

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/76/28

**Title:** 59th Infantry Battalion

May 1918



AWM4-23/76/28



268

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Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*59<sup>th</sup> BATTALION. A.I.F.*

FOR

*MAY*

*1918.*

Signature of Officer compiling

*G. Stewart*

59th. Battalion A. I. F.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Signature]*



WAR DIARY

Army Form C: 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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VOL. V

59 Bn  
May Orig

Page I

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			WEATHER - DULL.	
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref. Sheet FRANE 62D.	1/5/18	8am	A working party of 2 Officers and 200 other ranks was engaged on digging in the AUBIGNY LINE. Task was completed by 4-30pm An hour and a half training is done daily. Training programme includes Musketry, Lewis Gun instructions, Lectures on Patrolling and S. B. R. drill. As the battalions will be utilized henceforward in completing the defensive system, the chances of carrying out much training appear to be few.	
		8-30pm	C.O.'s conference with company commanders.	Sick Wastage Report Appendix No 1
			<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>Departures</u>
			20 ORs from nucleus	
			<u>Battalion Strength</u>	
			Officers	ORs
			Actually with unit 27	557
			Sick in Field Ambulance 2	27
			Detached 12	142
			Total 41	726



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol. 5

Page 2

Place	Date	Hour	Weather. Time. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O 13 C Ref Sheet France 62 D.	2.5.18	8am	A working party of 3 officers 150 other ranks were engaged on work on the Reserve line O 13 C.	
	10am		I. G. C. M. assembled at Bde Hqs. BLANGY TRONVILLE (President: Major R. Mc. Aitchison 57 <sup>th</sup> Bn.) and dealt with various cases of this battalion.	
	12 noon		Several bombs were dropped from an enemy plane near our lines. No damage was done.	
	2pm		Similar party as that supplied at 8am furnished for work on the AUBIGNY LINE. 1 1/2 hours training is carried out daily by companies. Musketry, Lewis gun and S.B.R. instructions receive special attention.	

Arrivals

Departures

Capt McDonald K.G. (MC) to duty in U.K.

*J.H.*



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 3

VOL. 5

Place	Date	Hour	Weather - Time Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Somme Canal O 13 C.	3.5.18	8am 2pm 5pm	<p>The usual working parties were supplied.</p> <p>Baths were arranged for two Companies of the battalion at 5<sup>th</sup> Div. Baths, DAVORS.</p> <p>A change of underclothing was provided.</p> <p>Training was continued. A party reports daily at 10am and 2pm at Bde H.Q. for instruction in the use of the new grenade discharger cup.</p> <p>The construction of dugouts is being pushed on with here under the supervision of Engineers.</p> <p>Div. nucleus rejoined.</p> <p>Major Kuning is appointed Commandant Brigade N.C.O.'s School which assembles at 11am tomorrow 4<sup>th</sup> inst at DAVORS. Training memo No 1</p> <p><u>Annals</u></p> <p>Lieut. G. L. Pentreath M.C. }                  " J. H. McKay } from                  " W. G. McPherson } Nucleus.                  " J. H. Wadson }                  1/2 Lieut G. E. Fincher }                  58 other ranks }</p>	<p>app No 2</p>

J.R.

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page 4

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VOL V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			WEATHER - FINE.	
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref. Sheet 62D.	4/5/18	10am	Working parties were supplied as per Tactical Working Party Table - See App. No. 3 Officers of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aus. Division were taken forward by the Intelligence officer + shown gaps in wire in the AUBIGNY LINE and best means of approach to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. 1 1/2 hours training was carried out by those companies not engaged on work in defence systems.	No. 3
do.	5/5/18		WEATHER - RAIN. Liaison Officers were appointed. Lieut's CAMPBELL, McKAY and CALLENDER M.M. Liaison will be maintained between units with flanks and front battalions. 2pm. C.O. made an inspection of the Transport Lines. Vehicles were in good order and horses appeared to be in good condition. Baths were arranged for the battalions this afternoon at the 5 <sup>th</sup> Div Baths, DROUERS. and the men received a change of underclothing.	



WAR DIARY

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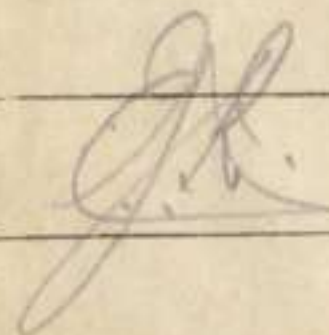
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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOL. V

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Weather - FINE. Evening Rains	
SOMME CANAL	6/5/18		The usual working parties were engaged on the Reserve line and in the forward area	
O13C Ref. Sheet FRANCE 62D		3pm	C.O.s and Adjutants of battalions were called to Brigade Headquarters for a conference with the B.G.C. The scheme for counterattacking in this area was explained. A Tank Battalion C.O., whose unit will work with us, enlarged on cooperation between Tanks and Infantry. For Counterattacks scheme see Appendix Nos. 4+5	Counter Attack Scheme Nos 4+5
		8-30pm	C.O.'s conference with company commanders. Counterattacks Scheme as above was explained & verbal instructions issued so that should we be called upon, the battalions will be in readiness to move. The part which the tanks will play should a counterattacks be necessary, was explained fully by the C.O. Arrangements were made for Company officers to inspect the tanks & meet the Tank Officers.	
			Arrivals	Departures
				



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOL. V

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 6.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			WEATHER-RAIN.	
SOMME CANAL	7-5-18	10am.	All officers went forward and thoroughly reconnected the gaps in the AUBIGNY wire. Noticeboards were erected to mark the tracks companies would take to reach the assembly positions, should the battalion be ordered to counterattack.	
		11am.	Operation Orders No. 158+159 issued. Companies would act in accordance with these orders if we were ordered to attack.	Appendix Nos. 4+5
			Shelters were erected over the Company cookers. This could not be done before owing to lack of material.	
		8pm.	Received message from Brigade that enemy was likely to attack tonight.	
		10pm.	Battalions ordered to stand to. Extra S.A.H. and bombs were issued and forward working party was recalled.	
		1pm.	Ordered to resume normal conditions.	
			<u>Arrivals</u>	
			<u>Departures</u>	
				Lieut. R. Dunkley to Hospital (sick)
				" L. S. Cuzens to A. I. P. Hdqrs U. K.

*J.B.*



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 7

VOL. V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			WEATHER - FINE	
Somme	8-5-18	9am	Officers attended a demonstration at 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde School, DAOURS, given by the 5 <sup>th</sup> DW.	
CANAL			Demonstration Platoon on the organization and work of a platoon.	
O13C		10am	C.O. made a reconnaissance of the battalion area and sited strong points in accordance with Defence Scheme. See Appendix No. 6	Defence Scheme
Ref. Sheet			Working parties were engaged on work on the Reserve Line. At night a party was working in the forward area	No 6
62D				
FRANCE		2pm	C.O. and officers attended a demonstration given by the Brigade Bombing Officer (Capt W. Keen) at Bde School, on the use of the Rifle Grenade Discharger Cup. Major-General Sir J. Dabbot Hobbs K.C.M.G. commanding 5 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. was present and later presented the shield to B Coy, 57 <sup>th</sup> Bns, won at the company competitions held at THIEPVAL in July last year.	
		5pm	Received Defence Scheme. Appendix No. 6 also Map No. 2.	Appendix
		8pm	Information was received that enemy was shelling in and around VILLERS-BRETONNEUX with gas shells. Necessary precautions were taken.	No. 6
			Sick Wastage Report	Appendix No 7








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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 9.

Vol. V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref Sheet 62D FRANCE	10/5/18		WEATHER - WARM	
			Working parties of total strength of 4 officers and 200 other ranks now report at 8am and 2pm. - The night party are now being supplied at 8am daily. This permits of one company per day being employed on Budgehead Defences.	
		10am	Order was received for a change of areas in the Bde. Works Policy. 59 <sup>th</sup> Bn. now takes over original 60 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Sector and vice versa.	
		2pm	C.O. Adjutant, Coy Cmdrs, 1 officer per company, and 1 N.C.O. per platoons proceeded to the SYDNEY SYSTEM. After the C.O. had explained Scheme "W", it was carried out in skeleton. This was done satisfactorily.	
		5pm	The Divisional Commander, Major General Sir J. Dalrymple Hobbs K.C.M.B. paid a visit to all battalions of the Brigade.	
			Arrivals	
			Capt. W. L. Heron	
			Lieut. J. B. Sutherland	
			2 O.R.s	



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 10

VOL V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref Sheet 62D.	11/5/18	2pm 4pm	<p>Weather - Warm.</p> <p>The usual working parties were supplied, one of which was engaged on work on Bridgehead defences.</p> <p>For the past ten days, twenty men have been engaged on the construction of a dugout in the battalions lines. The work is progressing satisfactorily.</p> <p>I. O. Company Cndrs and as many officers as were available went to the SYDNEY LINE and continued Scheme 'W' (in skeleton) from where they left off yesterday.</p> <p>Two officers belonging to 'C' Coy 8<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn. paid us a visit and discussed the scheme for counterattack with the C.O.</p> <p>It is proposed to hold an aquatic carnival on the Somme in a few days time. Numbers of the men have been in swimming during the last few days.</p> <p><u>Transfers and Appointments</u></p> <p>Lieut. E. J. RYAN 58<sup>th</sup> Bn. is transferred to 59<sup>th</sup> Bn. and appointed Adjutant dated 23-4-18.</p>	



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 11

Vol. V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL 017C Ry. Sheet 62D	12/5/18		<p>Weather - Fine</p> <p>Working parties were reduced from 4 Officers 300 other ranks to 2 Officers 200 other ranks.</p> <p>10am Church parades were held. R.C. (Chaplain Capt. Gilbert (MC)) was held in Church DAOURS. C. of E. and O.P.D. (Chaplains Capts. Rogers and Bremer), were held on flat near Bn. lines.</p> <p>2pm Court of Enquiry (Capt. W. J. Heron, President) was assembled to enquire into and report upon the illegal absence of four men of this battalion.</p> <p>6pm Issued Operation orders for Daylight and Night Counterattack Schemes.</p>	
do.	13/5/18		<p>Weather - Dull - Afternoon - RAIN</p> <p>8am Working parties were supplied for wiring the AVIGNY LINE.</p> <p>3pm A demonstration in the use of the T. Popham Signalling Panel was to have been given, but was cancelled owing to inclement weather.</p> <p>5-30 pm A lecture on "Cooperation between Artillery and Infantry" was given by Major H. H. Hutton D.S.O. R.A. (5<sup>th</sup> Aus. Div.) at the Brigade School, DAOURS. Officers and N.C.O.'s from this battalion attended.</p>	<p>Appendix Nos. 14 &amp; 5</p>



