

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/37/39

**Title:** 20th Infantry Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-23/37/39

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**



OF

20th BATTALION, A. I. F.

FOR

OCTOBER, 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

*[Handwritten signature]*

Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Handwritten signature]*

Major.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

8  
6

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS-FAUCON	1-10-18	0630	Weather, Fine. Brigade Order to move to HARGICOURT received.	
		0815	Battalion moved off in accordance with Brigade Order. March was delayed on account of very heavy traffic on the roads, which were very heavy and slippery.	
HARGICOURT L.12.a.		1215	Move completed. Battalion bivouaced in L.12.a. Battalion Headquarters established in Club Quarry L.12.a.1.2. No shelter whatsoever for the troops, who had to dig in and make shelter for themselves. All men were issued with Talcom Powder for feet and a clean change of socks.	
		1430	C.O. and I.O. made reconnaissance of the forward area.	
		1730	Conference of C.Os held at Brigade Headquarters.	
		1745	Verbal message received to move to forward area.	
		1845	Move was ordered and carried out.	
ESTREES		2345	Arrived and established Battalion Headquarters at G.6.d.2.7. Battalion relieved 57th and 59th A.I. Battalions in front line of ESTREES AREA.	
"	2-10-18	0300	Relief completed. Night very quiet, cold, and clear.	
		0930	Brigade Bombing Officer and I.O. visited Battalion Headquarters.	
		1020	C.O. and I.O. went forward to look over front line	
		1100	Up to this time communication with the rear was indifferent. Obtained only by transmission through 7th A. I. Brigade to 2nd Australian Division, then back to 5th A. I. Brigade.	
		1130	C.O. and I.O. returned.	
		1215	Situation very quiet.	
		1230	Communication through to 5th A. I. Brigade.	
		1325	T.O. and Q.M. visited Battalion Headquarters. C.O. made arrangements, in addition to ordinary rations, to have a hot stew delivered to the front line at 0300, 3-10-18.	
		1350	Urgent Operation priority wire received from 5th A. I. Brigade stating "G.O.C. will interview C.Os at Brigade Headquarters at 1500.	
		1408	C.O. left for Brigade Headquarters.	
		1600	Situation normal.	
		1700	C.O. returned from G.O.C.'s Conference.	
		1800	C.Os Conference with "A" & "B" Company Commanders, at which coming operation was explained, and orders for attack issued.	
		1900	Rations arrived and were distributed to the Companies, consisting of rissoles and cold meat.	
		1930	Arrangements made regarding relief by 25th A. I. Battalion	
		2015	O.C., "C" Company arrived and C.O. explained and issued orders for the coming operation.	

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ESTREES	2-10-18	2030	Weather changing; light rain.	
		2040	Enemy shelling vicinity of Battalion Headquarters.	
		2130	Situation normal.	
	3-10-18	0020	Enemy <del>was</del> heavily shelling left sector in the direction of ARRAS.	
		0115	Enemy shelling ESTREES with 5.9's.	
		0127	Order No. 220 received from 5th A. I. Brigade.	
		0132	Hot stew arrived on pack mules, and issued to troops. It was greatly appreciated.	
		0137	Message C.5. despatched to 5th A. I. Brigade.	x
		0145	Message C.6 despatched to 5th A. I. Brigade.	x
		0225	Moved Battalion Headquarters from G.6.d.2.7. to H.2.c.2.9.	
		0230	Enemy heavily shelling our course with H.E. and mustard gas shells, making it necessary for the troops to wear Small Box Respirators whilst on the move. This caused great inconvenience to the men on account of the darkness of the night, and the roughness of the ground.	
		0415	Arrived and joined 19th Battalion Headquarters at H.2.c.2.9.	x
		0419	Message C.7. despatched to 5th A. I. Brigade.	x
		0545	Message V.8. despatched to 5th A. I. Brigade.	x
		0600	Situation exceptionally quiet.	
		0603	Our protective artillery barrage commenced splendidly, all guns barking at <del>an</del> one.	
		0605	Storm beginning to break. Battalion moved off the tape excellently.	
		0700	Attack going well. Enemy shelling No Man's Land. A few stray shells falling in the vicinity of Battalion Headquarters.	
		0715	Whippets moving up.	
		0730	Attack progressing well. Advice received that 7th A.I. Brigade had taken up a line from B.7.a.0.0. to B.15.a.0.0.	
		0745	Lieut. O. A. Beattie, Intelligence Officer, went forward to find actual situation of Battalion. <del>Reported</del> Advice received that 19th Battalion were being held up at the line running through B.27.a. & c.	
		0800	19th Battalion still held up, but fighting very hard.	
		0830	51 prisoners sent back from our line consisting of 64th and 58th Regiments, 190th Division.	
		0930	Message received from O.C., "C" Company stating that Battalion was held up in front of Village of BEAUREVOIR.	
		0935	Lieut. S.G. BURDUS, D.S.O. was sent forward with instructions for the Battalion to hold on in the valley with outposts.	2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near <del>ESTREPS</del> Valley in B.14.d.	3-10-18	1000	Received message from O.C., "B" Coy confirming report of O.C., "C" Coy.	
		1030	Message C.9. despatched to O.C. "B" Coy.	
		1130	Message C.10 <del>0</del> addressed "A", "B" & "C" Companies.	
		1140	O.C. "B" Company reported Battalion Headquarters and explained situation of whole Battalion.	
		1400	Lieut. S.G. BURDUS, D.S.O. returned to Battalion Headquarters and made clear the whole situation.	
		1700	Battalion Headquarters moved 100 yards further into village of ESTREPS, and occupied a cellar at H.2.c.2.9.	
		1830	6th A. I. Brigade started to move through 5th A. I. Brigade.	
		1940	Barrage opened, and 6th A. I. Brigade successfully attacked the enemy.	
		1910	Rations arrived and were distributed to the troops. They included hot tea and stew.	
		2000	<del>Enemy</del> shelling ESTREPS with blue cross gas shells.	
2330	<del>Message</del> S.C.647 received from 5th A. I. Brigade, stating that Battalion would probably be relieved.			
2338	Message B.M.238 received from 5th A. I. Brigade stating "Battalion will withdraw".			
4-10-18	0045	Message C.14 despatched to Companies with reference to withdrawal.		
	0130	Situation quiet.		
	0230	C.O. took three guides down to billet Battalion in sunken road at H.7.b.		
	0530	Message C.15 despatched to 5th A. I. Brigade reporting completion of withdrawal.	✓ 6	
	0600	Barrage opened for further attack <del>by</del> <sup>through</sup> 6th A. I. Brigade, which was carried out by English troops.		
	0700	Attack going well.		
	0950	Message C.16 despatched to 5th A. I. Brigade.	x 7	
5-10-18	1130	C.O. proceeded to Conference at Brigade.		
	1230	Staff Captain, Brigade I.O. and Brigade Bombing Officer visited Battalion Headquarters		
	1500	C.O. returned from Brigade.		
	2000	Situation normal for the remainder of the night.		
	0830	Weather fine; sun shining.		
	1010	Telephone Message from Brigade Major for C.O. to move his Battalion from sunken road in H.7.b. to trenches in H.10.b. and d. in support of 6th A. I. Brigade.		
	1035	Battalion moved off to new position.		
1200	Battalion arrived at trenches as instructed. C.O. and I.O. interviewed C.O. 2nd Pioneer Battalion at his Headquarters			
1230	Companies were settled down in trenches, and had their mid-day meal.			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H.10.b. & d BEAUREVOUR SYSTEM	5-10-18	1300	Communication was established from the trench to C.O. at Pioneer Headquarters at H.10.c.5.6.	
		1430	O.Cs Companies were interviewed and the situation explained, with instructions to lie low in present position, and await further orders.	
		1630	Six American Officers reported to A/Adjutant, and were shown over trenches prior to relieving the 20th A.I. Battalion.	
		1800	Nine guides were sent to Headquarters at H.10.c.5.6., for the purpose of guiding the 118th American Regiment into our position.	
		2200	Battalion relieved by the 30th American Division. C.O., (Lieut-Colonel F.W.D. FORBES, D.S.O.) remained with the relieving troops, under instructions from the 2nd Australian Division, to act in an advisory capacity.	
		2230	Battalion commenced to move back to sunken road in H.7.b. under Lieut. C. E. CAMERON.	
H.7.b.	6-10-18	0130	Battalion arrived and took up position in sunken road.	
		0200	Move Order No.45 was issued.	
		0300	Enemy slightly shelling ESTREES with tear gas.	8-9.10
		0500	Lieut. W.H. ELKINGTON moved off as Billeting Officer.	
		0630	Limbers arrived to carry out Lewis Guns and Mess Gear.	
		0730	Battalion moved off under Lieut. C. E. CAMERON	
		0930	Battalion arrived at starting point. On reporting to Brigade Headquarters first intimation of change to Continental time was received, hence an hour's delay before passing starting point.	
		1230	Arrived at HERVILLY. Headquarters established at K.3.a.8.2. (Sheet 62.c.N.W.) Captain C. MORGAN JONES joined Battalion and took over Command.	
		1630	Captain C. MORGAN JONES and Lieut. C.E. CAMERON proceeded to Divisional Headquarters to attend a Conference.	
		7-10-18	0-10-18	0100
0110	Instructions issued to Companies regarding move.			
0600	Transport and all Q.M. Gear moved off.			
0730	Battalion moved off in order Headquarters, "A", "B", "C" Companies, towards entraining point at TINCOURT.			
TINCOURT		0940	Whole Brigade arrived at TINCOURT STATION. Owing to a smash-up further along the line	f

