

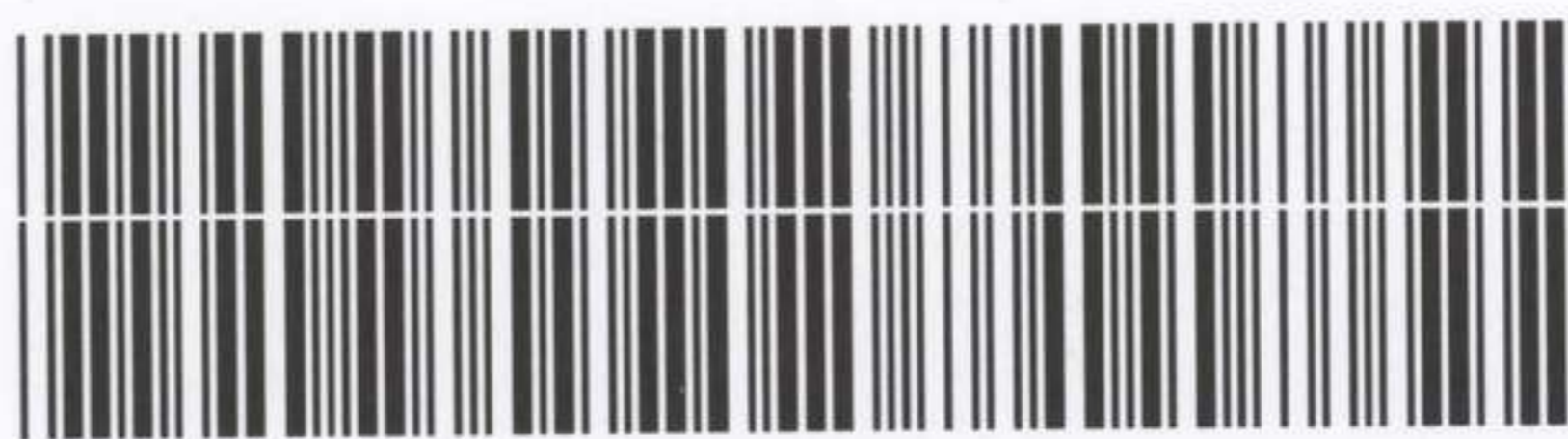
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/65/7

**Title:** 48th Infantry Battalion

August 1916



AWM4-23/65/7

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.

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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12TH. AUST. INF. BDE.  
REG. No. 409/2/16  
DATE 5.9.16

Army Form C. 2118

48 Bar AIF

Vol III

15

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALBERT	1/8/16		Left HARPOUVILLE at 4.30pm and moved to ALBERT men arrived in good order only 9 having fallen out on the march with leave. We bivouacked at BRICKFIELD. Enemy shelled town of ALBERT during night.	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Planned to 4/16</p>
TARA HILL	4/8/16		Moved to TARA HILL and occupied the Bivouac vacated by 28 <sup>th</sup> Bn heavy shelling during night. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division attacked and captured O.G. 1 O.G. 2 trenches in front of POZIERES	
Sausage Valley	8/8/16		The Battalion moved from SAUSAGE VALLEY on August 5 <sup>th</sup> to take over position O.G. 1, O.G. 2, POZIERES. A Company moved at 4.30pm with two minute intervals between platoons. B Company followed five minutes after A Company. We moved via SAUSAGE VALLEY, SUNKEN ROAD, PIONEER TRENCH, COPSE AVENUE TO TRAMWAY TRENCH. We relieved the 27 <sup>th</sup> Bn who held O.G. 1 only from BAPAUME ROAD inclusive to A35 C4.8. Ref MAP to. The 27 <sup>th</sup> had fallen back from O.G. 2 early on the morning of August 5 <sup>th</sup> however I instructed my Company commanders that O.G. 2 would be held, strong points to be constructed. also strong patrol to be sent out in front of O.G. 2 this was completed by 10.30pm. SERGT TWINING in charge of Scouts I ordered to reconnoiter WINDMILL near BAPAUME ROAD and to establish a strong POINT on right of MILL. The Battalion relieved the 27 <sup>th</sup> Bn under a very heavy barrage of enemy Artillery	



