

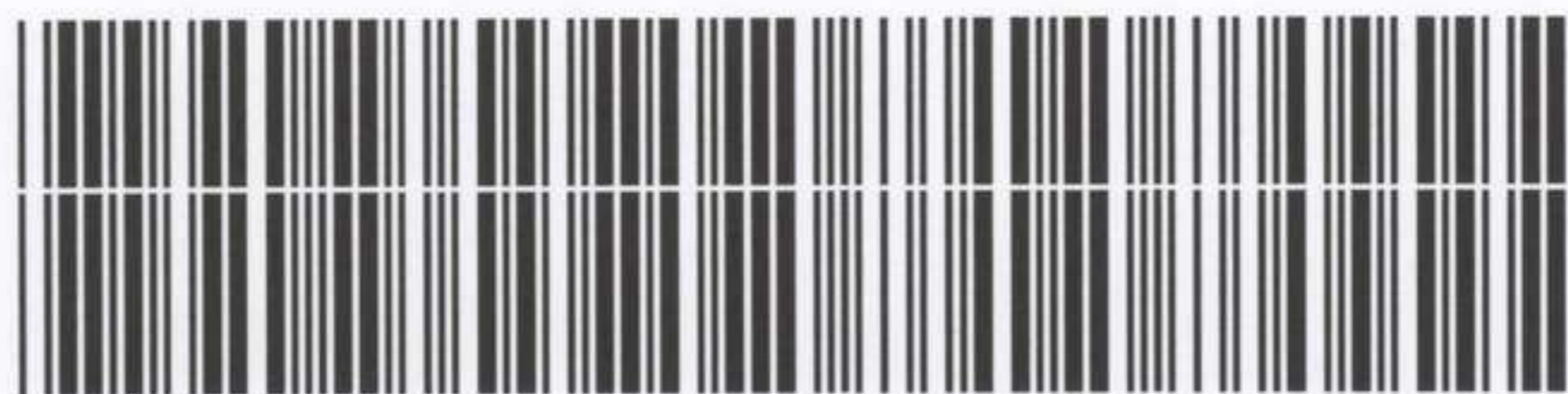
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/63/24

**Title:** 46th Infantry Battalion

January 1918



AWM4-23/63/24

205

18,000-12/1 -8723

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

FOR

JANUARY

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*H.C. Ford Major*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*H.C. Ford Major  
of Co. 46th Bn*

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

## or INTELLIGENCE - SUMMARY.

46th BATTALION.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date Jany.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1st		New Year's Day found us still near PERONNE and was made the occasion of a holiday for the men, but the Officers spent the morning in making a reconnaissance of ground for a Brigade scheme, which was to eventuate next day.	H8
	2nd		The ration strength today was 41 Officers, 823 Other Ranks. An exercise "Brigade in Attack" was carried out and occupied the day until about 2 p.m.	Appendix 1
	3/7th		The air was clear, and the ground covered with snow, but the going was good.	Appendix 2
	8th		These days were occupied in training as per syllabus. A movement order, received the previous day was put into execution and the Battalion formed up at 3-30 p.m. to march to PERONNE. Two hours previously we experienced a blinding snowstorm and the air was icy cold. The road was frozen and very slippery with the consequence that men slipped and fell frequently, one man sustaining a fractured arm. Despite the conditions all ranks were in a cheerful mood.	H8
			At PERONNE a hot meal was served from the Cookers, and the entrainment was complete by 6-30 p.m. the train leaving at 7-10 p.m. The men were in closed trucks, the Officers in carriages, mostly without windows or cushions, and a cold night journey was experienced by all ranks. Snow fell most of the time.	
	9th		Detrained at BAILLEUL at 11-30 a.m. and marched to billets near FLETRE - a distance of about 4 miles.	H8
	10th		Reveille 5-30 a.m., and at 7 a.m. the Battalion marched to GODEWAERSVELDE (Sheet 27. Q18.a.90.90.) a distance of about 3 miles. Again the roads were slippery and with many steep inclines and men constantly fell - one sustaining a sprained ankle. We entrained at 9 a.m. reaching ELZENWALLE (Sheet 28. H.26.c.90.90.) at 11 a.m. and marched to RIDGE WOOD Camp near by. A number of Officers were then sent to reconnoitre the line.	H8
	11th		At 2-40 p.m. 300 men entrained on a light railway, the remainder marching. Detrained at SPOIL BANK (Sheet 28. I.33.a.20.20.) where we were met by guides. We took over from the 13th K.R.R.C. a portion of the line as shown in Appendix 3.	Appendix 3
	12th		The situation was very quiet, very little shelling being indulged in by either side. The day was spent in shaking down in our new quarters and by working parties starting to improve the defences. Visiting and flanking patrols were sent out at intervals from the outposts.	Appendix 4
	13th)		Snow and icy winds prevailed. Our Artillery on 15th was turned on to several posts held by the Hun, and several direct hits were observed. The enemy retaliated on our position but did no damage. During the 3 days all available men were engaged under Engineer supervision in improving the defences. At night wiring parties were out covering with wire the intervals between the outposts.	
	14th)			
	15th)			

