

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/76/32

Title: 59th Infantry Battalion

September 1918



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268

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

59th Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

~~September~~
~~August~~

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Armond Baker Lt
adjt

Signature of Officer Commanding

Heenan Lt Col

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronnin	1/9/18		The weather continues fine & warm.	
			A quiet night was spent. Zero hour for 2nd Division Stunt on our left was received at about 3.30 A.M. - Zero hour 6 A.M.	app No 1.
			At 8 A.M. in view of this Stunt and the position we made out the 14th Brigade to be in, it was reckoned that Tutz would have retired in the sector opposite us. Front line companies were ordered to push out patrols. try to get in touch with enemy and establish posts to protect the bridgehead.	app No 1
		9 A.M.	The C.O. moved forward with some signallers and runners to B company's H.Q., where he is establishing a Battalion forward Station.	
		9.10	A telephone message was sent to Brigade detailing the situation. Our patrols had gone across the road bridge & railway bridge in I. 33 d. but are held up by Machine Gun fire. The remainder of two companies have dribbled across.	
		10 A.M.	The C.O. rang back from forward Battalion to Adjutant to send up. A.C's - C & D companies. - B company is going forward to quarry along railway line. Adjutant to remain at present H.Q. till further orders. C.O. is in touch with	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	1/9/18		Some elements of 14th Brigade who are out of touch with the rest of their Brigade.	
		11.5 AM.	From C.O. to Adjutant re situation - one platoon 59th Battalion and two platoons 58th Battalion are across in 34 A. and are held up by Machine Guns.	
			Lt Sutherland with A company is at Second Railway Bridge. C.O. wants wood in 29 A.I.C. bombarded by artillery. This was arranged with artillery Liaison Officer.	
			From near Battalion H.Q. O.P. a Machine Gun could be observed firing from lip of Quarry in I 34 A. Liaison officer got fire to beat on it - Shrapnel and H.E. mixed - and the gun was silenced.	
		11.15 AM.	Lt Kirkham C Coy rang up about the location of a 77 mm. battery - firing from P6 A.I.C. Heavies were notified.	
		11.20	C.O. rang up for I.O. to go down to him.	
		11.30	Brigade Staff arrived and took over Battalion H.Q. as Brigade H.Q. The Brigade I.O. is with the C.O. at Forward H.Q.	
		11.35	Rang C.O. about shoot on wood asked for and whizz-bang battery in 6 A.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	1/9/18	12.45 p.m.	The Adjutant moved to Forward H.Q. The C.O. has gone across the canal to consult with Major Ferris - C.O. of 58th Battalion and Capt McDonald. Capt Doyle - Brigade I.O., informed me that two companies of 58th Battalion were going to work along the road, and outskirts of Peronne. Two companies of ours are going along the railway line towards Hamicourt. Two Stokes Guns are going with our two companies. Two more Stokes Guns are unplaced in mound at 1.33 B.S.O. to cover the advance.	App 3.
		1.5 p.m.	C.O. rang for harassing fire on road in 29 A.Y.C. to be stopped for the time being.	
		3 p.m.	Battalion H.Q. moved to O. 33. C.S.O. A company is held up by a Machine Gun post on the railway and is suffering a number of casualties. Its Pentreath and Telfer have both been wounded.	
		3.30	C.O. went across canal to find out situation, and then went to Brigade H.Q. to report on it. On his report the idea of an advance in that direction was abandoned and further attempts to push along railway were stopped.	
		4 p.m.	C.O. phoned C.O.'s 58th and 57 in regard to situation	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	1/9/18	5pm.	Dispositions for the night were settled and order sent out. One company (A) is being withdrawn across the canal and the other two companies are being disposed as shown on appended sketch. B company is still on this side of canal. During the day and evening the position was shelled intermittently with 7 1/2 and 4.2's. Machine gun fire was extremely active. all movement was sniped at	app No 5
		9.30	Rations arrived and were carried to two forward companies by C. company. A quiet night was spent after that.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	2/9/18	4 AM	The weather continues fine + warm. A message was received from Brigade to be prepared to move at 6 AM. The CO. was called to a conference at Brigade and immediately on his return a conference of company commanders was held. We are to move at once through Peronne to the other side, and at zero + 70 go through the 14 th Brigade. Objectives and all instructions were given verbally to company commanders.	
		6 AM	The Battalion commenced to move. CO. led companies through the town which was being heavily shelled both by the enemy and our own artillery. When the Battalion got across, they found that 14 th Brigade had not gained their objective, and were being held up in front of cemetery and Quinonce Wood on N.W. side of Peronne. Our companies got into position in the line after suffering heavy casualties from shell fire and machine guns. Battalion H.Q. was established at I 27. B.O. 8. Our companies	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	2/9/18		<p>managed to push the line forward a short distance and linked up with 58th Battalion on the right who were mopping up the town. Throughout the day, they were subjected to very heavy shelling and machine gun fire. also gas was very bad. Battalion HQ was shelled all day with Howitzer and H.V. guns. Arrangements were made later in the afternoon for the 59th Battalion to take over from the 55th and 56th Battalions, who only had remnants left in the line. The whole line was reorganised into a Brigade front and the relief completed by 10.30 p.m. Battalion HQ was established at 1.26. B.2.8. Rations were brought right up to a point at 1.27. B.1.9. - a splendid performance on the part of the Transport under the circumstances as the area was constantly under heavy shell fire. Rations went out to the companies all right. During the night fighting patrols were sent out and the line pushed forward. about 200 yards. All four companies are in the line and the 60th Battalion are in support under the orders of our C.O.</p>	App. No. 2.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Cronne	3/9/18		<p>The weather is fine and hot.</p> <p>A quiet day was spent. Most of the enemy shelling was behind the front line, but Machine gun fire is still being experienced and it is difficult to push posts forward.</p> <p>Intelligence report giving summary of events is appended.</p> <p>C.O. held a conference with CO. 60th Battalion and it was decided that 60th Battalion should leapfrog fighting patrols through our front line and establish posts as far forward as possible, keeping in touch with 2nd Division on left.</p> <p>This was carried out at night and posts now established to conform with right flank of 2nd Division. Two companies of 60th Battalion were then leapfrogged through.</p> <p>During the evening an attempt was made to move Battalion H.Q. further forward.</p> <p>Gas shelling by the enemy however, made the situation chosen untenable and it had to be decided to remain in present position.</p>	<p>App. No 6 & 7</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	3/9/18		Reports in connection with the operation were not received until early in the morning and were included in the Intelligence Summary.	app. No 6
	4/9/18		<p>The weather continues fine.</p> <p>Enemy shelling has slackened considerably and most of it is in rear of the front line. Peronne is still being heavily shelled. Orders for relief were received and arrangements made accordingly. The 30th Battalion is to relieve our Battalion with one company.</p> <p>at 3pm. a conference was held at our H.Q. between our C.O. - Co. of 30th Battalion and Co. 60th Battalion and details of the relief were arranged. An advance party was sent to Brigade to arrange our dispositions in new area and act as guides when the companies came out. After the conference in the afternoon Battalion relief order was issued to companies.</p>	app No 2

Near Peronne

B

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	4/9/18		<p>A and D companies, with one platoon each of B & C companies moved out at dusk. The remaining platoons were left as a nucleus garrison to hand over to the incoming unit.</p> <p>Just after the companies had passed Battalion H.Q. on their way out, an order was received from Brigade, to stand fast on the move back, and keep the Battalion in trenches near Battalion H.Q. in preparation for a move forward again in the morning, as it had been found that the Boche was retiring. It was too late to stop them and in consequence they had a long march back unnecessarily, as orders had to be issued to move up again early the following morning. The men were exhausted after the severe fighting of the previous few days and many were suffering from the effects of gas, with which the area was drenched. It was 3.30 AM. before the last platoon arrived at the billeting area and</p>	<p>app No 8</p> <p>app No 12</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	4/9/18		even then most of the companies spent the night in an open trench.	
	5/9/18		At 5 a.m. orders were received to move forward again at 6 a.m., but when the Battalion moved off, B Coy and a few men of A Coy refused to go forward. The remainder of the Battalion moved across the canal and took up a position in support of the 54th Battalion. During the day the Brigadier spoke to B Coy and after the situation had been explained to them, they rejoined the Battalion. The CO. went forward to reconnoitre and consult with CO. 54th Battalion. During the afternoon it was decided to move forward as the 54th had advanced, but before the Battalion moved a message giving details of a relief arrived. advance party was sent to arrange disposition in I.32. and at 8 p.m. the Battalion moved. all companies are in comfortable shelter. Battalion Hq. at O. 2. 6. 7. 3.	app. No. 9 app No. 9.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	6/9/18		The weather is still fine and warm.	
			The Battalion has been resting all day.	
			The line has now gone forward and this is no longer a shelled area. A clean change of underclothing was obtained from Brigade and issued throughout the Battalion.	
		3 p.m.	A message was received from Brigade detailing a move forward and position to be occupied. The route across the canal was reconnoitred during the afternoon.	
		7.30	Unit (including band) marched in under Lt McPherson	
		9 p.m.	A conference of all officers was held at Battalion H.Q. C.O. detailed move tomorrow and subsequent action, gave boundaries and objectives of the Division and also of the 15th Brigade. C.O. also spoke to officers regarding discipline and getting to know what is going on in their companies. also in reference to candidates for immediate commission.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne. to Le Mesnil	7/9/18		<p>The weather continues warm.</p> <p>The CO. was called to a conference at Brigade at 8.45 A.M.</p> <p>Preparations for the move were completed.</p> <p>At 11.30 A.M. the Battalion moved out in usual order of march and marched to O.12. on the outskirts of Le Mesnil.</p> <p>En route the canal and adjoining swamps were crossed on wooden bridge being constructed by 5th Australian Engineers and Pioneers, and through the village of Le Mesnil which is a heap of ruins. Arrived at new location at 1.20 p.m. The whole battalion are billeted in old British huts which have been partially wrecked by the enemy.</p> <p>A hot meal was served from cookers soon after arrival.</p> <p>A meeting of unit commanders was held at Brigade at 2 p.m. Brigade Major came to dinner. Lt Sansom took over duties of acting Adjutant.</p>	app No. 13.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Le Meauil	8/9/18		The weather continues fine but windy.	
			Early this morning enemy aeroplanes dropped bombs in the vicinity of the camp.	
			In accordance with order from Brigade the Battalion rested	app No 9.
			Everything possible was done to add to comfort and cleanliness of billets. The men paraded in bare feet in their huts for foot inspection by the M.O.	
			B company was temporarily disbanded and personnel distributed amongst other companies. The cooker and cooks were transferred for the use of Battalion H.Q. details.	
			The C.O. and Q.M. proceeded on W.K. leave, Major Smith taking over command of the Battalion.	
			Narratives of operations from August 28th to September 4th	app No 10
			Sick Wastage Return	app. No 11

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Le Mesnil to Biaches	9/9/18		The weather continues fine but cooler and windy. The Brigade is to be relieved today by the 12 th Brigade and we are to move back to a new location.	
			The Battalion order for the move was issued and all preparations made. An advance party was sent to take over our new position. An early dinner was served and at 12.45 pm. the Battalion moved out and marched to O.8 a.m. The Band led the way and played throughout the march. En route we passed the 45 th and 46 th Battalions who were marching to our former location. We are billeted in shelters dug in the sides of old trenches.	app No. 14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	10/9/18		<p>The weather is squally. Rain fell during the night, and much inconvenience was caused owing to many of the shelters leaking. The day was devoted to cleaning up and improving shelters etc. Plenty of material is available from some old hutments nearby and the men are busily engaged in constructing shelters for themselves. Much ingenuity has been shown in planning many of these shelters, and the result should prove highly satisfactory. A tent has been erected for the C.O., and material obtained for building an officers mess and Battalion Orderly Room by the Battalion Pioneers. The trenches in which the Battalion is located, are situated on the crest and slopes of a hill overlooking the canal and railway. Battalion H.Q. at the junction of three trenches, and the three companies in these same trenches, approximately an equal distance from Battalion H.Q. Q.M. store and Transport lines are in a continuation of the same trench system about</p> <p>Letter of appreciation from G.O.C 5th Division</p>	<p>App. No 17.</p> <p>app. No 15</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10/9/18		400 yards distant. Valises and packs which had been left at Davie were brought up and issued. In the evening the band played selections.	
	11/9/18		The weather is still unsettled and showery. Company parades were held and necessary reorganisation carried out. Inspections of clothing and equipment were made and shortages and unserviceable articles replaced. Mobilization stores were collected and checked. a meeting of sports representatives was held and a programme of sports arranged. A football ground was prepared. Shell holes filled in etc. Officers' mess has been erected and general sanitary arrangements of camp completed.	
			Summary of operations 28.8.18 to 9.9.18	app No 16

Peronne
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne.	12/9/18		<p>The weather continues showery.</p> <p>A battalion parade was held in the morning, and men addressed by the CO. The remainder of the day, the Battalion rested or indulged in football practice etc.</p> <p>Marched in during the day Capt Neale, from Training Battalion Capt Chaplain Bruner + Lt McKay, from leave, Lt Baker from hospital and 2/Lt Day, Opie + Buckingham from reinforcements. Eight other ranks also marched in - all old men returning. A football team has been selected to meet a team from the 60th Battalion tomorrow.</p> <p>The band again played and was much appreciated. Considerable improvement is noted in the playing.</p> <p>Sick Wastage Return</p> <p>Corps News Sheet</p>	
				<p>app No 18</p> <p>19</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
near Peronne	13/9/18		<p>The weather continues unsettled and showery. Battalion parade was held this morning. The Divisional Baths were at the disposal of the Battalion today and after parade, men were marched down to the baths by companies, for bath and clean change.</p> <p>In the afternoon, the first round of the football matches was commenced. This battalion meeting the 60th Battalion on our ground. An interesting game resulted, and despite the fact that a number of our best players have been lost during the recent operations, the finish was very close, and resulted in a win for the 60th Battalion.</p> <p>In the evening two enemy aeroplanes, on a bombing raid over our lines were brought down in flames.</p>	app No 9

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	14 9 18		<p>The weather is improving, only occasional light showers of rain having fallen during the day.</p> <p>A Brigade parade was held at 10.30 AM. It was anticipated that Mr Hughes Prime Minister of Australia, would be present. The parade was inspected by the Brigadier, and as Mr Hughes had not arrived, battalions were ordered to carry on with training until further orders. At 12 o'clock the Prime Minister not having put in an appearance, battalions were ordered to march off to their respective billeting areas.</p> <p>A party of 1914 personnel left today for six months furlough, to Australia, - Lt Mc Broom - our Transport Officer being the only representative from our Battalion. Lt McKay has taken over the duties of Transport Officer.</p> <p>The football match between our battalion and 58th this afternoon resulted in a victory for us.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Penonne	15/9/18		The weather is now more settled and today has been bright and moderately warm. Church parades were held during the morning on the battalion parade ground. The Band provided accompaniment for the singing of hymns.	
			The Brigade School reassembled today at Two Lanevie 0.14.1388. Twenty N.C.O.s and aspirant N.C.O.s, in addition to seven aspirant officers, and three other ranks as instructional and office staff, attended from this Battalion. Lt McPherson was detailed as musketry instructor. Football match was played between our battalion and Brigade Headquarters, in the afternoon on our own ground and resulted in an easy win for us.	app. No

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Teroume	16/9/18		The weather continues fine & mild. Training has commenced today. The mornings only is to be devoted to parades, the afternoons being left open to the men, to enjoy themselves by taking part in organised games of various descriptions. With this end in view the men are being encouraged to take part in the football matches, swimming tests and practice for the various events in the Battalion Sports which are being arranged at a later date. Winners of events will be chosen to represent the Battalion at the Brigade Sports meeting which is to be held on 28 th inst.	App No 20
			A comprehensive "Syllabus of Training" has been drawn up by the C.O. and covers a wide range of subjects including all the specialist branches. Every effort has	App No 20

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	16/9/18		has been made to vary the work as much as possible and to make the training as interesting as possible. Lt. Col. C.V. Watson has taken over command of the Brigade during the temporary absence of Brig. Gen. Elliot at an inter-allied tank conference.	app No 26
			At 2 p.m. a Brigade parade and inspection of transport took place. The inspection was made by Lt. Col. C.V. Watson temporarily commanding the Brigade. all units were very well turned out. Our transport compared more than favourably with those of the other units of the Brigade. The Brigadier addressed the men and complimented them on the turnout and the work which they had evidently put in to achieve such a good result. The Battalion having	app. No 26

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	16/9/18		<p>a bye today in the football competitions, a scratch match was played by two teams from the Battalion and a few promising new players unearthed.</p> <p>Lecture by Commander Spicer-Brown R.N. on "anti-Submarine Warfare" or the functions of the grand fleet was given at 54th Battalion H.Q. at 2.30 p.m. All available officers & NCOs of the Brigade attended. This lecture proved both interesting and instructive and threw considerable light on the operations of our sister service. The methods of dealing with the submarine pest were explained, and many interesting figures quoted by the lecturer, who was accorded a very attentive hearing.</p>	App. No 26

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	17/9/18		<p>The weather continues fine and fairly warm.</p> <p>The Battalion Band reported to the Brigade School at 6 AM for duty for the day. Meals were sent to the members of the band during the day, the school being situated only a short distance from our camp.</p> <p>Battalion parade at 9 AM. After battalion parade companies carried on with the Training Syllabus.</p> <p>The Divisional Baths were allotted to the Battalion during the afternoon and all ranks availed themselves of the opportunity to bathe. Our football team was beaten by the 57th Battalion on 54th ground. This completes the first round of the competition, the 59th Battalion now standing second to the 60th who have won every match.</p> <p>Capt R.M. Shaw reported for duty as R.M.O. from 15th ans.</p>	app No 26

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	17/9/18		Field ambulance. Hewill take over from Major McLeiland who is marching out to the 8th Field Ambulance. a quantity of Comforts funds gifts, principally biscuits and cigarettes were received and distributed. Lt Sanson Adjutant marched out to U.K. on furlough.	app. No 26
	18/9/18		The weather continues fine but gradually growing cooler. Battalion Parade at 9 A.M. At 9.30 A.M. the Staff-Captain - Capt. Lay lectured the battalion on "Supplies". The lecturer explained the methods whereby the rations were supplied to the troops in the field, and incidentally cleared up many misunderstandings as to the reasons for an apparent shortage of any particular commodity. after the lecture, companies carried on with harning as	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Toronue	18/9/18		usual. at 2 p.m. the CO. held orderly Room and dealt with a number of cases. The football team indulged in practice for the semi-final matches which take place tomorrow afternoon. Our Battalion is to meet the 57th on the 58th ground. Intimation was received that the following appointments to commissioned rank have been approved: 2059 Sgt (T) C.S.M.) of Para and 4608 Sgt of Inceve.	
	19/9/18		The weather continues fine with cool winds. Battalion parade followed by training as usual. Eight reinforcements marched in - all old men returning. Our football team met the 57th at 3 p.m. for the semi-final test. a very close game resulted - the 57th winning by one goal.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	20/9/18	6 AM	The weather still continues fine, cool and windy.	
		9 A.M.	The Band attended the Brigade School for duty for the day. Battalion Parade followed by training as laid down in Training Syllabus. The C.O. went to Divisional Headquarters as representative of the 15th Brigade, to accompany the Divisional Historian on a tour of inspection of the area covered by the 5th Division since the commencement of operations on August 8th 1918. A very interesting day was spent and much useful information collected for use by the Historian. The C.O. was able to point out many spots of interest, and to explain where and how certain situations had arisen, and the methods adopted to deal with them. Commencing from Villiers-Bretonneuse the operations were traced through the various stages	

