

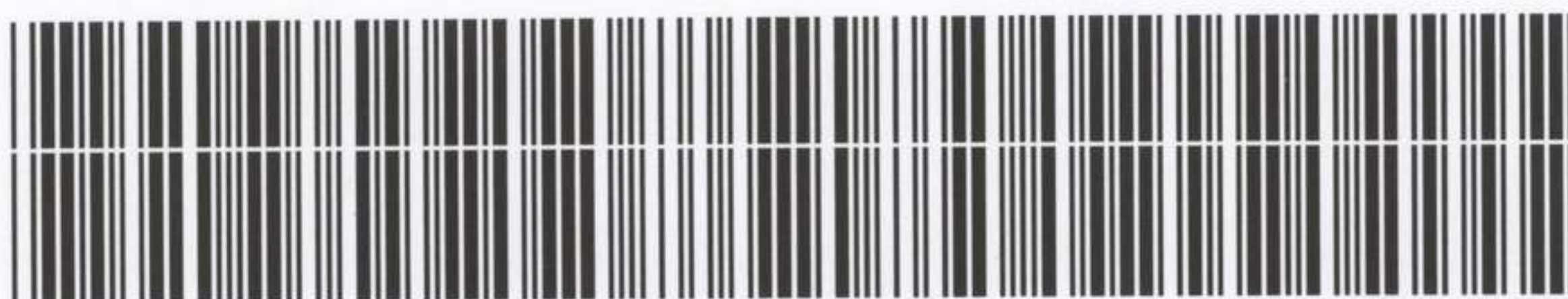
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/75/32 Part 1

**Title:** 58th Infantry Battalion

September 1918 Appendices



AWM4-23/75/32PART1



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**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

58<sup>th</sup> BATTALION

FOR

SEPTEMBER 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*W. Sproule*  
*Capt. 58th*

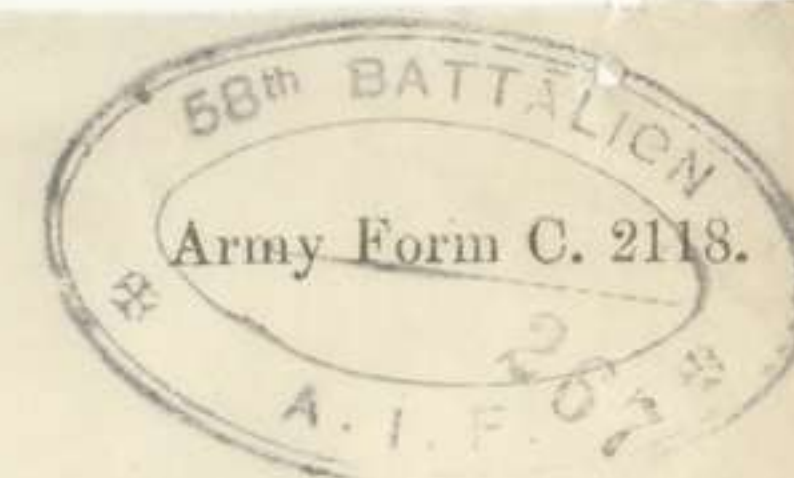
Signature of Officer Commanding

*Chas. W. ...*



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Vol. 9

Folio 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
0268.7	1/9/18		Weather fine. Attempt to capture PERONNE and crossing of Marsh made. See narrative attached as appendix No 1.	Appendix No 1.
	2/9/18		Ammunition echelon brought up to. Br H. Q. Weekly health report attached.	Appendix No 2.
	3/9/18		Attacked & captured PERONNE (see narrative attached). Lt. S.A. Philip left to attend 4th Army Musketry School.	Appendix No 2.
08a 3.3	3/9/18		Lieut. H.V. Morey was killed in action. The following officers wounded: Major H.D.G. Ferris M.C.; Capt R.B. Forsyth M.C. Lieut. C.A. Deane & N.L. MacKinnlay. Br H.Q. in dug out & men in trenches in 0.3 & 0.9 along SOMME CANAL. Capt B. Peacock 57th Bn in command. Day spent resting & men bathed in Canal. 2/4 A.T. Craigie secured with 15th A.L.T.M.Bn evacuated wounded in action.	





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Folio 2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
0823.3	4 9 18		Weather fine but cloudy visibility poor men rested and bathed during the day Battalion very tired physically - but in excellent spirits. Telephone message received during evening to attack FLAMICOURT. Next morning this suburb of PERONNE is well protected by a deep marsh which almost surrounds it and the approaches to same are few and easily covered by machine guns.	





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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<del>P. 7 Central</del> I. 34 Central	<del>5/9</del> 18		Weather cloudy and cold. Battalion attacked FLAMICOURT a suburb of PERONNE and village of LE MESNIL along riverbank and swamp to AULNAIES WOOD till touch was gained with the English 32 <sup>nd</sup> Division. Narratives attached as appendices also messages.	Appendices Nos 344
I 34 Central P. 7 Central	6/9 18		Weather fine. Left Quarry. Battalion marched back to positions at 0823.3 and trenches vacated on evening of 4.9.18 - men rested all day. Lt Col Watson Co. returned from leave. Orders received from Bde to take up a position as part of Reserve Brigade in P. 7 Central. Battalion marched there and were disposed in trenches and BOSCHE Huts. (See Bn Order no. 1). Lt MOREY's body found in PERONNE buried and cross erected. All men received issue of clean underclothing. Summary of casualties. No Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> attached.	Appendix No 5 Appendix No 6



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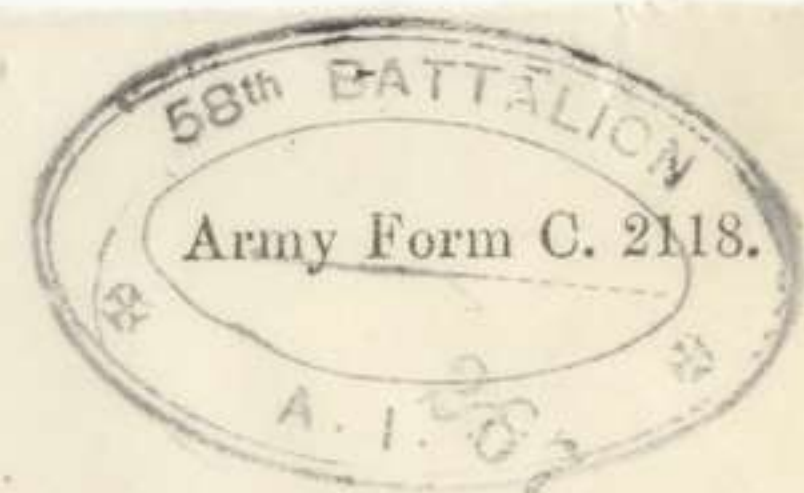


Vol 9

Folio 4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
P. 7 Central	2/9/18		<p>Weather showery. Br raked all day. men made their bivouacs weather proof with sheets of iron. Officers and N.C.O.'s engaged in writing personal narratives on the taking of PERONNE</p> <p>Recommendations for honors and rewards sent in</p> <p>Banda played for the men in the evening</p>	Appendix No 7
O26.7.7	8/9/18		<p>Weather dull but fine. Br moved to area S.W. of PERONNE. Men housed generally in dug outs and shelters. ample material for shelters available. Transport animals well protected from bombing. Lt A.R. Thompson rejoined from Paris leave &amp; Chaplain the Rev. C. Hall from English leave</p>	Appendix No 8 Appendix No 8(a)





## WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7 S.W. of PERONNE	9 9 18.		<p>Weather fine slight showers at long intervals Battalion resting and cleaning up area all salvage collected in dumps for dispatch to Divisional salvage dump. Br Canteen opened with large stock and was well patronised. All men received pay during the day. Band played near H.Q. and were surrounded by a large audience the band was cheered by the men at the conclusion of the programme Lt. A. Cole proceeded on English leave Weekly health report attached</p>	Appendix No 9





## WAR DIARY

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Folio 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7	10 9 18		<p>Weather uncertain, occasional showers. Battalion rested and cleaned up. Conference of officers held at Bn H.Q.s. Divisional memo on training discussed. Lt's Laing &amp; Morrison with parties collected a large amount of German arms &amp; equipment in the dugouts captured by the Battalion in Peronne. Battalion Band played a programme of music at the mess of the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station in the evening.</p> <p>Men of the unit beginning to show result of the pest already.</p> <p>Appreciative letter received from Col Mason DSO Commandant Australian Corps Schools on music &amp; discipline of the Bn Band during its attachment to the Schools.</p>	Appendix No 10.5





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Folio 7

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7 S.W. of PERONNE	11/9/18		<p>Weather wet. Parades held under company arrangements to reorganise &amp; refit men of company. Arrangements made to collect all salvage in the area. Cpl McNeil A.Coy appointed salvage A.C.O.</p> <p>Capt Sherwood representing the Australian Comforts Fund presented the Battalion with a quantity of sporting material.</p> <p>Lt W. H. Gale D.C.M. left on English leave.</p> <p>Pioneers employed under Sgt Long making men comfortable bivouacs and shelters for Cooks.</p> <p>Lt Moon V.C. selected sites for rifle range and bayonet fighting course.</p>	

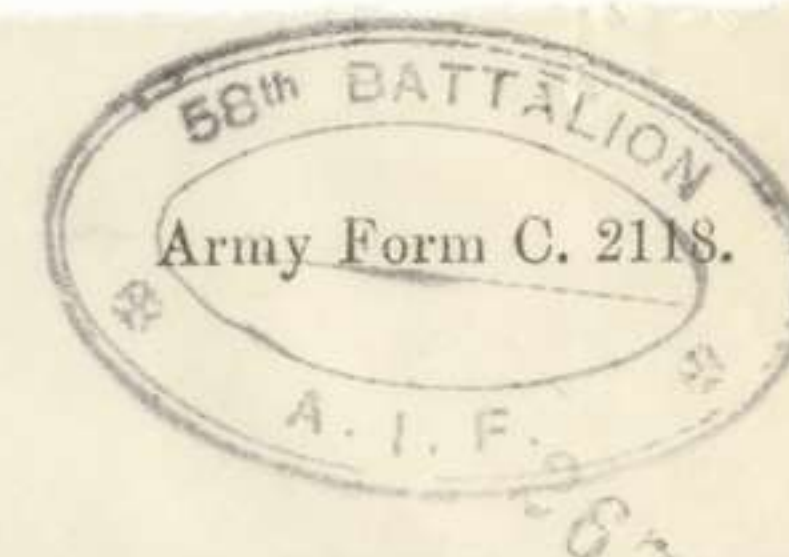


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Folio 8



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7 S.W of PERONNE	12 9 18		<p>Weather dull and wet all day.</p> <p>Personnel of G.M.'s Store and Transport paraded for inspection by C.O.</p> <p>The parade and inspection was very satisfactory when the fact that the men had just come out of a very strenuous period of duty in the lines.</p> <p>Football match arranged between 57<sup>th</sup> 45-8<sup>th</sup> postponed owing to rain.</p> <p>The following officers marched in. Lt's Willis and Eggington from Schools. Lt's Keane and Nicholson from Reinforcements and Capt Longman from Aire-Sons-Corbis.</p> <p>Capt Sproule adjutant left for leave in England. The Band played a programme for B. Corp officers mess at 6.30pm</p>	



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7. S.W. of PERONNE	13 9 18		<p>Weather uncertain slight showers up to noon. Battalion paraded for inspection by the C.O. at 9 am. Taking into consideration the fact that the unit had just come out of the line the turn out and smartness of the unit was very good. The C.O. congratulated the men on their excellent work accomplished in the storming and taking of PERONNE and also welcomed the 10th reinforcements to the unit and briefly recounted the actions the Battalion had taken part in. The new men <del>are</del> generally of a good stamp well up to the standard of the previous drafts. Lt. Webb rejoined from leave in V.K. Two enemy night bombing planes shot down in flames by pilots of the Australian Flying Corps between 9+10pm. The exploit was loudly cheered by all troops in the area.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
02.6.77 S.W of PERONNE	14 9 18		<p>Weather fine cool wind blowing. Baltn fell in at 9 am and marched to Brigade parade ground where the whole brigade was inspected by the G.O.C (General Elliott) At 11 am the Prime Minister of Australia (The Hon W. M. Hughes <sup>P.C.</sup>) was to have viewed the brigade but owing to being detained at another brigade did not put in an appearance A football match was played between teams from the 58th + 59th Bns + was won by the 59th Bn. Six other ranks marched out on leave to Australia. The Baltn band played a programme of music for Matrons + Sisters of the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7 S.W. of Peronne	15.9.18		<p>Fine and warm Church parades were held as under—</p> <p>Church of England Bn. parade ground 10.30 am. Chaplain the Rev. C. F. Hall officiating</p> <p>Roman Catholic in Mess Room of 57th Bn. Padre Gilbert M.C. conducted the service.</p> <p>Between 9 am + 4 pm the whole battalion were bathed and clean underclothing issued a large parcel containing 60 pairs of socks was received from the Geelong Branch of the 1st Bde Comforts Depot &amp; were distributed among the H.Q. Signallers, Runners, Intelligence personnel, &amp; Batmen.</p> <p>Lieut. A. Robertson joined up from the 4th Army School Scouting, observation, and sniping</p> <p>During the afternoon the officers of the 58th Bn were entertained at tea by the Messon Sisters of the 53rd British C.C. Station situated near the camp.</p>	

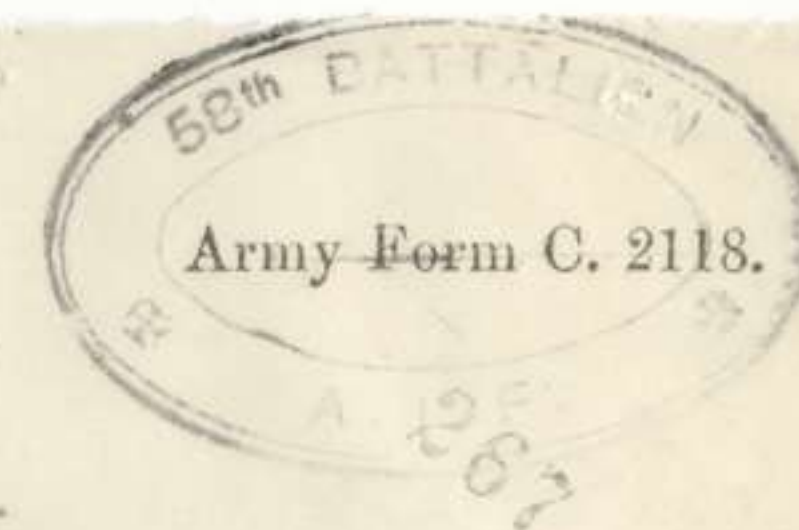
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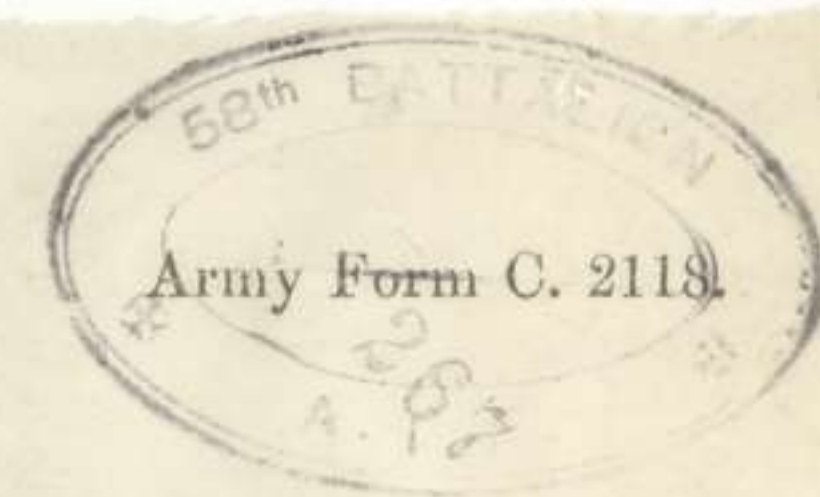


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Folio 12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
0267.7 S.W. of PERONNE	15/9/18		<p>The following officers marched out and are detached -</p> <p>Capt. F.C. Dawson D.S.O.; M.C. as Commandant 15th Inf. Bde School</p> <p>Lieut H.D. Willis M.C. as School adjutant.</p> <p>33 other ranks detached as instructors and students. Enemy night bombing plane shot down in flames near our lines.</p> <p>P.M. weekly report attached.</p> <p>Weather fine and warm slight breeze. Training Appendix No 11</p> <p>as per syllabi of Specialist training attached as Appendix No 12 commenced. Hours of training Appendix 12</p> <p>9 am to 12 noon. At 9.50 am a message was received from H.Q. 15th A.D. Bde that the Co. Lt Col C.V. Watson was to take command of the 15th A.D. Bde during the absence of Brig. Genl. H.E. Elliott C.B.; C.M.G.; D.S.O.; D.C.M. attending the Tank Conference in Paris.</p> <p>Brigade inspection of Transport held at 2 pm.</p> <p>58th Transport complimented on their splendid turnout. Football match played between teams</p>	
"	16/9/18			





