

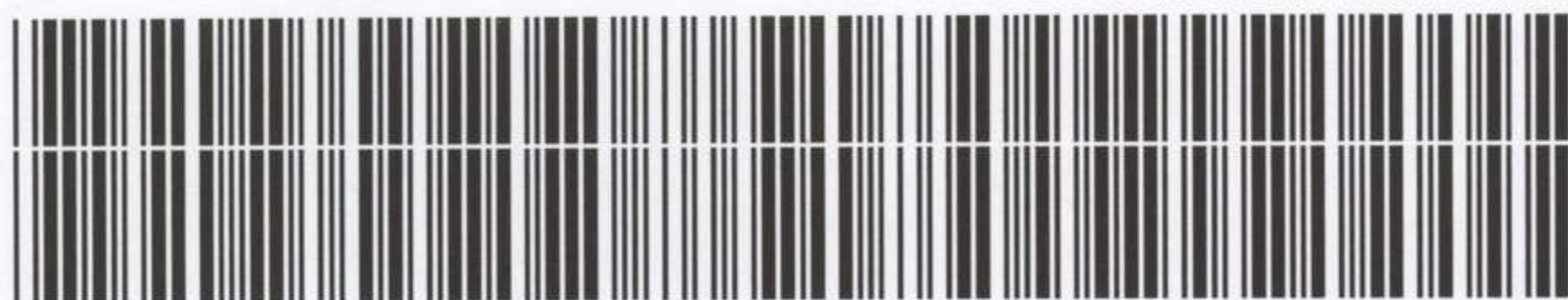
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Title: 59th Infantry Battalion

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AWM4-23/76/31PART2

Narrative by Lieut. R. Dunkley.

I was in charge of "A" Company, 59th Battalion in the recent big Allied advance on the Somme Front. At 2 o'clock on the morning of 8th August, 1918, my battalion moved forward under Lieut-Col. Scanlan, strict discipline for night marching being observed; there was no talking above a whisper, no smoking, and every man made as little noise as possible whilst marching over the boggy, shelltorn country.

Every man in my company fully realized that the whole success of the operation depended on the enemy knowing nothing whatever of our intention to attack.

At 3.30 a.m. I was shown my Company position on the "hopping off" tape, everything then was very quiet, there was very little gun or machine-gun fire from either side, and nothing to delay my men in getting into position in artillery formation; every man took advantage of what cover was available, such as bits of broken trenches and shell holes. At 3.50 a.m. I reported to my C.O. that my company was in position. On my left I was in touch with the 31st Battalion, Australians and on my right, with "D" Company, 59th Battalion.

ZERO Hour was 4.20 a.m. and exactly to the second our guns of all calibres opened fire on enemy positions; the noise was deafening, it seemed as if the whole of our guns on the Western Front opened fire at the same minute. Soon after our barrage opened, a thick fog was visible and with the smoke caused by the bursting of our shells, it made things very much worse; I could not see my hand before my face.

At ZERO plus 1 hour our advance commenced, it was difficult to see the man next to you and you could not hear each other speak for the noise of guns and bursting shells. After covering about 200 yards I had to use my compass to maintain direction. By this time the fog had got worse, once I called out and was answered in German, a crowd of Hun prisoners were passing through us on their way back; we knew then that everything was going well in front and that the 2nd Division were advancing. Soon after this, in trying ~~in-trying~~ to get along to my right flank I got out of touch with my company and it was 10 minutes before I picked them up again. At ZERO hour plus 4 hours I was due to reach the green line (our point for "leap-frogging" a battalion of the 2nd Division) but an hour before this time I was within 300 yards of it with my Company, less one platoon, which had become detached. By this time the fog had cleared and everyone was very much relieved, we could see each other and I was soon able to get my Company re-organized and move along to the "GREEN LINE". Prisoners by now were coming back in bunches of 20, 40 and 50.

I found things rather congested on the "GREEN LINE" and the Company on my left was occupying most of my Company front. Enemy shells were falling pretty thickly and heavily and I had a few casualties; two tanks were knocked out on my front and I was much relieved when two more came to the rescue and our advance commenced again.

Enemy machine guns were spitting fire from hornet nests on our front and flanks but caused few casualties, the tanks did wonderful work in knocking out these strong posts by gun fire.

The Hun does not like the Tank and from what I could see he always came out of his hole and put his hands up before the Tank got nearer than 300 yards to him.

The village of BAYONVILLERS was right on my Company front and I expected some trouble from there; my instructions were to round it to the right, which I did. There were two machine guns (enemy) firing from the right edge of this village but they did not delay us, they ~~xxx~~ were effectively dealt with by a tank. Just to the right of the village a battery of 77 m.m. was firing at us at point blank range and did not cease fire until we got within 200 yards of them; most of the personnel of this battery were killed, the remaining five we took prisoner.

After skirting this village, I worked my Company round to the left and again covered my allotted front. The 31st Battalion on my left kept well up the whole day, and I never once lost touch with them.

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My company met with very little opposition from here to the RED LINE which was just in front of HARBONNIERES, I halted my Company here according to orders and "B" Company of my Battalion who were in support went through the village and mopped it up.

When I got word back from Captain Southwell that everything was right I took my Company through the village and then "leap-frogged" "B" Company and made a bid for my Final objective, the "BLUE LINE".

I met with stubborn ~~oppositi~~ opposition when 200 yards from the goal, one machine gun was firing from the station which was my Right flank in the blue line, and another machine gun was enfilading us from the left. I was held up for 15 minutes, I then saw a tank on the way home so I chased it and told the officer in charge of my troubles; he kindly consented to "about turn" and made for the a station; my Company followed the Tank and got into our position in the old trench system in the "BLUE LINE". We got 2 M.Guns, 1 Officer and 23 other ranks at this point.

I at once consolidated the outpost line and in turn my men had a rest and a well earned feed.

Right from start to finish my men were high spirited and many a remark overheard convinced me that it was one of the most interesting day's fighting they ever had. I cannot speak too highly of the men under my command; they were calm under fire and were given the opportunity of using their initiative, which they took advantage of. I have never seen the morale of these troops higher than on this occasion. I established a very strong outpost line on my front, I had 4 Machine Guns, 12 Lewis Guns and 1 captured machine gun mounted on the front.

I got 3,000 additional rounds of S.A.A. from a carrying tank and also 2 boxes of grenades. It is just as well for the Hun that he made no counter attack that night as our men were very wide awake and ready for him. At 11 a.m. next day ^{we} were standing to again ready to move forward in support of the 58th Battalion, we followed them to the GREEN LINE in advance of VAUVILLERS and were there "leap-frogged" by the 1st Division who resumed the attack.

We were then ordered back to a position in reserve.

Right throughout the 2 days fighting my casualties were very light, I had 3 men killed and 17 wounded.

My Company took over 150 prisoners 5 machine guns 3 trench mortars.

I consider the work of the tanks in this advance absolutely beyond praise; in my opinion if we had enough tanks we could go to BERLIN.

11.8.18.

sd/ R. Dunkley, Lieut.
O.C. "A" Company, 59th Battalion.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative of Sergeant L.J. Trekardo.

Thursday 8th August, 1918. Time 3.50 a.m. Place, on the tape. Here we were lying extended, waiting for the barrage to open. At last, exactly at 4.20 a.m. they open up, and what a bombardment, guns of all calibre joining in the din. It also brought us a welcome relief; we were then allowed to light the soothing cigarette and only those who have been in a similar position know what that means. Exactly at 5.20 a.m. we hopped off the mark in a dense fog. Moving along towards the 2nd Division objective one was struck with the numbers of enemy dead lying about. Truly the guns had done their work. Of this Division's work I will not attempt to deal with. At last we arrived at our meeting place had a rest and a smoke and prepared to move forward. The fog had disappeared and the sun was shining brightly. With the Tanks in the lead we moved on again advancing in Artillery Formation. In this particular position we came under heavy artillery fire from field guns firing at point blank range. Owing to the coolness of all hands the casualties were very light. We quickly moved forward and captured this battery, the enemy gunners retreating in disorder with the tanks in quick pursuit. We kept on advancing, meeting with practically no resistance. Skirting the Right edge of BAYONVILLERS and before many minutes had passed arrived at the edge of HARBONNIERES. After the Tanks and armoured cars had passed through the village we followed. On the other side of the village the enemy had posted numerous snipers and machine gun nests. These were quickly dealt with by the tanks and we again moved forward reaching our objective by 10.30 a.m. Here we dug in, consolidated, and waited for the counter-attack which did not eventuate. Next day about 10.45 a.m. we got orders to move again. This time the enemy put up a splendid resistance using his machine guns and snipers to the best advantage. Owing to brilliant leadership and the noted resource and initiative of the "diggers", these were quickly dealt with, the Tanks again doing their full share of the work. The enemy this time attempted to counterattack but failed utterly, being driven back in disorder.

From this on, everything was good going, until we at last reached our objective. Here we hopped into Fritz's positions and after the 1st Division had advanced most of the boys got out their bread and jam and made themselves comfortable.

The co-operation of the tanks, armoured cars, aeroplanes, artillery and infantry was excellent. The Tanks especially did wonderful work in knocking out enemy machine gun posts and strong points and to give them their full justice, one can only repeat what was said on all sides, "They'll do me". I must also mention the wonderful coolness of the men. Their work was just like one would see on the parade ground.

I must also here mention the cavalry. Although we could not follow them in their work the traces they left of it ^{were} quite sufficient, and spoke volumes. This was perhaps the first time they had been seen in action in any number and no doubt to see them coming along in line with the patrols out in front was perhaps the finest sight of the day.

Of course the event was not without its humorous incidents, the most striking perhaps was the capture of a relief train containing a number of the enemy and also a big gun. This was quickly moved out of "no man's land" back to our own country. It was altogether a great day, everybody being in the highest spirits and full of confidence; old debts were paid back and a few more contracted but you may take it from me that these debts will be paid in full next time we have a go at the Hun.

sd/ L.J. Trekardo, Sergeant.
No. 2 Platoon.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.
-----Narrative by Sergeant R.E.R. Alexander.

On the morning of the 8th August, 1918, we were ready for the commencement of what no doubt will be the biggest advance of Allied Troops.

The barrage opened up at 4.20 a.m. on the 8th August followed by the 2nd Division of Australians who were the first to hop the bags. After the advance commenced, it was observed that a great number of Machine Gun and sniper positions were blown out by the tanks that moved forward of the 2nd Division; at this time we experienced very little shell fire by the enemy, he seemingly being taken by surprise. The fog being very thick at this time, one could not see more than ten yards in front. Our Battalion moved forward in extended order, it being impossible to keep in touch with any other formation on account of the fog and smoke from the heavy artillery fire that was going on.

In one part of our advance we came in contact with a machine gun post, that was overlooked by our preceding troops. This post was dealt with by a tank that had seemingly lost its way. Within a hundred yards of this post we observed a camouflaged dugout; on closer observation we found 5 German Officers, dead, and about 10 machine guns. This in my opinion was an exceptionally strong post. About this time the sun appeared very faintly behind the fog, which rendered us good help as to our direction.

On arriving at the 2nd Division's objective, we came across a great number of German dugouts, about which were a good many Hun dead. Here, a battery of German field guns (Whizz Bangs) had been captured by our boys, who, having turned the guns round were now giving him a sample of his shells. At this time we could see our own Artillery galloping along in the rear. From this position a tank moved forward on top of the bank to tow in a field gun but was soon put out of action. Here we were getting a considerable amount of artillery fire whilst lying in ~~position~~ position waiting for our order to move forward.

On our advance from WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT we moved forward in Artillery Formation and on looking around you would think it was just a parade ground manoeuvre, and not the actual thing, to see the troops on either side moving forward, keeping their relative positions and direction as if marching by some drawn line on the ground. Well out in front were the whippets dealing with all strong positions; above us, sounding like a lot of bees, were our friends the aeroplanes which did good work for us, some observing for artillery, others flying low and on ahead, machine gunning the retiring Boche.

On passing BAYONVILLERS the British Cavalry came into action which was no doubt a most beautiful sight to witness.

The armoured cars also appeared and moved along the road to HARBONNIERES clearing things out before them. On the left rear of HARBONNIERES there appeared a train load of Huns, who no doubt were brought forward to check our advance. The engine was soon put out of action by one of our Tank gunners; then the Cavalry galloped up and surrounded the train, capturing about 300 fresh looking Huns all newly ~~xx~~ clad and equipped. Attached to the train was a big 12" naval gun which no doubt had caused a lot of trouble.

Judging from the booty that was in the village, he was taken by surprise. There were a few cookers, with breakfast already cooked and some of this had been neatly packed up. A wagon with rifles and equipment was also found.

On the far side of the village, in line with the station, were two large tractors but he was too late to get them out, so they were put across the road to impede our advance a while longer.

We are now on the HARBONNIERES Station where we occupied an old French System of trenches. Here we were under heavy machine gun fire but it was our first day's objective, and we got there all right, this ending our first day's advance.

2.

On the morning of the 9th August at about 11 o'clock we were to support some of the other battalions for the next day's advance. Before we had gone 50 yards we were held up for a considerable time by a nest of machine guns that was situated in front of his large ammunition dump; our tanks having been put out of action by shell fire we were now waiting on Tank reinforcements, but the appearance of our disabled tanks drew his attention off us. In the distance we observed two waves of Muns coming to the assistance of their comrades who must have thought that tables had been turned. The troops on our right swung round and outflanked his gunners.

Again we got moving in artillery formation on the Right of VAUVILLERS; here our sister battalion "leap-frogged" us and pushed him on with the same success as we had previously.

sd/ R. Alexander. Sgt.
No. 1 Platoon.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative of 2/Lieut. F.S. Gunn.

We moved off from tapes at ZERO plus 1 hour. There was a heavy fog which prevented one from seeing more than about 10 yards in front. As we moved out we lost all connection the fog being the cause of this. We were marching on a compass bearing of 120° and were thus able to keep at least our direction. On proceeding forward we came in contact with a great number of the 2nd Division who were lost and had no idea of their direction. I ordered these men to follow me and took them right on to their objective. In the meantime, the fog cleared slightly and we were able to see up to about 300 yards ahead, and found ourselves on the outskirts of WARFUSEE- LA MOTTE; here we halted in a sunken road and re-organized as far as possible. On looking at my watch I found that we were about half an hour before time so waited until correct time to move on and started again with about half of the Company, arrived at 2nd Division objective, namely the GREEN LINE, and the remainder of the Company joined us there.

I then moved forward in artillery formation at ZERO plus 4 hours 10 minutes with the remainder of the Company. We struck very little opposition until arriving at BAYONVILLERS where we encountered a few machine guns and a battery of light artillery. We then pushed on to HARBONNIERES and on arriving there I went forward with my platoon to a street allotted me, to mop it up, and had no opposition whatsoever. We passed through the village to the East end and there struck strong M.G. fire which prevented us from moving about at all. I was then detailed off to take a patrol to see what was in the wood in front of us. On arriving there we were fired on by M.Gs and snipers. I managed to shoot one of the latter, but only to wound. As I was observing the situation a party of "A" Company men came down from the Left flank and the enemy in the corner house seeing that he had our men on either of his flanks, came out and gave himself up, and many more ran from the trench in front and we were able to have some good shooting and managed to kill one or two.

On the day following we had orders that we were to support the 58th Battalion in an advance and accordingly moved up into position and waited to follow them at about 300 yards, in artillery formation; while we were waiting Captain Southwell was wounded and carried out on a stretcher, this left me in charge of the Company. At about 1.30 p.m. the 58th Battalion went forward and we followed them at the specified distance; during the advance the artillery fire from the enemy was strong and we had a few casualties. We were about 1000 yards from our objective when the tanks that were preceding the 1st Division came through our lines, we then received much heavier artillery fire. At this time we were getting heavy M.G. fire, but on the tanks pushing forward it soon ceased. We arrived at a line on the flank of VAUVILLERS and were heavily enfiladed by M.Gs and snipers. This continued until we arrived at our objective, which was a road running into VAUVILLERS; here we remained for about half an hour, in the trenches there. I then received orders that the Companies were to return to their old line at HARBONNIERES.

On the morning of the 10th we moved back to DAOURS.

sd/ F.S. Gunn. 2nd. Lieut.
59th Battalion, A.I.F.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

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Narrative by 2/Lieut. S. T. Herriot.

At 2 a.m. on the morning of the 8th August, 1918, "B" Company assembled and moved off, under cover of darkness, with the Battalion to take up our position behind the 1st wave. We reached our position about 3.45 a.m. and waited for the bombardment to commence. ZERO was at 4.20 a.m. Visibility was poor owing to the darkness and a heavy mist which rose from the neighbouring flats.

As soon as the barrage fell the air became even more dense owing to the smoke. Not one enemy shell fell near our platoon during the interval between ZERO and our "hopping over".

At 5.20 a.m. we went 'over the top'. One could only see about 20 yards ahead. Efforts were made to keep in touch with our neighbouring units but connecting files were lost and so it was decided to keep the platoon as intact as possible. We advanced in lines of sections. No landmarks were visible to aid us, and our only compass was useless owing to the amount of steel in the air. We could only keep going ahead and shortly came upon two platoons of the 31st Battalion. They were advancing across our path. We diverged more to the South and heard some M.G. fire ahead. Soon after we met some scattered sections of the 2nd Division with a tank on a metal road.