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Near Peronne	20/9/18		to Harbonnieres via Bayonvillers, thence to the new sector near Meucourt - sur - Somme, through Morecourt, Proyard and Barleuse to the final and most difficult phase in which this Battalion took part. - the crossing of the Canal near Peronne, and the establishment of positions on the East side.	
		1.30 PM.	Medical inspection of the entire battalion by the R.M.O. Information was received that a further quota of 1914 personnel would be marching out on 23 rd inst. and for furlough in Australia. Our Battalion has been allotted a quota of seven other ranks.	
		3 PM.	A demonstration of a French Mortar bombardment was given by 15 th Aus L. T. M. Battery, on an old trench system about 1000 yards from our Headquarters. This was attended by all available officers.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne.	21/9/18	9 AM	<p>The weather continues fine</p> <p>Brigade Route March A short Route March headed by the Battalion Band in conjunction with the other units of the Brigade. On the return march the Brigade was watched marching into the billeting area by a party of English and Colonial Pressmen, who were visiting the Brigade. In the afternoon the tryouts for the Brigade Sports were held, to choose representatives from the Battalion, to compete in the various events. The Band was in attendance and played throughout the afternoon. The men displayed a keen interest in the trials, and a number of representatives were chosen. In addition a football match was played between two teams chosen in the Battalion.</p>	<p>App No. 26.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	22/9/18		<p>The weather continues fine and cool.</p> <p>Today being Sunday, no training but at 10 A.M. Church parades were held. These were attended by the Band who rendered assistance by providing music for the services. During the remainder of the day the men were free to rest or enjoy themselves.</p> <p>At 2 p.m. a cricket match was played between a team from the Battalion and one from the 15th Brigade School. The match was won by the Brigade School.</p>	
	23/9/18		<p>The weather is cooler with occasional light showers of rain. The Divisional Baths were available for the use of the Battalion this morning and the companies paraded there at intervals, commencing at 9.15 A.M.</p> <p>Clean changes of clothing were available at the Baths.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	23/9/18		<p>On return from Baths, the Companies carried on with Training in accordance with the Syllabus of Training. An inspection of Rifles by the Battalion armorer was commenced and necessary repairs were effected.</p> <p>Lt Beck, Hammond, Gallander and Sgt Tucker marched in from Schools.</p> <p>Disc reinforcements marched in all old men returning. Seven 1914 men marched out to Corps Staging camp en route for Australia on furlough.</p>	

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Near Peronne	24. 9. 18	9 AM	The weather continues fine. A battalion kit inspection was held, and particular attention was paid to the state of boots, all necessary repairs were carried out by the Battalion bootmakers. Lectures on the Care of feet were given by company officers.	
		10.30 AM	The Battalion went for a short route march carrying marching order, and accompanied by the Band. At 10.30 AM the CO went to Brigade Headquarters to attend a conference of unit commanders with the Brigadier. In the afternoon, the candidates for events in the Brigade sports carried on with practice and training. at 5.30 pm the C.O. was called to Brigade Headquarters to attend a conference with the Brigadier and the 60th Battalion commander with reference to the reorganisation of the Brigade. This battalion is to be reorganised into two companies (C and D). The 60th Battalion is also	App No 26

etc

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to be reorganised into two companies which will form 'A' and 'B' of the 59th, thus amalgamating the two battalions. This reorganisation to be complete by 26th inst.
Training Memorandum

app No. 24

25/9/18

9 AM.

The weather remains fine
Battalion parade was held and the work of reorganising into two companies carried on. At 10 AM. the C.O. accompanied by the adjutant visited the 60th Battalion H.Q.s and arranged details of reorganisation. In the afternoon the Brigade Sports were held near our lines. There was a large attendance and keen interest was displayed in all the events. Our band was present and played throughout the afternoon.
Col. Scallan returned from W.K. furlough.
Lt Hammond marched out on leave to W.K. Seven reinforcements marched in, all new men.

near Peronne

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne	26/9/18	9 AM	The weather continues fine. The C.O. and Adjutant went across to the two new companies, (the old 60th Bn) and found that they were refusing to join the 59th. The Brigadier arrived and addressed the men, and gave them half an hour to decide. He then interviewed representatives and explained the reasons and necessity for the amalgamation of the battalions. Meantime C & D companies had been marched across, and the whole battalion was formed up in mass. Col Scanlan then took over the whole parade and marched past the Brigadier. The 60th remained in their area and details of reorganisation carried on. Mobilisation Stores were returned to D. A. D. O. S. and Transport to Divisional Train. During the afternoon the CO was called to Brigade H.Q. to attend a conference of unit commanders. Preparations for the move were carried on. Mobilisation Stores were checked and issued. At night the CO held a conference of officers and gave details of the attack and all movements prior to it.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Peronne to Templeuve.	27/9/18		The weather continues fine with cool winds. Preparations for the move were continued. At 11.30 AM. the CO. was called to a conference at Brigade Hq. On his return all company commanders were called up and instructions issued. The Battalion Operation Order for the move was issued.	App. No 29
			Nucleus was detailed to remain when the Battalion marched out. Nucleus consisted principally of personnel detailed for schools, and 1914 personnel. The Band also remained with Nucleus. Before the Battalion moved off the Brigadier addressed A. & B. coys, and they then marched out without further trouble. The Battalion moved off at 2.30 PM, in column of route, and proceeded across the canal through Le Mesnil, Le Catelet and Brusle to the vicinity of Tricourt where a halt was called. The cookers, which had preceded the column, were waiting here and hot tea was prepared.	

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and served to the men.
At 7.30 p.m. the Battalion again moved through Lincourt, Bouchy and Roisel to the location allotted, about 1000 yds west of Templeux. This spot was reached at 10.30 p.m. The Battalion was billeted in dugouts and shelters on the side of a hill. Blankets were brought up and issued.

The weather is colder with occasional showers. Trench shelters were obtained from Brigade and issued. The C.O. was called to Brigade for a conference of unit commanders at 11 a.m.

Preparations were continued for the forthcoming attack. Bombs, ground flares etc were issued. The Battalion rested as much as possible only necessary work being

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From Near Peronne to Templeux

28/9/18

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Templese to Near Bellecourt	29/9/18		<p>This morning the Battalion moved out as part of the attacking Brigade, which was to pass through the 30th American Division, who were attacking the Hindenburg Line. Our battalion is to make an attack on the Beaurevoir Line. Reveille was at 4.30 a.m. At 5.30 a.m. a good breakfast was issued. all blankets and trench shelters were then collected and placed in store. At this time there was little enemy activity, the artillery fire being about the normal rate on a quiet front. The morning was enveloped in a thick fog which made observation very difficult. As the American attack commenced at 6 a.m., this was in full swing by the time our Battalion was to move. At 6.45 the Battalion moved out in the following order C.B. L.A. coys and H.Q. Our artillery was putting up a very heavy fire and the enemy seemed to be doing little, if any, counter battery work. We had no difficulty in our march to the</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Jamplense to Near Bellicourt	29 9 18		<p>approach line until we had passed Hargicourt, where the Boche was shelling fairly heavily all the valleys with gas. consequently we were forced to march with our gas-helmets on for some distance. Here we deployed into companies in lines of sections, and pushed on to the Brown Line. We had no further trouble other than the gas shelling until we crossed the American jumping-off line. (Brown Line) We had only gone 100 yds beyond this when we encountered M.G. fire. This was a most unexpected happening and the situation had to be realised immediately. Orders were given to deploy into extended order. A small party of Americans was noticed in front and the Adjutant went forward to see what they knew about the situation. This was on the Southern outskirts of Malakof Farm. It soon became apparent that these nests of Machine Guns had been overlooked in the American</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Bellicourt.	29 9 18		advance owing to the heavy fog and smoke barrage, which had made direction and observation most difficult. Here we were held up for some time and casualties were fairly heavy. The C.O. here observed a tank in the rear and at once brought it forward, getting in himself and directing to the rest of Machine Guns. The tank having silenced this fire, we pushed on to the Hindenburg Line, taking advantage of all available cover, as the Boche was still firing at us from the left flank. Artillery fire was now much heavier, but fortunately we had few casualties from the shells, most of our casualties being caused by M.G. fire. After we had left Malakof Farm behind, we came to the Quennemont Lane trench. Here we met with no opposition. Our artillery had cut the wire and greatly damaged the trench. The next line was the much discussed Hindenburg Line. We commenced getting through	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Bellecourt	29 9 18		<p>the wire in front of this system, (the belt of wire being 30 to 50 yards in depth. The C.O. and Adjutant were within 50 yards of this trench before they were aware that it was occupied, and very narrowly escaped being shot at short range. Fortunately a Lewis Gun team was up with the C.O. and these men with the assistance of a few rifles at once opened fire. The Hun post soon fled, and we succeeded in entering the trench. We then moved to the right and established our Battalion H.Q. in the Schindenberg Line at the junction with a Communication Trench at H.27. a. 4.4. This trench was very deep and wide and not in the best of repair. From our H.Q. we had good observation over the valley on the left flank. B company were now occupying the left of the trench and were ordered to push down to the left as far as possible. They had not gone far before they found that it was occupied by the enemy, who began bombing his way towards us. B company soon disposed of him and</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Benicourt.	29/9/18		<p>established a bombing block. A company were ordered to take up a position in the next line of trench in A 27. b. 2. 8, and Capt Dickson led his men to this trench, and got into touch with the 44th Battalion. The enemy was here observed to be holding the ridge in front of this trench strongly with machine guns and at 10.43 a.m. message was received from O.C. 'A' Coy. that he was engaging two enemy machine guns in the left end of C. I. leading to the ridge. 2/Lt Parr, who had pushed out to the left flank to small trench leading to foot of the slope, sent a message to say he was engaging the Germans, who were in the same trench, with rifle grenades, also that he was being fired on from unknown position with machine guns. The position here was very peculiar - A company who had pushed on to the forward trench, the old German support line, had extended and owing to the left flank being in the air, was experiencing rifle & m.g. fire from the front, left and rear.</p>	<p>App. No. 27</p> <p>App. No. 27</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near. Bullecourt	29/9/18		<p>This position had to be altered, and about 12.30 p.m. the Germans started another bombing attack along the main Hindenburg Line. By this time grenades were getting very scarce, owing to the number of casualties and the fact that this was the second bombing attack - but thanks to the supply of German Stick Bombs, with our own Mills grenades, we were able to stop the attack and push him along the trench for a considerable distance, thus easing the position of A company to some extent. This attack necessitated our sending back a message to Brigade - asking for grenades to be sent forward without delay. at 1.30 p.m. a report of the situation was sent to Brigade. The C.O. of the 44th Battalion arrived and after a conference with our C.O. decided to make the dug-out which was our Batt. H.Q., a H.Q. for both Co's. By this time the fire had slackened considerably, and we took advantage of the quiet spell to reorganise</p>	<p>App. No 28. App. No 28</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Bellicourt.	29 9 18		<p>the companies, and to straighten out other units which had become mixed. We then found that part of 6 coy. had become detached, and that Sgt Buckingham had stumbled into a nest of machine guns, near Ouenneumont Farm and with the few men he had, assisted by a handful of 44th Bn men, was holding a trench. He stayed there for some hours after he had been wounded by rifle bullet, then handing over these men to an officer of 44th Bn, reported to Bn HQ, and was sent off to the R.A.P. Our Bn HQ was heavily shelled for about an hour commencing at 2 o'clock, and Lt Doyle the artillery Liaison Officer, was wounded by a piece of shell and had to be evacuated. No other damage was caused by this shelling. About 4.30 p.m. the Co. received orders from Brigade to move the Battalion to Bellicourt, and support the 54th and 58th Battalions, who were going to push on to the green line. This Battalion to do the stunt originally intended for the 58th. At this juncture</p>	app. No 32

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Bellcourt	29 9 18		light rain commenced to fall, and the ground became very slippery and difficult. Owing to a change of plans the Battalion did not move to southern end of Bellcourt, but rested in sunken road, in the Hindenburg Line, west of Bellcourt. at 9.3 a.m. 8.3. The men were feeling tired, as the going had been very heavy, and all enjoyed the much needed rest. The Hindenburg Line at this spot was in a badly damaged condition, which testified to the accuracy of our artillery fire. a quiet night was spent in this position.	
	30 9 18		The weather was fine but cold. About 6 a.m. rations were brought up also Saa. and Bombs, the latter being much sought after by the men, who had expended their issue in the two bombing attacks on the previous day. The rations were plentiful and good, and the men were feeling fresh again, after the rest and a good meal. We remained in this position until 2 o'clock, when the	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Bellicourt	30 9 18		<p>Battalion was ordered to proceed to South East of Bellicourt and take up a position in trenches there. The C.O. and Adjutant went to 54th Bn H.Q. and both C.O.s held a conference to arrange the attack which was contemplated during the afternoon, on the Beaurvoir Line N.E. of Hawroy. Mean- while Capt Dickson moved the Battalion to the trenches which were to be our location. When the C.O. returned a conference of all officers was held. It was decided that the Battalion would move South East of Bellicourt to the Hawroy Line along the Riquival Ravine, to the Southern end of Hawroy, across the railway line. Then face due north, take up position on sunken road and push forward to Folimprise Farm. After the conference the C.O. decided to go to the 29th Battalion, who were holding the line on the right of this Brigade; and there discovered that they had made arrangements to do the same stunt at 4 o'clock and with artillery preparation.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Near Belcourt.	30/9/18		<p>The C.O. immediately notified Brigade, and of course, we stood fast. The companies were accommodated in the entrances and shafts leading down to the underground canal tunnel, and Battalion HQ located in a pill box on the edge of the town. At 10.15 pm. the C.O. was called to a conference at Brigade and on his return company commanders were called up, and orders issued for an attack the following morning. The 29th Bn had been held up and suffered severe casualties, and we were to go through them. The objective was about 1200 yards from the Nauroy - Lebatulet Line, which formed the jumping off line. Sectors were allotted and all detailed instructions given verbally to Company Commanders. Zero hour to be at 6 am.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30 9 18		<p>During the month the casualties were heavy, owing to the nature of the operations. A statement of casualties is appended.</p> <p>Receipts were received for a number of trophies which were forwarded to the Australian War Museum.</p> <p>A quantity of comforto funds gifts were received and issued. These are much appreciated, especially the Australian tobacco and cigarettes.</p> <p>A large quantity of fat was saved and returned to A.S.C.</p> <p>The work of the R.Q.M.'s department is summarised in the Q.M.'s Diary, which is appended.</p>	<p>App. No 36</p> <p>app. No 35</p> <p>app. No 37</p> <p>app. No 38</p> <p>app. No 39</p>

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WAR DIARY of

59th Battalion, A.I.F.
for the month of September, 1918.

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4.	Situation Report to accompany No 3.
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8.	Summary of messages.
9.	Summary of Messages.
10.	Narratives of Operations 28.8.18 to 4.9.18.
11.	Sick Wastage Return.
12.	R.M.O's Report.
13.	Operation Order No. 178
14.	Operation Order No. 179.
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18.	Sick Wastage Return.
19.	Australian Corps News Sheet.
20.	Battalion Circular Memorandum No 4. - Training.
21.	Message from Corps Commander.
22.	Sick Wastage Return.
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24.	Training Memorandum.
25.	Sick Wastage Return.
26.	Operation Order No 180.
27.	Operation Order No. 181.
28.	Approach March Order to accompany Operation Order No 181.
29.	Report on Operations 29th Sept. to 1st October, 1918.
30.	Summary of Messages.
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34.	List of Trophies to War Museum.
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36.	Return of Comforts Fund Gifts drawn.
37.	Monthly Fat Return.
38.	R.Q.M's Diary.
39.	Transport Officer's Diary.

SUMMARY OF MESSAGES

Date	Time	From	To	Message
10/18	3:13 a.m.	Ruzo	Gode	Zero hour 6 a.m. aa
10/18	3:50 a.m.	Capt. McDonald	Adjutant	The two T.M.s have been established. Correct locations to follow.
10/18	8:56 a.m.	Lt. J. Sutherland	C.O. 59 Battalion	My patrol has crossed bridge and are working along railway line. Are in touch with 14th Brigade patrols. I am establishing myself across bridge at once. Will report progress.
10/18	....	Lt. W.L. Hawkins	Adjutant	Reference your memo. - (1) Strength of posts - I N.C.O. and 6 men (2) the map reference I.33.d.3.9.1 is the Road Bridge - the mound in front is I.33.d.5.8. which I mentioned as being occupied by "B" company in my Disposition Report. The other side of the mound is occupied by "B" company 58th Battalion. Have not yet received report from Sutherland, but can observe him working along the railway line with no opposition whatever. The 58th are moving up slowly and are in touch with the 54th. The Engineers have discovered large mines under newly-built bridges in the town. NO word of "Mac." yet. Machine Guns much quieter, only two giving trouble. All O.K. otherwise.
10/18	9.5 p.m.	W. Lt. W.L. Hawkins	C.O. 59th	
10/18	....	R.M.O.	C.O. 59th Bn.	I have moved R.A.P. to O.2; b.6.4. - just on southern side of road. there is a fair amount of protection and sufficient accommodation.
10/18	9.50 a.m.	Col. Scenlon	Col. Scenlon	60th Bn. in area 22 a. in open in rear of your Bn. - 55 Bn. in front, have made approx. line 22 central running E. and West. have suffered heavy casualties. Have sent message to Bde. unwise to advance with present situation unless with intense artillery support. Heavy shelling on our area. Casualties fairly heavy including Jimmy Haddow and my I.O. Have dug in on order of Major Murray 53rd Btn. as he considers we are necessary here to hold line to which 56th Btn. have been pushed back. They have had very heavy casualties, and consider it would be useless for us to attack. On right of 56th Btn. who have got in touch with 2nd DIV. have sent to get in touch with 60th Btn. No reply in yet.
10/18	11:45 a.m.	O.C. "B" Coy.	C.O. 59th	
10/18	12:10 p.m.	O.C. "D" Coy.	C.O. 59th Btn.	Am digging in in front of cemetery. Am in touch with "B" coy on left "C" coy is also here. Casualties 3 or 4. We have been heavily shelled with H.E. and whizz-bangs. Enemy seen retiring in direction of thick woods on ridge in front. No movement at present. M.G. fire has stopped.

