

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/68/19

Title: 51st Infantry Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/68/19

Confidential

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

①

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917. September		<u>51st Battalion A.I.F.</u>	
NEUVRE ÉGLISE	1		Bn moved to HONDEGAM nr HAZEBROUCK vide Bn Order N° 36 Copy att'd marked I	I
HONDEGAM	2	}	Reorganization and elementary training	
	3			
	4		Bn moved to MATRINGHEM area by bus vide Bn Order Copy attached marked II	II
	5	}	Training as per Syllabus - Copies att'd marked III	III.
	to			
	15th.		During this period training commenced with elementary work and progressed with the view of what the forthcoming operations were likely to be	
	#6		Batt Exercise vide Copy of Daily Strength att'd marked IV	IV
	16		Batt Exercise vide instructions attached marked V	V
	18		Major R. Christie rejoined from St Officers School ALDERSHOT.	
	19		Bde Exercise vide instructions attached & marked VI	VI
			Dispositions in this exercise and were a pattern for coming operations and ground chosen to represent as nearly as possible that to be attacked later.	

B. B. Ridley. LIEUT. COL.
COMMANDING 51st BATTALION

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1917. Sept	20.		Bn moved by bus to STEENVOORDE Area Lt Col. C.C. RIDLEY rejoined from HOSPITAL.	
STEENVOORDE	21		Bn moved forward by bus to PIONEER CAMP. H. 22. C (Sheet-28 N.W.) Personnel to be left out when Bn attacks (Vide S.S. 135) remained in present area and proceeded to Corps Reinf't Camp next day. Names of offrs & numbers of D.R. left out shown on list att'd marked <u>VII</u> <u>Note</u> - Lt Col Ridley and Lt HASLAM (a/dy) proceeded with Bn & remained at Transport Lines when Bn moved forward on 23rd	<u>VII</u> .
PIONEER CAMP.	22		Packs, blankets and surplus stores dumped and later moved to Bde Dump STEENVOORDE excepting blankets which were retained at Transport Lines	
	23		Bn moved out at 4 a.m. for ESPLANADE SAPS, YPRES. ^{Transport,} Administrative personnel Q.M. Staff, Band, etc, moved to Lines at H. 23. a 1.1. (Sheet-28 N.W.) Major R. CHRISTIE took command of Bn. for the attack.	
YPRES	24		Completing arrangements for attack - issue of bombs, tools etc etc.	
	25		Bn moved to WESTHOEK RIDGE staging forward.	

Bb. Ridley. LIEUT. COL.
COMMANDING 5th BATTALION

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(3)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1917	Sept.			
	26	1.30 am.	Bn moved from WESTHOEK RIDGE and deployed on taped line ready for attack vide Bn Order W 40 Copy attached marked <u>VIII</u>	<u>VIII</u>
		5.50	Zero time - advance commenced. and Objective gained at 8 am. and consolidation commenced. Casualties very slight.	
	27		Consolidation of captured position continued. 350 yds wiring in front of new trench completed.	
			Bn relieved by 46th Bn and moved back into Reserve position at WESTHOEK RIDGE Relief completed by 12 midnight.	
WESTHOEK RIDGE.	28th to 30th		Working parties burying cable & making tracks in forward area.	
			Bn relieved by 47th Bn at 7 pm on 30th & marched back to HALIFAX CAMP H.13 d. O. 95. (Sheet 28 N.W.)	
			Copy of Report on Operations 23rd - 30th Sept 1917 att'd marked <u>IX</u>	<u>IX</u>
			Copy of Daily Strength Return att'd marked <u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
				<p>BB. Risley Lt Col O/C 5th Bn A.I.F.</p>

A circular purple ink stamp. The outer ring contains the text "ANZAC SECTION G.H.Q." at the top and "3rd ECHELON P.E.F." at the bottom. In the center, the date "8 OCT 1918" is stamped, with a handwritten signature or initials "R.H." written over it. To the right of the stamp, the number "92" is handwritten.

RET.

original

51st. Battalion.

31/8/17.

4

51st. Battalion order No. 36.

Appendix No. *I*

The 51st. Battalion will move to CAESTRE Area tomorrow morning, (1/9/17).

Routine. E Reveille - 5.30 a.m.
Breakfast - 6.00 a.m.

Starting Point. Entrance by which the Battalion entered this Camp Area.

Starting Time. About 7.25 a.m. (Correct time will be notified later).

Order of March. Band, H/Qrs. B, C, D & A Companies.
O.C. "A" Company will detail 1 officer, 2 N.C.O's. and 12 picked men as rear guard.

Dress. Marching order with steel helmets on back
of pack. Felt hats will be worn.

Blankets. Blankets will be rolled tightly in section
bundles and dumped near starting point by 6.30 a.m.

Cookers. Cookers will be ready to pull out at 7 a.m.

Officers' valises. will be loaded on wagon near Q.M. Store
by 6.⁴⁵~~25~~ a.m.

Movement. A distance of 400 yards between Battalions
and 100 yards between Companies will be maintained on the march. The
Transport will move 100 yards in rear of Battalions.

The Brigade will march as a unit and this Battalion must
be well turned out.

Guides. Company Guides will meet Companies and
direct them to their billeting areas.

Company Commanders will render Marching out states and
certificate re cleanliness of camp and Company Areas to B.O.R. by 7 a.m.

The Mess and Maltese carts will be loaded by 6.45 a.m.

Companies will return stretchers to R.M.O. before 6.30 a.m.

Socks. All men will change their socks for dry
ones at mid-day halt. This is an experiment to ascertain if it will
relieve 'foot soreness' and the Company Commanders will obtain the
opinion of the men and render a report by 6 p.m. on 1/9/17 on the result
of the experiment.

Sick Parade - 5.45 a.m.

