

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/60/23 PART 1

Title: 43rd Infantry Battalion

July 1918 Appendices



AWM4-23/60/23PART1

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150

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

43rd Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

July 1918

Signature of Officer compiling B. J. L. Jones Lt

Signature of Officer Commanding H. J. L. Jones Lt Col

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CARDONNETTE (AMIENS 17)	1/7/18		<p>Reference Maps AMIENS 17/100000 & FRANCE 62D 1/40000</p> <p>Morning spent in reorganisation where necessary and equipping own and American troops. Afternoon both joined remainder of Bde in practice attack on ALLONVILLE Aerodrome grounds. Evening allotted to officers meeting and preparations for the move. Packs and blankets were stored.</p>	B.A.R.
	2.7.18		<p>Parades under bay and Platoon bands held in the morning and men were all told most of the details of the attack to take place. At 2.30 PM the battalion less Q and A branches moved from CARDONNETTE by route march, bivouaced in HALLUE VALLEY from 5 PM until 9.45 PM then moved forward and relieved the 51st Batt in the HAMEL SECTOR. (For full particulars see Appendix 2)</p>	B.A.R.
In the LINE HAMEL P2d 7.7 to P. 8 cent 7.7. B.H.Q. P. 10.2.1.	3.7.18.		<p>Day spent quietly with battalion "lying low" and reducing movement to a minimum. Day bright with good observation. Preparations at night for assembly. (Wide Appendix 2)</p>	B.A.R.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Line Attack on HAMEL P. 10.	4.7.18		At 3.10 AM batt in conjunction with balance of 11th Bde and the 4th & 6th Australian Brigades attacked village of HAMEL and high ground EAST and SOUTH of the town. all objectives were captured. (Full details in Appendix 2)	all objectives BMR
do.	5.7.18		night of 4/5 Active - A Coy moved forward to support 44th Bn and A Coy 41st Bn moved into trenches evacuated by A Coy 43rd Bn Day generally quiet - evening active. Batt relieved during the night by 41st Batt and on relief moved back to Bivouac N. of LA NEUVILLE	BMR
LA NEUVILLE to CARDONNETTE.	6.7.18		Bivouac was vacated by E Coy 131st Reg. Americans at 5 AM. Prior to departure Lt Col Farrell b O 43rd Batt addressed them and spoke of the splendid work they had done and wished them all success in the future. These troops marched to DAOURS where lorries conveyed them to billets. At 8.30 AM the batt followed and was conveyed back to billets at CARDONNETTE where men were able to drag packs & rest for the balance of the day.	BMR

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CARDONNETTE	7.7.1918		apart from parade for half an hour, where Lt Col. Farrell addressed the batt in reference to the operation just completed, day was at men's disposal.	
	8.7.1918		Morning spent in reorganisation of companies. Lt Col. held parade of all NCOs and discussed the operations of the 4th. much interesting information was collected. During the afternoon a meeting of bde offices was held and here the G.O.C bde discussed the attack and pointed out where improvements could be made and what lessons were learnt from it. At 8.45 PM the batt was called out on a practice alarm and had assembled by 9.30 PM ready to move in fighting order.	BMR
	9.7.1918		Recipients of medals and ribbons were presented with them at a parade on the ALLONVILLE Aerodrome Ground, by Lt Gen Sir John Monash. Batt paraded and witnessed the proceedings.	BMR

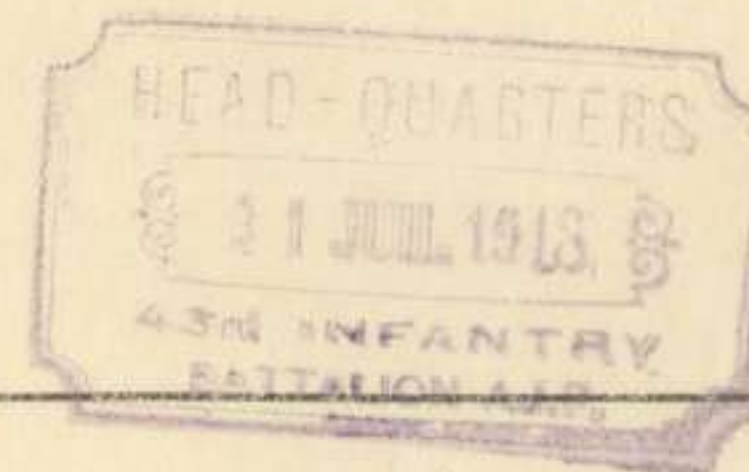
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CARDONNETTE	10.7.1918		Morning spent testing gas respirators - afternoon free: at night officers held a dinner ¹⁹¹⁶ in commemoration of the 19th of June, the day the batt left Australia.	BMR
	11.7.1918		Day spent in again reorganising the companies and re-establishing 1 Coy. Boys were organised into 3 platoons each of 2 sections	BMR
	12.7.1918		Morning spent in preparations to move. Advanced party sent ahead during the morning to prepare positions for the batt which left CARDONNETTE at 3 PM, had tea near DAOURS and reached positions in 016+17 at about 12.30 AM. Wagon lines moved to H32d and nucleus at H27 a.	BMR
Reserve 016+17	13.7.1918		Early morning active with enemy artillery and again some proceeding during evening. Day pleasant and observation good	BMR

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reserve D. 16 & 17	14.7.1918		Early morning active around battalions area - Day dull with poor visibility. Enemy gassed VILLERS-BRETONNEUX during evening.	BMR
	15.7.1918		Day normally quiet - Shrapnel used over Batt area during morning - Enemy set fire to one of our observation balloons N. of CORBIE. Gas thrown around Batt area at 10.30 PM and Bombs dropped along Somme valley near AUBIGNEY	BMR
	16.7.1918		Day was again normal with scattered fire and good visibility - Our artillery and aircraft were both active during the evening. Harassing fire was put down by enemy at night and bombs were dropped by enemy aircraft in this vicinity and along the Somme valley. Gas was thrown over about midnight and necessitated masks to be worn in early hours of the morning	BMR

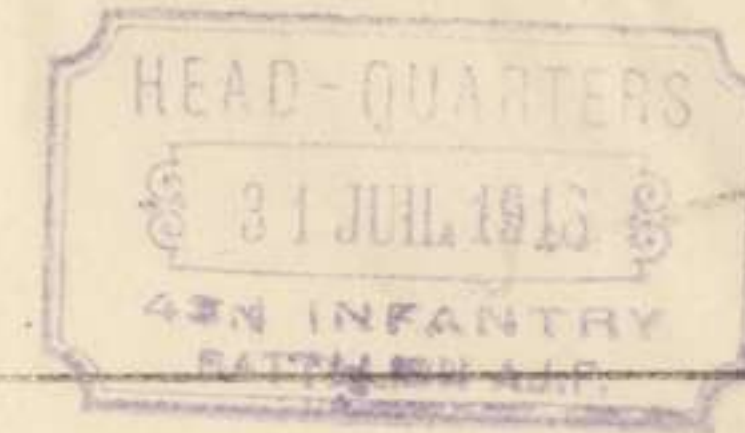
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reserve O16+17	17.7.18		The gassing during early hours of the morning caused part of B Coy to temporarily evacuate their position, but they were able to return about 6 AM. Day generally quiet with aerial activity. Showery and thundery by day. At 9.30 PM 150 men moved to T33 C 28 as a working party and commenced to dig a reserve line of trenches. Returned at 2 AM.	BMR
	18.7.1918		Dull showery day, quiet during the morning but enemy artill active over back areas during afternoon and at night when our SOS was fired E of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. Dug out in D + C Coys were hit with shellfire - no casualties. Working party continued.	BMR
	19.7.1918		Cloudy day with good observation. At 2.20 PM enemy propaganda balloon dropped in T19 (about). 3 casualties at BHP from shell fire: these included 1 killed & 2 wounded. R.S.M. NESBIT later died of wounds.	BMR

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RESERVE O. 16417	20. 7. 1918		Good visibility - warm sultry day. Slight activity in both area during the morning but remainder of the day very quiet with aerial activity.	BMR
	21. 7. 1918		During early hours of morning shell fire was heavy but not actually on the living quarters of the battalion. 12 enemy 15cm yellow cross gas was fired at 11.30 P.M. but no damage done.	BMR
	22. 7. 1918		Pleasant day - excellent observation - 2 of enemy & 1 of our kite balloons set on fire. Our artillery was very active all day - Enemy gassed SOMME VALLEY lightly at night. Working parties still continued at night.	BMR
	23. 7. 1918		Wet in early morning - cloudy most of the day - French attack about 8 miles South of this sector. very quiet except for our artillery during the evening.	Day BMR

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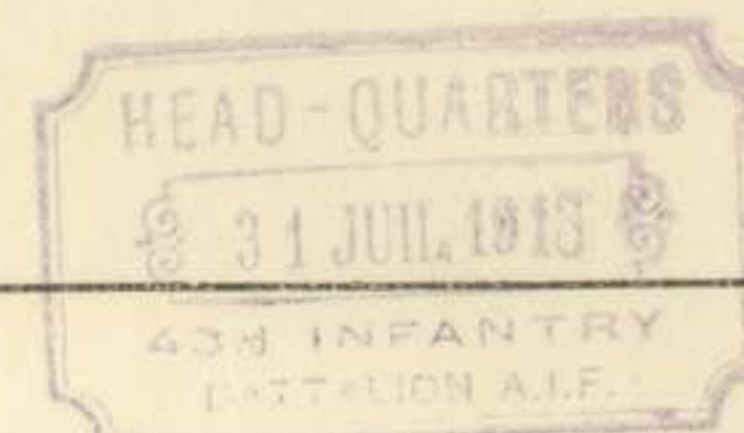
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RE SERVE O 16417	24.7.1918		Except for light artillery fire near B Coy, day was very quiet and windy - Until evening aeroplanes were quiet. The Adjutant left for the Waga lines and Assist Adj arrived in the line to take his place.	B&R
	25.7.1918		Day quiet with good observation. Normal working parties at night. Headquarters moved from Escarpment in O 17 central to quarry O 17c 35.90 where a Headquarters dug out was had been made.	B&R
	26.7.1918		Quiet day with a few showers. Officers visited a M.G. demonstration. Working parties continued at night. Six new officers reported up the line: - 2/Lt Tolley; Lives; Thomas; Carter; Carter; Chalk. Night was slightly more active with artill. Rain fell at night.	B&R
	27.7.1918		Dull day with showers throughout the day. Particulars of the move to to support made known to Coy Commanders.	B&R

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RESERVE 0.16 & 17	27. 7. 1918 (Lfd)		Preparations to move. Working parties again in the evenings. enemy active with artill after midday. Lieut Rudd joined the battalion.	BWR
	28. 7. 1918		Dull day with light showers. Preparations to move postponed owing to relief being cancelled. Working parties continued at night.	BWR
	29. 7. 1918		Sultry and very hazy. Capt Cape rejoined from Gas school and relieved Lt Styant Browne M.C. as Works officer. Fresh relief orders issued and preliminary Reconnaissance carried out - Working parties continued - During afternoon experiments were carried out with ho 24 & ho 34 smoke bombs and on completion the ho 24 was generally considered the most serviceable for offensive work, for which they are intended.	BWR

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reserve 017416	30.7.1918		Enemy artillery somewhat active up to daylight but quiet during the day which was hot and misty. Reconnaissance of positions near HAMEL to be occupied by batt on its relieving next day.	
	31.7.1918		Day very sultry and misty. During morning advanced parties of 1st Batt 129th U.S. Army arrived and took over the area. At 6 PM the batt moved out of reserve in small parties (sections) and relieved ³⁵ 37 th batt A.I.F. in support South of the SOMME with the canal as the north boundary. Batt was support to 42nd Batt and had on its Left ^{Right} flank the 54th Reg (English) and Left ^{Right} flank 41st Batt A.I.F. Batt was situated between VAIRE and HAMEL. A & B Coys forward - C Coy support D Coy reserve. B.H.Q. was in a chateau in I 25 d 3 5.	

