

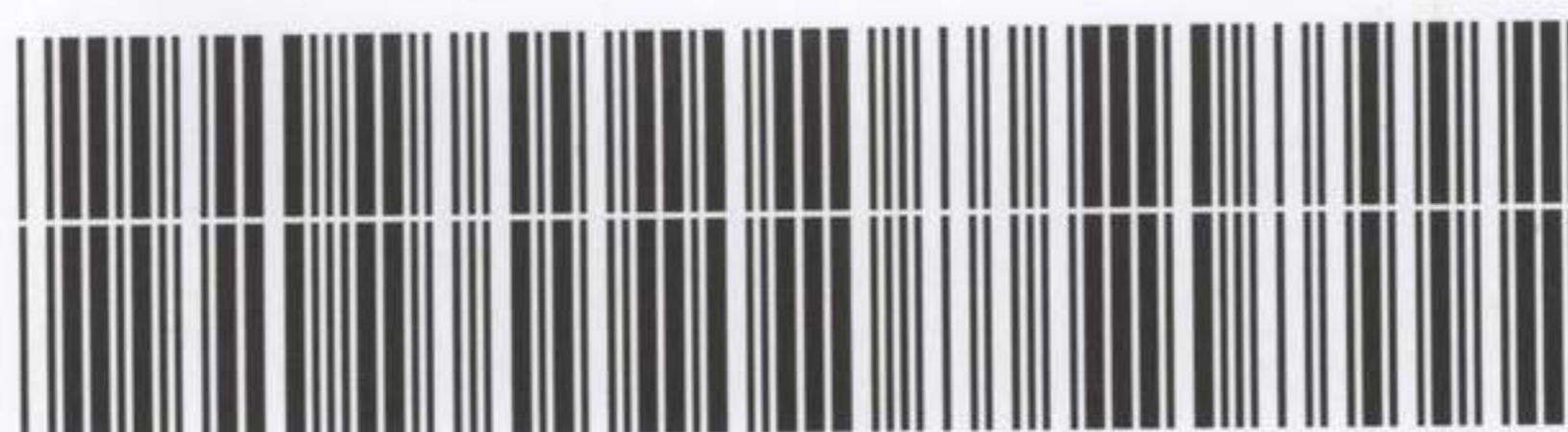
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/75/8

Title: 58th Infantry Battalion

September 1916



AWM4-23/75/8

58 2nd A.I.F

Mc Freeman
Hawaii 2/14

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field opposite PROMELLES	1.9.16		Resting in . bullets.	
"	2.9.16		5.8 th Bn. relieve 5 th portion of the 57 th Bn., taking over the front line and portion of the 300 yd line. Relief completed by 11 pm.	see Appendix H attached
	3.9.16		Intermittent reciprocal bombardment.	
	4.9.16		D & W Tasker searched in at Hq. Officer. Posted to D Co.	
	5.9.16		Heavy bombardment by our Artillery. Enemy reply severe but brief. Casualties 1 O.K. killed 3 slightly wounded	
	7.9.16		Regimental Baths established at Regimental Aid Post, Rue de Peloton.	
	8.9.16		Heavy bombardment by our Artillery at 5 am. Enemy reply severe. 1 O.K. died of wounds as result of accident at Directional shoot of bayonet fighting etc.	
	9.9.16			
	10.9.16		Lt. N.M. Freeman (A.C. Sgt.) sent to School of Instruction, Wisques for 1 month. 2 nd Lt. Weir F.J. appointed temporarily in his stead.	
	11.9.16		Medium bombardment by our Artillery + J. M. 8.15 a.m. Enemy reply feeble.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1916			
Opposite Fromelles	Sept. 12		Inspection of Gas Helmets, rifles equipment etc. Arrangements made to supply hot coffee to troops in front line every morning - from Aust. comforts fund.	
	13		The following promotions are recorded: Lt. J. S. Loughnan + R. M. Freeman to be Captains - dated 6/9/16. A. I. F. Orders. List. No. 87. Sgts. R. Kidd, W. Morrison, R. V. Moon + Lt. L. J. Reynolds to be 2 nd Lt. ^{dated 9/9/16} Lt. S. J. Nichol transferred to 60 th Bn ^{dated 9/9/16} A. I. F. Orders. No. 88. List.	
	14		Light bombardment by our L. T. M. Bty. 6 am. No response by enemy.	
	15: 9: 16		Lt/Col. J. S. Leishman killed whilst out with listening post. Sniping by enemy very active.	
	16: 9: 16		6 reinforcements marched in + were posted to "A" + "B" Coy. on territorial basis. good class.	
	17: 9: 16		Light bombardment by our Artillery, T. M. Bty + Vickers. M. Guns 3 pm. Enemy's reply feeble.	
	18: 9: 16		Capt. J. S. Dair and Sgts H. Thomas + A. A. Cole left on Special Leave (10 days)	
	19: 9: 16		Sgts K. M. Greay + S. J. Woodall + 9 privates wounded by burst of enemy's shrapnel, whilst rations were being served out about 8 am. Light bombardment by our Artillery T. M. Bty 3 pm. Enemy's reply short + sharp.	
	20: 9: 16		Raid on enemy's trenches at 12: 50 am. Gas used. 2 nd Lt. Gratton + 4 O/Rs missing + 6 O/Rs wounded. It was established that the trenches raided were occupied by the 21 st of Bavarian Regiment.	Operation Order No. 7 See Appendix K attached
	21: 9: 16		Moved into billets - having been relieved by the 57 Bn. Operation Order No. 8.	See Appendix K attached
	22: 9: 16		Resting in billets - Total strength of Battalion: 34 Officers + 671 O/Rs (includes 7 officers + 90 O/R detached for duty from Battalion + 1 officer + 23 O/R sick in Direct Ambulance).	

