

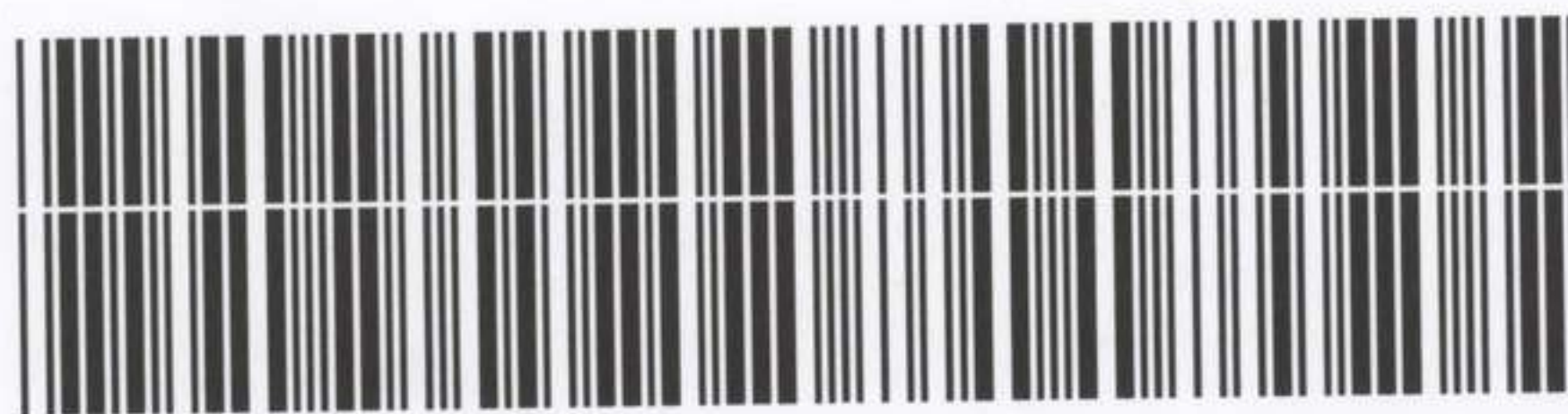
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/66/13

Title: 49th Infantry Battalion

June 1917



AWM4-23/66/13

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

49th BN A.I.F. Sheets

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref OS Map 28 S.W. 1.10000	1917			
NEUVE EGLISE	June 1		Battalion in reserve & provided carrying & working parties.	
	6		Bn strength on 1 st 31 off 892 of Rks.	
O-27.d.00	7-9		Bn attacked & captured the German line O.28. d.23-034.035.	
"			(Appendices attached). Bn relieved at 12.30 a.m. 9 th by Wilts Regt.	
U.I.d.i.g.	10-12		Bn in supports to 50 th Bn. on the 10 th & 11 th of June & on the night of 11/12 th June Bn in supports to 4 th Aust. Inf. Bde	
"	12 th		Bn moved to CANTEEN CORNER at T26.C. central arriving at 12.30 p.m.	
T.26.c.	13 th		Bn resting	
Central.	14 th		bleaning of equipment & clothing. 13 th A.I. Bde addressed by Lt-Genl SIR A.T. GODLEY, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.	
"	15/16		Bn in training. Specialists receiving particular attention. Strength 21 off 582 of Rks.	
"	17		Bn moved by bus to HEURINGHEN arriving at 7.30 p.m. (Appendix attached)	
HEURINGHEN.	18/20		Bn in training (Syllabus attached)	
"	21		Bn moved to VIEUX-BERQUIN by bus, arriving at 2 p.m. (Appendix attached) 56 Reinfects	
VIEUX-BERQUIN	22/23		Bn in training (Syllabus attached) (22 nd) Bn strength 22 off 626 of Rks	
"	24		Church Parade.	

W. L. Arrell Major
Tempory Comd 49th Bn

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

49th Bn A. I. F. Army Form C. 2118. 478
Sheet 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref O.S. Map 28 SW 1/10000 Vieux BERQUIN	1917 June 25/29 30		Bn in training. (Appendix attached) Bn strength 23 off 625 9RA. Bn marched to De Seule camp. (Appendix attached)	

2353 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

W. L. Farrell Major
Tempy Comdg 49th Bn
A. I. F.

448
49th Battalion Operation Order No 6.