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOL. V

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref. Sheet 62D	14/5/18	3pm.	<p>Weather - Fine.</p> <p>A working party of 2 officers and 150 other ranks was supplied in the morning for work in the forward area. A party of 50 ORs was wiring the AVBIGNY SYSTEM during the afternoon.</p> <p>C.O. inspected the transport. Vehicles and horses were found to be in good order and conditions.</p> <p>The practical demonstrations in the use of the T. Pophorn Signalling Panel which was postponed yesterday, took place this afternoon. Lieut. A. J. Punterton, Bvt. Sig. Officer, and Bvt. Signaller took part. All the messages sent to the contact plane were received and later checked. This new method of signalling to aeroplanes is considered to be the best as yet devised.</p> <p>A lecture on "Construction of Field Defences" was given at the Brigade School, by Lieut. Col. L. F. S. Mather D.S.O. A.E. C.R.E., 5<sup>th</sup> Am. Div. Officers and N.C.O.'s from this battalion were present.</p> <p>Issued Operations order outlining guiding principals of Scheme "W"</p>	Appendix No. 8



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOL. V

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 13

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
SOMME CANAL O13C Ret. Sheet 62D	15/5/18	2pm	<p>Weather - Warm.</p> <p>A working party of 2 officers and 200 other ranks was engaged on trench digging in the AUBIGNY LINE. Enemy shelled the area and the party was ordered to withdraw by the Engineer officers.</p>
		5-30 pm.	<p>A very interesting lecture on "Machine Guns and their cooperation with other arms" was given by Major T. R. Marsden D.S.O. 5<sup>th</sup> M. G. Bn. to officers and N.C.O.'s of this Bn. and students, at the Bde School, DAVOVS.</p> <p>The battalion fat returns for last month shows 5,700 lbs of fat returned to railhead. This is <sup>largely</sup> due to the energetic work of the Bn. A.M. Capt. W. May.</p> <p>In the afternoon the battalion was paid.</p>

With Wastage Report

Appendix  
No 9

J.R.



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOL. V

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 14

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref. Sheet 62D.	16/5/18		Weather - Warm.	
		2pm	The morning was devoted to training according to programme of companies. All blankets were taken to Div. Baths, DAOURS, cleaned and aired. One officer and twenty other ranks received bombing instruction at Bde School.	
		5-30 pm	Officers and N.C.O.'s attended a lecture on "Organization of the German Army" by Lieut. J. E. Murray Div. I.O. at the Bde School. Another lecture was given by Capt. D. Doyle 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde. I.O. on "Reports" and "Duties of Observers." Lieut. Stevenson, Div. I.O. and Div. Observers attended.	
6pm	Usual working party of 2 officers and 200 OR's reported to positions at O13D.			

*J.R.*



WAR DIARY

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 15

VOL. V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Somme CANAL O13C Ref. Sheet 62D</p>	<p>17/5/18</p>	9am	<p>Weather - Warm. Enemy shelled the battalion area with 4.2's from the direction of WARFUSÉE-ABANCOURT, for two hours - no damage was done.</p>	
		1pm	<p>An aquatic carnival was held this afternoon on the CANAL, and was a great success. For programme of events see Appendix No. 10. The majority of the officers and men took part in the various events, which were keenly contested. Much amusement was provided by two comic characters Sgt G. Mitchell and Pte Wright. W. - the latter, dressed as a girl, was excellent, keeping some French gunners, who were spectators, in roars of laughter. Sports meeting held at Quartermasters Store between Quartermasters Sections 59<sup>th</sup> &amp; 60<sup>th</sup> Bns. For programme of events see appendix No 10a</p>	<p>Appendix No. 10</p>
		3pm	<p>A lecture on "Company in Attack" was given by the C.O. (Lieut.-Col. J. J. Scanlan) to students at the Brigade School.</p>	<p>appendix No 10 a</p>
		7pm	<p>The B.G.C. (General Elliott, C.M.G., D.S.O.) entertained Battalion Commanders at a dinner at Brigade Headquarters.</p>	

GR



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 16.

VOL. V

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Weather. Warm.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL 0130 Ref. Sheet 62D	18/5/18			All the men were bathed at the Divisional Baths, DAOURS. Summer clothing was issued <del>and</del> and the winter clothing withdrawn.	
		6pm		A working party of 4 officers and 200 other ranks was engaged on work in the Pioneer Switch.	
		10pm		The battalion area was shelled with 4.2's. No damage was done.	
		3pm		A lecture on "Outposts" was given by Lieut-Col. C.V. Watson 58 <sup>th</sup> Bn. at the Bde. School. At 5-30 pm a Lieut-Col. Brucke J.H. a.a. and D.M.G.	
				5 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. gave a lecture on "Administration", officers and N.C.O.'s from this battalion attended both lectures.	
			<u>Arrivals</u>		
			Lieut. Facey (D.C.M.) from Cadet Bn.		
			45 O.Rs. rejoining		
			53 " reinforcements		

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 17

Vol. V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref. Sheet 62D	19/5/18	10am	Weather - Warm.	
			Church parades were held. O.P.D. on flat in rear of Bw lines C.of E. in Y.M.C.A. and R.C. in Church D AOVRS.	
		2pm	all working parties for today were cancelled. The picked teams of Rifle Grenadiers attended Bde School for instruction. It is intended to have several trained teams in companies, proficient in the use of the Rifle Grenade Discharge Cup, so that when the battalion is on the line, a converging attack can be made on an enemy post without leaving our lines.	Defence Scheme.
8pm	Issued "K" Battalion's provisional Defence Scheme See Appendix No 6	App. No. 6		
			<u>Arrivals</u>	
			Capt. G. W. Akeroyd Rejoining Lieut. V. J. Mankey from Cadet Bw.	

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOL V

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 19

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Somme CANAL O13 a Ref Sheet 62-D.</p>	<p>21/5/18</p>	<p>10am</p>	<p>Weather - Fine</p> <p>A signalling scheme was carried out by the Battalion Sq. Officers and signallers as a Brigade scheme. The object of the scheme was to train signallers in maintenance of communication both forward and to rear during an attack. In this purpose a skeleton scheme was drawn up whereby 57<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> Bns attacked and on them reaching their objective, the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Bns leapfrogged them and carried on to the final objective.</p> <p>Excellent communication was maintained throughout. The visual signalling was good as far as actual signalling went, but operators failed to make the best use of cover when sending messages. Also in going forward, signallers were noticed to bunch too much.</p>	
		<p>4pm.</p>	<p>A few H.E.'s fell near the Bw. lines.</p> <p><u>Awards.</u></p> <p>Lieut. J.C. Christian Military Cross, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at VILLERS-BRETonneux on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, when in charge of a patrol.</p>	

GR



WAR DIARY

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 20.

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VOL V

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref. Sheet FRANCE 62D	22/5/18	8am.	Weather - Warm A working party of 2 officers and 100 other ranks were employed on wiring the BYDNEY SYSTEM.	Works Policy No. 11
		9am.	Issued "K" Battalion Works Policy. See Appendix No. 11	
		3pm.	A lecture by the Brigade Intelligence Officer on "Intelligence" was given at Bde School, DHAUVRS. Bn. I.O., HQ and Company observers attended.	
		5.30 pm	Capt Brierly, 3rd A.F.C. Squadron lectured to officers and N.C.O.'s of this Bn. and students at Bde School on "Cooperation between Infantry and Aircraft."	
		10-50 pm	Bn. lines were shelled for ten minutes with 4.2" H.V. Guns. <i>See Warlog Report</i>	
<u>Marched out</u>				
Capt. B.C.S.S. Southwell to nucleus				
Lieut. W. E. Hammond do				
Lieut. J. C. Christians MC do				
3 other ranks do				

*J.R.*



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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 21

VOL V

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O13C Ref. Sheet FRANCE 62D	23/5/18		Weather - Mild	
			Working parties of total strength 4 officers 200 other ranks were engaged during the day on digging and wiring the Pioneer SWITCH.	
			A party of 1 officer and 21 other ranks were completing Broagehead Defences at Bridge No. 58. (N16C7-3.)	
		2pm	The battalion rifle grenade bombing teams under Lieut S. Jacey D.C.M. attended the Brigade School for instruction.	
12 noon.	Six 4-2 <sup>5</sup> (H.V.) fell near the battalion lines. No damage was done.	<u>Arrivals</u>		
	Capt. K. G. McDonald M.C. from duty in U.K.			

J.R.



WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOL. V.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 22

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O13C	24/5/18	8am	Weather - Light rain	
		4	Parties strength of 2 officers 200 other ranks were employed on work	
		6pm	in Pioneer Switch.	
		Men not engaged on working parties were put through practical lessons		
		Gunney at the Range. The battalions bombing team was also		
		practising under Lieut Dacey D.C.M.		
		The following awards were announced today in connection with the attack on VILLERS-BRETENNEUX on the night 24/25 <sup>th</sup> April :-		
		Major H. A. Kuning Mention in Despatches		
		Lieut. A. J. Beck do		
		" J. C. Christian M.C. do		
4343 Pte. Buckley R.G. Military Medal				
191 " Rand J.G.W. do				
2946 " Summons J.K. do				
1331 " Jowers W.J. do				
2035 " Dumont S.L. do				
2224 " McArthur A.G. do				
6104 " Traill R.G. do				
3353 Pte. Bartholomew W. Military Medal				
2888 " Cameron J. A. do				
Cpl (L/Sgt) Keighery J. Mention in Despatches				
2956 Pte. Mc Dermott A.E. do				

*J.P.*







WAR DIARY

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page - 24.

Vol. I.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL  O.I.B.C. Ref. Sheet France 62D.	26/5/19	10 AM.	<p><u>Church Parades</u> were held as follows -</p> <p>Pres. - Melth + O.P.D.'s on flat in front of Battalion Line.</p> <p>C. of E. - held Holy Communion Service in Y.M.C.A. at end of Battalion Line.</p> <p>R.C.'s - marched to church at DAOURS.</p> <p>No. working parties were out.</p> <p>Capt. G. Stewart Smith took over position of Adjutant.</p>	
			<p><u>Arrivals.</u></p> <p>Capt. G. S. Smith - from Meleux.</p>	
			<p><u>Marched out.</u></p> <p>Lieut. G. F. Ryan - to A.I.F. - H.Q. London for transfer to Indian Army.</p>	

G.S.



