

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/76/20

Title: 59th Infantry Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/76/20

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SERIOUS	1st	8 30	<p>Weather - Fine</p> <p>Owing to night March being cancelled a syllabus of training was drawn up including Gas Drill P.T and B.F. Instruction in Lewis Gun by Lieut DUNKLEY and Platoon Drill and rifle Exercise. Lieut AS BECK returned from leave to England. Lieut SJ FERNON is struck off strength (AIF list No 213 dated 3-8-17) CO 2nd in Command and 4 other Officers attended a Farewell Dinner to Col Haystack SS.O 1.</p>	
SERIOUS	2nd	9 30	<p>Weather - Cloudy and Wet.</p> <p>Church Parades were ordered but owing to wet weather they had to be cancelled. CO 2nd in Command and Adjutant ^{and Coy Command} attended a conference at Brigade HQ to discuss new German tactics.</p>	
SERIOUS	3rd	9 am	<p>Weather - Fine</p> <p>CO 2nd in Command Adjutant and Coy Commanders attended a scheme carried out without troops the new German tactics as laid down in SS 574 were practiced by 57th and</p>	Appendix I

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SERCUS	3 rd	9am	<p><i>continued</i> 59th Battalion Section was selected - (bapt 36A. C16. C17. and C18) which was again divided into company frontages and the plans for a counter attack and positions for strong points were decided upon. A meeting was held at C16 A.5.10. and the tactics criticised and explained by Brig. Genl. ELLIOT and Lt Col J.H. PECK. GSO1 5th Aust Div. Major KURING and Lieut McDONALD proceeded on leave to PARIS. Lieut SOUTHWELL and Lieut PENTREATH proceeded on leave to UK. Lieut McIVER was detached to Brigade Headquarters and Lieut BLANDFORD proceeded to 2nd Army Encampment School. 2 Lieut SAUNDERS took over duties of Battalion Bombing Officer, vice Lieut BLANDFORD. Lieut FRANCIS took over the duties of Battalion Intelligence Officer vice Lieut McIVER. All companies were put through a Tear Gas Test by Brigade Gas NCO.</p>	<p>Orders re this scheme attached.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SERCUS	4 th	9:30am	<p>Weather Fine and Warm.</p> <p>Battalion was paraded at 016 B38 and a lecture on latest Enemy Tactics and instruction in the repelling of counter attacks was given by Lt Col CC MASON. C. Company under Lieut BURSEY were practised in latest Enemy Tactics - the remaining companies looking on. Company commanders then discussed the different points and explained them to their respective companies. The following L.G.C. was promulgated. 2928 Pte JONES H.R. charged with negligently firing his rifle and wounding another soldier pleaded guilty and awarded a forfeiture of 60 days pay.</p>	
SERCUS	5 th	9:30am	<p>Weather fine and Warm.</p> <p>Battalion CO. 2nd in command, Sgt, Company, Platoon and section commanders again attended the scheme - Enemy Tactics and the repelling of a counter attack - the</p>	Appendix I

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SERIOUS	5 th		<p><u>Contd</u> It was intended that the 59th Battalion should represent the Counter attack Battalion and the Company Officers and NCO's had their positions and method of attack explained to them. The Commanding Officer and Regimental Q M attended a conference at Brigade Headquarters to discuss Ordnance arrangements. Ten Officers attended a lecture at the schoolhouse BLARINGHEM on "Enemy Gas" by the Corps Chemical Adviser. Major BULLEN RMO returned from Paris leave.</p>	
SERIOUS	6 th	9 am	<p>Weather - Fine and Warm. Battalion attended a Brigade Scheme - Enemy Tactics. 59th Battalion was again the Counter attack Battalion and the scheme practised prior to the scheme being carried out before Senior Officers. Details of this scheme practised during the past week are appended in entries for 8th inst.</p>	Appendix I

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SERCUS	6 th	5pm	<p><u>Continued</u> All Officers and NCO's attended a discussion on the morning's work at the Bugase School. Brig General ELLIOTT criticised and pointed out faults. Lieut CAMPBELL attended a bookery demonstration at the Army Bookery School.</p>	
SERCUS	7 th	9am	<p>Weather - Cloudy early but fine later in the day. The Brigade Scheme "Enemy boats attack" shown on syllabus for today was cancelled at request of GOC 5th Aust Division. Companies carried out and practised the scheme in their own company areas.</p>	
SERCUS	8 th	9am	<p>Weather - Fine and Warm. The Brigade Scheme "Attack and counter attack under the new system" postponed by request of GOC 5th Aust Div on the 7th inst was carried out. The same arrangements as for the 6th inst were adhered to with slight alterations. The Army Commander was present. The Army Commander Divisional Command and B.C. criticised the scheme.</p>	<p>Detail attached Appendix 1</p>

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14.

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SERCOUS	8 th		<p><u>Contd.</u> and pointed out all points. Owing to the hour when the scheme was completed, eleven Officers who had been detailed to attend a lecture on Bombing by the Provosts Bombing Officer were unable to be present. CO and Capt attended a conference at Brigade Headquarters.</p>	
SERCOUS	9 th	9.30	<p>Weather - Fine Church Parades were held - Co of E and O P P at 59th Bn Transport lines service taken by Chaplain Capt NYE. RC Parades were held at 9am in SERCOUS Church. Chaplain Capt NYE held a voluntary service at 7pm in YMCA - many were present. Battalion Band played selections in Village Square. Major KURING returned from PARIS leave.</p>	
SERCOUS	10 th		<p>Weather - Fine and cool. A Brigade Route March was held. Details of which are shown in appendix. Owing to lateness of the hour of return</p>	Appendix 4

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SERCUS	10 th	<u>contd</u>	the Officers detailed to attend a lecture by Lt Col CAREY. CMB. DSO were unable to be present.	
SERCUS	11 th	9 am	Weather - Fine and Warm. The Battalion carried out an Exercise - "Consolidation and Construction of Strong points" The Cruciform Strong Post was explained. 2/Lt KIRKHAM proceeded on leave to W.L. Chaplain - Captain BRUMWELL repaired the Battalion in Hospital. CO and Adjutant attended a conference at Bde Headquarters	
SERCUS.	12 th	9 am	Weather - Fine and Warm CO's adjutant, attended a Brigade scheme without troops. Details will be included in tomorrow's entry. Lieut AK RAWSON proceeded on leave to W.L. Chaplain. Capt BRUMWELL proceeded to Base (Haore) 3 pm All officers and NCO's were taken over ground and tomorrow's exercise explained to them.	Appendix II

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SERCUS	13	9am	<p>Weather - Fine and Warm</p> <p>A Brigade scheme was carried out - details of which are attached. After the scheme officers met and the morning's work criticised by Major General HOBBS and Brig. General ELLIOTT. A lecture on Care of Feet was given by MO.</p>	Appendix
SERCUS	14 th	9am	<p>Weather - Fine and Warm</p> <p>Platoon Training was carried out. Lieut PENTREATH and Lieut SOUTHWELL returned from leave to UK.</p> <p>The Battalion bathed at Puercional Baths. All officers and NCO's attended a demonstration "Penetration of Pill Boxes" at La BELLE HOTESSE. CO and 11 officers attended a lecture at BLARINCHEM "Intelligence" by Brig. General BENSON CB, CMO.</p>	
SERCUS	15 th	9am	<p>Weather - Fine and Warm</p> <p>Platoon Training was carried out. Three officers attended cooking demonstration at 2nd Army School.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SERCUS	15	-	Contd.	
		7pm	A Battalion Dinner was held in J.M.C.A. Hall SERCUS All Battalion officers were present.	
SERCUS	16		Weather - Fine and Warm	
		9:30	Church Parades were held. Cof E. and O.P.D. at CIBAOS. and RC at Church SERCUS. Chap - Capt NYE conducted the Cof E and OPD services	
		4pm	Battalion Band played in village square SERCUS. CO and Adjutant attended a conference at Brigade school LA BELLE HOTESSE when forthcoming operations were discussed.	
SERCUS	17		Weather - Fine and Cool	
			Battalion moved from BLARINGHEM area to STEENVORDE area by march route. Details are attached as an appendix. 2 men were admitted to Hospital on the march - otherwise all men marched well. A messday held	Appendix 4