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1916			
Opposite Fromelles	Sept 20		Inspection of Kits, rifles, gas Helmets, & Equipment.	
	21.9.16		60 Reinforcements marched in and were allocated posted to Coy's on Territorial basis - good stamp. Relieved the 29 th Bn of 8 th Brigade in Trenches as per Secret Order of Brigade dated 20/9/16.	
	22.9.16		Disposition Strength of Battalion that actually marched into trenches was 21 Officers & 523 O/R. Trenches were manned according to rule then in force viz 200 men per 1000 yds in front line, including Vickers & Lewis Machine guns, & 400 men per 1000 yds in the 300 yd line	
	22.9.16		Heavy bombardment by our artillery, J. M. Bty & M. B. Coy. 4 p.m. ^{trifling} response by enemy. Major Trickey, 2 nd Lt. Harvey & 127 O/R, moved out into billets to be attached to 57 th Bn, until further orders, for rations, pay & discipline, as arranged, the remaining Coy's "A", "C" & "D" to occupy the Battalion frontage according to revised rule laid down by Division for garrison strength, viz. 150 all ranks per 1000 yds in front line & 300 all ranks per thousand yds in 300 yd line.	
	23.9.16		Casualty. 1. O.R. wounded.	
	24.9.16		Light Bombardment by our J. M. Bty. 12 noon. No response by enemy.	
	25.9.16		Light Bombardment by our L. J. M. Bty. about 6 a.m. do do. Medium bombardment by artillery & J. M. Bty at 4:45 p.m. Feeble response by enemy.	

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

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field Opposite Fromelles	1916 Sept. 25 Sept. 26.		<p>Commenced burying this portion of cable 200 yds. yet underground - work being proceeded with at rate of 30 yds per night. 200 yds to be done to bring underground cable as far as Bn Hqs. the portion between Bn Hqs & front line is complete.</p> <p>Light bombardment by our S. I. M. Bty about 6. am. No response by enemy.</p> <p>Bn Bats erected at Bn Hqs and arrangements made for issue of underclothing & treatment of vermin</p> <p>3. O.R. of 15th M.G. Section & 1. O.R. to 6th Field Art. Bty</p> <p>Branch of Tramway line to connect Cellar Farm tramway with impertinence Sap tramway has been started - new tracks now laid from Cellar Farm to line as far as Cellar Farm Ave.</p>	
	27.9.16		<p>Enemy's artillery active during the whole day, as a consequence we had 1 killed & 3 wounded.</p>	
	28.9.16		<p>6 German hand grenades found by Patrol in front of apex, evidently relics of raid carried out by Germans on the spot on 15th July.</p>	
	28.9.16		<p>2/ Cpl. Johnson killed whilst out on listening post. Enemy's artillery again active intermittently throughout the day. Sites selected for wells for drinking water.</p>	
	29.9.16		<p>Our artillery fairly active throughout the day - enemy's reply weak.</p>	
	30.9.16		<p>58 Reinforcements marched in & were posted to Coy's on Territorial Basis. Fair class of men</p> <p>Battalion strength: 33 Officers & 725 O/R (includes 12 Officers & 184 O/R temporarily detached from Bn & 3 Officers & 19 O/R sick in Field Ambulance)</p> <p>150 yds of underground cable completed since 25/9/16 - 50 yds yet to be done to complete to Bn Hqs.</p> <p>Tramway referred to above now extended about 50 yds to left of Cellar Farm Ave.</p> <p>The 300 yd. line being now the main line of defence, many of the rainproof shelters have had to be demolished to allow of trenches being fire stepped. Dig outs are in course of construction.</p>	