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Summary of Messages cont.

Date	Time	From	To	Message
2/9/18	12.20 p.m.	Capt.G.S.Smith	Ruze	Am endeavouring to push forward our right flank along the line of the railway through 22.A&B to junction roads in 22.B.3.3. pivoting of left flank of 55th Bn near Factory in I.22.A.70.95. see Heavy M.G.fire and shelling being experienced.
2/9/18	2p.m.	Ruze	9E DE BE	Following from 14th Bde timed 1.5 p.m. begins seeLine now on approx I.16.c.7.2.-22.a.7.2.-22.a.3.2. -22.c.2.6. seePresent held by elements of 55th, 56th and 59th. Bde reorganising and pulling 58th back into support seeIn touch with 7th Bde on left.Collection & evacuation of casualties proceeding & consolidation of line given being carried out ends see Sent all Battns repeated 5th Div.
2/9/18	3.30 p.m.	Gode	O.C."C"Cov.	A line has been run from these Batt.H.Q. to 60th and from there is being run to Capt.McDonald"B" Coy-If you can get over there, you will then be able to get us by phone.
2/9/18	4.30 p.m.	O.C."D"Cov.	C.O.59th Bn.	Have dug in on South side of Railway bank from I.22.a.7.2. to I.22.b.2.0. have been heavily shelled with H.E. Have 5 more other ranks wounded and four missing.
2/9/18	5.17 p.m.	Capt.D.B. Devle for B:M:15th A.I.Bde		<u>Warning Order.</u> (1). 15th A.I.Bde will relieve 14th Aus. Inf. Bde tonight. (2) 57th Bn will relieve 58th Bn and 54th Bn. on completion of relief 58th Bn will move to sector vacated by 57th Bn. (3). You will take charge of 59th and 60th Bns and arrange to take over positions held by remaining Battalion of 14th Bde.This will be done as soon after 7 p.m. as possible. (4). Acknowledge.
2/9/18	8.45 p.m.	Ruze	QE DE	S.O.S.lineI.29.a.8.9.I28 d.2.9. 34.a.0.8.23.d.3.0,17.d.2.0. This will allow of exploitation in I.27.a&c see 29.a.8.9. to34.a 0.8.will lift 500yds on receipt of information that patrol or troops are entering Flamicourt & Addressed allBns.

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Intelligence Summary..... 6 a.m. 1/9/18 to 6 a.m. 2/9/18.

Reference Map-----62 C.I/490000

OPERATIONS .At 6a.m.the 2nd. Australian Division attacked on the North-West of Peronne, working along the Eastern side of the Somme towards Mt.St. Quentin and Peronne. At 9a.m.our Battalion moved from its previous position, towards the Canal. Shortly after midday the Battalion,with the exception of one company had moved across the Canal at I.33.d.59. One company moved along the Railway Line from I.33.d.towards Flamicourt, the idea being to establish an approximate line on the road running through I.35.a. and 35.c. Two more companies moved up to join the first company, but they were all held up by M.G. fire from enemy positions in Peronne. The scheme was abandoned late in the afternoon, and it was decided to form Bridgehead defences for the night (as shown in report and sketch on dispositions).

ENEMY ARTILLERY. Enemy artillery was very active during the whole day, shell-
 ing bridges, roads, dug-outs etc. After our infantry entered Peronne the

enemy shelled it heavily. A mine also exploded in Peronne. In the afternoon direct hits were scored by the enemy on the Bridge at I.33;d.3.9.....

ENEMY PLANES WERE NOT SEEN MUCH during the day. A flight of five planes in the morning was noticed, and one plane flew over our lines at 3.30 p.m.

ENEMY SNIPING. Snipers were very active during the day, and harassed our men when moving down to the new positions. Enemy machine guns held up our men on several occasions and inflicted a number of casualties.

ENEMY ATTITUDE. The enemy did not appear to put up a strong resistance, but relied on small posts of Machine Guns to hold up our advance. These guns were as usual cleverly disguised and difficult to locate.

OUR ARTILLERY was extremely active all day and during the night shelling roads, woods, bodies of enemy troops and also supplying barrage.

OUR MACHINE GUNS supplied covering fire and also helped to neutralise enemy M.G. fire.,.,

OUR TRENCH MORTARS WORKED IN conjunction with our infantry and endeavoured to silence enemy Machine Guns.

OUR AIRCRAFT was active during the day, chiefly on reconnaissance work.

DISPOSITIONS . As per Situation Report and sketch herewith.

(Sgd.) W.L.Hawkins Lt.
I.O.59th.Battalion

Appendix No 4.

59th. Battalion A.I.F.Situation Report ----- 2/9/18

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DISPOSITIONS. Bridgehead defences have now been established as per attached sketch., "A" company in accordance with your instructions, has taken up its old position at O3.a.5.4. This company is manning an alarm post which will command the Railway Bridge in I.33.d.6.3.

"B" company is established on eastern side of Canal, behind a high bank in I.33.d.5.8. They have established three posts commanding the Railway line and the ground on the far side of it, and also controlling the Railway Bridge in I.33.d.6.3. and defending the road bridge at I.33.d.3.9.....

"C" company, situated on western side of Canal, is in Reserve. Location known to you.

"D" company are on the right of "B". The men are dug in behind a bank on Eastern side of Canal. They have established two posts- one at the Railway Bridge in I.33.d.6.3. and another at the smaller bridge across the Somme at I.33.d.8.4. On our left are the 58th. battalion who are combining with us in the defence of the bridgeheads. PATROLS are to be sent out at intervals to patrol Canal bank and Railway, and keep touch with people on our flanks.

Headquarters "B" and "D" companies are in dugouts in bank at I.33.d.5.8. 14th. Brigade has a platoon as outpost at I.33.d.7.3.

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(Sgd.) W.L. Hawkins Lieut.



Intelligence Summary. ----- 6a.m.2/9/18 to 6a.m.3/9/18.

Reference Map - Sheet 62 C. -----

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OPERATIONS. At 5.15 a.m. the Battalion commenced to move across the Somme, over bridge at I.33.d.39. and moved up the main street through the village to the cross roads at I.21.d.0.2. The enemy shelled the village heavily as we went through. At 7.30 a.m. the head of "B" company reached the cemetery at I.21.C.0.4. From this point the companies dribbled forward to the north side of Railway Line in I. 21. and 22. Men of the 55th and 56th Battalions were lined along the Railway Bank. Here the enemy was enfilading the Railway Bank with Machine Gun fire and the 55th and 56th were held up. Meanwhile the 58th Battalion worked up through the village and captured 100 prisoners (including 4 officers) and also silenced several machine guns. During the afternoon the 14th Brigade established the line from the sugar Factory in I. 22.A.7.9. through I.22.central, to the banks of the Somme Canal. On the other side of the Canal the 58th Battalion occupy the ramparts. On the left the 14th Brigade are in touch with the 2nd. Division. The four companies of the 59th Battalion are dug in on the North side of tramway embankment in I.22.a.

Enemy Shelling. has been extremely active. Roads, woods and trenches being continuously shelled. Gas shells containing sneezing gas have been freely used, especially in wood I.21.c.

Enemy Aircraft. Fairly active. Several machines flew over Peronne about 8.30p.m. and used Machine Gun fire on various points.

Enemy Machine Guns. were very active during the whole morning and caused many casualties. During the afternoon the M.G. fire practically ceased, due to the fact that the 58th Battalion mopped up several in its advance.

Our Artillery. was very active all day.

Prisoners. The 58th Battalion captured 100 prisoners, including 4 officers, during their advance through the town. They belonged to the 65th, 67th, and 258th Infantry Regiments.

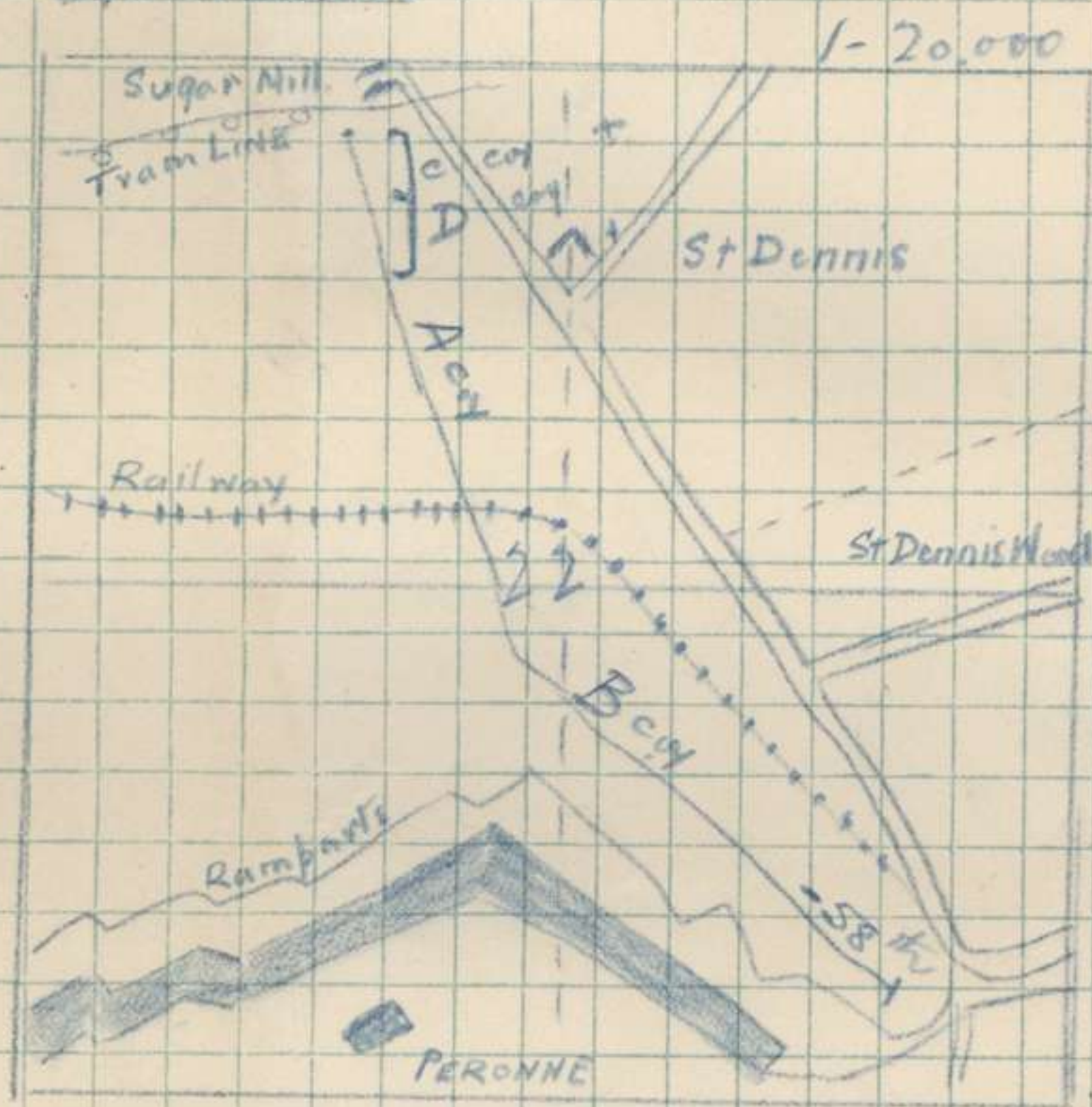
Dispositions. as per sketch forwarded this afternoon.

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(Sgd.) W.L.Hawkins Lieut.
a/ I.O.59th Battalion

Appendix No 7

Rough sketch of DISPOSITIONS 3/9/18

Ref 62^c I 22

Summary of Messages cont.

Date	Time	From	To	Message
2/9/18	10.10 p.m.	Ruze	59th Bn.	Information from prisoner states - Station, Town Hall, Citadel and all principal buildings in Peronne are mined.
2/9/18	11.5 .m.	Gobe	Gode	Relief complete.
3/9/18	12.5 p.m.	Gode	All Companies	58th Batt. report their line as follows:- Posts at junction reads I.22.d.6.4. and I.22.d.6.5. they have taken 100 prisoners including 4 officers. "A" Coy. will endeavour to push forward their right flank along the Railway line to Road junction in I.22.b.3.3. "B" Coy will conform to the general line of the road through I.21.a. & b. to Mt. St. Quentin, pivoting on the factory in I.22.a.75.95. Report Progress hourly. "C" & "D" coy will conform as required.
3/9/18	4.5 p.m.	Ruze	Gode	Considerable enemy retirement expected as result of our operations north and south of our sector. Report any indication of such.
3/9/18	6.25 p.m.	Sig. Officer Ruze	Sig. Officer Gode	Bde forward station established at I.27.a.90.
3/9/18	8.10 p.m.	Ruze	Gode	S.O.S. lines same as for last night
3/9/18	.....	Gode	Ruze	Battalion H.Q. now at I.26.b.2.8.
3/9/18	1;20 aM	Gode	O.C.B Coy.	2nd Division are going to push their right flank forward to I.16.d.8.1. Arrange with left companies to swing their left flank up to conform. Keep touch with 2nd Division and conform to any movement they may make in addition to pushing out your own patrols;
4/9/18	6 p.m.	Ruze	Gode	Report to hand states:- Enemy retiring before 3rd Army and French. Air reports indicate villages behind our front have been fired. Probable enemy retirement from this front. Closest touch to be maintained by line Battalions.
5/9/18	.....	Capt. R. Gollan B.M.	ALL Bde Units	FOR INFORMATION In connection with the retirement of the enemy, the following is the action of the 5th Aust. Div. <u>Boundaries, Northern.</u> East and West Grid between O.6. and I2. <u>Southern.</u> General line of the BRIE - MONS Road. The Division is to advance in this area. 8 A.I. Bde to be advanced guard. 14 A.I. Bde P.T.O.

Summary of messages cont.

Date	Time	From	To	Message
Continued from over leaf				<p>-support.- 15 A.I.Bde- reserve. 8 Bde are sending two Bns. to take over from 32nd Div. tonight. 14 th Bde are moving to vicinity of BARLEUX tonight. 15 Bde is to remain in reserve at O.32. Am endeavouring to arrange rum issue for tonight.</p>
5/9/18	9.25 p.m.	Gode	Ruzo	Move complete.
6/9/18	8.10 a.m.	Ruzo	Gode	Front line transport will move under Battn. arrangements to vicinity of new Battn. location.
7/9/18.	.....	Capt.R. Gollan Bde Major	59th Batt.	<p>The Brigadier desires that during the indefinite period in this area every opportunity be taken to rest the men. As far as possible their living conditions will be improved and endeavours made to improve rationing. Special attention is to be paid to the condition of the men, s feet and daily foot inspections will be held.</p>
7/9/18	1.p.m.	Ruzo	Gode	<p>German bomb was found in coal dump at BAPAUME last night and warn all ranks that other dumps may also contain bombs.</p>
12/9/18	4 p.m.	15th A.I. Bde.	59th.	<p>The Bde portable baths are now erected at O.9.c.5.1. and Hours on 13th inst. are allotted to units as follows:- 59th - 9a.m. to 11a.m. Capacity of baths 120 per hour and Foden disinfectant is established at these Hqrs. Allotment to units to be notified later.</p>
13/9/18	3 p.m.	Gagix Ruzo	Gagi	<p>Arrange following officers interview B.G.C. at 5.30 p.m. today. 59th Batt. , 2/Lts. J.H.Dav, Opie and Buckingham.</p>
13/9/18	10.10 p.m.	Nuwa	Gagi	<p>One man of 5th Pioneer Batt. has been wounded by indiscriminate rifle fire in vicinity of river swamp and Take necessary steps to stop this.</p>
14/9/18	2 p.m.	15th A.I. Bde.	59th Batt.	<p>Detail one cooker report Bde School with candidates.</p>

59th Battalion A.I.F.

19/9/18.

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period wk 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by Lieut. J. Sutherland.

The 59th Battalion moved forward from Vaire at 12.45 pm on 28.8.18 arriving at Fay about 9.0 p.m., where a halt was made for the night. At 9.0am on 29.8.18 Battalion moved forward in an easterly direction in artillery formation to get in touch with people in front. Halted for the night at BARKEUX. At 6.30 am on 30.8.18 Battalion moved in direction of PERONNE to get in touch with 2nd Division. Our patrol reported 2nd Div. had not crossed canal owing to swamps etc. and had abandoned operation and retired to line approximately I.32 and O.2. We took up a position in trenches behind ridge in O.7. The same evening we took over line from 26th Battalion in I.32 and O.2 and held on there during the 31.8.18. At 9.0 am on 1.9.18 we had orders to cross canal in front of ~~GERARD~~ PERONNE and at 9.30am my Coy (A) crossed by the Railway Bridge at I.32 O.3.3 with orders to advance along railway line if possible to I.33 B.9.5, then to work to the right and form a line along road in I.34. A. & C. Owing to the marshy nature of the ground on either side of the line we could not deploy and owing to heavy enfilading M.G. fire from PERONNE and FLAMICOURT we found it impossible to advance further than a point at approx I.32.A.0.2. We were then ordered to withdraw and returned to the position vacated in the morning where we stayed the night. On the morning of 2.9.18 at 6.30 am we had orders to proceed by a route through ~~PERONNE~~ and the Cemetery at I.21 B. & D., thence in artillery formation astride the railway line running through I.22 A.B. & D with the object of clearing the wood in I.28 B & D and I 29 A & C, and forming a line through I 29 C and I 35 A & C with 14th Brigade on left and 60th Batt on right. These orders were on condition that 14th Brigade captured St. DENIS WOOD. This they failed to do and we dug in along a railway embankment running in easterly direction through I,21 B and I.22 A. That evening we relieved the 14th Brigade and held a line running from I.22 A 9.8 to a point on the canal at I.22 C central. We held this line until relieved by the 32nd Battalion on the night of 4.9.18 when we moved back to trenches in O.1 & 7. On the morning of 5.9.18 at 6.30 am we again moved forward and took up a position in rear of 57th Battalion in I,22 D. The same evening we finally moved back to quarters in O.3, A.8.8.

(sgd) J. Sutherland Lt.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

20.9.18

Narrative of operations by the 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918, by Lieut. E.C. Alexander.

