

Capt RONALD, 17<sup>th</sup> Bn  
reports situation MT. ST.  
QUENTIN. unsatisfactory  
~~and~~ enemy have reinforced  
and 17<sup>th</sup> have suffered  
considerable casualties.  
Owing to communication being  
down with Bde and  
Artillery have ordered 2 Coy  
of 18<sup>th</sup> to move from present  
position I. 7 B. to reinforce  
17<sup>th</sup> and to advance  
and take MT. ST. QUENTIN  
and woods.

Other 2 Coys have been  
ordered into UBER ALLIES  
trench on village being  
taken 19<sup>th</sup> plus 2 Coys  
18<sup>th</sup> will sweep round  
to take up general line



Cardinal Wood - ST. DENIS  
~~1019<sup>th</sup> Bn~~ has concurred  
 in this  
 Artillery action in ST. QUENTIN  
 village and wood also  
 ANZIL Woods. is required  
 Confirmation of action requested  
 Please. Urgently requested  
 that visual communication  
 be established with this unit  
 from point approx 300m

J. M. G. Col  
 Cndg. 10<sup>th</sup> Bn A.I.F.

17<sup>th</sup> Bn. requiring urgent  
 SAA, Rifle Grenade, Cps.  
 and Bomb. J. M. G. Col

11.30am

O.C. B Coy

31/8/18

Your report timber  
 11.30am very satisfactory  
 have been received 6<sup>th</sup> A.I.B.  
 are passing through line  
 about 1.30pm today  
 Please advise O.C. A Coy  
~~O.C. C Coy~~ & B Coy.  
 Broadbent is at I. 15.47.3.  
 in a dugout as he has  
 been badly shaken  
 up.

This Bde in present position  
 as supports Bde when  
 6<sup>th</sup> A.I.B. passes through

J. M. G. Col

149



May R. Donald

31/8/18

Message received  
will you establish post  
on NORTH side of canal  
to cover your left flank.  
Use VICKERS gun for  
this.

Artillery fire has been  
gathered for 3<sup>rd</sup> Div.  
Have been sent to, to  
bring line up.

John R.  
Ady.

R. H. D.

31/8/18

Please have  
sketches made (AMC.  
beams if necessary) sent  
to A. C. Capt. Barlow  
and some others are  
still up there.

John R.  
Ady.

150

85

Appendix

49  
150



1/9/18

A.B.C.D. Coys.

At 9 AM. you will please  
~~concentrate~~ concentrate  
 Boys in GOTTLIEB TRENCH in  
 I.S.D. Coys to be sorted and  
 reorganized at once. and  
 casualties reported in detail  
 to this H.Q.

10 Men per Coy to report here  
 for rationing on re-organization  
 being completed

SAA & Bomb may be drawn  
 here as required  
 Lt Bain and all H.Q. personnel  
 to report here

Jany

John D.  
 V.A.D.



89

Appendix 421  
152



In the Field,

191

SB 10PM (109)  
Priority RUQA  
ALL B's

Bm 149 31 aaa

Bm will endeavour to carry out instructions as per Bm 143 if unable to do so, they will maintain position gained and 6<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde will pass through to line I 24A. I 16 Central making further advance tonight. 6<sup>th</sup> Bde will probably not move forward of I 14 before 5 PM aaa I 14 Bde to cross about 1 PM and move south of PEROME aaa 7<sup>th</sup> Bde to cross after I 14 Bde to







In the Field,

191

I 7 and I 13. when 7<sup>th</sup> Bdr.  
pass through 5<sup>th</sup> Bdr 5 Bdr  
will mop up river angle at  
PERONNE and will become reserved  
Bdr aaa. Addressed all  
Bnd

5<sup>th</sup> A. I. Bdr

1.15 Pm.



**"C" Form.**  
Army Form C. 3152.  
(In books of 100.)

**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.** No. of Message

Prefix <i>SS</i>	Code <i>AAA</i>	Words <i>103</i>	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect			From <i>RUSA</i>	At <i>1.30</i> m.	
Service Instructions <i>RUGA Priority</i>			By <i>RUSA</i>	To	
Handed in at <i>RUGA</i>			Office <i>1.30</i> m.	Received <i>1.35</i> m.	
TO <i>Bns, 6. M. F. Co. 5<sup>TH</sup> ALTIM Bty</i>					
*Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA		
<i>B M 151</i>	<i>1</i>				
<p>Ref. B M 149 of 31 Aug.  operation contained therein  is changed Bns will  maintain present position  until 6<sup>TH</sup> A.I. Bde moves  through them at 6 AM.  1<sup>ST</sup> Bde when they will  withdraw to FLORENA and  GOTTIEBOURG trenches  and reorganizing 19<sup>TH</sup> I 20 A  17<sup>TH</sup> I 14 D 18<sup>TH</sup> I 14 B.  20<sup>TH</sup> I 8 D AAA. Withdrawal  not to take place until  6<sup>TH</sup> Bde moves through  Attack being made by  14<sup>TH</sup> Bde to clear up PERONNE  and SOUTH. 6<sup>TH</sup> Bde and 3<sup>RD</sup> Div</p>					
FROM					
TIME & PLACE					

**"C" Form.**  
Army Form C. 3152.  
(In books of 100.)

**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.** No. of Message

Prefix	Code	Words	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect			From	At	
Service Instructions			By	To	
Handed in at			Office	m.	Received
TO					
*Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA		
<i>to</i>	<i>advances</i>	<i>within sector</i>			
<i>at</i>	<i>6 AM</i>	<i>under artillery</i>			
<i>AAA</i>	<i>ACKNOWLEDGE</i>				
<i>Addressed</i>	<i>Bns M. F. Co</i>				
<i>5<sup>TH</sup> ALTIM Bty</i>					
FROM					
TIME & PLACE					
<i>5<sup>TH</sup> A.I. Bde</i>					
<i>1 AM.</i>					

Appendix

49  
154



Adj 20<sup>th</sup> Bn

The Batt is now arranged  
as per your order.  
An officer from the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Bn just came in saying  
that they were holding the  
continuous line just before in  
front of our objective yesterday.  
And things seem to be getting  
uncertain.

