

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/75/14

**Title:** 58th Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/75/14



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.

Total Eff. Strength  
off. O.R.  
40 904

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

59th BATTALION O.R.  
Detached Duty - 7 102  
Field Amb. 5 55  
Mtl Unit 28 787  
Total 40 904

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field Townsville Camp.	1/3/17		Small fatigues were supplied, the remainder of the men had their feet bathed and treated at 15 <sup>th</sup> Fld. Amb. baths. Uniform & equipment was cleaned up, packs drawn from store etc.	
"	2/3/17		Fatigues amounting to about 220 supplied. Platoon Commanders inspected their platoons for shortages in Iron Rations and P. H. Helmets.	
"	3/3/17		Supplied fatigues. All men who had not already done so bathed their feet. In the afternoon men bathed and changed their clothing at Divisional Baths, Permafay. The Bn. held a concert in Church Army Hut at 6-30, which was quite a success and the men appeared to appreciate it very much.	
Intermediate Line.	4/3/17		Moved from Townsville Camp to Intermediate Line, Bn. H.Q. & "C" Coy. being in BULLS ROAD, "A" & "B" Coys. in SWITCH and "D" Coy. in PILGRIMS WAY & POSSUM RESERVE. We relieved the 59 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Fatigues of 350 men were supplied.	
Front Line System.	5/3/17		Fatigues of 100 men supplied at 8 am. for work under 14 <sup>th</sup> Fld. Coy. We relieved the 8 <sup>th</sup> Bn. in front line system on the left see Bde. Order No 88 of 4/3/17. "B" & "C" Coys. took over the front line consisting of Barley Trench & Sick Trench, "A" Coy. went into Grove Alley, and "D" Coy. in Gaynet, Scabbard & Pork trenches. Bn. H.Q. situated at Lusenhof Farm. A sketch showing trenches occupied by the Bn. is attached. Rations carried to front line Coys. by "A" Coy., also hot soup & tea twice during the night.	APP "A" attached. APP "B" attached
"	6/3/17		A clear day - enemy's planes were active over Thillooy & Le Barque. Three patrols, each of 1 officer 14 O.R. were sent out from Barley Trench 100 yards east of Sick Sap & patrolling in front of Sick Trench as covering parties for work going on in Sick Sap. The enemy was very quiet and the work of joining up Sick Trench with Barley Trench was completed.	



Total Strength <sup>off.</sup> 39 <sup>O.R.</sup> 894

WAR DIARY

Detached Duty  
Fld. Amb  
27 546



Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Front Line System	6/3/17 (Contd.)		"A" Coy again carried rations for front line Coys. One of our monoplanes was brought down between our support & reserve Coys., the pilot being killed and the observer wounded.	
"	7/3/17		A very clear morning but in the afternoon light snow fell. Artillery very quiet on both sides. Four patrols were out and No Mans Land was thoroughly patrolled, the distance from our trench to the enemys varying from 300 yds. on the right to about 700 yds. on the left. No enemy patrols were sighted. A works policy was drawn up by Bde. (see App. "C") and was at once given effect to, Lieut. E. W. Tasker was appointed Works Officer for this Battalion.	APP. "C" attached.
"	8/3/17		"Standing Orders for dug-outs" as issued by Bde. is attached, and the necessary work was carried out to comply with these instructions. A clear morning & very quiet. We were visited by the A.D.M.G. In conjunction with M.O. and J.O. he selected a position for new Advanced Aid Post near the junction of Pork & Scabbard Trenches. The road near our headquarters at Luisehof Farm. received attention from 77 m.m. guns. In the evening we sent out one patrol on the right and three dug-outs were found in No Mans Land, they were searched, one was found to be in very good condition the other in fairly good order. Another patrol left Trench at 10 pm, proceeded to Beaulencourt and then down the road to within 100 yds. of enemys wire; and stopped in a	APP. "D" attached.





WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Front Line System. (Contd.)	8/3/17		concealed position in hope of locating trench mortar position which had been troubling our strong posts on outskirts of THILLOY. Patrol stopped there about 1/2 an hour but no definite information could be obtained as these mortars were not then firing.	
"	9/3/17		The C.O. went around the line with the I.O. in the morning. The day was more misty and snow fell at intervals. Our artillery opened up in the afternoon for about 20 minutes on enemy front line & wire. We were relieved by the 59 <sup>th</sup> Bn. at 9.30 p.m.; we returned to the Intermediate line and the Bn. was allotted as under:- Bn. H.Q. & B <sup>th</sup> Coy.      Flers. "A" Coy.                      Hay Reserve "C"                              Grass Lane "D"                              Switch Trench.	
Intermediate Line.	10/3/17		During the day we had 2 men of the Q.M. store killed whilst in a dug out in Bulls Road.	
			Fatigues of 180 men supplied. A clear day. The men had an opportunity of cleaning up but unfortunately it was not possible to get the men's packs up to them so that they could shave.	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



7  
309



Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Intermediate Line	11/3/17		<p>A clear day and artillery active. In reply to our bombardment the enemy put over a number of shells around Grass Lane and Bulls Rd. and caused a few casualties, one of our observers being killed whilst attending sick parade in Bulls Rd. New works going on around Grass Lane &amp; Bulls Rd. evidently attracted the enemy shelling.</p> <p>Fatigues amounted to 180 men.</p> <p>A portion of the Bn. was sent down to 5<sup>th</sup> Div. Baths, Bernafay and obtained a change of clothing.</p> <p>Canteen was brought forward and established in Grass Lane.</p>	
"	12/3/17		<p>A very bright morning. Usual working parties supplied. The remainder of the men were sent down to the 5<sup>th</sup> Div. Baths.</p> <p>Our artillery opened up in the afternoon and the enemy replied putting in a number of shells around Bulls Rd. &amp; Grass Lane.</p>	
Front Line System.	13/3/17		<p>The usual fatigues were supplied. Rain had fallen during the night and the ground was in a very bad condition. We relieved the 59<sup>th</sup> Bn. in front line system. Owing to the bad going the relief was not completed until midnight. Our Coys. were allotted as follows - A Coy. Barley trench right sector. D Coy. Barley trench left sector &amp; Tick trench. B Coy. in Pork, Bayonet &amp; Scabbard trenches. C Coy. in Grove Alley. Patrols went out &amp; inspected the wire in front of Tick trench &amp; found it in good condition &amp; a very formidable obstacle. (Copy of Operation Inst. 1123, 15<sup>th</sup> Aus. Inf. Bde. is attached.</p>	APP "E" attached



Total Strength 39 880

WAR DIARY

Detached Duty  
Fld. Amb.  
Unit



Army Form C. 2118.

509

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Front Line System.	14/3/17		Sniping was active during the day and we were occasionally shelled with 77 m.m. along road near Luisehof Farm. Bombing & fighting patrols were sent out at 11.30 p.m. in accordance with B.M. 1/525, 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Operation Inst <sup>n</sup> No 4 and our Operation Inst <sup>n</sup> No 6. Copies of all of which are attached. A copy of report on the operation is attached - see APP. I	APP. "G" & "H" attached.
"	15/3/17		The operations as carried out on night 14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> were repeated on night 15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> (see 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde. O. I. No 5 and our O. I. No 7 attached). The wire was again found to be very strong - a full report is attached see APP. I. M.G.s were very active also many pineapples were thrown on or about Beaulencourt Road there was also a good deal of sniping and rather more than the usual number of flares were sent up.	APP. I attached APP. J & K attached APP. L attached
"	16/3/17		It was noticed that enemy snipers were very active during the day and towards evening they increased considerably. Numerous flares were sent up. The operation of previous night was repeated, see B.M. 1/570 and our Operation Inst <sup>n</sup> No 8 attached. Our patrols were still unable to enter TH. trench, there being great activity on part of enemy snipers and the wire still being very formidable.	APP. "M" & "N" attached.



## WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Front Line System	17/1/17		<p>Just before daylight it was noticed that all sniping &amp; M. &amp; fire died away leaving a most unnatural stillness. A party from "A" Coy. under 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Farmers <sup>was</sup> immediately sent forward to reconnoitre. Meeting no opposition, they entered Till trench, and directly everything was reported clear we sent forward "D" Coy. to occupy Till trench. Patrols were immediately sent forward by "A" Coy. in front of Till trench almost to the Beaulencourt-Bapaume Rd. Our patrols established themselves on the road a little later in accordance with instructions received in BM 1/602 - a copy of which is attached. Telephone communication was established in Till trench five minutes after entry and during the morning we established same to most forward post. We held on this line during the night. Everything was very quiet there being no sniping or artillery fire. On our left &amp; right we were in touch with the 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. and 57<sup>th</sup> Bn. respectively, the 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. being in Bapaume. Light horse patrols went out through our posts during the morning and established advanced posts &amp; had patrols out constantly during the day. Aircraft was very active on both sides.</p>	APP "O" attached.



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

1309

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Cheese Rd.	18/3/17		<p>An Advance Guard to 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div<sup>n</sup>, comprising of 15<sup>th</sup> Bde. H.Q., 59<sup>th</sup> Bn. (vanguard), 60<sup>th</sup> Bn., and 15<sup>th</sup> M.F. Coy. less 2 sections moved out through our posts at 9 am., the G.O.C. 15<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde. being in charge - Order N<sup>o</sup> 90 att. In the afternoon our front was taken over by the 8<sup>th</sup> Bde. and we moved back to line, Possum Trench - May Reserve. Our Bn. H.Q. was situated in Cheese Rd. For the time we were formed into a separate force from our Bde., comprising 57<sup>th</sup> Bn., 58<sup>th</sup> Bn., 15<sup>th</sup> A.I. T.M.B. and being officially known as Stewart's Force.</p>	APP "P" attached.
"	19/3/17		Road fatigues of 400 men supplied making roads to allow artillery to get guns forward.	
"	20/3/17		Road fatigues were again supplied. All men got into their ankle boots again and gum boots were sent back to Drying Shed.	
"	21/3/17		Road fatigues were again supplied. A special party of 200 + 40 O.R. under the direction of Capt. Chaplain Williams were employed on burying the bodies lying about as far forward as Gill Trench. Some 200 bodies were buried it was possible in many cases to establish identification, although there were quite a number which had no identification at all.	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



Total strength <sup>My</sup> 34 <sup>OR</sup> 891

WAR DIARY  
or

Detached Duty  
7th amb  
Crest Unit



Army Form C. 2118.

0309

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the field Villers-au-Flos.	22/3/17		Stewart's Force moved to villages to the West of Bapaume, this Bn. going to Villers-au-Flos (Stewart's Force Order No 3 attached). The march was first over the heavy ground up as far as Till trench but after crossing Till the march continued over grassy slopes as far as the Peronne - Bapaume Rd., which we followed as far as Beaulencourt. We then turned off on a road leading straight to Villers-au-Flos. This village was found to be very much damaged, but the Bn. was finally settled so that every man had shelter. Bn. HQ. was situated in part of the old Chateau which had escaped total destruction. It could be seen that every endeavour had been made to destroy all buildings, and all water supplies had been fouled etc. There were mine craters at nearly every cross roads to hinder the progress of our transport.	APP. "Q" attached.
Haplinecourt.	23/3/17		The Bn. received orders to move to Haplinecourt at 9.15 am. and act as reserve in an attack to be launched. Coys. were immediately got out and <sup>we</sup> set out for Haplinecourt at 10 am. reaching there <del>about</del> at 11 am. The village had been totally destroyed and there was no shelter at all available. Previous to our receiving the above instructions, the C.O. had gone over to Bde. HQ. and joined us at Haplinecourt at midday. The attack was postponed and in the afternoon we moved up and took over the left.	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Army Form C. 2118.

309

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>In the field.</i>				
<i>Naplev - Court.</i>	<i>23/3/17</i>	<i>(Contd)</i>	<p>sector of Outpost line from 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. - see 5<sup>th</sup> Aus. Div. Advance Guard Order 4<sup>th</sup> 8 attached. Bn. H.Q. was situated in dug-out in Delsaux Farm. Our right stretched to the edge of Beaumetz and our left included the village of Morcheis. Lt. Col. J. B. Stewart D.S.O., O.C. Outposts was situated at Lebuequiere.</p>	<i>App. "R" attached.</i>
<i>Delsaux Farm.</i>	<i>24/3/17</i>		<p>A fighting patrol of the enemy attacked and tried to capture our extreme right post but were driven off by rifles and Lewis guns the enemy losses in killed being at least 12. On our right the enemy gained a footing in Beaumetz. O.C. Outposts at once sent for our support Coy. which was hastened to Lebuequiere, but they were not needed as the village was cleared again by a local counter-attack and we were established in our former positions. This attack cost the enemy much loss as there were numerous dead and wounded left behind. One of our planes was brought down by M.G. fire north of Beugny, the pilot being wounded and observer killed. The 57<sup>th</sup> Bn. on our right occupied a farm on the main Bapaume - Cambrai road, without opposition, and our right was made to conform. M.G. &amp; Artillery fire quiet, a few 5.9" shells being put into Beugny. A German walked in to our lines. He belonged to the 20<sup>th</sup> F.A.R. and was evidently a deserter. He was very young &amp; seemed unintelligent.</p>	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>In the field</i> Delsaux Farm.	25/3/17		<p>Much aerial activity. Four of our planes were brought down in our sector, in each case they crashed to the ground, pilots &amp; observers being killed. An enemy fighting patrol appeared to get amongst our Observation planes and did considerable damage. In the afternoon Bn. HQ. moved to a dugout near Morchies which was much closer to our lines and more conveniently situated. The night was very quiet.</p>	
Morchies.	26/3/17		<p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. on our right attacked Lagnicourt in the early morning, our Battalion co-operating on the right - see 5<sup>th</sup> Aus. Div. Adv. Guard Order No. 9. The operation was successful and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. occupied Lagnicourt. On the right we advanced our line to road running direct from Lagnicourt to Beaumetz, our further progress being hindered by M.G. fire. The enemy could be seen massing for counter attack and at about 10 am. they counterattacked but were driven off mainly by our M.G. fire and severe casualties inflicted. We then pushed forward and established our position on the Lagnicourt - Daignies Rd. on the left on 3 parts of our Bn. front. Our attempt on the right was met with considerable resistance and owing to the advance being over 1000 yds. of unprotected ground our right company</p>	APP. "S" attached.