58-72w. H.I.F.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

1303

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

22 WSW. 2 1/2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field. Opposite. FROMELLES.	1916 Sept. 30		<p>In 300 yd line a new firing line is being constructed from a point midway between same ave & cellar farm ave, to a point about 35 yds from the old junction of the 300 yd line & cellar farm ave. Parapets and traverses are being constructed on the whole of this line.</p> <p>In the deep dug-out being constructed near the junction of the train line & 300 yd line, the large shaft has been cemented, and in the drive leading off the small shaft several dug-outs have been cut out and timbered. At various points along the 300 yd line, the working parties have been thickening & fire stepping the parapets and putting barbed wire & sandbags on the partly finished dug-outs.</p>	

OPERATION ORDER No. 6., by LIEUT.-COL. C. A. DENEHY, Commanding.

FRANCE.

2/9/18

303

Appendix H

MOVE.

Para. 1. The 58th Battalion will relieve portion of the 57th Battalion, taking over from them the front line and portion of the 300 yard line during the night 2nd/3rd Sept.

DISPOSITION.2. FRONT LINE.

"C" Coy. will occupy the right sector and "D" Coy. the left sector.

300 YARD LINE.

The 300 yard line is already occupied by "A" Coy., 57th Battalion under Capt. Aitchison, who is responsible for garrisoning this line. In the event of a hostile attack this company will occupy strong points. "A" and "B" Coys. 58th Battalion will occupy the 300 yard line in addition and in the event of an attack will be available for launching local counter attacks as required. "A" Coy. will normally occupy that part of the line to the right of V.C. AVENUE. "B" Coy. will be distributed on both sides of PINNEY'S AVENUE. Major Trickey will exercise general supervision over 300 yard line.

Boundaries to be the same as those already laid down in 57th Battalion. Specialists, including signallers, Lewis Gun detachment, ~~XXXXXX~~ A.M.C. and Grenadiers, will move into the positions at intervals during the afternoon. The BOIS GRENIER LINE will be taken over by detachments from 57th Battalion at about 2-30 p.m.. Receipts in triplicate must be obtained for all stores handed over. "B" Coy, less 36 men who will be attached to "C" Coy. will leave it's billets at 8 p.m.. "C" Coy. will leave at 8-20 p.m. and will pick up 36 men from "B" Coy. when passing BOIS GRENIER LINE. The usual rules re marching in this section of the road will be observed. Relieving troops will enter the Firing Line, or 300 yard Line, by V.C. AVENUE, PINNEY'S AVENUE being reserved for down traffic. "D" Coy. will leave it's billets at 8-40 p.m.. "A" Coy. and Headquarters will leave as soon as the last of "D" Coy. has passed "A" Coy's. billets.

STORES, ETC.

3. The greatest care must be exercised by officers and N.C.O's. taking over positions, to personally check all stores handed over by 57th Battalion. One Copy of the receipt must be retained in every case. Company Commanders are responsible for taking over ammunition and grenades in the bays. The senior Major and the Reg. Sgt. Major will be responsible for ~~the~~ reserve of ammunition.

Every precaution must be taken to ensure rapidity and smooth working of relief operations.

REPORTS.

4. On completion of relief O's.C. Units will send message in code to Battalion Headquarters at V.C. HOUSE. Should any hitch occur the officer in charge of unit concerned will at once inform Battalion Headquarters, stating what steps are being taken to cope with the difficulty. After 6 p.m. reports to V.C. HOUSE.

Copies of new Trench Standing Orders issued herewith, one to each company. All officers, including specialists to make themselves familiar with contents.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Copy No.	1.	File.	
..	2.	O.C. "A" Coy.	<i>has a Denehy</i> Lieut.-Col. C.O., 58th Battalion.
..	3.	O.C. "B" Coy.	
..	4.	O.C. "D" Coy.	
..	5.	O.C. "D" Coy.	
..	6.	War Diary.	
..	7.	

APPENDIX I
58th BATTALION.

OPERATION ORDER No. 7, by LIEUT.-COL. C. A. DENNEY, Commanding.

7/9/16.

REFERENCES.

Trench Map Area "L".
Map of portion of German Trenches.
Plan Appendix "C".

PRELIMINARY.

ARRIVAL OF PARTY.