11:30 am Much Louer Mayo

60. 20<sup>th</sup> Bu

We were forced to withdraw  
to trenches behind the Bellinger  
Pavilliers as the Boers worked  
around our left flank.  
We must hang on as long as  
possible. The 10th are also  
in the trench.

Murphy's

5. 5 km  
31. 8.



6020<sup>th</sup> Bn

We require immediate  
help on flanks. The Germans  
are working around and  
firing into our back.

Our casualties are becoming serious and we must have stretchers, we have seven cases waiting.

I am afraid that if something is not done we will not be able to hold the present position during the night as we are becoming ~~strong~~ weaker every hour.

He is inflicting us with  
G. H. 2. How much is causing  
a great deal of casualties.

4 km.  $\frac{21}{18}$   $\frac{1}{18}$  Buckhorn Lake

60. Elliot will find  
you an idea of our position  
I have lost my map.

The 19th are on our right  
I have only about 50 men

Capt Barlow is around  
~~and~~ I am afraid we  
cannot get at him for  
walking gun fire and  
all the men are dead  
beat.

Will hold on here  
awaiting instructions  
5.20 pm.

## Appendix



To C.O. I am still at about H. 15. a. 5.5

I have just visited 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> parties about this vicinity & the various M. G. & Stokes. The line appears to run around Uher Alley, but beyond about I.E. 15. d. 5.2 is uncertain.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion are supposed to go forward about that area, but nothing is known yet.

Line continues north along E. side trench to about H. 15. b. 0.7. then south, down

Galatz ~~trench~~ alley to I.E. 15. a. 4.4.

Two companies of 18<sup>th</sup> are in series of trenches in I.E. 8. d.

One company 19<sup>th</sup> in trenches in I. 15. c & forming a defensive right flank.

Two Stokes guns & about 10 Lewis Guns are also in this area & well placed.

The enemy does not appear to be <sup>very</sup> near us <sup>(200 yds)</sup> on the left & some 20<sup>th</sup> men are along a bank at about

H. I 8. c. 8.9, although there may be more out in front of that. Want get down there.

2.

The enemy has been showing himself in about I. 9. b. 0.4, in open formation, but owing to his half hearted advance, I am of the opinion that he is only taking up advance positions, although a counter attack is expected. There are a large number of the enemy along the Brigade front & a preponderance around St Quentin.

Since writing this the 18<sup>th</sup> have had orders to move from the ~~left~~ flank to behind the 19<sup>th</sup> on the right flank. The Brigade is not at all well connected up, owing to shortage of men. The men too are exhausted.

Our artillery appears to be very thin & the enemy enfilades us from the direction of Peronne & is also firing a good deal from the front.

The 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> are about 70 strong each & the 19<sup>th</sup> about 80 & the 18<sup>th</sup> (two companies here) 100 strong.

9.5 pm

7 p.m.

What 7.30 p.m.