Headquarters,
6.6.17

Reference Map 1/10,000.

1. On second day at ZERO hour Second Army will attack the MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE RIDGE.
The Battalion will move from this camp at ZERO plus 4.30 and proceed along Z route.
2. The objectives and task allotted to 13th Bde. is two lines of trenches marked with Green line, approximately first objective 0 28 a 90 south to 0 34 a 83. 2nd objective 0 28 b 41 - 0 34 b 35.
3. The attack will be carried out by the 49th Bn on the right and 52nd Bn. on the left. The 12th Aust. Inf. Bde. will cooperate on the right of the 49th Bn, the 33rd Bde on the left 52nd Bn. The 50th & 51st Bns. will be in present New Zealand Division trenches as Bde. reserve.
 - (b) Dividing line between the 13th & 12th Bdes. Road at U 2 c 5.8 up to MESSINES - through village to road junction at 0 33 c 30.45 - straight across to bend in road at 0 34 a 13 thence along road to where it cuts the trenches at 0 34 a 83 and 0 34 b 25.
 - (c) Dividing line between 13th Bde. & troops on left.:
Bend in road at 0 32 c 0 5.65 - MESSINES + WYTSCHAETE ROAD at 0 32 b 1 6 - Farm 0 27 d 10.95 - Farm 0 28 a 2 0 thence in line towards farm at 0 28 b 6 1.
 - (d) Dividing line between 49th & 52nd Bns.:
Junction of roads 0 32 c 7 1 to main road at 0 32 d 35.85 thence via cross roads at 0 33 a 5 6 - 0 27 d 0 0 - south of farm at 0 27 d 8 2 - Cross roads 0 28 c 5 2 + 0 28 d 15.25.
4. (a) Attacking troops will be deployed on the general line U 2 a 85.05 - 0 32 c 05.60 at ZERO plus 8.30. Position of deployment will be flagged and taped.
 - (b) At ZERO plus 8 hours 30 minutes they will advance in a line of small column on about the same frontage as they will maintain in the attack.
 - (c) After passing the line of MESSINES village, troops will move out into lines and advance close up to the Barrage which will come down at ZERO plus 9 hours ~~plus~~ 30 minutes, 150 yards East of the line of posts (red dotted line).
 - (d) A tape will be laid parallel to the objective from 0 27 a 0 0 South to 0 33 d 0 8. The bearing of this tape to the objective is 90 degrees magnetic. The attack will be carried out on a two Company frontage of two waves of four lines each. Distance between lines 25 yards. Distance between waves 100 yards.
C and D Companies will form the first wave. C.Co. on the left and D.Co. on the right.
A & B Companies will form the second wave. A.Co on the left and B.Co on the right.

Dividing lines between Companies: 0 33 c 0 7 N.E. to 0 33 b 0 4 E to 0 34 a 10.65 E to 0 34 a 7 7

 - The first wave will take the first objective.
 - The second wave will take the second objective.
 - (e) At New ZERO the attack will move forward behind the barrage which will creep towards the Green Line at the rate of 100 yards in 3 minutes.
 - (f) The attack all along the Second Army front will enter the front trench of the Green line system simultaneously at new ZERO plus 20 minutes.
 - (g) The Barrage will rest on the Green support line from New ZERO plus 20 minutes to New ZERO plus 35 minutes when it will lift and the trench will be captured.
 - (h) A protective Barrage will be formed 300 yards in advance of this line from New ZERO plus 35 minutes to New ZERO plus 1 hour 5 minutes when it will lift to allow mounted troops to go forward.
5. Tanks will cooperate in this operation but plans will be made out as if no cooperation is forthcoming.
6. The Heavy Artillery will pay particular attention to the wire at

