

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/68/26

Title: 51st Infantry Battalion

April 1918



AWM4-23/68/26

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

51st Battalion

FOR

April 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

R Christie Hal

Signature of Officer Commanding

R Christie Hal



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.

Confidential

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

(1)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
April 1918				
FRONT-LINE	1st	"	Light hostile shelling of Battalion Area, very little enemy movement on our front line weather, Protective & Liaison Patrols out on our front enemy very quiet.	RC
BUIRE-DERNANCOURT				
"	2nd	"	Hostile shelling very slight, fine weather, our snipers busy seven (7) of enemy accounted for. Patrol 1 officer & 6 of ranks moved into DERNANCOURT at dusk & were fired on from direction of the church they returned to our lines & reported numerous enemy seen in the village. Protective & Liaison Patrols on whole of our front very little enemy movement.	RC
"	3rd	"	Enemy shelling very light on Bn Area, Battalion was relieved from front line by 52nd Battalion & moved to SUPPORT line. Relief was completed at 12-10 AM (4 th) Copy of Battalion order No 57 attached & marked I	I RC
SUPPORT LINE	4th	"	Disposition of Battalion at 8 AM attached & marked II. Hostile shelling light, dull cloudy day light rain.	II RC
BUIRE-DERNANCOURT				
"	5th	"	Thick mist during the morning. Heavy hostile shelling of the Bn Area commenced 7 AM, continued for 3 hours. A & C Corps moved to reinforce 52nd Bn which was heavily attacked by the enemy.	RC
			Copy of Report of action taken during operations on this day is attached & marked III	III



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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

(2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
April	1918.			
SUPPORT LINE	6 th	"	Fine weather Bn Area lightly shelled by hostile artillery. A & C Coy relieved from front line with 52 nd Bn & returned to support positions, very wet night	RC
BUIRE-DERNANCOURT.	"	"	Disposition of Bn at 8 A.M. attached & marked IV 22 nd Bn 2 nd Aust Down on left, 39 th Bn 3 rd Aust Down on right, Bn Area lightly shelled by hostile artillery. Battalion was relieved by 26 th Bn 2 nd Aust Down	IV
"	7 th	"	Relief Complete 10.40 P.M. Copy of Battalion Order No 58 attached & marked V On relief the Bn marched to Bde concentration point SW of LAHOUSSE (T.14 C) bivouaced in the open.	V RC
LAHOUSSE	8 th	"	very wet raining until midday troops remained in the open no shelter, Order received from 13 th Bde at 2 P.M. for Bn to relieve 2 Bn of 104 th Bde on SOMME CANAL defences in vicinity of VAUX-SUR-SOMME. C.O. moved off to reconnoitre new position. Bn moved to CORBIE at 3 P.M. & billeted there until 6-30 P.M. & then moved to VAUX-SUR-SOMME & there relieved the 17 th Bn LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS & 19 th Bn DURHAM LGT INF Relief complete at 10-35 P.M.	RC
VAUX-SUR-SOMME	9 th	"	Disposition of Bn at 8 A.M. attached & marked VI 50 th Bn on Right & 2 nd Bn on left.	VI

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(3)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
April 1918				
VAUX-SUR-SOMME	9 th	"	Line weather, Intermittent shelling by hostile artillery of CANAL Bank & village of VAUX-SUR-SOMME with a great proportion of Gas shells.	RE
CANAL BRIDGE				
- HEAD DEFENCE	10 th	"	Weather fine, day quiet. Bn relieved by 49 th Bn relief complete at 10-30 P.M. Copy of Bn order No 59 attached & marked VII on relief	VII RE
			Bn marched to Bellets in CORBIE.	
CORBIE	11 th	"	Cleaning clothing, Arms, & Equipment, Weather fine.	RE
"	12 th	"	Bathing parades all ranks received complete change clean underclothing. Reconnaissance of roads leading to 11 th Aust. Inf Bde supports by C.O. & Company Comdros, fine weather	RE
"	13 th	"	Coy parade on Bn "Alarm post" afterwards practice, extended order work. 152. Reinforcements marched in from Bde details Camp.	
"	14 th	"	Working party of 5 Officers & 320 men digging on BONNAT-HEILLY defensive line. Reconnaissance of BRIDGEHEAD line by C.O. & Coy Edrs. Fine weather.	RE
"	15 th	"	Working party as for 14 th . cold wind all day. Copy of daily Strength Return marked VIII	VIII RE
"	16 th	"	Working party of 2 off 100 men digging strong points BONNAT-HEILLY line	
"			Company & Platoon Training 9 AM to 12 noon dull Cloudy weather	RE

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(4)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
April 1918				
CORBIE	17 th	"	Weather dull & misty, Reconnaissance & Sighting by C.O. of posts in BRIDGE HEAD Line. Night working party 2 off 120 men digging posts on above mentioned line	RC
"	18 th	"	Weather Cold & dull with light rain, day working party 4 off 300 men digging posts BRIDGE HEAD Line, 2 Platoons posted in this line as a nucleus garrison, night working party 2 off 100 th improving defences on BRIDGE HEAD line	RC
"	19 th	"	Weather fine working party 1 off 60 men improving defences BRIDGE HEAD line 15. men excavating tunnel for B.W. Hdg. B.H. line. B & D Coys 52 nd Bn, billeted in BONNAT, came under tactical command C.O. 51 st Bn in accordance with Bde Defence policy. Inter Platoon reliefs by A & C Coys of Platoon in nucleus garrison BRIDGE HEAD Line. Copy of policy 51 st Bn in Defence BRIDGE HEAD line is attached & marked IX	RC
"	20 th	"	Weather fine. Batten carried out Coy training & special training of Lewis Gunners & Scouts. about 6.30 PM Batten Billeting Area heavily shelled by hostile artillery. Cellars of houses afforded efficient cover & were made use of	RC
"	21 st	"	Weather fine. Voluntary Church Parade held. Billeting officer ordered report to	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