On the morning of 28.8.18 my Coy received orders to move out from VAIRE SOUS CORBIE at 12.45pm. We proceeded to our starting point and proceeded across country in the direction of PROYART moving in Artillery formation. At the western end of the village the battln halted for evening meal. We then moved forward in the same formation to the village of FAY. On the morning of 29th August at 9 am the Battalion moved forward again with the object of getting in touch with the 8th Brigade. Our route lay through the village of ASSEVILLIERS across country in artillery formation to the eastern end of BARLEUX. We remained in trenches outside BARLEUX that night. At 6.30am on the morning of 30th August we moved forward in the direction of PERONNE. Object:- To get in touch with 2nd Division. Our advanced posts reported 2nd Division not able to cross canal owing to swampy condition of ground and that the operation had been abandoned. They had retired to a line running approx I.32 and O.2. The Battalion took up its position in trenches behind ridge in O.7. That same night the Battn relieved the 28th Batt on line running I.32 and O.2 and remained in that position until the morning of 1st September. On morning of 1st Sept the Battn had orders to cross the canal. This we proceeded to do and at 9.30 moved off. Three Coys of Battn proceeded towards FLAMICOURT along eastern side of railway line in order to establish a line running approx through I.35 A and C, but that owing to heavy rifle and M.G. fire from Railway Station and Houses in the village, we were not able to make any progress. Patrols were sent out to eastern end of swamp by A Coy and reported being attacked by party of the enemy with bombs and rifle fire. The patrol returned their fire until they were a distance of 20 to 30 yards away and owing to superior numbers, returned through swamp and made their report. The 3 Coys, under orders from Batt.H.Q. then withdrew over canal to positions on bank on western side of railway line. We established posts on bridge-heads and remained in this position until 5.30 the following evening, when we received orders to proceed through PERONNE to assembly point in I.29 C. We moved through Cemetery in I.21 B & D and took up our position in trenches in I.21 B at 2.30pm. We received orders from Battn to dig in in that position and remained there until we relieved the 14th Brigade that night. At 3pm that day I was slightly wounded and gassed and took no further part in the operations until the night of 4th Sept when Battn was relieved by 32nd Battalion. The Battn that night took up its position in a trench system O.1 and 7 where we remained until 5.30 on the morning of the 5th when we received orders to move forward and took up a position in rear of the 57th Battalion in I.22 D. The Battn was relieved and moved back to trench system in O.3 A&C.

(sgd) E.C. Alexander Lieut
"A" Coy

59th Battalion A.I.F.

20.9.18

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by 2/Lieut. A.J.Parr.

We were resting in VAIRE-SUR-CORBIE when we received orders to move out at 12.45 pm on 28.8.18 to a starting point, then the battalion moved across country towards PROY RT in artillery formation passing the western edge of the village. The battalion halted for evening meal afterwards proceeding towards FAY at which village we spent the night. At 9.0 am on the morning of the 29th we moved again in the same formation towards the village of ASSEVILLIERS our object was to get in touch with the 8th Brigade. The second night we spent in trenches in 0.7 just outside BARLEUX. Next morning at 6.0 am we again moved forward towards PERONNE with the object of getting in touch with the 2nd Division. Our patrols reported that the 2nd Div. had been forced to abandon their operation. We spent that day (30th August) in old trenches, moving forward at night to relieve the 26th Battalion which was done quickly and without alarming enemy. Capt McDonald and a runner went forward in order to get new dispositions. A platoon was posted just this side of Canal but any movement brought machine gun fire down from the direction of FLAMICOURT. Some men stated that when they stumbled against certain wires they were fired upon, but I do not think that any set wires existed.

On the morning of 1st September we received orders to cross the Canal. At 9.30 am No. 7 platoon crossed canal and established a post. They gave covering fire until the remainder of the company had crossed. We then attempted to get forward towards FLAMICOURT but on getting as far as railway line along which we moved towards PERONNE, the company ahead reported that owing to swamp and heavy machine gun fire from village they were unable to move as the line was enfiladed on both sides. All came back to the edge of canal. Posts were placed on bridgeheads. We got orders to proceed through PERONNE. Whilst passing through the village I was slightly wounded. The village reeked with gas but it was not poisonous. Getting clear of the village we passed through Cemetery at about 1.21 P, moving along the northern side of railway line towards SUGAR MILL, but dug in on bank. Orders were received to take up position to conform with 58th Batt on right and a Battalion of 14th Brigade on left. We went along the railway line as far as the SUGAR MILL then branching off to the right we took up positions but had to leave them because a Captain of the 14th Brigade said we were in his sector. We moved back to old position on railway line. We relieved the 14th Brigade about 8 pm on the night of 2/9/18 and remained in front line until relieved by 32nd Battalion on the night of 4th Sept. The Battalion took up a position in a trench system in 0.1 & 7. On the morning of 5th Sept at 5.30 we received orders to move up in rear of 57th Batt but halted after crossing the canal and remained all day. I enjoyed a much needed sleep. The Battalion was then relieved and moved back to trench system in 0.3 A & C.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

20.9.18.

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by No, 3902 C.S.M. E.A. Richardson.

At 2 pm on the afternoon of 28th August the Battalion moved out from VAIRE and after going for a few miles the Battalion broke into Artillery formation. At 9 pm the Company was halted for the night and we dug into an old chalk pit near VAY. The following morning we moved out in Advance Guard formation to try and get in touch with the front line. We passed to the right of ASSEVILLIERS and went into a position in a trench near BARLEUX. We stopped in this trench all night and next morning moved out to a position of assembly for our Brigade in front of BARLEUX. At 8 pm we again moved out and took over a line of trenches from the 26th Batt about 500 yards from the Canal. On the morning of 31st August we sent a reconnoitering patrol to test the bridge at SAINT RADEGONDE. The patrol reported that it was impossible to get across on account of the broken state of the bridge. On the afternoon of the 1st A, B and D Coys moved across the canal and C Coy moved forward about 200 yards to support the other three Coys. While in these positions we had suffered a few casualties by enemy shell fire. At 6.30am on the morning of 2nd Sept our Coy moved out (after half an hours notice) and crossed the bridges into PERONNE where we came under very heavy shell fire. We moved through the streets in parties of sixes until we got right through the town where we were held up for some time but later we moved on through the Cemetery. North of the town of PERONNE. When we came to the edge of the cemetery we came under very heavy enemy M.G. and Artillery fire at a very close range. We received orders to dig in 50 yards in front of the edge of the cemetery between two railway embankments. This position was in a very exposed position and we were being shelled with heavy artillery and suffering casualties without having an opportunity of moving forward and effectively dealing with the enemy. At this stage we had orders to cross to the railway embankment as we were going forward to fill a gap in the line between the 58th Batt and the 2nd Division. These orders were cancelled by the Coy Commander after half had been moved across and we then moved to a good trench with deep dugouts in to the right of the cemetery. At 8 pm I received orders to move forward, take over positions held by the 58th Batt to the right of the SUGAR MILL. This being done I reported back to my Coy Commander and guided same in and relieved the Batt in the line at 11.30pm. The most worrying feature of these operations up to this time was that the N.C.O's received practically no information of what they were expected to do. On the night of the 3rd Sept the 60th Batt passed through us and took up a position about 600 yards in front without meeting any enemy opposition. On the night of 4th we were relieved and marched back across the canal to trenches in front of BARLEUX where we arrived at about 1.30am. All the men were looking forward to a good sleep but had a sudden awakening as we were told that we had to be ready to move forward at an early

-2-

hour. At 6 am we moved forward and took up a position on the canal and after staying there all day moved back to the old huts near the road about 1000 yards west of the canal. The behavior of all ranks was good under such exceptional circumstances and the two runners of this Company deserve ~~the~~ "V.C.'s" for the way they carried out their duties after the other two had become casualties.

(sgd) E.A. Richardson C.S.M.
"C" Coy.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

20.9.18

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by No.3759 Sgt A.W.Hamilton.

On the 28th August at 2 pm the battalion moved out ~~before~~ from VAIRE halting at 9 pm for the night near FAY. Next morning we moved up and occupied some old trenches on the right of ASSEVILLIERS where we remained for the night. On the morning of the 30th we moved out to our Brigade Assembly position in front of BARLEUX. At 6 pm we went forward and took over a line of old trenches from the 28th Batt about 400 yards from the canal. On the 31st August we went out two reconnoitering patrols to find out if it were possible to cross the bridge at SAINT RADEGONDE. Both patrols reported this to be impossible on account of the damage done to the bridges. On the afternoon of August 1st A,B, & D Coys moved across the canal, C Coy moving forward about 200 yards in support. While in these positions we suffered casualties from shell fire. On the 2nd September at 8.30 am C Coy crossed the bridges into PERONNE, the town was being shelled by heavy artillery. We moved through the streets in parties of sixes coming out to the north of PERONNE where we passed through the Cemetery. At this stage we came under M.G. and very heavy shell fire, we received orders to dig in along side the railway embankment. This position was under direct observation and was subjected to heavy shell fire. After remaining here for some time it was noticed that the M.G.fire had ceased the enemy having evidently retired. I then took my platoon to an old trench on the other side of the railway as this position was much less exposed than the former one, and reported my position to the Company Commander who told me the Coy had to move forward. I returned to my platoon and gave orders to prepare to move forward. The remainder of the Coy moved across the Railway embankment on the left; this position was heavily shelled. I was then given a note by a runner ordering me to remain in my position as orders had been verbally cancelled. Later the remainder of the Coy moved across to the trench I was occupying and at 10 pm we moved up and took over the front line from the 55th Batt. On the night of 3rd the 60th Batt carried out a peaceful penetration advancing through us about 500 yards. On the evening of the 4th we were relieved and moved back across the canal into old trenches. We remained here the night. Next morning we moved forward across the canal where we remained all day. We left here the same evening and moved into billets about a kilometre west of the canal. The most disappointing feature of the operations was the heavy shelling the battalion was subjected to in front of the cemetery without a sporting chance of dealing with the enemy. My men all behaved excellently during this very trying period.

(sgd) A.W.Hamilton Sgt.
"C" Coy.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

19.9.18.

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by No. 3228 Sgt, I. Allcorn.

The Battalion moved off from Vaire on the day of August 28th at 2 pm and marched along the road towards the SOMME RIVER with the intention of leaping over other troops and building a bridge head to cross this river and establish posts about 1000 yards on the other side of the SOMME, but somehow that arrangement was stopped and we camped in a trench near the river till the morning of the 1st. Then we crossed the river over the bridge which had been blown up by the enemy and made our way along the railway line but were held up by machine gun fire and were unable to get forward. We were then brought back to an embankment where we stayed for the night. Early next morning we went through PERONNE and made our way toward a wood on the left and also through a cemetery. On reaching the far side we crawled out in single file and dug in about 100 yards in the open. Later on in the day we went further forward along a railway embankment and took up a position on the right of the railway line, in a quarry which had been one time used as a brick kiln. Owing to the shelling we had to move still further right to a higher bank where we dug ourselves in. Then the order came to move back and take up our old position behind the railway embankment, where we stayed till dark after having a good meal which had been sent up to us. We made our way forward in the darkness and took over from the 14th Brigade and pushed out patrols. Then on the night of the 3rd the 60th Batt pushed out posts some distance in front of us and on the night of the 4th we were relieved and moved back to a trench near the canal.

(sgd) H. Allcorn Sgt,
"D" Coy.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

20.9.18.

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by No. 2182 Sgt. W.P. Hutchinson.

The advance by the Australians was totally different to what we have been used to for some time, and for a day it seemed very strange to us, not having the usual artillery barrage before taking an objective.

With the exception of one or two machine gun posts the resistance put up by the enemy was very poor. From ~~PLY BANK~~ to the Somme Canal at ~~Q349XXX~~ PERONNE the enemy evacuated ridges from which splendid observation could be obtained and would have been no easy matter to take had the enemy put up resistance. He seemed to rely more on the swampy ground on the S.E. of PERONNE, and blowing up of bridges to hinder our advance.

On September 1st to the right of PERONNE one Company of our Battalion when advancing along the railway embankment came under heavy machine gun fire and suffered casualties. These machine guns were well hidden and held a commanding position of the railway embankment which in that sector was the only way of advance, swamps being on each side.

A patrol managed to crawl along a certain distance before being observed by one of the enemy posts; immediately our patrol was fired on and had to take to the water to get back. A despatch was sent back by our Company Commander describing the position and later in the day the Company was withdrawn to the other side of the canal as troops who could flank these posts were moving forward on the left. September 2nd saw these posts cleared and we passed through PERONNE. Our march through PERONNE will not soon be forgotten. The enemy as usual after being driven from a town, were shelling it heavily; but the moral of the men was splendid. They kept going as though no shells were within miles. Once through the town the shelling was not nearly so heavy.

Continuing we passed through a Cemetery which was drenched with gas and took up a position along a railway embankment which was heavily shelled, being under direct observation of the enemy.

The night of September 3rd saw us relieved and we came back over the ground on which the enemy thought he would be able to hold us safely for some time.

(sgd) W.P. Hutchinson Sgt
"A" Coy.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

20.9.18.

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by No. 2154 Sgt. F.F. Clansen.

On the first mentioned date the battalion moved out from VAIRE. At the time of moving the intention was, as understood by us, to leapfrog troops ahead of us, effect a crossing over the SOMME, establish and maintain bridgeheads and also penetrate the enemy's lines on the farther side of the river to a distance of some 1000 yards on the right of PERONNE.

The march of events caused a change of plans and the battalion was to effect a crossing of the river and establish itself in the suburb of PERONNE known as RADEGONDE.

Before moving to this attack a further change of plans took place and from the night of 30/31st August until early in the morning of 1st September we were in trenches looking over the river at PERONNE. Parties of Germans were frequently seen but at ranges too distant for effective rifle or Lewis Gun fire.

On the morning of the 1st September A and D Coys crossed the river on the ruins of a wooden bridge without opposition. Prior to the crossing a patrol met a German Engineer Officer apparently about to complete the destruction of the bridge but he was shot before he had time to do his work.

The Coys found themselves lined along a narrow path at the side of the railway and soon the head of A Coy came under the fire of ~~an~~ enemy machine gun posted in the village directly ahead. At the same time snipers fired at us across the marsh which bounded us on the right.

On account of the difficulty in approaching the enemy gun except by a frontal attack (and as it was necessary to advance in single file he would have mown us down) the two Coys after sustaining a number of casualties recrossed the river and during the night of the 1/2nd September guarded the above-mentioned wooden bridges and a railway bridge which had been mined some 400 yards away from the wooden bridge.

On the morning of the 2nd September the Battalion moved through the outskirts of PERONNE under heavy shell fire to a position close to the cemetery with the intention (as I understood) of attacking and capturing ST. DENIS WOOD. D Coy was to support A Coy. As we emerged from the cemetery and came under heavy machine gun fire and dug ourselves in. Later we moved to a position *near Rhy Line* and met no direct opposition but apparently our movements were under direct observation by the enemy. Shortly afterwards we moved across another railway to a position behind a high embankment. Orders were then received that we were to return to a position behind the railway embankment in front of the cemetery. In the night the Battalion again moved forward and took up positions in a line running from *Rhy Line* to *Point 500 yards North of Cemetery* and relieved the 55th Batt which had in the meantime established this line.

On the night of the 3/4th Sept the 57th and 60th Battns by "peaceful penetration" took up a position some hundreds of yards in front of the 59th. Except for some gas shelling and occasional sniping we had no trouble in that position and on

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the night of 4/5th September were relieved by 8th Brigade Battalions.

(sgd) F.F.Clansen Sgt.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

20.9.18

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by No.1455 Cpl E.R.Dall.

On the morning of 2nd September at 6 am our battalion moved forward to the opposite side of PERONNE. While going through the village the shelling was very heavy but luckily our Headquarters got through without any casualties.

On the other side of the town we got into a trench which ran along the side of the cemetery and was being shelled by shells of all sizes and the gas was very strong. It was at this spot that we lost one of our Signallers who was wounded in the face. On reaching our new headquarters we found that the two signallers sent forward with the Colonel had got in touch with our Brigade Headquarters through the 14th Brigade, and we started to run lines to our forward which held fairly well although the shelling was very heavy. This headquarters was behind a cliff about 20 feet high and Fritz was putting in some rather big shells but the only harm they could do to us was cover us with mud.

On the 3rd of September our battalion relieved the 55th Battalion and the communications with our forward companies was kept up through the 60th Battalion.

The next day we were moving Battalion Headquarters further forward but owing to the gas we were forced to go back to our old position where we were relieved.

(3gd) E.R.Dall Cpl.
Hqrs Sigs.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

20.9.18

Narrative of operations by the 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by No.5430
Cpl
Sgt. R.H.Skinner.

On the night of 30th inst we moved from supports into the front line several hundred yards from the SOMME. On the 2nd night we established a post on the near side of canal to guard bridge and railway line. On the morning of the 31st we suffered some casualties from enemy shelling. On the morning of 1st we set out with the Coy assembled on left side of canal. I was sent out with 8 men as a patrol to get as near objective as possible and to locate enemy position. After going several hundred yards up line we encountered heavy frontal M.G. fire having experienced fire from both flanks up to this point. We managed to locate M.G. 150 yards in front on line. I sent back report of position saying no path could be found through the swamp, the line being only means of crossing and that was under heavy fire. Later I worked out into swamp as far as possible into position where we could deal effectively with M.G. on line but got orders to retire as our artillery barrage was coming down at any moment. We withdrew to the canal and the barrage consisted of a very few shells well over the station and noneffective as far as our sector was concerned. We crossed the canal followed by D Coy. One section and trench mortar went forward to deal with M.G. on line but found it had retired. I and Pte Wells were sent on to locate their position. We encountered several scouts who opened fire at 40 yards range and after we exchanged shots they bolted. Sighting was difficult owing to our taking cover in reeds. We followed on until we got within 100 yards or so of heavy cover rails and old truck. There we sniped at a Hun N.C.O. wearing a cap. We were then attacked by 10 or 12 Huns throwing bombs. We decided discretion the best part of valor, I doing a sprint of 120 yards to cover and Wells by jumping into water up to his neck. I reported to Coy Commander and found we a fair number of casualties had been caused by M.G. fire in the Coy and they were prevented from advancing. I considered M.G. to be on the line close to the strong point I had encountered and Trench Mortars were directed on that locality. We mounted L.G. on line when orders were to suspend operations for the day to cover retirement. We had the satisfaction of shooting the Hun N.C.O. He was conspicuous by wearing a cap. We suffered casualties when retiring along the line. We had an impossible proposition and we were fortunate to get off with comparatively few casualties. We stayed and rested the night in our old trench position and had rather an Xmas party with Comforts Fund material.

