

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/67/27

Title: 50th Infantry Battalion

September 1918



AWM4-23/67/27

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~~DUPLICATE~~

~~DUPLICATE~~



209

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

50th. B A T T A L I O N A.I.F.

FOR

S E P T E M B E R 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Wm Fowler
Major

Signature of Officer Commanding

Wm Fowler
Major

KJM.

Confidential.*Original*

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

50th. Battalion A.I.F. Page 172.

Army Form C. 2118.

006

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Sheet 62d. & 62c. 1/40,000.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY.	Sep t.	1st)			
		2nd)		Training in the RIVERY Area continued under good weather conditions. Long stretch of fine warm	Sketch of
		3rd)		weather still unbroken	Bn. H.Q.
		4th)			attached.
	Sept.	5th.		Received warning order that the 13th. Bde. group would move forward on the 6th. inst. Nucleus Reserve were detailed immediately and the day devoted to preparation for the forward area.	
BIACHES.	Sept.	6th.		Bde. Order received at 6 a.m. The Battalion embussed at 10 a.m., and left RIVERY at 11.22 a.m. arriving at the debussing point 3,000 yards West of BIACHES at 3.45 p.m. Marched off at 4 p.m. and arrived at BIACHES at 5.15 p.m., the men being bivouaced N.W. of the ruins of BIACHES. The Transport was Brigaded and moved separately staging on night of the 6th. inst. near MORCOURT. The Nucleus Reserve remained at RIVERY.	List of Nucleus Reserve Attached. Message No. B.B. 350 attached.
	Sept.	7th.		Preparations were made for dumping all packs, blankets and all surplus baggage in a Bde. Dump which was established at BIACHES. The G.O.C. held a Conference of C.O.'s at Bde. H.Q.. The Nucleus Reserve moved from RIVERY by route march to CORBIE. The Transport Section rejoined the Battalion during the afternoon. Weather still remains beautifully fine.	Sketch Bn. H.Q. attached.
CARTIGNY.	Sept.	8th.		Packs, blankets and surplus baggage were dumped at BIACHES at 6 a.m. 1 N.C.O. of the 50th. Bn. being detailed as a member of the dump guard. The Bn. marched out from BIACHES at 9 a.m. to near CARTIGNY arriving at 12 noon. Battalion Headquarters and "A" & "B" Coys. were bivouaced in CALELET WOOD, 600 yards S.W. of CARTIGNY. "C" & "D" Coy. with the Transport and Q.M.'s Store were situated in the ruins of CARTIGNY. Long stretch of fine weather broken by two or three sharp showers after mid-day. Hostile aeroplanes dropped a few bombs in the vicinity of the camp during the night. The Nucleus Reserve moved by route march to BRAY.	Sketch Bn. H.Q. attached. L.B. 369, attached.
BEAUMETZ.	Sept.	9th.		The Battalion marched out from CARTIGNY at 2 p.m. and arrived at BEAUMETZ at 3 p.m. where bivouacs were erected among the ruins of the village and in sunken roads in the vicinity. This area was taken over from 55th. Bn. A.I.F. The Transport remained in the vicinity of CARTIGNY. A conference of C.O.'s was held at Bde. H.Qrs. at 6 p.m., and a conference of Coy. Commanders at Bn. H.Qrs., at 9 p.m. The 13th. A.I. Bde. now becomes support brigade to the 8th. A.I. Bde. on the front line. The weather turned out much cooler and steady rain set in at 7 p.m. The nucleus Reserve marched from BRAY to O.8. Central just South of PERONNE.	Message No. L.B. 381 attachd. Sketch of Bn. H.Q. attachd.

(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/15 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/15
D. D. & L., London, E.C.

*Wm. Fowler
Major*

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

50th. Battalion A.I.F., Page 173.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Sheet 62 c. 1/40,000.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAUMETZ. FLECHIN. Q.16.b.3.6.	Sept.	10th.		During the morning the C.O., I.O., and Coy. Comdrs. reconnoitred the 29th. Bn. Sector between VENDELLES and SOYECOURT. Horses could be ridden as far forward as the line H.Qrs. The Battalion moved from BEAUMETZ to the line at 6.30 p.m. The front line was relieved by "A" Coy. on the right and "C" Coy. on the left. "B" Coy. being in support to "A" Coy. and "D" to "C" Battalion Headquarters were situated at Q.16.b.3.6. on the Western outskirts of FLECHIN. The 51st. Bn. A.I.F. was on our right, and the 2nd. Bn. of the 1st. A.I. Bde., on our left. The frontage of the sector taken over was 2,500 yards. There were no casualties during the relief which was successfully completed by 9.30 p.m. Three reconnaissance patrols were pushed forward 1,000 yards to 1,200 yards during the night, and the usual dawn protective patrolling map was carried out, touch being maintained with both flank Units.	Operation Order No. 89 attached.
	"	11th.		Moderate hostile shelling on the left flank and behind the right front Coy. through the night, also about 13 heavy shells (5.9 inch & 8 inch.) fell in FLECHIN near Battalion Headquarters. At about 2 p.m. "A" & "C" Coys. each supplied a patrol fighting patrol of 1 Platoon, which were pushed forward in an easterly direction, one platoon from each Company following in support to their respective patrols. At about 4 p.m. the enemy's outposts were driven back & a new line established by us about 2,000 yards East of the former. During this minor operation we suffered 8 casualties, 2 Officers (Lieuts. J.D. YEATMAN & H. FRASER.) and 6 O.R.'s Wounded, at the same time capturing from the enemy 10 Prisoners (7 unwounded & 3 Wounded.)	Sketch Bn. H.Q. attached.
SOYECOURT. Q.18.c.00.80.				Battn. H.Qrs. Moved forward to Q.18.c.00.80., near SOYECOURT at 7 p.m., and during the evening the Battalion front was re-adjusted, the following moves taking place. (1). "A" Company were relieved by a Coy. of the 51st. Bn., & on relief moved to "C" Coys. old position. (2). At dusk "B" Coy. moved up to the position by "A" Coy. before they advanced. (3). "D" Coy. moved to the left and took over a portion of the front held by 2nd. Bn. A.I.F. The new front was 2,200 Yards long and was held by "C" Coy. on the right and "D" Coy. on the left, with "A" and "B" Coys. in support.	
EAST of VENDELLES.	"	12th.		At 3 p.m. Battalion Headquarters again moved forward and took up a position in the railway cutting east of VENDELLES, and at 6 p.m. two fighting patrols from "C" Coy. advanced their line about 400 yards. At dusk "A" & "B" Coys. moved up into support taking up a position in the Railway cutting. At 10 p.m. a fighting and reconnaissance patrol of 1 Off. and 27 O.R.'s. under Lieut. A.S. HAWKER moved out to cross roads at R.3.c.0.7. The information contained.	Sketch of Bn. H.Q. attached. Disposition Map Attached. Copy of patrol Report Attached.