The party will arrive at V.C. HOUSE at a time to be stated in a later order. They will be dressed in their own uniform and will carry greatcoats and one blanket and the British pattern uniform which they will wear during the operation. Billeting accommodation will be arranged for in RUE DE BOIS where every man will change his clothing. After a meal, which will be provided, they will sleep until 90 minutes before zero. Faces and hands will be blackened and the party inspected by O.C. Attack. At 75 minutes before zero time they will leave for the trenches via IMPERTINENCE SAP and PINNEY'S AVENUE. They will leave the trench by Sally Port at Bay N. 9. 4. 18. and assemble in the ditch immediately outside our parapet and be ready to move 15 minutes before zero. Captain Ferres will personally superintend the exit from the trench, whilst in the ditch the disposition of parties will be as shown in Appendix "A".

ASSEMBLY IN "NO MAN'S LAND."

One minute before zero Lieut. Godfrey, the O.C. Assault, will give the caution "prepare to move", which will be passed down the line to both flanks.

THE ADVANCE.

At 0.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ the order "scouts move"^{on which Nos. 1 and 3} scouts will at once proceed in single file straight for the point of entry. The actually point of entry will be N. 10. C. 05-30. They will be followed by O.C. Assault, runner and scouts Nos. 3 and 4. The two telephonists will follow with their instruments and wire, which will have previously been connected with the dug-out of O.C. Attack, and pay out the wire as they go. Four wires will be used, the third telephonist spreading them with a crook-stick as he follows on.

2nd. Lieut. Gratton will provide a strong cord twelve yards long with a toggle at each end. He will, while waiting in the jumping-off position, hold one end and Sgt. McDonald the other. As soon as the telephonists have moved, Sgt. McDonald will give a succession of tugs to which 2nd. Lieut. Gratton will reply. Both will immediately leave the ditch simultaneously, retaining the ends of the cord, if possible, for the first twenty yards. Each man of the Right Party will move the instant the man on his left moves, and similarly each man of the Left Party will move the instant the man on his right moves, and each man will keep a little to the rear and to the outer flank of his inner flank neighbour. The resultant formation will be that of a wedge (see Appendix "B"). As the wedge proceeds the sides will gradually approach each other till at the gap in the enemy's wire, the men of the Right Party will enter side by side with men of the Left Party. The movement across "NO MAN'S LAND" will be performed at a steady double.

The intelligence men and two prisoners' escort of the Right Party will assist the Engineers by carrying explosives.

ENTRY INTO ENEMY TRENCH.

LEADING PARTY.

On reaching the enemy's wire the scouts Nos. 1 and 2, will select the most suitable path through the wire, cutting

APPENDIX I

ENTRY INTO ENEMY TRENCH (Cont.)

LEADING PARTY (Cont.)

any wire that remains intact. The Scouts Nos. 1 and 2 will stand aside under enemy's parapet on the right, Nos. 3 and 4 on the left, and the telephonists will establish themselves at a spot close to the O.C. Assault who will remain close to the point of entry. The third telephonist will act as a runner if required. The remainder will enter the enemy's trench in file, the Right Party wheeling to the right, the Left Party to the left.

ACTION IN DETAIL AFTER ENTERING THE ENEMY TRENCH.

SCOUTS AND PARAPET MEN

Nos. 1 and 2 Scouts will run along the outside of enemy's wire for 30 yards, lie down, and watch for signs of enemy approach from the right flank. They will not be too close to each other but will keep within speaking distance, No. 1 being close to the wire, No. 2 farther out into "NO MAN'S LAND".

Nos. 3 and 4 having laid the luminous tape right up to the enemy parapet through gap in wire, will go to the left and guard that flank in a similar manner to that laid down for Nos. 1 and 2.

Right and Left Parapet Parties will run along top of parapet to their respective flanks and lie flat, sniping and watching for approach of enemy from flanks or rear.

Should either Scouts or Parapet Parties notice any of the enemy approach, one of them will carry the information to the O.C. Assault, then rest will retire slowly, and get information as to the probable numbers and direction they are making in and not lose sight of the enemy.

Special watch must be kept in the vicinity of advanced Listening Post on the right.

O.C. ASSAULT.

O.C. Assault will take up a position close to the point of entry whence he will direct operations.

LEADERS OF RIGHT AND LEFT PARTIES.

S/Lieut. Gratton and Sgt. McDonald will station themselves at points B and A respectively (see Map Appendix "C") whence they will direct operations of their parties keeping in touch with, and acting under orders of O.C. Assault.

"LOOP" PARTY.

The loop party will deal with the suspected M.G. emplacement and O.P. close to point of entry. They will move to the left to point "A", proceed down side of loop towards "L" which spot they will investigate and subsequently move along the rear side of loop towards "B". Before entering the loop they will ascertain the nature and contents of the space in the middle of the loop. Should it prove to be a dugout they will make for the entrance and bomb it.

