

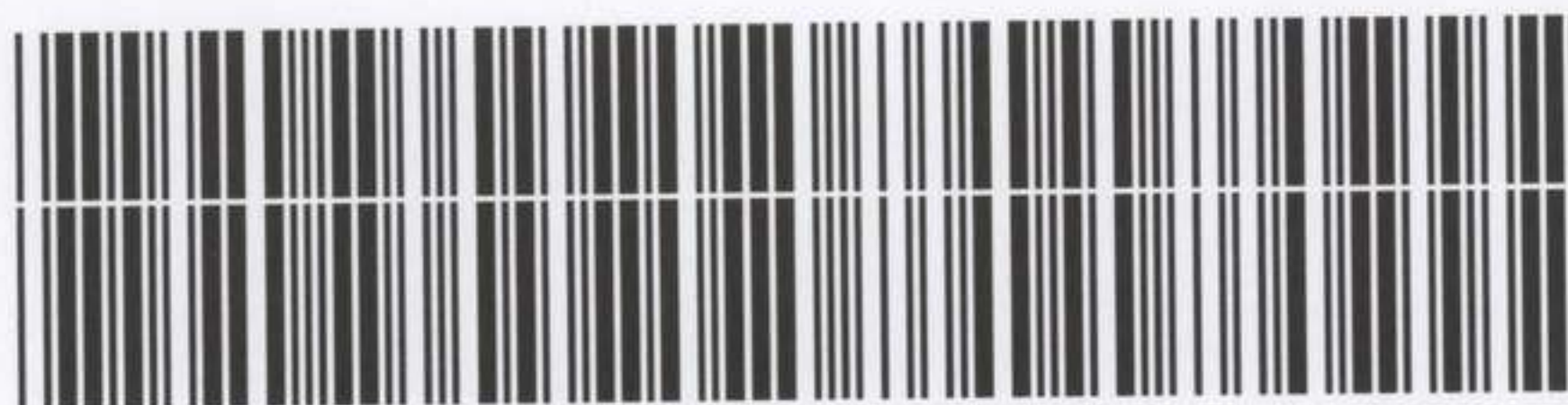
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/65/28

Title: 48th Infantry Battalion

May 1918



AWM4-23/65/28

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~~DUPLICATE.~~
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48th
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTN.
No. 29/97/18
Date 1-6-18

Lab

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

48th Battalion

FOR

May 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

A. G. Mages Major

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Signature]
CO 48th B.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS - BRETONNEUX	1/5/18		<p>The beginning of the month found the Battalion still occupying the Lachy line. The weather was good & by this time the men had made themselves very comfortable. During daylight but little work could be done as the position was under observation & consequently our activities were confined to the hours of darkness. The enemy was very quiet & only occasionally his artillery would break out & then clear of our positions. Orders came through that the Battalion would attack MONUMENT WOOD in the early hours of the morning of the 3rd & so immediately a daylight reconnaissance was made of the position by the CO & 10. Next morning the CO met company commanders at the ^{COY} Headquarters of the 45th Battⁿ in the line where a further reconnaissance was made & the attack discussed from all points of view. Both here and at a conference at Battalion Headquarters that afternoon. All this time preparations for dumps had gone forward & two were established</p>	<p>AS Hooper Hooper.</p>

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VILLERS - BRETONNEVA.	2/5/18		in the forward area each containing SAA, bombs, sandbags, flares & tools & in addition the foremost dump contained a reserve of drinking water & LEWIS GUN magazines. At 5 pm details were finalized & it was then a case of waiting for zero. At 11.30 pm the Battalion moved off by Coys to the "jumping-off" line & by 1.45 am on the 3rd were in position. The assault was to be made in particular by two companies, "B" on the right & "C" on the left, moving North & South whilst "A" Coy was to move in a South Easterly direction & form a flank, with its left on the 45 th Batt ⁿ extreme left post, also mopping up anything that had been missed by the assaulting Companies. A special mopping-up party was detailed from D Coy with Lieut Stewart MC in charge & their particular job was to clear up the Chateau & other buildings near it. The Scouts had patrolled vigorously all the evening & had kept NO-MAN'S LAND clear of the enemy & up to the time the show commenced no hitch occurred.	150 pages pages 2

Handwritten signature

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS				
BRETONNEVA	3/5/18.		<p>Arrangements had also ^{been} made for liaison with the French who were to attack on our right, one officer being sent to the HQ & also "B" Coy had instructions to form a liaison post on the right with them. Tanks also lay in wait to fall vigorously on the enemy should he be so unwise as to counterattack after we had taken the position. Thus were the preparations made for a successful venture. At 2 am the artillery, as previously arranged, put down a barrage for two minutes but it was neither very thick nor accurate nor was there any noticeable increase in the number of shells that went over. It was also extremely difficult to judge when the barrage finished. Nevertheless at 2.2 am the men moved forward. Immediately the enemy opened vigorously with machine guns & the intensity of the fire clearly proved that the artillery had been of little assistance. On the other hand the artillery barrage did not fall till 2.9 am. Just after the advance</p>	<p><i>AG Major</i> <i>Major</i></p> <p>6</p>

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VILLERS			started C Coy met trouble. Capt Inlay MC was badly wounded & the company held up by thick wire. On the right, "B" Coy had advanced & their left platoon had got through to the objective. At the northern edge of the Wood the right was held up & whilst trying to work his company round to clear this obstacle Capt D G Cunningham MC was killed. "A" Coy had got through to the Sunken Road but could get no further but the trapping-up Party had reached the Chateau & had taken prisoners 200 or 2000 besides killing the Battalion Commander. Finding that it was impossible to reach & consolidate on our objective, it was attempted to form a line from the left to the right of the Monument, hence South along the Eastern side of the Sunken Road to the Southern edge of the Wood back to the Right of the objective. Before this could be done, the enemy having a numerically superior force, counterattacked & we were forced to withdraw our lines to the original	
BRETONNEUX	3/5/18			A G Hayes Major

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VILLERS BRETONNEVA	3/5/18.		<p>front line, after inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. One tank came into a chion & did excellent work but unfortunately it turned over in an enemy trench & the occupants were captured. Great assistance also was rendered by the 12" ALTMB & 12" MG Coy & also the 45th Battalion A.I.F. who did everything in their power to help. Considering the strength of the enemy garrison & the number of machine guns he had, our losses were extremely light amounting to 9 officers, 150 other ranks. The death of Capt J.G.C. Cumming M.C. was a sad blow to the Battalion, he being one of the old time officers & certainly one of the cleverest & bravest we have ever had & the grand work he has done for the Battalion will not easily be forgotten. On the night of the 3rd the Battalion was relieved & moved back to BLANGY & TRONVILLE, reaching there at</p>	<p>Major.</p>
BLANGY TRONVILLE	4/5/18.		<p>about 4 am on the 4th where a good meal was waiting for all ranks. During the day the men all had a good bath</p>	<p>5</p>