Wm. Fowler
Major

CONFIDENTIAL.*Original*

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

50th. Battalion A.I.F., Page 174.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Sheet	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.		62c. 1/40,000.		
EAST of VENDELLES.	Sept.	12th.		in the attached report was of great tactical value and enabled us to further our success by advancing our line on the 13th. inst.	message no G.L. 294 attached
		13th.		<p>Early in the morning "A" Coy. moved up one Platoon in support to "D" Coys. right Platoon, and at 4 a.m. one Platoon of "D" Coy. in conjunction with 2 Platoons of "B" Coy. attacked the enemy's positions and gained from 500 to 700 yards on a front of about 1,800 yards. During this advance one Platoons of "B" Coy. lost touch with the platoons on its flanks through following the retreating enemy, the result being that they advanced right through the wood in R.10.a. & b. before they realised the danger of their being cut off by the enemy. These men had to fight their way back to the wood in R.3.c. and in so doing 4 men who were wounded during this retirement fell into the hands of the enemy. In this operation we captured 8 machine guns, 39 unwounded prisoners and 1 Wounded prisoner.</p> <p>At 9.30 a.m. the enemy made a feeble counter attack on our new posts, which was easily repulsed leaving one prisoner in our hands. At 7.30 p.m. however, the enemy made a determined counter attack, which was supported by a strong artillery barrage of considerable depth. One Post of "B" Coy. at about R.3.c.5.8. was pushed back but the remainder of the line held and repulsed the hostile attack, inflicting about 100 casualties on the enemy.</p> <p>One Coy. of the 49th. Bn. was placed at the disposal of the C.O., 50th. Bn. during this attack and was moved up into support near Bn. H. Qrs., One Platoon of this Coy. was sent forward to the O.C., "A" Coy. but was not committed to the fight. Our artillery fired on the S.O.S. Lines but owing to all communications to the rear being cut by the enemy barrage, our own barrage fell 20 minutes late.</p> <p>during the remainder of the night the Coy. fronts were adjusted. "B" Coy. were relieved by "C" Coy. and "A" Coy. took over from the right platoon of "D" Coy. This platoon of "D" Coy. on relief moved to the left in support to their left platoon. "B" Coy. were withdrawn to support. Harrasing fire by our artillery on the enemy's position's during the night.</p>	Sketch of Bn. H. Qrs. attached
	"	14th.		Scattered shelling over the area by the enemy during the day, otherwise the front was quiet. The Bn. was relieved by the 49th. Bn. On the succesful completion of this relief at 11.30 p.m. the Bn. moved to positions East and North East of SOYECOURT. The dispositions of the 13th. A.I. Bde. then were :- In the front line the 51st. Bn., on the right, and the 49th. Bn. on the left. In Brigade Reserve the 50th. Bn.	message No LB 13 attached
					Message No. LB.16. att.

Wm. Fowler
Major

KJM.

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) 50th. Battalion A.I.F., Page No. 175.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date 1918.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Sheet No. 62c. 1/400,000.	
SOYECOURT.	Sept.	15th.	Scattered shelling of the whole forward area by the enemy. The Bn. now in Brigade Reserve. Weather Fine.	Disposition map att. <i>Sketch of Bn Hq.</i> attached
FLECHIN.	"	16th.	The 46th. Bn. 12th. A.I. Bde. relieved 3 Coys. of the Bn. on the night of the 16th. inst., the remaining Coy. being relieved by one Coy. of the 16th. Bn., 4th. A.I. Bde. The relief was completed by 11.30 p.m. after which the Bn. moved to positions west of FLECHIN. Battalion Headquarters being situated at Q.16.b.2.8.	Disposition Map att.
	"	17th.	^{AN} The Bn. had the use of the Baths south of HMCOURT , where every man was able to procure a clean change of underclothing. The pouch ammunition was replenished and general preparations made should the Battalion be required during the coming offensive. Hostile planes carried out moderate bombing in the Reserve Area.	
JEANCOURT.	"	18th.	The 13th. A.I. Bde. are in reserve to the 4th. Aust. Div. in general offensive commenced on the St. QUENTIN front this morning. At 9 p.m. the Bn. moved forward to positions in the vicinity of JEANCOURT. Move completed by 10 p.m.	Message No. LB.23. att. Disposition Sketch att.
	"	19th.	Quiet day. One Off. and 3 NCO's reconnoitred left line Bde. area? Men employed on Salvage work in the area occupied by us during the advance.	<i>Sketch of Battalion Hq. attached</i>
JEANCOURT.	"	20th.	Very quiet day. All the Bn. were employed on salvage work East of the Railway. Moderate hostile bombing during evening. One hostile plane was brought down near H.Qrs., by a Lewis Gunner attached to H.Qrs. Section from "B" Coy.	
TINCOURT.	"	21st.	^{1st} The 2nd./5th. Bn. South Staffords of the 46th. Division relieved the 50th. Bn., in the morning. Verbal orders were issued for the move from to the TINCOURT area. Leaving JEANCOURT at about 1.30 p.m. the Bn. marched to TINCOURT area where they bivouaced the night.	Operation. Order No. 90 attachd.
BIACHES.	"	22nd.	Moving out from TINCOURT at 9 a.m. the Bn., marched to BIACHES arriving at 12.45 p.m. The men dug in in banks etc., just west of the ruins of the village. The Nucleus Reserve rejoined the Bn. during the afternoon, and all packs were drawn from the Brigade dump and issued. Drizzly rain during the afternoon.	
	"	23re.	Men were rested and given an opportunity to generally clean up their arms, equipment etc. Preparations were made for the move to CAVILLON area.	<i>Wm. Fowler major</i>

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

50th. Battalion A.I.F. Page No. 176.

Army Form C. 2118.

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BLANCHES.	1918.		Sheet 62d. 1/40,000. +62e 1/40000	
	Sept. 23rd.	(Contd.)	Drizzly rain throughout the day.	
FERRIERES.	"	24th.	Orders were received at 2 a.m. the the Bn. would move by bus at 7 a.m. to the CAVILLON area. Left embussing point at 9.50 a.m. and arrived at FERRIERES at about 3 p.m. Brigade is billeted in the BOVELLES sub-area., Bde H.Qrs. being situated at BOVELLES C.O., Lieut. Hill, Lieut Hawker and 5 N.C.O's proceeded to the II American Corps. to do duty with the Australian Mission.	Operation Order No 91 attachd.
	"	25th.	General cleaning up of the Billeting area & mens' arms equipment etc., Coy. Comdrs meeting during the evening to discuss the training of the Bn. Weather fine.	
	"	26th.	Work as per Syllabus. Conference of C.O's at Bde H.Qrs. primarily to discuss training. The weather still keeps fine. The Bn. Band played selections for the men during the evening.	Syllabus attached.
	"	27th.	Work as per Syllabus. Training commenced. A Class formed within the Bn. for junior and aspirant N.C.O's., under Lieut. C. PPGREENE D.C.M., consisting of 25 students. 62 Reinforcements arrived. The use of the village school was obtained for the purpose of entertaining the men. Showery during the day.	
	"	28th.	As per syllabus. Training was interfered with on account of rain.	
	"	29th.	Church Parade at 10.30 a.m. for 2 Coys. The remainder had the use of the Baths at BOVELLES. 25 O.R's proceeded to a Signalling School formed at Bde H.Qrs., and an additional 8 O.R's to the Divisional Signalling School. The Bn. Band gave a concert during the afternoon. Drizzly rain during the day.	
	"	30th.	The remainder of the Bn. were put through the BOVELLES baths where clean clothing was available. The rest of the Bn. carried out the training as laid down in the syllabus. Steady drizzly rain still continues and interferes to a certain extent with the training. Arrangements were taken in hand to form a Brigade Concert Party and also a Committee appointed to arrange a Brigade sports gymkhana.	Statement of Increases & Decreases attached.

