

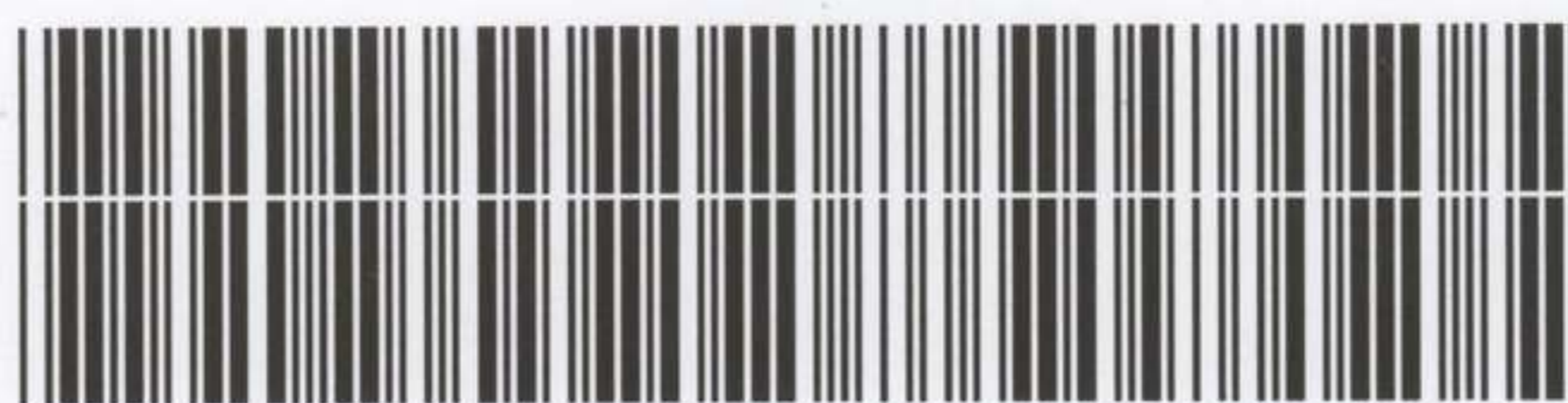
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/72/23

Title: 55th Infantry Battalion

January 1918



AWM4-23/72/23

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

DUPLICATE.

TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

55TH BATTALION,
A.I.F.

FOR

January

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. Stone Capt.
Since 28.1.18.

Signature of Officer ⁷ Commanding

W. Stone Capt.

Compiled prior to 28.1.18 by
Major R.O. Comery.

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

80TH BATTALION,
A.I.F.

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.

FRANCE Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE TURNE HALINGHEM LETURNE NIEMBORG	1-1-18		<p>The dispositions of the battalion areas follows - H.Q., Sigs., & A"boy at HALINGHEM; B"coy. at NIEMBORG; C" & D" boys, transport, Q.M. Store, and Pioneers at LETURNE. This splitting up of the Bn. whilst in billets is not so good for discipline, training and administration as if the Bn. were concentrated in one place. The weather was very cold, with snow & ice everywhere. The hard ice upon the roads made them very slippery. A good dinner & tea was provided for everyone and at the officers dinner. The commanding officer and sub-in-command visited all the men at their dinners. The B.C. was heartily cheered. In the evening the Officers had a special dinner at which the following Officers were guests. Lt. Col. McBonaghy, C.M.G., D.S.O., A/Brigadier, Lt. Col. Francis, D.S.O., Ob. Divisional Train, Majors R.G. Legge M.C. Brigade Major, & Smith M.C. D.A.Q.M.G., Capt. Rodd, M.C. D.A.D.O.S., & Langran, Div. San Officer. Everybody heartily entered into the spirit of the occasion & season. The health of our lately knighted Divisional Commander Major Gen. Sir J. T. Hobbs, K.C.B., V.D. was drunk and some fine speeches were made which indicated that a very fine spirit of "Esprit de Corps" & camaraderie.</p>	

WAR DIARY

55TH BATTALION,
A.I.F.
No.
Date.

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
FRANCE HALINGHEN LECTURNE NIEMBORG	1-1-18		exists throughout the Division. An unfortunate fire broke out late in the night at LECTURNE and burnt one of the biggest barns in the neighbourhood. It had about 70 tons of hay inside also some soldiers billeted. Some good salvage work was done by some of the troops billeted in the village	Rob.
"	2-1-18		This day was a holiday proclaimed by the Divisional Commander. The fire of the previous night cast a slight gloom over it. Major E.W. Stutchbury, M.C., proceeded to the Senior Officer's School at Aldershot. Major R.O. Lowry took charge at LECTURNE vice Stutchbury.	Rob.
"	3-1-18.		Training vide Appendix 1	Rob. Appendix 1
"	4-1-18		Route march & tactical exercise by cpls. in morning. Some members of the American Military Staff & Major Gen. Sir J. J. Hobbs inspected 'A' Coy. (commanded by Major A.C.S. Holland) at work & expressed pleasure with the work done.	Appendix 1
"			Recreational training in the afternoon. Rob.	
"	5-1-18		Training vide Appendix 2. The weather was very cold - snow lay upon the ground. After the parade the official photographer of the A.I.F. took photographs of the Bn. Recreational training was carried out in the afternoon. Rob.	Appendix 2
"	6-1-18		Sunday - RC church pde. at HALINGHEN in morning. B & C boys bathed during the day. Rob.	

WAR DIARY

OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

30th ATTALION, A.I.F. No. Date.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Table with columns: Place, Date, Hour, Summary of Events and Information, Remarks and references to Appendices. Entries include awards of honours, training exercises, and weather reports.

100 29 page 7

UNIT OR TAILOR,
A.I.F.
No.
I.

03
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., Par. 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
FRANCE				
HALINGHEN LE TURNE				
NIEMBORG	16-1-18		Training vide Appendix 1. The day was very wet	Rob. Appendix 1
"	17-1-18		" " " " " " " " " " this greatly interfered with	
"	"		Training and Battalion sports only part of which could be held in afternoon	Rob.
"	18-1-18		Training vide Appendix 1. Battalion sports were continued in afternoon	Rob. Appendix 1
"	19-1-18		The day was devoted to Brigade sports. The weather was good. The sports were	
"	"		very successful. This Bn. won the cross country team race, the tug-of-war,	
"	"		the long & the high jump, and obtained points scoring places	
"	"		in several other events. Major Gen. Major Gen. Sir J. T. Hobbs	
"	"		& the acting Brigadier, Lt. Col. D. Mc. Conaghy, were present.	Rob.
"	20-1-18		Sunday - C. of E. O.P.O. & R.C. Church parades were held. The day was wet	Rob.
"	21-1-18		Training vide Appendix 1. The weather was dull but comparatively warm	Rob.
"	22-1-18		Wet up till 9 a.m. but fine afterwards. The Brigade was formed up	
			on this battalion's parade ground, and, after inspecting each unit	Appendix 4
			of the Brigade in turn, General Sir W. B. Birdwood distributed	
			ribbons to about 60 members of the Brigade. The members of	
			this Bn. to receive ribbons were - the D.S.O. Lt. Col. P. W. Woods M.C.,	

WAR DIARY

A.F.