Gance Lt Col.
b. O. 43rd Batt A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

OF

43rd Batt AIF

FOR

July1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	b.O.s report on HAMEL Offensive
2	Intell. Officers report on HAMEL Offensive
3	b.O.s monthly report
4	Bay Bombers Reports A Coy B bay b. bay D bay
5	Platoon officers report of Hamel offens.
6	Signal Officers Report
7	Transport Officers Report
8	Quartermasters Report
9	R.M.O.s report
10	Maps Papers Photos re Hamel offensive
11	Honours and awards
12	Relief Order 30/7/18

B. J. Richardson Lt
for b. O. 43rd Batt



43rd INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F."Report on Operations of 4th July, 1918"Reference Map. 62 D. N.E. and 62 D. S.E. 1/20,000

1. PREPARATION. The outlines of the scheme were given to C.O.'s at a Brigade conference on the 25th June, with instructions that the attack was to be kept a secret, even from officers, until the last possible moment. It was necessary however to tell Company Commanders.

A careful personal reconnaissance was made by the C.O. and by all Company Commanders of the enemy positions. This reconnaissance showed:-

The enemy held a dominating position on the ridge just EAST of HAMEL, from which he had good observation on to our front line system. Our front line system was in good condition and consisted of deep trenches in front line, support, and reserve positions with a main communication trench leading from the village of HAMELET to our front line. Our wire in front was low and fairly thick and continuous.

Another important feature was the high ground running from P.S. central towards HAMEL in a N.E. direction. There was an excellent place for lying up outside our wire.

By arrangements with the Battalion in the line, two officers patrols from this battalion went and lived in the line for two days and did patrol work. These patrols consisted of men drawn from each Company, and Battalion Headquarters. As a result of this reconnaissance, it was found the enemy were comparatively close (250 yds) on our right flank near the PEAR TRENCH, and he was also very active with Machine Guns from this quarter. On the left flank of the Battalion attack he was 700 yards away and was not very active. There was very high crop in NO MANS' LAND which promised good cover, but which made the going much heavier. The enemy had a trench system on the west side of HAMEL which ran through NOTAMEL WOOD and swung S.W. along the high ground mentioned above, towards the PEAR TRENCH. It was anticipated that he had fairly strong garrisons in HAMEL itself in deep dugouts, which surmise proved to be correct.

The battalion was relieved in the BOIS L'ABBE Sector on the 27th June, and on the 28th moved back to billets in CARDONNETTE.

Brigade conferences were held almost daily and all details and plans were thoroughly discussed and settled.

On the 29th the brigade practised with tanks near VAUX en AMIENOIS, which was most instructive, as it gave the men some idea of the tank tactics and tended to inspire confidence in them in action. Good liaison between our officers and the tank officers was maintained all the time. The tank officers attended some of the battalion conferences and dined with us, so that a real spirit of friendship and confidence was promoted.

The officers were told all details of the attack on the 30th but the men were not told until the morning of the 2nd. The idea was to keep the details as secret as possible until the last moment.

E. Coy. 131st Regt U.S. troops were attached to the Battalion on the 30th June and they also had a practice with the tanks. On the 1st July, two platoons of D. Coy were also attached, but these latter were withdrawn on the night of the 3rd from the line.

The American platoons were composed of seven squads each of 1 N.C.O. and 7 men, and the total Company strength was 253. A platoon was attached to each of our companies and some of the American Company Headquarters were distributed as stretcher-bearers, Medical details, runners and intelligence throughout the Battalion.

A careful study of maps and excellent aeroplane photos was made down to platoon sergeants.

con.

2. PLAN OF ATTACK.

(a) The 11th Brigade was attached to the 4th Australian Division for this operation and attacked on the left of the Divisional front, from a line running through P.8.central to P.10.d.7.3. on the south to the River SOMME on the North. The 42nd, 43rd and 44th Battns were used in the assault with the 41st Battalion., in Brigade Reserve.

The 43rd Battalion attacked on the right of the Brigade Sector and penetrated 1,700 yds including the village of HAMEL and trench system to the west of the village.

The 44th leapfrogged through the 43rd Battalion at the 10 minutes halt of the barrage and penetrated to our old AMIENS Line on the ridge east of HAMEL. The 42nd Battalion attacked on the left and penetrated to the AMIENS line in P.4.b. and d.

(b) Frontages. The 43rd Battalion had a frontage of 1,000 yds in the attack from the Brigade Southern Boundary to the road (exclusive) running from P.2.d.7.7. to P.3.d.90.50.

The Battalion attacked with three Companies assaulting in the front (A.B. and C.) from North to South with D. Coy in reserve. A. Coy had 400 yards front on the north and B. and C. each had 300 yards.

(c) Formations Each of the assaulting Companies had two platoons extended across the front as skirmishers or "followers of the barrage", with the other two platoons disposed in depth in artillery formation (sections in single file) to act as moppers up, the Company depth being roughly 100 yards.

The reserve Company moved in line of double sections in file behind the centre of the Battalion attack. (Each double section consisted of a rifle or bombing section and a Lewis Gun section in each case).

(d) Penetration and mopping up. Each assaulting Company was to penetrate straight forward until the 10 minutes halt of the barrage at a distance of 1,300 yards from our front line. At this point the 44th Battalion leap-frogged through our line on each side of the village of HAMEL. After this A. Coy swung south through NOTAMEL WOOD and the village up to the street running east and west past the Church. C. Company swung South and mopped up the village to this street from the South, and B. Coy mopped up the village straight ahead from west to East. Each of these Companies left a Lewis Gun team per platoon on the western side of the village who did not take part in the mopping up. This was done to keep a reserve in the hands of the Company Commanders in case of counter-attack or unforeseen difficulties, and also to mark the line of consolidation to which the moppers up were to return when the village was clear.

The reserve Company was not to be used except in case of determined resistance in the village or strong counter-attack by the enemy to recover the village.

A section of dug-out searchers (intelligence) was attached to each of the assaulting Companies.

(e) Artillery. The barrage started 200 yards east of our tape line and lifted by 100 yards lifts every three minutes for 10 lifts, when it halted for 10 minutes. Thereafter it lifted 100 yards in 4 minutes and the protective barrage halted 400 yards east of the objective (blue line) for half an hour. The field guns worked out about 1 gun for every thirty yards in the barrage, and in addition there were 4.5s, 6 in., 8in., 9.2s. and also some 12 inch howitzers. 161 guns were engaged in counter battery work. In addition 20 Machine Guns supplemented the barrage on the brigade front from the high ground North of the SOMME.

The 3rd Corps on the North and the French Corps in the South also co-operated in the artillery fire. Smoke and gas were fired on the North and South of the attack. Smoke was fired by our barrage guns at ZERO, again at the 10 minutes halt, and two minutes before the lift after the halt.

To cover the approach of the tanks from their assembly position 1,000 yds behind the Infantry, our artillery put down harassing fire for 8 minutes before ZERO.

con

- 156(f) Tanks. 15 tanks were used on the Brigade front (excluding supply tanks) and 6 tanks were allotted to this battalion for the mopping up of HAMEL. Two tanks were allotted to each of the three assaulting Companies and preceded them into the village to cover the mopping up and to beat down resistance.
- (g) Trench Mortars. Two mortars followed B. Coy to be used in case of resistance at any point.
- (h) Equipment Every man except stretcher bearers and Lewis Gunners (1 and 2) carried a rifle and bayonet. Specialists carried 100 rounds of S.A.A., all others 200 rounds. Each man carried two bombs and the bombing sections carried 5 bombs and extra tail rods. Each bombing section carried a "p" Bomb. Each Lewis Gun section carried 12 magazines between them. Every man carried 3 sandbags, and each man except signallers and Nos 1 and 2 of each gun carried either a pick or a shovel. The small entrenching tool was not carried. Each man carried 48 hours rations and two water bottles filled. Only the waterproof sheet was carried. (blankets and overcoats were left behind) Signallers carried flags, flapper, and O.L. Lamp, message rockets, green flares, and S.O.S. Rockets. Each platoon had two stretcher bearers with one stretchers; Coy H.Q. had 4 stretcher bearers with two stretchers, and a reserve of stretcher bearers and stretchers were kept at Battalion H.Q. Reserve dumps of water, rations, S.A.A. and bombs were formed in our front line just prior to ZERO.
- (i) Tape Line The assembly line chosen ran from Cross Roads in D.3.c.4.7 to P.8.central. On XY Night the line was set out by Companies and stakes were driven in to mark it - hidden by the crop. On YZ night these stakes were connected up by tape and tapes were also led back to our front line on the left flank of each Company. Gaps were cut in the wire and marked with tape. The work of laying out tapes and superintending the assembly on YZ night was carried out by Lieuts Tucker and Barthwick MC
- (j) Direction An officer on each flank of the battalion attack was responsible for direction (with compass). A. Coy had a good guide on the left, i.e., the road and the trees in NOTAMEL WOOD. B. Coy had a lone tree at P.9.a.9.9. which marked the left of their attack. C. Coy had a heavily shelled spot at Cross Roads in P.10. c.4.4. which showed up white and distinct in daylight to mark their right flank.

3. THE APPROACH MARCH.

It was decided to move up from billets on X day, to stage near the SOMME, to relieve the 51st Battalion in line on XY night, and to occupy the trenches on XY night and Y day. This gave the men a good rest on Y day and enabled them to get a look at the ground of attack by daylight.

The battalion moved by platoons at 200 yards intervals from CARDONNETTE and bivouaced in the HALLUE Valley near BUSSY, where the men had a swim and a hot meal. AUBIGNY
The approach march was resumed at 9.45 p.m. through DACOURS, ROUILLO and HAMELET. A good deal of congestion occurred owing to the 15th and 16th Battalions using the same route and the relief was not finally completed until 3.30 a.m. on Y morning. It was a long journey for the men, loaded up as they were, and the night was fairly dark. The men had a good rest on Y day and at night were served with a hot meal, an issue of rum and comforts in the shape of tobacco cigarettes and tinned food.

con

31 JUL 1918

43rd INFANTRY
BATTALION A.I.F.Operations 4th July 1918 . con

4. THE ASSEMBLY. The troops commenced to file out on the tapes at 12.30 a.m. each Company going out on the left flank and extending right. Our wire presented some difficulties, and on the right our troops came back 50 yards behind the tape in case of shorts from our own artillery on PEAR TRENCH.

Watches were synchronised at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

At 2.30 a.m. our troops were in position ready for the attack.

5. ZERO ZERO was fixed at 3.10 a.m. and was communicated at the last moment to Commanders.

6. THE ATTACK. At ZERO minus 8 minutes, the artillery opened with the harassing fire and our tanks began to move up. They were heard at B.H.Q. but not by the troops in the front line.

At 3.10 a.m. our barrage fell, and the men were able to move forward on the left. Unfortunately two guns on our right flank shot short right through the operation and caused many casualties. Two sections, one American and one Australian were killed as they were lying up, before they had moved. An American Officer Lieut Plummer was wounded here also. When the barrage lifted our men pressed rapidly forward, and in some cases the rear line of moppers up got mixed up with the front line in their anxiety to push forward.

The morning was very dark and the dust and smoke added to the darkness, so that it was impossible to see more than a few yards ahead.

As a result of this and also of the fact that the right flank got into the fight first, the tendency was to lose direction and go towards the right. However, A. Coy commander after the third halt of the barrage got his company to left incline and the normal direction was resumed.

C. Coy No 9 platoon struck opposition first at P.8.d.9.9. where an enemy machine gun opened, killed Lieut Brook and wounding others.

A Lewis Gunner named Shaw fired a burst into the enemy gun which silenced it, and the post was rushed and 6 Boche killed in it.

Further on, a section under Cpl Krantz struck another enemy machine gun. He got a Lewis Gun of the 15th Battalion to fire into it whilst he and an American rushed the post and bayoneted the occupants.