Wm. Fowler
Major

WAR DIARY

OF

50th. B A T T A L I O N A.I.F.

FOR

SEPTEMBER

1918.



LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.	
1.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	1/9/18.
2.	List of Nucleus Reserve.	
3.	Message No. L.B. 350.	
4.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	7/9/18.
5.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	8/9/18.
6.	Message No. L.B. 369.	
7.	Message No. L.B. 381.	
8.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	9/9/18.
9.	Operation Order No. 89.	
10.	Disposition Map.	10/9/18.
11.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	11/9/18.
12.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	12/9/18.
13.	Disposition Map.	12/9/18.
14.	Copy of Patrol Report By Lt.A.S.HAWKER.	
15.	Message No. G.L. 294.	
16.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	13/9/18.
17.	Message No. L.B. 13.	
18.	Message No. L.B. 16.	
19.	Disposition Map.	15/9/18.
20.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	15/9/18.
21.	Disposition Map.	17/9/18.
22.	Message No. L.B. 23.	
23.	Disposition Map.	18/9/18.
24.	Sketch of Battalion Headquarters.	18/9/18.
25.	Operation Order No. 90.	
26.	Operation Order No. 91.	
27.	Syllabus of Training.	
28.	Statement of Increases & Decreases for month of September .	

*Tom Fowler
Major
T/Comd. 50th Bn*



RIVERY

Headquarters 50th Battalion A.I.F.
29th August 1918

DISTRIBUTION OF 50th. BATTALION A.I.F.

On Sept. 7th. 1918.

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(2)

"A"		"B"		"C"		"D"	
Numbers going into the Line.		Left at Transport Lines.		Nucleus Personnel.		Calculated in "C" but not present with Unit.	
	Offs. O.R.		Offs. O.R.		Offs. O.R.		Offs. O.R.
C.O.	1.	Quarter Master	1.	Senior Major.	1.	Schools.	4. 19.
Adjutant.	1.	A/Transport Officer	1.	Coy. Comdrs.	2.	Leave.	3. 46.
A/Sig. Officer.	1.	Ag Asst/Adjutant.	1.	2nd. in Command	2.		
Int. Officer	1.	Batmen.	4. 4.	Signalling Officer.	1.		
Medical Officer	1.	Orderly Room Staff.	3.	Asst/Adjutant.	1.		
Bn. H.Qrs. O.R.	60.	Pay Sgt.	1.	Bombing Officer.	1.		
Coy. Comdrs.	2.	Q.M. Staff.	7.	Subalterns.	6.		
2nd. in Commands.	2.	Tradesmen.	7.	C.S.M's.	2.		
Subalterns.	10.	C.Q.M.S. Storemen.	4.	L.G. NCO.	1.		
Coys. (Other Ranks)		Cooks.	19.	Bombing NCO.	1.		
"A"	96.	Mess Staff.	1.	Musketry NCO.	1.		
"B"	101.	Trnspt. (O.R.)	38.	Sergeants.	4.		
"C"	99.	Lewis Gunner.	1.	Corporals.	2.		
"D"	102.	Signaller.	1.	L/Cpls.	2.		
		Water Details.	4.	Lewis Gunners.	19.		
		Lewis Gun Officer.	1.	Rifle Bombers.	10.		
				Scouts.	7.		
				Signallers.	26.		
				Runners.	11.		
				Band.	31.		
				Batmen.	16.		
Total.	19. 458.	Total.	4. 89.	Total.	14. 127.	Total.	7. 65.

Wm. Fowler.

Major.

Tempy/Commanding 50th. Battalion.

APPENDIX.

2

8

NOMINAL ROLL of Officers "To go over Top" :-

Lieut Colonel.	A.G.	Salisbury.D.S.O.	Commanding Officer.
Lieutenant.	L.B.	Smith.	Adjutant.
2/ ::	D.J.	Henderson.	Asst/Signal Officer.
Lieutenant.	J.H.	Hill.	Intelligence Officer.
Captain.	A.G.	Corbett.	Medical Officer.
Lieutenant.	H.	Riggs.	Company Commander.
Captain.	W.H.	Christophers.	:: ::
Lieutenant.	J.O.	Smith.	Coy 2nd/Command.
:::	A.B.	Spiers.	: : ::
Lieutenant.	W.W.	Winter.	Subaltern.
:::	J.D.	Yeatman.	::
:::	M.C.	Ridge.	::
:::	H.J.	Air.	::
2/ :::	E.A.	Winner.	::
:::	H.	Fraser.	::
Hon ::	A.S.	Hawker	::
Lieutenant.	C.A.	Willcox.	::
:::	A.G.	Rowe.	::
:::	F.B.	McBryde.	::

NOMINAL ROLL of Officers at Transport Lines :-

Hon Lieut.	A.B.	Grace.	Quartermaster.
Lieutenant.	W.J.	Hall. M.C.	Act.Transpt Officer.
:::	J.	Waine. M.C.	Act.Asst/Adjutant.
:::	C.P.	Greene.D.C.M.	Lewis Gun Officer.

NOMINAL ROLL of Officers to be left behind with Nucleus :-

Major.	W.M.	Fowler M.C.	Senior Major.
Captain.	F.C.	Wilson.	Coy Commander.
:::	W.R.	Beresford.M.C.	do
Lieutenant.	J.R.	Lynch.	Coy 2nd/Command.
:::	A.O.	Bilson.M.C.	do
:::	W.R.	Wills.	Subaltern.
:::	G.S.I.	Queale.	do
:::	W.J.	Hale.	do
:::	H.L.	Billing.	do
:::	W.W.	Langsford.	do
:::	G.M.	Livesey M.C.	Bombing Officer.
:::	W.B.	Sims.	Asst/Adjutant.
:::	H.W.	Carlton.M.C.	Signal Officer.
:::	L.E.	Harding.	

6/9/18.

C.B. Smith
Lieutenant,
Adjutant, 50th Battalion.A.I.F.

SP.

W/Diary.

To/

3

O.C., A., B., C., & D. Coys and H.Qs.

LB 350

6th.

AAA.

The Battalion will move to BIACHES Area W of PERONNE today by Bus.

Embussing Point :-

M.3.c.8.9.

Time :-

9.30 a.m.

Dress :-

Full kit with Blankets. Unconsumed rations to be carried.

Nucleus :-

Personnel will remain in present area. Bn will march off at 9 a.m. Order of March - H.Qs, A.B.C. & D. Baggage - All baggage to be dumped at Q.M. Store as soon as possible.

Transport will take 2. Days to arrive at new destination.

Bn H.Qs.

8 a.m.

R. Smith

Lt & Adjutant,
50th Battalion. A.I.F.

APPENDIX 611
6

SP.

W/Diary. 6

To/

O.C., A.B.C. & D. Coys, Lieut HENDERSON., M.O. & RSM.

L.B. 389.

8th.

AAA.

Reference Map 62C. 1/40.000.

The Bn will move to CARTIGNY Area today.

Starting Point :- On Road through Camp facing BIACHES
(I.25.a.8.2.) opposite Bn Transport
Lines.Time :- 9.15 a.m.Order of March :- H.Qs., D.C.B. & A. Coys. Guard &
Prisoners will march in rear of D. Coy.Dress :- Fighting Order.Movement :- 100.Yds between Coys will be maintained.Route :- Canal Bank to Bridge at I.33.d.3.9. &
thence to Boulevard on S.E. outskirts
PERONNE & FLAMICOURT Road running on
S.W. of Railway in I.35.b. road junction
O.6.a.3.9. & X.Roads P.9.c.1.5.

Bn H.Qs.

8.10 a.m.

R.B. Smith

Lt & Adjutant,
60th, Battalion.

SP.

W/Diary. 7

To/

O.C. ALL COMPANIES.

L.B. 381

9th.

AAAA

Reference Map 620. 1/40,000.

Bn will move to BEAUMETZ Area today 9 th inst.

Starting Point :-

X.Roads P.3.c.8.4.

Time :-

2 p.m.

Order of March :-H.Qs., D.C.B. & A.Coys.
Guard & Prisoners to march in
rear of B.Coy.Dress :-

Fighting Order.

Transport with exception of following will move
independently -Lewis Gun Limbers, Mess & Maltese Carts, Cookers & Tool
Limber, which will move in rear of Bn.

Cookers to be ready for teams at 1.30 p.m.

Bn H.Qs.

1.10 p.m.

L.B. Smith Lt & Adjutant,
50th, Battalion. A.I.F.



50th Battalion Orderly Room (BEAUMETZ) September 9th 1918

APPENDIX

8.13

SECRET.

Copy No. 4.....

50th, BATTALION. A. I. F.

APPENDIX

209

OPERATION ORDER, No. 89.
=====In the Field,
10th, Sept, 1918.Reference Map 62C. 1/40,000.
=====

The 50th Bn will relieve the 29th A. I. Bn in the Line tonight 10/11th inst.

"A" Coy 50th Bn relieving A. Coy 29th Bn Right Bn Front.
 "C" : 50th : : : C. : : : Left : :
 "B" : 50th : : : B. : : : Support of A. Coy.
 "D" : 50th : : : D. : : : : : C. :

Starting Point :- X Roads P.12.b.4.5. facing HANCOURT.Time :- 6 p.m.Dress :- Fighting Order.Order of March :- C., D., A., B. Coys and H.Qs.Movement :- 100 Yds between Platoons and 300 Yds between Coys to be maintained.Route :- Main Road via HANCOURT -FLECHIN.Guides :- 3. Guides per Coy will be at Bn H.Qs (Q.16.b.3.7.) at 7.30 p.m.

Transport :- Lewis Gun gear of A & B. Coys will be loaded in one limber and will travel in rear of B. Coy.
 C & D. Coys Lewis Gun gear will be loaded in one limber and will travel in rear of D. Coy.
 Limbers will deliver gear to Coy H.Qs. Coys to arrange for necessary guides.
 One Lewis Gunner per Coy will travel with limber.
 One limber will carry forward H.Q. Lewis Guns, Signalling & R.A.P. equipment.
 Picks & Shovels will be taken forward to Bn H.Qs.
 Limbers will report to Coys at 5 p.m. for loading.

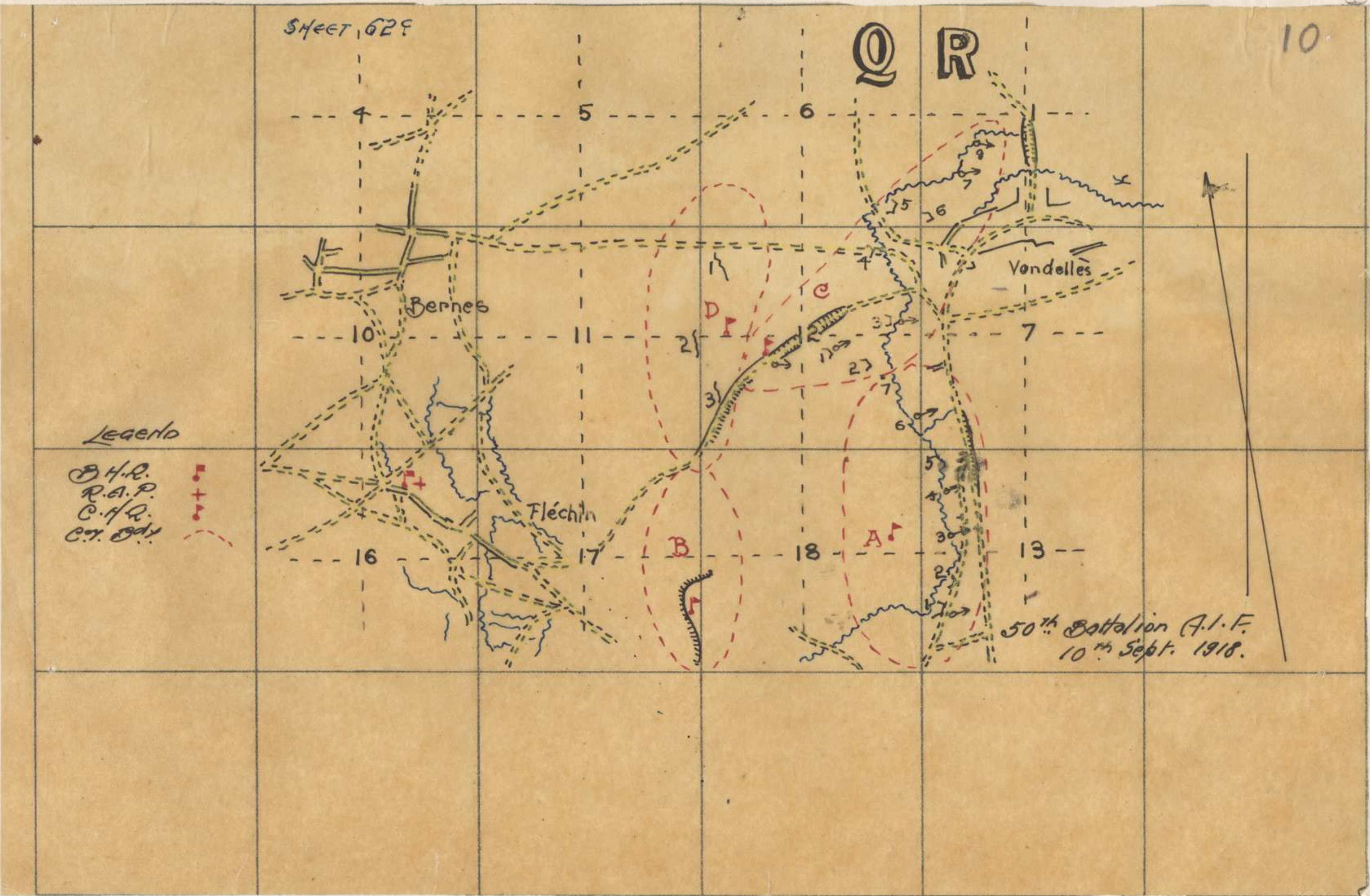
Cookers :- For time being cookers will remain in present position. Cooks and C.Q.M. Sgts will remain with cookers. Coy Storemen will remain with Q.M. Store.