The officers held a consultation and we decided that we were on the East-West Road a short distance from WARFUSEE. The tank moved along the road followed by the 2nd Division men and we moved on to the South-East through the fields.

We passed several German trenches completely shattered with many dead lying about. A number of Germans came from the dug-outs. We took them prisoner and sent them to the rear. About 39 were collected in this part. When the sun rose above the mists we could see a village on our left, so kept straight on and passed more dugouts and also 2 artillery positions, with most of the guns gone. Two were still in their pits, but damaged. We then arrived at our objective, the "GREEN LINE". We re-organized and found we were nearly an hour before our scheduled time. Our O.C. arrived then and we were moved forward ready to advance with the tanks as our barrage lifted. Meanwhile the 2nd Division were consolidating.

At about 8.20 we moved on in lines of sections in artillery formation with the tanks covering our advance. There we were under fire from the enemy's guns.

On the South of BAYONVILLERS we came upon a battery of small field guns. The Tanks dealt with them and put them out of action. Arriving at the South-East corner of the village we had to wait as our right flank was in the air and we were ahead of our time again. When we saw the Units on our Right advancing we moved on also. We had no resistance from there to the next village, HARBONNIERES, our objective. The tanks surrounded the village and then entered. We followed through to mop up. I took a section and mopped up the Northern portion of the village. No opposition was encountered, but we captured 35 prisoners from cellars etc., and also came across a Divisional Headquarters already packed up ready to move off. Two horses were in the stables harnessed up.

We moved through the village and joined our unit to find they had been held up about 100 yards from the edge of the village. We garrisoned the old trench and prepared for a counter attack.

About 6 p.m. the aeroplanes dropped the signals that warned us that the enemy was massing for a counter-attack. Nothing happened on our front.

2.

At 1045 a.m. on the 9th August, 1918., we received orders to be ready to advance again as the 1st Division were going to make another attack.

We took up our position as support Company to the 58th Battalion. On the outskirts of the village they were held up by machine guns. The unit on our right outflanked the enemy, so he had to retire from our immediate front. We then moved forward in lines of sections in artillery formation behind the 1st wave. We had no M.G. or rifle fire until we were passing VAUVILLERS which was on our left. From there we were enfiladed by M.G. Fire. We were being continually shelled by H.E. during our advance but had no casualties.

We reached our objective about 2 p.m. and waited in Reserve.

As soon as the 1st Division had passed through us we retired to our former position at the outskirts of HARBONNIERES and remained in reserve.

At 10 a.m. on the 10th August we received orders to move back to a reserve area in the rear and arrived at DAOURS about 5.15 p.m.

sd/ S.T. Herriot, 2nd Lieut.
No. 6 Platoon "B" Company,
59th Battalion.

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59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Narrative of operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.
by Sergeant J.A.Hume.

We left our trench in which we were stationed to take up our position on the tape where we started our big advance; very soon after getting into position the barrage from the artillery came down and an hour later we started off in a thick fog which made it very hard to find our direction. We eventually came to the final objective of the 2nd Division and from there on the joy commenced. Our tanks jumped into the fray and we followed closely on their heels and very soon plenty of prisoners were sent to the rear. As we drew near BAYONVILLERS we sighted a battery of the enemy's guns which caused much annoyance by shooting point blank at us and they very soon became our war trophies, after killing some of the gunners. We continued with very little resistance until almost reaching our final objective and here we met with a little resistance in the shape of machine gun fire. The tanks came to our assistance and they were very soon mopped up. We reached our objective and consolidated and here ended the first day's chapter.

At 10.45 a.m. the following day we were told to get ready for more fun and we could see the enemy coming from the direction of the village and taking up his position in the trench opposite us, from where we expected to have some very hard fighting. But as soon as he saw that we were determined to continue our advance he got the wind up and fled into dugouts from which they were taken prisoner. We continued onward through artillery and machine gun fire until we reached our final objective from where the advance was taken up by the 1st Division.

Considering the amount of ground taken our casualties were very light and the boys all enjoyed the huge picnic.

sd/ J.A.Hume, Sergeant.
59th Battalion, A.I.F.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

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Narrative by Lieut.M.R.Callander,M.M.

At 2 a.m. on the 8th August I moved with the Battalion to the "lay out" position and got my platoon into position on the tapes well before ZERO hour. At 4.20 a.m. our barrage opened and at ZERO plus 30 minutes I moved forward with a scouting party with the object of reaching the 2nd Divisional Objective in time to have a look over the ground forward and see the position before our battalion went forward for the second objective.

A very heavy fog had settled down just before ZERO and this made observation impossible so we decided to work our way down the East-West Road until we reached a suitable cross road to take us to about the centre of our objective. Enemy machine guns were very active and we had not gone far before both Lieut.Stevenson and Sgt.Little were hit. We passed a number of prisoners coming back, who seemed to have had a rough time under our barrage. The 2nd Division troops were very mixed on account of the fog but the general direction was easy to keep by the rising sun. They met with little opposition as the tanks were dealing very effectively with enemy M.G. positions. I found them consolidating on the GREEN LINE well before the time that had been allowed. This gave our battalion a chance to re-organize and we moved through them just as the fog was lifting at ZERO plus 4 hours, "C" Company being in support to "B" Company on the Right. A few shells landed among us during the advance but I had no casualties in my platoon. The tanks at this time were doing splendid work and the enemy could be seen evacuating the positions in front of us. On reaching the RED LINE we followed the tanks into HARBONNIERES and found no enemy troops in the village so we pushed on to our objective which was to have been the support line in rear of "D" Company. We were fired on by enemy machine guns on the Eastern outskirts of the town and as we could not get into touch with "D" Company, we took up our position from the Road W.12.c.1.6. along the Railway line to W.18.a.4.4. with our right flank swung back along the light railway line towards the town. One tank was in front of us at this point and the enemy M.G. fire was very severe.

We had a good few casualties getting into position and after I had posted my platoon to the best advantage, I saw Lance Corporal Gibson making towards and enemy M.G. post that had been giving us a good deal of trouble, and shortly afterwards, the whole garrison, consisting of about 20 huns surrendered to this plucky N.C.O. We consolidated the position and then found that with the assistance of a tank, we were to move forward into the blue line. Shortly afterwards the tank was put out of action and we could not move forward. Patrols were sent out after dark and reported enemy working parties in the old British line. Otherwise the night was quiet.

When the contact planes flew over the enemy lines at dawn we noticed that they were not fired on and as we could see the Cavalry working ahead on the Right, Lieut.Binder took two men and went forward to the old support line. There was no sign of the enemy there so he ordered me to move the company forward and establish posts along the line with the object of moving onto the old front line, and was then called to B.O.R.

When I returned to the Company I took three platoons forward and posted them along the BLUE LINE but could not get into touch with "D" Company on the Right.

Captain Smith came to my position shortly after 11 a.m. and said that the 58th Battalion should have gone through us at 11 a.m. We could see troops moving forward on our right front and as the enemy was evacuating their old Headquarters directly in front of us, Captain Smith decided to take the three platoons over and rush their position.

2

We were met with one burst of M.G. fire shortly after leaving the trench but otherwise the enemy offered no resistance and the camp and wood were captured. After the dugouts had been cleared we took up our position behind the 58th Battalion and moved forward until the 1st Division went through us. We were then ordered to return to our old position in the BLUE Line but later, orders shifted us to a new position in front of the station at HARBONNIERES.

We dug ourselves in on a line in front of the station and had to take cover on three occasions as the enemy was shelling the position very heavily. During the night an enemy plane dropped bombs on our position killing one man and wounding two others. On the following day we moved back to our present position.

The whole operation was a splendid example of organization and what can be done by the proper ~~operation~~ co-operation of all branches of the Army.

sd/ R. Callander, Lieut.
"C" Company. 59th Battalion, A.I.F.M

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Private C.W. Phillips.

On the morning of August 8th, 1918, an attack was made on the Western Front by British and Colonial troops on a front of about 14 miles. The barrage opened about 4.20 a.m. on the morning of the 8th and about one hour later we advanced, headed by tanks, which soon got rid of any enemy machine gun posts. We kept on advancing without much serious opposition past the villages of WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT, BAYONVILLERS, up to HARBONNIERES, where the shell fire and machine guns threatened to check the advance. Our aeroplanes did good work, several of them dropping us ammunition. We established posts that night in front of HARBONNIERES, and the night was quiet except for a few heavy shells now and then.

On the afternoon of the 9th we had to take part in another move forward, owing to some of our troops being late in coming up. We went through under fairly lively shell fire and then withdrew as soon as the other troops came up.

We captured many prisoners and guns and also relieved the enemy of much of his personal equipment.

sd/ C.W. Phillips.

Narrative by Sergeant H. Alcorn.

On the morning of the 8th, we left the sunken road in which we were camped, to go to the starting point, loaded up with all that was needed. We marched along to the white tape, which was our starting point; we lined the tape all singled out in shell holes, and lay there until the barrage started. It was the heavy guns we heard first, then they all thundered and one could hardly here himself speak. The Hun started to put a few shells over but soon stopped as ours were too warm for him; then we started in line to follow up the 2nd Division which had gone on to take their objective, which was some distance ahead.

It was a very misty morning and very to hard to keep in line, and by the time the mist had lifted, we had got separated from the others and nearly all of us had got too far ahead and were with the 2nd Division when they took their objective. The only Germans we had seen up till then were either killed or prisoners and they were going for their lives. Then it came our turn to go in the lead, and we were soon got into position with one of the other Companies scouting in front.

After we had been going for a while we were in the front and the only Huns we got near put up their hands. It was good sport to see the tanks moving in front and the Huns running from them in all ways. We also had some of the cavalry with us, which at times went out ahead, but owing to the machine gun fire, often had to get back. At last we gained our final objective and there rested for the night.

The next morning we had a bit of a rest, then, at midday, one of our Battalion went in front and we started off again but was soon in the lead, the Huns running in all directions. We continued on for some distance when the tanks came past us and then they took the lead. After we had been going on for some time the 1st Division leaped over us and we lay there for some time in case we were needed.

At last the order came to return to the trench which we left. The platoons were formed up and marched back as though they were on the parade ground. After reaching our trench we were taken further along the line to the left in case we were wanted to help there, but we were not needed. The tea was sent to us nice and hot, which all the men enjoyed as they were all hungry and weary on it with travelling about. The next morning we were marched back to a village some distance and there had a good wash and rest; and now we are ready for the next, none the worse for our great advance.

sd/ H. Alcorn, Sergeant.
"D". Company, 59th. Battalion, A.I.F..

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Private H. Palmer.

On the morning of August 8th, we marched on to the white tape, which was our starting point, at 3.40 a.m., and we all singled into shell holes along the tape.

The barrage opened up at 4.25 a.m. and it was the heaviest shell fire I have ever heard as far as our artillery is concerned. We hardly got a shell in return where we were.

We moved forward at 5.20 a.m. under a heavy mist and it was very hard to keep in touch with those on the left and right of us as we could only see a few yards either way. Well, we managed to get to the 2nd Division final objective. With the exception of two or three men, we stayed for 45 minutes to re-organise, and this was done in very quick time; we were all in our places to go through the 2nd Division. While we were waiting the Tanks were getting in fresh supplies from the supply tanks which had just arrived, then there was an air fight, in which Fritz got one of our scouts. A great shout rose from all the boys for on the extreme left our artillery was seen galloping into action and they were soon banging away.

At 8.45 we moved forward with "B" Company in the lead and the tanks scouting about well ahead of them. We had gone 5 kilometres with the enemy's artillery and snipers pretty active, but still we hardly had a casualty till we reached a sunken road on the Right of HARBONNIERES. The platoon on the right of our Company, which was in two sections in artillery formation got a shell each and they all became casualties, with the exception of two.

We reached our objective at 11.50 a.m., as we thought, and started to dig in. The enemy snipers were very active but they did not meet with any success for he did not get a man. The order then came through that we had not reached our final objective and that we had to move forward to a trench about 500 yards from where we were, and running in front of HARBONNIERES. The tanks and cavalry had been scouting about in front of us for some time so we thought it would be quite easy to take, so off they started at 4 p.m., one platoon going to the right and another going down the slope towards the Road. The platoon that was on the right reached the trench with only one casualty but the enemy's snipers got on to the platoon coming down the slope and nearly all became casualties. The remainder reached the trench about 7 p.m. and thus ended the 1st day.

Second Day, August 9th.

It had been very quiet during the night. The enemy got two direct hits on HARBONNIERES Church. The scout planes were dropping ammunition.

At 1 p.m. the remainder of the Company was ordered to move forward to the said trench in front of HARBONNIERES which we did under heavy machine gun fire, but we reached it with no casualties. About 3 p.m. we were ordered forward again and we had gone about 1,000 yards when the tanks went through us. Prisoners were running towards us from all directions. We had gone four thousand yards under direct shell fire, when the 1st Division went through us. We continued to support them for some time until their supporting files came in sight and then we were ordered back to our old position. When we arrived there we were re-organised and taken to a trench in front of HARBONNIERES, and to the right, and there we remained for the night, and the next day marched back for a rest which without a doubt, up to the present, we are getting.

sd/ H. Palmer Pte.

"D" Company. 59th Battalion.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Sergeant W.F. Skinner.

Our company moved into position, about 50 yards in rear of the hop off tape, and were placed out in platoons in extended order. Then the O.C. and myself went round the platoons and we got our time pieces out and set them to ZERO time, which was 5.30 a.m.

Shortly after we got into position we heard our old friends the tanks humming along, then Fritz woke up and started throwing a few shells across, but not for very long. About a minute before the barrage I said to the O.C. "a minute to go", then down came the barrage, with a most dreadful din. Then Fritz shut up; he did not even shoot up a flare, an unusual thing for him, and I think we must have mesmerised the lot of them.

About 2 minutes before the hop off time, we moved our platoons into position on the hop off tape. Then we started off on our job, through a terribly dense fog and I can tell you that the officers and N.C.Os had their work cut out trying to keep their men together. After we had been going about half an hour we caught up to the 2nd Division and moved on with them to their objective, then with a bit of Foch strategy, we got our platoons organized and had to wait an hour and twenty minutes before we moved on as we were far too early on the job. During our spell we had a bite to eat and a bit of a refresher. Then we started off chasing the wily Hun, but we did not see too much of him in the morning as there were too many Donaldsons among them. Here and there during the morning as we got along, small batches of Boche machine gunners hopped out of their funk holes and "camaraded" at the "toute" and we had no need to show them the way out, they were off as hard as their legs could carry them, and I must state that I omitted to say that they had their souvenirs out, ready to be relieved of them by the eager diggers as we pushed on towards our objective;

Then the most thrilling incident of the stunt occurred; in the near distance we saw a German field gun and I can tell you we weren't long in slapping "D" Company 59th Battalion on it (in big letters), but the diggers did not wait to examine it, they were too eager to push on. Just as we passed the gun, up hopped a big Fritz, with full pack, and did a good steady double for about 500 yards to get well clear of the advancing diggers.

As we were nearing the village of HARBONNIERES, I saw the most gruesome sight I have ever seen in my life; it was one of our brave airmen who had been brought down during the advance; his plane had been set on fire and there lay his charred body on top of the plane, face upwards.

On reaching the far side of the village we found that we had gained our objective, so we quickly got to work and consolidated our position and put our outposts out. Then our fun began; we started sniping, and before we had been there long we had the Hun that perfect at "Lizard Drill", that he hardly gave us a chance to get a shot at him. Then we got the order to move forward on our left to a depth of about 200 yards and I can tell you it was a hot little stunt while it lasted. Another little incident that struck me as being very funny, was when one of our tanks went forward to a small wood and started peppering it with shrapnel, and it was not very long before he had a tribe of the wily Huns marching out in front of him and also some behind him, running for the ~~xxxx~~ lick of their lives to catch up to the rest.

We then lay back to rest, feeling a bit weary after our day's work, and I must not omit to say that just at this particular time our worthy friend the Quartermaster came to light with plenty of steak and potatoes, so we sat back at ease and ate to our heart's content.

During the night things were very quiet; as we discovered next day, the Hun had been very busy getting his stuff away.

268 After we had breakfasts, we got the order to move forward and occupy a trench about 1,000 yards in front known as the old British line. Moving into it we hardly had a shot fired at us, but on reaching the trench, the Hun woke up, and made things pretty warm for a while with machine guns and snipers. After we occupied the trench, I moved round to the flank to get in touch with "C" Company, but on reaching the sunken road, to my surprise, I found that part of the line had not been taken, so I moved cautiously down the road and the 1st thing that confronted me was a Jaeger officer, ready for fight but I soon put an end to him, with my reliable old colt. Then I took possession of their Divisional Headquarters and all its belongings and put a guard on it, to make sure that nobody trespassed on our property.

At 11 a.m. we got the order to move out of the trench and move back to a position occupied by us the previous night.

During the day there was a lot of movement on the hill in front of us, especially in a small wood on our left flank.

At 1.30 p.m. we got the order to take the wood, in conjunction with the 60th Battalion and it was not long before the Hun came streaming out in his countless numbers. As we moved forward from the wood the Boche artillery and machine gun fire increased and it was much to my surprise that I found afterwards, that we did not even have one casualty.

Just at this time the 1st Division passed through us, and we moved on with them to the Road near VAUVILLERS; on reaching the road we got the order to drop out of the advancing waves, and move back to Reserves. I was feeling tired, so I and my O.C. sat down and had a jolly good feed, then we moved back to a position we occupied the previous night, and then we had a good night's sleep.