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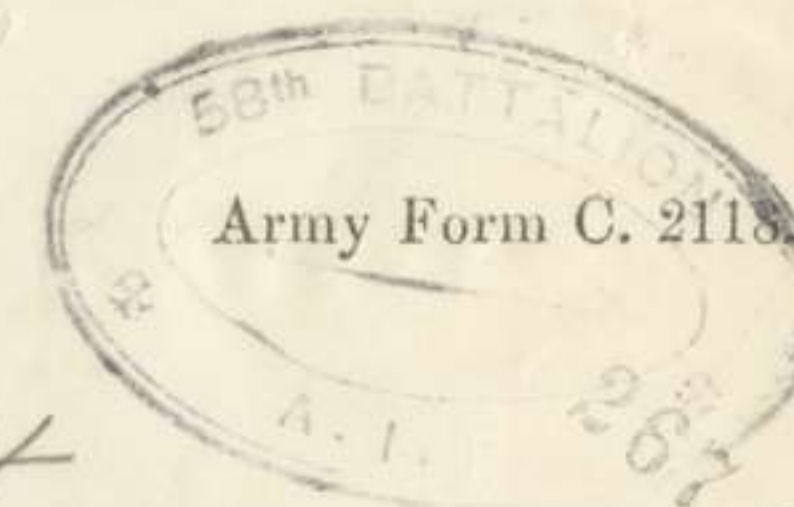
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7 S.W. of PERONNE	16 9 18		representing the 58 <sup>th</sup> & 60 <sup>th</sup> Battos soon after a very exciting game by the 60 <sup>th</sup> Battos. Class started for instruction in the use of the German machine gun Lt G. Loring instructor the greatest enthusiasm is being displayed by the class.	
	17 9 18		Weather stormy during early morning became fine towards midday Specialist training carried out from 9 am to 12 noon. C.O. (Lt Col Watson) delivered lecture "Duties and responsibilities of officers and N.C.O.s" to members of 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde School. The following N.C.O.s received direct commissions dating from 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18. a/csm M. T. Decker M.M. a/csm T. Williamson & Sgt M. W. Noonan.	
	18 9 18		Weather morning heavy thunderstorm occurred followed by rain clearing up as the day advanced. 3rd day! syllabus carried out from 9 am to noon	



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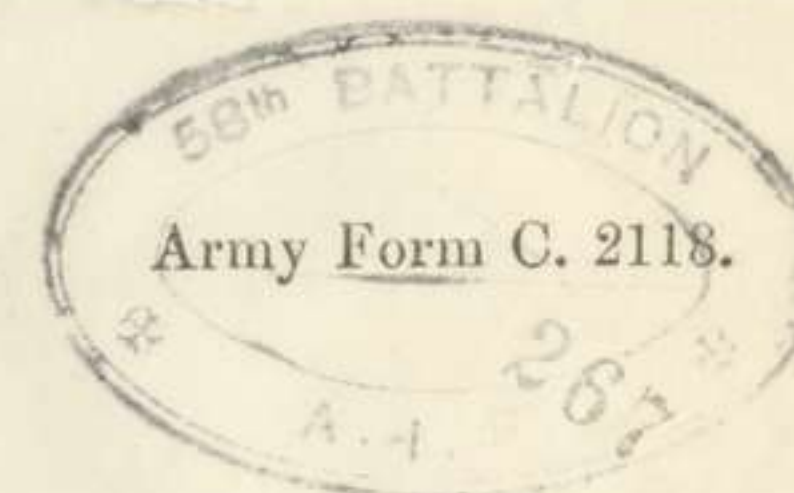
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
O.26.7.7 S.W. of PERONNE	19 9 18		<p>Weather fine Bn parade 9am to 12 noon</p> <p>Specialist training continued.</p> <p>Instruction in the use of the German Heavy &amp; Light machine guns given by Lieut Loring &amp; Stevenson to large enthusiastic class. Company football and Rugby matches played during afternoon. Lieut E. L. Stephenson rejoined from wounded list. Message received that Lt C.A. Deane seriously wounded in the taking of PERONNE had been transferred to LONDON. Lieut Green rejoined from detached with 60th Battalion.</p>	



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Folio 15

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7 S.W. of PERONNE	20 9 18		<p>Weather fine, visibility excellent. Training carried on as per syllabus in addition Capt C.W. Lay S.C. 154 A.D. Bde lectured to the Batta on "Supplies from base to troops". In the afternoon 15<sup>th</sup> Light Trench Mortar Battery gave a demonstration of the use of the Stokes mortar representatives of all battalions in the brigade were in attendance. The semi-final football match between teams representing the 57<sup>th</sup> &amp; 58<sup>th</sup> Batta was played and after a most interesting match the 57<sup>th</sup> won by a narrow margin &amp; provided a very exciting finish. No bombing of the area took place during the night owing to the activity of our night-flying planes.</p>	



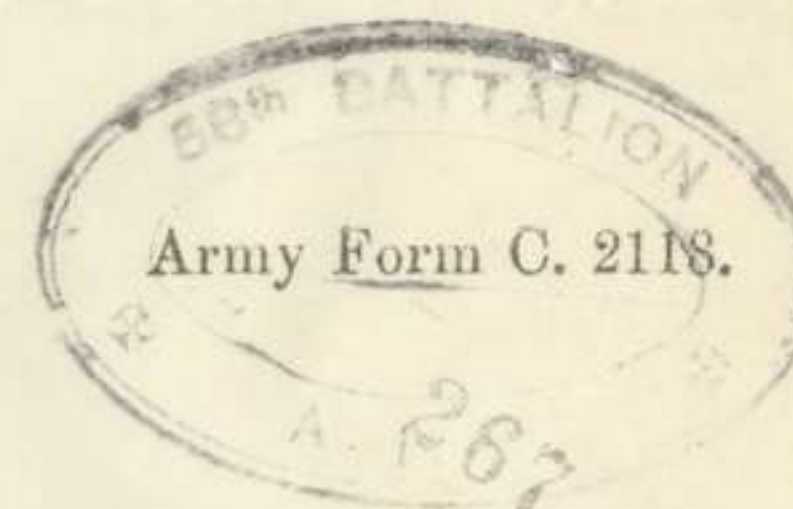
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Folio 16



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7	21 9 18		<p>Weather cloudy with strong wind blowing visibility fair. Syllabus of training amended and a lecture on march discipline followed by a route march in fighting order substituted see appendix.</p> <p>Whole brigade marched past Lt Col C. V. Watson T/Comdg 15th Bde who took the salute.</p> <p>From 1 to 5 pm in the afternoon the battalion attended the baths by companies.</p> <p>2nd Lt M. W. Noonan left to attend the Australian Corps Signalling School.</p> <p>General Elliott resumed command of 15th Bde and Lt Col Watson returned to command of battn.</p> <p>Weather dull rained during the afternoon.</p> <p>Church parades for Coyt and R.C. members of the battalion held during the morning.</p>	Appendix No 13
	22 9 18			



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7	22 9 18		<p>Personnel of Q No Store and Transport attended the baths. A number of officers were entertained at tea by the nations &amp; sisters of the 12<sup>th</sup> &amp; 53<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations.</p> <p>Lt. Flintoff marched in from Australian Corps School and Lt. Robertson was detached as an instructor to 15<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde School for aspirant officers &amp; N.C.O.'s.</p> <p>An inspection of pack transport took place during the afternoon under brigade arrangements. The pack saddling of the Batten was very favorably commented on.</p> <p>Q No weekly report and diet sheets attached</p>	<p>Appendix No 14</p>



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# WAR DIARY

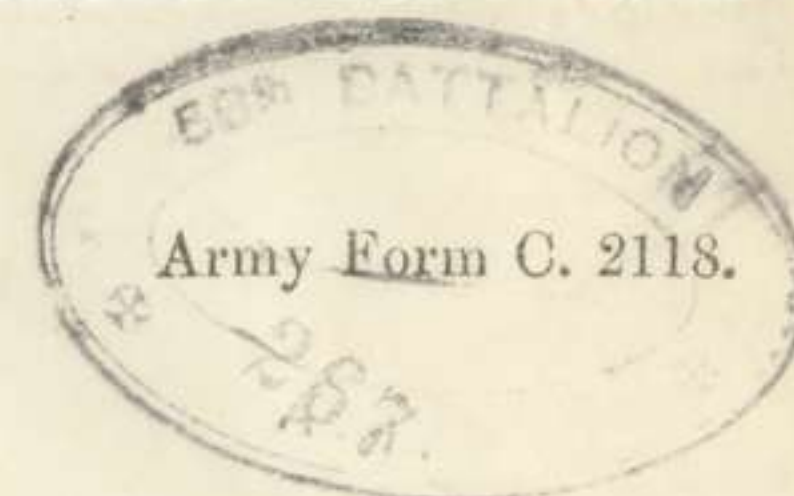
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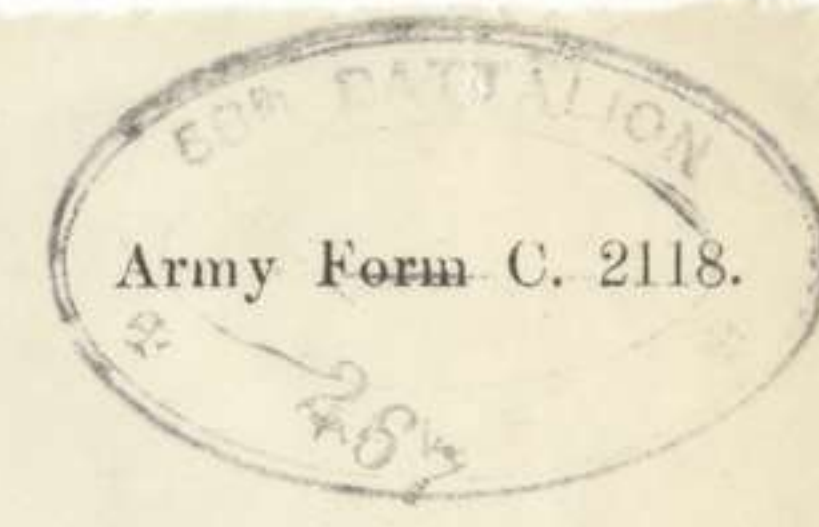
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Folio 18



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7 S.W. of PERONNE	23 9 18		<p>Weather dull and wet in morning fined up during the afternoon... Training of specialists carried out during morning. Battalion Sports held during afternoon see programme attached as appendix. The events were well contested and a good afternoon's sport resulted names of winners attached. A large number of nursing sisters from the 12th &amp; 33rd C.C.s attended the sports &amp; were entertained at afternoon tea by the officers of the Battalion. Six members of the battalion marched out on furlough to Australia. Lieut Flintoft marched in from Australian Corps School. Regimental medicine officers weekly health report attached.</p>	<p>Appendix No. 15</p> <p>Appendix No. 16</p> <p>Appendix No. 17</p>





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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7 S.W of PERONNE	24 9 18		Weather dull visibility bad. Kit inspection of battalion carried out <sup>followed by</sup> Company route marches of 3 miles each. All surplus battalion stores sent to Brigade H.Q.s and stored under guard. 2/Lieut C.K.D. Campbell marched in from Cadet Battalion and Lieut N. Dalgleish from Brigade H.Q.s Officer. Conference of Battalion Commanders held at Brigade H.Q.s at 7.30 pm.	
"	25 9 18		Weather wet and cold in the morning becoming fine in the afternoon. Specialist training carried out during morning. Batten marched to 60th Battalion Sports Ground to witness the Brigade Sports. a very successful meeting resulted in a tie for 1st place between the 57th & 60th Bns followed by the 58th 2nd + 59th 3rd. Concert held by 15th Brigade in evening	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
026.7.7	26 9 18		<p>Weather fine visibility fair. Battalion was marched to Brigade School to inspect a large sized model of the ground in the locality of BELLICOURT + the HINDENBURG LINE. Conference presided over by Brig General Elliott of C.O.s and Tank Officers on projected attack on HINDENBURG LINE.</p> <p>Lieut A.H. Brudenell marched in from Seconded list (wounded) and Lt A Robertson rejoined from Brigade School.</p> <p>The Br R.M.O. Capt R.E. Moss M.C. lectured to the members of the Brigade School during the afternoon.</p>	
026.7.7	27 9 18		<p>Weather fine, cloudy, all packs and valises sent into store at Brigade Headquarters. Nucleus marched out to 5th Divisional Reinforcement Wing. Capt F.C. Dawson D.S.O.; M.C.</p>	



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Folio 21

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Lieuts Willis &amp; STEPHENSON rejoined from Brigade School  + Lieut A.A. Philip from 4th Army Musketry School</p> <p>The Battalion marched out to forward area  at 2.30 p.m. as per order attached see appendix Appendix No 18</p> <p>At 5 p.m. the Bn halted N of BRUSLE for tea  + resumed the march at 7 p.m. The assembly area  was reached at 9.30 p.m. the troops being  accommodated for the night in dug outs and  trenches in area L.12.b + L.7.a West of TEMPLEUX-  le-GERARD. The march discipline of the battalion  was excellent throughout not a man falling  out on a very long march on roads crowded  with transport of all descriptions</p> <p>Weather dull troops rested all day in assembly area  scattered shelling by enemy of area occurred  during the 24 hours. large movement of transport proceeded  throughout the day to forward area.</p>	
L.I.C.3.3 W. of TEMPLEUX	28 9 18			



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LIC3-3	28 9 18		Preliminary Instructions & orders for an attack on the Hindenburg Line received also maps and aeroplane photographs. Conference of officers held during afternoon and operation carefully explained and discussed after conference Coy commanders held meetings of their CO's and explained the battalion's work in the forthcoming operation. At 9 pm. zero hour announced as 5.50 am on the following morning 29.9.18. Batta order No 57 issued at 8 pm.	Appendix No 19
" + Hindenburg Line near Bellicourt	29 9 18 30 9 18		Weather wet & cold ground in a very muddy condition broken up very much by trenches and shell holes & strong networks of defensive wiring narratives of the operations from 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct pt included in diary for Oct 18 which see. The following summaries and reports	







# APPENDIX

# WAR DIARY

OF



58th BATTALION A.I.F.

FOR

SEPTEMBER 1918 191

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1   | Narrative of operations carried out by 58th Battalion in the vicinity of PERONNE on Sept. 1st 1918.         |
| 2.  | Narrative of operations carried out by the 58th Battalion in the vicinity of PERONNE on Sept. 2nd 1918.     |
| 3.  | Narrative of operations carried out by 58th Battalion in the vicinity of PERONNE on Sept. 5th 1918.         |
| 4.  | Operation Messages - PERONNE and vicinity - Sept. 1st to 5th 1918.  |
| 5.  | 58th Battalion Order No. 54.  |
| 6.  | Summary of Casualties for period August 28th to Sept. 6th 1918.   |
| 7.  | Summary of Operations carried out by the 58th Battalion in the vicinity of PERONNE on Sept. 1st, 2nd & 5th. |
| 8.  | Recommendations for Honors & Awards for Attack on PERONNE on 2/9/18.  |
| 8a. | 58th Battalion Order No. 55.  |
| 9.  | Weekly Health Report.   |
| 10. | Letter of appreciation of 58th Battalion Band - from Commandant, Aust. Corps School.                        |
| 11. | Quartermaster's Report and Diet Sheets for week ending  |
| 12. | Syllabus of Training - Sect. 16th to 21st 1918. (15/9/18.   |
| 13. | 58th Battalion Order re 'Training'.   |
| 14. | Quartermaster's Report and Diet Sheets for week ending 22/9/18.   |
| 15. | 58th Battalion Sports Programme.  |
| 16. | 58th Battalion Sports - Results.  |
| 17. | Weekly Health Report.   |
| 18. | 58th Battalion Order No. 56.  |
| 20. | Summary of 58th Battalion strength for month.   |
| 21. | Summary of Casualties for month of September 1918.  |
| 22. | Sick wastage for month of September.  |
| 23. | Summary of Punishments for month of September.  |
| 24. | Transport Officer's Monthly Report.   |
| 25. | Transport Officer's Monthly Work Diary.   |
| 26. | Honors and Awards for month of September.   |

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# APPENDIX

NARRATIVE BY Lieut. R. V. MOON <sup>a/I.O.</sup> "VC" ^ ON THE OPERATION OF 58th  
BATTALION AIF. in the vicinity of PERONNE on 1st September 1918.

At about 7 a.m. on the morning of the 1st inst. Major FERRES and myself accompanied by several signallers, runners and observers advanced to the Canal, crossing same by the wooden bridge at I.33.d.3-8 and reconnoitring the ground immediately on the other side, with the view of moving the Battalion forward and taking FLAMICOURT, as we had word that PERONNE was taken by the 14th Brigade.

Enemy was playing M.G. fire freely across the ground between Battalion H.Q. and the bridge and it was very evident that he was holding FLAMICOURT and the swamp in front of it with machine guns.

The Battalion was at once ordered to move down to the position Major FERRES selected round about I.33.d.3-8 and "A" and "B" Companies were sent through the Western edge of PERONNE with orders to connect up with the 54th Battalion and sweep through the town and turn SOUTH and occupy the high ground in I.35. At the same time a Company of the 59th Battalion were to push across the Railway line at I.33.d.6-0 and by advancing to FLAMICOURT to link hands with our Companies which were operating through PERONNE. These operations failed owing to the following facts. The party who went into PERONNE found that only the Western edge of the town had been taken by the 54th Battalion and that they had no intention at that time of cleaning up the rest of the town. These Companies therefore took up a position at I.27.b.1-5 and sent back their location to Battalion H.Q. and awaited further orders.