"MINE" PARTY

The leading bayonet man of the Mine Party will guide his party to the right, halting at point "B" and thenceforth cooperating with the loop party by guarding the exit from the loop. The second bayonet man will lead on to point "C" and the thrower of this party will bomb the forward dugout, number 12, before the party goes any further. After the explosion the mine party will proceed down the communication trench towards the mine which they will investigate and bomb, and proceed to deal with dugouts 4 and 5. They will throw bombs into the communication trench "K".

RIGHT FLANK PARTY.

The Right Flank Party will deal with dugouts 6 and 7 and proceed to point "Y" where a barricade will be made and a guard set to watch for approach of enemy from the flank. They will bomb continuously the front trench beyond "Y" and the communication trench "K".

As it cannot be discovered for certain where the entrance of this communication trench is, great care must be taken by

RIGHT FLANK PARTY. (Contd.)

Both Mine Party and Right Flank Party to keep a sharp look out for it and to throw bombs into it as a precaution. Should it be found to have an opening into any part of the trench, it will be necessary to block it.

LEFT FLANK PARTY.

The Left Flank Party will bomb the forward dugouts 12 and 11 and the rear dugout, 3. The leading team will attend to these and pass on, leaving the leading bayonet man to guard the entrances of the three dugouts named. The remainder will pass on and deal with Nos. 10, 9, 8, 2, 1 and the suspected M.G. emplacement and searchlight in the vicinity. The second team will proceed to point "X" where a block will be made by blocking party and trench length beyond guarded.

MACHINE GUNNERS.

M.G.'s. will search for two suspected emplacements, carry off any gun they can obtain or destroy it if they cannot move it.

INTELLIGENCE MAN.

These will follow the parties to which they are attached and search trenches and dugouts and collect anything that may be of value for information purposes. They must search especially for papers, badges, designs, crests or numerals on shoulder straps, collars, etc. Uniforms, arms, equipment, grenades, identity discs, paybooks will be useful. Any ~~and~~ dead bodies encountered must be searched for such ~~articles~~ articles.

The Intelligence man of the Right party carrying Engineer's requisites will deposit same near the point of entry just inside the enemy parapet at a spot which the Engineers will indicate.

PRISONERS' ESCORT.

The duty of these men will be to follow the Intelligence men and take over any prisoner who is able to walk, rush him to the parapet with bayonet or revolver pressed into his back, and hurry him across to our own trench. Should he become intractable he will be disabled or killed, in which case he must be at once searched and articles of use to us taken from him. Should he become a casualty by other means and if he cannot be got into our own trench, everything of use must be taken from him and brought in. Every effort must, however, be made to get the prisoner in alive. Even if he is killed and it is possible to get his body in this must be done.

STRETCHER BEARERS.

Stretcher bearers will remain outside the enemy trench close to the parapet with intervals of about 10 yards between them. Should wounded men be passed out from the enemy trench to them, they will at once proceed with them back to our own trenches. If during the passage of "NO MAN'S LAND" one of our men is wounded and unable to proceed, the nearest stretcher bearers will remove him to the nearest available depression or cover and carefully note the spot.

The stretcher bearers will be the last to leave the enemy trenches along with the O.C. Assault.

ENGINEERS.

Engineers will carry out operations in connection with the mine and the front parapet in accordance with special instructions issued to them. They will not light the fuses till the O.C. Assault gives the order.

THE RETURN.

At 0.14 the O.C. Assault will give the word "TRACKS" which will be the signal for everyone to leave. Immediately O.C. Assault, Lieut. Gratton and Sgt. McDonald will cover their torches with green hoods and show a green light along the trench. Every man will pass the word along, the parapet party passing it to the stretcher bearers and scouts and taking special care to notify the Blocking Parties. Intelligence men and others who may be searching

APPENDIX I

Return (Cont.)

dugouts etc. will be particularly alert to catch the order. It is anticipated that the time spent in the trenches will be 10 minutes. The O.C. Assault will send the code message "HOBSON" to indicate "party leaving trench" and when all are clear and he himself is leaving ~~XXXXXXXX~~ he will send the code message ~~XXXXXXXX~~ "MELBOURNE".

Signallers will at once disconnect their instruments and return along the tape to our own trenches.

Should, however, the O.C. Assault find the enemy barrage in "NO MAN'S LAND" too heavy to pass through, he will delay the lighting of the fuses and signal "WAITING", keeping his men under what cover is available. In no case, however, will he wait longer than 0.20. If the party has not by that time left the enemy trench they will do so then as the trench mortars will open again at 0.20.

