

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/54/12

Title: 37th Infantry Battalion

June 1917



AWM4-23/54/12

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUE DU SAC, CAMP. PLOEGSTEERT	1-6-17.		Preparations are in full swing for the coming offensive. The approximate date is not known. All day long the artillery preparation goes on unceasingly, and practice barrages are now commencing. A party of 1 W.C.O. and 10 men went to the forward area to-night to follow up a practice barrage from the vicinity of SEAFORTH FARM. As our barrage opened the enemy laid down a heavy counter-barrage on our wire & front line which prevented the reconnaissance party from leaving our trench.	
	2-6-17.		Intense activity by both sides. PLOEGSTEERT Wood. receives special attention from the enemy each night. He is expecting our approach marks & pours large quantities of H.E. Shrap. & gas-shell into the wood and on to all roads and tracks in its vicinity.	
	3-6-17		Intense artillery activity. Corps & Army bombardments day & night coupled with practice barrages. 1 officer & 40 men left for duty as prisoner guard with the A.P.M. BAILLEUL. The Bataillon Nucleus left for MORBECQUE, with the exception of three officers who remained behind for instructional purposes.	
	4-6-17		Order for "Magnum Opus" completed to-day. A meeting was arranged between our Coy Commanders and those of flank Battalions who would be in touch with them. The Trench mortar Sections & the Machine Gun sections attached to the Bataillon visited the billets to-day to receive instructions. Lieut. A. Fraser is in charge of the 10th Coy section attached.	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROE DU SAC.	5-6-17		Artillery activity intense. The Battr. supply of bombs, flares, etc has been received and all necessities are being distributed. Almost all preparations are completed. To-day Bde HQs moved to its forward position in the Front Line Area.	
	6-6-17		During a conference of officers at 3.20 p.m. a code message was received stating that (Zero Hour would be to-morrow morning at 3.10 a.m.). on receipt of this information which meant that our approach march is to be to night, all ranks were warned and messengers were sent to the trenches to recall the working parties. These amounted in all to about 300 all ranks, and were speedily equipped and fed on their return, in order that they might obtain rest for a short period before they entered on the march to the assembly trenches. The remainder of the diary until 9.6.17 is attached to the <u>the</u> report.	
	9-6-17	10am	Battr. relieved by the 44th Battr 11th Inf. Bde. Battr. returned to ROE DU SAC CAMP.	
	10-6-17	-	Gen Plumes inspected the Bde.	
	12-6-17	-	Battr. marched to KORTOPYP CAMP. Duty. Carrying for Heavy Artillery and specialist training.	
	17-6-17	-	29 reinforcements marched in from base - formed from reinforcements to 2nd Division	
	18-6-17	-	Battr. moved to REGINA CAMP.	
	19-6-17	-	Enemy shelled battery in rear of Regina Camp. Many fell short very near the camp. 14 Casualties 38th Battr. & R.G.A. Shelling was intermittent during the night and all had to leave the camp.	
	20-6-17	-	Enemy planes brought down 2 balloons in rear of our camp.	
	21-6-17	-	Enemy shelled the camp & managed to get a few among the tents & shelters. Men got out too quick for him. No casualties.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
REGINA FARM.	23-6-17		Battn. moved to HILLSIDE CAMP. Three gas balloons in rear of the camp brought down by German planes.	
	24-6-17-		Battn. moved to barracks at T. 2. C. for a course of 18 days training. To-day Sunday. Church Parade was held at 3pm.	
	25-6-17.		Syllabus commenced working very well. Training consists of Lewis Gun, Bombing, Bayonet, fighting etc.	
	26-6-17 -		Lieut (unreadable) + 4 men representing the Battn. went to BATHLEIGH to meet His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. The C.O. of the Battn. will also attend.	
	27-6-17 TO 30-6-17	-	Continuous training while in Reserve at T. 2. C. 50. 51.	

W. J. Smith
CO 3/15/16
3/16

Secret.

Instructions for the Attack on the evening on Z day, by the 37th Battalion in conjunction with Other Units.

REFERENCE MAP. $\frac{1}{10,000}$ Sheet 28. S.W 4. Edition 4B, also Sketch Maps and Plans issued to Coy Commanders, 3rd June 1917.

Information (1) Enemy will be attacked at dawn on Z day. Troops operating on Right and Left Flanks of the 10th Aust. Inf. Bgde, will be 9th A.I. Bgde and 12th A.I. Bgde respectively. Troops operating in conjunction with this Battalion will be the 34th Battalion on the right and 47th Battalion on the left (Aushahand).

