

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/65/29

Title: 48th Infantry Battalion

June 1918



AWM4-23/65/29

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WAR DIARY

OF

48th Battalion

FOR

June 1918

Signature of Officer compiling SCD A.C. MOYES + [Signature]

Signature of Officer Commanding [Signature]

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY	1/6/18.		<p>The beginning of June saw the end of our spell at Rivery as the battalion was then under orders to move next morning to the line. And although we had not been out very long yet a vast improvement was noticeable in the men. They looked fitter & happier & it was easy to see that Rivery with its swimming facilities, not to mention the vegetables etc to be found there, had put fresh spirit into the troops. At 9.30 am Coy Commanders, the I.O. & Sig officer and adjutant went forward to reconnoitre our new position, the Intelligence officer staying overnight to await our arrival. During the morning all details in connection with Companies were squared up & the men ^{had} after dumping tacks at the Hospice it was merely a case of waiting for the move, everything being quite in good order. At 6 pm the Scouts were sent forward to the line. In the evening at 7 pm a concert was given by the Brigade Party on the steps of the School and everyone had a good laugh. Even if the humour was not over amusing the attempts at it were quite funny.</p> <p>Next morning at 3 am bugles were busy blowing Reveille & with heavy hearts we had perforce to hop out of bed & get dressed. For somehow people do not like getting out of bed at that hour, even to go to the front line. At 4 am breakfast came on and at 5 am, the Battalion, less nucleus, moved out of Rivery with the 1st line transport following on. The nucleus remained behind until 7 am & cleaned up billets before moving out. The men marched well & at about 8.30 am we moved into position behind a large bank near Yecquemout. This bank was excellent being so high that shells could scarcely hit the bivouacs unless they were of the Howitzer variety. On the right was 'A' Coy living amongst our old friends the Tanks, in probably the best position of all. Then came B, C & D. Coys in that order with Battalion Headquarters on the ex-</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">A. G. M. M. M. M. M.</p>

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Bequemont	2/6/18		<p>Leave left. In order to save congestion one platoon of C Coy was moved into the Elliott Reserve Trench - about 400 yds in front - where they were very comfortable. As we were in Reserve, we had to supply various bridgehead & nucleus garrisons. Three nucleus posts were supplied, one each by A B & C Coys whilst D Coy supplied 2 bridgehead posts at N14 C 6.5 and N16 C 6.4 being protection for bridges near La Motte & Blangy Trouville. Our R.A.P. was in a house midway between B & A Coy & was nice & roomy. The bivouacs were not left at all clean, paper tins & cigarette butts being very conspicuous objects but this was due to the fact that the bank had been used more or less as a staging depot and was consequently no one's home. The latrines were good on the whole and the 5th Division deserve every credit for the work they have done in the sector. One never hears over much about this division but they evidently talk little & work much. Everything they marked on their maps as having been done, was done & could be found, trenches wire etc being marked in accurately. It was an excellent "hand over". Our Cookers were right with their companies in very safe positions and consequently hot meals were provided with ease during our stay. No fatigues were called for during the day & so the men did what they could to improve their positions & then rested. Three anti aircraft guns were mounted & the crews of these acted also as gas guards. Placards were put up all over the area warning men to always carry their respirators as a precautionary measure. "Stand to" was ordered for 3 am each morning.</p>	<p>A.G. Mays Major.</p>

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Summary of Events and Information

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Vequeumont	3/6/18		<p>At 4 am on the 3rd. 7 officers 300 other ranks moved out on a cable burying party & worked steadily for 6 1/2 hours. The chalk was very hard & the day hot but nevertheless 460 yds of trench 4'6" deep & 15 inches wide was dug, the cable buried and camouflaged. The pioneers were started on a job of making a dugout for the Brigade Cannoneers & also were busy making latrines, tables etc. H. & details were out salvaging shell cases and any other articles which go to swell the Battalion Salvage return. Coy Commanders went out with the Co and inspected the Aubigny line or rather the Aubigny system in its entirety. A special party was put on to completely clean up the area which was not clean & a new latrine was fitted up for "A" Coy. The day was quiet & the weather beautiful. The salvage list for the day was good. It was noticeable at this early stage that the enemy made little or no use of his balloons nor were his aeroplanes at all active in daylight.</p>
	4/6/18		<p>Next morning at 4 am the cable burying party moved off again & this time breakfast was sent out to them. Notwithstanding the break, they dug 450 yds trench & buried cable & were home again at 10.30 am. This was an excellent piece of work. The salvage party worked again with fine results & the pioneers completed the canteen building, making a roomy place capable of holding a good supply. It has been discovered that the animal known to the troops as the "Chat", which crawls, not on its own</p>

AG Major Major

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Vercquemont	4/6/18		<p>belly but on that of the soldier, is the "fons et origo" of trench fever. To foil this work of the devil, our MO suggested as a preliminary step, that all straw should be removed from the dugouts & burnt. This was accordingly done & while the smoke of the fire was still rising Heavenwards, the troops could be seen cutting down the crops to afford a substitute. Luckily one does not get clams from these parts. Food was excellent in quality & quantity and as the men also had a good hot bath & change at Dours bath everything was fine. On this date our Bridgehead guards and nucleus posts were relieved by the 46th Battalion who took over the Aubigny Line.</p>	
	5/6/18		<p>On the 5th nearly all the Battalion were engaged on works of different kinds. A large party scoured the country in search of salvage and a large list was handed in. This was returned as usual to Salvage & receipts obtained. The cartmen was a going concern and as the unit had been paid, it was difficult to get near the place. That wretched illness, which is akin to Trench fever, is affectionately known as Dog's Disease, started to make its appearance & the first to come under its influence was "D" boy & all the officers were off duty at the same time. Consequently the Medical Officer started an offensive & a supply of Potassium Permanganate was produced & issued to the Companies daily as a gargle. Parades were</p>	<p>A.G. Meyer Major</p>

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Vecquemont	5/6/18		held three times a day & many swind were the noises heard at these times.	
	6/6/18.		<p>Next morning as no parties were detailed, we started wiring on our own bat. arrangements were made with Brigade to send up the necessary wire & pickets but as this did not arrive, the party had to salvage their own. This, of course, limited the time for actual wiring but good work was done. Another party was at work at Copse Point finishing off the strong point started by the 5th Division & this was almost finished, the parties working from 9am to 12 noon & from 1pm to 3pm. 50 men under an officer were salvaging, collecting shellcases & various other articles. A party of 150 was out burying cable so that the whole available men were employed. The weather was still excellent & everything very quiet except for a few shells which cleared our bank & landed in the flat. A few men were ill & those who were likely to be well in a few days were held in the R.A.P. & received treatment accordingly. Boils were prevalent.</p>	<p>A. G. Major Major</p>
	7/6/18		<p>Once more wiring was the order of the day & enough salvaged to do a good morning's work in front of the Elliot Reserve trench. A new Communication trench was marked out to join this line to the Aubigny line & a party started on the job, completing 180 yds in very hard ground. The strong point at Copse Pt</p>	