(5)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
april 1918				
CORBIE	21 st	"	Staff Capt 13 th Aust Inf Bde QUERRIEU, order received to withdraw the 2 Platoons nucleus garrison, from BRIDGEHEAD Line, completed by 12 midnight.	RC
"	22 nd	"	weather fine. Battalion marched to QUERRIEU & billeted, copy of Battalion order no 60 is attached & marked X 4 additional Lewis Guns issued 1 to each Coy	X RC
QUERRIEU.	23 rd	"	weather fine, Training; Organization of training of Lewis Gunners, Rifle Bombers & Scouts.	RC
"	24 th	"	message received at 5.50 AM from HQ 13 th Aust Inf Bde for Bn to be prepared to move at short notice. Order received from Bde at 11 AM for Bn to dump packs & Blankets, & march to BLANGY-TRONVILLE, with Transport echelon of S.A.A. & tools. Battalion moved at 12 noon, & marched to & bivouaced in at a mill S.E. BLANGY-TRONVILLE on N 35 a & b. (Ref Sheet 62 D.S.W 1/20000) at 4 PM 9.30 PM orders received from 13 th Inf ^{RC} Aust Inf Bde, for counter attack on enemy positions near VILLERS-BRETTONNEUX in conjunction with 50 th , 52 nd Aust Inf Bns	RC
			copy of orders received & report of operation ^{with sketch} is attached & marked X1	X1
CACHY (SWITCH TRENCH)	25 th	"	Heavy shelling of Bn Area by enemy artillery, during morning 2 German non commissioned officers came in under flag of truce & with a more verbal message from	

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.)

(6)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CACHY (SWITCH TRENCH)	25 th	"	<p>contd</p> <p>then Commander, stating that as our troops were surrounded on three sides he asked that we should surrender, this request was refused & the N.C.O.'s concerned were sent back under escort to the H.Q. of 24th Inf Bde.</p> <p>Enemy snipers & machine gun fire very active on our front line trenches causing casualties.</p> <p>Reconnaissance of our front made by officers of 8th Zouaves Regt (French)</p> <p>weather fine & clear.</p>	
"	26 th	"	<p>Bn Hdqrs remained in CACHY (SWITCH TRENCH) French troops came up at 12-30 AM & formed up for attack just in rear of our front line & at 3 AM the Bn was withdrawn to a position W of VILLERS-BRETTONEUX in O 34 b d. & French troops occupied our line. Very heavy shelling of whole Bn Area by hostile artillery, consistent during day. weather dull & misty. French troops attacked on our right at 5-15 AM</p>	Re
BOIS L'ABBE	27 th	"	<p>at 3 AM Bn Hdqrs moved to Railway cutting W of VILLERS-BRETTONEUX in the ^{Re} O 26 d (Ref Sheet 62 d SW 1/20000) in BOIS L'ABBE. Reconnaissance of Bn Area by officers 47th, 48th Aust Inf Bns. weather fine. Scattered shelling of Bn Area by hostile artillery. Bn was relieved by 47th Aust Inf Bn relief complete at 10-30 AM</p>	PL

or

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

(Erase heading not required.)

(7)

[illegible]

WAR DIARY

OF

51st. Battalion

FOR

April

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
<u>I</u>	Battalion Order no 57
<u>II</u>	Disposition of Battalion 4/4/18
<u>III</u>	Report operations 5th April 1918
<u>IV</u>	Dispositions of Battalion 7/4/18
<u>V</u>	Battalion order no 58
<u>VI</u>	Dispositions of Battalion 9/4/18
<u>VII</u>	Battalion order no 59
<u>VIII</u>	Daily Strength Return 15/4/18
<u>IX</u>	Plan of Defence Bridge Head Line
<u>X</u>	Battalion order no 60
<u>XI</u>	Report of operations 24th/27th April 1918
<u>XII</u>	Reinforcements joined & Number of Casualties for month ending 30/4/18
<u>XIII</u>	Daily Strength Return 30/4/18
<u>XIV</u>	Quartermaster's Report for month

51st. BATTALION ORDER No. 57.

Reference Sheet - ALBERT. 1/40,000.

3rd. April 1918.

1. RELIEF.

The Battalion will be relieved from the front line by the 52nd. Battalion on the night of the 3rd/4th. April 1918.

2. INSTRUCTIONS.

(a) On relief Coys. will take over line held by 52nd. Battalion in following order:-

"A" Coy.-	line held by	"B" Coy.	52nd. Battalion.
"B" "	" "	" "A" "	" "
"C" "	" "	" "D" "	" "
"D" "	" "	" "C" "	" "

(b) Relieving Coys. of 52nd. Battalion will commence to move at 8.30 p.m. (3rd. inst.).

(c) Os/C. Coys. will arrange for the necessary Guides to report to their Coy. H/Qrs. at 8.30 p.m. to guide Coys. of the 52nd. Battalion to their various posts.

(d) Protective patrols are to be posted well out in front of each Coy. at dusk to form a protective screen while relief is being carried out. These patrols will remain out until relieved by Os/C. relieving Coys.

(e) Lewis Gun magazines, bombs, picks and shovels will be carried out by all Coys.

3. AID POST.

After 9.p.m. on 3rd. April R.A.P. will be at D.17.c.7.1.

4. REPORTS.

Completion of relief will be notified immediately by code wire to Battalion Headquarters.

After the relief all reports will be sent to Battalion Headquarters situated at D.17.c.0.5.

Callbreath Captain &
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

Issued by runner at 5 p.m. 3rd, inst.

Distribution of Copies.

Copy No.1	-	"A" Coy.
" "	2	- "B" "
" "	3	- "C" "
" "	4	- "D" "
" "	5	- War Diary.
" "	6	- 52nd. Battalion.

original

App 11

51st. Battalion,
4th. April 1918.

DISPOSITIONS AT 8 A.M. 4th. APRIL 1918.

Ref. sheet 62d, N.E. 1/20.000.