A very fine piece of work was done by Shaw with his Lewis Gun about P.9.c.5.9. A heavy enemy Machine Gun opened fire from the right flank of his platoon (No 9) Shaw who was 200 yards away immediately doubled forward. When within 100 yards of the post he opened fire with his gun from the hip, and caused casualties. Two of the enemy attempting to run were shot. When 30 yards from the enemy post a German Officer rushed out and fired his revolver at Shaw but missed, and the Lewis Gun did the rest. Shaw whose Magazine was empty was attacked by another Boche whom he hit over the head with his revolver, and afterwards shot.

The enemy machine gun was found with bullet holes through the casing and there were eight dead in the post.

Further North along the trench, No 10 platoon rushed an enemy post and found 5 machine guns in the trench still with their covers on, the enemy being entirely taken by surprise.

No 9 platoon had another fight in a quarry just to the east of HAMEL. This quarry contained 3 enemy machine guns. A tank put two of them out of action and Shaw with his Lewis Gun did accounted for the third. Seventeen prisoners were taken alive out of the post. In all Shaw fired 9 magazines during the operation and proved the value of a Lewis Gun in the hand of a brave and determined man.

B. Coy first met opposition in the trench just south of the VAIRE-HAMEL road in P.9.a.9.9. The trench was rushed and the leading wave passed over it leaving the moppers up to deal with it.

con.

31 JUL 1918

42nd INFANTRY
BATTALION A.I.F.

APPENDIX 1

6. THE ATTACK. con.

An enemy strong point was discovered about 50 yards in rear of the trench. This post opened on our men with Machine Gun and bombs and killed the whole of a Lewis Gun Team except Pte Gallagher (No 1) who immediately fired his gun from the hip and poured three magazines into it. Afterwards he with two others rushed the post and captured a Machine Gun and seven live prisoners.

The left leading platoon of B. Coy under Lieut Olsson struck opposition in P.9.b.2.3. A reserve platoon of Americans under Lieut Symons worked round to a flank and overcame the opposition. Lieut Symons was wounded and his runner Pte Anderson, who was the only Australian with the platoon at once took charge and cleared up the situation. He called on the platoon to come on and rushed a dugout from which Lieut Symons was wounded by a rifle shot. Three Huns who attempted to run away were shot. Pte Anderson led his platoon into HAMEL and continued the mopping up.

Lieut Olsson was severely wounded by a bomb at this stage.

A. Coy on the left struck opposition in the trench in NOTAMEL WOOD. They found some small dugouts which were soon cleared.

Lieut Watts with his platoon got across the trench in P.3.d. and bombed in rear while another platoon on the left rushed it from the front. Sgt Thorpe of A. Coy did excellent work with his platoon in clearing this point.

The tanks did not catch up the infantry until the 10 minutes halt of the barrage, and they did excellent work in mopping up the village. The mopping up of the village gave very little trouble. The enemy were surprised in deep dugouts and easily surrendered.

Out of one deep dugout C. Coy got 45 prisoners and 20 out of an Aid post in the village.

Cpl Schulz of B.H.Q. Intelligence captured a German B.H.Q. of 4 officers and 23 other ranks unaided.

7. TANKS.

There was good co-operation between the Infantry and tanks. On two occasions one of our men signalled to a tank and directed it to an enemy machine gun. A line of dugouts in P.9.b. were crushed in by a tank.

One of the tanks was hit by a shell near the church in HAMEL and put out of action. Another tank broke down about P.9.b.2.4. Both these tanks were afterwards brought out.

There is no doubt the tanks were a great surprise to the enemy and prisoners appeared to be very frightened of them.

8. CONSOLIDATION.

The line of consolidation ran from P.9.a.5.0. on the south through P.3.c.9.0. to P.3.b.5.5. C. Coy dug in on the south and A. Coy on the north side of this line, the boundary being P.3.c.9.0. Each Company had three platoons in front and one in support 100 yards in rear. Each platoon dug two double section posts each capable of holding 1 Lewis Gun and 1 Rifle Section. B. Coy left and D. Coy right occupied our front line and dug a communication trench forward. "B" Coy dug from P.2.d.7.2. towards P.3.central. D. Coy dug from P.2.d.5.0. towards the escarpment in P.9.a.

By nightfall on the 4th, the men were well dug in and about 150 yards of communication trench was dug in each case.

One platoon of B. Company were occupied in salvage in our area of the battlefield, and one platoon of D. Coy buried the dead.

9. MEDICAL

The R.A.P. was established in the quarry at P.3.central. The wounded were quickly got away and prisoners were used to carry wounded. A Feature was the percentage of slightly wounded walking cases and the number of enemy wounded by the bayonet.

Another aid post was established at B.H.Q. in P.1.a.4.4. by the American M.C. attached to the Battalion.

con.

31 JUL 1918

43rd INFANTRY

BATTALION A.L.F.

APPENDIX

10. ENEMY ATTITUDE. The enemy were taken ~~completely~~ by surprise in our attack. The Battalion in HAMEL had only come in that morning at 1.30 a.m. and the men were very tired. Our practice of throwing over gas and smoke mixed on the mornings prior to ZERO completely deceived him. The gas alarm was given when our attack began and some of his dead still had their gas masks on. The enemy artillery was very slow in getting to work, and it was not until 9 a.m. that he commenced to bombard HAMEL and the ridge east of it to any extent. Thereafter he kept up a heavy fire on HAMEL and the old trench system on the ridge. The back areas and guns received scarcely any attention. On 2A Night however, he heavily bombed the SOMME Canal, CORBIE, FOUILLOY, AUBIGNY, BUSSY.

On the morning of the 5th, the enemy delivered a counter-attack on the 44th battalion using a strong post and old sap in front of our line. He succeeded in penetrating one point in our line. Two bombing squads were sent up from A. Coy 43rd Battalion to assist, and the enemy was ejected leaving 50 prisoners in our hands. A Coy moved up into close support of 44th Battalion east of HAMEL and its place was taken by B. Coy 41st Battalion in reserve.

11. COMMUNICATION. B.H.Q. was at P.1.a.4.4. and a forward report centre was established in our front line near the quarry in P.3.central. Telephone communication was maintained throughout the operation between these two points. The Coys used runners and lamps messages back to report centre.

Three green flares were fired to denote HAMEL was cleared of the enemy. A message rocket was also fired from near HAMEL back to Battalion Headquarters with great success. Brigade established a forward report station in P.3.c.9.0. On the whole, messages, reports and signal communication was very good.

12. AIRCRAFT. Our aeroplanes were very active and maintained superiority up to 9 a.m. They successfully dropped boxes of S.A.A. in the areas by means of parachutes. One plane crashed near HAMEL through a box of S.A.A. catching in the under fabric of the machine. About 9 a.m. the enemy planes appeared in force and one of our planes was shot down. Later on our airmen asserted themselves and by evening our planes were flying in all quarters.

13. CASUALTIES. Our casualties were 2 officers killed. Lieut Brook and Second Lieut. Davidson, and 4 officers wounded. Capt. Sexton, Lieut Olsson, Lieut Symons, and Lieut Waterhouse. 17 other Ranks were killed and 72 wounded, two of whom afterwards died of wounds.

14. PRISONERS. Over 300 prisoners were captured by this Battalion, not including enemy wounded. Among the prisoners were 9 officers, including an enemy B.H.Q. It is estimated fully 100 dead were in the Battalion sector.

In addition 20 machine Guns were taken, including 9 heavy guns, and 5 minenwerfers including 2 heavy ones.

15. THE AMERICANS. (E. Coy 131st Regt)

The company of Americans attached under Capt Luke did excellent work. Considering it was their first time in action they fought splendidly. Officers and men were most anxious to learn and eager for the fight. The platoons were employed in all parts of the Battalion formation, one of them being in the first wave of B. Coy. The men showed great dash and courage, and did splendid work with the bayonet.

One platoon under Lieut Chissold did fine work throughout the operation and never lost a single man. The section commanders had excellent control of their men at all times.

con.



Operations 4th July 1918. con.

16. COMMANDERS.

Battalion	Lieut-Col	J. Farrell.
Adjutant	Captain	E.J. Colliver
A. Coy	"	J.T. Moran
B. Coy	"	H.S. Cope
C. Coy	"	R.C. Sexton
D. Coy	Major	A.W. Lott
E. Coy (U.S.A.)	Captain	Luke.

17. GENERAL REMARKS.

- i. The morning was dark and the smoke and dust added to the darkness. It was impossible for the infantry to see where they were going. A blazing house in HAMEL was the only guiding point. ZERO could have been half an hour later.
- ii. The tanks did not catch up the infantry until the ten minutes halt in the barrage. They might have been closer up to our front line at the start.
- iii. It is suggested that an infantry M.C.O. ride in each tank to secure better liaison.
- iv. Only two signals (flags) appear to be necessary for the tanks, -
(a) "Broken down" (b) "Coming out of action".
- v. Only H.E. Should be used in barrage. It was very difficult to pick up shrapnel amongst the dust and smoke.
- vi. Smoke is not necessary in barrage in dry weather in this country.
- vii. The barrage was too slow in the first three hundred yards. Should lift 100 yards in 2 minutes for first 300 yards.
- viii. The high crop compelled the Lewis Gunners to fire from the hip. This was done with good results in three cases. Men should be practised in this work. One No 1 carried 3 magazines two being tied on to his shoulder straps, and they proved very successful.
- ix. There was a tendency for men to crowd into the front line and the supports became involved in a fight when not necessary.
- x. In the dim light men extended must be able to see each other, otherwise they crowd up and move to a flank thereby losing direction.
- xi. In village fighting (mopping up) more bombs should be carried. Egg bombs are no use for this work.
- xii. The intelligence section was complimented on the amount of maps papers, etc, sent back. This was the result of good organisation and having dugout searchers who knew what to look for.
- xiii. The changing of Code Calls of units in the middle of operation caused difficulties and did not appear to be necessary.
- xiv. The number of bayonet wounds was remarkable. Most of the enemy were wounded with the bayonet. One man had the bayonet driven through from chest to back. Two dead Boche in HAMEL had been stuck through the throat.

Farrell

..... Lieut-Col.
C.O. 43rd Infantry Battalion A.I.F.

B.H.

Operations 4th July 1918. con.

16. COMMANDERS.

Battalion	Lieut-Col.	J. Farrell
Adjutant	Captain	H.J. Colliver
A. Coy	"	J.T. Moran
B. Coy	"	H.S. Cope
C. Coy	"	R. C. Sexton
D. Coy	Major	A.W. Lott
E. Coy 'U.S.A.'	Captain	Lake

APPENDIX

Original

WAR DIARY

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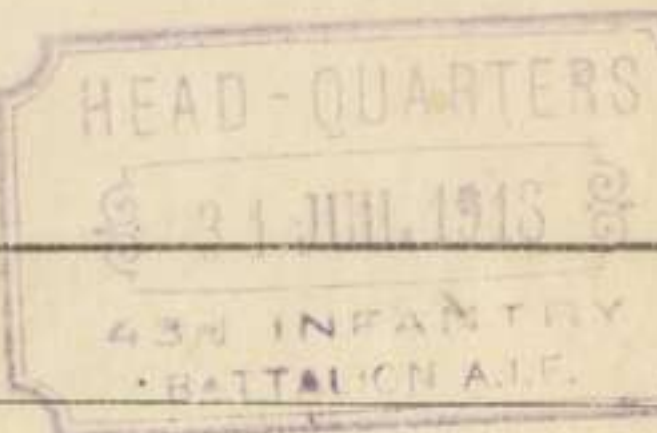
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Appendix 11.