M. Bennett Captain &
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

1. The 51st^{*} Battalion will move to the MATRINGHEM Area tomorrow 4/9/17. by Buses. Embussing point is on the STEENVOORDE - HAZEBROUCK Road. Head of 51st. Batt. embussing point V.10.d.9.1. (sheet 27).
2. Battn. Starting Point. H/Qrs. A, B, and D Coys - Battn. -H/Qrs. Time to pass starting point - 9 a.m.
3. Order of March. Bn. H/Qrs. D, A, and B Coys.
4. "C" Coy. will march independently to embussing point and arrive there at 9.40 a.m. It will halt with rear of Coy. in line with rear of 51st. Battn. embussing Area.
5. Companies will be told off in squads of 25.
6. Dress. Full marching order with blanket and W.P. sheet rolled horseshoe pattern round packs.
7. Transport will be Brigaded and proceed under supervision of Lieut. WATKINS, and will pass Cross Roads at V.5.c.5.1. (sheet 27) at 9 a.m.
8. Cookers. Cookers will be ready to pull out at 7 a.m.
9. Officers' valises will be dumped at Q.M. Store under Coy. arrangements by 7 a.m. in the cases of H^T/Qrs. A, B. and D. Coys. "C" Coy. valises will be dumped at "C" Coy. H/Qrs. billet by 5.45 a.m. Transport Officer will arrange to transport "C" Coy's. gear to Q.M. Store.
10. The Mess Cart and Maltese Cart will be loaded by 7 a.m.
11. Companies will arrange to take 8 dixies per Coy. for use on arrival and until transport arrives in new area.
12. Transport Officer will supply brakesmen.
13. Debussing. Place of debussing will be DENNEBROEUCQ - COYECQUE Road from whence the Battn. will march to its Billeting Area.
14. Company Commanders will submit marching out state and certificate recleanliness of billets etc. by 7.30 a.m.
15. ACKNOWLEDGE.

M. J. Lunn Captain &
Adjutant, 51st^{*} Battalion.

51st Battalion, *Appendix No.*

III

5th. September 1917.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING - 3 days, ending - 8/9/17.

Date.	9 a.m. - 9.25 a.m.	9.25 a.m. - 9.50 a.m.	10 a.m. - 10.25 a.m.	10.25 a.m. - 10.50 a.m.	11 a.m. - 11.50 a.m.
6th.	Section Drill	Bayonet Fighting	Musketry Rapid load- ing.	Gas Drill & inspection.	Coy. Route March. Fight- ing Order.
7th.	Bayonet Fighting	Musketry, use of ground and cover.	Artillery Formations.	Platoon Drill.	Extended order & fire orders and control.
8th.	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH - MARCHING ORDER.				
<u>6.45 a.m. to 7.15 a.m.</u>		Physical Training.			
<u>2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.</u>		Training of every man in Scouting, Bombing, Lewis Gun, Signalling etc.			
<u>9 p.m. to 11 p.m. 7th.</u>		Night operations including gas drill. Schemes will be explained to Company Commanders.			

Training of Platoons will be carried out in accordance with S.S.146.

Arrangements for lectures will be arranged.

M. Bennett. Captain & (3)
Adjutant, 51st Battalion.

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51st* Battalion.

Appendix No. III
9th. September 1917.

Range Practices.

No.	Practice.	Target	Range	Rounds	Instruction for conduct of practice.
1	Grouping	2nd Class & Elementary	100 yds	5	Lying with rifle or arm rested.
2	Application	do.	200 "	5	do.
3	Snapshot-	do.	300 "	5	Lying, 6 seconds exposure. Taking cover behind stones or sand bags representing a parapet and firing over them.
4	Rapid	Figure target	200 "	10	Lying, 60 seconds 5 rounds in magazine.

Note. Range discipline and sequence must be strictly maintained throughout. Details must be told off before arrival at the range. Syllabus training will be carried out between shoots as far as possible. Time is limited on the range and Coy. Commanders must make all preliminary arrangements to prevent waste of time.

Summary of shooting will be submitted to B.O.R. within 24 hours of completion.

M. Bennett
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion. Captain & (F)

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 15/9/17.

Date.	9 a.m. -	9.25 a.m. -	10 a.m. -	10.25 a.m. -	11 a.m. -
	9.25 a.m. :	9.50 a.m. :	10.25 a.m. :	10.50 a.m. :	11.50 a.m. :
10th.	Bayonet Fighting :	Platoon Drill :	Musketry : Rapid loading. :	Extended order : & fire orders : & control. :	Artillery formations & skirmishing formations.
11th.	<i>Battn Parade</i> Bayonet Fighting :	Musketry use of ground and cover. :	Platoon in attack. :	Coy. route march, fighting order.	
12th.	<i>method of drawing tools</i> Bayonet Fighting. :	Platoon Drill. :	Company attack exercises. :	Deployment & passing obstacles.	
13th.	Bayonet Fighting. :	Gas Drill. :	Musketry exercises. :	Company Drill. :	Coy. outpost scheme.
14th.	Bayonet Fighting. :	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH - Marching Order.			
15th.	Bayonet Fighting. :	<i>Battn & musketry</i> Battalion Drill & Battalion Exercise. :			

6.45 a.m. to 7.15 a.m. - Physical Training.

2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. - Training of every man in Scouting, Bombing, Lewis Gun, Signalling etc.

8.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Night operations including gas drill. Nights will be allotted to Coys and schemes explained to Coy. Commanders.

Rifle Range. - "A" Coy. will fire range practices on the morning of 10th. Times for other Companies will be allotted later.

Lewis Gun Practices. - Lewis Gun teams will fire range practices.

Training of Platoons will be carried out in accordance with S.S.146.

All runners (Battn H/Qrs, Coy. & Platoon) will be trained under Sig. Officer on afternoons of 11th and 14th.

Company Commanders will arrange lectures to N.C.O's. on 3 days per week.

The C.O. will see all officers at 5 p.m. on 10th, 12th, and 15th at B.O.R.

M. Bennett Captain &
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

51st. Battalion.

Appendix No. IV

Daily Strength Return.

15th. September 1917.

Actually :	:	In	:	Tempy. detached:	Brigade	:	
with :	Attached :	Hospital	:	Schools etc. :	School	:	Total.
Unit. :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Offs:O.R. :	Offs:O.R. :	Offs:O.R. :	:	Offs : O.R. :	Offs:O.R. :	Offs : O.R. :	:
28 :	843 :	2 :	6 :	2 :	18 :	8 :	79 :
						1 :	32 :
						41 :	978 :

ARRIVALS. 2 O/Ranks from detention.
3 " " leave.