- | | | | |
|----|------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | A Coy. | D.16.b.6.3 to D.11.c.5.0. | Coy. H.Q. at D.16.b.9.9. |
| 2. | B " | in trenches D.23.b & d. | " " " D.23.a.8.2. |
| 3. | C " " | " D.18.c & a. | |
| 4. | D " | D.22.c & D.22.b. | |
| | R.A.P. | D.16.d.3.2. | |
| | Bn. H/Qrs. | D.16.d.7.5. | |

*Reconstructed from
C.O. 51st Bn.*



Headquarters,
13th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Report on action taken by 51st. Battalion in Operation
on 5th. April 1918.
Reference Map Sheet 62 D. 1/40,000.

DISPOSITION. 1. At 6 a.m. 5/4/18 51st. Battalion was holding support positions to 52nd. Battalion in BUIRE-DERNANCOURT. Sector of our line distributed as follows:-

1 Coy. D.22.c. & D.22.b.)	Map Co-ordinates approximate.
1 " D.23.b.)	
1 " D.18.c. & a.)	
1 " D.16.b. & D.11.a.)	
Bn.H/Qrs. D.16.d.7.5.)	

ENEMY
ATTACK.

2. At 7 A.m. enemy artillery commenced to heavily shell the Battalion Area and particularly in vicinity of Battalion Headquarters.

At 8.30 a.m. a message from C.O. 52nd. Battalion stated enemy had attacked on the front of his left Coy. at DERNANCOURT. "C" Coy. 51st. Battalion (in support at D.18.c. & A.) was placed at disposal of C.O. 52nd. Battalion. At 10.55 a.m. message received from 52nd. Battalion stating enemy attack had been repulsed but he was seen to be coming into DERNANCOURT in large numbers from N.E. Artillery support was urgently required and message was at once sent to forward Brigade Signal Station and a few minutes later fire was opened on DERNANCOURT.

12 noon message from C.O. 52nd. Battalion stating "C" Coy. 51st. Battalion had been sent forward by his orders, owing to the left Coy. 52nd. Battalion being forced back by renewed enemy attack to line of old C.C.S. in E.19.b.. "A" Coy. 51st. Battalion was then moved from positions D.16.b. & D.11.a. forward to positions in D.18.c. & a. and was at once placed at the disposal of C.O. 52nd. Battalion. This Coy. under orders of C.O. 52nd. Battalion was moved forward at 4.30 p.m. to reinforce line of 52nd. Battalion. "A" & "C" Coys. 51st. Battalion remained in front line until relieved on night of 6th/7th. by 50th. Battalion.

ARTILLERY. 3. The Co-operation of our Artillery was greatly hampered by lack of communication, owing to heavy hostile shelling. All telephone wires were cut and the "Signal Linesmen" were constantly employed repairing. When messages or information were sent to them, the artillery were very quick getting on to targets named. Several Battery Commanders continually personally enquired for information and a definite situation. Lines of F.O.Os. were cut and could not be maintained until after the hostile shelling had slackened. Apparently most O.Ps. were out of touch with their Batteries.

LIAISON & COMMUNICATION. 4. Communication with 52nd. Battalion and forward Bde. Station was well maintained by telephone and runners, also with all Coys. of Battalion. Touch was maintained with 39th. Battalion on our Right by liaison patrol and with 47th. Battalion on left by same means until "A" Coy. were ordered forward, after which touch was maintained with left flank of 50th. Battalion.

Vickers Guns and Trench Mortars ^{co-operation} not with this Battalion.

R Christie Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 51st. Battalion.

*original*51st. Battalion.
7th. April 1918.*app IV*DISPOSITIONS AT 8 a.m. 7th. April 1918.Reference Sheet 62 D. N.E. 1/20,000.

1. "A" Coy. - D.16.b.6.3. to D.11.c.5.0.
Coy. Headquarters at D.16.b.9.9.
2. "B" Coy. - In Trenches in D.23.b. & d.
Coy. Headquarters at D.23.a.8.2.
3. "C" Coy. - In Posts. in D.23.a, D.17.c. & D.16.d.
Coy. Headquarters at D.16.d.5.3.
4. "D" Coy. - D.22.c.8.4. to D.22.b.2.2.
Coy. Headquarters at D.21.c.9.4.
5. Battalion Headquarters - D.21.c.9.4.
R.A.P. - D.21.c.9.4.

*R. Christie*Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 51st. Battalion.

Original

Copy.No. 5 **APPENDIX**

13

51st. BATTALION ORDER No. 58.

Reference Sheet 62d. 1/40,000.

7th. April 1918.

1. RELIEF.

The 51st. Battalion will be relieved in Right Support Sector by 26th. Aust. Inf. Battalion tonight 7th./8th. April 1918.

2. INSTRUCTIONS. (a) "A" Coy. 26th. Bn. relieves "D" Coy. 51st. Bn.

"B"	"	"	"	"	"B"	"	"	"
"C"	"	"	"	"	"C"	"	"	"
"D"	"	"	"	"	"A"	"	"	"

(b) Relief will commence at 8.30 p.m.

(c) Guides. - 1 N.C.O. per platoon from each Coy. will report to Battalion Headquarters at 7.45 p.m. and will guide relieving units to various posts.

(d) On relief "A" and "C" Coys. will assemble at Cross Roads at D.21.a.6.6. - junction of BRESLE RIBEMONT-ALBERT roads. "B" and "D" Coys. will assemble at Battalion Headquarters at D.21.c.9.4., when on receipt of further orders Coys. will move by platoons to the Brigade concentration points in I.8. and 14.

(e) Dress. - Fighting Order with greatcoat and W.P. Sheet.

3. TRANSPORT.

Transport will be moved to new area under Divisional arrangements. Cookers will precede Battalion to concentration Area and prepare breakfast.

4. REPORTS.

Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters in B.A.B. Code.

G. Albrecht Captain &

Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

Distribution of Copies.