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TINGCOURT	7-10-18	1200	Brigade was obliged to wait. During such time hot tea was issued to the troops. Brigade entrained and moved off. Weather very cloudy and cold with heavy showers of rain towards the end of the train journey.	
		1720	Brigade detrained at LA ROCHE, near AMIENS, and moved off by march route to VIGNACOURT AREA,	
		2330	After a long and arduous march of 20 kilometres (12 miles) troops arrived and were allotted their respective billets. Headquarters established in Billet No.313, Melbourne Street, VIGNACOURT.	
VIGNACOURT	8-10-18	A.M.	Weather fine.	
		0830	Breakfast was served, and during the day all men were busy cleaning up their billets.	
		1530	Battalion paid. The day was a complete rest for all troops.	
	9-10-18		Weather fine.	
		0930	Kit inspection carried out for the purpose of ascertaining all shortages. Lieut-Colonel F.W.D. Forbes, D.S.O. resumed Command of Battalion.	
			<u>Casualties During Operations:</u> Killed, 9 O.Rs. Wounded, 2 Officers and 105 O.Rs. Unaccounted for - 7 O.Rs.	
			<u>Prisoners:</u> 12 Officers and 162 O.Rs.	
			<u>Trophies:</u> 13 German Light Machine Guns 6 " Heavy " " 3 " .77 mm. 2 " 4.2's.	
	10-10-18		Weather: Raining.	
		1500	Bath parade held, and all troops had a hot bath and were issued with a clean change of clothes.	
	11-10-18		Weather cloudy. Light rain during the night. 9 Officers and 110 Other Ranks were taken on strength from the 19th Battalion, on account of Brigade re-organisation	
	12-10-18		Weather showery.	
		1430	C.O. gave an interesting talk on the work <del>they</del> would do during their spell, explained the education scheme, and assured them everything possible would be done for their enjoyment whilst away from the trenches.	

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VIGNACOURT	13-10-18		Weather fine. Church Parades conducted for all troops.	
	14-10-18	1000	Weather fine. Football match played in the afternoon. Dental inspection of all members of the Unit carried out.	
	15-10-18		Weather dull. Companies paraded in billets. Winter clothing indented for.	
	16-10-18.		Weather misty. Battalion bathed, and issued with clean clothing. Troops notified that they may obtain daily leave to surrounding villages.	
	17-10-18		Weather dull and showery. Inspection of clothing, equipment, and ammunition carried out, in preparation for the G.O.C.'s inspection. Battalion Sports held. All events keenly contested, and an enjoyable afternoon spent.	
	18-10-18		Weather dull. C.O.'s conference held at Brigade Headquarters. £. Regimental barber appointed, and commenced work.	
	19-10-18.		Weather fine. Instructions issued to Company Commanders with reference to G.O.C.'s inspection. C.O. (Lieut-Col. F.W.D. FORBES, D.S.O.) proceeded on Paris Leave. Major J.H. McDONALD, M.C. returned from leave and took over Command of Battalion.	11
	20-10-18		Weather showery. Church Parades for all troops conducted. 19th Battalion <del>integrated</del> Band (at present attached to 20th Battalion) rendered a short but enjoyable programme in the streets. This was greatly enjoyed by French civilians as well as the soldiers.	5



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VIGNACOURT	21-10-18	1000 1430	Weather fine. Parade conducted on Battalion Parade Ground for a rehearsal for the afternoon inspection. G.O.C's inspection conducted. The splendid turn-out gave all-round satisfaction.	
	22-10-18		Weather fine. Parades carried out on Battalion Parade ground in the morning, including Inspection, Physical Training, Bombing and instruction in Lewis Gun and German Machine Gun. Football match in afternoon - Officers & N.C.Os V. Men of the Battalion, resulting in a victory for the men, scores being 5 to nil Motor lorry service from Brigade Headquarters to ABBEVILLE, for the purpose of conveying leave personnel daily to that town, and returning the same evening, commenced. Battalion Christmas Cards issued to all troops free of charge.	
	23-10-18	0900 1300	Weather fine. Parades - Inspection, Bayonet Fighting and Organised games. 3½ hours' route march in fighting order, carried out. "Green Diamonds" <del>xxxxxx</del> Brigade Concert party showing nightly at 6 p.m.	
	24-10-18	p.m.	Weather fine Parades were carried out on Battalion Parade Ground, comprising Inspection, Bayonet fighting, Organised games, <del>musketry</del> , Open Order drill, Lecture on tactics with Lewis Gun, and Bombing. Lecture on Map Reading, after which a football match took place. Divisional Intelligence Officer lectured to all Officers and N.C.Os on "Intelligence and German Army".	
	25-10-18		Weather dull. The morning's work consisted of Inspection, Bayonet Fighting and organised games, and musketry. In the afternoon Parades comprised Open Order Drill, lecture on tactics of Lewis Gun, Gas Inspection and Drill with Small Box Respirators. Divisional Intelligence Officer again lectured Officers and N.C.Os.	
	26-10-18		Weather fine.	

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VIGNACOURT	26-10-18		Bathing parade was held for the Battalion. All men received a hot bath and a clean change of clothes.	
			The afternoon was spent in an enjoyable game of football.	
	27-10-18	1000	Weather fine. Church Parades were held in the morning.	
			An inter-Company "C" v. "D" football match resulted in a win for the former by 4 to 2.	
	28-10-18.		Weather fine. G.O.C. Second Australian Division, inspected troops during training, and expressed great satisfaction with their work.	
			Training in Bombing, Lewis Gun and German Machine Gun, Musketry and Close Order drill was carried out. In the afternoon organised games were indulged in.	
	29-10-18.		Lieut-Colonel F.W.D. Forbes, D.S.O. returned from Leave and resumed Command of Battalion. Weather fine.	
			Palliasses and extra winter clothing issued to all troops.	
			Parades for the day included Bayonet fighting, organised games, open order drill, Lewis Gun and German Machine gun, and Musketry.	
			C.O. took over Temporary Command of 5th A. I. Brigade. Major J.H. McDonald, D.S.O., M.C., took charge of Battalion.	
	30-10-18		Meeting in connection with A.I.F. Education scheme held in the afternoon. Weather fine.	
			Route March to HAVERNAS and back in the morning, a distance of about 8½ kilometres. In the afternoon training consisted of Musketry, Platoon drill and organised games.	
			Football was indulged in.	
	31-10-18		Weather showery. Training for the day consisted of:- Inspection, P.T., Gas Drill, Close Order Drill, Musketry, Open Order Drill, and Organised games.	

*James McDonald*  
.....Major,  
A/C.O., 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

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# WAR DIARY

APPENDIX

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OF

20th BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

OCTOBER, 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1 to 7 inc.	Telegrams affecting operations.
8	C.O.'s Report on Operations.
9	Miscellaneous Notes affecting operations.
10	do Wires do do
11	Plan of Parade.
12	R.M.O.'s Notes.
13	Quartermaster's Notes.
14	Transport Officer's Notes.
15	Changes in Officers during the month.
16	Honours and Awards
17	Alterations in Strength
18	C.O.'s Review of Month's Work.







To		By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By	
M M V. 1				M M V. 1			
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.		A A A	
* 107		3					
P D D							
550		H 2		C R 9		802	
with		L I S U					
From		L I Z O					
Place							
Time		0420					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				(Z) <i>[Signature]</i>			
Censor.				Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.							
(11160.) Wt. W 492 M 1647. 65,000 Pa. Is. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)							







# APPENDIX 6

13<sup>B</sup>

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Sent	.....
.....					At.....	.....	Date.....
.....					To.....	.....	From.....
.....					By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
TO {		W U V I		Appendix 1006			
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.		A A A	
* 1015		4					
more		complete					
From 1130							
Place							
Time 0530							
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				(Z) [Signature]			
Censor.				Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			



At.....m.		Service.....	
To.....		From.....	
By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....	
TO {	W.U.V.I. appon 12/11/1917		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 616			
Reference your			
S.C. 650.			
	off. 1/2.	Off. 92.	
From		LIZ O	
Place			
Time 09.50			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z) [Signature]	
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
* This line should be erased if not required.			
411160.) Wt. W 492 M1647. 65.000 Pads. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)			

REPORT ON OPERATIONS from 27-9-18 to 5-10-18.

In accordance with Brigade Instructions the Battalion marched out from FRISE AREA, on the night of the 27th September, 1918, destination being hutted camp in vicinity of ALLINES, route being via FEUILLES - CLERY-SUR-SOMME - ALLINES. The Battalion moved as part of the Brigade group, clearing the starting point (H.14.b.9.9.) at 10 p.m.

The night was cold and inclined to be wet, which made the going in places somewhat heavy, particularly as full packs were being carried. The March was completed at 1.25 a.m., 28-9-18.

During the day of 28th September, 1918, packs, blankets, and all other surplus gear, were dumped under Brigade arrangements in PERONNE. At 7.30 p.m. the march was resumed in fighting order, great-coats also being carried, the route being BUSSY - LONGAVESNES, to vicinity of VILLERS-FAUCON. Here a camp was taken over from the 106th American Regiment. Possibly owing to this formation having been very recently engaged in active operations, the opportunity did not present itself to clean camp, which was undoubtedly in a most filthy condition when taken over.

During the 29th September, 1918, the camp was placed in a sanitary condition, and American personnel who were continually arriving back from the line were ~~sorted~~<sup>sorted</sup> out and given definite positions to occupy in their camp.

On the morning of the 1st October, 1918, the march was resume via TEMPLEUX, HARGICOURT, to vicinity of VILLERET, move being completed by 12.15 p.m. The roads throughout this section were in a bad state on account of rain and heavy traffic. At 1745 instructions were received from Brigade to take over the line that night in vicinity of ESTREES from the 15th A. I. Brigade. The Battalion moved off at 6.30 p.m., the C.O. going in advance to ascertain dispositions, which it was found necessitated taking over the front from 57th and 59th A.I. Battalions. As the line was found to be in rear of that which we were ordered to occupy, same was advanced between 600 and 700 yards during the relief in order to comply with instructions received. Line established ran from MINT COPSE in B.19.c. to cemetery on North edge of ESTREES. Great difficulty was experienced in reaching the position owing to guides supplied losing their way on several occasions.

