

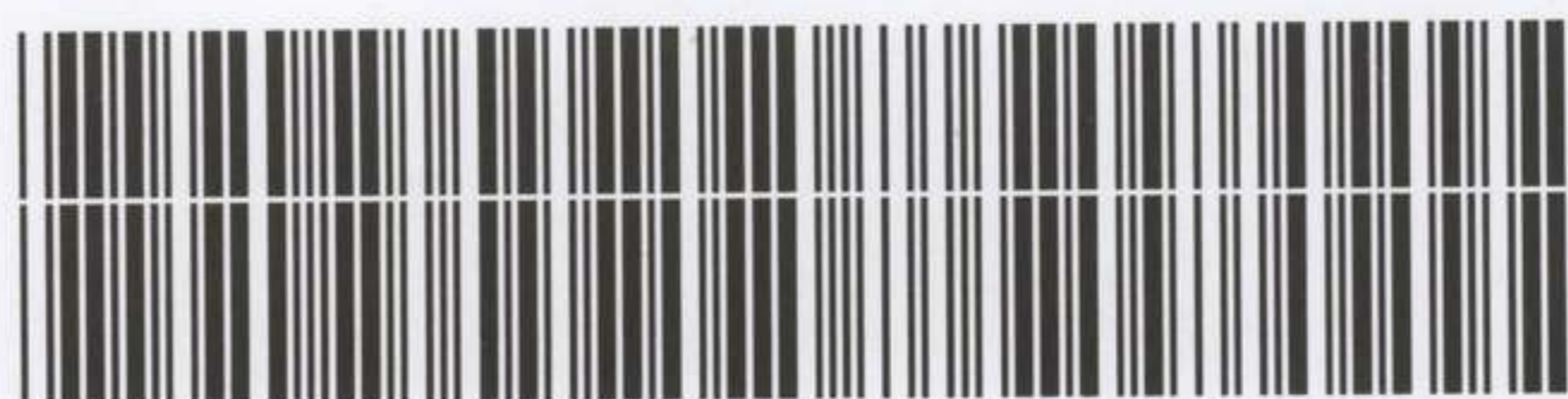
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/72/29

Title: 55th Infantry Battalion

July 1918



AWM4-23/72/29

263

CONFIDENTIAL.

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

VOLUME 29.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

55th. BATTALION A. I. F.

FOR

JULY 1918.

Complete.

Signature of Officer compiling

A. Miller

Lieut.

A /Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Signature of Officer Commanding

P. D. Wood

Lieut. Colonel,

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE - SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
LINE RIGHT N. of SAILLY- LE-SEC.	1.7.18.		<p>The Support and Reserve trenches were shelled during Morning mainly from Right flank. A recommendation (Appendix 1) was forwarded by the C.O. to the G.O.C. Brigade, for a minor operation to be undertaken by the Battalion. Capt. K. R. Wyllie made the reconnaissance and the C.O. decided that Capt. Wyllie would take charge of the raiding party which would consist of A and B Companies and 1 platoon of C Company. The arrangements were made for A and B Companies to be relieved by two Companies of the 56th. Battalion on the night of 2nd./3rd. July and withdraw to ROMA LINE, (Support Battalion area) for organisation. The day was fine throughout. Aerial activity on both sides was increased. At 7 p.m. 2 machines (identity unknown) were brought down in enemy territory.</p>	Appendix 1.
	2.7.18.		<p>Quiet day on sector. Patrolling of N.M.L. was very difficult owing to long crops and the proximity of enemy's forward posts. The Hun uses flares very freely and tries to controll N.M.L. by M. G. fire. Little Aerial activity during the day. The connecting up of front line posts and digging of forward C.T's was pushed on energetically under cover of darkness. The G.O.C. Brigade visited Bn. H.Qrs during morning and discussed minor operation with the C.O. Bn. Operation Order No.115 was issued for the relief of Companies forming the raiding party (Appendix 2).</p>	Appendix 2
	3.7.18.		<p>The day was spent in the organisation of the raiding party and the making of final preparations for the raid. Bn. Operation Order No. 116 (Appendix 3.) was issued to all concerned. Brigade Operation Order No. 149 was received and the location of the sector to be raided was found to be slightly altered. Corrigendum to Bn. Operation Order 116 was issued (Appendix 4) to all recipients to that order. An addendum was then issued (Appendix 5) stating the detailed orders of O.C. Raid supplementary to Bn. Order 116. The day was fine and sunny. The raiders were rested as much as possible, the afternoon being spent in the Officers of the raiders explaining the scheme to the men and making every one thoroughly conversant with the scheme on hand. A special hot dinner was given the party about 10 p.m. By midnight the party was ready to move forward, every man being issued with two identity discs, each being differently numbered. All other means of identification had been dispensed with. In the meantime parties under Capt. F. J. Cotterell were working hard improving the "jumping off" line xxx and front line generally. These parties were observed by the enemy who kept up a constant fusillade of M.G. fire causing two casualties. At the same time a party under Lieut. N.L. Wilson was busy laying the tapes for the raiders to form up on. In conjunction with raid arrangements had been made for a "Chinese attack" on enemy defences in K.25.c.5.7.</p>	Appendix 3 Appendix 4 " 5

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A200) Wt. W171/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2.10/14

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

263

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE RIGHT N. of SAILLY-LE-SEC.	3.7.18. (cont'd).	4.7.18.	<p>Dummy figures (15) were provided by the 14th. Field Company A.E. Battalion Operation Order No. 117 (Appendix 6) was issued. <i>ASJ</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>All working parties were clear of "hopping off" and front lines by 2 a.m. moving out by a different ^{hour} from that used by the raiders moving in. The "hopping off" tapes were in position and pegged down by 1.30 a.m.</p> <p>The raiding party, consisting of Capt. K. R. Wyllie (O.C. Raid) and 5 other Officers, and 192 O/Ranks moved into position on the tapes without incident by 2.50 a.m., 20 minutes before Zero. The tapes had been marked so that each section under its leader would be in correct position. This part of the operation reflected great credit on the organisation of the raid. By this time all details of the "Chinese attack" had been completed and the Officer in charge, Lieut. W. E. Campbell and 5 other ranks were standing by waiting for Zero hour which had been laid down for 3.10. a.m. Battalion H.Qrs was notified by O.C. Raid and O.C. Chinese attack that everything was ready at 20 minutes before Zero hour.</p> <p>The minutes went slowly by, and at the appointed hour the Artillery and T.M. Barrage came down, synchronising with the Barrage for the major operation on both flanks. (Appendices 7 and 8 are detailed reports of the Raid showing the conduct of the operation after Zero hour, and the gallant manner in which the officers and other ranks of the party acquitted themselves. An hour before Zero, an advanced Dressing Station was formed by the R.M.O. on the right flank of the Assembly position. The results obtained were most satisfactory especially in cases of severe wounds.</p> <p>The Messing Officer, Lieut. A. E. Smith, arranged for a hot drink to be ready for the raiders on their return from the Boche lines. This was very much appreciated. A rum issue was also provided. Bn. O.O. 118 (Appendix 9.) was issued in connection with the relief of C and D Companies by the 56th. Battalion. The relief was completed without incident by midnight.</p> <p>Parties organised by O.C. Raid commenced at 10.30 p.m. to search N.M.L. and front line area for wounded who had not been reported in during the day.</p> <p>The operation on the right flank could be seen from the Battalion area, from 4 a.m. onwards. The Tanks engaged were particularly conspicuous and could be seen strongly resembling huge beetles, moving in front of the Infantry, doing excellent work.</p> <p>On the left flank the attack by the 15th. Aust. Brigade could not be seen owing to the configuration of the country and the intense smoke barrage put up by our Artillery. Reports, however, soon came to hand of the success in this quarter. <i>AM</i></p>	<p>Appendix 6.</p> <p>Appendix 7 and 8.</p> <p>Appendix 9.</p>

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(AS001) Wt. W. 71/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2.10/14

26

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE RIGHT N. of SAILLY- LE-SEC.	4.7.18.	(Cont'd)	<p>The weather during the "stunt" and for the remainder of the day was fine, aerial activity being normal.</p> <p>The following Congratulatory message was received from Corps Commander:- "Please accept my congratulations and thanks and convey same to Brigadier's and Troops employed for their brilliantly executed subsidiary operations which have contributed so admirably to the complete success of our main attack. General Birdwood also telegraphs his admiration of the true A.I.F. style in which the Corps has acquitted itself." The Divisional Commander also desires to express his deep appreciation of the splendid work done by all concerned. <i>ASB</i></p>	
	5.7.18.		<p>The parties searching N.M.L. for wounded and those possibly killed continued their work until daylight made further movement in the open impossible. The work done by these parties was highly commendable.</p> <p>The day was fine and all Companies rested. Cleaning up of equipment and clothing was also done. Aerial activity was increased, one enemy aeroplane being brought down in his own lines.</p> <p>During the evening two Company Cookers were brought forward into Ravine in J.22.d. making it possible for the Battalion to have two hot meals per day, and a hot drink at mid-day. A few men had been sent daily to Transport Lines suffering from Influenza which was prevalent in the area. <i>ASB</i></p>	
	6.7.18.		<p>The day was very quiet in the Battalion Sector, forward Bn. area being shelled at intervals during the day. Aerial activity again normal. Working parties were provided for the 56th. Battalion at night totalling 100 O/Ranks. A party of 30 O/Ranks were employed carrying Stokes Mortar Shells. <i>ASB</i></p>	
	7.7.18.		<p>Marked improvement in the men due to the quiet day. No shelling on the Battalion area. Salvage operations were commenced and resulted in a large amount of material being sent to rear for sorting.</p> <p>Ravine in J.22.d. is not under direct observation from right flank. This is one of the results of the 4th. Aus. Div. success on July 4th.- American Independence Day. Over 100 O/Ranks were employed in defensive works in forward area. 50 O/Ranks were employed carrying engineering material and rations for right line Bn. This party did two trips to front line. 160 Gas projectors were discharged successfully at 2.30 a.m. against enemy defences in Ravine K. 25.d. <i>ASB</i></p>	

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

203

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE RIGHT N. of SAILLY- LE-SEC.	8.7.18.		<p>A minor operation was carried out by the 54th. Battalion in conjunction with the Division on our right. The operation was entirely successful.</p> <p>70 O/Ranks were employed improving Communication Trenches in forward area.</p> <p>No. 2143 Pte E. A. Corey, M.M. marched out today to represent the Battalion at an Allied Demonstration in Paris.</p> <p>The C.O. inspected Battalion area and was very pleased with measures taken for sanitation. All trenches were in a good condition, weather being dry and hot. Aerial activity normal during day increasing about 6 p.m.</p>	
	9.7.18.		<p>The weather during the day was showery but the ground dried quickly. No fresh cases of influenza in the Bn. This epidemic appears to have ceased in this area. Orders were received that the Bn. would move into the left Bn. sector on night 10th./11th. July and relieve the 53rd. Bn.</p> <p>100 O/Ranks were employed in the forward area on defensive works.</p> <p>A letter was sent to the C.O. 56th. Battalion by the C.O. expressing his appreciation of the willing and valuable co-operation afforded to the 55th. Bn. during the operations of the 4th. July by all ranks of the 56th. Bn. (Appendix 10.)</p>	Appendix X 10.
LINE LEFT S.W. of MORLANCOURT.	10.7.18.		<p>Special Orders by Lieut. General Sir John Monash, K.C.B., V.D. Commanding Aust. Corps were received containing Congratulatory Messages. (Appendix 10a. and 10b.)</p> <p>The day was spent in cleaning up Battalion area in anticipation of the move at night. The morning was fine, with intermittent showers during the afternoon.</p> <p>Bn. O.O. No. 119 (Appendix 11.) was issued and the Battalion moved from the Support Bn. area in accordance with this order. The relief was completed without incident by 11.45 p.m.</p> <p>Battalion H.Qrs now situated at J.17.b.3.7. Two Cookers were brought forward and were dug into a bank 100 yards from Bn. H.Qrs.</p> <p>Five O/Ranks U.S. Army were attached to the Bn. for front line experience.</p> <p>Aerial reconnaissance today reported enemy tanks just behind his forward positions. This does not necessarily indicate intention to attack on the part of the Hun.</p>	Appendix 10a.-10b. Appendix 11.
	11.7.18.		<p>The C.O. visited all Company areas during the morning, it being possible to go over the whole Battalion area in daylight. The Communication trenches were in good condition. An attached Infantry party of 50 O/Ranks and one Company of 5th. Pioneer Battalion are working in the area improving defences.</p>	