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SAUCAGE VALLEY	8/8/16		<p>we suffered heavy casualties in taking over, no trenches were constructed the place being just one mass of Craters. No communicating trenches existed attempts had been made to dig them, but they did not go beyond Jumping OFF TRENCH in front of TANKWAY Trench. This meant about 400 yards over the open to get up RATIONS and water, all wounded had to be carried back in the same way. Communication being kept up <del>with</del> <sup>by</sup> Runners. My Battalion suffered very heavy casualties during the night of 5th August and day of 6th although constant efforts were made to dig trenches they were almost immediately blown in by Enemy shell fire. This Barrage continued unceasingly throughout 5th 6th and up to 12 noon on 7th August. at 7pm on the 6th I relieved the two Companies holding OY, OY<sub>2</sub> with D Company. still keeping C Company in close support. at 2.45 pm on the 6th <del>pm</del> I sent a message to BRIGADE that I considered a counter attack probable. this happened on the morning of August 7th at just before 5.30am. I immediately despatched messages by Pigeons &amp; Runners. also sent up S.O.S. signals for Artillery Barrage. Two Platoons under Lt Lyke went forward to reinforce my left. The German</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Part 1000000</p>

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Sausage Valley	8/16		<p>Counter Attack succeeded in penetrating the line at a few points on my left. elsewhere they were either driven off, killed or captured. Lt LAW. sent a party under Sergt Beck to charge some German who had got into a point on the left. at the same time a party of the 14<sup>th</sup> Bn who were on my left, under Lt Jackson attacked on the right. between them the Germans were captured and the prisoners to the number of 54 including 2 officers passed through my HQs for despatch to the rear. By this time our Artillery were firing heavily. and formed a barrage in front of O.G.V. this must have caught the Enemy who were working just below the crest, their casualties were reported as heavy. Sergt TWINING who was in position near WINDMILL informed me that he did good work with a Lewis Gun also that a German Machine Gun got within 300 yards of the WINDMILL and fired from a crater, but that one of our shells knocked the gun out. during the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> one of my advanced patrols captured a German patrol 200 yards in front of WINDMILL, including wounded and prisoners numbered during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of August.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">                 Durham Co 4012             </p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sausage Valley	8/8/16		<p>about 70. To my Medical Section under MAJOR WOLLARD. Special force belongs. although we suffered heavy Casualties, during the time we were in the trenches we removed not only all our own, but also all those who had been left by the 7th Brigade which preceded us. much of this work had to be done in the open and under a very heavy fire. MAJOR Inlay who remained at the advanced dump did very good work in sending forward Food, Water, and Material, also in collecting stragglers and returning them to the firing line. The Battalion Casualties August 5th to 7th inclusive were.</p> <p>6 Officers Killed. Lieuts. Dyke. RICHARDSON. WALTER. OTWAY. HAWKE. COLSON</p> <p>14 Officers Wounded. MAJOR. O'SULLIVAN. "S.S." Capt ROBERTS. "SS" HARTLEY. GARDEN. BUSH. TILLEY. Lt CALDWELL. WHITTLE "SS" MOYER. RILSTONE. "SS" CARTER. GRINLINGTON. CUMMING. <del>EMERSON</del>. ANDERSON.</p> <p>98 Other Rankers Killed 404 Other Rankers Wounded</p> <p>76. Other Rankers Missing.</p> <p>MAJOR. WOLLARD. Wounded slightly but remaining on duty.</p> <p>Lieut ELLIOT</p> <p>4th BATTALION was relieved on the night of August 7th by the 47 Battalion.</p> <p>2nd Lieuts. BROWN + MOTT reported for duty on August 6th</p> <p>2nd Lieut Roche reported on August 10th from Reinforcement</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Document Co 472</p> <p>"SS" denotes Shell shock</p>

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<p>Savage Valley WARLOY</p>	<p>11 8 16 16 8 16</p>		<p>48<sup>th</sup> Bn have been resting in their positions since August 8<sup>th</sup> inspections and machine Gun TRAINING is being carried out by all routes.</p> <p>The Battalion moved back into the Front line Trenches at 6am on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. from BAPAYNE ROAD inclusive to R35. G. 4.8. The strength being very low. The whole of the available men were required to hold the line. Enemy shelled during the afternoon and evening of 12<sup>th</sup> inst.</p> <p>A reconnoitering Patrol moved out on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> <del>inst</del> at 4 am and reconnoitered the SUNKEN ROAD, and ground in the vicinity. No new Trenches were discovered. All available men were utilized in improving and building Trenches in TRAMWAY. JUMPING OFF. 691 + 09. Shelling was fairly continuous during Sunday. Monday 14<sup>th</sup> was the worst day experienced the time. The Enemy kept up a constant Artillery fire during the morning. Later on in the day a Barrage fire was placed on TRAMWAY. TRENCH and COPSE AVENUE the Trenches were very much knocked about. also we had a good number of Casualties including 2nd Lieut LAW. night 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>. CAPT EVANS night of 14<sup>th</sup>. Our Call for Artillery Retobition met with a prompt response and caused huge loss for us considerably. Total Casualties 12<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Inclusive 2 Officers killed. 1 Officer wounded but remained on duty. 21 Other Routes killed. 63 other Routes wounded. 7 other Routes wounded but remained on duty. 3 other Routes missing. 76 Reinforcements joined the Battalion on 14<sup>th</sup> inst. all but 26 were new who had previously served with the Battalion. The Battalion was relieved by the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Bde on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> inst.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">                 Parkers Court             </p>