The party of 59th Battalion found a railway track which was the only possible route into FLAMICOURT in this sector to be quite impossible owing to having M.G. fire directly down the track, on which men could only move in single file, from direction of the Station.

Our 2 Companies who were left at I.33.d.3-8 were only able to give covering fire on to the high ground in the vicinity of the quarry and dried iron trench in I.34. and I.35. and were quite unable to deal with the M.G.'s in the marsh between them and the village of FLAMICOURT.

They did manage to dispose of 1 machine gun post at the water tank by means of a Lewis Gun which I had placed in the top storey of a building in the extreme SOUTH of PERONNE;

A section of the 15th L.T.M.B. shooting from I.33.d.5-9 kept several enemy machine guns quiet, but we were unable to discover whether they knocked them out. 'D' Coy., early in the morning, were sent down to attempt a crossing with the 57th Battalion at O.33.d.3-0 but this was also unsuccessful as the proposed route was covered by strong enemy M.G. fire and the marsh was practically impassable.

The Battalion returned from these positions at 8 p.m. leaving "C" Coy., and 1 platoon of "B" Coy. to link up with the 54th in PERONNE and the post they had established early in the morning, guarding the Railway Bridge at I.33.d.6-0, and returned to the positions they had left in the morning in the vicinity I.2.b.6-7.

This ended operations for the 1st inst.

(Sgd) R. V. MOON Lieut.

a/I.O. 58th Battalion A.I.F.

8/9/18.





NARRATIVE BY Lieut. E. A. O'MALLEY MC. Asst/Adjt., on OPERATION  
OF 58th BATTALION AIF. in the vicinity of PERONNE on 1st Sept. 1918

On the night of 31st August, the 58th Battalion was established in trenches on the west of the SOMME CANAL, with a standing patrol of one platoon of "A" Company under Lieut. Slaughter MC across the bank. The Battalion had been warned that the 14th Brigade would be swinging down from the left in front of PERONNE, and to be ready to push across the CANAL as soon as they were seen in front, and to occupy the ground in I.35 and O.5.

At 7 a.m. on 1/9/18 Major FERRIS MC and the I.O. (Lieut. R.V. MOON—VC) proceeded across the canal and established a forward Headquarters at I.33.d.7.7., in a tunnel near the road bridge into PERONNE. Major Ferris, the C.O., then sent back word to me to come up with Headquarters details leaving the Adjutant with a few details at rear Headquarters. He also sent word to order all the companies to dribble forward across the canal. This was done, and 3 companies crossed at the broken wooden bridge at I.33.d.3.8. Machine gun fire was coming from the high ground on right at I.34 and the bridge was being intermittently shelled, but no casualties occurred, and the companies formed up along the railway bank. "D" Company tried to cross the canal and marsh at a track south of the Railway bridge but this track had not been completed. The Engineers were working on it, and leaving his company to work with them, the O.C., Lieut. C.A. DEANE came and reported his action to the C.O. who instructed him to carry on there.

At this stage it was decided to send 2 companies through the town of PERONNE, and 1 company along the railway bend in I.28. 2 companies of the 59th Battalion were placed under the command of Major FERRIS; the latter then sent "A" and "B" Companies of 58th through PERONNE with instructions to work round and push in front of FLAMICOURT as soon as they could find a passage across the marsh. "A" Coy. of 58th Battalion were sent along the Railway with a view to passing across the marsh near FLAMICOURT and crossing to the high ground. There were thus three chances of getting on to our objective - the above two, and a possible crossing by Lieut. DEANE's company south of the Railway Bridge.

Two things, however, upset these plans. Firstly, MONT St. QUENTIN on the left was not in our hands as was reported and understood by us; secondly, PERONNE was NOT mopped up, and the south-east corner of the town was occupied by enemy machine guns and snipers?

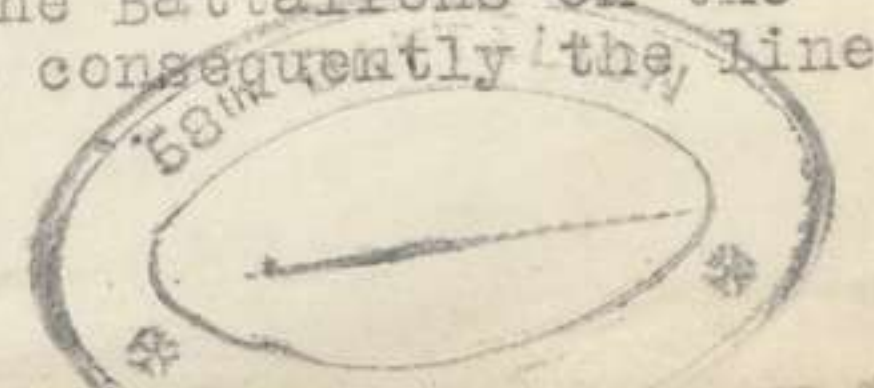
The movement was started at 12 noon, and the Lewis Guns of the remaining companies (in support at I.33.d.) were employed in neutralising enemy machine guns on high ground in I.34. and 35. Trench mortars were also used and quietened the machine gun fire from the ground mentioned. Capt. R. B. FORSYTH MC, in charge of "A" and "B" Coys., after making a full reconnaissance of the ground, reported that there was no passage across the marsh except at the ~~XXXX~~ causeway between PERONNE and FLAMICOURT at I.28.a.1.2 and that this was too strongly covered by machine gun fire to get across. The alternative of working around the North East end of PERONNE was impracticable, as the enemy still held MONT St. QUENTIN and the high ground. "A" Coy. 59th Battalion returned along the Railway, reporting that it was impossible to cross the marsh that way. The one hope now was the passage across the canal south of the Railway bridge. WHEN HOWEVER, an attempt was made to cross there, enemy M.G.'s (which had remained silent up to this) opened up and wiped out the party.

Before the companies moved off to go through PERONNE, Bde. were asked for two sappers to accompany the party and guard against mines. These men came from the Engr. party working on the canal, but the Companies had left, so they inspected the bridges and dug-outs in the vicinity and were able to save the bridges, withdrawing the charges.

When no progress could be made with these parties, the companies were withdrawn and a shoot arranged to be fired on FLAMICOURT at 4.15 p.m. At that moment a message was received giving the dispositions of the 14th Bde., which showed their troops too near the area chosen. These dispositions we did not believe, but took no risks, and cancelled the shoot.

The whole trouble at the moment was that the Battalions on the left of PERONNE had not reached their objective and consequently the line swung back on that flank.

P.T.O.





A creeping barrage was then arranged for, to fall on FLAMICOURT at 5/5 p.m. but as no progress was made on the flank, the companies were disposed on the canal bank, two companies on each side, with posts on the railway, and the idea of pushing on was given up until the flank drew up. In the evening word was received to return to our original positions on west of canal, less one company to guard the canal crossings. This was done and "C" company remained to guard the bridges also one platoon from B Company to keep in touch with the 54th Battalion who were on left along railway.

Sgt. E.A. DUMALLEY Lieut.

A/Adjutant 58th Batt. A.I.F.

8/9/1918.

At this stage it was decided to send a company through the town of FLAMICOURT, and I company along the railway bend in I.S.S. 2 companies of the 58th Battalion were placed under the command of Major THOMAS; the latter then sent "A" and "B" companies on 58th through FLAMICOURT with instructions to work round and push in front of FLAMICOURT as soon as they could find a passage across the marsh. "C" Coy. of 58th Battalion were sent along the railway with a view to passing across the marsh near FLAMICOURT and crossing to the high ground. There were three chances of getting on to the high ground - the above two, and a possible crossing by Lieut. DUMALLEY's company south of the railway bridge. Two things, however, must be remembered, firstly, that on the left was not in our hands as was reported and understood by us; secondly, FLAMICOURT was not mopped up, and the south-east corner of the town was occupied by enemy machine guns and snipers. The movement was started at 11 noon, and the Lewis guns of the remaining companies (in support at I.S.S. 2.) were employed in neutralising enemy machine guns on high ground in I.S.S. 2. and 3. French mortars were also used and destroyed the machine gun fire from the ground mentioned. Capt. E. THOMAS, in charge of "A" and "B" Coy., after making a full reconnaissance of the ground, reported that there was no passage across the marsh except at the main causeway between FLAMICOURT and FLAMICOURT at I.S.S. 2. and 3. and that this was too strongly covered by machine gun fire to get across. The alternative of working around the north-east end of FLAMICOURT was impracticable, as the enemy still held FLAMICOURT and the high ground. "A" Coy. 58th Battalion returned along the railway, reporting that it was impossible to cross the marsh that way. The one hope now was the passage across the canal south of the railway bridge. FLAMICOURT, an attempt was made to cross there, enemy machine guns (which had remained silent up to this) opened up and wiped out the party. Before the companies moved off to go through FLAMICOURT, they were asked for two sappers to accompany the party and guard against mines. These men came from the sapper party working on the canal, but the companies had left, so they inspected the bridges and dug-outs in the vicinity and were able to save the bridges, withdrawing the companies. When no progress could be made with these parties, the companies were withdrawn and a shot arranged to be fired on FLAMICOURT at 10 p.m. At that moment a message was received giving the dispositions of the 58th Batt., which showed their troops too near the area chosen. These dispositions we did not believe, but took no risk, and cancelled the shot. The whole trouble at the moment was that the Battalion on the left of FLAMICOURT had not reached their objective and consequently the line swung back on that flank.



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NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "A" Company, 58th BATTALION AIF  
in the vicinity of PERONNE on Sept. 1st. 1918.

NARRATIVE BY LEIUT. T. A. SLAUGHTER MC. (Platoon Commander)

At 5 a.m. received orders to take patrol across Railway Bridge - I.33.d.6-4. Crossed bridge without opposition and proceeded up line for a distance of about 350 yards. After advancing about one hundred ~~yards~~ came under heavy M.G. fire. The cover afforded by railway line enabled patrol to proceed another 200 yards until held up by Machine guns direct in front and on flank. From this position was recalled to Company. The Company at that time assembled at R/A.P. I.33.d. From this position Company moved forward in small parties through Western outskirts of PERONNE. The Company came under fire from enemy Machine gun fire at several places but suffered no casualties. The Company then assembled in a Moat surrounded by high banks - I.27.d.9-6. From this position Company Officers of patrols reconnoitred town of PERONNE and outskirts. All streets leading out of town were under Machine Gun fire from enemy.

The situation at this time was very obscure. The Unit on flank making no progress, Capt. Forsyth MC. and an Officer then reported on position to C.O. and then received orders to return to former position.

(Sgd) T. A. SLAUGHTER. Lieut.

58th Battalion. A.I.F.



NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "A" Company, 58th Battalion in the vicinity of PERONNE.

NARRATIVE BY NO. 304 SERGT. H. C. MOSS - operation of 1/9/18.

On the morning of 1/9/18 my platoon moved out from O.2/c.2.4. and proceeded to the R.A.P., from there on to a moat at I.27.a.D.6. Passing through PERONNE we rested at the moat while liaison was obtained with the 54th Battalion; my platoon remained at the moat until evening then marched back to O.2.c.2.4., staying there about two hours, and then back to our original starting point, staying until the morning of 3/9/18. The shelling of the village had been fairly heavy and there was also a good bit of machine gun fire, but I had no casualties.

My platoon moved out on the morning of the 3/9/18 where we received orders to mop up the North East of the village of FLAMICOURT. While at the moat we were subjected to heavy artillery fire from the Hun and also from our own 18-pdrs that were bursting directly over the moat and the company had a few casualties, but none in my platoon.

Going forward with the O.C. and an N.C.O. from each platoon we selected a slightly position opposite the barricade and on the left of the road to FLAMICOURT as a hopping off point. From there I was ordered to take my platoon forward and clear the enemy from machine gun positions that had direct fire down the road. Working along the right of the road we doubled to cover behind a wall and I decided to attack a gun on the left of the road about 150 feet up, so with that idea to work our way along the houses opposite. On entering a house here we came on to a machine gun firing on to our right flank and unaware of our proximity. My Lewis Gunner and three rifles put a bullet into their team killing five. Remaining three ran into a garden where they were joined by a team from another gun which we had not seen, but who, were in the same trench. We opened fire and rushed them, taking two prisoners and killing or wounding the remainder. One prisoner was found in a tank. We then worked along a terrace and gaining the top we were joined by some of "B" Company who also had a Lewis Gun. Both guns then opened up on a strong position on a similar terrace opposite and only a 100 yards distant - assisted by our rifles. Sergt. Anderson was killed here, being shot through the head. Silencing the enemy, I took my platoon round and crossing the road, rushed the trench. Here we found 6 of the enemy killed and three wounded. One of the wounded was a Major, who was shot through the stomach and whose horse was shot earlier. We also took 11 prisoners, two of whom were Lieutenants. There were two heavy and two light guns in the trench and while turning one of these guns on the enemy was shot through the head and died shortly afterwards. As I had now reached my objective and had a splendid field of fire from our direct front and right flank, I posted my Lewis Gunner at head of trench and two of the enemy guns on the right flank where we had good shooting at the Hun and did considerable damage. We had just done this when we were joined by our O.C. who decided the position was good. After two hours I was ordered to leave one gun and take the remainder of my platoon to a small ridge on the right where we dug pot holes. Shortly after, sending out a strong patrol, it being now dusk, we were relieved by the 57th Battalion. Big R.E. Gas shells greatly hindered the relief. We then marched back to the moat, waiting there for the O.C. On his arrival we returned to our former position in the trench at O.2.c.2.4. On the night of the 4th and 5th I took my platoon to the railway bridge, crossing the canal at bridge and rested on the station for a few minutes while patrols went forward. On their rejoining us we were led to our hopping off position in an old German trench where we waited for about three hours, the opinion being that this was due to bad liaison as it was getting very light. We received orders to advance, my platoon went forward behind a screen in artillery formation over open country, our left flank joining No. 2 platoon, the right resting on the canal. We had no shell fire and though machine gun fire was had on the Battalion's left flank and getting ~~so far~~ only a few spent bullets my platoon had no casualties. We advanced rapidly and, on reaching an old German Battery position in a wood we made a left form and also obtained liaison with the Scottish on our right. We advanced again about 1500 yards and had a meal. The shelling was light and only from small calibre guns, and after resting four hours



we returned to our starting point in the German trench.  
 My platoon casualties were one killed and two wounded.  
 I consider the enemy's losses through my platoon were at least  
 20 killed and 8 wounded, also two heavy machine guns and 5 light  
 machine guns were captured.

On the morning of 1/9/18 my platoon moved out from 0.2.3.4. and proceeded to the R.A.F. from there on to a most at 1.2.3.4. passing through BARNHAM we rested at the most while liaison was obtained with the 5th Battalion; my platoon remained at the most until evening then marched back to 0.2.3.4. staying there about two hours, and then back to our own trench until the morning of 2/9/18. (Sgt) H.C. MOSS, Serjt. "A" Coy. 58th Battalion A.I.F. was also a good bit of machine gun fire, but I had no casualties. My platoon moved out on the morning of the 3/9/18 where we received orders to mop up the North East of the village of WIMBORNE. While at the most we were subjected to heavy artillery fire from the Hun and also from our own 12-pdrs that were bursting directly over the most and the company had a few casualties, but none in my platoon. Going forward with the 0.2.3.4. and 1.2.3.4. from each platoon we selected a slightly position opposite the barbed wire and on the left of the road to WIMBORNE as a hopping off point. From there I was ordered to take my platoon forward and clear the enemy from machine gun positions that had direct fire down the road. Working along the right of the road we doubled to cover behind a wall and I decided to attack a gun on the left of the road about 150 feet up, so with that idea to work our way along the houses opposite. On entering a house here we came on to a machine gun firing on to our right flank and unaware of our proximity. My Lewis Gunner and three rifles put a bullet into their team killing five. Remaining three ran into a garden where they were joined by a team from another gun which we had not seen, but who were in the same trench. We opened fire and crashed them, taking two prisoners and killing or wounding the remainder. One prisoner was found in a tank. We then worked along a terrace and gaining the top we were joined by some of "B" Company who also had a Lewis Gun. Both guns then opened up on a strong position on a similar terrace opposite and only a 100 yards distant - assisted by our rifles. Serjt. Anderson was killed here, being shot through the head. Silencing the enemy, I took my platoon round and crossing the road, crashed the trench. Here we found 3 of the enemy killed and three wounded. One of the wounded was a Major, who was shot through the stomach and whose horse was shot earlier. We also took 11 prisoners, two of whom were Lieutenants. There were two heavy and two light guns in the trench and while turning one of these guns on the enemy was shot through the head and died shortly afterwards. As I had now reached my objective and had a splendid field of fire from our first front and right flank, I posted my Lewis Gunner at head of trench and two of the enemy guns on the right flank where we had good shooting at the Hun and did considerable damage. We had just done this when we were joined by our 0.2.3.4. who decided the position was good. After two hours I was ordered to leave one gun and take the remainder of my platoon to a small ridge on the right where we dug four holes. Shortly after, sending out a strong patrol, it being now dark, we were relieved by the 5th Battalion. Big H.M. Gas shells greatly hindered the relief. We then marched back to the most, waiting there for the 0.2.3.4. On his arrival we returned to our former position in the trench at 0.2.3.4. On the night of the 4th and 5th I took my platoon to the railway bridge, crossing the canal at bridge and rested on the station for a few minutes while patrols went forward. On their returning as we were led to our hopping off position in an old German trench where we waited for about three hours, the opinion being that this was due to bad liaison as it was getting very light. We received orders to advance, my platoon went forward behind a screen in artillery formation over open country, our left flank joining No. 2 platoon, the right resting on the canal. We had no shell fire and though machine gun fire was had on the Battalion's left flank and getting nearer rapidly a few spent bullets my platoon had no casualties. We advanced rapidly and, on reaching an old German Battery position in a wood we made a left turn and also obtained liaison with the Scottish on our right. We advanced again about 150 yards and had a meal. The shelling was light and only from small calibre guns, and after resting four hours



## APPENDIX

NARRATIVE BY - Lieut. W. MORRISON; (Coy. Commander)

Sept. 1st.