WAR DIARY

July 1918.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE LEFT S.W. of MORLANCOURT.	11.7.18.	(Cont'd).	Collection of Salvage in the Bn area was started and one limberful was returned to R.Q.M. Our snipers were very busy during the day and again asserted their superiority. Reaping hooks were issued to Companies to remove crops and so improve the field of fire of front line posts. Enemy actively engaged in digging new works. <i>ASH</i>	
	12.7.18.		The C.O. went to Brigade today at about 9 a.m., the G.O.C. being away at a Tank Demonstration. He returned to Bn. H.Qrs at 7 p.m. The 60th. Bn. relieved the 58th. Bn. on our left flank tonight (12th./13th. July). All telephones forward of Div. H.Qrs and all buzzers and Fullerphones forward of Brigade were not used from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visual Signals, wireless, runners and pigeons were the only means of communication used during the above period. Weather very changeable today having constant thunderstorms. One limber of green forage was cut and returned to Transport Lines. French Corps on our right attacked on a 7000 yards front penetrating to a depth of 2,000 yards capturing many prisoners and much war material. <i>ASH</i>	
	13.7.18.		Battalion H.Qrs heavily shelled by 5.9's from 8 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. Owing to all H.Qrs personnel being provided with good cover only three slight casualties were caused. The rest of the day was comparatively quiet. Aerial activity increased, two of our observation balloons being brought down in flames by a hostile plane at 8.40 p.m. The plane was not observed until almost on our balloons having taken advantage of the low clouds. The Hun plane reached the Hun lines in safety. The C.O. visited the front line about 8 p.m. <i>ASH</i>	
	14.7.18.		Very heavy rain at 7 a.m. which made all C.T's and trenches very difficult for movement. The G.O.C. Division, Sir. J. J. T. Hobbs, K.C.B., V.D. visited the Bn area at 11 a.m. Bn. H'qrs was again shelled during his visit. The G. O. C. Division expressed his appreciation of the cleanliness of the area and of the spirit of the men. He also personally complimented the C.O. on the success of the operation on July 4th.. He left the Bn. area at 11.45 a.m. 100 O/Ranks were employed carrying rations and improving defences forward of the Support Line. <i>ASH</i>	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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
LINE LEFT S.W. of MORLAN- COURT.	15.7.18.		<p>The day was showery. An enemy aeroplane taking advantage brought down one of our Observation Balloons in flames near BONNAY at 3 p.m. The Plane reached its own lines in safety despite the heavy barrage of A.A. and M.G. fire. The C.O. attended a conference of C.O.'s at 56th. Bn H'qrs in Ravine at J.22.d. The Brigadier was present. The policy of aggressive daylight patrolling was discussed. This was the day on which the great German Offensive South West of RHEIMS was commenced and where the Boche was thrown back at all points.</p>	
	16.7.18.		<p>Five O/Ranks U.S. Army attached to Bn. reported back to Brigade H'qrs at 8.45 a.m. Rain was intermittent during the day, with 2 very heavy showers at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Orders were received that the 8th. Aust. Inf. Brigade would relieve the 15th. Brigade in the Left Bde sector and the left Bn of the 14th. Brigade, Right Bde. Sector. Advance parties from the 30th. Bn came forward and thoroughly reconnoitered the Battalion area.</p>	
	17.7.18.		<p>Bn. O. O. No. 120 (Appendix 12) was issued in connection with the relief by the 30th. Battalion. Special effort was made that the whole area would be handed over in a clean and sanitary condition. This was accomplished despite heavy rain during the day. Companies of the 30th. Bn. moved in immediately after dark and the relief was complete without incident by 1.45 a.m. 18th. instant. By this relief the left right boundary of the left Bde Sector now rested on the BRAY-CORBIE ROAD. During this tour in the line front line wiring had been energetically carried out a permanent party of 20 O/Ranks being employed each night. Lieut. D. T. W. NEVILLE, M. C., D. C. M. and two other ranks marched out today to join a patrol party being lent by the Australian Corps to the 3rd. Corps on our left.</p>	Appendix 12.
LINE RIGHT N. of SAILLY- LE-SEC.	18.7.18.		<p>On relief Bn. took up position in ROMA LINE (Support Bn. area) vacated by 53rd. Bn. The Bn. was in position by 2.45 a.m. Weather improved slightly during the day, the men resting and cleaning up. Bn. O. O. 121 (Appendix 13) was issued for the relief of the 56th. Bn. in the left Bn sector, right Brigade. This relief was not completed by midnight. Today at 4.30 a.m. the gallant Allied troops, on the front between SOISSONS and THE MARNE attacked on a 25 kilometre front and penetrated to a depth of 10 kilo's.</p>	Appendix 13.
	19.7.18.		<p>Owing to rain making saps very muddy and a gas operation on enemy defences in Ravine in K.25.d. the relief was not complete until 3.5 am. The C.O. met the G.O.C. Brigade at 53rd. Bn. H'qrs in Ravine J.22.c.8.0. and afterwards went to Brigade H'qrs there meeting members of the French</p>	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
A5001) Wt. Wt 71/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2..0/14

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

or
INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE LEFT N. of SAILLY- LE-SEC	19.7.18.		<p>Delegation which is proceeding to Australia with economic and political intentions. The members of the Delegation are:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Deputy Albert METIN, General PAU, Commandant DANDRE, M. GOUT, Labour Delegate Thomsen, Private J. BADER, Private ANDRE SIEGSRIED, Mr. J. T. MEADOWS SMITH.</p> <p>General Pau addressed everybody present (in French) and expressed his appreciation and admiration of the gallant deeds of the Australian Troops both on Gallipoli and in France. Enemy Observation Balloon was brought down in flames on our left front at 12.20 p.m. 54th. Battalion relieved 53rd. Battalion in line right. Notification was received today of the following awards and congratulation for gallant deeds and devotion to duty by men of the Battalion during the stunt of July 4th. 1918:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>MILITARY MEDAL:</u> 3121 Sgt W. P. Ryall, 2646 Pte T. A. Foret, 5076 " C. M. Farrell, 2167 " A. S. Jacobs, 4834 " M. Kerin, 3129 " I. P. Higgs, 3254 " T. James.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>MENTIONED IN CORPS ROUTINE ORDERS:</u> 3351 Pte F. W. Doherty.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer congratulated the recipients.</p>	
	20.7.18.		<p>----- 6-----</p> <p>Brigadier General Herring, D.S.O., G.O.C. 13th. Aust. Inf. Brigade visited Bn. H'qrs and discussed proposed relief of 55th. Bn. by one of the units of his Brigade. The day was fine, with a few light showers at night. The Support and Reserve trenches were heavily shelled during the morning from direct front, but no casualties were caused as shelled areas were vacated during the "strafke". 143 Gas projectors were successfully discharged into Ravine at K.25.d. at 11.15 p.m. At 9.25 a.m. two planes, beleived enemy, were brought down in flames in the Boche lines. Patrolling in N.N.L. is still extremely difficult in this sector, enemy keeping up constant M.G. fire all night. A large quantity of salvage was returned to R.Q.M.</p>	

(ASoo) Wt. W. 71/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Form C. 2118/14

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE LEFT N. of SAILLY- LE-SEC.	20.7.18. (Cont'd)		140 O/Ranks were engaged carrying forward engineering materials and rations to forward Coys. Captain S. A. Pinkstone and Lieut. L. Chadwick, M.C., M.M. and 4 N.C.O's marched out today to be attached to United States Army as Instructors.	
	21.7.18.		G.O.C. Brigade visited Bn. area during morning and was well pleased with his inspection. The men are in good spirits despite the inconveniences caused by the recent changeable weather. The Allied offensive on the Marne - Soissons front still continues with great dash and gallantry.	
	22.7.18.		Weather is still changeable and movement is difficult through saps owing to mud caused by the rain during the last few days. A patrol of 5 enemy aeroplanes came across our lines the afternoon firing their machine guns as if a fight was in progress. One machine pretending to be chased by the other four came well over our lines. The other four flew back carrying with them the attention of all ground observers, during which time the single machine successfully attacked one of our observation balloons bringing it down in flames. This plane reached its own lines in safety, having to fly through a very heavy A/A and M.G. Barrage. 120 O/Ranks were employed in the forward area carrying rations, ammunition and bombs, improving defences and salvaging. Aerial activity was increased our planes bringing down two enemy observation balloons. Daylight Bombing raids were carried out by our planes. Word was received this morning that Lieut. D.T.W. NEVILLE, M.C., D.C.M. and 1 other rank attached III Corps for patrol duties had been severely wounded in N.M.L. whilst on patrol.	
	23.7.18.		Suspected Gas Projector emplacements opposite Bn. front were fired on by T.M's, enemy using both Minenwerfer and "Pineapples" in reply. Aerial activity practically nil today. Visibility was very good, much movement being seen in enemy rear areas. Early in the morning a thousand men were seen practising extended order operations near MORCOURT. 130 O/Ranks were employed in forward area on defensive works. This is the day on which the French Corps on our right attacked in the MONTDIDIER Sector with great success. Orders received that the 56th. Bn. will relieve the 55th. Bn. in line left of the Brigade Sector. Bn.O.O. 122 (Appendix 14.) was issued for the relief on the night of 24th./25th. instant.	Appendix 14

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

263

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE LEFT N. of SAILLY- LE-SEC.	24.7.18.		<p>Morning bright and sunny. Intermittent showers during the afternoon. Foresast of a relief by units of the 4th. Div. was received. The Battalion was relieved by the 56th. Battalion, relief being complete by midnight. On relief the Battalion moved to ROMA LINE, Support Bn. area.</p> <p><u>NORTH OF MONTDIDIER:</u> French troops attacked, all objectives gained, 1900 prisoners captured and 200 machine guns.</p> <p>The C.O. was informed by the G.O.C. Brigade that Lieut G. S. Donaldson and Lieut. L. Chadwick, M.M. had been awarded the MILITARY CROSS and No. 2415 Cpl A. G. Penny and 2491 Pte J. L. Hannah the DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL for their daring deeds and gallant leadership during their operations on July 4th. 1918. The C.O. congratulated the reipeients. <i>ASH</i></p>	
	25.7.18.		<p>Morning spent in resting and cleaning up. The C.O. and Company Commanders of the 50th. Aus. Inf. Battalion were shewn over the Battalion area, in anticipation of the forecasted relief on 27th. inst. The day was very quiet, weather being hot.</p> <p>A daylight Raid was carried out by the 58th. Division on our left at 10.30 a.m., smoke being used to screen raiding party from observation. Operation was an entire success, identification being obtained. <i>ASH</i></p>	
	26.7.18.		<p>The day was dull and dreary. Spasmodic shelling of the Bn. area took place during the day, particular attention being paid to the Ravine in J.22.d.</p> <p>Notification was received that the 8th. and 14th. Brigades would carry out an attack on the Divisional front at a date to be notified. The 53rd. Bn. was selected by the G.O.C. Bde to be the attacking unit in the 14th. Brigade. Orders were also received for the readjustment of the right Brigade sector in which this Bn. was to move from its present position in ROMA LINE on night of 27th./28th. inst. to Reserve Bn. position in J.21.c.</p> <p>130 O/Ranks were in the forward area improving selected "Hopping off" position for 53rd. Bn. and excavating for a forward Battle H'qrs at J.30.c.80.70. <i>ASH</i></p>	
	27.7.18.		<p>Intermittent showers fell during the day making all saps muddy and slippery. Enemy shelled Ravine in J.22.d. at intervals during the day with 77 mm gun.</p> <p>Bn.O.C. 123 (Appendix 15.) was issued for the move tonight. At 9.30 p.m. vacated ROMA LINE and moved to the area vacated by the 53rd. Bn. in Reserves. Battalion was in position by 11.40 p.m. 50 O/Ranks were supplied to the 53rd. Bn. for carrying rations after the relief. <i>ASH</i></p>	Appendix 15.