Early on the morning of the 2nd we set off for another "stunt". We passed through PERONNE which was being rather heavily shelled with H.E., shrapnel and gas was heavy enough in streets. Passing through the cemetery we moved up along railway line and there dug in. Our objective was much further on but we stayed there

-2-

owing to the fact that another Brigade failed to advance far enough and also that the enemy were preparing for a counter attack. We were ordered forward to fill a gap in the line in case of this. A and D Coys were taken up the line past the SUGAR MILL to a position. We got heavily shelled for the enemy had direct observation and was firing at close ranges and was also enfilading us. Owing to these factors our position was the most trying I have experienced. After being there some time Coys of the 14th Brigade came up to the same position and we had to run the gauntlet back to our old positions and several of our mates are no more as a result thereof. The troops seemed very discontented after this and the operations of the previous day. That evening we occupied a trench on the right of the railway line. During our stay in it we experienced only light shelling but each one seemed full of gas much to our discomfort. We were relieved on the 4th and marched back several miles to the other side of the river. After tea at 2am we contemplated a good sleep but were warned to be ready to move up early in the morning to have the privilege of another "stunt". Men were very fatigued from marching, digging in and want of sleep and to move out after an hours rest was a test of endurance to the highest pitch. We marched to the canal bank and stayed there during the day awaiting orders. The "stunt" was suspended much to our pleasure for it was almost a physical impossibility for men to have travelled far. That evening we retired to rest positions in reserve. The Huns to my mind had his M.G. well placed and his men seemed a better type than the usual Fritz. The most disappointing feature throughout our operations so far as we were concerned was that we were under heavy fire and suffered casualties and hadn't a sporting chance of getting into close quarters or a suitable position to deal effectively with our enemy. Our men have good heart for their job but these conditions were more than trying and had an unhappy effect on the morale of men already tired through a long period of fighting. With a fighting chance over the top and at ~~at~~ the Hun the spirit of troops would have been good indeed, but they found it hard to accept our position and see the good of the work in very much of our operations. This was compensated for by the fact that other units had more fortunate positions and had progressed well.

(sgd) R.H. Skinner Cpl.
"A" Coy.

59th Battalion A.I.F. 20.9.18

Narrative of operations of 59th Battalion A.I.F. carried out during period 28th August 1918 to 4th September 1918 by No. 3025 L/Cpl Dunston S.W.

During the early hours of the morning of 3rd inst our headquarters was subjected to a heavy shelling by 77's and 4.2's which made things very busy for the linesmen. The line to the advanced Bgde Hqrs being broken repeatedly, but communication was kept until the C.O. left for PERONNE. After that time it was useless to try and maintain it. At about 7 am we left to join up with the C.O. and to establish Hqrs. Major Smith (then Capt and Adjutant) was in charge of the party. He crossed the canal over the wooden bridge which the day before would hardly have been possible, and entered PERONNE from the south end, and proceeded along the road towards the northern end. Things were not too bad as regards shelling at this stage but the village was reeking with gas. About half way through the town the gas became worse; also the H.E's and we passed a number of the 60th Bttn going out gassed. The most of us too were feeling the effects of it now although we were using our gas masks. About this time we were supposed to be at the place where Headquarters was to be established but owing to a temporary check in the advance we found ourselves in the vicinity of B Coy. After a few minutes we left the ditch we were in and retired to the cemetery and the gassing and shelling became worse. It was here that we had one casualty. After about half an hour in this place we were guided to where the C.O. had made his Headquarters and the 58th Headquarters were also in the same place. We established communication with Brigade and settled down for some time. The Brigade linesmen were having a busy time as the route of their line was through the town and very difficult to maintain owing to the shelling the place was now subjected to. About 8.0pm after things had settled a little Lieut. Pinkerton and myself ran a line up to the forward Coy. We got well up with the line and Mr. Pinkerton saw Capt McDonald who stated that the Coys were coming back along to a position along the RAILWAY Line. I was given instructions to remain till the Coy returned and see that communication with Hqtrs was O.K. Mr. Pinkerton then left. At this time a flight of Hun aeroplanes flew over the railway and emptied their M.G's into the bank but with little success. The Coy now returned and I spoke through to Hqtrs but the line was broken in the middle of the conversation. I started back to repair it and found that a shell had caused the trouble. At this time I received three little pieces in my hand. I repaired the line and returned to Hqtrs where I found that Mr Pinkerton had been hit in the arm and face. We kept communication from this out with Brigade B and C Coys although with much difficulty at times. About 8 pm we moved our Hqtrs to a position held by the 54th Bn. We got into touch with Brigade once more and also obtained lateral communication with the 60th and 57th Batts. These lines too were difficult to maintain but working in co-operation with Brigade Sigs and also the Battalions to which we were in touch

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we managed to keep up communication. Visual signalling was out of the question owing to the dispositions of the various units. It was a stunt in which co-operation amongst signallers was never more noticeable and the high standard of communication throughout the operation was the result.

(sgd) S.W.Dunston L/Cpl.



Appendix

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59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Appendix No..././...

Sick Wastage Return for week ending 4th September, 1918.

Date.	Evacuated to Field Ambulance.		Returned from Field Ambulance.		Evacuated out of Divisional area.	
	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.
29.8.18.	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.8.18.	-	1	-	-	-	17
31.8.18.	-	4	-	-	-	-
1.9.18.	-	1	-	-	-	-
2.9.18.	-	1	-	-	-	-
3.9.18.	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.9.18.	-	9	-	-	-	10

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Appendix 12

59 th Battalion A.I.F.

Appendix No. 12

M.O.s Report

From R.M.O. 59 th Battalion,

To A.D.M.S. 5 th Aust. Div.

I beg to submit the following note on the health and condition of the 59 th Battalion.


The men are one and all suffering from excessive fatigue, loss of sleep and nervous strain.

In my opinion the limit of endurance has been reached for most of the men.

(Sgd) H.S. McLelland, Major.

59 th Battalion A.I.F.

5/9/18



Appendix No 13

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SECRET.59th BATTALION A.I.F.

COPY NO.....

OPERATION ORDER No. 178.Reference: Sheet 620.
1:40,000.

7th September, 1918.

1. The 15th Infantry Brigade is moving forward to the LE MESNIL area today.
2. The 59th Battalion will move to a position in O.12 at a time to be notified later but will be approximately 11.30 a.m.
3. Starting Point. - Where N. and S. road crosses Grid line between O3 and O.9; opposite old British Casualty Clearing Station.
Time of Starting - To be notified.
Order of March. Headquarters; "C" Coy.; "D" Coy.; "A" Coy.; "B" Coy.
Route. - To X Roads O.8.d. to O.9.d.7.0. thence by track across Canal and swamp to O.12.central to junction roads O.12.a., to O.12.
Distances. - 100 yards between Platoons and Companies.
4. On arrival at new area Companies will be guided to their allotted positions.
5. Cooks will proceed by most direct route to new location under order of Transport Officer.
6. Transport Lines and Q.M.'s Store will move independently to a position in O.8.
7. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 and stacked in Company areas by 11a.m., ready for transport.
8. Band instrument cases will be ready stacked at the same time.
9. On the march, the usual precautions against enemy aircraft will be observed.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

sd/ W.G. Sanson Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

Distribution:-

Copy No. 1	Issued by runner at	//	a.m. to:-	Copies to :-
2.	O.C. "A" Company.			O.C. No 7.
3.	O.C. "B" Company.			15th A.I. Bde. 8.
4.	O.C. "C" Company.			File 9.
5.	O.C. "D" Company.			War Diary. 10.11.12.
6.	Headquarters.			
7.	R.Q.M. and T.O.			

S E C R E T

Copy No.....

59th BATTALION A.I.F.Operation Order No.179.

Reference :

Sheet 620
1:40,000.

9th September 1918.

1. The 15th Brigade will move today to a position west of PERONNE.
2. The 59th Battalion will move to O.8.a and c.
3. Starting point : Battalion Hqrs. O.18.a.5.8.
Starting time : 12.45 p.m.
4. Order of March: Headquarters, "D" Company, "C" Company, "A" Company. 100 yards between Companies and Platoons.
5. Route:-
Starting point, Junction roads O.18.a.3.5. through LE MESNIL to O.16.b.1.2, thence by track through O.16.a and O.15.b., crossing Canal at O.15.a.70.95. to cross roads O.8.d.6.2., where guides will meet battalion.
6. Cookers, Lewis Gun Limbers, Mess Cart and B.O.R. Limber will move with column if possible.
7. Transport and Quartermaster's Store will move under Transport Officer's arrangements.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

sd/ W.Guy Sansom Lieut.
a/Adjutant 59th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION:

Issued at by runner to :-

Copy No.1	O.C. "A" Company
2	O.C. "C" "
3	O.C. "D" "
4	Headquarters
5	Transport Officer.

Copies to :-

No.6	C.O.
7	15th A.I. Brigade
8	File
9,10	
& 11	War Diary

Headquarters.

5th Australian Division,

8th September 1918.

Comrades of the 5th Australian Division,

I take the opportunity of the Division being relieved for a period of rest and training to most heartily congratulate all ranks on their splendid work and successes achieved since the 1st February last, and especially since taking part in the operations commencing with the enemy attack on Villers Bretonneux on 24th April last, when the magnificent stand by the 14th Bde against the enemy attacks and the night counter attack by the 15th Brigade led to such magnificent results to the complete successes by the 8th and 15th Brigades at the battle of Villers Bretonneux on the 8th and 9th August, and ending with the brilliant advance to the Somme in the last days of August and the capture of Peronne where the 14th and 15th Brigades and the 5th Machine Gun Battalion have earned imperishable fame for their gallantry and valour.

In all this work the infantry have at all times, been most perfectly and whole-heartedly supported by the Divisional Artillery, Engineers and Signal Service, while the Ambulances, Army Service Corps and Divisional Units have never failed to respond most fully at all times, and especially in any emergency.

During this period the Division has captured 50 square miles of country, 1 town and 23 villages, 110 officers and 3400 other ranks, 53 guns of all calibres (including one 11" gun on railway complete), about 450 machine guns, and about 50 Trench Mortars. Immense quantities of enemy ammunition, engineer and other warlike stores, and even railway locomotives and trains have been captured; vast quantities of material have been salvaged, and even of greater importance, our sick casualties have been very moderate indeed - lowest as a rule among all Australian Divisions.

This is a record that we may well be proud of, and is the result of good discipline, perfect co-ordination and co-operation, and the spirit of self-sacrifice, devotion to duty, and determination to succeed at all costs which has permeated all ranks of the Division.

I know and fully appreciate the long period of almost unbroken front line service that the Division has gone through, the hardships, the often severe and bitter fighting by night and day, the long marches, digging and wiring, and the loss of dear and gallant friends and comrades.

But, Comrades, you have the intense satisfaction of knowing that you have done your duty, that your efforts have assisted in no small measure to break the Boche and turn defeat into victory, and that your splendid work, success achieved and sacrifices made by our devoted and gallant comrades who have fallen during the last month - and especially during the last few days - means beyond doubt the appreciable shortening of the War and the saving of hundreds - probably thousands - of lives of our fellow countrymen in the days to come.

Your magnificent service has been fully recognised and deeply appreciated by the Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig; by the Army Commander, General Sir Henry Rawlinson; by the G.O.C.A.I.F., General Sir William Birdwood; by our Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash; by the noble French people we have been so frequently able to assist; and, I assure you, by myself; I am only sorry that I cannot do more to express my sense of gratitude for your loyal and gallant devotion to duty and the help all ranks have so ungrudgingly given me, than by mere words and inadequate expressions of thanks. I am confident that our people in Australia will be proud of their men in this Division and of their splendid record, and grateful for the great sacrifices so many of our gallant comrades have made in this great fight for freedom and humanity which we have every reason to hope is now approaching final and complete victory for our arms.

(Sgd) J. Talbot Hobbs. Major General.
Commanding 5th Australian Division.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

23rd September 1918.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 28. 8.18 to 9.9.18

Ref. sheet
62.c.

August 28th. At 12.45 p.m. the Battalion moved out from billets at VAIRE SUR SOMME and proceeded first by route march in column of route and then across country in artillery formation to FAY. A halt was made for tea at PROYART and was reached at about 10 p.m. Here the Battalion occupied dugouts and shelters for the night.

August 29th. At 9 a.m. the Battalion moved off in an easterly direction with a view to getting in touch with the forward troops (8th Bde). Artillery formation was adopted and patrols were pushed out in front. ASSIVILLERS was passed and following the line of the main road the Battalion reached BARLEUX (N.17.18.23 & 24). Here the Battalion occupied trenches for the rest of the day and eventually stayed there for the night.

August 30th. At 6.30 a.m. the Battalion again moved off in artillery formation in a north easterly direction towards PERONNE. On reaching the ridge in O.1.0.2 and O.7.0.8. the Battalion halted and occupied trenches just in rear of the ridge. This was done owing to the fact that our forward patrols had ascertained that the attacking troops (2nd Division) had not been able to cross the swamp and had withdrawn to trenches in I.32 0.1 and 0.2. We occupied positions in rear of the ridge 0.2 and 0.8 for the remainder of the day. As soon as it became dark (about 9 pm) the battalion moved forward and relieved the troops of the 2nd Division in I.32, I.33 and O.2. 0.3. A good deal of shelling and sniping was encountered in these positions.

August 31st. The same positions were occupied throughout the day and night. Our patrols were very active on reconnaissance work and much valuable information was gained concerning the state of the bridges across canal and swamp, positions of enemy machine guns and other important matters.

Sept. 1st. At 9.0 a.m the Battalion proceeded to move across the Somme Canal with a view to attacking. A good deal of shelling from 77's and Machine gun sniping was encountered. It was evident that batteries of 77's and M.G.'s were firing at close range from PERONNE and the immediate vicinity. The canal was crossed by the bridge at I.33.J.3.8. Three Companies, A, B, and D then proceeded to move up the railway line through I.33.b & d, working up towards FLAMICOURT with a view of making good a line approx through I.35.a & c. It was found however that FLAMICOURT was occupied by the enemy and strongly held with machine guns. Consequently the enemy enfiladed the railway line with machine gun fire and inflicted numerous casualties. It was then decided to withdraw the Companies for the night and establish bridgehead defences in I.33d. Two companies manned these bridgehead defences - the remaining two companies occupying trenches on the western side of Canal.

Sept. 2nd. At 5 a.m orders were issued for an attack on PERONNE. At 5.30 am the battalion moved off through the town of PERONNE following the main street till the head of the Battalion reached the point I.21.d.0.4. Very heavy shelling was encountered whilst moving through the town and on reaching the cemetery in I.21.d enemy machine guns were found to be very active. It was intended to move across I.21.b and I.22 a & b and form up in rear of ST.DENIS WOOD with a

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view to attacking in a south easterly direction on a line approximately through I.23 I.29 I.35. This was abandoned however through the 14th Brigade troops being temporarily held up in I.15.d and I.21.b, and our troops took cover behind the railway embankment running through I.21.b and I.22.a. Throughout the day enemy shelling was very heavy and during the earlier part of the day enemy M.G's were very active. The latter however were mopped up by the troops detailed to clean the town. That night our Battalion relieved troops of the 55th and 56th Battalions and took over a line of trenches running from I.22.a.7.9 through I.22 central to the ramparts in I.22.c.

Sept. 3rd. Our positions were unchanged throughout the day and night.

Sept. 4th. The same positions were held during the day. At night about 10 pm the Battalion was relieved by the 52nd Battalion and came back to trenches in O.1 and O.7 for the night.

Sept. 5th. The Battalion moved forward again at 6.30am and took up positions in rear of 57th Battalion on the eastern edge of PERONNE I.28.a and I.22.c. These positions were occupied throughout the day and at night the Battalion went back to reserve positions in O.2, O.3 and I.32, I.33 (parts of.)

Sept. 6th. Still in reserve trenches.

Sept. 7th. Moved forward at 9.30 am and proceeded by route march to LE MESNIL and occupied huts and shelters in O.18.a.

Sept. 8th. Position unchanged.

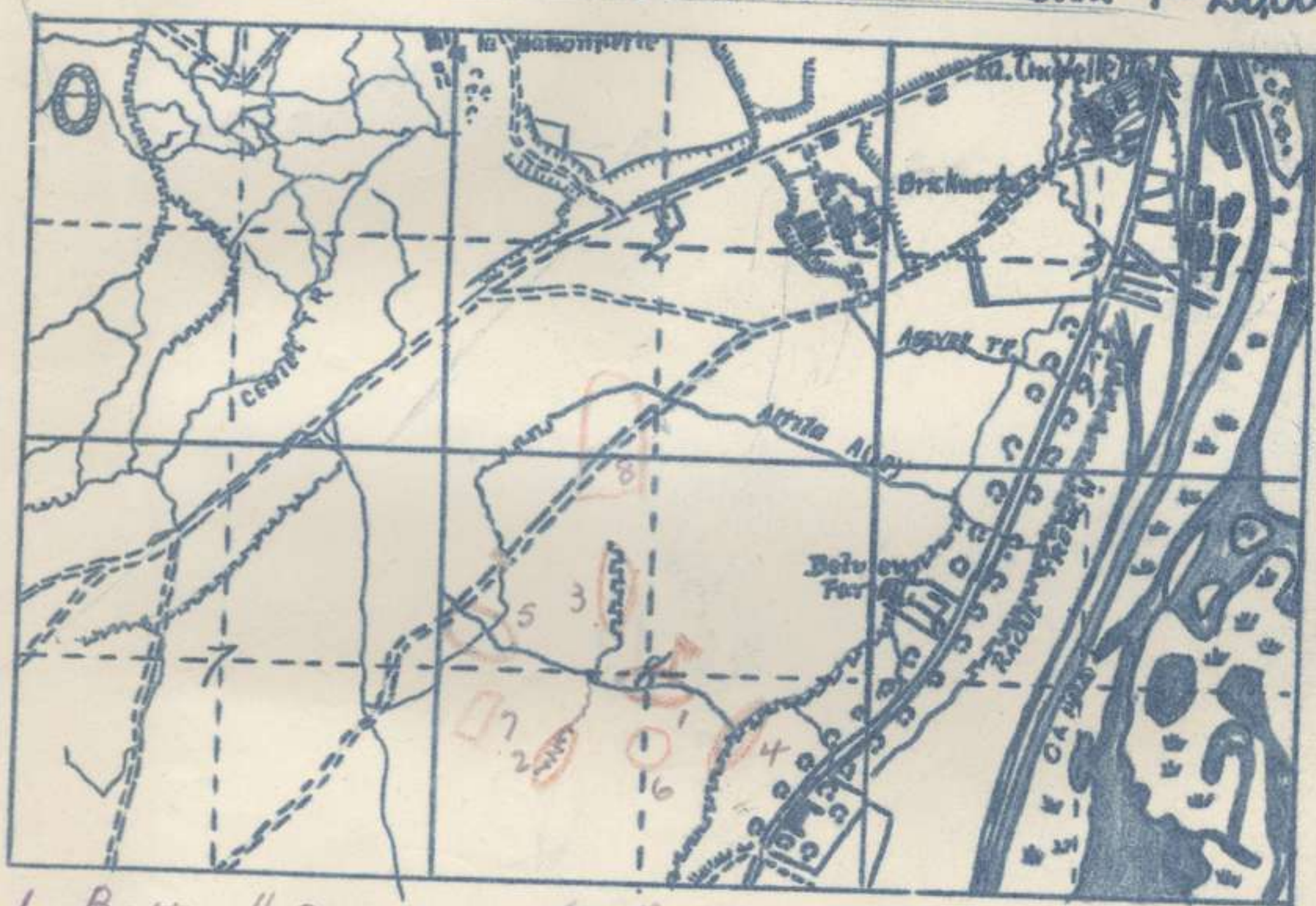
Sept. 9th. The Battalion moved out to Rest Trenches at O.8.