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

## or INTELLIGENCE--SUMMARY. 46th BATTALION.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>Jany.</u>			
	13/14th		On night of 13/14th, in addition to the ordinary visiting patrols between, 3 patrols were sent to reconnoitre the front - two being fighting patrols. The chief object was to obtain enemy identification. Lieut. Bull was in charge of one, with 12 other ranks, and Lieut. Hanna took another party of the same size. No identifications were obtained, but valuable information in reference to enemy positions was brought in.	HJ
	16th		Rain fell and a thaw set in - everything turned to mud. Trenches and saps fell in and the shelters of the men were flooded. Our Artillery was again turned on to enemy strong points and direct hits observed.	HJ
	17th 18th		Rain and snow making things very uncomfortable. Working parties as usual. Enemy Artillery livened up a bit on back area but no damage was done. Several Officers of the 15th Battalion arrived to inspect the positions prior to taking over, and were shown round posts at night.	HJ
	19th 20th		Day was fine, but mud was deep. Wiring and other working parties as usual occupied every available man. Enemy Artillery again active, resulting in the death of a/R.S.M. Mayman - a fine soldier. The day was quiet, and in the evening the Battalion was relieved by 15th Battalion, relief being complete by 7-15 p.m. Entrained at SPOIL BANK arriving MURRUMBIDGEE Camp, LA GLYTTE at 9-30 p.m.	HJ
	21st/27th		Very little training was done during these days, as every available man was required for working parties - some working on the Corps Line near SPOIL BANK, leaving camp daily at 7 a.m. returning about 5 p.m.	HJ
	27th		Being Sunday, a Church Parade was held of Brigade troops, after which General Birdwood presented Medals or Ribbons to those who had won them.	HJ
	28th/31st		As for dates 21st/27th.	