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A800.) Wt. Wt. 71/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2.10/14

WAR DIARY

July 1918.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RESERVE POSITION N. of VAUX-sur-SOMME.	28.7.18.		C.O. visited Bn. area and was very pleased with the appearance of the men. Enemy heavily shelled Bn. area during the day. This was the result of the numerous Artillery Ammunition Limbers moving over the ridge and through the Bn. area. Two slight casualties were caused.	
	29.7.18.		C.O. 2nd. Bn. Bedfordshire Regiment and 2 Company Commanders visited the area making a reconnaissance for a projected relief on night of 30th. inst. Orders were received from Bde for a Divisional relief commencing night 30th./31st. July. Bn. O.O. 124 (Appendix 16.) was issued. The Battalion area was again shelled by the Boche but no damage resulted. The day was fine and sunny.	Appendix 16.
	30.7.18.		An early start was made cleaning up the Battalion area so that things would be left in a clean condition for the English leaving us. The C.O. accompanied by the Adjutant inspected the area and was very pleased with its condition. No unit relieved the Bn. in this area. Trench stores only being handed over to a representative of the 2nd. Bn. Bedfordshire Regt. The Battalion moved off at 10.45. p.m. by Companies, arriving at embussing point (I.24.c.2.3.) by 11.40 p.m. where busses were in readiness. One Company had taken its place on the convoy when gas shells fell within 50 yards of column. The wind was blowing to the South so it was not necessary to adjust masks. The whole Bn. was embussed without further incident and the column moved off through BONNAY at 12.20 a.m.	
	31.7.18.		This ended for the Battalion a very memorable tour in the line on the banks of the SOMME RIVER which was so famous during the offensive of 1916-1917. After leaving BONNAY the column proceeded along the FRANVILLERS-BONNAY ROAD and turned in to the main AMIENS-ALBERT ROAD half a mile South of FRANVILLERS. The Column was split in half after passing QUERRIEU and a halt was made before reaching AMIENS for 15 minutes until the missing portion of the column rejoined. The Column then proceeded and skirting AMIENS on the North arrived at a point half a mile South of VAUX-AU-AMIENNOIS where the Battalion debussed. The Battalion formed up in column of fours and marched through VAUX to billets at FREMONT. Everybody was settled in their billets by 4.30 a.m. Battalion Headquarters was established in billet No. 8 in FREMONT.	

263

WAR DIARY APPENDIX

OF

55th. B A T T A L I O N, A. I. F.

FOR

J U L Y 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Recommendation from C.O. to Brigade re Minor Operation.
2.	Battalion Operation Order No. 115.
3.	do do do 116 (3 sketches attached)
4.	Corrigendum to Bn. O.O. 116.
5.	Addenda to Bn. O.O. 116.
6.	Bn. Operation Order No. 117.
7.	Preliminary report on minor operation, July 4th.
8.	Report on Operation, July 4th.
9.	Battalion Operation Order, No. 118.
10.	Letter to C.O. 56th. Battalion.
10.a. & b.	Congratulatory Messages (attached original only).
11.	Bn. Operation Order No. 119
12.	do do do 120
13.	do do do 121
14.	do do do 122
15.	do do do 123 123.
16.	do do do 124
17.	Portion of map 62D showing Support & Reserve Bn. areas.
18.	Sketch of position Line Centre.
19.	do do Line Left.
20.	Aerial photos (oblique) of Right Bde. Area.
21.	Quartermaster's Report.
22	Transport Officer's Report.
23.	Return of Daily Strength, Casualties etc.

-----oOo-----
X attached to original only.

Vol 29 - app 1

12

APPENDIX. /

263

G.1/431.

SECRET.

Headquarters,
14th. A. I. Brigade.

The following are my recommendations for the execution of a Minor Operation in this Battalion Sector:-

- (1) As a result of reconnaissances made today I am convinced that a raid against the two lines of trenches contained within the shaded area shewn on attached sketch, and between the dotted lines on attached aerial photograph would meet with the greatest success.
- (2) Strength of raiding party 6 Officers and 200 O/Ranks.
- (3) The advantages of this enterprise are:-
 - (a) The "hopping off" line is parallel to objectives and close to first objective.
 - (b) Objectives are close together.
 - (c) Flanks are well defined by tracks, so making direction easier.
 - (d) Objectives are ~~well~~ ^{well} clear of ~~xxx~~ C.T's which would allow Artillery and T.M's fire to be maintained on the latter throughout the operation. The enemy may reasonably be expected to anticipate that a C.T. would come within the area of the raid.
- (4) An Artillery Barrage including a little smoke to fall on the front line at Zero and lift to rear of second objective and on to what appears to be a line of covering machine gun posts in rear of second objective; and protection throughout by Artillery fire on all enemy front line defences opposite Battalion Sector. The opening barrage would include the cutting of wire in front of second objective.
- (5) Co-operation of M.G's and T.M's for neutralising enemy machine guns on flanks and overhead machine gun fire on various targets in rear of sector to be raided.

1st. July 1918.

Lieut-Col.
Commanding 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

263

70679 - app 2

SECRET.

Copy No.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 115.

Ref. Sheet 62D.

2nd. July 1918.

1. "C" Company 55th. Battalion (less 1 platoon) will relieve "B" Company 55th. Battalion front line right on night 2nd./3rd. July 1918.
2. (a) Two Companies 56th. Battalion will relieve two Companies 55th. Battalion on night 2nd./3rd. July 1918.
(b) "B" Company 56th. Battalion will relieve "A" Company 55th. Battalion in BOURKE TRENCH (SUPPORTS) and 1 platoon in front line.
"C" Company 56th. Battalion will relieve "C" Company 55th. Battalion in COBAR TRENCH (RESERVES).
3. On completion of relief "B" Company 55th. Battalion will occupy area vacated by "B" Company 56th. Battalion in ROMA LINE and "A" Company 55th. Battalion (Plus 1 platoon of "C" Coy) will occupy area vacated by "C" Coy 56th. Battalion in ROMA LINE.
4. Rations for D Company and C Company 55th. Battalion will be sent forward to R.A.P. as early as possible. Rations for B Company and A Company plus 1 platoon of C Company will be transported to ROMA LINE direct, arriving there by midnight. C Company will send parties to R.A.P. to carry forward rations for D Company and C Company only, parties to arrive there by 10.30 p.m.
5. Companies will obtain the usual handing over receipts and certificates from relieving Companies.
6. B and A Companies plus 1 platoon of C Company will rest in ROMA LINE until further orders.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) H. Miller, Lieut,
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 11.G.

Ref. 2 local sketches 1/10,000

3rd. July, 1918.

1. (a) Major operations will be carried out by the 15th. Aust. Inf. Bde. in "C" Divisional Sector and the 4th. Aust. Division in "B" Divisional Sector on "Z" day.
 - (b) Simultaneous with (a) the 55th. Battalion will carry out;
 - (i) a minor operation against the enemy front line defences in K.19.d. and K.20.c. and (ii) a Chinese Attack against enemy defences in the vicinity of K.25.c.5.7.
 - (c) Raiding party to execute operation (b)(i) will be composed as follows:-

"A" Company	1 Officer	and	90 other ranks.
"B" "	2 "		80 " "
"C" "	2 "		30 " "

Captain K.R. Wyllie will be O.C. raid.
2. The object of the operation is:-
 - (i) To capture or kill as many as possible of the enemy.
 - (ii) To destroy enemy defences.
 - (iii) To obtain identification and other information.
 - (iv) To create a diversion to operations being carried out elsewhere.
3. The objectives of the raid will be :-

<u>First Objective</u>	Enemy trench line from K.19.d.77.45. to K.19.d.95.80.
<u>Second Objective.</u>	Enemy trench line from K.20.c.10.45 to K.20.c.25.75.
4. (a) Four Batteries of 18 pdr. Artillery will co-operate. The Artillery programme will be in accordance with that set out in Group Operation Order No.5 issued to O.C. Raid.
 - (b) At Zero 6 L.T.M.Guns will fire on enemy trench from K.19.d.77.45 to K.19.d.95.80 until Zero plus 3 minutes when they will lift to various targets in rear of 2nd. Objective. From Zero to Zero plus 3 minutes 2 guns will fire on enemy trench from K.20.c.10.45 to K.20.c.25.75 when they will lift on to trench junction at K.20.a.2.1.
 - (c) The 5th. Aust. M.G.Bn. will co-operate with fire from all guns on targets in rear of and to the flanks of objectives throughout the operation.
 - (d) No.1. Special Coy. R.E. are arranging to put down smoke barrages along Brigade front.
 - (e) All garrison in front line of Battalion Sector will co-operate with Lewis Guns and Rifle Grenade fire on enemy front line defences and to the flanks of objectives throughout the operation.
5. (a) The "Hopping off" Line will be the front line trench from K.19.d.55.47. to K.19.d.57.70. The assembly in "Hopping off" Line to be completed by 15 minutes before Zero. Approach to assembly position to be made via Cootamundra Sap. This C.T. to be clear of all traffic from 2 hours before Zero.
 - (b) The raid will be made in 2 waves both divided into 2 parties, each under an Officer; these parties to be again subdivided into Sections as required by O.C. raid. The first objective is allotted to the first wave. The 2nd. wave will "leap-frog" through to the 2nd. objective.
 - (c) Dress: Fighting order, with haversacks carried on sides, and entrenching tool head carried in front of body. All water bottles to be filled. All men will carry 2 hand grenades. As required by O.C. raid certain men will also carry wire-cutters and hedging gloves. O.C. raid will arrange for all means of identification to be left behind by all personnel taking part. For the purposes of distinguishing first and second waves, small coloured patches will be worn on the back.
 - (d) A prisoner collecting station will be established at junction of Cootamundra Sap and Coogee Trench.

6. Following will be the administrative arrangements:-
- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ration Officer. | To arrange hot meal for Raiders 4 hours before Zero and for hot tea etc. to be in in assembly position 1 hour before Zero. |
| Works Officer. | To arrange for supply of all material required for operation to be placed in Assembly position. |
| R.M.O. | To arrange for sufficient trained personnel, stretchers and medical stores to be in assembly position 2 hours before Zero. |
7. The Signal Officer will arrange for all communications required for the Operation.
8. Matches will be synchronised at Battalion Headquarters 3 and 6 hours before Zero.
9. Reports to Battalion Headquarters, which will be established near R.A.P. at K.23.d.85.80.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. J. Stone

Captain,
Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 11 a.m. to:-	Copy No.
C.O. 55th. Bn.	1
O.C. A. Coy.	2
B. "	3
C. "	4
D. "	5
O.C. Raid	6
R.M.O.	7
Sig. Officer	8
Works "	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13

Copies to :-

- 14th. A.I. Bde.
- C.O. 53rd. Bn.
- C.O. 48th. Bn.

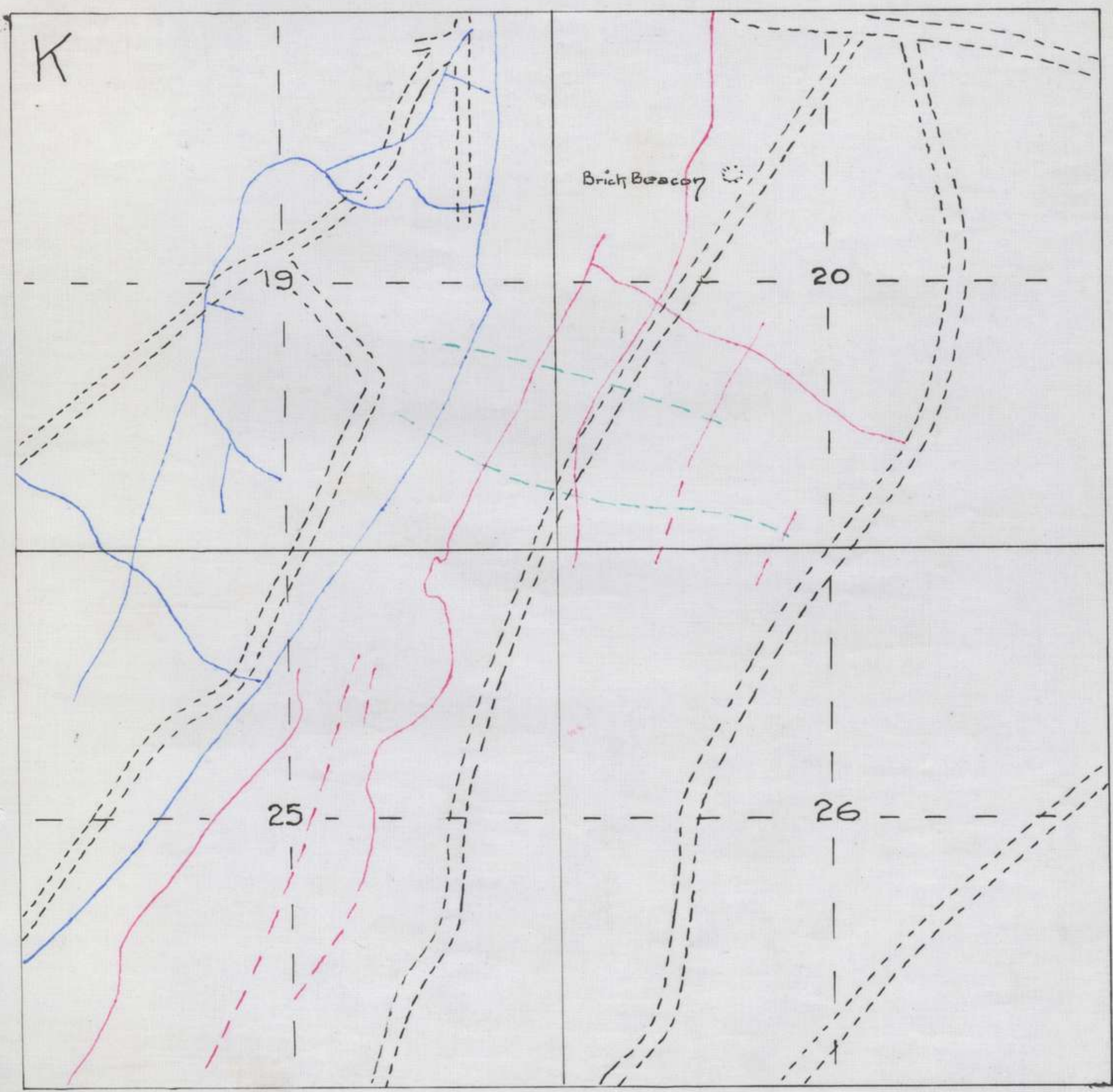
War Diary

APPENDIX 3

Volume No. 29

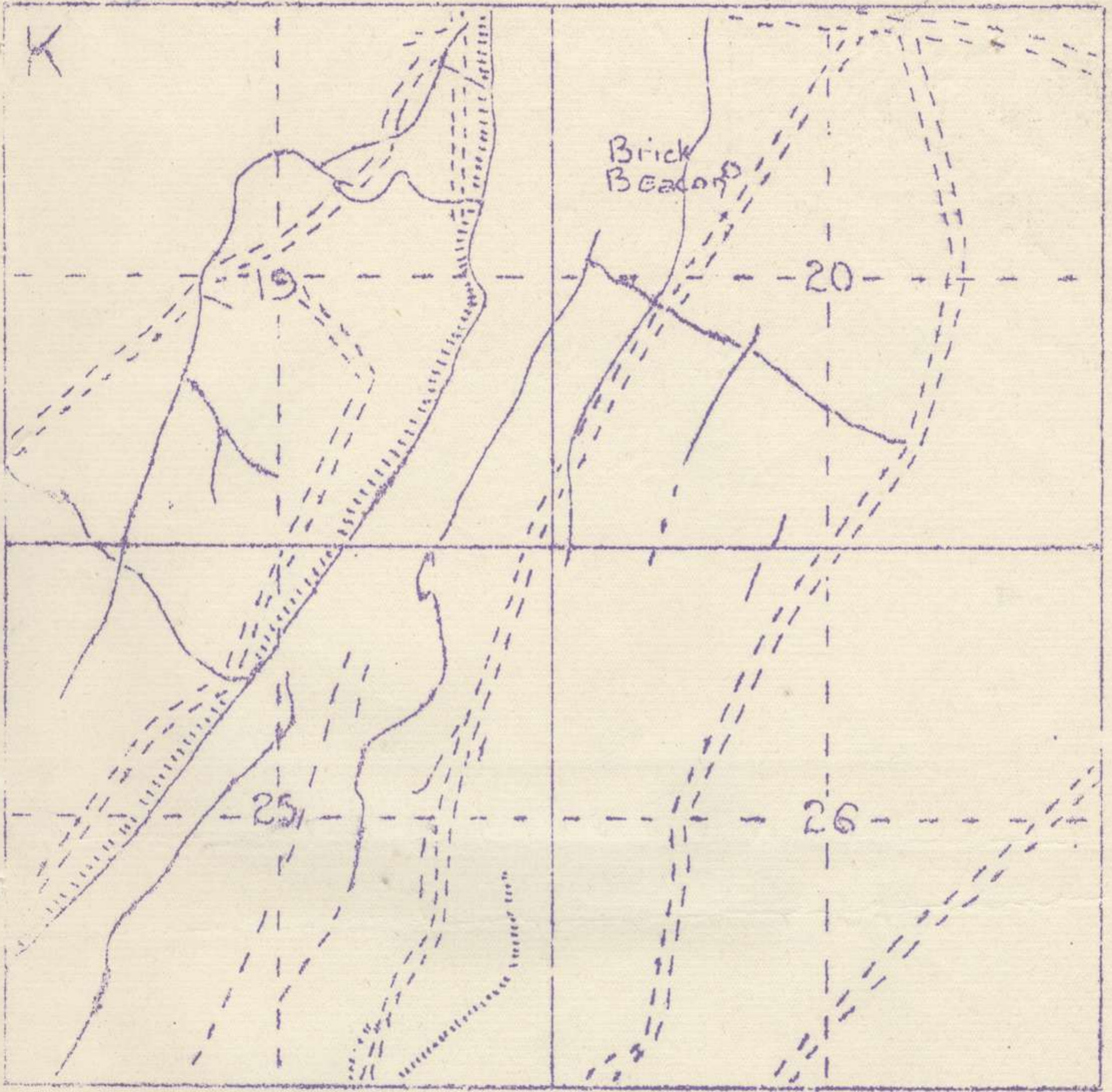
55th Battalion

Appendix 3



Sketch "C" Vol 27 APPENDIX 3

263



Scale 1:10000

2-7-10

Note: British Front Line Hachured

Vol 3. app 3

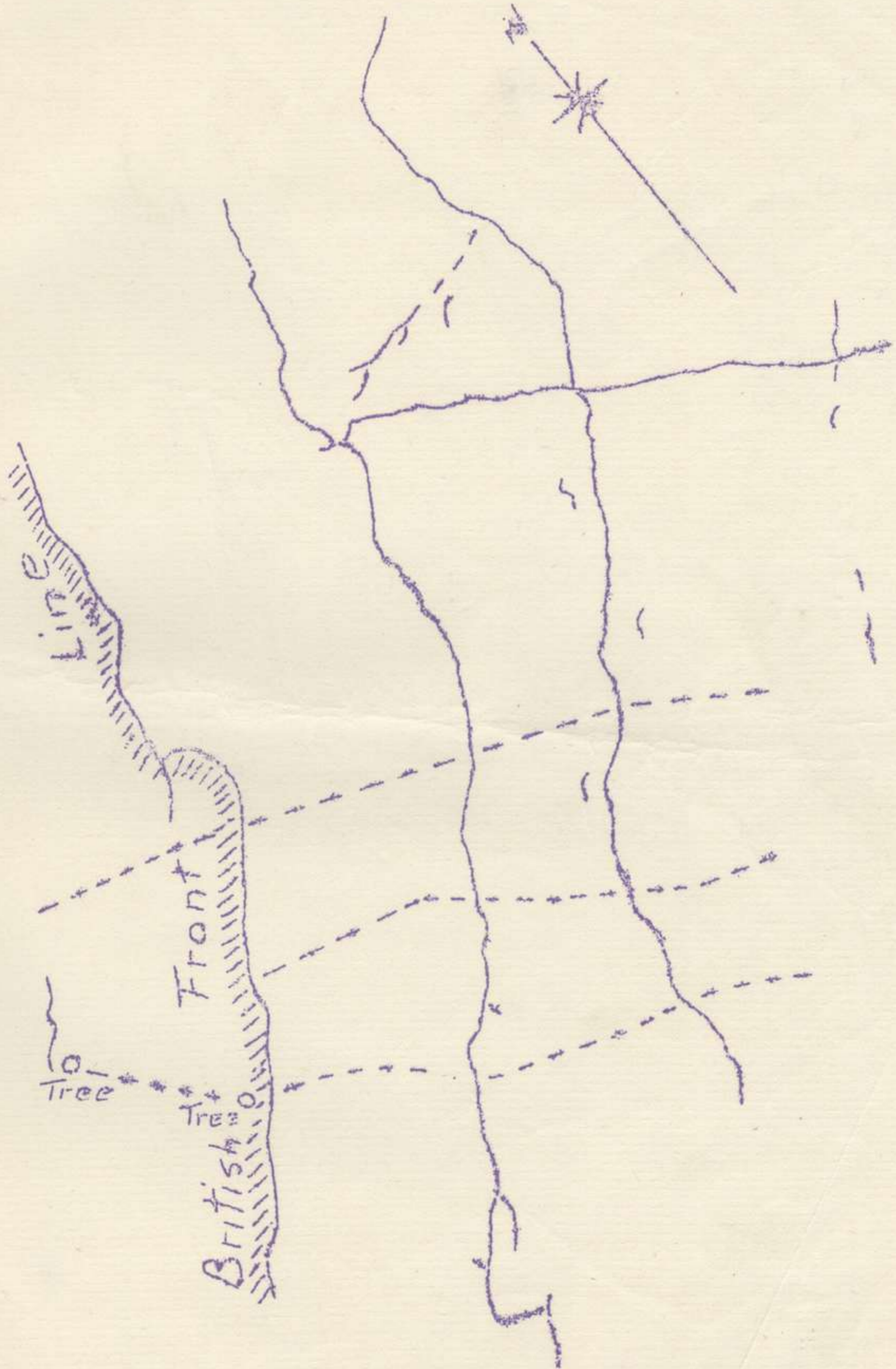
APPENDIX

3

17

263

Sketch "B"



Not drawn to Scale.

2-7-18

263

APPENDIX.

4

18

Vol 29 - app 4

CORRIGENDUM.

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 116.

For para. 3 read:

The objectives of the Raid will be:-

First Objective: Enemy trench line from K.19.d.77.25 to K.19.d.92.60.

Second Objective: Enemy trench line from K.20.c.10.15 to K.20.c.16.54.

3rd. July 1918.

Captain,
Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued to all recipients of Order No. 116.

-----ooo000ooo-----

ADDENDA TO 55th. BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 116.

Ref. sheet. 62.D. N.E.

Vol 29 - app 5

3rd. July 1918

The following detailed orders are issued by O.C. Raid supplementary to 55th. Battalion Operation Order No. 116.

1. ORGANISATION. The raiding party will be organised in two waves followed by Stretcher bearers. First wave - 2 Officers and 80 O/Ranks. Lieut. Donaldson and Lieut. Piddington will be in charge of the right and left halves respectively. The wave will consist of 10 sections each of a leader and 7 O/Ranks, numbered from right to left. No's 1 and 10 sections will be organised as bombing sections for clearing traverses to flanks. No's 2, 3, 8, and 9 sections as Lewis Gun Sections. Second wave. - 2 Officers and 100 O/Ranks. Lieut Chadwick and Lieut Stafford will be in charge of right and left halves respectively. The wave will be organised in 16 sections each consisting of a leader and 6 or 7 O/Ranks. No's 1 and 16 sections will be utilised as Bombing sections for clearing traverses to flanks. Dress will be as laid down in 55th. Battalion Operation Order No. 116,

2. ASSEMBLY. After a hot meal the raiding party will leave ROMA LINE three hours before Zero. The first wave will lead followed by the second, right halves of waves in advance of left halves. Route - Via COOTAMUNDRA SAP and BOURKE LINE to position about K.19.d.4.7. At this point guides will lead parties on to tape line. The tape will be marked with the position of each section.

Arrangements for guides and for the assistance of Lieut. Matthews and Lieut. Mc Gee, at present holding this sector, will be provided for in instructions to Officers Commanding Front Line Companies issued separately.

3. ASSAULT. At zero plus 3 minutes first wave will hop off with sections extended in line, section leaders in the centre of their sections. Lieut. Piddington and Lieut. Donaldson accompanying No's 3 and 8 sections. The second wave will follow at a distance of 20 yards with sections in file led by section leaders, Lieut. Stafford and Lieut. Chadwick will be between No's 4 and 5 and 12 and 13 sections. The second wave will be followed by 5 pairs of stretcher bearers at a distance of 20 yards, each pair carrying a stretcher.

The whole party will advance at a steady double.

(a) Action of first wave.- First wave will take the first objective at the point of the bayonet and kill or capture the occupants of the trench. Sections 1 and 10 will immediately proceed to clear traverses to the flanks to a distance of 30 yards. Lewis Gun sections will take up positions on the flanks and engage any retreating enemy or hostile machine guns firing from flanks of first or second objective. No man of first wave will attempt to return to our lines, whether wounded or with a prisoner, until the second wave and Stretcher bearers have passed over. Immediately this has happened any prisoners and wounded men will be rushed back to our lines. Remaining sections will destroy any guns or material that cannot be removed and search all dug-outs and dead in their sector of the trench. The first wave, with the exception of the Officers in charge and the flanking, bombing and Lewis Gun Sections, will withdraw on the completion of their task. The sections remaining will withdraw on the orders of the party leaders when the withdrawal of the second wave has taken place.

- (b) Action of second wave. - Second wave will leap across first objective and proceed to second objective. Leaders must locate gaps in wire and rush sections through, immediately opening out for assault on second objective. No's 1 and 16 sections will form bombing blocks on flanks and the remainder of the party will kill or capture the garrison and destroy or remove machine guns or material with the utmost despatch. Before giving the signal to withdraw the party leaders must satisfy themselves that the task has been completed and that no members of the party, dead or alive, are left in the trench. In the withdrawal the second wave must be on the lookout to carry back or assist any wounded en route.
- (c) Action of stretcher bearers. - Stretcher bearers will follow second wave across the first objective to second objective and immediately proceed to work back to "Hopping off" line.
- (4) Return. - All raiders and prisoners on return will be guided by front line garrison towards CRUMP LANE. Each raider will hand in the card disc at Raid Headquarters in COOGEE TRENCH, none of the party will attempt to move to the rear until orders are received from O.C. Raid.
4. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS. An Aid post will be established in COOGEE TRENCH for treatment of wounded.
5. REFRESHMENTS. Hot drink will be provided in COOGEE TRENCH while waiting for enemy retaliation to subside.
6. PRISONERS. Prisoner collecting point will be at COOGEE TRENCH, adjacent to CRUMP LANE. Intelligence Officer will be in charge of prisoners escort and will arrange their removal to rear. Instructions re non-interference with prisoners by front line garrison will be contained in instructions to Officers Commanding Front Line Companies.

Captain
Adjutant 55th. Battalion.

263

263

21

APPENDIX

6.

21

SECRET.

COPY No.....

55th. BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 117.

Vol 19 - app 6

Ref. Sheet. 62 D. N.E.

3rd. July 1918

1. In conjunction with Major Operations on either flank and Minor Operation set out in Battalion Order No. 116, the 55th. Battalion will carry out a "Chinese Attack" against enemy defences in K.25.c.5.7. on "Z" day.
2. Lieut. W. E. Campbell will be in charge of the operation and will arrange all details in connection therewith; he will be assisted by 5 O/Ranks detailed by O.C. "C" Company.
3. A party of 1 N.C.O. and 3 Sappers from 14th. Field Company and 1 N.C.O. and 20 O/Ranks of the 54th. Battalion will be at the disposal of Lieut. Campbell for the operation.
4. Dummy figures (15) will be placed in site selected in "No Mans Land" one hour before zero.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Captain
Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 7 a.m. to all recipients of Order No. 116.

263

Vol 29 - app 7

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MINOR OPERATIONS BY 55th. BATTALION ON
4th. JULY 1918.

The Assembly was completed 20 minutes before Zero without having suffered any casualties and judging by the normal machine gun fire from enemy front line without being observed by the enemy.

The Barrage fell to time and at Zero plus 3 minutes the signal was given and the raiders moved towards their objectives in the formation arranged. The waves were seen to reach the first objective but from that time onwards the whole operation was clouded in smoke. Very little resistance was met at the first objective. The second objective was reached and the task there completed in spite of a stubborn resistance. The wire in front of the second objective was not cut but did not prove a serious obstacle. Tasks completed, raiders returned to our lines via the same route.

All the objects of the operation were attained, a large number of the enemy were killed, and three prisoners taken were identified as belonging to the 3rd. Company, 232nd. R.I.R. Two Machine guns were also captured. Our casualties were heavy and up to the present it is known that, approximately, 1 Officer and 10 O/Ranks were killed and 1 Officer and 45 O/Ranks wounded. 1 Officer and a few other ranks are not yet accounted for.

I have not as yet completed my investigations into the cause of the casualties and am not prepared to express any opinion until the detailed report is forwarded later.

4th. July 1918.

Lieut-Col.
Commanding 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

CONFIDENTIAL.

263

REPORT ON MINOR OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT
BY 55th. BATTALION, on 4th. JULY 1918.

APPENDIX 8

23

Vol 29 - app 8

1. The Minor Operation by the 55th. Battalion against the two enemy front line trenches from K.19.d.77.25 to K.19.d.92.60. and from K.20.c.10.15 to K.20.c.16.54. as set out in Battalion Operation Order No. 116 was very successfully executed on the morning of 4th. July 1918. The raiding party consisted of 6 Officers and 192 other ranks under the command of Captain K.R. Wyllie.
2. All preparations were completed with absolute thoroughness and at 20 minutes before Zero (3.10 a.m.) the raiders were all successfully assembled without incident at the "hopping off" line. Tapes had been set out on the ground marking the position of every section and approaches to same only an hour or so before assembly. Every man knew his position and every man was on it.
3. At Zero the Barrage fell and one minute later enemy trench mortar barrage came down close in front of our trenches. Casualties were caused by this fire all along the "hopping off" line during the three minutes period of waiting. The Artillery barrage was excellent as also was the fire of our L.T.M's. As the Artillery barrage ~~xxx~~ lifted at Zero plus three minutes, the pre-arranged signal for the advance was given. The first wave got away immediately followed by the line of sections in file which formed the second wave and stretcher bearer squads. The formation arranged by O.C., Raid was maintained with wonderful accuracy, and as the advance continued across "No Man's Land" three of the men were rendered casualties by enemy Machine gun fire; but still further casualties were caused by the enemy trench mortars. The first wave entered the first objective and encountered two small posts, one of which consisted of a machine gun crew. All the garrison were killed with the exception of one man sent back to our lines a prisoner with his Machine gun. The trench for a distance of about 40 yards on either flank was searched and found clear of the enemy. The Second Wave "leap-frogged" through the first objective and moved rapidly towards the second trench. The wire was found almost intact but it did not prove a very difficult obstacle, and the two parties playing the most important part in the operation worked their way through it and rushed the second objective. Here they met considerable resistance. Lieut. Stafford from the parapet shot his first and second man but unfortunately the third Hun killed him. The nearest man to this Officer succeeded in killing the Boche and two or three men working with him worked along the trench and accounted for nine more of the enemy. On the right Lieut. Chadwick encountered a Machine Gun post. All the crew were accounted for and the gun captured. Considerable damage was done to the dug-outs etc. and all the garrison of the trench accounted for before the withdrawal began. The withdrawal was effected without interference from enemy machine gun fire but the Artillery Barrage which had come down on our line and "No Man's Land" about nine minutes after Zero, caught the raiders as they returned inflicting several casualties. The majority of the Raiders returned as arranged via Raid Headquarters and Aid Post in front line. A few came back towards the "hopping off" line and passed to the rear via the Support Line. Direction throughout the operation was maintained, but was rendered extremely difficult particularly on the left flank by -
 - (1) the fact that the left "leg" of the "Box Barrage" rested so close to the well defined track which had originally been selected as the left boundary, that the latter could not be used for direction. Instead, the flanking section leaders had to choose their line of direction according to the line of ~~the~~ "Leg" of the barrage.
 - (2) the excessive use of smoke. Soon after the barrage had opened vision beyond a distance of a few yards was rendered impossible. The atmosphere was so thickened that the raiders breathed with difficulty.

Nevertheless direction was maintained throughout in spite of the above circumstances, nor did they in any way account for the heavy casualties.

4. COMMUNICATION. All line communication failed within 8 minutes of Zero between Battalion Headquarters and front line.
5. The total captures were three other ranks taken prisoner who are identified as belonging to 3rd. Company, 232nd. R.I.R. and two machine guns. One heavy gun set in a concrete bed could not be moved and was blown up.
6. The casualties of the raiding party on the tapes in "No Man's Land" and enemy trenches were 1 Officer and 6 other ranks killed, and 29 wounded, many of the wounded being very slight wounds.
7. Enemy trenches. Both front and second line trenches were very well dug, 6' deep and firestepped. In the second line 4 dugouts, appeared to be about 12-16 steps. These were blown in with Stokes Bombs.
8. Wire. None in front of first line. Low D.A. 10-12 feet wide in front of second line. No trouble was experienced in negotiating this.
9. Medical. Arrangements for evacuation of wounded were excellent and the greatest credit is due to the party of the 14th. Field Ambulance attached.
10. Simultaneously with above operation a "Chinese Attack" was carried out against the enemy defences in the vicinity of K.25.c.5.7. Fifteen figures were placed in position at 2 a.m. and same were operated from Zero until Zero plus 35 by Lieut. W. E. Campbell and 5 O/Ranks. The operation acted as an excellent diversion, drawing considerable machine gun ~~fire~~ and Minenwerfer fire. Some of the figures were practically smashed to pieces by Machine Gun fire.
11. The operations were successfully carried out and they resulted in drawing a great amount of fire on to the sector. The enemy barrage was in three belts and was very heavy. It was kept on until Zero plus 2 hours, 35 minutes.

Our casualties were naturally heavy for the day, being as follows:-

<u>Raid.</u>	<u>Killed.</u>	1 Officer.	<u>Wounded.</u>	29 O/Ranks.
		6 O/Ranks.		
<u>In Trenches.</u>	<u>Killed.</u>	2 O/Ranks.	<u>Wounded.</u>	1 Officer
				26 O/Ranks.
	<u>Missing.</u>	1 Officer.		
		1 O/Rank.		
<u>Total Casualties.</u>	<u>Killed.</u>	1 Officer, 8 O/Ranks.		
	<u>Wounded.</u>	1 do 58 do		
	<u>Missing.</u>	1 do 1 do		

Of the 2 missing Lieut. Piddington was a member of the Raiding party, and after returning to our front line went to the rear over the top and has not been heard of since. The other man is believed to have been blown to pieces on the tape by a trench mortar.

Considering the nature of the operation and the success obtained in drawing enemy fire, I do not consider the casualties excessive. Every effort was made to reduce shell casualties.

The enemy casualties were heavy. The front line was hardly manned at all. but the second line was well garrisoned and our men had a solid fight with bayonet and bomb. Enemy casualties on a conservative estimate were 45. Our men brought back all their dead except one.

(Signed) P.W.Woods, Lieut-Col.
Commanding 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

SECRET.

Copy No.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 118.

Ref. Sheet. 62D.

Vol 24 App 9

4th. July 1918.

1. (a) Completion of relief of 55th. Battalion by 56th. Battalion will take place on night 4th. /5th. July 1918.
2. (b) Companies will be relieved as under:-

D Coy 56th. Bn	will relieve	C Coy 55th. Bn	- Line	right
A " " " " " "		D " " " " "		left.
3. Advance parties from 56th. Battalion of 1 Officer and 4 N.C.O's will move forward early to take over trench stores etc.
4. Guides.- C and D Company will send the following guides to meet relieving unit at junction of COOTAMUNDRA STREET and BOURKE TRENCH by 10.30 p.m.- Coy H.Q. 1 guide, platoons 1 guide each.
5. When relieved Companies will move to the following areas:-

"C" Coy (1 Platoon)	CLERMONT LINE
3 Platoons	BEGA C.T.
"D" Coy	ROMA LINE - Southern side of BEGA C.T.
6. All secret documents, trench stores, maps, picks and shovels etc will be handed over and receipts obtained. Receipts will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 9 a.m. 5th. inst.
7. R.Q.M. will see that rations for C and D Company are dumped at ROMA LINE by midnight.
8. Battalion Headquarters will remain in present location.
9. Completion of relief will be wired to Bn. Hqns by code word:-
"RATIONS RECEIVED".
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) H. Miller, Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

C.O.

56th. Battalion, A.I.F.

55th. Battalion, A.I.F.
9th. July, 1918.

I desire, on behalf of the Officers, N.C.O's, and men of this Battalion, to convey to you our heartfelt thanks for the willing and valuable co-operation of all ranks of your Unit in the successful operation carried out by this Battalion on 4th. July, 1918.

I also wish to express to you personally my sincere thanks for your many kindnesses in connection with the raid.

Your working parties who worked with pick and shovel night after night under extreme difficulties were of considerable help to us in completing the assembly position and approaches there-to; and, in fact, the brilliant success which was the gratifying result of the operation could not have been possible but for the valuable assistance rendered throughout by all ranks of the good old Fifty-sixth.

I remain,
yours very sincerely,

P. H. Woods
L. G. A.

263

26

Vol 29 app 10

55th. Battalion, A.I.F.
9th. July 1918.

C.O.

56th. Battalion.

I desire, on behalf of the Officers, N.C.O's, and men of this Battalion, to convey to you our heartfelt thanks for the willing and valuable co-operation of all ranks of your unit in the successful operations carried out by this Battalion on 4th. July 1918.

I also wish to express to you personally my sincere thanks for your many kindnesses in connection with the raid.

Your working parties who worked with pick and shovel night after night under extreme difficulties were of considerable help to us in completing the assembly position and approaches thereto: and, in fact, the brilliant success which was the gratifying result of the operation could not have been possible but for the valuable assistance rendered throughout by all ranks of the good old Fiftysixth.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) P.W.Woods,



SPECIAL ORDERS
By Lieut.-Gen. Sir JOHN MONASH,
K.C.B., V.D.,
Commanding AUSTRALIAN Corps.
HEADQUARTERS,

4th July, 1918.

CONGRATULATORY—

I feel the greatest pleasure in promulgating to all the troops of the Corps, and to those Arms and Services which co-operated, the messages of congratulation received by me.

I wish also, on my own behalf, to express my heartiest appreciation and thanks to all Commanders, Staffs and Troops who took part in this day's brilliant victory. Their fine success was due as much to the fine spirit of co-operation which animated all concerned, as to the gallantry of the troops. The operation is a striking example of the success which invariably results from careful preparation and co-ordinated action, and will serve as a model and standard of the fighting efficiency of the Australian Corps.

On behalf of the Artillery, Engineers and Infantry of the Corps I desire to convey our thanks to the Royal Air Force, Tank Corps, and the Special Brigade R.E. for their most valuable assistance, and especially to the United States Infantry, whose participation for the first time in battle, shoulder to shoulder, with Australians, has made of this day an occasion of rare historic significance.

JOHN MONASH,
Lieut.-General,
Commanding AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

On behalf of the PRIME MINISTER of GREAT BRITAIN and PRIME MINISTERS of CANADA, NEW ZEALAND and NEWFOUNDLAND, through the PRIME MINISTER of Australia—

“On behalf of Prime Minister of Britain, and also of Prime Minister of Canada, New Zealand and Newfoundland, attending VERSAILLES Council, I am commissioned to offer you warmest congratulations upon brilliant success of Australian Forces under your command, and to say that the victory achieved by your Troops is worthy to rank with greatest achievements of Australian Armies.”

26g

From the Right Honorable W. M. HUGHES, Prime Minister of Australia—

“My personal congratulations and those of the Government of Commonwealth on brilliant success of battle. Please convey to Officers and Men participating in attack warmest admiration of their valour and dash and manner in which they have maintained highest traditions of Australian Army. I am sure that achievement will have most considerable military and political effect upon Allies and neutrals, and will heighten morale of all Imperial Forces.”

From General SIR WILLIAM BIRDWOOD, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., G.O.C., A.I.F., and Commanding FIFTH ARMY—

“Please accept my heartiest congratulations, and I shall be grateful if you will convey same as a personal request from me to Divisional and Brigade Commanders concerned and also to Battalion and Company Commanders and their Officers and Men. The whole operation was most admirably conceived, and evidently carried out in true A.I.F. style by all ranks, and the greatest credit is due to all. When I receive more details I will send special wire to Melbourne regarding your first and very successful operation as Corps Commander.”

From General SIR HERBERT PLUMER, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., A.D.C., Commanding SECOND ARMY—

“Very many congratulations on the success of your operations.”

From Lieutenant-General SIR ALEXANDER GODLEY, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Commanding XXII. CORPS—

“Very many congratulations from us all.”

A.I.F. P.S.—662—7-18.

APPENDIX 10A 21

263 ✓

28

File

Volrg- app 10 (b)



SPECIAL ORDER

By Lieut.-Gen. Sir JOHN MONASH,
K.C.B., V.D.,

Commanding AUSTRALIAN Corps.
HEADQUARTERS,

5th July, 1918.

Congratulatory. The following messages received from the Field-Marshal Commander-in-Chief British Armies in France and from G.O.C. Fourth Army are published for information:—

“Will you please convey to Lieutenant-General Sir John MONASH and all Ranks under his command including the Tanks and the detachment of 33rd American Division my warm congratulations on the success which attended the operation carried out this morning, and on the skill and gallantry with which it was conducted.”

“In forwarding this message the Army Commander desires most heartily to congratulate the Australian Corps, and especially on the way in which the scheme was drawn up and the gallantry with which the operation was carried out. The part played by the tanks and the artillery was a prominent factor in bringing about success and reflects great credit on them.”

KEITH OFFICER, Major,
D.A.A.G.,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

A.I.F. P.S.—663—7-18.

SECRET.

Vol 29 app 11

COPY No 1

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 119.

Ref. Sheet 32 D.

10th. July 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will relieve the 53rd. Battalion in Left Line Battalion Sector of Right Brigade on night of 10th./11th. July 1918.

2. Companies will relieve in accordance with the following table:-

"C" Coy 55th. Bn	will relieve	"C" Coy 53rd. Bn	- Front Line left
"A" do do do do do		"D" do do do do	- do do right
"B" do do do do do		"E" do do do do	- Support Line
"D" do do do do do		"A" do do do do	- Reserve Line

1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. per Company will be sent forward as per Warning Order to take over Trench Stores.

3. Companies will move off in the following order on receipt of orders from Battalion headquarters.

- "C" Company to Front Line left,
- "A" do do do do do right,
- "B" do do do do do Support Line,
- "D" do do do do do Reserve Line.

4. Five guides per Company will be waiting at the entrance to MANLY C.T. - J.17.b.15.05. - to pick up Companies as they pass. Companies will move via ROMA LINE to this point.

5. Advance parties from 53rd. Battalion will report during afternoon of the 10th. to take over all Trench Stores, Secret Documents, Maps etc. Receipts will be obtained in duplicate and copies of same will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters together with handing over certificates by 9 a.m. 11th. instant.

6. On completion of relief Companies will notify Battalion Headquarters by code words - "HOT BOXES RECEIVED".

7. Battalion Headquarters will close at present location when "D" Coy moves and will take up position at present 53rd. Battalion H'qrs.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. Miller

Lieut.

A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 5 p.m. to	
C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
C.O. A Company	2
B do	3
C do	4
D do	5
File	6
War Diary	7
C.O. 53rd. Battalion	8

263 55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 120.

Ref. Map: 62D.

17.7.18.

1. (a) The 8th. Aust. Inf. Brigade will relieve the 15th. Aust. Inf. Brigade and the left Battalion of 14th. Aust. Inf. Brigade in the right sector "C" Division on night 17th./18th. July 1918.
(b) The 30th. Battalion will relieve the 55th. Battalion in left Battalion Sector Right Brigade on night 17th./18th. July 18.
2. Companies of 30th. Battalion will relieve Companies of 55th. Battalion as per following table:-

"B" Coy.	30th. Battn	will relieve	"A" Coy.	55th. Battn	-	Line right
"D" "	" "	" "	"C" "	" "	" "	Line left
"A" "	" "	" "	"B" "	" "	" "	Supports
"C" "	" "	" "	"D" "	" "	" "	Reserves
3. (a) Companies will send five guides each, 1 per platoon and 1 Company Headquarters, to report to Battalion Headquarters at 8.30. p.m. to receive instructions re guiding relieving units in.
(b) Companies will detail 1 N.C.O. each to report to Battalion Headquarters at 3 p.m. These N.C.O's will proceed with an Officer from Headquarters to take over Reserve Battalion Area of Right Brigade.
4. All secret documents, trench stores, picks, shovels, etc will be handed over and receipts obtained. Receipts for both areas will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 9 a.m. 18/7/18.
5. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters by code word: "WATER".
6. On completion of relief Companies will move independently to areas previously occupied by them in ROMA and CLERMONT LINES. When Companies are in position Battalion Headquarters will be notified by code word: "BOTTLES".
7. Advance N.C.O's will meet limbers in new area and will take over rations which will be delivered about 10 p.m. Ration arrangements for Reserve area will be the same as previously in force.
8. Certificates that present areas have been handed over in a clean and sanitary condition will be obtained from relieving unit.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. H. Miller
Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 11 a.m. to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Coy.	2
" B "	3
" C "	4
" D "	5
Sig. Officer	6
R. Q. M.	7
Transport Officer	8
14th. A.I. Brigade	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13

SECRET.

Vol 29 app 13

Copy No.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 121.

Ref. Map 62D.

18th. July 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will relieve the 56th. Battalion in Left Battalion Sector of Right Brigade on night 18th./19th. July 1918.

2. Companies will relieve as per the following table:-

"B" Coy and 1 Platoon of	"C" Coy 55th. Battn	will relieve	"D" Coy 56th. Battn.	- Line right
"D" " 55th. Battalion	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"A" " " " "	- " left.
"C" " " " " "	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"B" " " " "	- Supports
"A" " " " " " "	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"C" " " " "	- Reserve

O.C. "C" Company will detail 1 platoon to be attached to "B" Company.

3. Advance parties of 1 Officer and 5 N.C.O's from each Company will go forward and take over trench stores on receipt of this order. Parties from the 56th. Battalion will report to Companies this afternoon to take over stores in the present area. Trench store receipts for both areas will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by first runner 19th. instant together with cleanliness certificates.

4. Companies will move forward in the following order on receipt of orders from Battalion Headquarters:-

"A" Company	Reserve
"D" " "	Line left
"B" " and 1 platoon of "C" Coy.	" right
"C" " "	Supports.

5. Cookers and Details will move from present position to R.C.M. Store, LA HOUSOYE. Rations during tour in line will be brought forward by limber to dump near R.A.P.

6. R.A.P. will be established in Ravine at J.23.d.8.8.

7. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters by code message: 'G101 RECEIVED'.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

14
9

Vol 29 App 14

SECRET. 263

Copy No.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 122.

Ref. Sheet 62D.

23rd. July 18.

1. The 56th. Battalion will relieve the 55th. Battalion in the Left Battalion Sector of Right Brigade "C" Division on night 24th./25th. July 1918.

2. (a) Companies will be relieved as per following table:-

"B" Coy 56th. Battn	will relieve	"B" Coy 55th. Battn	- Line Right
"C" " " "	" " " "	"D" " " "	- " Left
"D" " " "	" " " "	"C" " " "	- Supports
"A" " " "	" " " "	"A" " " "	- Reserves.

Guides will not be provided.

(b) Advance parties from 56th. Battalion will go forward to take over Trench Stores etc.

3. On completion of relief Companies will move to areas previously occupied by them in Support Battalion area.

4. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters by the following code words:-

Forward area: "Z99 RECEIVED".
Support Battalion area: "Z100 NOTED".

5. Companies will send out in daylight 1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. to take over stores etc in Support Battalion area.

6. Administrative instructions are issued separately.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

H. Miller

Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 9 a.m. 24th. July 18 to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.M.O and Sig. Officer	6
14th. A. I. Brigade	7
C.O. 56th. Battalion	8
War Diary	9 to 11
File	12

SECRET.

263

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 123.

Ref. Map. Sheet 62D.

27th. July 1918.

1. (a) The 55th. Battalion will move from Support Battalion area of Right Brigade "C" Division on night 27th./28th. July 1918 and will take up position vacated by 53rd. Battalion in Reserves (J.21.c.).
(b) The 56th. Battalion will be relieved from Front line area and will move into positions vacated by 55th. Battalion.
2. (a) 56th. Battalion will send advance parties to take over stores in present area in daylight.
(b) Companies will each send 1 Officer and 4 N.C.O's to take over stores etc from 53rd. Battalion in daylight. Advance parties will take over areas from corresponding Companies of 53rd. Battalion.
3. 3 N.C.O's per Company from advance parties will return and guide Companies to positions in reserve area.
4. Companies will move from present area on receipt of orders from Battalion Headquarters as follows:-
- B Company,
A "
D "
C "
5. All trench stores, maps etc will be handed over in present area and receipts obtained. Trenches will be left clean and the usual certificates obtained.
Receipts and certificates for both areas will be handed in to Battalion Headquarters by 9 a.m. 28.7.18.
6. Messing Officer will arrange for transfer of cooks etc to new area. R.Q.M. will deliver rations to new area.
7. Battalion Headquarters will close at present location when "C" Company moves and will open at J.21.c.30.45.
8. When Companies are in position in new area Battalion Headquarters will be notified in writing.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

[Signature]
Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 11 a.m. to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1	Copies to:-
O.C. A Company	2	14th. A.I. Brigade
B "	3	C.O. 53rd. Battalion
C "	4	C.O. 56th. Battalion
D "	5	
Sig. Officer	6	
R.M.O.	7	
R.Q.M. and T.O.	8	
War Diary	9 to 11	
File	12	

SECRET.

Vol 29 app 16

APPENDIX

16
Copy No. 11... 34

55th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 124.

Ref. Map 62D. 1/40,000.

29th. July 18.

1. The 55th. Aus. Division will be relieved by the 18th. Division on the nights of 30th./31st. July and 31st. July/1st. August 1918.
2. (a). The 55th. Battalion will be relieved by the 2nd. Bedford Regiment on night of 30th./31st. July 1918.
(b). Positions will be taken over as follows:-
"C" Coy Bedford Regt. will occupy A and D Coy positions.
"D" " " " " " " B " C " "
3. Lieut. R. S. Morris will meet incoming unit at Cross roads J.15.c. at 9.30 p.m. and conduct them to their various positions.
4. All trench stores will be handed over to incoming unit and trench shelter positions etc. will be handed over in a clean and sanitary condition and certificates on pro-forma will be obtained and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters on arrival at new area.
5. Advance party of 1 Officer and 5 N.C.O's will report to FRECHENCOURT Chateau on 30th. inst. at 8.30 a.m. to take over new area.
6. On completion of relief the Battalion will move out in the following order:-
Headquarters, A., B., C., and D. Company
and embuss at I.24.c.2.4. at midnight and proceed to the FREMONT area.
(b). Companies moving from present positions will maintain an interval of 100 yards between platoons.
(c). Company Commanders will ensure that all racks have a full complement of ammunition before moving out.
7. Lieut. H. E. Slater, D.S.O. will report to Staff Captain at embussing point at 11.30 p.m., He will take an accurate strength return of the Battalion with him.
8. (a). First line transport will move independently.
(b). Two G.S. wagons will be supplied by the 5th. Div. Train for the move.
9. The code word "SODA" will be wired to Battalion Headquarters immediately on relief being completed.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

[Signature]

Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 11.30 p.m. to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
Sig Officer.	6
Lieut. Slater, D.S.O.	7
Lieut. Morris	8
R.Q.M.	9
T.O.	10
War Diary	11 to 13
File	14
1st. A.I. Brigade	15

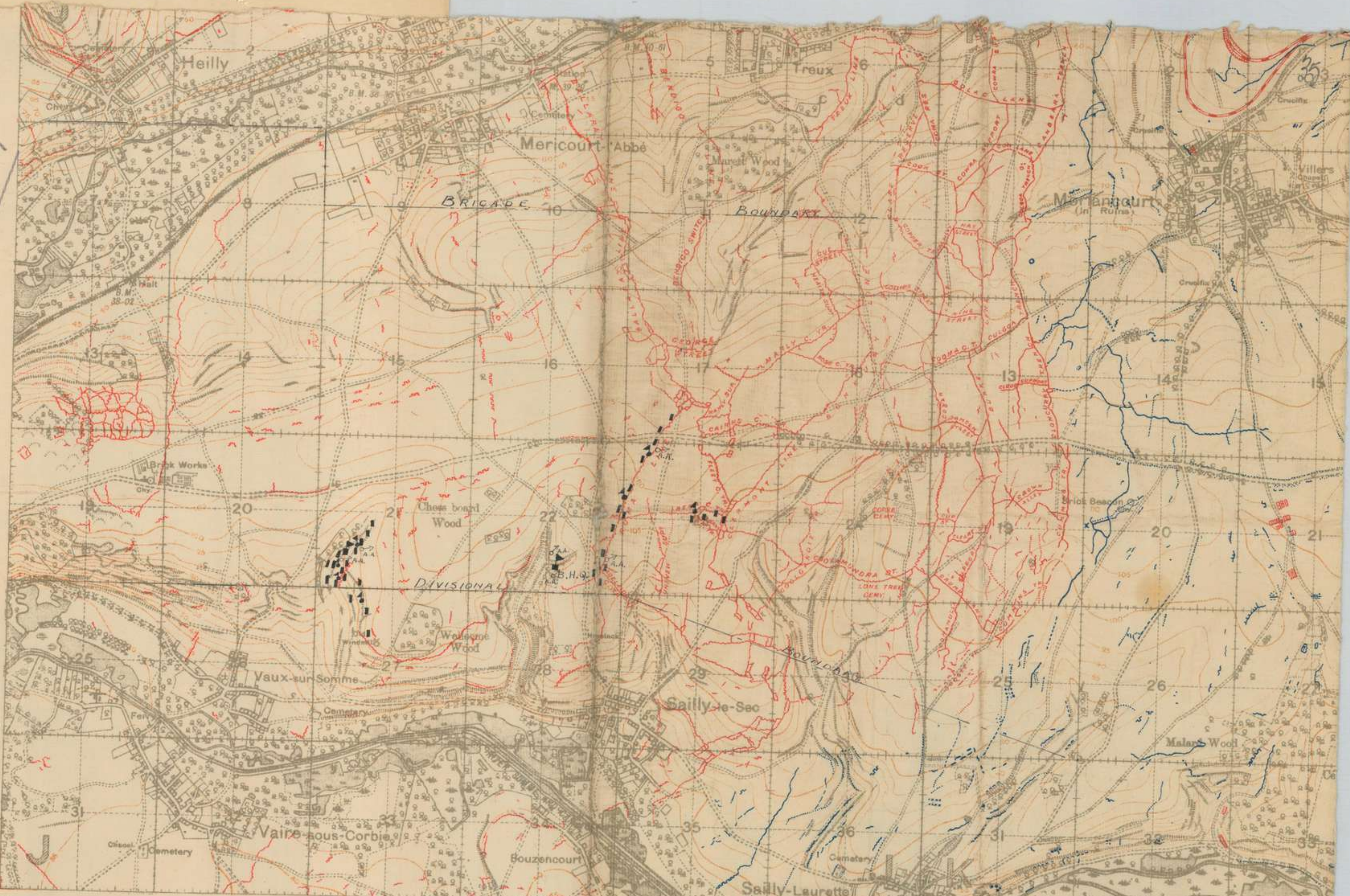
263

35

APPENDIX 17

Vol 29 - June 17

263



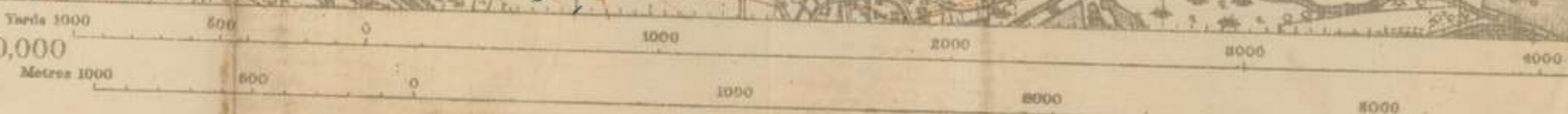
52760 m. S

132000 m. W

G.S.G.S. 2742

NOTE CHANGE OF COLOUR.
 British trenches in red.
 Enemy trenches in blue.