Copy No. 1	-	"A" Coy.
" 2	-	"B" "
" 3	-	"C" "
" 4	-	"D" "
" 5	-	War Diary.

*Original*51st. Battalion.
9th. April 1918. *app VI*DISPOSITIONS AT 8.a.m. 9th. April 1918. *Ref Sheet 62 D 1/40000*1 Coy. on S. of VAIRE-SOUS-CORBIE from approx, J.32.c.6.2. to J.32.d.9.4.1 Coy. from I.30.d.6.4. to J.26.c.6.2.1 Coy. from J.26.c.6.2. to J.27.d.4.3.1 Coy. from J.27.d.4.3. to approx. J.34.b.7.2.R.A.P. in VAUX-SUR-SOMME J.26c.9.9.

Battalion Headquarters in VAUX-SUR-SOMME School at J.26.c.7.8.

*R Christie*Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 51st. Battalion.

51st. BATTALION ORDER No. 59.

Reference Sheet 62D. 1/40,000.

10th. April 1918.

1. RELIEF.

The 51st. Battalion will be relieved from the CANAL DEFENCE LINE by the 49th. Aust. Inf. Battalion tonight the 10th/11th. April 1918.

2. INSTRUCTIONS.

(a) "C" Coy. 49th. Bn. relieves "B" Coy. 51st. Bn.
 "A" " " " " " " " "
 "B" " " " " " " " "
 "D" " " " " " " " "

(b) Relief will commence at about 8 p.m.

(c) Guides.— Relieving Coys. for "A", "C" and "D" Coys. will move in along tow path on N. side of Canal. Each Coy. Commander with necessary guides from each platoon will be on right flank of his Coy. at 7.45 p.m. and will wait there until his relieving Coy. comes along. The relieving Coy. for "B" Coy. will move in on road from HAMELET to VAIRE. "B" Coy. Commander with necessary guides will be at road junction VAIRE Church (J.32.c.4.9.) at 7.45 p.m..

(d) "A", "C" and "D" Coys. will assemble on VAUX-CORBIE road 500 yards W. of VAUX, and will march independently to their Billets in CORBIE with 50 yards between platoons. "B" Coy. will assemble at VAIRE Church and proceed to CORBIE.

(e) Dress.— Fighting Order with greatcoat and W.P. Sheet.

(f) Loading.— Lewis Guns, Cooks' gear, picks and shovels for "A", "C" and "D" Coys. will be loaded at Battalion Headquarters, for "B" Coy. on VAUX-CORBIE Road.

3. REPORTS.

Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters in B.A.B. Code or by runner immediately on relief.

Callnech Captain, &
 Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

Distribution of Copies.

Copy No. 1 - "A" Coy.
 " " 2 - "B" "
 " " 3 - "C" "
 " " 4 - "D" "
 " " 5 - War Diary.

Original 51st. Battalion.

App VIII

Daily Strength Return.

15th. April 1918.

15th. April 1918.																	
Actually with Unit.		Attached.		In Hospital.		Tempy. Detached.										Totals.	
						Leave.		Schools.		Bde. Duties.		Other Duties.					
Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.		
819		1	7	5	29	-	17	2	8	-	17	-	13	43	910		

ARRIVALS.

3 O/Ranks Reinforcements. (13/4/18).

DEPARTURES.

2 O/Ranks Wounded in Action.

R Christo
Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 51st. Battalion.



PLAN OF DEFENCE FOR 51st. BATTALION.

Reference Map 62d. 1/40.000 and attached sketch 1/20.000.

Disposition of Troops.

Present dispositions of the Battalions, 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde. -
2 Coys. "A" Bn (52nd), Canal Defences, VAUX-SUR-SOMME to
SAILLY-LE-SEC.
"B" Bn. (50th), Canal Defences from AUBIGNY through HAMELET to
approx. J.25.d.2.0.
"C" Bn. (51st) & 2 Coys 52nd Bn), Billet CORBIE, 2 Coys. 52nd Bn
BONNAY.
"D" Bn. (49th), Billets LA NEUVILLE.

Divisional Policy.

" The Divisional Policy is to fight to a finish in the Forward Zone, and to make every effort to cling tenaciously to same, counter-attacking to recapture lost ground, and ejecting the enemy wherever he has succeeded in penetrating this zone. If, however, by reason of the insufficiency of our available garrisons, or by one or both of our flanks being turned in, it becomes apparent that the forward zone cannot any longer be successfully defended, a definite and complete withdrawal to the Second Zone may be ordered by Divisional Headquarters.

Should such a withdrawal become necessary, troops in the forward zone will be withdrawn by the successive occupation of positions that have already been selected."

Action of 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Should it be found necessary to withdraw the role, the 13th. Bde. is to occupy the CORBIE - AUBIGNY and BRIDGE HEAD Line with "B" and "C" Battalions, and LA NEUVILLE - BONNAY Line with "D" Bn, 2 Coys. "A" Bn. being under command of G.O.C. 11th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Intention - "C" Bn. (51st)

In the event of a withdrawal the Battalion, plus 2 Coys 52nd. Bn. would occupy the BRIDGE HEAD Line from I.30.b.0.5 to J.8.a.7.3, Coy Boundaries and Headquarters being as shown on attached sketch.

Place of assembly, tracks of approach, Bn. H.Qrs. and Lines of withdrawal are shown on attached sketch.

"B" Bn. (50th) are on the Right and 10th. Aust. Inf. Bde. on the Left. Constant liason will be kept by Right and Left Coys with the Units on the flanks.

The Bn. will defend the BRIDGE HEAD Line and hang on at all costs. The troops from forward zones will move through and reorganise in rear defences.

The Battalion will not withdraw from BRIDGE HEAD Line until an order is received from Brigade H.Qrs, and Coys. will not do so until orders are received from Bn. H.Qrs.

All Bridges over the ANCRE are prepared for demolition and will be fired by direct order of Coy. Commander on the spot when the situation is such that it can no longer be defended and when it is definitely ascertained that there are no troops of our own or neighbouring Units on the Southern Bank of the ANCRE.