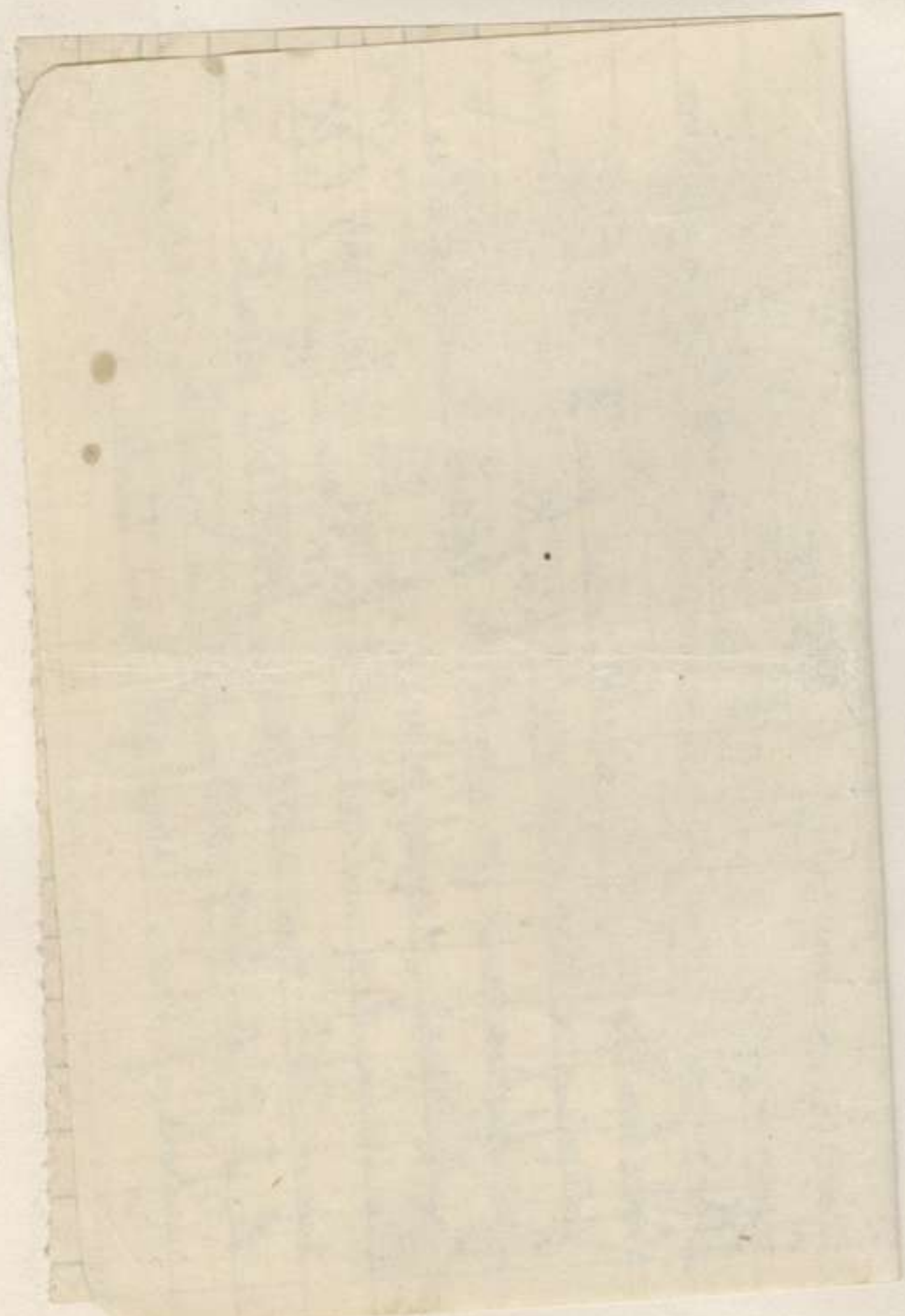
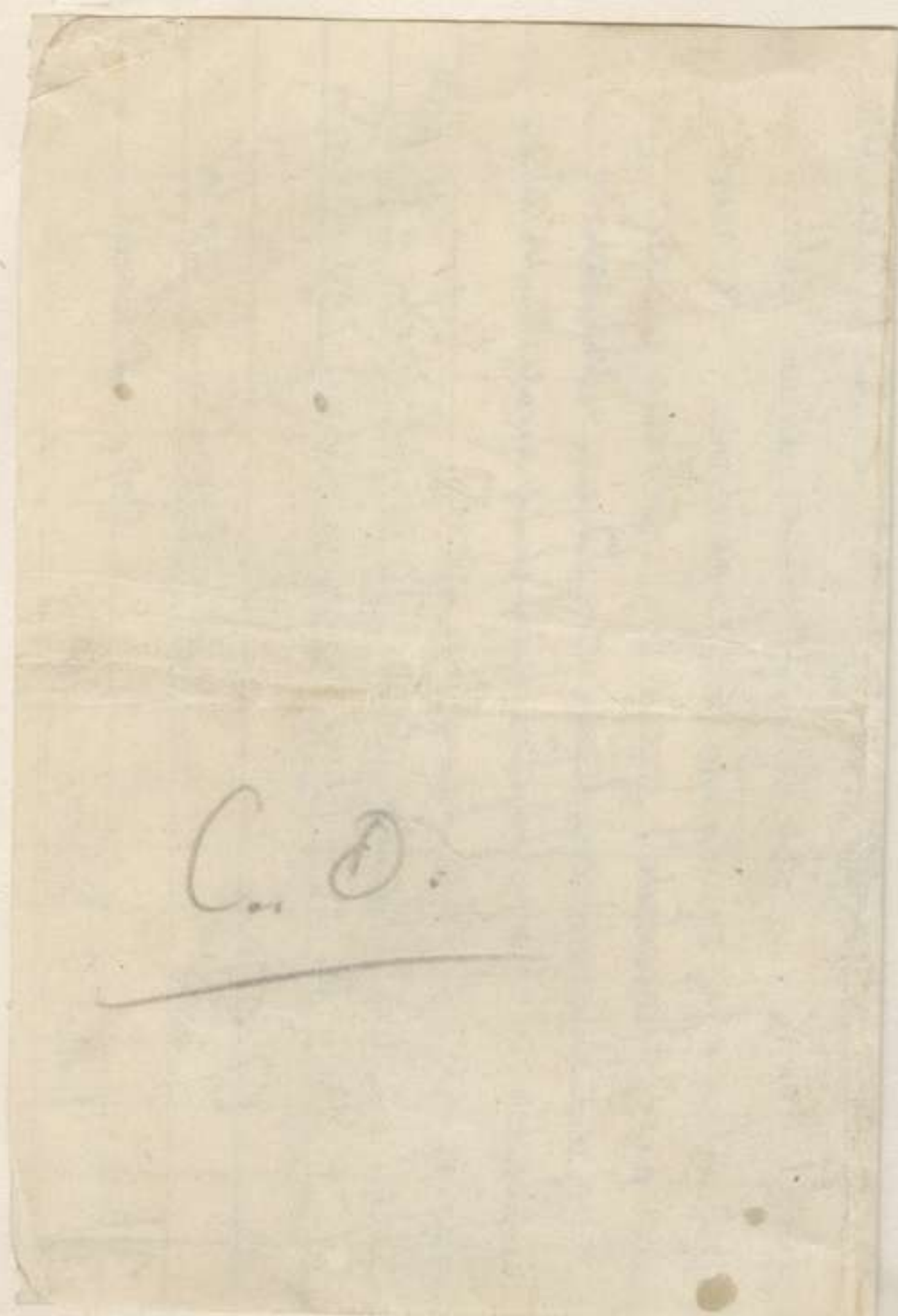
for road sent Capt

O/C. Delay

Appendix

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1/9/18.

Report on operations Mid-night 29/8/18 to  
12 Noon 1/9/18

11.30pm (29/8/18) Amended dispositions  
for attack to be launched on  
MT. ST. QUENTIN received at 19<sup>th</sup> Div  
H.Q.

2 AM. Div moved from positions in  
H. 16 A & B. H. 17. B. C. & D. across  
bridge over CANAL in 17 A.  
towards OMMIE COURT-les-CLERY.  
Div H.Q. established at H. 17. C. 75

4.30 AM. Report received from 18<sup>th</sup> Div.  
that raised road across  
river SOMME. in vicinity of  
OMMIE COURT, on which Div was  
to cross. was blown up  
and it was impossible  
to proceed. This could not  
be advised by phone, owing  
to wire having been carried  
away. The Div. was withdrawn  
to original positions and  
to BDE advised by runner.

5.40 AM. Despatch received from B.  
stating operation would not  
be carried out and orders to





3  
move the Pn to H. 13. A received  
7.15 AM. Abon. completed. Pde  
notified of new dispositions

9 AM. As a result of orders received  
at C.O. conference for  
operation from the N. of MT. ST.  
QUENTIN Pn. was put under  
orders to move at 10.30 am.  
In the interim movement  
given a hot meal, issued  
with Bully beef and extra  
stout for trench work.

10.30 AM. Pn. moved off to find  
C.O. Adj. & I.O. going ahead  
to ascertain latest information  
re the line, from 10th A.I. BDE.  
Route taken from H. 13. A. was  
via CANAL BANK - FEUILLERES -  
H. 9 A X B - H. 10 A. - trench system  
which was followed to bank  
in H. 11. A. The Pn. arrived at  
this point without casualties  
and received a rest of about  
15 minutes.

Information received from 10th A.I. Bde  
was to the effect, that CLERY - Sa  
Somme was clear of the enemy.