Scale 1:20,000



263

263

APPENDIX

18

36







War Diary

Volume No 29

Battalion

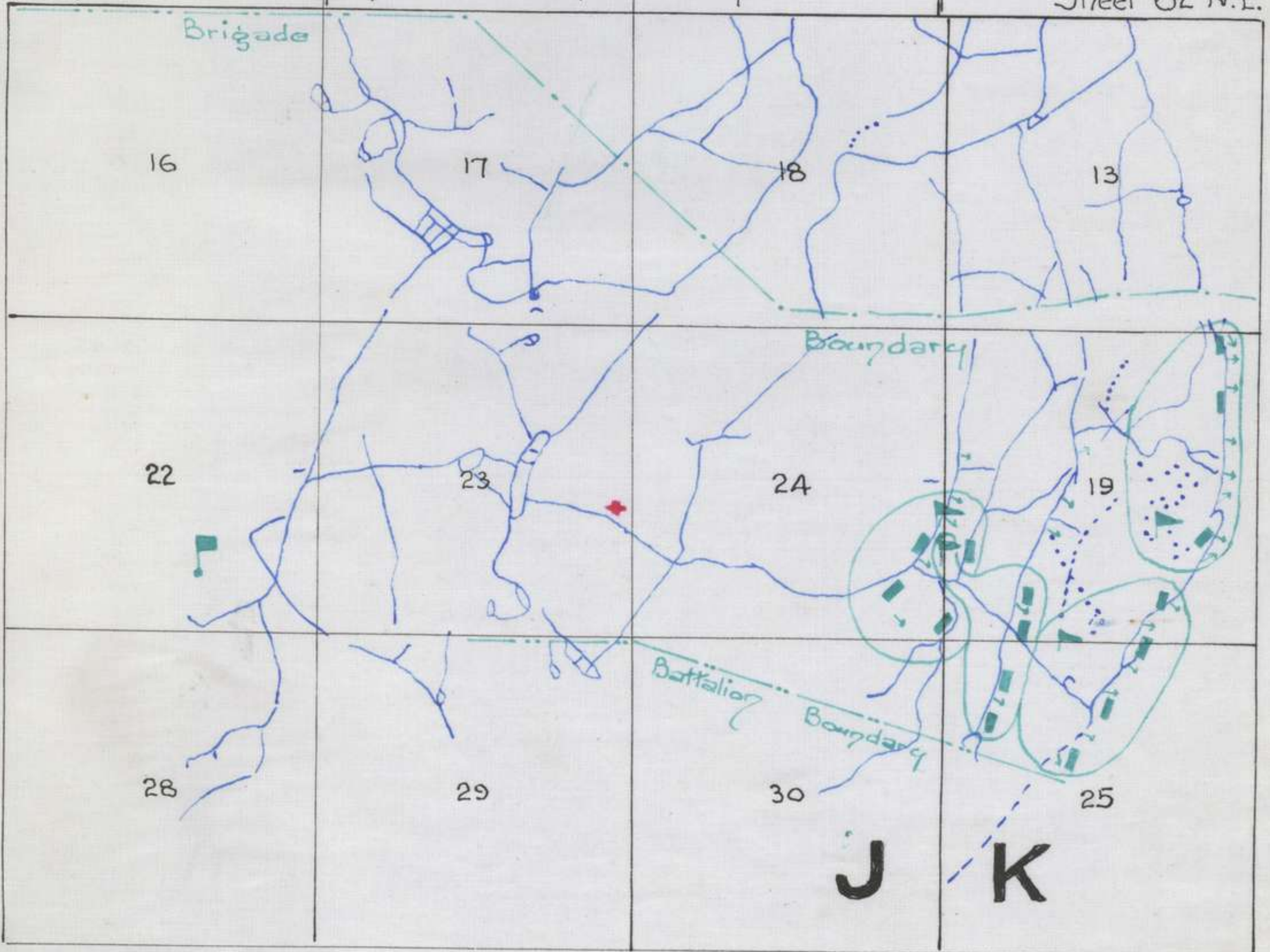
Appendix 18

Distribution Sketch

Reference			
Battalion H.Q.		R.A.P.	
Company		Platoon	
Companies Rigged in		Lewis Gun	

1:20,000

Sheet 62° N.E.



263

263

APPENDIX

19

37

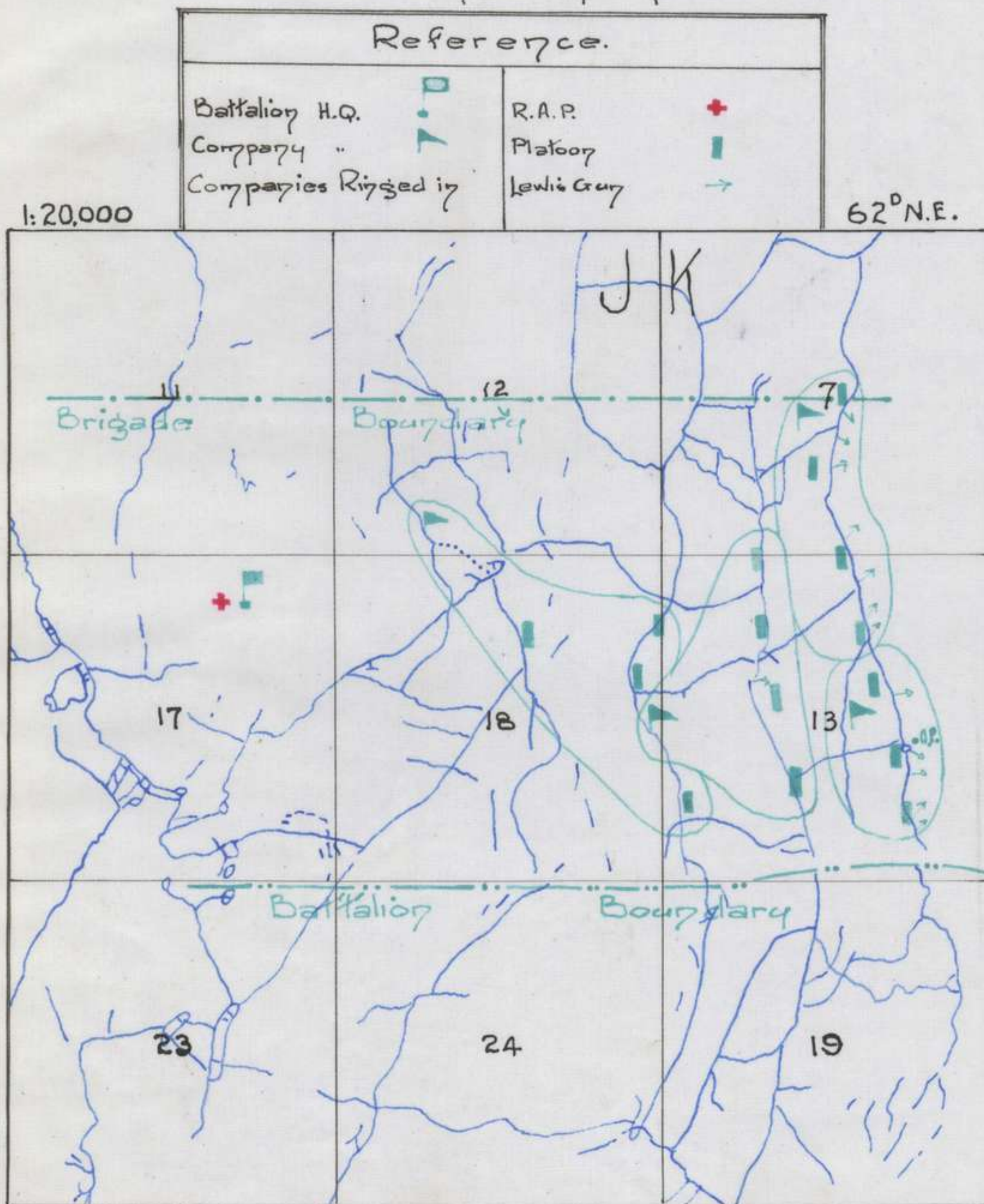
War Diary

Volume No. 29

Battalion

Appendix 19

Distribution Sketch.





2637



APPENDIX.

20.

38

WAR DIARY - JULY 1918.VOL. 29APPENDIX 21QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT.

Rations. Rations as drawn from the A.S.C. continue to maintain a high standard, the percentage of fresh meat and bread being good. A regular supply of oatmeal was also obtained.

The Cooks have done excellent work in preparing food of a high standard and good variety, especially whilst the Battalion was in the Line. The Battalion whilst forward was supplied daily with Cocoa and milk and one packet of cigarettes per man. The rations have also been supplemented with goods supplied by the Comforts fund and Y.M.C.A. such as oatmeal, golden syrup, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, Australian tobacco, sweets, and sweet biscuits.

Clothing. Clean clothes were sent forward whilst the Battalion was in the line which enabled the men to have a clean change. 48 suits of new clothes were also issued.

BOOTS. 32 pairs of new boots were issued, the bootmakers for the month also repaired 90 pairs of worn boots.

ORDNANCE STORES. All demands have been supplied punctually, no items of importance being outstanding.

FAT. We again topped the list with our monthly fat return, the quantity returned being 3,000 lbs.

COMFORTS. The following comforts have been received during the month:-

9 Cases Cocoa and Milk	1 Gramophone,
10 Coffee and Milk,	$\frac{1}{2}$ Case Playing Cards,
10 Cases Oatmeal,	1 Set Boxing gloves,
3 Milk Cases Milk,	1 Football,
2 Bags Sugar,	6 Cricket Balls,
9 Cases Fruit,	4 do Bats,
11 do Sweets	12 Tins cheese,
6 do Curry,	
6 do Cigarettes,	
6 do Tobacco,	
2 do Sox,	
6 do Golden syrup,	
3 do Vegetables,	

HOT FOOD CONTAINERS. The hot boxes constructed by this unit, after our own design, have been universally adopted by the American Brigade attached to this Division. The Quartermasters of the same Brigade have also visited us to study our methods of supplying whilst in the forward area.

(Signed) C.B.Gow, Capt.
Quartermaster, 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

VOLUME 29.

APPENDIX.....

WAR DIARY - JULY 1918.TRANSPORT OFFICERS REPORT.

ANIMALS. The animals are not in as good a condition as at the end of last month, owing to hard work, feed being cut down slightly and several cold snaps.

HARNESS. All harness is in good working condition except that of the Maltese Cart which will have to be replaced soon.

FEED. The hay ration was cut down 1 lb. around which makes a total of 2 lbs. reduction the last 6 months. To make up this deficiency straw was salvaged and crops and clover cut in forward area. This feed is a good laxative for the animals but does not sustain condition when in hard work.

WAGONS. Two water carts and two cookers only require painting now. One Limber has been condemned by the I.O.M.

WORK. The work for the month has been heavy averaging 8 to 9 wagons daily. One wagon was permanently on Engineers fatigue up to the 25th. inst. A special bomb proof revettment was constructed round the horse lines.

INSPECTIONS. The Staff Captain^{inspected} the Transport Lines and seemed satisfied. Colonel Max Henry, D.S.O. and Captain Greaves, M.C. made their usual inspections.

(Signed) R.A.B. Peake, Lieut.,
T.O., 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Vol. 29. m
210

Summary for July 1918 showing
Strength, casualties etc., day by day.

Appendix 23 H.
APPENDIX 83.

Date.	Strength		Reinforcements Joined		Killed	Wounded 263	Missing	Hospital
	Off.	ofrs.	Off.	ofrs.				
July 1	53	775				1		
" 2	53	776		3		1		3
" 3	53	775		1		1		1
" 4	53	773						2
" 5	53	773						1
" 6	51	714	1		11	59		4
" 7	51	710			2	1		1
" 8	51	712		8	1	1		7
" 9	51	716		1		1		3
" 10	51	712		2				1
" 11	50	710		1		1		1
" 12	50	710						1
" 13	50	718		8				5
" 14	50	712				5		3
" 15	50	716		6		1		3
" 16	50	708				2		
" 17	50	707				1		2
" 18	50	716		10		1		
" 19	50	715				1		1
" 20	50	713						
" 21	51	711	1			2		
" 22	51	711						1
" 23	50	710		2		1		1
" 24	50	714		6		2		2
" 25	50	717		3				1
" 26	48	714				4		1
" 27	48	715		4				
" 28	48	709						
" 29	49	704	1	3		2		
" 30	49	704						2
" 31	49	702				1		1
	49	702	3	58	14	89.		48.