200

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BLANGY			and although we got 5 MCs, 1 bar, 3 DCM's, 27 MM's & 4 bars, it	
TRONVILLE	5/5/18		was disappointing in that other battalions that did not	
			do so well, got more decorations. Not one DSO was given	
	6/5/18		to the Battalion! The morning of the 6 th was spent getting	
			the men ready for the line once more - fixing up am-	
			munition etc repairing boots. About lunch time word	
			came that the enemy was expected to attack on the 8 th &	
			would shell BLANGY-TRONVILLE before hand. Therefore all	AG
			officers went out & inspected the BLANGY LINE and in the	Moyes
			evening moved out into position. Probably these pre-	Major
			cautions were necessary but unfortunately it rained	
			hard all night & as there was no cover in the trenches	
			the men got very wet & miserable. Also the town was not	
			shelled. The line was more or less in its infancy some	
			parts being quite deep whilst others were about 6 inches	
			deep. However no shells came near it until the morning	

22

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BLANGY LINE	7/5/18.		when large ones landed so near our RAP as to cause it to be moved. In the afternoon "A" & "D" Coy moved forward to the ARBIGNY LINE as a nucleus garrison & took up their positions "A" on the left & "D" on the right, being in position by 9pm. Wild rumours about an attack were still floating about & the new one was the Fritz was expected at 11pm. However he did not come nor did he	
	5/5/18		on the following morning. At 3am our artillery put down a very heavy barrage that lasted for about 30 minutes - the fire being most intense. On looking round the line, it was found that there was plenty of shelter from any kind of weather & so the men were comfortable. It was beautiful in the sun & as no shells came near the place it was possible to lie out on the grass all day. Some war! Activity in the air showed a marked increase, one enemy plane flying very low	AG Moyes Major.

20

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AUBIGNY LINE	8/5/18		<p>over our positions & had a good look round undisturbed. However when the enemy did shell, no damage was done as his energies were mostly confined to valley & woods where no men were. "Stand-to" was at 4 AM & instructions were issued that no one would "stand down" until ordered to by B.H.Q. The morning of the 9th was again very quiet. By this time officers from the nucleus camp had arrived & Lieuts Brown & Solt were put in command of "B" & "C" Coys respectively. In the afternoon the rear Coys & Headquarters commenced to move forward & at 11 pm the relief of the 16th Battalion was complete. We put into the front line 2 companies, "A" on the right & "C" on the left, with "D" as right support & "B" as left support. The companies were not strong numerically & the front was a big one but as the Battalion had previously held more front with the same strength, no one</p>	<p>A G Meyer Meyer</p>

Big

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VILLERS BRETONNEUX	9/5/18		<p>was greatly perturbed. In addition there was a company of the 45th Battalion close handy which in case of enemy attack, was at the disposal of our C.O. The weak link in the chain really was the right which could not be observed & as the lines are usually cut by any barrage that falls, the enemy breaking through on the right could take us in the rear. To prevent this, 3 Lewis Guns were put into position to cover any approaches from that flank. The front line itself was quite fair & was continuous but the wire in front of it was not strong enough. On the left our line was very close to the enemy & a working party doing orthodox wiring would have soon attracted unwished for attention. So the wiring here was done with the concertina variety which is stretched out & fastened by 4 screw pickets & it has a double advantage, being quickly put up & at the same time proving a very useful obstacle. On the right ordinary double apron</p>	<p><i>AG Hayes</i> <i>Major</i></p> <p><i>15</i></p>

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VILLERS	9/5/18.		<p>was gone on with. It was arranged that rations would be brought to CRUCIFIX CORNER which was within nice carrying distance of the front line. All carrying was done by the Support Companies and as rations arrived at 10pm and 1.30am a permanent party was necessary. Work was started immediately both in improving the line itself & also on wiring.</p>	
BRETONNEUX	10/5/18		<p>This work went on until "stand to" at 4 AM. Everything was very quiet throughout the day, shelling being practically negligible & of course everyone kept very quiet & so machine guns were scarcely heard during daylight. As soon as it became dark, patrols went out & worked throughout the night. Excellent work was done in the line & also in making a communication trench so as to permit of people walking right forward in daylight with perfect safety. This work was rather difficult as the ground was hard but nevertheless good progress was made.</p>	<p>AG Major Major</p>

11/5/18

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VILLERS BRETONNEUX	11/5/18		<p>In the early hours of the morning our 6" shells began to fall short but as they landed behind the front & support lines, they did no damage. The matter was reported to Brigade & the Liaison Officer informed & there the thing rested. Little did we think that this would be an almost nightly occurrence. As if to further prove our unpopularity one of our own planes dropped bombs unpleasantly near Battalion Headquarters, but luckily his direction was bad. The weather was quite good & as usually happens aeroplane activity increased. One very cheeky Hun flew over our lines for a considerable time & had a good look round before departing homeward. Soon after, a few shells came over to prove that peace had not been declared but they were all quite safe. With the early morning ration party, hot water came up & the men in the line were greatly cheered by the opportunity to wash their feet. Rations were excellent both in quality & quantity.</p>	<p><i>AG Mapped Maper</i></p> <p><i>12</i></p>

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VILLERS BRETONNEUX	11/5/18		<p>The day passed off quietly, with the men mostly sleeping and nothing at all exciting happened. During the afternoon, wire pickets were collected from various parts of the village & made into a dump near Headquarters for ready use in the line. The O.P. was very much in use by artillery officers & other sight seers and they became rather a nuisance at times on account of their number. As soon as the evening meal was over work started and the 45th Battalion sent up a party to help with the CT on the left. This Battalion is always ready to give assistance to others & it was very much appreciated by us.</p>	
	12/5/18		<p>At 1 am there was to be a raid on Tronmont Wood following on a heavy bombardment & to avoid possible trouble in the way of retaliation our working parties were temporarily withdrawn. This proved a wise precaution as one of our batteries put down a most excellent barrage all around our left front line Company causing considerable annoyance.</p>	<p>A.G. Hayes Major</p>