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

No.
Date.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE HALINGHEN LE TURNE NIEMBORG.	22-	1-18	<p>Lieut. H. B. Slater. The M.C. Capt. W. V. Giblett & H. A. Myllie, Lieut. W. F. Clark.</p> <p>The D.C.M., No 3604 Sgt. G. L. A. Peters & No 3134 Pte. R. G. Dowling. - The M.M. No 132</p> <p>Lieut. J. Howell, No 2484 Capt. P. Kelly, No 2019 Pte. J. West, No 3510 Pte. G. F. G. Freeman.</p> <p>Medals were given as follows: - No 2143 Pte E. A. Cooley & No 2133 Pte. J. Buckley, both received the M.M. Gen. Birdwood addressed the Brigade, & in doing so, expressed himself as being pleased with the manner in which each member of it had upheld the fine name earned by all the Australians who had fallen in battles during the present war & said that he confidently expected us to continue so until the Boche is defeated. He told us as much as he said he knew of possible future developments in this war & also said that the reinforcements we are now receiving are as good as any we ever have received. Major Gen. Sir J. J. Hobbs, the divisional commander, some of his Staff, & the Acting Brigadier, were present. After his speech General Birdwood moved away and the various units composing the Brigade moved to their respective billeting areas. Recreational training was carried out in the</p>	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 35,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

WAR DIARY

50th BATTALION, A.I.F.
No.
Date.

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
FRANCE HALINGHEN LE TURNE NIEMBOURG	22-1-18		afternoon. Major R.O. Boney lectured on "Courts Martial" in the afternoon to the officers vide Appendix 1. Rob.	Appendix 1
"	"	"		
"	23-1-18		Training vide Appendix 1 Rob. Rob.	Appendix 1
"	24-1-18		The Brigade, with transport complete, marched past Maj. Gen. Sir J. I. Hobbs. This Bn. turned out well with every detail complete. The appearance of the Bn. & the transport particularly, was favourably commented on by all who witnessed the march past. The weather was very sunny. Rob.	Appendix 5
"	25-1-18		Training vide Appendix 1. Rob.	App 1
"	26-1-18		do. Brig Genl G. Hobbs & his Staff judged the drill & turnment portion of the platoon competition for the 14 th Brigade.	
"	27-1-18		Training vide Appendix 1. Bde Platoon Competition was continued. Rob. This Bn ultimately won by 17 points from 53 rd Bn.	Appendix 1
"	28-1-18		This day was devoted to making preparations for a move to new area. Rob.	Rob

Vol 2 page 1

LION,
A.I.F.

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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., Par. II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

No.....
Date.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France				
HALINGHEN (Belgium) WULVERGHEM.	29-1-18		Battalion moved from the HALINGHEN Area to the Forward Area vide Order No 90 (Appendix 6) attached. The whole move was carried out satisfactorily and Bn arrived in camp at WULVERGHEM at 2.30 P.M. The transport moving by train arrived shortly afterwards. The weather was fine & the move was carried out without inconvenience of the road mud usually prevailing at this time of the year.	App. 6.
do. RIGHT RESERVE AREA (in Wyttschaete)	30-1-18		Arrangements made to relieve the 2nd Aust Bn in the "Right Reserve" Area (WYTSCHAETE). Bn moved from Wulverghem at 5 P.M. and relief was complete by 8 P.M. Dispositions taken up are as shown in Map attached (App 8). RAM'S Store and Transport Lines are located at LINDENHOEK. Lt Col P. Woods, M.C. proceeded to England on a month's special leave and the command of the Battalion passed to Major A.S. Holland. Weather is frosty and colder than it has been recently.	App. 7. App 8.

Vol 23 Page 0

WAR DIARY

10TH BATTALION
A.I.F.
No.....
Date.....

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
Belgium				
WYTSCHAETE (Right Reserve Area)	31-1-18		<p>As shown in the Disposition Map - the area is garrisoned by 2 Companies, with the other 2 companies as a Bn Reserve at Irish House.</p> <p>In case of attack by the enemy the 2 companies in front of Wytschaete go forward to support the Bn in the line.</p> <p>The Bn is employed at present improving their position and clearing the area of salvage. The weather is foggy and advantage is therefore taken to do as much salvaging of war material as possible.</p> <p>Working parties as follows have been supplied:-</p> <p> To 14th Hd by Engrs - 2 Officers 100 ORKS</p> <p> To 177th Munition Coy - 1 Officer 60 ORKS.</p>	N.P.

WAR DIARY

OF

55th Battalion AIF

FOR

JANUARY 1918

55TH BATTALION,
A.I.F.

No.

Date

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Syllabus of Training for the month. |
| 2. | Order No 88. Training Scheme for 5.1.18. |
| 3. | Order No 89. Training Scheme for 9.1.18. |
| 4. | Special Order for Ceremonial Parade 21.1.18. |
| 5. | Special Order for Inspection by Div. Commanders
24.1.18. |
| 6. | Order No 90 - Order for move from Halingham
to Forward Area. 29.1.18. |
| 7. | Order No 91 - Orders for relief in the "Right
Reserve" Area. 30.1.18. |
| 8. | Disposition Map. "Right Reserve" Area |
| 9. | Monthly Summary of Strength Returns |
| 10. | R.M.O.'s REPORT |

03

MP

Date.	Description of training.
1st.	Nil.
2nd.	Nil.
3rd.	Field work by platoons. Platoon and Company minor tactical exercises. Musketry range practices.
4th.	Company route march and tactical exercises. Musketry.
5th.	Battalion tactical exercise.
6th.	Divine Service.
7th.	Platoon training and drill. Musketry range practices.
8th.	Company training and field exercises.
9th.	Battalion Field exercise, including timed concentration march by companies.
10th.	Company training and field exercises. Musketry.
11th.	Battalion Route March and Field Exercise.
12th.	Company organisation, etc.
13th.	Divine service.
14th.	Platoon training and drill. Musketry range practices.
15th.	Company training. Musketry practices.
16th.	Company training - tactical exercises.
17th.	Company concentration march. Battalion exercise.
18th.	Battalion attack scheme.
19th.	Company and platoon training. Musketry.
20th.	Divine service.
21st.	Battalion ceremonial drill. Company training.
22nd.	Brigade Parade. Presentation of ribbons.
23rd.	Platoon and company training. Range practices.
24th.	Company training. Platoon training.
25th.	de de
26th.	de Brigade platoon competitions.
27th.	Divine service. Brigade Platoon competitions.
28th.	Preparations for move.
29th.)
30th.) Moved from Training Area.
31st.)