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEENVORDE SEVEN	17 th	-	<u>Continued</u> was made for lunch and Battalion reached destination at 2.30 pm and was billeted.	
STEENVORDE	18 th	8am	<u>Fine and warm</u> The March to forward Area of STANZAC CORPS was continued - a distance of 10 miles covered - no men fell out and Battalion reached Devonshire Camp (B22 B87) at 11.30 am. The camp was taken over from the 24 th Battalion. Appendix attached. CO attended a conference at Brigade HQ. Battalion received orders to be ready to move at an hour's notice from 7.30 am on 19th.	
DEVONSHIRE CAMP	19 th	8am	Weather fine - rain fell in the evening. The attack scheme as practised in BLARINGHEM area was carried out by companies - the men wearing gas respirators. Battalion received orders to be ready at an hour's notice commencing from 7.30 am on 20 th inst, to proceed with 15 th Inf Bde and support the 1st Australian Division.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEVONSHIRE SEVENTH CAMP	19 th	-	who were attacking. CO and Adjutant attended a conference at Brigade Headquarters.	
		8pm	The "attack" was practised in darkness. The men advancing with Box Respirators on. The CO held a conference with all Battalion Officers when the plans of future operations were discussed.	
DEVONSHIRE CAMP	20 th	8am	Weather. Fine and warm.	
			The projected move to forward area to support 1st Australian Division did not eventuate. The advance wearing Gas	
		1pm	March was again practised. CO attended at Divisional Headquarters to study maps of the attack of 1st Australian	
		7-30	Division. CO lectured NCO's on enemy tactics. A conference	
		8-30	of officers was held and the positions of our projected attack discussed. Capt LL. HORNBY was evacuated to hospital.	
			Threat Stevenson marched in with 14 reinforcements. Battalion still awaiting orders to move to support area.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEVONSHIRE			Weather - Fine and Warm	
CAMP	21	8 am	Battalion still under orders to move to support area. CO and Adjutant attended two conferences at Brigade HQ during the day when plans of operations were discussed.	
DEVONSHIRE			Weather - Fine and Warm	
CAMP	22	6 am	Battalion stood by to move to Forward area - CO attended	
		12 30	conference at Brigade HQ. Orders received for Battalion to	
		5 9	move to CHATEAU SEGARD at 2 30 pm. Battalion moved	
			from DEVONSHIRE CAMP to CHATEAU SEGARD AREA by march	
			Route arriving at 7 10 pm. Personnel proceeding to Provisional	
			reinforcement Wing left at 2 30 pm (4 Officers 109 OR's). Major	
			KURING detached by Brigade HQ as Liaison Officer.	
CHATEAU SEGARD DEVONSHIRE			Weather Cloudy but fine.	
CAMP	23	9 am	CO and Adjutant attended a conference at Brigade HQ. Officers of the Battalion were in conference with CO and plans for coming operation discussed. Lt KIRKHAM returned from UK Camp.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHATEAU SEGARD	24	9am 4pm	Weather - Fine and Warm. CO and Adjutant attended a conference at Bugade HQ. Battalion moved by Beach Route to Zillebeke Lake where it was bivouacked for the night. 2 Co Stores and Transport Line remained at CAFE BELGE.	
		7-10pm	Battalion reached ZILLEBEKE LAKE. CO attended a conference at Bugade HQ.	
ZILLEBEKE LAKE	25	-	Weather - Fine and Warm.	
		8am	Battalion remained at ZILLEBEKE LAKE until 3pm when orders were received to proceed to YEOMANRY DUMP near HOOGE and ZOUAVE WOOD and relieve the 57 th Bn who were moving forward to the line. Battalion first casualties since arriving in the Southern Area were 4 men wounded by shell at ZILLEBEKE LAKE. 4 Lt BUCHECHER proceeded to WARRINGTON ROAD to superintend. Rife being	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOOGE (YEOMANRY DUMP)	15		<p>returned to 2M STORE failed to return and was listed "MISSING" Battalion reached YEOMANRY DUMP at 4.30 and took over from 57th B. Companies were distributed in trenches round about HOOGE. At 8.15 pm the Battalion received orders to move to CLAPHAM JUNCTION and take over trenches occupied by 57th Bn who had proceeded to the line. Here the men were given pick, shovel, mine, carbines etc and Battalion proceeded to BLACK WATCH CORNER and were formed up on tape laid for the attack on German positions in POLYGON WOOD. No casualties were suffered going from Yeomanry Dump to the front line and the Battalion was formed up ready to attack by 2.17 am without incident.</p>	
D. D. & L., London, E.C.	26			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLACK				
WATCH	26	5.50	Battalion attacked German positions in POLYGON WOOD - Zero	
CORNER	27 th	am	hour being 5.50 am. The Barrage was put down at 5.50	
			am and at 5.53 the Battalion advanced and captured its first objective in quick time. Owing to the troops on our right failing to come up our right flank had to fall back a little and it was here the major portion of our casualties were suffered. Two Battalions of the 8 th Australian Infantry Brigade then pushed through our line and after stiff fighting the second objective was mostly taken and touch secured with the 14 th Australian Infantry Brigade on our left and British Troops who afterwards came up on right. Small local counter attacks were easily repulsed. Colonel MASON'S report is attached as an appendix and covers the operations for 26 th 27 th until the evening of the 27 th /28 th when the Battalion was relieved by the 29 th Pz AF.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POLYGON			The Battalion casualties were 5 Officers 263 OR ^{'S}	
WOOD	27.		<p>Of these Lt FRANCIS - Battalion Intelligence Officer, was killed CAPTAIN STOKFELD, Lieut J.S. MANN, Lieut J.E. TURNOUR and LIEUT M^CINTOSH were wounded CAPTAIN STOKFELD Lieut M^CINTOSH and Lieut TURNOUR have since died of wounds. 200 Other Ranks were wounded and 46 Killed while 17 still remain to be accounted for, and are reported missing. The weather during the attack was fine and warm and a fog on the morning of the 26th enabled us to bring in our wounded Battalion Headquarters was established in a "Pill Box" at BLACK WATCH CORNER. The operation order is included in appendix. The Battalion went into the fight at a strength of 22 Officers and 694 OR^{'S} making the percentage of casualties 37.47%.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHATEAU	28	2 am	The Battalion returned from the line and camped	
SEGARD		2 pm	in huts at CHATEAU SEGARD. At 2 pm a Muster	
			Parade was held and enabled us to decide the	
			number of our casualties. Lieut SCATTERGOOD and	
			Lieut PENTREATH visited all Field Ambulance	
		4 pm	in the area and recovered lists of wounded men	
CHATEAU			of the Battalion. The CO attended a conference at	
SEGARD	29		Brigade Headquarters.	
			Weather - Fine and Warm.	
			The Battalion received orders to move to ^(Sheet 28) H 26 B 57.	
			The move took place without incident. The march	
			being a short one enabled the Battalion to leave	
			CHATEAU SEGARD at 11.30 and reach camp at ^(Sheet 28) H 26 B 57 by 1 pm.	
			The CO - Major Kinnear, Lt Buxsey and I attended the funeral	
			of Lieut TURNOUR, who was buried at POPERINGHE. by	
			20 men of 'C' Coy attended as a firing party.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DIGREBUSCH			Weather - Fine and Warm	
AREA	30	8 am	Battalion resting after recent operations - The Battalion has received orders to proceed by March Route to DOMINION AREA. We left camp at 2 pm and proceeded by March Route to DEVONSHIRE CAMP arriving at 3.45 pm. The Order for the March is appended.	
DEVONSHIRE				
CAMP.				
			<p>By order Lt Col 59th Battalion A.I.F.</p>	

Appendices to 59th Battalion

War Diary

Relative to

- | Appendix | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|--|
| 1. | Br Schemes in SERCOS AREA - 1st to 5 th incl | | |
| 2. | Bde Route March. | 9-9-17 | |
| 3. | Bde Scheme. | 13-9-17 | |
| 4. | Move to Forward area | 17-9-17 | |
| 5. | 2 nd stage of ditto | 18-9-17 | |
| 6. | Order re move to support
1st part Dis | 20-9-17 | |
| 7. | Order re move to
CHATEAU SEBARD | 23-9-17 | |
| 8. | Order re move from
CHATEAU SEBARD to H26.B57. | 29-9-17 | |
| 9. | Order re move to
DOMINION AREA | 30-9-17 | |
| 10. | CO's report on
Operation 26/27/28. | | |

BATTALION SCHEME FOR 3rd inst.

-5-

Reference Sheet 36a.

GENERAL IDEA.

A RED Force, based to the West of the Roman Road, occupies advanced positions running through SERCUS-FONTAINES - BOESEGHEM.

BLUE Force, based East of the ROMAN ROAD, ^{has} its advanced trenches along the general line of that Road.

The C. in C. BLUE issues S.S. 574 "The construction of Defensive Position". In accordance therewith a support line is chosen running, in rear of the first line, through C.24.-18 - 12 -6.

Rendezvous C.18a. Central at 9 a.m. 3rd inst.

SPECIAL IDEA. (BLUE).

Your Battalion plus 1 section M.G.Co. is in support in the Sector C.16.17.18. (BOIS HUIT RUEES exclusive le ECHARIN exc.)

Having regard to the instructions in SS 574.

- (a) Select exact position of support line in rear of the crest in your sector and decide on a plan of defence of the sector.
- (b) Reconnoitre the ground forward to the ROMAN ROAD.
- (c) Draw up the order carrying ~~the~~ ^{that} plan into effect.
- (d) Make an enlarged sketch showing distribution of your troops when the enemy attack commences.

Orders and sketches to be handed in at C.18.a. Central at 11.30 a.m.

sd/ R.G. Legge Capt.
for Brigade Major,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

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Solution (a). Scheme 3.9.17.

Ref. 1/40,000.
Attached Sketch

BOUNDARIES. The Sector is bounded as follows:-
On the North a line D.7.c.0.0. - C.10.c.0.0.
On the South a line D.13.c.0.0. - C.16.c.0.0.
The line of the STEENBECQUE river divides the front line battalion area from the support battalion area.
The sector will be held by two battalions; one in front line system and one in support system, and One section M.G.Coy. to each battalion.

LINES OF DEFENCE. (a) The line of defence occupied by the support battalion will be located as shown in attached sketch. The system will consist of three trench lines connected by oblique communication trenches as shown.
Company Boundaries C.18.d.0.5. - C.18.c.3.8.
Garrison. -two companies first line.
two companies second and third line between boundaries shown above.
Machine Guns- see sketch.
Wire. (as in SS 574.) located as on sketch about 70 yards in front of first line. Done in three lines about 7 yards deep and lines 7 yards apart. Lengths of about 70 yards, gaps of 15 yards, each gap covered by the length in rear of it.

METHOD OF HOLDING SECTOR. The defence of the sector will be organised on the following lines.
The front line battalion is distributed in depth holding shell holes and strong points, (see sketch) in echelon to the rear from left to right. It is expected that if the enemy pushes through to the line of strong points they will be held up approximately on the line C.16.d.0.0. - C.11.c.0.0.
It is then intended that a support battalion shall be moved up by the covered approaches in C.17.c & d. deploy in C.17.d. and attack in the direction of the present front line trench.
This attack will be carried out by the two Companies in the front line of support system, supported by the two remaining companies.
The objective will be the front shell-hole trench on the line of the ROMAN ROAD and each company will attack in four waves on a one platoon frontage of about 300 yards.
The Company boundary for the attack will be right company - C.17.c.9.4. (RUE SERCUS exclusive) C.16.b.9.0. (inclusive) C.10.c.0.3. The right company (No.1.) in the line will operate to the North of that Boundary and the left company (No. 2.) to the South.
No.3 and No. 4 Companies will conform to the movements of No.1 - No.2. respectively moving at a distance of four hundred yards in rear of the last

wave of the leading companies.

The movement to the line of deployment (the road C.17.c.9.0. - C.17.d.3.9.) will be carried out in columns as ground permits. The attack will be launched; each of the leading companies in four waves, men at interval of 7 yards, waves at a distance of about 200 yards. Signal for the launching of the attack will be the first lift of the barrage.

Officers' Patrols of one officer, 8 other ranks will cover the advance to the line of deployment of each of the leading companies, contact being maintained by runner.

ARTILLERY. A barrage will be put down on the lines shown in attached sketch when information as to the enemy's advance is available. Artillery will be ~~XXXX~~ informed by regimental headquarters.

The artillery table allows for the covering of the whole area taken by the enemy and the barrage lifts to avoid strong points known to be still occupied by us.

Contact aeroplane will be informed by signal from C.17.d.0.5. when the attack has reached the position of deployment and is ready to move.

The barrage will move by 100 yard lifts every four minutes.

The signal from the infantry to the aeroplane will be made by shutter from Battalion headquarters and at the same time the firing of two green and one red lights. This will be arranged by the battalion Signalling officer.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATION. A line is to be run from present battalion headquarters to the advanced battalion headquarters at C.17.d.0.5., to which point the battalion headquarters will move when the leading companies in the attack have reached the position of deployment.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. Nil.

sd/ R.G. Legge Capt.
for Brigade Major.
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

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BATTALION ORDER No.

Reference 1/40,000. 36A.

3.9.17.

- 1 The enemy has reached the line of C.17.a.8.7.-~~EX~~ C.16.b.0.9. - C.16.d.5.2. Strong points on the line are still in our hands.
2. The battalion is to counter attack and gain the line of the ROMAN ROAD.
3. Attack will be carried out as detailed in Defence scheme; A. Company No.1., B Company No.2., C Company No.3., and D Company No. 4. Move on receipt of this order.
4. Battalion headquarters will be established at C.17.d.0.5. at 12.15 a.m.

Captain.
For Brigade Major,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 11.40 a.m.
Two copies to each recipient.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Regiment | 1 |
| "A" Company | 2 & 3. |
| "B" Company. | 3 & 4 & 5 |
| "C" Company. | 4 & 5 |
| "D" Company. | 5 & 6 |
| Lewis Gun Officer. | 6 & 7. |
| Q.M. | 8 |
| File | 9. 10. 11. |
| War Diary. | 12. |

Note:- These times are liable to be altered in the actual scheme.

268
57th Battalion.
58th Battalion.
59th Battalion .
60th Battalion.
15th M.G.Coy.
15th A.L.T.M.B.

The following arrangements have been made to facilitate the carrying out of the scheme on 6th and 7th inst.

The RED barrage is to be represented by white signalling flags. These will be controlled by Lieut. McIver, Brigade Intelligence Officer and 2 officers and 56 other ranks of the 58th Battalion.

There will be no BLUE barrage actually represented for their counter attack.

The Company Commanders of the two front Companies and the left rear companies 58th Battalion will act as umpires. The two former and Lieut. McIver will decide when the flags representing the two forward companies are to be pulled down as having been put out of action. These decisions must be strictly impartial and the umpires must be guided in their decisions by consideration of the weight of the barrage and the strength of the forces engaging the posts. The O.C. left rear Company 58th Battalion (after his local counter) will act as umpire to halt the main counter attack. This will be halted on the line shown in sketch issued to 58th Battalion.

The two forward companies of the 58th Battalion are to be represented each by 30 men carrying RED flags. These will be placed in accordance with instructions already issued and each flag will represent a post of 5 men, two flags together representing a Machine Gun position and detachment.

Flags will be waved when garrisons are in action and must be controlled carefully while the barrage is on, then.

The 58th Battalion will launch and halt local counter attacks as already instructed.

Attention is directed to the necessity of impressing on the men that as little damage as possible is to be done to cultivated fields. Beet and Potato fields are passable to a certain extent but Bean fields must on no account be crossed.

Breaches may be cut in hedges where necessary but these will be limited to the fewest possible.

The 58th Battalion are detailing 2 companies (less 2 officers 60 men) to report to Captain SMITH, Brigade Headquarters at C.15.a.0.6. at 11.30 a.m. These men are to be employed to follow up the 60th Battalion and block up any breaches that have been made in hedges and close all gates, openings etc.

The Brigade Signal Section is establishing Stations at C.10,d.0.0. and C.16.b.3.g. Battalions of all Brigades will establish visual communication with one or each of these points. This is not included in the scheme but is for control purposes only so that stations need not be concealed.

sd/R.G.Legge Capt.
for Brigade Major,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

268
57th Battalion.
58th Battalion.
59th Battalion.
60th Battalion.
15th M.G.Co.
15th A.L.T.M.B.

The following points were noted today in the rehearsal of the scheme for Saturday which will be amended as shown, in addition to the alterations made by the new RED Brigade Order.

1. ATTACKING BATTALIONS.

Increase frontage as in RED Brigade Order.

The leading lines did not move off quickly enough under the barrage.

Attention should be paid to red flags waving beyond the flanks of the attack in case flanking unit has not come up.

The leading lines should remember that the actual men of the barrage (which is in two lines) move twice the distance in the same time as they do and halt twice as long, so that the attackers pace is not the same as that of the men doing the barrage ~~men~~ work. This can be adjusted and at the same time made more realistic if it can be arranged that the attackers make some show of fighting or clearing up at various points.

The crowding that was noticeable, today, will to a great extent be adjusted by the increased frontage of the attack. It must be remembered that this increase of frontage is merely for the sake of the scheme and to eliminate the necessity of making casualties.

See also instructions to defending battalions.

2. 58th BATTALION.

Arrangements must be made to locate a strong point in the field about C.16.d.3.9. which is to hold on until the umpire for that flank (Capt. LOUGHNAN) considers that the Trench Mortars of the attacking force has knocked it out.

The strong point at C.16.b.9.0. must hang on until put out of action.

The local counter-attack by the left rear company of the 58th Battalion will take place at a time and from a forming up point to be notified later. This will be definitely fixed to improve the 'stage effect' of the action. The attack will be halted by an umpire detailed by Brigade and it will be necessary for officers (and if possible, N.C.O.s) to carry whistles and arrange for a signal for the halt.

The Right Rear local counter attack is quite in the open and care must be taken not to expose the flank to enfilade fire from the positions the enemy already occupies.

3. Men of the skeleton companies must wave their flags when in action. It would be a great improvement if Nos. 1 of Lewis Guns and junior N.C.O.s could fill these positions, as they will be responsible to a great extent, for the opening of fire of the small posts in an action.

4. NO 59th BATTALION.

There are no fresh directions for 59th Battalion except that they may move without instructions to assembly position behind the advanced line of hedges before 11.30 but must keep well covered and show no movement.

They will await there the signal to attack and will advance at the same pace and in the same manner as today building up as is necessary.

The forward movement in the attack must continue until the whole attack is definitely halted.

sd/ R.G. Legge Captain.
for Brigade Major,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

SECRET.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Copy No.....

7th September 1917.

59th Battalion Training Order No. 128.

Map Reference

Sheet 36A. 1/40,000.

1. The Tactical Exercise as rehearsed on the 6th inst. will be carried out to-morrow 8th inst. in the presence of the G.O.C., 2nd Army.
2. ZERO Hour will be 10.30 a.m.
3. 59th Battalion will be formed in support line position by 9.30 a.m.
4. Battalion will move off from support position to make Counter-attack at ZERO hour plus 2 hours and should detach from HERON LINE in C.17.c. at ZERO hour plus 2 hours 25 minutes, but not before that time.
5. Watches will be synchronised at Battalion Headquarters at G.84a.1.B. at 9.30 a.m. at which time Company Commanders will report in person to the Commanding Officer.
6. As C. "B" and "C" Companies will arrange to have sufficient gaps made in hedges to prevent troops moving diagonally across front of line of advance. This work to be completed by 9.30 a.m.
7. As much use as possible is to be made of cover in moving to place of deployment. The SERCUS Road is to be avoided. Touch is to be kept from front to rear and laterally and formations and distances are to be exactly as rehearsed on the 6th inst.
Special attention is directed to typewritten document "German Instructions for a Counter-attack." issued this afternoon.
8. DRESS: Fighting Order (with S.R.R.s.)
Steel helmets.
Midday meal to be carried in haversack; every available man to be on parade.

A.J. Beck Lieut.
A/Adj. 59th Battalion A.I.F.

Distributions:-

Copy No.	1.	"A" Coy.
	2	"B" "
	3	"C" "
	4	"D" "
	5	G.O.
	6	2nd I.C.
	726	War Diary.

TIME TABLE OF EVENTS 15th BRIGADE SCHEME 8.9.17.

ZERO. Attacking Battalions (57th Battalion in front) advance under barrage.

ZERO plus 35 minutes. General line of first objective reached. Fighting for strong point in B.16.d.3.3. continues.

ZERO plus 45 minutes. Local counter attack from C.17.c. in the direction of C.16.d. develops.

Mopping up and consolidation of area covered by 57th Battalion continues and 60th Battalion gradually moves forward to its lying out position in readiness to move, until Zero plus 95 minutes.

ZERO plus 95 minutes. The 60th Battalion passing through 57th moves behind barrage towards its objective.

ZERO plus 2 hours, The 60th Battalion reaches its objective with the exception of strong point in ~~C.16.b.9.0.~~ C.16.b.9.0. which holds out.

ZERO plus 2 hours. The 59th Battalion counter attack begins to move from support trenches in ~~C.18.a & c.~~ C.18.a & c. and should debouch from hedge line in C.17.c about Zero plus 2 hours 25 minutes.

58th right rear company carry out local counter attack from strong point in C.17.a. at same time.

sd/R.G.Legge Captain.
for Brigade Major.
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

9th September 1917.

Training memo No. 129.

Map Reference.
Sheet 36A. 1/40,000.

1. A Brigade Route March will be held tomorrow 10th inst.,
Brigade Starting Point, C.29.a.6.4.

Route:- STEENBECQUE - I.9.b.20.35. - I.7.d.5.4. -
BLARINGHEM - C.13.b.7.2. - LYNDE (B.6.d.55.60.) -
C.1.b.0.2. - BILLETS.

Dress:- Full Marching Order.

Transport:- 1st Line Transport including cookers and
their limbers will accompany Units.
2. Intervals of 100 yards between companies and 200 yards between
Battalions will be maintained on the march.
3. The first halt will be made from 10.20 to 10.30 a.m. so as to
ensure being clear of villages of BOESEGHEM and STEENBECQUE.
The second halt will be signalled from the head of column
when it reaches B.23.d.7.7.
4. Midday meal will be carried. Meal will be prepared on the route.
Midday meal will be served when the head of the column reaches
B.23.d.7.7. At this time distances will be closed up to
50 yards between companies and to 100 yards between
Battalions. Upon the march being resumed at 1 p.m., the
Battalions will move off at the intervals first detailed and
halts called at 10 minutes to every clock hour.

59th Battalion Starting Point will be at C.16.c.3.8.
Battalion will pass this point at 9.5 a.m. in the
following order-

Headquarters.
"A" Company.
"B" Company.
"C" Company.
"D" Company.
Transport.

The battalion will then proceed along ROMAN ROAD
towards LA BELLE HOTESSE.

A.J. Beck Lieut.

DISTRIBUTION-			A/Adjt. 59th Battalion A.I.F.
Copy No.	1.	C.O.	
	2.	2nd I.C.	
	3.	"A" Coy.	
	4.	"B" Coy.	
	5.	"C" Coy.	
	6.	"D" Coy.	
	7.	Q.M. & Transport Officer.	
	8.	Headquarters.	
	9.	File	
	10&11	War Diary.	