DEPARTURES. 3 O/Ranks to Hospital.
1 " to leave.

B. B. Ridley Lieutenant-Colonel,
O.C. 51st. Battalion.

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51st Battalion,

14. 15th. September 1917. 16.

Appendix No. V

Battalion attack Practice to be carried out tomorrow 15th. inst.

1. Reference map attached. Scale 1/10.1000.
In conjunction with troops on Right and Left, the Battalion will attack and capture the ridge between the villages of MATRINGHEM and VINCLY (marked blue), and then dig in and consolidate. Posts will be pushed out to approximately the green line.
2. The Enemy is holding the ground with isolated shell-holes and block house defences.
3. X Battalion will be operating on the Right and Y Battalion operating on the Left. The dividing lines of both Left and Right will be marked by flags for this practice. The Battalion objective is not a trench. A line which will be decided to hold in strength will be on the reverse slope of the crest.
4. Companies will assemble at 9.30 a.m. on the MATRINGHEM-BOMETZ Road between 22.c.8.8. and 22.d.7.7. and will move in artillery formation to jumping off line where they will form into two waves of two lines. Each Company will have two platoon frontage.
5. Distribution.
Centre Company. - "B" Company. Frontage 200 yards.
Left " - "C" " " 200 yards.
Right " - "D" " " 200 yards.
"A" Company will be the supporting Company and will move forward as follows :-
One platoon will go forward in rear of second Wave of each Coy. (approximately 200 yards), and the remaining platoon will remain at point W.22.a.4.4. and await orders.
6. Units will ensure touch is maintained with troops on both Flanks.
7. Battalion Headquarters. - W.22.d.8.7., and will move forward with the attack to approximately W.22.a.7.9.
8. Signallers. Relay station will be maintained at original Battn. Headquarters. Signal Officer will arrange to run a line to advanced Battalion Headquarters.
9. Company phones will not be attached until orders are issued from Battn. Headquarters.
10. Moppers Up. Companies will detail two bombing sections per Company as Moppers Up, definite areas being allotted to each party. Moppers up will move in one line in rear of first wave.
11. The support Company will dig in 150 yards in rear of the objective and establish support posts.
12. Two Stokes Mortars will be held in readiness at Battn. Headquarters for use if required.
2. Barrage. Barrage moves forward at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes and its position at certain times is as shown on the map.
Zero time- 10.30 a.m.

Appendix No. 5

(2)

13. Covering fire. The attack will be covered by overhead and flanking machine gun fire from W.23.a.
14. Contact flares will be lighted by Companies at 11.40 a.m.. Three flares per company frontage.
15. Watches will be synchronised at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.
16. Dress. - Fighting Order.
17. Ammunition. Each man will carry pick or shovel, the proportion being 3 shovels to one pick. These will be obtained from Dump at D.22.d.5.8.
18. Aid Post. Aid post will be established at W.22.d.8.8. and forward dressing station at W.22.a.8.5.

Captain &
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

NOTES.

1. See that flanks overlap to ensure touch with flank troops.
2. Hoppers Up to be in groups of 3 or 4.
3. Posts must not be pushed out too far, should not exceed 100 to 150 yds
4. Flank posts must be established.
5. Officers must be accompanied by a runner at all times.
6. O.C., "A" Company will supply carrying parties, - to be detailed later.
7. Companies will light 3 contact flares per Coy. frontage.
8. Full and plenty information must be given.

(2)

51st. Battalion,
19th. September 1917

Appendix No. VI

Brigade Practice Attack to be carried out today.

1. Reference Brigade Order, map and instructions attached.
2. Distribution of Battalions and objectives are shown on map.
3. Position of barrage and rate it moves forward is shown on map.
4. Zero time - 1 p.m.
5. Company will be distributed as follows :-
 "C" Coy. Left front Company.
 "B" " Right " "
 "D" " Left Support Coy.
 "A" " Right " "
6. Formation. Companies will advance in artillery formation until coming under heavy rifle or machine gun fire and in accordance with formations and instructions issued yesterday afternoon.
 Companies will attack on a two platoon frontage. First wave of front Companies to be one platoon. Second wave two platoons. One platoon to be detailed as moppers up and move in T head formation in rear of 2nd wave.
 Support Companies will form two waves of 2 platoons each. Two bombing sections per Company to be detailed as Moppers up. Stokes Mortars will be held in readiness for use if required.
7. Battalion Headquarters will be situated at W.22.d.6.0 and will move forward with the attack to approximately W.16.c.2.1.
8. Relay Station will be established at W.22.a.7.5. Signal officer will arrange to run a line to advanced Battn. Headquarters. Phones will not be laid forward of Battn. H/Qrs.
9. Aid Post will be established at W.22.c.8.5 and forward dressing station at approximately ~~W.22.a.2.8~~ W.22.a.2.8.
10. Tools. Each man will carry pick or shovel, the proportion being 3 shovels to one pick. These will be obtained from Transport lines on way to position of assembly prior to the attack.
11. Contact Flares. Forward Companies will light contact flares in groups of 3 every 50 yards at 2 hours after zero time.
12. Watches will be synchronized at 9 a.m. and 12 noon.
13. O.C. "D" Company will detail a carrying party of 1 Officer and 20 O/Ranks to report to Staff Captain at W.22.d.6.6. at 12.30 p.m.

M. J. Bennett

Captain &

Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

Battalion Starting point. - W.21.c.5.2. (Along Road along Transport Lines).

Order of March. - H/Qrs. B. C. A. D. Coys.

Time to Pass. - 12.15 p.m.

(Signature)

Brigade Headquarters.
18th. September 1917.

Reference Maps attached.

1. The 13th Australian Infantry Brigade in conjunction with Units on Right and Left flanks will on the 19th instant attack and capture the Ridge running North-East from MATRINGHEM.

ZERO hour will be notified later.

The Brigade boundaries and objectives allotted to Battalions are as shewn on Sketch attached.
2. Machine Guns. 8 Guns have been withdrawn to assist in Barrage work under Divisional control.