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VILLERS BRETONNEUX	12/5/18		<p>Fully two hundred shells from our guns came our way & the Hun must have been most amused by the sight. Our casualties from this were 1 killed, 1 died of wounds & 2 wounded. This kind of thing does not improve the morale of the troops & also a barrage is not necessary to keep Australians in the line. The artillery liaison officer must have been impressed by the unkind remark passed by the infantry & indeed a deal of strafing resulted in a general try out of the guns during the morning. Of course the quiet battery was not discovered by this means. The enemy was again quiet all day. At night a party of officers and men arrived from the nucleus camp & strengthened up the various companies and made the front more secure beside giving additional men for working parties. All night long patrols were busy, giving the enemy no chance in NO MAN'S LAND & the working parties went on unceasingly until 4 am. Nothing of any interest happened.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A G Hayes Major</p>

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VILLERS BRETONNEUX	13/5/18		<p>the relief of "C" Coy by "B" Coy in the left of the front line was carried out successfully by 2am without enemy interference. At about 11am the enemy became more active with his artillery & threw shells about for nearly two hours without causing any one any annoyance. Unfortunately too the weather broke & a light drizzling rain commenced - just sufficient to be unpleasant & to wet one. In the evening another change over took place. The 4th Brigade relieved the 13th Brigade in the night sector & being easily the strongest numerically in the Division, they also absorbed our night Coy front. This was very sound and the considerably improved our resisting powers, giving us a shorter front to hold. On completion of the relief by the 13th Battalion 4th Brigade, "A" Coy moving into Reserve. "D" Coy moved from right support to the front line on the left of "B" Coy, taking over part of the 16th.</p>	<p>AG Major Major 5</p>

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VILLERS			<p>front. B Coy remained in support & commencing extending their trench to the right as far as the road in order to completely cover B Coy's front. Dawn broke on the last day of our tour in the front line with everyone wondering what the day would bring. For rumours were still floating about concerning the next offensive. However things were abnormally quiet & the relief by the 45th Battalion was carried out with only one casualty & that caused by our own artillery. This time their rotten shooting cost us one of our best Lewis Gunners. Relief was complete & our men established in their new line by 2.40 am. During our stay in the front line a considerable amount of wiring & digging was done but reliefs and raids rather cut into the time available. As it did not become sufficiently dark until 10 pm & was quite light at 3.50 am there was no time to waste at all.</p>	<p>A G Mays Mays</p>
BRETONNEUX.	14/5/18			16

218

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS			Our position in support was in the VILLERS SWITCH, so constructed that in case of a break through the men could be	
BRETONNEVE	15/5/18		turned to either flank for defence. On the right was "B" Coy, with "A" on the left & "C" in the centre with "D" Coy forward as an extra reserve for the 45 th . Two of our officers, Capt D. ELINDSAY	
			" LIEUT T. FARNOLD MC DCM MM who had been suffering from acute influenza were sent out for a spell & indeed all the officers at Headquarters were "off colour" & running temperatures.	
			At this point the weather suddenly became very hot and the men found digging very trying work. Even so a considerable amount was done. However it was considered wise	A. G. Hayes
			to discontinue day shifts as much as possible & the scheme was successful as just as much was done at night & the men were less fatigued. Cooks were moved	Major
	16/5/18		back to BLANGY TRONVILLE & the meals brought right to Battalion Headquarters nice & hot. Early on the morning	J

22

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VILLERS BRETONNEUX	16/5/18		of the 16 th an enemy plane dropped a bomb just outside B.H.Q., Killing one of the cooks. Each company went on with its allotted work in a systematic way for they knew just what had to be done before the Battalion would be relieved. "C" Coy worked in the SWITCH, "A" Coy had the job of joining it to the railway on the right, "B" Coy besides doing tunnelling, sent a party of 10 off 30 on to help D Coy in their effort to link up Banana Switch, Villers Switch & the Support Line. On the morning of the 17 th , very early, an enemy bombing plane, a 4 seater Gotha, landed in our area when returning from an excursion to AMIENS. Although we captured the pilot who remained to destroy the plane, 2 officers escaped & must have got back to their own lines. No information of any kind could be obtained from the pilot. The early morning was beautiful but as the day went on the sun shone very fiercely. An inspection of the line	
	17/5/18			Major

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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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS BRETONNEUX	17/5/18		<p>showed that a considerable amount of work had been done by all Companies. Towards sunset the enemy took a sudden dislike to the tunnel under the railway & put about 20 4.2" shells very close to it. One of them scored a direct hit on the YMCA & as a result cocoa was late that night. Working parties were on their jobs at 10 pm continuing until dawn & another fine effort was made. The trench joining posts 17-21 was far more worthy of the name than formerly. VILLERS & BANANAS SWITCHES</p>	

2

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS	19/5/18		<p>hard work, went straight on until daybreak. During the day the men had their sleep. A party from HQ under the Pioneer Sergeant patrolled the area looking for horses to bury & were most successful in their efforts. Also, as if to show us that we were not forgotten, a 6" shell (our own) landed unpleasantly close to Headquarters. Nothing exciting happened during the day or night & work went on just the same. The enemy was expected to attack on the morning of the 20th but evidently our information bureau was misinformed as he didn't come. During the day parties arrived from the 34th Battalion to look over the line prior to relieving us. Preliminary arrangements were made. The same old programme went on with work at night and rest in the day & on completion of the last shift on the morning of the 21st, Villers & Banana switches had both been</p>	
BRETONVILLE	20/5/18			<p>A G Major Major</p>
	21/5/18			<p>20</p>

[Handwritten signature]

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS			connected to the support line. During the morning officers from	
BRETONNEUX	21/5/16		<p>The 34th Battalion arrived & fully reconnected our position & fixed up the final details of the relief. Every possible part of line was shown them together with works in progress & they could not possibly complain of the information given them. The ration tins were used to take back any surplus gear as the Battalion had a long march in front of them. Unfortunately the battalion which was to relieve us did not leave RIVERY until 8.30 pm. The reason for this I do not know & we tried hard to get the time made earlier ^{but} without avail. Naturally this made the relief very late & it is annoying when relief is not complete until 1.30 am when 11 o'clock could have seen it finished. However the 3rd Division will learn as time goes on. Arrangements had been made to have scouts over the route in the morning & these scouts met the Companies at BLANGY TRONVILLE & guided them to RIVERY, the</p>	<p><i>A G Hoops</i> <i>Major</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten mark]</i></p>