My opinion of the advance is that it was the finest stunt I have ever been in and I must say that I was highly delighted with the work of the Tanks and Cavalry and also the work of the gallant sons of Australia who took part in it.

sd/ W. Skinner. Sergeant.
"D" Company, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Sergeant F.F.Clausen.

"D" Company of the 59th Battalion having reached its assembly position on the night of the 7th/8th August, awaited the signal to advance to its jumping off position which had yet to be taken by the 2nd Division.

There was no doubt in the minds of the Company that there would be any hitch in the arrangements. It was taken for granted that the 2nd Division would clear away the guns and that we should sweep forward to our objective without too much trouble from shell fire.

At the appointed time the barrage opened all along the front, and the sound of its music was cheering to our boys who chuckled gleefully over the surprise the Boche would get.

When our turn came to move up to the jumping off line a dense fog hid the whole countryside; so much so that a man could not be seen more than a few yards away. Well before the scheduled time we arrived at the GREEN LINE and re-organised into the formations planned.

As we moved off, the fog cleared and we could see the country ahead of us with the village of BAYONVILLERS on our left and a few likely looking spots for machine gun posts near the Right flank.

In this part of the advance the most serious opposition came from a couple of field guns (assisted by machine guns) which fired point blank into our troops and inflicted a number of casualties before our men with great gallantry rushed the position and dealt with the Boche who remained, in suitable fashion.

Beyond this point to the objective the trouble was to get into touch with a fleeing enemy, machine guns rattled and spat viciously but the men behind them soon retired as they saw the enemy advancing steadily on them.

The rapid retreat of the enemy on this sector was of course helped on by the tanks accompanying us; these engines of war looking like some uncouth prehistoric monsters raising their ugly snouts in search of victims, "put the wind fair up the Fritz" in the vernacular of the Army.

The sight of bodies of Cavalry operating on our flanks also encouraged the troops and there were hearty cries of "give them Cavalry" when the horsemen swept past.

Having reached our final objective "D" Company took up its assigned position on the right of the village of HARBONNIERES.

About 800 yards from right front was a slight ridge dotted with trees and dugouts, and numerous Boche were seen scurrying in and out.

On our left front was a small thickly wooded copse whence enemy machine gunners and snipers annoyed us a great deal.

Towards evening the Company, under heavy machine gun fire improved its position and cleared the copse of the Boche.

On the morning of the 9th inst. "D" Company moved forward with other Companies to clear the way for the advance of the 1st Division which was to leapfrog the positions taken by the 5th Division.

Not much direct opposition was encountered as the Boche was retiring on to a wooded ridge some two miles.

The 1st Division having advanced, we moved forward in support under a galling fire from the Boche's heavy artillery and from numerous machine guns posted on the ridge. By this time our troops were at the foot of the ~~ridge~~ slope leading up to the ridge but were unable to advance in face of the heavy fire until further troops arriving, the flanks were turned and the advance continued.

"D" Company having done its work then withdrew to its position in front of HARBONNIERES.

The general feeling amongst our men was that of pleasure in having been in such a glorious chase. "It was a 'trés bon' stunt", "I wouldn't have missed it for worlds", were a few of the comments passed, tempered with regret at the passing out of comrades of many a previous struggle.

11.8.18.

sd/ F.F.Clausen, sergeant.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.
Narrative by Corporal M.Liddy.

As arranged, an intense bombardment preceded the commencement of the 2nd Division attack which took place during a heavy mist. The 5th Division followed, mopping up where necessary and getting in readiness to leapfrog the first troops and continue the advance. Owing to the mist, contact and direction were extremely difficult to maintain and it was only by displaying initiative and every faculty at the keenest that our Company ("C" Coy. 59th Battn.) arrived in anything like organized condition at the 2nd Division's objective. Here, advantage was taken of cover afforded by an embankment, to re-organize the Brigade for the attack. At the pre-arranged time our men, preceded by the tanks continued the Australian advance and with the exception of erratic artillery fire, met with very little opposition. The Boche seemed only too willing to give himself up.

By now the mist had cleared and the Brigade advancing in artillery formation formed a grand spectacle. In every instance surrendering Germans were all well treated and immediately passed through to the troops at the rear and this fact doubtless resulted in more prisoners surrendering themselves, after witnessing the decent treatment afforded those in front of them.

The lesson learned in the advance (if not already known) was that the Boche has no stomach for close quarters fighting. A large percentage of those who surrendered were panic-stricken and incapable of fighting. It was the knowledge which greatly heartened "C" Company when it was called upon to advance on the wood beyond HARBONNIERES on the second day (in place of 1st Div. troops) without the aid of Artillery or tanks. The Boche outnumbered us in men and had plenty of machine guns, as well as a Divisional headquarters, to buck him up, but, after a half hearted attempt he refused to fight and again gave himself up in hundreds. The 1st Division later caught up the attacking troops and assumed the vanguard and continued the advance. After seeing them successfully under way our troops returned to their rendezvous near HARBONNIERES, and again dug in.

The advance was entirely successful. It showed us,

1. That the enemy has not heart enough to resist determined troops.
2. That no matter how successful a local advance may be it must conform to the progress or otherwise of its flanks. i.e. had not the 15th Brigade attacked instead of the 1st Division, the Canadians on the Right would have been delayed.
3. That given the field guns as first objective our troops are actually keen in attacking.

sd/ M.Liddy. Corporal.
"C" Company 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

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Narrative by Sergeant J.M. Balding.

At 2 a.m. on Thursday 8th August, 1918, in conjunction with the balance of "B" Company, we left our trenches in the rear of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and occupied some disused trenches in front of and to the left of the same village.

At 4.20 a.m. a terrific bombardment by guns of all calibre was opened from our Artillery, and, under cover of this, at 5.20 a.m., we moved forward to the tape, only to find that "A" Company had already left the position.

A messenger was sent to No. 5 Platoon to advise them of this fact, and they went out in front of us. There was a heavy mist, which was added to by the smoke from the guns, so connecting files were sent out to keep in touch with No 5. After marching for about 10 minutes, we found that we were following part of the 58th Battalion, which had moved out before their appointed time, and had cut our connection with No. 5.

We zig-zagged for a few minutes in the mist, endeavouring to pick up No. 5 Platoon without result, and ~~therefore~~ therefore moved forward on our sector without establishing a connection.

Moving rapidly forward we came right up to the 2nd Division, just as they were reaching their objective, and as instructions had been issued not to mix with them, we retired a little way and worked towards the left in an effort to get into touch with the 8th Brigade.

Just at this stage the fog lifted and we found ourselves on the Right edge of WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT, and noticed other units of the 59th Battalion coming up.

We soon got into touch with our O.C., who directed us to join up to the remainder of "B" Company, and shortly after, all the Battalion was rapidly organised for an advance behind the tanks.

This was about 8 a.m., and at this stage we noticed the first sign of any serious artillery fire from the enemy; as previous to that, only a few shells had come in our direction.

At 8.30 a.m. we moved forward, covered by the tanks, and immediately found ourselves under point blank fire from artillery in front, but moved quickly forward to the attack.

A little in front of BAYONVILLERS our covering tank swept through a battery of field guns which had proved very annoying, and kept their gunners under cover until we came up and sent them back as prisoners.

We then moved forward to the railway line which crossed our section just to the right of BAYONVILLERS, and halted here at 9.50 a.m., as we were ahead of time laid down for the advance.

Some of the men decided to breakfast here and were right in the middle of it when word was passed to move forward. Our platoon was determined that the enemy should not disturb the meal, and ~~xx~~ practically every man went forward as if at a picnic, carrying a slice of bread and cheese or jam.

At 11 a.m. we reached HARBONNIERES, No 7 Platoon entering by the main street and being the first party into the village.

We "mopped up" the section allotted to us, working through to the cemetery at rear, establishing ourselves at 11.30 in the sunken road outside the cemetery, and organised the position for defence in case of a counter attack. On sending out messengers, it was found that the people on our right had been held up, so our platoon, No. 6., was sent in to reinforce them. At the same time Corporal Henley and three men (Privates Ward, Crout, and Gribbon) patrolled the front to root out a machine gun which was very troublesome, and working up to the railway line captured 30 men in the station and Cafe de Gare.

During the afternoon we were busy strengthening the position we held as it gave a splendid field of fire to enfilade the enemy who were strongly established in front of "C" Company. We had some fine sniping practice, which we believe was the means of silencing a sniper and machine gun post that had inflicted several casualties among our company.

During the night we patrolled every hour in our immediate front, but from the absence of flares and on account of sounds of movement we thought the enemy were evacuating their trenches.

On reporting this, the O.C. ordered out a patrol at 8 a.m. on 9th and Lance Corporal Urquhart moved out with six men until a machine gun apparently 500 to 600 yards in front opened fire, so he entered the enemy trenches and found every evidence of a hurried flight during the night. At 10 a.m. the enemy suddenly opened up a heavy bombardment on the section held by us, causing serious injury to two of our party in addition to destroying some of our stores.

At 11 a.m. the N.C.Os were called up and given orders for a sudden advance to the railway in support of the 1st Division, which was seen moving on our right flank.

Getting into position we found the 58th Battalion extended in the open immediately in front of us, and both parties came under cross fire from machine gun posts on both flanks, but we all moved forward in sections.

As we advanced in the open, the enemy bombarded us heavily, most of the trouble coming from 9.2 guns which appeared to be firing at us with open sights, and as we still advanced we came under heavy fire from machine guns on our left flank.

At 3 p.m. we reached our objective, a communication trench to the right of VAUVILLERS, remaining there until 4 p.m., when orders were given to return to our old position, which we reached about 4.30.

x We remained in the trenches all night, evacuating them at 10 a.m. on 10th inst., marching back to billets at DAOURS for a much needed wash and rest.

The general feeling is that the Germans were caught at a time when their positions were not properly organised for defence, and the enemy was mainly beaten by the splendid work of our tanks and artillery. Without the aid of the Tanks it would have been almost an impossibility to advance across the open to HARBONNIERES, on account of the machine gun and artillery fire we would have otherwise encountered. As it was, practically no resistance was met with on the first day, and on the second advance the main trouble experienced was from heavy guns beyond the range of the tanks, and machine guns stationed on the flank outside our sector.

No 7 Platoon was fortunate in having only one casualty in the whole advance - Pte. Gribbon slightly wounded.

The Section Commanders (Corporal Henley and L/Cpl. Urquhart) both did capital work in patrol and also in keeping their men in hand when advancing.

11.8.18.

sd/ J.M. Balding, Sergeant.

Narrative by Corporal Craddock.

Under cover of darkness we marched from BRETONNEUX to trench from which our operations were to commence. Before ZERO hour, viz. 4.20 a.m., a fog had worked up.

At Zero hour our barrage dropped and in a short time the air was full of smoke; at 5.20 a.m. we commenced our advance in support to the front line. The fog, aided by the smoke, was at this time very dense, making it very difficult to maintain our bearings, and to keep in touch with our flanks.

Upon reaching the German front line we noticed a tank hung up in the trench, and also a few prisoners making to the rear. On reaching the East-West Road a tank as well as troops had lost its bearings and Lieut. Herriot was instrumental in giving directions.

Our opposition thus far being practically nil, and our casualties the same, we were enabled to reach the first objective an hour ahead of time. The fog had lifted now and the sun peeped through.

Whilst waiting on ridge prior to second advance we were subjected to point blank fire by enemy 77 m.m. guns, the battery being distant about 1,500 yards. At 8.30 a.m. we continued, the tanks pushing on about 300 yards ahead of us. The country at this point was good, a gentle slope running Eastwards. At a point down the slope a battery of 77 m.m. guns was observed. This battery brought its fire to bear on our advancing tanks, putting three out of action before being captured.

We flanked BAYONVILLERS and advanced on HARBONNIERES on the North side and proceeded to mop the village. Here we had a well earned drink of hot coffee. We also took prisoner 28 of the enemy staff, capturing two divisional baggage wagons, packed ready for removal. Over this a guard was mounted.

After mopping up the village we established our line about 400 yards distant, arriving about 11.30 a.m.; thus being 2 hours ahead of time.

At 11.30 a.m. the following morning we were to continue our advance 200 yards in rear of the 58th Battalion, but were unable to do so, being considerably harassed by machine gun fire. It was only when the enemy noticed our flanks advancing that the machine gun fire ceased, thus enabling us to come up in line with the flanks. Just at this time the tanks passed through us, we following on 200 yards distant, until we gained our objective; at this point the 1st Division passed over us and continued the advance.

Very shortly afterwards we moved back into supports.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Lance Corporal Gasperino.

At 5.20 a.m. on the 8th of August when the barrage lifted, No 8 Platoon following behind No 6 Platoon, left the starting off tape.

On account of the dense fog, we had to keep very closely connected. After going about 400 yards we came across a tank and a party of the 2nd Division, who had come to a halt on account of losing direction. Lieutenant Herriot organized them and gave them their right direction. We then followed on till the 2nd Division objective was reached. After an hours rest we were re-organized, and continued on.

When nearing BAYONVILLERS we were shelled at point blank range Lance Corporal Boyle and Private Millican being wounded.

After reaching HARBONNIERES we took up a position in a sunken road on the left of "O" Company. Nothing of particular note occurred till next morning.

Sergeant Abbott, on the morning of the 9th, took charge of a patrol of 6 men and proceeded to reconnoitre an enemy machine gun position in front. He met with no success, being wounded, and the patrol returned. We received orders at 10.30 a.m. that the attack was to be continued. After being held up by enemy machine gun fire we eventually got a start and continued, being shelled rather heavily all the way. At about 100 yards from our objective Sergeant Polwarth was killed by a sniper.

We later on received orders to return to our starting position.

sd/ H. Gasperino, L/Cpl.

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Operations of 8th and 9th inst.

narrative by Lance Corporal C.S. Whitfield.

The advance started about 5 a.m. on the 8th August, and owing to a heavy mist which hung about for a few hours it was very difficult to keep in touch with the flank Companies and front company. When the mist lifted good work was done by officers and senior N.C.Os in collecting the men and getting them into their original positions.

About 6.30 a.m. enemy planes began to get active and freely dropped bombs on the advancing troops inflicting a few slight wounds. With the great help of the tanks the first objective, which was a line running from WARFUSEE on the left to GUILLACOURT on the Right, this place was reached with few casualties.

Consolidation was carried out with little lost time and when just about complete the new line advanced with HARBONNIERES as the objective. Just before reaching BAYONVILLERS on the left the enemy fired point blank in the lines of men in file, inflicting casualties.

The tanks and whippets lost no time in putting these guns out of action and the advance went on to the objective without being hampered. The village of HARBONNIERES was mopped up and the line consolidated. This was completed by about 1 p.m. During the afternoon everything was pretty quiet except for a few shells falling in the village and a bit of sniping by both sides. The night was quieter than the afternoon, hardly a shot being fired.

About midday on the 9th, the enemy appeared to be coming in to hold up the advance. Our rifle and Lewis Gun fire inflicted pretty heavy casualties on the enemy during these movements.

Shortly after we started to advance, but met with very little resistance, the enemy giving himself up in big numbers. During this part of the push the enemy guns were active but did not succeed in stopping the onrush, or hitting their mark. By about 3.30 p.m. the 1st Division was ready to advance through us and continue the push.

Special note may be made of the good work done by Officers and senior N.C.Os in handling the men, also the Tanks in dealing with enemy positions.

sd/CS. Whitfield Lance Corporal.
10 Platoon. "C" Company, 59th Battn.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Lieut. J. H. McKay.

At 2 o'clock on the morning of August 8th we left our position North-West of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and marched to our lying out position at P.25.d.1.5. We were in position about 3.30 a.m. - the morning was slightly foggy. At 4.20 a.m. our barrage opened; just wasn't it some barrage. 5.20 came and the 59th Battalion started forward. The fog was then so dense that it was impossible to see more than 10 yards. I was with No.9 Platoon "C" Company about 150 yards in rear of "D" Company. We had not gone more than 100 yards when we found ourselves mixed up with "A" Company men who had lost direction and gone too much to the right. After putting them right I left my platoon to get in touch with No.10 Platoon on my right and came upon Lieut. Mankey who was out to get touch with me. By this time we had lost sight of our men who were led by their platoon sergeants.

The next thing we saw was a small party of 10 German prisoners wandering along without an escort and going in a Southerly direction; we showed these prisoners the direction, and put a 2nd Division wounded man in charge of them. By means of the tank tracks and telephone wires we knew the direction of the advance and hurried on to catch our men but in the fog we missed them. Our own shells then began to fall in our rear so we decided to sit down a while until the barrage lifted. Shortly afterwards a small party of troops came along with Lieut. Hammond who had also lost his Company. Captain Samond and a couple of other officers then joined us and we pushed forward in extended order through the high crop until we came to where the 2nd Division were halted and starting to dig in.

Shortly afterwards, 59th Battalion troops began to move, so Lieut. Mankey and I began to collect the "C" Company men together on the GREEN LINE behind an embankment. After a delay of about 20 minutes our company had sorted themselves out and were in position to start forward behind the tanks. The order of advance being - "A" Company on Left, supported by "D" Company with "B" Company on their Right, supported by "C" Company.