Names of Commanders of Co-operating Units are :-

- Lieut Col. MARTIN 34th Battalion
- " " INMLAY 47th " "
- Captain GIBLIN 40th " (D. Coy)
- Lieut FOSTER 40th " (In charge of carrying Party)

Where the word Battalion is referred to in following Paras it includes Units of 40th Battalion attached unless tasks for those Units are separately defined.

APPROACH MARCH. (2) In moving to assembly trenches, this Unit will move by the "BROWN ROUTE"; thence 1/2 Coy 40th Battn. and C. Coy 37th Battn. by HEATH TRENCH, C. Coy leading, A. Coy 37th Battn, D. Coy 37th Battn B. Coy 37th Battn, D. Coy 40th Battn will keep to "BROWN ROUTE" and move by ASH TRENCH.

INTENTION (3) The 37th Battalion will attack on Z day as hereunder described in various Paras.

ORDER OF MARCH TO ASS-SEMBLY TRENCHES.

(4) The Battalion and 1/2 Coys of 40th Battn will move to the Assembly Trenches in the SUBSIDIARY Line, in order of March as shown below.

No. 12	11	10 + 9	Platoons	C. Coy	37 th Battalion
" 8 + 12				"	"
" 4	3	2	1	A	40 th " "
" 13	14	15	16	D	37 th " "
" 8	7	6	5	B	37 th " "
" 13	14	16	15	D	40 th " "

Battalion Head Quarters will precede the columns. The March will be carried out by Platoons at 150 yards distance.

STARTING POINT. (5) Starting Point is described in March Table issued separately. For time of starting see March Table.

RECONNAISSANCE (6) All Officers and N.C.O's of Coys will reconnoitre BROWN ROUTE prior to Z day, and will make themselves thoroughly familiar with positions of their Units in the Assembly trenches. This applies to all Officers and N.C.O's of 40th Battalion Attached.

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(6) Sketch Map showing routes and assembly trenches will be copied by representatives of Units at B.H.Q.
 (7) The Brigade boundary is shown on sketch issued to Coy. Commanders.

BRIGADE BOUNDARY

ARTILLERY SUPPORT.

(8) Artillery fire throughout operations is described below.
 The lines, trenches, or positions mentioned are shown on sketch map which will be carefully scrutinised by Coy Commanders at B.H.Q. Copy of sketch showing Artillery Barrages will also be examined by Coy Commanders. They will explain details to their own Units, in order to ensure that all ranks will work intelligently, should carnalities occur. At Zero + 10 minutes our Artillery lifts off E.F.L trench and creeps forward to the line G.H.J. where it remains from Zero + 14, to Zero + 27 or 30 minutes. Artillery then creeps forward to line through SCHWITZEL FARM; where it remains, from Zero + 45, to Zero + 1 hour 53 minutes. Artillery again creeps forward to a line 200 yds beyond the BLACK LINE where it remains until Zero + 10 hours. Artillery creeps forward at the rate of about 100 yards in 3 minutes, to the line of the "Uncanny Trenches" where it remains for 15 minutes. Barrage subsequently comes to rest in front of the GREEN LINE generally. It remains here indefinitely, to enable the line to be consolidated by this Battalion.

The Artillery arrangements quoted above are tentative pending written instructions from Brigade. These will be issued to Coy. Commanders when communicated to this office.

ORDER OF MOVEMENT TO THE ATTACK.

trenches

(9) At Zero hour the 39th Btm and 40th Btm (less portion allotted to this Battalion) moves from our assembly trenches. At Zero + 7 hours this Battalion moves from our assembly to a suitable position not more than 200 yards in rear of BLACK LINE shown on sketch map. Waves must be in position in vicinity of about line not later than Zero + 9 hours 30 minutes. At this juncture all Officers and W.C.O.s will require to exercise vigilance to see that their Units are well in hand.

FORMATION.

(10) The Battalion will issue from our trenches in two waves in Artillery formation.
 1st wave C. Coy 37th Btm. D. Coy 37th Btm.
 2nd " A. " " " D Coy 40th "
 Carrying party 40th Btm.
 B. Coy 37th Btm. (Btm Reserve).

MOVEMENTS AFTER LEAVING TRENCHES.

(11) Each wave moves across Ruisseau "DOUVE" by means of bridges which will be placed there in position by 40th Battalion. In order to cross the bridges and minimise effect of enemy fire, each wave will be irregularly dispersed. The exact direction to be taken by component part of each wave, will be settled by Coy. Commander after reconnaissance. Other points of passage must also be reconnoitred.