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WARLOY	16/8/16		Moved back to ALBERT. Remained at BRICK FIELDS until 7 am this morning marched to WARLOY arrived at 11 am. No one fell out on the march. We went into bivouac at WARLOY it rained a good deal, and the men got very wet. On the 18 <sup>th</sup> the Battalion moved to HERISSART going into Billets. We remained there until the morning of the 19 <sup>th</sup> when we moved to BERTEACOURT at 7 am arriving there at 12 noon. It rained heavily most of the way. No one fell out during the march.	RRHewitt Co 4th Bn
BERTEACOURT	20/8/16		2nd Lieut BROWN and ROCHE left here today under orders to report to AUSTRALIAN BASE LONDON for return to AUSTRALIA. Their services being no longer required. These officers joined we recently for reinforcements.	
BERTEACOURT	21/8/16		Left BERTEACOURT on 23 <sup>rd</sup> inst. and marched to TALMAS arriving there at 4 pm. Marched to RUBENPRIS on 24 <sup>th</sup> arrived at 2 pm. Brigade was inspected this morning at 9.30 pm. and Comm. issued by G.O.C. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave Div. to those Officers and men who rendered good services at Pozieres Aug 1 <sup>st</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> .	
RUBENPRIS	25/8/16		Moved to VADENCOURT at 9 am rained heavily during the march.	
VADENCOURT	26/8/16		General BIRDWOOD addressed the Brigade this morning and presented Military Medals.	
	27/8/16			