However, the line became established at 0300 on the 2nd inst., without undue hindrance on the part of the enemy. During the night several patrols working well forward ascertained the enemy was not holding any advanced position in front of BEAUREVOIR LINE, and also that the TORRENS CANAL was dry. Headquarters established at G.6.d.2.7.

During the 2nd October, 1918, the enemy displayed considerable activity with his artillery and towards dusk, five low-flying enemy aeroplanes were observed over our lines for a considerable period. Instructions having been received as to relief by 25th Battalion on left and 19th Battalion on right, and attack on the morning of the 3rd October, 1918, the necessary arrangements were made to concentrate the Battalion in sunken road in B.25.d. for the period between relief and forming up on "jumping off" tape. During this period of waiting all ranks were served with an extra hot stew in addition to ordinary rations.

From 0200 to 0500 the enemy shelled heavily the sunken road in B.25.d. in which the Companies, prior to taking part in the operations later in the morning, were centred. Between these hours the enemy's artillery was particularly active over the whole forward area, both gas and H.E. being used.

At 0225 Battalion Headquarters moved from G.6.d.2.7. to H.2.c.29, gas helmets having to be worn all the time this move ent was in progress. On arrival a joint Headquarters was established with the 19th

(Continued)

Battalion. At 0530 Companies assembled in rear of 19th Battalion on Jumping Off tape in preparation for the assault on the BEAUREVOIR LINE and exploitation as far as and including the village of BEAUREVOIR.

At 0610 the barrage opened extremely well with the exception that a few guns were firing short, and continued so throughout the whole operations.

At the first lift the Battalion got away well, and maintaining their distance from the 19th Battalion forced their way through the enemy wire, and across the BEAUREVOIR Trench and support. Up till then no tanks had reported to this Unit, and it is believed that some were ditched in rear of BELLICOURT on their way up, but the "MIONNEY" reported just as we were crossing the wire of the BEAUREVOIR SYSTEM

The enemy's barrage came down between our jumping off line and the BEAUREVOIR LINE, but was not in any way heavy. About this time it was reported that the 19th Battalion were held up for about 200 yards North of the main road, and as a result Lieut. O. A. BEATTIE, ~~was~~ Intelligence Officer, was sent forward to ascertain the exact extent. This Unit was able to push on, however, without undue casualties towards their objective. Information was received that the 7th A. I. Brigade had arrived at the approximate line from B.7.a.00 to B.15.a.0.

At ~~8x~~ 0830 51 prisoners of 46th and 50th Regiments captured in the vicinity of LA MOTTE FARM were sent in.

At 0925 information was received from Lieut. G.S.B. HOLMES, that the whole Battalion was in KUKRI VALLEY, having been forced to their left by fire from their rear from the direction of B.27 Central, and railway line and station in front of BEAUREVOIR. Not being able to advance on BEAUREVOIR from the South, Company Commanders decided, after holding a Conference, to move round and to work up KUKRI VALLEY in order to work round the position. This movement was carried out in spite of fierce machine gun fire, and reflects the greatest credit on the leaders concerned for its successful accomplishment. As the result of this movement our troops gained the cross roads to the North of BEAUREVOIR MILL, but were forced to withdraw down the slope mainly on account of enemy .77gun at B.9.d.8.3.

During the movement before referred to one battery of .77's, which was holding up the Brigade on our left, was absolutely put out of action by our Lewis Gunners and riflemen, who accounted for the whole of the crews. At this time the tank "MUDHOOK" under 2/Lieut. MARTIN, of the 13th Tank Corps, rendered the greatest possible service. in attempting to silence enemy machine gunners at BELLEVUE FARM. Twice this tank charged the stronghold, and remained in action until the whole of ~~its~~ its crew were overcome by fumes, when it was withdrawn to KUKRI VALLEY, and volunteers were obtained from the 7th Brigade to act as crew to enable a further attempt to be made to silence this stronghold. On obtaining this volunteer crew the "MUDHOOK" proceeded to LA MOTTE FARM, which at this time was giving considerable trouble. Firing the guns while advancing this tank charged the stronghold in a most gallant manner, but was stopped within 100 yards of the objective by anti-tank gunfire, which set it on fire. The "MUDHOOK" was one of the tanks allotted to this Battalion, but was not seen until the Battalion got as far forward as the sunken road in B.15.a.

In view of the fact that no definite information was received from the 19th Battalion as to the situation on the right of their sector, Lieut. S. G. BURDUS, D.S.O., was sent forward with instructions to Companies not to endeavour to push further forward, but to withdraw to line on the TORRENS CANAL pending further instructions, and the clearing up of the situation in their rear. On these instructions being carried out, it was discovered that portion of a Company of the 19th Battalion had for some unexplained reason come up on our left flank, and taken up a position in TORRENS CANAL in B.20.b. This party had no Officer with it. In the meantime LA MOTTE FARM was cleared of the enemy, and our right flank dropped back to B.21.b.3.1.

At 1140 Lieut. C. CAMERON, O.C. "B" Company, reported at Battalion Headquarters, and explained the situation of all Companies,

(Continued)

being closely followed by Lieut. S. G. BURDUS, D.S.O., who confirmed same.

Prior to report of these two Officers the situation in B.27.c. had become clear, and the WHITE HOUSE, which was giving a bulk of trouble, was cleared by 18th Battalion, who subsequently pushed forward their line under instructions from Brigade Commander, to B.22.c. Throughout the day the 150th Army Brigade, R.F.A., 12th Army Brigade, A.F.A., and 18th Battery, A.F.A. rendered the greatest possible assistance in dealing with fleeting targets and machine guns. The 150th Army Brigade put down a box barrage on an enemy gun in B.9.d. with most satisfactory results. During the afternoon on report being received of much enemy activity north of BEAUREVOIR, a most successful shoot was also carried out, which effectively dispersed the troops assembled in this vicinity.

Owing to advance and clearing of situation a reconnaissance was made with a view to occupying more forward Headquarters, a suitable position being ultimately found in B.27.a.8.5.

At 1630, the 6th A. I. Brigade moved through the 5th A. I. Brigade, and appeared to be able to advance without undue opposition on the part of the enemy, and established themselves in the general line, B.18.central - 22.central - 29.central.

During the evening the enemy shelled ESTREES and vicinity with Blue Cross gas shells, also KUKRI VALLEY with Blue Cross and Red Cross gas shells.

At 2328 instructions received from Brigade Headquarters to withdraw Battalion to sunken road in H.7.b. This was carried out without casualties and completed by 0530, 4-10-18. During the evening of the 3rd October, the troops were served with hot stew and tea in their positions. in B.21.a & b, this being made possible by the energy and determination of the Assistant Transport Officer.

During the 4th October, 1918, the troops were well-rested and towards evening a party of 25 under Lieut. D. H. ANTHON, M.C., were sent over positions captured for the purpose of salvaging enemy machine guns, Lewis Guns, trophies &c. These were dumped by the Canal Bank, and removed by transport early on the morning of the 5th October.

At 1010 on the 5th October, under instructions from Brigade Headquarters, the Battalion was ordered to be ready to move at 1030 to trenches in H.10.b & d in support of attack by the 6th A. I. Brigade on MONTMARN, arriving there at 1200. On reporting to C.O., 2nd Pioneer Battalion, as per instructions, it was ascertained that the situation was decidedly mixed, but it appeared that ample troops were available for the 6th Brigade to meet all requirements. The Battalion was not used in any way in this operation, and at 2200 was relieved by 1st Battalion, 118th American Regiment. The C.O., under instructions from the 2nd Australian Division, remained as an attached Officer in an advisory capacity, to 118th Regiment.

The Battalion on relief moved back under Lieut. C. CAMERON to positions in H.7.b. evacuated that morning.

At 0730 on 6-10-18 the Battalion moved off to HERVILLY AREA, which was reached at 1230.

Casualties During Operations:-

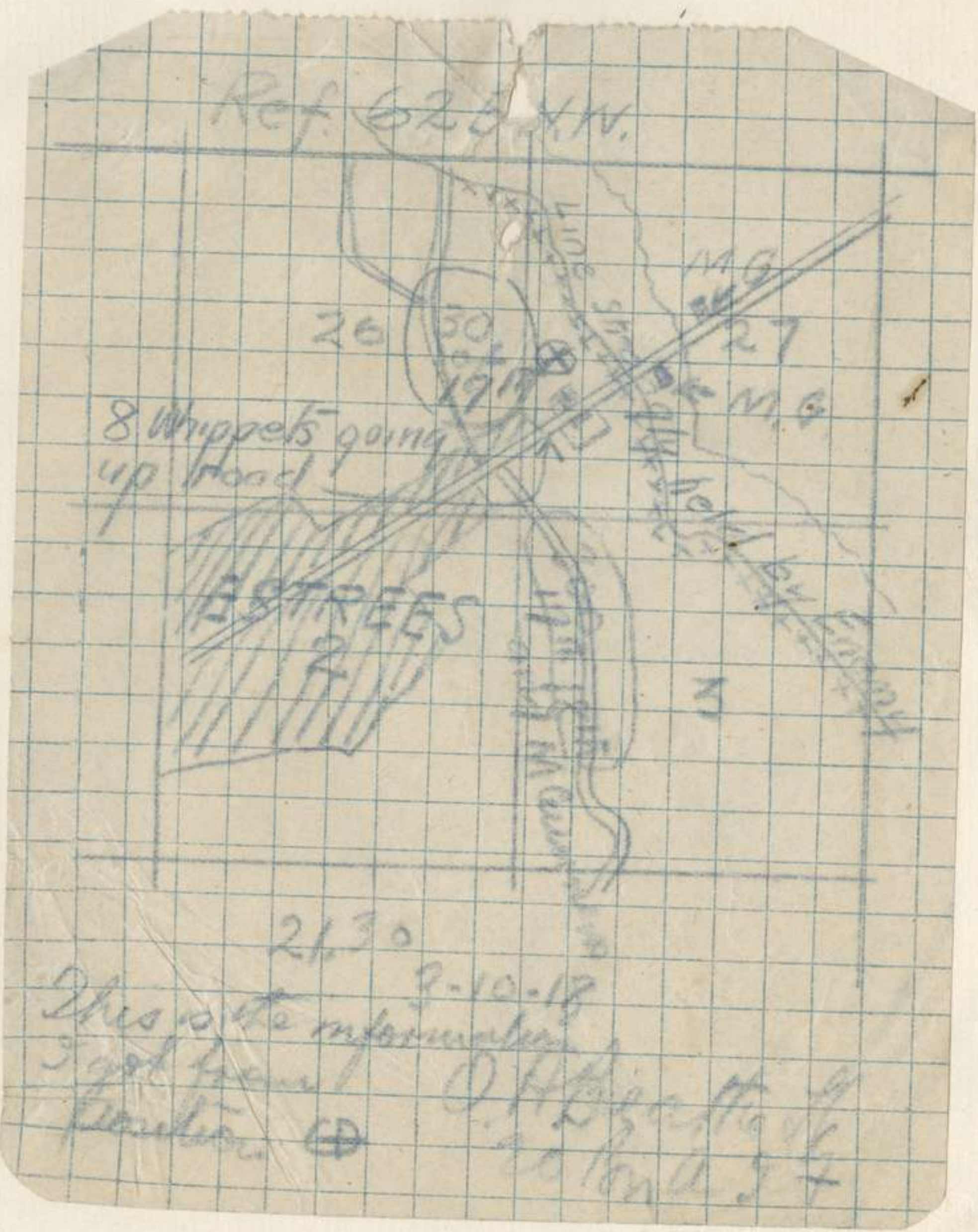
<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Unaccounted for.</u>
9 O.Rs	2 Officers 105 O.Rs	7 O.Rs