Improvement of Defences.

The line is at present manned by 2 platoons as a nucleus garrison and improvement of existing defences is being carried out. As the material becomes available the posts will be wired.

9th. field Coy. Engineers are available for any assistance required.

Communications.

The 13th. Brigade Signal Officer is arranging to have lines run to Bn. H/Qrs and Coy. H/Qrs.

Working Parties.

Working Parties will always wear fighting Order, and in the event of alarm will take up a position in the Sector they are working, informing the nearest O.C. Battalion their locations and numbers, and placing themselves under his orders.

1 copy to all boys

R Christy Lt Col
Comd 51st Bn

20,000.

- PART SHEET 62^D -

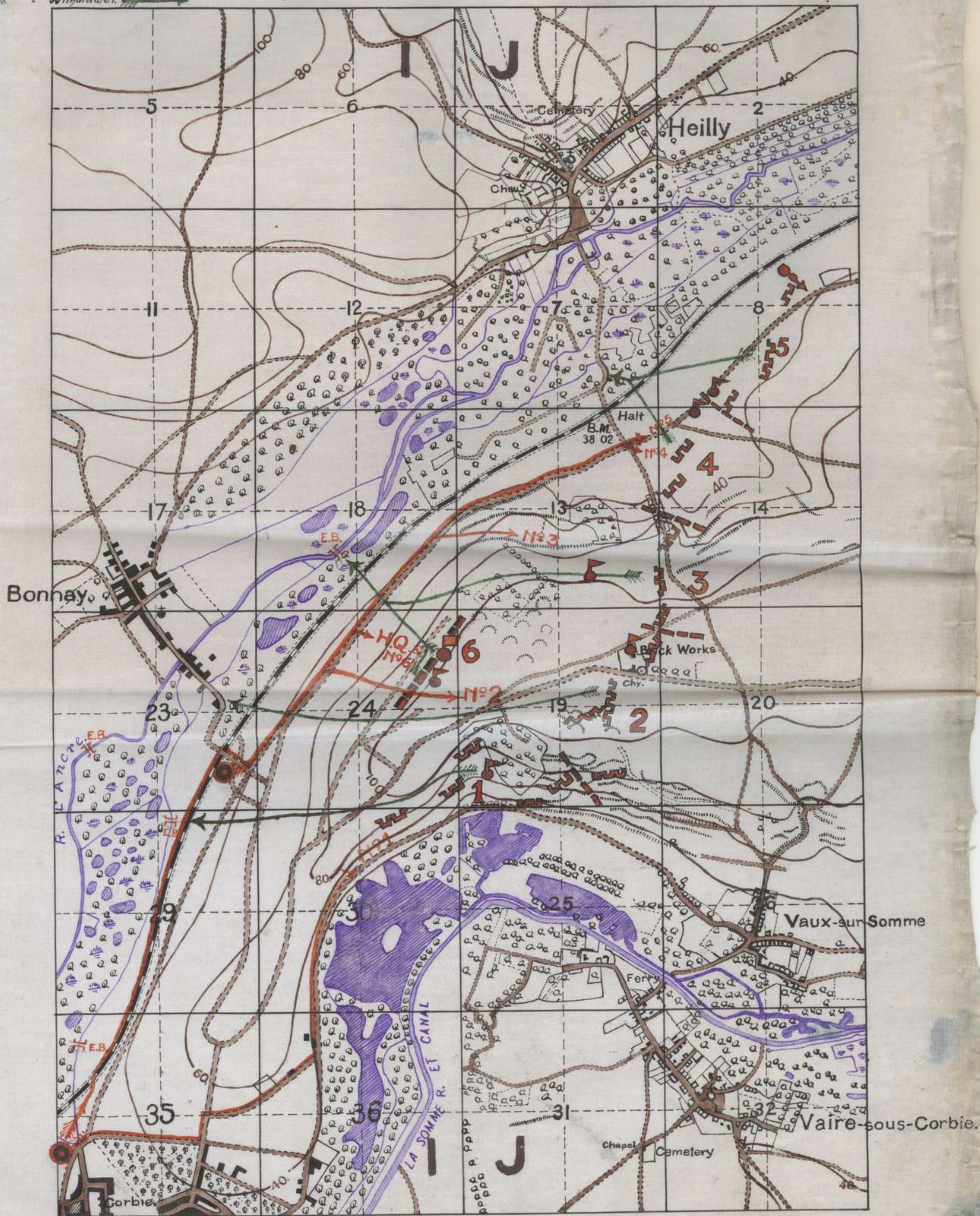
Legend:-

- Battalion H.Q.
- Reserve Company
- Company H.Q.s.
- do. Positions
- do. Boundaries
- Assembly Points
- Lines of Approach
- do. Withdrawal

DISPOSITION 51st BATTALION

BRIDGE HEAD LINE

21.4.18



APPENDIX

19

original 51st. Battalion Order No. 60.
Reference Map 62d. 1/40.000.

21st. April 1918. *att* *X*

- ATTENTION. 1. The Battalion will march to QUERRIEU tomorrow
22nd. instant.
- INSTRUCTIONS. 2. (a) Order of March - H/Qrs. D. C. B. A. Companies.
Coys. will move by platoons at 50 yards distance with
200 yards between Coys.
(b) Time - Coys. will be ready to move at 9.15 a.m.
(c) Starting ~~Time~~ Point - "D" Coy. H/Qrs.
(d) Dress - Marching Order with one blanket and W.P.
sheet.
(e) Lewis Guns will be loaded on limbers at "D" Coy.
H/Qrs. at 8.45 a.m.
(f) Blankets. - One Blanket per man will be rolled in
section bundles and dumped on pavement in front of
"D" Coy. H/Qrs. at 8.30 a.m.
(g) Cookers and Mess Cart will be loaded and ready
to move at 8.45 a.m.
- TRANSPORT. 3. All Transport will be formed up and ready to move
at 9.10 a.m.
- REPORTS. 4. Marching out State will be rendered to the Adjutant
at 9 a.m.