(A7092). W. W. 12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14



WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

309

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>In the field</i>				
<i>Morchies</i>	<i>26/3/17</i> <i>(Contd.)</i>		<i>was forced to retire on to their previous position, and linked up to the left by digging in a line which was occupied by a Coy. of the 59<sup>th</sup> Bn. placed at our disposal. We were linked up with the 26<sup>th</sup> Bn. on our left + 57<sup>th</sup> on our right. The artillery fire during the day was very heavy and we sustained many casualties. A machine gun which had been worrying our troops during the morning was captured by B Coy., together with 10 Germans who occupied a shell crater. These men belonged to 91<sup>st</sup> and 94<sup>th</sup> R.I.R.</i>	
"	<i>27/3/17</i>		<i>The enemy artillery was very active, the C.O. went to Bde. H.Q. during the morning. In the afternoon D Coy. who were in support were sent up to the front positions on the right of B Coy. and on the left of the 59<sup>th</sup> Bn. Company. At 8 pm we carried out a minor operation to bring up our line on the right on to the Lagnicourt-Doignies Rd. - see O.I.N<sup>o</sup> 10 attached. The operation was entirely successful and we occupied the road and linked up with 57<sup>th</sup> Bn. at farm on our right. A sharp bombing fight took place and a machine gun, search light and other material were captured. Our relief was delayed owing to the operation + the likelihood of a counter attack.</i>	<i>APP "T" attached.</i>

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



Total Strength <sup>Off.</sup> 29 <sup>OK.</sup> 924

WAR DIARY <sup>Det. Duty</sup>  
<sup>Fld amb</sup>  
<sup>with unit</sup>



Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>In the field</i> Bapanue	28/3/17		We were relieved by 30 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Left the line at 6 am and proceeded to Bapanue, a distance of about 7 miles. The Bn. was allotted to billets and a hot breakfast of stew + tea was provided, and the men then turned in for a much needed sleep. At 3 pm. the Bn. moved to Villers-au-7-los, and were billeted in same quarters as previously.	
Villers-au-7-los.	29/3/17		Men enjoyed a well earned rest.	
"	30/3/17		Equipment, clothing cleaned and men given some smartening up drill.	
"	31/3/17		C.O., 2 <sup>nd</sup> i/c and Coy. Commanders inspected site for proposed trenches as laid down in Bde. Order No 93 attached.	APP. "U" attached.

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



Copy

## APPENDIX A

Secret

15<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bde Order 7288.

Copy No. 2

Reference. - 57 C.S.W.

LE BARQUE 1/20000.

4<sup>th</sup> March 1917.

1. During the night 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> March the 15<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. will take over from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Bde. the Front Line System as far to the left as a line joining CATAPULT ROAD and LUISENHOF FARM.
2. The 58<sup>th</sup> Bn. will take over the new area and will adjust an inter-battalion boundary with the 60<sup>th</sup> Bn., on a line N.9 Central - N.20 Central - SEVEN DIAHS.
3. The O.C. 15<sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy. will carry out any necessary re-arrangement of Vickers Guns.
4. The details of the take over will be mutually arranged between C.O.'s concerned.
5. The C.O. 58<sup>th</sup> Bn. will report early any deficiency in S.O.S. and GAS equipment.
6. Duplicates of receipts for stores and ammunition will be forwarded to Bde. H.Q. within 36 hours.
7. The arrangement for one Bn. to carry out training is suspended.
8. Subsequent reliefs will be carried out as shown in the following tables:-

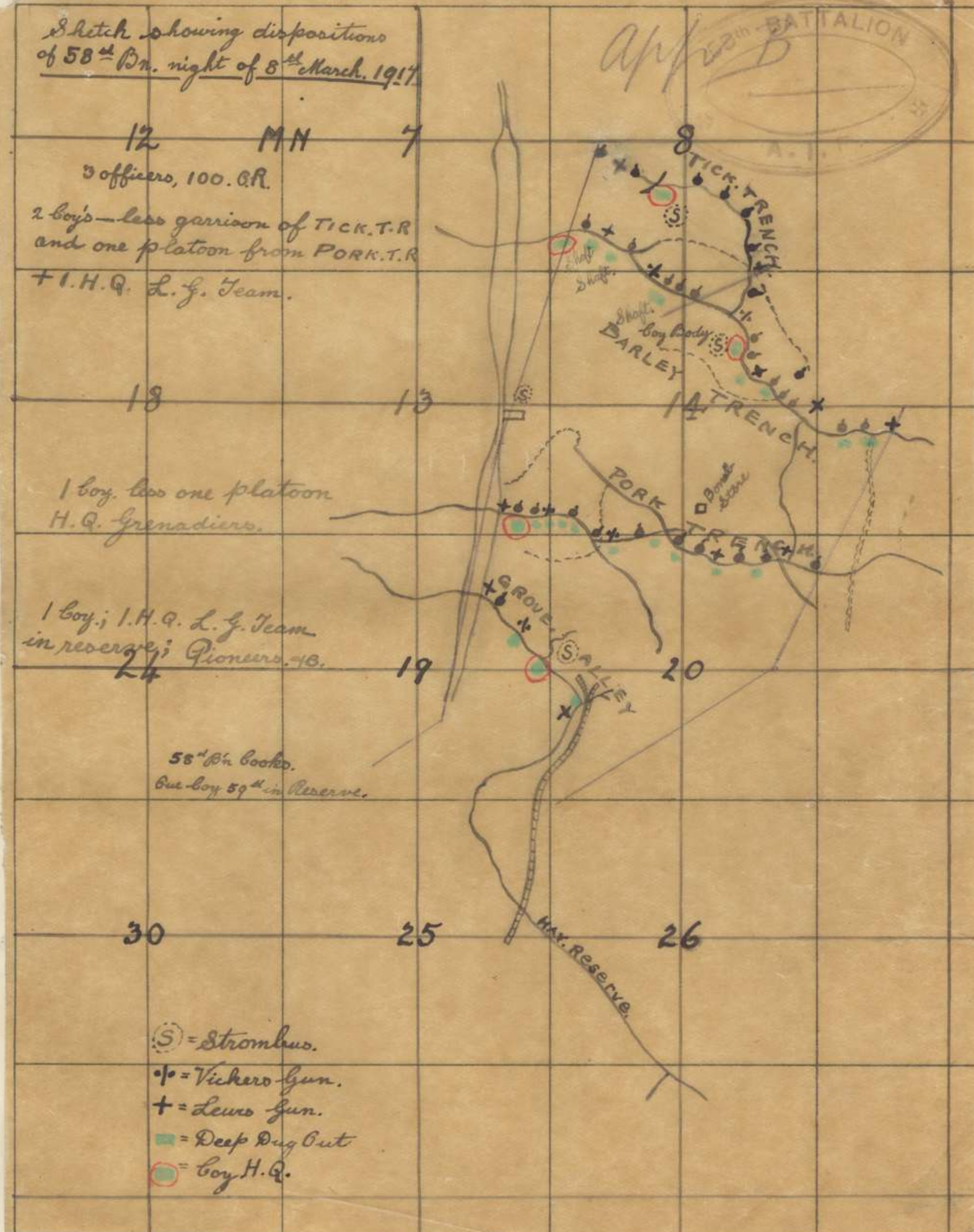
DATE. MARCH	FRONT LINE		INTERMEDIATE SYSTEM	TOWNSVILLE CAMP.
	R.	L.		
5 <sup>th</sup>	60 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	58 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	57 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	59 <sup>th</sup> Bn.
6 <sup>th</sup>	60 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	58 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	57 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	59 <sup>th</sup> Bn.
7 <sup>th</sup>	57 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	58 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	60 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	59 <sup>th</sup> Bn.
8 <sup>th</sup>	57 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	58 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	59 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	60 <sup>th</sup> Bn.
9 <sup>th</sup>	57 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	59 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	58 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	60 <sup>th</sup> Bn.
10 <sup>th</sup>	57 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	59 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	60 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	58 <sup>th</sup> Bn.
11 <sup>th</sup>	60 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	59 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	57 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	58 <sup>th</sup> Bn.