One section of guns will go forward with the rear wave of 52nd Battalion and establish themselves in position at about W.22.a.3.7 and be prepared to assist the attack on the Yellow line by direct overhead fire.

After the final objective has been consolidated these guns will be distributed along and in front of the Blue line.

2 Guns of the remaining Section will follow the last wave of the 49th Battalion and take up a defensive position at about W.16.d.1.2. The other 2 Guns will follow the last wave of the 51st Battalion and take up a position at about W.22.a.3.6.
3. Trench Mortars. 4 STOKES Mortars will be placed at the disposal of O.C. 50th Battalion and 2 Mortars each to the 49th and 51st Battalions.
4. Artillery action. Rates and lifts of the barrage are as shewn on the attached Sketch.
5. Each line will be consolidated as soon as possible after capture; posts will be pushed out to about 100 yards in front of the Yellow line, and the position wired as soon as material is sent forward.
6. Flares will be lit by the leading troops at ZERO plus 2 hours.
7. Separate instructions for Signal Communications are attached.
8. A Brigade Dump of Ammunition, Grenades, Water and Engineering material will be established prior to the attack at W.22.d.6.6.
9. Brigade Headquarters will be at W.22.d.6.1.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. Morell. Major,
Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

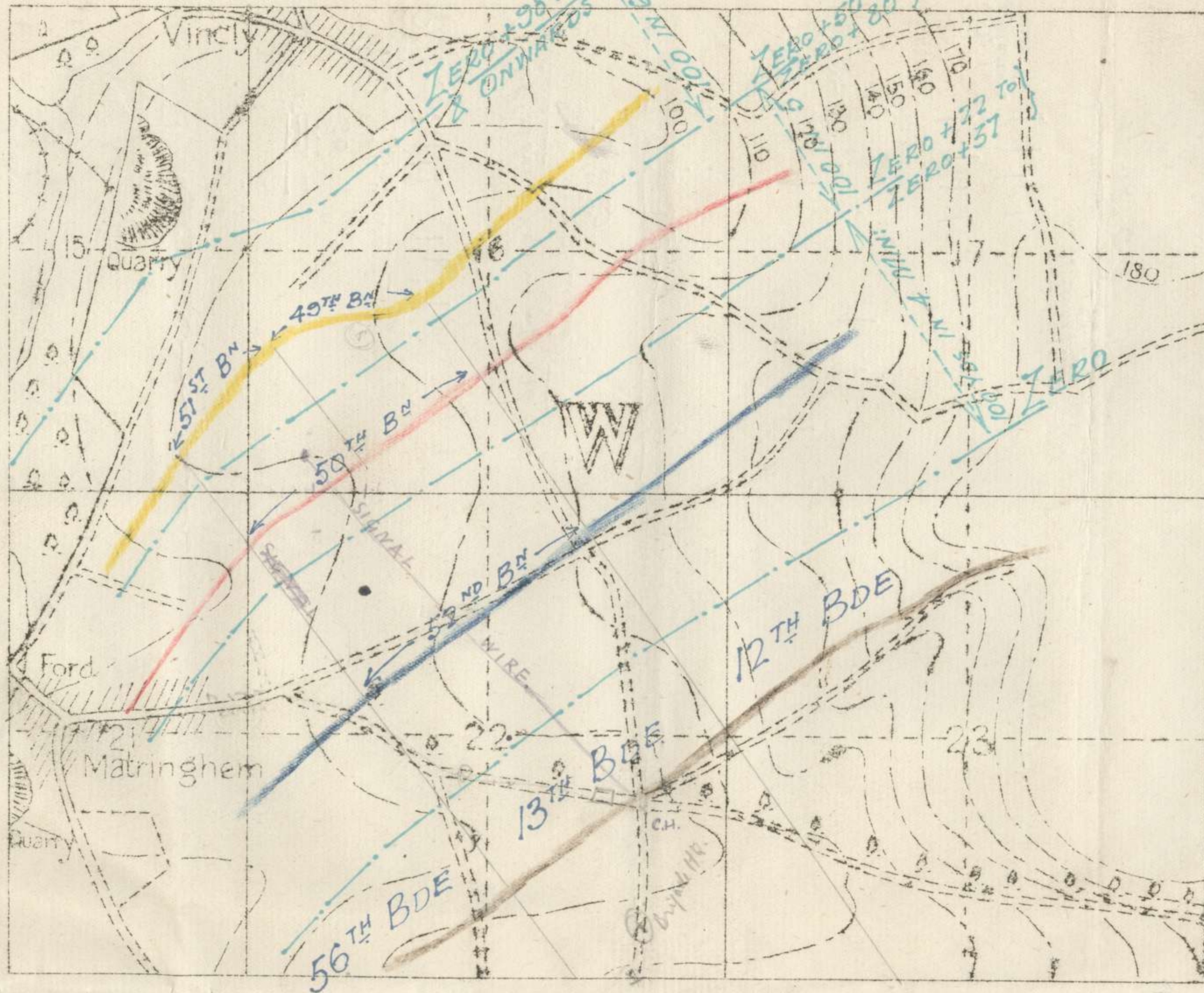
Issued at 9 A.M.

<u>Distribution:-</u>	Each Bn.	5 copies.	4th Aus.Div.	1 copy.
	M.G. Coy.	3 "	Lt. CARLTON.	1 "
	L.T.M.B.	2 "	Lt. PARKER.	1 "
	Bde School.	4 "	Staff Captain.	1 "
	O.C. 4th.Div.	1 "		
	Sigs.		Spare.	6 "

IV

Appendix No.

SCALE 1:10,000



210

Appendix No. VI

Smoke Bombs

Picks & Shovels

Carrying white band

must not touch men lying down

Starting Point

Artil. formation

2 by 4 formation

K 300'

1 Platoon

15

50

2 Platoons 2nd wave

Platoon

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

1 Platoon moving up 40 yds

rear of 2nd wave

Section

O 4-20-0

1 Platoon

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

2 Platoons

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Breakdown into lines of 150 yds in front of red line

Moppers up

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

A & D 2 Section bombers from each by as moppers up.

2 waves. two platoons each.