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page - 25

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VOL. I

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O.13.C. Ref. Sheet. FRANCE 62 D.	27/5/18	8 AM + 6 p.m.	Weather - mild. Working Parties of 3 officers + 150 O.R. were supplied. - 180 yards of Support trench to PIONEER SWITCH in O.20.A. was completed. Also 400 yards of wire in front of PIONEER SWITCH. Battalion bombing teams were training under Lieut. Facey D.C.M. Junior N.C.O.'s who were suitable for promotion nominated as candidates for next Brigade School were inspected & interviewed by the C.O.	
		5 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Marched Out:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Capt. L.L. Homby. - to 14<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion.</p>	
G.H.	28/5/18	8 AM } 6 p.m. }	Working Parties as usual - Completed 550 yards defensive wire in front of PIONEER SWITCH line. - 363 yards tactical wire with apex in O.25.d. - 330 yards trenching - Completed Support PIONEER Switch up to O.19.6.9.3. Battalion bombing squad training under Lieut. Facey D.C.M. Observers & Scouts training under Lt. Stevenson, M.C. C.O. and all available officers attended a demonstration by French troops of the 37 mm. gun. The demonstration was given to enable officers to gain some knowledge of its possibilities as an adjunct to infantry Battalions.	
		3.30 p.m.	D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/15 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16	



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Page - 26.

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VOL II

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O.I.S.C Ref Sheet. France 62D.	29/5/18	10.30 pm.	Battalion lines shelled by 30 rounds - 4.2 how. - no casualties.	
			Arrival and Marched out.	
			Lt. D.W. Fair from Aveline. - to be Asst. Area Commandant CORBIE	
			Weather - MILD.	
	29/5/18	8 AM	Working party of 3 off. 150 O.R. - Carried out 66 yds trenching in	
		6 pm	do. of 2 off. 100 O.R. - Effort PIONEER Switch.	
			+ 750 yds - defensive wire connecting apex of tactical V in O.20.c	
			to apex in O.20.d.	
			Training of bombers, Scouts + observers was carried out by Specialist officers.	
		12.30 pm.	C.O. went to Brigade H.Q. to meet General Bidwood.	
		2.30.	Demonstration by Brigade School on Reserve Brigade Rifle Range near	
			DADURS. - Bullets + bayonet competitions were held and a competition	
			between Battalion bombing squads. Officers of the Battalion were invited	
			to the C.O. + a number of officers were present.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000-2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16

with wastage Report

Appendix 2  
No 13

AS



WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page - 27.

VOL. I.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O.13.C Ref. Sheet France 62.D.	29/5/19	5.30 P	All officers available attended a lecture by the B.G.C. at the Brigade School.	
		12.15	An armoured car attached to the 17 <sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was driven up on road in rear of Battalion for inspection by Battalion officers + A.C.O.'s. The intention was to familiarise everybody with their appearance in case that at any time we might be operating in conjunction with them.	
	30/5/11		Weather - Warm.	
		9 AM	Working party of 3 officers + 150 O.R. - Completed the following work on the PIONEER SWITCH Line - 800 yards defensive wire - 192 yards "tactical" + 336 yards trench camplate.	
		9 AM	Warning order received from Brigade that we would be relieved the following morning.	
J.S.		2.30 P	Lieut. Stevenson + 1 A.C.O. per Coy proceeded to Frechemont Area to reconnoitre New position and take over the dispositions of the 15 <sup>th</sup> Pan. whom we	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
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VOL II

Page - 28.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME CANAL O. 13. C Ref Sheet France 62 D	30/5/19	9 pm. 11 pm.	<p>was to relieve.</p> <p>The B. G. C. visited the C.O. and rode through Pontalieu Caves.</p> <p>Issued order for march to FRECHENCOURT. and relief on arrival.</p>	app. no. 14
<p>AS</p>	31/5/18	9 A.M.	<p>Weather. - very warm.</p> <p>The Battalion marched out to proceed to FRECHENCOURT Area. - transport joined the column at N4C 7. 4. The new position was reached shortly after noon and the battalion relieved to 15 P.M. - 4<sup>5</sup> P.M. The 5<sup>th</sup> Division has now become Corps Reserve. and this battalion is garrisoning FRESH stretch from main LAHOUSSEY reserve line. Battalion H.Q. is at C. 19 C. 3. 2. - Transport and Q.M.'s store in FRECHENCOURT. and the Coy's a few hundred yards forward of Batt. H.Q. in shelters dug into banks. - machine garrisons, wardens &amp; guides are provided for each sector of trench in Battalion area.</p>	29



WAR DIARY

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 29.

VOL. II.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Somme CANAL O. B. C Ref Sheet France G. D.</p>	<p>31/5/19</p>		<p>Before moving from this area the C.O. desired to place on record his appreciation of the amount of work done by the Battalion during the month in digging trenches &amp; creating wire in the reserve systems of defence and of the Boaners &amp; interest shown by all ranks. Over 4 miles of trenches were dug and 6 miles of wire was erected. - a table showing the details of the work is appended.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Arrivals.</u></p> <p>Lieut. D.W. Fair. - from Ass. Area Comdant - CORBIE. Campbell. - from liaison with 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade a.s.f.</p>	<p>App. 15</p>
<p>J.S.</p>			<p>Attached is C.O.'s appreciation of the general condition of the Battalion. - also Diaries of Q.M. &amp; Transport Officer. Appendices 16.17.18</p>	<p>App. 16.17 and 18</p>



WAR DIARY *appendix -*

OF

*59<sup>th</sup> BATTALION A.I.F.*

FOR

*May*

1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
✓ 1.	<i>Sick Wastage Report.</i>
✓ 2.	<i>Training Memo Brigade School.</i>
✓ 3.	<i>Brigade Tactical Working party Table.</i>
✓ 4.	<i>Operation Order No 158.</i>
✓ 5.	<i>Operation Order No 159.</i>
✓ 6.	<i>Defence Scheme.</i>
✓ 7.	<i>Sick Wastage Report.</i>
✓ 8.	<i>Operation Order No 160.</i>
✓ 9.	<i>Sick Wastage Report.</i>
✓ 10.	<i>Sports programme.</i>
✓ 10a	
✓ 11.	<i>Works policy.</i>
✓ 12.	<i>Sick Wastage Report.</i>
✓ 13.	
✓ 14.	<i>Operation Order No 161.</i>
✓ 15.	<i>Summary of Works.</i>
✓ 16.	<i>Commanding Officers appreciation</i>
✓ 17.	<i>Regimental Quartermasters Diary</i>
✓ 18.	<i>Transport Officers diary.</i>

*original.*



Appendix 1

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

No 1

SICK WASTAGE RETURN FOR WEEK ENDING 1:5:18.

Date	To Field Ambulance		Returned from Field Ambulance		Evacuated out of Divisional Area.	
	Officers	O.R.	Officers	O.R.	Officers	O.R.
25:4:18	0	0	0	0	0	0
26:4:18	0	3	0	0	0	0
27:4:18	0	4	0	2	0	0
28:4:18	1	3	0	0	0	0
	Lt. E.A.O. Baker				Lt. W.L. Hawkins. Secd.	
28:4:18	0	1	0	0	1	0
29:4:18	0	0	0	0	0	0
30:4:18	0	0	0	0	0	0
1:5:18	0	3	0	0	1	10
					Lt. J.G. Rawson. Seconded.	





## TRAINING MEMO No. 1.

3rd May 1918.

1. The 15th Australian Infantry School will assemble at DAOURS N 11c Central on 4th May 1918.
2. The object of the School is to train Junior N.C.Os and men for promotion, also to prepare specially selected N.C.Os for the Corps School and Officers' Cadet Battalions. Special attention will be given to teaching the men their work, smartening them in their bearing, giving opportunity to gain confidence and experience in handling men, improving words of command etc. A series of lectures will be given during the course, which will emphasise the cultivation of a soldierly bearing as an essential factor in the development of "Esprit de Corps" in a Unit.
3. The following Officers and N.C.Os are detailed from this Battalion for duty on School Instructional and Duty Staff:-
- |        |                    |                              |
|--------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Major. | H. A. Kuring.      | Commandant                   |
| Lieut. | A. J. Beck.        | Adjutant                     |
| Lieut. | R. C. Deshon.      | L.G. Instructor.             |
| 2500   | Sgt. Henry D.      | "DB" Coy Drill Instructor.   |
| 3482   | Sgt. Trekarde L.J. | "A" Co. Musketry Instructor. |
| 1773   | Sgt. Stevens H.R.  | "B" Co. L.G. Instructor      |
| 5406   | Cpl. LePage E.C.   | &"A" Co. Orderly Room Clerk. |
| 3095   | Sig. Ozanne C.     | Hqrs Signaller.              |
| 2241   | Pte Parsons W.J.   | "A" Co. Cook.                |
4. The Regimental Quartermaster will arrange to deliver 6 Camp kettles to School Adjutant at 11 a.m. 4th inst. He will also send 24 hours Rations in bulk. Rations for 6th inst, and thereafter, will be drawn from the Brigade Quartermaster.
5. vacancies for the first course have been allotted as ~~follow~~ follow:-
- (a) Aspirant Officers:-
- |      |                      |      |
|------|----------------------|------|
| 5782 | Sgt. Crawford.       | W.M. |
| 5396 | L/Sgt Keighery       | P.   |
| 2615 | L/Cpl Jackson        | R.A. |
| 2687 | Cpl. Linton          | G.C. |
| 3269 | C.Q.M.S. Chamberlain | F.   |
| 3197 | L/Cpl. LeCouteur     | N.P. |
| 2364 | Sgt. Eason           | E.V. |
| 2267 | L/Cpl West           | J.W. |
| 3451 | Pte McFadyen         | C.I. |
| 2590 | Sgt. Walkem          | G.L. |
- (b) Junior and Aspirant N.C.Os.
- |                    |                 |      |                     |              |        |
|--------------------|-----------------|------|---------------------|--------------|--------|
| <u>"A" Company</u> |                 |      | <u>"B" Company.</u> |              |        |
| 3192               | L/Cpl. Lawrence | J.   | 5026                | Cpl. Abbott  | G.A.   |
| 2400               | " Douglas       | G.J. | 4555a               | L/Cpl Barnes | G.E.   |
| 3178               | Pte Kiely       | G.   | 2210                | Pte Lyons    | R.E.   |
| 2898               | " Edmonds       | R.E. | 3409                | " Kerrison   | S.     |
| 5063               | " Cameron       | J.L. | 2712                | " Craven     | G.     |
| <u>"C" Company</u> |                 |      | <u>"D" Company</u>  |              |        |
| 5246               | Pte Jamieson    | D.G. | 3477                | Pte Swallow  | A.A.   |
| 2423               | " Jenkins       | W.H. | 248                 | " McCarthy   | M.     |
| 3395               | " Good          | H.W. | 4847                | " Linford    | R.J.   |
| 3720               | " Davidson      | A.L. | 2016                | L/Cpl Walker | F.     |
| 2635               | " Brownless     | S.   | 5657                | Pte Cook     | J.A.M. |
6. All personnel detailed will report at Battalion Headquarters at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow, 4th inst., carrying full equipment, and 24 hours rations, plus expended portion of day's rations. All students and instructors will carry note books, and any Text Books available. Infantry Training and Musketry Regulations will be available at the School.