REGAINING OUR TRENCHES.

The party will endeavour to find its way back, picking up direction by means of the luminous tape laid in the gap in enemy wire, but should they miss the direction they should bear to the left remembering that they will by that means reach a drain running back almost to the Sally Port. No time should be lost in taking cover in our own trench. Luminous tape will be laid along trench leading to the dugout of O.C. Attack. Should any of the party reach our parapet at a place other than a sally port and have to climb over he will give the pass word which will be notified on setting out from V.C. HOUSE prior to the raid. Captain Ferres, Deputy O.C. Attack, will be stationed at the sally port and as each man enters he will give the pass word and his raid number.

It is to be understood that every man must get back as fast and as best he can. If the enemy artillery fire is severe men will take cover in the trench, but as soon as it is advisable they should make their way down PINNEY'S AVENUE to advanced Brigade Headquarters.

Captain Ferres will have with him a reserve of 4 men for emergencies to assist and direct men in their return.

AFTER REPORTING AT ADVANCED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS.

Men will report to Brigade Intelligence officer at advanced Brigade Headquarters and as soon as possible go to their billet in RUE DE BOIS where hot baths and a hot drink will be ready.

Major Bateman will superintend arrangements at the billet and as a check, watch that no man's clothes are touched by anyone but their owner.

Chas. A. Dewey

Lieut-Col

Commanding 58th Battalion. A. I. F.

Distribution

Copy No. 8	16th Aust. Infantry Brigade
9	15th Aust. Infantry Brigade
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12	

APPENDIX I

Stretcher Bearer
Stretcher Bearer
Prisoners' Escort
Prisoners' Escort
Intelligence Man
Machine Gunner
(3men) Parapet Party

(1 man) Blocking Party
Carrier
Thrower

Leader
Carrier
Thrower
Bayonet Man
Bayonet Man

No. 1 Intelligence Man
Leader
Carrier
Thrower
Bayonet Man

Sergt. McDonald

Runner
Telephonist No. 2
Telephonist No. 1
Scout No. 4
Scout No. 3
Lieut. Godfrey O.C. Assault
Scout No. 1
Scout No. 2

Lieut. Gratton
Bayonet Man
Bayonet Man
Thrower
Carrier
Leader
~~Intelligence Man~~

Bayonet Man
Thrower
Carrier
Leader
(4men) Blocking Party

(3 men) Parapet Party
Intelligence Man
Prisoners' Escort
Prisoners' Escort
Engineer
Engineer
Stretcher Bearer
Stretcher Bearer