G. Albrecht

Captain &

Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.



Original

APPENDIX

XI

21

51st. Battalion,
28th. April 1918.

Headquarters,
13th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Report on operations for period 24th/27th April 1918.

Reference 62d S.W. 1/20.000.

Dispositions (1). The Battalion was bivouaced about a mile S.E. of BLANGY-TRONVILLE in N.35.a and c.

Counter-attack.

(2). Orders received from 13th. Aust. Inf. Bde. at 7.30 p.m. for Counter-attack. Attack to commence at 10 p.m. (Copy of orders attached hereto).

Orders were given to Company Commanders and dispositions for attack made. Extra 100 rounds S.A.A. and 1 bomb to each man except Rifle Bombers and Bombers who each carried two grenades were issued, also 2 S.O.S. Grenades per Company.

Rations were issued for next day.

Intelligence Officer and 8 Scouts were sent forward to tape "Jumping off Line".

Dispositions were, 2 Coys. Front Line - "A" Coy. Right and "C" Coy. Left. 1 Coy 2nd. Line Support - "B" Coy.
1 " 3rd. " Reserve - "D" "

The Battalion moved from bivouaced Area at 8.20 p.m. for Line of Deployment, the formation being - Platoons in Artillery Formation.

A taped line was laid by Bn. Intelligence Officer from approx. U.3.a.6.3 to O.33.c.6.3. The leading Coy. deployed on this line at 9.53 p.m. and the whole Bn. had deployed and were in position at 10.10 p.m. touch having been made with 52nd. Bn. on Right, and at 10.10 p.m. the Bn. moved forward to attack.

Immediately the line commenced to advance hostile machine guns fired heavily on our Left from the BOIS DE AQUENNE. One platoon of the Left Front Coy. which was advancing through the left edge of this wood after advancing 800 yards came in contact with enemy M.G. Posts which they immediately attacked with 2 Lewis Guns and a Bombing Section and after a short fight captured the post and 6 machine guns, crews of which were either killed or taken prisoners, 2/Lieut. C.W.K. Sadlier was wounded here.

When leading Coys. had advanced a 1000^{yds} a belt of our own wire entanglements was met with and while our troops were getting through this the enemy machine guns ~~on~~ from the wood on left and sunken road in O.34.d. inflicted heavy casualties. At this spot Capt. C.E.A. COOKE was Killed and Lieut. J.R.C.B. CHANTER, 2/Lieut. C.W. READ, Lieut. H.A. HASLAM, 2/Lieut. M.A. FRASER, 2/Lieut. A.J. WILKES were wounded. It was here that the Support Company joined the leading Coys. and the advance was continued.

In the sunken road on O.34.d. a strong enemy M.G. Post was encountered and after trying unsuccessfully to clear it the left flank moved on leaving 2 Vickers guns to cover and watch the post.

On reaching the High ground and roads in U.5.a & b. large numbers of the enemy were seen moving to attack the left of our line and were at once engaged by our Lewis Guns and rifle fire. 2/Lieut. J.F. BARRETT, D.C.M. was wounded severely at this point. Many casualties were inflicted on the enemy who bolted on the approach of the 50th. Bn leaving 6 more machine guns in our hands.

The Left of our line was unable to advance further owing to the heavy M.G. fire from the direction of VILLERS BRETTONEUX and from our left rear. 2 Officers (Capt. W.R. HARBURN and 2/Lieut. C.J. TOWN) with 40 men from our Right Flank moved forward beyond the Left Front of MONUMENT WOOD to the road running through O.36.c and U.6.a. Owing to both flanks being unable to get up and numerous enemy machine guns in MONUMENT WOOD this party had to withdraw and the Battalion consolidated. (Contd).

on line from U.5.c.3.8 - U.5.c.6.9 along West side of Road through U.5.a to O.35.c.8.1 to O.35.c.6.3. 2/Lieut. C.J. TOWN was killed by a sniper in early morning while Bn. was consolidating. Complete touch was maintained throughout the attack with the 52nd. Bn.]

The 2nd. Bn. North Hants failed to carry out the work of "Mopping up" the village of VILLERS BRETTONEUX and did not move further than the high ground O.34.d. to U.5.a owing, as stated by Major FOSTER, O.C. of the Bn., to heavy machine fire from S.W. side of Village. That Bn. dug in on a line approx. through O.34.d.7.2 to U.5.a.3.7 and remained in that position until dawn of 25/4/18 when they withdrew to the line approx. U.5.a.0.4 to U.5.b.0.5.

Tanks.

At 7 a.m. on 25/4/18, 3 Tanks were sent into the BOIS DE AQUENNE to clear enemy M.G. Posts there and also from valley on West of VILLERS BRETTONEUX. These tanks did splendid work and it was mainly due to their excellent work that the wood was finally cleared of the enemy. Enemy M.G. Posts in sunken road O.34.d. were mopped up by some of the tanks.

Vickers Machine Guns.

The two machine guns of the 13th. Aust. M.G. Coy. who were with the left front Coy. during the attack did some splendid work in assisting the troops to get on. They afterwards took up position in the line consolidated by the Bn.

Communications.

Communications with Coys. and Bn. Headquarters by Runners were well maintained; with 50th. Bn. and Bde. H/Qrs. and advanced Bde. Station by telephone, lines of which were frequently cut but communications were well maintained

Captures.

The number of prisoners taken and sent back unwounded was 74 and there were also about 12 wounded sent in. 20 Machine Guns and 2 Heavy Trench Mortars were captured. 4 of the machine guns were carried out by the Bn. and the mortars and remaining were collected by English and French Troops.

Casualties.

Total casualties received for period 24th/27th. April 1918 :-

	<u>Offs.</u>	<u>O/Ranks.</u>
Killed	4	72
Wounded	9	244
Missing		60
Total.	<u>13</u>	<u>376</u>

Rations. Water.