The word to advance was given and off we started behind the tanks. Between "A" and "B" Companies a gap of 150 yards was left, so Colonel Scanlan ordered from my allotted position in rear of "B" Company to fill this gap with No.9 Platoon thus making part of the front line. We had advanced about 500 yards before a German battery of about 4" guns opened fire on us from a position about W.2.C.9.6., and began to cause heavy casualties among our advancing troops who were in sections in artillery formation. This battery was directly in front of No.9 Platoon ~~and~~ and continued to cause casualties to "A" and "B" Companies' men until we were within 250 yards of them, when two of our tanks pushed forward, one on either flank of the battery and opened their machine guns upon the German artillery men and made them leave their guns and duck for cover. We were then about 100 yards from the guns and the tank began to move forward again. In order to prevent the Germans from renewing their work I sent forward a Lewis Gunner on their Right flank to cover them while we rushed forward and dealt with the gunners. They had caused such havoc among our men that we had to express our feelings by shooting them all except one officer and two men whom I sent to the rear. There was no time to loiter taking the numbers of the guns so picking up a piece of cardboard I wrote "C" Company, 59th Battalion on it and stuck it under one of the seats of the gun. From then on until we reached BARBONNIERES, everything was plain sailing. It was a grand sight as we advanced upon the village and resembled a practice manoeuvre with tanks in the front, Infantry in their formation in rear, and Cavalry on either flank. As we neared the village the Cavalry galloped up on either flank. "A" Company went to the left and "D" Company to the Right. "B" Company went in support to "A" Company, and "C" Company followed the tanks into the village to mop up.

28 After searching cellars etc., for about 20 minutes I led my platoon through to the Eastern side of the village where I expected to find "A" and "D" Company linked up in the BLUE LINE; instead, I emerged from the village to find "C" Company men under Lieut. Callander, W.M. Lieut. Binder, W.C. and 2/Lieut. Mankey lined along a railway bank about W.18.a.5.5. where they were held up by machine gun fire from the front, half left, and half right. They had sustained about 6 casualties so my ten men came in very handy. At this juncture I saw a man walk forward to a small clump of trees about 50 yards in front of us firing his rifle as he went. The man was Lance Corporal Gibson who having located a machine gun position went forward in the teeth of heavy machine gun fire to capture it. As he neared the position, twenty "Fritzes" came running out to him with their hands up leaving their guns behind. Gibson slung his rifle on his shoulder and escorted the prisoners in. His action I consider was worthy of a Victoria Cross. Lieut. Binder then called to the Company to advance and occupy the trench which was our final objective for the day.

As soon as we began to rush, however, we were caught by machine gun fire from both flanks and lost half a dozen more good men. Lieut. Mankey was shot through the left arm. We had only gone a few yards so thought it wiser to return to our position behind the bank until we could obtain assistance from the tanks. There was only one tank in the vicinity, so Colonel Scanlan gave orders that with its assistance we had to occupy the trench in front, which was our objective. Plans were hurriedly formed by Lieuts. Binder and Wadson of "C" and "D" Companies and the officer in charge of the tank. Whilst "D" Company men were getting into position they had three men killed, then the tank broke down so it was decided to avoid ~~such~~ further casualties and remain where we were for the night and connect up "C" and "D" Companies with a line of Lewis Gun posts. The following morning, shortly after daylight we found the "Boche" had ceased to snipe at us when we showed our heads above the bank so concluded that he had withdrawn. Lieut. Binder took forward a party to reconnoitre, and finding the trench unoccupied "C" Company was brought forward and occupied it without further casualties. A bombing party was then sent forward under Lieut. Callander followed by me with a supporting party to occupy the trench, about 50 yards in front of us which had once formed the front line when the system was occupied by Allied troops. By 11.30 a.m. on the 9th August we had occupied this trench with 25 men and had some rare old sniping at the Boche as they moved about near the Copse in X.13.a.9.5. We were expecting tanks and 1st Division troops to move forward through us before 12 o'clock but as they were late in arriving the 15th Brigade moved forward about 1.30 p.m.. Captain Smith had joined Lieut. Callander and I myself about 1 o'clock, so when we saw troops on our left moving forward he gave us the order to go forward. As soon as we left our trench we were met with a shower of machine gun fire, but continued to hurry forward upon his dugouts and huts, about 400 yards in front of us. These dugouts and shelters were literally full of "Huns" and I estimate that "C" Company alone, took over 200 hundred prisoners from there. The place was evidently a Divisional Headquarters.

After mopping this place up we continued to advance without Tanks for about 800 yards when the tanks followed by 1st Divisional troops caught us up. Our men mixed among the new comers and continued to advance to about X.15.b. where we came under very heavy artillery and machine gun fire from a hill in X.18 a & b. We were lying in cover when Lieut. Telfer arrived, all out of breath, with orders from Col. Scanlan that the 59th Battalion were to drop out of the fight and return to the BLUE LINE, which we did.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative of Lieut. A. J. Pinkerton.

I was in charge of Headquarters Details and, on the night of August 7th/8th we moved in the rear of the Battalion to a position allotted to us on the tape. The strictest silence was observed during the march to the tapes. The night was calm and only an occasional shell or bust from a machine gun could be heard. We reached the tape without a casualty and got into position, taking full advantage of any cover, such as shell holes and trenches. Zero Hour was 4.20 a.m. on the morning of the 8th and on the second of that time every gun opened fire. The noise was deafening. We remained in this position till ZERO plus 1 hour.

By this time a very thick fog, intensified by smoke, had gathered, making it impossible to see more than ten yards in front.

I moved with Headquarters in centre rear of the Battalion but owing to the fog I found it necessary to use my compass so as to keep direction. We had not gone far before we met a number of prisoners on their way to the rear and we knew that in spite of the fog things were going all right. We halted in a trench after we had gone about 1,000 yards and I went to the East-West Road, marching by compass, so as to make sure of our location. Soon after this the fog lifted and the advance was much simplified.

We reached the GREEN LINE at mid-day and were due to pass through there at 12.20 p.m. The Battalion was rapidly re-organised and at 12.20 p.m. the tanks, followed by the Battalion made their way across the open. I remained at Battalion Headquarters, which was established in the GREEN LINE, for some time, and then moved with Battalion Headquarters to a position in advance of BAYONVILLERS. We stayed in this position only a short while and moved forward to HARBONNIERES where Battalion Headquarters was finally established. From this position I began to run lines to Company ~~xx~~ Headquarters. All companies were in telephonic communication at 6 p.m. Being short of cable I salvaged a number of lines in the vicinity and ran a line to Brigade Forward Station.

On the morning of the 9th, HARBONNIERES was heavily shelled and as the advance was continuing, I moved Headquarters to a position in front of the village. I moved to the North side of the village so as to avoid the shell fire. We came under heavy machine gun fire as we advanced and found it necessary to take shelter.

Later, we returned to our original Headquarters in HARBONNIERES, where we ~~xxx~~ stayed till the following day.

sd/ A. J. Pinkerton, Lieut.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Lieut. J.C. Christian, M.C.

On the morning of the 8th, at 2.15, we left our reserve position North of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX to take up our line in rear of the 2nd Australian Division who were to capture the Boche Forward System and reach the REDLINE. The night was very dark and peaceful. Tapes were laid along the track to guide the Battalion. We had a distance of about 1,500 yards to cover to reach our position. All along the route field guns and heavies were so numerous as to appear almost chained wheel to wheel. I was detailed as liaison officer between my company and the Left Company of the 2nd Division. When we reached the tape line, I went forward accompanied by two men of the Intelligence staff of my Battalion. We took up our position in a sap in the Support Line.

At 4.20 a.m. as if controlled by one electric button and switch, our barrage opened on the enemy positions and the thunder of guns was almost deafening.

After waiting half an hour, we started to advance along the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT Road. A very heavy fog made denser by smoke shells and powder was a great hindrance to keeping direction. The fog was so thick that we were coming in contact with prisoners almost face to face before noticing them. As our line of direction was at an angle to the EAST-WEST Road and owing to the features of the ground being almost invisible, it was hard to know whether one was on the right track or not. Prismatic Compasses were invaluable and we were able to keep in touch with the 2nd Division and give them help in their advance.

A rumbling noise would suddenly make itself heard and we knew the tanks were on the way and following their tracks we were able to reach the GREEN LINE without mishap. There the fog lifted and we were able to see the ground and villages around. The enemy shelling was not heavy but from this point onwards he started to fight a Rear-Guard action using a battery of Field Guns.

The work of the tanks was a most wonderful sight combined with the Cavalry and Aircraft the whole advance will live in the minds of all those concerned for many a long day.

I am glad to say our casualties were light and we were able to establish our BLUE LINE firmly, and this ended the first day.

At 11 a.m. on the 9th August the successes of the preceding day were exploited and we continued our advance as far as VAUVILLERS when the 1st Division coming through, we carried on the excellent work.

The commencement was ~~xxx~~ held up slightly by machine gun fire but this was disposed of by Rifle Grenades.

The Boche in my opinion, fought an excellent rear guard action and showed many points of value to the soldier.

The advance as a whole was the most complete and perfectly controlled attack one could imagine.

11.8.18.

sd/ J.C. Christian, Lieut.
"A" Company 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Lieut. H. A. L. Binder, M. C.

About 2 a.m. on the 8th August, I moved the Company off from our position near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX over the hill to the tapes on the lying out position. On the way we got some idea of the strength of our artillery, as we could see guns in every imaginable position. We got to the tapes peacefully and without much trouble.

When ZERO time came, there wasn't any doubt about it, as our guns opened with a grand crash. We straightway lit up our cigarettes and waited for our turn to move.

Just before ZERO a heavy fog came down and gave the whole show a very weird aspect as we were lying under one of the heaviest barrages of the war and could see neither gun flash nor shell burst. I had the feeling of being under a curtain of rushing noise. Two words describe the barrage itself. Magnificently awful.

The enemy's reply was very light. Before long, small batches of prisoners started to come through, without escort, and doing the "camarade" act to every party of our men that they met. When our time came to move we found it impossible to keep touch with flanks, and had to use all our wits in keeping our right direction. The sound of our guns was the best guide.

I met a tank which was wandering aimlessly about no man's land and had a short talk with the officer in charge. His compass had gone "fut" so I walked in front with my compass and acted as tank guide. About this time I gathered up and reorganised most of my Company who had been attracted by the sound of the tank.

After the sun cleared the fog we moved forward in proper order until we reached the 2nd Division objective. Here we deployed for the "leap-frog" in a dip a few hundred yards South of LA MOTTE. At the appointed time away we went in the approved parade ground formation. The Hun here made a small show of resistance with "daisy cutters" which he was firing at us over open sights. A few men fell but the rest moved on and soon reached the position which held the troublesome battery.

Lieut. McKay had the satisfaction of ~~knowing~~ knocking some of the crew and capturing the rest. From here on, the tanks gave us most valuable assistance by driving all machine gun opposition well in front of us. The Cavalry also came into operation and hovered about our flanks, but were unable to find much scope for their abilities. We moved on without much incident till we reached the village of HARBONNIERES, which my Company had been detailed to mop up. We followed the tanks through but the men found nothing to satisfy their blood lust. After passing through the village our original formation was resumed and we soon reached our BLUE LINE objective which was the support line of an old British Defence line. As the front line company had not come up and we were subjected to a severe flanking fire from the right. The Company fell back about 200 yards and faced half-right to deal with the opposition. This was done after a smart fight, with the help of a female tank and the fine work of Lance Corporal Gibson, who collected about 25 Huns off his own bat.

Beside consolidating and patrolling, very little else was done that night, although a move forward with the aid of a tank was begun. Unfortunately the tank broke down and spoiled the show. On the morning of the 9th I took a couple of men forward and found that Fritz had evacuated during the night, so I immediately occupied the trenches and Lieut. Callander, M.M. took a bombing party forward to clear the old front line. He had no opposition and there platoons were sent forward and occupied the Old British front line which was the BLUE LINE of the operations. During the morning we had been told that the 1st Division would go through us at 11 a.m. and continue the advance. As they did not get up in time our Brigade got the job so as not to let down the flank of the Canadians whom we could see advancing a mile or so on our right.

As the show seemed to hang fire a bit, Captain Smith ordered my Company over the bags against the German Divisional Headquarters. He led the show himself and except for one very heavy burst of machine gun fire which did no damage, we met with no opposition and the Company collected between 250 and 300 prisoners from the dugouts and the wood in rear. After going another mile and a half under scattered M.G. fire and "daisycutters" I stopped all of our battalion that I could find as I thought it was time we let the 1st Division in for their cut.

When the men had had a short rest under cover, we dribbled them back in small parties to where we started from in the morning.

Judging by what I saw afterwards they must have souvenired the Divisional Headquarters on the way.

We then dug in on both sides of the HARBONNIERES-VAUVILLERS Road and stayed there for a pretty uncomfortable night under shells and bombs. The next day we marched back to DAOURS dead tired but well pleased with the work we had done.

In my opinion the operation splendidly demonstrated the capabilities of the tank in open warfare, and also that despite our long period of comparative inaction in trench warfare, our men are still able to fight in the open.

The German soldier is no match for ours at close quarters and decides that "discretion is the better part of valour" as soon as things get a bit sticky.

12.8.18.

sd/ H.A.L. Binder, Lieut.
O.C. "C" Company.

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26th August, 1918.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Corporal E.F. Gaskell.

I was in command of No. 12 Platoon, "C" Company during the advance on 8th and 9th inst., On the morning of the 8th I placed my platoon on the tapes as directed, but owing to the heavy fog, I did not get word when the Battalion moved off. When I saw the 58th Battalion advancing, I moved the Platoon, less Rifle Section under L/Cpl. West, forward. L/Cpl. West's section which was across the road and about 100 yards from my own position, moved forward with the Company.

Soon after I moved forward I met a party of about 25 to 30 prisoners, including 1 officer, moving back unescorted, so I put two men in charge of them, to take them to the rear. As I was not sure of my way in the fog, I moved forward with a Company of the 58th to a point about 62D. P.32.b.8.2. By this time the fog had lifted and I was able to see WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT and MARCELCAVE so I left the 58th and pushed forward with my platoon to P.55.c. central, where I rejoined the Company behind an embankment and reported to Mr. Binder.

The Company then moved forward in Artillery Formation. The tanks dealt effectively with all opposition and we had little difficulty in reaching the railway which runs diagonally across the S.E. corner of W.2. Just before reaching this point, we eased off to the Right to skirt BAYONVILLERS. We also came under the fire of 3 field guns firing at short range. These were soon put out of action.

After a halt of about half an hour at the railway, we moved on without much opposition to HARBONNIERES. Two gun sections and a section of riflemen moved along the Right flank of the village to cut off any of the enemy who may have tried to escape and then took up positions just outside the village at the S.E. corner.

About midnight my post was moved to corner of wood about 50 to 70 yards from position of Company Headquarters. On the morning of the 9th inst., we moved up to support line of old French positions at about 62D. W.18.b.2.1. Just before 11 a.m., Nos 11 and 12 Platoons advanced to occupy front line. Machine gun fire from front and left flank was very hot from this hour until we moved at about 1 p.m. We moved forward almost unhindered until we reached road running North and South through East side of 62D. X20., where we halted to let the 1st Division pass through. As we neared this point the fire, artillery and machine gun, became much stronger but it had very little effect. We occupied positions along this road until the 1st Division was well ahead and then moved back in small parties to the positions that we had left at 1 p.m. The tanks were of very great assistance during this advance and the Officers and Company Sergeant Major did great work keeping the men together. Soon after we returned to HARBONNIERES we moved forward to a line extending from about 62D. X.7.c.2.3. to X.13.a.2.3. and immediately consolidated and held position until we moved back at about 10.30 a.m. on 10th inst. On the evening of 9th inst., we were bombed by hostile aircraft but my platoon sustained no casualties.

sd/ E.F. Gaskell. Corporal.
No. 12 Platoon. "C" Company, 59th Battn.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by Lance Corporal C.W.Morgan.

On the night of the 7th/8th August we marched to the front line. The tape was laid out for us to hop off from. We arrived there in the dark hours of the morning and were put in our positions by our officers. Everything was very quiet considering that we were just behind the front line. A few shells whistled overhead and an odd one or two dropped fairly close, scattering the clay about over our heads but one would not guess that a great battle was pending.

Then broke upon the stillness of the night, the roar and clatter of our tanks as they wandered across the fields of wheat and oats towards No Man's Land. We knew then that we did not have long to wait; our time to hop was close at hand.

A certain Division was to take the first objective, about three miles forward and our job was to follow behind them and go on another four miles. The tanks were to lead us and clear the strong posts and we had to mop up the stragglers as we went.

At about 5.20 a.m. you would think all the machines of hell had been let loose for all our guns in the rear opened at the same moment and scattered their missiles of death and destruction across No man's Land and on the German front line, and with the fog and mist in addition to the smoke one could not see many yards in front of him and it was impossible to hear anyone speak.

Our time came to advance and over we went. I had not gone far when six Germans came through the smoke. I turned on them and they gave signs to say they had been captured and sent back through our lines. Owing to the darkness and smoke we got a bit bothered in our direction and got mixed with another battalion on our left but as the sun began to rise the mist cleared and we all got with our own units.

We reached the first objective an hour ahead of time and had to wait for our guns to come up to give us support; the tank did great work up till now.