R.A.P. will be situated at Q.10.d.5.2.

Battalion Headquarters to be notified immediately on completion of relief by code message "AMMUNITION RECEIVED". Time to be stated.

CBS Smith
 Lieutenant,
 Adjutant, 50th Battalion. A. I. F.

Copy	No.	1.	File.	No.	7.	O.C., A. Coy.
::	:	2.	C.O.	:	8.	O.C., B. :
::	:	3.	Senior Major.	:	9.	O.C., C. :
::	:	4.	} War Diary.	:	10.	O.C., D. :
::	:	5.				
::	:	6.				



APPENDIX.

50th Battalion Headquarters. FLECHIN 11th September 1918. II



W. J. BRIDGEMAN

APPENDIX II

16.

50th Battalion Headquarters East of FLECHIN 12th Sept. 1918.

12



REPORT OF PATROL By 2/Lieut A.S. HAWKER. 50th, BATTALION

Night 12/13th, September, 1918.

Map reference sheet 620 SE. 1/20,000

Strength 1. Off 27 men. Proceeded to Cross Roads R.3.c.0.7. as directed at 10 p.m. Started to go down road to mine crater R.3.c.25.80 and heard enemy talking on my right. Took party 12 men 1.NCO to investigate and about R.3.c.4 5.50 ran into trench running east & west in which I counted at least 8 Germans. Prepared to attack same but before I could do so a party of enemy appeared on my rear left flank of about at least 1 NCO and 24 men who called out in German "Are you the 7th Coy". I answered "Yes" in German and at the same time gave orders to half of my men to fire on them, which they did. The other half fired on enemy in trench. The party coming up appeared to be a relief party. I saw 5 men fall and Cpl WOOD told me the men in the trench got at least 5 Casualties. Finding them stronger than myself I retired keeping 6 men as rearguard. The remainder of the relief party deployed and fired on me and I had two casualties. As I retired another party of the enemy appeared on my original right flank. 3 men got up calling "Kamerade" but as I saw more men either lying down or in a trench I ordered my men to fire on them getting the three. I retired to Cross Roads where I met remainder of party. Before leaving I left remainder of my party under Sgt HORLEY with instructions to proceed to mine crater but at about 200 Yards from Cross Roads he reports that he ran into a trench running at right angles on both sides of road which the enemy was wiring on West side. He estimates that one Coy were there. Finding enemy were too strong for me I retired to sunken road or trench R.2.d. on north side of road, lined enemy's side of bank and sent word back to O.C. Coy what had happened. I estimated number of enemy I ran into at least 40 men.

(Sgd) A. S. HAWKER 2/Lieut,
"C" Coy, 50th, Battalion.

SP.

To/

50th Bn.

G.L. 294.

12th.

AAA.

Prisoners 5th Coy 58 I.R. captured near R.8.b. Central 5 p.m.
 11th inst state 5th & 6th Coys holding forward line with
 supports 1000 yds in front main Coy positions AAA between
 5th & 6th Coys in same line are three guns of 105 mm bty
 AAA remaining gun & bty H.Qs in wood R.9.b. AAA MG located
 500 yds in front main Coy position AAA remaining M.Gs
 with Coys or in Supports AAA Coy strength 2nd Bn 58 I.R.
 about 65 rifles AAA 1st & 3rd Bns much reduced AAA 1st Bn
 holding SIEGFRIED Line working on it while 2nd withdrawn AAA
 Location 3rd Bn unknown AAA 7th & 8th Coys believed holding
 green line but little work done on this line AAA
 Order of battle 87th I.R. 58th I.R. 46th R.I.R. or 46th I.R.
 AAA Added Aust Corps, 1st Aus Div 32nd Div 13th A.I.Bde
 12th A.I.Bde

(The prisoners referred to in above were captured by
 50th Bn.)

L E Q I. (4th Aus Div.)

2.45 a.m.

SP. 209

APPENDIX. 17 21

SECRET.

L.B. 13.

Headquarters,
50th, BATTALION. A.I.F.
13th, September, 1918.

To/

ALL COMPANIES.
=====

The following moves will take place tonight
13/14th, September, 1918.

"B" Coy will be relieved by "C" Coy from R.3.c.50.25 to
road at R.3.a.70.00 exclusive.

"B" Coy will move to trench from R.3.b.10.65 to R.2.c.90.70
when relieved.

"A" Coy will take trench over from road at R.3.a.70.00
inclusive to post at R.3.a.55.60, also trench from R.2.b.85.15
to R.2.b.80.65 inclusive.

Platoon of D. Coy at present with A. Coy will be withdrawn under
orders of O.C., D. Coy.

"D" Coy will take over from R.2.b.80.65 exclusive to 2nd Bn
A.I.F. on left.

Stokes Mortar now with A. Coy will come under orders of
O.C., C. Coy.

Another Stokes Mortar will report to O.C., A. Coy tonight and
will come under his orders.

Completion of these changes will at once be reported to Bn H.Qs.

R. Smith
Lieutenant,
Adjutant, 50th Battalion. A.I.F.

SP.

SECRET.

Reference Map 62.C.
Sheet 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
50th, BATTALION. A. I. F.
14th, September, 1918.

To/

ALL COMPANIES.

=====

The 50th, Battalion. A. I. F. will be relieved by the 49th Bn tonight 14/15th, September, 1918.

2. Platoons of C. Coy 49th Bn will relieve C. Coy 50th Bn.
2. ::: : C. : 49th Bn :: ::: A. : 50th Bn.
2. ::: : B. : 49th Bn :: ::: D. : 50th Bn.
D. : 49th Bn :: ::: B. : 50th Bn.

On relief "D" Coy will move to ground in S.E. portion of R.1.a and trenches in R.1.c.

"A" Coy will move to Trenches in Q.12.d.

"B" : :: :: : ::: : R.13.a. and R.13.c.

"C" : :: :: : 51st Bn old Front Line in R.13.c & R.19.a.

Bn H.Qs & R.A.P. will be situated in Sunken Road at Q.24.a.1.5.

Stores etc :- All food containers, Petrol tins, Picks & shovels will be returned to Guard at Ration Dump (R.8.a.70.00) and will not be left in present area.

Lewis Guns and Gear will be carried out by Coys.

Rations :- A & D. Coys rations will be taken to sunken road ϕ in Q.12. Central by Limber. Coys to have parties there to collect them at 12. Midnight.

B & C. Coys rations will be delivered by limber to A. Coy's old H.Qs at Q.18.b.7.2. at 12. Midnight.

Breakfast will be delivered at these places at 9 a.m. where parties from Coys will return empty food containers and petrol tins when they collect breakfast.

Bn H.Qs to be notified immediately on completion of relief.

Advance ~~parties~~ parties to proceed to new area as early as possible.