On night 24/4/18 24 hours rations were carried by the men, on the nights of 25th, 26th and 27th. April 1918 Water in petrol tins and rations were taken by G.S. Limbered Wagons to a point just north of CACHY village and about 800 yards from Bn. H/Qrs. and were taken forward to Coys. by a carrying party of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men from each Coy.

S.A.A.

S.A.A. was dumped at the same place as rations and taken forward by carrying parties.

Battalion Headquarters

Bn. H/Qrs. were established with 52nd. Bn. in CACHY SWITCH Trench at approx. U.3.b.4.0. Bn. remained in the above position until 3.30 a.m. on 26/4/18 when the line was taken over by the French and Coys moved to positions in O.34.b. and O.35.a. Bn. H/Qrs. remained at U.3.b.4.0. At 3 a.m. on 27/4/18, Bn. H/Qrs. moved to new position in O.26.d.8.8.

Battalion Relief.

The Bn. was relieved on the night 27th/28th April 1918 by 47th. Bn. A.I.F. and on relief marched to BLANGY TRONVILLE NICOLAS SWITCH, T.4.central to N.29.central. Bn. H/Qrs. N.35.central

R Christed Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 51st. Battalion.

51st. Battalion. A.I.F.Names of Officers who took part in attack.Headquarters.

Lieut-Col.	R. CHRISTIE, D.S.O.	C.O.
Captain	F. ALBRECHT.	Adjutant.
2/Lieut.	A.G. BAKER.	Signal. Officer.
"	N.C. PHILLIPS.	Intelligence Officer.
Captain	G.P. ARNOLD.	Medical Officer.

"A" Company.

Captain	C.E.A. COOKE.	O.C.
Lieut.	J.Z. KITCHEN.	
2/Lieut.	L.R. CHARLTON.	
"	J.F. BARRETT, D.C.M.	

"B" Company.

Captain.	F. SMITH, M.C.	O.C.
Lieut.	H.A. HASLAM.	
"	R. EARL, M.C.	
2/Lieut.	M.A. FRASER.	

"C" Company.

Captain.	W.R. HARBURN.	O.C.
2/Lieut.	C.W.K. SADLER.	
"	A.K. DONALDSON.	
"	J.H. COTTERELL.	

"D" Company.

Lieut.	J.R.C.B. CHANTER.	O.C.
2/Lieut.	C.W. READ.	
"	C.J. TOWN.	
"	A.J. WILKES.	

OFFICERS KILLED.

Captain	C.E.A. COOKE.	Captain	F. SMITH, M.C.
Lieut.	J.Z. KITCHEN.	2/Lieut.	C.J. TOWN.

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

Lieut.	J.R.C.B. CHANTER.	Lieut.	H.A. HASLAM.
"	E.A. HIGHAM.	2/Lieut.	C.W. READ.
2/Lieut.	M.A. FRASER.	"	J.F. BARRETT, D.C.M. <i>d of W.</i>
"	A.J. WILKES.	"	L.R. CHARLTON.
"	C.W.K. SADLER.		

Re



COPY.51st. Bn.Sender's Number.

B.51.

Day of Month.

24.

A counter attack to recover VILLERS BRETONNEUX and restore the line as held up to this morning will be delivered tonight in conjunction with 53rd. Bde. on right and 15th. Aust. Inf. Bde. on left aaa. Attack will start at 10 p.m. with 52nd. Bn. on right and 51st. Bn. on left aaa. Boundaries and objectives are shown on map issued herewith aaa. Assaulting Bns. will establish liaison at places marked with a cross on sketch aaa. 50th. Bn. will move forward in rear of assaulting Bns. and establish a line from U.6.b.0.0. to O.36.d.9.9. aaa. Forming up line will be taped by Bde. and Bn. I.Os. aaa. 2nd. Bn. Northants Regt. will be responsible for mopping up village of VILLERS BRETONNEUX aaa. Artillery will bombard VILLERS BRETONNEUX and area east of road through U.6.a. and C. until 11 p.m. when it will lift to beyond the final objective aaa. Royal Air Force will bomb VILLERS BRETONNEUX until 11 p.m. aaa. One section 13 M.G.Coy. will take up position in U.5.a. aaa. 2 Guns each are allotted to 51 & 52 Bns. and will report forthwith aaa. 2 Sections will be in Reserve in CACHY switch aaa. 13 L.T.M.B. will move to CACHY switch and cooperate with Bns. as required aaa. Bde. H.Q. will be at BLANGY TRONVILLE Chateau with Forward report centre at O.25.c.0.0. aaa. All Units except 49 Bn. will establish H.Q. in CACHY switch and telephone lines will be run forward to this trench as soon as possible aaa. Acknowledge aaa. Addsd. 50, 51, 52, Bns. 13 M.G.Coy. 13 L.T.M.B. 2nd.Bn. Northants Regt. Reptd. 8th. Division, 53rd. Bde, 15th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

From 13th. Bde.

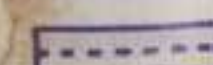
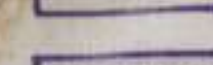
Time. 6.45 p.m.

(Signed) R. MORELL.

Major.