9. Both Front Line Battalions will forward a rough sketch of their detailed positions by 8 am. on 7<sup>th</sup> instant.

(Sgd.) Geo. F. Wieck Major  
Bde. Major 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 1 pm. 7<sup>th</sup> 1. 57<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
2. 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
3. 59<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
4. 60<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
5. 15<sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy.  
6. 15<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B.  
7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade  
8. War Diary  
9 & 10 Bde. H.Q.







15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf BdeWorks PolicyFront Line System.

1. The front line will be made continuous for purposes of communication. Posts held will be pre-steps, drained, duckboarded and wired. The parapet must not prevent fire from seeing the whole of the ground to their front. If the Posts are not sufficiently close to afford mutual support new connecting posts are to be constructed at once. Working parties from the garrison will be employed mainly on digging in the trench. Wiring parties will be drawn from either the support or reserve company and the work pushed on with.

Intermediate System.

1. Decauville Railway - Parties drawn from Reserve Battalions will work under the 14<sup>th</sup> Field Coy.
2. Extension of BOSSUM & HAY RESERVE - The 5<sup>th</sup> Pioneers will make this line a continuous fire trench joining up with NEEDLE trench on the right.
3. Roads - The construction of roads forward to Bde. H.Q. will be carried out by special parties under Bde. arrangements.

In order to give effect to the policy outlined in 1. above Battalions in the front line will detail an officer to supervise the work and ensure that correct tasks are gone on with. These officers will submit a daily report of work done; this will be transmitted to Bde. H.Q. Before going into the line Battalions will send their works officer ahead to confer with the outgoing works officer as to tasks in hand and projected.

7<sup>th</sup> March 1917(Sgd.) Leo. F. Wick Major  
Bde. Major 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf Bde.



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15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.Standing Orders for dug-outs.

1. Garrisons will not live in any deep dug-out that has only one entrance.
2. In all occupied dug-outs 5 picks and 5 shovels will be hung in a conspicuous place at the foot of each stairway.
3. A sentry will be posted at the top of each entrance to give warning to those below, in the event of attack by parties or gas. The alarm will be given by means of gongs and the men must move quickly or they will be too late.
4. On an alarm being given the occupants of a dug-out will at once man that part of the defences they have been told off to. It is absolutely fatal for any man to remain in a dug-out if the enemy reaches it or if gas enters.
5. The senior officer or N.C.O. occupying a dug-out is responsible that the men know the Standing Orders and where they are to go on the alarm being given. He will also see that order and cleanliness is observed in the dug-out (It will be necessary to have urine buckets near the entrance.)
6. The following rations etc. will be stored in each dug-out viz:-
  - 100 rounds per rifle
  - 2 Iron rations per occupant.
  - 1 gallon of water "
  - 2 Mills grenades "
  - 200 Sandbags per entrance.
 water will be changed on 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup> of each month.
7. A copy of these orders is to be in the possession of the senior officer or N.C.O. in each dug-out and Coy. Commandants certificates that all Orders are complied with, are to reach Bde. H.Q. by noon on each Sunday.
8. Battalion Commanders will immediately rectify any shortage or irregularity discovered by them in connection with above orders.

7<sup>th</sup> March 1917(Sgd) Geo. F. Wreck Major  
Bde Major 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.



Copy  
309  
Secret

APPENDIX "E"

17

15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

Copy No. 2.

Operation Instruction No. 3.

Reference - 57 C.S.W.

13<sup>th</sup> March 1917

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division has now occupied GREVILLERS and the 8<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. is conforming to the forward move by swinging forward its line of posts to the line N. 2. D. 1-9 through Brickfields to H. 34. D. 4-4.
2. The next aim now is to hasten the enemy's retirement from TILL, ATOM and HEAVEN trenches. With this object a systematic bombardment by heavy and field artillery between the limits N. 29. A. 5-6 and N. 16. A. 0-9 will be commenced on, or as soon after the 14<sup>th</sup> March as possible. Wire cutting on this front will also be carried out.
3. Battalions in the front line will arrange forward with for patrols to keep constantly in close touch with the enemy (operating within the limits defined below) who must be prepared to occupy the enemy's trenches when evidence of a withdrawal is apparent.
4. The Brigade Right Boundary has been defined forward as a line from N. 22. C. 1-9 north eastwards through N. 17. B. 1-9. The inter-battalion boundary will be a line from N. 15. A. 0-4½ to the road at N. 9. D. 8-6 thence to N. 4. Central.  
At present the Left Boundary remains as before.

(Sgd.) A. G. Legge Capt.  
for Major.  
Bde. Major 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued to 77<sup>th</sup> 57<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
2 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
3 59<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
4 60<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
5 15<sup>th</sup> M.S. Coy.  
6 15<sup>th</sup> F.L.T.M.B.  
Copies to 7 War Diary  
8 14<sup>th</sup> Bde. H.Q.  
9 8<sup>th</sup> Bde. H.Q.  
10 } Bde. H.Q.  
11 }



COPY

"C" Form. Army Form C. 2123. (In books of 100.) MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words..... £ s. d.	Received From.....	Sent, or sent out At..... m.	Office Stamp.
Charges to collect			By.....	To.....	
Service Instructions. <b>APPENDIX "F1"</b>			By.....		

Handed in at ..... Office..... m. Received..... m.

TO BRACKET  
BINDER ✓

*Sender's Number BM 1/525	Day of Month 14 <sup>th</sup>	In reply to Number	AAA
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at request of G.O.C. 1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC a minor operation will be undertaken by the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Bdes. tonight aaaa ZERO time 12 MIDNIGHT aaaa Boundaries for the attack by 015<sup>th</sup> Bde will be a line drawn on the right from N22.C.1.9 to N17.C.1.9 and from N8 Central to N3 Central (excluding ESCAPE ALLEY) aaaa The boundary between Bns. will be N14a5-0 to N9d7-6 to N5a0-0 aaaa Not more than 120 men per Bn. to be employed aaaa To move in such time as to be able to enter the trench at ZERO

FROM  
PLACE & TIME

Copy

"C" Form. Army Form C. 2123. (In books of 100.) MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words..... £ s. d.	Received From.....	Sent, or sent out At..... m.	Office Stamp.
Charges to collect			By.....	To.....	
Service Instructions.			By.....		

Handed in at ..... Office..... m. Received..... m.

TO 2

*Sender's Number BM 1/526	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
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Bombing patrols should precede the advance carrying tapes or wire to guide the following parties aaaa strong fighting patrols should follow but should not approach the first objective namely TILL trench closer than 400 yards until the advanced patrols have obtained a lodgement therein aaaa From reports received it is probable that the enemy will entirely evacuate this line tonight aaaa If this is the case the O.Cs attack should arrange to push forward strong posts to approximately a line

FROM  
PLACE & TIME

309

APPENDIX F

18



*Copy*

"C" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words..... £ s. d.	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
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Service Instructions.			By.....	To.....	

Handed in at..... Office..... m. Received..... m.

TO 3

*Sender's Number <i>BM 1/527</i>	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
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*approximately from N 11 d 0-0  
to N 5 C 0-0 to N 4 Central to N 3 b 7-4  
on the road and more  
detailed instructions follow  
as soon as possible and  
O.C.'s battalions to mutually  
arrange liaison between  
battalions and Bdes. on right  
and left respectively.*

FROM	<i>(Sgd) H. B. Elliott Brig. Gen.</i>
PLACE & TIME	<i>G.O.C. 15<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde.</i>

\* This line should be erased if not required.