C.B. Smith

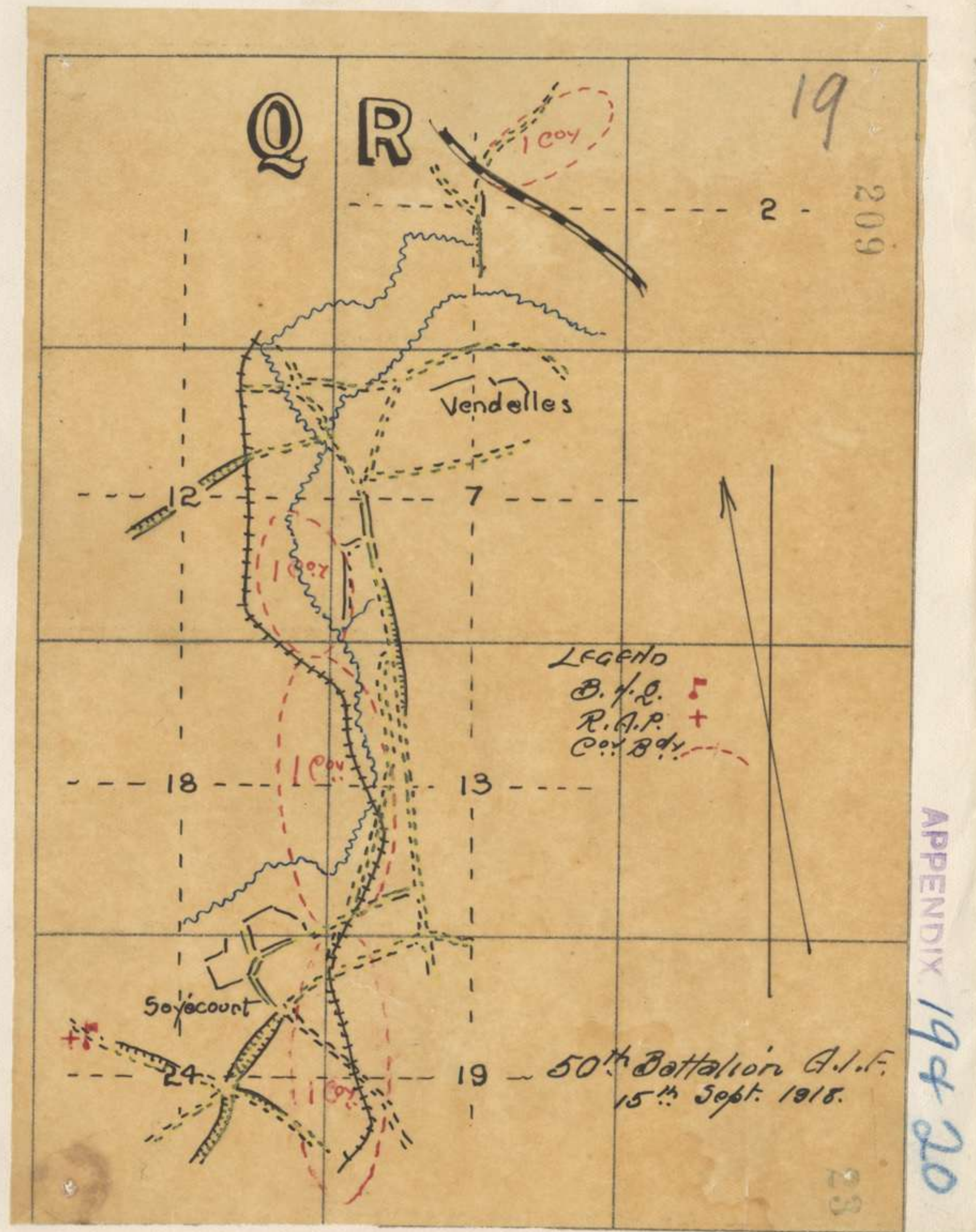
Adjutant, 50th Battalion. A. I. F.

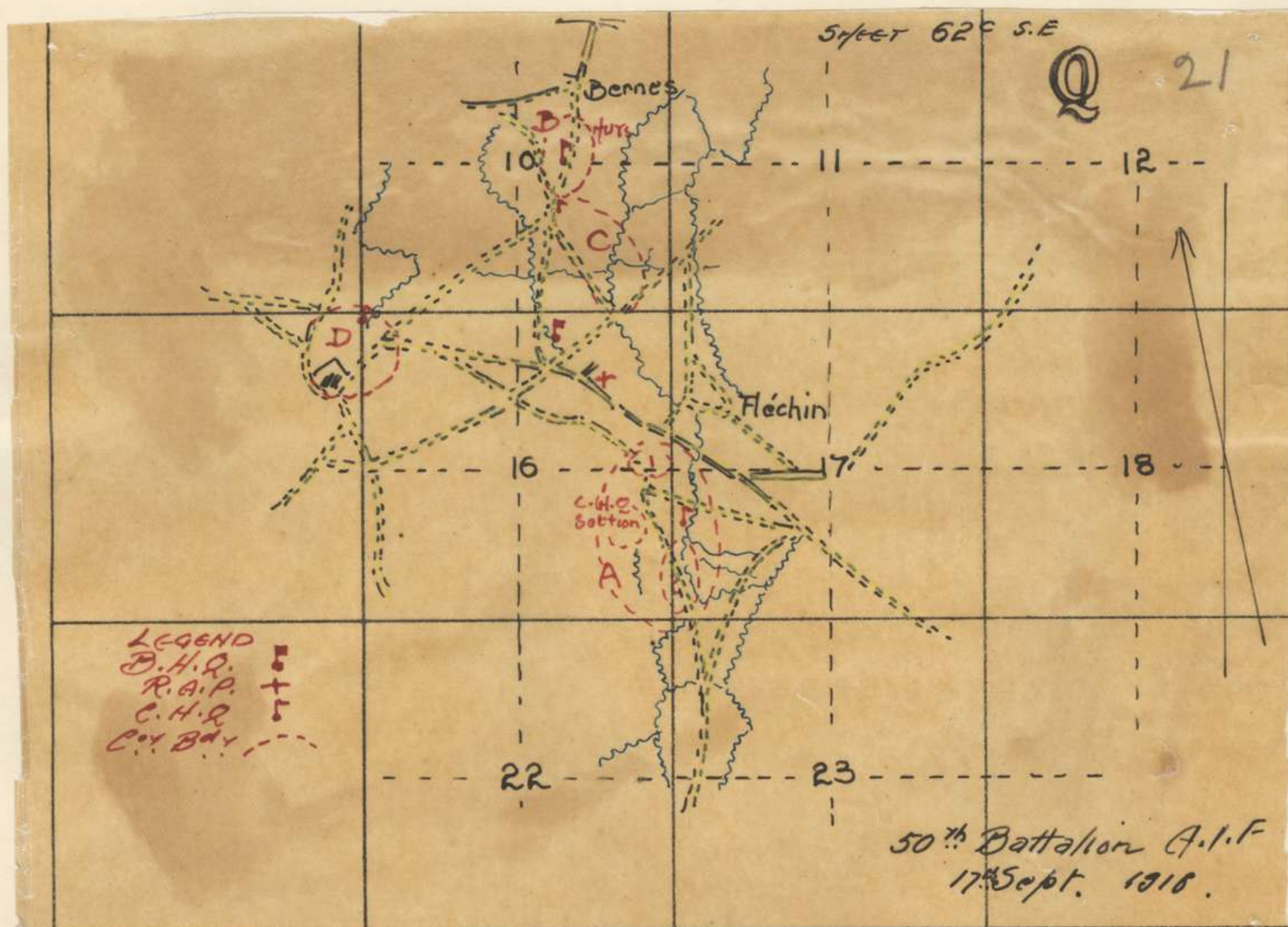
Lieutenant,



50th Battalion H.Q. near SOVÉCOUVE September 15th 1918.