Trunks to be splatted

Bombing Section & L. S. sect as

Carrying Party 19/1.2007

Lines 3 every 50'

B. Long forward Party

13th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE *Appendix No. VI*

BRIGADE ATTACK SCHEME.

Reference Map 1/100.000, HAZEBROUCK
and Special Map attached.

G E N E R A L I D E A.

For a lengthy period of Trench Warfare the First Army had been occupying a line running approximately BEAUMETZ-LEZ-AIRE-HEZECQUES-SENLIS. On the 1st September 1917 an offensive was begun and the Ridge South of the BEAUMETZ-MATRINGHEM Road was captured, but the advance was checked, and the I ANZAC Corps has been occupying the line coloured brown on the attached Map since 4th September.

Reports state that the enemy is holding the ground with isolated posts, and aeroplane photographs fail to shew any enemy trenches.

A further advance has been ordered to the Yellow Line and the task on the I ANZAC front has been allotted to the 4th Australian Division.

The 12th and 13th Australian Infantry Brigades have been ordered to carry out the attack, and the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade is in Reserve.

On the 18th September the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade bivouaced at LUGY and the attached Order was issued.

-----ooOoo-----

Brigade Headquarters.

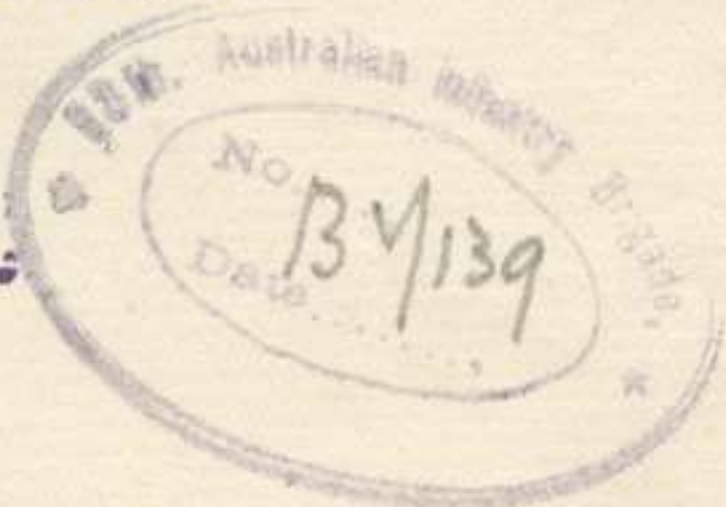
17th September, 1917.

(2)

NOTES ON ATTACK SCHEME.

1. The scheme will be carried out in the afternoon of the 19th, instant at an hour to be decided with Commanding Officers this afternoon. Distant Units will march to the ground in the morning and have lunch there.
The positions of assembly will be indicated this afternoon.
2. Barrage. The Barrage will be simulated by a smoke screen under supervision of Brigade Bombing Officer.
3. Flanking Troops. The Companies on the flanks of the Bae will be represented by parties from the Bae. School under an Officer. Inter-Coy. Liaison should be practised.
4. The formation to be adopted by the Battalions attacking the Yellow line must be uniform. This will be decided on this afternoon.
5. When the 49th. and 51st. Battalions pass through the Blue line, the 52nd. Battalion automatically becomes the Bae Reserve; they should reorganise at once and report to Bae. Headquarters the approximate number of Officers, men and Lewis Guns available.
6. Communication. Attention is directed to this Office B.2/138.
7. Dress: Fighting Order, Felt hats. All available picks and shovels will be carried.
8. Casualties will be simulated. A good plan is to have charts prepared before hand showing nature of wounds, which are handed to the men. No Field Ambulance personnel will take part, so that casualties will not be evacuated beyond the R.A.P.'s.
9. Distinguishing Marks. Runners, Signallers, Scouts, Carrying Parties and Moppers-up will wear the armbands as laid down in S.S. 135. If material can be obtained, troops detailed for each objective will wear a strip of that colour tied on their haversacks.
10. The Brigade Forward Party will wear a blue and white band on the left fore-arm.
11. Carrying Parties of 1 Officer and 20 men will be detailed by each Battalion to report to Staff Captain at Bae. Dump half-an-hour before Zero.
50th and 51st Battalions will detail 4 Pack Mules each to report at the same hour as above.
12. Enemy Impersonation. Parties from the Bae. School under Major FITZGERALD will represent the enemy defence. These parties will be scattered over the area lying down. Some of the parties will stand up on the approach of the attacking waves and will be dealt with by them. Others will not get up till the attacking waves have passed, and these will be dealt with by the Moppers-up.
The enemy will all wear felt hats turned down, with a white band.

Bae. H.Q.'s.
18/9/17.



R. Morell Major.
Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde.



SIGNALLING INSTRUCTIONS.

Appendix No. VI

 To accompany 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde Order No. 87.

Brigade Forward Party will assemble at Cable Head W.22.d.6.7.
 one hour before Zero.

When the attack on the Blue line is launched, the Brigade Forward Party will accompany the last wave and take up a position at W.22.b.2.3, and owing to the conformation of the ground will remain in that position during the attack on the Red Line. They will again move forward with the rear wave of the troops attacking the Yellow line and establish themselves at about W.16.c.3.2.

A Divisional Visual Station is established at W.23 Central.
 All signalling personnel should know the position of this Station before the attack.
 Messages to this Station must be sent DD.

Communication between Brigade Forward Party and Battalions.-

- (i) Power Buzzer to Amplifier at Brigade Forward Station.
- (ii) Visual.
- (iii) Runners.
- (iv) Cable (if necessary).

Wires will not be laid forward of Battalion Headquarters.

It is essential that Battalions whilst on the move should keep in touch with the Brigade Forward Party.

After Zero all messages will be sent in clear till orders are received to the contrary.

R. Morell

Major.

Bde. Major, 13th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Brigade Headquarters

18th. September. 1917.

(14)

Nominal Roll of Officers left behind.

Appendix No. VII
51st. Battalion.

C.O.	Lieutenant-Colonel C.C. RIDLEY, D.S.O.
L.G. Officer.	2/Lieut. E.J. WARREN.
Bombing Officer.	" J.J. CONNOR.
Coy. Commanders.	Capt. C.E.A. COOKE.
	" M. AUROUSSEAU, M.C.
2/nd Commands.	Lieut. W.R. HARBURN.
	Capt. F. ALBRECHT.
<i>Sukhat a/aj.</i>	Lieut. H.A. HASLAM.
Subalterns.	2/Lieut. R. HICKLING.
	" W.T. WALSH.
	Lieut. V.A. HARWOOD.
	" W.H. MILLARD.
	" A.C. TOWNSEND.
	2/Lieut J.B. CALDER.
	" J.R. BRIDGER.

Number of Other Ranks left behind. = 136.

Coy. Sergeant-Majors.	4
Lewis Gun N.C.O.	1
Gas N.C.O.	1
Bombing N.C.O.	1
Sergeants.	4
Corporals.	4
Lance Corporals.	4
Rifle Bombers.	16
Scouts.	16
Lewis Gunners.	32
Signallers.	23
Runners.	30
Total. -	<u>136</u>

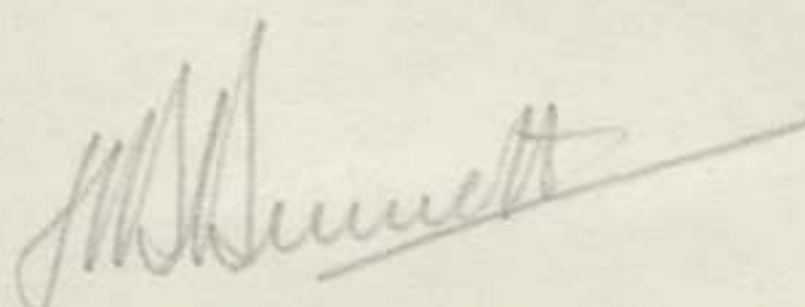
BBK

(15)

Reference Map WESTHOEK (Part of sheet 28), Edition 1.a., scale 1/10.000 and Map BECELAERE (Part of sheet 28), Edition 1.a. Scale 1/10.000.

1. In conjunction with troops on Right and Left, the Battalion will on the morning of Sept. 26th. 1917, advance and capture and establish a line J.4.d.4.6 - J.4.b.5.0 - D.28.a.2.2. (Line marked blue on map). The 49th. Battalion will be on our Right, and the 2nd. Suffolk Regiment on the Left.
2. Dividing Line. Brigade Boundary and Battalion Boundaries are shown on attached map.
3. The Battalion objective is the line running from D.28.a.2.3 to D.28.b.7.5.
4. The advance will be commenced from a line to be previously marked by placing Scouts, and tapes.
5. Distribution. Companies will be distributed as follows :-
"C" Company - Left front Company.
"B" " - Right " "
"D" " - Left Support Company.
"A" " - Right Support Company.
"B" Company will be responsible for direction.
6. Formation. Companies will advance in artillery formation until compelled by heavy rifle or machine gun fire to deploy and in accordance with verbal instructions issued.
Companies will attack on a two platoon frontage. First wave of front Companies to be one platoon, second wave - two platoons. One platoon from each of the front Companies to be detailed as moppers up and will move in rear of 2nd wave in T head formation by sections. All ground and dug-outs to be thoroughly searched and cleaned up.
Support Companies will form one wave. Two bombing sections per Company to be detailed as 'moppers up'.
7. Two Stokes Mortars will move forward in the centre of the two support Companies.
8. Battalion Headquarters will move in rear of the Right Support Company, and if possible will establish at Albania.
9. Sufficient tools will be carried by the Companies for consolidating purposes.
10. Ammunition. Each man will carry 220 rounds of S.A.A. 2 bombs and two days' rations (in addition to emergency rations), and two filled water bottles. No water in captured territory will be used until tested and found safe.
11. "A" Company will establish strong point at D.22.c.6.7. and "D" Company at D.28.c.3.9. in accordance with para 11 and 12, Preliminary Instructions No.2.
12. Preliminary Instructions No.2. are attached shewing routes of approach, barrage at various stages, covering and flank fire etc.
13. After the objective has been captured, consolidation must be proceeded with at once, & wired as far as possible. Protective posts to be established in front. Posts should not exceed 100 yds from front line.
14. Liaison. Companies are responsible for maintaining touch with flank units. Each Company will detail one N.C.O. & 3 men for this work.
15. Carrying party of 1 officer and 30 O/Ranks will move in rear of the battalion and bring forward water and ammunition.
- 15a. Aid post will be established at J.3.c.2.8.

16. Contact Flares. - will be issued to each man and these will be lighted in the front line at a time to be given later, and also when called for by contact aeroplane.
17. Watches will be synchronized at 3 p.m., 8 p.m. and 12 midnight. Each Company will send an Officer to Battn H/Qrs for that purpose.
18. Returns as per table attached to be rendered to Battalion Headquarters.
19. ACKNOWLEDGE.



Captain &
Adjutant, 51st Battalion.



Copy for
War Diary

Adjutant, 1st. Battalion.

Captain &

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Battalion Headquarters.

18. Returns as per table attached to be rendered to
that purpose.

17. Each company will send an Officer to Battalion HQs for
nightlight. Watches will be synchronized at 3 p.m., 8 p.m. and 12

when called for by contact aeroblims.

16. be lighted in the front line at a time to be given later, and also
contact lines. - will be issued to each man and these will

Headquarters,
13th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Report of Operations of 51st. Battalion during attack on
PASSCHENDALE RIDGE, - Period 23rd Sept. to 30th. Sept. 1917.

Reference Map WESTHOEK 1/10.000.

Previous
Reconnaissance.

All Routes to WESTHOEK were thoroughly reconnoitred by Company and Platoon Commanders, and N.C.O's. also ground in front, in direction of objective.

Movement to place
of deployment.

The Battalion left the RAMPART Dug-outs at YPRES at 5 p.m. on 25th. September 1917, moving in small bodies to WESTHOEK RIDGE, where the battalion remained until 1.30 a.m. on 26th. Sept. when it moved in single file to jumping off line just in rear of GARTER POINT and deployed on tape line, 50 yards immediately in rear of 50th. Aust. Inf. Battn.

Touch was gained with Units on both flanks.

Dress and
Equipment.