15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

Operation Instruction No 4.

Reference - 57 C.S.W.

14<sup>th</sup> March 1917

1. It is expected that TILL trench is only lightly held by the enemy at present and it is probable that it may be evacuated at any time, very possibly tonight.
2. An investigation and if possible occupation of TILL trench on the whole Divisional front is to be attempted on the night 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> March at a synchronised time.
3. The 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Bde. movement will be made within the following boundaries. On the right a line from N. 22. C. 1-9 to N. 17. C. 1-9. On the left a line from N. 8. Central to N. 3. Central. The boundary between the two Battalions will be a line from N. 15. A. 0-5 to N. 9. D. 7-6 thence to N. 5. A. 0-0.
4. The movement is to be carried out on the following lines:-  
Each Bn. will utilise not more than 120 all ranks. These will be divided and organised into "bombing" and fighting patrols.  
The bombing patrols must be in position as close as possible to the objective so that they may move into the trench at ZERO. They will if possible carry and lay out tapes or wires to guide the fighting patrols which follow in rear. These bombing patrols will enter and establish themselves in the trench and will then be followed by the fighting patrols.  
The fighting patrols will at ZERO take up a position not closer than 400 yards from the objective and hold themselves in readiness to move forward into the trench when the bombing patrols have effected a lodgement. When this has been done they will move forward, enter and consolidate their position in the captured trench.  
The allotment of personnel between the patrols and numbers of patrols required will be fixed by Battalions concerned.
5. If it is found that TILL trench has already been evacuated a strong post from each Battalion must be pushed forward to about the line N. 11. D. 0-0 - N. 5. C. 0-0 - N. 3. B. 7-4 if considered practicable by the O.C.'s of the attack.
6. Battalions will arrange mutually for liaison between themselves and between Brigades on the right and left.



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Operation Instruction 77-4 (Contd.)

7. The artillery bombardment at present being carried on against TILL trench and the positions in rear is to cease before the ZERO hour at a time to be notified later.
8. Battalions must ensure that their patrols carry ground flares for communication with aircraft as contact patrols will be in the air and will probably call for the attack to show its position.
9. The ZERO hour will be 12 midnight
10. Watches will be synchronised with Brigade H.Q. at 8 p.m.
11. As a new S.O.S. Line has not been arranged and the occupation is to be attempted without artillery support the S.O.S. call will not be used to assist in the holding of the captured trench.
12. The 15<sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy. and 15<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B. will arrange to co-operate.
13. Frequent reports to be submitted to Bde. H.Q. containing positive or negative information.

(Sgd.) R. G. Legge Capt.  
for Major  
Bde. Major 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.



APPENDIX H

SECRET

58<sup>th</sup> Bn.

A

660sq. Meters 8

REFERENCE - LEBARQUE 1/20,000  
Operations Instruction No. 6

1. The 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Brigades will carry out a minor operation tonight at midnight
2. The limits of the area over which 58<sup>th</sup> Bn will move are on the LEFT a line running from N8 Central to N3 Central (excluding ~~the area~~ ESCAPE ALLEY); on the Right a line running from N14 A50 to N9 D7-6 to N5 A00
3. "A" and "D" Coys will each send forward between 60 (sixty) and 70 (seventy) men not more; the total men per Battalion actually employed in the operation will not exceed 120.
4. The object is to go forward, occupy a lie position about 400 yds from TILL TRENCH, pending on a party of Bombers to obtain a lodgement in the trench.
5. If as is anticipated TILL TRENCH is found to have been evacuated strong posts will be pushed forward on a line approximately from N4 D6-5 to N3 B7-4 that is on the high ground overlooking the BAPPAUME - LE TRANSLOY ROAD



## APPENDIX H

(2)

6. The formation is left <sup>BATTALIO</sup> to the discretion of Coy Comdr. CAPT. FERRES will be O.C. attack.
7. "B" Coy will at 10-~~pm~~<sup>pm</sup> send forward every man available excluding HQ's details & Gas Guard, under 1 officer, and occupy the line vacated by "A" and "D" Coys. They will carry forward a good supply of Bombs. They will move up by the shortest route. All the men of "B" Coy now working at trench extension will be available to man TICK and BARLEY Trenches.
8. Bn. HQ's will move to TICK TRENCH deep dugout. Communications will be arranged from that point forward by means of telephone which will be connected to a forward position to be selected by CAPT. FERRES as he advances to the first objective.
9. The general plan of assault will be by an advanced Bombing party from each company to clear the way and enter the trench with strong fighting patrols moving up after.
10. LIAISON must be kept between units on Right and Left. Further instructions follow. (Sgd) Chas A. Denchy Lt Col  
CO 58th Bn.



App. I

58<sup>th</sup> Bn

15.3.17

D 3/51

15<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde.

In consequence of orders received from Bde on 14<sup>th</sup> March B.M. 4525 and operations instructions No. 4, I issued operations instructions No. 6. The time available to make preparations was limited, but everything was provided for as required. At 40-45 pm I went forward to TICK TRENCH with my assistant adjutant, Signalling Officer, Intelligence Officer and a squad of runners and established advanced Bn. Hd. at N.8a 8-7.

I had previously at 2 pm made what reconnaissance was possible in daylight from BARLEY TRENCH, returning at 4-30 pm.

At 11-30 pm two columns left TICK and BARLEY TRENCHES at approximately N.8a 8-7 and N.14 b 5-5 and proceeded to a lie position in BEAULENCOURT ROAD in N.8 b and N.9c. Signallers went with the left party laying wire as they went and established a telephone station at N.9c 1-9.

Bombing patrols went forward from each party, each under an officer and sought a suitable opening through the enemy wire.

The wire defences were in two, and in some places in three, belts and were very strong. On each occasion that they approached a possible entrance, they were met with brisk machine gun fire. Owing to the darkness of the night and a misty rain falling this fire was fortunately not accurate, and no casualties resulted.

The bombing patrols returned and reported the situation. Reconnoitring patrols then went forward to endeavour to locate a suitable opening. One of these penetrated the first belt of wire at N.9 d 7-3, but ran into a German advanced post which fired upon them.

This particular patrol was responsible for maintenance of connection with 60<sup>th</sup> Bn on our right. When they came upon the advanced post, Lt. Dawson, thinking that he had found the 60<sup>th</sup>, called out "Good night". Several Germans sprang up and called out "Yah" and immediately Lt. Dawson and party were fired upon by the post.

309

APPENDIX I

24



3

Another patrol got inside the enemy wire which it crosses a road at Nga 1-8 but the place was barricaded and covered by M.G. which fired on the patrol. By 1-30 the enemy had discovered the attempt on his trench, and began to send up flares interspersed with red and green rockets.

Heavy M.G. fire was opened and the artillery bombarded THILLOY and TICK and BARLEY TRENCHES. A S.O.S. signal was sent up by the Brigade on our left. We had established liaison with this unit, 31<sup>st</sup> Bn, and one of their officers Lt. Townsend, informed one of mine Lt. Laine, that they were going to retire. Capt Jones having wired for instructions was ordered by me to reorganize and make another effort. This was done but unfortunately with no better success. At what hour the 60<sup>th</sup> Bn withdrew I do not know but at 3 am I got into touch with the Battalion again and learned from them that their party had retired.

As both my flanks were then

4

unprotected and daylight was not far off I ordered my parties to return notifying Brigade of my action 4-30 am.

Communication was maintained throughout with Brigade and with both flank units. I sent code messages to Brigade D 3/41-46, D 3/48, D 3/50 the first at 12-50 am, the last at 4-20 am. I also notified the departure of parties.