On the morning of 1/9/18 we were told that the enemy were retiring and that we would most likely move across the River, when suddenly about 9.15 a.m. the Battalion was ordered to cross the River at the Railway Bridge and get in touch with the enemy. "A" Coy. were to move across followed by "B" Coy. Lieut. SLAUGHTER MC. of "A" Coy. had already taken a patrol across to get in touch with the enemy and to clear route of Machine guns and enemy snipers. During the move across we came under heavy M.G. fire and light artillery near Railway bridge and the Coy. suffered 2 casualties. We then tried to find a way across marsh but with no results. The C.O., Major FERRES MC., then ordered the 2 Companies that were already across to form a defensive line round the bridge head. "A" and "B" Companies succeeded in doing this. The other 2 Companies then moved across and took up a position along river bank. "A" and "B" Companies were then ordered to move through PERONNE and get in touch with 54th Battalion and to attack through the N.E. end of the town of PERONNE. The objectives were - the 59th Battalion was to advance along railway through FLAMICOURT due East, 2 Companies of 58th Battalion were to attack through the N.E. end of PERONNE and connect up with 59th Battalion on right and 54th Battalion on left. On reaching the assembly position 2 patrols were sent out by "A" and "B" Companies to reconnoitre the front that was to be attacked, also Capt. FORSYTH MC. and myself reconnoitred the position and found the N.E. end of the town strongly held by enemy M.G.'s. Capt. Forsyth who was O.C. Attack sent a message back to C.O., 58th Battalion, (then Major Ferres) that the town was too strongly held to advance without artillery ~~formation~~ preparation. Capt. FORSYTH then received a message from C.O. to stand fast and await further instructions.

During the march through PERONNE we came under heavy M.G. fire and also heavy artillery fire.

About 7 p.m. Capt. FORSYTH received instructions to move back to Bridge we had left in the morning. We arrived at Bridge at about 8.30 p.m. and 2 Companies were ordered to form a defensive position to protect bridge head. After digging in, "B" Company received instructions to move back to trenches evacuated in the morning. "C" Coy. and 1 Platoon of "B" Coy. were to form a defensive position around bridge head.

We arrived at position in trenches about 11.30 p.m. where the Q.M. (Capt. BEST) had a hot meal ready for us.

(Sgd) W. MORRISON Lieut.  
O.C., "B" Coy., 58th Battalion. A.I.F.





APPENDIX

NARRATIVE BY No. 3467 Sgt. A. BOADLE (Platoon Commander) I/5/18.

During the night of 31st August/1st Sept. we received orders we were to move forward through PERONNE to support attack of 14th Brigade. Barrage for attack fell on PERONNE at 6 a.m.; at 8 a.m. Company was ordered to move forward in sections of 6 in the following order - 5 Platoon, 7 Platoon, Coy. H.Q., 6 Platoon and 8 Platoon. We moved out of front line to main PERONNE - AMIENS Road. After passing through old C.C.S. on to edge of road we came under M.G. fire from buildings on Eastern side of PERONNE. We sustained 2 casualties here.

Our O.C. (Lieut. MORRISON) led the Coy. under cover of the drain about 300 yards and crossed over the road at Railway to cover of old railway buildings and scrub into the swamp. We came under barrage fire of whizz bangs at close range whilst moving along track between Railway and Canal. The fire was very erratic as the Hun could not observe us.

We crossed Canal on the main Railway bridge which had been blown up. We moved up Canal about 200 yards to cover of high banks at the Southern end of PERONNE. Up to this time (9.30) the only places where the Hun observed us were crossing the main AMIENS-PERONNE road and the railway bridge.

About 10/50. a.m. we moved forward through PERONNE to Northern end. We moved in single file under cover of buildings. At the Canal which we crossed by two's on a narrow plank the crossing was rather exciting as a Machine Gun was playing directly across it from FLAMICOURT; the crossing was carried out without casualties. We moved through PERONNE to church where gas was fairly strong. At the town Square we again came under Machine Gun fire which was playing down street from direction of LA CHAPELLE. We arrived safely and found 14th Brigade (54th Battalion) there who said that the Huns were making it too warm for them to advance through. About 3 p.m. the 14th Brigade moved forward to attack what appeared to be an old factory. M.G. fire was fairly severe from same. The position was secured and held. About 7 p.m. we moved back to position at Southern end of town where I received orders that my Platoon (No. 5) would be attached to "C" Coy who were dug in at this place. The remainder of the Company moved back to the old position we were in on 31st August.

(Sgd) A. BOADLE Sgt.  
58th Battalion. AIF.





APPENDIX

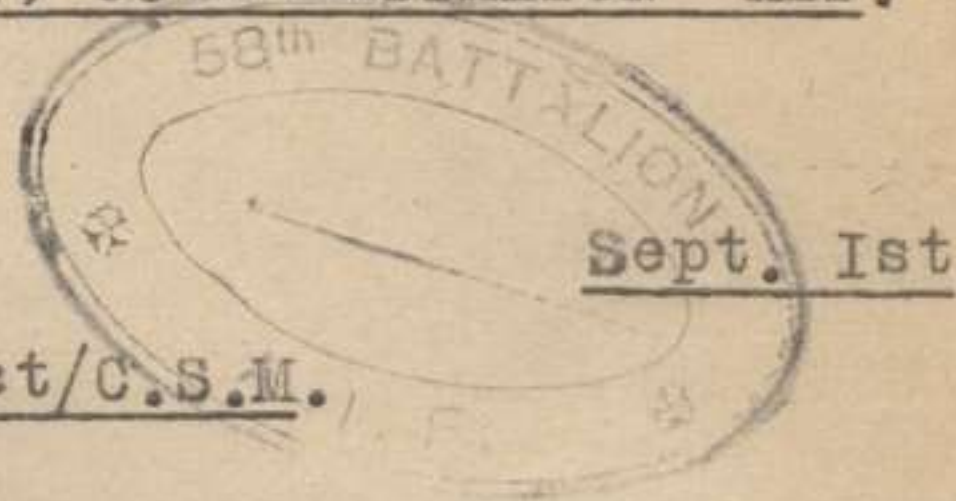
NARRATIVE BY LIEUT. G. LAING, O.C., "D" Company, 58th Battalion,  
operations of Sept. 1st 1918.

On the morning of 1st, ~~Sept.~~ 1918 Lieut. Deane received word at 9.30 a.m. to move forward at 10.30 a.m. He was to cross the canal and marsh at O.3.d.5.4., and the other companies were to go round by the railway bridge. We moved down in small parties at 50 yards distance, Lieut. Deane in command of "D" Company, myself in charge of No. 13 Ptn and Lieut. Campbell in charge of 14 Ptn. When we got to the canal I went forward and found that the floating track had not been finished across the water. Lieut. Deane sent word back to Major Ferres to this effect. A little later an Engineer Officer of 14th Engineers came along, went across the other side in a boat and came back and told me he had discovered a track, so I went across with him to have a look at it. We went ahead cautiously following a line of trees, having great difficulty in getting through the rushes. As nobody had been there before, ~~and~~ we had to force and pick a track. We then came to a little stream about 130 yards ahead and thought that if we bridged it and finished the other we could march the company across. When I returned to Lieut. Deane I told him this and he informed Major Ferres, who said that if we could get across he would very likely get the rest of the Battalion over there. "D" Company then supplied a fatigue party to carry floats, duckboards, etc. for the Engineers who finished building the cork float. The next thing was to get a bridge over the small stream. I might say that before the float was completed Lieut. Deane put me in charge of the patrol to do the job, the job being to get across and establish a post on the other side. I then got my men ready (12 men, 2 N.C.O's and myself, with 1 Lewis Gun team). Before the float was completed and whilst the men were working on it I had a post at the small stream for protection. When the float was finished I got my patrol in readiness, whilst the Engineers worked on the small bridge. Whilst they were working on it, Capt. Peacock came along the canal with his company and Lieut. Campbell heard him remark that he was going to get his men across in boats. However when he got the boats, we had the cork float already finished and starting on the 2nd small bridge. From what I could see of things Capt. Peacock then took charge and said he was going to get his patrol across first by sending a Sergeant and a party of men ahead and establishing a post on the other side. When the bridge was completed his Sergeant went ahead and scouted about. A little later Capt. Peacock went forward so I went ahead to see what was happening. I had a talk to Capt. Peacock and told him I would go back and bring my men immediately behind him, the idea being for me to establish a post on left of track and he a post on right, to protect companies whilst coming through. I was just leaving him when I heard a shot fired and then another three rifle shots, and then a machine gun burst. His leading man was killed, the Sergeant wounded, also a couple of others. The leading had got about 15 to 20 yards from the enemy post when he was discovered and shot? The enemy then directed machine gun fire on the small bridge, where one of my men was killed and another wounded. We had great difficulty in getting back but did so eventually. Lieut. Deane then informed Major Ferres as to the state of affairs and we stayed there until we got orders to go back to our old position in the trench. Machine Gunner, Pte Carra, was buried before we left at O.3.d.5.4. on canal bank.

(Sgd) G. LAING Lieut.  
"D" Coy. 58th Battalion A.I.F.



NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "B" Coy., 58th BATTALION AIF.  
on 1st, 2nd and 5th September 1918.



NARRATIVE BY No. 3484 Sgt. T. WILLIAMSON, Act/C.S.M.

On the night 31st August/1st September we were informed to hold ourselves ready to move to attack PERONNE, the barrage for which fell on PERONNE at 6 a.m. About 8 a.m. "B" Coy., moved forward from their position in trenches on West side of Canal, led by our O.C. - Lieut. MORRISON. We passed through the old C.C.S. to the main PERONNE - AMIENS road, turned to the left along the ~~asse~~ side of low bank where we came under heavy M.G. fire and sustained two casualties. Crossing the road we passed over the Railway line to the edge of swamp and taking advantage of cover we arrived at the wrecked railway bridge and again came under M.G. fire; also at this period we were in the enemy barrage of Field guns and heavy artillery. Crossing the bridge we were at the Southern edge of PERONNE and rested until about 10.30 a.m. when we again moved forward through the town to the Northern end. At two points in the town we were under M.G. fire, also shell gas and heavy artillery. Arriving at the Northern end of PERONNE we came in touch with the 54th Battalion.

The objectives were - 59th Battalion to advance along the railway through FLAMICOURT; "A" and "B" Companies, 58th Battalion to attack the North-East end of PERONNE with the 54th Battalion on our left. Patrols were sent out and the O's.C. "A" and "B" Companies reconnoitred the position in front, and finding the enemy M.G. fire too heavy, reported same to the C.O., - Major H.D.G. FERRES MC., who told us to stand by, which we did until about 7 p.m. The 14th Brigade, having made their position secure, we moved back to the Southern end of the town and remained there until about 9.30 p.m.. Then, leaving one Platoon attached to "C" Company, the remainder of "B" Company moved back to old position on the Western side of Canal.

(sgd) T. WILLIAMSON Sgt. a/C.S.M.  
"B" Coy., 58th Battalion. AIF.



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NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "C" COMPANY 58th Battalion,  
A.I.F. IN THE VICINITY OF PERONNE.

## APPENDIX

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NARRATIVE BY LIEUT. J. O. BROWN, "C" Coy., 58th Battalion, A.I.F.  
- OPERATIONS OF 1st/2nd Sept. 1918.

On the morning of 1/9/18 the company was occupying a line of trenches and posts at O.3.a.2.7.

At 10.30 a.m. orders were received to move the company across the canal. Under fairly heavy machine gunfire the canal was crossed by the bridge at I.33.d.3.9. and a position taken up on the ramparts at I.33.d.4.9., the Lewis Guns being mounted to cover the swamp and approaches to the bridge. No. 9 Platoon was in touch with the 59th Battalion on the right.

At 7 p.m. orders were received to protect the bridge head for the night. A liaison patrol was in touch with the 54th Battalion on the left in the town of PERONNE.

At 4.30 a.m. the company was ordered to stand by and at 5 a.m. moved up to the town. I was detailed to bring up the rear of the company.

Being caught in the enemy barrage in the town and the streets becoming impassable, the company was moved by an alternate route to an assembly point in quarry at I.27.b.2.5. This point was reached at 6.30 a.m. and the company was detailed as reserve company to the Battalion.

At 1 p.m. the company was moved up to reinforce the front line. I was in charge of Nos. 10 & 12 platoons, and consolidated on the ramparts in immediate support to "A" and "B" companies at I.22.d.1.2., mounting 5 Lewis guns and later two Vickers Guns of the 15th Machine Gun Company. Here we were subjected to intermittent shell fire during the afternoon and evening but no casualties were caused.

At 1.30 a.m. relief was effected by 57th Battalion and I moved platoons through the town to a trench position to O.3.d.2.8.

On 3/9/18 I was evacuated to the transport lines by the M.O.

(Sgd) J. O. BROWN Lieut.  
"C" Coy. 58th Battalion A.I.F.



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NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "C" COMPANY 58th BATTALION  
A.I.F. IN THE VICINITY OF PERONNE.

## APPENDIX

NARRATIVE BY LIEUT. T. E. TAIT, O.C. "C" Coy. for operation I/9/18.

At 1 a.m. on I/9/18 I was ordered to hand over command of "B" Company to Lieut. Morrison and take over "C" Coy. which was situated along the line O.3.a.2.7 - O.3.a.3.3. At 9.30 a.m. an order was received to stand by ready to move and at 10.30 a.m. the company moved down and crossed the canal by bridge at I.33.d.3.9., guides being supplied by Headquarters. The company was subjected to rather heavy machine gun fire during the move but only sustained slight casualties. On arrival I reported to the C.O. and was ordered to place the company Lewis Guns (5) in position along the ramparts at I.33.d.4.9., and give covering fire ~~the~~ to the 59th Battalion who were moving North along the Railway Line in the direction of PERONNE station. Remainder of the company was held as reserve and dug in at the foot of the ramparts in the vicinity. At 7 p.m. a verbal order was given for the company to take up a position along the line I.33.b.4.0. - I.33.d.5.8., connecting up with the 59th Battalion on right and establishing a liaison post with the 54th Battalion at Bridge at I.33.b.3.1. The company remained in these positions during the night 1st/2nd Sept. 1918.

(Sgd) T. E. TAIT Lieut.  
O.C., "C" Coy., 58th Battalion AIF.

NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "D" Coy., 58th BATTALION AIF.  
in the vicinity of PERONNE.

NARRATIVE BY 2/Lieut. J.L.M. CAMPBELL (Platoon Commander)

OPERATIONS OF Sept. 1st 1918.

At 10.30 p.m. the Company moved forward to the Canal to attempt a crossing at O.3.d.5-4. On reaching the canal the Company was halted, as the marsh had not been completely bridged. I put my men under cover where they remained, except when employed as a carrying party for bridging material, until it was decided to abandon the attempt, when the Company returned in small parties to the starting point.

(Sgd) LEWIS M. CAMPBELL 2/Lieut.  
"D" Coy., 58th Battalion. A.I.F.



NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "C" Company, 58th BATTALION  
A.I.F. IN THE VICINITY OF PERONNE.

## APPENDIX

NARRATIVE BY No. 4589 SERGT. R. STEVENS, No. II Platoon, "C" Coy.,  
58th BATTALION A.I.F. - operations 1st/2nd Sept. 1918.

On the morning of 1st Sept. 1918 No. II Platoon was occupying front line trenches in O.3.a.2.7. At 9.30 a.m. we received orders to get ready to move. At 10.30 a.m. we moved in open formation down the road and crossed the river by bridge at I.33.d.3.9. and took up position in ramparts at I.33.d.4.9. The Lewis Gun was pushed forward on our right and mounted to give covering fire to the 59th Battalion who were moving up the Railway line about 150 yards in front of our position. At 7 p.m. we took up a position to protect the road bridge at O.33.d.3.9. for the night.

At 4.30 a.m. on the 2/9/18 we received orders to be ready to move and moved out at 5 a.m. Moving along the road leading into PERONNE in parties of sections with an interval of 30 yards between sections. While moving through the town we were caught in the enemy barrage at 5.30 a.m. As the acting C.S.M. was wounded I was ordered to take over his duties.