# 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.

46th Battalion.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date Jany.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices						
			<p><u>TRAINING.</u> Lectures for Officers and N.C.O's have been held on alternate nights, the H.Q. Officers delivering the lectures. An N.C.O's School was started on 25th January under Lieut. Bull, the students numbering 32 and being Privates and Lance Corporals. Excellent progress has been made, and good results to the Battalion are expected.</p>	HJ						
			<p><u>MOVEMENTS OF OFFICERS.</u> Major H.C. Ford D.S.O. from 45th Battalion to command vice Lieut. Colonel H.K. Denham D.S.O., sick list 30.12.17. The undermentioned Officers placed on Seconded List. Lieutenant (Temp. Captain) W. McEgan and relinquished the temporary rank of Captain. 13.12.17. Lieutenant H.C. Pinsent 2.12.17. 2/Lieut. H.W. Davis 20.11.17. (Authority - A.I.F. List 277 of 28.12.17.) Lieutenant R.E. Jeffes 18.12.17. (Authority - A.I.F. List 281 of 8.1.18.) " R.I. Brittain is seconded for duty with 12th Training Battalion. 31.12.17. (Auth- ority - A.I.F. List 283 of 15.1.18.) Promotion:- Lieutenant (Temp. Captain) G.E. Milne to be Captain. Dated 26th Decr. 1917. (Auth- ority - A.I.F. List 282 of 11.1.18.) Captain W.C. Brooks proceeded to Overseas Training Brigade, England for duty on 31.1.18. The undermentioned Officers rejoined from Seconded List:- 2/Lieutenant A.T. Bacon 4.1.18. Lieutenant L.L. Coulson 22.1.18. " " H.W. Davis 22.1.18. The undermentioned Officers taken on strength from Cadet Battalion, England 22.1.18. 2/Lieutenant D.M. Sandral 2/Lieutenant D. Carmichael</p>	HJ						
			<p><u>REINFORCEMENTS.</u> The Battalion received 62 men as reinforcements during the month.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Men who previously belonged to the Battalion</td> <td style="text-align: right;">- 57</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">New men</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>62</u></td> </tr> </table>	Men who previously belonged to the Battalion	- 57	New men	5	Total	<u>62</u>	HJ
Men who previously belonged to the Battalion	- 57									
New men	5									
Total	<u>62</u>									

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

## or INTELLIGENCE - SUMMARY. 46th Battalion.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date. <i>Jany.</i>	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
			<p><u>HEALTH.</u> The health of the troops has been good generally during the month, despite the trying conditions. Number evacuated being - 1 Officer 71 Other Ranks Sick. 6 " " Wounded.</p>									
			<p><u>DISCIPLINE.</u> Disciplinary cases dealt with during the month are as follows:- F.G.C.M. cases - 2 Orderly Room cases - 27 Total <u>29</u></p>									
			<p><u>HONOURS &amp; AWARDS.</u> The following awards were published during the month in "The HONOURS GAZETTE", "LONDON GAZETTE" Supplement No.30450 dated 1.1.18. "LONDON GAZETTE" Supplement No.30448 dated 28.12.17. (A.I.F. List 279 of 1.1.18.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.</u> Major H.C. Ford. <u>MILITARY CROSS.</u> Captain D.B. Payne. Mentioned in Sir Douglas HAIG's Despatch dated 7.11.17.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Major H.C. Ford D.S.O.</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Lieut. P.C. Brearley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capt. G.S. Vanstan</td> <td>" R.I. Brittain</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" L.C.A. Craig</td> <td>" W.C. Pentland</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No.80 Sgt J.C. Cherry.</td> </tr> </table>	Major H.C. Ford D.S.O.	Lieut. P.C. Brearley	Capt. G.S. Vanstan	" R.I. Brittain	" L.C.A. Craig	" W.C. Pentland		No.80 Sgt J.C. Cherry.	
Major H.C. Ford D.S.O.	Lieut. P.C. Brearley											
Capt. G.S. Vanstan	" R.I. Brittain											
" L.C.A. Craig	" W.C. Pentland											
	No.80 Sgt J.C. Cherry.											
			<p><i>H.C. Ford</i> Major A/C.O. 46th Battalion.</p>									

205

18,000-12/17-8723

APP

5

# WAR DIARY

OF

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

FOR

JANUARY 1918

---

---

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Brigade Scheme.
2	Syllabus of Training.
3	Trench Map E.1. 1/10000.
4	Works Report.
5	Quartermaster's Report.

205

app I 6

BRIGADE SCHEME.

APPENDIX 1. app I

Brigade Scheme consisted of "Brigade in Attack" from HAUT ALLAINES  
to NURLU a distance of about 2500 yards.



SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.January 3rd.

- 9 a.m. to 12 noon - Patrols and transmission of information.  
Instruction in advance by rushes.
- 1-30 to 2-30 p.m. - Specialist Training. Lewis Gun Firing.  
Live grenade practice (Rifle and hand)
- 2-30 p.m. & onwards - Recreational Training.

Remarks:- "D" Coy - Assault Course 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
-----

January 4th.