Left Party

Left Party
Left Party

Right Party
Right Party

Right Party

Appendix I

APPENDIX "B"APPENDIX *I*

Scout No. 1

Scout No. 2

O.C. Assault

Scout No. 3

Scout No. 4

2 Telephonists

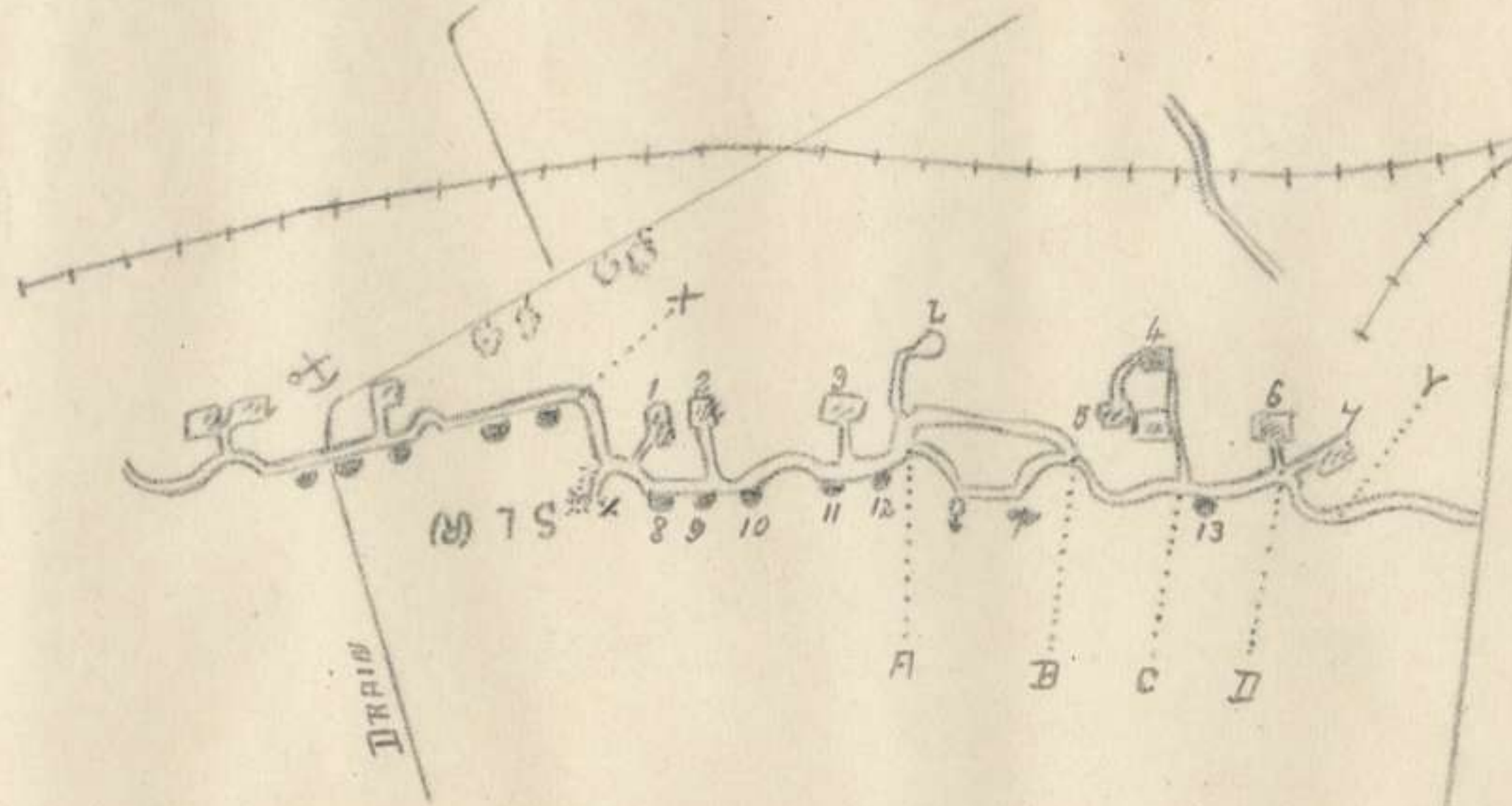
Runner

Sgt. McDonaldLieut. GrattonBayonet Man
Thrower
Carrier
LeaderBayonet Man
Bayonet Man
Thrower
Carrier
LeaderNo. 1 Intell. Man
- Bayonet Man
Bayonet Man
Thrower
Carrier
Leader
Thrower
CarrierBayonet Man
Thrower
Carrier
LeaderBlocking Party (1 man)
Parapet Party (3 men)(1 man) Block. Party
(3 men) Parapet Party
Machine Gun
Intell. Man
Pris. Escort
Pris. Escort
2 Stret. BearersIntelligence Man
Prisoners' Escort
Prisoners' Escort
Engineer
2 Stretcher Bearers

APPENDIX I

Scale of Feet
Feet 100 50 0 100 200 300 Feet

APPENDIX "C"



APPENDIX I

303

58th BATTALION.

APPENDIX J

17/18/9/16.

Headquarters,

15th INFANTRY BRIGADE.

In accordance with Brigade Order No.36 and detailed instructions contained in my Operation Order No.7, a party of two officers and fifty-five other ranks carried out an enterprise against the German trenches on the night of 17th/18th September.

Zero time had been fixed as 12-50 a.m.. All the preliminary arrangements necessary were properly carried out. Artillery fired its right and left flank guns at 11-30 a.m. on 17th and again between 3 and 4 p.m.. The party arrived from the Divisional Bomb School at 8 p.m. and were accommodated in billets in RUE DE BOIS until 11-20 p.m. at which hour they moved to the firing line. The entry through the Sally Port to NO MAN'S LAND was successfully accomplished and the party was in the "lie" position at 15 minutes before zero. This fact was duly telephoned to Advanced Brigade Headquarters.

Exactly at zero time the Trench Mortars and Artillery opened fire. At 1 1/2 minute after zero the party moved and reached the enemy trench without a casualty. The night was wet - it had been raining slightly for some hours - and the party found great difficulty in keeping their apparatus clean. The first hitch in the proceedings occurred when, after getting connection with O.C.Attack, the telephonists attached to the raiding party were unable to send back messages owing to the mud and wet interfering with the working of the instruments. A message notifying the entry of the party into the enemy trench was begun but stopped abruptly before it was completed. This partial message was received at 12-57 - 7 minutes after zero time. Communications from firing line to artillery and to Advanced Brigade Headquarters were maintained throughout the night and worked well.