In addition to above, training of all specialists was carried out under Battalion arrangements.

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Apr 23 1918

55th BATTALION, A.I.F.

SYLLABUS OF LECTURES to be given to all officers during the week ending 26th January 1918.

Apr 1

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Time & place.</u>	<u>Lecturer.</u>	<u>Subject.</u>
Tues. 22nd.	4 p.m. Officers' Mess, LE TURNE.	Major R.O. CONWAY.	"Courts Martial"
Wed. 23rd.	do	Major A.C.S. HOLLAND.	"Organisation".
Thurs. 24th.	do	Capt. C.B. GOW.	"Supplies in the field".
Fri. 25th.	do	Capt. W.H. GIBLETT, M.C.	"The Bayonet & Bayonet training".

The time & place is subject to alteration.

W. H. Giblett

Issued to all recipients of Battalion Orders of 20/1/18.

Captain,
Adjutant 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

263
SECRET.

55th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No 88.

Vol 23 App 2
12
Coy No.

Ref. Map:
Special Map, part
of CH. I.P. 13. 1/5,000.

4.1.18.

1. The 14th Aust. Inf. Bde will attack and capture the enemy positions in A.2, A.5, & A.8. to-morrow 5th inst. The 55th Battalion will attack that portion lying between a line from A.9.a.9.3 to A.6.c.2.1. and a line from A.6.d.2.4. to A.5.a.6.3.
2. The attack will be made in two phases as follows:-
1st Objective (RED LINE)....road from A.8.b.7.7. to A.5.d.8.9.
2nd Objective (BLUE LINE)....from A.5.c.2.1. to A.5.a.6.3.
3. Zero hour will be notified later.
4. The enemy is suspected to have 3 machine guns in the sector to be captured by this Battalion, one of which is supposed to be in an advanced position at about A.6.c.1.2.
5. The attack will be made on a 2 platoon frontage. "B" Company will attack and capture the RED LINE. O.C. "D" Company will be responsible for clearing up all the area. "A" and "D" Companies will "leap-frog" through "B" Company and capture the BLUE LINE. ("A" Coy on the right) On capturing the BLUE LINE outposts will be pushed forward. The barrage will be put down 3 minutes before zero and will be closely followed by attacking troops. It will move at the rate of 50 yards per minute. The barrage will halt 80 yards beyond RED LINE for 30 minutes when it will creep on to BLUE LINE and will become stationary 100 yards beyond the BLUE LINE.
6. The jumping off line will be the trench from A.9.b.5.2. to A.6.d.5.3.
7. "C" Company will be held in reserve in trench from A.9.b.9.1. to A.6.d.9.2.
8. The Signalling Officer will arrange for necessary communication during and after the attack.
9. Watches will be synchronised 2 hours before zero.
10. Battalion Headquarters will be at A.9.b.9.5. until the BLUE LINE is captured when it will move forward to A.5.d.4.5.
11. The Regimental Aid Post will be with Battalion Headquarters.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. R. ...
Lieut,
Adjutant 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

