

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/71/21

Title: 54th Infantry Battalion

October 1917



AWM4-23/71/21

WAR DIARY

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PIONEER CAMP.	Monday 1st. Octr.		No work was carried out today, the day being devoted to Company organisations, for which purpose Muster Parades were held. Details from Transport Lines joined the Battalion excepting the Q.M's Store. A check of all casualties suffered during the tour in the line was made by Battalion Headquarters with Companies. During the night Enemy Aircraft were active, and several Bombs were dropped in the vicinity of the camp. Orders were received from Brigade that the Battalion would move the following day to Reninghelst Area.	
PIONEER CAMP.	Tuesday 2nd. Octr.		In accordance with instructions an advance party consisting of 1 Officer & 4 O/Ranks per Company, and the Intelligence Officer, and 2 O/Ranks from Headquarters, proceeded to the Camp to be occupied by the Battalion, leaving the present Camp at 8a.m. The Battalion moved off at - 9-20a.m. in the following order:- Headquarters, "A" "B" "C" & "D" Companies. The route taken was via B.A.B. Track, Ouderdom, Reninghelst, thence to Staging Camp. Personnel from Divisional Nucleus rejoined today.	
RENING-HELST.	Wednesday 3rd. Octr.		The Divisional Commander, Major-General J.T.Hobbs, C.B. V.D., visited the Battalion this morning, and expressed satisfaction with the work carried out by the Division during the recent Operations; and gave instructions that no Training would be attempted during the next two days. Tents occupied by the Battalion were excavated in the interior and banked on the outside as a protection against Enemy Aircraft. Kit Inspections were held by Companies, and Indents made on the Q.M. to replace loses. A voluntary Church Service was conducted by Capt., Chaplain Holliday.	
RENING-HELST.	Thursday 4th. Octr.		The undermentioned Officer and N.C.O's marched out today as relief for Training Battalion:- Lieut. C.Upfold. 4192 L/Sgt. Jenkins H.S. and 3026 Sgt. Clark C. Capt. J.H.Crombie took Command of "C" Company vice Capt. N.G.Morris, wounded. Pay was today available for the Battalion, special Christmas concession being made up to 135 francs per man.	
RENING-HELST.	Friday. 5th. Octr.		A number of promotions were made today to replace losses amongst N.C.O's. The following Officers and N.C.O's marched out to the 1st Anzac Corps School to attend the Courses as named:- Infantry Course - Lieut A .Bates. 4852 Sgt. Neasby C.W. 4769 Sgt. Dōdimead J.G. 3504 Sgt.Cārko.J/R. Bombing Course - Lieut. F.P.Holder. 5147 L/Cpl. Patrick S. Lewis Gun Course - 5405 L/Cpl. Mamns J.W.G. Intelligence Course.Lt. H.E.G.Staples. 2169 Pte. James F. Training was carried out by Companies, and included Physical Training & Bayonet Fighting under Specialist Instructor - Sgt. Chapman, and Platoon & Company Drill.	