As the party reached the enemy trench a flare was fired from the enemy front trench back to their support lines. Immediately enemy shell fire was opened on their own front trench and in NO MAN'S LAND a barrage of shrapnel and H.E. was maintained. Every party reached its allotted objective. The enemy did not attempt any resistance from within the area attacked but vacated the position at once and bombed apparently from sheltered positions in rear, whilst machine guns enfiladed the party from both flanks. Very few of the enemy were seen. Several were fired at as they disappeared to the rear. One of the party detailed to attend to the mine shaft, having reached his objective, threw a bomb into the opening. After the explosion a German emerged. He was fired upon by one of our men and hit. He was being searched when another German rushed out and disappeared to the rear; shots were fired at him but he got away. Whilst the man was being searched the order to return was given and nothing more than the man's cap was obtained, which, however, contained identification marks.

The trenches were found to have been smashed to a very considerable extent by the trench mortar bombardment. In most places parapets had been laid flat so that progress along the trenches was very difficult, and dugouts were generally masses of ruins. The Engineers laid at least three mines in the parapet. Only two of these exploded as the lighters had all become wet and it was necessary to cut the fuses and light them with matches. The two that did explode created huge gaps in the parapet. There was not sufficient time to drop a charge down the mine shaft but the D bomb (incendiary) which was thrown in set the place alight.

At the end of six minutes from the time of entry into the enemy trench, Lieut. Godfrey, O.C. Assault, decided that it was impossible for the party to remain longer in the trenches as they were being subjected to a heavy bombardment of shells and bombs and being swept by machine gun fire, especially from the left flank. He therefore gave the code signal to return and waited till there were, as far as he could discover, no more of our men to come. At this juncture he heard a call for help from Sgt. McDonald who was lying on the parapet with a bad wound in the leg. He lifted Sgt. McDonald on to his back and carried him clear of the wire but the weight was too much for him in the torn-up, muddy

earth. He dragged him a little further and then went for assistance. Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Boyde, and Cpl. Williams who were making their way back returned with Lieut. Godfrey and the four of them carried Sgt. McDonald back to our own lines.

When the roll had been called and the First Aid Posts examined it was found that 2nd. Lt. Gration and four other ranks were missing. Search parties went out under Capt. Ferres assisted by Capt. Cameron of 60th Battalion. These parties worked till it was broad daylight and went over the whole of the area traversed by the party in crossing NO MAN'S LAND but no trace of the missing men was found. Besides the five missing there were six other casualties, one of them slight, the rest more or less serious.

It was noticed by the search parties that the enemy was busy endeavouring to repair the damage to his trenches. Machine guns were notified.

Enemy retaliation on our trenches was not very severe, his attention being mainly directed to the area being raided and NO MAN'S LAND.

At this stage I cannot say what articles were captured beyond a cap and some bombs. Everyone with any information to give was sent down as soon as practicable to the Brigade Intelligence Officer.

Most of the casualties occurred in the enemy trenches so that it is, unfortunately, pretty certain that the missing men fell killed or wounded within the enemy's lines. No prisoners were made by our party.

Rasbourne

Lieut.-Col.

58th Battalion. O.C. Attack.

58th Battalion

APPENDIX "K"

OPERATION ORDER NO. 8 BY LIEUT-COL. C. A. DENEHY, COMMANDING"

France
18/9/18MOVE

The 57th Battalion will relieve the 58th Battalion in the front line and 300 yard line during the afternoon of the 18th and the night of the 18th/19th Sept. Receipts in triplicate signed by both parties will be made out for all ammunition, grenades, flares, and trench stores. Care must be taken not to confuse regimental with trench stores. Unit Commanders will be responsible that they bring with them all Regimental Stores but no others.

The 58th Battalion when relieved will move into billets as indicated to companies by the Billeting Officer.

It is anticipated that the Battalion will not occupy billets for any length of time.

STANDING ORDERS
RE BILLETS.

O's C. Companies and other units will revise for the benefit of their command all standing orders for billets. Special care must be taken to guard against offences of drunkenness and absence without leave. It is the duty of every officer and N.C.O. to see to the comfort of his men before settling down himself. A little forethought and watchfulness will be sufficient to check the tendency of men to suddenly relax all discipline and give way to excesses when first relieved from the strain of trench life.

Whilst prevention is better than cure, if men do offend they must be sternly dealt with.

PROCEDURE

Reference to previous Operation Orders should be made by those concerned for details of procedure in handing over and taking over.

(Sgd.) C.A.Denehy Lieut-Col.

C.O. 58th Battalion.