<u>Trophies:-</u>		
German Light Machine Guns		13
" Heavy "		6
Lewis Guns salvaged		6
German .77mm.		3
German 4.2's		2

Prisoners: 12 Officers & 162 O.Rs.

(SGD) F. FORBES, Lieut-Colonel,

ADJT 150 A Bae  
Appendix 100  
 Germans reported holding  
 trenches in B24c  
 heard from the Colonel  
 line now runs  
 B24c 30.00 along road  
 up to house in 17d  
 + 30 on along railway  
 further not known.  
 Pipsqueak bty said to be  
 in B12c central.  
 Am sending this by runner  
 Very heavy enemy shellin  
 C.S. Alder 11.15 am



APPENDIX 9

Received <sup>32<sup>th</sup></sup> 23 Prisoners

3<sup>rd</sup> Bde H.Q. A.I.F.

3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 1918.

H. Perry.

Total 32 H.P.

Total prisoners

12 Officers, 162 O.P.s

5 Bde H.Q.

5/10/18

Received from 20 BN following  
prisoners 4 Officers + 100 O.P.

Parkinson  
Capt.

38 prisoners  
received  
from  
20th Bde  
Warrington  
ASMO

38 Total

Liaison Officer  
HQ. Art.

There are a lot of  
huns in Hedge in  
Bd 2 A 60.60-80.85.

Will you get  
artillery on to it  
~~for~~ with Harassing  
Fire until dusk.

Sturton Lt.

Advise C.O. if this will  
interfere with his  
other Battalion

W. G. B. Banks  
ASMO

PTO  
20/3/18

be an attack on LA MOTTE FARM.

via R. FLANK will rest on 2000  
+ 21885.99. Left FLANK 21A3.7

At present using a company FARM  
but we expect no resistance

1205

3-10-18

W. G. B. Banks

Will you please arrange for Artillery

to be kept clear of FARM from 1st

PTO

W. G. B. Banks



538

Phillips  
Liaison Officer

Want Reinforcements to help  
connect with 19 Bde.

354  
D.H.

89

APPENDIX 9

70

CO 20th AF

We are pro-ceeding to occupy position  
from B209.516 51 B 39 and will  
await further orders

N. G. H. [unclear]  
O.C. AF

11:30  
8.10.18

3  
1 [unclear]  
2 [unclear]  
2nd [unclear]  
2nd [unclear]

APPENDIX 9

2/10/19

30. CO  
20th Bn

From the jump off to the MASHIERES  
BEAUREVOIR were all went well  
in the attack this morning.

There were no tanks  
The 20th Bn then proceeded in artillery formation  
crossing the TERRENS CANAL under heavy  
MG fire from the ridge on LA MOTTE FARM  
and down valley to the north and  
heights in B 16 to.

This fire coming from behind & on flank  
made all move toward KUKRI VALLEY  
A Coy in rear had many casualties.  
Along the ridge in B 24 runs an old French  
communication trench, the Bn worked  
up & crossed road from LORMISSET  
to BEAUREVOIR at B 14 C 36

It was impossible to advance beyond  
that road owing to MG fire from hill 135  
BEAUREVOIR & surrounding ridges  
It was thought better to return to

La Motte valley as we were then in  
the 7th Bn area.

A party of the 19th were left at approx  
B 14 C 36 and remainder of 20th Battalion  
worked around reverse slope and piled  
post-MUSHROOM QUARRY and took up  
position in TERRENS CANAL from  
approx B 20 B 65 to B 21 a 26.

11.45

G. H. Hunsford  
C Coy

12.00

The Bn which at present has  
consists of A Coy. 25 men B Coy 35 C Coy 23  
men are now distributed as follows  
A Coy from B 21 B 39 to B 15 C 60  
B . . . B 15 C 60 to B 21 a 05  
C . . . B 21 a 05 to B 20 c 45

12.10

G. H. Hunsford  
C Coy

**"A" Form.**  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Army Form C. 2121.  
(In pads of 100.)

Prefix SM Code 1415 m. Words 26 Charge. \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Message \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. WUVI

This message is on a 'c of: \_\_\_\_\_

Recd. at 1432 m.  
Date 3-10-18  
From WUVI  
By [Signature]

Sent \_\_\_\_\_  
At \_\_\_\_\_ m.  
To \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO \_\_\_\_\_ L120 \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's Number. \*59 397 Day of Month. 3<sup>rd</sup> In reply to Number. AAA

59 390 AAA Send Lieut SAUNDERSON to report to Bde. H.Q. today he is due at A.I.F. H.Q. LONDON tomorrow  
AAA Mojent