3  
except 2 houses. in N.E. corner  
and that a Pn. was established  
in VAN trench in I. I. C. and  
BERLINGOTS trench. This information  
was passed to Coy. Comd. But  
as a precaution units were instructed  
to keep to the trench system in  
moving up on entering ELEV  
ALLEY. H. 6 C. it was quickly  
ascertained that the enemy  
was established there and  
as a result it was necessary  
to clear this trench systematically  
and also trenches running  
off of same. Prisoners taken  
in this trench amounted to  
25 unwounded and 3 M.G.'s  
At this time it became  
necessary to dispatch 1/2 a Coy.  
into village of CLERY in order  
that attack might proceed. This  
expedition resulted in 2 M.G.'s  
and 5 prisoners being taken. The  
latter were handed over to 3rd Div.  
During above operation 12th Bty. A.F.A.  
inflicted serious losses on enemy  
in I. I. B and D. and trench system  
I 2. A. This sheet was carried out.



<sup>4</sup>  
 under direct observation from  
 bank. in H. H. A. and closest  
 liaison maintained by this  
 battery. and Bn HQ. who  
 were established in same  
 bank. As a result of strenuous  
 bombing H. G. first the unit  
 took OUREG trench and ONO trench  
 AVION trench in H. G. D. the  
 latter yielding 2 M. G. &  
 8.20pm. The Bn was established  
 in I. J. A. where instructions  
 were issued to "Stand fast"  
 pending ~~the~~ large operation  
 on morning of 31<sup>st</sup>. During  
 mopping up of BARGE trench  
 OFEANT Alley and ST. DIDIER trench  
 60 prisoners were taken. Which  
 were passed through to 3<sup>rd</sup> DIV  
 and receipt obtained  
 11.40pm. Order for attack received  
 per phone. (in attack on Mt. St. QUENTIN)  
 1.20pm. C.O. and I.O. moved forward  
 and established HQ. at  
 H. 17. B. 8. 4. where instructions  
 were issued to Bay Corps  
 regarding attack.  
 2.15am. C.O. 17<sup>th</sup> Bn. visited at his

<sup>5</sup>  
 HQ. by C.O. and the necessity  
 of breaking his Bn. forward  
 irrespective of difficulties ~~was~~ to  
 "jump off" line. Impressed upon him  
 5.40pm. Bn. Bn. Bn. opening on  
 start line the Bn. moved  
 forward and took quickest possible  
 pace in order to cover the  
 300 yds. between jumping  
 off line and bagging line.  
 During this rush across  
 considerable opposition was  
 accounted for so high  
 were the spirits of the troops  
 that they speedily overcame  
 same and when the enemy  
 saw that our troops really  
 meant business, they surprised  
 themselves readily in order to  
 avoid coming to close quarters.  
 By 5.30am 100 prisoners had  
 been returned to Bn HQ.  
 Once the trench system in I  
 was passed there was no  
 difficulty in following  
 bagging up to objective &  
 in charging with 8<sup>th</sup> FEUILLEA COURT  
 within ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ of objective being  
 reached all caught. were visited



by I.O. who secured himself  
of their being on position and  
ordered. Connection was  
obtained with 17<sup>th</sup> Bn. who were  
being in touch with 19<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
At a report received 11:30 AM.  
stated: "Digging in and  
becoming comfortable" "Enemy  
having been accounted  
for while attempting to get  
back during the morning!  
No touch could be obtained  
with unit on our left during  
the afternoon owing to left  
flank being open enemy  
worked along I.C. & into  
I & D. in considerable numbers  
and also through I & C.  
thus working between 17<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
and ourselves. After a fairly  
lively fight on these flanks.  
and at being at the same  
time infiltrated from the N.  
by both 17<sup>th</sup> Bn. and 19<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
The Bn. took up a position, under  
orders from MAJ McDOWELL M.C.  
about 250 yards in rear of road  
and subsequently to ODER trench  
and GOTTIEB trench.

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I  
One day of 18<sup>th</sup> Bn. was added  
to support RIGHT flank of this  
unit by taking up a position in  
MOINVILLE ALLEY to keep touch  
with 17<sup>th</sup> Bn. (Protective artillery  
was asked for) But owing  
to guns being on move very  
little effective firing was  
obtained.  
Lewis Gun Officer proceeded  
to make reconnaissance &  
to obtain exact situation  
barracks 544 and 1748 of 19<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
were dispatched to line for  
HQ details with instructions  
to remain there for assistance  
to the line. Subsequently  
1 off & 18 ops with Lewis Gun.  
together with 200 lbs L.A.  
proceeded to line to reinforce  
LEFT flank.  
9pm. Enemy shelled vicinity of  
HQ and bridge head. rather  
heavily with H.E. and sniping  
gas. Shells.  
During night situation  
generally was quiet until  
5:30 AM. When enemy.



developed heavy shelling N.E. of  
CLERY inflicting many casualties  
on troops waiting to go forward  
in attack to be launched later  
6 AM. attack launched by 6<sup>th</sup> A.I. BDE.  
Passing through 5<sup>th</sup> A.I. BDE.  
Objectives for this attack  
not known.

9 AM. In accordance with B.M. 151  
Bde concentrated and re-organised  
in ROTTLEB trench 18<sup>th</sup> B. Bde  
completed by 1030 am.  
Bde remaining at H 17 B. 8.5.

Prisoners:

Off. O/R's.  
17. 819. unwounded.  
in addition to above many  
wounded not counted.  
32 M.B.s & heavy T.M.s were  
also captured.  
Our casualties for period

5 Off. 127 O/Rs  
Pushed strength in line (Exclamation of H.Q.)  
6 Off. 125 O/Rs.  
J. H. H. H. H.  
Comd. 20<sup>th</sup> Div. A.I.F.

To C.O. (2)  
From O.C. D. Coy.

D. Company still advancing, & now in about  
H. 16. C. 5.5. We are in shallow  
columns & can find no trace of 18<sup>th</sup> in Huns.  
Some of our troops about <sup>and</sup> 1500/2000 yards  
ahead, & apparently advancing with  
determination & on a large front.

I am keeping in close to A. Company, with  
the object of reaching Immigrant's line.