Fighting Order with W.P. Sheet, each man carrying 220 rounds S.A.A., 2 sandbags, 2 bombs (all of which could be used as rifle grenades), 2 full water bottles 2 days rations and one emergency ration, also pick or shovel.

Barrage.

Artillery barrage was very accurate and troops were able to advance close under it. Machine Gun fire was also very good.

Attack.

At Zero + 6 minutes the Battalion moved forward and advanced ^{a distance} about 350 yards in rear of 50th. Aust. Inf. Battalion in following formations.

Front Companies - "B" Company Right, "C" Company Left in two waves, - 1st wave, one platoon 1 line of Section Columns with Scouts forming T head formations. 2nd. wave 50 yards in rear of 1st - two platoons in 2 lines of Section Columns.

One Platoon 'moppers up' moved in rear of 2nd wave in Section Column T Formation.

Supports. Right Company - "A" Coy. Left Coy - "D" Coy in two waves, 150 yards in rear of Front Companies, of two lines each in Section Columns (artillery formation). Two Stokes Gun teams with guns moved with support Companies also two Vickers Machine Gunns.

This formation was found to be very suitable and was maintained throughout the attack.

The Battalion met with little resistance by the enemy who, on approach of our troops gave themselves up.

Moppers Up.

Mopping up was carried out very thoroughly by mopping up parties, all ground being cleared behind leading Companies.

Objective.

The Battalion objective on "BLUE LINE" was gained at 8 a.m. with slight opposition. About 12 prisoners were captured and 1 machine gun. Companies were at once organized and consolidation commenced. Front extended from Right flank at approximately D.28.c.5.5 to Left at D.28.a.3.3.

Touch was at once gained with 49th. Aust. Infy. Battalion on Right and 2nd. Battn. Suffolk Regiment on Left.

Consolidation.

The line captured was at once consolidated, protective posts being pushed out about 100 yards in front, and the leading two Companies digging a trench connecting with units on both flanks.

The two Companies in Support 'dug in' about 100 yards in rear of front line, thus forming a support line. Barb wire entanglement was constructed for 350 yards along front and 50 yards from firing line.

Strong Points.

Two Strong Points were constructed at tactical points in the front line. These were made by digging a trench shaped like a long letter *G*. Great assistance was given in the construction of these strong points ~~from~~ by 2 N.C.O's. and 4 sappers from 13th. Field Company Engineers.

Employment of Light Trench Mortars.

Two Stokes Guns of 13th. A.L.T.M. Battery went forward with our rear Companies. They were not required at any time during the attack. These guns were placed in positions just in rear of support line.

Machine Guns.

Two Vickers Machine Guns of the 13th. Machine Gun Company went forward with the Battalion and when the objective was captured, took up positions immediately in rear of Front line.

Good work was done by these guns in dispersing parties of enemy, and using indirect fire at night.

Hostile Retaliation.

Enemy retaliated with Machine Gun fire one hour after consolidation commenced. His artillery opened fire on our new positions 1-1/2 hours after they were taken. His shell fire was wild and scattered, casualties were slight from this fire.

Counter Attack.

No enemy Counter-attack developed on our front, small parties of men were seen immediately to our front and were quickly dispersed by Machine Gun and Lewis Gun fire.

Communications.

Communications at all times were good. It was maintained by Runners from Companies to Battalion Headquarters and by telephone and Runners from Battalion to Advanced Brigade Signal Station.

Line reached by leading Companies was communicated to Contact Aeroplane by red flares when called for. This was done very well at about 8.30 a.m. on 26th. Sept.

Carrying Party.

One Officer and 50 men were detailed from the Battalion to carry ammunition, water and stores. This party followed in rear of Battalion during the attack and was very successful in getting the supplies to front line. This party proved very ~~extremely~~ satisfactory.

R.E. Stores and Supplies.

No difficulty was experienced in obtaining all R.E. Stores, such as Sand bags, barbed wire, pickets etc. supplies of which were always available at Bde. Dump.

Medical arrangements.

The R.A.P. was established at J.2.d.^{95.80} and Battalion Medical arrangements for collecting casualties was well carried out and arranged to Battalion Medical Officer.

Thinning Out.

On night of 26th. September after front system had been consolidated, the battalion was "thinned out" as follows :-

"A" Coy. was withdrawn to "Red Line" and "D" Company took over whole of support line with "B" and "C" Companies in front line.

5

Relief.

The Battalion was relieved on night of 27th. by 46th. Battalion and moved back to WESTHOEK RIDGE. Relief was completed by 12 midnight.

Battalion remained at WESTHOEK RIDGE until night of 30th. September and were relieved by 47th. Battalion, and moved out to HALIFAX CAMP.

Casualties.

Casualties, 24th to 30th. September 1917 were :-

		<u>Killed.</u>	<u>Wounded.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Officers.	=	2	3	5
Other Ranks.	=	28	110	138
				<u>143</u>

Officers.

Officers who accompanied the Battalion in the attack :-

Headquarters.

C.O. Major R. CHRISTIE.
Adj. Capt. H.B. BENNETT.
Sig. Off. Lieut. R.C. KEILAR, M.C.
Int. Off. 2/Lieut. N.C. PHILLIPS.
med off capt J. B. Birch M.C.
"A" Companies.

Captain E.D. MCBURNIE, O.C.
Lieut. J.A. ALDRIDGE.
" J.Z. KITCHEN.
2/Lieut A.G. BAKER.

"B" Company.

Captain F. SMITH, M.C. O.C.
2/Lieut J.V. BARNES.
" B.J. STUBBS.
" W.J. McDONALD.

"C" Company.

Major A.H. ROWE, O.C.
2/Lieut R.F. JAMES.
" C.W.K. SADLER.
" W.R. BROWN.

"D" Company.

Lieut. J.R.C.B. CHANTER O.C.
" E.A. HIGHAM.
" R.B. MITCHELL.
2/Lieut F.G. GUILLET-GUTTRIDGE.