(Sgd) R. STEVENS Sergt.  
"C" Coy., 58th Battalion A.I.F.







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APPENDIX

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NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS.

carried out by

58th BATTALION. A. I. F.

in the vicinity of PERONNE.

on sept. 2nd 1918.

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APPENDIX 2

Narrative by Lieut. G. LAING, O.C., "D" Coy. 58th Battalion,  
Operation of 2/9/18.

Battalion moved forward on its way to PERONNE at 4 a.m. on the 2/9/18 with orders to assist the 54th Battalion mop up PERONNE and to establish posts on outskirts, then to await the flanks swinging round before resuming the attack. "D" Coy., commanded by Lieut. Deane moved off at about 4 a.m. followed by "C" Coy. "D" Company had two platoons - 13 and 15. I commanded No. 13, Lieut. Campbell, 15. We kept in touch with "B" Coy. who were ahead and moved off in small sections at 50 paces distance. Everything went well until we got to Regimental Aid Post where we came under machine gun fire but had no casualties. We then proceeded through the village. It was not long before the enemy put a very heavy barrage on the town through which we had to pass. The bombardment consisted of heavy H.E., gas shells and shrapnel. The H.E. striking the cobble stone and stone and brick buildings proved far more effective than otherwise. The town itself reeked with gas fumes. Lieut. Deane was badly wounded half way through the town at the place where the enemy bombardment was at its worst. I took command of the company then and passed through the town. Owing to heavy gas fumes and smoke everybody had to put their gas masks on. In doing this we lost touch with "B" Coy. for the time being, so I took the company through the village and got the men under the best cover I could find, half the company behind a moat and half across the canal in the side of a bank. I then got in touch with Capt. Dowling of 54th Battalion, who had not moved forward as we understood he would. He told me that the flanks had not yet moved round and that he was not moving until he had received word from the 56th Battalion on his left. I then hunted round and got in touch with "B" Company, and afterwards with Major Ferres at Battalion Headquarters. My orders were then to hold fast till I heard further from him. I might say that although he was wounded and limping badly at the time he was nevertheless in great spirits, considering the shaking up the Battalion had just had. From the Major down everybody bore themselves well, and kept up the good spirit which the 58th Battalion have always had. It was not long before I had orders from Major Ferres to proceed with "A" and "B" Companies to attack and mop up the town on the left, and then to establish posts on the outskirts. At about 8.30 a.m. the company moved off in rear of "B" Company in small sections, 50 yards apart, Lieut. Campbell bringing up the rear. At 1.27.b.O.6. the Company Commanders of "A", "B" and "D" Companies had a conference with Capt. Forsyth who was wounded and could not carry on. In the meantime the men were got under cover as much as possible, which was difficult as machine guns were playing on us from left flank and at different places through the village. At the conference it was decided that "A" and "B" Companies should form the first wave, with "D" in the second to support them. "A" and "B" moved forward at about 9 a.m., "B" Coy. on left "A" on right. When they got forward 100 yards more I sent 1 N.C.O. and 2 men forward to keep touch and then followed myself till I reached a point 1/28.a.2.8. I then sent back word to "D" Company to come up in small parties. On arrival these parties hid behind cover. I then collected the platoon and section N.C.O.'s and told them their job and pointed out their position as near as possible. "D" Company advanced from the position at 10.15 a.m. in artillery formation in small sections, Lewis Gun team assisted by riflemen, company headquarters in the centre, stretcher bearers and trench ~~mortars~~ mortars, of which I had one section attached to me under Lieut. Craigie, bringing up the rear. The advance was successful and the company suffered no casualties until we reached the other companies. Here the platoon on the right reinforced the right flank of "A" Company and the left platoon with myself and Company Headquarters formed a left flank and entrenched at 1.22.c.9.9. from which point we could overlook the gap between ~~the~~ the 58th and 56th Battalions. Posts were immediately established and the Lewis Gun opened out on the enemy who were retiring from the front and left front. I then collected the captured enemy machine guns, placed them in a suitable position, and gave them over to teams of three to four men, having instructed them how they were to be used.

P.T.O.



(Sgd) G. LAING. Lieut.  
"D" Coy., 58th Battalion A.I.F.

German Maxim Guns	3 Light, .4 Heavy.
Minenwerfers	3



APPENDIX

NARRATIVE BY 3467 SGT. A. BOADLE

(Platoon Commander) 2/9/18.

At 5.30 a.m. I received orders to be ready to move with remainder of Company which were joining me on the Southern end of PERONNE. At 6 a.m. we moved forward through PERONNE and crossed ~~xxxx~~ Canal by the narrow bridge. From that point the advance was particularly severe; viz, Our barrage which was to fall on LA CHAPELLE on N.E. PERONNE fell on the centre portion of the town. The Hun opened up a barrage of H.E. and gas. 2 separate attempts were made to get through Western side of town. O.C. "D" Coy. reported barrage too severe so we retired to Eastern portion and turned due West near Church. Gas was very bad, helmets having to be worn. Advancing at the double we arrived at Northern end of PERONNE at 7 a.m. and took cover on Canal bank. Wounded, ~~xxxx~~ several being stretcher cases, were conveyed across the canal by means of a small boat under heavy fire. At this operation particularly fine work was done by Sgt. J. Bowler and Pte. A.J. Freeman. After getting clear the wounded we moved to cover of high bank round swamp where rolls were checked and Company reorganised.

About 10 a.m. the Company; consisting of 1 Officer and 40 other ranks moved forward to jumping off point in direction of LA CHAPELLE. O.C., Lieut. Morrison; gave detailed instructions to all N.C.O.'s concerning operations. Capt. Forsyth MC. was O.C. Attack - "A" Coy. on the left, "B" Coy. on the right, 59th Battalion on the left flank, "C" Company in Supports and "D" Company mopping up.

Attack began about 10.30 a.m. - 5 Platoon right flank, 6 Platoon, left; 7 Platoon and Coy. H.Q., Supports. As we were leaving cover of high banks Huns opened up heavy M.G. fire from high banks. Company returned fire and we advanced. Huns fought with guns until we were within 40 yards range. Our fire had been very effective as 4 Machine Guns were silenced. 12 Huns were killed and 6 wounded were captured. Advanced to outskirts of village to high bank over looking low ground in swamp. Again came under heavy machine gun fire from front and left flank (particularly severe and high fire from right flank) There, 2 Sgts. were killed. Company returned fire and silenced Machine guns. The enemy were thoroughly disorganised and retreated in disorder. Lewis Gun and rifle fire was brought to bear on the enemy. Firing was very effective. At this point of attack 80 to 90 Huns, including 4 Officers, under protection of white shirt, surrendered. The wounded German Major was found in dug-out but succumbed to wounds. The Huns who retired into thick wood in swamp took up M.G. positions on edge of bank about 400 yards N.E. of our positions. Company of 1 Officer and 30 other ranks was reorganised into three sections and took up defensive position. At this period O.C. asked for reinforcements and ammunition (the above were supplied immediately). Our defensive positions were on the lower ground on outskirts of village, No. 1 and 2 Posts were on high ground covering road to DOINGT. No. 3 Post was 100 yards to right guarding right flank with 2 Lewis Guns and 1 German M.G. This post was composed of 10 "B" Company and 9 "C" Company men. At this period flanks were in the air. On the left of "A" Coy. about 1000 yards distant, the 59th Battalion, having failed to advance. Some considerable time later the right flank of the 60th Battalion swung forward and established connection with "A" Coy. Left flank. During afternoon Capt. PEACOCK of 57th Battalion took charge of Battalion as C.O., Major Ferres had been evacuated wounded. During afternoon active sniping was carried out by all ranks with considerable success. At nightfall 2 patrols were pushed forward. Harrassing artillery fire at short intervals was kept up throughout the operation. About 11 p.m. relief was carried out by 57th Battalion. Above was rather inconvenienced owing to the enemy barraging with Gas shells.

All Companies moved back to their original position on Western side of Canal. All ranks were very tired but in high spirits. Our O.C., Lieut. Morrison, by his splendid dash, leadership and ~~xxxxxx~~ cheerfulness was one of the main factors contributing to the successful operation. All ranks, especially Lewis Gunners, displayed great skill and initiative in pushing forward the attack.

(SGD)

A. BOADLE

SGT.



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58th BATTALION  
43  
About 3.30 a.m. on 2/9/18 I received orders to have Company ready to move at a moments notice. This order was followed by runners with orders to move to bridge we had left the night previous and await instructions from C.O. who would see all Company Commanders there. We arrived at position stated and received instructions to move forward to position. "A" and "B" Company had been on the day previous, and in the following order. "A" Coy. then "B", followed by "D" and "C". During our march through PERONNE we came under very heavy barrage of both our own heavy H.E. and the enemy was using a lot of gas shell. About half way through the centre of the town the barrage fell on the main street that we were to advance along ~~making~~ it practically impassable without having a great number of casualties. "A" Coy. managed to get through before the main barrage fell, and in the move Major FERRES MC. and Capt. FORSYTH MC. were wounded. Finding the route practically impassable I ordered the Company to turn about and make a detour behind the main part of the barrage. I led the Coy. around and took up a position along Canal bank on the North side of the town. We suffered 21 casualties getting through. I immediately reorganised Company and checked the men finding that I only had 40 left, including Company Headquarters.

Major Ferres then ordered "A" and "B" Companies to attack with "D" Company in support. We moved forward in artillery formation till we came under heavy M.G. fire from N.E. end of the town. "A" Coy. Lieut. SLAUGHTER MC. in charge was to attack on left, "B" Coy. on right. 59th Battalion were ~~to~~ supposed to attack on left and connect up with "A" Company. After having a conference of all N.C.O's of "A" and "B", we decided that "B" Company would dribble across bridge and form a line along bank on right side of town and wait till "A" Coy. had formed up on left. I sent out a patrol to find out if right was

passable, then moved across, coming under very heavy M.G. fire. We suffered no casualties in crossing bridge. In reaching bank I could see a large body of enemy about 150 yards in front and 5 machine guns on bank. I ordered Lewis Gunners to engage the machine gunners which they succeeded in putting out of action. I then ordered Company to attack in the following order - No. 5 and 6 Platoon on first wave, 7 Platoon on Company H.Q. on second wave (Sgt. Williamson to take charge of second wave) and follow about 50 yards in rear and mop up dug-outs. I took charge of the leading 2 Platoons and found the Machine guns along bank in front had been put out of action by Lewis Gun fire and all their crews wounded or killed. It was reported to me by No. 6 Platoon that a large body of enemy were holding up left flank so I ordered No. 5 Platoon to push forward and engage the enemy on left from the rear, which was successful. A Sgt. in "A" Coy. was called upon to surrender by the enemy. He charged the enemy with 3 men and killed 5 and captured 1 Machine gun, the left flank then pushed forward. The enemy were retiring quickly but owing to Lewis Gun fire and rifle fire, about 80 of the enemy ran into a ravine and we afterwards captured them. ~~xxxxxxhaltedxxxxxx~~ We then halted the Companies and formed a defensive line along banks of moat on outskirts of town. Finding both flanks in the air about 1000 to 1500 yards, "A" Coy. could not get touch with 59th Battalion, owing to that Unit not moving forward. After having a conference, we formed defensive flanks and sent word back to C.O., 58th Battalion, who got into touch with 59th and found that they had not moved forward. By this time "D" Company had come up and dug in on left flank, thus protecting left flank. I then reorganised the Company, ~~finding that~~ finding that the Company had had 10 casualties in the advance. I then sent a message back to try and find out if there were any Units on my right flank. The C.O., Major Ferres informed that FLAMICOURT was held by the enemy and to throw out a strong defensive flank. This had already been done. C.O. was evacuated wounded and Capt. PEACOCK of 57th Battalion was in charge of Battalion. About 6 p.m. he visited the front line with I.O., Lieut MOON "VC", who had previously visited the Companies and reported the positions and strengths of Companies to the C.O. We were relieved about 11 p.m. that night.

(Sgd) W. MORRISON

Lieut.



I.I.F. in the vicinity of PERONNE on Sept. 2nd 1918.

## APPENDIX

NARRATIVE BY Lieut. T. A. SLAUGHTER MC.

At approximately 5 a.m. on morning of the 2nd Company left trenches in O.2.c.2-4 and proceeded to R.A.P. Here Capt. FORSYTH MC. called in for Major Ferres MC. and I took the Company on to the Moat - I.27.a.9-6 our assembly position of previous day. I had got about half way to destination when our barrage came down. About 5 minutes later the Hun replied with a heavy barrage right through the town. By this time "A" Company which was leading Company was under cover in moat, the other three Companies being caught in barrage and consequently suffered casualties. The reason the Companies were caught in barrage was due to the fact that 2 hours instead of being 6 a.m. as understood was 5.30 a.m.

Shortly after "A" Company reached Assembly position Major Ferres and Capt. Forsyth who were both in rear of Company, were both wounded by shell fire. From this position, with Major Ferres, I went forward reconnaissance and dispositions for attack were made. The enemy held the positions very strongly with Machine guns commanding all approaches.

A bridge at I.22.c was the first objective. After crossing this "B" Company went to right of road and "A" Company to left. In advance of Company I sent forward 2 patrols of Lewis Gunners. The scouts with these patrols located enemy M.G. positions and the excellent fire of the Lewis Gunners the Hun soon found that he was up against it. The broken buildings and the ramparts afforded excellent cover and enabled the Platoon Commanders to get close to the enemy without being observed. From some vantage point Lewis Gun and Rifle fire was brought to bear on enemy Machine gun. This action invariably demoralised the enemy and enabled the post to be rushed. By employing these methods 10 machine guns and 1 Trench Mortar which consisted of enemy defence in my sector were captured. The enemy killed and wounded on my sector, I estimate at about 100.

After advancing about 400 yards I decided to halt and consolidate position taken.

A defensive flank on the left had to be formed owing to the fact that the Battalion on my left was unable to get forward. I established Lewis Gun posts on the ramparts which ran along my right flank. These ramparts also afforded good cover and were an excellent natural defence. On my direct front running approximately North and South for about 100 yards I established 2 strong points. Here, I linked up with "B" Company who consolidated on my right. I sent word back to my Battalion Commander giving dispositions and stating what had been done. I then received an order from him not to move forward until the Battalion on left came up. The rest of the day was spent in consolidating positions gained.

At dusk I sent forward from right of my position ~~and~~ a strong patrol which also served as a listening post. That evening at about 10 p.m. I was relieved by 57th Battalion. I then returned with Company to the position vacated by the 57th Battalion.

(Sgd) T. A. SLAUGHTER

Lieut.

"A" Coy., 58th Battalion. AIF.



NARRATIVE BY Lieut. E. A. O'MALLEY MC. a/Adjt., ON OPERATION OF  
58th BATTALION in the vicinity of PERONNE on 2nd September 1918.

## APPENDIX 2

At 2.40 a.m. on 2/9/18 a message came from Brigade stating that 2nd Aust. Division was carrying on the attack at 5.30 a.m. and would form a defensive flank on the North of PERONNE. A few minutes later the C.O. (Major H.D.G. FERRES MC.) was called to Brigade and was instructed to have the Battalion ready to move at once. The C.O. returned at 4 a.m. with orders to assist in the taking of PERONNE the East end of which was in enemy hands. This was to be done in co-operation with 54th Battalion whose C.O. was to issue any further orders to C.O. 58th Battn.

Breakfast arrived at 4 a.m. and the men were able to have the meal before starting off. I brought H.Q. along in rear of Companies. When we reached the town of PERONNE it was being heavily shelled. On getting into the town a block occurred in front, as there was only a narrow foot bridge for everybody to pass over and casualties were numerous. As the block did not clear I withdrew the details out of the shelling and formed a rear headquarters, temporarily, in our previous days Headquarters in a tunnel at I.33.d;7-7. Soon after, urgent messages came to me by Runner and these were sent straight on to Brigade. The position was evidently a most useful one to forward Headquarters, so as soon as the shelling slowed down, a line was run forward. This put forward Headquarters in touch with Brigade. At about 10 a.m. a message was received asking for ammunition. A party of H.Q. details were at once set working between dump at O.3.a.2-8 and another party of details between rear and forward Headquarters; although only about 4 men were available for each relay, they worked very hard and soon had more S.A.A. and bombs forward than they could use.

Later Major Ferres came down wounded, after being relieved by Capt. BRACOCK, 57th Battalion. At about 10 p.m. the Battalion came back and returned to their old position (at O.8.central).

8/9/18

(Sgd) E. A. O'MALLEY Lieut.  
a/Adjt., 58th Battalion. AIF.





September 2nd. - ATTACK ON EASTERN HALF OF PERONNE.

# APPENDIX

At 2.40 a.m. a message was received from 15th A.I. Brigade that 2nd Aust. Div. was carrying out operations at 5.30 a.m. to form a defensive flank to I.I6.a and b., I.I7.a.25-65, I.II.d.4-4, and thence along road to D.26.a.3-0.