20





NOTE.—(1). These traces are intended to facilitate the communication of information as to the position of targets, which have b
 (2). The squares on this trace are 500 yards in length on the 1/10,000 scale, 1,000 yards in length on the 1/50,000 scale.

SP.

SECRET.

209

APPENDIX

L.B. 23.

Headquarters,
50th, BATTALION.

22
25

Reference Map 1/20,000. Sheet VILLERET.
=====

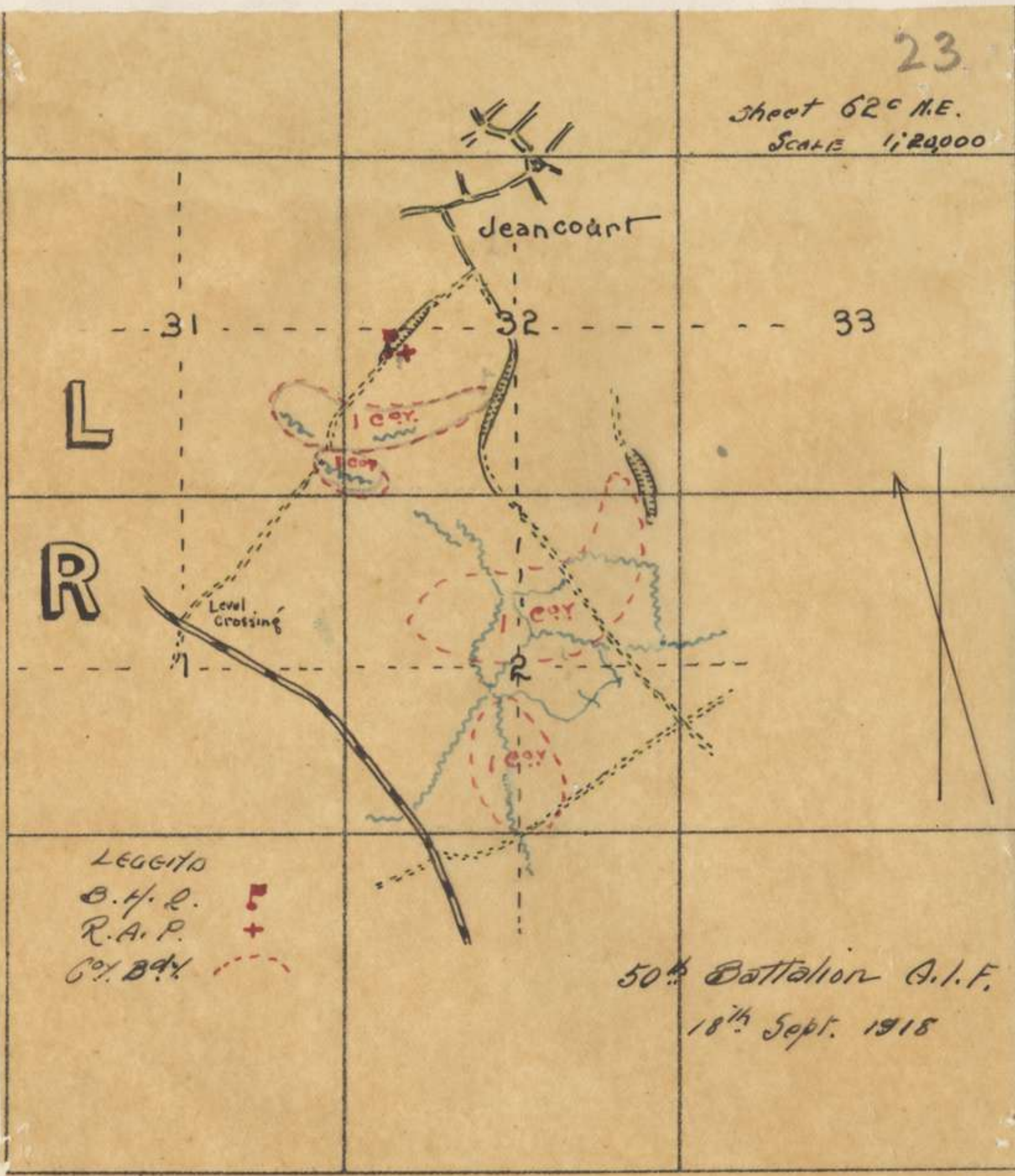
1. (a) On 18th, Sept at 5.20 a.m. an attack will be made by the Australian Corps in conjunction with other troops on the enemy positions in front of the HINDENBURG Line.
- (b) On the 4th, AUST DIV Front the attack will be made by the 12th & 4th AUST INF BRIGADES supported by artillery, tanks and aircraft.
- (c) The 13th, AUST INF BDE will be in Reserve and at present has no specific roll allotted to it.
2. (a) On morning of 18th inst the 49th Bn will move up and occupy the line R.19.a. - R.13.c & a - R.7.c. with H.Qs at Q.24.a.5.2. being in position by 8 a.m.
- (b) The 50th and 51st Bns and 13th, A.L.T.M.B will be prepared to move at one hours notice after 8 a.m. 18th inst.
3. (a) Lewis Gun Limbers will report to Coys for loading at the following times. - A.Coy 8 a.m., B.Coy 8.30 a.m., D.Coy 8 a.m. C.Coy 8.30 a.m., when loaded will report to Bn H.Qs and remain ready loaded. One Lewis gunner per Coy will remain with Limbers
- (b) Tool Limber will report to Bn H.Qs at 8 a.m. so that if necessary tools can be issued out prior to move or carried forward with Bn.
4. Ammunition issued to Coys today will be distributed to Coys by 8 a.m.
5. Breakfast will be at 7 a.m.
6. Water in bottles to be carefully conserved.

17/9/18.

C.B. Smith
Lieutenant,
Adjutant, 50th, Battalion A.I.F.

23

Sheet 62° N.E.
Scale 1:20000



50th Battalion A.I.F.
18th Sept. 1918

209

50th Battalion Headquarters near Jeancourt 18-9-18



APPENDIX 23+24

26

50th BATTALION.A.I.F.

APPENDIX 25.

209

OPERATION ORDER NO. 90.

In the Field,
21/9/1918.

Reference Map 620. 1/40,000.
=====

The 50th Bn will move complete with Transport to vicinity BIACHES tomorrow 22nd inst.

Starting Point :- Will be notified later.

Time :- About 9.30 a.m.

Order of March :- H.Qs., B., C., D., & A. Coys. Police, Prisoners & Guard will march in rear of C. Coy.

Dress :- Fighting Order., steel helmets to be worn by all ranks.

Movement :- 100 Yards between Coys & Transport will be maintained.

Baggage :- Officers Packs to be returned to Q.M. Store by 8.30 a.m.
Orderly Room boxes to be ready for collection by 8 a.m.
Mess boxes to be ready for Mess cart by 8.30 a.m.