act 613

From WUVI  
Place \_\_\_\_\_  
Time 1400

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. **(Z)**

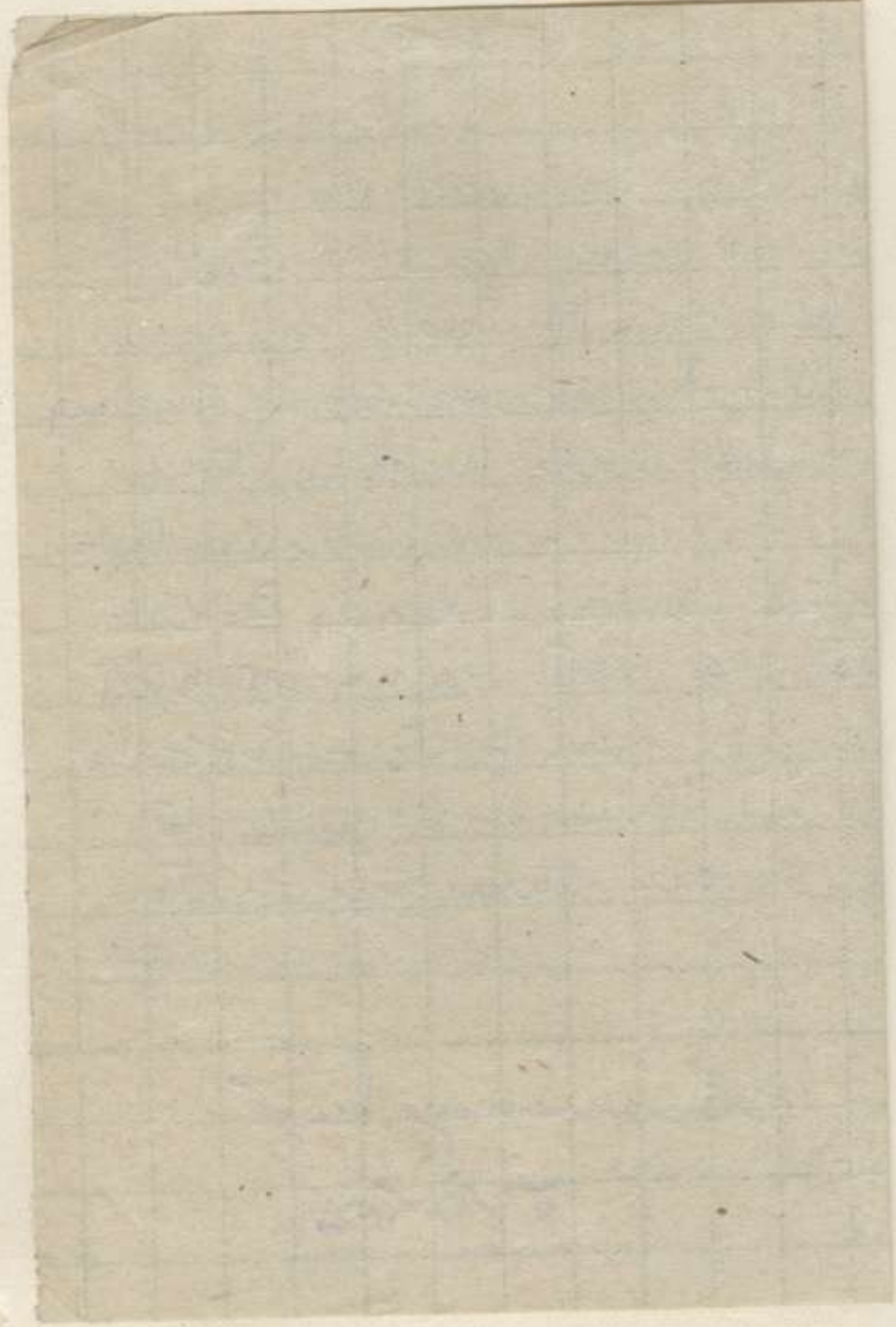
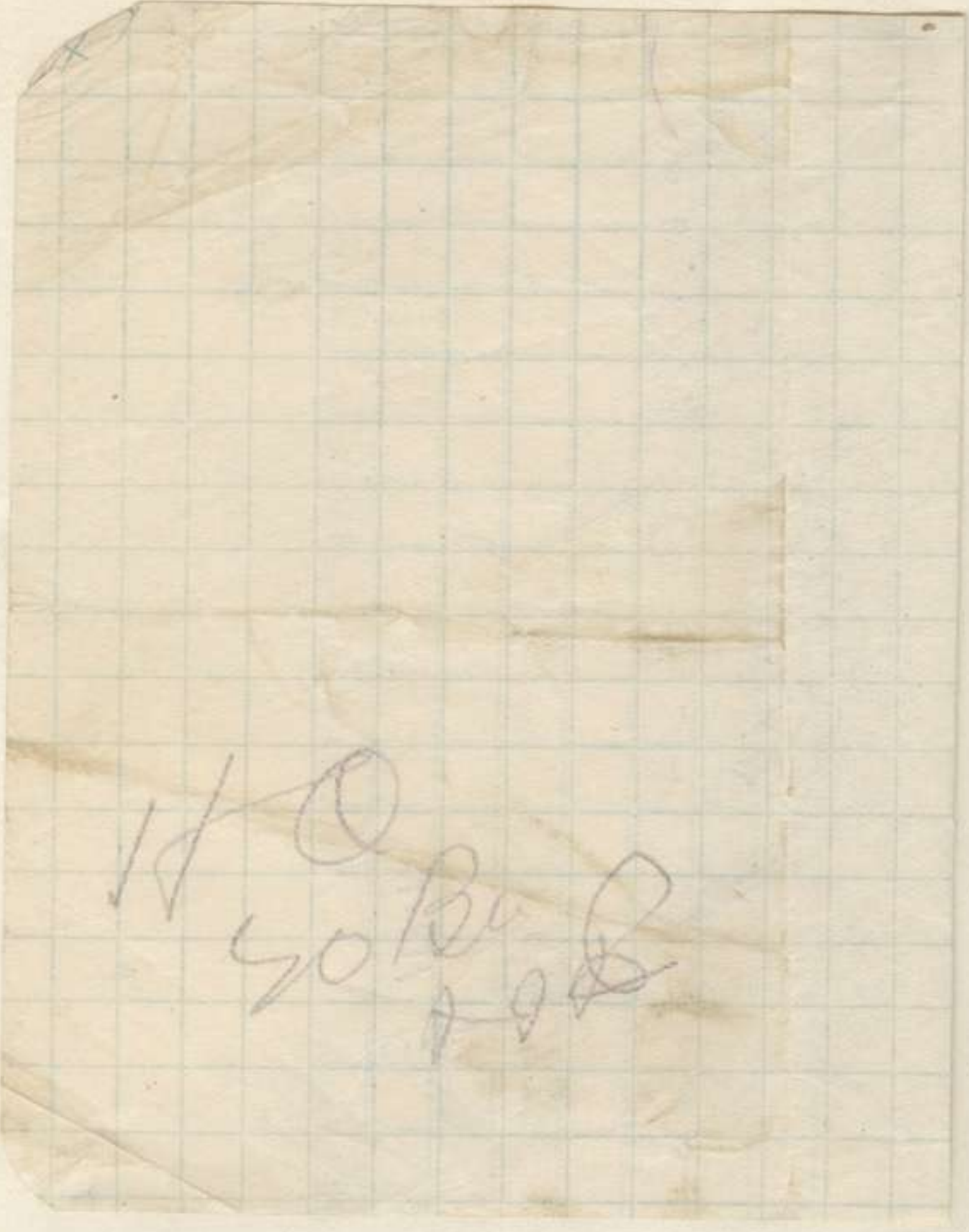
Censor. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name. \_\_\_\_\_

\* This line, except **AAA**, should be erased if not required.  
Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)



24

APPENDIX 9



140  
20 B 4 B

Relief by 19 B completed

H. Coy has moved into assembly  
position Sinker Road B 25 d 23 -  
B 25 d 23 B 26 C 00

W. G. Peake  
O. C. H. C.

0235  
3:10:18  

---

3:10:18.

To Adv  
24th Bn.

3/0/48.

Whole 3 Coys in B. 15 a. o.c.  
will drop back to La Motte Valley  
in B. 21 a will attempt to take  
Hill 135

June  
8-31

Ed. Holman Lt

APPENDIX 9

45'

To: <u>APPENDIX 10</u>		From: <u>10</u>	
By: _____		By: _____	
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO {	<u>WUVI</u>		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	<b>AAA</b>
* <u>64</u>	<u>2</u>		
<u>DDDD</u>			
<u>316</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>027</u>	
From	<u>LIZO</u>		
Place			
Time <u>0320</u>			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. <b>(Z)</b> <u>[Signature]</u>			
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.			
(11160.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 65,000 Pa.s. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)			

At: _____ m.		From: _____	
To: _____		By: _____	
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO {	<u>WUVI</u>		
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	<b>AAA</b>
* <u>081</u>	<u>2</u>		
<u>Situation</u>	<u>Quiet</u>	<u>ad</u>	
From	<u>LIZO</u>		
Place			
Time <u>0324</u>			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. <b>(Z)</b> <u>[Signature]</u>			
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.			
(11160.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 65,000 Pa.s. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)			

89

APPENDIX 10 56



To\* ..... From .....  
 By ..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By .....

TO { WUVT }

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**  
 \* 63 2

*Ammunition  
 transportation  
 etc.*

From L120  
 Place  
 Time 0810

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

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 (11160.) Wt. W 492 M:647. 65,000 Pals. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ltd. (E. 1187.)

At.....m. From .....  
 To..... By ..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { WUVT }

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**  
 \* 63 2

*Groups of 10 are seen  
 moving in hedge at  
 B13.0 55.95. AAA  
 movement no 2 at B13.75.  
 AAA.  
 movement in trench  
 running through B13.6  
 L. 2-3.*

From  
 Place  
 Time 1145

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

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 (11160.) Wt. W 492 M:647. 65,000 Pals. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ltd. (E. 1187.)

To.....  
 By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

From.....  
 By.....

TO {  
 Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

*Estimated casualties  
 of O.P.s  
 0 Killed 2 Wounded*

From.....  
 Place *LIZO*  
 Time *1145*

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

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 (11160.) Wt. W 492 M1647. 65,000 Pa.s. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)

To.....  
 By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

From.....  
 By.....

TO {  
 Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

*Situation of normal*

From.....  
 Place *LIZO*  
 Time *15145*

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

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 (11160.) Wt. W 492 M1647. 65,000 Pa.s. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)

By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By.....	
TO { <u>WUWI</u> }					
Sender's Number. * <u>514</u>		Day of Month. <u>3.</u>		In reply to Number. <u>—</u>	
<b>AAA</b>					
<p><u>O.O 22<sup>nd</sup> reports.</u>  <u>moving off to time</u>  <u>in tent with 23<sup>rd</sup></u>  <u>for night. 24 on left.</u>  <u>observed to be coming</u>  <u>along nicely.</u></p>					
From		<u>LIZO</u>			
Place					
Time		<u>0.</u>			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		<b>(Z)</b> <u>J. J. [Signature]</u>			
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.					
*11160.) Wt. W 492 M1647. 65,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)					

By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By.....	
TO { <u>WUWI</u> }					
Sender's Number. * <u>513</u>		Day of Month. <u>3.</u>		In reply to Number. <u>—</u>	
<b>AAA</b>					
<p><u>You Boko 236. neted</u></p>					
From		<u>LIZO</u>			
Place					
Time		<u>2:30</u>			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		<b>(Z)</b> <u>[Signature]</u>			
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.					
*11160.) Wt. W 492 M1647. 65,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)					

By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By.....	
TO {		WUVI			
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA		
* 1017	4	4021			
Capt	V.B. PORTMAN	Hospital			
P. U. O	2.10.18	Lieut	A. T.		
IREACHER		Hospital	P. U. O		
3.10.18	aaa.	Lieuts	R. S.		
ELLIOTT		N.C. TOOGOOH			
and	Lieut	T. HAINEN			
W. I. A	3.10.18	aaa	Other		
names	W. I. A	9	aaa		
W. I. A	83	aaa			
Unaccounted for	32				
aaa	Hospital	Sick	3.		
From	L140				
Place					
Time	1340				
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)	[Signature]		
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.				
* This line should be erased if not required.					
(11160.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 65,000 PaJs. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)					

By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By.....	
TO {		W.U.V.I.			
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA		
* 1015	4				
years 1/166 notice					
From	L120				
Place					
Time	1915				
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)	[Signature]		
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.				
* This line should be erased if not required.					
(11160.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 65,000 PaJs. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)					

APPENDIX 10 30

By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....

TO { W.U.V.I.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. \* 019 4 A A A

Location of trophies  
dump. B.20.B.9.3.

From LIZO  
Place  
Time 2000

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name. \* This line should be erased if not required.

(11160.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 65,000 Pals. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)

By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....