(Sgd) E.J. Ryan. Lieut  
A/Adjutant 50th Battalion. A.I.F.

Distribution:-

- |          |       |                            |
|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| nCopy No | 1.    | O.C. "A" Coy.              |
|          | 2.    | O.C. "B" Coy.              |
|          | 3.    | "C" Coy.                   |
|          | 4.    | "D" Coy.                   |
|          | 5.    | R.Q.M.                     |
|          | 6.    | Adjutant                   |
|          | 7.8.9 | War Diary                  |
|          | 10    | File.                      |
|          | 11v   | Commandant Brigade School. |



268

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Appendix No 2

3rd May 1918.

Copy No. 6.....

AMENDMENT TO TRAINING MEMO NO. 1.

In para 3 delete No 3095 Sig. Ozanne C. Hqrs Sigs. In lieu thereof read No 2883 Pte Clark C.H. "D" Coy.

In para 5 delete No 3192 L/Cpl. Lawrence J. "A" Coy. In lieu thereof read 2693 Upl. McKenzie F.D. ~~RAA~~ "A" Coy.

delete 4555a L/Cpl Barnes G.E. "B" Coy. On lieu thereof read 2487 Pte Woods B.K. "B" Coy.

In para 3 add the following names:-

- 2561 Pte Billington R.H. "C" Coy.
- 5264 Pte Wilson C.H. Hqrs.
- 2721 Pte Robinson J.J. "C" Coy

Sgd. E. J. Ryan. Lieut  
A/Adjutant 59th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued to all recipients  
of Training memo No 1.



15th Australian Infantry Brigade  
BRIGADE TACTICAL WORKING PARTY TABLE No 4 dated 4:3:18.  
 k

Appendix No. *23*.....*208*

Brigade Serial No.	Unit Supplying	STRENGTH Off. O.R.	Nature of Duty	Report to.	Rendezvous	Time and Date	Remarks.
1.	57th Bn.	2 100	Work on AUBIGNY LINE.		Place to be arranged between C.O. 15th Field Co. A.E. and Battalion Commander.	8 a.m. daily	Tools to be arranged between C.O. 15th Field Coy. A.E. and Battalion Commander.
2.	58th Bn.	2 100	do	do		8 a.m. daily	do
3.	57th Bn.	2 100	do	do		2 p.m. daily	do
4.	58th Bn.	2 100	do	do		2 p.m. daily	do
5.	59th Bn.	2 100	Work on Reserve Line	do		8 a.m. daily	do
6.	60th Bn.	2 100	do	do		8 a.m. daily	do
7.	59th Bn.	2 100	do	do		2 p.m. daily	do
8.	60th Bn.	2 100	do	do		2 p.m. daily	do
9.	60th Bn.	2 100	work on Div <sup>M</sup> Reserve Line	Representative	14th BSSA; ESTAMINET CORNER O 11 C. O. 5	8.30 p.m. daily	Shovels to be carried. 4 hours task.
10.	59th Bn.	2 100	do	do	FOUILLOY CHURCH.	<del>8 a.m.</del> 8-30 p.m. daily	do <i>(amended by 15M.602(S))</i>
11.	15th A.L.T.M.B.	30	Work on Dug outs	Pioneer Off.	Brigade Hq	9 a.m. daily	Carry mid-day meal. No tools.

- (a) All previous lists are cancelled.
- (b) Personnel not included in above will be at disposal of Battr. Commander
- (c) All men are to be employed. Details in unit lines will be reduced to a minimum.

Appendix 3.  
34



268

appendix 4. 35

Secret.

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Copy No. ....

OPERATION ORDER NO. 158

.../.../1918.

Reference:- Sheet 62D.

NIGHT ATTACK.

INTENTIONS. 1. The 16th Australian Infantry Brigade will counter-attack and re-capture the line running approximately from (Left) X Roads P20 a S.S. to (Right) X Roads P23c.

ATTACK. 2. ~~59th~~, 59th, and 60th Battalions will attack. 59th Bn., ~~60th Bn.~~ <sup>RIGHT</sup> 60th Bn. left, 57th Bn. ~~on right~~ <sup>Support</sup>. 58th Battalion will be in Reserve.

ASSEMBLY POSITION. 3. Assembly Position for 59th Battalion will be on the FOUILLOY-GAGNY ROAD from (Left) X Roads 022a to (Right) 0 22 c S.O.

DISPOSITIONS 4. The 59th Battalion will attack on a two Company frontage each company on a two platoon frontage. Forward and Support Companies - Sections in Artillery formation, preceded by a line of Scouts. Reserve Company in Artillery Formation of half platoons.

OBJECTIVES. 5. (a) HAMLET-VILLERS BRETTONEUX ROAD from 0 24c S.7. to 0 29b 7.0.  
(b) HAMEL-VILLERS BRETTONEUX ROAD from X Roads D 25b 1.8. to X Roads P 25 c.

ROUTE 6. On the Order to move, Companies will move in succession in the following order:- "C", "B", "A", and "A", to gap in AUBIGNY wire at 0 14b S.7. thence to Assembly Position.

FLANKS 7. Prior to moving from Assembly Position Forward Companies will ensure that touch is obtained with Units on flanks. On reaching final Objective, Companies will at once obtain and maintain touch with Units on flanks.

SILENCE. 8. Usual instructions re maintenance of silence etc., for night attack will apply.

ECHELON. 9. On order to move, Regimental Quartermaster will arrange & to bring echelon to SOUTHERN SIDE of SOMME RIVER. Company Pack Mules will immediately report to present Battalion Head Quarters.

REPORTS. 10. Report centre will be at Battalion Headquarters at QUARW 0 17 c. Forward Battalion Head Quarters will be in Support Line at, 024D3-1

E. J. Ryan. Lieut.  
Adjutant 59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Distribution:-

- |            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Copy No. 1 | File.             |
| 2,3,4.     | War Diary         |
| 5          | O.C. "A" Company. |
| 6.         | "B" Company.      |
| 7.         | "C" Company.      |
| 8.         | "D" Company.      |
| 9.         | R.Q.M. & T.O.     |



268

SECRET.

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

appendix No. 5-36  
Copy No. 2  
6.1.5/1918.

OPERATION ORDER No. 159

Reference:- Sheet 62D.

DAYLIGHT ATTACK.

- INTENTIONS. 1. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade will counter-attack and re-capture the line running approximately from (left) P 20a S.S. to (Right) X Roads P 25c.
- OBJECT 2. To threaten enemy communications on WARFUSE-ABANGOURT ROAD, and to re-take the old British Front line.
- ATTACK 3. The 59th and 60th Battalions will attack, 57th Battalion in Support, and the 58th Battalion in Reserve.  
59th Battalion.....Right.  
60th Battalion.....Left.
- ASSEMBLY POSITION. 4. The assembly position for the 59th Battalion will be road from O14a S.1. to X Roads O29B. O 19b.
- DISPOSITIONS 5. The battalion will attack on a two Company frontage each Company on a two platoon frontage. Two front Companies and Support Company in artillery formation, in Sections, preceded by a thin line of scouts. Reserve Company in artillery formation of 1/2 platoons.  
"C" Coy.....Left. "D" Coy.....Right.  
"B" Coy.....Support "A" Coy.....Reserve.
- OBJECTIVES 6. (a) Hamlet, Villers Brettoneux road from O24c S.7. to O29b 7.0.  
(b) Hamel, Villers Brettoneux Road from X Roads O24 P25b 1.8. to X Roads P23c.
- ROUTE. 7. On the order to move, Companies will move to Assembly position, via the following routes:-  
"C" Coy. to X Roads in O 13d thence via road running EAST to assembly position O14a.  
"D" Coy. to X Roads in O13d thence via road running SOUTH-WEST to Assembly Position at road junction O 19b.  
"B" and "A" Companies in respective order, will follow route of "C" Company.
- TRACKS. 8. Tracks to gaps in wire are marked by Notice Boards "G".  
9. Prior to moving from Assembly position Companies will ensure that touch is obtained with Units on flanks.
- TANKS. 10. "C" Company 8th Tank Battalion will act in conjunction with 15th Australian Infantry Brigade. 3 Tanks have been allotted the 59th Battalion and will go forward in triangular formation at head of attacking Companies. The Companies will follow the tanks at a minimum distance of 200 yards.
- ECHELON 11. On receipt of order to move Regimental Quartermaster will arrange to bring echelon to SOUTHERN SIDE of RIVER SOMME.
- REPORTS. 12. Report Centre Battalion Head Quarters will be at QUARRY O 17c. Advanced Battalion Headquarters in Support Line at O 24D 3-1.

E. J. Ryan. Lieut.  
Adjutant 59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Distribution:-

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
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| Copy No.5.     | G.C. "A" Co.    |
| Copy No 6.     | "B" Co.         |
| Copy No 7.     | "C" Co.         |
| Copy No 8;     | "D" Co.         |
| Copy No 9.     | R.Q.M. and I.C. |



17th May 1918.

DEFENCE SCHEME.

(Provisional)

"K" Battalion.

Right Support Battalion.

"C" (Reserve) Brigade.

"B" Division.

Australian Corps.

(To be handed over on Relief).

Distribution:-

- |            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| Copy No 1. | File.              |
| 2.         | O.C."A" Company.   |
| 3.         | O.C."B" Company.   |
| 4.         | O.C."C" Company.   |
| 5.         | O.C."D" Company.   |
| 6.         | O.C."I" Battalion. |
| 7.         | O.C."L" Battalion. |
| 8. )       | War Diary.         |
| 9. )       |                    |
| 10. )      |                    |

(Signed) E. J. Ryan. Lieut.  
Adjutant "K" Battalion.



DESCRIPTION OF BATTALION AREA.~~K. XXXX XXXX XXXX~~1. BOUNDARIES.

The frontage held by "K" Battalion, extends from the Grid Line running EAST and WEST through O 21 Central to NORTHERN Boundary, X Roads K 09 d 0.0 to O 8 Central-07 Central.

2. TOPOGRAPHY.

- a. The area held is the battlefield on which the German offensive was halted. It is marked by distinct Tactical features and has great defensive qualities in the shape of command and observation.
- b. The Village of VILLERS-BRETTONEUX and the plateau on which it stands, together with the BOIS L'ABEE and BOIS D'AQUENNE are of the utmost strategical importance and must be held at all costs. Should VILLERS-BRETTONEUX be captured by the Enemy, this Battalion will act in accordance with Operation order already issued.
- c. The Country in the Right Battalion Sector in the Reserve Brigade is undulating and quite open except for a few isolated copses.