7.40 am.  
29/8/19

Jack road bent Capt  
O/C



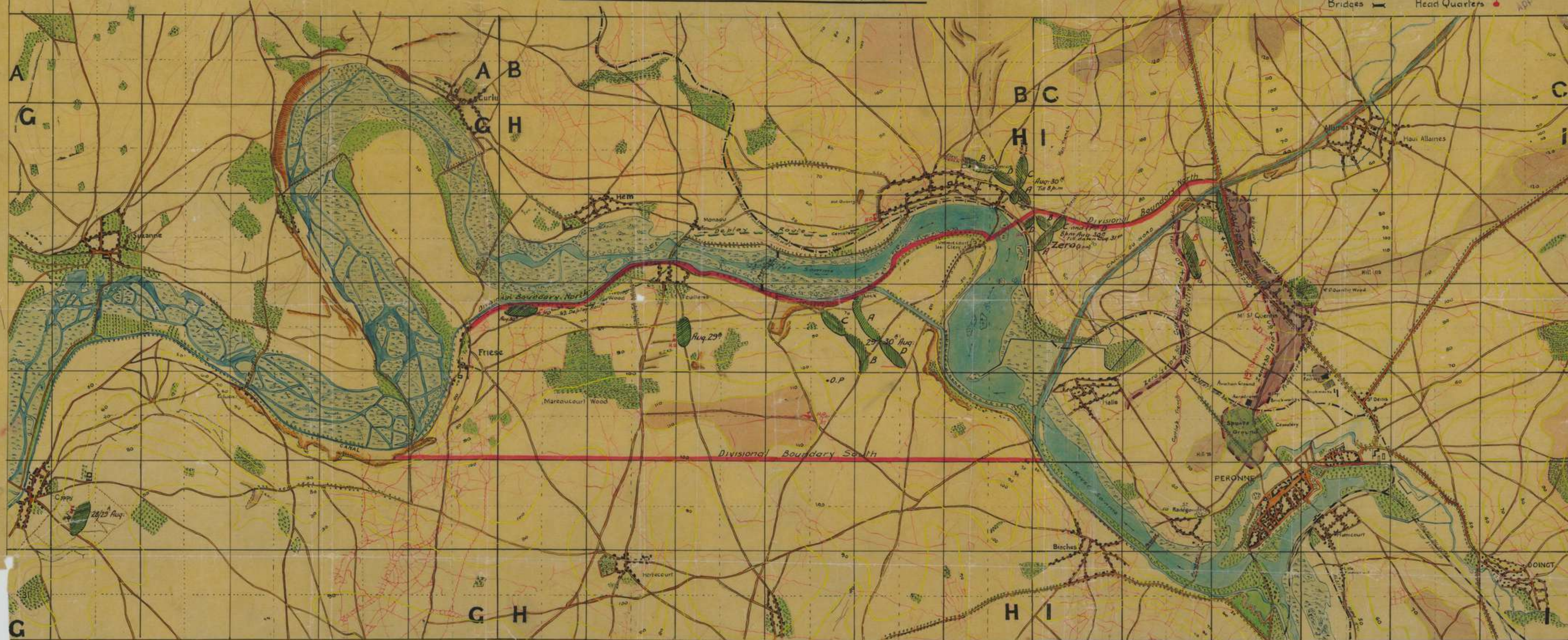
# 20<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION A.I.F.—OPERATION MAP—PERONNE SECTOR AUG. 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 1<sup>ST</sup>

FRANCE Part of Sheet 62<sup>c</sup> NW. Edition 4 B

## M<sup>I</sup> S<sup>I</sup> OUINTIN ATTACK (31.8.18)

REFERENCE  
Zero 5 a.m. 31.8.18

Disposition of Battalion and Companies  
Line of Barrage and Objectives  
Area of Protective Barrage shaded  
Enemy Defences  
Bridges  
Head Quarters



Scale 1:20,000  
Yards 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000  
Metres 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000

N.B. Contours shown thus  
Highest Levels Shaded thus  
Wood or Copse thus

at 10 metre intervals  
Railways: Main double gauge  
Single track do



Appendix 44  
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20th Battalion, A I.F.



1st-2nd August	D.19.c.15.20 N.E. VILLERS-BRETTONEUX. (Sheet 62 D 1/40,000)
2nd-7th August	BLANGY TRONVILLE.
7th-8th August	N.24.a near BLANGY TRONVILLE. (Sheet 62 D.)
8th-9th August	P.21.c. N.E. of VILLERS BRETTONEUX.
9th-17th August	R.25.c.2.2. Between BAYONVILLERS and PROYART.
17th-26th August	FOUILLOY.
26th-27th August	Q.18.d.8.8. Between PROYART and MORCOURT.
27th-28th August	R.5.d.5.9. GARENNE WOOD, N.E. of CHUIGNOLLES
28th-29th August	Quarry F.26.c. near CAPPY. (Sheet 62.c. 1/40,000)
29th-30th August	Sunken road H.15.a.20.0.0. near FEUILLERES.
30th-31st August	H.13.a.7.5. between FRISE and FEUILLERES and embankment H.11.a.5.6. near CLERY-sur-SOMME.
31st August.	H.12.b.9.3. east of CLERY-sur-SOMME.





Period 7th August to 5 p.m. 12th August 1918:  
-----

The morning and afternoon of the 7th Aug was spent waiting under bank of the SOMME near AUBIGNY. In the early evening after the evening meal the A.M.C. party split into two. The Ambulance bearers (less one runner, Pte. Fuller 5th Field Amb.) and the Maltese Cart and driver were instructed to go as far forward out of enemy observation under the high ground between the SOMME and VILLERS BRETONNEUX. As soon as darkness fell they were to proceed as far as the "AEROPLANE DUMP" forward of HUNTER ST. They were unable to do this as the shell fire became heavy as soon as darkness set in - all material was dumped near the YORK St R.A.P. During this trip two bearers were slightly wounded by shell fragments (Ptes. Fox and Paine, 5th Field Amb.)