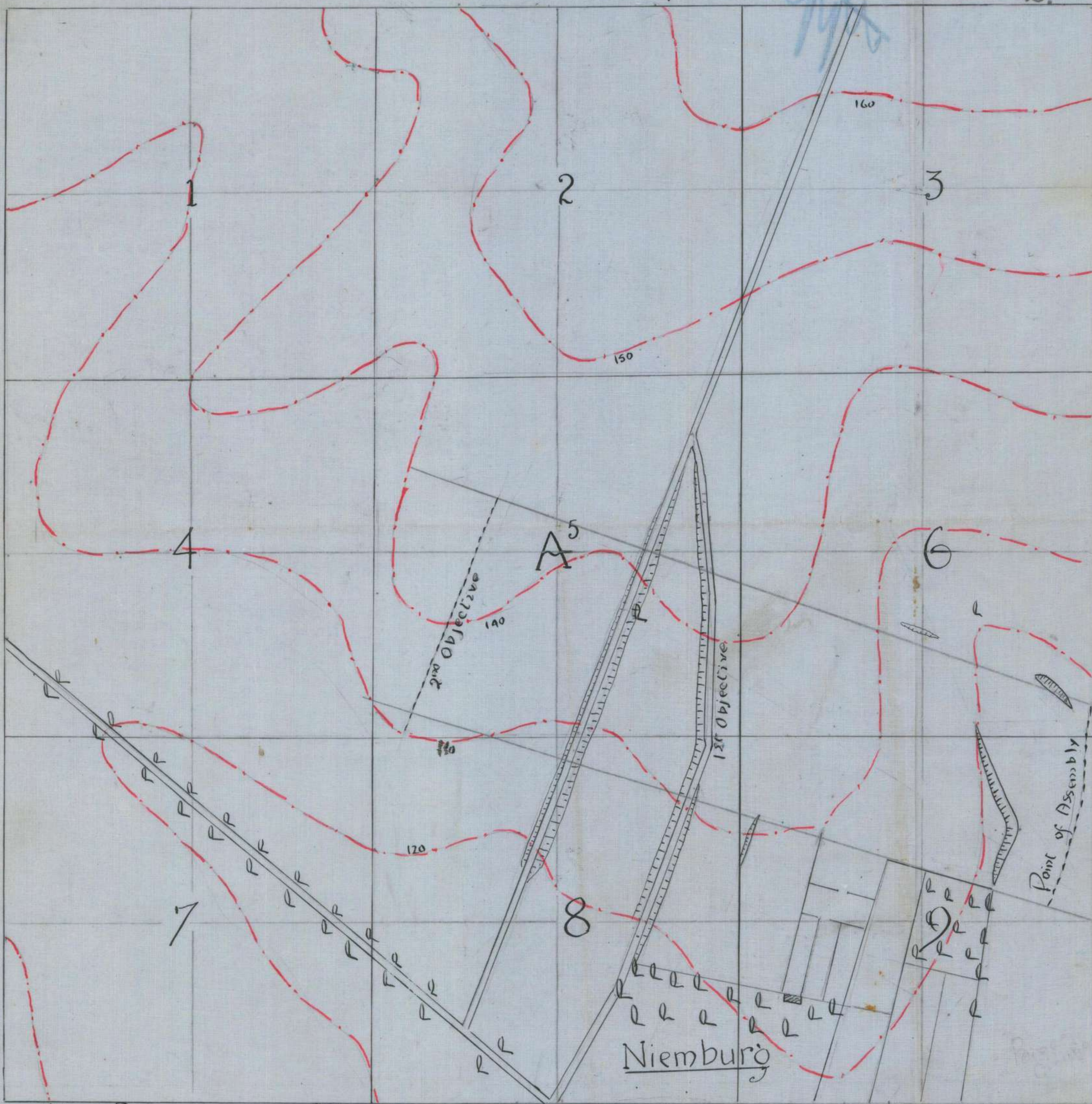
Issued at 10 p.m. to:-

- | | |
|----------------------|---------|
| O.C. 55th Battalion. | 1. |
| O.C. "A" Company. | 2. |
| O.C. "B" Company. | 3. |
| O.C. "C" Company. | 4. |
| O.C. "D" Company. | 5. |
| Signal Officer. | 6. |
| War Diary. | 7 to 9. |
| File. | 10. |

100 0 100 200 300 400 500 yds

Approx. Scale 1/5000.

APPENDIX 2.13



Map References not Ordnance Survey

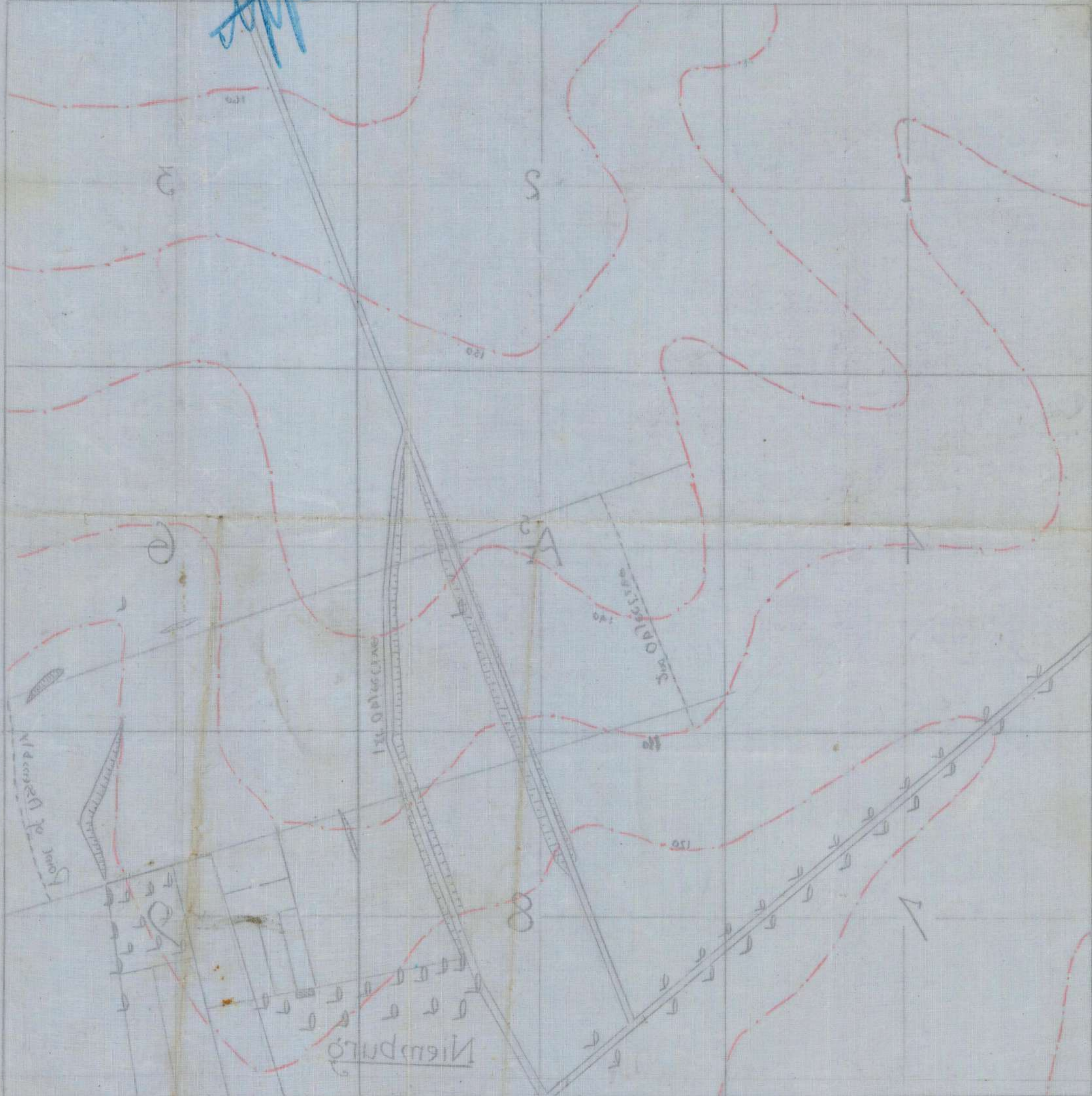
Enlarged from Calais 13 part 5C

0 100 200 300 400 500 Yds

APPENDIX 18
Approx. Scale 1/5000

Handwritten signature

0110



Enlarged from Colours to Port DC

Map References not Ordnance Survey

263

Adpt No 3.

APR 3

55th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Vol 23 Apr 3.

SCHEME FOR 9.1.18.

Ref Maps:

GALAIS 13, 1/100,000.
Special 1/5000 local map.

8.1.18. ✓

GENERAL IDEA.

A RED (Eastern) Force is holding all the high ground east of FRENCQ and during a period of inaction has prepared strong defences holding the ground in depth by a system of strong points.

A BLUE (Western) Force holds FRENCQ and the ground up to the 30 centour on the western slope of the high ground east of FRENCQ.

Commander BLUE Force decides to attack and take the enemy's defences up to the crest of the ridge to secure the high ground for further operations.

SPECIAL IDEA (BLUE).