DESCRIPTION OF DEFENCES.

1. The defences of the AUBIGNY SYSTEM or SECOND ZONE are divided into three systems:-
- Front line System.
  - Support Line System.
  - Reserve Line System.
2. Front line System consists of a continuous trench line running from 0 20 b 8.0. to 0 1 b 9.9.. A Switch line known as CEMETRY SWITCH has been constructed. This switch leaves the main line at 0 14 b 2.5 and thence really becomes the front line. The front is covered by a continuous belt of protective wire running along and parallel to the whole front. In front of this again are tactical Vs or belts of wire designed to break up an enemy attack, to deny him the high ground, and direct him into the Valleys where our Machine Guns and Artillery will deal with him. Inside the tactical Vs are echeloned posts, arranged checquer wise, and constructed for all round defence. These posts are sited so as to give observation over "No man's Land", to break up an enemy attack before it reaches our wire, and for enfilading listening posts and dummy trenches which have been dug in the valleys between the tactical V points. The Apex on the right is called VILLERS POINT. The Apex in the centre is called COPSE POINT. The Apex on the left is called QUARRY POINT. These echeloned posts are wired all round. Machine Guns are so sited as to direct their bands of fire along the outer edge of the tactical Vs where the enemy will have been forced to bunch. Running along the whole front of the Defences is a protective belt of wire just touching the tactical Vs. This belt is:-
- To prevent raids on our Strong Points. and
  - To deceive the enemy as to the existence and purpose of our tactical wiring.
- Gaps 15 feet wide have been made in the wire, at intervals of about 300 yards for the passage of artillery. These gaps are clearly marked with notice-boards, and have been provided with "Knife-rests" which are ready for filling the gaps should the necessity arise.
3. The Support Line is a continuous trench line about 100 yards in rear of the front line. It has a continuous line of protective wire along its front. Communication trenches link up with the front line.
4. The Reserve Line is situated about 1,200 yards in rear of the Support Line. This line has been sited with a view to giving concealment for assembly prior to a counter-attack, also to permit of a counter-attack being launched with the best possible effect as regards surprise effect. Shelters have been constructed.
5. The Cemetery Switch is sited to allow of flanking fire from the left upon any enemy advancing upon our front line and vice-versa.
6. The Railway Switch is sited to allow of flanking fire from the left upon any enemy debouching from ANGRINX AUBIGNY.
7. The Pioneer System is constructed with a view to occupation and defence should the enemy succeed in breaking through further SOUTH and securing the high ground on which stands VILLERS-BRETTONEUX and the BOIS L'ABBE.



40  
appendix 6.

PRINCIPLES OF DEFENCE.

1. The Front Line System of the Forward Zone is the main line of Resistance, which will be defended at all costs, and all troops in rear of the forward System are to be organized for prompt offensive action for the maintenance of this system.

2. This Battalion must be ready to move at 20 minutes notice.

3. All headquarters personnel must be armed and trained to meet all attacks.

4. Some inflammable material will be kept at Battalion Headquarters for the purpose of destroying any documents which may be of use to the enemy should he be successful in breaking through. The Assistant Adjutant will be responsible for the care or destruction of all documents.

5. All Officers and Non Commissioned Officers must be familiar with the approaches from the AUBIGNY To the FORWARD AREAS.

6. Nucleus Garrisons each consisting of one Lewis Gun Section are in the following positions:-

Right Battalion Sector:-

- Garrison No 1. - 20 b 6.4.
- No 2. - 14 b 1.3.
- No 3. - 8 b 6.2.

7. The Duties of the Nucleus Garrisons will be to:-

- a. Provide guides to indicate to the reinforcing troops the line from which they will "jump off" for the immediate or deliberate counter-attack.
- b. To stop and reorganize troops who may be forced back temporarily.
- c. In case of a overwhelming attack to form a rear guard until troops can get into position in the new line.
- d. To hold up the enemy until reinforcing troops, or troops ordered back to a new line can cross the bridges.

8. It is essential that Nucleus Garrisons should not:-

- a. Not be changed more than necessary.
- b. Consist of specially selected Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and men.
- c. Have definite writted Orders as to their action.
- d. NOT join in any attack or counter-attack launched from their position.
- e. be provided with white arm bands to prevent them being ordered forward to any attack or counter-attack.

9. The dispositions of Anti Aircraft Lewis Guns, in "K" Battalion Sector are as follows:-

- 0 13 a 3.2.
- 0 13 a 3.6.
- 0 13 a 4.7.

10. LIASON. Should "K" Battalion be ordered into action, One Officer will proceed to Right Reserve Bde for liason with "C" Bde

An Officer is also detailed for Liason Duty to report to <sup>Left Line</sup> Brigade for orders. Right Div. for liason with "C" Bde.

Right Reserve Brigade:- wx 2/Lieut. M.R. Callander M.M.  
Left Line Brigade:- Lieut. J. W. Campbell.



ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

1. Probable Form of Attack. The main forms of attack which may be anticipated and which would affect the Reserve Brigade are:-
  - a. A deliberate, prepared attack, with artillery bombardment.
  - b. An attack without preliminary attack.
2. A General Attack may be one in which preliminary ~~arrangements~~ preparation gives an indication of the enemy's intentions. This attack will be preceded by an intense bombardment with H.E. and gas shells. The exact moment of such an attack cannot be foreseen with certainty. If the enemy commences a General Gas Shell bombardment all troops will at once "Stand To" and a special Officer observer will be detailed in each Company. The Intelligence Officer will at once act for Headquarters. Company Commanders will at once report to Battalion Headquarters.
3. The Second form of General Attack may be an attempt at surprise. Special vigilance will be observed in foggy weather.
4. a. The Enemy will probably use Tanks. The Special Signals giving warning of an attack by enemy tanks have already been communicated to Companies and details.
  - b. One Company of Tanks is attached to the Reserve Brigade to assist in any counter-attack. One Section has been allotted to "K" Battalion.
5. The Battalion will be ready to move to any part of the Divisional Front to reinforce if necessary.
6. The method of employment of the Reserve Brigade cannot be completely foreseen. The Battalion will, therefore, be prepared for all eventualities.
7. Action of Working Parties. Working Parties east of the CACHY-FOUILLOY - CORBIE-BONNAY ROADS will always carry their arms with them.
  - b. Officers and Non Commissioned Officers in charge of parties EAST of the above mentioned Roads will always have written instructions as to what to do in case of attack.
  - c. Parties working forward of the Reserve Line System of the Forward Zone, in the event of a General Attack will occupy positions in the Reserve Line System of the Forward Zone. The Officer in charge will at once report to the nearest Headquarters, and will send a signal message to the Headquarters of the Reserve Brigade reporting his position.
  - d. All ranks are to be instructed that in default of orders, detached parties will occupy the nearest defences and will report to and act under the orders of the nearest Company, Battalion or Brigade Commander, in order to repel an attack.
  - e. Parties working in rear of the Reserve Line of the Forward Zone will withdraw at once to their Battalion Position of readiness.
8. Action in case of Gas Attack.
  - a. The Standing Orders for Defence against Gas (S.S.193) will obtain.
  - b. In the event of a hostile Cloud Gas Attack on the Divisional front, the message to be sent will be "Gas" followed by the locality i.e. VILLERS-BRETTONEUX or HAMEL as the case may be.
  - c. Gas Rattles are only to be used in the case of a Gas Shell Bombardment, as distinct from a Gas Cloud attack.
9. Action in case of Withdrawal. The action to be taken is contained in scheme "W" for "K" Battalion.



BRIDGEHEAD DEFENCES.

1. The Reserve Brigade is responsible for the defence of Bridges at the following Points:-

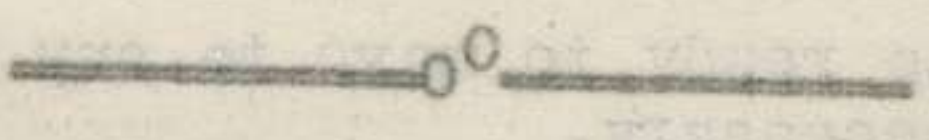
Bridge No 57.	2	N17 c 6.3.
58.	-	N16 c 6.3.
59.	-	N15 c 9.4.
71.	-	N14 d 9.4.
60.	-	N14 c 7.3.

2. Bridges will only be destroyed under the following conditions:-

- a. On the written order of the B.G.C. Reserve Brigade.
- b. In the event of our Infantry or artillery having retired across the Bridge, the latter coming under direct rifle or Machine Gun fire.
- c. The fact of any Bridge being destroyed will at once be reported to Battalion Headquarters.
- d. In all cases the damage done by the explosion will be definitely ascertained.

3. A Bridgehead Defence has been sited and constructed at N16c 6.3. (Bridge No 58) which would be used by "K" Battalion.

4. The TOWPATH along the CANAL will not be used by wheeled traffic, except in case of emergency.



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268  
(6).

appendix 6. 43

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

1. Battalion Headquarters of "K" Battalion, "J" Reserve Brigade is situated at O 13 a 3.8.

2. Supplies.

The Brigade Supply Dump is at DAOURS. Supplies are drawn by 2nd Line Transport and conveyed to Regimental Quartermaster's Store which is in Transport Lines (Copse in N 9 a). Rations are taken forward by 1st Line Transport to Battalion Cookers, which are with respective Companies.

3. AMMUNITION.

The Battalion Echelon is full and is at the Battalion Transport lines in a state of readiness.

In addition S.A.A. Dumps have been established at the following points in the SYDNEY SYSTEM.

N 21 c 2.3.	-	3,000	Rounds.
N 21 c 3.8.	-	3,000	"
N 22 c 7.4.	-	3,000	"
N 22 c 2.3.	-	3,000	"
N 22 d 4.7.	-	4,000	"
N 16 c 5.5.	-	4,000	"
N 16 c 6.5.	-	4,000	"

20,000 rounds is also held in Reserve at Battalion Headquarters O13 a 3.8.

4. WATER POINTS.

Water for drinking is drawn from Refilling Point at N 6 c 9.6. and also from tested wells and pumps in DAOURS.

5. MEDICAL.

Regimental Aid Post is at Battalion Headquarters (O13 a 3.8). A Regimental Hospital has been established at DAOURS. All cases for evacuation pass from R.A.P. to Main Dressing Station at MAIRIE, DAOURS, N6c 8.2. Motor Post at O 13 d 2.9.

6. TRANSPORT.

Transport Lines are situated in Copse in N 9 a.



268

Appendix 7

44

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Appendix No. 7

SICK WASTAGE RETURN FOR WEEK ENDING 8:5:18.