The second party consisting of R.M.O. A.M.C. details (Cpl. Jones, L/Cpl. Scotton) and runner, Pte. Fuller proceeded in a straight line over the high ground between the SOMME and VILLERS BRETONNEUX, by way of the PIONEER SWITCH. In this area the battalions of the 8th Bde. (5th Divn) were met and one could not but be struck by the cheerfulness of the troops that were to go over the top on the morrow. Further on in a sunken road large numbers of 18 pounder guns were seen drawn up for the morrow's barrage. The entry to the Battle R.A.P. was uneventful, - the Battle R.A.P. consisted of a dugout near the junction of AUSTRALIA SUPPORT and AILEEN TRENCH. The dugout was about six feet wide by eight feet long and four feet deep. The roof was of elephant iron and one layer of sandbags. The floor was just below the level of the sap outside which latter was exceedingly narrow and would not allow a stretcher case being carried along it. About 9 p.m. the runners brought the Ambulance bearers and the A.M.C. material up to the Battle R.A.P.

The material carried during this operation was about 150 shell dressings and the usual complement of Thomas and other splints with material and instruments for their adjustment. The bearers were accommodated in small dug outs and "cubby holes" about 50 yards to the rear of the R.A.P. - these had been occupied at some time by a German Wireless Outfit. The night was spent in the R.A.P. dugout with some 24th Battn. Sergeants - chiefly talking, the 20th A.M.C. had a bottle of whisky while the 24th Sergeants supplied rum - so the long wait was not without cheer. There was little enemy shell fire in this area during the night, most of the fire fell to the rear of the R.A.P. or to the right in the trenches occupied by the 19th Battalion - this was contrary to expectations. On the evening of the 7th the enemy set fire to some supply tanks in an orchard to the West of VILLERS BRETONNEUX. - this caused huge volumes of smoke and it was thought that the enemy would "smell a rat" and strafe during the night accordingly.

The barrage was timed to come down at 4.20 a.m. on the Bn. Sector and a few minutes before this one could distinctly hear the tanks rumbling up to the tape although low-flying aeroplanes and salvos of Artillery fire attempted to drown the rumble of the tanks. Finally the rumble of one tank grew insistent and evidently it was making in our direction. Cpl. Jones remarked "We'd look pretty silly if a - tank ran over our dugout, sir! I've the - wind up about those things". Just then we heard the barrage on the left and almost immediately it came down in our Sector, very few shells dropped short although the barrage was very heavy. About a minute after the start of the barrage, a deafening roar was heard outside the dugout and on looking out the front of a tank was seen poised,



as it were, on the side of the sap opposite the dugout, everybody shouted something and one made a dash for the opening of the dugout, however, it was all too quick, the crash was almost simultaneous as the tank passed over and crushed a side of the dugout - by some means or other no one was hurt. Whilst the occupants were extricating themselves from the debris, a shell hit the undamaged side of the dugout and completed the destruction. The occupants of the dugout now went out into the Sap and there waited for about 10 minutes for the barrage to get a good start. Unfortunately the tank had not only ruined the dugout but had altogether destroyed the splints etc which had been put on the roof of the dugout as there was no room inside. About 10 minutes after Zero the R.M.O. and his batman (Pte. Paine) went with a bag of shell dressings to tell the Regimental Bearers to commence work and also to collect any wounded on the tape. Only an occasional casualty was found and dressed. Owing to the intense fog and the smoke from the smoke and H.E. Shells of the barrage, it was very difficult to find the casualties and more difficult to find ones way about. The casualties collected during the first hour after Zero were chiefly Walkers of the 20th and 19th Bns.

An hour or so after sunrise the casualties were coming in more thickly as the mist had, to a certain degree cleared so the depressed area once a Wireless Station (before mentioned) was converted into a Dressing Station. The casualties here treated were from many units, a few 20th and 19th Bn. men 4th and 3rd Division men, tanks, and large numbers of German prisoners. These prisoners proved very useful in carrying wounded to the rear, and from forward to the R.A.P. A party of German Red Cross men were put under a Red Cross N.C.O. (also German) given a bag of shell dressings and made to dress their own wounded. Large numbers of prisoners passed the R.A.P. on their way to the rear and they were mostly given a load. Other passers by were the 30th and 31st Bns. and Capt. Brown 8th Field Ambulance with a party of bearers. About 11 a.m. everything was just about clear and all hands set to work to get something to eat. After this meal the area from the tape to the first objective was scoured for wounded only a few odd ones, however, were found.

During the afternoon all hands tried to get a little sleep but there were constant interruptions and the Hun began to shell all round with his H.V. gun. Later in the afternoon the R.A.P. and all attached was moved to near 20th Bn. H.Q. in a depression near BOIS L'ACCROCHE - here we were all wonderfully cheered by the glorious news of the wonderful advance. The night was spent quietly in "bivvies" in this depression - the earlier part was somewhat disturbed by the loquaciousness of certain diggers nearby after the rum issue.

An early start on the morning of 9th August with the A.M.C. party and Maltese Cart in rear of the battalion which advanced in Artillery Formation. Passed through WARFUSEE - ABANCOURT where everyone was greatly cheered by seeing the 1st Australian Division passing through. After passing through this village, or to be more exact, heap of bricks, the Bn. passed along the Northern side of the great East West Road, and in the neighbourhood of BAVON VILLERS crossed to the Southern side. The Battalion rested for some time behind a road running off at right angles to the E-W Road towards HARBONNIERES. On passing across the deep gully with BUCHANAN and other WOODS in it fairly heavy fire was encountered. Arrangements were then made for a R.A.P. and to obtain touch with Advanced Dressing Stations. The abandoned enemy C.C.S. on the E.W. Road was chosen at first but was later abandoned as it came under heavy shell fire. Major Wells, R.M.O. 30th Bn. had his R.A.P. in this C.C.S. and a few minutes after reconnaissance by 20th A.M.C.



was severely wounded by a shell - he later died from these wounds. At 4.30 p.m. the 17th and 18th Btns. attacked in the direction of FRAMERVILLE while the 19th and 20th Btns were in support. An R.A.P. for 20th Bn. had been found in a sap near Bn. H.Q. - as soon as the advance began this came in for pretty heavy shelling. Several tanks were damaged during this attack. One disabled tank made for the R.A.P. no doubt attracted by the Red Cross flag and thus drew a good deal of enemy fire on to the R.A.P. The crew of this tank had severe burns and were more or less severely shocked. Only a few cases were treated in the R.A.P. this afternoon. When things had quietened down a bit the ground forward of the R.A.P. was searched for wounded but none were found. The night was spent by the A.M.C. detachment in the large quarry nearby and a good nights rest was obtained. The contents of the Malteset Cart were dumped and the horse and driver proceeded to Bn. Transport Lines leaving the Cart in the quarry. During this period and the subsequent period the Ambulance Bearers were fed from the Company Cookers of the Battalion and the men owe much to Capt. Kent M.C., the Quartermaster of the 20th Btn. in this respect.