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Place	Date	Hour	" 43rd Inf. Bn. A.I.F. The Attack on HAMEL" Ref. map. 62 D.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME	4-7-18.			Report by Intelligence Officer	
<p>1. NOTIFICATION and INFORMATION. On 25th June, 1918, the G.O.C. Brigade held a meeting of the four Battalion Commanders and told them in strict confidence that the 11th Brigade had been specially asked for by 4th Division to participate in the attack on HAMEL. From the very first, secrecy was aimed at, and no information reached the battalions junior officers of the battalion until a few days prior to the attack. At this meeting the Brigadier stated the sector was from the River SOMME J.23.c.2.4. on the North, the left flank of the attack, to P.8. central. On the right flank was the 4th Aust. Brigade who claim to have had more fighting than any other brigade in FRANCE. The 6th Brigade was on their right.</p> <p>2. OBJECTIVE. The object of the attack was to recapture HAMEL and the high ground and trench system East of HAMEL running through P.4.10. and 16, lost by ENGLISH Troops on 5-4-18.</p> <p>3. DISPOSITIONS. 42nd Battalion on left from road running West-East through P.3.c. and d. to River. 43rd Battalion from abovementioned road to P.8. central. 44th Battalion on same front as 43rd but pushing on to final objective. 41st Battalion in reserve. The 43rd Battalion had a frontage of 1,000 yards and an objective on the Eastern outskirts of HAMEL. The 44th on the same frontage were to leap-frog through the 43rd and capture the final objective.</p> <p>4. CO-OPERATION. A normal attack barrage was to be put down by the artillery. An enfilade M.G. barrage from the high ground North of the SOMME was arranged. In addition, trench mortars smoke and thermite were to be used. Tanks and aircraft were to co-operate with the attack while supply tanks and aeroplanes were to be utilised after ZERO to carry supplies forward.</p> <p>5. PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS AND RECONNAISSANCE. Owing to the secrecy maintained, very little reconnaissance was carried out. Some however, was attempted. On the evening of the 25th the Intelligence Officer and runner visited the sector and found out what battalions were holding the line, their junction, and various particulars regarding the front. The following day the C.O. visited the line and reconnoitred the trenches. On 27th the 4 Company Commanders were given preliminary details of the attack, and during afternoon, they carried out their reconnaissance with the Signalling Officer and Corporal. That night 2 officers and 8 scouts reconnoitred NO MANS LAND and 1 N.C.O. was sent to the O.P. Apart from the Company Commanders, none of these knew anything about the attack other than common-sense and reasoning showed to be probable. During this period of preparation, the Battalion was in support in the BOIS l'ABBE, 5,000 yards south of the HAMEL SECTOR.</p> <p>con.</p>					

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Appendix ii.

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HEAD-QUARTERS
31 JUL 1918
43rd INFANTRY
BATTALION A.I.F.

2 15

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Somme	4-7-18.		<p>"43rd Inf. Bn. A.I.F. The attack on HAMEL".</p> <p>6. BATTALION DISPOSITIONS. The C.O. decided to attack on a three Company frontage, A. Coy on the left; B. Coy centre, and C. Coy on the right. Owing to the weakness of the Battn D. Coy remained mopped up by the other Coys, and no reserves were available. The introduction of a Company of Americans however, enabled D. Coy to be in position of reserve Company the Company being re-established. Two more American platoons also joined later, but these were withdrawn prior to ZERO.</p> <p>7. PREPARATIONS BEHIND THE LINE. On the night of 28th June the officers of Battalion Headquarters staff were confidently told particulars of the attack. Next morning the 29th, the Battalion moved out to near VAUX, North of AMIENS and practiced attacking with tanks, and here they saw for the first time, the capabilities of the tank and were favourably impressed. Notification was received of the probability of a Company of Americans joining the Battalion, and by night it was definite that they would join up so preparations were made to re-establish D. Coy. On 30th, 4 Companies were organised. A. Coy with three platoons under Capt Moran; B. Coy with 2 platoons under Capt. Cope; C. Coy with 3 platoons under Capt Sexton; and D. Coy with 2 platoons under Major Lott. At 8 p.m. the Americans, E. Coy 131 Regt. 33rd Division arrived, and one platoon was attached to each Coy strengthening the Coys to A. and C. 4 platoons, each, B. and D. 3 platoons each.</p> <p>During the afternoon, at an officers meeting the C.O. told in confidence to all present, the particulars of the fight. By this time a moderate supply of maps and aeroplane photos were available and issued. The morning of the 1st July was allotted to fitting men with equipment etc, completing organisation and resting men as much as possible. In afternoon a further trial attack was made near ALLONVILLE chiefly to practice the assembly, and the leapfrog through of 44th Battalion. Next day, the 2nd, the morning was spent in final minor preparations and preparations to move. Two more platoons of Americans who arrived the previous night were attached, 1 to B. Coy and 1 to D. Coy making each Company 4 platoons in strength. A further issue of maps and a large issue of aeroplane photos was made to each Company. During the morning men were told particulars of the attack.</p> <p>In addition to Company organisation. H.Q. Signallers organised to form a forward and rear Battalion Headquarters. Additional Stretcher bearers were appointed, while the Intelligence section was divided into 4 parties, one to work the O.P. Two of one NCO and three men each to search dugouts. These moved forward, 1 with A. Coy and 1 with C. Coy each having a German speaker with it. The 4th party remained at B.H.Q. and consisted of three German speakers and 1 runner.</p>	

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Appendix ii.

HEAD-QUARTERS
21 JUL 1918
43rd INFANTRY
BATTALION A.I.F.

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
SOMME	4-7-18.		<div>43rd Battalion A.I.F. The Taking of HAMEL. attack on</div> <div>7. con Their work was interrogation of prisoners and examination of documents. By 1 p.m. on the 2nd all Companies were ready to move; preparation had been completed and all men advised of the work before them. The battalion was in excellent spirits and thoroughly confident of success.</div> <div>8. INTENTIONS PRIOR TO ZERO. The brigade was to take over the line on XY night hold it Y day and YZ night and attack on Z. Day.</div> <div>9. THE APPROACH MARCH. At 2.30 p.m. on 2nd July the approach march commenced. The platoons moved at a 100 yards interval. The day was sultry and somewhat hazy making long distance observation very poor. Valleys and treed roads were selected as far as possible to avoid observation. At 5 p.m. after two hours marching in easy stages, the Battalion halted in the valley of the HALLUE River near BUSSY where men were allowed to swim. Many took advantage of this to refresh themselves after a hot march and prior to going into offensive action. A hot meal was served from the Battalion Cookers at 6.30 p.m., after which a final issue of equipment and accessories was made. Men were equipped as under.<table><tr><td>All except specialists and bombers.</td><td>200 rds S.A.A. and 2 bombs.</td></tr><tr><td>Bombers</td><td>100 " " and 8 bombs.</td></tr><tr><td>Specialists</td><td>100 " " and specialist material</td></tr><tr><td>Lewis Gun teams</td><td>18 magazines per team.</td></tr></table>All parties took either a pick or a shovel and three sandbags. The small entrenching tool was not carried. At 8 p.m. the intelligence section moved forward under the I.O. to reconnoitre the route along the SOMME Canal bank. On finding a satisfactory track leading along the canal into HAMELET; guides were placed at intervals along the track. These directed the Battalion, and were picked up by the last section in the line. At 9.45 p.m. the Battalion left its bivouac and with full fighting attire moved forward in sections at 25 yards distance. A narrow bridge necessitated single file between before the village of HAMELET was reached. The march was slow and tiring, and it was 12.30 a.m. before the village of HAMELET was reached. Two other battalions moving across the track blocked the path for some time. On reaching the village, guides to the trenches were met, and platoons moved to their respective positions, A. Coy left front line. B. Coy 2 platoons centre front line, 2 platoons support. C. Coy right front line, and D. Coy support line. Relief of the 51st Battalion was very hurried on account of the approach of daylight.</div>	All except specialists and bombers.	200 rds S.A.A. and 2 bombs.	Bombers	100 " " and 8 bombs.	Specialists	100 " " and specialist material	Lewis Gun teams	18 magazines per team.	
All except specialists and bombers.	200 rds S.A.A. and 2 bombs.											
Bombers	100 " " and 8 bombs.											
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Lewis Gun teams	18 magazines per team.											

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APPENDIX 2

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WAR DIARY

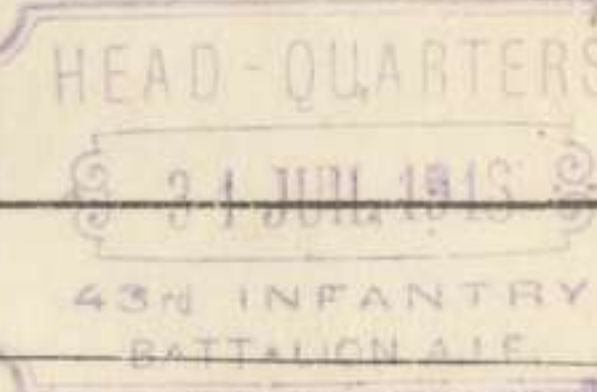
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Appendix ii.



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Place	Date	Hour	43rd Infantry Battalion A.I.F. "The capture of HAMEL". Attack on	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Somme	4-7-18.			<p>9. con Transport dumped dry rations for the day at 1.30 a.m. and Companies collected these before daylight.</p> <p>10. ACTION DURING 3rd and NIGHT OF 3rd/4th to ASSEMBLY.</p> <p>On account of the increased concentration of men in the sector, special orders were issued forbidding movement by daylight. Men therefore utilised dug-outs and shelters where possible and also the bottom of trenches when no shelters were available and slept or lay down throughout the day. A report from the O.P. at night stated movement had been kept down splendidly. Dry ration food and meals were all the men had by day, but at 11 p.m. limbers brought up hot food and all Coys were able to have a good meal before moving out to the assembly position.</p> <p>During the afternoon and again at night, watches were synchronised and advice that ZERO was 3.10 a.m. promulgated. During the early hours of the evening, troops of D. Coy, 131st Regt U.S. were withdrawn from the line much to their disgust. This left B. and D. Coys with only 3 platoons each, with which organisation they went into action.</p> <p>11. THE ASSEMBLY. Lieuts F.G. Tucker and J.H. Borthwick MC were in charge of the assembly and together with Lieut Rhodes and his Engineers (11th) laid out the tapes prior to the time of assembly. At 12.30 a.m. on the 4th, A.B. and C. Coys commenced filing out through gaps in the wire specially cut opposite the left flank of the Coy sector, and branded with tape. Each Coy on reaching its tape wheeled right, along the tape. When these coys were in position D. Coy lined up in rear. A.B. and C. had 2 platoons of skirmishers; and A. and C. 2, and B. 1 platoon in artillery formation behind. D. Coy was in artillery formation.</p> <p>Notice was received from the artillery that some guns were uncertain of their registration, and as a precaution the Battalion fell back 50 yards from the tape. This required some careful handling, as there was a likelihood of Companies not making a square jump off. During this time, covering patrols operated along the whole front. A. B. and part of C. Coy lay up in front of the wire, while the right flank of C, to confirm to the salient of PEAR TRENCH, lay up behind the wire. With each A. and C. Coy H.Q., a party of 4 searchers from B.H.Q. lay up and moved forward with their Companies. By 2.30 a.m. all assembly was complete and platoon Officers issued their platoons with a nip of rum. With A. Coys H.Q. could be seen a French tricoloured flag.</p>	