(sgd) W.L.Hawkins Lt.

Sketch of Area occupied by 59th Battalion from 9/9/18 to 27/9/18

PART OF SHEET 62^c S.W. Scale 1-20,000

App. No 17



1. Batt. H.Q.
2. A Company
3. C do
4. D do
5. Transport Lines & O.M. Store

6. Parade & football ground
7. Lewis gun rifle range (30 yds)
8. Bombing Range

Appendix

5th Australian Division59th Battalion A.I.F.

----- Sick Wastage Return for Week ending 11.9.18.-----

Date	Evac.to F.Amb. Off. O/Ranks	Retd.from F.Amb. Off. O/Ranks	Evac.out of Div.area Off. O/Ranks
5.9.18 (1		-	-
6 (LT/Capt D.W.Fair)			
6.9.18	3	- 3	-
7.9.18	4	-	-
8.9.18	3	-	-
9.9.18	-	-	-
10.9.18	3	-	-
11.9.18	2	-	-

AUSTRALIAN CORPS NEWS SHEET.

Extracts from Allied and Enemy Press compiled from Press cuttings supplied by the Australian War Records Section. and Other Sources.

BRITISH PRESS.

Comments on the fighting at MONT ST. QUENTIN and PERONNE.

The recent fighting in the MONT ST. QUENTIN locality is explained in the *Times*, Monday, September 2nd, by the following telegraphic despatches received from General Headquarters, FRANCE:—

"Saturday, 10.40 a.m.—During the night Australian troops drove the enemy from positions held by him east of CLERY, capturing many prisoners and a number of machine guns. Our advance in this locality is continuing."

"8.52 p.m.—By a daring and brilliantly executed night operation, carried out with great dash and enterprise, Australian troops have seized the hill and village of MONT ST. QUENTIN, north of PERONNE, thereby gaining possession of an important tactical feature commanding PERONNE and the angle of the SOMME River.

"In the same operation the village of FEUILLAU COURT was captured, and over 1,500 prisoners were taken by our troops. Our own casualties were exceptionally light."

"8.47 p.m.—This morning Australian troops captured PERONNE.

"After beating off the enemy's counter attacks at MONT ST. QUENTIN yesterday evening, at 5.30 a.m. this morning the Australians renewed their advance in conjunction with the English troops on their left. At an early hour the attacking Australian battalions had stormed the German positions west and north of PERONNE, and pressing on while fierce fighting was still taking place among the ruined streets and buildings, carried the eastern suburbs of the town."

The *Daily Telegraph* of Monday, 2nd September, in a long article from Mr. Phillip Gibbs, dated 31st August, says:—

"On the southern part of the fighting line the Australians, who have advanced no fewer than 20 miles since the beginning of our attacking in August, have struck again, and this morning (Saturday) have, by most brilliant generalship and the fine gallantry of the men, siezed MONT ST. QUENTIN, which dominates PERONNE on the northern side, and with it have captured prisoners amounting to at least a thousand, as far as I can tell.

"One fine feature of the Australian capture of MONT ST. QUENTIN, which led the way to the taking of PERONNE was the rapid manner in which they moved their guns forward over the SOMME, and fired at close range on the enemy. This was largely due to the work of their engineers at the river crossings.

"Our Australian and Canadian troops were fresher than our English battalions, because they had escaped the previous battles more than those, and since they have done wonders. We could not have achieved these results without them, but the greatest glory of human endurance goes to the English, Scottish and Irish battalions, who fought in the retreat of March, who fought again in FLANDERS, who suffered losses which would have broken the spirit of weaker men, and who now, in these recent weeks, have beaten the enemy fairly and squarely back over the same ground."

The *Daily Mail* of Sept. 3rd, in an article pointing out the different characteristics of the various troops on the Western front, says, in describing the Americans:—

"Of course it must be remembered that these men have still the civil stamp on their faces, they are fresh from business and professions, whereas our men have acquired the queer, blank, casual look of war. And curiously enough the American in no way resembles the men from our Dominions—no, not even from Canada—while he is totally unlike both Australian and New Zealander, who certainly have the most decisive and self-confident countenances of any troops out here."

The A.I.F. in PALESTINE.

The following are extracts from various articles which have appeared lately on the work in PALESTINE:—

In describing the work of the A.F.C. on that front an article in the *Times* says: "Twelve Distinguished Flying Crosses have been awarded to the Australian Squadron in the month."

In another article in the *Times* of 3rd Sept., which was chiefly devoted to describing the hardships from heat and dust experienced by the Australians in the JORDAN Valley, it is stated:—

"General Allenby, while presenting 38 decorations to the Anzac Mounted Division, has warmly congratulated the troops on their brilliant and consistent work. He expressed an always increasing appreciation of the fighting qualities of the Light Horse, and referred to the great part being played by Australians in France."

FRENCH PRESS.

The *Echo de Paris* of 1st Sept., contains the following:—

"Recently we captured some orders signed by the Commanding Officer of a battalion to relieving troops, containing the following interesting passages:—

"Forces confronting us consist of Australians who are very war-like, clever and daring. They understand the art of crawling through high crops in order to capture our advanced posts. One of their peculiarities is that they take few prisoners, and kill everybody with bayonets and rifles. The enemy is also an adept in conceiving and putting into execution important patrolling operations. The enemy infantry has daily proved themselves to be audacious."

The Special Correspondent of *Le Journal* writes an article on "How the BOCHE was vanguardised at MONT ST. QUENTIN."

"It required a forest trapper, or a hunter versed in the art of ambush and bush-craft—and the Australians, bold seekers after adventure, are these—to venture to attack on a stormy night a strong position like MONT ST. QUENTIN.

"At the back of their barbed wire defences the German machine-gunners thought themselves impregnable and immune from capture. Their sentries watched behind their parapets. The citadel, with its three rows of trenches, stood like a dark shadow on the banks of the SOMME.

"Only a few hours were necessary for the Anzacs to conquer this impregnable mountain. Of the garrison of 3,000 who defended it, more than one third are to-day lamenting in the prisoners' cage behind the line To avenge this exploit a counter-attack was decided upon, but the defensive powers of the conquerors were equal to their offensive. They fought one against two. Three assaulting waves of picked men of the 2nd Prussian Guards' Division and 21st Division were engaged in hand to hand fighting. These waves were shattered and mowed down by the frightfully accurate fire poured into them. At one time groups of Germans, protected by a smoke screen, established themselves on the slopes, but the Australians, counter-attacking them without allowing them any rest, captured 500 prisoners."

Marshal Foch, in acknowledging the congratulations of Australia on his promotion:—"I cannot adequately express my admiration for the Australians' gallantry in the battles which are now raging."

ENEMY PRESS.

Germany's Colonies.

Captain Persius, in an article in the "*Berliner Tageblatt*," August 30th, writes in a spirit of resigned pessimism regarding the future of the German colonies. He believes that even the Colonial Secretary, Dr. Solf, has of late moderated his demands for increased German possessions in AFRICA, whilst he himself cherishes no hopes whatever of KIAOCHAU ever being restored to Germany, and expects moreover that Australian and New Zealand opposition will prove an insurmountable barrier to the return of Germany's possessions in the South Seas and New Guinea.

[Over

Extract from a captured German Divisional Order. The Division was holding the line near CLERY when this order was written:—

"The Division must hold its new sector against all attacks of the enemy. It must be made clear to our men that by using our small arms and the excellent support of our artillery, we can beat off even a British attack superior in numbers. The infantry, however, must not leave the artillery in the lurch."

NOTE:—We captured CLERY on the day after this order was issued.

Extract from a captured German Divisional Order to the Pioneer Battalion:—

"Corps has ordered that the bridges which are still standing at CLERY, whatever happens, are to be completely destroyed and rendered wholly useless for traffic as soon as possible."

Extract from the order from the Pioneer Battalion to one of its Companies on receiving the above:—

"It is imperative that an attempt be made to carry out the above Corps Order. Perhaps it will be possible for a small patrol of 2 or 3 courageous men to cross the destroyed bridges on the northern arm of the SOMME and reach the bridges which are still standing, and carry out the demolition with concentrated charges."

"Division offers the Iron Cross, First Class, leave and a money reward for a successful attempt."

"Men who volunteer for the task, and make a determined effort to carry out the task, will receive 14 days leave, even if they are not successful."

NOTE:—The result of the above order was that a German Platoon Commander of their Pioneer Battalion made a plucky attempt to blow up these bridges, but was only partially successful, as he says in his report, owing to the deterioration of the charges. He also states that "it was only by violence" that he could induce his men to go forward.

Effects of Our Artillery Fire.

The following extracts from the translation of a German order signed by LUDENDORFF shows the effect of the Allied counter-battery work:—

" August, 1918.

"An accurate record of the wastage in heavy and field artillery material gives the following interesting result:—

"In one month the enemy's fire has *completely destroyed* in round numbers 13 per cent. of the guns taking part in active operations. This figure clearly brings out the value of persistent counter-battery work."

Effect of Our Air Operations.

The following extract from a letter by a German soldier in a labour battalion was written on the 19th August, 1918, during the SOMME fighting, and affords evidence of the effect produced by our bombing:—

"Dear Brother,

..... "After travelling for 12 hours and wandering about for 8 days, we are now quartered near PERONNE, and I can tell you that things have gone pretty badly with us."

"The English have just taken the Offensive, and no sooner had we detrained than a bomb landed on us, and we lost 14 men severely wounded and one killed. That made us want to bolt. You can just fancy that 200 to 300 men like that attract attention, and those beggars of airmen came as low down as one storey, and we wanted to wriggle into the ground. You must remember that those beggars have got the same sort of engines as ours, so that we cannot distinguish them. At night, the same sort of thing happened, so you can just imagine that we thought the world was going under; they have unloaded at least 300 bombs on PERONNE."

A.I.F. PRINTING SECTION.

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59th BATTALION A.I.F.

BATTALION CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 4.

T R A I N I N G.

1. Training will commence on the 16th inst. and the Syllabus for the ensuing week is attached.
2. A Battalion Assembly parade will be held each morning. The first hour will be devoted to Smartening up work, and Platoon Commanders in particular will be given every opportunity of organising and exercising their commands. In this period Gas Training will also be carried out - it will be found that, to a great extent, Gas Drill and Anti-gas exercises can be combined with other work. 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. daily will be devoted to Specialist Training: Lewis Gun, Signalling, Musketry, Bombing and Intelligence.
3. As already intimated, there will be no training in the afternoons. The men should be free for organised games and to enjoy themselves as much as circumstances permit. "Fight hard, work hard and play hard" should be our motto.
4. To enable all ranks to more thoroughly understand the Supply arrangements whereby rations are supplied to the troops in the Field, also to clear up any misunderstanding regarding what may seem to the men any undue shortage of any special commodity, arrangements have been made for the Staff Captain to lecture to the men on "SUPPLIES".
5. While in this area an excellent opportunity is afforded of lecturing to the men on recent operations. As we are on the ground actually fought over by the Brigade, the different situations that arose and the action taken to meet them can be explained and discussed.
6. A Brigade Sports Meeting is to be held on the 25th inst. On a date to be notified, Battalion Sports will be held to select representatives for the Brigade Meeting. A Round of football matches has been arranged, and if the weather is suitable, a swimming Carnival will be arranged at an early date.
7. Officers and N.C.O's must realise that it is during a period of rest like this, that the slackening of discipline, inevitable as the result of a long spell in the line, can be made up and Companies brought up to that high standard of discipline and efficiency always aimed at in this Battalion.

15th September 1918.

(Signed) W. Guy Sansom, Lieut.
a/Adjutant, 59th Battalion A.I.F.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT.</u>
16.9.18.	9 a.m.	Battalion Parade.
	9-10 a.m.	Section Drill. Rifle exercises. P.T. and Gas Drill.
	10-12 a.m.	Specialist Training.

17.9.18	9 a.m.	Battalion Parade.
	9-10 a.m.	Platoon Drill. Rifle Exercises. P.T. and Gas Drill.
	10-12 a.m.	Specialist Training.

18.9.18.	9 a.m.	Battalion Parade.
	9-10 a.m.	Platoon Drill. Rifle exercises. P.T. and Gas Drill.
	10-12 a.m.	Specialist Training.

19.9.18	9 a.m.	Battalion Parade.
	9-10 a.m.	Platoon Drill. Rifle exercises. P.T. and Gas Drill.
	10-12 a.m.	Specialist Training.

24.9.18.	9 a.m.	Battalion Parade.
	9-10 a.m.	Company Drill. Rifle exercises. P.T. and Gas Drill.
	10-12 a.m.	Specialist Training.

29.9.18.	9 a.m.	Battalion Parade.
	9-10 a.m.	Company Drill. Rifle exercises. Gas Drill. P.T.
	10-12 a.m.	Specialist Training.

SPECIALIST TRAINING.

The employment of the first hour's training is left to the discretion of Company Commanders within the limits set down in the Syllabus which is issued as a guidance.

Platoon and Company drill, rifle exercises and gas training can to a great extent be combined and by this means the work can be made more interesting. If by this means the tedium of a long parade can be relieved, better results will be secured.

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59th BATTALION A.I.F.APPENDIX "A"PROVISIONAL SPECIALIST SYLLABUS.LEWIS GUN.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMPANIES</u>	<u>SUBJECT.</u>
1st Day.	All Companies	General description - Stripping and assembling Guns.
2nd Day.	All Companies	Stripping and assembling - General handling of gun. Magazine loading and unloading. Charging of magazines
3rd Day.	All Companies	Stripping and assembling. Stoppages.
4th Day.	"A" Company	Range practice.
	"C" and "D" Companies	General revision of previous work. Anti-aircraft sights. Tactical work.
5th Day.	"C" Company	Range practice.
	"A" and "D" Companies	General revision of all work. Anti-aircraft sights. Tactical work.
6th Day.	"D" Company and Headquarters	Range practice.
	"A" and "C" Companies.	General revision of mechanical action of gun. Tactical work.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.APPENDIX "B"PROVISIONAL SPECIALIST SYLLABUS.GAS TRAINING.

NOTE: To be carried out at convenient times during Training hours.

- 1st Day. Inspection by men themselves, likely faults to be pointed out and looked for. Cleaning of Glasses.
- 2nd Day. Drill by numbers and in quick time, bayonets not fixed, correct adjustment to be obtained.
- 3rd Day. Drill by numbers and in quick time, bayonets fixed - practicing slinging rifle over left shoulder and catching steel helmet strap on right fore-arm - starting position, slope or high port.
- 4th Day. "Gas" is sounded by whistle blast or "Gas Shells" shouted while men are at work - practice method as on 3rd day.
- 5th Day. Giving and passing orders with masks on. Method of clearing gas from the mask.
- 6th Day. Recapitulation making exercises competitive where possible.
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59th BATTALION A.I.F.APPENDIX "C"PROVISIONAL SPECIALIST SYLLABUS.BOMBING.

Training will be confined to the use of the Mills Grenades Nos 23 and 36, and No. 27, if a supply of the latter is available.

Squads of 8 men per Company will be trained - each course to last three days.

The first day will be devoted entirely to a description of the various bombs and demonstrations of their use.

On the 2nd and 3rd days, throwing practice with dummies and firing of live No 36 grenades will be carried out.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.APPENDIX "D"PROVISIONAL SPECIALIST SYLLABUS.INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>9-10 a.m.</u>	<u>10-11 a.m.</u>	<u>11-12 noon.</u>
1st Day	Duties of Intelligence Personnel	Prismatic Compass	Elementary Map Reading.
2nd Day	Air Photography	Messages and Reports	Pin Pointing without Prismatic Compass.
3rd Day	Elementary Map Reading	Judging Distance	Scouting and Patrolling.
4th Day	Combined uses of Prismatic Compass and Protractor	Field Sketching	Observation. Trench Warfare.
5th Day	Observation. Open Warfare	Reconnaissance	Selection and Construction of Observation Posts.
6th Day	Recapitulation of past five days work.		

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- (a) This course will not be commenced until a date to be notified later.
- (b) Lectures on special subjects at the Brigade School will be arranged and made available for Battalion personnel to attend.
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59th BATTALION A.I.F.APPENDIX "E"PROVISIONAL SPECIALIST SYLLABUS.SIGNALLING. (Headquarters and Company Signallers).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>9-10 a.m.</u>	<u>10-11 a.m.</u>	<u>11-12 noon.</u>
1st Day	Flag Drill	Semaphore	Huzzer Reading.
2nd Day	Morse Flag	Buzzer Reading	Semaphore.
3rd Day	Linesman Duties	Adjusting Fuzzer	Semaphore.
4th Day	Cable Laying and Jointing	Cable Laying and Jointing	Cable Laying and Jointing.
5th Day	Visual Lamps and Flags	Visual Lamps and Flags	Visual Lamps and Flags
6th Day	General	L E C T U R E.	

BEGINNERS.

1st Day	Lecture and Alphabet	Visual Flags	Learning Symbols.
2nd Day	Flag Drill	Buzzer Reading	Semaphore.
3rd Day	Flag Drill	Buzzer Reading	Linesmans Duties.
4th Day	Buzzer	D 111 and Elect. Elementary	Cable jointing.
5th Day	Lamps Visual	Telephone Lecture	Buzzer Reading
6th Day	Visual	Sending and	Reading.

Australian CorpsAppendix No. 21
114/8/13Headquarters,
16th Sept., 1918.

5th Aus. Div.

The Corps Commander desires you to make it widely known throughout your Command that he very much regrets the circumstances under which the first quota of 1214 men for leave to Australia was hurriedly selected and despatched. Owing to the very short notice received from the Navy that the first ship was available to sail immediately, he was unable to arrange, as he would have wished to, for a more careful selection of all who had prior claims to be included in the first quota, or for giving them time to get at their Base kits and packs, for taking leaves of their mates, and for receiving a proper and worthy send off. Had any warning of the intention to send the party away been received the matter would have been put in train, but no hint of the scheme ^{was received}. He hopes that on the occasion of future quotas, the dates of which are not far distant, the Authorities will be able to give us longer notice, so that matters may be arranged in a more satisfactory manner.