The 55th Battalion, forming part of the BLUE Force, is detailed to capture the area bounded as follows:

On the South by a line running from C.5.a.40.15 to C.6.a.4.6.

On the North by a line running from C.5.a.2.9. to C.3.c.25.35.

Other units will be operating on the flanks.

-----o-----

Note: Flagged enemy will be employed.

263
SECRET.

55th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No 89.

Vol 23 Apr 3 15
Copy to...
8.1.18.

Ref Map:
Special 1/5,000 sheet, Frencq Area.

1. The 5th Australian Division will attack the enemy's positions opposite the present front, and will capture and consolidate the area up to CADORNA Trench.
The 14th Aust. Inf. Bde will capture the area between C.2.c.0.5. - C.3.a.4.3. and C.5.a.40.15 - C.6.a.4.6.
2. The 55th Battalion (Right) and 56th Battalion (Left) will carry out the attack. The inter-Battalion boundary will be as shown on the Frencq local map. The 53rd and 54th Battalions will be in support. The 15th Aust. Inf. Bde will be on the right of the 55th Battalion.
3. The detail of the attack will be as follows:- The Battalion will assemble in attack formation on line shown on Frencq map as "forming up trench" 15 minutes before zero. The assembly will be carried out with absolute silence and the formation will be as close as possible, and companies will not commence to "shake out" until the advance commences at zero plus 3 minutes.
 - ii. "A" Coy (Right) and "B" Coy (Left) will capture the area up to the RED Line (LENIN Trench), and "C" Coy (Right) and "D" Coy (Left) will follow in close support. "C" & "D" Coys will "leap-frog" through "A" & "B" Coys at zero plus 35 mins. and will capture the area up to the BLUE Line (CADORNA Trench). The inter-company boundary will be the line through C.5.a.35.50 and C.6.a.20.95.
 - iii. Companies will be responsible for the mopping-up of all strong points and shell-hole defences in their respective areas. Consolidation to take place on the BLUE Line under the protection of the barrage. Outposts will be pushed out when the barrage subsequently moves forward.
 - iv. The protective barrage will commence at zero and will rest 150 yds in advance of assembly point for 3 mins., when it will move forward at the rate of 100 yds in 4 mins. At zero plus 20 mins the barrage will halt 100 yards in advance of RED Line and will move forward at zero plus 35 mins. At zero plus 47 mins the barrage will halt 150 yds in advance of BLUE Line and after resting for 15 mins will move forward 150 yds.
 - v. Dress will be fighting order. Waterproof sheets will be carried in haversacks.
4. Signalling Officer will arrange for necessary communication during and after the attack and advise Company Commanders of his plans.
5. Reports to Battalion Headquarters, which will be established at KERENSKY SCARP At Zero.
6. Zero hour will be notified later.
7. Watches will be synchronised ~~xxxxx~~ 2 hours before zero.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

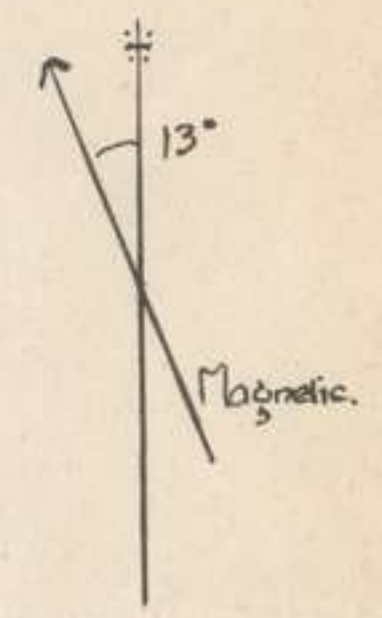
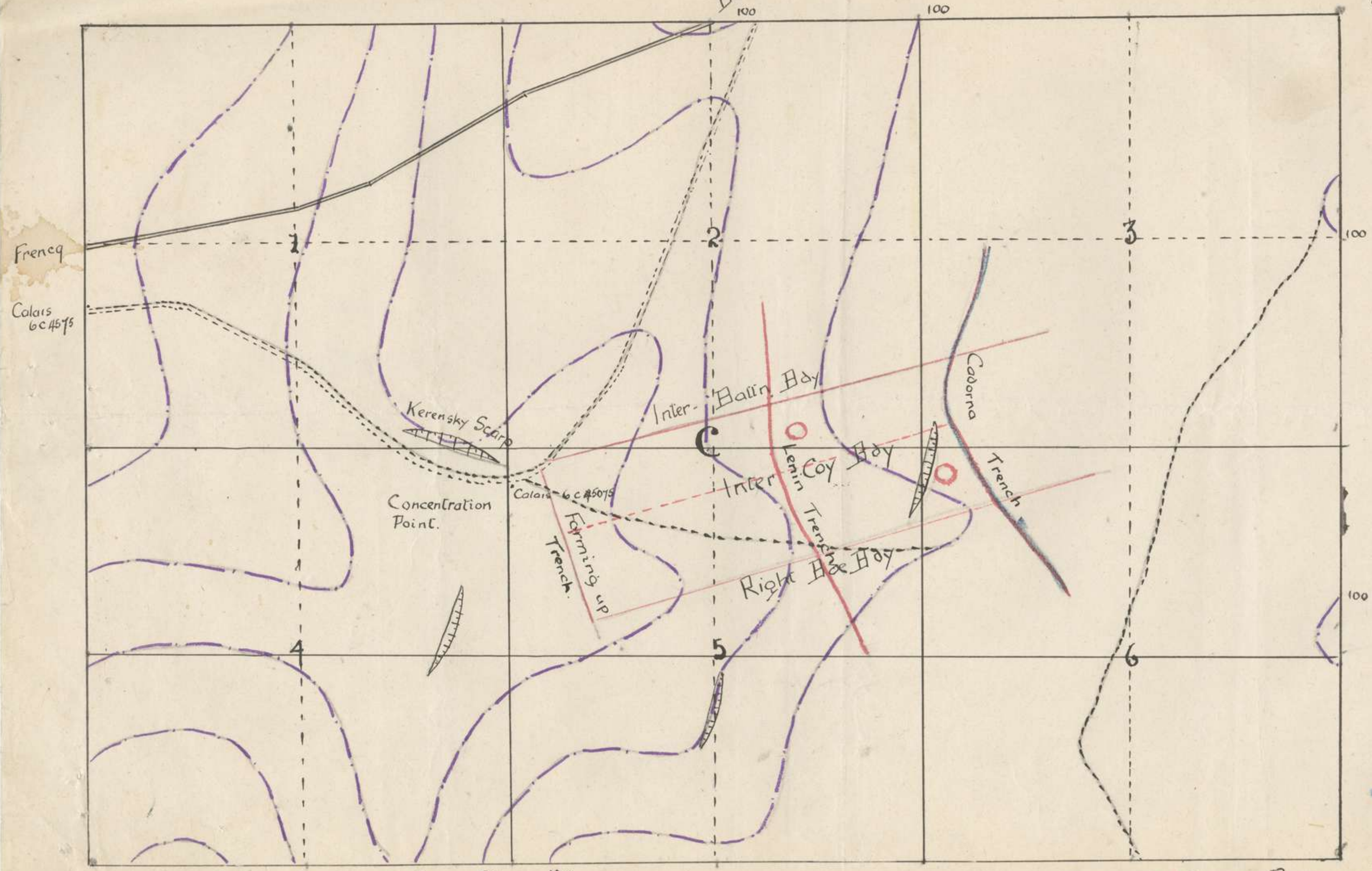
A. K. ...
Captain,
Adjutant 55th Battalion, AIF.

Issued at 9.30 p.m. by runner to:

G.O. 55th Battalion.	1.
O.C. "A" Company.	2.
O.C. "B" Company.	3.
O.C. "C" Company.	4.
O.C. "D" Company.	5.
Sig. Officer.	6.
War Diary.	7 to 9.
File.	10.

Calais 13 part 6C enlarged.

Scale 1/500 D.
Sides of small squares approx. 200 yds.



Map References not Ordnance Survey.

○ Strong Point.

App 3
16

SPECIAL ORDER.

by

loc 23 App. 4
Lieut-Colonel P.W.WOODS, D.S.O., M.C., Commanding 55th Battalion A.I.F.*APP 4*
Headquarters,
21.1.18.

1. The G.O.C., A.I.F. will distribute decoration medals and ribbons to members of this Brigade to-morrow, 22nd January 1918, at 11 a.m. The parade will be held on the 55th Battalion Parade Ground.
2. Captain R.W.H.KING with one marker per company will report with states to the Brigade Representative on the parade ground at 10 a.m. These markers will report to Capt. KING, properly dressed, on the ground at 9.45 a.m.
3. The battalion will parade on the FRENCQ side of the HALLINGHEN-WIDE-HEM Road at 9.25 a.m. Before moving on to the Battalion Parade Companies will see that all platoons are equalised and sized as for ceremonial.
4. Dress (except recipients):- Drill order with felt hats. If greatcoats are to be worn, Companies will be warned in time.
5. Personnel to receive medals and ribbons will parade apart from their Companies and will report to Captain W.N.GIBLETT, M.C. in the square at HALLINGHEN at 9.50 a.m. They will proceed thence to the place set down for the Brigade parade where they will report to the Brigade Representative at 10.15 a.m. Recipients will parade with belt and side arms; felt hats.
6. O's. C. will make every endeavour to have companies turned out smartly dressed. Opportunity will be taken this afternoon to have all men needing a haircut paraded to the regimental barbers. Care will be taken that all men in the leading platoon of each Company have chin straps, and that the equipment is cleaned and blanched.
7. All Companies will parade as strong as possible. Markers with states to report to the R.S.M. at 9.10 a.m. on the ground where the Battalion parades (see para 3.).

*W. D. Stone*Captain,
Adjutant 55th Bn., A.I.F.

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55th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Vol 23
18/1/18
MS

SPECIAL ORDER.

by
Lieut-Colonel P.W. WOODS, D.S.O., M.C., Commanding 55th Battalion, AIF.

Headquarters,
23.1.18.

1. The 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade will be inspected on the march by the G.O.C. 5th Aust. Division on the afternoon of 24th January 1918. The saluting point will be on the NESLES-LE TURNE Road, 300 yards south of the cross-roads at 5C.20.15. (near NIEMBURG).
2. The 55th Battalion will form up in column of route on the HAUT PICHOT - HALINGHEN Road with the head of the column at road junction in HALINGHEN at 1.30 p.m. The order of march will be:-

Band.
H.Q. Personnel (including Sigs & Pioneers).
"A" Company.
"B" Company.
"C" Company.
"D" Company.
A.M.C.
Transport.

3. All companies will parade as strong as possible. Only men employed on absolutely necessary duties will be exempt. Ordinary leave to BOULOGNE will be granted.
4. All First Line Transport, including cooks, will take part in the march, and vehicles will be fully loaded as on the move.
5. Dress:- full marching order, less blankets. Steel helmets will be worn with straps under chin. The Band will wear belt and side arms, and steel helmets. Waterproof sheets will be carried under flap of pack; mess tins will be inside the pack. Box respirators will be carried resting on the top of the pack.
6. During the morning Companies will be at the disposal of O's. C. for equipping, and every effort will be made to ensure a good turn-out. Opportunity will also be taken to practise paying of compliments on the line of march.
7. Detailed instructions will be issued to Company Commanders to-morrow morning.

R. Winkstone
Captain,
Adjutant 55th Bn., AIF.

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loc 23 App 6 19

SECRET.

55th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No 90.

Copy No. *AP 6*

ref map :-
Calais 13. 1/100,000.

27.1.18.

1. The 14th Australian Infantry Brigade will move to the forward area by rail on Tuesday the 29th inst.
The 55th Battalion moves are as follows :-
(a) personnel by train, leaving SAMER at 7.21.a.m. 29th inst.
(b) transport, part by train, leaving DESVRES at 8.43.a.m. 29th inst.
(c) Transport, part by road, which left on the 26th inst.
2. Detailed instructions for the move from this area to the train will be issued later.
3. There will be no transport available after 2.p.m. tomorrow.
Dumps will be made at the square HALINGHEN, the R.Q.M's store LE TURNE, and near the main road at NIEMBURG, and the stores and equipment as listed below will be dumped there before 2.p.m.
Officer's valises.
Officer's mess equipment.
One blanket per man (rolled in bundles of 10, properly labelled).
Packs of band personnel.
All B.O.R. and Signalling equipment to be transported will be dumped outside B.O.R. , ready to be loaded on limber before 5.p.m.
Company cooks will be ready for removal by 6.p.m. 28th inst.
4. All men who, for medical reasons, will be unable to march, will be transported on the motor lorry leaving at 2.p.m. on the 28th inst, and on arrival at SAMER will be employed as a guard over stores. Each man will be issued with a chit signed by the R.M.O.
5. Rations for the 29th inst will be issued to-night. All but the meat ration will be carried on the men. The meat ration will be delivered in bulk to the entraining station.
6. Area stores and salvage will be disposed of as laid down in Battalion R.O. Nos 141,142 and 143.
All billets will be left in a scrupulously clean condition; particular attention will be paid to all latrines, cookhouses, stables and manure dumps. Certificates will be rendered in accordance with Bn.R.O. 144.
7. Marching out states will be rendered to B.O.R. not later than 6.p.m. tomorrow.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. Stone
Captain,
Adjutant 55th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 9.p.m. to :-

	Copy No.		Copy No.
C.O. 55th Battalion	1.	Signal Officer	6.
O.C. "A" Company	2.	R.Q.M.	7.
O.C. "B" do	3.	War Diary	8 to 10.
O.C. "C" do	4.	File	11.
O.C. "D" do	5.		