Just after sunrise on the morning of the 10th August an R.A.P. was formed for a few hours in a Sap just East of the PROVART - HARBONNIERES road near Bn. Headquarters. Later during the day a fine dugout was converted into R.A.P. on the Cross Roads between E-W Road and PROVART- HARBONNIERES Road. The roof of this was covered with a layer of iron girders quite 18 inches thick with wood and earth covering. Inside were beds, tables, and other conveniences. Just on the other side of the road Capt. Whish R.M.O. 18th Btn. had his R.A.P. - the ambulance cars drove right up to these twin R.A.P.'s.

During the morning two motor lorreys drove up the E-W Road and turned off along the PROVART Road. They did not go far along this latter before they came under heavy M.G. Fire from PROVART - both drivers were killed - they were Canadians. This will show the great doubt about the exact position of the enemy that existed at this period. During the afternoon the enemy shelled the cross roads with heavy guns but did no damage although the R.A.P. dug-out sustained a direct hit.

Just before nightfall news that the 20th Bn. was to attack next morning was received so the R.A.P. had to be shifted forward. A site was chosen in a dugout in the Pioneer and Engineer Dump at LA FLAQUE and a move effected just after nightfall. During the night casualties were dealt with from the 10th Brigade (3rd Austn.Divn). who were making an encircling movement to PROVART along the E-W road. Early next morning the 20th Btn. attacked under cover of a heavy mist - not many casualties came from this attack. The Regimental Bearers had to travel across an open space between the E-W Road and FRAMERVILLE under direct enemy observation. They state that while working under the White Flag they were never deliberately fired upon. During this morning 4 of the Regimental Bearers were resting for a few minutes near the R.A.P. in a round hole where there had at one time been a bell tent. A 4.2 shell landed in this hole with them and wounded very slightly 2 of them while the other 2 were not touched. All four however were more or less gassed by Blue Cross (sneezing gas) and entering the R.A.P. almost immediately after the explosion gassed the occupants causing extreme sneezing etc. and vomiting in one case. It was noted that the enemy about this time was using Blue Cross in nearly all his shells (H.E.)

On the afternoon of the 12th Capt. Beare was relieved by Capt. Bateman who had returned from English leave.

No praise would be too high to bestow on the Regimental Bearers during this period. Their work was hard and dangerous but in spite of casualties they carried on unflinchingly. The work done, by Pte. "HAPPY" Sutton calls for special mention.



AUGUST 1918.

The period August was spent in the line at KENT R.A.P. at 62 D (SE) p 19 Xd.6.7.. There was nothing of unusual occurrence. At the end of this period the battalion moved back to the village of BLANGY-TRONVILLE where it was billeted in houses. At this period the epidemic of Diarrhoea had almost died down only an isolated case reporting with this complaint on sick parade. On the night of 6th. Aug. a party of 1 N.C.O. and 12 bearers joined the battalion for duty from the 5th. Aust. Fld. Amb. The duties allotted to these men was as follows:-

- (a) To act as liaison between the R.A.P. and the nearest Field Ambulance Post.
- (b) To collect cases in the immediate neighbourhood of R.A.P.
- (c) To carry cases from R.A.P. to nearest ambulance post.

The men were rationed from the ambulance, but were by the courtesy of the Q.M. 20th. Battn. they were given any hot meals that the battalion men had brought to them on the cookers. A while after the arrival of these men, the A.A.M.C. details and attached ~~men~~ moved off with all gear on maltese cart to AUBIGNY system, where the night was spent on the banks of the SOMME. On the evening of the 7th. Aug., the A.A.M.C. party moved up in detachments to the battalion R.A.P. at 62D (se) P 20 D 93. The maltese cart again conveyed material to within a 1000 yards of the R.A.P. but unfortunately came under pretty severe evening shell fire. The Battn. R.A.P. was merely a small dugout off a sap and was used as a store only - the personnel slept in funk holes in the neighbouring saps. At 4.30 a.m. on the 8th. Aug. the barrage opened and almost at the same time a tank passed over the R.A.P. crushing it in and destroying a good deal of material in the ways of splints, etc.. No cases came in until 5 a.m. when the material was removed to a depression about 50 yards from R.A.P. where all dressings were done from that time on. During the morning about 11 a.m. the flow of casualties were steady consisting of men from 2nd. 3rd. 4th. 5th. Aust. Divisions and miscellaneous Imperial Units and later on enemy prisoner wounded passed through in much larger numbers than our own. Enemy prisoners were used in large numbers in carrying wounded, both from front line to R.A.P. and from R.A.P. to Advanced Ambulance Post. During the afternoon in conformation with the movements of Battn. the R.A.P. was moved to dugout in neighbourhood of P.22. Central

Early next morning, detachment with Maltese Cart marched with Battn. which was in Artillery Formation along AMIENS-PERONNE ROAD to open field in vicinity of Q.34. central, thence cart was taken to chalk pit in gully in Q.35. central. Immediately on arrival the routes of evacuation to ambulance were investigated and post at W.5.c.3.5. was chosen instead of that at Q.29.c.3.3. as the route to this post was being shelled at this period. On the completion of this arrangement a Battn. R.A.P. was established in open sap at Q.35.c.9.2. As the Battn. was in support no 20th. Battn. casualties were dealt with but only men from miscellaneous units thereabouts. Perhaps the most interesting cases were the crew of a tank who were suffering from burns as the result of direct hit on tank from enemy shell. At 5 a.m. on Aug. 10th. the detachment, less cart, moved to strong dug out at cross road at R.25.c.1.5. where R.A.P. remained till 9.30 p.m. when it moved to R.25.d.5.4. Here the R.A.P. remained till /8/1918. During this latter period a good number of casualties both from 20th. Battn. and various 3rd. Aust. Div. Units who had apparently great difficulty in locating their R.A.P.'s. While this there was a big percentage of bearers (Regimental) wounded and killed as the carry was in full observation of the enemy who swept the flat fields to be traversed with burst of machine gun fire. Regimental stretcher bearers worked under the white flag and were all emphatic on the point that the enemy did not deliberately snipe them.