We got together under a bank and formed up for our job; the barrage opened up and we went forward. We had not gone far when we came up to some field guns firing point blank at us. Two sections on my left were almost wiped out with two shells and then the one on my right got a shell in their midst. I gave my section orders to extend to five paces and then our shell came, but I am pleased to say only one of my men got wounded. On we went. We got the gun team in a dugout, killed four and took one prisoner, then we had some snap-shooting at Fritz running away from our tanks. The tanks went on as if they feared nothing. When we got near our objective we discovered that we were half an hour ahead of time so we had a rest behind a railway bank. As we advanced from there the Cavalry came up to us and went forward. It was a great sight to see them galloping over the open country and the enemy running in front of them. Well, on we went to our final objective and ~~we~~^{dug} our little funk holes on the right of HARBONNIERES. In front of us the enemy took up a position on the high ground about 400 yards off and then our machine guns and rifles got to work and we were very busy for some time. We did not notice the fatigue till we colled down and then we were all that tired that we could hardly move.

I was patrolling between two outposts all night but did not encounter any Boche during the night.

On the morning of the 9th I was just having a quiet sleep when one of our chaps came and told me to get up as we were hopping over after Fritz again. Over we went but we did not get very far, for a few hours he was holding some strong posts with plenty of machine guns and rifles.

2.

I was sent out in front to do a bit of sniping and to investigate some dugouts. Our Trench Mortars came up to me and fired several rounds of Stokes in to the strong post. I had some good shooting at the enemy as they ran away, sniping for about 2 hours, and only got three. The range I was shooting at was 1,000 yards. The trench mortar officer said I did good work. While I was in this position my Company advanced and I received a message from my officer to get back. By this time another Division of the A.I.F. passed me and about 200 huns gave themselves up as the tanks advanced on their strong posts. I came back and joined my Company and we shifted a bit on the right and camped in reserve for the night and the last I heard was that the Division that passed us was still advancing and prisoners were coming back in mobs.

Next day we marched back for a few days' rest, tired and weary, but not downhearted.

sd/ C.W.Morgan L/Cpl.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Operations of 8th and 9th August, 1918.

Narrative by L/Cpl. W. H. Jenkins.

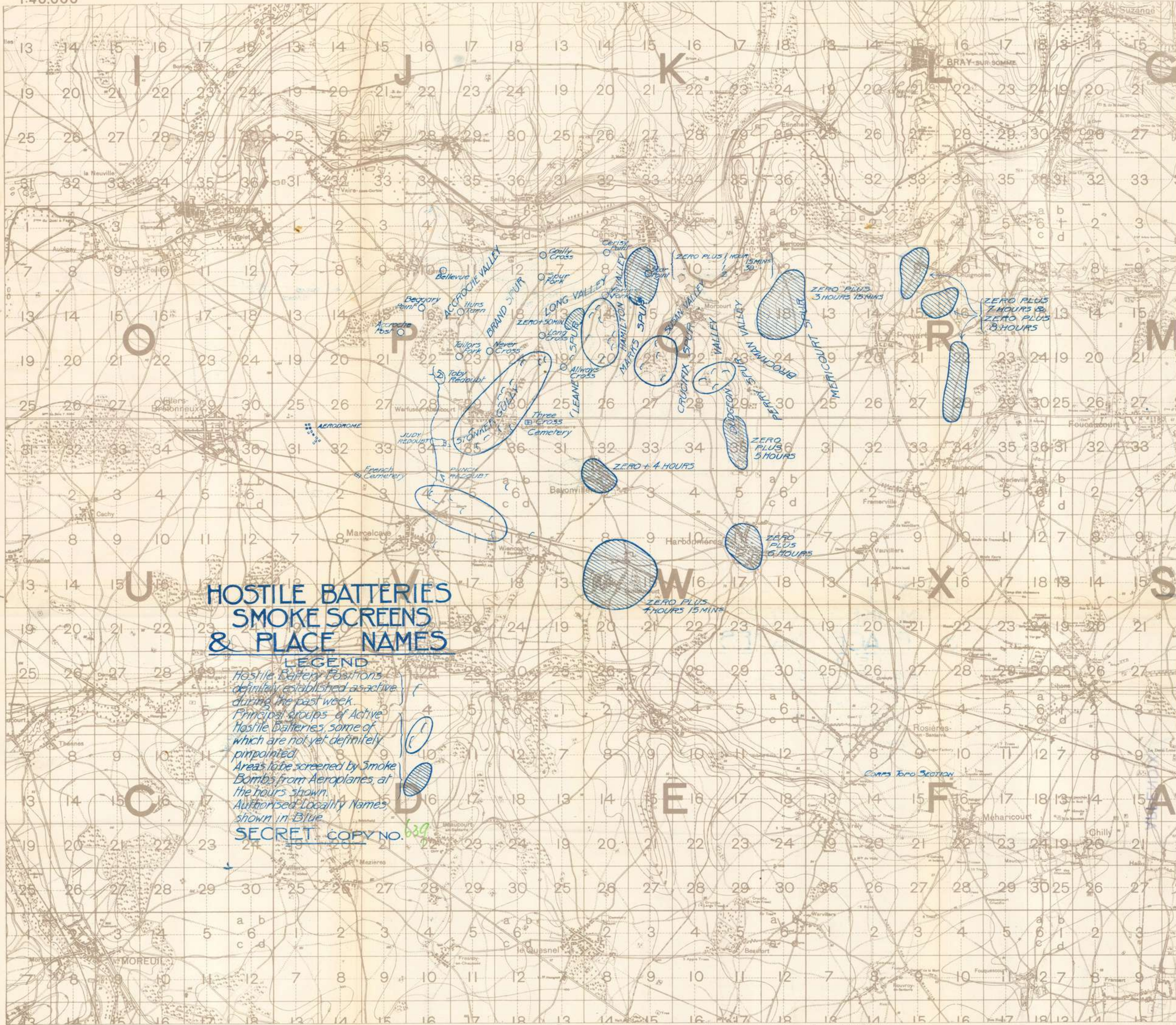
On the afternoon of the 9th August at approximately 2.30 p.m., I was detailed by Captain Smith to carry a verbal message to the 58th Battalion, ordering them to advance. At the time the 59th Battalion was approximately 150 yards forward of the old French Line in front of HARBONNIERES. The 58th Battalion on receiving my message, began to advance, then hesitated and returned to the trench. I began to return to my unit and finding that the 58th Battalion had not continued their forward movement I signalled them to do so. An officer then led the 58th Battalion forward.

13.8.18.

sd/ W. H. Jenkins, L/Cpl.

1:40,000

HARBONNIERES



**HOSTILE BATTERIES
SMOKE SCREENS
& PLACE NAMES**

LEGEND
 Hostile Battery Positions definitely established as active during the past week.
 Principal groups of Active Hostile Batteries, some of which are not yet definitely pinpointed.
 Areas to be screened by Smoke Bombs from Aeroplanes, at the hours shown.
 Authorised Locality Names shown in Blue.

SECRET. COPY NO. 639

Scale: 1:40,000

To,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

10th August, 1918.

Report on operations in which this Battalion co-operated
on August 8th and 9th, 1918.

PLAN.

(a) The 15th Brigade were to leap-frog through the 2nd Australian Division on the GREEN Line at ZERO plus 4 hours with objective shown as RED Line and BLUE Line.

The Brigade attacked on a two battalion front, 59th Left, 57th Right, with two battalions in support; 58th supporting 59th, and 60th supporting 57th.

(b) 59th Battalion to attack on a two company front, each company on a two platoon front.

FORMATION.

Preceded by 6 Fighting Tanks, two waves each consisting of two lines of sections in file, 50 yards between lines and 150 yards between waves. Leading wave to be covered by scouting Patrols at about 200 yards distance.

The dividing line between companies was P.23.d.0.7., P.35.d.6.0. O.3.c.0.4., W.11.a.1.0. - Railway Station in W.12.d., line inclusive to RIGHT Company. One officer from each of front line Companies with two scouts advanced immediately in rear of 2nd Australian Division with object of making a reconnaissance of country forward of green line.

RESUME.

The Approach march was made without incident. Enemy was doing harassing shoots with artillery and machine guns.

The Battalion was formed up on tape line at 3.50 a.m. There was some shouting going on away on our RIGHT and the enemy put down a light barrage of H.E. and machine guns thus indicating his nervousness.

At ZERO hour a heavy fog had come down and visibility was as a result very poor. At ZERO plus 1 we moved forward; direction was maintained correctly by compass bearing but the greatest difficulty was experienced in keeping touch it being impossible to see further than 10 yards.

Units became intermixed and a number of the 2nd Division men were befogged. At about 7 a.m. the fog began to lift and then the work of re-organising and collecting was taken in hand. At 7.45 a.m. the Battalion was collected and re-organised in the gully in P.35 a & d; here we were under close range artillery fire and observed by enemy low flying planes. Re-organisation was made without casualties and punctually at 8.20 a.m. the Battalion advanced behind the screen of tanks. On breasting the ridge the leading companies came under point blank fire from 77 m.m. guns, suffering some casualties. These guns (4) were captured and some of the crews killed. According to plan, BAYONVILLERS was skirted along its southern edge. We again came under close range fire from a 77 m.m. gun in W.10a., one Lewis Gun team being knocked out. This gun and limber were captured. The team of two horses was shot by the gunner who got off. From there forward, very little serious opposition was encountered. The RED line was passed through on schedule time.

HARBONNIERES was mopped up and the Australian flag flown by 11 a.m..

The BLUE Line was reached except for a pocket of machine Guns in W.18.b. The Mark V (Star) Tanks detailed to establish this line did not appear.

Communication was kept by runner, mounted orderly, and lamp and flag were also used successfully.

The work of the tanks was splendid and doubtless they saved the infantry from heavy casualties by their prompt neutralization of enemy machine Gun nests.

The Field Artillery inspired confidence in all by their rapid advance and effective shooting.

TROPHIES.

5 77m.m. Guns
 5 machine guns.
 2 Motor tractors.
 1 Granatenwerfer.
 Estimated prisoners

CASUALTIES.

Killed	18 other ranks.
Wounded	4 officers 58 other ranks.
Injured	1 other rank.
Missing	10 other ranks.

sd/ J.J.Scanlan Lieut-Col.
 Commanding 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

Operations of 9th August, 1918.

Owing to 1st Australian Division being late in coming up the 15th A.I. Brigade was ordered to protect the flank of the Canadians by advancing in conjunction with the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade on our left.

58th Battalion, LEFT, and 60th Battalion, RIGHT.

Considerable difficulty was experienced by 58th Battalion from Machine Gun fire as they attempted to advance through the BLUE Line. Eventually the fire ceased and the advance commenced.

As the 1st Australian Division were not in sight I decided to support the 58th Battalion by advancing about 500 yards in rear.

Formation.

Two companies by half platoons in Artillery formation preceded by scout liaison patrols. One company 300 yards in rear in support in half platoon column. One company in Reserve in platoon column 300 yards in rear.

The GREEN Line was reached without serious opposition. Enemy artillery fire was not heavy and was scattered. On reaching GREEN Line the 2nd A.I. Brigade with tanks passed through to further objectives.

The 59th Battalion were withdrawn at about 6 p.m. to position in X.7. c and d.

TROPHIES+

- 1 77 m.m. gun.
- 2 Light Minenwerfers, 76 m.m.
- 6 Machine Guns.
- 1 Motor Car (damaged).

A detailed list of further trophies for two operations is in hand.

Estimated prisoners	50
Casualties.	
Killed	6 O.R.
Wounded.	1 Off. 13 o.r.

Total casualties for 8th and 9th.

Killed.	24 O.R.
Wounded	5 Off. 74 O.R.
Missing	10 O.R.

sd/ J.J. Scanlan. Lieut-Col.
Commanding 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

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OPERATION ORDER No. 173.Reference:- France, Sheet 62D.
1:40,000.

10th August, 1918.

1. The 5th Australian Division is moving today to position in Reserve.
2. The 59th Battalion will move as follows:-
Starting Point:- Crucifix at w.5.c.3.5.
Time of starting:- 10.20 a.m.
Order of March:- Headquarters, "B" Coy., "D" Coy.,
"C" Coy., "A" Coy.
Distances:- 50 yards between platoons:
200 yards between Companies.
3. On reaching road N.W. through P.32 a & c the column will proceed by column of route.
4. There will be no movement North of the main VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - ST QUENTIN Road.
5. Every precaution will be taken to prevent casualties from enemy shelling.
6. Overland tracks will be used when practicable.
7. Moving to Starting Point Companies will move via the road through W.12. a & b - Pigeon House - Crucifix.
8. Lewis Gun Limbers will meet Companies at the Crucifix.
9. Cookers will follow their Companies - a halt will be made at 12.30 p.m., for one hour for midday meal.
10. Transport will move independently under orders of Brigade Transport Officer.
11. One Officer (Lieut.M.R.CALLANDER,M.M.) and 20 men will remain behind and collect all captured material claimed by units. A Brigade Dump will be formed in w.8.d. - material will be transported from there under Brigade arrangements.
12. Headquarters A.A.Lewis Guns will move (a) One at head of column
(b) one in centre (c) one in rear, for Anti Aircraft duty.
13. Billetting parties will meet a lorry at Church, HARBONNIERES, at 9.30 a.m. on 10th inst.(to-day).
14. ACKNOWLEDGE.

sd/ G.Stewart Smith, Captain.
Adjutant, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Issued to:-

Copy No. 1. O.C. "A" Coy.
2. O.C. "B" Coy.
3. O.C. "C" Coy.
4. O.C. "D" Coy.
5. Headquarters Officers.

Copies to :-

No. 6. C.O.
7. 15th A.I.Bde.
8. File.
9.10.
11. War Diary.

SECRET.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Appendix No 14 114
Copy No.Operation Order No. 17/18.Reference: - ROSIERES (Combined Sheet)
1:40,000.

15th August, 1918.

1. On "Z" day the 5th Australian Division will attack CHAULNES within the boundaries shown on attached map.
2. The 15th Infantry Brigade will attack on a two battalion front - boundaries and Objectives as shown on attached map.
3. The 59th Battalion has been detailed as the Right Battalion - the objective will be the "BLUE" Line. All boundaries shown are inclusive. The 57th Battalion will be on our left and the 55th Battalion, 14th Brigade on our Right. 60th Battalion will be in support.
4. The attack will be made on a Two Company Front - "B" Coy. on the left. "C" Coy. on the right. "D" Coy. in support of "B". "A" Coy. in support of "C".
5. Formations will be as follows -
There will be two waves, each consisting of two lines of sections in file.
There will be 50 yards between lines and 100 yards between waves. The first wave will be preceded by scouting patrols who will follow closely on the Tanks detailed to operate with the Battalion.
Battalion Headquarters will move by bounds in the centre of the line of advance and on the BLUE Line being reached will be established in the vicinity of A.4.D.5.0.
6. Orders for move from Assembly position to Start Line will be issued separately.
7. The attack will be made with Tanks under cover of an 18 pdr barrage composed of 15% smoke shell, 35% delayed action fuse, and 50% shrapnel. The barrage will come down 200 yards East of the "Start" line (shown on map attached) at Zero and will remain there for 3 minutes when it will be lifted in 100 yard lifts for 300 yards at the rate of 300 yards in 5 minutes. Thereafter it will move at the rate of 100 yards in 4 (four) minutes until the first objective is reached, when it will cease. Details of the protective barrage (if any) will be communicated later.
8. The two leading Companies - "B" and "C" - will be responsible for mopping up the whole area between the Red dotted line and the BLUE Line. The two Supporting Companies will be prepared to reinforce the leading Companies but are not to be ^{embodied} engaged in a fight if possible, before the Red dotted line is reached. They will be responsible for mopping up areas as shown on map.
9. When captured, the BLUE Line will be consolidated in depth and at an hour to be notified the Supporting Battalions will "leap frog" through our line of advance to the final Red Line objective.

788

(2)

107 Each man will carry-

170 rounds W.M.A.
 3 Mills Grenades Nos 36 and 28.
 48 hours Iron Rations.
 1 extra water bottle, filled.
 1 Red Ground Flare.
 - 1 of 3 sandbags.

A percentage of picks and shovels will be issued to Companies to be carried.

11. Communications. As far as possible visual signalling will be used. Means of communication in addition are:-

Runners, Pigeons, Message Rocket, *Mounted Orderlies to Brigade, Telephone.*

12. Contact Aeroplanes.

(a) A Red Ground Flare will be used to indicate the Infantry Positions to Contact Aeroplanes. These flares will be lit by Infantry in the most advanced positions only.

(b) A metal disc about 8 inches in diameter will be carried by each man and will be used as a reflector by flashing in the sun. The disc will be carried inside the flap of the Small Box Respirator.

(c) An additional way of signalling position to contact planes is to place four or five rifles horizontally across the trench. Contact planes will be in the air from ZERO onwards. Flares will be called for by the aeroplane sounding a succession of XXX "A"s on the klaxon horn and by firing a white Verrey Light.

13. Headquarters anti-aircraft Lewis Guns will be carried in rear of Battalion H.Q. to deal with any attack from enemy aircraft.

14. Medical Arrangements.

R.A.P. will be at "Start" line and will move to North ^{end} of Wood, then to North of the Half Moon - Company Bearers will carry to Headquarters only.

15. Prisoners of War. Each Company will detail two men to search Headquarters, dugouts, etc., for maps and documents.

These searchers will also roughly count the German dead and report numbers to Battalion Headquarters. Documents will be placed in bags and labelled, stating the position where found. Previous instructions regarding separation of Officers, N.C.Os and men and searching of officers and N.C.Os will be adhered to. Paybooks and identity discs will not be taken from prisoners. All documents taken from prisoners will be forwarded with the escort.

Special care must be taken that no documents are destroyed by prisoners. Escorts at the rear of column should be warned about this. Battalion escorts will ~~only~~ take prisoners only as far as Brigade Headquarters.

16. The Magnetic bearing of the advance will be 102° - 18 .

sd/ G. Stewart Smith Capt.
 A/Adjutant, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE
 3 Mills Grenades Nos 33 and 33.
 48 hours from Nations.
 1 extra as reported, filled.
 1 Red Ground Wire.

Issued at byrunner to :-

- percentage of picks and shovels will be issued to Headquarters
- Copy No. 1.C.C. "A" Company.
- As far as possible Company
- Means of communication Company
- Company
- Headquarters Officers.

Copies to :-

- (a) A Red Ground Wire will be used to indicate the positions to contact aeroplanes. These wires will be lit in the most advanced position only.
- 7. 1st B.I.A. Brigade.
- (b) A metal disc about 10cm diameter will be used by each man and will be used in the trench. The disc will be carried in a small box.
- 10. 1st B.I.A. Brigade.
- 11. File.
- (c) An additional way of signalling on to contact is to place four or five rifles horizontally in the trench. Planes will be contacted by the aeroplanes sounding a succession of "A"s on a horn and by firing a white very light.

Headquarters anti-aircraft Lewis guns will be carried in rear of line N.E. to deal with any attack from enemy aircraft.

R.A.P. will be at "Start" line and will move Wood, then to north of the half moon - Company bearers will carry to Headquarters only.

Each Company will detail two men to search Headquarters, dugouts, etc., for maps and documents. Bearers will also roughly count the German dead and report to Battalion Headquarters. Documents will be placed in bags labelled, stating the position where found. Previous instructions regarding separation of officers, N.C.O.s and men and searching officers and N.C.O.s will be adhered to. Paybooks and identity will not be taken from prisoners. All documents taken from men will be forwarded with the escort. Special care must be taken that no documents are destroyed by men. Escorts at the rear of column should be warned about this. Battalion escorts will only take prisoners only as far as Brigade Headquarters.

The Machine bearing of the advance will be 100 - 10.

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OPERATION ORDER NO. 172 175

Reference:- ROSIERES (Combined Sheet).
1/40,000.

14th August 1918.

1. On "Z" day the 5th Australian Division will attack CHAULNES within the boundaries shown on attached map.
2. The 15th Infantry Brigade will attack on a two Battalion front - boundaries and Objectives as shown on attached map.
3. The 59th Battalion has been detailed as Right Battalion - the objective will be the "BROWN" Line. The Inter-battalion boundary will be exclusive to the 59th Battalion - the Inter-company boundary will be inclusive to the Left Company. The 57th Bn. will be on our left and the 55th Bn., 14th Brigade on our right. 60th Bn. will be in support.
4. The attack will be made on a two Company front - "B" Company on the left "C" Company on the right. "D" Company in support of "B", "A" Company in support of "C".
5. Formations will be as follows:-
There will be two waves, each consisting of two lines of sections in file.
There will be 50 yards between lines and 100 yards between waves. The first wave will be preceded by scouting patrols who will follow closely on the Tanks detailed to operate with the Battalion.
Battalion Headquarters will move by bounds in the centre of the line of advance and on the BROWN Line being reached will be established in the vicinity of A.4.D.5.0.
Brigade Headquarters will be at F.6.c.5.0.
6. Orders for move from Assembly position to Start line will be issued separately.
7. The attack will be made with Tanks under cover of an 18 pdr. barrage composed of 15% smoke shell, 35% delayed action fuze, and 50% shrapnel. The barrage will come down 200 yards East of the "Start" line (shown on map attached) at ZERO and will remain there for three minutes when it will be lifted in 100 yard lifts for 400 yards at the rate of 100 yards in three minutes. Thereafter it will move at the rate of 100 yards in four minutes until the first objective is reached. It will remain there for fifteen minutes and then cease.
8. The two leading Companies - "B" and "C" will go straight through to the BROWN line objective and will consolidate that position in depth in accordance with instructions given to Company Commanders.
The two rear Companies will, with the assistance of Tanks mop up CHAULNES within the Battalion boundary - the left Company going in first with the right Company supporting them if necessary.
They will afterwards take up positions allotted to them in support and Reserve.
9. When captured, the BROWN Line will be consolidated in depth and at Zero plus 2 hours 20 minutes supporting Battalions will "leap frog" through our lines of advance to the Final GREEN Line objective.
10. Each man will carry:-
170 rounds S.A.A.
3 Mills Grenades Nos 36 and 23.
48 hours Iron Rations.
1 extra Water Bottle, filled.
1 Red Ground Flare.
2 Sand Bags.
Shovels at the rate of 50% and picks at the rate of 25% will be issued to the two leading Companies.
A percentage of No.27 (Phosphorus) Grenades will be carried by Companies.

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11. COMMUNICATIONS. As far as possible visual signalling will be used. Means of communication in addition are:-
Runners, Pigeons, Message Rocket, Mounted Orderlies to Brigade, Telephone.
12. CONTACT AEROPLANES. (a) A Red Ground Flare will be used to indicate the Infantry Positions to Contact Aeroplanes. These flares will be lit by infantry in the most advanced positions only.
(b) A metal disc about 8 inches in diameter will be carried by each man and will be used as a reflector by flashing in the sun. The disc will be carried inside the flap of the Small Box Respirator.
(c) An additional way of signalling positions to contact planes is to place four or five rifles horizontally across the trench. Contact planes will be in the air from ZERO onwards. Flares will be called for by the aeroplane sounding a succession of "A's" on the Klaxon Horn and by firing a white Verey light.
13. Headquarters anti-aircraft Lewis Guns will be carried in the rear of Battalion H.Q. to deal with any attack from enemy aircraft.
14. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS. R.A.P. will be at "Start" line and will move to the North end of MIEG Wood, then to North of the Half Moon. Company bearers will carry to Headquarters only.
15. PRISONERS OF WAR. Each Company will detail two men to search Headquarters, dugouts, etc. for maps and documents. These searchers will also roughly count the German dead and report numbers to Battalion Headquarters. Documents will be placed in bags and labelled, stating the position where found. Previous instructions regarding separation of Officers, N.C.O's, and men and searching of Officers and N.C.O's will be adhered to. Paybooks and Identity Discs will not be taken from prisoners. All documents taken from prisoners will be forwarded with the escort.
Special care must be taken that no documents are destroyed by prisoners. Escorts at the rear of column should be warned about this.
As authority these Special Searchers will wear white armbands signed by Lieut. Stevenson.
Battalion escorts will take prisoners only as far as Brigade Headquarters. All prisoners will be sent in the general direction of the Railway Line.
16. The Magnetic Bearing of the advance will be 102° - 18.
17. Acknowledge.

Sd/ G. Stewart Smith Capt.
A/Adjutant, 59th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Copy No.	Issued at	by runner to:-	Copies to:-
1	O.C. "A" Company.		No.6 C.O.
2	O.C. "B" Company		No.7 15th A.I.Bgde.
3	O.C. "C" Company.		No.8 57th Battalion.
4	O.C. "D" Company.		No.9 55th Battalion.
5	Headquarters Officers		No.10 60th Battalion.
			No.11 File.
			12,13 & 14 War Diary.

Appendix No. 16.....

The following is a copy of a letter received from Brig-Gen. Bell,
Commanding, the 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

"G.O.C.,
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Dear General,

On behalf of my Brigade I wish to thank you most heartily for
the generous support given by your Brigade to our attack on the 9th
inst., But for your action in attacking simultaneously on our left,
our task would undoubtedly much heavier and our casualties
proportionately greater. I can assure you that this is well
understood and appreciated throughout the Brigade.

Wishing you continued success, and with kind regards,

Believe me,

yours sincerely,

(sgd) A.H. Bell. Brig. Gen.

Commanding 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

14:8:18;

59th BATTALION A.I.F.Appendix no. *17*

SICK WASTAGE RETURN for week ending 15th August, 1918.

Date.	Evacuated to Field Ambulance.		Returned from Field Ambulance.		Evacuated out of Divisional Area.	
	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.	Off.	O.R.
9.8.18.	-	3	-	-	-	-
10.8.18.	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.8.18.	-	6	-	-	-	-
12.8.18.	-	2	-	4	-	10
13.8.18.	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.8.18.	-	1	-	-	-	-
15.8.18.	-	-	-	-	-	-

OPERATION ORDER No. 176.

Reference: HARBONNIERES Bat
1:40,000.

18th August, 1918.

1. The 5th Australian Division is relieving the 17th Division during the night 16th/17th August, 1918.
2. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade is relieving the 51st Infantry Brigade.
3. The 59th Battalion will relieve the 17th Lincolnshire Regiment during the night 16th/17th inst.
4. Companies will be prepared to move at \pm 9 p.m. Order of move will be:
 - Headquarters.
 - "A" Company.
 - "B" Company.
 - "C" Company.
 - "D" Company.
5. On arrival companies will take over present dispositions.
6. Guides will be met at X roads at R.l.c.6.4.
7. All trench stores and papers relating to the sector will be taken over. Receipts in duplicate will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 8 a.m. on 17th inst.
8. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters by the following code words:-
 - "A" Company - DUN.
 - "B" Company - MAC.
 - "C" Company - BIN.
 - "D" Company - PEN.
9. Battalion Headquarters will be established immediately at R.l.d.3.4., (Chalk Pit).
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

sd/ G. Stewart Smith, Captain.
A/ Adjutant, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:

Issued to:-

Copy No. 1	O.C. "A" Coy.
2	O.C. "B" Coy.
3	O.C. "C" Coy.
4.	O.C. "D" Coy.
5	Headquarters.

Copies to:-

No. 6	G.O.
7	R.Q.M. and T.O.
8	15th A.I. Brigade.
9	File
10.	
11. & 12.	War Diary.

secret.

59th Battalion. A.I.F.

APPENDIX

Copy No....

Reference + Sheet 62D S.E. Battalion Order No 175; 1/20,000 17th August 1918;

+++++

1. In continuation of our policy of pushing forward and making ground the 59th Battalion, in conjunction with the 57th on the right, will operate as follows:-
- 2; The left post of the 57th Battalion will be at approximately R 9 d 0.4;
3. "B" Company 59th Battalion will establish a ~~post~~ post astride the road in R 9 b 3.2;
 "A" Company will push forward and establish posts at approximately R 9 b 3.4; and R 9 b 35.65, and will also establish posts astride the road and facing North East in R 3 d 35.00.
 "C" Company will establish the following posts;-
 In Medoubt in R 3 c ~~at~~ 9.1.
 At elbow in road, astride the road and Railway in R 3 c 9.5;
 In R 3 a about 65.35 facing North East.
 "D" Company will establish a post in R 3 a, about 5.8.
- 4; All posts will consist of at least a Lewis Gun team and Riflemen, not less than 10 men.
- 5; Companies will arrange mutually for their supporting platoons to be readjusted to conform to this movement.
6. In every case the post will be reconnoitred and established by a fighting patrol - strength not less than 1 Officer (or selected N.C.O.) and 10 Other Ranks.
- 7; If opposition is met with a vigorous offensive action will be pursued
8. Prisoners will be sent back as early as possible to Battalion Headquarters and a return of trophies captures, prisoners taken, and our casualties (if any) submitted at the usual time, together with ~~our new dispositions~~ a sketch showing our new dispositions.
9. Heavy artillery are engaging LONG WOODS and selected targets with bursts up to 10.30 p.m.
 Field artillery are sweeping LUC WOOD and road through R 3 d and b with bursts of shrapnel throughout the day.
10. The operation will commence at 10.30 p.m.
11. In case of counter attack, O.C. "D" Company will be prepared to render an immediate counter stroke if necessary.
- 12; ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) G. Stewart Smith. Captain.
A/Adjutant 59th Battalion. A.I.F.

Distribution:-

Issued at 4;35 p.m. by runner to:-

Copy No 1:	O.C. "A" Co.
2.	"B" Co.
3.	"C" Co.
4.	"D" Co.
Copies to	
5.	C.O.
6.	File.
7.8. 9.	War Diary.

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Headquarters,

15th Aust. Inf. Brigade,
17th August 1918.

Headquarters,

5th Aust. Division.

Forwarded herewith is a report of an enterprise carried out this afternoon by the left (59th) Battalion.

"At 8;30 p.m. I visited "C" Company forward posts with Lieut. DUNKLEY and was returning across country when I heard Rifle shots fired from the direction ~~of~~ of "C" Company's left post about R 3 c 2.3 and saw three of our men who had been reconnoitring in the edge of LUC WOOD returning to their post. Immediately I went forward again to our post to enquire what had happened and was told by Sergeant RAINBIRD that he and two men had gone forward a hundred yards and found Germans in a dug out - the Germans "Kamerade" to them but would not come out so they fired down at them and then saw German heads appearing from a dugout in their rear - Sergeant RAINBIRD fired at one of the Germans in the rear and then the three returned to their post. As soon as I heard what had happened I organised a raid consisting of 7 Americans on the left flank, four men and 1 N.C.O. down a sunken road on the right, and myself and four men went down the line of dug outs. The Americans were held up on the left by Machine Gun fire from four different Guns, two firing from LUC WOOD and two from the flat between LUC WOOD and the SOMME. My party on the Right were also held up on the shallow sunken road by Machine Gun fire from R 3 d 4.3. I pushed forward with Sergeant RAINBIRD and 3 men, one of my four having sustained a slight wound on the neck. The first dug-out I jumped into I came face to face with a "Hun" in the act of evacuating and I made him a prisoner. My Sergeant and two men pushed forward to the next two dug outs but found the Infantrymen running away and report having shot six. The snipers and Machine Guns became too hot for us so we retired. In retiring from our forward post to Company Headquarters, my man who was ~~slightly~~ slightly wounded, was sniped through the head and killed, so far I do not know his name. The American Party of 7 men had 3 men wounded. I was surprised to find so many Machine Guns active, for during the morning I had walked across country between "C" Company forward Posts and had not been fired upon.

17;8;18.

(Sgd) J. H. McKay. Lieut.
"C" Co.

+++++

(Sgd) H.E. ELLIOTT. Brig. General.
Commanding 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

G.O.C. 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Lieut. McKay's initiative, and the good work of the party is much appreciated.

(Sgd) J.T. HOBBS. Major General.
Commanding 5th Australian Division.

59th Battalion.

Returned to you. Will you please cause the remarks of the G.O.C. Division to be brought before Lieut McKay and party and when this has been done return file to this office.

(Sgd) C. W. LAY Captain
for Brigade Major.
15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

6 A.m. 17:8:18 to 6 a.m. 18:8:18;

Reference Maps:- ZW 62 d S.E. 1/20,000

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Our Artillery. Trees in R 9 & R 3 on road were sprinkled with shrapnel at periods during the day, and LUC WOOD was subjected to 100 18 pdr shells during the course of the day. Earthworks and dugouts in L 34 (HARBONNIERES Combined Sheet) were engaged by 4.5 Hows on request and good hits were observed.

(b) At 5 p.m. a patrol pushed into the edge of LUC WOOD (R3 c 7.5) and captured one prisoner. At 11 p.m. a fighting patrol went out and established a post in marsh at R 3 a 4;7. Enemy Machine Guns were located at R 3 a 30.95 and R 3 a 75.75; Owing to the wet condition of the ground the post was withdrawn at daybreak.

Attempts by all line companies to improve and advance their positions met a vigorous resistance from the enemy. Many flares were sent up, and M.G., Minnies, and Pineapples were used against our patrols. "A" Co., in the centre succeeded in crossing the road running through R 3 and R 9 and went Eastwards for a distance of 50 yards. They came under heavy machine Gun fire and were obliged to return under cover of Lewis Guns. This patrol report an enemy post in R 9 b 4.5 which was thickly manned. Another patrol of the Company encountered an enemy patrol of 15 and fired on them with a Lewis Gun. In the exchange of shots we had one man wounded. Enemy Machine Guns are very active and have been located as shown above.

"B" Company on Right flank pushed out patrols and reconnoitred X Roads in R 9 a and 50 yards east of these X Roads. They also were met with exceedingly heavy M.G. Fire coming from 200 yds due east of X Roads. These patrols took up positions in some trenches along road running through R 3 & R 9, but were obliged to return to old positions when "A" Co., withdrew their patrols to former line.

Our Left Company again sent patrols towards LUC WOOD, and M.G. Fire was again heavy. LUC WOOD contains nests of M.Gs. which sweep No Mans Land continuously while the river flat in R 3 a also contains M.Gs. which are placed there after dusk.

The posts held this morning at 4 a.m. are the same as those reported yesterday.

OUR SNIPING. During the afternoon sniping was done in LUC WOOD but the enemy lies "Doggo" during the day. Our left Company claims to have inflicted 12 casualties on the enemy during the daylight patrol already reported.

2; IDENTIFICATIONS; One prisoner captured on edge of LUC WOOD at 5 p.m. 17th inst. 87th Regiment.