APPENDIX

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WAR DIARY

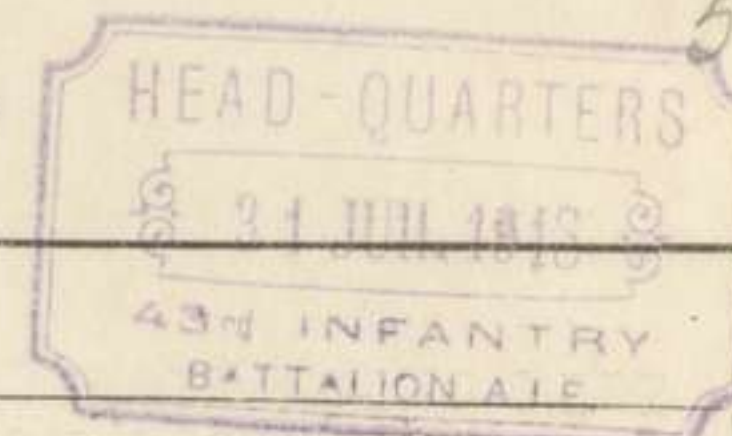
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME.	4-7-18		<p>43rd Infantry Bn. A.I.F. "The capture of HAMEL". <i>Attack 87</i></p> <p>12. THE ASSAULT. At 2 minutes past 3 a.m. a number of guns opened up slow harrassing fire on enemy forward positions and forward communications. This fire which lasted until 3.10 a.m. was to drown the sound of approaching tanks, and with the co-operation of several low-flying aeroplanes was very successful.</p> <p>At 3.10 a.m. barrage fire was opened and for four minutes played on the ZERO line. Opposite the left and centre Companies the shooting was excellent, but several guns covering the right Coy were shooting extremely short and did considerable damage to C. Coy's right rear platoon and Coy H.Q. Details and the 4 searchers attached. Apart from this one area the shooting was good. On the barrage opening the battalion moved forward until about 80 yards from it, and waited for its first lift. Arrangements had been made from that from Zero to Zero plus 4 minutes the barrage would fall on ZERO Line. At ZERO plus 4 it would lift 100 yards, play there for 3 minutes, and continue to move forward at rate of 100 yards in 3 minutes until just clear of village of HAMEL, when it would halt for 10 minutes to allow 44th Battalion to leap-frog through, and then continue 100 yards in 4 minutes.</p> <p>The initial advance of the battalion on the left and centre was somewhat difficult on account of the crops. A general tendency to swing right was checked and corrected by Captain MORAN of A. Coy. The centre Coy was somewhat similarly placed but kept well under control. C. Coy on right, depleted by the short shooting and held up by Machine Gun Fire from PEAR TRENCH did not fare so well, until the 15th Battalion on the right flank had cleared up PEAR TRENCH, when the Company advanced. Opposition was encountered in enemy Front Line, but enemy was apparently taken by surprise and put up no sustained fight; apparently a platoon post of the enemy was established on the North of the PEAR TRENCH. By the time the enemy front line was reached on the right and shortly prior to that on the left, tanks reached the leading wave and pushed out in front. As the advance continued, C. Coy appeared to split in the centre but Lieut Roberts with a section filled the gap until the line righted itself. On the left and centre, very little prolonged trouble was encountered. One difficulty was locating the barrage, for the morning was considerably darker than the preceding mornings, and as a result ZERO was earlier than necessary. In addition, smoke and dust formed so dense a screen as to completely block the view of the bursting shells. Overhead shrapnel was the best guiding mark of the position of the barrage.</p> <p>con.</p>	

APPENDIX

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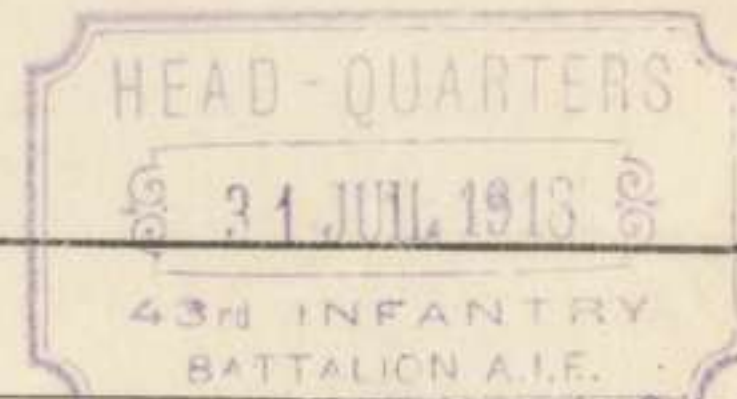
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Appendix ii

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Place	Date	Hour	The 43rd Infantry Battalion A.I.F.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME	4-7-18.		"The capture of HAMEL". Attack on	<p>12. con. A. Coy captured and mopped up several parts of NOTAMEL WOOD, while B. Coy preceded by tanks commenced clearing up the village. By keeping well in touch with barrage, the 10 minutes halt was reached with normal fighting. Here the battalion waited until 44th moved through, then A. and C. Coys tackled the village from the eastern end and worked back towards the western end, meeting B. Coy who were working eastwards. Cellars were systematically searched, and where necessary, bombed, and within 3 hours of ZERO the town had clear- been cleared of the enemy, and prisoners amounting to about 300 secured from it. These prisoners were sent to D. Coy who escorted them back to the rear. Many of them were used to carry wounded back.</p> <p>Having cleared the village, A. and C. Coy withdrew to the line of consolidation along P.3.d.6.5. to P.3.d.5.0. to P.9.c.7.7. B. and D. Coys withdrew to the reserve position in the old British front line. Prior to this withdrawal, when A. and C. Coys had reported to B. Coy that their portion of HAMEL was mopped up, and B. Coy had completed its portion, Capt Cope of B. Coy fired three green lights, a prearranged signal that HAMEL was clear. Captain Sexton having been wounded, Lieut Cannaway R.A. took charge command of C. Coy.</p> <p>13. THE CONSOLIDATION. A. and C. Coys had to dig a new line and $\frac{1}{2}$ platoon posts was the method adopted. After re-organisation, the Companies set to work digging and for the remainder of the morning that was their work. First digging for self protection, then extending the line laterally so that the various posts were complete, and with the object of eventually completing a line. On the left A. Company had several casualties while digging in, but once the posts were dug in no further casualties occurred. C. Coy also had heavy fire directed against their left flank and evacuated their left post in consequence, utilising the men for a higher post on the right, but covering the gap on the left with a Lewis Gun. D. Coy with B. Coy who occupied right and left of the old front lines respectively, were utilised in digging a communication trench forward from our old line running from P.2.d.65.00 to P.9.a.50.55. D. Coy was also engaged in escorting prisoners, carrying for 44th Battalion, salvaging, and burying dead.</p> <p>14. ATTITUDE OF ENEMY INFANTRY DURING THE ATTACK? Throughout the attack, surprise was undoubtedly the most outstanding feature. Everywhere the enemy was unprepared for the assaulting troops. In the front line several M.Gs had their covers still on. Infantry offered only a hurried disorganised resistance and were almost too surprised to surrender. In the town itself, at least one party, in cellars did not know there was an attack on.</p>	

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APPENDIX

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WAR DIARY

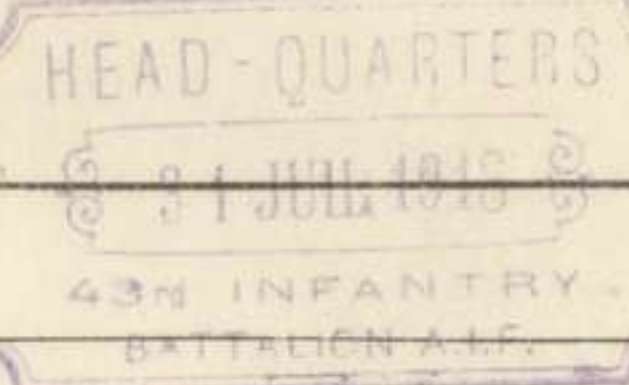
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Appendix 11.



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Somme	4-7-18		<p>43rd Inf. Battalion A.I.F. "The capture of HAMEL" Attack 07</p> <p>14. con. Prisoners captured obeyed ordered without causing trouble.</p> <p>15. ACTION OF ENEMY ARTILLERY. During the early phase of the attack very little fire was brought down and throughout the whole of the attack there was no heavy fire. After the attack had definitely stopped, enemy 15 c.m. howitzers became active in and on the western outskirts of HAMEL. maintaining their fire throughout the day. One of the most remarkable points of the retaliation was the absolute absence of any enemy counter-battery work, or attempt to shell the rear areas, around the town of HAMEL and along the SOMME Canal. Practically all the enemy fire developed from direction of WARFUSE - ABANCOURT AND MARCELCAVE.</p> <p>16. AIRCRAFT Our aircraft was very active throughout the morning until about 9 a.m., dropping ammunition by means of parachutes and keeping the enemy planes away, About 9 a.m. however, a flight of 20 enemy planes flew over and thoroughly reconnoitred the captured ground for 2 hours. For the balance of the day, air activity was great by both sides.</p> <p>17. TANKS. These arrived amongst the forward troops about the time the barrage was on enemy front line, on the night they were late owing to the closeness of the line. Excellent co-operation was maintained between tanks and infantry, and all ranks speak well of the work performed. They systematically tackled machine Guns and portions of trench held strongly and carefully "rolled them out". They traversed the village as per map attached. They only exception was the tank operating on our right which caused casualties by firing into our men. All tanks returned during the middle hours of the morning. Supply tanks operating carried up ammunition, water, etc. Each fighting tank also had a store of S.A.A. and L.G. Magazines which were collected by the infantry on the Battle-field.</p> <p>18. AFTER THE ATTACK. During the afternoon and evening of the attack, communication, clearing up, re-organisation, rest, and settling down were undertaken, and by 8 p.m. all was in order. Transport brought up hot tea and rations at night, these were distributed during hours of darkness. About 10 p.m. after heavy fire, the S.O.S. Signal was sent up by 44th Battalion just east of HAMEL, bringing down our artillery barrage. The enemy combined great plane activity with this, and heavy bombing and M.G. Fire on our artillery positions and back areas was experienced.</p> <p>19. ASSISTING THE FORWARD BATTALION. About 11 p.m. A. Coy received an urgent request to supply 2 bombing sections to assist in ejecting a party of enemy who had bombed their way into the front line at P.10.b. As requested these two bombing sections were sent forward to the 44th Battalion and they later assisted in the counter attack which restored the line and captured about 50 prisoners.</p>	

Appendix

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original

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Appendix ii.

HEAD-QUARTERS

31 JUL 1918

43rd INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Somme.	4-7-18.		<p>"43rd Inf. Bn A.I.F." The attack on HAMEL.</p> <p>19. con. About midnight, A. Company received orders to move forward in close support to 44th Battalion. This was done after leaving a nucleus garrison of 1 Lewis Gun Section in each platoon post, and the Coy established itself in its new position at P.10 central. C. and B. Coys did not take an active part during the night, but D. Coy carried forward bombs, lights and rations to the 44th Battalion. Artillery activity continued throughout the night, but by daybreak, quietness was restored. The 5th was quiet till late in the afternoon, when harrassing fire commenced and increased when darkness set in.</p> <p>On A. Coy moving forward, this battalion was reinforced by A. Coy 41st Battn under Capt Uren, who established his Company in the trenches evacuated by A. Coy 43rd.</p> <p>20. THE RELIEF. During the night of 5/6th the 41st Battalion less A. Coy already in support moved forward from reserve and relieved B. C. and D. Coy of 43rd Battalion. A normal relief was experienced. A. Coy 43rd was relieved by A. Coy 44th under very heavy shell fire. This was a slow and anxious relief, and had to be carried out platoon at a time on account of the artillery activity. Fortunately the only casualties that occurred did not require evacuation. Guides met each platoon at HAMELET and guided them to bivouac area in I 27, North of la NEUVILLE, where hot meals were served on mens' arrival.</p> <p>21. DEPARTURE OF AMERICANS. At 5 a.m. on the 6th, the American troops who had done such promising work with the Battalion fell in to march away. Prior to their departure, the C.O. Lieut-Col. J. Farrell addressed them on behalf of the Battalion. Cheers were given by the battalion and returned by the Americans, who then moved off to DAOURS, where Motor Lorries awaited them to take them to their billets at PIERREGOT.</p> <p>22. RETURN TO BILLETS. At 8.30 a.m. the Battalion left its bivouac area after a few hours well earned sleep and marched to DAOURS where lorries were waiting. These conveyed the Battalion to billets in CARDONNETTE by 11.30 a.m. where men quickly settled down and had the remainder of the day at their disposal.</p> <p>23. COMMUNICATION. Careful but hurried preparation was well awarded, for all communication was excellent throughout the whole of the period in the line. Trenches Telephone lines were mostly laid in trenches on the enemy side and held remarkably. At 7 a.m. on 4th Lieut Waterhouse MM moved forward and formed Advanced Battalion Headquarters at P.8.b. 25.45. in conjunction with 44th Battalion, and communication by phone held throughout. Lieut Waterhouse was shortly afterwards evacuated wounded, and Cpl. C. Cawthorne had charge of the Battalion Signallers. Phone communication to all Coys was established by several alternate routes and held splendidly. O.L.Lamp also did some splendid work especially during the early stages of the advance.</p>