(Sgd) R.A. Carruthers, Brig.-general,
D.A. & Q.M.G. Australian Corps.

For information and necessary promulgation to all ranks please.

17/9/18

J.H. Bruche, Colonel,
A.A. & Q.M.G. 5th Australian Division.

Appendix No 22.

5th Australian Division.59th Battalion A. I. F.

Sick Wastage Return for Week ending 18.9.18

Date	Evac, to F.Amb.		Retd, from F.Amb.		Evac. out of Div. area	
	Off.	O/Ranks	Off.	O/Ranks	Off.	O/Ranks
12.9.18		2	-		-	
13.9.18	-		-		-	
14.9.18		3	-		-	
15.9.18		2		1	-	
16.9.18		1	-		-	
17.9.18		1	-		-	
18.9.18		1	-		11	11

Appendix

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59th Battalion A.I.F.HISTORY OF LEWIS GUN NO. 10936.

This was one of the original guns issued to the 59th Battalion on formation in 1916. It has been in every action the Battalion has taken part in in France and has been put out of action on five occasions - each time being blown up by enemy shell fire.

1. On 19th July, 1916, in the attack at FROMELLES it was blown up by a shell and put out of action along with every member of the team.

2. After undergoing repairs it was issued to the same Company and given a new team.

On the 6th August, in the same sector, it was again blown out and had to undergo repairs. Team intact.

It was used constantly throughout the winter of 1916 on the SOMME and in the advance through BAPAUNE and BULLECOURT.

3. On 26th September 1917 at Polygon Wood it was mounted in the captured trench after the final objective was gained but in very short time was blown out by a shell - the stock being blown off the gun. One member of the team was killed and two wounded.

4. On 27th April 1918 whilst holding the line after the successful counter attack at VILLERS BRETONNEUX, a shell falling in the trench blew the gun up, blowing the stock completely off and wounding three members of the team.

5. On 23rd June 1918 at VILLE-SUR-ANCRE after a successful raid the retaliatory bombardment caught the gun and the stock was again blown off. Two members of the team were wounded.

Throughout its adventures the gun was in the possession of "C" Company of the Battalion and on the last three occasions on which it was blown up it was in charge of Cpl Crozier, No. 9 Platoon, "C" Company.

Major.
T/Commanding 59th Battalion A.I.F.

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

TRAINING - 23th SEPTEMBER. 1918.

9 a.m. Battalion Parade. Dress - Marching Order.

9 - 10.30 a.m. (a) Kit Inspection. Each man to have one pair of
socks in kit.

(b) Lecturettes on "Care of Feet".
Inspection of boots.

10.30 a.m. Route March in Marching Order.
- 12 noon.

In order to ensure good results in marching long distances on successive days, it is essential that, apart from strictly observing all the rules of "March Discipline" and care of the men on the march, the following receive the most careful attention:-

1. Care of feet.
2. Fitting of boots.
3. Fitting of equipment.

Attention is directed to F.S. Regs. - Part 1, Chap. III, Sections 24, 25, 26, and 31.

(Signed) E. Ormond Baker, Lieut.
a/Adjutant, 59th Battalion A.I.F.

Appendix No 25.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

26th September 1918.

To 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

SICK WASTAGE RETURN.

Date	Evac. to		Retd. from		Evac. out of	
	Field Amb.		Field Amb.		Div. area.	
	Offs	O/Rs	Offs	O/Rs	Offs	O/Rs
19.9.18					1	
20.9.18		2				
21.9.18		2				
22.9.18	2	1				
23.9.18	Lt. J. H. Wadeson MC.					
	2/Lt. F. S. Gunn.					
23.9.18		12			4	
24.9.18		5			1	
25.9.18		1			1	
					1	
					Capt. D. W. Fair.	

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

SECRET59th BATTALION A.I.F.COPY NO. 17BATTALION NO. 189.Reference: Sheet 62.C.5.B.
1:40,000

27.9.18.

1. The 5th Australian Division is moving to the Forward Area today.
2. The 59th Battalion will move to bivouac area in L.S.
3. Starting point: Cross roads O.S.D.6.2.
Time of Starting: 2.35 P.M.
Order of march: H.Q., C, D, A, B.
Distances: 100 yards between companies.
Route: Les Meunil O.18.A.3.4. O.12.C.7.1 - Le Catalet - Road
Junction P.4.C.3.5. - Brusle - Tincourt - Houely -
Reisel - Templeux.
4. There will be a halt for the evening meal at Tincourt at approximately V.30.
5. Guides will meet Companies at K.18.A.1.1. (where railway crosses road) and will lead Companies to bivouac areas.
6. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of ten and be stacked ready for transport by 11.0 a.m.
7. Packs and Officers' valises will be stacked at B.O.B. at 10.30 a.m.
8. Lewis Guns will be carried on Limbers - One Gun per Company to be carried for Anti Air Craft protection. Limbers will report to Companies before 12.30 p.m.
9. Transport will proceed to new area under arrangement of T.O. Cookers and Lewis Gun Limbers will proceed independently starting at 1.30 pm.
10. All water bottles will be filled before moving off.
11. The strictest march discipline will be maintained throughout the move especially in regard to rules for night marches after the evening halt.
12. Acknowledge.

(sgd) E. Ormond Baker Lieut.
a/Adjutant 59th Batt, A.I.F.

Distribution:-

Issued by runner at	p.m. to:-
Copy No. 1. O.C. "A" Coy	Copies to :-
2. O.C. "B" "	O.C. No 7.
3. O.C. "C" "	15th A.I. Bgde 8.
4. O.C. "D" "	File 9.
5. Headquarters	War Diary 10, 11, 12.
6. R.Q.M. and T.O.	

SECRET.59th BATTALION A.I.F.OPERATION ORDER NO. 181.Reference: SHEET 628 H.W. (Edition 5A)
1/20,000.

28th September 1918.

1. On "Z" day at a time to be notified later, the Australian Corps with the II American Corps affiliated, is to attack the enemy's position in the "HINDENBURG LINE" in the Sector NAUROY - GOUY. The attack is to be carried out in two Phases:
 1. The 30th American Division on the right and the 27th American Division on the left, are to attack at Zero and will capture the "GREEN" Line.
 2. The 5th Australian Division will ^{be on} ~~pass~~ right and will pass through the 30th American Division in open warfare formation and proceed to the "RED" Line.
2. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade will pass through the 119th American Regiment of the 60th American Brigade, on the Left Sector of the Divisional Front and will capture "RED" Line.
3. The 59th Battalion will attack in the Left Sector of the Brigade front. The 57th Battalion will be on the Right - 44th Austn. Bn. will be on the Left.
4. Objectives and Boundaries as shown on the maps already issued to Company Commanders.
5. Dispositions for the attack: "B" Coy. on the Right, "C" Coy on the Left, "D" Coy in support and "A" Coy. will be in Reserve.
6. "B" and "C" Coys will go straight for the "RED" Line. "D" Coy. will mop up the area from the "GREEN" Line as far East as the BEAUNEVOIR Line exclusive. A special party will be detailed for the mopping up of the TORREKEN Canal. "A" Coy. will mop up the BEAUNEVOIR Line within the Battalion Boundaries. "D" Coy. having reformed will pass through "A" Coy. and mop up the area forward to the "RED" Line, finally taking up a position and consolidating in close support of "B" and "C" Coys. "A" Coy. will dig in, in Reserve EAST of the North-South Road through B.35.a and B.22.c.
7. Two (2) Mark V Tanks, Two (2) Whippet Tanks, Half Section of Light Horse, One (1) Section of Field Artillery (55th Battery) are attached. Formation for attack will be as already detailed to Company Commanders. First Objective for Whippet Tanks is BEAUNEVOIR Line, Second - "RED" Line. Mark V Tanks will work with infantry. Special instructions will be given to Field Artillery and Light Horse.
8. COMMUNICATION. Message carrying rockets will be issued. S.O.S. Signal - No. 23 Rifle Grenade, bursting into 3 Red Lights. Success Signal - No. 32 Rifle Grenade, bursting into 3 Whites. Recognition by Aeroplanes will be by the Red Ground flare which is issued, and by the Metal Discs on the S.B. Respirators, which will be used when the call is made by Klaxon Horn from the aeroplane, so as to indicate our position.

(2)

9. Liaison will be kept with the flank Units - Lieut. R. GALLANDER with the 57th Bn. A.I.F. and Capt. J.R. Steel with the 11th Bgde For Tank Liaison - "B" Coy. will detail 1 man.
"A" Coy. will detail 1 man.
These men to report to Capt. Murray, 8th Bn. Tank Corps, at Copse in L.I.C at 6.30 a.m. on 29th inst.
10. DRESS. Fighting Order. 50% of all Companies will carry picks and shovels, 25% being picks; 1 extra bandolier per man; 2 No. 36 Grenades per man; 25% of the Coy. will carry No. 27 Grenades; Ground Flares 1 per man. An extra water bottle per man will be issued as far as practicable. 1 day's battle ration which has been issued.
11. Medical arrangements. Company and Battalion Stretcher Bearers will not carry back further than the R.A.P. If wounded are left in crops or on sides of roads, the position will be marked by a piece of white rag on the man's rifle and bayonet, butt end up. ~~No/unsounded~~ man will go to the rear with the wounded. Further orders of Medical arrangements will be issued later.
12. Prisoners will be collected in batches and sent to the rear under guard - slightly wounded men will be used for this purpose. Every effort will be made to see that men do not leave the lines with prisoners without authority. Prisoners will be handed over to a guard at Brigade H.Q. and receipt of correct form obtained.
13. Brigade Report Centre at L.3.a.8.8. and will move along a general line of the "RED" Road to BELLICOURT, thence along the direct line to ESTREES.
14. Bn. H.Q. will move by bounds as follows:-
Junction Roads at
A.24.C.1.1.
B.19.C.70.38.
B.20.C.95.18.
B.21.C.4.1.
B.28.A.3.9.
Reports to reach Bn. with greatest possible speed.
15. Acknowledge.

(Signed) E. Ormond Baker, Lieut
a/Adj. 59th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 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:-
6. O.C.
7. G.M. & T.O.
8. 15th A.I. Bgde.
9. File
10, 11 & 12 War Diary.

SECRET.

59th Battalion A.I.F.

28.9.18.

APPROACH MARCH ORDER TOX ACCOMPANY OPERATION ORDER NO.181.

Ref Sheet 62.C
1:40,000

Copy No. 10.

1. The Brigade will move to attack in the morning 29th instant.
2. The 59th Battalion will pass at L.7.b.1.4. at 6.45 am.
3. The order of march will be C,B,D,A Coys and H.Q.
4. The battalion will move off in lines of platoons as far as the green line - 100 yards interval - 200 yards distance.
5. Dress as previously ordered.
6. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of ten and with all trench shelters will be returned to B.O.R. by 5.30 am.
7. Breakfast 5.0 am.
8. Acknowledge.

(sgd) E.Ormond Baker Lieut.
a/Adjutant 59th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued by runner at

to

Copy No 1 A Coy
2 B "
3 C "
4 D "
5 H.Q.Off

Copies to 6 C.O.
7 Q.M.&T.O.
8 15th A.I.Bde
9 File
10,11,12 War Diary.

268.

Report on Operations extending from September 29th -
October 1st 1918.Reference :- Sheet 52C., 52D., 1/40,000
Sheet 52B., 52E., 1/20,000.

At 8.45 a.m. on September 29th, the Battalion moved off from L.7.E. in column of route, companies at 100 yards distance.

This formation was kept while moving across a previously reconnoitred route to F.28.d.3.8.; at this point the direction was changed to due EAST and companies deployed into artillery formation in lines of platoons; "C", "B", "D", "A", Hqrs. Details, "C" Coy. leading.

In order to be able to personally direct the column, I with my Adjutant, 4 runners and 4 signallers led the column, the balance of Headquarters taking up position as shown above.

The morning was very foggy and the haze was intensified by the smoke of shells bursting and also by the artificial fog or smoke, laid down by our gunners and special company, R.E.

Owing to farm ruins and natural features, direction was frequently checked.

When turning EAST at F.28.d.3.8. I found the 58th Battrn., on my Right and a company of the 44th Battalion slightly in front of me. However as we had about 7,000 yards to go I arranged with that Company of 44th Battalion to slowly sideslip into their correct area so that matters would rightly adjust themselves in good time. However as later events prove, this was not done, as we soon were fighting hard to make our ground.

At 9 a.m. a check was made in the advance at about the North and South Grid Line through E.29.central. Company Commanders were sent for, watches checked, and I gave them our location. Natural features were identified and every precaution taken that the direction of our advance was quite clear to all.

The advance was continued at 9.30 a.m.

On reaching HUSSAR ROAD, heavy machine gun fire was experienced from the direction of E.30.a & c. Here also, enemy artillery fire was intermittently severe.

I thought that the machine gun fire which was close, was from a post missed by the American moppers-up, so led the Battalion a little SOUTH along a valley, to work past this post. 500 yards further EAST of this road E.3. fire was experienced from the EASTERN corner of MALAKOF FARM. This fire was close and well directed, and caused severe casualties among my leading company. Again I moved lower down the slope, and came under fire from a gun due EAST; in the fog it could not be located.

Here I called a halt, sent out my leading company towards MALAKOF FARM to investigate, and personally went back about 600 yards to a tank, whose commander promptly responded, and came up with me. This tank cleared the situation on the flank and so I pushed on again leaving "C" Company to act as my LEFT flank guard. We were still suffering casualties from E.3. and artillery fire.

Making for the Lamp signal station, I walked through the two outer belts of wire, and up to 50 yards of an enemy strong post; the fog being yet very thick.

I saw on my left that "C" Company had made about 40 prisoners, so it was only then that I began to understand that things were not as they should be. I left a small party with a Lewis Gun to contain this post and again moved 100 yards SOUTH and so the Battalion entered the HINDENBURG LINE at about A.27.c.3.9.

"B" Company under Captain Roberts having successfully dealt with the post at the LAMP STATION, entered the line simultaneously, at about A.27.a.4.3. The light had now improved and enemy could be seen in the SADEBOY Line in A.28.b. and 29.c.

I sent "A" Company under Captain DICKSON, "D" Company under Lieut. PARR, to occupy the Support Line of the HINDENBURG SYSTEM. One company moved across the open and one along a communication trench.

"B" Company under Captain ROBERTS, less 1 platoon under Lieut. Chambers, were in some trench elements in close support to Capt. DICKSON. 1 platoon under Lieut. CHAMBERS and some remnants of "C" Company, I kept in the main line. Later, 1 platoon of 44th Bn., remnants of 1 platoon 41st Bn., and 1 platoon 108th American Regt., joined and composed the garrison of this line.

268 Captain DICKSON reported 2 companies of 44th Battalion in line with him. 1 Company on his RIGHT flank.

At 10.50 a.m. 2/Lieut. Parr reported that Germans were in same trench as he, and were bombing him; also a pineapple gun was firing on to them.

At 1.30 p.m., C.O. 44th Battalion established his Hqrs., with me at A.27.a.4.4. The enemy made two determined attempts to bomb along the trench from A.21.c.1.2. but was on each occasion repelled with severe losses to himself. A bomb stop put in as soon as we occupied this line was rushed by the enemy but again he was driven out after he had gained about 50 yards of trench.

At 4.30 p.m. a message from "C" Company under 2/Lieut. BUCKINGHAM stated that he had 12 men in a trench NORTH of QUENNEMONT FARM at A.20.c.5.4.

A machine gun officer of the 3rd M.G. Battalion reported to me that he had 4 Vickers guns at QUENNEMONT FARM and two in TOP LANE; that he had formed there a defensive flank and that he had been engaging enemy artillery in DIRK VALLEY, all day. This information was passed on, and later, the 44th Battalion arranged for a bombing attack along the trench, to drive out a post of Huns who were holding the junction of TOP LANE and our line at A.21.c.7.2., and thus give us a continuous flank defence.

The Battalion remained in this position in the HINDENBURG SYSTEM until 12 o'clock, noon, on Sept. 30th. when we moved to a position SOUTH of BELLICOURT, in G.10.c. where we remained for the remainder of the day.

At 5 a.m. on October 1st., the Battalion moved forward to form up in rear of NAUROY-le-CATELET line to attack in conjunction with 54th and 56th Battalions on RIGHT, and 57th & 58th Bns. on LEFT, to attack and capture a line shown on map.

The attack was carried out under a creeping shrapnel barrage. The objective was captured with slight opposition and few casualties, but on attempting to exploit our success, the enemy, who was for the nonce rattled, rapidly recovered and put down a heavy well directed barrage on the attacking troops, which effectively held up the advance and caused many casualties.

At 2300 the Battalion was relieved by 20th Battalion, 5th Australian Brigade, and moved back to area in G.10.c.

At 1.30 p.m., Oct. 2nd., we again moved back to L.10.c. to Reserve.

Total Casualties.

	Off.	O.R.
Killed.	2	12
Died of wounds.	1	1
Wounded	7	151
Gas	1	
Injured.		2
Missing		20
	11	186

Prisoners (estimated)

80

M.Gs.

20 (many others in area not counted).

L.10.c.4.6.

Commanding

sd/ J.J. Scanlan, Lt. Col.
59th Battalion, A.I.F.

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30

Summary of Messages cont.