2

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY	22.5.18		<p>last company being played in by the band at 5.30am. After the long march everyone was very tired and the men were glad to have a meal & get to sleep. The work done by the men in the line was excellent for they worked with a will both at wiring and trenchdigging. While in support especially, when work was not interrupted seriously by reliefs, considerable work was done & a line of small posts was turned into a fighting trench & connected to the support line, thus putting the position in a better state of defence. On inspecting the billets at RIVERY, they were found to be in a particularly dirty condition. Not only was dirt everywhere but the filth & squalor round the various parts of the Schoolyard was disgusting in the extreme. No effort had been made to provide men with urinals or decent latrines and consequently they had behaved like animals when turned out in a field. This was not the fault of the men so much as that of the officers.</p>	<p>A. G. Hoops Major.</p> <p>22</p>

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20

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY	22-5-18		<p>who had failed to supervise the sanitation of the area. Not only this but they had failed to leave even their own belts clean. To cut the matter short, the state of the place was disgraceful. Consequently 10ff. 20ms per boy were put on at once to clean the area & the sanitary squad dashed round rapidly with them. It was decided that parades should be from 9am to 12.30pm daily with bathing parades in the afternoon. A syllabus of training on these lines was issued to Companies & a Lewis Gun school of 40 men also assembled. During the day Col. R. L. LEANE CMG, DSO, MC returned to duty with the battalion. Next morning parade started at 9am with a complete inspection of the battalion. Equipments were refitted, boots mended & everyone was busy till lunch time with Lewis Gun work, bayonet fighting etc. At 11am the Co. inspected the area & it was certainly in a much improved condition. The effluvia of the previous day was gone</p>	<p>Major</p>
	23-3-18			<p>22</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY	23/5/18		and already one flyproof latrine was in use & others were in course of construction. In the afternoon the whole battalion went for a swim in the Somme. Quite good baths have been erected there with dressing places & a sprungboard etc & the troops were very delighted with it all. The food too was good & plentiful with "greens" easy to obtain & this combined with plenty of sport soon made the men buck up. Enemy planes were very active on Amiens during the night & a few shells came over but luckily we were not troubled. Next day the same programme held good during the day. Further improvement was noticeable in the cleanliness & neatness of the billets. At night a concert was held on the steps of the school & all the local talent came forward. Although at times serious pieces were mistaken for efforts at comedy, the show was quite a success & was much enjoyed by everyone present.	
	24/5/18			J G Hayes Major 24

WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY	25/5/18		<p>Saturday was a very hot day & it was lucky that the parade ground was shady. Consequently the men, drilling without tunics, did not notice the heat. In the afternoon boys started their "trials" for the swimming sports to be held on the 29th & a few star performers were discovered. Every evening the band turns out & gives a concert to the troops & this is always greatly appreciated by the men. At 9.30 am on the 26th Church Parade was held as a kind of curtain raiser to the event of the day - the presentation of medals by Gen. Birdwood. This took place at 11.45 am & was the General's farewell appearance as GOC Australian Corps. In the afternoon more of the heats were finished & it was good to see the number of entries. There is nothing like sport to keep the Australian fit. At night always there is a concert by the Cooes, quite a good show from the 3rd Division & a good number of our men go & enjoy the</p>	<p>P. S. Hoopes Major</p> <p>25</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY	27/5/18		<p>The excellent programme. On Monday morning 'A' Coy moved off at 8.30 to the rifle range & had a long day at musketry. The other companies started the morning by reorganizing their platoons, a necessity caused by the influx of men from the old 47th Battalion. These men seem to be quite a good stamp being big wellbuilt men and although they have been with us only a day, seem quite happy in their new surroundings. Of course our men realize fully how they would have felt had they been in the same position and consequently have done their best to make the newcomers feel at home. The remainder of the morning was spent in rifle exercises, gas drill, bayonet fighting etc. After lunch the usual bathing parades were held & at 2.30 pm the band gave a concert, supplementing it with another in the evening. On Tuesday 'A' Coy & H.Q. details went off to the hot baths & as so much could be done in half an hour, the other companies</p>	<p>AG Hayes Major</p>
	28/5/18			<p>28</p>

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY	28.5.18		moving off in quick succession. By tea time all men had had a good hot bath & clean change & felt all the better for it. In the afternoon at the baths (in the river) the medical officer inspected B & C Coy for scabies. A Coy finalized their heats for the sports & D Coy carried on with the usual bathing parade. Programmes for the sports were completed. Next morning in order to get through the programme parade finished at 11.15 am with lunch at 12. The sports were supposed to start at 1 but an armoured car arrived for inspection at 12.30 & delayed operations. The car was very interesting & it was quite a good idea to let people see it & so minimise the chances of a repetition of the HEBUTERNE scare. The sports went off excellently. The competitors were many & no time was wasted, 15 events, some of them having to be swum in heats, were completed. The DARKTOWN LIFE SAVERS caused a deal of amusement as did also the pillow fight. Unfort.	
	29.5.18			A G Hoops Major

202

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
RIVERS	29/5/18		<p>unately the first competitor in the greasy pole event, broke the pole & so a lot of amusement was lost. The swimming & diving were excellent & many close finishes raised the onlookers to a high state of excitement. Among the spectators was Col R L Lennie CMG DSO MC who has left us to command the Brigade. Before he left a parade was held when he said "farewell to" & took the salute from his old Battalion. We all congratulate him on his promotion ^{and} at the same time place on record our regret at losing a man so well fitted to command & at the same time a friend & counsellor to the officers & men under him. The us" will never forget the officer who led the Battalion so very ably in all circumstances & under all conditions. Lt Col S L Perry MC, whom we all know & have great confidence in, took over the command. The 30th was very quiet, just the usual parades going on, with the exception the both B & C Coys went to the rifle range. In the</p>	<p>A J Hayes Major</p>
	30/5/18			<p>20</p>

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206

WAR DIARY

20

OF

48th Battalion

FOR

May1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1. Relief by 50th Battalion 3/4th May Order 127
2. Relief of 16th on 9th/10th May. Order 128
3. Instructions to order 128
4. Relief by 34th Battalion 21st/22nd May
5. Report on Q mis branch
6. Report on Transport
7. Report on attack on Monument Wood
3. 5. 18
8. Map of dispositions for this attack
9. Map of dispositions of front & support
lines at Villers Bretonneux.

206

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

APPENDIX 121

SECRET.

48th Battalion Operation Order No. 137

Copy No. 2/5/1918.

The 48th Battalion will be relieved by the 50th Battalion tonight. On completion of relief, Companies will march in small parties to L'ABBEUX, (Old B.H.Q.) where guides will be met who will take Companies to BLANGY TRONVILLE, where they will be billeted.