Lewis Guns :- Lewis Gun gear to be returned to Transport Lines by 8 a.m. Lieut C.P. GREENE .DCM., will supervise loading of same. One gunner per Coy will travel with Coy limber.

Rations :- Unconsumed portion of day's rations will be carried. Cookers will be ready for teams by 8.30 a.m. One cook per Coy will march with cookers, remainder of cooks under L/Cpl ELLIS will march in rear of last Company.

Rear Guard :- A. Coy will detail one Sgt & 12 men to act as Rear Guard under Lieut H. RIGGS to march in rear of Transport.

Sanitation :- Area occupied by Coys will be left clean & sanitary.

Definite orders re Starting Point and Time will be issued later.

R. B. Smith
Lieutenant,
Adjutant 50th Battalion.A.I.F.

Copy	No.	1.	File.
::	:	2.	C.O.
::	:	3.	Senior Major.
::	:	4.)
!!	:	5.) War Diary.
::	!	6.)
::	:	7.	A. Coy.
::	:	8.	B. :
::	:	9.	C. :
::	:	10.	D. :

SP.

W/Diary.

To/

O.C., A., B., C., & D. Coys and H.Qs.

L.B. 481.

22nd.

AAAA

In continuation of Bn .O.O. No. 90.

Starting Point :-

J. 18. c. 6. 2. (X. Roads)

Time :-

9.20 a.m.

Transport will move independently.

Rear Guard will march 50 Yds in rear of last Coy.

200 Yds will be maintained between Coys and not 100 Yds as previously stated.

Bn. H.Qs

7.45 a.m.

*P. H. Smith*Lt & Adjutant,
50th Battalion. A.I.F.

SECRET.

SP.

209

50th, BATTALION. A.I.F.

OPERATION ORDER, No. 91.

Copy No. 4 29

APPENDIX 26

In the Field,
24/9/18.

Reference Map 620. 1/40,000.

The 50th Bn will move to BOVELLES Area today 24th inst.

Place of Embusment :- Head of column on road at H.29.d.7.9. facing HERBECOURT.

Embusing Officer :- Lieut C.P. GREENE. DCM.

Starting Point :- Bde H.Qs on road facing BIACHES.

Time :- 6.15 a.m.

Order of March :- H.Qs, Band, B., C., D., & A. Coys. Police, Prisoners and Guard to march in rear of A. Coy.

Dress :- Marching Order with Blankets. W.P. Sheet to be carried under flap of pack. Felt hats to be worn.

Transport :- Will move Brigaded.

Baggage :- Valises, B.O.R. Boxes., Coy boxes to be dumped at Bn H.Qs by 5.15 a.m.
Four boilers per Coy ~~xxxxxxx~~ and Mess Boxes same place at 6 a.m.
One cook per Coy to travel with Cooker. Remainder will travel with respective Coys.

Rations :- Todays will be carried on the man.
Breakfast for 24th inst will be at 4.30 a.m.
Water carts will call at Coys at 5 a.m. to fill bottles.

Sanitation :- Area occupied by Coys to be left clean and sanitary.

P.B. Smith Lieutenant,
Adjutant 50th Battalion. A.I.F.

Copy	No.	1.	File.
::	:	2.	C.O.
::	:	3.	Senior Major.
::	:	4.)	
::	:	5.)	War Diary.
::	:	6.)	
::	:	7.	A. Coy.
::	:	8.	B, :
::	:	9.	C, :
::	:	10.	D. :

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING for period ending 30th, Sept, 1918.-

Date. 8.45a.m. to 10.15 a.m. 10.15a.m. to 12 noon. 2p.m. to 3.30p.m.

26/9/18. Complete Companies.

Re-reading of special orders re Fires, Salvage, Information to the enemy, Censorship Regs, Saluting of Staff Cars etc. Examination of Boots & Feet.

Kit Inspection.

Reorganisation of Platoons & Coy.

27/9/18. Complete Companies.

Inspection.
Close order drill, Rifle Exercises (1/2 hour).
Bayonet Fighting (1/2 hour).
Gas drill (1/2 hour).

Musketry (as per separate syllabus).
Lewis Gunners separate.

Lewis Gun Instr all ranks except specialists detailed for specialist training.
B. Class partially trained gunners.
C. Class beginners.
A. Class fully trained gunners who will act as instructors.

28/9/18. Complete Platoons.

Inspection, Close Order Drill, Rifle Exercises (1/2 hour). Bayonet Fighting (1/2 hour). Platoon attack formations (1/2 hour).

do.

Inter-Coy football matches.

29/9/18.

CHURCH PARADE.

30/9/18. Complete Platoons.

Inspection, Rifle Exercises, Close Order Drill (1/2 hour) Bayonet Fighting (1/2 hour) Rapid Deployment (1/2 hour)

Musketry (as per separate syllabus).
Lewis Gunners separate.

Lewis Gun Instr. as for 27th.

Platoons will fall in at 8.45a.m. daily and have roll call and daily inspection complete by 9 a.m.

Details of training to be prepared one day in advance.

All Signallers will report to Signal Officer at Bn H.Qs at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

Headquarters Intelligence Section & Coy Scouts will report to Intelligence N.C.O. at Bn H.Qs at 9 a.m. & 2 p.m. daily.

Stretcher Bearers will report to R.M.O. at R.A.P. at 9 a.m. & 2 p.m. daily.

W. Smith

Lieutenant,

Adjutant, 50th Battalion A.I.F.

50th, BATTALION. A. I. F.

STATEMENT showing "INCREASES & DECREASES" in actual Fighting Strength
during month of September, 1918.

Increases :-

	Offrs.	O/Ranks.	Total.
From Hospital.	2.	6.	8.
:: Leave.	6.	83.	89.
:: Schools.	3.	15.	18.
:: Detached Duties etc.		20.	20.
:: Reinfts.	5.	120.	125.
Totals.	16.	244.	260.

Decreases :-

To Hospital.	2.	33.	35.
: Leave.	8.	90.	98.
: Schools.	2.	42.	44.
: Detached Duties etc.	3.	19.	22.
Transferred.	2.	24.	26.
Killed.		10.	10.
Wounded	3.	69.	72.
Missing		1.	1.
P of W.		4.	4.
Died of Wounds.		4.	4.
Totals.	20.	296.	316.

Actual Fighting Strength on 1/9/1918.

31. 608. 639.

:: ::: : 30/9/18.

27. 556. 583.

Decreases

4. 52. 56.

SP.

L.B. 23.

SECRET.

Headquarters,
50th, BATTALION.Reference Map 1/20,000. Sheet VILLERET.

1. (a) On 18th, Sept at 5.20 a.m. an attack will be made by the Australian Corps in conjunction with other troops on the enemy positions in front of the HINDENBURG Line.
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4. Ammunition issued to Coys today will be distributed to Coys by 8 a.m.
5. Breakfast will be at 7 a.m.
6. Water in bottles to be carefully conserved.

17/9/18.

Adjutant, 50th, Battalion A.I.F.

Lieutenant,

50th Battalion H.Q. 7th Sept. 1918

Part of ruined village of Biaches near Peronne

4.



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