MOVEMENT AND DIRECTING FLANK. (12)

The movement of this Unit from the BLACK LINE forward will be by the left and in conjunction with the movement of the 47th Battalion. It will be noticed that the River DOUVE runs diagonally across N.M.L. This ^{involves} a straightening of waves after crossing that River; such straightening of waves will be effected as opportunity offers. It must be completed prior to moving forward from the BLACK LINE: Deployment into extended waves from waves in Military formation must depend upon circumstances and will be decided by Unit Commanders concerned.

OBJECTIVES OF AND ACTION BY COMPANIES. (13)

The following shows the objective and action to be taken by Coys, after advancing at Zero + 10 hours.

C. Coy 37th Bn. At Zero + 10 hours 20 min. C. Coy captures and consolidates the line of the UNCAIVIVY TRENCH from the Brigade Boundary at U4a 57.20 inclusive and along the GREEN LINE to U4c.45.85 inclusive. It will form a double bombing block at junction of UNDULATING Support and UNDULATING TRENCH.

A. Coy 37th Bn. At Zero + 10 hours 35 min. this Coy captures and consolidates the line from HUMS WALK inclusive to junction of UNDULATING Support and UNDULATING TRENCH. Exclusive.

The O.C. Coy will establish a strong point in rear of his Coy frontage, one T.M. and one M. GUN will be allotted A. Coy.

The T.M. will be so placed that it can assist the double bomb block to be formed by C. Coy in addition to performing its function with the Strong Point.

D. Coy 37th Bn. D. Coy 37th Bn. will consolidate the GREEN LINE from U4c.45.5 to U40.13.15. The O.C. Coy will form a Strong Point in rear of his Coy frontage. He will be allotted 1. M. G and 1. T. M.

D. Coy 40th Bn. Will consolidate on GREEN LINE from U4c.13.15 to and inclusive of the RIVER DOUVE at U.O.A. 10.60. A bombing block will be established in UNGODLY AVENUE. It will be noticed that a change of direction will need to be made by Coys in order to enable them to capture and consolidate the GREEN LINE. Great care will therefore be necessary when following Barrage so see that direction is not lost and that Coys do not overshoot their objectives. Careful reconnaissance by Commanders and their ^{subordinates} before moving to the captured Objectives and before giving final instructions, will result in mistakes being avoided.

B. Coy 37th Bn. This Coy under Major C. B. STORY will form the Reserve.

MUTUAL SUPPORT & COVERING FIRE (14)

These principles must be adhered to by all units throughout the operations.

CONSOLIDATION (15)

The necessity of rigorous digging during consolidation must be impressed on all ranks. Coy Commanders are here reminded to send out covering parties during digging. These will be relieved under Coy arrangements by Outpost Piquets, such requests etc. should be allotted one or more L. Guns.

LINE OF RESISTANCE (16)

Will be the Piquet Line, until such time as work of consolidation is completed, when the GREEN LINE becomes the line of Resistance. The Line of Resistance will be held at all costs, no support can be expected.

LEWIS GUN FIRE.

(17) After the GREEN LINE has been captured L. Cos. of C. Coy. posted near juncture of UNDULATING TRENCH. and UNDULATING SUPPORT, and guns of D. Coy. 37th posted near its right flank should be able to cross fire on area between UNCODLY AVENUE and UNDULATING TRENCH. to deal effectively with any enemy movements within area named. Similarly L. Guns judiciously posted in A. Coy 37th line could cross fire with L. G. of 47th Batts. East of UNDULATING SUPPORT. To assist in repelling enemy (attacks) movements in that direction, the actual positions of such guns to be left to Coy. Commanders on the spot.

BATTY AREA.

(18) After GREEN LINE has been occupied, ^{the battalion area} will be bounded on the left by the Brigade boundary and HUNS WALK and on the right by RIVER DOUVE.

ENGINEERS & PIONEERS

(19) Brigade will be asked to allot 2 Engineers and 2 Pioneers to B + C. Coy 37th Bts. and D. Coy 40th Batts. and 4 Engineers to A + D. Coy 37th Bts.

REPORT CENTRES.