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SECRET.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Appendix No. 3

29

Copy No.

Order No. 130

18th September 1917.

Train
Appendix 3

Map Reference: Sheet 38A.
1/40,000.

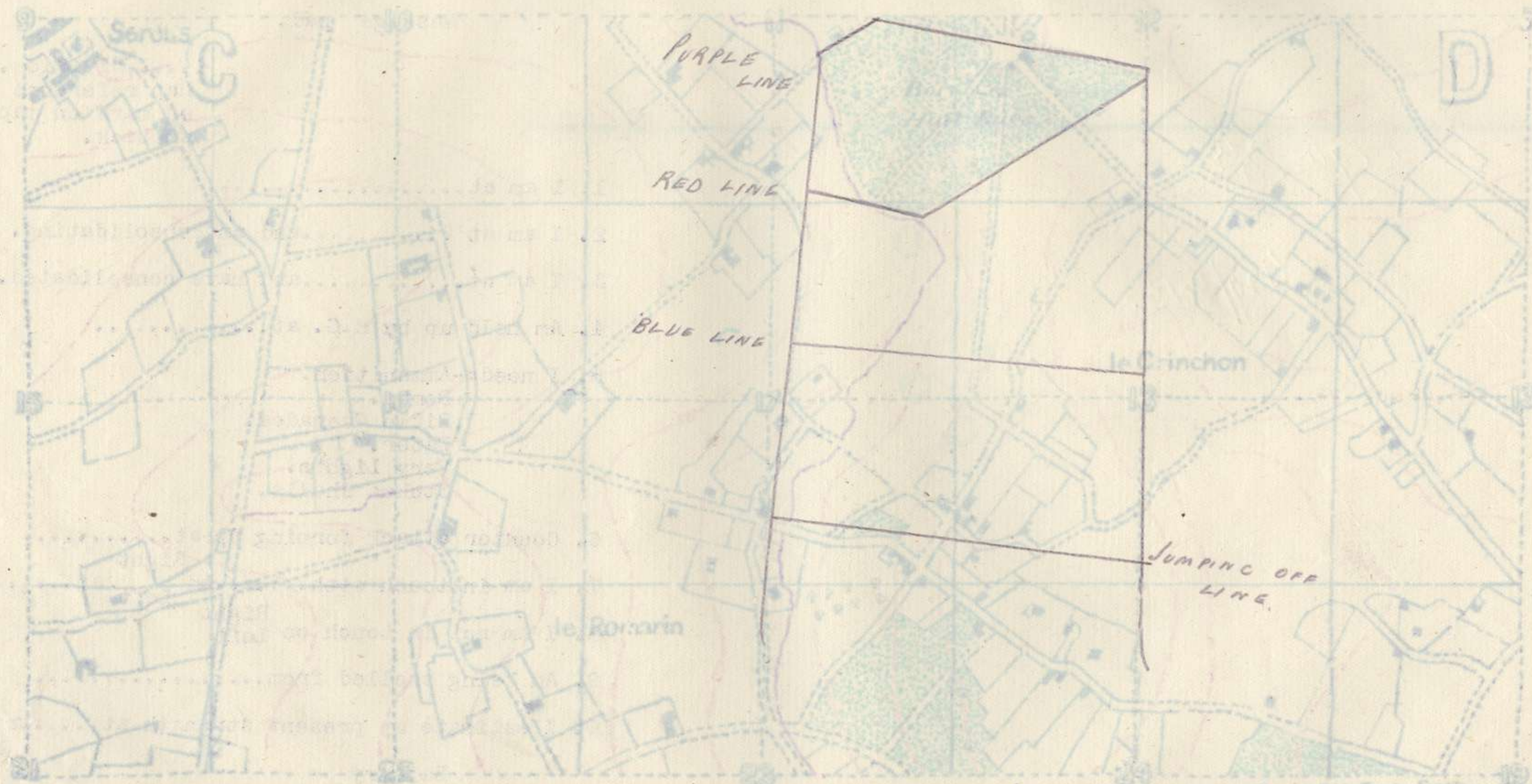
X.

1. The 15th Infantry Brigade will capture three objectives. The first objective is marked GREEN on the attached sketch and is in an approximate line G.17.d.8.3. - G.18.a.9.0. The second objective is an approximate line marked RED on attached sketch, G.11.d.3.0. - G.12.c.9.0. The third objective is an approximate line marked PURPLE G.11.d.3.7. - G.11.e.6.0. - G.12.c.9.7. The 'jumping off line' is an approximate line marked black on attached sketch running through G.17.c.0.4. - G.18.c.0.4. - G.18.c.9.4.
2. The 58th Battalion will take the first objective - Green line. The 60th Battalion will pass through the 58th Battalion and take the second objective - Red line. The 57th and 59th Battalions will pass through the 58th and 60th Battalions and take the final objective - PURPLE line.
3. Brigade Boundaries - RIGHT Boundary is an approximate line running North and South through G.12.18.24. Central. Left Boundary an approximate line running North and South from the house at G.11.d.3.7. to house at G.17.d.1.8. inclusive. The Right flank boundary of the 57th Battalion is the same as that of the Brigade. The left flank boundary of the 59th Battalion is the same as that of the Brigade. The dividing line between the 57th and 59th Battalions is a line running North and South from G.11.d.10.10. to G.23.d.10.0.
4. ZERO Hour will be at 10 a.m. on the 18th inst.
5. The place of assembly of 59th Battalion will be on an approximate line G.23.a.8.4. to G.23.b.3.2.
7. The Battalion will be in position by 8.30 a.m.
6. The Battalion will advance and attack on a three company frontage. A, B, & C Companies will be in the front line and D Company in reserve. As soon as the 60th Battalion moves forward, the 59th will follow and keep as close as possible but on no account will it become engaged in the fighting of the 60th Battalion unless special orders are issued to do so. As soon as the 60th Battn. have taken and consolidated the RED line, the 59th Battn. will attack the PURPLE or Final objective.
8. "A" Company will keep touch with the left company of the 57th Battn. The "X" Brigade will be operating on our left and arrangements will be made by "C" Company to keep in touch. Great care must be observed in moving through the woods both in covering the advance and keeping touch and direction.
9. Battalion Headquarters will move forward with "B" Company which will move in rear of "B" Company. At the RED line Battn. Headquarters, will be at G.11.d.6.0.
10. One section of 15th A.L.F.M.B. will be told off to C.O. "C" Coy. and will report to him at 9 a.m.

sd/
for Lieut.-Col. Temp-Comdgr. 59th Battn. A.I.F. Lieut. & Adjnt.

DISTRIBUTION:

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Copy No. 1 | 15th Bde H.Qrs. | Copy No. 2 | "A" Coy. |
| 3 | "B" Coy. | 4 | "C" Coy. |
| 5 | "D" Coy. | 6 | 15th A.L.F.M.B. |



Map Reference Sheet 365 D. Scale 1:15,000.

Appendix No 3.

59th pu



A P P E N D I X. I.

Message pad.

.....Division.
Map reference
or mark on map
at back.

1. I am at.....
2. I am atand am consolidating.
3. I am at.....and have consolidated.
4. Am held up by M.G. at.....
5. I need:-Ammunition.
Bombs.
Rifle Grenades.
Water.
Very Lights.
Stokes shells.
6. Counter attack forming up at.....
Right
7. I am in touch with.....on Right Left at.....
8. I am not in touch on Right Left
9. Am being shelled from.....
10. I estimate my present strength at.....rifles
11. Hostile Battery
Machine Gun active at.....
Trench Mortar
Time.....m. Name.....
Date..... Platoon.....Company.....
Battalion.....

59th BATTALION ORDER No. 130.
-----*Appendix 4*
France.
Sheet 27 and 36A.
1/40,000.