Although the object for which we went out was not achieved, much valuable patrol work was done. Many machine gun positions were noted and map references are being sent in on the D.O. report and given to the artillery.

It is clear that whilst the enemy still hold the trench in some force any attempt to capture it must be on different lines. As far as our sector as laid down in Bde Op. Inst. No. 4 is concerned I should suggest that trench mortars be carried forward to the BEALENCOURT ROAD whence an excellent opportunity presents itself of smashing the enemy wire, whilst the assaulting party can use the same protection as a jumping off place.

The men behaved excellently.



5

The officers all showed <sup>great</sup> keenness and set a good example. The IO was out with the party the whole time. Signalling work was most efficiently carried out and fortunately wires all held.

The wire which was run out from TICK TRENCH was left there for use in future operations. Its forward end is at N9 C 1-9.

(Sgd) Ross D. Penchy, Lt Col  
Comdg 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.



SECRET.15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.Operation Instruction No 5.Reference. - LE BARQUE 1/2000015<sup>th</sup> March 1917.

1. Our patrols found the enemy to be occupying TILL trench strongly on night 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> March, only one patrol was able to enter the trench (at N 16.C. 7-4) the others were held up by wire.
2. Later information from other sources proves the enemy's intention to evacuate TILL trench on the morning of a certain date, leaving only a rear guard.  
It is important that this evacuation by the normal garrison shall become known to us as early as possible.
3. The patrol action ordered for night 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> March will be repeated on night 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> March with the addition that
  - (a) Each Battalion will select one point against which stronger action may be desirable.
  - (b) An artillery F.O.O. will accompany the party whose objective is as in (a) so that artillery fire may be brought to bear on hostile M. Guns or posts impeding our patrol.  
This will necessitate a well defined line of approach to the objective so that the map co-ordinates given by the F.O.O. to the artillery group are accurate.
4. The Left Battalion will arrange to take forward 2 Stokes mortars to the BEAULENCOURT ROAD to assist in dealing with any troublesome M.G.  
If the Battalion does not succeed in establishing itself in TILL trench a post should be left in the BEAULENCOURT ROAD and if this position is sufficiently protected the Stokes mortars will remain there as well.
5. ZERO hour is 1 am.
6. Reports to be made each clock hour from midnight to 6 am. 16<sup>th</sup> inst.

(Sgd) Geo. F. Wreck Major  
Bde. Major 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 4-25 pm.



## APPENDIX K

SECRET

58<sup>th</sup> Bn. APPK Copy Number 157

Operation Instructions No. 7

REFERENCE - GUEUDECOURT 1/10000  
LE BARQUE 1/20000

1. An operation similar to that of last night is to be undertaken tonight, 15/16<sup>th</sup> March, but with slightly larger parties.
2. A, B and D Coys will each detail 1 officer and 3 parties of 20 men. Of the 20 men the leading 8 will form a Bombing Team. The parties will rendezvous in the BEAULENCOURT ROAD N8Ps and N9C. "A" Coy will be allotted to the sector from Right boundary to N9C central. "D" Coy will be responsible for the Left Flank from boundary to N9C 1-9. "B" Coy will occupy the space between
3. CAPT. PERRES will be O.C. attack and have his H.Q.'s at N9C 1-9 where telephone communication will be established with advanced Bn. H.Q.'s at TICK TRENCH.
4. Parties will advance so as to be in the BEAULENCOURT ROAD at midnight. Each company will send two runners to CAPT. PERRES. The actual operations will be at 1 a.m. (Zero Time)



## APPENDIX K

(2)

- 58th BATTALION
5. The object is to occupy TILL TRENCH within the boundaries as laid down in my<sup>st</sup> Operation Instructions NO. 6. A. CAPT. FERRES will decide according to verbal instructions issued to him whether or not parties will commit themselves to an attack. Some risks must be taken and great determination must be shown<sup>by</sup> all. If the indications are that the wire is sufficiently breached and that the trench is not too strongly defended, a determined advance will be made on each of the three subectors by the Bombing Parties followed by the Fighting Patrols when the Bombers have effected an entry.
6. Immediately after the arrival of the parties in BEAULENCOURT ROAD, patrols will reconnoitre and report to Capt. FERRES who will after communicating with Bn. HQ. decide on the plan of action.
7. Each Company will endeavour to carry forward with it some old blankets or greatcoats to throw over the barbed wire.
8. "B" Coy will carry forward 15 Bx's Mills Hand Grenades + 2 Bx's Mills Rifle Grenades. These will be sent direct to Capt FERRES's Coy HQ's on the right of BARLEY TRENCH.



APPENDIX K

(3.)

The remainder of B Coy will rendezvous at the  
Sunken ROAD near CHALK CLIFFS, N8C. A  
Guide will lead them there from Bn. HQ's  
and Lieut. Anderson will conduct them from  
that point to BEAULENCOURT ROAD.

- 9. The utmost punctuality must be observed by everyone
- 10. Further details later

(Sgt) Chas Danby  
Lt Col  
Comd 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.

- 1 File
- 2 A Coy
- 3 B Coy
- 4 C "
- 5 D "
- 6 Bde HQ's
- 7+8 War & Drang





## APPENDIX L

(D3/58) A/Pl L 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
 16. 3. 17.  
 15<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde.  
 Report on minor operations 15/16 March.

In accordance with instructions received from Brigade. Operation Instruction No. 5 Issued Op. Insti. No. 7 and made the arrangements detailed herein. Parties were in position at midnight and 3 Patrols went out to reconnoitre the wire whilst a patrol went out from each flank to get touch with neighbouring unit. Touch was not obtained with 57<sup>th</sup> although more than one patrol went out for the purpose, but I was in touch with both 57<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> by phone from my advanced P.O. in TICK TRENCH throughout the night.

Altogether 12 different patrols examined the wire closely over the whole front allotted to us, and found things exactly as they were last night except that sniping was brisk. Machine Guns were on the same position as before described (vide my report of yesterday.) The artillery fire had been directed mainly on the



## APPENDIX 'L'

sector on our left, those shells that were directed on our sector had gone beyond the trench. The enemy put up red flares opposite THILLOY, which his artillery immediately shelled. A pineapple mortar which is located about N9 a 2-8 fired a number of bombs which fell in the vicinity of THILLOY. We suffered 4 casualties from M.G. fire which some assert came from our own guns. This assertion appears to have some foundation for the bullets were even patterning on the enemy wire.

It is however possible that our people were noticed in the BEAULENCOURT ROAD and fired upon from about N16 a.

Took steps to notify all M.G.'s in the Brigade sector.

After conferring with the units on both flanks. I decided that it was useless to expect to accomplish our object until three or four lanes had been cut through the wire.

Two Stokes Mortars were in readiness to assist if required. Under the circumstances I could not utilize them.

Had we gained an entrance I might have called on them.

58th BATTALION

A.P.F.



APPENDIX L

3

But to use them for smashing an entrance would simply have meant committing the whole of them to an attack for which we were not prepared. I have since given the special F.O.O. position of M.C.'s and the probable map reference of the T.M. position. I have also indicated just where we want the lanes cut through the belts of wire. Unless this is done we are just wasting much time and energy.

I withdrew my parties at 3-30 am notifying my planks and Brigade and leaving an A.P. till daylight

(Sgt) Basil Darchy Lt Col





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"C" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123. (In books of 100.)

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Service Instructions.			By.....	To.....	
APPENDIX "M"				By.....	

Handed in at..... Office..... m. Received..... m.