(20) Battalion Report centres - ADVANCED. ESTAMINET. Subsidiary Line. advanced " " Vicinity of BETHLEEM FARM. H. Qrs. and report centres of other units will be published when received

CARRYING PARTY

(21) Nos. 2 and 4 Platoons 40th Batts. will act as C.P. for this Batts. O.C. carrying party will ascertain positions of all dumps forthwith and will so arrange his stores and supplies, that he will be able to make the first carry with the attacking troops. If necessary he will put a guard on supplies and stores prior to the Zero day he will do so. Lt. Foster will keep in constant touch with Bgde Bombing Officer, and will keep this Office informed of action taken by him or any instructions issued by Bgde re this. Prior to Zero day the carrying party will be subdivided into 2 parties

One to carry for A. + C. Coy 37th Bts.
B + D + D. Coy 40th Batts.
The O.C. Carrying Parties will arrange to establish forward dumps E of BLACK LINE on outset of operations. Members of C.P. in addition to carrying other stores will always carry 10 sandbags per man.

TOOLS AND OTHER ARTICLES.

(22) These are mentioned in appendix already issued, this may be varied by Brigade.

WATER

(23) Water must not be drunk in occupied area until passed by M.O. Men must be cautioned against undue use of water bottles as fresh supply cannot be expected for at least 24 hours. There will be placed in the subsidiary line, at even lengths 46 water barrels. These will be under direct control of Platoon Commanders in whose area they are. They are for drinking water for the men of this and other units of Brigade. Capacity. 2500 gals (about).

LIAISON.

(24) The following liaison will be arranged, to report to units named at 1. PM on 2 day.

- B. Coy 37th Batts. 1 Officer to HQ 47th Bgde
- A. " " 1 NCO " D. Coy 47th Bts.
- C. " " " " B
- D. 40th Bts. 1 " " L. 24th Bts.
- D. 37th " " " B.M.C 34th Batts.

The above details will be accompanied by a runner. In addition to above O.C. Reserve will arrange to maintain liaison with 38th Bts.

- DRESS AND EQUIPMENT. (25) D+E. and other articles to be carried or worn are described in instructions already issued, which may be supplemented by Bgde.
- TRANSPORT AND SUPPLIES. (26) Instructions have been issued to responsible Officers.
- DISTINGUISHING BADGES. (27) The following distinguishing badges will be worn.
 Scout. green band.
 Runner Red.
 Regt + Coy Signallers Blue shoulder strap
 Carrying parties. yellow band.
 Moppers up white band.
 Salvage parties. yellow with salvage in Red.
 Encamping signallers, bands will be 1 1/2 inches wide, and worn on the left fore-arm. Men with wire cutters or wire breakers wear white tape attached to right shoulder strap.
- MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS. (28) The R.M.O. has supplied to this Office sufficient copies in writing of his plans to permit of issue to C. Coy.
- SKETCHES AND REPORTS. (29) To supplement reports sketches of Enemy area over which Coy. will work are to be prepared by all Officers + N.C.O.'s prior to Z day.
- STRENGTHENING LOCALITIES. (30) All ranks must be impressed with importance of immediately strengthening all localities occupied, this refers also to carrying parties and Outpost lines. The importance of forming traverses concurrently with construction of trenches must not be overlooked.
- FLARES AND LIGHTS, S.O.S. AND FLAGS. (31) All ranks must be instructed how to light flares, to signify positions reached by most advanced troops. Details will be explained by O.C. Coy. The use of light signal rockets for artillery Barrages. The use of S.O.S. must be communi- cated to all concerned. One or two men in each platoon carry a Black and yellow flag to indicate line reached by leading infantry.
- BAYONETS. (32) Bayonets must be sharpened & blackened prior to Z day.
- COMMUNICATION TRENCHES. (33) After GREEN LINE is captured a C.T. will be dug by a Coy of 39th Batta. from BLACK LINE to GREEN LINE to a point near the junction of UNCANNY and UNDOULATING TRENCHES. This C.T. will run back via ULCA RESERVE, RIVER DOUVE and ~~ULRICA~~ ROW to ONLY WAY.
- ULRICA BRIGADE FORWARD STATION. (34) Will be established in or near ULCA RESERVE between RIVER DOUVE and ULNA AVENUE.
- WIRE. (35) Lines of consolidation will be wired, as soon as required material can be brought forward. Strong points must be wired during their construction.
- CONTACT PLANES. (36) A contact Plane will be permanently allotted for work over divisional Area, the hours at which contact Planes will fly will be notified later.
- WATCHES. (37) Two hours prior to leaving billets all Coys will send an officer to synchronize Watches at B.H.Q.
- SPECIAL. (38) Immediately after assault and capture of trenches, objectives. Coy. Commanders will re-organize their Units and be ready to act offensively. A special party in each Coy. will be detailed to. (A) Meet counter attacks (B) Afford mutual support to flank

SPECIAL
(Cont)