The 5th Australian Division (less Artillery and detached units) is moving by March Route on 17th and 18th September to the STEENVORDE area and thence to the forward areas of 1st ANZAC Corps.

ROUTE:- From Brigade Starting Point at G.4.a.9.4. through X Roads U.22.d.50.95.- LONGUE CROIX - U.5.c.4.8. KOORTEN LOOP - ST. SYLVESTRE CAPPELL - P.23.c.8.2.- P.28.a.4.3. thence to billeting area as allotted.

The following distances will be maintained on the march-

(a) From BLARINGHEM area to STEENVORDE area

200 yards between battalions.
100 yards between companies.

(b) From STEENVORDE area to FORWARD area:-

500 yards between battalions and other units.
200 yards between Transport of units and other Units.
100 yards between companies.

Lieut. Francis is detailed to keep a lookout for hostile aeroplanes. If a hostile aeroplane is sighted the column will be halted, and the men will be ordered to remain steady at the side of the road and not look upward.

A halt of 10 minutes will be made at 10 minutes before each clock hour. A halt of 1 hour will be made for dinner at 12 noon on the 17th inst. Troops will be concentrated for the meal on any stubble or ploughed ground in the vicinity.

Supplies will be drawn on the 16th inst., for consumption on the 18th by 2nd Line Transport from the Brigade Supply Dump when the supply wagons will join their units and remain with them until the completion of the move.

Supplies for the 19th inst. will be drawn on the 17th from STEENVORDE area by 2nd Line Transport.

Supply arrangements for the reserve area will be notified later.

Motor transport for the conveyance of blankets and extra kit will report at G.9.d.1.7. (Sheet 36A.) at 7 a.m. on the 17th inst.

Under no circumstances are any area stores to be removed from the area. All billets will be left scrupulously clean and certificates to that effect forwarded to B.O.R. at 4 p.m. on the 18th inst. All trenches that have been dug for training purposes must be filled in before the move and all foul ground distinctly marked with a notice board.

Each company will detail 1 N.C.O. to report to Lieut. Dunkley at 5 a.m. tomorrow the 17th inst. they will bring with them the bicycles at present allotted to companies and 24 hours rations. This party will then report to the Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters at 6 a.m. sharp, on the 17th and 6 a.m. on the 18th inst.

All units will move with ammunition echelons full.

The greatest care must be taken by units occupying stables or old horse standings as mange has been very prevalent in this area.

(Brigade Headquarters -

Brigade Headquarters will close at WALLON CAPPEL at 7.30 a.m. on the 17th inst. and reopen at No. 28 Rue CANNOT, STEENVORDE, on arrival.

59th Battalion will assemble as follows:-

Battalion Starting Point. C.10.a.8.8. (Sheet 36A.)

Time. 8.40 a.m.

The Battalion will be formed up in following order along road leading from C.10.a.8.8. to the BOIS des HUITES RUES through C.10.b. and C.11.a.

Headquarters and Band.
"A" Company.
"B" Company.
"C" Company.
"D" Company.
Transport.

Transport Officer will arrange to be in position along the ROMAN ROAD 200 yards in rear of Battalion at 8.55 a.m. He will take care to allow the 59 58th Battalion to clear him at C.16.a.4.4. before he moves on to the ROMAN ROAD.

Midday meal will be carried in the haversack -tea will be prepared for midday halt and a hot meal prepared on arrival at destination.

Steel helmets will be worn.

Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 25 - marked by Platoons, and ready to be put on transport at 6 a.m. sharp on the 17th inst. Transport Officer will arrange to collect blankets from company billets and transport same to C.9.d.1.7. (SERCUS Church). by 7 a.m. when they will be loaded on the motor transport. He will also arrange to collect Officers' valises from billets.

Marching Out States will be sent to B.O.R. by the N.C.O. reporting to Lieut. Dunkley at 5 a.m.

A.J. Beck Lieut.
A/Adjutant 59th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Copy No.	1.	C.O.
	2.	2nd I/C.
	3.	Q.M. & T.O.
	4.	"A" Company.
	5.	"B" Company.
	6.	"C" Company.
	7.	"D" Company.
	8. & 10	War diary.
	9.	Brigade Headquarters.
	11.	Headquarters Officers.
	12.	File.

59th Battalion Order No. 151.

268

Header
5Reference,
Sheet 27 and 28.
1/40,000.

17th September 1917.

1. The 5th Australian Division will move to forward area of 1st ANZAC Corps tomorrow 18th inst.
2. The following distances will be maintained on the march ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
500 Yards between Battalions.
200 yards between transport of Units and other troops.
100 yards between Companies.
3. Orders re hostile aeroplanes will be as per Battalion Order No. 130.
4. Lieut. Dunkley and 1 N.C.O. from each Company will report to the Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters at 6 a.m. on 18th inst. These N.C.O.s will report to Lieut. Dunkley with bicycles at 5.30 a.m. on 18th inst. at B.O.R. (K.28.b.0.8.)

15th Infantry Brigade Starting Point is K.35.d.4.3. (Map 27.1/40,000.)

59th Battalion will pass this point at 8.31 a.m.

ROUTE:- (Sheets 27 and 28.)ABEELLE - L.33.c.2.3. - RERING-HELST- G.29.b.5.5. - G.24.c.5.5.
to DOMINION CAMP at G.23.b.5.5.

59th Battalion will move as follows.

Battalion will pass K.29.c.4.5. at 8.15 a.m. in the following order.

Headquarters and Band.
"A" Company.
"B" Company.
"C" Company.
"D" Company.
Transport.

A.J. Beck Lieut.
A/Adj't. 59th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Copy No. 1.	C.O.
2.	2nd I/C.
3.	"A" Company.
4.	"B" Company.
5.	"C" Company.
6. X.	"D" Company.
7.	War Diary.
8.	War Diary.
9.	File.

268

Appendix No. 6

9 34

SECRET.

59th BATTALION ORDER No. 132.

59TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
19th Sept. 1917.

No.....
Date.....

Appendix 6

Reference
Sheet 22,
1/40,000.

1. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade has been ordered to be ready for immediate movement, from 7.30 a.m. on the 20th inst. onwards. For this purpose the following routine will be observed-
Reveille, 5.30 a.m.
Breakfast, 6 a.m.
2. Troops will wear Fighting Order and will carry 48 hours rations in addition to the iron ration plus a proportion of S.C.S. signals, aeroplane ground flares, sandbags and 170 rounds of S.A.A.
3. 1st Line Transport will accompany units.
4. The following distances will be maintained on the march-
500 yards between Battalions.
200 yards between Companies.
200 yards between troops and transport.
5. The nucleus for Divisional Reinforcement Camp will be left in the present Camp.
6. Reports to the Head of the Column while on the march.

59th Battalion will move as follows:-

XXXX. Starting Point - X Roads at G.22.b.S.4.
Time to be notified later.

Order of march will be:-

- Headquarters.
- "A" Company.
- "B" Company.
- "C" Company.
- "D" Company.
- Transport.

DISTRIBUTION.

- No. 1. C.O.
- 2. "A" Coy.
- 3. "B" "
- 4. "C" "
- 5. "D" "
- 6. H.Q.
- 7. C.M. & T.O.
- 8 & 9 War Diary.

A.J. Beck Lieut.
A/Adjutant 59th Battalion A.I.F.

268

SECRET.

Header

59th Battalion Order No. 122.

Ref. Belgium
Sheet 28. 1/40,000.

22nd September 1917.

1. The 15th Infantry Brigade will move to the CHATEAU SEGARD Area by March Route this afternoon the 22nd inst. as under,

~~Time of starting will be notified later.~~

Troops in Order of march.	Starting Point.	Route.
15th Brigade H.Q.	G.50.c.2.7.	Via OUDERDON-
57th Battalion.	"	ST. HUBERTSHOF-
58th Battalion.	"	HALLERAST-
59th Battalion.	"	DICKIBUSCH-
60th Battalion.	"	CAPE BELGE (for all
15th L.T.M.B.	"	units.)