3. ENEMY SHELLING. Very little during the day. At night very active, and mostly 77s and 4.5s.

Time	Place	Calibre	No. of Rounds	Remarks.
1 a.m.				
7th	R 1 d.	77	5	From G 26.
11	R.l.d.	M	Uncounted	(Harb. 1/40,000)
ight		77 4.5s		do

All artillery (Enemy) firing on this sector seems to come from G 26 (HARBONNIERES. SHEET)

ENEMY ATTITUDE. Defensive and very alert. Using ~~plenty~~ plenty of fares.

ENEMY DEFENCES. Enemy Machine Guns have been located as follows:-

R9a 9.1, R9b 05.35, R9b 10.50, R9b 20.70, R3a 80.95, R3a 75.75, R3c 80.95.

A suspected position, Minenwerfer, is at R9b 30.50.

There is an enemy post in swamp at R 3 a 5.5, with tracks leading to it. This is quite visible from

R 2 c 8.8, and also shows up plainly in air photos.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. Nil.

ENEMY MOVEMENT. Very little by day. Small parties of 2 or 3 men were observed on Ridge in L 34 (HARB. 1/40,000)

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT

(3);

9. MISCELLANEOUS. An enemy Machine Gun sweeps valley in R l.d (indirect fire) throughout the night, coming from direction of CHUIGNOLLES.

18:8:18.

(Sgd V A.J. BECK. Lieut.
I.O.)

Appendix No. 22

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6 a.m. 18th inst. to 6 a.m. 19th inst.

OPERATIONS.

(a) Our Artillery. 18 pounders and 4.5 Hows swept LUC WOOD during the day. The road in front of our positions in R 3 and R 9 was also subjected to about 20 shells in search of Machine Gun nests already reported. The trenches in front of LONG WOOD received 250 rounds of 18 pdrs and 4.5 Hows. At 8.5 p.m. the un-named wood in R 3 d and R 4 cv was searched and swept receiving 120 rounds. At 9.30 p.m. this system of trenches received 200 rounds. At 11.35 p.m. the un-named wood in R 3 d and R 4 c received more attention - 125 rounds being put into it. At 12.5 a.m. the valley in R 10 a (CHUIGNOLLES) received 200 rounds. LUC WOOD in R 3 b received solid attention throughout the night. The Machine Gun Posts in R 3 a reported this morning received attention.

(b) Our Patrols. The centre Coy sent out patrol along edge of road in R 9 a. This patrol reports a working party on post at R 9 b 2.4 which received a shower of No 36 Grenades. The left Company sent out patrols towards LUC WOOD but no enemy were encountered. Another patrol of Left Company attempted to establish themselves in earth works at R 3 e 9.6., but were met with heavy M.G. Fire and were unable to advance. The Right Company under cover of T.M. Barrage succeeded in establishing two posts on Eastern side of road running through R 3 and R 9. They are in touch with left post of Right Battalion.

Our sniping. No sniping took place during the day as no targets were offering. Operations in the evening prevented sniping being done.

2. Identifications. Nil.

3. ENEMY SHELLING. Very little during the day. At 9 a.m. the valley in R 10 received 4 rounds 77s, and the old enemy dump in R 2 e received 20 rounds of 77s. The direction in both cases being from CHUIGNOLLES. (also see table attached)



(I)

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Defensive but very alert. Flare are still being used freely.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES. M.Gs reported yesterday were again active from same positions. Enemy Machine Guns are also established in earthworks in R 3 c 95.20 and R 9 b 00.90. There is an increase in enemy use of minnies and pineapples on our Right and Centre Coy sectors.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 3 p.m. two hostile planes crossed our lines. They were heavily engaged by L.G. fire from the ground. One of our fighters attacked and enemy plane and sent it down in flames in R4 Central.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT. 5 enemy were seen in proximity to enemy post at R 9 b 2;4. They were fired upon and dispersed. A Bosch Officer appeared in trench at R 9 b 0.4 and was subjected to 15 No 36 Grenades. An enemy M.G. fired from this spot later. Four enemy were seen in R 3 a 6.8. and were subjected to Rifle fire.

8. ARMS AND EQUIPMENT. Nil.

9. MISCELLANEOUS. Hostile ~~blimps~~ balloons were up during the day. One immediately behind CHUIGNOLLES and another on Northern side of SOMME CANAL

An enemy patrol of 8 men were seen to cross road at R 9 a 9.2 at 1.15 a.m. Lewis Gun and Rifle fire scattered them and they ran to enemy post in R 9 b 2.4.

Enemy posts along road in R 9 b were subjected to a barrage of No 36 Grenades by our Right Company 50 being put over. These posts were also engaged by Stokes and LUC WOOD also received an issue. 70 shells were sent across.

(Sgd) A. J. BECK. Lieut.
I. O.

268

59th Battalion. A. I. F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 6 a.m. 19th to 6 a.m. 20th inst.

Reference:- Sheet 62 d S.E. 1/20,000.

+++++

1. OPERATIONS. Our Artillery fired on targets as under:-
 M.G. Posts (2) in R 3 b were engaged by 18 pdrs. and 4.5 hows. and direct hits were obtained. On each excellent observation of this shoot were obtained.

The House in R 9 d 25.60 was demolished (right Battalion Sector).
 At 1.35 p.m. LUC WOOD received a strafe of 100 rounds 18 pdrs (20% Shrapnel and 40% H.E.) At 1.35 p.m. the road from ~~xxxxxx~~ R 3 d to R 4 a received 50 rounds 18 pounders, and at the same time the system of trenches in R 4 d and R 4 a received solid attention from 4.5 Hows. At 3.35 p.m. trench system in R 11 a R 5 c and R 11 b received 200 rounds of a mixture of 4.5 and 18 pdrs.

At 7.25 p.m. the road from R 10 b to R 10 c received 150 rounds of 18 pdrs and 4.5s At 8.30 p.m. the roads in R 4 d received 200 rounds. At 9.35 p.m. the road in R 5 b and R 5 d and R 6 c received 50 rounds, Road in R 11 a received 50 rounds. The Road in R 11 b 50 rounds, and the road in R 10 b 50 rounds. At 2.55 a.m. the road in R 12 a received 50 rounds Road in R 11 a 50 rounds. Road in R 12 c 50 rounds Area in R 10 a and R 10 b received 40 rounds.

During the whole night at irregular intervals LUC WOOD received 100 rounds. Also the un-named wood in R 3 d and R 4 c. The whole ~~xxx~~ area on our front has been subjected to heavy shelling during the whole day, and observation shoots in LUC WOOD showed that the wood has been thoroughly swept.

Our Patrols. Centre Company pushed out patrols which crossed cross Roads in R 2 a. and crept forward 50 yards without finding any enemy. The machine gun nests reported have probably been withdrawn owing to our consistent shelling of the area.

Left Company pushed out patrols into swamp and patrolled area in R 2 b and R 2 d, they located an enemy Machine Gun in R 3 b 3.6.

Right Company pushed out patrol in advance of the X Roads in R 9 a and ~~xxxx~~ their line now conforms to line of Right Battalion.

Our Sniping. Two enemy ~~xxxx~~ were seen at dawn at R 9 b 2.8 and were fired on by our riflemen. One is claimed as a certain casualty. During the day no targets were obtained, while patrols all night prevented sniping.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

NIL.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Again very little during the day.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Quieter with his M.G. but very alert on left Coy Sector. Our combined ~~shelling~~ Artillery and T.M. Shoots seem to be seriously affecting him.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Enemy observed digging in R 9 b 1.3 was engaged by our Lewis Gun. No new posts have been discovered except Machine Gun Position R 3 b 3.6.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Two enemy aircraft flying high passed over our lines in a N. direction at 9 a.m. ~~xxx~~ One enemy aeroplane flying very low in mist at 5.15 p.m. passed over our lines was heavily engaged by L.G. fire.

ENEMY MOVEMENT.

None observed during the day. Only movement seen as mentioned in para 1 (c) and para 5.

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

Nil.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The American Liaison Platoon was relieved by a platoon of 35th Battalion A.I.F. at 2 a.m. Enemy flares are still very numerous. Enemy M.Gs much quieter than usual, probably the effect of ~~our~~ shelling. The M.G. firing indirectly down valley in R 1 d has been silenced if not destroyed. Our machine guns harassed the enemy all night and were very effective. No enemy patrols were found. Snipers were fairly active, but were vigorously engaged by our L.Gs. The enemy sent up green flares at 1.30 a.m. on centre Company sector and his artillery immediately lengthened range. He also used small grenades, probably Rifle Grenades, putting 6 into R 9 a. These fell near party of pioneers who dug 300 Yards of C.T. parallel to MERICOURT-CHUIGNOLLES ROAD and close up to it. Our Stokes were very active on known enemy positions. Another small enemy dump in R 8 b was blown up.

(Sgd) A.J.Beck. Lieut. I.O.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

6 a.m. 20th to 6 a.m. 21st inst.

Reference Map.

62D S.E. 1/20,000

+++++

1. OPERATIONS. (a) Our Artillery fired on targets as requested. LUC WOOD and M.G. Positions known, received attention, and the same roads and tracks as reported yesterday received bursts of fire. Our Guns fired vigorously in reply to his shelling in addition to the shoots arranged.
- (b) Our Patrols. A patrol from our Right Company established a post at R 9 a 95.35 - this advances our posts 50 yards and it is now on edge of road (Western). We attempted to establish a post by a patrol at R 9 b 05.25 but M.Gs and Minnies were directed against our post and they were forced to withdraw. A patrol of 1 Officer and 3 men left R 2 d 7.7 at 3 a.m. and reconnoitred the marsh in direction of canal. They encountered no enemy. A patrol left R 9 a 85.35 and worked its way along road to R 9 a 9.5 and report enemy still holding posts along road as previously reported.
- (c) Our Snipers. None during the day. But on enemy patrol in R 9 a 9.3 and were fired on and dispersed.
2. IDENTIFICATIONS. Nil.
3. ENEMY SHELLING. Practically nil all day. It is noted that where R 2 c and d have been previously shelled consistently that last night these places were untouched and the attention turned to R 9 a and c. Both right and centre Companies report that an enemy barrage was put down in this area at 1.30 a.m. It was not very thick and was put down in reply to flares. Minnies and pineapples were also put over. The valley in R 1 D received heavy shelling at periods during ~~the~~ the night. All shelling came from the direction of CHUIGNOLLES.
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Alert and appears nervous. Many flares used. It is through he expected an attack last night as the high ground in R 9 a & c and the valley in R 1 D (specially) was swept from end to end.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. No new posts have been discovered, but at 11:30 p.m. the enemy was heard hammering stakes for wiring at R 9 b 3.6. We put over 12 No 36 Grenades and the hammering ceased.
6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. None during the day, but at night 2 enemy ~~aircraft~~ aircraft bombed whole length of valley in R 1 D at the same time as he put down his barrage.
7. ENEMY MOVEMENT. None noticed during the day and only the enemy patrol in R 9 a 9.3 was observed at night.
8. ARMS AND EQUIPMENT. Nil.
9. MISCELLANEOUS. Enemy snipers and Machine Guns were very active at same time as barrage was put down. Stokes fired on targets in R 9 b while the 6" Newtons did a good deal of firing. These guns are doing a lot of good work in dealing with posts in LUC WOOD as well as known M.G. positions. We are making his M.G. posts unhealthy by the use of No 36 grenades. At 1.15 a.m. a heavy fog rose and has not yet lifted.

(Sgd) A. J. Beck. Lieut.
I.O. 59th Battalion.

Appendix No. 2559th BATTALION A.I.F.Sick wastage return for week ending 21st August, 1918.

Date.	Evacuated to Field Ambulance		Returned from field Ambulance.		Evacuated out of Divisional Area.	
	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.
15.8.18.	-	2	-	-	-	-
16.8.18.	-	1	-	-	-	-
17.8.18.	-	2	-	-	-	-
18.8.18.	-	1	-	-	-	4
19.8.18.	1	5	-	-	-	-
20.8.18.	-	2	-	-	-	-
21.8.18.	-	2	-	-	-	-

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

6 a.m. 21st inst to 6 a.m. 22nd inst.

Reference:- Sheet 62 D S.E. 1/20,000.

+++++

1. OPERATIONS. Our artillery carried out shoots during the day on LUC WOOD and all roads and tracks previously reported. They again carried out a shoot at 4.30 a.m. which is still continuing, and evidently is a diversion for the show on our left. Our 60 pdrs and 6" Hows fired shoots consistently on the whole front.
Our Patrols. Patrols were active all night. All companies report that enemy working parties were engaged wiring and unloading timber, talking loudly. The 18 pounders were advised and opened fire, and we used L.G.s and No. 36 Grenades. Our left Company claimed to have inflicted casualties and loud howls were heard. This was in front of road in R 3 d. Limbers were also heard on the road in R 3 d.
Our Snipers. None during the day. 2 Enemy were seen at R 9 B 2.2, they were fired on.
2. IDENTIFICATION. Nil.
3. ENEMY SHELLING. Very quiet during the day. 6 8.9 fell in R 1 B at 3 p.m. At 4 a.m. he put down a light barrage on our sector which continued while the show on our left continued. On the North of the canal double red flare brought Artillery fire while single and double green slackened it.
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Alert and defensive. Still used plenty of flares.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES. Wiring and working parties were busy in R 9 b and R 3 d. Enemy M.Gs were located at approximately R 9 b 10.35. R 9 B 2.6. R 9 B 35.15.
6. ENEMY AERIAL ACTIVITY. At 5 p.m. one enemy aircraft flew very low along our front, Northwards. It was heavily engaged by our L.Gs.
7. ENEMY MOVEMENT. Being little noticed two men in R 9 b 2.2 were fired on. Much movement was heard at night, about 300 yards in rear of his line, and 18 pdrs and stokes were turned on.
8. ARMS AND EQUIPMENT. Nil.
9. MISCELLANEOUS. There is a very noticeable decrease in enemy artillery fire during the last 24 hours, and none of his patrols have been seen. We used numerous No 36 Grenades on his forward posts, and 6" Newtons carried out harassing fire. Right Company report loud yells - hurrying off of transport - when our 6" Newtons opened on the enemy. Stokes fired 40 rounds on posts in R 9 b 0.5;45, and R 9 b 1;6. From 7 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. 21st. enemy fired 20 rifle grenades on forward posts of Right Company. No casualties.

(Sgd) A. J. Beck. Lieut.
I.O. 59th Battalion. A.I.F.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.Appendix No. 27Sick Wastage Return for week ending 28th August 1918.

Date.	Evacuated to Field Ambulance.		Returned from Field Ambulance.		Evacuated out of Divisional Area.	
	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.
22.8.18.	-	1	-	-	-	-
23.8.18.	-	2	-	-	-	-
24.8.18.	-	4	-	-	-	-
25.8.18.	1	1	-	-	-	-
26.8.18.	-	2	-	-	-	-
27.8.18.	-	1	-	-	-	-
28.8.18.	-	-	-	-	-	-

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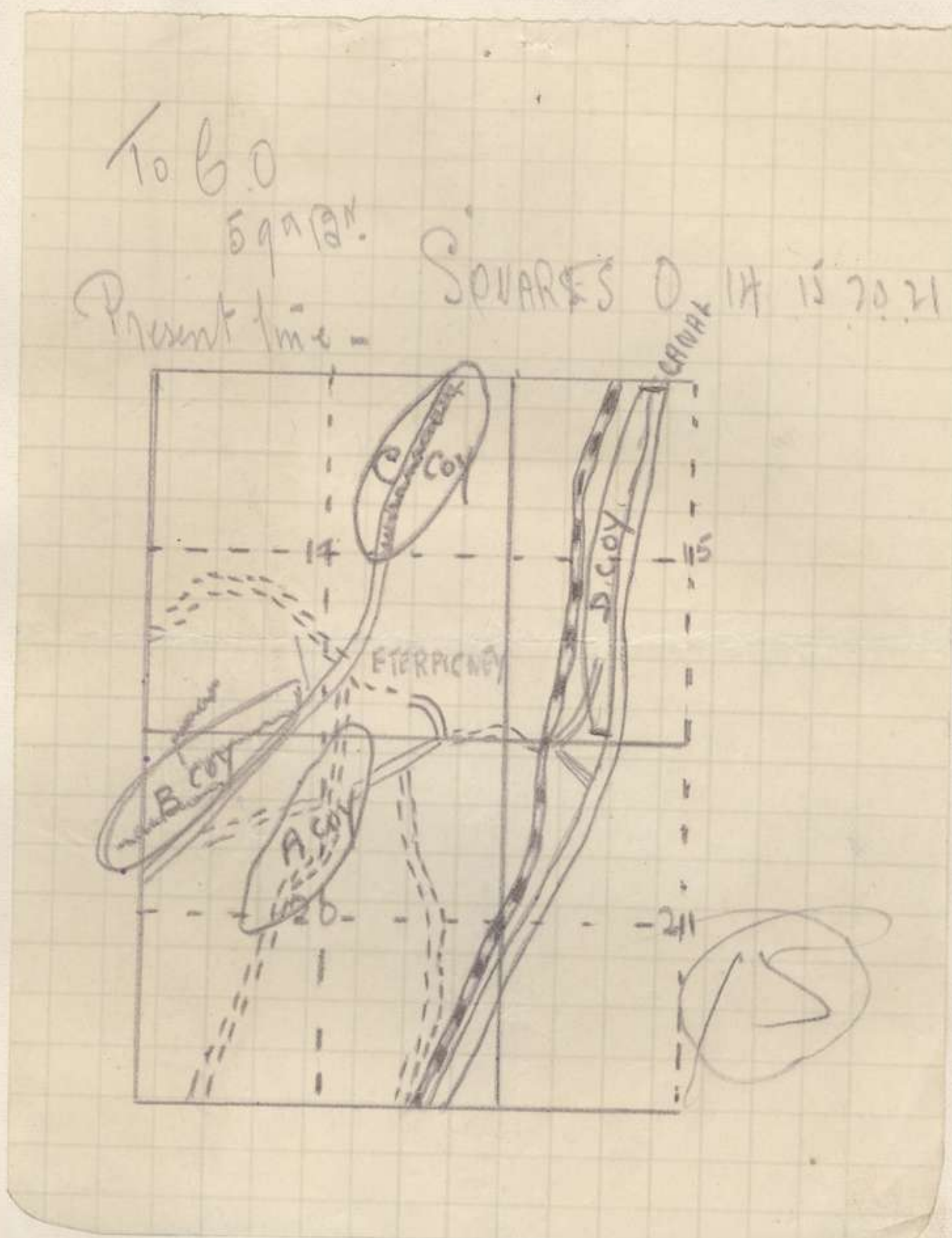
SUMMARY OF MESSAGES.