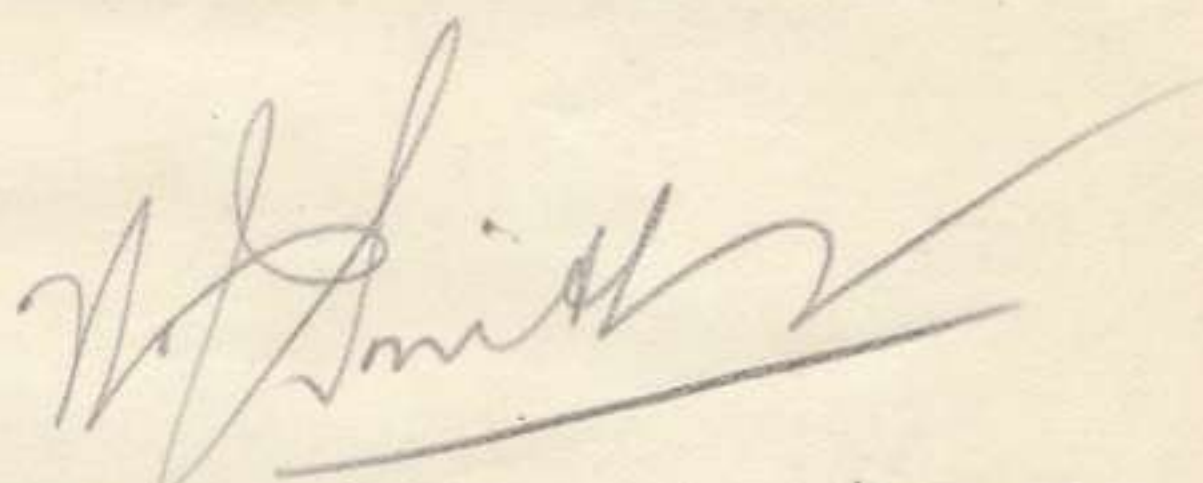
units. (c) Exploit success. (D) to conduct any enterprise against any special object or place, or capture a material.

GENERAL.

This order will be read in conjunction with:-

- (A) 3rd Aust. Division French Standing Orders.
- (B) Standing orders for war.
- (c) Training of Divs. for offensive in action.
- (D) S.S. 144. Normal formation for the attack.
- (e) Preliminary instruction for Magnum Ops issued by Brigade and such other instructions and orders issued by Higher Authority for this Office from time to time.

Note Final amendments to Artillery action were subsequently published to all concerned.



Lieut Col

C.O. 37th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. 1	Brigade H.Q. by Runner	8. P.M. 3. 6. 17.
2	A Coy 37 Bde	as
3	B.	"
4	C.	"
5	D.	"
6	34 th Battalion	"
7	47 th	"
8	D Coy 40 th Batt.	"
9	38 th Batt	"
10	10 th Bde H.Q. for artillery.	"
11	Lt Foster 40 th Bde	"
12	War Diary.	"

APPENDIX H

Dress and equipment to be carried by N.C.O.'s & men in the attack.

A
Rifle
Sections

Scouts, Runners, Signallers, Carrying Parties.

- 1° Clothing as issued.
- 2° Arms - Rifle & Bayonet (10 rds. in magazine, in chamber) Safety catches to remain until advance commences - On advance leading line of first wave will push safety catches forward & fire from the hip - Bayonet to be fixed.
- 3° Equipment - Fighting dress - Haversack to be carried on the back - Pack to be left at Transport lines & G.M. Store. Box Respiration at alert, and R.M. Helmet. Two water bottles filled if extra one is available. The following articles will be carried in the haversack: - (a) Cap Liner, (b) Cardigan jacket, (c) towel & soap, (d) spare oil tin, (e) holdall (f) Iron ration, (g) waterproof sheet on top of haversack under the flap (h) mess tin & cover slung outside haversack.
- 4° S.A.A. 170 Rounds in pouches, 50 Round in Bandolier.
- 5° Mills Grenades (No. 5 Hand) - Four - one in each pocket of tunic.
- 6° Aeroplane flares - Two - one in each lower pocket of tunic.
- 7° Sandbags - Three - carried under the braces on the back.
- 8° Wirecutters - Attached to shoulder strap with string and cutters tucked into the waist belt.
- 9° Rations and water - (a) one Iron ration in haversack, (b) unexpended portion of current day's ration, (c) one tin solidified alcohol } mess tin.
- 10° Picks & shovels will be carried as follows: - 30 Picks on each portion of second wave of each Coy. and Reserve Coy. 50 carried as picks. The actual distribution of tools to individuals is left to discretion of Coy. Cmdr.
- 11° Rifle Grenades - Five rods and five blank cartridges for rifle grenades. Rods to be carried in side of haversack. Blank cartridges in right tunic pocket.