APPENDIX

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original

WAR DIARY

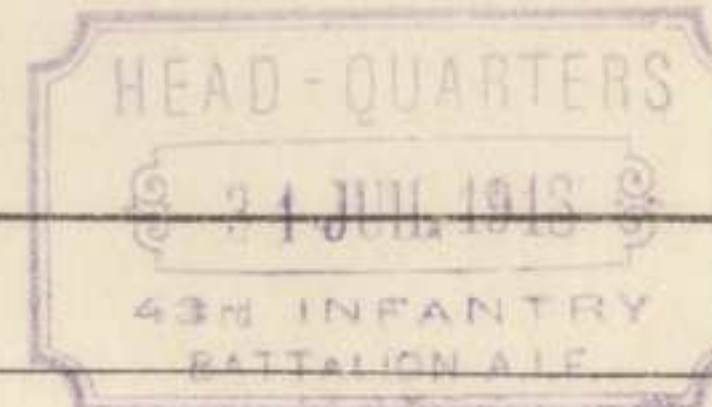
Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Appendix ii

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Place	Date	Hour	43rd Infantry Battalion A.I.F. "The attack on HAMEL".	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Somme	4-7-18.			<p>23 con. A message rocket fired by B. Coy landed a message within 10 yards of B.H.Q. Great credit is due to the Signal section branch for the excellent communication maintained. It is unparalleled in any other operation participated in by the Battalion in FRANCE. No disconnections to Brigade were experienced.</p> <p>24. R.A.P. On night of 3/4th the R.M.O. Capt McDonnell and his personnel established an R.A.P. in the front line at P.8.b.1.2. (a small quarry) This was found to be a most central and suitable place, and men from 43rd 44th, and 15th Battalions were dressed there.</p> <p>25. INTELLIGENCE. prior to ZERO, an O.P. was established at P.8.a.90.10. This was not much use during the advance, as firstly darkness prevented visibility, and when sufficient light prevailed, the smoke and dense clouds of dust would not permit penetration of vision. Searchers went forward with A. and C. Coys, the right party unfortunately lost all but one man prior to leaving the tape. The left party under Cpl B.V.Schulz did some excellent work, capturing a B.H.Q. Staff and 23 prisoners which were handed over, and securing many valuable papers and documents, and maps. In addition to these, Companies forwarded many maps documents and papers taken from prisoners and secured from cellars and dugouts for examination. At B.H.Q. 3 German speakers were hastily examining prisoners and sorting valuable from useless papers. Prisoners and valuable papers were forwarded for further examination at Brigade H.Q. Many historical and valuable articles for the war museum were also received.</p> <p>26 THE FRENCH FLAG. On the completion of the capture of HAMEL, Capt J.T.Moran of A. Coy erected on the highest building in HAMEL, the French blue, white, and red flag carried into the attack by his Headquarters. The flag was still flying a week later.</p> <p>27. GENERAL REMARKS. Unlike previous offensive operations, no succession of written orders and counter-orders were issued. All arrangements were by conferences of C.O's and then handed down verbally to Battalion Officers. Preparations were made in detail, but reconnaissance by junior officers, N.C.Os, and men was nil. Secrecy was specialised. Distinctive Company color patches and badges for different arms were not worn. Signallers and runners wore their normal blue and red badges. Units concerned in the attack had only a few days out of the line and were consequently tired before the attack. For the first time, Australian and American troops fought together.</p>	

APPENDIX

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original

WAR DIARY

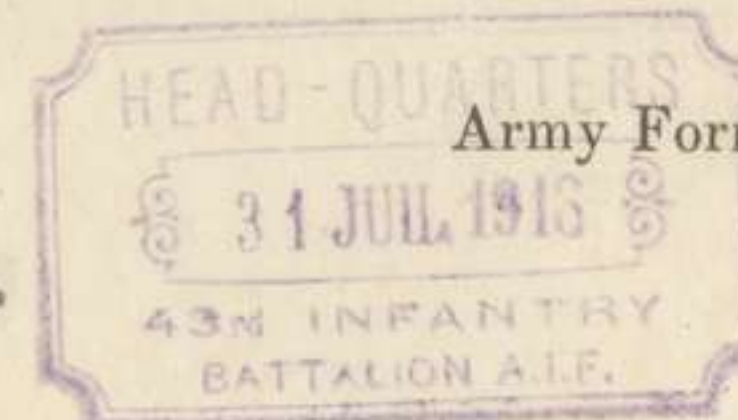
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Appendix 11.

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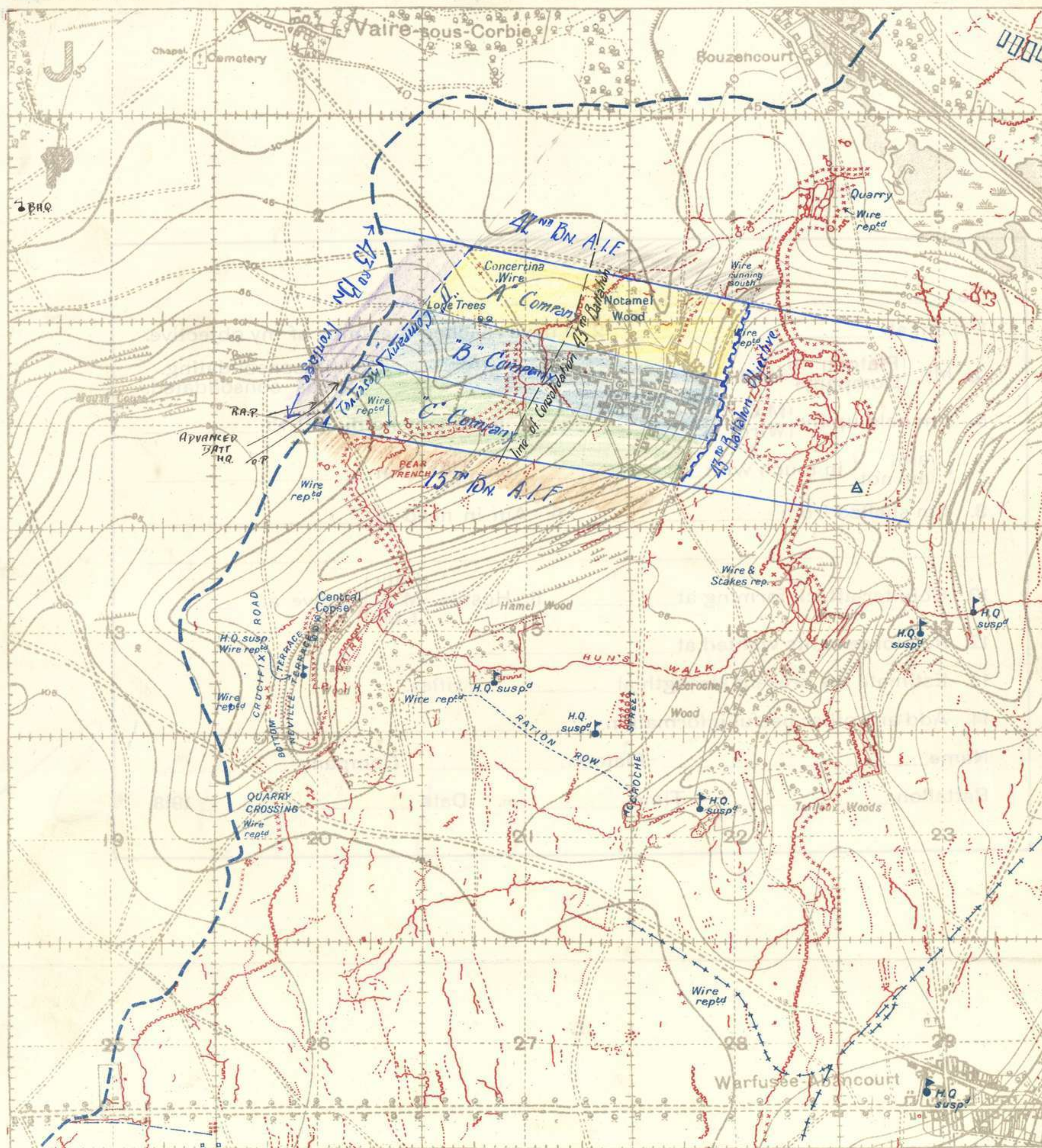
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information					Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME	4-7-18		43rd Bn. A.I.F. "The attack on HAMEL"					
28. CASUALTIES.			Killed	Wounded	R.O.D.	Total		
Off.			2	4	1	7		
O.R.			17	74	1	92		
			19	78	2	99		
29. PRISONERS.			It is estimated that 100 enemy were killed and 450-500 prisoners taken by this Battalion. <i>These men belonged to the 202nd R.I.R. 43rd R. Div. & the 13th I.R. of the 13th Div.</i>					
30. TROPHIES.			Apart from a large supply of maps and papers, and minor trophies for War Museum, 25 Machine guns (including 10 heavies), 5 minenwerfer, and 1 Range finder were captured by this Battalion. In addition 73,000 rounds S.A.A. (British) was salvaged from HAMEL. This was evidently left by the English troops on 5th April when HAMEL was evacuated during the German Attack.					
31. COMMANDS.			C.O.	Lieut-Col.	J. Farrell			
			Adj.	Capt E.J.	Colliver.			
			O.C.A.Coy	Capt. J.T.	Moran			
			" B.Coy	Capt. H.S.	Cope			
			" C. Coy	Capt. R.C.	Sexton			
			" D. Coy	Mjr. A.W.	Lott.			
32. HONOURS AWARDED.								
M.C. Lt. R.A. Lamouray.			boy.	M.M. 2924 Pte H.J. Stanton		boy.		
" Lt. A.H. Dalziel			C.	" 260 bpl. J.P. Barber		B.		
			A.	" 351 Pte W.B. Brien		B.		
D.C.M. ¹¹⁰⁵ T/bpl B.V. Schulz			H.Q.	" 227 Pte D.J. Anderson		B.		
" 577 Pte F.M. Shaw			C	" 2281 L/bpl S.H. Kramitz		C.		
" 2657 Pte J. Gallagher.			B.	" 1081 Pte F. Angus		A.		
				" 190 Pte E.W. Toope		A.		

Original
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Map Showing Coy Sectors in Attack of 4.7.18

VAIRE WOOD.

Parts of 62° NE. & 62° S.E.



Approximate British Front Line — — — — 22-6-18

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION
RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

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HEAD-QUARTERS
31 JUL 1918
43rd INFANTRY
BATTALION A.I.F.

30

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

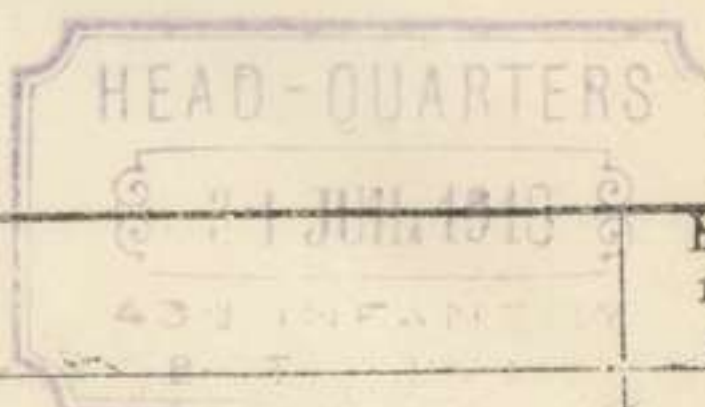
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APPENDIX. 3.



Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Ref. Map 62 D 1/40,000.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July.			<p><u>Commanding Officers Report for July.</u></p> <p><u>Location</u></p> <p>The Battalion was located at CARDONETTE in billets. On the 2nd Bn then moved to HAMEL sector & relieved 51st BN in the line, A and C boys being in front line, and B & D boys in support. B.H.Q. was in P 1 a. 4.4.</p> <p>The Battalion was engaged in attack on HAMEL & in holding on.</p> <p>On the night of the 5th/6th BN was relieved by 41st BN. and on the morning of the 6th moved back to CARDONETTE. by Motor Busses, where they remained till 12th July. On the night of the 12th/13th BN. moved into reserve position (K. Bin) in O. 17. with B.H.Q. at O. 17 c 35.85.</p> <p>On night of 31st/1st Aug. BN. moved into VAIRE sector, becoming left support BN. & relieving 35th BN. B.H.Q. was in Chateau in J 25 d 3.5.</p> <p><u>Infantry Action.</u></p> <p>(See appendix 1) The rest of the month was spent in reserve & support during which all available men were employed on working parties in forward area.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

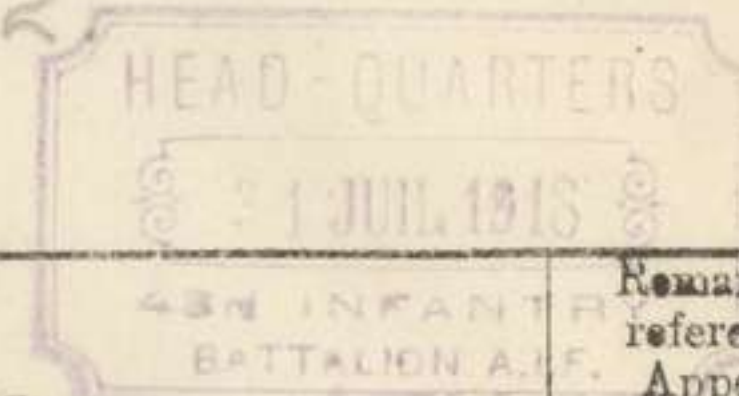
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APPENDIX. 3.

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Ref. Map 62 D. 1/40,000.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
				<p><u>Commanding Officers Report (Contd)</u></p> <p><u>Medical.</u> The health of the men was very good, The weather was warm & there were excellent opportunities of bathing in river & of hot baths. P.U.O. has disappeared in the unit & there were a few cases of skin trouble, boils etc.</p> <p><u>Rations & Supplies.</u> were very good & were supplemented by supplies of food-stuffs bought through the B^{ny}fort's Committee in London.</p> <p><u>Transport.</u> is in very good order & most of the vehicles are freshly painted, The horses are in good condition, but flies proved rather troublesome during the hot weather.</p> <p><u>Officers.</u> Major W. J. Kinniel went to Boys School as Chief Instructor. Major A. J. Patterson went to senior Officers School at Aldershot. Major A. W. Lott assumed duties as 2nd in command.</p> <p>Lieut Brooks & 2nd Lieut Davidson were killed in action on 4th July.</p> <p>Lieut Waterhouse developed Capt Sexton, Lieut Gleson, Lieut Symonds & Lieut Waterhouse were wounded on 4th July. Lieut Waterhouse developed pneumonia & died in the 3rd London General Hospital on the 23rd July. Lieut Banaway went to Hospital with P.U.O.</p>	

APPENDIX

22/3

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WAR DIARY

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PAGE 3.

APPENDIX. 3.

HEAD-QUARTERS

21 JUL 1918

438 INFANTRY
BATTALIONRemarks and
references to
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Commanding Officer Report (Contd)</p> <p>Liut Poris-Smith returned from hospital. Liut Coates went in O.T.B. in exchange for Liut Daley M.C. who rejoined unit.</p> <p>2nd Liut's Piesse, Budmore, Woodhouse, Puchas, Macdonald and Mahoney joined from O.T.C.</p> <p>2nd Liut's Tolley, Chalk, Carter W.J., Carter, Tiver, Thomas and Rudd joined from Reinforcements in Australia.</p> <p>Strength & Casualties July 1st 44 Officers, 671 other ranks</p> <p>July 31st 46 Officers, 608 other ranks.</p> <p>Casualties - (K.) 2 Officers, 20 other ranks, (D & W) 1 Officer, 6 other ranks.</p> <p>(W) 3 Officers, 65 other ranks, (WIA + ROD) 1 Officer, 2 other ranks.</p> <p>Total 7 Officers, 93 other ranks.</p> <p>R.S.M. Presbit (D.O.W) on 19/7/18 & his place was filled by promotion of C.S.M. MacDougall to R.S.M.</p> <p>Candidates to O.T.C. 2097 Sgt Heaslip, 1096 QMSgt McBoyle. These NCOs proceeded to O.T.C. during the month.</p> <p>Americans. "E" Coy 131st Regt U.S. Inf. was attached to BN, for July 4th operations (See appendix I.)</p>	

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APPENDIX

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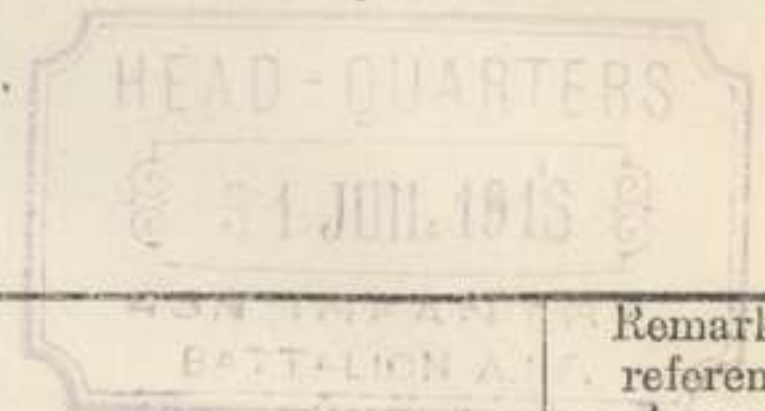
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APPENDIX 3.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Commanding Officers Report (Contd)</p> <p>Honours + Awards for July 4th operation.</p> <p>M.C. Liut Dalziel.</p> <p>" Liut Banaway.</p> <p>D.C.M. 577 L/bpl F. M. Shaw.</p> <p>" 2657 Plt J. Gallagher.</p> <p>" 1105 J/bpl B. T. Schulz.</p> <p>M.M. 351 Plt W. G. Brien</p> <p>" 227 " D. J. Anderson.</p> <p>" 2281 L/bpl S. H. Keating.</p> <p>" 1031 Plt F. Angus.</p> <p>" 190 " E. P. Toole.</p> <p>" 2924 " H. J. Stanton</p> <p>" 260 bpl J. R. Barber,</p>	

} See appendix

James Lt Col
6.0 43rd Bn A.I.F.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
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Appendix 4

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 July		<u>A Coy</u> Report from A Coy. for July	HEAD-QUARTERS 31 JUL 1918 43rd INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F.
	1		bay was in billets in CARDONNETTE organising for a local operation to take place on the Corps front at to build up strength of bay 1 platoon of E Coy 131 Reg. USA. troops was attached and came under the supervision of Lt A.H. DALZIEL. This platoon was fitted out with the same fighting material as ourselves.	
	2		The coy moved from billets at 3 PM and proceeded ^{via} the valley of the Somme through FOUILLOY & HAMELET to their positions in the front line system of trenches at P2d. The move was carried out in easy stages and a halt was made for tea in H 35 sent. The final issue of bombs, picks & shovels, sandbags etc was made to the troops. At 9.45 PM the Coy moved by sections at 50 yds distance and after a slow march, reached their positions in the front line at 3 AM on the 3rd.	APPENDIX
<i>10/11/18</i>	3/4 45 th		bay participated in attack on HAMEL. (Nice report by Capt J.T. MORAN)	cc 14

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 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Appendix 4

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 July 6		<u>A Coy Report (Ctd)</u> After the operations at HAMEL, the Coy moved to THADDS ^{reserved} where lorries picked up and men conveyed to billets at CARDONNETTE.	
	7-11		Troops rested in billets and were bathed and refitted while the Coy was also reorganised.	
	12		The Coy moved from billets at 3 PM to reserve position in escarpments in O14c reaching there and settling down by 11 PM.	
	13-17		Position improved - situation quiet - men bathed. On 14th Co 2 Platoon detached with 11th field Coy guarding bridges over River Somme ^{LANCRE} between BUSSY and BONNAY. Nos 143 Platoons (night digging) engaged on reserve trench J33 c.	
	18		Lt WATTS & Sgt MACLAUGHLAN detached with 129th USA Regt for instruction in trench routine. Co's 143 Platoons on working party. Pte W.F.I. SELLEN killed by shell fire at his Coy lines.	

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Appendix 4

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 9 July	20 to 30	Abay Report (Ctd) Period quiet to normal - working parties continued - On 24 th Officers & NCOs reconnoitred position in T24c: on 28 th advanced party left for new position at T24c but was later recalled - On 30 th Officers & NCOs reconnoitred new positions in P. 243. During night 29/30 th 2 casualties occurred from shell fire	
	31 st		bay moved to new positions at P. 243 at 6 PM by sections. bay dispositions: - L.H.Q. P2a 50.60. Ho 1. Plat P2a 50.40 to P2c Ho 80 - Ho 3 Plat. P2d 70.60 to P2d 70.20. Ho 2 Platoon. P3c 40.95 to P3c 20.55. <u>General.</u> During the month very little sickness has been apparent in the bay and the general health can be considered as excellent. The intermixing of the men with the Americans acted as a real happy & fresh break in the men's daily routine. Feeding arrangements for the month have been excellent and supplies ample	



APPENDIX

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WAR DIARY

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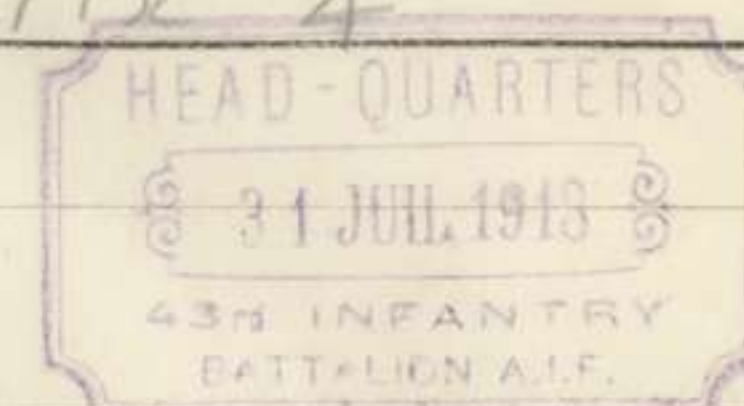
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page 1
Appendix 4

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Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place

Date

Hour

B. Coys Report.

Summary of Events and Information

1-7-18

Training with U.S.A. Platoon for the proposed attack on The Village of
HAMEL on the 4th. U.S.A Platoon marched in at 5-30 PM. - Lectured to
them on the projected operations until 7-30. Much regretted that
they could not have a practice stunt with the Coy, but owing
to their late arrival and the consequently limited time this was
not possible.

2-7-18

Approach march from CARDONETTE to line a distance of approx 17 Miles.
The Coy occupied trenches in front of HAMELETTE in the following
formation, One Australian platoon in front line with one U.S.A
platoon, One Australian with one U.S.A platoon in support line.
Relief completed at 3-15 AM.

3-7-18

Men finally equipped for the stunt with issue of bombs, picks,
shovels, SAA, & sandbags 48 hours rations and extra water bottles.
Just previous to moving off orders were received that one U.S.A
platoon to report back to their unit, all these men were very

APPENDIX

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Appendix 4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			B. Coy Report (contd)	
			<p>burn on taking part in the stunt, & much regret was expressed that they would be unable to do so. This Platoon having been recalled a section from each Coy. was detailed to B. Coy to make up the 4th Platoon. Lieut J. J. Symons in charge. Instructions arrived zero hour 3-10 AM. 4/7/18. - It had become impossible to move along the trenches owing to the number of men lying down sleeping. All quiet & confident. I cannot sufficiently express my admiration for the American troops, this was their first time in the line & their behaviour was magnificent.</p>	
	4-7-18		<p>Shifted out on to the tape at 12-15 AM. all dispositions complete at 1 AM. Unfortunately Lieut Symons had to organize his platoon on the tape, as the sections which were to comprise his platoon could not arrive until just as we moved out, - I worked to both flanks ^{of the Coy} & found that we were satisfactorily in touch with C. Coy on the right. A Coy on the left. & D Coy in rear.</p>	APPENDIX 4

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WAR DIARY

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OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page 3
HEAD-QUARTERS
31 JUL 1918
434 INFANTRY
BATTALION A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			B. Coy Report (bortd)	
			The following were the dispositions of the Coy. No 5 platoon under Lieut. Green on left. No 6 platoon (USA) under Lieut. Lee on right. These two platoons composed the company's front line. No 7 platoon (USA) under Lieut. Symons in left support. No 8 platoon under Lieut. Lock right support. Coy HQ in centre.	
			Front line to advance in one wave in extended order, support line in Artillery formation. - Harassing fire was put down at 3-2 AM. & continued for 8 minutes. At 3-10 AM. The Barrage came down with a roar & remained on Z line for 4 minutes, lifted & moved forward a 100 yds remained for 2 minutes, then lifted again until it reached the centre of the town of HAMEL.	
			We experienced no trouble in following the barrage closely until we reached the enemy line, here we encountered a strong point. - Just in rear of front line was a heap of man golds around which a trench had been dug & MGs placed in position. No 5 platoon rushed the front line whilst I ordered	

APPENDIX

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Original

WAR DIARY

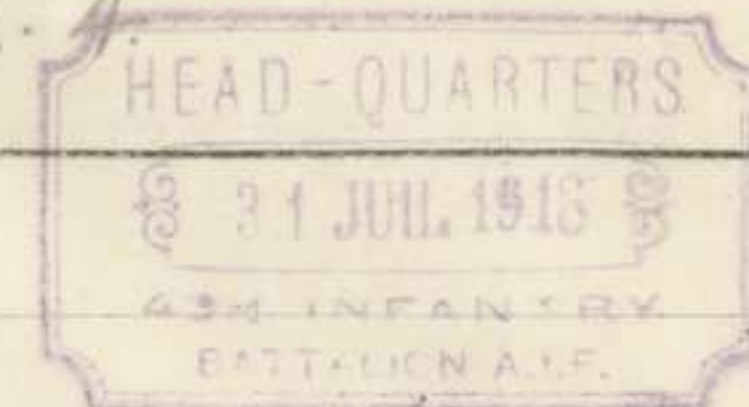
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. APPENDIX. 4

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Place	Date	Hour	B. Coys Report (Contd)	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<div>31 JUL 1918 434 INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F.</div>		
			<p>No 7 to attack the strong point on left flank - attacking it at same time from front & right flank. - The fight lasted about 5 minutes in which time the garrison was completely overcome. I estimate the strength of the garrison of this strong point to have been at least 60 men. It was here that the Coy experienced most of the casualties sustained in the action. Lieuts Ellison & Symons were both wounded. The Coy had now reached its objective just outside The Town & the signaller sent the message back O.B. OK.</p> <p>We were now responsible for the mopping up of the Town. With Lieut Symons a casualty his platoon was without a leader but his runner Pte D. J. Anderson took charge & led the platoon through the remainder of the action. Each platoon rushed its allotted portion of the Town & many prisoners came back through our lines and passed to the rear. Within half an hour our part of the Town was clear of the enemy.</p> <p>B. Coy were responsible for the signal that the Town was clear.</p>		

BAD

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APPENDIX
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B.P.R.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			B. boys Report (contd)	
			<p>followed by "A" Coy at 4-31 AM. "C" boy at 4-54 AM, & at 4-55 AM three green lights were fired as a signal that the Town was ours & cleared of the enemy.</p> <p>B. boy then started to dig a C.T. from jump off trench to the left side of HAMEL about 1200 yds, & this work was carried on with until relieved by "B" boy 41st Battr. at 11-30 PM. on night of 5th.</p> <p>I have marched back to trenches in rear of CORBIE, reaching this place at 3-5 AM. Here the men were given a good hot meal. The Americans attached to the boy rejoined their own "E" boy & under their own boy. Commander returned to their Brigade.</p> <p>At 8-30 AM. we moved again, marching about 3 miles and then had the pleasure of a ride in Motor Lorries the remainder of the distance to CARDONETTE.</p> <p>Resting in billets at CARDONETTE.</p> <p>Moved back again into forward area, occupying PIONEER TRENCH at 0220 to 20-30. Doing the usual working parties.</p> <p>Relieved by 129th Regt U.S.A. and moved up & relieved "B" boy 35th Bn. A.I.F. at P3 & 90-90.</p>	
	6-7-18			
	7-7-18	15		
	11-7-18			
	12-7-18	15		
	30-7-18			
	31-7-18			

B. boy

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APPENDIX

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WAR DIARY

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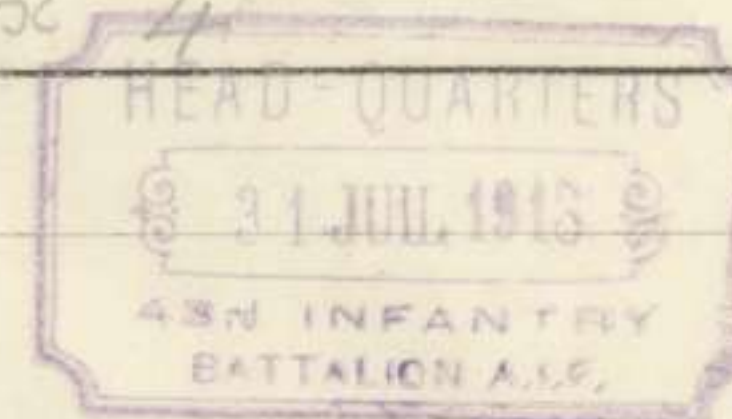
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Appendix 4

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July 1 st		G. Coy Report for July The Coy was billeted in CARDONETTE, & reorganized into 3 Platoons, with one platoon of Americans under Lieut Plummer. Practice attack was carried out at ALLONVILLE.	
	2-7-18		Moved from CARDONETTE at 2-15 PM. — Tea on the Hallue — moved forward at 10 PM. into front line near HAMEL, relieving part of the 51 st Battalion.	
	3-7-18		Rested in the trenches.	
	4-7-18		Attack on HAMEL commenced 3-10 AM when the barrage came down after 8 minutes harassing fire. Guns on Coy right flank were firing short causing casualties. Little opposition met with until E front line was reached, this was overcome & with few casualties to ourselves. A number of Prisoners & machine guns were captured, & large numbers of enemy killed. Coy reorganized at the 10 minute halt of barrage, and when this lifted moppers up cleared the Coy's sector of Village whilst Lewis Gunners commenced digging new line. In the Village large numbers of enemy killed in cellars —	

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Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			C. Coy report (Bond)	
			and large numbers taken prisoners. Upon completion men returned to the new line and carried on with the consolidation. Disposition of the Coy as follows No 12 Platoon (American) Right flank. No. 10 Platoon on Right centre. No. 11 Platoon on Left centre. No 9 Platoon on Left flank.	
			Coy headquarters was dug in an escarpment about 200' in the rear centre of Coy. Coy area shelled during the day with HE & smuging gas, causing 2 casualties (Killed).	
			Bapt Section O.C. was wounded early in the advance. Lieut Brooke was wounded early also, but carried on & was killed by a bomb in front of German M.G. post.	
			Lieut Davidson was wounded - and later died of wounds.	
	5-7-18		Left flank heavily shelled - position of the flank had to be altered. Relieved about 12 midnight by C. Coy 41 st .	
	6-7-18		Marched part way, and were motored part way, back to CARDOINETTE arriving about 12-30 P.M. Men were billeted, allowed to rest,	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			C. Coy report (Contd)	
			and a hot meal was served on arrival.	
	7-7-18		Resting in billets, inspection, stand-to for some hours.	
	9-7-18		presentation of medals by the Corps Commander.	
	10-7-18.		Capt R. B. Gunter took over command of the Coy - training in gas cloud and smoke attack.	
	11-7-18		Reorganization.	
	12-7-18		Left CARDONETTE for new sector at 3 PM. G. Coy leading - tea near DAOURS. moved forward by sections to new position in O.17a. - Settled down about 12 midnight.	
	13-7-18		Coy lived in bivouacs dug into escarpment in O.17a. 70.60. - First few days spent in improving bivouacs and training, later one platoon and the rifle section of another were detached with the 11th L. B. Engineers at CORBIE - and a nightly working party of 2 Cff & 40 O.R. worked in J33 and P3. about 4,000 yards nearer the front line. The supplying of this number meant using Batmen & C.H.Q. Runners.	
	30-7-18.		Lieut Roberts attended a gas school and Lieut Harrington	



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WAR DIARY

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HEAD-QUARTERS
21 JUL 1918 Rem
43rd INFANTRY refe
BATTALION A.F. Apr

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	C. Coy report (Contd)	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			was away a couple of days interviewing The R.A.F. Two new Officers Lieut's Rudd & Lathk. joined up from Australia. Lieut Lathk. went to Hospital (3rd London General) and was struck off strength. C.Q.M.S. McBoy went to an Officers training College England - Lieut Parrington went to England on leave. Several temporary promotions were made. Three demonstrations were attended by the Officers - viz - Machine Guns, Tanks, & Phos Bombs. Reconnaissance of new positions and forward areas were carried out.		
	31-7-18.		"L." Coy 129th Regt. U.S.A. took over the Coy lines at 017a. Coy moved in sections to J33 (Shut 6R.D.) area, where we relieved D. Coy of the 35th Bn. No 11 Platoon was billeted in dug outs along an escarpment. No 10 in J27c on North of River, and No 9 in trenches in J33. L.H.Q. in School in VAIRE-SOUS-CORBIE. Relief complete at 10 PM. 31/7/18.		

1 JUL 1918
43rd INFANTRY
BATTALION A.E.F.

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APPENDIX 4

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Appendix 4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Ref Map 62D.	
			Report by D Coy for July 1918	
CARDONNETTE	1-7-18	to	D Coy having been reinforced by a platoon of 131 st Regt USA the	
G. 5 central	6-7-18		training was carried out previous to the attack on HAMEL on 4 th July	
			(See special report by his AW. LOTT.	
	6-7-18		On the 6 th after returning to CARDONNETTE from HAMEL the Coy was	
	11-7-18		broken up and absorbed by A. B & C Coys. On the 11 th July the	
			Coy was again organised with 3 platoons and the following	
			officers Lt J. J. Daley MC O.C. - Lt R. H. Martin 2 nd in Comd. -	
			Lts Patterson MC - Reynolds & Cudmore platoon officers.	
Reserve	12-7-1918		On 12 th July, the Coy moved with the batt to escarpments in	
J176.	31-7-1918		J176 where it formed portion of reserve bde to 3 rd Division	
			holding the HAMEL SECTOR. The position had not been	
			previously occupied so the Coy had to dig itself in: this	
			was well completed by midnight and men retired for the	
			night. Next day bivouacs were materially improved	
			by articles and timbers salvaged from the ruined village of	

B.A. 2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<u>D Coy Report (Continued)</u>	
Reserve	12.7.18		FOUILLOY. Arrangements were made for training but the	
I 176	31.7.18		front and support line systems required considerable improvement, so training was abandoned and the personnel of the company employed in digging switch lines and reserve trenches each night.	
			During the month the boys strength increased from 6 officers 105 O.R. to 9 officers 107 O.R.	
			Twice during the period in reserve, gas necessitated the use of the box respirator: on both occasions only slight concentrations were thrown over and no casualties were caused.	
			The health and moral of the Coy was exceedingly good - only 1 evacuation (suspected Appendicitis) was made.	
			In account of the secluded position of the troops, rations which were well up to standard were delivered daily about 4PM. As usual rations were supplemented by the Comforts Fund	



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