Date	Time	From	To	Message
I5/9/I8	8.5 p.m.	Nuwa	Gagi	Commander Sipicer-Brown will lecture at 57th Bn H.Q. at 2.30. p.m.tomorrow on "Anti-Submarine warfare or the functions of the Grand Fleet" as many officers and senior N.C.O.s as can be spared will attend.
I6/9/I8	7.30 p.m.	Nuwa	Gagi	Will all rugby players in the Bde meet Sgt.Baskerville at 57th Bn H.Q. at 2.30 p.m. on I7/9/I8 for purpose of organizing a Bde rugby team. BBBBBBBB
I6/9/I8	I2.30 p.m.	I5thA.I. Bde	Gagi	Bands of Battns will attend transport inspection at 2 p.m. today.
I6/9/I8	5.15 p.m.	Nuwa	59th Bn	59th Bn Band willbe detailed for duty at Bde school tomorrow to report at 6 a.m. as send rations to school during day as Band rejoins at 7.30 p.m. as
I7/9/I8	3.25 p.m.	A.D.M.S,C.O. 59th 5th Aus. Aus.Bn. Div.		Capt. Shaw R.M. I5th Aus.Field Ambulance reporting for duty as R.M.O.
I6/9/I8	8.30 a.m.	NUWA	Gagi	Lieut.Colonel C.V.Watson will command the Brigade from today during the temporary absence of Brigadier General Elliot attending inter allied tank conference.
20/9/I8	....	I5th Inf.Bde.	59th Battn.	Re Brigade Order No. I98. A party of English and Colonial Pressmen will visit the Brigade tomorrow and will watch the Brigade march into the billeting area from the Brigade Route march. They will be stationed at approx.O,I4.b. Central. Times for passing thestarting point will therefore be 30 minutes later than shown in Brigade Order NO,I98.
24/9/I8	BI.45 a.m.	I5th A I.Bde	Gagi	C.O,s to report these H.Q.at once.
28/9/I8	2.20 p.m.	Nuwa	Gagi	Commissioning Sergeant E.C.Curtin your unit approved dated 25th Sept

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Summary of Messages

Date	Time	From	To	Message
22/9/18	9.50 a.m.	Gagi	Nuwa	Our Bn H.Q.G.3.c.9.2. Battalion disposed in trench up to G.3.c.9.1, 4 G.3.c.9.7. One post of Lewis Gun N.C.O. 6 men on Canal air shaft.
do.	10 a.m.	O.C.A"COV	Gagi	Two enemy machine gun posts engaged 200 yards to left and end of C.T. will push on to ridge as soon as possible.
do.	10.50	O.C.D"COV	C.O.59th	Am in trench at foot of slope B coy on right. Germans in same trench on left. Am engaging them with rifle grenades. Pineapples being fired from unknown position.
do.	11.55 a.m.	Nuwa	C.O.59th	Following report has been recd from 57 Bn timed 11.13 a.m.: - 58th Bn on my left report no sign of 59th Bn. 44 Bn are on left of 58 Bn and 44 Bn report none on their left. Report if this is so and correct your situation at once.
do.	12.55 p.m.	Capt Steel Liaison 44th Bn.	Gagi	The 44th Battalion H.Q. is at A.27.b.2.7 Their coys are at: - A cov - ---- B cov in trench A.27.d.15.00. to A.27.c.2.7. B cov in trench A.27.c.3.0. to A.27.c.3.3 C cov probably in branch A.27.a.3.2. to A.27.a.3.5. C.O. intends remaining in present position until situation clears. A cov 44th Bn. advanced at 10 a.m. to Canal tunnel but came under heavy machine gun fire from sunken road at A.16.c.4.7 and withdrew as enemy holding Cabaret Wood Farm also A.16.c.4.7. U.S.A. soldier reports Aust. troops in Bellicourt. Casualties 3 offs 30 ors. Present position is under enemy M.G. fire.
do	1 p.m.	Lt J.C. Christian for C.O.59th Bn. Bde.	15th Aus.	Am encountering heavy opposition as enemy holding NAUROY Line square A.27b and strong points as have personally seen over 100 enemy in this line as Left flank appears to be in the air as Am in touch some of the 44th Battn. as Please advise me Situation on right as We are at A.27.a.4.4. as

Summary of Messages

Date	Time	From	To	Message
29/9/18	1.30p.m.	Adjutant Gagi	NUWA	Held up by enemy who hold NAUROY strongly see Intense M.G. fire experienced. Officer casualties severe see Am in touch with C.O. 44th Bn. at A.27.a.4.4. He reports heavy M.G. fire from left flank. No other troops can be located on his flank. Enemy shelling our position intermittently. HORNBY, ROBERTS killed. LEGGETT, NEALE wounded. Other names not known. Our position A.27.a.4.4.
do.	2 p.m.	Lt.H.Dean 55th Bty.	LT.Dovle Liaison 59th	Had too many casualties to carry on, so am joining the Battery to assist to put up a barrage at about 3 p. m. Our Battery position will be at G.3.c.40.30. and the signallers are going to run a line to you at once.
do.	2 p.m.	R.M.O.	Adjutant 59th	Can you please inform if we are likely to remain in present position long enough to warrant establishing communication between 59th R.A.P. and 15th Field Ambulance post.
do	2.20p.m.	Gagi	Nuwa	situation unchanged. C.O. 44th 44th Bn reports knows nothing of 58th Bn. Lt.Dovle artv. liaison officer wounded
do	2.20p.m.	Gagi	Nuwa	Grenades urgently required. Please advise what you can do.
do	2.50p.m.	Nuwa	Lt-Col.SCANLAN	58th Bn. are holding a line on the Western bank of the Canal at about A.28.c.35. (left flank) on their left again is one company 44th Bn. 57th Bn are on right at G.2.c.5.7. 57th Bn H.Q. are at G.4.a.2.8. 58th Bn intend to run a line to you at once Bde are also doing this. At 3 p.m. Col. Denehy intends pushing forward to the Green line at 3 p.m. F.A. barrage will open for five mins. on Le Catelet line at 3 p.m. and will creep towards green line. Can you co-operate by pushing or protecting their flank. Col. Denehy suggests You take on Col. Watson, original role and he will take Yours. Col. Watson has been informed and he agrees as he has to push forward to the North. Please arrange to connect with your right at once.
do	3.15p.m.	Lt.Murn	C.O. 59th Bn.	Enemy observed bringing up M. Gun on road due north of farm on left flank front. I require 1 box S.A.A. and Mills grenades urgently please. My platoon (approx) 20 rifles is distributed along portion of Comm. Trench.

Summary of Messages

Date	Time	From	To	message
29/9/18	3.15p.m.	Gagi	Lt. Dean 55thBty	Lt. Doyle wounded .Send another Liaison Officer and run wire to your Battery please.
do.	3.50p.m.	Gagi	NUWA	Have arranged takeover from Coy of 44th Bn.who were in touch with 58th Bn.This coy has since moved to position in a communication trench in A.27.b I am pushing along a trench in Southerly direction in A. 27. d. Enemy occupy trench in A.21.a. and c and Enemy artillery are also observed in BONY and DIRK valley.2 field guns in action firing on our Tanks from A.29.a.5.7. Two enemy bombing attacks along trench in A.21.c. repulsed. Our flank swings back along Top Lane QUENNEMOTT FARM and Reference change of role.I am at present in my correct area.Owing to our left flank being so far back and the enemy holding the Neurov line so strong in A.28.c.and D, consider it impracticable to effect a change of front as you suggest.I will endeavour to push my right flank forward to conform with movement.
do	3.50 p.m.	XXIXB. Gagi	M.O.	We require stretchers at once please This is urgent.
do	4 p.m.	Gagi	Nuwa	We require S.A.A.and Bombs.rifle and hand grenades urgently please.
do	4 p.m.	Gagi	Nuwa	Would you please get in touch with 59 Q.M. and advise us when rations will be up at Bdge report centre and we will send ration Parties.
do	4.30 p.m.	Lt Buckingham	59 Bn.	Now in trench 50 in front Quernmont Farm A.20.5.5. 12 59th men here Going to Dressing Station for injection in leg. 44th Bn officer in charge.
do	4.30 p.m.	R.M.O.	Adjutant 59	Have no stretchers at R.A.P. not in actual use and have not yet established communication with Ambulance post andAs soonas I can get into touch with them or have any stretchers not in use I will forward same to you at once.
do.	4.55 p.m.	Gagi	57th Bn.	Your message 4.30 have advised Bde situation on my left flank and will follow you as soon as possible past BELLICOURT.

Appendix No.

36

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Statement of Casualties sustained by 59th Battalion A.I.F.
during month of September 1918.

Killed		Died of Wounds		Wounded		Missing	
Officers	O/Ranks	Off.	O/Ranks	Off.	O/Ranks	Off.	O/Ranks
2.	14.	2.	18	7.	177.	-	7.
Capt. L.L. Hornby		Capt. S.W. Neale		Lt. W.W. Leggatt			
" C.S. Roberts		2/Lt. A.J. Tucker		" G.B. Bower			
				" C.H. Ashman			
				2/Lt. L.H. Parker			
				" H.E. Buckingham			
				" R.W. Marshall			
				" A.J. Parr			

59th BATTALION A.I.F.Appendix No. 36

Return of Comforts Fund Gifts
drawn during the month of September 1918.

Comforts drawn.	September	Quantity.		22nd.
		4th.	12th.	
Cocoa and Milk	(cases)	10	12	10
Fruit	"	6	-	4
Tinned Goods	"	6	-	-
Milk	"	6	-	4
Cigarettes	"	2	2	1
Tobacco	"	1	1	1
Sweets	"	-	3	-
Biscuits	"	-	5	-
Butter	"	-	-	1

59th BATTALION A.I.F.

Appendix No. 37

Fat Return for the Month of September 1918.

Amount of fat recovered and returned.....1150 lbs.

Regimental Quartermasters Diary for the month of September 1918.

September

- 1st. Location N. 9. a. central. Tradesmen on usual work. Great difficulty in obtaining petrol tins in sufficient quantities for water for front line use. Rations left store at 7 p.m. and passing Barleux wagons came under shell fire. One horse was killed and one wounded. This one was afterwards shot. Three drivers were wounded, two of whom were evacuated. Rations eventually reached front line one hour late.
- 2nd. Rations again leave at 7 p.m. C.Q.M.S. Robertson and Russell whilst attending to forward delivery of same. C.Q.M.S. Robertson died at C.C.S. afterwards. The remaining two Q.M.S.s (Ford and Chamberlain) both badly shaken up by shell-shock, and relieved by me from duty. The company storemen for all companies took the place of C.Q.M.S. and delivered the rations. Rations consisted of steaks, curry, and biscuit pudding, tea - all hot in hot boxes, and dry rations in the usual manner (sandbagged).
- 3rd. Body of Q.M.S. Robertson brought back by limber and buried by 57th Bn. Padre. Cross erected by Batt. Pioneers. C.Q.M.S. Russell, Ford and Chamberlain return to duties, and company storemen return to duty at store. C.Q.M.S. Russell on arrival wounded in arm, was evacuated. Storeman Marshall again sent to take over the duties of C.Q.M.S. Rations delivered safely.
- 4th. Salvage packs at VAIRE store are disposed of and salvage sent to D.A. D.O.S. and private effects to B.O.R.K. Wounded officers valises despatched to A.I.F. Headquarters. Battalion moves to BARLEUX. Blankets are sent up for delivery. Comforts from A.C.F. are drawn and issued. Cocoa - 10 cases. Fruit - 6 cases. Milk - 6 cases. Tinned goods - 6 cases. Puddings - 3 cases. Cigarettes - 3 cases. These are much appreciated.
- 5th. Battalion again ordered into line, blankets returned to field store. Rations despatched before departure of Battalion.
- 6th. Q.M. Store moves to near Barleux. Nucleus and Band rejoin. Men dig themselves bomb proof shelters against enemy aircraft, which are active.
- 7th. Q.M. Store moves again to near Le Mesnil with Battalion. Blankets issued. Two Lewis Guns lost in action, replaced.
- 8th. Q.M. Capt May and C.O. proceed on U.K. leave. R.Q.M.S. Oates acts as R.Q.M. Rations delivered in bulk. C.Q.M.S. and cooks now with coys.
- 9th. Moved with Battalion to near Peronne. Bootmakers (4) push on with repairs to boots. Wagons sent to rear store Vaire, to bring up sufficient material, also officers valises.
- 10th. Mens packs from rear store Vaire, sent for. Pioneers erecting sanitary accommodation for camp, also hut for messes.
- 11th. Pioneers erect store for rations, and more sanitary accommodation. Indents called for to replace U.S. articles of clothing.
- 12th. Comforts drawn from A.C.F. Cocoa - 12 cases. Biscuits - 5 cases. Tobacco - 1 case. Sweets 3 cases. Cigarettes - 2 cases. Clothing drawn as indented for, and issued to Battn. Pioneers still making comfort for officers and men. Tailor busy on repairs and sewing color patches on tunics. Bootmakers report satisfactory progress.
- 13th. Usual routine.
- 14th. T.O. Lt McBroom departs on Australian furlough. Lt McKay acts as T.O.

- Sgt. 15/18. Usual routine. Transport inspected by G.O.C.
17. Balance of stores at VAIRE brought up to Battalion and Guard withdrawn.
18. Pioneers at work under Brigade arrangements making concert hall
19th. for Brigade's comfort during rest. Stores being checked and losses being accounted for. Indents submitted.
- 20th. Surplus kit of officers exceeding weight allowed, despatched to Base. Salvage collected from Camp and returned to D.A.D.O.S.
- 21st. R.Q.M.S. Oates, Pte. Straughair, storeman, and Sgt. Hepburn, Sgt. Cook, warned for furlough to Australia. Vegetables purchased for the Battalion, back in Abbeville, and brought up by train next day. Rations still delivered in bulk to G.Q.M.Ss.
- 22nd. Comforts drawn from A.C.F. and distributed to Coys.
Cocoa 10 cases; Fruit 4 cases; Milk 4 cases; Butter 1 case; Cigarettes 1 case; Tobacco 1 case.
- 23rd. R.Q.M.S. Oates, Sgt. Hepburn and Pte. Straughair depart for Australia. L/Cpl. Turnley takes over from R.Q.M.S. Men of battalion are bathed and clean underclothing issued at Divn. Baths erected at la CHAPELLETTE. Pioneers make room for a Canteen, also manufacture crosses required for men buried in PERONNE Cemetery.
- 24th. Excess store again established at la CHAPELLETTE and excess stores sporting material etc., deposited there. Pioneers Owens and Rule act as guard. Usual routine for other tradesmen. Boot repairs now completed.
- 25th. R.Q.M. reports to Battalion from U.K. leave and takes over duty again. Stores of Officers' and Sgts.' messes etc., taken over of 60th Battalion which is now amalgamated with 59th.
- 26th. Inspection of all stores and Transport, Sanitary arrangements and workshops made by R.Q.M. Arrangements made for storing of surplus in view of forward move.
- 27th. Battle rations and Battle stores drawn and issued. Move to Rosiel. Cookers accompany Battalion. Evening meal served on road. Transport lines and stores fixed at rear of ROSIEL.
- 28th. Trench shelters drawn and issued to Battalion forward near TEMPLEUX. Weather wet. Cocoa drawn from Y.M.C.A. and served hot to Battalion early next morning, with meal, before attack.
- 29th. Follow Battalion to near TEMPLEUX picking up cooks on the advance. Hot meal ready and despatched with rations (dry) at 7 p.m. to Battalion. Location of Battalion not known. Wagons stand by all night in advanced position until Battalion was located at 6 a.m. next morning. Shelling heavy on roads and vicinity. Rum issue made on account of heavy weather.
- 30th. Rations taken in to BELLICOURT. Shelling again heavy. 1 mule killed, and 1 wagon blown up by shell fire. Cpl. Niquet of Transport twice up to BELLICOURT with rations and once up to reconnoitre road. Doing splendid work. Rum issue again. Weather wet and cold. Evening meal consists of Hot tea, stew, biscuit puddings, with rissoles for midday. Dry rations in sandbags. Pioneers do good work replacing hot boxes lost in action. Storemen salve sufficient tins to replace those lost in line. The amount of fat returned to S.S.O. for month approx. 1200 lbs., considerably lower than previous month; due to smaller strength of Battalion. Salvage for the month has been good. Supplies from A.S.C. have been excellent. On some days over 80% of bread and over 50% fresh meat as allowed in the new scale of rations published. Indents for stores and equipment from D.A.D.O.S. also have been quickly delivered.

sd/ W. May, Capt. R.Q.M.

268 Transport Officer's Diary for the month of September, 1918.

On September 14th I took over the 59th Battalion transport from Lieut. McBroom who returned to Australia on leave. The day after I took over there was an inspection of all transport in the 15th Brigade by Lt. Col. Watson, acting Brigadier-General, during the absence of General Elliott in Paris. The inspection took place near the 58th Battalion billeting area about 1 mile West of PERONNE and the transports were drawn up by Lieut. Collins, Brigade T.O., in the following order:- 57th Bn. 58th Bn., 59th Bn., and 60th Bn. The General turn out was good and at the close of the inspection Colonel Watson spoke a few words of praise to the T.Os and men and complimented them upon the excellent show produced at such short notice and after such trying times. On the 22nd September, Brigade ordered an inspection of all pack animals and Pack-saddles to be held on the same ground as the previous inspection of transport on Sept. 15th. The Officer inspection was Lieut. Berglund, of the 29th A.S.C.M who is considered an expert in pack transport.

Each Battalion T.O., and N.C.O. accompanies Lt. Berglund on his inspection who pointed out all mistakes and explained the correct method, at the same time giving many valuable hints. The condition of the pack saddlery was good, with the exception of two saddles which required a little more padding in the front. Nothing very exciting happened until Sept. 27th. when I received orders that the Battalion was moving forward at 2 p.m. and that the cookers and water carts were to precede the Infantry by half an hour and have tea ready for them at TINCOURT when they arrived. The remainder of the transport moved out at 6 p.m. and joined the 57th and 58th Bns. transport at the junction of the roads, O.3.b.2.9. (Sheet 62C).

The route traversed was via DOINGT - BUIRE - TINCOURT - MARQUAISE and thence to our parking ground in K. 22.c, just South of ROISEL. We remained in this position until the afternoon of Sept. 29th and supplied the Battalion who were camped in L.7.c & d. with rations and water. On the morning of the 29th Sept., American Troops attacked, supported by 15th Brigade Australian troops in the vicinity of BELLICOURT and pushed the enemy back, and allowing of the Transport lines to be taken forward to L.9.c.2.2. (Sheet 62C.)

At 8.30 p.m. on the 29th no word had been received by the R.Q.M. regarding the position of the Battalion ration dump for that night. However we knew that Brigade Headquarters were on the right of the HARGICOURT-BELLICOURT Rd. about 3 kilometres from HARDICOURT, so Capt. May and Cpl. Niquet rode on to Brigade to try and gain information regarding the Battalion and I followed with the ration limbers and ammunition. On the outskirts of HARGICOURT on the BELLICOURT Road I met Major Steart Smith, who said he had just intercepted a message from Col. Scanlan to Brigade saying to dump the Rations at Brigade H.Q. where ration parties would send for them. Major Smith gave me a guide to Brigade H.Q. where I met Capt. May, to whom I gave Major Smith's message. The night was fearfully wet and cold, so in order to keep the dry rations from being spoiled, Capt. May packed them in one of the limbers and covered them; leaving the limber by the road side. A guard was left over the rations which were not sent for until 6 a.m. the following morning, when both the evening meal and breakfast were taken together. The following night the ration dump was shifted to G.10.b.2.9. (Sheet 62B). On the way up with rations on the night of the 30th Sept. Fritz was shelling the BELLICOURT Road and one shell succeeded in wounding one of our mules very severely - it managed to draw the ration limber to the dump but there its strength gave out and we had to shoot it and leave the limber there to be called for by a team sent up with the breakfast.

When the breakfast limbers arrived at the dump it was found that a shell had landed between the fore and rear half of the limber, which utterly destroyed the rear portion and seriously damaged the fore part. It was afterwards returned to D.A.D.O.S. and a new one drawn. The trip forward with rations on the evening of Oct. 1st was the next event of importance but that does not concern our September diary.

sd/ Jas. H. McKay, Lt.
T.O.