B

Bombing
Sections

- 1° - As for A
- 2° - As for A with one cup attachment.
- 3° - As for A
- 4° - S.A.A. 50 Rounds carried in a bandolier.
- 5° - Grenades - Not more than 15 - Carried in (a) waist-coat, (b) buckets, (c) Haversack.
- 6° - As for A.
- 7° - As for A.
- 8° - As for A.
- 9° - As for A.
- 10° - As for A.
- 11° - As for A.

C. Scouts. 4. S.A.F. 50 rounds in Bandolier.
 (W) May be armed with revolver.
 (C) Must have wire cutters.

D. Signallers. Five and 1 W.C.O. will move with each Coy. The
 W.C.O. will carry in addition to. 1-2-3-5-6-7-9-11.
 one D.3. Telephone and one flag.
 No 1. will carry One Electric Lamp and one flag.
 2. " " " " Lamp Stand " " "
 3. " " " " Shutter, one flag, one pair pliers.
 4. " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "
 5. " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "

E. Lewis Gunners
 (1) A. No. 1. will carry:- Revolver, pouch and 36 rounds.
 1° 3° S.A.F. 50 rounds in bandolier 5-6-7-9-11.
 B. He will carry the gun sling over his shoulder.
 One Magazine will be on the gun, a second
 will be pushed into the breast of the tunic
 behind the Small Box Respirator.
 (2) The remainder of this section will carry 1° 2° 3°
 S.A.F. 50 rounds in bandolier. 5° 6° 7° 8° 9° 11°
 Each man will carry 4 magazines. These will
 be placed in haversacks slung on back by
 supporting straps straps from pack. Gun to
 be carried but uppermost and all members to
 carry rifles the same.

F. Runners
 As for A. except 50 rounds only of S.A.F. to be carried
 and No. 10 will be omitted.
 Runners will wear a red band of 1 1/2 inches width
 on left fore arm.

G. Carrying Parties
 As for A. except 50 rounds S.A.F. and No. 10 omitted.
 These will dump 6-7-11 as soon as objective is
 reached.

H. Moppers Up.
 As for A. and Nut Cracker, demolition charge, P Bomb
 Mokes shell.

I. Observers
 As for A. except 50 rounds only of S.A.F. No 10 omitted.

APPENDIX "B." relating to "Dumps"

unfortunately my only copy was
destroyed.

John G. H. H. H.
for C.O. 37th Bn

APPENDIX 'C'

The following officers will not take part in the attack but will remain at

The following members of the Fighting Battalion of Bahr Army will remain in reserve at.

Signallers 5. Gas N.E.O. Bombing NCO 1.
 Runners 10. Gun Instructor 2. Sanitary 2.

603 Coys will detail the undermentioned NCOs and men to remain at

603 A Coy will detail:-

1 Sergeant
 1 Corporal
 1 Corporal
 4 Rifle Bombers
 4 Rifle men (hand to hand + numerical)
 8 Lewis Gunners

603 B Coy will detail:-

1 CSM. 4 Rifle Bombers
 1 Sergeant 4 Rifle men
 1 CPL 8 Lewis Gunners
 1 Lt/Plt

603 C Coy will detail as for A Coy.

603 D Coy will detail as for B Coy.

↓

REPORT on the action of 37th BATTALION during
the recent attack on MESSINES RIDGE

4.6.1917

at 11 15 pm the Battalion fell in at RUE de SAC Camp and marched to "assembly trenches" in the subsidiary line via the "brown route" and assembled in the trenches as shown in attached sketch marked "A". Some difficulty was experienced during the final stage of the "approach march", owing to very heavy hostile gas shelling necessitating the wearing of the Box Respirator.

The approximate number of casualties during the "approach march" was 35.

The enemy shelled the "subsidiary line" and ASH T^{rs} during the time ^{was} occupied by this Battalion. Prior to the advance 20 casualties were sustained.

4.6.1917

at 10 10 am the Battalion moved forward to the "attack" on their objectives, & were disposed in two waves in an oblique formation as under reading from left to right -

1st WAVE. -	"C" Coy: 37 th Batt.	"D" Coy: 37 th Batt.
2nd " -	"A" " "	"D" 40 th (attached)

B Coy 37th Battalion acted as Battalion Reserve. 2 platoons of 40th Battalion were attached as "carrying parties" in the early stages of the operation. approximately 15 to 20 paces was maintained between lines & 100 to 150 between waves, this distance however had to be regulated according to the intensity of enemy fire, & nature of the ground over which our troops had to operate, which in parts was considerably cut up by our own preliminary bombardment & by hostile shell fire.

