

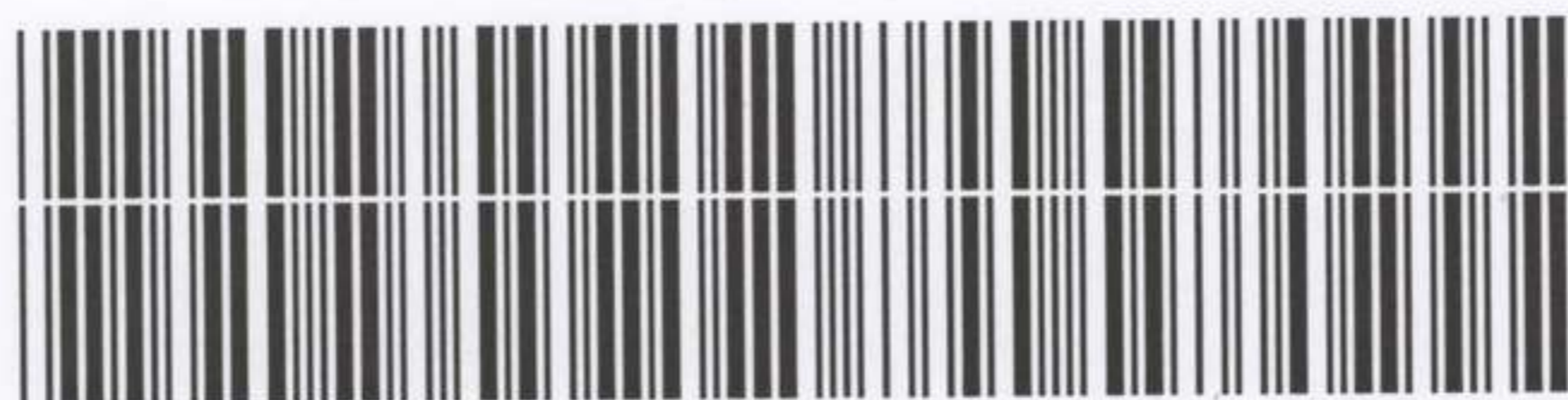
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/54/28

Title: 37th Infantry Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-23/54/28

ORIGINAL

37th BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

OCTOBER 1918
WAR DIARY ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Officer Compiling *W. J. ...*

W. J. ... Major
Commanding 37th Battalion A.I.F.



149

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

BATTALION. 149

No.

Date.

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.

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
F.17.b. 6.6. and A.8.c. 1.3.	Oct 1st		<p>Battalion Headquarters at DOLEFUL POST. At 11.45 a.m. the battalion pushed forward to occupy the KNOB. Lieut A.W. Smith with a patrol of 1 Sergt and 2 runners preceded the Battalion. B, C, and D Companies took up a position along the Canal Bank with the left flank on the tunnel entrance at A.9.b.7.6. and the right flank connecting with the 39th Battalion at A.9.d.6.6. A Company were in support in rear. During the day the position was shelled chiefly by 77 m.m. with a few 5.9s and there was a fair amount of enemy M.G. fire. A strong Lewis Gun and Bombing post was formed at A.9.b.7.6. with the object of defending the tunnel entrances. Battalion Headquarters was established at A.8.e.11.2. and telephone communication was got through with Capt. Coopers Company Headquarters at A.9.b.6.9. During the night the Battalion front was actively patrolled and 3 enemy horses were brought in. One was wounded and had to be shot. The remaining two were sent down by the ration party. During the night of the 1st a bomb was dropped on the Nucleus Camp at PERONNE, killing 5 and wounding 6.</p>	post
A.8.c. 1.2.	Oct 2nd		<p>During the early morning our line was pushed forward and posts were established at A.10.a.3.7. and A.10.c.3.9. Throughout the day the enemy could be seen moving in small parties on the opposite slope N. of LE CATNET, apparently with the intention of establishing posts there. He was engaged with Lewis Guns, Sniping and Artillery Fire and eventually abandoned his efforts. At 8.30. p.m. the Battalion was relieved by 2 Companies of the KOYLI and moved back to the area occupied by them on the night 27/28th Sept 1918. A hot meal was waiting for them and the trench shelters had been erected by the Transport Details at STEMLIE. The night was fine and quiet and the em men who were very tired and worn out took full advantage of the opportunity of rest resting. The total casualties for this operation were; -Killed, 3 Officers 9 Other Ranks Wounded 5 Officers, 90 Other ranks, Missing 2 Other ranks, Died of wounds 6 Other ranks. Total Killed 12, Wounded 95, Missing 2, Died of Wounds 6. Grand Total 115.</p>	
F.19.a. 0.6. and D.16.b. 8.6.	Oct 3rd		<p>The morning was fine. The Battalion moved off at 11.30 to bivouac in the AIZECOURT area and were allotted shelters in D.16.b. arriving there at 12.30. On arrival the midday meal was served and the cooks then heated water for the em men to wash and shave. The rest of the day was spent in resting. During the night an enemy plane flew over the camp but no bombs were dropped in our vicinity.</p>	were-