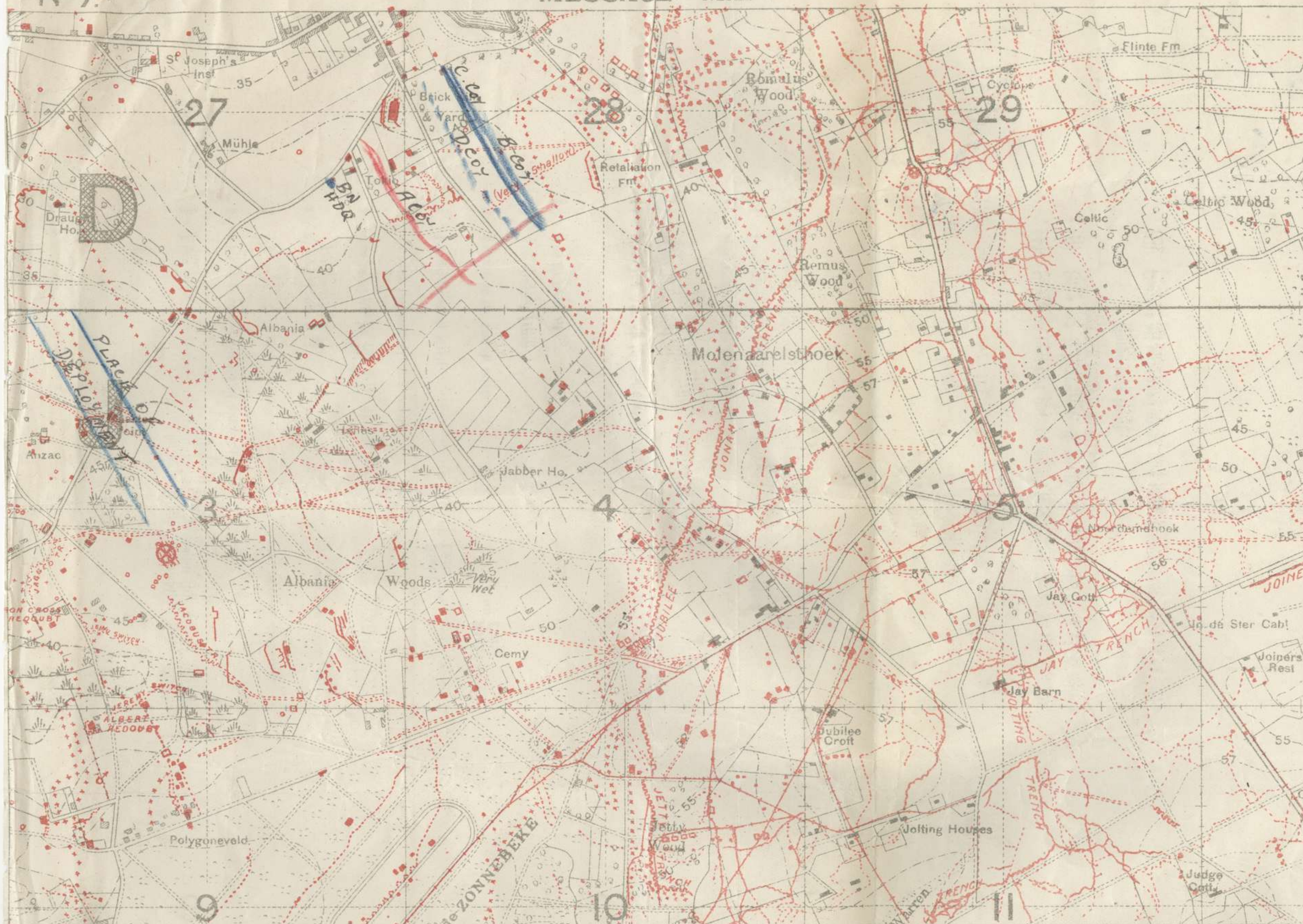
Officers killed
2nd Lieut B.J. Stubbs
" W.J. McDonald

Officers wounded
Capt H.B. Bennett
Lieut E.A. Higham
" J.A. Aldridge

R. Christie Major,

O.C. 51st. Battalion, A.I.F.

MESSAGE MAP.



Scale 1:10,000

Printed by N°2 Advanced Section, A.P & S.S.

C.D.Os. verified by Air Photographs

Old Gun Positions

C.D.Os. reported by other sources, and not verified by latest Air Photographs

Strong Point probably occupied

NOTE.—Air Photographs show practically no signs of wire anywhere in this area.

C.D.Os.=Concrete Dug-outs.

MESSAGE FORM.

To:—

No.

- (Note:—Either give Map Reference or mark your position by a 'X' on the Map on back.)
1. I am at.....
 2. I have reached limits of my Objective.
 3. My Platoon is at.....and is consolidating.
Company
 4. My Platoon is at.....and has consolidated.
Company
 5. Am held up by (a) M.G. at.....(Place where you are).
(b) Wire
 6. Enemy holding strong point
 7. I am in touch with.....on Right
Left. at.....
 8. I am not in touch with.....on Right.
Left.
 9. Am shelled from.
 10. Am in need of—
 11. Counter Attack forming at
 12. Hostile (a) Battery
(b) Machine Gun } active at
(c) Trench Mortar }
 13. Reinforcements wanted at
 14. I estimate my present strength at rifles.
 15. Add any other useful information here:—

(21)

Name.....

Platoon.....

Company.....

Battalion.....

Time m.

Date 1917.

- (A). Carry no maps or papers which may be of value to the Enemy.
- (B). Give no information if captured, except the following, which you are bound to give:—
Name and Rank.
- (C). Collect all captured maps and papers and send them in at once.

51st. Battalion.

Appendix No. X

Daily Strength Return.

30th. September 1917.

Actually with Unit.	:	Attached	:	In Hospital	:	Tempy detached: Schools etc.	:	Total.
Offs : O.R.	:	Offs : O.R.	:	Offs : O.R.	:	Offs : O.R.	:	Offs : O.R.
32 : 682	:	2 : 6	:	5 : 27	:	3 : 138	:	42 : 853

ARRIVALS.

Nil.

DEPARTURES.

1 O/Rank to Hospital.
3 O/Ranks Killed in Action.
15 " Wounded in Action.
4 " on leave.

B. Lacey

Lieutenant-Colonel,

O.C. 51st. Battalion.

(22)