at 0 34 a 8 3
0 34 a 7 7
0 28 c 6 3

7. Twenty four Machine Guns of the (b) 25th Division will form a protective Barrage (in positions in 0 26 d and 0 32 a)
(a) At NEW ZERO plus 10 minutes guns will open fire on Green support line and work back at 100 yards per minute to 300 yards E of Green Line, where it ~~will~~ remains until NEW ZERO plus 20 minutes. (Fire will re-open on S.O.S. Signal)
8. After ^{CAPTURE} of Green line, steps will at once be taken to co-ordinate fire with Lewis Guns, and fl ank Machine Guns.
(b) Defensive night lines will be put out covering Bn frontage.
(c) Disposition reports will be sent direct to Bn. Hdqrs.
(d) The Green Line will be consolidated as soon as it is captured, and advanced posts will be pushed out and all the farms immediately in front of the line will be put into a state of defence by parties specially told off.
(e) Strong points will be established at junctions of 49th Bn. and 12th Bde, and junction of 49th & 52nd Bns.
(f) The defence will be organised in depth as soon as possible. Strong points will be established in rear and machine guns will be used to make these points. These strong points should be roughly 300 yards apart and 300 yards to the rear of the Green Line.
9. One squadron of mounted troops will be used for reconnaissance E of the Green Line.
10. Two guns of the 13th M.G.Coy. will be attached to the 49th Bn. and follow in rear of the last wave.
11. Two guns of the 13th A.L.T.M.B. will be attached and will follow in rear of the last wave and will be used for machine gun emplacements or anything that is holding the advance up.
12. (a) A Contact Aeroplane will fly over the Green Line at New ZERO plus 40 minutes at which hour flares will be lit by the leading troops. Troops will be prepared to light flares at times other than the above if the aeropl anes call for them.
(b) Green flares will be used and be lit in groups not less than 3.
(c) Aeroplanes will call for flares by sounding a series of As ON the Klaxon Horn, and by firing a white Very light.
13. Troops of the 4th Aust. Div. will wear pink bands on both arms above the elbow.
The 33rd Bde. on our left will wear Green patches on their backs.
14. RATIONS. The unexpired portion of the days ration, 1 days preserved ration and 1 days iron ration will be carried on the man. 1 extra water bottle per man will be carried and all ranks must carefully conserve their water, as this be all they are able to get for a considerable time.
15. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS. The Bn dressing station will be in the proximity of Fanny's Farm. Exact location will be notified as soon as possible.
16. Battalion Hdqrs. be at about DESPAGNE FARM, As soon as possible Coys. will be notified directly hdqrs. are established there. in the meantime reports will be sent to FANNY'S FARM. A visual station will be established at 0 34 a 75.60.
17. TOOLS? FLARES ETC. 50% of men will be issued with picks and shovels. Green ground flares will be issued at the rate of 100 per Coy. These are in tins of two and will be carried on the man. 2 sand bags per man will be carried. Wire Cutters are issued at the following rate, C & D Coys. 20 each, A & B Coys. 10 each. Hession duck-boards will be issued to C & D Coys.
18. POWER BUZZER. Will go forward to the final objective with the 52nd Bn. Reports after ZERO will be sent in clear or code. After the consolidation of the Green line, as soon as the tactical situation demands it they will be sent in code.

49th Battalion Operation Order No 6 continued.

19. PIGEONS. 8 pigeons will be allotted to the Bn.
20. Watches will be synchronised at ZERO plus 4.15 and ZERO plus 8.15.
21. Men are to be warned that there is no word "RETIRE."

W. C. Swan

Captain,

Adjutant 49th Battalion. A.I.F.

Copy No.1 War Diary
 2 File
 3-6 Companies.
~~7-10 Companies.~~
 8 50th Bn
 9 52nd Bn
 10 51st Bn

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Headquarters
49th Battalion
13/6/17

13th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Report on Operations.

The Battalion left Neuve Eglise at 7.40 a.m. on the 7th June.

Disposition of Companies as follows:- H'qrs D, C, B, A. Proceeding along 2 routes to Medicine Hat Trail and thence along overland to Boyle's Farm and then to first jumping off position at U 2 a 40 95 to U 2 a 7 9 arriving there at 9.40 a.m. without a casualty.

New Zero was put back 2 hours.

The Battalion moved off from this position at 1.40 p.m. and came under a fairly heavy enemy barrage, unfortunately getting a fairly large number of casualties, but going steadily on, reached final jumping off position, at O 27 d 00 to O 33 d 0 6, in good order at 2.20 p.m. This position was well taped and the Coys in extended order along the tape with touch on the left flank, with 52nd Battalion, and on the right flank with the 45th Battalion. Here our barrage was falling a bit short and caused a few casualties on our right flank. About 3 p.m. 52nd Bn. reported they were not in touch on their left and could see no sign of the Lincolns who should have been there ready to jump off at 3.10 p.m.. At New Zero plus 90 minutes the whole line moved forward. Our barrage from here until the first objective was taken was behind time and we could not get into the trench until 10 minutes after schedule time owing to our barrage still resting on the first objective.

I regret to state that only 2 officers of the 12 who went forward from the final jumping off position reached the objective, the remaining 10 becoming casualties. The four Company Commanders were killed.

Disposition of the Battalion in the first objective was as follows:- Lieut. Hart with the men from C & B coys at O 28 a 9 4 and Lieut. Berriman with men from A, D & B Coys at O 28 c 4 1. There was a break of about 300 yards between these officers. The Battalion was not on the front allotted to them to take. The chief causes of this being (1) Officers and men had definite instructions not to lose touch on the flanks. (2) Owing to the troops on the left of the 52nd Bn. not coming up in time to go forward at New Zero plus 90 minutes the 52nd Bn. had to incline to the North to take over ground of the Bde. on our left and also to avoid being cut off. (3) The left Coys. of this Bn. kept touch with the 52nd Bn. The right Coys. kept in touch with the 12th Bde. who did not reach first objective. Lieut. Berriman patrolled along the trench as far as O 34 a 6 7 and could not get in touch but could see our troops some 250 yards behind at about O 34 c 3 8. Returning to O 28 c 4 1, got in touch with Lt. Hart and took his men to form a protective flank at O 28 c 05 90.

About 5 p.m. our own barrage came back on the first objective and caused a few casualties. The 52nd Bn. withdrew from their trench until the barrage lifted. About 9 p.m. the enemy massed for a counter-attack, but our artillery and Vickers Guns dispersed them before properly organized. At about 3 a.m. 8/6/17 ~~our own artillery was called in to shell the lines~~ two Companies of the 51st Bn. under Capt. Cook and Capt. McBurnie reinforced us and extended to the right. Their right then rested at about O 34 a 7 3. Several times during the day of 8/6/17 our Artillery shelled our lines, otherwise things were fairly quiet. At 8.45 p.m. 8/6/17 the enemy opened a very heavy barrage on our front line system as far back as Despaigne Farm and then to Black line. This lasted 90 minutes. Here again our Artillery heavily shelled our front line system causing many casualties. During this, at no time did our men leave the front trenches. At 9.15 p.m. I regret to report that Lieut-Colonel H. Paul was wounded. At 10.30 p.m. things quietened down and the remainder of the night was normal.

During the day of 9/6/17 orders came through that the 50th Bn. would attack trench at O 28 c 5 1 to O 34 a 65 419

We were instructed to push four strong points

Report on Operations (Continued)

points to the Green Line as soon as it became dark. This was done and the following were the dispositions of same. O 28 b 3 4, O 28 b 3 1, O 28 d 1 8, O 28 c 9 5. At about 12.30 a.m. the Wilts Regt. relieved us of front line.

The relief was successfully carried out without casualties. The Battalion then moved to the jumping off trenches New Zealand Division at U 1 d 1 9.

On the morning of the 12th the Bn. moved to T 26 c 5 4.

I should like to state that Capt. Deuchatel and his men did great work and no doubt greatly assisted in the consolidation of the first objective. Also that Lieut. Duff of the 13th A.L.T. M.B. with his gun ready for emergency and his personal cheerfulness helped to keep the spirits of the men up.

W. L. Arnell
Major.
Temporarily Commanding 49th Battalion.



PRINTED BY No. 9 ADVANCED SECTION, A. P. & S.