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

BATTALION
No. 7
Date 2

149

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
D.16.b. 8.6.	1918 Oct 4th		The weather continued fine. 2nd Lt. Bool and a billeting party of 1 man per Company and Hqrs were sent to report to the Staff Captain in PERONNE. The rest of the day was spent in resting. The C.O. called a conference of Officers and reminded them of the necessity of maintaining march discipline within the next few days. Captain Cooper, Lts Brewer Crowe and Davidson and party of N.C.Os proceeded to schools. Brigadier General W.Ramsay McNicoll C.M.G. D.S.O. came across to say good-bye in the evening. The blankets, packs and valises were brought up from PERONNE in the afternoon and the Nucleus marched in at 6 p.m. Speculation was rife as to our ultimate destination but any conjectures remained unconfirmed until the 5th. The night was fine and quiet and the mens spirits were already rising with the prospects of a rest.	<i>ad</i>
D.16.b. 8.6.	Oct 5th		The fine weather continued. Instructions were received for our move to the back area. The Transport left at 10.30 a.m. to proceed by road, and the loading party under Lt. Bean left for PERONNE at the same time. The Battalion was conveyed by light railway to PERONNE and entrained there, the train leaving at 4.30 p.m. The train journey was slow but was not attended by any unusual happening. The train arrived at PONT REMY at midnight where we were detrained.	<i>ad</i>
S.17.a. 40.60.	Oct 6th		The Battalion arrived at SOREL at 1.30 a.m. The Companies were met by their guides and the men were soon comfortably settled in their billets. They had breakfast at 9 a.m. and the rest of the day was spent in resting.	<i>ad</i>
S.17.a. 40.60a	Oct 7th		Cleaning of Equipment and kit inspection were carried out during the day. The weather continued fine. The Transport arrived at 4 p.m. after a three days journey by road.	<i>ad</i>

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

BATTAL
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
S.17.a. 4.6.	1918 Oct 8th		Training was commenced as per syllabus. The men are already improving as a result of the rest particularly in appearance and deportment.	<i>AB</i>
S.17.a. 4.6.	Oct 9th		There was some rain during the day. Lt-Col C. Jess D.S.O. visited the Battalion and discussed the reorganisation of the Brigade with the Officers. Training was continued as per syllabus. The Battalion was organised into two companies.	<i>AB</i>
S.17.a. 4.6.	Oct 10th		The day was wet. Training was continued as per syllabus. Half of the Battalion were bathed at the Divisional Baths at HALLENCOURT. Capt Heseltine left for the Brigade School of which he has been appointed Chief Instructor. N.C.Os and men as shown on attached list also left for this school.	<i>AB</i>
S.17.a. 4.6.	Oct 11th		Training was continued. The order for the reorganisation of the Brigade was received, Capt Cerruty, Lt. E.D. Wood, S/Sgt H.H.E. Swan, and Sgt D.A. Baird to form 37th Nucleus. The Transport section are to be attached to Divisional Train also to be kept as part of Nucleus of 37th Battalion. 8 Officers, 25 N.C.O. and 20 men from employed and 15 men from each company to be transferred to 39th Battalion. The 37th Battalion are to form A and B Companies of 38th Battalion and have permission to continue wearing their present colours. The selection of Officers and other ranks to be transferred to the 39th Battalion was carried out. The Officers are Capt W.L. Allen, Capt S.H. Heseltine, Lt. Brewers, Lt. Bean, Lt. Simpson, Lt. Anderson, 2nd Lt. Narik, 2nd Lt. Davidson. The men are much improved by their rest but are very downhearted over the breaking up of the Battalion.	<i>AB</i>