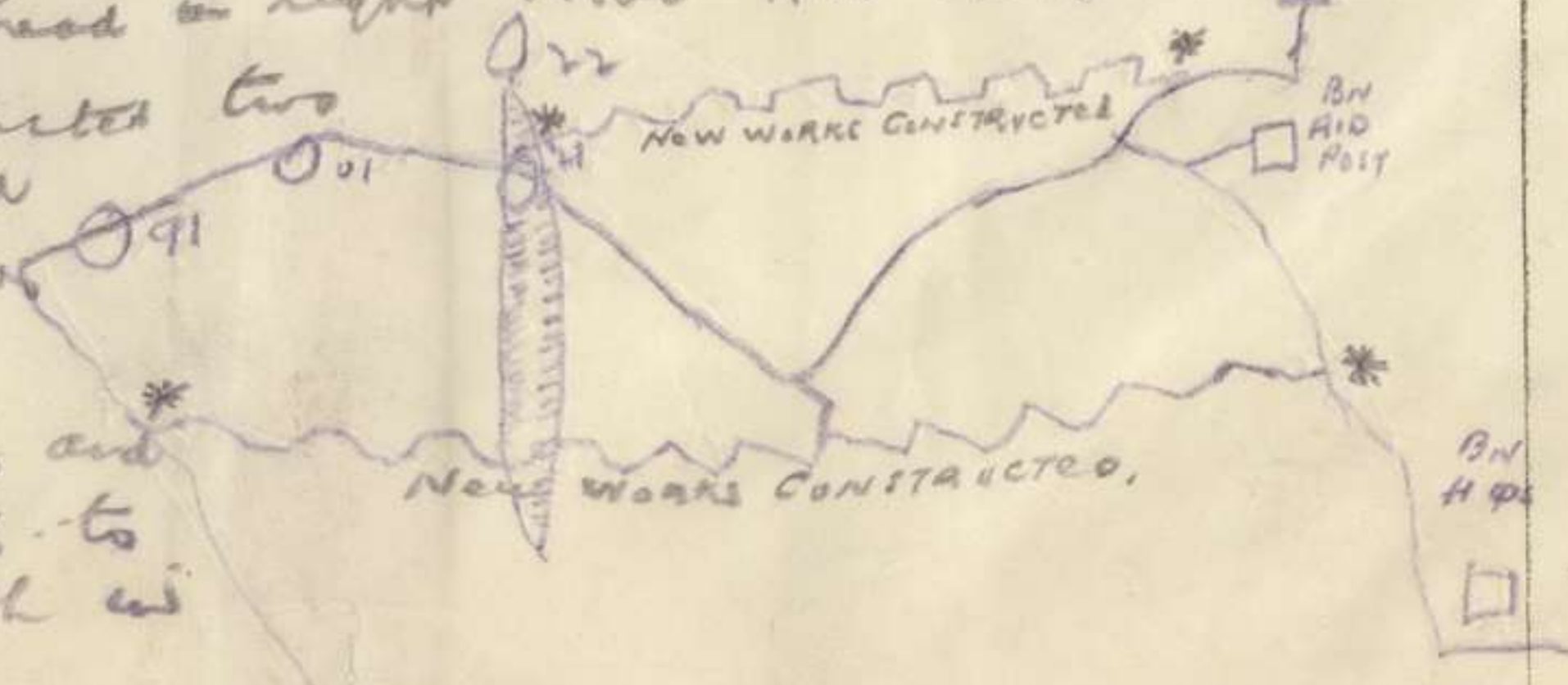
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ALBEAT.	28/8/16	7pm	Moved to ALBEAT, leaving VADENCOURT. 8-35 am. Arrived at noon roads very muddy, and it rained heavily. Went into Billeb.	
LA. BOISSELLE	29/8/16	3pm	Moved to LA BOISSELLE on the night of 28th and relieved the 18th BN. relief completed at 7.30 pm. At between 8-30pm and 10pm the Enemy dropped 20 H.E. shells near Cookers. otherwise everything quiet. Cookers dug in this morning. 300 men supplied to signal company to bury cable to POZIERES. Very little Enemy shelling so far today.	R 28 and R 29
Refmap 1/5000 FORM. DU MOUPRET.	31/8/16		<p>Battalion relieved 12 BN 4<sup>TH</sup> AUS INFTRY. BOE. Left LA. Boisselle at 8pm on night 30/8/16 relief completed 6.30 am 31/8/16. Trenches in a very bad state mud being in many places over knee deep. Established Battalion HQs at joint R 34. 04.7 1/2. previous BN HQs was at R 34 Central, but I considered this much too far back. The only line that existed when I took over trenches was line running O 91 to T head on right above R 10 Pol T. under orders from 12<sup>th</sup> INFTRY BOE I constructed two new lines marked R 10. * works could only be done at night. My strength was about 200 Rifles and it went constant digging during the hours of darkness, and I completed the works at 4.30 am 2/9/16 to a depth of 5ft except a small length in</p> 	R 28 and R 29



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Operation  
48th Battalion/Order. P/1.

August 5th 1916.

REF. MAP.  $\frac{1}{30000}$ . Small Map POZIERES Section.

- (1) The 13th Inf Bde will relieve Units of the 5th Bde and 7th Inf Bde this evening. The 48th Battalion from BAPAUME Road inclusive to R.35 C.48 at front held by 37th Battalion. The 38th Battalion (7th Aust Inf Bde) is on the left running from C.T.R. 35 C.48.
- (2) "A" Coy will take over Section from BAPAUME ROAD inclusive to R.35 C.7.6. where Track shown on Map crosses Trench O.G.3.  
"B" Coy from track (inclusive) R.35 C.7.6. to C.T. R.35.C.4.8.  
"C" Coy will occupy TRAMWAY TRENCH from BAPAUME ROAD to left.  
"D" Coy will remain at Battalion Dump near "S" in SUNKEN ROAD.
- (3) "D" and "C" Coys will act as local reserve, and will supply working as required by C.R.E. 2nd Division.
- (4) The greatest care is to be exercised in taking over, especially as regards front line trenches. These are not easily recognised, either on the Map or Country, but every effort must be made to identify the positions taken over otherwise confusion will ensue and Units will not be where shown on the Map. Coys will report immediately relief is completed, and forward sketch of dispositions, and report on defensive position generally as soon as possible. The line now occupied must be held at all costs.
- (5) In the event of a counter attack by the enemy, or our Artillery retaliation being required, the S.O.S. signal will be given, if the Senior Officer present in command of the Section considers the matter urgent, otherwise a messenger must be despatched to Battalion Headqrs.
- (6) It is essential that O.G.3. be improved first by specially selected strong points, which can afterwards be opened out into Fire Trench Digging Must be carried out under all conditions. Specially selected men will be sent out to occupy craters in front of O.G.3. to cover working parties. These men will not go more than 75 yards to 100 yards in front of O.G.3.
- (7) LEWIS GUNS. The Lewis Gun officer will select positions in front of Battalion Sector occupying and improving craters for gun positions; at least 4 Guns to be used. These will go into position at dusk, and be withdrawn just before dawn to positions in O.G.3.
- (8) SCOUTS. Scout officer will keep patrols working in front of O.G.3. These will not go out further than 100 yards in front of O.G.3. Windmill to be reconnoitred, and sharp look out kept for enemy Machine Gun position.
- (9) GRENADIERS. Grenadier officer will distribute his men over O.G.3.
- (10) Dressing Station is situated at X.11.A.1.1.
- (11) Reports are to be sent to Battalion Headquarters as frequently as possible. Battalion Headqrs is situated at X.4.B.9.5. off TRAMWAY TRENCH.
- (12) Battalion reports are due at Brigade Headqrs at 10 & 4 p.m. and a.m. (i.e. every six hours). Companies will send in their reports, giving casualties as far as is known, information regarding enemy etc., at 8 & 2. p.m. and a.m.