- 9 a.m. to 12 noon - Retiring from a position in confusion, re-organising  
and counter-attacking by companies.
- 1-30 to 2-30 p.m. - Specialist Training. Lewis Gun firing.  
Live Rifle and Hand grenade practice.
- 2-30 p.m. & onwards - Recreational Training.

Remarks:- "A" Coy. - Assault Course 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
-----

January 5th.

- 9 a.m. to 12 noon - Companies at disposal of Company Commanders for  
correction of errors made during the week.
- 1-30 to 2-30 p.m. - Specialist Training. Lewis Gun Firing.  
Live Rifle and Hand Grenade practice.
- 2-30 p.m. & onwards - Recreational Training.

Remarks:- "B" Coy - Assault Course 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon.  
-----

January 6th.

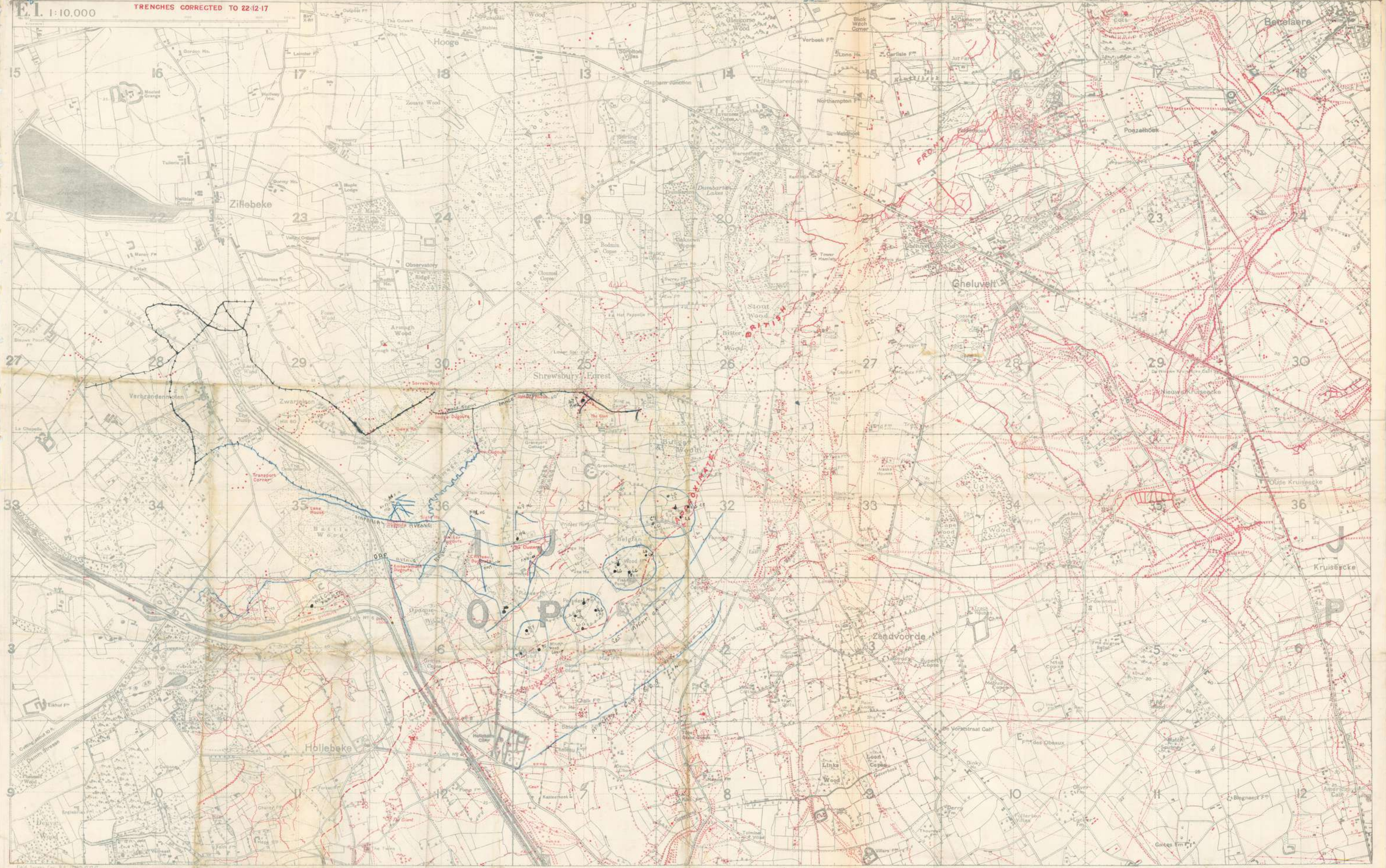
- Church Parade.  
-----

January 7th.

- Morning. - Companies at disposal of Company Commanders during  
the morning.
- Afternoon. - C.O.'s Inspection.

-----000-----

*118*



E 1

app. 3



~~PTA~~

Appendix 3

APPENDIX

205

14.1.18.

6 Off. 81 O/R. employed on Maintaining Duckwalks.  
Draining Dug-outs.  
Wiring etc.

15.1.18.

6 Off. 201 O/R. " " Laying and maintaining Duckwalks.  
Wiring 260 yards Front & Support Lines.  
Repairing Railway.  
Carrying etc.

16.1.18.

3 Off. 147 O/R. " " Repairing and maintaining Imperial Avenue.  
Carrying.  
Building Y.M.C.A. Dug-outs.  
Salvage.

17.1.18.

6 Off. 105 O/R. " " Widening etc. Imperial Avenue.  
Improving wire Support Line.  
Wiring 200 yards outposts.  
Building Dug-outs Imperial Avenue.

18.1.18.

6 Off. 119 O/R. " " Building Y.M.C.A.  
Salvage and draining disused dug-outs.  
Wiring Outpost Line 200 yards.  
Improving wire Support Line 200 yards.  
Widening Imperial Avenue.

19.1.18.

9 Off. 270 O/R. " " Repairing Dug-outs Reserve Line.  
Wiring Outpost Line 250 yards.  
Building M.G. positions and dug-outs Support  
Line.  
Improving wire Support Line.  
Widening and draining Imperial Avenue.

20.1.18.

6 Off. 195 O/R " " Widening Imperial Avenue.  
Wiring Support Line.  
Wiring Outpost Line.

-----

Rations passed through the Store for month ending 31.1.18. - 24,300.

At commencement of the month there was a great shortage of bread and vegetables.

Up to the 7th inst. bread was as low as 6 & 7 men to a loaf. Several times we have received bags of bread in a very broken condition. The shortage in vegetables has continued right throughout the month.

The meat ration has been good and on the whole we have been enabled to provide a good and varied diet for the men.

The vegetable shortage has been largely overcome by procuring other vegetables with Regimental Funds.

The amount expended for vegetables is - 1040 Francs.

The amount of fat returned to the Base from 1.1.18 to 31.1.18 - 763lbs. The approximate sum accrued from return of fat - £13.

Amount paid to Cooks - approximately £3.

On the 24.1.18 an iron ration was issued in lieu of bread, meat, sugar and tea.

On the 26.1.18 the Divisional Caterer held an inspection of Cook-houses. He stated that the Cook-houses were in an excellent condition and that "D" Company's Cooker was the best he had seen in the Division.

During the tour in the Line Hot food was supplied regularly to men in Outposts after dusk and before dawn. Meat sandwiches were also issued to these men (who were isolated) for consumption in the day time.

Issues from the Australian Comforts Funds enabled us to give men hot drinks of Cocoa & Milk day or night.

On taking over in the Line 500 pair of clean sox were sent up so as to enable men to change dirty sox at any time.

This scheme was a huge success.

Number of pairs exchanged for our tour in the Line was - 1587. *HS*

Number of boots repaired for the month was - 488.

No of new boots issued was - 86.

31.1.18.

*P. Nuttall* Captain  
Q.M. 46th Battalion.