Hot meal will be ~~supplied~~ ready at destination.

C.O. "D" Company will arrange to hand over No. 1 Dump to Capt. Ferguson at once.

Each man will march out with Full Equipment and 120 Rounds S.A.A., remainder of S.A.A. and bombs being handed over and receipts obtained.

Each Company will bring out 20 Panniers per Lewis Gun. The 136 Panniers at No. 1 Dump will be used to make up shortages. Lewis Guns will be dumped under guard at L'ABBE where they will be picked up by limber. Sergt. Fennell ^{Fennell} detailing a H.O. Lewis Gunner to supervise loading of Guns. Sergt. ^{Fennell} will move under orders of C.O. "D" Company.

A representative ~~of~~ from each Company will be placed at the Western end of bank near Station and will do their best to try and sort out their Companies as they pass. Any stray men will be taken on irrespective of Company. Companies must march in small parties at intervals.

Company Commanders will inform all ranks in the vicinity of these orders so that mistakes will not be made.

All parties will march out under an Officer or H.C.O. and will report to Major Moyes at L'ABBE and then move on with Guides.

For purpose of relief, the 48th and 45th Battalions will be considered as a Unit. Relief complete being notified to Lieut. Challen at Sig. Office by word MINT. Lieut. Challen will then notify Battalion Headquarters which will be at 45th B.H.

Read and Destroy.

ADJUTANT 48TH BATTALION. CAPT. A.I.F.

In the Field, 2/5/1918.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| Copy to/ 1 | File |
| 2.3.4.5. | A.B.C.D. |
| 6.7.8. | War Diary |
| 9. | C.O. S.M. M.O. |
| 10. | Adjutant |
| 11. | 13th A.I.Bis. |
| 12. | H.Q. Details |

806

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Not to be taken into the Front Line.

32

SECRET.

48th Battalion Operation Order

Copy No.

No. 128

APPENDIX 2.

- The 48th Battalion will relieve the 16th Battalion in the Right sub-Sector of the Brigade Front XX on the night of 9/10th May 1918.

48th Battalion relieves 16th Battalion

"A" Company	relieves "A" Company	(Front Line Right) 0.38.b.5.7.
"C" Company	relieves "B" Company	(Front Line Left) P.35.e.2.5.
"B" Company	relieves "C" Company	(Support Right) 0.30.e.9.4.
"D" Company	relieves "D" Company	(Support Left) 0.30.d.4.6.
	Battalion Headquarters	0.39.d.30.50.
	R.A.P.	0.39.d.30.50.

BATTALION BOUNDARY.

Left Boundary. Centre grid 0.39 A 30 and 7.35

Right Boundary. Centre grid 0.35 A 36.

3. PATROLLING.

A vigorous policy of patrolling will be adopted, "NO MAN'S LAND" being denied to the enemy.

Connection will be kept with the flanks at all times.

- DRESS. ----- Fighting Order, overcoats attached to belts underneath haversack. Unconsumed portion of the days rations, 24 hours rations and emergency rations, 200 rounds S.A.A. and 2 Hanks per man to be carried.

O's.C. Companies will impress upon all ranks that the emergency ration must not be used unless a direct order from an Officer.

- WORK. While in the line each Company will work and improve the present accommodation.

- SALVAGE. Companies will carry on salvaging in the new area, and arrangements will be made for despatch of salvage.

- ENEMY HABITS. Special attention will be paid to enemy habits, and any case of enemy registering on different portions of the Battalion area with shelling or trench mortar will be reported to Battalion Headquarters.

- LEWIS GUNS. Lieut. Allen will detail One Lewis Gun Team to report to "B" Company for duty in the line.

- DUMP GUARDS. Lieut. Steerhel will arrange to detail One N.C.O. and 3 other ranks to guard CRUCIFIX DUMP (0.30.e.2.8.) and the Police to be on guard over the Brewery with instructions to allow no man to enter and obtain drink there.

- RETURNS. Returns numbered 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 to reach B.O.R. by last run before daylight. It is necessary to do this as Companies cannot send Runners to B.M.Q. in daylight.

- CARE OF FEET. Great attention must be paid to the men's feet. An Officer will see that every man massages his feet and uses French Powder and Soft Soap Preparation.

- TRENCH STORES. All Trench Stores will be taken over and lists sent to B.O.R. by early morning runner.

- COMPLETION OF RELIEF. To be notified by the word "PATCH".

Further orders will be issued later

In the Field, 8/5/1918.

ADJUTANT 48TH BATTALION.

CAPT.

DISTRIBUTION: NORMAL.

9/5/1918.

1. ORDER OF MARCH.

From Rear: "C", "B" and "H.Q."

From Front: "A" and "D"

Companies will pick up Guides from 16th

Battalion at the CHUCIVIX at 9.30 pm. 9/5/1918.

"C" Company	march out at	7 pm.
"B"	"	7.15 pm.
"H.Q."	"	7.30 pm.
"A"	"	8.15 pm.
"D"	"	8.30 pm.

Officers Commanding "A" and "D" Companies will see that they do not clash with "C", "B" or Headquarters.

2. LEVING OFF.

"C", "B" and "H.Q." Lewis Guns will be picked up at 8 pm. at Lieut. Storkel's Headquarters. "C" and "B" Companies having been dumped there by 5.45 pm. These guns will then be taken by Sergt. Pussel and two gunners from "B" and "C" Companies to the under JERUWAY the Railway where they will be dumped and handed over to "B", "C" and "H.Q." as they march through. "A" and "D" Companies will carry their guns on the march.

Company Commanders will see that every man has his water bottle filled

3. RATION PARTY.

The Right Support Company will carry rations for its own Company and the Line Company on the Right. Left Support Company will carry rations for its own Company and the Line Company on the Left.

Right and Left Support Companies will detail 1 Officer and 16 men each to report to CHUCIVIX at 1.30 am. to carry breakfast forward to the Companies they carry rations for.

The following ration parties will be supplied by Support Companies while in the line:

1 Officer and 28 other ranks from each Support Company to report to CHUCIVIX at 9.45 pm. daily to carry evening meal, water and rations.

1 Officer and 16 other ranks from each Support Company to report to CHUCIVIX at 1.30 am. to carry breakfast.

The Officer in charge of these parties is to be held personally responsible for the carrying and delivering of rations to the Companies concerned.

Lieut. Storkel will remain with Cooks and will bring Rations to CHUCIVIX and issue them to the Officer in charge of Ration Party.