TO { W.U.V.I.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. \* 0/20 4 B.M. 259 A A A

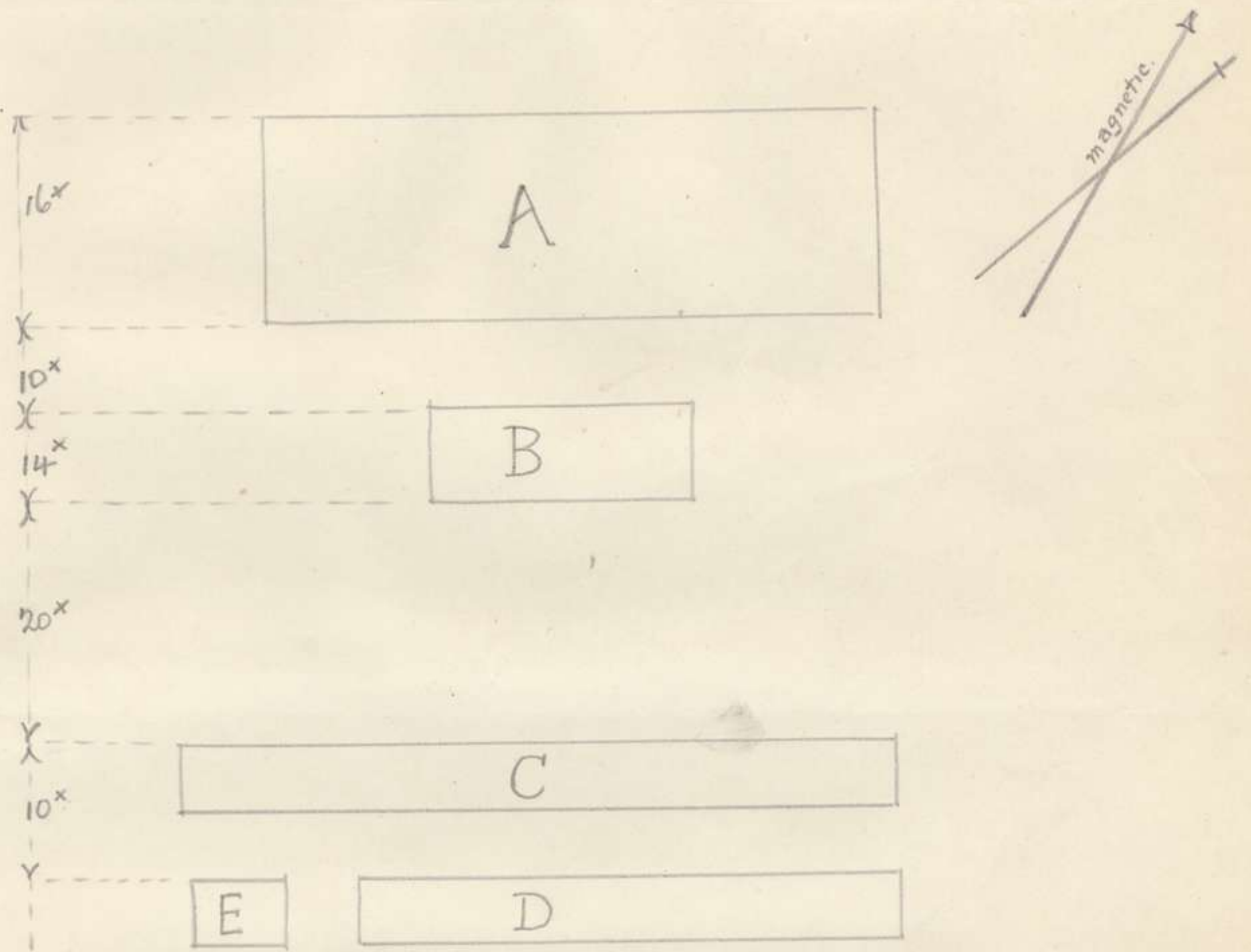
Acknowledged

From LIZO  
Place  
Time 22.50

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name. \* This line should be erased if not required.

(11160.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 65,000 Pals. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)



Not to Scale.

A. Btn. in mass.

B. Hq. details.

C. Limbers.

D. (Right to Left) Cookers, Water Carts, Mess & Maltese Carts.

E. Pack Animals.

War Diary <sup>appendix 12.</sup>

1st - 31st October 1918.

R. M. O.

20th Batta. A. I. F.

On the first day of the month, the Battalion moved out of camp near Villers Hancon in the early morning and marched through Hergicourt to close to Villers. The day was spent making shelters and the R. A. P. formed out of a spare tarpaulin.

About dusk orders were received to take over the line. The machine gun was left with the transport and the line equipment got off. A slow and uneventful march up to the line through Bellicourt and along the edge of Hawroy brought us to our Batta. H. Q. situated in deep dugouts in a sunken road north of Hawroy. On arrival there a Serjt. was killed and another man slightly wounded.

Our wheeled stretcher was dumped at the transport line as the country was too rough and unsuitable for its use.

Over three squads and a Cpl. of

Ambulance men carried 8 stretchers and 16 blankets together with a small supply of waterproof sheets (about 6).

The Water duty corporal, Pte Clidell, M. O's batman and Chinopodis carried an ample supply of dressings, splints and foot powder.

The R. A. P. was situated here in a shed in the sunken road at the entrance to a dugout and was at once made light-proof.

No further casualties during the night.

Next day a possible <sup>site</sup> ~~site~~ for an R. A. P. was reconnoitred and the Stretcher bearer squad on H. Q. detailed to dig this out during the coming night. Fresh orders came through then and this was cancelled.

On the morning of the 3rd about 01.30 Battalion Hqs. moved forward to the Battle Head Quarters which

They shared with the 19th Battalion.

A lot of gas shelling combined with H.E. was experienced on the way across. There were no casualties, gas helmets were worn most of the way and party lost itself eventually avoided at the Bath H. D. where a lot of mustard gas was hanging about in the hedges and trenches. The R.A.P. party moved on through Estrées, hunted for a suitable R.A.P. in various cellars and eventually shared a cellar with the 19th R.A.P.

Flags and a notice board were placed out in Sunken Road to indicate the position of R.A.P.

The barrage opened at 0605.

A dressing table was arranged above in a room and stretcher cases were treated here whilst walking wounded were dressed downstairs in the cellar. For a few hours there were a fair number of wounded cases, both the 19th and 20th men, then as the Battalion worked forward, their wounded were evacuated through the 7th Brigade largely, on the left.

The R.A.P. was <sup>not</sup> able to be moved forward as the right flank was held up. All day wounded from various units kept coming through. There were plenty of prisoners to do stretcher bearing.

The wounded were got away quickly, the return of stretchers was insufficient for a while and it was difficult to get splints returned. Later on, splints and dressings and coffee & milk came up in abundance.

The 4th and 5th Oct. were spent here. The R.A.P. became a relay post between the forward units and the Ambulance to a certain extent, cases, which missed the Ford Car which ran through Estrées, passed through us.

On the morning of the 6th we moved back to Herwillers and spent the night there.

Whilst in the line a lot of gas was met with and as a result there were some evacuations. Numbers of men had sore eyes and husky voices, whilst there were several with slight gas burns.

APPENDIX 12  
24



Next day, the 4th the Battalion marched to and entrained at Trincourt.

We detrained at St Roche near Amiens and marched to Vignacourt.

The men marched well and few fell out though it was about 18 Kilos.

A Battalion Rest hut was started in a few days, Blue Light Tent opened up, latrine accommodation indentured for and a Russian delousing pit built.

The necessary improvements around kitchens were effected.

Scabies + Dental parade was held and list handed in to the dentist. Inoculations were completed for the month.

The general health of the men was fairly good though a number of colds with loss of voice were present. Sick parades were small. Towards the end of the month a number of P.V.D. cases occurred and appeared to be a more virulent type of case than before experienced. All the cases had influenzal symptoms with dry irritating cough.

We had several fresh cases every day. The civilian population have a fair amount of influenza amongst them.

W. Salaman Cpl  
R.M.D. 20th Battalion.

Review of workdone by Regimental Quartermaster20<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.FOctober 1918

Salvage. As the Battalion was in the Rest area practically the whole of the month, very little material was salvaged. The following is a copy of receipts obtained during the month.

11/10/18	104 Web Packs	20/10/18	13 Web Packs
	1 Leather Bandoliers		2 Entrenching tool carriers
	1 Bag S.F.A.		2 Petrol tins
			11 Lewis Gun Magazine Carriers

Cardboard & Paper

The following Waste Paper & cardboard was returned to 15<sup>th</sup> A.S. Coy & receipts obtained.

Paper 361 lbs

cardboard 41 lbs

Jam cartons 549 Jam cartons were received & 362 were returned.

Empty Returns The following empties were returned to 15<sup>th</sup> A.S. Coy

130 Bread Bags	22 Jam Cases
149 Oat "	70 P.B. Cases
17 Vegetable "	3 Rum Cases
8 Oatmeal "	8 in Jars
28 Sugar "	5 Oil Drums
5 Salt "	3 M.B.O Tins

Baths

The Divisional baths were available to the Battalion on several occasions during the month.

Clear changes of underclothing were issued on each occasion & towards the end of the month.

Summer underclothing was exchanged for the Winter issue

Baths continued

The following surplus serviceable underclothing was returned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Divisional Clothing Store -

29 Shirts  
 99 P's Sox  
 19 " Drawers  
 41 Mufflers  
 6 Cardigan Jacket  
 2 Towels.

Clothing - Large numbers of Tunics, Buckles & Puttees were issued during the month.

Leather Jerkins & Gloves worn & issued as Winter clothing.

Blankets All Blankets were treated through the Fodent Furnigator -

One extra blanket per man was issued for the winter month, making a total of two per man.

Bootmakers Regimental Bootmakers, three in number were kept very busy on repairs. Approximately 60 P's new boots were issued during the month.

Tailors Three Regimental Tailors were kept very busy on repairs, Color Patches & alterations <sup>to</sup> tunics. Service chevrons were also sewn on -

Comforts Approximately \$63 Francs were spent out of Regimental Trust Fund on the purchase of supplies for the troops. The chief items were -  
 Vegetables, Milk, Custard Powder.  
 The following comforts were received from Australian Comforts Fund - 6 cases Cocoa Milk  
 12 Packets Playing Cards, 1 Phonograph, & 1 Bag  
 Sugar, 10/5 Custard, & 2 Football -

3Comforts continued

From Mrs J. Barr-Smith on behalf of South Australian Ladies - 220 Pro Se.  
Six cases of Cocoa Milk purchased from Messrs J. Moore & Coy London was also received and issued to the troops for supper each night.

Rations Rations for the month were fair

Meat Fresh Meat was a daily issue at the rate of 8 oz per man. The weights ~~were~~ were fair, but after the meat was stripped of fat, only about 6 oz per man was left. Rabbits were issued on ~~the~~ occasions.

Vegetable Three issues of Cabbages were made by A.S.B. but the weights were by no means near the mark. Cabbages issued at an av of 6 lbs only averaged  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs, & those issued at 4 lbs averaged  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Two hundred cabbages were purchased by the Btro.  
Potatoes toward the latter end of the month the issue was very poor & the weights unsatisfactory.  
Carrots Four issues were made during the month. The weights of these were also very unsatisfactory.

Bread The issue for the month was very good, being 13 oz per man daily which is equal to two loaves to 5 men. Very little broken bread was received.

Rice was not available during the last seven days.

Oatmeal A daily issue of 1 oz per man was maintained throughout the month.

Tea was decreased from 3 oz to 2 oz per man but was again increased to 3 oz on 30th inst. Dried fruit was issued once each week in lieu.

Bacon The issue only being 3 oz per man, great difficulty was experienced in making the ration available for every man.

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Margarine was not available on this occasion.

Straw 2400 lbs of straw was drawn from 15<sup>th</sup> A.B. for the use of the troops as bedding.

Grazing Owing to grassed land being unprocurable very little grazing was done.

Horse Fodder was quite satisfactory. Bran was issued on several occasions in lieu of Hay.

Cooking was varied as often as the ration would allow. Roasts & Fried steaks were served on every possible occasion - Rissoles & Pudding with mustard sauce were also freely served.

D.A.D.O.S The usual weekly supplies of Flannellette Soap & Dubbing & Oil were demanded & received. The demand for clothing was much lighter than that of the previous month.

The Battle stores viz 300 Water Bottles & Carriers which were drawn last month were returned on 10<sup>th</sup> inst. Eleven Hot Food Containers which were used for carrying rations to line during our stay in the forward area, were also returned.

350 Paliases were demanded & 300 received

Captured Trophies The following trophies captured & claimed by 20<sup>th</sup> Btn at Beauvois were delivered under seal to D.A.D.O.S for dispatch to the Base -

7 Heavy German Maxim Machine Guns  
12 Light - - - - -

Claims for the above as trophies after the war, have been submitted.

5.

Miscellaneous One Tailor & one Bootmaker proceeded  
& returned from English leave.

Capt S. R. Kent M.C. Quartermaster  
returned & resumed duties on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst.

W. H. M. J.

Capt & Q. M.  
20<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
A. I. F.

War Diary for October 1918  
 Compiled by Lt L. H. Bell  
 20th Battalion Transport Section - A.I.F.

On 1.10.18 The weather was cold & Showery, Transport Section moved from Villers-Faucon at 7.30 am en route for Villers-Et about 5 Kilometres distance. The roads were in a very bad state, owing to recent weather conditions & heavy traffic. On arriving within a short distance of the village about 9 am. a suitable position was located, & a start was made immediately to erect Horse Lines, Shelters for the men & to arrange everything necessary to Camp for a few days. During the afternoon the Battalion moved forward. The Transport Officer also went forward to procure & ascertain the best roads for Transportation of Nations etc. On 2/10/18 The weather was much finer, the usual Transport duties were proceeded with. It was with great difficulty however that the Horses were watered, for owing to the fact that water-points were very scarce in this locality, and there were a large number of Horses belonging to other units, Camped in a small area, a long wait was often experienced. The only alternative being, to take the Horses back to other watering points about 8 Kilometres distance. Nations were delivered to the Battalion late in the afternoon. And again about midnight, a hot-meal was taken forward on Pack Animals. At an early hour on 3/10/18 The Battalion advanced about 5 Kilometres & a fair number of Pack Animals were taken. They were relieved on the following morning 4.10.18 & came back to Estrées, where Nations were delivered to them as usual.

On 5.10.18 The weather was dull & cold, during the afternoon the Battalion moved into previous again, where they remained until the morning of the 6.10.18. After being relieved the whole Battalion including Transport Section moved to Roisel, a distance of about 8 Kilometres. The weather was cold & Showery & roads in a bad state. The trip was completed in about three hours & everything was arranged for a Camp for the night. On the following morning 7/10/18 The Battalion & Part of Transport Section moved to Tincourt, where they entrained later in the day. The remainder of Section who were travelling by road moved out at 5.30 am en route for Cappy a distance of 28 Kilometres, this was to be the first days journey. Lt Bell's assistant Transport Officer of 20th Battalion, in charge of one guide from each unit of the Brigade, proceeded ahead as Billeting Officer. This Party arrived at CAPPY at 11 am & secured suitable Bullets & Horse Lines. The remainder of Brigade Transports arrived at about 11 pm. The Horses were immediately watered, groomed, & fed & everyone made comfortable for the night. On the following morning 8/10/18 The weather was cold & Showery, another early move was made, en route for Trours about 26 Kilometres distance. The same billeting party proceeded ahead again, arriving at Trours at 10.20 am, suitable horse Lines & Bullets were secured. The roads were fairly heavy & the Brigade Transports did not arrive until about 2.30 am. After the usual grooming routine etc., everything was put in order to Camp for the night. At 6 am on 9/10/18 The Brigade Transports moved out on the last days trip, en route for Vignacourt. The Billeting Party proceeded ahead again arriving at Vignacourt at about 10 am. After ascertaining the exact location of the separate

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(2)

areas allotted to each Unit. The guides returned to the village of VAUX where they met their own Transport Sections & guided them to their respective areas. The 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Transport Section arrived in Camp at 1 P.M. The Horse & Wagon Lines were very unsuitable & accommodation for the men was poor. However during the afternoon the usual routine of putting the new Camp in order was pursued with. After the evening meal, all lines were laid. On the following morning 11/10/18 the usual stable routine was carried out. The Horses were in good condition & stood the three days journey well. The weather was cold & showery & remained so for the ensuing week. During this period advantage was taken of the small demand for transport to have all vehicles repainted, harness cleaning was also pursued with & suitable stables secured for the Horses. Rations were drawn by First Line Transport Rail Head being situated at Fresselles about 5 Kilometres distance. On 18-10-18 the weather was fine & bright, this enabled the holding of Battalion sports, which had been postponed on the day previous owing to weather conditions being unfavourable. The sections were well represented amongst the Prize winners, having secured four firsts & two seconds. During the afternoon Major Bullman of R.A.F. gave an exhibition of flying & looping the loop etc. On 19<sup>th</sup> & 20/10/18 the weather was wet & cold again. The usual Transport routine was carried out & preparation made for Major's inspection on the following day 21/10/18. The weather was much more favourable & during the afternoon Major General MacArthur inspected the whole Brigade including Transport Sections. He expressed satisfaction as to the turn out & general appearance of both men & horses & vehicles. After the inspection the Transport Sections marched past the Saluting Base in Line, at rear of Infantry. This was the first occasion that it had been done & it was accomplished in a very satisfactory manner. For the following week nothing unusual happened, the weather kept fairly fine. There was a heavy demand for transport & besides the usual ration wagons, other transport was supplied daily for Towns Major & other Coy work. Winter clothing such as sheep skin hats, gloves etc. were drawn & issued to the men. One extra blanket for man was also issued.

20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Transport Section  
31/10/18.

M. S. D. C.  
A. J. J.



CHANGES IN OFFICERS DURING THE MONTH.ARRIVALS. DEPARTURES.

Major J.H.McDonald DSO, MC	To English Leave	30.9.18
Capt J.M.Moore	Div Reinf Camp	"
2/Lt P.C.Bennett	School	3.10.18
Lieut K.E.Lohan	Paris leave	1.10.18
2/do W.M.Patterson MM	School	4.10.18
Lieut S.G.Burdus DSO	"	"
" A.H.Sharp MC	"	"
" N.C.Toogood MM	Wounded in action	3.10.18
" A.R.Treacher	Hospital	"
Capt V.B.Portman MC	"	"
Lieut T.H.Potter	English leave	5.10.18
Lieut-Col F.W.D.Forbes DSO	Detached for duty with 30th American Div.	"
2/Lt J.Hainey	Wounded in action	3.10.18
Lieut R.S.Elliott MC	English leave	9.10.18
Lieut D.H.Anthon DSO, MC	Officers Rest Camp	15.10.18
Lieut K.E.Lohan	English leave	17.10.18
Capt R.F.Marlan	" " (to Hos 24.10.18)	15.10.18
2/Lt J.H.Makeig	School	19.10.18
Lieut-Col F.W.D.Forbes DSO	Paris leave	"
2/Lt F.A.Gilholme	Officers Rest Camp	22.10.18
Lieut H.C.N.Winkworth	School	24.10.18
Capt J.A.Broadbent MC	English leave	28.10.18
Lieut O.A.Beattie	School	27.10.18
Lieut-Col F.W.D.Forbes DSO	School Conference	31.10.18
R.S.M. C.A.Pryor MC	O.C.B	21.10.18

ARRIVALS.