- DIVISION
Map reference or
Mark on MAP on
Back.
1. I am at.....
 2. I am at.....and am consolidating
 3. I am at..... and have consolidated
 4. Am held up by M.G. at.....
 5. I need:- Ammunition
Bombs
Rifle Grenades
Water
Very Lights
Stokes shells
 6. Counter attack forming up at.....
 7. I am in touch with..... on ^{RIGHT} ~~LEFT~~ at.....
 8. I am not in touch on ^{RIGHT} ~~LEFT~~
 9. Am being shelled from.....
 10. I estimate my present strength at..... rifles
 11. Hostile $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{BATTERY} \\ \text{MACHINE GUN} \\ \text{TRENCH MORTAR} \end{array} \right\}$ active at.....
- Time.....m Name.....
- Date..... Platoon.....
- Company.....
- Battalion.....

Headquarters
49th Battalion
17/6/17

OPERATION ORDER No. 7.

1. The Battalion will move by motor lorry to RENESCURE on the 17th inst. at a time to be notified later.
2. DRESS. Full marching order.
3. ORDER OF MARCH. A.B.C.D. Companies, Headquarters and Band. Men will be told off in parties of 24, Coys to notify B.O.R. by 10 a.m. of any incomplete 24.
4. OFFICERS BAGGAGE & MESS BOXES. Will be stacked at a point just over Railway Line. Lewis Guns will be stacked with baggage. Details of Q.M. Stores will load baggage wagons. This point will be shown to Coys. in the morning.
5. CAMP AREA. All tents and shacks will be struck by 8.30 a.m. tents to be rolled and put in tent bags. Tent pegs will be withdrawn and put in peg bags. Orderly Officer will render a certificate to B.O.R. by 10 a.m. that the camp is clean and free from all discarded articles of clothing and equipment.
6. TRANSPORT. Field Kitchens, Water Carts, Maltese and Officers Mess cart and 1 G.S. Limbered wagon will proceed by road under Brigade arrangements. 9 Riding Horses will also proceed by road. Transport Officer to make necessary arrangements for grooms.
7. RATIONS. Rations for the 18th inst. will be at RENESCURE CHURCH. They will be delivered to Battalion by 2nd line Transport. 1 man will be sent to Church as guide as soon as billeting area is fixed.
8. Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. and field kitchens will be ready to pull out at 8.30 a.m.
9. Fantassies. 5 fantassies per Co. will be stacked with Co. mess boxes.
10. MARCHING OUT STATES. will be rendered to B.O.R. by 10 a.m.

M. Swana

Adjutant 49th Battalion Captain,
A.I.F.

HEADQUARTERS.
49TH BATTALION.
20th June, 1917.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING
23/6/17.

DAY&DATE	8 - 9	9 - 10	10 - 11	2 - 3.
Monday. 18.	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH.			Training of Specialists and N.C.O's.
Tues. 19th.	Section Drill	Bayonet fighting	Platoon Drill.	D O.
Wed. 20th.	Platoon Drill.	Gas Drill.	Bayonet Fighting	D O.
Thurs. 21st.	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH.			D O.
Fri. 22nd.	Company Drill	Guards & Sentries	Gas Drill.	D O.
Sat. 23rd.	Musketry Exercises.	Bayonet Fighting	Rapid Firing	D O.

H. C. Swain Captain.
ADJUTANT 49TH BATTALION..

Headquarters,
20.6.7

49th Battalion Operation Order No 8

1. The Battalion will move to VIEUX BERQUIN area tomorrow ~~XXXXXX~~ 21st inst by bus.
2. Place of embusment Main Street, Southern End. Time 9.15 a.m. The following order will be observed. A.B.C.D. Coys. Hdqrs. Men will be told off in parties of 23 and be ready to embus immediately the whistle goes.
3. DRESS. full marching order. Steel helmets to be worn.
4. 2/Lt. Devine will report to Staff Captain at 6.45 a.m. at Railway Crossing about 300 yards East of the S in WARDRECQUES to guide baggage wagons to Bn. Hdqrs.
2/Lt. Verry will report to Staff Captain at the above Rendezvous at 7.45 a.m. to guide lorries for personnel.
5. Bn. will take over the same billets as before when in the above area. Buses will go to the respective Hdqrs. of Coys. etc.
6. All surplus baggage will be collected by 8 p.m. tonight and stacked under archway at Bn. Hdqrs. Q.M. will detail limber to call at Co. Hd. for same. Starting at 7.30 p.m. Baggage waggons will be loaded ~~at~~ 7.45 a.m. (7) HORSE TRANSPORT :- will report to Lt. WATKINS at 6.15 a.m. at junction of cross roads 200 yards East of S in WARDRECQUES. Necessary dixies will be held for breakfast.
8. MARCHING OUT STATES will be rendered to B.O.R. by 8.30 a.m.
9. REVEILLE. 5.30 a.m. BREAKFAST. 6.15 a.m. All dixies, mess gear etc. will be stacked at Bn. Hdqrs. by 7.20 a.m.