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

AUSTRALIAN
BATTALION

No. 64

Date. Remarks and
references to
Appendices

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
S.17.a. 4.6.	1918 Oct 12th		<p>The Reorganisation of the Brigade was completed. Those transferred to 39th Battalion moved off at 2.30 p.m. after being addressed by Major Robertson. The Remaining personnel was then organised into 2 Companies. The Band is being transferred to the 3rd Divisional M.G. Battalion with their instruments and on the understanding that in the event of the 37th Battalion being reformed or the instruments required at any time they would be transferred back to the Battalion.</p> <p>Relief-Order</p>	<i>W.D.</i>

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 118.

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.)

149

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																														
			37th BATTALION A.I.F.																															
			<u>SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 1918.</u>																															
			<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">D.F.F.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">O.R.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sick</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Died of wounds</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transferred</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">375</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From hospital</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From reinforcements</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Missing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Injured</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		D.F.F.	O.R.	Sick	-	14	Wounded	5	12	Killed	4	1	Died of wounds	-	2	Transferred	22	375	From hospital	1	25	From reinforcements	1	1	Missing	4	-	Injured	4	1	
	D.F.F.	O.R.																																
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Injured	4	1																																

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WAR DIARY

OF

~~37th AUSTRALIAN BATTALION~~

FOR

~~SEPTEMBER~~OCTOBER

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Relief Order No 121
2.	Battalion Memo re Training
3.	Reorganisation of Companies
4.	Syllabus of Training (Signalling)
5.	Nominations Brigades Schools
6.	Reorganisation
7.	Official Photograph Group of 37th Officers taken at NEUVE EGLISE January 1918.
8.	Official Photograph Group of the Battalion taken at NEUVE EGLISE January 1918.



SECRET37th Battalion Relief Packet

No 121

7.10.18

Copy No. 4

- ① The 37th Bn will be relieved on the night 2/3rd Oct 18 by A & B Coys K.O.Y.L.
- ② Each Coy will send one guide to report at B.H.Q. at 6 P.M. Guides will meet and conduct incoming units to Front Line positions.
- ③ Coy Guides will give completion of relief by code word "DIGGER".
- ④ After relief Coys will move independently to bivouacs occupied by them at ST EMELIE on night 28th/29th Sept 1918.
- ⑤ All precautions must be taken to avoid casualties from hostile fire.
- ⑥ Hot meals will be ready on arrival at bivouacs. On way out Coy Guides will dump L.A.S. - paniers - food containers - petrol tins etc at A.M.B. 0.3. leaving

APPENDIX /

37th Battalion Relief Order No 121
Contd

- ① ~~contd~~
one man in charge, who will report to Lt White. ^{Leubers} will count this gear to men under above N.C.O's supervision.
- ② Picks and shovels will be dumped with gear enumerated in para 7.

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

ACKNOWLEDGE

Distribution.

by No	1.	B.C. + D Coys.
	2.	A Coy
	3.	Har Niang
	4.	File
	5.	10 th A.I. Bde.

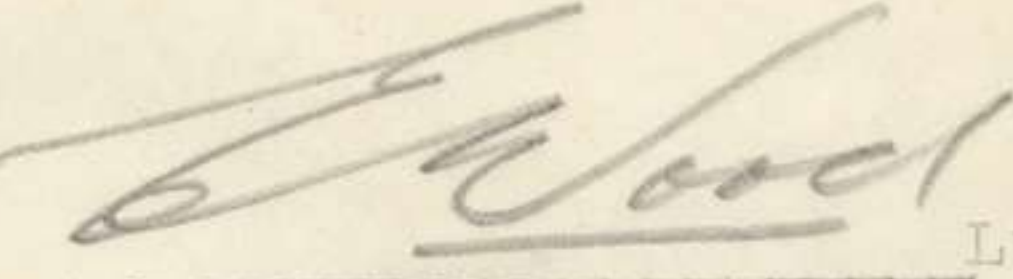
Os/C. Coys and Hqrs

Battalion Headquarters
8th Oct 1918

Ref. Training Syllabus attached. The following is a key to the work to be done during the subject period.