A few minutes later a telephone call directed the C.O., - Major H.D.G. FERRES MC., to report at once to Brigade H.Q. and to have the Battalion ready to move at once. Major Ferres went to Brigade Headquarters and returned about 4 a.m., having received orders to report with the Battalion to O.C., 54th Battalion in PERONNE, and assist him in taking the town, the E. of which was still in enemy possession. He stated he had been told that there would be an artillery barrage in connection with the attack - zero hour, 6 a.m., and that for any further orders he must look to the C.O., 54th Battalion who was in PERONNE. Company Commanders were summoned at once and were directed to move their Companies up into PERONNE in order, "A", "B", "D" and "C".

Breakfast arrived opportunely at 4 a.m. and after the meal the men were in good spirits. "A" Company were first through the town, but the O.C., "A" Company came back to the entrance to the town at the road bridge to guide the C.O. and Headquarters forward.

As the Battalion was advancing through the village in small sections in file at 50 paces distance, our barrage opened at 5.3. a.m., or half an hour before the time previously notified to Major FERRES. The enemy, within 5 minutes, replied with an intense bombardment of the town which had the effect of inflicting many casualties on the Battalion. The C.O. and Capt. R. B. FORSYTH MC., O.C., "A" Coy., who, with me, were at the head of the Battalion (less "A" Coy. already under cover), were wounded at the first burst but were able to carry on and get under cover in the old moat at I.27.b.2-5. Here the rest of the Battalion came by degrees but all "B", "C" and "D" Companies had casualties to report - "D" Company having lost their O.C., - Lieut. C. A. DEANE, wounded dangerously. After a while the shrapnel of our own barrage from the West made it necessary to move to another part of the moat; but when the barrage ceased, the fact that this part could be enfiladed by the enemy induced us to return to the first position.

On the barrage ceasing the C.O. and I went forward with half of "A" Company, under Lieut. T. A. SLAUGHTER MC., along the Northern edge of the town up towards the enemy in the East. There was still some shelling but the M.G. fire was very accurate indeed, almost every street being enfiladed and every corner most unhealthy. Major FERRES could walk with difficulty owing to his wounded leg, but insisted on going forward. He disposed Lieut. Slaughter on the North edge of PERONNE, and, at this time, 7.30 a.m., received a message from C.O., 54th Battalion. I should say he had before moving from Battalion Headquarters despatched the I.O., Lieut. R. V. MOON "VC" to get touch with 54th Battalion. The message received was as follows -

"54th Battalion AIF

to C.O., 58th Battalion AIF.

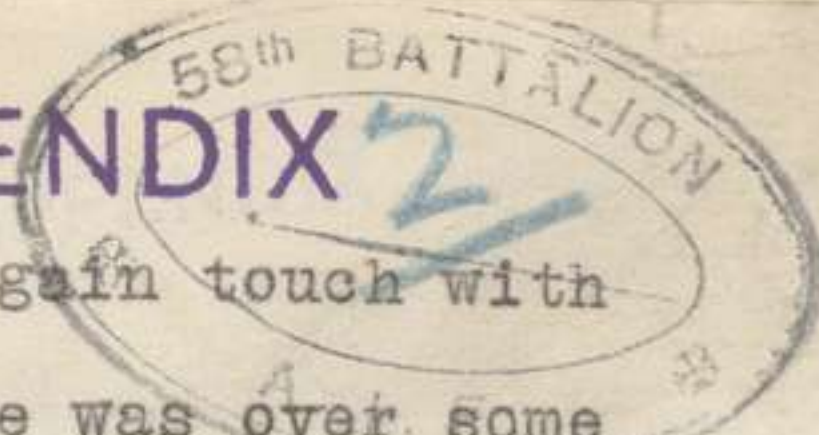
Have had no instructions with regard to 58th Battalion. C.O., 56th Battalion is running the show. Consider you should be held in reserve with one Company assisting our people in mopping up ~~any~~ NE edge of PERONNE. Orders have already been issued to my senior Coy. Commander, Capt. DOWNING, making him responsible for this job, but I would be glad of the assistance of one of your Companies to aid in this operation. Your I.O. knows where Capt. Downing is situated and if your Company Commander reports to him he will get full details of what Downing is doing. The 56th Battalion H.Q. is at I.21.c.2-8 You should get into communication at once with them.

(Sgd) R. A. SMITH. Lieut. Adht.  
for Lieut-Col.

6 a.m. 2/9/18.

C.O., 54th Battalion A.I.F.





On receipt of this message Major FERRES set off to gain touch with 56th Battalion.

It was now, however, 7.30 a.m.; the barrage was over some time. No men of 54th Battalion were then in evidence on this portion of the town. It was uncertain when communication would be made with 56th Battalion and every moment the enemy had more time to recover from the effect from our artillery which had probably ~~not~~ not been without effect on his M.G. defences. In these circumstances Major FERRES decided to take the initiative without waiting for orders. Sending a patrol under Lieut. MOREY into the village and posting Lieut. SLAUGHTER, he made his way back to the moat where the Battalion was, established Headquarters there and sent on remainder of "A", "B" and "D" Companies to mop up the town, keeping "C" Company in reserve. The mopping up Companies had orders to consolidate a position on the E. side of the town if they could get there until their flanks were secure.

Brigade was notified of this position of Headquarters and the action taken by ~~the~~ message sent back to rear Battalion Headquarters (where the Assistant Adjutant, Lieut. O'MALLEY MC., had established himself at I.33.d.7-7) by runner, and thence by phone to Brigade. Casualties up to this time estimated at 3 Officers and 46 other ranks.

The attack was then launched at 8 a.m. "D" Company was under the Command of Lieut. G. LAING and was in support to "A" Coy. (on left) and "B" Coy. on right.

The first message to come back was one at 9.50 a.m. from Lieut. G. Laing reporting good progress up to 9.19 a.m., but heavy M.G. opposition.

At 10 a.m. arrived messages from "A" and "B" Companies stating they were meeting and overcoming M.G. opposition - "A" Company, however, reporting its left flank getting in the air, while saw the same of its right. The 56th Battalion on the left and 54th on the right being then unable to get forward.

At the same time 4 Officers and 81 other ranks prisoners were sent down by "A" Company and despatched at once to Brigade under guard. More ammunition for Machine guns was asked for also. Messages for S.A.A. were sent to the rear at once and Lieut. O'Malley MC. organised a relay service of ammunition carriers forward from where our echelon was dumped, some 1500 yards beyond the canal at O.3.8.3-8. The ammunition was carried by Battalion Headquarters Pioneers and all runners on return to Forward Battalion Headquarters or up towards the line. By 12 noon our line ran approximately from I.22.d.0-8 to I.22.d.0-1., with a bulge Eastward about the centre. The Battalion had consolidated along this line with a defensive flank to both right and left. In response to messages that heavy casualties had been suffered and that the line was very thin "C" Coy. had been sent up under Lieut. T. E. TAIT and had disposed its platoons along the whole front.

Major. FERRES reported the position to Brigade by phone and was told that 2 M.G. sections would be sent up to him. Meantime, he sent me round to see C.O., 54th Battalion to ask him to move forward one of his Companies from the town on our right so as to cover the gap on our right flank. Lieut-Col. N. MARSHALL DSO. MC., C.O., 54th Battalion proceeded up to the line, but on his arrival found that Lieut. G. LAING by collecting and placing in position 7 enemy Machine guns captured that morning had so strengthened the flank that his assistance was not needed. Lieut-Col. MARSHALL returned to our Battalion Headquarters and so informed us. Lieut. LAING deserves great praise for his action at this juncture, for he not only collected and sited the guns but moved about under heavy fire instructing the men in the use of the captured weapons. As there was ample German M.G. ammunition this greatly eased the strain on our ammunition supply.





About this time the enemy were seen coming back into CHAIR WOOD and FLAMICOURT, and it looked as if a counter attack was preparing. At 1 p.m., Capt. B. PEACOCK, 57th Battalion, arrived at the Moat and instructed by Brigade took over the command from Major. FERRES who then made his way painfully to the R.A.P. established in a tunnel near the bridge over the Canal at I.33.d.7-7. With him went Capt. R. B. FORSYTH MC., who up to this time had refused to leave. Capt. PEACOCK at once went up to survey the line accompanied by the I.O., Lieut. R.V. Moon. On his return he expressed himself as satisfied with the position as strengthened by Lieut. Laing and the Commanders of "A" and "B" Companies. About 3 p.m. 2 M.G. sections arrived at Battalion H.Q. having suffered heavy casualties coming through the town, losing much ammunition. They had 6 further casualties almost at once in the Moat. Their O.C. went forward to choose position but on returning said he had decided that only 4 guns were necessary in view of the captured M.G.'s sited by Lieut. Laing to whom he was lending 1 man per gun to assist in working it.

It was reported that Lieut. H. V. MOREY had been killed in action, but no definite news of his death could be obtained at the time. Later in the day the Battalion on the left were enabled, owing to the captured by our forces of the high ground of and East of MONT ST. QUENTIN to move up and avert any danger to our left flank. The threatened attack from CHAIR WOOD and from the right did not materialise and evening was quiet. The Battalion was relieved at night by 57th Battalion, but owing to the nature of the line it was a long relief and the Battalion was not all out until 1 a.m. By 2.30 a.m. the Battalion was back in trenches on West side of Canal with H.Q. at O.8.a.3-3.

During the taking of the village some 25 - 30 enemy machine guns (at the lowest) were taken, and 3 Trench Mortars or Minenwerfers together with 4 Officers and 100 other ranks prisoners. Many more than this number were killed. Owing to the necessity for pressing on and the need of every man all the time no count or labelling of captured guns etc., was possible.

I would emphasise what appeared to me the sound leadership as contracted with mere personal gallantry, exercised during the day by Lieuts. W. MORRISON, G. LAING and T. A. SLAUGHTER MC. These Officers, not usually in command of Companies found the Command devolve on them at the outset owing to casualties, and in the case of Lieuts. MORRISON and SLAUGHTER, they were the only Officers with the Company. They showed fine judgement in selecting positions to consolidate, kept touch with each other and Battalion H.Q. throughout. That the line they chose to consolidate was met with the approval of Capt. PEACOCK when he took over command, speaks for itself.

Lieut. LAING'S work in connection with strengthening the line with captured Machine Guns has been referred to. This Officer showed the greatest coolness throughout.

(Sgd) W. S. SPROULE.

58th Battalion.

Capt. & Adjt.

A. I. F.

9-9-18





# APPENDIX

NARRATIVE BY Lieut. R. V. MOON "VC" a/I.O. ON THE OPERATION OF

the 58th BATTALION AIF. in the vicinity of PERONNE on the 2nd September 1918.

At about 4.30 a.m. on the 2nd inst. the Battalion received orders to move through PERONNE and gain touch with 54th Battalion on N.W. of the town, where they were to be under orders of Lieut-Col. MARSHALL DSO., ~~MC.~~ MC., and it was understood that we were to advance EAST through the outskirts of PERONNE and swing SOUTH, occupying the high ground in I.35 and O.5. and outflanking FLAMICOURT.

I was sent on to get in touch with Lieut-Col. MARSHALL at his Headquarters and to find out what part we were to play in the operations. ZERO was to be at 6 a.m. and as it was 5 a.m. before the Battalion was on the move they were passing through PERONNE at 5.30 a.m. when the enemy's retaliatory barrage descended on the town in answer to our own which started at about that time. I reached Lieut-Col. MARSHALL'S Headquarters at 5.55 a.m. after running practically the whole way. The enemy was pounding the town and roads to the west and North-west with H.E. and Gas Shells of all calibres.

On my arrival at 54th Battalion Headquarters I found that they had no orders at all concerning us and were quite ignorant of 15th Brigade moving over to the 14th Brigade Sector.

Lieut-Col. Marshall gave me the following written message to hand to Major FERRES

"To C.O., 58th Battalion.-

Have had no instructions with regard to 58th Battalion. C.O., 56th Battalion is running the show. Consider you should be held in reserve with 1 Company assisting in mopping up N.E. edge of PERONNE. Orders have already been issued to my senior Company Commander, Capt. DOWNING, making him responsible for this job, but I would be glad of the assistance of 1 of your Companies to aid in this operation. Your I.O. knows where Capt. Downing is situated and if your Company Commander reports to him he will get full details of what Downing is doing. The 56th Battalion H.Q. are at I.21.c.2-8. You should get into communication at once with him"

(Sgd) R.A. SMITH Lieut. & Adjt.  
for Lieut-Col.

6 a.m. 2/9/18.

Commanding 54th Battalion

I reached Major FERRES at about 7 a.m. and found that he had pushed two platoons of "A" Company into the village and that they were engaged with the enemy, and he then sent "B" and "D" Companies forward, "D" being in Support. I must mention that during the Battalion's move through PERONNE to where Major FERRES established his Headquarters and reorganised the Battalion before pushing ~~out~~ his patrols (I.27/b.I-5) had suffered severe casualties from the shell fire and that Major Ferres was wounded himself in the leg by a piece of shell. "C" Coy. was kept in reserve at Battalion Headquarters.

At "A" and "B" Companies fought their way through the town capturing 4 Officers and about 100 other ranks and approximately 25 to 30 machine Guns, besides killing many of the enemy, and established themselves in a semi-circular position on the ramparts ~~of~~ round the N.E. end of the town from I.22.c.0-5 to I.28.b.0-9.

As they had sustained casualties and their left flank was in the air Lieut. LAING brought "D" Company up and reinforced, swinging back the left flank a bit and manning it with 7 captured M.Guns thus making that flank fairly secure against attack from the direction and trenches in I.17 and 18. At about Midday whilst I was up getting the map references of our position and finding out the situation the enemy put down a heavy barrage of M.G. and shell fire on our positions causing many casualties including the whole L.T.M.B. crew, ~~at~~ the same time we had word he was massing in CHERE WOOD to counter attack.

I went back for reinforcements, which were urgently required, after delivering Major Ferres' message not to move forward without further instructions and after seeing the post commenced to dig in.

P.T.O.





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On my way back, I met "C" Company coming up to reinforce. The shell fire slackened off and the counterattack did not materialise. Shortly after reaching Battalion H.Q. Major Ferrer was evacuated and Capt. PEACOCK of the 57th Battalion took command, and I took him up to show him the new line which had been pushed forward to within about 400 yards of the railway line by means of advanced posts, and the whole situation was considerably improved and we considered it pretty safe against counter-attack.

The 59th Battalion had moved up in the meantime to a position running roughly from I.22.a.2-9 to I.22.a.8-3 which considerably strengthened our left flank.

The 57th Battalion relieved us that evening at about 1 a.m. and we retired to trenches in vicinity of O.8.a.0.

This ended the operations of the 58th Battalion on the 2nd inst.

On the 3rd inst. at 5.30 a.m. when the enemy's retaliatory barrage descended on the town in answer to our own which started at about that time I reached Lieut-Col. MARSHALL's Headquarters and took over the command of the 58th Battalion. (Sgd) RUPERT W. MOON, Lieut. A.I.F. 58th Battalion. a/I.O.

On my arrival at 54th Battalion Headquarters I found that they had no orders at all concerning us and were quite ignorant of 15th Brigade moving over to the 14th Brigade sector. Lieut-Col. Marshall gave me the following written message to hand to Major FERRER:

"To O.O., 58th Battalion."

Have had no instructions with regard to 58th Battalion. O.O., 58th Battalion is running the show. Consider you should be held in reserve with 1 Company assisting in mopping up H.E. edge of ENEMY. Orders have already been issued to my senior Company Commander, Capt. BOWLING, making him responsible for this job, but I would be glad of the assistance of 1 of your Companies to aid in this operation. Your I.O. knows where Capt. BOWLING is situated and if your Company Commander reports to him he will get full details of what BOWLING is doing. The 58th Battalion H.Q. is at I.21.e.2-8. You should get into communication at once with him.

(Sgd) R.A. SMITH  
Lieut. & Adj. for Lieut-Col.  
Commanding 54th Battalion

3/9/18.

I reached Major FERRER at about 7 a.m. and found that he had pushed two platoons of "A" Company into the village and that they were engaged with the enemy, and he then sent "B" and "C" Companies forward, "B" being in support. I must mention that during the Battalion's move through ENEMY to where Major FERRER established his Headquarters and reorganised the Battalion before pushing me out his patrol (I.27.d.1-5) had suffered severe casualties from the shell fire and that Major Ferrer was wounded himself in the leg by a piece of shell. "C" Coy. was kept in reserve at Battalion Headquarters.

"A" and "B" Companies fought their way through the town capturing 4 Officers and about 100 other ranks and approximately 25 to 30 machine guns, besides killing many of the enemy, and established themselves in a semi-circular position on the ramparts around the N.E. end of the town from I.22.c.0-5 to I.22.d.0-2. As they had sustained casualties and their left flank was in the air, Major FERRER brought "D" Company up and reinforced swinging back the left flank's bit and manning it with 7 captured M.G.s thus making that flank fairly secure against attack from the direction and trenches in I.14 and 18. At about midday whilst I was up getting the map references of our position and finding out the situation the enemy put down a heavy barrage of M.C. and shell fire on our positions causing many casualties including the whole I.T.M.B. crew, at the same time we had word he was massing in CHURCH WOOD to counter-attack. I went back for reinforcements, which were urgently required, after delivering Major Ferrer's message not to move forward without further instructions and after seeing the post commenced to dig in.