The movement of the Battalion to the "BLACK" line, in view of the change of direction which had to be made by Coys after crossing the DOUVE River, was well controlled and the Battalion arrived at its position in the vicinity of the "BLACK" line in accordance with Battalion orders (attached & marked "B") ready for the final move forward.

The straightening of the line was made and the objectives of units was reconfirmed with the aid of Field Glasses.

The Battⁿ had to remain for 1 hour in the vicinity of the "BLACK" line, owing to "zero" hour for the attack on the "GREEN" line being put forward 2 hours. The Battⁿ not having actually been notified of the new "zero" hour until about 3/4 of an hour after leaving "assembly" trenches.

at 3.10 pm. on 7th June the Battⁿ moved to the attack on the "GREEN" line. It will be noticed on sketch that another change of direction had to be made particularly by "D" Coy 37th Bⁿ & "D" Coy 40th Bⁿ. This was carried out without hitch, although conducted under heavy enemy fire, & a large number of casualties being suffered.

All Coys reached their objectives and commenced to consolidate the captured position. "A" Coy 37th Bⁿ however did not actually arrive on "UNCANNY S.P.T." but commenced the work of consolidation about 30 yards from "UNCANNY S.P.T."

Heavy casualties were suffered during the capture of "UNCANNY T^r" & "UNCANNY S.P.T." the enemy having many Machine Guns in well established positions (between "UNDULATING S.P.T." & "UNCANNY S.P.T.") They were posted in small wooded areas, which were not shown on issue Maps, or on aeroplane photos. The "UNCANNY T^r & SUPPORT" & trench junction of "UNDULATING SUPPORT & TRENCH" had not been materially damaged by our artillery fire.

In addition to casualties inflicted by enemy artillery fire, "D" Coy 37th Bⁿ & "D" Coy 40th Bⁿ were also subjected to heavy Machine Gun fire, from guns placed in rear of their respective objectives. Sniping was very active along the whole front.

The enemy artillery fire continued without abatement

at 8 pm. it was reported to C/ Reserve that our artillery barrage had shortened to "GREEN" line, it was ^{previously} ~~also~~ on 47th Battⁿ on our immediate left, this fire became so distressing that it eventually became necessary in the judgment of the C/ Reserve to withdraw the Battⁿ to the "BLACK" line, in order to avoid serious loss and as his left flank was quite exposed owing to the direction of his front and the withdrawal of the 47th Battⁿ.

This fact was reported to Col H. G.^s The Bn withdrew to "BLACK" line between 8.30 & 9.30 pm. subsequently the C/ Reserve informed Col H. G.^s that if our barrage were left off "GREEN" line

The Battalion would move forward again & occupy their original position. No reply was received to this message.

The barrage continued until about 11 pm. at about 1.30 am on 8th June a verbal communication was received by me personally from Col MAJOR 10th Bde to the effect that the 44th Battalion would pass through the 37th Bn at 3 am & occupy the "GREEN" line. Confirmation of this message has never been received by this office HQ.

Regarding action of the 44th Battalion it is not yet known what instructions the C.O. of that Battalion received.

From interrogation of the officers it has been ascertained that the 44th Bn did not pass through until 3.30 am & that the line taken up by them was not actually the "GREEN" line, which was previously held by this Battalion, but a line some distance in rear of it.

During 8th June several messages were received from Col HQ to the effect that the 37th Battalion would co-operate with the 44th Battalion in securing the original "GREEN" line. These instructions were communicated by telephone & personally to the Reserve 37th Bn.

The C/O Reserve interviewed the C.O. 44th Bn to ensure co-operation, it was not until the evening of the 8th June that the 37th Battalion occupied the line which was being consolidated by 44th Bn & then it was done without any instructions from C.O. 44th Bn.

Shortly afterwards an order from Col HQ was received stating that the 37th Battalion would remove the whole of the 44th Battalion which would assemble at "SCHNITZEL FM" this change was effected ~~3~~ ^{by C.O. Reserve} ~~two~~ contrary messages were received during the change over.

It was reported to me that, during morning of 8th June, 0' by 40th Battalion (attached) which was at least 300 yards of the "GREEN" line had been withdrawn from my command, no intimation whatsoever was received from Col HQ.

6.1917

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at 3.50 am on morning of 9th June an order was received from Bde to the effect that the 37th Battⁿ would be relieved on night of 8/9th June, the order was timed 2.30 am, but was not received until 3.50 am, so that it was impossible to be relieved on night of 8/9th June.