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RENING- HELST	Saturday. 6th. Oct.		<p>During the morning the Battalion undertook a Route March in accordance with orders from Brigade. Companies fell in on their private parade grounds ready to move off at 8-50a.m. The Dress was Full Marching Order less Blankets. The Route taken was via Cross Roads G.27.d.8.6. Reninghelst G.35.c.1.7. La Clyeete, M.17.c.5.4. WESTOUTRE, CORSS ROADS G.32.d.8.1. First Line Transport accompanied the Battalion. The following intervals were observed throughout the march:-</p> <p>50 yards between Platoons, 100 yards between Companies. The distance covered was about 9 miles. No men fell out of the column. Light rain fell almost throughout the march.</p> <p>During the afternoon Company Officers took parties to inspect the Model of the Corps Front near BUSSEBOOM.</p>	
RENING- HELST.	Sunday. 7th Oct.		<p>A Combined Church Parade of Church of England and O.P.D's was conducted by the Rev. W.M. Holliday at 9-45a.m. on the ground available within the Camp. The Brigade Roman Catholic Church Parade was held by Father Kennedy in the 53rd Bn, Lines at 10a.m. A Warning Order was received in the late afternoon that the Battalion would move to Pioneer & Canal Area the following day. It was decided that the following Officers would accompany the Battalion during the next tour in the line:-</p> <p>"A" Company Capt. D.A. Mc Nab. 2/Lt. C.T. Wood, 2/Lt. J.H. Pollock, and 2/Lt. J. Mc. B. Fullarton.</p> <p>"B" Company Lieut. Shaw, Lieut. Adams, Lieut. Allen, and 2/Lt. Senn.</p> <p>"C" Company Capt. J.H. Crombie, Lieut. C.C. Hart, Lieut., W.L. Agnew, and 2/Lt. J.H. Barton.</p> <p>"D" Company Capt. B.D. Jack, Lieut., E.S. Astridge, and 2/Lt. Small.</p> <p>The N.C.O's & O/Ranks to remain with the Nucleus were selected by Company Commanders.</p>	
RENING- HELST.	Monday. Oct. 8th.		<p>The Battalion, less the party remaining with the Divisional Nucleus, moved from the Staging Camp at 9-55a.m. to Cornwall Camp in OUDERDOM Area. The Route taken being - Cross Roads G.27.d.8.6. RENINGHELST, OUDERDOM, thence to Billets, which had been taken over by a forward party consisting of 1 Officer & 4 N.C.O's per Company, and 1 Officer & 2 O/Ranks for Headquarters, which had left the Staging Camp at 7-30a.m.</p> <p>The remainder of the Battalion, under Capt. O.J.O. Tedder was left at the Staging Camp. This party supplied 1 N.C.O. and 60 O/Ranks to report to an Officer of the 5th Div. Artillery at POPERINGHE STATION for the purpose of proceeding to CALAIS to draw horses.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CORNWALL CAMP. OUDERDOM.	Tuesday. 9th Oct.		Very heavy rain fell during the night, and in consequence of a number of the tents being very old considerable changes in the billeting area were necessitated. The weather cleared considerably during the morning, and a certain amount of Training (at the disposal of Company Commanders) was carried out. This included B.T.&B.F., Organised Games, and where possible there was Close Order Drill. Special Instruction was also given in the use of German Machine Gun; Guns captured in the Battle of POLYGON WOOD were used for this purpose.	
CORNWALL CAMP OUDERDOM.	Wednesday 10th Oct.		Similar Training as for yesterday was carried out today. Company Commanders carried out a certain amount of Training independently, which included Close Order Drill, Organised Games, and P.T.& B.F. An N.C.O. & 3 men from the 14th Machine Gun Company were attached to the Battalion for the purpose of carrying out special instruction to all Officers and N.C.O's of the Battalion in the use of the German Machine Gun. Every Officer and N.C.O., can now load and fire one of these weapons. Our quota of the Divisional Pack Transport Troop consisting of 1 Officer (2/Lt. W.J. Treloar), 1 Driver, 9 Pack Men, 9 Pack Animals, and 1 G.S. Limbered Waggon complete joined the remainder of the Divisional Pack Troop at 9a.m. today.	
CORNWALL CAMP OUDERDOM.	Thursday 11th Oct.		Training as under was carried out today:- Company and Platoon Close Order Drill, P.T.&B.F., and Organised Games. Capt Leedman (M.C.) Battalion M.O. lectured Companies in turn on trench feet and the care of feet. The Battalion was bathed in the Baths adjoining the Camp today.	
CORNWALL CAMP OUDERDOM.	Friday. 12th Oct.		Similar Training was carried out today as for yesterday. Anticipating an early move to the Battle Area Company Commanders were instructed to thoroughly overhaul the clothing and equipment of their Companies, when the organisation was complete Companies carried out a programme which included Organised Games Close Order Drill etc. All the Anti-Gas Equipment of the Battalion was thoroughly inspected by the Gas Officer and N.C.O's.	
CORNWALL CAMP.	Saturday 13th Oct.		The following Programme of Training was carried out today:- Close Order Drill, and Rifle Exercises, Physical Training and Bayonet Exercises. Specialists (Signallers) Lewis Gunners, Rifle Grenadiers received special instruction under the supervision of Headquarters Specialist Officers. Headquarters and Company Intelligence Sections were given special instruction in	

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CORNWALL CAMP	Saturday 13th Oct. (Cont'd.)		<p>General Intelligence Work, Map Reading, use of the Compass etc., by Capt. R.G. Downing (M.C.) Battalion Intelligence Officer. Under instructions from the 14th A.I. Brigade, Order 112, this Battalion relieved the 59th Battalion of the 15th Brigade in the Support Line of the Divisional Sector on WESTHOEK RIDGE. Companies fell in on their Parade Grounds, and the Battalion moved off at 2p.m. Dress - Fighting Order, Overcoats were worn, and waterproof sheets carried. The route taken was as follows:- H.14.b.4.8. DENGRENEN, BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER, WARRINGTON ROAD, BIRR CROSS ROADS, HELLES TRACK to Position on WESTBOEK RIDGE. The following intervals were maintained on the march:- 20 yards between Sections, and 200 Yards between Battalions. Cookers accompanied Battalion, and a hot meal was provided for all ranks at about 5p.m. in the vicinity of Half-way House. 1 N.C.O, and 1 Other Rank from the Transport reported to the Staff Captain at the Area Commandant's Office - SWAN AREA - at 2p.m. to arrange the location for Transport Lines, and it was intended that the Transport, Q.M's Store, and remaining details of the Battalion would move to a new position on the evening of the 13th, but owing to the non-return of the Transport Officer with the Cookers until a late hour that night it was impossible to do so until the next day. By arrangement with the R.Q.M. of the incoming Battalion, the Packs belonging to the men of this Battalion were stored at CORNWALL CAMP, and a Guard placed over them whilst the Battalion was in the line. No casualties were suffered during the march to this position.</p>	
WESTHOEK RIDGE.	Sunday. 14th Oct.		<p>Instructions for certain working parties having been handed over from the 59th Battalion, 14th Brigade, were asked to verify and in accordance with a Brigade message the following party was detailed:- 150 working ranks under own Officers as party for cable bearing. "A" and "B" Companies, with Capt., D.A. Mc Nab (M.C.) in charge, formed this party, and moved off to report to a guide from the Divisional Signal Company at 9-30a.m. at J.3.d.3.8. Nothing of interest happened during the day. Enemy Shelling was intermittent, and confined to the vicinity of GLENCORSE WOOD. Battle Casualties for the day were 3 wounded, 1 gassed. Capt. B.D. Jack was evacuated sick from Transport Lines, and Capt., S.A. Benson from Divisional Reinforcement Wing. Appendix "A" attached show the positions occupied by the Battalion during ins tour on WESTHOEK RIDGE.</p>	

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WESTHOEK RIDGE.	Monday. 15th Oct.		<p>During the early hours of the morning Enemy Shelled the back areas including the Position occupied by this Battalion, Shells being principally Gas, this slackened off towards daylight. The Working Party detailed yesterday was repeated, and the following detail supplied in addition:- 100 men to report to Dump at J.8.b.4.9. for the purpose of carrying Corkscrew Wiring Pegs. The Party comprised the whole of "C" Company, and 20 men from "D" Company.</p> <p>At 5-44p.m. the S.O.S. was seen to go up from the Sector on our right, and was followed by our Barrage, which continued for about half an hour; and during this period the S.O.S. was repeated in the same vicinity four times. Our evacuations up to 12 noon today are as follows:- 5 wounded, 3 killed 3 gassed, and 5 to hospital.</p>	
WESTHOEK RIDGE.	Tuesday. 16th Oct.		<p>Yesterday's Fatigue Parties were repeated, and in addition "D" Coy. supplied a party of 24 to report to an N.C.O. of the Engineers for the purpose of erecting a R.A.P. for the M.O. of this Battalion, the one at present occupied being 500 yards from any part of the Battalion, and very inconvenient to get at. A warning order was received today from 14th A.I. Brigade that this Battalion would probably relieve the 59th Battalion in the front line, in consequence of this the following party was sent forward:- Lieut. R.G. Downing and 2 O/Ranks from Headquarters, and 1 L.G. N.C.O., and 1 Signaller per Company. 4 men were detailed from "C" Company to report to Brigade Headquarters for duty as runners during the tour in the line.</p> <p>During the night 15th/16th the Enemy Shelled all tracks in rear area very heavily. Areas such as WESTHOEK RIDGE, ANZAC RIDGE, NONNEBOSCHEN, GLENCORSE WOOD were also very heavily shelled. A great percentage of the shells falling in the rear areas were gas shells. At 1-5p.m. the Enemy opened concentrated fire on WESTHOEK RIDGE, the majority of the shells being gas shells. Enemy Aircraft displayed considerable activity in our locality today, some of his planes flying very low. Our casualties for the day were very heavy. 5 O/Ranks were killed (including C.S.M. Mc Intosh of "B" Coy.) 28 O/Ranks were evacuated gassed, and 11 in consequence of wounds. Lieut C.C. Hart and 2 O/Ranks were evacuated sick.</p>	
WESTHOEK RIDGE.	Wednesday 17th Oct.		<p>With the exception of parties permanently employed no details were requisitioned from the Battalion for work today, and final arrangements were made for the relief of the 59th Battalion in the front line during the evening. In consequence of yesterday's losses and in consideration of the weakness of the Companies instructions were forwarded to rear Battalion Headquarters for Lieut. Green and the 25 O/Ranks who had volunteered to act as stretcher bearers during the</p>	

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FRONT LINE WESTHOEK RIDGE. Headquarters. J.4.b.7.5.	Wednesday 17th Oct. Cont'd.		Operations - 5th to 12th October - and whom we believed to be at the Transport Lines. The day passed off very quietly, Enemy Artillery activity being not at all heavy and very spasmodic. In accordance with Battalion Order, Adj. 27, Companies moved off from their positions in WESTHOEK RIDGE at 5p.m. At this Battalion moved out the 29th Battalion (8th Australian Infantry Brigade) moved in. Notwithstanding the fact that the duck-board tracks leading to the front line had been constantly shelled during the last three days our relief of the 59th Battalion was completed without casualties by 7-5p.m. "D" Company on the right and "A" Coy., on the left occupied the front line. "G" Company occupied the support line, and "B" Company remained in reserve. Battalion Headquarters was situated in a pill box at J.4.b.7.5. Complete dispositions are contained in Map Appendix "B" attached. About 10p.m. the front line was very heavily barraged by the enemy. Our casualties for the day were:- 4 O/Ranks killed, Lt. Carrick and 40 O/Ranks wounded, 31 O/Ranks gassed. A great number of these casualties were the result of the heavy enemy shelling mentioned in the diary of the 16th inst., but which were not evacuated until today. In accordance with instructions received from Brigade, Major Hansen (Bn.S.I.C.) reported to B.H.Q., at 5p.m. and is to remain during our tour in the line.	
FRONT LINE Headquarters J.4.b.7.5.	Thursday. 18th Oct.		Light rain fell between 1a.m. and 4a.m., but the morning broke clear. Our front line and supports were heavily barraged at 5-40a.m. (mostly 77s and 4.2's.) Roads and tracks in rear areas were shelled continuously throughout the day. Lieut. Allen and the 4 C.Q.M. Serjts., together with 1 cook per Company were sent to establish a Battalion Kitchen and Sock Drying Depot at J.2.c.4.5. From this point the rationing of the Battalion was controlled. Ration parties consisting of 1 Officer and 40 O/Ranks from each of the Support and Reserve Companies carry the rations for their own Companies, and for the Companies in the front line, who receive one hot meal each day. Enemy Aeroplanes were very active during the day. 1 Squadron of 7 Enemy Planes flying low patrolled our front line from 6-15a.m., to 6-45a.m. 1 of the Planes dropped white flares. At 2p.m., 5 formations totalling 41 Planes flying at various heights appeared over our lines, shortly afterwards Enemy Artillery became very active, and our front and support lines were very heavily shelled. Our casualties up to 12 noon today were :- 3 killed, 9 O/Ranks wounded, 3 O/Ranks gassed.	
FRONT LINE Headquarters J.4.b.7.5.	Friday 19th Oct.		The night passed without incident. "A" Company sent out two patrols during the night, one at 9p.m., consisting of Lieut. J.H. Pollock and 3 O/Ranks; and one at 3a.m., consisting of Lieut. C.T. Woods and 3 O/Ranks, Both of these patrols penetrated well into CELTIC WOOD	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE. Headquarters J.4.b.7.5.	Friday. 19th Oct. (Cont'd.)		<p>and discovered no trace of the enemy. The ground in this locality is extremely boggy; patrolling is consequently very difficult. In accordance with the enemy's General Plan our line was heavily barraged at about 4-20a.m. The barrage was continued until just after dawn (5-15a.m.) Enemy Aeroplanes were again very active this morning, about 20 were seen overhead, some of them swooped down and used their Machine Guns on our front line; one Plane dropped a number of white lights, and the area immediately below was at once subjected to heavy artillery fire. From 9a.m. until 3p.m. everything was very quiet on our front. At 3p.m. the enemy again barraged our front line, and some casualties were caused. Owing to our line being under direct observation from the DROOGENBROODHOEK SPUR no movement is allowed during the day, all required work in the front line is done during the night. A party of 1 Officer and 50 O/Ranks from the 55th Battalion, working under the supervision of Lieut J. Adams of this Battalion, erected 225 yards of Barbed Wire in front of our left Company, this work is to be continued tonight. Our casualties for today were:- 2 killed, 12 wounded, 1 gassed.</p>	
FRONT LINE Headquarters J.4.b.7.5.	Saturday 20th Oct.		<p>Our line was again barraged (not so heavy as usual) at daylight this morning, at about 2a.m., however, heavy minenwerfers did considerable damage to our front line directly in front of CELTIC WOOD. These appeared to come from about the centre of CELTIC WOOD, and a patrol sent out at 10p.m. tonight verified this. The Artillery has been instructed as to the whereabouts of the minenwerfer battery and no more trouble is expected from it. At about 3a.m. the enemy put over some gas shells, a new type of gas was detected which smelt very much like pepper, its effect was to make everyone sneeze, thus making it impossible to put on the respirator; when the effect of the pepper has worn off one is effected similarly to mustard gas. CELTIC WOOD was again patrolled during the night but no trace of the enemy was come across. An Officer's patrol consisting of Lieut. F.C.R. Small and 3 O/Ranks were sent out from our right Company. They patrolled the whole of the Company's front to a depth of about 1000 yards with no better result than the CELTIC WOOD patrol. The day was not at all suitable for Aerial reconnaissance and we were not troubled by enemy planes to any extent. An Officer's party of 50 O/Ranks from the 55th Battalion completed another 300 yards of Wiring tonight. Our casualties for the day were as follows:- Killed 2 O/Ranks, Wounded 5 O/Ranks, 7 O.R. gassed and 5 O/Ranks to Hospital. Information was also received from Officer Commanding 14th Field Company, Australian Engineers to the effect that 2/Lt. J. Mc B. Fullarton, who was Officer in charge of an Infantry detail working with the Field Company, had been killed in action on the 19th inst. Lieut. Fullarton belonged to "A" Company.</p>	

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ZILLEBEKE CAMP	Sunday 21st Oct.		<p>Acting on instructions from 14th A.I. Brigade the Sector held by this Battalion was extended to the left to By 23rd Div. D.29.b.2.1. The extension was effected under arrangements made by Officers Commanding "D" & "A" Company, and Capt. Smyth, the Officer Commanding the right Company of the 56th Battalion, (on this Battalion's left.) the attached Map Appendix "C" will show the new dispositions. The enemy heavily barraged our front line and supports between 3a.m. and 5a.m. Between 5a.m. and 7a.m. there was no shelling at all. At 7a.m. a terrific barrage was put down on our left Company Front, causing a number of casualties, these included Lieuts., Wood & Pollock. Lieut. Wood was dangerously wounded. Our front line, supports and reserves were heavily shelled throughout the day. Our own Artillery was much more active than usual, as also were our Aeroplanes. A Warning Order from 14th A.I. Brigade to the effect that we would be relieved in the front line on the night 21st/22nd., by the 29th Battalion, A.I.F., was followed later in the day by a Confirming Order (14th A.I. Brigade No. 114.) During the day everything was prepared for the relief that night. Guides met the incoming Unit at WESTHOEK CROSS ROADS at 5p.m., The enemy had, however, placed a heavy barrage over the WESTHOEK RIDGE Area, which did not lift until about 6-30p.m., this somewhat delayed the relief, which however was completed by 8-40p.m. Our casualties during the relief being only 1 O/Rank killed, and 3 O/Ranks wounded. The Battalion moved by way of HELLES TRACK, BIRR CROSS ROADS, ZOUAVE ROADS, WARRINGTON ROAD, to ZILLEBEKE CAMP, I.15.b.8.8.</p>	
DICKEBUSH CAMP. H.26.b.5.8.	Monday 22nd Oct.		<p>In accordance with further instructions contained in 14th A.I. Brigade Order No. 114, the 54th Battalion moved today from ZILLEBEKE to Dickebusch Camp (H.26.b.5.8.) The route followed was by way of WARRINGTON ROAD, - DARBY ROAD, CAFE BELGE - DICKEBUSCH to Billets. The Transport, which during our tour in the line, had been situated at CHAU.SEGARD CAMP also moved to DICKEBUSCH CAMP TODAY. The Camp is a good one, and is easily sufficient to accommodate our depleted numbers, which today total 23 Officers and 377 O/Ranks; at least 80% of our personnel are suffering from Cold, Sore Throats, and Chest. This is attributed to the Gas-soaked areas we have just vacated.</p>	
DICKEBUSCH CAMP.	Tuesday		<p>The remainder of the day was devoted to rest, and Reveille has been ordered for 8 O'Clock in the morning.</p>	

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DICKEBUSCH. CAMP H.26.b.5.8.	Tuesday 23rd Oct.		The day was devoted to re-organisation, kit inspections etc., Indents to replace lbsses incurred in the line were submitted to D.A.D.O.S.	
DICKEBUSCH CAMP. H.26.b.5.8.	Wednesday. 24th Oct.		Re-organisation was continued today. The whole of the Battalion's Anti-Gas Equipment was inspected. The Battalion was bathed during the day at the 5th Aust.Div., Baths YPRES. A Warning Order was received from Brigade Headquarters to the effect that the Battalion would move to the WIPPENHOEK AREA tomorrow. Capt. Downing and an advance party of 1 N.C.O per Company has been detailed to proceed to the new area and arrange the billeting of the Battalion.	
ABEELE K.35.a.9.9. Sheet 27.	Thursday 25th Oct.		The Battalion, together with the remainder of the Brigade moved to the WIPPENHOEK AREA today. The Starting Point (Cross Roads H.19.b.4.6.) was passed at 9-25a.m., and the route was CROSS ROADS H.19.b.4.6. - G.30a.5.0. - OUDERDOM - RENGINGHELST - ABEELE. Arrangements had been made for our billeting party to meet the Battalion at ABEELE on its arrival, but owing to the billeting arrangements having been altered at the last moment they were not able to do so, as a result the Battalion was not billeted nor settled down until after dark. The billets are very scattered.	
ABEELE K.35.a.9.9. Sheet 27.	Friday 26th Oct.		The day was occupied in reorganising the billeting area, which is most unsatisfactory. Two hours parade was carried out by each Company later in the day; no specific work was set down. This Battalion's quota from the Reinforcement Camp marched in today., the party was 3 Officers and 85 O/Ranks strong.	
ABEELE. K.35.a.9.9. Sheet 27.	Saturday 27th Oct.		Four hours work was carried out by Companies today. The programme of work was at Company Commanders discretion, and included in each case a short Route March. 2 Officers & 65 O/Raks, Reinforcements, marched in today. The Officers were - Lieut. G.A.Dickenson from 14th Training Battalion, and Lieut O.C.Ferns (Rejoined ex Wounded.)	

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ABEELE K.35.a.9.9. Sheet 27.	Sunday. 28th Oct.		Advice has been received that the Corps Commander has awarded decorations as follows to N.C.O's and men of this Battalion for acts of gallantry performed during the Battle of POLYGON WOOD. The Corps, Divisional, and Brigade Commanders congratulated the recipients.										
<u>BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.</u>													
4389 Sig. Pratt G.W.													
<u>M I L I T A R Y M E D A L.</u>													
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>2158 Cpl. Ketchen W.C.</td> <td>4379 Sig. Develand L.S.</td> <td>2472 Pte. Place R.J.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2218 Pte. Shaw B.</td> <td>1893 Pte. Cornish W.B.</td> <td>2783 Pte. King P.J.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2733 Pte. Smith S.</td> <td>4940 Pte. Grant R.B.</td> <td>1891 Cpl. Brown R.</td> </tr> </table>					2158 Cpl. Ketchen W.C.	4379 Sig. Develand L.S.	2472 Pte. Place R.J.	2218 Pte. Shaw B.	1893 Pte. Cornish W.B.	2783 Pte. King P.J.	2733 Pte. Smith S.	4940 Pte. Grant R.B.	1891 Cpl. Brown R.
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2218 Pte. Shaw B.	1893 Pte. Cornish W.B.	2783 Pte. King P.J.											
2733 Pte. Smith S.	4940 Pte. Grant R.B.	1891 Cpl. Brown R.											
ABEELE. K.35.a.9.9. Sheet 27.	Monday. 29th Oct.		The four hours training carried out today consisted of Platoon & Company Close Order Drill, Rifle Exercises, Bayonet Fighting & Physical Exercises, under Sergt. Chapman of Army Gymnastic Staff. Organised Games. A Divisional Gas N.C.O. inspected the Box Respirators and P.H. Helmets of members of the Battalion today. 1 Officer and 31 O/Ranks (Reinforcements) marched in today. The Officer was Lieut. C.J.Small (from Supernumerary List.)										
ABEELE. K.35.a.9.9. Sheet 27.	Tuesday 30th Oct.		The four hours training carried out by Companies today included a two hours Route March. 200 O/Ranks of the Battalion were bathed at the POPERINGHE BATHS. Capt. A.H.Hirst (from 6th Division), Lieut. M.F.Carrick (from Hospital), and 18 O/Ranks, (Reinforcements) marched in today. List No.248 issued with A.I.F. Orders of the 23rd inst., includes the promotion of the following Officers of this Battalion:- To be Captain. Lieut. R.G.Downing (M.C.) (to date from 1/10/17.) To be Lieutenants, (dated 12/10/17) - 2/Lt. J.H.Barton. 2/Lt. O.C.Ferns. 2/Lt. C.T.Wood. 2/Lt. W.T.R.Green. 2/Lt. J.H.Pollock.										
A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.													

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																																				
ABEELE K.35.a.9.9. Sheet 27.	Wednesday 31st Oct.		<p>Four hours training was carried out today, which consisted of, Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting, Rifle Exercises, Section Platoon & Company Close Order Drill, Organised Games. The strength of the Battalion today is, actually with Unit - 32 Officers and 618 O/Ranks. The daily effective strength of the Battalion return of the Battalion for today shows:- 43 Officers and 839 O/Ranks. The discrepancy in these two returns is accounted for mainly by Hospital 5 Officers and 106 O/Ranks. Brigade Duties 28 O/Ranks. At School 4 Officers and 15 O/Ranks. On Command 2 Officers and 76 O/Ranks. The Officers with the Battalion today are:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Officer Commanding.</td> <td>Lieut-Colonel F. Street.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second in Command.</td> <td>Major. J. Hansen.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adjutant.</td> <td>Capt. N.B. Lovett. (M.C.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asst. Adjutant.</td> <td>2/Lt. W.L. Palmer.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intelligence Officer.</td> <td>Lieut. H. G. Staples.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signalling Officer</td> <td>Lieut. H. Brewer.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical Officer.</td> <td>Capt. G.H. Leedman (M.C.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chaplain</td> <td>Capt. W.M. Holliday.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quartermaster</td> <td>Lieut. H. Bennett.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport Officer</td> <td>Lieut. F. Smith.</td> </tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Captains.</td> <td>Sx B.D. Jack</td> <td>J.H. Crombie.</td> <td>A.H. Hirst.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"</td> <td>D.A. Mc Nab</td> <td>O.J.O. Tedder.</td> <td>R.G. Downing (M.C.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieutenants.</td> <td>C.E. Shaw</td> <td>J.A.S. Mitchell</td> <td>G.A. Dickenson.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"</td> <td>E.S. Astridge</td> <td>J. Adams</td> <td>E.P. Kinsella.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"</td> <td>F.P. Holder</td> <td>C.J. Small</td> <td>M.F. Carrick.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"</td> <td>A.C. Askham</td> <td>J.H. Wicks</td> <td>J.H. Barton.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"</td> <td>O.C. Berns</td> <td>W.T.R. Green</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Lieutenants</td> <td>W.J. Treloar</td> <td>F.C.R. Small</td> <td>W.A.L. Senn</td> </tr> </table>	Officer Commanding.	Lieut-Colonel F. Street.	Second in Command.	Major. J. Hansen.	Adjutant.	Capt. N.B. Lovett. (M.C.)	Asst. Adjutant.	2/Lt. W.L. Palmer.	Intelligence Officer.	Lieut. H. G. Staples.	Signalling Officer	Lieut. H. Brewer.	Medical Officer.	Capt. G.H. Leedman (M.C.)	Chaplain	Capt. W.M. Holliday.	Quartermaster	Lieut. H. Bennett.	Transport Officer	Lieut. F. Smith.	Captains.	Sx B.D. Jack	J.H. Crombie.	A.H. Hirst.	"	D.A. Mc Nab	O.J.O. Tedder.	R.G. Downing (M.C.)	Lieutenants.	C.E. Shaw	J.A.S. Mitchell	G.A. Dickenson.	"	E.S. Astridge	J. Adams	E.P. Kinsella.	"	F.P. Holder	C.J. Small	M.F. Carrick.	"	A.C. Askham	J.H. Wicks	J.H. Barton.	"	O.C. Berns	W.T.R. Green		2nd Lieutenants	W.J. Treloar	F.C.R. Small	W.A.L. Senn	
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			<p style="text-align: right;"> <i>Sheet</i> Lieut-Colonel. Commanding. 54th Battalion, A. I. F. </p>																																																					