I.T.O.



APPENDIX

Whilst in trenches on the West side of Canal near PERONNE we received orders about 3 a.m. to be ready to move, and moving at about 5 a.m. we arrived at South end of PERONNE at about 6 a.m. - led by O.C., Lieut. MORRISON. We moved towards the North end. Our barrage fell on the centre portion of PERONNE at 6.30 a.m. As we were passing through, the enemy barrage also fell on the same place, mixed with shell gas which was very strong.

"D" Coy. was in front of us and I saw Lieut. DEANE, O.C., "D" Coy., being carried out wounded. Finding we could not pass through we turned about and pushed through the town more East, having to wear Respirators and moving at the double. Shells were falling very thick and passing by the Church we sustained heavy casualties. Here I noticed L/Cpl. BOXER MM. dressing the wounded along with the other Stertcher bearer, Pte. MARTIN. They had removed their Respirators to enable them to do their work although the gas was very strong. On arriving at North end of PERONNE we assembled at Bn. H.Q., behind a high bank. Here I saw that our C.O., Major FERRERES MC. has been wounded. I called the roll of "B" Coy., and finding we had sustained 21 casualties, including 1 Sgt., I reorganised the Company into 3 platoons and H.Q.

About 9 a.m., "B" Coy. moved to the assembly point on the outskirts on North East end of PERONNE - Company strength being 1 Officer, Lieut. MORRISON, and 40 other ranks. Lieut. MOREY was on detached duty. Here I saw Capt. FORSYTH MC., O.C., "A" Coy. and in charge of attack, wounded, and he could not proceed any further. Lieut. MORRISON called all Company N.C.O.'s. together and gave them a clear account of what they had to do. The method of attack was as follows - 58th Bttn - "A" Coy., left; "B" Coy., right, with "C" and "D" companies in support.

The attack began at about 10 a.m. We doubled out from cover in twos, across road over bridge, then down a valley. "B" Company was in two parties, myself in charge of the rear and O.C. in charge of the leading party. As we advanced from cover, the enemy opened up a very heavy machine gun fire from both flanks and the front. They were engaged by our Lewis Guns, Lieut. MORRISON using one himself and doing great execution. The enemy fought until gunners were killed or wounded. Distance was about 60 yards - our fire being very effective; We advanced, finding 4 machine guns out of action, 12 enemy killed and 6 wounded. On arrival at the Eastern outskirts of town, we came to a high bank overlooking a moat and low lying swamp. We again engaged heavy machine gun fire successfully (had 2 Sergeants killed and a few other casualties here). The enemy became disorganised and retreated - providing excellent targets for our Lewis Guns and rifles. At this period over 80 enemy, including 4 Officers, under cover of a white shirt, surrendered. A wounded German Major succumbed to his injuries. The O.C., Lieut. MORRISON, sent the prisoners to the rear under escort. "B" Company then took up a defensive position on the lower ground, having the moat in the rear. The O.C. sent for reinforcements and ammunition which promptly arrived. I again reorganised "B" Coy. - finding the strength to be as follows :-

- 1 officer
- 1 a/c.s.m.
- 1 Sgt.
- 2 Cpls.
- 3 L/Cpls.
- 23 Privates.

The posts Nos. 1 & 2 guarded the high ground and road to DOIGNT. No. 3 POST was 100 yards to the right, guarding right flank, with the assistance of 9 men from "C" Coy. This post was composed of 3 Lewis Guns 1 enemy M.G. and 20 men, and was in a small crater and had a good field of fire in any direction. Our right flank not being in touch. "A", "C" and "D" Companies had posts on the left flank and on the high bank to our rear. This made the right flank secure, but the left was exposed for about 1,000 yards on account of the 59th Bn. having failed to advance at the same time as the 58th Bn. After a few hours the 60th Bn. connected up with our left. During the afternoon, Capt. Peacock, 57th Bn., took command of the 58th Bn., Major Ferreres being evacuated Wounded. All ranks carried on active sniping until dark. After dark two patrols were sent forward. Enemy heavy artillery at intervals kept on firing, also using shell gas.

The 58th Bn. was relieved by the 57th Bn. at about 11 p.m. Relief was inconvenienced by an enemy barrage of gas shells.

All companies of 58th Battalion moved back to their old positions

P.T.O.



(sgd) T. WILLIAMSON sergt.  
a/c.S.M. "B" Coy., 58th Battalion A.I.F.



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APPENDIX 2

NARRATIVE BY LIEUT. T. E. TAIT, O.C., "C" Coy., 58th Battalion for operation of 2/9/18.

At 4.30 a.m. on 2/9/18 a telephone message was received for the company to be ready to move at 5 a.m. The C.O. gave orders that we were to follow "D" Company through PERONNE, starting to move immediately. At 5.30 a.m. while moving through the streets the enemy put down a heavy barrage on the town and inflicted severe casualties on the company. As the route taken by the Battalion became impassable I moved the company round the West side of the town and reported at the Battalion assembly position at 6.30 a.m., the company being detailed as reserves and to await orders at I.27.b.2.5. At 11 a.m. No. 9 Platoon was sent forward to reinforce the line companies and at 1 p.m. the remainder of the company moved forward, my orders being to reinforce the defensive left flank and hold the remainder of the company as immediate supports. On arrival at the forward position No. 11 Platoon was sent in on the left of "D" Company at I.22.d.2.5. and Nos. 10 & 12 Platoons moved behind a bank at I.22.d.1.2. I sent a report of my dispositions to Battalion Headquarters at 1.30 p.m. At about 6 p.m. an Officer of the Div. Machine Gun Battalion came and arranged with me as to the number of Vickers Guns required for the defence. As we had a number of the enemy guns in the line in working order we decided that four would be sufficient, the remaining crews being detailed to man the German Guns. His four guns were disposed as follows - 1 at I.22.d.2/7/ covering our left flank; 1 at I.22.d.3.3. covering the road and the other two in the support line at I.22.d.1.2. Nothing further occurred and the company was relieved by two platoons of the 57th Battalion at 1.30 a.m. on 3/9/18 moving back to trenches at O.8.d.9.5.



(Sgd) T. E. TAIT Lieut.  
O.C. "D" Coy. 58th Battalion A.I.F.



NARRATIVE BY 2/Lieut. J.L.M. CAMPBELL (Platoon Commander)

OPERATIONS OF Sept. 2nd 1918.

At 4 a.m. 2/9/18 I received orders to move No. 15 Platoon in rear of No. 13 Platoon in small sections at 50 paces interval and personally to move in rear of the Company.

The advance was conducted without difficulty in spite of a certain amount of M.G. fire until the centre of the town was reached. It was reported to me that Lieut. DEANE had been wounded and that connection had been broken by heavy shell fire. I immediately moved up to the head of the column at I.27.d.3-8. In consultation with Lieut. MORRISON of "B" Company we decided to endeavour to skirt the barrage by the road running through the S.E. part of the town to the Church. Accordingly I ordered No. 15 Platoon to follow in rear of "B" Company and waited for a few minutes to try and get information from a wounded man.

On again reaching the head of the column I found that "B" Coy. had got through but connection had again been lost owing to the barrage dropping onto the road leading to the Church. I succeeded in getting through to the Church myself but as it appeared certain I could not get my men through without heavy casualties I returned and ordered my Platoon to retire and follow "C" Company who were moving along the road from I.27.b.2-3 North to the ramparts. I reported to Lieut. TAIT of "C" Coy. and moved with him rejoining the Battalion at the rendezvous at I.27.c.2-8 and immediately got in touch with Lieut. LAING.

When the Company moved in Support of "A" and "B" Companies I was ordered by Lieut. Laing to bring up the rear. After moving a short distance word was passed back to halt and take cover. On again moving on Lieut. Laing explained what was to be done. I then moved my Platoon through the N.E. side of the town along either side of the Fauberg de Bretagne until I reached the ramparts, having encountered neither Germans nor fire of any kind. On the ramparts round I.22.d.4-4 I found several posts had been established by "A" and "B" Companies. I reinforced this line with my Platoon and as the trench was wide and shallow I set my men to work to improve it while the Lewis Gunners harassed the retiring enemy. I then reported my position to Lieut. Laing.

The rest of the day, having passed quietly, and in spite of a certain amount of shell and M.G. fire, no casualties occurred, and we were relieved at 10.30 p.m. and moved back to O.3.c.9-5.

The Platoon displayed great steadiness under the heavy shell fire encountered in the village and very good work indeed was done throughout the day by Sgt. Underwood, especially in consolidating the line at the Ramparts.

(Sgd) LEWIS M. CAMPBELL 2/Lieut.  
"D" Coy., 58th Battalion. AIF.





vol.No.....9.....Appendix No.....3.....NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS.

carried out by

58th BATTALION. A. I. F.in the vicinity of PERONNE.On 5th. Sept 1918.

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# APPENDIX 3 56

NARRATIVE BY Lieut. R. V. MOON "VC" a/I.O. ON OPERATION OF 58th

BATTALION IN THE VICINITY OF PERONNE on 5th September 1918.

At about 8 p.m. on the evening of the 4th inst. Capt. PEACOCK (Acting C.O.) and myself were called down to 57th Battalion H.Q. ~~with~~ to concur with Colonel DENEHY regarding operation to commence that evening with a view to taking FLAMICOURT, which had been intensely bombarded during the afternoon, and moving South as far as AULNAIES WOOD where it was hoped we would gain touch with 32nd Imperial Division who were attempting to cross that evening. The Brigadier met us there and gave 58th the following orders. To cross the river by way of the Railway line into FLAMICOURT, get touch with 57th Battalion on left, mop up FLAMICOURT, and to form an outpost line with our left flank resting rear Southern edge of DOINGT and our right about O.I2.c.7-0., the line conforming roughly to the road from DOINGT to LE MESNIL, through I.36.o-6 and O.I2. "C" Coy. who were holding the advanced posts along Railway line, moved forward into the village at about 9.30 p.m. and established a post at the Railway Station and gained touch with the right post of the 57th Battn. His (Company Commander) ("C") orders were not to push forward until 57th were ready to move in conjunction with us. The remainder of the Battalion crossed during the night and took up a position in TRANSYLVANIA TRENCH from the Railway at I.34 central to I.34.b.5-7 and thence round to about I.28.c.6-8. As the 57th Battalion had not moved we remained in this position till about 9.30 a.m. Up to this time we had very little opposition except shells and M.G. fire. At about 9.30 a.m. the Brigadier came to Battalion H.Q. at I.34.B.0-3. and ordered us to move on and take up the positions, pre-arranged as above. This we commenced at once with 3 Companies advancing due South in the order "A", "D" and "C" in artillery formation with "B" Company forming a flank guard. The movement was carried out by about midday and a line was formed about MAYENNE TRENCH running through I.36.O.5, O.6 and O.II without outposts along the ridge beyond DOINGT.-LE MESNIL Road. During these operations a good deal of Machine gun fire was encountered but the conformation of the ground save us from many casualties. Fourteen prisoners were taken belonging to 5th Bavarian Division but the remainder of the enemy bolted over the ridge directly we started our advance East. During the afternoon we gained touch with the 32nd Division who had crossed the river during the night at ETERPIGNY. There was a little shelling during the afternoon from a light gun in direction BOUVINCOURT, whilst LE MESNIL on our right was heavily shelled with 5.9's. Our casualties were very light, only amounting to 7 and everything went off smoothly.

Enemy burned all our dumps in close proximity of our sector during the day and was evidently retiring speedily.

57th Battalion relieved us that evening and the Battalion bivouac'd for the night at I.34. central.

This ended the operation on the 5th inst., and the Battalion moved back into Reserve the following morning.

8/9/18 ;

(Sgd); RUPERT V. MOON Lieut.  
a/I.O., 58th Battalion A.I.F.





APPENDIX 3

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NARRATIVE BY Lieut. G. LAING, O.C., "D" Coy. OF OPERATIONS OF  
September 5th 1918.

On the 4/9/18 I was in charge of "D" Company, 58th Battalion, with Lieut. Campbell as Second in Command. On the 4th at 10.30 I received word from Capt. PEACOCK to meet him at I.34.b.4-3, leaving the Company to come out in rear with Lieut. Campbell in charge. I went ahead, met Capt. Peacock, and was instructed to follow Lieut. Tait's Company ("C") across the iron bridge along railway to Station at PERONNE. "A" Company was to follow me; "B" in reserve. Lieut. Tait was to get in touch with 57th Battalion who was on the left. The idea was explained to me, was for the 57th to move ahead on left of FLAMICOURT, then send patrols in front of the village to make a reconnaissance, and then to let Lieut. Tait know, who would then move forward, resting his left flank on the right of the 57th and one Company would then go forward resting left flank on right of "C" Company and then "A" would then come up on my right and reach down to the marshy ground - the line being a few hundred yards in front of the village and forming a hopping off point. I got in touch with Lieut. Tait at p.m. past Rly. Station. We then went over to the 57th post to try and find out all the information possible but they knew nothing. Their Sgt. then went back to his Company Commander who happened to be visiting another Company at the time and their other Officer was on patrol. From what we could make out the 57th did not seem to be going forward. We waited till about 4.30 a.m. then word came from Capt. Peacock to move forward. This we did and carried out movements as we were instructed excepting that the 57th did not move up. When we got into position it was nearly daylight. I sent out a patrol who came in touch with about 15 of the ~~enemy~~ post coming out of the marsh at O.3.d.3-5. They had a machine gun with them. This I reported to C.O. Later on at 10.45 a.m. the Battalion got orders to move forward along the Canal and to halt at O.II.a.141 and there to form a flank. This was done; "B" Company on left, then "C", "D" and "A" on right. When we got to our objective which was done under heavy machine gun fire, I was to send to the left to fill in gap between "B" and "C" Coys. This I did, advancing in small sections in artillery formation. On reaching the Company's objective "D" Company captured 14 prisoners, 3 of them were wounded. The other 11 were sent out to 5th Div. Cage and a receipt was obtained. The remainder passed through the R.A.P. When we settled down I sent out a patrol but could not get in touch with the enemy. That night we were withdrawn. "D" Company only had 3 casualties.

I might mention that the prisoners captured were evidently the ones who held the passage over cork float and marsh at O.3.d.5-4, because besides being machine gunners they had an English rifle with them which was evidently taken from the 57th Battalion man who was killed. This evidently was the party seen by my patrol early in the morning.

(Sgd) G. LAING. Lieut.  
O.C. "D" Company; 58th Battalion. A.I.F.





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NARRATIVE BY Capt. W. S. SPROULE, Adjutant, ON THE OPERATIONS of  
58th BATTALION AIF. IN THE VICINITY OF PERONNE ON 5th Sept. 1918.

Ref. Sheet 62C. 1/40,000.

## APPENDIX 3

About 7 p.m. on the evening of 4/9/18 the acting C.O., Capt. B. PEACOCK received a telephone call to Brigade H.Q. He went, with the I.O., Lieut. R.V. MOON "VC". At 9 p.m. a message was received ordering the Battalion to move at once and Company Commanders to meet the C.O. at Railway Bridge I.33.d.8-2 at once.

The Battalion had to move to Railway Station at I.22.d.8-5. Just before I left Battalion H.Q. to get in touch with C.O. this latter destination was altered to the Railway Station, PERONNE - FLAMICOURT I.28.a.4-0.

Warning the Companies to get into motion at once I proceeded with a couple of runners and signallers to get order from C.O., leaving the Assistant Adjutant to bring forward the rest of H.Q.

On reaching the Railway Bridge I found orders had been altered and the Battalion deviated to the R.A.P. at I.33.d.7-7 where I found the C.O. had established his H.Q. in telephone communication with Brigade.

I found Capt. Peacock giving orders to the Company Commanders to proceed through the village of FLAMICOURT in a Southerly direction until arriving at the North side of AULNIES WOOD in O.IO. and II central.

They were to proceed in a three Company frontage, "A" on right, "D" in centre, "C" on left with "B" in reserve. The scheme was to clean up the ground between PERONNE and the AULNIES WOOD, not moving till 57th Battalion on left moved. Touch to be gained with 57th Battalion by "C" Coy. who were already in position alongside the Railway causeway towards FLAMICOURT and on the Station.

On reaching AULNIES WOOD the Battalion was to, practically left turn and become right flank guard to the rest of the Brigade which would then be advancing on a wide front due East. These orders were issued about 10 p.m. and Company Commanders moved off. At 6 a.m. next morning with the C.O. I went forward through FLAMICOURT and found the Companies dug in on the South side of FLAMICOURT. They had not proceeded further as the 57th Battalion on the left had not then moved forward.

Capt. Peacock then ordered "B" Coy. to form a defensive flank and make touch with the 57th Battalion. He established H.Q. in a quarry at I.34 central. At 8 a.m. Capt. Peacock ordered the advance to go on. The Battalion advanced in artillery information at first but meeting M.G. fire soon extended. "A" Coy. on the right met no opposition, but "C" Coy. on the left and "B" Coy. further back and filling the gap between the 57th and 58th Battalion met M.G. fire and suffered some casualties before silencing the M.G.'s with their Lewis Guns.

The advance went ~~swiftly~~ swiftly and by 9.30 a.m. the edge of AULNIES WOOD had been reached. Here "A" Coy. on the right under Lieut. SLAUGHTER MC. did a left form and came up East through the Wood and village of LE MESNIL.