H. Swain Captain,

Distribution. W. Diary-1
 "A") 2 Copy Adjutant 49th Battalion.
 "B" 3 "
 "C" 4 "
 "D" 5 "
 File 6

HEADQUARTERS,
49th Battalion,
24th June, 1917.

13th Aust. Inf. Bde.,

FORWARDING SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 30-6-17.

Day & Date.	8am. to 9am.	9am to 10am.	10am to 11am.	2pm to 3pm.	3pm to 4pm.
Monday 25-6-17	Bayonet <u>X</u> Fighting.	Outposts.	Platoon Drill.	Training of Specialists.	N.C.O.'s Class.
Tuesday 26-6-17.	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH				-Do-
Wednesday 27-6-17.	Outposts	Musketry <u>C</u> Exercises.	Platoon Drill.	Training of Specialists.	-Do-
Thursday 28-6-17.	Platoon Scheme.	Outposts.	Musketry Exercises.	- DO -	-Do-
Friday 29-6-17.	Bayonet Fighting.	Platoon <u>X</u> Scheme.	Guards & Sentries.	- DO -	-Do-
Saturday 30-6-17.	ROUTE MARCH.				-DO-

X
O
E

By Brigade Instructor.
Special attention to be given to Manipulation of Bolt.
Special attention to be given to inter-communication.

Tuesdays & Friday Nights 7-8.30pm., Officers. Skeleton Scheme paying Special attention to reports, messages, etc.,

W.L. Ansell
Major.,
T-Commanding 49th Battalion., A.I.F.,

OPERATION ORDER NO. 9.

Reference O.S. Maps, 1/40,000 sheets 28 & 36.

COPY NO. ¹.....

1. The Battalion will move to DESEULE Camp on the 30th instant.
2. Order of March, Time, Starting point and Route are as under:-

Order of March,	Time.	Starting Point.	Route.
BAND. H.Q.	9.10	Junction Roads	Via Le Verrier,
"D" CO.	a.m.	in F.14.b.2.4.	STEENWERCK, - to
"A" "		K	A.12.a.2.2. to
"B" "			DE SEULE.
"C" "			
S.BRS.			
GUARD. &			
PRISONERS.			

3. DRESS:- Full Marching Order with Blanket, "Horseshoe Fashion" around Pack. Mess Tin inside Pack. Steel Helmet strapped to Pack by means of Pack Supporting Straps.
4. MOVEMENT:- 50 yards between Coys, and 200 yards between Unit, and transport will be maintained.
5. TRANSPORT:- Will be Parked at AVELING lines at T.27.c.6.2..
6. FIELD KITCHENS:- Will be ready to move out at 8.30.a.m.
7. BILLETTS:- Will be left clean, Certificate will be rendered to the Adjutant to this effect, before moving off.
8. BILLETING:- Lieut Hallam will report to Staff Captain at DE SEULE corner, B.1.a.7.2. at 9.30.a.m. 30th instant.
9. OFFICERS' VALISES:- To be ready at 7.30.a.m.
10. COMPANY MESS BOXES:- To be ready at 8.0.a.m.
11. IRON RATIONS:- Will be carried on the man.
12. MARCHING OUT STATES:- Will be rendered to B.O.R. at 8.30.a.m.

ISSUED AT:- VIEUX BERQUIN. 2.40pm.

DISTRIBUTION:-

1. WAR DIARY.
- 2 - 5. COYS.
6. FILE.

McSwain
CAPTAIN.
ADJUTANT, 49TH BATTALION, A.I.F.