- Drill No 1. Squad Drill in Single rank, Turnings and Marchings
 2. Squad Drill in Single Rank Saluting Marching Turning on March
 3. Rifle Exercises Order Slope Present
 4. Squad Drill in 2 ranks Marching Formation of Fours
 5. Two ranks Forming squad Right and Left Diagonal Marching
 6. Saluting
 7. Rifle Exercises Change Slope Present
 8. Squad Drill in two ranks
 9. Platoon Drill
 10. Platoon Drill advanced.

- Musketry Drill No 1 Standing Position
 2 do do and muscle exercise
 3 Lecture and practice in J.D.
 4 Lying Position
 5 Practice in J.D.
 6 Lying Position and Muscle Exercise
 7 Practice in J.D. (using figures with blank ammunition)
 8 Kneeling Position


 Lt.

A/Adjt 37th Bn. A.I.F.

149

37th Battalion A.I.F.

APPENDIX

3 10

Battalion Headquarters
8th Oct 1918Cs/C. Coys and Hqrs
Q.I.Reorganisation

The Battalion for the purpose of administration and training will be reorganised into two companies to be known as No. 1 Company and No 2 Company.

A and B Companies form No 1 Company

C and D Companies form No 2 Company

Whilst being organised thus at the same time there will be maintained a skeleton organisation of the 4 Company Battalion each Company with its 4 platoons.

The Headquarters of units and Platoon Commanders and N.C.Os will be allotted to their platoons on a 4 platoon basis even if at present it is nonexistent.

No. 1 Coy will consist of Platoons Nos 1-2-5- and 6 . No 2 Coy of Platoons Nos 9, 10, 13, and 14.

Officers at present with Battalion are allotted as under:-

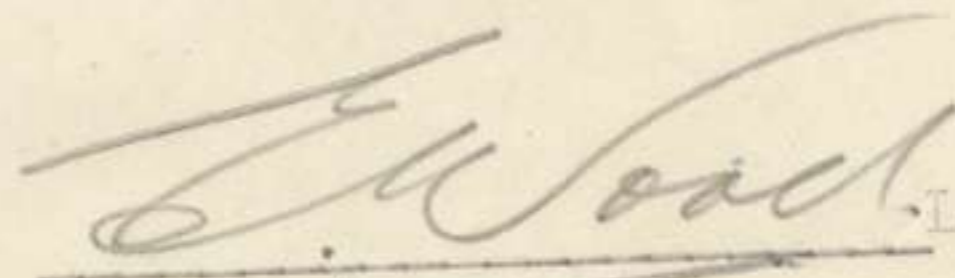
No 1 Coy	O.C.	Lt. Bean
		Lt. R.J. Smith No 5
		2nd Lt Rennick No 1

No 2 Coy	O.C.	Capt Allen
		Lieut Bool No 9

Where platoons and companies are amalgated all officers and N.C.Os must share in the instruction.

Platoons must be amalgated within the 2 Coy organisation so that the minimum strength is at least one Double Lewis Gun Section of 11 and 2 Rifle Sections of 7 each.

Both O.Cs No 1 and No 2 Companies will furnish a report on reorganisation being complete and setting out the skeleton organisation as above by 12 noon, 9th inst.

 Lt

A/Adjt 37th Bn. A.I.F.

B 10/45

37th BATTALION A.I.F.

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SYLLABUS OF TRAINING

SIGNALLING

Week ending Monday 15th inst.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
8.30-9.00	P.T.	P.T.	P.T.	P.T.	P.T.	As per	P.T.
9.00-9.30	Lamp Flag and Shutter Reading			L.F. and S. Reading		Battalion	L.F. and S Reading
10.45-11.30	Buzzer	Station Work	Message Rocket	Buzzer	Jointing Station Work	Syllabus	Lecture-Map-Reading Buzzer and D 4
11.30-12.30	D 4 Working	Station Work	Buzzer	Jointing	Station Work	Do	Lecture Map Reading
14.30-15.30	Half Holiday	Games Organised	Half Holiday	Organised Games	Half Holiday	Do	Organised Games

[Handwritten Signature]

Lt

A/Adjt 37th Bn. A.I.F.