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Copy No. 6
AMB

SECRET.

Copy No.

ADDENDA TO 55th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No 90.

Ref. Map:
CALAIS, 1/100,000.

28.1.18.

1. The following arrangements will apply for the move from the HALINGHEN - LE TURNE Area to the forward area on 29th January 1918.

(a). The Battalion will assemble at the road junction at 5C.92.29. at 4.50 a.m.

Times of parade and routes to the starting point will be as under:

COY.	PLACE OF PARADE.	TIME. a.m.	ROUTE.
"C") "D")	LE TURNE.	3.35.	LE TURNE - HUBERSENT- Road junct at 5C.90.07.- point of assembly.
H.Q.) "A") "B")	HALINGHEN.	3.50.	HALINGHEN - through BOIS de TINGRY - point of assembly.

(b). The order of march from Starting point to SAMER will be as follows:

- Band.
- H.Q. Personnel.
- "A" Company.
- "B" Company.
- "C" Company.
- "D" Company.
- A.M.C.

(c). The portion of 1st line Transport to move by train will leave DESVRES at 8.43 a.m., and detrain at BAILLEUL at 12.29 p.m. The transport must arrive at DESVRES three hours prior to departure of train. Lieut A.E. SMITH will be in charge.

(d). Lieut. H.E. SLATER, D.S.O. will be Battalion Entraining Officer. He will report to the Brigade Entraining Officer at SAMER Station as soon as the Battalion arrives. One N.C.O. per company will report to the Entraining Officer on arrival at SAMER. Detailed entraining instructions will be issued to C's. C. on arrival at SAMER

2. Battalion orderly Room will close at HALINGHEN at 3.45 a.m. on 29th inst., and open ~~at~~ in KEMMEL AREA on arrival.

W. R. ...
Adjutant 55th Battalion. A.I.F.

Issued at 3.45 p.m. to
All recipients of Order No 90.

Ref. Map:
Sheet 28 S.W.
WYTSORANGE, 1/10,000.

30.1.16.

1. INTENTION. The 14th Aust. Inf. Bde will relieve the 1st Aust. Inf. Bde in the WYTSORANGE sector during the night of 30/31st January. The 55th Battalion will relieve the 2nd Battalion in the "Reserve Right" Sector.

2. DETAILS OF RELIEF. The Battalion will move from WULVEROKEN at 5 p.m. to-day; platoons in file, 100 yards between platoons.

(i). Order of move will be as follows:-

Bn H.Q. Personnel.
"O" Company.
"D" Company.
"A" Company.
"B" Company.

(ii). Companies will take over positions as follows:-

"O" Coy:- Coy H.Q. at O.20.a.25.50. Coy in shelters in vicinity.

"D" Coy:- at LANCASTER HOUSE. (O.20.c.00.85.)

"A" Coy:- at ~~SCOTT FARM~~ (O.25.b.2.2).

"B" Coy:- at H.35.b.8.3. *Irish House.*

(iii). The guides who have already reconnoitred the positions will guide the Companies from the present camp.

3. DRESS AND EQUIPMENT. (i) Dress will be fighting order with steel helmets. Box Respirators will be carried at the "alert". Two blankets & waterproof sheet will be carried bandolier fashion.

(ii) All packs and officers' baggage will be stacked in a suitable place in the present camp, ready to be picked up by motor lorry to-day and taken to R.Q.M.'s store.

(iii) P.H. Helmets will be left in the packs. Any identifications such as souvenir match boxes, giving regimental number and colours must be left in the packs.

(iv) All ranks will take shaving and washing gear with them in their haversacks.)

4. TRENCH STORES, etc. 1. All trench stores, defence schemes, etc will be taken over and receipts given. Duplicate receipt to be forwarded to Bn.H.Q. as soon as possible after completion of relief; the rank and unit of both the handing over and taking over officers must be given after their signatures.

2. Separate receipts will be given for all general purpose and supporting point rations. These will be taken over 'in situ' and a guard posted over same.

3. Any solidified alcohol, trench foot powder & soap that may be in possession of the 2nd Battalion will also be taken over.

5. RATIONS. Whilst the Battalion is in the Reserve Area all rations will be cooked under Company arrangements. Cookhouses for this purpose are available near each Company position.

Rations will be brought up to-night by limber. 1 guide from each Company will meet same at LAMPPOST CORNER at 6 p.m.

The R.Q.M.'s Store and Transport Lines will be at NORFOLK CAMP.

6. BN.H.Q.s. Battalion Headquarters will be established at SCOTT FARM, (O.25.a.45.65.) at 6 p.m.

The Regimental Aid Post will be in the vicinity of LANCASTER HOUSE, (O.20.c.00.85.)

7. COMPLETION OF RELIEF. When dispositions are complete Companies will advise Bn.H.Q. by sending the code-word... "BOM".

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(P.T.O.)