Date.	Time.	From.	To.	Message.
28.8.18.		RUZO.	Bde.Units. (59th Bn.)	Unit Commanders will rest the men as much as possible tonight aaa Breakfast will be completed before 9 a.m. tomorrow aaa Restrict movement to a minimum aaa
29.8.18.	1.25 a.m.	RUZO.	GODE	The Brigadier will see Unit Commanders at Brigade Headquarters at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow aaa
29.8.18.	7.6 a.m.	RUZO.	GODE.	Stand by ready to move 9 a.m.
29.8.18.	7.45 a.m.	RUZO	GODE.	Unit Commanders report Brigade Hqrs. 8.15 a.m.
29.8.18.	8.20 a.m.	RUZO	59th Bn.	Move forward at 9 a.m.
29.8.18.		Lt.J.C. Christian.	C.O. 59th Bn.	I am with 29th Battn.Hqrs. at N.13.a.70 moving to N.18.c.7.7. immediately. Line at approx. N & S grid thro' O.13.central,O.19.central.
29.8.18.	11.15 a.m.	58th Bn.	59th Bn.	Halted N.29.a & b. aaa In touch with "C" Coy. 30th Battn. in front and 57th Bn. on left.
29.8.18.	11.40 a.m.	Capt. D.W.Fair.	Adjt.	Left group of Advanced Guard report that they have been unable to get in touch with 2nd Division on left.
29.8.18.	11.40 p.m.	Lt.J.C. Christian.	C.O. 59th Bn.	The approx. line is now through O.14.central N.S. grid line working steadily forward.
29.8.18.	11.55 a.m.	Advanced RUZO.	All units.	Bns. will halt and take cover approx. 1,000 yards behind present 8th Brigade positions aaa Unit Commanders will report to Adv.Bde.Hqrs. in brickworks N.30.a. for conference.
29.8.18.	12.15	Lieut. Sutherland, O.C. "A" Coy.	Lt.Col. Scanlan, D.S.O.	Mr.Hawkins is out to get in touch with 58th Bn. He has not yet reported. I can see troops whom I take to be 58th about 600 to our right.
29.8.18.	12.20 p.m.	Lieut. J.Sutherland.	Lt.Col. Scanlan, D.S.O.	Am in touch with left platoon of 58th Bn. Approx. ref. N.24.b and d.
29.8.18.	12.45 p.m.	Lt.S.T. Herriot.	59th Bn. C.O. 59th Bn.	Have come in touch with Lt.Christian with 29th B.H.Q. at N.18.c.4.3. No further information other than in Lt.Christian's message. Shall I remain here or move further forward. Met 32nd M.O. at N.13.6.3. 29th B.H.Q. have just sent a runner forward to get approx. front line.
29.8.18.	1.50 p.m.	Lt.J.C. Christian.		The line along the bank of Canal N & S with "D" Coy. "A" Coy. have cleared Canal bank and retired to position marked on map. All bridges blown up ex cept foot bridge at O.15.c.4.1. Artillery and M.G. fire very heavy.

Map attached

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Date.	Time.	From.	To.	Message.
29.8.18.	4.35 p.m.	Lt. J.C. Christian. (for C.O. 59th Bn.)	Adj. 59th Bn.	Send cyclist at once to guide Bn. Cookers and two water carts aaa We are relieving the 29th 29th Bn. in our own boundaries tonight.
29.8.18.	6.30 p.m.	Lt. J.C. Christian.	C.O. GODE	Quarry at O.14.a.0.9. suitable for B.H.Q. No accomodation but plenty of iron and material to build. Advise you send up party of H.Q. if possible to erect shelters.
30.8.18.	7.15 a.m.	Lt. Hawkins.	C.O. 59th Bn.	Am at present at approx. O.3.c.central aaa Have joined Christian and have nothing to report further than contained in his message which accompanies this; will endeavour to find out more.



Diary of Regimental Quartermaster for the month of August, 1918.

- August.
1st. Location. PETIT ST, JEAN, near AMIENS. Q.M's staff busy on issuing clothing, service dress, to replace unserviceable. Boot repairs pushed on. Wagons of transport inspected by myself and Transport Officer for defects.
- 2nd. Special trip to D.A.D.O.S. for clothing to complete special indents. Clothing received and issued. Pioneers make discs, 1 per man, for future use in contact work with aeroplanes. All material has to be salvaged as no Engineer dumps are available here. Sanitary accommodation increased by pioneers.
- 3rd. Tradesmen on usual duties. Pioneers make and paint signboards, painted on both sides with Battalion colours, to be used on the tanks of 59th Battalion during coming operations.
- 4th. Preparations to move. Issues of dubbin made for boots, anti-dimming outfits for gas helmets, and Field Dressings. Mobilization Stores on charge to Companies made up to necessary scale. Tradesmen close shops. All surplus stores, tools, men's packs and officers' valises, moved to a store at HEM, under guard till required. Wagons loaded and move to CAMON at 10 p.m., arriving at 1 a.m. Blanket wagon unloaded and wagons and blankets distributed to Companies. Drivers and storemen then guided to billets for the remainder of the night. Watercarts despatched for water for cooks in time for breakfast.
- 5th. Battle stores drawn from Brigade Q.M. consisting of, to be carried on the man, Cutters, wire, Waterbottles, M.S. pattern, 1 per man. Extra sets of packsaddlery also drawn. Prismatic compasses checked to see that all Os.C. are in possession of one. Ground Flares and S.O.S. Signals drawn from Brigade Q.M. and to be carried till required. M. and V. tins being collected for the making of puddings (trench) for use when in action. These tins are cut round open, scalded and scrubbed in hot soda water, then the rough edges are taken off before sending to the Sergeant Cook (S/Sgt. J. Hepburn). Special parade of all Company Q.M.Ss. for instructions and directions re issuing and accounting for, later, of losses in Battle Stores. Blankets again loaded and transport moves at 11 p.m. to vicinity of BLANGY TRONVILLE. On arrival all bivouac for the remainder of the night.
- 6th. Reveille at 4.30 a.m. and ordered to move to new location nearer BLANGY TRONVILLE, owing to congestion of transport lines; move completed and stores erected. Wagons unloaded and more Battle Stores drawn, also 1 extra iron ration per man drawn and issued. Requisitioned for, drawn and issued, as per orders, the following:- Waterbottles, filled, 1 per man; S.A.A. 1 bandolier per man; Sandbags 2 per man; Special Rum issue made. 8,000 cigarettes, a gift of the Y.M.C.A., sent to the Battalion, and were much appreciated, owing to the prevailing scarcity. The following were forwarded to the Adjutant, message rockets, S.O.S., Success signals, ground flares, Tank boards, signallers' stores, and echelon picks and shovels by limber, ready for use. A hot meal consisting of tea, steaks, vegetables and emergency biscuit puddings left the store at 9 p.m. for the Battalion, also 1 quart of water per man for refilling extra waterbottles.

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7th.

2.

APPENDIX 29 137

Breakfast leaves at 5 a.m., consisting of tea, porridge and bacon, all in hot boxes. Pioneers are working hard, making these, and extra ones likely to be required when stunt goes off. Hand grenades, 2 per man, drawn and sent to Battalion H.Q. Rations, wet and dry sent to the same place and at the same time tonight, and the wagons packed ready for advance on the word, after the attack.

8th

Breakfast (tea, porridge and bacon) left the store at ~~10.15~~ 12.15 a.m. to reach the battalion before ZERO hour. Moved at 9 a.m. to BAYONVILLERS; camp on site where German field guns still exist but without the gunners. Rear B.O.R. now accompany Transport. Supply wagons following up on road are picked up and guided to location. Rations sandbagged and made ready for despatch to Battalion on finding new position. Hot meal ready at 9 p.m. Shelled by a long range gun and move about 1,000 yards from junction of roads. Camp here for the night. Special rum issue drawn and forwarded to Battalion. Battalion Post Office detached to receive incoming mail during the advance, and blankets sent back under a guard, till required.

9th.

Moved stores to GUILLAUCOURT. Guide sent back to bring in supply wagons. Water being carted long distances. Wagons used to bring down captured guns, telephones etc. A great deal of material. List being prepared and dump formed under Brigade arrangements. Hot meal forwarded to Battalion also enough water to fill all bottles.

10th.

Breakfast, hot, consisting of tea, bacon and porridge, leaves store at 5 a.m., wagons bringing back empty hotboxes and tins, and captured material. Trophies with list, handed over to Brigade Guard. Warned to move. X Transport loaded and move at 11.30 a.m. for DAOURS. After arrival at 4 p.m. proceed to HEM near AMIENS for officers' valises etc., Wagon despatched for men's mail, also one for blankets. Both arrive and are distributed. 1 wagon sent to Australian Comforts fund and comforts drawn, as follows:- 4 cases sweets; 4 cases puddings; 1 case tobacco; 1 case cigarettes; 1 gramophone; 4 cases sauce; 1 case pickles; 1 case of cakes; 3 sets Boxing gloves; 6 balls; 4 bats; 2 cases honey; 48 packs Playing cards.

Pioneers report all correct on arrival after burying 59th Battalion men found killed in action. Arrive from HEM with valises etc., at 2.30 a.m., by motor transport.

X Existing sanitary accomodation improved by Sanitary Corporal and squad

11th.

Battle stores, also Mobilization stores checked to ascertain losses and deficiencies in action. Indents called for and submitted to D.A.D.O.S. for losses and deficiencies by Signallers and Lewis Gunners. Guns, Lewis, 5 replaced from Gun Park. Refitting of clothing considered unserviceable takes place. Comforts drawn and issued, the puddings being heated with midday meal and working out at $\frac{1}{2}$ lb per man. The pudding is much appreciated and is the basis of many lighthearted jokes upon the cooks. Sgt. Bootmaker Rawlinson and Tailor O'Brien proceed on leave to the United Kingdom. Battalion Officers' Mess formed. Pioneers make the necessary furniture. Extra sanitary accomodation again supplied; sufficient for a battalion. Boots inspected by Company Commanders and reports sent to B.O.R. on necessary repairs. Bootmakers take repairs in hand with instructions to work all night.

12th.

Proceed to HEM by Motor Transport with loading party. Bring all Battalion stores dumped to DAOURS. Guard reports with same. Sports material issued. Casualty packs returned to store for disposal after issue of packs to Companies. Clean supply of underclothing drawn. Men attend baths and return soiled articles to store for return to Baths Officer. Post office erected for

receiving /

August

12th.

receiving and despatching mail matter. Gas equipment inspected by Battalion Gas N.C.O and defective articles replaced. Warned to move early in morning and all shops and post office close

13th.

Reveille at 3.45 a.m. Wagons loaded. Surplus stores, valises, packs etc, placed in store under guard. Cookers proceed with Battalion. Transport moves to GUILLAUCOURT WOOD and flannelette and oil supply sent forward to companies on arrival. Wet rations sent forward to cookers which are still with battalion. Australian mail to June 23rd arrives.

14th.

Pioneers making hot boxes. Others collect petrol tins from adjacent roads. Picks and shovels sent forward to B.O.R. Rations, both wet and dry go forward.

15th.

Warned for move. Wagons loaded and standing by all day. Pioneers bury a soldier of this Battalion in the cemetery, and erect a cross (Private Clark). Cookers report back to transport lines. Move at 8.45 p.m. for new sector. After arrival breakfast leaves cookers at 1 a.m. for Battalion near MORCOURT. All bivouac for remainder of night.

16th.

Accompany Transport Officer to inspect site for new lines nearer to Battalion. Move to Canal bank near CERISY. Visit battalion to find location. Hot meal (evening) sent up at 8 p.m., also 2 water carts to refill bottles. Breakfast leaves store at midnight.

17th.

Pioneers report to Battalion Headquarters to erect H.Q. Guide sent back to pick up supply wagons and direct to new location. Dump formed for "Salvage" which is abundant. Blankets of battalion sent for to be on hand if required.

18th.

Cookers sent nearer to Battalion to save transport and to be nearer water supply. Salvage is arranged to be collected from forward and sent down daily. Large quantities about. Fly safe erected by pioneers.

19th.

Salvage, 8 loads, (Limbers) sent to Divisional Dump, including over 400 rifles. Cookers report back to Transport lines, owing to likelihood of valley being gassed. Evening meal sent up in hot boxes.

20th.

Bootmaker sent to Brigade Nucleus to look to boots of 59th Battalion men there, also material sent with him. All spare men collecting and counting German captured equipment for despatch to the rear. Stores drawn from D.A.D.O.S., and issued.

21st.

3 wagon loads of salvage and trophies sent back. Canteen established near Battalion Headquarters. Rations as usual. Officer placed in charge of salvage operations forward. Gramophone forwarded to Battalion Headquarters to liven up odd moments.

22nd.

More salvage returned after listing. Warned likely to move to VAIRE. Send part of transport on with blankets and spare boxes. Rations as usual. Supply of vegetables now good.

23rd.

Move to VAIRE and camp on Canal. Change of clothing drawn. ~~XXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Packs and valises brought up from rear store, and issued. Sanitary accommodation provided. Present arrangements practically NIL. Ration wagons guided to new spot and now issued in bulk to C.Q.M.Ss.

28th
August.

Clothing drawn from D.A.D.O.S. to satisfy ^{Company} demands. Complete change of underclothing issued and ^{sorted} articles (one for one) returned to store. Balance of surplus kit brought from DACURS to VAIRE with guard. Pioneers make necessary furniture for Officers' Mess. Proceed to PETIT ST. JEAN with limber and purchase load of vegetables for battalion, returning next morning. Bootmakers push on again in limited time to boot repairs of Battalion.

25th. Tradesmen as usual, including fat recovery merchant. Amount of fat returned this month to date 1,750 lbs. Last month we obtained the second for the Division, nearly 3,000lbs. Rations as usual in bulk to C.Q.M.Ss.

26th. Rear store for surplus gear again formed at VAIRE Chateau, under guard. C.O. with Adjutant inspects Transport lines, Q.M's stores and billets. Bootmakers' report shows repairs to boots, 115 pairs, new issues 48 pairs, in three days, with staff of 3 men, Sgt. Bootmaker being on U.K. leave. This includes repairs to nucleus and details marched in. One wagon load of salvage and captured guns sent to D.A.D.O.S. Complete lists now filed with Brigade Salvage Officer, Lieut. Anderson. Lists very heavy.

27th. General Routine. Nucleus march out.

28th. Valises, packs, hats, stationery boxes, stores and blankets on wagons ready for move. Move at 3 p.m. for PROYART. Cookers proceed with Battalion and move back to lines after evening meal. Enemy aeroplane bombs and machine guns lines. Casualties - 1 horse shot in nose. Dry rations sent in sandbags to Battalion.

29th. Breakfast leaves at 2 a.m. Move at 9 a.m. to ESTRES. Cookers sent to Battalion near BARLEUX. No shops opened as we are liable to move. R.Q.M.S. Oates sent back to guide ration wagons from Supply section to new location. B.O.R. established in old German trench. 12'x10' canvas shelter only protection from weather. Lieut. Sansom in charge.

30th. Reveille at 5.30 a.m., move at 8 a.m. to H.9.a. central. Cookers report to Battalion after evening meal. Water being carted long distances owing to scarcity of wells. Rations sent by pack mule to Battalion Headquarters, water same. Shelling, heavy. Difficult to obtain the return of petrol tins.

31st. Breakfast, porridge, tea and bacon, leaves cooks at 1 a.m. The Bootmaker and Tailor report from U.K. leave. Comforts drawn as follows:- Cocoa and Milk, 5 cases; biscuits, 5 cases; cigarettes 2 cases; tobacco 2 cases; puddings 1 case; cigarettes issued and greatly appreciated. Local supply practically nil. No canteens available. Evening meal, consisting of steak, tea, vegetables and puddings forwarded after dusk. Water supply, 1 quart per man, also sent forward. Amount of fat returned, 2090lbs (approx.) (Awaiting A.S.C. Railhead weights)

Supplies from Supply Coy. A.S.C. for the month were good, the increase in vegetables being noted.

Issues from D.A.D.O.S. also good and being kept well up to time for delivery.

Salvage List for month very heavy, as per list sent to the Brigade Salvage Officer, Lieut. Anderson.

sd/ W. May, Captain.