APPENDIX

[Handwritten Mark]

M

Battalion Headquarters
9th Oct 1918

Headquarters
10th A.I. Bde

Hereunder please find nominations for Brigade School assembling
10th inst.

Nominations for Instructors and Brigade Staff

Chief Instructor.
Lewis Gun
Signalling
Fatigue man

Capt S.H. Heseltine and Batman
1794 T/Sgt Bartel R.E.
57 Cpl. Hill J.C. (M.M.)
1943 Pte Edgar G.C.

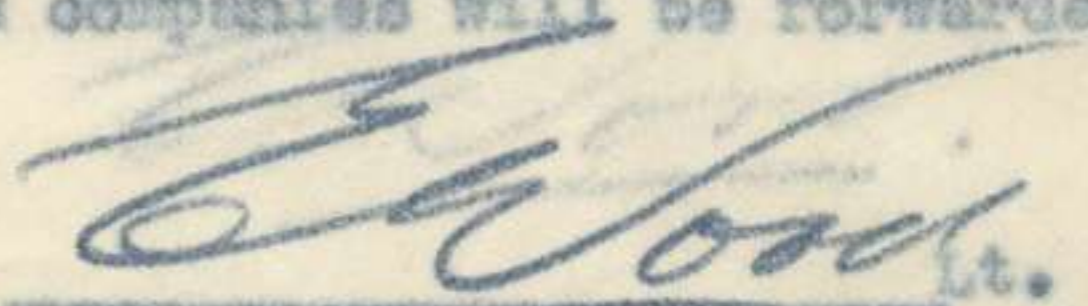
Nominations for candidates for Schools

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <u>Signal School</u> | 3401 Pte Wilson P.L. | |
| | 3239 Pte Rich | S |
| | 3244 Pte Whelan M.J. | |
| | 2915 Pte White | F. |
| | 3279 Pte Curry | W.R. |
| | 3039 Pte Cornell | W.H. |
| | 3347 Pte Mackay | K. |
| | 2346 L/Cpl Ivory | H. |
| | 3366 Pte Poynton | G. |
| 2. <u>Intelligence School</u> | 3418 Pte Elphick | F.B. |
| | 3186 Pte Shaw | G. |
| | 6719 Pte Brown | W.A. |
| 3. <u>Scouting and Patrolling.</u> | 773 Pte Vance | G.O. |
| | 3264 Pte Bell | G. |
| | 1197 Pte Hill | C.A.W. |
| | 3350 L/Cpl Broadhurst | P. |
| | 7031 Cpl Rice | C. |
| | 6968 Pte Cassidy | W. |
| | 2249 Pte Allen | A. |
| | 6892 " JONES | J.H. |
| | 6876 " GREENFIELD | R. |
| 4. <u>Junior N.C.O. Schools</u> | 765 Pte Madden | R.W. |
| | 2096 Pte Koch | E.J. |
| | 3269 Pte Booth | W.H. |
| | 2799 L/Cpl Gurnow | J. |
| | 2222 Cpl Boyd | A.E. |
| | 6032 L/Cpl Hendy | R.N. |
| | 434 Cpl Watson | A. |
| | 2509 L/Cpl Dixon | F. |
| | 6495 Cpl Eales | K.S. |
| | 6030 L/Cpl Hume | C.M. |
| | 6330 Pte Fincher | L. |
| | 2785 Pte Cairns | C.E. |


Major
Commanding 37th Bn. A.I.F.