The work of the Regimental Stretcher Bearers in this region is beyond praise for they had many wounded both our own and enemy to carry in under shell and machine gun fire. Whilst at this R.A.P. Ambulance bearers carried to motor loading post at R.25.c.1.5/ The fact that the cars came so close to R.A.P. ensured a rapid and efficient evacuation of wounded. On the 12th. and from thence onwards to the 17th. the battalion was behind FRAMERVILLE in support lines. The R.A.P. was situated in a dug-out at the edge of a large enemy dump and appeared to be of enemy construction. Next day we moved back away from the dump as it was shelled to a position which was nearer the battalion and more central. There were a few casualties only, weather fine and warm. The men had hot meals which were cooked some distance back in a ravine and carried forward. Our water supply was drawn from a source further back and brought forward in water carts to barrels. A reconnaissance of the 24th. Battn. R.A.P. was made. On the night of the 17th. the battn. marched to BAYONVILLERS, where they disembussed and were taken to Fouilloy. Here, we stayed for nine days. Very dusty, hot, weather prevailed, which made the canal waters very inviting to the men and officers. There was very little sickness of any kind, sick parades were small. A swimming carnival was held and all the men were very fit. Several route marches took place which served to keep the men's feet fairly hard. Hot baths were made use of freely and fresh changes of clothing received and tunics and trousers run through a delousing chamber. Inoculation return for the battalion was completed up to 100%. There was a large amount of refuse in the village which had to be cleared up. Late in the evening of the 26th. the battalion again disembussed and left FOUILLOY proceeding to the east side of WARFUSEE for some distance where we disembussed and marched to trenches behind PROYART. The maltese cart accompanied us with the advanced transport. Sick parade was held under the maltese cart cover which formed a tent. Shortly after lunch the battalion moved off to a position in front of CHUIGNOLLES, passing through a little shell fire from heavy shells on the way. There were no casualties. In our new position we formed the R.A.P. in a shed which had quite recently been a German Dressing station but had been evacuated on account of our 6th. Bgde. capturing it. There were some German dressings still left, bundles of cellulose and bandages, which seemed to be made out of window curtains or some open work material. The R.A.P. was in a sunken road, which was littered with hurriedly cast away German material. Some water from a well which was thought to possibly contain some poisons was tested and found to be quite alright. The position of the Field Ambulance was ascertained. Some shelling of the wood and trenches where the men were placed occurred but we were lucky and had none. Next morning the 28th. I visited the Field Amb. and found out their probable movements. They were in a chateau in CHUIGNOLLES. After lunch we moved again marching a short distance to just south of CAPPY where we were placed in a QUARRY in G.26.c. There were no shelters but plenty of material to make them, surrounding us. The men soon had bivvies made for themselves. The R.A.P. was made out of a spare tarpaulin which was on the maltese cart and some malthoid roofing material for the sides. Next morning the 18th. Battn. were to attack through the 6th. Bgde. with the 20th. Battn. in close support. Reveille about 3.30. A hurried breakfast and we moved off to keep up with the 18th. who were meeting with little opposition. Whilst in front of PROYART I had three squads of the 5th. Field Amb. Bearers attached to me and after that I obtained a wheeled stretcher. The maltese cart was left behind and 5.30 a.m. of the 29th. found us moving forward at the rear of the battn. with our line equipment carried partly by my details and partly on the wheeled stretcher.



Each squad of bearers carried two stretchers and four blankets. We marched as far as BRISE, where we had a spell for a while. Then the companies moved forward to get into touch with the 18th. Battn. The R.A.P. moved on ahead of the H.Q. Coy. to H.14.a.5.0. A few dressings were done here but there were no wounded coming through worth mentioning, though this was the ground that was advanced over that morning. Whilst in this position two Germans emerged from the village of FEUILLERES and marched over to the Red Cross Flag we had flying. They were sent back to battalion H.Q. escorted by the chiropodist on horseback. After about an hour here we went along the road to some dugouts and established the R.A.P. there in H.15.a.2.3. at a cross road which after became the Motor Loading Post. Here I got into communication with the Field Ambulance through Capt. Park who arrived in a Ford car. A few cases arrived here though there more wounded Germans than our men. We stayed here all day and towards dusk went forward to a position about four or five hundred yards behind the companies to be close at hand for an attack, the next morning in which an attempt was to be made to cross the river. This was an excellent R.A.P. and was situated at H.16.a.3.2. No casualties during the night and the attack was postponed owing to a bridge being blown up. One of our stretcher-bearers (Regt) came through in the early morning. About 6 a.m. we packed up again and marched back to behind FEUILLERES? along the canal where the men had a hot breakfast and a short rest. At 10.30 a.m. the battalion moved off, crossed the SOMME at FEUILLERES to the north bank. (here our wheeled stretcher punctured and had to be dumped). The companies opened out into extended order and moved along the bank of the river, then spreading up north a little and pushing through the 3rd. division. Wounded were to be evacuated through CLERY-sur-SOMME. The R.A.P. was established at H.11.a.5.7. Very few casualties came through here. In the evening some wounded Germans came through us. The prisoners were utilized for carrying back stretcher cases and did numerous trips. Next morning the 31st. the battalion attacked at 5 a.m. The R.A.P. was moved forward at 6 a.m. to a position on a ridge to the left of the 17th. Batt. R.A.P. at about I 1.C.4.5. Few cases came through here so we moved down to just in front of Battn. H.Q. at H.12.b.9.0. Whilst getting to the first spot there was a good deal of shelling and two of the ambulance bearers were hit, both fairly lightly. The carry for our bearers after we became established at H.12.b.9.0. was back about 600 yards to a Ford Car. Later on in the day the cars and horses Ambulance came up in numbers to where we were and formed the motor loading post. Large numbers of casualties came through during the day from the three divisions, 3rd., 5th., and 2nd., German prisoners were utilized to the utmost for getting stretchers cases away and often relieved a congestion. Supplies came up from the Fld. Amb. fairly well. At midnight the cases ceased until 6 a.m. the next morning the 1st. September.

Sgd. C.D. Bateman Capt.  
R.M.O. 20th. Aust. Inf. Battn.