*BB Leon* Capt.  
Adjutant 48th Battalion.

By Lieut-Col R.L. Leane D.S.O.  
Commanding 48th Battalion.  
A.I.F.

10/8/16.

After a short, but strenuous period in the front line of Trenches, the 48th Battalion has been withdrawn to rest and re-organise, but not to relax. The Battalion in forty eight hours has won for itself a name that every Officer, every N.C.O. and every man should deem it his sacred duty to uphold a name for unflinching courage, and stoical endurance. It is true that in those two stern days, many of our comrades were lost to us, but let it not be thought that their sacrifice was in vain. We were given a most important trust; we were called upon to hold at all costs, the ground won by the preceding Battalion; ~~we~~ and we held it, in spite of the most determined efforts of the enemy to regain the position. The following Copy of a Special Order issued by General von Bulow which was taken from a German prisoner, bears witness to the importance placed by our enemy on the position of the POZIERES PLATEAU:-

"At any price the

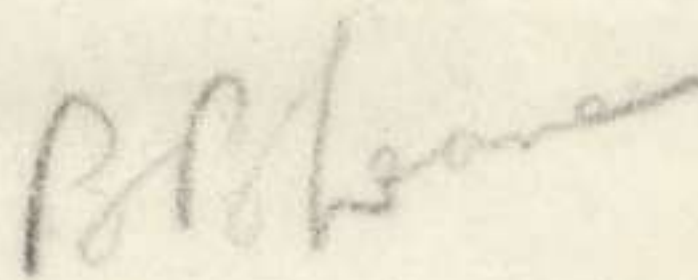
POZIERES PLATEAU (HILL 60) must be recovered, for if it remained in the hands of the British, it would give them an important advantage. Attacks will be made by successive waves 80 yards apart. Troops which first reach the Plateau must hold on until reinforced, whatever their losses. Any Officer or man who fails to resist to the death on the ground won will be immediately Court Martialed."

We were subjected to a bombardment of an intensity, that has not been surpassed by any previous bombardment in the History of the War until our ranks were most appallingly depleted. This was followed by an Infantry attack, the first waves of which, although in places penetrating our line, were driven out and back, leaving a large proportion of their number dead, or prisoners in our hands. The succeeding waves were caught in our Artillery barrage, which followed most rapidly on our call for retaliation and large numbers of the enemy were accounted for in the valley below our lines, and the attack was finally broken up and abandoned.

To the Medical Section special praise belongs. Although we suffered such heavy casualties, it is satisfactory to know, that through the fearlessness and untiring zeal of our Medical staff and our Stretcher Bearers (much of whose work had to be performed in the open under heavy fire) when we were at last relieved from the trenches, we had not only brought in our own wounded, but also all those who had been left by the Brigade which preceded us.

The General Officer Commanding 1st ANZAC; the G.O.C. 4th Division, and the G.O.C. 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. have all been pleased to express their appreciation of the good work achieved by this Battalion, and the Commanding Officer wishes to say that he is deeply proud of his Command.

As we have begun, so we must continue, so that the Battalion shall always have a name for endurance, for courage, and for stern determination. See to it men, that your N.C.Os and Officers have your loyal support; that new reinforcements who come to build up our strength again are made to know what standard of soldiership is required of them; and that that spirit of Esprit de Corps which comes from dangers shared, and battles fought together, is maintained and fostered as long as the Battalion shall last.



Capt.  
Adjutant 48th Battalion,