13
6Battalion Headquarters
11 Oct 1918Os/C. Coys and Hqrs
and Q.M.Reorganisation

1. Consequent on instructions, the reorganisation of the 10th A.I. Bde into 5 Battalions will be proceeded with forthwith.
2. The 37th and 38th Battalions will be combined into one Battalion, the members of the present 37th Battalion forming "A" and "B" Companies the members of the 38th Battalion forming "C" and "D" Companies.
3. In order to secure continuance of the records of the 37th Battalion the war diary will continue to show the actions and deeds of "A" and "B" Companies 37th Battalion with particular reference to the old 37th Battalion so that future historians may trace the history of the unit and its officers and members from its formation till it again lands in Australia as a unit (as mentioned in letter of the Corps Commander dated 24th September).
4. The personnel of the present 37th Battalion which will form "A" and "B" Companies of 38th Battalion may continue to wear their present colour patches till further notice.
5. In order to obviate the very unequal strength of the combined 37th and 38th Battalions as compared to the 39th and 40th Battalions (which is unworkable and tactically unsound), a limited number of members of present 37th Battalion will be transferred to the 39th Battalion until such time as the 39th Battalion is by reinforcements brought up to near the strength of the 38th Battalion, when such personnel may be transferred to the 38th Battalion.
6. A request is being made to higher authority asking that all reinforcements for the Brigade from Victoria be sent to the 38th Battalion to enable this to be done as soon as possible.
7. The following personnel will therefore be selected for transfer to 38th Battalion:- 8 Officers, 25 H.C.Os., 80 men from Battalion H.C. Band and employed, 18 men per company. Specialists and bandmen will be allowed to apply for transfer to any unit in the Brigade.
8. With regard to non-commissioned officers and specialists, it must be pointed out that the establishment of paid ranks throughout the Brigade cannot be exceeded, and that any H.C.O. or specialist who does not desire to avail himself of the transfer to another unit with his rank may be allowed to remain with the 38th Battalion, but will be required to relinquish his rank if not absorbed on specialist duty.
9. The transport of the battalion will be maintained as a separate unit, and handed over complete with personnel and equipment to the C.O. 3rd Aust. Div. Train for administration and discipline.
10. The C.O. 37th Battalion will arrange for the foregoing and particularly the following:-
 - (a) Selection of personnel for transfer and their reporting to 38th Battalion by 12th inst.
 - (b) Organisation of remainder of personnel into two Companies.
 - (c) Forward lists of Officers, H.C.Os., and men showing unit to which transferred.
 - (d) Arrange mutually with C.O. 38th Battalion as to transfer of Battalion Staff and disposal of surplus battalion staff.
 - (e) Arrange for Battalion transport to report to Div Train as early as possible.
 - (f) Return of surplus equipment.
11. The foregoing cancels paras 1, 2, 3, 4, of 10th Brigade Administrative Instruction A.14. ~~Returns-mentioned-in~~
12. After reorganisation the new "A" and "B" Companies of 38th Battalion will remain in present location of 37th Battalion
13. Further instructions as to returns etc from companies will be forwarded later.



Os A/Adjt 37th Bn. A.I.F.

B 10/79

Chival Officer Photo.

L. 481

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APPENDIX
7 14

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Capt S.H. Heseltine

Capt. C.H. Kerutty

Lt. C. Kersey

Capt F.D. Maule

Lt. J.C. Todd M.C.

Lt. Col. E.K. Knight

Major C.B. Story (STORY)

Capt. W.L. Allen

Capt J.H. Carradine

Lt. A.W. Smith L.C.O.

Lt. J.H. Willis

Lt. F.R. Kenley

Lt. E.J. Cox

Lt. C.F. Taylor D.C.M.

Lt. W.H. Clack

Lt. L.J. Robertson

Lt. D.J. Johnson M.C.

Lt. A.J. Dorrington

Lt. E.A. Chalmers

Lt. C.G. Ashmead M.C.

Lt. J.H. Chapman

Lt. R.K. Merson

Lt. S.H. Birrell M.C.

Lt. N.E. Dixon

Lt. E.D. Wood

Lt. P. Crowe

Lt. J.H. Urquhart

Lt. R. McKay

Lt. C.H. Long

Lt. W.H. Wilkinson

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AUSTRALIAN WAR RECORDS SECTION
REPRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Capt. W. Collins
Lt. R.H. Crowe
Lt. A.J. Bradbury
Lt. E. Worley
Lt. A. J. Bradbury

Lt. W. Hunter M.C.

Lt. M.E. Wick M.C.

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APPENDIX

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