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Vecquemont	5/6/18		<p>was finished. The salvage party again brought in a big amount & have just about cleaned out the area now. The only way to get salvage now is to sit down by a battery until it ceases firing and then carry home the empty shell cases. During the morning Gen. MacLagan visited the area.</p> <p>5/6/18</p> <p>working was commenced this morning on Pioneer Support trench which was the one spot not well wired. The party worked for 5 hrs & put 530 yds of double apron wire up in shape of a V. Another party wired Cemetery Switch near the ^{Cauligny} Orchard whilst a third party carried on with the new communication trench, doing 210 yds. This was very fine work as the ground here is very hard & stony. Illness among the troops continued & although Moore was evacuated, 9 or 10 were unfit for duty. The Sig. office & Battalion Orderly Room were in an underground tunnel & as this was not at all healthy, a start was made to build a new one. This work went on to 4 pm and one half was almost completed. At about 11 pm the enemy woke up & put over a quantity of shells, some H.E. & some gas but luckily none came near enough to worry us. No casualties have occurred up to date. The artillery was noisy all night & made one think that there was something doing. And so there was but it wasn't on our front. Each day officers & men from each</p>	<p>H. G. Meyer Major</p>

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Vecquemont	9/6/18		<p>Coy visited the Aubigny line & reconnoitred all approaches. On the 9th over turn for the baths came round once more and all men had a good hot bath and change of clothes. This was like meat to a hungry man & as before meat we have grace, so before & after the baths we had training. And all the morning Lewis Gun instruction went on in a school to which all Coy's sent men & also a Sig. Class was held. The remainder of the men went on with musketry instruction bayonet fighting etc. This work was done in small parties & the men were kept well separated in case of enemy aeroplane activity or shelling. The BQR was finished & consisted of two sandbagged dugouts joined by a trench. The whole was timbered & the roof made of tin & iron which was salvaged. The other salvage was good too & our list is progressing very favourably. Reconnoitring of routes forward went on as before. Very little shelling was heard, but a few fell on the road between our position and the Elliot Reserve Trench.</p> <p>In the early hours of the morning a few shells landed near "B" Coy but no damage was done at all. Later on more came & two men were buried. Although they were shaken up, they suffered no serious injury. At 9 am the Co & 10 went forward to reconnoitre the 5th Battalion position but as</p>	<p>A. G. Meyer's Report.</p>

10/6/18

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Vecquemont	10/6/18		<p>The line was to be advanced that night, no accurate information could be obtained. Two wiring parties worked for 5 hours each putting up yards of wire. The C.T. to Aubigny line was advanced a further 200 yds & is well on its way to completion but needs widening & deepening. At 9.45 pm the 13th Brigade & 2nd Div. made an attack & the enemy threw a lot of shells over our way. Most of them landed near the Bridge and did us no harm. The night was very quiet with a light rain still falling.</p> <p>The enemy still put occasional shells over in our direction without doing any harm & he seemed to be livelier than in the early days of our tour in the line. The Quartermaster & Transport Officer went forward this morning to find a good position for the cookers when the Battalion moves forward into the line for it is always good to have the cookers close handy so as to give the men hot food. Capt King, O.C. "D" Coy who had been suffering from fever, was sent back to the nucleus & Lt McDowall took over the Coy. The new signal office was used for the first time & proved much healthier for the men. A lot more wire was erected on the Pioneer support & the Aubigny line on the left, putting up V shaped wire in all cases. The communication trench was finished during the morning & deepened & widened at the same time.</p>	<p>AG Moys Major</p>

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Vecquemont	11/6/18		The afternoon was very quiet & the early part of the evening likewise until about 11 pm when our batteries woke up & made an awful noise. In the early morning at about 1 am & 2 am they woke up again, carrying on until about 3 am when all was quiet again . Working parties started again at 6.30 am	<p>Major</p>
	12/6/18		working parties started again at 6.30 am working until 12 noon & the place now is one mass of wire. The day was very quiet & there was little to write about.	
	13/6/18		Life was very monotonous at this time, the same programme being carried out day after day. As the CT to Aubigny line was now complete, it was determined to wire it so that in case of necessity it could be used as a further support to the Pioneer Switch. Also the left of the Aubigny line was again wired and this was nearly completed during this morning. Evidently the enemy had no observation on this part for not once did the the open on our working parties. The pioneer Corporal and his gang were set to work to build a DELOUSER. This was built near the RAB, being a building 8' x 7' x 6' with 2 stoves & pipes. Wires were run across & 40 blankets could be done in half an hour. The heat was tremendous and all the battalion blankets were done in a day. The D.A.D.M.S inspected it & was most pleased. This was the first one built in the division. The "two-day" fever was still prevalent but the gargling was excellently regulated & this had a good effect. The Lewis Gun class still continued and the remainder of the men who were not working, were busy training. Officers & NCO's went forward to reconnoitre the 51 st position in its altered form.	

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Vecquemont	14/4/18		<p>The early morning of the 14th was again disturbed by occasional heavy bursts from our guns. At 7 am wiring parties were again busy wiring Pioneer Support & Elliot Reserve trenches. In 5 hours a considerable amount of double apron wire was erected. A party of 1 officer & other ranks went forward to the reserve line & built in positions for the cookers. The men worked hard for 5 hours & when they left to go home, the positions were nearly ready for occupation. The salvage return once more assumed large proportions. The afternoon was very quiet and a few hours cricket greatly cheered up the troops. Great annoyance was felt when rain started to fall for the sky was very heavy & the clouds so low that a heavy storm appeared imminent. However we had but little rain & then it cleared off. The night was again quiet & the rumoured Hun attack did not eventuate. Once more the wiring parties were out at work and as this was to be our last full day in Reserve, an endeavour was made to complete the wire between Pioneer Switch & Reserve as laid down in the Battalion Works Policy. This was done. More V shaped wire was erected in front of the Elliot Reserve trench & anyone trying to cross now would get a rough handling. The wire is plentiful and all in the shape of a V so as to cause advancing troops to crowd together towards the gap in the wire. As MGuns (Lewis) are in these positions - the wire being laid in accordance with their field of fire - the defensive</p>	<p>A. G. Moyes Major.</p>
	15/4/18.			