Date	Evacuated to Field Ambulance.		Returned from Field Ambulance.		Evacuated out of Divisional Area.	
	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.Rs.
2:5:18	-	3	-	-	-	-
3:5:18	-	3	-	-	-	-
4:5:18	-	2	-	-	-	12
5:5:18	-	1	-	-	-	-
6:5:18	1	2	-	-	-	-
7:5:18	1	1	-	-	-	-
8:5:18	-	2	-	-	-	-
	Lieut. R. Dunkley					





268

Appendix No 845  
Copy No. 7

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL.

14th May 1918.

OPERATION ORDER No. 160

160

Reference:- Sheet 83D.

1. Orders have been received that the 5th Australian Division is to hold the forward zone at all costs, but in case of an overwhelming attack against the front or flanks, or both, the Units of the Brigade may be ordered to withdraw fighting.

2. It must be clearly understood that this procedure only caters for a normal withdrawal so far as can be foreseen.

3. All Officers must thoroughly acquaint themselves with all defences, routes and bridges.

4. The (Reserve) 15th Brigade is responsible for the defence of BRIDGEHEAD DEFENCES as follows:-

Bridge No 57.	N17c 8.3.	- "L" Battalion	- 60th Bn.
58.	N16c 6.3.	- "K" "	- 59th Bn.
59.	N15c 9.4.	)	
71.	N14d 9.4.	) "I" "	- 57th Bn.
60.	N14c 7.3.	)	

5. Bridges will only be destroyed under the following conditions:-

- (a). On the written orders of the B.G.C. Reserve Brigade.
- (b). In the event of our Infantry or Artillery having retired across the bridge, the latter coming under direct rifle or Machine Gun fire.
- (c). The fact of any Bridge being destroyed will be at once reported to Battalion Headquarters.
- (d). In all cases the damage done by the explosion will be definitely ascertained.

6. Signal Stations will be established at all bridges. These will be connected up laterally and from N15c 8.9. two pairs of lines will run to a Brigade Forward Station at N9a 6.5. From this point two lines will run to Brigade Headquarters at N10b 7.7. Brigade will thus be in touch with all Bridgeheads.

7. On the order "Take Action - Scheme 'W'X", Companies of the 59th Battalion will move in the following order - A., B., C., & D., and take up their allotted positions in the SYDNEY SYSTEM i.e. Mk "A" Co (Right) B., C., and D., Companies (Left). Battalion Headquarters details at approximately N25b 9.0. DRESS-MARCHING ORDER.

8. After the troops in the front line have retired, the Battalion will withdraw fighting in the following order:-

- "D" Company.....Covered by B.C. and A. Companies.
- "C" Company.....Covered by "A" and "B" Company.
- "B" Company.....Covered by "A" Company.
- "A" Company.....will be last Company to retire.

9. Defensive Positions. K "D" Company will at once take up a defensive position in the following Strong Points:-

No 13 Platoon.....	N22d 5.8.
14 " .....	N22c 8.3.
15 " .....	N22c 3.8.
Reserve " .....	N22c 2.8.

and will support and cover "C", "B", and "A" Companies during their retirement, and will cover the Bridgehead.

"C" Company withdraws to position on pontoon N16c 6.3. and takes up <sup>frontline</sup> position in continuous line running from N16c 6.4 to N16d 8.3.

"A" Company retires over pontoon through "B" and "C" Companies taking up a position echeloned in trench in N16c 5.8.

"B" Company retires across pontoon N16c 6.3. and takes up a position in continuous line running from N16c 6.4 to N16d 8.3.

"C" Company will cover the withdrawal of the remaining Companies.



On Completion of retirement of "A", "B", and "C" Companies, orders will be issued for "D" Company to retire over pontoon, pass through "B", "C" and "A" Companies, and take up a position echeloned in trench approximately at N15a S.S.

10. Headquarters Lewis Guns. The Lewis Gun Posts constructed on the SOUTH side of the CANAL will be manned by the Headquarters Section of Lewis Gunners, and will be withdrawn on "D" Company passing through.

11. Reports Battalion Headquarters will be in front of Copse approximately at N15b.

E. J. Ryan. Lieut.  
Adjutant 59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Distribution:-

Copy No	1.	File.
2.	G.O.	"A" Company.
3.		"B" Company.
4.		"C" Company.
5.		"D" Company.
6.		R. Q. M.
7., 8., 9.		War Diary.

Issued by runner at

(a) The first of the order will be issued to the runner at the Battalion Headquarters. The runner will then proceed to the front line and issue the order to the companies. The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D".

(b) The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D".

(c) The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D".

(d) The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D".

(e) The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D". The order will be issued to the companies in the following order: "A", "B", "C", and "D".



59th Battalion. A.I.F.Appendix.No. 9...

15th May 1918.

SICK                      WASTAGE                      RETURN.

Date	Evacuated to Field Ambulance.		Returned from Field Ambulance.		Evacuated out of Divisional Area.	
	Offrs.	O.Rks.	Officers	O.Ranks	Officers	O.Ranks.
9:5:18	-	1	-	1	-	-
10:5:18	-	1	-	-	-	-
11:5:18.	-	-	-	-	-	-
12:5:18.	-	-	-	-	-	10.
13:5:18	-	-	-	-	-	-
14:5:18	-	-	-	-	1	-
					Lt.R.Harrington D.C.M.	
15:5:18	-	-	-	-	-	-





AQUATIC CARNIVAL.Held on 17:5:18.

Event.	PROGRAMME		OF		EVENTS.	Company.
	Trophy	Value	Winners.			
1. 200 yards	Frs.	30	1. Cpl. Snell	"A" Co.		
	"	15	2. Sgt. Tucker	"C" Co.		
		-	3. " Payne	"C" Co.		
2. 50 yards	Frs	20	1. Pte. Cooper	"D" Co.		
	"	10	2. " Loader	"C" Co.		
	"	5	3. " Scattergood	"B" Co.		
3. Long Dive	"	20	1. Sgt. Wallace	"Hqrs"		
	"	10	2. Lt. Scattergood	"A" Co.		
	"	5	3. Pte. Stowell	"D" Co.		
4. 100 Yards	"	20	1. Pte Cooper	"D" Co.		
	"	10	2. Cpl. Snell	"A" Co.		
	"	5	3. Pte. South	"B" Co.		
5. 100 Yards	"	20	1. Sgt. Wallace	"Hqrs"		
Breast Stroke	"	10	2. Pte. Chapman	"D" Co.		
	"	5	3. CSM Parr	"B" Co.		
6. Relay Race	"	40	1. "A" Company			
	"	20	2. "B" Company.			
7. 75 Yards	"	20	1. Pte. Cooper	"D" Co.		
Swimming on	"	10	2. " Orton	"A" Co.		
Back.	"	5	3. Cpl. Cherry	"B" Co.		
8. Pillow Fight	"	15	1. Pte. <del>Culpin</del> Orton	"A" Co.		
	"	5	2. L/Cpl. Duff	"A" Co.		
			3. " Vernon.	"A" Co.		
9. Cigarette Race		20	1. Pte. Culpin	"A" Co.		
	"	10	2. " Stowell	"D" Co.		
	"	5	3. " Cummings	"Hqrs"		
10. Officers Race	"		1. Lt. Callander	"C" Co.		
100 yards.			2. " McKay	"Hqrs"		
			3. " Ryan	"		
11. Diving Comp.	Frs.	15.	1. Lt. Scattergood	"A" Co.	) Tie.	
		15.	2. Pte Dixon	"D" Co.		
		5.	3. " Campbell	"A" Co.		
12. Fancy Dress	"	15	Cpl. Mitchell	"A" Co.	) Tie.	
		15	Pte. Wright.	"A" Co.		
13. Company Aggregate		50	1. "A" Company.			
			2. "D" Company.			
			3. "Headquarters".			







"K" Battalion.

1. Lieutenant J.H. McKAY has been appointed Works Officer "K" Battalion.
2. The Work to be undertaken comprises:-
  - a. Completion of the digging of the PIONEER SWITCH West of the AUBIGNY LINE.
  - b. Running a protective belt of wire along the whole front.
  - c. Completion of tactical wiring.
  - d. Connecting the tips of tactical "Vs" with a belt of protective wire.
  - e. Improving the line.
  - f. Digging a Second switch at approximately
  - g. Provision of bombing blocks for placed where wire crosses a Communication Trench.
  - h. Provision of Knife Rests for all gaps in wire.
  - i. Completion of Bridgehead Defences at Bridge No 58.
3. The Engineer Field Company is rendering technical assistance.
4. A works Report is submitted daily to Brigade Headquarters.
5. The Works Officer has his instructions, to remain, in the event of a normal relief, to show incoming Unit all details of the Defences.

Sgd. E. J. Ryan Lieut.  
Adjutant 59th Battalion. A. I. F.



Appendix 12.

Appendix No. 12.

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

23rd May 1918.

SICK WASTAGE RETURN for week ending 23:5:18.

Date.	Evacuated to Field Ambulance		Returned from Field Ambulance.		Evacuated out of Divisional Area.	
	Officers	O.Ranks	Officers	O.Ranks.	Officers	O.Ranks.
16:5:18.	-	1	-	-	-	-
17:5:18	-	2	-	-	-	-
18:5:18.	1	-	-	1	-	-
19:5:18.	-	1	-	-	-	-
20:5:18	-	1	-	-	-	-
21:5:18.	-	-	-	-	-	-
22:5:18.	-	-	-	-	-	6.

Lt.D.O. Shiels.





Appendix No. 13

59th Battalion. A.I.F.SICK WASTAGE RETURN FOR WEEK ENDING 29:5:18.

Date	Evacuated to Field Ambulance		Returned from Field Ambulance		Evacuated out of Divisional area.	
	Off.	O.Rks	Officers	O.Ranks	Officers.	O.Ranks.
23:5:1918	-	3	-	-	-	-
24:5:1918	-	-	-	-	-	-
25:5:1918	-	-	-	-	-	-
26:5:1918	-	-	-	-	-	-
27:5:1918	-	-	-	-	-	-
28:5:1918	-	-	-	-	2	-
					Lt.E.A.O.Baker.	
					Lt.D.O.Shiels. 11	
29:5:1918	-	-	-	-		





59th Battalion. A.I.F.OPERATION ORDER No. 161.

Reference:- Sheet 62 d 1/40000.

30th May 1918.