W. R. Stone Captain,
Adjutant 55th Bn., A.I.F.

Issued at 2pm to:

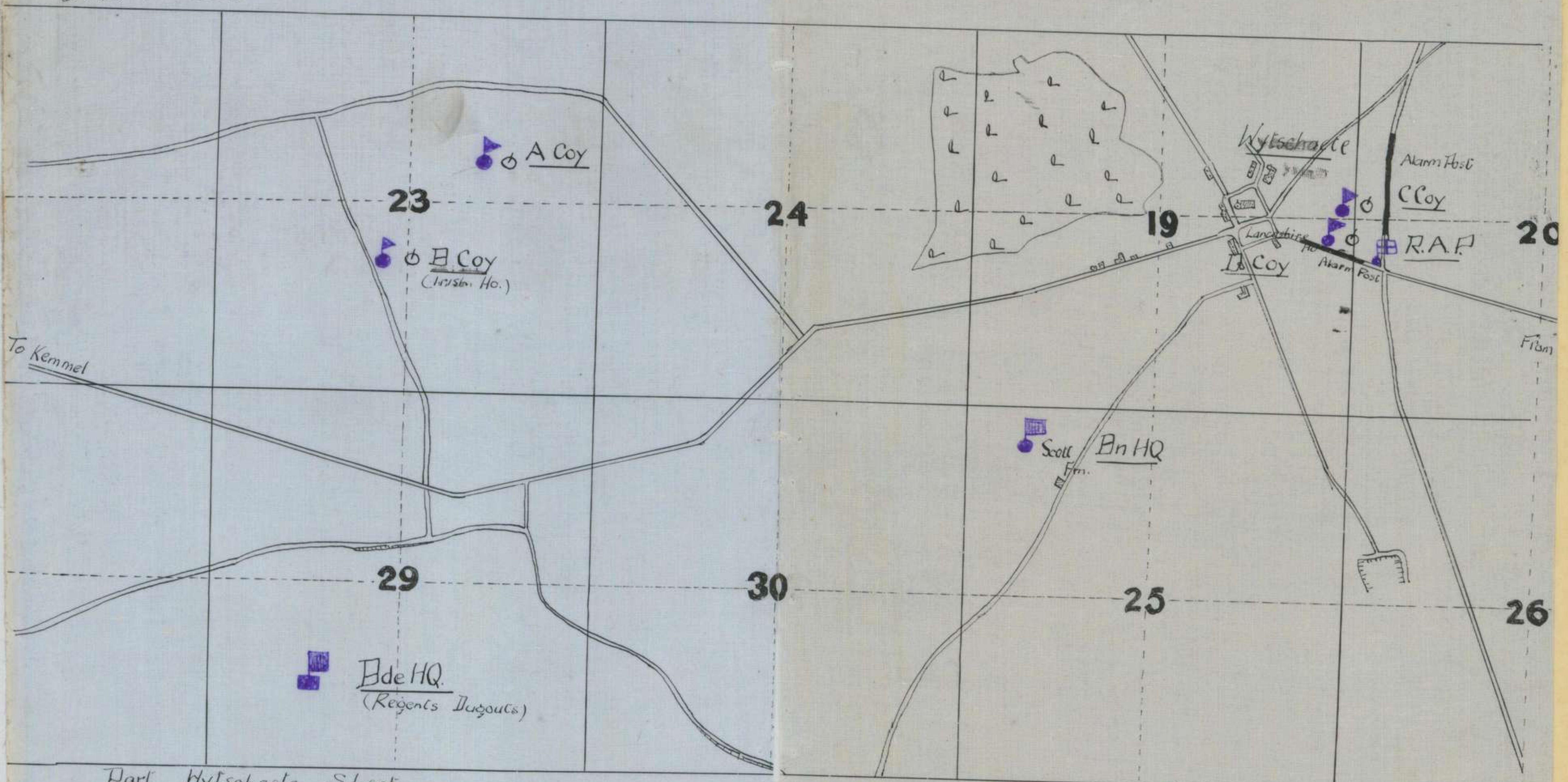
Co 55th Bn	Copy No. 1
OC A Coy	2
B	3
C	4
D	5
Sig Officer	6
RQMS	7
War Diary	8 to 10
File	11

263 ↓

App 8

263 Scale 1:10000

Vol. 23. App 8.



Part Wylschaele Sheet.

DISPOSITIONS RIGHT RESERVE BR.

N O

○ LG for AA Defence.

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Summary of Daily States
for month of January 1918

Vol. 13
Appendix 9

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Day	Strength day by day		Reinforcements		Killed, Wounded, Missing			Hospital	
	Officers	O.Ranks	off	O.Rs	off.	O.Ranks	Missing	Off	O.Ranks
1	49	1010	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2	49	1013	-	4	-	-	-	-	2
3	48	1008	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	48	1008	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5	49	1009	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
6	50	1008	1	4	-	-	-	-	4
7	50	1002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	50	1006	-	4	-	-	-	-	3
9	50	998	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
10	50	1011	-	14	-	-	-	-	2
11	50	1009	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
12	50	1009	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
13	50	1007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	51	1007	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
15	51	1007	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
16	51	1012	-	8	-	-	-	-	1
17	51	1012	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
18	51	1013	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
19	51	1009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	50	1009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	50	1005	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
22	50	1005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	50	1004	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
24	51	1007	1	9	-	-	-	-	3
25	51	1009	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
26	51	1007	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
27	51	1005	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
28	51	1007	-	4	-	-	-	-	2
29	51	1016	-	10	-	-	-	-	6
30	51	1016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	51	1016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals			4	61	-	-	-	1	42



W A R D I A R Y.

55th Battn.

For the month of January 1918

WORK OF R.M.O. AND HIS PERSONNEL.

The work of the R.M.O. has been more difficult during this month than is usually the case. This has been caused by two things:-

1. The Battalion being scattered over a big area.
2. The number of sick civilians.

The A.M.C. Personnel has been divided. The Sergeant and 1 man with left half Battalion. The remainder with right half Battalion and Battalion Rest Hut.

The Battalion has been living under fairly good conditions. In most cases the billets were dry and in every way suitable.

GENERAL MEDICAL MATTERS On the whole the men of the Battalion are very fit, this is due probably to:-

1. Regular Drill
2. Sufficient and good food.
3. Sports
4. Special training.
5. Good Billets.

HEALTH

In comparison with the same period of last year there is a marked improvement in the general health of the Battn.

Daily sick parades have been comparatively small and in most cases the complaints have been of a non-serious nature. A large percentage of those reporting sick have suffered with tender feet, abrasions and colds. Fewer cases of colds have been reported recently. At the beginning of the rest there was a slight prevalence of Diarrhoea, but this was cleared up in the first week and only 2 reoccurrences have been reported.

The greatest number of men in the rest hut at one time was 4. Altogether 9 men only were admitted to the Battalion rest hut - all of whom with 1 exception were returned to their company.

Special inspections of men after special marches have revealed few men needing treatment.

WORK OF A.M.C. DETAILS. For the month of January, their work has consisted of 4 things:-

1. Attend daily sick parades.
2. Visit out patients.
3. Attend to men in rest hut.
4. Supervise chlorination of water etc.

WORK OF SANITARY DETAILS.

These have been exempted from all parades and have attended to the building of new latrines and urinals and disposing of refuse by incineration.

Prior to our leaving the rest area all latrines were covered in.

Capt. R.M.O.

*pa
2/26/18*