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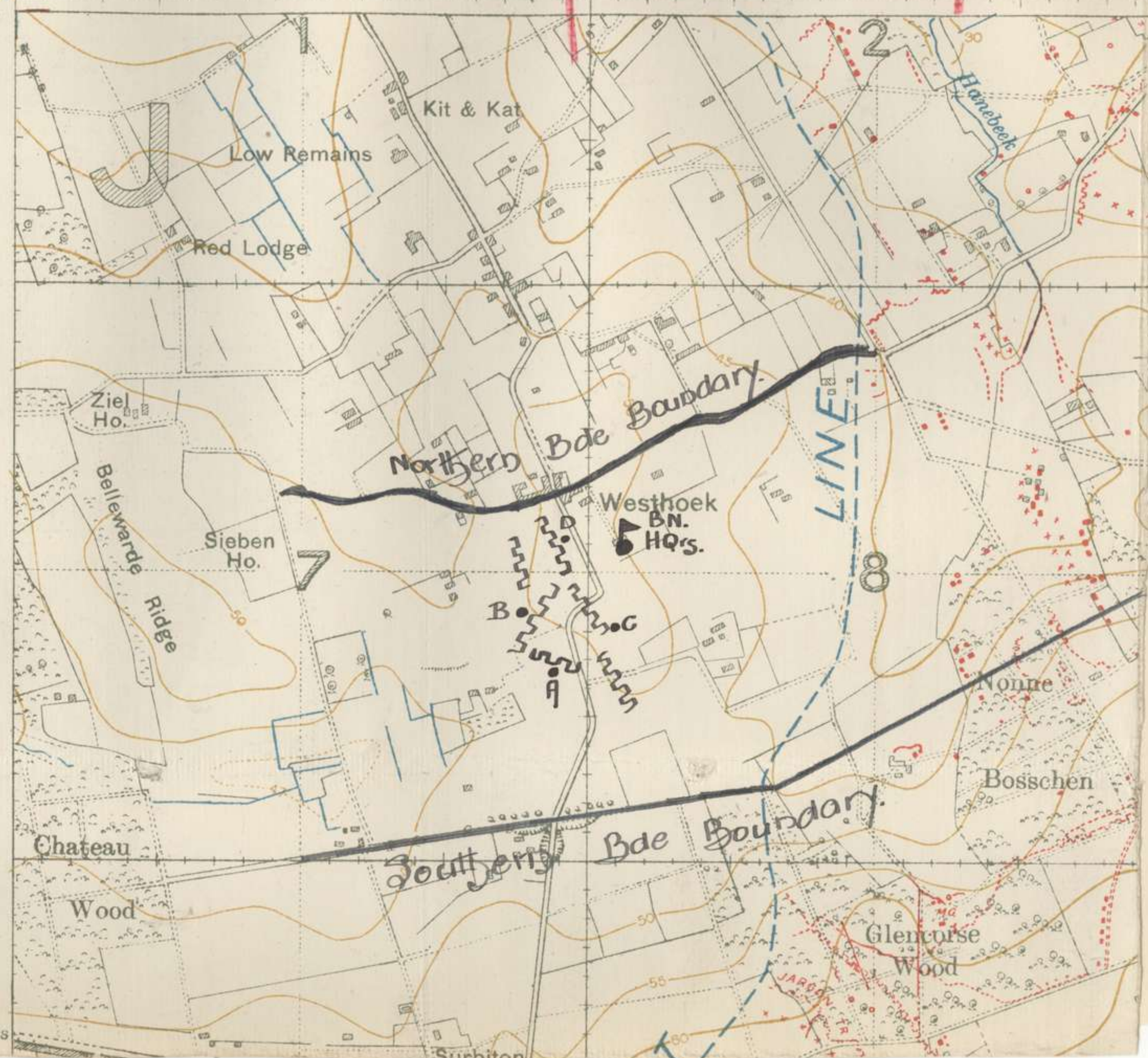
LEGEND.

—•—•— = line occupied by D Coy with Coy HQs represented by dot.

Appendix "A"

52,240 m. 100,000 m. W.

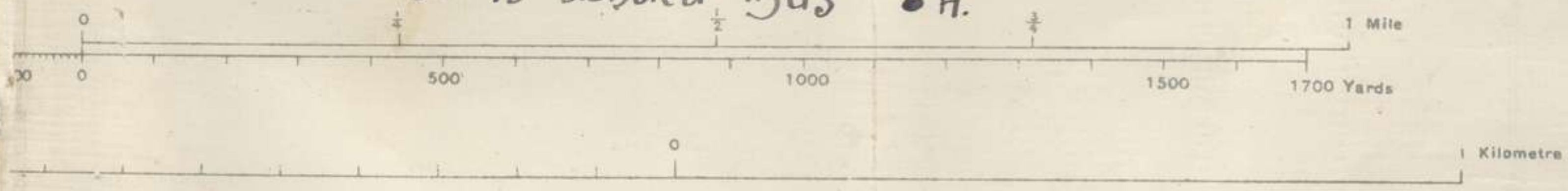
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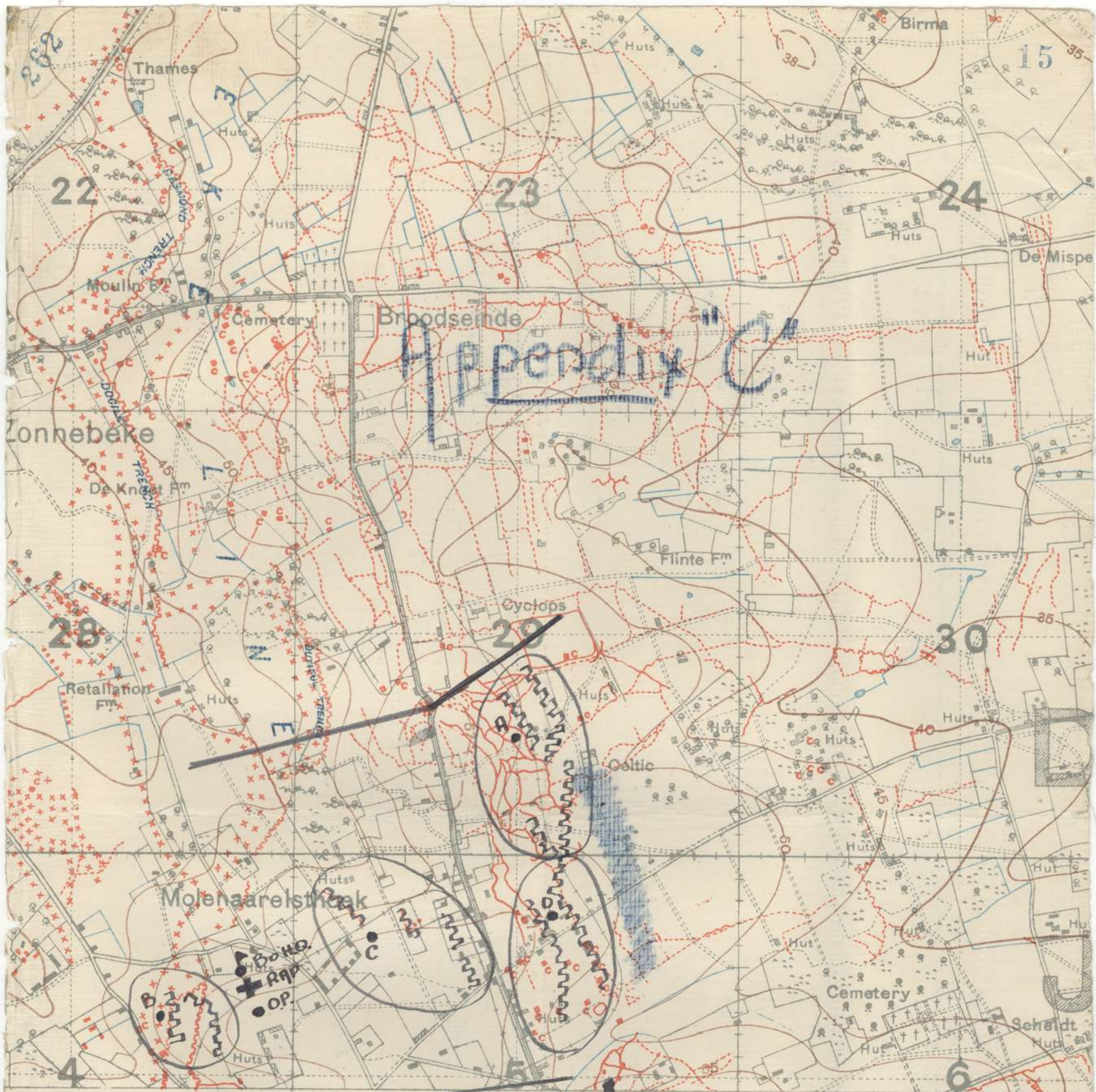


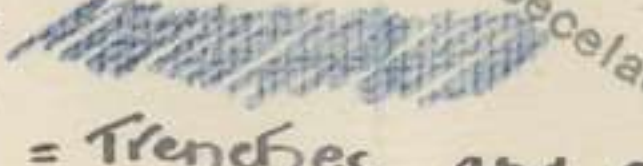
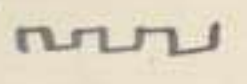
From Ypres



Reference: = Wiring completed during tour.
 = Trenches and shell hole positions
 Each Coy Sector is enclosed, ~~by~~ and the Coy H.Q. is denoted thus • A.





Reference:  Wiring Completed during tour.
 = Trenches and shell hole line.
 Each Coy Sector is enclosed and the Coy HQ is denoted thus: ● A.

Scale 1:10,000