R. H. [Signature]
 ADJUTANT 48TH BATTALION. **CAPT.**

In the Field,
 9/5/1918.

DISTRIBUTION: NORMAL.

48th Battalion Operation Order No. 129

20/5/1918

REFERENCE: Sheet 62D.

APPENDIX. 4

1. The 48th Battalion will be relieved by the 34th Battalion on the night of the 21/22nd May, 1918, and on completion of relief will move to the SCHOOL, RIVERY, M.S.C.95.40.
2. TRENCH STORES: All sketch maps, air photographs, dumps, stores, reserve rations and water will be handed over and receipts obtained, and handed to Battalion Headquarters by 10a.m. on the 22/5/1918.
3. BILLETING: Lieut. G.P. Leane, M.C., four C.Q.M.S.'s and one man from Headquarters will take over the 34th Battalion Billets at 12 noon tomorrow 21/5/18.
4. On relief Companies will move independently to their destination, via:-
BLANGY-TRONVILLE - TRONVILLE CHATEAU-LAMOTTE- CROSS ROADS M.S.d.3.9-SCHOOL. Guides will meet Coys at BLANGY TRONVILLE Church and guide them to their Destination.
5. DRESS: Fighting order. Each man with the exception of Specialists will carry out 220 rounds S.A.A. Co.C. Companies will see each man has his emergency rations with him.
6. MEALS: A hot meal will be ready for Companies when they reach their destination. Evening meal will be delivered to Companies as usual ~~max~~ tomorrow night.
7. SURPLUS GEAR: Lewis Gun, signalling stores and surplus gear will be dumped at present Battalion Headquarters under guards. This will be carried by Transport to destination. Lieut. A. R. Allen will be held responsible for Lewis gun gear after it has been placed at Battalion Headquarters.
8. TRANSPORT: Transport will move direct to new area on 21/5/18.
9. REBELTS COMPLETE: To be notified by the word SHIRLEY.
10. STATES: Marching out states to be at Battalion Headquarters two hours before moving out. Marching in states to be rendered immediately on arrival.

Field, 20/5/1918

Distribution:

1	File
234	War Diary
5	Adj
6789	Coys
10	Headquarters
11	T.O. and Q.M.
12	12th Aust Inf. Bde
13	


CAPTAIN
ADJUTANT, 48TH BATTALION. A.I.F.

g.06

Quartermaster's Branch

At the end of last month our QM, Capt J R Hammond was evacuated sick & Lieut G K Henderson now was put in charge. He had to take over the job just as we were going in the line - a very awkward time - & it is to his credit that everything went well. In the line rations were uniformly good & on reaching Reversy, it was possible to give the men vegetables (green) daily. The splendid health of the troops at the present time is due in no small measure to the excellent food in & out of the line.

CLOTHING Clothing is now in good condition. No trouble has been experienced in obtaining things from ordnance & the tailors have worked hard on repairs & alterations to make clothes fit men.

BOOTS The boots have lasted very well indeed and on inspection were found to be in excellent condition.

FOOD This has been excellent. The meat ration has been usually quite sufficient & the cooks have, by using ordnance common sense, been able to give the men enough & to spare. Potatoes have at times been very light but there is always a remedy for this & it has also been possible to provide onions & cabbages very frequently.

PORRIDGE for breakfast vice for lunch have been common occurrences & the food has been very fine more especially as the cooks now realize the foolishness of making stews. This is the lazy man's method of preparing meals is not allowed.

16.18

A G Moyes
Major

206

APPENDIX

6

36

TRANSPORT.

During the past month the Battalion has been in the line most of the time. Consequently this has entailed a great deal of work for the transport in carrying supplies & food to the line for the troops. During the time not a single hitch occurred & the arrangements were excellent.

PERSONNEL.

The general health of the men has been good - none being evacuated or off-duty during the month. They have had plenty of opportunity of swimming & this has done them all a lot of good.

LIMBERS

These are in excellent condition & have stood the work well.

Harness also is first class.

ANIMALS

Although the animals have been on reduced rations for some time, it has been possible for them to get a deal of grazing. Consequently they are in excellent condition.

The work done in May has been fine. Three trips a day were necessary with meals. The transport arrived in good time always. Luckily the weather was good & they were working under good conditions but even considering this, they are to be congratulated on their work.

1.6.19.

A. G. Mages

Majr.

Report on Operations by 48th Battalion A.I.F. against
"MONUMENT WOOD" 2/3rd May, 1918. 37

Instructions were received on the 30th April, 1918 that the 48th Battalion would attack the MONUMENT WOOD. Reconnaissance was immediately made of the position in daylight. Direction of the attack and other preliminary arrangements were made.

On the following day, 1st May, after further reconnaissance a conference of Company Commanders and Intelligence Officer was held in the front line Company Headquarters of the 45th Battalion (then holding the line), the scheme was fully discussed, method of attack, disposition and jump off position decided upon.

DISPOSITIONS. The attack was carried out with three Companies plus a special "Mopping up" party of three Officers and 50 other ranks, and one Company less 50 other ranks in SUPPORT.

The assault was made by two Companies, "B" and "C" moving NORTH and SOUTH, followed closely by "Mopping up" party for the CHATEAU. The third Company, "A", was to move in a SOUTH EAST direction and form the flank, having its LEFT on the 45th Battalion's extreme LEFT post. This Company would also mop up anything in the sector which had been passed by the Assault Companies. The SUPPORT COMPANY ("D") remaining in position in the BANK at one side of the RAILWAY LINE O.36.c. I had four machine guns and two trench mortars attached for the attack; they were disposed as follows:-

"B" Company 1 machine gun and 1 Stokes Gun
"C" Company 2 machine guns and 1 Stokes Gun
"A" Company 1 machine gun and ~~1~~

These were placed at Company Commander's disposal.

For Company Sectors and position of jumping off position, see attached sketch.

RECONNAISSANCE: During the time available, every officer and N.C.O. reconnoitred the route to the jumping off position, and was able to view the position from the front line, where every good observation could be had. In addition, Intelligence Officer and Scouts in conjunction with the 45th Battalion, kept up a continuous system of patrolling, and denied "NO MAN'S LAND" absolutely to the enemy, obtaining useful information regarding the defences.

COMMUNICATIONS: Communications were good. I was in touch with Brigade continuously per telephone, this being ~~kk~~ probably the result of having four alternate wires. In addition, visual and relay runner stations were installed. Battalion Headquarters being close up, communication to Companies was by RUNNER. Liaison with the FRENCH on the RIGHT was good. Preparations for a joint front line post consisting of one FRENCH and one of our Officers able to speak both languages was made. In addition I sent an Officer and two runners to FRENCH Battalion Headquarters, and I had a FRENCH Officer with me at my Headquarters. No hitch occurred.