Legend

 Bde. Boundaries
 Bde. do

• PLAN shewing AREA covered in ATTACK •

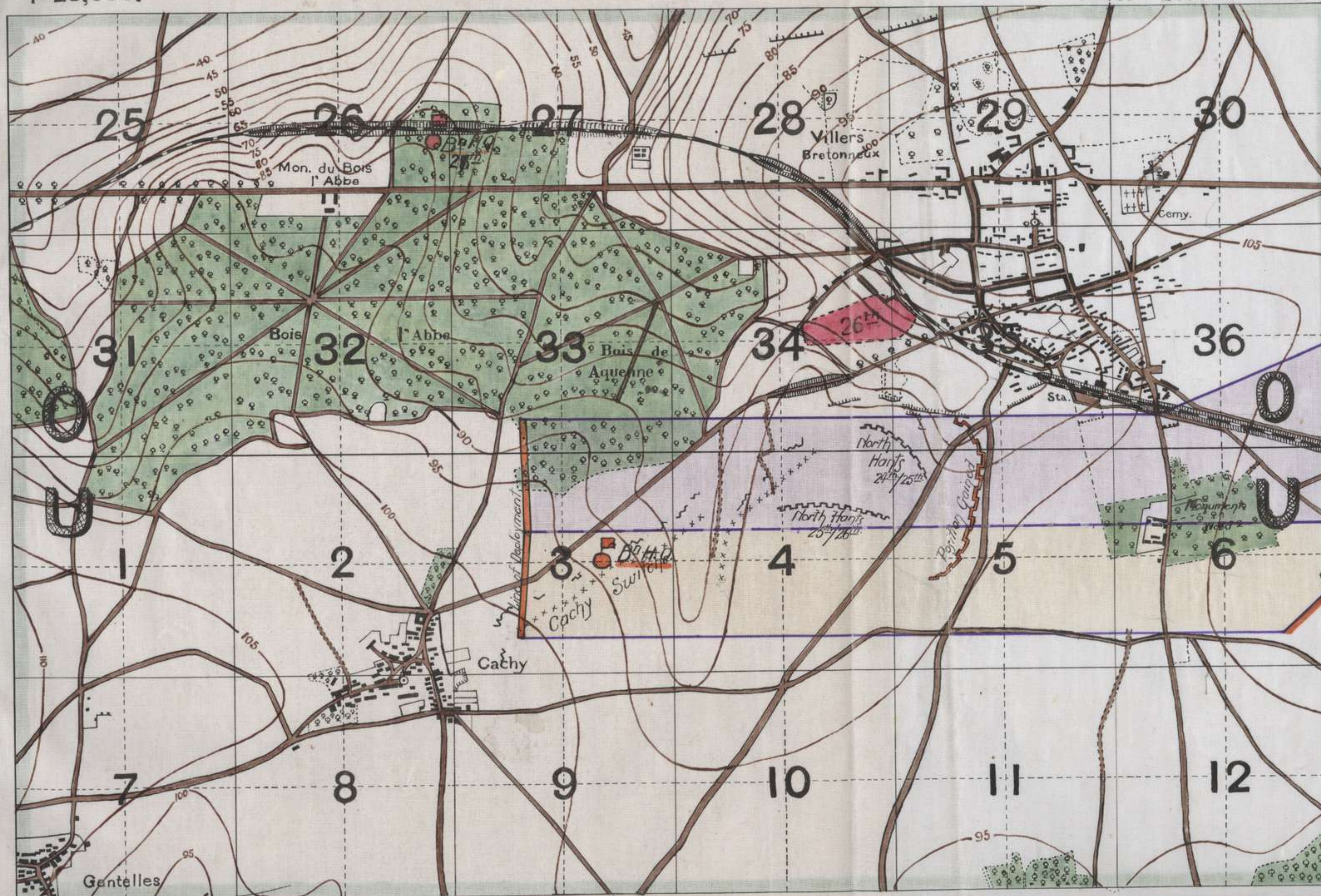
— by —

13TH. INF. BDE. A.I.F. on the night of 24TH/25TH. APRIL 1918.

— DISPOSITION of 51ST. BATTALION —

1:20,000.

PART of SHEET 62^D.



R. Christie
C.O. 51ST. BDE.
L. COL.

T.R.
1:5:18.

APPENDIX II

DISPOSITION

Original

APP XII

51st. Battalion, A.I.F.

Reinforcements for month of April 1918.

Officers.

O/Ranks.

2

255.

2/Lieut. J.H. COTTERELL.
" K.E. BODDINGTON.

CASUALTIES FOR MONTH ENDING 30th. April 1918.

<u>Operations.</u>	<u>Killed.</u>		<u>Wounded.</u>		<u>Missing.</u>	
	<u>Offs.</u>	<u>O.R.s.</u>	<u>Offs.</u>	<u>O.Rs.</u>	<u>Offs.</u>	<u>O.Rs.</u>
BUIRE - DERNANCOURT Operations 27/3/18 to 13/4/18.	2	14	2	53		
VILLERS BRETTONEUX " 24/4/18 to 27/4/18.	4	72	9	244		60
						(1)
Totals.	6	86	11	297	-	60

30/4/18

*R. Christie Col
C.O 51st Bn*



Original

51st. Battalion.

App XIII

Daily Strength Return.

30th. April 1918.

Actually with Unit.		Attached.		In Hospital.		Tempy. Detached.								Totals.	
						Leave.		Schools.		Bde. Duties.		Other Duties.			
Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.
24	454	1	7	3	26	-	16	1	3	-	17	1	17	30	540

ARRIVALS. NIL.DEPARTURES.

1 O/Rank Wounded in Action. (H.E.)
1 " Gassed.
4 " to Hospital.
22 " Missing. (Additional to those already reported.)

R Christo

Lieutenant-Colonel,

Commanding 51st. Battalion.



*Original**App XIV*51st. Battalion, A.I.F.Quartermasters Report for month ending 30th. April 1918.

Rations have been maintained to scale during the month. Percentage of fresh meat and bread being particularly good.

During periods in front line and support lines, rations reached the troops daily without interruption. Hot food containers were used whenever available and proved of great value in keeping cooked meals hot.

Boots. Boots have been kept in a serviceable condition during the month, the Sgt. Bootmaker and his assistants doing repair work whilst the Battalion was in reserve positions. Fifty-three pairs of new boots were drawn from D.A.D.O.S.

Clothing. 52 Tunics and 7 pairs M.S. Breeches were drawn from Ordnance, and a large amount of repair work was done whilst in reserve.

Fat. Fat is still being saved but difficulty is being experienced in getting it accepted at Railhead. The month closes with 450 lbs on hand which at present cannot be moved.



Captain &

Quartermaster, 51st. Battalion A.I.F.