1. a. The 5th Australian Division (less Artillery) is being relieved by the 4th Australian Division (less artillery) in "B" Divisional Sector, during the period 31st May to 2nd June 1918.  
b. When relieved the 5th Australian Division becomes Corps Reserve.
2. The 59th Battalion will move to FRECHENCOURT on 31st May.
3. a. The starting Point will be the small Bridge in front of "D" Co's Lines.  
b. Starting time - 8.30 a.m.  
c. Order of March - Headquarters, "A", "B", "C", "D" Co., Transport.  
Transport will meet the column at N 4 c 8.4.  
d. Route - Bridge No 57 - N 17 c 6.5. - N 16 a 5.5. - N 10 c 4.5. - (Point 61) - N 4 c 8.4. - N 4 b 9.9. - N 34 d 6.9. - QUERRIEU - FRECHENCOURT. Strict march discipline will be maintained.  
e. Distance of 50 yards will be maintained between platoons, and 100 yards between Companies, and between "D" Company and Transport.  
f. Transport will leave 25 yards between each section of six vehicles.
4. Dress - Marching Order. Steel hats will be carried on packs under Supporting Straps.
5. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10, and clearly labelled.
6. Routine for 31st May 1918:-
 

Reveille.	4.30 a.m.
Blankets and Officer's valises to be stacked at B.O.R.	6 a.m.
Breakfast	6.30 a.m.
Inspection of lines and Coys.	7.45 a.m.
7. Lewis Guns and equipment will be ready for loading at Company lines by 6 a.m. Each Company will detail 1 N.C.O. to supervise loading.
8. One Lewis Gun per Company will be carried for Anti-aircraft protection. The packs of the Nos 1 and 2 of this Gun will be stacked with Blankets.
9. Lieutenant A.J.PINKERTON will be on the lookout for enemy aircraft during the march, and special precautions will be taken to prevent observation from hostile aircraft.  
Each Company will detail one Officer to be in charge of anti-aircraft protection.
10. Lieutenant J.H.McKAY will remain at present position and will be in charge of Nucleus Garrisons - he will hand over all maps, trench stores, shelters etc., and will give incoming Unit all information in regard to systems of defence and dispositions.  
He will obtain usual receipts and hand same to B.O.R. immediately on rejoining Unit.
11. "D" Company will detail 1 N.C.O. and 2 men to remain as guard over present lines.  
The Nucleus Garrisons at present in Bridgehead Defences will remain until relieved.  
Both these parties will be under the command of Lieut.McKAY.
12. Company Sectors and areas will be left scrupulously clean and certificates to this effect will be forwarded to B.O.R. by 7.45 a.m.
13. On Arrival in new area Companies will relieve their respective Coys in the outgoing Unit. i.e. B& "A" Co. will relieve "A" Co. and so on.  
(Sgd) G.Stewart Smith. Capt.  
A/Adjutant 59th Battalion. A.I.F.







Appendix. No. 15

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Work done by the 59th Battalion, A.I.F. from May 5th 1918 to 31st May 1918.

T R E N C H I N G.

AUBIGNY RESERVE Line.	911 yards.
PIONEER SWITCH Line.	1530 "
PIONEER SUPPORT Switch.	2144 "

## BRIDGEHEAD Defences (Bridge No 58.)

1 Standard Strong Point.	N 22 d 4.7.
1 " " "	N 22 c 4.6.
1 " " "	N 22 c 2.8.
Bridge 57.	
3 Standard Strong Points	N 23 c.

VICKERS GUN Positions dug at	N 22 d 4.6.
	N 22 d 4.7.
	N 16 c 5.4.
	N 16 c 4.4.
	N 22 c 5.4

W I R I N G.

AUBIGNY RESERVE Line (Tactical)	5050 yards.
PIONEER SWITCH (Tactical)	1848 "
PIONEER SWITCH (Defensive)	2953 "
Double Apron wire from N 22 a 6.7. to N 21 b 4.7.	630 "

In addition a considerable amount of work was done between AUBIGNY and HAMELET, early in the month, of which no record is available.

This totals nearly 3 miles of trenches, and 6 miles of wiring completed.





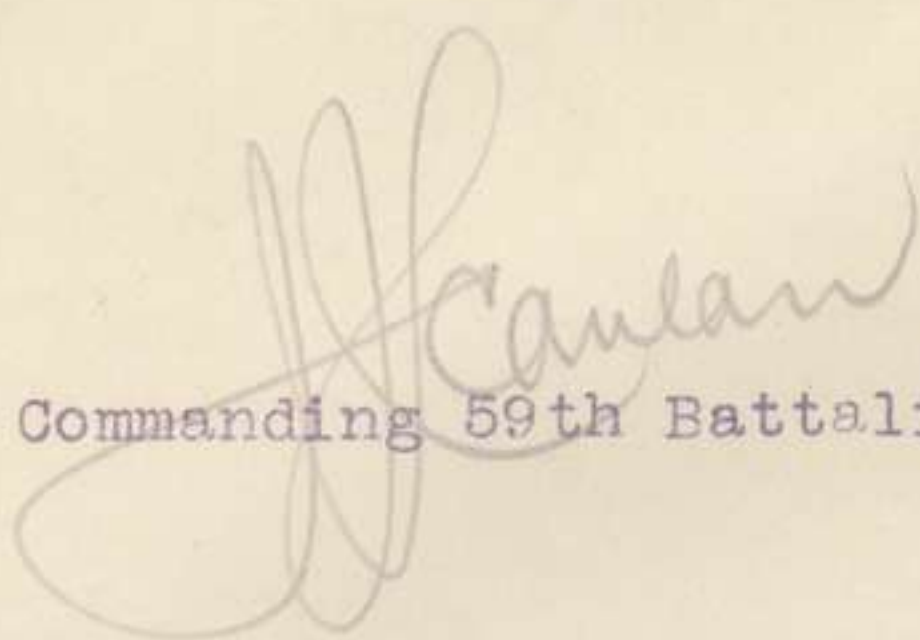
31st May 1918.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S APPRECIATION.

Throughout the month the Battalion has been occupied in the construction of defensive works.

The fine spirit of all is beyond description. Never has the morale of the Battalion been higher, and the general health so good.

The ideal weather conditions prevailing, combined with good rationing, regular working hours, and good facilities for swimming (the SOMME CANAL) have all contributed to the general well being and good health of the Battalion.

  
Lieut Col.  
Commanding 59th Battalion. A.I.F.



## 59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Regimental Quartermaster's Diary for Month of May.

- May 1. Bootmakers on boots of Battalion. (Staff of 4). Tailor on general repairs to Clothing S.D. Armourer and assistant over-haul the 9 Bicycles on charge. Pioneers make and paint 9 crosses for graves to the order of the Padre, Capt. Bremer. Rations leave my store daily at 4 p.m. to Battalion. Both Fresh meat and Bread rations are good, equalling nearly 70%. Other rations good.
- May 2nd Tradesmen on usual work. Pioneers make 22 Hot Boxes for use when Battalion is in the line. (Sgt. McKenzie, Pioneer Sgt). Pte Kerr (4812) returned to store 1 drum (average 47 lbs) fat etc, extracted from surplus fat on meat, fresh, issued and from bones and kitchen refuse. This is a daily routine. The amount of fat returned to S.S.O. for return to Base for last month by 59th Battalion was 5700 lbs for which we claim a record. The value of this is £ 83:2:6, which the Battalion Regimental Funds reap the benefit of, and later, the Battalion in the purchase of Green Vegetables etc.
- May 3rd Tradesmen usual routine. Replenish the supply of water tins to crates and carriers on wagons, used up in last action. Transport wagons inspected for T.O. Lt. McBroom and myself for deficiencies and repairs. Big Australian Mail. Post Corporal collects.
- May 4th Pioneers detailed to report to 15th Infantry Brigade School to refit the buildings to requirements. Men detailed for school paraded and changed with new clothing S.D. Tradesmen as usual.
- May 5th Daily Routine. Officers' kits certified to weight of 35 lbs. Excess kit sent to my store for disposal.
- May 6th Daily routine for tradesmen. Identity Discs of Battalion checked ~~by~~ - shortages and corrections amended. Fire buckets made and supplied to Brigade School, also sign boards.
- May 7th Cookers of Battalion inspected (S/Sgt Hepburn, Sgt Cook.). Tradesmen as usual.
- May 8th Gas Equipment of Battalion inspected. All containers under Serial No 95 ordered to be replaced from store.
- May 9th Quartermaster and Transport move to wood N 9 Central (Sheet 62D) Details all busy digging in and erecting Horse Lines and stores. Usual routine temporarily suspended.
- May 10th. Hot weather setting in means fly proof latrine seats, and meat safes, which Pioneers of Battalion Supply. Pioneers report in afternoon to battalion for duty erecting huts for observation cases of Medical Officer. (Major McLelland A.A.M.C. attached). Supply of Vegetables, lettuce, spring onions, etc., is arranged by me to be delivered. Local purchase ex Regimental Funds.
- May 11th Usual routine. Cause inspection of ~~the~~ water-bottles to be made and, and return of all uncovered or unserviceable to be sent to Q.M. at once.
- May 12th Tailor reports to Companies in rotation for work covering water-bottles, as per indents submitted. Armourer Sgt. Mutch A.O.D. attached, recalled to A.O.D. Assistant Armourer (Pte W.F. Jones) takes over his tools and acts in his stead. Pioneers report to Brigade School erecting bunks. Rations good, excepting Vegetable issue. Potatoes purchased locally to supplement.



- 68
- May 13th. Tradesmen all on duty with Battalion. Return of Field Dressings required to complete Companies called for, and shortages issued. Battalion lines inspected for salvage. The salvage is returned daily from Battalion on returning Ration Limbers, thence again by A.S.C. Wagons to dumps. Amount returned daily is fairly large, showing that storemen and C.Q.M.Ss are keen on this work.
- May 14th Usual routine for tradesmen. Water tins (Petrol) fitted with wooden stoppers. Brass stoppers being recalled.
- May 15th Blankets of Battalion taken to fumigator, fumigated and returned.
- May 16th Men proceed to Baths and obtain Summer Change of underwear. Tailor also covering steel hats whilst working with companies. Boots and clothing of Battalion in good order. Salvage returns still good, also quantity ~~and~~ of paper and cardboard being returned.
- May 17th Usual routine for tradesmen in morning. By permission Sports Meeting is held in afternoon by 59th and 60th Bn. Transport and Q.M. Details. See Appendix No 10a.
- May 18th Usual routine. Armourer completed his inspection of the Battalion Rifles. All rifles requiring repairs adjusted.
- May 19~~th~~<sup>th</sup> )  
 20th ) Usual jobs for tradesmen.  
 21st )
- May 22nd Usual routine. Issue of socks to 3 pairs per man completed.
- May 23rd Men paraded at baths for bath and change of clothing. Vegetables purchased for battalion.
- May 24th A return is called for to complete uniformity of Breech Covers, replacing Canvas Rifle Bags. Tradesmen as usual. Rations good excepting supply of vegetables.
- May 25th All sleeping accomodation made splinter proof on account of ~~of~~ bombs dropped in proximity.. Horse Lines improved with higher protection. Rum Issue ceased owing to warm weather. 4 Extra Lewis Guns issued to Battalion, making total of 28 per battalion. Sergeant Rawlinson (Boot maker sergeant) reports state of boots of battalion as very good.. Amount of waste paper collected and returned this month amounts to 3386 lbs. Tailor reports to store on completion of work with Battalion. Return of unserviceable hats called for in view of battalion being relieved shortly.
- May 26th )  
 May 27th ) Usual routine.  
 May 28th )
- May 29th Pioneers report to Brigade School doing fitting work for the comfort of the students. Usual routine for other tradesmen 11 Bags of empty tins of all descriptions returned to Solder Recovering Plant. This recovery is now being treated by Division instead of by Battalion Pioneers.
- May 30th Usual Routine.
- May 31st As Battalion is moving into new area, all shops close. Pioneers engaged by 6.30 a.m. recovering as much sheet iron, canvas timber etc from all old dug outs for removal to new area which is devoid of covering for troops. Same are erected in new ~~war~~ area late at night after arrival by motor transport.