DUMPS: Dumps were established at O.34.d.8.4 (Forward), O.34.a.8.3. and O.36.d.4.4. Each of these dumps contained S.A.A., Bombs, sandbags, Flares, and tools, and in addition the Forward Dump contained a reserve of drinking water and Lewis gun magazines;

DRESS: The Battalion attacked with following dress and equipment: Fighting order less overcoats, four bombs and four sandbags per man, twenty torches for "Mopping up" party, 58 wire cutters per Company. A pick or shovel to every three men, with an additional supply of tools at Forward Dump.

28

ATTACK: The first Company moved out of CACHY SWITCH at 11.30p.m. on the 2nd May, the Battalion being clear by 12.30a.m., all being in position at JUMPING OFF trench at 1.45a.m. unobserved. At 2a.m. Artillery opened and at 2.2a.m. advance commenced, and enemy machine gun fire opened. This fire was extremely vigorous, and the heaviest I have heard, and proved that the Artillery fire had not been very effective; also that the position contained many silent guns. Enemy did not reply with his Artillery until 2.9a.m. Captain N.G. IMLAY, M.C. Officer Commanding "C" Company was wounded at 2.4a.m. Machine Gun fire with Trench Mortar fire intermingled kept up vigorously until 2.35a.m. when it eased down slightly, but even then was heavy. Information not forthcoming from Companies, I sent out to ascertain the situation and found that "B" Company on the RIGHT had advanced, their left Platoon moving down the SUNKEN ROAD had reached their objective. The RIGHT was held up at the NORTHERN edge of the wood, but a party had worked around the WESTERN side to clear the obstacle. Captain D.G.C. CUMMING, M.C. was killed at this point. The Mopping up Party under LIEUT C.W. STOERKEL, M.C. had ~~passed~~ pierced through gaps in the hedge to the RIGHT of the SUNKEN ROAD and mopped up the CHATEAU. "C" Company on the LEFT advanced, but the three LEFT platoons were hung up on the wire, but the RIGHT platoon had advanced with "B" Company and reached their objective. "A" Company advanced as far as the SUNKEN ROAD but could get no further. As it was impossible to reach the objective I contrived to form a line from the LEFT of the objective to RIGHT of MONUMENT, thence SOUTH along the EASTERN side of the SUNKEN road to the SOUTHERN edge of Wood back to the RIGHT of the objective, but before this could be put into effect the enemy having a numerically superior force, counter-attacked from the EAST, SOUTH, and WEST directions, and we were forced to pull back our lines which was done ~~under~~ after hard fighting, and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. The line was finally established on the original front line.

PRISONERS: One Officer, one Medical Officer, and 20 other ranks. One Officer and 2 other ranks shot by Mopping up party.

TANKS: Tanks were placed at my disposal for cleaning up Strong Points and Machine Gun posts, but these could not be used until daylight. When tanks went out they did valuable work, but one (female) unfortunately fell on one side in enemy trench U.5.b. 60.00. The tanks and occupants were captured. Later on in the day our Artillery secured direct hits on the tank thus making it useless to the enemy.

ARTILLERY: Undoubtedly the Artillery concentration was neither thick nor accurate. The NORTHERN edge of the wood received little, if any, attention, and it was difficult to judge when the barrage lifted. However, the troops moved forward at 2.2a.m.

CASUALTIES: Our casualties were 9 Officers and 150 other ranks. Considering the condition and the strength of the opposing forces in this Sector I am of the opinion that the casualties were light which reflects great credit on the leadership of Company Officers and N.C.Os.

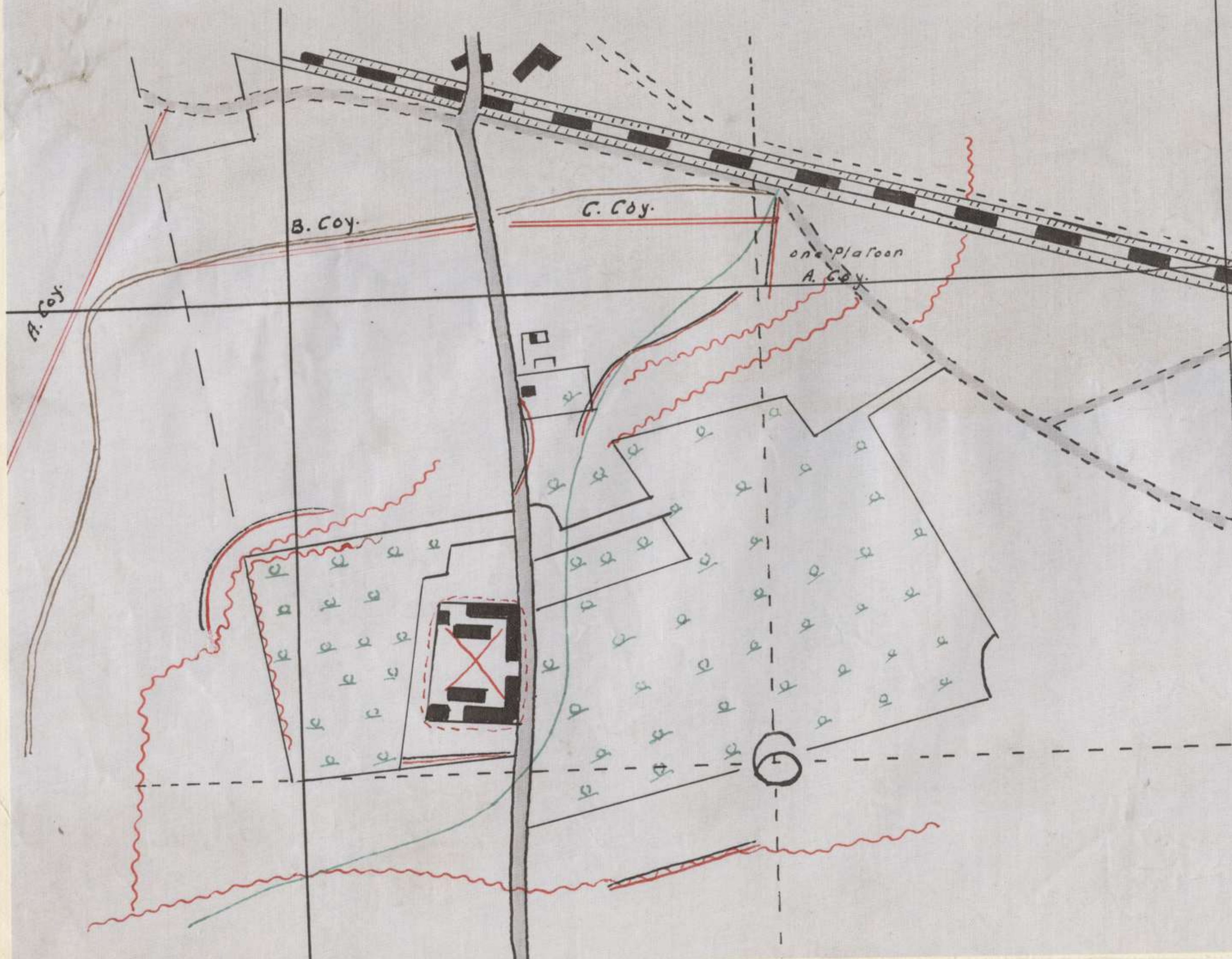
I am sure that the Officers and N.C.Os and men did everything in their power to make the operation a success. Every Support possible was given by the 45th Battalion, 12th A.L.T.M.B. and 12th M.G. Coy/

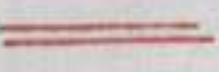
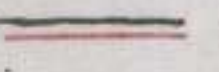
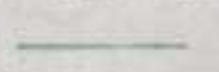

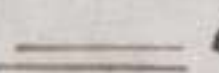

R. Allen, MAJOR
COMMANDING OFFICER, 48TH BATTALION.

In the Field,
5/5/1918.

Part sheet 62^o

206



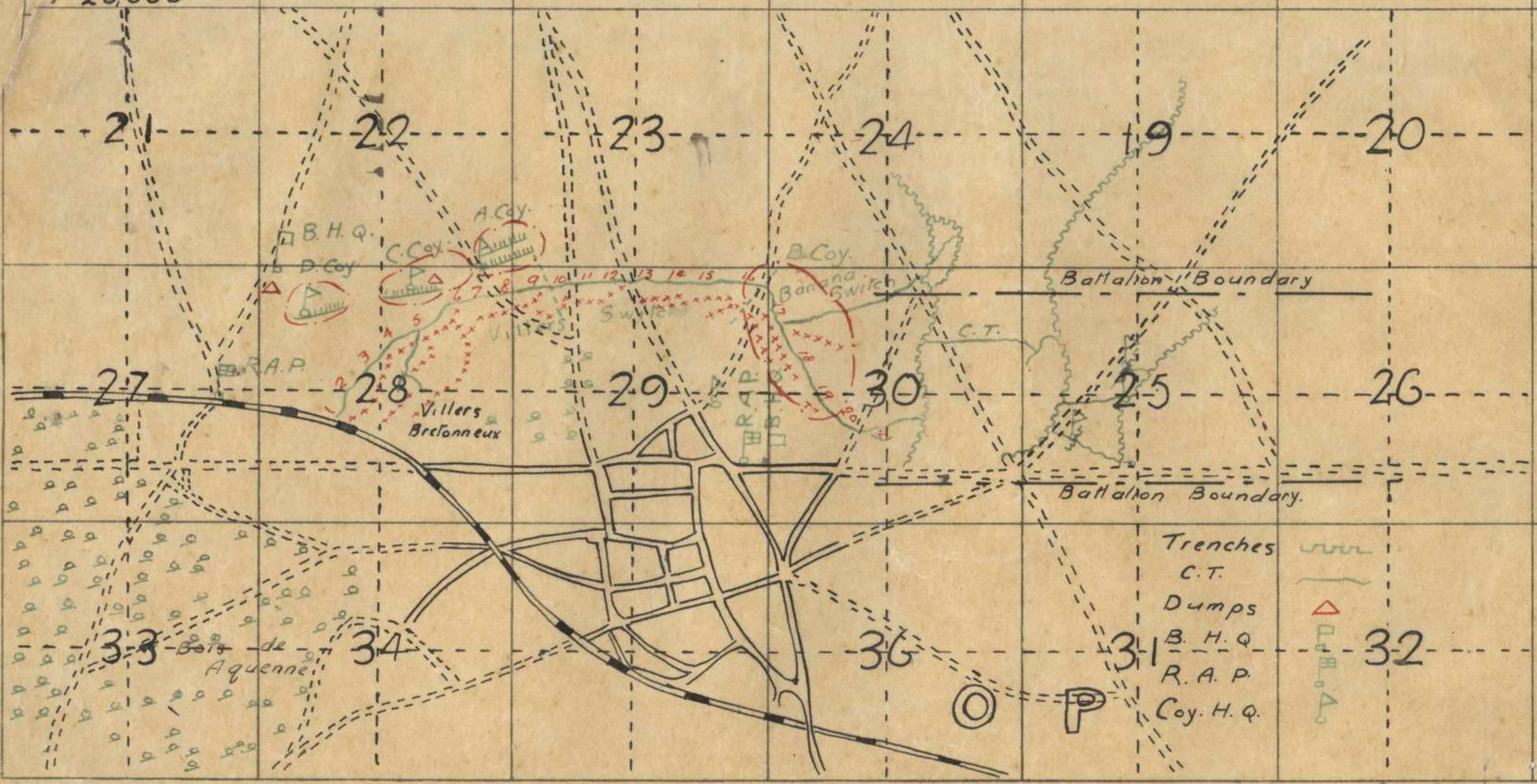
-  Jumping off line
-  Approx line reached
-  Line proposed after first phase.
-  Area mopped up.
-  Original 45th Battn. Line.
-  German Trenches

APPENDIX 3:59

206

PART-SHEETS-62° S.W. 62° S.E.

1:20,000



Trenches
 C.T.
 Dumps
 B. H. Q.
 R. A. P.
 Coy. H. Q.

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A. E. Blake.

NOTE.—(1). These traces are intended to facilitate the communication of information as to the position of targets, which have been located on a squared map.
 (2). The squares on this trace are 500 yards in length on the 1/10,000 scale, 1,000 yards in length on the 1/20,000 scale, and 2,000 yards in length on the 1/40,000 scale.
 (3). The squares on the trace are fitted to the squares of the map showing the targets, which are then drawn on the trace. Sufficient letters and numbers must also be added to enable the recipient to place the trace in the correct position on his own map. A little detail may also be traced, but this is not essential. The name and scale of the map to which the trace refers must be always given. The trace

Tracing take

APPENDIX

9.40