Lieut A.R.Treacher	English leave	1.10.18
Capt V.B.Portman MC	School	"
Ion Capt S.R.Kent MC	English leave	3.10.18
Capt C.Morgan Jones	Hospital	1.10.18
Lieut H.C.N.Winkworth	"	4.10.18
Lieut W.H.G.Guard	English leave	7.10.18
Lieut-Col F.W.D.Forbes DSO	30th American Regt;	9.10.18
Lieut E.N.Arnhitt MC MC	19th Battalion.	11.10.18
" A.B.Keech	" "	"
" J.G.Vickers	" "	"
Major F.A.S.Boyden	" " (W.I.A 11.8.18)	"
Capt F.G.Hinds MC	" " (W.I.A 3.10.18)	"
Lieut A.A.Cooke MM	" " (School	"
" D.W.Robertson	" " (W.I.A 3.10.18)	"
2/do H.Barnes	" " (W.I.A " )	"
Lieut D.R.Fleming	" " (School 4.10.18)	"
2Ldo A.W.J.Owens	" " (School	"
Lieut H.E.Banfield MC	English leave	"
Capt J.M.Moore	Div Reinf Camp	"
Lieut K.E.Lohan	Paris leave	15.10.18
2/do J.H.Makeig	O.C.B	13.10.18
Major J.H.McDonald DSO, MC	English leave	19.10.18
Capt V.B.Portman MC	Hospital	"
Lieut T.H.Potter	English leave	22.10.18
" M.L.Perryman	Super List	25.10.18
do P.C.Bennett	School	"
do J.H.Makeig	"	26.10.18
Lieut R.S.Elliott MC	English leave	"
" A.H.Sharp MC	School	27.10.18
2/do A.W.J.Owens	"	"
Lieut-Col F.W.D.Forbes DSO	Paris leave	28.10.18
Capt R.J.Dowden	Ceases to be Sec to 2nd Aus Div as Staff Trainee	30.10.18
Lieut D.H.Anthon DSO, Mc	Officers Rest Camp	"
do F.A.Gilholme	" " "	"

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HONOURS AND AWARDS.

During the month the following Honours and Awards have been received by members of this Battalion:-

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Major J. H. McDonald, M.C.  
Lieut. D. H. Anthon, M.C.

BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS.

Captain V. B. Portman, M.C.

THE MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. D. R. Fleming  
Lieut. C. E. Cameron  
Lieut. W. H. Elkington  
Lieut. A. H. Sharp  
2/Lieut. J. P. Thomas  
Lieut. E. N. Armit  
Lieut. (T/Capt.) F. G. Hinds  
Lieut. R. S. Elliott  
Lieut. H. E. Banfield

THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

No. 4411 Cpl Frost, F.C.  
680 Sgt Tarrant, J.  
4653 Sgt Boxsell, T.T.  
655 Cpl Renwick, J.  
2305 Pte (L/C) Kirby, R.

BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 3265 Sgt (T/CSM) Simpson, L.M. "MM".  
No. 4520 Sgt Sparks, S.H. "MM"

THE MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 2768 Pte Jones, W.J.  
7056 Pte Dunne, J.  
4658 Pte Bradley, W.  
5797 Cpl (L/Sgt) Clark, W.T.  
5575 Pte Flanagan, H.  
6947 Sgt Tonkies, W.H.  
512 Sgt (T/CSM) Cunningham, W.  
4755 Pte Purcell, W.  
2923 Sgt Stevens, W.H.  
4228 Pte Nolan, G.  
2755 Cpl (L/Sgt) McNiven, A.  
2811 Cpl Smallcombe, P.  
4663 L/Cpl Boxsell, T.T.  
1624 Pte Ivanoff, J.  
3799 Sgt Corps, E.J.  
3754 Pte Allen, J.  
~~2755~~ Sgt 768 Pte Waite, H.A.  
1565 Cpl Spratt, F.A.  
2940a Pte Morris, P.  
5782 L/Cpl Ashman, T.  
2493 Pte Jackson, D.  
5872 Pte McAlister, A.H.

ALTERATIONS IN STRENGTH DURING MONTH OF OCTOBER 1918.

Strength as at 30th September 1918.

<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.Rs.</u>
36.	530

ARRIVALS.

	Off.	O.R
From Hospital	4	62
" Reinforcements		8
" O.C.B	1	
" 19th Battalion.A.I.F	10	120
" 22nd Battalion.A.I.F		1
" 58th Battalion.A.I.F		1
" Field Punishment Com.		2
" Illegal absence		9
" 5th A.L.T.M.Bty		3
	<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>
	15	206

DEPARTURES.

Killed in Action		9
Wounded in Action	6	106
To Hospital	4	22
Missing in Action		5
To Base Post-Office		2
" Permanent Base		4
" 17th Battalion		7
" 18th Battalion		3
" 5th A.L.T.M.Bty		3
" O.C.B.		1
" Base Prison		1
	<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>
	10	163.

STRENGTH AS AT 31-10-18 - 41 Officers 573 Other Ranks.

RESUME OF MONTH'S WORK.

The month opened with very successful operations (as per attached report) on the BEAUREVOIR SYSTEM in front of BEAUREVOIR VILLAGE and MONTREHAIN, in which casualties were very light. On being relieved from the line the Battalion moved back by stages to ROISEL and thence to the VIGNACOURT Rest Area, arriving at the latter place on the night of the 7th/8th October. Comfortable billets were arranged for all troops, who, with the prospects of a long spell after severe fighting, were in the best of spirits. Immediately everyone co-operated in their efforts to add comforts to the surroundings. New clothing, boots, &c. were issued to the troops, and hot baths and clean changes of clothing have been frequently arranged during the month. A Recreation Hut with reading matter and fires, has been greatly appreciated by the troops, and the rations supplied have been particularly good.

After a few days occupied in getting properly settled down, equipment cleaned, and new issues of clothing, a light training programme, interspersed with sports, football, &c was inaugurated. On the afternoon of the 21st October the G.O.C.'s inspection took place. It was a splendid turn-out and gave all-round satisfaction.

Meetings have been held with a view to commencing the A.I.F. Education Scheme. Lists of the subjects the men are desirous of taking up, have been compiled together with the names of Officers and Other Ranks who have special qualifications and are willing to act as teachers. It is expected that the scheme will be put into operation at a very early date.

The discipline of the troops has been excellent. The troops are reaping the full benefit of the rest, and are in good condition and the best of spirits.

*J. McDonnell*  
 .....Major.,  
 A/C.O., 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

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APPENDIX 18. 46

October 1918.

On the 1st. day of the month, the battalion moved out of camp near VILLERS-FAUCON in the early morning and marched through HARGICOURT to close to VILLERET. The day was spent making shelters and an R.A.P. formed out of a spare tarpaulin. About dusk orders were received to take over the line. The maltese cart was left with the transport and the line equipment got off. A slow and uneventful march up to the line through BELLICOURT, and along the edge of NAUROY brought us to our battalion H.Q. situated in deep dug-outs in a sunken road north of NAUROY. On arrival there a Sergt. was killed and another man slightly wounded.

Our wheeled stretcher was dumped at the Transport lines as the country was too rough and unsuitable for its use.

Our three squads and a corporal, of the ambulance men carried 8 stretchers and 16 blankets together with a small supply of water proof sheets. (about 6)

The water Duty Crpl., Pte. Clisdell, M.O.'s batman and chiropodist carried an ample supply of dressings, splints, and foot powder.

The R.A.P. was situated here in a shed in the sunken road at the entrance to a dugout and was at once made light-proof.

No further casualties during the night.

Next day a possible SITE for an R.A.P. was reconnoitred and the stretcher-bearer squad on H.Q. detailed to dig out during the coming night. Fresh orders came through then and this was cancelled. On the morning of the 3rd. about 0130 Battn. H.Q. moved forward to the battle H.Q. which they shared with the 19th. Battalion.

A lot of gas shelling combined with H.E. was experienced on the way across. There were no casualties. Gas helmets were worn most of the way and party lost itself. Eventually arrived at the battalion H.Q. where a lot of Mustard Gas hanging about in the hedges and trenches. The R.A.P. party moved on through ESTREES, hunted for a suitable R.A.P. in various cellars and eventually shared a cellar with the 19th. R.A.P. Flags and a notice board were placed out in sunken road, to indicate the position of R.A.P.

Barrage opened at 0605. A dressing table was arranged above in a room and stretcher cases were treated here whilst walking wounded were dressed downstairs in the cellar. For a few hours there were a fair number of wounded cases, both the 19th. and 20th. men, then as the battalion worked forward, their wounded were evacuated through the 7th. Brigade largely on the left. The R.A.P. was not able to be moved forward as the right flank was held up. All day wounded from various units kept coming through. There were plenty of prisoners to do stretcher bearing.

The wounded were got away quickly, the return of stretchers was insufficient for awhile and it was difficult to get splints returned. Later on splints and dressings and coffee and milk came up in abundance.

The 4th. & 5th. October were spent here. The R.A.P. became a relay point between the forward Units and the ambulance to a certain extent, cases which missed the Ford Car which ran through ESTREES, passed through us. On the morning of the 6th. we moved back to HERVILLERS and spent the night there.

Whilst in the line a lot of gas was met with and as a result there were some evacuations. Numbers of men had sore eyes and husky voices whilst there were several slight gas burns. Next day, the 7th. the battalion marched to and entrained at TINCOURT. We detrained at ST. ROCHE near AMIENS and marched to VIGNACOURT. The men marched well and a few fell out though it was about 18 kilos.

A battalion Rest Hut was started in a few days, Blue light tent opened up, latrine accommodation indented for, and a Russian delousing pit built. The necessary improvements around Kitchens were effected Scabies and Dental parade was held and list handed in to dentist. Inoculations complete for the month. The general health of the men was fairly good though a small number of colds with loss of voice were present. Sick parades were small. Towards the end of the month a number of P.U.O. cases occurred and appeared to be a more virulent type of case than before experienced. All cases had Influenzal symptoms with dry irritating cough. We had several fresh cases every day. The civilian population have a fair amount of Influenza amongst them.

Sgd.. C.D. Bateman Captain  
R.W.O. 20th. Battalion. A.I.F.