TO BINDER

*Sender's Number BM 1/570	Day of Month 16 <sup>th</sup>	In reply to Number	AAA
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Provided the wire can be cut today patrol action as laid down in Bde. Inst. N25 will be repeated and the GOC desires you to establish posts properly dug in within 400 yds. of the German trench and suggested points for the posts are - 57<sup>th</sup> Bn. Vicinity of N15 B5-5 and N9d 15-05 58<sup>th</sup> Bn. - Vicinity of N9c 5-6 and N8 B9-0 and the object of these posts is to facilitate observation of enemy's movement and as an emplacement for STOKES mortars in the event of a bombardment of the enemy's line being necessary and our action is to be marked by the closest observation of the enemy and by frequent touch rather than by hard pushing to determine his strength and actions and the posts detailed above will be occupied continuously. You will be wired you if patrol action is to be repeated. Please report when wire has been cut.

FROM (Sgd.) Geo. F. Wick Major  
PLACE & TIME 2:15 pm. 15<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf. Bde.

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(S.O. 1065) Wt. 7496-M 857 125,000 Pads. M.C. & Co., Ltd. 10/16 (E 489) Forms C/2123/3



## APPENDIX 'N'

SECRET.

58<sup>th</sup> <sup>ann</sup> Battalion <sup>IV</sup> Copy No. 16/3/17  
 Operation Instructions No. 8

1. The artillery has been engaged <sup>in</sup> cutting the wire which has been such an obstacle during operations of past <sup>two</sup> nights. This wire cutting will continue till 11 p.m. when the guns will cease fire.
2. A, B & D Coys. will send forward parties as ordered in Op. I. No. 7.
3. Patrols will move out from BEAULENCOURT ROAD at 11.30 p.m. to ascertain extent of damage to enemy wire.
4. CAPT. FERRERES will again be O.C. Attack and have his H.Q. with telephone in the same place.
5. Only three reconnoitring patrols, one per company need arrive at BEAULENCOURT ROAD at 11.30 p.m., the rest of the Fighting Patrols will arrive punctually at 12.30 p.m. and on receipt of information from the reconnoitring Patrols, will move for the objective at 1 a.m.
6. The Orders must be clearly explained. It has come to notice that some of the Patrols have not sufficiently been instructed in what was required of them. If the enemy has weakened the garrison perceptibly, an effort is to be made to enter and hold



## APPENDIX IV

the French, <sup>2</sup> captured or killing the garrison. It will be of vital importance to send back word immediately if such has been accomplished. Should however the French still be strongly held, it will be entered at suitable places between posts investigated and prisoners made if possible. In this case patrols will be withdrawn when advisable.

7. Password for tonight "WORTH WHILE".
8. Communication between parties and O.C. Attacks must be well thought out.
9. Each company will distribute ground flares, making sure that men know how and when to use them.
10. Advanced Bn. HQs. will be again at TICK TRENCH.
11. It has been definitely settled that none of the 15<sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy. guns were firing last night. The M.G. Fire must have come from N 16 A.

(Sgd.) Chas. A. Deaneby Lt. Col.  
Comd'g 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Copy 1	File
2	A Coy.
3	B "
4	C "
5	D "
6	15 <sup>th</sup> Bde. HQ.
748	War Diary





## APPENDIX IV

Supplementary Instructions.

Should operations tonight not result in our occupying TILL TRENCH, "A" and "D" Coys will each establish forward Observation Posts. Suitable positions will be found at GUN PITS N9c0-6. Strength of garrison, 2 NCO's and 6 men. Reports will be sent back to O's C. Companies at least once per hour. The telephone may be installed there, and connected with "D" Coy HQs. Sgt. Bacon to arrange.

(Sgd.) Chas A Denehy Lt. Col.  
Commanding 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion.





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"C" Form.  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.  
(In books of 100.)

No. of Message .....

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words.....	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
Charges to collect £ s. d.			From.....	At.....m.	
Service Instructions.			By.....	To.....	
APPENDIX "0"			By.....		

Handed in at..... Office.....m. Received.....m.

TO *BINDER*

*Sender's Number <i>BM 1/602</i>	Day of Month <i>17<sup>th</sup></i>	In reply to Number	AAA
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*Any success to be followed as far as the BEAULENCOURT BAPAUME Road beyond which patrols will not pass.*

FROM *BOOK*  
PLACE & TIME *7-30 am.*

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(S.O. 1065) Wt. 7496—M 857 125,000 Pads. M.C. & Co., Ltd. 10/16 (E 489) Forms C/2123'3



Copy.

APPENDIX "P"

Copy No 2.

Secret.

15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde. Order No 90Reference - 15 C.S.W.17<sup>th</sup> March 1917

1. An advance has been ordered for the purpose of keeping in touch with the enemy who has retired towards CAMBRAI.
2. The following units of the Bde. are taking part viz:-
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade N.S.
  - 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion
  - 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion
  - 15<sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy. (less 2 sections)
 The advance will commence at 8 am. on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1917.
3. Units not specified above will remain in the present sector, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Stewart, D.S.O. 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion, pending receipt of further orders.
4. Brigade Gas Officers will collect all anti-gas stores when no longer required at a suitable point for subsequent removal.
5. All returns will be submitted to the Staff Captain who is remaining at the present Headquarters.
6. Units remaining will make every preparation for a subsequent forward move.

(Sgd) Geo. F. Wick Major  
Bde Major 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued to No 1 57<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
2 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
3 59<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
4 60<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
5 15<sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy.  
6 15<sup>th</sup> A.L.F.M.B.  
7 War Diary



APPENDIX Q

Secret. App Q S.T. 15  
map of sheet 57c France <sup>1</sup>/<sub>40,000</sub> copy No 2

Stewart Force Bgd Order No



1. In accordance with 5 Aust. Div order No 130 the above force will move from their present positions tomorrow (22<sup>nd</sup> inst) to the area Pancourt. Bapaume when it will come under the order of G.O.C advanced Guard 15<sup>th</sup> Aust Bgd to receive the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Bns. Units will move as per attached march table. N
2. First line transport will not accompany unit but will move under the orders of Lt Col Gallum 57<sup>th</sup> Bn A.I.F.
3. Upon reaching the Beaulencourt - Bapaume Rd the regulation distance for the Somme area will be maintained.
4. The Bn M.O.'s will make all necessary medical arrangements.
5. O.C. 58<sup>th</sup> Bn will detail a Rear Guard consisting of 1 Platoon to collect stragglers.
6. Report to head of column.
7. acknowledge.

21/3/17

Issued through sign at 7.0 P.M.  
J.G. W. [Signature]  
Staff Officer  
Stewart Force



## APPENDIX 'Q'

Copy No.	Description
1	57 Battalion
2	58 Battalion
3	A.L.T.M.B
4	15 <sup>th</sup> Brigade
5	5 Australian Div
6	War Diary
7	State
8	C.O
9	Staff Officer
10	Signals
11	Transport Officer





## March Table

Issued with Stewart Force Rega order No 3

Units in order of march	Starting Point		Destination	Remarks
	Place	Time		
57 <sup>th</sup> Pyn	CHEESE RD	9 AM	BAPAUME - - BANCOURT.	
58 <sup>th</sup> Pyn	N. 26. A. 3-9	9.5 AM		
15 <sup>th</sup> A. L. 17/B		9.10 AM		

ROUTE :- Cheese Rd (N 26. A. 3-9) thence to PUMPING-  
STATION on BEAULEY COURT, Rd over  
open ground BEAULEY COURT, BAPAUME RD  
to destination.