5.9 pm

2. Units will move in file and maintain the following distances:-

- Between Platoons 50 yards.
- Between Companies 200 yards.
- Between Battalions. 300 yards.
- Between Troops & Transport. 400 yards.

3. First and second line transport will accompany Units.

4. The usual precautions will be taken to prevent observation by Hostile Aircraft.

5. All stores etc. must be cleared from the present area by 23rd inst.

6. Watering Points in the CHATEAU SEGARD area are as follows:-

- H.34.a.3.9. (for water carts.)
- H.23.c.9.1. (for horses.)

7. The location of Brigade Headquarters in the new area will be notified later.

59th Battalion will move as follows:-

Starting Point G.22.b.5.4.

Time ~~notified later.~~ *4.40 pm*

Order of March-

- Headquarters.
- "A" Company.
- "B" Company.
- "C" Company.
- "D" Company.
- Transport.

A. J. Beck, Lieut.

A/Adjutant 59th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| Copy No. 1 | C.O. |
| 2 | "A" Company. |
| 3 | "B" Company. |
| 4 | "C" Company. |
| 5 | "D" Company. |
| 6. | Q.M. and T.O. |
| 7 | H.Q. |
| 8 | War Diary. |

29th September 1917.

Appendix 8

Ref. Belgium Sheet 28
1/40,000.

1. The 59th Battalion will move to H.26.b.5.7. today.

Starting Point. X Roadset H.29.b.8.5.
Time 11 a.m.

Route-

DICKEBUSCH - Road Junction H.34.a.1.9. - H.27.d.8.4.-
H.27.d.3.1. -thence to billeting area.

2. The following distances will be maintained on the march.
100 yards between Companies.
Transport 100 yards in rear of "D" Coy.
3. 1st Line Transport will accompany units. Train wagons will join Units at 8 a.m. on 29th inst. and will rejoin 29th A.A.S.C. on completion of move.
4. All area stores, tents, trench shelters, etc., will be returned to Area Commandant and receipts obtained, copies being forwarded to Brigade Headquarters before 12 noon on 29th inst.
5. Brigade Headquarters will remain at present location until further orders.

A.J. Beck, Lieut.
A/Adjutant 59th Battalion A.I.M.F.

DISTRIBUTION:

- | | | |
|----------|----|----------------|
| Copy No. | 1. | C.O. |
| | 2. | "A" Coy. |
| | 3. | "B" Coy. |
| | 4. | "C" Coy. |
| | 5. | "D" Coy. |
| | 6. | Q.M. and T.O. |
| | 7. | H.Q. Officers. |
| | 8. | War Diary. |

2nd October 1917.

268
 Appender
 10
 To, 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Report of C.O. 59th Battalion on operations carried out at POLYGON WOOD, 26th and 27th September 1917, and training leading up thereto.

In the beginning of September 1917, while in the SERCUS area attention was given to the latest method of defences laid down by the German Higher Command. Several exercises were practised and two were carried out, one in the presence of the Army Commander, when the 57th and 60th Battalions attacked two objectives, the 60th Battalion passing through the 57th to the 2nd objective. The 58th and 59th Battalions represented the enemy distributed in depth from shell hole positions back to a support line from which the 59th Battalion delivered a counter attack on the objective which the 60th Battalion had captured, and consolidated. These exercises were carefully explained to the battalion as a whole by me and the object of the German Method. The Battalion was asked to put itself in the position of the Germans so that they could appreciate their difficulties. About the middle of the month some indication was given of the attack that it was proposed to carry out at POLYGON WOOD and from that on, maps were distributed and carefully studied. Very great care was taken by me in disclosing any information I had. At first I called the Officers together and discussed the features in the HOOGE and BEGELAERE maps and asked them to enlarge 'J.9. and 10'. We also discussed the information as to features issued by Corps and examined aeroplane photographs. I make special mention of these because the knowledge gained from the maps that were issued to us proved invaluable. I have been told by some of my N.C.O.s that they recognised features and Blockhouses at once. At that time we were practising attacking on a three company front. Each company on a two platoon frontage, and all units distributed in depth. Each platoon furnished its own skirmishers which were followed by the section in file. Then came the third platoon as moppers up and finally the fourth platoon as a reserve. Just before we left SERCUS area to move into the line, the Brigade did an exercise which it was understood was similar to the attack we were to carry out at POLYGON WOOD. The advance was approximately 1500 yards on a frontage of approximately 800 yards. It was done in three bounds. The 1st line was taken by the 58th Battalion, the 60th Battalion then passed through the 58th Battn., to the 2nd Objective and the 57th and 59th Battalions then divided the final objective between them, passing through the 58th and 60th Battalions to the final objective. The attack was made on a three company frontage with each Company on a two platoon frontage and distributed in depth. By the time we left SERCUS on 17th September we had a pretty fair idea of what our task was to be. But at ~~xxx~~ DOMINION CAMP we began to mature plans and I took the N.C.O.s into my confidence and with the help of maps we formed a good idea of the country which was ahead of us. It was understood that we should carry out our attack the same as we did at SERCUS, excepting that it was understood that we would have two objectives only. It was thought that the 58th Battn., would take over the line and that 60th Battn. would advance to the 1st Objective and that 59th and 57th Battns. would attack the 2nd objective. By the time we got to the CHATEAU SEGARD Area on 23rd. it was understood that the 15th Brigade would attack in two bounds. The first objective to be captured and consolidated by the 60th Battn. and the 57th and 59th Battalions were to pass through on to the final objective. The frontage that the 57th and 59th Battalions were to attack was about 700 yards. Each battalion decided to attack on a three company frontage and each company on a one platoon frontage; the leading platoon to form the skirmishers and supporting bodies, the second to support, the

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 third to mop up, and the fourth to be the reserve. It was decided to use the fourth company as a carrying company. The question of assembling was given a great deal of consideration and it became a question of digging assembly trenches in the rear of the jumping off line, or putting out forming up tapes in front of the jumping off line. It was decided to put out the tapes in front of the line to within 50 yards of where our barrage was to come down. When at CHATEAU SEGARD about two days before the attack, tapes were laid out and officers and N.C.O.s were practised in forming up on them. On Monday evening, 24th. the battalion moved to ZILLEBEKE LAKE near HOOGE and that evening about 7.30 I went to Brigade Headquarters at HOOGE Dump, where I expected to receive operation orders but they did not come.

During the night our bivouac was very heavily shelled and five men were wounded. Fortunately we were on the lee side of the Lake Bank and most of the shells dropped into the lake.

The next morning I went to Brigade Headquarters again. It was situated in a place called the CRATER at HOOGE, where there was a dump. The appearance of the place baffles description; the approaches were being heavily shelled and bombed, the dump was wrecked and ammunition and bombs were littered all round, and several motor lorries were wrecked and one blazed fiercely.

On my way across I was handed a bundle of papers which turned out to be my orders. The runners told me that they had been held up since 12.30 a.m. by the barrage which was down.

On arrival at Brigade I received the Brigade Order and I and the other Battalion Commanders were informed that Divisional Headquarters would not sanction our attacking on a three company frontage; that the attack on the first objective was to be done on a two company frontage and that on the final objective by each battalion on an one company frontage. The B.C.C. made a formal protest to Divisional Headquarters..

While at Brigade we learned that the enemy had counter attacked and driven back the English troops on our right. The 60th Battalion was ordered to reinforce the 58th.

I returned to the Battalion at ZILLEBEKE LAKE and was preparing to go over the orders with my Company Commanders when an order came to move up to where the 57th Battn. had been; this I did at once. I put the men into trenches at YEOMANRY POST near ZOUAVE WOOD and notwithstanding the heavy shelling, we did not have a casualty.

I read the Operation Orders through to my Company Commanders and was preparing an Operation Order when word came to move at once to CLAPHAM JUNCTION, and there be prepared to receive counter-attack orders as things were in a bad way with the British.

I got to CLAPHAM JUNCTION and found cover for the men and got a fresh supply of water from the dump there. The Staff Captain (Captain Godfrey) came with a message that I was to go to Brigade Headquarters, and that it was intended to go on with the attack and that my Battalion was to take the first objective.

I at once told off two companies for the job. "B" (Captain Stockfield) on the right, and "C" (Lieut. Turnour) on the left, with "A" (Lieut. Bursey) mopping up. I had practically no reserves because 100 men from "D" Company had been sent to work with the Engineers. I went to Brigade Headquarters and was given orders by the Brigadier that I was to attack the first objective. I then went back to CLAPHAM JUNCTION and informed the Company commanders of the change of plans; they had already anticipated the definite orders and had instructed their N.C.O.s accordingly. We then proceeded to gather shovels, wire and cork screws from the dump. The quiet orderly way that the men filed past the dump and took up a bundle of wire or a shovel or a corkscrew was most impressive and I shall always remember the way in which the late Lieut. Turnour supervised the distribution of the material in the dark and under shell fire.

The Battalion then filed off along the tape which led right up to BLACK WATCH CORNER, and all along the route, at intervals, men from the 57th Battalion were posted as guides. It was a splendid idea to take the men up that way because most of the shells were passing over our heads and falling to the right. It was an ideal night, the clouds being very low.

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The move upto the lying out position was done in perfect order; The only improvement I should suggest in doing it again would be for everybody to fall flat and remain still when the flares go up. Who ever is responsible for the laying out of the tapes to form up on deserves a lot of credit. As far as my Battalion is concerned, Lieut. St Millman of the 60th Battalion led my men quickly into their positions about two hours before ZERO time, which was fixed at 5.50 a.m.

I went back to Col. Stewart's -57th- Battalion Headquarters and tried to arrange for a reserve but I found this was impossible on account of heavy losses. I then took up my position at BLACK WATCH CORNER and awaited ZERO hour.

At 5.50 exactly, the barrage fell. It was not long before I got a message that the first objective had been taken and very soon after that I was speaking on the telephone with my signalling officer who had established a forward station and subsequently linked up with the line. When I got the message that the first objective had been taken, I left my Adjutant in charge and moved forward in the direction of CAMERON HOUSE. The first thing I noticed was the large number of ~~Krish~~ prisoners coming in. I then discovered that a great many men were coming back. Some of them told me that they had been ordered back; this I discovered was due to a misunderstanding. It had been ordered ON account of the troops on our right not coming on, not to proceed to the second objective but to bend the right flank back a bit. The misunderstanding was quickly remedied and the troops were soon on the line again. There was at all times perfect order.

By this time the 59th Battalion and the 8th Brigade men were very much mixed up. I moved along towards the left and found that the 14th Brigade were on their second objective and gradually bent back and linked up with the left of our troops. About 11 a.m. I sent a message from a gun emplacement at J.10.c.5.5., and it was just a little to the rear of this that I fixed my Battalion Headquarters. I sent a message map No. 8. and indicated the line as being JETTY WOOD, Pill Boxes at J.10.c.9.8. where there were strong points and a consolidated line ran from J.10.c.5.5. to J.10.c.2.0.

Just at this time counter attacks came from the left and from then on till about 5 p.m. when a very heavy one came from the right. There was a good deal of M.G. fire and sniping, and the shelling was very heavy. The enemy plashes were very daring and were directing the fire on to our line, one machine flew within 50 feet of our trench and opened fire. Our men stood up and fired at it bringing it down almost on to the trench along J.10.c.4.2. About this time I spoke to Lieut. Bursey and noticed he was consolidated and was improving his consolidation. I gave instructions to Lieut. Bursey to gradually work his line forward. I went to J. 10. 1.9. where a long line of trench had been dug and which was receiving a good deal of shelling. I thought it better to move these men forward and construct strong points somewhere about J.10.c.4.9. I saw Captain Neale there and he arranged to have this done. Some of the 59th then secured 4 or 5 enemy machine guns and put them in order ready to mount on the proposed strong points. I subsequently saw Captain ~~Muirson~~ and agreed to let him have what guns he wanted. I then moved over to J.10.c.1.0. with a view to sending a telephone message from the Pill Box where Lieut. Pinkerton was. When I got there I found that a strong counter attack was developing from the right and that Pinkerton and his men were going forward with a rifle. The British troops were running ~~xxxx~~ back, we sent them back and built up the line again. I found Captain Neale then doing splendid work moving up and down the line and establishing connection right through. We were being very heavily shelled and I eventually received a slight concussion. After the counter attack was driven off and the situation was in my opinion well in hand I thought it advisable to get back to BLACK WATCH CORNER and try and get a message back and arrange for water and ammunition to be sent up. This I did and sent you a report on the situation which will be found among the Appendices to that report. I then returned to Pinkerton's Pill Box and got a report from Company Commanders (Capt. Neale and Lieut. Bursey) that all was quiet and that they had pushed out outposts in front. The night remained quiet. At this time I was suffering somewhat from shock and thought it advisable to suggest that you sent someone to relieve me in case I got any worse.

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However I managed to get some spirits and soon recovered.

The next morning the troops moved forward, the 59th pushed forward on to the Eastern edge of the POLYGON WOOD but in parts were shelled out of it. Col. Marshall of 60th Battalion sent me a message to the effect that he was at CAMERON HOUSE but was afraid of his right flank. I arranged to support him by bending back my right flank slightly and sent you a message to that effect.

The whole of this day we endured the heaviest of shell fire which hardly ceased all day. The enemy had excellent observation by balloon. It was remarkable that the casualties were not more than they were. I think it was because the men were distributed in irregular shell hole positions. They showed wonderful endurance; I did not see a man stir.

During the day I offered assistance to Col. Toll of 31st Battalion who had got on to the Blue Line. He sent me a message to the effect that he did not require it. I had the assistance of Majors Kuring, Freeman, (58th Bn.) and De Ravin (58th Bn.) who did most useful work in finding out the situation on the flanks, and informing me of it.

About 10 p.m. I received orders that I was to be relieved by the 29th, I went and saw Col. Purser and arranged to send him four guides, I saw the relief take place and received a report from Company Commanders that all the Companies had been relieved. I could not imagine a relief being carried out in a more orderly manner, not only with regard to the outgoing troops but the incoming ones as well. I saw Lieut. Col. Davies of 32nd Battalion and gave him all the information I had with regard to the situation. I then walked back to Brigade Headquarters at HOCHE with Major Kuring. On the way down I did not see any troops excepting a few stretcher bearers here and there. I reported that the relief had been completed to the Brigade Major at Brigade Headquarters, and subsequently arrived at CHATEAU SEGARD CAMP about 4 a.m.

This brings me to the end of my narrative.

One or two observations I would like to make in conclusion-

I think the preliminary training was most valuable and I think in all operations great care should be taken in letting everyone know his job.

The maps and information with which we were supplied proved of great value and I think it was most fortunate that we received the preliminary instruction we did, because it would have been almost impossible to have digested the orders on the day that we received them.

Our barrage was wonderful, both the artillery and the Machine Gun and at no time did it seem possible for the enemy to get through it.

In spite of the heavy barrage on our communications, we managed to get rations and water through; this was apparently done by those who were in support.

Communication was a difficult problem and although the front line was in telephonic communication with BLACK WATCH CORNER I understand in rear of that it was broken. Runners again proved themselves to be superhuman as did those who acted as stretcher bearers.

It was a good idea for Major Bullen to establish an Aid Post as far forward as he did on the 2nd day as it enabled a great many wounded to receive early attention and they were able to be kept there until there was a comparative lull in the barrage. I think it would always be a good idea to make as much use of Pill Boxes as possible for Aid Posts.

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I would suggest that a completely independent body of Intelligence men be told off to search for papers and documents. I noticed numbers of men got all kinds of documents, letters, postcards and diaries, these in most instances were kept or thrown about all over the place. A special body should be told off for searching and nothing else. The quantity of papers was surprising.

The number of the enemy killed was very noticeable especially in and around the Blockhouses.