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Vercquemont	15/6/18 16/6/18		<p>facilities are greatly increased. At 9 am the Adjutant, Coy Commanders & medical officer went forward & made final arrangements for the relief on their return, a conference was held to discuss & fix up the minor details. At 4 pm, one officer per Coy, 4 NCOs, the IO & scouts went forward & remained in the line all night. As the 16th was the day on which we were to take over, no fatigue parties were out working, so as to give Coy officers a chance to assure themselves that their men were properly equipped. A small party went forward from C Coy & finished off the cooker positions. Our orders were that we would not pass the Aubigny line before 9.30 pm. As the 46th & 45th were in front of us, it was evident that great care would have to be taken to avoid congestion on the road & it was also evident that relief would be very late. This caused us a deal of uneasiness as it becomes light at about 3 am & nothing could be worse than to be caught by a barrage when relieving. As soon as the 45th moved we followed in platoons at 200 yds intervals with the officer in front making the pace so as to avoid delay. After going about a kilo, the rear Coy of the battalion in front came under shell fire & suffered casualties. We luckily missed & swung off on to the Canal before reaching AUBIGNY. The move as far as Corbie was uninterrupted but thereafter we have frequent blocks & members of other battalions who had fallen out, joined our ranks. Consequently at the bridge when the track leads off to VAUX-SUR-SOMME</p>	<p>AG Hayes Hayes</p>

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SAILLY LE SEC	17/6/18		<p>we had to stand & separate the sheep from the goats - the sheep being handed over to the guides who were waiting for them. The transport had preceded us & at the Cemetery in front of VAUX "C" & "D" Coys collected their Lewis Guns etc whilst the limbers carrying those for the front line companies, went direct to Battalion Headquarters & waited here. Cookers were by this time in position. Into the front line went "A" Coy on the right & "B" Coy on the left & on their way up, passing through the portion known as the MAD ACRE, came under shell fire. No casualties were caused. This portion has well deserved its name as the trench & surrounding country has been well churned up by shells. On the right was "A" Coy with a large post on the extreme right. Then came a valley which was very deep ^{wide} on the left edge there was a post. Up again was another post & then on to the left they were much closer. Between "A" & "B" Companies there was a gap of about 100 yards but the posts of "B" Coy were closed together & more or less joined up. The Battalion sector was only about 1100 yards & was a good one for defence. Our Companies were stronger than those from which they took over & the overdraft lived in the tunnel near Coy. H.Q. In Support were two platoons of "C" Coy with the other two platoons of "D" Coy in Reserve behind B.H.Q. The posts & trenches were found to be in a very filthy condition, the smells in some of the dugouts & tunnels being absolutely disgusting. Latrine ac-</p>	<p>A.G. Hayes Major</p>

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SAILLY LE SEC	17/6/19		<p>Comodation had been very much neglected and indeed from a sanitary point of view the position was a perfect disgrace. There was only a small amount of wire in front of the posts, due largely to the recent advance & the fact that posts themselves had to be dug. Relief was not complete until 3.40 am and as the light was quite good, we were lucky to get in without casualties & the 51st were more fortunate still to get out without striking troubles. Naturally there was no time for a "hand-over" in detail. Early in the morning our pioneers were busily engaged in making latrines & soon had all Headquarters supplied. The Companies could do no work in daylight except "D" Coy who could do a limited amount. And indeed the men slept most of the time. The sector was very quiet all day, activity being confined to the air where our planes were very prominent. At night working parties started. The principal job of course, was to improve & link up the front line posts & as "A" Coy had the most to do, a platoon from "C" Coy was sent forward to assist. The front line Companies also worked on this & a certain number were put on to wiring. 50 men from "D" Coy worked for the Engineers whilst the remainder of "C" Coy from Reserve were put on to dig a new C.T. which will run from Adelaide C.T. to front line Coy HQ & avoid the tunnel. Enemy machine guns were very active and hindered the work considerably. We had 4 casualties during the night.</p>	<p>A. G. Hooper Baker</p> <p>13</p>

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SAILLY LE	17/6/18		all this time our patrols had been out, each front line boy supplying one & HQ scouts providing the hind. This patrol just moved out as our best SOS fell, and the pace & judgement of the patrol on their way back was remarkable. These patrols did not succeed in gaining touch with the enemy.	
SEC	18/6/18		The morning was again very quiet & the day splendid. Unfortunately the enemy had good observation on our position & this forbids of work during the day. The pioneers however were able to carry on making latrines which were sent up to the Support Coy. Arrangements were made to have rations at the dump at 11pm instead of 11.30 as before. Unfortunately it is a long carry to the line & takes 20 men from each of the front companies. As breakfast also had to be collected at 1.30 am, it is necessary to have permanent parties which carry rations & anything else that may be necessary. Working parties started promptly on time on the same jobs as before and it is necessary for them to be up to time as owing to the light working hours are few. Patrols were out from 11.30pm to 12.30 am, 12.30 am - 1.30 am & 1.30 am to day-light. Everything was quiet except for machine guns & a few "pineapples". Unfortunately the 19 th was cloudy & it looked like raining all the morning. In the afternoon, heavy showers fell making the ground very wet & the men forward suffered, being in new positions without covers. Another shower	A. E. Hayes Major
	19/6/18			

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SAILLY LE SEC	19/6/18 20/6/18		<p>fell at about 9 pm but thereafter it kept fine & the moon shone brightly - too brightly - from a cloudless sky. By this time Adelaide CT was looking much better owing to the excellent work of the 4th Pioneers and they further improved the position this night. The new CT to front line Coy Headquarters was put through snow only needs deepening to make it serviceable in daylight. B Coy by morning had their posts nearly linked up & A Coy had got on well with their portion & had erected more wire. D Coy worked with the Engineers, wiring the support line & were less hampered by the enemy than parties more forward, consequently they did a great deal of work whilst a platoon from C Coy deepened & improved their own trench. A special patrol was sent out to secure identification but the night was too light for this. The ordinary patrols worked on until daylight. A gun from the Trench mortar battery was pushed forward & kept the machine guns down considerably. Dry socks were sent out to companies & also foot powder & the men felt much better for them. Rations were good & plentiful it was nice to go the rounds of the battalion & get no complaints even from men who were wet through. The spirit of the men is excellent. Arrangements have been made to get up a supply of cupola men so as to provide shelter from the rain.</p>	<p>AG Maps Maps</p>

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SAILLY LE SEC	20/6/18 21/6/18		<p>Very little shelling was experienced during the day, which was unpleasant owing to the showery rain which was still falling. So far sickness had not been severe it had not been necessary to evacuate fever patients. The only people who could work during the day were the pioneers who are always busy. The sanitation of the area is now in good order, each boy being supplied with flyproof latrines. The night was again wet but even in the misty rain objects could easily be picked up. Consequently the enemy was again active with his machine guns. Line-ops were only fairly frequent & the front line was not shelled. Working parties were busy again & the Pioneers who also have a company working on our sector, have done excellently in the Adelaide C.T. Our patrols were very busy but failed to gain touch with the enemy who appears to be holding a line well back with only posts pushed forward. In the early hours of the 21st, our snipers claim that they inflicted 4 casualties on the enemy. The day was certainly livelier than usual all parts of the sector being at times shelled. This was due to a large extent to the movement. At 7.20 pm the enemy put down a 5 minute barrage near BHR & threw over in all about 40 shells. It was very sudden & very heavy. After a day of intermittent sunshine & rain, the latter prevailed & the night was miserable. A light misty rain was falling unceasingly.</p>	<p>AG Hayes Major</p>

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(Ato:66) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
Sally-le-Sec	21-6-18		making everyone and everything very wet. This materially interfered with working patrols and carrying was extremely difficult on the muddy tracks. Shelling was more frequent than formerly but luckily without causing casualties. A start was made on unringing 'H' Company's gully, this will certainly improve the position when completed.	
	22-6-18		<p>The 22nd opened in a lively manner. Our artillery was very active against the Hun's front line and communications. During the day there was several showers of rain which did not make observation easy, nevertheless enemy tracks could be seen moving into <u>PROYART</u>. Considerable enemy movement could be seen on the back area, but unfortunately the Artillery could not be brought to fire on spots pointed out.</p> <p>WORKS: - 170 yds of apron fence wire was placed in front of 'H' Company sector in the gully. The usual digging parties were supplied for work on Adelaide C.T. and Communication Trench to front line from Support Platoon Headquarters. Work was continued on improving the front line and two cupola positions were completed.</p> <p>During the night Lieut B.F. Jones, a very active and aggressive young officer, severely dealt with enemy machine gun positions by using the No 36 Mills Reple Grenade, the enemy in his usual manner threw back grenades near our trenches, our boys then treated the Hun to a lively five minutes & made him keep quiet for the remainder of the night. Our patrols were again very active but although every effort was made to induce the Hun out into 'No Man's Land' he would not</p> <p style="text-align: right;">accept.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">[Signature]</p>

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sally-le-Sec	23.6.18		<p>accept the invitations. casualties. 6 op wounded whilst carrying to front line</p> <p>The four front line platoons were relieved by the two four platoons in Support. It was noticed that the American officers and N.C.O's were particularly keen in finding out exactly how this was done. The relief was effected without casualties. During the day the enemy again gave a fine display of how to work trains and transport. The artillery has not fired on this spot but we have hopes. We are told that our aeroplanes deal with <u>PROYART</u> during the hours of darkness. The usual working parties were supplied and a good deal of work was done. Patrols were again active but were unable to capture any of the enemy who seems to respect our patrols very much. During the early hours of the morning the enemy aircraft was very active. - one plane dropping two bombs on the Ration dump killing two men and wounding five others. The reason for so few casualties occurring is due to the fact that the N.C.O's in charge of ration parties did not allow their men to come out of the Adelaide C.T. in large parties. The unit on our LEFT had approximately 32 casualties 16 of whom were killed. The American officers from this one incident have learnt a valuable lesson, i.e. Don't allow men to crowd together.</p>	
	24.6.18		<p>During the day our Artillery was very active on the enemy forward System causing him to reply vigorously at intervals. During the night our Bombs and Lewis Gunners were very active again completely silencing the enemy's front line troops. Patrols were again active but could not catch a HUN. One naturally feels sorry for these gallant lads who have endeavoured.</p>	

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WAR DIARY


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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sailly-le-Sec.	25-6-18		<p>endeavored so hard to obtain identifications. The Communication Trench to the front line was worked on and now we have about 40 yards of good trench completed. Working was again carried on in the gully - two Tactical 'V's being formed, one in the gully itself, the other between Nos 1 & 2 posts of F Company. Tactical 'V's are apparently in great demand, the troops like making them and are quite impressed with their value. Casualties - Two other sauks killed by Shell fire.</p> <p>This day opened by the Battalion on our Left carrying out a raid on the enemy trenches. The raid was a success but our left sector received what is commonly known as "Backwash" from enemy grenades & 77 shells, fortunately no casualties occurred. The Adelaide C.T. was shelled at intervals during the early hours of the morning. Our Lewis Mortars (Stokes) were very active against the enemy line. This weapon skillfully worked some of the best weapons we have for dealing quickly with enemy Machine Gun Posts. Our Lewis Guns were again active against enemy movement behind his front line.</p>	
	26-6-18		<p>The day was uneventful except for one thing and that was our Artillery firing on enemy movement in back areas, direct hits being secured on roads & tracks used. The men in the front line were delighted to think that the Hun was not allowed to roam around the Country side at his will - Casualties 3 o/p.</p>	
	27-6-18		<p>The Brigade Reserve Company went to the Baths which are situated near 45th Battalion. A clean change of clothing was obtained and the men felt much better. During the night our patrols went out determined to secure a Hun & to use their own language "bought two fights". The first patrol (Lieut W.J. Brown, MM) and 6 o/p saw a Hun come out of a trench and walk towards our lines, the patrol</p>	<p>patrol</p> <p>19</p>

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sailly-le-Sec	27-6-18		<p>patrol immediately formed a screen and followed but the Hun apparently seeing them doubled on his tracks whereupon forty (40) of the enemy rushed out and attempted to cut off our patrol. In this the enemy failed as Lt. Brown instructed the patrol to make for our lines, unfortunately an enemy M.G. fired & wounded two of Lt. Brown's men. This gallant officer remained behind with his boys and obtaining assistance carried the wounded back to the trench under lively M.G. fire thus preventing the enemy securing identification. <u>Work</u>:- A new Reserve Line is being built across the gully running from Sailly-le-Sec. up to Adelaide C.T. 60 yds of this trench has to be completed before it joins up with 'C' Company Headquarters.</p> <p>Casualties:- 2 of ranks.</p>	
	28-6-18		<p>Truly a day of events. First of all an escaped Frenchman came through the enemy's lines. This man had come all the way from St Quentin, had not tasted food for five days but had existed on pieces of green branches taken from trees. He stated that the enemy gave prisoners very little to eat and made them work hard.</p> <p>During the day the whole area was subjected to heavy shelling at intervals of about an hour between bombardments. Casualties:- 1 of ranks killed, 6 of ranks wounded.</p>	<p><i>[Handwritten signature]</i></p>
	29/6/18		<p>The day was very quiet until 10.30 pm when the enemy put a heavy barrage down behind our front line posts and our communication trenches. This strafe lasted half an hour and was continued at intervals during the night.</p> <p>Patrols report that the enemy was very quiet directly in front of our sector.</p> <p>Casualties:- 3 of ranks killed, 2 of ranks wounded.</p>	
	30/6/18		<p>The day was quiet. Little shelling with 4.2 & 77 taking place.</p> <p>During the present tour 2,300 pairs of dirty clean socks have been exchanged for dirty ones.</p>	<p>20.</p>

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place Date Hour

Summary of Casualties

Date	Killed	Wounded	Wounded Remained on duty
17-6-18		4 o/r	1 o/r
19-6-18		1 "	
21-6-18		5 "	
22-6-18		6 "	
23-6-18	1 o/r	6 "	2 o/r
24-6-18	2 "		
26-6-18		5	
28-6-18	1 "	6	
29-6-18	5 "	2	
Total	7 o/r	53 o/r	3 o/r

[Handwritten signature]

APPENDIX

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

R.M.O. 48 A. I. Batt^m

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30/6/18		<p>① <u>General Health of Troops.</u> has been fair. Owing to epidemic of influenza in the early part of month before Batt^m moved from area close to DAOURS, 78 to 80 men were off duty, but these cases were treated in Batt^m with the exception of one case, who developed Pneumonia as a complication. Majority of these cases were fit for duty in 96 hours.</p> <p>Since arrival in forward area 30 cases have occurred, 15 of these have been transferred to 12th Bgde Nucleus, where they received attention from Capt J. S. Mackay M.C. 12 Field Ambulance. 15 cases were treated in Rest Billet & discharged.</p> <p>Gargling of throats with Potassium Permanganate was commenced shortly after epidemic occurred. This has been continued since arrival in line. The Batt^m on our left lost 12 men in the average daily from Influenza, so am wondering whether the gargling made the difference, as at the onset this Batt^m was not gargling at all.</p> <p>Boils have been very prevalent; in majority of cases I think the boils have been superimposed on scabies lesions.</p> <p>② <u>Food & cooking facilities.</u> The food has been satisfactory & the troops have been receiving their hot meals regularly.</p> <p>③. <u>Sanitation</u> is satisfactory now, but when this unit relieved 51st Batt^m there were many complaints, as in all the area open latrines were being used and the forward dugouts needed a thorough overhaul on account of collection of clothing and rubbish etc.</p>	

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APPENDIX

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>(4) <u>Arrangements for Bathing & change of under-clothing</u> were excellent in area at DAVURS with troops were able to bathe regularly since arrival in forward area 2 companies have had baths & change of underclothing, but on account of military situation it has been impossible for other 2 companies. Cases of scabies are occurring & it is essential that regular bathing should be awarded of whenever practicable</p> <p>(5) <u>Evacuations</u> Wounded 27. Sick (General cases) 14. 2 officers transferred to Nudus on account of Delirium following influenza, (2) Birds buttock. BOARDED. 2 cases (1) Epilepsy (2) Neurothexin TRANSFERRED to 12 Bque Nudus. 17. - (15 with Influenza).</p> <p>(6) <u>Casualties amongst personnel</u>, Sanitary Corporal killed. 1 Sketcher beaver killed. 1 S. B. wounded.</p> <p>(7) <u>Conditions of R.A.P.</u> R.A.P. at O13a 70. Skut 620 good: made gas proof. R.A.P. at J22 d 42 . . . good; also gas proof.</p> <p>(8) <u>Rest Bunkets</u> At O13a 70 held 17 cases comfortably At J22 d 42 " 6 cases. On this account it was possible to hold a fair number of sick</p> <p>(9) <u>RUSSIAN DELOUSER</u> was erected at O13a 70 and blankets were put through same. In my opinion blankets should be left 1 hour. As it was only possible to work for 2 days it is difficult to estimate its full value.</p>	

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Shefferson also
 RMO. 45 A1. Bath.

Skut 620
 APPENDIX 23

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WAR DIARY

OF

48th Battalion

FOR

June 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1

Operation Order N^o 130

2

" " 131

3

Works Progress Report

4

Map of Sector (Part Sheet 62D)

48th Battalion Operation Order No. 130

The 48th Battalion in Divisional Reserve will relieve the 29th and 31st Battalions and take over from the 57th and 59th Battalions tomorrow, 2/6/1918.

Relief to be completed by 9am.
The Transport Lines will be at N.11d.1.6. These Lines will be occupied by tomorrow night, 2/6/1918.

INSTRUCTIONS.

The following Companies will take over the area and will be responsible for Trench Stores in that area.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 48th Bn. | 59th Bn. |
| "A" | "D" |
| "B" | "C" |
| "C" | "B" |
| "D" | "A" |

The following posts will be manned with Nucleus Garrison:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------|
| "A" | O. 30. b. 60. 40. | LEWIS GUN POSTS |
| "B" | O. 18. b. 15. 30. | |
| "C" | O. 8. b. 60. 20. | |

"D" Coy. will man the following bridgehead posts. Garrison: 1 N.C.O. and 5 O/R each:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| N. 14. a. 6. 5. | |
| N. 16. a. 6. 4. | |
| Garrison for the second post lives at N. 22. a. 3. 7. | |
| Battalion Headquarters located at:- | O. 13. a. 3. 6. |
| R. A. P. | O. 13. a. 2. 2. |

ORDER OF MARCH.

Pioneers, Signallers, Police, Guard, A.B.C.D. Transport: 1 Officer and 1 Platoon from "D" Company, and the A.M.C. will be Rear Party.

TIME. Head of column passes ~~xxxxxx~~ Starting Point at 5 am.

STARTING POINT. Cross Roads 300 Yards North Of Battalion Headquarters

ROUTE. via VECQUEMONT.

INTERVALS. 50 yards between Platoons. 100 yards between Companies. 100 yards between Unit and Transport.

DRESS. Fighting Order. Greatcoats attached to belts under haversacks. 220 pounds S.A.A. per man with the exception of specialists. Water bottles will be filled. Steel Helmets will be worn.

REVEILLE 3.30 am.
BREAKFAST 4 am.
FALL IN preparatory to march to Starting Point: 4.45 am.

SUPPLIES. Each man will carry 24 hours rations and emergency rations. Wet Rations will be carried on the cookers. Hot cocoa will be prepared en route.

BLANKETS. Blankets, with the exception of those belonging to the Nucleus, will be rolled in bundles of 10 and clearly marked and dumped on Battalion Parade Ground by 4 am. These will then be carried to new area by Transport. Lieut. Potts, MC. "C" Coy. supervising the loading.

PACKS. Packs have been dumped at the Hospice, RIVERY.

VALISES. These will be ready to be collected at Company Headquarters at an end will be carried by Transport to Transport Lines.

LEWIS GUN LIMBERS. L.G. Limbers will travel behind Companies. Lewis Guns and gear being collected under L.C.O.'s supervision tonight. B.O.R. and Sig. Gear to be taken forward will be collected by Transport at 4.30 am. 2/6/1918.

GAS PRECAUTIONS. Companies will take all the necessary precautions against Gas.

BAND. The Band will play the Battalion along part of the distance.

NUCLEUS. Nucleus will report to Major Brearley on the Battalion Parade Ground under their Company Officers at a time to be notified later. Major Brearley will be responsible for the area being handed over in a clean and sanitary condition.

TRENCH STORES. List of Trench Stores taken over to be at Battalion Headquarters by 12 noon, 2/6/1918.

Relief complete to be notified to Battalion Headquarters.

Marching Out State to be rendered to Battalion Headquarters by 9pm, tonight 1/6/1918.

R. A. P. 0.13. a. 3. 3. 0.13. a. 3. 3. 0.13. a. 3. 3.

ADJUTANT GENERAL
A.M.C. will be Rest Party.
In the field,
1/6/1918.

Head of column passes through starting point at 9 am.

STARTING POINT. Cross Roads 300 Yards North of Battalion Headquarters.

ROUTE. via VEQUINONT.

INTERVALS. 50 Yards between Platoons. 100 Yards between Companies.

HEADQUARTERS. M.O. T. 11.

12th Aust. Inf. Bde. Fighting Order. 330 rounds. A.A. per man with the exception of specialists. Water bottles will be filled. Steel helmets will be worn.

REVEILLE 3.30 am.
BREAKFAST 4 am.
FALL IN preparatory to march to Starting Point: 4.45 am.

SUPPLIES. Each man will carry 24 hours rations and emergency rations. Wet Rations will be carried on the cookers. Hot coors will be prepared en route.

BLANKETS. Blankets, with the exception of those belonging to the Nucleus, will be rolled in bundles of 10 and clearly marked and dumped on Battalion Parade Ground by 4 am. These will then be carried to new area by Transport. Mount. Posts, M.O. Coy. supervising the loading.

PARKS. Parks have been dugged at the Hospital, RIVERY.

SECRET.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

APPENDIX 227
Copy No.


48th Battalion Operation Order No. 131

REFERENCE: SHEET 62D N.E.

14/6/1918;

1. The 48th Battalion will relieve the 51st Battalion in the Front Line on the 16/17th 6/1918.
"A" Company Right Sub-sector Front Line
"B" Company Left Sub-sector Front Line
"C" Company will be in Support
"D" Company will be in Reserve
B.H.Q. will be situated at J.28.b.70.90.
2. RECONNOISSANCE. O's C. "A"; "B" and "D" Companies will meet Adjutant at B.H.Q. at 8am. 15/6/1918. O.C. "C" Company need not go on this Reconnaissance.
O's C. "A" and "B" will reconnoitre the approaches to the Front Line.
O.C. "D" Company will reconnoitre the Reserve Company Bivouacs in Square J.27 A.
3. TRENCH PARTIES. Advance Trench Parties as shown hereunder will move forward from B.H.Q. at 4pm. to-morrow, 15/6/1918.
Headquarters. Lieut. W.J. Brown, MM. 3 Scouts & 1 Sig.(N.C.O.)
A.B.C.D. 1 Officer and 2 Other ranks.
4. TRENCH STORES. Lieut. Leane, MC. and O's. C. Companies will prepare lists in triplicate of all Trench Stores to be handed over by them.
Lieut. Leane, MC. will arrange to hand over the Reserve Ration Dump.
5. DEFENCE SCHEME. Defence Schemes will be handed into Lieut. Leane, MC by 6pm. tomorrow, 15/6/1918.
6. PREPARATIONS. Companies will arrange for the following tomorrow,
(a) Water Bottles to be washed out with hot water.
(b) S.A.A., equipment, emergency rations, boots, socks to be inspected.
(c) Fitting of equipment.
(d) All water bottles to be filled.
7. BLANKETS. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of sections, and clearly marked, and to be at Company Headquarters, in dumps, at 9am on the 16/6/1918.

Starting Point. Time. Order of March and Dress will be notified later.


CAPT.
ADJUTANT 48TH BATTALION AIF.

In the Field,
14/6/1918.

Copies to:

1	File
2.3.4.	War Diary
5.	Adjutant
6.7.8.9.	A.B.C.D.
10.	Headquarters
11.	12th A.I. Bds.


REFERENCE: SHEET 62D N.E.

1. STARTING POINT. Battalion Headquarters.
2. TIME. 7.30pm. 16/6/1918.
3. ORDER OF MARCH. "D", "C" H.Q. "B" and "A". Rear Platoon of "A" Company to act as Rear Party. Companies will move forward at intervals of 50 yards between Platoons and 100 yards between Companies. Company Commanders will see that men do not bunch together.
4. DRESS. Fighting Order. Greatcoats to be rolled and attached to belt under haversack. Emergency rations, unconsumed portion of days rations and 24 hours rations to be carried on the man. Water bottles will be filled.

Each Company will send One N.C.O. to report to the Scout Corporal at 9am. 16/6/1918 for the purpose of finding the route to the Canal.
5. LEWIS GUNS. Lewis Guns will be placed on limbers at B.H.Q. at 7pm. 16/6/1918 under the supervision of Lieut. Sheldon. Each Company will detail a N.C.O. to accompany the Company Guns.
"D" Company and 2 Platoons "C" Company will unload their guns on that portion of the VAUX - SAILLY LESEC ROAD nearest the "D" Company Headquarters. The remainder of the Lewis Guns will be collected at new Battalion Headquarters.

Two Limbers for B.O.R., Signal, A.M.C., Pioneer Gear will be loaded at Battalion Headquarters at 7pm.
6. PATROLS. Special patrols will be detailed from Battalion Headquarters, but Companies will be responsible for supplying their own respective protective and reconnaissance patrols. Each Front Line Company will have detailed: 1 Officer and 3 other ranks to patrol the Company Front as soon as the opposite number patrols come in.

Disposition Report and short description of Sector will be sent in as soon as possible after relief.
7. SUPPLIES. "A" and "B" Companies will supply a party of 1 N.C.O. and 20 Other ranks to collect rations and evening meal at J.29.a.9.4. at 11.15pm nightly. Breakfast carrying party of 1 N.C.O. and 9 Other ranks will report to the same place at 2.30am. "C" Company will collect its rations at the same time as laid down for "A" and "B" Companies, and at the same place.
8. COOKERS. The Cookers will be under the supervision of "D" Company Commander.
9. RETURNS. Returns will be rendered as per attached list. It is absolutely essential that all returns be rendered sharp upon time.


 CAPT. .
 ADJUTANT 48TH BATTALION AIF.

DISTRIBUTION: Normal

In the Field. 15/6/1918.

From 17/18-6-18 to 26/27-6-18 inclusive

1. W I R E.

FRONT LINE. On taking over this sector the wiring in front of the posts consisted of barbed concertina wire extending along the whole front, with the exception of a gap between No. 1 and 2 Posts, Right sub-sector.

a. Right Sub-sector. Since this Unit has taken over a tactical "V" of concertina barbed wire, with ordinary barbed wire run along the top of the large screw pickets has been put out between No.1 and 2 posts. A double apron fence has been run across from No.2 Post to J 30 c 70 10. A "v" shape line of cavalry wire has been put across gully from J 30 c 60 20 to J 30 c 85 00 and back to J 30 C 90 10. This cavalry wire has a line of concertina barbed wire in rear, making in all three lines of wire in the gully. Wire has been thickened in front of nos 3 and 4 and 5 posts.

b. Left sub-sector. From J 30 d 35 10 to J 30 d 70 25 wire in front has been thickened. From J 30 d 70 25 to J 30 d 90 40 concertina barbed wire with strands of barb intermingled has been run across. It was not possible to put up apron wire on account of the close proximity of the enemy.

b. SUPPTS. When the Battalion took over there was no wiring in front of SUPPORT line, now there is a double apron fence from J 29 d 50 60 to J 29 d 80 95. This has been thickened from J 29 d 50 60 for 150 yards with five strands of barbed wire on either side.

2. FRONT LINE. On taking over the Forward line consisted of a series of ~~xxx~~ well dug and traversed posts. Gaps between posts in RIGHT Sub-sector were as follows:-

Between Post No 1 and 2	70 yds	Between No. 3 and 4	20 yds
" 4 and 5	80 yds	" 5 (Right sub-	

sector) and no 1 post (Left sub-sector) 120 yds. Since the Battalion has been in occupation Nos 1 and 2 have been connected by a trench of average depth of 3'6" by 2'6" wide. The gap between No 3 and 4 posts is about 12 yds - the trench averages 4'6" deep by 3' wide. The gap between No 4 and 5 post is now 60 yds. Between No.5 post Right sub-sector and No.1 Post Left Sub-sector there is a gap of 100 yds.

b. Gaps between posts in LEFT sub-sector were as follows:-

Between No. 1 and 2 posts	5 yds	Between 2 and 3 Posts	30yds
" 3 and 4	5 yds	" 4 and 5 "	5yds
" 5 and 6	4yds	" 6 and 7 "	5yds
" 7 and 8	5 yds	" 8 Post to RIGHT	

(5th) Division 30 yds. since taking over, these posts have been connected and form a continuous line of well traversed trench averaging 4'6" deep and 3' wide. In addition a "T" head sap is formed in Right of No 1 Post 6 yds long 5ft deep by 3 feet wide. This gives a good "field of fire" over country in J 36 b.

NOTE. We are now connected with RIGHT post of 5th Div.

B. RESERVE TRENCH. a. The new RESERVE LINE runs from old "B" Battalion reserve line at J 28 b 80 50 to join with ADELAIDE Communication trench at J 29 a 20 85 completely covering the gully and village of SAILLY-le-sec.

b. A new Communication trench has been dug from old "B" Battalion reserve line at J 28 b 80 30 running in the direction of FORK ROADS J 29 c 50 85

C. RESERVE COMPANY. The deep dugouts at J 29 a 85 85 have been linked up with ADELAIDE Communication trench by a trench 4ft deep and 3ft wide.

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C. BRIGADE RESERVE COMPANY. In banks at J 27 a. have completed 4 emplacements and to accommodate four cookers in vicinity of J 27 a 40 30

3. COMMUNICATION TRENCHES. a. From No. 5 post LEFT sub-sector back in the direction to Close support Platoon LEFT sub-sector is being dug. This communication trench is now 50 yards long and averages 3' in depth by 3' wide.

NOTE. It is intended to connect close support platoon with front line LEFT sub-sector.

b. ADELAIDE Communication trench. On taking over ADELAIDE C.T. averaged 2' 6" deep and is now deepened to an average depth of 5' 6".

4. CUPOLAS. Since taking over four cupola dugouts have been installed in LEFT sub-sector front line and three cupola positions have been dug in Support Company Headquarters.

NOTE: It is intended to have four more cupola dugouts on RIGHT sub-sector front line.

5. LATRINES. Front line. a. One single seater fly proof latrine has been erected on post no. 3 RIGHT sub-sector. Close support Platoon have three single seater fly proof latrines erected.

b. Reserve Company J 27 a 85 85 have three single seater fly proof latrines erected.

c. Battalion headquarters one four seater fly proof latrine has been erected.

d. Brigade Reserve Company at J 27 a has one four seater and one single seater fly proof latrines erected.

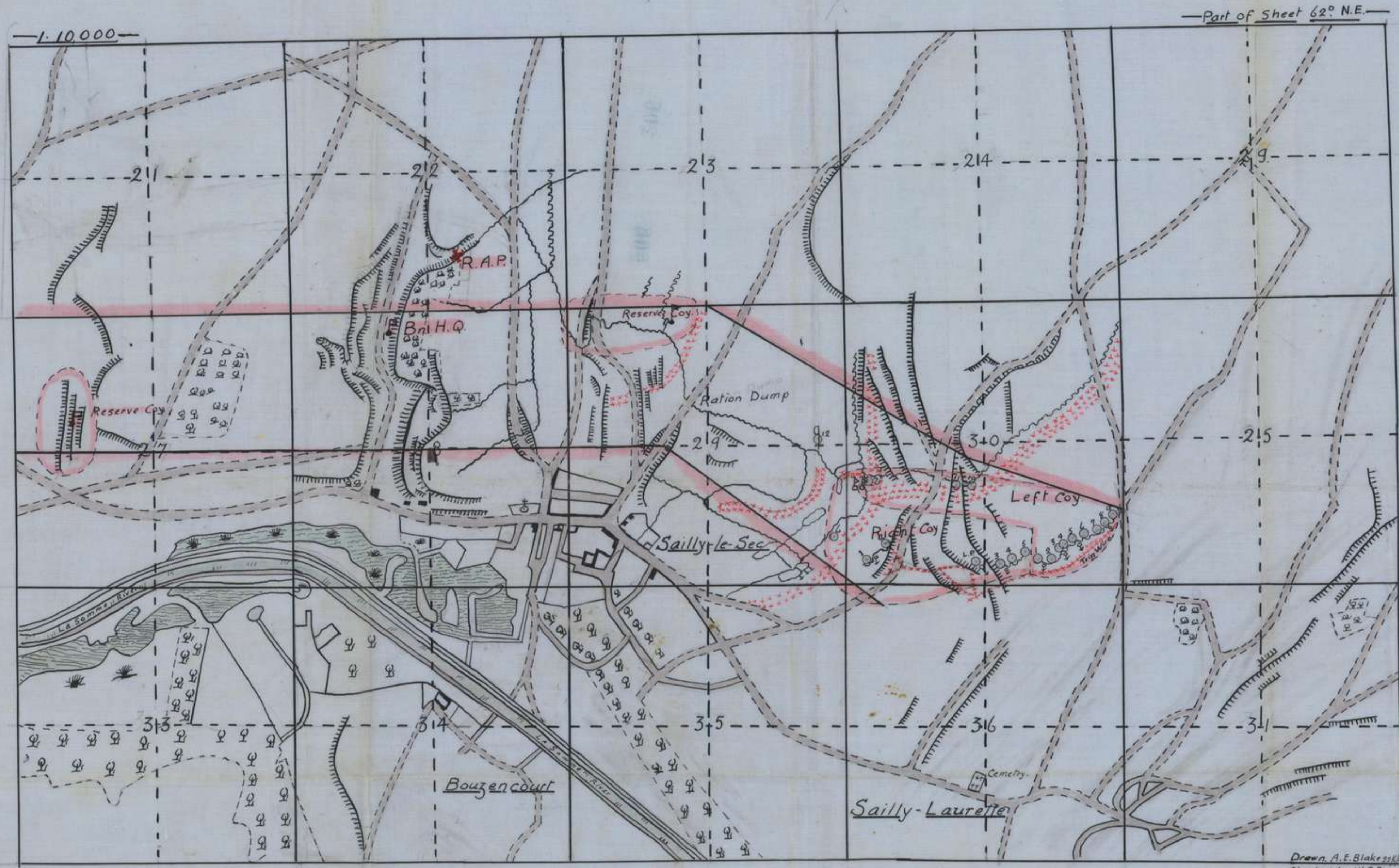
e. Two grease traps have been made and placed - 1 at battalion Headquarters and 1 at Brigade Reserve Company J 27 a.

WORKS MAP ATTACHED.

A. Berry Lieut-Col.,
Commanding officer, 48th Battalion. A.I.F.

In the Field
28/6/1918.

—Plan of Dispositions—
 —48th Battalion A.I.F.—

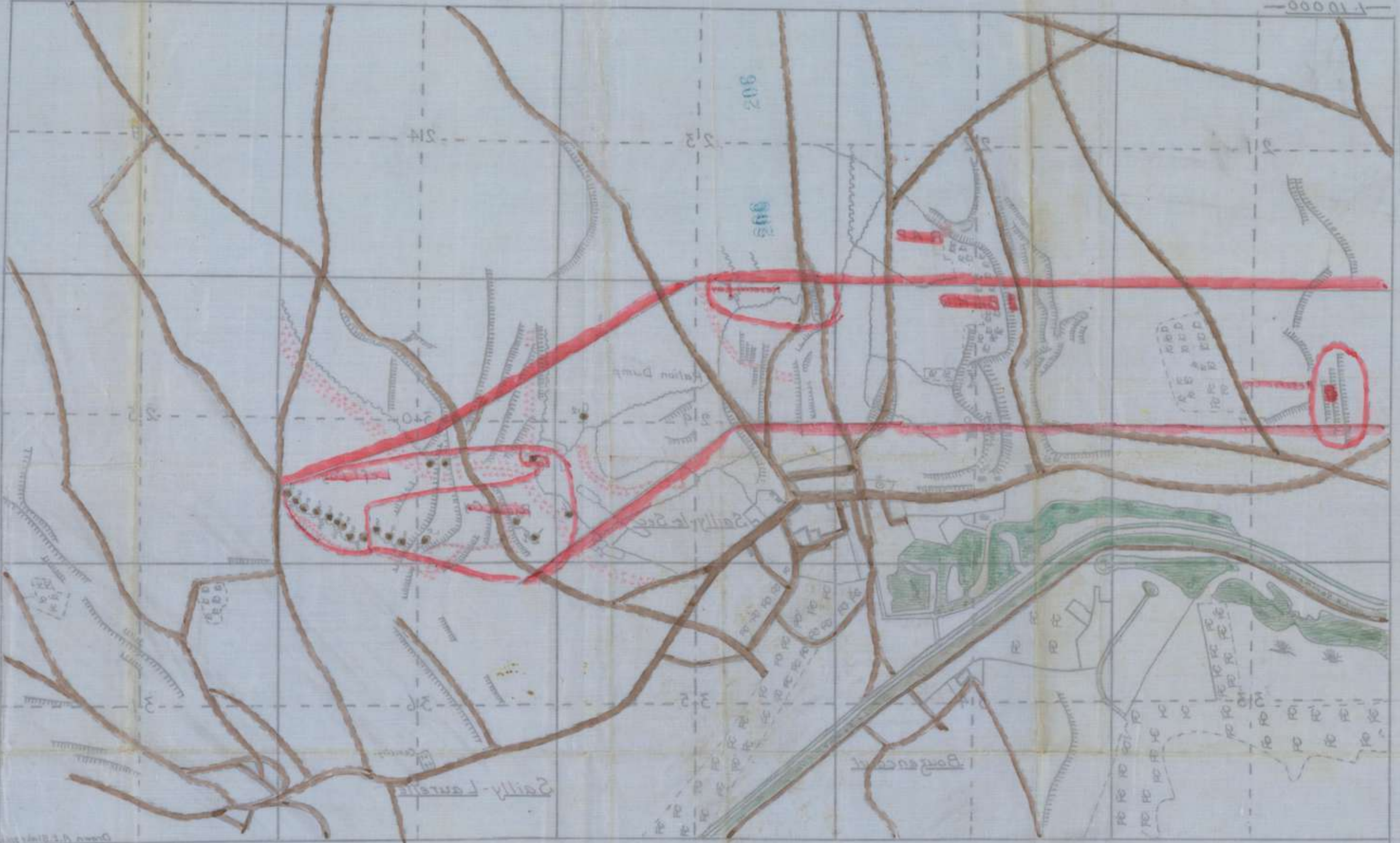


Drawn A.E. Blakesley
 Checked by W.J. Brown I.O.

4

48th Battalion A.I.F. — Plans of Dispositions —

Part of Sheet 62, N.E.



Green A.I.F. Dispositions
Checked by W. G. G. 10