This move was rendered possible by a message we had received the 32nd Division had crossed the SOMME and marshes at ETERPIGNY, thus relieving the necessity for a flank guard. "D", "C" and "B" Companies faced East and sent out strong patrols to the road running approximately N. and S. through O.6.a and c., O.I2.a and c. and O.I8.a. Here the Battalion remained during the day entrenched with Battalion H.Q. at some old hutments at O.II.a.2-3.

The rest was very grateful to the troops who, though in splendid hear were all physically extremely jaded, a day's rest giving them enough of recuperation to last a couple of hours march the following day.

Touch had been gained by Lieut. SLAUGHTER'S flank with the H.L.I. of the 32nd Division when he went through the Wood North-West of LE MESNIL. During the afternoon shelled LE MESNIL with H.E. and an occasional whizz-bang was directed towards our line. We were relieved by the 57th Battalion that night about 8.30 p.m. and marched back to positions in I.34 central vacated that morning. During the advance we captured 14 prisoners, 3 of whom were wounded, and ourselves had 7



casualties - 4 in the advance and 3 during the relief.

58th BATTALION IN THE VICINITY OF PHNOM PENH ON 24 SEP. 1948  
Capt. & Adj. W. S. SPROULE  
58th Battalion  
8/9/48

APPENDIX 3

About 7 p.m. on the evening of 4/9/48 the setting of the 58th Battalion received a telephone call to Brigade from the 1st Coy. at 9 p.m. a message was received ordering the Battalion to move at once and Company Commanders to meet the 6th at Railway Bridge 1.33.5-5 at once.  
The Battalion had to move to Railway Station at 1.33.5-5. Just before I left Battalion H.Q. to get in touch with 6th, this letter destination was altered to the Railway Station, PHNOM -

Warning the Companies to get into motion at once I proceeded with a couple of runners and signallers to get order from 6th, leaving the Assistant Adjutant to bring forward the rest of H.Q.  
On reaching the Railway Bridge I found orders had been altered and the Battalion deviated to the R.A.F. at 1.33.5-7 where I found the 6th had established his H.Q. in telephone communication with Brigade.

I found Capt. Pocock giving orders to the Company Commanders to proceed through the village of PHNOMCOURT in a southerly direction until arriving at the North side of AUMMINS WOOD in 0.10. and II central.

They were to proceed in a three company frontage, "A" on right, "B" in centre, "C" on left with "D" in reserve. The scheme was to clear up the ground between PHNOMCOURT and the AUMMINS WOOD, not moving till 5th Battalion on left moved. Touch to be gained with 5th Battalion by "D" Coy. who were already in position alongside the Railway canopy towards PHNOMCOURT and on the station.

On reaching AUMMINS WOOD the Battalion was to practically left turn and become right flank guard to the rest of the Brigade which would then advance on a wide front due East. These orders were issued about 10 p.m. and Company Commanders moved off. At 8 a.m. next morning with the 6th, I went forward through PHNOMCOURT and found the Companies and in on the South side of PHNOMCOURT. They had not proceeded further as the 5th Battalion on the left had not then moved forward.

Capt. Pocock then ordered "B" Coy. to form a defensive flank and make touch with the 5th Battalion. He established H.Q. in a quarry at 1.34 central. At 8 a.m. Capt. Pocock ordered the advance to go on. The Battalion advanced in artillery formation at first but meeting M.G. fire soon extended. "A" Coy. on the right met no opposition, and "B" Coy. on the left and "C" Coy. further back and killing the gap between the 5th and 58th Battalion met M.G. fire and suffered some casualties before silencing the M.G.s with their Lewis guns.

The advance went quickly and by 9.30 a.m. the edge of AUMMINS WOOD had been reached. Here "A" Coy. on the right under Lieut. SLAUGHTER M.O. did a left turn and came up East through the wood and village of IM MEHILL.

This move was rendered possible by a message we had received the 2nd Division had crossed the same and marches at PHNOMCOURT, thus relieving the necessity for a flank guard. "B" and "C" Companies faced East and sent out strong patrols to the road running approximately N. and S. through 0.5.5 and 0.15.5 and 0.18.5. Here the Battalion remained during the day entrenched with Battalion H.Q. at some old huts at 0.11.5-3.

The rest was very grateful to the troops who, though in splendid health were all physically extremely tired, a day's rest giving them enough of recuperation to last a couple of hours march the following day.

Touch had been gained by Lieut. SLAUGHTER'S flank with the H.I.I. of the 2nd Division when he went through the wood North-West of IM MEHILL. During the afternoon shellied IM MEHILL with M.G. and an occasional whizz-bang was directed towards our line. We were relieved by the 5th Battalion that night about 8.30 p.m. and marched back to positions in 1.34 central rested that morning. During the advance we captured 14 prisoners, 3 of whom were wounded, and ourselves had 7



## APPENDIX 3

Whilst in trenches on the West side of the Canal near PERONNE, "B" Company received orders about midnight of the 4th/5th Sept. to be ready to move forward to attack FLAMICOURT and high ground to the East. Order of attack - "A", "D", "C" Coys. and "B" Coy. in reserve.

The O.C. "B" Company, Lieut. MORRISON, having to proceed earlier, I took the Company to the rendezvous over Canal, South end of PERONNE. Reinforcements having arrived the previous day, the Company strength was 1 Officer and 47 other ranks, organised into 2 Platoons and H.Q. On arrival the Company was led by the O.C. to the jumping off place alongside the railway running through FLAMICOURT. Here we remained until about 5.30 a.m. when the attack commenced, FLAMICOURT being taken without opposition. A line was then formed outside the village - "A" Company on the right; "D" Coy. centre; and "C" Coy. on the left, with "B" Coy. 200 yards in rear as reserve. The 57th Battalion were on the left flank. Patrols were pushed forward from all Companies. Here we remained until about 8 a.m. when the C.O., - Capt. PEACOCK - gave orders to attack the high ground due East of FLAMICOURT, and between the villages of DOINGH and LE MESNIL. On moving forward we came under heavy M.G. fire but only sustained one casualty. "B" Company's orders was to guard the left flank of the 58th Battalion and reinforce if necessary. We occupied the trench system on the forward slope of the first ridge and again pushed forward to the second ridge and again came under heavy M.G. fire which we engaged with our Lewis Guns. The M.G. on our right retired.

Deploying to the left we occupied the trenches on the forward slope of the second ridge. Here we found traces of blood and enemy packs, one belonging to an Officer. We again came under M.G. fire from ridge in front but our fire being effective this M.G. also retired. Lieut. MORRISON took half the Company to the DOINGH - LE MESNIL Road and here we observed 12 of the enemy hiding about 400 yards on our right front. We assisted "D" Company in capturing same. We again pushed forward to the third ridge and occupied the trenches in O.C.d. "B" Company now had three posts protecting the left flank of the 58th Battalion - one post on the DOINGH - LE MESNIL Road - one post on the ridge to the East and the West respectively. After about 2 hours we observed the 57th Battn. ~~mistaking us for the enemy~~ moving along the road to DOINGT. Then our own barrage of heavy artillery and field guns fell on our post on the DOINGT - LE MESNIL Road and on the trench we occupied to the East. The 57th Battalion, mistaking us for the enemy, opened fire. Fortunately we had no casualties. We handed over our position to the 57th Battalion and came back to Battalion H.Q., thus finishing our third day.

Total casualties during operations in and around PERONNE for three days was as follows :-

Killed	-	1 Officer and 8 other ranks.
Wounded	-	25 " "
Gassed	-	6 " "
Total		<u>1 Officer &amp; 39 other ranks.</u>

(sgd) T. WILLIAMSON. Sgt.  
Act/ C.S.M. "B" Coy., 58th Battalion. AIF.





NARRATIVE BY LIEUT. T. E. TAIT O.C., "C" Coy. 58th Battalion - for operation of 5/9/18.

At 1 a.m. on the 5th Sept. the company was in position on the Railway Line North of PERONNE STATION. At 4 a.m. an order was received for the company to take up a line East of FLAMICOURT. As patrol had reported village clear, the company moved through in small groups and took up a position along the line I.27.c.2.3. - I.35.a.2.8. by 3 a.m., reporting our positions to Battalion Headquarters. As soon as we had taken up our positions two patrols were sent out, one to gain touch with the 57th Battalion and one to reconnoitre the ground in front. The left patrol gained touch with the 57th Battalion at about 6 a.m. and also reported a small enemy party moving from CHAIR WOOD in the direction of DOINGT. The other patrol moved towards DOINGT and was fired on from the village by several machine guns when at I.35.b.7.4. At 10.30 a.m. the company was ordered to attack in a S.S.E. direction, the objective being the AULNAIES WOOD in I.10.d. and I.11.c. and d. As there were no troops on our left "B" Company was to form a protective left flank for "C" Company. The advance was made in artillery formation, but as the enemy machine gun fire became too hot the latter part was made in extended order. Although this fire was heavy, it was very erratic, mainly owing to the Lewis Guns continually firing on him during the advance. On arrival at the objective the left platoon was swung back to protect the flank and "B" Coy. was some distance in the rear. When consolidated the company held the line as follows :-

O.II.b.7.5. - O.II.d.3.9. - O.II.c.8.9. with advanced posts on the ground South of the wood. The company remained here until 8 p.m. when orders were received to move back to I.28.c.6.3. and bivouac for the night.

(Sgd): T. E. TAIT Lieut.  
O.C. "C" Coy., 58th Battalion A.I.F.





NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "A" Company; 58th BATTALION AIF in the vicinity of PERONNE on Sept. 5th 1918.

NARRATIVE BY Lieut. T. A. SLAUGHTER MC. (Company Commander)

At about 10 p.m. Companies received orders to proceed to Railway Bridge near R.A.P. From here "C", "D" "A" and "B" Companies in that order crossed Railway Bridge and proceeded up Railway Line. "A" Coy. as far as Railway Station. Here the Companies were put under cover while "C" Company got in touch with 57th Battalion. Considerable delay occurred here, the situation on left of "C" Company being very obscure. Eventually strong fighting patrols were sent out by flank Companies and the village of FLAMICOURT was found unoccupied by the enemy. The Battalion then moved through village of FLAMICOURT and took up a position on the outskirts of village on a line running approximately East and West. "A" Coy., right flank resting on Canal and left flank on "D" Company. Under C.O.'s orders remained here, each Company sending out patrols. At about 8 a.m. Battalion moved forward screen scouts and in artillery formation. "A" Company ~~met~~ with no opposition and reached objective, a line running East and West through O.10. and II central.

Here we did a left form and advanced due East to a position in front of Wood running North and South approximately. through O.12. central. The 57th Battalion relieved us from this position that evening at about 8 p.m. and the Company returned to Chalk Pits, I.28.c.

Sent out patrols and got in touch H.L.I. on right and linked up with "C" Company on left. This was the position when taken over by 57th Battalion.

(Sgd) T. A. SLAUGHTER Lieut.  
O.C. "A" Coy., 58th Battalion. AIF.





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NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "B" Coy., 58th Battalion  
A.I.F. IN THE VICINITY OF PERONNE ON 5/9/18.

## APPENDIX 3

NARRATIVE BY LIEUT. W. MORRISON, O.C., "B" Coy., 58th Battalion.

About 11.30 p.m. on the night of 4th/5th Sept. 1918 the Battalion was ordered to attack along the line running from O.33.c.7.3 to FLAMICOURT and get in touch with 57th Battalion on left, "C" Company to connect with 57th Battalion, "D" Company with "C" Company and "A" Company on right, "B" Company in reserve. The Battalion was to advance through FLAMICOURT and take up a line about 400 yards on the Eastern side of town. The 57th Battalion outposts did not appear to know anything about the plan of the attack which resulted in the 58th Battalion halting on railway until the front could be patrolled. After waiting about two hours we moved forward and took up the position above stated. About 8 a.m. on morning of 5/9/18 the Battalion was ordered to advance and take high ground between DOINGT - LE MESNIL. With 57th Battalion on left we moved out to assembly position with "B" Company in reserve and to protect left flank if necessary. The Battalion left the assembly position in artillery formation and attacked due East until the forward company came under heavy machine gun fire from left flank. The O's C. moved companies behind ridge until they came in rear of high ground North of Le MESNIL. "B" Company was ordered to clear ridges of machine guns on left and push forward leaving a part to protect flank. This was done. The company rushed forward to O.6.d. and established an outpost line between I.35.a. and O.6.d. The 57th Battalion were then seen moving along road between DOINGT and LE MESNIL. They immediately opened fire on our outpost. They did not appear to know the position of our outpost line. They moved along road under cover of H.E. shrapnel barrage which was falling on our outpost line. A contact plane came over and saw our position, and immediately the barrage was lifted. The company captured 13 prisoners with the help of "D" Company. The enemy appeared to hold the position until we came to 300 yards then they retired, and a lot of horsemen were seen galloping to the rear. It was reported to me that the enemy used to run back to horses and mount them, and then retire. Owing to this we could not get in close touch with the enemy. We were relieved at 7 p.m. on 5/9/18 by 57th Battalion, and marched back to cutting in I.28.d. where we billeted for the night.

(Sgd) W. MORRISON LIEUT.  
"B" Coy. 58th BATTALION A.I.F.





NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "B" Company, 58th Battalion  
A.I.F. IN THE VICINITY OF PERONNE.

APPENDIX 3

NARRATIVE BY SERGT. A. BOADLE, Platoon Commander, for operation  
5/9/18.

The company, having received reinforcements, was now composed of 1 Officer and 42 Other Ranks, organised in two platoons and Company Headquarters. About midnight of 4th/5th Sept. orders were received to move forward with the object of attacking the village of FLAMICOURT. The order of attack was - "A" and "D" companies leading, "C" Company in Support and "B" Coy. in reserve. The O.C., Lieut. Morrison, being on special duty, the company was led forward by C.S.M. Williamson to meeting point at Canal Bridge at southern end of PERONNE. On arrival at meeting point the company was led by the O.C. along Railway line to jumping off point North West of FLAMICOURT, all objectives being reached without opposition. We formed the line on outskirts of FLAMICOURT - "A" Company on left, "D" Coy. centre, "C" Coy. on right, "B" Coy. 200 yards in rear of centre, and 57th Battalion on left flank. Patrols were pushed forward from all companies. We rested in this position until 8 o'clock when orders were received to attack enemy position on high ground due East of DOINGT and LE MESNIL. "B" company received orders to guard left flank and reinforce if necessary. On arrival at first ridge the company came under heavy machine gun fire from five guns - two on the left, two in front and one on the right flank. Enemy fire ranged from 600 yards on right to 1000 yards on left and was very erratic, only one casualty being sustained. I then received orders from O.C. to take my platoon and occupy trench on left flank, to protect the main body from being cut off, also to engage the enemy with Lewis Gun and rifle fire whilst the remainder pushed forward. We silenced the guns on the left flank and centre but could not pick up the gun on the right flank. As the main body advanced to forward ridge I noticed the Huns leaving the village of DOINGT and saw at this particular time half a dozen dumps burning, and as far as the eye could see, the enemy was in full retreat. I then received orders to join up the rest of company. Having joined up, half the company pushed forward under O.C. to the DOINGT - LE MESNIL road. Observing 12 Huns on low ground on right we assisted "D" Coy. to capture them. O.C. and C.S.M. pushed forward from road and took up position in trenches on the crest of the ridge. The company was now organised into three posts to guard the left flank, one on DOINGT & LE MESNIL road, and posts on ridges to East and West respectively. After being in position about two hours we observed the 57th Battalion advancing towards DOINGT. A barrage from our own artillery fell on our posts on roadway and Eastern ridge. The 57th, advancing after the barrage had lifted, mistaking our posts for the enemy, opened fire upon same but no casualties were sustained. The 57th Battalion occupied our posts and the company withdrew to Battalion Headquarters.

(Sgd) A. BOADLE Sergt.  
"B" Coy. 58th Battalion A. I. F.





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NARRATIVES OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY "D" Coy., 58th BATTALION AIF.  
in the vicinity of PERONNE.

## APPENDIX 3

NARRATIVE BY 2/Lieut. J.L.M. CAMPBELL (Platoon Commander)

### OPERATIONS OF 5th Sept. 1918.

At 10.30 p.m. 4/9/18 Lieut. Iaing, having gone to meet Capt. PEACOCK at I.33.b.4-3 I moved the Company from its position at O.3.c.9-5 to the same point and from there after several delays got into position in the jumping off trench just before dawn at I.34.c.3-8 and c.7-7.

At 10.45 a.m. the Company moved Southward in artillery formation encountering indirect M.G. fire from the high ground to the East until the hutments North of AULNAIES WOOD was reached, there a halt was made to allow "B" Company to move up. At Noon No. 15 moved across to the left flank to fill the gap between "B" Coy. and "D" Company's original left flank. An advance was then made Eastwards under heavy frontal M.G. fire to TAUBE TRENCH which we occupied. The M.G. fire then ceased and a party being sent out captured 14 prisoners.

In the evening the Company was drawn encountering shell fire on the way out.

(Sgd) LEWIS M. CAMPBELL 2/Lieut.  
"D" Company, 58th Battalion. A.I.F.