The Bⁿ was completely relieved by 11 am. & returned to billets at RUE. de SAC.

Total Casualties -

	Officers	Other Ranks
KILLED -	1	66
WOUNDED -	10	321
MISSING -	-	4

The frontage allotted to the Battⁿ for the attack on GREEN line was app. 1200 yards & embodied 2 "Strong points" in SUPPORT WINE.

W. J. Smith
 Lt Col 37th Batt
 8/1/17

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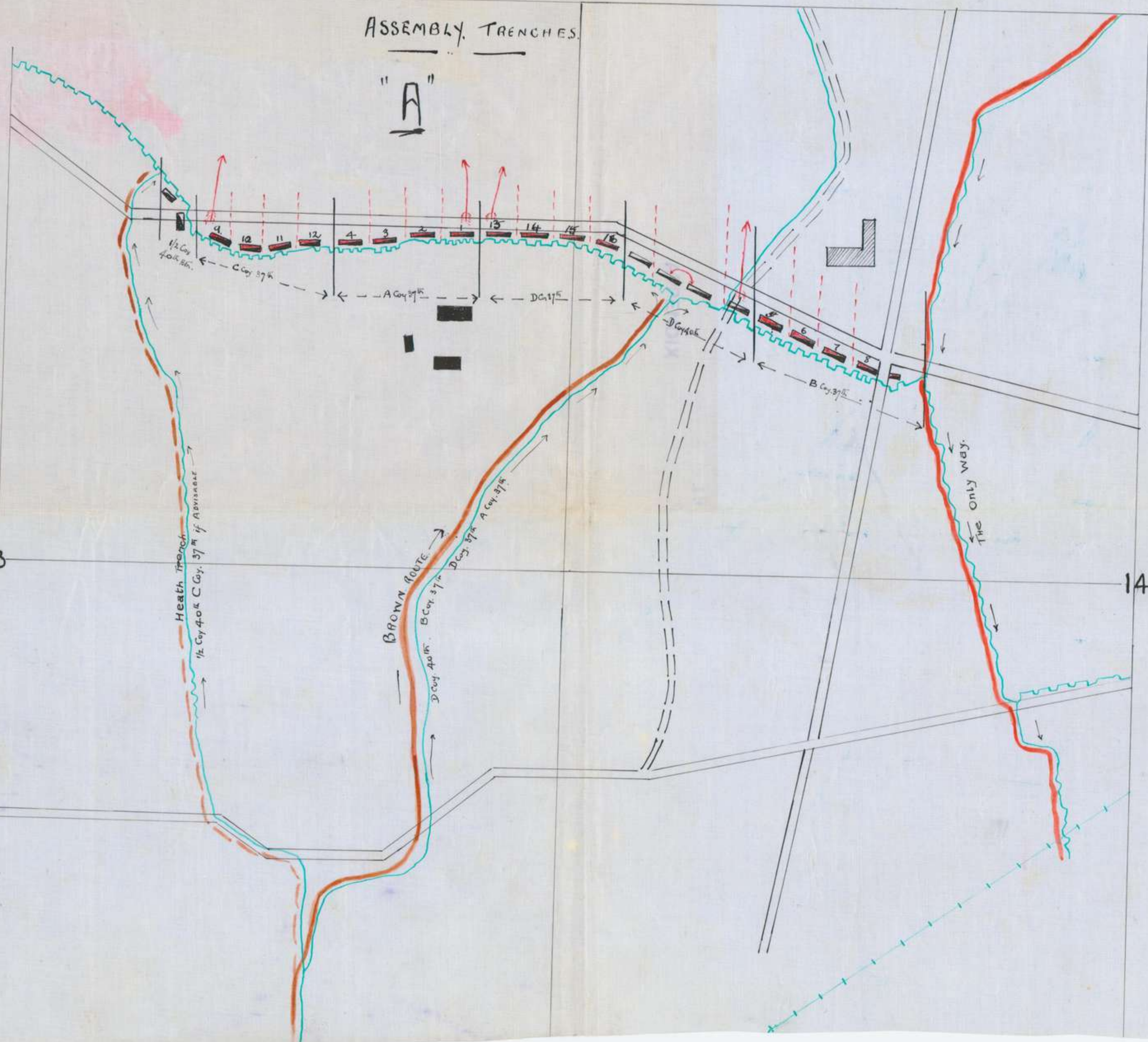
ASSEMBLY TRENCHES



40' 57"
37' 57"

13

14



Scale 1/2500