268  
May 31st.

1st Line Transport under command of Lieut. McBroom move to new area by road, taking all echelon of S.A.A. and Mobilization Stores.  
Q.M. Details move by Motor Transport with Q.M. taking all available building material. (4 trips).

SUMMARY OF REPORTS RECEIVED.

Bootmaker Total repairs 275 pairs Boots. Battalion Boots now in good order.

Armourer. Battalion Rifles and Machine Guns overhauled during the month, now in good order.

Tailor. Re-covered with cloth 119 Water Bottles, and 176 Steel hats with hessian, also carried our repairs ~~to~~ and alterations to Clothing S.D.

Pioneer Sgt. Fitted Brigade School with comforts, repaired wagons, Supplied crosses and hot boxes as demanded, also general work for the comfort of the Battalion.

<u>Fat Renderer</u>	Amount of fat returned (approx.)	42 drums	-	1851 lbs.
	Paper and cardboard	"		
<u>Post Corporal</u>		143 Bags	-	4885 lbs.

Q.M. Clerk. Dealt with two heavy mails besides usual outward and inward letters and parcels.

Salvage - amount handled has been very large. Issues from D.A.D.O.S. very satisfactory. Practically no delays. Issues and Returns also to A.S.C. very satisfactory.

(Sgd) W. M a y. Captain.  
R. Q. M.



TRANSPORT OFFICER'S DIARY FOR MONTHof MAY.

1918

- 268
- May 1st. Animal Strength. 54. One Charger short.  
Personnel 48.  
Usual Water cart and ration teams working. 1 G.S.Wagon went for a load of Petrol tins. Mens rations not too good, Animal ration light - both oats and hay. Grazed animals for two hours. Rifles inspected.
- May 2nd Six teams on duty, two teams on Engineers' work. 1 Officer's charger evacuated to Vet. Hospital, contused wound.
- May 3rd Animal Strength 53. Personnel 49.  
Changed pack mules to the limber teams, giving the limber mules a spell. Put on a new cooking staff. Two teams on Engineers Job. Ration add water ~~xxxx~~ carts working as usual. Water carts washed and oiled. Rations improved. Fodder issue good. Drew 50 Hay nets from Ordnance. Animals 53. Personnel. 48.  
Grazed animals for 4 hours. Box Respirators examined also harness equipment. Sent 39 men for a bath at DAOURS. Complete inspection of Transport by Capt. May and myself.
- May 4th All rifles inspected by Armourer Sergeant. One team on Y.M.C.A.Work, 2 teams for Engineer's work. Remainder of men sent for a bath. Clipped all animals tails and manes. A mule strayed on to lines - sent it to 5th Div. Mobile Vet. Section. Usual ration and water cart teams working. Rations good. Fodder good. Grazed for 4 hours. Wounded mule found on 25:3:18 sent to Mobile Vet.Sect.
- May 5th Inspection of Transport by Commanding Officer. Harness not up to usual standard. Started to repair undercarriages of limbers. Rations good. Fodder good. New Cook a vast improvement. Grazed for 2 hours.
- May 6th Usual teams for rations and water, a light day on transport grazed for 4 hours. Animals improving in condition and loosing the red coat quickly. Rations fair. Fodder a little light in oats. Stray horse brought into lines. Grazed for 4 hours. Rifles inspected. Two extra line piquets.
- May 7th. One G.S.Wagon sent for Petrol Tins to carry hot food in while the Battalion is in the line. "Stood to" at 11 p.m. ready to move out. "Stood Down" 12.45 a.m. Unharnessed and men went to bed. Six teams for rations and water. Rations good. Fodder good. Grazed for 4 hours.
- May 8th. Bought two bags of potatoes for men. Six teams on duty, for rations and water. Carted 21000 S.A.A. and 504 Bombs to Battalion Headquarters. Rations good. Fodder Good. Grazed for 2 hours.
- May 9th Moved to a new Camp site near a small wood. Good cover and protection for men and animals. Moved off at 2 p.m. All teams working. Drew two tents from Division. Rations good. Fodder Good. Grazed for 2 Hours.
- 10th May Ten teams on duty. 4 Chargers, one limber and Maltese Cart sent to Battalion Headquarters and stationed there.. One load of paper brought from Corbie. Greased all vehicles. Rations good. Fodder good. Grazed for 2 hours. Rifles inspected.
- 11th May Twelve teams on duty - Engineers, Rations and water. Mess cart called out at 9.30 p.m. to go to 60th Battalion. Rations good. Fodder Good. Grazed for two hours.
- May 12th Excellent grazing ground the camp - grazed for 4 hours. Two teams for engineers' job and one to REBEMPRE for potatoes (a long trip). All vehicles have been repaired and oiling started again. Rations good. Fodder good.



- 268
- 13th May. Two teams for engineer work. One team to BUSSY for potatoes. In all ten teams on duty. Remainder of chargers sent to Battalion Headquarters, to remain there so as to be ready for immediate use. Rations and fodder good. Grazed for 4 hours. Animals very fit.
- May 14th Usual teams working. Started to put a bomb proof shelter round the lines. Rations fair. Fodder good. Grazed for 4 hours. Rifles inspected.
- May 15th Ration, Mail, fuel and water teams working. Proposed to hold inter Battalion sports to take place on 17th inst. A Committee from ~~both~~ both Q.M. and Transport details are organizing the programme. Rations good. Fodder good. Gas Drill one hour. Grazed for 4 hours.
- 16th May Finished cleaning and oiling vehicles, also finished the bombproof shelter round the lines. Usual ration and water teams out - six in all. Rations good. Fodder good. grazed for 4 hours
- May 17th Usual teams on duty. Held the proposed sports in the afternoon. See Appendix 10a. Rations good. Fodder good.
- May 18th Usual ration and water teams on duty. Stray horse claimed by R.H.A. - handed it over. A new fire-box was put in "C" Company's Cooker by the blacksmith. Returned all petrol tin stoppers to Q.M.Store. Rations good. Fodder good. Rifles inspected.
- May 19th. Received 6 new limber covers and 5 tins axle grease 11 teams on duty. Drew a new limber from ordnance to replace one condemned by O.C. 29th A.A.S.C. Rations good. Fodder good. Grazed 4 hours.
- May 20th Getting plenty of work. 12 teams on duty. Engineers, Mail fuel, rations, and water. Filled all grease boxes and greased all vehicles. Still supply fatigue party for filling the watercarts. Orders to prepare to stand to. But nothing happened. Rations fair. Fodder good. Grazed for 4 hours.
- May 21st Nine teams on duty, 1 pack mule and 1 mounted orderly. Rations good but a shortage in vegetables. Fodder good. Grazed for 4 hours. Weather perfect. Horse lines very dry and clean.
- May 22nd. One Officer's charger evacuated to Vet.Hospital (Wounded) 8 teams on duty. Changed the limber mules back to their own job - have improved a good deal since their spell. Rations and fodder good. Grazed 4 hours. Rifles inspected.
- May 23rd 9 teams on duty. Branded all animals on hoof with Regimental Numbers. Our allotment of Numbers 7001 to 7101. Rations fair. Fodder, plentiful but dirty, having foreign seeds in the oats. Grazed 4 hours. Respirators examined by Gas N.C.O
- May 24th Seven teams on duty, Engineers, water, mail, fuel and rations. Rations good. Fodder - much cleaner than previous day. Grazed 4 hours.
- May 25th Nine teams on duty - one for vegetables. Drew 6 boxes Bombs and 4 boxes S.A.A. from Brigade School. Rations good. Fodder fair - one bale of hay musty. Grazed 4 hours.
- May 26th Eight teams on duty. All waggons cleaned up. A.D.V.S. inspected lines and found all correct. Made the bomb shelter higher. Sent 30 men for a bath. All got clean new clothes. Rations good. Fodder good. Hrazed 4 hours. Rifles inspected.
- May 27th Eight teams on duty. Sent a draught horse to Vet. Hospital for operation. This horse was wounded at VAUX and still has a piece of H.E. in it. Rations good. Fodder good. Grazed 4 hours.
- May 28th Seven teams on duty doing a lot of R.E. Work, but cannot get any material from them to make bomb proof shelters secure. Discovered three slight cases of mange. Isolated the animals and treated them immediately. Rations good. Fodder good. Grazed for 4 hours.



- 68  
 May 29th A very easy day on transport only 5 teams on duty with rations and water. Gave the men a good chance to clean up. Rations good. Fodder good. Grazed for 4 hours.
- May 30th Usual teams on Duty.. Got orders for a move. Sent back salvage, loaded up the waggons and got everything ready to move off. Had to borrow a draught horse to move as ours at the hospital is not right yet. Drew a new breast collar collar from Ordnance, also two pairs of traces. Rations good. Fodder good. Grazed 4 hours. Found one more case of mange. Treated immediately. Rifles inspected.
- May 31st Reveille 4.30 a.m. Collected Lewis Guns from Battalion, also Battalion Orderly Room. Moved out at 9.10 a.m. and joined the Battalion on the march. The Cookers and Lewis Gun Waggons went with their Companies. Had a good march, not overloaded. Horse lines good in the new area. Companies are spread about a good deal and the water carts are going very hard all day to keep the supply up to date. Broke a cooker pole just as we pulled into the new camp. No damage done. Have to go a long way for supplies, mail and fuel. Grazing is not so good here as in the old area. Will not be able to get more than 2 hours a day. Water for animals good. Returned the borrowed horse this afternoon. Rations good. Fodder good. Returned the Baggage Waggons to 29th AM A.A.S.C. Mange cases improving.  
Strength. Personnel. 44. Animals 52.

(Sgd) R. J. McBroom. Lieut.  
 Transport Officer.