Copy No 2.

SECRET.5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Division Advanced Guard Order No 8.Reference - 57 C.N.E.  
S.E.22<sup>nd</sup> March 1917.

1. There is no change on the Divisional Front.
2. The following reliefs will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, viz:-  
The 57<sup>th</sup> Bn. will take over the outpost line from ~~the line from J. 13. B. 0-9 to I. 4. Central.~~  
The 58<sup>th</sup> Bn. will take over the outpost line from J. 32. Central to I. 4. Central.  
Companies not required in the front line will be held in support.  
The 59<sup>th</sup> Bn. is detailed as a special Right Flank guard and will hold the villages of BERTINCOURT and VELU.  
The 60<sup>th</sup> Bn. will be in Reserve at FREMICOURT.  
Lieut.-Col. J. C. Stewart, D.S.O. will be O.C. Outposts.  
Lieut.-Col. A. J. C. Layh, D.S.O. will be O.C. Right Flank Guard.  
The Relief will be completed as soon after 8 p.m. as possible.  
The Command of the Outposts will pass when the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Battalions have been relieved.  
Front Line Units concerned will have guides waiting at MILLCROSS at 6 p.m.
3. After Relief the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Battalions will rejoin the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade.
4. The Headquarters of the O.C. Outposts is at I. 30. B. 6-5.
5. Advanced Headquarters will remain at FREMICOURT.

(Sgd.) Geo. F. Wieck Major.  
Bde Major, 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued - No 1 57<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
2 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
3 59<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
4 60<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
5 15<sup>th</sup> M.S. Coy.  
6 15<sup>th</sup> A.L.T.M.B.  
7 13<sup>th</sup> Light Horse  
8 14<sup>th</sup> Pa. Bde.  
9 14<sup>th</sup> Fld. Coy.  
10 15<sup>th</sup> Fld. Amb.  
No 11. Cyclists  
12. War Diary



5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Advanced Guard Order No. 9

Reference - 57 to N. 6

25<sup>th</sup> March 1917

1. The enemy is still holding Dognies - Lagnicourt - Moreuil and Croiset St Mein
2. (a) On the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division on our left is to attack at 5.15 a.m. and occupy Lagnicourt + later Moreuil  
(b) The Advanced Guard will co-operate in the attack of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division on Lagnicourt.
3. The 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion will advance and occupy the line from the farm, rd J. 8. C. through J. 1. A 4-6 to join with the left Brigade at C. 30. A. 5-3 Posts will be pushed out to the line Cross Roads D. 19. C. 30-13 J. 2. A. 8-8 as part of the advance and not as a subsequent operation
4. The Artillery programme will be as follows  
(a) The 53<sup>rd</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup> Batteries will stand by to open fire as required 700's will be pushed forward and advantage will be taken of any fleeting opportunities, as well as dealing with points of resistance.  
(b) The 26<sup>th</sup> Battery will open fire on Dognies and Rueant from 700's  
(c) The 88<sup>th</sup> Battery will fire on the Beet Root Factory, Windmill and the fire trench in J. 9. A from zero plus 15 minutes
5. The 15<sup>th</sup> MG Coy will be prepared to engage any hostile Infantry advancing from the direction of Dognies.
6. The 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion (less companies in the outpost line) will act as a reserve but will not be used without reference to Brigade HQ. This Reserve will be in position in the Bengry trenches by 5-15 AM
7. The attack will be made at 5-15 a.m. (summer time) on 26<sup>th</sup> inst. Watches will be synchronised with Brigade Signal Coy at 6 P.M. 25<sup>th</sup> inst and 4 a.m. 26<sup>th</sup> inst.
8. At about 7 a.m. a contact aeroplane will sound a Klaxon horn & fire very lights upon which the Infantry most advanced line will show flares
9. The Brigade Report Centre will be at the Dug-out I. 28. A. 3-2.

(Sgd.) Leo. F. Neick Major  
 Brigade Major 15<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade



## APPENDIX T

SECRET

58<sup>th</sup> Battalion

App. T

27/8/17

Operations Instructions No. 10

1. A silent attack i.e. without artillery cooperation will be carried out by D and A Coys, and a party from B Coy, at 8 pm tonight.
2. The objective is the road from D 25 d (cross-roads) to D 2 a 7-7.
3. A Coy will drop a platoon back to support line after dark.
4. B Coy will detail 2 parties armed with rifles grenades to scout along the NORTHERN side of the road, to deal with M.G. positions suspected to be on the Northern side of the road overlooking the objective. - They will not fire unless they see a target, and will not fire on the road unless they are sure our people are not there. Similarly D Coy and A Coy must be warned of the presence of B Coy's patrol.
5. D Coy will get into positions now occupied by the Coy of the 59<sup>th</sup> Bn. D Coy will advance its right flank first and capture the road as far as D 26 C 3-0. It would be advisable to keep a platoon in reserve on road running NE & SW through D 25 d.
6. A Coy will work up the road running



2

from J1 Central to J2a and also advance frontally on the objective.

It will be A Coy's responsibility to establish a strong point at junction of roads at J2a and for establishing a series of posts protecting the flanks along the road running from J8 to J2.

A platoon should be left in support line to keep touch with 59<sup>th</sup> Bn.

— " —  
Relief.

Contingent on the success of the operation the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn will relieve 58<sup>th</sup> Bn after 9 pm with three companies in front line and flank each having a platoon in support line, and a Reserve Coy in road running from MORCHIES to BEAUMETZ.

Every assistance must be given by all officers to relieving Battalions in this difficult take over.

— " —

The greatest effort must be made to send back progress reports during both the attack and the subsequent relief.

Chas A. Benchy Lt Col  
Comd 58<sup>th</sup> Bn.



309

APPENDIX U

APPENDIX U

Secret

15<sup>th</sup> (Australia) Infantry Brigade Order No 93.

copy No 2

Reference - ST C. N. W.  
C. S. W.

30<sup>th</sup> March 1917

1. The Brigade will occupy and strengthen the main defensive line within the Right Brigade Sector.
2. The defence of the Sector is organized in two lines as under:-  
Front line From O.5. Central to 1.21. Central, following generally the line of the old German wire.  
 At present this line will be garrisoned by the Battalion billeted at Haphincourt and strong points will be constructed forthwith in suitable positions on the line. These strong points will ultimately be joined up.  
 One section of Vickers Guns is allotted to the garrison.  
 The Battalion billeted in Reincourt will be a Reserve for the Battalion holding the front line.  
Intermediate line Along the general line O.15.A.O-5 —  
 O.8.B.O-5 — 1.31.C.5. Central.  
 The Intermediate line is divided into two sub-sections along the line of the old German light railway which passed thro O.2.  
 The Battalion whose Battalion H.Q. in Villers-au-Flor is the most eastwardly situated, with one Vickers Gun section, will garrison the right sub-sector while the other Battalion with one Vickers Gun section will garrison the left sub-sector.
3. Troops not specified in para. 2 will remain in reserve on the Beaulencourt Road.
4. The defensive lines as in para. 2 will be reconnoitred as soon as possible and work commenced by company working parties of the garrison Battalion who will be given definite tasks to do.  
 It is considered that four strong points should be constructed in each subsection at first. All works constructed must be of the best possible type. Engineer advice is available and should be applied for to the O.C. 15<sup>th</sup> Field Company.
5. The S.O.S. signal is 3 rockets fired in quick succession in the following order, viz:- Green-Red-Green.

(Sgd.) Geo. F. Neck Major

Brigade Major 15<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade